

**THE MOUND ISLAND SITE:
A MULTI-COMPONENT WOODLAND PERIOD
HABITATION SITE IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO**

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ABSTRACT

This report describes and analyses the recoveries from an exploratory examination of a multi-component Woodland period site located in the transitional forest some 40 miles west of Thunder Bay in Northwestern Ontario. The site was occupied in the late Initial Woodland period (circa A.D. 600 to A.D. 800) by carriers of the Laurel culture, then abandoned until about A.D. 1100 when it was again occupied for a short time in the Terminal Woodland period by carriers of the Algonkian culture. The latter occupants appear to be a grouping of the same people who in the historic period occupied the Nyman site on the north shore of Lake Superior.

INTRODUCTION

The Mound Island site (DbJ1-2) is located on a small island at the east end of Whitefish Lake in Northwestern Ontario (Fig. 1). The lake is 40 miles southwest of Thunder Bay in the transitional forest zone between the Hudsonian and Canadian Biotic provinces (Dice 1943). It is a small lake, about six miles in length and two miles wide, and constitutes an unusually rich, discrete ecology (Cleland 1966) which supported a number of human habitations in the Woodland period (Dawson 1974). The island has the appearance of a drumlin which extends roughly east-west off the south shore of the lake opposite Perch Point. In 1965, Hugh Cummins, an amateur archaeologist from Thunder Bay, dug a random series of test pits along the south shore at the western end of the island, revealing a multi-component Woodland period habitation site. In 1966 a 5 by 20 foot test trench was excavated under the author's direction. In 1967 a further surface collection was made by P. Hunt, a collector from Kakabeka Falls. This report describes and analyses the ceramic and lithic materials recovered during this fieldwork.

EXCAVATION

About 4 feet back from the water's edge, an old beach ridge parallels the south shore. The 1966 test trench was opened 9 feet back of the ridge. The bush, consisting of sparse spruce and large juniper trees, and a thin layer of forest duff were first removed. The trench was then excavated in two-inch arbitrary levels. While lensing was evident, there were no clear strata or levels. The initial layer consisted of black organic loam with patches of charcoal, grey ash and scattered cultural refuse. At one inch below the surface, two distinct grey ash areas marked the top of hearths. The largest one had a large spruce tree growing out of the centre. In Level II scattered small rocks occurred, a few of which appeared to be fire fractured. While they were more concentrated in the hearth areas than elsewhere in the trench, they did not form a distinct pattern. The smaller of the two hearths was roughly 1.5 feet in diameter. It extended down to the base of Level III. The larger hearth continued to sub-soil at the base of Level IV. It was estimated to have been 2 to 3 feet across. Ceramics were scattered throughout the trench with concentrations in and about the hearths. Lithic material was also sparsely scattered throughout the trench. Table I shows the classes of

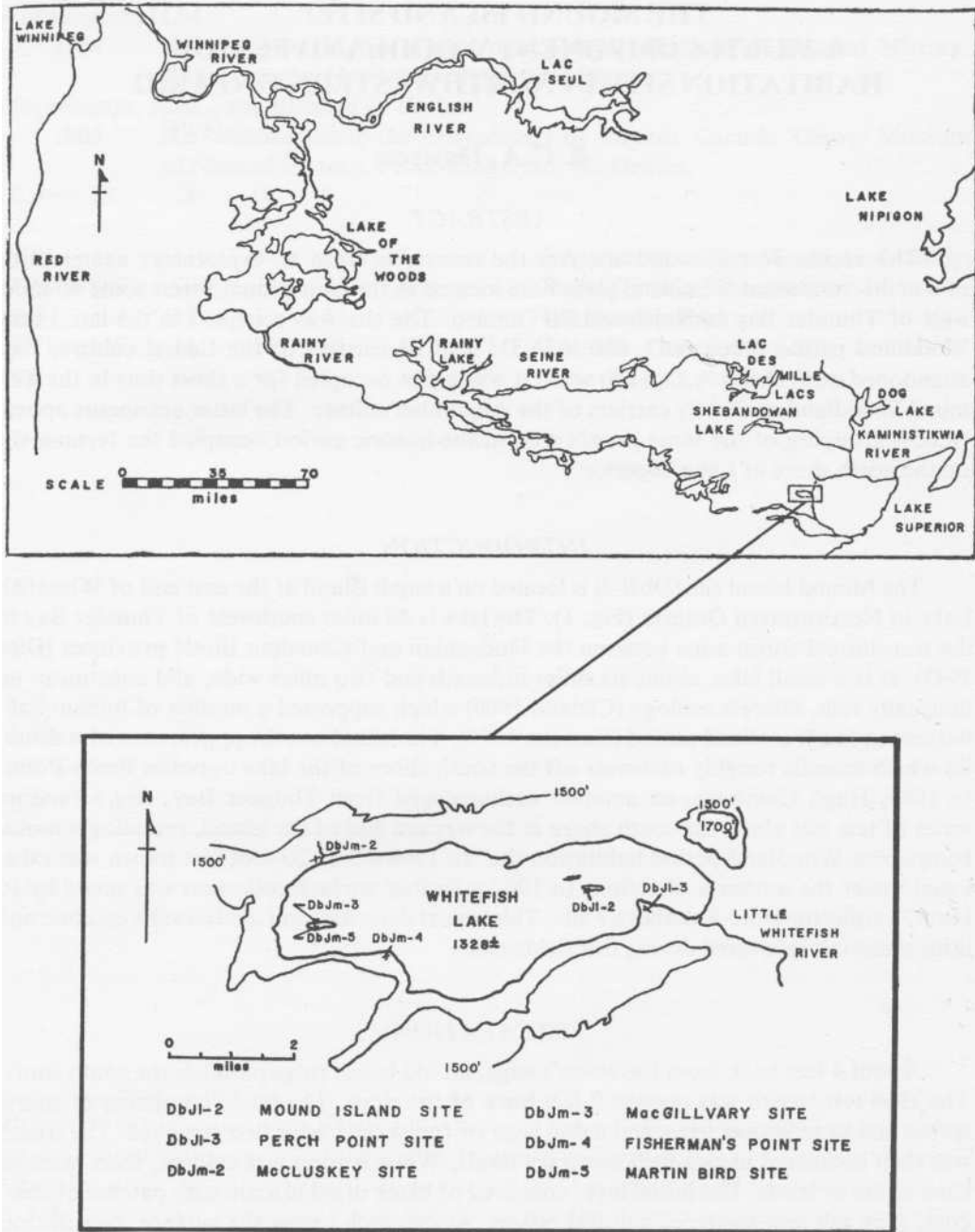


Fig. 1 Map of Northwestern Ontario showing locations of Woodland sites on Whitefish Lake.

recoveries. The category "other" includes surface and test pit recoveries from the 1965 and 1967 collections.

TABLE 1
MOUND ISLAND SITE CLASSES OF RECOVERIES
LEVEL

CLASS	I	II	III	IV	Other	f	%
CERAMICS							
Rim Sherds	16	17	4	0	45	82	6.0
Body Sherds							
Plain	18	17	17	4	215	271	19.9
Cord-malleated	33	36	32	1	107	209	15.4
Decorated	1	16	13	2	76	108	8.0
Sherdlets	27	44	10	2	151	234	17.2
<i>Subtotal</i> Body Sherds	79	113	72	9	549	822	60.5
TOTAL CERAMICS	95	130	76	9	594	904	66.5
LITHICS							
Scrapers	2	3	2	—	8	15	1.1
Cores	3	3	1	—	10	17	1.2
Hammerstones	—	1	—	—	4	5	0.4
Abraders	—	1	—	—	2	3	0.2
Bifaces	—	2	2	—	—	4	0.3
Maul	—	—	—	—	1	1	0.1
Projectile Point	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Flakes	6	55	32	9	169	271	20.0
<i>Subtotal</i> Lithics	11	65	37	9	195	317	23.3
FAUNAL RECOVERIES	13	17	10	17	82	139	10.2
<i>Total Recoveries</i>	119	212	123	35	871	1360	100.0

CERAMICS

There were 904 sherds recovered of which 9.1% (82) were rim sherds and 90.9% (822) were body sherds (Table I). Table 2 shows the rim and vessel classification and Tables 3 and 4 show the discrete and metrical vessel attributes for the Initial and Terminal Woodland vessels. Fig. 2 illustrates decoration of the Laurel tradition ceramic rims.

Body Sherds

Excluding very small fragments classed as sherdlets (Fitting 1965), there were 588 body sherds. Their classification was shown in Table I. Of the total, 271 (45.6%) were plain body sherds which are attributed to the Laurel manifestation on the basis of paste attributes. An insignificant number had an atypical scarified appearance. Their thickness range from 4.0 to 10.9 mm with a mean of 6.7 mm. Cord-malleated sherds total 209 or 36.2%. Characteristic of Blackduck ceramics, some are partially smoothed and a few are roughened. Their thickness range from 3.0 to 7.8 mm with a mean of 4.9 mm. Decorated body sherds totalled 108. Only 18.5% were from the Terminal Woodland period. They were near rim cord-wrapped-object impressed sherds from the upper levels which appear to be from globular vessels of the Blackduck / Mackinac traditions. Most of the decorated body sherds (81.5%) were from the Laurel tradition. Apart from 2 from Level IV, which were dentate stamped and linear punctated, all were pseudo-scallop shell impressed or dentate stamped sherds from Levels II and III. Interior channelling and mortice and tenon

coil junctures are absent as is the use of red ochre wash (Wright 1967: 125).

TABLE 2
RIM SHERD AND VESSEL CLASSIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION	LEVEL								RIMS		VESSELS	
	I		II		III		OTHER		f	%	f	%
	R	V	R	V	R	V	R	V				
LAUREL												
Pseudo-Scallop Shell	-	-	2	2	3	2	14	1	19	23.2	5	12.5
Dentate Stamped	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	4	7	8.5	4	10.0
Combined	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	3	4	4.9	4	10.0
Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	4	4.9	2	5.0
Incised	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	4	4.9	1	2.5
Dragged Punctate	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1.2	1	2.5
Linear Stamp	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1.2	1	2.5
Decorated Damaged	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1.2	1	2.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	-	-	3	3	3	2	35	14	41	50.0	19	47.5
Transitional	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1.2	1	2.5
<i>Laurel Subtotal</i>	0	0	3	3	4	3	35	14	42	51.2	20	50.0
PICKERING												
BRANCH	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1.2	1	2.5
BLACKDUCK												
Mode 1	3	1	7	1	-	-	1	1	11	13.5	3	7.5
Mode 3	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2.4	2	5.0
Mode 4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1.2	1	2.5
Mode 6	8	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	11.0	2	5.0
Damaged	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	2.4	2	5.0
Juvenile	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1.2	1	2.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	12	3	10	4	0	0	4	4	26	31.7	11	27.5
MACKINAC WARE												
Punctate	1	1	3	1	-	-	1	1	5	6.1	3	7.5
Banded	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3.6	1	2.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	4	2	3	1	0	0	1	1	8	9.7	4	10.0
PENINSULAR												
WOODLAND												
Cord-malleated	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1.2	1	2.5
Plain	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	4	4.9	3	7.5
<i>Subtotal</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	5	6.1	4	10.0
TOTAL:	16	15	17	9	4	3	45	23	82	99.9	40	100.0

R-rims: V-vessels

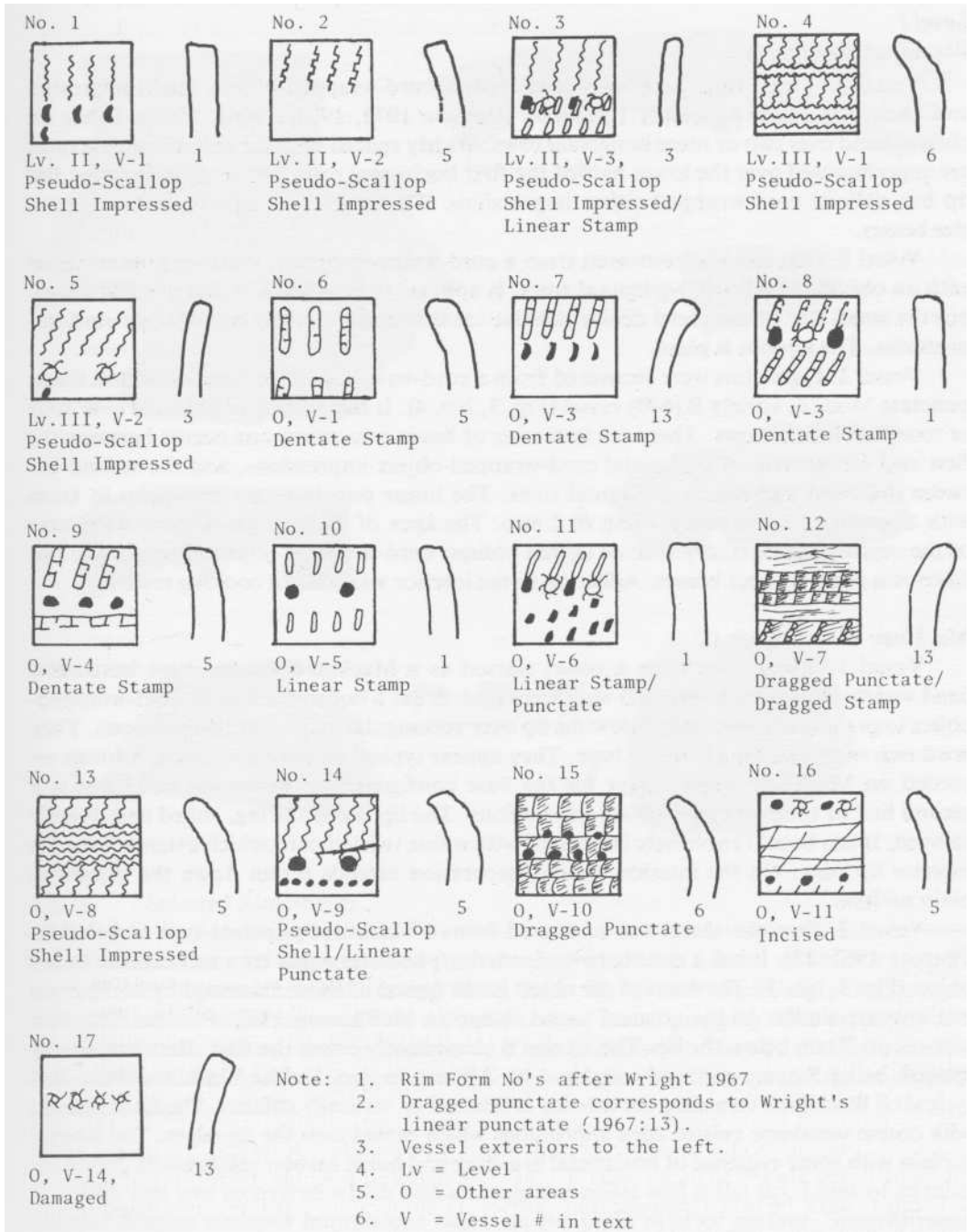


Fig. 2 Laurel Tradition Rim Decoration

*Rim Sherds**Level I**Blackduck Vessels (3)*

Vessel 1. Three rims were recovered from a 'cord-wrapped-object, multi-impressed and encircling Mode 1, variety 100 vessel (Dawson 1973, 1974, 1976a, 1977). It has an oblique band over two or more horizontal rows. Widely spaced circular encircling punctates are superimposed over the lower half of the first horizontal row. The medium splayed flat lip has oblique cord-wrapped-object impressions. The interior is smooth with medium-size bosses.

Vessel 2. One rim was recovered from a cord-wrapped-object, multi-impressed vessel with an oblique band over horizontal rows. It appears to be a Mode 3, variety 300 vessel, but the small size of the sherd denies positive identification. The lip has oblique cord impressions. The interior is plain.

Vessel 3. Eight rims were recovered from a cord-wrapped-object impressed and linear punctate Mode 6, variety B (640) vessel (Fig. 3, No. 4). It has a band of obliques over four or more horizontal rows. There are two rows of linear punctates; one occurs between the first and second row of horizontal cord-wrapped-object impressions, and the second between the third and fourth horizontal rows. The linear punctates are triangular in form with a length of 3 mm and a width of 2 mm. The apex of the triangle is toward the base of the vessel. The markedly splayed lip has oblique cord-wrapped-object impressions. The interior is plain without bosses. Adhering to the interior was a burnt cooking residue.

Mackinac Ware Vessels (2)

Vessel 1. Three rims from a vessel classed as a Mackinac Banded type horizontal band variety (McPherron 1967: 92) were recovered. It has a horizontal line of cord-wrapped-object impressions immediately below the lip over rectangular end object impressions. They are 2 mm wide and have a rough base. They appear typical of the form of impressions re-corded on Mackinac wares except for the base configuration. Below the punctates is a second line of cord-wrapped-object impressions. The lip is out-flaring, rolled and slightly splayed. It has been transversely impressed with a fine twisted cord which extends over the exterior lip edge. On the interior, similar decoration extends 6 mm down the otherwise plain surface.

Vessel 2. One rim sherd was recovered from a Mackinac punctate type vessel (McPherron 1967: 88). It has a double row of exterior punctates made by a rectangular-ended object (Fig. 3, No. 3). The form of the object is not typical of those illustrated by McPherron but appears similar to the unusual vessel shown in McPherron 1967: Pl. 13a. The first row occurs 7 mm below the lip. The second is immediately below the first. Both are closely spaced, being 5 mm apart and roughly 4 by 2.5 mm in size. Unlike Mackinac wares but typical of Blackduck ceramics, the exterior is brushed or vertically striated. The lip is splayed with coarse transverse twisted cord impressions which extend over the lip edges. The interior is plain with some evidence of horizontal brushing and burnt carbon residue.

*Level II**Laurel (3)*

Vessel 1. One rim was recovered from a vessel which has a double band of poorly defined oblique pseudo-scallop shell impressions which extend down from the lip. Ovate acuminate encircling punctates occur below (Fig. 2, No. 1).

Vessel 2. This is a damaged rim which has an oblique pseudo-scallop shell band of impressions extending down from the lip to a coil break 6 mm below (Fig. 2, No. 2).

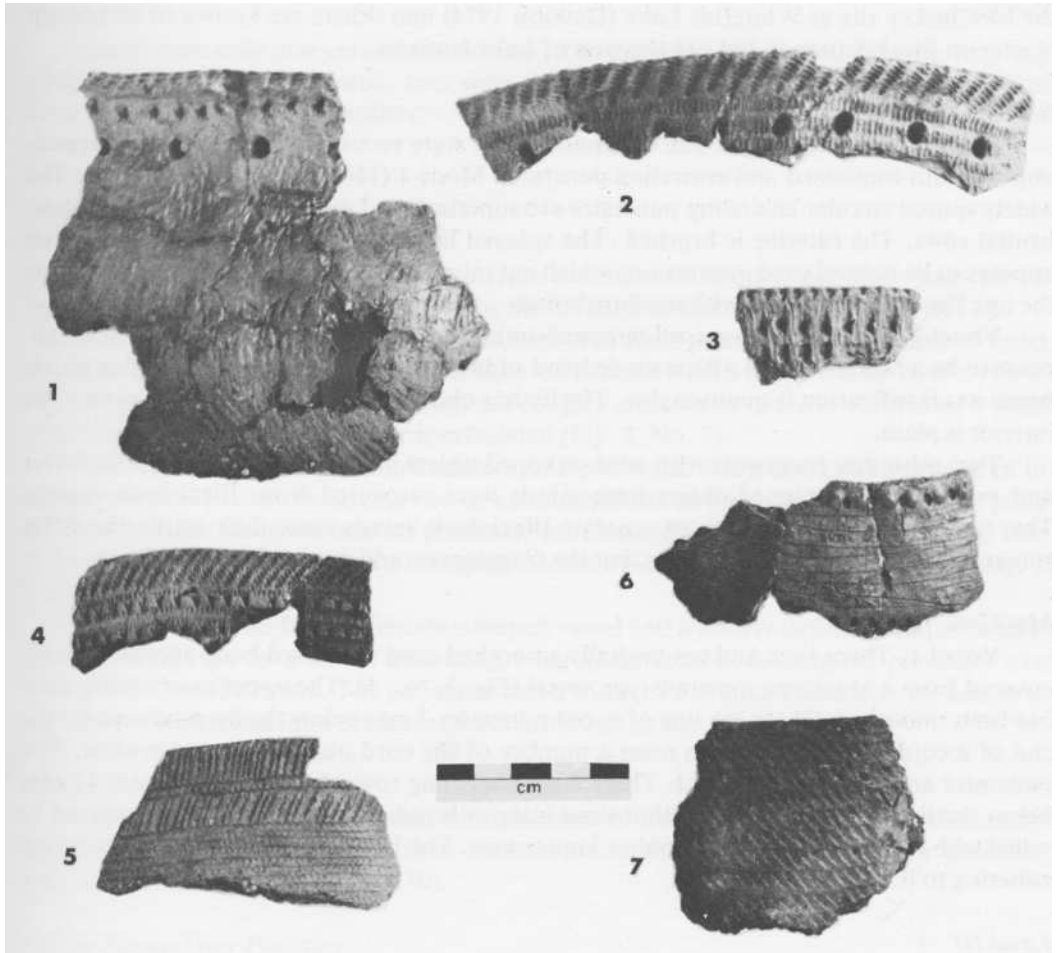


Fig. 3 Selected Rim Sherds.

Vessel 3. One rim was recovered from a vessel which has a band of oblique pseudo-scallop shell impressions which extend down from the lip over encircling punctates and bosses which are superimposed over a double row of linear stamping. The exterior punctates are circular in form and approximately 3 mm in diameter. They do not form interior bosses. The interior punctates appear to have been made with the same tool as the exterior punctates (Fig. 2, No. 3).

Pickering Branch (1)

One rim was recovered which had an incipient collar and a flat lip. Lines of parallel oblique dentate stamped impressions occur on the plain exterior surface. Superimposed over these are circular encircling punctates which form interior bosses. The rim form and relatively coarse paste place this vessel outside the range of characteristics of Laurel ceramics. The rim form and decoration would appear to fall within the range of Pickering Branch ceramics of the Early Iroquois tradition (Wright 1966a: 47-49). The ceramic tradition occurs in the lower stratum of the Algonkian Pic River site on Lake Superior (Wright 1966b: 80-81) dated A.D. 950 ± 80 (GSC-85) (Wright 1968: 46). One such vessel also occurred at

the McCluskey site at Whitefish Lake (Dawson 1974) and others are known to be present at sites on Black Sturgeon Lake to the west of Lake Nipigon.

Blackduck Rims (4)

Vessel 1. Seven rims and one decorated sherd were recovered from a cord-wrapped-object, multi-impressed and encircling punctated Mode 1 (110) vessel (Fig. 3, No. 2). The widely spaced circular encircling punctates are superimposed over the second of three horizontal rows. The exterior is brushed. The splayed lip is flat to slightly rolled with what appears to be twisted cord impressions which cut into both edges but are obliterated across the lip. The interior is plain with medium bosses.

Vessel 2. One rim from a cord-wrapped-object impressed vessel was recovered. It appears to be a Mode 4 vessel with a single band of impressions but it is broken at this point, hence its classification is questionable. The lip has oblique cord-wrapped impressions. The interior is plain.

Two other rim fragments with cord-wrapped-object impressions on splayed lip forms and exterior cord-wrapped-object impressions were recovered from Blackduck vessels. They were considered to be from separate Blackduck vessels since their attributes differ somewhat from the other recoveries, but the fragments could not be classified.

Mackinac Ware (1)

Vessel 1. Three rims and ten partially smoothed cord malleated body sherds were recovered from a Mackinac punctate type vessel (Fig. 3, No. 1). The upper exterior rim zone has been smoothed. There is a line of ovoid punctates 7 mm below the lip produced by the end of a cord-wrapped stick. In most a number of the cord impressions are evident. The punctates are only 7.5 mm apart. There is an encircling row of circular punctates 11 mm below the lip which produce medium-sized interior bosses. The lip is markedly splayed to rolled with oblique cord-wrapped-object impressions. The interior is plain with burnt refuse adhering to it.

Level III

Laurel (3)

Vessel 1. Two rims from a pseudo-scallop shell impressed vessel were recovered (Fig. 3, No. 5). Decoration consisted of a band of oblique pseudo-scallop shell impressions over two horizontal rows over a second band of obliques over 11 or more horizontal rows (Fig. 2, No. 4).

Vessel 2. One rim was recovered from a vessel which has a band of poorly defined oblique pseudo-scallop shell impressions. The impressions are faint and crude in form as if applied when the clay was wet. There is a row of encircling interior punctates which raise exterior bosses (Fig. 2, No. 5).

Laurel Transitional (1)

Vessel 1. One rim was recovered from a vessel with oblique fine cord-wrapped-object impressions over exterior punctates which form interior bosses. The rim is broken along the row of bosses precluding determination of sizing and spacing. The punctates are 19 mm below the lip. The rim thickness is 5.3 mm. The rim form (No. 5, Wright 1967) and paste characteristics are Laurel. It is an early form unlike latter transitional vessels (Dawson 1974, 1976a; Koezur and Wright 1976).

Level IV

There were only nine ceramic recoveries from Level IV. All are body sherds; four were plain, one was cord-malleated, two were decorated sherds, one dentate and one linear punctated, and two were sherdlets.

*Other Areas**Laurel (14)**Dentate Stamped*

Vessel 1. Four rims were recovered from a dentate stamped vessel which had two oblique bands of very faint dentate stamping on the exterior below the lip (Fig. 2, No. 6).

Vessel 2. One small damaged rim was recovered from a second dentate stamped vessel. It had an oblique band of small, clear, squared dentate stamp below the lip over a row of encircling closely spaced punctates. They are roughly crescent to ovate in form with a width of 1.9 mm. Below this the exterior is exfoliated (Fig. 2, No. 7).

Vessel 3. One rim from a third dentate stamped vessel had a short oblique band of indistinct dentate over an encircling row of exterior punctates and bosses. The exterior punctates are circular while the interior punctates are rectangular and have a width of 2.3 mm. A further row of oblique dentate stamping occurs below the punctates and bosses (Fig. 2, No. 8).

Vessel 4. One rim from a dentate stamped vessel had a poorly-defined oblique band of dentate stamping over a line of encircling, roughly horizontal, rectangular punctates over horizontal lines of dentate. The punctates had a width of 3.9 mm. There were no bosses on the interior which had faint evidence of horizontal striations (Fig. 2, No. 9).

Linear Stamp

Vessel 5. One rim from a vessel with two-lines of oblique, roughly rectangular stamping was recovered. Between the lines there is a row of encircling rectangular punctates which are 2 mm wide (Fig. 2, No. 10).

Linear Stamp Over Punctate

Vessel 6. One rim from this punctated vessel was recovered. Below the lip it has a faint band of narrow oblique stamping. At the base encircling rectangular punctates occur which are 1.5 mm wide. The punctates are interspersed with bosses. Below this there are oblique lines of punctates. The interior is plain with ovate punctates 2 mm in width (Fig. 2, No. 11).

Dragged Punctate (Linear Punctate) Over Dragged Stamp

Vessel 7. One rim was recovered from this vessel. It has a smooth zone below the lip over three narrow horizontal lines of vertical dragged punctates over a second smooth zone, over an oblique band of dragged stamping (Fig. 2, No. 12). Dragged punctates correspond to Wright's linear punctates (1967: 13). The impressions are made in a push-pull fashion with the same type of tool used to make dragged stamp except it lacks teeth. The impressions are dragged punctates, not closely aligned punctates as suggested by the term linear punctate.

Pseudo-Scallop Shell Impressed

Vessel 8. Fourteen rims, 15 decorated sherds, 46 plain body sherds and a conical base were recovered from this vessel with an estimated orifice diameter of 165 mm. It has a short oblique band over 10 horizontal lines over a further short oblique band of pseudo-

TABLE 3

LAUREL VESSEL DISCRETE AND METRICAL ATTRIBUTES

Variety & Provenience	Lip th. (mm)	th. 25 mm below lip	Rim form	Upper band width (mm)	Lip Plain Dec	Interior Plain Dec	Punctate Ext. Int.	Bosses Ext. Int.	Exterior Punctates			Interior Punctates						
									Dist. below lip (mm)	Vertical Length (mm)	Form C O R S	Dist. below lip (mm)	Vertical Length (mm)	Form C O R S				
Pseudo-Scallop Shell Impressed (5)																		
Rows of Obliques																		
Lv. II V-1	6.2	6.8*	1	13.1	x	x	x		14.5	8.2	2.7							
Lv. III V-2	4.6	D	3	D	x	x												
Lv. III V-2	4.3	4.3*	1	7.8	x	x	x	x										x
Obliques over Horizontals																		
Lv. III V-1	4.9	6.3	6	10.5	x	x												
other V-8	7.0	8.8	5	10.0	x	x												
Dentate Stamp (4)																		
Rows of Obliques																		
other V-1	5.1	6.0*	5	12.0	x	x												
other V-2	4.5	D	13	D	x	x	x	x	8.0	4.5	2.2							
V-3	4.5	5.0*	1	5.0	x	x	x		7.0	7.0	4.7							
Obliques over Horizontals																		
other (4)	5.0	6.2*	5	8.0	x	x	x		9.6	8.0	2.0							
PSI/INC/LP																		
other V-9	5.5	6.8*	5	7.5	x	x	x		8.0	19.1	5.5							
PSI/LS																		
Lv. II V-3	4.0	7.5	3	10.5	x	x	x	x	12.6	8.0	3.2							
DP/DS																		
other V-7	6.5	7.8	13	-	x	x												
LS/P																		
other V-6	5.8	6.1	1	7.2	x	x	x	x	6.5	8.6	3.0							
Plain (2)																		
other V-12	5.5	5.5	5	-	x	x			13.0	33.5	3.5							
other V-13	4.1	D	1	-	x	x												
Linear Stamp (1)																		
other V-5	5.0	7.0	1	5.0	x	x	x	x	9.2	10.5	3.2							
Dragged Punctate (1)																		
other V-10	7.0	8.5	6	-	x	x	x		15.4	7.0	2.0							
Incised																		
other V-11	6.0	7.0*	5	-	x	x	x	x	6.0	7.1	3.0							
Other																		
other V-14	5.5	D	13	-	x	x	x	x	14.5	10.2	3.0							

D-Damaged, PSI-Pseudo-Scallop Shell impressed, LS-Linear stamp, LP-Linear punctate, DS-Drugged stamp, Inc.-Incised, P-Punctate, DP-Drugged Punctate, C-Circular, O-Ovate, R-Rectangular, S-Square, ?-undetermined, *-less than 25 mm., th.-thickness, mm.-millimeters, V-vesSEL, x-present, Rim form after Wright 1967.

scallop shell impressions (Fig. 2, No. 13).

Pseudo-Scallop Shell and Linear Punctate

Vessel 9. One rim with a slight exterior fillet was recovered from a vessel with an oblique band of poorly defined pseudo-scallop shell to dentate-like impressions (Fig. 2, No. 14). Widely spaced encircling acuminate punctates 4 mm wide occur, partially superimposed over the bottom of the band. Above the punctates there is an incised line; below this there is a fine line of tiny punctates. The punctate arrangement is the same as the undragged closely aligned punctates which characterized Mode 6 Blackduck ceramics (Dawson 1974: 20).

TABLE 4
TERMINAL WOODLAND PERIOD VESSEL METRICAL DATA

Location and Type	Vessel No.	Mode or Variety*	Lip Thickness (mm)	Thick-ness 25 mm below lip	Punc-tate Dist-ance below lip	Punc-tate Spac-ing (mm)	Punc-tate Length (mm)	Band Width (mm)	Rim Form
<i>Level I</i>									
BLACKDUCK	1	100	10.0	6.0	17.0	22.0	5.0	13.0	A-2
	2	300	8.0	4.0	N/A	-	-	14.0	C-4
	3	640	10.0	4.5	N/A	-	-	6.0	A-3
MACKINAC	Horiz. Banded								
	1		7.0	6.0	10.0	3.0	9.0	N/A	
	Punctated								
	2		10.0	8.0	N/A	-	-	N/A	
<i>Level II</i>									
BLACKDUCK	1	110	9.6	7.0	13.0	20.2	4.5	9.0	A-5
	2	400	13.0	6.0	N/A	-	-	18.0	B-2
MACKINAC	Punctated								
	1		9.0	5.0	11.0	19.0	4.5	N/A	
PICKERING BRANCH	1		5.5	7.0	13.0	12.0	3.0	N/A	
<i>Other Areas</i>									
BLACKDUCK	1	100	9.0	5.0	13.0	D	3.0	9.7	B-4
	2	302	8.5	6.0	N/A	-	-	14.0	C-2
	3	640	9.0	4.5	N/A	-	-	13.5	B-2
	4	Juvenile	5.0	4.0	-	-	-	-	
MACKINAC	1	Cord-Imp.	10.0	4.5	N/A	-	-	N/A	
PENINSULAR WOODLAND	1	Plain	7.0	7.0	N/A	-	-	N/A	
	2	Plain	6.6	5.0	N/A	-	-	N/A	
	3	Cord-mall.	5.8	4.5	N/A	-	-	N/A	
	4	Plain	6.0	4.5	N/A	-	-	N/A	

*Dawson 1973, + Dawson 1974: 17, Fig. 4 N/A = Not Applicable, D = Damaged

Dragged Punctate (Wright's Linear Punctate)

Vessel 10. One rim was recovered from this vessel. It has 10 or more horizontal rows of oblique dragged punctates with a superimposed row of small encircling ovate punctates below the lip (Fig. 3, No. 7). A few of the encircling punctates occur in vertical pairs. The interior is plain without bosses (Fig. 2, No. 15).

Incised

Vessel 11. Five rims were recovered from this vessel (Fig. 3, No. 6). Immediately below the lip there is an encircling line of small ovate to diamond-shaped punctates. They do not form interior bosses. They alternate with bosses formed by interior punctates made with the same tool. The line of punctates and bosses are over horizontal lines of incising with oblique superimposed incising. Below the incising at 37 mm, there is a second line of encircling punctates formed by the same tool. Below this there is a line of short fine oblique incising. The lip has oblique incising (Fig. 2, No. 16).

Plain

Vessel 12. Three rims were recovered from this vessel. It has a plain exterior with an encircling row of widely spaced circular punctates 13 mm below the lip. The interior is plain with horizontal striations.

Other

Vessel 14. One rim was recovered from a decorated vessel with an exfoliated exterior. It appears to have ribbon-like bands of dragged stamp. Oval punctates occur on the interior which form exterior bosses. It has carbon incrustations on the interior (Fig. 2, No. 17).

Blackduck Vessels (4)

From test pits and surface collections, four rims from four different Blackduck ceramic tradition vessels were recovered. All are damaged; thus metrical data are incomplete.

Vessel 1. This is a cord-wrapped-object, multi-impressed and encircling punctated Mode 1 (100) vessel. There are four or more horizontal rows below a band of obliques. Widely spaced circular punctates are superimposed over the first horizontal line of cord impressions. The markedly splayed flat lip has oblique cord-wrapped-object impressions. The interior is smooth with horizontal brushing and faint bosses.

Vessel 2. This is a cord-wrapped-object, multi-impressed Mode 3, variety 302, vessel. There are three or more horizontal rows below an oblique band. A shallow rectangular impression is superimposed over the horizontal rows of cord-wrapped-object impressions. The splayed flat lip has two encircling lines of cord-wrapped-object impressions. The interior is smooth with horizontal brushing.

Vessel 3. This is a cord-wrapped-object impressed and linear punctate Mode 6, variety 640, vessel. It has two or more horizontal rows below a band of obliques with a line of linear punctates between the first and second horizontal rows of cord-wrapped-object impressions. The linear punctates are ovate, roughly 1.5 mm in diameter and spaced 2 mm apart. The interior lip edge has a marked fillet. The interior is smooth with horizontal brushing. The flat splayed lip has oblique cord-wrapped-object impressions.

Vessel 4. This is a small juvenile vessel. It has a short band of fine oblique cord-wrapped-object impressions over a line of fine square punctates. Similar impressions occur on the lip. The interior is plain. It appears to be a globular vessel.

Mackinac Vessel (1)

One rim was recovered from what appears to be a Mackinac cord-impressed variety Mackinac vessel (McPherron 1967: 90). At 7 mm below the lip on the exterior a short band

of deeply impressed punctate-like impressions occur. They were made by a cord-wrapped object and had a length of 5 mm. The rim is damaged. It does appear to have been vertically brushed below the band. The lip is markedly splayed and outrolled. It is impressed with fine vertical cord impressions. The interior is smooth with horizontal brushing. There are no bosses.

Peninsular Woodland Rims (4)

There were five rim sherds representing four vessels of this ware which was first identified in Michigan (Quimby 1960) and later recorded along the north shore of Lake Superior (Dawson 1977; Wright 1968).

Vessel 1. Two rims were recovered from this vessel. It has been classed as plain variety. The exterior has horizontal stria which appears to be the result of wiping that begins just below the lip and seems to grade into true incising then fade out about 25 mm below the lip. The lip is square in form (Wright 1968: Fig. 5, No. 25) with erratic incisions on a flat smooth surface. Along the interior edge there is fine notching. The interior is smooth. It appears to be from a straight-walled vessel.

Vessel 2. This vessel also has exterior striations which appear to be the result of wiping. The only decoration is on the lip where elongated triangular punctates occur. The lip is square and flat like Vessel No. 1. The interior is smooth with some horizontal brushing at what appears to have been the shoulder of the vessel.

Vessel 3. The one rim was recovered from this vessel. It is a cord-malleated variety which has been smoothed over. Lip form is the same as the above two except that deep elongated triangular punctates have spread the lip slightly. The interior is plain.

Vessel 4. This is only a fragment of the upper portion of a rim. It appears to have had a smoothed exterior surface and possible linear punctates, but shearing denies positive identification. The form is the same as the other recoveries of this ware. At the exterior lip edge, there are deep punctates which raise small interior bosses. They are about 2.5 mm in diameter and irregularly spaced. The interior is smoothed.

LITHICS

There were 317 lithic recoveries. Of these 85.5% (271) were debitage, 17 were cores, 9 were rough stone tools, and the balance (20) were flake tools. Their classification and provenance were shown in Table 1. Table 5 shows the classification of the debitage, by type and provenance. All are from local sources, most are taconite. Micro flakes are those smaller than a ten-cent piece. Scraper classification (Dawson 1974, 1977) is shown in Table 6 and metrical attributes of the random and linear scrapers are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 5
DEBITAGE CLASSIFICATION

TYPE	LEVEL					TOTAL	
	I	II	III	IV	OTHER	f	%
MICRO FLAKES	2	31	14	5	62	114	44.0
DECORTIFICATION							
FLAKES	1	10	7	4	24	47	14.5
PARALLEL FLAKES	-	4	1	-	28	33	12.5
EXPANDING FLAKES	1	7	4	-	33	44	16.0
UTILIZED FLAKES	2	3	6	-	22	33	13.0
TOTAL:	6	55	32	9	169	271	100.0

There were two scrapers from this level. One was a linear flake, straight-margin side scraper. Viewed with the dorsal surface up, it had retouching along 15 mm of the straight left dorsal margin and 14 mm retouching on the reverse or ventral margin. The other scraper was a trapezoidal oblong end scraper. The maximum dimensions are 22.8 mm long, 17.5 mm wide, and 5.6 mm thick. It lacked a dorsal ridge, had a convex distal dorsal margin which was 17 mm across, 4.5 mm thick, with an angle of $49^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}$. The left dorsal margin was straight with retouching along 15 mm of its length and a right angle junction with the distal dorsal margin. The right dorsal margin was retouched along 10 mm of its length. It was concave and had rounded junction with the distal dorsal margin.

One rectangular flint pebble nodule which measured 56 by 41 by 39 mm, a second small nodule, one pebble core, two taconite flakes, two taconite micro flakes, and two flint flakes were also recovered.

TABLE 6
SCRAPER CLASSIFICATION

TYPE	LEVEL				TOTAL	
	I f	II f	III f	OTHER f	f	%
SIDE						
Random Flake						
Straight Margin	-	2	-	2	4	26.4
Irregular Margin	-	1	-	-	1	6.9
Convex Margin	-	-	-	1	1	6.7
Rounded Margin	-	-	1	1	2	13.4
Converging Margin	-	-	-	1	1	6.7
<i>Subtotal</i>	0	3	1	5	9	59.9
Linear Flake						
Parallel Margin	1	-	-	2	3	20.0
Large Plano	-	-	1	-	1	6.7
<i>Subtotal</i>	1	0	1	2	4	86.6
END						
Trapezoidal	1	-	-	1	2	13.4
<i>Subtotal</i>	1	0	0	1	2	13.4
TOTAL:	2	3	2	8	15	100.0

Level II

There were three scrapers from this level, two straight margin, random flake side scrapers and one irregular margin. The latter had a graver spur and 15 mm utilized second margin which had an angle of $13^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ}$.

Two bifaces were recovered. One was a tip only. It had a thickness of 11 mm and crude surface flaking. The second was triangular in form measuring 65 mm in length, 30 mm in width, and 9 mm in thickness. It had crude collateral face flaking with edge retouching and basal thinning.

An irregular hammerstone and an abraded were recovered. The hammerstone mea-

sured 93 mm in length by 74 mm in width and 4.8 mm in thickness. It weighed 510 grams and had a hammerface on one side and one end. It was a natural igneous cobble. The abrader was sandstone. It had a length of 83 mm, a width of 27 mm, a thickness of 17 mm and was used along one flat oblique end.

Three cores, one a pebble nodule and two of taconite, 31 taconite flakes, 5 taconite micro flakes, 7 flint flakes and 12 flint micro flakes were also recovered.

Level III

There were two scrapers recovered. One was a random flake scraper with a rounded margin. The other was a large plano-convex slate scraper. It measured 50 by 50 mm and was 10 mm thick with a crushed and flaked rounded margin. The scraping margin was approximately 90 mm in total length. There was one bifacial edge fragment and one bifacially worked tool. The tool was 37 mm long, 19 mm wide, and 9 mm thick. It had one edge bifacially retouched along a length of 22 mm.

In addition there were 26 taconite flakes, 4 taconite micro flakes, 4 flint micro flakes, 2 slate flakes, and 1 taconite core recovered.

Level IV

From this level only nine taconite flakes were recovered.

Other Areas

Eight scrapers were recovered. Five were random flake scrapers. Two were straight margin variety, one of which had a 16 mm retouched second margin. One was a rounded margin variety which had in addition retouching on the ventral margin. One was a con-verging margin variety; the secondary retouched margin was 11 mm in length. One was a convex margin variety. There were two linear flake straight-margin variety side scrapers and one trapezoidal oblong medium-ridged end scraper. The end scraper was 24.3 mm long, 23 mm wide, and 6.5 mm thick with a straight distal dorsal margin which was 24 mm long and had a $75^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ angle. The right dorsal margin was at a right angle with the distal dorsal margin. It was retouched along 20 mm and had an angle of $20^\circ \pm 5^\circ$. The left dorsal margin was also at a right angle. It was retouched along 18.4 mm and had an angle of $41^\circ \pm 5^\circ$.

There was one small edge-worked flint flake side notched projectile point. It had a length of 22 mm, a maximum width of 19 mm, and a thickness of 2.5 mm. It was broken along the lower margin. The notches appeared to have had a depth and width of 2 mm, and the base appears to have been straight.

There were four igneous rock hammerstones. Two were small linear variety weighing 202 grams and 220 grams. They were 63 and 68 mm long, 43 and 48 mm wide, and 44 and 40 mm thick. Both had edge hammering faces and one had an end hammering face. One was an irregular variety hammerstone with a hammering face along the larger side edge. It was 75 mm long, 50 mm wide, 39 mm thick, and weighed 512 grams. The fourth was a circular hammerstone. It had a faint circumference-edge hammering face and was 69 mm long, 50 mm wide, 26 mm thick, and weighed 355 grams.

There were two abraders, one a fragment, the other a large irregular slate piece with use on one broad face. It was 100 mm long, 40 mm wide and 18 mm thick. There was one maul. It appears to have been a double grooved maul broken lengthwise. It had a hammer facet at both ends and a length of 150 mm. In addition, there were 10 core flakes, 107 flakes and 62 micro flakes, all of taconite.

TABLE 8
RIM SERIATION FOR FIVE LAUREL COMPONENTS

SITE	PSEUDO-SCALLOP SHELL	DRAGGED STAMP	DRAGGED PUNCTATE*	DENTATE STAMP	PLAIN	INCISED	LINEAR STAMP	PUNCTATE	COMBINED	TOTAL
HUNGRY HALL	% 10.8 <i>f</i> (4)	21.6 (8)	16.2 (6)	29.7 (11)	16.2 (6)	2.7 (1)	2.7 (1)	—	—	99.9 (37)
MOUND ISLAND	% 27.8 <i>f</i> (5)	—	5.5 (1)	22.2 (4)	11.1 (2)	5.5 (1)	5.5 (1)	—	22.2 (4)	99.8 (18)
LONG SAULT	% 37.0 <i>f</i> (10)	14.8 (4)	7.4 (2)	3.7 (7)	25.9 (1)	3.7 (1)	—	—	7.4 (2)	99.9 (27)
PELICAN FALLS	% 51.1 <i>f</i> (23)	22.2 (10)	4.4 (2)	—	6.7 (3)	2.2 (1)	—	—	13.3 (6)	99.9 (45)
HERON BAY	% 47.2 <i>f</i> (58)	23.6 (29)	5.7 (7)	4.0 (5)	—	—	—	1.6 (2)	17.8 (22)	99.9 (123)
MACGILLVARY	% 11.6 <i>f</i> (5)	13.9 (6)	9.3 (4)	34.8 (15)	11.6 (5)	2.3 (1)	9.3 (4)	—	7.0 (3)	99.9 (43)

*Wright's Linear Punctate (1967).

INTERPRETATION

The ceramic recoveries place the first occupation of the Mound Island site in the late Initial Woodland period by carriers of the Laurel culture (Wright 1972). Later it was re-occupied in the Terminal Woodland period by carriers of the Southwestern Area Algonkian Culture (Dawson 1975: 31; 1976b: 3; Wright n.d.). Sparse refuse and faint evidence of lensing suggest seasonal occupation. The absence of trade goods suggests that the site was abandoned before the Historic period.

The thickness of the Laurel vessel lip (mean 5.3 mm), the closeness of the external punctates to the lip (mean distance 10.4 mm), the wide spacing of the punctate (mean distance apart 10.9 mm), and the high occurrences of bosses (75.0%), places the occupation in the Late Initial Woodland period (Wright 1967: 101, Table 34). Table 8 shows the rim seriation for six northern Laurel components. Apart from the Macgillvary site (Dawson 1978), figures used are after Wright (1967: 100, Table 33). The comparatively low percentage of pseudo-scallop shell impressed rims (27.8%) at the Mound Island site, an early trait (Wright 1967: 100), reflects the late occupation. Dragged punctate, dentate stamp and plain vessels taken together represent 38.8% at the Mound Island site; such motifs increase in time according to Wright and their dominance further indicates the late period of the occupation. The absence of dragged stamping, a generally constant decorative motif, and the high percentage of combined motifs (22.2%), a generally early manifestation, are distinct for the site. These differences from the sites Wright examined appear to be a reflection of spatial variations.

TABLE 9

CERAMIC VESSEL TYPES FROM THREE TERMINAL WOODLAND PERIOD SITES

TYPE		Mound Island	McCluskey	Nyman
BLACKDUCK	%	52.6	90.0	45.5
	<i>f</i>	(10)	(170)	(15)
MACKINAC	%	21.1	0.5	27.2
	<i>f</i>			(9)
PENINSULAR WOODLAND	%	21.1	0.5	18.2
	<i>f</i>	(4)	(1)	
STAMPED	%	--	0.5	3.0
	<i>f</i>		(1)	(1)
SELKIRK	%	--	8.0	3.0
	<i>f</i>		(15)	(1)
HURON-PETUN	%	--	--	3.0
	<i>f</i>			(1)
PICKERING BRANCH	%	5.2	0.5	--
	<i>f</i>	(1)	(1)	
		100.0	100.0	99.8
		(19)	(189)	(33)

Comparing late traits (dragged punctate, dentate stamp and plain), the Mound Island site with 38.8% compares to the Long Sault site with 37%. It is temporally distant from the late Hungry Hall site which has 62.1%. A comparison of the small sample size of the early traits (pseudo-scallop shell impressed and combined techniques) suggests that the Mound Island site with 50% may be earlier than the Long Sault site which has 44.4%. The Armstrong mound at the Long Sault site, located some 150 miles to the west at Rainy River, has been dated by Kenyon at about 1000 years ago, based on MacNeish's estimate regarding the age of Laurel materials in Manitoba (1958: 55) and a radiocarbon date of A.D. 957 ± 100 (1-2594) from the mound crib (Kenyon 1970: 83). The date appears late. Unfortunately recoveries from the mound have not been classified in an equivalent fashion to the surface collection analyzed by Wright. Based on spatial affinity, the Mound Island site was considered to be close to the Macgillvary site at Whitefish Lake. The ceramic traits as shown in Table 8 clearly indicate major differences. A radiocarbon date of A.D. 20 ± 200 (GAK-1492) (Dawson 1974: 87) from the Macgillvary site mound crib dates the site earlier in time than sites with close ceramic affinities with the Mound Island site. The Laurel occupation at the Mound Island site is therefore placed at circa A.D. 600 to A.D. 800.

The absence of clearly dominant ceramics with late Laurel attributes, the very weak evidence suggestive of a transitional period and an estimated middle time range for the Terminal Woodland period occupation, indicates an occupation hiatus at the Mound Island site. A temporal gap at the site of considerable duration, perhaps in excess of 300 years between Initial and Terminal occupation, is inferred from such evidence.

While some of the lithics are undoubtedly from the Initial Woodland period, all could be attributed to the Terminal Woodland period. The limited mixed lithic recoveries do not lend themselves to a detailed comparative analysis. A general comparison places the recoveries within the common Algonkian cultural tradition (Dawson 1977). The closest lithic affinities are with the historic Nyman site, as are the Terminal Woodland ceramics, sug-

gesting that groups from Mound Island-like sites resettled on the Superior shore in this latter period (Dawson 1976b).

Table 9 shows a comparison of the Terminal Woodland period vessel recoveries from the Mound Island site with that of McCluskey site on the mainland at Whitefish Lake (Dawson 1974) and the Nyman site (Dawson 1976b) some 280 miles to the east at the mouth of the Michipicoten River. The early McCluskey site differs from both sites in that 90% (170) of the vessels recovered were Blackduck, compared to roughly 50% Blackduck vessels at the other sites. The later Nyman site compares closely with the Mound Island site. The former has 45.4% (15) Blackduck vessels, 27.2% (9) Mackinac vessels, and 18.2% (6) Peninsular Woodland vessels; while the latter has 52.6% (10) Blackduck vessels, 21.1% (4) Mackinac vessels, and 21.1% (4) Peninsular Woodland vessels. This suggests that in the Terminal Woodland period the two sites represent a grouping of the same people. They are not, however, coeval. The Mound Island site is a prehistoric site whereas the Nyman site is an historic site. A radiocarbon date of A.D. 1575 ± 45 (S-1249) was obtained from the Nyman site (Dawson 1976b). The ceramic composition at the Mound Island site suggests a middle time period (ca. A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1400) for the Terminal Woodland period occupation. It is considered to have been a Southwestern Algonkian culture occupation (Dawson 1976b: 3; Wright n.d.).

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