

Figure 12.3: Plan view drawing of portions of the stockade and two cabins at the Northwest Company Fur Trade Post, Burnett County.

trading post built on Lake Pepin (Birk and Dobbs 1994). Pepin County had contracted the archaeologists to confirm the location and identity of this famous landmark. Artifacts found near the structural remains included trade beads, a French uniform button, a French clasp knife, white clay and red catlinite pipe fragments, hand wrought nails, and a gunflint (Figure 12.2). The styles of the artifacts suggest that the site is later in age than the seventeenth century Fort St. Antoine and may in fact be one of the later French posts built on Lake Pepin. The actual identity of the site is a historical problem that may be solved by further archaeological and documentary research.

Perhaps the most famous fur trade site in the state is a reconstructed British-era fur trade complex located in Burnett County currently referred to as Forts Folle Avoines. Here on the Yellow River, the Northwest and XY fur companies competed side by side during the winter of 1802-1803 for the local Chippewa trade. Some time after abandonment, the structures burned and their location was lost to memory. The site was discovered by amateur archaeologists in 1969, and the State Historical Society excavated the site in the late 1970s to confirm its identity (Oerichbauer 1982). The Burnett County Historical Society later continued

this work with the intention of reconstructing the buildings as a historic site. Using both archaeological techniques and journals kept by clerks of XY Company, archaeologists documented the floor plan of both posts in great detail and even determined the methods used to build the cabins (Figure 12.3). Equally detailed insights into the everyday lives of the traders and their Native American partners resulted from the study, and comparing artifacts recovered from the two posts, differences in type of trade goods used by the competing companies could be discerned. A large portion of the complex was subsequently reconstructed and is now operated as a living history museum by Burnett County. Forts Folle Avoine is an excellent example of how archaeology and history can be used together to provide accurate and fascinating depictions of the past.

MISSIONS

Christian missionaries typically accompanied early European explorers and fur traders. Missionaries labored to convert Native Americans to Christianity while some, like Fr. Marquette, also made substantial contributions to the exploration of the North American continent.

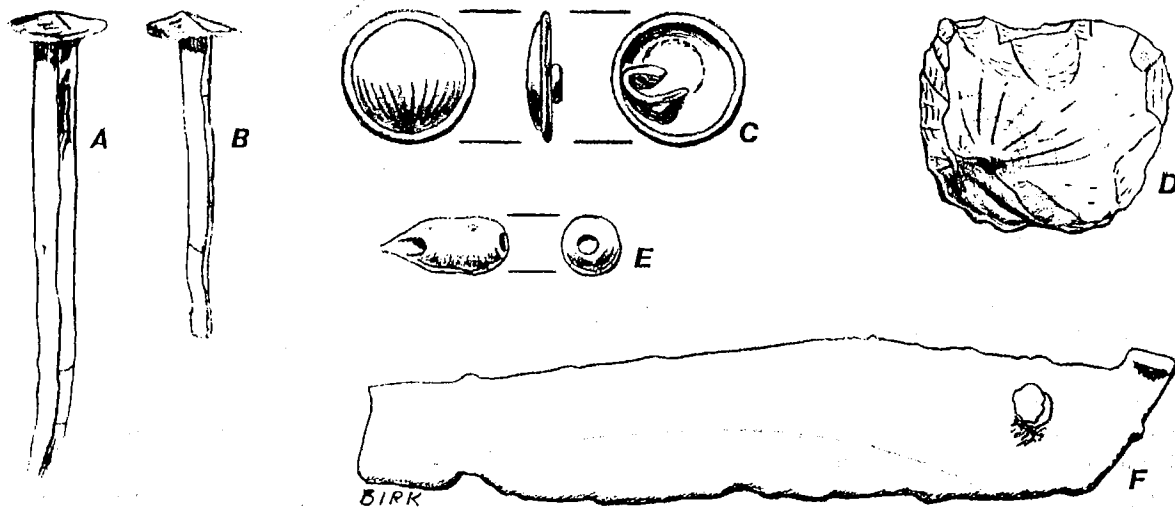
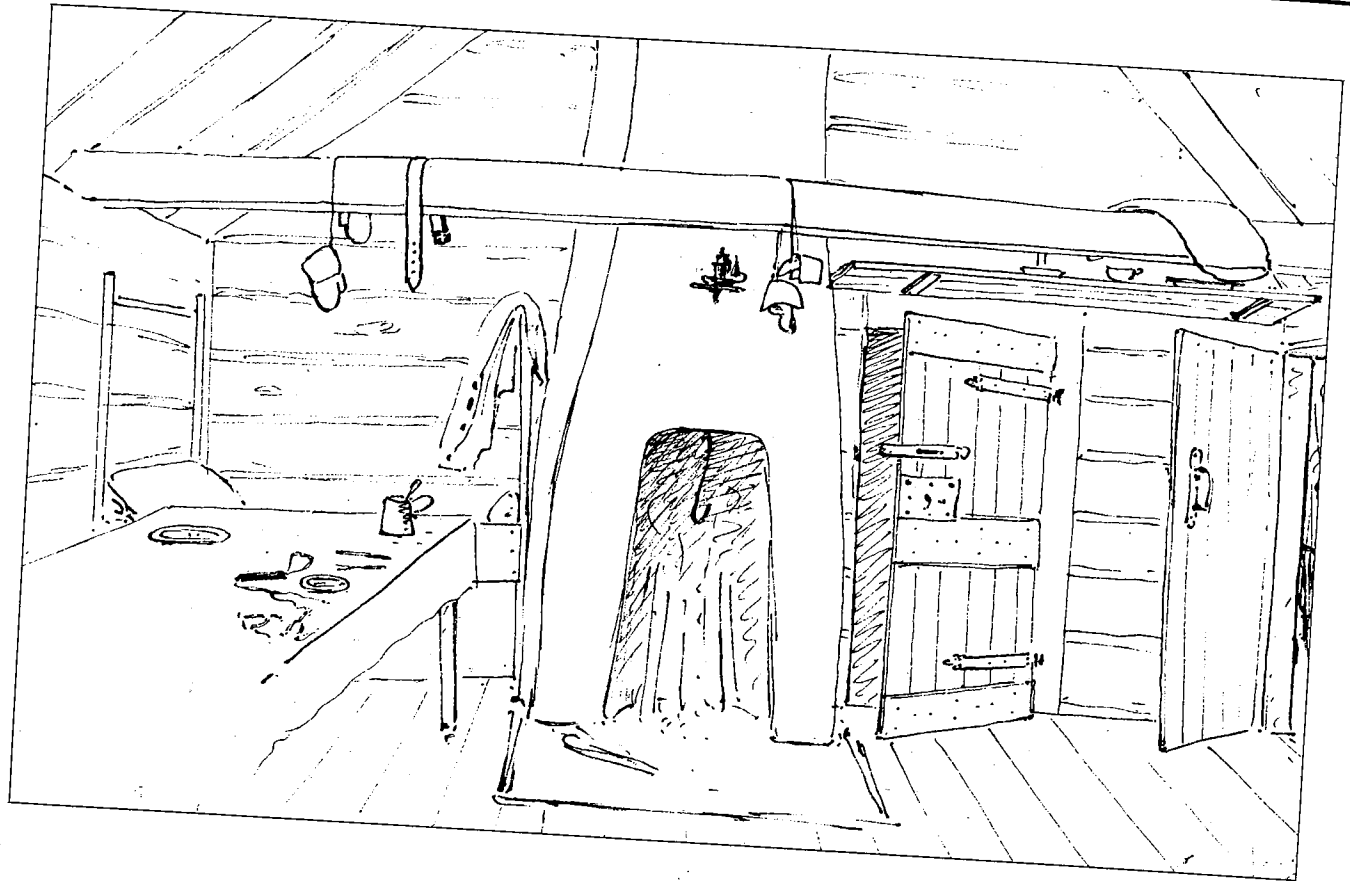


Figure 12.2: Artifacts from a French trading post of the Mississippi River, from Birk 1994: (a-b) hand wrought nails; (c) uniform button; (d) gunflint; (e) glass trade bead; (f) clasp knife blade. Drawing courtesy of the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology.



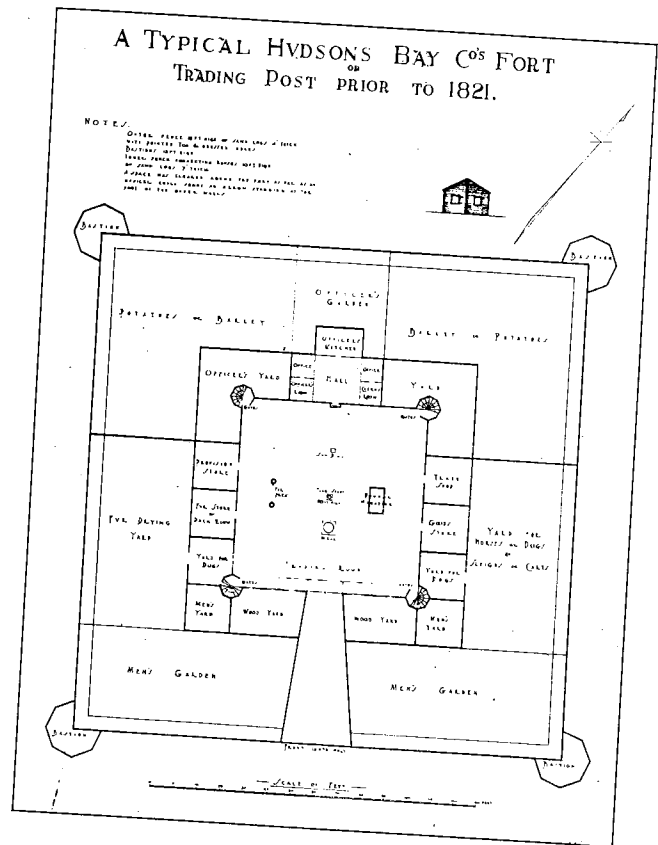
Where Two Worlds Meet :
The Great Lakes Fur Trade

Carolyn Gehmin

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1982

126. INTERIOR OF THE HUDSON BAY CO. POST AT PEMBINA ON THE RED RIVER, c.1847. This pen-and-ink sketch by Hampton Moody shows a small post on the Canadian border. C-35062/Public Archives Canada.

127. A TYPICAL HUDSONS BAY CO'S FORT OR TRADING POST, c.1887. This idealized plan of the permanent establishments of the Hudson's Bay Company prior to 1821 shows their intended self-sufficiency. Hudson's Bay Company.



MAP I

THE AREA

CONCERNING

LA COMPAGNIE DU NORD



nes



Lake

Winnipeg

(Bourbon) Nelson R
Hayes R
(Ste Therese)

Severn R

PORT NELSON
REGION (BOURBON)

Hudson Bay
(Upper Bay)

FORT SEVERN
(NIEU SAVANNE)

James Bay
(Lower Bay)

FORT ALBANY (STE ANNE
OR
QUITCHITCHOUAN)

CHARLTON IS

FORT CHARLES

Rupert

MOOSE FORT (MOI)

St. Lawrence R

