

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Portage National Monument
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Eating, Drinking & Leisure



PHOTO TITLE: Jew's Harp - GRPO 391

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass jew's harp frame measuring 6.0 cm long and 2.8 cm wide. This musical instrument resonates when a flexible metal tongue between the two arms is vibrated in conjunction with breathing through the mouth. Like most examples of jew's harps recovered during archeological excavations, this one here is missing the metallic tongue.

PHOTO TITLE: Two-tined Fork - GRPO 427

DESCRIPTION: Ferrous metal two-tined fork fragment with square cross-section tang. The fork measures 14.0 cm long.

PHOTO TITLE: Pearlware Bowl Fragment - GRPO 499

DESCRIPTION: Fine ceramics such as the example here illustrates the conspicuous consumption of the gentlemen of North West Company when in the wilderness. These pieces of lead glaze Pearlware are Chinese porcelain bowl fragments with a hand painted cobalt blue scroll and floral motif.

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Spigot - GRPO 1417

DESCRIPTION: This brass spigot would have been tapped into an oaken keg to dispense alcohol. The rectangular protrusion extending off of the top serves to accept a key that locks the spigot and prevents liquid from flowing freely.

PHOTO TITLE: Slate Pencil - GRPO 3078

DESCRIPTION: Slate pencil fragments such as these were used by fur trade company clerks to record inventories and settle accounts during the annual Rendezvous in Grand Portage. This example measures 4.3 cm long with a 0.5 cm diameter.

PHOTO TITLE: Pearlware sherds - GRPO 5121

DESCRIPTION: The outer edges from this pearlware plate or platter contain a decorative feathered design with blue tint achieved from cobalt oxide.

PHOTO TITLE: Copper Kettle and Lug Fragment - GRPO 6058

DESCRIPTION: This copper sheet metal scrap is from a kettle. Note the heavier copper lug fragment attached by two rivets which serve to secure an iron wire bail to the other side of the kettle.

PHOTO TITLE: Soapstone Pipe Bowl - GRPO 7013

DESCRIPTION: Soapstone's joint characteristics of soft texture for easy carving ability and lack of heat conductivity made it an ideal medium for creating pipes. Although kaolin clay pipes were popular trade items, both Native Peoples and French-Canadian voyageurs utilized stone pipes on occasion.

PHOTO TITLE: Copper Fishtail Kettle Lug - GRPO 8082

DESCRIPTION: Decorative copper fishtail-design kettle lug measuring 6.8 cm long, 5.2 cm wide, and 0.3 cm thick.

PHOTO TITLE: Candle Holder - GRPO 8750

DESCRIPTION: Copper sheet metal tube flattened on one end, bent at right angle, and rounded on other end to serve as candle holder. This piece might have part of a wall sconce. The tapered, rounded end has a maximum diameter of 3.2 cm and is 7.8 cm from the right angle bend. The flattened section is 5.7 cm long and 2.8 cm wide

PHOTO TITLE: Brass Spigot Key - GRPO 9169

DESCRIPTION: Spigot keys were specifically designed for use in conjunction with certain spigots in order to prevent tampering with kegs. This cylindrical-shaped key measures 2.3 cm long and has a 2.2 cm diameter.

PHOTO TITLE: Earthenware Fragments - GRPO 9189

DESCRIPTION: Soft paste red earthenware vessel body and lip fragments with a red lead glaze.

PHOTO TITLE: Earthenware Fragments - GRPO 9357

DESCRIPTION: Soft paste red earthenware vessel body and lip fragments with a red lead glaze, possibly from a snuff jar.

PHOTO TITLE: Horn Comb - GRPO 10742

DESCRIPTION: Over 160 horn combs appear on the 1797 North West Company inventory of goods on hand at the Grand Portage depot. This example here measures 6.3 cm long and 3.7 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Salt Glaze Tobacco Jar - GRPO 12685

DESCRIPTION: This fully intact wheel-thrown salt glaze stoneware tobacco jar measures 10.0 cm high with a diameter at the base of 7.7 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Jew's Harp - GRPO 12706

DESCRIPTION: This cast brass jew's harp frame recovered during archeological investigations at Fort Charlotte measures 6.2 cm long with a maximum width of 2.6 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Harmonica Plate - GRPO 12707

DESCRIPTION: This copper alloy harmonica plate recovered during archeological investigations at Fort Charlotte is thought to be from the early 19th century. It measures 10.0 cm long, 2.5 cm wide, and 1.0 cm thick.

PHOTO TITLE: Tin-Glazed Earthenware - GRPO 12878

DESCRIPTION: This wheel-thrown bowl rim fragment of tin-glazed earthenware possesses a decorative blue floral motif.

PHOTO TITLE: Creamware Bowl Fragment - GRPO 12886

DESCRIPTION: This bowl fragment represents the most complete creamware vessel in the Grand Portage National Monument collection. It measures 7.3 cm high with an outside rim diameter of 16.0 cm. The outside diameter of the bottom ring measures 7.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Limestone Pipe Blank - GRPO 12908

DESCRIPTION: This large limestone pipe blank was discarded after the starter hole for the bowl fractured through the outer wall of the keel. The blank measures 7.3 cm long and 3.6 cm wide, with uniform stem diameter holes of 0.7 cm

PHOTO TITLE: Earthenware Inkwell - GRPO 13243

DESCRIPTION: Earthenware inkwell smudged with ink blotches and fingerprints. The exterior is porous and the interior possesses a thick, brown glaze that encroaches over the top and down the sides of the vessel. The slightly conical-shaped inkwell, measures 4.2 cm tall with a maximum diameter of 2.6 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Copper Kettle Lid - GRPO 14163

DESCRIPTION: Circular-shaped copper kettle lid with riveted dog bone lug and lifting ring with an outward rolled lip around a deteriorated ferrous wire. The lid has an outside diameter of 26.0 cm and is 2.0 cm high.

PHOTO TITLE: Sandstone Pipe Bowl - GRPO 14273

DESCRIPTION: Small sandstone pipe bowl measuring 2.5 cm tall with a 0.6 cm diameter draw hole.

PHOTO TITLE: Creamware Bowl Fragment - GRPO 14278

DESCRIPTION: Creamware bowl fragment with a 0.5 cm hand-painted blue stripe below the rim on both interior and exterior surface.

PHOTO TITLE: Transfer-Printed Pearlware Fragment - GRPO 14287

DESCRIPTION: This basal sherd of transfer-printed pearlware documents the use of the familiar blue willow pattern of dinnerware at Grand Portage in the 1790s.

PHOTO TITLE: Clay Pipe Bowl - GRPO 14316

DESCRIPTION: Kaolin clay pipes were popular trade items among the Native Peoples and fragments of such pipes appear frequently at archeological sites throughout North America. This example here is embossed on the flat heel with TD enclosed by a circle; T is on the left, D is on the right.

PHOTO TITLE: Clay Pipe Stem - GRPO 14730

DESCRIPTION: The example here of a clay pipe stem represents one of over 7,400 clay pipe pieces in the Grand Portage National Monument collection. Of the over 82,000 archeological objects recovered thus far from the site, clay pipes outnumber the second most prolific object in the collection, nail and nail fragments, by a 2:1 margin.

PHOTO TITLE: Bone Whistle - GRPO 15108

DESCRIPTION: Hollow bone cylindrical tube whistle with circular hole cut out of the middle on one side. The whistle fragment measures 8.0 cm long and 1.3 cm diameter.

PHOTO TITLE: Jew's Harp - GRPO 15109

DESCRIPTION: Cast brass jew's harp frame in diamond cross-section with missing tongue measuring 5.8 cm long and 2.6 cm wide. File marks are still visible on the frame of the instrument.

PHOTO TITLE: Glass Bottle - GRPO 15230

DESCRIPTION: Nearly complete hand-blown glass bottle with rounded shoulders and down-turned lip, 26 fluid ounce capacity. The base forms into a 4.8 cm high bulbous bell-shape.

PHOTO TITLE: Trivet - GRPO 15270

DESCRIPTION: Triangular trivet constructed from three wrought iron bars with bends to form supporting legs for the object to suspend a cooking vessel over a bed of coals. The length of the object is 21.0 cm, and it stands 5.0 cm high.

PHOTO TITLE: Faience Fragment - GRPO 15469

DESCRIPTION: Earthenware faience plate or bowl fragment with the words "...Touj.../...On le..." depicted in matte brown letters above a thick blue line.

PHOTO TITLE: Wrought Iron Kettle Lug - GRPO 15922

DESCRIPTION: Heavy, oval-shaped wrought iron loop kettle lug attached to cupreous metal with two copper alloy rivets. The loop extends 5.0 cm from the base of the lug.

PHOTO TITLE: Cast White Metal Whistle - GRPO 17020

DESCRIPTION: Cast white metal whistle with round hole on one side; whistle measures 3.9 cm long and 0.8 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Caulking or Pitch Kit - GRPO 17201

DESCRIPTION: One of the daily tasks of the voyageurs upon pulling their canoes ashore after a long day of paddling was to inspect the seams of their birch bark vessels and make any necessary repairs. Spruce gum, pictured here, was mixed and heated in a kettle with rendered bear grease and charcoal or fire ash to form an adhesive that could be applied with a stick to the birch bark and spruce root seams.

PHOTO TITLE: White Metal Candlesnuffer - GRPO 17616

DESCRIPTION: Used to extinguish candles, this white metal cone-shaped snuffer stands 7.1 cm high with a maximum diameter of 2.9 cm at the base.