

ABSTRACT

Archaeological investigations at site 45CL1, Clark County, Washington, demonstrate that the locality is a very large (c 1.5ha), deeply stratified (2-4m) town site with an occupation spanning at least 1000 years (c. AD 1000 to 1840). Six large, complex depressions have been mapped. Test excavations show that these depressions represent the semi-subterranean portions of residential structures, probably large plankhouses of the type common on the Lower Columbia River and the Northwest Coast in aboriginal times. The depressions may represent as many as 11 such dwellings. A seventh depression is deeply buried beneath midden deposits. The cultural deposits contain very high densities of artifacts, ecofacts (including both faunal and floral remains), debris and features.

The site is near the Columbia River on a very active flood plain, resulting in site stratigraphy produced by a combination of active cultural and alluvial depositional processes. Site 45CL1, given its location and size, is the best candidate to be the site of Cathlapotle, a Middle Chinookan town visited by Lewis and Clark in 1806, as well as by other early Europeans in the area. The site is extraordinarily well preserved, having undergone only minor alterations since its abandonment, probably in the third or fourth decade of the 19th century AD.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Successful archaeological projects are invariably the result of the cooperation of a wide variety of people. We wish to express our gratitude to the following:

Jim Carty, who grew up on the land that holds Cathlapotle, told us where it was, and provided us with considerable information and assistance.

Anan Raymond, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Regional Archaeologist instigated the project, actively encourages it and finds financial support. The project very much is a reflection of his vision and his hard work. He also edited previous reports with a sharp pencil. We look forward to the time he needs a good editor. **Virginia Parks** (USFWS) initiated the public education program in 1994, and has coordinated it, often on her own time, ever since. She has spread knowledge of the Chinookan heritage and Cathlapotle's archaeology far in this region. She also did the final editing and production of this report.

We have been unfailingly helped by the staff of the US Fish and Wildlife Refuge at Ridgefield, WA. **Bruce Wiseman**, former Refuge Manager, provided advice and assistance with working on the refuge and with logistics. The staff was continually helpful, interested and sometimes amused by us.

Members of the **Chinook Tribal Council**, including **Tim Tarabocchia**, **Don Mechals**, **Clifford Snyder**, **Gary Johnson**, **Tony Johnson**, and **Jeanne Shaffer**, visited the site and PSU's archaeology labs several times and provided advice and enthusiasm. In August, 1995, over 80 tribal members visited the site and brought their excitement with them. One, Ed Nielsen, even wrote a wonderful poem about us and the Cathlapotle town.

The people of **Ridgefield, Washington** have displayed keen and excited interest in the project, and never failed to be friendly, even when we filled the market with sweaty, grimy people in search of ice cream and pop on hot afternoons. They have packed our Washington Archaeology Week sessions on the project.

Judith Ramaley, then President of Portland State University, exhibited a strong and consistent interest in our work, visiting the site in July of 1994 and 1995. **Marvin**

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The 1991 student volunteers who first attempted to locate the site are **Mary Parchman**, **Tana Hickey**, **Darin Molnar**, **Cameron M. Smith** and **Debbie Davis**.

The 1992 field crew were **Steve Hamilton**, **William Cornett**, **Mary Parchman**, **Tana Hickey** and **Anne Morris**. **Alliah Kahn** served as Lab Director.

The 1993 field crew were **William Cornet**, **John Wolf**, **Mary Parchman**, **Anan Raymond** and **Cameron M. Smith**. **Debbie Davis**, **Leanne Penniger** and **Maia Kabat**, veterans of the Wapato Valley Archaeological Project, participated as volunteers, as did **Darrel McCorkle**. **Nicholas Valentine**, USFWS, also volunteered and provided candy at crucial moments. **Carol Wolf** served as Lab Director.

In 1994, the field staff for the summer school included **Stephen Hamilton**, **William Cornett**, **Doria Raetz**, **Cameron M. Smith** and **John Wolf**. **Carol Wolf** was

Field Lab Director, and **Debbie Davis** served as Lab Director. **Bob Church**, University of Missouri, was our peripatetic zooarchaeologist, teaching the students the delights of faunal remains. **Virginia Butler** visited the site on several occasions, offering assistance and advice. **James O’Conner**, USGS, and **Scott Burns** of PSU’s Geology Department, visited the site and helped clarify the stratigraphy. **Andrew Fountain**, also of the USGS, visited the site, and offered suggestions on a wide array of topics.

In 1995, the field staff included **Doria Raetz**, **William Cornett**, **John Wolf**, **Melissa Darby**, **Ann Trieu** and **David Delyria**. **Teri Jackson** was Field Lab director, while **Carolyn Jolly** was Lab Director. **Scott Burns** again visited, providing insights into the site’s complex alluvial history. **Liz Sobel**, University of Michigan, spent the summer learning the complexities of excavating Northwest Coast towns, even when they aren’t in shell middens.

In 1996, the field staff included **William Cornett**, **Cameron M. Smith** and **Liz Sobel**. **Teri Jackson** served as Field Lab director, and **Carolyn Jolly** worked as Lab Director.

Of course, without the field school students, we would be, in Ken Ames’ words “a couple of guys with computers.” And we would not be very accomplished with these machines without the unflagging guidance of resident computer wizard, **Darin Molnar**, who, among other things, has developed our AIMS database software.

1994 Field School

Catherine Barter, **Jessie Berdine**, **Rowan Bibb**, **Briana Bird**, **Greta Camenzind**, **Bill Clontz**, **Renee Clugston**, **Mike Crofton**, **Melissa Darby**, **Laura Engstrom**, **Neal Heupel**, **Ed Howlett**, **Teri Jackson**, **Carolyn Jolly**, **Lane Justen**, **Gretchen Kaehler**, **Dan Kvamme**, **Darrel McCorkle**, **Darin McCoy**, **Kathleen Martin**, **Jennifer Muller**, **Darci Nash**, **Kate Needham**, **Cherilyn Ronningen**, **Amy Seaberg**, **Ann Trieu**, **Mimi Utsumi**, **Matt Van Winkle**, **Tim Vincent**, and **Michelle Williamson**.

1995 Field School:

Chelan Bliss, **Don Aho**, **Rhonda Cannon**, **Alicia Cech**, **Renee Clugston**, **Martha Corcoran**, **Peter Lovell**, **Amber Dalling**, **Tim Delaney**, **Tony Donoghue**, **Dealt Espinosa**, **Andria Fultz**, **Jamie Gaylord**, **Lisa Gugino**, **Damon Grady**, **Wilda Gretzinger**, **Neal Heupel**, **Susan Kelly**, **Andrew Manspeaker**, **Bill Michton**, **Omi McCarthy**, **Darin McCoy**, **Linda McCoy**, **Myron Medlin**, **Darin Molnar**, **Jennifer Muller**, **Jennifer Nelson**, **Hamid Peigahi**, **Rachel Royston**, **David Schmitz**, **John Seidel**, **Merle Speer**, **Sarah Paulson**, **Gully Walker**, **Wallace White**, **Joyce Widdows** and **Jan Wolf**.

1996 Field School:

Tracy Akers, **Linda Anderson**, **Jim Auld**, **Sara Behr**, **Steve Delaney**, **Michele Fahley**, **Heather Fener**, **Tyson Frone**, **Emily Greer**, **Russ Hatz**, **Darci Kaehler-Bean**, **Holly Krass**, **Erin Lewis**, **Nila Markheim**, **Shigeru Mihara**, **Kurt Modahl**, **Melissa Morgan**, **Adrienne Oltjenbruns**, **Aimee Scheckla**, **Erin Stevens**, **Andrew Vile** and **Raven Whitney**.

These crews devoted themselves to their work with a diligence and enjoyment that exceeded that of many professional crews.

The maps in this report were digitized by **Darin Molnar**. The 1994 profiles were digitized by **Cameron M. Smith**, and the 1995 profiles by **Jennifer Muller**.

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None of these many people are responsible for any errors in this document. Such errors are ours alone.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i	CONCLUSIONS	81
Acknowledgments	iii	Topography and Horizontal Zonation	81
Table of Contents	v	Feature Preservation	81
List of Figures	vi	Artifact Assemblage	82
List of Tables	viii	Faunal Assemblage	83
INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND	1	Botanical Assemblage	84
Geography and Geology	2	Research Plan	85
Flora and Fauna	2	Management and Scientific Goals	85
Geological and Environmental History	3	Outreach Goals	86
Wapato Valley Archaeology	8	Implications for Future Work	86
Refuge / Vicinity Archaeology	10	Environmental Reconstruction	87
Ethnographic Background	12	Economy	87
Historic Accounts of Cathlapotle	14	Settlement and Land Use Patterns	88
Other Accounts of Cathlapotle	18	Site Formation Processes	88
RESEARCH AND PROBLEM		Theoretical Issues	88
ORIENTATION	19	REFERENCES CITED	91
Management of Scientific Goals	19	APPENDIX 1:	
Outreach Goals	20	Artifact Counts Per Excavation Unit,	
Sampling	20	1993-1995, Inclusive	97
CATHLAPOTLE PROJECT HISTORY	23	APPENDIX 2:	
Initial Site Search	23	Informal Excavation Photos	103
Augering: 1992	23		
Topographic Mapping: 1993	24		
Augering: 1993	24		
Excavations: 1993	27		
Excavations: 1994	28		
Excavations: 1995	31		
Excavations: 1996	33		
1997 Laboratory Exercises	34		
RESULTS	35		
Site Description	35		
Topography and Horizontal Zonation	36		
Other Structural Features	41		
Site Stratigraphy	42		
Features	45		
Radiocarbon Dating	63		
Artifacts	64		
Artifact Summary Comments	71		

LIST OF FIGURES

<p>FIGURE 1. SALEEBY-HAMILTON ENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION FOR THE WAPATO VALLEY, CA. 1850AD 3</p> <p>FIGURE 2. PACIFIC OCEAN SEA LEVELS 10,000 BP (HUTCHINSON, 1992)..... 7</p> <p>FIGURE 3. TERMINAL PLEISTOCENE- HOLOCENE POLLEN SEQUENCE (AFTER HEUSSER 1985) 8</p> <p>FIGURE 4. SITE CHRONOLOGY FOR THE WAPATO VALLEY FLOOR 10</p> <p>FIGURE 5. SITE DISTRIBUTION IN THE VICINITY OF 45CL1, CATHLAPOTLE 11</p> <p>FIGURE 6. LEWIS AND CLARK MAP OF THE WAPATO VALLEY 17</p> <p>FIGURE 7. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF BRUSH RIDGE SHOWING 1992 AND 1993 AUGERS 25</p> <p>FIGURE 8. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF 1993-1996 EXCAVATION UNITS 27</p> <p>FIGURE 9. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP FEATURING DEPRESSIONS 1-6 38</p> <p>FIGURE 10. UNIT N75-77/W76-78 WITH WALL TRENCH BURIED ca.2m BENEATH MODERN SURFACE 40</p> <p>FIGURE 11. N159-160/W79-107 SOUTH PROFILE MIDSECTION 44</p>	<p>FIGURE 12. N159-160/W79-107 WEST DEBRIS FIELD 45</p> <p>FIGURE 13. N159-160/W79-107 BERM EAST OF HOUSE DEPRESSION 46</p> <p>FIGURE 14. N107-109/W98-100 NORTH PROFILE 47</p> <p>FIGURE 15. N107-109/W98-100 EAST PROFILE SHOWING FEATURE 1 48</p> <p>FIGURE 16. UNIT N136-138/W94-96 EAST PROFILE SHOWING BURIED WALL TRENCH 50</p> <p>FIGURE 17. HEARTH FEATURE 478 SOUTH PROFILE, UNIT N174-176/W88-90, HOUSE 1 51</p> <p>FIGURE 18. POST FEATURE DURING EXCAVATION, UNIT N180-182/W90-92 52</p> <p>FIGURE 19. UNIT N107-109/W98-100 LARGE POSTMOLD CROSSCUTTING ALLUVIAL SAND 53</p> <p>FIGURE 20. PORTION OF SOUTH PROFILE N159-160/ W79-107 TRENCH SHOWING STRATIFIED CULTURAL AND ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS 54</p> <p>FIGURE 21. UNIT N168-172/W88-89 PLANK FEATURES 78 AND 105 54</p> <p>FIGURE 22. DETAIL OF FEATURE 105, SHOWING THAT IT WAS CONSTRUCTED OF LARGE, VERTICAL TIMBERS 55</p> <p>FIGURE 23. PLAN VIEW OF PLANK AND POST FEATURES ON THE EAST SIDE OF HOUSE 1 IN UNIT N159-160/W79-107 55</p>
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FIGURE 24. CROSS-SECTION OF PLANK AND POST FEATURES SHOWN IN FIGURE 23	56	FIGURE 35. PIT FEATURE 490 DURING EXCAVATION IN N157-159/W90-92, HOUSE 1	61
FIGURE 25. PLANKMOLD REPRESENTING CENTRAL RIDGEPOST SUPPORT TIMBER IN N159-160/W79-107 TRENCH	56	FIGURE 36. SECTION VIEW OF SAND-LINED HEARTH FEATURE 478 , UNIT N174-176/W88-90	62
FIGURE 26. FEATURE 75 POSTMOLDS IN ASSOCIATION WITH FEATURE 71 AFTER FURTHER EXCAVATION	57	FIGURE 37. SECTION VIEW OF SAND-LINED HEARTH UNIT N180-182/W90-92	62
FIGURE 27. WALL FEATURE ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTH END OF DEPRESSION 4. DARK LINE IS WALL, DARK FILL IS PIT	57	FIGURE 38. RADIOCARBON DATE RANGES (ONE SIGMA) FOR 45CL1	65
FIGURE 28. WALL FEATURE ASSOCIATED WITH DEPRESSION 4 IN EAST PROFILE	58	FIGURE 39. PERCENT COMPOSITION OF 1991-1995 ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	66
FIGURE 29. WALL FEATURE ASSOCIATED WITH DEPRESSION 6. PIT AT TOP MAY NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE STRUCTURE	58	FIGURE 40. SMALL, STEMMED PROJECTILE POINTS	67
FIGURE 30. WALL FEATURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EAST SIDE OF DEPRESSION 2	59	FIGURE 41. SMALL, SIDE-NOTCHED PROJECTILE POINTS	68
FIGURE 31. PLANKMOLD ON THE EAST SIDE OF DEPRESSION 1 IN NORTH PROFILE	59	FIGURE 42. SMALL STEMMED AND SIDE-NOTCHED PROJECTILE POINTS	69
FIGURE 32. PIT EXPOSED IN BEACH SANDS, 2.86MASL, UNIT N107-108/W98-100	60	FIGURE 43. SMALL AND LARGE SIDE-NOTCHED PROJECTILE POINTS	70
FIGURE 33. CONTACT BETWEEN CULTURAL (TOP) AND ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS IN WESTERN EXTENT OF TRENCH N159-160/W79-107	60	FIGURE 44. PUMICE BEADS	71
FIGURE 34. MIDDEN, SHELL AND STERILE DEPOSITS IN UNIT N75-77/W76-78 SOUTH OF DEPRESSION 2	61	FIGURE 45. ANTLER HANDLE	72
		FIGURE 46. PERFORATED GROUND PUMICE OBJECT	73
		FIGURE 47. PERFORATED NET WEIGHT FRAGMENT	74

FIGURE 48.
VARIOUS HISTORIC ARTIFACTS 75

FIGURE 49.
METAL DAGGER OR KNIFE BLADE 76

FIGURE 50.
PAIR OF TOGGLING HARPOON VALVES,
RECOVERED TOGETHER 76

FIGURE 51.
BONE PENDANT OR FIGURINE
FRAGMENTS 77

FIGURE 52.
ZOOMORPHIC FIGURINE 77

FIGURE 53.
ANTHROPOMORPHIC FIGURINE 78

FIGURE 54.
BONE BARB 78

FIGURE 55.
PLAN VIEW OF METAPODIAL CHISEL 79

FIGURE 56.
IRON ADZE BIT (LEFT) DATING TO
AD 1400-1500 79

FIGURE 57.
SHOTO CLAY OBJECT 80

FIGURE 58.
ROLLED COPPER BEADS, RING AND TUBE 80

FIGURE 59.
SCHEMATIC ILLUSTRATION OF MAJOR
SITE FEATURES 83

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1.
SALEEBY-HAMILTON HABITAT TYPES 4

TABLE 2.
ETHNOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED
RESOURCES OF THE WAPATO VALLEY 5

TABLE 3.
ARCHAEOLOGICALLY COMMON FAUNA
IN THE WAPATO VALLEY 6

TABLE 4.
WAPATO VALLEY VILLAGES AT THE TIME
OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION 13

TABLE 5.
RADIOCARBON DATES FROM 45CL1 64

TABLE 6.
CULTURAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE
WAPATO VALLEY AND VICINITY 82

TABLE 7.
SUMMARY OF 1994 MAMMALIAN FAUNA 84

TABLE 8.
THE BOTANICAL ARRAYS (% BY
WEIGHT) OF WESTERN WASHINGTON
SITES BY FLORAL CATEGORY 85