

A COMPARATIVE CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF AN INDIAN
BURIAL SITE IN SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON

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INTRODUCTION

At a point approximately eight miles upstream from Lewiston and Clarkston, the Snake River changes course from generally north to west. It continues a westerly course for a mile and a half, then north again at the point where Asotin Creek enters. A broad bar is present on the south bank of this $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile stretch. It is on this alluvial bar that Asotin, the county seat of Asotin County, has been built. The site, 45-AS-9, lies on a bluff overlooking and south of the main part of town. The legal description of the site is: lots 12 to 20, block 30, Schank and Reed's first addition to the town of Asotin, Washington, Section 21, Township 10N, Range 46E, Clarkston Quadrangle.

The Asotin Creek area lies in the northwest corner of the Tristate Uplands Section of the Central Mountains Subprovince of the Columbia Inter-montane Province (Freeman, et al. 1945:69). This region is characterized by lava flows overlaid with sedimentary deposits and deep canyons cutting down to the pre-lava flow granite (Freeman 1950:18).

The Snake River canyon, representing one of these cuts in the lava flow of the region, ranges from arid transition prairie and ponderosa pine woods at the top, down to the upper Sonoran life zone on the floor with a semi-desert type of vegetation near the river. Daubenmire (1942:65) includes the upper area in his *Agropyron-Poa* zone, characterized by bunch grass

TABLE 3
TRADE BEADS OF SITE 45-AS-9

Bead Number	Description	Illustrations		Burial Number	Number of Beads	Bead Dia. (mm.)	Hole Dia. (mm.)	Width (mm.)
		Plate	Figure					
1	Very small (small seed bead size) Cornaline d'Aleppo	none	none	17	3	2	.5	1
2	Small (large seed bead size) Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	12	10	5,536	3	1	2
3	Medium small (coarse seed size) Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	13	10 17	51 42	4	1	2
4	Medium (pound bead size) Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	1	11	21	5	2	3
5	Medium large Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	5	4 10	23 290	6	1-2	5
6	Large Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	4	11	360	9	2	4-5
7	Medium large and extra wide Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	2	8	18	7	2	6
8	Medium and very wide Cornaline d'Aleppo	VII	5	10 11	18 1	5	1.5	7
9	Very small white seed	IX	6	11	2,040	2	.5	1
10	Small white seed	IX	7	17	14	2.5	.5	1.5

TABLE 3--Continued

Bead Number	Description	Illustrations		Burial Number	Number of Beads	Bead Dia. (mm.)	Hole Dia. (mm.)	Width (mm.)
		Plate	Figure					
11	Large white seed	IX	8	10 16 17	3,888 4 9	3	1	2
12	Coarse white seed	IX	9	10 16	5,870 5	4	1	3
13	Extra large coarse white seed	VIII	2	11	2	5	1	4
14	White paste	VIII	10	10	1	7	2	6
15	White paste round	VIII	6	10	15	10	2	10
16	Translucent deep blue round	VIII	4	10	14	10	2	10
17	Opaque light blue O.P.	VIII	9	10	8	7	2	6-7
18	Translucent deep blue O.P.	VIII	1	10	16	5	2	5-6
19	White dot overlaid with orange and red dots on angular blue paste	VIII	5	10	5	10-12	2	11
20	Translucent deep blue coarse seed	VII	7	10	17	3	1	3
21	Opaque light blue large seed	IX	15	16 17	4 4	2.5	1	2
22	Opaque light blue small seed	IX	16	17	13	2	.5	1
23	Opaque dusty blue small seed	IX	12	17	8	2	.5	1

TABLE 3--Continued

Bead Number	Description	Illustrations		Burial Number	Number of Beads	Bead Dia. (mm.)	Hole Dia. (mm.)	Width (mm.)
		Plate	Figure					
24	Opaque black coarse seed	IX	18	10	1,882	3	1	3
				11	64			
				17	43			
25	Opaque light green small seed	IX	13	11	250	1.5	.5	1
26	Translucent light green small seed	IX	14	10	6,347	1.5	.5	1
27	Translucent dark green small seed	VIII	14	17	1	1.5	.5	1
28	Opaque yellow large seed	IX	17	10	1,077	2	1	1
				17	1			
29	Opaque tan small seed	IX	11	17	14	1.5	.5	1
30	Opaque tan coarse seed	VIII	11	11	107	4	1	3
31	Opaque pink small seed	IX	10	10	10,743	1.5	.5	1
				11	2			
				17	98			
32	Opaque pink large seed	VIII	13	16	1	2.5	1	2
33	Translucent pale pink O.P.	VIII	11	11	1	5-6	3	5
34	Pink melon	VIII	7	17	3	7-9	2	8
35	Pink spiral on white paste	VIII	12	10	1	9	2.5	9
36	Pink on white spiral on blue paste	IX	1	10	116	6	2	7

TABLE 3--Continued

Bead Number	Description	Illustrations		Burial Number	Number of Beads	Bead Dia. (mm.)	Hole Dia. (mm.)	Width (mm.)
		Plate	Figure					
37	White interior translucent red round	VIII	8	10 17	1 1	8	2	8
38	Small round brass	VIII	3	11	2	7	4	6
39	Center ridged brass	VII	9	4 8 10	7 88 398	8	2.5/4	8
40	Same size hole round brass	VII	6	10 11	94 2	8	4	7
41	Different size hole round brass	VII	10	11	80	9	3/4	8

PLATE VII. TRADE BEADS¹

1.	Bead type	4
2.	"	7
3.	"	5
4.	"	6
5.	"	8
6.	"	40
7.	"	20
8.	"	24
9.	"	39
10.	"	41
11.	"	30
12.	"	2
13.	"	3

¹The faint lines in this and the following plates are 5 mm. apart.

PLATE VII

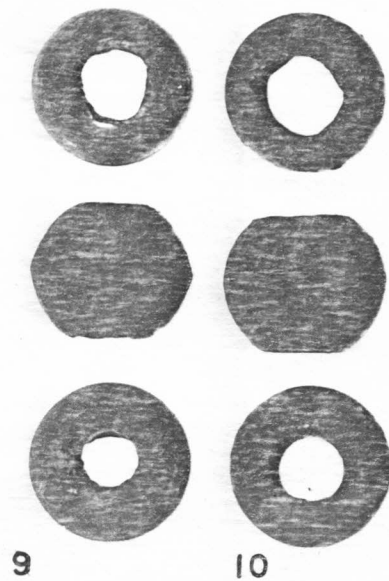
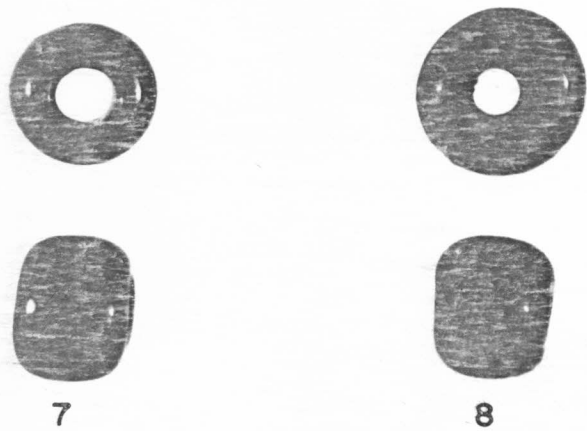
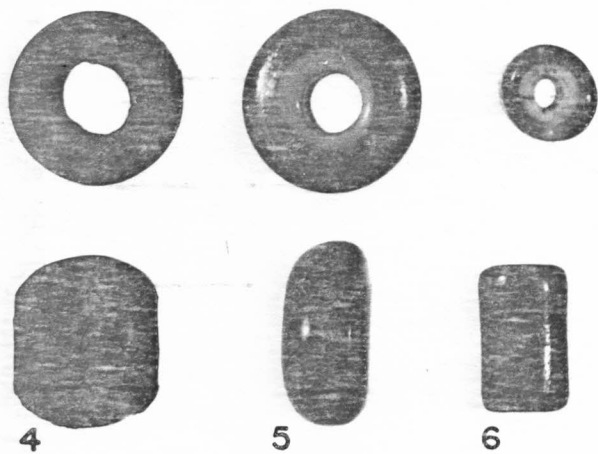
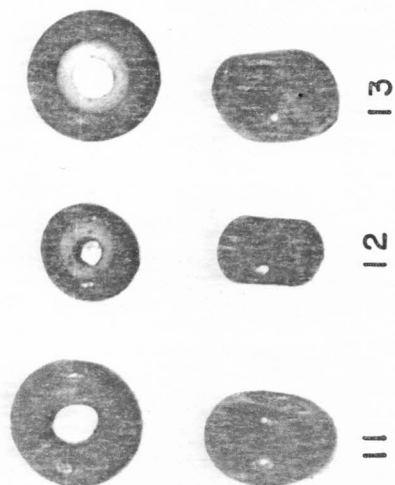
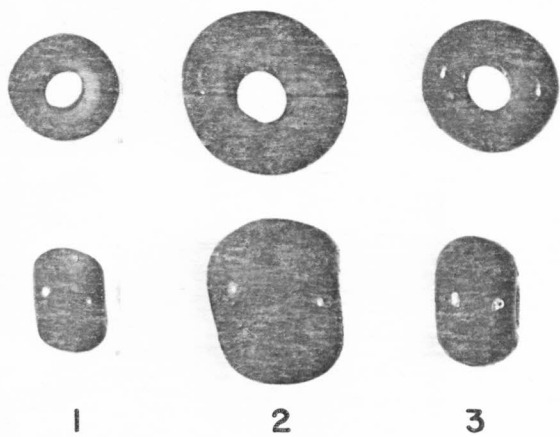


PLATE VIII. TRADE BEADS

1.	Bead type	18
2.	" "	13
3.	" "	38
4.	" "	16
5.	" "	19
6.	" "	15
7.	" "	34
8.	" "	37
9.	" "	17
10.	" "	14
11.	" "	33
12.	" "	35
13.	" "	32
14.	" "	27

PLATE VIII



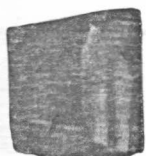
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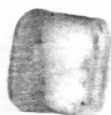
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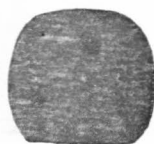
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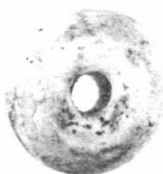
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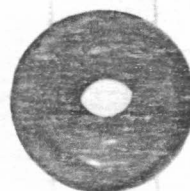
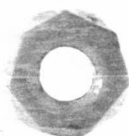
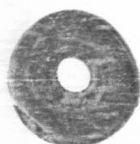
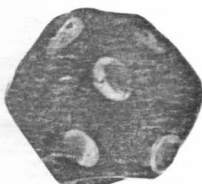
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8



9



12



11



10



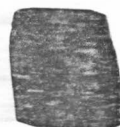
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13



12



11



10



14

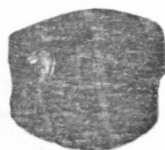


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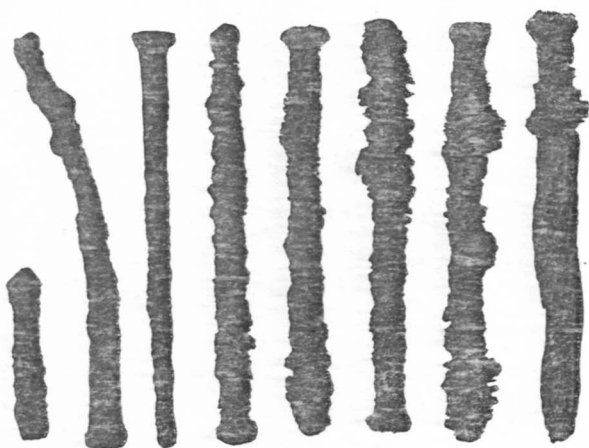
PLATE IX. TRADE BEADS AND SQUARE NAILS

1. Bead type 36
2. Nails from burial 10
3. Nail from burial 17
4. Nails from burial 8
5. Nail from burial 9
6. Bead type 9
7. " " 10
8. " " 11
9. " " 12
10. " " 31
11. " " 29
12. " " 23
13. " " 25
14. " " 26
15. " " 21
16. " " 22
17. " " 28
18. " " 24

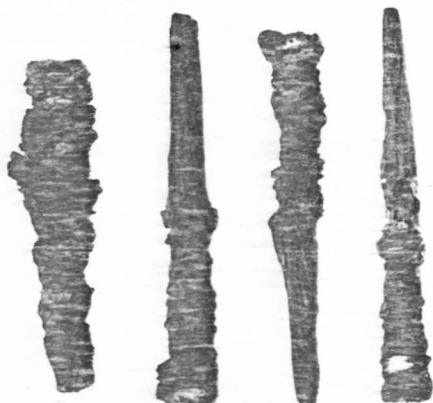
PLATE IX



1



2



3

4

5



13



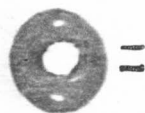
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12



17



11



16



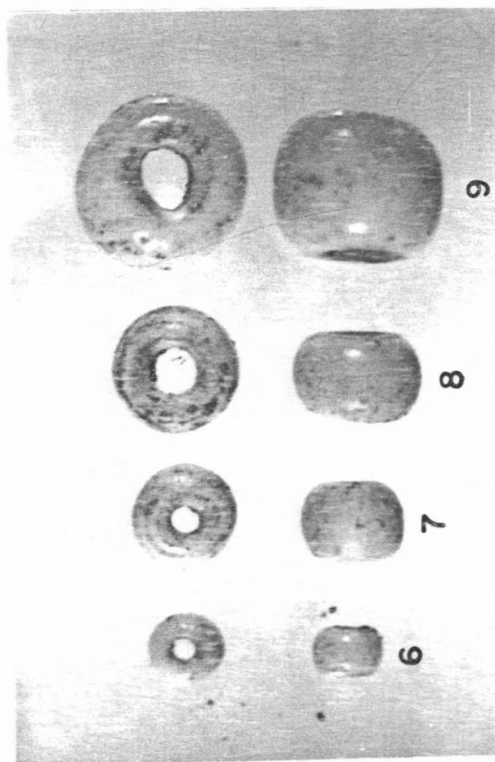
15



10



14



9

8

7

6

PLATE X. TRADE BEAD DECORATION

1. Detail of beads from burial 10 (types 31 and 26).
2. Detail of beads from burial 10 (types 2, 5, 11, 39, and 40).
3. Detail of beads from burial 10 (types 2, 5, 11, and 12).
4. Early historic Nez Perce dress, front.
5. Early historic Nez Perce dress, back.

PLATE X

