

THE ONTIVEROS ADOBE:  
EARLY RANCHO LIFE IN ALTA CALIFORNIA

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Prepared for the Redevelopment Agency  
City of Santa Fe Springs

June 1982

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Six gun flints do not constitute a sample but they do appear to be in a chronological order: the "French" gunflints being the earliest, followed by the "English" and the locally made examples. If the same stratigraphy can be demonstrated at other sites, it might be of considerable use in dating similar contexts.

#### Flaked Glass

Two pieces of possibly flaked glass were found in 1981. One, 1950, is a thick 1.2 cm (0.5 in) clear glass bottle base with a few bubbles. The surface shows considerable abrasion; the edge is unfacially flaked, patinated, and shows some wear. Unfortunately, it is a surface find. The other, 2180, is a sherd of modern, high quality, 3/16 in. plate glass, bifacially flaked along one edge. It was also at the surface, in an area of traffic and disturbance.

#### Shell and Glass Beads

In 1979 45 Olivella disc beads, one Tivela tube bead, and 14 glass beads were recovered (King 1980:75-78). The 1981 excavations added 27 Olivella and 5 Haliotis disc beads, another single Tivela tube bead, and 22 glass beads.

An exhaustive study of beads by R.O. Gibson offers a complete, detailed typology and chronology of southern California Indian beads and of the glass beads that were imported from Europe (1976:77-166). This typology forms the basis of the 1980 report and the present work (King 1980:75-78).

The shell beads have the appearance and characteristics of beads made ca. 1800 but could be as late as ca. 1816. The chronology is based on size and the fact that their edges are ground rather than being left rough chipped (King 1980:75-76; Gibson 1976:122). The glass beads are also of this general period. Types Cla, C2a, C6 appear after 1769; C3a, C5a, C8b, C11a from 1785-1816 (Gibson 1976:122-123).

It would appear that all the beads came to the adobe early in its existence or were kept as heirlooms until they were deposited at a later date. Gibson says of this period, 1816-1850, "This time period is the longest and least well defined" (1976:122). Hopefully, this modest collection will add something to this knowledge.

Table 7

## GLASS BEADS 1981

Blue Cane

<u>Locus</u>	<u>Depth or Stratum in cm</u>	<u>Cat. No.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Opaque</u>	<u>Trans- lucent</u>	<u>Size in mm</u>		<u>Hole</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
							<u>Max.Diam.</u>	<u>Length or Thickness</u>		
N8/E19-20	Stratum X	2889	C2a	copper blue	X		3.0	3.6	1.5	cylindrical, lines paral- lel to long axis
N9/E18N	50-60	2373	C2a	copper blue	X		3.0	2.5	1.4	barrel, lines parallel to long axis
N9/E18S	50-60	2570	C2a	copper blue	X		4.3	1.9	1.4	disc, devitrified
	100-110	2339a	C2a	copper blue	X		3.5	2.5	1.5	barrel
		2339b	C1a	cobalt blue		X	3.5	3.15	1.5	tubular
N10/E3	10-20	1677	C1a	cobalt blue		X	3.7	2.4	1.9	tubular
S3/E21N	Stratum II	2841	C2a	copper blue	X		4.7	3.0	1.9	disc, devitrified
S3/E21S	Stratum II	2699	C2a	copper blue	X		3.7	2.4	1.9	tubular

Table 7

GLASS BEADS 1981  
(CONTINUED)

<u>Red Cane</u>										
<u>Locus</u>	Depth or Stratum in cm	Cat. No.	<u>Type</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Opaque</u>	Trans- lucent	Size in mm		<u>Hole</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
							<u>Max.Diam.</u>	Length or <u>Thickness</u>		
N3/E19S	Stratum X	2889	C2a	gold red on a black core	X		3.0	3.6	1.5	cylindrical, lines paral- lel to long axis.
N8/E20	20-40	2523	C6?	red on a black core	X		3.25	3.4	1.1	tubular
	40-50	2546	C6?	red on a black core	X		2.9	2.9	1.0	tubular
N9/E18S	110-120	2318	C6?	red on a black core	X		4.0	3.8	1.0	barrel
<u>White Cane</u>										
N8/E19-20	Stratum X	2889	C5a	clear		X	4.1	2.5	1.0	oblate spheroid
S3/E21N	Stratum II	2481	C5a	clear		X	4.0	2.0	0.9	oblate spheroid
S3/E21S	40-50	2713	C5a	clear						

Table 7

GLASS BEADS 1981  
(CONTINUED)Black Cane

<u>Locus</u>	Depth or Stratum in cm	Cat. No.	<u>Type</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Opaque</u>	<u>Trans- lucent</u>	<u>Size in mm</u>		<u>Hole</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
							<u>Max.Diam.</u>	<u>Length or Thickness</u>		
N9/E18N	100-110	2853	C8b	black	X		3.6	2.6	1.3	oblate spheroid
				Blue-Green iridescence, transient						
	120-140	2763	C8?	black	X		3.6	2.5	1.5	oblate spheroid
				Beige patina						
N9/E18S	90-100	2493	C8?		X		3.7	2.5	1.5	oblate spheroid

Yellow Cane

				Gray brown mottled patina						
C/16B	Stratum III	2463	C11a	yellow	X		3.4	2.0	0.9	slightly darker yellow patina

Green Cane

N28/W8A	0-10	1588a	C3a	green		X	3.5	3.5	0.9	spheroid
		1588b	C3a	green		X	3.5	3.5	0.9	spheroid, wire through center

Total	21									
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