

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

FORT ORANGE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: FORT ORANGE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
Other Name/Site Number: Fort Albany, NYS Site Number A00140.000396

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: [REDACTED] NOT FOR PUBLICATION: X
City/Town: City of Albany Vicinity:
State: NY County: Albany Code: 001 Zip Code: 12207

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private, Public-Local, Public-State (X), Public-Federal
Category of Property: Building(s), District, Site (X), Structure, Object

Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1), Noncontributing (0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total 0)
Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ Entered in the National Register _____
- _____ Determined eligible for the _____
National Register
- _____ Determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
- _____ Removed from the National Register _____
- _____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Commerce
 Defense

Sub: Trade
 Fortification

Current: Transportation

Sub: Road-related (vehicular)

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

MATERIALS:
Foundation:
Walls:
Roof:
Other:

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Unless otherwise cited, all information presented in this section is abstracted from Huey (1984, 1985, 1988a, 1988b, and 1991).

SITE LOCATION AND HISTORY

Dutch West India Company employees built Fort Orange [redacted]

[redacted] Two years later, they established the capital of their New Netherland colony at New Amsterdam on the [redacted]

[redacted] Then as now, the Hudson was the largest navigable waterway penetrating the mountain barrier separating the Atlantic coast from the continent's interior.



Champlain and St. Lawrence valleys, and Indian and English communities farther east in New England.

This position along one of the most strategic crossroads in the region made Fort Orange the single most important center of diplomacy and trade between Dutch colonists and Indian people in Northeastern North America. Although the fort itself was abandoned by 1676, the city that grew alongside of it continued to serve as a major focal point of regional social, political, and economic life throughout the colonial era. First called Beverwyck by the Dutch, it was given its modern name, Albany, when English forces, sent by the Duke of York, conquered New Netherland in 1664.

Archeological evidence recovered during salvage excavations, undertaken from 1970 to 1971, shows that site attributes had been drawing Indian people to the locale for at least 1,000 years when Henry Hudson, an English navigator employed by the Dutch, made the first recorded visit to the area in 1609. He was soon

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followed by other Dutch traders. Forming themselves into a corporation called the New Netherland Company in 1614, a cartel of prominent Dutch merchants authorized construction of a permanent trading post [REDACTED]

Fort Nassau was located in the heart of the Mahican Indian homeland. Regarding the post as a rich resource, both they and their Iroquois-speaking Mohawk neighbors to the west soon found themselves competing to control access to the post. Fort personnel were unable to avoid involvement in this struggle despite Company edicts prescribing strict neutrality. Three Fort Nassau traders, for example, were captured by Indians shortly after the fort opened for business. Carried down the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers, they were sold for ransom to Dutch traders conducting shipborne commerce in Delaware Bay.

Discouraged by floods periodically inundating the post, and caught between hostile nations fighting a war endangering fort personnel and depressing commerce, Dutch traders abandoned Fort Nassau by 1618. Traders travelling to the area during the next few years largely restricted themselves to brief visits or fleeting shipborne encounters. This situation changed in 1621 when the Dutch government granted control over New Netherland to the newly chartered Dutch West India Company.

West India Company directors initially established settlements along the lower Delaware Valley. Although the Delaware River possessed a moderate climate attractive to European settlers, it was located too close to the competing colony of Virginia. Virginia claimed the valley for itself. Refusing to recognize the validity of the Dutch claim, Virginia traders, sailing north from the Chesapeake, by-passed the tiny West India Company outposts to trade directly with local Delaware Indians and more westerly Susquehannock people travelling down the Schuylkill River to its confluence with the Delaware at present-day Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Dutch West India Company began locating settlers in the still uncolonized Hudson Valley midway between English Virginia and New England in 1624. Establishing their center of operations on [REDACTED], Dutch officials, anxious to regain control of the strategic Hudson Mohawk crossroads, immediately sent some 18 Walloon families upriver to construct a new post near the site of old Fort Nassau.

The new post, named Fort Orange, was built [REDACTED]

The earliest known representation of the fort, an illustration from a map dated 1632, shows that the Walloons built the small

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wooden fort with the four bastions specified in Minuit's orders (Figure 7.5). They then erected homes and cleared fields just beyond post walls as Company soldiers, traders, and artisans took up residence within the fort.

Establishment of Fort Orange intensified Mahican-Mohawk trade rivalry. Anxious to forge good relations with his closest Indian neighbors, Fort commander Daniel van Krieckenbeeck openly sided with the Mahicans in open defiance of Company policy in the early spring of 1626. Some months later, Mohawk warriors killed Krieckenbeeck and three of the six Company employees accompanying a Mahican war party in an ambush just three miles from the fort.

Van Krieckenbeeck's successor immediately met with the Mohawks. Having sustained no losses in the encounter, the Mohawks quickly agreed to restore friendly relations with the Dutch. Turning their full attention to the Mahicans, the Mohawks managed to defeat and drive them away from lands around Fort Orange by 1628.

Regional commerce languished after the Walloons and other Company settlers left the area following Van Krieckenbeeck's debacle. In an effort to revive colonization and trade throughout New Netherland, the Company established the "patroonship" system. Under this system, the Company allowed wealthy investors to purchase tracts 12 miles along one side of a river, or 6 miles on both banks, from Indian owners. In return, these entrepreneurs, known as patroons, agreed to settle and administrate their domains. One of the first charters establishing a patroonship in the colony was granted to Company director Kilaen van Rensselaer in 1629. One year later, the new patroon purchased land on both sides of the Hudson River above and below Fort Orange from Mahican people driven away by the Mohawks. Naming the tract "Rensselaerswyck," he claimed all lands around Fort Orange beyond post walls.

Although barred from the Indian trade, Rensselaerswyck settlers surreptitiously competed with fort personnel for Indian business. Continuing difficulties with the Mohawks and competition with French traders from Canada caused commerce to further languish at the fort. In an effort to remedy the situation, the newly-appointed director of Fort Orange, Marten Gerritsen, sent post surgeon Harmen Meyndertsen van den Bogaert and two other men on a diplomatic mission to Mohawk country during the winter of 1634. Meeting with Mohawk leaders and visiting their towns, the Dutch emissaries renewed trade contacts and pledged friendship with the Mohawk people. A journal attributed to Van den Bogaert contains the earliest known first-hand descriptions of Mohawk towns.

European chroniclers also penned several brief descriptions and drew schematic representations of Fort Orange during these years. One account noted that fort walls enclosed eight small houses dominated by "a handsome, large house with a flat roof and lattice work." Another, written by French Jesuit missionary Isaac Jogues in 1643, described Fort Orange as "a miserable little fort,...built of logs, with four or five pieces of Breteuil cannon, and as many pedereros." Contemporary

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cartographers depicted a four bastioned fort surrounded by a moat [REDACTED] (Figures 7.5-7.6). Other observers noted that relocation had not relieved the periodic flooding problem that had plagued the earlier Fort Nassau post.

Private traders began moving into the fort after Company officials threw the trade open to all colony residents in 1640. Continuing to inspect all shipments entering and leaving the district, fort personnel levied a 10 percent duty on furs exported from the region and manufactured goods imported from Europe. They further retained their powers to collect other duties and regulate trade through the issuance of permits, licenses, and patents.

New Netherland's last governor, Peter Stuyvesant, found that Fort Orange was "in a bad condition" when he visited the place shortly after arriving in the colony in 1647. Damage caused by a particularly severe flood one year later led another official to note that the fort "was almost completely washed away by the high water and is highly in need of being repaired." Local traders had compromised post security by erecting buildings next to the post's outer walls. Fort environs, moreover, had become a center for illicit commerce. Unscrupulous traders smuggled firearms, gunpowder, and lead in defiance of laws prohibiting their sale to Indians. Indians, complaining of assaults, thefts, high prices, and other abuses, threatened vengeance.

Stuyvesant quickly moved to correct the situation. He directed fort officials to crack down on smugglers. The colony council passed ordinances aimed at preventing and punishing abuses against Indian people. Houses located too close to the fort were pulled down. Most of the former inhabitants of these buildings initially moved into the fort to new buildings located within the north, east, and south curtain walls.

Dutch West India Company officials subsequently granted private lots to many of these people in a new town called Beverwyck. Appropriated from Van Rensselaer's domain just as war broke out with England in 1652, Beverwyck took in all land within a "cannon's shot," or 3,000 feet, of the fort's walls.

Security concerns heightened by the outbreak of the First Anglo-Dutch Naval War in 1652-1654 helped Stuyvesant obtain support necessary to repair dilapidated defenses at Fort Orange. Stuyvesant's repair orders specified that it be surrounded "with a wall of stone, instead of timber, so as to avoid the annual expense and repairs." Worried that a revitalized fort might diminish his influence, Van Rensselaer's representative, Brant van Slichtenhorst, tried to thwart post reconstruction by prohibiting stone quarrying by fort workers within patroonship limits. Responding to the challenge, Stuyvesant and his council ordered the post commander to take stone from any convenient unfenced or otherwise unimproved nearby locale.

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Company employees strengthening post fortifications also erected a new guardhouse and courtroom within the fort walls as Dutch and English fleets faced one another on the high seas. Far from the fighting and feeling secure from the threat of English attack, Fort Orange inhabitants evidently did not overly preoccupy themselves with security considerations. One order issued by the post commander prohibited "people from letting chickens, hogs, or other animals come on the bastions and [required] said bastions to remain properly closed." Another politely denied the request of a trader asking permission to cut a door through the fort's curtain wall to ease passage from his house to the outside of the post.

Reports reaching Stuyvesant in November 1654, shortly after the war ended, told of another flood that devastated the post and almost washed away its bastions. Although the guardhouse and courtroom were replaced by a more substantial brick structure with two stone cellars between 1657 and 1658, the fort itself rapidly tumbled into ruin. Living in a place "considered no more than a nest," Fort Orange's inhabitants increasingly relied upon the wall of flesh of their Mohawk allies for protection against possible French, English, or Indian attack. In return, Stuyvesant authorized fort personnel to establish "a moderate trade in munitions" with the Mohawks to be carried out as "secretly as possible." Armed with Dutch guns and supplied with Dutch lead and powder, Mohawk and other Iroquois warriors renewed their warfare against Indian and European rivals along their borders. Within a few years, Iroquois war parties defeated the Eries and their allies to the west, launched attacks against Susquehannocks to the south and New England Algonquians to the east, and virtually cut New France off from its western Indian allies.

Alarmed by outbreaks of fighting between colonists and Esopus Indian people around Kingston, New York 60 miles to the south, between 1659 and 1663, Fort commander Johannes La Montagne could do little more than patch bastions and replace rotting gun carriages. Luckily for the Dutch, Mohawk diplomats helped keep the war from spreading north. Working through Mohawk and Mahican intermediaries, Fort Orange authorities helped to arrange truces and prisoner exchanges with the Esopus Indians. A final peace treaty with the Esopus people was finally arranged just months before an English squadron, sailing into New York Harbor while Britain and Holland were at peace, captured New Amsterdam without a fight during the summer of 1664. Fort Orange capitulated soon afterward.

Naming their new colony New York, the English changed the name of Beverwyck to Albany. Fort Orange, for its part, was renamed Fort Albany. The new fort commander quickly arranged for a treaty conference at the fort with the Mohawks. Mohawk diplomats were initially reluctant to establish friendly relations with the new English conquerors. Unwilling to lightly abandon longstanding Dutch allies, they were also displeased by English efforts to more rigorously enforce ordinances prohibiting trade of alcohol, firearms, and munitions to Indian people.

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In an effort to avoid friction with the Dutch, the English quartered their troops in crumbling houses in the dilapidated fort. Although badly needed, fort repairs proceeded slowly. Orders directing repair of the fort guardhouse were received in 1668 (a new kitchen was added to the guardhouse five years later). Repairs commenced on post fortifications in 1671. Working to stretch their limited budget wherever possible, construction workers used logs rather than sawn planks as they rebuilt fort walls and reconstructed its four bastions.

The small garrison stationed at the fort was unable to prevent it from being seized by a Dutch expedition recapturing New York shortly after the third and last Anglo-Dutch Naval War began in 1673. Renaming Albany Willemstadt, Dutch officials quickly renewed formal trade and diplomatic ties with the Mohawks at the old fort newly renamed Fort Nassau.

The Dutch surrendered Fort Nassau to the English for the last time when the colony was returned to England at the end of the war in 1674. English officials again changed the name of the post back to Fort Albany. Once again, Mohawk diplomats met with English officials at the fort to conclude a new treaty. Pledging renewed peace and friendship, English officials further agreed to restore trading privileges at the fort.

Uncomfortably aware of the post's vulnerability even before the last war, Albany officials decided to build a new fort at a

[REDACTED] Relocation plans were spurred on by the near approach of a large body of New England Algonquian warriors and their families during the winter of 1675-1676. Led by King Philip, they had fled into the Hudson Valley after suffering a series of setbacks in their war with the New England settlers. King Philip's followers tried to enlist their traditional Mohawk adversaries in a common struggle against the English. Fort Albany's wall of flesh held firm. Rejecting King Philip's overtures, the Mohawks attacked and dispersed his people in February 1676. One month later, New York governor-general Edmund Andros ordered abandonment of old Fort Albany and construction of a new fort [REDACTED]


The visible remains of the abandoned earthwork lay unused, but not forgotten, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

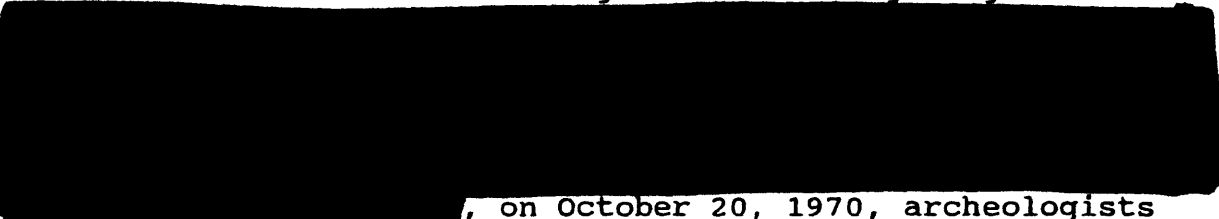
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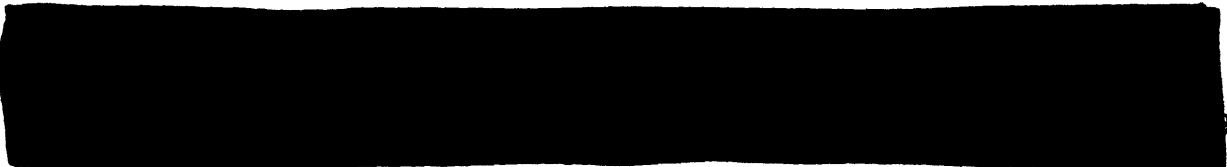
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7.15).
ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The exact location of Fort Orange had been long forgotten when



and
, on October 20, 1970, archeologists discovered glass beads, a mouth harp, a fleur-de-lis-marked white clay tobacco smoking pipe stem, tin-glazed earthenware, a Rhenish Westerwald salt-glazed stoneware sherd dated 1632, pieces of yellow brick, and other artifacts within a discernably stratified deposit. These findings represented the first 17th-century European artifacts recovered from an intact Dutch colonial era site in North America.



(Figures 7.16-7.17) . Working steadily until March 22, 1971, archeologists fully excavated 14 ten-foot squares, and partially examined 17 adjoining test units. Thousands of artifacts dating to the 17th-century were found within a complex stratigraphic context. Numerous features associated with Fort Orange and Fort Albany occupations were found. Pipe trenches and other later intrusions were identified (Figures 7.18-7.20).

Working under the general supervision of archeologist Paul R. Huey, investigators excavated all strata, features, and associated artifacts by natural level. Numerous photographs were taken of all deposits at all phases of investigation. Site investigators drafted carefully measured profile and plan views showing all stratigraphic levels and features. Carefully cleaned and labelled, archeological materials removed during salvage excavations presently are on exhibit at the Fort Crailo State Historic Site and stored in the Division for Historic Preservation's Archaeological Laboratory Facility on Peebles Island in Waterford, New York.

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Stone debitage, bone refuse, and the grave of a small dog were found with ceramics and diagnostic chipped stone projectile points dating to Middle Woodland times (1300 to 1000 years ago) at the lowest culture-bearing levels overlying sterile clay and alluvial silt strata. Other deposits contained evidence of nearly continual Late Woodland occupation between 700 to 400 years ago.

Portions of several archivally documented features associated with Forts Orange and Albany were found above these deposits (Figure 7.17). Portions of at least four buildings formerly [REDACTED] were identified. Archeologists also uncovered parts of the clay and pebble-paved [REDACTED] and the cobblestone-lined south moat. Excavators digging below the uppermost layer of stones, believed to represent a 1648 moat rebuilding episode, found a deeper soil profile identified as the original moat of 1624. A wall covered with quarried stone, believed to represent remains of the inner wall of an undocumented ravelin or outerwork, further was found [REDACTED].

No direct evidence of earthwork walls was encountered during salvage excavations. Indirect evidence of a log wall survives in the form of an artifact-free area [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Investigators, examining Dutch deeds and court records, identified this structure as the house built by Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh sometime around 1651 and abandoned in or after 1664. A sailor born in Amsterdam, Van Doesburgh first came to New Netherland in 1642. Returning briefly to Amsterdam to marry in 1649, he built his house at Fort Orange sometime after returning to New Netherland in 1651.

Archival research also helped identify short sections of shallow red brick foundation walls, [REDACTED] Doesburgh House, as parts of a structure built sometime before Jean Labatie built his brewery in the same spot. [REDACTED]

A narrow band of packed grey clay and pebbles, [REDACTED] probably represents the remains of a portion of the post entranceway. The large number of glass beads (figures 7.28-7.29), white clay tobacco smoking pipestems (Figure 7.30), and lead shot found in this area probably were discarded by people congregating at the spot or fell from the clothing of passersby. Iron slag, lead sprue, and European flint chips found with these materials probably had been thrown into the entranceway from a nearby forge mentioned in Dutch records.

Other records suggest that remains of the shallow, wood-lined cellar found [REDACTED] originally supported a 44 foot by 20 foot house built by Tryntie Jochems, the wife of Joachim Staats, in 1649. Evidence of another cellar found just

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[REDACTED] may represent remains of a house built sometime between 1657 and 1658 [REDACTED] the fort by Hans Vos.

Discoveries of red wall bricks, yellow chimney klinker bricks, and red earthen roofing pan tiles (Figures 7.22-7.23) indicate that Vos and other post residents erected substantial, well-roofed brick buildings above perishable wood-lined cellars. Other findings indicate that some fort occupants carefully finished the interiors of their houses. Large numbers of flat, square, brown- and green-glazed, red earthen floor tiles, elegant delft wall tiles, and pieces of cut, enamel-decorated, leaded casement glass, for example, were found within the van Doesburgh house cellar.

Oyster shells, deer and elk teeth and bones, and pig remains were found with glassware, earthenware, white clay tobacco smoking pipe fragments, and other objects in fort middens, pits, and other features. Almost all ceramics found in fort deposits were imported from Europe. Dutch majolica (Figure 7.25) and delft, tin-glazed earthenwares (Figure 7.24) predominated ceramic assemblages in all pre-1665 deposits except those found in the van Doesburgh house. Most common in early fort deposits, majolica wares gradually were replaced by delft after 1640. Majolica plates were decorated with Chinese Wan-Li, Italian, or elaborate Dutch geometric design motifs. These colorful wares often were hung on walls for decoration. Several carefully chipped and trimmed pieces of round central design areas, suitable for wall-mounting, also were found.

Lead-glazed, red, Dutch utility wares comprised the second most frequently encountered group of ceramics found in fort deposits. Most were common 17th-century wares such as skillets, bowls, colanders, and a three-legged round pot with handles known as a *grape* (Figure 7.26). The site ceramic assemblage also included small amounts of unglazed, Iberian storage jars, green-glazed, micaceous, orange-red earthenware, North Italian marbled ware, and English North Devon gravel-tempered ware. Three pieces of Chinese porcelain and the handle of an Iberian, Hispano-Moresque lusterware *escudilla* resembling an English porringer also were found.

Excavations also revealed small quantities of blue-decorated, gray Westerwald and brown or tan, salt-glazed Frechen or Raeren stoneware. All salt-glazed stoneware jugs adorned with bearded "Bellarmine" (named for Cardinal Bellarmine, who imposed an unpopular beer tax) applique faces were found in the van Doesburgh house (Figure 7.27). Westerwald wares predating 1647 [REDACTED] Similar wares postdating 1647 were found [REDACTED]

Substantial numbers of glassware fragments were found throughout the site. Most common were thin, delicate, hollow-stemmed German-made *roemer* drinking glasses with wide, flaring bases. Many were adorned with rough-textured raspberry or strawberry-

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like globular projecting prunts fixed onto their stems. Clear glass facon de Venise (Venetian-style) beakers decorated with threads of red, white, and blue glass of a type made in Amsterdam by Venetian glass-makers also were found.

The site glassware assemblage further contained square paneled glass bottles, first appearing between 1648 and 1657, and dark-green, squat, round glass bottles. One of these latter bottles, bearing the inscription "F Loue...e," evidently the name of New York Governor Francis Lovelace (1668-1673), was found in the rubble of the collapsed van Doesburgh house [REDACTED].

Large numbers of European white clay tobacco smoking pipe bowls and stems were found everywhere within the excavation trench (Figure 7.30). Most have bulbous or elbow-shaped bowls bearing incuse initials or design motifs such as the crowned Tudor Rose, fleur-de-lis, tulip and leaves, or the star mark identifying them as products of Dutch and English pipemakers active in Amsterdam during the middle decades of the 17th-century. A number of broken pipestems were carved to make cylindrical beads or small whistles.

Over three hundred glass beads were found in site deposits (Figures 7.28-7.29). Most were recovered in the entranceway area. Almost all of the 57 shell wampum beads found during test excavations, by contrast, were recovered from cellar deposits [REDACTED]. One string of eight white wampum beads was found *in situ* in a corner of the van Doesburgh house (Figure 7.21).

Dates derived from analyses of the Fort Orange glass bead assemblage, and the three coins found with them in the entranceway, generally match the date range expressed in the above-mentioned white clay tobacco smoking pipe assemblage. One of these coins, a Dutch *duit* set at the value of one white wampum bead from 1655 to 1665, had been pierced in such a way as to facilitate its use as a hanging ornament.

Several small, round, smooth black buttons, found in contemporary Iroquois sites, were found scattered at various points in the site deposit. Several metal buckles and a number of lead cloth baling seals also were found. Archeologists also recovered a number of round clay or stone marbles and several brass and iron mouth harps.

Pieces of incised Late Woodland Indian pottery were found in various locales within the excavation trench. Although most of the pottery was similar to types found elsewhere in the Mohawk and upper Hudson river valleys, at least one sherd represented a shell-tempered ware most commonly encountered in Coastal Connecticut Indian sites. An Iroquoian-style clay effigy tobacco smoking pipe of a type frequently found farther west in the archeological remains of such Iroquois towns as the Oneida

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Thurston site (ca. 1625-1637), the Seneca Steele and Powerhouse sites (ca. 1640-1660), and the Dann site (ca. 1660-1675) also was found in the entranceway area.

PROPERTY TYPES**Military Site**

Small, Long-Term, Fortified Military Fort

Fort Orange Archeological Site deposits preserve remains of a small, half-acre, fortified, wooden palisade-walled, earthwork military post occupied by Dutch garrisons from 1624 to 1664 and between 1673 and 1674, and British troops between 1664 and 1673 and from 1674 to 1676. Archeological excavations corroborate written records showing the fort to have been a European-style quadrangular earthwork whose outward dimensions measured 150 feet on each side. The fort earthwork was flanked on each corner by a bastion, surrounded by a ditch, and surmounted by a wooden wall. Discoveries of a wheel lock firearm part, a small section of chain mail, gunflints, lead shot, and two iron cannonballs further attest to the military character of the fort. Glass beads, European white clay tobacco smoking pipes, and other diagnostic artifacts found within intact features identified during salvage excavations conducted from 1970 to 1971, independently verify written records documenting building and rebuilding episodes at the fort between 1624 and 1676.

Specific Economic Activity Site

Small, Long-Term, Fortified Trading Post

Discoveries of wampum and glass beads, European white clay tobacco smoking pipes, glass bottles used to contain alcoholic beverages, lead shot, gunflints, and other goods in intact deposits, preserved in and around foundations of structures known to have been trader's houses or taverns, affirm extensive written documentation recording Fort Orange's role as the most important Indian trading post in New Netherland and early New York. Discoveries of ceramics and other wares imported from England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain reveal the range and extent of Dutch and early English trade connections. Other findings of delicately elegant roemer drinking glasses, glazed floor tiles, fired-clay, roofing pan-tiles, and leaded casement glass further suggest the extent to which fort merchants went to furnish luxury goods and building materials suitable for constructing a small-scale version of the patria, or "home country," along the upper Hudson River frontier bordering on Indian, Dutch, English, and French lands during the middle decades of the 17th-century. The practice of building substantial, well-furnished, brick buildings atop quickly rotting wooden cellar linings, in soft wet alluvial soils, further attests to attitudes of Dutch traders regarding Fort Orange as a temporary place of residence to be occupied only long enough to acquire sufficient wealth to move elsewhere.

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SITE INTEGRITY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Archeologists salvaged 10 percent of the site area between 1970 and 1971. Archival and field research conducted in conjunction with these salvage operations indicates that as much as 35 percent of the site remains intact. Most of these deposits lie preserved buried

[REDACTED]

PRESENT APPEARANCE

[REDACTED]

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D X

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):

A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 6

NHL Theme(s): I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
2. Establishing Intercultural Relations.


I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
2. Establishing Intercultural Relations.
a. Trapping and Fishing for Newcomers.
c. Military Scouts
d. Guiding Explorers Across New Territories
e. Defending Native Homelands.
h. New Military Alliances.
i. Trade Relationships

I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation.
a. Transfer of Technology to Native People
b. Forced and Voluntary Population Movements
c. The New Demographics
d. Changing Settlement Types

Areas of Significance: Archeology: Historic/Aboriginal

Period(s) of Significance: 1624-1676

Significant Dates:

- 1614 Dutch traders build Fort Nassau 
- 1624 The Dutch West India Company builds Fort Orange.
- 1664 Fort Orange falls to the British and is renamed Fort Albany.
- 1673 A Dutch squadron temporarily recaptures Fort Orange and the rest of New Netherland during the Third Anglo-Dutch Naval War. The post and the rest of the colony is returned to the English following the cessation of hostilities the following year.

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1676

New York governor-general Edmund Andros orders abandonment of the post. The post garrison moves to a new fort built at [REDACTED].

Significant Person:

Cultural Affiliation: Mohawk, Mahican, Dutch, English

Architect/Builder: N/A

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**HISTORIC CONTEXT SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Regional Historic Context: "Historic Contact Between Indians and Colonists in the North Atlantic Region, 1524-1783," pp. 31-45.

Sub-Regional Historic Context: "Mahican Country," pp. 90-96, "Dutch-Indian Contact in the North Atlantic Region," pp. 104-106, and "Anglo-Indian Contact in the North Atlantic Region," pp. 109-112.

SIGNIFICANCE AND THEMATIC REPRESENTATION

Cultural resources preserved in the Fort Orange Archeological Site comprise the single most significant body of data documenting Dutch and early English relations with Indian people at one of the most critically important strategic locales along the 17th-century North Atlantic frontier. Fort Orange archeological materials provide a cultural and chronological benchmark for Northeastern North American historical archeology. Intact resources surviving within the inner fort curtain potentially can provide "information on the size of the fort and dimensions of features within, use of the south moat as a tavern dump, changing diet of fort occupants, methods of construction of houses, types of furnishings and diversity of material culture, continuing function of the site as a crossroads for trade since prehistoric times, and changing trade relationships between Fort Orange, other sites in North America, and sites across the Atlantic."

As such, these resources conform to National Historic Landmark Program significance criterion 6 by yielding or having the potential "to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States" (35 CFR Part 65.4) by collectively providing archeological information of national significance associated with the following NHL thematic elements:

Facet I.D.2: Establishing Intercultural Relations.

Documentary data link 24 NHLs and NPS Park Units with this facet. Archeological investigations document aspects of sub-facets associated with this facet at six properties; Boughton Hill, Fort Christina, Fort Stanwix National Monument, Fort Ticonderoga, Old Fort Niagara, and the Printzhof. Nearly all properties nominated in the Historic Contact theme study possess archeological values documenting below listed sub-facets.

Fort Orange Archeological Site resources have yielded, or have the potential to yield, nationally significant information associated with each of the below listed sub-facets:

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Sub-Facet I.D.2.a: Trapping and Fishing for Newcomers

The Fort Orange Archeological Site contains the remains of the most important trading post built by Europeans in the Hudson River Valley during the 17th-Century. A large body of written records shows that the fort served as the center of Dutch and early English fur trade in the region. Analyses of animal bone and teeth found in post refuse deposits indicate that large numbers of deer and small amounts of elk and fish brought to the fort by Mahican and Mohawk people provided more than 90 percent of the meat consumed by post personnel during the first decades of European occupation. Although Indian hunters and fishermen continued to furnish much of the post's fresh meat and fish, animal bone assemblages in later deposits indicate that pork represented as much as half the meat eaten at the post during its final 20 years of operation.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.c: Military Scouts**Sub-Facet I.D.2.d: Guiding Explorers Across New Territories**

During the 17th-century, Fort Orange was the primary center for European penetration into Indian country to the north and west of the Hudson River. Intact archeological evidence, preserved *in situ* in Fort Orange deposits, have high potential to shed new insights into such documented Dutch expeditions into Indian land as the earlier mentioned journey of van den Bogaert and his companions to the Mohawk and Oneida towns in 1634.

Sub-Facet I.D.2.e: Defending Native Homelands**Sub-Facet I.D.2.h: New Native Military Alliances**

Discoveries in Fort Orange deposits of Mohawk-style ceramics and a clay tobacco smoking pipe of a type typically found in 17th-century Iroquois sites furnish physical evidence of documented alliances between Mohawk and Mahican people and the Dutch and the English successors. Lead shot and sprue and a wheel lock gun part found in Fort Orange features show that site deposits have the potential to provide new information capable of shedding insight into open and clandestine Dutch trade of firearms to Indian allies at the post. Such findings can furnish vital data elucidating still-poorly understood aspects of the impact of firearms on documented efforts of Mahican and Mohawk Indian people to defend their homelands militarily during the 17th-century.

Discoveries of trade goods of French and English origin, such as unglazed, Iberian storage jars, green-glazed, micaceous orange-red earthenware, North Italian marbled ware, and English North Devon gravel-tempered wares, show that post deposits also can reveal new insights into the larger web of international alliances that gradually enmeshed Indian people defending their homelands in the Northeast during the years of Dutch and early English colonization.

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Sub-Facet I.D.2.i: Trade Relationships

White clay tobacco pipes, glass beads, purple and white wampum shell beads, brass and iron mouth harps, lead cloth bale seals, and other European goods recovered at Fort Orange represent the largest and best documented assemblage of resources documenting trade between Indian people and Europeans in the most important European trade entrepot in New Netherland and early New York. Earlier mentioned discoveries of European goods imported from England, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain in Fort Orange deposits suggest the range and extent of Dutch and early English international trade connections. Recovery of domestically-produced redwares and clay pipes manufactured in Virginia and New England, for their part, document 17th-century intercolonial trade relations in the region.

Further study of this assemblage has the potential to contribute fuller understanding of documented temporal, qualitative, and quantitative differences in socio-economic relations between and among Indian people and Europeans at this crucially important strategic trading center.

Facet I.D.3: Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation.

Sub-Facet I.D.3.a: Transfer of Technology to Native People

The Fort Orange archeological assemblage is the type site for 17th-Century Dutch colonial technology in New Netherland. Analysis of site ceramics, glasswares, and metalwares contained in this assemblage has provided, and retains the potential to further provide, information on the nature and effects of technology transfer to native people. Studies of wampum found in a site documented as one of the region's most important distribution centers, for example, may shed new light on the role of wampum in economic and symbolic life in both Indian and European communities throughout the colonial Northeast. Studies contrasting glass beads found in more westerly Iroquois sites with those found in well dated contexts at Fort Orange, for their part, should help archeologists determine relative rates and speeds of transmission and transfer of trade goods from coastal trading centers to Indian communities in central New York and beyond.

Sub-Facet I.D.3.b: Forced and Voluntary Population Movements

Sub-Facet I.D.3.c: The New Demographics

Sub-Facet I.D.3.d: Changing Settlement Types

Future investigation of Fort Orange Archeological Site deposits have high potential to shed new light on the effects of war, disease, and close contact with Europeans on still poorly documented aspects of Indian settlement and demography in the Hudson Valley. New archival and archeological research can reveal information on the role of Fort Orange in particular changes in Mahican and Mohawk settlement movement, pattern, and type during the first half of the 17th-century.

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Such information can furnish new insights into the causes and consequences of documented periodic Mahican abandonment and reoccupation of ancestral lands around Fort Orange between the 1620s and 1670s. Site information also may provide further information elucidating the effects of the Mahican sale of their lands around the fort to Kiliaen van Rensselaer in 1630, the settlement strategies used by Mahican people returning to their lands near the fort, and the impact of movements of Mohawk and other Indian people to small temporary settlements at Niskayuna and other places near the fort. Studies based on such information can help us understand how and why Indian people from as far away as the Ohio Valley and Acadia journeyed to the upper Hudson Valley to trade, visit, or negotiate with the Dutch and their English successors at Fort Orange.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**KEY CITATIONS**

Sources cited in this nomination form are listed below. Other pertinent sources are cited in "Mahican Country," pp. 95-6, "Dutch-Indian Contact in the North Atlantic Region," pp. 105-106, "Anglo-Indian Contact in the North Atlantic Region," pp. 111-112, and listed in the Bibliography, pp. 361-453.

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- 1985 "Archaeological Excavations in the Site of Fort Orange, A Dutch West India Company Trading Fort Built in 1624." in *New Netherland Studies: An Inventory of Current Research and Approaches*. Bulletin Koninklijke Nederlandse Oudheidkundige Bond, Volume 84, Numbers 2-3, pp. 68-79.
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- 1988b "The Archeology of Colonial New Netherland." in *Colonial Dutch Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, edited by Eric Nooter and Patricia U. Bonomi, pp. 52-77. New York University Press, New York, N.Y.
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other (Specify Repository): Bureau of Historic Sites, Archeology Unit, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Waterford, New York

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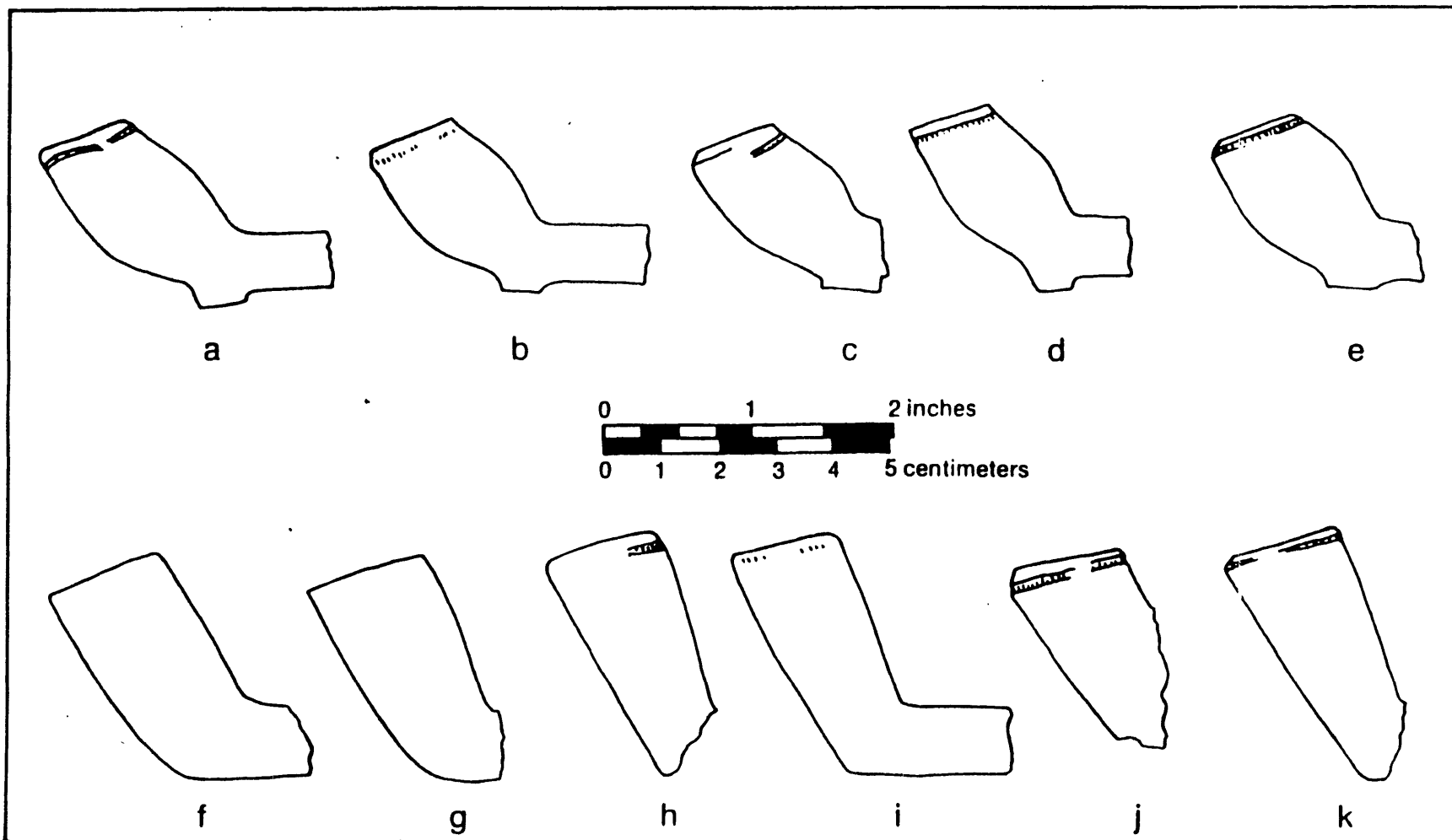


Figure 7.30: Bulbous (a-e) and elbow (f-k) European white clay tobacco smoking pipe bowls, Fort Orange Archeological Site, Albany, New York (Photograph by Paul R. Huey).

