



"Sweat Lodge of Long Bear at Shell Creek," circa 1910

Photo taken by Frances Densmore

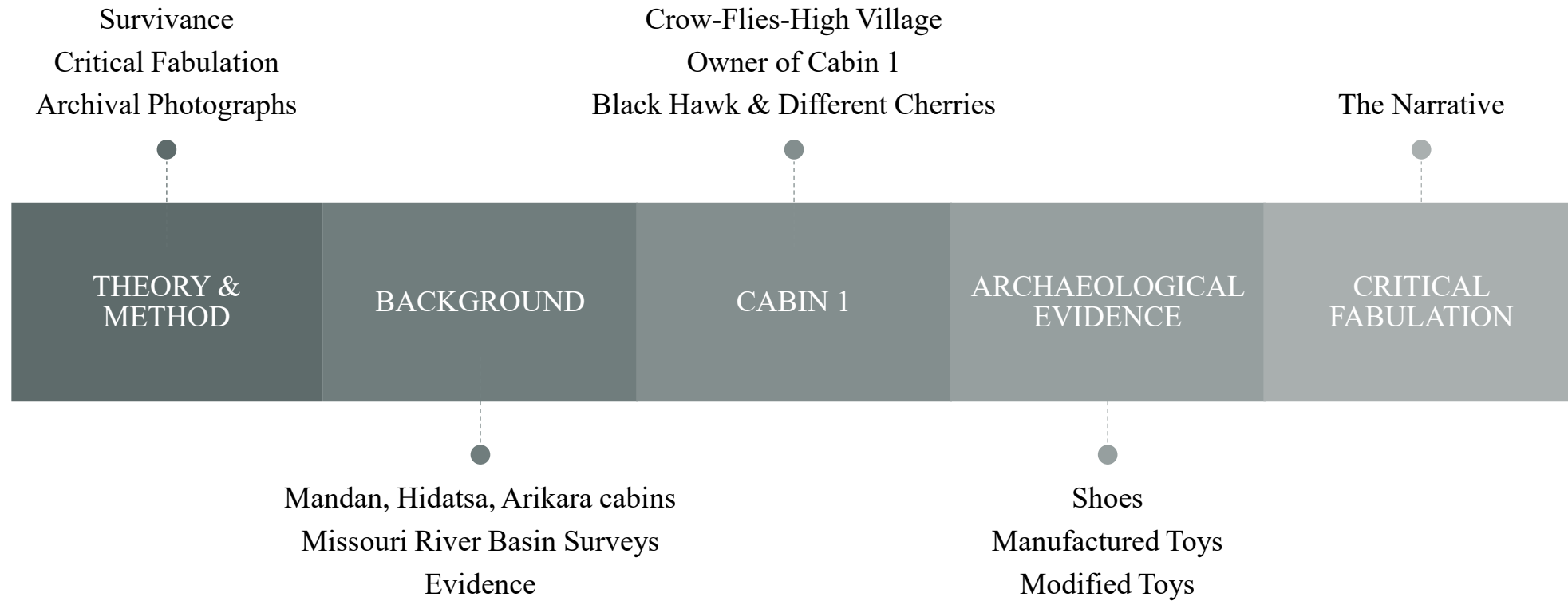
Courtesy SHSND

ARCHIVAL INSIGHT:
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NATIVE CABINS,
CRITICAL FABULATION, & INTERPRETING SURVIVANCE

Rachel Thimmig
Brown University



ROADMAP





GERALD VIZENOR'S SURVIVANCE

Presence over Absence

- “The character of survivance creates a sense of narrative presence over absence, nihility, and victimry.”
- “Survivance is greater than the right or a survivable name. “

Continuance of Stories

- “Survivance is the continuance of stories, not a mere reaction, however pertinent.”
- “Survivance stories are renunciations of dominance, detractions, obtrusions, the unbearable sentiments of tragedy, and the legacy of victimry.”

Vizenor 2008:1



SAIDIYA HARTMAN'S CRITICAL FABULATION

Negotiate Limits of the Archive

- “Fashion a narrative using a series of speculative arguments,
- Based upon archival research (a critical reading of the archive that mimes the figurative dimensions of history)”

Paint as Full a Picture as Possible

- “Laboring to paint as full a picture of the lives of the captives as possible.
- Straining against the limits of the archive to write a cultural history of the captive,
- At the same time, enacting the impossibility of representing the lives of the captives precisely through the process of narration.”

Imagine What Cannot be Verified

- “It is a history of an unrecoverable past;
- It is a narrative of what might have been or could have been;
- It is a history written with and against the archive. “

Hartman 2008:13-14



PHOTOGRAPHS AS ARTIFACTS

Three Roles for Photographs as Artifacts

One

- Act as a touchstone to generate stories and memories about particular events and places

Two

- Provide the impetus to preserve and even reconstruct cultural heritage as represented by archaeological sites

Three

- Act as a mnemonic to engage descendent communities whose oral traditions are still very attached to the landscapes and features
- Empower those who view them while also challenging the photographer's original gaze

Schneider 2007:50-51



PHOTOGRAPHS AS ARTIFACTS

Things to Remember: Archival Images are...

Not Text

- Must account for the photographer's authoritative gaze

Salvage Anthropology

- Archived photographs are another form of salvage anthropology

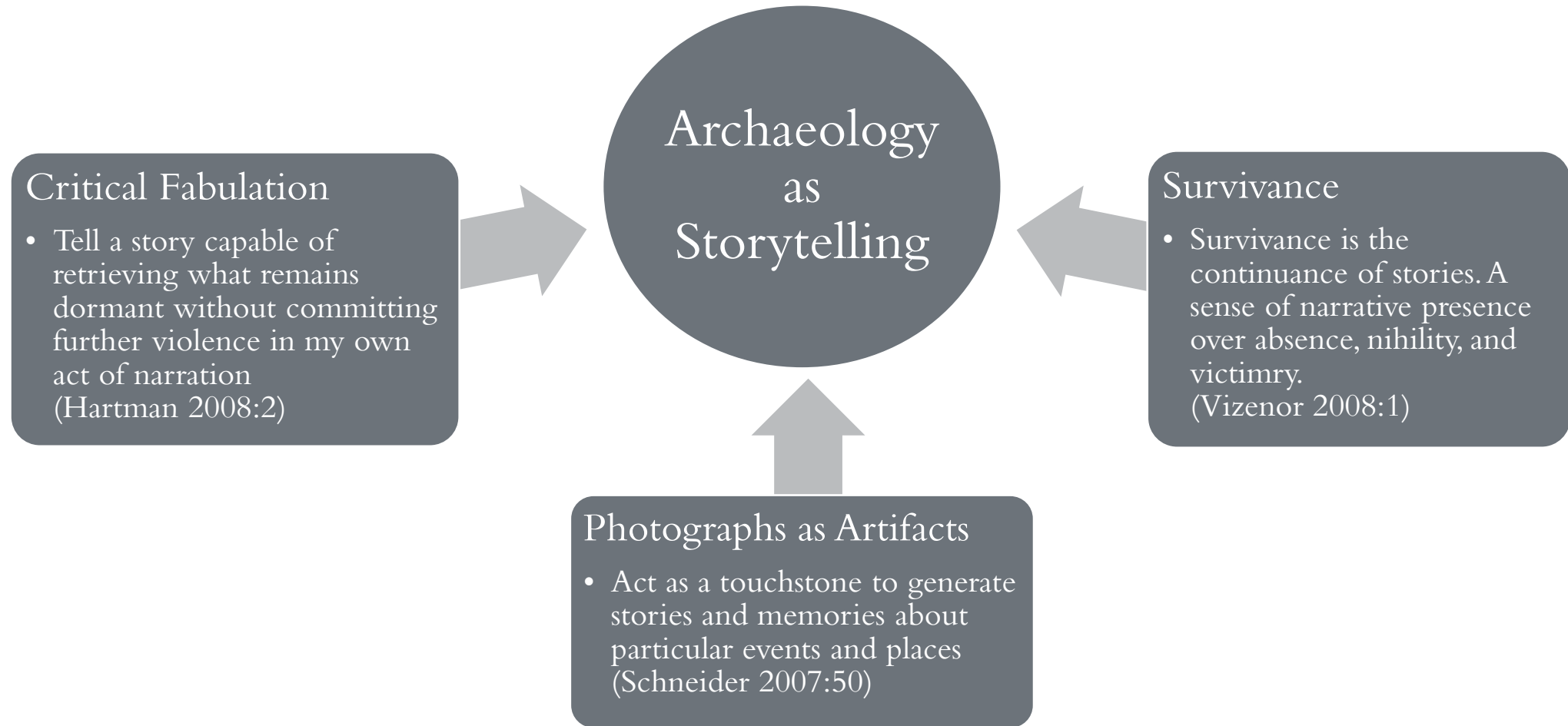
Not Timeless Time Capsules

- Neither timeless nor time capsules
- But can inform interpretation of archaeological sites like ethnographic, historical, and oral historical evidence

Schneider 2007:50-51



THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

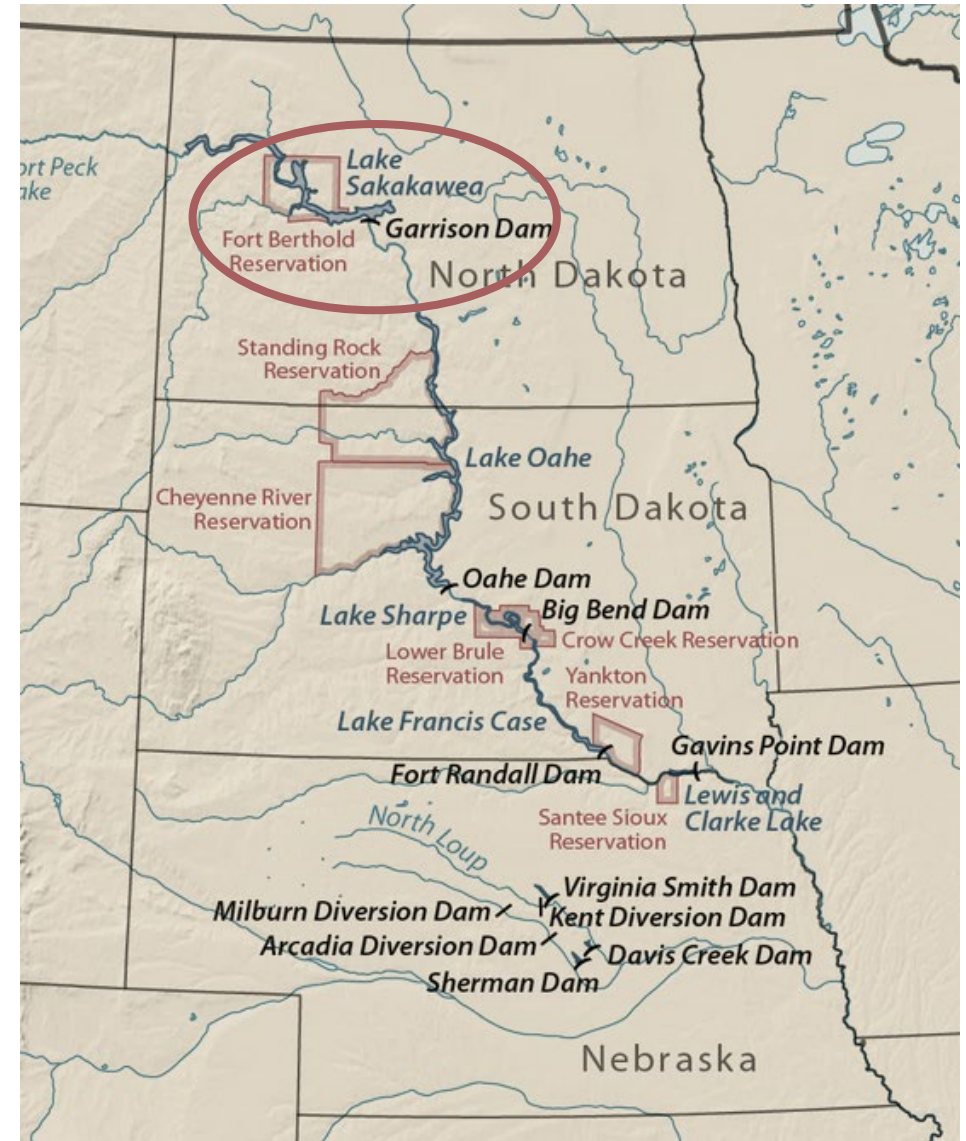


THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES

- Three Affiliated Tribes: Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota
- Missouri River Basin Surveys Program

“The lower Garrison region was a refuge area for the village tribes **during the last years** of their long history”

Lehmer 1971: 38-39



 "Crow's Heart's cabin," 1932
Photo taken by Eric C. Jacobsen
Courtesy SHSND



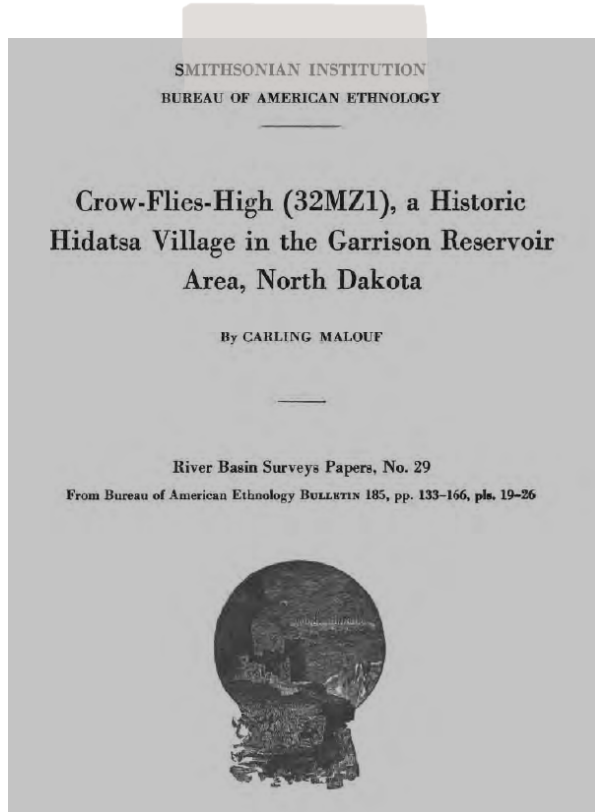
MHA CABINS

“Almost no archaeological data are available on the form or construction technology of residential architectural forms other than earthlodges,”

“The dearth of archaeological data stands in marked contrast to the abundant data provided by photographs and drawings.” (Mitchell 2014:141-142)

- Viewed as non-Native spaces, proof of assimilation
- Destroyed by the Garrison Dam and Lake Sakakawea

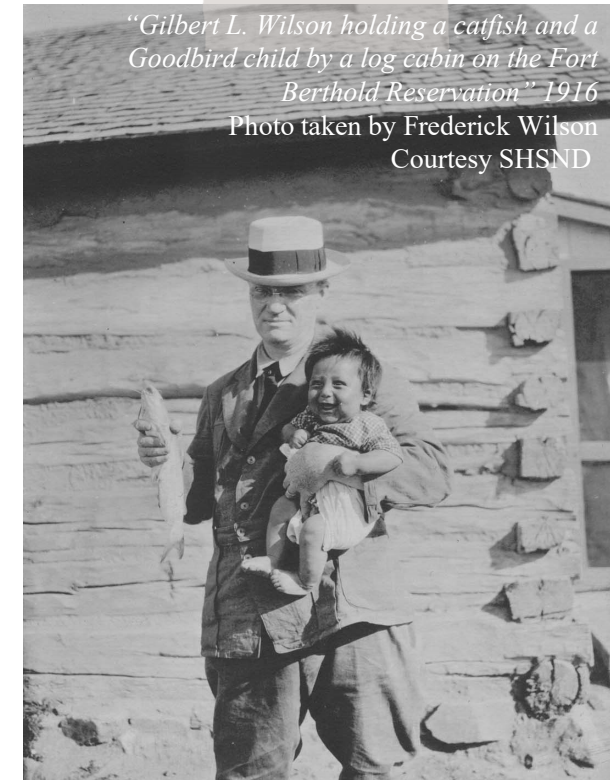
EVIDENCE



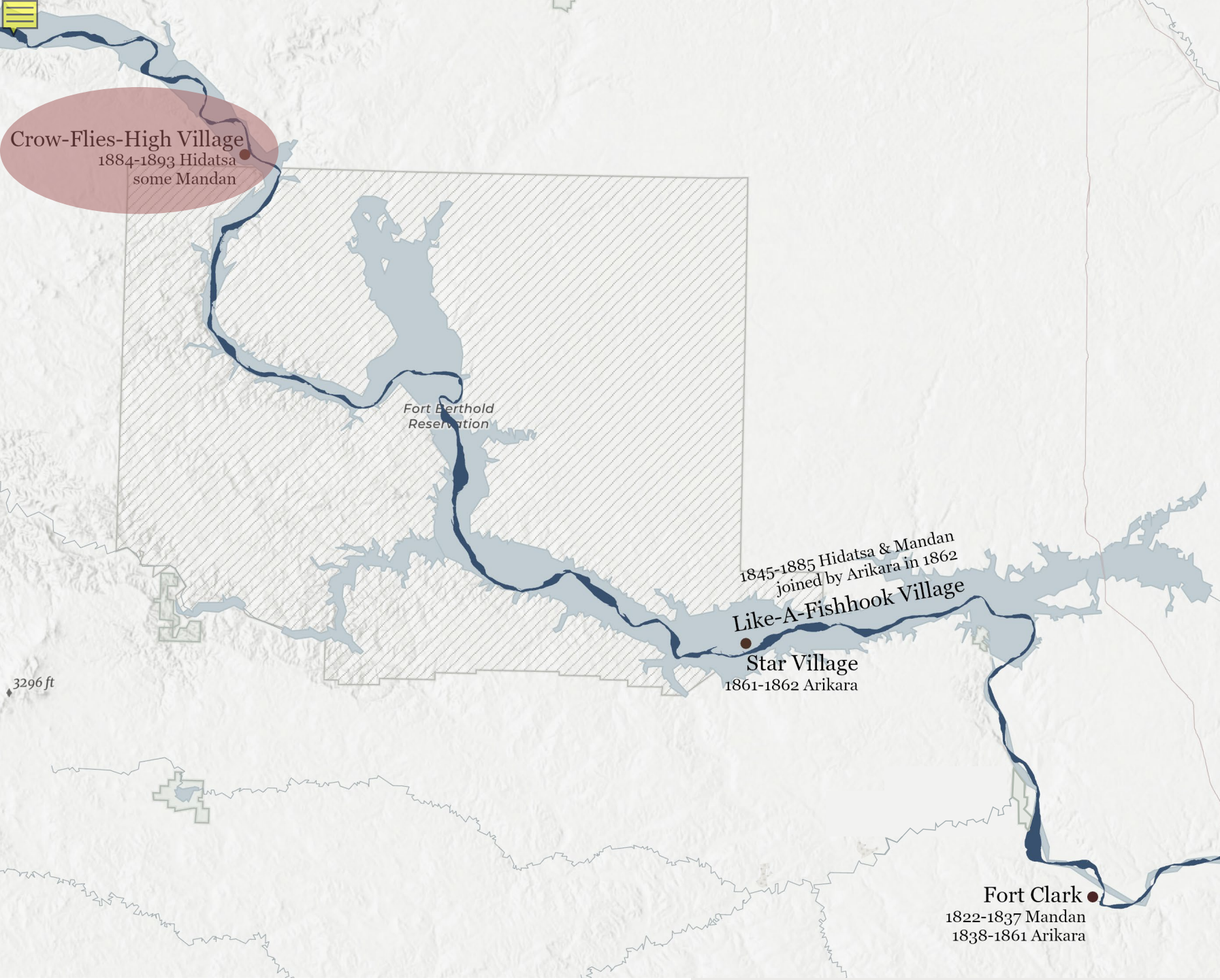
Salvage Archaeology
River Basin Surveys Papers



Collections Analysis
Crow-Flies-High Village artifacts



Salvage Anthropology
Gilbert and Frederick Wilson
Frances Densmore



Crow-Flies-High Village
1884-1893 Hidatsa
some Mandan

Fort Berthold
Reservation

1845-1885 Hidatsa & Mandan
joined by Arikara in 1862
Like-A-Fishhook Village

Star Village
1861-1862 Arikara

Fort Clark
1822-1837 Mandan
1838-1861 Arikara

SITES WITH CABINS

Fort Clark

- 1 cabin excavated
- At least 17 cabins identified through geophysical investigation

Like-A-Fishhook Village

- 3 excavated
- 73 depicted on Martin Bears Arm's Map

Star Village

- 2 excavated
- Unknown total

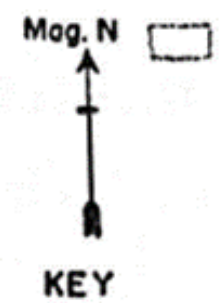
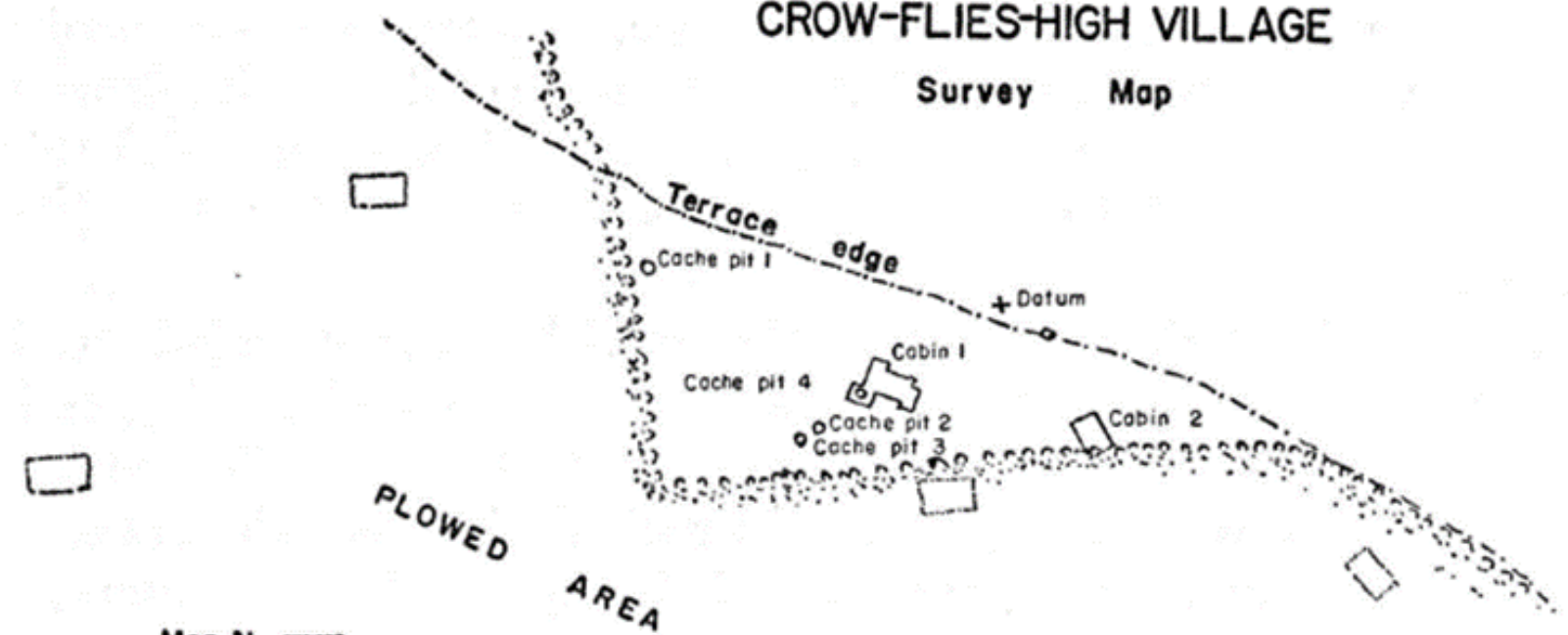
Crow-Flies-High Village

- 2 excavated
- 26 cabins depicted on Bear-In-The-Water's Map



CROW-FLIES-HIGH VILLAGE

Survey Map

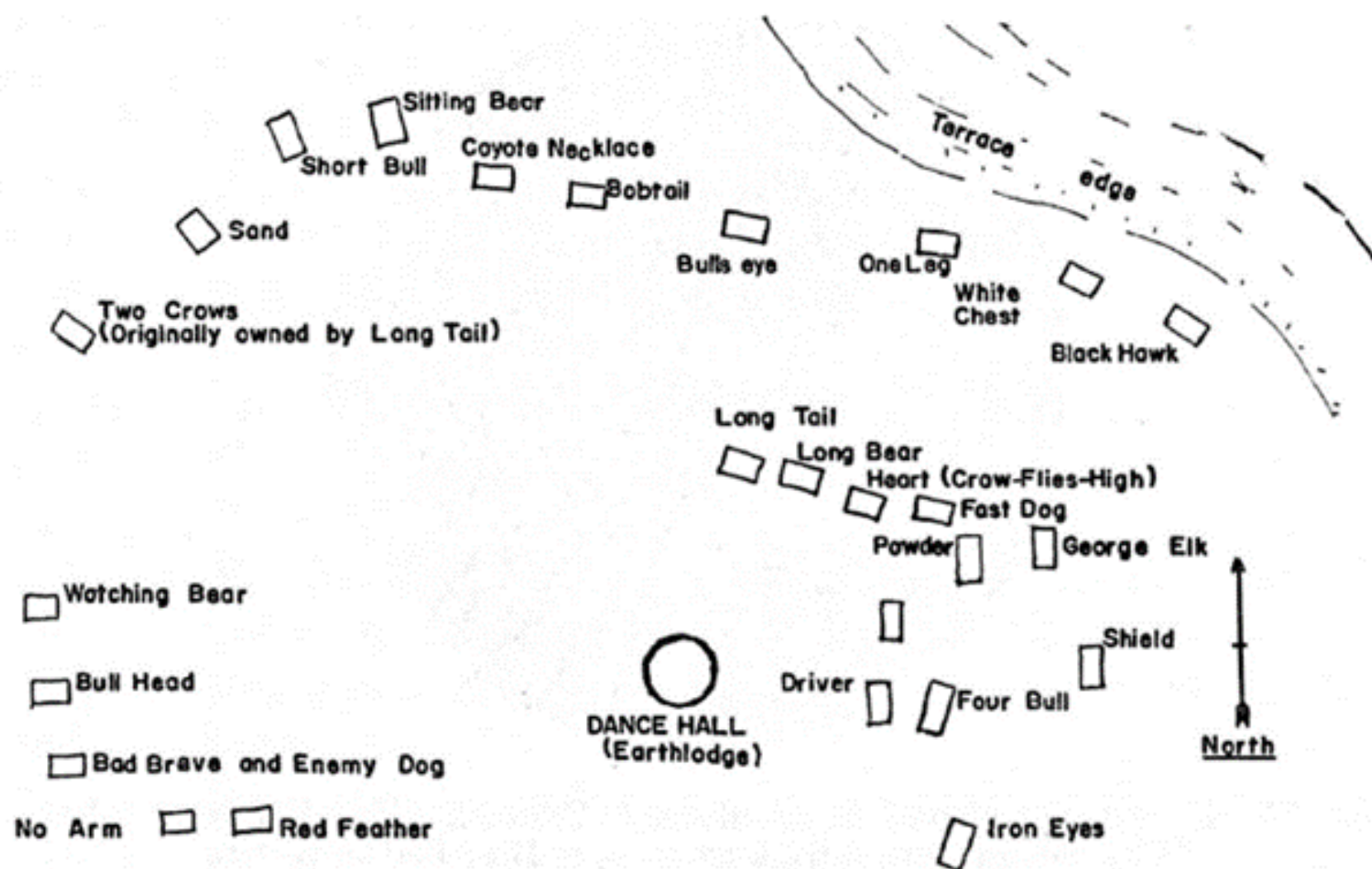


 Debris area indicating possible cabin

SCALE
150 feet

 A depression without debris
location of earthlodge

 A discolored area, undoubtedly an
old road,



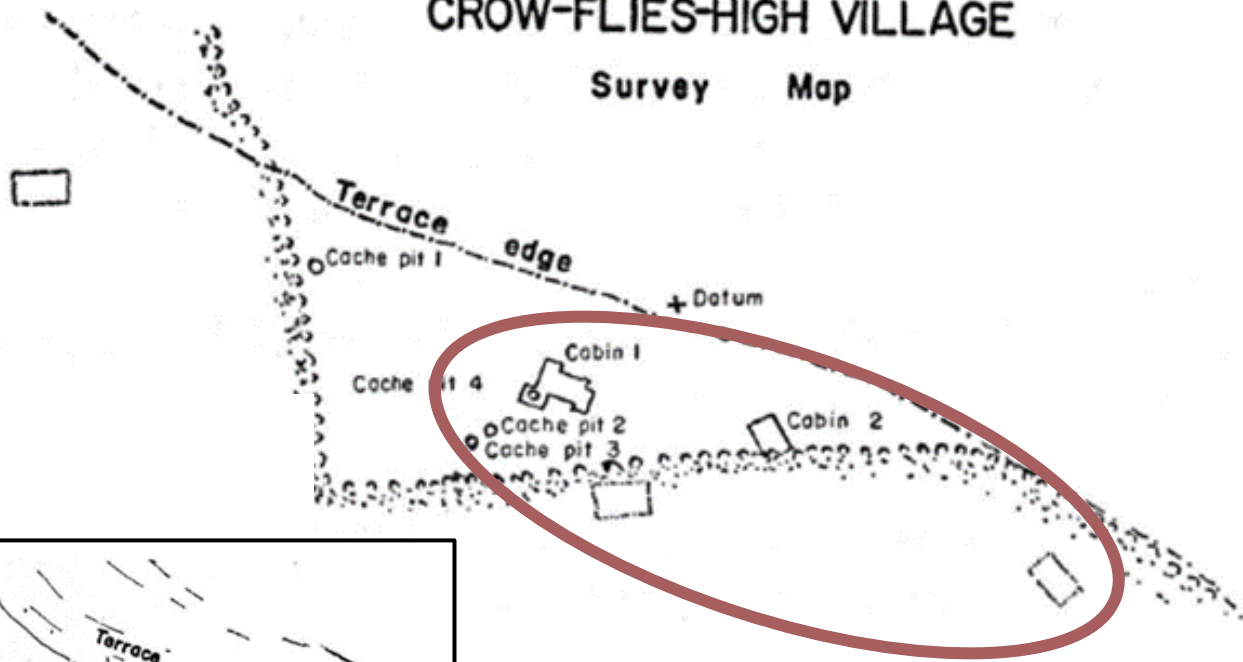
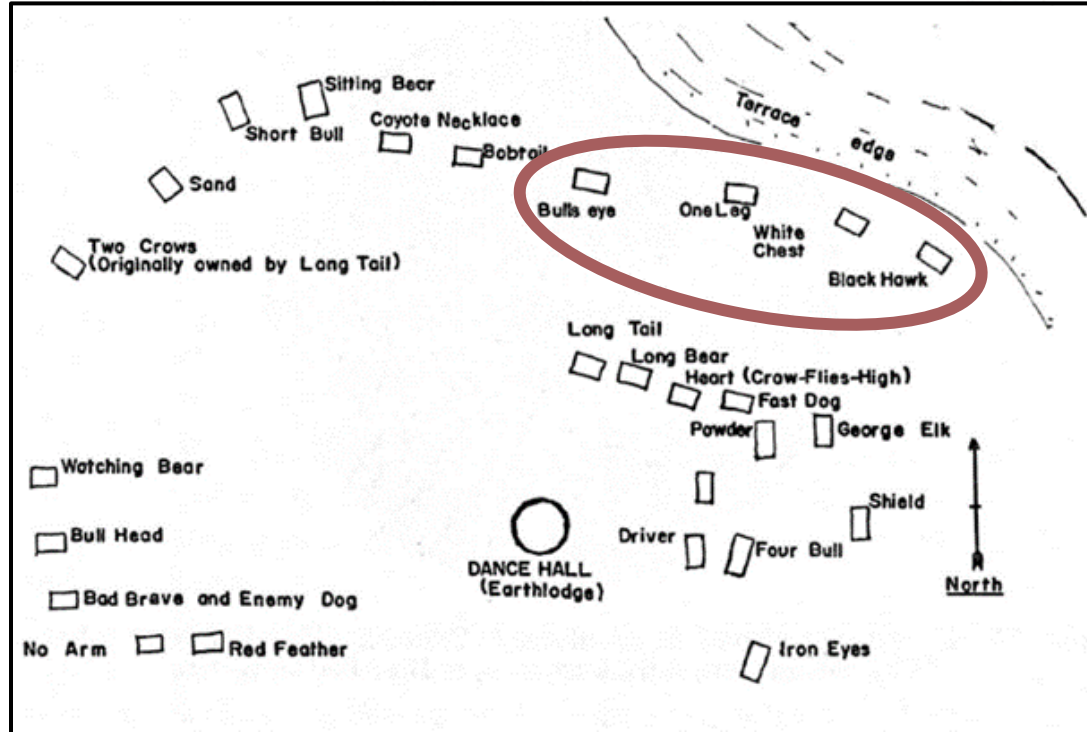
VILLAGE OF CROW-FLIES-HIGH

According to Adlai Stevenson



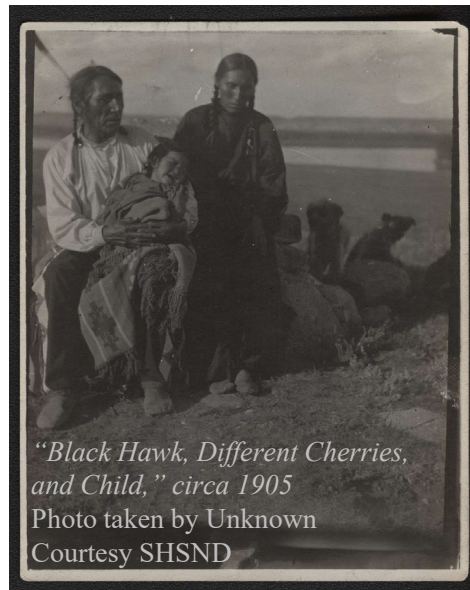
CROW-FLIES-HIGH VILLAGE

Survey Map

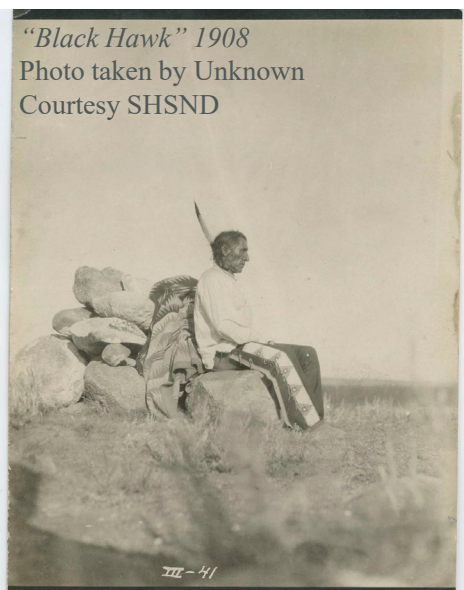


A depression without debris
location of earthlodge

A discolored area, undoubtedly an
old road,



*"Black Hawk, Different Cherries,
and Child," circa 1905*
Photo taken by Unknown
Courtesy SHSND



"Black Hawk" 1908
Photo taken by Unknown
Courtesy SHSND



"Black Hawk and Different Cherries" circa 1905
Photo taken by Unknown
Courtesy SHSND

BLACK HAWK & DIFFERENT CHERRIES

“Our Hidatsa informant, Adlai Stevenson, was not certain who had occupied this cabin, but he thought that it might have belonged to one of Black Hawk's wives, Different Cherries, or that possibly it might have belonged to Bull Head.”

Malouf 1963:141

“Black Hawk had two wives. The first one, named Mink, lived with her husband in a cabin on the plaza. The second one lived in a nearby cabin and her name was Different Cherries. Her cabin may have been one of those excavated in 1952.”

Malouf 1963:151

THE BLACK HAWK CHILDREN

According to 1900 US Census data:

- George Black Hawk born 1881
- Nellie Black Hawk born 1883
- George ages 3 to 12 and Nellie ages 1 to 10 while at Crow-Flies-High Village

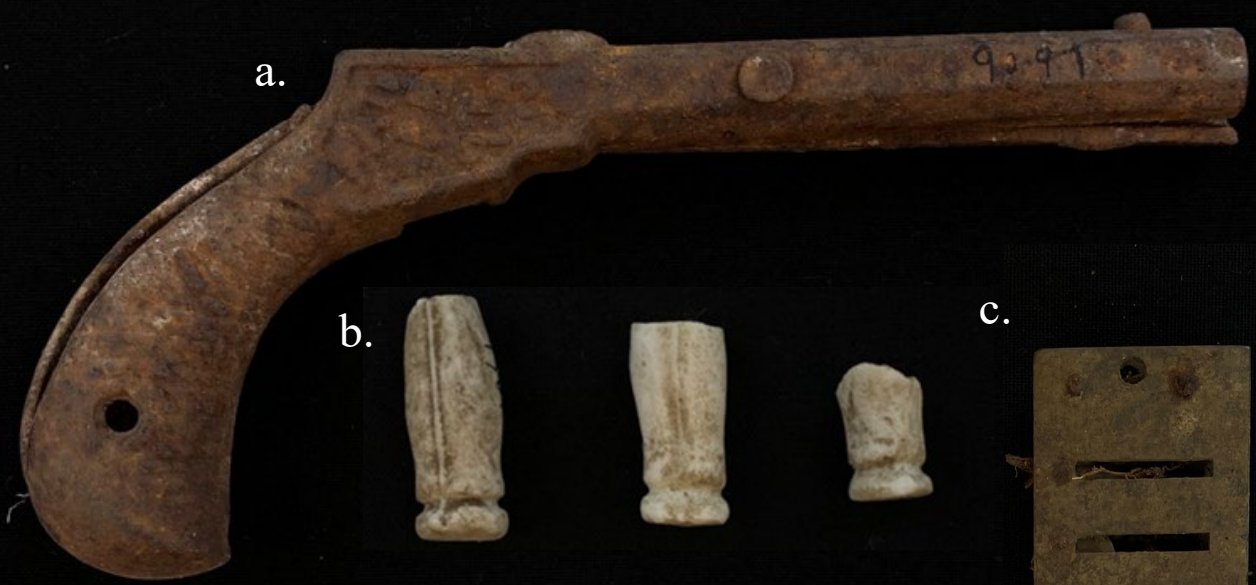
Shoes from Cabin 1

- Both soles measure around 11 cm in total length, making them a child's size 1 according to Richardson 1858's American sizing.
- In today's sizes, they would be size 4, putting the wearer's age around 1.





a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



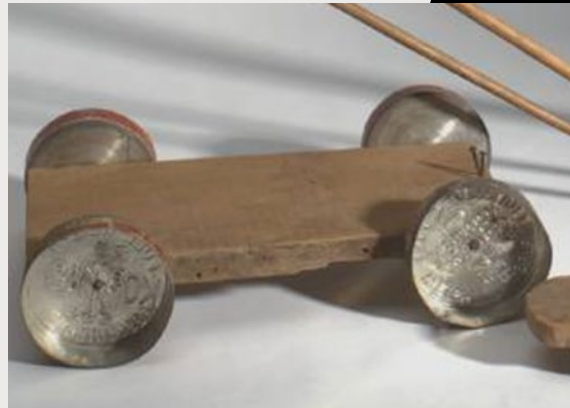
COMMERCIAL TOYS

“Toys, such as cap pistols, harmonicas, wheeled vehicles, and dolls, attest to the interest of parents in supplying the children with such items from the white man’s world” (Malouf 1963:165).

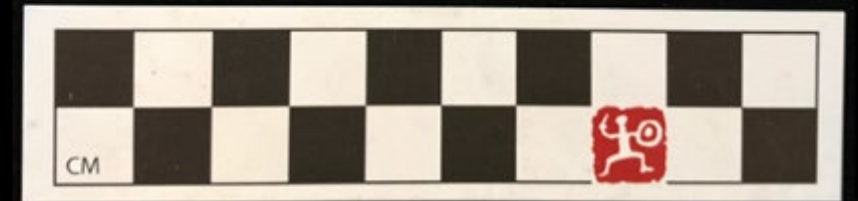
- a. J&E Stevens Company VOLUNTEER cast-iron cap pistol, missing trigger and hammer. Patented April 22, 1873. Malouf lists as “toy cap pistol.”
- b. Porcelain doll appendages. Malouf lists as “China leg from small doll.”
- c. Harmonica. Malouf lists as “harmonica.”
- d. Pewter creamer or sugar bowl from toy tea set. Malouf lists as “ornamental cup.”
- e. Brass button with inside area cut out, possibly a wheel. Button from Horstmann Bros & Co. Philadelphia, a major military uniform contractor, likely made between 1867-1893. Malouf lists as “wheel from toy vehicle.”

POTENTIAL TOYS

- a. Buttons cut from tin cans and punctured with two holes. One painted bright red and white.
- b. Large tin can lid or bottom, perforated in center. Possibly used as wheel for toy. (Resembles artifacts from Like-A-Fish-Hook Village at the AMNH).
- c. Brass button with inside area cut out, possibly a wheel.



a.



c.



b.





BRASS BUTTON

Button from Horstmann Bros & Co. Philadelphia, a major military uniform contractor, likely made between 1867-1893 Malouf lists as “wheel from toy vehicle.”

Likely part of a U.S. military uniform coat or hat in the 1870s.

Could have been part of an Indian Scout's uniform or a regular U.S. soldier's during this time.

INDIAN SCOUTS

Crow-Flies-High's band moved near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, where Fort Buford, a U.S. Army Post, was located around 1870.

The Arikara were known to be reliable Indian Scouts and even fought in the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876. Some Hidatsa also enlisted as scouts.

Cross referencing "Appendix A: Members of Crow-Flies-High Band" with known Indian Scouts, two individuals have the proper ages to have lived at Crow-Flies-High Village while being scouts:

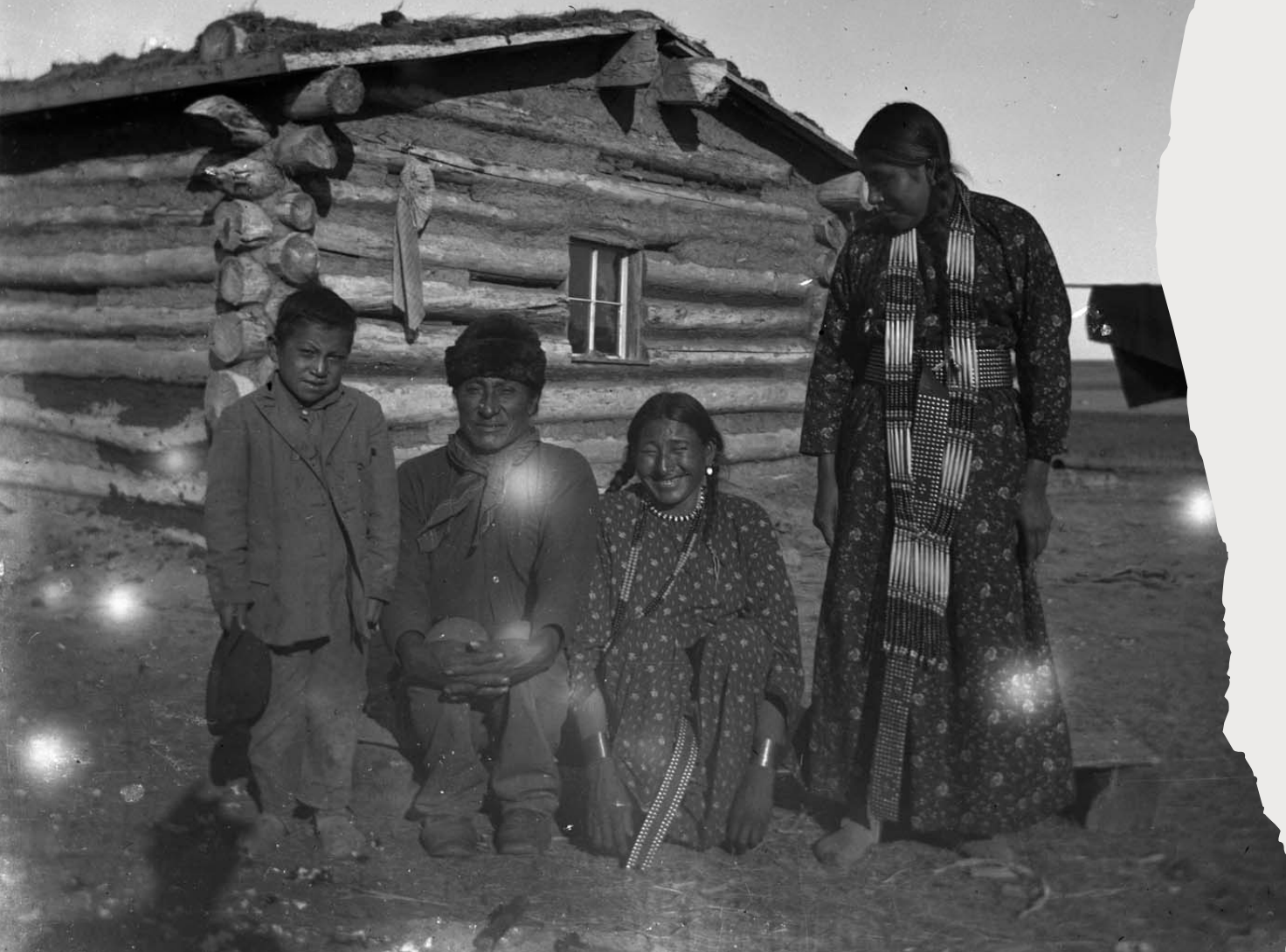
- Foolish Bear born 1844 (in his 40s)
- Drags Wolf born 1862 (in his 20s)



"Mr. and Mrs. Long Bear and family at Shell Creek" circa 1900

Photo taken by Frances Densmore

Courtesy SHSND



THE NARRATIVE

Picture a family like this one.

Black Hawk and Different Cherries were possibly raising their children George and Nellie away from the reservation within the community of Crow-Flies-High Village.

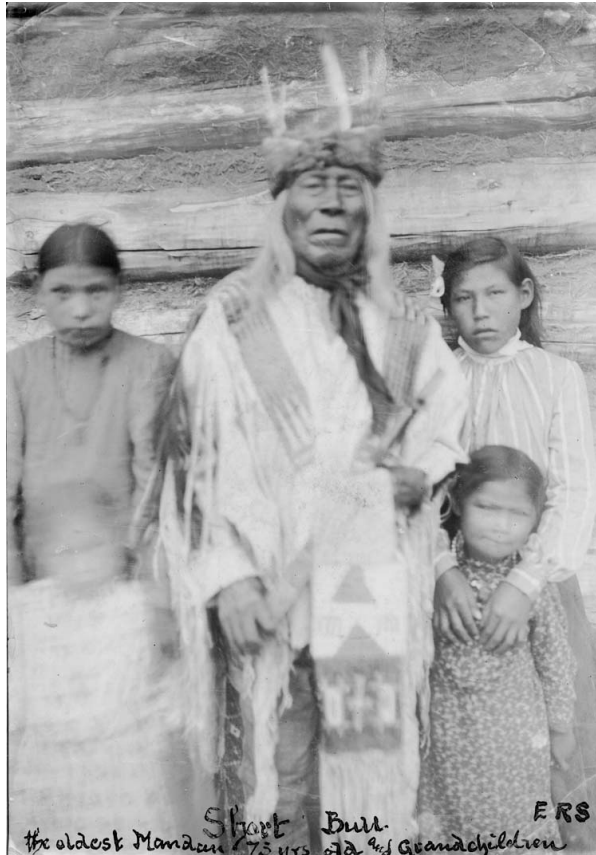
Perhaps the children wanted to play with a toy cart or car. They used a block of wood for the body and went around asking for circular objects like tin can lids and buttons to use for wheels.

Maybe Foolish Bear, Drags Wolf, or another Indian Scout offered a button from his coat or hat.

Using small scissors or a pocket knife they would have removed the front and center of the button to create its four-spoked wheel shape.

RESIDENTS OF CROW-FLIES-HIGH

“Survivance stories are renunciations of dominance, detractions, obtrusions, the unbearable sentiments of tragedy, and the legacy of victimry.” Vizenor 2008:1



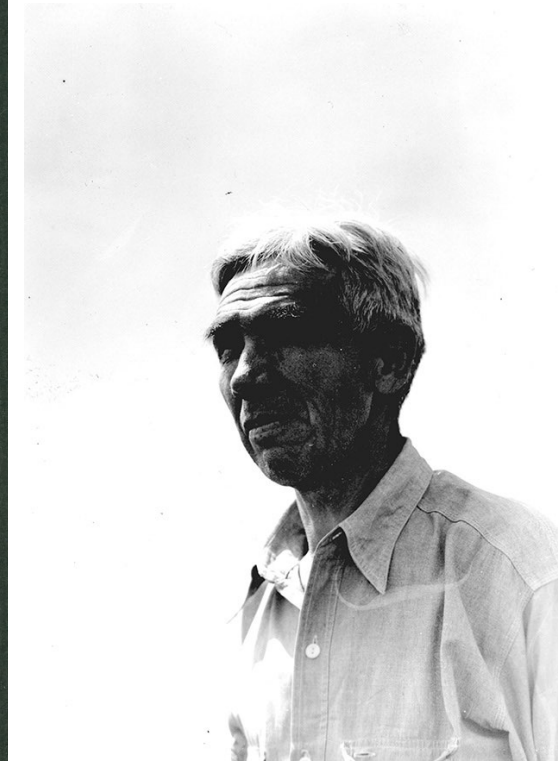
*Short Bull
the oldest Mandan 75 yrs old and grandchildren* ERS
“Short Bull and grandchildren” circa 1890
Photo taken by Orin Grant Libby
Courtesy SHSND



“Drags Wolf or Long Tail” circa 1910
Photo taken by Unknown
Courtesy SHSND



“Mrs. Bad Brave, Otter Woman”
“Mrs. Bad Brave, Otter Woman” 1915
Photo taken by Unknown
Courtesy SHSND



“Jeff Smith (Bulls Eye)” 1942
Photo taken by Unknown
Courtesy SHSND