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Spring 2000

Review of *The Fontenelle & Cahanne Trading Posts: The History and Archeology of Two Missouri River Sites* by Richard E. Jensen

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Thiessen, Thomas D., "Review of *The Fontenelle & Cahanne Trading Posts: The History and Archeology of Two Missouri River Sites* by Richard E. Jensen" (2000). *Great Plains Research: A Journal of Natural and Social Sciences*. 510.

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The Fontenelle & Cabanné Trading Posts: The History and Archeology of Two Missouri River Sites. Richard E. Jensen. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1998. ix+169 pp. Tables, figures, maps, plates, notes, references. \$24.95 paper (ISBN 0-933307-25-X).

More than a mere archeological site report, this volume is an important contribution to the history and archeology of the fur trade of the American West. It tells the story of two early nineteenth-century trading posts that operated, sometimes in competition with one another, during the same approximate time and in the same region. Cabanné's Post was situated near the mouth of Ponca Creek north of present-day Omaha, Nebraska. Fontenelle's was located about fifteen miles to the south and gave one of its several historical names to the present city of Bellevue. Although the ownership of each post changed over time, both remained important provisioning points for traders and trappers ascending the Missouri River and traveling westward to the Rocky Mountains through the Platte River Valley from about 1822 to 1838. Traders at these posts also engaged in trade with the local Omaha, Oto, and Pawnee Indians, as well as with the nearby military community at Fort Atkinson. Fontenelle's Post was purchased by the government in 1832 for use as the Upper Missouri Agency of the Office of Indian Affairs, but continued its trading function as well. The author directed excavations for the Nebraska State Historical Society at both sites in the early 1970s.

The history of the fur trade in the region and of each post and its colorful managers (fur trade notables such as Lucien Fontenelle, John Pierre Cabanné, Joshua Pilcher, and John Dougherty) is related in detail in a lengthy chapter amply supported by footnoted citations of primary sources. At two points this historical review is interrupted by lengthy digressions about the historical and archeological details of period architecture on the frontier and the kinds of artifacts found at the sites. Although these discus-

sions presage the archeological analysis presented later in the book, both add to instead of detracting from the broader historical picture.

The excavations and the artifacts recovered from them are described in separate chapters accompanied by clear maps and plates, five of the latter in color. Each site experienced a different land-use history and changes following its post's abandonment, producing different effects on subsurface features and artifacts. The Cabanné site has suffered extensively from road construction and over a century of cultivation, obscuring foundations and breaking up artifacts, while most of the Fontenelle site (save for a portion destroyed by railroad construction) has been protected in a forest preserve established early in the twentieth century. Its 22,000 artifacts are grouped for the most part by the general uses they served, such as architecture, clothing and adornment, and recreation, and then described in terms of obvious or inferred function. Direct comparisons between the artifact assemblages from each site are not feasible or attempted because of the different ways in which land uses have affected the sites' preservation. The ground plan of Fontenelle's Post as revealed by the archeological excavations is remarkably similar to a plan view diagram sketched by Prince Maximilian during an 1833 visit.

The study is augmented by three appendices describing subsets of the artifact assemblages. John R. Bozell's analysis of the animal bones from each site is particularly engaging. Using historical information and comparing the Fontenelle and Cabanné fauna with other archeological faunal assemblages in the Midwest, he views the two posts' faunal remains in the context of a frontier economic system changing from a hunting to a market economy. Michael A. Pfeiffer and Trisha Nelson describe tobacco pipes and shell artifacts, respectively.

By combining complementary historical and archeological information, the author has skillfully illuminated a poorly known chapter of Nebraska and Missouri River fur trade history. **Thomas D. Thiessen**, *Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska*.