

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Portage National Monument
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Ojibwe Art



PHOTO TITLE: Snowshoes - GRPO 645

DESCRIPTION: Pair of Michigan pattern snowshoes produced from ash frames and moose rawhide lacing. The tail, fastened by iron nails, is slightly upturned, whereas the toe is flat. The snowshoes measure 102 cm long with a maximum width of 29 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Toboggan Model - GRPO 741

DESCRIPTION: This model toboggan illustrates the kind of winter transport utilized by the Ojibwe and voyageurs during the winter *en derouine* trading sessions in villages. Toboggans were often produced with hardwood slats, typically birch or ash, and secured with rawhide or leather lashing. The model measures 30.0 cm long and 5.0 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Maple Sugar Makuk - GRPO 863

DESCRIPTION: Scratched geometric design of diagonal lines on maple sugar makuk produced from birch bark and sewn with split and peeled black spruce root. The lid is loosely fitted to attach to the top of the vessel.

PHOTO TITLE: Moose Hide Leggings - GRPO 868

DESCRIPTION: Pair of moose hide leggings with fringe decorated with glass beads in floral design. These leggings are indicative of a much later time period than those which would have been worn during the fur trade era; this pair dates to the late 1930s as part of a WPA project. The leather thongs extending from the top of the leggings would secure the garments to a cord or belt around the wearer's waist.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded belt - GRPO 872

DESCRIPTION: WPA project beaded belt decorated in geometric design of white, orange, red, brown, black, yellow, and green seed beads backed by tanned buckskin. The belt measures 85.0 cm long and 4.3 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Pack - GRPO 897

DESCRIPTION: Large sheets of birch bark folded and secured with strips of cedar bark. The pack measures a perfect square, 50.0 cm long and 50.0 cm wide, and is 13.7 cm thick.

PHOTO TITLE: Maple Sugar Makuk - GRPO 900

DESCRIPTION: Scratched geometric design of diagonal and intersecting lines on maple sugar makuk produced from birch bark and sewn with split and peeled black spruce root. The lid is loosely fitted to attach to the top of the vessel.

PHOTO TITLE: Winnowing Basket - GRPO 905

DESCRIPTION: Undecorated winnowing basket or ricing tray made from birch bark with black spruce root sewn seams and a reinforcing rim made from a flexible root. The tray measures 43 cm long and is 31 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Cedar Bark Mat - GRPO 921

DESCRIPTION: Cedar bark mat composed of individual strips of cedar bark, some dyed reddish-brown, and some natural colored. The strips are woven together to form the mat in which a recurring diamond pattern is visible. The mat measures 102 cm long and 79 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Wooden Skis - GRPO 1114

DESCRIPTION: Hand-carved pair of wooden skis, likely ash. The skis have pointed tips with rounded heels, grooved bottom, and possess a hole in the footplate to attach a harness strap. The skis measure 626 cm long and 9.5 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Headband - GRPO 1156

DESCRIPTION: WPA project beaded headband decorated in geometric design of white, orange, yellow, green, and maroon seed beads backed by tanned buckskin. The belt measures 56 cm long and 3 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Headband - GRPO 1157

DESCRIPTION: WPA project beaded headband decorated in geometric design of white, turquoise blue, light blue, orange, and dark blue seed beads backed by tanned buckskin. The belt measures 50.0 cm long and 3.8 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Decorated Birch Bark Container - GRPO 1158

DESCRIPTION: Ornatly scratched straight and diagonal lines on deep birch bark container with spruce root seams and reinforcing split root rim. The container measures 40 cm long, 37 cm wide, and 13 cm deep.

PHOTO TITLE: Decorated Birch Bark Container - GRPO 1172

DESCRIPTION: WPA project slightly conical-shaped container with floral quillwork design. The container is sewn with black spruce root seams and stands 14 cm high with a maximum diameter of 14 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Winnowing Basket - GRPO 1187

DESCRIPTION: Oblong birch bark ricing tray sewn with split and peeled black spruce root seams; split root serves as binding around top rim of container. The winnowing basket measures 39 cm long and 33 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Cedar Bark Bag - GRPO 1189

DESCRIPTION: Diagonal weave cedar strip bark bag filled with roll of birch bark and sewn shut with cedar bark seam. Alternating strips of natural and reddish-brown cedar strips are present in weave. The bag stands 30 cm tall, 23 cm wide, and 7.5 cm thick.

PHOTO TITLE: Cedar Bark Bag - GRPO 1190

DESCRIPTION: Diagonal weave cedar strip bark bag filled with roll of birch bark and sewn closed with black spruce root. Strips present in weave are natural color. The bag stands 40 cm tall, 27 cm wide, and 9 cm thick.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Belt - GRPO 1206

DESCRIPTION: WPA project beaded belt on tanned buckskin measuring 107 cm long and 9 cm wide. The piece with its decorative floral design contains a total of nearly 9,000 glass beads and consists of ten different colors.

PHOTO TITLE: Decorative Birch Bark Basket - GRPO 1217

DESCRIPTION: WPA project small conical birch bark container with etched floral design. Black spruce root seams are used for side walls and reinforcing rim. The container stands 8 cm tall with a maximum diameter of 22 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Cedar Bark Mat - GRPO 1288

DESCRIPTION: Woven cedar bark mat of alternating square of vertical and horizontal blue-black and natural colored strips to form decorative design. The mat measures 202 cm long and 142 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Hooked Rug - GRPO 1291

DESCRIPTION: WPA project hooked rug with patterned floral design; sixteen squares, each contains one flower. The rug measures 92 by 88 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Hooked Rug - GRPO 1292

DESCRIPTION: Hooked rug with geometric border design on edge encompassing interior design of forest scene with moose, campfire, and Native dwelling. The rug measures 113 by 83 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Moccasins - GRPO 1467

DESCRIPTION: Beaded leather moccasins with ankle wraps and decorative collars; pointed toes from center front seams, T-shaped heel seams; symmetrical floral and geometric designs with multiple colors of beads adorn vamp and sides of moccasins.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Sash - GRPO 1474

DESCRIPTION: Beaded sash with symmetrical floral motif set in lavender, navy, light blue, rose, yellow, medium blue, green, and sienna colored beads with dark purple beads as base attached to leather backing. The sash measures a total length of 284 cm, with the beaded section measuring 81.0 long and 9.4 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Mukluks - GRPO 1481

DESCRIPTION: Leather and wool mukluks with ornately decorated floral beadwork design and beaver fur trim. Wool yarn tassels extend off of drawstring leather cords at calf closure.

PHOTO TITLE: Bone Game - GRPO 1500

DESCRIPTION: Bone game piece composed of leather tab with three rows of circular holes, round and flat bone disk with nine holes around encircling edge, ten deer dew claws, and bone needle all attached by a leather cord. The game is played by holding the eye of the needle and swinging the leather strip up while attempting to poke the needle through the holes in the leather tab, bone disk, or dew claws. This example was made by Bucko Bushman.

PHOTO TITLE: Wooden Netting Needle - GRPO 1554

DESCRIPTION: Wooden netting needle used by Mrs. Alec Posey to lace snowshoes and construct fishing nets. The needle featured here measures 20.4 cm long and is 1.3 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Moccasins - GRPO 1563

DESCRIPTION: Pair or pucker toe beaded leather moccasins with decorative floral design enclosed within white, blue, red, and yellow beaded border on vamps. Leather ankle wraps have scalloped or sawtooth edging.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Moccasins - GRPO 1565

DESCRIPTION: Pair of pucker toe beaded leather moccasins with identical geometric design featuring white, yellow, maroon, and black beads on vamps and lower collars. Additional beadwork on vamps contains diagonal lines of the aforementioned colors.

PHOTO TITLE: Beaded Moccasins - GRPO 1567

DESCRIPTION: Pair of center-seam beaded leather moccasins with floral design featuring white, red, green, orange, and turquoise beads on vamps enclosed by white, green, and red beaded rows. Leather ankle wraps have scalloped or sawtooth edging.

PHOTO TITLE: Winnowing Basket - GRPO 4782

DESCRIPTION: Shallow winnowing basket or ricing tray made from birch bark with split and peeled black spruce root lashing at corner seams and around larger split root to reinforce the rim. The basket measures 46.0 cm long, 40.0 cm wide, and stands 8.0 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Sap Collecting Tray - GRPO 12306

DESCRIPTION: Birch bark tray made with folded seams sewn with thin strips of white cedar bark. Vessels such as this could be quickly made during the sugaring season in spring to collect maple and birch sap from tapped trees. The basket measures 27.6 cm long, 18.5 cm wide, and stands 9.0 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Basket - GRPO 16177

DESCRIPTION: Small birch bark basket with rim reinforced by split and peeled black spruce root. Seams and rim are secured by basswood bark fibers. The vessel measures 20.9 cm long, 20.4 cm wide, and stands 6.8 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Basket - GRPO 16178

DESCRIPTION: Small, tray-shaped birch bark basket with rim reinforced by split and peeled black spruce root. Seams and rim are secured by basswood bark fibers. The vessel measures 25.3 cm long, 23.5 cm wide, and stands 9.0 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Container with Decorative Quillwork - GRPO 17091

DESCRIPTION: Cylindrical birch bark container decorated with dyed quillwork floral design on lid and side walls. The container and lid are both sewn with split and peeled black spruce root. Bark scalloping reinforces bottom and top of container. The container stands 13.5 cm tall and has a diameter of 13.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Black Ash Basket - GRPO 17148

DESCRIPTION: Hand-woven, bowl-shaped basket produced from black ash splints. Eight wide split strips form the bottom of the basket and main rib branches, while thin strips of the same material are interlaced between the branches to form the sides of the basket. The basket has a maximum diameter of 24.0 cm and stands 7.5 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Basket - GRPO 17149

DESCRIPTION: Small, tray-shaped birch bark basket with rim reinforced by split and peeled black spruce root. Seams and rim are secured by basswood bark fibers. The vessel measures 23.0 cm long, 17.5 cm wide, and stands 6.0 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Sweetgrass Basket - GRPO 17150

DESCRIPTION: Small, decorative basket constructed from bands of dried sweetgrass sewn together into shape with green and red thread. Base of basket is made from birch bark. The vessel stands 7.0 cm tall and has a maximum diameter of 14.3 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Black Ash Tray - GRPO 17151

DESCRIPTION: Hand-woven black ash tray with reinforcing top strip of white cedar sewn with basswood fiber. Three strips of black ash that are utilized to form the sides of the tray are dyed green. The tray measures 28.5 cm long, 19.0 cm wide, and stands 5.5 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Container with Decorative Quillwork - GRPO 17152

DESCRIPTION: Small, cylindrical birch bark container decorated with quillwork and sweetgrass trim. The container stands 8.5 cm tall with a diameter of 8.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Decorative Black Ash Basket - GRPO 17153

DESCRIPTION: Decorative shopping basket constructed of natural and dyed black ash strips with sweetgrass trim and braided basswood bark handles. The basket measures 30.0 cm long, 13.0 cm wide, and stands 17.5 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Canoe Model - GRPO 17155

DESCRIPTION: Ojibwe-style birch bark canoe model constructed with cedar ribs and planking, cedar thwarts, and sewn with basswood fiber. The canoe is sealed with pine or spruce gum mixed with grease and charcoal. The canoe measures 41.0 cm long, 9.5 cm wide, and stands 8.5 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Decorative Birch Bark Makuk with Lid - GRPO 17156

DESCRIPTION: Birch bark makuk with lid constructed from one piece of bark. The vessel is embroidered with colored yarn and engraved with a floral pattern. Container is sewn with split and peeled black spruce root. The makuk measures 14.5 cm long, 10.0 cm wide, and stands 12.5 cm high.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Cone Molds with Maple Sugar - GRPO 17157

DESCRIPTION: Pair of birch bark cone molds with maple sugar secured together with braided bulrush fiber. Each cone measures approximately 9 cm long with a maximum diameter of 4 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Maple Sugar Molds - GRPO 17159

DESCRIPTION: Handmade maple sugar mold from a birch log featuring four individual molds: round, spade, club or clover, and star. Each mold is filled with maple sugar. The molding block measures 39.5 cm long, 9.5 cm wide, and stands 2.0 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Fish Net Floats - GRPO 17160

DESCRIPTION: Fishing was an important industry for the Ojibwe living along the shores of Lake Superior historically, and remains so to this very day. This photograph features six fish net floats hand-carved from white cedar. The average size of each float is approximately 18 cm long, 5 cm wide, and 3 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Cedar Bark Bag - GRPO 17161

DESCRIPTION: Diagonal weave bag constructed from cedar bark. Bag is flat with braided, open weave along top edge and single stitch along lower edge. Pouch is woven shut through open weave area with braided, purple-dyed bark cord. The bag measures 21 cm long by 19 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Basket - GRPO 17166

DESCRIPTION: Octagonal birch bark basket sewn with bulrush fiber at seams. Top of basket is reinforced with ash wood splint and sewn with basswood fiber dyed dark brown. The vessel stands 6 cm tall with a maximum diameter of 18 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: *Dikinaagan* / Cradleboard - GRPO 17194

DESCRIPTION: Wooden cradleboard with hand-sewn velvet covers heavily beaded with continuous otter track design utilizing white, amber, turquoise, red, amethyst, and light gray seed beads. The bent wooden hoop is secured with a wooden brace and rawhide lashing. The cradleboard measures 72 cm long with and 28 cm wide; the hoop extends 38 cm from the wooden back.

PHOTO TITLE: Bulrush Mat - GRPO 17196

DESCRIPTION: Hand-woven bulrush mat in straight and diagonal weave featuring natural bands with purple vertical, geometric, and otter track bands. The mat measures 145 cm long and 111 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Snow Snake - GRPO 17199
DESCRIPTION: Hand-carved cottonwood implement for snow snake game. This piece was designed to be thrown across the top of the snow while standing in row with other participants throwing their snakes as well. This snow snake measures 86.0 cm long and 2.5 cm wide.

PHOTO TITLE: Lacrosse Stick - GRPO 17200
DESCRIPTION: Hand-carved one-piece construction Ojibwe-style lacrosse stick made from white ash. The leather lacing in the hoop was used to secure the ball during play. The stick measures 81.5 cm long and the maximum width of the hoop extends 9.5 cm from the handle frame.

PHOTO TITLE: Pitched Birch Bark Basket with Handle - GRPO 17209
DESCRIPTION: Birch bark makuk with seams stitched with basswood fiber. Handle is formed from braided basswood bark and rolled birch bark. The makuk is pitched on its seams with a mixture of spruce gum, grease, and charcoal. The makuk measures 23.0 cm long, 16.5 cm wide, and stands 24.0 cm tall.

PHOTO TITLE: Birch Bark Container with Etched Design - GRPO 17210
DESCRIPTION: Decoratively etched floral pattern on birch bark makuk with fitted lid and seams stitched with basswood fiber. The makuk measures 25.0 cm long, 15.5 cm wide, and stands 24.0 cm tall with the cover.

PHOTO TITLE: Bulrush Basket - GRPO 17214
DESCRIPTION: Cylindrical-shaped bulrush reed container composed of natural fibers and two straight rows of purple dyed rushes, with one oscillating row on the cuff at the top of the basket. The container stands 13.0 cm tall and has a maximum diameter of 16.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Bulrush Basket - GRPO 17215
DESCRIPTION: Braided bulrush basket formed by rows of reeds sewn together with basswood bark. Top reinforcing ring and braided handle are wrapped with basswood bark. The basket stands 9.0 cm tall including the handle, and has a maximum diameter of 13.5 cm.

PHOTO TITLE: Snowshoes - GRPO 17218

DESCRIPTION: Pair of snowshoes produced from steam-bent ash frames and rawhide lacing with leather bindings and metal buckles. Tails of snowshoes are closed with a rivet. The snowshoes each measure approximately 115 cm long with a maximum width of 36 cm.