

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

What is a Métis Trapper's Tent and why was it chosen for this project?

The Métis Trapper's Tent was chosen for this project because of its mobility and iconic status as a Métis cultural symbol. When they weren't camping, Métis families typically lived in more permanent structures, like timber houses and wintering cabins.

Trapper's tents or "Lii Taant di Ohpayikewuk"—trapper's tent in Michif, the language of the Métis People—were primarily used in the late 1800s and created from sturdy canvas material. Sometimes known as wall tents, they gained popularity among Métis trappers who used them while camping along the trail or trap line. Trapper's tents provided shelter for Métis families while engaged in trapping, hunting, travelling, and trading activities outdoors.

What is a Red River cart and why is it significant to Métis Culture?

Red River carts have two large wheels and were traditionally pulled by a single ox, horse or pony. What made the Red River carts unique was its construction—they were built entirely out of joined wood and lashed together with shaganappi, a rawhide rope that was tied and braided together. When wet, the shaganappi became flexible and easy to shape but as it dried, it would shrink and tighten which helped secure the cart together.

The simplicity of its design and the use of locally available materials made the Red River cart well-suited for the rough terrain and vast prairies of the Canadian West. It was known for its sturdiness and ability to carry heavy loads, making it a vital tool for transportation—especially during the fur trade era.

The Red River cart played a significant role in the history and culture of the Métis people, and it symbolizes their skill and resourcefulness in adapting to the challenging conditions of the Northwest. Today, it holds historical and cultural significance and is considered an iconic symbol of Métis heritage.