



1977

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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS, NO. 14  
1977

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PROPOSED SEWER LINE RIGHTS-OF-  
WAY IN BATTLE CREEK TOWNSHIP, CALHOUN COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN.

ROBERT G. KINGSLEY

Archaeological Survey of Proposed Sewer Line Rights-of-Way in Battle Creek Twp., Calhoun County, Michigan.

Project Personnel:

Principal Investigator: Robert G. Kingsley, M.A., Research Associate  
Field Assistants: Jerrel Sorensen, Randall Howard (graduate students)

Introduction:

On May 26, an archaeological survey was conducted in Battle Creek Twp., Calhoun County, at the request of Mr. Robert Boruszewski of the Calhoun County Department of Public Works. The areas surveyed consisted of proposed sewer line rights-of-way that do not lie directly under or adjacent to existing road beds. The areas to be surveyed were identified by Mr. Wes Daining of Jones and Henry Engineers, Ltd., of Toledo, Ohio.

Previous Research:

Western Michigan University has conducted limited survey work in this area of the Kalamazoo River Valley. Inspection of the archaeological site files at the Department of Anthropology at Western Michigan University revealed that no known prehistoric or historic sites were located immediately within the project area. The nearest known site lies about 1-1/4 mi west of the area, in the S.E. 1/4, S.W. 1/4, Sec. 27. This site, recorded as Site C-2, is reported to be aceramic, probably of the Archaic Period. A second site, designated Site C-10, lies about 1-1/2 mi east of the project area in the N.W. 1/4, S.W. 1/4, Sec. 32, Emmet Twp. This site is reported to be Late Archaic. Neither of these sites was revisited by the survey crew.

Procedures:

As indicated above, a site file and record search was undertaken prior to actual fieldwork.

Field procedures consisted of surface reconnaissance of the line rights-of-way and subsurface test probing. Test probes were generally spaced 25 yd apart, though this interval was shortened to as little as 5 yd in areas where surface visibility was very poor.

Description of Survey Area:

The lines surveyed lie in the W. 1/2 of Sec. 36, and the N. 1/2, S.E. 1/4 of Sec. 35, Battle Creek Twp. Most of this area is wooded; plowed fields were not encountered. The westernmost end of the lines was pastureland. A long section of line running N.E. to S.W. in Sec. 36 was an old railroad bed crossing a low, marshy area and at one point crossed Brickyard Creek.

Approximately 70 subsurface test probes were placed along the lines. No probing was done on the railroad bed, since this area is artificially constructed, and cannot contain an archaeological site. Throughout the area, topsoil was very thin. Glacial till and gravel was abundant. Clay content in the soil was low to absent; somewhat higher clay content was noted in the pasture area.

Vegetation is rather uniform over the entire survey area, and consisted of mixed deciduous forest with abundant undergrowth. In Sec. 35, an area planted in pines was crossed, as well as a small woodlot planted with walnut tree saplings.

#### Sites Recorded:

No historic or prehistoric cultural material was discovered by the survey crew. The only item of possible historical significance encountered was the railroad bed, though in itself, this structure would seem to be of little importance. At any rate, since the structure of the road bed and not its content is of possible interest, the placement of a sewer line within it would not harm any historical value it might possess.

#### Recommendations:

Since no cultural materials or sites were found within the survey area, as outlined to me by Mr. Wes Daining of Jones and Henry Engineers, Ltd., and since potential or possible historical significance of the railroad bed will not be destroyed by this construction, I can recommend that this project proceed as planned.

Prepared and submitted by:

Robert G. Kingsley, M.A.  
Research Associate; Principal Investigator  
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June 3, 1977

RGK:jw