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# 20-Archaeological Survey of Proposed Sewage Treatment Facilities Site in White Pigeon, Michigan

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# REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS No. 20

## Archaeological Survey of Proposed Sewage Treatment Facilities Site in White Pigeon, Michigan

### Personnel:

Principal Investigator: Robert G. Kingsley, M.A., Research Associate

Field Assistant: Kevin Kincare (senior undergraduate student)

### Introduction:

An archaeological survey was conducted on July 26, 1977, near the town of White Pigeon, Michigan. The survey, done at the request of Mr. Michael Smith of Petrie and Associates, Inc., of Benton Harbor, Michigan, involved inspection of the proposed site to determine if the area contained cultural resources.

### Previous Research:

Little archaeological field research has been conducted in this part of St. Joseph County. Several mound groups are known in the St. Joseph River valley; the present project area lies about 30 mi east and south of these. Two sites are known in the vicinity of Colon, which lies about 25 mi to the northeast. No other known sites are present in this area.

### Procedures:

Prior to fieldwork, the archaeological site files at the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University were examined to locate known cultural resources. As indicated, none are known in the immediate project area.

Fieldwork procedures consisted of systematic transect surface reconnaissance survey. The project area contains plowed fields and swampland. Subsurface probes were not needed since surface visibility was excellent, though some were dug to determine soil profiles.

### Description of Survey Area:

The project area, consisting of about 45 acres, lies in the south-center, SW 1/4, Sec. 7, White Pigeon Twp., St. Joseph County, Michigan. The northern portion, about 8-10 acres, is swamp and woodland, and borders the Pigeon River. The southern end on the parcel contained about 5 acres of swampland. The rest of the area in between was plowed and planted in beans, with a few (apparently unintentional) corn plants interspersed.

The swampy areas were inundated and were thus not surveyed, since they are unlikely to contain cultural resources. The bean field was transected by means of following the rows of plants; every tenth row (about 15 yd) was walked. Surface visibility was excellent due to heavy rain two days previous. Five subsurface probes were dug in the field to determine soil content and profile. The topsoil was very sandy and not rich, and contained much glacial till and

gravel. Glacial chert was abundant. Subsoil was encountered at about 12-18 in and consisted of glacial sand and gravel with a small clay content. No clay layers or lenses were noted.

At the northern end of the parcel, between the wooded swampland and bean field, is a small cleared unplowed area. This area was subjected to probing. Subsequent inspection of the project map indicated that most if not all of this area actually lies over the western boundary of the parcel. At any rate, no material was recovered from this area.

Sites Recorded:

No prehistoric or historic cultural material was recovered in this parcel, indicating that this area was not extensively occupied, or not occupied at all, during the historic and prehistoric past.

Recommendations:

Since no extant cultural resources were discovered in this area, as outlined to me by Mr. Michael Smith of Petrie and Associates, Inc., I can recommend that this project proceed as planned.

Prepared and Submitted by:

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RGK:jw