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REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS No. 29

Archaeological Survey of Proposed Land Exchange Area (114 acres)
in the Fort Custer Military Reservation, Battle Creek, Michigan

Project Personnel:

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

Field Assistants: Larry M. Wyckoff, M.A.; Lynn E. Skinner,
B.S.; Deborah K. Rhead (graduate student)

Purpose of Investigations:

This survey was performed at the request of Mr. Larry E. Wile, Assistant Superintendent, Kalamazoo Valley Intermediate School District. The area to be surveyed was outlined by Mr. George Kopacha of the Government Services Administration. The survey was intended to locate and identify cultural resources in the project area prior to land exchange. The fieldwork was carried out on July 28, 1978.

Description of Project Area:

The project area contains 114 acres; it is located in the S 1/2, SW 1/4, and SW 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 30, Bedford Twp., Calhoun County, Michigan.

Topography in the area is sloping. The south-central part of the parcel lies at 920 ft MSL, and the rest of the area slopes down from that point to an elevation of 800 ft MSL at the lowest point. The parcel in general is best described as rolling and undulating.

Most of the parcel was heavily wooded; vegetation included coniferous and deciduous trees and varied and plentiful shrubs and underbrush. Planted rows of conifers were encountered in the NE portion of the area. Most of the SW and west-central parts of the area was open wild wheat field. Most of this area had been plowed at some point in time.

The soil in the parcel was predominately sandy and contained unsorted glacial till. At the north side of the parcel, richer, less gravelly soil was found.

Previous Research:

No systematic archaeological research had been conducted in the project area proper prior to this survey. One site, discovered in 1973 by Western Michigan University field crews, lies about 1 mi east of the project area; this site is designated C-6, and may date to the Woodland Period.

On June 28, 1978, a contracted archaeological survey was undertaken in an area immediately adjacent to the present project area. This survey area, comprising 76 acres, is located on the eastern boundary of the present parcel.

No archaeological sites were found in the 76 acre parcel.

Procedures:

Prior to fieldwork, the archaeological site files at the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, were consulted to determine the nature of known sites in or near the project area.

Field procedures consisted of systematic transect survey and subsurface test probing. The area was walked with crew members spaced 30 yd apart. Subsurface test probes were placed every 25 yd. Surface visibility was very poor throughout the entire area due to vegetation.

Sites Recorded:

Absolutely no historic or prehistoric archaeological artifacts or sites of any kind were found in the project area.

Recommendations:

Since the survey of this area failed to locate cultural resources warranting mitigation, I can recommend that this project, as outlined to me by Mr. George Kopacha of GSA, proceed as planned.

Prepared and submitted by:

Robert G. Kingsley, M.A.
Research Associate; Principal Investigator
Department of Anthropology
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August 3, 1978