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44-Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Expansion of Facilities at Lexington Green Park, Portage, Kalamazoo County, Michigan

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS, NO. 44

1980

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION
OF FACILITIES AT LEXINGTON GREEN PARK, PORTAGE, KALAMAZOO COUNTY,
MICHIGAN.

ELIZABETH B. GARLAND

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1980

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF FACILITIES AT LEXINGTON GREEN PARK,
PORTAGE (KALAMAZOO COUNTY), MICHIGAN

Introduction

This project was undertaken in response to a request for an archaeological survey from Mr. John E. Hodges, Block Grant Administrator, for the City of Portage. The request was made in a telephone call from Mr. Hodges to Dr. Elizabeth Garland of the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University, on May 15, 1980.

Project Personnel

Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Garland, Ph.D.
Field Assistant: Barbara W. Anthony, Ph.D.

Description of Survey Area

The area to be affected by new park facilities is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ -SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1 in Portage Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan (Portage Quad. 7.5'). Two new tennis courts are to be placed west of the existing courts, and a parking lot is to be constructed where Berwick Ave. adjoins the park at its southwest entrance.

Previous Archaeological Research in the Area

Archaeological site files at Western Michigan University record no archaeological sites in Section 1 of Portage Township. The Michigan History Division, Department of State, Lansing was contacted, and they stated that no sites are recorded in the Michigan Site File for this section. A previous archaeological survey of the Kalamazoo Airport west of the project area produced negative results. An unclassified

site, 20 KZ 11, is recorded in the NE¼ of Section 12, south of the project area. A channelized intermittent stream crosses Section 1 northeast of the area to be surveyed. The likelihood of encountering prehistoric sites in the project area was considered low to moderate at the time of survey.

Field Methods

Field procedures consisted of systematic shovel probes placed at approximately 10 pace intervals over the area to be impacted. Sixteen such probes were placed over the grassy area 100'x 160' where the new tennis courts are to be placed. A humus of variable thickness overlies a sandy clay subsoil. No cultural materials were encountered.

The proposed parking lot at the Berwick Avenue entrance will cover an area of 100' x 65'. Here shovel probing was done at somewhat irregular intervals due to the presence of some large trees. Twelve probes were placed in this area, again with negative results. The subsoil is a sandy clay with pockets of heavy clay. Gravel from existing paths and trails was encountered in probes near the southern edge of the parking lot. At the northern edge black muck containing leaf mold was encountered, evidently the result of recent drainage of the area.

Recommendations

This survey produced no materials of prehistoric or historic significance. It is therefore recommended that the expansion of facilities at Lexington Green Park will have no adverse impact on cultural resources and should proceed as scheduled.

Prepared and submitted by:

Elizabeth B. Garland, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

May 26, 1980