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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 3

1980

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF THE
M-66 RIGHT-OF-WAY, FROM M-46 IN MONTCALM
COUNTY TO M-20 IN MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

WILLIAM M. CREMIN

R. DAVID HOXIE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Project Personnel	1
Description of the Project Area	2
Previous Research in the Project Area	5
Survey Field Procedures	7
Results of the Survey	13
Archaeological Sites	13
Probable Homestead Sites Yielding No Archaeological Material	28
Standing Structures in the M-66 ROW	31
Special Activity Areas	34
Significance of Observations	35
Recommendations	41
References Cited	43

MAPS

Map 1: Project Area	3
Map 2: Moore Site	14
Map 3: Wood Site	16
Map 4: Wernette Site	19
Map 5: Bush Site	21
Map 6: Crane Site	22
Map 7: MCGC 1 Site	24
Map 8: Alton Wood Home Site	27
Map 9: Rock Pile Site	29
Map 10: Pole Barn Site	30

PLATES

Plate 1: Artifacts from HS # 1 (Moore Site)	44
Plate 2: Old shed adjacent to HS # 3 (Wood Site)	44
Plate 3: Details of internal construction of old shed near HS # 3 (Wood Site)	45
Plate 4: Artifacts from HS # 3 (Wood Site)	45
Plate 5: Artifact from HS # 3 (Wood Site)	46
Plate 6: Old pole barn adjacent to HS # 4 (Pole Barn Site)	47
Plate 7: Artifacts from HS # 6 (Bush Site)	47
Plate 8: Partial foundation of outbuilding on Crane farm (Crane Site)	48
Plate 9: Artifacts from HS # 9 (MCGC 2 Site)	49
Plate 10: Foundation of house on HS # 10 (Alton Wood Home Site)	50
Plate 11: Wood House	50
Plate 12: 1888 District Schoolhouse, Millbrook and Belvidere townships	51
Plate 13: Artifacts found in field adjacent to schoolhouse	51
Plate 14: Artifacts found in field adjacent to schoolhouse	52
Plate 15: Millbrook Township Hall	52
Plate 16: Houghton House	53
Plate 17: Wamboldt Cemetery	53
Plate 18: Hillcrest Cemetery	54
Plate 19: Residence in Remus which was once known as the Travelers Inn (1907)	54

INTRODUCTION:

Following negotiation of a contract (dated 2 Jul 80) between the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan History Division, Michigan Department of State, and Western Michigan University, authorizing archaeological investigation of the M-66 right-of-way between the Villages of Six Lakes and Remus, Michigan, a team of archaeologists from the Department of Anthropology undertook both on-site examination of the project area and a thorough literature/documents search in order to determine whether road improvement activities would adversely impact significant cultural resources. There follows a report of our research program, together with a series of recommendations based upon our findings.

It should be understood that the opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Department of State, Michigan History Division, or the Michigan State Transportation Commission.

PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Principal Investigator-	William M. Cremin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Anthropology, WMU
Field Supervisor	- R. David Hoxie, M.A., Department of Anthropology, WMU
Field Assistants	- Thomas Berres, M.A. Candidate, Department of Anthropology, WMU
	- Michael Higgins, M.A., Department of Anthropology, WMU

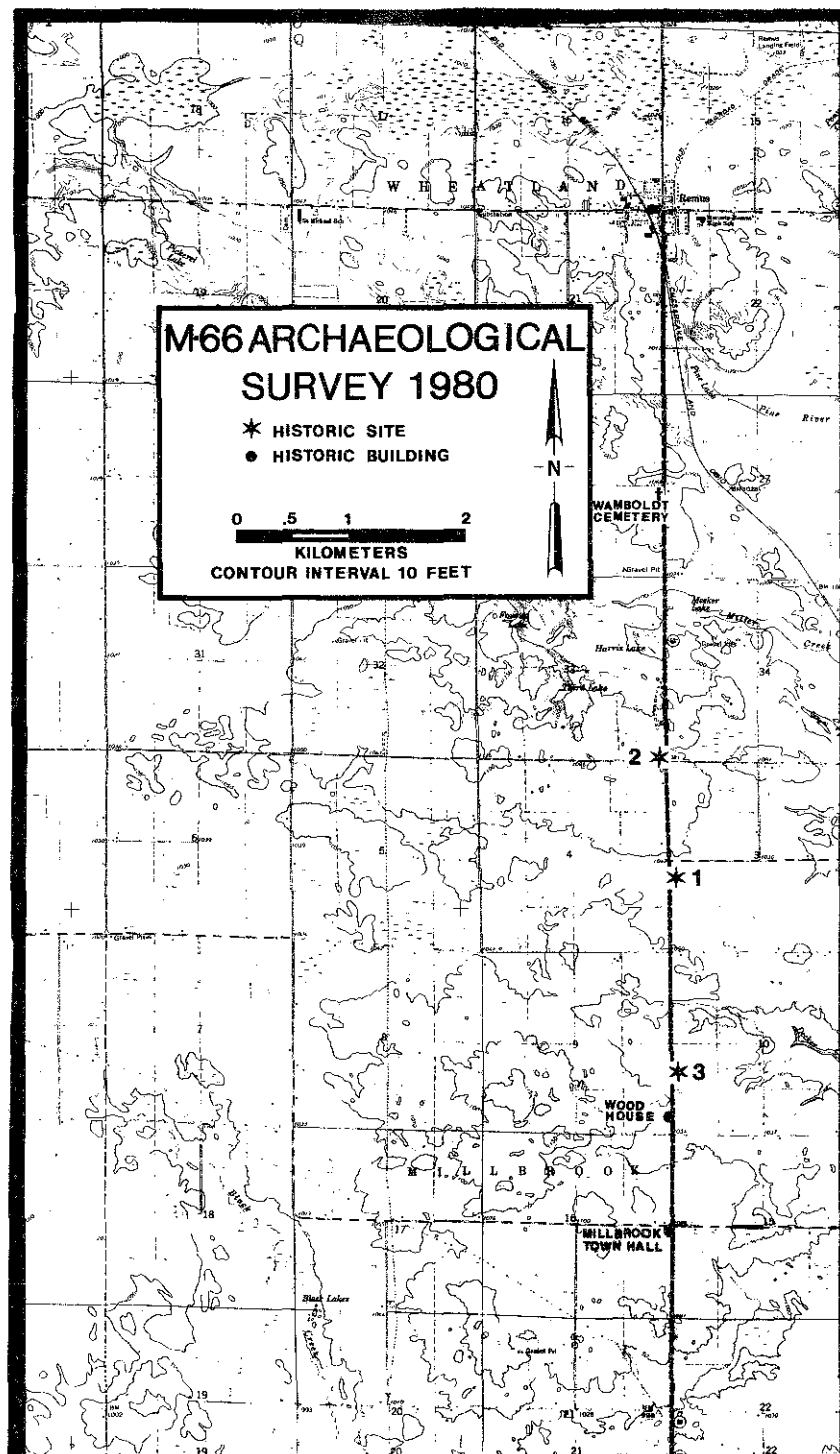
- Jean Marek, M.A. Candidate, Department
of Anthropology, WMU

All project participants have received considerable formal training in archaeological field methods and have also served in supervisory capacities in various aspects of WMU's field research program. Moreover, each team member has acquired a great deal of experience in Cultural Resource Management projects, both here at WMU and in the employ of consulting firms and/or institutions sponsoring programs of Public Archaeology. In aggregate, this team of researchers has amassed approximately 500 weeks of appropriate archaeological field experience; a fact which speaks well indeed for our qualifications to undertake this program of research for the Michigan Department of Transportation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA:

The research area of this study consists of a linear transect, 150 ft (45 m) on either side of M-66 for a total distance of 12 mi (19 km), extending from the Village of Six Lakes in the center of Belvidere Township (T12N, R7W), Montcalm County on the south, through the middle of Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County, and terminating in the Village of Remus in Wheatland Township (T14N, R7W), Mecosta County on the north (Map 1 indicates the route along which the survey was conducted.). The total land area included within the project area is estimated to be on the order of 437 acres (177 ha).

Examination of relevant topographic sheets indicates that elevation above sea level tends to rise from south to



north along this route, ranging from about 930 ft (279 m) near Six Lakes to more than 1099 ft (330 m) in northern Millbrook Township. Thereafter, elevation gradually declines with the northern terminus of Remus lying at an elevation of about 1026 ft (308 m) above sea level. Local topography can best be described as moderately to steeply rolling, with a considerable number of low-lying wet areas (e.g. small lakes, ponds, swamps and marshes) dotting the landscape. The several small streams which traverse the survey transect are not very deeply entrenched, reflecting the fact that this is topography in a youthful stage of development.

That portion of the project lying in Montcalm County is drained by the Flat River, and the landscape here generally slopes toward the source of this stream in the NW 1/4 of Section 15 in Belvidere Township. The Flat serves as the outlet for a system of six lakes occupying portions of Sections 12, 14 and 15, as well as several smaller streams which flow into these lakes from the north, south and east. According to the literature, soils in this area are primarily sandy loams and formerly supported extensive stands of pine timber. Just south of Six Lakes the soils tend to become heavier, and the dense pine forest cover gives way to an association characterized as beech-pine-mixed hardwood forest (Dasef 1916).

In a recent article entitled "Presettlement Forest Patterns in Montcalm County, Michigan", Hushen et. al. (1966) apply both qualitative and quantitative measures which do indicate that the southern portion of the project was dominated by beech-pine hardwoods at the time of Euro-American

settlement. The structure of this forest is described as a mosaic of dense pine stands and pine-mixed hardwood communities interspersed with significant swamp associations. The latter most typically occupied poorly drained depressions and low-lying areas near the aforementioned system of six lakes located immediately to the east of the route under study (see Map 1). Tamarack, cedar and hemlock, together with such deciduous species as black ash, elm and red maple, were strongly represented in the swamp forest associations of the township.

The northern portion of the transect in Mecosta County is drained by Black and Decker Creeks in Millbrook Township and Miller Creek in Wheatland Township. All are tributaries of the Pine River, which in turn discharges into the Tittabawassee River to the east. The Pine River drainage, as its name implies, was noted for its extensive and very dense stands of pine timber. And during the period of Euro-American settlement, this constituted the region's principal industry and "cash crop" (Hayes 1879). That this northern portion of the survey transect is more heavily dissected than the segment lying in Montcalm County reflects the fact that here our route of survey follows the divide between the drainages of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH IN THE PROJECT AREA:

A comprehensive study of the extant literature and examination of the site files maintained by the Michigan History Division revealed that this area of the state has received little if any attention from the community of professional archaeologists.

This observation has subsequently been confirmed not only by several professional and avocational archaeologists with whom we spoke, but also a number of life-long residents of the area whom we interviewed during the course of fieldwork. From the numerous testimonials taken, the only lead which surveyors felt might provide a clue to a prehistoric presence in the study area were several comments relating to the discovery of an arrowhead by an area youngster some years ago. While we concluded from informant comments that the find must have occurred in close proximity to the M-66 ROW in Millbrook Township, the information provided did not enable us to pinpoint the site locus or identify the person who had found the artifact.

Our examination of the state site files did reveal the presence of at least one known site in the general area; this location being approximately 3.7 mi (6 km) due west of M-66 in Montcalm County. The Townline Lakes Mounds (20 ML 41), located in the S 1/2, NW 1/4 of Section 6, Belvidere Township, are initially reported in Hinsdale's Archaeological Atlas of Michigan and referenced more recently in the News Bulletin of the Wright L. Coffinberry Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society for the year 1963. Discussions with Ms. Myrtle Waldorf, a local historian and proprietress of the small historical museum in Six Lakes, resulted in our learning little about this site or, for that matter, the aboriginal occupants of the area in general. She did show us the "Indian skull" supposedly retrieved from this locale and now on display together with a small collection of primarily historic memorabilia in the museum.

If her recollections are correct, this skull was found during land clearing operations just west of the M-66 ROW and a little north of the Village of Six Lakes.

In summary, although we made a concerted effort to collect all available information which might have a bearing on both the prehistoric and early historic aboriginal occupation of this area, we came up "empty"! And, for that matter, we were also unable to collect any information regarding historic Euro-American settlement, either places or persons, which might at least tentatively be regarded as having cultural significance from the standpoint of National Register criteria.

SURVEY FIELD PROCEDURES:

The field crew consisted of the project Field Supervisor and three Field Assistants, with the Principal Investigator joining the team midway into the survey for purposes of evaluating team progress and also "standing by" to assist the crew as a need(s) might arise during the course of the project. Survey methods employed were those outlined in the research proposal and project application submitted to MDOT by the Principal Investigator prior to the awarding of the contract.

The entire route was traversed from north to south along four transects, with surveyors spaced at approximately 67 ft (20 m) and 133 ft (40 m) either side of the highway. In areas where surface visibility exceeded 50%, surveyors relied on walk-over or surface reconnaissance procedures together with some random shovel testing for purposes of examining the soil profile to determine the depth of the plow zone and the depth at which clearly Pleistocene-age deposits occurred.

In locations where surface visibility was less than 50%, but standing water and recent disturbance and/or obstructions (e.g. landfilling, pavement, structures) did not effectively prohibit evaluation, surveyors systematically shovel tested at intervals of 33 ft (10 m) to 83 ft (25 m) along transects. On the average for the entire length of the route, it is estimated that we shovel tested every 69 ft (21 m); and considering only those segments of the route which were amenable to this procedure it is estimated that the mean distance between shovel probes along surveyor transects was on the order of 46 ft (14 m).

Shovel tests were consistently taken down to that depth at which surveyors made good contact with glacially deposited materials. In addition, all "raw" areas and erosional cuts on the landscape were carefully examined for evidence of human presence. By use of these shovel testing procedures, together with surface reconnaissance where feasible, the survey team completed on-site evaluation of the project, attaining coverage which was both systematic and intensive. Observations derived from fieldwork, together with the data collected from our literature and/or documents search, provide us with excellent information upon which to make the recommendations which appear later in this report.

In addition to those observations provided in the section which follows, it is appropriate that we here briefly summarize surveyor activity along each section (equals 1 mi or 1.6 km) of the route:

Mile 1:

Beginning in the Village of Remus and between Sections

21 and 22 of Wheatland Township, surveyors were first hampered by numerous tightly packed structures and intervening paved surfaces and, thereafter, by railroad tracks and associated disturbance. In the first .5 mi, only 42 shovel tests were possible. These produced nothing in the way of cultural material. The second .5 mi was in deep swamp along both sides of the highway, effectively prohibiting surveyor evaluation of this portion of the route.

Mile 2:

Between Sections 27 and 28 of Wheatland Township, shovel testing was intensified. More than 330 probes were placed along both sides of the road in areas occupied by woodlot and fallow field. Areas under cultivation were examined by means of surface reconnaissance. We were denied access to a large area where cattle were pastured. We recorded the presence of Wamboldt Cemetery in the ROW on the west side of M-66.

Mile 3:

Between Sections 33 and 34 of Wheatland Township, the survey team encountered areas of dense wetland vegetation to the west of the highway and considerable evidence to the effect that for more than 100 ft (30 m) beyond M-66 the area had been filled in recent years. Forty-eight shovel tests were placed as the opportunity arose. Pasture and cultivated field predominated in the eastern one-half of the ROW. Areas providing good surface visibility were carefully walked and more than 150 shovel probes were placed in those areas where ground cover prohibited evaluation by other means. The Rock Pile site (Historic Site # 2 on Map 1) was discovered and the general area evaluated by shovel testing.

Mile 4:

Between Sections 3 and 4 of Millbrook Township, surface visibility was often found to be excellent, with much acreage planted in corn and beans. Several small areas of swamp had to be circumvented. Fallow fields and livestock pastures were inspected by means of 240 shovel tests. The Moore site (HS # 1) was recorded and the immediate area of the debris scatter intensively shovel probed.

Mile 5:

Between Sections 9 and 10 of Millbrook Township, the situation was found to be quite similar to that noted for Mile 4 above, but with an increase in the acreage under cultivation. Here, surveyors placed 280 shovel probes in fallow fields and small woodlots, as well as spent considerable time systematically walking those areas where surface visibility exceeded 50%. The Wood site (HS # 3) was located in a bean field and examined by means of both surface reconnaissance and a series of shovel tests about the locus of the original find. We also recorded the Wood House, an historic period family residence, for architectural consideration.

Mile 6:

Between Sections 15 and 16 of Millbrook Township, the survey team encountered extensive areas of cultivated field for the first time. With the exception of two small marshes which could not be evaluated, and several small pastures which were examined by means of 50 well placed shovel tests, surface reconnaissance procedures were emphasized along this segment of the route. We recorded the Millbrook Township

11

Hall for local historical consideration.

Mile 7:

Between Sections 21 and 22 of Millbrook Township, dense woodlot and considerable swamp and marshland vegetation hampered surveyor efforts. Intensive evaluation of this segment of the route was limited to cultivated fields, which were walked in systematic fashion, and several large fields lying in fallow. The latter were examined by means of more than 150 shovel tests.

Mile 8:

Between Sections 27 and 28 of Millbrook Township, fields planted in corn and beans were again the rule rather than the exception. Several small tracts of swamp could not be evaluated. Fallow fields and pastures, as well as two small woodlots, were intensively probed, with more than 140 shovel tests being placed. Fields under cultivation were investigated using surface reconnaissance procedures. We recorded the Pole Barn site (HS # 4) and shovel tested the suspected site area.

Mile 9:

Between Sections 33 and 34 of Millbrook Township, numerous residences and outbuildings, together with paved surfaces, prohibited systematic and intensive evaluation along the west side of the highway, with only 70 shovel tests being placed. On the east side, however, large corn fields provided optimal conditions for walk-over survey and a large tract lying in fallow was evaluated by means of 50 shovel tests. The Wernette (HS # 5) and Bush (HS # 6) sites were located and the areas about the initial finds shovel tested. We recorded the 1888

District Schoolhouse located on the county line for local historical consideration and the Houghton House for architectural consideration.

Mile 10:

Between Sections 3 and 4 of Belvidere Township, the surveyors examined numerous erosional cuts, raw areas and cultivated fields using walk-over procedures. Areas where surface visibility was less than 50% were examined by means of 130 shovel tests. The Crane site (HS # 7) was located just south of the county line and the area about the find spot shovel tested.

Mile 11:

Along the ROW in the eastern part of Section 9 of Belvidere Township, heavy residential use has resulted in considerable landscape alteration. Shovel testing was effectively limited to small spaces between buildings and paved areas and to several small, fallow fields. Eighty shovel tests were placed along the west side of the road and another 50 probes were located in fallow areas to the east of the highway. The eastern portion of the ROW was dominated by a large corn field which was subjected to careful walk-over survey. The MCGC 1 site (HS # 8) was recorded and intensively shovel tested. A surface collection was recovered from the corn field where we found the MCGC 2 site (HS # 9). We also made note of the presence of Hillcrest Cemetery in the ROW.

Mile 12:

Along the ROW in the eastern portion of Section 16 of Belvidere Township, surveyors noted that residential distur-

bance and commercial impacts were completely prohibitive to survey procedures. Those few shovel tests which were placed along this segment of the route showed modern disturbance in the form of land filling and debris disposal to extend well below the modern surface wherever wet and/or low-lying areas had previously existed. The Alton Wood Home site (HS # 10) was located on top of a heavily disturbed knoll fronting M-66 on the west. The area adjacent to the observable foundation was carefully shovel tested in order to evaluate the context in which this structural feature occurs.

Our evaluation of the M-66 ROW terminated when the survey team reached the intersection of M-66 and M-46 in the Village of Six Lakes. In the section of the report which follows, those observations briefly noted in the section descriptions above are presented in greater detail.

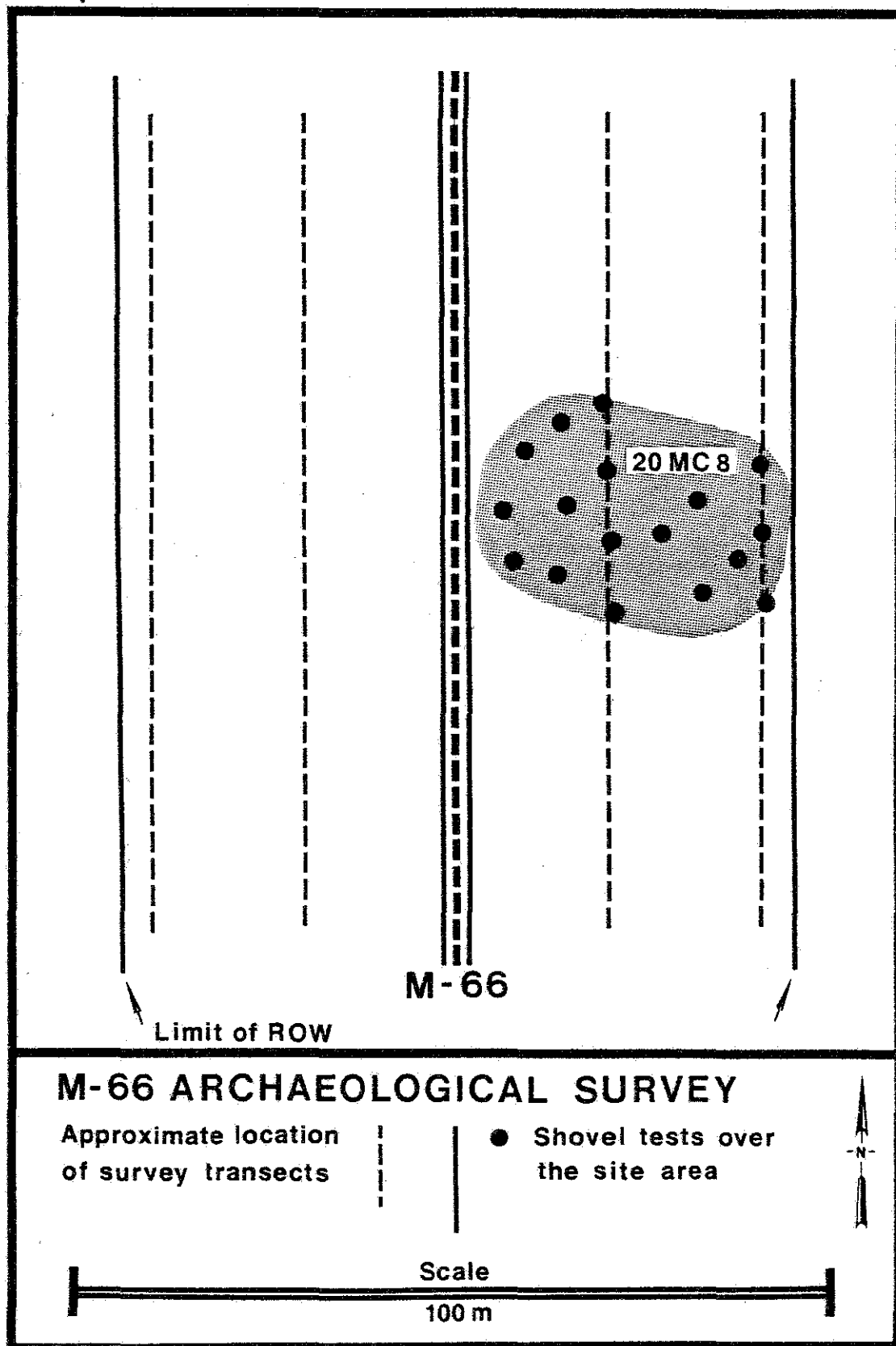
RESULTS OF THE SURVEY:

Archaeological Sites

Moore (20 MC 8):

The site shown on the project map as HS # 1 is represented by a moderate surface scatter of early twentieth century Euro-American material covering an area of about 1200 m² in a bean field on the east side of M-66 (Map 2). It is located 120 m south of the intersection of M-66 and Millbrook Road in the SW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 3, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. There were no indications of structural remains or fruit trees clustered about the site, although these sorts of traces may have been obliterated by the current land use

Map 2. Moore Site.



practices some years ago. While it is possible that a farmhouse (or associated structure) was formerly located here, a thorough search of the available documents did not produce any written description(s) or pictorial representation of the structure. Examination of a series of six platbooks, spanning the period 1879-1978, failed to disclose the presence of any structure during the tenure of five landowners. Alternatively, it may be that this location served area residents as a refuse dump.

Inventory of artifacts (see Plate 1):

Metal

- 1-iron sleeve (5 cm in diameter)
- 1-iron clasp (unidentified)
- 1-square nail
- 1-unidentified iron fragment

Glass

- 8-clear glass fragments
- 5-light green window glass fragments
- 1-light green vessel fragment
- 1-amber glass fragment
- 1-milk glass fragment

Pottery

- 13-white porcelain fragments
- 3-fragments of crockery, 2 of which are brown and the other has a brown interior and beige exterior

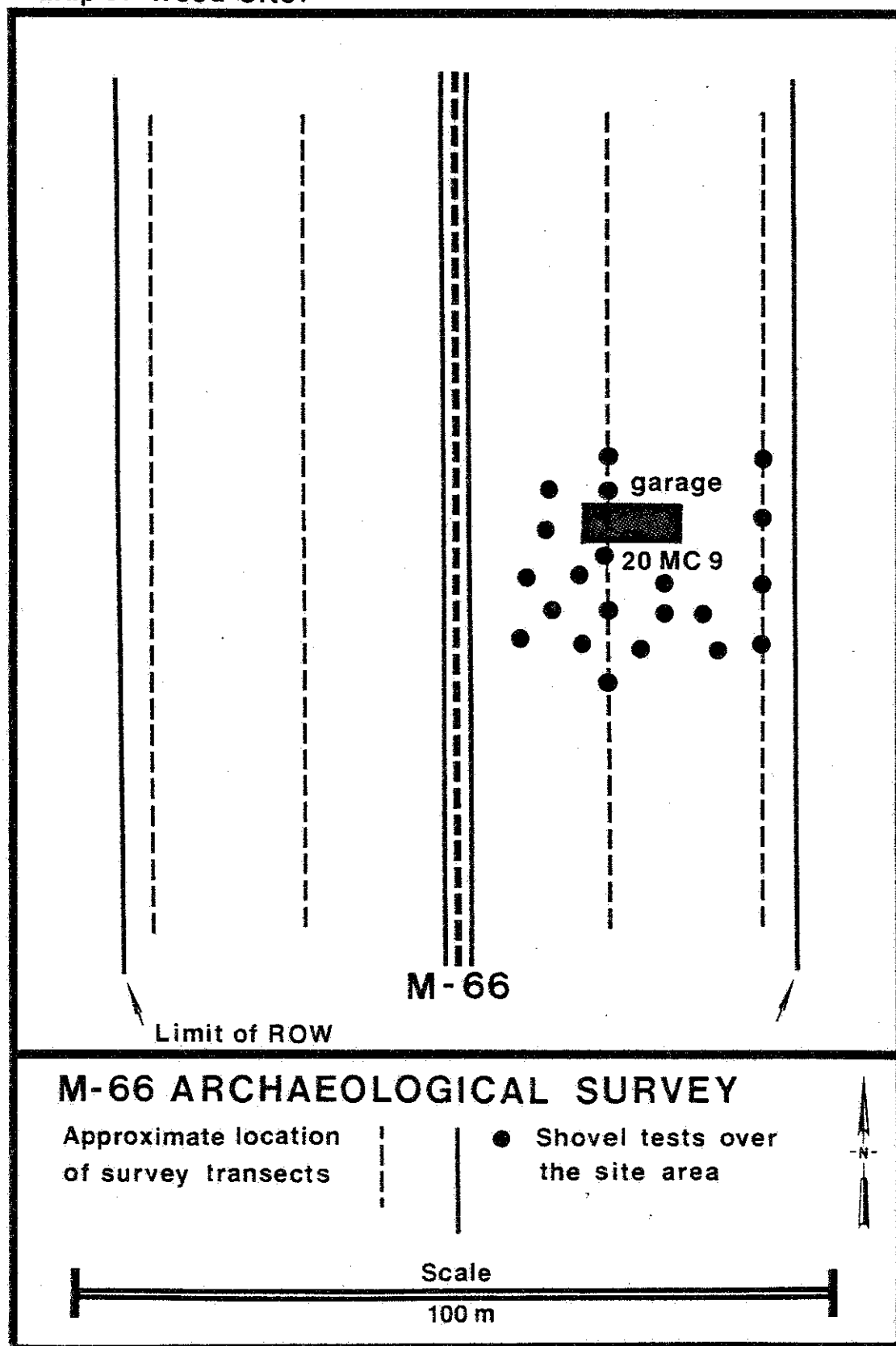
Pipes

- 2-Kaolin stem fragments
- 1-Kaolin stem and bowl fragment with "TROIT" on the right side and "O'DWYER R_" on the left side

Wood (20 MC 9):

This site, HS # 3 on the project map, is characterized by a surface scatter of early twentieth century Euro-American debris on the east side of M-66 about 600 m north of the intersection of Four Mile Road (Map 3). It is located in the NW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 10, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. The site is situated on a small knoll in a cultivated bean field. No evidence

Map 3. Wood Site.



of structural remains was observed in the immediate area of the debris scatter, although it is possible that a farmhouse was formerly located here. The standing structure located adjacent to the site appears to be a garage. Plates 2 and 3 depict the condition of this structure today and also illustrate aspects of its internal construction. Our examination of the county platbooks leads us to believe that the scatter of material may be related to the presence of a house owned by a Mr. J. Moore. This structure appears in the platbook for the year 1900. All subsequent platbooks are silent with respect to the presence of any structure on this site.

Inventory of artifacts (Plates 4 and 5):

Metal

- 1-brass buckle
- 1-large square iron spike
- 1-broken iron file

Pottery

- 8-white and yellow fragments of bone china
- 1-white and yellow fragment marked as follows "Bone China", "CHALLIN" (see Plate 5)
- 1-crockery fragment; a rim with brown interior and gray exterior

Miscellaneous

- 1-coal fragment
- 2-fragments of bone

Glass

- 1-constricted bottle neck fragment with 16 vertical white lines
- 2-clear bottle necks (bitters?); 1 neck is seamed
- 1-clear oval bottle bottom
- 1-clear bottle fragment
- 2-clear fragments with a raised design/decoration
- 2-pink fragments with fluted design
- 1-light green bottle fragment
- 2-clear unidentified fragments
- 1-dark green bottle lip
- 1-light green bottle fragment with lettering "AS" "PATE"
- 1-milk green glass fragment
- 1-milk white glass fragment
- 1-light green bottle fragment with lettering "NKHAM'S" "OMPOUN"
- 2-dark blue glass fragments; 1 is fluted

Wernette (20 MC 10):

The site shown on the project map as HS # 5 was found

10

amidst a cluster of apple and cherry trees on a knoll at the northwest corner of M-66 and Adams Road in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 33, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. This site is situated in very dense undergrowth, making surveyor evaluation very difficult at best. Intensive shovel testing of the area delineated by the trees produced only a single fragment of pottery, and although no structural evidence in the form of a house foundation was observed, surveyors did find the location of a well with the pump still in place (Map 4). In all probability, the site is the location of a former farmhouse. The county platbooks indicate that the home of a Mr. J.H. Goodes was situated here in 1900, and the 1956 platbook shows the site to have been occupied by the residence of Mr. Frank Garner. Thereafter, the site is shown as being abandoned. No written or pictorial descriptions of the structure(s) or property were found in the literature and documents examined.

Inventory of artifacts:

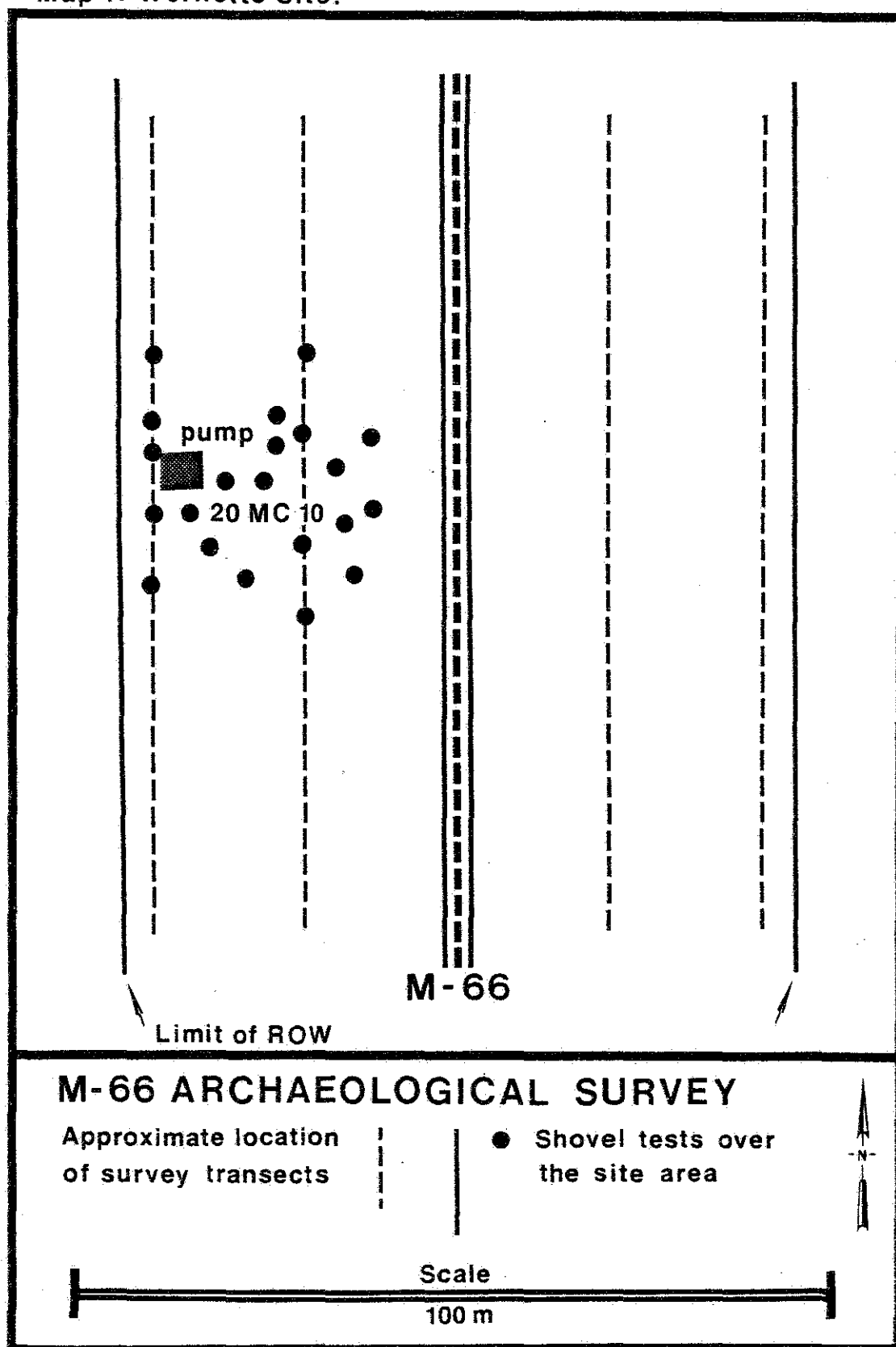
Pottery

1-white porcelain fragment

Bush (20 MC 11):

The site shown as HS # 6 on the project map is also represented by a surface scatter of early twentieth century Euro-American debris occurring in a fallow field on the east side of M-66 about 200 m south of Black Creek and immediately north of Washington Road in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 34, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. Shovel testing of this location produced a number of historic

Map 4. Wernette Site.



artifacts but no evidence of structural remains (Map 5). Activities occurring here may be associated with the old farmhouse (Houghton House, Plate 16) situated on the opposite side of the road (Map 1), albeit this interpretation could not be confirmed through interviewing the present occupant. Examination of the literature did not produce any written or pictorial descriptions of the site. However, the 1879 platbook did show this location to be near the residence of a Mr. W. Thair and the 1900 platbook strongly suggests that the location producing the artifactual material corresponds very nicely with the house site of a Mr. F. Kimmel. All subsequent platbooks fail to disclose the presence of any structure on or near this site.

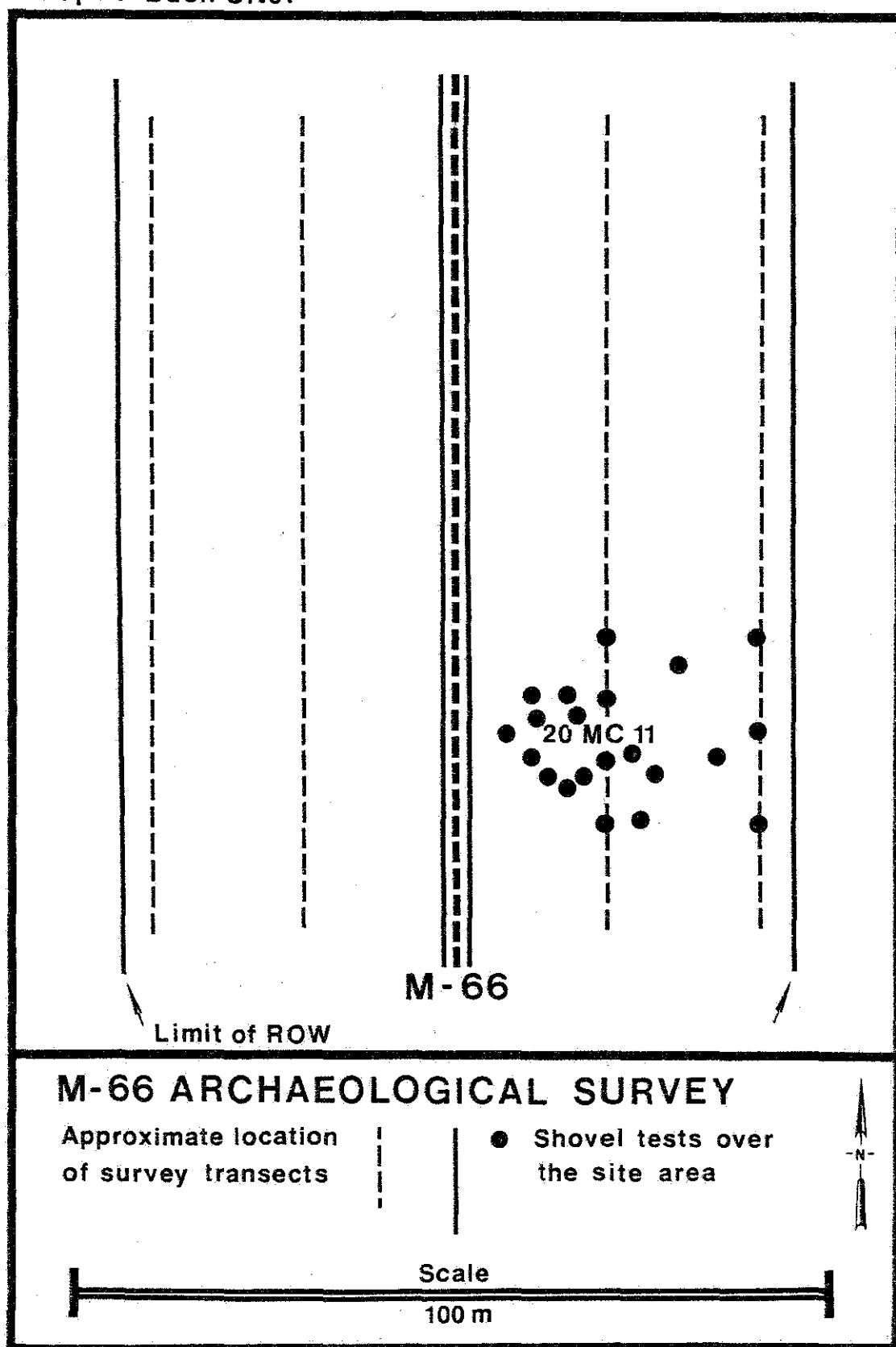
Inventory of artifacts (Plate 7):

Metal	Glass
2- square nails	1-unidentified fragment
1-round nail	of clear glass
1-flat head screw	
4-unidentified fragments of tin	Pottery
	3-white porcelain sherds;
	1 exhibits an oak leaf pattern
	1-brown glaze earthenware fragment
	3-orange drain tile fragments

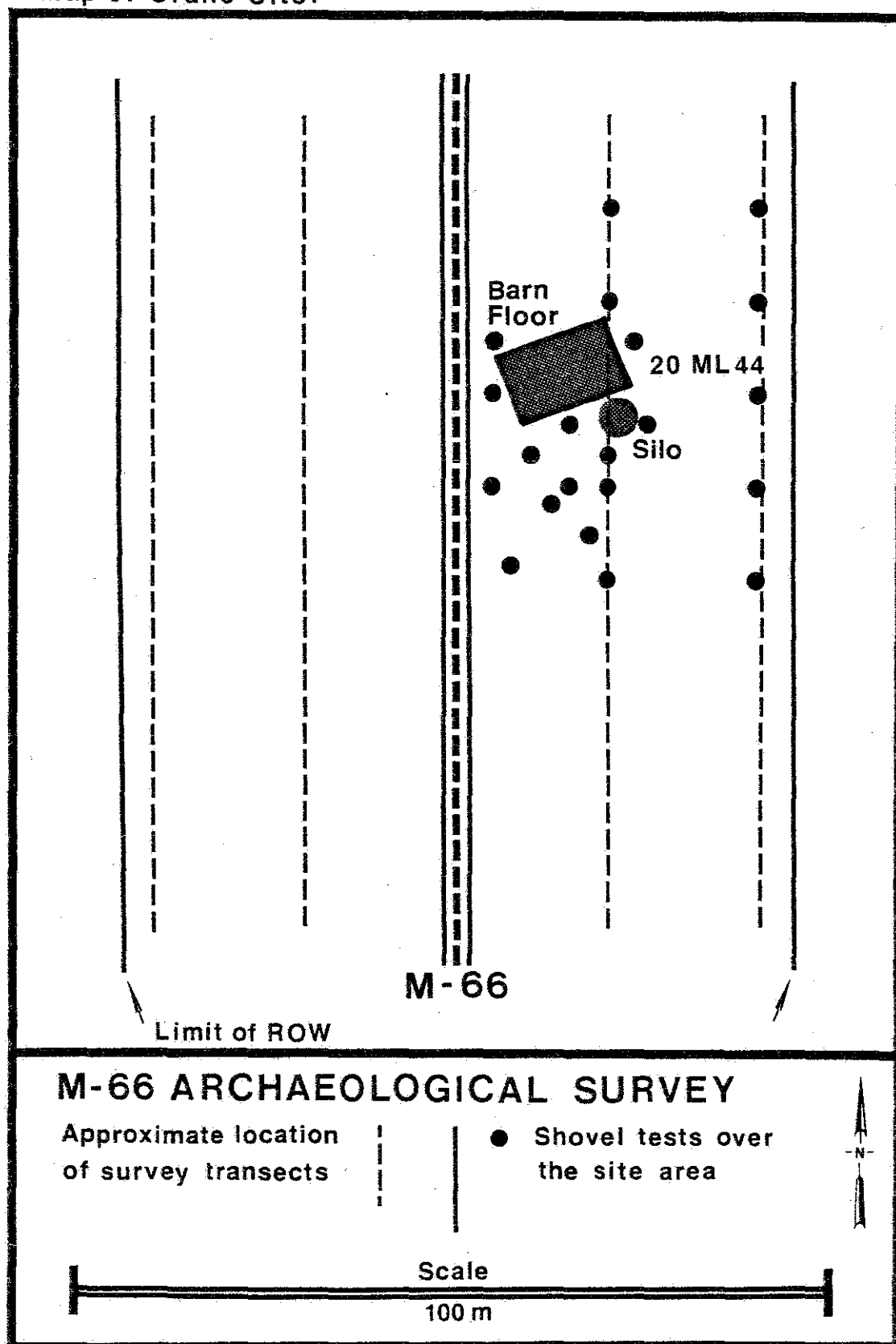
Crane (20 ML 44):

This site, HS # 7 on the project map, is represented by a cement slab (barn floor) and circular silo foundation (Map 6). It is located at the southeast corner of M-66 and Eisenhower Road in the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 3, Belvidere Township (T12N, R7W), Montcalm County.

Map 5. Bush Site.



Map 6. Crane Site.

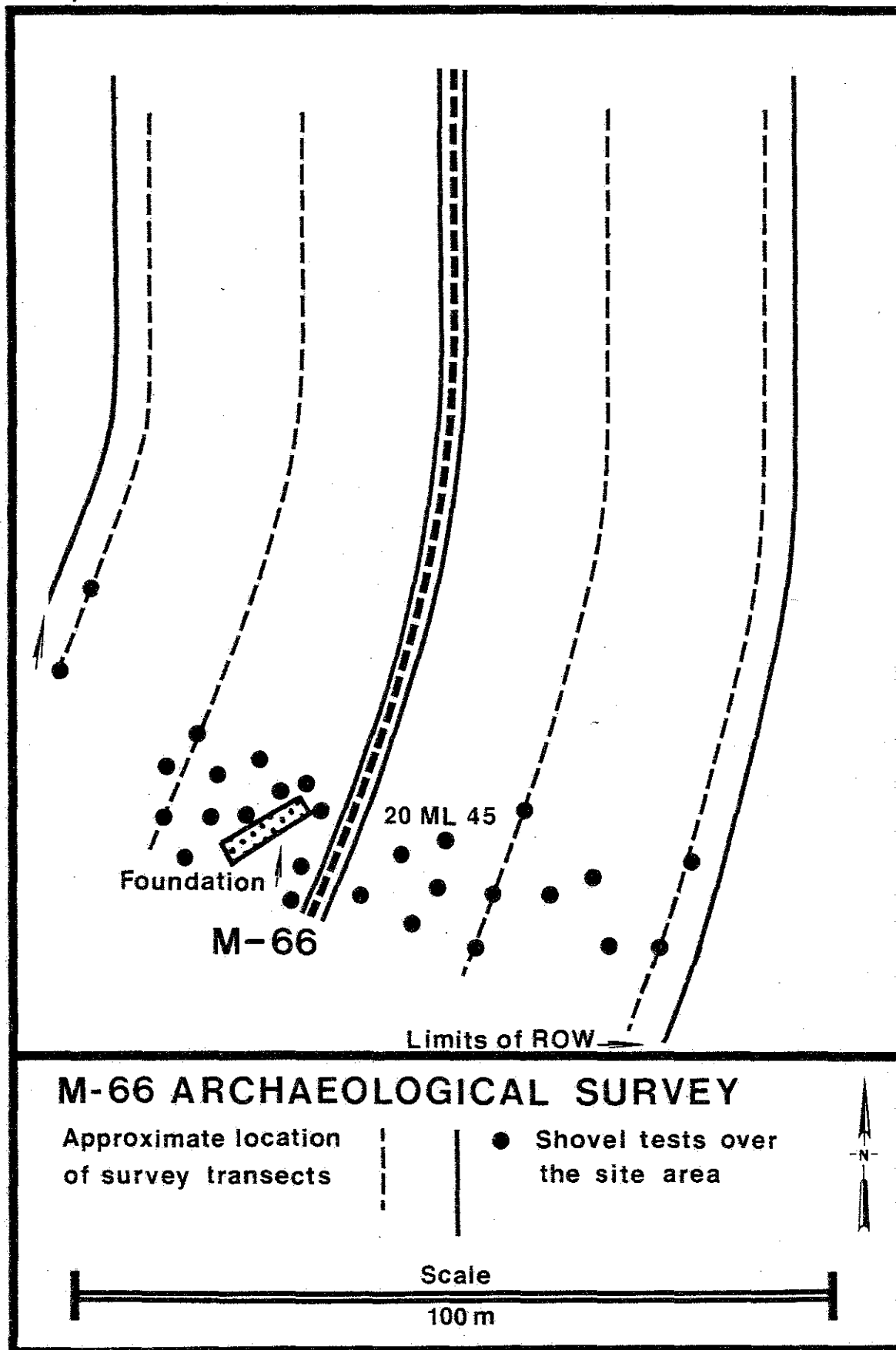


No standing structures were observed on the property nor were any artifacts recovered during surface reconnaissance or shovel testing of the general area. Local informants indicated that this was the location of the Crane Farm, and that the structural remains observed by surveyors were former outbuildings. The literature search failed to produce any written or pictorial descriptions of the location. However, from an examination of the platbooks we have concluded that the structural remains represent the farmstead formerly owned by the Fouts Family. The 1897 platbook shows this site to have been the location of the farm of Mr. J.W. Fouts, and the platbook for 1921 indicates that the farmstead was owned and occupied by Mr. W.H. Fouts. Thereafter, the platbooks are silent with respect to the presence of structures on the site. The cement slab which surveyors observed on the Crane site is pictured in Plate 8.

MCGC 1 (20 ML 45):

The site recorded as HS # 8 on the project map was located amidst a cluster of pear, apple and cherry trees and raspberry bushes located on both the east and west sides of M-66 in the center, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 9, Belvidere Township (T12N, R7W), Montcalm County. A fieldstone foundation occurs among the fruit trees on the west side of the highway (Map 7). No other structural remains or artifactual materials were encountered during the shovel testing of this site. Surveyors learned that the

Map 7. MCGC 1 Site.



farm formerly located here was razed during the late 1960s when M-66 was rerouted through this property, but whether this was the cause of its abandonment could not be precisely ascertained. Examination of relevant documents and literature did not produce any pictures of the former structure(s). During the past 100 years, the property has been occupied by at least five different landowners. The county platbooks do not, however, show any structures located where the survey team encountered the foundation.

MCGC 2 (20 ML 46):

The site referred to as HS # 9 on the project map is represented by a surface scatter of early twentieth century Euro-American debris occupying an area of about 400 m² in a corn field on the east side of M-66 and north of and adjacent to Hillcrest Cemetery in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 9, Belvidere Township (T12N, R7W), Montcalm County. Because of the excellent surface visibility, shovel testing amounted to no more than examination of the soil profile on the site. The material collected was all acquired through walk-over survey. No structural remains were observed although it seems likely that a farmhouse once stood here. A thorough search of the literature failed to produce any written or pictorial descriptions of the site. Examination of the platbooks indicates that through 1921 this location was not occupied by a residence. In 1965 it is shown to be the site of the Arvid Crane home. Thereafter, it appears that the site was abandoned and, presumably, the house was either razed or removed to another location.

Inventory of artifacts (Plate 9):

Metal

1-square nail

Pottery

14-white porcelain fragments;

2 have blue decorations

1-milk white fragment

6-crockery fragments; 1 is
beige and 5 are brown in
color

1-orange drain tile fragment

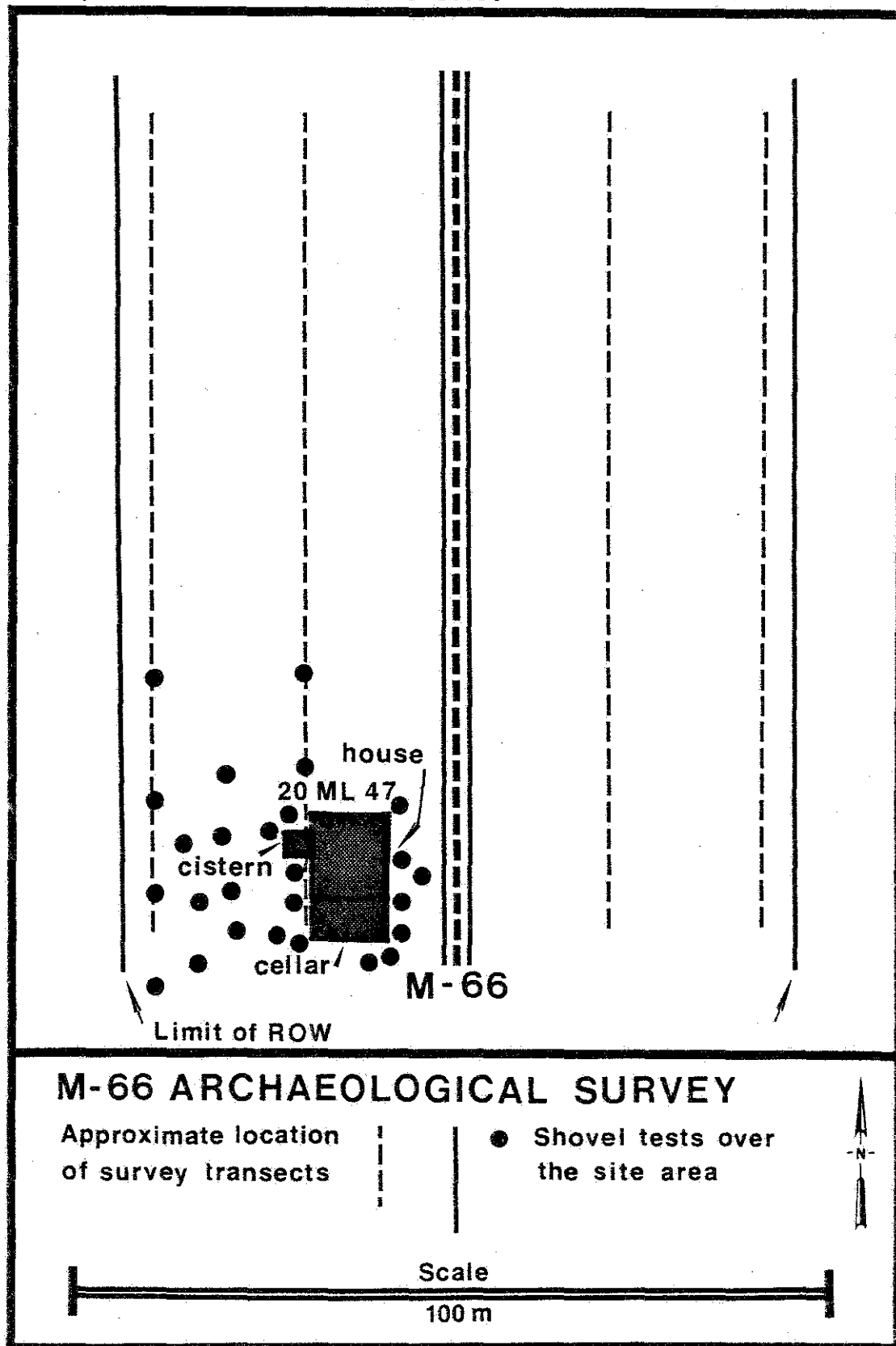
Glass

1-light green window glass
fragment1-clear fluted edge bottle
fragment1-dark purple textured
fragment

Alton Wood Home (20 ML 47):

The site shown as HS # 10 on the project map consists of a fieldstone and cement foundation (Plate 10) situated on a small knoll overlooking the intersection of M-66 and Fleck Road in the Village of Six Lakes in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 16, Belvidere Township (T12N, R7W), Montcalm County. Although no standing structure exists, the house foundation, measuring 9 m X 12 m , together with a fieldstone cellar and concrete cistern, is quite visible in the tall grass and brush covering the site (Map 8). A local informant told us that the house was occupied by Mr. Alton Wood, and that it was razed during the 1940s when Fleck Road was constructed. This street passes by the house at a distance of about 10 m to the south. Our intensive examination of the property through shovel testing did not produce any cultural material and follow-up examination of the literature failed to provide either written or pictorial descriptions of the site. In all probability, the structural remains can be associated with the occupation of the property by the Wood Family. Platbooks dating to the late nineteenth century and

Map 8. Alton Wood Home Site.



early twentieth century do not show any structures on this location until 1921. In that year the home of Mr. G. Wood is shown to have occupied the site. Platbooks postdating the 1940s, the time during which our informant indicated that the house was destroyed, show only that the former Wood property has since been subdivided into small tracts.

Probable Homestead Sites Yielding No Archaeological Material

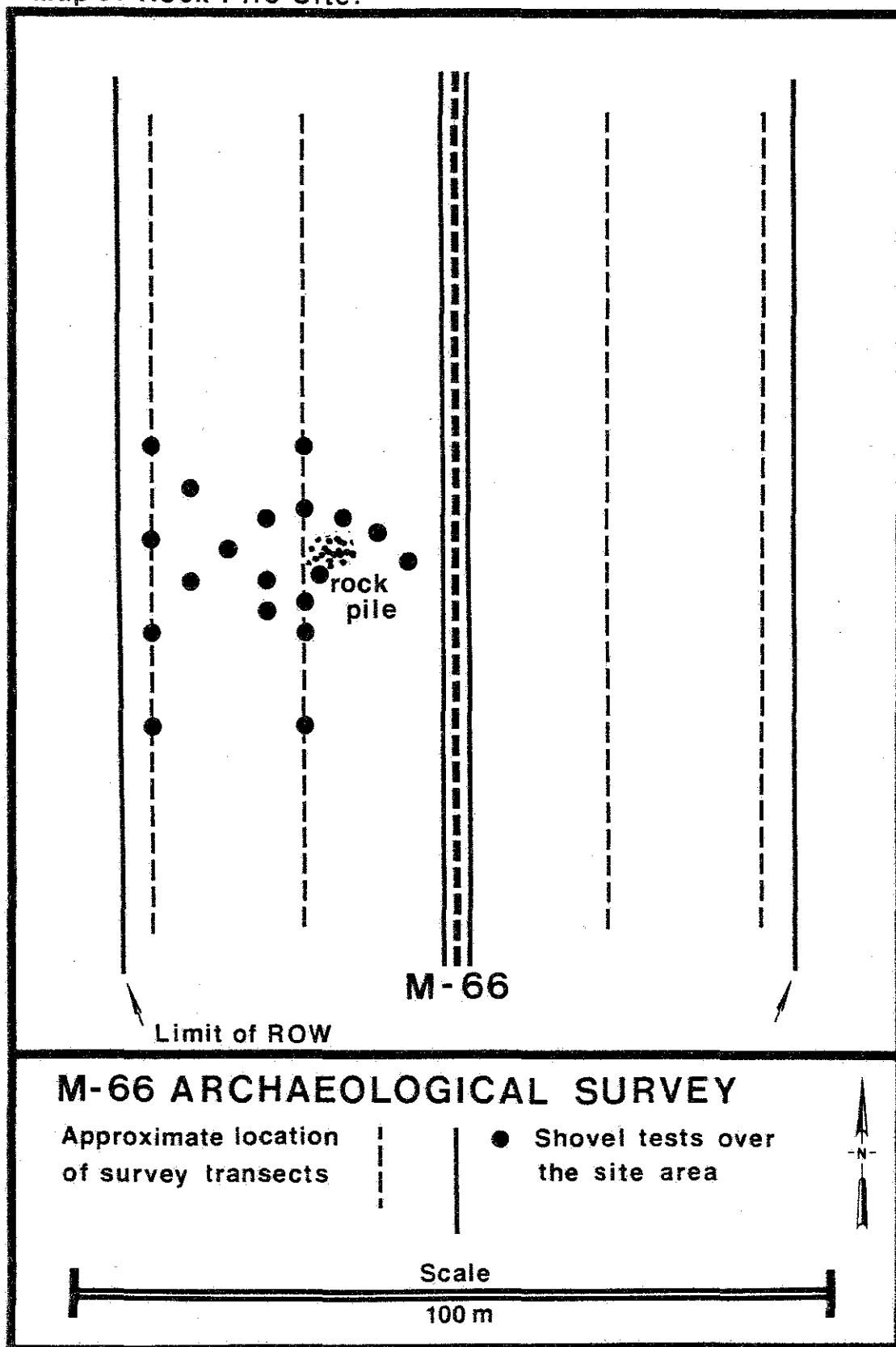
Rock Pile:

The location shown as HS # 2 on the project map is represented by a cluster of apple trees and a rock pile at the northwest corner of M-66 and Six Mile Road in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 33, Wheatland Township (T14N, R7W), Mecosta County. This probable site occupies a small knoll and is overgrown with tall grass and thick brambles. Shovel testing in the area bounded by the trees failed to produce any cultural debris and no structural remains were observed (Map 9). The documents did not yield any written or pictorial descriptions of structures, but examination of the platbooks did reveal that the home of Mr. Jessie Wisnor occupied the site in 1900 and, more recently, the residences of the VanHartesnell (1956) and Ossman (1978) families were located here.

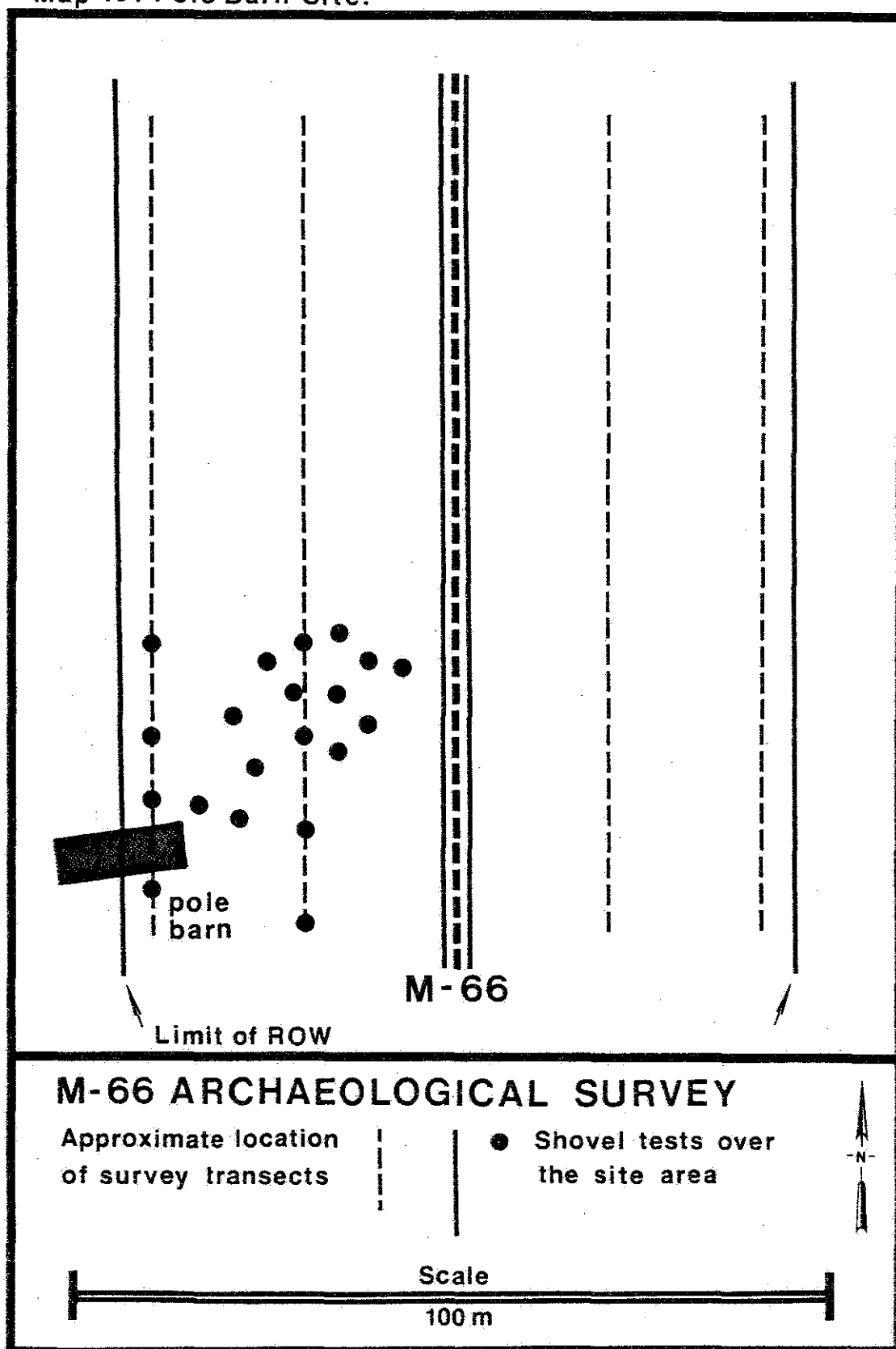
Pole Barn:

The location shown as HS # 4 on the project map is also represented by a cluster of apple trees on a knoll northeast of an old outbuilding (Map 10). This pole barn is depicted in Plate 6.

Map 9. Rock Pile Site.



Map 10. Pole Barn Site.



The site of this probable farmstead is on the west side of M-66 about 600 m south of Two Mile Road in the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 28, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. The land surface about the fruit trees and the barn is overgrown with tall grass, and intensive shovel testing of this location failed to produce any evidence of former structures or cultural material. Based upon the data provided by the series of platbooks which we examined, we are inclined to believe that this site is the former location of a house owned by Mr. Henry Houghton. Mr. Houghton is the landowner of record as far back as the 1920s, and the platbook for 1956 places his home on this knoll. Prior to the Houghton occupation, platbooks are silent with respect to the presence of a structure on the site. After 1956, the platbooks suggest that the house which formerly stood here was either razed or removed from this location.

Standing Structures In The M-66 ROW:

Wood House:

The structure located on the project map and illustrated in Plate 11 is the 98 year old residence of Mr. Ralph Wood. It is situated on the west side of M-66 in the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 9, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. Mr. Wood owns 80 acres of land which has long been known as "Wood's Sugar Bush" and produces maple sugar in season. The house in question was built by his family in 1882. Numerous structural modifications have been made to the original house over the years.

1888 District Schoolhouse (20 MC 12):

The location of this structure is shown on the project map and it is pictured in Plate 12. It is a one room school situated at the corner of M-66 and Eisenhower Road in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 34, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. A sign located on the front of the building reads as follows: "1888 School Dist. No. 8, Twps. Millbrook and Belvidere". A surface collection of cultural material was recovered from the corn field located immediately adjacent to the schoolhouse on the north. Because of its proximity to the structure, we have assumed that the scatter of cultural debris and the schoolhouse are associated and have inventoried this material below. No shovel testing was undertaken on this occasion.

Inventory of artifacts (Plates 13 and 14):

Metal

- 1-brass strip
- 1-round iron spike
- 1-iron plate with a spiral design
- 2-square nails

Pottery

- 14-white porcelain fragments; 1 bearing a blue decoration and another with a design in pink
- 1-milk white fragment
- 4-crockery fragments; 2 are brown and the others have a brown interior and beige-brown exterior

Glass

- 4-clear window fragments
- 8-light green bottle fragments
- 3-light purple bottle fragments; 1 exhibits lettering as follows: "MEDIC" "MIC"
- 3-clear textured pieces
- 2-amber glass fragments

Miscellaneous

- 1-electric fence insulator fragment
- 1-fragment of bone
- 1-coal fragment

Millbrook Township Hall:

The building located on the project map and pictured in Plate 15 is located at the southwest corner of M-66 and

Jackson Road in the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 16, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. A sign above the entrance to the hall reads: "Millbrook Town Hall, 1894-1941". According to a local informant, the building was moved back from the highway about 12 m and placed upon a new foundation in 1941. Extensive remodeling of the interior has been undertaken during the past two decades and the hall is still in active use for both township functions and social affairs such as wedding receptions.

Houghton House:

The residence located on the project map and shown in Plate 16 is a two-story farmhouse situated at the northwest corner of M-66 and Washington Road in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 33, Millbrook Township (T13N, R7W), Mecosta County. The Bush site (20 MC 11; HS # 6 on the project map) is located on the east side of the highway immediately across from this presently occupied residence, and it is possible that the two are related. Some exterior remodeling of this house is evident, as the front door appears to have been removed from its original location and reset about three meters to the north. Early twentieth century platbooks show that this house and the property on which it stands were owned by Mr. Henry Houghton. The most recent platbook gives the owners as Eldon and Onalee Houghton. We have been unable to determine precisely when the house was erected, but all visible indications suggest an age of 80-90 years for the structure.

Residence at 276 Sheridan Street in Remus:

The very attractive structure pictured in Plate 19 is today a family residence, but a concrete slab in the foundation indicates that it was erected in 1907 to serve as the Travelers Inn. Our evaluation of the literature relating to the history of the Village of Remus and the surrounding area did not produce any information regarding the role of this inn nor did local residents have much to say about its place in the social climate of the village during the early twentieth century. From an architectural standpoint, this structure fronting on M-66 is perhaps the finest (i.e. well preserved and maintained) example of an early twentieth century building we observed during our on-site evaluation of the M-66 project area.

Special Activity Areas (Cemeteries):

Wamboldt Cemetery:

The project map shows the location of this cemetery as being at the southwest corner of M-66 and Pierce Road, 2.4 km south of Remus and in the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 28, Wheatland Township (T14N, R7W), Mecosta County. It is pictured in Plate 17. The earliest dated tombstone observed read A.D. 1880. And numerous grave markers indicate that this cemetery is still in active use today. A very large portion of this site lies within the proposed ROW and may be impacted by road widening activities. However, all of the alternatives which are being considered along this corridor will avoid Wamboldt Cemetery.

Hillcrest Cemetery:

This country cemetery is located on the east side of M-66 just south of Yankee Road and approximately 1.3 km north of Six Lakes in the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 9, Belvidere Township (T12N, R7W), Montcalm County (see Map 1). It is shown in Plate 18. The earliest grave marker found read A.D. 1871. We also observed many tombstones bearing the familiar "G.A.R.", indicating the graves of Civil War veterans who had served in the Grand Army of the Republic. This cemetery is also still in active use today and a significant portion of it lies within the M-66 ROW. As is the case with Wamboldt Cemetery, the several alternatives which are being considered along this corridor will avoid Hillcrest Cemetery.

SIGNIFICANCE OF OBSERVATIONS:

Our literature and documents search and on-site examination of the M-66 ROW between the communities of Six Lakes and Remus, Michigan have failed to produce good evidence of prehistoric or historic aboriginal occupation of the project area. We have, however, located traces of turn-of-the-century and early twentieth century settlement in the form of a series of eight historic archaeological sites, two probable farmsteads which yielded no archaeological material, five standing structures, including a school which can be associated with a surface collection of cultural debris from an adjacent field, and two country cemeteries.

With respect to the standing structures discussed above and illustrated in plates at the end of this report, further

archaeological attention is unwarranted. Rather, we recommend that an architectural historian evaluate the Wood and Houghton houses, the residence in the Village of Remus formerly known as the Travelers Inn and the 1888 District Schoolhouse on the Montcalm-Mecosta county line.

The Millbrook Township Hall and Wamboldt and Hillcrest cemeteries are sites of some importance in the social fabric of the communities which they have long served. Prior to the commencement of any construction activity which might adversely impact these sites, it is recommended that their significance to area residents be evaluated by a specialist in the field of social impact assessment.

Our discovery and examination through surface reconnaissance and an intensive program of shovel testing of 10 sites which are interpreted to represent the former locations of late historic farmsteads, has produced little hard evidence upon which to base a final judgement as to their potential significance as archaeological resources. In fact, two of them did not even produce any archaeological material. To a person, members of this experienced project survey team felt that little information beyond that which was accumulated at the time of their discovery would be gained through the initiation of costly Phase II test excavations. Therefore, rather than intensify our fieldwork effort beyond Phase I survey procedures, we elected to first consult authorities regarding the sorts of information which would be required to make a determination of significance, and in this manner perhaps avoid unnecessary or unwarranted test excavation of these site loci.

Consultation with the Office of State Archaeologist indicated that any determination of importance for historic sites ultimately rested with application of established National Register criteria of significance. According to the guidelines as set forth by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (Jandl and Cole 1975), criteria to be relied on include a determination as to whether:

1. the site and specifically any associated structure possesses architectural significance;
2. the structure or its owner is historically significant in terms of the growth and development of the region or locale in which the site occurs; and
3. the use to which the site and associated structure were put prior to abandonment/destruction warrants explication as unusual, unique or even possessing especially good representative qualities.

And, clearly, our field observations and initial literature/documents search left reasonable doubt as to whether the application of standard archaeological recovery procedures would result in the acquisition of information appropriate for making such a determination.

To assist us in the acquisition of necessary data we further consulted staff members of the State Archives in Lansing, the WMU Archives and the Regional History Collections maintained in the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. In addition, we actively sought the assistance of residents of the project area associated with the public libraries and/or museums in the

two communities lying within the study area. In this way we hoped to be able to:

1. secure the name(s) of the person who occupied the site and constructed the house and/or outbuildings associated with the cultural material we had found;
2. learn whether any of these individuals had ever attained significant standing in the community;
3. precisely ascertain when the structure was erected, how it was used, when it was razed or moved and, if possible, why;
4. gain some insight (i.e. a description) as to the physical characteristics of the structure; and
5. determine whether the former structure possessed any historical or architectural significance.

Following the advise of archivists, we initiated this phase of our research by securing access to all available platbooks for the three townships in question. Several trips to the Clarke Historical Library, well known for its collection of Michigan atlases and platbooks, produced the following:

1. Wheatland and Millbrook Townships were represented by platbooks for the years 1879, 1900, 192_, 193_, 1956 and 1978; and
2. Belvidere Township platbooks were available for the years 1875, 1897, 1913, 1921, 1965 and 1980.

During our examination of these platbooks, special attention was given to any structure depicted as being on or near the sites recorded by surveyors in order that we might precisely ascertain the time of construction and ownership. We

did observe in almost every instance some apparent correlation between surveyor site locations and the placement of a structure presumed to be the residence of the landowner indicated in the previous section of the report containing site descriptions. However, we also noted some inconsistencies. For example, a building which might appear on the site in both an earlier and later map was frequently omitted from platbooks published during intervening years. Consequently, we remain somewhat suspicious of locational data provided by this source and have relied on platbook data only when supportive information from other sources consulted during our archival research or verification from reliable area residents has been forthcoming.

The list of former landowners compiled from the platbooks we examined did provide another potentially important avenue of investigation; one which the archivists with whom we spoke felt just might produce evidence which would assist us in making a determination of significance. Following visits to the Clarke Historical Library, the junior author spent several days in the county courthouses located in Big Rapids (Mecosta) and Stanton (Montcalm). Using the names of landowners, in some cases together with precise property descriptions, as a point of entry, an attempt was made to extract information from the following sorts of records:

1. grantor-grantee indices and extant land abstracts available from the County Registrar of Deeds;
2. specific descriptions of real and personal property from the deceased estate records maintained by the Probate Court;

3. tax roll records which might produce information which would firm up the ownership of real property;
4. special census schedules prepared by the Federal Government at decade intervals and which might provide information regarding structures situated on a particular parcel of land;
5. appraiser's warrants and/or inventories which, because they are based on probate records, might provide an overview of personal and real property; and
6. any other sorts of documents regarding local/regional history which might be maintained at the courthouses and which might shed some light on the persons and parcels of property for which we were seeking information.

After a concerted effort to secure appropriate materials for making a determination of significance, involving seven days of difficult research on the part of the junior author, we must report insignificant findings. For example, working through deceased estate records, we found that only three of 34 landowners associated with the site locations recorded by surveyors left estates which were probated. These were: Mr. John Lett, who is the owner of record of the Moore site (20 MC 8) according to the 1879 platbook; Mr. Edward Higbee, owner of the property on which we located the MCGC 2 site (20 ML 46), according to the platbooks published in 1913 and 1921; and Mr. George Wood, who built the house we recorded as the Alton Wood Home site (20 ML 47) and was the occupant of record in 1921. Unfortunately, while these records did enumerate personal property, no description of the structure

occupying the property of the deceased was included in the records.

With respect to the historical significance of the 34 landowners, our thorough examination of local and county historical documents revealed that none warranted more than the briefest of mention in those sources consulted. And in no case did we come upon a description, either written or pictorial, of their property or any structure which occupied the land. In this regard we must conclude that each of the sites recorded by the survey team represents no more than a typical small farmstead occupied by a person (and family) who did not attain a significant level of visibility in the historical developments of his/her time. And, parenthetically, this aspect of our investigation also failed to produce the slightest evidence indicating that the Travelers Inn, 1888 District Schoolhouse or the Millbrook Township Hall are of potential historic value.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

In the final analysis, the recommendations which follow reflect the condition in which the sites were found by the survey team during on-site examination of the M-66 ROW, the nature of the material culture remains recovered by surveyors from the surface of the sites or through shovel testing, not test excavation of the sites, the very apparent recent age of the sites and the absence of documentary information supporting an interpretation of potential significance for both the sites and their owners of record. Our recommendations are as follows:

Moore Site (20 MC 8): no impact

Wood Site (20 MC 9): no impact

Given the very interesting aspects of internal construction exhibited by the old garage located adjacent to the site, we do recommend that an architectural historian examine this structure.

Wernette Site (20 MC 10): no impact

Bush Site (20 MC 11): no impact

Crane Site (20 ML 44): no impact

MCGC 1 Site (20 ML 45): no impact

MCGC 2 Site (20 ML 46): no impact

Alton Wood Home Site (20 ML 47): no impact

Rock Pile Site: no impact

Pole Barn Site: no impact

Wood House: evaluation by architectural historian

1888 District Schoolhouse (20 MC 12): evaluation by architectural historian

Millbrook Township Hall: evaluate for social impact

Houghton House: evaluation by architectural historian

Residence at 276 Sheridan Street in Remus: evaluation by architectural historian

Wamboldt Cemetery: evaluate for social impact should alignment selected threaten this site

Hillcrest Cemetery: evaluate for social impact should alignment selected threaten this site

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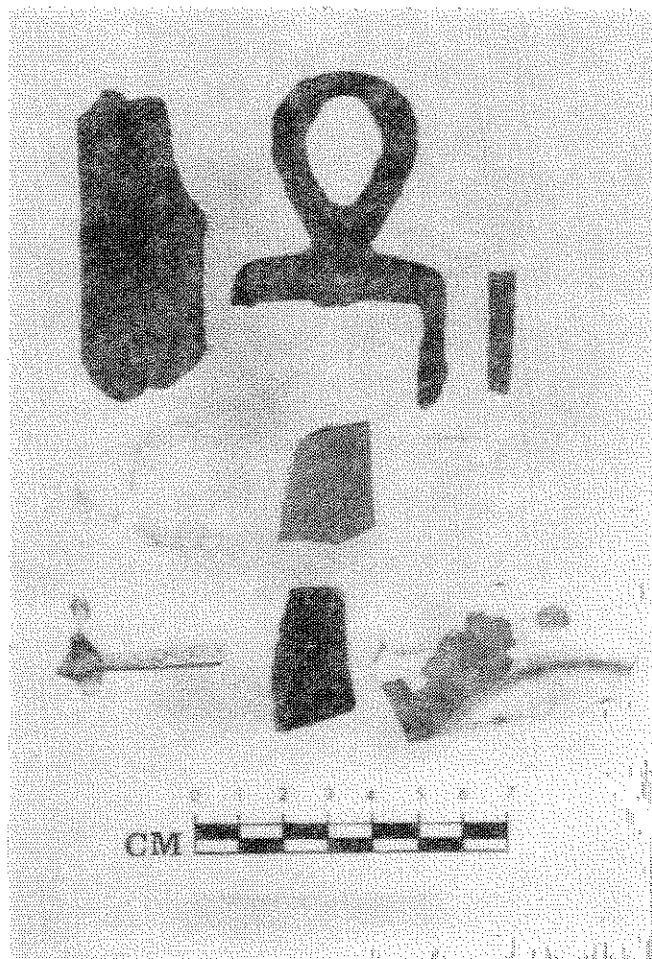


PLATE 1: Artifacts from historic site #1.



PLATE 2: Old shed adjacent to historic site #3.



PLATE 3: Details of internal construction of old shed near historic site #3.

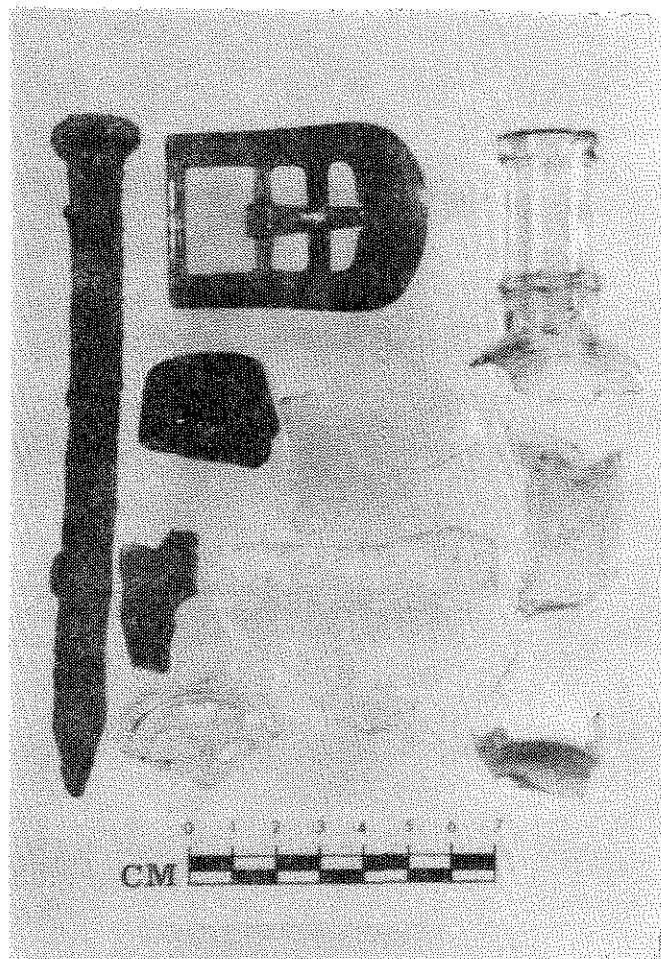


PLATE 4: Artifacts from historic site #3.

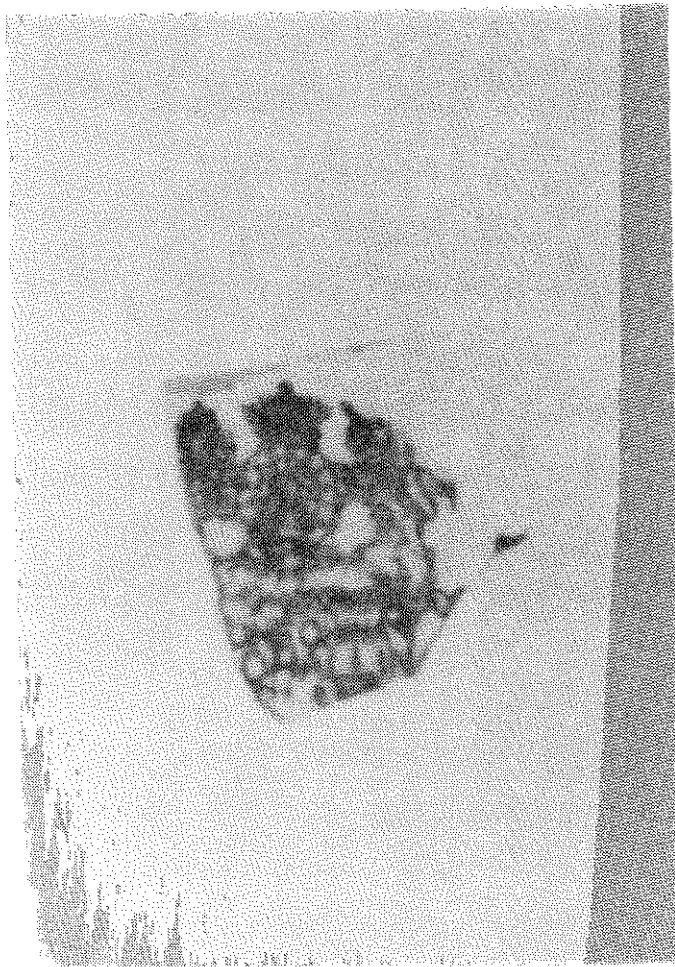


PLATE 5: Artifact from historic site #3.

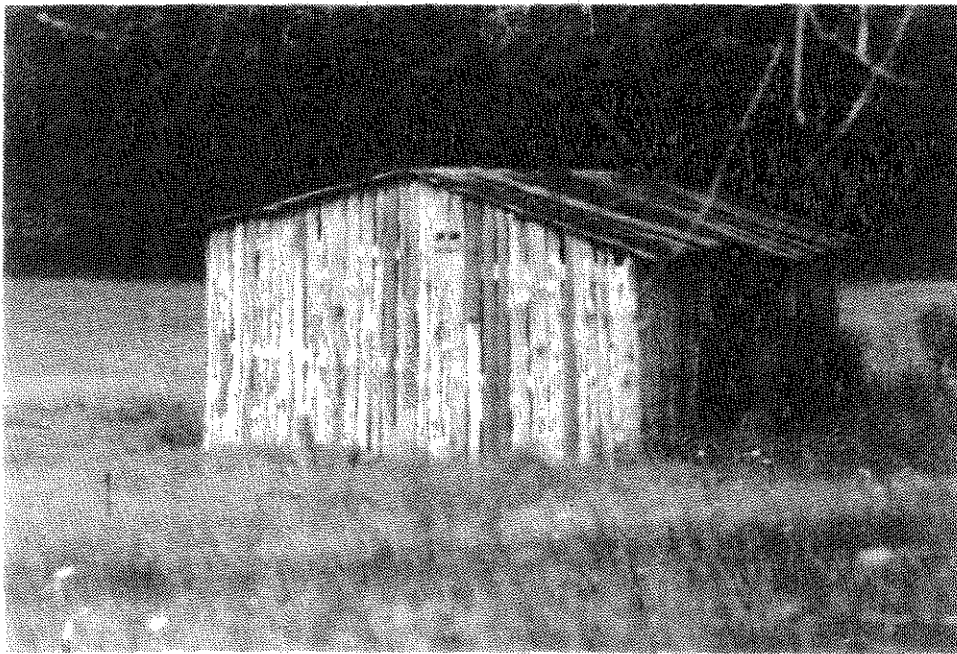


PLATE 6: Old pole barn adjacent to historic site #4.

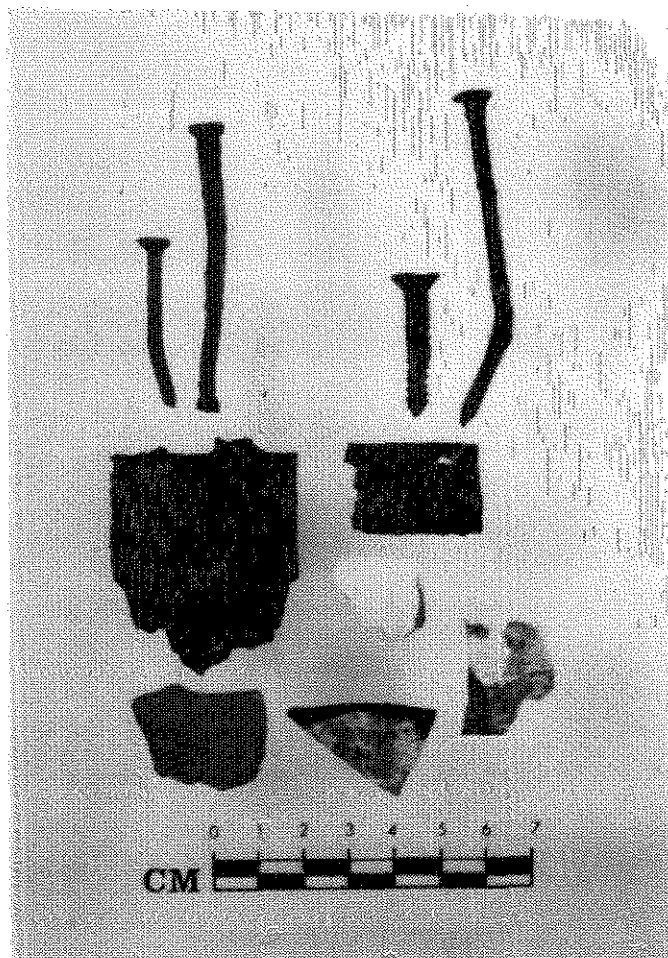


PLATE 7: Artifacts from historic site #6.



PLATE 8: Partial foundation of outbuilding on Crane farm.

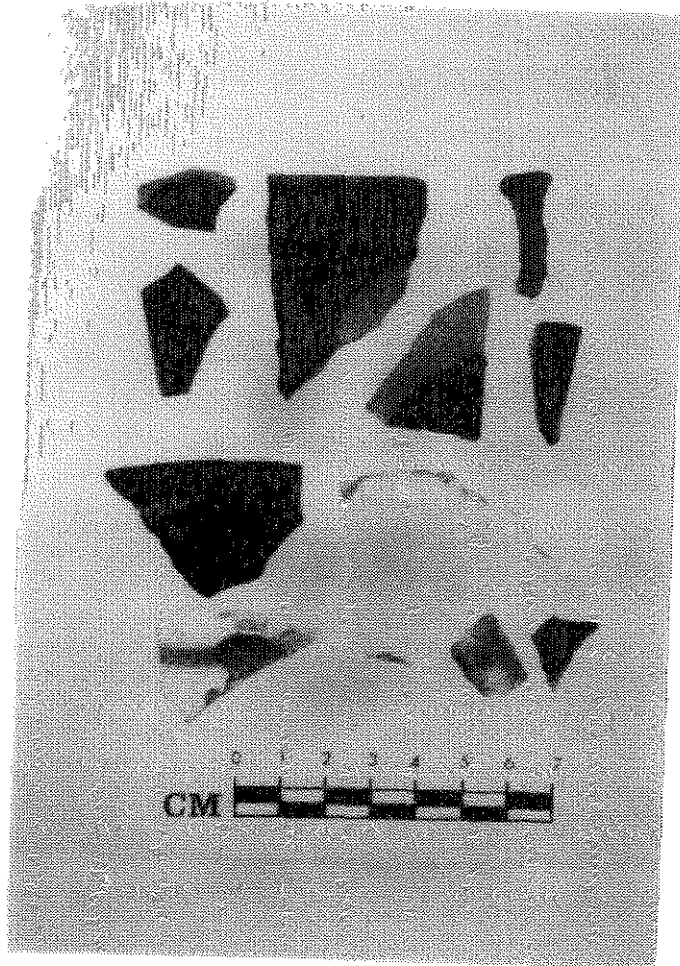


PLATE 9: Artifacts from historic site #9.



PLATE 10: Foundation of house on historic site #10.



PLATE 11: Wood House.

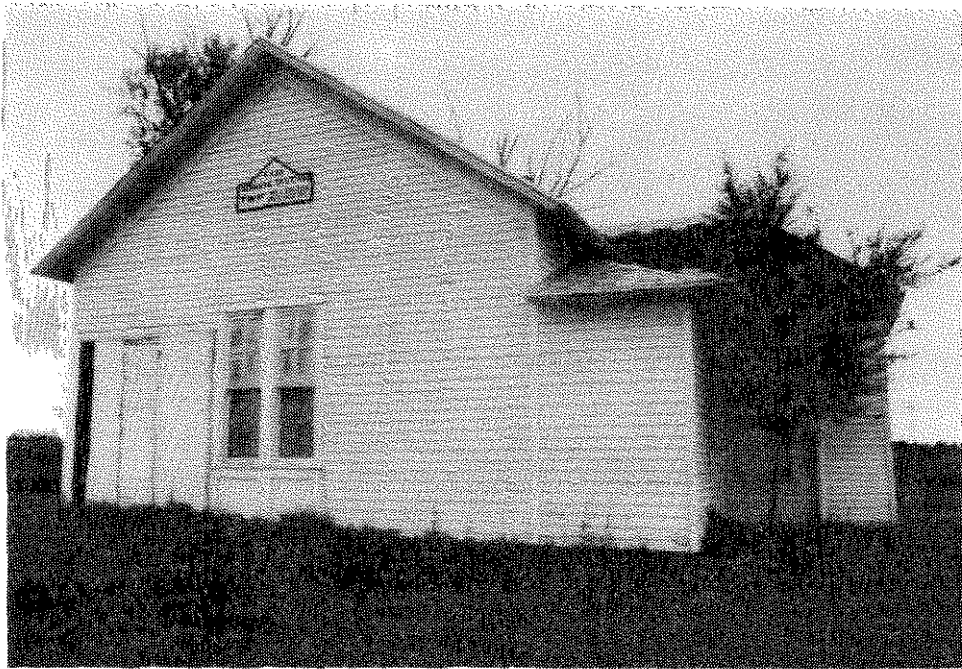


PLATE 12: 1888 District Schoolhouse, Millbrook and Belvidere townships.

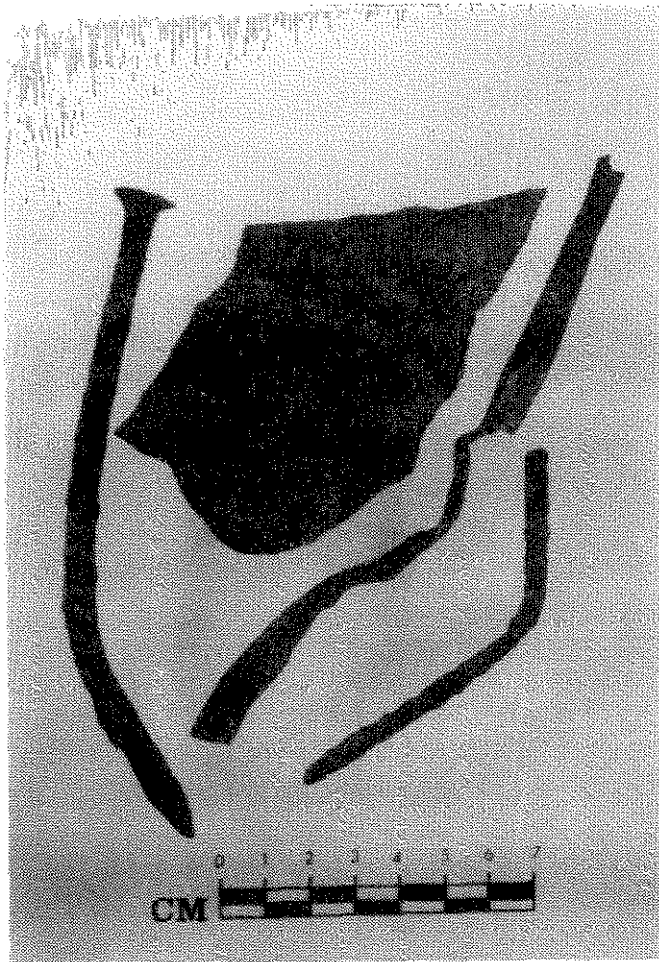


PLATE 13: Artifacts found in field adjacent to schoolhouse.

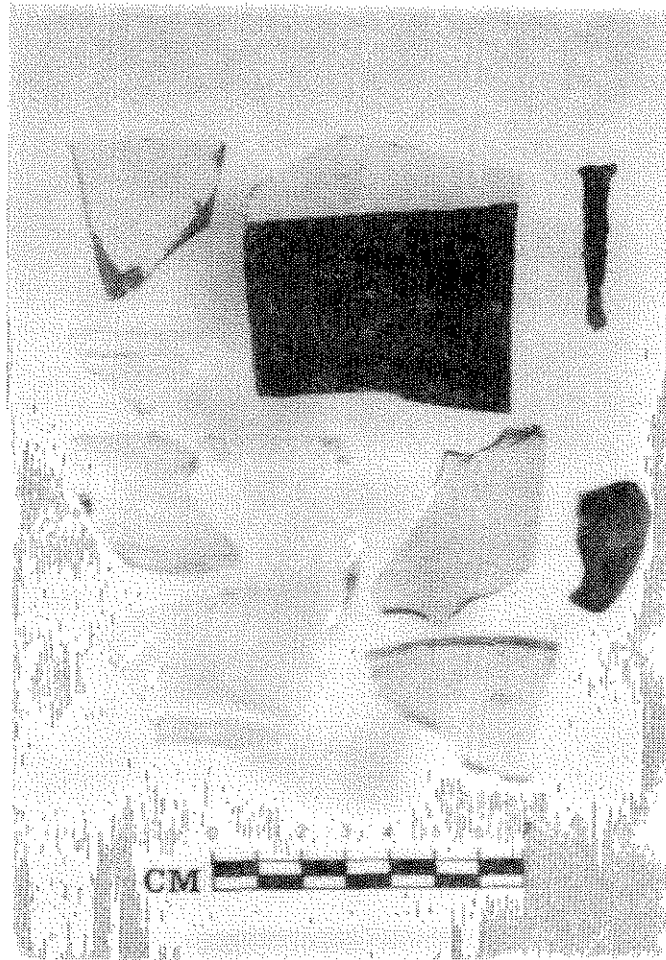


PLATE 14: Artifacts found in field adjacent to schoolhouse.

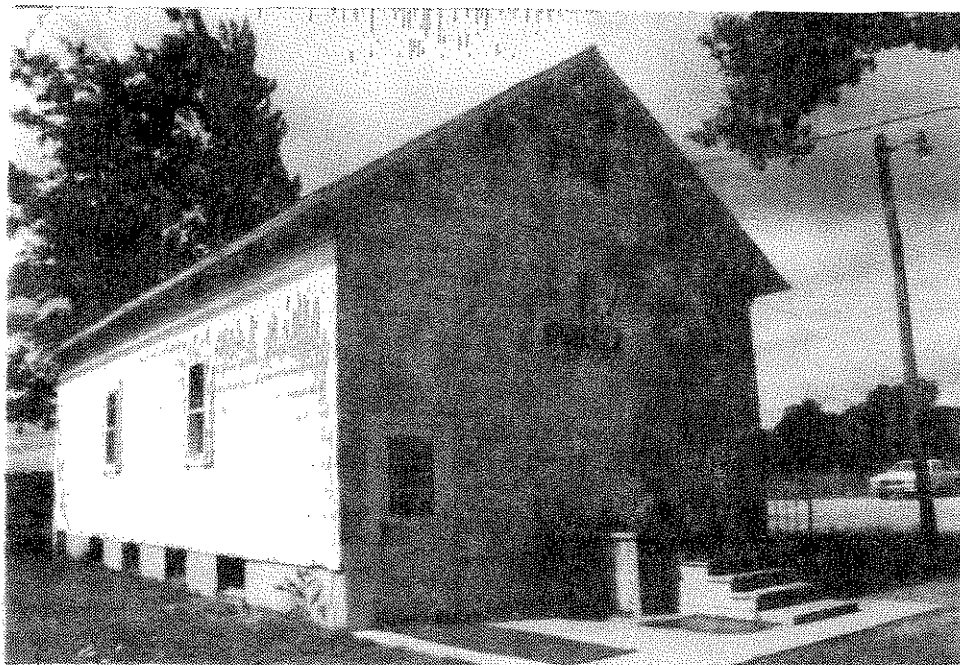


PLATE 15: Millbrook Township Hall.



PLATE 16: Houghton House.

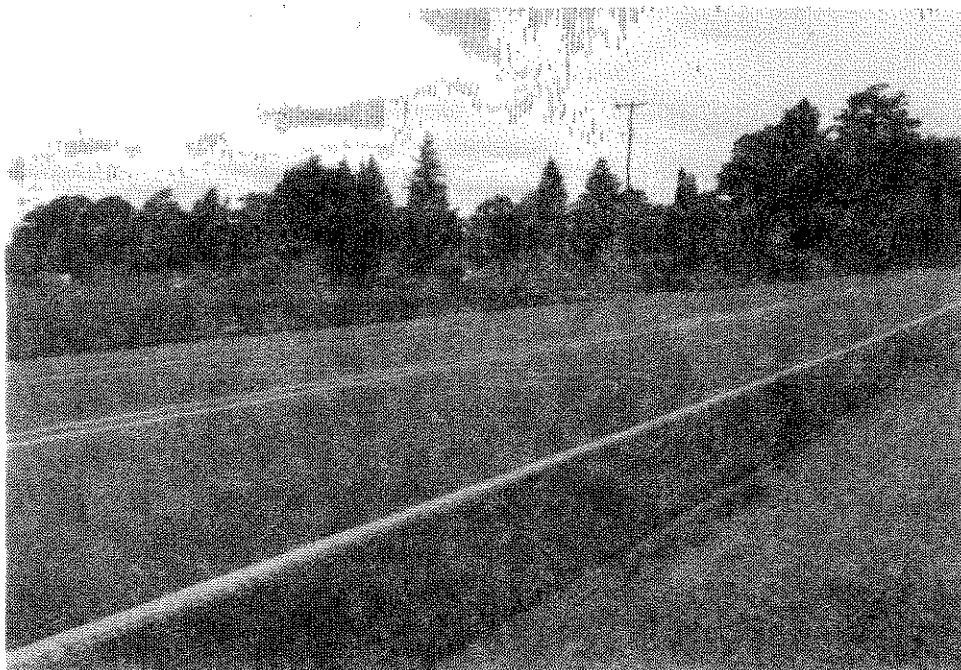


PLATE 17: Wamboldt Cemetery.



PLATE 18: Hillcrest Cemetery.

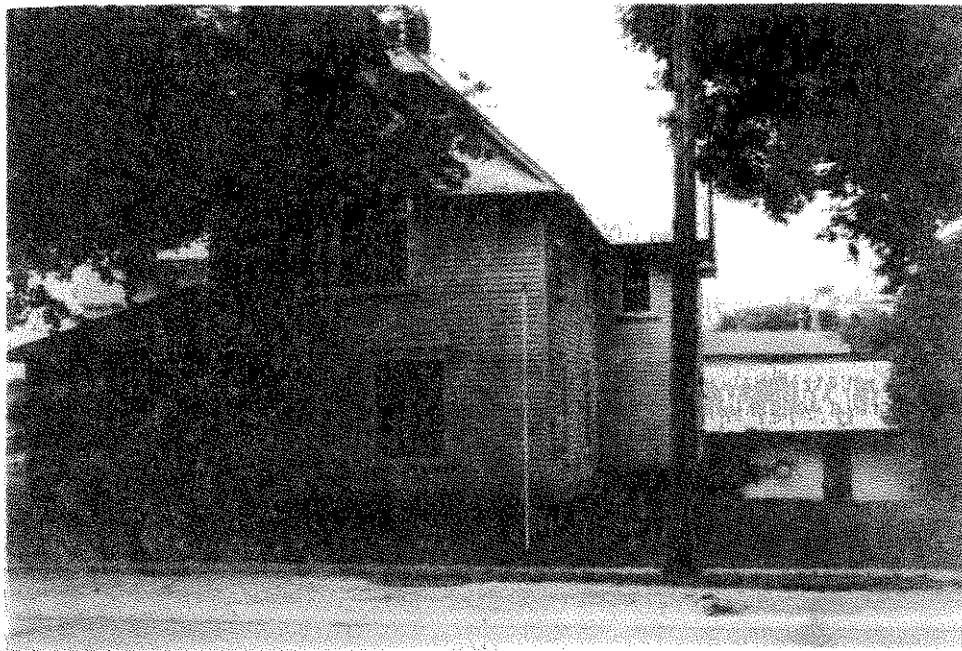


PLATE 19: Residence in Remus which was once known as the Travelers Inn (1907).