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Archaeological Survey of Proposed Sewage Treatment Facilities Site near the Village of Morrice, Michigan.

Personnel:

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

Field Assistants: Mike Higgins, Paul McAllister (graduate students)

Introduction:

On September 22, 1977, an archaeological survey was conducted at the request of Mr. Richard Kraft of Kraft Engineering, Inc., of Flint, Michigan. The survey was conducted near the Village of Morrice in Shiawassee County and was intended to locate any extant cultural resources in the designated area prior to environmental impact.

Previous Research:

The archaeological site files at the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University were examined to determine if known cultural resources existed within the project area. The site files disclosed that no known sites had been reported in the area, although W. B. Hinsdale (1925) reports an Indian Trail in the area; this possible trail would seem to be of dubious significance.

Procedures:

As indicated, the archaeological site files were consulted prior to the initiation of fieldwork.

Field procedures consisted of systematic transect survey of the project area. Transects were spaced about 40-60 yd apart. Subsurface test probes were placed in areas of poor surface visibility; most of the area was plowed fallow field with good visibility, so systematically spaced probes were not necessary. Probes were generally dug to the glacial subsoil.

Description of Survey Area:

The parcel surveyed contains 80 acres and lies in the E $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 14, Perry Township, Shiawassee County, Michigan. The topography in the area is gently rolling. All but the northern approximate one-eighth of the parcel is plowed fallow field covered with weeds and untended grain plants. The northern portion of the parcel was not plowed and was grass covered; the northeastern corner was occupied by farm buildings. Soil content was very sandy and full of glacial till. Subsurface probes revealed an uneven topsoil layer: in lower areas the topsoil was quite deep, up to 2 ft in one spot, while on the high areas the topsoil layer was thinner, about 6-10 in. Glacial till was very abundant and scattered all over the parcel.

Sites Recorded:

Near the center of the north end, a modern refuse dump was encountered. This feature seems to be of no historical importance.

On the extreme east side of the area, about 75-100 yd north of the SE corner, a stone drill was found. The artifact is chipped from grey chert, is 2 in long and $\frac{1}{2}$ in wide at the widest point. No other artifacts, debitage, pottery, or features were found in this area or elsewhere in the parcel. It seems somewhat curious to find an isolated drill unaccompanied by other cultural material. However, since no other material was recovered it must be concluded that this single artifact does not represent a pre-historic site.

Recommendations:

Since no historic or prehistoric sites were encountered within the survey area, as outlined to me by Richard Kraft and Nick Nicholson of Kraft Engineering, Inc., I can recommend that this project proceed as planned.

Prepared and Submitted by:

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