



1990

## 93-Phase I Archaeological Survey of a Proposed Development on Lake Michigan South of Duck Lake in Section 24, T11N R18W, Fruitland Township, Muskegon County, Michigan for Resource Management Group of Grand Haven, Michigan

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GREGORY R. WALZ

WILLIAM M. CREMIN

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT  
ON LAKE MICHIGAN SOUTH OF DUCK LAKE IN SECTION 24,  
T11N R18W, FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP, MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GROUP OF GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN

1990

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS NO. 93

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

A Report of Research in Response  
to a Request from:

Resource Management Group  
P.O. Box 487  
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

## INTRODUCTION:

Upon receipt of authorization from Mr. Timothy Bureau of Resource Management Group on 22 Jun 90 for a Phase I archaeological survey of a parcel of land on Lake Michigan south of Duck Lake in Muskegon County, the authors and their associates began a literature and site file search and on 28 Jun traveled to the property to conduct on-site evaluation in order to determine whether a proposed housing development would have an adverse impact on potentially significant archaeological resources. There follows a report of our program of research, together with recommendations reflecting our findings.

## PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Principal Investigator - Dr. William M. Cremin, Professor of Anthropology, Western Michigan Univ. and Owner, W.M. Cremin Consulting  
Field Supervisor - Mr. Gregory R. Walz, M.A. Candidate in Anthropology, WMU  
Field Assistants - Mr. Daniel Goatley, Graduate Student in Anthropology, WMU  
- Mr. David Zuckerman, M.A., Resource Management Group, Grand Haven, MI

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA:

The study area in question encompasses about 15 acres (6.1 ha) and is located in Section 24, T11N R18W, Fruitland Township, Muskegon County, Michigan (Fig. 1). On the east this parcel is bounded by a scenic drive which separates the property from Duck Lake. Its western



stood as much as 30 m in height. The understory consisted of immature mature beech, maple, white oak, cherry, and elm trees, many of which

The project area was observed to be very heavily wooded with

of western Muskegon County.

the Grattan Association; a series of related soils which covers much ground surface. Soil profiles show local deposits to fall within

deposits of sand extending to an unknown depth below the present grayish organically stained sand, which in turn overlay deep sterile

developed humic layer of 10-15 cm thickness overlying a band of

sandy soils across the parcel. Typically, the soils showed a well

Both visual inspection and shovel testing did reveal uniformly

not subjected to shovel testing during our on-site investigation.

Bill No. 179), and those portions with slope greater than 18° were

regulated under the Sand Dune Protection and Management Act (Senate

and (3) slope greater than 25% (Fig. 2). The entire study area is

defined: (1) slope less than 18%; (2) slope between 18% and 25%;

Within project limits, three zones based on degree of slope can be

ridges separated from one another by narrow steep-sided ravines.

rent beach on the west and includes a series of backdunes and sand

dune complex that begins as a steep erosional bluff above the cur-

As previously noted, local topography is characterized by a

Michigan lies only 400 m to the north.

cernible drainage, the outlet whereby Duck Lake drains into Lake

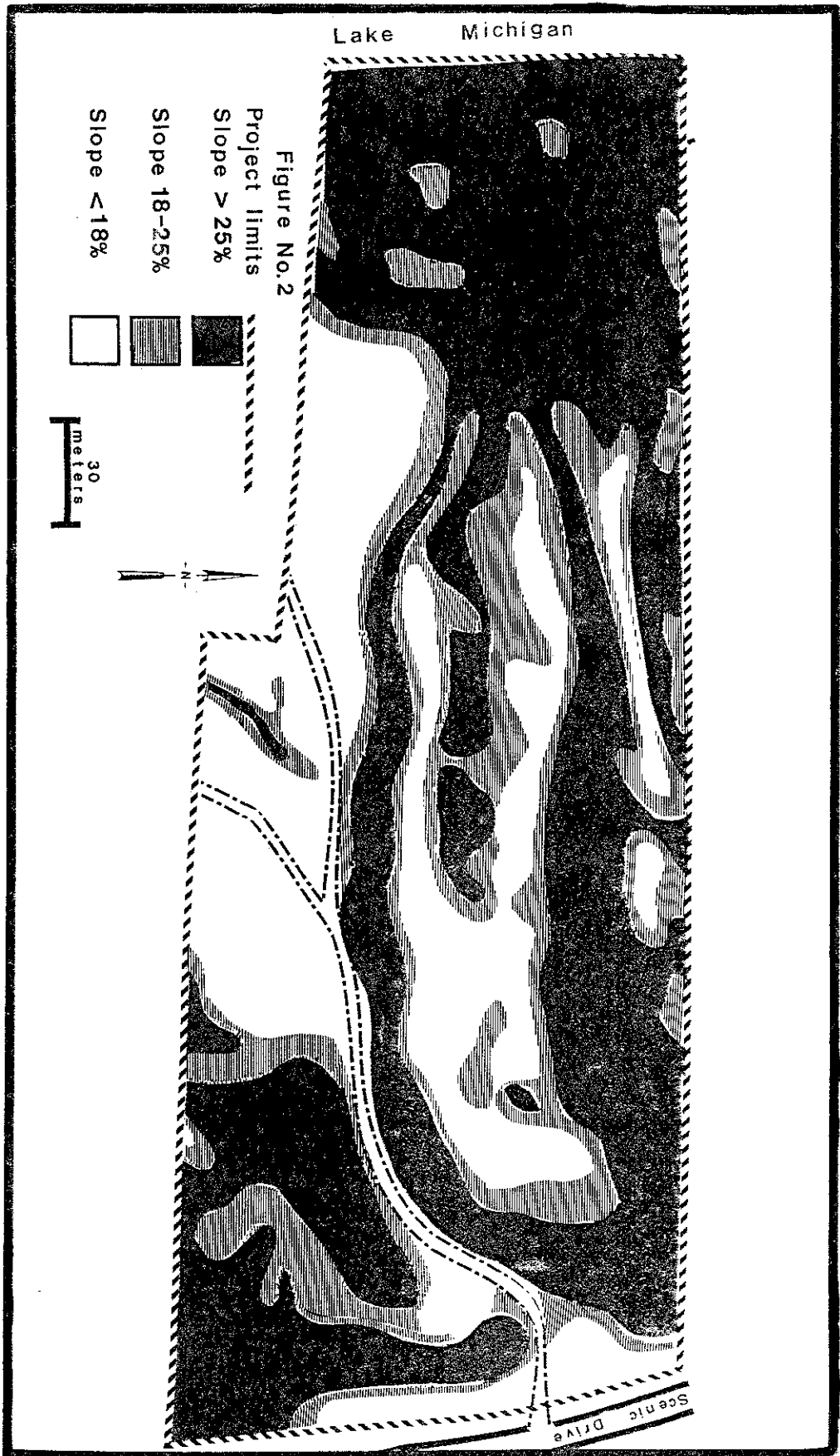
the order of 248 m ASL. Although the project itself lacks a dis-

with the crest of dunes in the project area reaching elevations on

elevation of Lake Michigan and Duck Lake is recorded as 177 m ASL,

For the most part in a dune field flanked by a strip of beach. The

limits correspond to the Lake Michigan shoreline. The parcel lies



stems of canopy species as well as hemlock and sassafras trees. A variety of herbaceous species were also noted, including Trillium, greenbriar, and numerous bracken ferns. Given the size and density of mature trees observed within project limits, it would appear that this parcel has experienced only minor disturbance over the past 100-150 years.

**PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE GENERAL AREA:**

No archaeological sites have been recorded for the study area, and it is also unlikely that it has been subjected to any sort of archaeological study. In fact, the only archaeological survey that has been performed and recorded with the state was conducted near the east end of Duck Lake and produced only negative results. The state site files contain only two sites from the Duck Lake area, and both of these are derived from historical documents. The Duck Lake Fur Trading Post (20MU52) is reported for the south side of the Duck Lake Outlet, and an 1840s saw mill site (20MU54) is recorded for the opposite or north side of the outlet (Dr. John Halsey, Bureau of History, personal communication, 5 Jul 90).

**PHASE I SURVEY PROCEDURES:**

Investigation of the project area was undertaken by a three-person survey team on 28 Jun 90. Given the heavily dissected terrain and legislation prohibiting subsurface examination over most of the parcel, shovel testing was confined to those areas proposed as "housing envelopes" by the developer. Visual examination of the remainder was hampered by leaf litter, excepting for erosional cuts, raw areas, and surface exposures were vegetative cover was sparse. Nowhere did surface reconnaissance procedures reveal the slightest trace of cultural materials;



Fortunately, surveyors found that the proposed roadway and 13 house sites had been precisely staked out prior to their arrival on-site (Fig. 3). Given our objective and the legislative mandate, we elected to confine our shovel testing program to the building sites and interconnecting roadway. Here, a total of 79 shovel tests were located, providing surveyors with an opportunity to examine subsurface deposits as well as examine the surface of the ground for evidence of archaeological resources.

#### RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DERIVED FROM THE PHASE I STUDY:

Surface reconnaissance across the entire parcel, coupled with shovel testing in the aforementioned areas of proposed development, failed to reveal the slightest trace of archaeological resources. While cinder and gravel fill observed in several shovel tests near the western limits of the parcel might point to some historic use, perhaps the former presence of a road to access marketable timber, even this presumably recent utilization of the parcel appears to have been minimal at best.

In the final analysis, our on-site examination and review of information in the state site files argue strongly against the presence of potentially significant archaeological resources on this property. Therefore, it is our recommendation that that proposed development be cleared from the perspective of posing a possible threat to archaeological remains lying within those areas to be impacted by the roadway and construction of houses.

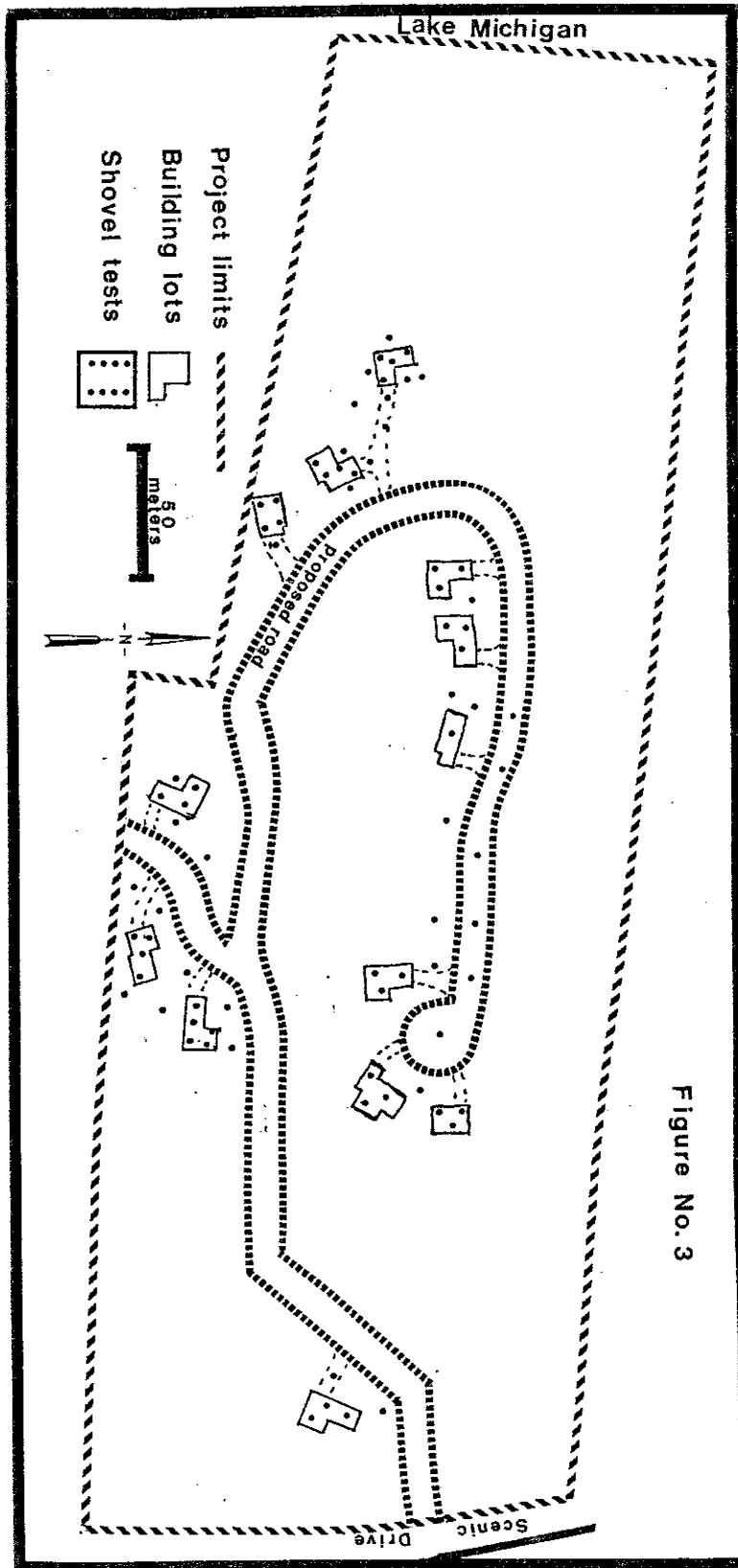


Figure No. 3