



1975

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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS NO. 1

1975

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE EAST MAIN STREET PROJECT AREA,
KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP, T2S R11W, KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

William M. Cremin

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INTRODUCTION:

Following a meeting with Mr. Herbert Larkin of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission regarding the County's plans to expand a segment of the East Main Street right-of-way near the the intersection of East Main and Sprinkle Road in Kalamazoo Township, a survey team from the Department of Anthropology, Western Michigan University undertook on-site evaluation of the project in order to ascertain whether the planned construction activities would impact significant cultural resources. There follows a report of the fieldwork undertaken on 19 Dec 75, together with recommendations based upon our findings.

PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Principal Investigator - Mr. William M. Cremin, Instructor,
Department of Anthropology, WMU

Field Supervisor - Mr. Marvin Keller, M.A. Candidate in
Anthropology, WMU

Field Assistants - Mr. Larry Wyckoff, Graduate Student in
Anthropology, WMU

- Mr. Norman Sullivan, Graduate Student
in Anthropology, WMU

All members of the research team have had experience in the conduct of archaeological survey and, with the exception of the Principal Investigator, have worked on previous occasions for the Board of County Road Commissioners. The Principal Investigator has participated in several Cultural Resource Management (CRM) projects and surveys prior to coming to WMU.

PROCEDURES:

Following a visual examination of the project area, we determined to concentrate our efforts on that portion of the ROW between survey stations 10 and 18. Where conditions permitted, we first examined soil profiles (i.e. road cuts created by heavy equipment) to determine the nature of soil deposition in the area. This phase of our investigation was followed by subsurface probing with shovels at intervals of from 9-18 m along both sides of the road. The shovel tests were placed at a distance of from 12-15 m from center line and excavated to depths ranging between 30 and 90 cm. We carefully examined pit profiles to determine the nature of soil stratigraphy and looked for any midden debris which might indicate the presence of an archaeological site.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY:

In total, 28 shovel tests were excavated between the aforementioned survey stations. In test #15, located on the north side of the road about 18 m west of survey station 12, we did encounter a lens of cinders at a depth of 15 cm below the surface. No cultural material was observed in association with the cinder mass, and inasmuch as a 20th century structure is situated nearby, it is reasonably safe to assume that the deposition of this material is related to the occupation of this house. All other shovel tests yielded negative results.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

On the basis of our on-site evaluation of the project, coupled with the fact that the literature and site file data

available to us clearly indicate that there are no known archaeological sites within the ROW or in the immediate vicinity of the East Main Street project, it is felt that a no-effect statement is appropriate at this time.