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# 38-An Archaeological Survey of the Inter-City Bank Property Located at the Corner of Brookway Drive and Niles-Buchanan Road, City of Buchanan, Berrien County, Michigan

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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS NO. 38

1979

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE INTER-CITY BANK PROPERTY  
LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF BROOKWAY DRIVE AND NILES-BUCHANAN ROAD,  
CITY OF BUCHANAN, BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

William M. Cremin

#### INTRODUCTION:

The project was initiated upon receipt of a contract (dated 17 Aug 79) signed by Mr. Wayne R. Koebel, Vice-President and Controller, Inter-City Bank, Benton Harbor, Michigan. Our objective was to determine whether plans to construct a drive-in banking facility at a location in the City of Buchanan might have an adverse impact on cultural resources.

#### PROJECT PERSONNEL:

Principal Investigator - Dr. William M. Cremin, Assistant  
Professor of Anthropology, WMU  
Field Assistant - Paul McAllister, M.A. Candidate in  
Anthropology, WMU

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT EVALUATED:

The area under consideration consists of three lots (Nos. 52, 53 and 54) in the River Shores subdivision, aggregating 0.9 ha (2.3 acres). The parcel lies in the center of the S 1/2, SW 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 25, Buchanan Township. Elevation above sea level is 210 m (700 ft). Importantly, this property is situated but 600 m from the St. Joseph River which flows by it to the north and east. The soil consists principally of a sandy loam, and formerly Beech-Maple Forest, together with other deciduous species common to the valley, occupied this parcel.

Until the general area was subdivided just prior to World War II, the property in question was part of a farm owned by a

Henry Adams. The farm house once stood on this parcel and evidence for its presence was encountered during our fieldwork. Although leveled during the last decade, materials from the foundation and general household refuse were frequently observed in shovel tests in that portion of the study area fronting on Niles-Buchanan Road. Moreover, a very noticeable mound exists where the house formerly stood.

#### PREVIOUS RESEARCH:

There is no evidence to suggest that this property has ever received archaeological attention. However, the proximity to the river on the one hand, and to several known sites in Section 36, make it appear quite likely that the project could contain an archaeological site(s). Of special interest in this regard is site 20 BE 70. Located about one kilometer due south of the project, this site is purported to be the village occupied by Chief Mish-a-qua-Ka's band in 1820.

#### FIELD PROCEDURES:

Field procedures consisted of systematic transect survey with subsurface testing at designated intervals. Surveyors traversed the parcel at 15 m intervals, with tests placed every 15 m. In total, 47 shovel tests, ranging in depth from 40-100 cm, were placed along five lines of survey, with an additional seven tests being placed about the old foundation which we had located. Consistently, our tests revealed the presence of a well developed A horizon (30-35 cm in depth) underlain by a grayish-white sandy loam with cobble inclusions.

The only debris observed in the shovel tests (and on the surface) consisted of modern trash, with the exception of a couple of square nails and old bottle fragments recovered from probing near the foundation of the farm house. But even in the latter instance, "pop tops" and other recent items were very common among the debris recovered.

#### RESULTS OF RESEARCH:

Our survey of the parcel in question has not resulted in the recording of a single archaeological site. With the exception of evidence for the occupation of a farm house until quite recently, our work has produced only information which confirms the use of this property for the disposition of various sorts of trash. In addition, we may assume that some of the neighbors have made use of the vacant areas adjacent to their own lots for other purposes, inasmuch as two areas within the project were maintained as lawns.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Inasmuch as our work has not resulted in the recovery of any evidence suggesting cultural significance, it is recommended that present plans to build banking facilities on this parcel will not have an adverse affect and should be permitted to proceed as scheduled.