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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S OFFICE

1984-1985

FROM THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Every year means ever more activities and cases for the State Archaeologist's Office. More, I'm sure, than could have been imagined when the Field Archaeology Act, which established the present position in law, was passed. While still carrying out duties assigned under the Field Archaeology Act (MN ST 138.31), such as issuing licenses and providing review for state agency projects and state sites, the SA has become ever increasingly involved in the protection of burial sites under MN ST 307.08, the Private Cemeteries Act. During the past year we handled over 60 cases under the latter responsibilities and expect a workload at least equal, if not greater, the coming year. The State Archaeologist now averages 40-60 hours per week at the job, and last year handled a total of 157 cases.

For the first time we received legislative funding specifically to carry out aspects of the Field Archaeology Act, but then suffered the disappointment of having this meager budget (\$25,000) cut in half for the present fiscal biennium. \$12,500 doesn't buy much gas, postage, equipment, lab and field time, and it's difficult to explain to the public why we can't provide the services specified in law. That we have been able to meet many of the emergency needs of both the Field Archaeology Act and the Private Cemeteries Act is due mainly to the unstinting dedication of people like Assistant State Archaeologist Barbara O'Connell, former Research Assistant Sue Thurston, and Indian Affairs Representatives Roger Head and Earl Sargent, as well as many professional archaeologists who have given up vacation days and weekends to help preserve our past. To all of you, and to the unknown many who left behind traces of their rich heritage, we dedicate this report.

Christy A.HohmanCaine
State Archaeologist

STATE SITE FILE

The State Archaeologist assigns Smithsonian site numbers to new site locations reported to the office by other archaeologists, agencies, or individuals. The SA reviews all information submitted and determines whether it meets the criteria for site designation. Locational information is checked to be certain that sites are not being duplicated and that the information has no obvious errors. As time permits, site data is updated and corrections are made. Information in the file is supplied on a regular basis to the State Historic Preservation Office/Minnesota Historical Society files, and to other research institutions upon request.

The site file has become increasingly important as a legal management tool. Therefore, site data must be accurate and defensible in court. For example, burial sites listed in the file are considered "authenticated" for purposes of the law, and this can mean some major restrictions on uses of the land.

The files are presently being computerized so that they can be organized and updated more easily. This computerized file is not intended to replace the paper file, but will provide a more easily used index to that file. A number of north central and south central counties have already been indexed, and the State Site Form is available on computer as well. For further information, contact the State Archaeologist or Dr. Richard Strachan, Southern Minnesota Regional Center at Mankato State University.

Sites Added to File, 1984

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| sites: | 64 |
| find spots: | 14 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 78 |

Sites Added to File, 1985

| | |
|-------------|-------|
| sites: | 182 |
| find spots: | 23 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 205 |

For further information about site definition, find-spot definition, and use of the site file, consult back issues of the CMA Newsletter, or contact the State Archaeologist.

STATE LICENSES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Licenses to conduct archaeological work on state lands or political subdivisions (municipalities, counties) are required under the Field Archaeology Act (MN ST 138.33-36). The State Archaeologist reviews license applications and recommends their issuance to the Director of the Historical Society.

Application forms are available from either of the State Archaeologist's Offices, but for fastest action, completed forms should be submitted directly to the Outstate Office. Archaeological work on or adjacent to Indian burial sites must be reviewed by the Indian Affairs Council as well, so allow for extra time for processing.

All proposed archaeological work involving intensive testing or excavation should be accompanied by a brief research design indicating in more detail the nature of the proposed work.

Beginning in 1986, all work done under state license will be reported to the state file on a Cultural Resources Management Reporting form. This form was developed in order to standardize information and to facilitate reporting for those archaeologists who do numerous reports during the year.

This form was developed with the assistance of David Radford and Pat Emerson, MHS-DNR archaeologists, and Leslie Peterson, MHS-DOT archaeologist. Suggestions for improvement of the form are welcome. The form is available from the State Archaeologist or from the Archaeology Department at Ft. Snelling History Center. It is available on floppy disk formatted for the IBM PC as well.

Thirteen licenses were issued in 1985. A number of these licenses are for multiple projects.

State Licenses: 1985

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| LC85-1 | Leslie Peterson William Yourd | Trunk Highway Survey | Multiple/statewide |
| 2 | Scott Anfinson | Mun/Co Highway Survey | Multiple/statewide |
| 3 | Robert Clouse David Radford | MHS DNR/State Parks | Multiple/statewide |
| 4 | Ted Lofstrom | SHPO/IMA, Speleological survey | Multiple/Rice Co. |
| 5 | Robert Clouse Gordon Lothson | MHS | Koochiching-3 |
| 6 | Susan Mulholland | UMD | Grand Marais/Cook Co. |
| 7 | Robert Clouse Jeff Tordoff | MHS | Hennepin Ave. Brdg |
| 8 | Gordon Lothson | Cougar Consulting | Andrusia /Beltrami |
| 9 | Robert Clouse Jeff Tordoff | MHS | HE/Mill district |
| 10 | Robert Clouse Patricia Emerson | MHS DNR/Water Access | Multiple/statewide |
| 11 | Douglas Birk | Northland Archaeological Serv. | Crow Wing-96 |

Renewals for 1984 Licenses:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Gordon Peters | Forest Service | Itasca/Big Rice |
| Clark Dobbs | IMA | Goodhue-4 |

Further information regarding these licenses, including research designs for excavation work, is available from the State Archaeologist's Office.

FINANCIAL REPORT, FY 84-85

In FY 84-85, the State Archaeologist's Office received funding for the first time directly from the State Legislature for the implementation of the Field Archaeology Act. Funds were appropriated as a pass-through Grant-in-Aid through the Minnesota Historical Society which acted as our fiscal agent.

Total funding received was \$25,000. Expenditures of these funds broke down into the following percentages:

- Travel: 30%
(includes cases, meetings, crew, SA and Assistant SA)
- Laboratory/Office Salary: 40%
(primarily student assistants, Hamline University and U of Minnesota)
- Laboratory/Office Supplies: 10%
(includes printing of stationary)
- Field Salary: 15%
(primarily student crew, Hamline University and U of MN)
- Field Per Diem: 10%

The State Archaeologist alone traveled nearly 20,000 miles, and two lengthy field cases also added numerous crew miles to the travel budget.

Laboratory/Office salary included primarily student assistants who worked on analysis and preparation of skeletal remains for reburial, and accessioned archaeological materials. The funding also made possible release time from one course for Assistant SA Barbara O'Connell.

With this funding we were also able to pay crews for handling two of our numerous field cases. One of these cases involved two weeks of fieldwork and resulted in the rescue of over two dozen burials.

As based on actual expenditures and/or volunteered time and expenses, the cost of handling field cases has ranged from \$350 to \$3,000 per case. On the average, each case costs about \$1,500.

FISCAL YEARS 1985-86 AND 1986-87

During the legislative funding session for the present biennium, the legislature cut the Governor's proposed funding for the State Archaeologist in half. Much of the difficulty apparently had to do with misinterpretation of the intended use of the requested appropriation: as a pass-through Grant under the auspices of the Historical Society, it may have appeared to many legislators to be funding for research, rather than funding to fulfill the state's legal responsibilities under MN ST 138.31 and 307.08.

Although we have tried to hold expenses down, as of Dec. 31, 1985, we had already expended nearly 90% of our funding for the fiscal year ending in July 1986.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S OFFICE ACTIVITIES, 1985

A total of 147 cases were handled through the State Archaeologist's Office in 1985. These ranged from field excavation of endangered burial and archaeological sites, to review of particular Corps of Engineers and Department of Natural Resources projects for effects on cultural resources.

Thirty-seven of these cases involved field work or field review in eighteen different counties, including Aitkin, Beltrami, Cass, Carver, Crow Wing, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Mahnommin, Martin, Otter Tail, Sherburne, Washington, Wabasha, and Winona.

The State Archaeologist gave twelve public talks to diverse groups ranging from pupils in Indian Studies at the Chief Bugonaygeshish school on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, to Federal Aid Coordinators for DNR projects.

Major meetings attended by the State Archaeologist included the Indian Affairs Council meeting at Grand Portage Reservation, the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Denver, the National Association of State Archaeologist's Meeting, and meetings of the State Review Board and the Council for Minnesota Archaeology. In all, the State Archaeologist represented the interests of Minnesota archaeology at some 14 such meetings.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The Minnesota State Archaeologist was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of State Archaeologists, 1984-1986. This has enabled her to gain additional insights into the operation of State Archaeologist's Offices in other states and to keep informed of new developments in cultural resource management.

The Association was formed to represent the interests of States in cultural resources, and we respond to and participate in the formulation of national legislation and work on the mutual strengthening of state legislation.

NASA (we like the acronym) has compiled all state laws and done a comparison of them. This information shows us, unfortunately, that Minnesota is the only State with a volunteer, unpaid State Archaeologist!

NASA also sponsors symposiums on state issues, generally in connection with the SAA meetings. The 1986 spring symposium is entitled, "Not the Stick, but the Carrot" and will present nation-wide information on state "incentive" legislation and programs, such as historic easements, designed to promote preservation.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE HAMALAINEN SITE, ITASCA COUNTY

The Hamalainen site, located in Itasca county, is a multi-component historic and prehistoric site reported in 1985 by the State Archaeologist's Office. Based on initial fieldwork, the site has a minimum of one prehistoric Blackduck habitation component and an historic early 20th century Finnish burial component.

The site is located on an island in a large lake northwest of Grand Rapids, and came to the attention of the State Archaeologist because of reports of burials eroding out of the bank.

Initial work on the site involved mapping of possible grave depressions in the unplatted Finnish cemetery, and testing to determine the nature of the soils and to gather information about the prehistoric component. This work was followed in October, 1985 by excavations to remove parts of the site in immediate danger of erosion.

Seven burials from the Finnish cemetery were excavated, and it is estimated that approximately 18 to 20 still remain to be removed during 1986.

The burials removed include one neonate, one child, one adolescent, three adult females, and one adult male. None were marked by headstones, although the base of a wooden marker wrapped in birch bark, probably a cross, was excavated from the upper levels of one burial shaft. The burials were quite deep, 4.5 to 5 feet below the surface, and all burials were in wooden coffins, some of which were painted red or green.

Seven burials, presently unexcavated and slated for rescue during 1986, are marked with permanent headstones. The information from these plus the excavated burials shows a demographic profile heavily weighted toward children and females. Such a situation may indicate a heavily stressed population, and analyses prior to reburial should provide considerable information about this and other characteristics of an early Euro-American homesteading population.

This mitigation was requested and sponsored by Itasca county, and the State Archaeologist's Office has been working closely with Terry Greenside, County Zoning Officer, in work on this case. The site will be reviewed again in the early spring to determine if more immediate salvage is necessary, but major excavations are planned for mid-summer.

Historic records search has indicated that the first Finnish families, including that of David Hamalainen, settled in the area around 1903. Gravestones show 1914 as the earliest burial date, therefore we are expecting that many of the unmarked burials predate 1914. Observations of coffin construction and hardware, as well as the configuration of the cemetery may allow us to delineate sub-groups of burials by time and/or family grouping.

Search of historic records and oral interviews with local residents will be part of the total rescue operation. The State Archaeologist's Office, in conjunction with Hamline University, plans to offer a summer fieldschool at the site. This site presents a rare opportunity to combine physical anthropology and archaeology within the setting of a contemporary community.

Newspaper coverage of the project has been extensive and positive and we are looking forward to being able to document a variety of information about early Finnish homesteading as part of this project.

Activity at the Hanson Mound site in Bloomington came to a successful resolution with the development and implementation of a Preservation Plan for the mounds. The mound area was slated for development as a micro-chip processing plant by VTC, Inc., a subsidiary of Control Data. The location for the 92 million dollar operation was determined by very specialized needs of this type of operation but also happened to be the site of seven burial mounds mapped by T.H. Lewis in 1881. Initial plans for the plant construction would have removed most of the still-visible mounds and/or caused major sub-surface disturbance to the areas which might still contain burials.

Lewis' notes were used to reconstruct the mound group and field survey established their locations on the ground within tolerable margins of error.

At this point consultation with Indian Affairs, the Prairie Island Tribal Council, the City of Bloomington Zoning Office, the law firm representing Control Data, VTC representatives, and representatives from Control Data management began.

These consultations resulted in redesign to the building and the development of a Preservation Plan for the mound group. Arrangements for fencing of the mounds during construction, buffer zones, and monitoring of construction were agreed upon, and construction is now essentially complete. This burial area is now well-protected and the prior use of this area is being commemorated by VTC through the use of Siouxan names for their conference rooms and the preparation of informational materials for their employees.

Much of the successful outcome of this potentially disastrous case is due to the dedicated efforts of Bob Sharlin, planner for the City of Bloomington. Since Bloomington has 16 other burial mound groups, three of which are involved in other current cases in the State Archaeologist's Office, we can only hope that they go as well!

MUSEUM EXHIBIT TO BE REBURIED

That was the headline of the Bemidji Pioneer after the State Archaeologist removed skeletal remains at the Bemidji Chamber of Commerce Museum from public exhibit. The remains, which had been displayed in a grave-like setting intruded into the floor of the museum, had been loaned to the museum by the University of Minnesota. The State Archaeologist's Office and the Indian Affairs Council have a policy of allowing display of human remains only for legitimate educational reasons, none of which were obvious in this display.

After being appraised of the situation by the State Archaeologist, Prof. Steven Gudeman, chair of the University Anthropology Department, arranged for the remains to be turned over to the State Archaeologist. Although the University records are not entirely clear on the matter, the skeleton appears to have been unearthed near Sauk Rapids and turned over to the University sometime during the 1940s or 1950s. It was apparently loaned to the museum at the time it was built in 1962, and the display probably intended to simulate the prior uncovering of burials in the Bemidji area during street and utilities construction.

Assistant State Archaeologist Barbara O'Connell will do basic identification prior to reburial, which is being planned for the spring of 1986.

A number of County Historical Societies have recently examined their collections and have identified human remains which have been turned over to the State Archaeologist's Office for identification and reburial. We would like to express appreciation to the Societies at Otter Tail, Itasca, and Clay counties for their concern and sensitivity to this issue. We also appreciate receiving remains from three individuals.

If you or your organization have human remains in your possession, they should be sent to the State Archaeologist's Office, Hamline University, St. Paul, 55104, along with whatever documentation is available. Human remains should not be put on display or photographed without consulting first with the State Archaeologist's Office. If individuals bring remains to you or your organization, they may be accepted on behalf of the SAO and sent to us with as much documentation as possible. If you are in doubt about whether or not bone is human, we can identify it for you. Guidelines for the treatment of human remains are available from the State Archaeologist's Office or from the Indian Affairs Council.

BLACK BEAR-MILLER LAKE MOUND, CW-96

A burial mound, located at the "eleventh hour" on a Corps of Engineers-DNR boat access project, presented some difficult management obstacles which were overcome through the successful development of a Preservation plan for the mound.

During mitigation of an archaeological habitation site for the Corps of Engineers, Northland Archaeological Services archaeologist Douglas Birk reported the presence of a suspected burial mound adjacent to the mitigation area. The Phase I survey of the site (not done by Birk) had not reported the mound, apparently because the investigator assumed any archaeological materials in the adjacent pine plantation would have been destroyed. Had the mound not been reported by Birk, however, it would likely have been destroyed by the impending project.

Soil scientist Grant Goltz, from the State Archaeologist's Office, field reviewed the project, tested the mound to determine the nature of its construction, and provided documentation to authenticate it for the files of the State Archaeologist's Office.

Subsequent meetings with Corps of Engineers personnel Kathy Stevenson and Sandy Blaylock, DNR personnel, and Earl Sargent from Indian Affairs resulted in a redesign of the boat access project and the development of a Preservation Plan for the mound.

The Corps of Engineers has assumed responsibility for the short-term protection of the mound during project construction, as specified in the Plan, and the Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for the long-term protection of this cemetery area.

A major archaeological lesson to be learned from this case is not to assume that a disturbed area cannot contain resources of significance. Not only did Birk locate a burial mound which had only been superficially damaged, but he also subsequently tested the furrowed plantation area with positive and interesting results. Birk's report should be available via the Corps of Engineers in 1986, and the State Archaeologist's Office report on fieldwork to authenticate the mound can be obtained directly from this office.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE PRIVATE CEMETERIES ACT (MN ST 307.08)

The State Archaeologist's Office, working with Roger Head and Earl Sargent of the Indian Affairs Council, has developed a set of policies and procedures for implementing the Private Cemeteries Act. These procedures apply to both Indian and non-Indian burials, with the only differences being the consulting parties involved.

These policies and procedures have been developed over the last five years since the Private Cemeteries Act was passed, and have been used and modified on ade factobasis until they appeared to be running smoothly. They were presented to the full council of Indian Affairs at their Grand Portage meeting last fall. After final approval of the Council they will be published and distributed to all state agencies and county governments sometime this spring.

The policies and procedures include a general background statement regarding the applicability of the Private Cemeteries Act, a statement regarding authentication and authentication requirements, a buffer zone policy statement, and policies and procedures regarding the removal of human burials.

Archaeologists may get advance copies by writing or calling one of the State Archaeologist's Offices.