

Annual Report of the
State Archaeologist

1 July 1972-30 June 1973

Introduction

Activities of both the State Archaeologist at the University of Minnesota and the staff of the Department of Archaeology of the Minnesota Historical Society have accelerated this past year because of the rapid increase in the demands for site location data, environmental impact statements, and emergency salvage projects. These demands come from a variety of state agencies, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, from private corporations such as the Northern States Power Company and pipeline companies, from private individuals. So much effort and time is taken with these demands that it becomes more difficult to continue on schedule the important general research and interpretation programs that form the core of archaeological research in Minnesota. The situation is at a crisis point and during the next year serious discussions will begin to find a solution.

Research Activities

Two major field research projects were undertaken through the Minnesota Resources Commission program this past year. The first consisted of excavations directed by Professor Christina Harrison of the University of Minnesota on sites in Rice Lake State Park in Dodge and Steel counties. Professor Harrison directed a crew of University students who tested and excavated a series of small sites in the park. Her analysis of the results is continuing.

The second project was directed by Professor Guy Gibbon of the University of Wisconsin (Gibbon will join the University of Minnesota faculty in September 1973). Gibbon's crew consisted of students who worked on three sites in and adjacent to Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park. The sites included the Brower Site, the Shakopee Bridge Site, and the Crace Site. In addition Gibbon tested other possible site locations in the park. The manuscript on the Shakopee Bridge Site has been completed and those on the other two sites will be this summer.

Other field projects included a site survey and testing program on the South Arm of Knife Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. A report of this work will be prepared and directed to the U.S. Forest Service.

Jan Streiff conducted salvage work at the Gull Lake Dam in Cass County in the area of a parking lot being constructed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Grading operations had exposed both cultural and osteological materials. A human burial was salvaged and several cultural objects found related to those previously excavated from the adjacent village site.

Jan Streiff and Jan Roney also conducted a detailed site survey in the basin of the proposed Red Lake River reservoir near Huot. This survey was conducted for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under contract with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Jan Streiff also re-checked a series of sites reported by Highway Survey crews in Mille Lacs County and responded to a number of requests from private individuals by visiting and checking reported sites.

Publications and Reports

- Gibbon, Guy "The Sheffield Site," Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series, No. 10. Minnesota Historical Society, 1973.
- Hudak, Joseph G. "Boulder Outlines in Southwestern Minnesota," Plains Anthropologist, Vol. 17, No. 58, Pt. 1, 345-346, 1972.
- Johnson, Elden "The Arvilla Complex," Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series, No. 9. Minnesota Historical Society, 1973.
- "The Northern Margins of the Prairie Peninsula," in "The Prairie Peninsula and its Relationship to the Middle Missouri, Richard B. Johnston (ed.), Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society, Vol. 18, 13-21, 1971.
- "Professional Responsibilities and the American Indian," American Antiquity, Vol. 38, No. 2, 129-130, 1973.
- "Interesting Archaeological Reading," Minnesota Archaeologist, Vol. 32, No's. 1 and 2, 113-114, 1973.
- Stoltman, James B. "The Laurel Culture in Minnesota," Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series, No. 8. Minnesota Historical Society, 1973.
- Streiff, Jan E. "Archaeological Survey of the Red Lake River Reservoir." Unpublished report prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1973.
- "Roster of Archaeological Sites in the Upper Mississippi Basin from St. Anthony Falls to the Iowa Border." Unpublished report prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1972.
- Wilford, Lloyd A., and John Brink "The Hogback Site." In press, Minnesota Archaeologist, Vol. 33.

Archaeological Permits

One archaeological permit was issued to Edward Lugenbeal, University of Wisconsin, Madison, for excavations at the Smith Site, Koochiching County. Lugenbeal worked in the habitation area of this site to obtain stratigraphic data on the Laurel-Blackduck occupation. A condition of the permit stated that all excavated materials would be returned to Minnesota at the conclusion of his analysis. These materials were accessioned using the University of Minnesota Archaeology Laboratory system and will be placed with previously collected data from that site and eventually will be used in the public interpretation planned by the Minnesota Historical Society. To assist Lugenbeal in working this important site, some financial assistance was given from the Minnesota Resources Commission appropriation to the University Prehistoric Archaeology Program.

Council for Minnesota Archaeology

Members of the Council met at Bemidji State College in November, 1972, and again at Ft. Snelling in May, 1973. The latter meeting was the annual public field meeting and was hosted by the Minnesota Archaeological Society in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society. Again, over 100 people attended the well-planned and successful three day meeting.

The members of the Council have also discussed plans for a cooperative research program and hope to formulate a specific plan during their fall, 1973, meeting.

Interpretation

In addition to the numerous responses to individuals, tours given school groups, talks given at primary and secondary schools, the thrust of interpretative activities continued by publication and the development of on-site interpretation in State Parks. The interpretation center at Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park was completed and work by Ken Sander on the initial interpretative installations was finished. The project is a cooperative State Parks-State Archaeologist venture and has as its goal, the development of an interpretation plan involving not only a structure and exhibits but outdoor demonstrations, walking trails to archaeological sites, and on-site interpretation.

Acknowledgements

The long and fruitful relationship with U. W. Hella who retired as Director of the Division of State Parks has been one of the significant factors in establishing a solid research and interpretation program in Minnesota prehistoric archaeology. His influence has been profound and his support has been crucial. I wish to thank him for his many contributions and wish both he and Mrs. Hella the very best in the future.

Numbers of individuals at the Minnesota Historical Society have given great amounts of time and effort in assisting me and the Program in Prehistoric Archaeology. Russell, Fridley, Director; June Holmquist, Editor; John Wood, Assistant Director; and Alan Woolworth, Chief Archaeologist, have all been exceptionally supportive and cooperative. To these individuals and the members of their staffs, I offer my thanks.

Jan Streiff, of the University Laboratory, with the help of Christy Caine, Jan Roney, and James Rhoads have provided the expertise that has made the program work and to them all I am deeply indebted. Finally, I would like to thank Christina Harrison and Guy Gibbon who provided the direction and the members of the Minnesota Resources Commission who provided the funds for our major research projects.

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