

Phase I Historical Archaeology Investigation for the
Trunk Highway 23 Expansion Project,
Munson, Zion, Eden Lake, and Paynesville Townships,
Stearns County, Minnesota

Submitted to:
Minnesota Department of Transportation
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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is planning to expand Trunk Highway (TH) 23 between Richmond and Paynesville in Stearns County from two lanes to four lanes. This segment is one of two that remains to be expanded in order to create a continuous four-lane rural highway between Willmar and St Cloud. As a state-funded project, this project is subject to review under the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act of 1963. To facilitate this review, the MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) contracted with Deco Cultural Services LLC (Deco) to conduct a Phase I historical archaeology investigation of the project area of potential effects (APE). The objective of the investigation, which included a literature review and field survey, was to identify known historical-archaeological sites and previously unrecorded historical-archaeological sites within the APE that are potentially eligible or known to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Andrea Pizza served as Principal Investigator.

In the fall of 2015, when project plans were pending, the APE was determined by the MnDOT CRU Project Manager to consist of the area within 500 feet of TH 23. In January of 2016, the project layout was provided and the APE reduced to the proposed new right of way, except in one small area where the APE was further reduced based on an absence of proposed construction activities. The APE is located in Sections 21-23 and 27-31 of T123N, R31W, Sections 25 and 36 of T123N, R32W, Section 6 of T122N, R31W, and Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12 of T122N, R32W. It comprises 474 acres located in the Central Lakes Deciduous South archaeological sub-region.

The Phase I field survey was initiated in the fall of 2015, prior to the revision of the APE, during which time three historical-period farmstead sites were surveyed. One of these is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register. The remaining two sites, 21SN0178 (Rothstein site) and 21SN0179 (Baitinger/Schultz site), are recommended as potentially eligible but are outside of the revised APE.

The remainder of the TH 23 Expansion Project APE comprises wetlands and areas for which no evidence of historical occupation exists, many of these cultivated, which have low archaeological potential; the location of a former one-room schoolhouse, which is a site type with low research potential, likely disturbed by its conversion to a residence with garage and septic system; and areas disturbed by previous road construction, utility installation, and post-1965 residential and commercial construction, which are unlikely to contain intact archaeological sites. No further work is therefore recommended prior to or during construction for the TH 23 Expansion Project.

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INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is planning to expand Trunk Highway (TH) 23 between Richmond and Paynesville in Stearns County from two lanes to four lanes. This segment is one of two that remains to be expanded in order to create a continuous four-lane rural highway between Willmar and St Cloud. As a state-funded project, this project is subject to review under the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act of 1963. To facilitate this review, the MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) contracted with Deco Cultural Services LLC (Deco) to conduct a Phase I historical archaeology¹ investigation of the project area of potential effects (APE). The Phase I investigation was performed in September and October of 2015.

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed TH 23 Expansion (TH 23) Project will expand TH 23 between Richmond and Paynesville from a two-lane to a four-lane highway. The expansion will require excavation, realignment, right-of-way acquisition, access changes, stormwater management, and other activities typical of a large roadway expansion project.

1.2 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The APE for archaeology was determined by the MnDOT CRU Project Manager to consist of the proposed new right of way, with one exception (Figure 1). The exception is in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, T122N, R32W, in the location of a farmstead established circa 1950 which falls within the proposed right of way by virtue of being between proposed ponding locations to its north and west and a road realignment to its west and south, but which will not be disturbed by any construction activities. Expansion of TH 23 will occur on the north side of the highway from the east end at Richmond for a distance of approximately 3.5 miles and then shift to the south and east sides of the highway for approximately three miles, after which alternatives are still under consideration for both sides of the high to the west end of the project near Paynesville. Legal locations are provided in Table 1. The UTM (NAD 83, Zone 15) coordinates are east end: E 380660 N 5033942, and west end: E 369386 N 5027926. Coordinates were generated electronically using ACME Mapper 2.1 (<http://mapper.acme.com>).

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The next chapter describes the methods used in the investigation and is followed by two chapters detailing the results of the Phase I literature review, including historic contexts, and the field survey. The final chapter summarizes the cultural resources management recommendations for the project.

¹ This study was limited to historical archaeology; therefore throughout this report, "historical" is implied in the words "archaeology" and "archaeological." Project investigations for precontact archaeological resources were conducted by Florin Cultural Resource Services (Florin), who will prepare a report under separate cover.

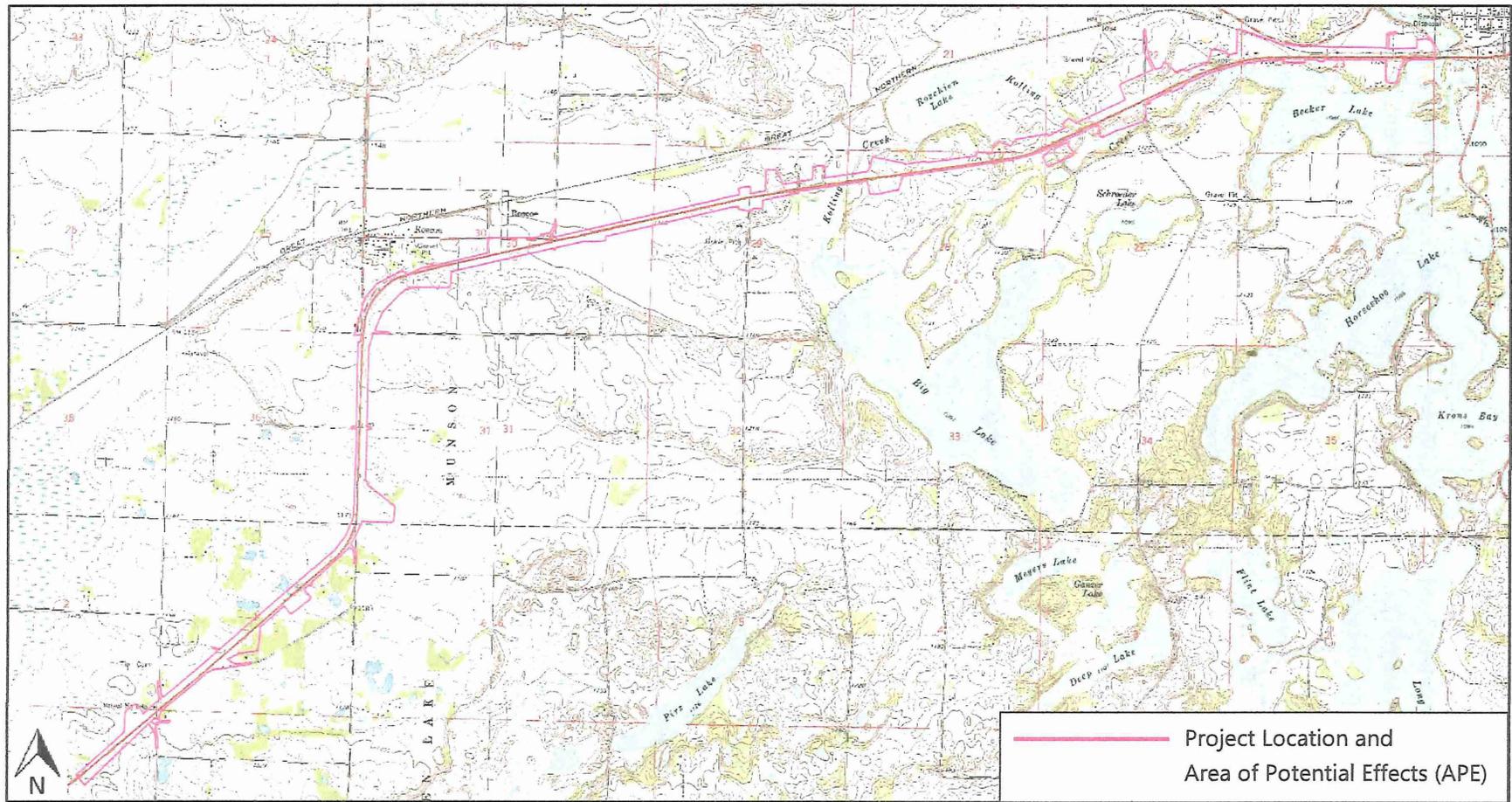


FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION AND APE

(Portions of Richmond and Paynesville 7.5' USGS Quadrangles, obtained through MnGeo's Geospatial Image Service)

TABLE 1. LEGAL LOCATIONS OF THE APE

Township	Range	Section	Quarter Sections
123	31	21	S-SE-SE, SE-SW-SE
		22	W-SW-NE, S-SE-NE, NE-SE-NE, NE-NE-SW, S-NE-SW, S-SW, N-N-SE, S-NW-SE, NW-SW-SE
		23	S-S-N, N-N-S
		27	N-NW-NW
		28	N-N-N, SW-NE-NW, S-NW-NW
		29	N-SW-NW, SW-SW-NW, N-SE-NW, SE-NE-NW, S-N-NE, N-SW-NE
		30	SE-SW-NW, S-SE-NW, S-S-NE, NE-SE-NE, N-N-SW, S-NW-SW, N-NW-SE
		30 (protraction)	Lots 11, 12, and 13
		31 (protraction)	Lots 4, 5, 12, and 13
123	32	25	SE-SE-SE
		36	E-E-E
122	31	6 (protraction)	Lot 5
122	32	1	E-NE-NE, SW-NE-NE, W-SE-NE, E-SW-NE, SW-SW-NE, NW-NW-SE, NE-SW, SE-NW-SW, NW-SE-SW, SW-SW
		2	E-SE-SE, SW-SE-SE
		11	NE-NE, SE-NW-NE, NW-SE-NE, SW-NE
		12	W-NW-NW

METHODS

The objective of the Phase I archaeological investigation was to identify known archaeological sites and any previously unrecorded archaeological sites that are potentially eligible or known to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) within the APE. National Register eligibility is based on the significance criteria outlined below, with Criteria A and D typically most applicable to archaeological sites:

- Criterion A – association with events that have made a significant contribution in our past;
- Criterion B – association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C – embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or representation of the work of a master; possession of high artistic values; or representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and
- Criterion D – potential to yield information important to prehistory or history (National Park Service 2002)

In addition to having historical significance, an archaeological site must have the integrity to convey its significance to be eligible. The National Park Service (2002) identifies seven aspects of integrity for historic properties, including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While all aspects were considered, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guidelines for evaluating archaeological sites state, "With regard to archaeological sites significant under Criterion D, the most critical aspects are location, materials, and association. For Criterion A, setting and feeling are also important" (Anfinson 2005:40). The guidelines additionally note, "In general, eligible archaeological sites need diagnostic artifacts, features, and intact cultural horizons where artifacts and features retain some vertical and horizontal integrity."

All work was conducted per *MnDOT's Cultural Resources Unit Project and Report Requirements* (MnDOT 2015), the *SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota*, (Anfinson 2005), and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (National Park Service 1983).

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

A database query request was submitted to the SHPO on September 2, 2015. Once the results were received, relevant files held at the SHPO were reviewed to obtain information on previously recorded historical-archaeological sites within one mile of the APE and on archaeological surveys previously conducted within the APE. Subsequently, historical maps, historical and current aerial photographs, current topographic maps, and soil surveys were consulted to obtain information on the environmental and land-use history of the APE, and by extension, its potential for containing previously unidentified, intact archaeological sites.

Archaeological potential is assessed based on a combination of historical and current topographic conditions, proximity to water sources and wetlands, and other natural and built environmental factors within and adjacent to a given location. Locations consistently occupied by water bodies or wetlands, subject to frequent inundation, or characterized by poor drainage or slopes of greater than 20 percent would not be conducive to human occupation, and therefore have low potential for containing archaeological sites.

The assessment of an area's potential to contain historical-archaeological resources is based largely on an examination of historical documents and maps, as well as secondary sources, for information indicating the occupation of an area by residences, farmsteads, businesses, industrial properties, towns, camps, and the like. Locations in or near identified occupations are considered to hold higher potential for containing historical-archaeological resources. These are not limited to the locations of buildings, as often the most important information comes from deposits within associated features, such as privies, cisterns, or middens, which were located away from primary buildings. For areas where documentation is not available, natural and environmental conditions conducive to occupation, such as situations on drier, upland landforms in proximity to a natural water source or wetlands, are considered to have greater potential for containing archaeological resources from any period.

2.2 FIELDWORK

A Phase I archaeological survey was performed on September 25 and October 26, 2015. Andrea Pizza served as Principal Investigator and conducted the fieldwork with Joelle Charbel.

The Phase I systematic survey of farmstead sites followed the methodology protocol established in the *Historic Context Study of Minnesota Farmsteads, 1820-1960, Volume 4: Historical Archaeology of Minnesota Farmsteads* (Terrell 2006). Pedestrian reconnaissance was conducted over the entirety of each farmstead at 10-meter (33-foot) intervals, except where these had to be adjusted due to the presence of buildings or other obstructions, or where restrictions were placed on the survey by the landowner, for any aboveground features that might be indicative of subsurface resources, such as foundations and depressions. Subsequently, shovel tests were excavated to assess the nature of one observed depression, i.e., whether it was the surface expression of a subsurface structural feature and/or contained artifact deposits, and of one potential artifact deposit, based on the observation of ceramic material at the surface. Because all farmsteads surveyed for the TH 23 Project have readily visible boundaries in the forms of roadways, windbreaks, plantings, fence lines, and the like, these were used in conjunction with historical aerial photographs to delineate the boundaries of the archaeological sites, eliminating the need to shovel test for that purpose.

One shovel test was excavated into subsoil (C horizon), and the other to a depth of one meter below the surface. Soils were screened through ¼" mesh to ensure the consistent recovery of artifacts. Shovel test data were recorded on standardized forms and included the name of the designated test area in which the shovel test was located; a description of the soil profile including depths, Munsell® color designations, and

textures; whether the shovel test was positive or negative; and the types of artifacts encountered with their associated depth ranges. All recovered artifacts were bagged in the field and labeled with the appropriate test area designation, shovel test number, and depth range. Shovel test locations were recorded using a DeLorme Earthmate® PN-60 GPS unit.

All sites were mapped using a current aerial photograph as the baseline plan, with any buildings, structures, or other features not evident added based on field observations, manual measurements, and GPS recordation.

In addition to targeted shovel testing conducted by Deco for historical-archaeological sites, regular-interval shovel testing for precontact archaeological sites was conducted on one farmstead by Florin, during the course of which a low density of historical-period artifacts was encountered. These artifacts were provided to Deco for analysis.

2.3 LABORATORY

Artifacts were recovered from a single farmstead during the survey, including those recovered by Florin and provided to Deco and those recovered by Deco from a shovel test excavated within a depression. The artifacts were cleaned and analyzed with reference to material class; function; and decorative and other diagnostic attributes to assess whether the deposits might be able to provide important information, though the farmstead would normally be considered to have low research potential based on the presence of a post-1960 house. As the artifacts did not contradict a finding of low research potential, the farmstead was not designated as an archaeological site, and all materials were returned to the property owner.

LITERATURE REVIEW RESULTS

3.1 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

One previous archaeological survey encompassed a portion of the TH 23 APE. This survey was conducted in 2006 for the proposed MinnCan pipeline, the APE for which was a 160-foot-wide corridor that crossed the current APE along the west side of the north-south centerline of Section 29 of T123N, R31W. Pedestrian survey in this location did not identify any archaeological resources (Bielakowski et al. 2007).

No historical-archaeological sites previously have been identified in or within one mile of the TH 23 APE.

3.2 HISTORICAL-ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The review of historical maps and aerial photographs indicated the presence of two property types within the APE during the historical period: a school and farmsteads. For ease of reference, farmsteads considered during this investigation, including two that were surveyed but fall outside of the revised APE, were designated as Farmsteads A through C. Unless otherwise indicated, information presented in the individual sections below is based on federal land patent records; aerial photographs dating to 1938, 1951, 1958, 1965, 1977, and later, and to maps in the following plat books: C. M. Foote & Co. 1896, W. W. Hixson & Co. 1916, Webb Publishing Co. 1925, Thomas O. Nelson Company 1947, and Official Farm Plat Book and Directory 1963.

3.2.1 School District No. 43

The school building for School District No. 43 is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, T122N, R32W (Paynesville Township), on property initially owned by Frederich Gedosch, who obtained a patent on May 20, 1870, and held the property until at least 1896. The school district was organized in 1863. The building currently present was constructed circa 1910 to replace a log structure in the same location (Mitchell 1915:1388). In the early 1930s, the school building was moved onto a newly constructed basement. In 1970, the school was converted to a residence (Williams 2000). It was likely at this time that the garage located on the property was constructed and the septic installed.

The school was not a boarding school, and available evidence indicates that teachers did not live onsite; therefore, although the school was used for many decades, its occupation was of an ephemeral nature and therefore would have been unlikely to generate substantial amounts of material that would provide important new information on the activities or lifeways of rural students or teachers. This location therefore is considered to have low potential for containing significant archeological resources. In addition, the construction of the 1910 school building, the 1930s construction of a basement, and the 1970 or later construction of a garage and septic-system installation each would likely have disturbed any potential deposits present from the preceding era. This location is therefore considered to have low potential for containing intact, significant archaeological resources and was not subject to field survey.

3.2.2 Farmstead A (Thyen/Meyers/Hansgen/Hemmesch)

Farmstead A is located in the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 23, T123N, R31W. The original land patent for the property dates to September 1st, 1869, and shows that Heinrich Thyen homesteaded 160 acres consisting of the west half of the west half of Section 23. A farmhouse is depicted on the 1896 plat map in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 23, under the ownership of Mary Thien et al. By this time, the family retained only the west half of the northwest quarter, minus approximately three acres that was occupied by a road and a segment of the Great Northern Railway line.

Comparison of aerial photographs shows that this farmstead has undergone substantial changes since 1938. Prior to the construction of TH 23, access to the farmstead was from County Road 111 on the north. The 1938 aerial photograph shows access to the farmstead consisting of a single drive, which extended west off of the north side of TH 23, then through the core of the farmstead where it turned north and extended through agricultural fields before veering east to meet up with County Road 111. At that time, the farmstead included a house and barn along with six outbuildings and structures, in a roughly U-shaped pattern with the long axis paralleling TH 23 and a windbreak running along the north side.

By 1951, three of the outbuildings/structures had been removed, with one new small outbuilding added in roughly the same location as a former large one, and another added to its north. It is possible, given their size and shape, that the latter two were relocations, and only one outbuilding/structure was removed between 1938 and 1951. Between 1951 and 1958, although the farmstead remained largely the same, the access from County Road 111 was eliminated, the driveway from TH 23 ending within the farmstead.

The period between 1958 and 1965 saw major changes to the farmstead. The original house was removed, and a large, new house was built in its stead. A second, wider driveway was created, branching off the existing access from TH 23 to extend north from the highway then turn west into the new house's attached garage. What is now known to have been a steer shed was built in the location of the barn, and only two outbuildings that had been present in 1958 remained, at least in their original locations. Whether any other outbuildings or structures were moved on the property, the number of outbuildings and structures overall increased by at least four prior to 1965, and the majority were now located on the north end of the farmstead behind the windbreak, the western half of which had been removed. The U-shaped configuration had been lost.

Between 1965 and 1977, access to the farmstead was altered yet again. A large, wide driveway was built from TH 23 directly north to the steer shed, and this was connected to the house driveway by a western extension of the earliest driveway off of TH 23, with the turn to the north as had been present in 1938 eliminated. An addition was made to the steer shed; numerous outbuildings and structures were eliminated, leaving four that had been present in 1965; and one was replaced. Circa 2010, a pump house was put in behind the house, and circa 2012-2013, a small structure, the steer shed, the driveway leading to it from TH 23, and the driveway that connected the steer shed and house driveways were removed.

3.2.3 Farmstead B (Rothstein)

Farmstead B is located in the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 21, T123N, R31W. The land comprising the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ and the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 21, along with the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ and the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 28, was purchased by Peter Rothstein on June 1, 1861, from Electa Walton, who had been issued the property through a military warrant. As of 1896, the property was owned by Christian Rothstein. The farmstead continued to be owned by the Rothstein family, with Nicholas Rothstein as the owner in 1916 and 1963. The most recent owner, until his recent passing, was Marcellus Rothstein.

Comparison of aerial photographs shows that although this farmstead has undergone shifts in the number and locations of outbuildings over the years, the core layout has remained largely the same as it was in 1938. The 1896 plat shows that the farmstead was accessed from a road that ran northeast-southwest in the SE ¼ of Section 21 as it approached the east side of the farmstead, then curved just beyond the farmstead and ran east-west on its south side. The 1938 aerial shows a long driveway that ran generally north before forking to the northwest to the east side of the house and to the northeast toward the barn. By this time, although the northeast-southwest portion of the original road was still visible near the farmstead, the west-east portion had been replaced by TH 23. In 1938, the house and barn were accompanied by at least three and possibly five outbuildings and structures, the farmstead arranged in a generally linear plan.

Between 1938 and 1951, at least two outbuildings or structures were added to the south-central portion of the farmstead, breaking up its linearity, and the driveway to the house was shifted to the west in an inverted forked driveway that extended north-northwest from TH 23 then came together at the house, the original drive to the barn extending off of the east branch of the fork at the original road. One of the south-central outbuildings/structures was removed between 1951 and 1958, or perhaps relocated, as a similarly sized building was then located south of the other of the two. The westernmost outbuilding on the farmstead was also removed during this period, but another outbuilding was added to the west end by 1965. The second south-central outbuilding/structure and the one that potentially had been relocated on its south side were removed, as was a building at the eastern end of the farmstead, northeast of the barn, between 1965 and 1977.

Another outbuilding took the place of the two smaller structures and a large outbuilding was added to the west end of the farmstead after 1965. The quality of the historical aerial photographs is not such that the period of construction for the garage can be discerned beyond that it predates 1991. The house and barn that were present in 1938 still exist on the farmstead. Although none of the larger outbuildings present in 1938 remain on the farmstead, the locations of buildings that were moved or added into their current locations generally replicate the placement of buildings that were present in that year. Any small buildings or structures that were present in 1938 cannot be readily discerned on aerial photographs.

3.2.4 Farmstead C (Baitinger/Schultz)

Farmstead C is located in the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 1, T122N, R32W. The original land patent for the property dates to August 10, 1871, and it shows that John Baitinger homesteaded just under 160 acres consisting of the northeast quarter of Section 1.

Local histories indicate that the Baitingers were among the earliest Euro-american settlers of the Paynesville area (Atwood c. 1896:73; Mitchell 1915:838-839; Paynesville Historical Society 1983:28). John Baitinger came to the United States from Germany in 1854. After two years in New York, he and his wife, Fredericka, headed west and arrived in the Paynesville area on April 22, 1857 (First Evangelical United Brethren Church [The Church] 1964). They secured 160 acres in Section 6 of T122N, R31W (Eden Lake Township), adding to their holdings the 160 acres constituting the NE ¼ of Section 1, T122N, R32W (Paynesville Township), sometime between 1860 and 1870. Other acreage was purchased by the Baitingers during this decade, as the 1870 federal agricultural census schedule indicates their property comprised 421 acres in that year. Accounts vary as to the fate of the earliest buildings located on the farmstead, which would have been in Section 6 of Paynesville Township. *Paynesville, Minnesota, Centennial, 1858-1958*, published in 1958, notes, "It is said that the Baitinger and Wartenberg families also shared with their Indian neighbors, who during the uprising showed their gratitude by sparing the homes of those who had shown them kindness" (n.a. 1958:84), while *History of Stearns County, Minnesota*, published in 1915, indicates that they were destroyed during the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, but that afterward "as the years passed their farm became an excellent place, well cultivated and ornamented with slightly modern buildings" (Mitchell 1915:839). In either case, it was noted circa 1896 that the Baitingers' "beautiful farm with its fine buildings shows careful and intelligent management" (Atwood c. 1896:81).

In addition to his farming duties, from circa 1869 to circa 1887, John Baitinger served as the postmaster for the Zion post office, having been largely responsible for its establishment (Mitchell 1915:839; Atwood c. 1896:81). An 1880 map has the notation of "post office" on the property in Section 1 of Paynesville Township, which he likely operated out of the house. He was a charter member of the Zion German Evangelical Church, and his was one of many homes in which services were held until a proper church building was constructed in 1874 (The Church 1964; Paynesville Historical Society 1983:28). John Baitinger also served as treasurer for a time for District No. 43, and classes were taught in the house in 1867 (Atwood c. 1896:79). He was chairman of the supervisors of the town of Verndale, a large territory that was subdivided in 1867 into several townships, including Paynesville Township, and he subsequently served as a town supervisor for Paynesville Township (Atwood c. 1896:80-81). His role in the township was summarized in 1896 as follows: "John Baitinger has been so intimately connected with all of the town affairs that the history of Paynesville would be incomplete without mentioning him" (Atwood, c. 1896:81).

Seven of John and Fredericka's children lived into adulthood; Jennie, Caroline, Kate, George, John, Mary, and Henry. Mary married Ferdinand Schultz, and the two of them lived on her parents' farmstead. Once John discontinued farming circa 1890 and moved to Paynesville proper, she and Ferdinand took over the house and farming operations. Historical maps indicate, however, that although they retained the

farmstead in Paynesville Township, their farmlands were located in Section 6 of Eden Lake Township. The portion of the NE ¼ of Section 1 beyond the farmstead had been the property of George in 1896, and then was transferred to Jennie sometime during the next two decades. Mary and Ferdinand's four children were Florence, Harvey, Caroline, and Malinda (Mitchell 1915:842). Sometime between 1947 and 1963, Harvey became the owner of his parents' property, as well as of his Aunt Jennie's. It remained in his possession until it was finally sold outside of the family to Richard and Brigid Felling in 1989.

Comparison of aerial photographs indicates that changes to this farmstead have been limited to the removal and addition of a few minor outbuildings or structures. Historically, the farmstead was accessed as it is now, from a road that followed the route of today's County Road 123. The 1938 aerial photograph shows a driveway extending west from the road, culminating in a fork for accessing the barn to the north and the house to the south, as it is currently. One outbuilding and two, possibly three, additional small outbuildings or structures were located to the west of the house, on a north-south line and roughly parallel with the barn, which was just north of these in a continuation of the line. Two other outbuildings were aligned on an east-west line, just northeast of the north end of the barn. These two structures, the barn, and the driveway surrounded an open area, along the east edge of which a windbreak/privacy screen of trees was planted along County Road 123. This windbreak picked back up on the south side of the driveway to screen the house, and numerous other trees surrounded the complement of buildings and structures on its remaining sides. The presence of these trees obscures the locations of some of the smaller outbuildings or structures in subsequent aerial photographs, yet it is apparent that the house, barn, outbuilding to the south of the barn, and two outbuildings to its northeast were present through at least 1965.

A current aerial photograph shows at least the house, two small outbuildings/structures to its west, the barn, and one outbuilding to its northeast are still present; other building/structure locations are obscured by trees. The farmstead retains the open area in front of the barn, and the windbreak continues to shield the property from County Road 123. Heavy tree cover continues to surround the other sides of the farmstead.

3.3 HISTORIC CONTEXTS

The historic context that follows is included based on the archaeological sites identified during the Phase I archaeological field survey for the TH 23 Expansion Project and provides a framework for the assessment of their potential historical significance. It is based in the statewide historic contexts Early Agriculture and River Settlement, 1840-1870; Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940; and Euro-American Farms in Minnesota, 1820-1960.

3.3.1 *German-American Settlement and Agriculture in Rural Stearns County, 1850s-1960*

The arrival of German immigrants into Stearns County began circa 1854, shortly after the surveys of lands ceded by the Dakota in 1851 had been initiated (Gross 1995:41). Extensive German immigration into the U.S. during this time was the continuation of a trend begun in 1830 and amplified by a failed political revolution in the German states in 1848. Between 1831 and 1840, over 150,000 Germans made their way

to the U.S., followed by nearly 435,000 in the subsequent decade, and close to one million in the decade after that. In 1854 alone, just as they began to settle in Stearns County, German immigrants supplied 215,009 new members to the country's population (Wyman 1984:57-58).

The choice to move into Stearns County was, in part, dictated by the limits on transportation during the 1850s. The lands that would be designated in 1855 as Stearns County were located along and proximate to the Mississippi River, the primary route by which Germans entered Minnesota, and its tributaries, making them attractive from the standpoint of accessibility. A major concentration, therefore, of Germanic peoples occurred in Stearns County and neighboring Benton County, as it did in other portions of the state adjacent to the Mississippi and extending along the Minnesota River from the confluence of the two. As of 1860, 68.2% of Stearns County's foreign-born population was German, and 50 percent of its overall population was German born or of German descent (Johnson 1981:163, 167; Rippley 1981:51; Gross 1995:44).

Accessibility, however, was not the only impetus for Germans to make their home in Stearns County. Beginning in 1854 with an entreaty by missionary Father Francis Pierz in the German-Catholic publication *Wahrheitsfreund* for readers from that religious community to relocate to central Minnesota, promotion of the area by the Catholic Church and the subsequent process of chain migration resulted in a substantial influx of Germans. The effect was such that despite the increasing diversity attendant with population growth in Minnesota, as of 1910, nearly one-third of Stearns County residents were "Germans of foreign or native birth" (Mitchell 1915:709), with Germans constituting 60 percent of foreign-born residents, and a majority of its residents acknowledging religious affiliation were Catholic (Johnson 1981:168).

Although the Germans of Stearns County were predominantly Catholic, Evangelical and Methodist Germans were also drawn to the area and formed enclaves in a few locations, for example, Paynesville Township, where no Catholic churches were reported to exist in 1896 (Atwood 1896:79-80; Conzen 1990:13). While the presence of like-minded individuals undoubtedly appealed to German Protestants settling in these locations, this segment of Stearns County's German-immigrant population arrived not so much as the result of concerted efforts by their churches, but rather due to the third condition encouraging Germans to the area, the availability of land. Land was important because most Germans coming into Minnesota from their homelands, Protestant and Catholic alike, were doing so with the intent to farm.

In the years surrounding the revolution of 1848, farming was easily the dominant economic base in the German states, with "farmers constitut[ing] 72 percent of the population in 1846" (Wyman 1984:52). This form of livelihood, however, had been severely compromised by land shortages and crop failure, particularly in west and south Germany, where heavy reliance on potatoes meant financial devastation after blight reached these areas circa 1846 (Wyman 1984:55, 57). By moving to central Minnesota, German farmers could obtain sizeable amounts of land for little cost (Gross 1995:61). Father Pierz' appeal to *Wahrheitsfreund* readers had been particularly aimed at farmers, who he hoped would obtain "the choicest pieces of land [so that they might] bear out the opinion that Germans prove to be the best farmers and the best Christians in America" (quoted in Johnson 1981:167).

Whether or not Pierz' hopes were fulfilled, numerous Germans made their way to Stearns County beginning in the mid 1850s and were joined by native-born people as well as significantly smaller numbers of other foreign-born groups, including but not limited to Irish, British, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Swiss, Polish, and Danish immigrants. Agriculture was the dominant means by which they made their living; as of 1860, 1,048 families were residing in Stearns County and 709 farms had been established there. The 1870 census recorded approximately 2,800 families, by which time the number of farms had grown to 2,000 (U.S. Census Office 1860:345; United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 1870; Robinson 1915:258; Gross 1995:45).

Despite the agricultural bent of most of the county's residents, the industry took some time to come to fruition. The earliest years were marked by the process of clearing timber for cropland, grasshopper plagues in 1856 and 1857, and hardships created by a general lack of technology, readily obtainable supplies, milling facilities, efficient transportation, and other conveniences, after which occurred the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862, which was heavily fought and devastated numerous farms in Stearns County (Gross 1995:190). During this period, farming was almost entirely at the subsistence variety as families had to ensure their well-being before they could expand into market-level production, particularly because they were isolated from any major markets; St. Cloud was still a developing city, and even once the St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway arrived there in 1866, the depot was located on the opposite side of the Mississippi in the Benton County portion. The railroad line therefore could not be extended into Stearns County until after the bridge over the river was completed in 1872. Although the 1860 agricultural census indicates an average farm size of 163.5 acres in 1859, the percent of improved land in farms was 15.2, and those families having less than 16 improved acres often were forced to supplement their subsistence through other means. Livestock were owned in limited numbers during this early period, with farmers typically owning a few swine; two or fewer dairy cows; and a couple oxen. The greatest yields reported in bushels were of potatoes at 65,039, followed by wheat at 55,801, oats at 49,369, and corn at 41,880 (Robinson 1915:250, 261-274, 277-296, 302; Gross 1995:188-189).

Over the next decade, while southeastern Minnesota farmers were transitioning into wheat monoculture, the majority of Stearns County farmers maintained other crops. Still without a railroad line and needing to ensure subsistence, reliance on the success of a single crop was too risky and would not support a healthy diet. Only the wealthier farmers were at all engaged in growing wheat, others opting to invest solely in more familiar crops such as corn, potatoes, and oats (Gross 1995:189-190). The latter, in fact, saw the biggest increase in yields, nine times over what was recorded the previous decade. Oats were the most prolific crop grown by the 2,000 farms of Stearns County in 1869, with 447,193 bushels produced, followed by wheat at 305,114 bushels, potatoes at 120,865 bushels, and corn at 78,627 bushels (Robinson 1915: 261-274, 277-296). Livestock numbers relative to the number of farms, particularly of sheep and goats, began to increase as well.

The coming of the railroad to Stearns County in 1872 spurred agricultural development to new levels. By 1879, despite a drop in average farm size to 157.3 acres, over 41 percent of land in farms had been improved, and an additional 885 farms had been established. Although wheat had taken the lead in crops produced,

at over 1.1 million bushels, it did not achieve the singular dominance it had in other counties, likely because around the time the railroad arrived, conditions such as falling prices due to overproduction, the financial panic of 1873, and high freight rates charged by the railroad made wheat specialization less profitable than it previously had been (Robinson 1915:61). Oats, for example, continued to play a major role in the county, with yields of 728,996 bushels in 1879, and dairying was gaining a foothold in the agricultural economy, with over 43,000 gallons of milk sold in 1879, well over the 108 sold in 1869 (Robinson 1915:292).

Dairying as part of a diversified program would soon overtake Stearns County agriculture. The late 1870s witnessed the beginning of the end of the era of wheat, and at the same time, the invention of the cream separator and the establishment of the state's first creameries. By the late 1880s, Stearns County had three creameries, and by the mid 1890s, 14. Further stimulated by an available niche in the national butter market, the circa-1905 invention of milking machines, and other technological advances in diversified farming overall, the county's dairy industry mushroomed. Between 1880 and 1910, the number of dairy cattle owned rose from 1,102 to 35,090. In 1913, Stearns County was home to 33 creameries comprising 17 cooperatives, 14 independents, and two corporate factories. As a result, that year saw the county receive "more money from the sale of butter fat than was received in any other county in the state, aside from Ramsey and Hennepin counties, which are not agricultural counties at all but in whose cities are located the 'centralizers' which draw from all parts of the state" (Mitchell 1915:716-717; Brinkman 1988:15, 17; Granger and Kelly 2005:3.30, 3.33). Yet another impetus to dairying came shortly thereafter, when World War I created increased demand by the federal government for dairy products. With the flourishing of the dairying industry came increases in the size and variety of buildings and structures on Stearns County's farmsteads. Barns in particular became expansive in their size as farmers sought to accommodate larger herds and new technologies (Brinkman 1988:18-19; Granger and Kelly 2005:3.29).

As occurred throughout Minnesota, the agricultural depression of the 1920s and the Great Depression created economic hardship for the farmers of Stearns County, yet on the whole they fared better than farmers in other regions of the state because they practiced diversification (Granger and Kelly 2005:3.93); and as World War I had done in a prior era, so too did World War II stimulate massive demand for agricultural products, thereby reinvigorating the industry. Powdered milk, in particular, was important to the war effort, which benefitted the nation's dairy farmers. Stearns County, by the end of the war, was the top milk-producing county in Minnesota and the twenty-first in the nation, and dairying-based diversified farming continued to dominate Stearns County agriculture through the 1950s and beyond (Brinkman 1988:22-23).

SURVEY RESULTS

The Phase I archaeological investigation for the TH 23 Expansion Project identified one location with the potential for archaeological resources within the revised APE, which is a farmstead designated as Farmstead A (Figure 2). It was determined to have low research potential and therefore is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register. Two additional farmsteads, Farmsteads B and C, were surveyed in the fall of 2015 prior to the submittal of project plans and the reduction of the APE, and are therefore discussed below (see Figure 2). These two sites, 21SN0178 and 21SN0179, are recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, but they fall outside of the revised APE.

The remainder of the APE comprises wetlands, areas for which no evidence of historical occupation exists, many of these cultivated, and the location of former School No. 43 (see Section 3.2.1; see Figure 2), which has low archaeological potential. No further work is therefore recommended prior to or during construction for the TH 23 Expansion Project.

4.1 FARMSTEAD A (THYEN/MEYERS/HANSGEN/HEMMESCH)

The location of Farmstead A is within the revised APE. It is on the north side of TH 23, approximately 0.29 mile west of the highway's intersection with the west end of Becker Lake Circle, in the NW ¼ of Section 23, T123N, R31W (see Figure 2). The existing buildings and structures are entirely within the APE for archaeology. The appearance of most of the outbuildings is such that a date range is difficult to discern, particularly given that some of these may have been moved; sheet metal coverings have been added to two of the buildings, and one has been modified by cladding it in plywood, adding a metal roof, and placing a shed-roofed addition on the side of it. None of the buildings, however, appear to date prior to 1900. Those buildings and the structure that can be dated include a circa-1930s shed or storage building, the circa-1962 house, and a circa-2010 pump house.

Prior to the walkover of the farmstead, the current landowner pointed out a depression that exists on the property and where her family thought perhaps a cistern had once been located. She believed that her parents had tried to level it off by filling it in with dirt a few times, but she could not be sure. The walkover of the farmstead encountered no additional features or potential indicators for intact artifact deposits.

A shovel test was placed in the depression, designated as Feature 1, which yielded a high density of artifacts consisting largely of demolition debris such as window-glass fragments and nails. Additionally recovered were several non-diagnostic metal can fragments, container glass and glassware fragments, and whiteware, and indeterminate metal fragments. Diagnostic artifacts, which with the exception of wire nails present throughout the shovel test are domestic in nature, constitute the lowest numbers in the assemblage. Still, they were present in sufficient numbers to demonstrate the mixing of deposits. A circa-1950s Dad's Root Beer bottle fragment and a Duco Cement tube of roughly the same age, for example, were encountered between 10 and 33 centimeters below the surface, while a beverage can pull tab, which would date to 1963 at the earliest, was recovered from between 50 and 75 centimeters below the surface. Overall, the majority

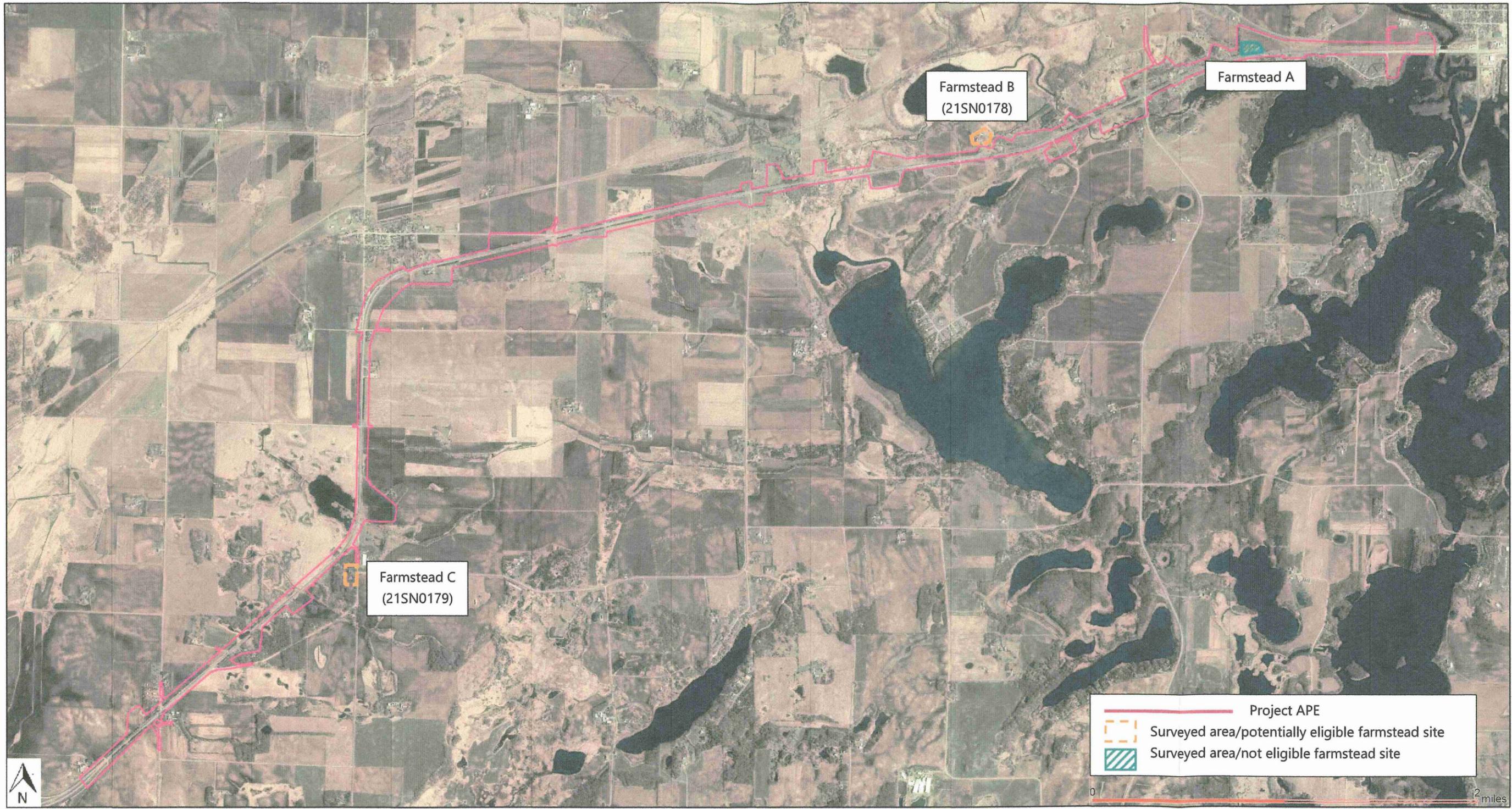


FIGURE 2. SURVEY RESULTS

of the artifacts recovered appear to date from the mid to late twentieth century, although a few decorated ceramic fragments may date to an earlier era. None, however, exhibit a makers mark or other strongly diagnostic indicators, and all were recovered from the same depths as the mid to late twentieth-century materials; therefore this possibility cannot be confirmed.

Shovel testing for precontact archaeological sites was conducted on Farmstead A by Florin, during the course of which a low density of historical-period artifacts was encountered. These artifacts were provided to Deco for analysis. They consisted primarily of non-diagnostic fragments of metal wire, colorless glass, wood, concrete, slag, whiteware, and milk glass jar cap liners. Diagnostic artifacts were limited to wire nails (typically post 1890), a machine-cut nail and machine-cut nail fragments (typically pre 1890), and a fragment of colorless glass with applied color labeling (post 1932).

4.1.1 Research Potential

Property Type: Farmstead A is a confirmed farmstead. Based on historical documentation, this farmstead was occupied and in use from the late 1800s through the present, which would associate it with several historic contexts for farmsteads in Minnesota. The single identified feature on the property was a depression containing artifacts dating largely from the mid to late twentieth century, the earliest diagnostics of which would be associated with the "World War II and the Postwar Period, 1940-1960" developmental period for Minnesota farms (Granger and Kelly 2005:3.105).

Site Status: The farmstead is extant, but the residents of the property no longer operate a farm. Surrounding agricultural fields once associated with the farmstead are now worked by a neighboring farmer.

Structural Remains: The farmhouse post-dates the end of the period of significance for Minnesota farmsteads, and it is in the same location as was the much smaller farmhouse from the period of significance. A barn is not present, and the building most likely to be the barn in historical aerial photographs was removed sometime between 1958 and 1965, when a much larger steer shed was put in its place. For these reasons, the site would be considered to have low research potential. Although this potential may have been raised by the identification of an artifact-dense feature, artifacts within Feature 1 occurred mainly as non-diagnostic demolition debris, and it was determined that the deposits in the depression are not intact; therefore, the research potential at this location remains low.

4.1.2 Recommendations

Based on its low research potential, Farmstead A is not designated as an archaeological site, and no further archaeological work is recommended for this location prior to or during construction for the TH 23 Project.

4.2 FARMSTEAD B (ROTHSTEIN)

The location of Farmstead B is outside of the revised APE. It is on the north side of TH 23 approximately 0.35 mile west of the highway's intersection with Fellows Road, in the SE ¼ of Section 21, T123N, R31W (see Figure 2). A century farm sign on the property indicates a beginning date of 1873, a date which the house

seems to reflect; however, the rock-faced concrete-block foundation upon which it currently sits bears a date stamp of 1916, suggesting that it was moved from an unknown original location on the farmstead in that year. The barn, a large, gothic-arched barn, likely would have been constructed around the same year. In addition to the barn, 12 outbuildings and structures that appear to date to the period of significance for Minnesota farms are present (Figure 3).

The walkover of the farmstead located two depressions, one of which is approximately 10 feet behind (north) of an extant privy, and the other of which is just east of the driveway pad in front of the house, between two granite stones that are flush with the ground surface. Additionally present is a feature comprising an oblong arrangement of concrete block and stones, with the concrete block creating two parallel lines, and stones piled on either end to make an enclosure measuring 9 by 12 feet in area. This feature, designated as Feature 1, is located approximately 12 feet east of the house and may be a planter (Figure 4).

Because landowner permission was not granted with sufficient notice for a utility locate prior to the first field mobilization, shovel testing of Feature 1 and the depressions was planned for a subsequent field effort,



FIGURE 3. FARMSTEAD B, 21SN0179 (ROTHSTEIN SITE)



FIGURE 4. FEATURE 1, LOOKING NORTH

which was to occur in the spring jointly with Florin's shovel testing for the precontact component. Prior to the spring, however, the APE was revised, after which the farmstead was no longer within the APE; therefore, no additional fieldwork was conducted in this location.

4.2.1 Research Potential

Property Type: Farmstead B is a confirmed farmstead. Based on historical documentation, this farmstead was occupied and in use from the late 1800s until just recently, when the owner passed away, which would associated it with several historic contexts for farmsteads in Minnesota.

Site Status: The farmstead was extant and operational until just recently, which indicates moderate research potential.

Structural Remains: A farmhouse, barn, and several outbuildings from the period of significance for Minnesota farmsteads remain standing, which suggests high research potential.

Condition of the Farmstead Site: The farmstead has extant structures and distinct depressions, which suggests high research potential.

Portion of Farmstead within the Project APE: This farmstead is no longer within the APE for the TH 23 Project.

4.2.2 Recommendations

Based on the likelihood that it holds high research potential, Farmstead B is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. As such, it has been assigned a site inventory number, 21SN0178. Because, however, it is outside of the APE, no further archaeological work is recommended in this location prior to or during construction for the TH 23 Project.

4.3 FARMSTEAD C (BAITINGER/SCHULTZ)

The location of Farmstead C is outside of the revised APE. It is on 253rd Avenue, on the west side of where CR 123 forms a T with it, in the NE ¼ of Section 1, T122N, R32W (see Figure 2). The farmstead includes the house, a collapsed barn, a machine shed, a poultry house, a well, a collapsed privy, a corn crib, and a garage (Figure 5). The earliest building is the circa-1870 house, and based on historical aerial photographs, it appears the remaining buildings were built prior to 1938.

Prior to the walkover of the farmstead, the current landowner pointed out a location along an existing horse trail behind the farmstead in which ceramic material could be seen at the surface and a long, linear



FIGURE 5. FARMSTEAD C, 21SN0179 (BAITINGER/SCHULTZ SITE)

arrangement of boulders and large rocks, well beyond the farmstead proper, which may have marked a boundary or served as erosion control. A stone monument base was observed on the farmstead approximately 15 meters south of the southeast corner of the barn. This base may or may not be in situ, although its location is suspect as it is in proximity to a former outbuilding that appears on historical aerial photographs through at least 1965, which the current property owners noted was a granary. It is noted, however, that not long after they moved in circa 1989, they encountered a displaced headstone in this vicinity. They do not recall the name on the headstone, although it was neither Baitinger nor Schultz. The area in which it is located is behind a fence, and permission to shovel test in this location, along with the rest of the farmstead proper, was denied. The walkover of the farmstead encountered no additional features or potential indicators for intact artifact deposits.

A shovel test was placed in the location of the ceramic material along the horse trail, which is surrounded by trash that had been dumped during the later years of the Schultz occupation. The material was a large fragment of displaced drain tile. No other artifacts were encountered in the shovel test, the profile for which indicated erosion, consisting of a thin layer of 10YR 3/1 topsoil over 10 YR 4/3 subsoil.

Property Type: Farmstead C is a confirmed farmstead. Based on historical documentation, this farmstead was occupied and in use from circa 1865 until 1989, when the property was sold to the current owners, who are not farmers. The farmstead is therefore associated with several historic contexts for farmsteads in Minnesota.

Site Status: The farmstead is extant and was operational until 1989. Although the continued use of a farmstead into the modern period typically indicates moderate research potential, the continued use of this farmstead created extremely minimal changes in layout since 1938, and perhaps earlier. Because the layout remained largely the same, it is less likely that later operations destroyed evidence of earlier ones, resulting in increased research potential.

Structural Remains: The farmhouse, the barn, and nearly all other identified outbuildings/structures from the period of significance for Minnesota farmsteads remain standing or are collapsed in place, which suggests high research potential. Because the outhouse superstructure has collapsed, a shovel test could not be placed in its location; it is noted, however, that if artifacts are present below the surface in this location, the superstructure would have served to prevent disturbance of the deposits.

Condition of the Farmstead Site: The farmstead has extant buildings and structures, which suggests high research potential.

Portion of Farm within the Project APE: This farmstead is no longer within the APE for the TH 23 Project.

4.3.2 Recommendations

Based on the likelihood that it holds high research potential, Farmstead C is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. As such, it has been assigned a site inventory number, 21SN0179. Because, however, it is outside of the APE, no further archaeological work is recommended in this location prior to or during construction for the TH 23 Project.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Two archaeological sites, 21SN0178 (Rothstein site) and 21SN0179 (Baitinger/Schultz site), were identified during archaeological investigations for the TH 23 Project and are recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Based, however, on revised project plans, these sites are no longer within the project APE. Outside of these sites, the TH 23 Project APE is disturbed, has low archaeological potential, or was found negative for significant archaeological resources. No further archaeological work is therefore recommended prior to or during construction for the TH 23 Project.

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