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"SCENIC: A MINNESOTA STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY"

BY

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Prepared for the
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of State Parks

Principal Investigator
Elden Johnson

June 1981

Abstract

An archaeological reconnaissance survey was undertaken in October 1979 and May 1980 on a trail to Tell Lake and eight walk-in campsites on Pine and Sandwick Lakes, Scenic State Park, Itasca County, Minnesota.

A new garage site was also checked. All were negative.

knolls were tested; marshes were not. Upon reaching the southeast corner of the lake, the trail turns south and then east, following a small creek valley back to the existing trail. The entire area is heavily wooded, with dense underbrush everywhere except in the creek valley. Here the floor of the forest has a grass covering. The results of a recent storm were visible in the hundreds of downed trees. Nearly every tree fall was examined for archaeological material as well as ten tests being dug along the route. All were negative.

The 1980 segment of the survey was conducted on 25 May 1980 since the campsites had not been chosen when the fall survey was being conducted. There are two campsite areas: Pine Lake and Sandwick Lake. The campsites are of two kinds: Adirondack Shelters and primitive campsites. The shelter sites will have a three sided log structure for shelter, a fire ring and picnic table, and a pit toilet. The primitive sites will have only a fire ring and a pit toilet.

Methodology

The methodology for the survey followed Council for Minnesota Archaeology Standards. Tests were placed every fifteen meters within the project area with all material being screened through a 1/4 inch mesh screen. Shovel tests (50cm x 50cm) were excavated to a depth of 50cm at 5cm levels. Tests normally did not go deeper than 50cm and were usually much shallower with the glacial till appearing very near the surface.

Pine Lake

Pine Lake lies on the extreme northern edge of the park. Campsite #1 is in the SE 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 32 Twp 61N R 25W. It sits above the lake on a terrace covered with a pine forest that surrounds the lake. The site already has a shelter built in the 1930's and needs only to be repaired. It has held up remarkably well. Tests at the campsite were negative.

Sandwick Lake

Campsite #3 is located in the East 1/2 NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 6 T 60N 4 25W. It actually lies on the land between Coon Lake and Sandwick Lake across from Chase Point. It sits on a piece of high ground in the middle of the marsh and in the spring of 1980 was totally unreachable by land. The new trail leading across the marsh (connecting the east side of Sandwick Lake to the north end of Coon Lake, was not yet complete and was impassable at the time of the survey. Thus this campsite was not surveyed.

Campsite #4 is in the SW 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 5 T 60N R 25W on the east side of Sandwick on the south side of a small bay on the northeast side of the lake. The area is mixed hardwoods and pines with a heavy underbrush. The soil is sand. This campsite, to be a primitive one, tested negative.

Campsite #5 is to the southwest of #4 on the next point in the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 5 T 60N R 25W. It sits above the lake on a terrace covered with pines. It is to have an Adirondack Shelter. Tests here and all the way around the point and bay to the south were negative.

Campsite #6 is across the bay south from Campsite #5 in the NE 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 6 T 60 N R 25W. It too is under a nice stand of pines. The area showed no signs of cultural resources.

Campsite #7 is on a point across the lake from park headquarters in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 6 T 60N R 25W high above the lake and in a stand of tall pines. The tests were negative.

Campsite #8 is in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 6 T 60 R 25W. It was unclear (the campsite had not been flagged) just exactly where the primitive camp was to go so several tests were put in on both points in the vicinity. All were negative.

the manager's existing house (where the clotheslines are now). The entire area is disturbed, having been excavated and backfilled for the house. No tests were needed for this project.

The Results

A total of twelve tests were excavated at the proposed walk in campsite locations. Any erosional spots in the areas were also checked. While most of the proposed campsites seemed like ideal locations for archaeological sites, no such evidence surfaced in the survey.

Ten tests were dug along the Tell Lake trail and all were negative. This area seemed less likely to have cultural resources and none were encountered. The proposed garage site had already been badly disturbed so no testing seemed necessary.

The preliminary field reports were submitted to the DNR, State Archaeologist, and SHPO on 29 May 1980. Neither the State Archaeologist nor the SHPO had objections to the projects.

Jan E. Streiff

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
June 1980

Bibliography

Department of Natural Resources

- 1978 "A Management Plan for Scenic State Park", Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, Minnesota.

State Archaeologist Site File

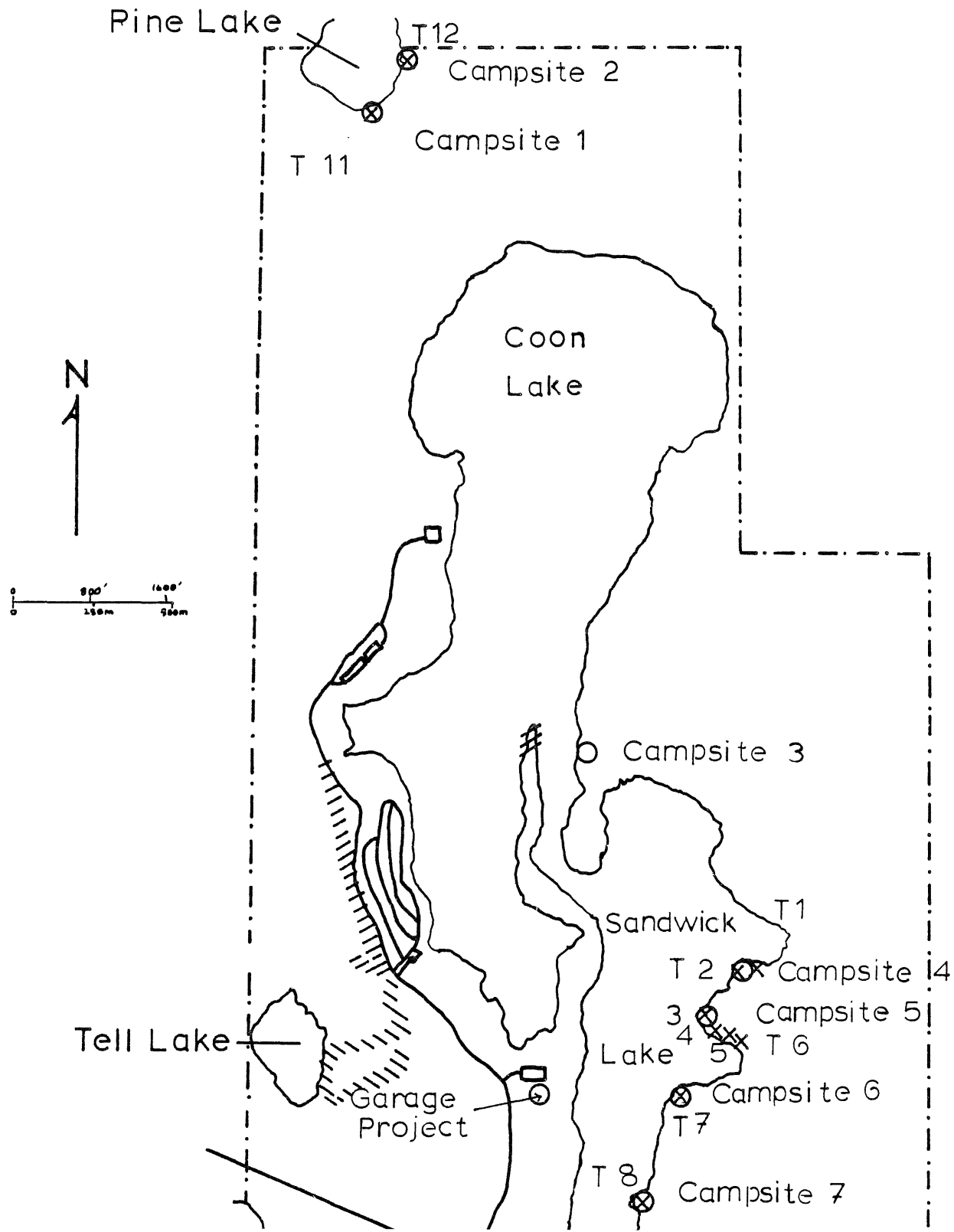
- 1979 Itasca county, State Archaeologist Office, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota.

University of Minnesota Site and County Files

- 1979 Itasca County and Department of Natural Resources, Archaeology Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Vernon, Robert, Susan Queripel, Michael Budeck

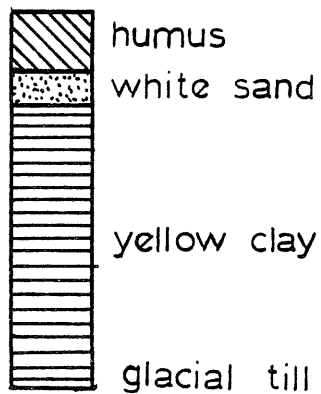
- 1979 "A Cultural Resource Survey for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.



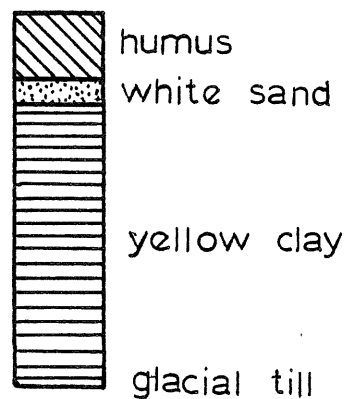
SCENIC STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

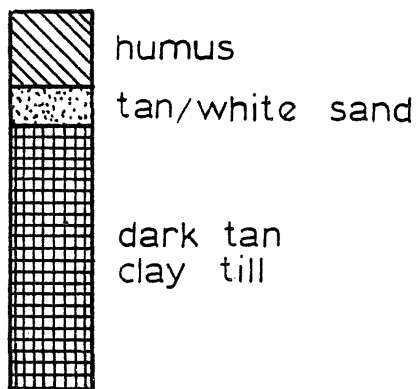
TEST 1



TEST 2



TEST 3



TEST 4

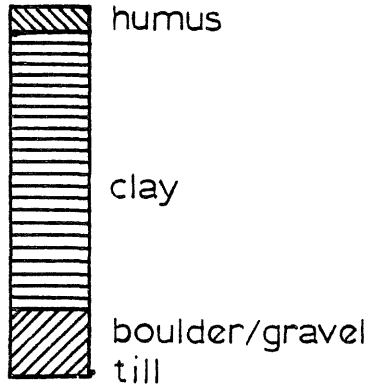


0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

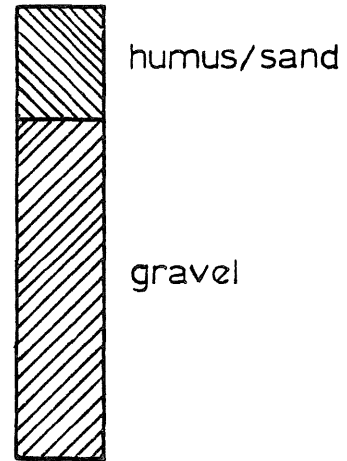
SCENIC STATE PARK

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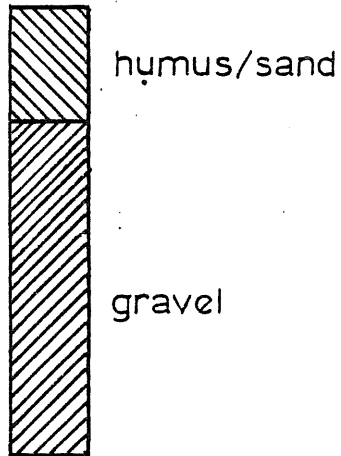
TEST 5



TEST 6



TEST 7



TEST 8



0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

SCENIC STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 9



humus

glacial boulder

0 5 10 20 30 40 50



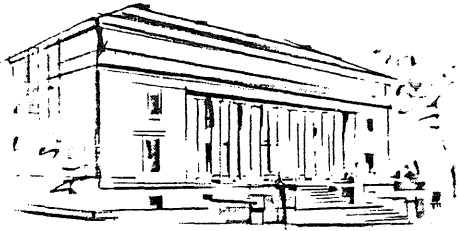
scale in centimeters

TEST 10



humus

sand



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

690 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 • 612-296-2747

December 5, 1979

Mr. John Winter
Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation
Box 39
Centennial Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Winter:

RE: Review of the archaeological survey
work conducted in Scenic State Park,
Garage at Residence, Itasca County.

MHS Referral File Number J592

This letter is to inform you that our office has received a statement regarding the above referenced project. No archaeological sites were located. Consequently, there are no sites of historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance in the project area which are on the National Register or eligible for inclusion on the National Register which may be affected by the above proposal.

Thank you for your support in preserving Minnesota's cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

RWF/cjb

cc: ✓ Ms. Jan Streiff
Department of Anthropology



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Dear Mr. Winter:

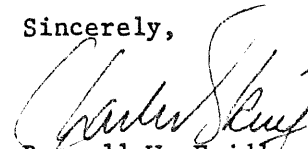
RE: Review of the archaeological survey
work conducted in Scenic State Park,
Trail to Tell Lake, Itasca County.

MHS Referral File Number J591

This letter is to inform you that this office has received a statement regarding the above referenced project. No archaeological sites were located. Consequently, there are no sites of historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance in the project area which are on the National Register or eligible for inclusion on the National Register which may be affected by the above proposal. If however, the trail alignment is altered from where it was originally flagged, the project archaeologist should be consulted as additional archaeological testing may be needed.

Thank you for your support in preserving Minnesota's cultural resources.

Sincerely,



Russell W. Fridley

State Historic Preservation Officer

RWF/cjb