

"FORESTVILLE: 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 December 1979 on a Contact Station bypass road and two proposed loops to be added to the Lower Campground at Forestville State Park (Fillmore County). No archaeological materials were recovered in this survey.

Forestville

The 1979 development projects for Forestville State Park were listed in the Scope of Work in three parts:

- a. "Service Area Completion"
- b. "New Contact Station/Office"
- c. "Campground Roads and Parking Lots"

The first, "Service Area", was already completed by the time the archaeological contract was in effect, so no survey work was done on this project.

The second, "New Contact Station", had been moved from the originally planned site to a location just to the west and on top of a current road bed. No survey was needed on the road bed, but the new road which is to bypass the New Contact Station, was added to the fieldwork.

The third, "Campground Roads" was also finished and only needed to be surfaced. No survey work was done here.

With the deletion of the "Roads" section of the scope, an additional survey was added to the field work: a check of two proposed loops in the Lower Campground.

Background

The University of Minnesota in 1971 sent a survey team to Forestville to see if any archaeological sites were located in the bottoms of the Root River (upland sites were reported along the Root River). The team talked to local people outside of the park who had archaeological collections from the surrounding farms, but no one knew of any prehistoric material coming from within the park.

The archaeologists surveyed three areas within the park boundaries:

- a. the east side of the South Branch of the Root River, both the upper ridge running north/south and the lower terrace next to the river (this area is opposite what is now the Lower Campground).
- b. the Upper Campground

Forestville

c. the terrace on the north side of the South Branch Root River just opposite the junction with Canfield Creek. (See Map 2).

All of these areas tested showed no evidence of prehistoric occupation. The survey team talked to park officials about the historic aspects of the park, but since the historic archaeology was the responsibility of the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Minnesota team undertook no field work in those areas.

The next survey was done in 1975 by the Minnesota Historical Society. The archaeology department had been asked to check an area where a log cabin was to be placed on the north side of the Root River, southwest of the Meighens Store. The survey was positive, with an historic and prehistoric component, but MHS determined that the site was not significant enough to change the cabin location.

In 1976 the Minnesota Historical Society went back to Forestville. They located artifacts in ten places within the park; five findspots were north of the historic townsite along the Root River; three were southeast of the townsite; and two were at the junction of Canfield Creek and the Root River.

The 1978 Minnesota Historical Society survey was conducted to check the following development projects:

- a. a new service center complex
- b. a new well and campground for equestrians
- c. two bridge crossing locations

There were five isolated "findspots"; places where prehistoric and historic artifacts were found without cultural context. Four of these locations did not warrant the assignment of a state site number, the fifth did and was designated 21 FL 25 (near the new service area).

The 1979 Survey

The 1979 survey was conducted on 1 December 1979 by Field Director Jan E. Streiff with Park Manager James Sletten kindly assisting with the actual location of the development areas.

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Location

The survey concentrated in the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 13 T 102N R 12W (Fillmore County). The area is west of the South Branch Root River and south of Forestville Creek. The campground is on the valley floor floodplain with northern hardwood forest predominating. The new loop area is predominately elm and cottonwood on a sandy loam. In several old river cuts running through the area is found underbrush.

The site of the new contact station is on a slight slope, which rises from the river bottoms to a high terrace above the valley. The soil is more clay with oaks and maples dominant.

Methodology

The methodology followed the Council for Minnesota guidelines for reconnaissance surveys. Shovel tests were placed every 15 meters along the proposed loops unless conditions prevented it (i.e., current roads or trails, wetlands, etc.) The tests (approximately 50cm x 50cm) were excavated to a depth of one meter at 5cm levels. All material was screened through a 1/4 inch mesh screen. If the first meter of soil proved sterile, a soil probe was used to test below one meter to a depth where subsoil predominated. (See profiles).

The Results

Since the general area had been previously surveyed twice (Hudak in 1971 and Vernon in 1978) it seemed unnecessary to extensively test the entire area. The badly eroding Root River bank which is east and adjacent to the current campground (and next to where the new eastern loop would lie) was examined. This is the area at which the historic kerosene lamp chimney was found by Queripel in 1978. No additional material was observed along this bank, but the floodplain stratigraphy was noted for use later in the shovel tests.

Four tests were placed along the proposed loops at locations believed to have possible archaeological potential (i.e., where no roads, trails or old river cuts exist). All tests were negative. (See profiles).

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The Contact Station site, to be located on an existing road (this new road route had been surveyed in 1978 by Vernon) was not tested, but the area just east of the road was excavated. This area will be the new road past the contact station (to replace the road on which will be built the Contact building). One test was placed here and affirmed the Vernon survey (see Map 3) of negative results.

The preliminary field report was submitted to DNR, the State Archaeologist and the SHPO on 10 December 1979. The State Archaeologist approved the report and determined a no effect the following day. The SHPO informed DNR that they had no objection to the development project on 10 January 1980.

Jan E. Streiff
Archaeology Laboratory
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
7 February 1980

Bibliography

Department of Natural Resources

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

Johnson, Elden

- 1974 "Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Minnesota State Parks"
Archaeology Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Minnesota Historical Society

- 1970 County and Project Files, Fort Snelling, St. Paul.

State Archaeologist Site Files

- 1970 Filmore County, State Archaeologist Office, Hamline University, St. Paul.

University of Minnesota Site and County Files

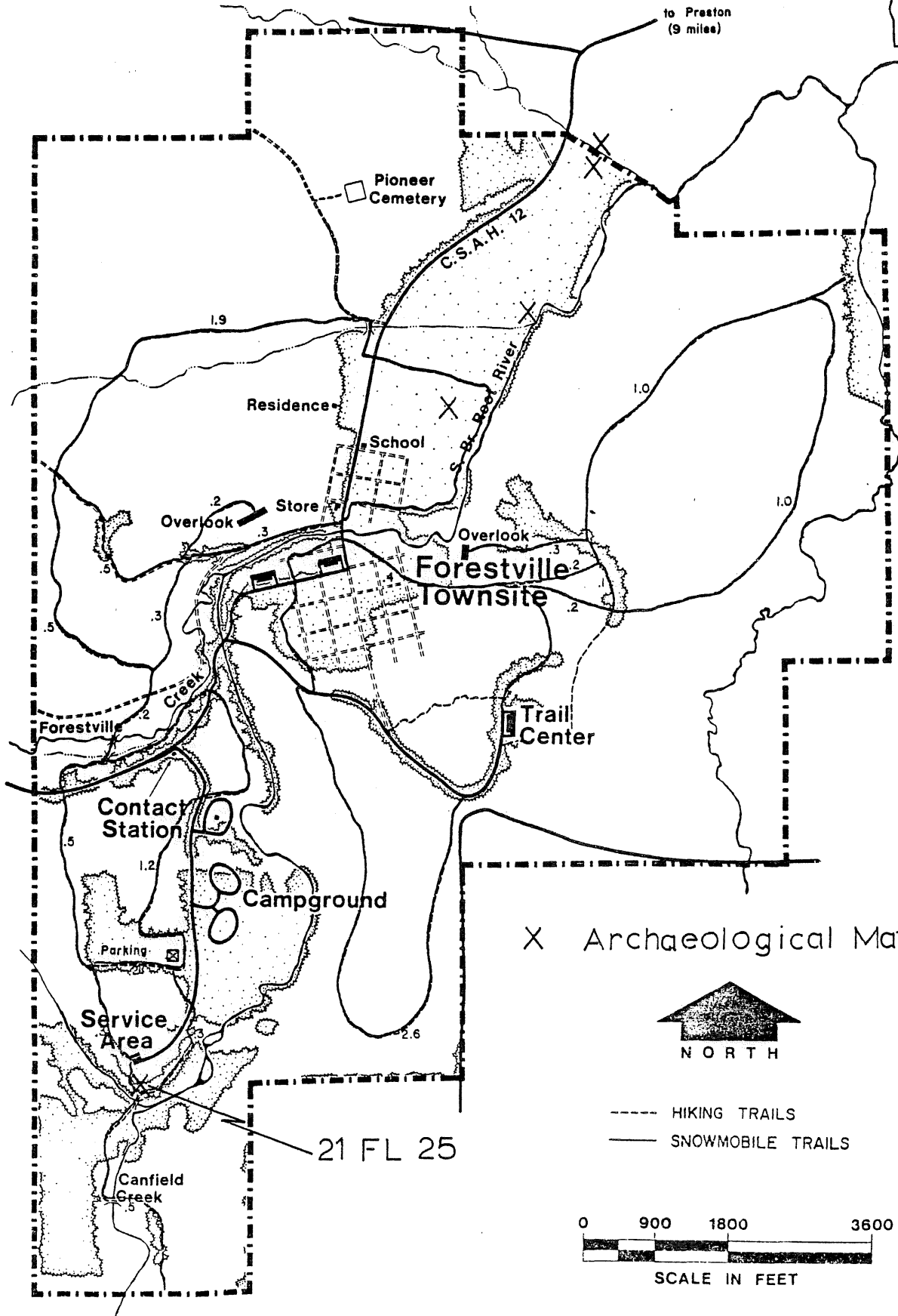
- 1980 Filmore County and Department of Natural Resources, Archaeology Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Vernon, Robert

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

Forestville State Park

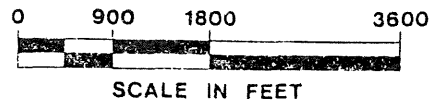
Fillmore County



X Archaeological Material






--- HIKING TRAILS
— SNOWMOBILE TRAILS



21 FL 25

Archaeological
Surveys

-  MHS
-  Hudak
-  UM

Map 2

F O R E S T V I L L E

Forestville

Creek

Branch

Forestville
State Park



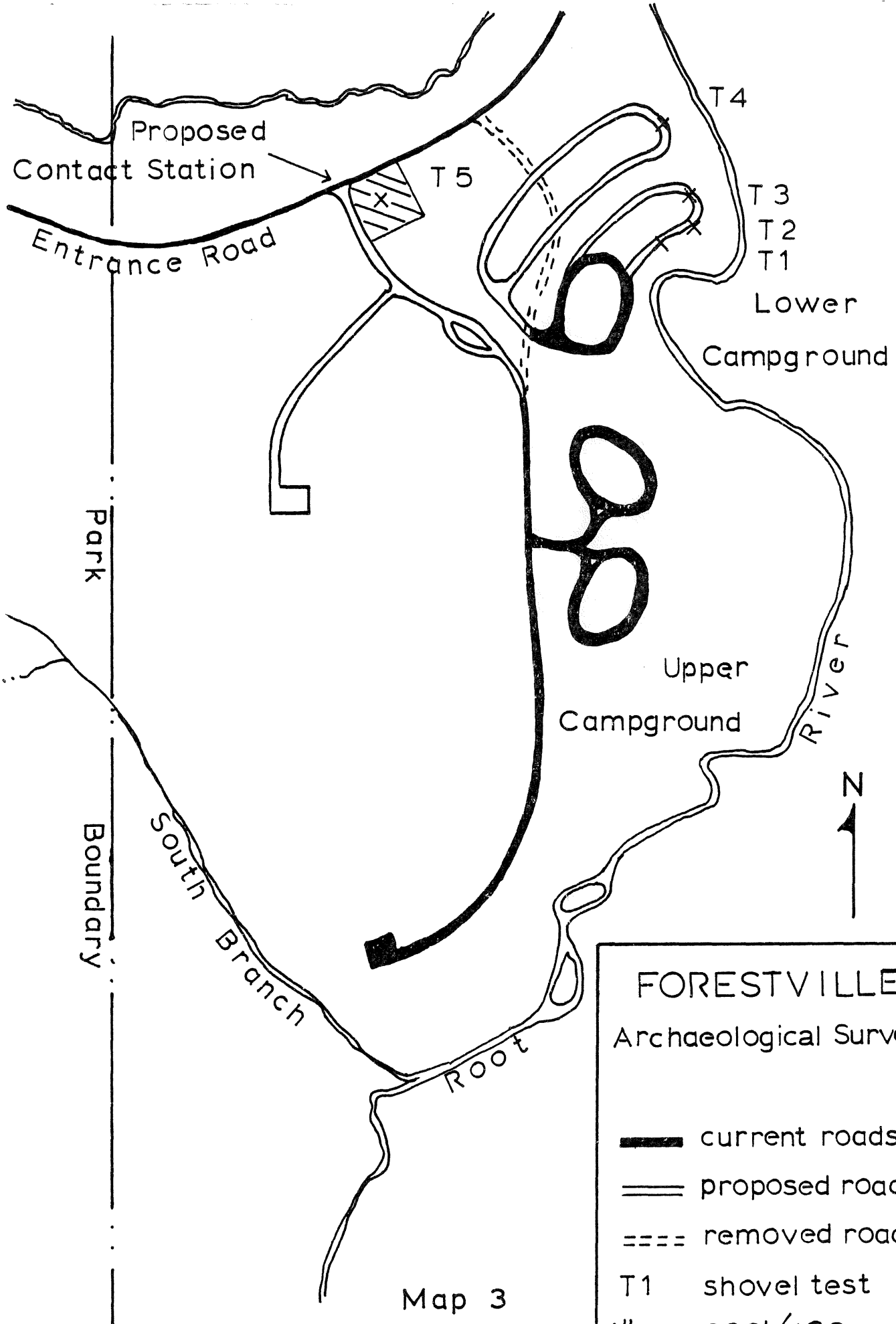
1/2
scale in miles

F O R E S T V I L L E

M I A N I E S T A M

Str
Mir

60
729a



FORESTVILLE
Archaeological Survey

- current roads
- ==** proposed roads
- removed roads
- T1 shovel test
- 1" = 600'/183m

Map 3

FORESTVILLE STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 1



sandy humus

light tan
sand band

dark
humus clay

dark band
light band clay
with river sand

TEST 2



sandy humus

light tan
sand lens

dark
humus clay

dark humus clay
and river sand
and snails

TEST 3



sandy humus

broken band
tan sand

sandy humus

dark humus clay

wet medium
light sand

TEST 4



sandy humus

light tan
sand band

dark humus clay

light sandy clay

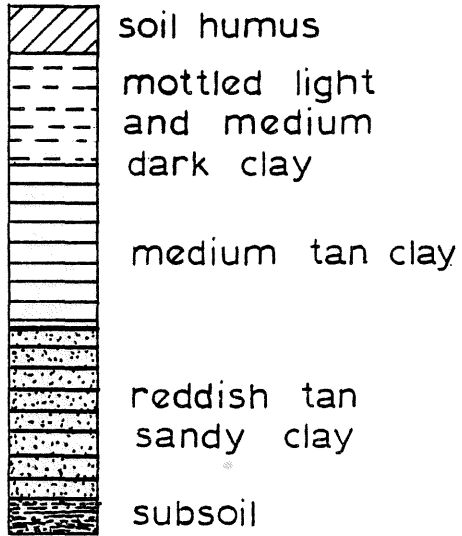
light sand

0 10 20 40 60 80 100
scale in centimeters

FORESTVILLE STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 5



0 10 20 40 60 80 100
scale in centimeters



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

January 10, 1980

Mr. John Winter
Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation
Box 39
Centennial Building

Dear Mr. Winter:

RE: Review of the archaeological
survey work conducted at
Forestville State Park, Fillmore
County - New Contact Station.

MHS Referral File Number: J 910

This letter is to inform you that our office has received a statement regarding the above-referenced project. No archaeological sites were located. In addition, the proposed project is in close proximity to the Forestville Townsite, a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places, however, there will be no effect on this historic site. Consequently, there are no sites of historical, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance in the area which are on the National Register, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register that may be affected by your project.

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

Respectfully,

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

RWF:bh

cc: Ms. Jan Streiff ✓
Department of Anthropology
Ford Hall
224 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Appendix A

Archaeological Materials from Forestville State Park

<u>Year Collected</u>	<u>Archaeologist</u>	<u>Accession Number</u>	<u>Site Number</u>
1975	Tim Ready, Minnesota Historical Society	381	none given
1976	Sue Queripel, Minnesota Historical Society	172	none given
1978	Bob Vernon, Minnesota Historical Society	139 139-D	none given 21 FL 25