

"TETTEGOUCHE: A RECORDS CHECK AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS"

BY

JAN E. STREIFF

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

Principal Investigator

Elden Johnson

June 1981

TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK

Inventory

There has been no archaeological or historical survey of cultural resources within Tettegouche State Park and thus there are no recorded sites or structures on the official state or National registers. Both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites are reported by local residents, however, and this fact when combined with the absence of any formal survey necessitates a comprehensive field survey of the park area before development begins.

Background

The Tettegouche area may have been occupied as long ago as the last glacial retreat 10,000 years ago. In the area around Duluth, for example, sites dating 8000-5000 B.C. have been reported (Steinbring, 1974). These people lived in a moderating climate, hunting moose and caribou and were associated with the Big Game or Paleoindian culture best known in the West and Southwest United States.

The archaic period (3000-500 B.C.) is also known in the same area. A distinctive attribute of the late Archaic cultures here is the use of native copper for tools. The people of the archaic gathered wild foods, fished and hunted in a pattern of seasonal movement of very small groups to localities of available food.

By 1000 B.C. the people had entered what archaeologists today call the Woodland Period. This period lasted in Northern Minnesota until the Europeans arrived in the 17th century. This culture is characterized by burial mounds, distinctive ceramics and seasonal, semi-sedentary villages. Wild rice was the major vegetable food and fish were the source of the needed protein.

these Lake Superior dwelling Indians. The people congregated in the villages in summer and early fall then split into small family groups for hunting, gathering, and trapping the rest of the year.

The Indians were directly associated with the Europeans in the expanding fur trade. The French (later British and Americans) brought European goods (tools, clothing, ornaments, etc.) to the European posts at Grand Portage and Fond du Lac, which they exchanged for pelts (beaver, muskrats, etc.). This trade concentrated in northeast Minnesota.

But by 1870 the animals were being depleted and Americans began assessing the other values in the area. Business was soon to turn to lumbering, then mining.

It was in 1898 that the well known Michigan lumber company, Alger-Smith, moved into NE Minnesota and set up shop. They began by building a railroad along the shore of Lake Superior and as they moved northeast from above Duluth, they logged off the land along the tributaries emptying into the lake.

The Smith Company, begun by men from Eastern Canada, brought with them place names from home which they gave to their new land. One of the areas where they set up a camp for their loggers was on the shores of a lake they named Mic Mac, after the major Indian tribe from their native New Brunswick.

They took the Mic Mac's Algonkin names for New Brunswick landmarks and gave them to the Minnesota Lakes: Tetagouche River became Tettegouche Lake; Nigadoo River became Nicado Lake and Nepisiquit River became Nipisiquit Lake. All these New Brunswick rivers flowed eastward from the interior into the Nepisiquit/Chaleur Bay north of Bothurst.

While the Alger-Smith Company continued operations in Minnesota until 1926, in 1919 they sold the logging camp at Mic Mac Lake to the "Tettegouche Club," a

Shortly after, the DeLaittres began the negotiations that were to lead to the state acquiring the area for the new Tettegouche State Park.

Recommendations

There are seven proposed development areas and two trails scheduled for construction within the near future. All of these areas must have an initial reconnaissance survey for archaeological resources (see attached budget). This should be followed with a reconnaissance level survey at several areas which appear to have a high potential for cultural resources.

Only an initial records check has been done on the area. A complete literature search should be undertaken before development plans are finalized. This will help pinpoint sensitive areas which should be avoided during construction and which later can be investigated with interpretation in mind.

The character of this park, with its still visible logging camps and potential prehistoric Indian sites, could result in a truly unique interpretative program in Minnesota State Parks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology Lab

1980 Site Files, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Clark, Andrew Hill

1968 Arcadia: The Geography of Early Nova Scotia to 1760. University of Wisconsin Press.

Harrison, Christina

1978 "A Cultural Resources Survey of the Superior National Forest, Cook and Lake Co., MN".

1980 "A Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Undertakings on the Superior National Forest Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties, MN." U.S. Forest Service.

Speck, Frank G.

1922 "Indian Notes and Monographs: Beothuk and Mic Mac". Museum of the American Indian, New York.

State Archaeologists Office

1980 Lake Co. File, Hamline University, St. Paul.

State Historic Preservation Office

1980 Lake County File, St. Paul

Steinbring, John

1974 "The Preceramic Cultures of Norther Minnesota" in, E. Johnson, ed., Aspects of Upper Great Lakes Anthropology, St. Paul.

University of Minnesota

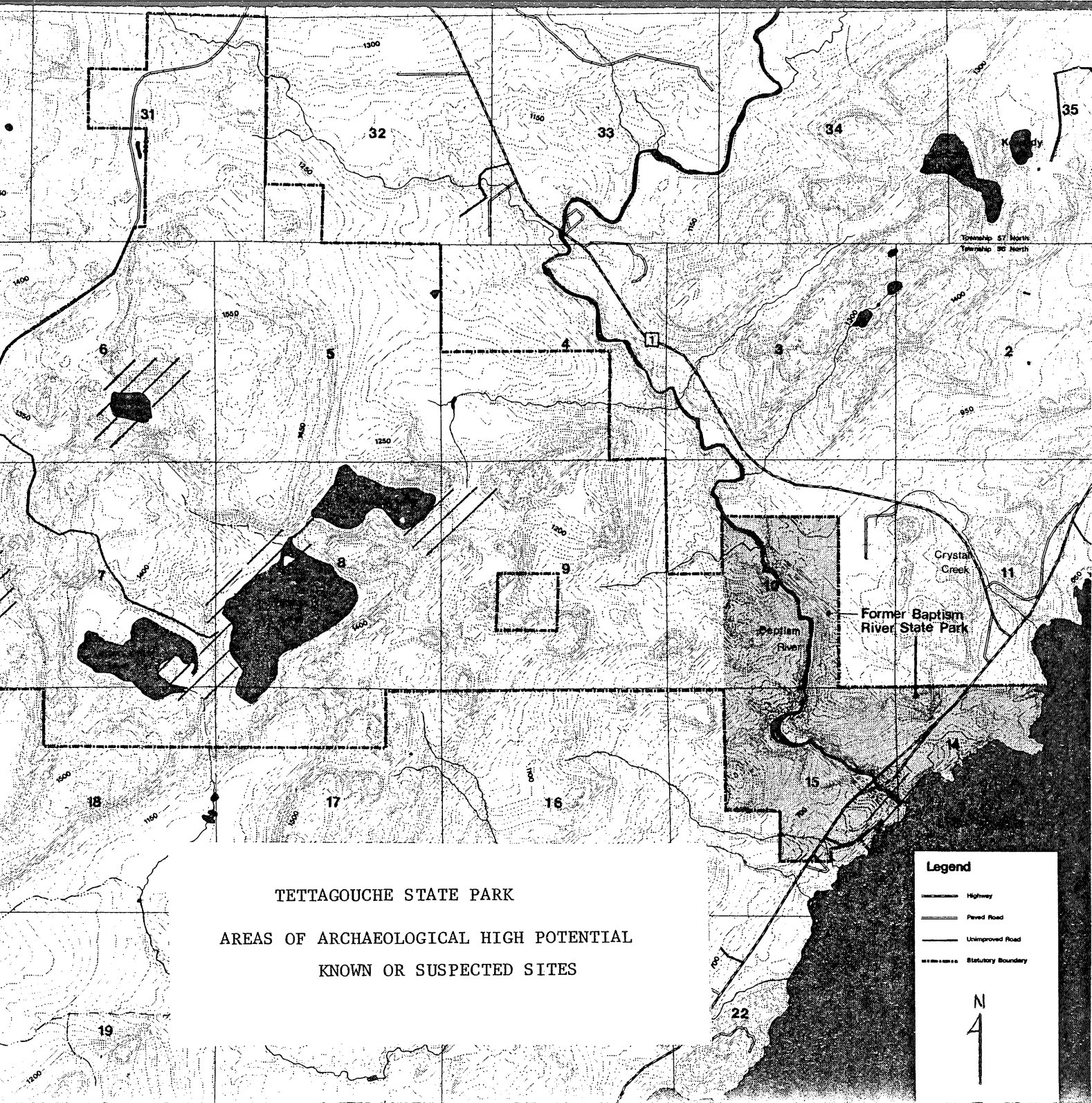
Map Room, Minneapolis

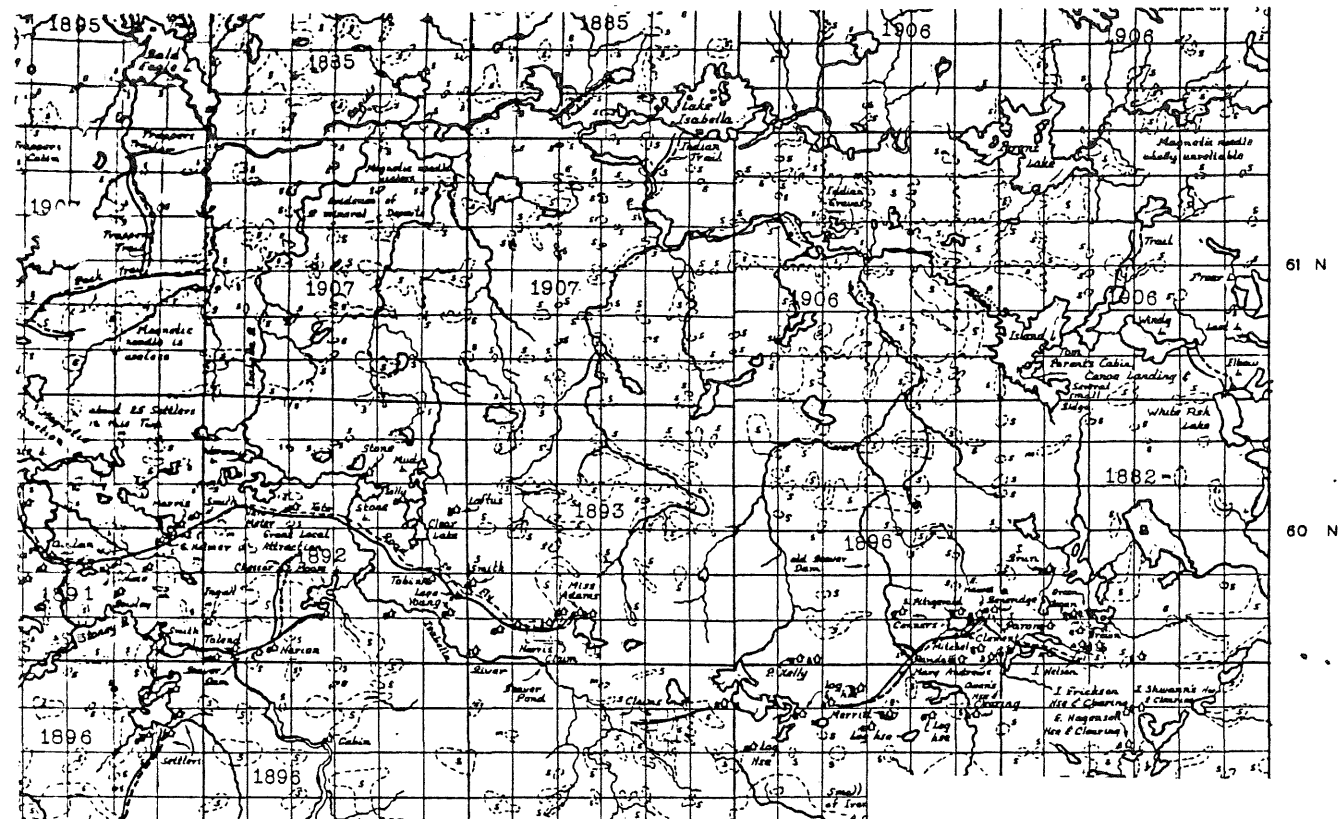
Wallis, Wilson D. and Ruth S.,

1955 The Mic Mac Indians of Eastern Canada, University of Minnesota Press.

Woolworth Associates

1977 "A Cultural Resources Survey of the Superior National Forest Located





EARLY MAP OF TETTAGOUCHE AREA

