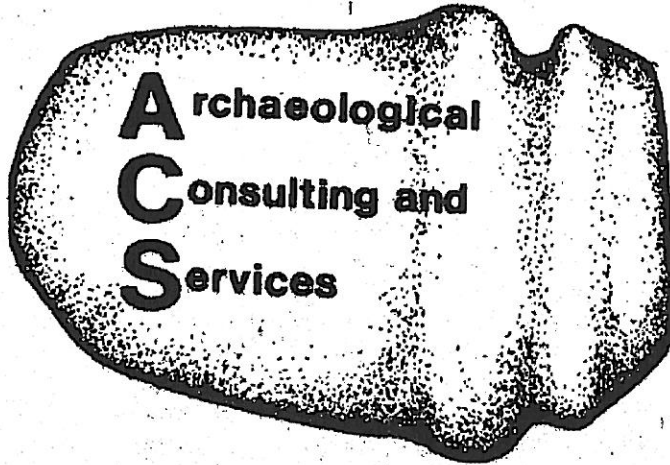


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REPORTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
RICHLAND CENTER INDUSTRIAL PARK IN
RICHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN

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Abstract

In November, 1987, the author conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Richland Center Industrial Park in Richland County, Wisconsin. The project area consists of the industrial park site and an access road and small reservoir area. The field work in the industrial park site indicated the presence of 11 prehistoric sites, seven of which might be impacted by the first phase of development. The author recommends a program of additional investigations to determine if any of these sites might qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The research should also include additional survey to locate historic sites which appear to have been present in the project area.

of the project area. They did not have running water at the time of the survey.

Previously Reported Archaeological Sites in the General Project Area

Prior to the initiation of the field work, a literature and records search was conducted on the previously reported archaeological resources of the project area. The following sources were utilized;

Site files and archives of the Anthropology Section of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Site files and archives of the Wisconsin Office of Historic Preservation

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscript

Maps and Plats in the Archives Section of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Historical Literature.

The literature and records search indicated that over 175 archaeological sites have been reported for Richland County. Few of these are in any proximity to the project area. Those closest include the following;

47R165 - Sec. 14, T10N, R1E - occupation site - approx. 3.9km southeast of the project area

47R166 - Sec. 26, T10N, R1E - occupation site - approx. 6.5km southeast of the project area

47R167 - Sec. 27, T10N, R1E - occupation site - approx. 6.5km southeast of the project area.

Thus, it seems that no prehistoric sites are in any proximity to the project area. Such sites have been found in close proximity to the Pine River elsewhere in the county.

A number of historic sites are apparently in, or very close to the project area. These relate to developments which grew up around a mill. The first saw-mill was originally built in the S $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T10N, R1E, by James M. Cass and George Pound in 1851. This location is probably within 60 meters of the northeastern corner of the project area and on the same side of the Pine River. The mill was purchased by W. J. Bowen for \$3,100 in 1854. With his brother, F.P. Bowen, he brought the first rotary saw in the county to the mill. A feed mill was also built. In 1867, a flour mill was added (James 1884: 1148-1149). It was noted that Bowen eventually replaced the original mill. Portions of the replacement complex still stand today, north of C.T.H. 'AA' and to the northeast of the project area (Fig. 4). The location³ of the mill and other features in 1874 is seen in Fig. 6.

A small community called Florence developed around the mill. In 1854, a post office was established for the community, however, it saw little further development. Florence eventually faded out of existence as the city of Richland Center grew. Much of the land around the mill was eventually owned by W.J. Bowen. In 1884, he owned 200 hectares of land in the area and had five dwellings occupied by tenants (ibid: 1188). Some of these structures may be shown on the 1874 plat map (Harrison and Warner) and others show up on the 1895 plat (C.M. Foote and Co.). The 1911 Rural Postal Service map shows five structures on the Bowen land in the general project area. By 1919, however, none of the houses are shown on the township plat map.

Another cultural resource within the project area is the location of the School No. 5 building in the C., SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T10N, R1E. This structure appears on the 1874 map, but not the 1895 one. The L. Thompson house also appears in the project area in the C., NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 9. The house appears on maps up to 1911, but not on the 1919 plat (Geo. A. Ogle and Co.).

Finally, the Bowen Cemetery lies within the project area. This cemetery first appears on the 1874 plat map and contains stones older than that date. It has been in continuous use to the present day. Although it will be almost surrounded by the planned development in the Richland Center Industrial Park, the cemetery itself will remain intact.

Thus, it appears that while prehistoric sites have not been reported in the immediate proximity of the project area, historic resources are located within its boundaries and on its borders. Crew personnel were alerted to the presence of these resources prior to the initiation of the field work.

Methods

The project area could be divided into three components. The largest component was the agricultural fields which made up the survey area in the proposed park. Around the margins of these fields were some low, wetlands and poorly drained areas. There were also two or three grassy knolls or terraces which were obviously well-drained. Two of these lay adjacent to, or in archaeological sites which extended out into the agricultural fields. By the scope of work, these

grassy areas were not investigated. The third component was the grass covered slopes which will be the location of the proposed access road and reservoir areas.

The agricultural fields were subjected to pedestrian survey at 5 meter intervals. When archaeological materials were encountered, the interval between the transects was reduced to 2-3 meters. Careful note was taken of the artifact distribution to define the limits of the sites and provide some idea of the site orientation and size.

The wetlands and grassy knolls on the edges of the fields were subjected to pedestrian survey to look for likely site locations or historic features. No excavation was done as these areas were outside of the portion of the land to be surveyed.

Much of the proposed road location lies on a steep slope. This was walked, but not shovel tested, although six units were placed on the more level portion on the western end. The more level portion of the reservoir area was also shovel tested. Along the road, the units were placed at 15 meter intervals and at 10 meter intervals in the reservoir area. Units were about 40x40cm in size. They were dug to archaeologically sterile soil horizons. Soils were screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh screen and the units immediately backfilled.

The Archaeological Survey

The survey in the proposed industrial park site revealed the presence of 11 prehistoric sites. Some were located on discrete knolls and rises in the fields. Others were located on the higher terraces. They are described as follows;

Site 1:

RI-177

Site 1 was located on one of the long terraces on the higher, eastern portion of the project area (Figs. 4 and 5). It was located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T10N, R1E. The artifacts were distributed over an area about 90x40 meters in size, roughly .33 hectares (.83 acres). Recovered from the surface of the site were;

- 10 pieces of secondary chert debitage
- 4 pieces of chert decortication debitage
- 1 retouched chert flake
- 2 pieces of whiteware.

Little may be said about Site 1. The flakes are largely of Prairie du Chien or Burlington chert. The one artifact with some retouch is too incomplete to assign to any functional category. The whiteware sherds include one plain rimsherd and one with a small section of blue, transfer pattern.

Site 2:

Site 2 was located around the Bowen Cemetery. Artifacts were discovered north, south and west of the cemetery and it can only be assumed that the site

includes all of the cemetery grounds (Figs. 4 and 5). The site is located on a knoll in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4 into the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 9, T10N, R1E. It is approximately 183x76 meters in size, covering 1.4 hectares (3.4 acres). This site is one of the larger ones encountered. Recovered from the portions of the site outside of the cemetery were the following surface finds;

- 35 secondary chert flakes (including three large blocky flakes),
- 2 chert decortication flakes
- 1 flake of Hixton Silicified Sandstone
- 1 core fragment (Prairie du Chien chert)
- 1 scraper (Prairie du Chien chert)
- 3 biface fragments (Prairie du Chien chert).

The debitage at the site is largely composed of Prairie du Chien chert. Several flakes of Galena chert are also present. The scraper was made on a decortication flake. It is well-worn on the working edge with the type of wear associated with use against softer materials such as leather or plant fiber. The working edge has a shallow angle of 37°.

The three bifaces fragments include a portion of the blade of a projectile point or knife-like implement. Another fragment was too incomplete to assign to any functional category. The third artifact, Cat. 2-2 (Fig. 7) is probably the distal end of a lanceolate point or knife-like implement. The fragment is 29.4mm long and a maximum of 24.4mm wide. The convex base is ground. This implement can not be assigned to a particular type.

Site 3 (Figs. 4 and 5): RI-179

Site 3 was located northwest of the Bowen Cemetery in the center of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T10N, R1E. The site covered an area with a diameter of about 20 meters (.03 hectares). It was not on a prominent elevation. Recovered from the surface of the site were;

8 pieces of secondary chert debitage.

Little may be said regarding the site. All but one of the flakes was of Prairie du Chien chert.

Site 4 (Figs. 4 and 5): RI-180

Site 4 was located in a relatively level area in the N $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4. The site is about 30x30 meters in size for a total area of about .1 hectare (.23 acres). The site had one of the densest distributions of artifacts in the project area. Recovered from the surface of the site were the following;

- 63 secondary chert flakes
- 9 chert decortication flakes
- 1 chert core (Prairie du Chien chert)
- 2 retouched or utilized flakes (1 Prairie du Chien and 1 Burlington chert)
- 2 pieces of glass (one light green and one blue)
- 4 pieces of undecorated porcelain
- 1 piece of porcelain with a painted floral motif
- 2 pieces of whiteware.

Almost all of the debitage from the site consisted of Prairie du Chien chert. Many of the flakes showed some heat-treatment. The two utilized or retouched flakes appear to have had minimal use.

Summation and Recommendations

In November, 1987, the author conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Richland Center Industrial Park in Richland County, Wisconsin. The project area includes a large park site and a proposed access road and reservoir.

The survey of the industrial park location revealed the presence of 11 prehistoric sites. Most of these appear to be small occupations indicated primarily by the presence of debitage of Prairie du Chien chert. It may be assumed that the sites were occupied to enable the residences to exploit the resources of the Pine River and adjacent areas. Most of the sites, with the exception perhaps, of Site 8, do not appear to have been occupied for a long period of time, or repeatedly through time.

It would seem that the principal industrial activity at the site may have been the manufacture and/or repair of lithic artifacts. The presence of cores, decortication flakes and numerous small, secondary flakes suggests that all phases of manufacturing activity may have been conducted at some of the sites. Other industrial activities included the processing of hides and/or plant fibers as indicated by the presence of scrapers at Sites #2 and #8. Hunting activities are suggested by the presence of projectile points at Sites #5 and #11.

Little may be said regarding the temporal and cultural associations of the sites. Site #5 yielded a small, triangular point, or the type usually associated with Late Woodland (post 700 A.D.) occupations. Site #11 yielded a Late Archaic

point, suggesting an occupation in the range of ca. 3000-500 B.C.

A total of six of the eleven sites (Nos. 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11) yielded some historic materials. Most of the artifacts were ubiquitous objects such as sherds of whiteware or stoneware. Pieces of glass from Sites #4 and #9 are of the types usually associated with late 19th century or very early 20th century glass types. The quantity of the historic artifact was very low and there was no suggestion of the presence of structures or middens.

In providing recommendations for further investigations in the proposed industrial park, the City of Richland Center indicated that only the initial phase of development is now contemplated and that sites outside of that area will not be impacted for the foreseeable future. The author was asked to specifically address sites falling into the area which will be developed first. These include Sites #1, #2, #3, #7, #8, #9 and #11.

The author would recommend that these site areas be recultivated to allow for additional surface investigation. This would help to better define the site boundaries and provide additional artifacts. Hopefully, some of these may be culturally and temporally diagnostic. The recultivation should be done carefully as not to impact any portion of the soil profile not already disturbed by cultivation. The author would also recommend that some recultivation be done in the vicinity of the old school site and at least two other structures which can be relatively accurately located in the project area from available maps.

Following the surface collection and mapping, the author recommends that

a trench, approximately 2-3 meters wide be graded across the site areas. This should be done to remove the Ap Horizon. The top of the subsoil horizon would then be cleared to search for features or other deposits which may have escaped the cultivation of the site. If such features are encountered, they should be exposed, photographed, mapped, cross-sectioned and excavated. Samples should be retained for flotation analysis. The trenches could then be refilled.

Finally, the author would recommend that shovel testing be conducted on the knoll on which Site #11 was located. As noted in the report, only about one-third of the knoll lies in the agricultural fields, so the exact size of the site could only be roughly estimated. This site is also one of the two which yielded a diagnostic artifact. The shovel test units should be dug in 10 meter intervals, or less to determine the site boundaries. Even though the grassy portion of the site will not be impacted by the first phase of development, this shovel testing is necessary to properly assess the significance of Site #11.

With the completion of the field work, a report should be prepared which will chronicle the results of the field work. Preliminary recommendations should be made regarding the potential of the sites involved to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. If sites are judged to be potential eligible, the report should include the extent of impact on the sites by proposed development and a proposal for mitigation or preservation.

The proposed access road and reservoir area are primarily on sloping terrain. No archaeological materials were recovered from a series of shovel test units. The author would recommend no additional archaeological research in this portion of the project as proposed construction will impact no sites which might qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is always possible that some deeply buried archaeological materials may be in the project area. If these are encountered in the course of construction, the Office of Historic Preservation should be contacted immediately.

Curation

All materials associated with this project will be curated at the facilities of Archaeological Consulting and Services in Madison, Wisconsin.