

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

SK411 .L32 1991

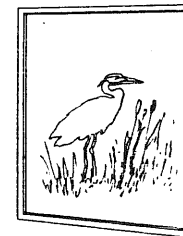
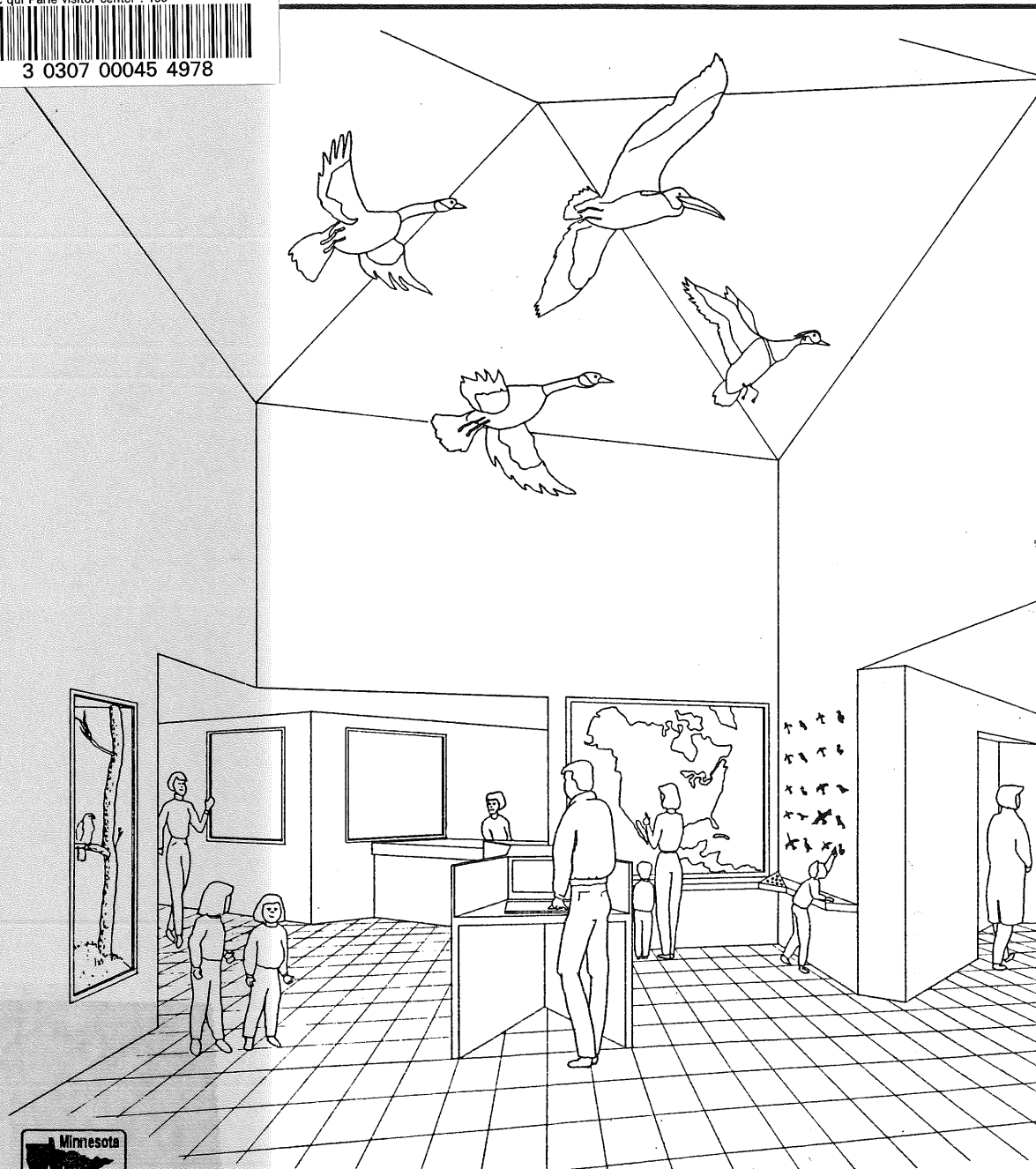
- Lac qui Parle visitor center : 199



3 0307 00045 4978

# Lac qui Parle Visitor Center

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY  
643 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155



## 1991

# Proposal

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Section of Wildlife



SK  
411  
.L32  
1991

## CONTENTS

- 1 CONTENTS
- 2 PROJECT VISION
- 3 OVERLOOKS - DESCRIPTION
- 4 LAC QUI PARLE AREA MAP
- 5 VISITOR CENTER SITE
- 6 VISITOR CENTER SITE PLAN
- 7 EXHIBIT & PROGRAM CONCEPTS
- 8 A SHORT TOUR - DESCRIPTION
- 9 LOBBY EXHIBITS
- 10 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT EXHIBIT
- 11 VISITOR CENTER PROGRAM
- 12 VISITOR CENTER - DESCRIPTION
- 13 BUILDING PLAN
- 14 BUILDING EXTERIORS
- 15 BUILDING SECTIONS
- 16 DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATE  
OPERATING EXPENSE
- 17 APPENDIX A - 6 PAGES  
CENTER UTILIZATION AND PUBLIC  
WORKSHOPS. 1989 PEAT MARWICK  
MARKET & FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT
- 24 APPENDIX B - 3 PAGES  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY SUMMARY

PROJECT  
COORDINATOR: JAMES SCHNEIDER  
DNR - REGION 4  
ADMINISTRATOR  
NEW ULM, MN  
(507) 359 - 6000

PREPARED BY: DNR  
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING  
ARCHITECTURE AND  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

BUILDING DESIGN COLLABORATION  
AND GRAPHICS BY:  
GROUP II ARCHITECTS  
MARSHALL, MN

THE IDEA OF A VISITOR CENTER AT LAC QUI PARLE BEGAN WITH THE ORIGINAL AREA WILDLIFE MANAGER ARLIN (ANDY) ANDERSON AND HAS GAINED STRENGTH WITH THE FORMATION OF THE FRIENDS OF LAC QUI PARLE, A DEDICATED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN FURTHERING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LAC QUI PARLE'S HISTORY, WILDLIFE, HABITAT AND MANAGEMENT.

A PROPOSAL FOR THE VISITOR CENTER WAS PRESENTED TO THE 1990 LEGISLATURE. THE SITE FOR THAT PROPOSAL WAS NEAR THE EXISTING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT HEADQUARTERS. 1990 LEGISLATION DIRECTED THAT A NEW PROPOSAL BE PREPARED FOR THE CENTER WITH THE SITE LOCATION BEING THE MISSION OVERLOOK SITE. THIS LEGISLATION ALSO REQUIRED BROADER EMPHASIS ON AREA HISTORY, NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

THIS DESIGN PROPOSES A LONG RANGE PLAN TO INTEGRATE ALL OF THE AREA'S ASSETS UTILIZING A DRIVING OR BIKING TOUR WITH THE VISITOR CENTER SERVING AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR WILDLIFE AND MANAGEMENT INTERPRETIVE EFFORTS. VISITORS WILL HAVE DIVERSE AND COMPREHENSIVE EXPERIENCES IN WILDLIFE, SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION AND HISTORY AT LAC QUI PARLE.

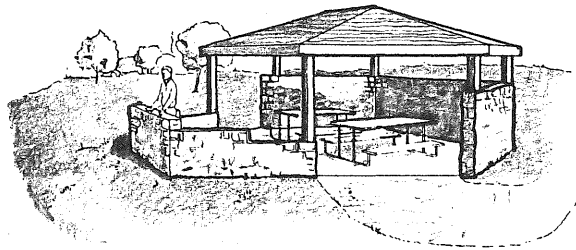
## VISION

THE VISITOR CENTER MISSION IS TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINNESOTA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS SO THEY MAY UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE LAC QUI PARLE'S UNIQUE RESOURCES.

AN ESTIMATED 22,000 PERSONS WILL ENJOY THE VISITOR CENTER ANNUALLY AND THE MANY DIVERSE RESOURCES OF THE ENTIRE LAC QUI PARLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA:

- LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK
- DAM SITE RECREATION AREA
- MISSION HISTORICAL SITE
- NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORY
- SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- HABITAT RECOVERY DEMONSTRATIONS
- SCENIC OVERLOOKS
- WATER ACCESSES
- SHORE AND BRIDGE FISHING
- MAJOR FALL HUNTING ACTIVITY
- ABUNDANT WILDLIFE
  - MIGRATING GEESE - EST. 200,000
  - DUCKS, HERONS, PELICANS
  - EAGLES
  - MANY OTHER BIRD SPECIES
  - DEER AND 50 MORE MAMMAL SPECIES
- 32,000 ACRES OF LAKE, WETLAND, BOTTOMLAND FORESTS, NATIVE PRAIRIE AND CROPLAND.

ALL OF THIS CAN BE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED WITHIN FEW MILES OF THE PROPOSED VISITOR CENTER AND MORE SPECIFICALLY ON A SHORT 20 MILE LOOP DRIVE AROUND LAC QUI PARLE.



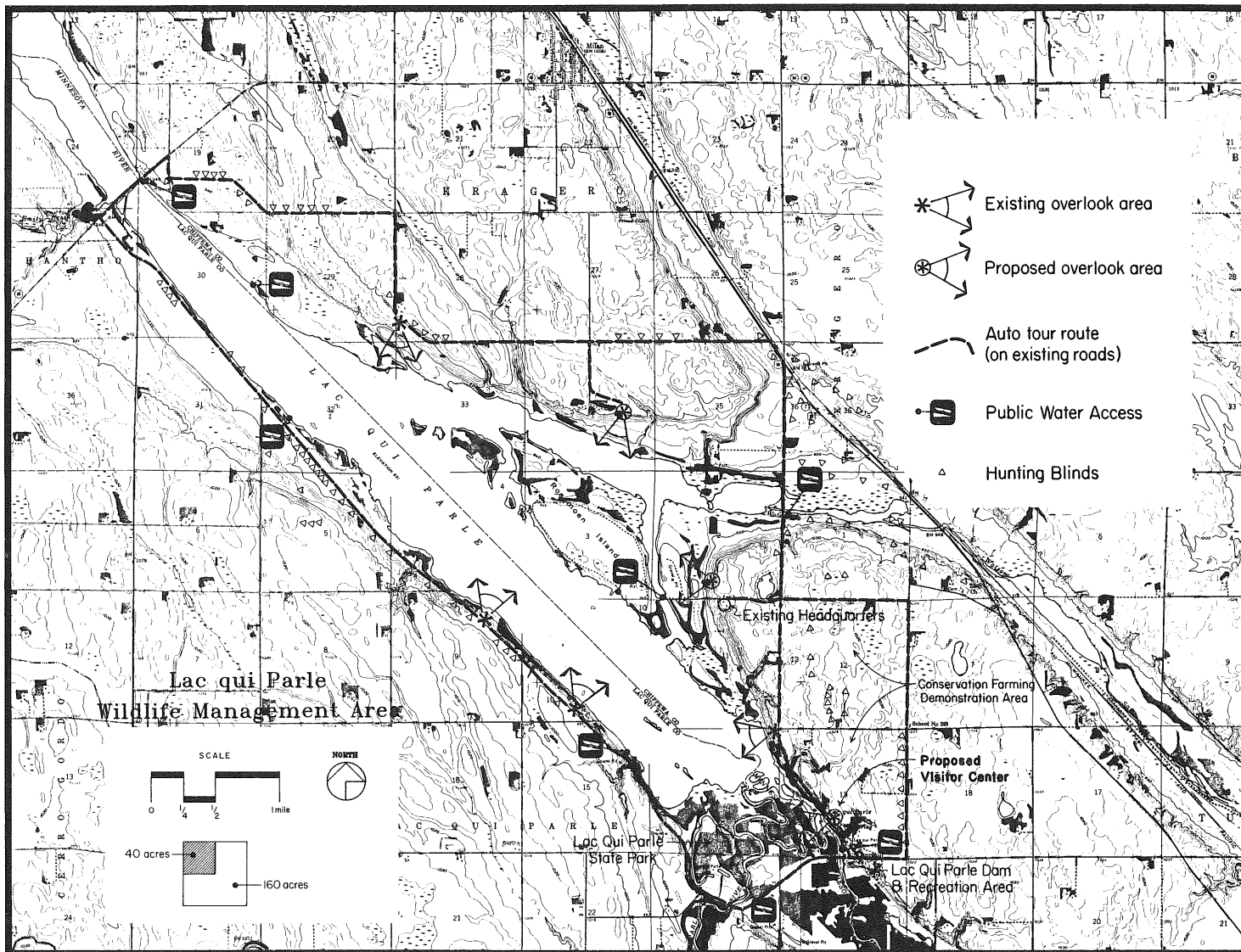
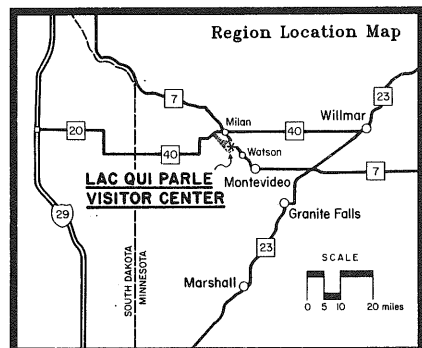
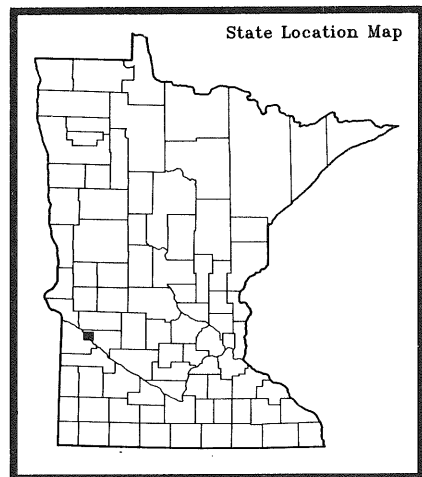
Overlook Shelter Prototype

## OVERLOOKS

WATER LEVELS AND TEMPERATURE, WEATHER CONDITIONS, FOOD SOURCES AND OTHER FACTORS CAUSE SHIFTS IN LOCATION OF WILDLIFE CONCENTRATIONS - GEESE IN PARTICULAR. A NUMBER OF OVERLOOKS ARE NECESSARY TO CAPTURE VIEW AND PHOTOS OF WILDLIFE.

EXISTING OVERLOOKS PROVIDE EXCELLENT VIEWS OF THE LAKE AND VALLEY. THE HANDICAPPED OR IMPAIRED INDIVIDUAL CAN ENJOY THE VISTAS WITHOUT LEAVING THEIR VEHICLE. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF OVERLOOK OR WAYSIDE STRUCTURES WILL ENHANCE THE LAC QUI PARLE EXPERIENCE ALLOWING MOTORISTS, BICYCLISTS AND HIKERS A PLACE TO REST AND ENJOY.





## Lac qui Parle Visitor Center

DNR Bureau of Engineering - Architectural / Landscape Architectural Units

## **VISITOR CENTER SITE**

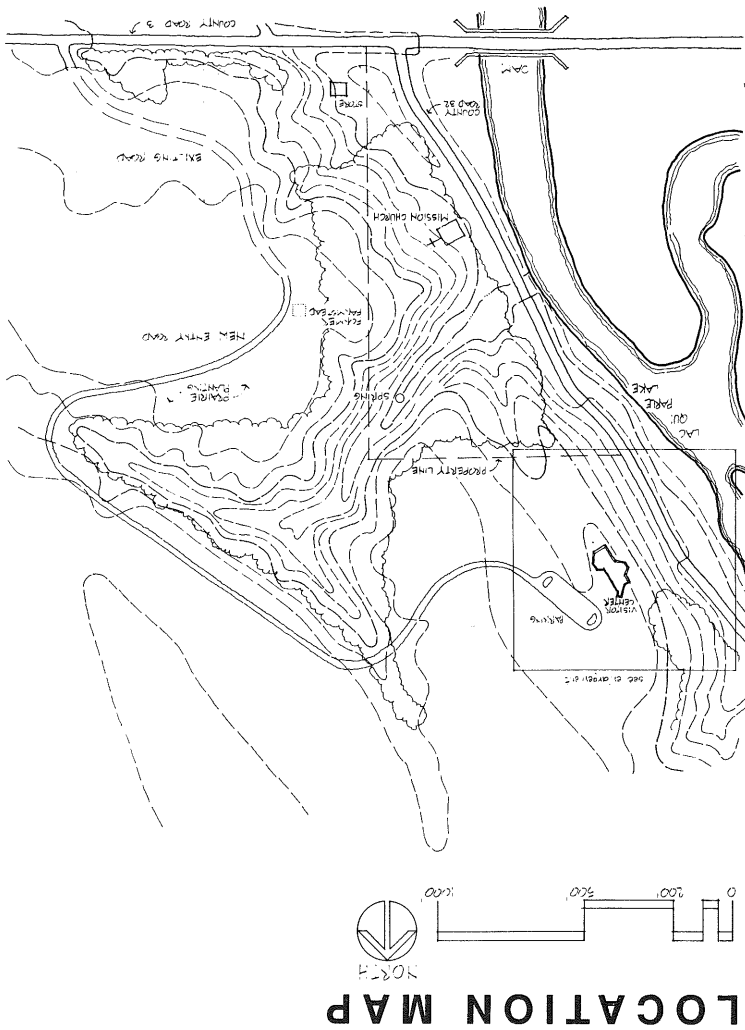
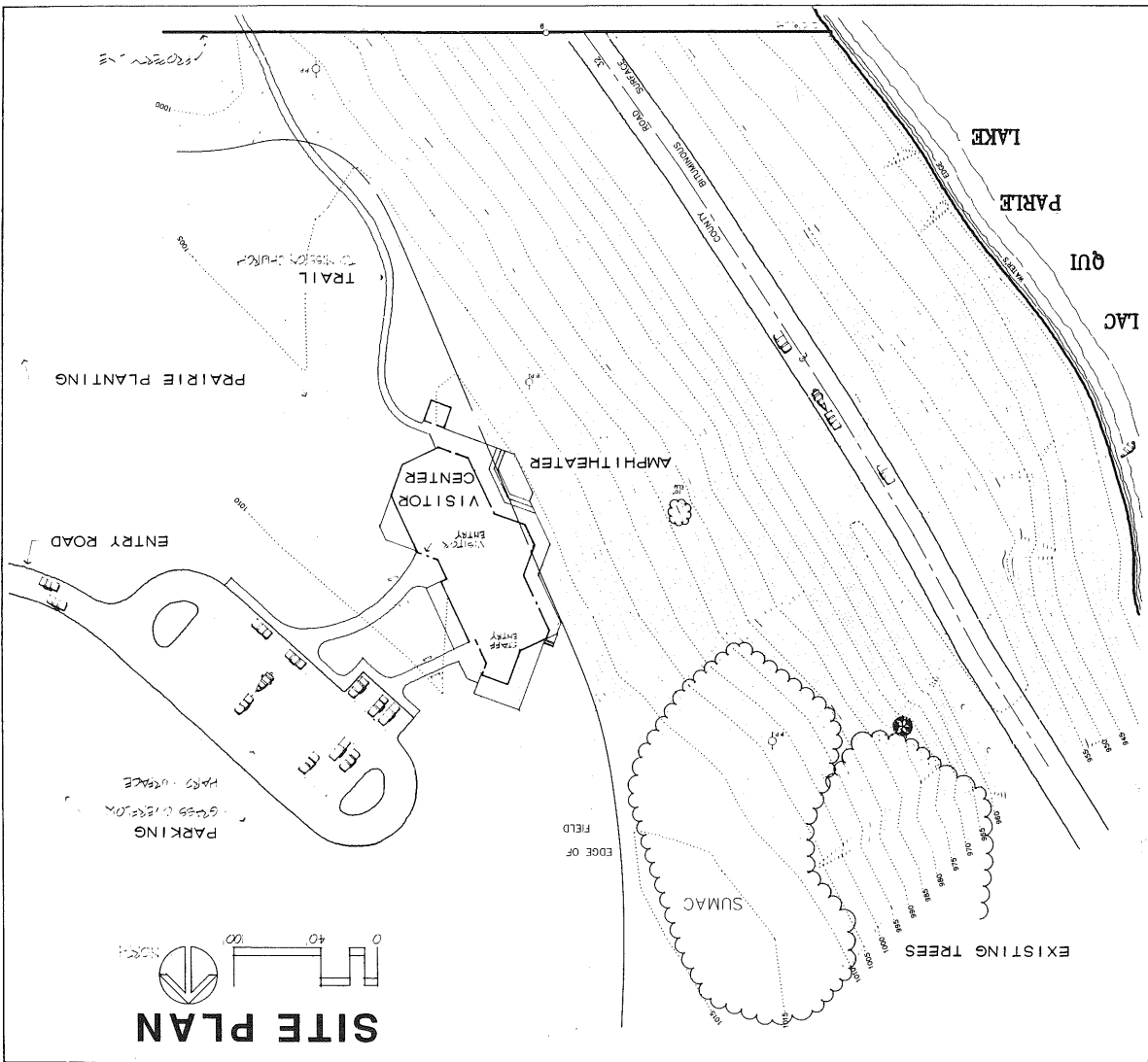
EXHILARATING PANORAMIC VIEWS OF THE LAKE AND BACKWATERS ABOVE THE DAM. VISUAL ORIENTATION TO FORT RENVILLE, DAMSITE RECREATION AREA AND LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK.

THE VISITOR WILL USE TRAILS THAT LEAD TO:

- THE LAC QUI PARLE MISSION
- DEMONSTRATION AREAS:
  - PRAIRIE WILD FLOWER AND GRASSES
  - WOODY PLANTS
  - TERRACED SLOPE EROSION CONTROL
  - LANDSCAPE FOR WILDLIFE
  - BACKYARD WILDLIFE FEEDING
- VIEWS OF WILDLIFE FEEDING STATIONS

THE SITE DESIGN OPTIMIZES THE VIEW, PRESERVES EXISTING LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY, LIMITS THE IMPACT OF VEHICLES AND PARKING WHILE RESPONDING TO PEAK UTILIZATION PERIOD DURING FALL HUNTING SEASON.

THE SITE IS DIRECTLY NORTH OF THE MISSION ON GENTLY SLOPING AGRICULTURAL LAND THAT IS RICH WITH NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS.



## EXHIBITS and PROGRAMS

### AREA HISTORY EXHIBITS INCLUDE:

- MISSION AND MISSIONARIES
- FORT RENVILLE
- REGIONAL HISTORY
- DAKOTA INDIAN CULTURE
- JOSEPH RENVILLE FARM

### SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION EXHIBITS INCLUDE:

- MODEL FARM AND CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION
- REPRESENTATIONS OF GOOD - BAD CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- COMPUTER LIBRARY

### THE MARKET ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS SUGGESTED APPROXIMATELY:

- 25 EXHIBIT SUBJECTS
- 10 EXHIBIT METHODS
- 45 INTERPRETIVE SUBJECTS
- 12 PERIODICALS FOR LIBRARY

### EXHIBITS REQUESTED FREQUENTLY FOR ALL AGE LEVELS ARE:

- HABITAT
- SURVIVAL
- FOOD CHAIN
- AGRICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS
- AREA HUMAN HISTORY AND CULTURE
- GEOLOGY
- PRAIRIE ECOLOGY - PLANTS & WILDLIFE
- WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
- FIRE ARMS SAFETY

INTERACTIVE (HANDS ON) EXHIBITS, COMPUTERS AND FILM/ VIDEO VIEWING ARE GENERALLY PREFERRED. INITIAL EXHIBIT SUBJECTS ARE INDICATED ON THE DRAWINGS AND WOULD UTILIZE ARTWORK, PHOTOGRAPHY, ARTIFACTS, AUDIO VISUALS, COMPUTERS, BACKLIGHTING, CIRCUIT MATCHING, SIMPLE GAMES AND QUIZZES, ETC. THEATER SPACE PROVIDED IS UTILIZED FOR FORMAL FILM AND VIDEO PRESENTATION AND FILM SERIES AND CAN BE EXPANDED FOR GROUPS OF APPROXIMATELY 100 PEOPLE.

SPACE IS PROVIDED FOR TEMPORARY AND TRAVELING DISPLAYS SUCH AS BELL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY EXHIBITS.

THE WEALTH OF SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AND INDIGENOUS TO THE LAC QUI PARLE AREA PRECLUDES A FACILITY LARGE ENOUGH TO PRESENT A COMPLETE EXHIBIT ON EVERYTHING, PRIORITIES MUST BE ESTABLISHED AND ARE BEST DETERMINED BY WILDLIFE STAFF AND THE NATURALIST BASED ON REPORTS AND FEEDBACK FROM VISITORS AND USER GROUPS.



## A SHORT TOUR - WILDLIFE

AN AREA IS DEVOTED TO NON-GAME WILDLIFE. MOUNTED WILDLIFE SPECIMENS AND WILDLIFE ARTWORK ARE DISPLAYED THROUGHOUT THE CENTER. THE VISITOR CAN PICK UP A PERIODICAL AND RELAX IN THE VIEWING AREA OR CLASSROOM, READ, ENJOY THE VIEW OR GO FOR AN OUTSIDE STROLL ON A TRAIL.

5

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IS A MAJOR EXHIBIT. THE VISITOR WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- HISTORICAL WILDLIFE POPULATION PATTERNS AT LAC QUI PARLE
- HISTORICAL UTILIZATION OF FISH & WILDLIFE
- HABITAT LOSS AND RECOVERY
- AGRICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS
- THE FOOD CHAIN
- POLLUTION EFFECTS
- FLOODING
- DISEASE
- FISHING AND HUNTING AND ITS EFFECT ON MANAGEMENT.
- THE VISITOR CAN MAKE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS AND KNOW THE RESULT OF THOSE DECISIONS.

1

UPON ARRIVAL, THE VISITOR CAN STOP AT EXHIBITS OR GO DIRECTLY TO THE TERRACE AND GLASSED VIEWING AREA TO ENJOY AND PHOTOGRAPH THE PANORAMA OF LAC QUI PARLE'S SPECTACULAR SUNSETS, APPROACHING STORMS AND BEAUTIFUL SKY. SPOTTING TELESCOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING DISTANT FEATURES SUCH AS NESTING EAGLES.

2

LIVING EXHIBITS CAN BE VIEWED OUTSIDE AND INSIDE, SUCH AS: WATERFOWL AND SMALL BIRD FEEDING AND NESTING, BEES, SMALL MAMMAL AND DEER FEEDING STATIONS, RAPTOR CARE, ETC.

3

BEGINNING IN THE LOBBY, THE VISITOR FINDS A LARGE MAP OF NORTH AMERICA WITH ADJACENT PICTURES OF MIGRATING WILDLIFE. BUTTON SELECTION OF A SPECIES WILL ILLUMINATE THE NESTING RANGES AND MIGRATORY ROUTES ON THE MAP AND DISPLAY GENERAL INFORMATION ON A COMPUTER SCREEN.

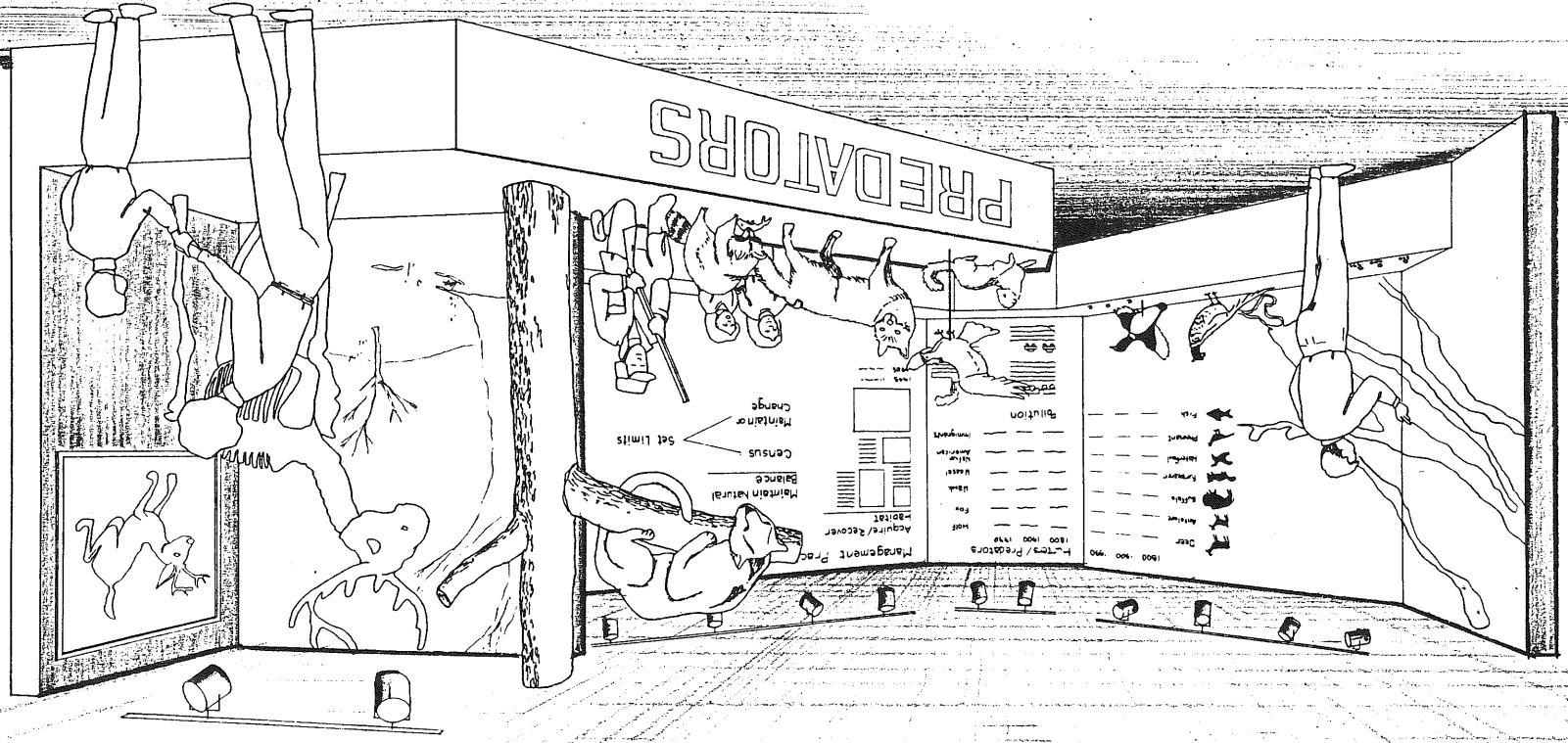
4

A COMPUTER STATION WILL ENABLE THE VISITOR TO SEEK WILDLIFE INFORMATION, HUNTER AND BOATER SAFETY QUIZZES, WILDLIFE SURVIVAL GAMES, ETC.

IN FLIGHT BIRD MOUNTS AND SMALLER SILHOUETTES ARE SUSPENDED IN THE SKYLIGHT FOR IDENTIFICATION TRAINING.



Lobby Exhibits



## VISITOR CENTER BUILDING

REFLECTS THE BASIC PROGRAM DEVELOPED AND OUTLINED IN THE MARKET ASSESSMENT STUDY THAT INCLUDED ADEQUATE OFFICES FOR THE NATURALIST AND 3 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STAFF. AREA INCREASES SINCE THE STUDY INCLUDE STORAGE, LOBBY AND EXHIBIT AREAS. A SERVING AREA FOR GROUP LUNCHEONS AND DINNERS, AND, A GOOSE IDENTIFICATION-WEIGH IN STATION HAVE BEEN ADDED.

### AREA PROGRAM:

LOBBY, EXHIBIT, GALLERY AND VIEWING	3800 sf
CLASSROOM AND LIBRARY	1000 sf
COMMUNITY, GOOSE REGISTRATION, THEATER, SERVING KITCHEN	1300 sf
OFFICE AND CLERICAL	<u>700 sf</u>
	total 6800 sf
ANCILLARY SPACE FOR TOILETS, MECHANICAL, STORAGE, CORRIDORS, ETC. $6800 \times .40 =$	<u>2720 sf</u>
total program building area	9520 sf
actual building area	9210 sf

### DESIGN OBJECTIVE

ORGANIZE SPACE FOR EFFICIENT CIRCULATION AND SUPERVISION OPTIMIZING PUBLIC ACCESS AND ORIENTATION TO THE PANORAMIC VIEW. PROVIDE SEPARATE ACCESS FOR STAFF AND PUBLIC. SPACE MUST BE FLEXIBLE AND SUBDIVIDABLE TO RESPOND TO MULTIPLE USES, CHANGING PROGRAMMING AND THE EFFORTS OF THE NATURALIST-EDUCATOR. THE EXHIBIT AREA SHOULD BE MORE INTERNAL IN FOCUS WITH FLEXIBLE MECHANICAL AND LIGHTING SYSTEMS, AND, HIGH CEILINGS.

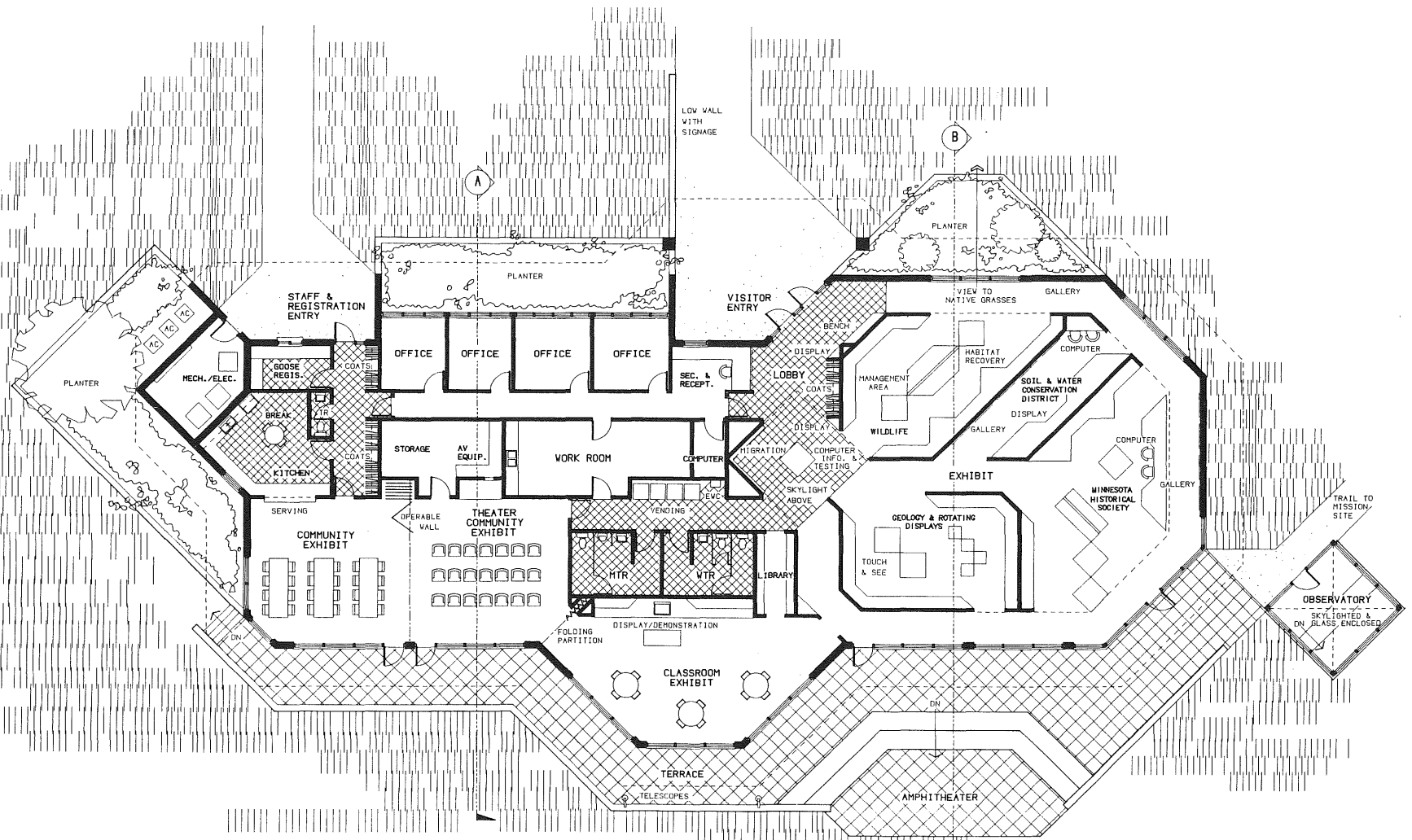
## **BUILDING DESCRIPTION**

THE VISITOR CENTER SPACES ARE ORIENTED TO THE EXTERIOR UTILIZING GENEROUS GLASS AREAS INCLUDING A DETACHED GLASS ROOFED VIEWING SPACE FOR EXTENDED HOURS USE. THE BUILDING ENVELOPE FOLLOWS THAT ORIENTATION WITH SHAPES CREATED TO ALLOW OPTIMAL VIEWING AND PHOTOGRAPHY.

BROAD ROOF OVERHANGS ARE USED TO MINIMIZE SUNLIGHT GLARE TOWARD THE REFUGE AND PROVIDE OUTSIDE PROTECTION FOR THE TERRACE DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER.

FOUNDATIONS AND SLAB STRUCTURE WILL BE CONCRETE AND THE ROOF FRAME WILL BE HEAVY TIMBER AND STEEL. NON COMBUSTIBLE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE EMPLOYED TO MINIMIZE FIRE DANGER. THE EXTERIOR WALL FINISH WILL BE STONE, STUCCO AND OTHER PERMANENT MATERIALS FOR LOW MAINTENANCE. THE EXTERIOR EFFECT IS SUBDUED WITH COLOR IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT.

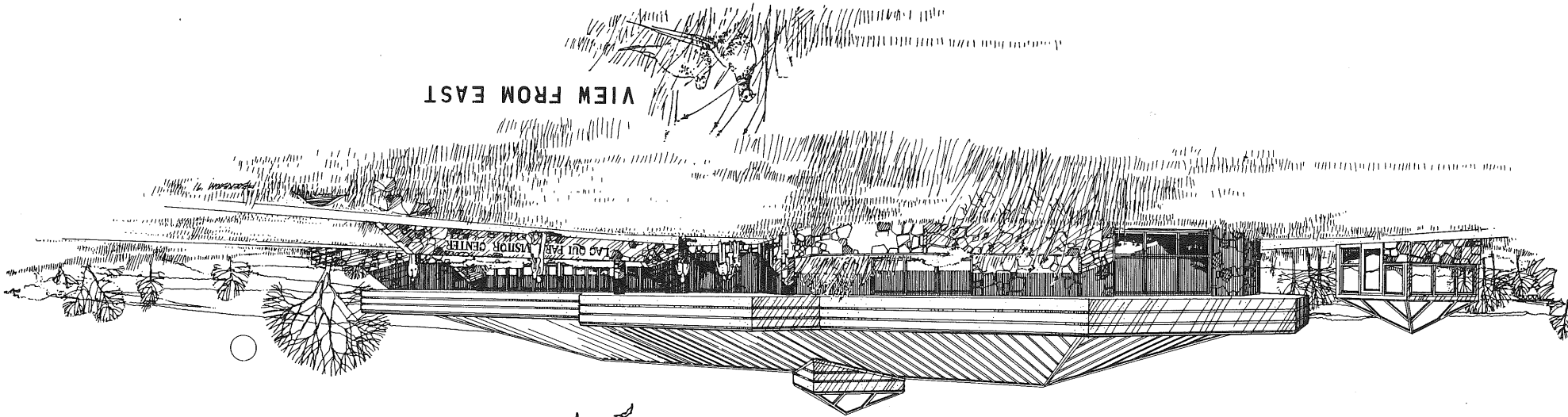
ENERGY EFFICIENT FORCED AIR HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS WILL BE USED. GENERAL AREA LIGHTING WILL BE FLUORESCENT WITH INCANDESCENT TRACK LIGHTING FOR ACCENTS AND EXHIBITS. SECURITY SYSTEMS WILL BE INSTALLED.



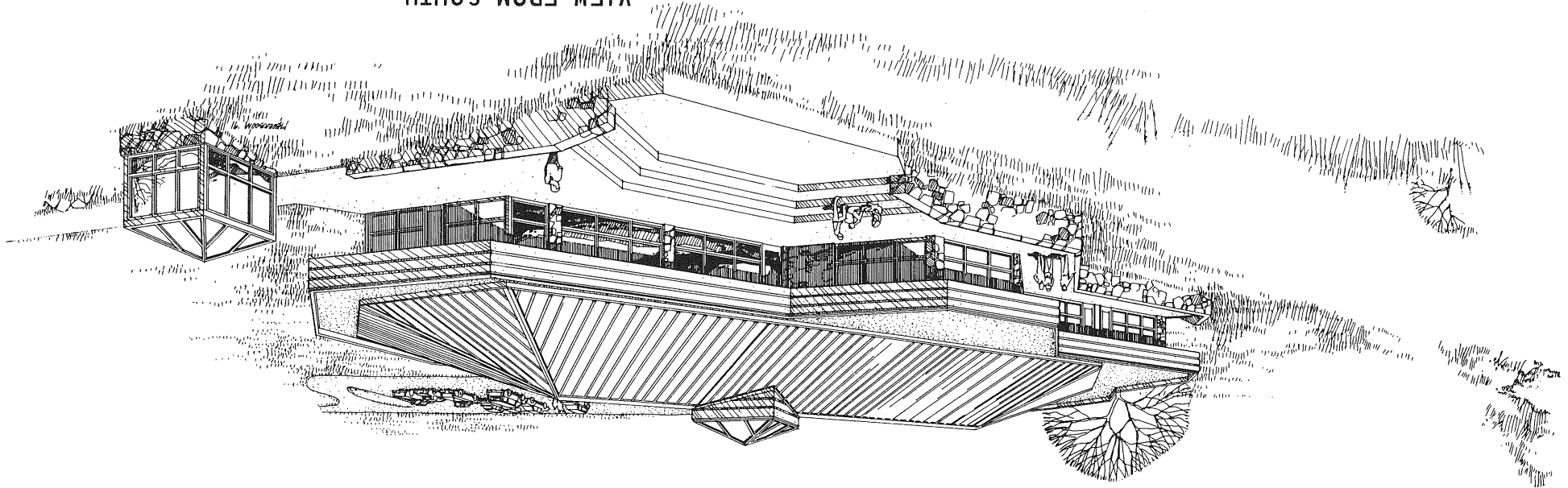
FLOOR PLAN

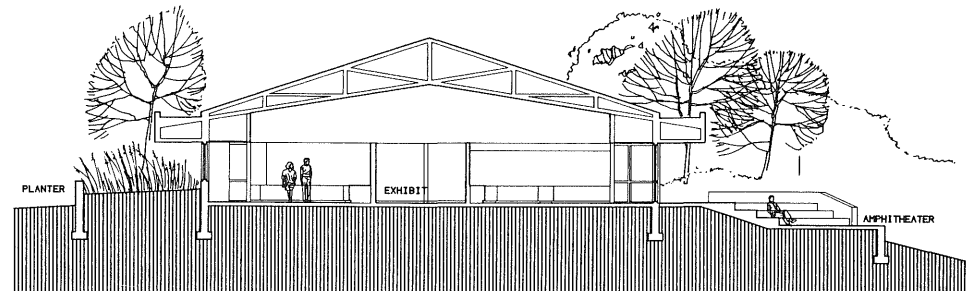
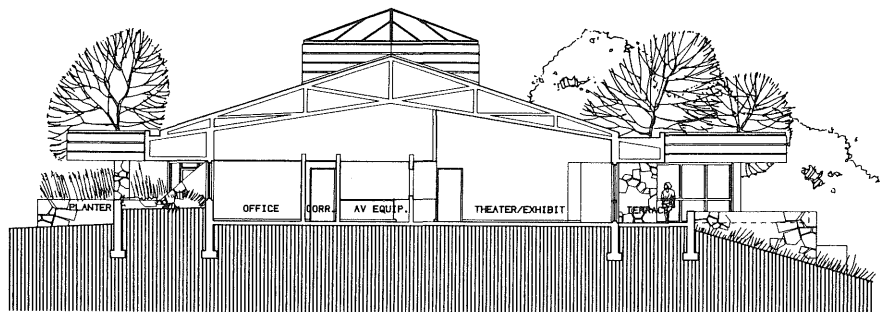
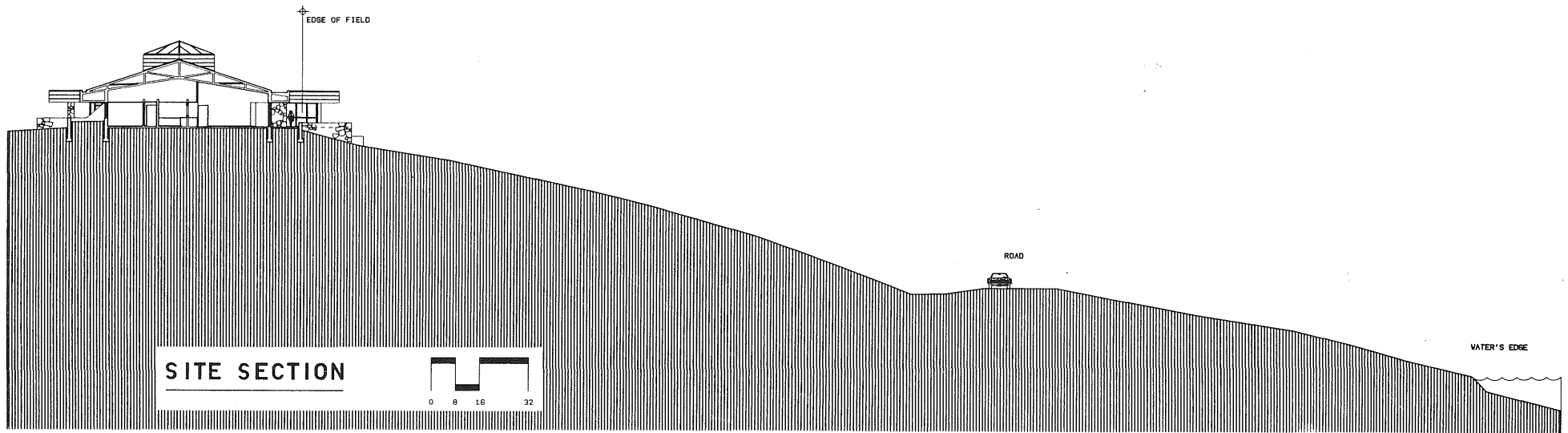


VIEW FROM EAST



VIEW FROM SOUTH







# DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATE

## VISITOR CENTER:

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	\$1,010,000
ROAD ENTRANCE & PARKING	275,000
SEPTIC & WATER	60,000
SITE DEVELOPMENT	40,000
LANDSCAPING	40,000
EXHIBITS & FURNISHINGS	350,000
CONTINGENCIES	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$1,870,000

## OTHER

ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING	\$ 225,000
ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSUMED MITIGATION	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 325,000

## TOTAL ESTIMATED DEVELOPMENT COST:

\$2,195,000

### ESTIMATED OPERATING COST

—	PAYROLL: NATURALIST, SEASONAL ASSISTANT, SHARED RECEPTIONIST	\$ 60,000
	OPERATIONS	7,500
	EQUIPMENT	3,000
	UTILITIES	18,000
	MAINTENANCE	7,500
	EXHIBIT REPLACEMENT, RENTAL, MAINTENANCE AND PROGRAM MAT'LS	<u>20,000</u>
		\$ 116,000

—  
IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE VISITOR CENTER IS PIVOTAL ON THE HIRING OF A FULL TIME NATURALIST TO DEVELOP INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES WORKING WITH AREA EDUCATORS, USER GROUPS AND WILDLIFE STAFF.

# APPENDIX A

## 1989 PEAT MARWICK ASSESSMENT

SECTION V -	UTILIZATION
APPENDIX B -	WORKSHOP SUMMARIES
	SPORTSMEN
	EDUCATORS
	FRIENDS OF LAC QUI PARLE
	CONSERVATIONISTS
	AGRICULTURE

## SECTION V - UTILIZATION

The potential utilization of the visitor center is one of the key success criteria factors. There are two direct variables which will impact the eventual utilization or "usage" of the proposed center. One direct variable involves the programming of the facility as previously discussed. The other direct variable involves the extent to which each of the various linkage groups and other visitors can be expected to use the visitor center.

### APPROACH

The approach for estimating annual utilization of the visitor center is based on an analysis of the potential demand resulting from each of the various linkage groups. Demand for the proposed visitor center was broken down by each linkage group, and was based on the visitor center being built at the Headquarters Site, and the implementation of the preliminary programming outline as discussed in the previous section. Based on these parameters, estimates of attendance from each of these linkage groups was developed.

### ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

It is expected that visitation at the proposed center will consist primarily of participants in programs offered at the visitor center and individual visitors. Programs to be offered at the visitor center would include formalized classes, group tour requests, and lecture series. Individual visitors include individual "walk-through" visitation to the center, as well as informal group tours. These two components of visitation are each comprised of various linkage groups. Program visitation and individual visitation are each estimated separately as follows.

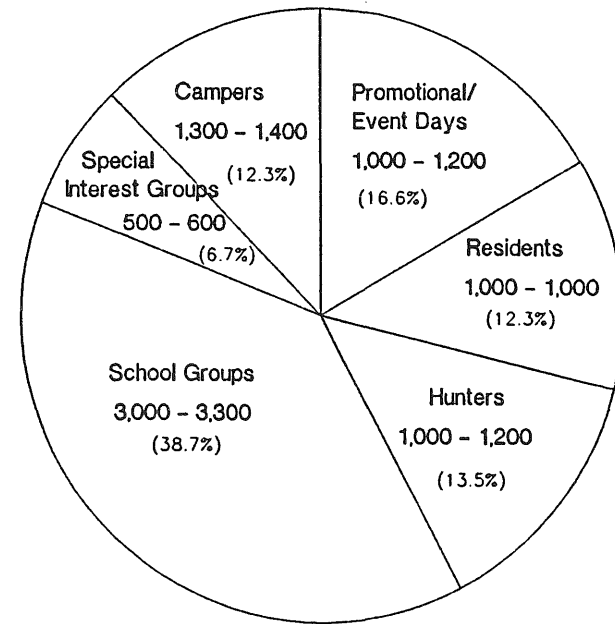
#### Program Participation

The annual estimated participation in programs offered at the visitor center is estimated at approximately 8,000 to 9,000. The chart on the following page illustrates the breakdown of participation in programs to be offered at the visitor center.

School Groups - As shown in the chart, it is estimated that school groups will account for approximately 3,000 of the program participants at the visitor center. This number is based on estimated percentages of students from the various school districts in the nine-counties nearest to Lac qui Parle. The percentages of participation in the various school districts are based on interviews of people in the education linkage group, estimates of school group participation at the Comparable Centers, and the estimated impact of recent legislation in the State of Minnesota.

In 1986, the State of Minnesota passed an "Environmental Education Statute" which requires all public schools to teach environmental education to elementary students. The State is

Proposed Visitors Center  
Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Management Area  
Summary of Program Participants - Annual



also currently considering extending the environmental education requirement to include high school students. The effect of this statute will be to promote usage of the visitor center as a source of environmental education for school groups in the area. Additionally, based on conversations with various linkage groups, including the education linkage group, it is believed that there currently exists a high level of interest by educators in the area to use the visitor center as a source of education for school groups;

Special Interest Groups - It is estimated that various special interest groups, such as ornithologist or church groups, would also participate in programming at the visitor center. It is estimated that approximately 40 such groups, with an average size of 15 per group, would participate annually in programming;

Campers - According to the State Division of Parks and Recreation, there are approximately 4,500 camper days per year at Lac qui Parle State Park, located adjacent to the Wildlife Management Area. Based on the Comparable Centers, as well as other factors, it is estimated that approximately 30 percent of this total, or 1,300 to 1,400 campers would participate in programming at the visitor center. Examples of such programs could include a program designed to identify animal tracks or a program on snowshoeing;

Promotional/Event Days - Based on increased utilization at Comparable Centers resulting from special promotional days such as "Eagle Days", it is estimated that approximately 1,000 to 1,200 additional visitors would participate in these promotional days, assuming approximately 2 to 3 such days are held each year at the visitor center. These special promotional days would be similar in style to the "Land, Water, and You" regional expo held at Lac qui Parle in September 1988, which drew approximately 500 visitors;

Residents - Based on the participation of local residents in programming at the Comparable Centers, it is estimated that approximately 1,000 local residents (within 25 miles of Lac qui Parle) would participate annually in programming at the visitor center; and

Hunters - Based on conversations with hunter groups, as well as participation of this linkage group at Comparable Centers, it is estimated that approximately 1,000 to 1,200 hunters would participate in programming at the visitor center.

Based on the estimated participation in programs from the various areas as identified, total annual participation in programming at the visitor center is estimated at approximately 8,000 to 9,000.

### Individual Visitors

Individual visitors to the center would include individuals not participating in defined or formalized programs offered at the visitor center. The visitation of individuals at the proposed center has been analyzed by looking at three areas; (1) residents within 25 miles of Lac qui Parle (Primary Market), (2) residents between 25 and 50 miles from Lac qui Parle (Secondary Market), and (3) goose hunters at Lac qui Parle. Based on the experience of Comparable Centers, as well as the level of interest expressed by the local community in the visitor center, it is estimated that approximately 10 percent of the Primary Market population will visit the center on an annual basis. This would result in approximately 3,500 visitors as shown in the chart on the following page. It is also estimated that approximately 1 percent of the Secondary Market population will visit the proposed center, thus resulting in approximately 1,200 visitors.

As mentioned previously, the visitor center will be expected to contain the registration area for goose hunting blinds during the goose hunting season. Currently, approximately 8,000 to 9,000 goose hunters participate in registration for goose blinds located near the current headquarters of the Lac qui Parle DNR personnel offices. It is estimated that 100 percent of this goose hunter population will visit the proposed center due to the visitor center's location as the registration point for goose hunting blinds.

The chart on page 23 illustrates the total estimated annual visitation at the visitor center, broken down by groups. Total annual visitation at the visitor center is estimated at approximately 20,000 to 22,000, of which approximately 40 percent would be program participants, as shown in the chart. Based on the previously identified success criteria factor of 15,000 to 20,000 in annual visitation, the estimated utilization of 20,000 to 22,000 would meet this factor.

### Minnesota Historical Society

As mentioned previously, the Minnesota Historical Society has proposed adding approximately 2,000 square feet of exhibit and display space in the visitor center. This space would be used for displays and exhibits related to the historical aspects of Lac qui Parle. If the Minnesota Historical Society were to develop this space as proposed, it is expected that additional utilization at the visitor center would result. By adding a historical concept to the visitor center, a new market for potential visitors would be addressed. Based on an evaluation of incremental increases in visitation among the various groups discussed above that could result from adding a historical concept to the visitor center, it is estimated that an additional 1,500 program participants, and an additional 2,500 individual visitors could result from the implementation of the Minnesota Historical Society proposal. This would result in total annual visitation to the visitor center of approximately 24,000 to 26,000.

Proposed Visitor Center at Lac qui Parle

Summary of Workshops

Hunter/Sportsmen Workshop

The hunter/sportsmen workshop was held at 9:00 A.M. on October 21, 1988. Listed below is a summary of the issues addressed at the workshop. The group consisted of six representatives from area deer hunting, general sportsmen and other hunting groups.

Facilities

- o There was a consensus that the visitor center could not be operated independently and should be tied to the existing State Park facilities.

Personal Experience

- o Other centers that participants had visited included Big Stone, Deep Portage, and Okamac.

Events and Programs

- o Hunters coming to the area have extra time and would be attracted to displays.
- o A significant number of persons drive around the area during the off-season just to watch the geese.
- o Fishing is very important to the area. Lac qui Parle is one of the best fishing lakes in the area. Fishing displays/exhibits are desirable.
- o Deer hunting is popular in the area. People drive for 100 - 200 miles to hunt in the area and would find a visitor center interesting.

Comments on Why Other Centers Failed

- o Upper Sioux is perceived to be associated with the Native Americans, not the average person. In addition, there is not a lot of traffic in the area. There is an awareness problem at Upper Sioux.
- o Sibley has been successful because it is right of the highway in a high traffic area.

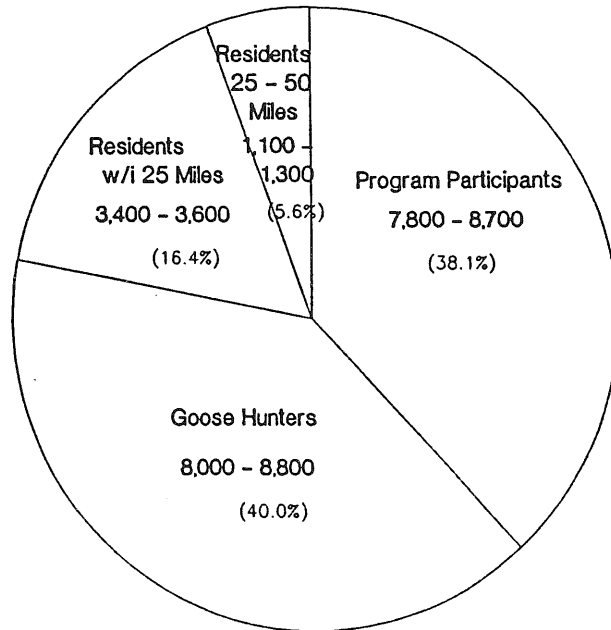
Specific Recommendations

- o The following exhibits and recommendations were considered to be desirable:
  - Exhibits on flood years and how it affects the area;
  - Hunter education and gun safety (have gun clubs provide this); and
  - Live displays and/or aquariums.

Proposed Visitors Center

Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Management Area

Summary of Total Visitors - Annual



Proposed Visitor Center at Lac qui Parle

Summary of Workshops

Education Workshop

The education workshop was held at 2:00 P.M. on October 21, 1988. Listed below is a summary of the issues addressed at the workshop. The education workshop consisted of four educators, (representing three school districts and one youth program director).

Facilities

- o The only specific comment regarding the facilities was an expressed interest by all members of the group that the center would have an auditorium for visitors to watch slides.
- o The educators were more concerned about programming, staffing and other operating issues.

Personal Experience

- o As educators, these individuals have been to several visitor centers individually, as a group leader and as a group participant.

Events and Programs

- o The facility would not work from an educational perspective if there is not a naturalist on staff to teach the children.
- o The Elementary Education Act covers four area (Non-human, Social, Valuing and Active). These four areas would be easy to incorporate Lac qui Parle into context.
- o The naturalist may want to link art with wildlife.
- o Teachers will want to work with naturalist.
- o There are resources with which naturalists can learn new programs (Life, OBUS, Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
- o A visit to the visitor center fits in after the teacher has presented the background educational material to the students in the classroom.
- o The visitor center would be best used as an enhancement to the curriculum.
- o Potential sources of funding for the visitor center may include:
  - Friends of Lac qui Parle (money and volunteers);
  - Charge fees for classes using the facility; and
  - Foundations.

Proposed Visitor Center at Lac qui Parle

Summary of Workshops

- o The Naturalist should put on special programs each month, varying the program for a different grade each month.
- o Community education group would be a potential user.
- o E.C.S.U. (Educational Cooperative Services Unit) may be a potential user.
- o It would be beneficial to establish some-kind of advisory board for the visitor center whose purpose would be to assist the naturalist in developing programs, writing grants, etc.

Comments on Why Other Centers Failed

- o Upper Sioux never actively programmed.
- o Upper Sioux has a poor location and reputation.
- o Upper Sioux does not have the variety of offerings that Lac qui Parle has.

Specific Recommendations

- o The following exhibits and recommendations were considered to be desirable:
  - Pond water viewing;
  - Somebody at the Mission to talk about the Dakota Indians;
  - Program on non-game birds;
  - Dual Programs (i.e. stuffed birds with a picture in the back showing its natural habitat);
  - Slide Programs;
  - Geology program/display;
  - Natural Medicines used by Indians; and
  - Flood plain forest.

Proposed Visitor Center at Lac qui Parle

Summary of Workshops

Friends of Lac qui Parle Workshop

The Friends of Lac qui Parle workshop was held at 4:00 P.M. on October 21, 1988. Listed below is a summary of the issues addressed at the workshop.

Facilities

- o Believe first you pick the site, then you worry about the facilities.
- o Discussed Mission site, the following points were made:
  - The site overlooks the area which is the last to freeze and first to thaw;
  - Ideally situated (near the park and the historic site);
  - Geological factors in the area;
  - Location of trails in the area;
  - New bridge over damn will be put in (it will include a walkway and will be wider);
  - Accessibility;
  - Headquarters site is more isolated;
  - Lots of fishermen near the damn;
  - Viewing is in closer proximity;
  - Can see geese later in the year;
  - Can see greater variety of non-game animals and birds; and
  - Natural confluence of three rivers.
- o Representative of the Friends of Lac qui Parle would rather see the center overbuilt than underbuilt.
- o The center should have a large general assembly room with moveable walls.
- o The center will need an observation deck.
- o Representative of the Friends of Lac qui Parle believe the center should be at least a \$2.0 million facility.

Personal Experience

- o Members of the group named off several visitor centers they have visited. All members had been to at least three visitor centers.

Events and Programs

- o The following exhibits and recommendations were considered to be desirable:
  - Prairie, wetland etc;
  - Some permanent exhibits;

Proposed Visitor Center at Lac qui Parle

Summary of Workshops

- U. of M. Bell Museum of Exhibits;
- Non-state exhibits and donated exhibits; and
- Displays and programs that go beyond wildlife management (i.e. geology, history).

- o The exhibits should entice visitors to want to view what is being displayed in its natural habitat;
- o The main thrust of the visitor center should be to explain the DNR's function and programs in the area.

Comments on Why Other Centers Failed

- o The facilities at Big Stone and Upper Sioux are of a different type and quality, there is no comparison.

Specific Recommendations

- o The facility will need a naturalist. The position should be a full-time position, otherwise you would not be able to stabilize the position.
- o The center would need some permanent appropriations from the legislature for operating and staffing.
- o The center should be funded by the Fish and Wildlife Division.

## Proposed Visitor Center at Lac qui Parle

### Summary of Workshops

#### Conservationists/Agriculture Workshop

The conservationist/agriculture workshop was held at 7:00 P.M. on October 21, 1988. Listed below is a summary of the issues addressed at the workshop. This workshop involved eight participants representing Land Stewardship Project, Chippewa County Historical Society, MN Ornithologists Union and area conservationists and farmers.

#### Facilities

- o The center should have different blinds in different locations to catch birds, small game, etc. in their natural habitat.
- o The facility should be a focal point as well as a resting area for visitors to the area.

#### Personal Experience

- o All members had been to visitor centers. Members of the group cited the Desoto Visitor Center as being a potential competitor.

#### Events and Programs

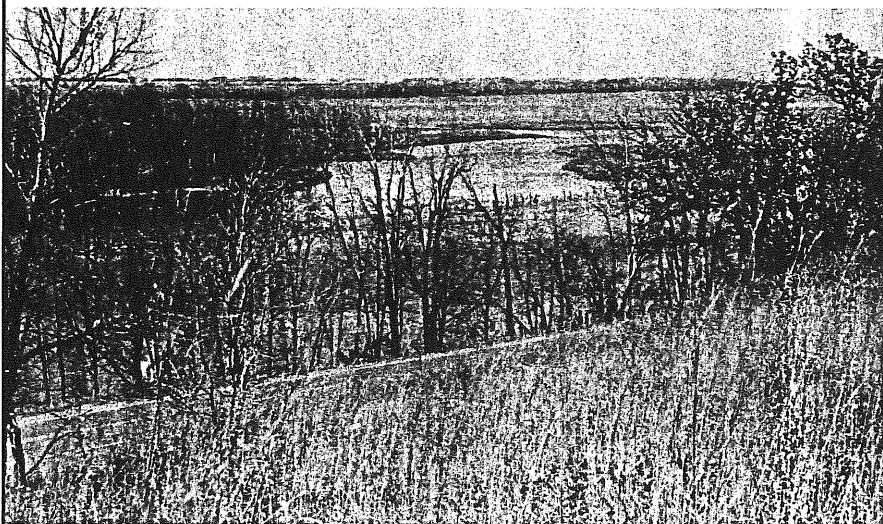
- o The center should provide Watershed District information.
- o The purpose of the center should be to teach children conservation. Lac qui Parle has a variety of conservation techniques in the immediate area.
- o The visitor center would need programs and displays capable of keeping them for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- o Demonstrations of agricultural and conservation practices are an effective way to reach people
- o The center should have a walking tour with a mini-farm exhibit.
- o Specific programs include:
  - Farming for wildlife
  - Photography workshops
  - Programs on the pelicans
  - Geology - The forming of the river valley
  - Prairie seminar

#### Comments on Why Other have Failed

- o Upper Sioux had a reputation of being associated with the Indians.
- o Upper Sioux had a lot of vandalism and bad publicity.



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF THE  
PROPOSED VISITOR'S CENTER  
AT THE  
LAC QUI PARLE  
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



PREPARED FOR  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BY  
ROBERT A. CLOUSE  
AND  
ELIZABETH A. KNUDSON

NOVEMBER 1990

APPENDIX B

INTRODUCTION  
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY  
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A COMPLETE REPORT IS AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING  
THE DNR PROJECT COORDINATOR.

## INTRODUCTION

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has proposed the development of a visitors center at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The Minnesota State Legislature passed legislation in the 1990 legislative session designating the development parcel for the visitors center

...to be located at the historic mission site, more specifically described as a parcel of land lying northeast of County Road 32 in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 13, township 118 north, range 42 west (Mn. Legislature 1990).

The area of the proposed development is shown on Figure 1. Within the forty acre parcel selected by the legislature, the DNR Engineering Department staff provided a development plan of the proposed visitors center that included the visitors center building, a hard surface parking area, a seasonal grass surface parking lot, and three alternates for access roads (see Figure 2). The total area of development was estimated at approximately 2 acres, including about one-half acre for the building, terraces and approaches, another one-half acre for hard surface parking and an additional one acre for the grass lot. The third of the three proposed access roads was eliminated from consideration. The removal of P-3 as an alternate was recommended by the authors due to its proximity to a recorded Native American cemetery site (21-CP-2, Saienga Mound).

In September 1990, the DNR contracted with the Archaeology Department of the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) to undertake an archaeological reconnaissance survey of the proposed visitor's center and to provide management recommendations for the appropriate treatment of any cultural resources that might exist in the potential development area (Appendix A). Because of the exceptionally short lead time, the work was undertaken with an emergency permit issued by the Minnesota Historical Society.

Initial field inspection of the cultivated field proposed for development showed evidence of previous human occupation. cursory examination of the ground surface prior to undertaking archaeological fieldwork provided evidence of a habitation site in the form of surface-exposed artifacts. These material remains documented a previously unrecorded pre-European Native American occupation of the parcel. The site has been designated the Fiesta City Site and a site form has been submitted to the State Archaeologist's Office for a state site number. This find was not unexpected since a number of other Native American heritage sites and cemetery locations exist in the vicinity. Fieldwork began September 17 with surface reconnaissance and ended with formal testing completed November 12, 1990.

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The Archaeology Department of the Minnesota Historical Society was requested to undertake the survey of a proposed new facility to be constructed by the Department of Natural Resources at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Chippewa County, Minnesota. The archaeological survey and testing was undertaken to determine the nature, extent and condition of any significant cultural resources that may exist within the proposed development area. Fieldwork on the project began with a reconnaissance survey in September and formal testing was completed in November 1990.

The proposed visitor's center, its location dictated by State legislation, will occupy the same exact locus as a pre-European contact Native American habitation site. The site, named the Fiesta City Site, was unrecorded prior to the initiation of this project. The majority of the newly recorded site is located in the disturbed portion of a cultivated field that is part of the migratory bird feeding area. While much of the site has been partially disturbed as a result of agricultural practices, a portion of the site has been documented as having remained largely undisturbed. The undisturbed portion of the site lies within the boundary of the proposed "building footprint". Research conducted at the site recovered over 300 stone objects, including portions of three projectile points, that are attributable to an occupation that probably dates between 500 A.D. and 1,500 A.D. In addition to the arrow points, other tools and waste flakes from the stone tool manufacturing process were recovered.

Surveys were also conducted on two of the three proposed roadways. In the case of roads P-1 and P-2, no cultural resources were located that would be impacted by the construction of those drives. A third proposed road (P-3) was not surveyed as a result of its proximity to a recorded Native American Cemetery site. This roadway was recommended as a "no build" and was subsequently dropped from consideration.

Recommendations are made regarding protection of the site and the information it contains. These include moving the building a short distance to the east or undertaking a data recovery project to record information contained in the site that would be destroyed by the construction of the center.

Field notes, maps, photographs, other written records, as well as all artifacts recovered from the site, have become part of the permanent collection of the Minnesota Historical Society. The data recovered and recorded relating to this project is stored at the MHS Ft. Snelling History Center in St. Paul.

This report discusses the findings of the current archaeological research project including survey and testing. A portion of the discussion also provides management recommendations relating to the preservation of significant cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

#### MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Bearing in mind the precautions indicated above, based on a single season surface survey with moderately good collecting conditions, the recorded artifact distribution and the documentation of in situ archaeological materials, the authors propose the following recommendations to protect significant cultural resources:

1. The new facility should be moved to the east approximately 30 feet and be built wholly within the area already disturbed by cultivation.
2. Prior to the construction of the visitors center an additional controlled surface collection should be made. This survey should allow for the best possible collecting conditions and cover all of the site.
3. Prior to constructing the new facility, and after collecting surface visible cultural materials, the plowzone should be mechanically stripped to search for sub-surface features such as fire hearths or pits. If any features are located they should be recorded and excavated utilizing standard archaeological recovery techniques.

If the facility cannot be moved eastward and thereby losing the view of the wildlife refuge (one of the reasons for selecting the proposed location) then the following steps should be undertaken:

1. Archaeological excavation of a minimum of 30 square meters of the in situ portion of the site to record significant cultural data prior to its disturbance by the building construction.
2. Prior to the construction of the visitors center an additional controlled surface collection should be made. This survey should allow for the best possible collecting conditions and cover all areas of the site.
3. Prior to constructing the new facility, and after collecting surface visible cultural materials, the plowzone should be mechanically stripped to search for sub-surface features such as fire hearths or pits. If any features are located they should be recorded and excavated utilizing standard archaeological recovery techniques.

Neither of the two roadways (P-1 and P-2), as presently planned, will have an impact on any known cultural resources. Proposed roadway P-3, as mentioned earlier is recommended as a "no build" due to its proximity to a recorded Native American cemetery site (Saienga Mound -- 21-CP-2). This roadway was not surveyed and the authors were told to drop this portion of the project from consideration.

In conclusion, it should be remembered that a single surface survey does not necessarily provide definitive information on precise site boundaries. Likewise the artifact distribution evident as a result of the present work may not be an accurate reflection of the site materials when compared to survey collections generated over a number of field work episodes. It is possible that other areas of artifact concentrations will be recognized by additional research. Therefore some flexibility in precise building placement could provide desirable results in avoiding significant cultural resources within the site by allowing for some site protection through partial avoidance.

