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ARCHAEOLOGY LABORATORY
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
210 FORD HALL
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

**PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SITES IN MINNESOTA
STATE PARKS**

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H 65 p.

parks and open space



Introduction

University of Minnesota archaeologists have been working for several years to locate and test prehistoric archaeological sites within Minnesota state parks. The program began and has continued under the "Archaeology Program for Minnesota" funded by the Minnesota Resources Commission. A significant segment of our efforts has also gone toward developing archaeological interpretation within the state park system, with the Mille-Lacs-Kathio Visitor Center now nearing completion the major example of these efforts.

A few of the sites listed were located by Minnesota Historical Society archaeologists. The Society has operated a parallel archaeological program concentrated on historic sites that is also financed by the Minnesota Resources Commission. Society archaeologists have worked in several state parks where historic site archaeology is significant--the most obvious example being Ft. Snelling.

Despite the amount of work undertaken, the state park survey is not complete and a list of such parks where archaeological resources seem probable is appended to this report. It is our hope to add to this compilation as additional survey work is completed, and certainly the results of the surveys to be undertaken in the summer of 1974 will be made available as a supplement in early 1975.

The report is organized to provide basic site information, though not in such detail as to be unmanageable. Those detailed records are on file in the Archaeology Laboratory, University of Minnesota. Each park listing contains a record of survey and excavation, a list of known prehistoric sites lying within the park, suggested future archaeological research needs, and comments on possible interpretation development. Each park listing also has a park map showing the location of known archaeological sites.

Parks which have been surveyed and found to include no significant prehistoric archaeological sites, or parks that are basically of historic significance, are listed below. These parks have no prehistoric archaeological research needs:

- Baptism River
- Birch Coulee
- Cascade River
- Charles A. Lindbergh
- Forestville
- Ft. Ridgely
- Ft. Snelling
- George Crosby-Manitou
- Gooseberry
- Helmer Meyre
- Judge C. R. Magney

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Lake Bemidji
Lake Carlos
Old Mill
Split Rock Lighthouse
Temperance
Wm. O'Brien

Parks that we plan to survey in 1974 and for which we will issue supplemental sheets include:

Afton
Beaver Creek Valley
Carley
John A. Latsch Wayside
Jay Cooke
Lake Louise
Minneopa
Nerstrand Woods
O. L. Kipp
Sunrise
Traverse de Sioux

Finally there remains a group of parks that have not been surveyed systematically but appear to have considerable archaeological potential. These parks need intensive survey in the immediate future before additional park development takes place. Rather than merely listing these twenty parks in alphabetical order, they have been grouped in a three-tiered priority ranking.

Priority No. 1:

Bear Head Lake
Buffalo River
Crow Wing
Franz Jevne
McCarthy Beach
Scenic
Schoolcraft
Soudan Tower
Zippel Bay

Priority No. 2:

Banning
Flandrau
Hayes Lake
Sibley
Split Rock Creek
Whitewater

Priority No. 3:

Glacial Lakes
Kilen Woods
Lake Maria
Little Elbow Lake
Monson

It is our hope that this compilation will be useful to park planners, to park administrators, and particularly to park managers. The latter should find site locations particularly useful when enforcing the state field archaeology law which prohibits excavation by park visitors.

A word of caution is essential. Despite intensive site surveys, site testing, and excavation, some sites are certain to be discovered in areas previously surveyed. This is particularly true of very early sites where all surface features have been obscured by landscape changes. A classic example is the Itasca Bison Kill site which lies in a deep peat bog. This would never have been discovered had it not been for county highway excavations in the bog at the time the park circuit road was being developed. It remains extremely important, therefore, for all park personnel engaged in any sort of construction, laying water lines, or other such activities, to watch for archaeological materials and to report these immediately to the state archaeologist.

The cooperation of personnel in the Division of Parks and Recreation has been of the highest order and has really made this compilation possible. To all of these people, our sincere thanks.

Elden Johnson
State Archaeologist
University of Minnesota
May 1974

MAP KEY



SURVEYED AND/OR TESTED SITES



EXCAVATED SITES



SITE INCLUDES EXTENSIVE SURROUNDING AREA AND/OR EXACT
BOUNDARIES NOT KNOWN

Afton State Park

A. Field Survey

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unknown at present.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Baptism River

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Beaver Creek Valley

A. Field Survey

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unknown at present.

C. Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Big Stone Lake State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Partial Survey, 1972

B. Archaeological Sites

21 BS 16

Two burial mounds in Section 20 of the north park section. Wilford describes one as flat topped and producing "Mississippian" pottery. He could not locate the second mound--apparently it has been plowed down.

21 BS 19

Single mound in Section 36 of Area 3. Not excavated.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The larger southern section of the park needs intensive site survey and testing. No prehistoric sites other than the mounds were located in the northern section. Numerous burial mounds exist or existed on the bluffs overlooking the lake and it is probable that the habitation sites associated with these mounds occur in the lake trench.

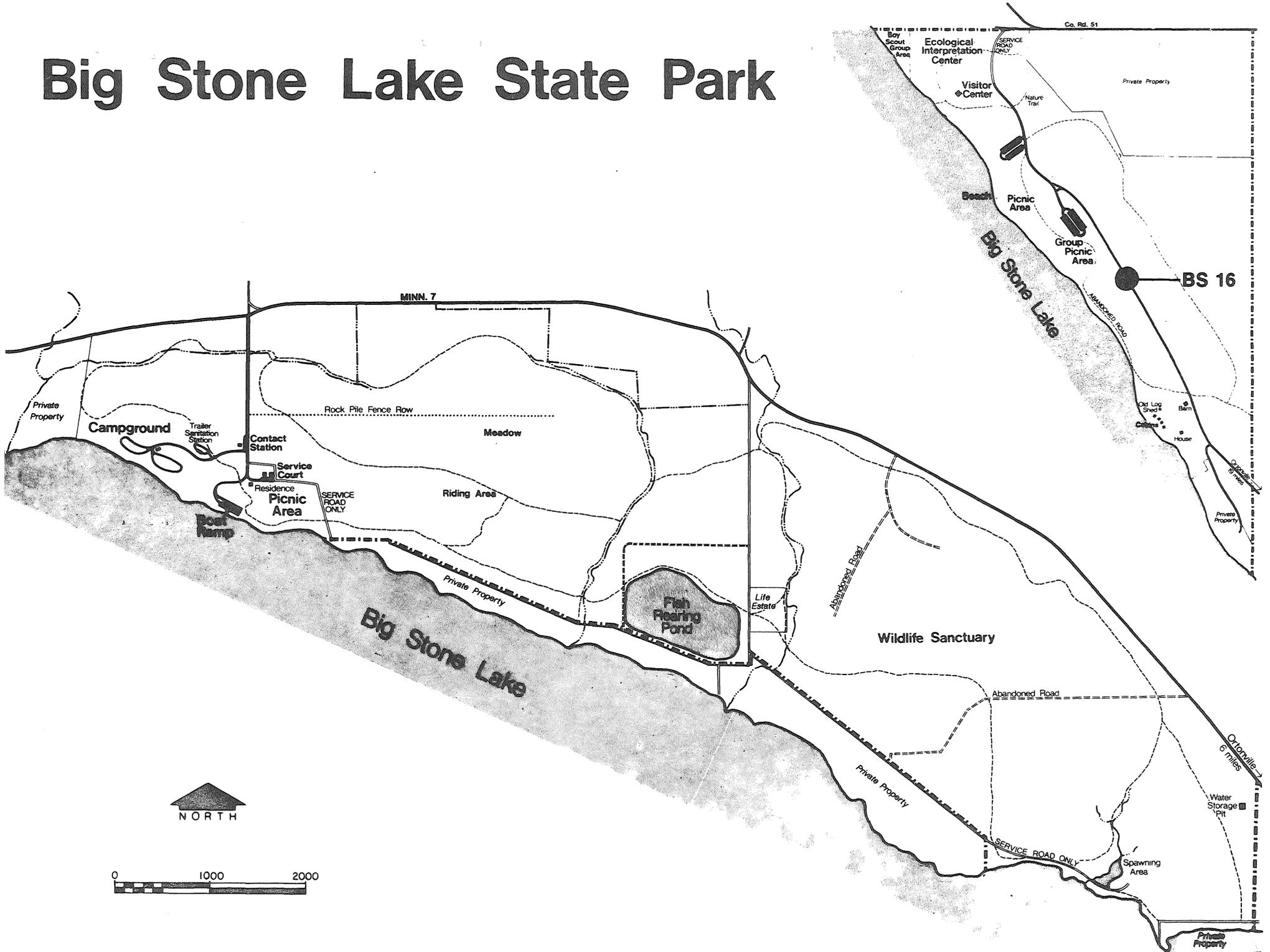
D. Interpretation

A plan to develop the Visitor Center interpretations within the theme of "Changing Patterns of Land Utilization" was submitted some years ago but has never been developed. The park is an ideal place to interpret pre-historic archaeology for numerous sites exist on Big Stone and Traverse lakes and on both the Minnesota and South Dakota sides. Some of these sites, such as the "Browns Valley Man Site" are extremely important. Dakota Indian ethnology, the fur trade, and the homestead settlement records offer an exceptional chance to develop a truly significant interpretation of man's interaction with a prairie environment.

The park is also an ideal place to interpret the late glacial and early post-glacial history of the area. The lake is in the spillway area of Glacial Lake Agassiz, the largest peri-glacial lake in North America. This significant feature should surely be interpreted.

Finally, even though immediate interpretation plans do not call for a development described above, continued efforts should be made to obtain the William Jensen collection from his widow in Browns Valley. This archaeological, ethnological, and geological collection is all local in origin and is the largest private collection of its kind in Minnesota. That collection alone would provide ample materials for the interpretation center.

Big Stone Lake State Park



Birch Coulee State Park

A. Field Survey

None.

B. Archaeological Sites

No prehistoric sites are listed for this park.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory. Area is site of 1862 conflict and thus is primarily of historic interest.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Blue Mound State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Partially surveyed by the University of Minnesota in 1968, 1969, and 1971, with two sites recorded within the park statutory boundaries and several located immediately outside the park.

B. Prehistoric Sites

21 RK 8 Blue Mound Site

This is a complex and, as yet, enigmatic site located at the southern end of the park near the cliff. The major feature of the site is a lengthy stone alignment, obviously man made, and probably prehistoric in origin. The stone alignment has been mapped and a brief test trench was excavated bisecting the alignment at one point. The tests provided no data allowing determination of cultural affiliation or age. While working in the area, the survey crews questioned many older residents, at least two of whom had been raised on original homesteads in the immediate vicinity. All of those questioned had no recollection of the alignment being built by early white settlers and all said that the "wall" had been there as long as they could remember.

Associated with the wall is at least one circular burial mound and there are a number of large shallow depressions in the same area. The steep cliff immediately below the alignment may have served as a bison drive area in both prehistoric and historic times as there are records of bison bone accumulations at the base of the cliff early in the homestead period. A test trench at one cliff-base location showed wind-blown loess to a depth forcing abandonment of the test trench. This test was in only one very small locality at the base of this extensive cliff, however, but as the majority of the land at that point is privately owned, further testing was not possible.

The site is enigmatic but potentially extremely important. The alignment is probably prehistoric and its purpose may have been associated with bison drives, with astronomical observation, or with other uses. The cliff-base has the potential for a stratified bison killing and butchering locality of extreme importance.

21 RK 10

This is a small camp or worksite located on a hill east of the point where Mound Creek flows out of Upper Mound Lake. Archaeological materials were found on the surface approximately one acre in extent but no diagnostic materials were located. The site is within the statutory boundaries but is privately held. The site also resembles a number of small prehistoric sites in the adjacent area just outside the park.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

A concentrated effort involving excavation plus additional survey and testing is required for this park. I would estimate that a minimum of one full summer field season is required and that excavation efforts at RK 8 would settle the question of the alignment and indicate the presence of a bison kill locality at one or more points along the base of the cliff. Should the latter prove correct, two further seasons of excavation at the kill site would be necessary.

D. Interpretation

Planning interpretation at this time is premature. Should the excavation program described above be carried out and the estimate prove correct, Blue Mound could develop into one of the most important parks in the state for public interpretation of prehistoric archaeology. The alignment in its setting is unique in Minnesota, we have no other known bison drive site, and the fact that the alignment is a spectacular surface feature gives the area special importance visually.

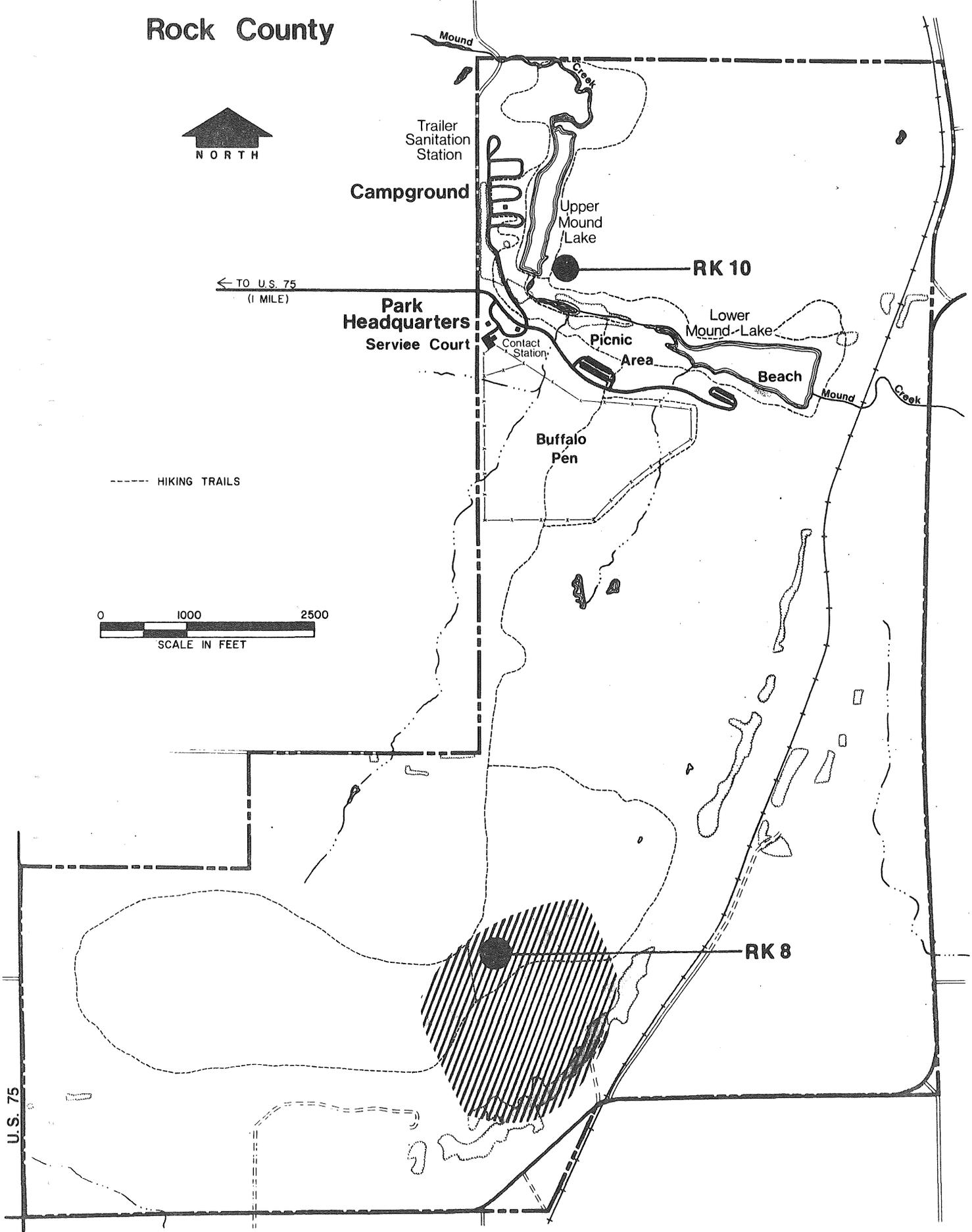
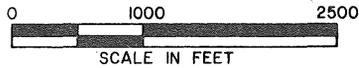
Blue Mounds State Park

Rock County



← TO U.S. 75
(1 MILE)

----- HIKING TRAILS



U.S. 75

RK 8

RK 10

Camden State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Not Surveyed

B. Archaeological Sites

The park has not been intensively surveyed though Professor Lloyd A. Wilford examined the area in the 1940's after a prehistoric pottery vessel had been found in a mound in the area along Minnesota Highway 23 on the eastern edge of the park. The mound has since been destroyed but there are some indications that there is an associated village site in that same area. If the pottery vessel from the mound is also indicative of the village site, the occupation probably dates between 1200 and 1400 A.D. The pottery vessel has been illustrated and described by George Chamberlain in the Minnesota Archaeologist, volume 8, pages 182-183, 1942.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

An intensive site survey and testing program is needed in the park. This survey should focus initially on locating and defining the probable village site. The bottomland terraces and upland slopes of the Redwood River running through the park should also be carefully surveyed. A one month survey with a three person crew should accomplish this.

D. Interpretation

Any plans would be premature at this time.

Carley State Park

A. Field Survey

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unknown at present.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Cascade River State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Charles A. Lindbergh State Park

A. Field Survey

None.

B. Archaeological Sites

No prehistoric sites. Park is of historic interest only.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Father Hennepin State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Surveyed by the University of Minnesota, 1962; Minnesota Historical Society, 1966. The following data are from the University of Minnesota survey.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 ML 15

This is a burial mound and habitation site area adjacent to the park headquarters and in the public picnic area. One mound, for example, is in the yard of the park manager's house.

Test trenching between the mounds in 1962 showed village site materials in the picnic area. These tests produced Malmo focus pottery indicating a Middle Woodland occupation dating sometime between 300 B.C. and 500 A.D.

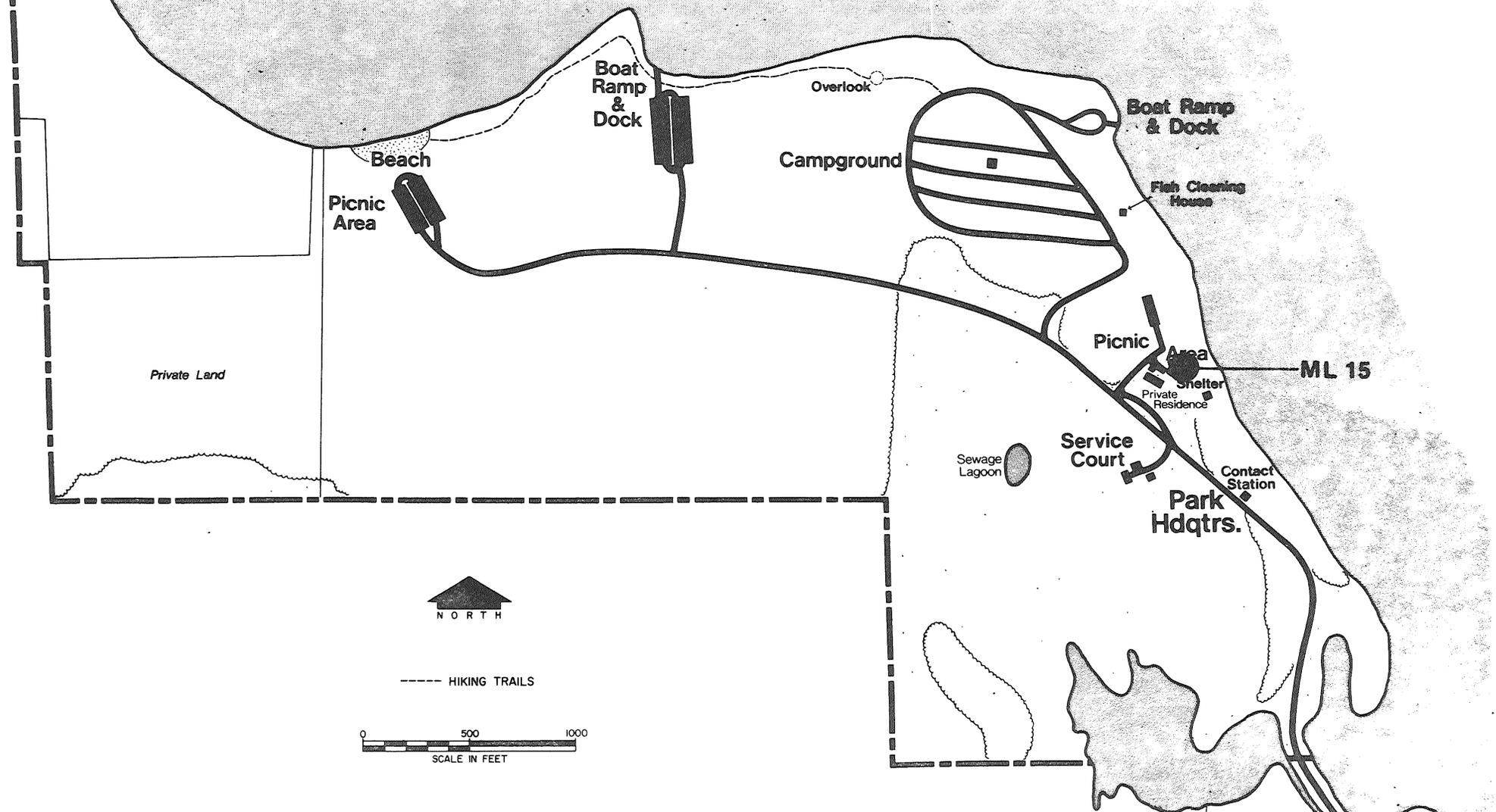
C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The mounds should be left intact for the present. Excavations in the habitation area are needed to amplify the poorly known Malmo focus and would best be done in the early fall after the heavy park use is over for the season. One month of excavation is needed at a minimum.

D. Interpretation

Recommended only marking the burial mounds and identifying the habitation area.

Mille Lacs Lake



Father Hennepin State Park

Mille Lacs County

Onamia ← 12 miles
MINN. 27
ISLE

Forestville State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Surveyed by the University of Minnesota, 1971.

B. Archaeological Sites

No prehistoric archaeological sites were located within the park boundaries, nor did local collectors have any prehistoric materials from the area. This is basically an historic period town site.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory; good potential for historic site archaeology.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Fort Ridgely State Park

A. Field Survey

None.

B. Archaeological Sites

No prehistoric sites. This former military post is primarily of historic interest.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Fort Snelling State Park

A. Field Survey

None.

B. Archaeological Sites

No prehistoric sites. Basically of historic interest.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Frontenac State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Mound survey by T.H. Lewis in 1800s; Historical Society survey, 1971.

B. Archaeological Sites

21-GD-10

The Wells Creek Mound, reported by T.H. Lewis in the 19th century, was located about 60' above Wells Creek. This would be in the area now northwest of the park headquarters.

21-GD-121

The Frontenac State Park Mounds, a series of nine mounds, are located north of the park headquarters and adjacent to U.S. Highway 61.

21-GD-118

The three mounds on this site are located on a wooded point overlooking Wells Creek and Lake Pepin adjacent to the southwest corner of the park.

A number of other prehistoric mound groups and habitation sites are near the park. Historic fur trade sites, including Fort Beauharnois, are also located in the park area.

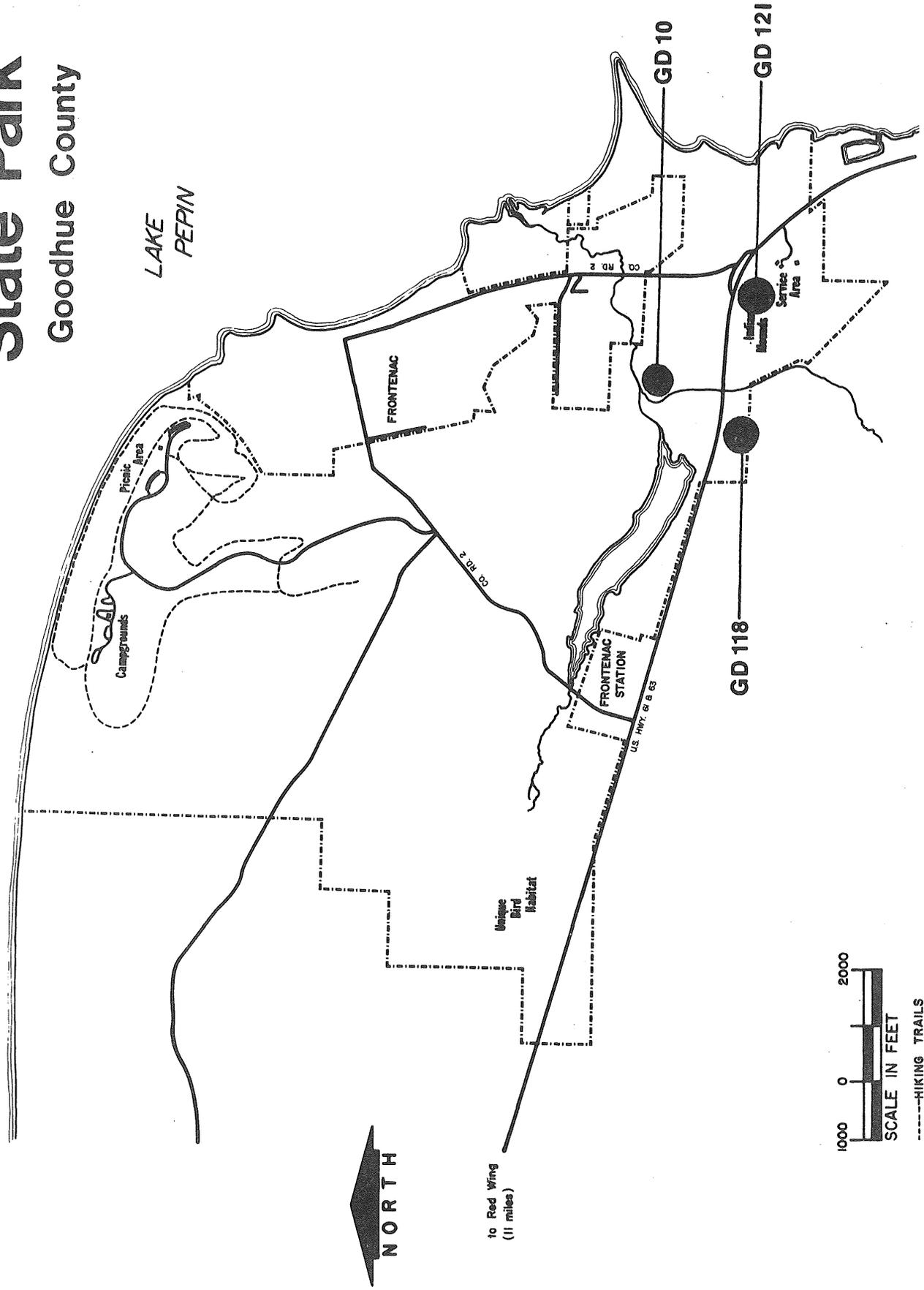
C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

D. Interpretation

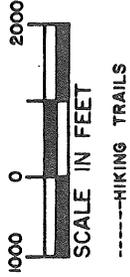
Premature at this time. An intensive excavation project should be begun at Fort Beauharnois as soon as possible. This is an extremely significant early historic site now rapidly being destroyed by looters.

Frontenac State Park

Goodhue County



to Red Wing
(11 miles)



George Crosby-Manitou State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Gooseberry Falls State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Helmer Meyre State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Surveyed and tested by the University of Minnesota, 1971.

B. Prehistoric Sites

21 FE 11

This prehistoric burial mound group is the only archaeological site located in the park. The group includes six burial mounds and is located on the northeast end of the big island in Albert Lea Lake, just north of the park buildings. A plat of the mounds as of 1971 shows five mounds constructed in a line with the edges of each merging with adjacent mounds. The sixth mound is separated by 15 meters and though it may actually be three adjacent mounds, appears to be a single mound with two projections. Such a pattern is not unique in Minnesota and can be seen, for example, at the Stumme Mound Site in Pine County. Testing in the immediate area showed no associated occupation site.

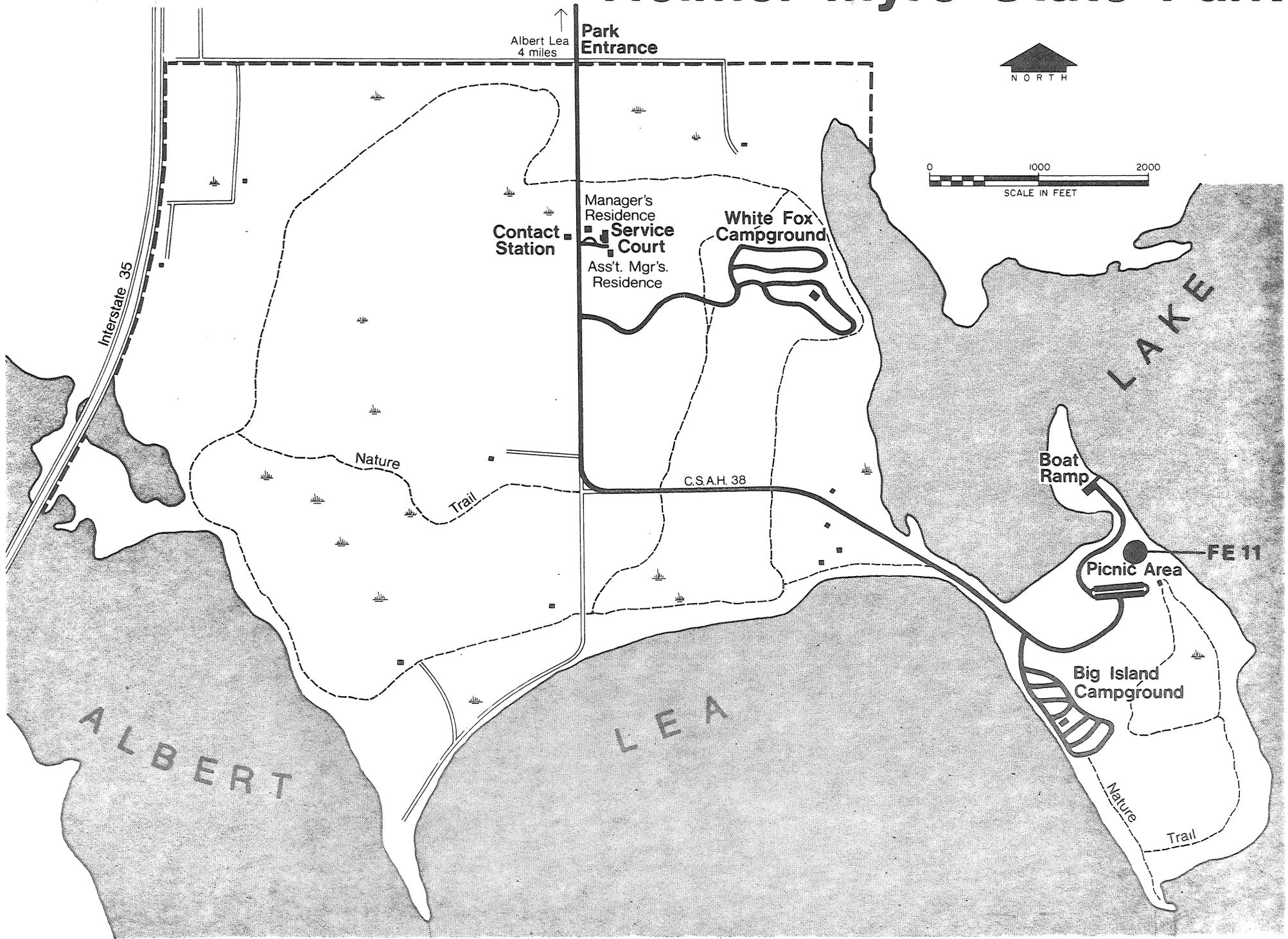
C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

No excavation should be planned at FE 11 in the near future. Burial mound excavation is not needed but the mound group should be preserved for public viewing.

D. Interpretation.

The mounds have not been excavated and therefore cannot be identified as to either cultural affiliation or age. The only "excavated" site in Freeborn County is a mound group on Albert Lea Lake directly opposite 21 FE 11. This site originally contained 13 burial mounds but in 1964, leveling and grading for a housing development destroyed the group. University of Minnesota archaeologists were able to salvage only a little material from four of the mounds after they had been partially destroyed. The data collected included only five undisturbed burials; there were no associated cultural materials. The other nine mounds had been destroyed before the University was notified. This salvage excavation was reported in the Minnesota Archaeological Newsletter, No. 12, 1967. Given the paucity of archaeological data not only for the park but for the entire county, there is no archaeology to interpret. We would suggest only marking the park mound group with an appropriate identification sign.

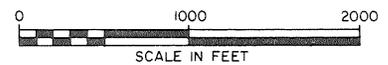
Helmer Myre State Park



Helmer Myre State Park

Albert Lea
4 miles

Park
Entrance



Interstate 35

Contact
Station

Manager's
Residence
Service
Court
Ass't. Mgr's.
Residence

White Fox
Campground

Nature
Trail

CSAH 38

LAKE

Boat
Ramp

FE 11

Picnic
Area

ALBERT
LEA

LEA

Big Island
Campground

Nature
Trail

Trail

Interstate State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Partial survey, Minnesota Historical Society, 1972, campground only.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unnumbered Site

Testing in the campground area produced late Woodland archaeological material. The site lies under the present campground.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The entire park area should be intensively surveyed in cooperation with a survey on the Wisconsin side. The area below Taylors Falls is a logical place for a habitation site and/or a special activity fishing site. It may be that the park has been so intensively developed that it will be impossible to locate such a site but it is also possible that such a site exists undisturbed on the less developed Wisconsin side of the river.

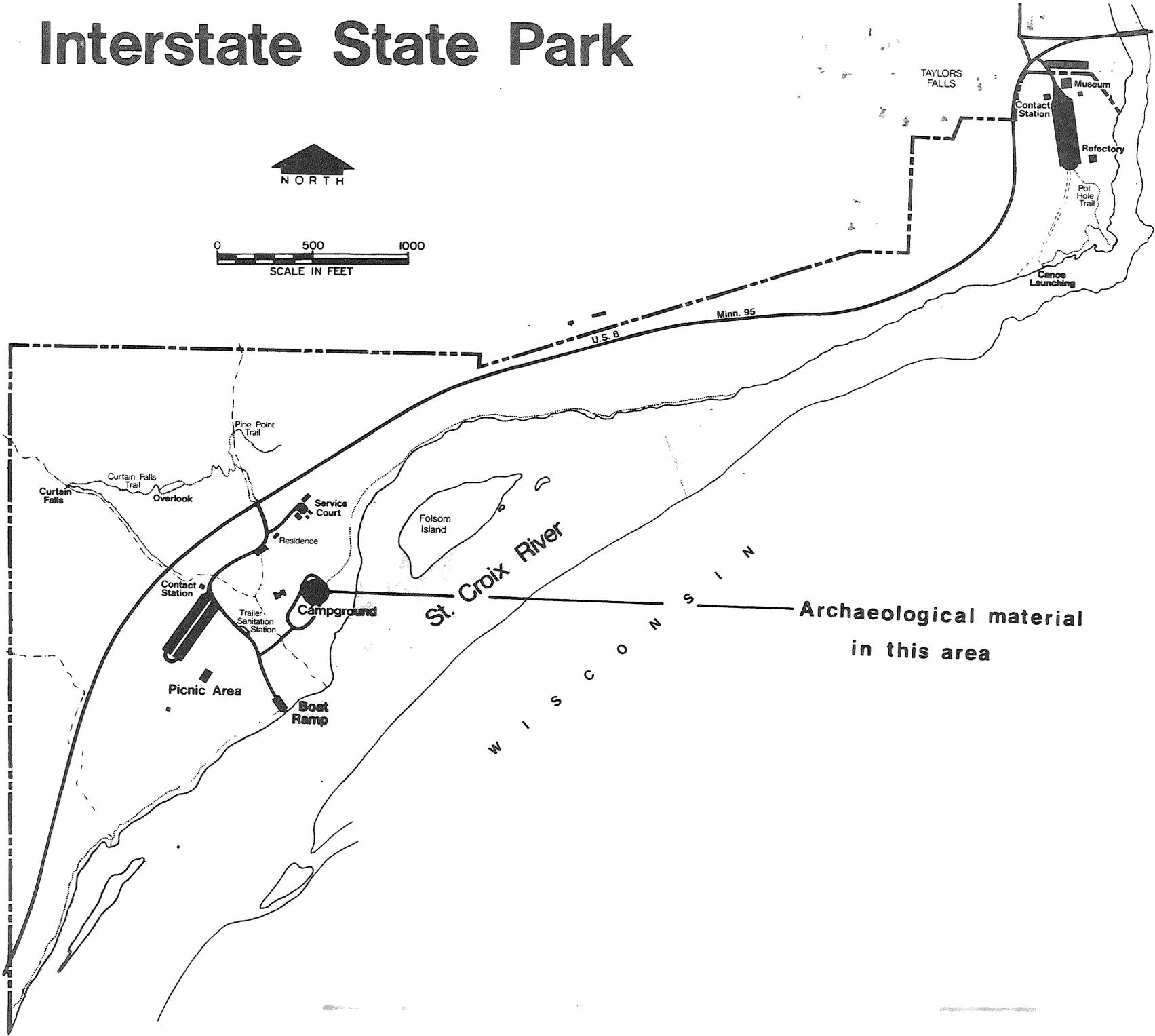
The area back from the campground against the base of the bluff should also be surveyed for possible rock shelters.

Work in the campground area would need to be limited to further testing between campsites. This would be desirable to obtain data allowing at least dating and determining cultural affiliation. Any large scale excavation would not be feasible.

D. Interpretation

Premature.

Interstate State Park



Archaeological material
in this area

Itasca State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Sites in Itasca Park span an impressive time range of thousands of years. Nine archaeological sites are known within the park boundaries, and five of these have been excavated. Park archaeology focuses around the significant Bison Kill site (21-CE-1) utilized by Minnesota's first inhabitants not long after the retreat of the glaciers from the area. Itasca's sites are summarized below. Survey and excavation dates are given for each site listed below.

B. Archaeological Sites

21-CE-1 Itasca Bison Site

Excavations:

Lloyd Wilford, 1937
C. T. Shay, 1963, 1964 and 1965

This site is located south of the west arm of Lake Itasca in the valley formed by Nicollet Creek, and on the lake shore some 7,000 to 8,000 years ago. On the adjacent slope above the butchering and kill site projectile points and tools were recovered. This was a camp occupied in the fall or spring for a number of years by family groups of around twenty-five people who came to hunt bison and gather acorns and hazelnuts.

Published Reports:

Shay, C. T.
1971 The Itasca Bison Kill Site: An Ecological Analysis.
Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series, No. 6.
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

21-CE-2 Hill Point Site

Excavations:

Lloyd Wilford, 1937
Elden Johnson, 1959

This village and mound site is located at the tip of Hill Point on the southwest side of the northern bay of Lake Itasca. Excavations revealed that the village was occupied sometime between 500 and 900 years ago by people who made a distinctive type of northern Minnesota pottery called Blackduck.

Published Reports:

Evans, G. Edward
1961 "Ceramic Analysis of the Blackduck Ware and Its General Cultural Relationships," in Minnesota Academy of Science, Proceedings, 29:33-54.

21-CE-3 Chambers Creek Site

Excavations:

Lloyd Wilford, 1937
Elden Johnson, 1959

This village site is located along Chambers Creek which connects the south end of the west arm of Lake Itasca with Elk Lake.

21-CE-6 Garrison Point

Excavations:

Elden Johnson, tested 1959

This village and mound site is located on a point along the southwest shore of the west arm of Lake Itasca, directly across from the Chambers Creek site.

21-CE-7

Excavations:

E. Johnson, tested 1959

Located on the west side of Lake Itasca, opposite Schoolcraft Island, this village site appears to be similar to the Hill Point site.

21-CE-10 Tamarack Point

Excavations:

Elden Johnson, tested 1959

Tamarack Point is located on the east shore of the west arm of Lake Itasca.

21-CE-13 Schoolcraft Island

Excavations:

Elden Johnson, tested 1959

This site is located on Schoolcraft Island in the southern end of Lake Itasca's north arm.

21-CE-15 Lake Itasca (Headwaters Lake) Site

Excavations:

Jacob Brower, 1898

This village site is located on the east side of the north end of Lake Itasca, near the campgrounds.

Published Reports:

Brower, Jacob V.

1898 "Prehistoric Man at the Headwaters of the Mississippi River,"
in Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Historical
Collections, 8:232-269.

21-CE-16 Itasca Park Site

Excavations:

Jacob Brower, 1898

The Itasca Park site consists of a group of mounds at the north end of the park near the Mississippi headwaters.

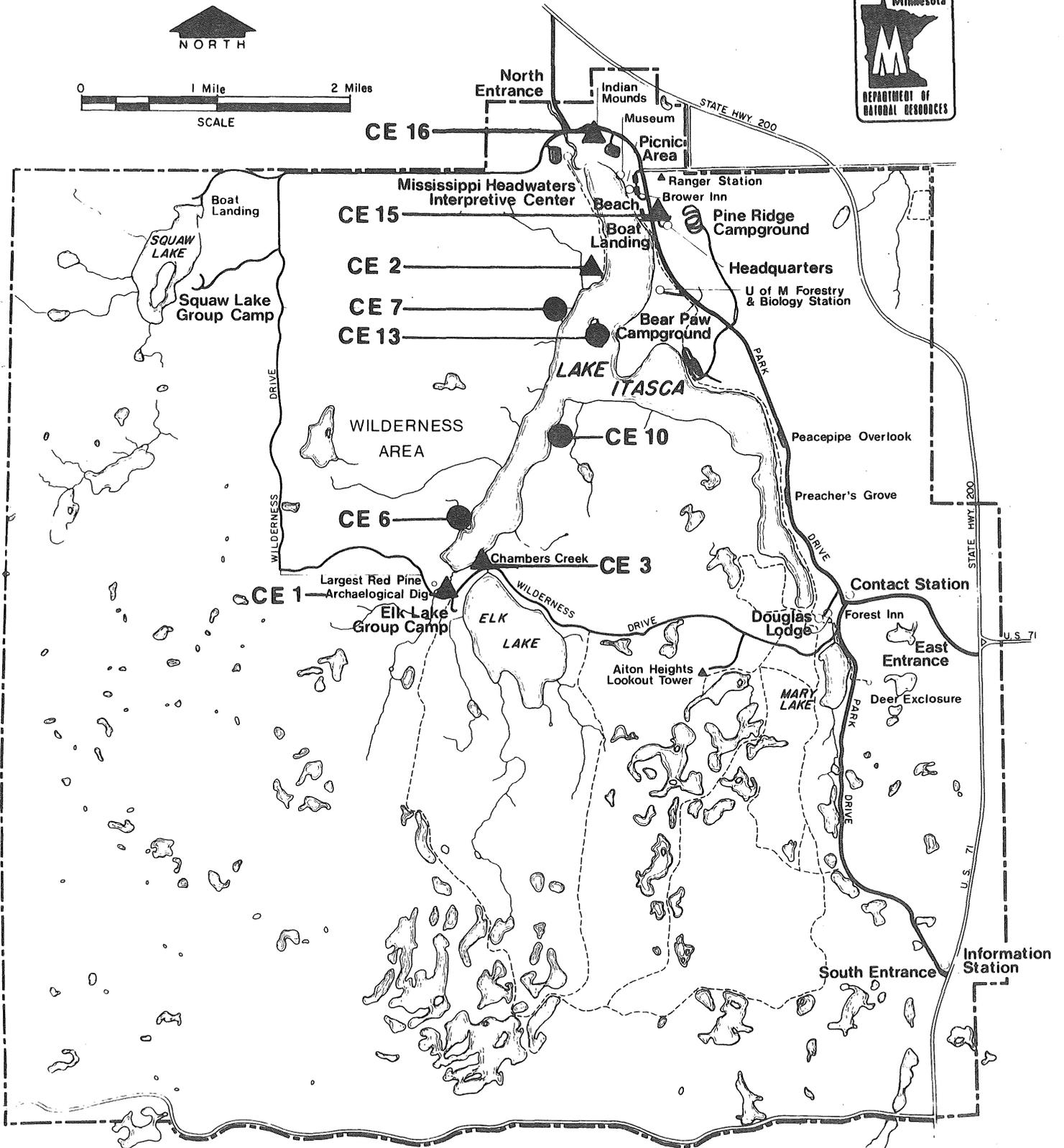
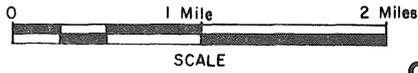
C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

No immediate excavations are needed though the sites should be preserved for future research. The bison kill site offers additional potential, and excavation of the series of small camp sites that have only been tested could provide interesting data on seasonality.

D. Interpretation

There is no immediate need for interpretation development beyond that now in the park museum and at the bison kill site.

Itasca State Park



John A. Latsch State Wayside

A. Field Survey

Historical Society survey, 1971; Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

21-WN-23

This habitation site is located just north of Lock and Dam #5 on the left side of Highway 61.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

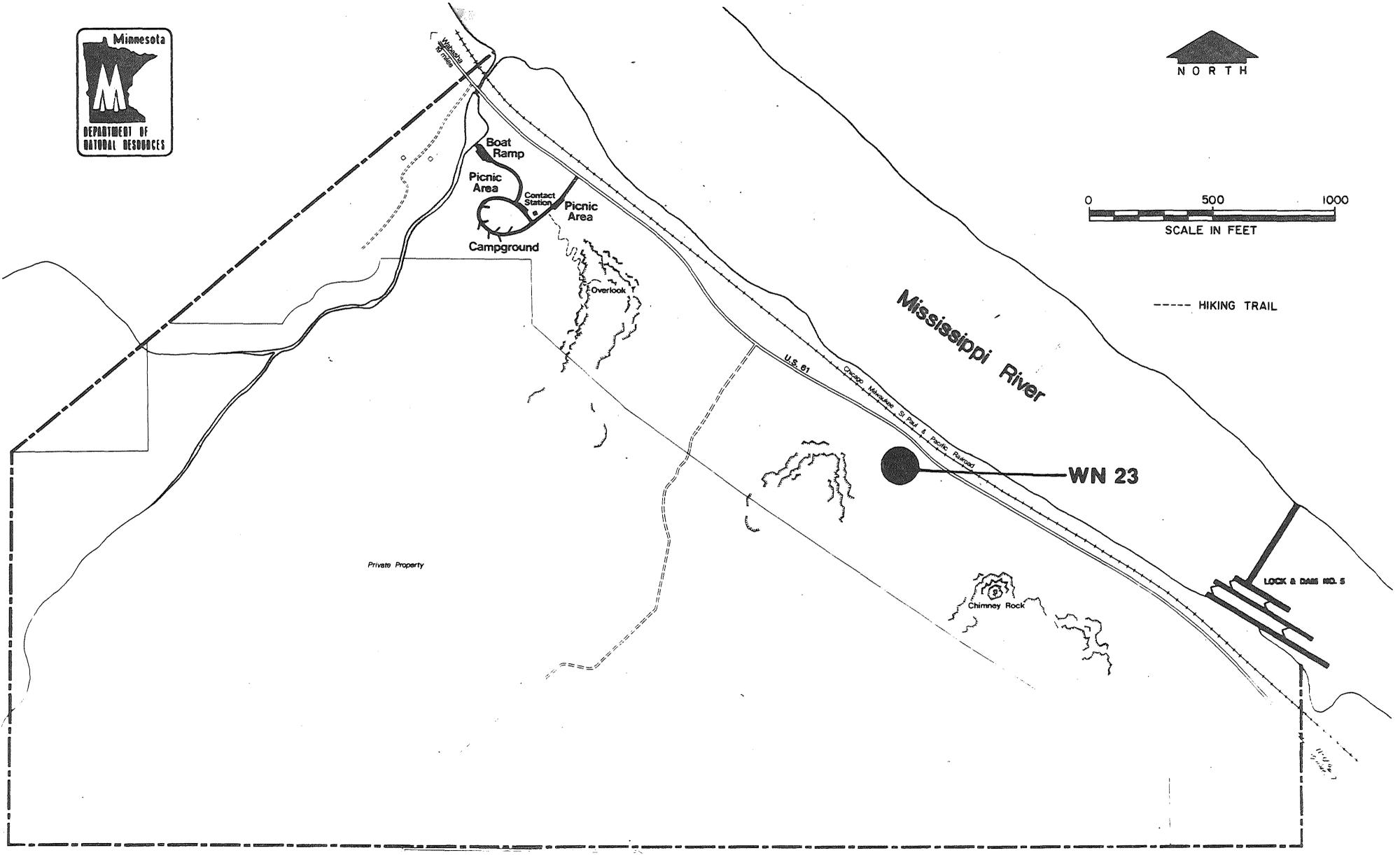
D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

John A. Latsch State Park



----- HIKING TRAIL



Judge C.R. Magney State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Lac Qui Parle State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

No intensive survey.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 LP 5

A group of eight burial mounds located north of the park office between Lac Qui Parle Lake and the river bottoms. Not tested or excavated.

21 LP 6

A single mound located 60 feet above the lake, north of the campground area.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The area is significant in both historic and prehistoric periods. The Chippewa Mission is within the park area, an historic Dakota village is known, and numbers of sites exist outside the park boundaries. One would anticipate prehistoric village sites within the park boundaries.

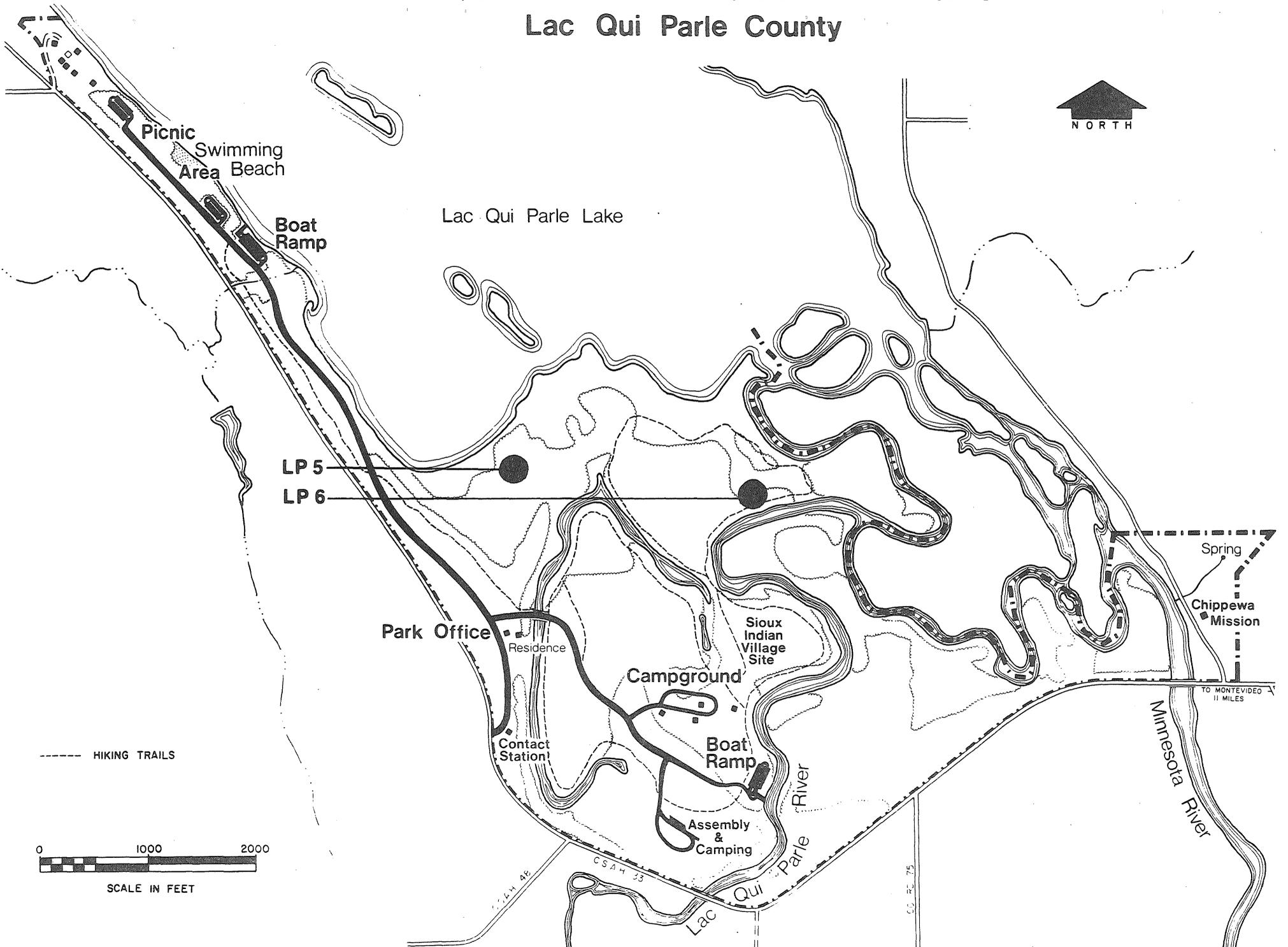
The park should be intensively surveyed and an excavation plan developed.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

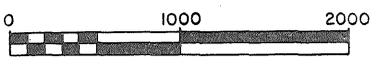
Lac Qui Parle State Park

Lac Qui Parle County



LP 5
LP 6

----- HIKING TRAILS



SCALE IN FEET

Spring
Chippewa Mission

TO MONTEVIDEO 11 MILES

46

CSA 4 33

75

Lac Qui Parle River

Minnesota River

Lake Bemidji

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota

B. Archaeological Sites

No prehistoric sites.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Lake Bronson State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

No intensive survey; University of Minnesota excavation, 1936.

B. Archaeological Sites

There are no known archaeological sites within the park. The lake is artificial so that sites that may have existed adjacent to the river in the eastern half of the park are now under water. The upper, unflooded, portion of the river has not been surveyed.

21 KT 1

A group of nine linear mounds lying on the surface of the Campbell beach of Glacial Lake Agassiz is located immediately outside the southern park boundary below the dam. A. E. Jenks excavated a portion of this mound group in 1936, and in the late 1960's six of the mounds remained in virgin prairie. The mound group belongs to the Arvilla Complex and dates between 500 and 900 A.D. The published report on the site appears in The Arvilla Complex, Elden Johnson, Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series, No. 9, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, 1973.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

A brief field survey of the riverine area within the park should be done as soon as possible. This would take less than one week.

Purchase of the mound area for inclusion in the park was recommended previously. If this is done, the land area in and adjacent to the mounds should be excavated. Jenks' excavations revealed habitation debris in the mound fill. It is not certain if the habitation is associated with the mound construction or if it represents an older habitation antecedent to mound construction. No village area in the Red River Valley of Arvilla Complex origins has been excavated so the habitation site is of great potential.

D. Interpretation

Should the mound area be included in the park at a future date, a small interpretation section describing the Arvilla Complex should be constructed. The mounds should also be marked. I should note that purchase of the mound area is strongly recommended as this is the only Arvilla Mound group in the Valley that has not been disturbed by plowing and thus the only group in virgin grassland.

Lake Carlos State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Survey and excavation, University of Minnesota, 1963.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 DL 2

This is a small, scattered campsite on the lakeshore and directly beneath the present public campground. Excavations were limited to a few areas located between the present tent pads and showed that the site is late prehistoric, probably a seasonal camp, and is affiliated with the latest prehistoric culture of west-central Minnesota.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None is recommended unless park boundaries are expanded.

D. Interpretation

We would suggest only a sign indicating to modern campers that they are camping on a late prehistoric village site.

Seedling Plantation



--- HIKING TRAIL
- - - MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

Campground

Primitive
Camping Area

Trailer
Sanitation
Station

Headquarters

DL 2

Campground

Boat
Landing

Beach

Picnic
Area

HIDDEN
LAKE

LAKE CARLOS

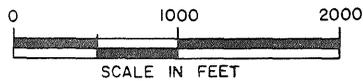
Group
Camp

Entrance

MINN
29

HORSES MUST BE KEPT TO THE
WEST OF HEAVY DOTTED LINE

to
Alexandria
(8 miles)



Lake Carlos State Park

Douglas County

Lake Louise State Park

A. Field Survey

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unknown at present.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Lake Shetek State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

No intensive survey. Mounds located by T. H. Lewis in 19th century and again visited by L. A. Wilford in 1940's. Small collections from eroding shorelines of the lake are known locally.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 MU 9

Group of two mounds 50 feet above Park Lake.

21 MU 10

Single mound 40 feet above the lake and adjacent to the entrance road.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

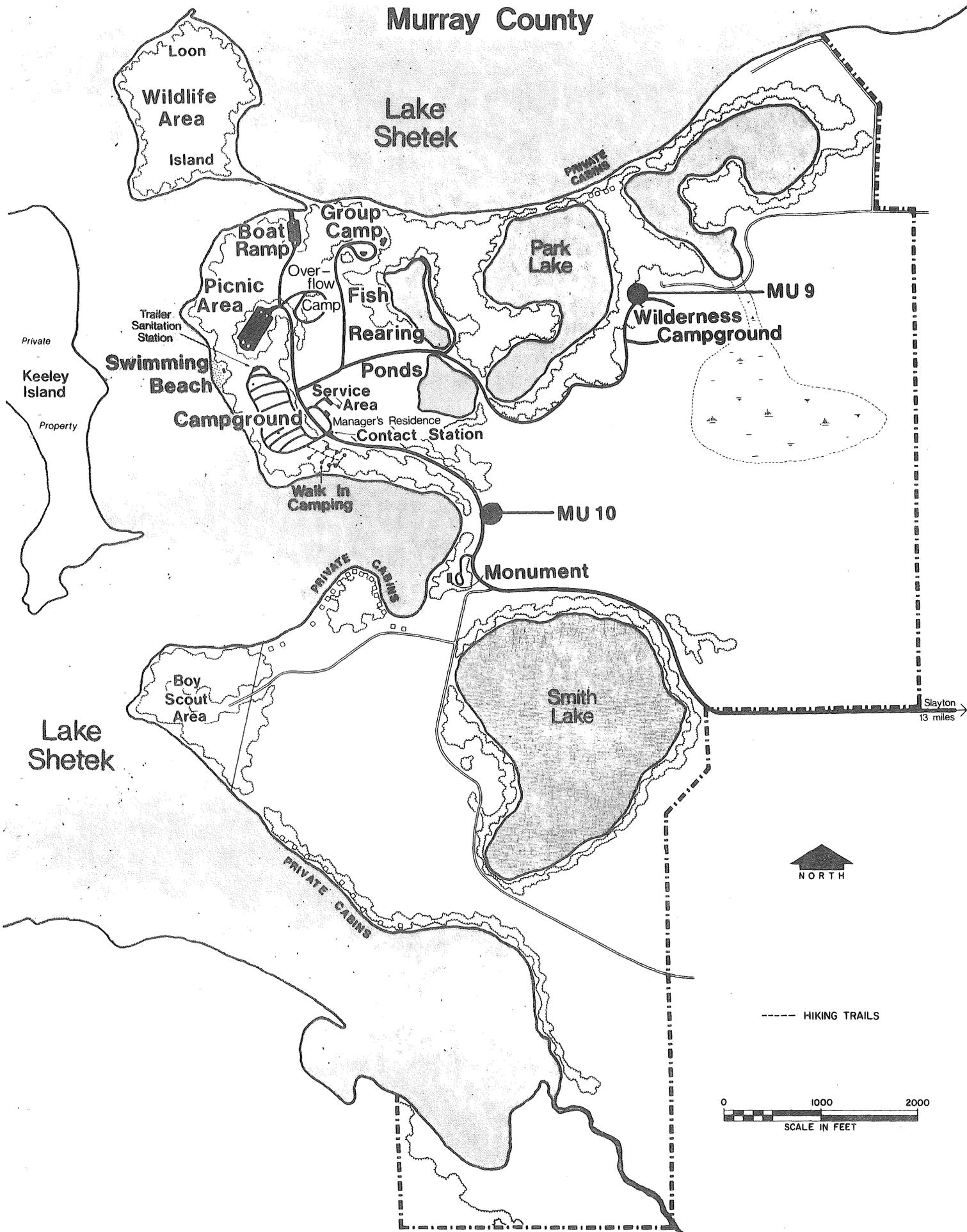
This park must be intensively surveyed. Surface collections of artifacts suggest a village site on Loon Island and the physiography of the park suggests possible additional village areas on each peninsula.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Lake Shetek State Park

Murray County



Maplewood State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Survey, University of Minnesota, 1967; excavations, University of Minnesota, Charles Watrall, 1969.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 OT 36

Maplewood Site. This site lies on the northeastern shore of the south arm of Lake Lida immediately east of the swimming beach and picnic area. The 1969 excavations produced a good sample of prehistoric pottery and tools of the Late Woodland period. Faunal remains were plentiful and storage pits and postmolds allowed definition of dwelling structures. The site data are under analysis and should be available within a year.

21 OT 37

This is a small campsite located on the end of a long peninsula projecting from the east shore of Lake Lida. Tests yielded very little archaeological material and the area has been disturbed through plowing. No further work is recommended.

21 OT 38

A site on the northeast end of the large island adjacent to the Maplewood Site. Boulder rings located on a flat "terrace" six feet above the lake level mark the presence of a campsite. No test excavations.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The island site must be excavated and the entire island surveyed. The island was privately owned in 1967; explaining the lack of testing at that time. Survey work on the island would have to take place in late fall or early spring before vegetation appears as the vegetation cover is so dense that a survey during the summer would be impossible.

The Maplewood Site (OT 36) should be preserved and left for future excavations. The 1969 work excavated less than 10% of the site.

D. Interpretation.

Maplewood is an ideal park for the establishment of an interpretation program integrating archaeological sites both within and outside the park and a program which would also integrate archaeological and geological features. This could be done by developing a combination walking and driving tour, self-guided, and very inexpensive to establish.

A simple outdoor display defining the archaeological complexes within the park would emphasize the Maplewood Site, and perhaps the island site when that has been excavated. For protection, this display would probably be placed in the contact station area, though it would be much better to have it at the Maplewood Site. Visitors could then be directed to the site or sites where interpretative signs would explain the nature of the sites. Visitors would also be given a map outlining an archaeological-geological driving tour which would take them to the nearby Minnesota Man site and adjacent Glacial Lake Pelican; to the Morrison Mounds (a state historic site) located at the outlet of Ottertail Lake where they would see the earliest dated burial mounds (800 B.C.) in Minnesota; and thence to the Orwell Site west of Fergus Falls where they would see a distinctive mound complex originally surrounded by a ditch and palisade and characterized by bison burials in the mound fill. The Orwell Site also lies on the Herman beach--the maximum beach stage of Glacial Lake Agassiz--at the point where the Ottertail River enters the Lake Agassiz basin. The beach is highly visible and the view from the beach to the west gives an excellent picture of the lake basin. The park itself lies in the Big Stone moraine which should be interpreted and several places along the tour.

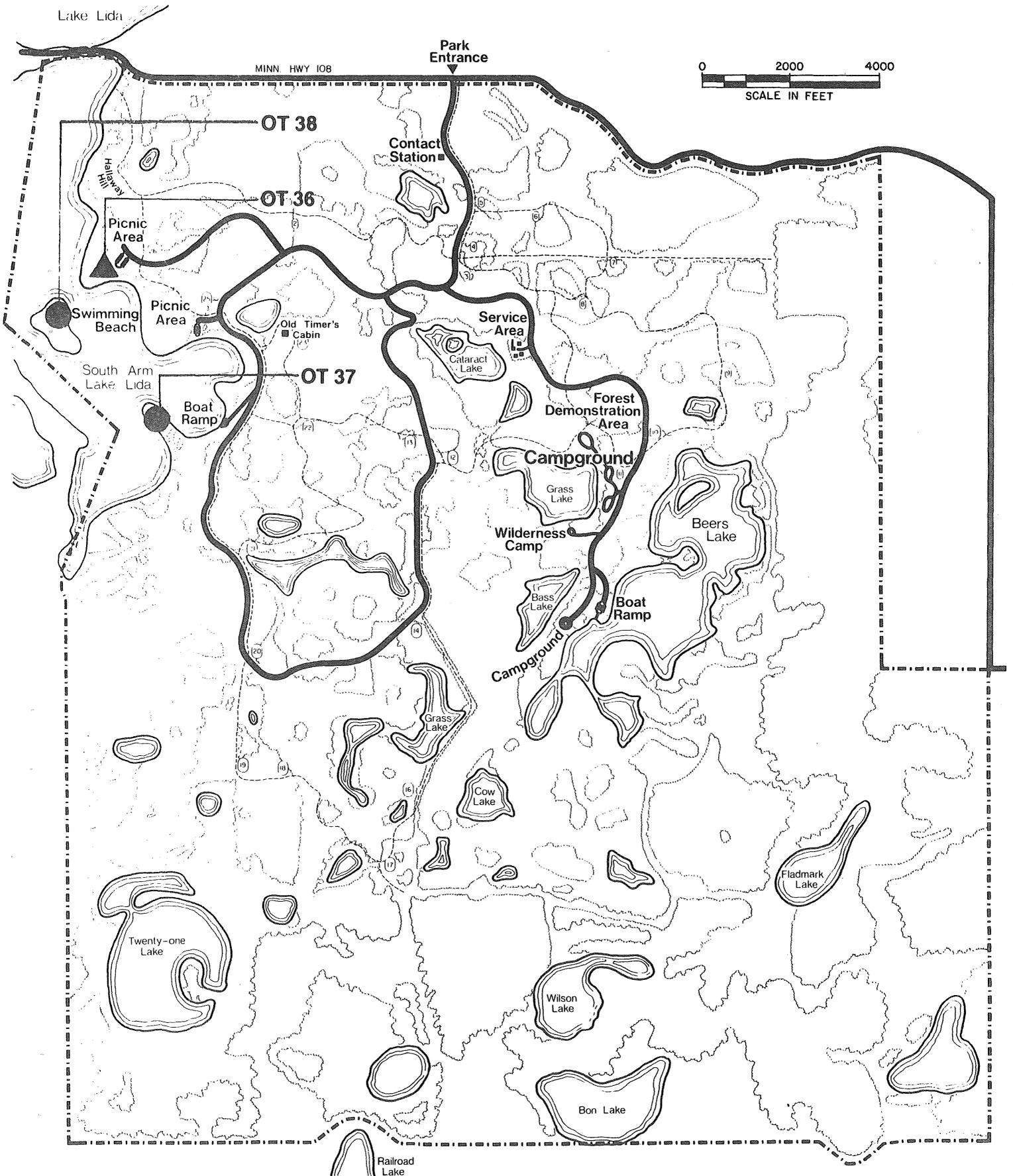
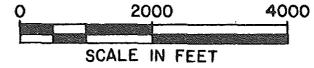
The self-guided tour might be quite attractive to many park visitors and could easily be taken within a half to a full day. It would also be very inexpensive to design and construct.

Maplewood State Park

Otter Tail County



----- HIKING TRAILS



Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

The park has been the center of intensive field research by the University of Minnesota from 1964 on. Thirteen significant archaeological sites are known within the park and more probably exist on privately held lands not yet surveyed. Dates of survey and excavation are given for each site listed below. All personnel are from the University of Minnesota.

B. Archaeological Sites

ML-4

This mound and village site is located on the northeast shore of Shakopee Lake where it forms a constriction near the outlet of the Rum River. The site probably dates from sometime within the last 1500 years.

ML-5 Kathio-Ogechie Lake Site

Survey and Tests:

Lloyd Wilford, 1933

This site, located on the northwest shore of Lake Ogechie, was probably a ricing camp. Test excavations yielded faunal remains and pottery dating from 1000 to 1500 A.D. Artifacts from the site show many similarities to the large Cooper village site across the lake.

ML-7 Vineland Bay Site

Excavations:

Lloyd Wilford, 1949

Elden Johnson, 1966

Dennis Dickinson, 1967

This village site is located on the north shore of Vineland Bay of Mille Lacs Lake. Excavations have been confined to the park area although a small part of the site extends outside of park boundaries.

The village was established about 900 years ago. More recently, during early historic times, it was a Dakota village which was subsequently attacked and occupied by the Chippewa.

Published Reports:

Dickinson, Dennis

1968 The Vineland Bay Site. Unpublished M.A. thesis. University of Minnesota.

ML-9 Cooper Village Site
ML-16 Cooper Mound Site

Excavations:

Leland Cooper, 1965
Elden Johnson, 1966-69
Gordon Lothson, 1967
Jan Streiff, 1969

The Cooper village and associated mounds occupy a point of land on the west central shore of Lake Ogechie, adjacent to the park campground.

The Mille Lacs area is the traditional homeland of the Dakota (Sioux) and the data gathered from the Cooper site identify the Cooper village and mounds with the Mdewakanton Dakota. This is one of the few archaeology sites in Minnesota definitely associated with an historic tribe.

Intensive excavations in the village yielded enormous quantities of archaeological material including thousands of pottery sherds, stone and bone artifacts, trade goods, and seed, plant and animal remains. Outlines of house forms, hearths, storage pits, and ricing "jigs" (threshing pits) were also uncovered. This data indicate that the village was occupied from about 800 years ago until contact with French explorers and subsequent warfare with the Chippewa.

The people of Cooper village shared many cultural characteristics with agricultural peoples further to the south. But since the growing season in the Mille Lacs area was too short for corn, they substituted wild rice as their staple and augmented this with a meat diet of deer. In early historic times they carried on trade with the French, and early European explorers probably saw this village.

Published Reports:

Cooper, Leland

1965 Preliminary Report: Archaeological Survey and Excavation at Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park, 1965. MORC Program in Prehistoric Archaeology.

Lothson, Gordon

1972 "Burial Mounds of the Mille Lacs Lake Area." Unpublished M.A. thesis. University of Minnesota.

Lucking, Laurie

1973 "Subsistence Ecology of the Cooper Site with an Addendum on Bone Artifacts." Unpublished M.A. thesis. University of Minnesota.

ML-10 Sawmill Site

The Sawmill site is located on the northwest shore of Ogechie Lake. It may have been used as a ricing camp for hundreds of years. Rice threshing pits of both prehistoric and historic origin are scattered over the site.

ML-11 Petaga Point Site

Excavations:

Leland Cooper, 1965
Peter Bleed, 1966
Elden Johnson, 1967

Petaga Point lies at the Rum River outlet of Lake Ogechie, near the park picnic area and museum.

Although archaeologically significant in several ways, Petaga is most important for the evidence it gives about the "Old Copper" culture. The people of this early (3000 to 1000 B.C.) archaeological culture used copper for tools such as projectile points, awls, knives, and celts. The copper was either mined on Isle Royale and the Upper Michigan peninsula or recovered from other local sources such as the Snake and Kettle Rivers in Minnesota. The nearly pure copper nuggets were formed into tools by hammering and annealing rather than smelting or refining. Few habitation sites of the "Old Copper" people have been excavated and the work at Petaga Point has added greatly to our knowledge of their way of life in the Minnesota area.

Petaga Point was also occupied in later times, around 800 to 1200 A.D. The village contained a half dozen large rectangular houses. Wild rice in Lake Ogechie and the abundant game in the surrounding forest provided subsistence.

Published Reports:

Bleed, Peter

1969 The Archaeology of Petaga Point: The Preceramic Component.
Minnesota Prehistoric Archaeology Series, Minnesota Historical
Society, St. Paul.

Johnson, Elden

1971 "The Northern Margin of the Prairie Peninsula," Journal of
the Iowa Archaeological Society, vol. 18:13-21.

ML-12 Wilford Site

Survey and Tests:

Leland Cooper, 1965
David Webster, 1971

The Wilford site is located along the east shore of Lake Ogechie about one mile north of the park campgrounds where the Cooper site is located.

Test excavations demonstrate that the site is quite large, consisting of a camping-cooking area near the beach and possibly a village area and mounds further back on a ridge. Immense amounts of pottery were recovered from the Wilford site during tests. The site may have been occupied about the same time as the Cooper village site. Park excavations in the summer of 1974 will focus on this site.

Published Reports:

Cooper, Leland

1965 Preliminary Report: Archaeological Survey and Excavation at Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park, 1965. MORC Program in Prehistoric Archaeology.

ML-17

Surface Collections:

Uta Cole, 1967

Located on a flat, terrace-like area at the southwest end of Ogechie Lake near the Buchmoore Dam, this site is directly across from the Petaga Point site.

Only surface collections have been made here, but these indicate that the site probably dates from sometime since 1000 A.D.

ML-19

Surface Collections:

Guy Gibbon, 1972

Artifacts have been collected from the surface of the long peninsula formed by Lake Shakopee and the Rum River at the southern outlet of the lake. This occupation probably dates from 1000 A.D. or later on the basis of the type of pottery recovered.

ML-20 Old Shakopee Bridge Site

Excavations:

Guy Gibbon, 1972

This habitation site is located southeast of the old bridge which crosses the Rum River just before it flows into Shakopee Lake.

The site was occupied from sometime after 1000 A.D. through the early historic period. Traces of oval wigwam structures were uncovered and were probably associated with the prehistoric occupation. Rice "jigs" and parching hearths from early historic times were also excavated.

ML-21 Cunz Site

The Cunz site is west of Lake Shakopee on an elevated area which was once an island. Local collections indicate that it may be a village site dating some 300 to 900 years ago.

ML-22

Mounds and a village site are located on the southeast shore of Lake Shakopee near the Lutheran Camp. These may date from sometime around 1000 A.D.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The research potential in this park is un-matched anywhere in Minnesota. Our past research has only scratched the surface as illustrated by work at the Cooper Site (ML 9) where four years of intensive work has produced excavation of only 25% of the site. There is a research potential in the park for many years of continuous excavation.

The University of Minnesota plans to operate its summer field school and research program in the park each year in the foreseeable future, assuming permission to do this is given by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

D. Interpretation

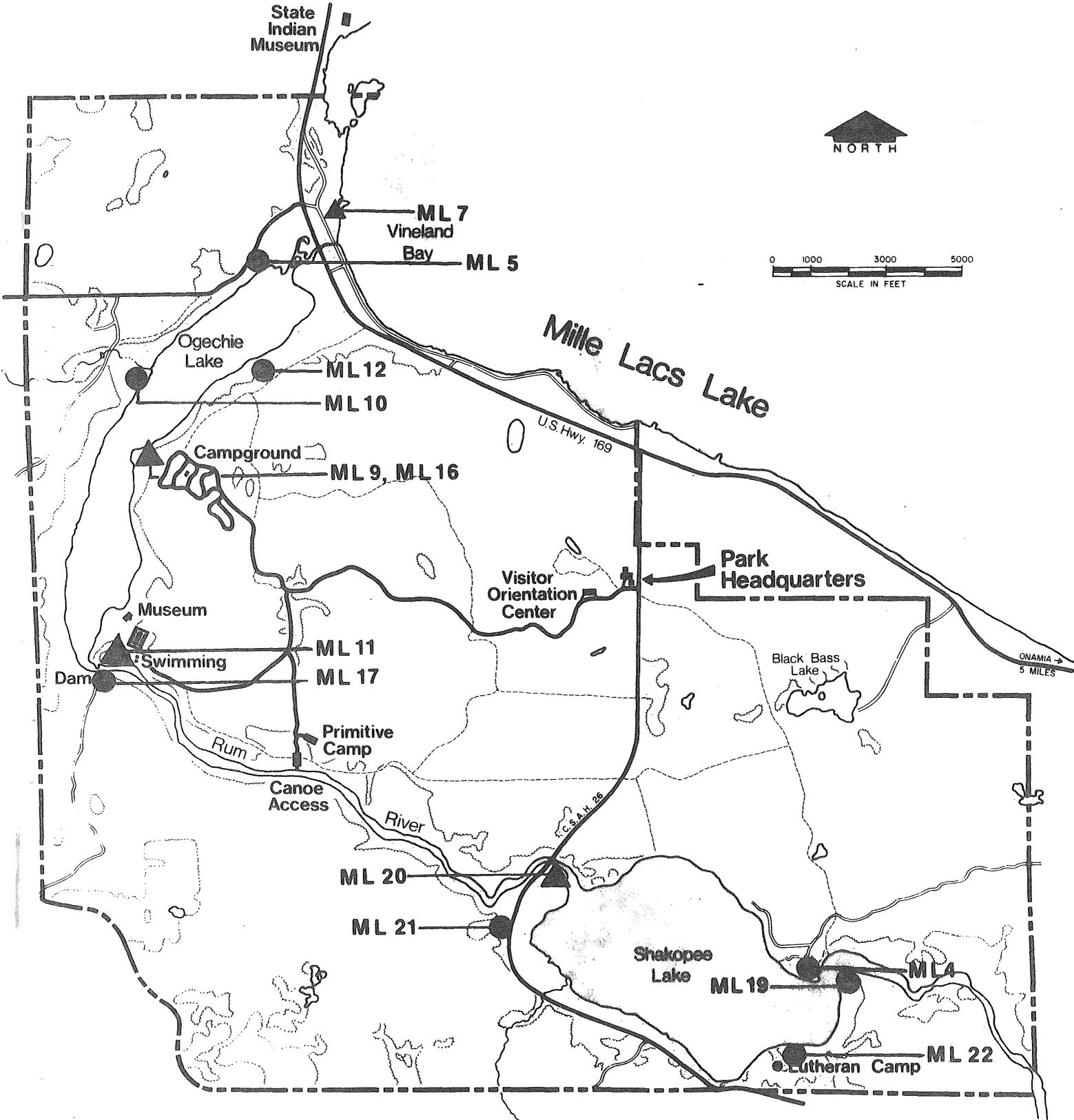
The interpretation center will be completed during the early summer of 1974. University archaeologists have planned the display sequence and have worked very closely with Ken Sander, the display artist, for over two years. The finished display area should need little modification in the future except as new research adds to our knowledge of the archaeological sequence in the park.

The park has great potential for self-guided walking tours of the sites; for naturalist-led tours; and for on-site interpretation. Some of these are being developed now and others will in the future as additional privately held land within the park boundaries comes under public ownership.

A major interpretative addition to the park would be Aquipaguetin Island where Father Hennepin wintered in 1668. This is a major site area but it lies immediately outside the park boundary at the point where the Rum River enters Lake Onamia. The site is presently the property of the federal government and the Mille Lacs Indian Community. Park statutory boundaries should be changed to encompass this area and the land should be obtained from the federal government.

Finally, a demonstration excavation program for park visitors should be continued. This program could be operated at any one of a number of sites, but must be done under archaeological supervision and with permission from the State Archaeologist.

Mille Lacs Kathio State Park



Minneopa State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974

B. Archaeological Sites

21 BE 1

The Hanel Mound Group consisting of eight mounds on the bluff top and immediately outside the park boundary was partially excavated by L. A. Wilford of the University of Minnesota in 1938. The five mounds had no burial artifacts nor did they have occupational debris in the mound fill. All burials were primary pit burials. Lacking any associated cultural materials, it is impossible to assign the mounds to any known archaeological complex. The mound group has since been destroyed.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey. It is possible that a village site associated with the mounds may exist in the protected valley encompassed by the park.

D. Interpretation

No recommendation.

Nerstrand Woods State Park

A. Field Survey

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unknown at present.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Old Mill State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota

B. Archaeological Sites

None.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

No prehistoric sites.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

O. L. Kipp State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Original mound survey by T. H. Lewis in 1880's. No intensive recent survey.

B. Prehistoric Sites

21 WN 7

A single burial mound described in the original mound survey as in the shape of a bird. It was on the terrace just south of Richmond ("King's Bluff") and has probably been destroyed.

21 WN 8

A single burial mound apparently located just within the statutory boundaries of the park. Its exact location in reference to present park features has not been recorded.

21 WN 9

Two burial mounds located within the statutory boundaries of the park. Exact locations not determined.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

A survey and testing project is planned by the University for the summer of 1974. Locations of the mounds described above will be determined and areas will be examined for open and rock shelter occupation sites.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Rice Lake State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Surveyed, University of Minnesota, 1971.

Excavations, University of Minnesota, 1972, Christina Harrison, at two sites listed below.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 ST 2

A habitation site located on the north side of Rice Lake, northeast of the campgrounds and south of the Wilderness group camp. The site has only been tested but the tests and local surface collections indicate numerous stone tools and suggest a Woodland occupation dating between 1,000 and 2,000 years ago.

21 DO 2

An extensive and scattered site of several occupations located on the northeast side of the lake. The site covers an area starting north of the dam and extending to the extreme northeast tip of the lake, and running east from the lakeshore to the park boundary. The site represents a long sequence of prehistory shown by artifacts ranging from four thousand to a few hundred years old. A report on the excavations is now being prepared.

Unnumbered site

A third site, which has not been tested apparently exists on the north side of the east end of the lake. Surface collections are known from the site, but though it is within the statutory boundaries, the land is still privately held and the owner refused permission to test.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

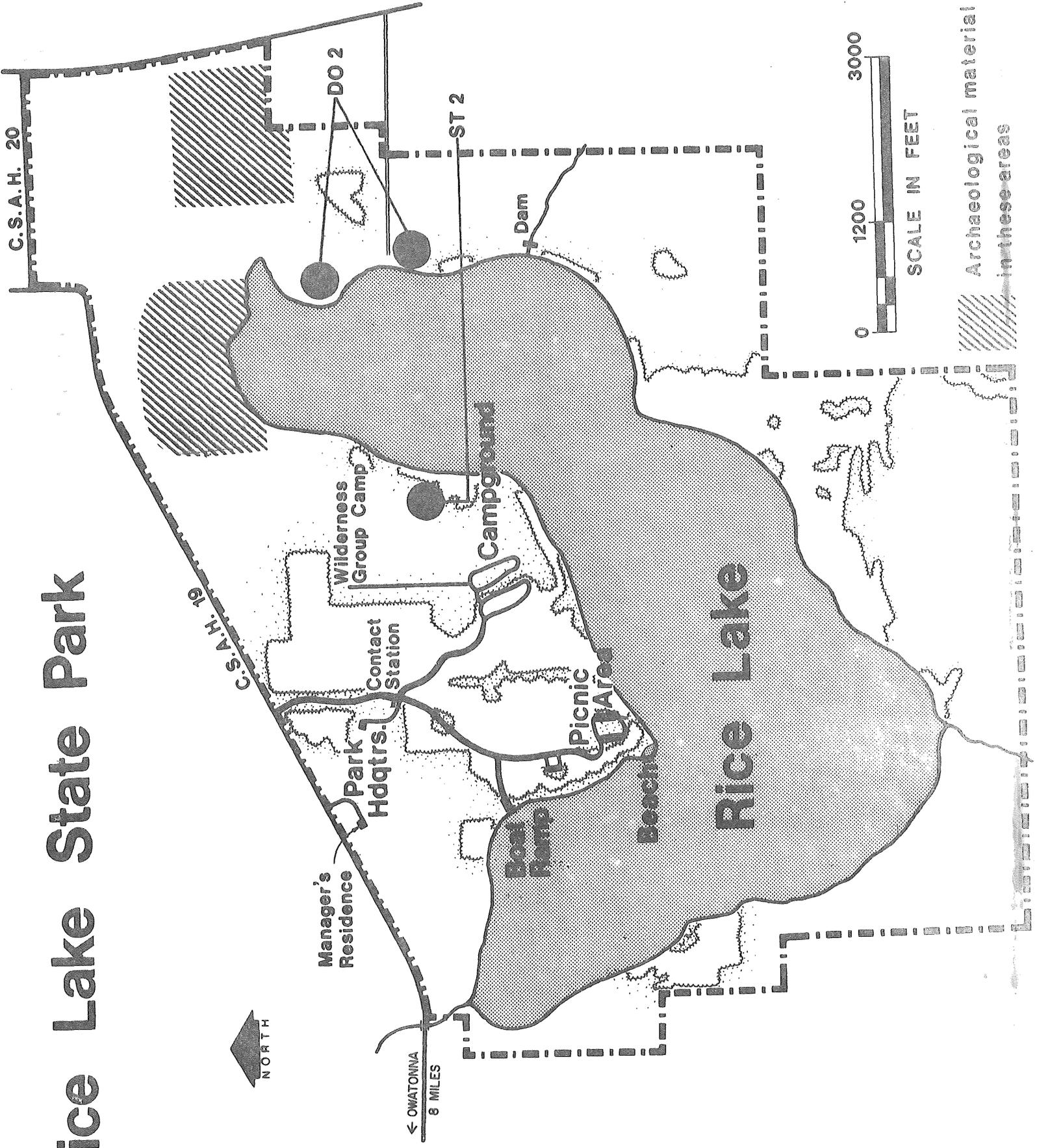
Site ST 2 needs extensive work; site DO 2 needs extensive work; the unnumbered site must be tested. A minimum of two field seasons is required.

D. Interpretation

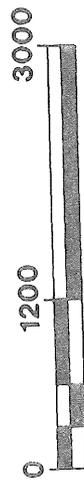
Very good potential, but premature at this date.

Note: It is extremely important that no park land alteration or construction occur on the site areas located on the map.

Rice Lake State Park



← OWATONNA
8 MILES



SCALE IN FEET

Archaeological material
in these areas

St. Croix State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

No intensive survey.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 PN 16

A village site located below a bluff on the shore of the St. Croix River just north of the Little Yellow Banks canoe access and ramp. No tests have been conducted so the age and cultural affiliation of the site are unknown.

Un-numbered site

Early reports indicate Archaic period copper being found in a site above the east bank of the Kettle River at High Banks. This site has not been tested.

Surface Collections

Other archaeological sites surely exist in the park because many local residents have collections of artifacts from various areas. Some of this artifact material has been photographed and described:

Caine, Christy and T. Allen Caine. "The Clarence Currie Collection from St. Croix State Park, Minnesota." The Wisconsin Archaeologist, vol. 53, no. 2, pages 70-75, 1972.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

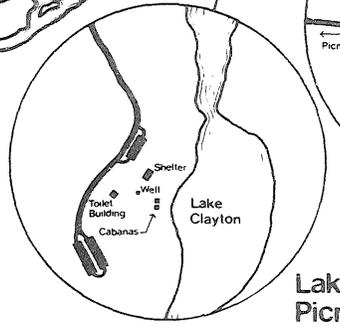
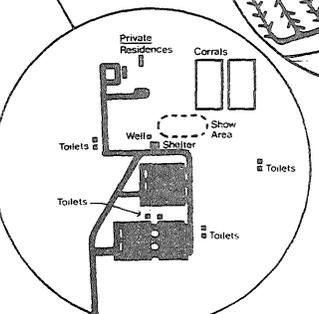
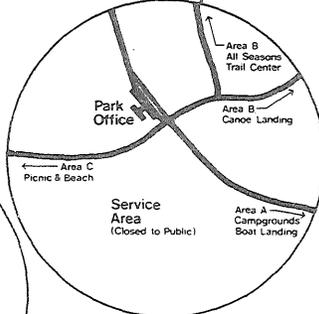
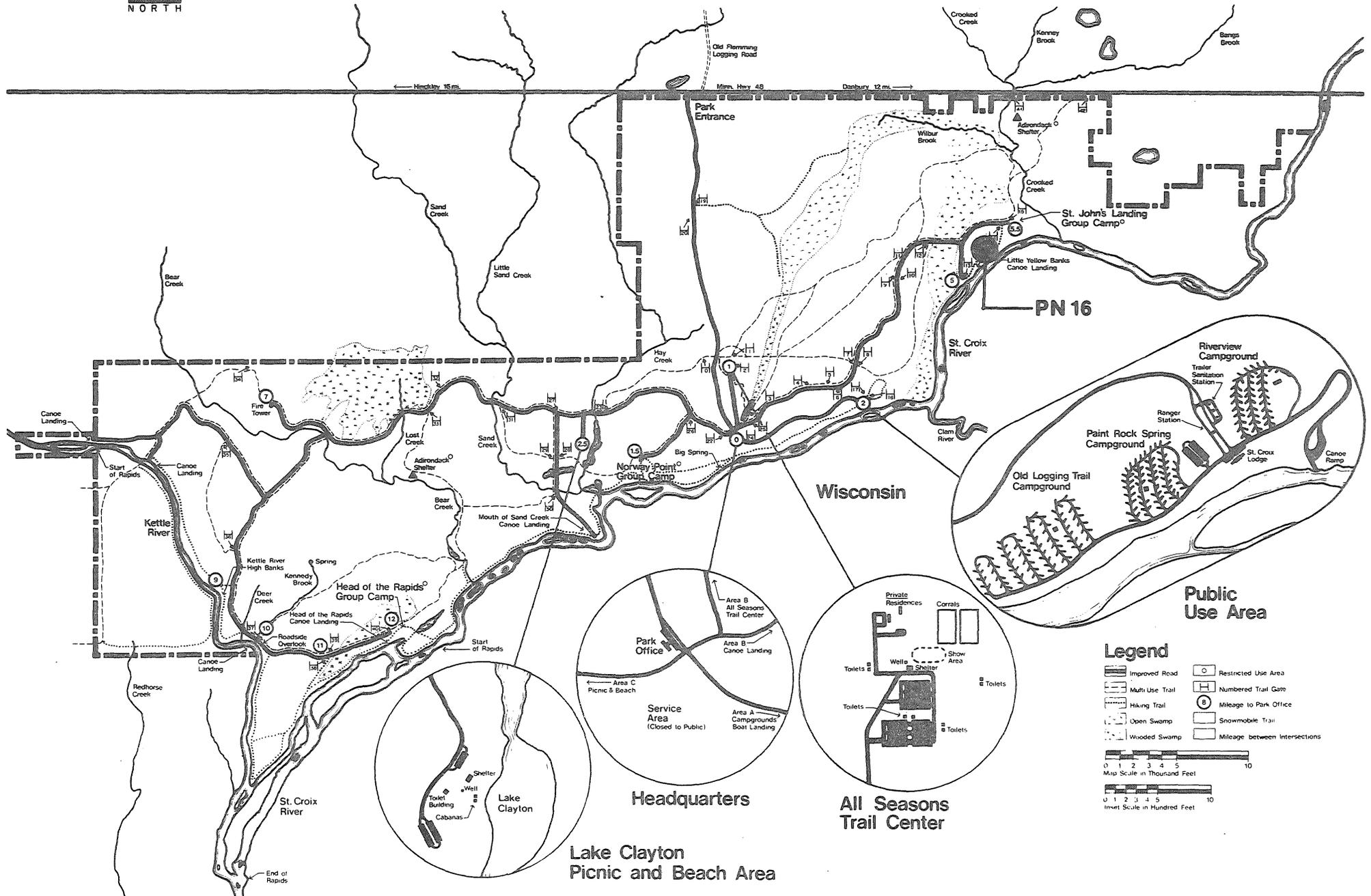
St. Croix State Park has tremendous potential for archaeological research and must be placed high on any priority list for survey and testing. There are certainly several sites within the park and on the adjacent Wisconsin shoreline.

D. Interpretation

Premature, but potentially an excellent location for an interpretation center concerned with the archaeology of the St. Croix Wild River.

St. Croix State Park

Pine County



Legend

- Improved Road
- Multi Use Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Open Swamp
- Wooded Swamp
- Restricted Use Area
- Numbered Trail Gate
- Mileage to Park Office
- Snowmobile Trail
- Mileage between Intersections

0 1 2 3 4 5 10
Map Scale in Thousand Feet

0 1 2 3 4 5 10
Inset Scale in Hundred Feet

Sakatah Lake State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Surveyed and tested by the University of Minnesota, 1971.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 LE 14

A prehistoric burial mound group located on the south shore of Lake Sakatah near the public picnic area. A single mound is located in the open grassy clearing of the picnic area, and a group of three mounds is located north and east of the railroad trestle. Some of these latter mounds are disturbed as fill was taken from them during railroad construction.

Unnumbered site

A habitation site apparently exists on the point separating upper and lower Sakatah lakes. Local people in the area have collections of artifacts taken from the surface of the area. Though the probable site is within the statutory boundaries of the park, it was in private ownership in 1971 and could not be tested.

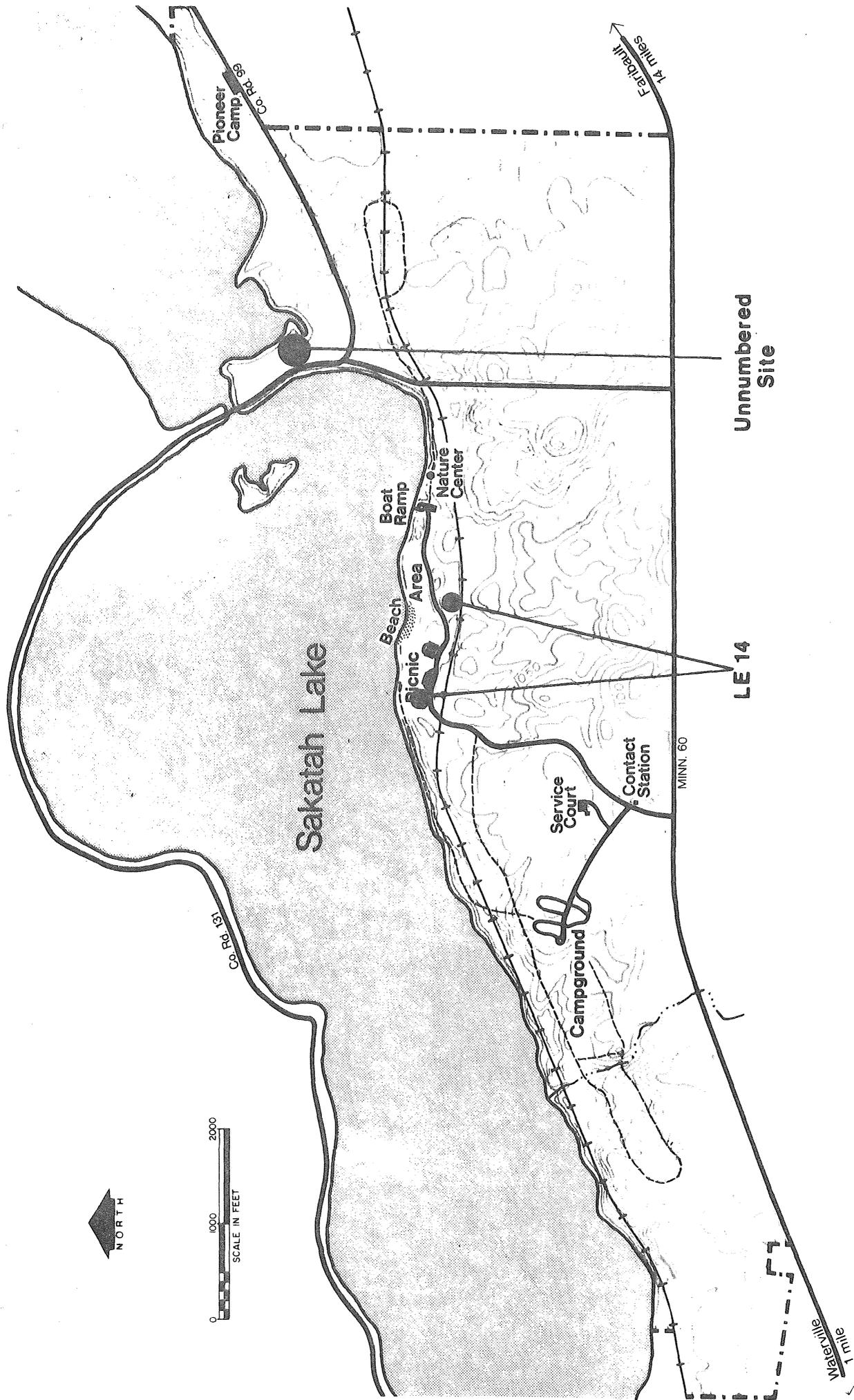
C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Site 21 LE 14 should not be excavated in the near future, but the mounds should be carefully marked both for public inspection and to alert park personnel of their location.

Mapping and testing of the probable village habitation site should be undertaken if and when the land is obtained by the state.

D. Interpretation

Other than marking the burial mounds using a simple sign, interpretation planning is premature.



Sakatah Lake State Park

Savanna Portage State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Charles Watrall, Minnesota Historical Society, 1969.

B. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

21 AK 9

The site covers the entire area of Battle Island in Big Sandy Lake. The site is late prehistoric in time and is related culturally to the sites of the same time period in Mille Lacs Kathio State Park. Bank erosion exposes additional archaeological material each year and the intensified activities of looters is systematically destroying the site.

Published Reports:

Watrall, Charles R.

1969 "An Archaeological Survey of Savanna Portage State Park," manuscript.

Woolworth, Nancy L.

1969 "Savanna Portage Southwest," manuscript.

(Copies of these reports are on file in the Division of Parks and Recreation.)

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

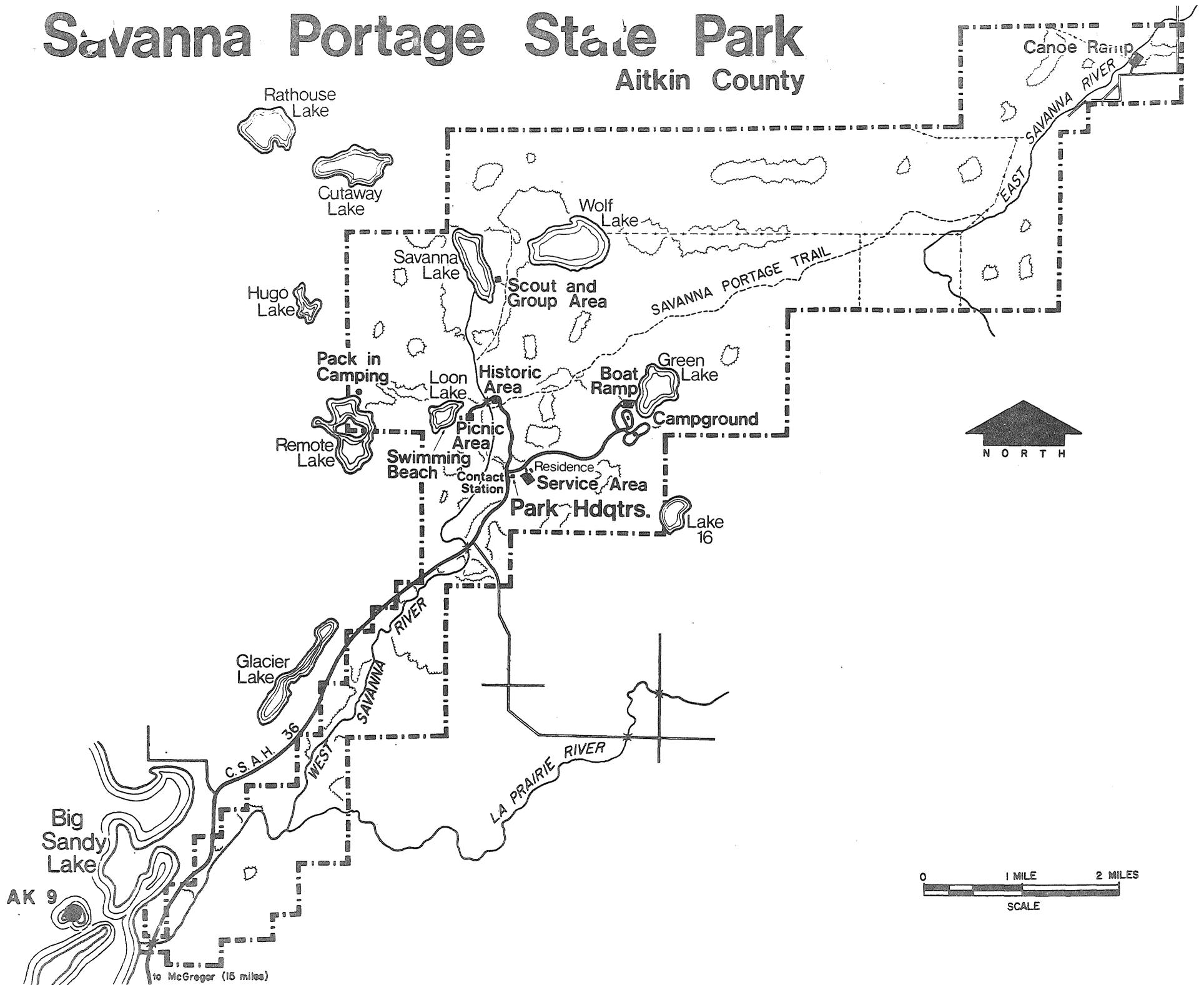
The Watrall survey recorded both historic and prehistoric sites, but must be considered preliminary in nature. An intensive site survey with testing should be done as soon as possible. An excavation program combining both prehistoric and historic site excavations should be carefully planned and carried out over several field seasons.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time, but as the archaeological report of Watrall and the historic period survey of Woolworth show, the park has great potential for interpretation of the entire record of man. It is also obvious that the fur trade and its significance should receive the fullest interpretation.

Savanna Portage State Park

Aitkin County



Split Rock Lighthouse State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior. This park primarily of historic interest.

C. Future Archaeological Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Sunrise State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Historic site survey, Minnesota Historical Society, 1972; prehistoric site survey, Minnesota Science Museum, in progress, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 CH 11

A burial mound site destroyed by gravel mining operations in 1952.

21 CH 21

This site was originally listed as a burial mound site. The Historical Society survey indicates that it is more probably an historic fur trading post of the late 18th century known as "Connor's Goose Creek Post."

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The 21 CH 21 site, a probable fur trading post, should be excavated at some date in the future, particularly if public interpretation is planned. Other needed work cannot be determined until the 1974 prehistoric survey is completed.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

Temperance River State Park

A. Field Survey

Surveyed by University of Minnesota during North Shore surveys in 1950s.

B. Archaeological Sites

None. No prehistoric archaeological sites have been found in any of the parks bordering Lake Superior.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

None for prehistory.

D. Interpretation

None for prehistory.

Traverse Des Sioux State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

No formal survey; Survey by University of Minnesota planned, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 NL 5

A burial site consisting of six mounds located in the northern section of the picnic area about 30 feet above the river flood plain.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

The park needs surveying before further trail and building construction. It appears that the hiking and snowmobile trails in the park may go through the mound group. Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

This park would seem to have very good potential for interpretation of the historic period and some program of this nature should be developed in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society.

Whitewater State Park

A. Field Survey

Survey by University of Minnesota, 1974.

B. Archaeological Sites

Unknown at present. A cave site has been reported in the area.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

Evaluation will be based on 1974 survey.

D. Interpretation

Premature at this time.

William O'Brien State Park

A. Field Survey and Excavation

Partial survey, Lloyd A. Wilford, University of Minnesota, 1949.

B. Archaeological Sites

21 WA 19

Single burial mound recorded in N. H. Winchell, Aborigines of Minnesota, St. Paul, 1911. Mound destroyed by construction of Highway 95.

21 WA 18

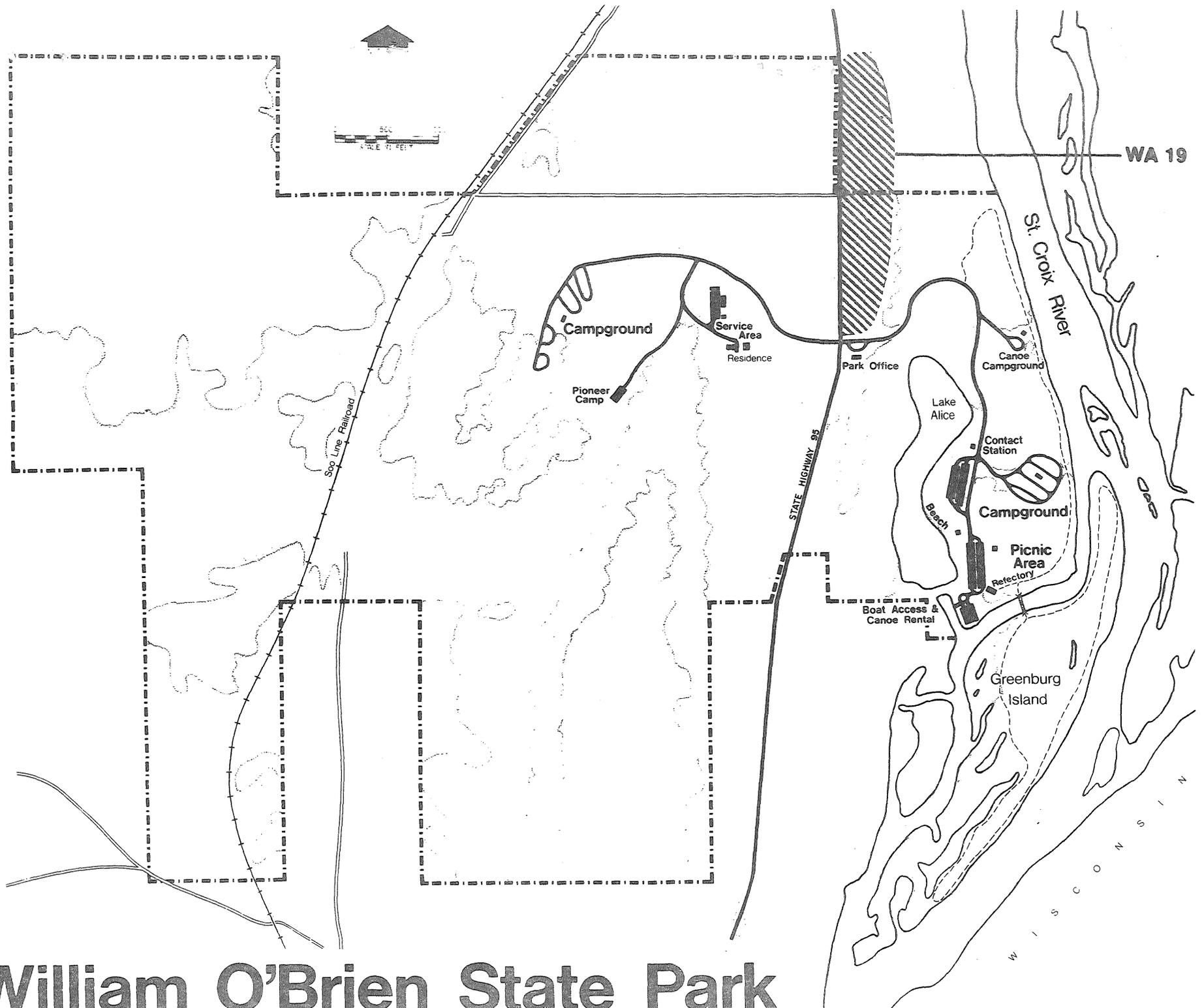
Mound group of 31 mounds recorded as being in Sec. 30 about 150 feet above the river. This is the group Wilford attempted to locate in 1949. His notes state the mounds had largely been levelled by plowing and could not be located.

C. Future Archaeological Research Needs

No research suggested.

D. Interpretation

None.



William O'Brien State Park