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"SIBLEY: A MINNESOTA STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY"

BY

JAN E. STREIFF

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

Principal Investigator

Elden Johnson

June 1981

Abstract

An archaeological reconnaissance survey was undertaken in May 1980 on a horse trail center campground and road located in Sibley State Park in Kandiyohi County. The road and majority of the campground showed no evidence of cultural resources. However, the south edge of the proposed campground loop did have evidence of a prehistoric archaeological site. The construction plans were changed to avoid the site.

Sibley State Park

The 1980 development plans for Sibley State Park were listed in the Scope of Work as "Campground Sanitation Building" and "Horse Trail Center". The Sanitation building project was cancelled. A new road into the trail centre was added. (See map 1.)

Background

There appears to be no record of professional archaeologists visiting Sibley State Park before a Minnesota Historical Society team undertook a survey there in 1978. However, N. H. Winchell, in his surveys of Minnesota, located several archaeological sites on Norway & Green Lakes between 1881 and 1891. Lloyd Wilford of the University of Minnesota spent part of the 1949 field season excavating a site southeast of Sibley at Calhoun Lake and in 1952 worked on a site at Nest Lake. He spent several of his spring survey trips in the area checking Winchell locations and those reported by local people.

In 1978, the Minnesota Historical Society was asked to check locations for a new interpretive centre and parking lot, a family campground, a primitive campground and road. Two archaeological sites were found - 21 KH 12 at the road into the primitive campground and 21 KH 13 in a field between Twenty-One Lake and Henschien Lake.

The proposed road alignment at site 21 KH 12 was changed to avoid the site. Site 21 KH 13 was not at that time in a project area so was not in any danger. However, the area did become a concern in the current survey.

The 1980 Survey

The survey was conducted by field director Jan E. Streiff on 2 May and 29 May

Location

The project area is in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (trail centre) and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (entrance road) of Section 2, Twp 121N Range 35W, just south of Lake Twenty-one, on a large knoll between Twenty One and Henschien Lake in Kandiyohi County. The entire area is a former farmstead, with the camp loop lying north/south in an old corn field just west of the former farm house. The shelter building and well will lie in the open area of the farm yard, surrounded by mature hardwoods. Tall grasses and weeds cover the areas not plowed.

The Trail Centre road will run east from the Centre, south to Lake Twenty-One and connect to the existing road which leads from the primitive campground to the main park road. It will be on an existing road for the eastern two thirds and in a former field for the western third.

Methodology

The area was surface checked first, then shovel tests were placed every fifteen meters (as recommended by the Council for Minnesota Archaeology) along the proposed camp loop and at the proposed shelter building. Only one test was needed along the road route in an area not currently in cultivation or road.

All tests were 50 x 50 cm in size and to a depth where subsoil was reached. All soil was screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ " hardware cloth. (See soil profiles for details.)

The Results

During the May survey, sixteen tests were dug at the proposed Trail Centre: seven tests were placed on the south end of the camp loop, south of the present farm entrance road and six tests were dug north of the road (see map 2). Test #5 on the south and test #11 on the north were positive, each producing only one flake. All remaining tests were negative.

Tests and surface checks at the shelter building (area of the farm house, yard, barn and barn yard) showed great disturbance and produced only modern cultural materials (metal machinery parts, bottles, cans, etc). The surface check of the field through which the entrance road is to pass, showed no indications of cultural resources nor did the eastern segment of the road (previously surveyed by M.H.S.).

A return to the area on 29 May was prompted by a call from the manager informing the author that the area had recently been disced and surface visibility was better than earlier when the fields were partially covered with corn stalks and weeds. A recheck of the surface produced a few additional flakes, but nothing of significance. Of importance, however, was the change in the south camp loop. The flagging had been moved north so that the area in the southwest which showed the greatest concentration of surface material (site 21 KH 13 found by Vernon) was completely avoided.

The preliminary field report was submitted to DNR, the State Archaeologist and SHPO on 29 May 1980.

Jan E. Streiff
Archaeology Lab
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
5 January 1981

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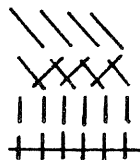
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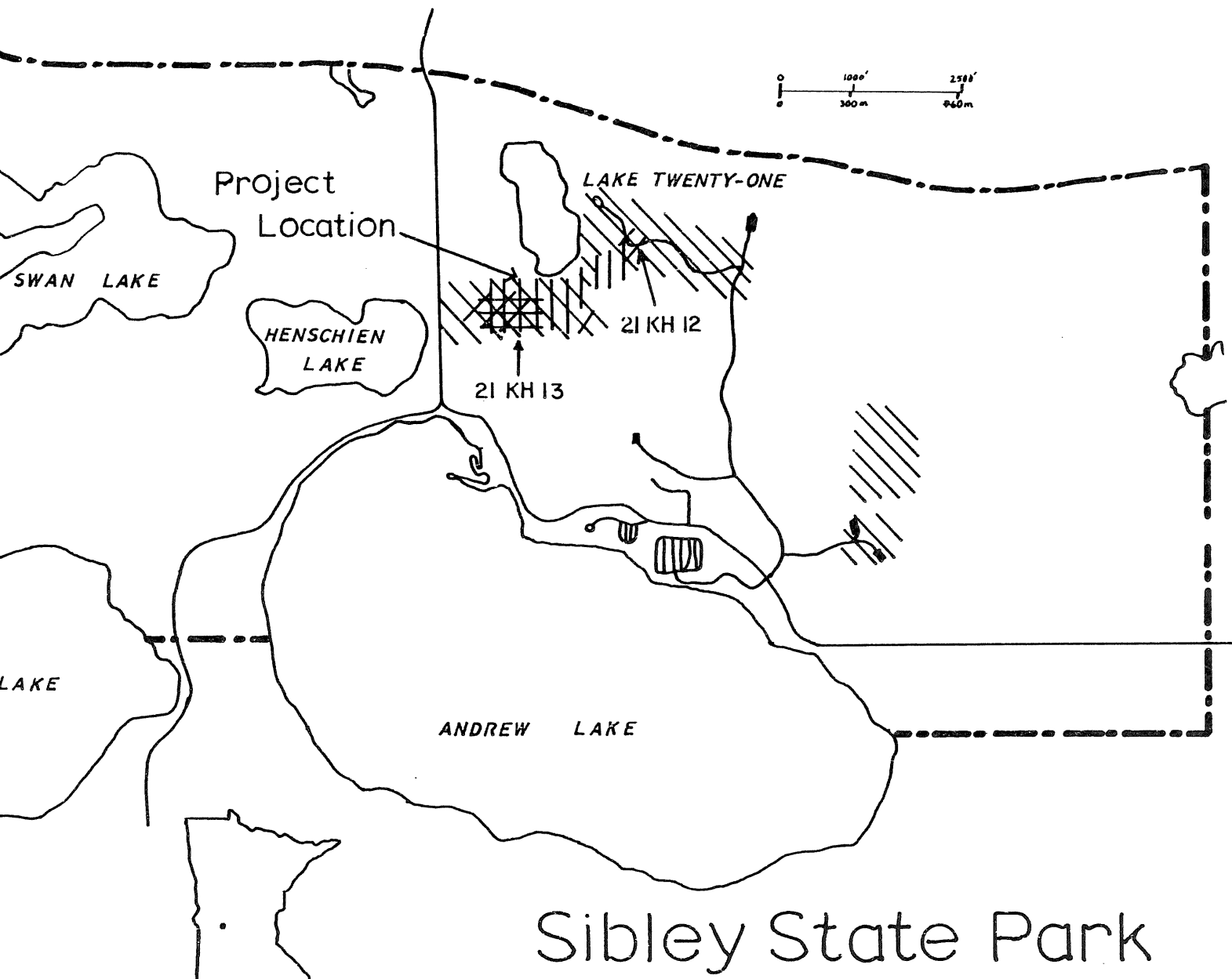
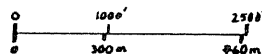
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Archaeological Surveys



1978 MHS - negative
- positive
1979 UM - negative
- positive



Sibley State Park

LAKE TWENTY ONE

1230'

1250'

Line

Area of old homestead

1270'

Tree

T10

Well

xT14

xT11

xT9

xT15

Shelter

xT8

xT12

T7

■ ■ Pit Toilets

T16

OLD FARM
DRIVE

xT13

xT6

xT1

Shovel test

— ↓

Probable extent KH13

Surface survey

xT2

xT5

T1

T4

xT3

0 50' 100' 200'
0 15m 30m 60m

1

SIBLEY STATE PARK

HORSE CENTRE

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 1



humus
(plow zone)

light tan
clay

TEST 2



humus
(plow zone)

sand
to 90cm.

sandy light tan
clay (112 cm.)

TEST 3



humus
light with much
limestone gravel

light sandy
clay

dense clay
with till

TEST 4



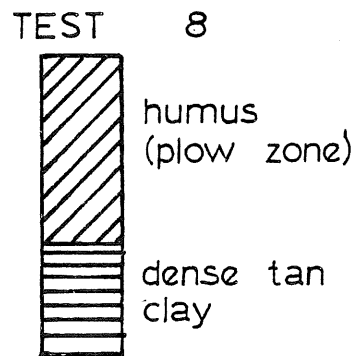
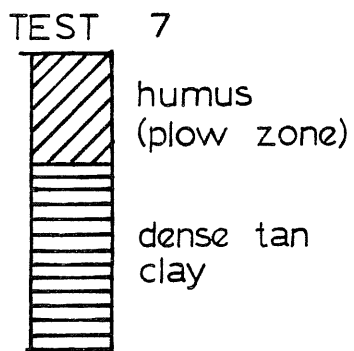
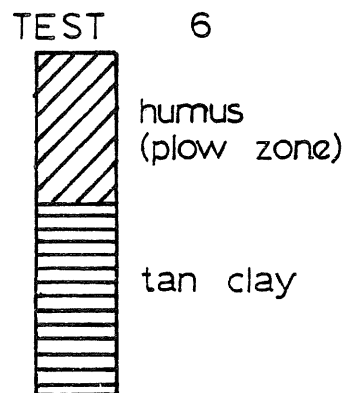
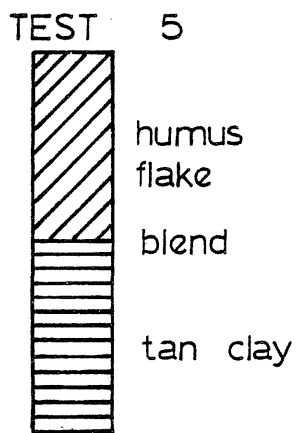
humus
(no plow zone)

dense light
tan clay

SIBLEY STATE PARK

HORSE CENTRE

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE



0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

SIBLEY STATE PARK

HORSE CENTRE

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 9



humus
(plow zone)

clay

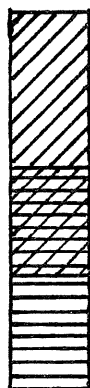
TEST 10



humus
(plow zone)

clay

TEST 11



humus
(plow zone)
flake

light tan
sandy humusy
clay

dense tan
clay

TEST 12



humus
(plow zone)

sandy tan
clay

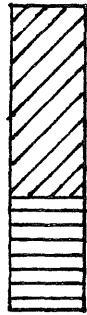
0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

SIBLEY STATE PARK

HORSE CENTRE

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

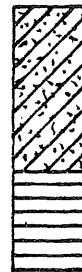
TEST 13



humus
(plow zone)

sandy clay

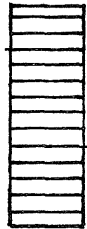
TEST 14



sandy humus
with gravel and
historical items

sandy light
clay

TEST 15



tan clay
(no humus)
broken grass

TEST 16



humus

0 5 10 20 30 40 50





MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

February 3, 1981

Mr. John Winter
Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation
Box 39
Centennial Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Winter:

RE: SIBLEY STATE PARK
Sanitation Building
Kandiyohi Countu

MHS Referral File Number: M 265

This letter is to inform you that our office has received a statement regarding the above referenced project. We concur with the archaeologist's opinion that there are no archaeological sites in the area that will be affected. Consequently, there are no sites of historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance listed on the National Register or eligible for inclusion on the National Register, which will be affected by your proposal.

Thank you for your participation in this important effort to identify and preserve Minnesota's cultural resources.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

APPENDIX A

Archaeological Material from Sibley State Park

<u>Year Collected</u>	<u>Archaeologist</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Site #</u>
1978	Robert Vernon, Minnesota Historical Society	183-5	21 KH 12
1978	Robert Vernon, Minnesota Historical Society	183-6	21 KH 13
1980	Jan E. Streiff, University of Minnesota	825	21 KH 13