

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

BY

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

Principal Investigator

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June 1981

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Abstract

An archaeological reconnaissance survey was undertaken in November 1979 on two road and two parking lot development projects in Maplewood State Park in the area just north of Cataract Lake, Ottertail County. Other than one isolated artifact found in disturbed soil, the survey was negative.

MAPLEWOOD STATE PARK

The 1979 development projects for Maplewood were listed in the Scope of Work as "Roads". The roads included two stretches: one off the entrance road and leading past the Contact Station and into a proposed parking lot north of Cataract Lake; the second road stemming from the first (and half way between the Contact Station and the parking lot) and connecting to the existing road to park headquarters. (See map 1).

The proposed parking lot (to be part of a future interpretive center) was also included in the Scope (as "Roads"). A smaller parking lot (to be used for winter parking) was not part of the original Scope, but was added by the park manager in the field.

Background

Previous work in Maplewood included a brief visit to the area in 1933 by A. E. Jenks of the University of Minnesota Department of Anthropology. Dr. Jenks and Professor Lloyd Wilford obtained a collection of artifacts given to them by a local farmer who had collected the material from fields next to Lake Lida.

The next official survey was in 1967 by Peter Bleed, University of Minnesota. Bleed and his team concentrated on the shorelines of the larger lakes within the new park, but they also examined several of the higher hills. And they surveyed all the agricultural fields from which prehistoric materials had been reported by local people. Three sites were found in the 1967 survey and four areas where local people reported finding artifacts were checked and found negative (See Map 2).

The following year, 1968, a University team, headed by Alan Boraas, returned to do additional work on the Maplewood Site (21 OT 36) to determine the nature and extent of the site as a planned swimming beach in the area threatened to destroy much of the site.

In 1969, Charles Watrall, Ph.D. graduate student at the University, returned to Maplewood Park to salvage the Maplewood site. Based on his excavations and analysis of the site, Watrall summarized the site as follows:

"The Maplewood Site is interpreted as a seasonally inhabited village site with major periods of occupation in Middle and Lake Middle Woodland times from around 650 or 700 A.D. until 900 A.D. with a second period of occupation in Late Woodland time from around 1450 A.D. until around 1650 A.D. A village size of several hundred or more individuals is not inconceivable.

While peripheral cultural relationships are indicated for the Maplewood materials to Laurel and perhaps southern Manitoba populations, Maplewood's closest cultural affiliations seems to lie with Middle Woodland complexes in west central, central, and east central Minnesota particularly those classifications as Kathio, Snake River, and St. Croix materials, and with those of general Late Middle Woodland affiliations" (Watrall p. 289-90).

In 1977 the Maplewood Site was placed in nomination for the National Register of Historic Places. And on 18 December 1978 the site was accepted as a Register Site.

The next survey to be conducted in Maplewood was undertaken by the Minnesota Historical Society under contract to check 1978 development areas. The development projects included a campground and amphitheater, a beach sanitation and shelter building, and a new manager residence and road.

The tests placed in the area of Grass Lake, where the campground and amphitheater were to go, were negative. The new solar house and road in the park headquarters area were also given an ok after the testing program turned up no archaeological material. The new sanitation building at the beach, however, was scheduled to be placed on the Maplewood Register Site. A new location was found and construction approved at a nearby previously disturbed area.

The 1979 Survey

The 1979 survey was conducted on 7-8 November by field director, Jan E. Streiff, after consultation with Park Manager Robert Hanson. DNR personnel had previously flagged the route, but changes in the alignment had been decided on after the flagging was completed. Mr. Hanson kindly showed the field director through the ocean of orange streamers to where the actual alignment was to go.

Location

The survey concentrated in the S1/2 NE1/4 Section 3 T135N R 42W (Ottertail County). The area, north of Cataract Lake and south of the main road leading to the Beach and Picnic areas of the park, is rolling with small hills, marshes and potholes. The entire area was previously cultivated, but has reverted to tall prairie grasses. The potholes and marshes are ringed with hazel and dogwood, with some stands of maple-basswood. During the wet fall of 1979, there was standing water in nearly all the marshes within the survey area.

The Methodology

The methodology was simple and straightforward. Based on Council for Minnesota Archaeology Standards, tests were placed every fifteen meters along the proposed road routes unless conditions prevented it (i.e., marsh, current or old road beds, etc.) The shovel tests (approximately 50cm x 50cm) were excavated to a depth of 50cm at 5cm levels. All material was screened through a 1/4 inch mesh screen. If the first 50cm proved sterile, and subsoil was appearing, a soil probe was used to test below 50cm and to a depth where subsoil predominated and/or glacial till appeared (see profiles for details).

The Results

Nineteen tests were excavated in the development areas. Eighteen of the tests were negative, producing no archaeological material. The one positive test (number 16 on the map) produced one isolated artifact: a mano stone (used for grinding). This lone artifact was in the disturbed plow zone at 7cm. Such isolated artifacts do occasionally turn up on this part of Minnesota, usually without any other association. And, since it came from the disturbed soils of the plow zone, it was determined to be of little significance.

The preliminary field report was submitted to DNR, the State Archaeologist, and SHPO on 9 November 1979. The State Archaeologist approved the report and determined a no affect the following day, with the SHPO informing the DNR that they had no objections to the development project on archaeological grounds on 11 December 1979.

Jan E. Streiff
Archaeology Lab
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota
28 January 1980

APPENDIX A

Archaeological material from Maplewood State Park

<u>Year collected</u>	<u>Archaeologist</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Site #</u>
1933	A. E. Jenks, University of Minnesota	39-7 thru 10	none given
1967	Peter Bleed, University of Minnesota	640	21 OT 36, 37, 38
1968	Alan Boraas, University of Minnesota	667	21 OT 36
1969	Charles Watrall, University of Minnesota	672	21 OT 36
1978	Robert Vernon, Minnesota Historical Society	148A & B	none given
1979	Jan E. Streiff, University of Minnesota	823	none given

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bleed, Peter

- 1967 "Archaeological Survey of Maplewood State Park. Unpublished mss.,
Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota.

Boraas, Alan

- 1968 "Preliminary Site Report; Maplewood Site 21 OT 36" Unpublished mss.,
Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota.

Department of Natural Resources

- 1978 "A Management Plan for Maplewood State Park" Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources, St. Paul.

Johnson, Elden

- 1974 "Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Minnesota State Parks"
Archaeology Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of
Minnesota.
- 1976 "Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Minnesota State Parks: An Update
(The Status of Prehistoric Archaeology in State Parks Selected for
Development) Archaeology Laboratory, Department of Anthropology,
University of Minnesota.

State Archaeologist Site File

- 1979 Ottertail County, State Archaeologist Office, Hamline University, St. Paul.

University of Minnesota Site & County Files

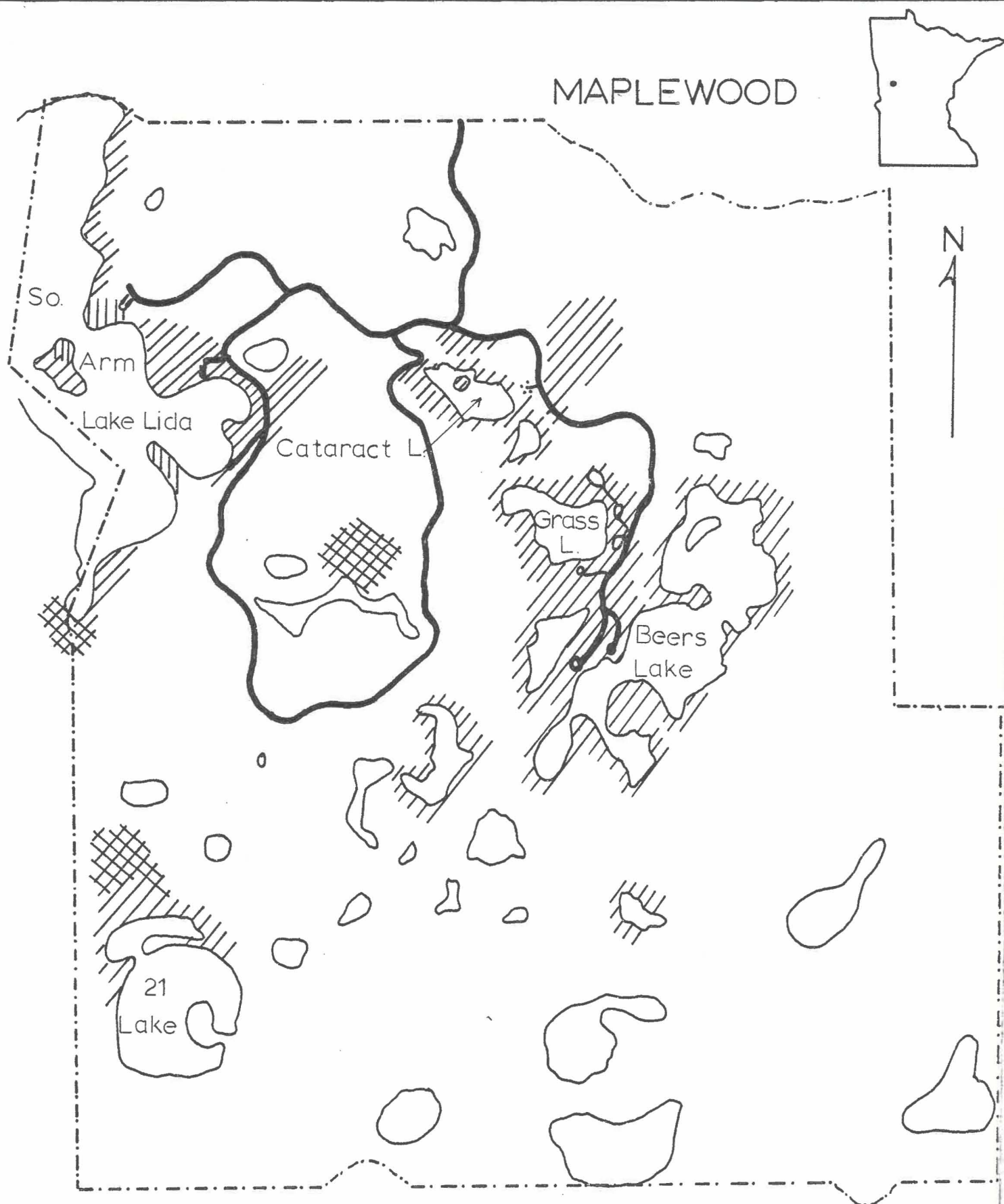
- 1979 Ottertail County, Department of Natural Resources, Archaeology
Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota.

Vernon, Robert, Susan Queripel and Michael Budak

- 1979 "A Cultural Resource Survey for the Minnesota Department of Natural
Resources" Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

Watrall, Charles

- 1976 "Ecotomes and Environmental Adaptation Strategies in the Prehistory of
Northwestern Minnesota" University of Minnesota Ph.D. thesis, Department
of Anthropology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

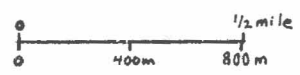


MAPLEWOOD



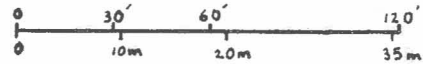
SURVEYS

- //// Negative (UM 67, 79; MHS 78)
- |||| Positive (UM 67)
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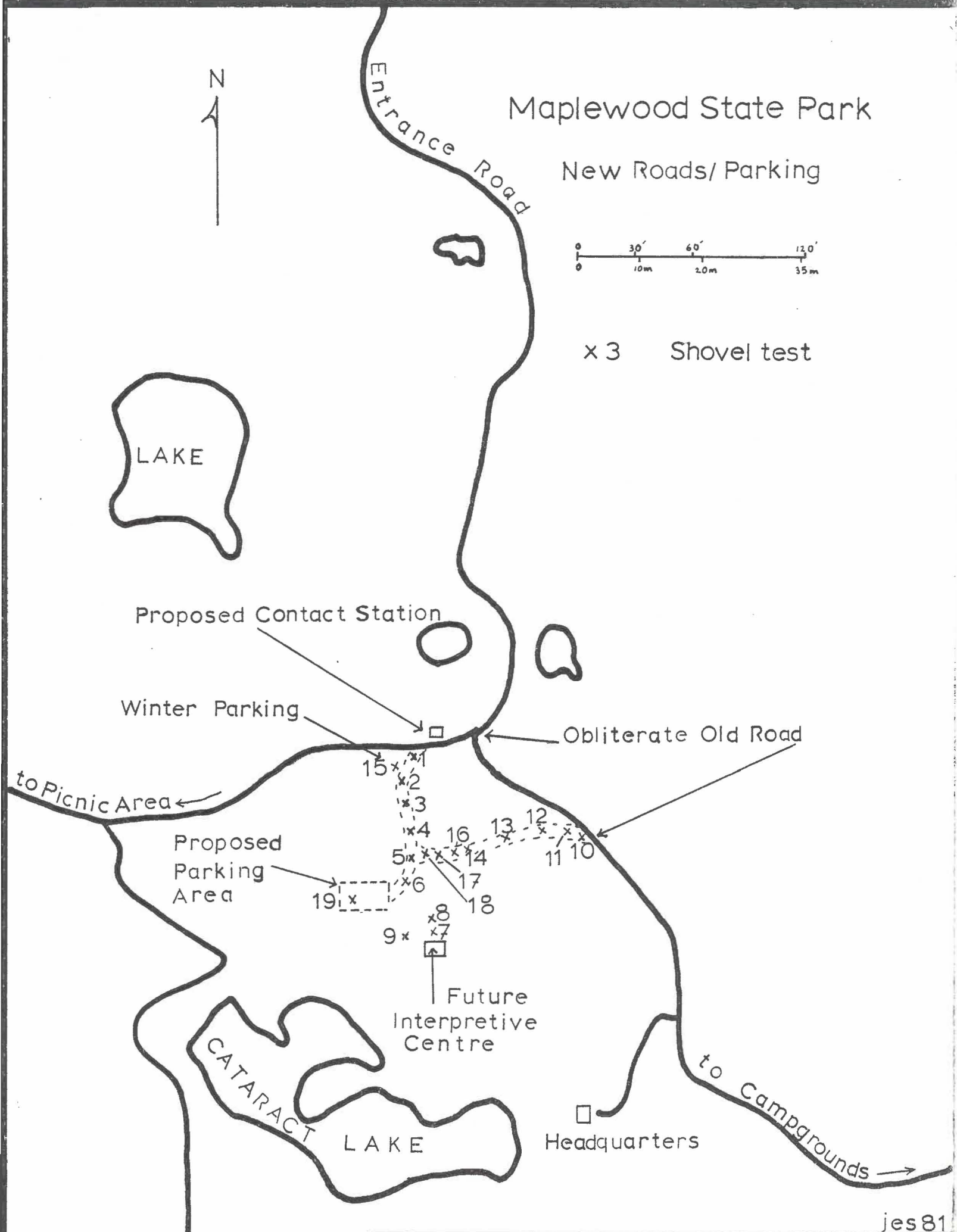


Maplewood State Park

New Roads/ Parking



x 3 Shovel test



MAPLEWOOD

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 1



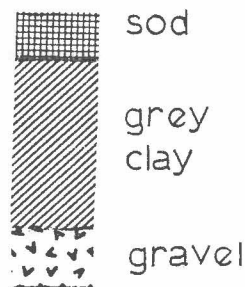
TEST 2



TEST 3



TEST 4



0 5 10 20 30 40 50

scale in centimeters

MAPLEWOOD

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 5



sod

grey clay

gravel

TEST 6



sod

tan sand

light
tan clay

gravel till

TEST 7



humus

tan clay

till

TEST 8



humus

tan clay

till

0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

MAPLEWOOD

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 9

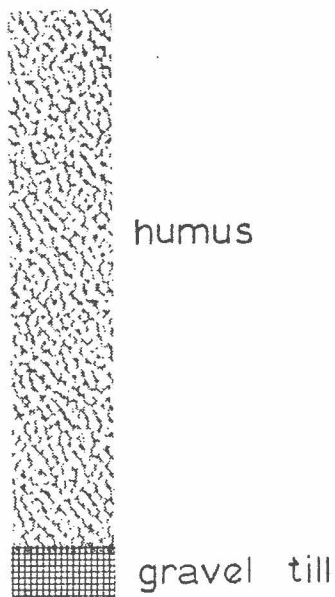


TEST 10



0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

TEST 11



TEST 12



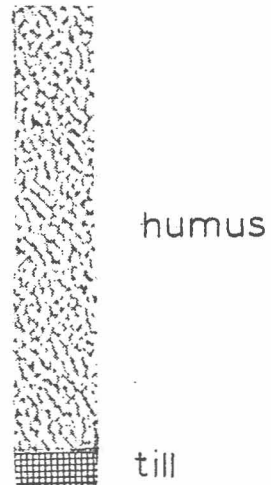
MAPLEWOOD

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 13



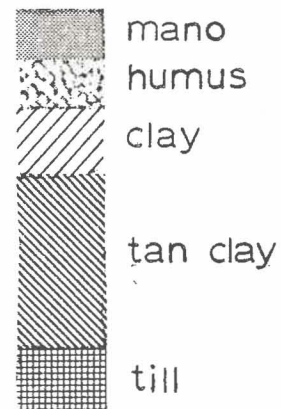
TEST 14



TEST 15



TEST 16

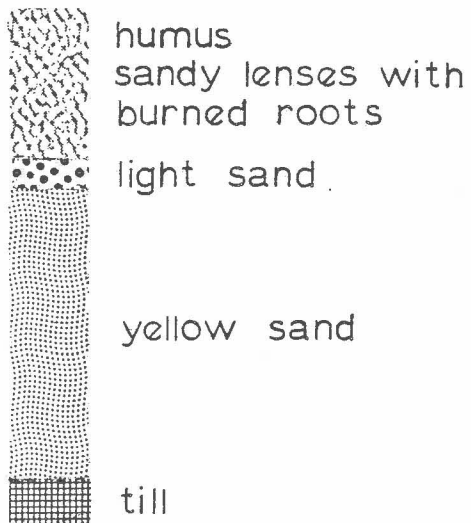


0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

MAPLEWOOD

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 17



TEST 18



TEST 19



0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

December 11, 1979

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

Dear Mr. Winter:

RE: Review of the archaeological survey
work conducted at Maplewood State
Park - Parking Lot for Winter Use,
Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

MHS Referral File Number J604

This letter is to inform you that our office has received a statement regarding the above referenced project. No archaeological sites were located. Consequently, there are no sites of historical, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance in the area which are on the National Register or eligible for inclusion on the National Register which may be affected by the above proposal.

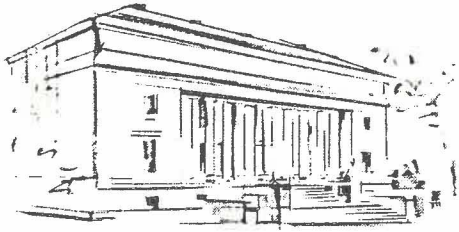
Thank you for your support in preserving Minnesota's cultural resources.

Sincerely,


Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

RWF/cjb

cc: ✓ Ms. Jan Streiff
Department of Anthropology
Ford Hall
224 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455



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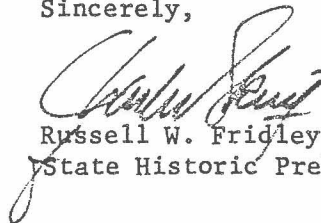
MHS Referral File Number J595

This letter is to inform you that our office has received a statement regarding the above referenced project. A single artifact was discovered in a disturbed area during the course of the survey. We concur with the project archaeologist's opinion that it is not a site, and consequently not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If additional evidence is discovered during construction, our office should be notified immediately.

Therefore, there are no sites of historic, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance in the area which are on the National Register or eligible for inclusion on the National Register which may be affected.

Thank you for your support in preserving Minnesota's cultural resources.

Sincerely,



Russell W. Fridley
State Historic Preservation Officer

RWF/cjb

cc: ✓ Ms. Jan Streiff
Department of Anthropology
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