

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

BY

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Prepared for the
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Division of State Parks

Principal Investigator

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Abstract

An archaeological reconnaissance survey was undertaken in November 1979 on a sewer and water line project and a bridge crossing in Gooseberry Falls State Park, the former being on the south side of the Gooseberry River and the latter on both sides of the Gooseberry River at Fifth Falls (Lake County). All surveyed areas were archaeologically negative.

Gooseberry Falls State Park

The 1979 development projects for Gooseberry Falls were listed in the Scope of Work as "Replace Water Lines and New Well" and "Trails." The waterlines are those running from service area to the campground. And the sewer lines are those from the Contact Station to the campground. The trails actually consisted of a bridge crossing at Fifth Falls on the Gooseberry River.

Background

It is erroneously stated in the 1974 State Park Atlas for Archaeological Sites that the University of Minnesota had surveyed Gooseberry Falls State Park in conjunction with a North Shore survey in the 1950's. A check with the field director at the time and the University of Minnesota files revealed that although some work was done along the North Shore, no actual survey was ever conducted within Gooseberry.

The first survey to be undertaken in Gooseberry Falls Park was in 1977 by the Minnesota Historical Society team of Robert Vernon and Sue Queripel. They had been asked to survey two development projects in the park: modifications in the existing campground and sewer line work in the Service area. (See Map 1).

The first, in the campground, was a positive survey, with a small lithic site being found and given the State Site designation of 21 LA 9. Material from this site is at Fort Snelling and curated under the number 275C. The site area was small, less than 50 meters square, and was not culturally identifiable.

The second, in the Service area, was negative, with Vernon indicating that most of the Service area was badly disturbed.

The 1979 Survey

The 1979 survey was conducted on 2-3 November 1979 by field director Jan E. Streiff. Assistant Park Manager Paul Mork pointed out the water line route and indicated that the well was already finished and that the lift station in the campground was under construction. He also took the author to the Fifth Falls areas and pointed out the three locations under consideration for the new bridge crossing.

Gooseberry Falls State Park

Location

The Water Lines

The water line portion of the survey is located in the SW 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 22 and the N 1/2 of Section 27, Township 54N Range 9W (Lake County), (See Map 2). The area is south of the Gooseberry River before it enters Lake Superior. Much of the line will follow an existing water line, with the contractor required to remove the old line before putting in the new pipe.

The line will begin on the west side of Highway 61 at the Service area. It will pass through a disturbed area in poplar before it crosses the highway. On the east side of 61 it will continue through a wet cedar bog until it reaches the road leading to the lower falls parking lot. It will then follow the road ditch until it turns east toward the river cutting through a stand of poplar. When it reaches the bluff top it will turn south and follow the hiking trail along the river. The pipeline will be set back from the bluff edge about 50 meters and will run through a low, wet dogwood/alder area. Although the topography is high at the bluff edge and again 100m from the bluff, the area in between is low, with the trail (and pipe route) being built up through the marsh.

The trail reaches high ground as it swings due east and then northeast. The soil along the bluff top is a shallow, gravelly sand over bedrock (see profiles). The vegetation is short grasses under mature hardwoods (primarily birch). The pipeline will connect to an existing line near the road that goes into the Lake View Shelter. This stretch (from the road to the campground) will not be affected by the project and no survey was needed.

Gooseberry Falls State Park

Ten shovel tests were placed along the water line route and an additional six engineering auger holes were examined. All were negative and no archaeological material was seen.

The sewer line

The new sewer line will begin at the Contact Station and will run east for approximately 800 meters, (north half of SW 1/4 and SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 and north half SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 S27 T54 N R9.) It will remain on the south side of the road leading into the campground and will follow an existing powerline, veering out of the powerline route and northeast through an alder swamp just before it reaches the campground. It will go through the campground in a northeast direction until it connects with Lift Station #2. The soil along the line is a disturbed dense red clay with only a grass cover under the powerline. As there was already a great deal of soil disturbance (auger holes, dozer tracks, as well as the beginning of construction on Lift Station #1), only a surface survey seemed necessary along this route. No archaeological material was found.

The campground lines

The entire campground is badly disturbed by roads, camp pads, buildings, and existing water and sewer lines. Much of the proposed line is scheduled to be placed in existing road ways (new roads are planned for later). Testing in the road seemed unnecessary. The other lines, however, which were to cross possibly undisturbed ground were shovel tested. (See Map 3).

The first line checked will run from the picnic toilet building (west of the picnic parking lot) south southwest to the Lift Station. It will cross camp spurs and a small ravine before it reaches the Lift Station. Three tests were dug in the undisturbed areas among the dense underbrush. All were shallow (the deepest was only 40cm before bedrock was encountered) and none produced cultural material.

Gooseberry Falls State Park

The second line checked will run from the campground sanitation building #1, northeast to the Lift Station. Again, there were few places to actually test as much of the proposed line crosses camp pads, fire rings and the road. Erosion is present under the mature hardwoods due to heavy visitor traffic. No material was recovered from the surface and the four shallow tests (maximum 5cm to bedrock) were also negative.

The Fifth Falls Bridge

Location

The Falls lie in the NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 21 TWP 54N R 9W (Lake County) with two ski trails running along each side of the Gooseberry River. A proposed bridge would connect the trails and enable cross country skiers to get from one side of the river to the other. While no exact location has been decided on, three possible crossings are being considered.

The first is just down stream from the falls and near the Adirondack Shelter which lies on the south side of the river. This high ledge above the river has a thin layer of duff over bedrock. The shovel test was negative.

The second crossing possibility is on exposed bedrock at the falls. No soil deposit was present, thus no test was dug.

The third crossing choice is just above the falls and offers the gentlest grade down to and across the river. Outcrops of bedrock appear out into the river (on which the bridge would rest), but there is a deep deposit of soil on the forest floor at the southwest approach to the bridge. Two tests in this area were negative, but this is the most likely place for an archaeological site if one exists. When the final bridge location is chosen, the long approach to this third choice should be rechecked.

At the time of the survey, the type of bridge span to be used was not decided, so it was not known if the bridge approaches would be up on the bluff tops overlooking the falls or lower and nearer the actual river. When this decision is made, the crossing choice should be rechecked.

Gooseberry Falls State Park

Methodology

The field methods for all projects followed council for Minnesota Archaeology guidelines. Shovel tests were 50cm x 50cm and dug to a depth where subsoil predominated. Tests were placed every 15m along a route unless otherwise noted. All soil material was screened through 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth.

Results

All surface checks and all shovel tests were negative. When a final bridge crossing location is determined at Fifth Falls, a recheck should be done.

The preliminary field report was submitted to DNR, the State Archaeologist and the SHPO on 3 November 1979. The State archaeologist approved the report and determined a no affect on 5 November, with the SHPO informing the DNR that they had no objection to the development project on archaeological grounds on 5 December 1979.

Jan E. Streiff

Archaeology Laboratory
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
14 February 1980

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State Archaeologist Site File

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University of Minnesota Site and County Files

- 1979 Lake County and Department of Natural Resources, Archaeology
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Archaeological Surveys

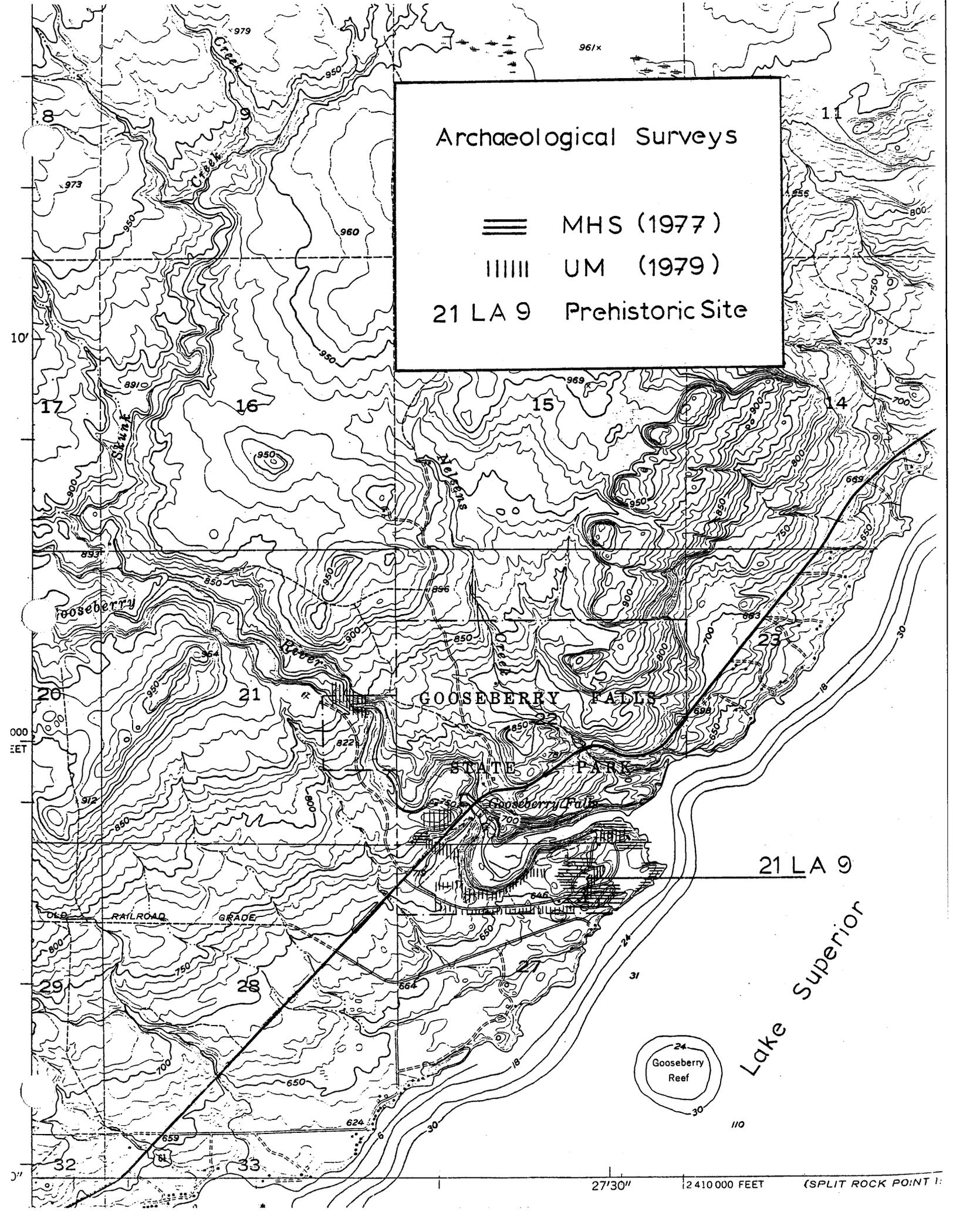


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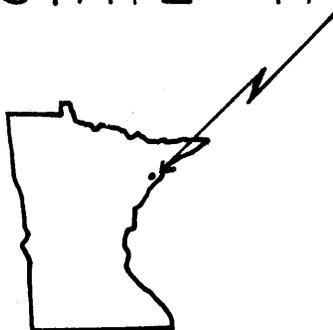


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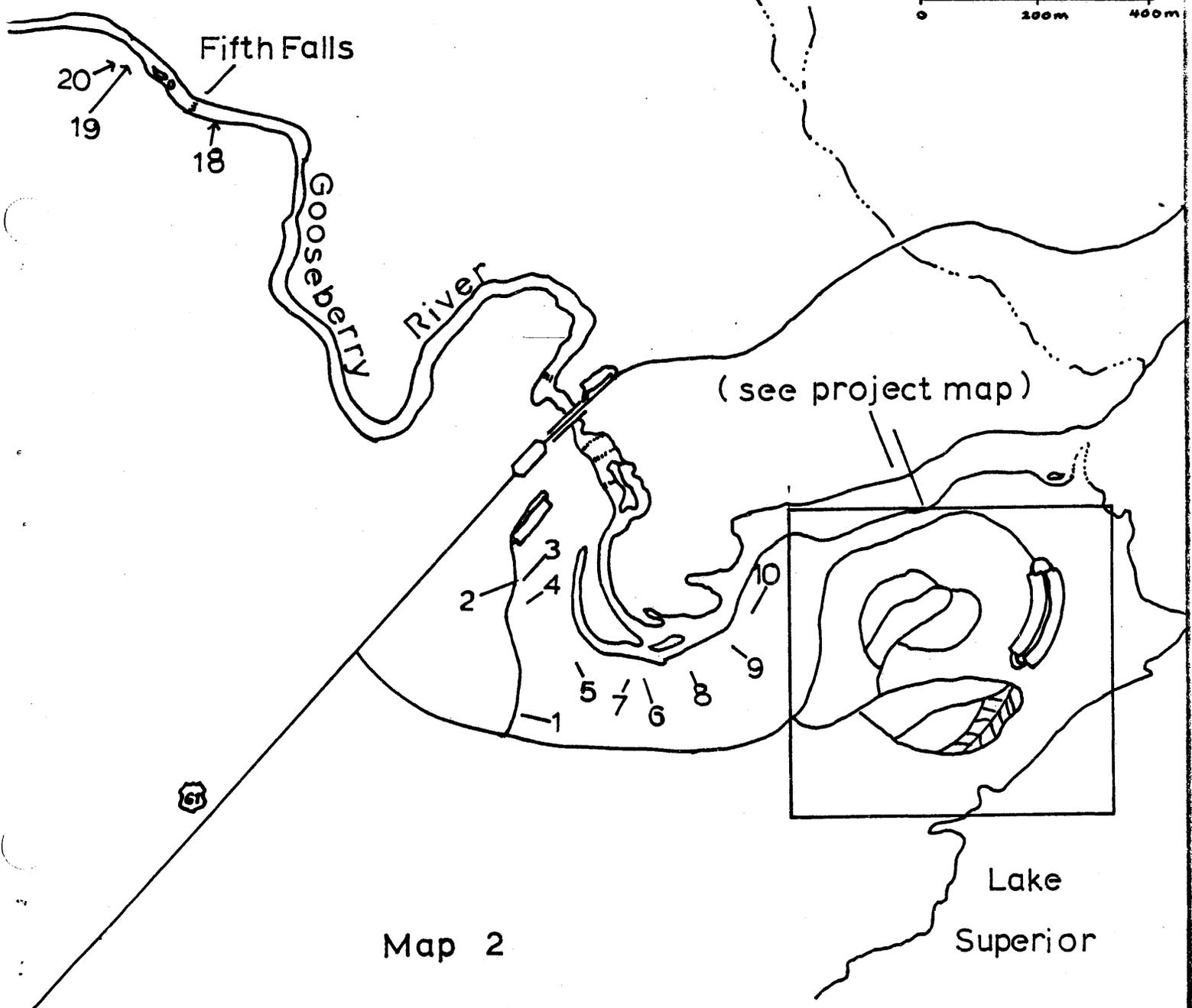
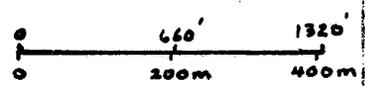
21 LA 9 Prehistoric Site



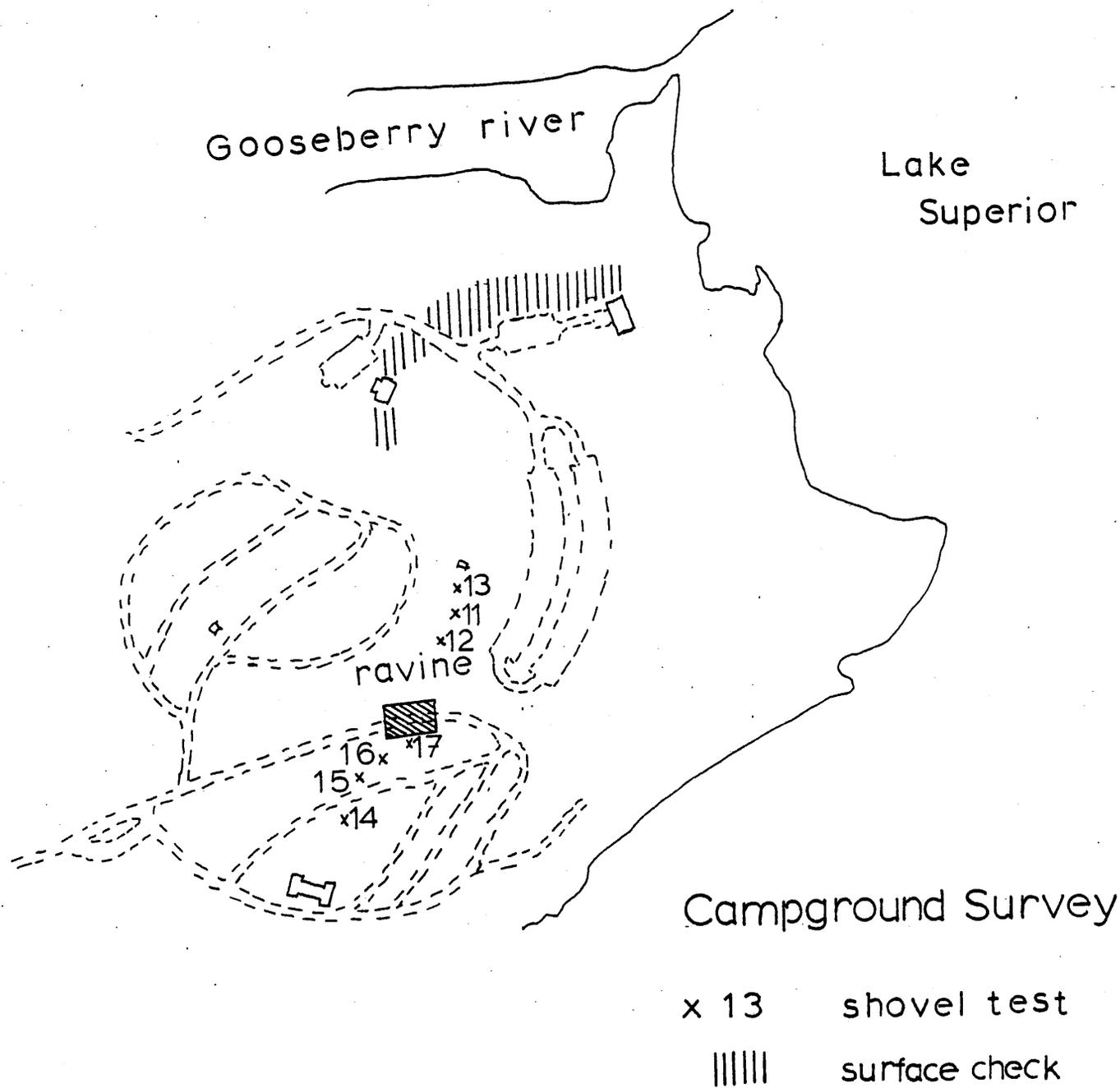
GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK



1 shovel tests



Map 2

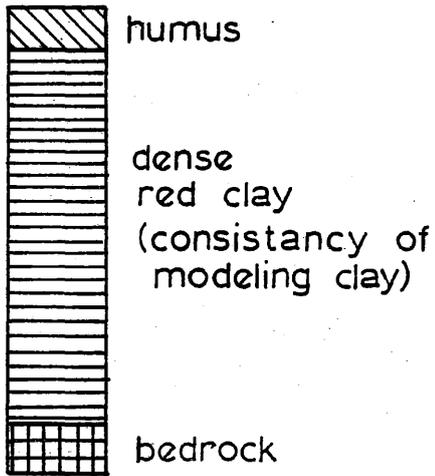


Map 3

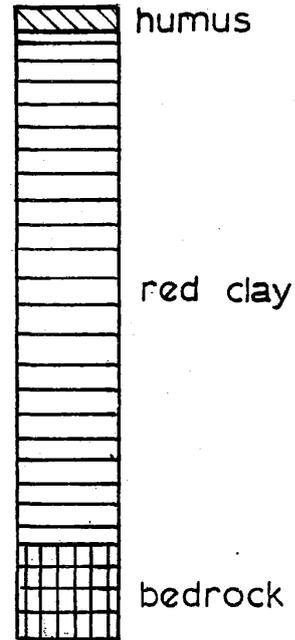
GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

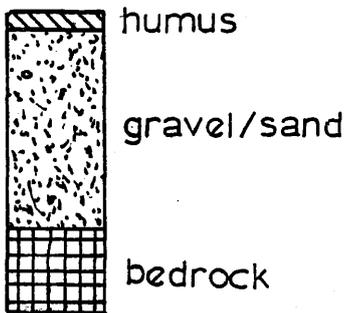
TEST 1



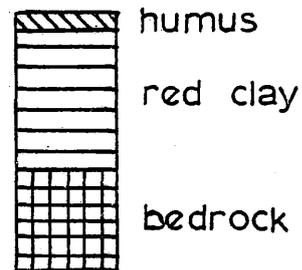
TEST 2



TEST 3



TEST 4



0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 5



gravel/sand

TEST 6



sand

clay

TEST 7



sand

dense
red clay

TEST 8



gravel/sand



bedrock

0 5 10 20 30 40 50

scale in centimeters

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 9



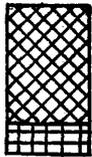
gravel/sand
bedrock

TEST 10



humus
red clay
bedrock

TEST 11



duff/humus
bedrock

TEST 12



duff
bedrock

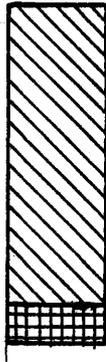
0 5 10 20 30 40 50

scale in centimeters

GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 13



humus with
dark and
coarse cobbles

bedrock

TEST 14



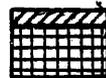
duff
bedrock

TEST 15

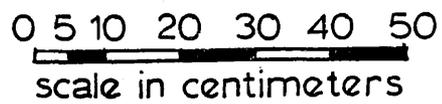


duff
bedrock

TEST 16



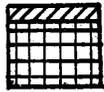
duff
bedrock



GOOSEBERRY FALLS STATE PARK

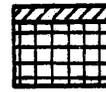
TEST UNIT SOIL PROFILE

TEST 17



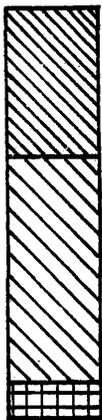
duff
bedrock

TEST 18



duff
bedrock

TEST 19



dark sandy
humus

lighter sandy
humus

bedrock

TEST 20

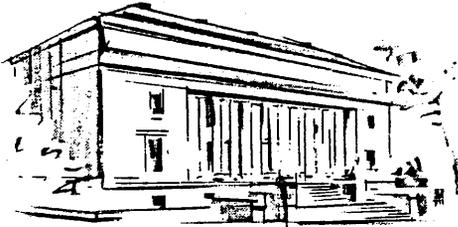


dark sandy
humus

lighter sandy
humus

bedrock or
dense gravel

0 5 10 20 30 40 50
scale in centimeters



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

December 5, 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 Gooseberry Falls
State Park, Bridge at Fifth Falls,
Itasca County, Minnesota.

MHS Referral File Number J600

This letter is to inform you that our office has received a statement regarding the above referenced project. No archaeological sites were located. However, once the actual crossing is decided, and the design chosen, the project archaeologist should be notified and given the opportunity to recheck the exact location. Once we are in receipt of the final results of this reexamination we will issue a final comment.

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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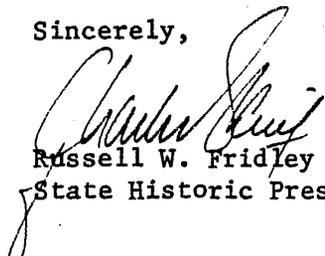
RE: Review of the archaeological survey
work conducted at Gooseberry Falls
State Park, Replacement of Water Lines,
Lake County, Minnesota.

MHS Referral File Number J601

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 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 by the above proposal. If, however, the new water line does not follow the existing route, the project archaeologist should be consulted, as additional archaeological testing may be necessary.

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

Sincerely,



Russell W. Fridley

State Historic Preservation Officer

RWF/cjb

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