

ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST  
1978 - 1982

OFFICE OF THE  
STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST  
HAMLINE UNIVERSITY  
ST. PAUL, MN 55104

July 1, 1978 - July 1, 1979

APPOINTMENT OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

In 1978 a revision of the Field Archaeology Act took place, removing the requirement that the position of State Archaeologist must be filled by a member of the University of Minnesota faculty. With this revision, Professor Elden Johnson resigned his long tenure as State Archaeologist and Christy Caine was appointed to the position by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Remaining unchanged is the fact that no funding has been provided to facilitate the ability of the State Archaeologist to carry out the functions and duties assigned in law.

Since, for the first time, the SA is not housed at an institution so designated under Minnesota Statutes, some clarification of the relationship between the SAO and its new home, Hamline University, is appropriate.

The State Archaeologist, C. Caine, holds a position as a member of the Anthropology Department of Hamline University. This position involves teaching, advising, and research responsibilities. Archaeological research within the Anthropology Department is conducted either as part of courses, where it is sponsored by Hamline (as in the summer field school), or under research grants.

Hamline University maintains an Anthropology Laboratory which provides support facilities for the Anthropology Department. In addition, this laboratory will process and curate archaeological artifacts and documents for other institutions, corporations, or agencies on a contract basis. Ms. Margaret Howard, who holds a staff appointment as Research Assistant, is the supervisor in charge of this laboratory.

The State Archaeologist's Office is housed in the Anthropology Department and uses facilities designated as part of the Department and the Anthropology Laboratory. Since there is no state funding for this

office, it is supported by the Hamline Anthropology Department, the Anthropology Laboratory and by private contributions. Ms. Margaret Howard serves as assistant to the State Archaeologist as part of her responsibilities as Research Assistant.

Previous to C. Caine's appointment as State Archaeologist, Hamline also offered archaeological contracting services in order to support archaeological research and give trained Hamline students experience in contract archaeology. Since bidding on contracts is incompatible with the state review and recommendation process, the SA will not participate in any contract activity in Minnesota. The SA does and will participate in contract consulting outside of Minnesota and in research grant programs within the State.

After C. Caine's appointment as State Archaeologist, Ms. Christina Harrison was in charge of Hamline's contract services until the end of the fiscal year. Beginning July 1, Ms. Harrison will be running her own independent contracting service.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL LICENSES

Twenty licenses for archaeological work on state or subdivision lands were issued under provisions of the Field Archaeology Act. These are on file with the Director of the Historical Society and the State Archaeologist.

In the past, licenses have been issued by memo or letter after verbal request or request in writing from the archaeologist involved. Frequently, archaeologists working on public land have only obtained verbal permission from the local land manager and have not made formal requests for licenses.

Because of the increase in archaeological work on state and subdivision lands, mainly due to contract work prompted by federal regulations, it seemed time to formalize this process. The purpose of licensing is to ensure that qualified professionals conduct

archaeological work on state lands, and to keep track of the work and its results for the good of the general public. Consequently, an application form, requesting information as to type of project, location, etc. has been developed. This form is submitted to the State Archaeologist, who reviews it, using professional standards developed for federal projects, and recommends issuance to the Director of the Historical Society. The Director issues a license to the archaeologist specifying the project area involved. In addition, by accepting the license, the archaeologist agrees to certain terms and conditions of the work to be performed. These include agreement to abide by CMA Survey Standards, to submit forms for site numbers, and to make provision for proper curation of artifacts.

#### LEGISLATION

After making progress through the House and Senate, the Indian burial ground legislation died during the end of the legislative session because it did not make it out of committee for a floor vote. The legislation would have extended the same protection to Indian burials as it now affords other burials under cemetery legislation. It would have provided funds for dealing with burials accidentally discovered, and set up procedures for the SA and Inter-tribal Affairs Council to handle such problems. The SAO supported the legislation, as did the MHS. The legislation will be introduced again next session.

July 1, 1979 - July 1, 1980

#### OFFICE ACTIVITIES

With the continuing activity of the Statewide Survey, literally hundreds of new sites have been added to the files, and updates have been entered for numerous known sites. The Office has also kept track of survey reports received (over 40) and has made this list available to the archaeological community for reference. The Office, through the Hamline Laboratory, has curated artifacts from five contracts done on state or subdivision land by contract archaeologists who do not have their own permanent curation facilities.

#### LEGISLATION

The Indian Burial Ground Act became a reality, with provisions for the treatment of Indian and prehistoric burials being added to the Private Cemeteries Act. This legislation, MN Statutes 507.08, includes provisions which must be handled by the State Archaeologist's Office and the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board. An appropriation to cover expenses incurred in the rescue of accidentally uncovered burials was also passed. This will be administered by the IAIB. The SAO looks forward to working with the IAIB in seeing that these provisions are carried out.

#### LICENSES

25 licenses were issued. This large number mainly reflects the increase in contract work done for municipalities and counties receiving funds for wastewater treatment plants and park improvements. A major construction project was initiated by Northern Border Pipeline which will affect both public and private lands within the proposed corridor.

#### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The State Archaeologist made 14 public presentations and the Assistant State Archaeologist made two. These contacts included a series of lectures given to the Minneapolis Women's Club as part of a "short

course" in Minnesota Archaeology. Approximately thirty members attended.

The SAO was also involved in two teacher workshops on Minnesota Archaeology, presented through Hamline University, and courses connected with the paraprofessional certification program of the Minnesota Archaeological Society and the Council for Minnesota Archaeology.

July 1980 - July 1981

#### OFFICE ACTIVITIES

The State Archaeologist's Office has undergone some changes with the change in employment of the State Archaeologist. C. Caine, on July 4, 1980, terminated employment with Hamline University and accepted a new position as Forest Archaeologist with the U.S.D.A., Forest Service, Chippewa National Forest, Cass Lake, MN.

The functioning of the State archaeologist's Office under these new conditions needs to be delineated. The main files of the Office remain at Hamline University, where they are housed as part of the Anthropology Department's laboratory. Ms. Barbara O'Connell, Anthropology professor at Hamline University, has been appointed Assistant State Archaeologist. Her responsibilities include oversight of the records (a responsibility also assumed by former assistant state archaeologist Margaret Howard) and, in addition, will be primarily responsible for technical aspects involving the handling, identification, and storage of skeletal materials recovered under provisions of the amendments to the Private Cemeteries Act. Ms. O'Connell is a trained biological anthropologist and her expertise will be invaluable in properly carrying out the provisions of the Burial Act.

C. Caine will continue to handle the SA functions which she handled while at Hamline. Applications for licenses can be sent to her either by way of the Hamline Office or directly to her at Cass Lake. Questions regarding procedures, review, or recommendations can also be addressed to her as before, as can inquiries regarding state file information. For the most speedy processing of file information requests, however, archaeologists and agencies can go directly to Ms. O'Connell or one of the office assistants at Hamline.

#### INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS ACT

Activities involved with the newly passed amendments to the Private Cemeteries act have increasingly occupied the time of both the State Archaeologist and her Assistant. Approximately eight requests for assistance involving known or suspected burial sites have been

handled by this office. These include two field rescues of burials, both in Ottertail County. Coordination was made with the Indian Affairs Intertribal Board, and in one case, IAIB delegates assisted us in the field. Skeletal materials from these rescues are being curated at Hamline University until provisions can be made for re-burial.

The Minnesota Historical Society recently issued policy which affected the State Archaeologist's Office. The MHS will no longer permanently curate skeletal materials. Skeletal materials in storage at the Society have been turned over to the State Archaeologist's Office and are being put in storage there. As time permits, the SAO anticipates identifying these remains and providing this information to the IAIB. Assistant State Archaeologist Barbara O'Connell is in charge of this program.

The IAIB has provided some assistance for this program by purchasing equipment necessary for the proper identification and handling of the skeletal materials. Hamline University has assumed the curation responsibilities.

#### LICENSES

Some 12 licenses were issued. Of particular interest are licenses issued for research at Little Rapids by Janet Spector of the University of Minnesota, and for work by Richard Lane at Jay Gould.

July 1, 1981 - July 1, 1982

#### OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Although the pace of archaeological research has slowed somewhat in the past year due to the end of the Statewide surveys, site submissions from projects just ending have added some 300 new sites to the files.

Clarification regarding the site file was made in consultation with the Council for Minnesota Archaeology. In the past, the file has primarily contained prehistoric archaeological sites. However in order for the file to be useful for review purposes all archaeological sites, whether prehistoric or historic, should receive state site numbers. Consequently, this year the SAO has begun to issue site numbers to historic archaeological sites more than 50 years old.

Site file work continues to take considerable time. Site forms submitted for numbers are first reviewed for substance by the State Archaeologist for technical aspects (correct legal, etc.) and assigned a number. In the majority of cases at least one other professional archaeologist reviews the submissions as well to assist us in catching any problems or pointing out needed information. This process has proven necessary as, typically, half of the forms submitted have a problem involving duplication of a known site, incorrect legal location, discrepancy between map and description, inadequate map etc. For example, of 30 sites submitted by the National Park Service as part of their St. Croix River survey, only 15 could actually be assigned numbers by this office. Of eight sites recently submitted by an individual archaeologist, three had incorrect legal locations.

Oversight of file submissions is a vitally important function if the file is to be meaningful for cultural resource management review or research.

The IAIB provided funds for a student assistant in the office. This person, supervised directly by Assistant State Archaeologist Barbara O'Connell, performed necessary filing and laboratory functions, mainly connected with prehistoric burials.

#### INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS ACT

The burial grounds act continues to increase in importance as an activity consuming the time and effort of the SAO. Procedures for handling cases have been evolved with the Indian Affairs Inter-tribal Board, which has designated Mr. Earl Sargent as liaison to help implement the law. We are now averaging one to two cases per month which involve redesigning projects to avoid burials, preventing the implementation of projects which could adversely affect burial sites, or the rescue of accidentally uncovered burials.

The cooperation of the IAIB has been outstanding. The SAO is currently assisting the IAIB in delineating provisions which may further strengthen the existing legislation.

Under provisions of the act, burials from three locations have been handled this year. Burials from two sites are presently being held for the IAIB at Hamline University, and one burial from a third site was turned over to the Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee.

#### LICENSES

Eleven licenses have been issued, approximately the same number as last year. Major work of interest under these licenses includes Janet Spector's continuing excavations at Little Rapids and evaluation work at the Bryan Site and Habakona Narrows by Leslie Peterson.

#### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Contacts with the public continued through lectures given by the

State Archaeologist to twelve groups such as Audubon societies, campers at DNR parks, and local historical societies and service clubs. The State Archaeologist also presented a workshop at the Annual Convention of County & Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials. Legislation, including the burial act, was stressed and participants expressed a need to have more information about how to incorporate archaeological concerns at the local level.

Radio, television, and newsprint coverage was involved in some of these talks and in some situations involving implementation of the Burial act. Media coverage of burial-related issues was coordinated with the IAIB.

#### FUNDING

The lack of adequate funding continues to hamper the ability of the State Archaeologist's Office to serve the public and the archaeological community. The Council for Minnesota Archaeology provided approximately \$350.00 in funds to cover some costs of zexoring and mailing. Hamline University continues to offer support through the provision of lab and office space. However, with the current lack of funding for the Burial Grounds Act, most financial burdens have fallen personally on the SA and assistant SA. Up to three or four years ago, demands on this office were of a different nature. Today, with the need to handle problems regarding contract based archaeology and the burial grounds act, it is difficult for a person who is state archaeologist, regardless of institutional affiliation, to mesh the needs of the office with the needs of the institution without funding which is specifically earmarked for the SA duties.