

AD-A172 117

STATEMENT OF NEGATIVE FINDINGS ON THE TEST EXCAVATIONS
AT THE REUNION SITE -- 32WA400(U) NORTH DAKOTA UNIV
GRAND FORKS DEPT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY
L L LOENDORF 1978

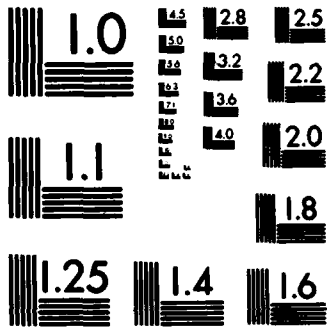
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<p>➤ In the fall of 1977, the St. Paul District of the Corps of Engineers planned to put some rock fill along the northern edge of Homme Dam and Reservoir to stabilize the bank. Since this construction was in proximity of the Reunion site (32WA400), and intensive examination of the site was undertaken.</p> <p>The shore in the area of the site is presently protected by a rock wall. Erosion should not be a problem in the area of the site. Even if such unlikely erosion were to take place, the site is not worthy of protection. Damage to the site has been the result of farm related activities, and not from the Corps of Engineer projects.</p>			
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Statement of Negative Findings on the Test Excavations
at the Reunion Site -- 32WA400



prepared by

Lawrence L. Loendorf
University of North Dakota

1978

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In 1974 the St. Paul District of the United States Army Corp of Engineers prepared an environmental assessment for Homme Dam and Reservoir in northeastern North Dakota. The assessment was designed to review the current environmental setting of Homme Dam and reservoir. Since the dam was constructed in 1947, one of the major areas of interest was shoreline erosion and its affect on natural resources. As a part of the 1974 assessment the archaeological and historical resources were located through standard archaeological survey techniques. Two occupation sites and two burial mounds were described in the final report on the project (Farmer et al. 1974:33-41).

One of the occupation sites, the Reunion Site - - 32WA400 was located on the north side of the reservoir and the other site, the Homme Reservoir Site - - 32WA403 was located on the south shore of the reservoir. Since very little archaeological work was completed when the dam was constructed, we felt there was some possibility the two occupation sites were actually one larger site and the reservoir inundated the central portions.

In the autumn of 1977, the St. Paul District of the Corp of Engineers planned to put some rock fill along the northern edge of the reservoir to stabilize the bank. Since this construction effort was in proximity of 32WA400, an intensive examination of the site was undertaken. This examination was to:

- a. Review the survey work conducted in 1974 during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Homme Dam and Reservoir, North Dakota by the Institute of Ecological Studies at the University of North Dakota under contract with the St. Paul District.
- b. Review any subsequent work that has been conducted in the area.
- c. Examine any local collections from the site.

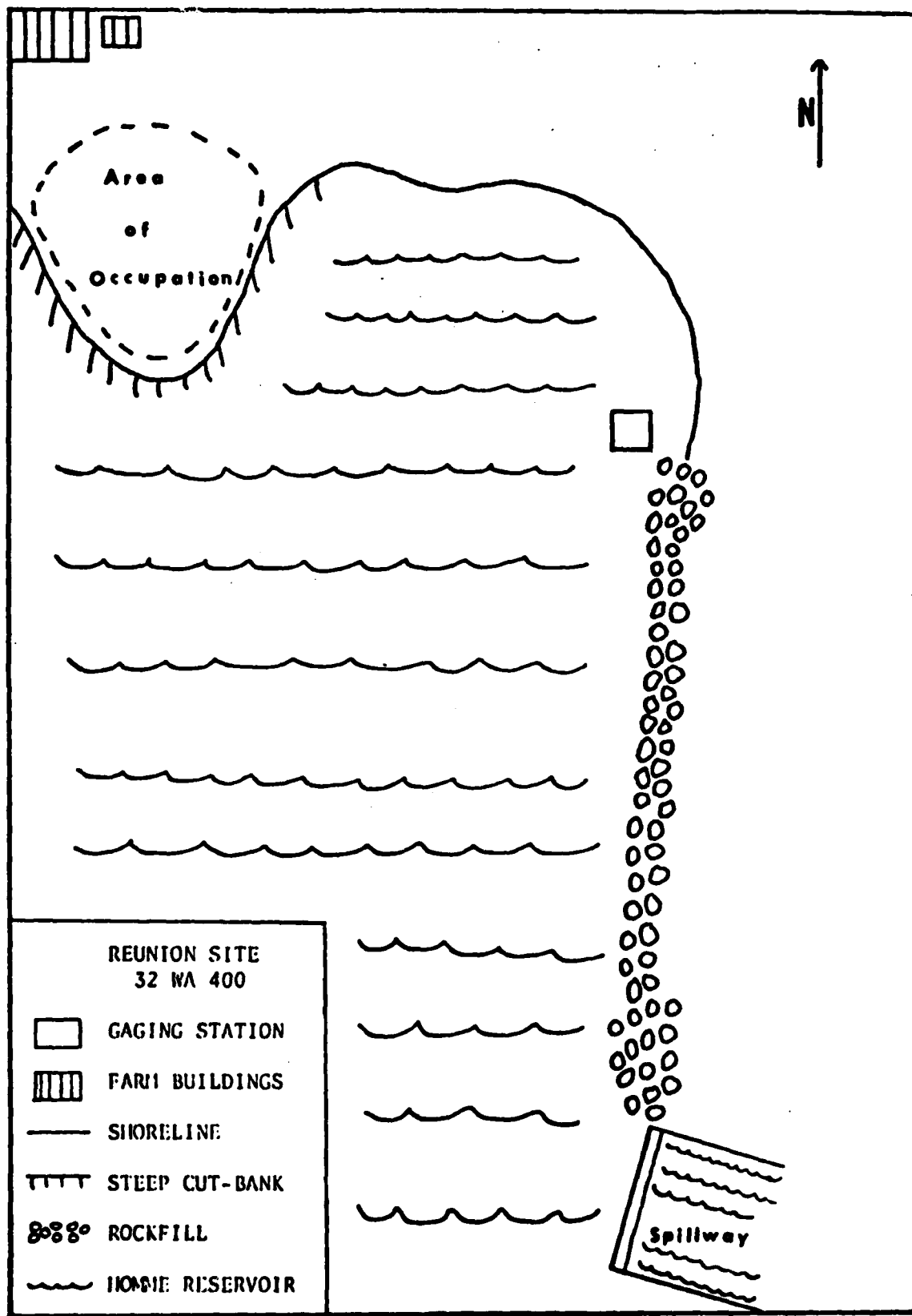


Figure 1 Location of the Reunion Occupation Site

d. Test the proposed construction impact areas as described in Section 9 sufficiently to determine the presence or absence of cultural materials and/or features. In order to assess the potential impacts on the Reunion Site, the testing should be sufficient to determine the horizontal and vertical distribution of the site, its present condition (in situ or disturbed) and the potential significance of the remains.

The cost of the investigation was not to exceed \$500.00.

On November 4-5, 1977, Lawrence L. Loendorf and Paul A. Tweten completed the project. Initially we reviewed the report and field notes on the original survey work. After entering the field, we discussed the site with local area farmers. None have ever collected materials from the site nor did any have knowledge of the site. Most seemed to know about the burial mounds along the Park River.

One two meter square was shovel excavated to a depth of two meters. This test unit was on Corp of Engineer property at the southern edge of the occupation site. The test excavation revealed an interesting soil profile. The upper 90 centimeters to 140 centimeters was a sandy loam. This was underlain by a 40 centimeter thick layer of dark humic topsoil. Beneath this topsoil were a light tan sand and silt. The buried soil, the topsoil and lower horizon soils is also exposed along the bank of the reservoir.

We did not determine how the soil was buried, but the archaeological materials are found in the topsoil of the buried profile. These materials are being scattered by agricultural activities in the field to the north of the test excavation. However, no cultural material was found in the test excavation nor was any noted in the bank exposure. This suggests the site is north of the reservoir bank at least 10 meters.

The site is nearly completely destroyed by plowing. We collected from the surface of the plowed area nineteen quartzite flakes, three chert flakes, six bone fragments and two river cobbles which may have

functioned as hammerstones.

In addition to the test excavation, ten or fifteen core probes were made in the area of the proposed access for the bank stabilization. No cultural remains were found in any of the probes. The access area is east of the site about 50 meters.

The site is small with the scattered surface material in an area about 18 meters by 18 meters. No intact portions of the site exist; plowing has dislodged all materials. The site is not continuous through the inundated river valley and it does not connect to 32WA403. For these reasons as well as the lack of cultural material on the site, we did not believe it should be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

The shore in the area of the site is presently protected by a rock wall. Erosion should not be a problem in the area of the site. If it were a problem at least ten meters of the bank would have to erode before the site was affected. Even if such unlikely erosion were to take place, the site is not worthy of protection. Damage to the site has been the result of farm related activities and not from Corp of Engineer projects.

REFERENCES CITED

Farmer, Carlene E. et al.

1974 Environmental Impact Assessment of the Homme Dam and Reservoir, North Dakota. Research Report No. 7, Institute for Ecological Studies, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

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