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KNOW ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES IN THE
ROOT RIVER BASIN(U) MINNESOTA UNIV MINNEAPOLIS
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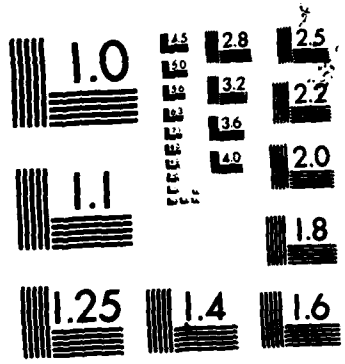
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Known Archaeological and Historical Resources
in the Root River Basin

Elden Johnson
University of Minnesota
November, 1974

Ref: St. Paul District Corps of Engineers
Contract # DACW37-75-M-0530

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The following data on the nature and location of archaeological and historical sites in the Root River Basin of southeastern Minnesota were compiled from records in the Archaeology Laboratory, University of Minnesota. The region lies within portions of Dodge, Fillmore, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, and Winona counties where the Root River and its tributaries cut through the so-called driftless area of Minnesota. No archaeological or historic sites are recorded for the portions of the Root River basin lying in Dodge, Mower and Winona Counties so that these counties do not appear in the following table. It should be noted that while a few significant archaeological sites within the basin have been excavated (see attached bibliography), and a number of sites have been recorded, no systematic and intensive archaeological or historical survey has been conducted in the basin. Based on the number of sites that are known, and being aware of the significant number of known sites in the adjacent and comparable areas of southwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Iowa, an intensive archaeological site survey would increase the site inventory many times over. ←

Table of Recorded Sites in the Root River Basin

(The term "upland" refers to sites on high ground above the flood plain and lower river terraces.)

FILLMORE COUNTY

Archaeological Sites:

<u>Type of Site:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time Pd.:</u>	<u>Loc. in relation to Root River basin:</u>
1. Mounds (22)	W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 23, T.104 N, R.8 W.	?	Root River (near Rushford)
2. Mounds (9)	NE $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec. 15, T.104 N, R.8 W.	?	Root River (near Rushford)

FILLMORE COUNTY (continued)

Archaeological Sites:

<u>Type of Site:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time Pd.:</u>	<u>Loc. in relation to Root River basin</u>
3. Rock Shelter	SW $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 5, T.103 N, R.8 W.	Woodland (excavated)	Root River basin
4. Mound	NW $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 3, T.103 N, R.12 W.	Woodland (excavated)	upland
5. Village	Sec 3 or 4, T.103 N, R.12 W.	Woodland (excavated)	upland
6. Village	Sec 6, T.103 N, R.12 W.	Indeterminate (excavated)	upland
7. Mounds (6)	NW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 11, T.103 N, R.13 W.	Woodland (excavated)	upland
8. Mounds (6)	NE $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 14, T.104 N, R.8 W.	Orr focus (excavated)	Root River (near Rushford)
9. Mounds	N $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 4, T.103 N, R.13 W.	?	upland
?	SE $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 4, T.103 N, R.12 W.	?	upland
10. Mounds	E $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 15, T.103 N, R.12 W.	?	upland
Rock Shelter	S $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 12, T.102 N, R.8 W.	Indeterminate (excavated)	upland
11. Mounds	N $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 12, S $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 1, T.103 N, R.10 W.	?	Root River basin
12. Rock Shelter	Sec 21, T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River
13. Cave	Sec 16, T.103 N, R.9 W.	?	Root River basin
14. Mound	NE $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 3, T.102 N, R.8 W.	?	upland

FILLMORE COUNTY (continued)

Archaeological Sites:

<u>Type of Site:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time Pd.:</u>	<u>Loc. in relation to Root River basin</u>
15. Workshop	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 19, T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River
16. Habitation	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 19, T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River
17. Village	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 22, T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River
18. Workshop	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 22, T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River
19. Mounds Rock Shelter	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 25, E $\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 26 T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River Basin
20. Village	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 21, T.102 N, R.12 W.	?	So. Branch Root River

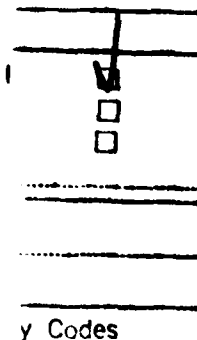
Historical Sites and Markers:

21. Forestville Town-site and Merghen Store	Forestville State Park		So. Branch Root River
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HOUSTON COUNTY

Archaeological Sites:

22. Burial	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 7, T.102 N, R.7 W.	Orr focus (excavated)	upland
23. Village	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 8, T.102 N, R.7 W.	Orr focus (excavated)	upland
24. Burial	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 33, T.103 N, R.7 W.	Orr	upland
25. Mounds (4)	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 35, T.101 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
26. Mounds (40)	W $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 35, T.101 N, R.4 W.	?	upland



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HOUSTON COUNTY (continued)

Archaeological Sites:

<u>Type of Site:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Time Pd.:</u>	<u>Loc. in relation to Root River Basin:</u>
27. Mounds (33)	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 23, T.101 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
28. Mounds (3)	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 26, T.102 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
29. Mound	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 26, T.103 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
30. Mounds (58)	W $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 14, T.103 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
31. Mounds	N $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 6, T.103 N, R.4 W.	?	Root River basin
32. Enclosure	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 2, T.103 N, R.5 W.	?	Root River basin
33. Mounds (62)	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 10, T.104 N, R.4 W. (SWNE, SENW, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$)	?	Root River basin
34. Mounds (3)	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 15, T.104 N, R.4 W.	?	Root River basin
35. Mounds (26)	SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 15, T.104 N, R.4 W.	?	Root River basin
36. Mound	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 32, T.104 N, R.4 W.	?	Root River basin
37. Mounds (3)	W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 25, T.104 N, R.4 W.	?	Root River basin
38. Enclosure	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 8, T.102 N, R.7 W.	?	Root River basin
39. Mounds	SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 35, T.101 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
40. Mounds	W $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 23, T.103 N, R.7 W.	?	Root River basin
41. Mound	NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 2, T.104 N, R.7 W.	?	upland

HOUSTON COUNTY (continued)

Archaeological Sites:

<u>Type of Site:</u>	<u>Locations:</u>	<u>Time Pd.:</u>	<u>Loc. in relation to Root River Basin:</u>
42. Rock Shelter Village	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 35, T.102 N, R.4 W.	?	upland
43. Mound	NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 31, T.103 N, R.7 W.	?	Root River basin

Historical Sites and Markers:

44. Blacksmith Shop	Near Eitzen, Sec 32, T.101 N, R.5 W.		upland
45. Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church	Brownsdale		upland (note: on Nat'l Register)

OLMSTED COUNTY

Archaeological Sites:

46. Mounds	Sec 5, T.104 N, R.14 W.	?	No. Branch Root River (near High Forest)
47. Mounds (2)	Sec 24, T.105 N, R.14 W.	?	No. Branch Root River

Historical Sites and Markers:

48. Fugles Mill	Sec 20, T.105 N, R.13 W.		No. Branch Root River (near Pleasant Grove)
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No known archaeological or historical sites exist in the towns of Houston, Hokah, or Peterson where flood control diking is anticipated.

Recommendations

1. When design work on flood control structures is completed for specific locations within the basin, an intensive archaeological survey and testing program must be completed for both the areas to be covered by the structures and for borrow areas where dike fill is to be obtained. This includes the towns of Houston, Hokah and Peterson.

2. If archaeological sites are located within proposed construction areas on that survey, it is recommended that the design be altered to preserve the site or sites if that is at all possible.
3. If the design cannot be altered, funds must be made available for emergency archaeological salvage.
4. If the previous table of known sites is published in any preliminary form or impact statement, the specific site locations must be removed, and reference made to the fact that professionally qualified persons may obtain precise location data from the Archaeology Laboratory, University of Minnesota. This is necessary because it is the unfortunate fact that public knowledge of specific site locations often leads the plundering of those sites by private individuals.

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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fort Snelling Branch (Building 25), Fort Snelling, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 • 612-726-117

12 August 1974

Mr. Norman C. Hintz, Major
Acting District Engineer
Saint Paul District, Corps of Engineers
1210 U.S. Post Office and Custom House
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Major Hintz:

RE: Phase I
Root River Basin, Minnesota
Feasibility Report for Flood Control

The above listed feasibility report has been reviewed by the Survey and Planning section of the Minnesota Historical Society as per your request of 2 August 1974. As a result, there are several items which should be given due consideration and attention in the preparation of the next phase of your study.

First, your report lists recreational aspects of river areas, but does not mention the recreational potential of historic sites as drawing points for tourism. It is the feeling of the Minnesota Historical Society that historic resources be given due consideration in this aspect.

Second, enclosed herewith are listings for historic properties presently included in the State Inventory of Historic Sites. Those marked with a check are those directly concerned by your feasibility report. Other properties are known to exist and prior to final comment and listing by the Society, these should be surveyed and researched. It is essential that such a further in-depth survey be integrated within the final study of the proposed project area.

Third, the Minnesota Historical Society encourages continued concern to flood control in areas of known historical and architectural merit. This includes many of the towns and settlements within the project area.

Fourth, one area which demands further indepth survey and consideration is Lanesboro. This area has many recognized historic resources and should be dealt with carefully to determine adequate flood-protection measures.

Finally, a thorough archaeological field survey is essential to determine areas directly affected by possible flooding and flood-protection measures. No indepth survey of this type has been accomplished to date. Areas of prime concern are those proposed for construction of dikes and floodretention structures.

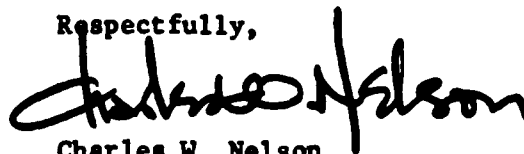
Mr. Norman C. Hintz

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12 August 1974

If you should have further comments on this matter, please contact either Mr. Alan R. Woolworth or me.

Respectfully,



Charles W. Nelson
Supervisor
Historic Sites Survey and Planning

cc: Alan R. Woolworth, Chief Archaeologist
Minnesota Historical Society
Building 27, Fort Snelling
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111

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