

AD-A173 409

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL
PROJECT AREA GAYS MILLS CRAWFORD COUNTY WISCONSIN(U)
CORPS OF ENGINEERS ST PAUL MN ST PAUL DISTRICT
B WITHROW 07 SEP 81

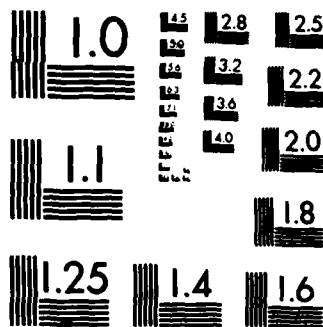
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19. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number) Flood control measures in the town of Gay Mills, Wisconsin, on the Kickapoo River include levee construction, storm sewer construction, and bank cutting to reroute a portion of the Kickapoo River. Most of the project area is within the town of Gay Mills and consists of city park property, other city property, county and private property. The archaeological potential of the entire project area is probably high as numerous sites have been recorded on the Kickapoo River including several prehistoric sites in or near the project area. The following recommendation are made: Previously recorded sites should be relocated through shovel testing and their boundaries determined; excavation of the storm sewer should be monitored for the presence of deeply buried cultural material; borrow area or any other project areas to be selected in the future should be surveyed for cultural resources if they have not already been field checked.					
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Cultural Resources Survey of
Proposed Flood Control Project Area,
Gays Mills, Crawford County, Wisconsin

Prepared by Barbara Withrow
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District



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Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District is considering plans to undertake flood control measures in the town of Gays Mills on the Kickapoo River in Crawford County, Wisconsin (see figure 1). Basically, the proposed project would include (1) construction of a levee along the east side of the Kickapoo River, (2) construction of a storm sewer ("interior drainage ditch" and "interior drainage interceptors") which, for the most part, parallels the levee, (3) bank cutting to reroute a portion of the Kickapoo River, and (4) use of a natural ponding area on the north side of Gays Mills (see figure 2). Most of the project area is within the town of Gays Mills itself and consists of city park property, other city property, county property, and private property.

Archeological survey work was conducted in Gays Mills in 1976 by URS, Inc., and three prehistoric sites -- 47CR163, 164, and 165 -- were recorded in or very near the project area (URS 1976: X115). State site files at the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office show that a core, quartz pebble, and a lanceolate point were recovered from 47CR163 in the SW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4, Section 27, T10N, R4W. 47CR164 is located in the SW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4 Section 28, T10N, R4W and yielded two "unworked flakes" and a "retouched flake." 47CR165 consisted of a single surface find ("biface chopper") made in the SW1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4, NE1/4, Section 28, T10N, R4W (see figures 1 and 2). An additional prehistoric site, 47CR17, has been recorded outside of the project area, but in the vicinity, on the west bank of the Kickapoo River in Section 28 and consists of several mounds known as the Gays Mills Mound Group. No historic sites or structures have been recorded in Gays Mills (URS 1976: I43, X117-118).

Field Methodology and Results

Fieldwork was conducted in Gays Mills on July 11-15, 1983, by two archeologists from the Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. Because field methods and results varied over the project area, the area was divided into sections (see figure 2) and each section is discussed separately below. No deliberate effort was made to relocate previously recorded sites but, as discussed below, one site, 47CR164, was relocated during routine shovel testing.

Section 1 - This section of the proposed levee is located in a small wooded gully or ravine containing some standing water and was not shovel tested.

Section 2 - This section consists almost entirely of city property and includes the water pumping station near the south end, open ground where former private homes have been razed, and a city park at the north end and adjacent to the Highway 171 bridge. Vegetation consists of mowed grass with deciduous trees and weeds scattered throughout and particularly on the riverbank itself. Previous disturbance is evident at and near the pumping station and on the former home sites which evidently have been leveled and covered with introduced fill material. One hundred and five shovel tests were placed along the levee route in Section 2. Three rows, designated the "River Row," "Center Row," and "Outside Row," were placed 10, 20, and 30 m from the

riverbank, respectively, and the tests within these rows were placed at a 15 m interval. This pattern was altered only at the pumping station where two rows, labeled "Row 1" and "Row 2," were placed 10 and 20 m east of the pumping station. Some tests were omitted due to previous disturbance. Most notably, tests were not placed in the redeposited material used to fill the former home sites. This material supported no vegetation and was easily identified. The omitted shovel tests as well as the 105 excavated tests are indicated on the attached shovel test profile forms. Shovel tests were dug to an average depth of 40 cm, and all soil was screened through a 1/4-inch mesh screen. Soil varied and included clay, silt, loam, clayey loam, sandy loam, silty loam, and sand with occasional rocks and gravel. With the exception of some modern historic debris (glass, plastic, rusted cans, etc.) no cultural material was recovered in Section 2 even though 47CR165 was recorded within the shovel tested area. The area appears to be covered with alluvial deposits, and local residents indicate that flooding and soil deposition occur frequently. It is likely that most of any sites in the area are deeply buried and not accessible through routine shovel testing.

Section 3 - Section 3 consists of Robb Park, a city park distinct from the unnamed park located south of Highway 171. The proposed levee and storm sewer pass through the park, and the tip of the "peninsula" on which the park is located will be removed to alter the channel of the Kickapoo River. The levee route was not shovel tested because it was already noticeably disturbed by the construction of gravel park roads and park restrooms. The channel relocation area was shovel tested, however. Shovel tests 106-127 (see attached shovel test profile forms) were placed in two rows ("River Row" and "Center Row") 10 and 20 m from the river, respectively, at a 15 m interval beginning just north of the small dam on the Kickapoo River. Vegetation consists of mowed grass, and soil of sand, clay, silt, clayey loam and sandy loam. Shovel tests were excavated to 40 cm and soil was screened through a 1/4-inch mesh screen with the exception of some wet sand and clay which was gone through by hand. No cultural material was recovered. Again, the area appears to be covered with alluvial deposits, and at least some disturbance was probably caused by construction of the dam and a nearby park road.

Section 4 - This section includes the ponding area and proposed levee east of Robb Park to Highway 131. The levee route was not shovel tested because it passed through a swampy area adjacent to the Kickapoo River containing standing water and an artificial drainage canal. Several shovel tests (128-134) were placed in a single row (the "Pond Row" -- see attached shovel test profile forms) on the southern perimeter of the ponding area at a 15 m interval. Tests 128-131 were placed in the mowed grass north of the Crawford County School District Building, test 132 at the west end of the alley east of the school building, and tests 133 and 134 north and west of the house located at the corner of Gay and Grove Streets where vegetation consists of tall grass and weeds. All shovel tested property in Section 4 is privately owned. The alley east of the school building was not shovel tested nor was the ponding area perimeter east of Gay Street due to disturbance by an asphalt operation and the presence of standing water. The excavated shovel tests were dug to an average depth of 40 cm, and soil was screened through a 1/4-inch mesh screen. Soil consisted of loam and clayey loam and did not appear to be a recent alluvial deposit as in Sections 2 and 3 adjacent to the river. Cultural

material (one flake) was recovered from test 128 in the northwest corner of the school building yard, and several additional tests (128A-128D, see attached shovel test profile forms) were placed near test 128. Test 128A was placed 2 m south of 128, 128B 2 m east, 128C 2 m west, and 128D 2 m north. Another flake was found in test 128A, and four unmodified pieces of chert were observed in test 128D which also contained a large amount of gravel.

The cultural material recovered seems to be from the previously recorded site, 47CR164, referred to above. The material found here in 1976 was on private property north of the school district property on the extreme southern edge of the ponding area swamp which was not shovel tested by Corps archeologists. The shovel tests made by Corps archeologists are evidently only 2 to 5 m from the area where cultural material was found in 1976, however, and the finds made seem to simply extend the known site boundaries south into the school building yard. No other cultural material was noted at the ponding area. The previously recorded site, 47CR163, is located near the east end of the proposed levee (approximately 400 feet south), but is outside of the project area and was not subjected to shovel testing.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Shovel testing was carried out, where feasible, along the proposed levee route, at the channel relocation site, and along the edge of the proposed ponding area. No previously unrecorded sites were found. Of the three previously recorded sites in or near the project area, one (47CR164) was relocated during routine shovel testing, one (47CR165) was not found, and one (47CR163) was not subjected to shovel testing because it was outside of the project area proper.

The shovel tested area within Sections 2 and 3 of the proposed levee appeared to be covered with thick alluvial deposits, and local residents confirmed that flooding and deposition in this area occurred frequently and rapidly. Thus, it is probable that most of any intact sites along this portion of the Kickapoo River are deeply buried and not detectable through routine shovel testing.

The archeological potential of the entire project area is probably high. Numerous sites have been recorded on the Kickapoo River and, as discussed above, several prehistoric sites have already been recorded in or near the project area. The presence of a site such as the Gays Mills Mound Group suggests that associated habitation sites may be located nearby.

The proposed flood control project could affect cultural resources in the area. Site 47CR165 is located in the proposed levee route. Sites 47CR163 and 164 are not located directly in the path of the proposed levee, but both, even 47CR163, could certainly be disturbed by large vehicle traffic and other construction related activities. Furthermore, if undetected and deeply buried sites are located in sections 2 and 3 of the project area, they will certainly be disturbed by construction of the storm sewer.

The following recommendations are made:

1. The previously recorded sites 47CR163 and 164 should be relocated through shovel testing and their boundaries or extent determined. Then, if necessary, one or more test units should be excavated at each site to attempt to determine the integrity and significance of each site. If sites that are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are located, construction plans should be made or altered to avoid disturbance.

2. 47CR165 should be re-recorded as a locus or find spot. Even though the "site" is located in the path of the proposed levee, it consists of a single surface find made in an area affected by residential use and flooding. Shovel testing revealed no subsurface cultural material of prehistoric origin at the "site" location.

3. Excavation of the storm sewer in sections 2 and 3 of the project area should be monitored for the presence of deeply buried cultural material by a qualified archeologist. If cultural material is noted, construction should cease and appropriate salvage activity should be carried out.

4. Borrow areas or any other project areas to be selected in the future should be surveyed for cultural resources if they have not already been field checked.

References Cited

URS Corporation
1976 Alternatives for Flood Reduction and Recreation in the Kickapoo River Valley. New York: URS Corporation in association with Conklin and Rossant.

LOCATION OF PROJECT AREA

FROM USGS 15' SERIES E SERIES, GAYS MILLS QUADRANGLE, 1966

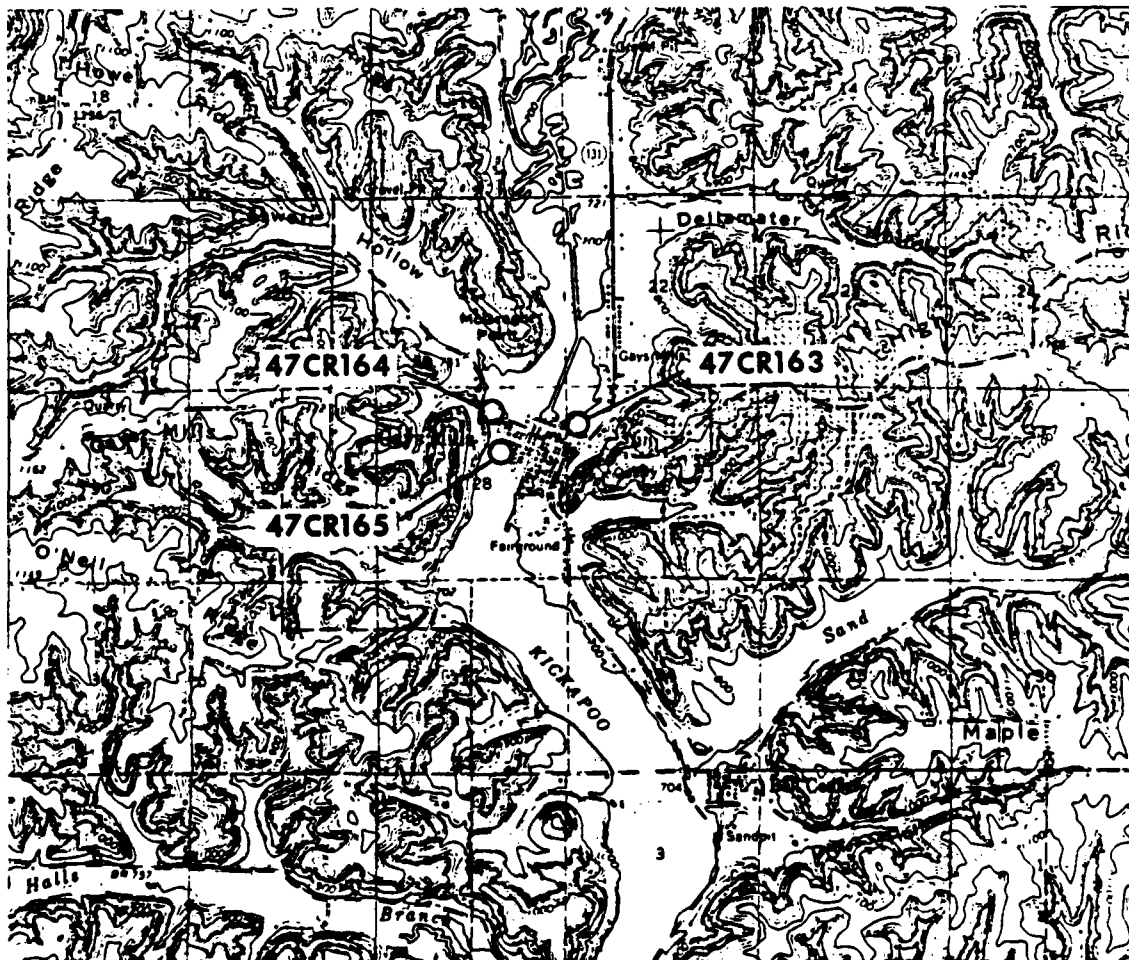


Figure 1

PROPOSED FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT, GAYS MILLS, WISC.

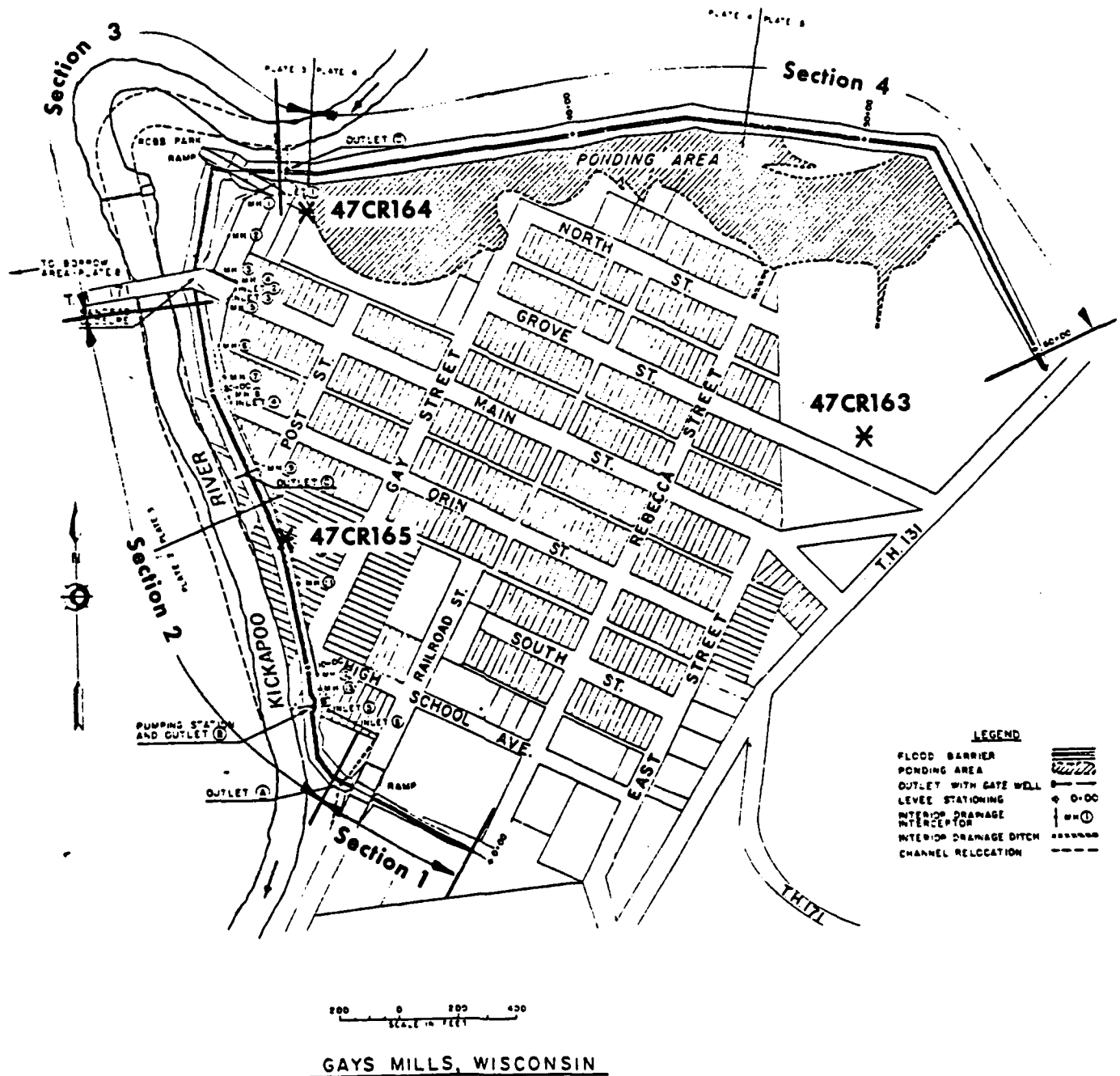


Figure 2

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