



State of Minnesota

INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

127 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: (612) 296-3611

1819 Bemidji Avenue
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
Phone: (218) 755-3825

March 20, 1985

Mr. Robert Sharlin, Associate Planner
City of Bloomington
2215 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Bloomington, MN

Dear Bob:

The following is for your information:

BURIAL SITE PRESERVATION PLAN 21-HE-9

DESCRIPTION

21-HE-9 consisted of a group of 9 Native American burial mounds when it was originally mapped by T.H. Lewis in 1882 (Lewis notebook No. 2, p.6). They are located on what was then the farm of Wm Hanson in the NW SE Sec. 12, T27N, R24W, Hennepin county. Based on Lewis' notes, a map of the group was published in Winchell, p. 224-45.

The group comprised 8 circular mounds and one circular with a linear approach. They ranged in size from 68 feet in diameter by 7 feet in height, to 24 feet in diameter by 1 foot in height (see Lewis notes, attached).

CURRENT STATUS

The mound group was field checked during the fall of 1984, with mapping of the group done during the fall and winter of 1984-85. Field conditions were excellent for visibility.

Mounds 1 and 2 were not physically discernable, due to extensive plowing and their original low elevation. Mounds 3,4,5,6 and 7 were identifiable. Mound 8 had no physical indications, but its location could be reconstructed using Lewis' notes. Mound 9 has apparently been removed by road construction.

Lewis' notes were used to assist in reconstructing the mound locations. Mounds 5 and 6 are clearly visible without the use of Lewis' notes, and an error in Lewis' distances between these mounds are corrected. Lewis had noted the interval between 5 and 6 as being 122 feet, whereas it is actually 222 feet. A final map of the mounds was prepared using a combination of Lewis' notes and field verification. Final locations of the reconstructed centers of the mounds were plotted by surveyors in March of 1985. This map should form the basis for future management regarding the group.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



CONSULTATION

This plan has been prepared under the authority of MN ST 307.08 and the policies and procedures of the State Archaeologist's Office and the Indian Affairs Council.

Determination of the present condition of the group and reconstruction of the mound locations was done by personnel from the State Archaeologist's Office, the Minnesota Historical Society, and Archaeological Research Services (Christina Harrison, Archaeologist).

Determination of management recommendations was made in consultation with the following parties: Indian Affairs Council, State Archaeologist's Office, Prairie Island Tribal Council, and the City of Bloomington.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mounds 1 and 2: These mounds are no longer visible and their original locations cannot be reconstructed with a great deal of accuracy, as they are separated from the rest of the group by about 200 feet. It is possible, although not highly likely, that burials may still remain below the original mound surfaces. It is recommended that prior to continued plowing of the area or any future development which would alter the subsurface, that the area of mounds 1 and 2 should be tested to determine if any such remains are still present. Any such burials should then be removed and reburied in mounds 5 or 6 or their vicinity. Such investigation and reburial should be conducted according to policy of the State Archaeologist's Office and the Indian Affairs Council.

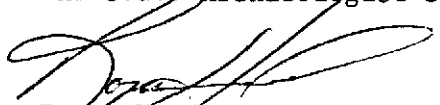
Mounds 3,4,5,6 and 7: These mounds are still visible. Mounds 5 and 6 remain in moderately good condition, while the rest can be reconstructed using Lewis' notes and still have slight physical indications. These mounds should be managed for long-term preservation. Management should consist of physical barriers necessary to prevent inadvertent damage. A buffer zone of 50 feet is recommended.

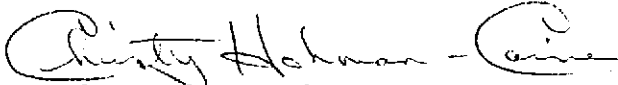
Mound 8: This mound is no longer physically discernable but its location is reconstructable with some accuracy using Lewis' notes. Due to this fact and its proximity to the above mounds, the area should be protected from future subsurface damage through plowing or construction. A buffer zone of 50 feet is recommended.

Mound 9: This mound has apparently been removed by construction of a roadway and can be considered destroyed.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Recommended buffer zones have been delineated on the planning map for this group. Alteration of these zones, investigation and reinterment of burials which may be present from the area of mounds 1 and 2, and signing or interpretation of this group should be done in consultation with the Indian Affairs Council and the State Archaeologist's Office.


Roger Head
Executive Director
Indian Affairs Council


Christy Hohman-Caine
Minnesota State Archaeologist

Prairie Island Tribal Council

RR 2 Box 1000

Welch, MN 55089



December 13, 1984

Mr. Robert Sharlin, Associate Planner
City of Bloomington
2215 W. Old Shakopee Rd.
Bloomington, MN

Dear Mr. Sharlin

Thank you for meeting with the Tribal Council on 11/30/84 and sharing your concerns over the burial mounds located on the River Ridge property (old Wm. Hanson farm).

On Sunday 12/12/84 our Business Manager made a site visit of the area. As a result we would make the following comments and recommendations.

Due to extensive agricultural use the mounds numbered 1 and 2 are not physically discernable and there may be very little to preserve at this point.

Mounds 3, 4, 5 which border the bluff at the treeline should definitely be afforded protection.

Mounds 6, 7, 8, also have suffered from agriculture practices but again, should be preserved.

Mound 9, which is near an existing dirt roadway, has apparently suffered from severe erosion as well as the original road construction; we don't know if this mound is a candidate for preservation.

The Tribal Council feels very strongly that all burial sites and mounds represent religious and historic treasures important for all of Minnesota's citizens. We are committed to their preservation. This philosophy certainly extends to the site under discussion.

We understand that development plans for the site are still in their early stages. The Prairie Island Tribal Council would recommend the City of Bloomington meet with appropriate concerned interests so that future development on the site would reflect the need to protect and preserve the mounds, in place.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Vine H. Wells".

Vine H. Wells, Tribal Chairman

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 12, T 27, R 24

(Direction Distance Bas.Diam. Height)

No. 1	-	-	45	2
1 to 2	N50E	97	30	1
2 " Fence	N67E	86	-	-
2 " 3	N67E	194	50	5
3 " 4	N2 $\frac{1}{2}$ E	116	45	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 " 5	N37E	117	68	7
5 " 6	N2E	122	45	5
6 " 7	N60W	75	32	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
App	S16E	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	W 20	1
7 " 8	N22E	57	24	1
8 " 9	N24 $\frac{1}{2}$ E	100	30	1

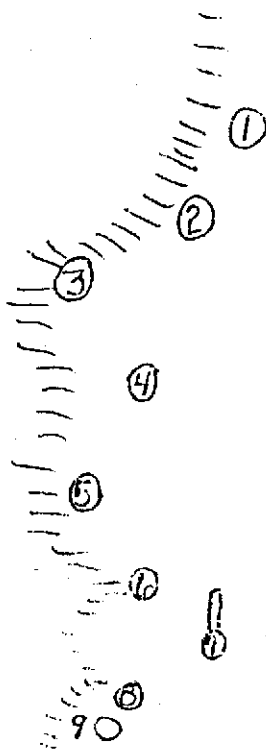
On Wm. Hanson's Farm,

Sept. 6/82

-6-

-opp. 6-

S25E
 To No. 1 on
 Hogback



-opp. 6-

METRO OFFICE

DR. BARBARA O'CONNELL
Ass't. State Archaeologist
Hamline University
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
612-641-2253
612-222-7845

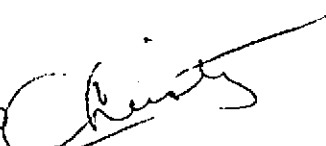


OUTSTATE OFFICE

DR. CHRISTY HOHMAN-CAINE
State Archaeologist
Star Route
Hackensack, Minnesota 56452
218-682-2110

Oct. 25, 1984

To: Roger Head, MIAIC

From: Christy Caine, SAO 

Subject: Proposed Project Impacts on burial site HE-9

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with background information on the proposed development at HE-9 and my observations to this point.

HE-9 consisted of 9 burial mounds when originally mapped by Lewis in 1882 (notebook no. 2, p. 6). Based on his work, the mounds were also reported by Winchell (p. 244-245) where they are referred to as the Hanson Mounds. They are located along the Minnesota River bluff, south of the present Mpls/St. Paul International Airport (T27 R24 Sec. 12, NW NE).

Bob Clouse of the Minnesota Historical Society contacted me by phone indicating that he had been contacted by the Bloomington City planning section regarding a proposed development in the vicinity of HE-9. He requested that I call Bob Charlin of Bloomington to arrange a field visit to the site. Due to my teaching schedule I was unable to make a day meeting, but on Oct. 9 I checked the site myself after work. I then met with Bob Charlin and other planners from the City of Bloomington on Oct. 24.

Field Examination and Status of Mound Group HE-9

For purposes of the Private Cemetery Act (MN ST 307.08) the State Archaeologist's Office considers HE-9 to be an authenticated burial area. Adequate documentation in the form of Lewis' map is available.

Six of the mounds were only 1 to 2½ feet high at the time they were originally mapped. Plowing since that time has made most of these imperceptible except with the aid of Lewis' map. One of these mounds (no. 9) has apparently been removed by a roadcut at the north end of the group. The remaining three mounds were originally 5 to 7 feet high. Two of these sit at the eastern edge of the plowed field, at the edge of the bluff, and are partially plowed. A third has been wholly plowed but is still visible as a slight rise in the field.

Although the mounds which have been plowed are greatly reduced in size or nearly imperceptible, burials could still exist in subsurface pits. The only archaeological method which could determine whether burials still exist in these areas would be intensive testing through trenching and/or stripping of the area.

Proposed Project

According to information supplied by the City of Bloomington, the proposed project consists of a 160,000 square foot building which would be built in three phases from 1985 through 1987 (see enclosed memo). Cost of the project is estimated in excess of \$75 million and is part of Governor Perpich's plan to attract high technology industry to Minnesota.

The preliminary building design, as shown on the map attached to the memo, would probably impact most of the remaining burial mounds. I will not be able to precisely determine this until I do further map work, however.

Recommendations

As part of the authentication documentation for this mound group, I will mark the mounds in the field and will plot their positions on the aerial and topographic maps supplied by Bloomington. I will furnish both you and Bloomington with copies. There will be some margin of error due to the plowed-down condition of the mounds, but it should be within limits narrow enough to allow you to adequately consider the relationship between the project and the mound group.

I discussed with Bloomington the procedures which our offices use in such matters. If the decision is made to allow development in the area, the following alternatives, in order of preference as I see them, may assist you in making decisions about this matter.

1. Since all options for the protection of human burials should be evaluated first, the possibility of redesign of the facility should be explored. For example, the parking lot and building site might be reversed. Since the design of the lot would be more flexible the lot might be positioned around the mounds, leaving them undisturbed. This option would probably require a reduction in the 50 foot buffer zone which we usually request, but proper fencing could be substituted instead.
2. Protection of the most intact mounds through redesign, and testing of the plowed-down mounds to determine if they still contain burials. Any such burials would be removed for reinterment in the protected mounds.
3. Removal of all burials from all mounds and reinterment elsewhere.

The last option is least compatible with the stated intent of the legislature and the policies developed by the MIAIC and SAO. In considering the above options, we should also take into account that since many of the mounds are no longer highly visible, are unmarked, and are being farmed, long-term preservation of the mound group is not being accomplished under present conditions and measures do need to be taken to protect burials which they may contain. I would recommend alternatives 1 or 2 as the most compatible with the spirit and intent of the Private Cemetery Act.

Long-Term Considerations

In addition to the immediate problem discussed above, we need to consider some of the long-term problems of burial preservation in the Bloomington area. The Minnesota river bluff contains numerous burial groups recorded in our files and there undoubtedly exist many more burials which are unrecorded and will continue to come to our attention through accidental discovery. Provisions need to be made for reinterment of burials from this area and Hennepin county in general.

According to Bloomington planners, a generic EIS and an EAW for the HE-9 project were submitted for review through regular channels but no comments were received about the mound groups. File information which Bob Charlin requested from the MHS earlier this month contained notations (not present in the SAO file) regarding the condition of the mound group which led Bloomington to assume that the mounds had been destroyed. Either we need to institute a better mechanism of coordination with the Historical Society/SHPO during the review process to ensure that MIAIC is involved at the very early stages of planning or we need to institute a separate review system for projects which might involve MN ST 307.08. The Private Cemetery Act is more encompassing than other state and federal laws under which the MHS/SHPO does review, and they are probably not even receiving information on many projects which would be of concern to MIAIC. We also need to make a systematic effort to correct file information, to ensure that file information is correctly understood by managers using it, and to contact local planning divisions about the Private Cemetery Act and pertinent MIAIC/SAO policies. Efforts to implement the latter measures, as you well know, have thus far been thwarted by lack of time and funds.

After my field marking of the mound group, I will send you maps and any further comments I may have. It is my understanding that either Bob Charlin or a representative of the development company will be contacting you soon about the compatibility of the development with the burial group. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, give me a call. I will be at the University of Minnesota Anthropology Department Monday through Wednesday next week. You can call me there at 376-3256 or leave a message at 373-2601.

enclosures

cc: Earl Sargent
Barb O'Connell
Russell Fridley