

MSU Campus Archaeology Program Project Summary Sheet



Report No. 50

Date of Survey: July 9, 2014

Site Name: River Trail South Sidewalk 2014

Principal Investigator: Campus Archaeologist, Kate Frederick

Physical Plant Project Name: N/A

Project Justification: While sidewalk flags are being replaced, it provided an excellent opportunity to place shovel test pits to test for any archaeological materials related to early campus life.

Location: River trail sidewalks located along the south bank of the Red Cedar River, between the bridge north of Wells Hall and Farm Lane.



Campus Zone: River Trail

Survey Type: Shovel Testing

Methodology: A shovel pit test (STP) was placed every 5m along the south edge of the River Trail South sidewalks. Starting at STP # 2-1-9, all STPs were instead placed along the

north edge of the River Trail South sidewalks. Starting at STP # 2-1-12, all STPs were instead placed at 10m intervals.

Summary/Conclusions: Twenty-two STPs were excavated in total. No STPs were expanded, as no significant artifacts were found.

Recommendations and Priority: While no significant finds were recovered in this survey, this area remains a medium-high priority for future construction as there is a high likelihood for deeply buried archaeological deposits.

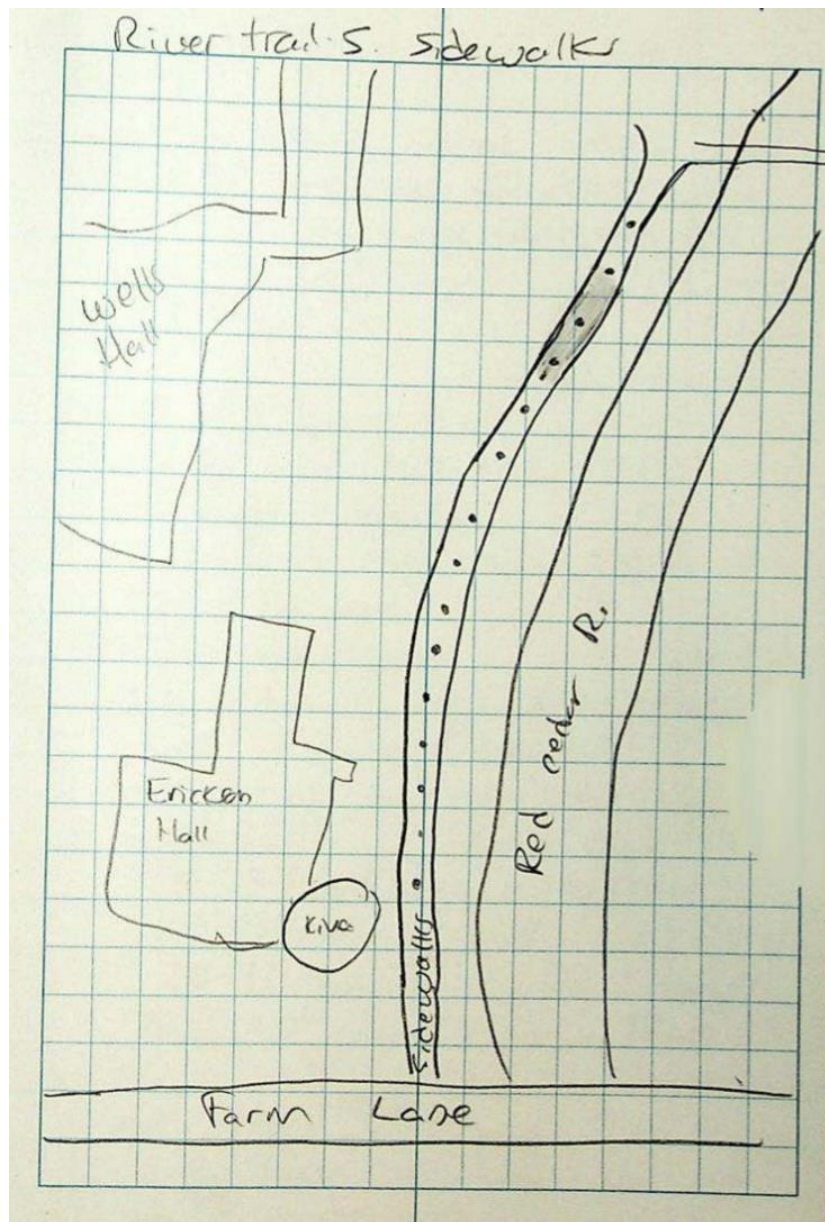


Figure 1. Hand-sketched map of STPs along River Trails South Sidewalks, dated to 7/9/2014.

Field Notes:

7/9/2014:

- Crew: Kate Frederick
- Weather: 72 F and partly sunny
- STP # 1-1-1:
 - Depth: 39 cm
 - 0-13 – sandy gravel
 - 13-16 –
 - 14-39 – gravelly clay
 - Artifacts: none
- STP # 1-1-2:
 - Depth: 48 cm
 - 0-28 – dark (black) gravelly sand
 - 28-48 – gravelly clay
 - Artifacts: glass
- STP # 2-1-1:
 - Depth: 42 cm
 - 0-8 – dark clay gravel
 - 8-30 – mottled lighter clay
 - 30-38 – sandy loam
 - 38-42 – orange clay
 - Artifacts: N/A (illegible)
- STP # 2-1-2:
 - Depth: 51 cm
 - 0-20 – dark sandy loam
 - 20-51 – very mottled light dry clay
 - Artifacts: None; ton of slag
- STP # 2-1-3:
 - Depth: 47 cm
 - 0-12 – dark sandy loam
 - 12-47 – heavily mottled silky clay (dry)
 - Artifacts: None; ton of slag
- STP # 2-1-4:
 - Depth: 37 cm
 - 0-5 – topsoil
 - 5-35 – brown clay
 - 35-37 – black gravelly sand
 - Artifacts: None

- STP # 2-1-5:
 - Depth: 45 cm
 - 0-14 – dark sandy loam
 - 14-45 – mottled mess – clay gravelly
 - Artifacts: None

- STP # 2-1-6:
 - Depth: 47 cm
 - 0-11 – dark sandy loam
 - 11-47 – heavily mottled clay
 - 12-24 – in west wall: pocket of dark gravel
 - Artifacts: Nails

- STP # 2-1-7:
 - Depth: 52 cm
 - 0-12 – dark, mottled clay loam
 - 12-52 – silty clay
 - Artifacts: None

- STP # 2-1-8:
 - Depth: 43 cm
 - 0-11 – dark loamy sand
 - 11-35 – mottled clay
 - 35-43 – dark clay
 - Artifacts: N/A (illegible)

- STP # 2-1-9:
 - Depth: 49 cm
 - 0-7 – dark sandy loam
 - 7-49 – light silt
 - Hit edge of electrical conduit
 - Artifacts: None

- STP # 2-1-10:
 - Depth: 40 cm
 - 0-9 – topsoil
 - 9-40 – mottled silt
 - Artifacts: Decorated whiteware
 - Notes: Stopped because of root

- STP # 2-1-11:
 - Depth: 52 cm
 - 0-52 – jet-black loam
 - Artifacts: None

- Notes: Could not dig deeper due to roots
- STP # 2-1-12:
 - Depth: 44 cm
 - 0-44 – dark silty soil
 - Artifacts: None
- STP # 2-1-13:
 - Depth: 53 cm
 - 0-17 – dark loam
 - 17-22 – lighter sandy loam
 - 22-28 – dark band of loam
 - 28-53 – medium dark loam
 - Artifacts: one cut bone
- STP # 2-1-14:
 - Depth: 49 cm
 - 0-22 – dark sandy loam
 - 22-49 – silty sand
 - Artifacts: None
- STP # 2-1-15:
 - Depth: 55 cm
 - 0-10 – topsoil (compact)
 - 10-21 – black gravelly (slag)
 - 21-55 – light brown compact silty clay
 - Artifacts: None; large chunks of slag
- STP # 2-1-16:
 - Depth: 44 cm
 - 0-16 – dark sandy loam
 - 16-22 – lighter band of silt
 - 22-44 – bright coarse sand
 - Artifacts: None; large chunks of slag
- STP # 2-1-17:
 - Depth: 36 cm
 - 0-9 – dark sandy loam
 - 9-34 – light compact silt
 - 34-36 – clay
 - Artifact: Yes, but object could not be identified
- STP # 2-1-18:
 - Depth: 38 cm
 - 0-14 – orange, gravelly sand

- 14-38 – fine sandy loam
 - Becomes very compact
 - Artifacts: None
- STP # 2-1-19:
 - Depth: 49 cm
 - 0-13 – dark, sandy loam
 - 13-35 – dark orange silt
 - 35-49 – light, compact silt
 - Artifacts: None
- STP # 2-1-20:
 - Depth: 39 cm
 - 0-19 – light brown sand
 - 19-39 – compact silt clay
 - Artifacts: Nails; white object with writing