

MSU Campus Archaeology Program Project Summary Sheet

Report No. #89

Date of Survey: 06/14/2011

Site Name: North Red Cedar River Trail - Pedestrian Survey

Principal Investigator: Chris Stawski

Physical Plant Project Name: Check IPF Website for project name

Project Justification: Went to North Red Cedar River to map and survey the footings of the old bridge used to transport coal to the old power plant. This was conducted during the Beaumont West field school as a day excursion.

Location: Not specified in field notes, but based on maps, the bridge crossed the Red Cedar River near the location of old Wells Hall, ca. 1915. The footings described in the field notes are in this area and survey would have been conducted on the north side of the bridge.



Figure 1: Location of pedestrian survey



Campus Zone: *South Campus*

Survey Type: Pedestrian Survey and Mapping

Methodology: Unknown

Background: From historical summary of [Service & Trowbridge Road](#):

Following MSU's establishment, as the need to strengthen Lansing's position as the new state capital grew, the development of transcontinental railroads for increased travel across Michigan and the Midwest directly impacted land on MSU's campus. As is still standing today, MSU's campus includes both the Pere Marquette and Grand Trunk railroad lines (now called the Canadian National Railway and the CSX Transportation), which intersect south of Trowbridge Road, just east of highway 496. Once known as the "Chicago Junction," as it was one of the principal ways to travel to Chicago, and later as the Trowbridge Junction, this diamond has been a feature of East Lansing since the turn of the 20th century (Michigan Railroads). Today, these railroad lines are still in service and are located adjacent to both Trowbridge and Service Roads.

Summary/Conclusions: Surface artifacts collected and listed on survey sheet. Survey sheet cannot be located, but cataloged artifacts. From MSU archives and historical collections, discussing MSU phases and the power plant: "Phase II of the college brought an increase in the number of students and energy demands. In 1900, a 1 ¾ mile railroad track was built from Trowbridge Rd across the Red Cedar River and behind Olds Hall that transported 3,000 tons of coal annually to the Old College power plant."

(<https://onthebanks.msu.edu/Object/162-565-3258/dold-power-house-circa-1900/>).

More information from Forsyth: <https://kevinforsyth.net/ELMI/power.htm>.

Forsyth states that bridge was part of the Pere Marquette railroad spur and was completed in 1901. Using campus maps (below) we see the bridge on the 1915 and still appears as late as 1955.

In 2014, the western portion of the area was excavated as part of the Admin/Gunson field school, CAP report #57, and a large amount of historic material culture was recovered. The field school excavation encountered a mixture of utilitarian goods, high end ceramics and glass, laboratory glass, greenhouse equipment, and building material suggests that the likely origin of this material is the nearby home of Professor Thomas Gunson.

Recommendations and Priority: This area of campus, along the Red Cedar River, is of high potential for additional historic artifacts, as such additional archaeological survey should be conducted in this area ahead of construction and construction should be monitored by CAP archaeologists.

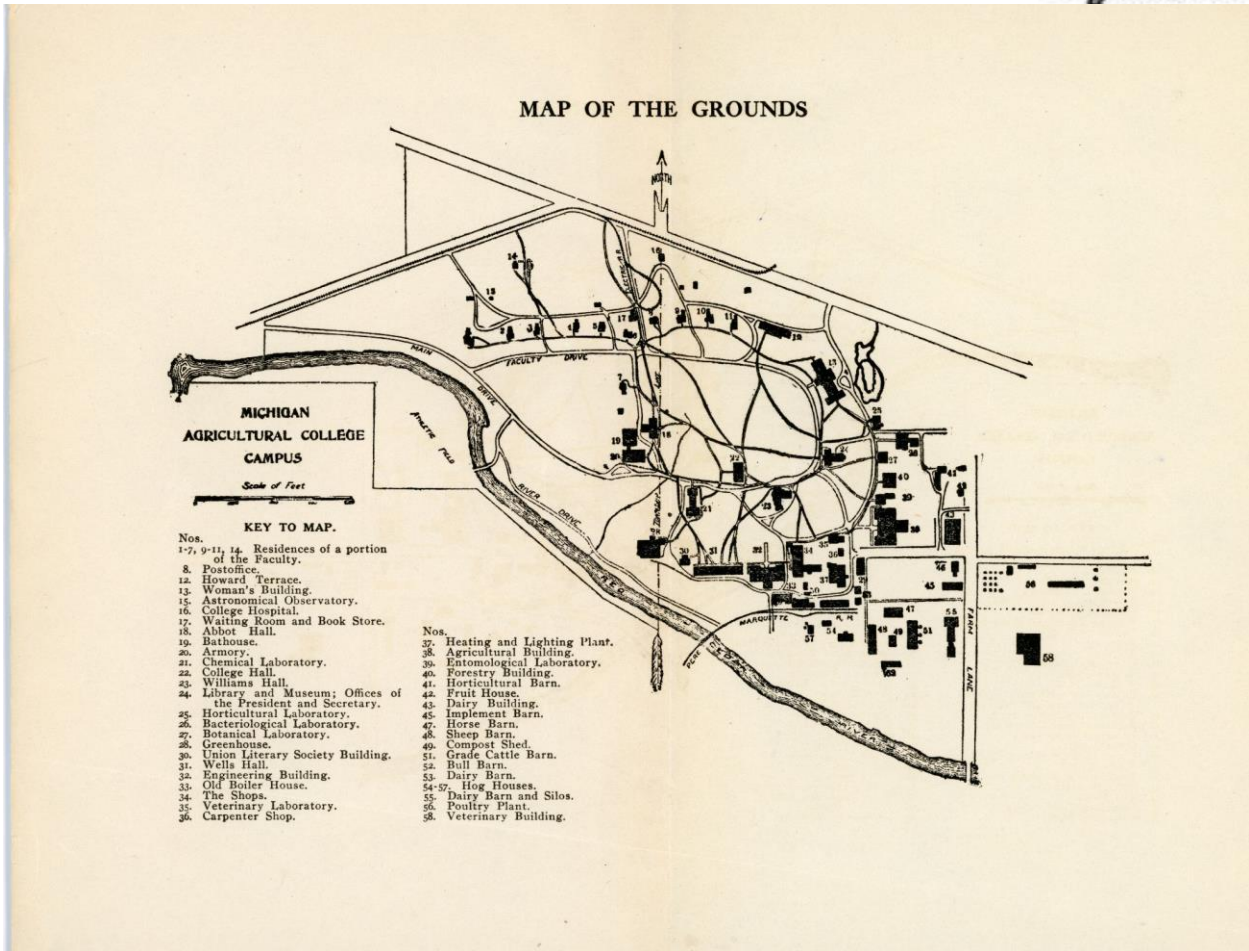


Figure 2; Campus Map ca. 1915, courtesy of the MSU Archives and Historical Collections. Resource ID: A007877



Figure 3: From Forsyth: Pere Marquette trestle over the Red Cedar River during a spring thaw, view toward the northeast, circa 1909. The square smokestack of the first boiler house may be seen at right, with second [Wells Hall](#) at left and [Engineering](#) at center. Photo Credit: [M.S.U. Archives](#), reprinted in [Nixon](#), p. 31.

Artifact Catalog:

Cat. #	Site Name	Artifact Type	Count	Weight	Notes
11-133	N Red Cedar Survey	Bone	4	9.6	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-134	N Red Cedar Survey	Bottle Glass	23	179.7	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-135	N Red Cedar Survey	Bottle Glass	3	166.3	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-136	N Red Cedar Survey	Brick	2	114.8	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. Unglazed brick.
11-137	N Red Cedar Survey	Brick	1	109.2	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
Material type total:				224	
11-138	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	23	124.3	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-139	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	1	13.6	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. Patterned ceramic
11-140	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	1	0.5	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-141	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	1	2.4	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. Glazed earthenware
11-142	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	1	0.7	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-143	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	2	84.4	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-144	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	2	77.8	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-145	N Red Cedar Survey	Ceramic	2	136.1	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
Material Type Total			33	439.8	
11-146	N Red Cedar Survey	Glass	8	29	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-147	N Red Cedar Survey	Glass	16	78.6	6/14/11 Excavators

					CAPFS11
11-148	N Red Cedar Survey	Glass	36	119.6	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-149	N Red Cedar Survey	Glass	1	5.3	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. Milk glass
11-150	N Red Cedar Survey	Glass	1	1	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
Material Type Total			62	233.5	
11-151	N Red Cedar Survey	Lithic Flake	3	1.8	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-152	N Red Cedar Survey	Metal	5	44.4	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-153	N Red Cedar Survey	Metal	7	1321.6	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. Bolts, railroad spike, unknown domed piece, other.
Material Type Total			12	1366	
11-154	N Red Cedar Survey	Mortar/Plaster	1	13.4	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-155	N Red Cedar Survey	Nail	2	97.2	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-156	N Red Cedar Survey	plastic	1	2.2	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-157	N Red Cedar Survey	Shell	1	0.7	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11
11-158	N Red Cedar Survey	Unknown	2	5	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. Unknown black glassy substance
11-159	N Red Cedar Survey	Unknown	2	0.5	6/14/11 Excavators CAPFS11. White domed bean like substance