

MSU Campus Archaeology Program Survey Summary Sheet



Survey No. 32

Date of Survey: 06/03/2010-06/04/2010

Site Name: MSC Powerplant

Principal Investigator: Terry Brock

Physical Plant Project Name: N/A

Project Justification: Done in response to the MSC Powerplant tower being removed

Location: Corner of W Shaw Ln. and Red Cedar Rd.

Campus Zone: Athletic District

Survey Type: Shovel Test Pit

Methodology: Survey consisted of two sweeps (grids) each with a series of transects, which were based on 5-meter intervals, so final hole number = 1 (sweep)-1(transect)-1(hole). Twenty-two positive STPs.

Summary/Conclusions: Very few shovel test pits had artifacts of historic value, but there was a distinct coal layer present in all pits. A railroad spike was recovered from the site. There is no obvious historic association though the presence of heavy coal deposits corroborates its long-term use for generating power, possibly overspill from unloading train. No diagnostic artifacts recovered.

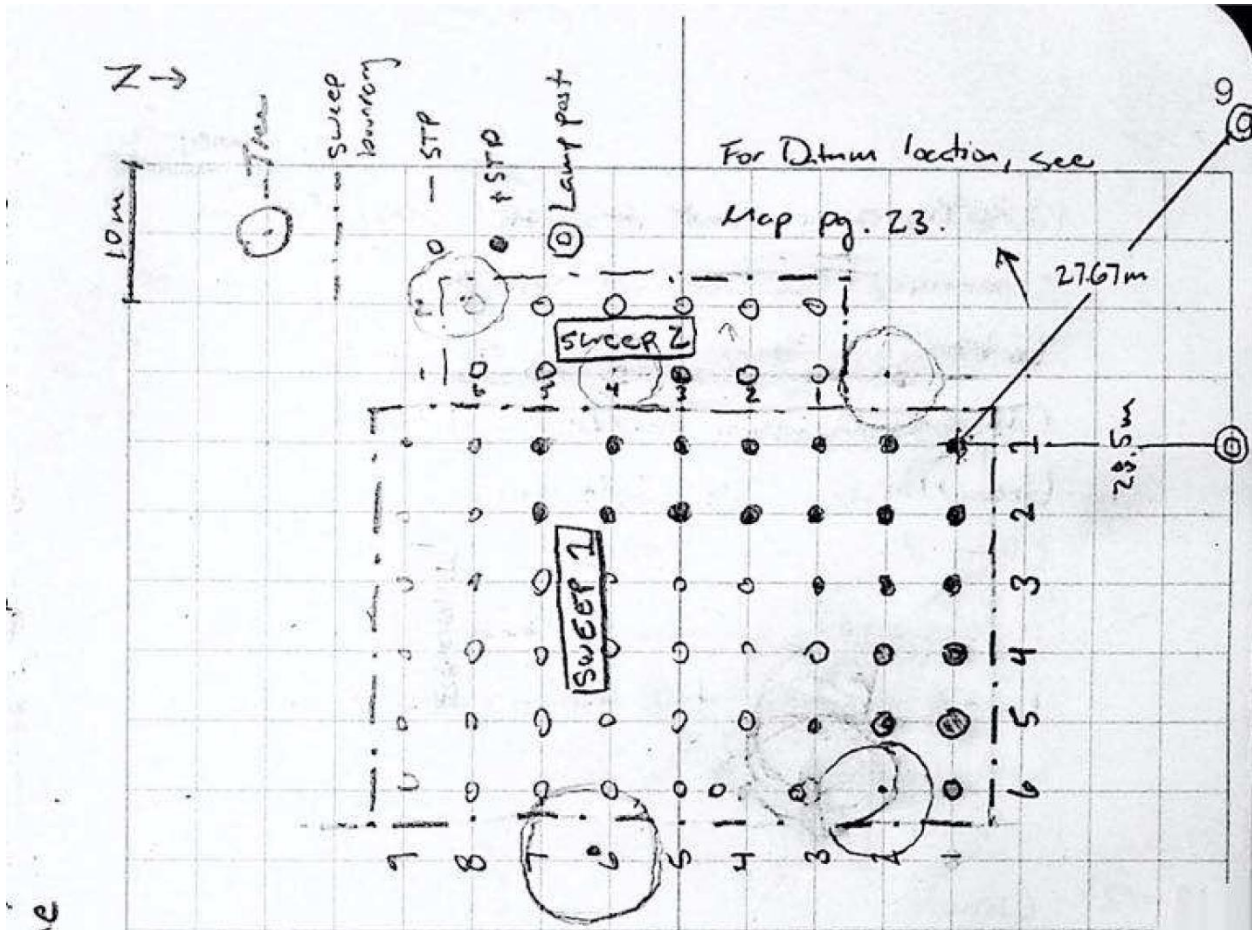
Recommendations and Priority: Construction can proceed in this area, and the priority is medium low.

STPs:

Notes: All STPs had a distinct coal layer from 20 – 40 cmbs deeps. 1-2-1 had the highest concentration of coal, and a subsurface at the bottom at 40 cmbs. This surface is 7 cm thick, and a hard, compact gravel layer w. orangey (reddish-yellow / yellowish-brown?) color. This STP is located along where the old rail line may have run, the heavy coal deposits in 1-1-1 and 1-3-1 may have been from overspill. 1-2-2 continues to have the gravel subsurface, as well as a layer of clay on top of it. This has been the most interesting thus far. Don't seem to have any diagnostic artifacts.



Map:



- 1-1-1
 - End depth: 56 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 - 15 cmbs
 - Coal layer: 15 - 26 cmbs
 - Compact soil: 26 - 41 cmbs
 - Subsoil: 41 - 56 cmbs
 - Artifacts: coal, glass (1)
- 1-2-1
 - End depth: 68 cm (88?)
 - Strata
 - Top soil: 0 - 13
 - Coal layer: 13 - 40
 - Compact gravel: 40 - 47
 - Mottled soil 47 - 60
 - Sterile soil: 60 - 88
 - Artifacts: coal, brick frags, ceramic pipe (1)
 - This STP had a distinct gravel subsurface

- 1-3-1
 - End depth: 46 cmbs
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 – 17
 - Coal layer: 17 – 26
 - Sand: 26 – 33
 - Compact sand: 33 – 46
 - Artifacts: beer caps (not saved), coal (sample)
- 1-4-1
 - End depth: 45 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 – 23
 - Coal layer: 23 – 34
 - Compact sand: 34 – 45
 - Artifacts: coal (sample)
- 1-5-1
 - Depth: n/a
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: n/a
 - Coal: n/a
 - Subsoil: n/a
 - Artifacts: coal sample
- 1-6-1
 - Same as 1-5-1
- 1-1-2
 - Depth: 36 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 -10
 - Coal layer: 10 – 18
 - Brown sand: 18 – 36
 - Sterile sand w. probe: 36 – 44
 - Artifacts: coal (sample)
- 1-2-2
 - Depth: 83 cmbs
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 – 10
 - Compact soil: 10 – 17
 - Coal layer: 17 – 24
 - Slag layer: 24 – 43
 - Gravel subsurface: 43 – 50
 - Mottled soil: 50 – 67
 - Sandy subsoil: 67 – 83
 - Artifacts: brick (1), coal (sample)
- 1-3-2
 - Depth: 53 cmbs

- Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 - 15
 - Coal layer: 15 - 27
 - Sandy subsoil w. clay lens: 27 - 53
 - Artifact: coal (sample), cement (1)
- 1-4-2
 - Depth: 49 cmbs
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 - 20 cm
 - Coal layer: 20 - 33 cm
 - Sand: 33 - 37
 - Sandy subsoil: 37 - 49
 - Artifact: coal (sample), metal (1)
 - Metal was deep, but not rusty
- 1-5-2
 - Depth: 64 cmbs
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 - 23
 - Coal layer: 23 - 30
 - Clay sand: 30 - 35
 - Sandy subsoil: 35 - 64
 - Artifacts: brick (1), coal (sample)
- 1-6-2
 - Not excavated due to tree
- 1-1-3
 - Depth: 69 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 - 10
 - Coal layer: 10 - 28
 - Sandy loam: 28 - 52
 - Sandy subsoil: 52 - 69
 - Artifacts: window glass (1), bottle glass (1), concrete (1), coal (discarded)
- 1-2-3
 - Depth: 60 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 - 10
 - Compact soil (B-horizon): 10 - 20
 - Coal: 20 - 24
 - Slag: 24 - 39
 - Gravel sub surface: 39 - 44
 - Mottled soil: 44 - 51
 - Subsoil: 51 - 60
 - Artifacts: brick (sample), coal (sample)
- 1-3-3
 - Depth: 52 cmbs

- Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 – 23
 - Sand: 23 – 28
 - Coal layer: 28 – 30 – coal ash throughout layer
 - Sand: 30 – 52
- Artifact: window glass (1), coal (sample)
- 1-4-3
 - Depth: 32
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 – 9
 - Sand: 9-13
 - Coal layer: 13 – 30
 - Clay (v. compact): 30 – 32
 - Artifact: coal (sample), burnt wood (7)
- 1-6-3 → moved 1m south
 - Depth: 30 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil 0 – 9
 - Sand, ash, coal: 9 – 24
 - Coal layer: 24 – 27
 - Yellow clay: 27 – 30
 - Light grey, heavily compacted soil: stopped here
 - Coal (sample), brick (1), fieldstone (1)
- 1-4-1
 - Depth: 56 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil; 0 – 8
 - Compact soil: 8 – 16
 - Coal layer: 16 – 24
 - Sandy loam: 24 - 48
 - Sandy sub: 48 – 56
 - Artifact: ceramic utility pipe (1), metal band (1), wire nail (1), clinkers (2)
- 1-2-4
 - Depth: 70 cmbs
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 – 12
 - Light brown soil: 12 – 22
 - Coal layer: 22 – 30
 - Slag layer: 30 – 44
 - Gravel layer(compact): 44 – 55
 - Mottled soil: 55 – 65
 - Sandy sub: 65 – 70
 - Artifact: coal (sample)
- 1-3-4
 - Depth: 61 cmbs

- Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 – 14
 - Sand: 14 – 29
 - Coal layer: 29 – 32
 - Sand: 32 – 61
- Artifact: coal (sample), bottle glass (1), brick (9)
- 1-4-4
 - Depth: 49 cmbs
 - Strata
 - Topsoil: 0 - 21
 - Coal layer: 21 – 23
 - Buried A-horizon: 23 – 26
 - Coal layer: 26 – 28
 - Sand: 28 – 30
 - Soil: 30 – 48
 - Sand: 48 – 49
 - Artifact: coal (sample), ash (discarded)
- 1-5-4
 - Depth: n/a
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: n/a
 - Coal: n/a
 - Artifact: coal (sample)
- 1-6-4
 - Depth: 28 cmbs
 - Strata:
 - Topsoil: 0 – 18
 - Compacted soil: 18 – 28
 - Artifact: coal (sample)