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:
  o Depth: 39 cm
    ▪ 0-13 – sandy gravel
    ▪ 13-16 –
    ▪ 14-39 – gravelly clay
  o Artifacts: none

• STP # 1-1-2:
  o Depth: 48 cm
    ▪ 0-28 – dark (black) gravelly sand
    ▪ 28-48 – gravelly clay
  o Artifacts: glass

• STP # 2-1-1:
  o Depth: 42 cm
    ▪ 0-8 – dark clay gravel
    ▪ 8-30 – mottled lighter clay
    ▪ 30-38 – sandy loam
    ▪ 38-42 – orange clay
  o Artifacts: N/A (illegible)

• STP # 2-1-2:
  o Depth: 51 cm
    ▪ 0-20 – dark sandy loam
    ▪ 20-51 – very mottled light dry clay
  o Artifacts: None; ton of slag

• STP # 2-1-3:
  o Depth: 47 cm
    ▪ 0-12 – dark sandy loam
    ▪ 12-47 – heavily mottled silky clay (dry)
  o Artifacts: None; ton of slag

• STP # 2-1-4:
  o Depth: 37 cm
    ▪ 0-5 – topsoil
    ▪ 5-35 – brown clay
    ▪ 35-37 – black gravelly sand
  o Artifacts: None
• STP # 2-1-5:
  o Depth: 45 cm
    • 0-14 – dark sandy loam
    • 14-45 – mottled mess – clay gravelly
  o Artifacts: None

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

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

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

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

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

• STP # 2-1-11:
  o Depth: 52 cm
    • 0-52 – jet-black loam
  o 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