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Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Lawrence University Garden, Appleton, Wisconsin

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PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY GARDEN
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

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Abstract
Lawrence University was notified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that the construction of a “Council Ring” included on plans for a pedestrian walkway along the Fox River which were submitted to the state for permit evaluation might impact archaeological site OU-85, and an assessment of that impact was requested. Peter Neal Peregrine, a Registered Professional Archaeologist on the faculty of Lawrence University, carried out the site assessment. He conducted archival research and a Phase I surface survey and found that the construction of the “Council Ring” would not impact site OU-85 and that there are no significant archaeological deposits in the proposed area of the “Council Ring”. In addition, Peregrine clarified the location of site OU-85, and recommends a survey of the new location be conducted if construction on that site is proposed.
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**Introduction**

In August of 2009 Lawrence University applied for a permit from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to construct a pedestrian “Riverwalk” and “Council Ring” along the north bank of the Fox River in Appleton (see Figure 1). As part of the permit evaluation, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources notified Lawrence University that the proposed “Council Ring” might impact archaeological site OU-85 as listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society’s archaeological site inventory (see Figure 2). The Department of Natural Resources requested that an archaeological evaluation of impact be performed.

In September of 2009, Lawrence University separated the “Council Ring” portion of the project from the permit application, with the expectation of submitting a new permit application for the “Council Ring” portion of the project by the end of 2009. Peter Neal Peregrine, a Registered Professional Archaeologist, was asked on September 18, 2009 to conduct an archaeological impact evaluation of the “Council Ring” area by Lynn Hagee, project manager for Lawrence University, in anticipation of the new permit application. Peregrine conducted archival research on the site area during the week of September 20, 2009, and performed a surface survey of the area on September 29, 2009.

**Environmental Setting**

The survey area is located on the north bank of the Fox River on what appears to be an artificial plateau approximately 15 feet above the river and approximately 10 feet above the natural floodplain (see Figure 3). The river bank slopes steeply towards the river, and is reinforced against erosion along the bottom by a diverse assortment of large rocks and concrete debris. The bank itself is tree-lined with mature maples and poplars. Soil probes indicate that area contains roughly 8 to 10 inches of rich organic topsoil (10YR 4/3) on top of a layer of mottled clay fill (7.5 YR 4/6) which extends to a depth of at least 3 feet.

Water depth and flow in the Fox River adjacent to the survey area has been controlled by dams since the early 1850s.\(^1\) Prior to the creation of those water control structures the river had a series of rapids that were a significant enough navigation hazard that a system of locks to carry boat traffic around them was constructed as early as 1851.

This region of the Fox River was home to a diversity of Native American groups, including the Menominee and Ho Chunk.\(^2\) Although there are no identified historic village sites in this region of the river, prehistoric villages have been identified in many locations along the banks of the Fox River.\(^3\) These sites appear most common on alluvial flats providing easy access to the river. Although none have been recorded, it would seem reasonable that a village site might have been

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\(^2\) e.g. Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents 54:196-243.

\(^3\) Copies of SHSW Outagamie County site files in the possession of the Department of Anthropology, Lawrence University.
present in the survey area as well as in the area known as the “Industrial Flats” located directly across the river from the survey area.⁴

The survey area has been part of the Lawrence University campus since 1847. It is bounded on the east by Lawe Street, and old maps of the area suggest that Lawe Street itself may have cut across the eastern side of the survey area in the 1870s, and perhaps earlier (see Figure 4).⁵ Memorial Hall (built in 1952) is located on a hill above the survey area to the north. An unpaved access road runs along the base of the hill and cuts through the northern portion of the survey area. To the west of the survey area, and immediately adjacent to the location of the proposed “Council Ring” is an electrical substation and, built into the hill upon which Memorial Hall sits, is the Buchanan-Kewitt Recreation Center, (built in 1986).

The survey area has been used as a garden for Lawrence University since 2005 (see Figure 5). The entire area was power-tilled in 2004 and then hand-leveled using steel rakes. Individual garden plots were established, and these have had composted topsoil introduced annually since 2006. Garden plots and path areas are power-tilled every year, and the garden plots are weeded and hand tilled throughout the growing season.⁶

**Archaeological Context**

The survey area was targeted because it is situated within the identified boundaries of Wisconsin site OU-85. This site was identified in 1911 by G.R. Fox in a manuscript included in the Charles E. Brown Manuscript collection housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society.⁷ Fox reported that the site is located in the rapids of the Fox River at the tail race for the Patten Paper Company. The site was discovered while excavating the tail race, with the discovery consisting of a “large number of copper tools, mostly points and knives.”

The Patten Paper Company was located on North Island Street in the “Industrial Flats” of Appleton, across the river and to the west of the survey area (see Figures 6 and 7). Based on fire insurance maps, the tail race was initially excavated between 1883 and 1886.⁸ Additional excavations of the tail race were likely undertaken between 1891 and 1901 when rail and traffic bridges across the tail race were replaced, and again between 1901 and 1911 when water pipes were installed. Thus the location of the site as reported by G.R. Fox is most likely some 400 feet west and 100 feet south of the location provided in the Wisconsin Historical Society’s archaeological site inventory (see Figure 8). An exact location of the tail race is impossible to determine today, as the Patten Paper Company buildings no longer exist and the entire area from just east of its original location to the western end of the island has been filled and levede (see Figure 9). A visual inspection by Peregrine suggests that the head race opening may still be identifiable on the north bank of West’s Canal, though further archaeological investigation would be necessary to make a firm determination.

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⁴ Personal correspondence, Ronald Mason, Professor emeritus, Lawrence University.
⁵ e.g., Plat Map of Outagamie County, 1877.
⁶ Personal correspondence, Jeffrey Clark, Associate Professor of Geology, Lawrence University.
⁷ The information here is taken from the site file for OU-85.
⁸ Maps consulted were dated 1883, 1886, 1895, 1901, and 1911. All were published by the Sandborn Map Company, New York.
Methods
A pedestrian survey of the cultivated portions of the Lawrence University garden was conducted by Peregrine. The areas of cultivated soil visible constituted roughly 40% of the entire garden area. No prehistoric archeological materials were discovered during the pedestrian survey. There were a small number of historic glass and ceramic fragments, none diagnostic, and none in any concentration. No artifacts were collected, as none were diagnostic. In addition, soil probe samples were taken from three locations within the proposed “Council Ring” area. All showed roughly 8 to 10 inches of organic topsoil above a dense clay subsoil which extends to a depth of at least 3 feet. No other strata were seen. Eroded portions of the river bank were examined for evidence of archaeological materials or subsurface strata. None were identified. In addition, the faculty supervisor of the Lawrence University garden plot and several students who have worked in the garden were interviewed to determine if any archaeological materials had been found since the survey area was put into cultivation in 2005. None of the interviewees were aware of any archaeological materials having been discovered.

Results of Investigations
No archaeological deposits were identified in the survey area. The area appears to contain a deep layer of dense clay fill which may explain its high elevation relative to river bank areas to both the east and west (roughly 10 feet above what appears to be the natural river floodplain). This fill may have been introduced during the construction of the several bridges across the river at Lawe Street, which runs along the eastern edge of the survey area and which, according to historic plat and fire insurance maps, may have run through the eastern side of the survey area. Fill may also have been introduced to create the access road that runs along the base of the hill to the north of the survey area. In either case, if any early historic or prehistoric archaeological deposits are present in the survey area, they are likely deeply buried.

Archival research in preparation for the survey suggests that Wisconsin site OU-85 may be mis-located in the archaeological site inventory. If the site is indeed at the tail race for the Patten Paper Company, it should be located some 400 feet to the west and 100 feet to the south of its recorded location (see Figure 10). The suggested UTM coordinates of the site are East 388285, North 4901506.

Summary and Recommendations
There appear to be no archaeological deposits in the survey area, and no further investigation is recommended. Any archaeological deposits that might be present in the area are likely deeply buried beneath the current ground surface. Thus the proposed “Council Ring” is unlikely to disturb any archaeological deposits. If, during the construction of the “Council Ring,” archaeological materials are uncovered, they should be immediately reported to the Office of the State Archaeologist.
In addition, is it recommended that the Wisconsin archaeological site inventory file for OU-85 be updated with a new location as described in this report, and that this new location be surveyed for archaeological deposits if any construction is proposed for that area.
Figure 1. Location of the proposed “Council Ring” and the survey area, drawn on USGS Appleton 7.5 minute quadrangle.
Figure 2. WHS map of site OU-85 location.
Figure 3. Aerial photograph of the site OU-85 area. The Lawrence University garden is visible at the northwest end of the Lawe Street bridge. The red line denotes the approximate area surveyed.
Figure 4. An 1874 lithograph showing a “bird’s eye” view of the Fox River in Appleton, looking north. The Lawe Street bridge is on the far right, and appears to cut into the survey area, which is to the left (west) of the deep ravine. Lawe Street today runs directly up the ravine. Note the dam and the lock and canal running along the bottom of the image. Image is from the Outagamie County Historical Society.
Figure 5. Photograph of the Lawrence University garden on the day of survey. The suggested revised location of site OU-85 is across the river to the right of the green dumpsters.
Figure 6. Map showing the location of the Patten Paper Company and its tail race.
Figure 7. Superimposed map of Patten Paper Company tail race on aerial photograph. Note the amount of fill that has been added to the north bank of the Industrial Flats since the 1891 map.
Figure 8. Superimposed site location map on Figure 7, noting the suggested location of site OU-85 based on the description in the WHS site files.
Figure 9. Photograph taken from the approximate location of site OU-85 looking north towards the Lawrence campus.
Figure 10. Suggested revised location of site OU-85, drawn on the Appleton 7.5 minute quadrangle. This location is at UTM coordinates E388285 N4901506.