

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 2 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name 21SL55

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity

state Minnesota

code MN

county St. Louis

code 137

zip code 56649

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	0 buildings
	0 sites
	0 structures
	0 objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Edward C. Beard
Signature of certifying official

5/27/88
Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Nina Archabal
Signature of commenting or other official
Nina M. Archabal, State Historic Preservation Officer, Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4/6/88
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

John J. Knoed
Signature of the Keeper

July 8, 1988
Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC

RECREATION

Seasonal camp or permanent camp or hamlet

Outdoor recreation--park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

foundation N/A

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

Site 21SL55 represents a single component Terminal Woodland camp with intact cultural deposits and subsurface features. It also contains well preserved faunal elements and a possible ricing jig. The site is located in Voyageurs National Park on _____

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: The site contains one contributing resource which is a prehistoric archeological site.

Noncontributing Resources: There are no noncontributing resources at site 21SL55.

Environmental Description

The regional landscape is characterized by the uneven topography of an area heavily glaciated in the past. The topography consists of hills, glacial lakes, swamps, bogs, and rocky knolls. Lakeshores are generally rocky with an occasional sand beach, remnants of the glacial Lake Agassiz. The geology of the region is a result of glacial modification of ancient bedrock. Occupying a transitional zone, the park lies between the granitic and metamorphic rocks of the Vermillion batholith to the south and a complex greenstone belt to the north. During the historic period, precious minerals, such as gold and mica, attracted Euro-Americans to the region. The apparent paucity of lithic source materials for stone tools must have made a definite impact on adaptive strategies in prehistoric times.

The soils in the region are sandy. On the uplands, they tend to be shallow, while deep organic soils are found in the lowlands. Two major soil types form the predominate soil associations in the area. The upland soil association is a

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

PREHISTORIC

Period of Significance

Terminal Woodland

Significant Dates

A.D. 700-
1500

Cultural Affiliation

Terminal Woodland

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

Site 21SL55 can make a contribution in the area of prehistoric archeology. Cultural resources at the site can be evaluated for significance under Criterion D of the National Register's Criteria for Evaluation. The site is a significant single component Terminal Woodland site in Voyageurs National Park.

_____ is sites for occupation in regional settlement patterns. The presence of a possible ricing jig and intact subsurface features give added significance to the ability of the site to contribute to subsistence studies of the Terminal Woodland period in Voyageurs National Park.

Specific Dates

The site is representative of the Terminal Woodland or the Blackduck culture which dates from A.D. 700 to A.D. 1500. This was determined from surface treatments on body sherds and a small projectile point in the tradition of the Terminal Woodland time period. The presence of a possible ricing jig is also indicative of the intensive utilization of wild rice during the Terminal Woodland time frame.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

1. Subsistence. Subsistence information provides valuable insights into the activities conducted at 21SL55. The presence of bird remains identified as double-crested cormorant, along with beaver, lynx/bobcat, and moose represent animals that must

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # N/A
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # N/A

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Midwest Archeological Center
Voyageurs National Park


10. Geographical Data


Acreege of property .10 acre

UTM References

A 
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

B 
 Zone Easting Northing

D 

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description



See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Two east-west transects and a single north-south transect were used as the basis for determining the extent of the site. The distribution of cultural remains recovered from the shovel tests along with observations of the stratigraphy of the deposit, were used to define the site limits and select locations for more intensive testing.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathie Masters/Archeologist date 3/3/ 88
 organization Midwest Archeological Center telephone 402-437-5392
 street & number 100 Centennial Mall North state Nebraska zip code 68508-38
 city or town Lincoln,

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coarse-to-fine textured forest soil composed of decomposed igneous rock mixed with reddish-brown noncalcareous sandy till. The lowland soil association is a coarse-to-fine textured forest/organic soil. The soil is composed of glacially deposited calcareous clays and post glacial plant material.

The vegetation at the site consists primarily of deciduous forest with some coniferous species. Dense underbrush covers the forest floor.

Native vegetation in the region is characterized by a mixed conifer-hardwood forest. The forests of the border lakes region are to a large extent a product of the modifying effects of the large bodies of water they surround. Several plant communities exist in the region. A variety of flora is contained in these communities. The most important fruits for prehistoric and historic human consumption in the Rainy Lake region are the various berries: blueberries, bunchberries, chokeberries, cranberries, dewberries, juneberries, and raspberries. Although rather scarce, sugar maple trees may have also served as important food sources. Several wild vegetables (including arrowhead tubers, wild potatoes, and water lilies), and herbs are found in the region. A major food source in late prehistoric and historic times is wild rice (Zizania aquatica).

The historic Chippewa relied on wild rice as one of the main staples in their diet. At one time, the Rainy Lake area was considered a major wild rice producing region. Construction of modern dams has reduced the range of the wild rice in Rainy Lake region to small patches within the park boundaries.

Fauna in the region was quite diverse before the onset of modern heavy logging practices. Mammals present in the region included both fur bearing and game species, examples of which were moose, caribou, deer, and beaver. Avian species included both aquatic and ground dwelling taxa. Fish may have also served as a major food resource to the prehistoric human inhabitants of the region (Cleland 1966).

The climate of the area is characterized by cool summers and severe winters. The mean annual temperature is about 37 degrees F (McAndrew 1966:15). Moisture is distributed fairly evenly throughout the entire year with mean annual precipitation between 27 and 28 inches (NPS 1978:58). Snow accumulations in winter vary from 4 to 10 feet. Summers are relatively cool and dominated by unpredictable thunderstorms. Winds are

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preominantly from the west and northwest, although a shift to the southeast occurs in late summer.

Physical Description

Site 21SL55 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in St. Louis County, Minnesota, within Voyageurs National Park. The site area takes up approximately [REDACTED]

Recordation

Gibbon (1977) described the site as being [REDACTED] but this area is largely a bedrock outcrop with only sporadic soil mantle. Examination of eroding shorelines on the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in 1979 revealed the presence of prehistoric archeological remains and the actual location of the site.

An intensive surface collection and pedestrian survey of the site recovered surface materials from the eroding shoreline on [REDACTED]. A recent secondary growth of birch and other deciduous trees obscured the extent and location of cultural remains. The dense undergrowth vegetation was a considerable deterrent to the definition of site parameters, so several narrow paths were cut to facilitate mapping and testing.

Shovel tests at 5-meter intervals were placed along transects across the site. Locations for more intense testing were selected from these shovel tests. Six 1 x 1-meter test pits, one 1.5 x 1 meter test pit and a 0.5 x 1-meter test pit were placed in areas that would permit an evaluation of the overall site content and condition.

Site stratigraphy at 21SL55 was found to be relatively uniform across the site. The upper humus layer usually extended 9-11 cm below surface. Beneath this loose organic layer was an apparent cultural occupation layer of dark gray-brown sandy loam that varied from 5 to 15 cm in thickness and contained most of the artifactual material. Soil pH and organic matter content is quite variable with a consistently high phosphorous content.

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Feature

During the course of mapping 21SL55, the field team observed a circular depression that was 92 cm in diameter and 20 cm deep. Previous investigations at Voyageurs National Park had hypothesized that these features might represent ricing jigs (Gibbon 1977). The upper 15 cm of the depression was found to contain a loose brown humic deposit. Beneath this was a basin shaped layer of dark organic loam. The bottom layer is a light gray silty clay not found anywhere else on the site. This silty clay appears to have been used to line the bottom and sides of the pit feature. Although the absence of cultural remains in direct association with the feature precludes a definitive assessment of its origins, the symmetry and stratigraphy indicate that it was man-made. The feature is similar to the clay-lined ricing jigs described by Johnson (1969:277) [REDACTED]. Indirect evidence of this function at 21SL55 is also present [REDACTED] which is known to have been a camping and ricing area for the historic Ojibwa (Adams 1979:8).

The site was visited again briefly by the Midwest Archeological Center staff in 1980. Surface survey and collection were conducted at this time.

Artifacts recovered from the surface collections and testing in 1979 and surface collections in 1980 include prehistoric ceramics, lithic debris, chipped stone tools, a hammerstone, and vertebrate faunal remains. The density of artifacts from the site is relatively low, and the small size of the island place a definite limitation on the size of the occupation.

Disturbances

The only disturbance is the eroding cutbank which makes up the south and east site boundary.

Area Excavated

The area of site 21SL55 is approximately 400 square meters. Twenty-four shovel tests and six 1 x 1 meter, one 1 x 1.5 meter pit, and one .5 x 1 meter pit were excavated. This amounts to 10.16 square meters or 2.5% of the total site area.

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Data Limitations

Limiting factors at 21SL55 include a small sample of ceramics and the absence of any radiocarbon or thermoluminescence dates to further substantiate the assigned Terminal Woodland cultural affiliation.

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have been exploited using several different hunting techniques. The beaver and lynx/bobcat were probably best taken with traps or snares, while the moose would have been most easily captured through cooperation of several individuals. The double-crested cormorant is a migratory species, so its presence at 21SL55 may be interpreted as evidence of spring through fall occupation. Overall the faunal remains are largely mammalian. If the sample were larger, this might be interpreted as evidence of a camp site oriented largely toward hunting and trapping. The small sample of identifiable fauna and the limited quantity of material obtained from fine-screen recovery technique require that this interpretation be treated as highly speculative. It is worth noting that the number of projectile points from the site is proportionately higher than most other sites in the park. This may also be indicative of a hunting camp. The presence of a well preserved possible ricing jig on the edge of the site is clearly indicative of activities related to processing this plant resource, and may be viewed as evidence of fall occupation. Good faunal preservation and the presence of ricing activities provide good research potential particularly in contributing further subsistence data for application to the model proposed by Cleland (1966, 1976) for determining focal or diffuse subsistence adaptations. (Gibbon and Caine 1980; Thompson 1981)

2. Settlement patterns. Prehistoric occupation of the site on this very small island in the chain of lakes emphasizes the variety of site locations utilized by prehistoric groups in the park. The site deposit at 21SL55 covers only about 400 square meters, and the artifact assemblage is indicative of an extended occupation. The presence of several forms of chipped stone tools, lithic debris, and ceramics indicate that the site was used extensively during one or more seasons of the year, and probably repeatedly over many years. It has been suggested that 21SL55 may have been a permanent camp (Lynott et al. 1986). The site has the potential to yield additional data to test this hypothesis.

3. A data resource on the Terminal Woodland. The Terminal Woodland period between A.D. 600 and A.D. 800 is poorly understood in the border lakes region. During this period,

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stylistic changes in ceramics and the appearance of the bow and arrow mark the beginning of the period. Because of the site's single component nature and potential to yield cultural material, it can be expected to help provide a clearer understanding of the Terminal Woodland period.

4. Site integrity. While considerable water erosion disturbance has taken place along the beach cutbank, the rest of the site is undisturbed and contains intact subsurface features, buried cultural deposits, and well preserved faunal remains.

Additional Significance

The determination of significance is a dynamic process subject to changes in the resource base and shifts in research interests (Lynott 1980). The finite nature of the archeological data base and the irreversible nature of its destruction are important factors when considering site significance. With uncontrolled development in the private sector the archeological data base is rapidly diminishing. Therefore, it is argued that the National Park System offers an excellent opportunity to preserve a wide range of cultural resources that will not be preserved elsewhere (Lynott 1982). As sites continue to be destroyed across the nation, and as archeological research interests and techniques evolve, National Park areas may become islands where the archeological record remains intact (Richner 1983). It is within these considerations that the significance of 21SL55 should be evaluated.

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Major Bibliographical References

Adams, Peter

- 1979 Oral history, on file at Voyageurs National Park.
Collected by Mary Lou Pearson

Cleland, Charles R.

- 1966 The Prehistoric Animal Ecology and Ethnozoology of the
Upper Great Lakes Region. Anthropological Papers,
Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, No. 27,
Ann Arbor.

- 1976 The Focal-diffuse model: an evolutionary perspective
on the prehistoric cultural adaptations of the eastern
United States. Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology
1:59-76.

Gibbon, Guy

- 1977 An Archeological and Historical Survey of Voyageurs
National Park, Minnesota. Ms. on file at Midwest
Archeological Center, Lincoln.

Gibbon, Cuy E. and Christy A.H. Caine

- 1980 The Middle to Late Woodland Transition in Eastern
Minnesota. Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology
Vol. 5, No. 1:57-72.

Johnson, Elden

- 1969 Archeological evidence for utilization of wild rice.
Science 163:3864:276-277.

Lynott, Mark J., Jeffrey J. Richner, and Mona Thompson

- 1986 Archeological Investigations at Voyageurs National Park:
1979 and 1980. Midwest Archeological Center Occasional
Studies in Anthropology No. 16 Midwest Archeological
Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

McAndrews, John H.

- 1966 Postglacial history of Prairie, Savanna and Forest in
northwestern Minnesota. Torrey Botanical Club, Memoir
22:2:1-72.

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- 1978 Draft Master Plan of Voyageurs Park, Minnesota. United
States Department of the Interior. National Park
Service.

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Thompson, Mona

1981 An evaluation of Late Woodland subsistence strategies for
north central Minnesota. Unpublished M.A. thesis,
Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska.

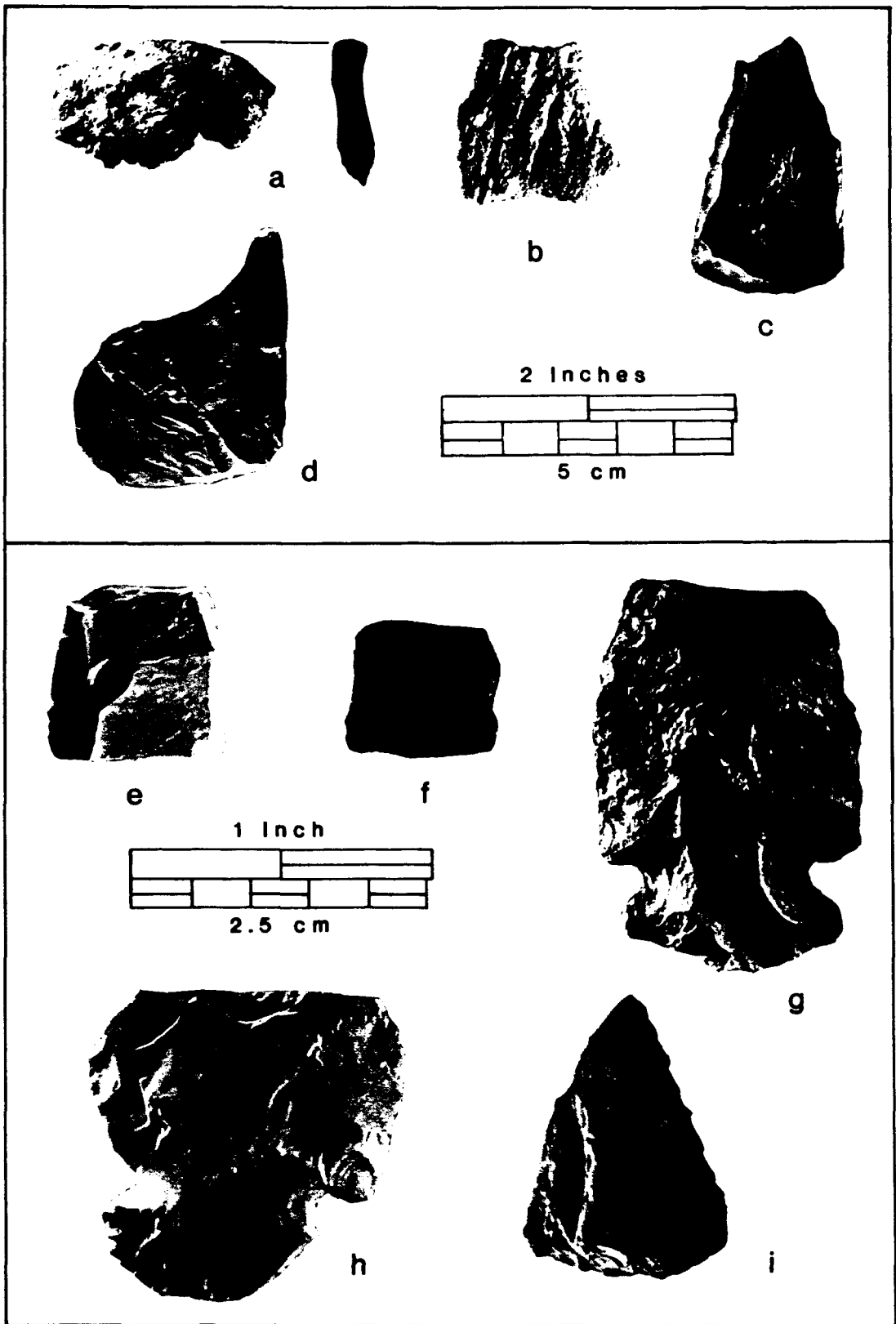


Figure 37. Selected prehistoric artifacts, 21SL55.
(From Lvnott et al. 1986:144)

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000989 Date Listed: 7/8/88

Archeological Site 21SL55 St. Louis Minnesota
Property Name County State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

John J. Knued

Signature of the Keeper

July 8, 1988

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Item 9. Bibliography.

Add:

Lynott, Mark J.

1980 The Dynamics of Significance: an example from central Texas. American Antiquity 45(1):117-120.

Richner, Jeffrey J.

1987 Archeological investigations at Apostle Island National Lakeshore, 1979-1980. Manuscript on file at the National Park Service Mid-West Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Item 10. Geographic Data

Add to Boundary Justification.

"The threshold for defining the site boundary was based on the absence of artifacts or features in two consecutive shovel test pits."

Verified by phone with:

Jeffrey J. Richner

Supervisory Archeologist, NPS Mid-West Archeological Center