

Appendix E

Phase Ia Cultural Resources Survey

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Type/Name:	Phase Ia Cultural Resources Survey, Mickelson Field Area Flood Risk Management Project, Fargo, North Dakota
Prepared for:	Houston Engineering, Inc.
County:	Cass
Principle Investigator:	Richard Rothaus
Legal Description:	T139, R48, Secs 5 and 6
Project Dates:	12 April 2013
Summary:	<p>There are no known archaeological properties in or adjacent to the project areas. The project area is in an old meander of the Red River and has minimal archaeological potential.</p> <p>ND SHPO has concurred with a determination of “No Properties Affected” for the FEMA grant-eligible portion of the project area. A similar finding is recommended for the non-FEMA portion of the project area.</p>

PREVIOUS PROJECT REVIEW

The majority of the project has been reviewed by the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, which concurred with a finding of “No Properties Affected” (ND SHPO Ref. 12-5628). That project review considered the FEMA grant-eligible portion of the undertaking (Exhibit A). This Phase Ia survey considers the entire undertaking (Exhibit B). The FEMA grant-eligible portion of the undertaking constitutes more than 50% of the project, and all ground disturbing activity will be in contiguous areas.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

State Historical Society of North Dakota Record Search

A site search was conducted by Amy Sakariassen using the records of the State Historic Preservation Office. No previously identified archaeological sites were identified within 2 miles of the project area. The project area has not been previously surveyed.

General Land Office Public Land Survey Maps (1878)

The U.S. General Land Office was established in 1812 to survey and manage federal and public lands. In addition to demarcating townships and sections, the Deputy Surveyors were charged with mapping the physical geography of the land. Usually the surveyors noted man-made features including structures, roads, and American Indian settlements. Surveyors generated maps and kept detailed survey notes. The GLO survey map does not indicate any cultural resources in or adjacent to the project area.

Locational information on sensitive areas should be removed from this report before public distribution. This report was compiled from the best available public and private data. The accuracy of these datasets is not warranted, and Trefoil shall not be held liable for error or omissions in these materials or for any improper or incorrect use of the information described and/or contained herein.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is directly adjacent to the Red River of the North and is currently occupied by the Mickelson Field recreational area. The location is low-lying and appears to be an old meander of the Red River, as indicated on the USGS topographic map (Exhibit C). The field has chronic flooding issues and is submerged almost every year. The USDA NRCS soil survey indicates that the majority of the soil is Urban land-Endoaquents (174A). The northeastern and southeastern portions of the field are a Cashel silty clay (1415B), which has some potential for buried soils (Exhibit D).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The project area appears to be an old meander of the Red River of the North that pre-dates the 1878 GLO Survey. In the Red River Valley, which is prone to flooding, topographic indicators of old meanders are quickly obliterated in flooding, suggesting that this area was a meander in the not too-distant past. As such the location has fairly minimal archaeological potential. Additionally, the low-lying area is frequently flooded and water-logged and standard archaeological testing would be extremely difficult at this location.

RECOMMENDATION

The existing finding of “No Properties Affected” should be extended to include the entire project undertaking.

EXHIBIT B: FULL PROJECT UNDERTAKING



	Fargo	Drawn by	Date	MICKELSON FIELD AREA FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA	OVERALL SITE PLAN PROPOSED CITY PROJECT PROJECT NO. 5902-02	SHEET 1 of 2
	P: 703.237.5065 F: 703.237.5103	KAL	10-23-12			

EXHIBIT C: PROJECT AREA (USGS TOPO)

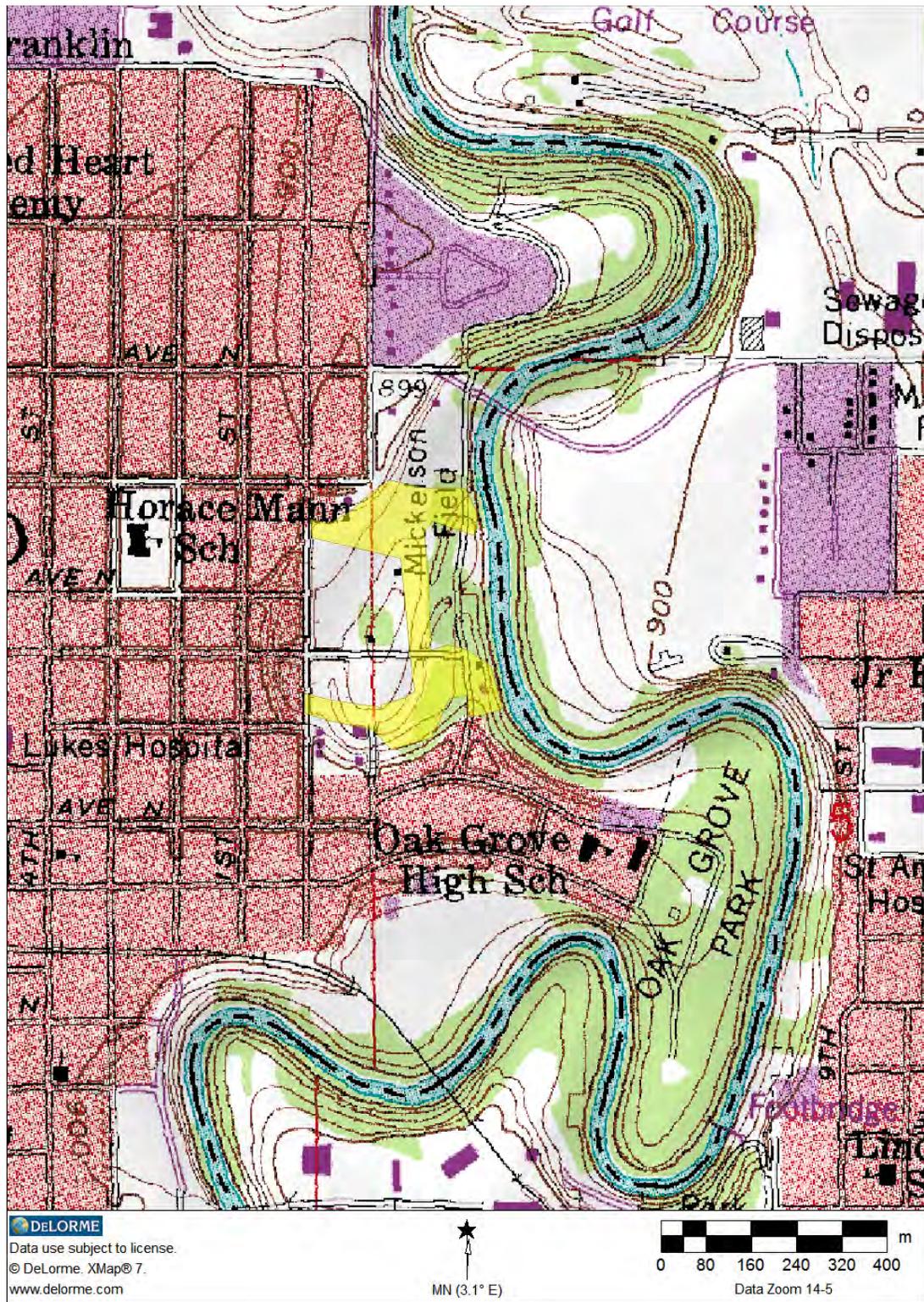


EXHIBIT D: AERIAL PHOTO AND SOILS

