Phase II Prehistoric Archaeological Evaluation of the Coney Island of the West (Site 21CR0164), Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota

Minnesota State Evaluation/Phase II Survey
Archaeological License #17-056

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DRAFT REPORT

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Management Summary/Abstract

Blondo Consulting, LLC (Blondo Consulting) was retained by Carver County Parks to complete a Phase II Prehistoric Archaeological Evaluation of the Coney Island of the West Site (21CR0164) as part of the proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West. A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment was completed on October 10, 16 through 21, and November 1 through 4, 2016. Site 21CR0164 was identified during that survey. The site consists of an archaeological site within the larger boundaries of the island (prehistoric and historic). The island is located within Township 116 north, Range 25 west, Sections 12 and13 of Carver County, Minnesota. Coney Island of the West has been previously recorded as a Historic Property and is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation was completed on May 3-5, May 8-12, May 15, May 22-26, May 30-31, June 1-2, and June 6-9, 2017 with Steven J. Blondo, MA as Principal Investigator.

The results of the 2016 Phase I Archaeological Survey identified site 21CR0164. A total of 305 shovel tests were completed within a fifteen-meter interval grid across the island. Thirty-six shovel tests were positive for prehistoric cultural materials which included a mixture of lithic material, prehistoric ceramics and faunal remains. Positive shovel tests were able to be lumped together within six identified "clusters." Diagnostic artifacts recovered in the Phase I survey included one stone projectile point (likely early Terminal Woodland Period), and cord roughened and grit tempered ceramic sherds (Middle to Terminal Woodland Period). One shell tempered sherd was recovered and appeared to be the single outlier of a later period. Blondo Consulting recommended a Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation to further define the site and determine eligibility for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places*.

Following is the methodology outlined in the proposed research design for Evaluation/Phase II Survey Archaeological License (17-056). Eighteen Phase II 1one meter by one meter test units (representing 17.5 square meters) and additional shovel testing within six identified clusters were completed May and June, 2017. Site 21CR0164, consists of prehistoric chert flakes, and decorated and undecorated ceramic sherds. Modern debris and historic artifacts were also present in some of the units consistent with the historic period use of the island. Phase II excavation documented two features and nine diagnostic artifacts (including ceramic rim sherds and projectile points). Features and diagnostic artifacts are consistent with use of the island by native peoples throughout the Middle to Terminal Woodland Period. Further analysis is underway to better categorize the site. Site 21CR0164 demonstrates many of the factors for eligibility for inclusion in the *National Register*. Diagnostic artifacts were recovered and features documented. Detailed analysis will assist with association of this site with a particular Woodland Tradition complex. **Blondo Consulting recommends site 21CR0164 as Eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* under Criterion D and recommends that the prehistoric component of Coney Island of the West be added to the existing *National Register of Historic Places* listing.**

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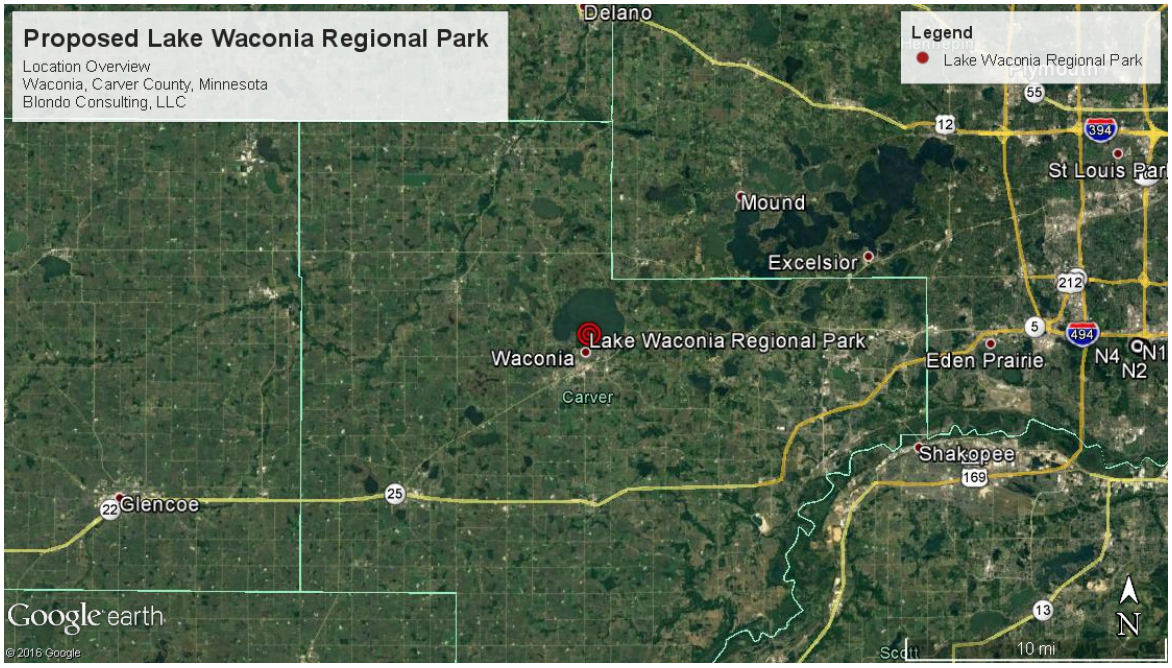
1.0 INTRODUCTION

In April 2017, Carver County, Minnesota retained Blondo Consulting, LLC (Blondo Consulting) to complete a Phase II Prehistoric Archaeological Evaluation of the Coney Island of the West Site (21CR0164) as part of the proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West, Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota. This evaluation answers that request. Steven J. Blondo, MA was the Principal Investigator for the project. Additional Blondo Consulting Staff included Kelly Wolf, MA, RPA, Lindsey Reiners, MS, Laura Koski, Benjamin Schweer, Melissa Mickelson, and volunteer, Mike Nowak. Dr. Jeremy Nienow, RPA of Nienow Cultural Consultants partnered on the project, acting as Field Supervisor and co-Principal Investigator (with Wolf) for Historic Archaeology.



Map 1. Project Location.

The initial Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Phase I investigation was the entire 31.85 acre Coney Island. The island is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* for its significance under historic recreational activities and tourism. The results of the Phase I survey can be found in the Blondo Consulting report *Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Lake Waconia Park, Coney Island of the West, Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota* from January 2017. During this survey, a previously unknown archaeological site was identified and recorded with the Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) as the Coney Island of the West Site, 21CR0164. The Phase II prehistoric investigation has focused on site 21CR0164 for the purpose of determining the site's contribution to the *National Register of Historic Places* listing. This involved additional subsurface testing at 21CR164 (test units and shovel testing). For a detailed discussion of Phase II License and Research Plans see Methodology Section below. The results of the investigation and recommendations are included in this report.

Map 2. Coney Island Topographic Map

2.0 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The APE for direct effect encompasses proposed trails and improvements proposed as part of the park project. The focus of this Phase II prehistoric investigation is on site 21CR0164, which was identified during the Phase I investigation. The site is located in Township 116 North, Range 25 West, Sections 12 and 13, which lies within Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota (see Maps 1 and 2 for general APE location).

Photograph 1. Crew at work on Test Unit Excavation.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area lies within Minnesota SHPO Archaeological Region 2: Prairie Lake. Dr. Scott Anfinson (1990) first described these archaeological regions which help us to understand the prehistoric environment and better understand where archaeological sites may be located. Region 2: Prairie Lake is located in southwestern and south-central Minnesota. Its topography consists of a patchwork of moraines, the Minnesota River trench, and lake basins (Anfinson 1990).

Photograph 2. Typical Vegetation Across Island.

3.1 Soils

Within Region 2, soils are described as ranging from medium to fine textured prairie soils in the central and western sections of the region, to fine and medium textured prairie border soils in the east (Anfinson 1990:148). Soils in the project area are described as part of both the Lester loam series on 6 to 10 percent slopes, and the Essexville sandy loam series on 0 to 2 percent slopes. The Lester loam series consists of well drained soils found on ground moraines, and hillslopes. The typical soil profile for this series consists of loam from 0 to 23 centimeters, clay loam from 23 to 76 centimeters, and loam from 76 to 200 centimeters. The Essexville sandy loam series consists of poorly drained soils found on beaches on lakes and moraines. The typical soil profile for this series consists of sandy loam from 0 to 38 centimeters, sand from 38 to 76 centimeters, and loam from 76 to 203 centimeters (NRCS 2014). Field results varied from mapped soils but were consistent across most of the island. Typical excavated soil profile consisted of black to very dark brown (10YR2/1 to 10YR2/2) silty clay loam from 0 to approximately 30 centimeters; very dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) silty clay with an increase of sand content corresponding to an increase in depth from 30 to 40; and brown silty clay from 40 to beyond 65 centimeters. The water table on the island was encountered at approximately 70 centimeters below ground surface.

3.2 Environmental Landscape

Anfinson's Archaeological Region 2: Prairie Lake overlaps Minnesota's ecological region of the North Central Glaciated Plains. The majority of the North Central Glaciated Plains Section consists of level to rolling calcareous till deposited by the Des Moines lobe. This area is divided by the Minnesota River Valley. The patterns of historic vegetation growth have been heavily influenced by the frequency and severity of fires. Till plains, moraines, lake plains and outwash plains cover the great majority of the region, with very little forestry. The moraines, lakebeds and prairie land also support small marshes, wetland prairie and wet meadows (DNR ECS).

3.3 Geological Background

H.E. Wright (1972) identifies the physiographic regions overlaying the state. Overlaying the project area is the Owatonna Moraine Area. This area extends west and south from Minneapolis down to the Iowa border. The linear shape of the Owatonna Moraine Area is defined by presence of north-south streams such as the Straight River. The eastern edge of the region terminates suddenly along the featureless area of the Rochester Till Plain, while the western edge gradually blends with the Blue Earth Till Plain. The region is defined by a rugged and forested northern portion, and a low relief in the southern portion. Prehistoric vegetation consisted mostly of prairie, but today the region consists of mainly farmland and forests (Wright 1972).

3.4 Prehistoric Flora and Fauna

The subsistence resources of the Early Prehistoric forests in the Prairie Lakes Region are not well known. They likely included non-extinct megafauna along with many of the plants and animals present in the northern and central Minnesota forests from Early Historic times. Bison would have been a primary resource during the Middle Prehistoric. They were also a strong resource during the Early Historic period as they had become somewhat dominant in the region, along with large elk herds. White tailed deer were also found in the Minnesota River Valley. The lakes promote various species of waterfowl, fish, and aquatic flora like water lilies and cattails. Wild rice was present, but not plentiful. Upland floral resources consisted of the prairie turnip, the ground plum, and acorns of the oak woods (Anfinson 1990).

4.0 CULTURAL HISTORY

At project commencement, historical background research and a literature search was completed at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA), in the archives at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), the Carver County Historical Society, as well as interviews with longtime Waconia residents. Previously recorded archaeological sites on the island as well as on the nearby shores of Lake Waconia were addressed during this search to assist in developing a site context to better understand the prehistory of the area. For a historic property (including archaeological sites) to be considered important within a cultural resource management context they must meet a level of significance and retain historic integrity for *National Register of Historic Places* listing. The National Historic Landmark Database was also consulted. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified in the National Historic Landmark Database. The background search concluded

in the finding of one previously recorded archaeological alpha site within the APE, and eight additional archaeological sites within a three-mile radius. Due to the nature of the project, the APE was the only area searched for historic structures. The island itself is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

4.1 Pre-Contact Period

4.1.1 Paleoindian Tradition (12,000 to 8,000 Before Present [B.P.])

The Paleoindian Tradition begins at the close of the Pleistocene era and beginning of the Holocene era. Native American Communities are small, mobile, and focused on hunting. During this period, the glacial ice retreats, Lake Agassiz (located on the edge of Traverse County, Minnesota) drains, and prairie vegetation advances into western Minnesota. Archaeological evidence from Paleoindian sites in Minnesota include the Browns Valley Site, 21TR0005, located near the region. They reflect the same general characteristics and patterns noted for Paleoindian sites throughout the central United States and Canada. Based on the small number of artifacts recovered from these sites, it can be assumed that these communities hunted a limited number of large animals, mainly mammoth and mastodons. As the Pleistocene era ended and the Holocene era began, these mega fauna gradually died out. Ancient species of bison followed the advance of prairie vegetation, giving Paleoindian peoples a new species to hunt. In addition to hunting large and small game, it is likely that gathering wild plant foods supplemented the diet of Paleoindian peoples.

Paleoindian peoples are known for their distinctive stone tools. Projectile points of this period show advanced craftsmanship and include large lanceolate projectile points. Because Paleoindian communities were small and nomadic, archaeologists have found only sparse, scattered evidence of Paleoindian peoples throughout the region.

4.1.2 Archaic Tradition (8,000 to 2,800 B.P.)

The beginning of the Archaic period is marked by a shift in diet and settlement patterns that represent an adaptation to environmental changes. Archaic peoples begin to use more diverse plant and animal resources. A broader range of tools including new projectile point forms, copper tools, and ground and pecked stone tools appear. Archaeological research does not present a clear picture of community size during this time. Research suggests both that community size increased and remained small with day-to-day activities taking place at a series of seasonal camps (Anfinson 1987; 1997). Bison hunting remained an integral part of life for Archaic peoples. As with known Paleoindian sites, Archaic sites are relatively small and sparse.

4.1.3 Woodland Tradition (2,800 B.P. to European Contact)

In the Midwest region, archaeologists tend to divide the Woodland Tradition into three periods: Early, Middle, and Late. However Anfinson (1987) suggests that in Minnesota it is more appropriate to divide the era into Initial and Terminal Woodland periods. Manufacturing ceramic vessels, utilizing bows and arrows, building burial mounds, and cultivating specific plant species, all mark the transition from the Archaic to the Woodland Tradition. Overall, subsistence during the Woodland Tradition remained similar to that of the Archaic period with communities dependent upon a diverse, seasonal resource base of plants and animals (Johnson 1988; Anfinson 1987).

Although community sizes have many similarities between the Early Woodland and Late Archaic period, by the Terminal Woodland period, populations are on the rise. This may be due to increased efficiency in food acquisition. Woodland period sites include burial mounds, small, limited-use sites, and large village and habitation sites. Sites are located either in areas where a community could focus on a specific resource or in environments capable of sustaining larger communities over longer periods of time.

4.1.4 Plains Village & Mississippian/Oneota Traditions (1,100 B.P. to European Contact)

Terminal Woodland period sites in Minnesota exhibit significant changes in subsistence and settlement patterns. Ceramic vessels with different form and decoration, settlement patterns shifting to larger and more permanent villages (usually near river settings) mark the change archaeologists refer to as the Plains Village and Mississippian/Oneota Traditions. Archaeological evidence indicates that both the Plains Village and Mississippian complexes relied heavily on bison hunting and intensive corn horticulture.

Archaeologists are unsure how the Oneota complexes developed. There are two common theories. The first suggests that groups migrating into the Upper Midwest brought with them new cultural traditions. The second theory proposes that people already living in the area began to adopt cultural changes different from groups around them.

Plains Village and Oneota site types are similar to those associated with the Woodland Tradition. The archaeological remains of these complexes range from burial mounds to small, limited-use sites and extensive habitation sites. Site location remains consistent with the Woodland Period.

4.2 Contact/Post Contact Period (1630 To Present)

This period generally refers to the span of time extending from the first European explorations until intensive Euro-American settlement of the region. Minnesota's historical period began in 1673 when French explorers Marquette and Joliet discovered the upper portion of the Mississippi River. Ten years later, Catholic Missionary Father Louis Hennepin told his story of exploring Minnesota and being held captive by the Dakota Indians in the first book written about Minnesota, *Description de la Louisiane*.

The territory containing modern-day Minnesota was claimed by Spain, France, Great Britain, and the United States. Lieutenant Zebulon Montgomery Pike lead the first United States expedition through Minnesota in 1805. Fort St. Anthony (later Ft. Snelling) was completed between 1819 and 1824, and in 1836 the Wisconsin Territory including a portion of Minnesota, was formed. Minnesota became a territory in 1849 and achieved statehood on May 11, 1858.

The fur trade drove much of the European exploration and settlement in Minnesota through the mid-1800s. While the fur trade impacted the Native American communities throughout all of Minnesota, the heaviest impacts came with European settlement after the 1860s. At that time, intensive settlement and agriculture dramatically transformed the landscape, displacing a large number of Tribes. In 1862 tensions between white settlers and Native Americans resulted in the U.S.-Dakota War. Ultimately, this war left 462 whites and "an unknown but substantial number" of Native peoples dead (Anderson and Woolworth 1988). This conflict concluded with

the hanging of 38 Dakota men in Mankato and the deportation of many others to Santee, Nebraska.

As white settlers made Minnesota their home, farming became the predominant industry. Wheat was the cash crop, and mills sprang up along major waterways across the state, notably in Minneapolis. Minnesota dominated the world in wheat processing until the 1930s.

In addition to milling, Minnesota was also a leader in lumbering and iron mining. Lumbering played a significant role in the development of northern Minnesota, with the industry peaking between 1899 and 1905. Iron mining began affecting the state's economy in 1884, when the Soudan Mine began shipping ore. The development of the Soudan Mine opened the Vermilion Iron Range, one of Minnesota's three iron ranges. Over the next two decades, mines sprang up across northern and central portions of the state. The Mesabi, Cuyuna, and Vermilion Iron Ranges employed thousands of people and brought millions of dollars into Minnesota's economy. Minnesota's iron industry spurred the rapid growth of mining cities such as Evelyth, Chisholm, Virginia, and Hibbing, as well as the port cities of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin" (Minnesota State University-Mankato 2007).

Native American archaeological site types associated with this period are generally consistent with those of earlier periods, but European and Euro-American traders, missionaries, settlers, and industries affect the locations of these sites. This period also includes Euro-American immigrant settlement patterns, subsistence activities, and economic strategies. Sites associated with Euro-American immigrants appear in the mid-nineteenth century. Associated archaeological and historic site types categorized in the Contact/Post-Contact period include standing structures as well as archaeological sites. A number of these sites can be found within the project area.

4.3 Regional History

4.3.1 Carver County

Carver County contains portions of the Minnesota and Crow Rivers, as well as one hundred and twenty-five lakes. Before European settlement, this area served as hunting grounds and was home to Dakota Tribes. Some of the first Euro-Americans to set foot in what is now Carver County were French fur traders sometime during the 1600s. A number of these fur traders, such as Jonathan Carver from Massachusetts, the county's namesake, created bonds with the Dakota and formed trade agreements. From the 1600s to the 1840s increasing numbers of Europeans travelled here to trade. Two trading posts were established just for this purpose in what would eventually be Carver County: for the Northwest Fur Trading Company in 1779, and the American Fur Company in the early 1800s. Soon after the British and American companies took over the fur trade from the French, the business began to decline due to their poor inter-cultural relations. With the signing of the Treaty of Traverse de Sioux in 1851, and the Treaty of Mendota later that same year the fur trade period came to a close, and the area was legally opened up for Euro-American settlement (Bingham et al 1915).

Carver County was founded in 1855, named after Jonathan Carver, one of the earliest and most prominent people to travel and live in the area. The county is divided into 10 townships. Five school districts were organized for these townships in 1857. Around that time the majority of Euro-American settlers in the county were German, Irish, and Swedish immigrants. These early settlers wished to farm the land, but found it difficult with the entirety of the area being heavily forested. In efforts to clear the forest for agriculture, the settlers instead realized the economic benefits of logging as opposed to agriculture, and began to lead a booming logging industry starting in the 1850s through the 1870s. Eventually, once enough of the land was cleared, regional industry turned from logging back to agriculture (Bingham et al 1915). Today Carver County has one of the quickest growing populations in the state of Minnesota, and is mainly home to commuters who work in the Twin Cities during the day, and travel back to the county at night (Carver County Historical Society 2016a).

4.3.2 Waconia

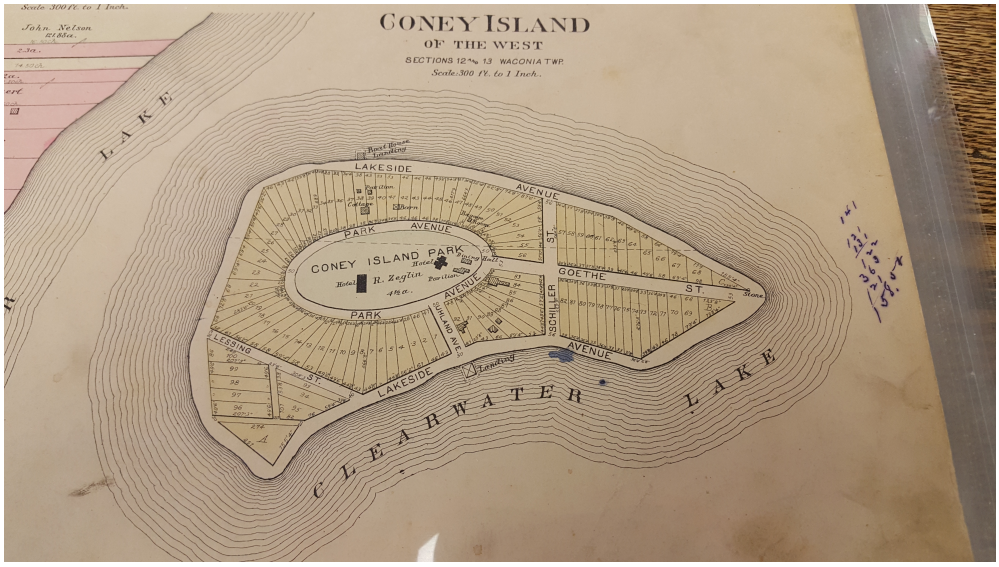
As with the rest of Carver County, the area that would be Waconia was first home to the Dakota . The Dakota called the lake just north of Waconia "Meday Wa Ko Ni Ya" meaning "lake of the fountain" or "lake of the spring." Euro-American settlers adopted this as the name for the lake and town, later spelling it "Waconia" (Lahr 1964). The town of Waconia was surveyed and platted by a Minneapolis surveyor in 1857. Ludwig Sudheimer and Michael Scheidnagel built the first homes in the town, and were followed by large groups of German immigrants later that same year (Lahr 1964). Other immigrants to Waconia also included the Swiss, Swedish, and Bohemians, and by 1858 most of the shore around Lake Waconia (Clearwater Lake) was settled (Carver County Historical Society 2016b).

Early Waconia industry was established between the 1860s and 1940s and included the Waconia Sorghum Mill, Waconia Steam Saw and Flowering Mill, and the Waconia Brewery, as well as a thriving ice harvesting industry which lasted through the 1930s when refrigerators became popular. Due to its ever growing population, Waconia was incorporated as a village in 1880. A few years later the railroad came to town, and with it a booming tourist center. The island in the southern portion of Lake Waconia became known as Coney Island of the West, and was a popular tourist destination (Waconia Heritage Association 1986). Due to this rise in popularity, Waconia's population had grown enough by 1920 to be incorporated as a city, and the first sanitary sewer system was installed in 1924. Today Waconia is the third most populated city in Carver County, though its tourism industry dramatically declined after the resort on Coney Island of the West closed in the 1960s (Waconia Heritage Association 1986).

4.3.3 Coney Island of the West

Coney Island of the West is an island located in the southern portion of Lake Waconia, just north of the City of Waconia, approximately a half of a mile from the southern shore of the lake. There is very little known about habitation on the island prior to and during the early years of settlement around the lake, but by the late 1850s, tensions between Euro-American settlers and Native Americans began to grow culminating in multiple skirmishes and battles across southern

Minnesota over a six-week period known as the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 (MNHS n.d.). In Waconia in 1862, Euro-American settlers sought refuge on the island during this war, fearing battles may come to Carver County (Lahr 1974). The U.S. – Dakota War was resolved before ever reaching Carver County, however widespread fear of the attack was prevalent. "For a few days, people took shelter or prepared to fight. Legend has it that a number of families took refuge on Coney Island, which offered a clear view of anyone coming to the island and would be difficult for the Indians to attack by surprise (Waconia Heritage Association 1986:21). This was the first documented use of the island by Euro-Americans.



Map 3. Historic Map of Coney Island

In 1866, 23.25 acres of the approximately 31.85 total acres on the island were purchased by the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad. The property was later platted by Lambert Naegele, who began the Coney Island Hotel on the island. A number of wealthy business owners and socialites from Minneapolis and St. Paul bought lots and built cabins on the island. By the early 20th century, the hotel and island were popular vacation destinations. Visitors would arrive by railroad then ferry to the island, and spend time in a variety of recreational activities. Emile Amblard, a colorful Carver County resident, built a large estate on the southwest corner of the island. By the 1930's, recreational use of the island had decreased and the hotel resort fell vacant. Frank Dvorak purchased the property in the 1940's and attempted to build on the past popularity of the island. By the 1960's, the island was again quiet, save a couple local landowners who kept cabins on the island. The island was sold to the County with the understanding they would convert the island to a park for public use.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Previously Identified Historic Properties

A records search was completed at the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) to identify previously recorded and reported archaeological and architectural sites within the vicinity of the project area. For a historic

property (including archaeological sites) to be considered important within a cultural resource management context they must meet a level of significance and retain historic integrity for *National Register of Historic Places* listing. The National Historic Landmark Database was also consulted. No previously recorded cultural resources were identified in the National Historic Landmark Database. The background search concluded in the finding of one previously recorded archaeological alpha site within the APE, and eight additional archaeological sites within a three-mile radius. These are detailed in the Phase I Report. Due to the nature of the project, the APE was the only area searched for historic structures. The island itself is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

5.2 Archaeological Fieldwork

Prior to project commencement, Steven J. Blondo, MA, applied for and received Evaluation/Phase II Survey Archaeological License #17-056 from the Office of the State Archaeologist. As a part of the application, Blondo proposed a research design for the Phase II work. This research design is included as an appendix to this report. Research questions were developed to guide excavation and evaluation. Methodology followed techniques found within the SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota and included concentrated efforts on six cluster areas and excavation of an initial fifteen noncontiguous square meters with an optional ten additional square meters. Shovel testing was also included to better describe and understand cluster boundaries within site 21CR0164.

Map 4. Map of Clusters and Test Units

Preliminary analysis of the Phase I cultural materials reflected a Middle to Terminal Woodland occupation. The following research questions were developed to guide the Phase II prehistoric archaeological investigations at the site.

- What are the horizontal and vertical extents of the site within the project boundaries?
- Does the site hold significance and integrity necessary for *National Register of Historic Places* eligibility?
- Can the use or function of the site be determined?
- Are there any additional diagnostic artifacts or features present and can a cultural affiliation and age of the site be determined?

The techniques used to answer these questions followed the SHPO Manual for Archaeological Projects in Minnesota. Phase II testing focused on six areas of artifact concentration identified during the Phase I survey. A total of eighteen noncontiguous meters square were placed within these cluster areas to further assess the significance and integrity of the prehistoric component of the island. All test units were oriented north-south, excavated in five centimeter levels, and screened through ¼-inch mesh. When features were encountered, the planview was mapped, photographed, and excavated separately in cross-section. The remaining section was sampled for flotation and macrobotanical analysis. Charcoal samples were collected for radiocarbon dating. Excavation methods and data were photographed and recorded in the field using standard level and unit forms and notes, and feature forms and notes. All units were backfilled and the area restored upon completion of the fieldwork. Artifacts recovered were cleaned and cataloged in the lab following the guidelines established by the Carver County Historical Society, which will serve as the project repository.

Table 1. Total Artifacts Recovered in Phase II Evaluation

Period	*Type*	*Count*	*Totals*
Historic			*688*
Prehistoric			*1,256*
	Lithic	*141*	
	Ceramic	*164*	
	Faunal	*500*	
	Other (FCR, charcoal, samples)	*451*	
Total			***1,944***

6.0 RESULTS

Following the Phase I Archaeological Survey completed in 2016, the island's prehistoric site was divided into six "clusters." These clusters were arbitrary and represented lumped together positive Shovel Tests (ST) and topographic features. They may represent use areas but were solely intended to assist in management and Test Unit placement during the Phase II Prehistoric

Evaluation. Clusters range in size from very small (half acre) to large (five acre). The number of Test Units (TU) placed in each cluster varied depending on the size of the cluster and results of excavation. Below, each cluster is described and discussed. Descriptions and results of Test Units excavated within each cluster follow.

Table 2. Total Artifacts Recovered by Test Unit

Test Unit	*Total Artifacts*
TU1	38
TU2	86
TU3	33
TU4	109
TU5	50
TU6	72
TU7	16
TU8	67
TU9	41
TU10	64
TU11	82
TU12	444
TU13	223
TU14	5
TU15	205
TU16	57
TU17	62
TU18	52
Test Unit Totals	**1,706**
Phase II Shovel Tests	238
Phase II Totals	**1,944**

Shovel testing of a total of 48 shovel tests occurred within Clusters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 to assist in further defining cluster boundaries. Beyond the expected positive and negative results, shovel

test profiles reflected typical soil stratigraphy and artifacts fell into common historic and prehistoric typology. Results of shovel testing and the associated artifact assemblage is currently underway and will assist with a better understanding of site function and management of site 21CR0164.

Test units and Phase II shovel tests were placed in areas where prehistoric artifacts were concentrated during Phase I testing. Areas which were inaccessible due to historic modification, and debris were avoided during Phase II testing. Of the 18 test units and 48 shovel tests, prehistoric and historic cultural material was recovered. Of those artifacts, 1,256 were prehistoric and 688 were historic. The artifact assemblage collected during the evaluation consists of a mixture of lithic material, prehistoric ceramics, historic materials, fire cracked rock (FCR) and faunal remains. The majority of recovered lithic materials are flakes and shatter left behind from the resharpening and modification of stone tools. Three stone projectile points, one biface and one scraper were recovered during the testing. One projectile had the tip broken off but the base was still present.

One hundred forty-one lithics were recovered during the Phase II test excavation. Prairie du Chien chert is the dominate raw material identified on the island. Other materials include, Burlington chert, Swan River chert, Grand Meadow chert, Cedar Valley Chert, Quartz, Knife River Flint and flakes of unidentified material. Additional lithic analysis is currently underway in hopes to better understand material diversity and if possible, site function.

Table 3. Lithic Materials

Raw Material	***Percentage of Total***
Prairie du Chien Chert	40%
Burlington Chert	5%
Swan River Chert	5%
Cedar Valley Chert	3%
Grand Meadow Chert	1%
Knife River Flint	4%
Silicified Sandstone	1%
Quartz	13%
SRC	3%
Unidentified	24%
TOTAL	**99%**
missing 1% due to rounding	

The majority of the ceramics are cord roughened. Decorative styles present in the artifact assemblage include horizontal incised lines, cord roughened smoothed, punctuates, cord impressed and plain. All ceramics are grit tempered, except four cord roughened body sherds with shell temper. Six prehistoric grit tempered ceramic rim sherds were recovered. All with decoration on them. The rim sherds indicate that they came from a large, likely globular vessel. The presence of cord roughened and grit tempered ceramics, as well as the grit tempered rims indicate a Middle Woodland context (approximately 1,700 to 1,500 years ago, AD 300 to AD 500). The shell tempered sherd stretches the context into the Terminal Woodland Period as well, approximately 400 to 500 years ago, AD 1500 to AD 1600 (Gibbon 2012). Detailed ceramic analysis is currently underway.

Table 4. Phase II Ceramics

Description/Morphology	***Total Count***	***Percent of Total***
cord-roughened grit tempered	108	66%
horizontal incised lines (different directions) grit tempered	5	3%
cord-roughened smooth grit tempered	28	17%
plain, grit tempered	7	4%
cord-impressed (with other decoration), grit tempered	3	2%
incised lines (diagonal or punctuates)	5	3%
punctates	2	1%
cord roughened, shell tempered	3	2%
diagonal trailed lines, grit tempered	2	1%
horizontal smoothed lines, grit tempered	2	1%
TOTAL	**164**	**100%**
Grit tempered (n=160)	160	98%
Shell tempered (n=4)	4	2%
TOTAL	**164**	**100%**

Photograph 3. Example of Diagnostic Rim Sherd

Many of the faunal remains are unidentifiable, ranging from small to large mammals. Faunal analysis to determine human vs. non-human preceded standard taxonomic divisions. No human remains were recovered. Faunal remains that are identifiable represent a number species. They primarily consist of fish and bird bone with turtle, rabbit and deer also represented. Approximately twelve pieces are saw cut and 44 pieces are burnt. Faunal analysis continues and is focusing on attempts to differentiate between historic and prehistoric use, and recreation of historic environment.

The majority of historic materials are in the upper levels of the test units which include nails, glass, miscellaneous pieces of metal, plastic, historic ceramics and shingle fragments. The nails are either wire or square. The majority of the glass is clear container glass but other colors represented are aqua, olive, blue and amber.

6.1 Cluster One

Cluster One consists of a half acre area located on a point at the southwest corner of the island. Historically this area represented the Estate of Emile Amblard. Amblard leveled and landscaped the area for cottages and gardens. Today, the area is relatively clear of brush and has evidence of (illegal) modern use as picnic and camping grounds. Phase I shovel tests in this area revealed a consistent deposit of historic material. ST1 in this area contained prehistoric lithic and ceramic materials. During the Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation, one Test Unit was placed in Cluster One. TU15 was placed one meter west of the Phase I ST1.

TU15 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 85 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). Historic materials were found to a depth of 55 cmbgs, although they were concentrated in the top 20 cmbgs. Faunal material was found throughout. Ceramics recovered in TU15 were both grit and shell tempered. Shell tempered ceramics were found at a depth of

55 cmbgs. Lithics were recovered at 15-25 cmbgs. Soils in TU15 did not contain the clay content found elsewhere on the island. Upper levels were represented by very dark grey sandy loam. Deeper levels (around 20 cmbgs) showed mottling with yellowish brown sands. Lenses of black sand and dark yellowish brown sand were picked up at 60 cmbgs and again at 70 cmbgs. Initially interpreted in the field as possible buried "A" horizons, these lenses were thin and difficult to discern. Aside from shell and faunal material, no cultural material was found in association with the lenses. This led to a later interpretation that the soils in this area may represent filling and leveling activities associated with Amblard's attempts to maintain shoreline. Soils may have come from dredged material along the lake shore which were redeposited to maintain the historic beach area.

Map 5. Cluster One Location

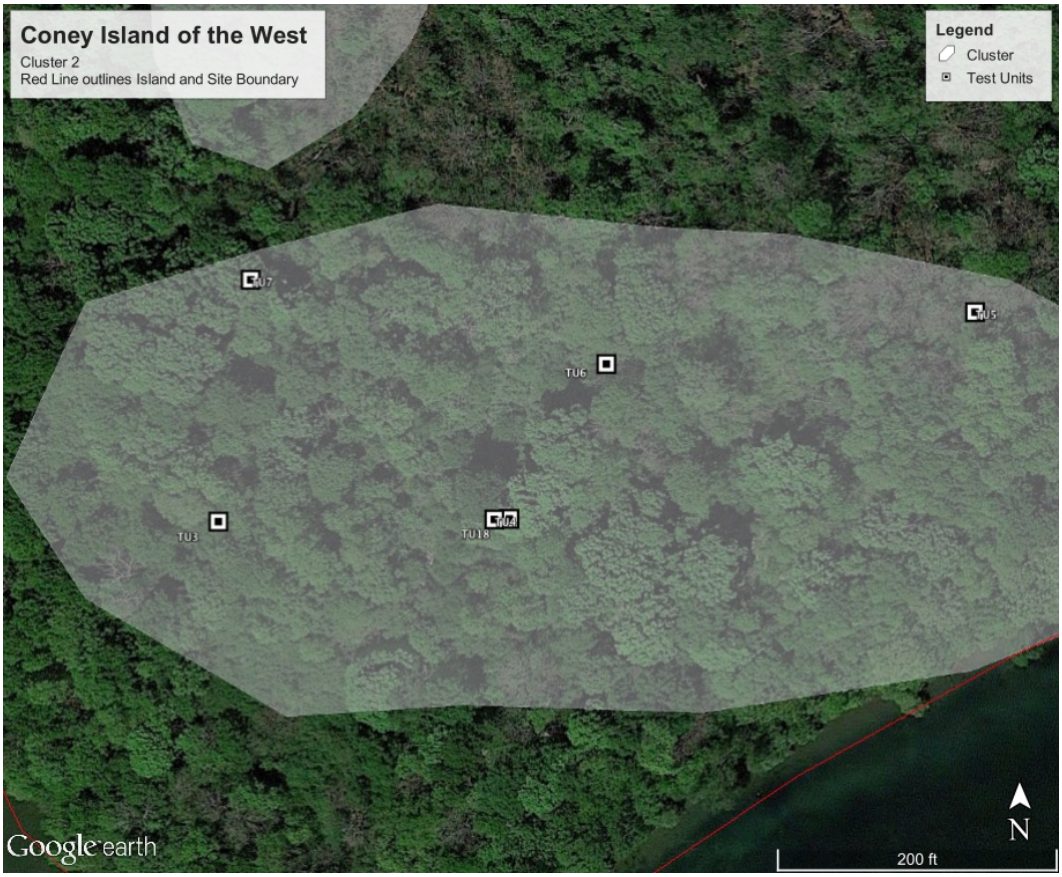
Artifacts recovered in TU15 seem to support this in that historic material is found in mixed context with prehistoric. Grit and shell tempered ceramics are found in mixed context significantly higher levels than shell tempered ceramics. Further research into lake levels may assist in supporting the theory that later prehistoric sites may exist in an older beach (currently underwater or destroyed with higher lake levels or human activity).

No further testing occurred in Cluster One. Landscaping and other historic activities appear to have disturbed the prehistoric component of the archaeological record. Phase II shovel testing in

the area also produced a number of artifacts. Despite high artifact counts, Cluster One does not appear to retain the integrity present elsewhere on Coney Island.

6.2 Cluster Two

Cluster Two is a five acre area located at the top of a steep slope overlooking Cluster One near the southwest corner of the island. Historically this area represented cabin and tourist use of the island. Today, the area is overgrown and historic debris litters the ground surface. Phase I shovel tests in this area revealed a consistent deposit of historic material. Prehistoric material present in the area included lithic, ceramic, faunal, and Fire Cracked Rock (FCR) artifacts. During Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation, six Test Units were placed in Cluster Two.



Map 6. Cluster Two Location Map

TU3 was placed six meters west of Phase I ST55. TU3 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 60 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). No historic materials were recorded as being found in the Test Unit. Faunal material was found within the first five centimeters. FCR, Ceramics, and Lithics were recovered in TU3. A lithic biface was found at 25-30 cmbgs. Prehistoric cultural material was identified from 15 cmbgs and continued to be present to 40 cmbgs. Soils in TU3 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam to brown clay at deeper depths. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with little historic disturbance. The presence of a bifacially worked lithic tool suggests significance beyond lithic debris.

TU4 was placed one meter north and 10 meters west of Phase I ST75. TU4 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 50 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top 15 centimeters. Prehistoric artifacts (ceramics, lithics, faunal, and FCR) were present at 15 cmbgs and continued to 30 cmbgs. Small, fired pieces of clay were encountered in TU4. The clay nodules were initially interpreted as the result of possible firing of vessels. Evidence of a feature was not present aside from limited FCR. The FCR encountered had little shape or form to its placement. Additional analysis of the fired clay nodules will be undertaken to better understand their relationship to the site. No diagnostic artifacts or features were encountered in TU4. Soils in TU4 were also consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam to brown clay at deeper depths. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits.

TU5 was placed 10 meters south and seven meters east of Phase I ST110. TU5 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 50 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top 30 centimeters. Faunal material was present throughout to a depth of 30 cmbgs. No additional prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Soils in TU5 were also consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam to brown clay at deeper depths. Field notes from excavation state "reached sub soil much faster than previous [units]." Soil profiles reflect this interpretation and a lack of prehistoric artifacts suggests the area may have been graded.

TU6 was placed one meter south and one meter east of Phase I ST51. TU6 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 50 cmbgs. Historic materials mixed with faunal remains were recovered in the top 15 centimeters. At 15 cmbgs, lithic material accompanied the historic and faunal findings. Lithics were recovered between 20 and 30 cmbgs. No diagnostics or features were encountered in TU6. Soils in TU6 were also consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam to brown clay at deeper depths. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits.

TU7 was placed two meters south and two meters east of Phase I ST57. TU7 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 45 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top five centimeters. Faunal remains were encountered at 0-5 cmbgs and were present until 20 cmbgs. Additional prehistoric artifacts (ceramics, lithics, and FCR) were present at 10 cmbgs and continued to 25 cmbgs. No diagnostics or features were encountered in TU7. Soils in TU7 were also consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam to brown clay at deeper depths. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits.

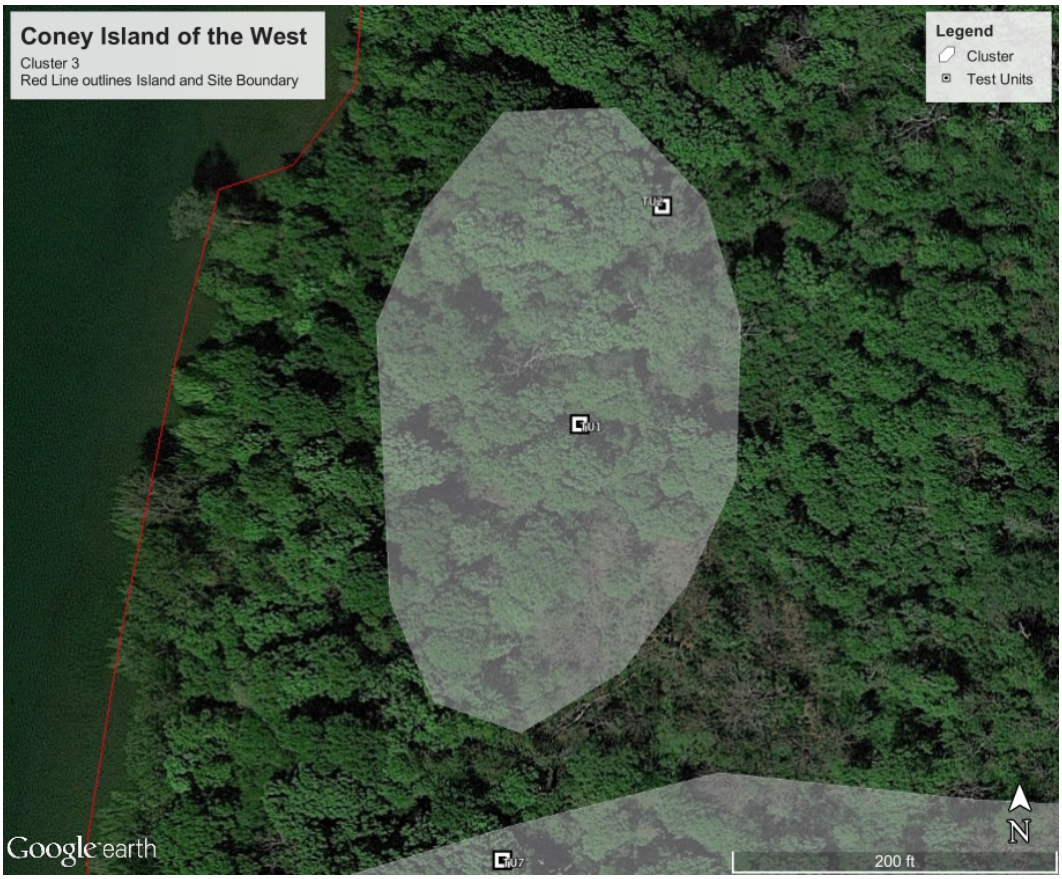
TU18 was placed adjacent to and east of TU4. TU18 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 50 cmbgs. It consisted of a 50-centimeter-by-100-centimeter test unit. Placement was east of TU4 in hopes of picking up the presence of a feature or identify the source of the small fired clay nodules. Historic materials were recovered in the top five centimeters. Prehistoric artifacts (ceramics, lithics, faunal, and FCR) were present between 20 cmbgs and continued to 30 cmbgs. A rim sherd and additional decorated ceramic sherds were identified at 20 cmbgs. A projectile point was found at 30 cmbgs. No additional diagnostic artifacts or features were encountered in TU18. Soils in TU18 were also consistent with the black silty clay loam

transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam to brown clay at deeper depths. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic disturbance.

No further testing occurred in Cluster Two. It is Blondo Consulting's opinion that Cluster Two contains intact cultural deposits and the possibility of intact features. The cluster has remarkable integrity and the presence of diagnostic artifacts suggests significance.

6.3 Cluster Three

Cluster Three contains one area and is located at the top of a steep slope overlooking Cluster Two near the northwest corner of the island. A small open water marsh separates Clusters Two and Three. Historically this area represented limited cabin and tourist use of the island. Today, the area is overgrown and historic debris litters the ground surface. Phase I shovel tests in this area revealed a consistent deposit of historic material. Prehistoric material present in the area included lithic, ceramic, faunal, and Fire Cracked Rock (FCR) artifacts. During Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation, two Test Units were placed in Cluster Three.



Map 7. Cluster Three Location Map

TU1 was placed five meters north and three meters east of Phase I ST272. TU1 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 55 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). No historic materials were recorded as being found in the Test Unit. Faunal material was found within the

first 10 centimeters and continued to 35 cmbgs. Lithics were recovered in TU1 between 15 and 25 cmbgs and again at 30-35 cmbgs. Soils in TU1 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam with an increase in sand content with depth. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with little historic disturbance.

TU2 was placed six and a half meters north and three meters east of Phase I ST282. TU2 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 60 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top 15 centimeters. Faunal material was found between 5-20 cmbgs. Prehistoric artifacts (ceramics, lithics, faunal, and FCR) were present at 15 cmbgs and continued to 40 cmbgs. An intact feature was encountered at 30 cmbgs. Samples of feature fill were recovered for further floatation testing. Charcoal, ceramics and FCR were also present within the feature. Soils in TU2 were also consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits. The presence of an intact feature with potential for further study supports significance of the site.

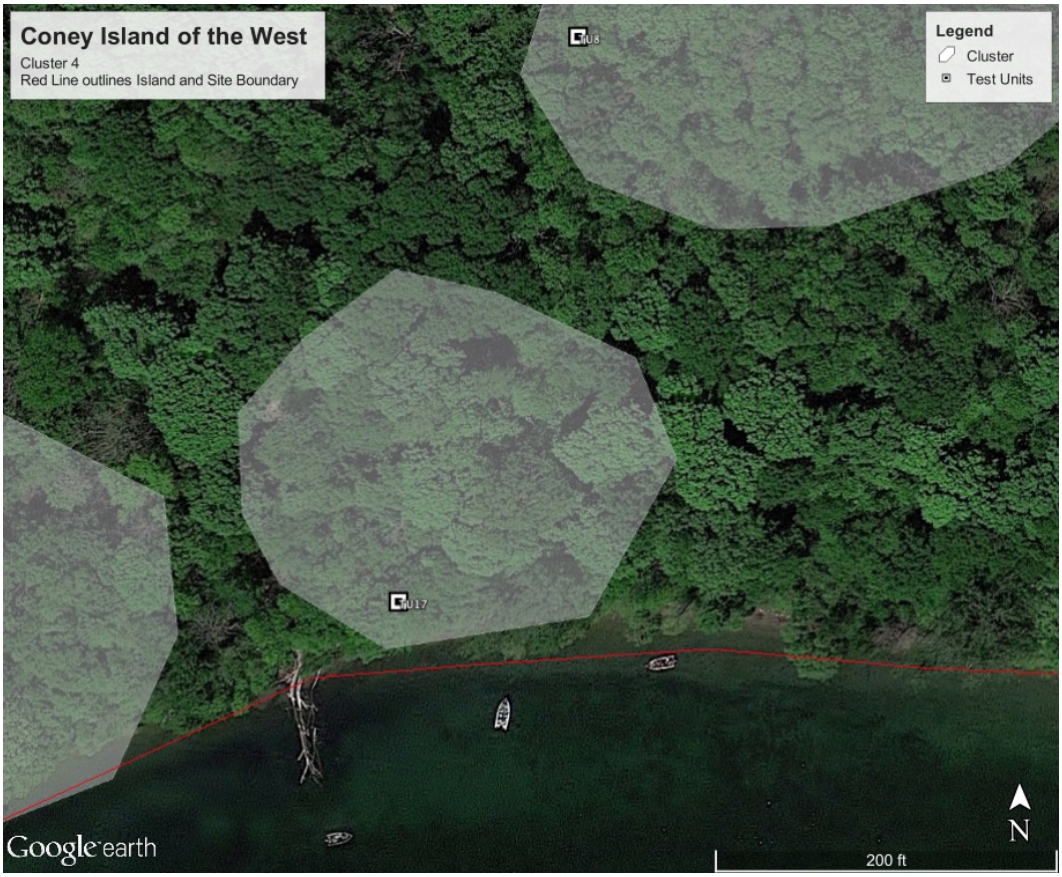
No further testing occurred in Cluster Three. It is Blondo Consulting's opinion that Cluster Three contains intact cultural deposits evidenced by an intact feature. Phase II shovel testing in this cluster identified a decorated ceramic rim sherd. The cluster has remarkable integrity and the presence of the intact feature and diagnostic ceramic rim sherd suggests significance.

6.4 Cluster Four

Cluster Four is a three-quarter acre area located at the south central edge of the island. It is a small cluster identified by approximately five positive Phase I shovel tests. Historically this area was associated with Linder and represents historically modified land use of the island. Today, the area is overgrown and historic debris litters the ground surface. Phase I shovel tests in this area revealed a consistent deposit of historic material. Prehistoric material present in the area included lithic, ceramic, faunal, and Fire Cracked Rock (FCR) artifacts. During Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation, one Test Unit was placed in Cluster Four.

TU17 was placed one-half meter north west of Phase I ST124. TU17 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 65 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). Historic materials were recovered between 5 and 15 cmbgs. No faunal material was recovered within the test unit. Lithics were recovered in TU17 between 15 and 40 cmbgs and included the identification of a bifacially worked endscraper. Ceramics were recovered between 20 and 30 cmbgs. Most were decorated sherds and included some rim sherds. Soils in TU17 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam with an increase in sand content with depth. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with little historic disturbance.

Phase II shovel testing in this cluster was also completed. No further testing occurred in Cluster Four. It is Blondo Consulting's opinion that Cluster Four contains intact cultural deposits evidenced by diagnostic ceramics including decorated sherds and a rim sherd. The cluster has good integrity and the presence of diagnostic artifacts suggests significance.



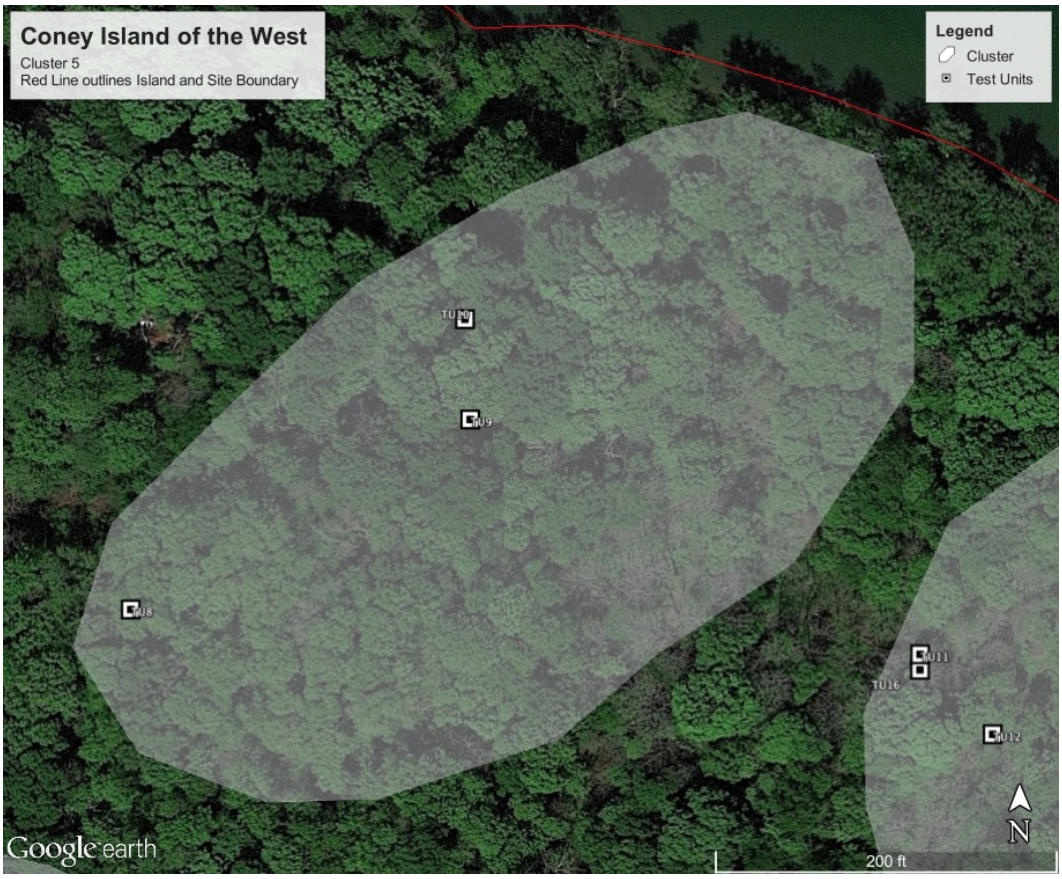
Map 8. Cluster Four Location Map

6.5 Cluster Five

Cluster Five consists of two acres located at the north central side of the island. It is moderately sized cluster. Historically this area represented limited cabin and tourist use of the island. Today, the area is overgrown and historic debris litters the ground surface. Phase I shovel tests in this area revealed a consistent deposit of historic material. Prehistoric material present in the area included lithic, ceramic, faunal, and Fire Cracked Rock (FCR) artifacts. During Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation, three Test Units were placed in Cluster Four.

TU8 was placed two meters southeast of Phase I ST130. TU8 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 50 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). Historic materials were recovered at the surface and to a depth of 25 cmbgs. Faunal material was recovered within the 10 to 15 cmbgs. Lithics were recovered in TU8 between 15 and 20 cmbgs and included the identification of a projectile point. Ceramics were recovered between five and 20 cmbgs. Soils in TU8 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with little historic disturbance.

TU9 was placed three meters west of Phase I ST247. TU9 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 55 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). Historic materials were recovered between five and twenty-five cmbgs. Faunal material was recovered within the surface



Map 9. Cluster Five Location Map

and twenty-five cmbgs. Lithics were recovered in TU9 between five and thirty-five cmbgs. Ceramics were recovered between 10 and 15 cmbgs. Soils in TU8 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests limited integrity as historic and prehistoric artifacts are found intermingled throughout the cultural levels of the unit.

TU10 was placed three meters west of Phase I ST237. TU10 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 50 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). Historic materials were recovered at the surface and to a depth of 15 cmbgs. A 1957 dime was recovered at 15 cmbgs. Faunal material was recovered between 15 and 20 cmbgs. Lithics were recovered in TU10 between 10 and 35 cmbgs. Ceramics were recovered between 15 and 20 cmbgs. Soils in TU10 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with little historic disturbance.

Phase II shovel testing was also completed to better identify cluster boundaries. No further testing occurred in Cluster Five. It is Blondo Consulting's opinion that Cluster Five contains intact cultural deposits. The presence of a 1957 dime at 15 cmbgs may indicate historic deposits have occurred within the last fifty years. The cluster has good integrity and significance.

6.6 Cluster Six

Cluster Six contains three and a quarter acres and is located at the lower east end of the island and a level terrace above it. Historically this area represented limited cabin and tourist use of the island and was home to level ball fields. Today, the area is overgrown and historic and modern debris litters the ground surface. Phase I shovel tests in this area revealed a consistent deposit of historic material. Prehistoric material present in the area included lithic, ceramic, faunal, and Fire Cracked Rock (FCR) artifacts. During Phase II Prehistoric Evaluation, five Test Units were placed in Cluster Six.

Map 10. Cluster Six Location Map

TU11 was placed three meters north and one meter west of Phase I ST149. TU11 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 60 centimeters below ground surface (cmbgs). Historic materials were recorded within five to ten cmbgs. No faunal material was found within the test unit. Lithics were recovered in TU11 between 15 and 45 cmbgs including a bifacially worked lithic at twenty five to thirty cmbgs. FCR was noted throughout the test unit and was likely related to a feature identified between 25 and 40 cmbgs. Soils in TU1 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay loam and then brown silty clay with depth. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with little historic disturbance. The identification of a feature and bifacially worked lithics support integrity and significance. Excavation of Test Unit 16 was completed to try to identify more of the identified feature. This is discussed at length below.

TU12 was placed two meters north and one meter west of Phase I ST160. TU12 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 55 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top 20 centimeters. Faunal material was found between 25-35 cmbgs. FCR was identified between 20 and 30 cmbgs. No additional prehistoric artifacts (ceramics, or lithics) were present. Soils in TU12 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits.

TU13 was placed six meters north of Phase I ST142. TU13 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 65 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top twenty five centimeters. Faunal material was encountered at the surface and to a depth of 15 cmbgs. Lithics were present within the first five centimeters to 45 cmbgs. Ceramics were present at 20 cmbgs and continued to 30 five cmbgs. Soils in TU12 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits.

TU14 was placed four meters north of Phase I ST171. TU14 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of forty-five cmbgs. No historic materials were recovered during excavation of the test unit. Faunal material was encountered at the surface and to a depth of 10 cmbgs. No additional prehistoric materials (lithics, ceramics, or FCR) were present. Soils in TU12 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty loam with increasing sand content with depth. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited (nonextant?) historic deposits.

TU16 was placed south off of TU11 in an attempt to encounter more of the identified feature. TU16 was excavated in five centimeter levels to a depth of 65 cmbgs. Historic materials were recovered in the top five centimeters. Faunal material was encountered at 10 cmbgs to 35 cmbgs. Burnt bone was present at 20 cmbgs. Lithics were present between 20 and 45 cmbgs. A lithic core was identified at 40 to 45 cmbgs. Ceramics were present between 15 and 20 cmbgs. FCR was present at twenty cmbgs to fifty cmbgs. Other than the presence of FCR and burnt bone, no other signs of the feature were present. Soils in TU16 were consistent with the black silty clay loam transitioning to very dark grayish brown silty clay. Interpretation of this test unit suggests intact integrity with limited historic deposits.

Shovel testing was also completed within Cluster Six to better identify cluster boundaries. No further testing occurred in Cluster Six. It is Blondo Consulting's opinion that Cluster Six contains intact cultural deposits evidenced by an intact feature. The cluster has remarkable integrity and the presence of the intact features and lithic tools suggests significance.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Eighteen Phase II one-meter by one-meter test units within the six clusters were completed May and June, 2017. Site 21CR0164, identified during the Phase I investigation, consists of prehistoric chert flakes, and decorated and undecorated ceramic sherds. Modern debris and historic material were also present in the upper levels including concrete, plastic, and metal. Due to the presence of prehistoric ceramics at this site, it can be categorized as a Woodland Tradition habitation or related site. Further analysis is underway to better categorize the site.

Evaluation of the Site 21CR0164, is based on the *USDI/NPS NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form: Woodland Tradition in Minnesota* by Constance Arzigian. This context outlines and defines various Woodland Tradition sites across Minnesota and provides guidance on evaluating these types of sites for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Place*s. Arzigian describes the Woodland Tradition as beginning "about 1000 B.C. and is marked by the presence of ceramics, although the basic hunting-gathering strategy continued and was augmented with fishing, wild rice collection, and at least some use of cultivated plants. In some regions, earthen mounds were constructed in large numbers and became prominent parts of the landscape. The timing of the end of the Woodland tradition varies by region, with areas north of the limits of maize cultivation showing continuation of this tradition until the early postcontact period. In the south, two later traditions developed and in some areas coexisted with or replaced the Woodland tradition" (Arzigian 2008:10-11).

Arzigian (2008) discusses five basic property types. These include habitation sites, resource procurement and processing sites, special-use sites, and mortuary sites (mound and non-mound sites). She describes each as such:

- Habitation Sites: "encompass the full range of types of occupations produced by people during general habitation at a particular location... Habitation sites tend to have denser, more extensive, and more diverse artifact assemblages that suggest habitation for a shorter or longer period of time, and multiple activities rather than single-resource procurement" (Arzigian 2008:11).

- Resource Procurement and Processing Sites: "tend to be smaller and activity or function specific and will lack many of the indicators of a general habitation site (dense, extensive, and diverse artifact assemblage). They will appear to have as their primary focus exploitation of a limited range of resources at one location" (Arzigian 2008:11).

- Special-Use Sites: "could include dated rock-art sites, ceremonial sites, and caches. They are likely to be rare and unusual and reflect non-subsistence or extractive activities" (Arzigian 2008:11).

- Mortuary Sites: "include both mounds and nonmound burials. Mounds constructed for burial and other purposes are a distinctive attribute of the Woodland tradition, though they are not found with all complexes" Arzigian 2008:11).

- Nonmound Mortuary Sites: "consist of human remains in intentional inhumations in nonmound contexts, such as isolated burials or burials within villages" (Arzigian 2008:11).

Site 21CR0164 consists of faunal, FCR, lithics, and prehistoric ceramics, providing a more diverse artifact assemblage than what would be expected at a resource procurement site. Therefore, it likely would fall under habitation site, which is the most common Woodland Tradition site in Minnesota (Arzigian 2008). A habitation site may be significant under Criterion D of the *National Register of Historic Places*, if it is able to answer particular research questions developed within the *Woodland Tradition of Minnesota* context. Arzigian (2008) describes,

"To be considered as an eligible habitation site under this Woodland tradition MPDF and under **Criterion D** *[sic]*, a site must have information sufficient to associate it with a particular Woodland complex, and must have the potential to answer important research questions as described in the statewide research questions or with the individual complexes. All habitation sites should have integrity of Materials and Association specifically:

1) Diagnostic artifacts or other attributes associating the site with a particular cultural complex or context within the Woodland tradition.
2) A single component attributed to the Woodland complex, or a distinguishable Woodland component at a multicomponent site. Separation of components might be either horizontal or vertical. Although there might be some mixing of components at multicomponent sites, a substantial part of at least one component should be separable" (Arzigian 2008:149).

Arzigian continues by describing 10 research priorities that a habitation site may help to answer. These include, the presence of datable material associated with diagnostic artifacts or significant features; diverse and unique assemblage that is clearly associated with a specific complex; features present including hearths, storage pits, middens, structures, etc.; Ecofacts including plant

Photograph 4. Example of Lithic Biface

and animal remains that are present in sufficient quantity to study the exploitation of resources; internal site patterning with recognizable activity areas or a community plan; unusual site locations; unusual materials present; and evidence of dense occupation, size, or other unique attributes (Arzigian 2008). Site 21CR0164 demonstrates many of these factors for eligibility for inclusion in the *National Register*.

Research questions developed in the Phase II Research Design can also be looked at as a way of measuring National Register eligibility under Criterion D. These research questions and answers follow. Detailed analysis currently underway will assist with association of this site with a particular Woodland Tradition complex and assist in better answering additional research questions.

- ***What are the horizontal and vertical extents of the site within the project boundaries?***

Phase II shovel testing assisted with a better understanding of the horizontal extents of the six cluster areas within the project area. Collection of GPS points, locating horizontal locations of test units and Phase II shovel testing is underway. The vertical extent of the site is recorded in the depth of deposits found within the clusters. Site integrity is overall, quite exceptional. The prehistoric artifact assemblage is consistently located below the historic assemblage. The historic record does not include plow or other agricultural activities. The soil profile supports the lack of a plow zone. Intact features are present and there is a strong separation of historic and prehistoric components throughout most of 21CR0164.

Overlaying positive shovel tests and test unit locations with project plans will assist in developing a trail system and recreational activity areas that can interpret and preserve, where possible, the archaeological record. Blondo Consulting is working with the project team which consists of landscape engineers, structural engineers, planners, and the county parks department to ensure balance of public use and resource preservation.

- ***Does the site hold significance and integrity necessary for National Register of Historic Places eligibility?***

Yes, site 21CR0164 holds significance and integrity necessary for *National Register of Historic Places* eligibility. As mentioned above, the presence of diagnostic artifacts and features within exceptional soil profile integrity supports site 21CR0164's "potential to answer important research questions as described in the statewide research questions or with the individual complexes."

- ***Can the use or function of the site be determined?***

A better understanding of site function may emerge as detailed artifact analysis is completed. To date, site 21CR0164 has been interpreted as a habitation site. The presence of features and diagnosis artifacts (ceramic and lithic) suggest longer term use of the site beyond a short term campsite. Incredible amounts of faunal material present in the artifact assemblage also support the use of the site as habitation or resource processing. The recovery of feature fill which can be processed by floatation and microscopic botanical analysis will assist in better understanding site use and function.

Photograph 5.Test Unit 1 Level 7 Showing Feature Stain in Floor

- ***Are there any additional diagnostic artifacts or features present and can a cultural affiliation and age of the site be determined?***

Diagnostic artifacts were recovered and features were excavated during Phase II excavation of test units and shovel testing. These artifacts suggest a Late Middle to Early Terminal Woodland affiliation. Ceramic decoration is of a similar style to artifacts recovered at the Nelson Site (21BE0024). Located in Blue Earth County, the Nelson Site was interpreted in 1973 as a single component Terminal Woodland habitation site associated with cultural entities centered in the Mississippi River Valley of Iowa and Wisconsin. Additional analysis and excavations in 2011 and 2013 have "identified additional components of the site and recognized variations in decorative elements from pottery recovered from previous surveys, which differed from those generally attributed to defined pottery wares in adjacent areas and states (Reichel, 2015). The similarities between The Coney Island of the West Site (21CR0164) and the Nelson Site (21BE0024) are being further investigated as detailed analysis is completed.

As additional detailed analysis is completed, site forms and reports will be updated. The historic component of site 21CR0164 has been separated from the prehistoric component and was part of the original *National Register* listing. Updates to the historic component will be submitted separately. Update of the *National Register* to include recent work and findings will also follow as part of this project. **Blondo Consulting recommends the prehistoric archaeological component of site 21CR0164 as Eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* under Criterion D and recommends that the prehistoric component of Coney Island of the West be added to the existing *National Register of Historic Places* listing.**

8.0 CONCLUSION

In April 2017, Carver County, Minnesota retained Blondo Consulting, LLC (Blondo Consulting) to complete a Phase II Prehistoric Archaeological Evaluation of the Coney Island of the West Site (21CR0164) as part of the proposed Lake Waconia Regional Park, Coney Island of the West, Waconia, Carver County, Minnesota. This evaluation answers that request. Steven J. Blondo, MA was the Principal Investigator for the project. Additional Blondo Consulting Staff included Kelly Wolf, MA, RPA, Lindsey Reiners, MS, Laura Koski, Benjamin Schweer, Melissa Mickelson, and volunteer, Mike Nowak. Dr. Jeremy Nienow, RPA of Nienow Cultural Consultants partnered on the project, acting as Field Supervisor and co-Principal Investigator (with Wolf) for Historic Archaeology.

The Phase II Prehistoric investigation has focused on site 21CR0164 for the purpose of determining the site's contribution to the *National Register of Historic Places* listing. This involved additional subsurface testing at 21CR164. **Blondo Consulting recommends the prehistoric archaeological component of site 21CR0164 as Eligible for inclusion in the *National Register of Historic Places* under Criterion D and recommends that the prehistoric component of Coney Island of the West be added to the existing *National Register of Historic Places* listing.**

With any project there is the chance of unanticipated discovery. Should additional archaeological materials surface during any future construction, it is advised that a professional archaeologist be consulted. Minnesota Statute 307.08 protects unplatted cemeteries (including burial mounds) and issues guidelines for dealing with unexpected finds. Should human remains be encountered during earth moving activity, all work must stop and local law enforcement must be called.

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