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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM

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New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Archaeological Resources of the Upper Missouri River Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Native American Settlement and Subsistence on the Upper Missouri River Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana: 12,000 B.P. - 1,800 A.D.

Native American Travel and Trade Networks of the Upper Missouri River Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana: 12,000 B.P. - 1,800 A.D.

C. Form Prepared By

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Revisions by David Schwab, SHPO: April, 1993

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official *MTSHPC* 8-13-93
Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register 10-7-93
Date

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E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

CONTEXT: Native American Settlement and Subsistence in the Upper Missouri River Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana: 12,000 B.P. - 1800 A.D.

The Upper Missouri River Corridor

The Missouri River has long been recognized as one of the most significant corridors of travel, trade and commerce in the western United States. The Missouri River has been segmented into three geographical areas. The Upper Missouri extending from the headwaters at the Three Forks to the mouth of the Yellowstone has been identified as the Upper Missouri River. The Upper Missouri River Corridor (UMRC) designates the uppermost reaches of the Missouri River from the Three Forks down to the Great Falls of the Missouri. This nomination will focus on that portion of the Upper Missouri River Corridor which lies within Lewis and Clark County, Montana.

From the Great Falls to the mouth of the Yellowstone River, the Missouri runs in an east-west orientation dissecting level to mildly undulating prairies, badlands and broad level plains environments. Yet from its headwaters at the Three Forks to the Great Falls, the Missouri River runs in a more north-south orientation where it encounters more mountainous terrain and narrow intermontane valleys situated along the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front range below the Continental Divide. This section of the Missouri River from its Headwaters to the Great Falls will be designated the Missouri River Front stretch.

For Native Americans, the Missouri River served as a significant geographic feature, source of sustenance and route of commerce and cultural interaction. The antiquity of archaeological sites located along the Upper Missouri River Corridor suggests that prehistoric use of the area dates back to the earliest identified human settlement in Montana. Historically the river served as the primary corridor of exploration and commerce which resulted in Euro-American settlement of the Northwestern Plains of North America.

Several paleoindian sites have been studied along the Upper Missouri River Corridor including the McHaffie site (24JF4:Forbis,19) and the Indian Creek site (Davis); isolated paleoindian projectile points are relatively common in the area. Radiocarbon dates from these sites indicate that human habitation along the Missouri dates back over 10,000 years. The Missouri River served as an important travel and trade route; its valleys and tributaries were home to prehistoric cultures almost continuously up to the time of European contact.

The high plains encompassing the broad valleys of the Missouri River often were teeming with bison, antelope and other important game species as well a variety of plant resources, especially along the river riparian zones. Prior to Euro-American exploration and settlement, the Middle Missouri region in North Dakota and South Dakota was home for groups living in semi-permanent horticultural villages. Historic tribes such as the Hidatsa, Mandan and Arikara grew crops of corn, squash and beans on the floodplain of the river. At the same time the people of the Upper Missouri were living as hunter-gatherers, a lifeway that had been maintained from their beginnings. These people occupied the tributaries and headwaters of the Upper Missouri, trading and interacting by way of the Missouri River.

Eastern Rocky Mountain Front Range

The Eastern Rocky Mountain Front is considered a significant region for researching the peopling of the New World. Geological data suggests that during the last period of glaciation, pinesdale glaciers emanating from the eastern Great Lakes region formed on the plains of central and eastern Canada and northern Montana. This so called "Laurentide" ice

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sheet extended from northern Canada southward to the Missouri River. Glacial activity changed the course of the Missouri River. The Laurentide ice sheet did not extend westward much past present day Great Falls, Montana at times of maximum glaciation. At the same time ice sheets and glaciers which formed in the Rocky Mountains (Cordilleran ice sheets) covered the uplands and high foothills of the Rocky Mountains, but did not extend any great distance onto the plains.

According to geologists, these two ice sheets never merged, even during times of glacial maximum. An ice-free corridor extended along the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front from northern Canada and Alaska south to the Missouri River during the Pinesdale glaciation. This "Ice Free Corridor" continues to be the subject of geological and paleoenvironmental research. Recent data suggests that the corridor would have been a harsh and barren landscape.

Popular scientific theory suggests that the first peopling of the Americas occurred sometime before 12,000 years ago during a time of active glaciation. According to this viewpoint, ice-age hunters crossed into the Americas from Asia over a land bridge which formed over the Bering Strait during periods of glaciation. Paleoindian groups moved south through the ice-free corridor after crossing the land bridge, arriving south of the Laurentide ice sheet somewhere near Great Falls. There are a number alternative hypotheses about the timing, direction and process for human colonization of the Americas. The archaeological resources present along the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front and particularly in the Upper Missouri River Corridor can provide significant data bearing on the questions of the timing and nature of human colonization of the Americas, a question of worldwide significance. These data can also provide important insights into the post-glacial adaptation and settlement of Native Americans in the western United States.

Another unique facet of the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front is the abundance and variety of plant and animal resources within the area. While many of the flora and fauna species present on the high plains of central Montana are present in the broad open grasslands of the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front, adjacent mountains, intermountain valleys and basins, lakes and rivers and mountain streams offer a broad ecological and natural resource base typically unavailable in the rolling grasslands setting. This diversity and richness offered unique opportunities to hunter-gatherers and provided an opportunity for year-round settlement and subsistence.

The Upper Missouri River Corridor in Lewis and Clark County

The Upper Missouri River Corridor in Lewis and Clark County meanders through several substantial mountain ranges, in some cases forming narrow canyons or small to medium sized intermountain valleys and basins. The Big Belt Range flanks the Upper Missouri River Corridor to the east while the Rocky Mountain Front range and the Continental Divide border it on the west. The northern limits of the district lies approximately 40 miles as the crow flies upstream from the Great Falls of the Missouri where the river makes its bend from the north to the east. The southern boundary of the district is located approximately 45 miles north of the headwaters of the Missouri River at the Three Forks.

The Helena valley is the most prominent valley in the district encompassing an area of over 100 square miles. One of the most dramatic and unique geographic features of the area is the Gates of the Mountains, a steep sided limestone canyon where the river dissects the Big Belt Mountain uplift. Although the Gates of the Mountains does not extend for more than a few miles along the river, its sheer cliffs rising several hundred feet upwards from the river's edge make it an extremely dramatic and picturesque setting. In addition to this natural feature, several man-made lakes and reservoirs are located within the river stretch including Lower Holter Lake, Upper Holter Lake and Hauser Lake.

The Upper Missouri River Corridor area includes a diverse geographical setting: grassland prairie and deciduous river habitats at the north end, rugged canyon in the middle, and rolling hills and flat drainage bottoms at the south end. A wide range of prehistoric site types indicates that the diversity of this area has been a compelling attraction. Currently, the

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Corridor is an ideal wintering area for big game mammals. The low elevation and availability of shelter provided a wintering area for prehistoric populations as well. Lewis and Clark noted that numerous abandoned native winter camps were found throughout this area when they passed through in July, 1805.

The combined archaeological significance of the Missouri River and the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front make this segment of the Missouri River particularly important. Because this stretch of the Missouri River is not currently heavily populated or developed (except for substantial impacts from reservoir inundation), the land area retains substantial integrity and preservation of archaeological sites and features.

Archaeological Chronology

Prehistoric chronology of the northwestern plains is generally based upon the framework established by Mulloy (1958) and modified by Frison (1991). This sequence divides prehistory into Paleoindian (12,500-7500 B.P.), Early Plains Archaic (7500 - 5000 B.P.), Middle Plains Archaic (5000-3000 B.P.), Late Plains Archaic (3000 - 1000 B.P.), and Late Prehistoric (1000 - 200 B.P.). The time span from about 1700 A.D. to historic documentation in the early 1800s is referred to as the Protohistoric Period. The prehistoric periods are associated with specific projectile point types and are based upon major changes or events which provoked changes in culture or technology. As noted in the terminology, this framework was developed primarily for the Northwest Plains region. Not enough archaeological research has been done to determine whether this cultural chronology is fully applicable to the Rocky Mountain Front of western Montana.

The Paleoindian Period begins with the initial migration to North America and ends with the demise of megafauna following the last glaciation. Technology included both thrusting spears (Clovis and others) and the introduction of the atlatl (Folsom and others). Generally, Paleoindian projectiles have a distinctive lanceolate-shape with basal grinding and distinctive parallel flaking patterns. Paleoindian subsistence was primarily based upon big game hunting (Frison 1991).

The Early Plains Archaic Period is believed to have been a cultural response to the Altithermal Climatic Episode--a rise in temperatures and resulting change in weather patterns. Cultural adaptation to this event is believed to have been an exodus from the northwestern plains. Projectiles associated with this period are large corner and side-notched atlatl points. High altitude sites in western mountains often contain the generally rare Early Plains Archaic projectile point types. This period is perhaps more poorly understood than the Paleoindian Period.

The Middle Plains Archaic Period is well represented throughout Montana and the northwestern plains. Generally this is known as the McKean Complex, based upon a variety of distinctive atlatl projectile points. It is generally believed that a diversified subsistence base was developed during this period, with greater reliance on vegetable resources.

The Late Plains Archaic Period is characterized by a significant increase in population and a return to the climatic conditions similar to today. Powers-Yonkee, Pelican Lake, and Besant atlatl points are associated with this period. Also associated are the Avonlea arrow points associated with the introduction of the bow ca. A.D.150. Large, sophisticated communal bison kills are characteristic of this period.

The Late Plains Prehistoric Period is characterized by the replacement of the atlatl with the bow. A wide variety of projectile points are found in association with this period. The communal bison kill sites are common in this period as well. Pottery was introduced to the northwestern plains during this period.

The advent of the Protohistoric Period marks the end of the historical context for this nomination. This period is characterized by the acquisition of the horse and iron trade items. Specific tribal groups inhabiting the region of the study

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area included the Salish, Blackfeet, Crow, and Shoshone. Sioux, Pend d'Oreille, Nez Perce, Gros Ventre and other tribes were likely occasional visitors to the corridor area. By this time, specialization toward bison procurement is believed to have led populations to the broad valleys and plains in search of the migrating herds. It is unlikely that any particular tribe continuously inhabited the corridor, but many are likely to have regularly traveled through it.

Paleoindian projectile point fragments of the Clovis type, as well as other untyped lanceolot forms, were observed in artifact collections from the Upper Missouri River Corridor. Large side-notched points found in the area may represent the Bitterroot type from the Early Archaic Period. All other northwestern plains prehistoric cultural periods are well represented in artifact collections from the corridor area.

Natural Resource Base

Major natural resources exist at both ends of the Upper Missouri River Corridor. The corridor itself consists of diverse resources and habitats. Combined, these factors attracted extensive prehistoric use of the Upper Missouri River Corridor as a travel route and occupation area.

Situated at the north end of the corridor are the open foothill grasslands and Teton River-Judith Basin grasslands (Payne 1973). This grassland area has a rich archaeological record as a bison procurement area for native peoples, with numerous bison kill sites documented in the region. A major Late Prehistoric Period bison kill site complex on [REDACTED] Bone bed volumes indicate that thousands of bison were killed in this jump complex.

Along the middle stretch of the UMRC, the river cuts through the rugged Big Belt Mountain range. The landscape contains steep sided canyons and a small intermountain basins. Tipi ring campsites, lithic scatters, and trail segments are recorded along this stretch. Rock art sites are fairly common in the Big Belt Mountains adjacent to the river and in the uplands.

On the southern end of the corridor is [REDACTED] Roughly 10,000 years of chert quarrying activity is documented over [REDACTED] Herbert (1987). At the southeast end of the corridor area lies the [REDACTED] Other major chert quarries [REDACTED] collections throughout the northwestern plains.

Within the UMRC area approximately 118 plant species potentially could have been utilized for food, 136 species could have been utilized for medicine, 56 species could have been utilized for tools and crafts, and six species could have been utilized for shelter construction (Herbert 1987). Nearly 2600 feet in elevation change occurs in the corridor area, creating a diverse range of vegetative communities. Riparian, grassland and forest habitats are present. Major rangeland zones occurring in the Corridor include Lodgepole pine-Douglas fir forest, western Montana ponderosa pine forest, foothill grassland, and Teton River-Judith Basin grassland (Payne 1973). For Native Americans the area provided a seasonally abundant and diverse habitat.

Munson's research on Montana City area (southern Helena valley) environmental change (Herbert 1987) suggests that climatic changes in the past 10,000 years have been sufficient to change the degree or quantity within vegetation communities, but not to cause extinctions or introductions of new communities. The Upper Missouri River Corridor shares elevational, climatic and habitat types with the Montana City area located about 10 miles to the south.

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CONTEXT: Native American Travel and Trade Networks of the Upper Missouri River Corridor, Lewis and Clark County, Montana: 12,000 B.P. - 1800 A.D.

Travel and Trade Networks

Ancient Native American trail networks and travel corridors are significant resources because they provide clues to the geographic distribution and transportation systems of prehistoric Native American groups. Much like modern travel corridors, ancient trail systems provide an essential link between culturally significant resource areas thus providing insights into the patterns of cultural dispersal, seasonality and interaction throughout prehistory. For the archaeologist, trail systems and travel corridors provide a basis for understanding the spatial and cultural relationships among prehistoric cultures and resource areas. Archaeological research focuses on the relationship of artifacts in space and time to provide interpretations of human activities. Similarly, trail systems highlight the spatial and cultural relationships among human living, industrial and ceremonial areas. Because trail systems served as the primary routes of cultural diffusion and expansion, identifying and investigating human travel corridors provides an opportunity for archaeologists to understand the interactive networks operating between prehistoric cultures. They also provide an opportunity to identify important settlement and resource areas.

Trails are also significant because they can provide important chronological and behavioral information. Often times, the periods of their use can be dated by the presence of associated occupation and camp sites with diagnostic materials or datable organic materials. Sites located along the route, can be assumed to be associated by the nature of their relationship with the trail system. The presence of associated camps provided an opportunity to review the kinds of materials and commodities available to its travelers. It also provides an opportunity to understand the range of activities conducted by prehistoric peoples using the travel routes.

Most prehistoric trail systems have suffered extensive damage from land development and may be very difficult or impossible to identify on the ground. Techniques such as the application of remote sensing and computer mapping have been applied successfully in identifying ancient travel routes when obvious surface indications are lacking. For many of the more extensive systems, only discontinuous segments of the systems have retained sufficient visibility and integrity to be identified. Prehistoric trail systems rarely are made up of a single track. They can best be described as a broad corridor containing several parallel tracks. While it may be difficult or even impossible for archaeologists to identify specific narrow tracks, available ethnographic, archaeological and historical data may enable researchers to identify prehistoric travel broad corridors. Intensive investigation within identified corridors is essential to better understand the modern signature of ancient trail systems.

Trails in the Upper Missouri River Corridor

The physiographic area of the Upper Missouri River Corridor offers the most accessible north-south travel route(s) along this portion of the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front range. The northwest end of the Big Belt Mountains located between the Helena valley to the south, and the foothill grasslands to the north, create significant topographical barriers to pedestrian travel. The present site of Interstate 15 in Wolf Creek-Little Prickly Pear Canyon was a virtually impassable barrier of Precambrian mudstone cliffs and slides rising hundreds of feet above Little Prickly Pear Creek. The Missouri River carves a series of oxbow bends in the corridor area, with steep mountain slopes extending to the riverbanks. This difficult passage gives way to severe limestone cliffs rising from the water's edge in the Gates of the Mountains canyon (Alt 1972).

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The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806 recorded the first written documentation of the area. Their journal acknowledges the presence of an ancient Indian trail in the vicinity of the Missouri River in Lewis and Clark County. Clark's journal for July 18th, 1805 states:

I deturmined to go a head with a Small partey a few days and find the Snake Indians if possible after brackfast I took J. Fields Potts & my Servent proceeded on. the Country So Hilley that we gained but little of the Canoes until in the evening I passed over a mountain on an Indian rode by which rout I cut off Several miles of the Meanderings of the River, the roade which passes this mountain is wide and appears to have been dug in meney places... (from Moulton, 1990:401)

Clark took up the trail at the mouth of the Dearborn River (at the northern end of the District) and followed it into the Helena valley and beyond. Clark marked the route of this trail on the expedition maps which provide a significant historical reference for locating the trail. Soon after leaving the Dearborn, the trail avoided the oxbow bends and the rugged canyon terrain. Clark notes several occasions where the trail diverted from the steep sided canyons of the Missouri or bypassed rugged terrain. The trail appears to have joined the Missouri River south of the "Gates of the Mountains". At one point Clark refers to the presence of Indian camps along this route:

...this morning early Capt. Clark pursued his rout, saw early in the day the remains of several Indians camps formed of willow brush which appeared to have been inhabited some time this spring. saw where the natives had pealed the bark off the pine trees about this same season. this the indian woman with us informs that they do to obtain the sap and soft part of the wood and bark for food. at 11 A.M. Capt. C. fell in with a gang of Elk of which he killed 2. and not being able to obtain as much wood as would make a fire substituted the dung of the buffaloe and cooked a part of their meat on which they breadfasted and again pursued their route, which lay along an old indian road. (Lewis entry, July 19th, 1805: Moulton, 1990:403)

This major North-South trail system first documented by Lewis and Clark may be associated with the "Old North Trail" system (Reeves, 1990). The Old North Trail was an ancient system used by Native Americans for thousands of years. The trail system ran along the east slope of the Continental Divide. Legends suggest that this trail was a route used by the first Americans in populating the Americas. An historical account by Brings-Down-the-Sun references this trail:

There is a well known trail we call the Old North Trail. It runs north and south along the Rocky Mountains. No one knows how long it has been used by the Indians. My father told me it originated in the migration of a great tribe of Indians from the distant north to the south, and all tribes have, ever since, continued to follow in its tracks. (McClintock, 1910:434)

Recent archaeological research by Reeves demonstrates that a system of north-south running trails is present in segments from the Montana-Canada border south to the Sun River along the Eastern Rocky Mountain Front. Reeves identifies what he believes are two main corridors, an "inner trail" which runs along the foothills hugging the Rocky Mountain Front range, and an "outer trail" running out on the plains further from the Front range.

Emanating from the major north-south system were a series of western trails which crossed the Continental Divide. One of the more significant of these passes ran up Wolf Creek to Rogers and Lewis and Clark passes. Mullan Pass is another significant route over the Continental Divide and was the route chosen by Lt. Mullan when he built the Mullan Road in the mid-1850s.

One of the few specific geographic references to the Old North Trail was offered by Walter McClintock (1910) who wrote:

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The main trail ran south along the eastern side of the Rockies, at a uniform distance from the mountains, keeping clear of the forest, and outside of the foothills. [REDACTED], and extended south into the country, inhabited by a people with dark skins, and long hair falling over their faces.

In the early 1900s the Hilger family established the first tour boat trips of the [REDACTED] (Bryan Hilger, personal communication)

In the corridor area, segments of both [REDACTED] can be found (Reeves 1991; Kennedy 1991; Toole 1959). [REDACTED]

It is likely that this route followed an aboriginal trail, as was the [REDACTED]

Only limited surveys for prehistoric trails have been conducted in the Upper Missouri River Corridor in Lewis and Clark County. However several possible trail scars and associated rock pile features have been recorded in the area. These segments cannot be clearly associated with the Old North Trail System at this time. Further investigations and archaeological research, including historic map research, aerial reconnaissance and remote sensing may shed light on the route of the Old North Trail system in the study area.

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F. ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Property Types and Significance

The property types associated with prehistoric settlement and subsistence, and transportation corridors in the Upper Missouri River Corridor of Lewis and Clark County are usually not identifiable as to cultural/temporal period without the recovery of diagnostic projectile points, or dateable organic material. However, the range of property types present indicates the range of activities conducted by prehistoric Native Americans in the area. Commonly occurring property types within the Corridor area include lithic debris scatters, short-term camp sites (both open and rock shelters), pictograph sites, and stone cairns and rings. Less commonly, lithic procurement areas (quarries) also are found in the Upper Missouri River Corridor. Evidence suggests that humans have utilized the area for over 10,000 years. Projectile points determined to be temporally diagnostic have been recovered over the years by collectors in the Upper Missouri River Corridor. These range in estimated time depth from the Paleoindian Period (12,500 B.P. - 7500 B.P.) to the Protohistoric Period (late 1700s A.D.). Prehistoric campsites, rock art, cairns, rock shelters, and quarries have been recorded in the vicinity of the Corridor area.

Research of previous archaeological investigations has shown that many prehistoric properties in the Corridor have the potential to add important information to the understanding of prehistoric cultures, and are NRHP eligible under Criterion D. The diverse nature of these archaeological properties offers many research possibilities. Because so little is known about prehistoric cultures in the northwestern Plains region, information significant to prehistory may be defined as relating to only one or more of the following: 1) temporal or cultural affiliation as determined by the recovery of diagnostic artifacts, and radiocarbon or other dating techniques; 2) inter and intra-site spatial information; 3) feature construction and type; 4) lithic technologies; 5) seasonality of the site; 6) intra-site activity loci; 7) resource use; 8) trade and travel routes; and 9) religious or ceremonial practices. These represent some of the major types of information available to researchers from sites considered significant under Criterion D.

Significance of a property is generally based upon the contextual integrity of the cultural deposit, the association of the property with other significant sites, and the richness and variety of cultural remains present. The cultural deposit at a site is subject to a variety of formative processes which alter and destroy the evidence of the cultural activity represented there. In most cases, the highest potential for recovering significant information occurs in sites where cultural deposits are preserved by soil deposition. In some instances when soils are not conducive to deposition, sites which contain highly frequent and diverse cultural deposits may provide important information about prehistoric people. In most cases subsurface testing is necessary to evaluate the integrity and significance of most sites.

Property Type Description

Campsites

Description

Campsites are areas occupied for short periods of time by small groups of prehistoric peoples, on a seasonal or temporary basis. Prehistoric campsites are commonly found on the flat terraces above the Missouri River and at numerous small springs and major tributaries located in the adjacent foothills and upland areas. Campsites may be open or may be located in fortuitous rock shelters, or may reveal shelter remnants such as tipi rings.

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Campsites are identified by the presence of lithic debris (resulting from chipped stone tool manufacture and maintenance), hearth remnants (clusters of fire-cracked rock, charcoal-stained and oxidized soil) and refuse middens containing bone fragments, stone circles and hearth debris. Campsites may be open or may be located in fortuitous rock shelters, or may reveal shelter remnants such as tipi rings. Campsites are commonly located on terraces, at confluences of streams and near springs. This site type might range in size from a few square meters to several thousand square meters. Eroding cutbanks on the river's edge often reveal subsurface cultural strata characterized by lithic debitage, fire-cracked rock, protruding bone fragments, hearth oxidation stains and charcoal. Several such sites have been recorded in the southern end of the Corridor.

In some cases buried cultural strata containing lithic debris, hearth features, stone structure features, midden features, human burials, dateable organics, tools, or pottery exist at camp sites. The presence of buried cultural deposits suggests that good contextual integrity exists, indicating clear significance under Criterion D. Where camp sites are found in an erosional situation, such as on bench tops, the cultural strata are often collapsed and the temporal and spatial separation of the deposits lost. Camp sites are not considered individually significant and eligible for the National Register, however such sites may be eligible as contributing properties to the district since they may provide important information on the intersite patterning and settlement preferences in the study area.

Campsites can provide information about subsistence and adaptation strategies, lithic technology activities, use of spatial patterning, resource use and other kinds of information. Campsites are probably the most informative site type as far as understanding the daily activities of prehistoric cultures. Identifying and studying prehistoric campsites provides important information about the types of activities which took place in the Upper Missouri River Corridor and how the local prehistoric peoples adapted to the area.

Significance

The significance of prehistoric campsites lies in their potential to contribute to our understanding of the settlement, subsistence and behaviors of the occupants. Campsites reflect the archaeological remains of the daily life of prehistoric cultures including technological, social and subsistence elements. Significant campsites can provide information about subsistence and adaptation strategies, lithic technology activities, spatial patterning of features and activity areas, resource use and other kinds of information. Campsites are the most informative site type as far as understanding the subsistence activities of prehistoric cultures.

NRHP Registration Requirements

Campsites are individually eligible for NRHP registration under Criterion D if they retain contextual integrity. That is, the cultural components are sealed and intact in a surface and subsurface context with minimal post depositional disturbance. Ideally the soils should be well stratified, deep and well drained with good preservation of organic materials. While it is improbable that perfect preservation of all cultural features will exist at a given site, eligibility should be based upon a portion of a site retaining contextual integrity. The presence of buried cultural deposits is an indicator that good contextual integrity exists. Testing and evaluation of buried cultural components should be conducted at campsites in order to determine their significance. Campsites with subsurface remains should be considered to be National Register-eligible.

Campsites with high frequency and diversity of cultural material may also be considered individually eligible for listing on the NRHP. Although these sites may or may not lack intact buried cultural deposits or temporal indicators, these sites can provide sufficient quantities of data to investigate patterns of raw materials use, proxemics, technology, social organization, trade and interaction and other areas. Without temporal indicators these data are limited in their application, but broad behavioral patterns can be identified at such sites.

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Campsites located adjacent to major travel corridors are of added significance because they can provide significant information on the transportation networks and activities of prehistoric people. Sites lacking contextual integrity or high artifact frequency and diversity, found adjacent to major travel corridors may still be considered eligible for the NRHP as part of a district for their contribution to our understanding of the broader travel networks although they may not be individually eligible.

Fully eroded and disturbed campsites and those displaying low frequency of cultural materials are generally not considered individually eligible for the NRHP unless they are clearly associated with a major transportation network.

Pictograph Sites

Description

Red, iron oxide pictographs are found on the limestone and Precambrian siltstone cliffs in the UMRC. A number of recurring motifs including animal and human figures, lines and geometric designs are represented in the area. All of these images are portrayed in paint, primarily a red hematite based paint. The Big Belt Mountains contain several recorded hematite sources. These images are places on steep rock cliff faces or in caves. No predictable pattern as to location, orientation and purpose of these sites has been identified, although many modern Indian people hold them as having ceremonial and cultural value.

Significance

These sites are important in the archaeological record because of their symbolic content. Like all symbolic art, rock art in the Upper Missouri River Corridor offers archaeologists an opportunity to learn about the world-view, symbolism and mythology of prehistoric groups. Changes of population and movement of groups may be reflected in the rock art. Prehistoric rock art in the Upper Missouri River Corridor also has value for its comparative contribution to the study of world-wide human artistic endeavor. Many such sites are also recognized for their traditional cultural value to modern Native Americans.

Pictograph sites which maintain good integrity and intact artistic motifs are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for their high artistic value. Prehistoric rock art sites may also contribute to the district because they represent a significant pattern or event of importance to the traditions of modern Native Americans (Criterion A). Pictograph panels containing recognizable motifs are likely to yield information important in prehistory (significant under Criterion D). Testing for subsurface deposits in association with pictograph panels may contribute to their significance under Criterion D (Conner and Conner 1971, Feyhl 1980, Fredlund 1990, Loendorf, 1988). Recent methods in radiocarbon dating of pigment demonstrates that the artwork itself may be eligible under Criterion D, especially if identifiable and consistent motifs can be dated.

Proper recordation of these fragile sites allows analysis of the variation and distribution of motifs, their significance to native peoples, and the temporal and cultural affiliation of motifs and styles (Fredlund 1990).

NRHP Registration Requirements

In order for a pictograph site to be considered significant under most criteria, clearly recognizable motifs should be present. In many cases deterioration of the medium has resulted in blurred and indeterminate forms. These may have little

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research potential for archaeological studies and are considered ineligible for the NRHP under Criterion D, but they may have specific cultural values to Native Americans under Criterion A.

Pictograph panels containing recognizable motifs are likely to yield information important in prehistory (significant under Criterion D), and embody distinctive characteristics of prehistoric art (significant under Criterion C). Often surface or subsurface cultural deposits occur below pictograph panels. Testing for these deposits is recommended. Subsurface deposits in likely association with pictograph panels contribute to their significance under Criterion D. Sometimes tools (such as red ocher caches) found in such deposits can associate the pictographs to an assemblage on the ground below them (Conner and Conner 1971; Feyhl 1980; Fredlund 1990; Loendorf 1988).

Other Related Site Types and Resources

Prehistoric trail segments, quarries, possible vision quest structures, eagle trap pits, and other prehistoric constructions are likely to be located in the Upper Missouri River Corridor. These are often difficult to associate with a particular temporal or cultural group. Rock alignments and medicine wheels are known to occur in the region, and may be significant under Criteria C or D. These property types must be evaluated on an individual basis to determine their significance and NRHP eligibility requirements.

A bison kill site, associated by projectile point style to the Late Plains Prehistoric Period, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] because it holds significant archaeological remains which may reasonably be linked to the Upper Missouri River Corridor. The kill site(s) has been variously recorded, and appears under several site numbers. The prehistoric use of this area is extensive. The site has multiple components with several jump and drive line locales, and several strata in each kill area. There are numerous adjacent campsites, tipi ring sites, and pictograph sites which have been only nominally recorded.

This kill site is the closest known locale of massive bison procurement to the Corridor, indicating a major resource area could be reached to the south via the Corridor. [REDACTED]

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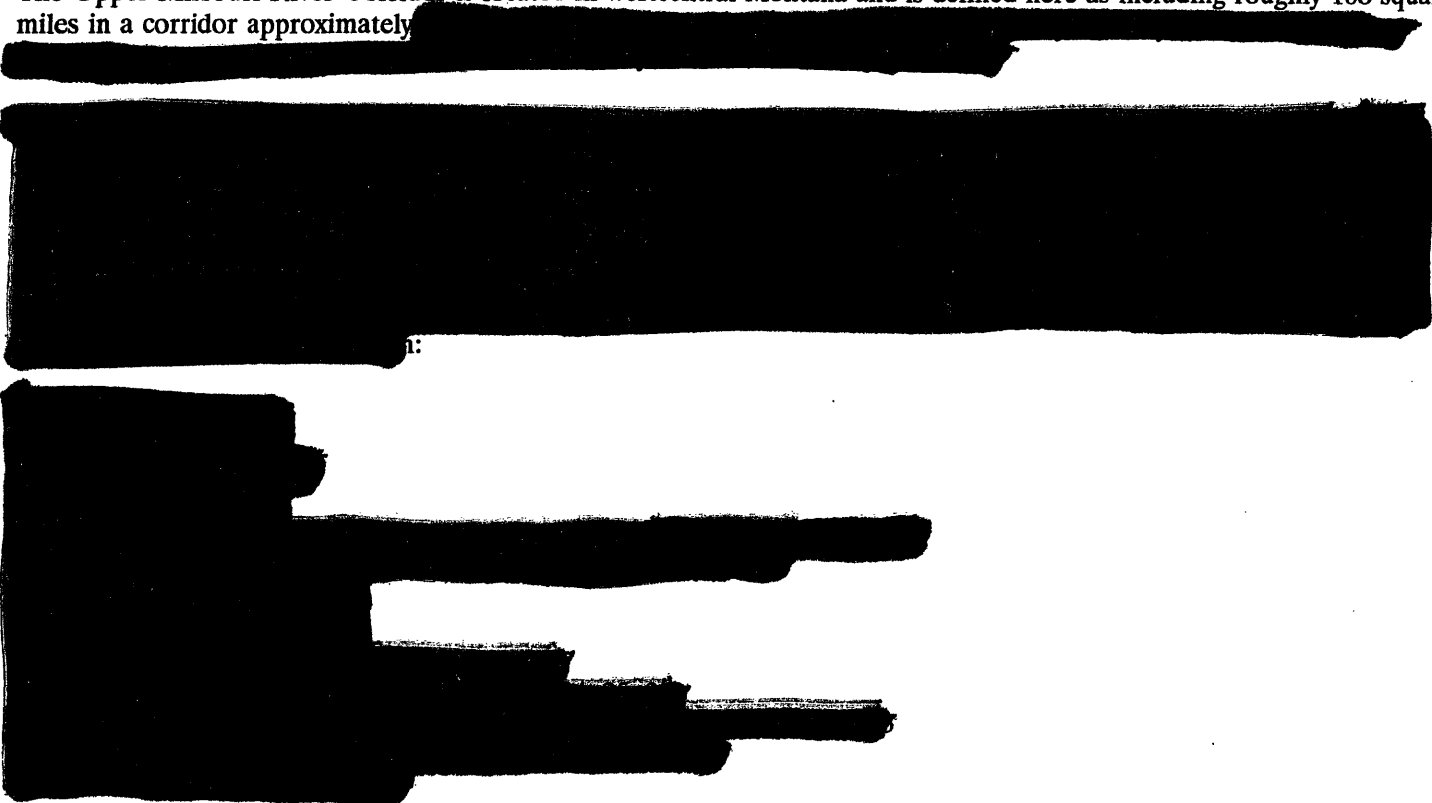
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G. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The Upper Missouri River Corridor is located in westcentral Montana and is defined here as including roughly 108 square miles in a corridor approximately



Along the northwestern terminus of the Big Belt Mountains the Missouri River has cut through the complex, folded bedrock of the area and has formed a deep, often vertical-sided canyon. This canyon is today known as the Gates of the Mountains, named by Meriwether Lewis as the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition passed through this area in 1805 on their way to the Columbia River drainage.

Geologically, thick deposits of Precambrian mudstones and siltstones are overlain by a sequence of Paleozoic and Mesozoic limestone deposits. Near the end of the Mesozoic, folding and faulting of these deposits as a result of tectonic plate movement, displaced the older Precambrian rocks on top of the younger, limestone deposits. The result of the thrust and fold sequence produced the hilly and mountainous countryside that characterizes the area within this multiple property nomination. Later, during the Tertiary, a series of volcanic episodes cut through the sedimentary rocks and deposited igneous rocks on top of them. These igneous outcroppings can be noted at various locations near the northern portion of the area under nomination (Pao 1973).

The river valley in the area under nomination is characteristically narrow, but also includes level terraces formed during flooding of the Missouri River, and terraces formed by alluvial fans that spill out from steep drainages along both sides of the canyon. These terraces offer a break from the generally steep topography, and were consequently utilized as temporary habitation sites by aboriginal cultures traveling through the river corridor. The hilly and mountainous terrain of the Upper Missouri River Corridor in Lewis and Clark County, Montana, makes access to and from targeted resource areas rather

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difficult. Because of this, the aboriginal peoples traveling through this portion of the Upper Missouri River Corridor were very likely forced to utilize a limited number of viable passages from the Missouri River to the targeted resource areas.

Climatic conditions of the area can be described as that of a steppe environment. The area receives less than 12 inches of annual precipitation, with the majority of the precipitation falling in the months from April through June. Summers are hot and dry with temperatures commonly reaching 97 degrees Fahrenheit (36 degrees C.). Relative humidity is low and the rate of evaporation is high. Driving winds are commonplace year round. Uncharacteristic of the region in general is that the winter months in this portion of the Upper Missouri River Corridor are relatively mild when compared to adjacent areas. Temperatures can drop to 30 degrees below 0 Fahrenheit (-34 degrees C.), and occasional spring snow storms can deposit as much as two feet of snow at one time. Much of the winter, however, is characterized by slightly below freezing temperatures and little to no snow cover along the river flood plain. It is likely that the comparatively mild winters along the Upper Missouri River Corridor may have attracted native peoples to spend the winter months here (Herbort 1988:7-12).

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H. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

The multiple property listing of prehistoric archaeological resources in the Upper Missouri River Corridor of Lewis and Clark County, Montana, is based upon a 1992 inventory made possible by the National Park Service, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, and Lewis and Clark County Planning Office. The inventory was conducted by Patrick Rennie and David Ferguson in the spring of 1992.

Two large reservoirs on the Missouri (Holter and Hauser lakes) inundate much of the former river bottom habitat. The entire Corridor area is a popular recreation area today. Subdivisions and recreational properties are rapidly replacing rural ranch lands in the Corridor area. Concern over the increasing threat to prehistoric archaeological properties by development, erosion, and vandalism led to development of this project.

This project was initiated to address the known archaeological resources, evaluate the potential for unknown prehistoric cultural resources, and investigate the relationship of these properties to the archaeological record of the surrounding region.

This inventory consisted of: 1) a Class I review of previous surveys and recorded archaeological properties in the Corridor area; 2) archaeological literature research, evaluation of personal artifact collections and interviews with long-time area residents and artifact collectors; and 3) a Class III pedestrian survey of approximately 1800 acres within the Corridor area.

Results of Archival and Literature Research

The results of archival and literature research indicated that the earliest systematic archaeological investigations in the Upper Missouri River Corridor were conducted as a part of the Smithsonian Institution River Basin Survey Salvage Program in 1946 and 1947 (Hughes and Bliss 1947; Bliss 1948). In 1949, archaeologists from Montana State University (Missoula) carried out survey work in the Gates of the Mountains area and the Canyon Ferry Reservoir area (Forbis 1950; Malouf 1950). Numerous other archaeological surveys have been conducted in the area, principally in conjunction with Section 106 compliance. The site file search through the University of Montana indicated that 35 prehistoric sites had been previously recorded in the Upper Missouri River Corridor project area.

The following list reflects the previous archaeological research carried out in the Missouri River project area:

Bowers, Martha et al., 1982 An Evaluation of the Historic and Prehistoric Cultural Resources in the Thompson Falls, Ryan and Hauser Dam area, Central and Western Montana. MSHPO #SA-6-9493.

Caywood, Janene, 1988, Cultural Resource Inventories of Proposed Abandoned Mine Reclamation Areas in Lewis and Clark, McCone, Powell, and Rosebud counties, Montana. MSHPO #ZZ-5-11936.

Davis, Leslie B., 1979 Black Sandy Recreation Area. MSHPO # LC-6-4564.

Ibid., 1978, Beartooth Recreational Management Area. MSHPO #12213.

Ibid., 1978, Chinaman's - Canyon Ferry Recreation Area. MSHPO #LC-6-11612.

Deaver, Sherri, 1990, Missouri-Madison Hydroelectric Project Report on Intensive Pedestrian Survey for Cultural Resources and Recommendations for Testing. MSHPO #ZZ-6-11930.

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- Herbort, Dale, 1989, Helena Valley Canal Diversion Projects. MSHPO #LC-6-4578.
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- Kingsbury, Lawrence A., 1987, Sieben Ranch and Bureau of Land Management Butte District Land Exchange, Cultural Resource Class III Inventory and Test Excavation of Tipi Ring Site 24LC744. MSHPO #LC-2-4507.
- Knight, George C., 1977, Archaeological and Historical Reconnaissance Helena - Canyon Ferry District 1977 (Cave - Never Sweat Timber Sale Area; Hat Creek Timber Sale; Section 24 Spring Development; Hatstack Spring; Neston Spring; Manager Pipeline Area; Elk Ridge Exchange; Horse Gulch Exchange; Conway Exchange; Rimini Area Exchange; Unionville Area Exchange; Austin Exchange; Crystal Creek Exchange). MSHPO #ZZ-1-10745.
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- Loscheider, Mavis and John W. Greer, 1979, Oxbow Ranch Exchange, Holter Lake Portion (BLM), West Central Montana. MSHPO #LC-2-4475.
- Malouf, Carling I., 1950, The Archaeology of the Canyon Ferry Region, Montana. *Montana State University Anthropology and Sociology Papers*, No. 11.
- Miller, Blaine, 1980, Indian Trail Tracks Sale. MSHPO #LC-2-4481.
- Ibid., 1980, Black Sandy Beach R.P. & P. MSHPO #LC-2-4477.
- Passmann, Dori, 1990, Burke Creek Timber Sale. MSHPO #LC-5-11565.
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Tate, Marcia J., 1990, Riprap and Road Area. MSHPO # LC-6-11631.

Weakly, Ward F., 1977, Class II Cultural Resource Survey of Potential Borrow Sites--Helena Valley Dam---Lewis and Clark County, Montana. MSHPO #LC-6-4561.

Evaluation of Private Collections from the Project Area

In order to corroborate our expectations for temporal range of occupation of the area, three substantial relic collections from private properties in the Corridor area were reviewed. This phase of the investigation provided information about what range of artifact types occurred in the project area, and provided site lead information. The types of diagnostic artifacts observed included: Clovis and other Paleoindian projectile points (associated with dates from 10,000 to 6000 B.C.), a few Early Plains Archaic Period projectile points (6000 to 3000 years B.C.), Middle Plains Archaic (McKean Complex) projectiles (3000 to 1000 B.C.), Late Plains Archaic (Pelican Lake and Besant styles) projectile points (1000 B.C. to A.D. 500), and numerous Late Prehistoric projectile points associated with the period from the introduction of the bow in the northwestern plains (est. A.D. 500) to the introduction of iron and guns (est. A.D. 1750) (Frison 1991). Our conclusion at that time was that the project area had been occupied or at least visited throughout the known period of human existence in the northwestern plains.

Methods of the Sampling Survey Phase

The Class III survey portion of the project was to involve at least 1500 acres of intensive pedestrian survey. Intensive survey involved walking 30 meter wide transects on the selected properties. The acreage for intensive survey was selected entirely on private lands, as permitted by cooperative landowners. Private lands were addressed because they are not subject to Section 106 compliance and are often not as well documented as public lands in this region. Also, the bulk of commercial development in the project area occurs on private land without cultural resource inventories. A list of area landowners was obtained from the Lewis and Clark County Planning Office, and landowners considered for the project were initially contacted by an introductory letter and phone call.

Within each property, the first consideration when selecting specific acreage for intensive survey was site leads provided by the landowners. Because resources allowed for only a small sampling within the Corridor, areas with the highest potential for prehistoric use (based on field experience and literature research) were given priority. The remaining inventory was distributed on various types of topography, roughly 50% riparian zones, drainages, and low terraces, 30% hill or ridge tops, and 20% slopes and sidehills. With this distribution, it was hoped that all expected site types would be addressed, and a variety of geographic settings would be addressed.

Sites were identified based upon knowledge of the archaeology of the region. Cutbanks and rodent burrows were examined for subsurface cultural deposits where possible. Site were identified by the presence of lithic debris such as waste flakes from tool manufacturing activities, camp debris such as fractured quartzite (demonstrating rapid-cooling or fire fractures), bone fragments, charcoal and red oxidation stained lenses (indicating hearths), and stone features such as tipi rings or cairns. In the case of pictographs, suitable rock outcrops, grottos and caves were examined for the presence of red iron-oxide paint.

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Sites were recorded on computer generated, standardized site forms, and were filed with Archaeological Records at the University of Montana. Each site found was mapped, photographed and recorded. Sites with potential for buried components were shovel tested, conducted in excavations of one square meter or less, with soil removed in 10 cm levels and sifted through a 1/4 inch wire mesh screen. Locations and results of subsurface testing were documented on the site forms. Photographs or negatives from this phase of the project are on file with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana.

Sites were evaluated based upon a knowledge of existing prehistoric archaeological properties in the region. Those with subsurface components retaining contextual integrity were recommended as eligible for listing with the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. Pictograph sites with reasonably intact panels were also listed as eligible under Criterion D, and possibly C.

Results of Sampling Survey Phase

The selected acreage was covered by David Ferguson and Patrick Rennie with help from one to four supervised volunteers per field day. A total of 32 person days were spent on archaeological survey. Approximately 1835 acres were intensively surveyed, for a rate of 57 acres per person, per day. A total of fifteen prehistoric sites were documented during the Upper Missouri River Corridor Project. Three sites (24LC33, 24LC146 and 24LC299) included in the site documentation had been previously recorded. Due to the lack of information on the original site forms, these were re-evaluated and their documentation was updated. Twelve previously unrecorded prehistoric sites were found. When possible, long-time area landowners were interviewed about the project area. Topographic maps (United States Geological Survey, 7.5 minute quadrangles) and Brunton compasses were used to locate all survey transects and to plot survey acreage and sites found.

Time and resource constraints permitted only one of these sites to be nominated to the National Register. That site is 24LC1080, the Eagle's Site. It is a subsurface cultural stratum tentatively associated with the Late Archaic Period by the recovery of a diagnostic Pelican Lake projectile point in a subsurface test excavation. Fire-cracked rock and eroding hearth features suggest this site represents a short-term camping locale, which was probably used on a seasonal basis.

Determination of Site Significance

Due to the occurrence of many resources in the Corridor area, the potential for occupation of the area by prehistoric populations is high. Within the Corridor area, specific types of locales were identified as having the highest potential to contain evidence of these occupations. For example, flat terraces along the river or tributary streams are favored campsite locations. Limestone grottos and caves have a high potential for rock art and rock shelter sites.

Certain topographic features offer the highest likelihood for significant cultural deposits. Areas of high site potential were evaluated for their erosional or depositional condition. For a site to retain contextual integrity, the cultural deposits must be preserved in a subsurface stratum. In dry caves, open grasslands and bench tops, soil development is relatively slow although the cultural use of these areas is high. Along stream banks, depositional situations occur which offer the chance for cultural deposits to be covered relatively quickly, and hence the likelihood for finding a cultural deposit retaining contextual integrity is high.

The property types identified in this project contained the characteristics associated with the prehistoric period. Typically this includes stone tools, and the lithic debris associated with their manufacture, quartzite cobble-filled hearths or oven features, stone "tipi" rings, and in the case of rock art, characteristic motifs and medium (iron-oxide paint on smooth limestone rock panels).

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Site types were identified by function; for example, hearths and lithic debris suggest a camp situation. Some campsites retain evidence of either rock shelters or stone rings (which are generally believed to be related to the presence of tipi lodges). Other campsites have no evidence of shelter structures. Sites were also identified by the style and temporal range of projectile points found in association, based upon previously established temporal parameters and cultural/temporal classifications for each style.

Statements of significance for each site were based upon the condition and contextual integrity of the individual site. Campsites were considered potentially NRHP eligible under Criterion D when subsurface testing and/or the examination of cutbanks revealed that sufficient soil development had taken place to cover and preserve the context of the cultural stratum. Rock art sites were considered significant if recognizable motifs could be discerned. Eroded sites were generally not considered significant to the archaeological record.

Summary of sites found in the 1992 sampling survey

Of the 15 sites documented, three were in rock shelters or cliffs, two were on dry ridges, and the rest were within a short distance of water, usually on terraces above a permanent or ephemeral water source.

The "Rock Springs Ring" (24LC1077) site consists of a single heavily constructed tipi ring [redacted] e [redacted]. A 24" diameter tree grows within the ring, suggesting it has a great antiquity, although Bryan Hilger recalls that the tree was about 6 inches in diameter when he first saw the ring as a child.

"Curran 4" (24LC1076) is a pair of relatively large (6 meter diameter) stone rings with associated flakes and a graver tool found on the surface.

"Oxbow 2" [redacted] It is primarily a buried deposit and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion D. Several flakes, a biface fragment, and two end scrapers were found in wheel ruts of a two-track road which runs through the site. A chert flake was found in one test pit.

"Curran 3" (24LC1075) is a pair of stone rings and an oblong stone alignment [redacted]. Subsurface testing suggests that little subsurface material exists, and the site was considered to have minimal potential to add information.

The "Old Trail Rings Site" (24LC1078) consists of one clearly defined tipi ring, a partial ring and a cairn. Fire cracked rock (FCR) and a broken Archaic-sized projectile point were found on the surface at this site. [redacted]

[redacted] This site has little potential to add further information, and little if any subsurface deposits exist at this locale.

"Oxbow 1" (24LC1079) [redacted] It consists of two tipi rings, two cairns, a few chert flakes and the debris from extensive quartzite cobble breaking. Fire-cracked quartzite was found within the tipi rings.

Site 24LC1073 consists of three tipi rings and a cairn. No lithic debitage was found at this site. This site was not considered to have potential to provide important information. No subsurface deposits were located.

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"The Eagle's Site" (24LC1080) will be nominated for the National Register of Historic Places as eligible under Criterion D. This site is a subsurface stratum of cultural materials including several hearths and FCR clusters eroding from a cutbank on the edge of the Missouri River. A Pelican-Lake style projectile point was found in a test pit at this site. Several agate and chert flakes were observed in the eroding features. Charcoal and bone fragments were also present in the eroding features, suggesting that there are sufficient organics for C-14 dating. There appears to be only one cultural stratum, which suggests the possibility of a single component site associated with the Late Archaic Period. Site 24LC1080 could offer an excellent opportunity to study this cultural period. Test results suggest that there are hundreds of square meters of relatively undisturbed area at the Eagles' Site.

"The Larson Site" (24LC1072) is a scatter of chert flakes and Quartzite FCR near [REDACTED]. An Archaic-type projectile point fragment, and a quartzite biface fragment were found on the surface. Unfortunately, rodent and road building activities have disturbed this site to the point that it no longer holds any contextual integrity.

"Dave's Tax Shelter" (24LC1082) is a rockshelter located in a long grotto of a limestone outcrop. There is evidence of three surface hearths (red oxidation staining on the bare rock) and three obsidian flakes were found on the floor of the shelter. There is a shallow deposit of roof scale gravels on the floor which might contain other cultural materials, although there is no soil development here and this site lacks potential for contextual integrity.

Site 24LC1074 is a single tipi ring [REDACTED]. This site has no subsurface deposits and is not considered to have potential to add information.

"Fishing Access Site" (24LC1081) is a scatter of quartzite FCR, basalt and chert flakes found [REDACTED]. A fishing access road, and a county road cut through the site and have damaged about 90% of the site area. We propose that this site has been damaged to the extent that no contextual integrity remains.

Conclusions

The results of our sampling survey indicate that while there is a long history of prehistoric cultural use of the Upper Missouri River Corridor area, historic use of the area has greatly obscured the archaeological remains. Inundation of the river valley, agriculture, housing and road development, recreational use and erosion continue to impact the archaeological record of this area. We hope that registration of remaining archaeological resources in the Upper Missouri River Corridor will be facilitated by this Multiple Properties Documentation.

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