

**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT FOR THE
CHANHASSEN ALTERNATIVE URBAN AREA WIDE REVIEW
(AUAR), CHANHASSEN, CARVER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**SHPO File No. Pending
The 106 Group Project No. 03-12**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On May 21, 2003, The 106 Group Ltd. (The 106 Group) conducted a cultural resources assessment for the Chanhasen Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) in Chanhasen, Carver County, Minnesota. The assessment was conducted under contract with Hoisington Koegler Group Inc. for the City of Chanhasen. The study area is located in Sections 22, 23, 26, and 27, T116N, R23W (Figure 1). This report is intended to provide preliminary cultural resources information for completion of the AUAR and to assist in future compliance requirements under federal and state law. If the regulatory review for this project is at the state or local level, consultation with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is appropriate. If there will be any federal involvement in the future (for example, through funding or permitting), consultation with the applicable federal agency and SHPO is required.

The purpose of this cultural resources assessment was to identify any historic properties within the study area of the Chanhasen AUAR that require further investigation in order to determine their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and to eliminate those properties that are clearly not eligible. In addition, the survey assessed the project area's potential for containing previously unidentified archaeological resources. Should the boundaries of the Chanhasen AUAR be altered from their current configuration, the study area for architecture-history and archaeological resources will need to be adjusted as appropriate.

The cultural resources assessment for the AUAR included background research, a visual reconnaissance of the entire study area, assessment of archaeological potentials within the study area, and photographic documentation of buildings and structures 50 years of age or older within the study area. The study area for archaeological and architecture-history resources was approximately 650 acres (263 hectares).

FIGURE 1. STUDY AREA AND ARCHAEOLOGY RESULTS

2.0 METHODS

2.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH METHODS

On May 16, 2003, prior to fieldwork, background research was conducted using the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) site files for information on previously identified archaeological sites and architecture-history properties within one mile (1.6 kilometer [km]) of the study area and on cultural resources surveys previously conducted within the study area. In addition, researchers examined historical maps and aerial photographs of the study area.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGY STUDY AREA

The study area for archaeology included all areas where construction or other ground-disturbing activities related to the project might take place. Based on construction plans available in May of 2003, the Chanhassen AUAR study area is approximately 27,878,400 square feet (ft.) (2,589,903 square meters [m]). The total survey area for archaeology is approximately 650 acres (263 hectares).

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD METHODS

The project archaeologist conducted an assessment (windshield survey) of the study area to identify areas with moderate or high archaeological potential. Such areas were defined as the undisturbed portions of the study area:

- within 500 ft. (150 m) of an existing or former water source of 40 acres (19 hectares) or greater in extent, or within 500 ft. (150 m) of a former or existing perennial stream;
- located on topographically prominent landscape features;
- located within 300 ft. (100 m) of a previously reported site; or
- located within 300 ft. (100 m) of a former or existing historic structure or feature (such as a building foundation or cellar depression).

In addition, archaeologists compared historical documentation, such as plat maps and aerial photographs, with current field conditions to assess the potential within the survey area for intact historical archaeological sites.

Areas defined as having a relatively low potential for containing intact archaeological resources included inundated areas, former or existing wetland areas, poorly drained areas, and areas with a 20 percent or greater slope. Low potential areas and areas in which Holocene (less than 10,000 years old) deposits have been significantly disturbed are defined as having little or no potential for containing intact archaeological resources.

2.4 ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY STUDY AREA

The study area for architecture-history took into account potential effects to historic resources, including physical alterations to buildings, increases in levels of noise or pollution, changes in visual or aesthetic qualities, or changes in traffic densities or patterns. The study area for architecture-history resources comprised the entire area of the Chanhassen AUAR, which is approximately 650 acres (263 hectares).

2.5 ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY FIELD METHODS

During the field survey, the project historian completed an inventory of the buildings and structures within the study area in order to identify properties that appeared to be 50 years of age or older. Those resources were photographed and assessed for historical integrity.

3.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

No archaeological surveys have been previously conducted within the Chanhasen AUAR study area.

Two reported (not field checked) archaeological sites (21CRaj, 21CRak) are located within the study area for the Chanhasen AUAR (Table 1; see Figure 1). There are seven additional previously recorded (confirmed) archaeological sites (21CR14, 21CR15, 21CR97, 21CR103, 21CR104, 21CR108, 21CR109) within a one-mile (1.6-km) radius of the study area (Table 2).

3.2 ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY

No previous surveys have been conducted within the project area, although two county-wide surveys help to establish the historical context for architecture-history resources. Carver County was surveyed in 1977 as part of a comprehensive county-by-county survey of the state for all cultural resource types. This survey provided a baseline inventory for the county's historical resources. As a follow-up to that survey, the Minnesota Historical Society published *Carver County: A Guide to Its Historic and*

TABLE 1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN STUDY AREA

Site No.	Site Name	T	R	S	¼ Sec.	Description	NRHP Status
21CRaj	unnamed	116N	23W	23	SE-SW-SW-SW	Reported mound group	Not evaluated
21CRak	unnamed	116N	23W	23	SE-SE-SE-SW	Reported burial	Not evaluated

TABLE 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN ONE MILE OF STUDY AREA

Site No.	Site Name	T	R	S	¼ Sec.	Description	NRHP Status
21CR14	unnamed	116N	23W	22	N-SW-SW-SW	Artifact scatter	Not evaluated
21CR15	unnamed	116N	23W	22	W-NE-SE-SW	Lithic scatter	Not evaluated
21CR97	unnamed	116N	23W	21	NW-NW-NE-SE	Single flake	Not evaluated
21CR103	unnamed	116N	23W	27	SE-NW-SE	Lithic scatter	Determined not eligible
21CR104	unnamed	116N	23W	27	SW-NE-NE-SE	Lithic scatter	Not evaluated
21CR108	Lake Susan-Riley Creek	116N	23W	14	N-NW-NE-SE and S-SW-SE-NE	Lithic scatter	Not evaluated
21CR109	Lake Susan SW Shore	116N	23W	14/23	C-S-S-SE/NE-NW-NE	Lithic scatter and possible mound group	Not evaluated

Prehistoric Places (Lofstrom and Spaeth n.d.). This document provides a guide “to the landscape of the county, to its prehistoric settlers, to the European immigrants who settled the county in the nineteenth century and to the residents of Carver County since that time” (Lofstrom and Spaeth n.d.:i).

No properties have been previously inventoried within the study area. A total of three farmsteads/houses have been inventoried within one mile (1.6 km) of the project area. These farmsteads, located just north of the project area on Audubon Rd., are indicative of the types of properties that may be considered to be significant within the study area. Each of the farmsteads (CR-CHC-004, CR-CHC-005, and CR-CHC-006) has a house made of Chaska brick and constructed circa 1890. Chaska brick is a locally manufactured brick known for its cream color. The Albertine and Fred Heck House (CR-CHC-006) is listed on the NRHP under Criterion A “as a well-preserved example of a building constructed of Chaska brick” (Albertine and Fred Heck House NRHP nomination, on file at the Minnesota SHPO, St. Paul). It is located adjacent to the project area.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

The topography of the Chanhasen AUAR study area is comprised of several high ridges and knolls surrounding the lower-lying Bluff Creek and associated wetlands. Most of these high ridges and knolls are situated within cultivated fields or are wooded, and they have undergone minimal or no disturbance. A few of the more elevated portions of the study area, however, have been heavily disturbed through the previous establishment of farmsteads, including houses, outbuildings, and graded driveways. The areas directly adjacent to Audubon Road, Lyman Boulevard, and Pioneer Trail have been disturbed through the construction of those roads, and an area just south of Lyman Boulevard in the northwest portion of the project area has been disturbed by the previous construction of a city building. In addition, a low-lying location within the southeastern portion of the study area has been disturbed through the excavation of a sand or gravel pit, and a few of the areas adjacent to the creek are steeply sloped and/or eroded.

In general, those portions of the study area that are steeply sloped, eroded, or heavily disturbed are considered to have low potential for intact archaeological resources (see Figure 1).

The remaining portions of the study area consist of locations in proximity to Bluff Creek, to Hazeltine Lake to the west, and to wetlands connected to Lake Susan to the northeast by a stream, most of which are topographically prominent. These portions of the study area include the locations of two previously reported (not field checked) sites. Based, therefore, on their overall lack of disturbance, their proximity to significant water sources and previously reported sites, and their topographic prominence, the remaining portions of the study area are considered to have high potential for intact precontact archaeological resources (see Figure 1).

4.1.1 Historical Maps

Historical plat maps (Northwest Publishing Co. 1898; Hudson Map Company c. 1925) of the study area indicate that most of the early farmsteads within the study area remain standing. These farmsteads are addressed in the architecture-history section of this report. Two residential buildings that are no longer extant, however, were present as early as 1898 in the central portion of the study area, and the former Chanhasen Town Hall had also been constructed in the northeast corner of the study area by that year (Northwest Publishing Co. 1898). Due to the apparent lack of disturbance in the locations of these structures, these locations, which fall within areas considered to have high potential for precontact archaeological resources, are considered to have moderate to high potential for intact post-contact archaeological resources. The potential significance, however, of any post-contact archaeological resources that might exist within the study area is not known at this stage.

4.2 ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY

The 106 Group inventoried eight properties within the study area that contained buildings 50 years of age or older (Figure 2; Table 3). All of the properties are associated with farmsteads in this agricultural region. Building types include frame houses, barns, silos, granaries, chicken houses, and other outbuildings dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. House styles include a Queen Anne, a Craftsman-style bungalow, and American Foursquares. Photos of the properties are located in Appendix A.

Due to its proximity to Chaska, this area is known for its houses constructed of Chaska brick, a distinctive cream-colored brick associated with the region. Three previously recorded properties constructed in the 1890s, located just north of the project area (see Figure 2), are examples of the use of Chaska brick. None of the properties located within the study area utilized this building material. Most farmsteads exhibit building types commonly constructed during the 1910s and 1920s. One exception is Property 6 (1600 Pioneer Trail), which features a Queen Anne style house, more typical of the late nineteenth century.

None of the farmsteads retain a complete complement of agricultural outbuildings typical of farms from this period, such as a granary, a chicken house, and other sheds. Some only retain the original house and barn. In some cases, the historical integrity of the primary buildings, such as the house or barn, have been significantly compromised. As a result, the farmsteads do not sufficiently convey their association with late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century farming practices.

Although several of the individual buildings retain good historical integrity, their styles are typical of the period and do not appear to be significant representations of architectural styles.

One property listed on the NRHP is located adjacent to the project area (CR-CHC-006; the Albertine and Fred Heck House). Should the Chanhassen AUAR project involve a federal agency in the future, this house should be considered when assessing effects to historical properties.

FIGURE 2. ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY RESULTS

TABLE 3. ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY PROPERTIES

Field Number	Address	Property Type	Building Types	Date (Estimate)	Description/Integrity
1	1630 Lyman Rd.	Farmstead	House, Dairy Barn, Granary, Garage	c. 1900	The house has been significantly altered with vinyl siding, replacement windows, and additions. The central bay barn has board and batten siding and retains good integrity. The granary, with drop siding, is partially demolished and in a dilapidated state.
2	9111 Audubon Rd.	Farmstead	House (c. 1950), Barn, Granary/Corncrib, Chicken House, Silo, Pole Barns	c. 1910	The house was constructed circa 1950. The gambrel roof dairy barn has board and batten siding and retains good integrity. The granary and corncrib also retain good integrity. The addition of pole barns and the house compromise the overall integrity of the farmstead.
3	9201 Audubon Rd.	House	House, Pole Barn	c. 1940	This small, side-gabled house has replacement windows and fair integrity. It is adjacent to Property 4 and includes a large, metal-sided pole barn.
4	9231 Audubon Rd.	Farmstead	House, Dairy Barn, Garages	c. 1920	The Craftsman-style bungalow retains most of the original architectural features and has a rear addition. The jerkinhead, gambrel dairy barn has board and batten siding, and a concrete block foundation has good integrity. A modern garage and a c. 1920 garage are also included with this property.
5	9715 Audubon	Farmstead	House, Barn (converted to house), Garage, Pole Barn	c. 1910	The one-and-a-half story, front-gabled house retains good integrity. Another house on the property appears to have been converted from a concrete block barn. Other buildings include a garage and a metal pole barn.

TABLE 3. ARCHITECTURE-HISTORY PROPERTIES

Field Number	Address	Property Type	Building Types	Date (Estimate)	Description/Integrity
6	1600 Pioneer Trail	Farmstead	House, Granary/Corncrib, Silos, Corncrib, Trailer Offices, Spring House (?)	c. 1890	The two-story house features massing and detailing of the Queen Anne style. Although some alterations have been made, it retains good integrity despite its dilapidated state. Other outbuildings, such as the garage, chicken house, granary, and corncrib retain good-to-fair integrity but are also dilapidated. The original barn has been demolished, with only the foundation and two adjacent silos remaining. A concrete block structure is believed to have been a springhouse. Modern trailer offices have been added to the site. The farmstead as a whole does not retain integrity.
7	1500 Pioneer Trail	Farmstead	House, Quonset Barn, Pole Barns, Butler Bins, Harvestore	c. 1910	The foursquare house has been clad with aluminum siding and has had other alterations, resulting in poor integrity. The original barn appears to have been replaced with the addition of a Quonset shed on the original foundations. Other metal pole barns, Butler bins, Harvestore silo have been added to the farmstead, resulting in poor overall historical integrity.
8	1370 Pioneer Trail	Farmstead	House, Dairy Barn, Granary, Pole Barn	c. 1910	The foursquare house has wooden clapboard siding and retains good integrity. The gambrel-roof dairy barn has board and batten siding and retains good integrity. Other buildings include a partially demolished granary and a metal pole barn.

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APPENDIX A
PHOTOGRAPHS



Property 1, House



Property 1, Barn



Property 1, Granary



Property 2, House



Property 2, Barn



Property 2, Granary/Cornerrib



Property 3, House



Property 4, House



Property 4, Barn



Property 5, House



Property 5, Barn/House



Property 6, House



Property 6, Granary/Corncrib



Property 6, Corncrib



Property 7, House



Property 7, Barn



Property 8, House



Property 8, Barn

APPENDIX B
LIST OF PERSONNEL

LIST OF PERSONNEL

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