

MINNKOTA CENTER TO GRAND FORKS 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

BRANTFORD TOWNSITE CULTURAL RESOURCES CHARACTERIZATION

Introduction

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) proposes to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-mile-long, 345 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line (Project) from the Center 345 kV Substation, near Center, North Dakota, to the Prairie Substation, located just west of Grand Forks, North Dakota. HDR developed and recommended an Architectural Area of Potential Effects (APE), in consultation with the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for direct and visual effects to cultural resources, which extends 0.5 mile on either side of the Project centerline, and 1 mile on either side of the Project centerline at the Missouri River crossing point.

This technical memo documents background information and characterizes the current cultural resources (architectural and archaeological) present in the Brantford Townsite, North Dakota. The Brantford Townsite is located north of the APE and was not previously surveyed for cultural resources. Brantford is located in Eddy County, in Section 35, Township 148N, Range 65W and is situated adjacent (north) to Minnkota's Center to Grand Forks Project route (Figure 1).

Brantford Townsite

The Brantford Townsite was established in 1910 in anticipation of the Great Northern Railroad line's arrival in 1912. The population peaked in 1920 with about 200 residents, and the town began to decline. The post office closed in 1973. Brantford today is characterized by abandoned buildings. The Brantford cemetery is located on 77th Avenue NE, about 0.5 miles east of the Townsite, and has headstones with early twentieth century inscriptions (Figure 1). The south portion of the Townsite has a deteriorated railroad-related steel tank grain transfer feature that is no longer in use (refer to Feature G1 in Table 1 and Figure 2). A plain residential style twentieth century residential complex is located on 12 ½ St NE in the southeast portion of the Townsite (refer to Feature H4 in Table 1 and Figure 2). The town center has the former brick Brantford School. This early twentieth century building is a shell with missing window glazing and a flat roof that has partially collapsed, which has allowed snow melt water to fill the basement (refer to Feature S1 in Table 1 and Figure 2). Northwest of the Townsite is a locale where the property owner has moved in abandoned buildings (refer to features H1 and H1a to H1c and Figure 2). A church at this location rests on moving blocks (Feature H1c). A variety of early twentieth century residences and agricultural buildings have also been moved to this area. More modern architecture in the Townsite includes two mobile homes and a series of steel grain bins (refer to Features T1, T2 in Table 1; Feature G2 on Figure 2).

In addition to standing structures, the Brantford Townsite is recorded as a Ghost Town in the North Dakota State Site Files (32EDx2). The site lead boundaries include the entire northwest quarter of Section 35 in Township 148N, Range 65W (Figure 1).

Anticipated Outcome of Built Environment NRHP Significance Evaluations

National Park Service (NPS) regulations and guidance documents (including National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Bulletins) outline the process for evaluating sites for NRHP eligibility. According to the NPS, the categories of sites that may be eligible for the NRHP are buildings, structures, sites, objects, or historic districts. Sites are evaluated for NRHP eligibility using the NRHP evaluation criteria, as listed in 36 CFR 60.4. To be listed in or eligible for the NRHP, a property should be 50 years or older, possess historic significance based on its related historic context, and retain historic integrity expressive of that significance. The property must meet at least one of the four following criteria:

- Criterion A: The resource is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history.
- Criterion B: The resource is associated with the lives of people significant in the past.
- Criterion C: The resource embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; possesses high artistic value; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D: The resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Based on currently available information (photographs) and no survey data, the Brantford Townsite buildings and structures have physical integrity issues due to abandonment that would influence their NRHP eligibility. The brick school house (Feature S1 in Table 1) has noticeable architectural design attributes that would make it potentially eligible for the NRHP on an individual basis. Historic period buildings can be NRHP-eligible on an individual or district basis. The Brantford buildings and structures are part of a potential undocumented historic district; however, the integrity levels associated with an early twentieth century period of historical significance are not completely understood until required field work and research have been performed to confirm their historical significance. While speculative at this point, it is not anticipated that sufficient buildings are present from the early twentieth century associated with Brantford's full development to warrant a recommendation of being eligible for listing in the NRHP on a district basis. Buildings in the Townsite such as the school have more potential for being recommended NRHP-eligible on an individual basis. Additionally, the Townsite has more potential for NRHP-eligibility as historical archaeological ruins under NRHP Criterion D than being evaluated under Criteria A-C typically utilized for historic period buildings.

Anticipated Outcome of Archaeological NRHP Significance Evaluations

Based upon available data, the Brantford Townsite has a high potential to contain intact surface features and subsurface archaeological deposits and may be potentially eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D.





Table 1 Brantford Built Environment		
Feature number	Image	Comment
G1		Twentieth century grain transfer structure on Great Northern Railroad line
H1		Early twentieth century residential building cluster, several buildings to the northwest of 13 th Street NW have been moved. Not occupiable
H1c		Early twentieth century church moved to point north of features H1 Not occupiable
H2		Early twentieth century residence Occupiable








Table 1 Brantford Built Environment		
H3		Early twentieth century residence Occupiable
H4		Late twentieth century residence and garage Occupied
S1		Early twentieth century Brantford School Not occupiable
S2		Early twentieth century building (function unknown)
T1		Twentieth century trailer home Not occupiable

Table 1 Brantford Built Environment		
T2		Twentieth century trailer home Not occupiable
Brantford Cemetery		Brantford Cemetery located 0.5 miles east of Brantford on 77 th Avenue NE

Figures