

Cultural Resources

Kadmas
Lee &
Jackson
Engineers Surveyors
Planners



MERRICOURT SUBSTATION: A CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY IN MCINTOSH COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Prepared For:
enXco
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Principal Investigator:
Jennifer L. Harty

Prepared By:
Jennifer L. Harty
Kadmas, Lee & Jackson
Bismarck, North Dakota

Report of Investigation: 1264

January 2011

MANUSCRIPT DATA RECORD FORM

1. Manuscript Number:
2. SHPO Reference #:
3. Author(s): Jennifer L. Harty
4. Title: Merricourt Substation: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, McIntosh County, North Dakota
5. Report Date: January 2011
6. Number of Pages: 5
7. Type I, T, E, O: I
8. Acres: 11 acres
9. Legal Location(s) with Historic Context Study Unit(s):

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>TWP</u> | <u>R</u> | <u>SEC</u> | <u>SU</u> |
| MT | 130 | 67 | 3 | SM |

Small Survey Report

Submitted by Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc.
128 Soo Line Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Phone: (701) 355-8400

Report Title: Merricourt Substation: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, McIntosh County, North Dakota

Author: Jennifer L. Harty

Report Date: January 2011

Acreage: 11 acres

Survey Date: November 11, 2010

Project Sponsor: enXco Development Corporation (eDC)

Historic Context: Southern Missouri River Study Unit

Legal Description/Location of Project Area: The proposed substation is located in the NW/NW of Section 3, T. 130 N., R. 67 W., McIntosh County, North Dakota, as depicted on the USGS 24k Coldwater Lake (1982) quadrangle map (Figure 1).

Description of Proposed Project: The proposed project consists of the development of a substation for the proposed Merricourt Wind Power project. Four blocks totaling 11 acres were subjected to Class III inventory. No additional access route was needed for this location because of the large amount of previous inventory conducted in the immediate vicinity.

Results of Literature Review: A literature review of the area of the substation was conducted as part of the larger Merricourt Wind Power Project. Additionally, KL&J has recorded a large number of cultural resources in the immediate and surrounding area. None of the previously recorded cultural resources (either those recorded during fieldwork for the Wind Power Project or those recorded prior to that project) are located within the proposed project area. For details of the literature review and the sites recorded during the initial phases of fieldwork, please see Harty, et al., 2010.

Small Survey Report

Submitted by Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson, Inc.
128 Soo Line Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501
Phone: (701) 355-8400

Field Personnel: Jennifer L. Harty and Brian Ó Donnchadha, KL&J Archaeologists

Field Methods and Conditions: KL&J performed the Class III Cultural Resource Inventory on November 11, 2010. The substation project area was inventoried using parallel pedestrian transects spaced no more than 20 m apart to cover the 11 acres.

The proposed project area is located between two high hills in a rolling grasslands environment. There are wetlands in the far north and far southern portions of the project. While the highpoints of the landscape tend to have a large amount of glacial till, the immediate project area is largely devoid of boulders and exposed cobbles. Some gravel is evident in the soils but the large exposures that mark the higher elevations are missing. The surrounding terrain consists of an extended ridgeline overlooking a large, wide river valley.

Vegetation in the area is comprised of both native and invasive species. The area is currently used for cattle grazing. The ground surface visibility (GSV) was low to moderate over much of the project area, averaging 20%. Special attention was focused on areas of disturbance or erosion where subsurface sediments or materials were exposed. Rodent mounds, two-track road ruts, deflated areas, and locations of lower vegetation all provided areas with increased GSV.

Results and Recommendations: No new or previously recorded cultural materials were encountered during the course of the inventory. KL&J recommends a finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* for the proposed project as inventoried, mapped, photographed, and described herein.

Sources Cited:

Harty, J. L., A. Rabe, A. Leuchtmann, M. Shropshire, M. Steckler, S. Taylor
2010 *Merricourt Wind Power Project, Volume I: A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory in McIntosh and Dickey Counties, North Dakota*. On file with the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Bismarck.

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Map and Photo Section

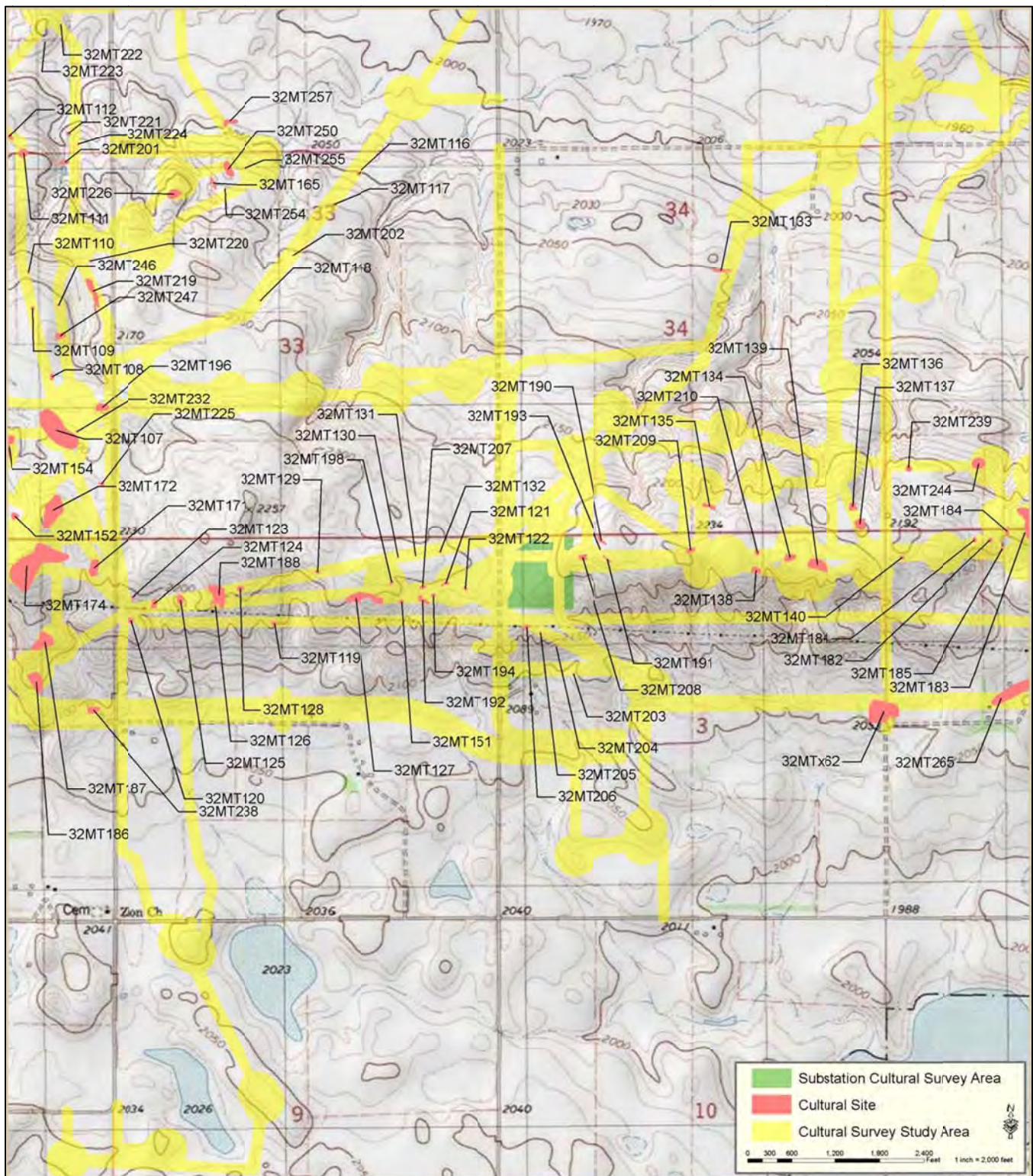


Figure 1: Location of the proposed undertaking and previously recorded cultural resources in Section 3, T. 130 N., R. 67 W., McIntosh County, North Dakota, as depicted on the USGS 24k Coldwater Lake (1982) quadrangle map.

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Map and Photo Section



Figure 2: Overview of the project area along the northern-most portion, view to the east.



Figure 3: Overview of the project area, view to the south.

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Map and Photo Section



Figure 4: Overview of the project area, view to the west.