

**ABBAY AML PROJECT
ND025
CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
AND
HISTORICAL SITE EVALUATIONS
STARK COUNTY, ND**

**prepared by
Jeani L. Borchert
Joan Brownell
and
Jackie Foster**

**prepared for
North Dakota Public Service Commission
AML Division
Bismarck, ND 58505**

May 1989

PSC Abbey AML Project
ND025
Stark County, North Dakota

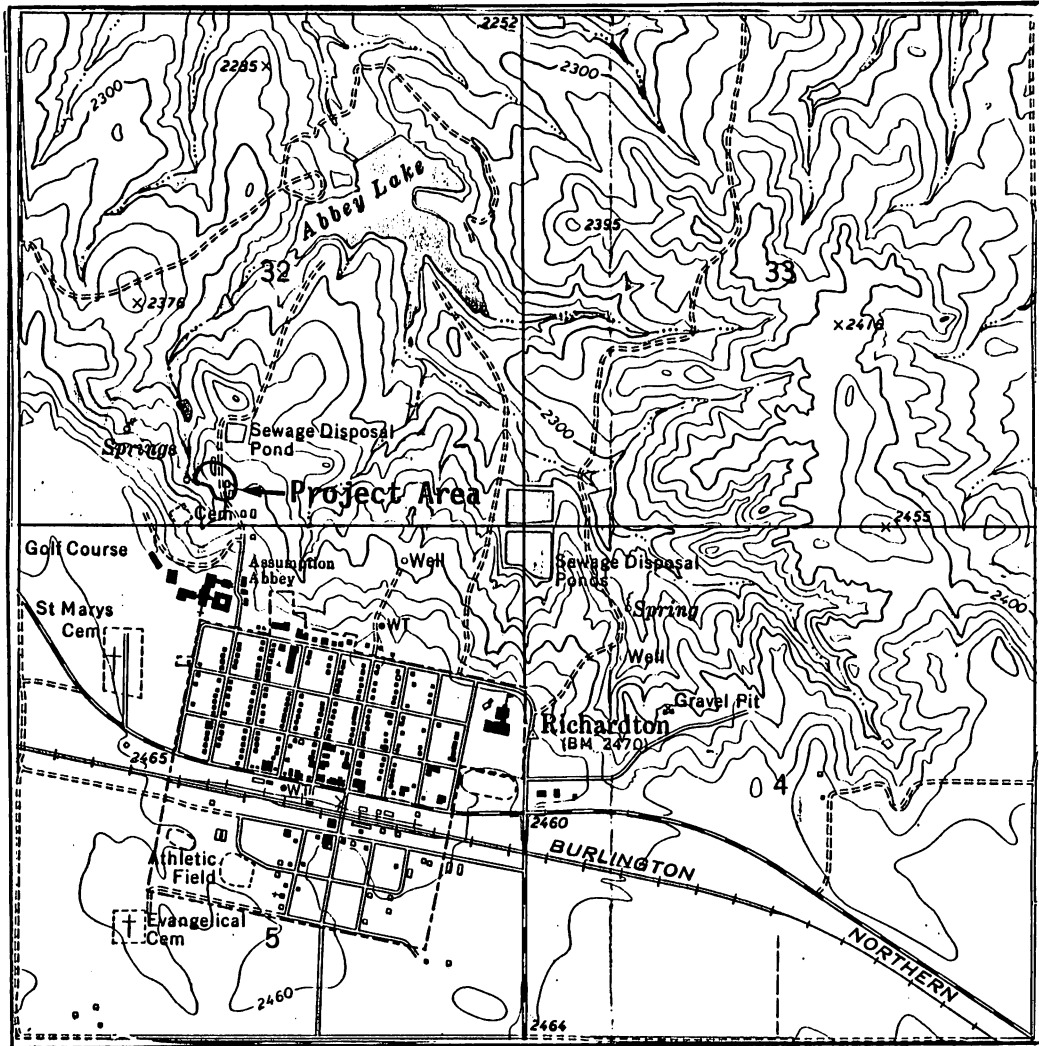
INTRODUCTION

UNDAR-West was contracted by the Public Service Commission to conduct a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Abbey underground mine in preparation for proposed reclamation. Cultural resource work was to include a survey of the mine to locate and record any prehistoric and historic sites. This was to include recording the mine itself. In addition, the work was to include evaluation of all historic sites located on the project.

Proposed reclamation at the Abbey Mine was designed to fill abandoned shafts to avoid further impact to the area from sink holes. Reclamation will take place through remote backfilling of the shafts. Initially several 5 inch diameter holes will be drilled to an average depth of 45 feet at selected locations over the mine area. Each of these exploratory holes will be inspected and hole data recorded. Some or all of these holes will be refilled. Then production drilling will commence. This will consist of drilling a series of 10 inch diameter holes and/or reaming some of the 5 inch holes to produce a 10 inch diameter hole. These production holes will be placed to backfill the voids in the mine. Subsequently injection will take place. This consists of backfilling the mine tunnels with a slurry of Class II material and water. After completion of remote backfilling clean-up will commence. This will include general clean-up of the project area and restoration of any damaged property (i.e. fences, roads, crops, etc.). A detailed description of all project specifications is presented in an information package for bidders produced by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC 1989:12-26).

ENVIRONMENT

The project area falls within the Missouri Plateau subarea by the Great Plains, which is characterized by gently rolling to hilly plains and local relief from 300 to 500 feet (Bluemler 1977). The area surveyed lies just off the south edge of a wide glacial meltwater channel. The view to the north shows the deep valley, which is fed by many small creeks. To the south of the survey area is the gently rolling upland grassland where Assumption Abbey and the city of Richardton are situated. The west side of the project area includes one of the numerous hardwood draws found along the edge of the meltwater channel; like many of these



Appendix 1. Topographic coverage of proposed Abbey AML Project. USGS 7.5' Series, Richardton Quad, 1973, 20 ft contour interval. Legal: S1/2SE1/4SW1/4, Section 32, T140N, R92W, Stark County, ND. U-W#1181. Field Date: April 17, 1989.



Appendix 2. Photographic coverage of proposed Abbey AML Project. Legal: S1/2SE1/4SW1/4, Section 32, T140N, R92W, Stark County, ND. Photo taken facing north-northwest, survey area overview. U-W#1181. Field Date: April 17, 1989.

I. SITE I.D.

SITS # 329K803 State County Site Number

Field Code U.W.I.I.8.8. Site Name A.B.B.E.Y. A.M.L.

Field Code _____ Site Name _____

Map Quad R.I.C.H.A.R.D.T.O.N.

Map Quad _____

LTL	Tw	<u>140</u>	R	<u>92</u>	Sec	<u>32</u>	QQQ	<u>3</u>	QQ	<u>6</u>	Q	<u>7</u>
LTL	Tw	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	Tw	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	Tw	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	Tw	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	Tw	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

II. SITE DESCRIPTION

<input type="checkbox"/> Cm Scatter	<input type="checkbox"/> Bone	<u>35</u> Site Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney	<input type="checkbox"/> Ceramics	<u>23</u> Context
<input type="checkbox"/> Depression	<input type="checkbox"/> Charcoal	<u>8094</u> Site Area
<input type="checkbox"/> Dump	<input type="checkbox"/> Cloth	m. x m.
<input type="checkbox"/> Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/> Faunal Remains	<u>_____</u> Cultural Depth cm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortification	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Cracked Rock	<input type="checkbox"/> Depth Indicator
<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Floral Remains	Occupation Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Grave	<input type="checkbox"/> Glass	Begin _____ End _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hearth	<input type="checkbox"/> Hide, Hair, Fur	<u>1912</u> _____ <u>1934</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Machinery	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Remains	Basis For Dating
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarry/Mine	<input type="checkbox"/> Masonry	<u>10</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal	<u>5</u> Cm Density
<input type="checkbox"/> Trail	<input type="checkbox"/> Plastic	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Find
<input type="checkbox"/> Wreck	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Shell	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

III. ENVIRONMENT

6 Landform 1 6 Landform 2 5 Slope/Exposure 7 Ecosystem

Landform 1 Landform 2 Slope/Exposure Ecosystem

Elevation 73.2 m. Drainage System H.E.A.R.T. R.I.V.E.R. View, Degree 3 View, Distance 4

Dist Perm Water 9.4 m. Perm Water Type Dist Seas Water 6 m. Seas Water Type 3

IV. C.R.M.

3 Ownership Ownership

10.4118189 Fieldwork Date Fieldwork Date

4 Site Condition Collection Test/Probe Excavation

Additional Information O.T.H.E.R.: ASPHALT, SHALE Management Recommendation

SHSND USE

Soil Association Ecozone Area Signf MS Number

Soil Association Ecozone Area Signf MS Number

CR Type Verified Site Non-Site E C F T F

State Registry National Register

NDCRS HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE FORMS

Field Code UW1188

Descriptive Section

SITS Number 32SK803

Page 2

1. Access

From Interstate Highway 94, take the Richardton Exit. Proceed north approximately 1.5 miles and turn west on the main road into the town of Richardton which parallels the railroad. Take the seventh side street north to the Abbey. Drive through the main Abbey complex and then proceed down hill to the agricultural complex. The site is located just north and northwest of the primary agricultural buildings (barns), in the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 32, T140N R92W.

2. Site Description

This site consists of an abandoned underground coal mine within an approximate 2.5 acre area. However, no mining related buildings, structures or associated machinery remain on the surface. The opening of the mine appears to have been located on the west-facing slope above a coulee. One of the fathers said that the adit collapsed here and was filled in but 2 posts protruding from the slope indicate the location of the collapsed adit. Several subsidence holes have occurred in the corral area but were filled in. The only indication of spoil piles is in the coulee bottom below the adit location where an area of the coulee has been filled in. However, it is overgrown and is not recognizable.

The mine area is directly adjacent to the agricultural complex of Assumption Abbey. Only two secondary outbuildings (Features 1 and 2) and some corrals associated with the larger agricultural complex are situated within the mine area. Two historic debris piles are also found within in the area.

Environmental Setting: The site area is situated on a west-facing slope above a coulee. It is within the Missouri Plateau region.

Historical Information:

The mine location was originally homesteaded by Hugh McClements, who received his patent for 160 acres (including the S1/2 SW1/4 of Section 32 T140N F92W) in October 1890. He sold the same property to Mark Davenhauer in June 1892. Vincent Wehrle bought the land from Davenhauer in February 1902. Vincent Wehrle was the founder of the present Assumption Abbey, a Benedictine monastery. Wehrle first came to Richardton on retreat in 1893. In December, 1899, he bought the first land for the Abbey in Section 5 T140 R93W from the Northwestern

NDCRS HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE FORMS

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Improvement Company (a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific Railroad). By 1906, Wehrle had bought more land and had created a monastic complex called St. Mary's Monastery.

According to Father David Wolff, the powerhouse for the complex and an electric plant for town was built in 1910. The powerhouse used coal and probably stimulated mining activity. The State Engineer found conditions satisfactory at the mine in 1918 and described it as follows:

St. Mary's Coal Mine, owned by Monastery is situated in a coulee 1 mile nw of town. The coal bed is five feet and all the coal mined is used in the boiler rooms at the Monastery.

The coal is hauled from the mine with a horse and is loaded into wagons from a chute. No coal is left in the roof and much timber is necessary. Water is removed from mine by means of a gas-driven pump and ventilation is secured thru an air shaft. (State Engineers Report 1918: 2032).

In 1919, St. Mary's Mine produced 1,500 tons but was reported in poor condition with a new mine being opened. The following year, the mine operated 280 days with 2 miners and 3 others outside and produced 1,800 tons annually. The mine was not mentioned again in any reports. The Abbey itself closed between the years 1924 to 1927 and re-opened in 1929. It is unknown if the mining operation was rejuvenated or not. According to one informant, the monks quit mining coal in 1934 because it was not profitable.

References:

Deed Record Books, Register of Deeds, Stark County Courthouse, Dickinson, North Dakota Coal Mine Inspection Department. 1920 Annual Report of the State Mine Inspector to the Governor of North Dakota. Bismarck, North Dakota.

North Dakota State Engineers Biennial Report. 1904 Biennial Report of the State Engineer to the Governor of North Dakota. Bismarck, North Dakota.

Wolff, David 1989 personal communication Richardton, North Dakota.

Stark County Historical Society. 1978. Stark County Heritage and Destiny.

3. Description of Cultural Materials:

Two historic debris concentrations are found within the defined mine area. Concentration A is scattered over the west-sloping hillside above the coulee.

NDCRS HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE FORMS

Field Code UW1188

Descriptive Section

SITS Number 32SK803

This dump consists primarily of fragments of concrete, bricks, ceramic pipe, asphalt and shale. Concentration B is in the coulee bottom near a spring and consists of painted ceramic tile and fragments of concrete foundation ceramic pipe fragments and cinder blocks. Both concentrations were deposited by the monks and are not associated with the mining activity. Other historic debris was observed scattered in the coulee, including sheet metal and bricks.

Over 100 items observed

0 collected

4. Artifact Repository None

5. Testing None

6. Current Use of Site Agricultural/ grazing

7. Owner's Name/Address Assumption Abbey Richardton, North Dakota

8. Vegetation grasses, cottonwoods, low shrubs in coulee

9. Cover (% of visible ground) 80%

10. Man-hours spent on site 4

11. Project Title Abbey AML Site NDO25
P.I. Jeani Borchert

12. Report Title Abbey AML Project NDO25 Cultural Resource Inventory and Historical Site Evaluation Stark County, North Dakota. 1989 Borchert and Brownell

13. Other Published References None

14. Description of Collections Observed None

15. Owner-Address of Collections Observed None

NDCRS HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE FORMS

Field Code UW1188

Descriptive Section

SITS Number

32SK803

16. Statement of Integrity

The surface physical integrity of this site is lacking since there are no related mining features, buildings, structures or machinery to indicate a historic mining activity ever occurred here. The mine is unable from the surface to reflect its historic appearance or character.

17. Statement of Significance

This site is not considered significant as it lacks physical integrity since there is no surface indication that a mine existed.

18. Comments/References

Recorder Joan L. Brownell

Date 4/18/89

SITS # 3,2, 5, 8, 0, 3
State County Site Number

Field Code U, W, L, L, S, F Site Name _____
Field Code _____ Site Name _____

Map Quad _____
Map Quad _____

LTL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twp	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twp	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twp	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twp	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twp	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____
LTL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Twp	_____	R	_____	Sec	_____	QQQ	_____	QQ	_____	Q	_____

1. N
2. E
3. S
4. W
5. NE
6. SE
7. SW
8. NW
9. C

I. SITE I.D.

City _____

Street # _____

Street # _____

Street Name _____

Street Name _____

of Features 2

FEATURE DATA

1 Feature #
4 Const Date
5 Feature Date

6, 2 Feature Type
1, 3 Context

6 Condition
2 Significance
5 Plan Shape

PORCH

Original
 Addition/Altered
 Removed/None

BUILDING MATERIALS

2, 9 Structure System
2, 9 Primary Exterior Finish
2, 6 Secondary Exterior Finish

3 Main Entrance

0 Ethnic
0 Style

0, 4, 1, 8, 0, 9 Fieldwork Date

Builder
 Engineer
 Designer Architect

_____ Other Information

II. SITE DESCRIPTION

_____ Soil Association _____ Ecozone _____ Area Signf _____ MS Number
 _____ Soil Association _____ Ecozone _____ Area Signf _____ MS Number
 CR Type Verified Site Non-Site E C F T F
 State Registry National Register

SHSND USE

Coder _____

Date Coded _____

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Page 2

Field Code UW1188

SITS NUMBER 32SK803

FEATURE * 1 Name in Name Block

<u>BASEMENT</u>	<u>FOUNDATION MATERIALS</u>	<u>STORIES</u>	<u>CORNICE</u>	<u>ROOF TYPE</u>	<u>DATING METHOD</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal	<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Plat Map(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Block	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipped	<input type="checkbox"/> County Atlas
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Deck	<input type="checkbox"/> Date Block
<input type="checkbox"/> other	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Map
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poured Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Topo Maps
<u>WINDOWS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed	<u>Local informant</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FEATURE DESCRIPTION & STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

This open shed measures 44 feet north/south by 20 feet east/west. The southeast corner of the building is placed on a concrete foundation to level the building as it sits on a slope. The southeast corner is clad with horizontal planking. Two walls (north and west) are composed of vertical railroad ties placed side by side. The east side is open. Symmetrically placed wood posts with braces support a shed roof. The roof rafters are sheathed with planking covered by straw.

This open shed is in fair condition and used as a loafing shed. Integrity of materials and workmanship is slightly affected by deterioration. The shed is not associated with the coal mining activity but to the larger agricultural complex. According to Father Wolff, this building was possibly built in the mid 1930s.

SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANT

NOT SIGNIFICANT

- Work of Master
- High Artistic Values
- Rep. of type, period method of construction
- Other _____
- Visual Landmark
- Associated with significant event
- Associated with devel. of locality
- Associated with significant person

- Too new
- Lacking integrity
- Not High Style
- Other

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Page 2 cont.

Field Code UW1188

SITS Number 32SK803

JUSTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building has no particular architectural or historical significance and is not considered individually eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Recorded by Joan L. Brownell

Date 4/18/89

draws, this one contains a spring which feeds an ephemeral stream.

Natural resource potential in this area appears to be high. The topography affords an excellent view of a large portion of the ancient valley and, therefore, of the resources the valley offers. These include numerous springs and creeks, hardwood trees, and the game attracted by the water and cover.

Floral species found in or near the survey area include little bluestem, switchgrass, redtop, blue grama, prairie cordgrass, yarrow, sweet clover, common milkweed, pasqueflower, bur oak, green ash, and Siberian elm. Faunal species found in or near the survey area include the white-tailed deer, coyote, red fox, white-tailed jackrabbit, eastern cottontail, skunk, bager, deer mouse, fox squirrel, thirteen-lined ground squirrel, Swainson's hawk, turkey vulture, golden eagle, wild turkey, gray partridge, sharp-tailed grouse, killdeer, mourning dove, western meadowlark, barn swallow, lark sparrow. Brewer's blackbird, spadefoot toad, leopard frog, painted turtle, and common garter snake.

RESEARCH GOALS

The purpose of the archaeological work was to conduct a Class III Inventory to locate and record all cultural resources within the proposed project area. In addition, the work was to include evaluation of the Euro/American Historic sites located within the project area, including the mine itself.

METHODS

Records Search

The records search was done by Amy Sakariassen on April 14, 1989. The site files, isolated find files, site lead files, and manuscript collection at the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office were checked. All information for the project area was taken down and sent to UNDAR-West for reference.

Survey

The fieldwork was done on April 17, 1989 by Jeani Borchert and Jackie Foster. The defined project area was inventoried by walking parallel (north-south and east-west) transects across the defined project area as allowed by current ranching/farming

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Page 2

Field Code UW1188

SITS NUMBER 32SK803

FEATURE * 2 Name in Name Block

<u>BASEMENT</u>	<u>FOUNDATION MATERIALS</u>	<u>STORIES</u>	<u>CORNICE</u>	<u>ROOF TYPE</u>	<u>DATING METHOD</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Plat Map(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Block	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 1/2	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Hipped	<input type="checkbox"/> County Atlas
<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Deck	<input type="checkbox"/> Date Block
<input type="checkbox"/> other	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut Stone	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 1/2	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Map
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Poured Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Topo Maps
<u>WINDOWS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	_____	_____	_____	<u>Local informant</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Original	_____				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered					

FEATURE DESCRIPTION & STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

This shed sits on a low concrete foundation and measures 80 feet north/south by 20 feet east/west. It is clad with faded red lapped siding framed by corner boards and has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The east wall contains a wood sliding door and a large opening flanked by steel posts with a metal gate hung across. Original openings across the south side wall have been covered by siding. A fixed four light window is off-set on the south end wall. The building interior is divided by a wood frame wall on a concrete foundation.

The building lacks integrity as it was moved to this location in the early 1960s from within the Abbey complex. It originally functioned as a chicken coop and probably was built in the 1930s. It now serves as a cattle shed within the larger agricultural complex.

SIGNIFICANCE

SIGNIFICANT

- Work of Master
- High Artistic Values
- Rep. of type, period method of construction
- Other _____
- Visual Landmark
- Associated with significant event
- Associated with devel. of locality
- Associated with significant person

NOT SIGNIFICANT

- Too new
- Lacking integrity
- Not High Style
- Other

NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Page 2 cont.

Field Code UW1188

SITS NUMBER 32SK803

JUSTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is not considered significant due to its movement from its original location. It is not associated with the coal mining activity and is not architecturally or historically significant.

Recorded by Joan L. Brownell

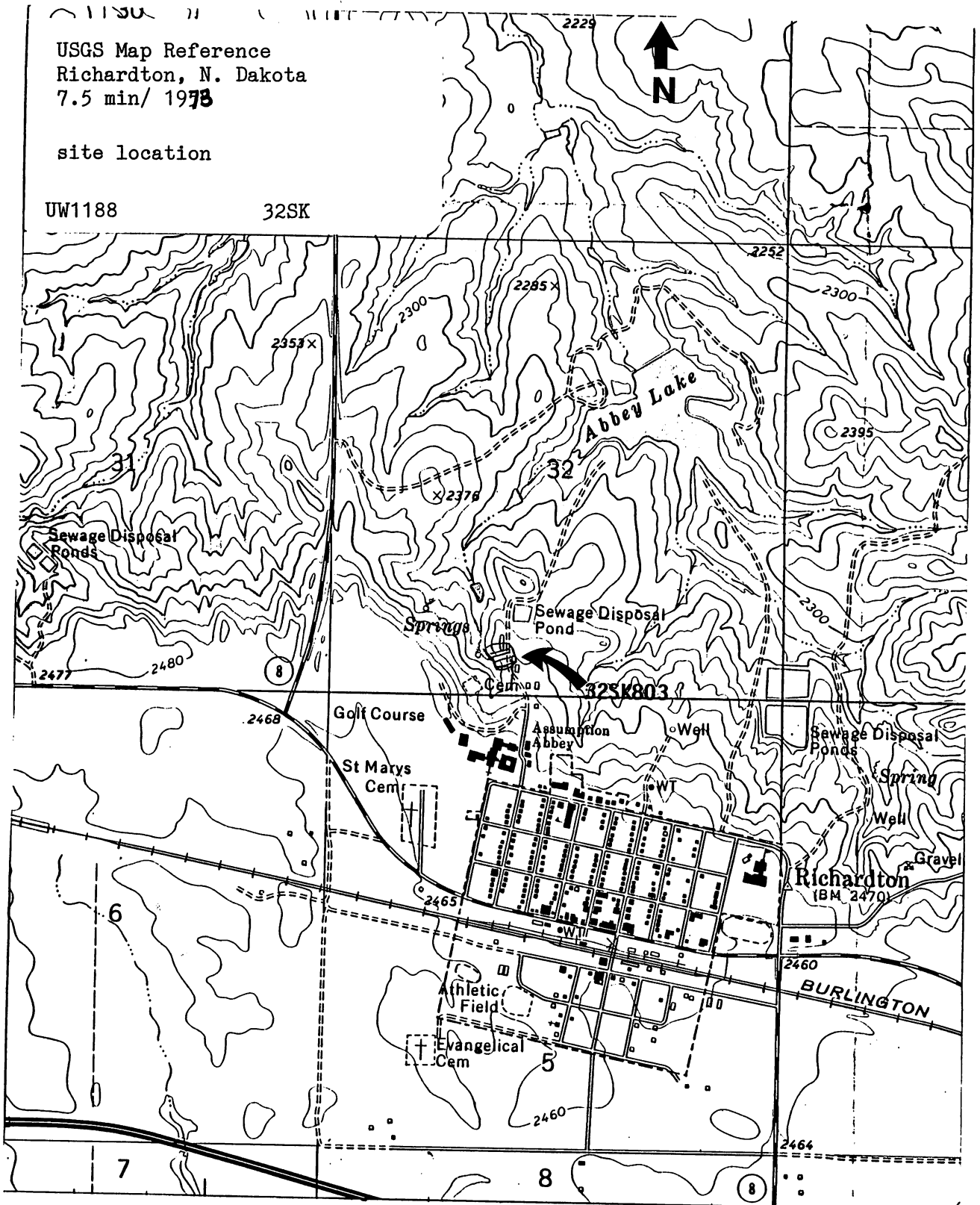
Date 4/18/89

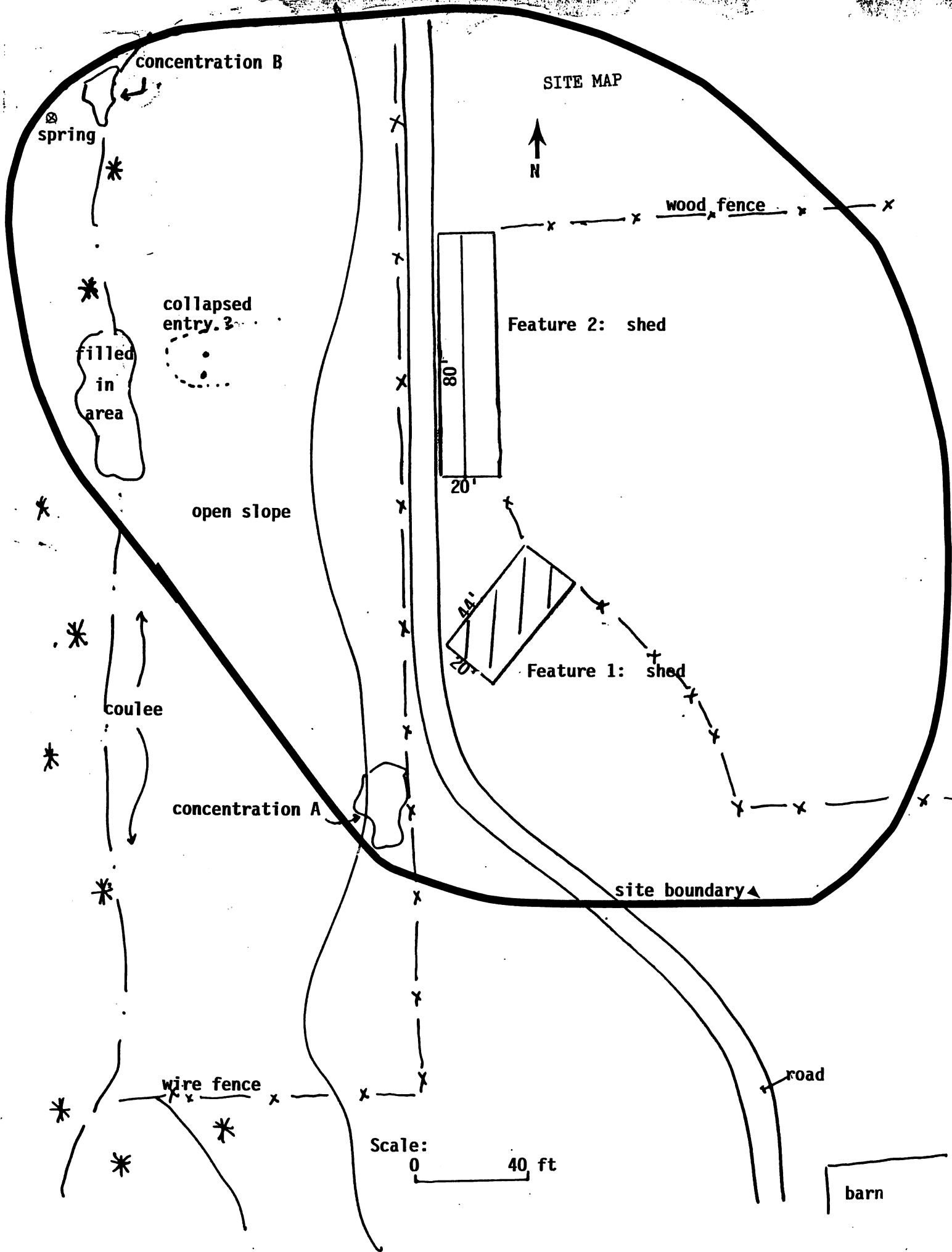
USGS Map Reference
Richardton, N. Dakota
7.5 min/ 1978

site location

UW1188

32SK





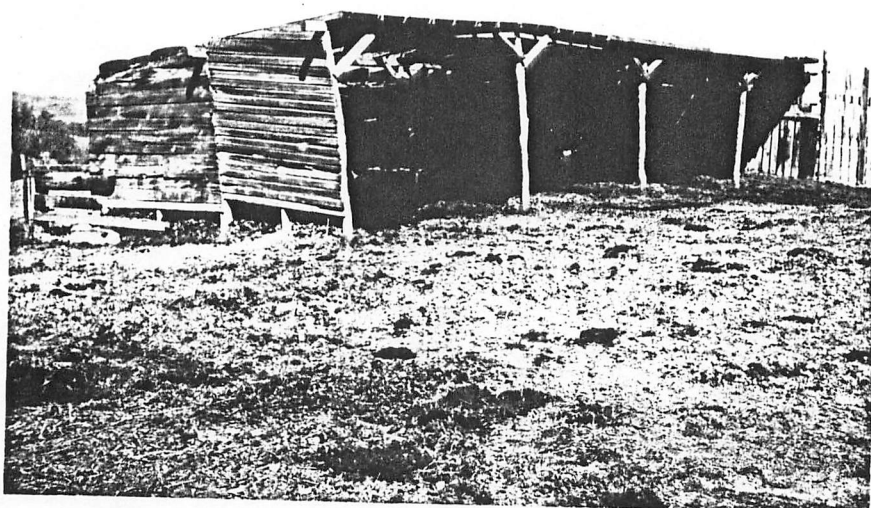
NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Photo Section

Field Code UW1188

SITS Number 32SK 803

Feature 1: Open shed
east and south elevations; looking northwest
Roll 1 Frame 12; black and white



NDCRS ARCHITECTURAL SITE FORM

Photo Section

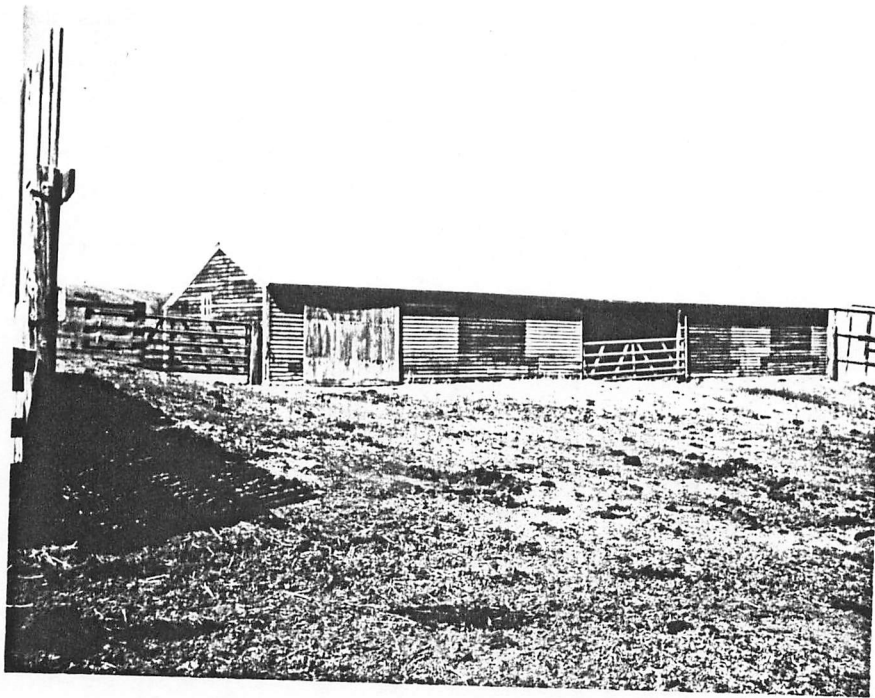
Field Code UW1188

SITS Number 32SK 803

Feature 2: Shed

south and east elevations; looking northwest

Roll 1 Frame 13; black and white



activities. Transects were spaced at ca. 20 m intervals. The survey area is within the current farmyard used by monks from Assumption Abbey for farming and ranching activities. At the time of survey two outbuildings were within the project area and cattle, in the process of calving, were in a corral adjacent to the project area. An area slightly larger than the proposed project area was surveyed to allow for inspection of the land form outside of the heavily disturbed farmyard which was extremely muddy and covered with manure in many areas. Overall ground surface visibility was 40-50% as areas adjacent to the corral had been heavily grazed.

Historic Site Recordation and Evaluation

Joan L. Brownell, project historian, visited the Abbey AML Project on April 17, 1989 and conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the historic property. The site was recorded on appropriate North Dakota Cultural Resource site forms. On-site investigations consisted of a physical analysis of all standing buildings and structures, a scaled sketch map incorporating features and concentrations of historic materials in relationship to man's landscape modifications (if present) and black and white photographs. All cultural materials were left in situ. Information recorded on the physical attributes of individual features included overall composition, materials, alterations, function, condition and dimensions in feet.

Both primary and secondary source materials were consulted to document the historic property. The Stark County Courthouse in Dickinson, North Dakota, provided land ownership records. General Land Office records and maps were utilized at the records department of the Bureau of Land Management in Billings, Montana and Dickinson, North Dakota. Libraries consulted included the Dickinson Public Library in Dickinson, North Dakota, the North Dakota State Library and Historical Society Library and Archives at the Heritage Center in Bismarck, North Dakota, and the Montana Tech Library in Butte, Montana. Personal interviews with present or past property owners or long-time residents of the area were invaluable. Local histories also provided personal histories of individuals directly associated with this site and information on the history of the Abbey.

Mine specific information on the Abbey underground mine had been compiled by DSKS Research as part of their AML Cultural Resources Study (DSKS 1984 Vol. 1). Whereas this information was gathered without site visitation, further investigation and documentation on the site was conducted when deemed necessary to properly evaluate the property. Primary documents used in compilation of the mine specific information included the State Engineers Biennial Reports, the coal Mine Inspector Department Reports and

the North Dakota Geological Survey Reports.

In 1984, DSKS (1984 Vol. 2) compiled a narrative overview of the history of lignite use and development of the lignite industry in North Dakota for the AML Division. The overview was compiled for "use in AML cultural resource project as the 'historical context' in which to determine the significance and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of abandoned mine cultural resource sites" (DSKS 1984:1). Evaluation of the abandoned mine site in this report relied on this overview and a Master's thesis by Colleen Dihus entitled "A History of Coal Development in North Dakota" (Dihus 1978). Robinson's (1966) history of North Dakota also provided further interpretation.

Data collected was then analyzed according to the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. They read as follows:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH

Survey conditions and methods were adequate for the location of cultural resources within the defined project area. Historic records research was extensive and included primary and secondary source materials, adequate to relate historical background for the site and to evaluate the site in terms of National Register Criteria.

INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

Records Search

Dill in 1976 recorded the St. Mary's Coal Mine and the Wiley of North Creek Coal Mine in the SW1/4 of Section 32, T140N, R92W from references in the State Engineers Reports of 1913-1918. These sites, however, have not been assigned SITS numbers.

One survey is on record for the area. This was for the Southwest Water Pipeline running north of Richardton. No sites were reported for Section 32 in conjunction with this previous survey.

Prehistoric Sites

No Native American historic or prehistoric sites or isolates were located during the survey.

Historic Sites

32SK803 consists of an underground lignite mine but no mining related buildings, structures or machinery remain on the surface. The defined site area consists of approximately 2.5 acres and is situated on a west-facing slope above a timbered coulee. According to a local informant, the original adit collapsed on this slope and was filled in by the monks. Subsidence has also occurred but these depressions have also been corrected by the monks (Wolff 1989).

The mine area is directly adjacent to the agricultural complex of Assumption Abbey. Two secondary outbuildings, an open shed and a gabled roof shed and corrals associated with the agricultural unit are situated within the defined mine area. Two historic debris concentrations are also found within the mine area but both were deposited by the monks and the cultural materials are not related to the historic mining activity.

The mine location originally was homesteaded by Hugh McClements, who received his patent in October, 1890. He sold the property to Mark Davenhauer in 1892 who sold it to Vincent Wehrle in February, 1902. Vincent Wehrle had begun to buy property for a Benedictine monastery in this area in 1899. By 1906, he had successfully created a monastic complex called St. Mary's Monastery (Deed Records, Stark County Courthouse; Stark County Historical Society 1978).

According to Father David Wolff, the powerhouse for the monastery and an electric plant for the town was built in 1910. The powerhouse used coal and probably stimulated the mining activity (Wolff 1989). In 1918, the State Engineer's report found conditions at the mine satisfactory and described it as follows:

St. Mary's Coal Mine, owned by Monastery is situated in a coulee 1 mile nw of town. The coal bed is five feet and all the coal mined is used in the boiler rooms at the Monastery. The coal is hauled from the mine with a horse and is loaded into wagons from a chute. No coal is left in the roof and much timber is necessary. Water is removed from mine by means of a gas-driven pump and ventilation is secured thru an air shaft. (State Engineers Report 1918:2032).

In 1919, St. Mary's Mine produced 1,500 tons but was reported in poor condition with a new mine being opened. The following year, the mine operated 280 days with 2 miners and 3 others outside and produced 1,800 tons. The mine was not mentioned again in any reports (Coal Mine Inspection Department 1919-1930). The Abbey itself closed between the years 1924 and 1927 and re-opened in 1929. It is unknown if the mining operation was rejuvenated or not. According to one informant, the monks quit mining coal in 1934 because it was not profitable (Wolff 1989).

EVALUATION OF RESOURCES

Historic Sites

Statement of Significance

Criteria A: This site is considered significant under Criteria A for its historic association with Assumption Abbey. Originally known as St. Mary's monastery, it was created by Vincent Wehrle by 1906 as a monastic complex and to serve the Catholic population of the region. The period of significance of the mine is estimated from 1910 to 1934. The site is also considered historically significant in its association with the use and development of lignite mining in western North Dakota and the association with lignite industry and electric generation in the early 1900's. The mine provided fuel for the monastery and its power plant and the plant possibly supplied electricity to the nearby community of Richardton.

Criteria B: This site is not considered significant under Criteria B as it is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past or individuals important to the local community. The mine as a component of Assumption Abbey holds

only a very slight association with Vincent Wehrle who created the Abbey and became one of the most influential Catholic Bishops in North Dakota. All the buildings within the Abbey Complex are representative of Wehrle's importance.

Criteria C: This site is not considered significant under Criteria C as the buildings do not appear to have any architectural significance. The site does not represent the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values.

Criteria D: This site is not considered significant under Criteria D as it is not expected to yield any further information important to local, state or national history. The presence of subsurface features of the underground workings is acknowledged but subsidence within the mine area indicates the deterioration and weathering of the mine tunnels and pillars. The information potential of the underground workings is marginal especially when gauged against the element of safety.

Statement of Integrity

This site lacks physical integrity as it is unable to convey its historic appearance, character and association during its period of significance from 1910 to 1934. There are no surface indications or tangible evidence that any historic mining activity occurred here. The collapsed adit and subsidence within the mine area indicates deterioration of the underground workings.

Statement of Eligibility

While recognizing the historic significance of this property in its association with Assumption Abbey and the use and development of lignite mining in western North Dakota, this site is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places due to lack of integrity. It no longer has the ability to reflect its historic character, appearance and feeling of its historic period.

STATEMENT OF IMPACT

Historic Sites

None of the debris piles or buildings at 32SK803 should be impacted by the proposed reclamation work at the Abbey AML site

as reclamation will consist of remote backfilling of collapsing underground mine tunnels. As such, only the mine tunnels themselves will be impacted and this will consist solely of filling up the empty shafts to avoid further collapse.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the St. Mary's Mine 32SK803 has been evaluated as not eligible to the National Register, no further work is recommended prior to proposed reclamation activities. The debris piles and outbuildings within the mine area were not associated with the mining activities but rather are associated with other activities of the Monastery. However, the buildings have no particular architectural or historical significance and are not considered individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings and debris piles will not be impacted by the proposed reclamation work.

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