

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

DEC 8 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name 21SL73

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Voyageurs National Park

[x] not for publication

city, town International Falls

[x] vicinity

state Minnesota

code MN

county St. Louis

code 137

zip code 56649

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Benjamin Levy, Acting Federal Preservation Officer

Date 2/15/89

Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Nina M. Archabal

Date 11/10/88

Minnesota State Historic Preservation Officer State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register, determined eligible for the National Register, determined not eligible for the National Register, removed from the National Register, other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper John J. Knoen

Date of Action 1/16/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC--Resort

PREHISTORIC DOMESTIC

Seasonal Camp

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE--National Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls

roof

other

N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

Site 21SL73 is a multicomponent site

21SL73 contains intact Initial and Terminal Woodland deposits with possible horizontal differentiation of activity areas. A historic deposit is also present due to the former presence of a resort.

Resource Count

Contributing Resources: There is one contributing resource. This is a multicomponent prehistoric archeological site.

Noncontributing Resources: There are 2 noncontributing structures at the site.

Environmental Description

Voyageurs National Park is in northeastern Minnesota where waters of several lakes form the international boundary between Canada and the United States. The area is typical of the uneven topography of a heavily glaciated region. The glacial origin of the topography is reflected in the numerous lakes, rocky islands, bogs, swamps, and rocky knolls found in the area.

The shallow nature of soil deposition in the region is also indicative of the recent glacial past. Many areas have bedrock near the surface with little or no soil development. The unevenness of the glacial bedrock surface accounts for the variability noted in soil profile depth at several of the sites tested. Areas of positive relief typically have a thin mantling

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Prehistoric - Archeology

Period of Significance

Initial Woodland

Significant Dates

100 B.C.-700 A.D.

Terminal Woodland

700 A.D.-1500 A.D.

Cultural Affiliation

Laurel (Initial Woodland)

Blackduck (Terminal Woodland)

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary Statement

Site 21SL73 is considered to be a significant intact multicomponent site with Initial and Terminal Woodland occupations. The site contains possible distinct activity areas with concentrations of lithics and fire cracked rock [redacted] and concentrations of ceramics and faunal remains [redacted]. The site is considered significant in the area of prehistoric information under Criterion D of the National Register's Criteria for Evaluation. A regional approach to archeological research provides the best means by which specific sites or local projects can be integrated into a larger and more meaningful database. A site's significance is best evaluated by the extent it contributes to regional research issues. This intact site has research potential in studies related to environment reconstruction, prehistoric subsistence and settlement patterns, and ceramic typology.

Specific Dates

Prehistoric occupation at site 21SL73 began with the Initial Woodland (100 B.C. to 700 A.D.) (Lynott et al. 1986) and continued through the Terminal Woodland (700 to 1500 A.D.) (Lynott et al. 1986). Several Initial Woodland vessels and at least one Terminal Woodland vessel have been recovered at 21SL73.

During testing in 1980, a single sample of prehistoric pottery from Vessel 2 was collected for thermoluminescence dating. The sample was a plain body sherd, collected from test unit 3 about 28 cm below surface. The sample yielded a date of A.D. 190+/-170 (WU-TL 101s) which is in agreement with estimates for the age of the early portions of the Laurel ceramic sequence (Stoltman 1974:89).

See continuation sheet

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of sandy forest soils derived from glacial outwash while the soils associated with bogs and depressions are composed of organic materials from the surrounding vegetation and post-glacial lacustrine deposits.

The region is heavily forested with a dense tree and underbrush cover that impedes travel and obscures surface visibility. Potzer (1946) has described the forests in this region as part of the Lake Forest Formation indicative of modifying effects which the large bodies of water have on the surrounding forest vegetation. The native forest is of mixed conifer-hardwood composition. Recent paleoenvironmental studies (Swain 1983) involving palynological research in the park indicate that there have been no major changes in the pollen profiles during the last 1,000 years. Others contend (Gibbon 1977:15) that the basic ground cover, i.e., the mixed conifer-hardwood forest, has remained stable for the last 8,000 years. One variable noted, however, is a successional change to more bog land and less surface water through time (Gibbon 1977:16). This may have been an important factor influencing land use and settlement patterns as most travel in the region is by water because overland movement is impeded by topography, drainage, and the dense vegetation.

Floral species important to regional prehistoric and historic period subsistence patterns were the numerous fruits and berries available on a seasonal basis. Ethnohistoric accounts (Hickerson 1967; Densmore 1974) document their value to historically known groups in the area. Wild rice is also present at prehistoric sites (Lynott et al. 1986). Stands of wild rice were of primary importance when common to the area (Dore 1969) prior to the raising of lake levels by dams at Kettle Falls/Squirrel and International Falls in the early twentieth century.

Before the onset of heavy lumbering activities a great variety of game and fur bearing animals were found in the park area (Thompson 1981:41). These included moose, woodland caribou, white-tailed deer, elk, beaver, and muskrat as well as several varieties of migratory waterfowl. It was also suggested that fish were an important resource available to prehistoric groups (Cleland 1966; Fitting 1970; Thompson 1981).

The climate of the area is characterized by cool summers and severe winters. The mean annual temperature is about 37 degrees F (McAndrew 1966:15). Moisture is distributed fairly evenly throughout the entire year with mean annual precipitation between 27 and 28 inches (NPS 1978:58). Snow accumulations in winter vary from 4 to 10 feet. Summers are relatively cool and dominated by unpredictable thunderstorms. Winds are predominantly from the west and northwest, although a shift to the southeast occurs in late summer.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Physical Description

The site (21SL73) is [REDACTED]

Recordation

The site location of 21SL73 has been known for many years, and apparently collections were made from the area during the resort era. The site was shovel tested and recorded by Gibbon in 1976 (Gibbon 1977). Tests were excavated [REDACTED] and Laurel and Blackduck rim and body sherds were collected. Lithic flakes and one chert scraper were also recovered. In 1980 21SL73 was investigated by the staff of the Midwest Archeological Center as part of a two-year effort to evaluate and inventory sites in Voyageurs National Park. Excavation of 50 shovel tests at the site indicated that cultural material extended over an area of ca. 3000 square meters. Due to the long "linear" nature of the deposit, and horizontal differentiation suggested from shovel testing, seventeen 1 x 1 meter test excavation units were placed across the site.

The test units revealed a concentration of ceramics, both Initial and Terminal Woodland, and faunal remains in units on the [REDACTED]. Concentrations of lithics and firecracked rock were recorded [REDACTED]. While Initial and Terminal Woodland ceramics were found in mixed contexts in several test units, it appears that gross vertical integrity may be present in unit 3. In addition, although horizontal overlapping of Initial and Terminal Woodland materials did occur, areas marked by scatters predominately of one or the other period were also recorded. Soil depth proved to be quite variable, ranging from 0 to 30+ cm due to the uneven surface formed by bedrock underlying the sandy loam soil.

Lithics consist of flakes, shatter, 1 blade, 3 bifaces, two

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retouched pieces, a scraper, and 1 projectile point. The point was a fragment of a large notched dart point.

Five ceramic vessels are represented in the sherd assemblage at the site. These include four Initial Woodland vessels and one Terminal Woodland vessel. The relatively high frequency of plain body sherds in association with dentate stamping is indicative of a Laurel component at the site. The presence of cord-wrapped stick impressed sherds also document Terminal Woodland occupation. The decoration on the Terminal Woodland vessel is not like any other complex, but the shape is typically Terminal Woodland. The Initial Woodland vessels are all clearly related to the Laurel complex. Some Laurel sherds were recovered near the lodge in 1980.

Faunal remains are composed of 13 identifiable elements representing four separate taxa. Fish remains from the site have been identified as burbot, while the mammalian taxa include beaver, black bear, and moose (Falk 1986).

In June of 1984 site 21SL73 was again visited by the staff of the Midwest Archeological Center as part of an effort to investigate areas proposed for clean-up activities by the park. During this survey 25 pieces of lithic debitage were collected. These included flakes and non-diagnostic shatter from four shovel tests near the former shower building. Shovel tests near the other structures produced no archeological material and none was

Historic Component

Due to the propinquity

it is not surprising that twentieth century historic materials were recovered from test units 2, 6, and 7. In fact, a small, recent historic dump was discovered during excavation of test unit 2. The upper 15 cm of deposit in that unit consisted of recent twentieth century trash, including metal, glass, and a concentration of ash and burned organic material. Because of the recent age of the material, only a small representative sample was collected. Prehistoric materials were recovered below the historic dump layer. A few historic objects were recovered from test units 6 and 7, but the majority of historic material seems to be concentrated around the area where Test Unit 2 was excavated. Historic artifacts recovered included: glass bottle fragments, rusted wire nails, a metal spring clip, a shotgun shell, and a 1944 nickel. These historic materials date to the

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twentieth century, with those from Test Unit 2 dating from the 1940s and 1950s.

Area Excavated

The area of 21SL73 is approximately 3630 square meters. Seventeen 1 x 1 meter units and 50 shovel tests were excavated during the 1980 investigations. A total of 21.5 square meters was excavated amounting to considerably less than 1% of the total site area.

Disturbances

Erosion from the raised lake level has caused minor disturbances to cultural deposits which apparently extend out from the site [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Disturbance which has occurred around or as a result of removal of historic structures has also been only minimal. Historic ground disturbance resulting from footpath traffic, dumping and burial of trash, [REDACTED] a greater adverse impact upon the integrity of the site deposit than has erosion from the artificially raised lake level.

Data Limitations

There are no radiocarbon dates available for this site, however, preservation at the site suggests that charcoal suitable for dating may be present.

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Two additional thermoluminescence dates have subsequently been processed from 21SL73, from ceramics in the general test excavation sample. Vessel 1, the Terminal Woodland vessel, has been dated to A.D. 580+/-274 (Alpha-865). A plain body sherd from Test Pit 3 has been dated at A.D. 1080+/-174 (Alpha-872). This body sherd was collected from the same test unit as was sample WU-TL101s. The Alpha-872 date appears to be too recent to accurately date the Laurel complex at this site. The A.D. 190+/-170 date (WU-TL 101s) seems to be a more accurate age estimate.

Research Topics and Related Data Categories

1. Prehistoric environmental reconstruction. One goal of research in the Rainy River region has been to acquire information to understand and reconstruct the environmental conditions during the last 6,000 years. This includes testing the indications of changing climatic conditions recorded elsewhere in northern Minnesota (Craig 1972) and their applicability to the Rainy River region. This is to be accomplished by scientific analysis of data collected from dated archeological contexts and palynological studies in the border lakes area. From present evidence indications are that floral and faunal evidence may be recoverable at 21SL73.

2. Subsistence. Another regional research goal has been to gather information on subsistence patterns in the lacustrine environments of northern Minnesota, and compare it to data from previously analyzed sites in the riverine environments along [REDACTED].

The presence of preserved faunal remains indicates that the conditions at the site are favorable for the preservation of faunal remains and possibly floral remains. Sites in the border lakes area do not generally possess conditions favorable for faunal preservation. Future work using controlled excavations at the site, with the express purpose of collecting subsistence data from both the Laurel (Initial) and Blackduck (Terminal) components, could lead to the analysis of subsistence practices in the area and their temporal variability. The presence of paleoenvironmental data could also aid in understanding questions concerning land use patterns, species exploitation, and seasonality influences during the occupations indicated by the multiple prehistoric components.

3. Settlement patterns. A third goal has been to study the

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diachronic settlement patterns in the lacustrine environment of the border lakes area. This includes examining its potential for changes due to seasonal variability and to compare identified settlement patterns in the lacustrine environment with that in the riverine environment to the west. The discovery of distinct activity areas for lithics and mixed faunal material and ceramics, along with the likelihood of horizontal and vertically separate Laurel and Blackduck deposits, can be used to examine both the settlement and subsistence pattern aspects of a regional research design as well as other research interests.

Germane to the cultural-temporal questions, which can be addressed with data analysis from 21SL73, is the potential to evaluate current models, hypotheses and theories of subsistence with the "type" localities [REDACTED]. A comparison of subsistence patterns from temporally known contexts in both the lacustrine and riverine environments would be useful to develop more rigorous models of Woodland adaptive strategies in northern Minnesota and southern Ontario.

4. Ceramic typology. The ceramic assemblage present at 21SL73 is significant since it may contain quantities of Laurel and Blackduck pottery with horizontal and vertical separation between them. Initial and Terminal Woodland ceramics were found in mixed contexts in several test units, but gross vertical integrity may be preserved in the area around unit 3. In addition, although horizontal overlapping of Initial and Terminal Woodland materials did occur, areas marked by scatters predominately of one or the other period were also recorded. This is particularly significant since many sites in the area with both Laurel and Blackduck pottery have components that cannot be stratigraphically separated. Because the chronological placement and degree of interaction between these cultures is of great interest to area researchers, Site 21SL73 offers the opportunity to explore the temporal relationships between the assemblages through TLM samples taken from distinct contexts. Dates from such contexts serve to elucidate problems of cultural continuity and change between the Initial and Terminal Woodland periods of the border lakes region. This would add to a greater understanding of regional chronology.

The significance of the recovery of Vessel 1, the Terminal Woodland vessel, discussed in the recordation section, should also be reiterated. This vessel is truly unique among sites in the area, since nearly all sherds can usually be fit within existing typologies. The presence of this distinct type of vessel could add a new dimension to the understanding of regional ceramics.

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5. Integrity. The significance of 21SL73 is supported by the physical integrity of the site. The database for potential research in this region has been impacted by fluctuating lake levels which have destroyed or disturbed nearly every site to some degree. The soil matrix containing the cultural material is located well above the flood pool [REDACTED] and wave action seems to have had little impact upon the site. The shoreline is formed mainly by bedrock outcrops which have served to protect the site. While disturbed sites do have the ability to contribute important temporal and settlement information, sites that retain a degree of stratigraphic integrity hold the most promise for future archeological research. Site 21SL73 is one of the few that has incurred minimal shoreline erosional damage while retaining much of its deposit in a primary context.

Additional Significance

The primary database at 21SL73 needs to be evaluated not only for its ability to answer current research questions but for its ability to contribute to future research concerns not yet formulated. The changing dynamics of significance (Lynott 1980) must be addressed when determining the significance of a particular site. A site, such as 21SL73, which has material in a primary context, is multi-component with an apparent horizontal separation and with a demonstrated presence of ecofacts, holds the potential to contribute to a far wider range of future research interests than a site lacking such qualities.

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Connor, Melissa A.

- 1984 Archeological Investigations at Voyageurs National Park June 1984. Ms. on file at the Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Craig, A.J.

- 1972 Pollen influx to laminated sediments: a pollen diagram from northeastern Minnesota. Ecology 3:46-57.

Densmore, F.

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Falk, C.R.

- 1982 Vertebrate Fauna From Archeological Sites Within Voyageurs National Park (1979-1980): Final Report. In Archeological Investigations at Voyageurs National Park: 1979-1980, by M.J. Lynott, J.J. Richner, and M.C. Thompson. Manuscript on file Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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- 1970 The Archaeology of Michigan. Natural History Press, Garden City.

Gibbon, G.E.

- 1977 An Archeological and Historic site survey of Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

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Lynott, M.J., J.J. Richner, and M. Thompson

- 1986 Archeological Investigations at Voyageurs National Park: 1979 and 1980. Manuscript on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

McAndrews, John H.

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- 1978 Draft Master Plan of Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota United States Department of the Interior. National Park Service.

Potzer, J.E.

- 1946 Phytosociology of the Primeval Forest in central-north Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and a brief Post-Glacial history of the Lake Forest Formation. Ecological Monographs, 16.

Stoltman, J.B.

- 1973 The Laurel culture in Minnesota. Minnesota Prehistoric Archeology Series 8, Minnesota Historical Society.

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Thompson, M.C.

- 1981 Prehistory of the Canadian Shield. In Subarctic edited by June Helm, pp. 86-96. Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 6, William G. Sturtevant, general editor. Smithsonian Institution, Washington.



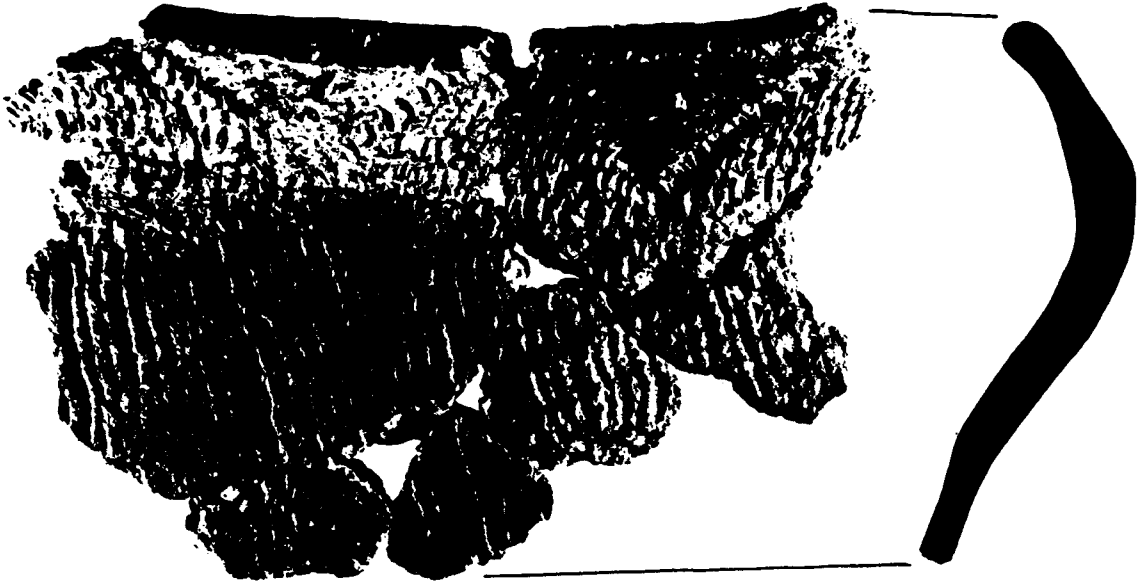
a



b



c



d



e

2 inches



5 cm

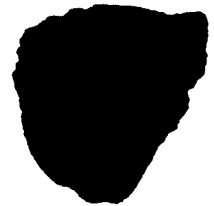


f

1 inch



2.5 cm



g

Figure 41. Selected prehistoric artifacts, 21SL73.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 8803130

Date Listed: 1/16/89

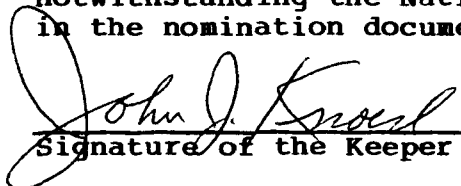
Archeological Site No. 21SL73
Property Name

**St. Louis
County**

**Minnesota
State**

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

1/16/89

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Item 3. Classification.
There is 2 noncontributing structures.

Item 6. Historic Function.
Delete DOMESTIC/resort as it is outside the period of significance.

Item 8. Level of Significance.
The level of significance is local.

Item 8. Period of Significance.
The period of significance is 600 B.C.- A.D. 1499. There are no significant dates.

Verified by phone with:
Cathie Masters
Midwest Archeological Center/National Park Service

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**