

APPENDIX E
THE 106 GROUP: CULTURAL RESOURCES
LITERATURE REVIEW



CULTURAL RESOURCES LITERATURE REVIEW FOR THE NOBLES COUNTY WIND FARM PROJECT NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Submitted to:
WSB & Associates, Inc.

Submitted by:
The 106 Group Ltd.

March 2009

**CULTURAL RESOURCES LITERATURE REVIEW
FOR THE NOBLES COUNTY WIND FARM PROJECT
NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

**SHPO File No. Pending
The 106 Group Project No. 09-09**

**Prepared by
The 106 Group Ltd.**

**for
WSB & Associates, Inc.**

March 2009

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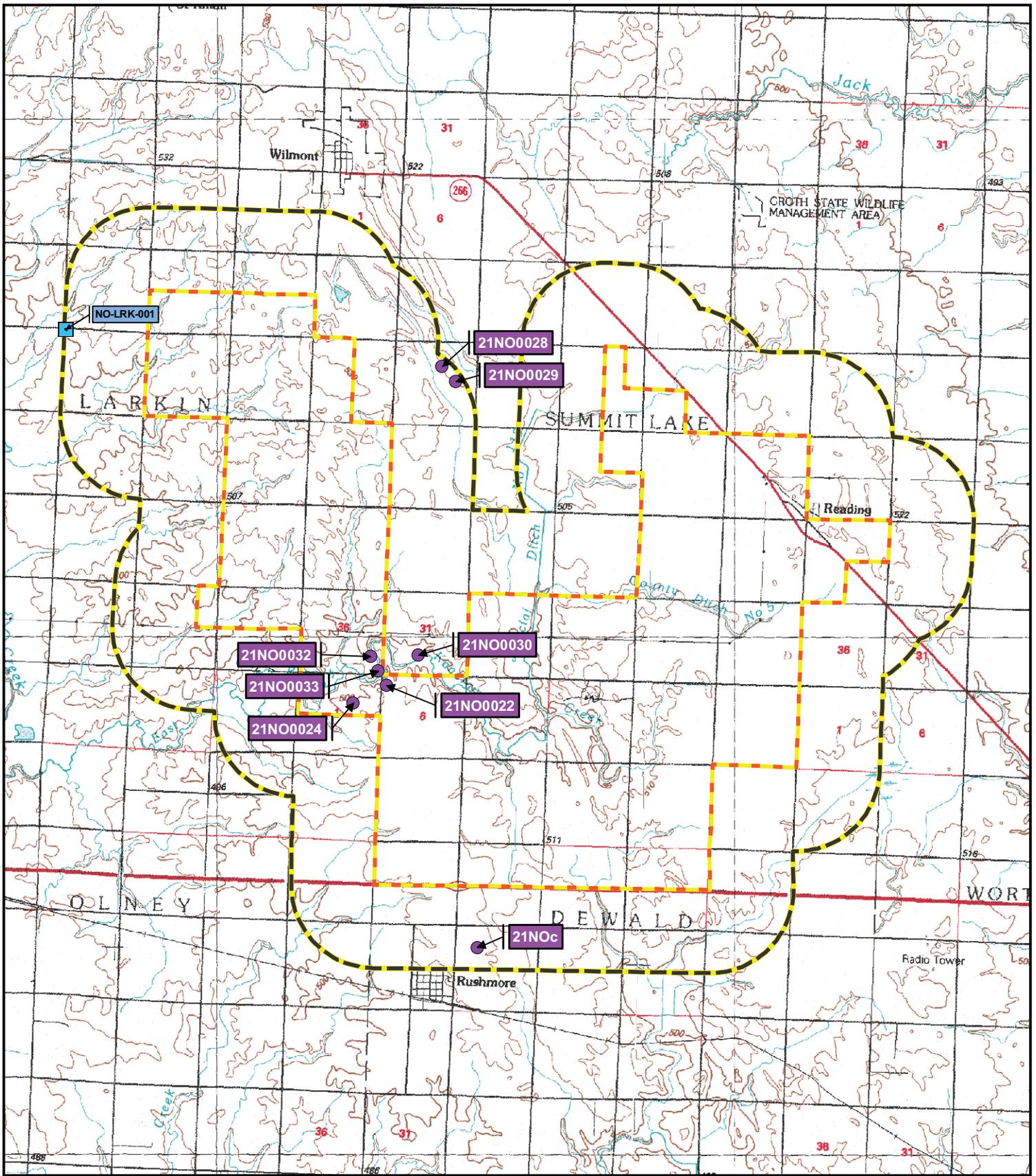
1.0 INTRODUCTION

In March 2009, The 106 Group Ltd. (106 Group) performed a cultural resources literature review for the proposed Nobles County Wind Farm project (Figure 1). The review was conducted under contract with WSB & Associates, Inc. (WSB). The project area includes approximately 19,200 acres (7,770 hectares [ha]) in Nobles County, Minnesota. Table 1 includes the legal description of sections which intersect the project area.

TABLE 1. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF SECTIONS THE PROJECT AREA CROSSES

Township	Range	Sections
102N	41W	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18
102N	42W	1
103N	41W	15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35
103N	42W	10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 34, 35, 36

Currently, the project is not receiving any federal funding or permitting; therefore, it need only comply with state laws governing cultural resources, including the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, Minnesota Private Cemeteries Act, and Minnesota Field Archaeology Act. However, if there will be federal involvement in the project in the future (e.g. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permitting), the project must also comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.



Source: USGS 1:100,000 Quadrangle; MN SHPO; The 106 Group Ltd.

Map Produced by 106 Group Ltd. - 3/11/2009

**Nobles County Wind Farm
Cultural Resources Literature Review
Nobles County, Minnesota**

Project Location and Previous Investigations

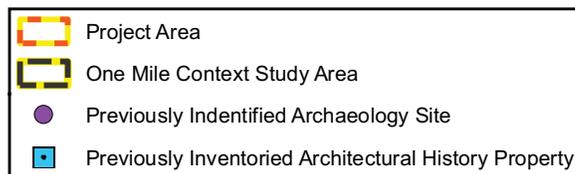
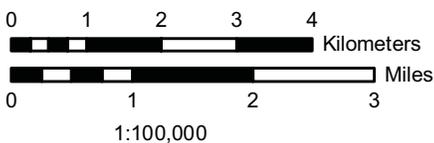


Figure 1

The purpose of this cultural resources literature review is two-fold: 1) to provide a preliminary understanding of what known archaeological and architectural history resources may be located within the project study area, and 2) to provide a tool with which to inform further archaeological and architectural history inquiries, if needed.

This literature review identified all known archaeological sites and architectural history properties within a one mile context study area around the proposed Nobles County Wind Farm project area. In addition, the literature review determined if any portions of the project area have been previously subjected to archaeological or architectural history survey. Should the proposed Nobles County Wind Farm project area be altered from the present proposal, the one mile context study area for archaeological and architectural history resources should be adjusted as appropriate.

2.0 METHODS

2.1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

On March 5 and 6, 2009, staff from the 106 Group conducted background research at the Minnesota SHPO and the Minnesota Historical Society, and the University of Minnesota for information on previously reported archaeological sites, previously inventoried architectural history properties, and on cultural resources surveys previously conducted within a one mile (1.6 kilometer [km]) radius of the Nobles County Wind Farm project area. For both the archaeological and architectural history investigations, multiple documentary resources were consulted, including aerial photographs, historical plat maps, and USGS topographic maps.

2.2 STUDY AREA

The study area for both archaeological and architectural resources encompasses a one-mile (1.6 km) radius around the current proposed Nobles County Wind Farm project area. This one mile context study area was used to provide a broader archaeological and architectural history context for the area and includes all areas of proposed construction activities or other potential ground-disturbing activities associated with construction, and accounts for any physical, auditory, or visual impacts to historic properties. Based on previous experience with similar wind farm projects, one mile is a typical area of potential effect (APE) for indirect effects to architectural history properties. The project area is located in Nobles County, Minnesota (see Figure 1) and encompasses approximately 19,200 acres (7,770 ha).

3.0 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1.1 Previous Studies

Research indicated there was one archaeological survey conducted within the project area. The Phase IA survey was conducted by T.H. Hruby of the University of Minnesota for the State Archaeological Survey/Minnesota Historical Society (SAS/MHS) Rock River Survey in June of 1979 (Gibbon 1980). The boundaries of the survey are not known and therefore, not depicted on Figure 1.

3.1.2 Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

Four archaeological sites have been recorded (confirmed) and no sites have been reported (not field checked) within the current study area (see Figure 1; Table 2).

TABLE 2. PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Site No.	Site Name	T	R	S	¼ Section	Description
21NO0022	The Accidental Site	102N	41W	6	NW NW	Precontact Lithic Scatter
21NO0024	The Robert Elsing Site	102N	42W	1	SW NE	Precontact Lithic Scatter
21NO0032	The Croat Site	103N	42W	36	SE SE	Precontact Artifact Scatter
21NO0033	The Bottom Site	103N	42W	36	SE SE	Precontact Artifact Scatter

21NO0022 is a precontact lithic scatter comprised of tools and debitage. The site eligibility was not determined (Minnesota Site Form 21NO0022 on file at SHPO).

21NO0024 is a precontact lithic scatter comprised of one retouched flake and two secondary flakes. The site eligibility was not determined (Minnesota Site Form 21NO0024 on file at SHPO).

21NO0032 is a precontact artifact scatter comprised of lithic tools and debitage as well as bone. The site eligibility was not determined (Minnesota Site Form 21NO0032 on file at SHPO).

21NO0033 is a precontact artifact scatter comprised of an adze-like uniface and lithic flakes. The site eligibility was not determined (Minnesota Site Form 21NO0033 on file at SHPO).

All four sites of these sites were recorded by T.H. Hruby of the University of Minnesota while conducting a Phase IA survey for the State Archaeological Survey/Minnesota Historical Society (SAS/MHS) Rock River Survey in June of 1979 (Gibbon 1980).

In addition, three archaeological sites have been recorded and one archaeological site has been reported within the current one-mile study area (see Figure 1; Table 3).

TABLE 3. PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN THE ONE MILE STUDY AREA

Site No.	Site Name	T	R	S	¼ Section	Description
21NO0028	The Indian Hill Site II	103N	41W	18	SW NE	Precontact Artifact Scatter
21NO0029	The Indian Hill Site I	103N	41W	18	SW NE	Precontact Artifact Scatter
21NO0030	The Elsing Site	103N	31W	31	SE SW	Archaic Artifact Scatter
21NOc	N/A	102N	41W	20	NW	Town of Adrian

3.2 ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

3.2.1 Previous Studies

Research indicated that no previous architectural history studies have been conducted within the project area.

3.2.2 Previously Recorded Architectural History Properties

There are no properties that have been previously inventoried within the project area.

One property, the Larkin Township Hall (NO-LRK-001), has been previously inventoried within the project's one-mile study area (see Figure 1; Table 4). The property is located within the township of Larkin and has not been evaluated for listing on the NRHP.

TABLE 4. PREVIOUSLY INVENTORIED ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY PROPERTIES WITHIN THE ONE MILE STUDY AREA

Inventory No.	Property Name	T	R	S	¼ Section	Description	NRHP Status
NO-LRK-001	Larkin Township Hall	103N	42W	9	NW NW	1-½ story wood frame, front gabled structure with addition	Not Evaluated

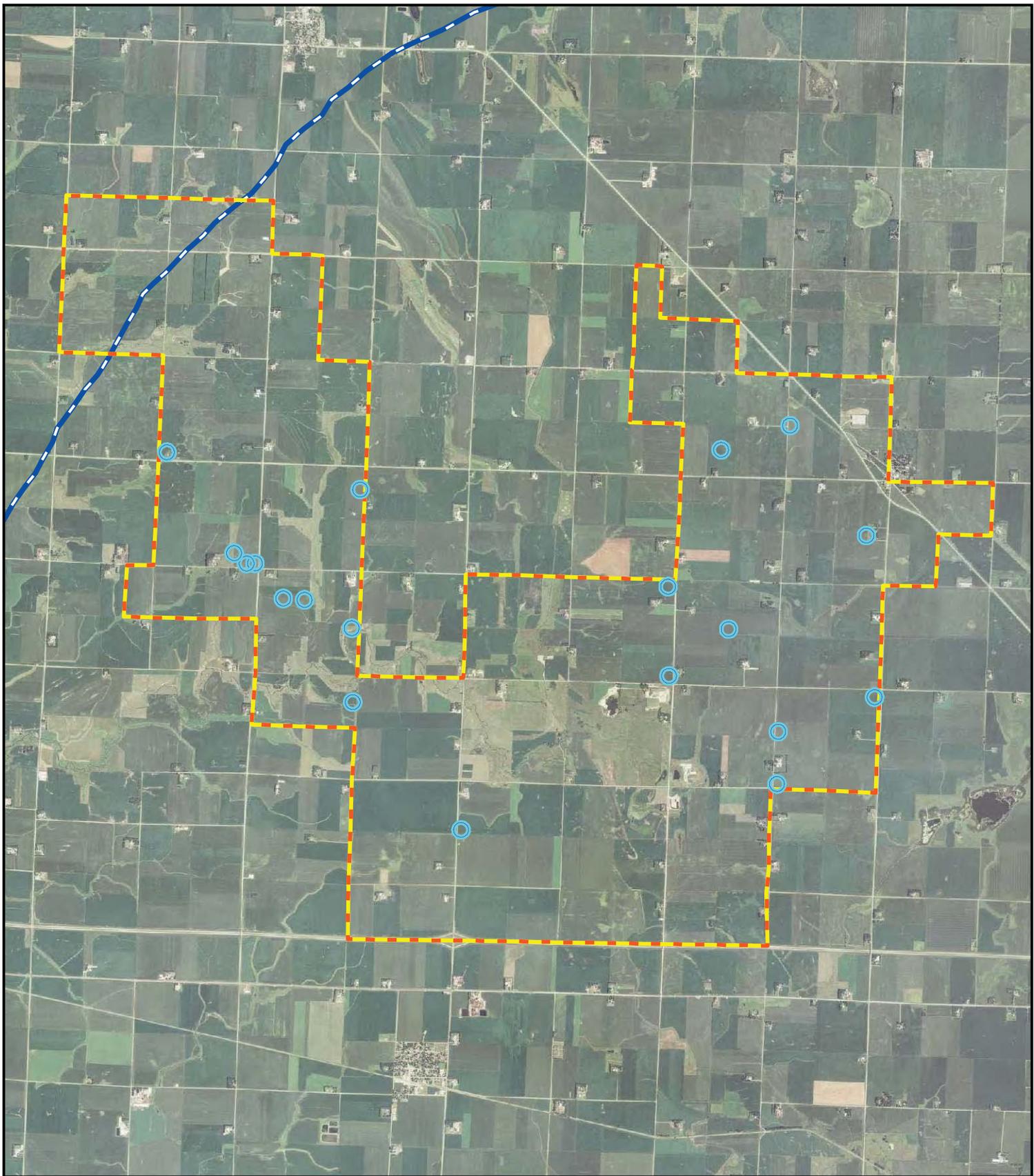
4.0 RESULTS

4.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

A review of topographic maps, historical aerial photographs, and plat maps indicate that 97 potentially historic structures are depicted on the maps within the project area (Figure 2; Andreas 1874, National 1888, Ogle 1914, Hixson 1916, Anderson 1926, Worthington 1935, Trygg 1964). The structures consist mostly of farms, but five schools, one church, and a cemetery were also noted. Nineteen of these structures are not visible on the current aerial photographs of the project area. These nineteen areas, barring any significant disturbances, have potential to possess intact post-contact (Euro-American occupation) archaeological sites (Figure 2). The Mail Road to Sioux Falls and Junction runs through sections 11, 14, and 15 of T 103N R 42W within the project area (Figure 2; Trygg 1964). The area around the mail road has potential to possess intact post-contact archaeological sites.

4.2 ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

One architectural history property has been previously identified within the one mile study area. This property was previously identified in the Township of Larkin, in the northwest corner of the one mile context study area. A review of current and historical aerial photographs indicates over 120 properties that are 45 years of age or older within the one mile study area. In addition, a number of properties are located within the village of Reading; adjacent to the northeast corner of the project area. An approximate number of properties within Reading could not be determined from current aerial photographs. It is likely that other properties over 45 years of age are located within the study area; however, a field survey would be necessary to determine their location and if they have potential to be historically significant (e.g. eligible for listing on the NRHP). According to Trygg (1964), the area was predominately prairie and the Mail Road to Sioux Falls and Junction runs through sections 11, 14, and 15 of T 103N R 42W within the project area (Figure 2). A survey would be required to determine if this historical road is still extant within the project area.



Source: USGS 1:100,000 Quadrangel; MN SHPO; The 106 Group Ltd.

Map Produced by 106 Group Ltd. - 3/11/2009

**Nobles County Wind Farm
Cultural Resources Literature Review
Nobles County, Minnesota**

Areas of Post-Contact Archaeological Potential

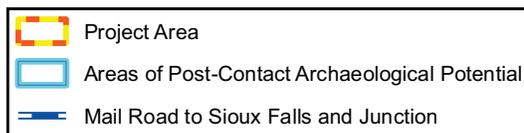
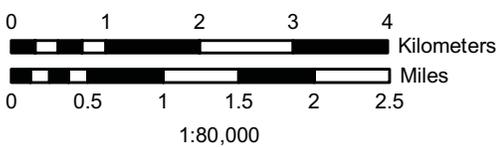


Figure 2

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 ARCHAEOLOGY

The 106 Group recommends that a Phase I archaeological survey be conducted within the archaeological APE. The APE for the Phase I archaeological survey is recommended as the extent of ground-disturbing activities. Once the proposed construction plan has been more clearly defined, the ground-disturbing areas (e.g. turbine footprints, access roads, utility easements) and therefore the archaeological APE can be determined. Areas that are inundated with water (wetlands) or have been disturbed by previous construction or other ground-disturbing activities are considered to have low potential for containing intact archaeological resources and, therefore, can be excluded from future Phase I archaeological survey.

5.2 ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The 106 Group recommends that the APE for architectural history include all areas in which properties would be potentially directly affected due to physical alterations to buildings or structures, or indirectly affected because of increases in levels of noise or vibration, changes in visual or aesthetic qualities, or changes in traffic densities, patterns, or access. Once the proposed construction plan has been more clearly defined and additional analysis concerning potential noise, vibration, visual, and traffic impacts have been completed, the APE for architectural history resources can be identified. Once an APE is defined for the proposed project, the 106 Group recommends that a Phase I architectural history survey be conducted for properties over 45 years of age within the architectural history APE to determine their potential eligibility for listing on the NRHP. The Phase I architectural history survey would include the development of a historical context specific to the project area, fieldwork, and additional historical research sufficient to develop a determination of potential eligibility.

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LIST OF PERSONNEL

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