

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 4 1986

date entered

OCT 19 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fort Clark Archeological District (Preferred)

and/or common See continuation sheet.

2. Location

street & number North Dakota Highway 200 Alternate

N/A not for publication

city, town Stanton -X vicinity of

state North Dakota code 38 county Mercer code 057

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet.

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Mercer County Courthouse

city, town Stanton state North Dakota 58571

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title ND Cultural Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___X no

date 1973 ___ federal ___X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of North Dakota

city, town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fort Clark Archeological District consists of 123.5 acres within Fort Clark State Historic Site, plus approximately 1.5 acres of railroad right of way, for a total of 125 acres nominated. The remaining 108 acres of the the Historic Site are not nominated here as they have no documentable historic context or remains. Most of the site has been state property since statehood in 1889. The State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) formally purchased acreage from the State Land Department in 1936, 1937 and 1965. The District contains the archeological remains of two fur trading posts, a large earthlodge village, and related features. The principal features of the District are located on a grassy terrace extending to the west of a 40 to 50 foot escarpment which is the edge of the first high terrace above the Missouri River floodplain. The Missouri flowed at the base of this escarpment until between 1861 and 1894, when the river shifted to its present channel ca. 3/4 mile east. Included in the District's acreage are ca. 38 acres of wooded bottom lands immediately adjacent to the base of the terrace. This area is both a zone of additional protection and the posited location of shoreline trails and steamboat docks related to the forts. Historical period artworks (cf. Catlin 1967, 1973; Thwaites 1906b) show various activities, including bathing and boat docks, between the terrace and the river's edge. A sketch map is included to show the relationship of the features described. This site is used on a regular basis for educational purposes through both school group visits and on-site displays. The site is also featured in a suitcase traveling teaching aid distributed by the State Historical Society.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Village

The village (mitu tahakto's; translation either "First Village" or "East Village") is evident as approximately 100 shallow circular depressions which mark the locations of earthlodges constructed by the Mandan and Arikara between 1822 and 1861 (sketch map). A fortification ditch surrounds the village and terminates at the terrace edge. Many smaller depressions which may represent cache, grave or pothunter's pits, and a central plaza from the Mandan occupation are also within the ditch. The central plaza contains one large, intrusive lodge depression associated with the post-1837 Arikara occupation. The fortification encloses approximately 22 acres, and large, amorphous borrow pits are located just outside the ditch along with a few smaller lodge depressions. The flat plain outside the fortification was used for horse pasturage, scaffold burials, camp space for other groups who came to trade, and general village activities. The earthlodge of Pierre Garreau, located immediately north of Fort Clark Trading Post and south of the village, was apparently attached to the fort during later years by a picket fence. Garreau was the Arikara stepson of a French Canadian trader, and is reputed to have raised vegetables inside the picket fence for sale to fort personnel. This feature's contribution should be considered with village proper.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates: Mandan 1822-1837

Specific dates: Arikara 1837-1860
Euro-Americans 1822-1860
Builder/Architect: James Kipp

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fort Clark Archeological District has significance both in the events which occurred there and in the potential to yield information regarding the effects of the fur trade on the cultural dynamics of native peoples. Important research questions related to the effects of epidemic diseases on populations can be posited in relation to both the 1837 smallpox epidemic in the Mandan village, and subsequent cholera epidemics among the Arikara, although no excavatory work in the burial ground is recommended or proposed by this identification of research potential.

The presence of competing fur company forts with architectural remnants (foundations, floors, etc.) intact, and with high artifact contents as a result of both forts having burned while in operation (Dill and Holland 1983), will allow comparison of trade goods utilized by competing firms, and to the shipping records which have been located. Questions related to preference and goods differences between companies can also be directed at the village, where limited testing has documented stratification of midden deposits, and, perhaps architectural remains, which would allow investigation of the Indian use of, and response to, changes in available trade goods.

Beyond research related to on site concerns, Fort Clark Trading Post was a key element in the Upper Missouri fur trade between 1830 and 1860. Through Forts Pierre, Clark and Union, the American Fur Company maintained a virtual monopoly on the Northern Plains fur trade for three decades (Wood and Thiessen 1985:40). Historical research and archeological excavations at Fort Clark can both build on, and be a comparative base for, research already completed (cf. Gillio 1973; Hunt n.d.; Husted n.d.a, n.d.b; Moore 1968) and anticipated (cf. Hedrin 1985:12).

The earthlodge evolved architecturally on the Northern Plains from rectangular or oval structures set in house pits, and which may or may not have been covered with earth (Lehmer, Meston and Dill 1973), to circular, earthen covered buildings (Lehmer 1971: 122, 126, 128, 136-140,). Later lodges, as represented by archeological data in the Knife-Heart Region (Lehmer, Wood and Dill 1978), were not set in pits, and additional floor space was gained by the addition of sloping side walls which provided more interior storage space. Ethnographic records such as Wilson (1934) provide detailed architectural, construction and use data for lodges post-dating the Fort Clark occupations. Stratified architectural remains noted at Fort Clark (Dill and Holland 1983) can answer questions related to differences in Mandan and Arikara settlement and construction patterns for comparison with data on Hidatsa, and possibly Mandan, architecture which has been and can be retrieved through research at the nearby Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site (cf. National Park Service 1983: III-2 to III-13).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 125 acres

Quadrangle name Stanton SE and Hannover NE Quads (both 1967) Quadrangle scale 1:24000
(photo revised 1980)

UTM References

A

1	4	3	2	8	1	5	5	5	2	3	5	8	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	4	3	2	8	2	8	5	5	2	3	5	0	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	4	3	2	7	5	9	5	5	2	3	5	0	9	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	4	3	2	7	6	1	5	5	2	3	5	9	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title C. L. Dill, Chief Archeologist

organization State Historical Society of North Dakota date February 25, 1986

street & number North Dakota Heritage Center telephone (701)224-2672

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58505

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

James E. Sperry
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota) date 8/29/1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John J. Knued
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/19/86

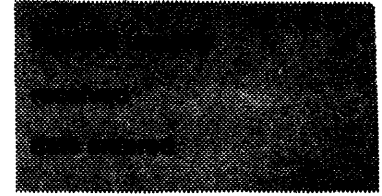
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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1. NAME (continued)

Common:

Fort Clark Trading Post;
Primeau's Post;
Mih Tutta Hang Kush (Maximilian's version);
Mitu' tahakto's (linguistically correct version);
Fort Clark State Historic Site;
32ME2.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Historic Sites Division
State Historical Society of North Dakota
North Dakota Heritage Center
Bismarck ND 58505-0179

Peter M. Lee
Assistant General Solicitor
Burlington Northern Railroad
3800 Continental Plaza
777 Main Street
Ft. Worth TX 76102

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Burial Area

A cemetery of ca. 25 acres and containing over 800 graves related to the later Arikara occupation lies southwest of the village. These features consist of low raised mounds with collapsed centers. While some graves were destroyed by construction of a railroad branch line in 1911, and some were looted prior to 1973, most are still intact. No archeological excavations have been conducted in or are planned for this area. Part of the cemetery lies within and south of the Burlington Northern Railroad right of way, which transects the Historic Site from southeast to northwest.

Fort Clark Trading Post

Fort Clark Trading Post was constructed in 1831 by James Kipp for the Upper Missouri Outfit (UMO) of the American Fur Company (Thwaites 1906a, V. 23:228). The UMO operated Forts Clark, Pierre and Union, among others, on the upper Missouri River, and was generally referred to as the "American Fur Company" by travelers and fur trade competitors even after the UMO was sold to Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company in 1834. Ft. Union is a National Historic Site.

The stockade dimensions were 120 feet (north-south) by 160 feet (east-west), with a main gate facing west and postern gate facing east (Dill and Holland 1983). Archeological evidence derived from limited testing also indicates that a 16 foot square blockhouse stood at the SE corner, while a 12 X 17 foot blockhouse stood at the NW corner. These blockhouses appear to have been later additions to the original construction, possibly replacing deteriorated original structures at the other two corners. The SE blockhouse and the Bourgeois' house had laid, unmortared stone foundations, while the NW blockhouse and several other interior buildings had sill stone foundations. The remaining interior structures, and the exterior wall, had builder's trench foundations without stones. These features remain intact in the ground (Dill and Holland 1983). This fort site was abandoned in 1860 when the south half burned.

Primeau's Post

This trading post was built about 1850 by Harvey, Primeau and Company of St. Louis to compete with Fort Clark. It was located ca. 500 feet north of Fort Clark, at a point between that fort and the village, and had its own boat landing area (Taft 1953: Plate 19). Limited excavations indicate the fort was 70 feet (east-west) by 120 feet (north-south), and the remains of four buildings were noted (Dill and Holland 1983). Excavations also revealed burned timbers in situ, suggesting that the buildings burned; these remains were not removed during excavation. The fort was apparently occupied by UMO personnel in 1860 and 1861 after Fort Clark burned, and was abandoned and/or burned in 1861. The entire site was abandoned when the village was abandoned in 1861.

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Travois Trails

Travois trail remnants, consisting of three parallel grooves - two for the travois poles' tips and one for the horses' feet - have been recorded in the general area by various observers. The posited location of the trail network within the District is shown on the sketch map. Remnants of these trails can be found on the ground, especially in the Northwest quarter of the District. These trails appear to have connected the major villages of the period of village and fort occupation.

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

CCC Stone Work

The Civilian Conservation Corps marked several Historic Sites in North Dakota during the 1930's, including Ft. Clark, with field stone and concrete corner posts, gates, and display shelter. These nine features (eight gate and corner structures, one shelter), while still serviceable and in use, are not considered to contribute to the context in which the District is nominated.

Headquarters Complex

As the State Historic Site was developed beginning in 1973, two fiberglass domes on concrete block basements were placed near the gate at the west edge of the property to house the Site Supervisor and a museum. This complex also included a well, septic system, and telephone and electrical hookups. A garage/workshop was added later, and as the original dome structures deteriorated, a trailer was moved in to provide housing. The original CCC concrete pillars used to delimit parking between the forts were removed to the gate area to limit vehicular access to the property. These four buildings and associated facilities are considered to be non-contributing in terms of the District's historic character.

INTRUSIONS

A railroad branch line was built through southern portions of the complex in 1911 by the Missouri River Railroad Company for the Northern Pacific Railway. The burial area was disturbed, although over 800 graves remain on state and railroad property and in the road right of way. In 1939 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed a display shelter and property corner markers of fieldstone and mortar at the site. SHSND efforts at development began in 1973, and have included closure of portions of the site to vehicular traffic to allow trails to revert to natural vegetation, moving the CCC parking lot from the shelter area west to the property edge, fencing, and construction of housing and shop/storage facilities. All development areas were

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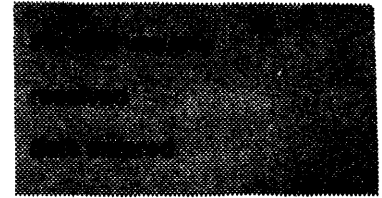
archeologically tested in 1973-74 to ensure that no significant remains were impacted (Dill and Holland 1983), and the developments have been concentrated at the site entrance on the west edge of the property to minimize visual intrusions.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

The first known researchers to spend time at Fort Clark were Catlin and Maximilian, who contributed ethnographic records and visual representations in 1832 and 1833 (Catlin 1967, 1973; Maximilian 1843; Thwaites 1906a, 1906b). In 1862, Lewis Henry Morgan visited the site on Pierre Chouteau's steamer the Spread Eagle; his published description of the village and its remains, prefaced with an historical account, appeared in 1871 (White 1959). E. R. Steinbrueck, a researcher for the SHSND visited the site in 1904, although little record remains. Researchers from Beloit College completed some limited and as yet undefined field work at the site in 1929. Dana College and the University of Missouri excavated four test pits at the site in 1968 (Lippicott 1970, 1972, Schneider 1972, Wood 1969, 1985). Excavations were conducted in 1973-1974 by SHSND personnel to examine development areas and provide basic interpretive data for both forts and the village. This latter work resulted in a report which compiled all previous work at the site, along with a historical context, land ownership history, history of journals and artworks related to the site, detailed bibliographic citations, and recommendations for management of the property (Dill and Holland 1983). Specimens from the site were included in a recent comparative study of flat glass from 19th century sites (Schoen 1985). In 1985 Dr. W. Raymond Wood and Dr. Michael J. O'Brien, University of Missouri, conducted preliminary activities in preparation for future extensive archeological, historical and ethnographic research at the site (Wood and O'Brien 1985). Three datum points and two major baselines were set. Proton magnetometer readings were taken by National Park Service personnel at both forts, in the village, and in the burial area. These latter data are still being interpreted, and are not available at this writing. A planimetric map of the site is to be prepared; again, these data are not available yet. And finally, a topographic map of the north half of the area nominated was made to a contour interval of 6 inches (15cm); a copy of this map is included for reference, although interpretation and removal of non-cultural contours remains to be completed.

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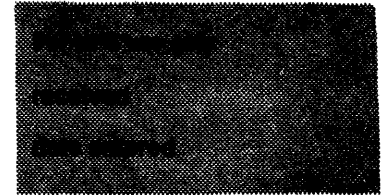
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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the District were selected to encompass all known archeological remains of the 1822-1861 occupation of this site by Indians and Euro-Americans. These include both forts, the village, the burial grounds, travois trail remnants in the northwest corner of the District, and boat landing areas illustrated at the time of use.

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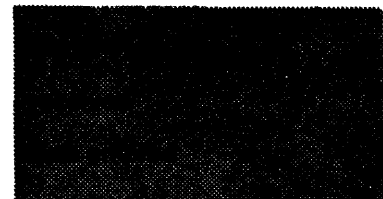
Significant events which took place at Fort Clark include well documented visits by Catlin (1967, 1973), Maximilian (1843; Thwaites 1906a) and Bodmer (Thwaites 1906b; Goetzman et al 1984), Audubon (McDermott 1953), and Chardon (Abel 1932), among others. Significant ethnographic records of pre-epidemic Mandan lifeways, in the form of both artwork (Catlin, Bodmer) and journal accounts (Catlin, Maximilian, Chardon) were produced at Fort Clark, capturing a picture of these peoples at the height of their development and influence immediately prior to the epidemic which completely changed these lifeways. The District is the primary location occupied by the Mandan when they were devastated by smallpox in 1837. Chardon's journal (Abel 1932) provides detailed records of the epidemic and an interesting comparative record for use against Maximilian's, Catlin's, and Bodmer's pre-epidemic picture.

Important scientific contributions related to the District began as early as Maximilian's visit in 1834, as he attempted to record indigenous Native American populations and lifeways (see especially Goetzman et al., 1984), through Lewis Henry Morgan's inspection, to recent archeological testing designed to provide basic interpretive and planning guidance (Dill and Holland 1983). The District is also the type location for the Dakota Pocket Gopher (Thomomys talpoides rufescens Weid) and Maximilian Grasshopper Mouse (Onychomys leucognaster leucognaster Weid). Both species were originally recorded by Maximilian in 1834 (Bailey 1926: 81-83, 130-133). Detailed bibliographic citations are available in Dill and Holland (1983). Scientific research continues at the District as archeologists and historians attempt to better understand the Mandan and Arikara's early historic lifeways (cf. Wood and O'Brien 1985).

The area is nominated as a District to include all the features, i.e., both forts, the village, the burial grounds, travois trails, boat landings, and various ancillary features such as borrow pits, and recognize a comprehensive set of cultural elements for all occupations and activities at this location.

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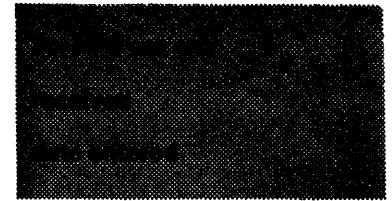
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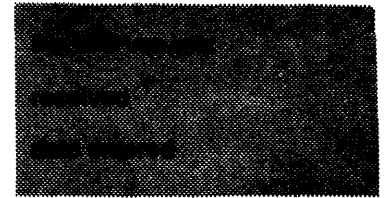
Continuation sheet

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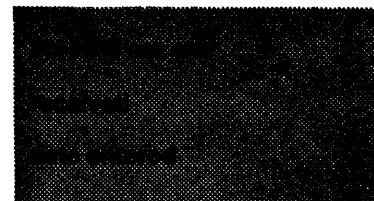
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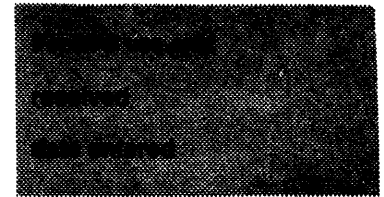
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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

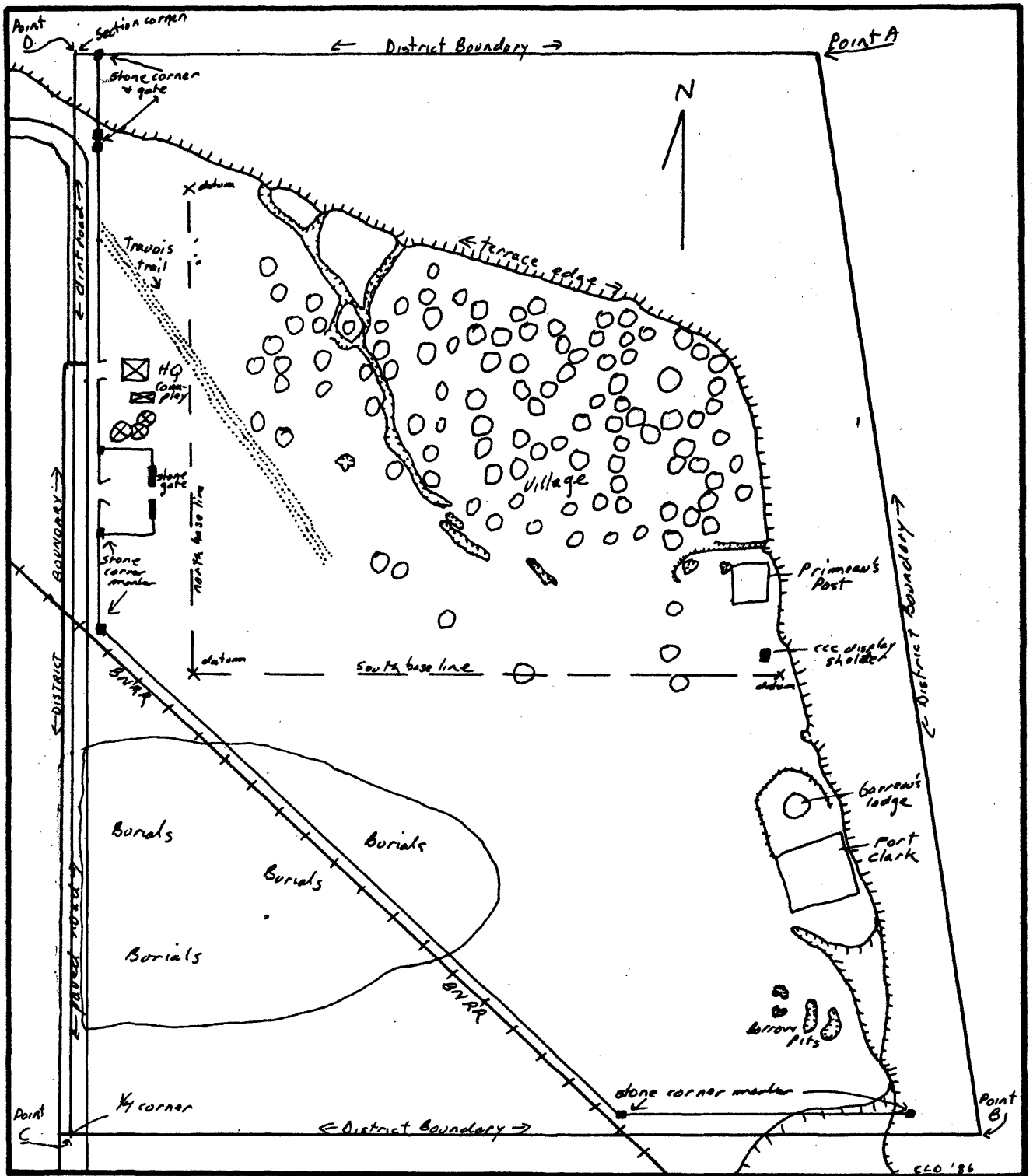


Continuation sheet

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The District was selected to include all identified elements of the site complex, such as the bottom of the terrace where steamboat landings are known to have been, and a 100 to 400 foot buffer zone. Point D on the UTMG map is at the northwest corner of Section 36, T144N, R84W, Mercer County, North Dakota; point A is 1800 feet east of point D on the east-west section line; point C is 2690 feet south of point D on the north-south section line; point B is 2250 feet east of point C and 2700 feet south-southeast of point A. The District is a trapezoid which encloses all known and posited features of the occupation between 1822 and 1860, including graves in and south of the railroad right of way.



Fort Clark Archeological District
 Stanton Vicinity
 Mercer County, North Dakota
 Title: Sketch map of boundaries and contributing elements.
 Scale: 1 inch = approx. 367 feet.