

NPS Form 10-900

(Rev. 8/86)

Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)

(Approved 3/87)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1491
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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Coumbe, John, Farmstead Rural Historic District

other names/site number Tippecaukee Farm Rural Historic District (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Junction STH 60 and CTH X

N/A not for publication

city, town Town of Richwood

N/A vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Richland code 103 zip code 53518

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<u>x</u> private	<u> </u> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<u> </u> public-local	<u>x</u> district	<u> </u>	<u> 2</u> buildings
<u> </u> public-state	<u> </u> site	<u> 3</u>	<u> 2</u> sites
<u> </u> public-Federal	<u> </u> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> object	<u> </u>	<u> 1</u> objects
		<u> 3</u>	<u> 5</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

No. of contributing resources
previously listed in the
National Register 5

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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1.4.96

 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register.

 removed from the National Register.

 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
TRANSPORTATION/road-related(vehicular)
LANDSCAPE/forest
DOMESTIC/village site
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
TRANSPORTATION/road-related(vehicular)
LANDSCAPE/forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Introduction

The Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District includes the John Coumbe Farmstead buildings (listed in the National Register on 6-25-92) and the land surrounding the district, which presents a landscape remarkably unchanged from the period of significance. Within the district are significant archeological sites related to Native American occupation and to the establishment of the farmstead between 1838 and 1844. The archeological sites include the Late Historic Native American village (47Ri76) encountered by Coumbe upon his arrival in 1838, and the remains of Coumbe's second (47Ri355) and third cabins, representing the first "permanent" Euroamerican occupation in Richland County. (The third cabin site, located within the boundaries of 47Ri76, is considered a component within that site and has not been given a separate site number.) Two other archeological sites, a small prehistoric site of unknown cultural affiliation (47Ri357) and a mid/late 19th century tenant house (47Ri358), fall within the district boundaries but are not considered to be contributing elements.

The district is situated on the north bank of the Wisconsin River in southern Richland County. It is comprised of agricultural land (pastures and seven fields) and woodland, and is traversed by State Trunk Highway 60, the historic route along the north bank of the Wisconsin River, and an unpaved lane to the house. The history and significance of the rural district are linked generally to the exploration and settlement of southern Wisconsin, and specifically tied to the Tippesaukee Farm buildings and the Wisconsin River. A new examination of the historic landscape, which provides the farmstead with a unique sense of place and history, and subsequent historic and archeological research, has resulted in the nomination of the additional 184.3 acres that surround the original National Register property (9.2 acres).

Information in the earlier nomination has not been repeated herein, but is important background for this nomination. One correction of this original nomination, however, is noted here. The text of the 1992 John Coumbe Farmstead nomination included discussion of two non-contributing buildings (labeled Map No.5, modern hog barn and Map. No.6, modern corn crib) and a non-contributing object (Map No. 11) but these are not within the John Coumbe Farmstead site boundaries as described by UTM's in the Verbal Boundary Description. Consequently, these two buildings and object are counted as non-contributing resources in this new nomination. The corrections to the original nomination were made in a 1995 amendment.

The Landscape

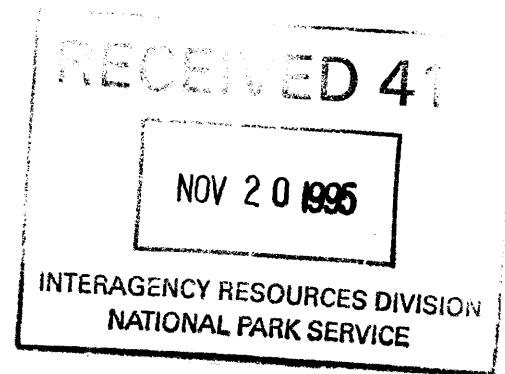
The 193.5 acre Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District rises gently northward from the Wisconsin River (Fig.1). Geographically, it is comprised of five distinct components that reflect the configuration developed by John Coumbe in the mid-19th century. Approximately 5 acres of the district border the Wisconsin River to the south of the east-west running state trunk highway. To the east and northeast of the Coumbe lane is an approximately 15 acre woodlot and wetland. Another wooded area and two small pastures are west and northwest of the building complex; this area contains about 20 acres. To the north of the house, lie seven agricultural fields, containing ca 125 acres. In front of the house, a 19 acre pasture stretches from the Coumbe property line on the west to the Coumbe lane. The district encompasses Tippesaukee

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Farm in its entirety, reflecting the form it took in 1905 when a portion to the west that the connected the farm with the Coumbe Cemetery was split off by terms of Sarah Coumbe's will.

The south-facing slope that comprises the district is cut by two ravines, one at the western boundary and the other to the west of the lane to the John Coumbe farmstead buildings. The slope is steepest in the pasture in front of the Coumbe house; to the east of the lane, the land is a low area of shrubs (gooseberry and multiflora rose), rising to a woodlot primarily comprised of white and red oak, cherry, white ash, elm, hickory, and red maple. At the northwest corner of the district there is a woodlot of similar composition and age. Between STH 60 and the Wisconsin River the narrow band of land is wooded with river birch, silver maple, American elm, and boxelder. These species are typical of lowland river bottoms. The seven agricultural fields to the north of the house are cultivated with corn, soybeans, oats and hay. The land has probably been divided into seven fields since John Coumbe farmed Tippesaukee. Most of these fields are separated by barbed wire fences but, until two years ago, hedgerows of trees and shrubs were apparent. The vegetation was removed in an attempt to increase cultivated land, but due to the difficulty of removing the stumps there was no substantial gain. Trees and shrubs are beginning to line the fences again.

John Coumbe probably was attracted to the land that became Tippesaukee Farm because it had been partially cleared of trees by Native Americans for a village and cultivation. The Indians probably helped the site evolve as an "oak opening," a plant community characterized by widely spaced specimens of bur or white oak surrounded by prairie and often adjacent to a forested area (Curtis, 1959:326). These oak openings were partly a product of the periodic burnings done by Native American groups so they could cultivate crops. Fires were also started by lightening. Among trees, only the corky-barked oaks could withstand the heat of prairie fires.

The woodlots in the Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District can be identified as former oak openings by the massive, old oaks with spreading form that dot the woods. Only a tree maturing in ample light can achieve such a form. Tree borings have established the age of a red oak just west of the house to be 139 years and a white oak directly in front of the house to be 286 years old (Kopitzke, 1994). Trees of a similar size (and age) are found in both woodlots. The parts of Tippesaukee Farm that were not cleared for cultivation became typical southern Wisconsin mesic forests as trees encroached on south and west facing slopes (Curtis, 1959:132-133). The understory is shrubby on the edges where light is available and comprised of a low-growing groundstory in the interior. Where openings have been created by fallen trees, the shrubby peripheral understory prevails. Such are the woods on the east and west sides of the nominated district. From maps and other records in the Coumbe family archives, it is known that historically both woods were used to graze swine, which were fattened on acorns. Cattle and sheep were grazed in the woods to a lesser extent.

The wide sweep of land between the Coumbe lane and the west ravine has been pasture since John Coumbe settled the land. Trees and shrubs grow in the ravine, otherwise the pasture is a grassy slope, kept clipped by cattle. A few trees dot the pasture, mostly white oaks, remnants of the original savannah vegetation. The entire pasture in front of the house is fenced and probably was fenced by about 1880 when livestock was no longer permitted to range at large. Prior to that time cultivated fields were

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fenced to keep livestock out (Gregory, 1932:1354).

A portion of split rail fence, in deteriorated condition, remains along the highway. Both roads that cross the district have been modified over the years. During the middle decades of the nineteenth century, the road running along the river would have been little more than a trail; the river was transcendent in importance as a transportation route. The road, which connected Gotham to the east and Boscobel to the west of Port Andrew, would have been locally maintained. Highway 60 probably was incorporated into the state trunk highway system in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century (Highway Planning Survey, 1947:15,42). At the southeast corner of the district, the curve in Highway 60 was modified in 1938 as part of an upgrading of a 7.2 mile stretch of the road. The Coumbe family sold 6.25 acres to the Department of Transportation for the highway right-of-way.

The lane to the house originally cut straight up the hill in front of the house from STH 60. In about 1950, because of erosion and seasonal difficulty in getting vehicles up the hill, the lane was moved east to its present location. The old roadbed has been obliterated and is indistinguishable from the rest of the pasture. Other farm lanes and paths that remain from the early Coumbe occupation of the farm cross the property. One lane leads between the barns and travels toward the back fields. Another path still leads from the farm building complex east to CTH X. It was used by the Coumbe children to reach the schoolhouse (not extant) across CTH X.

An object of interest at the eastern end of the pasture is a boulder with a commemorative plaque. It was placed here in 1938 at the Richland County centennial celebration, which was held at Tippesaukee Farm. The plaque marks the location of John Coumbe's third cabin and declares Coumbe the first white settler in Richland County.

The Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District reflects some typical early settlement patterns in Richland County. Gregory stated the following about Richland County's early settlements:

The ridges and valleys of Richland County all run in a northerly to southerly direction. It was almost exclusively to the valleys that the first settlers turned for home-building. . . The settler, anxious to get to cropping his land, naturally chose a location which offered opportunity for the quickest crops with the least labor. Hence it was that up and down the valleys at such intervals and distances as sparse timber could be found, the settler staked his claim, built a cabin and began to farm. Practically only two other elements were taken into consideration. There must be a spring of pure water and the location must be sufficiently elevated and far enough from the river or creek bottom to get away from the ague (Gregory, 1932:1304-05).

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Coumbe's second and third cabins were built close to the spring bubbling out of the eastern ravine (Fig. 2). Water for the 1863 house, built at the crest of the hill, was obtained from two large cisterns and, later, a well. This house is situated above the flood plain to avoid floods and reduce the onslaught of mosquitoes; it faces south to catch prevailing summer breezes and backs to the prevailing winter winds, sheltered by the woodlot to the northwest. Of paramount importance is the relationship of the house to the Wisconsin River. In the early years the river was the primary means of travel for passengers and freight. By canoe, flatboat, or steamboat, the river was travelled to reach markets to barter or sell livestock, timber, and crops. The Wisconsin River must have had an aesthetic and spiritual pull on John Coumbe too: he spent the rest of his life facing the river that had brought him to a wealth of opportunities in Richland County.

A long history of agriculture in this portion of Richland County has affected the historic settings of many farms. The construction of new buildings, the modification or destruction of old buildings, and changes to the landscape have been inevitable to meet modern needs and preferences and to maintain agriculture as an economically viable enterprise. Tippesaukee is no exception; however, it has been spared some of the changes evident in the post-World War II era of agriculture. Although farmed continuously since John Coumbe established Tippesaukee, its core of buildings has not been added to since the mid-1960s; probably because the land has been rented to neighboring farmers for the last 30 years. The buildings and structures dating from the 1950s and 1960s are non-contributing elements of the existing district (dairy barn, silo, tenant house, and machine shed). At the time they were built, the farm was worked by tenants living in the tenant house on the property. Other farms have developed service functions close to the highway. The setback of Tippesaukee's buildings from the river and road, at the top of the steep hill, reflected the preferences of the earliest settlers, and have precluded such development. Importantly, the scenic views of the river landscape, always valued by the Coumbe family, have been retained and lend the farm its historic character. Establishment of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway as a protected corridor will enhance preservation of the spectacular view and help to maintain the intrinsic tie between the Coumbe farmstead and the Wisconsin River.

The Archeology of Tippesaukee

The Office of the State Archeologist (OSA) conducted limited investigations at the Coumbe farmstead in the summers of 1993 and 1994 (Holliday, n.d.). The purpose of these investigations was to confirm the presence of the Native American village reported to have been on the property at the time of John Coumbe's arrival in 1838. A "campsite and burials" had been reported in the area in 1925 (Brown, 1925:103; Fay, 1984). OSA archeological testing located and defined the limits of the village and also located the remains of Coumbe's second and third cabins (Figs. 2 & 3). Two additional sites were also located but they are not considered to be contributing elements to this district. These are a mid/late 19th century tenant house (deliberately destroyed in the mid 20th century) and a small lithic scatter of unknown age identified at the southwestern edge of the eastern woodlot. The tenant house may have been built for John Coumbe's parents, who were enumerated in the 1860 census as living in a separate dwelling next to the Coumbe farm. (On some plat maps, the parcel around the tenant dwelling has distinct boundaries).

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According to family history and recounted in Richland County history, when John Coumbe first arrived, he saw a large Indian village spread out in a clearing that sloped to the Wisconsin River. Systematic shovel testing and test excavations across the pasture in front of the Coumbe farmstead have defined the extent of this village and confirmed the presence of intact archeological deposits. The recovered artifacts, in concert with historic accounts, indicate an early 19th century Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) occupation and also suggest a possible late 18th century Mesquakie (Fox or Outagamie) component. A Mesquakie village was reported in this general area in the 1760s by Jonathan Carver and again in the 1770s by Peter Pond. The historic occupations may have disturbed a smaller Late Woodland site and possibly a small Middle Woodland occupation. This historic village site extends across the terrace between the two gullies previously described and southward to the river. Village deposits are also present between the eastern gully and the current driveway, although this area was less intensively used.

Although only fourteen square meters were excavated (see Fig.2), 19 features have been identified, including six storage features extending over one meter in depth, and a "smudge" pit, containing a concentration of burned corn. The large and often overlapping historic features (see Fig. 4) suggest a long-term occupation, although perhaps on a seasonal basis. Preliminary analysis of the faunal remains suggests the village was occupied at least from the spring through the late summer or fall.

The artifact abundance and diversity, and the excellent preservation of both faunal and floral remains, offer the potential to identify village activities and address broader questions of social organization, subsistence and acculturation to the increasing Euroamerican presence. Artifacts recovered by the OSA include hundreds of small glass trade beads, 24 wampum beads, four iron projectile points, three stone projectile points (two triangular, one is missing its base), lithic debitage, galena cubes, lead shot and lead waste, worked catlinite, worked bone (eg, a matting needle, projectile points from antler tines), 28 brass tinkling cones, seven spall gunflints (some heavily modified), a fragment of a Jesuit ring, a brass crucifix, small amounts of silver, and a few Euroamerican and aboriginal ceramics. Additional shovel-testing in the STH 60 right-of-way by Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center (G.L.A.R.C.) produced lithic debitage, faunal remains, two British blade gunflints and a brass cross with glass inlays, possibly part of a rosary (Kowenstrot, 1994). Artifact types are not evenly distributed across the site. For example, most features contained no wampum; Feature 13 contained 14 examples. Feature 2/11 produced 131 pieces of debitage, while Feature 13, a feature of comparable size, produced only 23. Shovel-testing in the south area of the site produced two blade gunflints, shovel tests and excavation units in the northern area of the site produced only spall gunflints, an earlier style. Additionally, more lead shot and lead waste products were recovered in the western portion of the village, than in the east.

Some of the artifacts recovered (the Jesuit ring fragment, crucifix, and the frequency of spall gunflints) tentatively support the historic accounts of an 18th century Mesquakie village in this area. Further excavations across the terrace certainly hold the potential of producing additional evidence for this earlier occupation. Unfortunately, it can be difficult to distinguish artifacts from the early portion of the Late Historic period from the later portion of this period, when the Ho-Chunk occupied this area of Wisconsin. Larger sample sizes and the potential for spatial patterning offer the hope of delineating these occupations. Coumbe's arrival

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documents the presence of the Ho-Chunk at this site in 1838 as well as provides a terminal date for this village.

The recovered aboriginal ceramics are few in numbers and small in size. The sample consists of only 17 sherds; most are grit-tempered and cord-marked. These probably represent a limited Late Woodland occupation rather than the remnants of a dying traditional industry. The production of pottery was typically one of the first traditional industries abandoned by Native American groups. Three of the sherds, recovered from a shovel test, are relatively thick in cross-section (7.5 mm) and are tempered with sand. These may represent a Middle Woodland occupation. One of these three sherds, a rim sherd, exhibits two finger-nail-like indentations just below the rim and appears to have been from a miniature vessel.

The lithic assemblage (N = 621) is dominated by thinning flakes; comparatively few decortification flakes or formal tools were found. Most of the tools and debitage were manufactured from locally available cherts; approximately 48% are of Prairie du Chien chert and 46% of Galena chert. Exotic materials include a few examples of Burlington chert, Hixton, and one flake of Knife River chalcedony. The tools include two complete triangular points, a tip of a third point, two possible point preforms, three scrapers, one denticulate, two graters, fragments of abraders, a hammerstone, and a number of biface fragments. Of the 29 tools recovered, 18 (62%) were from feature contexts. All of the points and point preforms, however, were recovered from the plowzone. In contrast, of the four iron projectile points, two are from features the third from sediments beneath the plowzone, and the fourth is from a shovel test.

As noted, there is excellent preservation of both faunal and floral remains. The floral remains have not yet been formally analyzed but burned corn and squash seeds were identified during excavation. The faunal remains include deer, elk, probable bison, beaver, bear, raccoon, duck, hawk, eagle, pigeon (possibly passenger pigeon), and various species of turtle and fish. The assemblage of identifiable mammal, bird, and reptile remains (ca. 1,600) is dominated by deer (55%); the next most abundant is turtle (ca 25%). The recovered skeletal elements differ dramatically by species. Deer are represented by all types of elements including limbs, vertebrae, and cranial bones. In contrast, bear remains are represented predominately by teeth, a few other cranial parts, and foot bones. Most of the beaver remains consist of caudal (tail) vertebrae.

Archeological testing also located the site of John Coumbe's second cabin and confirmed the location of the third. The second cabin site was discovered by shovel-testing, located at the western edge of the eastern woodlot (see Figs. 2 & 3). The excavation of seven square meters revealed portions of three features and produced architectural debris (square cut nails, window glass), kitchen goods such as bottle glass and early 19th century ceramic types (transferware, annualware, and sprigware), three globules of lead waste, and a few miscellaneous personal items including buttons, a fragment of a slate pencil, and a brass tinkling cone. Some of these artifacts appear burned, supporting the historic accounts of this cabin's demise. The features were relatively shallow with sloping walls; none extended more than 40 cm in depth; at minimum, one of these features was a meter wide.

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Testing at the third cabin site, occupied from ca. 1840 to 1860, was limited to confirming its location at the site of the commemorative plaque. Probing defined an irregular 1.5 by 4.0 meter area of buried rocks (in otherwise sandy deposits), interpreted to be the remnants of a chimney. Historic accounts note an immense fireplace in this particular cabin. Shovel tests in the area also produced whiteware, window glass and square cut nails.

Shovel tests in the area of the Coumbe farmhouse, constructed in 1863 and still occupied, produced late 19th and 20th century artifacts related to the occupation of this structure. Two of these shovel tests also produced stone flakes. The archeological potential of these sites has not been formally evaluated.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: _____ nationally _____ statewide x locally

Applicable National Register Criteria X A X B X C X D

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

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement
Archeology: Historic-
Aboriginal
Archeology: Historic -
Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance Significant Dates

Late Historic
1838 - 1905

Cultural Affiliation

Mesquakie (Fox)
Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)
Euroamerican

Significant Person

John Coumbe

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

Significance

The Tipplesaukee Farm Rural Historic District is being nominated under Criteria A and B as a tangible reminder of the early exploration and settlement of Richland County, and for its association with John Coumbe, the county's first settler. It is also being nominated under Criterion D for its potential to yield significant information on Late Historic Native American lifeways and the early Euroamerican occupation of this property. Approximately 9.2 acres of the John Coumbe Farmstead, including five buildings (a house, barn, and associated out-buildings) were previously listed in the National Register on 6-25-92 under Criterion C. Subsequent research has demonstrated both the historical and archeological significance of the remainder of the farm acreage. The proposed rural historic district retains its appearance from the period of significance, with minor modifications. It reflects the qualities shaped by nature and John Coumbe that have inspired the Coumbe family to preserve this stretch of land as a significant setting for this much-cherished family home. The pasture and wooded river corridor in front of the house, woodlots to the east and northwest, and cultivated fields to the north, are reminiscent of the scene that would have existed through the years of John and Sarah Ann Coumbe's occupancy.

Exploration and Settlement

The story of John Coumbe's pioneering efforts in Richland County are described in the John Coumbe Farmstead National Register nomination. The statement of significance begins with the following: "Even in his own lifetime the story of John Coumbe's arrival in and subsequent settlement of Richland County was frequently recounted as an archetypal example of the accomplishments of the pioneering generation that first settled the region" (Heggland, 1992:8-1). The text describes Coumbe's early forays to the county, and his successful ventures in agriculture, commerce, and public office.

In recognition of Coumbe's contribution to the settlement of the county, the Coumbe farm was selected as the site of Richland County's centennial celebration. The focus of activities was the woods on the east side of the proposed district, where some 4,000 people gathered to hear speeches and music (Moffat letter, 3-21-95). The centennial year 1938 was based on the 1838 construction of John Coumbe's first cabin, the first permanent stake made by white settlers in the county. In tribute to its first citizen, a memorial stone, thought to be a meteorite, was placed at the site

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of the cabin. It is inscribed with these words:

Tippesaukee
At this place on June 21, 1838, John Coumbe, of Devonshire, England,
established his home and became the first white settler in Richland
County, Wisconsin.

As noted by Heggland (1992), John Coumbe named the farm "Tippesaukee" after the name of the Ho-Chunk village that had occupied the land. This term translates to "tip-top site" or "beautiful site".

Since the original nomination was written, an archeological survey has located the site of the second cabin and confirmed the location of the third cabin. His first cabin, built in 1838, lies outside the proposed district. It is believed to have been located to the east in what is now Port Andrew (Butterfield, 1884:769). This cabin was reportedly burned by Native Americans in 1840 (Coumbe, 1922-23). A second cabin was built shortly thereafter, described as being located ca. 1/2 mile west from the first site. This second cabin area has been located on slightly sloping ground at the western edge of the eastern woodlot. This cabin was also burned within a short time and Coumbe built a third cabin on the river terrace, near an active spring, and on the site of the former Native American village. As noted, a commemorative plaque has marked the general location of this cabin since 1938; archeological investigations have confirmed the location.

The association between John Coumbe and Tippesaukee is strong indeed. An 1884 history of Richland County said the following about Coumbe's attachment to his farm:

But John Coumbe had his eyes blessed with the sight of the promised land, and he felt a strong desire to again enter upon the possession of this western Canaan. . . . Here John remained, a tiller of the soil, and one of the most highly respected men among the pioneers who immediately followed in his footsteps, until the day of his death, which occurred May 2, 1883 (Butterfield, 1884:770).

Coumbe was not just a tiller of the soil, however. His contributions to the economic and civic development of the county were significant. The nomination form for the John Coumbe Farmstead describes these accomplishments in detail.

The British Isles study unit, described in the Settlement theme of "Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin," is related to the exploration/settlement area of significance as it pertains to John Coumbe. Emigrating from England to the United States at age 20 in 1828, Coumbe lived in Ohio for several years before settling in Wisconsin. The study unit reveals that in 1870 fewer than 500 settlers from England and Wales settled in Richland County, while nearby counties became home to many more. For example, more than 3,000 people from England and Wales settled in Iowa County; Grant and Lafayette counties became home to between 1,500 and 3,000 English and Welsh (Wyatt, 1986:10-11). However, the assimilation of many English settlers was so rapid and complete that they resembled other American settlers of the nineteenth century more than fellow Europeans. Such is the case with John Coumbe. With no language or cultural barriers on the Wisconsin frontier, his pioneering efforts in agriculture

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and commerce, and his leadership role in the county, resembled those of leading Yankee citizens in Wisconsin.

The historic context encompasses more than the information contained in the published study units, however. The agricultural, economic, and transportation history of southern Richland County are important contexts for this district for two reasons. First, the district reflects the county's changing agricultural practices and economy through the nineteenth century. Second, the land provides the vital link between the farm buildings and the Wisconsin River, the reason for the farm's founding and success. A synopsis of this context follows.

The very earliest settlers in southern Richland County selected land that was relatively clear of trees so they could begin farming as soon as possible. In these early years, because of marketing difficulties, trees were not considered the commodity they became later. Although the slopes of Tippesaukee Farm facing the Wisconsin River probably were fairly clear, the north-facing slopes of the farm may well have been covered by "dense primeval forest" (Butterfield, 1884:763).

By the 1840s, lumber was needed for the national effort to construct railroads. The Wisconsin River became a conduit for Richland County logs and rough sawn lumber, including railroad ties, which were floated down the Wisconsin River to markets. During the era of steamboats on the Wisconsin River (at its heyday in the 1840s and 50s, although steamboats made sporadic runs beginning in the 1830s), farmers found a ready local market for wood with the steamboat operators. The cash from lumber sales frequently was used by farmers to pay their debt on land purchases. Little is known about the saw mill John Coumbe owned and operated on Byrd Creek in the 1850s and 1860s (Durbin, 3-30-95). Apparently, he milled lumber from trees harvested in Tippesaukee's woods to use in the farm buildings. He probably met other local needs as well. The sale of lumber could have provided Coumbe with cash for his extensive land purchases, although it is not known if he sold lumber to more distant markets or with whom he dealt for such sales.

The timber industry generated a need for horses to haul logs, and many settlers raised horses to supplement their income. John Coumbe kept 4 to 8 horses according to census records. Some could have been bred for sale. For sport, the Coumbes built a race track at the southwestern corner of the farm (the portion split off from the home farm at Sarah's death).

Much of the land in Richland County was too steep to cultivate, but was excellent for grazing. Open fields and woods were used to pasture livestock at Tippesaukee, as was typical in the southern part of the county. As trees were felled, the steep terrain of the county became subject to erosion, so grassy pastures were cultivated.

Swine were brought to the county early, in part because they could be grazed so effectively on the plentiful acorns in the forests (Gregory, 1932:1354). As early as 1850, John Coumbe owned 70 swine. The sale of these probably helped finance the many land purchases he made in the 1840s and 1850s. He also reported 21 head of cattle and 3 milk cows, which would have far exceeded his family's needs. These, too, probably were sold for Coumbe's land debt. His livestock was valued at \$586 in 1850, a sum that would have contributed handsomely to his land purchases. Later, sheep were

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introduced to the county; they were well-adapted to the climate and terrain. Coumbe first reported sheep in the 1870 census. The nominated district, with open and wooded areas, reflects the evolving livestock industry in Richland County. Both woodland and pastures supported the livestock production that drove Tippesaukee's development during the nineteenth century.

The soil and climate were hospitable for raising wheat, oats, rye, barley, corn, potatoes, tobacco, hops, vegetables, clover, timothy, and other grasses (Miner, 1906:135). Initially, corn was the "great cereal crop" raised by Richland County farmers, but then wheat became the preferred grain (Miner, 1906:136). Coumbe's considerable production of corn also follows Richland County trends. Through the 1870 census he reported large yields of corn. By 1880, corn production fell, and wheat production rose, although it never surpassed corn production at Tippesaukee. In fact, the Coumbes were such good farmers that Coumbe's son Warner wrote to his brother Will in 1883 that "everyone hast to replant and there isn't any seedcorn in the country so every one is comming here for that is two years old that I get out of the crib. it has been tryed and it all grows, people from the Corners, Excelsior, Irish Ridge, Blue River, Muscoda and Highland comes here for corn" (Coumbe archives, letter from Warner Coumbe to Will Coumbe, 6-6-83).

Oats and potatoes also were major crops in Richland County and at Tippesaukee. By 1880, Coumbe only reported harvesting hay. He had considerable livestock, which was not further specified, but no doubt fed on hay. Dairying was just beginning to make inroads in Richland County agriculture, and in these last years of his life Coumbe may have emphasized dairying and other livestock production over other cash crops. As dairying escalated in the county in the years around the turn of the century, farming tended to be much less diversified. The census is not as specific in 1880 as in previous years, and the 1890 and 1900 agricultural census records were destroyed by fire, so one can only speculate on production at Tippesaukee in the last decades of the nineteenth century.

The history of southern Richland County and Tippesaukee are vitally linked to the Wisconsin River. John Coumbe first reached the area that became his farm by canoe. For the remainder of his life, the Wisconsin River was a major means of transportation for the Coumbe family. Settlers were dependent on ferries to carry people, goods, and wagons across the Wisconsin River. The state-chartered ferry Coumbe operated at Port Andrew was one of 14 between the mouth of the Wisconsin River and Lone Rock (Durbin, 1995). The bridge over the Wisconsin River at Port Andrew was not built until the turn of the century, when the charter for a toll bridge was awarded to Coumbe's son J. Robert Coumbe and M. D. Ellsworth of the Union Bridge Company (Coumbe archives, charter dated 8-11-99). In the mid-1870s a bridge built at Muscoda greatly improved market contact, and may have forced some improvement to the road on the north side of the river, now Highway 60 (Gregory, 1932:1352).

John Coumbe probably shipped his livestock and grain to markets in Dubuque, Galena, or Portage by flatboat or steamboat until the mid- to late 1850s. He may have hauled it to Prairie du Chien and sold it to Hercules Dousman, who in turn marketed the goods in St. Louis (Durbin, 1995). Sometime after the railroad reached southwestern Wisconsin in 1856, Coumbe probably began hauling grain and livestock to rail stops at Blue River, Muscoda, or Boscobel. Southern Richland County was by-passed by

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railroads, which located south of the Wisconsin River instead, and determined the fate of several communities that had early promise of becoming sizable towns. The bluffs on the north side of the river deterred rail development as it did early road construction. Highway 60 that runs in front of the Coumbe house was little more than a wagon trail for most of the nineteenth century, like many of the east-west routes in southern Richland County. Highway X, bordering the farm on the east, was of more consequence (Durbin, 1995). It extended from the river north to later settled farms and to Richland Center. With the advent of automobile travel, road development followed. The Richland County Highway Commission was established in 1911 and by 1932 there were 235 miles of hard-surfaced highways in the county (Gregory, 1932:1401). Even so, development on the north side of the river has lagged behind the south, contributing to the well-preserved views of the Wisconsin River from Tippesaukee.

John Coumbe received the patents to the land that became Tippesaukee Farm in 1848 and 1850, although he acquired the land in several transactions from 1844 to 1848. In the years that preceded the 1850 census, he improved 100 acres of the 360 acre farm. By 1860, Coumbe owned 459 acres (160 improved), and by 1870 his acquisitions had levelled off at 730 acres (190 acres improved by 1870 and 280 acres improved by 1880).

The 307 acre "homestead" farm (Tippesaukee) passed to John Coumbe's wife Sarah at his death in 1882. She and her daughter Mary (May) operated the farm together until Sarah's death in 1905. By Sarah's will, the accumulated land holdings were divided among the five surviving children and one grandchild. The westernmost 40 acres of Tippesaukee Farm (which includes the cemetery) was split from the farm, and Tippesaukee became configured as it is today. Daughter Mary operated the farm until her death in 1930, and then her brother William took over. In 1950, a granddaughter of John and Sarah Coumbe (a daughter of their youngest son Warner) and her husband secured ownership of the farm. Their daughter, a great-granddaughter of John and Sarah Coumbe, assumed ownership of Tippesaukee in 1988. Through the various generations of ownership, the farm has been continuously operated.

The Coumbe family archives, particularly the account books, give an indication of the nature of farming activities in the early twentieth century. Until ca. 1920, grain, hay, and livestock (hogs and sheep) seem to have been the focus of farming efforts at Tippesaukee. By 1920, daughter Mary Coumbe Powers had shifted its focus to dairying. Her brother Will also operated Tippesaukee as a dairy farm, until his death in 1951. Camilla and John Kirkpatrick, who were not farmers, delegated the operation of the farm to tenants, who lived in the tenant house built in 1955 just south of the Coumbe home. Today, neighboring farmers lease fields for cultivation, and the tenant house is occupied by caretakers.

The early settlement phase can be considered over with Sarah's death (thus the period of significance ends at 1905, the year she died). Daughter Mary brought the farm successfully into the twentieth century, turning from grain and livestock agricultural production typical of the nineteenth century to the increasingly profitable dairying. The need for pasture land continued, and so the front portion of the farm, not well-suited to cultivation, remained the pasture it had been since John Coumbe settled Tippesaukee. Spreading over a hillside that rises up from the Wisconsin River, the farm still commands the sweeping view of nature that lured John Coumbe to this "Canaan." This landscape well represents the exploration/settlement theme,

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particularly since it contains the archeological remains of John Coumbe's early cabin sites and the village of the Native American inhabitants whom he and subsequent settlers displaced.

Archeological Context

The late 18th and early 19th century was a time of tremendous cultural change in southwestern Wisconsin and the Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District contains three significant archeological sites that combine to tell the story of these changes. At the beginning of the Late Historic Period, ca AD 1760, the Mesquakie occupied the lower Wisconsin River Valley; by the end of the 18th century, however, the Mesquakie had been pushed west of the Mississippi River and this area was occupied by the Ho-Chunk. Formerly occupying just a few villages in the Lake Winnebago, Upper Fox, and Rock River Valley areas, the Ho-Chunk dispersed to the southwest and by the 1820s, historic accounts indicate at least 40 Ho-Chunk settlements, including a number along the lower Wisconsin River (Tanner, 1987). Tanner (1987) suggests that this dispersion was to maximize profits from fur trade activities.

The early decades of the 19th century also saw a dramatic increase in the numbers of Euroamericans in southwestern Wisconsin. These new arrivals, drawn to the area initially for lead-mining and then farming, brought a different attitude toward the land and resources. They were no longer simply interested in obtaining products of the land, but wanted the land itself. Within 20 years, under increasing pressure from Euroamerican interests, the Ho-Chunk ceded all land along the lower Wisconsin River to the United States. Tippesaukee epitomizes this chapter of Wisconsin history. Coming from an English family of farmers and millers, John Coumbe came to Wisconsin looking for cheap and virgin land, arriving just after the U.S. government took ownership from the Ho-Chunk.

There are few locations of Late Historic Native American sites documented in historic accounts and fewer still have been confirmed by archeological testing (Spector, 1974; Wittry, 1963). The archeological data from this village site have the potential to provide significant information on the cultural history of native peoples during this critical era as well as address broader questions on the process of acculturation. Rogers (1990:214-215) notes that not all trade goods were adopted and those that were adopted were used in different contexts and in different ways; in order for an object to be adopted it must make some kind of cultural sense. What traditional items were retained? What Euroamerican items were accepted? To what degree were these villagers participating in lead mining, the fur trade, or other aspects of a market economy? If so, how did this affect traditional settlement patterns and subsistence?

The abundant and well-preserved features, artifacts, and floral and faunal remains at Tippesaukee offer the potential to address a number of these research questions. Specifically, archeologists attempt to understand cultural change through patterns in material culture. Some archeologists, for example, have attempted to assess acculturation through examining such data as the ratio of metal points (an old technology with new material) to gunflints, and the ratio of wampum to glass beads (see Jones, 1989). Given the small area that has been tested at Tippesaukee, the ratios from the current artifact totals may not provide a representative sample.

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However, the potential to explore such lines of research are undoubtedly present at this site. Overall, the relatively abundant glass beads and brass tinkling cones recovered at Tippesaukee suggest that the villagers were willing to use some Euroamerican materials for adornment purposes; the relatively few Euroamerican ceramics and glass bottles suggest that these may not have been accepted as readily, or perhaps were not as readily available.

The lithic material is of considerable interest at this site. According to Mason (1988:79), pottery, stone points and scrapers were "entirely gone" by the Late Historic period. A number of stone tools were recovered from the site; the challenge is to determine which occupants used them. As noted, 62% of the stone tools were recovered within features. This would suggest that, in fact, the Late Historic occupants were still using some stone tool technology, although they may have abandoned stone for use in projectile points. Certainly other iron tools were present; OSA excavations recovered portions of three iron knives, four awls and the handles of two utensils. Slag discovered in units at the western edge of the site also suggest the possibility of some iron-working. Again, the sample sizes from the limited testing at this site may not be representative; certainly, however, this village site offers important comparative data for on-going research on acculturation processes (see Branstner, 1991; Jones, 1989; Rogers, 1990). Comparing the artifacts and features from Tippesaukee to those from the Bell site, an early 18th century Mesquakie village in central Wisconsin (Wittry, 1963), the Doty Island Village site, a probable early 18th century Mesquakie and 18th/early 19th century Ho-Chunk occupation in east central Wisconsin (Mason and Mason, 1993), and Crabapple Point, a late 18th/early 19th century Ho-Chunk village in southeastern Wisconsin (Spector, 1974) may help clarify the processes of change for native peoples during this era.

The data from this site also have the potential to address a number of other areas of research. Spatial analysis of features and artifact distributions may provide data on village social organization. How were village activities organized? Is there evidence of clans, or chiefly residences? Although no house structures were identified, the potential is there. The analysis of the faunal and floral remains can provide data on subsistence, hunting practices, and seasonal movements in the Late Historic period, and may also provide data on the impact of the fur trade, and possibly even aspects of village ceremonialism. Wittry (1963) found evidence of bear ceremonialism at the Bell site, the 18th century Mesquakie village on Lake Butte des Morts. As noted, the proportions of skeletal elements representing the various animal remains recovered at Tippesaukee are very dissimilar; there must be cultural practices that explain these distributions.

The early Coumbe cabin sites are equally intriguing. The Wisconsin Archeological Sites Inventory contains very few early historic Euroamerican sites and few have been examined by archeologists. The Coumbe cabin sites are particularly significant because they are both relatively short-term occupations, one extremely so, of a known individual. How did this English immigrant adapt to this "Canaan" and how is this process reflected in material remains? To what extent did he utilize local resources? The variety of ceramics (at least nine types) and numbers of patent medicine bottles (at least four) recovered at the second cabin suggest that John Coumbe was relatively well-supplied by the outside world.

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Clearly, Tippesaukee contains abundant data that can be used to explore many research questions, both specific to the cultural history of southwestern Wisconsin during this critical era, as well as to address broader anthropological questions of cultural change.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 preliminary determination of
 individual listing (36 CFR 67)
 has been requested
 previously listed in the National
 Register
 previously determined eligible by
 the National Register
 designated a National Historic
 Landmark
 recorded by Historic American
 Building Survey #
 recorded by Historic American
 Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
X Other

Specify repository:

Coumbe Family Archives at Tippesaukee

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 193.5 acres

UTM References

A	<u>15</u>	<u>6/9/6/4/5/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/7/0/5/0</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>6/9/6/8/6/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/7/0/6/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>15</u>	<u>6/9/6/8/4/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/7/4/6/0</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>6/9/7/2/4/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/7/4/7/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

X See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description The Tippesaukee Rural Historic District is located in Section 35, Township 9 North, Range 2 West, Town of Richwood, Richland County, Wisconsin. Beginning at the southeast corner of the district (UTM point E), the boundary proceeds north along the west edge of CTH X, ca 3,685 feet north to UTM point D, then westerly, 1,254 feet to point C, then south, 1,294 feet to point B, then west 1,332 feet to UTM point A, thence south ca 2,900 feet to point F, thence easterly along the north bank of the Wisconsin River to the point of beginning. This boundary encompasses the previously listed 9.2 acre parcel.

 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District encompasses the entire 193.5 acres that remain of John Coumbe's "home farm". The pattern of woods, fields, and pastures on the farm has remained constant since the mid-19th century. Within these boundaries, there are also significant archeological remains.

 See continuation sheet

11. Form prepared By

name/title	<u>Barbara Wyatt, ASLA</u>	date	<u>4 April 1995</u>
organization	<u>M. Moffat, P.O. Box 145, Blue River, WI</u>	telephone	<u>608/256-7585</u>
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city or town	<u>Madison</u>		
name/title	<u>Diane Y. Holliday, Dpty. State Archeologist</u>	date	<u>June, 1995</u>
organization	<u>State Historical Society of Wisconsin</u>	telephone	<u>608/264-6494</u>
street & number	<u>816 State Street</u>	state	<u>WI</u> zip code <u>53706</u>
city or town	<u>Madison</u>		

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Geographical Data continued

UTM References

E	<u>15</u>	<u>6/9/7/2/6/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/6/3/4/0</u>	F	<u>15</u>	<u>6/9/6/4/8/0</u>	<u>4/7/8/6/1/4/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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Mary Moffat
P.O. Box 145
Blue River, WI 53518

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- Photograph 1: Front pasture and site of 47Ri76, looking northeast.
- Photograph 2: Tippesaukee memorial stone, looking north.
- Photograph 3: Front pasture and western woodlot, facing northwest.
- Photograph 4: Prairie remnant and western woodlot, facing north.
- Photograph 5: Western woodlot, pasture and field 1, facing west.
- Photograph 6: Pasture and western woodlot, facing northwest.
- Photograph 7: Pasture, eastern woodlot and field 7, facing east.
- Photograph 8: Pasture, field 7, and edge of corn crib, facing north.
- Photograph 9: Farmstead yard and front pasture, facing southeast.
- Photograph 10: Front pasture, spring in trees at left, facing southeast.
- Photograph 11: Feature 2/11 in Native American village site, facing east.
- Photograph 12: Feature 16 in Native American village site, facing north.

Photographs 1-10 were taken by Mary Moffat in June, 1995. Photographs 11 and 12 were taken by Diane Holliday in September, 1993. All negatives are located in the Office of the State Archeologist, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

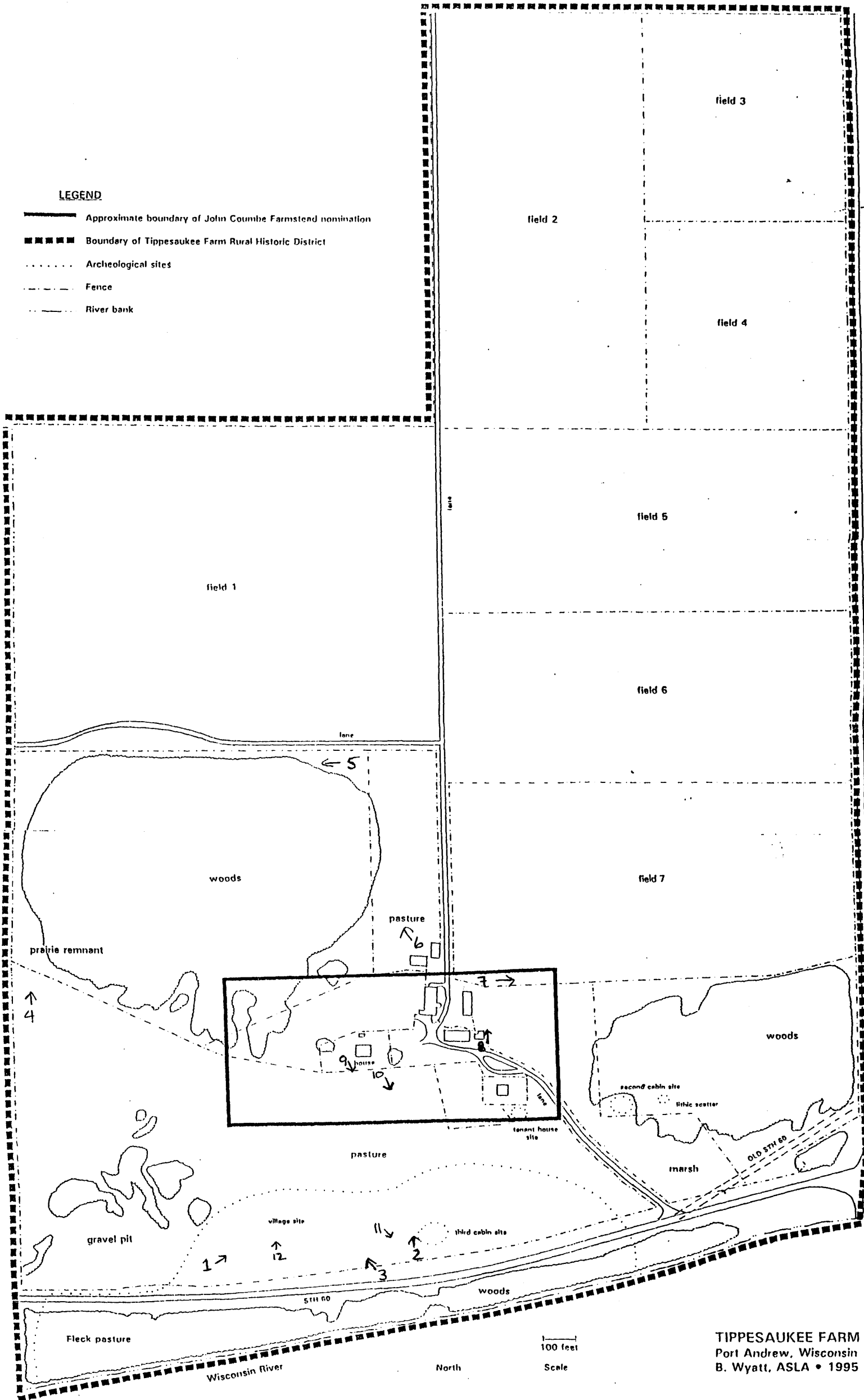


Fig. 1 Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District,
 Richland County, Wisconsin.

TIPPESAUKEE FARM RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Richland County, Wisconsin

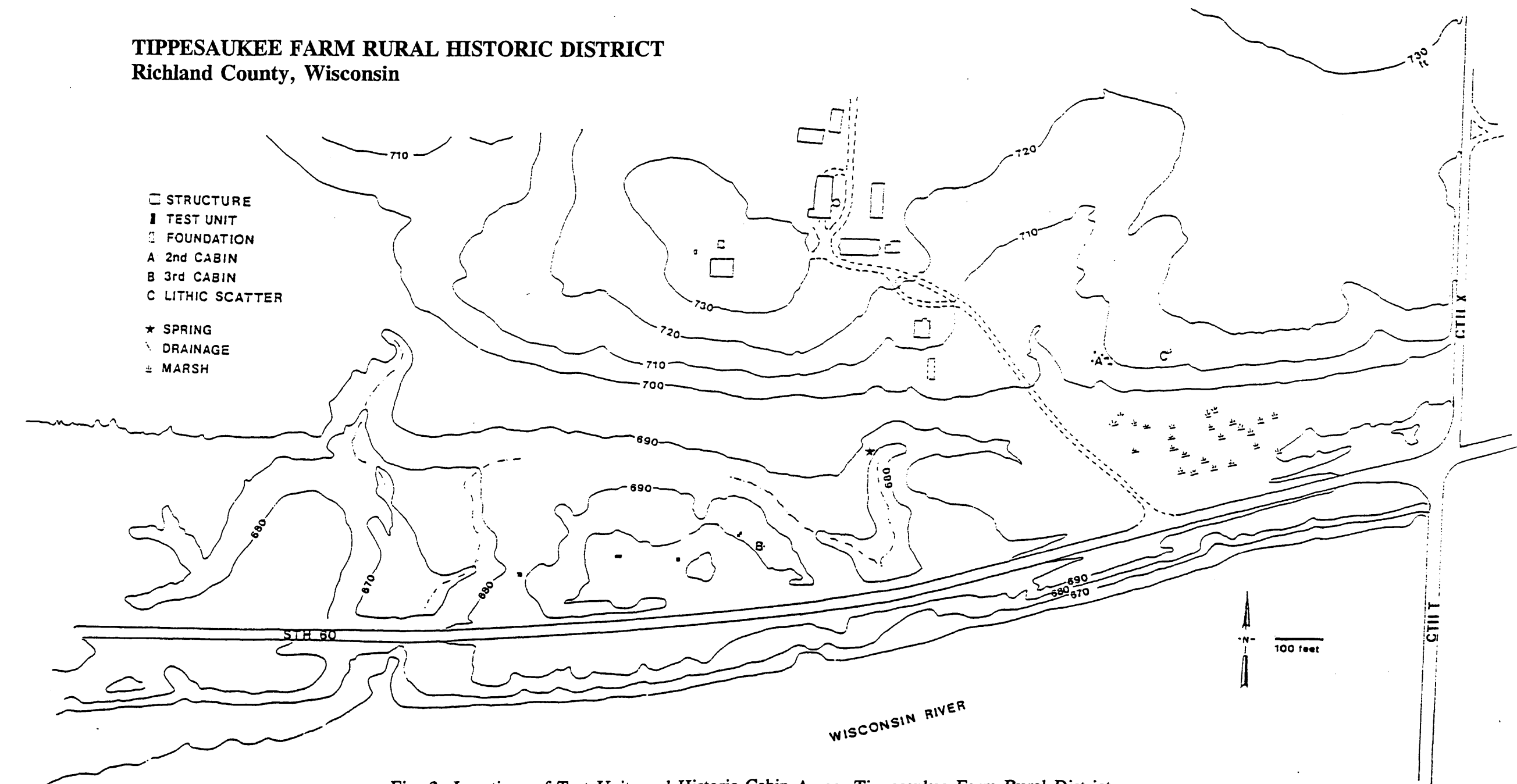


Fig. 2 Locations of Test Units and Historic Cabin Areas, Tippesaukee Farm Rural District, Richland County, Wisconsin.

TIPPESAUKEE FARM RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Richland County, Wisconsin

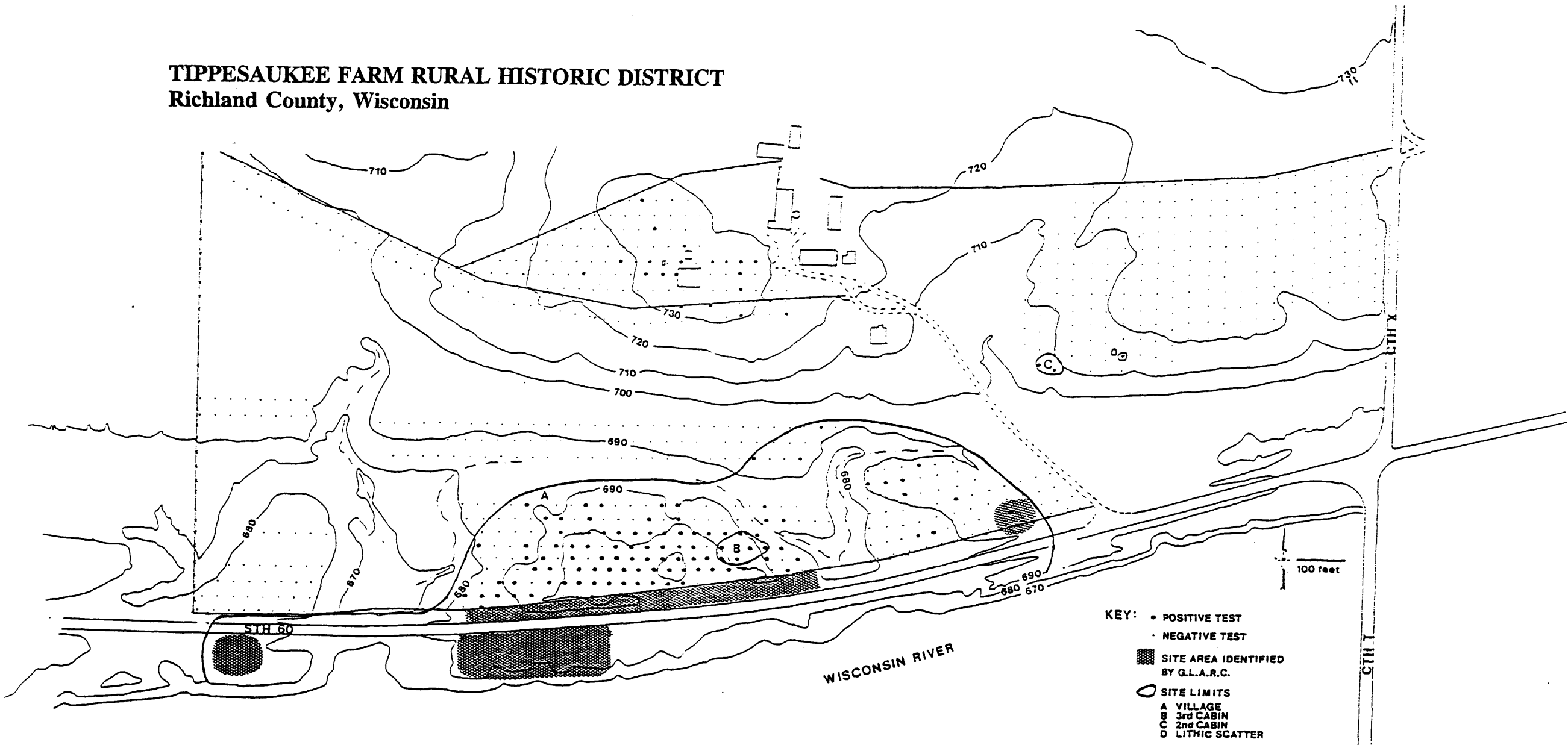
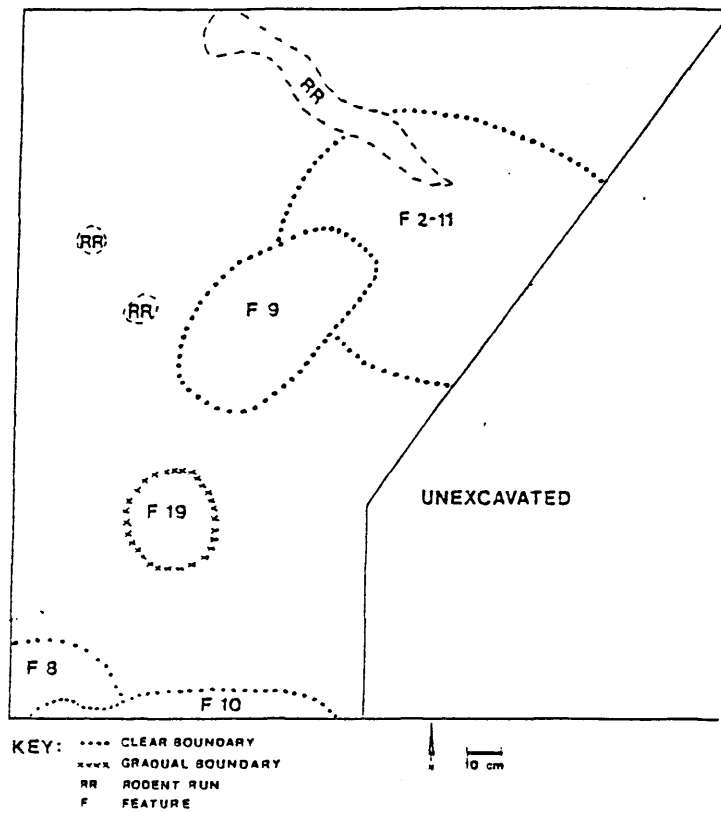


Fig. 3 Site Limits and Locations of Shovel Tests, Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District, Richland County, Wisconsin.

COUMBE / TIPPESAUKEE
S15/E23 PLAN VIEW (-40 cm)



FEATURE 2-11 PROFILE

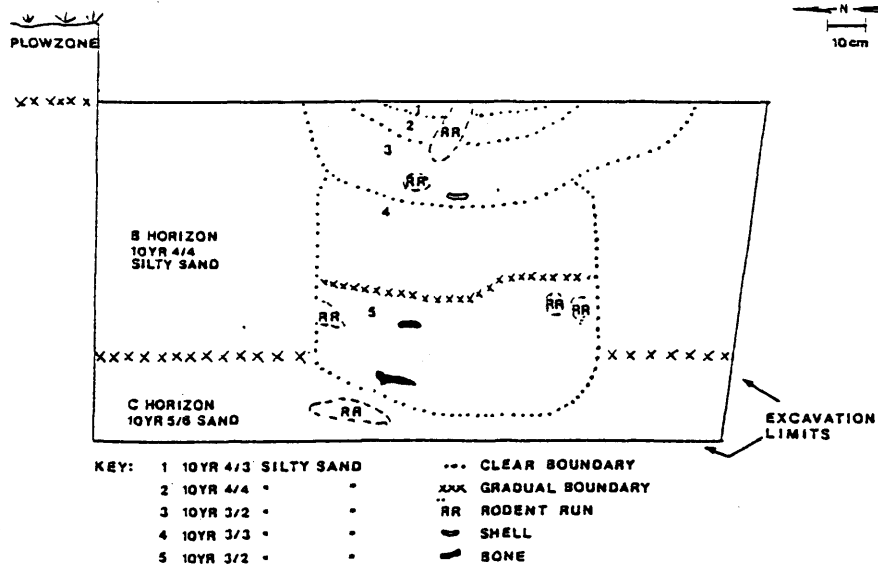


Fig. 4 Features in Excavation Unit S15/E23, Tippesaukee Farm Rural Historic District, Richland County, WI.