ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHORT REPORT (ASSR):  

PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF THE  
PROPOSED 11TH STREET COMMERCIAL PARK,  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

by  
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Fever River Research, Inc.  
Springfield, Illinois

prepared for  
City of Rock Island  
Rock Island, Illinois

and  
Missman, Inc.  
Rock Island, Illinois

May 2013
Locational Information and Survey Conditions

County: Rock Island

Quadrangle: Milan, IL (2000)

Nearest Community: Rock Island, Illinois

Project Type/Title: Phase I Archaeological Survey of Proposed 11th Street Commercial Development, Rock Island, Illinois [IHPA Log Number 002013113].

Responsible Federal/State Agencies: IEPA

Legal Location:

SW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4
Section 14
And
SE1/4, SE1/4, NE1/4
Section 15
Township 17 North, Range 2 West
4th Principle Meridian
South Rock Island Township
Rock Island County
Illinois

UTM: Approximate center of project area:
Zone 15
4,593,110m North
701,655m East

Natural Division: 5b; Mississippi River Section of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Bottomlands Division (Schwegman 1973:2)

Project Description: The project consists of a Phase I survey of a proposed new commercial development site located within the City of Rock Island, Illinois (Figures 1-3). The overall project consists of an approximate 6-acre parcel of land located on an alluvial terrace along the north shore of the Rock River (located approximately 1.8 miles upriver

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1 I would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Ferrel Anderson to this project. Ferrel’s knowledge of the region’s history and prehistory is unsurpassed, and discussions with him greatly enhanced our work on this project. We are deeply indebted to him for his assistance.
from the mouth of the Rock, and 0.75 miles downriver from a prominent bend located at the head of Vandruff’s Island. The project area is located in an urban setting and is bordered by 9th and 11th Streets on the east, by railroad tracks on the west, by 47th Avenue (and an older residential neighborhood) on the south, and by the Moose Lodge (and associated driveway and parking lot) on the north. The project area surrounds three sides of the City Limits Saloon and parking lot (4514 9th Street, Rock Island).

**Topography:** The proposed project is located on a prominent alluvial terrace overlooking the Rock River. The eastern edge of the project area (located at an elevation of approximately 598-599’ asl) is located approximately 800’ from the river edge, whereas the western project boundary (at an elevation of approximately 588’ asl) is located approximately 325-350’ away from the river edge. The 1839 U.S. General Land Office plat map for this area indicates that the project area was located within a timber tract, (albeit one that had probably been recently cleared) (Figures 1-3).

**Soils:** The project area consists of a single soil-mapping unit identified as 430A (Raddle Silt Loam, 0-2% slope) (Rehner 1977; Elmer 2004) (Figures 4-6). Raddle Silt Loam is predominately located on relatively level stream terrace landforms. These soils were formed from “slope alluvium” [colluvial deposits?] and represent seldom flooded and fairly well drained soils within the stream valleys, adjacent to the bluff base. These soils were formed on timbered lands (Elmer 2004: 94). Upper levels of this soil are black silt loams about 19” thick, whereas the underlying material is a loamy sand.

Rehner’s “General Soil Map, Rock Island County, Illinois” indicates that the project area is located within a large crescent-shaped area identified with the Sparta-Dickinson-Coyne Association (blue cross-hatched area marked with a “7”) (Figure 4). This large area represents a distinctive terrace with the Raddle silt loam being located towards the bluff base, on slightly higher ground, and representing the mixing of both alluvial (predominately sands and clays) and colluvial deposits (redeposited loess from the adjacent uplands).

Within the immediate project area, this alluvial terrace can be segregated into a high and low terrace. The high terrace is located in a band nearly parallel to 9th Street. Along the south end of the project area, this high terrace edge is located approximately 100’ west of 11th Street, whereas in the north end of the project area, this high terrace edge is located approximately 300’ from 9th Street. There is a fairly quick drop in elevation between the high and low terrace. The drop in elevation is approximately 7-8’ within a distance of approximately 100’ (near the south end of the project area). The drop in elevation is more subtle along the north end of the project area. The upper silt loams are much shallower in the lower terrace than within the high terrace, with a loamy sand present within a few feet of the surface of the lower terrace.

The western edge of the project area is bordered by a railroad grade, which has cut into the terrace, creating a cut at least 10’ in depth. An open drainage ditch cuts through the mid-section of this low terrace and appears to represent a relatively modern (nineteenth century?) drainage system created for the nearby City Limits Saloon and Restaurant.
Both the railroad right-of-way and the drainage are lined with concrete rubble and modern trash. The presence of an early spring—once a focal point of the Saukenuk village\(^2\)—immediately upslope from this drainage outlet suggests that this may represent an artificial outlet for that spring and was created upon the construction of the railroad line during the nineteenth century.

**Drainage**: Rock River

**Land Use/Ground Cover**: At the time of the survey, the project area was in an urban environment with a grass and gravel covered surface (with 0% surface visibility) (Figures 7-9). No above-ground structures were present. Within the recent past, a large mobile home or trailer park (Michael’s Trailer Park) had been located within the project area. At least 46 mobile homes and a large dwelling (or office) was documented on a recent aerial photograph (see Figure 8). This area was crossed by numerous underground utility lines (gas, water, as well as sanitary and storm sewer) and trailer tie-downs. Immediately to the south of Michael’s Trailer Park was a small parcel of land that contained three structures (a house, a garage, and a concrete block commercial building) all facing 47\(^{th}\) Avenue. These structures were demolished in October 2009. Subsequent environmental mitigation resulted in the removal of 1-3 feet of topsoil from the area surrounding the concrete block commercial building (see Figures 10-11). A small parcel located to the north of the project area was once the home of the Sears School, which is depicted in several of the relatively recent aerial photographs of the project area. This building was demolished by the City of Rock Island within the past ten years.

**Survey Limitations**: The lack of surface visibility, the presence of the project area in an urban area, and the presence of the project area within a major alluvial valley were all factors that made traditional Phase I archaeological survey methods impractical. The lack of surface visibility made a traditional walkover or pedestrian survey impossible. Additionally, a preliminary inspection of the project area suggested that the area bordering 9\(^{th}\) and 11\(^{th}\) Streets was capped with a substantial amount of modern urban fills which would have made a traditional shovel-testing strategy impractical, if not impossible, to perform. As such, after consultation with the IHPA archaeologist (Mr. Joseph Phillippe), a modified survey methodology consisting of backhoe trenching was undertaken to search for cultural resources that might be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Prior to the initiation of the field investigation, Mansberger consulted with Mr. Ferrel Anderson (Davenport, Iowa) regarding the suspected location of the historic Sauk village of Saukenuk. Mr. Anderson has spent a lifetime researching the Native American heritage of the region and has accumulated a wealth of information regarding the location of this significant site. Over the years, Mr. Anderson has developed a model with regard to the potential location of this Native American village. His research has contributed to the development of a physical model of the village currently on display at the Hauberg Museum located at the Black Hawk State Historic Site (Rock Island). The hypothesis

\(^2\) The spring was once located at 4517-19 12th street, which is just to the east of the existing project area. Hauberg suggested this spring was centrally located within the village of Saukenuk (Anderson, personal communication).
was that the project area was located along the western edge of the village, potentially just outside of the actual village proper. With this model in hand, the hypothesis was that the most likely location within the project area for archaeological remains of the village was within the far southeastern corner of the existing project area. Also, to be considered, should the project area not be within the historic village proper, was the potential for outlying farmsteads (and other activity areas) once associated with this village.

**Archaeological and Historical Information**

**Historical Plats/Atlases/Source:** The historic Native American Sauk were known to have settled at the mouth of the Rock River, displacing the Kickapoo, by the middle eighteenth century. Although the general date of the Sauk intrusion into this region has been debated, it is generally accepted that the Sauk had re-located to the mouth of the Rock River by the late 1730s (cf. Edmunds and Peyser 1993). Unfortunately, although it is suspected that the Sauk occupied a village near the mouth of the Rock River, little is known about the exact location of the Sauk village (variously known as Saukenauk, Saukenuk, and/or Saukietown) during these early years. By circa 1790, the Sauk were settled in a relatively large village located on the south bank of the Rock River (identified as archaeological site 11RI81). This village, which has become known as the Crawford Farm Site (11RI81), remained occupied through circa 1810. Upon abandonment of this village in circa 1810, the Sauk apparently relocated to a setting near the current project area—a location they were known to be at during the 1820s and early 1830s. Armstrong (1887), among others, describe the village at this location (details of which are presented below). Unfortunately, few cartographic references exist for this historic Native American village. The village, as represented by the circa 1790-1810 Crawford Farm Site (11RI81) is documented on a late eighteenth century map of the Upper Mississippi River (see Figure 12).

Eighteenth century excursions into the region were few in number. During the Revolutionary War, a group of soldiers apparently burned a Sauk village near the mouth of the Rock. Unfortunately, little is known about this military expedition. Pike noted in his *Journal* for August 28th, 1805 that he “was informed by a Mr. James Aird” (an English trader), that the Sac village “was burnt in the year 1781-82 by about 300 Americans…”(Meese 1905:18-19). Apparently, Pike suggested that the Sauk village was located approximately three miles from the mouth of the Rock River, on the south bank,

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3 Edmonds and Peyser (1993:189, 200) suggest that the Sauk and Fox located on the Rock River in 1735—presumably on the lower Rock River. By 1750, these authors suggest that the Sauk and Fox were located near the mouth of the Rock River.

4 Forsyth suggests that the village known as the Crawford Farm Site was abandoned in 1808. This site came to the attention of local collectors, as well as professional archaeologists, during the late 1950s. Between 1958 and 1961 archaeologists from the University of Illinois (under the direction of John C. Macgregor in 1959, and Elaine Bluhm in 1960-61) conducted excavations at this site (which became known as the Crawford Farm Site). Unfortunately, prior to the completion of these excavations, the site was destroyed (sold for fill by the local landowner) during construction of Interstate 280. Today, the location of this site is a water-filled borrow pit (F. Anderson 2013) (see also Caba 2013; Wagner 2010; Hedman 1993).
at that time (Jackson 1966, plate 11). Unfortunately, it is unclear as to whether the village at this time was located at the Crawford Farm Site, or at the later village in Rock Island. During the early years of the nineteenth century several non-Native Americans ventured into the region, and included Zebulon Pike (1805-06) and Stephen Long (in both 1817 and 1823). Unfortunately the accounts of their excursions into the region give few insights into the village location during these years (see http://www.illinoisgenealogy.org/rock-island/revolutionary_battle_at_the_sac_village.htm).

During the War of 1812 era, the Sauk were allied with the British, and several altercations between the Sauk (and their allies) and American troops occurred along the Mississippi River near the mouth of the Rock River. In efforts to re-supply troops at Prairie du Chien by way of the Mississippi River, American troops encountered hostile natives on multiple occasions near the mouth of the Rock River. Shortly after the Battle of Rock Island Rapids (July 1814) and the Battle of Credit Island (September 1814), retreating American troops hastily constructed Fort Johnson in September 1814 (near present-day Warsaw) only to abandon it a month later. In 1816, after re-establishing control of the upper Mississippi River, American troops established Fort Armstrong at the head of a prominent island located at the Upper Rapids just above the mouth of the Rock River. This island was known as Rock Island. With the establishment of this fort, the trader and sutler George Davenport established a post on the island and became the regions first permanent non-Native settler in the region (Ferguson 2012).

By early 1828, white settlers began to move into the lower Rock River valley. Upon initial arrival, the Sauk and American settlers lived in relative peace together, with one individual actually marrying a Sauk woman. The U.S. government put the lands comprising the Sauk village up for sales in October 1829. Most of the lands associated within the vicinity of Black Hawk’s village were purchased by George Davenport (see Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database, Illinois State Archives). By early summer 1830, with an influx of new settlers, tensions had mounted. Several families had occupied the Sauk fields (which had been planted by the Sauk) and claimed them as their own. By June 1829, white settlers began encroaching on Sauk lands to such an extent that Black Hawk personally made requests of them to refrain from damaging crops. His requests were generally heeded, except for one well-known individual named Rinnah Wells, who had planted corn of his own and enclosed it in “a substantial rail fence.” Similarly, Joshua Vandruff had located within the village and established a “wet grocery” or “whiskey shop” at this location which further caused tension between the two groups. These tensions continued to escalate and resulted in the so-called Black Hawk War of 1831-32 (cf. Armstrong 1887:46).

The U. S. General Land Office survey plats (USGLO 1821, 1839) indicate that the immediate project area was situated within a tract of timber lands located along the north side of the Rock River (Figure 13). Approximately ½-mile to the north was a small “finger” of prairie land that protruded from the north. Of interest on the 1839 plat (which apparently was surveyed in 1836) was the presence of three agricultural fields, several

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3 Fort Johnson apparently was rebuilt and/or reoccupied for a short while in 1815 while Fort Edwards was being constructed (cf. Nolan 2010).
segments of a road, a ferry (across Rock River’s north channel), and a house identified as “Vandruff’s House” (Figures 14 and 15). One of the fields depicted was situated immediately over the existing project area, with a road following along the western edge of the field, along the river edge. This early road headed north towards Fort Armstrong, and south, crossing the Rock River at Vandruff’s Island (and the ferry). The road represented by this corridor may have had some antiquity to it, extending well into the eighteenth century, if not earlier (potentially representing an overland corridor heading towards the Lake Peoria vicinity and what was to become Fort Clark). The Vandruff residence—presumably the “wet grocery” (tavern/trading post) operated by Joshua Vandruff—was documented at the north side of the island immediately to the east of the existing Route 67 river crossing.

Two of the earlier settlers to arrive in this area, who were to occupy what was the actual village of Saukennaught, were the Rinnah Wells and Joshua Vandruff families. Both of these families played significant roles in the development of hostilities between the Native Americans and non-native settlers (cf. Whitney 1973). As part of these hostilities, regular troops from Fort Armstrong, joined by the Illinois Militia, stormed the village of Saukennaught on June 20th, 1831. Finding that Black Hawk and his followers had already vacated the village the night before, the soldiers burned the village (see Meese 1905:57).

After 1832, the “Indian threat” had been removed and the settlement of the region by non-Native American settlers began in earnest. In 1836, the town of Rock Island City was platted opposite “the western end of Vandruff’s Island on the north shore of the Rock River, taking in the site of the old Sac Indian village. It was eighteen blocks long, running north from the river, and east and west nine blocks” (Kramer and Company 1908). Unfortunately for the developers of this town, it never became a reality. The old road through the township soon became known as the Milan to Rock Island Road. Its course roughly followed what is currently 9th Street. At the southern end of this road was a toll bridge connecting Milan to Rock Island. In 1867, David Sears (founder and developer associated with Moline) built a flour mill at the Rock River adjacent to Vandruff’s Island and focused his attention on the development of the water power of the Rock River. This project included the excavation of a water race along the north channel of the river. Sears subsequently laid out the village of Sears (also known as Searstown) on his adjacent lands. In 1877, Kett (1877:208) writes lavishly about the potential of the Rock River Water Power at Sears and Milan. David Sears also established the Rock Island Pottery at this location in 1896. The pottery manufactured general stoneware (Clarke 1897:219). Other industries to locate at this vicinity were a cotton mill, paper

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6 Due to the U.S. military presence on Rock Island, significant early mapping of the Mississippi River was undertaken during these early years (cf. USACOE 1837). Unfortunately, these maps did not extend down to the mouth of the Rock River.

7 In 1853, the editor of the Democratic Press Steam Print of Chicago visited Rock Island and traveled to Camden (Milan) as part of a side excursion. His description of the improvements within the community of Rock Island City at that time is interesting (Democratic Press Steam Print 1854).

8 The town of Milan, which originally was named Camden, is located on the south bank of the Rock River, opposite Vandruff’s Island.
mill, and canning factory—all of which had a dramatic affect on the archaeological integrity of the village of Saukenauk. The village of Sears was formally incorporated in 1894, and eventually annexed into Rock Island.

Nineteenth century plat maps and bird’s eye views of Rock Island give us some insights into the history of the development of the immediate project area. The first available plat map is Thompson and Evert’s 1868 *Combined Map of Scott County, Iowa and Rock Island County, Illinois* (See Figures 16 and 17). This map depicts the large landholdings of D. B. Sears and Company, as well as his mill, mill dam, and the relatively recently laid out community of Sears. This community was located at a major bend in the old road (9th Street), and sandwiched between the road and the adjacent railroad tracks to the west.

Two, if not four, structures appear to be documented in the project area at this time. This large wall map also includes a vignette illustrating “View of the Island Mills” of D. B. Sears and Sons, Camden, Illinois (see Figure 18). Ruger’s 1869 Bird’s Eye View of Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois depicts the project area at a relatively contemporary time frame as the 1868 plat map. Unfortunately, the distant view in this image does not offer much detail of the area (Figure 19).

The next depiction of the project area is Wellge’s 1889 *Bird’s Eye View of Rock Island, Illinois* (Wellge 1889) (Figure 20). Although the view depicts the vicinity of the Rock River in the far background, it does give some insights into the development of the project area by this date. Just visible are the two bridges (wagon and railroad), Sear’s flour mill, and the relatively new paper mill. The view depicts a relatively undeveloped, heavily timbered area around the incipient village of Sears. One of the buildings depicted in the vicinity of the project area appears to represent the current City Limits Saloon and Restaurant. No buildings are documented within the immediate project area. Wellge (1889) also contains a small vignette that illustrates the vicinity of the Rock River at Vandruff’s Island, and the small community of Sears (Figure 21).

More recent plats address the character of the landscape during the later nineteenth and very early twentieth centuries. By 1894, the village of Sears (also known as Searstown) had expanded greatly. A canning factory (Rock Island Canning Company) and an industrial pottery manufactory had also been established along the water race south of the village. The immediate project area consisted predominately of two small outlots owned by J. Miller and Thomas Mackin (Figures 22 and 23) (Northwest Publishing 1894). The *Atlas of Rock Island County, Illinois* (Iowa Publishing 1905) illustrates a similar landscape (Figures 24, 25, and 26). By this date, Sears’ pottery was known as the Black Hawk Clay Manufacturing Company, and the earlier paper mill had been demolished. The 1905 atlas also is the first to note the presence of the school at the location of the

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9 The Rock River Paper Company was organized in 1875, with the company’s mill located “at the lower end of Well’s Island.” According to Kett (1877:210), “Homes Hakes and William Gilmore built a saw mill in 1869, which they ceased to operate in 1871. In 1872, Holmes Hakes and George DeLand commenced a paper mill at the same site, which, in 1875, they sold to the Rock River Paper Company. This the company rebuilt and in every way improved the property, building a new dam, in 1875-76, and have now a mill employing 36 hands, with a capacity of from five to six tons of wrapping paper per day, and a capital employed of $80,000.” This mill is well illustrated on Wellge (1889).
north end of the project area. Similarly, the 1912 USGS 15-minute topographic map depicts the status of the development in the immediate project area at this date (see Figure 27). By the late 1930s, a motor court and/or a mobile home park had been established within the project area (see Figure 28).

Previously Reported Sites: See discussion below (Previous Surveys).

Previous Surveys: Beginning in the 1870s, avocational archaeologists working with the Davenport Academy of Sciences documented mounds on the bluffs overlooking the Rock River immediately across the river from Milan (Davenport Academy of Sciences 1876:112). This tradition of amateur excavations continued throughout the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The John Hauberg collections contain glass plate negatives of early excavations along the bluffs (cf. Upper Mississippi Digital Images Archives). During the early 1930s, archaeologists working with the University of Chicago conducted surveys within the within the lower Rock River valley and its surroundings. These surveyors documented many early sites recorded within the Illinois site files from Rock Island County. It was the University of Chicago archaeologists Wilder and Duncan, during their 1932 survey of the Rock River valley, that the “Sauk Village Site” (11RI29) was first documented. Its location was simply noted as the SW1/4, Section 14. The survey form notes that the surveyors were directed to the site by the landowners, and that a large spring “near the north end of site” was the source of the site’s water supply. At that time, the form noted that the grounds associated with this site were being used as a “truck farm” and that it was “mostly plowed, [with the] power house on [the] south end, [and] [the] old mill on [the] east end.” The survey form was completed in 1933, but unfortunately no sketch map was apparently attached with the form. Wilder and Duncan, also working with the University of Chicago in 1932-33, documented RI34 (otherwise known as the Streiter Site) which was identified as nearby “Woodland Cornhills”—presumably associated with the Sauk farm fields.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the University of Illinois also undertook a survey program within the lower Rock River valley. These surveys were generally under the direction of Elaine Bluhm and/or P. Hoffman. Numerous sites, such as RI108, were documented by Bluhm and Hoffman during these years. Many of the sites documented by Bluhm at this time were based on informant interviews. One of the collectors Bluhm utilized at this time was an individual named Bud Hansen. It was Hansen who was responsible for introducing Bluhm (and her co-workers) to the location of the Crawford Farm Site (11RI81) in 1957. The University of Illinois, under John Macgregor’s, and

10 This spring was located at 4517/19 12th street.

11 The Democratic Steam Press (1854) also describes these cornhills. Armstrong (1887:34) notes the presence of cornhills on the western slope of the promontory, still clearly visible in the early 1880s. University of Chicago surveyors note the presence of the cornhills, and identify them as site RI34 (Woodland Cornhills, aka Streiter Site, located at 3918 14th Street, Rock Island).

12 The site had been located by a young artifact collector who had brought the site to the attention of Mr. Hanson.
later Bluhm’s direction, conducted archaeological excavations at this site from 1958 through 1961. Unfortunately, the site was destroyed (dirt sold for fill) during construction of the Interstate 280 highway in 1961.

Again in the early to middle 1970s, the State of Illinois funded a survey of the Rock River Valley under the auspices of the Historic Sites Survey program (administered by the Illinois Archaeological Survey). This work in the Rock River valley was conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee between 1973 and 1977. Surveys of the lower Rock River valley were undertaken by crews under the direction of Robert Birmingham (cf. Benchley and Birmingham 1976). One of the more interesting sites documented by Birmingham at this time was 11RI258, a historic era habitation and cemetery located along the shoreline (and potentially associated with Saukenauk) (Birmingham 1974). By the middle 1970s, over 300 archaeological sites were noted with the site files for Rock Island County.

Although the Rock Island area has attracted the attention of both avocational and professional archaeologists for many years, a limited number of archaeological surveys have been documented within the vicinity of the existing project area. One of the larger surveys conducted in the immediate vicinity was that conducted by Michael Weichman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1974 for the Milan-Big Island Flood Control Project (Weichman 1975; see also Van Dyke and Peters 1977). This project area was located within the Rock River floodplain immediately across the river from the existing project area. Although several significant sites were documented by this survey, none were associated with the historic Sauk.

In 1981, the Illinois Department of Conservation contracted with the Midwestern Archeological Research Center at Illinois State University to conduct an archaeological survey of Black Hawk State Historic Site, which is located in the uplands overlooking the Rock River at the historic location of Black Hawk’s Watchtower (Phillippe and Thomas 1981). This survey documented several sites within the state park. Rohrbaugh conducted several surveys in the general vicinity (cf. Rohrbaugh 1986, 2003, 2004). Another project of note is a survey of the Lynden Lane Subdivision, which was conducted by Toby Morrow in 2006. This survey was located on lands immediately to the northwest of the Moose Lodge, and overlapped the archaeological site 11R1108. Unfortunately, no survey report is available for this survey (see Morrow 2006).

Two archaeological projects conducted within the immediate project area are of special note. One of these projects was one conducted by Charles Rohrbaugh (Archaeological Consultants, Inc.) in 2000. The construction of new sewer lines within and/or near to the historic Sauk village (Saukenauk; 11RI29) necessitated the presence of an archaeologist to monitor the construction excavations. As part of this construction project, Rohrbaugh monitored the construction of new sewer lines where they crossed 11th Street (and heading in a southwesterly direction towards the river) and 49th Avenue (terminating at the railroad right-of-way). As part of this research, the site limits of 11RI29 were tentatively re-defined and extended up to 47th Avenue (Figure 29). Although an Archaic projectile point was recovered by Rohrbaugh within this area, he argued that the point
was found in re-deposited fills (not in situ). No material culture remains potentially associated with Saukenauk, or any other late prehistoric occupation of this area was encountered by Rohrbaugh during this monitoring project (Rohrbaugh 2000).

The second project of special note relevant to the village of Saukenauk was undertaken by Ferrel Anderson, an avocational archaeologist from Davenport, Iowa who is well versed on the history and prehistory of the region. During the spring of 1973, while driving past 46th Avenue, Anderson noticed construction activity for a new car wash behind a house located at 4604 12th Street (south side of 46th Avenue, between 11th and 12th Streets). Upon closer inspection, Anderson identified, and subsequently excavated, two Native American storage pits believed to have been associated with the village of Saukenauk. The larger and/or deeper of the two pits is similar to the storage pits described by early inhabitants (such as Spencer 1872, Armstrong 1889, and Meese 1908). This pit contained a substantial amount of charred corn (both cobs and kernels). The smaller of the two pits contained a modified horse mandible. These features were probably associated with a long-house located within the village of Saukenauk (Anderson 2013; Gaul 2008) (see Figure 31).

Regional Archaeologist Contacted: Mr. Ferrel Anderson (Davenport, Iowa)

Investigation Techniques: As noted earlier, the lack of surface visibility, the presence of the project area in an urban area, and within a major alluvial valley were all factors that made traditional Phase I archaeological survey methods impractical. The lack of surface visibility made a traditional walkover or pedestrian survey impossible. Additionally, a preliminary inspection of the project area suggested that the area bordering 9th and 11th Streets was capped with a substantial amount of modern urban fills which would have made a traditional shovel-testing strategy impractical, if not impossible, to perform. As such, in consultation with the IHPA archaeologist (Mr. Joseph Phillippe), a modified survey methodology consisting of backhoe trenching was undertaken to search for cultural resources that might be considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

A total of 19 backhoe trenches were excavated within the project area. Each trench was 7’ wide. As a result, a total of 4,350 linear feet of backhoe trench was excavated (totaling a minimum of 30,450 square feet). The majority of these trenches (n=17) were excavated in a roughly east to west direction, situated perpendicular to the axis of the terrace. Each trench was excavated in a series of thin passes through the topsoil (and well into the underlying subsoil). During this process, close inspection was undertaken by the field crew in search of artifacts (whether prehistoric or early historic), and for soil discolorations that might indicate subsurface features. At several locations, the backhoe trenches were extended to a considerably greater depth to assess for the potential of buried surfaces that might contain intact cultural deposits. Figure 30 illustrates the

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13 These two pits were located across 11th Street, only a few hundred feet from the existing project area.

14 Similar modified bear mandibles have been found in historic-era Native American sites in the Great Lakes region, and have been attributed to the processing of leather thongs (cf. Martin 1991).
location of these trenches. The well-washed backdirt piles were inspected for artifacts on several occasions.

Initially, these backhoe trenches were excavated across both the high and low terrace. Soils on the high terrace consisted of silt loams overlying sands at a depth of approximately 4 feet. Soils in the lower terrace consisted of a thin topsoil (sandy loam) overlying sands (generally less than two feet below the surface). The excavation of the initial backhoe trenches indicated the presence of features on the upper terrace only. Shortly after the initiation of the backhoe trenching, the field work was terminated due to an extensive rain event. Record rains fell in the Rock Island vicinity, and the Rock River was experiencing historic flood levels. Upon return to the project area the following week, the excavated trenches within the low terrace were inundated. As the low terrace had not produced any subsurface features, and the area was saturated with water, the subsequent backhoe trenching focused on the high terrace and the adjacent slopes.

As a result of this trenching strategy, four suspected prehistoric/early historic pit features (round in plan view) (Features 1-3, 5), one indeterminate feature (rectangular in plan and potentially associated with an early pioneer improvement; Feature 4), as well as a series of very late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century pit privies (Features 12-20) were identified. The four pit features of potential prehistoric origin were all located within the far southeastern comer of the project area on the high terrace (see Figure 30). The majority of the pit privies were located in a row parallel to 47th Avenue. These pit privies probably serviced a series of dwellings once located along this street. These privies were situated along the slopes of the high terrace extending into the underlying sands. Additionally, structural remains of the Sears School (stone perimeter foundations; Features 7-11), and a brick-lined privy shaft (Feature 6) once associated with that school were documented within the northern end of the project area. Numerous underground utility lines and disturbed structural foundations once associated with the middle twentieth century mobile home park also were encountered.

Time Expended: Approximately 115 man-hours fieldwork

Sites/Features Found: No prehistoric or early historic cultural materials were noted during the backhoe investigations. Nonetheless, four subsurface pit features—potentially of late prehistoric or early historic affiliation—were discovered. These features, which were located in the far southeastern corner of the existing project area, are considered part of archaeological site 11RI29. A revised site form is attached as Appendix I. At least half of each feature was excavated (see feature descriptions in Appendix II). The artifact density within these features was extremely low with only a handful of cultural materials recovered. Except for a very small number of badly eroded and exfoliated ceramic sherds, no diagnostic materials were recovered. No prehistoric lithic material was recovered from either the surface or feature context. It is our opinion that these features cannot be assigned to a cultural affiliation, and offer little new information regarding the prehistoric or early historic lifeways of the inhabitants of this site. The features present in this portion of 11RI29 do not contribute significantly to our understanding of past lifeways. As such, this portion of 11RI29 therefore is considered to be ineligible for
listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This does not imply that other portions of the site should be considered ineligible for listing on the National Register. On the contrary, it is suspected that a variety of subsurface archaeological features such as those uncovered by Mr. Anderson in 1973 are still present and have the potential to contribute to the understanding of early lifeways at this site. These features may be located more centrally within the site, and/or clustered around domestic (and non-domestic) structures aligned along the main thoroughfare of the village. Additionally, it is suspected that the site clearly represents a multi-component occupation. Future testing of that area located towards the river has the potential to locate a wide range of prehistoric features.

**Cultural Material:** All prehistoric and historic material greater than 50 years of age was collected.

**Collection Technique:** See above discussion

**Curated at:** Fever River Research, Inc., Springfield, Illinois (short-term)
Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center, Springfield (long-term)

**Area Surveyed (acres and square meters):** approximately 7.3 acres (29,540 square meters)

**RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

☐ Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located no archaeological material; project clearance is recommended.

☒ Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located archaeological materials; this portion of site(s) does(do) not meet requirements for National Register eligibility; project clearance is recommended.

☐ Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located archaeological materials; site(s) may meet requirements for National Register eligibility; further testing is recommended.

☐ Phase II archaeological investigation has indicated that site(s) does(do) not meet requirements for National Register eligibility; project clearance is recommended.

☐ Phase II archaeological investigation has indicated that site(s) meet requirements for National Register eligibility; formal report is pending and a determination of eligibility is recommended.

**Comments:** One of the primary concerns during this survey was to determine whether the village of Saukenauk (11RI29) extended into the 11th Street Redevelopment project area and/or were significant archaeological resources from this site (11RI29) present in the project area. As originally defined, 11RI29 was located considerably to the south of the project area (see Figure 33). Subsequent work by Rohrbaugh (2000) suggested that the
site extended north potentially to at least 47th Avenue (see Figure 32). Additionally, work conducted by Anderson in 1973, indicated that intact subsurface features associated with the village of Saukenauk were present along the south side of 46th Avenue (between 11th and 12th Streets).

So, where was the village of Saukenauk actually located? This is not an easy, straightforward question to answer. For starters, there were multiple villages that were occupied by the Sauk and referred to as Saukenauk. The Sauk had probably established a village near the mouth of the Rock River by the late 1730s. The location of this village, which may have been that burned by American forces during the Revolutionary War (in circa 1780-81), is not known. The destruction of the village by American troops in circa 1780-81 may have been the impetus to relocate the village. By circa 1790, the Sauk had settled along the south bank of the Rock River just upriver (east) from what was to become known as Vandruff’s and/or Carr’s Island, at a location later referred to as the Crawford Farm Site (11R181). At some point in time during the early years of the nineteenth century (circa 1810), the Sauk relocated to the north bank of the Rock River near a prominent bend in the river near the downstream, or western, end of Vandruff’s Island. The exact date of this move is not known. It was at this location that the early settlers of what was to become Rock Island County encountered the Sauk during the later 1820s. It is this early nineteenth century village that becomes of interest of this current study.

Kett (1877:209) wrote that “When white settlers first arrived here, the famous Sac village of Black Hawk stood on the opposite side of the river [from Milan]. A colony of Kickapoos occupied the south shore below the town. Where the flouring mills are now standing were rows of red cedar posts extending a considerable distance from the water’s edge up the bank to where the village is situated, which are supposed to have been sheds belong to the trading post which once existed here. In 1828, Rinnah Wells came here and settled among the Indians, who did not leave their village til 1831. For two or three years these pioneers and the Indians lived together, and had their friendly intercourse and their disputes and quarrels. Part of Mr. Wells’ old cabin is still standing on the north side of the river. Mr. Vandruff built near where Sears’ Mill now is, and lived there til he built his house on the island which bears his name, where he died and was buried, about 1859. His remains were afterwards taken up and removed to Chippiannock Cemetery. Mr. Wells died suddenly in 1852, being found dead in his buggy on the road”(see also page 121-122).

15 It is interesting to note that, after the Battle of Campbell’s Island in 1814, Black Hawk wrote that “we now disposed of the dead, and returned to the Fox village opposite the lower end of Rock Island, where we put up our new lodges, and hoisted the British flag” (Black Hawk 1833). This reference may suggest that the Sauk relocated from the Crawford Farm Site to a temporary location with the Fox along the Illinois shore of the Mississippi near Rock Island. Meese (1904:8) suggests that the Sauk’s principal village at the time of the Battle of Campbell’s Island was “on the east side of the peninsula formed by the meeting of the Rock and Mississippi rivers, about a mile above the mouth of Rock river, and about three miles south of Rock Island, in the Mississippi…” [Meese gives a citation as Wisconsin Historical Series, Vol. XI, page 112.] Meese (1905:17) suggests that this village, which was located on the north bank of the Rock River, “was built about 1730.”
Similarly, Bateman (1914:618) states that a large Sauk village was located “extending from the Watch Tower west towards the mouth of the Rock River.” Temple (1958:89, 94?) placed the site “on the North side of the Rock River upon the point of land lying between this River and the Mississippi.” Unfortunately, these descriptions are not very specific. A more specific description was given in 1820 by Major Stephen Watts Kearny who “described the land between Fort Armstrong and the Sauk village. On his right, as he headed south from the fort, he said, was ‘and extensive rich Prairie, reaching to the Mississippi, & on our left, a gentle hill, well covered with corn beans &c., &c., &c., &c., & thickly settled—on the Rock River we found the Principal village of the Sac Nations’” (as cited in Whitney 1973:183, Footnote 1). Black Hawk, in his autobiography, noted that the village of Saukenauk was located at the foot of the rapids in the Rock River (from Whitney 1973: 183). The rapids were located at the large island later known as Vandruff’s Island, and which also was the location of one of the better fords across the Rock River in this locale. Spencer (1877) wrote “that the road from the fort to the Sauk village paralleled the later Milan Road, or Ninth Street” (from Whitney 1973: 183).

Meese (1908:12) wrote that “the chief Sac village was located on the north bank of Rock River about two miles from the mouth. It was built about 1730, west of where the Rock Island and Peoria Railway crosses the river, and it extended down along the bank in a straggling form. It was one of the largest Indian towns on the continent, the oldest and longest inhabited, and had a population often as high as three thousand. It was the summer home of the Sacs. Here was located the tribal burying ground….” Although some of what Meese says of the village is clearly questionable (ie. “largest…oldest and longest inhabited” of the “Indian towns on the continent”), he does give some specific statements regarding the location of the village. Of particular note is his reference to it having been located west of the Rock Island and Peoria Railway line, and extending “in a straggling form” down the river bank.

Testimony from early settlers regarding hostility of the Sauk during 1831 gives some insights into the location of the village. In sworn testimony, William Brashar (“Deposition of William T. Brashar,” dated 3 November 1831) claimed that “In the spring of the year 1831 when the Indians returned from their Hunt, they resumed possession of the Village. Dependant had rented his farm to three men,—the Indians took forcible possession of a part of the ground enclosed, and acted more unfriendly, and with more violence than they had ever done before. There was Six farms in the Village, occupied by white people. Four of the farms were on Land which the occupants had purchased of the Government. The Indians took forcible possession of parts of all the farms, and commenced cultivating the ground” (Whitney 1973:181). As Whiney (1973: 183, footnote 1) notes, “Brashar used the term village to include Sauk farmlands as well as the area in which their lodges were concentrated. This usage seems to have been fairly common.” Brashar’s initial farmstead—which was not in the actual village, but within the fields adjacent to the village—apparently included present-day Chippiannock Cemetery, suggesting that the village did not extend as far north as 31st Avenue.

Using the broad definition of village, Whitney (1973: 183, footnote 1) speculated the “the village thus seems to have included Sections 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and perhaps parts of
12 and 13 of Township 17 North, Range 2 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian.” Whitney also speculated that “the four farms in the Sauk Indian village that had been purchased from the government were those of Brashar, William Carr, Jonah Case, and George Davenport. The squatters were Rinnah Wells and Joshua Vandruff.” Kett (1877: 123; citing Black Hawk) notes that, upon Black Hawk’s return to Saukenauk in 1831, two families were living “in the midst of their village, and had a large stock of cattle which troubled the Indians a great deal….” These were the Joshua Vandruff and Rinnah Wells families.

Using the more restrictive use of the term, finding the location of the Rinnah Wells and Joshua Vandruff farms would be extremely useful in determining the limits of the circa 1830 village of Saukenauk—as they both were located within the village proper. The Vandruff family appears to have occupied Black Hawk’s personal longhouse prior to relocating to the island that bears his name. Armstrong (1887:148) indicates that “Mr. Vandruff was a shrewd, energetic and thrifty man.” Upon arriving in the region in March 1829, and “finding the Indians absent, he took possession of the best hodenosote, or long-house, he could find, which happened to be that of the old Chief, Black Hawk.” Of this he took peaceable and full possession, and commenced tearing down the Indian post and pole fences and subdividing the common field into smaller lots, and was actually engaged at this kind of pleasant amusement when the Indians returned to their summer homes that Spring. A man of great versatility and tact, he soon succeeded in obtaining the consent of the old Chief, who was mourning the recent death of his eldest son and youngest daughter, to remain in possession of the long-house, and the latter build a new lodge on a mound in his cornfield. Before the completion of his new lodge, the two families occupied the old lodge conjointly…. Having a large family and being financially poor and a smooth talker, these Indians permitted himself and family to remain among them and cultivate a portion of their improved farm lands.” Armstrong (1887:148-150) continues by noting that “the north branch of Rock river being deep at that point, the shrewd little Dutchman saw the utility and financial advantage of constructing a flat-boat and operating a ferry, located just below the lower end of the promontory at the upper end of Saukenauk, at the point where the horse-railway, leading from the city of Rock Island to the village of Milan, now crosses that stream…. Mr. Vandruff and family continued to occupy the hodenosote of Black Hawk until the Fall of 1829, when he erected a cabin near the upper end of Saukenauk, into which he moved his family, and procured a hand-mill for grinding corn.” Apparently, due to the versatility of his wife’s cooking abilities and “having five handsome and marriageable daughters” the Vandruff cabin became a focal point for “the young people of that locality.” At this time, “to add to the enjoyability of such occasions, Joshua furnished his residence with a little ‘corn juice,’ which was decidedly a ‘drawing card.’” Before long, the sale of the whiskey to the Indians began, and by the summer and fall of 1830, “drunkenness among the Indians became a crying evil, of daily occurrence.” After attempts by Black Hawk to persuade

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17 This seems in contradiction to Spencer (1872), which suggests that Black Hawk’s long-house was occupied by the Pence family (see discussion below).
Vandruff (and others) from selling whiskey to the Indians, Vandruff “saw that by removing his whiskey mill thither [to the first island south of Saukenuk, which today bears his name] he would be out of Saukenuk, but sufficiently near thereto to carry on his traffic in souls with these fire-water loving creatures successfully and still run his ferry, hence he erected a log cabin on this island, immediately opposite the upper end of Saukenuk, and within sight and hailing distance of Black Hawk’s lodge, and moved his family and ‘wet grocery store’ to the island, which then assumed his name …. Whitney (1973) also noted that “Vandruff farmed both on the north side of Rock River and on the Island known as Vandruff’s”….” Armstrong’s 1887 account indicates that Vandruff lived at three locations: 1) in a long-house presumably belonging to Black Hawk within the village proper, 2) within a cabin on the north bank of the river near the upper end of Saukenuk and adjacent to the horse railway bridge, and 3) across the river from the earlier cabin, on the island that bears his name. The location of Vandruff’s island cabin is documented on the early USGLO plats (see Figures 14-15).

Similarly, “Wells lived ‘in the heart’ of the Sauk village, in the Northeast ¼ of Section 15 on land not yet offered for sale because it was in a fractional township adjoining the Rock River and had not been on the plat of the survey. He had enclosed at least one hundred acres within the village…” (Whitney 1973:183) [see also Vandruff’s deposition of November 2nd, 1831, Black Hawk, page 114, and Rock Island County 1885:689]. Locating Wells’ early house would help considerably with defining the limits of the village of Saukenuk.18

Kett (1877:473) gives us some insights into the location of the early Wells residence when he presents the biography of Rinnah Wells, Jr. (1821-1877). He states that “at the age of seven years he came with his parents to this Co., in the spring of 1828; his older brothers built a cabin the preceding fall near what was the old county poor-house, on the Milan and Rock Island road, about two miles from the latter city, then in a more commodious log house; in 1837, they built and lived in the two story frame building known as the Old Poor-House; Mr. Wells was brought up in this locality….” Spencer (1872:15) describes his arrival to the area in the fall of 1828, and wrote that they arrived at “the old Indian village at Rock River…we crossed to the Big Island. Here we

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18 Several sources note that the early county poorhouse was located at the old Rinnah Wells farm. According to the Port Byron Globe (31 October 1929; apparently copying from Chapman Brothers 1885), “In January, 1853, the county court purchased of the heirs of Rinnah Wells, a house and tract of land to be used for paupers, paying a sum of $1.22 [$1,200] for it. It was located on the west side of the Milan road and occupied the land from the road to the bend of the river. It contained about 80 acres, was a two-story farm house and barn. This property was used for about ten years” (http://www.poorphousesstory.com/IL_RockIsland_newsarticle1929.htm). It appears that the poorhouse was relocated to the Coal Valley vicinity in circa 1860-61, at which time the Wells property was again sold. Another source notes that the poorhouse (located in the “old Rinnah Wells farm”) “was located at the turn of the old Camden Mills road, about half a mile north of the wagon bridge, across the Rock River. On this farm was a long two-story frame house, which was made our first County Poor House” (Kramer and Company 1908, as cited in http://genealogytrails.com/ill/rockisland/poorhouse.html).

19 History of the paper mill makes reference to its location on “Well’s Island.” Is this the artificial island created by the construction of Sears’ mill race? If so, does this imply that Wells may have initially lived much closer to the river than these later references imply?
found Judge Pence looking for a place to ford, which we found about sundown, between the upper bridge and mill-dam, on the main stream. Here we found several wigwams, and took shelter in a large one for the night. Early in the morning Judge Pence started out, and returned about breakfast time, saying he would not unload his wagon here, as he had found a better wigwam, which proved to be Black Hawk’s.” Later, upon Black Hawk’s return, he “first went to his own wigwam, which he found occupied by Judge Pence. This wigwam stood about one hundred yards in front of Rinnah Wells’s house, at Rock River. Black Hawk seemed to be very much plagued to find his wigwam occupied, and showed Judge Pence where the fire had burned the posts of the wigwam, and gave them to understand that if they were to have such great fires they ought to protect the posts. Coming from his own wigwam over to where we lived, it is not to be wondered at that the old man was somewhat excited. About six weeks after Black Hawk’s visit here, he, with the rest of the Indians, returned, and by this time Judge Pence was living in his own cabin, in their village. They were very much displeased to find white settlers so near them…” (Spencer 1872:24).

Based on this information, Rinnah Wells’ house probably was located within the NE1/4, Section 15. The northern edge of Section 15 coincides closely with 37th Avenue in Rock Island. Other sources note the location near the “bend” in the early road, which suggests that the early Wells residence may have been located near 42nd Avenue. Future research needs to be conducted to locate the site of the early Poorhouse, which would correspond with the location of the Wells residence, and which may help determine the northern limits of the village of Saukenauk, as well as the location of Black Hawk’s long-house.

So, what do we know about the structure of the circa 1830 village of Saukenauk? The village of Saukenauk in the period circa 1810 through 1830 was an Algonquin summer village. It would have consisted of a cluster of lodges or long-houses (as well as specialized non-domestic structures such as menstrual huts) surrounded by a series of agricultural fields. Each long-house would have been associated with a series of activity areas that would have included subsurface pit features for the processing and storage of foods and other goods. Although the majority of the inhabitants lived within the aggregated village, isolated farmsteads were probably scattered among the fields. The long-houses were probably arranged in a row each side of a road-like thoroughfare. Incorporated into this village plan would have been an open plaza and an associated council house. Mortuary activity areas were located near the periphery of the village. The primary mortuary area was along the bluff crest, immediately above the site and overlooking the Rock River. Armstrong (1887) suggests a single-street, L-shaped plan. This model of the village is consistent with the archaeological data recovered from the Crawford Farm Site (11RI81). Similarly, ethnographic evidence supports this same single-street (cf Pearl Leaf’s 1958 drawing of last Meskwaki Village in Tama County, Iowa) (Meskwaulie Historic Preservation Department n.d.). Although physical descriptions of the village are limited, the various descriptions are summarized below.

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20 Although F. Anderson refers to the presence of a “Council House Mound” at the site, little is currently known by this author about the location of the plaza and/or the council house once associated with this site.
One of the better nineteenth century descriptions of Saukenauk and its environs comes from Perry Armstrong’s 1887 book entitled *The Sauks and the Black Hawk War*. In this account, Armstrong notes that

The Sauks cultivated in corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes, tobacco, etc., nearly, in not fully, three thousand acres of table lands upon the peninsula lying between the Mississippi and Rock rivers. These rivers at this point run nearly parallel for many miles, forming a peninsula, which is from two to six or eight miles in width. At the point where their farms were located, the peninsula is about three miles across. Commencing at a point some three miles above the Rock river is an elevated plateau of land, which may be called a promontory. Starting at the bank of Rock river, in a narrow point, this promontory rises abruptly some sixty or seventy feet, and runs almost in a direct northeasterly direction, to within about one-half mile of the Mississippi. After leaving the Rock river bank the elevation drops off, forming a plateau of beautiful table-land, embracing several thousand acres, all sloping from southeast to northwest. Upon these table-lands were the cultivated farms of these Indians,—all of which, but a little over fifty short years ago, were enclosed, and over three thousand acres in one body under cultivation by the Sauks and Foxes (Armstrong 1887).

In describing this enclosure, Armstrong (1887:25-26) wrote that

…starting on the north bank of Rock river, they ran a line of post and rail (more properly pole) fence from thence to the south bank of the Mississippi, near the foot of the island of Rock Island, a distance of about four miles in the line built upon. The high bank of Rock river running east from the south end of their fence, formed the south fence, while the Mississippi formed the north one, and the high promontory to the northeast formed the other fence. Immediately west of and following the west line of fence, was a well beaten and extensively traveled road, leading from Saukenuk to the Mississippi, or the island, where Fort Armstrong (built in 1816, and named in honor of Gen. John Armstrong, then Secretary of War,) and the trading house of Col. George Davenport stood. West of this road, and fence, extending to the mouth of Rock river, the land is low and flat. Here was their pasture land, upon which hundreds, yea, thousands of their hardy little ponies grazed. It was thoroughly sodded to blue grass, furnishing pasture equal to the finest blue grass fields of Kentucky.  

Armstrong (1887: 27, 33-34) commented that, “Nearly all of the farming lands of the Sauks, near Saukenuk, were enclosed in one vast common field, which embraced about three thousand acres of tilled table lands, lying along the western and northern slopes of the promontory….These principal farm lands of the Sauks were located on the western

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21 This account contains further details as to the methods of construction used by the Sauk for constructing this enclosure, which was also described as “sapling fences” (Armstrong 1887: 27, see also pp.33-34).
slopes of the promontory, and extended from Rock river in a northeasterly direction until it touched or joined those of the Foxes. The latter embraced in the neighborhood of five hundred acres, leaving about two thousand and five hundred acres belonging to the Sauks in one body.” The Sauks also “cultivated small fields upon the two small islands in Rock river, lying south of Saukenuk, known as Vandruff’s and Big Island.”

Armstrong (1887:28) also noted that the large common field was subdivided into smaller lots “to suit its occupants. Their cross-fences, as a rule, however, were constructed of brush, while in some instances the dividing lines were merely stakes. While the great majority of those who worked these cornfields lived in Saukenuk, some had their lodges built upon their cornfields. The size of their fields varied in proportion to the number in the family or gens.” Corn was primary crop, and Armstrong discusses three varieties of corn grown by the Sauk.

In describing the village, Armstrong (1887) wrote that the principle village of the Sauk was Saukenuk, sometimes referred to as Saukietown which “was nestled at the foot of the promontory, on the peninsula, upon the north bank of the Rock river, some three and a half miles south of the present city of Rock Island, in Rock Island county, in the State of Illinois. This city,—for it was such in every sense of the word,—stood at the foot of the rapids of the lovely Rock river, which comes from the northeast, winding its course,—down through one of the most fertile [sic] countries in the world…” (Armstrong 1887:39). Armstrong claimed that the village “at one time contained, by actual enumeration, eleven thousand active, energetic, industrious and intelligent people.” He further described it as the “Queen City of the West, and most populous one this side the Allegheny Mountains” (1887:40):

It was regularly laid off into lots, blocks, streets and alleys, with a square or esplandade, and fortified by a brush palisade, with gates for entrance. It was a right angle in shape, with its point to the southeast, the east line being the longer, extending north and south along the base of the promontory. The point of the angle resting on the bank of Rock river, with the shorter line running down that river, and the longer one toward the Mississippi. At the point of the angle, or southeast corner of the city, stood the lodge, or hodenosote of the old chief, Black Hawk (Armstrong 1887:40)

Continuing, Armstrong observed that

Saukenuk was not a mere aggregation of wigwams and tepees, but a permanent Indian abode, composed of the large bark-covered long houses known as ho-deno-so-tes, ranging from 30 to 100 feet in length and 16 to 40 feet in width. Many of them were the home of an entire gens, comprising the families of the grandparents, children and grand children, their husbands, wives and children. They were built and constructed of poles for framework and bark for covering. In shape they resembled our arbors. Selecting saplings of proper size and length, they felled, trimmed
and sharpened the lower ends and sunk them into the ground in two straight rows, equidistant apart. The distance between these lines or rows of poles was regulated according to the taste of the builders and length of their poles. The size of the hodenosote was governed by the number of persons it was intended to shelter and accommodate. Having firmly imbedded the lower ends of these saplings or poles in two lines at interims of about four feet, their tops were inclined to the center, meeting and lapping at the desired height. They were securely lashed together with strips of strong, tough bark or hickory withes. When this was completed, other saplings or poles were cut and split into equal halves and laid transversely upon these upright poles, commencing near the ground and upward at about three feet apart, lashing them fast at each intersection with thongs of deer skin or bark until the center or top was reached. This being done, they had a substantial framework upon which to rest their bark casing or weather boarding. For this purpose they obtained large blocks of bark—usually from elm trees—cutting it to the proper length and straightening the edges so they meet and leave little or no cracks. These pieces of bark were laid upon the framework and securely bound to it by cutting small holes in the bark and running thongs of buckskin through them, and tying them around a perpendicular or horizontal pole in the framework. At both ends of the framework poles were set in the ground, extending up to its intersection with the end arch and securely fastened thereto, and placing poles horizontally thereon for the bark covering, leaving a doorway of about three feet in width in the center at each end, lashing a cross-piece at a distance of about six feet about the ground and covering the framework of the ends with bark, thus leaving an open doorway at each end of the hodenosote open. This was supplied by hanging the well-tanned skin of the buffalo from the cross-piece above extending down to the ground (Armstrong 1887:40-41).

The hodenosote, or long house, is the distinguishing characteristic of their principal village….Their hodenosotes were built, as a general rule, facing or fronting upon the public square, or other street, and in straight lines, and at equidistance from each other. Saukenuk, being in the shape of a right-angle, had two public squares, or esplanades, running at right-angles with the intersection at the southeast corner. The broader, and therefore the Broadway of the city, extended north and south along the base of the promontory. This was their principal public square, at the southern end of which stood their Council Chamber, or Sanedrian, an immense long house without partitions. This was used by their council of chiefs for the secret consideration of matters of state, and by the young people as their dancing hall, etc. But the public square was the arena for the assembly of the people on all great events of a public nature. Here were held their mass meetings and national feasts (Armstrong 1887:44).
Armstrong (1887:41) supplied a drawing of a Sauk long-house (see Figure 31). In describing the Rock River, Armstrong (1887:46) wrote that: 

The main branch of Rock river, however, is the more northern channel, which passes along near the site of this ancient city [Saukenauk], and is about three hundred feet wide at this point, and too deep to ford at ordinary stages of water....At Searsville, a small village located upon a portion of the site of Saukenuk about a quarter [sic] of a mile north of the north branch of the Rock river, a branch of the horse railroad, but operated by a small steam engine or dummy, connects with the main track and leads up a ravine in the promontory [to Black Hawk’s Watchtower, home of Black Hawk’s Watch-Tower Pavilion built by Bailey Davenport]....At the lower end of the promontory, near the north bank of Rock river and close to the upper end of Saukenuk, the Chippionnock, or Silent City of the dead of the Sauks, was located....The spot where these burial grounds were located is the lower point of the promontory, and some eighty feet above the level where Saukenuk stood [italics added].

Kett (1877:234) also wrote that the Sauk had a village containing numerous bark houses. These houses were constructed in a quadrangular form by setting poles in the ground and binding poles horizontally to them with bark cord, at proper heights, to which, in a perpendicular manner, broad strips of bark were fastened with the same material. Black Hawk’s habitation was about twelve feet wide and sixteen feet long, and stood about one-fourth of a mile below the location of the wagon bridge at Rock Island. But their traveling tents or wigwams, used in this vicinity [Andalusia] while on hunting expeditions, were circular, and about ten feet in diameter on the ground, of a conical shape, covered around horizontally, on a frame work of poles, with very thick rush cloth four or five feet in width overlapping, so as to shed rain completely, and leaving an opening at the top for the escape of smoke, and at the side another, before which a rush mattress was suspended for a door....It was the practice with the Indians, just before leaving Rock Island for better hunting ground, in the fall, to bury corn they had placed in sacks made out of bark for that purpose, and to sink their canoes about where the foot and wagon bridge is now located, to be taken out the following spring. The frozen condition of the earth and river during the winter were a protection against thieves....

What is potential integrity of the site of Saukenauk? Located in an urban environment, the site has received major impacts. Of particular significance is the industrial development that began during the 1860s, particularly with David Sears’ development of the Rock River water power. Subsequent construction of a canning factory, a paper mill, flower mills, and an industrial pottery manufactory—as well as stone and clay quarry—have greatly impacted the site. Nonetheless, several areas may contain significant
cultural resources related to this site. Utilizing the above information, new site limits have been proposed for archaeological site 11RI29 (see Figure 33).

The Phase I archaeological survey reported here indicated the presence of an archaeological site located in the far southeastern corner of the project area. This site has no surface signature (lacked surface artifacts), but was defined by the presence of a limited number of subsurface pit features. Both the pit features and surface of the site were relatively devoid of cultural material making the assignment of these features to a specific temporal period impossible to accomplish. This small area appears to represent an extension of the adjacent site 11RI29 (see attached site form). As these features contain little cultural material, they contribute little to our understanding of the past. As such, these features contribute little to our understanding of Native American lifeways (whether prehistoric or historic era resources). As such, it is our opinion that this small portion of 11RI29 located within the 11th Street Redevelopment project area is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No further work is recommended.

**Contractor Information**

**Archaeological Contractor:** Fever River Research, Inc.  
PO Box 5234  
Springfield, Illinois 62705

**Surveyor(s):** F. Mansberger, F. Anderson, C. Stratton

**Survey Date:** April 15-26, 2013

**Report Completed By:** Floyd Mansberger  
**Date:** May 21, 2013

**Submitted By (Signature and title):** Floyd Mansberger  
**Submittal Date:** May 21, 2013

**Attachment Check List:**

- [x] 1. USGS Topographic Map
- [x] 2. Project Map
- [x] 3. Site Form (Two copies)
- [x] 4. Relevant Correspondence
- [ ] 5. Additional Information Sheets

**Address of Agency to whom SHPO comment should be mailed:**

Jeff Eder  
Community Economic Development Director  
City of Rock Island  
1528 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Cc:
Pat Eikenberry  
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Figure 1. Location of the 11th Street Commercial Development, Rock Island, Illinois (Sections 14 and 15, Township 17 North, Range 2 West, Rock Island County, Illinois) (Milan 7.5 Minute Topographic Map, United States Geological Survey 2000). The surveyed project area is outlined in red. North is to the top of the page.
Figure 2. Existing site conditions at the proposed 11th Street Redevelopment, Rock Island, Illinois (Missman, Inc. 2013).
Figure 3. Proposed site plan for the 11th Street Redevelopment, Rock Island, Illinois (Missman, Inc. 2013).
Figure 4. Detail of “General Soil Map, Rock Island County, Illinois” (Rehner 1977) illustrating the location of the 11th Street Redevelopment project area (circled in red). This project area is located on a prominent terrace associated with the Sparta-Dickinson-Coyne Association (blue cross-hatched area marked with a “7”). The eastern most soils on this terrace is a slightly raised surface associated with Raddle Silt Loam (Soil mapping unit 430A).
Figure 5. Detail of 11th Street Redevelopment project area as depicted within the Soil Survey of Rock Island County, Illinois (Rehner 1977). The approximate project area is circled in red.
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Figure 8. Aerial view of the 11th Street Redevelopment project area, as depicted in circa 2004 (prior to removal of trailers and above-ground structures (Missman 2013). The above ground structures are outlined in green. Those areas outlined in red, although once part of this project, have been excluded from the current 11th Street Redevelopment project.
Figure 9. Current aerial view of the 11th Street Redevelopment Project area (Google Earth 2013). The project area is outlined in red. The small red circle to the right of the project area (immediately across 11th Street) is the location of the two historic Native American pits excavated by Mr. Ferrel Anderson in 1973.
Figure 10. Michael’s Trailer Park SRP (EnviroNet 2010). This map illustrates the location of the three buildings once present on the south end of the project area. Also note that the old school building on the north end of the project area was still standing at this date (circa 2009).
Figure 11. Soil Remediation Map (EnviroNet, Inc 2010).
Figure 12. Detail of the lower Rock River valley, as depicted by Zebulon Pike in 1805. The map illustrates a Sauk village along the Rock River. The archaeological site identified as the Crawford Farm Site (11RI81) probably represents this late eighteenth century village (Jackson 1966, plate 11).
Figure 13. Mouth of the Rock River, illustrating the vicinity of the South Rock Island and Milan (U.S General Land Office 1839). The large island in the Rock River is Vandruff’s Island. Note the limited number of cultural landscape features depicted, including several field’s, small road segments, and Vandruff’s house. Vandruff’s house is depicted on the north side of the island bearing his name.
Figure 14. Digitally modified image depicting the cultural features identified on the previous US General Land Office plat (USGLO 1839). Note the limited number of cultural landscape features depicted, including several field’s, small road segments, and Vandruff’s house. Vandruff’s house is depicted on the north side of the island bearing his name.
Figure 15. Overlay of the 1839 USGLO map (with its cultural features) onto the current USGS topographic map. The red oval indicates the approximate location of the 11th Street Redevelopment project—which appears to have been located within one of the fields depicted on this 1839 map.
Figure 16. Detail of South Rock Island Township in 1868, from Combined Map of Scott County, Iowa and Rock Island County, Illinois (Thompson and Everts 1868) (Image is courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. Reproduction in any other format is prohibited without the ALPL’s permission.)
Figure 17. Closeup detail of the 11th Street Redevelopment project area, as depicted on the Combined Map of Scott County, Iowa and Rock Island County, Illinois (Thompson and Everts 1868). The approximate project area is circled in red. (Image is courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. Reproduction in any other format is prohibited without the ALPL’s permission.)
Figure 18. View of the Island Mills (D. B. Sears and Sons, Camden, Illinois), as depicted on the Combined Map of Scott County, Iowa and Rock Island County, Illinois (Thompson and Everts 1868). The 11th Street Redevelopment project area is circled in red. (Image is courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois. Reproduction in any other format is prohibited without the ALPL’s permission.)
Figure 19. Detail of *Bird's Eye View of the City of Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois* (Ruger 1869). The area located in the distance is the area south of town near the mouth of the Rock River, and the existing 11th Street Redevelopment project area. The single building in the far distance may represent Luchman’s Station. As the previous plat indicates, the project area was slightly more developed than indicated here.
Figure 20. Two views of *Bird’s Eye View of Rock Island, Illinois* (Wellge 1889), illustrating the community of Sears. The structure circled in red on the bottom view is the current City Limits Saloon, located adjacent to the 11th Street Redevelopment project area.
Figure 21. View of Rock River in 1889 illustrating community of “Sears Town” (left), and “B Davenport S.” illustrating “Indian Mineral Springs / Blackhawk’s Watchtower / Inclined Railroad / Toboggan Slide / Coal Mine / Stone Quarry” (right). Project area is at far upper left of image. This color image, which is a small vignette incorporated into the larger Bird’s Eye View of Rock Island, Ill. (Wellge 1889) is courtesy of Ferrel Anderson (Davenport, Iowa).
Figure 22. View of a part of South Rock Island Township in 1894 illustrating the community of Sears (Northwest Publishing Company 1894). Note that the property associated with the Sears School on the north end of the project area had been incorporated into the village by that date, whereas the southern portion of the project area remained outlots (owned by a J. Miller and Thomas Mackin). Note also the presence of the canning factory, paper mill, and pottery works (located south of the land labeled National Clay Company). [This image is from HistoricMapWorks.com, and presented for information only.]
Figure 23. View of a part of the village of Sears and the surrounding outlots in 1894 (Northwest Publishing Company 1894). It is interesting to note that the Sears School is not documented as being present at this time. The majority of the project area at this date was owned by Thomas Mackin (undeveloped) and a Mr. Jacob Miller (presumably the owner/occupant of the commercial building currently operating as the City Limits Saloon and Restaurant). [This image is from HistoricMapWorks.com, and presented for information only.]
Figure 24. View of the plat of Sears and the surrounding developments in 1905 (Iowa Publishing Company 1905). It is interesting to note that the main thoroughfare through the project area (here identified as Rock Island Avenue) was present-day 9th Street.
Figure 25. Detail of 1905 plat illustrating the immediate project area (Iowa Publishing Company 1905). The approximate project area is outlined in red. Note the presence of the Sears School. A focal point of commercial activity at this time was Phoeblman’s Store (present-day City Limits Saloon) and Luchman’s Station (with its Summer Garden). Luchman’s Station was a saloon and outdoor beer garden.
Figure 26. Details of Luchman’s Station and Summer Garden (top and middle), and the Rock Island Canning Company—both located at Sears and illustrated in the 1905 county plat (page 142 and 136, respectively).
Figure 27. Detail of 1912 USGS 15-minute Topographic Map illustrating the project area and surroundings (USGS 1912).
Figure 28. 1938 aerial photograph of the project area and surroundings (http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/nsdihome/webdocs/ilhap/county/data/rockisland/flight12/00rs171470.jpg).
Figure 29. Map from Rohrbaugh (2000) indicating the location of the sewer line construction work monitored by Archaeological Consultants, Inc. This figure illustrates site limits of 11RI29 different from those presented by the site file data. The source for these site limits is unclear. The area outlined in red is the 11th Street Redevelopment project area. The area labeled “A” and circled in green is the location of two pit features excavated by F. Anderson in 1973 and suspected as being associated with the village of Saukenauk. The area labeled “B” and circled in green is the area of four pit features of unknown cultural affiliation (presumably representing late prehistoric pits). Both locales probably could be incorporated into the redefined site limits associated with 11RI29. The area labeled “C” represents the location of the historic spring once associated with the village of Saukenauk. It was situated at the present 4517-19 12th Street, Rock Island.
Figure 30. Location of backhoe test trenches (Numbered 1-19) and features within the 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois. The green circled areas reflect areas of major disturbances. The area circled in black and marked “Privies” represents the location of Features 8-xx. The heavy dashed line represents the approximate edge of the high terrace (which is located to the east and/or right of that line).
Figure 31. Details of Sauk long-houses as depicted by Armstrong (1887:41).
Appendix I
Revised Site Form
(11RI29)
ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORDING FORM

County: Rock Island  Site Name: Saukenauk  Revisit: Y
Field Number:  State Site No.: 29
Quadrangle (7.5") Milan  Date Recorded:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION (to quarter quarter quarter section)
Align: NW  1/4s: SESWNE  Section: 14  Township: 17 N Range: 2
Align:  1/4s:  Section: 0  Township: 0 Range: 0
Align:  1/4s:  Section: 0  Township: 0 Range: 0
Align:  1/4s:  Section: 0  Township: 0 Range: 0

UTM Coordinates (by ISM): UTM Zone: UTM North: UTM East:
Ownership: Private

ENVIRONMENT
Topography: Floodplain  Elevation (in meters): 179
Nearest Water Supply: Rock River  Drainage: Rock River
Soil Association:
Description: Site is located on terrace within the floodplain of the Rock River valley. As originally defined, site is located slightly to the south of project area. Archival info and presence of features suggest site extends farther north than originally

SURVEY
Project Name: 11th Street Redevelopment Project  Site Area (square meters):
Ground Cover (List up to 3): Grass  Other  Viability (%): 0
Survey Methods (List up to 2): Machinery  Standing Structures: N
Site Type (List up to 2): Habitation

SITE CONDITION
Extent of Damage: Moderate
Main Cause of Damage: Development

MATERIAL OBSERVED
Number of Prehistoric Artifacts (count or estimate): 6  Number of Historic Artifacts (count or estimate): 0
Prehistoric Diagnostic Artifacts: N  Historic Diagnostic Artifacts: N
Prehistoric Surface Features: N  Historic Surface Features: N
Description: Due to urban location and grass cover, backhoe trenching was undertaken. Four pit features encountered. No lithics present on site or in pits. Six small, eroded prehistoric sherds comprise all that was recovered from the four pit

TEMPORAL AFFILIATION (check all that apply)
Prehistoric Unknown:  Late Archaic: Mississippian:  Colonial (1673-1780):
Archaic: Early Woodland: Protohistoric:  Frontier (1841-1870):
Middle Archaic: Late Woodland: Historic (generic): Y  Post-War (1946-present): Y
Description: Artifacts are undiagnostic grit tempered pottery sherds; cultural affiliation is unknown. Potentially pre-dates Sauk occupation of site.

Surveyor: F. Mansberger  Institution: FRR  Survey Date: 4/2013  Curation Facility: ISM
Site Report by: F. Mansberger  Institution: FRR  Date: 5/2013
IHPA Log No.: 002013113  IHPA First Sur. Doc. No.: NRHP Listing:
Figure 32. Map from Rohrbough (2000) indicating the location of the sewer line construction work monitored by Archaeological Consultants, Inc. This figure illustrates site limits of 11RI29 different from those presented by the site file data. The source for these site limits is unclear. The area outlined in red is the 11th Street Redevelopment project area. The area labeled “A” and circled in green is the location of two pit features excavated by F. Anderson in 1973 and suspected as being associated with the village of Saukenauk. The area labeled “B” and circled in green is the area of four pit features of unknown cultural affiliation (presumably representing late prehistoric pits). Both locales probably could be incorporated into the redefined site limits associated with 11RI29. The area labeled “C” represents the location of the historic spring once associated with the village of Saukenauk. It was situated at the present 4517-19 12th Street, Rock Island.
Figure 33. Location of 11RI29 (circled in red) as depicted in the archaeological site files. Tentative new site limits, based on known archaeological resources and archival information, are depicted in green. The heavy black line represents the potential location of the L-shaped street around which the longhouses were oriented. The northern site limits are unclear, with fields located on this terrace and extending north nearly to the Upper Rapids at Rock Island.
Appendix II
Feature Descriptions

During the Phase I archaeological survey of the 11th Street Redevelopment project area, several features were identified. Except for obvious twentieth century features, every feature was mapped in plan view, and at least half of each feature was excavated. The feature descriptions and artifact inventories follow. Figure 29 illustrates the location of the features within the greater project area.

**Feature 1** (Figure 35-36) was encountered in Backhoe Trench No. 4. This feature was located on the high terrace (albeit near the edge of the terrace), approximately 150’ west of 9th Street, and 175’ north of 47th Avenue. This feature was located immediately adjacent to, and more or less touching, Feature 2. Feature 2 was located to the east of Feature 1. Feature 1 was round in plan view, and measured 1.05m in diameter. Initially, the north half of the feature was excavated to its base, which extended to a depth of 0.87m below the suspected surface of origination (approximately 50cm below the scraped surface). In profile, the pit had straight sides, and except for a small depression in its west side, it had a flat bottom. Three fill zones were noted. The upper fill (Zone I) was a dark brown to black sandy loam with very limited amounts of charcoal mottling. The lower fill zone (Zone III) was a slightly lighter colored soil, slightly more sandy in texture, with little to no mottling. It appears to represent redeposited subsoil. A small area defined as Zone II represents a company mixed fill of topsoil and subsoil. After the profile had been drawn, the entirety of the second half of the pit was excavated. Artifacts recovered from this feature include:

- 2 grit tempered pottery sherds (body) (Figure 37)
- 5 bone (deer; representing one metapodial) (Figure 38)
- 1 bone (deer; phalange)
- 1 bone
- 1 fire cracked rock
- 1 small sandstone
- 2 charcoal

Additionally, 3 bones (consisting of 2 deer metapodials and 1 potential deer phalange) were found in the backhoe back dirt immediately adjacent to this feature (suggesting that this material may have come from the scraped surface of this feature). All of the metapodials were snapped in half near their midsection (Dr. Terrance Martin, Illinois State Museum, personal communication).

**Feature 2** (Figures 35-36) was encountered in Backhoe Trench No. 4. This feature was located on the high terrace (albeit near the edge of the terrace), approximately 150’ west of 9th Street, and 175’ north of 47th Avenue. This feature was located immediately adjacent to, and more or less touching, Feature 2. Feature 2 was located to the west of Feature 1. Feature 2 was round in plan view, and measured 1.40m in diameter. Initially, the north half of the feature was excavated to its base, which extended to a depth of 1.07m below the suspected surface of origination (approximately 70cm below the scraped surface). In profile, the pit was slightly basin shaped,
with a distinctive flat bottom. Three fill zones were noted. The upper fill (Zone I) was a dark brown to black sandy loam with very limited amounts of charcoal mottling. The lower fill zone (Zone III) was a slightly lighter colored soil, slightly more sandy in texture, with little to no mottling. It appears to represent redeposited subsoil. A small area defined as Zone II represents a company mixed fill of topsoil and subsoil. Artifacts recovered from this feature include:

1. fire cracked rock
2. charcoal
3. bone (small splinters)
1. small piece of mussel shell
1. burned (?) sandstone (small)

**Feature 3** (Figure 39-40) was encountered in Backhoe Trench No. 6. It, too, was located on the high terrace at a location approximately 60’ from the 9th Street right-of-way, and 250’ north of 47th Avenue. The round pit was completely exposed in the base of the backhoe trench. In plan, the pit was slightly oval in shape, measuring 1.05m east/west by 1.20m north/south. The north half of the pit was initially excavated to a depth of 1.00m below the suspected surface of origination (0.60m below the scraped surface). Upon drawing the profile, and excavating the second half of the pit, it became clear that this was not the base of the feature that it actually extended considerably deeper to a depth of 1.38m below the surface of origination (0.98m below the scraped surface). In section, the pit had relatively straight sides and a flat base. The pit terminated at a level where the natural subsoil changed from a silt loam to a pure sand (similar to that located in the lower terrace). The upper fill in this pit (Zone I) was a dark brown to black topsoil (silty loam) with some mixed subsoil (which was slightly lighter in color and sandier in texture). The underlying fill (Zone II) contained substantially more subsoil. Except for 12 small pieces of wood charcoal and 2 small pieces of fire cracked rock, this feature was devoid of artifacts. Although this feature is believed to have been constructed by Native-American inhabitants of this site, the lack of materials in this feature make its attribution to a Native American component only speculation—and if it is indeed affiliated with a Native American occupation, its age is unknown.

**Feature 4** (Figures 41-42) was located in Backhoe Trench No. 9. It was located on the slopes of the high terrace approximately 250’ from the 9th Street right-of-way, and 475’ north of 47th Avenue. In plan, the feature was rectangular, measuring 1.40m by 1.75m. At the scraped surface the feature had slightly rounded corners. A 40cm wide trench was excavated across the width of the feature. In section, the feature had straight sides and a flat bottom. It extended approximately 1.0m below the surface of origination (35cm below the scraped surface). The fill in the pit was a light gray-colored silty sand topsoil. The fill was relatively uniform in texture and lack any cultural mottling (no charcoal or other inclusions). No artifacts were recovered from this pit. It is unclear as to whether this represents a prehistoric or early historic pit feature of unknown function.

**Feature 5** (Figures 43-44, 37) was encountered in Backhoe Trench No. 1. It was located on the high terrace at a location approximately 110’ from the 9th Street right-of-way, and 60’ north of 47th Avenue. In plan, the pit was circular in shape, measuring 1.20m in diameter. In section, the pit had relatively straight sides and a flat base. The pit terminated at a depth of approximately 1.38m.
1.35 m below the existing ground surface—which may be slightly lower than the surface of origination (0.85 m below the scraped surface). The base of the feature extended about 0.20 m into the sand subsoil (which underlay the upper silt loam). Three fill zones were noted in the feature. The upper fill in this pit (Zone I) was a dark brown to black topsoil (silty loam) with some mixed subsoil (which was slightly lighter in color and sandier in texture). The underlying fill (Zone II) was a compact topsoil (slightly more gray in color) with some mixed subsoil inclusions. Zone III was a light colored sterile sand fill (slump?). Artifacts recovered from this feature include:

- 14 fire cracked rock
- 4 grit tempered pottery sherds (body) (Figure 37)
- 5 charcoal

The four pottery sherds from this feature were very small grit tempered pottery sherds. Their surfaces were generally eroded and/or exfoliated. The small size and eroded character of these sherds suggest that they are not primary artifacts and were associated with an ephemeral prehistoric midden once present around these pits.

**Feature 6** (Figures 45-46) was encountered near the north end of the project area in Backhoe Trench No. 18. It was located approximately 250’ from the 9th Street right-of-way, and nearly 1,200’ north of 47th Avenue. In plan, the feature was rectangular measuring 1.69 m by 1.99 m. At the scraped surface, it was apparent that this feature represented a brick-lined shaft. The perimeter walls were constructed with brick sanded on five surfaces and machine-struck on the top face, and using a moderately hard mortar. The walls were double-width brick measuring 8½” wide. The interior shaft measured 4’2” wide by 5’3” long. The approximate north half of the feature was excavated to a depth of approximately 70-80 cm below the scraped surface (at which a concentration of brick rubble, representing demolition debris, was encountered. Subsequent excavations consisted of the excavation of a small window approximately 50 cm square in the northwest corner of the shaft. This small excavation unit was carried to the base of the feature, and indicated that the floor of the pit was located 1.45 m below the surface of origination (1.10 m below the scraped surface). A thin layer of fecal material (Zone III) was present at the base of the feature, indicating the original function of this pit as a privy. Artifacts within this fecal zone were distinctively non-domestic in character, suggesting that the privy had been associated with a school during the early years of the twentieth century. This thin fecal was capped by a yellowish brown sand with numerous bricks associated with a demolition activity (Zone II), and a thick deposit of yellowish brown sand lacking brick (Zone I). Some of the brick within this fill were quality face brick. Similarly, fragments of an unusually shaped brick of unknown function were also recovered. This privy probably was associated with the nearby Sears School. Artifacts recovered from this feature include:

- 1 small tea cup (green transfer print floral decoration; ironstone; 1 3/8” diameter base; 2 ¼” diameter mouth; 1 7/8” tall; handled) (child’s tea cup?)
- 1 serving bowl/ tureen lid (Ironstone; Brown Tea lined decoration; knob only)
- 1 small medicine/salve jar (amber; three-piece mold, blow-over-mold finish with ground top; embossed “JOHNSON & JOHNSON / NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. U.S.A.”)
Features 7, 8, 9, and 10 represent stone piers and perimeter foundation walls located within the eastern end of Backhoe Trenches 17 and 18. It is believed that these structural features were associated with the late nineteenth century Sears School, which had been converted into apartments prior to its circa-2005 demolition.

Feature 11 represents a concrete perimeter foundation wall located within the eastern end of Backhoe Trench No. 18. This foundation wall, which was located approximately 20’ west of the Feature 7 (which represents the western wall of the Sears School). This feature probably represents an outbuilding once associated with, or addition onto, the school house (which had been converted into an apartment building during the middle twentieth century. This building, with the school, was demolished in circa 2005.

Features 12-20 (Figure 47) were discovered in the western end of Backhoe Trench No. 3. These features were located predominately on the low terrace and the slope of the high terrace, approximately 150’ north of 47th Avenue. Features 12-17 were all square to slightly rectangular in plan, and contained a variety of twentieth century domestic artifacts on the scraped surface. These features probably represent wood-lined shafts utilized as privies by the inhabitants of the dwellings once located along 47th Avenue. Feature 18 represents a stoneware drain line that post-dates these privies, and probably represents the installation of indoor toilets into the houses during the early years of the twentieth century. Features 19 and 20 represent pits excavated over
the drain line for the establishment of a standpipe or “tap” into this sewer line. These taps may have been associated with the use of the property as a mobile home or trailer park.

**Summary and Conclusions.** Features 1-3 and 5 probably represent pits once associated with a late prehistoric and/or historic Native American component once present at this site. Unfortunately, the lack of artifacts and/or diagnostic materials from these pits (as well as from the surrounding ground surface) makes a determination of cultural affiliation impossible. The small number of eroded pottery sherds recovered suggest a late prehistoric component. The lack of lithic material at this location is noteworthy. These features were located on the high terrace within the far southeastern corner of the project area, immediately adjacent to the previously identified archaeological site 11RRI29. It can be argued that these features (as well as those excavated by F. Anderson in 1973) represent materials associated with 11RRI29.

Feature 4 represents a shallow rectangular pit of unknown cultural affiliation. The lack of cultural material from within this pit makes a determination of cultural affiliation—whether prehistoric or historic—impossible. This isolated feature is not considered significant.

Features 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were associated with the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Sears School. Similarly, Features 12 through 20 were associated with the very late nineteenth and early twentieth century occupation of houses once located along 47th Avenue. These late nineteenth and early twentieth century features are not considered significant.
Figure 34. Backhoe trenching at the 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 35. Two views of Features 1 (right) and 2 (left).
Figure 36. Plan view and cross section of Features 1 and 2, 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 37. Two opposing (front and back) views of the six prehistoric pottery sherds recovered from the 11th Street Redevelopment project. The top two sherds from each view are from Feature 1. The bottom four sherds from each view are from Feature 5. All sherds were small, grit-tempered with eroded and/or exfoliated surfaces, making cultural affiliations difficult. Sherds are actual size. [F. Anderson is of the opinion that these sherds may represent Weaver ware.]
Figure 38. Bone (metapodials and phalanges) from scraped surface of Feature 1 (and adjacent backdirt from backhoe trench). Bones are actual size.
Figure 39. Three views of Feature 3 during excavation.
Figure 40. Plan view and cross section of Feature 3, 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 41. Two views of Feature 4, 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 42. Plan view and cross section of Feature 4, 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 43. Two views of Feature 5 during excavation (with Ferrel Anderson). The upper photograph is prior to the removal of the lower fill zone.
Figure 44. Plan view and cross section of Feature 5, 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 45. Two views of Feature 6.
Figure 46. Plan view and cross section of Feature 6, 11th Street Redevelopment project area, Rock Island, Illinois.
Figure 47. Sketch map of Features 12-20 located in the west end of Backhoe Trench No. 3. Most of these features represent late nineteenth and early twentieth century, wood-lined privy vaults once associated with houses that fronted 47th Avenue.