INTENSIVE PHASE I ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF A PROPOSED RAIL DEVELOPMENT AREA
HARDIN TOWNSHIP
HARDIN COUNTY, IOWA

Section 23, T89N, R21W

BCA 1871

Prepared for
Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation
520 Rocksylvania Avenue
Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126

Prepared by
Chris L. Heeren
Project Archeologist

and

Branden K. Scott
Principal Investigator

Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.
P.O. Box 347
Cresco, Iowa 52136
David G. Stanley, Director

March 2012
This report presents the results of an intensive Phase I archeological, geomorphological, and architectural investigation performed for the Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation, by Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., Cresco, Iowa. The investigation was to determine the impact on potential cultural resources located at the site for a proposed rail yard. The area of potential effect is approximately 62.9 ha (155.4 ac) located in portions of the NW¼ and SW¼ of Section 23, T89N, R21W, Hardin Township, Hardin County, Iowa. The project area is associated with Des Moines Lobe, and the area is located on glacial upland landforms, outwash deposits, and historically drained wetlands. Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. personnel conducted the field investigation on March 12 and 13, 2012.

Prefield research indicated the project area had an overall low archeological potential, with moderate potential on upland ridges and along the shoreline of prehistoric wetlands. A review of the records held at the Office of the State Archaeologist indicated seven previously recorded sites and three previous investigations were located within a 1.6 km (1 mi) radius of the project area. None of these sites resides within the project area. Three architectural properties were noted in the area of potential effect. A review of the Hardin County Assessor’s records revealed a farmhouse was built in 1897 on the associated farmstead. A review of historical aerial photos also shows a bridge over the Illinois Central Gulf Rail Line was constructed ca. 1939.

The field investigation consisted of documenting local landforms through soil probing \( n = 5 \), a pedestrian survey, and an architectural survey. The majority of the area was on historically drained, low-lying Woden member landforms, which hold low archeological potential. An informal interview with the current landowner revealed that much of the southeastern portion of the project area was bladed off by land-moving equipment decades ago to raise the elevation of adjacent 140th Street. No artifacts or sites were located.

Three architectural properties were observed: J. A. Lesher farmstead (42-01616), J. A. Lesher farmhouse (42-01617), and a bridge (42-01618). The farmstead dates to approximately 1897, but most of the buildings were constructed after the 1950s. This farmstead contains buildings that are typical of most farmsteads in the area and is of a mundane nature. This farmstead did not contain an extant barn or corncrib. The farmhouse was subjected to multiple renovations that have detracted from its historical design. The original house is a typical American Foursquare constructed in 1897. The bridge likely constructed in the 1930s and is made of wood. This farm bridge has likely been modified for upkeep and has a common design. Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. recommends that the encountered architectural properties are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Because no sites were identified through the course of this investigation and the architectural properties are recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. recommends no further work for the area of potential effect.
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INTRODUCTION

Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. (BCA), Cresco, Iowa, conducted an intensive Phase I archeological investigation of a proposed rail development area for the Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation of Iowa Falls, Iowa. The archival research, fieldwork, analysis, and reporting have been completed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s standards regulating the identification of historic properties (National Park Service [NPS] 1983). The fieldwork and report presented herein meet or exceed the guidelines for archeological investigations in Iowa (Association of Iowa Archaeologists [AIA] 1999). The purpose of this investigation was to identify possible cultural resources at the Phase I level. The fieldwork was conducted on March 12 and 13, 2012.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The project area is located in central Iowa within the physiographic region known as the Des Moines Lobe (Prior 1991; Figure 1). The boundaries of the survey area were provided to BCA by Cindy Litwiller of the Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation (Figure 2). This area is located adjacent to 140th Street and occurs between two railroad lines: Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Rail Line to the south and southeast and Illinois Central Gulf Rail Line to the north (Figure 3). The area of potential effect (APE) consists of glacial upland landforms, Noah Creek Formation outwash deposits, and drained Woden Member wetlands. The area examined is 62.9 ha (155.4 ac). The project area is within Hardin Township and includes portions of the NW¼ and SW¼ of Section 23, T89N, R21W in Hardin County, Iowa (Figure 2).

PROJECT PREMISES

The survey strategy of this Phase I investigation was based on an analysis of the project area and the landforms that exist within it. Because geological processes determine the geographic and pedologic character of a region, the understanding of an area’s geologic history is crucial to any evaluation of the archeological record. Landform and soil characteristics have a strong influence on the presences and distribution of the plant and animal communities utilized by human populations. Geological processes not only affect the patterns of human settlement, but they are also largely responsible for the preservation and destruction of the archeological record. Thus, the archeological record can be viewed as a product of both cultural and geological processes (Bettis and Green 1991).

Because archeological sites are incorporated into the environment by natural formation processes, they may be viewed not only as cultural remains but also as geologic deposits. This perspective on the location of sites allows the investigator to create predictive
models of archeological site occurrence and patterned distribution within a given area, relative to the existing landforms within that area (Bettis and Benn 1984; Bettis and Thompson 1981). Such an approach also proves useful in investigator recognition of post-settlement alluvium (PSA), made-land, plowzones, and other disturbances that may have modified the area under investigation.

This type of landform modeling as a tool of cultural resource management is crucial to the development of survey strategies. More geologically sensitive strategies allow the investigator to focus on those areas where the probabilities of site occurrence are highest, reducing or eliminating the costs of surveying those areas where sites would not logically occur (e.g., made-land, heavily disturbed areas, alluvial landforms consisting entirely of recent alluvium, etc.). Within those areas of focused investigation, informed survey strategies allow for the determination of the depth and distribution of subsurface tests necessary for the location of buried cultural resource deposits. Additionally, the nature of the proposed impacts can be assessed in terms of the landforms present.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

This section provides some background information concerning the geology and natural history of the project area. The broader physiographic area is first outlined, followed by a more specific description of the project area. The soils of the project area are also discussed.

Physiographic Region

The project area is located in central Iowa within the Des Moines Lobe physiographic region (Prior 1991; Figures 1 and 4). This region was created during the extension of the Wisconsinan Laurentide ice sheet into Iowa approximately 14,000 years ago (Kemmis et al. 1981). Because this area was covered with glacial ice, the thick deposition of loess common in most of Iowa was prevented (Prior 1991). Subsequently, the Late Wisconsinan-age glacier deposited materials commonly referred to as the Dows Formation (cf. Hoyer 1980; Kemmis et al. 1981; Ruhe 1969). Relief on the Des Moines Lobe is generally low. As the region has only been free of glacial ice for 12,000 years, the drainage system is still developing. Glacial till, more resistant to erosion than loess, further slows the process of valley incision.

A large portion of the lobe area is hummocky with distinct ridges and swales marking the limits of the major ice advances. The hummocky areas are comprised of elevational highs such as end moraines, kettles, and knobs. The relatively flat plains are underlain by ground moraine till (Prior 1991). Swales, depressions, and low relief drainages produce a grid across portions of the Des Moines Lobe. These linked drainage-depression systems are glacial features that were formed during the collapse of stagnant-ice environments rather than moving ice. Evidence for these environments can be found regionally across the lobe (Bettis et al. 1996).
Recent work on the glacial and post-glacial deposition and environmental changes on the Des Moines Lobe have further refined sequences from earlier works (Bettis et al. 1996; Kemmis et al. 1981; Ruhe 1969). The following section summarizes what is currently known about terminal Pleistocene deposits and those associated with the Holocene-age DeForest Formation (Bettis et al. 1996).

**Dows Formation**

Almost all of the uplands within the Des Moines Lobe are covered with thick, glacially deposited sediments termed the Dows Formation (Kemmis et al. 1981). The formation is subdivided into four different members: Alden, Morgan, Lake Mills, and Pilot Knob which were deposited by glacial advances between ca. 15,000 and 12,000 B.P. (Bettis et al. 1996). The loamy Alden Member contains till that was deposited beneath the glacial ice. The Morgan Member is comprised of loamy sediments that exhibit a higher density of coarse materials as compared to the Alden Member. These materials are associated with the upper and marginal portions of the glacier. The Morgan Member consists of alternating beds of unsorted and size-sorted sediments. The Lake Mills Member consists of an upper bed of fine-grained sediments and a thinner, lower bed of sands and gravels. This member formed in glacial lakes through the initial transport of larger sediments by glacial meltwater followed by fine-grained deposition consistent with low-energy lake environments. The Pilot Knob Member contains the coarsest sediments of the Dows Formation. This member consists of sands and gravels associated with subglacial meltwater and streams. The sediment-laden meltwater often resulted in the formation of kames and eskers.

**Peoria Formation**

With the retreat of the glacial ice mass, fine sediment ground by the glacier was deposited along waterways. This silty sediment was in turn picked up by wind and redeposited as Peoria Formation loess. The majority of the silty loess was deposited between ca. 14,000 and 11,000 B.P. (Bettis et al. 1996:26). However, minor eolian deposition of silt and sand continues to the present. In the vicinity of the project area, Peoria loess overlays most formations that were present during the period of major loess deposition. The uplands are loess-mantled as are the upper and older portion of the Noah Creek Formation Wisconsinan outwash terraces. Although the major period of loess deposition predates most of the known human record for the region, archeological sites are found within the loess rather than just on the surface. The presence of cultural horizons within the loess can be due to later minor eolian deposition and because of soil upbuilding caused by the long-term action of earthworms and other natural forces (Van Nest 1993).

**Noah Creek Formation**

Sediment deposited by water originating from the melting of the Wisconsinan glacial ice between ca. 14,000 and 11,000 B.P. is termed the Noah Creek Formation. These sediments are generally made up of coarse-grained materials, mostly sand and gravel, which reflect the high-energy of the meltwater flow. The Noah Creek Formation is found
on and within the high terraces along the valley walls of streams originating from the melting glaciers and spread across outwash plains where the glacial water did not produce definite channels (Bettis et al. 1996:22). Terraces of the Noah Creek Formation sediment are also called Wisconsinan outwash terraces. Because these outwash terraces are high, well-drained landforms, they are attractive locations for human occupation and are often found to contain archeological sites. If exposed for long periods of time, for instance, during prolonged droughts, the sands of the Wisconsinan outwash can be susceptible to the formation of dunes and other eolian reworking. In this way, archeological sites may be buried and preserved within the landform.

_DeForest Formation_

The most recent of the Quaternary-age geological formations is the DeForest Formation and includes Holocene-age alluvium from rivers and streams, colluviums deposited at the base of upland slopes, and paludal sediments collecting in ponds, lakes, marshes, and slackwater wetlands. On the Des Moines Lobe, the formation contains seven members while elsewhere in Iowa and the upper Midwest four members, Gunder, Roberts Creek, Camp Creek, and Corrington, are recognized (Bettis 1992). The first three members are sediment packages forming terraces while the Corrington Member encompasses alluvial and colluvial fan deposits found along the base of valley walls. Terrace-forming sediments are distinguished by age of deposition, which is generally discernable by the relative position of the terraces and the degree of soil development (Bettis and Benn 1987; Bettis and Littke 1987). For example, the Gunder Member, the oldest (ca. 10,000–3000 B.P.) and highest of the Holocene-age terraces, also has the highest degree of soil development (commonly exhibiting argillic horizons). Roberts Creek Member deposits follow in age (ca. 3000–500 B.P.) and can be inset into the mantle of the Gunder Member, resulting in a buried surface. The youngest of the DeForest Formation terraces, the Camp Creek Member began forming ca. 500 years ago and is still being deposited today. This recent sediment can mantle any of the other DeForest Formation members or be underlain by older, pre-Holocene geologic materials. The alluvial/colluvial fan deposits forming the Corrington Member have the widest time range of deposition of any of the alluvial members of the DeForest Formation, beginning at the start of the Holocene and continuing to this day. Multiple buried soils representing former, stable surfaces are coming in the Corrington deposits. DeForest Formation members specific to the Des Moines Lobe are the Flack, Woden, and West Okoboji (Bettis et al. 1996:26–31). Like the Corrington Member, the deposition of these three members may extend throughout the Holocene up to the present day. The Flack Member consists of colluviums located at the base of upland slopes and roughly correlates with lower hillslope components (footslope and toeslope) defined by Ruhe (1969:130–133; Figure 5). The Woden Member is located within closed and semi-closed depressions and consists of alternating layers of organic material (muck and peat) and mineral sediment. The sediment source are colluviums eroded during times of landscape instability from lands surrounding the wetland basin. On the Des Moines Lobe, these sediments originate from the Dows Formation deposits. Organic materials are deposited during periods of stability in the surrounding uplands and are a result of debris accumulation from the hydrophilic plants within the wetland. The West Okoboji Member is composed of the lacustrine sediments
settling existing lakes. Consequently, most deposits of this member are presently underwater.

Upland Landform Model

A landform model concerning hillslope evolution is applicable to the project area. The APE contains all potential upland landform components. Ruhe’s (1969; Figure 5) analysis of hillslope evolution details the erosional and depositional sequences on the components of upland landforms. The upland landform components are used to focus the field investigation to those areas with good site potential. The upland hillslope is divided into five components. Listed in descending order, these components are: summit, shoulder, backslope, footslope, and toeslope. Summits, the uppermost section of the landform, tend to be fairly stable but are subjected to minor eolian deposition and erosion. Shoulders are formed by the gradual cutting back of the hillslope and are generally convex with a low degree of slope. Backslopes are erosional features formed by the cutting back of the valley wall. Footslopes are the lower remnant of the hillslope. This eroded surface is often covered by colluvial materials from the shoulder and backslope. Toeslopes consist almost completely of colluvial material at the base of the upland. Because of their low degree of erosion and relative flatness, summits and shoulders are capable of containing intact, shallowly buried archeological materials (Van Nest 1993). Likewise, footslopes and toeslopes are also considered to have good site potential because these landforms are depositional in nature and generally have a low degree of slope. Backslopes rarely contain intact, primary context archeological materials because of the steep slopes and a high degree of erosion. When using this model it is important to take into account agriculturally induced wind and water erosion. As a result of historic and modern non-conservation agricultural techniques, all cultivated hillslope components have been subjected to erosional pressures. Therefore, summit, shoulder, footslope, and toeslope components that have been historically cultivated typically possess low potential for intact archeological sites, depending on the degree of erosion.

Project Area Soils

The following information was taken from the Soil Survey of Hardin County, Iowa (Voy 1982) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS; 2006). The soils summarized in Table 1 are the series types mapped as potentially occurring within the project area (Figure 6).

Table 1. Soil information (NRCS 2006; Voy 1982)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Soil Series</th>
<th>Member/Landform</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Okoboji silty clay</td>
<td>Woden</td>
<td>This level, very poorly drained soil is in depressional areas on uplands;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>loam, 0–1% slopes</td>
<td></td>
<td>formed in alluvium or lacustrine sediments under tall prairie grasses that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>are generally tolerant of excessive wetness. Subject to ponding by runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>from adjacent areas; permeability is moderately slow and available water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>capacity is high with a seasonal high water table and it is subject to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>flooding. Typical profile is Ap-A1-A2-A3-Bg1-Bg2-Bg3-Cg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symbol</td>
<td>Soil Series, Member/Landform</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27B</td>
<td>Terril loam, Gunder 2–5% slopes</td>
<td>This gently sloping, moderately well drained soil is in drainageways on uplands and on footslopes; formed in colluvium under prairie grasses; it is below moderately sloping to strongly sloping backslopes. Available water capacity is high and permeability is moderate. Typical profile is Ap-A1-A2-A3-A4-Bw1-Bw2-BC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Nicollet loam, Upland/Alden 1–3% slopes</td>
<td>This nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is on low, slightly convex ridges and slightly concave or flat, lower slopes on uplands. This soil formed in calcareous loamy glacial till under tall prairie grasses. Permeability is moderate and available water capacity is high. A seasonal high water table makes this soil subject to flooding. The typical profile is Ap-A-Bg1-Bg2-BCg-BCkg.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62C2</td>
<td>Storden loam, Upland/Morgan 5–9% slopes, moderately eroded</td>
<td>This moderately sloping, well drained, calcareous soil is on knolls and convex backslopes that border waterways and streams on uplands. It formed in calcareous loamy glacial till under tall prairie grasses. This soil has a high water capacity and moderate permeability. It has a typical profile of Ap-Bk1-Bk2-C.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Harps loam, Woden 1–3% slopes</td>
<td>This nearly level, poorly drained, calcareous soil is on rims around depressional areas on uplands. It formed in till or alluvium derived from till under tall prairie grasses tolerant of excessive wetness. The available water capacity is high and permeability is moderate. This soil has a seasonal high water table. The typical profile is Ap-Ak1-Ak2-Bkg1-Bkg2-Bkg3-Bkg4-BCg.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138B</td>
<td>Clarion loam, Upland/Alden 2–5% slopes</td>
<td>This gently sloping, well drained soil is on convex ridges and backslopes on uplands. This soil formed in glacial till under tall prairie grasses. Available water capacity is high, and permeability is moderate. The typical profile is Ap-A1-A2-Bw1-Bw2-C1-C2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138C2</td>
<td>Clarion loam, Upland/Alden 5–9% slopes, moderately eroded</td>
<td>This moderately sloping, well drained soil is on knolls and convex backslopes that border waterways and streams on uplands. It formed in glacial till under tall prairie grasses. Available water capacity is high, and permeability is moderate. This soil has moderately low archeological potential due to increasing slope. It has a typical profile of Ap-A1-A2-Bw1-Bw2-C1-C2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236C</td>
<td>Lester loam, Upland/Alden 5–9% slopes, or Morgan</td>
<td>This moderately sloping, well drained soil is on ridges and convex backslopes that border waterways and streams on uplands. This soil formed in calcareous, loamy till under savanna vegetation. It has high water capacity and moderate permeability. The typical profile is Ap-Bt1-Bt2-Bk1-Bk2-C.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>236C2</td>
<td>Lester loam, Upland/Alden or Morgan 5–9% slopes, moderately eroded</td>
<td>This moderately sloping, well drained soil is on knobs, ridges, and convex backslopes that border waterways and streams on uplands. It formed in calcareous, loamy till under savanna vegetation. Available water capacity is high in this soil, and permeability is moderate. The typical profile is Ap-Bt1-Bt2-Bk1-Bk2-C.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1. Soil information (NRCS 2006; Voy 1982), continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Soil Series</th>
<th>Member/Landform</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>329</td>
<td>Webster-Nicollet complex, 1–3% slopes</td>
<td>Woden</td>
<td>These nearly level, poorly drained and somewhat poorly drained soils are on uplands. This soil formed in glacial till or local alluvium derived from till under tall prairie grasses tolerant of wetness. They are 44–55% Webster soil and 30–40% Nicollet soil. Both soils are so intricately mixed or so small that it is not practical to separate them in mapping. Available water capacity is high in both soils, and permeability is moderate. The typical profile is Ap-BAg-Bg1-Bg2-Cg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>638C2</td>
<td>Clarion-Storden loams, 5–9% slopes, moderately eroded</td>
<td>Upland/Alden, Morgan</td>
<td>These moderately sloping, well drained soils are on knolls, convex ridges, and backslopes that border waterways and streams on uplands. These soils form from glacial till under tall prairie grasses. They are 50–60% Clarion soil, 30–45% Storden soil, and as much as 20% soils of minor extent. Available water capacity is high in these Clarion and Storden soils, and permeability is moderate. The typical profile is Ap-A-Bk1-Bk2-C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Representative Soil Profiles

Hand probing ($n = 5$) provided several opportunities to inspect subsurface deposits in the project area. The profiles presented below are generally representative of those observed during field investigations. Profile locations are presented in Figure 3.

DESIGNATION: 1871-1
LANDSCAPE POSITION: upland summit/drumlin
SLOPE: 1–3%
METHOD: soil probe
VEGETATION: agricultural field, 60–80% ground surface visibility (GSV)
DESCRIBED BY: C. Heeren and B. Scott
DATE: 3/12/12
REMARKS: Due to continuous farming activity, the A horizon is no longer present. This location has low potential for intact archeological resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Soil Horizon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–12</td>
<td>Ap</td>
<td>Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) sandy loam; moderate, medium subangular blocky structure; friable; frequent till; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12–45+</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) loamy sand; moderate, medium fine subangular blocky structure; friable; frequent rock. End.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESIGNATION: 1871-2
LANDSCAPE POSITION: Woden Member depression
SLOPE: 0–2%
METHOD: soil probe
VEGETATION: agricultural field, 60–80% GSV
DESCRIBED BY: C. Heeren and B. Scott
DATE: 3/12/12
REMARKS: Historically tile drained agricultural field. Prior to draining, the soil was perennially wet, allowing for the development of the observed gleyed soil. This location has low potential for archaeological resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Soil Horizon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–10</td>
<td>Ap</td>
<td>Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sandy silt; moderate, medium-fine subangular blocky structure; friable; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–20</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silt; weak, medium subangular blocky structure; friable; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–38</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silt; moderate, medium subangular blocky structure; friable with plasticity; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38–51</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silt; moderate, medium platy structure parts to medium subangular blocky structure; firm with plasticity; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51–56</td>
<td>ACG</td>
<td>Greenish black (10Y 2.5/1) silt; massive structure; plastic; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56–62</td>
<td>CG</td>
<td>Grayish brown (10YR 5/2) medium sand; massive structure; friable; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62–76</td>
<td>2Abg1</td>
<td>Very dark gray (10YR 3/1) silt; moderate, medium platy structure; plastic; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76–85</td>
<td>2ACbg</td>
<td>Gray (10YR 5/1) silty clay; massive structure; plastic; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85–112+</td>
<td>2Cbg</td>
<td>Dark grayish brown, pale brown, and very dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2, 10YR 6/3, and 10YR 3/2) silty clay; massive structure; plastic; medium-fine sand lenses interspersed. End.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESIGNATION: 1871-3
LANDSCAPE POSITION: outwash terrace (Noah Creek Formation)
SLOPE: 0–2%
METHOD: soil probe
VEGETATION: agricultural field, 70–80% GSV
DESCRIBED BY: C. Heeren
DATE: 3/13/12
REMARKS: Due to continuous farming activity, the A horizon is no longer present. This location has low potential for intact archaeological resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Soil Horizon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–23</td>
<td>Ap</td>
<td>Very dark gray (10YR 3/1) sandy loam; weak, fine subangular blocky structure; friable; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23–37</td>
<td>Bw1</td>
<td>Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) loamy sand; weak, medium platy structure parts to fine subangular blocky structure; friable; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37–58</td>
<td>Bw2</td>
<td>Yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) loamy sand; weak, fine platy structure parts to fine subangular blocky structure; friable; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58–69+</td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) loamy sand; moderate, medium platy structure parts to medium subangular blocky structure; friable. End.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESIGNATION: 1871-4
LANDSCAPE POSITION: Woden Member depression
SLOPE: 0–2%
METHOD: soil probe
VEGETATION: agricultural field, 70–80% GSV
DESCRIBED BY: C. Heeren
DATE: 3/13/12
REMARKS: Historically tile drained agricultural field. Prior to draining, the soil was perennially wet allowing for the development of the observed gleyed soil. Due to the prehistoric wetness of this landform, it has low potential for archeological sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Soil Horizon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–18</td>
<td>Ap</td>
<td>Black (10YR 2/1) sandy silt; weak, medium subangular blocky structure; friable with plasticity; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–46</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Black (10YR 2/1) sandy silt; moderate, medium subangular blocky structure; friable with plasticity; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46–64</td>
<td>Ag1</td>
<td>Very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silt; massive structure; plastic; gradual boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64–118</td>
<td>Ag2</td>
<td>Very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) silt; massive structure; plastic; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118–121+</td>
<td>Btg</td>
<td>Greenish gray and reddish yellow (5GY 6/1 and 7.5YR 6/8) silty clay with dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) iron concretions; massive structure; plastic. Could not probe deeper due to suction. End.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESIGNATION: 1871-5
LANDSCAPE POSITION: Woden Member depression
SLOPE: 0–2%
METHOD: soil probe
VEGETATION: fallow grass, <10% GSV
DESCRIBED BY: C. Heeren
DATE: 3/13/12
REMARKS: This location is frequently wet and represents a low-lying Woden Member depression. Due to the wetness and type of landform represented, archeological resources are unlikely to occur at this location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Depth (cm)</th>
<th>Soil Horizon</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–18</td>
<td>Ap</td>
<td>Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sandy silt; weak, medium subangular blocky structure; friable; abrupt boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18–31</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) silt; moderate to strong, medium subangular blocky structure; plastic; clear boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31–53</td>
<td>ABg</td>
<td>Brown (10YR 4/3) silt; moderate, medium subangular blocky structure; plastic; gradual boundary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53–61+</td>
<td>Bg</td>
<td>Pale olive (5Y 6/3) sandy silt with brown (7.5YR 5/3) iron concretions; massive structure; plastic. End.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

METHODS AND RESULTS

Archival Research

Prior to fieldwork, BCA conducted background research to assess known cultural resources in the area. A review of the records held by the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) indicated seven previously recorded sites were located within 1.6
km (1 mi) radius of the project area, along with three surveys conducted near the project area (Figure 2).

Three previous archeological surveys are located within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area. One survey was conducted for a road improvement project along old U.S. Highway 20 (Hotopp and Burnight 1978). This investigation yielded one archeological site (13HA141). Another survey was conducted for two proposed development areas (Benton et al. 2000). The last investigation was the survey and subsequent Phase II evaluation of a small parcel of land that yielded one archeological site (13HA421; Morrow 2009a; Morrow 2009b). In addition, five other previously recorded sites were noted within close proximity to the project area. Sites 13HA240, 13HA241, and 13HA245 are prehistoric open habitation sites (Ulch 1974a–1974c). Site 13HA239 is an open habitation Early Woodland (classified through Adena point typology) and late prehistoric Oneota site (Ulch 1974d). Isolated prehistoric burials (13HA182) are located approximately 1.3 km (.8 mi) north of the APE on the north side of the Iowa River (Green 1989). None of the aforementioned sites occur within the present APE.

A General Land Office (GLO) map, an 1875 state atlas, plat maps, and aerial photos were reviewed (Andreas 1875; Gardner Map and Atlas Company 1903; GLO 1850; Midland Map Company 1916; Northwest Publishing Company 1892; Figures 7–14). The GLO map, state atlas, and 1892 plat map show no historic cultural resources located within the project area. The 1903 and 1916 plat maps show the existence of the current farmstead within the project area. The aerial photography shows the development of the farmstead throughout the twentieth century, with an expanded layout visible by 1994.

Field Investigation

The field investigation included documenting local landforms through soil probing ($n = 5$), a pedestrian survey (interval maximum of 15 m [49.2 ft]), and an architectural survey. The majority of the area (Figures 15–19) was found on low-lying Woden Member landforms. These landforms typically have low archeological potential, although small resource procurement sites can occur along the margins of the wetlands. An informal interview with the current landowner revealed that the upland landforms in the southeastern portion of the project area were bladed off by land-moving equipment decades ago to raise the elevation of the adjacent road (140th Street). The result of the investigation yielded no prehistoric archeological artifacts or sites. Three architectural properties were documented during this investigation. Within the APE were a farmstead (42-01616; Figures 20–23), which includes a house (42-01617; Figures 24 and 25), and a bridge (42-01618; Figures 26–28). These properties are detailed below.

**J. A. Lesher Farmstead (42-01616 and 42-01617)**

**Type:** Farmstead  
**Cultural Affiliation:** Euro-American  
**Area:** 2 ha (5 ac)  
**USGS 7.5 Quad:** Iowa Falls West, Iowa 1979
Legal Location: NE¼, SW¼, Section 23, Hardin Township, T89N, R21W, Hardin County, Iowa
Address: 20403 140th Street, Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126
UTM Coordinates: Zone 15; NAD 83; Easting: 475,838; Northing: 4,771,043
Current Investigation: The farmstead (42-01616; Figures 20–23) was given the name “J. A. Lesher Farmstead” due to the name of the first known owner identified on historic plat maps. Associated with this farmstead are two machinery sheds, one hog building, 11 grain bins, one garage, one farmhouse, and the foundation of a barn. Records held at the Hardin County Assessor’s office lack an exact date of demolition for the barn, however aerial photography shows it occurred sometime between 1958 and 1994. Two expansions occurred to the farmstead. A garage was constructed in 1950, and between 1958 and 1994 11 grain bins, one machine shed, and one hog building were constructed. Exact dates are unavailable for the second expansion from the Hardin Country Assessor’s office.

According to the Hardin County Assessor’s records, the farmhouse (42-01617; Figures 24 and 25) was constructed in 1897. The house has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding. The house sits on a stone foundation. At surface level, concrete blocks are used to help form the foundation. The interior walls are plaster and drywall. Two additions have been made to the house, the dates of which are unknown. The first addition occurs on the west side of the structure. It has a one and one-half story frame and is 29.7 m² (320 ft²). The second addition has a one story frame and totals .8 m² (9 ft²). The upkeep and condition of this house is normal. There are two machine sheds present. One stands west of the barn foundation and is 14.1 x 10.5 m (46.3 x 34.4 ft) with an area of 148 m² (1,593.1 ft²). The other is located north of the first barn foundation and west of the garage. It is 28.7 x 14.9 m (94.2 x 48.9 ft) with an area of 427.6 m² (4,602.6 ft²). Both buildings have external walls covered by metal siding and have corrugated tin roofs. A hog building, comprised of two conjoined structures, is located west of the southern machine shed. The larger northern component measures 73.4 x 13 m (240.8 x 42.7 ft) with an area of 954.2 m² (10,270.1 ft²). The southern component measures 14.8 x 17.3 m (48.6 x 56.8 ft) with an area of 256 m² (2,755.6 ft²). It consists of a poured concrete foundation with a mixed architectural style. The barn foundation, located on the southern edge of the south driveway, is extremely weathered poured concrete and can be divided into two sections. The southern portion measures 45.3 x 17.6 m (148.6 x 57.7 ft) with an area of 797.3 m² (8,582.1 ft²). The northern portion is smaller and measures 19.4 x 12.6 m (63.6 x 41.3 ft) with an area of 244.4 m² (2,630.7 ft²). One of these sections was possibly used as a paved livestock pen. A garage, built in 1950, stands across a driveway west of the farmhouse and measures 6.7 x 8.3 m (22 x 27.2 ft) with an area of 55.6 m² (598.5 ft²). It has a single gable roof with asphalt shingles, exterior walls covered in vinyl siding, a poured concrete foundation, and two stalls with a single door entry. There are 11 grain bins of varying size comprising two perpendicular rows. Their walls are corrugated tin with corrugated tin roofs and they have poured concrete foundations.

NRHP Eligibility: The farmstead (42-01616) contains buildings that are typical of farmsteads in the area and many were likely constructed less than 50 years ago. The house (42-01617) has received additions and updates. Additionally, American
Foursquare houses are common throughout Iowa. Due to the mundane nature of the farmstead and house, and because of additions to the house that do not match its original design, BCA recommends that the farmstead (42-01616) and the house (42-01617) are not eligible for the NRHP.

**Recommendation:** BCA recommends no further work for the farmstead (42-01616) or house (42-01617).

*Farming Equipment Bridge (42-01618)*

**Type:** farm equipment, wood, pole supports  
**Area:** 165 m² (1,776 ft²)  
**USGS 7.5 Quad:** Iowa Falls West, Iowa 1979  
**Legal Location:** NW¼, NW¼, Section 23, Hardin Township, T89N, R21W, Hardin County, Iowa  
**UTM Coordinates:** Zone 15; NAD 83; Easting: 475,635; Northing: 4,706,622  

**Current Investigation:** The bridge (42-01618; Figures 26–28) connects to the property on the northeastern border of the APE. The length of the bridge is 33 m (108.3 ft) and the approximate width is 5 m (16.4 ft). It is a light-weight wooden bridge with wooden pole supports. This wood stringer bridge has a single span over the railroad tracks. The abutments are also constructed from wood. There are perpendicular braces conjoining the pole supports. Wooden guard rails run the length of the bridge on both sides. It is likely used for the transportation of farming equipment over the rail line running through the area. Aerial photography shows that it existed in 1939 (Figure 11), however the construction date is unknown. The bridge is well maintained, but it has possibly undergone many improvements/alterations since the 1930s.

**NRHP Eligibility:** This bridge has possibly undergone many improvements and alterations and it is of a typical design. BCA recommends that the bridge (42-01618) is not eligible for the NRHP.

**Recommendation:** BCA recommends no further work for the bridge (42-01618).

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

BCA has conducted a Phase I cultural resources inventory for the proposed Iowa Falls Development Corporation rail development area. This inventory was produced via pedestrian survey supplemented by soil coring (n = 5). The area examined consisted of low-lying wetlands and upland glacial deposits. Tile draining of the entire area produced an artificially dry environment. Prehistorically, the project area would have been largely wetlands with several island-like features. This environment would not have been desirable for human occupation or habitation, save for very small procurement sites around the perimeter of the wetlands and atop the upland landforms.

Archival research conducted prior to the investigation showed seven previously recorded sites within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the APE. None of these sites were within the project area. Plat maps, aerial photography, a GLO map, and a state atlas all showed that no cultural
resources were present in the survey area. Aerial photography shows the development of the farmstead throughout the twentieth century. There were three architectural properties located within the APE: J. A. Lesher Farmstead (42-01616), associated farmhouse (42-01617), and a bridge (42-01618) located at the northeast boundary of the APE. Associated with this farmstead are two machinery sheds, one hog building, 11 grain bins, one garage, one farmhouse, and one barn foundation. A barn once existed at this location on the south side of the southern driveway adjacent to 140th Street. The farmhouse (42-01617) has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding. The house sits on a stone foundation. The interior walls, per the County Assessor, are plaster and drywall. Two additions have been made to the house, the dates of which are unknown. The first addition occurs on the west side of the structure. The second addition has a one story frame. The upkeep and condition of this house is normal. The bridge is a light-weight wooden stringer bridge with wooden pole supports. It is a single span over the railroad tracks. The abutments are also constructed from wood. There are perpendicular braces conjoining the pole supports. Wooden guard rails run the length of the bridge on both sides. It is likely used for the transportation of farming equipment over the rail line running through the area. These properties were shown to have minimal historical significance, and therefore are recommended not eligible for the NRHP. BCA recommends no further cultural resources work for the proposed Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation rail development area or the architectural properties.

No technique of modern archeological research is adequate to identify all archeological sites or cultural deposits within a given area. In the event that any cultural materials not recorded by this investigation are discovered in the course of the proposed development activities, the Bureau of Historic Preservation at the State Historical Society of Iowa is to be contacted immediately. The developer is responsible for the protection of cultural resources from disturbance until a professional examination can be made or authorization to proceed is granted by the State Historic Preservation Office or a designated representative.
REFERENCES CITED

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Bettis, E. Arthur, III, and Dean M. Thompson  

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Morrow, Toby A.  


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15
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Northwest Publishing Company

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1974b  Official Site Form for 13HA241. On file, Site Records Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

1974c  Official Site Form for 13HA245. On file, Site Records Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

1974d  Official Site Form for 13HA239. On file, Site Records Office, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Van Nest, Julieann

Voy, Kermit D.
FIGURES
Figure 1. Physiographic location of the project area (adapted from Prior [1991:31]).
Figure 2. Topographic coverage of the project area.
Figure 3. Scale map of the project area.
Figure 4. Location of the project area in the Des Moines Lobe (adapted from Prior [1991:38]).
Figure 5. Diagram of potential landform components (adapted from Ruhe [1969]).
Figure 6. Soil map of the project area (NRCS 2006).
Figure 7. 1850 map of the project area (GLO).
Figure 8. 1875 map of the project area (Andreas).
Figure 9. 1892 map of the project area (Northwest Publishing Company).
Figure 10. 1903 map of the project area (Gardner Map and Atlas Company).
Figure 11. 1916 map of the project area (Midland Map Company).
Figure 12. 1939 aerial photograph of the project area.
Figure 13. 1958 aerial photograph of the project area.
Figure 14. 1994 aerial photograph of the project area.
Figure 15. Southern portion of the project area. View to the north (3/12/12).

Figure 16. Southern portion of the project area. View to the east (3/12/12).
Figure 17. Southern portion of the project area. View to the south (3/12/12).

Figure 18. Southern portion of the project area. View to the west (3/12/12).
Figure 19. Northern portion of the project area. View to the west (3/12/12).
Figure 20. Scale map of the J. A. Lesher Farmstead (42-01616).
Figure 21. Coverage of the J. A. Lesher Farmstead (42-01616). View to the northwest (3/12/12).

Figure 22. Coverage of the J. A. Lesher Farmstead (42-01616). View to the west (3/12/12).
Figure 23. Coverage of the J. A. Lesher Farmstead (42-01616). View to the west (3/12/12).
Figure 24. Coverage of the J. A. Lesher Farmhouse (42-01617). View to the north (3/12/12).

Figure 25. Coverage of the J. A. Lesher Farmhouse (42-01617). View to the west (3/12/12).
Figure 26. Scale map of the railroad bridge (42-01618).
Figure 27. Approach to the railroad bridge (42-01618). View to the west (3/13/12).

Figure 28. Profile of the railroad bridge (42-01618). View to the north (3/13/12).
APPENDIX A
National Archaeological Database Form
1. **R and C #:**

2. **Authors:** Heeren, Chris L., and Branden K. Scott

3. **Year of Publication:** 2012

4. **Title:** Intensive Phase I Archeological Survey of a Proposed Rail Development Area, Hardin Township, Hardin County, Iowa

5. **Unpublished**

6. **Federal Agency:** USDA

7. **State:** Iowa
   - County: Hardin
   - Town:

8. **Work Type:** 31

9. **Keyword:**
   - Types of Resources / Features
   - Generic terms / Research Questions
   - Taxonomic Names
   - Artifact Types / Material Classes
   - Geographic Names / Locations
   - Time Periods
   - Project Names / Study Unit
   - Other Key Words
   - Archiitectural properties
   - Wetland
   - Des Moines Lobe
   - Glacial landforms
   
   - 62.9 ha (155.4 ac)

10. **UTM Zone:**
    - 15 Easting: __________  Northing: __________
    - 15 Easting: __________  Northing: __________
    - 15 Easting: __________  Northing: __________
    - 15 Easting: __________  Northing: __________

11. **Township:** 89N
    - Range: 21W
Other Publication Types:
12. Monographs:
   Name: ____________________________________________________
   Place: ____________________________________________________

13. Chapter:  
   In: __________  First: __________  Last: __________

14. Journal:  
   Volume: ________  Issue: ________  First: __________  Last: __________

15. Dissertation:
   Degree: ________________  Ph.D.  LL.D.  M.A.  M.S.  B.A.  B.S.  Institute ________________

16. Paper:  
   Meeting: ____________________________________________________
   Place: ____________________________________________________  Date: __________

17. Other:
   Reference Line: ____________________________________________________

18. Site #:
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________
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   ____________________________________________________

19. Quad Map:  
   Name  Iowa Falls West, Iowa  Date  1979
   Buckeye East, Iowa  Date  1979
APPENDIX B
Iowa Site Inventory Forms
Site Inventory Form

State Inventory No. 42-01616

State Historical Society of Iowa

(November 2005)

1. Name of Property

historic name J. A. Lesher Farmstead

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 20403 140th Street
city or town Iowa Falls vicinity, county Hardin

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name Hardin Twp
Township No. 89N Range No. 21W Section 23 Quarter of Quarter NE SW
(If Urban) Subdivision __________ Block(s) ______ Lot(s) ______

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

[Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification

[Skip this Section]

5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>If Non-Eligible Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>Enter number of:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>buildings</td>
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<td>sites</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter “N/A” if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title Heeren and Scott 2012 (see continuation sheet) Historical Architectural Data Base Number 42-017

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

09B01 Farmstead

09B01 Farmstead

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09A06 Hipped Roof, 2 stories foundation 04 Stone

99 Mixed walls (visible material) 15B Vinyl

roof 08A Asphalt shingle

other

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark “x” representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

Yes ☒ No ☐ More Research Recommended A Property is associated with significant events.

Yes ☒ No ☐ More Research Recommended B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.

Yes ☒ No ☐ More Research Recommended C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.

Yes ☒ No ☐ More Research Recommended D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.
County: Hardin  
City: Iowa Falls  
Address: 20403 140th Street  
Site Number: 42-01616

Criteria Considerations

A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  
B Removed from its original location.  
C A birthplace or grave.  
D A cemetery  
E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.  
F A commemorative property.  
G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)


Significant Dates

Construction date: 1897  
(check if circa or estimated date)  
Other dates, including renovation: 1950

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Architect

Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography: See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
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<th>Northing</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Chris L. Heeren  
organization: Bear Creek Archaeology, Inc.  
date: 3/16/2012  
street & number: PO Box 347  
city or town: Cresco  
telephone: 563-547-4545  
state: IA  
zip code: 52136

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES
1. Map: showing the property’s location in a town/city or township.
2. Site plan: showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. Photographs: representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:

   Roll/slide sheet # _____  Frame/slot # _____  Date Taken _____
   Roll/slide sheet # _____  Frame/slot # _____  Date Taken _____
   Roll/slide sheet # _____  Frame/slot # _____  Date Taken _____

   See continuation sheet or attached photo & slide catalog sheet for list of photo roll or slide entries.  
   Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL
1. Farmstead & District: (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
2. Barn:
   a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
   b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
   c. A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn’s exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: □ Yes  □ No  □ More Research Recommended

□ This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: ____________________________________________

Evaluated by (name/title): __________________________________________________________________________ Date: ____________________________
The farmstead (42-01616) was given the name “J. A. Lesher Farmstead” due to the name of the first known owner identified on historic plat maps. Associated with this farmstead are two machinery sheds, one hog building, 11 grain bins, one garage, one farmhouse, and the foundation of a barn. Records held at the Hardin County Assessor’s office lack an exact date of demolition for the barn, however aerial photography shows it occurred sometime between 1958 and 1994. Two expansions occurred to the farmstead. A garage was constructed in 1950, and between 1958 and 1994 11 grain bins, one machine shed, and one hog building were constructed. Exact dates are unavailable for the second expansion from the Hardin County Assessor’s office.

According to the Hardin County Assessor’s records, the farmhouse (42-01617) was constructed in 1897. The house has a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding. The house sits on a stone foundation. At surface level, concrete blocks are used to help form the foundation. The interior walls are plaster and drywall. Two additions have been made to the house, the dates of which are unknown. The first addition occurs on the west side of the structure. It has a one and one-half story frame and is 29.7 m² (320 ft²). The second addition has a one story frame and totals 8 m² (9 ft²). The upkeep and condition of this house is normal. There are two machine sheds present. One stands west of the barn foundation and is 14.1 x 10.5 m (46.3 x 34.4 ft) with an area of 148 m² (1,593.1 ft²). The other is located north of the first and west of the garage. It is 28.7 x 14.9 m (94.2 x 48.9 ft) with an area of 427.6 m² (4,602.6 ft²). Both buildings have external walls covered by metal siding and have corrugated tin roofs. A hog building, comprised of two conjoined structures, is located west of the southern machine shed. The larger northern component measures 73.4 x 13 m (240.8 x 42.7 ft) with an area of 954.2 m² (10,270.1 ft²). The southern component measures 14.8 x 17.3 m (48.6 x 56.8 ft) with an area of 256 m² (2,755.6 ft²). It consists of a poured concrete foundation with a mixed architectural style. The barn foundation is located on the southern edge of the south driveway, is extremely weathered poured concrete, and can be divided into two sections. The southern portion of the foundation measures 45.3 x 17.6 m (148.6 x 57.7 ft) with an area of 797.3 m² (8,582.1 ft²). The northern portion of the foundation is smaller and measures 19.4 x 12.6 m (63.6 x 41.3 ft) with an area of 244.4 m² (2,630.7 ft²). One of these sections was possibly used as a paved livestock pen. A garage, built in 1950, stands across a driveway west of the farmhouse and measures 6.7 x 8.3 m (22 x 27.2 ft) with an area of 55.6 m² (598.5 ft²). It has a single gable roof with asphalt shingles, exterior walls covered in vinyl siding, a poured concrete foundation, and two stalls with a single door entry. There are 11 grain bins of varying size comprising two perpendicular rows. Their walls are corrugated tin with corrugated tin roofs, and they have poured concrete foundations.

The farmstead (42-01616) contains buildings that are typical of farmsteads in the area and many were likely constructed less than 50 years ago. The house (42-01617) has received additions and updates. Additionally, American Foursquare houses are common throughout Iowa. Due to the mundane nature of the farmstead and house, and because of additions to the house that do not match its original design, the farmstead (42-01616) and the house (42-01617) were not recommended eligible for the NRHP.

Topographic coverage of the farmstead.
J. A. Lesher Farmstead
Name of Property
20403 140th Street
Address

Hardin
County
Iowa Falls
City

Scale map of the farmstead.
Coverage of the farmstead. View to the northwest (3/12/12).

Coverage of the farmstead. View to the west (3/12/12).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Number</th>
<th>42-01616</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related District Number</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>J. A. Lesher Farmstead</th>
<th>Hardin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Property</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20403 140th Street</td>
<td>Iowa Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coverage of the farmstead. View to the west (3/12/12).

Coverage of the farmhouse (42-01617). View to the north (3/12/12).
1. Name of Property

historic name  J. A. Lesher Farmhouse

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  20403 140th Street

city or town  Iowa Falls  county  Hardin

Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name Township No. Range No. Section

Hardin Twp 89N 21W 23 NE

(If Urban) Subdivision Block(s) Lot(s)

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)  Number of Resources within Property

- building(s)  If Non-Eligible Property
  Enter number of:  If Eligible Property, enter number of:
    '  buildings
    |  |  buildings

- site
    |  |  sites
    |  |  sites

- structure
    |  |  structures
    |  |  structures

- object
    |  |  objects
    |  |  objects

- Total
    |  |  Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter “N/A” if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title  Heeren and Scott 2012 (see continuation sheet) 42-017

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

01A01 Residence  01A01 Residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09A06 Hipped Roof, 2 stories  foundation  04 Stone

mal (visible material)  15B Vinyl

roof  08A Asphalt shingles

other

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark “x” representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

- Yes  No  More Research Recommended  A Property is associated with significant events.

- Yes  No  More Research Recommended  B Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.

- Yes  No  More Research Recommended  C Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.

- Yes  No  More Research Recommended  D Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.
Criteria Considerations

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B Removed from its original location.
- C A birthplace or grave.
- D A cemetery
- E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F A commemorative property.
- G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- __________

Significant Dates

- Construction date: 1897
- check if circa or estimated date: ❋ check
- Other dates, including renovation: __________

Significant Person

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

- __________

Architect/Builder

- __________

Architect
- Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (✛ SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography ✛ See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data

UTM References (OPTIONAL)

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<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
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<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✛ See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Chris L. Heeren
organization Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.
street & number PO Box 347
city or town Cresco
city or town IA
date 3/16/2012
telephone 563-547-4545
zip code 52136

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

FOR ALL PROPERTIES
1. Map: showing the property’s location in a town/city or township.
2. Site plan: showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. Photographs: representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:
   - Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
   - Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____
   - Roll/slide sheet # _____ Frame/slot # _____ Date Taken _____

✛ See continuation sheet or attached photo & slide catalog sheet for list of photo roll or slide entries.

Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL
1. Farmstead & District: (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
2. Barn:
   a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
   b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
   c. A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn’s exterior dimensions in feet.

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:  ✔ Yes ❇ No ❇ More Research Recommended

This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: __________

Evaluated by (name/title): __________   Date: __________
According to the Hardin County Assessor’s records, the farmhouse was constructed in 1897. This two-story American Foursquare house has a hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are covered with vinyl siding. The house sits on a stone foundation. Concrete blocks were added to the top portion of the stone foundation above the ground surface. The interior walls are plaster and drywall. Two additions have been made to the house, the dates of which are unknown. The first addition occurs on the west side of the structure. It has a one-and-one-half story frame and is 29.7 m² (320 ft²). The second addition has a one-story frame and totals .8 m² (9 ft²). These additions are readily apparent when looking at the house exterior and they detract from the original house design. The upkeep and condition of this house is normal. This house has undergone additions that detract from the original structural plans. Additionally, American Foursquare homes are common across the Iowa landscape. This house was recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. No further work was recommended for the property.

Heeren, Chris L., and Branden K. Scott

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Property</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. A. Lesher Farmhouse</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20403 140th Street</td>
<td>Iowa Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Topographic coverage of the farmstead and farmhouse.
J. A. Lesher Farmhouse
Name of Property: Hardin
Address: 20403 140th Street

Scale map of the farmstead showing location of the farmhouse.
J. A. Lesher Farmhouse
Name of Property: Hardin
Address: 20403 140th Street
County: Iowa Falls
City:

Coverage of the farmhouse. View to the north (3/12/12).

Coverage of the farmhouse. View to the west (3/12/12).
**Site Inventory Form**  
State Inventory No. 42-01618  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
(November 2005)

### 1. Name of Property
- **historic name**: Bridge over the Illinois Central Gulf Rail Line
- **other names/site number**: 

### 2. Location
- **street & number**: 20403 140th Street
- **city or town**: Iowa Falls
- **vicinity, county**: Hardin

#### Legal Description:
- **(If Rural)**
  - **Township Name**: Hardin Twp
  - **Township No.**: 89N
  - **Range No.**: 21W
  - **Section**: 23
  - **Quarter of Quarter**: NW NW
- **(If Urban)**
  - **Subdivision**: 
  - **Block(s)**: 
  - **Lot(s)**: 

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

### 4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

### 5. Classification

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<td>If Eligible Property, enter number of:</td>
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<td>Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Noncontributing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>--- structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>--- objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>--- Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6. Function or Use

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<th>Current Functions</th>
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</table>

### 7. Description

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<th>Materials</th>
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<td>09E17 Timber stringer</td>
<td>foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls (visible material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Narrative Description** (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

### 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)
- Yes  ☒  No  ☐  More Research Recommended  A. Property is associated with significant events.
- Yes  ☒  No  ☐  More Research Recommended  B. Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
- Yes  ☒  No  ☐  More Research Recommended  C. Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
- Yes  ☒  No  ☐  More Research Recommended  D. Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.
Criteria Considerations
☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
☐ B Removed from its original location.
☐ C A birthplace or grave.
☐ D A cemetery
☐ E A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
☐ F A commemorative property.
☐ G Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Significant Dates
Construction date
1939 ☑ check if circa or estimated date
Other dates, including renovation

Significant Person
(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder
Architect
Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance ( ☑ SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

9. Major Bibliographical References
Bibliography ☐ See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

10. Geographic Data
UTM References (OPTIONAL)
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 2 ☐ ☐ ☐ 4 ☐ ☐ ☐

☑ See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

11. Form Prepared By
name/title Chris L. Heeren
goalization Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.
street & number PO Box 347
city or town Cresco state IA
telephone 563-547-4545

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)

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☑ See continuation sheet or attached photo & slide catalog sheet for list of photo roll or slide entries.
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State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line
Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ More Research Recommended
☒ This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Evaluated by (name/title): ____________________________ Date: ____________________________
The bridge (42-01618) is located in NW¼, NW¼, Section 23, T89N, R21W, Hardin County, Iowa. The length of the bridge is 33 m (108.3 ft) and has an approximate width of 5 m (16.4 ft). It is a lightweight wooden bridge with wooden pole supports. This wood stringer bridge has a single span over the railroad tracks. The abutments are also constructed from wood. There are perpendicular braces conjoining the pole supports. Wooden guardrails run the length of the bridge on both sides. It is possibly used for the transportation of farming equipment over the rail line running through the area. Aerial photography shows that it existed in 1939; however, the construction date is unknown. The bridge is well maintained, but it has possibly undergone many improvements/alterations since the 1930s.

This bridge has possibly undergone many improvements and alterations and is of a typical design. Therefore, the bridge (42-01618) was recommended not eligible for the NRHP.

Heeren, Chris L., and Branden K. Scott
Bridge over the Illinois Central Gulf Rail Line
Name of Property: Railroad Bridge (42-01618)
Address: 20403 140th Street
County: Hardin
City: Iowa Falls

Topographic coverage of the railroad bridge.
Scale map of the railroad bridge.
Approach to the railroad bridge. View to the west (3/13/12).

Profile of the railroad bridge. View to the north (3/13/12).
APPENDIX C
Historic Architectural Database Form
Historical Architectural Data Base
Data Entry Form for Studies and Reports

(1/28/97)  Doc. No.: 42-017

File Location:  ■ Report Series (County)  ■ Report Series (Multi-County)
                ■ Site Inventory files with Site Inventory #: 42-01616–42-01618

Source of Study:  ■ Certified Local Government Project  ■ Section 106 Review & Compliance Project
                  ■ Historical Resource Development Program Project  ■ Other

Project Reference #: BCA 1871

Authors/Editor/Compiler/Originator:
Heeren, Chris L. and Branden K. Scott

Author Role:  ■ Consultant  ■ Private Researcher/Writer  ■ Teacher  ■ Student
              ■ Project employee/volunteer  ■ Site Administrator  ■ Other: _____

Title of Work:
Intensive Phase I Archeological Survey of a Proposed Rail Development Area, Hardin Township, Hardin County, Iowa

Year Issued:  2012

Type of Work Performed:
(check one only)
Survey:
■ Windshield survey minimum level documentation
■ Reconnaissance survey to make recommendations for intensive survey(s).
■ Intensive survey
■ Mixed intensive and reconnaissance survey

Plan:
■ Planning for Preservation/Survey
■ Community Preservation Plan

Property Study:
■ Iowa Historic Property Documentation Study
■ Historic American Building Survey (HABS)
■ Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)
■ Management or Master Plan
■ Historic Structure Report
■ Feasibility/Re-use Study
■ Architectural/Engineering Plans and Specs.

National Register:
■ Multiple Property Documentation Form

Other (e.g., private research, school project, video):
Kind of Work Produced:
(fill in one section only: Report or Monograph or Chapter, etc.)

Report: Published/produced by: Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.
Place issued: Cresco, Iowa
Client: Iowa Falls Area Development Corporation

If applicable, include:
Series Title: ______
Volume #: Report #: BCA 1871

Monograph: Publisher Name:
Place:

Chapter: In: First pg.: Last pg.:

Journal: Name: Vol. No. Pages: to

Thesis: Degree (check one): ☐ Ph.D. ☐ L.L.D. ☐ M.A. ☐ M.S. ☐ B.A. ☐ B.S.
Name of College/University:

Paper: Meeting:
Place: ______

Other:

Geographic Scope of Study:
☐ City/town ☐ Township(s) ☐ County ☐ Region of Iowa ☐ Statewide ☒ Other: ______
State: IA ______ ______ ______
County: Hardin ______ ______ ______
Town: ______ ______ ______ ______
Township: 89N ______ ______ ______
Range: 21W ______ ______ ______

Time Focus: (check any decades that receive particular attention)
☐ before 1830 ☐ 1830s ☐ 1840s ☐ 1850s ☐ 1860s ☐ 1870s ☐ 1880s ☐ 1890s
☐ 1900s ☐ 1910s ☐ 1920s ☐ 1930s ☐ 1940s ☐ 1950s ☐ 1960s ☐ 1970s ☐ 1980/later

Keyword: (Index of any subjects, topics, or people given prominent attention in the report)
Farmstead ______
House ______
Bridge ______