

Attachment 20

Location: Marion County, Oregon

Portions of: T7S,R1W, East ½ Section 36

T7S,R1E, SW ¼, SW ¼, Section 31

T8S,R1W, NE ¼, NE ¼, Section 1

T8S, R1E, West ½ , Section 6

Stayton NE and Drake Crossing Quadrangles, USGS 7.5' Series

Stayton and Lyons Quadrangles, USGS 15' Series

Size: Project: approximately 240 acres

Survey: approximately 240 acres

Type of Project: Proposed irrigation reservoir

**Title: CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE PROPOSED DRIFT
CREEK RESERVOIR, MARION COUNTY, OREGON**

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Date: December 11, 2006

Location of Field Notes: In possession of author, Portland, Oregon

The proposed Drift Creek Reservoir, a project of the East Valley Water District, lies to the east of Victor Point Road in Marion County, Oregon. The flood pool for the proposed reservoir is about 240 acres in size and includes portions of:

T7S,R1W, East ½ Section 36
T7S,R1E, SW ¼, SW ¼, Section 31
T8S,R1W, NE ¼, NE ¼, Section 1
T8S, R1E, West ½ , Section 6

The area is mapped on the Stayton NE and Drake Crossing Quadrangles, 7.5' Series, USGS topographic maps. On Monday, April 4, 2005 I examined the archaeological site files at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office in Salem. The archaeological data in this office are mapped on the Stayton and Lyons Quadrangles, 15' Series, USGS topographic maps.

No archaeological sites are shown in the project area on the Stayton Quadrangle (15' series) dated 1957. There are several sites at somewhat lower elevations along Mill Creek, Beaver Creek and the North Santiam River near the towns of Stayton and Aumsville. No archaeological surveys are shown within the project area. One archaeological survey project, done along a power transmission line, ran northwest to southeast across the Stayton Quadrangle (15' series) about three miles southwest of the proposed reservoir location. A review of the report for this survey indicated that only a single cryptocrystalline silicate core reduction flake was found during surface and limited shovel testing and that no historical archaeological materials were observed even though the power line route traversed a number of early Donation Land Claims (Wilts and Roulette 2001).

No archaeological sites are shown in the project area on the Lyons Quadrangle (15' series). There is a note on this map in the SHPO files about unconfirmed reports of

artifacts having been found all along Silver Creek to the north and east of the project area. The map also shows the Union Hill Cemetery about ½ mile south of the project area and the Union Hill Grange a bit farther south. The Lyons Quadrangle (15' series) is dated 1951 and shows a dirt road ending at a building on the east bank of Drift Creek near the upper end of the proposed reservoir (T8SR1E, Section 6). This road is shown on the map as crossing Drift Creek at a ford, then heading west to Victor Point Road. The newer Stayton NE quadrangle 7.5' series (date uncertain) does not show this road, but instead connects the area of the building (not shown on the newer map) to Fox Road with a dirt road running generally north-south along the eastern edge of the Drift Creek floodplain. This same dirt road runs near three buildings shown on both the 1951 and the newer topographic map in T7SR1E Section 31 and T7SR1W Section 36. This is the early 20th Century farmstead discussed in more detail later in this report.

The first General Land Office cadastral survey maps for this area were done between 1851 and 1854. They show the following cultural features:

T7SR1E (1854) In the SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 31 the map shows three buildings and a small area of cultivated land to the southeast of the mouth of a tributary of Drift Creek. The area of this farmstead would be near the east edge of the flood pool of the proposed reservoir. No land owner is indicated on the map. The land to the northeast of this farmstead is labeled as "high rolling prairie soil 2nd rate." The Lewis and Hubbard farmsteads are about 1 mile to the northeast. The buildings shown on this 1854 map are not the same as the buildings shown on the modern topographic map. They are about 0.3 miles apart. No evidence of these early buildings was found during my pedestrian, ground surface survey.

T7SR1W (1851 & 1852) The Culver dwelling and farmstead with cultivated land is shown north and west of where the Victor Point School is now located. It lies along a road going north-south crossing Drift Creek northwest of the modern Victor Point Road bridge.

T8SR1E (1854) This map shows the same three buildings and cultivated land shown on the T7SR1E map described above. No other cultural information is shown in or near the project area.

T8SR1W (1851-1852) No cultural information is shown in or near the project area.

Comparison of these early maps with modern topographic maps indicates that Drift Creek and its smaller tributary streams have meandered and altered their floodplains over the past century-and-a-half, possibly burying and/or destroying archaeological sites by deposition and erosion.

Examination of the Marion County Cultural Resources Inventory at the Marion County Planning Department yielded no new information about known historic or prehistoric resources in or near the project area. This inventory was developed in 1982 and apparently has not been updated since then. The Inventory is part of the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan as required by the state of Oregon under LCDC Goal 5.

Examination of records and documents in the Marion County Historical Society collection provided a few additional bits of information. Portions of the project area are encompassed in three Donation Land Claims:

L. Thomas DLC 58 Section 36, T7SR1W
H. Jones DLC 40 Section 36, T7SR1W
L. Thomas DLC 53 Section 6, T8SR1E
James Cooper DLC 52 Section 6, T8SR1E

There is no evidence that the land claim dwellings or farm buildings for these claims actually lay within the project area.

Also, at the Marion County Historical Society, I examined the Illustrated Historical Atlas for Marion and Linn Counties, published by Edgar Williams & Co. in 1878. Map #5 in this atlas showed neither buildings nor roads in the Drift Creek bottomlands. Main roads on the map ran in much the same places they remain today and houses tended to be located along the roads.

Charles F. Metsker's Marion County Atlas dated 1929 at the Marion County Historical Society indicated that a house existed on the property of H. and Bertha Jaquet. This appears to be the same house that still stands on the Jaquet property along Drift Creek. Conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Roger Mucken, the tenants occupying this house, revealed that the adjacent barn is marked as built in 1916 and the house appears to be of roughly similar age. According to Mr. and Mrs. Mucken, old newspapers from the 1920s recently were found in the house when carpeting was being replaced. This house is a good example of an early 20th Century Northwest Vernacular farmhouse with some late Victorian style ornamental trim. Together with the old barn, and the agricultural landscape of the Drift Creek valley, this is a fine early 20th Century western Oregon farmstead ensemble. Exterior photographs of the house, barn and surrounding landscape are included with this report.

The data examined in this existing data review indicate that there are no previously known prehistoric archaeological sites within or near the project area, though sites are known in region and some of these sites occur along streams, near stream confluences, in stream floodplains, and at the edge of stream floodplains. The probability of sites existing in the project area was high enough to warrant a careful pedestrian, ground surface archaeological survey with some sub-surface probes before commencement of any ground-disturbing activity associated with reservoir construction. In addition, the area is known to have been settled by Euro-American farmers by the early 1850s and at least one early farmstead was located within or quite near the project area. The pedestrian field survey also was carried out in an attempt to locate remains of this and

any other historical activities in the project area. The methodological description and results of this survey are discussed below.

Beginning May 13, 2006 I carried out a ground surface, pedestrian cultural resources survey of the project area for the proposed Drift Creek irrigation reservoir. The flood pool for the proposed reservoir is marked on the attached map. The area within this boundary was examined in a systematic fashion, mainly a series of parallel transects at roughly 30 meter intervals. In addition, fortuitous ground surface exposures, such as stream cut-banks, roads and agriculturally-related excavations were examined.

Vegetation ground cover varied significantly and is noted in the following narrative and on the attached map. Significant cultural material items, found during the survey, are noted on the attached map with numbers keyed to the narrative text in the next several pages of this report. A number of small, hand-dug shovel holes were excavated to examine soil profiles in areas with no pre-existing soil profiles exposed (eg. Stream cut-banks). These are discussed in the following narrative and are labeled on the attached map by capital letters.

In a few areas, the ground surface was well-exposed, in others the soil was covered by agricultural grasses about 12-18 inches in height at the time of the survey. Stream edges tended to be obscured by thick underbrush and gallery forest. Several areas are planted in Christmas trees. It was relatively easy to walk these areas, but the ground surface was often obscured by a thick layer of conifer needle mulch. Much of the northern portion of the project area is cattle grazing land. The grass covering the ground here is thicker and interspersed with thickets of briars and dense underbrush.

I began the survey in the agricultural grass fields stretching northwest to southeast on the east side of Drift Creek in the middle of the project area. Beginning at the early 20th Century farmstead on the Jaquet property, I walked a series of east-west transects spaced about 30 meters apart. These are shown on the attached map. In addition, I carefully examined the dirt fire lane surrounding these fields since this offered some of the best open ground exposure available. The banks of Drift Creek were examined wherever I could gain access. The stream is fairly deeply incised into its floodplain and the steep creek banks offer good exposures of the deep sediments which make up the floodplain. However, these banks are densely vegetated and easily accessible only in a limited number of places along the course of the stream.

Shovel Test A was dug near the confluence of Drift Creek and an irrigation ditch. The soil was a sandy loam to a depth of about 50 cm. No cultural material was found.

Scattered fragments of white ironstone, blue transfer print ironstone, stoneware, white glass canning jar lids, bottle glass, and iron were observed in the field and fire lane to the north and northwest of the farmstead. Several fragments of cryptocrystalline silicate (CCS) were also found, though none exhibited clear signs of human modification.

In the field to the southwest of the farmstead I found a CCS retouched flake (map #1), several possible basalt chips (map #2), and a quartzite flake (map #3). Shovel Test B was excavated near the fire lane at the edge of a cultivated field. The soil was a sandy loam to a depth of about 50 cm and no cultural material was observed. Further south along the fire lane I found a possible core fragment in a coarse-grained CCS material (map #4) and another large CCS flake with possible retouch flaking (Map #5). Occasional projectile points have been found in the fields to the south and west of the farmstead by the current

tenant, Mr. Roger Mucken. Shovel Test C and D were excavated in the cultivated fields on either side of a small tributary of Drift Creek. Test C was excavated to a depth of about 40 cm near the fire lane and its soil was sandy loam. No cultural material was found. Test D was dug near the dirt road that runs along the eastern edge of the Drift Creek floodplain. It was dug to a depth of 30 cm and contained some rock as well as sandy loam. The rock may originate in the small tributary stream or, perhaps from grading the dirt road. No cultural material was found. In the grass fields further south from the farmstead, I found a single tiny CCS flake (Map #6), two possible basalt flakes (Map #7), and a couple of apparently un-worked CCS chunks and fragments. Shovel Test E was dug near the south end of the cultivated field, not far from the beginning of the Christmas tree farm. It was dug to a depth of about 50 cm and contained sandy loam and no cultural material.

The south end of the project area beyond the grass fields is occupied by a Christmas tree farm. I walked north-south transects between the rows of trees which are laid out on a cardinal direction grid. Scattered fragments of white ironstone, porcelain and brick were found among the trees. Mr. Mucken reported finding occasional small, triangular projectile points near the creek among the Christmas trees. I observed no stone tools or debitage in this area.

The extreme south end of the project area is a low, marshy area heavily vegetated with reed canary grass, cattails, blackberries, scotch broom, briars and similar scrub and wetland vegetation. No cultural materials could be seen in this area.

On May 14, 2006 I returned to the project area, walked along the perimeter fire lane to the south end, and crossed to the west side of Drift Creek via a shallow ford. I began

surveying in a Christmas tree farm with a heavy conifer needle mulch groundcover. I walked east-west transects between the tree rows which are laid out in a cardinal direction grid and also examined the bare ground in the perimeter fire lane and in fortuitous places where the mulch had been shifted aside. There are seeps near the base of the hillside along the south end of the project area. Ground cover in these areas tends to be lush, but I examined the surrounding area as best I could since such water sources often were valuable resources for animals and, hence for indigenous people. No cultural materials were found around any of the seeps observed. Since my survey was in May it is possible that these are merely seasonal seeps and were not seen as particularly attractive water resources. Three CCS flakes (Map # 8) were found scattered in these Christmas tree fields, plus one fine-grained basalt flake (Map #9) and one possible end-battered cobble (Map #10). This was the only possible ground stone tool found during the survey. Mr. Mucken told me he had never found any ground stone artifacts, such as hammerstones, pestles, stone bowls, etc. in the project area, though such tools are commonly found on Native American archaeological sites throughout the Willamette Valley (Aikens 1993:203-204). Shovel Test F was excavated to a depth of 40 cm near the fire lane along Drift Creek, near the middle of the Christmas tree farm. The soil was a sandy loam and no cultural material was found. Shovel Test G was excavated near the north end of the Christmas tree farm adjacent to the fire lane next to a sharp bend in Drift Creek. The hole was dug to a depth of about 50 cm, the soil was a sandy loam and no cultural material was found. At the west edge of this Christmas tree farm, just before the slope begins rising above the floodplain, there are a couple of fields in tall grass and

underbrush. Ground exposure in these areas was minimal. Nevertheless, they were walked in the same pattern of east-west parallel transects.

About halfway between the northern and southern ends of the project area on the west side of Drift Creek, there is a copse of woodland separating Christmas tree farm plots. Some of the trees in this copse are fairly old (though not technically “old growth.”). Douglas Firs up to four feet in diameter, Western Red Cedar and both Vine and Big Leaf Maple with a dense underbrush obscures most of the ground surface. A narrow footpath connects the open fields to the north and south of this wooded copse. I followed this path then walked a series of rough east-west transects through the wooded area, though I had to deviate from a straight line on numerous occasions because of trees and heavy underbrush.

In the Christmas tree plot north of the wooded copse, I again walked a series of east-west transects between the rows of trees. No definite cultural material was found in this area; however, I did observe a number of fragments and nodules of CCS. While there was no evidence any of these had been worked or modified by humans, they are one of the main raw materials from which stone tools in this region were knapped.

Proceeding northward beyond the last Christmas tree plot, Drift Creek presses close to the base of the hillside and the vegetation in the floodplain becomes dense. Reed canary grass, briars and related wetland and seasonal wetland vegetation make ground surface observation impossible except in fortuitous spots. The dirt road skirting the edge of the floodplain moves upslope at this point and winds away from the creek and out of the project area. At this point I reversed course and headed southward staying as close to the

creek as I could and checking creek bank ground exposures where possible. My course is shown on the attached map. No additional cultural materials were observed.

I returned to the project area August 1, 2006 and surveyed the northern portion of the project area, including the proposed dam site. Most of this area is heavily vegetated and used for cattle pasturage. I walked parallel transects about 30 meters apart traveling roughly north-northwest to south-southeast and back again. Clumps of the densest vegetation and marshy perennial wetland areas were bypassed. Fortuitous ground surface exposures such as rodent burrow spoil piles, erosional surfaces and accessible stream banks were examined. Shovel Tests H and I were excavated to a depth of about 40 cm in the pastureland at the north end of the project area. Shovel Test H was dug not far from the confluence of Drift Creek and an irrigation ditch. The ground cover was heavy grass, making digging hard. The soil beneath the sod was sandy loam with considerable clay. Shovel Test I was dug near Drift Creek not far from the site of the proposed dam. The soil was sandy to clay loam. No cultural material was found in either shovel test. Only two CCS flakes (Map #11) were found in this area. Mr. Mucken told me that he had never found projectile points in this northern portion of the project area.

Conversations with Mr. Roger Mucken, the tenant in the early 20th Century farmstead near the center of the project area and examination of a dozen or so projectile points and point fragments that he has collected in the area provide some interesting data to supplement the ground surface survey. There is a fairly steep hill about 0.2 miles east south east of the farmstead. The top of this hill rises to an elevation of a little over 830 feet ASL. The base of the hill protrudes a bit into the Drift Creek floodplain and is cut by the perimeter fire lane and farm road running along the east edge of the floodplain.

According to Mr. Mucken, most of the points and point fragments he has found have been on the slope of this hillside from about the 800 foot elevation down into the Drift Creek floodplain. This is clearly a case of colluvial soil movement which has carried sediment and artifacts downslope and out onto the floodplain. Many of the point fragments Mr. Mucken showed me from this hillside are made of dacite, a fine-grained, semi-vitreous volcanic material often used for making stone tools in the Willamette Valley and elsewhere. Dacite sources are known in the Cascades and perhaps even in the Cascade foothills only a few miles east of the project area. The point fragments made of dacite are from large lanceolate projectile points characteristic of the Early and Middle Archaic in the Willamette Valley. These temporal/cultural phases are roughly dated from as early as 9700 to 2000 years before the present (Aikens 1993: 3). Some of the points in Mr. Mucken's collection are clearly the type commonly called "Cascade" points. Others are only basal fragments, making typology more difficult, but could possibly belong to a point type called "Windust." Some others appear to be a type called "Northern Side-Notched" (Aikens 1993: 191-193).

Examination of these point fragments suggests the presence of an archaeological site on the hillside (and hilltop?). The location and type of cultural remains found suggest a hunting lookout. The number of point base fragments and the dearth of whole points suggest that early day hunters may have occupied the site and repaired broken spear tips while watching the floodplain for game animals. Mr. Mucken told me that there are currently deer in the area as well as a herd of perhaps seventy-five elk. Their ancestors may have lived in this area and been hunted by indigenous people for thousands of years.

Projectile points from the Late Archaic period, beginning around 2000 years ago (Aikens 1993:192), are found occasionally in the floodplain. These may also stem from hunting activity dating right on up to historic times.

Camas is present in the floodplain still today and must have been much more abundant prior to the advent of Euro-American agriculture. While camas and other plant foods were certainly staples in the subsistence of indigenous peoples in the Willamette Valley, no artifactual evidence was found in this survey to confirm this as a camas gathering or processing area (Aikens 1993:205-06). No evidence of grinding stones or camas ovens was found. Neither was any evidence found for the presence of campsites or resource processing in the area.

As a result of background research, a pedestrian, ground-surface field survey and examination of artifacts privately collected in the area, my findings and recommendations are as follows:

- Fragments of worked lithic material occur in a scattered and sparse distribution throughout much of the project area. While these represent the presence of indigenous peoples in the area, probably over several thousand years, the lack of concentration and patterning in their distribution suggests that no archaeological site of significance remains in the Drift Creek floodplain within the project area. No further archaeological work is recommended relative to the Drift Creek floodplain itself.
- Fragments of historical artifacts such as ceramics, glass and metal indicate a human presence in the area by the early 20th century. The farmstead consisting of house and barn dating from about 1916 support this finding. Earlier historic

period occupation and use of this portion of the Drift Creek valley are indicated by the presence of a farmstead on the 1854 cadastral survey map. However, no trace of this farmstead could be found in the field and it is likely to have been destroyed by subsequent road-building and agricultural activity. No further archaeological work is recommended relative to the 19th century mapped site noted above. The ca. 1916 farmstead is not listed on the Marion County Inventory of Cultural Resources. As noted above, it is a fine example of a type of resource that is becoming more and more scarce as development spreads and time passes. While not necessarily a legal requirement, my recommendation is that opportunity be afforded the Marion County Historical Society or some similar local museum or historical group to photo-document the house and barn inside and out, to collect oral history information if persons associated with the farmstead in its earlier years are still alive and available, and to discuss with the property owners donation of any artifacts or items from the house or barn deemed relevant to the documentation and interpretation of this farmstead in a local museum context.

- An archaeological site of likely significance may exist on the hilltop and hillslope just to the east of the middle portion of the project area. The toe of this slope, made of loosely consolidated colluvium and cut by a fire lane and farm road, protrudes slightly onto the Drift Creek floodplain and into the eastern edge of the project area. The site itself, if still intact, is likely to be further upslope, outside the flood-pool area. An Early to Middle Archaic archaeological site in the Willamette Valley is likely to be a significant cultural resource, meeting eligibility

requirements for the National Register of Historic Places. I recommend test excavations be carried out at various points from the edge of the floodplain upslope toward the top of the hill to try and determine the presence of an archaeological site, the boundaries of any such site, and the likely timeframe for such a site based on artifact typology, soil geomorphology, and if possible, radiometric dating. Test excavations should also try and determine the degree to which any such site has been disturbed or damaged by modern agricultural activity and/or natural colluvial soil movement. An archaeological excavation permit from the Oregon State Office of Historic Preservation will be necessary. A formal scope of work and research design will be needed as part of the application by a professional contract archaeologist for an Oregon SHPO archaeological excavation permit.

- I recommend that construction plans for the proposed reservoir be developed in such a way as to provide maximum protection for the area at the toe of this hill and for the hillside itself. This might include flagging to keep heavy equipment away from the area, gravel berming to cover the toe of the slope, or reduction of the floodpool level to remain below the elevation of the toe of the slope. These recommendations for protecting the toe of the hill and the hillside will need to be re-evaluated and may need to be modified based on results of the test excavations recommended above.

Consideration was also given to possible project impacts to cultural resources beyond the flood pool itself. The Victor Point School is listed on the National Register of

Historic Places and the Union Hills Cemetery, and the Union Grange Hall lie fairly close to the project area. There are additional cultural resources such as farmhouses and barns at least 50 years in age outside the flood pool, but in the general area. These were observed in a windshield survey and considered with regard to potential indirect impacts caused by the proposed Drift Creek Reservoir project. Such evaluation of indirect impacts is necessarily tentative since it includes such possible issues as increased traffic, increased irrigation of farmland, logging and clearing of new farmland, increased residential population, change in erosion and deposition patterns from altered stream flow, deterioration of view-sheds, and alteration of historical landscapes. None of these could be evaluated in a thorough way since data are lacking at this point on these kinds of impact factors for this project.

It is my understanding that the proposed reservoir is intended solely for impounding irrigation water, not for recreation uses. Therefore, no significant increase in traffic or development is forecast as a result of the proposed project. Further, I understand that the farmlands to benefit from this proposed irrigation reservoir, are located some miles north of the reservoir site. Therefore, no change in land use is envisioned in the farm and timber lands surrounding the project area as a result of the proposed reservoir. Patterns of stream flow, erosion and deposition will necessarily change as a result of reservoir construction and operation, but there is likely to be no impact on cultural resources from these changes. The view-shed and historical landscape will be altered by the proposed reservoir. A reservoir looks different than a stream bottomland. There is no getting around this fact. While a sizeable lake is not in keeping with the historical landscape in this part of the Willamette Valley foothills, the existing landscape is neither “pristine” in

the sense of being unchanged by human beings nor unchanged since the early days of Euro-American settlement. Neither is it a rare or unique landscape. There are numerous stream bottomlands forming rural landscapes of both beauty and historicity along the eastern foothills of the Willamette Valley. However, while other such landscapes may exist and may not be scarce, they all are threatened by continual rural and urban development and the public value of a good example of such a landscape must not be underestimated.

Sources Cited

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1854a T7SR1E microfiche. Bureau of Land Management, Portland, Oregon

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Illustrated Historical Atlas of Marion and Linn Counties, Oregon.

1878 Edgar Williams & Co., San Francisco.

Marion County Comprehensive Plan – Cultural Resources Inventory

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U. S. Geological Survey

1951 Lyons, Oregon Quadrangle, 15' series

1957 Stayton, Oregon quadrangle, 15' series

? Stayton NE Quadrangle, 7.5' series

? Drake Crossing Quadrangle, 7.5' series

Wilts, Julia J. and Bill R. Roulette

2001 Results of a Cultural Resources Survey of the Bonneville Power Administration's Santiam-Bethel Tap Transmission Line Project, Marion County, Oregon. Applied Archaeological Research Report #181. Portland. Oregon SHPO file report #17793

PHOTO LOG

1. Early 20th Century Farmhouse, view east
2. Early 20th Century Farmhouse, view southeast
3. Early 20th Century Farmhouse, view south
4. Early 20th Century Farmhouse, view southwest
5. 1916 barn, view east
6. View southeast from early 20th Century Farmhouse. Irrigation ditch along treeline in middle distance. Toe of hillside visible at edge of floodplain just to right of barn.
7. View northwest from toe of hillside toward early 20th Century Farmstead
8. View of Drift Creek floodplain from fire lane at east edge of flood-pool. View Southwest
9. View of Drift Creek floodplain from fire lane at east edge of flood-pool. View south southeast
10. View from Drift Creek floodplain to north northwest
11. View from small bridge over tributary of Drift Creek toward northwest
12. View from Drift Creek floodplain south toward Christmas tree farm visible in middle distance. Fairly good ground exposure
13. View south from fire lane adjacent to Christmas tree farm. Drift Creek to left. Dense underbrush .
14. Christmas tree farm, view to southwest. Heavy mulch on ground under trees.
15. View from roadway along west edge of project area looking east toward 20th Century Farmstead. Heavy underbrush in foreground and cultivated fields in middle ground.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14



Photo 15