

# The Grapevine

## Newsletter

March 15, 1993

FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Vol 3:3

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### FEDERAL NEWS

#### Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

By now most of us are aware of the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which sets forth the rights of Indian tribes with respect to human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony with which they can demonstrate lineal descent or cultural affiliation. For those interested in obtaining a copy of NAGPRA and/or to be placed on the mailing list for a copy of proposed regulations when they appear in the *Federal Register*, contact:

Tim McKeown, NAGPRA Program Leader  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Archeological Assistance Division  
PO Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127  
■ 202-343-1142

#### NCSHPO Terminates Programmatic Agreement with the Soil Conservation Service

The Board of Directors of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) has voted to terminate their Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). Due to persisting difficulties with the PA and the lack of progress on the part of the SCS to correct this situation, the Board passed a resolution calling for the end to the existing agreement.

The SCS and individual states were given 30 days after the November 1992 meeting to provide comments on the termination. With the discontinuation of the PA, the SCS is now required to undertake compliance with Section 106 on a case-by-case basis. The NCSHPO is open to the

development of a new PA. In the meantime, states are able to make state-specific PAs with local SCS offices that cooperated to streamline the compliance process at the state level.

### STATE NEWS

#### Alabama

There are nine new additions to the Alabama Register, which is a statewide list of buildings, structures, objects, and districts that possess architectural and historical significance.

- o Maples Methodist Episcopal Church, Maplesville
- o First Baptist Church, Midway
- o Ernest Fite House and Fite Law Office, Hamilton
- o The Rock House (Eastis House), Harpersville
- o Fowler/Woods House, Birmingham
- o F.J. Tillison House (The Teacher's Home), Ramer
- o William S. Irby House, Lower Peach Tree
- o Tubbs Cemetery, Oakman
- o Tony Davis Jr. House, Hope Hull

#### Missouri

Missouri's Historic Preservation Program (HPP) has computerized the Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory. This database, listing buildings, sites, structures, and objects, contains approximately 25,000 records to date. Accessed through the Cultural Resource Information System (CHRIS), this database can provide precise information on each resource's location and ownership. Furthermore, building and structure records include data on architect, construction date, style, and materials. While CHRIS does not replace conventional paper inventories, it does make information on these resources more accessible.

#### Kentucky

In October 1992, Kentucky's governor Brereton C. Jones appointed 11 individuals to an Executive Task Force on Historic Preservation. Chaired by Robert B. Vice of the Kentucky Heritage Council, the task force's mission is to assess the status of historic preservation in the Commonwealth, and recommend programs and legislation to assure that Kentucky remains a leader in national preservation efforts. Recommendations from the task force will be submitted to the governor and the Legislative Research Commission by July 1, 1993.

## Pennsylvania

*The Pennsylvania Archaeologist* has a new editor, Denise Grantz. Anyone planning to submit manuscripts and chapter reports for publication in future issues of *PA Archaeologist* should contact Denise at: Michael Baker Jr., Inc., Airport Office Building 3, 5th Floor, 420 Rouser Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108.

## Texas

Last year a project to spread sludge from New York on land in West Texas came to the attention of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Attorney General. Because the sludge contained potentially toxic substances, the EPA requested the sludge spreaders to obtain a permit to apply the sludge. However, while the permit was being processed, the EPA allowed the project to proceed. Under Section 106, EPA is required to ensure that effects on historic resources are considered prior to issuing permits. As a result, the THC and the Attorney General joined to sue EPA for noncompliance with Section 106.

However, in October 1992, EPA withdrew its request for a permit, stating that the sludge is entirely beneficial and that earlier concerns regarding toxic elements were no longer valid. At issue is EPA's original decision to issue the permit and open disregard for the National Historic Preservation Act. According to the January issue of *CRM News & Views*, "Allowing EPA to continue unchallenged could have been seen as sanctioning its decision to disregard the provisions of National Preservation Act."

*\*CRM News & Views* is a semiannual publication of the Texas Historical Commission.

## • PUBLICATIONS

*The DeSoto Chronicles: The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to the United States in 1539-1543.* Compiled by the Alabama Museum of Natural History, this two-volume edition includes the principal accounts of De Soto's exploration of the southern United States. Scheduled for publication this year, these volumes will be available from the University of Alabama Press, ☎ 205-348-5182.

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*Preservation Tips Newsletter*, published by the Chicora Foundation, Inc., PO Box 8664, 861 Arbutus Drive, Columbia, SC 29202-8664. This a new publication whose goal is to help museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies keep up with the latest preservation issues. The Chicora Foundation, a non-profit preservation organization, will send quarterly issues free of charge to individuals willing to complete the readers' survey form included with the introductory issue. For further information write to above address or call, 803-787-6910.

## • REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Diachronic Research Foundation is conducting a study of the archaeological literature (gray, white, and all other shades) of historic sites in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Over the years archaeologists from all over the country have conducted research here. For various reasons many projects have either not been reported on or the reports just aren't available. If you have done a survey or excavated a historic site in the Lowcountry at any time, and if you have reason to believe that the report, management summary, conference paper, or whatever is not on file at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the State Department of Archives and History, or the Charleston Museum, we would appreciate receiving a copy of your work. We will pay postage and guarantee the safe return of your manuscript. Diachronic is a non-profit corporation (501c3) and the cost of xeroxing, time, postage, etc., (as well as cash contributions) can be tax deductible. Thanks for your help! Contact: Carl Steen, Diachronic Research Foundation, PO Box 50394, Columbia, SC 29250-0394, ☎ 803-929-0294.

## • FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The D. C. Preservation League has a new address: 1511 K Street N.W., Suite 739, Washington, DC 20005. The League's new telephone number is 202-737-1519.



## Aerial Photography

Aerial photographs can be a helpful tool in many phases of cultural resources investigations. They provide pertinent information on site location, boundaries, etc. Currently, there are two federal sources of historic aerial photography: Aerial Photo Field Office and National Archives, Cartographic Branch. The Aerial Photo Field Office has photos from the 1950s and later, while the National Archives' Cartographic Branch has negatives from the 1930s. Requests to these agencies must indicate locational data and scale to ensure the receipt of the proper prints. It is suggested that requests be accompanied by a quad map marking the area and a scale, in feet to inches, be specified. For further information contact:

Aerial Photo Field Office  
Customer Services,

2222 W. 2300 St. South  
PO Box 30010  
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0010  
☎ 801-975-3503

or:

Bob Richardson  
Cartographic Branch  
National Archives  
Washington, DC 20408  
☎ 703-756-6700

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

### COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT: AN ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

By  
Lysbeth B. Acuff  
Chief Curator

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

For years archaeological collections management has been the forgotten child of professional archaeology. Archaeologists knew they had an ethical responsibility to care for these collections, but without guidance and with the pressure of new projects, old collections were put away and forgotten. It wasn't until the passage in 1990 of 36 CFR Part 79, the federal standards and guidelines for archaeological collections curation, that archaeological collections managers and archaeologists were provided with the impetus to begin to deal with the problem of long-term preservation of collections. The legislation provided the basic guidelines for the curation of collections; however, as those responsible for the care of collections began to implement the legislation, it became evident that it did not go far enough in specifying exactly how the implementation was to be done and exactly what had to be done to comply with the regulations. The symposium and workshop "Archaeological Collections Management and Conservation: Guilt, the Gift That Keeps on Giving" presented at the 1993 Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) meeting in Kansas City grew out of the experiences of those who had been involved in making 36 CFR Part 79 work for their state or institution. By presenting some of the policies and procedures that had been found viable, the organizers hoped to answer some of the questions and dispel some of the confusion resulting from the legislation.

Participants in the symposium included representatives of one state and two federal agencies who were responsible for implementing the legislation in their institutions or agency; three conservators concerned about long-term curation and the needs of specific objects based on their material; and representatives of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Society of American Archaeology who presented the standards proposed by their committees. The afternoon was devoted to a workshop on implementing 36 CFR Part 79. The day's program concluded with an open discussion period with members of both sessions available to discuss the issues and concerns of those attending.

The response to the day's activities was extremely positive. Approximately 90 people attended the morning session and more than 50 attended the afternoon program. The key issues that were raised go beyond the parameters of 36 CFR Part 79, but are relevant to its implementation. There was general agreement that the federal regulations are only a beginning, but that they have been a positive beginning by raising the consciousness of archaeologists to the importance of collections and the need for long-term care of those collections. It was also realized that the regulations do not go far enough and that each institution or government agency responsible for collections management must expand and further define the standards for use in their institution. Lack of funding for implementing these standards and for creating a physical plant that is environmentally acceptable as a curation facility is also a problem, particularly on the state level. Associated with this is the need for additional curatorial staff meeting the qualifications required by 36 CFR Part 79.

Another issue that was raised is the cost of curation. Most facilities now charge a fee for curating collections, but this varies from state to state. Contractors working in several states and using state curation facilities must be aware of this and factor it into their contract costs. The requirements for materials used in processing and packaging the collections can vary, as well as the type of documentary material that must accompany the collection, depending on the curation facility. It was agreed that the prospective curation facility should be contacted at the beginning of the project so that all requirements could be included in the initial project design.

The conservators on the panel and in the audience discussed the needs of specific types of objects in a facility, including the need for specialized environments for some materials and what long-term effect different conservation treatments have on certain materials. These are issues that need addressing and consultation with a conservator was recommended both for the archaeologist and the curation facility.

Several discussions were held on what to do with old collections in the facility. These typically do not meet the new standards. How are these to be handled given the limited budgets most collection managers have to work with? Complete inventories of collections from a state or within a large federal agency with a long history of archaeological projects are often lacking. These collections and their associated field notes must be located and documented and included in the curation program.

An issue that keeps coming up and that will become more critical is deaccessioning. Are archaeologists and collections managers eventually going to have to accept that all archaeological artifacts cannot be maintained forever? This is a real ethical problem given the tradition in American archaeology that everything must be kept and curated. There were no real answers, but the participants realized this is a question that will resurface again as the number of collections grow and the cost of curating the material begins to be questioned.

Important issues were raised during this session; not all had answers at this time. However, response to the presentations



indicated that archaeologists now recognize their responsibility to the collections and are working on solving the problems to provide for the long-term curation of archaeological collections.

#### Participants in the symposium and workshop included:

Robert C. Sonderman  
Senior Staff Archaeologist  
National Park Service (NCR)

Lysbeth B. Acuff  
Chief Curator  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Dr. Michael K. Trimble  
Archaeologist  
US Army Corps of Engineers

Alexandra Klingelhoffer  
Objects Conservator in Private Practice and  
Director for Collections and Conservation  
Museum of Arts and Sciences

Curtis Moyer  
Department of Anthropology  
College of William and Mary

Nicola J. Longford  
Conservator  
Missouri Historical Society

Dr. Henry M. Miller  
Director of Archaeological Research  
Historic St. Mary's City

Dr. R. Bruce McMillan  
Museum Director  
Illinois State Museum

Pamela J. Cressey & Barbara J. Magid  
Alexandria Archaeology

## THE COST OF CURATION

### The Cost of Curation is Going Up

By  
E. Jeanne Harris

*After attending the curation session at the annual meetings of The Society of Historic Archaeology, I approached session organizers Beth Acuff and Bob Sonderman about submitting a synoptic article for The Grapevine. Beth agreed to write an article on ethical responsibilities involved in collection management. While the issue of ethical responsibility is important, a considerable financial commitment accompanies this responsibility. In the following article, I have tried to address the particulars of this increasingly expensive financial obligation.*

The cost of curation is going up. Not just the fees charged for curation of materials, but the cost of preparing artifact collections for curation. Three main factors have caused this change: standardized curation guidelines, new preservation legislation, and cutbacks in state budgets.

In 1990, passage of 36 CFR Part 79, the federal standards and guidelines for archaeological collections curation, provided collection managers with an unprecedented set of minimum curation standards. During the past two years, curators at various federal and state agencies and other state-approved curation facilities have been compiling and implementing their own curation guidelines based on 36 CFR Part 79.

Due to new and more strict preservation legislation, most curation facilities are annually housing an increasing number of collections. At the same time, federal and state budget cutbacks have caused many facilities to reduce their staff. With more collections and less staff, curation facilities have issued new and more exacting guidelines that have transferred the costly responsibility of curation preparation to the collection donor. Consequently, in order for a collection to be accepted in most facilities, the collection must be processed by a particular facility's internal guidelines, not just 36 CFR Part 79.

What these guidelines mean to the consultant and, ultimately, the client is increased costs. These escalating curation preparation costs fall into two major categories: labor and materials. Recently, we have reviewed our increasing number of state curation guidelines to determine where these added costs lie. This analysis led to the tabulation of data from 24 curation facilities in 23 states across the nation. The result of this study categorized 21 different tasks and/or materials that add to the cost of curation. Since many categories reflect the division of material and labor cost, the following discussion combines categories into major groups.

#### Application

All facilities require some sort of prior notification before collections will be accepted. Some want formal application, while for other facilities that have preexisting arrangements with state and/or federal agencies, a letter of intent is sufficient. Three facilities, which have a formal applications process, request detailed information to determine if the collections contribute to their specific areas of research.

#### Deed of Gift or Transfer of Title

Nine facilities require a document that transfers ownership to the facility. Four institutions have formal agreement forms; the others outline the information to be included in such a document. Six facilities will accept a statement of permanent loan. The client and, in some cases, the consultant are responsible for generating these documents for all properties identified for the collection.

#### Labeling

Guidelines for 14 facilities state that most artifacts be labeled. One facility requires all artifacts to be labeled. Each facility has specific instructions for what information is to be included on the label. Five facilities assign their

own accession/catalog numbers. Three facilities request that special sealants be used; five indicate a coat of sealant both under and over the label. All guidelines specify that permanent ink be used.

Labeling is not limited to artifacts alone. Six facilities state that bags should be labeled and four require an acid-free tag also be placed in each bag. One private institution goes so far as to require a specific pen to label the bags. Three facilities want slides labeled and ten require that boxes be labeled with detailed content information.

#### Photographs

Twelve facilities request photographs and slides to be curated with artifact collections. With the exception of those facilities that require labeled slides, all guidelines request a complete inventory of all photographic material and minimal labeling of sleeves. In addition, six facilities desire that unrelated photos and slides (crew and end-of-roll shots) be culled from these materials. Two facilities request that specific archivally-stable films be used and one facility asks for a complete set of unexposed negatives and slides.

#### Documentation

Twelve facilities require full documentation, which includes field notes, field forms, diaries, maps, etc. Ten facilities request that these materials be originals or copies on acid-free paper. If this documentation was not originally on acid-free paper, the reproduction costs can be quite exorbitant. Eleven guidelines request at least one copy of the final report(s) (ten on acid-free). One facility requires that all documentation be placed in archivally-stable three-ring binders.

Guidelines for nine facilities include a complete artifact inventory; five facilities also want an accompanying floppy disk copy of database files for artifact inventories. In addition to an artifact inventory, eight facilities need all inventories to be recorded on their forms, or computer-generated facsimiles thereof. The form formats vary greatly, each requesting a different arrangement of the data. The size of the forms also vary in size. Some are index cards while others are two- to three-page, in-depth forms. Of the forms printed on card stock, three differently sized card stocks were specified.

#### Materials

Eleven facilities require boxes sized to certain specifications. Only three use the standard Hollinger boxes, which were previously considered the universal standard. In addition, three facilities have special boxes that the consultant is billed for after they are reboxed by the facilities staff. One facility charges extra for the reboxing.

Eighteen facilities specify clear plastic bags of various thicknesses. In addition, two facilities ask for white blocks on the bags for provenience, catalog numbers, etc. One facility requires clear bags without resealable closures, preferring twisty ties instead.

#### Fees

Most facilities charge fees for curation. Not all facilities indicate their curation fees in their published guidelines; one must call for fees. Generally, fees are assessed by the number of cubic feet in a boxed collection. This includes the required documentation, photographs, maps, etc., to be curated with the artifacts. Fees vary from \$15 - \$600 per cubic ft. There is always a minimum curation fee, irregardless of size. For example, one institution charges \$150 for 1-15 cubic ft, while another charges over \$1000 for the first cubic ft. However, the majority of fees are between \$200-\$300 per cubic ft, with a \$25-\$50 minimum fee for anything under 1 cubic ft.

#### Other Requirements

Beyond the guidelines identified above, four guidelines were noted that did not fit into any category. Two state guidelines request that collections be personally delivered to the curation facility. One facility will only accept collections that have been coded using their coding system. One facility charges a \$20 per cubic ft fee to convert the consultant's artifact catalog into their system. Finally, two facilities charge \$25 per hour to recatalog and label the artifacts in their system.

In summary, it should be noted that while some guidelines are more exacting than others, all guidelines include requirements that add considerably to the cost of curating archaeological collections. Contractors should consider all guidelines carefully before they calculate curation costs for their budgets. One small item like labeling all artifacts can add hundreds of dollars to a curation budget. Furthermore, it is important to remember that institutions with few curation requirements and/or low fees are extremely selective in the collections they are willing to accept. In these instances, contractors should definitely make contact with the institution prior to starting work on a project. If not, they may find themselves seeking curation at a "higher priced" facility.

### WORKSHOPS

**A Forensic Archaeology Seminar** - Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA, will present this two-day seminar on May 28-29. The seminar includes the most recent techniques employed in the search and recovery of human remains. Contact: Dennis C. Dirkmaata, Dept. of Anthropology, Mercyhurst College, Glenwood Hills, Erie, PA 16546; ☎ 814-824-2105.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Replies to our readers' survey were mediocre in number. However, they did provide us with some information about what our readers want in upcoming issues. One recurrent request was for more dialogue on CRM topics. Suggested topics for dialogue include ethics, hiring practices, and NAGPRA. We would love our "Dialogue" section to flourish, because it was one area we envisioned at The Grapevine's inception. Unfortunately, few topics introduced in this section to date have generated much response. Hopefully, these new topics will fair better. Please feel free to call us, fax us, or write to us if you have something to say!

Most suggestions for future articles related to business ethics and practices. One particularly interesting response suggested a nationwide survey of contractors concerning pay scales and hiring practices (anonymously, of course). This is a very topical suggestion. A similar survey, on a state-wide basis, was conducted last year by the Florida Archaeological Council. However, for The Grapevine, which is published by private consulting firm, to conduct a nationwide survey, we need the participation of an outside neutral party to receive, tabulate, and report the results of this survey. Fortunately, we have found an archaeologist, affiliated with a federal agency, who has agreed to conduct the survey and report the results to our readers. Anyone with a particular topic they want to include in this survey should submit the topics to us by April 10, 1993.

Requests for more articles on current research and excavations in progress also were received. The initial intent of The Grapevine was to provide our readers with topical information relevant to CRM, which is not addressed in nationwide professional publications. Current research and excavations in progress are topics that are addressed in newsletters published by organizations such as SHA and SAA. However, if anyone submits information related to either of these topics that are applicable for the CRM forum, we will gladly publish it.

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# JOB OPENING FOR M.A. OR Ph.D. LEVEL ARCHEOLOGIST

Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., of Decorah, Iowa, is seeking an individual interested in pursuing a career in archeology. If hired, the applicant can expect at least one-third of his/her time to consist of fieldwork at all phases of investigation, while the remaining two-thirds will focus on analysis and report preparation. Decorah is a small, semi-rural community (pop. 8,000) located in northeast Iowa. Luther College, a small, undergraduate liberal arts college (2,000 students) with a strong Anthropology major is located in Decorah and provides the community with many social, as well as academic, opportunities.

**Requirements:** This position requires an individual with prehistoric expertise and at least a working knowledge of historic archeology to the extent that it can be applied to the Phase I level of investigation. The candidate must be capable of understanding and applying geomorphological concepts to archeological investigations. Basic analytical skills regarding site formation processes and artifacts are necessary. Word processing and database experience (IBM and Macintosh) are required; a background or knowledge of Geographic Information Systems is beneficial. An interest in the Prairie Peninsula, the Eastern Plains, the Upper Mississippi River Valley, archival research, and the ability to assess site significance within current state and federal guidelines is necessary. Mapping and photographic competence, as well as flora or faunal identification capabilities, is very important. Individuals who can swim, have a good driving record, operate small craft on major rivers, and competently handle Giddings hydraulic coring machines are preferred. This is a principal investigator or project archeologist position. Therefore, good interpersonal skills, the ability to supervise small crews, manage projects, assess scopes-of-work, and prepare proposals are imperative. In addition, a commitment to archeological inquiry and a responsible attitude are essential.

**Salary Range and Benefits:** Hourly rates range from \$10 to \$17.50, depending upon experience and capabilities. There are 10 paid holidays per year. After one year, individuals are eligible for 10 paid personal days per year (i.e., vacation, sick days, etc.). After two years, individuals are eligible for the pension plan.

## Send Resumes to:

Deborah Crown, Office Manager  
Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.  
P.O. Box 30  
Decorah, Iowa 52101

No phone calls, please

# CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

**April 2-4 - Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference,** will be held at the Sheraton-Fontainebleau Inn and Spa, Ocean City, Maryland. For information contact: Elizabeth A. Moore, 4600 43rd Place, NW, Washington, DC 20560, ☎ 202-363-0010 or FAX 202-364-0041.

**April 7-11 - Society for California Archaeology** will hold its 27th annual meeting at Asilomar, Pacific Grove, California. For further information contact: Tom Jackson, 303 Potrero Street, #203, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; or William Hildebrandt, 58 2nd Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

**April 14-18 - Society for American Archaeology** annual meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO. For information contact: Dr. Jay Custer, at the University of Delaware.

**April 15-18 - The Organization of American Historians** annual meeting will be held in Anaheim, California. For further information contact: OAH, 112 N. Bryan Street, Bloomington, IN 47408-4199.

**April 15-18 - The Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference** will be held in Monroe, MI. For information contact: Continuing Education/Community Services, Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI 48161, ☎ 313-242-7300, ext. 227.

**May 20-22 - Ohio Historic Preservation Conference** will be held at the Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel (an Art Deco landmark) in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sessions included in the conference are "The Question of Stewardship" and "Beyond Buildings." For information call 614-297-2497.

**May 12-15 - Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting** will be held in Natchez, MS. For further information contact: Mary Sikes, Advanced Studies Office, Winterthur Museum and Gardens, Winterthur, DE 19735, ☎ 302-656-2513.

**May 24-June 11 - Teaching Institute in Lithic Analysis,** University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK. This course can satisfy graduate or undergraduate credit, and can be used as a professional refresher course. Contact: George H. Odell, Anthropology Dept., University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 74104.

**January 5-9 - Annual Meeting of the Society for Historic and Underwater Archaeology,** Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact: David V. Burley, Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada.

# NEW CORPORATE SUBSCRIBERS

Fourth Creek Consultants  
125 N. Elm Street  
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Greiner, Inc.  
4630 Paragon Park Road  
Raleigh, NC 27604

☎ 919-876-2760  
Contact: Terry Klein

Archaeological Data Services, Inc.  
21 Wisconsin Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43222  
☎ 614-276-1991  
Contact: Annett Ericksen

Michael Polk  
Sagebrush Archaeological Consultants  
3670 Quincy Avenue, Suite 203  
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