MAPPING AND SITE REPORT FOR
PORTIONS OF SITE 45 BN 52, COLUMBIA PARK,
CITY OF KENNEWICK, BENTON COUNTY,
WASHINGTON

Prepared by
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Prepared for
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October 24, 1996

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All field notes, photographs, and maps are on file at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Cultural Resources Archives, Mission, Oregon
Introduction

The Cultural Resources Protection Program (CRPP) of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation cooperated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, in gathering field data to map two burial areas along the shores of Columbia Park, Kennewick, Washington. The field work was carried out on October 17 and 18, 1996. Project area names include: Columbia Park (location), City of Kennewick and Benton County, lessees, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (references land owner).

Data gathering to make maps was necessitated by the unscientific removal of human remains that had been uncovered through erosion along the banks of the Columbia River/Lake Wallula, which is the reservoir behind McNary Dam. The information regarding these removals is on file at the CRPP, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Investigations of the project area included an intense surface survey of the beaches in both areas, taking measurements of artifacts and human remains in reference to a temporary datum in Area B and a semi-permanent datum in Area C, and gathering elevations in reference to these two datums. A file and literature search and a review of oral histories has also been done but is not included in the present report. This is a specific project that is limited to providing maps and a site report of the areas where the human remains were located.

Project Personnel

Field personnel involved in this project from the CTUIR include Jeff Van Pelt, Program Manager, Manfred (Fred) Jaehnig, Principal Investigator, and Lloyd Barkley, Diana Kellas, and Julie Longenecker, Cultural Resource Technicians II. Diana Kellas aided with the file and literature search, and the site report and this project report were written by Fred Jaehnig. Also on site were Allen and Bernie Cliff, interested Native Americans of Cayuse heritage. All of us met with Ray Tracy, Corps of Engineers archaeologist.

All field notes, field maps, additional photographs, and copies of the site form and copies of this report are on file at the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Archives. These Archives are housed at the Department of
Natural Resources (DNR), Cultural Resources Protection Program, Mission, Oregon.

**Project Location and Access**

As noted above, the project is situated in Columbia Park, along the shores of the Columbia River/Lake Wallula, in the City of Kennewick, which is in Benton County, Washington. Area A begins approximately 1,250 m (about 0.8 mile) east of and downstream from the boat marina, or 600 m southeast of the eastern City of Richland corporate boundary. Area B is another 350 m (0.2 mile) downriver, and Area C lies yet another 1.9 km (1.2 miles). The western margins of the site also lies approximately 3 to 6 km (about 2 to 4 miles) downstream from the confluence of the Yakima and Columbia Rivers.

The legal location of the site is the N 1/2, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 29 for Area A, the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 28 for Area B, and the SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 27, for Area C, all in Township 9N and Range 29E, Willamette Meridian. UTM coordinates are 329980 to 332460 m East and 5121450 to 5122260 m North. The site is at an elevation of approximately 350 ft (100 m) above mean sea level.

Access is provided by Columbia Drive (called Columbia Avenue on the USGS Kennewick quad map), which parallels the shore of Lake Wallula. Areas A and B start at the stream that joins the Columbia River just north of Kiwanis Camp. These continues areas extend westward, or upstream, from this juncture (the site probably also extends eastwards, or downriver, but that area was not surveyed). For Area C, go east for another 1.2 miles from Area B, to where the bike path turns away from Columbia Drive towards the shore of Lake Wallula. From there, go to the shore at a bearing of magnetic north. Area C is about 120 m (400 ft) upstream, or west from this point at the shore.

The site areas are within the boundaries of lands ceded to the U.S. Government as a result of the Walla Walla Treaty of June 9, 1855 between representatives of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and of the U.S. Government. In addition to the members of the CTUIR -- Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla -- many other tribes from the Northwest are represented on the Reservation today.
Project Description: Field Investigations

The project consisted of locating and mapping cultural materials and human remains in two areas where human skeletal materials had previously been eroded out of cutbanks. These Tribal members were subsequently removed by Dr. James Chatters, Archaeologist residing at Richland. Inasmuch as no site reports or even maps of the sites were made before, during, or after the removal, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asked the Cultural Resources Protection Program of the CTUIR to aid in this task.

The mapping was begun at Area C. A part of the field crew identified and flagged artifacts, bone (both animal and human) and features (in this case, what appeared to be deflated rock cairns) along the shore. The distance between the eroding cutbank and the water was far because the water was relatively low, making this task more rewarding than would have been the case had the water table been at its usual elevation. At the same time, the remaining members of the team drove a datum into the ground about 10 m back from (south of) the eroding bank at the place where the first skeleton ('Kennewick Man') was removed. Next, we took elevations along a line that extended magnetic south from the edge of the water to the datum. We also established a secondary datum on the beach, about 0.15 m west of a human bone.

Once we reached and passed the datum, the line along which elevations were taken headed to 184° in order to reach Columbia Drive without cutting the existing vegetation. We took the elevations with a Dumpy level, and bearings were taken with a compass. After the elevations were taken and the artifacts along the shore were flagged, we took distance and direction from the secondary datum on the beach to all of the flagged items. Distances were measured with a tape and directions were taken with a compass.

On the second day, this procedure was generally repeated at the second find site; that is, Area B, with some differences. First, we did not establish a semi-permanent datum. Instead, we used the center of the bridge along the north edge of the roadway for a datum. From there, we measured along this edge to the west. We then measured from the edge of the blacktop to the various artifacts and bones. The Dumpy level was also set up at the edge of the road, and elevations were taken.
from the edge of the water to the road. All of the information from both Areas B and C have been used to draw the site sketches that accompany the site report.

**Conclusions and Recommendations**

This project resulted in the attached site form, which includes the maps of the areas from which human remains have been removed. It should be emphasized that the maps are of rudimentary nature; detailed topographic maps should be made of the whole site and, in particular, of the cemetery portion of the site.

While surveying the beach of Area B, several of the crew members walked the beach to the west. It was established during this survey that lithics and shell are scattered along the survey all the way to the area originally reported as Site 45 BN 52. It is for this reason that we included the cemetery areas within the previously reported site. Moreover, shell fragments were noted in the water below the rock riprap east of the stream that joins the Columbia River at Area B from the south.

While investigating Area C, a few flakes were noted along the beach towards the west; that is, in the direction of Area B. It is strongly recommended that an intensive survey be done along the entire shore of Columbia Park. In addition, the bench of Area C should also be intensively surveyed when conditions are such that some of the ground surface is exposed -- at the time of our mapping, very dense vegetation made for extremely poor visibility (i.e., less than 5% of the ground could be inspected.

It is also imperative that the shore should be stabilized in areas where it is eroding at the present time to forestall further disturbance of interred Tribal members. This shore stabilization project, which will bring the Corps of Engineers into compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, will protect this site. The site is a significant cultural resource; that is, it is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The CTUIR is looking towards continued cooperation between the Tribes and the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in regards to future projects such as the intense survey of the park, making detailed contour maps of the site, and the bank stabilization project.
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Department of Natural Resources
Cultural Protection Program

CULTURAL RESOURCES SITE REPORT

Smithsonian # 45 BN 52
Temporary #

Agency #

County: Benton
State: Washington

District or Specific Resource Area:

Landowner (code): C/E (name): Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District

Location and General Information

Site Type: Native American cemetery, lithic scatter and shell midden.
Site Name: Columbia Park Site

Legal Description:
Area A = N 1/2, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec. 29;
Area B = NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 28;
Area C: SE 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Sec. 27; all Township 9N, Range 29E, WM

UTM: Zone 11, 
Easting = 329980 to 332460 m E, Northing = 5121450 to 5122260 m N
USGS Quad - name: Kennewick, Washington Series: 7.5 min., Date: 1992

General Location and Access: The site is situated along the shores of Columbia Park (the Park) just south of the northern boundary of the City of Kennewick. Access is from Columbia Drive, the road that traverses the park. For more details, please see attached maps.

Management Objectives: Stabilization, protection, avoidance.

National Register Status: X on the NRHP (part of the Tri-Cities Historic District); __ eligible; ___ not eligible; __ unknown - insufficient data

Is this site referenced in any published or unpublished document? (Y/N): Y
Recorded by: J. Van Pelt, D. Kellas, M. Jaehnig, L. Barkley, J. Longnecker, and R. Tracy
Date Site was recorded (MM/DD/YY) 08/27/47 (original) and 10/17-18/96

Environmental Data

Basin: Columbia River
Sub Basin: Columbia River

Drainage: Columbia River
Environmental Data, continued:

Physiographic Province: Columbia Plateau

Elevation: 350 feet; 110 meters

Primary Landform: Valley  
Secondary Landform: Bench

Primary Position: floor  
Secondary Position: top

Slope: 0 - 5%;  
Aspect: direction - various  
bearing - n/a

Plant Community: grasses and deciduous trees in Areas A and B, forbs (dense stands of weeds such as thistles, nettles, ragweed, etc.), shrubs and trees in Area C.

Overstory - on site: park-like, large deciduous trees;  
surrounding: same;

Understory - on site: Area C only = dense cover of large forbs;  
surrounding: Area C = dense stands of deciduous shrubs;

Ground Cover - on site: Areas A + B m= tended lawn; Area C = dense forbs;  
surrounding: same in the various areas.

Name and Type of nearest Water: Columbia River, permanent stream.

Distance and Direction to nearest Water: adjoins site to the north.

Soil: complex soil profiles that need to be investigated; mostly skeletal sandy clay loam.

Other Site Data

Site Type: cemetery and camp site/fishing station.  

SHPO Site Type: 

Respond Y/N/U (yes/no/unknown) to the following Questions:

Have materials been collected from the site? Y;  Comments: human remains have been removed.

Are features present? Y;  Comments: There are 10 rounded river cobble (rock) cairns in Area C.

Are there floral remains? N;  Comments: none observed.

Are cultural remains stratified? U;  Explain: no observed data on this question.

Are human remains present? Y;  Elaborate: Area B yielded bones from 4 - 5 Tribal members; Area C yielded the almost complete skeleton of the Tribal member who has been referred to as 'Kennewick Man'.

Has the site been tested? N;  Comments: nor should it be -- cemeteries are not to be disturbed.
Are there faunal remains? Y; Comments: We identified two deer and an elk jaw bones.

Is ground stone present? Y, Discuss: We located a simple pestle.

Has the site been radiocarbon dated? Y; Explain: The 'Kennewick Man' from Area C has been dated at about 9,300 BP, as per reports in the press.

Site Period/Phase: Early Archaic Period / Windust Phase

Site size - surface area: 2,400 X 75 m; 180,000 square meters; 45 acres; Depth of deposit: 2 m

Formal excavation (surface area): 0 square meters; Volume of excavated matrix: 0 cubic meters

Site integrity (% of site not destroyed): ± 10%

Estimated total quantity of lithics: XX 10-99 ___ 100-499 ___ 500-1000 ___ >1000

Estimated surface density: up to 5 m²

Estimated material type frequency: 10 % basalt; 90 % CCS; ___ % obsidian; ___ % other

Describe cultural materials and features at the site: Area A is the original site, and we have an insufficient site report from 1949. However, we identified shell fragments and lithics along that portion of the shore. In Area B, remains of 4 - 5 Tribal members have been recovered. Moreover, we identified shell fragments, and several flakes. In Area C, one almost complete human skeleton has been removed. We also found several lithics, a pestle, two deer jaws (possible from the same deer), an elk jaw in this area two. Also identified were 10 rock cairns that are situated now below the water line. These features are made up of from 5 to over 25 medium-sized to relatively large (up to 60 cm diameter), river cobbles that have been split and/or are faceted. Small cairns have smaller cobbles. There does not appear to be a pattern to the location of these cairns (see map).

Miscellaneous Information:

Contract/Project: Tribal Rights Protection / Columbia

Ceded Area/Traditional Use Affiliation: Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, Wanapum and Palouse

Oral History: The Columbia Point Oral History Project applies here; for a list of tribal elders and information from the project please contact Cultural Resources Protection Program, CTUIR.
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Department of Natural Resources
Cultural Protection Program
CULTURAL RESOURCES SITE REPORT

SITE SKETCH, Area B (vertical scale 2x horizontal scale):

LEGEND:
- ▲ site datum
- ⬇️ human bone
- ⬇️ shell
- ⬇️ flake
- ⬇️ water - river
- ⬇️ eroding bank
- ⬇️ grass
- ⬇️ trees
- ⬇️ road shoulder-gravel

CROSS SECTION

SCALE: 50 m

0 10 m
CULTURAL RESOURCES SITE REPORT

SITE SKETCH, Area C (vertical scale 2x horizontal scale):

LEGEND:
- site datum
- human bone
- deer jaw bone
- elk jaw bone
- cobble spall
- core/cobble chopper
- flake
- pestle
- rock cairn
- water - river
- eroding bank
- river beach
- variable width

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION
Department of Natural Resources
Cultural Protection Program

45 BN 52
Smithsonian No.

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PHOTOGRAPH(S):

IN PROGRESS
IN PROGRESS
SITE VICINITY MAP:

USGS Map: Kennewick, Washington
7.5 min. Series; 1992
Sections 27, 28 and 29, Township 8N, Range 29E, WM
Contour Intervals = 10 ft (dotted lines = 5 ft intervals)

SCALE = 1 : 24000

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LEGEND:

- Area A - original area of Site 45 BN 52
- Site area between Areas A and B
- Area B
- Area C
With this page are the proposed designs for site stabilization at Columbia Park. These designs were determined by Lee Hunt, the resource manager at the Western Project, and his staff.

We are concerned that continuing erosion may result in more exposures. The Colonel’s feeling is that protecting the sites as soon as possible will solve the problem of continued erosion, as well as, address most of the security concerns about the sites.

Our intent is to proceed with the site stabilization work before the end of September. Please relay to us your comments or recommendations as soon as possible. Our point of contact for the stabilization project is myself. My phone is 509-527-7270, fax. is 509-527-7832.
Area 1

Approximately sixty feet (60') of bank will be stabilized. The bank is approximately eight feet (8') high and twenty-five feet (25') wide. The shoreline will be stabilized using biomechanical techniques. A toe will be established 25' from the cut bank using large boulders obtained from the park. Bank protection will then be formed by dumping sand and cobbles between the bank and the toe formed by the boulders. An excavator with an extendible arm will be used to slope the material at a three to one slope and compact the material. After sloping and compaction is complete the area will be planted with willow wattling at five to eight foot vertical spacing across the fill area.
Approximately two hundred feet (200') of bank will be stabilized. The bank is approximately four feet (4') high. The shoreline will be stabilized using vegetation to screen the area and to reduce the scouring action of the water on the site. A suitable combination of wetland and upland species will be planted in the area to produce these results. Hawthorn, poplar, wood rose and buffalo berry could be planted in the upland area with willows, rushes, cattail and possibly reed canary grass in the wet area.