

Plan for Scientific Excavations at the Collier Lodge Site (12PR36)

2011 Season

Submitted to the

Indiana Department of Natural Resources,

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

by

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## **Archaeological Background**

### ***Prior Field Work at the Collier Lodge Site***

The Collier Lodge site (12PR36), also known as Baum's Bridge, is located on the southern border of Porter County, Indiana on the northern edge of the former Kankakee Marsh. This location was first described as an archaeological site by McAllister (1932) as Porter County site number 36. At the time of McAllister's visit to the site, it was only one of two prehistoric sites in Porter County known to have produced pottery. From McAllister's description of sherds from the site, it is clear that they included grit-tempered Woodland period pottery (1,000 B.C. to A.D. 1100) and a few examples of shell-tempered sherds, an artifact type characteristic of the Upper Mississippian period (ca. A.D. 1100 to historic contact) in northwestern Indiana (Faulkner 1972; Schurr 2003).

The site was used throughout the historic period. Its original historic name was Potawattommie Ford. The first ferry across the marsh in Porter County was established near the site by Sherwood in the early 1830s. By 1836, Eaton was operating the ferry. He later attempted to establish a toll bridge in 1849 but it soon burned down and he reverted back to the ferry. Sawyer bought the property in 1857 and also attempted to maintain a bridge, but it was quickly swept away by drift. In 1863, the site was purchased by Baum, who built the first successful bridge across the Kankakee at this location, and the site has since been best known as Baum's Bridge. In 1865, the bridge was taken over by the county. The first hunting club was established in the vicinity in 1878. In 1898, the Collier Lodge was built at the site, and that building, although very deteriorated, is still standing. After Jim Collier's death in 1952, the site passed through the hands of several owners until it was purchased by John Hodson in 2001.

Today the site consists of a grassy lawn containing the Collier Lodge building. Several small outbuildings that stood at the site up until 2006 have since been removed. The site is located on a sandy ridge adjacent to a short segment of the original Kankakee River. A short portion of the channel was isolated as a sort of bayou or slough when the marsh was drained and this segment was bypassed by a drainage ditch to the south. Today, the borders of the old channel segment look much like they must have when the lodge was in use. The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 24, 2009.

### **Prior Archaeological Field Work at the Site**

The site has been the location of an on-going archaeological project by the University of Notre Dame and the Kankakee Valley Historical Society. Results of prior field investigations from 2003 through 2005 have been reported in a single volume (Schurr 2006). Investigations from 2006 through 2008 were described in the successful National Register Nomination (Schurr and Rotman 2009) approved by the Department of the Interior submitted on December 24, 2009. A draft report of the 2006 through 2009

excavations was reviewed by DHPA in 2010 and a revised report (dated May 26, 2011) has been submitted to DHPA. A report on the 2010 investigations will be submitted by August 28, 2011.

Since 2007, the field work at Collier Lodge has concentrated on defining a very large feature (Feature 25), informally known as the “mega-feature.” In 2009, the northern limit of the feature and its depth at the southern end were determined, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to determine its western limit. The goals of the 2010 season were primarily designed to further explore the limits of Feature 25. Figure 1 shows the locations of the various excavations that have been conducted through the years along with other features such as historic metal scatters and former buildings that are no longer present.

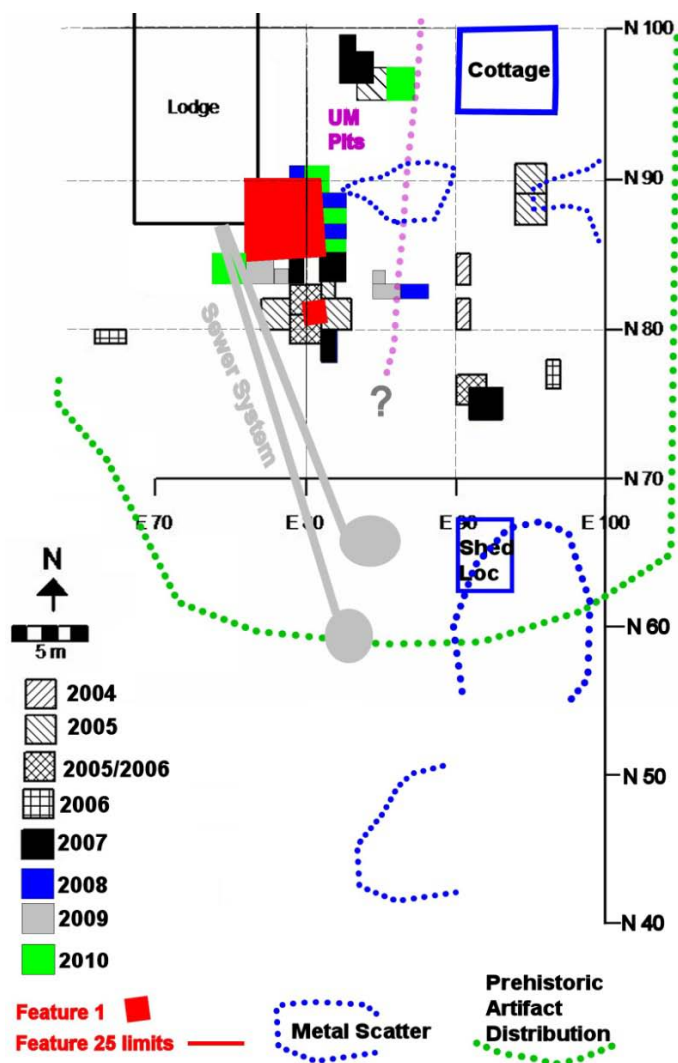


Figure 1. Site Map with Prior Excavations and Other Features.

The following activities were completed in 2010:

1. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) surveys were conducted south of the Lodge. They were primarily successful at detecting the extensions of the lead sewer pipes running to the southeast of the Lodge found during the 2008 and 2009 excavations.

2. Opened units adjacent to previously opened units in order expose the full extent of Feature 25.

- a. Unit E 81-83 N 85-86 was opened to determine the southern edge of Feature 30 (a dense deposit of early twentieth century rubbish) and perhaps the southern corner of Feature 25. Feature 30 extended only about 25 cm into the unit and was completely removed by Level 7 and the eastern edge of Feature 25 was clearly visible in the floor (Figure 2).



**Figure 2. Unit E 81-83 N 85-86 Level 7 Floor Showing Probable East Edge of Feature 25.**

- b. Unit E 81-83 N 77-78 was opened to explore the northern extent of Feature 30 and to further investigate Feature 33, a bark-lined pit filled with mortar or ashy material that was visible in cross-section in the north wall of Unit E81-83 N 76-77 (excavated in 2009). The unexcavated northern half of the feature corresponded with a prominent GPR anomaly. The 2010 excavation showed that

the GPR anomaly was produced by an iron railroad spike in Feature 33 and that the feature was probably an historic period bark-lined pit used to mix plaster. Figure 3 shows the oval outline of Feature 33 in the floor of Level 4. The mortar flecks and large brick fragments in the upper (western) end of the unit are part of Feature 30. Seven levels were excavated in this unit and the final floor looked very similar to that of Unit E 81-83 N 77-78.



**Figure 3. Unit E 81-83 N 77-78 Level 4 Floor Showing Feature 33 (outlined).**

c. Unit E 74-76 N 83-85 was placed to the south of lodge to look for the southwest corner of Feature 25. The search was unsuccessful because the area was badly disturbed by drainage pipes from the Lodge (Figure 4).



**Figure 4. Unit E 74-76 N 83-85 Showing Plastic Pipes.**

d. Unit E 80-82 N 89-91 was placed over the approximate location of the northeast corner of Feature 25. Excavation proceeded slowly in this unit because of its relatively large size and complex deposits which consisted of a confusing array of soil lenses of different sizes and soil types. These were eventually determined to have been associated with soil disturbance produced by the placement of the concrete foundation of a garage that stood in this part of the site (the rectangular trench in the floor is a footer trench for the foundation). Seven levels were excavated. The floor of Level 7 contained a rectangular patch of dark soil in the southwest corner of the unit (Figure 5, upper right) that could be the northeast corner of Feature 25, but that was not confirmed because the season ended before another level could be excavated. A semi-circular patch of reddened soil near the southeast corner of the unit could be an Upper Mississippian pit.



**Figure 5. Unit E 80-82 N 89-91 Level 7 Floor.**

e. Unit E 82-84 N 92-94 was placed adjacent to a unit from an earlier season (E 80-82 N 92-94) that had produced undisturbed Upper Mississippian roasting pits. Very quickly (by the end of the second level), the new unit contained soil stains characteristic of prehistoric pits along with the eastern edge of the earlier unit. It was found that the location of the new unit was about 25 cm too far to the west compared to the earlier unit. One pit (Feature 44) was relatively small and shallow with no evidence of in situ burning. The other (Feature 43) was bisected by the south wall of the unit to produce a beautiful profile of a classic Upper Mississippian roasting pit (Figure 6). Several flotation samples were taken from the feature (they have not yet been analyzed).



**Figure 6. Feature 33 in Profile in the South Wall of Unit E 82-84 N 92-94.**

f. Units E 79-80 N 86-87 and E 80-81 N 86-87 were opened when spare labor was available during the July field season and on August 28 to demonstrate excavation during the Aukiki River Festival. These units produced the typical early twentieth century rubbish characteristic of the upper levels of Feature 25. They were excavated to create some working room that would facilitate a deeper test of Feature 25 in the future.

### **Goals of the 2011 Season**

The 2011 season will continue to explore the unresolved issues at the site, especially the size and depth of Feature 25 and further sampling of Upper Mississippian pits. The exact number of units to be opened will depend on the available labor and will primarily be limited by the number of experienced excavators or field school students participating in the project this year. At this point, we anticipate opening a maximum of seven units (an area of 28 m<sup>2</sup> or less).

The highest priority excavations are:

1. Open Unit E 82-84 N 87-89 and carefully excavate the remaining half of Feature 43, maintaining very careful excavation control to segregate the different fill episodes visible in the profile.

2. Open one or two other units to further explore the distribution of Upper Mississippian pits at the site. These seem to be confined to portions of the site west of the E 80 grid line.

3. Re-open Unit E 82-84 N 92-94 and continue the test of the northeast corner of Feature 25.

4. Re-open a unit in the vicinity of E79-80 N 86-87 to continue testing the stratified deposits in Feature 25.

If time and personnel permit, consider these activities as well:

5. Conduct additional tests along the riverbank to explore the deposits in this poorly known portion of the site.

6. Remove the backfill from the units in coordinates E 79-80 N 83-86 to re-expose a full profile of the southern edge of Feature 25. The edge of the feature has been mapped in two separate 1 x 2 m units and it would be easier to interpret the feature if a complete profile could be viewed at one time.

### **Excavation Procedures**

Investigation at the site will begin with the re-establishment of a metric site grid defined in 2003 by reference to several local benchmarks. Horizontal and vertical control of the excavations will be maintained by reference to the grid coordinate system.

Units will be re-opened or placed as necessary to accomplish the season's goals. When a unit is re-opened, the walls and floors will be troweled, and all soil zones and features will be correlated with maps and photographs showing the appearance of the unit at the end of the 2010 season. All excavation will be done by hand, using either shovels or trowels. The maximum size of any single excavation unit will be 2 meters square. The units will be excavated in either arbitrary levels with a maximum thickness of 10 cm, or in archaeological levels defined by changes in soil color, texture, or artifactual content. Archaeological levels with a thickness greater than 10 cm will be subdivided into arbitrary 10 cm levels to maintain additional stratigraphic control. Soil colors will be described using the Munsell system (1990 edition). All excavated soil will be screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth, except for soils which appear to contain high concentrations of microbotanical or microfaunal remains. Soils from these contexts will be processed using flotation recovery techniques. Additional soil samples will also be water screened to test whether very small artifacts (such as seed beads or gunshot) are present. Water screening was evaluated in 2006 and 2007 and its use was expanded in 2008 to the extent that some contexts which might contain high densities of small bone fragments (such as fish bone) or important small artifacts (such as trade beads) were completely processed by water screening. A water screening station will be established in the field so that samples can be processed simultaneously with the excavations and a

special tagging system will be employed to track water screen samples. Soil samples will also be collected from each archaeological stratum.

Each archaeological level and feature will be documented using the appropriate form and by scaled maps with a resolution of 0.5 cm. Artifacts with significant spatial relations to each other or to other features will be piece-plotted. All artifacts collected will be recorded in a field specimen log to maintain associations between specimens and their archaeological contexts. A Brick Record log will be used to record the locations and attributes of large brick fragments. Digital images ( $\geq 8$  megapixels) will document the excavations and a log book of all excavation photographs will be maintained. The completed field records and the photographs will be curated at the Archaeology Laboratory, University of Notre Dame. All artifacts collected during the excavation will be processed and catalogued at the IUSB Material Culture Laboratory. They will be curated at the Archaeology Laboratory, University of Notre Dame along with their associated documentation where they will be used for research and teaching. The processing and cataloging will be

It is now estimated that a maximum total area of approximately 28 m<sup>2</sup> will be opened over the course of the project. At the conclusion of the excavation, all units will be backfilled and the site contours will be stabilized to prevent erosion. The methods used in the field investigation will meet or exceed the standards described in Department of Natural Resources 312 IAC 22.

The scientific investigation will be conducted between July 5 and August 28, 2010. The bulk of the excavations will be conducted between July 5 to 22. We are requesting that the permit be extended to August 28 because the KVHS will be sponsoring the Auikiki River Festival that weekend. The festival will include a variety of events, including a demonstration of archaeological field methods and informal lectures on archaeology and historic preservation to be conducted by the P.I., who will finish the 2011 field season with at least one day of work during the festival on what is sure to be an uncompleted unit from earlier in the summer. Festival attendants who were not able to visit the site during the normal season will be able to see an archaeological unit, observe hand excavation, and learn about data recording. Information about historic preservation in Indiana will also be provided.

The July excavations will be conducted by students from the University of Notre Dame and from Indiana University-South Bend in joint field schools being taught by Mark R. Schurr (ND) and Joshua Wells (IUSB). Qualified members of the Kankakee Valley Historical Society (KVHS) will also participate. The excavations will be co-directed by Schurr and Wells with Schurr being the primary P.I. of record. Both have extensive experience in Indiana archaeology and in human osteology (vitae attached). Experienced and qualified KVHS members will serve as unit leaders. Field school students will be trained to manage excavation units. Inexperienced KVHS members will be paired with more experienced people. They will begin by assisting with screening, flotation, water screening, and artifact processing, and will take on additional tasks as

they are trained. All artifacts will be cleaned and receive an initial sorting in the field lab at the site. A faunal identification workshop will be conducted by Dr. Terrance J. Martin, Illinois State Museum. The identification of a single passenger pigeon bone was a highlight of last year's workshop.

A report of the results of the excavation along with an amended copy of the state archaeological inventory form for the site will be submitted to the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology one year after the excavations are completed. Further reports describing laboratory analysis of cultural and biological materials from the site will be submitted as these analyses are completed.

### **Statement on Human Burials**

McAllister (1932) reported that several burials were found in the "immediate vicinity" of the site prior to 1931. Their cultural affiliation is unknown but it is assumed they were prehistoric. Local oral history holds that burials were found under the area of a porch on the Lodge. Based on a picture of the Lodge dating to the early twentieth century, the burials may have come from the river bank along the western edge of the lodge. This area is now heavily overgrown with vegetation and will not be investigated during the project.

The collection of human bone is not a goal of the project and all reasonable attempts will be made to avoid disturbing human burials. If human bone is accidentally encountered during excavation, all work in the excavation unit containing the bone will be immediately halted, and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology will be notified within two working days. Any human remains encountered will be treated in accordance with IC 14-21-1 and 312 IAC 22. We would then prefer to conduct the minimum amount of excavation necessary to determine the age and cultural affiliation of the burial (i.e., does it represent a prehistoric burial or a recent forensic case?), to document these findings, and to then cover the burial with soil and preserve it *in situ*. The landowners of each site have also requested that any burials that are accidentally encountered be preserved.

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