



ILLINOIS STATE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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3 June 2016

Ms. Janet Hoisington
7901 Kishwaukee Road
Stillman Valley, Illinois

Ms. Hoisington,

Thank you for giving us a tour of your property on 18 May 2016. Information gathered from archival documents and during our field visit indicates that the Hoisington parcel is situated within a high sensitivity area for both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources.

Virtually the entire 160-acre Hoisington parcel lies within an Archaeological High Probability Area as delineated by the Illinois Archaeological Resource Potential GIS database developed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Furthermore, two known archaeological sites (11W0112 and 11W0113), recorded in the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological and Paleontological Sites database, are located on the Hoisington parcel. These were recorded by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1972. Both sites are prehistoric lithic scatters located approximately 700-800 feet south of the Rock River. At least nine additional archaeological sites are recorded within one mile of the Hoisington property, along both sides of the Rock River. During a field visit completed by Illinois State Archaeological Survey staff in May of 2016, the location of one possible prehistoric mound feature was recorded. Additional investigation of the area will be required in order to make a definitive identification of the feature as a cultural rather than natural feature.

A review of early historic plats of New Milford Township shows two structures present on the property by at least 1871. One structure is shown in a location proximate to the present ruins of the "Grout House," situated along the north bank of an unnamed creek; the second structure is plotted in the location of the extant Hoisington farmstead complex. Both structures continue to be shown on early topographic maps and aerial photographs through the mid twentieth century. Federal census records suggest that the Hoisington family settled on the New Milford Township parcel sometime between 1860 and 1870. It is likely that some historic features on the parcel pre-date the Civil War era.

The potential for the Hoisington property to contain intact well-preserved archaeological deposits is high. Prehistoric sites here may contain important information about use of the Rock River area over many thousands of years. Historic sites may contain information important to our understanding of the early settlement of New Milford Township and the nearby town of Kishwaukee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or email.

Sincerely,

Paula Porubcan Branstner, RPA
Field Station Coordinator

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