

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pin Oak Site

Other names/site number: 15Pu299

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Valley Oak Commerce Complex

City or town: Somerset State: KY County: Pulaski

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B ___ C X D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: Craig Potts/SHPO Date _____ Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

- Domestic – Camp/Village
- Agriculture/Subsistence - Processing
- Trade
- Toolmaking

Current Functions

Vacant/not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

N/A

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: N/A

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Located in northeastern Pulaski County, Site 15Pu299 is an open habitation site with midden deposits and evidence of circular houses. The midden, which ranged in thickness from 8 to 15 cm, yielded ceramics, lithics, animal bone, and fire-cracked rock. A large number of post holes were documented below the midden, with at least two circular structures being identified (Schock 1999:24). Calibrated radiocarbon dates of A.D. 428-633 and A.D. 441-662 are suggestive of a late Middle Woodland/early Late Woodland occupation. Ceramics recovered from this site were predominately tempered with limestone and had plain or cordmarked exterior surfaces. Decoration was limited to notches or punctations associated with jar lips. Projectile points were predominately Baker's Creek and Copena-like. Botanical remains recovered from this site consisted primarily of hickory nuts (Schock 1999).

Narrative Description

Background and Previous Research

Site 15Pu299 was recorded in 1994 by Dr. Jack M. Schock (1999) of Arrow Enterprises during a Phase I archaeological survey for a proposed industrial park addition in Pulaski County, Kentucky. The survey was conducted at the request of the Somerset-Pulaski County Industrial Foundation located in Somerset. In 1996 and 1997, Phase II work was undertaken to determine if the site was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This work resulted in the documentation of intact subplowzone archaeological deposits consisting of midden deposits, storage/trash pits, and concentrations of post holes. Based on the results of this study in consultation with the Kentucky Heritage Council (State Historic Preservation Office), the Industrial Foundation decided to protect the portion of Site 15Pu299 that contained intact subplowzone deposits. Since 1999, that portion of the site has been protected as a green space within the industrial park (Figures 1 and 2).

In 2022, a geophysical survey undertaken by the W.S. Webb Museum of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky of the preserved portion of the site relocated some of the trenches

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from the previous work and confirmed the presence of intact subplowzone features at the site (Figures 3 and 4).

Site Description

Site 15Pu299 is a late Middle/early Late Woodland village that is composed of evidence of circular houses. The site was likely occupied over a period of time as house patterns show that some structures overlap one another, and others exhibit evidence of rebuilding. Both of the identified houses had a circular pattern. Posts had an average diameter of 12.5 cm, and often were chinked with limestone. Wood charcoal was also observed in association with several posts.

Environment

Site 15Pu299 is located in Pulaski County, which lies largely in the Mississippian Plateau physiographic region (McGrain and Currens 1978:63). This region consists of a moderately well-dissected upland, ranging in elevation from approximately 351 m at the western edge of the county to 290 m at Somerset. The Cumberland escarpment, which crosses the southeastern part of the county, is characterized by valleys with subterranean drainages. Some of these valleys are perched above present drainage levels as the result of water being diverted to underground drainage systems (McGrain and Currens 1978:65).

Soils in this portion of the Pulaski County overlay and are derived from the St. Louis Limestone Formation and Ste. Genevieve Limestone formation (Lewis et al. 1973). The St. Louis formation contains limestone with chert nodules, as well as some claystone and siltstone. Limestone matrix of this formation weathers to red clay, forming the parent material for soils in this region. The Ste. Genevieve Limestone formation contains gray limestone and chert nodules ranging in color from gray to black. South of the project area is a knob containing remnants of the Breathitt and Lee formations as well as the Kidder Limestone Member. The Breathitt and Lee formations contain shale and sandstone. Kidder Limestone Member also contains siltstone and shale (Lewis et al. 1973). The cherts associated with these formations would have been used by Native Americans to manufacture stone tools.

Native American Context

The site exhibits evidence in the form of diagnostic projectile points of having been occupied during the Late Archaic, Late Archaic/Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland subperiods, with the most intensive and significant component dating to the late Middle/early Late Woodland. Based on Dr. Jack M. Schock's original archaeological investigations and findings at the site as well as the results of the geophysical survey, intact deposits from the late Middle/early Late Woodland occupation are still present at the site.

Cultural Materials Observed, Collected, and Curated

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Site 15Pu299 is one of the few open habitation sites in south central Kentucky that have yielded late Middle Woodland/early Late Woodland ceramics. Both limestone-tempered cordmarked and plain ceramics were recovered, with some exhibiting decoration in the form of lip notching and punctations. Diagnostic projectile points in the form of Baker's Creek and Copena varieties may suggest affiliations with groups to the north and south of the region." Other chipped stone tools in the form of scrapers and knives also were recovered, as was debris from the manufacturing and maintenance of chipped stone tools.

Botanical remains recovered from Site 15Pu299 showed a preference for hickory nuts, with only small amounts of walnut, acorn, and hazelnut being recovered. The absence of native cultigens that are common in contemporary sites is probably a product of sample size. Likewise, the processing of additional flotation samples would likely result in more identifiable wood charcoal, which could provide additional information on the local environment.

Faunal remains recovered from the site included box turtle and deer. It is expected that analysis of these remains would result in the identification of additional species that were once exploited by the residents of this site.

Cultural materials recovered from Site 15Pu299 are curated at the William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
Native American Archaeology

Period of Significance
400 – 800 CE

Significant Dates
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
Late Middle Woodland/Early Late Woodland

Architect/Builder
N/A

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Site 15Pu299 is considered significant for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for its potential to contribute to research issues and objectives outlined in the Woodland context of the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan for archaeology (Applegate 2008). Site 15Pu299 is significant in part because it represents one of the few Woodland village sites that have been excavated in southcentral Kentucky. Data categories known to be present include intact midden deposits, structural remains, chipped stone artifacts, ceramics, plant remains, and faunal remains.

Expanded Statement of Significance

Data present at Site 15Pu299 has provided and can continue to provide an excellent opportunity to address several important research topics relating to the Woodland cultures of the Ohio River Valley. These topics include chronology, settlement/subsistence patterns, and material culture and technological developments.

Obtaining additional absolute dates (i.e., radiocarbon and thermoluminescence) from the cultural deposits at Site 15Pu299 could assist in refining how long the village was occupied and provide chronological information that could aid in the understanding of increasing sedentism among Woodland groups as they continued to rely more on the food they grew in their nearby gardens.

Investigation of the distribution of posts and internal features, such as hearths and storage pits, has the potential to contribute to our understanding of the size of the houses and how they were constructed. An examination of the spatial arrangement of the documented houses could generate important information on the how people organized themselves within late Middle/early Late Woodland villages, as well as the role that plazas played in community integration.

Development of regional chronologies and an increased understanding of Woodland technologies could be provided by the identification and description of the site's material culture assemblage. Functional variation of tool types, and the use and procurement and exchange of raw material could be addressed as a result of material culture analyses. Descriptive and functional analyses of artifacts could identify tool and/or ceramic vessel types associated with specific activities that were undertaken at this village. Certain ceramic stylistic and functional changes could be an indication of the greater interaction with groups to the north closer to more northern tributaries of the Ohio River or to the south closer to the Cumberland drainage.

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The subsistence base could be reconstructed from analysis of carbonized botanical and faunal remains from intact midden deposits and features. The past environment could also be reconstructed from these data. Additional research at Site 15Pu299 has the potential to contribute to our understanding of the relationship between increased sedentism and a greater reliance on plant foods during the Late Woodland period, and on the types of animals that were exploited by Woodland groups living in this portion of Kentucky.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Applegate, Darlene

2008 Woodland Period. In *The Archaeology of Kentucky: An Update*, edited by David Pollack, pp. 339-604. State Historic Preservation Comprehensive Plan Report No. 3. Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort.

McGrain, Preston, and James C. Currens

1978 *Topography of Kentucky*. Special Publication 25. Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Schock, Jack M.

1999 *Archaeological Phase II Testing of 15Pu299 In Pulaski County, Kentucky*. Arrow Enterprises, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Lewis, R.Q., A.R. Taylor, and G.W. Weir

1973 *Geologic Map of the Bobtown Quadrangle, Pulaski County, Kentucky*. United States Geological Survey Quad Map, GQ-1102.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: University of Kentucky, William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.8

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16 Easting: 723625 Northing: 4116540

2. Zone: 16 Easting: 723680 Northing: 4116602

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3. Zone: 16	Easting: 723711	Northing: 4116575
4. Zone: 16	Easting: 723736	Northing: 4116604
5. Zone: 16	Easting: 723760	Northing: 4116583
6. Zone: 16	Easting: 723680	Northing: 4116489

Verbal Boundary Description

The southern and western boundaries follow the property line. The eastern and northern boundaries demarcate the area that that was protected by the industrial authority based on the archaeological investigations conducted in advance of the development of the industrial park. This is the portion of the site that was determined to contain intact subplowzone deposits.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries reflect the portion of the village that was preserved by the industrial authority. To the north and west the site has been impacted by development of the industrial authority. The site extends an unknown distance to the east and south. These portions of the site have yet to be investigated by professional archeologists.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. David Pollack, Director; Baylee Priest, Staff Archaeologist
organization: Kentucky Archaeological Survey
street & number: Cherry Hall, 401 College Heights Blvd
city or town: Bowling Green state: KY zip code: 42101
e-mail david.pollack@wku.edu
telephone: (270) 745-2217
date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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• **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

• **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

• **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

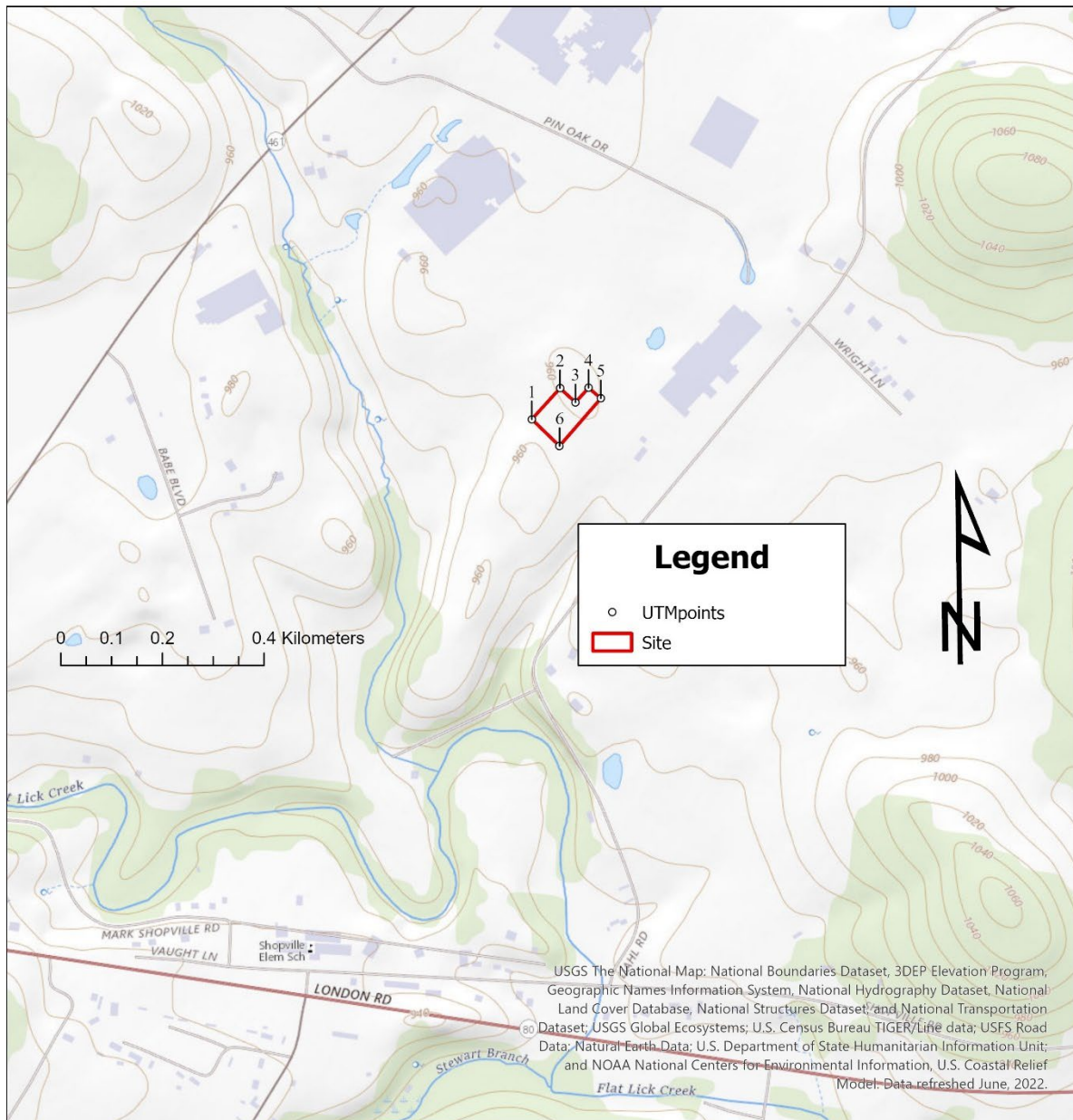


Figure 1. Archaeological Site 15Pu299, USGS Map, 7.5 Minute Series, Shopville Quadrangle.

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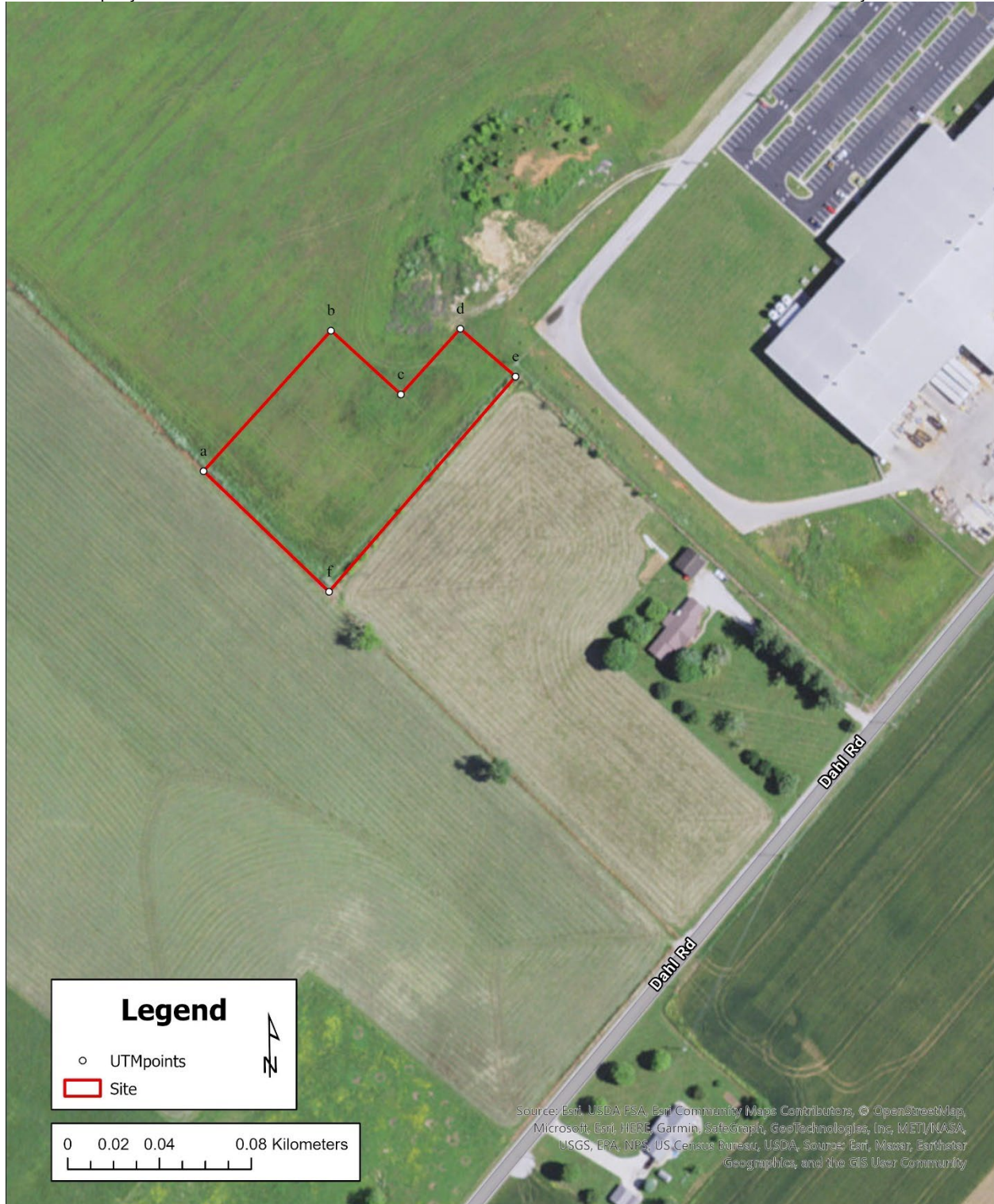


Figure 2. Site 15Pu299, Aerial view of site.

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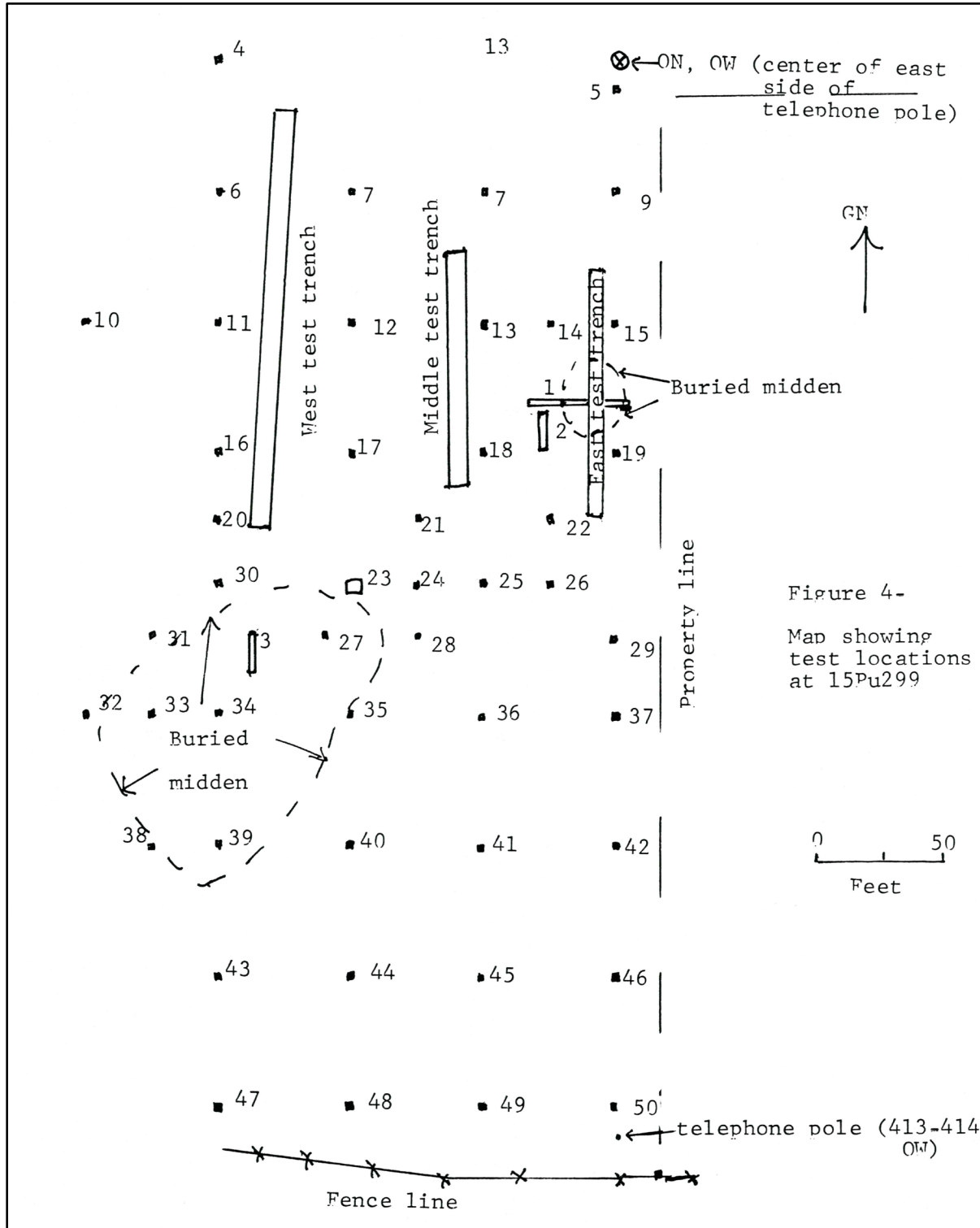


Figure 4-
Map showing
test locations
at 15Pu299

Figure 3. Map of Site 15Pu299 showing location of unit, trenches, posts, and midden deposits.

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Figure 4. Geophysical survey of Site 15Pu299 with 1999 unit and trenches (outlined in blue) overlaid.

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Photographs

Photo Log

Photograph 1:

Name of Property: SPEDA Somerset Commerce Complex

City or Vicinity: Somerset

County: Pulaski

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Baylee Priest

Date Photographed: 4-20-22

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Site 15Pu299 looking southwest from northeast edge of site.

Photograph 2:

Name of Property: SPEDA Somerset Commerce Complex

City or Vicinity: Somerset

County: Pulaski

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Baylee Priest

Date Photographed: 4-20-22

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Site 15Pu299 looking southwest from northeast edge of site, note individuals collecting geophysical data.

Photograph 3:

Name of Property: SPEDA Somerset Commerce Complex

City or Vicinity: Somerset

County: Pulaski

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Baylee Priest

Date Photographed: 4-20-22

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Site 15Pu299 looking northeast from center of site, note magnetometer.

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Photograph No. 1



Photograph No. 2

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Photograph No. 3