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No Shovel Required: An Archaeological Inventory of Greater Akron, Ohio

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In the fall of 2016, an inventory was conducted of the University of Akron's (UA) previous archaeological field work and research. The goal of this inventory project was to identify and submit previously unreported archaeological survey reports and archaeological sites to the Ohio Archaeological Inventory (OAI) and the National Archaeology Database (NADB). The OAI form is a ten page form containing a plethora of information about a specific archaeological site beginning with UTM coordinate location to narrative descriptions of artifact patterning. Two sections of the OAI, I.1 and I.2, describe the site in a narrative form and the relationship of the site to other archaeological sites in the region. During the process of completing the sections I.1 and I.2, I conducted basic background research of the known archaeological sites within approximately one mile to each site. While conducting background research, I observed other archaeological sites not yet reported in the OAI including, in part, the OAI forms I was completing for past University of Akron (UA) projects. Many of the backlogged UA sites were a mix of surveys never formally published or submitted to the OHPO, dating as early as the late 1970s up to the present.

Prior research by Nolan (2014) has demonstrated the utility of the OAI in identifying large scale temporal patterns in the archaeological record. The OAI is managed by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and is available by subscription and is searchable in a GeoCortex portal (https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/mapping). Since the publication of Nolan's 2014 article, the OAI has since become even more accessible to researchers: the entire OAI form for each archaeological site is now available for download from within this OHPO Online Mapping System (OMS) portal. Those familiar with the OMS know that prior to this update, only select sections of the OAI form were available to view as tabular data. These data included: Site name, OAI number, temporal affiliation (i.e. Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, etc.), site type (mound, camp, village, etc.), UTM coordinates, and the square meter area of the site (without an outline of the site area). Many consultants in the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) business use the OAI and the OMS in their literature reviews for archaeological surveys (Nolan 2014). For the sake of the CRM business, and for good archaeology, it is imperative that the OAI is as accurate and up to date as possible.

The first phase of the University of Akron project involved review and submission of paper OAI forms previously completed by UA faculty and students but which had not been submitted to OHPO. A select portion of these OAI's were completed by students as part of class projects. Robert D. Haag's (2006) publication on Copley Township had been previously examined for archaeological sites by UA students Ryan Crano and Joshua Murphy. As part of their undergraduate research, they began preparing OAI paper forms for sites described in Haag (2006), as reported to him by local collectors (Figure 1). Some of the site reporting came from historic documents such as newspaper articles. The wealth of information in Haag (2006) raised the question: Were there other sites in newspapers and other texts that have not made it into the OAI?

As I began to think about this question, I thought of different potential sources of information on the reporting of archaeological sites. The methods of research utilized were purely exploratory, since I was unfamiliar with any similar methodology of systematic data mining for archaeological resources outside of the OAI.

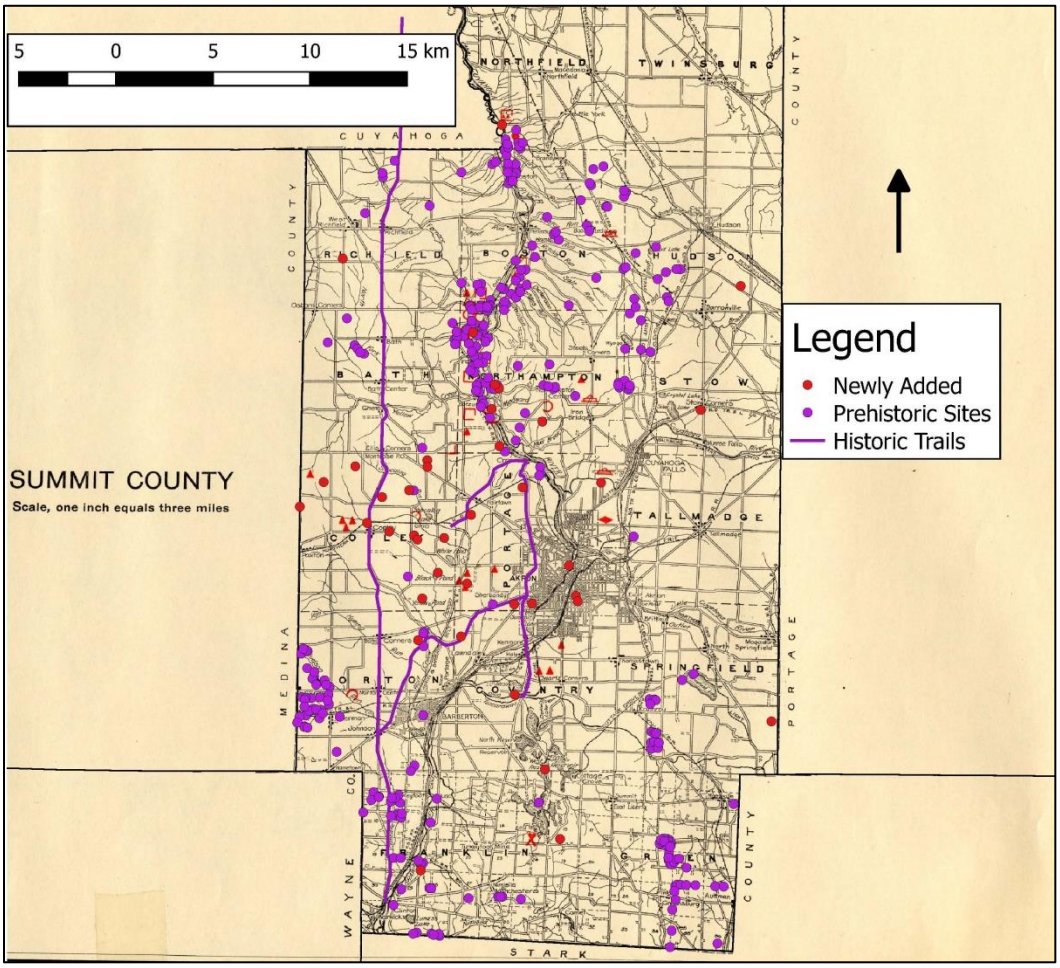

Figure 1: Mills (1914) map with previously documented and newly added prehistoric sites. The trails include the Portage path, the Cuyahoga/Scioto War Trail, the Sand Run/Rabbit Trail, and the Muskingum Trail (Haag 2006; Wilcox 1970).

Methodology

Most sites were discovered during data mining of historically reported archaeological investigations or of accidental discoveries. The goal of this research, over time, was to thoroughly examine each historic record that has yielded, or has the potential to yield, previously missed information about archaeological sites. The methodology can generally be grouped into two types of research: site identification and site provenience. The first step in this project was identifying archaeological sites in the historic record, and the second step was finding the

provenience of the identified site in the historic record. Each type of research required different primary sources.

In today's digital age, many historic records have been scanned and electronically uploaded into searchable databases. These digital archives are searchable any time of the day, allowing archaeologists to conduct a review of previous investigations of an area remotely, without a library, and without driving to an archive.

Identification

According to the OHPO Archaeology Guidelines (1994:27-28), prehistoric background research should utilize "the Ohio Archaeological Inventory…prior surveys, manuscripts, maps, historical documents, and other sources." Since my focus here is on prehistoric sites, we can narrow our search of historic documents to those describing surveys, digging, earth-moving, farming (i.e., plowing), and construction. The historic record in Summit County relative to these activities began at the end of the eighteenth century with the survey reports of Moses Cleaveland (Carter 1973). While there are historic records of the southern shore of Lake Erie in the Jesuit Relations (Cardinal and Cardinal 1984) these accounts do not provide information about prehistoric archaeological sites and could not be well provenienced.

An early and large construction project with the potential to yield archeological information is the Ohio and Erie Canal, which runs the length of Summit County. I made the connection to potentially reported prehistoric sites while working on a few OAIs of historic Canal-era sites in Clinton, Ohio. This was completed in part because The Canal Society of Ohio had digitized copies of historic reports of the Ohio and Erie Canal survey and construction in addition to the Canal Association's yearly reports. James Geddes' (1823) report to the State of Ohio provides a unique description of Ohio before being altered by canals. Unfortunately these reports could not be scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software due to the poor quality of the original document, and, therefore, the scanned reports could not be searched for key terms. There likely are additional sources of information about the canals that have not been checked, such as diaries, letters, and other correspondence of canal workers or residents near the canal.

The local newspapers are another source of information about prehistoric sites discovered accidentally in a region. Many newspapers are searchable via key terms on the Library of Congress website *Chronicling America* (http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/). Digitized newspapers from across the United States are archived on this website; however, not every newspaper has been digitized. The only digitized newspaper currently available to view in the greater Akron area is the Akron Daily Democrat (ADD) from 1899 to 1902. Other regional newspapers, such as the Stark County Democrat, based in Canton, often reported on similar events or used the same articles. The WPA, in 1941, completed a newspaper index project for the Akron Beacon Journal (ABJ). This index was digitized and made available on the Akron Summit County public library's special collections web page

(http://www.akronlibrary.org/locations/main-library/special-collections/genealogy/akron-beacon-journal-subject-indexes). The index lists headlines of news articles by subject from 1846 to 1939.

In order to lower the search cost for each historical source, I needed to develop a list of key words or terms that could quickly identify potential archaeological sites. Since, however, I was unfamiliar with linguistic trends throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century, finding the terms used in historical records for archaeological discoveries was a case of trial and error. I searched for articles about archaeological discoveries using the following key words: *archaeology*, *arrowhead*, *bone*, *burial*, *Indian*, *mound*, *moundbuilder*, *prehistoric*, *skeleton*, and *relic*. Leaving off plural forms ensured that both singular and plural nouns would be found. These words were also searched in combination, such as *Indian relic* or *Indian arrowhead*. The words that had the most positive hits included: *mound*, *skeleton*, and *relic*. The ambiguity of these other search terms often led to results which included articles about moundbuilders in general, American Indians in general, historic cemeteries, or medicine advertisements.

The key words for the Akron Beacon Journal newspaper index were similar; however, the search involved subject headers rather than all words in the article. Each year's index was searched for articles under subject headers: *Archaeology/Anthropology* (grouped together in the index), *American Indian*, *History*, and *Akron Art Institute*. Prior to 1896, *archaeology* did not appear as a subject in the Akron Beacon Journal. All archaeological news reporting prior to the use of *archaeology* was indexed under *Indian* or *American*. The Akron Art Institute possesses collections from local collectors, as indicated on the history page of their website (https://akronartmuseum.org/history/), which is why I included the Art Institute in the index searches.

The study did not benefit from a key term search of the remaining sources. These sources include: Perrin's (1881) and Lane's (1892) histories of Summit County, Whittlesey's (1871) survey of the Cuyahoga Valley, and the back issues of *Ohio Archaeologist.* These sources are all digitized, but searching for key terms did not narrow down archaeological sites, since these documents contain abundant references to the key terms used in the newspaper searches. Particularly difficult to search is *Ohio Archaeologist*, available electronically on the Ohio State University's Knowledge Bank (http://kb.osu.edu/dspace/handle/1811/55832). Each issue of the journal is available, with OCR, but only searchable within the issue. More beneficial search terms for *Ohio Archaeologist* are those that involve geographic locations associated with archaeological sites. My search was limited to articles and photo captions that were in Summit County. The library at the Ohio History Connection archaeology collections facility has a copy of every issue of *Ohio Archaeologist* from 1946 to present, which I was able to examine to supplement the non-digitized years prior to 1951.

Additionally at the OHC archaeology collections facility are cabinets with files for each county in Ohio. The county files contain newspaper clippings, correspondence, draft copies of Mills's atlas, photographs, and other documents related to sites reported to the OHC curators over the decades. These files were untapped by OHPO for archaeological resources at the time of this study.

Finally, artifact collections were examined to identify potentially unreported sites. The OHC online collections catalog was searched for all collections in Summit County. The accession record, catalog sheet, and physical artifacts were examined to identify any potential provenience. Artifacts sometimes have notes written on them, on their labels, or bags that vary from the information in a catalog.

The identification of an archaeological site is only half the battle in this project. There are plenty of news articles reporting archaeological sites, but the difficulty comes in assessing the provenience from historic documents. If a site had identifiable boundaries, then the site would eventually make its way to the OAI.

Provenience

Often in newspaper articles, locational accuracy is itself historical. Streets change over time, landowners sell and buy property, and local landmarks change names. For example, the Akron Daily Democrat (1902) described a mound at the corner of Cherry Street and Park Place, neither of which exist today in downtown Akron. Obviously, without provenience, this information is not very useful for research or mitigation efforts. Historic tax maps, aerial photographs, topographic maps, atlases, and census records can help narrow down proveniences of historically reported archaeological sites. For example, the Charles W. Frank collection (Figure 2) at OHC has a note in the accession record which reads "Doris M. Frank donated this collection of prehistoric stone tools to [OHC] on behalf of her father, Charles W. Frank, on December 5, 1924." Also found in the notes are the provenience "Fairlawn, Ohio." Based on the 1920 U.S. Federal Census, Charles W. Frank was born around 1870, lived in Portage Township, farmed on his property, and his daughter Doris M. Frank was 15. The information about Mr. Frank's age, and the time of donation, narrows down the historical search range between 1870 and 1924.

The Akron Summit County Library has a countywide database, including digitized atlases, on their Summit Memory project webpage (www.summitmemory.org). Summit County was surveyed and published in several atlases (Akron Map and Atlas Company 1891; Matthews and Taintor 1856; Tackabury, Mead, and Moffett 1874). The city of Akron was surveyed and mapped in 1910 (Rectigraph Abstract & Title Company 1910) and in again in 1921 (G. M. Hopkins Company Civil Engineers 1921). According to these atlases, the Frank family owned roughly 60 acres from at least 1874 to 1921. Charles owned two lots in 1921, both of which are near the intersection of present day Frank Avenue, White Pond, and West Market Street. According to the USGS topographic map of 1903, this intersection was known as "Fairlawn," which is east of the present day city of Fairlawn.

Figure 2: Charles W. Frank Collection (A0321) curated at the Ohio History Connection.

Provenience for all archaeological sites identified in the first phase of this survey was identified in a similar manner. In many cases, landowner history was determined through the Summit County Auditor's GIS (http://summitmaps.summitoh.net/ParcelViewer/). Another example of a site provenienced through tax records is the Grimm Garden site, 33 SU 657. Vogenitz (1999:2) describes a small collection of artifacts recovered from Mr. Grimm's garden on Willowview Drive. With this information, and the Summit County GIS, I was able to locate Mr. Grimm's former residence and the historic aerial photograph showing his garden in the back yard. Most counties in Ohio should have similar county auditor GIS websites. Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Medina counties have similar GIS-based websites that provide selectable data layers.

Results

The sites updated or added to the OAI are listed in Table 1. Keeping with the reference style of the Akron Beacon Journal index, the newspaper articles are listed by paper, year, month, day and then the page and column of the article appears with a colon (e.g. 1:5 meaning page 1, column 5). This is not explicitly stated in the index but was kindly pointed out to me by a special collections employee at the Akron Public library, Barbara Lowell (personal communication,

October 2016). Most of this site information is from Haag (2006), but there is also a healthy mix of discoveries from the Akron Beacon Journal and the Akron Daily Democrat. Additionally, sites found with NADB numbers listed below are sites discovered or surveyed as part of the University of Akron's Department of Anthropology and Classical Studies research program. These sites had incomplete draft reports in the UA projects office which I edited and amended so that they could be submitted to OHPO for their records.

There were a total of 11 sites investigated by the University of Akron, and there were another 14 sites added to the OAI from Haag (2006). It should be pointed out that, while only 14 sites had reasonable provenience to warrant an OAI, there is still a wealth of information about artifact density and patterning in Haag (2006). Many of the sites are bounded by very large farm fields or golf courses. It is possible that there are more sites to add to the OAI from Haag (2006), but that would be up to future researchers to decide the comfortable limits of "good" provenience when filling out an OAI form. For example, is a 100 acre golf course refined enough provenience to warrant a site form for a collection of projectile points?

Another 11 sites were reported in newspapers. The locations provided for these sites were typically accurate, giving street corners and other landmarks as reference, but were lacking in artifact descriptions. The best documented site discovered in the newspaper was easily the Mystery Cave site, 33 SU 644. The cave had two different feature articles in the Akron Daily Democrat dated September 7 and 8, 1899 and another feature article in the Akron Beacon Journal on September 7, 1899. Included in the ABJ (1899) article were descriptions of the black loam soil, and the types of artifacts collected. In contrast, the Pearl Street isolated burial site received only a paragraph-length description (ABJ 1913).

While Table 1 includes references, it does not indicate that some of the newspaper articles were first discovered in the OHC archaeology county files. Each county file contains a folder for newspaper clippings. Sites inventoried from the county files include: Palmer Cave, Witzman Village, Wintergreen Ledges, Botzum Water Treatment Plant, and Nellie Mound. There were seven newly inventoried sites found in local history publications by Bierce (1854), Bloetscher (1980), Perrin (1881), and Vogenitz (1999). The review of these historic resources was limited to archaeological sites with good enough provenience for the OAI, while less precise locations were not included. Perrin (1881) describes numerous archaeological investigations undertaken prior to publication, which may be of interest to archaeologists who are less concerned with getting UTM coordinates for an archaeological site.

Searching through the back issues of *Ohio Archaeologist* only yielded one new archaeological site for the OAI. This may reflect the relatively low concern for provenience in site descriptions within the publication. The *Ohio Archaeologist* contained numerous descriptions of sites with only county level provenience, but very rarely was there enough provenience to warrant an OAI form. Ultimately, it comes down to the scale of analysis and the research question. Many artifacts are photographed with no description beyond the owner of the collection; from a data perspective, this makes them utterly worthless. Witzman Village, 33 SU 652, was the only archaeological site added to the OAI from *Ohio Archaeologist.* Even in this article (Witzman 1962), the pertinent information about the archaeological site is gleaned from a

sample of artifacts with which Mr. Joseph Witzman is photographed. When the photograph is compared to the artifacts in the photograph, there is no evidence to support the textual claim that 33 SU 652 was Chief Hopocan's village. Granted, the photograph likely reflects a sample of the artifacts collected, rather than the entire assemblage. Even taking this sample into consideration, there was no description or photo of pottery, faunal remains, features, or any materials that were not lithic that might suggest a large historic village. A single triangular point was identified from the photograph, which demonstrates a Late Prehistoric component, but hardly demonstrates any connection to the historical person Chief Hopocan.

Photographic or physical artifactual evidence was crucial for verifying sites with diagnostic artifacts described. In at least one case, 33 SU 574, what is described by Haag (2006) as a heavy duty point looks very similar to an Early Woodland stemmed point such as Robbins or Adena. With only a photograph of the artifact, it is difficult to identify a projectile point type. However, general temporal trends can usually be identified from photographs. Using Justice (1987), photographs of artifacts, which were almost all projectile points, were typed. I erred on the side of caution for the most part, identifying only those points that had clear diagnostic attributes.

Table 1: Prehistoric archaeological sites discovered in historic documents.

Site Name	OAI	NADB	Other Reference
Turkey Foot Lake Petroglyphs			Mills 1914; Perrin 1881:212; Swauger 1984; Vogenitz 1999
Ft. Island	SU0009	20013	
Big Bend	SU0227	17418 17419	
Hill Top Area 1	SU0404	20004	
Terrace Area 1	SU0405	17415	
Zevenbergen	SU0528		John Zevenbergen, University of Akron project files
Wood Hollow FS	SU0558	20003	
Haag Island 2	SU0573		Haag 2006:84
Haag Island 11	SU0574		Haag 2006:110
Haag Swamp 1	SU0575		Haag 2006:137
Haag Swamp 2	SU0576		Haag 2006:137
Milan Drive	SU0577		Haag 2006:156
Bauer Mound	SU0578		Perrin 1881:214; Haag 2006:167
Whelsh farm	SU0579		Haag 2006:64
Shanafelt site	SU0580		Haag 2006:66
Hall Mound	SU0581		Haag 2006:77
Mingo Shelter II	SU0482	17412	
Remy Site	SU0582	20013	Haag 2006:86
Aberth Drive (Haag island 10)	SU0583		Haag 2006:108

Site Name	OAI	NADB	Other Reference
Boughton Farm	SU0584		Haag 2006:139
Amy Franks	SU0585		Haag 2006:59
Panzner Farm	SU0588	14161	Haag 2006:158
Springfield Bog	SU0630	19986	
MotorCycle Club Site	SU0631	17412	
Ira Gravel Pit mounds	SU0632		ABJ 1925 December 16, 26:2; Whittlesey 1871:17
Pearl St. Burial	SU0638		ABJ 1913 June 5, 1:2
Lane Moose	SU0641		ABJ 1908 January 21, 3:4
Stow Rock shelter	SU0642		Spurlock, Prufer, and Pigott 2006
Miller Mound	SU0643		ADD 1902 May 21, 1:1
Mystery Cave	SU0644		ABJ July 1899; ADD September 7, 1899
Perrin Cache	SU0645		Perrin 1881:214
Palmer Cave	SU0646		ABJ May 29, 1949 OHC County Files, Summit
Nellie Mound	SU0647		OHC County Files, Summit
Gorge Cave/Bierce Cave	SU0649		ABJ 1900 March 31, 1:4
Wintergreen Ledges	SU0650		Bloetscher 1980:12; Nichols 1979
Kearney Cache	SU0651		Bloetscher 1980:12
Witzman Village	SU0652		Witzman 1962
Fairlawn Mastodon	SU0653		Bloetscher 1980:2 ; Price 2011
Red Lock Mound	SU0654		Bierce 1854; Finney 2002; Perrin 1881
Wolf Ledge Cave	SU0656		Price 2006
Grimm Garden	SU0657		Vogenitz 1999:2
Charles W. Frank	SU0658		OHC Accession Records A0321
Botzum Water Treatment Plant	SU0659		ABJ December 14, 1933
Wooster Hawkins Village	SU0660		Nichols 1979

Of the 43 sites added to the OAI, 30 have prehistoric temporal affiliations in Table 2. The abbreviations for time period follow the same abbreviations used for the OAI (OHPO 2007). These abbreviations are simply the first letter of each word in each time period (i.e. Early Archaic is EA, Unknown Prehistoric is UP, Paleo-Indian is PI, etc.) There are 13 sites that have unknown prehistoric affiliations; this is due mainly to the reporting source, typically newspapers, which describe artifacts at the site in general terms such as “arrowheads” or “axes.” As previously mentioned, without photographic evidence, there is little to corroborate textual reporting from such non-traditional sources.

While the OHPO does not use the term “lithic scatter” in the OAI (OHPO 2007), I use the term here to mean a small (less than 20 count) assemblage of lithic projectile points, debitage, groundstone tools, or other lithic tools. Habitation designations from OHPO (2007) were lumped together for Table 2. There are a total of 13 diagnostic lithic scatters identified, and four

diagnostic isolated finds. Seven habitation sites were identified, and only one of these habitation sites (33 SU 583) did not have a Late Woodland/Late Prehistoric component.

Table 2: Prehistoric site types and temporal affiliations

Site Name	OAI	Temporal Affiliation	Type
Botzum Water Treatment Plant	SU0659	UP	Burial
Pearl St. Burial	SU0638	UP	Burial
Gorge Cave/Bierce Cave	SU0649	UP	Cave
Palmer Cave	SU0646	UP	Cave/Rock Shelter
Wolf Ledge Cave	SU0656	UP	Rock Shelter
Nellie Mound	SU0647	UP	Earth Mound
Red Lock Mound	SU0654	UP	Earth Mound
Ira Gravel Pit mounds	SU0632	UP	Earth Mound Group
Lane Moose	SU0641	UP	Unknown
Miller Mound	SU0643	UP	Unknown
Wooster Hawkins Village	SU0660	UP	Unknown
Kearney Cache	SU0651	EW	Cache
Perrin Cache	SU0645	UW	Cache
Mystery Cave	SU0644	UW	Cave
Stow Rock shelter	SU0642	LA, LW, LP	Rock Shelter
Whelsh farm	SU0579	EW	Earth Mound
Hall Mound	SU0581	LA, UW, MW	Earth Mound
Bauer Mound	SU0578	MA, LA, MW	Earth Mound Group
Ft. Island	SU0009	EW, MW, LW	Earthwork
Witzman Village	SU0652	EA, MA, LA, EW, MW, LP	Habitation
Wood Hollow FS	SU0558	EW, LP	Habitation
Zevenbergen	SU0528	EW, MW, LW, LP	Habitation
Big Bend	SU0227	LW, LP	Habitation
Terrace Area 1	SU0405	LW, LP	Habitation
Boughton Farm	SU0584	PI, EA, MA, EW, MW, LW, LP	Habitation
Aberth Drive (Haag island 10)	SU0583	UA, LA, UW	Habitation
Haag Island 11	SU0574	EW	Isolated Find
Haag Swamp 1	SU0575	EW	Isolated Find
Haag Island 2	SU0573	LA	Isolated Find
Haag Swamp 2	SU0576	LP	Isolated Find
Springfield Bog	SU0630	EA, LA, EW	Lithic Scatter
Charles W. Frank	SU0658	EA, LW, LP	Lithic Scatter
Panzner Farm	SU0588	EA, MA, LA, EW, MW, LW	Lithic Scatter
Amy Franks	SU0585	EA, MW	Lithic Scatter
Hill Top Area 1	SU0404	LA	Lithic Scatter
Grimm Garden	SU0657	MA	Lithic Scatter

Site Name	OAI	Temporal Affiliation	Type
Milan Drive	SU0577	MA, EW	Lithic Scatter
Shanafelt site	SU0580	MA, LA, UW	Lithic Scatter
Mingo Shelter II	SU0482	MW	Lithic Scatter
MotorCycle Club Site	SU0631	MW	Lithic Scatter
Fairlawn Mastodon	SU0653	PI	Lithic Scatter
Wintergreen Ledges	SU0650	PI, EA, MA, LA, EW	Lithic Scatter
Remy Site	SU0582	UA, EW, LP	Lithic Scatter

At least one site listed in Table 1 has come into question as a result of this survey. The Turkey Foot Lake petroglyphs, mapped in Mills 1914, could not be located by Swauger (1984), and was re-affirmed as absent by Vogenitz (1999). While searching the OHC county files, I found two maps that were mailed to Mills; one from a Charles A. Howe in 1912, and another that was unlabeled. Both maps were annotated with two "x's," which may have been intended to symbolize Mills's petroglyph symbol. However, an undated slip of paper, also in the county file, reads "Summit County: added to map: Two deep stone-walled pits, at Turkeyfoot Lake, from Hist. Summit Co., page 214." The history referred to in the note is in Perring (1881:214), which describes two "funnel shaped depressions" lined with stones by a "Mr. McCreery." Based on this information, it would appear that the petroglyph labeled in Mills (1914) is a typo.

Dancey (1984:12) has argued that the 1914 archaeological atlas of Ohio included sites that "appear to have been verified by a field check." While Dancey (1984; 2017, personal communication) sees utility in Mills's (1914) atlas, he urges caution not to take the atlas purely on faith. Echoing Dancey (1984), the archaeological atlas is a good starting point for background research, but it is part of a larger, more holistic literature review. Using Dancey's (1984) references of the Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society's quarterly reports (Moorehead 1895, 1897a, 1897b, 1899), I examined each report for references to Summit County. Only on one occasion, an acknowledgement, did I find a reference to specific archaeological investigations in Summit County. Mr. A. C. Francisco of Akron was thanked for "permission to excavate upon their lands, for personal courtesies and for information as to mounds, etc., to be located upon the State map," (Moorehead 1897a:166-167). It is unclear what Mr. Francisco, or anyone else listed on the page, was specifically thanked. Using https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/, I was able to find census data on Mr. Francisco. Based on the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Federal censuses, Almeron C. Francisco was born in 1836 and lived in Copley Township, Summit County, Ohio. According to the Akron Map and Atlas Company's (1891) atlas of Akron, Mr. Francisco owned land in downtown Akron. It would appear that Mr. Francisco may have had artifacts from his family farm, or other information about the archaeology of the area, rather than allowing for excavations on his property. Neither the historic Francisco farm in Copley township (see Mathews and Tainter 1856), nor the Francisco property in 1891 have archaeological sites mapped in Mills (1914).

The information about Mr. A. C. Francisco is easily searchable in Ancestrylibrary.com and SummitMemory.org online map rooms, which contain digitized copies of historic Summit County Atlases. Landowner histories can quickly be compiled from these atlases, as well as

census records and the county auditor's GIS. Almeron C. Francisco has long since passed away, but his descendants may have snippets of information, or even artifacts that he has collected, that can benefit contract and academic archaeologist alike. The point is that these non-traditional sources, when searched systematically and compiled in the aggregate, allow researchers to gain a greater awareness of the deficiencies in the archaeological record.

Additionally, conducting thorough literature searches similar to this project could aid in predictive modeling and estimating the likelihood of finding archaeological sites in a given project area. For example, the Portage Trail between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Rivers would seem likely to yield archaeological information if surveyed. However; according to Vietzen (1946:2), the collection of George Miller, totaling over 100,000 pieces, was "recovered along the 'portage trail' which passed through Summit County." In addition to Mr. Miller's large collection, Mr. Joseph Witzman has been reported as finding artifacts in Sherbondy park (Nichols 1979) and other artifacts in the area since he was 15 (Witzman 1962); Sherbondy park is within meters of the historic path. Mr. Witzman's childhood residence, according to the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, was on Wooster Avenue, just east of Sherbondy Park. These examples of large scale, long term collecting, coupled with the location of the path in an urban center (downtown Akron) suggest high densities of prehistoric materials, but low probability of integrity.

While it is highly unlikely any of the artifacts found by Messrs. Miller, Vietzen, or Witzman will ever resurface in the archaeological literature, there is still vital information in knowing where others have investigated previously and to what extent. In today's digital era, there is no excuse not to check sources like the Library of Congress's *Chronicling America,* Ancestrylibrary.com, or the *Ohio Archaeologist* to gain a more complete picture of the project area.

Conclusions

While the information contained in newspaper articles, county histories, and collector's notes may not be the same as a professional archaeological investigation, in the aggregate these reports can begin to round out an already biased archaeological record. Prior research has demonstrated the utility of historic reports in archaeological model building (Olson 2016). Nolan (2014) has demonstrated the research potential of the OAI in understanding regional temporal land-use patterns, but this research depends on the quality of the OAI. While the OAI is arguably the largest archaeological database in Ohio, it is still growing and constantly being improved. The techniques applied in this project can be used to identify archaeological sites previously unrecorded on the OAI.

However, there are limitations to the OAI. Not every archaeological site reported by newspapers, collectors, or county histories has a definite provenience. While conducting historic research, some archaeological resources are in a gray area where they are relatively well provenienced, but too vague to warrant an OAI form. For example, Raymond Vietzen captions several of his artifact photos with the description "found along the portage path" (Vietzen

1965:227, 243, 275, and 313). While the artifacts photographed and captioned with such a site description are too vague to warrant an OAI, they are still informative about the types of artifacts recovered along an historic trail. The artifacts photographed would suggest recurring use of the path, based on the fluted point, Archaic semi-lunar and "knobbed" atlatl weight, and the unassigned prehistoric handled mortar and pestle (Vietzen 1965:227, 275, 313). All this material suggests a long history of occupations along the ridgetop where the portage path ran.

There are also numerous more archaeological sites reported in Haag (2006), which I did not add to the OAI simply because I was not comfortable assigning an OAI number to a site with a total area of 200 acres in many cases. Perhaps future researchers would find reasonable provenience for sites I omitted from the OAI in Haag's (2006) book. Nonetheless, the sites reported still add to the prehistoric patterns and artifact densities otherwise left out of archaeological research. Just because a site does not end up on the OAI does not mean the site is not worth discussion in literature reviews. Knowing the history of investigations is just as important as knowing the results of those investigations.

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