

**MNDOT HISTORIC ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT
STRUCTURES INVENTORY**

SC-SPC-069
CS 7005
Mill Pond Roadside Parking Area

Historic Name	Mill Pond Roadside Parking Area	CS #	7005
Other Name	Shakopee Roadside Parking Area	SHPO Inv #	SC-SPC-069

Location	S side of TH 101 .2 mi E of CSAH 17	Hwy District Reference	TH 101 Met W 6.7
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City/Township	Shakopee, City of	Acres	.1
County	Scott	Rest Area Class	4
Twp Rng Sec	115N 22W Sec 6		
USGS Quad	Shakopee		
UTM	Z15 E460150 N4960770		

Designer	Nichols, A R, Consult Land Arch	SP #	7005-13
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Builder	National Youth Administration (NYA)	SHPO Review #	
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Historic Use	Roadside Parking Area	MHS Photo #	013506.01-07
Present Use	Roadside Parking Area		

Yr of Landscape Design	1941	MnDOT Historic Photo Album	Ols 3.141
Overall Site Integrity	Very Altered		
Review Required	Yes		

National Register Status	Not Eligible, see Statement of Significance
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Historic Context	
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List of Standing Structures

Feat#	Feature Type	Year Built	
01	Foundation of Bldg	1847	
02	Marker	1954	
NOTE: Landscape features are not listed in this table			

Fieldwork Date	11-01-96
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Prep by	Gemini Research Dec. 98 G1. 67
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Prep for	Site Development Unit Cultural Resources Unit Environmental Studies Unit
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Final Report	Historic Roadside Development Structures on Minnesota Trunk Highways (1998)
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■ BRIEF

Mill Pond Roadside Parking Area is a small, 0.1-acre site located on the southern side of T.H. 101, about .2 miles east of CSAH 17 and within the city limits of Shakopee.

■ STANDING STRUCTURES

Foundation of Pond Mission House. Built 1847 by Rev. Samuel W. Pond. The focal point of this small site is the foundation of the Samuel Pond House, also known as the Pond Mission House. The foundation is made of tan, roughly-cut, coursed ashlar limestone. The foundation is rectangular and measures about 29' east to west and 22' north to south. The top of the existing foundation is at ground-level. About 1'6" of the inside wall of the foundation is exposed above a rectangular grass-planted depression. Two limestone steps on the southern side lead down into the depression. The woodframe Pond House was razed circa 1907.

Boulder With Metal Plaque. Erected in 1954 by the MHD. South of the Pond House foundation is a large boulder marker that stands about 6' tall. The boulder is mounted on end in a horseshoe-shaped, tan, limestone rubble base that measures about 4' by 5'. There is an aluminum plaque (rectangular with a curvilinear top) mounted on the southern side of the boulder (facing away from T.H. 101). The seals of the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Department of Highways are cast at the bottom of the plaque. The text addresses the Pond Mission. (See text at the end of this document.)

■ OTHER LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND PLANTINGS

The site is accessed via Cavanaugh Drive, an east-west asphalt paved city street that runs parallel to T.H. 101. (There is no longer access directly from T.H. 101.)

Along the western edge of the site is an apparently spring-fed pond (or drainage area) that crosses under T.H. 101 at the northwestern corner of the site and toward the Minnesota River to the north. This is the former "mill pond" shown in the original plans.

The existing site is planted with grass and is open and almost treeless. Its plantings consist of one young pine north of the boulder marker, one mature lilac bush near the southeastern corner of the foundation, two small juniper shrubs flanking the boulder, and flowers in front of (south of) the boulder. There is also a newly-planted row of deciduous shrubs at the northern edge of the site along the grassy T.H. 101 ditch. The topography of the site is relatively flat.

Plantings are specified in general terms on the original plans (i.e., simple evergreen trees, deciduous trees, and deciduous shrubs) but were crossed out. (The planting may have been done as a separate project.) The original plan shows the site as being heavily shaded.

■ **SETTING**

The site feels like an open, treeless, under-used parcel located on a long strip of land lying between T.H. 101 to the north and the Chicago and Northwestern railroad tracks to the south. (These tracks run east and west through Shakopee, parallel with T.H. 101.) The site is surrounded by a creek or drainage area to the west; T.H. 101, Shakopee Memorial Park, and the Minnesota River to the north; the Chicago and Northwestern tracks and Cavanaugh Drive to the south; Cavanaugh Drive and vacant land to the east; and several commercial properties.

■ **INTEGRITY**

Alterations

The site has been reduced in size considerably and was altered twice, once circa 1954 and once more recently. (See Historical Background below.)

The northern unit of the site (north of T.H. 101) has been eliminated. (This area is now vacant highway right-of-way and an adjacent city park called Shakopee Memorial Park.) The stone-veneered concrete culvert has been replaced by a modern highway bridge. The southern parking area, picnic area, trails, and plantings have been removed.

The entrance drive, parking area, and sign constructed circa 1954 were removed at an unknown date. The boulder marker that was added in 1954 was subsequently moved to the southern side of the Mission foundation and turned to face south.

The site has lost integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It retains only its location and (partially) its setting.

Notes on Condition

The building foundation is in poor condition and unprotected from weather and vandalism. The boulder marker is in fair condition.

■ **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Original construction plans for the Mill Pond Roadside Parking Area (S.P. 7005-13) are stamped "Final Plans Construction Division. N.Y.A. June 1, 1941." The plan was signed by Harold E. Olson (Engineer of Roadside Development), A. R. Nichols (Consulting Landscape Architect), and [illegible] (District Engineer). The site was constructed by the National Youth Administration (NYA) in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Highways.

The original plan for the roadside parking area is extensive, stretching more than 600' along both sides of T.H. 101. It originally included a larger parcel on the southern side of T.H. 101, plus a strip of land on the northern side of T.H. 101 that included a gravel parking area (lined with a rustic log or timber guardrail), a picnic area, a walking trail, and a mill pond. The southern unit included a parking area lined with a rustic guardrail, trails, and a picnic area. A stone-veneered concrete culvert with stone and timber railings carried a creek (leading to the mill pond) under T.H. 101. The culvert doubled as a pedestrian underpass

that linked the northern and southern units. Visitors walked under the highway on a stone walkway through the culvert.

It was proposed on the original plans that a stone historic marker be built inside of the Pond Mission House foundation (facing north), but it is crossed off of the original plans and was never built. The marker was to be accessible by footpaths that circled through the site and under the T.H. 101 underpass.

November 1955 photographs of the site show picnic tables and a limestone picnic fireplace on the southern side of T.H. 101, and the stone piers and timber railings of the T.H. 101 culvert (Olson ca. 1942/ca. 1954).

In circa 1954 Mn/DOT apparently redesigned the site. The current boulder marker was erected in 1954 by the Minnesota Historical Society in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Highways. It was originally placed *north* of the Mission foundation and faced T.H. 101 to the north. The marker stood just east of an asphalt-paved entrance drive that led from T.H. 101 south to a small rectangular parking area west of the foundation that was lined with timber posts. A timber hanging-arm sign of the type commonly used by the Roadside Development Division stood just east of the entrance drive. The sign read "Mill Pond Roadside Parking Area."

By the time of this project's fieldwork in 1996, the site had been redesigned a third time. Access directly from T.H. 101 was replaced with a long access drive that parallels T.H. 101. The circa 1954 parking area and posts were removed. The boulder marker was moved to the southern side of the foundation and turned to face southward.

■ PREVIOUS SHPO REVIEWS

There have been several archaeological surveys that have included the area of the Pond Mission Site (see References below), but it is not clear that the Mission House foundations have been specifically reviewed.

■ STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mill Pond R.P.A. is a roadside parking area that originally had a complex site design. It was developed in 1941 by the MHD in cooperation with the NYA. It is one of 19 properties in this inventory on which the NYA worked. It is one of more than 60 sites that were designed by, or whose design is attributed to, Arthur R. Nichols.

This property has been evaluated within the historic context "Roadside Development on Minnesota Trunk Highways, 1920-1960." It is recommended that the property is NOT ELIGIBLE for the National Register under this historic context due to loss of integrity. However, an archaeological evaluation may be necessary to determine whether the site is eligible for the National Register because of the presence of the Pond mission foundation or other potential archaeological resources.

■ OTHER COMMENTS

According to SHPO archaeologist Scott Anfinson, there have apparently been no major archaeological studies specifically focused on the Pond Mission House site, although nearby Native American mound and occupation sites have been studied (primarily the Shakopee Village Site 21SC2). (See References below.) Archaeological resources north of this wayside rest were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 as the "Shakopee Historic District." (See Grossman 1970.) This property may require further evaluation for potential archaeological resources.

The foundation remains are unprotected and under-interpreted. The site feels exposed and unlandscaped. It is recommended that Mn/DOT take measures to protect and interpret the foundation remains. It is recommended that the site interpretation be updated for cultural sensitivity.

The text of the historic marker is specifically associated with the site of the wayside rest.

T.H. 101 is a very busy, divided highway past this site.

■ REFERENCES

Anfinson, Scott. Conversation with S. Granger. September 1998.

Blegen, Theodore C. *Minnesota: A History of the State*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1975.

Breakey, Kim and Elden Johnson. *Cultural Resource Assessment of the Minnesota Valley Trail Corridor from Highway 169 to the East End of Murphy's Landing, Scott County, Minnesota*. Prepared for Mn/DNR. Minneapolis: Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, Nov. 1989.

Folwell, William Watts. *A History of Minnesota*. Vol. 1. 1921; rev. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1956.

Grossman, John. "Shakopee Historic District." National Register Nomination Form. March 10, 1970.

Hughes, Thomas. *Indian Chiefs of Southern Minnesota*. Mankato: Free Press Company, 1927.

Nystuen, David W. *The Minnesota Trunk Highway Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey: Annual Report - 1972*. Submitted to the Commissioner of Minnesota Highways. 1972.

Olson, Harold E., comp. *Historical Markers in Minnesota*. 4 vols. Prepared by the Roadside Development Division, Minnesota Department of Highways. Ca. 1942, updated ca. 1954.

Peterson, Leslie D. *The Minnesota Trunk Highway Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey: Annual Report - 1984*. 1984.

"Pond Indian Mission." *Minnesota Highways*, Oct. 1956.

Roberts, Norene, with Clark Dobbs, Kim Breakey, Craig Johnson, John Muehlhausen, and Howard Mooers. *A Lower Minnesota River Valley Cultural Resource Study and Interpretive Plan for the Minnesota Valley Trail*. Prepared for the MnDNR. June 1993.

Shakopee Village Site (21SC2). Archaeological site forms. SHPO.

Wilford, Lloyd A. "The Shakopee Village Site." Unpublished typewritten site report, n.d. [circa 1940].

■ ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MARKER TEXT

This area was the site of an early Eastern Dakota village and a mission that was established by Samuel Pond. Prehistoric Native American tribes populated this area, as evidenced by burial mounds located near this site. These mounds were built between 300 B.C. and 1700 A.D. (Grossman 1970:n.p.). The first recorded Native American group to reside in this area was the Santee Dakota, circa 1900s. During the early 1800s, the Dakota village of Chief Shakpay was located here. This is, perhaps, the most documented Native American village in Minnesota, due to the writings of missionary Samuel Pond.

The Shakpay band was led by a hereditary chief, Shakpay (Six) or Shakpadan (Little Six), for whom all succeeding chiefs were named. Archaeologist Lloyd A. Wilford writes that no one is certain when the Shakopee band may have migrated to this site, but the village may have been established after the Mdwakanton Dakota moved from Mille Lacs to the lower Minnesota River during the middle of the 18th century. Before 1800, Shakpay's band lived along the Minnesota River and was recorded at that location by Col. Stephen H. Long in 1823. The Dakota were forced from this area by the Ojibwe, circa 1839, and relocated to the area now known as Shakopee. Shakpay's village, which had a population of about 600, was known by various spellings: "Tintowan," "Tintonwan," and "Tintahton" (Village on the Prairie). After the signing of the Treaty of Traverse Des Sioux in 1851, the Shakpay band was removed (circa 1853) to the Lower Agency of the Dakota Reservation on the upper Minnesota River (Wilford ca. 1940:1).

In 1839 a government employee was sent to Shakpay's village to instruct the Dakota in "modern" agricultural techniques. A former trader for the American Fur Company, Hazen Moers [Moorers], his Dakota wife and family became the first Euro-American settlers in the area. In 1843 Oliver Faribault, the son of trader Jean Baptiste Faribault, built the first house in the area. Missionary Samuel Pond arrived in 1847 and built ". . . a small pallisaded mission of stone 'within one hundred rods' of the village. The mission home stood just east of the Faribault trading post in the NE 1/4 of Section 6 of Eagle Creek township" (Breakey and Johnson 1989:7). Apparently, the lumber for the house was purchased at Point Douglas and brought by oxen to Fort Snelling, where the millwork and framing were prepared, and then transported by barge up the Minnesota River to its location (Roberts et al 1993:210).

Samuel William and Gideon Hollister Pond of Connecticut, who arrived in Minnesota in 1834, established missions among the Dakota, one of which was located at Shakopee. Initially, the Ponds were not ordained ministers, but laymen who worked among the Dakota teaching agricultural methods. Eventually, they were ordained as Congregational ministers and established several mission stations under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The American Board had its headquarters in Boston and sponsored missions established by the Congregational, Presbyterian, and Dutch Reformed churches. Samuel Pond

developed a Dakota/English dictionary in 1839, and Gideon Pond helped translate the Bible into the Dakota language.

Samuel Pond's first mission was at the Dakota village of Kaposia (a few miles south of St. Paul) where he taught Chief Big Thunder farming methods. Gideon Pond established a mission on the east bank of Lake Calhoun at Chief Cloudman's village where he also taught farming methods. Historian W. W. Folwell writes: "But the young zealots from Connecticut had not abandoned the comforts and employments of civilization to plow ground for Indians and show them how to grow corn. They came filled with the missionary ideal of the day, to evangelize heathen, enlighten their understandings, and save their souls from impending perdition" (Folwell 1956:187). In 1836 Gideon Pond joined the mission at Lac qui Parle where he helped construct the log mission house, and from 1838-1839 Samuel Pond was at the Lake Harriet mission. During 1840 and 1841, the Pond brothers and their families served at Camp Coldwater (near Mendota), and in 1843 they built a mission near the Indian camp on the Minnesota River (Bloomington Township, Hennepin County) where Gideon Pond remained until his death in 1878.

The Shakopee Mission was established in 1847 by Samuel Pond. Chief Shakpay invited Pond to establish a mission school. "Shakopee promised that his people would send their children to the school and agreed to allow fuel and pasturage for the mission" (Folwell 1956: 198). Pond built the two story woodframe structure, which served as the mission as well as Pond's home, and named the place Prairieville. Pond wrote of his home:

The mission house at Shakopee was pleasantly located on gently rising ground, about half a mile south of the Minnesota River. At a distance of twenty rods or so to the west was the house of the fur trader, Oliver Faribault. Between these two dwellings was a ravine through which ran a never failing spring of clear water, which had doubtless served to determine the location of the Indian village.

The village was south of the mission house and near by, and was called by the Dakotas 'Tintonwan' signifying, 'The Village on the prairie.' Mr. Pond named the place Prairieville, by which name it was known until the arrival of white settlers, five years later, who, sacrificing euphony to novelty, called it Shakopee, after the chief.

Between the mission house and the Minnesota River lay a beautiful and fertile tract of 'bottom land,' as it was ordinarily termed, subject to annual or biennial overflow. . .

On one side of this fertile tract ran a clear sparkling stream of water, flowing from the spring before described; itself bounded in turn by a rocky bluff rising precipitously from the brink of the stream. This land was bounded on the other side by the Minnesota, sweeping in a beautiful curve around its border. This piece of land was cultivated by the Indians, and when not covered by water, tadpoles and fishes, in the months of June and July was rich with waving corn (Pond, *Two Volunteer Missionaries*, pp. 185-186 quoted in Breakey and Johnson 1989:25-26).

Samuel Pond resided at the mission until his death in 1891. The mission was razed circa 1907.

The city of Shakopee, the seat of Scott County, has been known by several names. It was originally named "Tintonwan" by the Dakota, meaning "Village on the Prairie"; French voyagers named it "Prairie des Francois" (the French Prairie); U.S. Military and Indian Agency records

referred to it as "Little Sixes" or "Sixes" (a translation of the Dakota name "Shakpay"); Rev. Samuel Pond named it "Prairieville"; and, finally, "Shakopee," was selected by Euro-American settlers. The city was first settled in 1851 by Thomas A. Holmes who established an Indian trading post at the site. Shakopee was platted in 1854 and incorporated in 1857.

Text of Metal Plaque on Boulder Marker

"These foundations mark the site of a two-story frame building erected by the Reverend Samuel W. Pond in 1847. It served as a Presbyterian mission to the Shakopee Sioux, and as Pond's home until his death in 1891.

"An eight-foot stockade enclosed the house and a half-acre garden.

"The building was wrecked about 1907. [Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Department of Highways seals]