

**Archaeological Site Data Base Enhancement
for Southeastern Indiana:
Dearborn, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley,
Scott, and Switzerland Counties**

Prepared for:

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Abstract

With the support of funds from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology, Indiana University, conducted a database enhancement project in a seven-county area in southeastern Indiana. Work on the project was conducted from August 1989 to May 1990. The objective of the project was to obtain new information on archaeological sites in the targeted project area.

The study recorded 369 new sites and obtained new information on 13 previously documented sites. In addition, one hundred fifteen (115) sites recorded during the project were inspected by the authors, and one individual donated a collection of artifacts from site 12 D 18 to the Laboratory. The primary goal of the study was to gather information on approximately 400 sites. In terms of enhancing the archaeological database, the study added 37.6% to the overall number of recorded sites in the seven-county study area. For Jefferson and Jennings counties, this increase was much greater. The secondary goal of the study was to investigate a number of the recorded sites by means of a reconnaissance level field survey. This goal was easily met, as a total of thirty percent (30.1%) of the sites recorded during this project were inspected by the authors.

Four straightforward recommendations for further archaeological investigations are offered. First, all of the newly recorded sites should be field checked to determine their eligibility for inclusion on the State and National Registers. Second, the low incidence of repeated site location information between the informants shows that additional collector interview studies of this type can efficiently be made within the study area. Third, other areas of southern Indiana should be addressed in a similar fashion. A number of people who might provide information to future projects were identified during the present project. Therefore, the mechanism for continued data base enhancement projects in southern Indiana is already in place. Fourth, preservation efforts should be coordinated between the Department of Natural Resources and various archaeological, speleological, and biological organizations concerning the cave and karst features of southeast Indiana. Conservation efforts should stress monitoring of vandalism and other activities that impact the natural and cultural integrity of such features.

*Abstract created by Patrick Sovereign
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