AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF THE WOODSTOCK FARM TRAIL PROJECT AREA, BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

by

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Prepared for

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This survey and assessment of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area has found no clear unequivocal evidence of potentially significant Native American archaeological resources. We did note the presence of a number of early 20th Century features associated with the Gates-era Woodstock Farm. All of these features were known of prior to the present study and current plans call for addressing them as part of a historic district nomination for the property to be prepared later. Our review of this study area indicates that much of it is disturbed. Much of the northern portion of the area consists of fill deposits. Most surfaces in the center and southern portions of the area appear to be natural, but have been disturbed by road building and landscaping. Subsurface testing indicates that charcoal is relatively common in the soil here, but our test pits found no evidence of archaeological deposits or features, nor did we observe any indications of the presence of buried shell, bone, or any type of prehistoric artifact. We believe that the landforms in the study area are unlikely to have been attractive for occupation and that the potential for as yet undiscovered occupation evidence here is very low.

While we think that the potential for occupation evidence here is very low, the situation with respect to prehistoric graves is somewhat different. We noted in our earlier discussion of expectations that this setting shares characteristics with some locations where rock cairn graves have been found. We have not found features that we believe to be intact rock cairn graves. We have, however, located a few loose concentrations of cobbles and boulders that at least superficially resemble vandalized rock cairn graves. We think that this interpretation is plausible. It must be stressed that these 'features' occur in an area that has probably been disturbed by road construction and is close to a Gates-era stone wall and the Inspiration Point Lookout. Thus, we think that it is equally plausible - - and perhaps more likely - - that these are historic 'features'. Perhaps they are related to the Gates-era stone wall just upslope? These features have not been investigated in detail and their specific origin and significance remains unclear.

From a management perspective, we think that the likelihood that these rock 'features' represent vandalized rock cairn graves is relatively low, but we also believe that this low probability should be respected. As such, we believed that the southernmost 100 feet of the study area should be considered to be sensitive. When P&RD planners establish the trail route through this area, we recommend that they develop an alignment that bypasses these loose concentrations of cobbles and boulders. Moreover, if these features really do represent vandalized rock cairn graves, then it is possible that isolated human bones could be scattered in the vicinity. Again, we do not think that this condition is likely. We do, however, think that it is possible. As such, we believe that any ground-disturbance planned in the southernmost 100 feet of the study area should be monitored by a professional archaeologist who has the authority to halt the disturbance immediately if potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered. In the event of such a discovery, appropriate authorities (i.e., the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, the Lummi and Nooksack Tribes, and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation) should be notified, and the discovery should be evaluated before any decisions about further disturbance are made.

The cover picture is an aerial photograph of the Woodstock Farm area and Inspiration Point in Bellingham. The study area is the wooded area near the center of this view.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area has benefited from the interest and support of a number of people. Tim Wahl of the City of Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Department was the coordinator between that department and Wessen & Associates, Inc. and has provided helpful information about the study area and its history. Jonathan Schilk, also of the City of Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Department, also provided helpful information about the Study Area. Sarah Campbell of Western Washington University provided helpful information about her recent research at 45WH55. Lena Tso of the Lummi Nation's Tribal Historic Preservation Office and George Swanaset Jr. of the Nooksack Tribe's Natural Resources Department provided helpful views of the project. Stephenie Kramer of the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation also provided useful background information and guidance regarding our effort.

Gloria Gould-Wessen of Wessen & Associates, Inc. prepared graphics and edited text for this report.

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1 INTRODUCTION

In 2006, the City of Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Department (P&RD) proposed to develop a short new trail on a portion of the Woodstock Farm Property, on the south side of Bellingham. Since a number of potentially significant archaeological resources are located in the general vicinity, the department determined it would be wise to obtain an archaeological assessment of this area. To this end, Mr. Tim Wahl of the P&RD arranged for Wessen & Associates, Inc. to undertake a survey of the proposed study area and to offer recommendations regarding any archaeological resources which may be present. The fieldwork portion of the study was conducted by Gary Wessen, Ph.D. and Camille Mather during the fall of this year.

This report describes the background, goals, methods, fieldwork, findings, conclusions, and recommendations of our investigation of the proposed Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area. Field notes and photographs taken during the study are on file with Wessen & Associates, Inc.

2 BACKGROUND

Appropriate areas of background consideration for this presentation include the basic character of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area and its environmental, cultural, and archaeological settings.

2.1 The Study Area

The Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area can be thought of as a roughly rectangular approximately 2 acre area located along the eastern margin of the Woodstock Farm Property at Chuckanut Bay, on the south side of Bellingham (see Figure 1). Thus, it is located in the southwest quarter of Section 13, Township 37 North, Range 2 East. While the study area can be thought of as roughly rectangular, most of this area will not be affected by the project. The work will be focused primarily upon the vicinity of proposed trail alignment: a narrow winding corridor that is approximately 550 feet long and 10 to 20 feet wide (see Figure 2). The final form and details of the trail were not available at the time of our study, we were advised that ground-disturbing impacts were expected to be limited. The actual trail alignment would be built across a combination of cut and filled surface. Cutting, where it occurred, would be unlikely to exceed a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Existing trees would be avoided. It is possible that infrastructure such as a few benches and/or signs may be included.

At the time of our study, the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area was a mostly undeveloped area mantled by a second-growth forest on the Woodstock Farm Property. Most of the northern third of the alignment climbs a steep, poorly drained, brushy forested slope known to consist of fill deposits. The area immediately to the northwest of this filled area now contains a paved sports court and parking lot. The central and southern portions of the area contour across less brushy woodlands and terminates at a stone wall and the Inspiration Point Lookout on Chuckanut Drive. Much of this area appears to have been disturbed before. Much of the eastern portion of the study area has been affected by the development and/or improvements to, Chuckanut Drive. There are also clear indications of grading and/or filling elsewhere on the property.

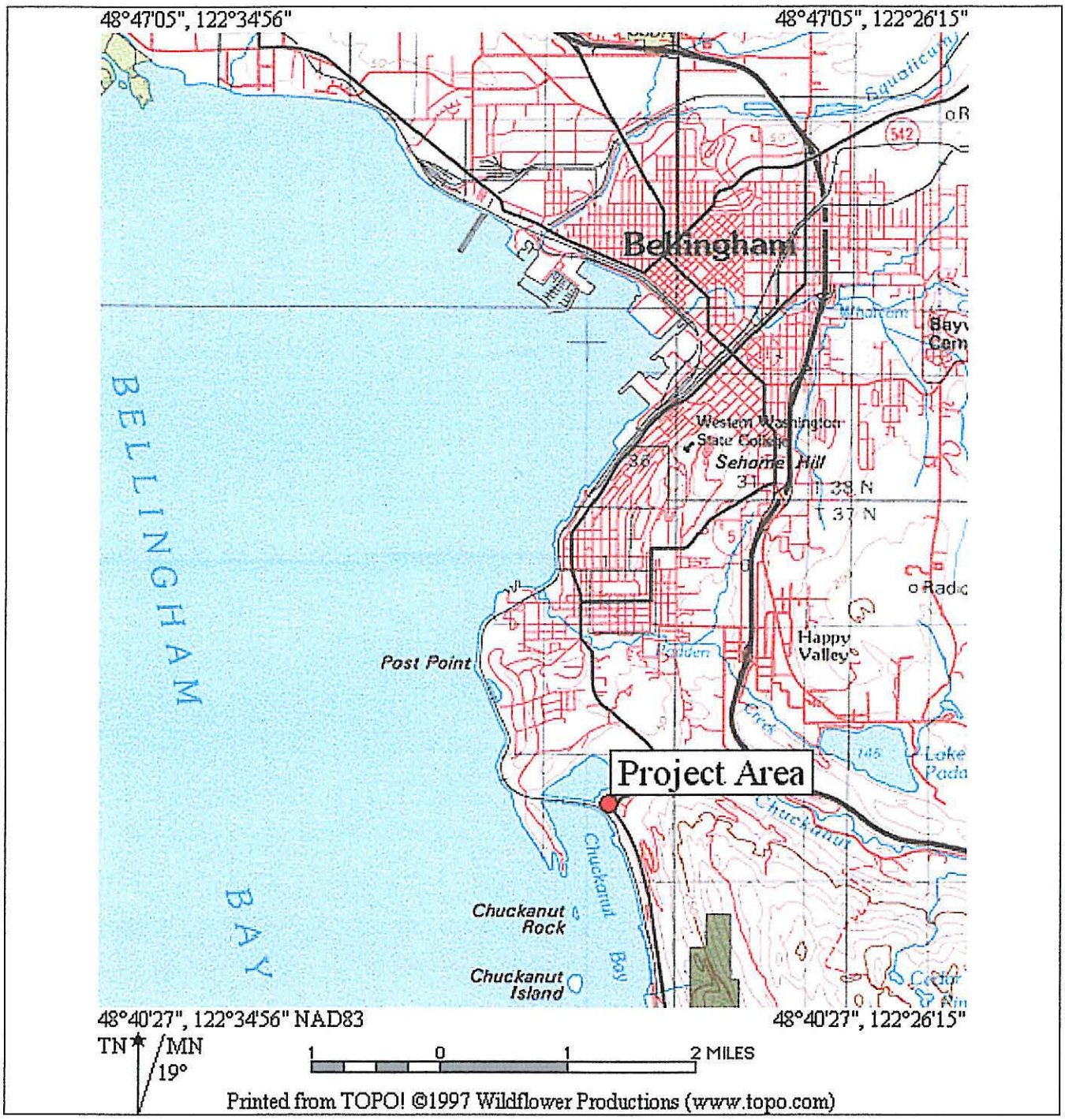

Figure 1 The Location of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, Bellingham, Washington.

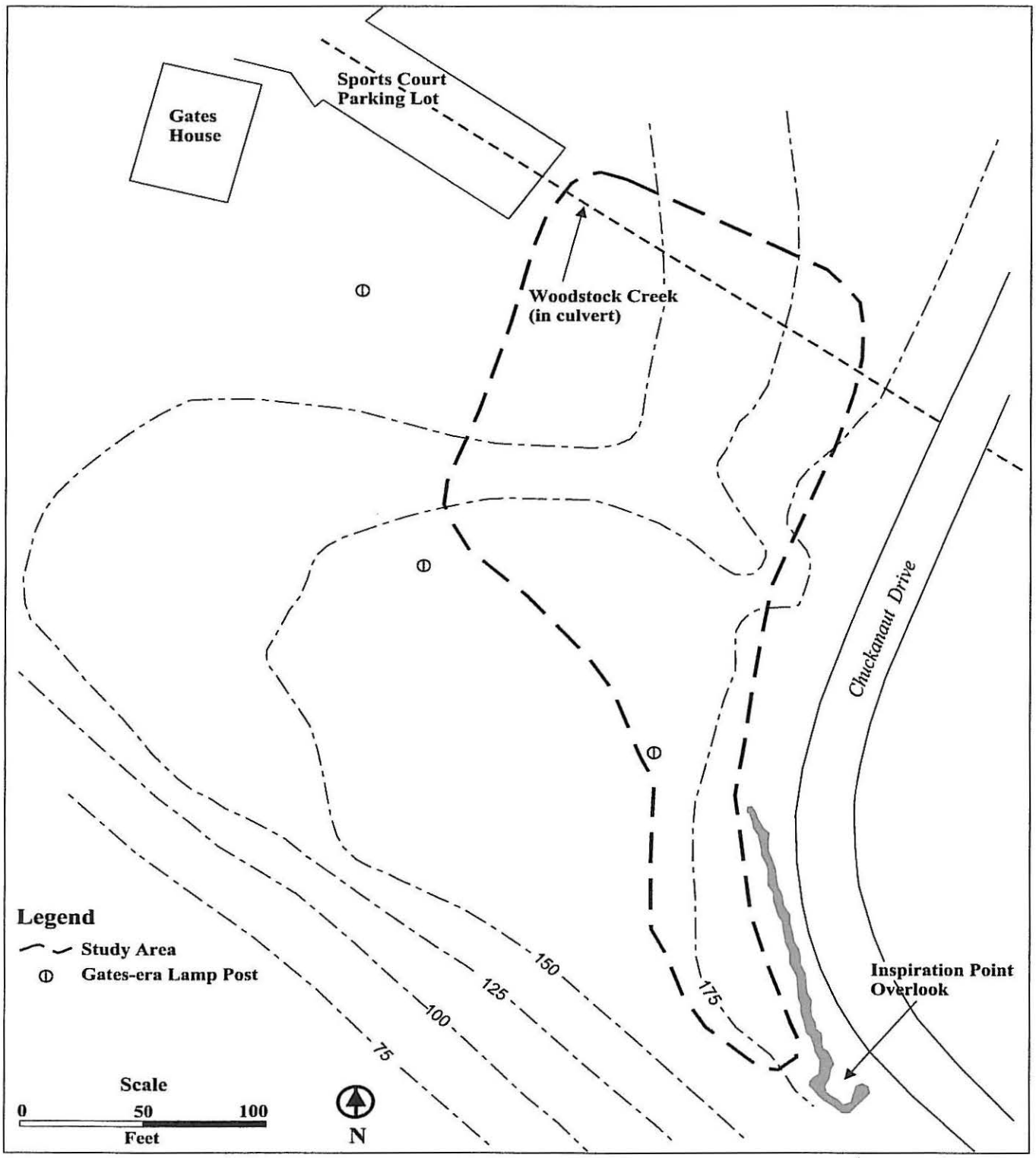

Figure 2 The Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, Bellingham, Washington.

2.2 Environmental Setting

The Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area is a complex of sloping surfaces located on a locally prominent rocky point near the northeastern end of Chuckanut Bay. The eastern margin of the study area is the highest, with an elevation of approximately 175 feet above seal level. The dominant slope of the area is to the west, but there are significant differences in the gradient of this slope. The northern portion of the study area contains a relatively steep brushy forested slope known to consist of fill deposits (see Figures 3 and 4) This area appears to contain at least 30 feet of fill materials and was formerly a much shallower sloping draw that contained Woodstock Creek (see Figure 7). Much of the central portion of the area crosses a shallower sloping surface that extends to the northwest that has been developed to offer dramatic views of Chuckanut Bay (see Figure 5). The western (i.e., lower) edge of this relatively flatter area is approximately 125 feet above sea level. Finally, the extreme southern end of the trail alignment reaches into a very steep area at Inspiration Point (see Figure 6). Bedrock exposures of Chuckanut sandstone are present in this area and a few large glacial erratics are present on the shallower sloping surface just to the south. There are currently no significant fresh water surface resources in the study area. As just noted, however, the Woodstock Creek channel crosses the southern portion of the study area. Prior to development, the creek flowed on the surface here. Now it flows through a culvert that passes under the filled draw and the paved sports court and parking lot. The closest marine shoreline is in the Chuckanut Bay area, approximately 350 feet to the southwest.

The entire Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area is mantled with what Goldin (1992:Map 44) describes as a Nati Series soil. These are typically somewhat excessively drained soils that have developed in colluvium and slope alluvium derived from sandstone and siltsone with an admixture of volcanic ash and glacial till. Goldin characterizes them as a soil on foothill backslopes and plateaus. They are common in this area and often overlie bedrock.

As noted above, most of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area is covered by a second-growth forest. There are very few - - if any - - old growth trees or tree stumps in the area. The vicinity of the filled area which formerly contained Woodstock Creek, is dominated by dense stands of relatively young red alder (*Alnus rubra*) with an understory of salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilus*) and sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*). The sport court and parking area immediately adjacent to it is flanked by a maintained lawn and ornamental plants. The shallower sloping surface in the center of the project area is more open. It contains a sparser cover of somewhat older second-growth trees including Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), and Pacific madrona (*Arbutus menziesii*) and only a very limited under-story. This area also contains a few clearly exotic trees such as two mature beechs (*Fagus* sp.). Finally, the steep slope on the southern end of the study area is also dominated by Douglas fir, but here with an understory containing ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolori*) and braken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

No wildlife observations were made during the fieldwork, but it is assumed that the area hosts, or formerly hosted, most animals common to lowland areas in Whatcom County.

Figure 3 Facing the filled-in Woodstock Creek draw, Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area Study Area, Bellingham, Washington. Note sports court in foreground. View is to the southeast.

Figure 4 Wooded slope in the filled-in Woodstock Creek draw, Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, Bellingham, Washington. View is to the southeast.

Figure 5 The relatively flatter Gates-era surface in the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, Bellingham, Washington. Note blue Gates-era light post in middle distance. View is to northwest.

Figure 6 Steep side slope at Inspiration Point, Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, Bellingham, Washington. The concrete structure is the Gates-era lookout. View is to the south.

2.3 Cultural Setting

The cultural setting of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area includes both the Native American and Euro-American use of the vicinity. The following sections briefly consider each.

2.3.1 Native American Setting

The late prehistoric and early historic Native American occupants of southwestern Whatcom County were members of a broad grouping of peoples referred to as the Coast Salish. Coast Salish peoples are widespread in Western Washington and southwestern British Columbia and are divisible into a number of smaller regional groups. The people of the Whatcom, northwestern Skagit, and San Juan County areas are considered to be members of the Central Coast Salish (Suttles 1990). They are distinguished from their neighbors by the language they speak: *Lkungen*, as opposed to the *Lushootseed* spoken by other local Salish groups further to the south. They also differ in their pursuit of a distinctive subsistence and settlement system which traditionally placed a heavy emphasis upon exploiting the marine resources, particularly the reef-netting of sockeye salmon, within their traditional territory.

The Central Coast Salish people have often been divided into a number of tribal groups, but it is worthwhile to note that such tribal groups may be historic phenomena and the term "tribe" may not be directly applicable to the pre-contact inhabitants of the area. Most types of economic, political and social affiliation appear to have focused on local lineal groups (i.e., families). Family control of resource collection localities and ownership of the rights to ceremonial properties such as dances, songs, titles, and masks was the rule. The historic tribal groups most frequently mentioned in the southwestern part of Whatcom County include the Lummi and the Noo-wha-ah Indians. The latter are sometimes referred to as the Upper Samish Indians.

There appears to be very little ethno-historical information about the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area and its general vicinity. We know that the Lummi People held much of the land to the north and that the Noo-wha-ah lands were mostly to the south. There is no clear agreement regarding the boundary between these two territories. Indeed, there is even some reason to believe that such boundaries have probably changed over time (Allen 1976). Stern (1934) places the southern boundary of Lummi Territory a few miles to the south of Chuckanut Creek (and the present study area). Suttles (1951) places the southern boundary of Lummi Territory just to the north of Chuckanut Creek. Sampson (1972) places the northern boundary of Noo-wha-ah Territory well to the north of Chuckanut Creek. While we know of no specific accounts describing Native People either within, or close to, the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, we can note that Suttles (1951:42) says that there was a Samish camp on the north side of Chuckanut Bay, approximately 0.5 mile to the north of the project area.

2.3.2 Euro-American Setting

The earliest known Euro-American activities in the general vicinity of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area occurred just to the north on Bellingham Bay (Carhart 1926, Edson 1968). The first European to enter the area was probably Francisco Eliza, who briefly visited Bellingham Bay in 1791. The following year Joseph Whidbey, who served under George Vancouver, surveyed the bay and it was subsequently given the name "Bellingham Bay" on the

latter's chart. The name was apparently given in honor of Sir William Bellingham, an associate of Vancouver's. The first settler on Bellingham Bay was William Prattle, who arrived in 1852. Additional settlers became established in the next few years and four separate platted communities - - Whatcom, Sehome, Bellingham, and Fairhaven - - were present along the eastern shore of the bay by the 1880s (Scott and Turbeville III 1983). The four communities ultimately merged to become the modern City of Bellingham.

The Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area is located close to the northern end of the Chuckanut Drive area, at the southern end of the City of Bellingham. This is an overland route that follows the shoreline from the vicinity of Chuckanut Bay southward to the vicinity of Clayton Bay in Skagit County. It was first built as a military road in the 1860s (Thomas 1971). It was acquired by the State Highway Department in 1907 and the paving of portions of it began in 1919. Small changes in the road have occurred over the years, but the modern Chuckanut Drive is on or close to its original alignment.

We have not established who the first property owner was, but we do know that this area was not a part of any mid 19th century Donation Land Claim. The earliest owner we are aware of was Cyrus Lester Gates, a prominent early 20th Century Bellingham business man (Judd, Arnold, and Arnold 1985, Steele and Wahl 2005). Gates arrived in the area in the early 1890s and began acquiring property at Woodstock Farm in 1905. He developed the house and grounds. He named it 'Woodstock' in honor of Woodstock, Vermont. Gates had most of the property assembled by 1915. It remained in his family's control until the late 1930s or early 1940s.

There are a number of early 20th Century photographs of the Woodstock Farm that are relevant to the present study. One such important image shows the Woodstock Creek draw prior to its filling in the 1950s (see Figure 7). Note the Chuckanut Drive bridge for in the distance.

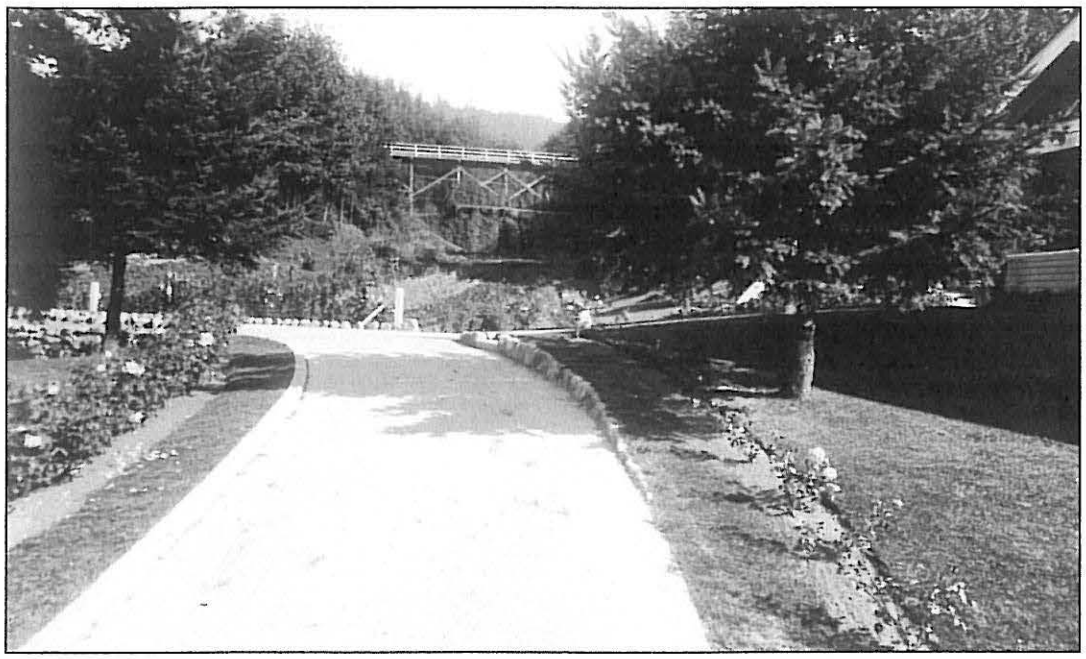

Figure 7 The Gates house (right) and grounds in the 1920s, prior to filling the Woodstock Creek draw. Note the bridge for Chuckanut Drive in the center distance. The garden area between the bridge and driveway is now the sports court. View is to the southeast. (Compare this image to Figure 3.)

The bridge was replaced by a filled berm across the draw to support the road bed and Woodstock Creek was placed into a long culvert at this time. There is also photographic evidence that large rocks have been moved, and other types of landscaping has occurred, on the relatively flatter surface in the center of the study area. Finally, a stone wall and the lookout built at Inspiration Point in the 1920s is one of the more commonly photographed locations in the area (see Figure 8).

Figure 8 A ca. 1925 postcard showing the Inspiration Point Lookout and Chuckanut Drive. (Compare this image to Figure 6.)

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The history of archaeological research in this region begins shortly before the beginning of the 20th Century, but the vast majority of such activities have occurred during the last 50 years. The earliest efforts were associated with the American Museum of Natural History's Jessup North Pacific Expedition, and these resulted in what are essentially reconnaissance reports of prehistoric cultural resources by Harlan Smith and Gerald Fowkes (1901), and Smith (1907). Smith and Fowkes noted the presence of shell midden sites on the northern part of Bellingham Bay, but they provided very little information about them. Writing shortly later, Albert Reagan (1917) also identified several midden sites on the northern part of Bellingham Bay, but he also offered few details about any of these places. After Smith, Fowkes, and Reagan, there were virtually no further archaeological studies in western Whatcom County until the early 1970s. At that time, Garland Grabert and his students at Western Washington University initiated a wide-ranging survey and excavation studies in this area. Grabert was active for more than 20 years and, directly or indirectly, had a role in the recording of more than

100 sites in Whatcom County. Grabert's replacement at Western Washington University, Sarah Campbell, remains active in the archaeology of this region today. Most of the recorded archaeological sites in western Whatcom County are shell middens associated with the modern marine shoreline. These sites probably represent late prehistoric to early historic settlements. Present in lesser numbers are grave sites, petroglyph (rock art) sites, and lithic sites. Only a small percentage of Whatcom County's sites have been dated with radiometric techniques and most of the latter are from a few hundred to a few thousand years old. Nevertheless, assessments of site age based upon stylistic comparisons, suggest that some Whatcom County sites are probably much older.

There are no recorded archaeological sites either within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area. There are, however, a number of recorded prehistoric sites in the general vicinity. All of the latter appear to be associated with the Chuckanut Bay shoreline. The closest site is 45WH55, an area with shell midden deposits located approximately 500 feet from the nearest part of the study area, along the northwest margin of Woodstock Farm. The upper end of Chuckanut Bay also has two other recorded shell midden sites (45WH50 and 45WH54) and two petroglyph sites (45WH77 and 45WH78). All of these sites were recorded by Garland Grabert and/or his students in the 1970s. Unfortunately, very little is known about most of them. None of the shell midden sites appear to be associated with ethno-historically reported Native American settlements but, as just noted, it is likely that most are late prehistoric to early historic settlements. In contrast, there is some reason to believe that one or both of the petroglyph sites may be relatively recent historic features. (Petroglyphs at 45WH77 include a "peace sign" and a "possible autograph".)

Our knowledge of the prehistory of the Chuckanut Bay area is likely to improve soon. Campbell conducted a Western Washington University field school at 45WH55 during the summer of 2005. While a report of this work is not yet available, Campbell reports that there are actually two distinct shell midden nearby areas here. Only a few radiocarbon dates have yet been obtain as yet, the available dates indicating occupation approximately 2,500 years ago. The duration of the occupation is not yet known. (A historic component is present, but Campbell suspects that it may be related to the Gates-era occupation rather than to Native American people.) The prehistoric inventory from 45WH55 is yet to be described in detail, but we know that it includes both chipped stone projectile points and microblades. Given the radiocarbon dates and what we know of the artifacts, it is possible that either a Marpole or Locarno Beach assemblage may be present.

Finally, it should be recognized that the Woodstock Farm Property also contains a number of extant features that can be considered to be historic archaeological resources. Such features are Gates-era improvements to Woodstock Farm. The Inspiration Point Lookout is the best known of these, but other examples include lampposts, benches, flagpoles, and a wall. The latter vary in condition and none have been formally evaluated or recorded as either historic structures or historic archaeological sites.

3 RESEARCH DESIGN

The activities described in this report represent a limited program of site survey designed to determine whether potentially significant archaeological resources are present within the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area. The research design of the effort included both a clear statement of goals and an identified set of appropriate methods.

3.1 Research Goals

The goals of this effort were to identify any potentially significant archaeological resources which might be present in the study area, to document them, and to offer an assessment and recommendations regarding their possible impact during the proposed trail development process. At the beginning of the effort, we were aware that a number of historic features - - associated with the Gates development of Woodstock Farm - - were present in the vicinity. A few were located very close to the study area (e.g., the Inspiration Point Lookout) and others are present not far away. After discussing the matter with P&RD officials, a decision was made to exclude the Gates-era historic features from this study. A property-wide district nomination for Gates-era historic features at Woodstock Farm will be developed separately. As such, we were directed to focus on potential Native American archaeological resources that might be present. To this end, the investigation reviewed the entire study area and considered some adjoining areas. The effort was descriptive and documentary in nature. As such, the articulation of study findings within any particular proposed regional cultural framework was not a high priority. Similarly, the study results cannot be considered to be a test of any particular model of prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns or other cultural process dynamics.

3.2 Research Methods

The work plan for this study relied upon standardized archaeological techniques. The effort consisted of background research and field activities including both a thorough ground surface inspection and a limited program of subsurface testing.

Background research for the study included the review of relevant documents on file with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, materials provided by the City of Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Department, materials in the author's possession, and information generously provided by Sarah Campbell of Western Washington University

The surface survey was designed to employ both judgmental and transect interval techniques, and we were confident that all portions of the study area and adjacent areas near it would be addressed. Considering the developed second-growth forest community mantling most of the area, ground surface visibility was expected to range from fair to poor.

Following the surface inspection, subsurface testing would occur. Testing would be conducted by digging small (i.e., 15 by 15 inch) shovel test pits. All test pit locations would be investigated until either obviously intact cultural deposits, bedrock, intact glacial sediments, or a maximum depth of 2.5 feet was encountered. (As the deliberate disturbing of a cultural deposit requires a permit under Washington State Law [RCW - 25.48], digging must stop if intact cultural materials are encountered.) All recovered shovel test pit sediments would be screened through 1/4 inch hardware mesh in order to facilitate the recognition of any cultural materials which might be present. The represented depositional structure at each test pit exposure would

be recorded, but no samples of any kind would be collected. All test pits would be back-filled immediately after examination.

3.3 Practical Expectations

The background review and prior experience in other portions of the northern Puget Sound basin suggested that the potential for Native American archaeological materials in the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area was probably not great. This opinion was based heavily in two considerations: land forms and current conditions. Much of the study area consists of dry forested side slopes that were unlikely to have been attractive for occupation. Moreover, we know that there was a significant settlement (i.e., 45WH55) located only 0.1 mile away downslope. This setting is not inconsistent with places where graves - - often in the form of rock cairn burials - - sometimes occur (i.e., upslope interior to a shell midden). We know of no way to quantify the likelihood that graves might be present, but we think they are at least somewhat more likely to be present than settlements. This is, however, not to say that we think that a cemetery is likely. We think it likely that both Native Americans and 19th Century Euro-Americans may have hunted and/or collected various natural products in the study area, but it is unlikely that they actually would have resided here. Much more attractive surfaces for occupation are present not far down slope to the west and north.

A second important consideration for assessing the study area's archaeological potential is its condition. Most, if not all, of the area is disturbed. Much of it must have been logged at least once, and major early 20th Century developments have also seriously impacted it. Such developments include Chuckanut Drive, whose infrastructure has changed over time, and a range of landscaped improvements by Gates. As such, we felt that, even if Native American archaeological resources were present in the study, they were likely to be disturbed.

4 FIELDWORK AND FIELD FINDINGS

Fieldwork activities conducted at the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area occurred on several occasions during the fall of 2006. An initial inspection of the study area was made by Gary Wessen on 12 September. This visit was to build an initial familiarity with the study area and its immediate vicinity. It is important to note that the specific trail alignment had not yet been established and some 'boundaries' of the study area were not yet established. A second inspection of the area occurred on 17 November. Wessen and Camille Mather of Wessen & Associates met with Tim Wahl and Jonathan Schilk of the P&RD at the study area in an effort to clarify the details of the trail alignment and determine the need for, and placement of, shovel test pits. Final form of the trail was, in fact, not established at that time, but all of the parties agreed to a 'corridor' within which the trail would be built and testing would occur. Mather returned to the study area on 24 November to conduct the subsurface testing. Weather during all three visits can be described as "seasonal". Only 24 November was rainy.

The initial fieldwork activity was the first ground surface inspection. This effort investigated the entire study area and some of its immediate vicinity. The effort began in the northern portion of the study area. Ground surface visibility is particularly poor in the vicinity of the sports court and on the fill surface immediately upslope to it. Some of this latter area appeared to be wet. Beyond the sports court itself, there are no developed surface features here.

Ground surface visibility improves considerably on the relatively flatter Gates-era surface in the center of the study area. Vegetation is much less brushy and some relatively bare spots do occur. This area also contains a number of the Gates-era features noted earlier. These include: an old path that extends from the house to the gate on Chuckanut Drive, lampposts, benches, and small stand pipes for faucets. A low density of recent refuse is present close to the Chuckanut Drive roadway, along the eastern margin of the study area. The area closest to Inspiration Point has ground surface visibility that is generally poorer than the latter, but much better than in the northern portion of the study area. Some of the alignment here - - particularly its southern end - - may cross some very steep surfaces and near vertical bed rock exposures are present at, and immediately south of, Inspiration Point. The portion of the trail alignment closest to Inspiration Point is also quite close to the Chuckanut Drive roadway and, as such, exhibits a higher density of roadside trash than any other portion of the study area. Materials observed in this area included very recent and somewhat older (mid 20th Century) glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic, building materials, fence wire, and Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) shells.

Comment should be made of surface rocks in this area. While brushy, it is evident that this area contains many exposed cobble to boulder-sized stones. While there are no obvious stone structures down slope of the stone wall and lookout at Inspiration Point, there are places where these larger rocks appear to be somewhat concentrated. Admittedly, "somewhat concentrated" is a subjective category and we did not make an effort to clear vegetation over this area in order to obtain a more quantified assessment. We can state that there are at least 2 to 4 localized concentrations of rocks on this slope. Concentrations appear to be on the order of 4 to 8 feet in diameter. None of the concentrations are well-shaped, nor do any include clear examples of orderly stacking. We do not believe that any can be describes as 'rock cairns'. (Having said this, we note that some superficially resemble the remains of vandalized rock cairn burials that we have observed elsewhere in the northern Puget Sound region.) To add further to this matter, we note that in a discussion of the Woodstock Farm landscape, Steele and Wahl (2005) make reference to how Gates's "*...carefully saved boulder piles remain on the edge of the Inspiration Bluff.*" In fact, we are not certain of the significance of these features. We are confident that they not intact prehistoric graves. Alternatively, it is possible that they represent prehistoric graves that were present here at one time. Equally plausible, however, is the interpretation that they are related to Gates's stone wall - - just upslope - - and so aren't prehistoric features of any type.

Overall, the surface inspection found that infrastructure associated with the early 20th Century Woodstock Farm is present in portions of the study area. These - - and the examples of roadside refuse and the rock concentrations just noted - - were, however, the only cultural materials we encountered. As noted, we are not certain of the significance of the rock concentrations, but are suspect that they are not natural. No unequivocal prehistoric cultural materials were observed.

After the ground surface inspection, subsurface conditions were examined by digging small test pits. We had originally hoped that the ground surface inspection would identify locations where subsurface testing appeared to be warranted. When this did not occur, we switched to a landform-based approach. We conclude that there was no need to test in the fill area in the old Woodstock Creek Draw, nor on the steep side slope near Inspiration Point. Rather, the relatively flatter Gates-era surface in the center of the study area seemed to be the area where testing was appropriate. While clearly disturbed by Gates, the relatively lower gradient natural surfaces here appeared to have the greatest potential for archaeological resources. During the 17 November

meeting on the property, Wahl and Schilk identified a corridor within which the trail would cross the center of the study area and we chose to test this area. Given this agreement, we decided to place two lines of test pits across the area (see Figure 9). Test pits were dug at 5 meter (16 foot) intervals. A total of 13 shovel test pits were dug. All 13 pits revealed very similar depositional structures. Some local variation in soil color was noted, but this variation is not considered to be culturally-significant.

All but one of the pits revealed a four unit depositional profile. Bedrock, and/or large boulders were encountered in four of the 15 pits. A thin layer of duff overlaid the mineral soil at every tested locality. The 'A' Horizon (Stratum I) at each location is a very dark brown (10YR2/2) to very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) loamy sand with subangular to subrounded gravel. Small fragments of charcoal are not uncommon in Stratum I to depths of approximately 1 foot and, in one case, an *in situ* root burn was encountered. Examples of modern refuse are uncommon, but a single specimen of bottle glass was encountered at a depth of approximately 6 inches. A few other objects were also observed closer to the surface. Of significance, no examples of shell, bone, or any type of prehistoric or early historic artifacts were encountered. Stratum I varied somewhat in thickness, but was typically on the order of 12 to 15 inches thick. Beneath Stratum I is a layer of yellowish brown (10YR5/4) to dark yellowish brown (10YR3/4) loamy sand with subangular to subrounded gravel (Stratum II). The contact between the two is diffuse. Stratum II is similar to Stratum I, but its slightly lighter in color and it lacks both charcoal and recent historic debris. It also lacks examples of shell, bone, or any type of prehistoric or early historic artifacts. Stratum II also varies somewhat in thickness. In fact, it showed more variation in thickness than Stratum I. Observed Stratum II thickness ranged from approximately 6 to greater than 22 inches. The lowest deposit encountered in most pits is a compact yellowish brown (10YR5/4) to light yellowish brown (2.5Y6/4) sand. As compared to the Stratum I/II boundary, the Stratum II/III boundary is more clear, though not actually abrupt. Stratum III contains a significantly higher density gravel and larger rocky clasts. Object in the boulder size range were occasionally encountered, as was bedrock. Similar to case with Stratum II, screening of Stratum III never produced examples of charcoal, shell, bone, any type of prehistoric or early historic artifacts, or any type of recent historic debris.

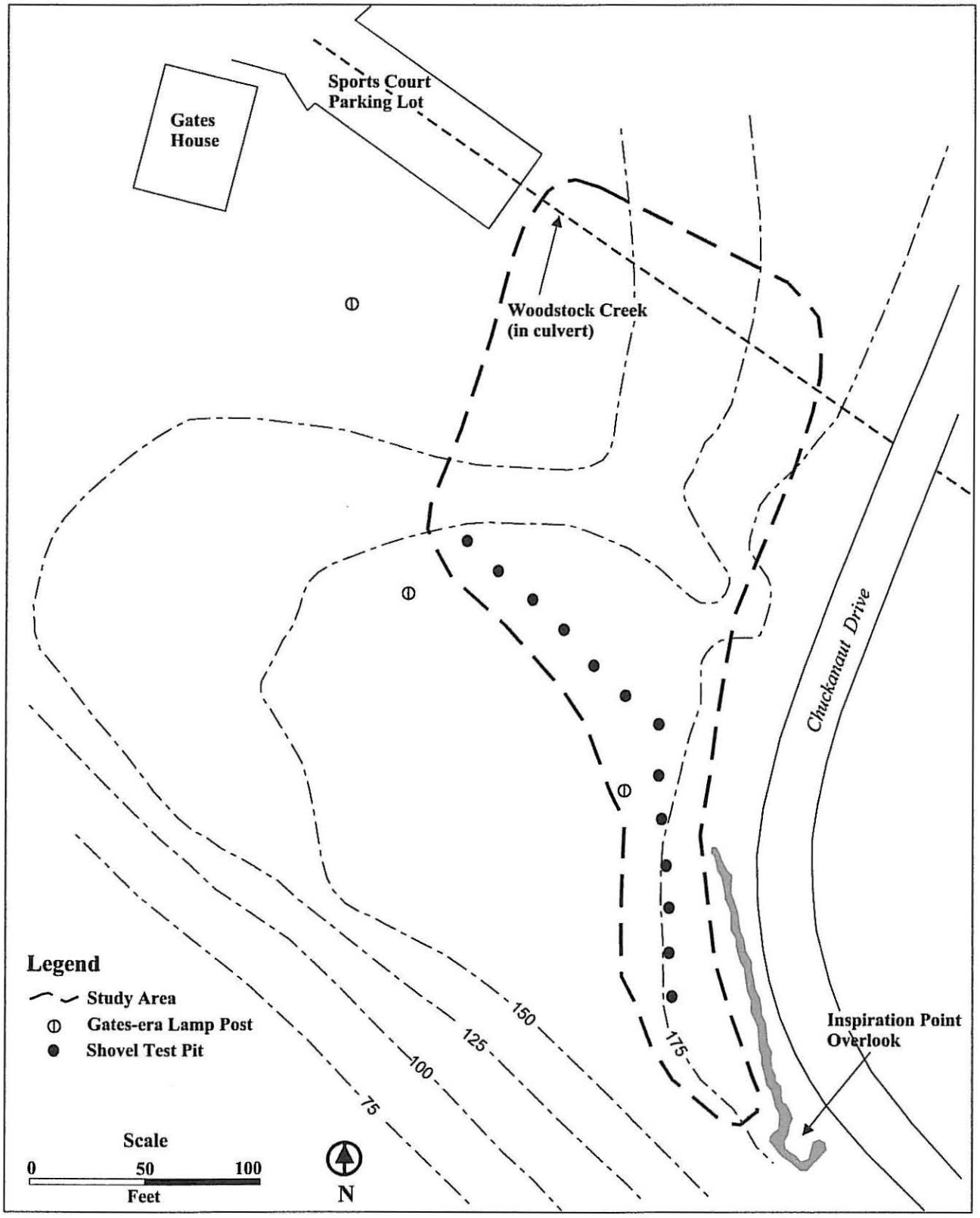

Figure 2 The locations of shovel test pits in the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area, Bellingham, Washington.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey and assessment of the Woodstock Farm Trail Study Area has found no clear unequivocal evidence of potentially significant Native American archaeological resources. We noted the presence of a number of early 20th Century features associated with the Gates-era Woodstock Farm. All of these features were known of prior to the present study and current plans call for addressing them as part of a historic district nomination for the property to be prepared later. Our review of this study area indicates that much of it is disturbed. Much of the northern portion of the area consists of fill deposits. Most surfaces in the center and southern portions of the area appear to be natural, but have been disturbed by road building and landscaping. Subsurface testing indicates that charcoal is relatively common in the soil here, but our test pits found no evidence of archaeological deposits or features, nor did we observe any indications of the presence of buried shell, bone, or any type of prehistoric artifact. We believe that the landforms in the study area are unlikely to have been attractive for occupation and that the potential for as yet undiscovered occupation evidence here is very low.

While we think that the potential for occupation evidence here is very low, the situation with respect to prehistoric graves is somewhat different. We noted in our earlier discussion of expectations (Section 3.3) that this setting shares characteristics with some locations where rock cairn graves have been found. We have not found features that we believe to be intact rock cairn graves. We have, however, located a few loose concentrations of cobbles and boulders that at least superficially resemble vandalized rock cairn graves. We think that this interpretation is plausible. It must be stressed that these 'features' occur in an area that has probably been disturbed by road construction and is close to a Gates-era stone wall and the Inspiration Point Lookout. Thus, we think that it is equally plausible - - and perhaps more likely - - that these are historic 'features'. Perhaps they are related to the Gates-era stone wall just upslope? These features have not been investigated in detail and their specific origin and significance remains unclear.

From a management perspective, we think that the likelihood that these rock 'features' represent vandalized rock cairn graves is relatively low, but we also believe that this low probability should be respected. As such, we believed that the southernmost 100 feet of the study area should be considered to be sensitive. When P&RD planners establish the trail route through this area, we recommend that they develop an alignment that bypasses these loose concentrations of cobbles and boulders. Moreover, if these features really do represent vandalized rock cairn graves, then it is possible that isolated human bones could be scattered in the vicinity. Again, we do not think that this condition is likely. We do, however, think that it is possible. As such, we believe that any ground-disturbance planned in the southernmost 100 feet of the study area should be monitored by a professional archaeologist who has the authority to halt the disturbance immediately if potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered. In the event of such a discovery, appropriate authorities (i.e., the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, the Lummi and Nooksack Tribes, and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation) should be notified, and the discovery should be evaluated before any decisions about further disturbance are made.

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