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THE CUTRIGHT RAMP SITE (12 MO 173)

The Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology (Indiana University) is conducting test excavations at five Archaic Period sites at Lake Monroe during 1986-87. Investigations were undertaken by contract arrangement with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in order to assess site significance for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Prior recommendations for testing, continuing erosion, discovery of eroding features exposed in shoreline banks and evidence of illegal pot-hunting prompted the site investigations. Hand excavation of three foot wide trenches examined 3-5% of each site area to determine the presence of subplowzone archaeological contexts.

The Cutright Ramp Site (12 Mo 173) contained abundant Middle-Late Archaic artifacts but was confined to the plowzone. The Pinegrove Site (12 Mo 183) revealed moderate density of occupational debris but artifacts were recovered up to .6 foot below the plowzone. Three rock clusters, a large ash stained area and a cache of two nutstones and a grooved axe indicated intact features but "structural pits" could not be defined due to soil conditions. Projectile points were side-notched and stemmed Late Archaic types. The Paynetown Campground site (12 Mo 1983) contained very dense cultural materials derived from its heavy Middle-Late Archaic occupation. Numerous pit features were identified at the base of a midden which extends up to .7 foot below the plowzone. Sites at Moores Creek picnic area and at Fairfax Ramp have not yet been investigated. It is anticipated that site 12 Mo 193 and possibly 12 Mo 183 are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Recommendations for additional excavations and for protective measures will be presented to Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Project completion is scheduled for July 1, 1987.
