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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION PERMIT WORK PLAN FOR THE EOU INLOW HALL PHASE II PROJECT, LA GRANDE, UNION COUNTY, OREGON

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

May 17, 2023

Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW), plans to conduct subsurface investigations on **land owned by Eastern Oregon University (EOU) in support EOU's Inlow Hall Phase II project in La Grande, Oregon** (Figures 1, 2a-b, and 3). EOU is receiving state funding for the project. The project elements for which archaeological investigation may be required include installation and upgrading of utilities (Figure 2a-b), and landscaping. AINW is under contract with Peter Meijer Architect, PC (PMA), who is a consultant to the prime project consultant Waterleaf Architecture. Inlow Hall is the oldest building on the EOU campus and was constructed in 1928.

The Inlow Hall Phase I project took place in 2009 and included seismic upgrades to the building structure, partial mechanical upgrades and improved space utilization on the first floor. Phase II will complete the seismic upgrades and result in further upgrades and improvements to the existing building. The 2.75-acre project area includes a large amount of construction buffer zone for staging equipment and access (Figure 1) and encompasses the area of proposed construction ground disturbance (Figures 2 and 3).

BACKGROUND

Inlow Hall was constructed where there had been a cemetery. The cemetery was established in the first half of the nineteenth century and closed in 1878. It was a pioneer cemetery and later a paupers' cemetery and was at some point associated with the Freemasons. The burials in the cemetery were reported to have been disinterred and reinterred in other cemeteries prior to the construction of Inlow Hall (Jerofke and Harvey 2005). However, five historic-period burials are present underneath Inlow Hall. Only one burial was recorded as being mostly intact. The burials are protected in place under a concrete cap (Jerofke and Harvey 2005).

Three cultural resource investigations have occurred adjacent to Inlow Hall (Figure 3).

1. Archaeological monitoring of a trench excavation (Jerofke and Harvey 2007). The trench measured 0.3 to 0.6 meters (m) (1 to 2 feet [ft]) wide and 0.6 to 0.9 m (2 to 3 ft) deep, based on photos in the report. The trench extended south from the midpoint of Inlow Hall's west wall and passed through the Inlow Hall Phase II project area. No archaeological material was encountered (Jerofke and Harvey 2007).

2. Archaeological monitoring was conducted for an excavation measuring 14 m east-west by 4.5 m north-south by 0.3 m deep (45x15x1 ft) located on the east side of the sidewalk at the southeast corner of Inlow Hall. No archaeological material was encountered (Jerofke 2019).
3. AINW, for the EOU Grand Staircase Replacement project, monitored two mechanical borings and two hand-augered holes on the north side of Inlow Hall (Trost 2021). No archaeological material was identified.

This application for an archaeological permit is submitted by AINW for the following tasks.

1. **Conduct shovel test survey within the footprint of proposed construction ground-disturbance prior to construction beginning.**
2. **Proactively address the identification of human remains, burial items, or other archaeological material while monitoring during construction.**
3. **Conduct preliminary investigations to determine the extent or context of an archaeological find following the shovel test survey or during construction.**

A Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan (MIDP) has been drafted for the project (see Appendix). The MIDP is a section of this permit application.

The Affected Native American Tribes are understood to be the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Burns Paiute Tribe.

DESCRIPTIONS OF A SHOVEL TEST AND/OR A QTU SURVEY

Shovel tests will be used prior to construction ground disturbance to accomplish the following.

- Test for the presence of archaeological material.
- Evaluate the likelihood of encountering archaeological material during construction.

During construction, a shovel test(s) may be utilized to delineate the boundaries of archaeological material that is not human remains.

AINW plans to excavate up to 12 shovel tests during the pre-construction survey and up to 8 shovel tests during construction. A shovel test will measure 30 cm (12 in) in diameter and will be excavated in 10-cm (4-in) thick levels to a depth of at least 50 cm (20 in) below the surface with a shovel, barring an obstruction. Some shovel tests may be excavated deeper with the use of a 15-cm (6-in) diameter manual bucket auger to search for deeply buried archaeological deposits. If archaeological material is found in a shovel test, AINW will continue excavating until two sterile excavation levels (20 cm [8 in]) are excavated or an obstruction is encountered. Excavated sediments will be manually screened through nested 6.4-mm (¼-in) and 3.2-mm (⅛-in) mesh hardware cloth. *Proposed ground disturbance within 10 m (33 ft) of previously monitored excavation will not be shovel tested prior to construction.*

If human remains or a burial object is found within a shovel test, the shovel test will be terminated and the processes outlined in the position paper, *Treatment of Native American Human Remains Discovered Inadvertently or Through Criminal Investigations on Private and Public, State-Owned Lands in Oregon* and ORS 97.745 will be followed.

AINW may excavate up to seven 50x50-cm quarter-test-units (QTUs) prior to construction ground-disturbance beginning as part of the sampling strategy. The placement of QTUs will be distributed to reviewers of this permit for comment prior to excavation. *Such correspondence consultation is considered ongoing consultation and not an amendment to the permit.* A QTU will be excavated in 10-cm (4-in) levels

and excavated sediments will be passed through nested 6.4- and 3.2-mm (¼- and ⅛-in) mesh hardware cloth. If artifacts are encountered, two consecutive culturally sterile levels will be excavated prior to terminating the QTU. Augers may be used to extend the depth of the QTUs if archaeological materials are observed to a depth of 70 cm (28 in) or to determine if a deeply buried archaeological deposit is present. Soils will be described using U.S. Department of Agriculture nomenclature, and scaled profile drawings of the stratigraphy will be prepared. Features will be mapped, and a bulk sample may be collected and processed through fine-mesh cloth, if the feature is the type that may lend itself to that processing.

MONITORING WORK PLAN

PMA, on behalf of Waterleaf and EOU, will provide AINW a minimum of two weeks advance notice prior to the initial initiation of ground-disturbing construction work, and AINW will in turn provide two weeks advance notice to the Tribes. During construction, advance notice of two business days is required. *The southernmost trench segment will not be monitored if excavation is within the trench monitored by Jerofke and Harvey in 2007.*

The monitor will be equipped with digital camera, mobile phone, standard field kit, and required personal protection equipment (PPE). Out of caution, the monitor will have skeletal references (e.g., books, plastic model) on-site.

The monitor will consult daily with AINW's Senior Archaeologist assigned to the project.

AINW will provide daily notification to designated individuals for the Affected Native American Tribes as to whether ground-disturbing work will occur each day. The objective of the email is to facilitate an expedient response to any consultation regarding an archaeological find.

Human Remains and Burial Items

All human remains will be treated with respect. If it is believed the find may be human remains or is a bone, bone fragment, or tooth that cannot be identified as human or non-human, processes will be followed as described in the *Position Paper on the Treatment of Native American Human Remains Discovered Inadvertently or Through Criminal Investigations on Private and Public, State-Owned Lands in Oregon* and ORS 97.745. An outline of those processes for this project follows and is also presented in the MIDP in the Appendix. State legislation requires that the Oregon State Police be contacted regarding human remains or potential human remains expediently. **The State Physical Anthropologist may be consulted to verify that a find is a human remain prior to contacting the police.** The following will occur.

1. **STOP** ground-disturbing work. This includes but is not limited to grading, excavation, grubbing vegetation, boring, and pot-holing using either mechanical equipment or hand tools.
2. Secure the find by establishing and visibly marking **at a minimum a 5-m (16s-ft) buffer** around the find. Work that does NOT cause ground disturbance may continue outside of this buffer using extreme caution.
3. Protect the find.
 - Cover the remains with a clean cloth, plywood, or tarp. Do not have the protection touching the remains, if possible.
 - Ensure the remains are protected from weather and water runoff and are shielded from view.
 - Restrict access to the find and leave the protection and find in-place until directed otherwise.
4. Keep sediment from the location of the find on site and protected from compression and mixing with other sediment.

5. Make the notifications required by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 97.745(4). Refer to the Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan for contact information.

If the find is forensic, Oregon State Police will coordinate with EOU regarding custody of the remains, what portion of the project area must be cordoned off, and when work can resume in the cordoned area.

If the Oregon State Police determines the find is not forensic, AINW will facilitate consultation between EOU and consulting parties including Affected Native American Tribes, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Commission on Indian Services (CIS) regarding the long-term interment/reinterment of the find.

If there is concern that an isolated human remain is not safe within the project's security fence or the human remain is found in back dirt, the remain will be collected by the archaeological monitor and placed in a clean paper bag that will be labeled with the project name, date, location of the find, and the archaeologist's initials. The remain(s) will be held within the City of La Grande and either EOU or potentially the La Grande Police will hold the remains until consulting parties agree on a plan. The remains must be held in a locked, secure location. A transfer form will be filled-out when the remain(s) are removed from the work area. The original form will be kept by AINW to be curated as part of the archaeological collection.

Pre-contact Archaeology (No Human Remains)

Pre-contact objects that are not associated with a site or a feature will be collected from the surface and backdirt during monitoring.

AINW will consult with the Affected Tribes before any subsurface investigation is conducted by the archaeologist. If through consultation it is decided that subsurface archaeological investigation in the vicinity of the find should be done prior to construction-related ground disturbance recommencing, the decision will be documented by AINW in an email submitted to the consulting parties, EOU, Waterleaf, PMA, and the construction contractor.

Archaeological investigations during construction may include and will not be limited to the following investigative methods. Descriptions of a shovel test and QTU are provided above.

- The screening of backdirt and/or sediments from the area of the find through 6.4-mm (¼-in) or 3.2-mm (⅛-in) mesh hardware cloth.
- Excavation by AINW of a shovel test(s) or excavation of a 50x50 centimeter (cm) quarter test unit(s) (QTU) to
 - delineate the boundary of an archaeological resource, or
 - recover sufficient information to evaluate an archaeological resource for its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The archaeologist may screen backdirt over 6.4-millimeter (mm) (¼-inch) and/or 3.2-mm (⅛-in) hardware cloth without consulting the Affected Tribes.

Pre-contact objects collected during monitoring that are not burial items will be temporarily stored in the AINW laboratory in Portland for analysis and processing. Analysis may include and is not limited to X-ray fluorescence analysis to source stone material; obsidian hydration rind analysis of specimens that are not tools or other formal objects; and radiocarbon dating of non-human bone, shell, charcoal, or sediment. If a request is made to have burial items transferred to AINW's laboratory, that will only occur if SHPO gives AINW written authorization to do so. Artifacts will be permanently curated at the Oregon State Museum of

Cultural and Natural History (OMNCH) along with the submitted records. Funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony will be returned to the appropriate tribe rather than curated at OMNCH.

Historic-Period Archaeology (No Human Remains)

Isolated historic-period artifacts will be collected by the archaeological monitor from the surface and backdirt during monitoring. The Tribes and SHPO will not be consulted for solitary (isolated) finds such as of a bottle or can. Temporally non-diagnostic debris (such as brick; concrete fragments or blocks; metal; and wood) will not typically be collected. Such debris will be photographed and described in field notes. However, the archaeological monitor may collect an object at their discretion.

AINW will consult with the Tribes and SHPO if two or more historic-period artifacts are found in a shared, undisturbed context or within 10 m (30 ft) of each other. If through consultation it is decided that archaeological investigation in the vicinity of the find should occur prior to construction ground disturbance recommencing, the decision will be documented by AINW in an email submitted to the consulting parties, EOU, Waterleaf, PMA, and the Prime construction contractor. Archaeological investigations may include and will not be limited to the following investigative methods. Descriptions of a shovel test and QTU were presented above.

- The screening of backdirt and/or sediments from the area of the find through 6.4-mm (¼-in) or 3.2-mm (⅛-in) mesh hardware cloth.
- Excavation by AINW of a shovel test(s) or excavation of a 50x50 centimeter (cm) quarter test unit(s) (QTU) to
 - delineate the boundary of an archaeological resource, or
 - recover sufficient information to evaluate an archaeological resource for its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Historic-period artifacts collected by AINW that are not burial items will be temporarily stored in the AINW laboratory for analysis and processing. If a request is made to have burial items transferred to AINW's laboratory, that will only occur if SHPO gives AINW written authorization to do so. Artifacts will be permanently curated at OMNCH along with the submitted records. Funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony will be returned to the appropriate tribe rather than curated at OMNCH.

Research Design

The following research questions were developed through consultation for the EOU Grand Staircase Replacement project and are adopted for this project since it is adjacent to the Grand Staircase Replacement project area.

If the find is human remains and they cannot be avoided by the project, the following research questions will be addressed.

- *Is the ancestry of the person expressed in the skeletal remains or associated material remains?*
Note: Ancestry of skeletal remains will be determined during investigation by the Oregon State Police and/or the Oregon State Physical Anthropologist.
- *What is the age of the burial?*

If the find is an archeological site or probable archaeological site, the following research questions will be addressed.

- *Is the find in fill sediment?*
- *Is an intact subsurface archaeological deposit present if the find is not in fill sediment?*

- *Are the artifacts and other cultural remains sufficient to inform about the period of their deposition?*
- *Are the artifacts technologically diagnostic and what information do they convey about land use, subsistence, or economic strategies in the region?*
- *Does the site convey any information about the historic Inlow Hall?*

The archaeological work will meet the guidelines established by SHPO and will be directed by AINW staff who meet the professional qualifications of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines in Archaeology and Historic Preservation. A report describing the subsurface investigations, archaeological monitoring and/or data recovery will be submitted to SHPO, CIS, and Affected Native American Tribes.

TECHNICAL REPORT

A technical report meeting current SHPO guidelines will be prepared after fieldwork and laboratory analysis of artifacts is completed, and the Project has been completed. The report will be submitted to SHPO, CIS, Affected Native American Tribes, and the OMNCH.

REFERENCES

Jerofke, Linda

- 2019 *Eastern Oregon University's North Campus Restoration Project Archaeological Monitoring Report*. Blue Mountain Consulting, La Grande, Oregon. Prepared for Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande.

Jerofke, Linda, and Erik Harvey

- 2005 *Inlow Hall Burial Project, Eastern Oregon University*. Blue Mountain Consulting, La Grande, Oregon. Prepared for Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande.
- 2007 *Monitoring Report for Eastern Oregon University's Venting Project*. Blue Mountain Consulting, La Grande, Oregon. Prepared for Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande.

Trost, Teresa

- 2021 *Eastern Oregon University Grand Staircase Renovation, Archaeological Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Borings*. Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. Report No. 4674. Prepared for Peter Meijer, PC.

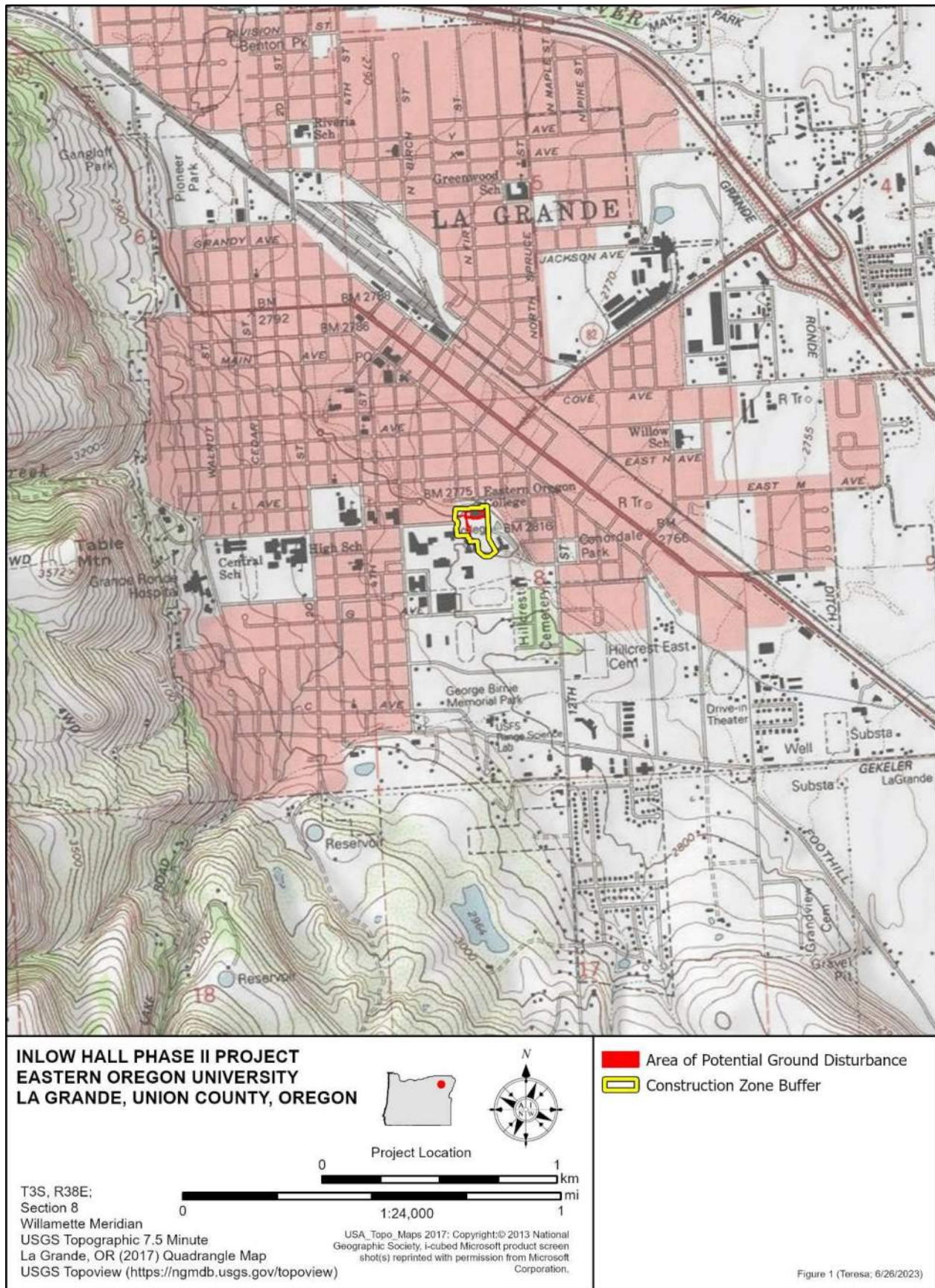


Figure 1. Location of the EOU Inlow Hall Phase II project in La Grande, Oregon.



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SCHEMATIC DESIGN
PROJECT #: 2205.00
SHEET ISSUE DATE: 2022
BY: J. [Name]
CHECKED BY: [Name]

SITE STORMWATER PLAN
C1.00

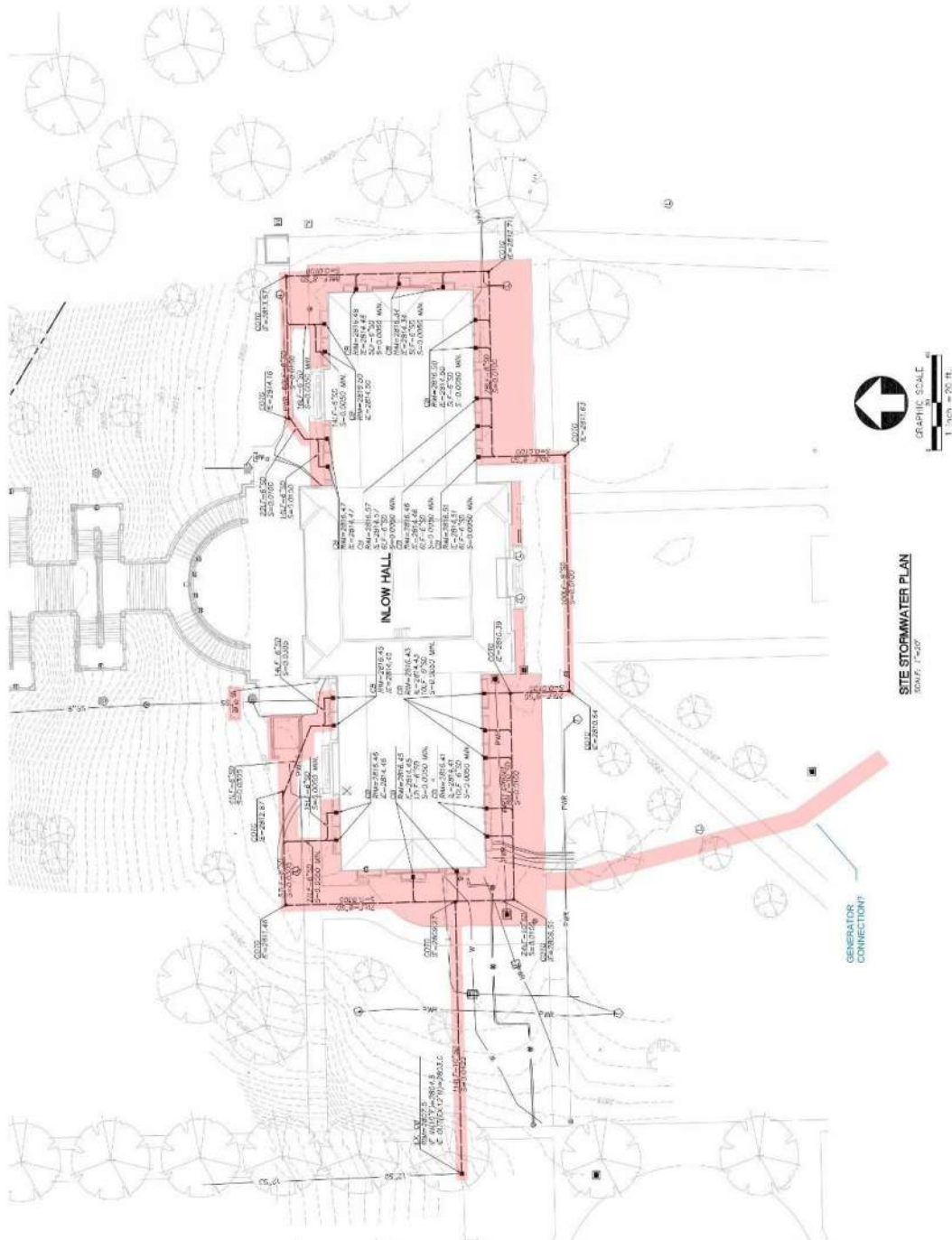


Figure 2a. Inlow Hall Phase II proposed construction footprint (pale red shading) for utilities.

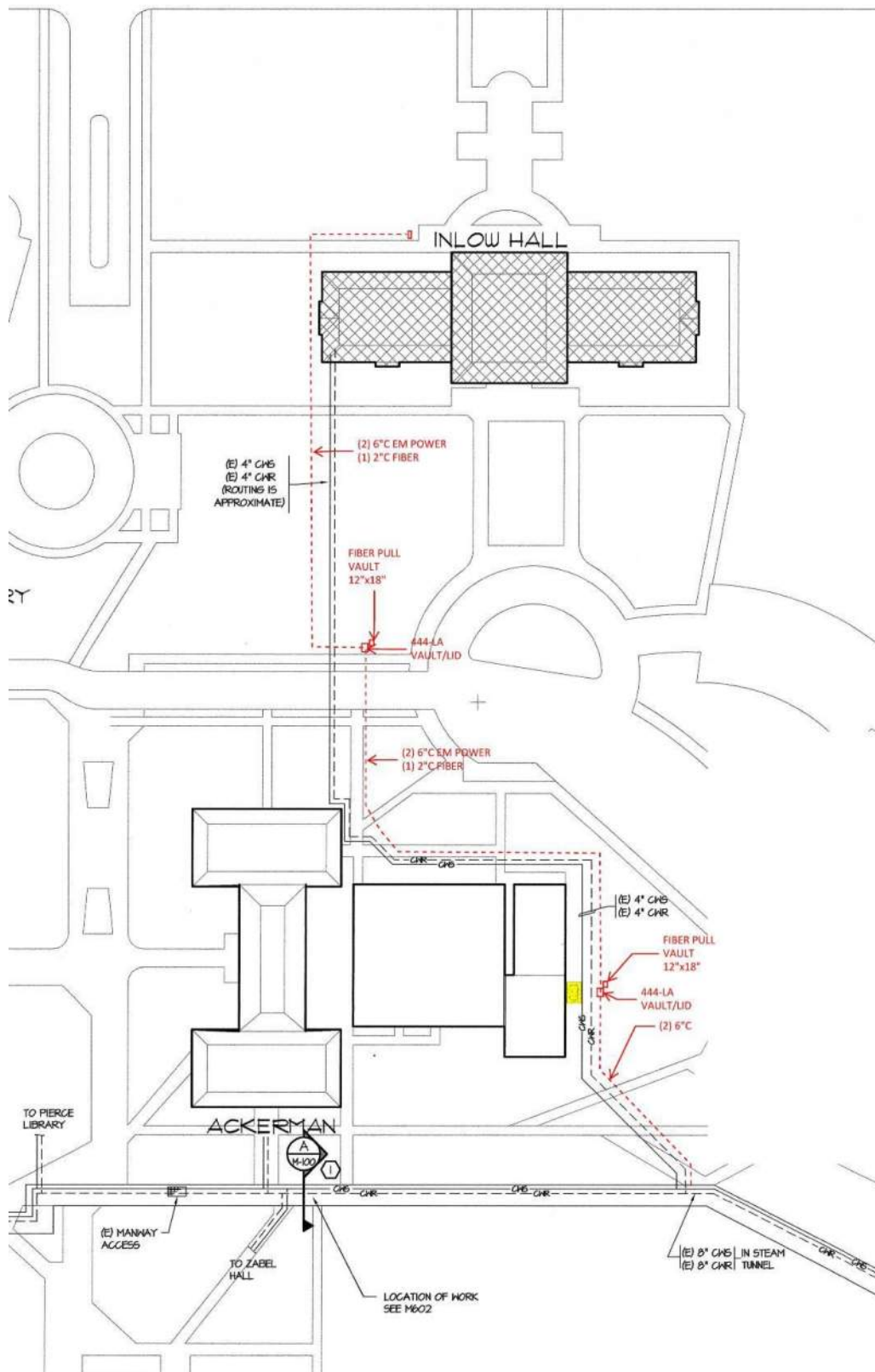


Figure 2b. Inlow Hall Phase II proposed construction footprint (red lines) for utilities.

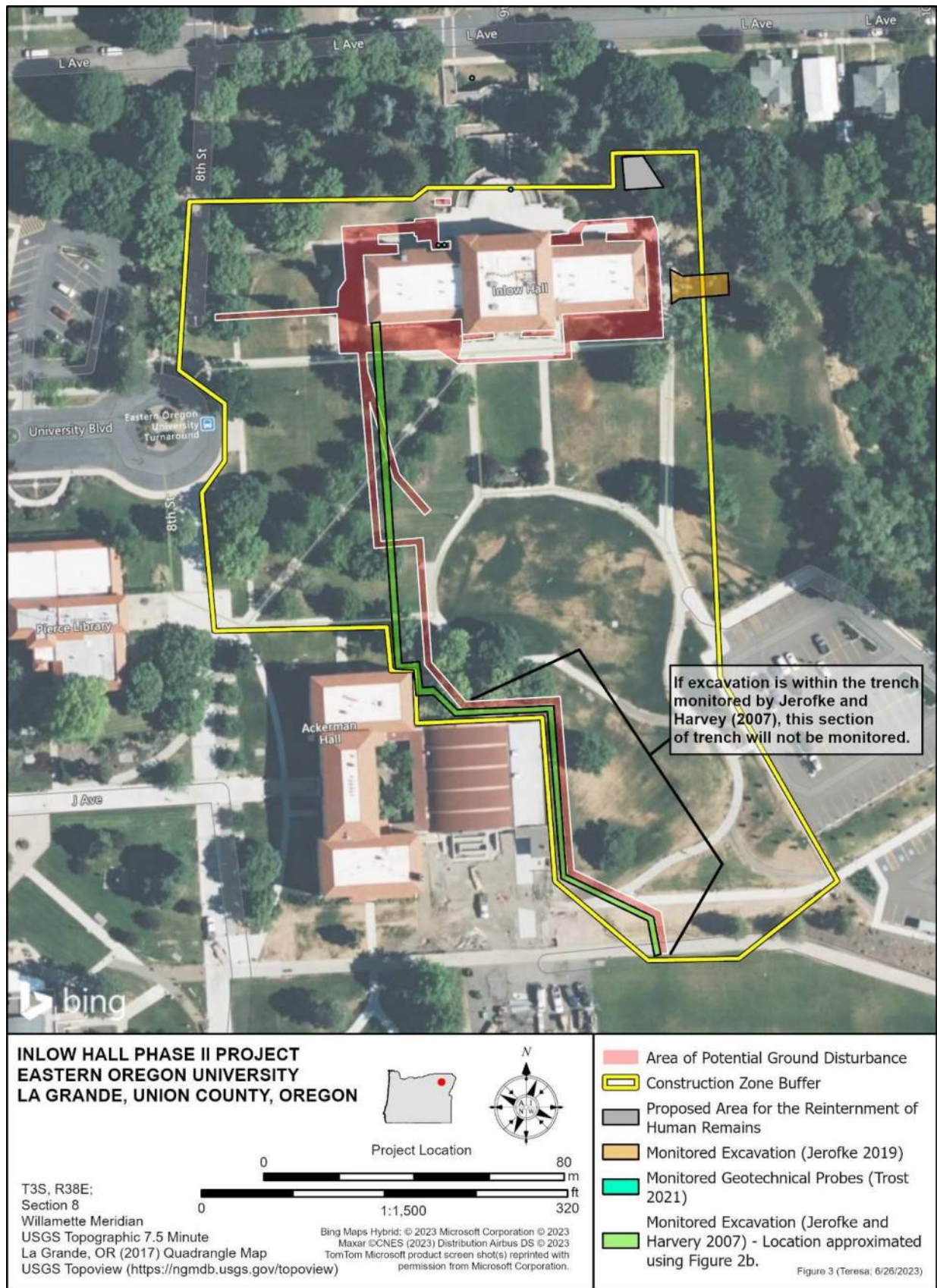


Figure 3. Site map showing Area of Potential Ground Disturbance and prior archaeological investigations. Note: The location of the proposed trench excavation for a new utility near Ackerman Hall is approximated using Figure 2b.

APPENDIX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND INADVERTENT DISCOVERY PLANS