National Historic Landmarks Program National Park Service

Name of Property: Rock Island Site II
City, State: Rock Island, Door County, Wisconsin
Period of Significance: ca. 1630–1766
NHL Criteria: 6
NPS Theme: I. Peopling Places
1. family and life cycle
2. health, nutrition, and disease
3. migration from outside and within
4. community and neighborhood
5. ethnic homelands
6. encounters, conflicts, and colonization

Previous Recognition: 1972 National Register of Historic Places
National Historic Context: I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
1. Native Cultural Adaptations at Contact
i. Native Adaptations to Northeastern Environments
3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation
b. Forced and Voluntary Population Movements
d. Changing Settlement Types
2. Sedentary Villagers

NHL Significance:

- Rock Island Site II is a relatively rare early historic period Native American occupation site of the Upper Great Lakes, reflecting intensive participation in the French fur trade. At various times during its period of significance, it was occupied by several different tribal groups, including the Huron, Petun, and Potawotami. There is also evidence that French traders may have lived among the natives at this site. Accordingly, Rock Island Site II affords the opportunity to examine archeological questions related to ethnicity,

population movements, and effects of the fur trade on native culture during this critical time of dynamic change. Such study has the potential to affect archeological theory, concepts, and ideas to a major degree.

Integrity:

- The site integrity at Rock Island Site II is outstanding for an archeological property of its type and age. The site is virtually undisturbed, except for areas that were subject to controlled archeological investigation in the early 1970s, though some parts of the site have been rendered inaccessible for all practical purposes by active, shifting sand dunes.

Owner of Property: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Rock Island State Park

Acreage of Property: ca. 2.5 acres

Origins of Nomination: NPS regional staff consulted with the Wisconsin SHPO archeologist and Wisconsin DNR archeologist to complete this nomination. The nomination was completed by the NPS Midwest Region archeologist with assistance from a student intern.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- The site is in a state park, which attracts numerous tourists during the summer season. Placement of the plaque will ensure that all park visitors are made aware of the federal recognition program and the national significance of this important archeological site.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None are known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (comments received as of September 9, 2020):

- Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office – 8/26/2020

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommended the deferral of the Rock Island Site II in Rock Island State Park, Door County, Wisconsin, to allow for continued consultation with interested parties and for a revised nomination to be brought back to the NHL Committee at a future meeting.

Advisory Board Recommendation: