

## Australian Archaeology



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### Full Citation Details:

Crosby, E 1975. Archaeology in The Northern Territory.  
'Australian Archaeology', no.3, 7-8.

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### Aboriginal Site Survey Programme

Two Site Survey Officers, G. Chaloupka and D. McLaughlin, working under the A.I.A.S. Sites of Significance Programme, have continued to work during the year, and two others, D. Lewis and W. Downie, were appointed.

Although the emphasis is on sites of significance to Aboriginals, all other non-European sites are recorded and numbered according to the N.T. System, to form part of the Northern Territory Sites Register. Sites already recorded in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs files and in the Institute of Aboriginal Studies register are also included, and anyone with knowledge of sites which may not have been recorded are requested to contact the Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory for site record forms on which to report them.

### Sites Recorded in Northern Territory Site Survey

<u>Area</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>No. of sites at 1.9.75</u>
I	Victoria	54
II	Darwin-Daly	22
III	W. Arnhem Land	380
IV	E. Arnhem Land	
V	Gulf	240
VI	Central	6
VII	Central East	
VIII	Central West	

### Fort Dundas

E. Crosby has been engaged in the partial clearing of the site of Fort Dundas (1824-1829), on Melville Island. A survey of the remains has been made, which has resulted in some puzzling discrepancies compared with the map of April 1827. These relate mainly to apparent alterations to the stockyards area (perhaps in response to the introduction of buffalo in 1827) but a number of structures not marked on the 1827 map have also appeared, in particular a series of hollows which may represent rubbish pits. Fence lines over 1 km from the stockade have been located and the original sawpit, over a mile from the site is known still to exist. Extension of the survey over the whole of the site may well require several visits over the future dry seasons.

A small excavation across the stockade ditch in an attempt to determine whether the palisade was built with horizontal or

vertical logs will be undertaken in September. The well will also be excavated, the weather and the condition of the sides permitting.

#### Environmental Impact Surveys

A survey for Nabalco in an area of Melville Bay was made in December 1974 by E. Crosby.

L. Haglund is currently investigating sites in the McArthur River area for Mount Isa Mines.

The C.S.I.R.O.'s research area Kapalga has already yielded some interesting surface material and it is hoped that detailed site reports will become available.

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DARWIN

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#### ACTIVITIES OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA CONCERNING THE CONFLUENCE SITE OF THE DRY CREEK AND THE MARIBYRNONG RIVER IN 1974/75

Excavations had to be terminated because, though permission for further exploration was sought, this was not granted by the Victorian Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Office.

A grant from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies however made it possible to begin with the ordering of the large archaeological material and of the relevant field notes which had accumulated since collection of material began in 1952. Excavation by the Archaeological Society at this site began in 1966. The excavations made it possible to produce a comprehensive stratigraphy of the confluence area.

The large amount of archaeological material collected and excavated falls into three main categories which require different approaches for analysis.

- A. Material collected from the present beds of Dry Creek and Maribyrnong River.
- B. Material collected from the alluvial accumulations of the river terraces.