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To whom it may concern:

I conducted a walking survey of a small portion of the Pinellas County School Board Property adjacent to Klosterman Road on May 22, 2020 with permission from the School Board for access. I am a registered professional archaeologist since 2003 and affiliated with many archaeological organizations.

Prior to this survey, I reviewed various Florida Master Site Files in the vicinity of the property. The most relevant FMSF report was adjacent to the property, 8Pi1688, Whispering Woods West which indicated archaeological sites comprised of prehistoric lithic scatters. This land to the east is now a housing development. In addition, I studied Topo and Google maps, that showed the uplands and the relic beach and dune ridges that define the property.

This walking survey was confined to the dune ridges and the numerous gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) burrows that are important in conducting an artifact survey. Although the apron in front of the burrows, did not disclose any artifacts, lithic scatter was found on the dune ridge areas. The lithic scatter is silicified limestone or chert flakes that are the debitage from prehistoric toolmaking.



School Board Property, lithic scatter in-situ

There does also exist remnants of an old homestead on a small portion of the ridge area near the center of the property. Artifact scatter around this homestead gives an indication of the 1920s to the 1940s era.

It is my understanding that a spring exists on the northwest corner of the property and is evidenced by a change in vegetation from upland underbrush to lowland varieties of ferns. The presence of a fresh water source gives additional strong probability of early Native American utilization of this property.

To the north of the School Board Property is the Pinellas County Mariner's Point Management Preserve. I have walked this large tract of land that borders the Gulf of Mexico on the west and Carlton Road on the east and observed shell midden deposits. I am retired from Pinellas County Government, where I worked for the Department of Pinellas County Environmental Lands and Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources.

Further archaeological investigation into sites on the School Board Property most likely would enhance this report and possibly provide increased understanding of the date range of the lithic scatter present in the dune ridges. No prehistoric ceramic artifacts have been found so far on the property.

It is my hope that funding will be available to purchase this special parcel of property for preservation and add it to the adjacent Pinellas County Preserve insuring that future generations can have the opportunity to witness, learn, and partake of old Florida.

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