Phase I Archaeological Investigation at 351 Wood Street
Town of Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York

March 2020

Prepared for:
Taconic Wood, Inc., Putnam Valley, New York

Alfred G. Cammisa, M.A.
with Alexander Padilla, B.A. (CAD)

1007

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PR#:
19PR07965

Involved agencies:
NYDEC
Town of Putnam Valley

Phase:
Phase IA & IB

Location:
351 Wood St.
Town of Putnam Valley
Putnam County

Survey Area:
Length: about 180 feet (55 meters) north-south
Width: about 360 feet (110m) east-west
Surveyed: approximately 1.5 acres (.6 hectares)

USGS:
Oscawana Lake, NY

Survey overview:
ST no. & interval: 30 ST's at 50-25ft (1-7.5m) intervals
Size of freshly plowed area: na
Surface survey transect interval: na

Results:
No prehistoric sites
Historic features & artifacts on property proposed not to be disturbed/impacted

Structures:
No. Of buildings/structures/cemeteries in project area: Stone foundation and root cellar
No. Of buildings/structures/cemeteries adjacent to project area: 1
No. Of previously determined NR listed or eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: none
No. Of identified eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: none

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Date of Report:
Report completed March, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Between February 4 and 20, 2020, TRACKER Archaeology, Inc. conducted a Phase IA documentary study and a Phase IB archaeological survey at 351 Wood Street, Town of Putnam Valley, Putnam County, New York.

The purpose of the Phase IA documentary study was to determine the prehistoric and historic potential of the project area for the recovery of archaeological remains. The Phase IA was implemented by a review of the original and current environmental data, archaeological site files, other archival literature, maps, interviews, and documents.

The prehistoric and historic site file search was conducted utilizing the Cultural Resource Inventory System (CRIS) of the New York State Historic Preservation Office in Waterford, New York. Various historic and/or archaeological web sites may have been queried to review any pertinent site information.

These investigations have been conducted in accordance with the standards set forth by the New York Archaeological Council and the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

The Phase IB survey provided actual evidence for the presence or absence of any archaeological sites within the property through ground surface and subsurface field testing.

The project area consists of the proposed subdivided lot at about 1.5 acres. The property as a whole is located at 351 Wood Street. It is bordered to the east by Wood Street, to the west by Taconic Highway, and to the remaining sides by other properties.

The investigation was completed by TRACKER Archaeology, Inc. of Monroe, New York. Prehistoric and historic research was conducted by PI, Alfred G. Cammisa, M.A. and Kim Croshier, B.A. Field work was conducted by Alfred G. Cammisa and crew chief, Alfred T. Cammisa. Artifact analyses by Joseph Diamond, PhD. Report preparation was by Alfred G. Cammisa with Alexander Padilla, B.A. (CAD).

The work was performed for Taconic Wood, Inc., Putnam Valley, New York.

ENVIRONMENT

Geology

The study area is located in the southeast portion of New York State in the southwest part of Putnam County and the northwest part of Westchester County. This region of New York lies on the New England Upland-Hudson Highlands Physiographic Province. The New England Upland is a division of the Appalachian Highlands. It is an area of complex mountains, primarily of metamorphic and igneous rock from the Precambrian and Early Paleozoic age. It is through the Hudson Highlands that a gorge was cut by the Hudson River in its passage between Newburgh and Stony Point. The Precambrian metamorphic Hudson Highlands continues into western Connecticut where it underlies the Housatonic Highlands. Many of these rocks are rich in uranium and therefore produce radioactive radon gas. They are also highly resistant to erosion. The Hudson Highlands contain many faults which parallel each other and determine positions of ridges and valleys (Schuberth 1968: cover map, 10; Isachsen et al 2000: 4, 46-47).

Soils and Topography
Soils on the project area consist of:

Name	Soil Horizon Depth in(cm)	Color	Texture Inclusion	Slope %	Drainage	Landform
Paxton	A=0-10 (0-26) B1=10-17 (-44)	10YR3/3 10YR4/6	FiSaLo	2-8 & 8-15	well	Dense glacial till on broad ridges & hills in glaciated upolands
Ridgebury	A=0-10 (0-26) B=10-16 (-41)	10YR3/2 10YR5/6	SiLo	0-3	Poor	Gravelly glacial till on uplands & lower parts of hillsides

(Seifried 1994:map # 51, pgs. 45, 53, 108, 110).

KEY:
Shade: Lt=Light, Dk=Dark, V=Very
Color: Br=Brown, Blk=Black, Gry=Gray, Gbr=Gray Brown, StBr=Strong Brown, Rbr=Red Brown, Ybr= Yellow Brown
Soils: Si=Silt, Lo=Loam, Sa=Sand, Cl=Clay
Other: Sh=shale, M=Mottle, Gr=Gravelly, Cb=cobbles, /=or

Elevations on the project area range from approximately 660 to 690 above mean sea level.

Hydrology
An intermittent stream and associated wetlands are on the project area. They drain into a perennial stream on the property (Figure 2). The project area is about 560 feet north of a pond, 1282 feet west of ponds that drain into Secor Lake and the Muscoot River. The Muscoot flows into the Croton River and eventually, the Hudson River.

Vegetation
The predominant forest community in this area was probably the Oak Hickory. This forest is a nut producing forest with acorns and hickory nuts usually an obvious part of the leaf litter on the forest floor. The Oak Hickory Forest intermingles with virtually all other forest types. The northern extension of this forest community was also originally called the Oak-Chestnut forest, before the historic Chestnut blight (Kricher 1988:38, 57-60).

At the time of the Phase IB field work, the project area consisted largely of a grass lawn, partially mulched, with some high canopy trees and a stream with associated wetands.

PREHISTORIC POTENTIAL

A prehistoric site file search was conducted at the New York State Historic Preservation Office. The search included a 1 mile radius around the study area. The following sites were recorded:

-No sites reported.

Assessing the known environmental and prehistoric data, we can summarize the following points:

-An intermittent stream and associated wetlands are on the project area. They drain a perennial stream on the property (Figure 2). The project area is about 560 feet north of a pond & 1282 feet west of ponds.

-The study area is located on fairly level to steeply sloping terrain with well drained soils upslope and poorer drained soils associated with wetlands.

-No prehistoric sites have been reported in the surrounding vicinity.

In our opinion, the study area has a higher than average potential for the recovery of prehistoric sites based on topographic/environmental characteristics. The type of site encountered could be a procurement/processing site most likely from the Woodland or Archaic Periods.

HISTORIC POTENTIAL

Seventeenth Century

At the time of European contact and settlement, the study area was probably occupied by the Nochpeem. The Nochpeem group lived in the Highlands of Putnam County on lands eventually given to Adolph Phillipse in 1697. The Nochpeem were likely a branch and/or clan or village of the large Wappinger tribe. (Ruttenber 1992:79-81; Becker 1993:18-19; Hearne Brothers nd:wall map; Bolton 1975: map & chart; Blake 1845:77)

Population estimates for the Wappingers are 400 individuals. The Wappinger are described by Becker (1993:18) as foragers.

Eighteenth Century

The first settler see was likely Timothy Shaw who settled on the north side of Shaw's Pond, later renamed Lake Gleneida probably about 1742. There was an old buying ground on the west side of Lake Gelneida on the Bedlam farm, where slaves of the Bedlam family were interred. Deborah Shaw is also buried there ((Pelletreau, William 1886:282).

Nineteenth Century

The 1839 Burr map shows the project east of Peekshill River and north of a large pond (Secor Pond) . No roads are in the immediate vicinity (Figure 3).

Putnam County was heavily farmed. The hillsides were devoted to hayfields, dairy and pastureland. Woodlots provided firewood to be rafted downriver to New York. Crop farms were planted only in the narrow strips of bottomland along the streams because the rocky soil of the uplands was impossible to plow. With the rise of industrialized farming and efficient long distance transport, however, it was no longer possible to live off the land in Putnam County and the local farmers moved to the cities where a better life could be found (Lake Sagamore Community Association).

The 1854 O'Connor County map depicts Wood Street and the project area with a structure on or immediately adjacent to it. The structure appears to be an outbuilding and is likely associated with the R.W. Lounsbury house, across the road (Figure 4).

The 1868 Beers atlas for Putnam County depicts the project area along Wood Street but the aforementioned building is gone. The R.W. Lounsbury house is still across the road (Figure 5).

The 1876 County map shows the same as the previous map. Local development appears to be along the Peekskill River (Figure 6).

The 1892 USGS continuous to show no buildings on or adjacent to the project parcel. Mahopac Mines are nearby to the east (Figure 7).

An historic site file search was conducted at the New York State Historic Preservation Office. The search included a 1 mile radius around the study area. The following sites were recorded:

NYM Sites	NYSHPO Sites	Distane to project Area (APE)	Type
	7901.000010		Lake Secor Historic Archaeological Cabin Site: no info.

The client mentioned that the property contained a root cellar and this appears on the property survey. Also, a sone foundation appears on the survey.

Assessing the known environmental and historic data, we can summarize the following points:

-An intermittent stream and associated wetlands are on the project area. They drain a perennial stream on the property (Figure 2). The project area is about 560 feet north of a pond & 1282 feet west of ponds.

-The study area is located on fairly level to steeply sloping terrain with well drained soils upslope and poorer drained soils associated with wetlands.

-Historic map documented maps show only the 1854 map with a structure (likely an outbuilding) on or immediately adjacent to the project area.

-An historic site is in the nearby vicinity.

-A stone foundation and associated root cellar are on the project area survey (Figure 2).

In our opinion, the project parcel has a higher than average potential for the recovery of nineteenth to early twentieth century European-American historic sites especially relating to the R.W. Lounsbury family.

FIELD METHODS

Walkover

Covered ground terrain was reconnoitered at 15-7.5 meter intervals to observe for any above ground features, such as berms, rock configurations, or depressions, which might be evidence for a prehistoric or historic site. Photographs were taken of the project area. Ground surface with good visibility (70%-100%) was walked-over at 3 to 5 meter intervals.

Shovel Testing

Shovel test pits were excavated at about 15-7.5 meter intervals across the project area. The closer intervals were utilized near the the stone foundation and root cellar. Each shovel test pit measured about 40 cm. in diameter and was dug into the underlying subsoil (B horizon) 10 to 20 cm. when possible. All soils were screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh and observed for artifacts. All shovel test pits (STP's) were mapped on the project area map at this time.

Soils stratigraphy was recorded according to texture and color. Soil color was matched against the Munsell color chart for soils. Notes on STP stratigraphy and other information was transcribed on field forms and in a notebook.

FIELD RESULTS

Field testing of the project area included the excavation of 30 ST's at 50 to 25 ft (15-7.5m) intervals. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Two features and associated 19th to early 20th century artifacts were encountered (see below & Inventory).

Stratigraphy

Intact stratigraphy across the project area was rare and appeared graded:

A/O horizon - 2 to 3 cm. thick of leaf liter, root mat, and humus.

A horizon - 7 to 43 cm. thick of 10YR4/3 brown silty loam (near the road and wetlands) to gravelly loam (upslope). This layer was most often mottled with subsoil indicating some kind of grading at least (if not some filling).

B horizon - about to 10 cm. dug into of 10YR5/4 to 5/6 yellow brown silty loam to gravelly loam.

Features

1) stone foundation, above ground, located at the toe of a short steep hill slope. Shovel test 28 was placed within this FT. Shovel test 28 and also surface scatter 1, recovered 19th to early 20th century artifacts inside this feature.

2) above ground stone room/cellar built into same hill. The floor inside of this feature had a cement slab covering the floor, preventing shovel testing here.

The ST's placed outside but immediately around the features produced negative results.

The feature appeared to represent the outbuildings on historic maps. The main building (dwelling) was directly across the road.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon topographic characteristics, the property was assessed as having a higher than average potential for encountering prehistoric sites.

Based upon topographic characteristics and proximity to the MDS's and historic sites and roads, the property was assessed as having a higher than average potential for encountering European-American historic sites

During the course of the archaeological field survey 30 ST's at 50 to 25 ft (15-7.5m) intervals were excavated. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered. Historic, 19th to early 20th century artifacts were recovered within the stone foundation (FT1) in 1 ST and a SF. The root cellar and foundation are proposed to be avoided. Therefore, no further archaeological work is recommended.

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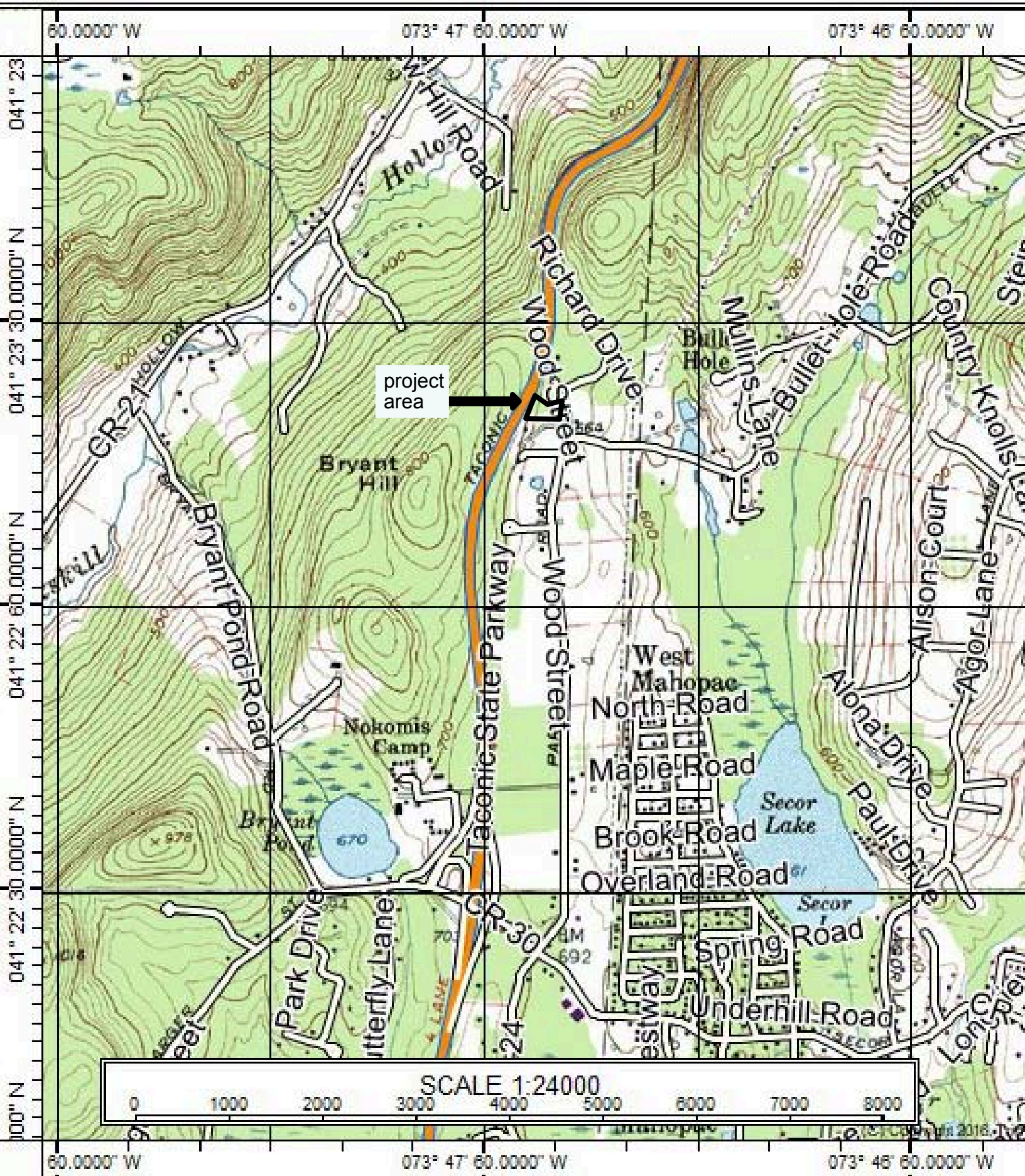
United States Geologic Survey
1958 Carmel, New York quadrangle map, 7.5 minute series.
1892 West Point, New York quadrangle map,15 minute series.

APPENDIX 1

Figure 1

Oscawana Lake, NY



MAG-DATE

SCALE: 1 INCH = 50 FEET

100' 75' 50' 25' 0 50' 100'

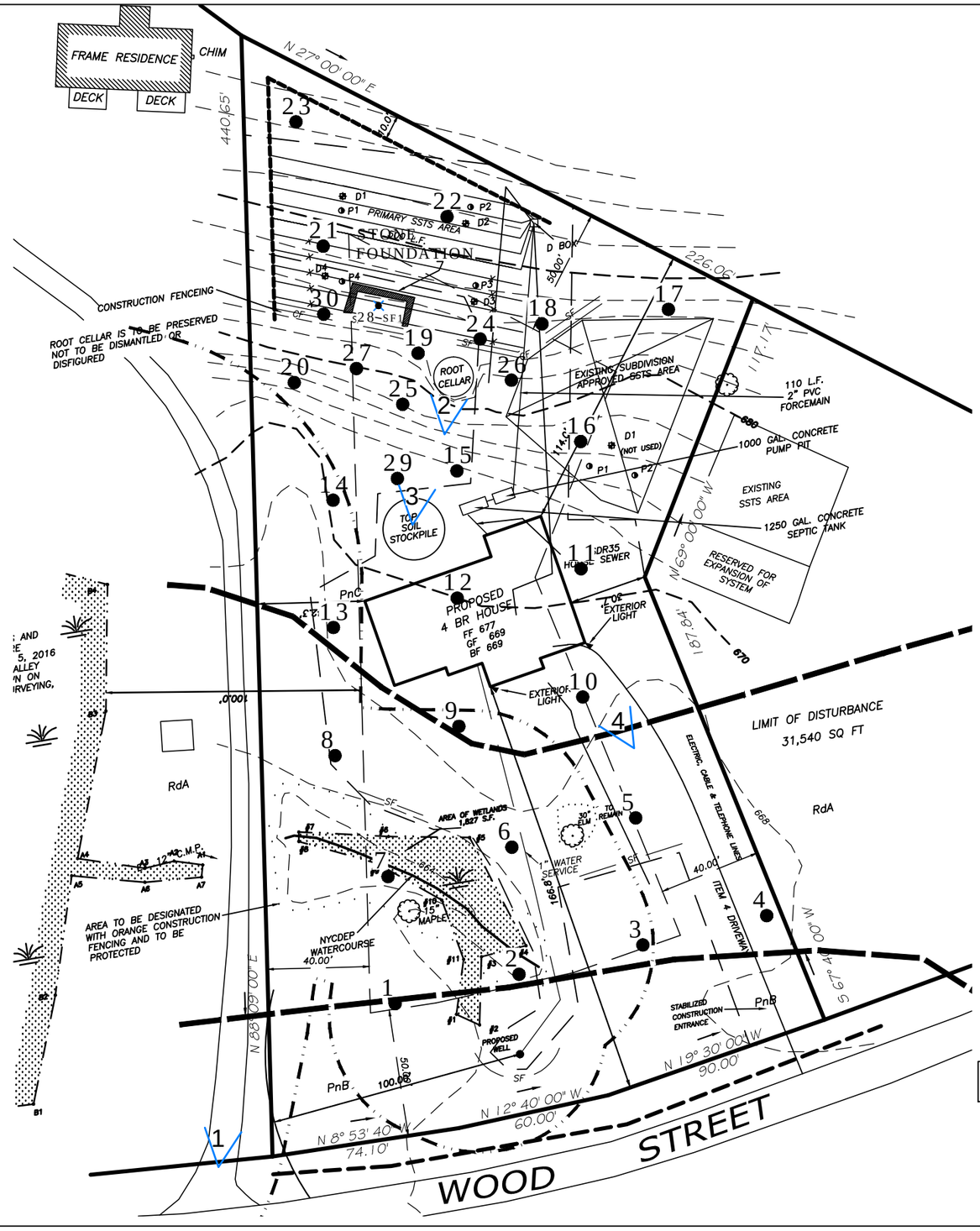


FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF SHOVEL TESTS

- PHOTO ANGLE
- NEGATIVE SHOVEL TEST
- POSITIVE SHOVEL TEST w/HISTORIC ARTIFACTS
- SF1 SURFACE FIND

PROJECT NAME: WOOD STREET

TRACKER
Archaeology Services, Inc.
Tracking the Footsteps of the Ancestors

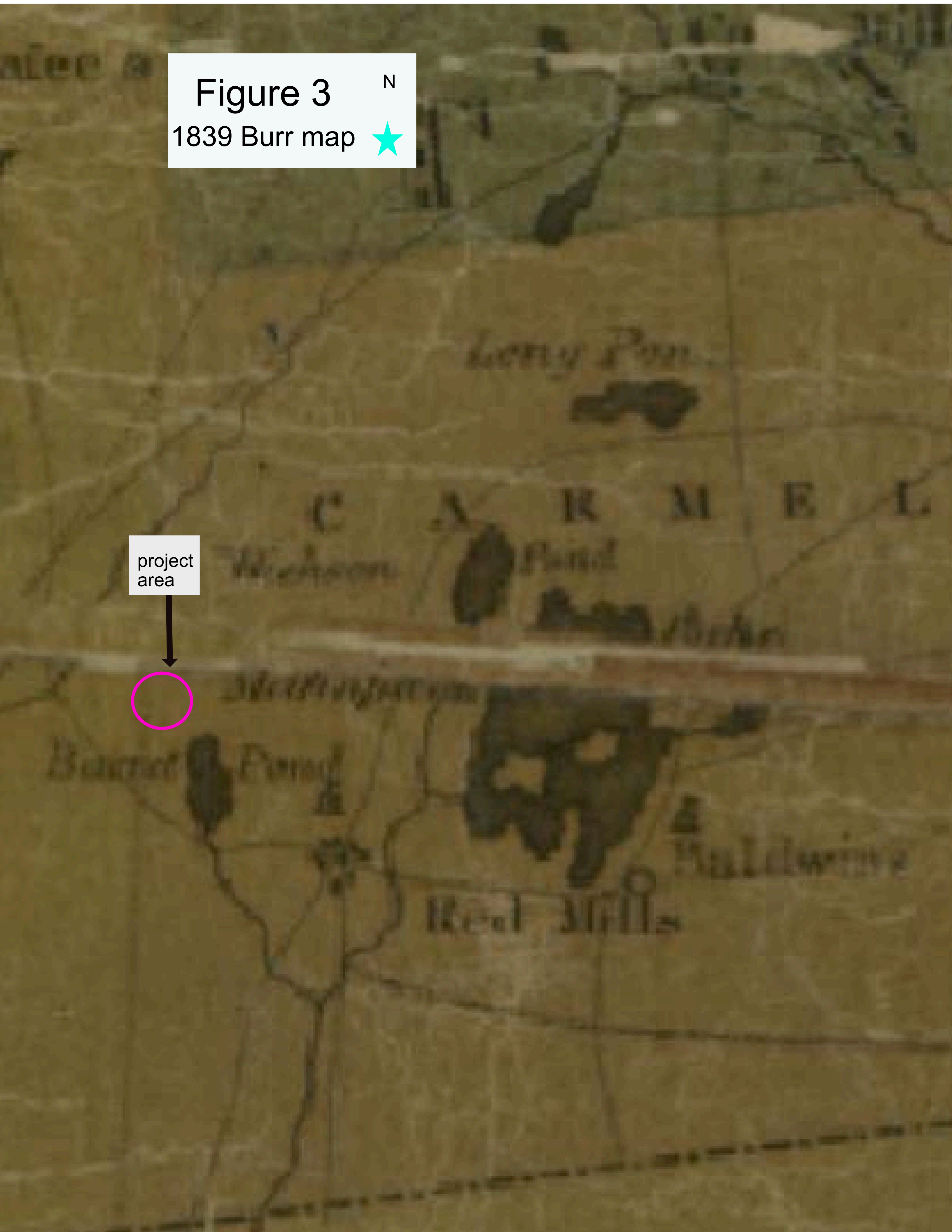


Figure 3
1839 Burr map

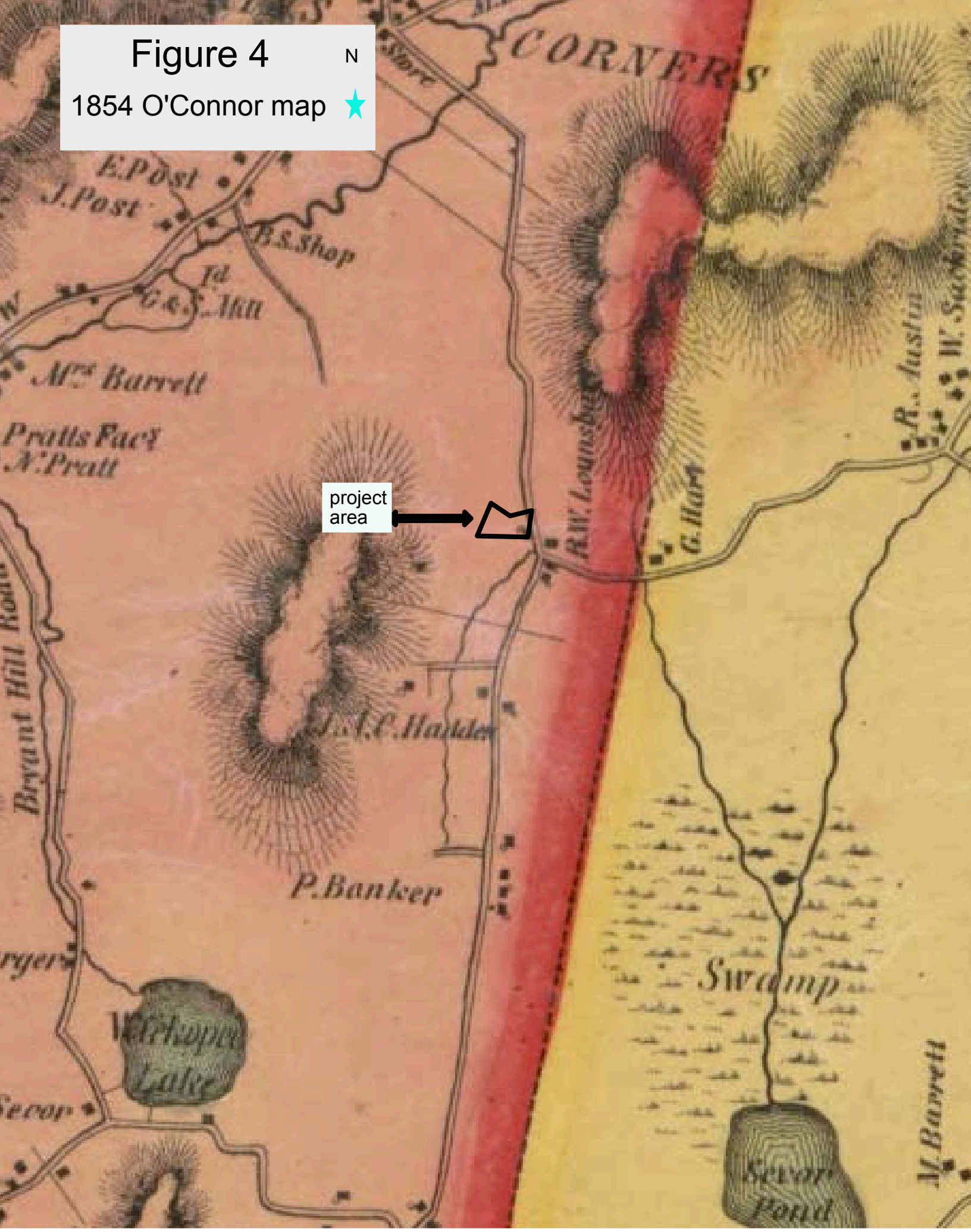


Figure 4
1854 O'Connor map
N
CORNERS
E.Post
J.Post
Mrs Barrett
Pratts Fact
N.Pratt
project
area
P.Banker
Swamp
Pond

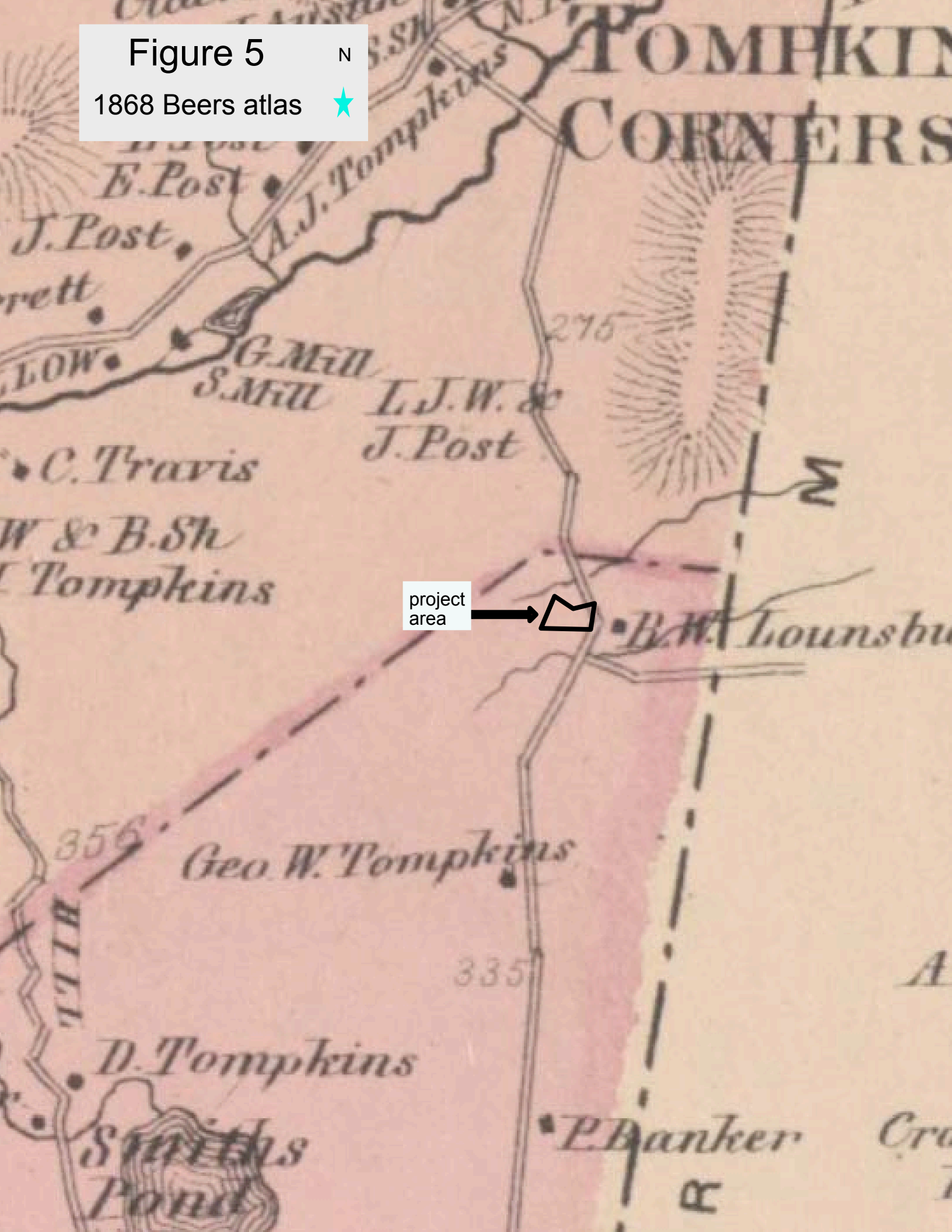


Figure 5
1868 Beers atlas
N
project area
E. Post
J. Post
A.J. Tompkins
G. Mill
S. Mill
L.J.W. &
J. Post
C. Travis
Geo W. Tompkins
D. Tompkins
P. Banker
Smiths
Pond
276
356
335


Figure 6
1876 County map
N
project area
Peekskill
Store
J. Sackrider
E. Sackrider
G.W. Sackrider
S. Austin
C. Hill
A.L. Austin
Est
E.C. Agor
J. Hill
P. B. Carry
E. Barrett
J. Barrett
E. Barrett
G.W. Tompkins
J. Banker
J. Hart

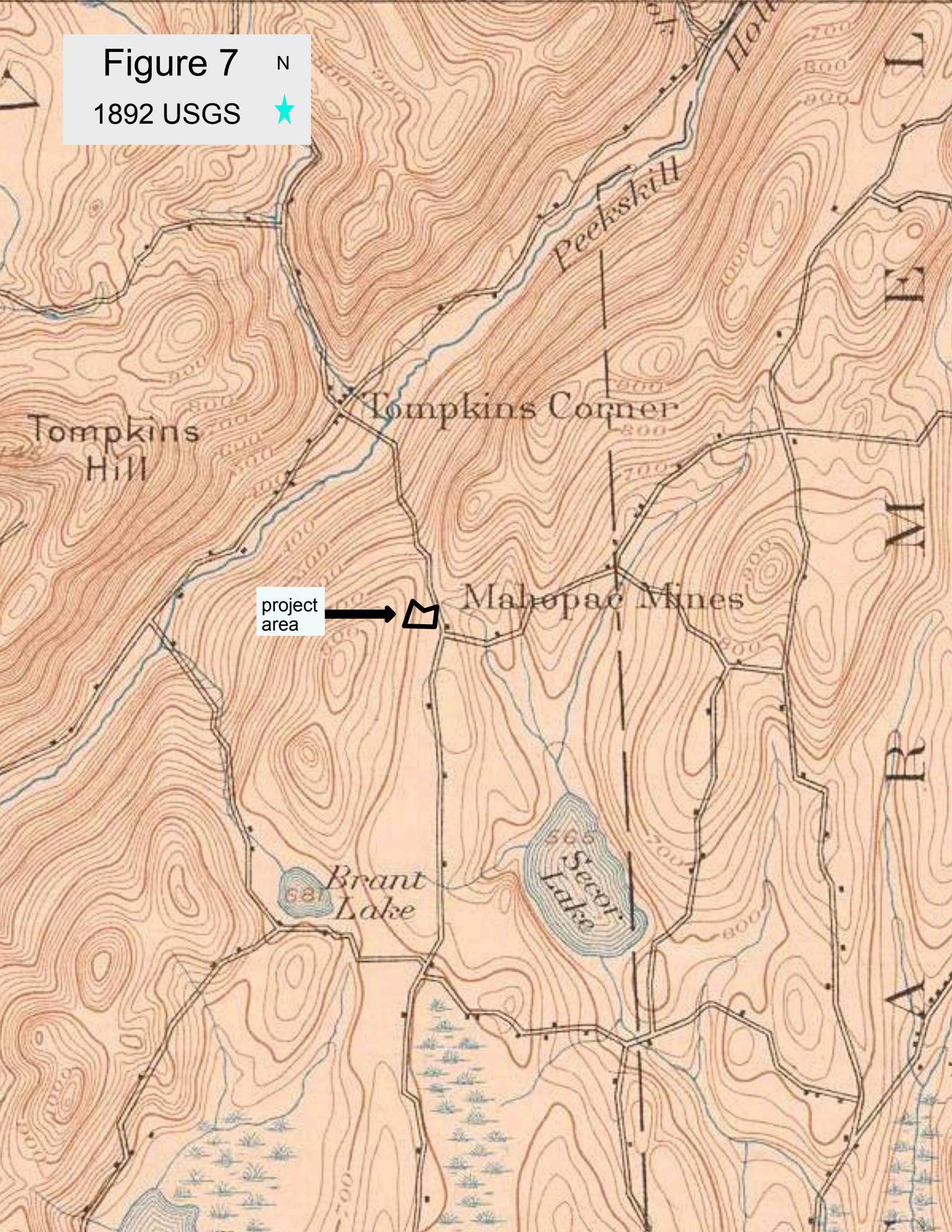


Figure 7
1892 USGS
N
Peekskill
Tompkins Corner
Tompkins Hill
project area
Mahopac Mines
Brant Lake
Secor Lake

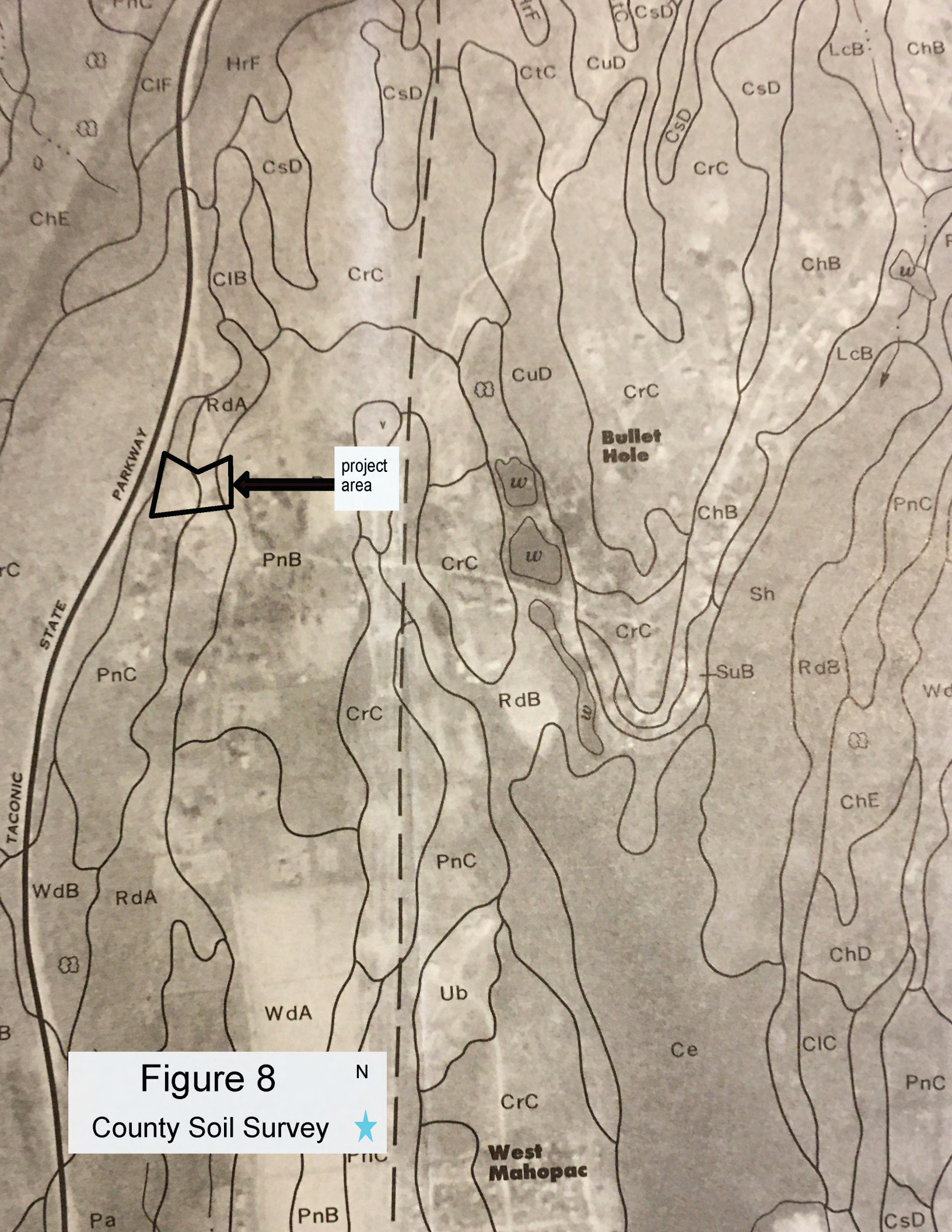


Figure 8

County Soil Survey

Photo 1

Looking from near Wood St.


Photo 2
Looking at Stone Foundation & Root Cellar

Photo 3

Inside Root Cellar at cemented floor

Photo 4

Looking at mulched area

APPENDIX 2

SHOVEL TESTS

STP	LV	DEPTH(CM)	TEXTURE	COLOR	HOR	COMMENT
1	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-5	Lo	10YR3/2	A	NCM
	3	5-water				
2	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-45	SiGrLo mottled	10YR3/2-5/4-5/1	A/grd	NCM
	3	25-40	SiGrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
3	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-25	SiLo mottled	10YR4/3-5/4	A/grd	bottle cap
	3	25-rock				
4	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-gravel & rocks				
5	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-gravel & rocks				
6	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-10	ClLo mottle	10YR5/1-4/3	A	NCM
	3	10-water				
7	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-26	Lo	10YR4/3	A	NCM
	3	26-gravel & rock				
8	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-30	Lo	10YR4/4	A	pantile
	3	30-40	Lo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
9	1	0-2	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	2-30	Lo mottle	10YR4/3-5/6	A	NCM
	3	40-40	Lo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
10	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-28	Lo, mulch	10YR3/3-5/6	A	NCM
	3	28-32,rock	Lo	10YR5/6	B	NCM
11	1	0-2	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	2-30	Lo	10YR4/4	A	wg, asphalt frags
	3	30-40	Lo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
12	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-30	GrLo	10YR4/1	A	mod glass
	3	30-40	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
13	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-35	GrLo mottle	10YR4/2-5/6	A/grd	NCM
14	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-35	GrLo mottle	10YR4/2-5/6	A/grd	NCM

15	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	4-24	GrLo		10YR4/3	A	NCM
	3	24-40	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
16	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-15	GrLo		10YR4/2	A	gravel, asphalt, rock
17	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-25	GrLo		10YR4/3-5/6	A/grd	NCM
	3	25-40	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
18	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-35	GrLo	mottle	10YR4/3-3/2-5/6	A/grd	NCM
19	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-26	GrLo	mottle, gravel	10YR4/2-5/6	A/grd	NCM
	3	26-rocks					
20	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-30	GrLo	mottle	10YR4/3-5/6	A/grd	NCM
	3	30-40	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
21	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-25	GrLo		10YR4/3	A	NCM
	3	25-40	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
22	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-40	GrLo	mottle	10YR4/3-56	A/grd	NCM
23	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-10	GrLo		10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	10-20	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
24	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-30	GrLo		10YR4/4	A	NCM
	3	30-40	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
25	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-35	GrLo		10YR4/3	A	NCM
	3	35-45	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
26	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-27	GrLo	mottle	10YR4/3-5/6	A/grd	NCM
	3	27-rock					
27	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-30	GrLo	mottle	10YR4/3-5/6	A/grd	NCM
	3	30-40	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
28	2	0-35	Lo		10YR4/4	A	ceramic, glass collected

29	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-35	GrLo		10YR4/3	A	cigarette holder, beer glass
	3	35-45	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM
30	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus			A/O	NCM
	2	3-25	GrLo	mottle	10YR4/3-5/6	A/grd	NCM
	3	25-35	GrLo		10YR5/4	B	NCM

APPENDIX 3

351 WOOD ST. PHASE I INVENTORY

CAT	SF	ST	TU	LV	ARB	FT	GP	CL	MAT	MOR	DESCRIPTION	CT	WT
1	1						1	2	78	8	"Watkins" linement ABM, 1916-1929 Illinois Glass Co.(Toulouse:1971:264)	2	
2	1						1	2	78		aquamarine square bottle, possibly Gin	1	
3	1						1	2	78		cobalt unident bottle	1	
4		28					1	1	3		jackfield type red earthenware or lusterware	1	
5		28					1	1	4		plain whiteware	3	
6		28					1	1	4		transferprint whiteware	2	
7		28					1	1	1		porcelain	1	
8		28					1	2	78		unident clear bottle	2	
9		28					1	2	78		amethyst bottle	2	
10		28					1	3			cutlery handle, probably silver plated	1	