

Phase I Archaeological Investigations at 115 Beverly Road
Town of Chester, Orange County, New York

July 2017

Prepared for:
Lehman & Getz, Warwick, New York

Alfred G. Cammisa, RPA

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PR#:

None known

Involved agencies:

NYDEC

ACOE

Town of Chester

OCHD

Phase:

Phase IA & IB

Location:

Town of Chester

Orange County

Survey Area:

Width: about 350 feet (107 meters) north-south

Length: about 350 feet (107 m) east-west

Acres Surveyed: about 3 acres (1.2 hectares) inclusive with wetlands and setback

USGS:

Monroe, NY

Survey overview:

ST no. & interval: 24 ST's at 50-25 ft. (15-7.5m) intervals

Results:

No prehistoric or historic remains

Results of Architectural Survey:

No. Of buildings/structures/cemeteries in project area: none

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

Report Preparation :

Alfred G. Cammisa, M.A./RPA

Alexander Padilla, B.A. (CAD)

Date of Report:

Report completed July 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Between June 20 and 28, 2017, TRACKER Archaeology, Inc. conducted a Phase IA documentary study and a Phase IB archaeological survey at 115 Beverly Road in the Town of Chester, Orange 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, and documents. In addition, the study area was visited by the author and visually assessed. The prehistoric and historic site file search was conducted utilizing the resources of the New York State Historic Preservation Office in Waterford, New York. Various historic web sites may have queried to review any pertinent site information.

The purpose of the Phase IB survey was to recover physical evidence for the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the property before their potential destruction. This was accomplished through subsurface testing and ground surface reconnaissance.

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 project area (APE) is about 3 acres inclusive with wetlands and buffers. The property is located at 115 Beverly Road. It is bound to the west by Beverly Road and to the remaining sides by private properties.

The investigation was completed by TRACKER Archaeology, Inc. of Monroe, New York. Prehistoric and historic research was conducted by Alexander D'Amico, M.S. and PI, Alfred G. Cammisa, M.A. Field work was by Alfred G. Cammisa and field technician, Alfred T. Cammisa. Report preparation was by Alfred G. Cammisa with Alexander Padilla (CAD).

The work was performed for Lehman & Getz, PC, Warwick, New York.

ENVIRONMENT

Geology

The study area is located in the southeast portion of New York State near the central part of Orange County. This region of New York lies within the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province. This province, also known as the Newer Appalachians, extends from Lake Champlain to Alabama. It passes as a narrow lowland belt between the New England Uplands (Taconic Mountains and Hudson Highlands) to the east and the Appalachian Plateau (Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains) and Adirondack Mountains to the west. The characteristic topography is a succession of parallel valleys and ridges trending roughly in a northeasterly direction. This is a region of sedimentary rocks which were easily eroded and subjected to folding or bedding of the rock layers (Schuberth 1968: cover map, 16-18; Isachsen et al 2000: 4, 53-54; New York-New Jersey Trail Conference 1998: cover map).

Soils and Topography

Soils on the project area consist of:

NAME	SOIL HORIZON DEPTH in(cm)	COLOR	TEXTURE INCLUSION	SLOPE %	DRAINAGE	LANDFORM
Swartswood	A= 0-1 (0-5) 1-19 (-48)	10YR32/2 7.5YR5/4	GrLo	3-8	well	glacial till
Swartswood & Mardin, very stony soils	A =0-1 (-2) B = 1-19 (-48)	10YR3/2 7.5YR5/4	GrLo, GrSiLo, GrFiSaLO, ChSaLo	15-35	well	glacial till
Wurtsboro	A =0-1 (-2) B = 1-9 (-23)	10YR4/3 7.5YR5/6	GrLo	3-8	well	glacial till

Olsson 1981: map #8- & 81, pgs. 61, 64, 68, 101, 105).

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

The elevation on the project area ranges from approximately 656 to 616 feet above mean sea level.

Hydrology

An intermittent stream flows through the project property adjacent to the project area. This flows into Seely Brook a permanent tributary which flows in Moodna Creek and 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 of a field with high weeds such as queens Ann lace and burdock, etc. and a small wooded section with high canopy trees including oak.

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:

NYSM SITES	NYSHPO SITES	DISTANCE FROM APE m (ft)	SITE DESCRIPTION
	7102.000083	1558 (5112)	Trout Brook Estate prehistoric finds, grinding stones, crude implements
	7102.000102	1460(4790)	Cluster 1: prehistoric quarry
	7102.000103	1590 (5216)	Cluster 2: prehistoric quarry
	7102.000096	1010 (3314)	Area 5: prehistoric quarry
	7102.000097	182 (4534)	Area 6: prehistoric camp
	7102.000095	869 (2851)	Area 4: prehistoric quarry
	7102.000094	592 (1942)	Area 3: prehistoric quarry
	7102.000092	545 (1788)	Area 1: prehistoric quarry
	7102.000093	505 (1657)	Area 2: prehistoric quarry

An Indian foot trail followed roughly along the path of Kings Highway. Although this foot path was recorded historically, it undoubtedly existed prehistorically, to some extent (see Historic Potential).

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

- An intermittent stream flows through the project property adjacent to the project area.
- The project area has well drained soils with level to steeply sloping terrain.
- Numerous prehistoric sites were recorded near the project area.
- An Indian foot trail was located near current Kings Highway, in the general vicinity of the study area.

In our opinion, the study area has a higher than average potential for the recovery of prehistoric sites. The type of site encountered could be a procurement/processing or base camp site from either Woodland or Archaic Periods.

HISTORIC POTENTIAL

Seventeenth Century

At the time of European contact and settlement, the study area was probably occupied by the Waoranecks who lived between Stony Point and Danns Kammer (near Newburgh Bay). Their western boundary unknown. These peoples were likely a sub-branch and/or clan related to the large Munsee (Minsi) tribe belonging to the Delawarean linguistic family. The term "Minsi" (or "Munsee") means people of the stony country" or abbreviated as "mountaineers" (Ruttenber 1992A:35, 44-45, 49-50, 93; Ruttenber 1992B:221; Becker 1993:16-22; Weslager 1991:45; Synder 1969:2; Figure 3).

Population estimates for the Munsee are 600 to 800 individuals. The Munsee are described by Becker (1993:18) as possibly horticultural. Hull (1996:10) mentions that they were hunters, gatherers, and horticulturalists. They fished in the fast running waters of the Wawayanda and Pochuck creeks.

An Indian trail known as the Wawayanda Trail started at the tribal meeting grounds at Danns Kammer, then passed through Washingtonville, Chester, Warwick and Vernon villages, and eventually on to Philadelphia. This road, or the close approximation, is currently known as Kings Highway (Hull 1996:127; Durland 1903:148).

Eighteenth Century

The Waoraneck Munsees living in Warwick had a large settlement a few hundred yards from the old Welling farm on Route 94 (Kings Highway here). This group was known locally, or their village was known locally as the Mistucky. It was recorded that these Indians had an apple orchard. Their chief/headman was called Chuckhass in the early eighteenth century. Chuckhass was one of the twelve chiefs signing the Wawayanda Patent to release their territory (Durland 1903:148; Ruttenber and Clarke 1881:568).

In many of the valleys between the high mountain ridges, are the old roads, following in some instances, Indian foot paths (Durland 1903:148).

The 1779 Sauthier map shows the study property just south of what is believed to be Sugar Loaf Mountain and east of Kings Highway (Figure 3).

Nineteenth Century

Chester's chief business was agriculture. The Town is said to contain some of the most fertile land in the state (Ruttenber 1881:620; Durland 1903:148).

The 1850 Map of Orange County shows the project area with a possible structure, such as dam, on or adjacent to the project area (Figure 4).

The 1875 Beers atlas of Chester Town shows the project area with no structures on or adjacent to it (Figure 5).

During the 1880's businesses in the village included: a hotel, post office, insurance company, bakery, undertaker, boots and shoes store, Allison's store-a place of trade, stoves and hardware, confectionary, restaurant, the doctor's office, groceries, meat market, drug store, dry goods-groceries-general merchandise, harness-shop, millinery, dress-making, and two carpenter shops. In town, but outside the village proper, were located other business (Ruttenber 1881:616).

Twentieth Century

The 1908 USGS shows no structures on or adjacent to the project area (Figure 6).

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:

NYSM SITES	NYSHPO SITES	DISTANCE FROM APE ft(m)	SITE DESCRIPTION
	7102.000108	1230 (5296)	Bull House Site: possibly Civil War Era, complete structure
	7102.000088	1230 (4036)	McGuinnisberg family Cemetery
	7102.000061	1573 (5161)	Sub Station Site: prehistoric & Contact Period village
4394		151 (est.) (5295 (est)) (large circle)	ACP aboriginal Historic Cemetery

An Indian foot trail followed roughly along the path of Kings Highway.

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

- An intermittent stream flows through the project property adjacent to the project area.
- The project area has well drained soils with level to steeply sloping terrain.
- Historic sites were recorded nearby the project area.
- An Indian foot trail was located near current Kings Highway, in the vicinity of the study area. It likely hooked up with other trails in the area.
- An historic MDS is shown possibly on or adjacent to the project area.

In our opinion, the study area has a higher than average potential for the recovery of historic sites. The type of site encountered could be either native American or Euro-American site.

FIELD METHODS

Walkover

Any exposed ground surfaces were walked over at about 3 to 5 meter intervals to observe for artifacts. Covered ground terrain was reconnoitered at about 15 to 7.5 meter intervals for any above ground features, such as berms, depressions, or rock-shelters which might be evidence for historic or prehistoric sites.

Shovel Testing

Shovel tests were excavated at about 15 to 7.5 meter intervals throughout the project area. Each shovel test measured about 30 cm. in diameter and was excavated into the underlying subsoil (B horizon) 10 to 20 cm. if possible. All soils were screened through 1/4 inch wire mesh and observed for artifacts. Shovel test pits were flagged in the field. All shovel tests (ST's) were mapped on the project area map at this time.

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

FIELD RESULTS

Field testing of the project property included the excavation of 24 shovel tests. No prehistoric artifacts or features were encountered. No historic artifacts or features were encountered. Some backhoe piles of recent earth moving were evident on the property.

Stratigraphy

Soil textures across the project area consisted of:

O Horizon - about 2 to 5 cm. thick of root mat, leaf litter and humus.

A Horizon - about 2 to 24 cm. thick of 10YR4/2 dark gray brown gravelly loam. This layer was at times impeded due to the natural gravel content in the soils. The thin layers were likely the result of stripped soils, other times the layer was occasionally mottled with subsoil

B Horizon - about 0 to 20 cm. dug into of 10YR5/4 yellow brown gravelly loam. This layer was at times impeded due to the natural gravel content in the soils.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon proximity to a stream and wetlands, prehistoric sites, Indian trails, and level to steeply sloped terrain with well drained to poorly drained soils, the project area is seen as having a higher than average potential for the recovery of prehistoric sites.

Based upon the similar environmental characteristics and proximity to historic sites, MDS's, and Indian trails, the project area was seen as having a higher than average potential for encountering historic sites.

The field survey included the excavation of 24 ST's on the project property. No prehistoric artifacts or features were encountered. Nor historic artifacts or features were encountered. No further archaeological work is recommended.

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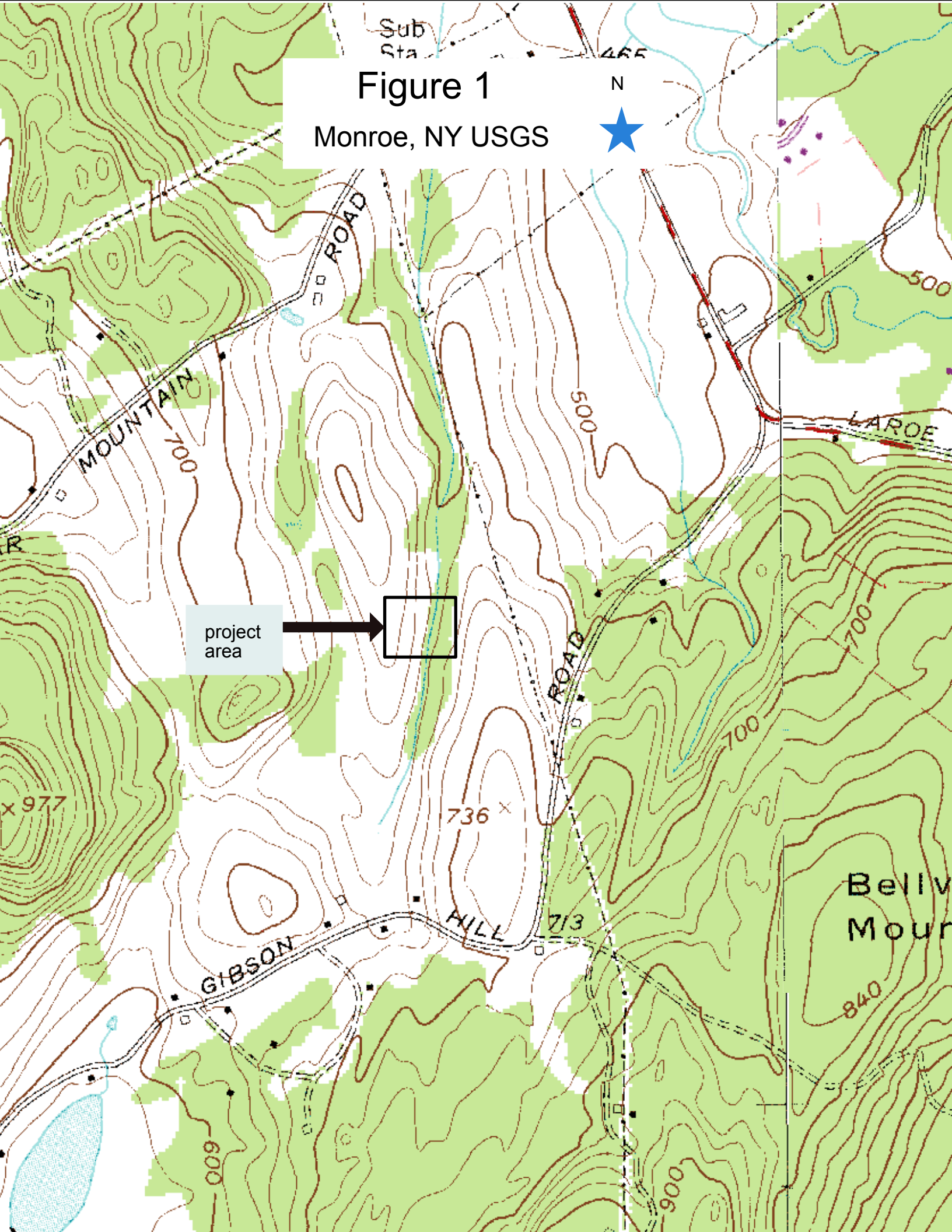
1967 *Warwick, New York* quadrangle map, 7.5 minute series.

1908 *Goshen, New York* quadrangle map, 15 minute series.

APPENDIX 1

Figure 1

Monroe, NY USGS



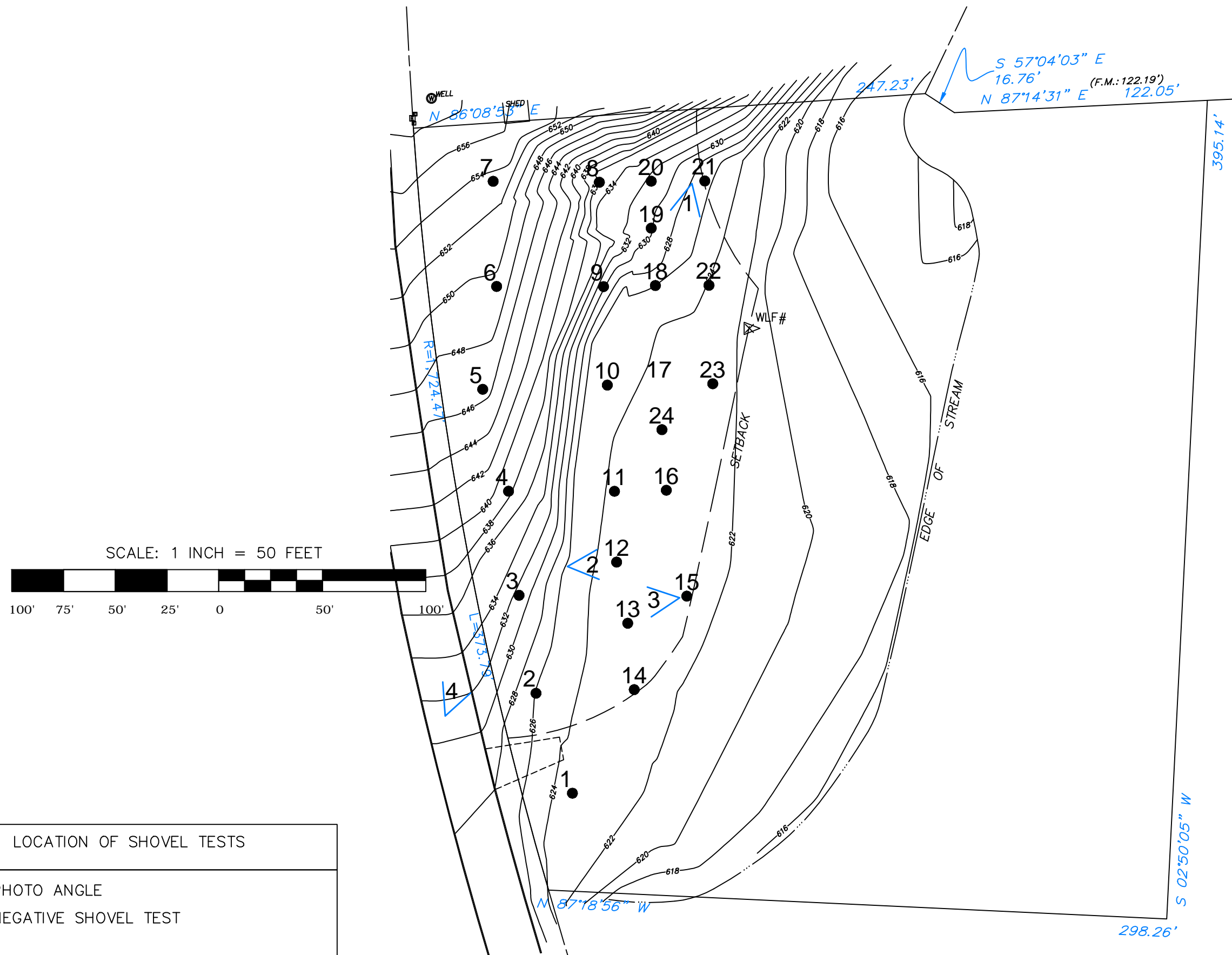
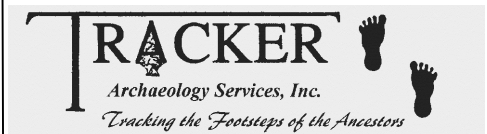


FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF SHOVEL TESTS

- ✓ PHOTO ANGLE
- NEGATIVE SHOVEL TEST

PROJECT NAME: 115 BEVERLEY RD.



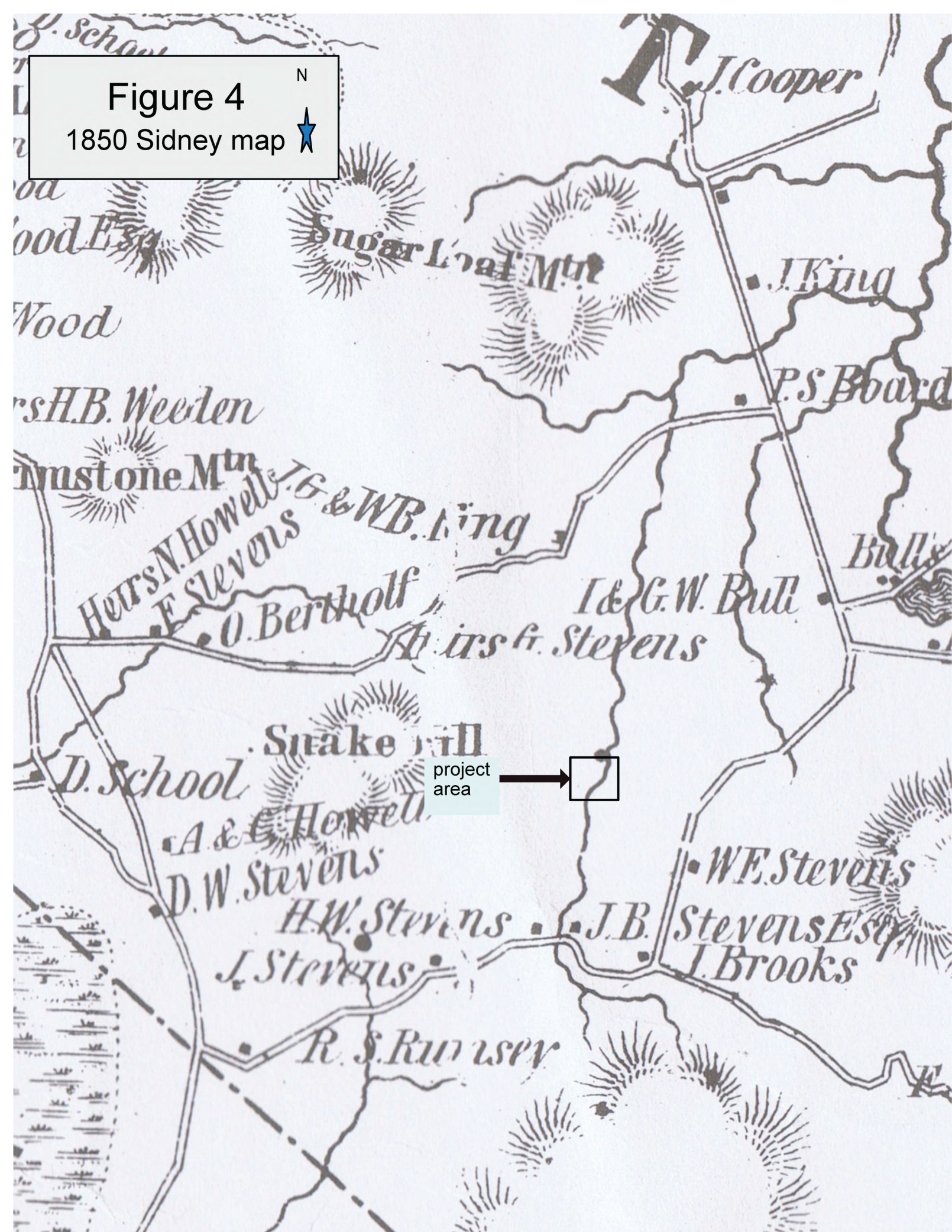
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Figure 4

1850 Sidney map

N



N

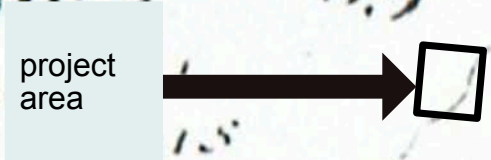


Figure 6

1908 USGS

N

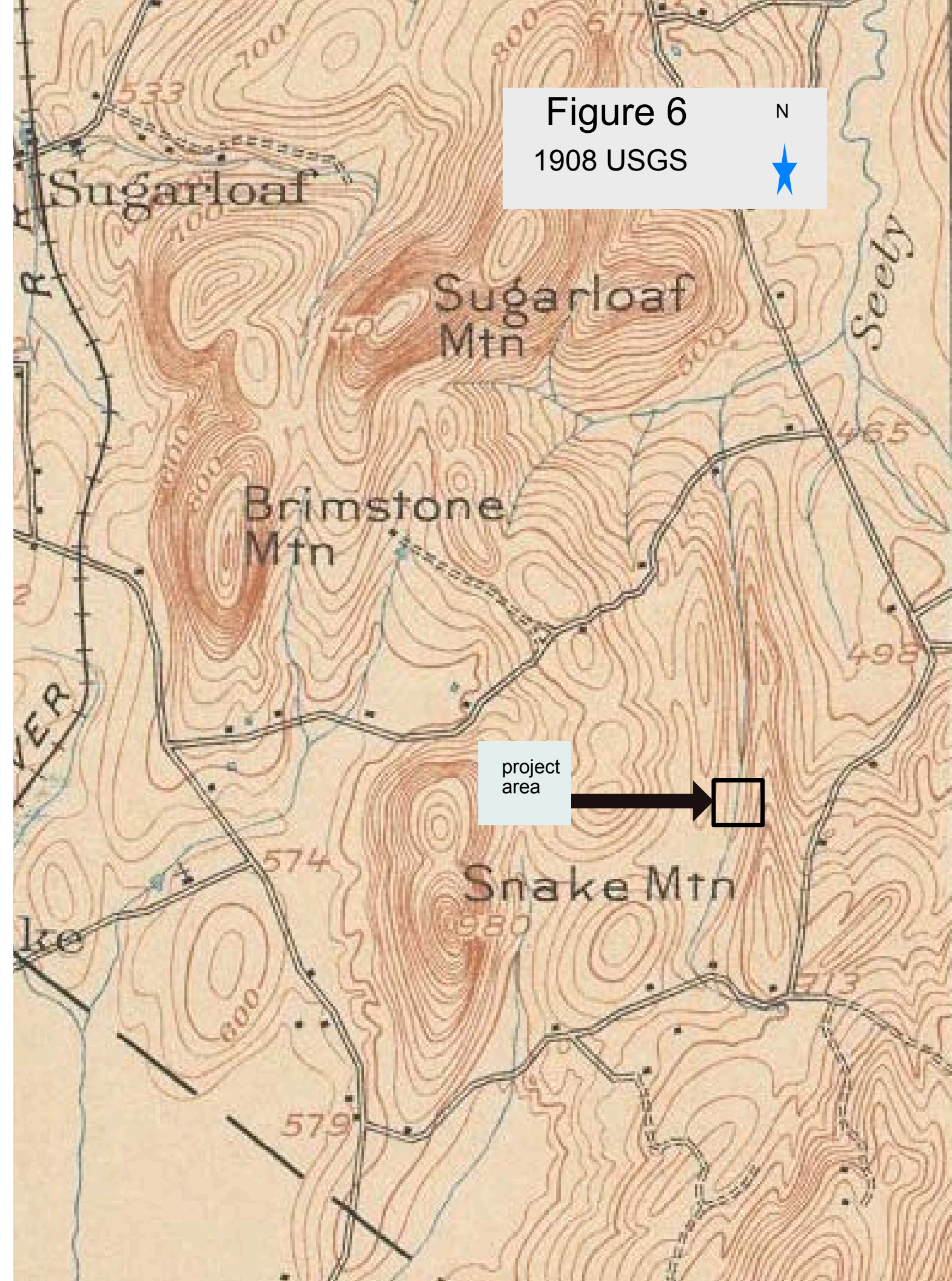


Figure 7

County Soil Survey

N

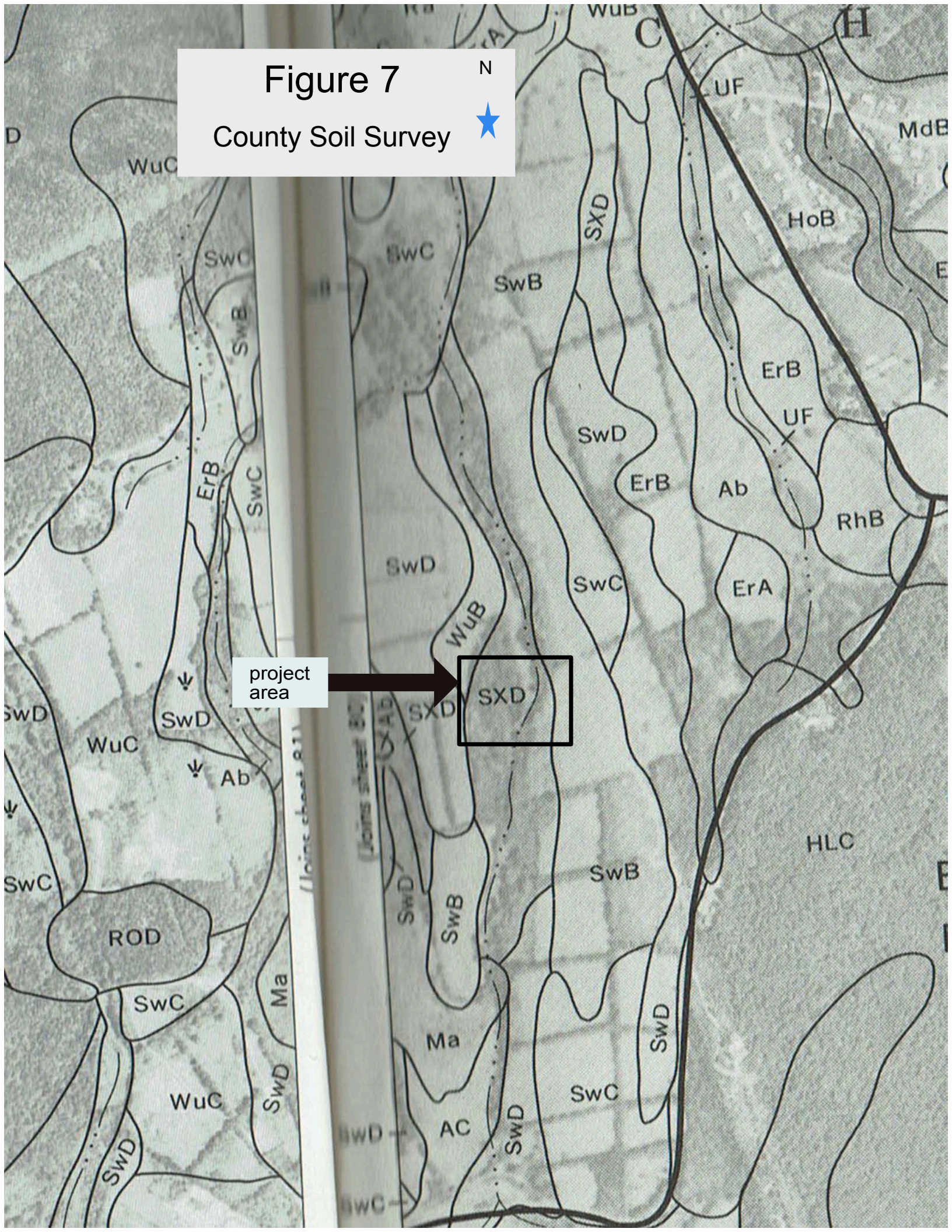


Photo 1
Looking from ST 21 towards road



Photo 2

Looking from ST 12 toward stream

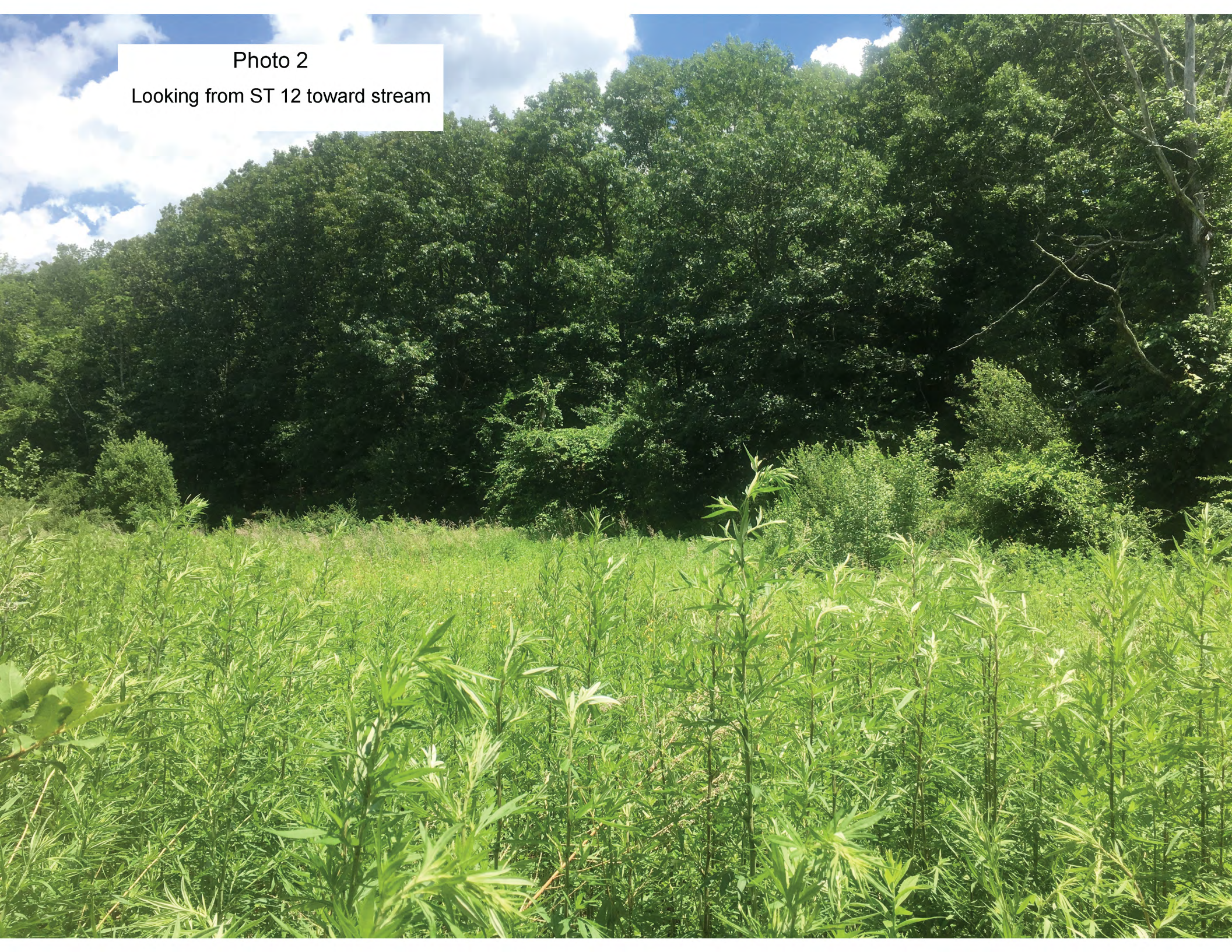


Photo 3

Looking at "backhoe" piles of dirt under weeds



Photo 4

Looking along Beverly Rd.



APPENDIX 2

SHOVEL TESTS

STP	LV	DEPTH(CM)	TEXTURE	COLOR	HOR	COMMENT
1	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-28	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	28-38	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
2	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-20	GrLo	10YR5/1	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
3	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-24	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	24-34	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
4	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-7	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	7-roots				
5	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-22	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	22-32	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
6	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-12	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	12-rocks/ heavy gravel				
7	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-15	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	15-roots				
8	1	0-5	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	5-19	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	19-29	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
9	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-16	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	wood pile
	3	16-30	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
10	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-6	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	6-16	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
11	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-13	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	13-23	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
12	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-14	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	14-24	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
13	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-21	GrLo mottled	10YR4/2-5/4	A	NCM
	3	21-31	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM

14	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-20	GrLo	mottled 10YR4/2-5/4	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GiLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
15	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-20	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	20-30	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
16	1	0-2	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	2-15	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	15-25	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
17	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-17	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	17-27	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
18	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-18	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	18-28	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
19	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-16	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	16-26	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
20	1	0-3	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	3-19	GrLo	mottled 10YR4/2-5/4	A	NCM
	3	19-29	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
21	1	0-2	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	2-15	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	15-25	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
22	1	0-2	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	2-17	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	17-27	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
23	1	0-4	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	4-14	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	14-24	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM
24	1	0-2	rootmat,leaves,humus		A/O	NCM
	2	2-8	GrLo	10YR4/2	A	NCM
	3	18-18	GrLo	10YR5/4	B	NCM