



December 17, 2024

Shannon Selby
Detroit Regional Partnership
1001 Woodward Ave., Suite 800
Detroit, MI 48226

Re: Cultural Resources Desktop Review for the Stage 7 Study of Genesee Industrial Land, Genesee Township and the City of Mt. Morris, Genesee County, Michigan

Note: This report contains sensitive archaeological site location information and is not intended for public distribution.

Dear Ms. Selby:

In October 2024, the Detroit Regional Partnership contracted The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. (MSG) to provide professional consulting services for a proposed land development located in Genesee Township and the City of Mt. Morris (Township 8 North, Range 7 East, Section 7), Genesee County, Michigan (Attachment A, Figures A1-A2). The development site (hereafter, Project Area) consists of approximately 80.0 ac (32.4 ha) of vacant, densely forested land located north of E. Stanley Road and east of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad; most of the Project Area falls in Genesee Township, but a small portion of the northwestern corner of the Project Area is within the incorporated boundary of the City of Mt Morris. The Project Area is divided into northern and southern parcels (labeled on the attached maps as Project Area 1 and Project Area 2, respectively) by a narrow swath of open land running east-west to accommodate a power line easement. The Project area also includes a pond that was formerly used as a borrow pit by the General Motors Corporation. Among the services to be provided by MSG is a cultural resources sensitivity assessment, the purpose of which is to identify the potential for the proposed land development to result in impacts to cultural resources (i.e., historic sites, buildings, structures or objects, historic districts, cemeteries, and archaeological resources). This report documents the results of this assessment.

In order to complete the assessment, MSG conducted a cultural resources literature review of a 1.6-km (1.0-mi) buffer around the Project Area (hereafter referred to as the Study Area) using data supplied by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other sources. This buffer, hereafter referred to as the Study Area, was chosen in order to obtain a representative sample of cultural resources in the vicinity of the Project Area. MSG also inspected historic plat and topographic maps and historic high-altitude aerial photographs depicting the Project Area. Finally, MSG conducted a site visit to visually inspect and document existing conditions.

This assessment was directed by Principal Investigator Mollie Olinyk, M.S. Ms. Olinyk is a federally qualified architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications (36 CFR 61). The literature review was completed by Project Archaeologists Julia Joblinski, B.A., and Nicole Davis, B.S. The site visit was conducted by Ms. Olinyk. Joblinski and Olinyk are the authors of this report. Davis and Project Archaeologists Kate Hayfield, B.S., and Elizabeth Hickle, B.S., prepared the graphics and exhibits in Attachments A-D.

STUDY AREA

The Project Area is characterized seven soil types, ranging from well drained to very poorly drained (Attachment A,



TECHNICAL SKILL.
CREATIVE SPIRIT.

Figure A3). Multiple landforms are associated with these soil types, including depressions, ground and recessional moraines, lake plains, and stream terraces (Holcomb 1972; U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service 2024). Each soil type is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1
Soil Types within the Project Area

Map Symbol	Soil Name	Slope (%)	Drainage	Landforms	Acres	% of Project Area
CarabA	Carlisle muck	0-2	Very poorly drained	Moraines; depressions	5.9	7.4%
CmB	Celina-Owosso sandy loams	2-6	Moderately well drained	Ground moraines	1.3	1.6%
EtmaaE	Udorthents and Udipsamments	0	Well drained	Ground moraines	13.7	17.1%
Gm	Granby loamy sand	0	Poorly drained	Lake plains	1.2	1.5%
Lb	Lamson loamy fine sand	0	Poorly drained	Lake plains	3.7	4.6%
PITx	Pits, sand and gravel	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2	5.3%
SvB	Spinks-Oakville loamy sands	2-6	Well drained	Stream terraces	41.3	51.6%
SvC	Spinks-Oakville loamy sands	6-12	Well drained	Moraines; recessional moraines	2	2.5%
W	Water	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.6	4.5%

Current aerial mapping indicates that Project Area 1 consists primarily of moderate- to densely wooded areas, a pond, a sand/gravel pit, and several paths and/or access roads throughout it. Project Area 2 also contains access paths/roads and is moderately wooded (see Figure A2); this was confirmed during a site visit by MSG in November 2024. The Benjamin Drain courses across Project Area 1, extending east-to-west through its center. These Project Areas are located immediately to the north of E. Stanley Road, to the east of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, and to the west of a dirt access road. The general vicinity of the Project Area exhibits a mix of industrial and residential land uses.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The results of the literature review are presented graphically and in tabular form in Attachment B. MSG collected data for the following:

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
- State Register of Historic Sites (SRHS)
- Archaeological Sites
- Hinsdale's *Archaeological Atlas of Michigan*
- Deeply Buried Archaeological Site Potential
- Cultural Resource Management Investigations

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

The Old Toll House at 11375 Saginaw Street was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2013 (Attachment B, Figure B1 and Table B1). No NRHP-listed historic sites or districts and no additional NRHP-eligible properties or districts are located within the Study Area. The Old Toll House is not located within the Project Area.

Michigan State Register of Historic Sites (SRHS)

There are two previously recorded SRHS properties within the Study Area (Attachment B, Figure B1 and Table B1):

- The Old Toll House at 11375 Saginaw Street, also determined eligible for listing on the NRHP (see above).
- The First United Methodist Church at 808 Genesee Street in Mt Morris, requiring additional study to determine NRHP eligibility.

Neither of these sites is located within the Project Area.

Archaeological Sites

No previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the Study Area.

Hinsdale's Archaeological Atlas of Michigan

Hinsdale's (1931) *Archaeological Atlas of Michigan* represents a compilation of sites throughout Michigan which had been, or currently are, associated with prehistoric mounds, earthwork enclosures, petroglyphs, burials, or villages. The atlas only references location, however, and does not provide much detail about the archaeological components themselves. Furthermore, these sites were largely reported by local informants, and most have never been field-verified by professional archaeologists, and therefore their exact locations are often unknown.

Hinsdale's *Atlas* does not show any pre-contact resources within or immediately adjacent to the Project area (see Attachment B, Figure B2).

Deeply Buried Archaeological Site Potential

MSG consulted Monaghan et al.'s 2005 volume on deeply buried archaeological site potential in southern Michigan. Certain environments, such as flood plains, are conducive to rapid deposition of soils that may result in the build-up of a deep stratigraphic column over time, resulting in Holocene-age soils becoming deeply buried. In such cases, traditional archaeological survey methods such as shovel testing may not reach deeply enough to encounter archaeological resources that may be present in these paleosols.

As shown in Attachment B, Figure B3, the entirety of the Project Area is classified as having low deeply buried site potential.

Cultural Resource Management Investigations

One professional cultural resource management investigation has previously been conducted within the Study Area. This investigation was completed in 2014 for a proposed telecommunications tower. No archaeological resources were located during this survey, which did not include any part of the current Project Area (Attachment B, Figure B1 and Table B2).

HISTORIC CARTOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Several categories of historic cartographic resources were also consulted as part of this assessment. These include historic plat and topographic maps (Beers 1873; Day 1899; Ogle 1907; Environmental Data Resources [EDR] 2024a) and historic high-altitude aerial photographs (EDR 2024b). Reproductions of these maps showing the Project Area boundary can be found in Attachment C.

Plat and Topographic Maps

MSG examined plat maps of Genesee Township dating to 1873 (Beers) 1899 (Day), and 1907 (Ogle). In addition, MSG examined the 1920 15' Flint, MI and 1969 7.5' Flint North, MI topographic quadrangles (EDR 2024a). The 1873 plat map depicts the Project Area and its immediate vicinity as agricultural land, without any permanent structures. The adjacent City of Mount Morris had been platted; the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad ran north-south through the community, and there was a fair amount of settlement along the major roads. The 1899 and 1907 maps present a similar story, with permanent structures clustered along main transportation routes, surrounded by agricultural fields. Present-day roads, including W. Mt. Morris Street, N. Saginaw Road, E. Stanley Road and N. Dort Highway are visible as early as the 1873 plat map. The parcel boundaries and ownership within the Project Area change slightly on each plat map. No structures are evident within the Project Area on any of these plat maps, or on the 1920 15' Flint, MI topographic quadrangle. The 1969 7.5' Flint North, MI topographic quadrangle depicts the substation located just to the east of the Project Area, and shows a pond with a label and symbology for gravel pits within the Project Area. Neither the historical plat maps, nor the topographic map, show the locations of the buildings that were the basis for previously recorded sites P51238 and P23120.

High-Altitude Aerial Photographs

High-altitude aerial photographs of the Project Area from 1937, 1941, 1950, 1957, 1964, 1967, 1972, 1975, 1982, 1999, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2016, and 2020 were also examined (EDR 2024b; see Attachment C). All aerials within this 1937-2020 range show that the Project Area remained mostly undeveloped, with periods of both open grassland and dense forest cover. A small farm settlement just east of the south end of the project area was established by 1937 as shown on the earliest aerial image, but is not indicated on the 1920 topographic map or earlier plat maps. A network of early footpaths beginning in the southern part of the Project Area evolved during the 1937–2020 time range into wider, more established lanes throughout the Project Area by the 1960s, when portions of it were being used for gravel quarrying; a quarry pond can be seen clearly in Project Area 1 on the 1967 aerial photograph. However, it appears that the northern half of Project Area 1 and the southern half of Project Area 2 were not heavily impacted by quarrying activity. The pond in the southeastern corner of Project Area 1 was a result of General Motors Corporation's establishment of a borrow pit c. 2005. The power substation immediately outside of the south-central portion of the Project Area was built c. 1955. Overall, however, the general landscape has remained vacant/wooded, with some surrounding residential, industrial, and agricultural land use.

VISUAL INSPECTION

As noted above, MSG visited the Project Area in November 2024. The photographs contained in Attachment D confirm that the Project Area currently consists of densely forested lands with some openings, and no structures or buildings are located within the Project Area boundaries. Surrounding land use is agricultural, residential, and industrial.

For the purposes of this assessment, MSG also took photographs of buildings and structures immediately outside of the Project Area that may be 50 years of age or older. At least seven such properties are located adjacent to the Project Area and within view of any potential project activities (Attachment D, Photos 32-33, 35-36, 38-39). The c. 1930 dwelling at 1299 E. Stanley Road is located north of E. Stanley Road up a private farm lane and was inaccessible for photography. These properties have not been previously documented.

SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

Above-Ground Cultural Resources

The literature review identified two previously recorded above-ground cultural resources within the Study Area: The Old Toll House at 11375 Saginaw Street, also determined eligible for listing on the NRHP, and the First United Methodist Church at 808 Genesee Street in Mt. Morris, requiring additional study to determine NRHP eligibility. The vicinity of the Project Area has remained mainly agricultural and residential in nature. While the adjacent power

substation began to encroach in the early 2000s, dividing the Project Area in two with an easement for power lines, the overall character of the Project Area and its immediate vicinity has remained undeveloped, with scattered residential development present south of E. Stanley Road, west of the railroad tracks and north of the Project Area. Calvary Cemetery is located across the railroad tracks at the northwest corner of Project Area 1, but is unlikely to be impacted by any project activities due to a mature tree line barrier on the cemetery side (west side) of the railroad.

Visual inspection identified seven properties 50 years of age or older within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area, all located along E. Stanley Road (Attachment D). Further research is needed to determine the historic and architectural significance of these properties.

Archaeological Resources

The literature review revealed that there are no previously recorded archaeological resources within the Study Area. This may be due in part to a relative lack of professional survey within the Study Area rather than a lack of such sites. Monaghan et al.'s (2005) model of archaeological site burial has shown that the Project Area exhibits a low probability for deeply buried archaeological sites.

The Project Area is characterized by soil types that range in drainage quality; a majority of the Project Area is well drained. Based on a review of historic maps and aerial photographs, it does not appear that any permanent structures have been located within the Project Area since the late 19th century. Topographic maps and high-altitude aerial photographs show that portions of the Project Area has been heavily utilized since the mid-20th century for gravel quarrying; however, some areas were not heavily impacted by quarrying activity. Based on this information, the Project Area exhibits moderate probability for intact pre-contact archaeological resources and low probability for post-contact archaeological resources.

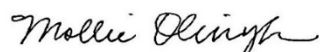
RECOMMENDATIONS

The present assessment has determined that there are seven properties over 50 years of age present in close proximity to the Project Area and within view of any proposed project activities that have not been previously documented or evaluated for NRHP eligibility. Furthermore, portions of the Project Area exhibit moderate probability for pre-contact archaeological resources.

Should any funding, permitting, or other assistance from a federal agency be required for the development of this Project Area, Section 106 consultation with the SHPO will be required. As part of this consultation, MSG recommends that Phase I archaeological and historic/architectural survey be conducted to define an Area of Potential Effects (APE) based on actual project design, and to determine whether any cultural resources that are eligible for listing on the NRHP are present within the APE.

If you have any questions about the information presented in this report or our recommendations, please do not hesitate to contact me at 419-891-2222 x2062.

Sincerely,



Mollie Olinyk, M.S.
Principal Investigator

REFERENCES CITED

- Beers, F. W.
1873 *Atlas of Genesee Co., Michigan*. F.W. Beers & Co., New York.
- Day, H. A.
1899 *Atlas of Genesee County, Michigan*. Homer A. Day, Flint, MI.
- Environmental Data Resources (EDR)
2024a *Genesee Industrial Land, Mount Morris, MI 48458: EDR Historical Topo Map Report with QuadMatch™*. Environmental Data Resources, Shelton, CT.
2024b *Genesee Industrial Land, Mount Morris, MI 48458: The EDR Aerial Photo Decade Package*. Environmental Data Resources, Shelton, CT.
- Hinsdale, W. B.
1931 *Archaeological Atlas of Michigan*. Michigan Handbook Series No. 4. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.
- Holcomb, S.
1972 *Soil Survey of Genesee County, Michigan*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C.
- Monaghan, G. W., W. A. Lovis, and M. J. Hambacher
2005 *Modeling Archaeological Site Burial in Southern Michigan: A Geoarchaeological Synthesis*. Environmental Research Series No. 1. Michigan State University Press, East Lansing.
- Ogle, G. A.
1907 *Standard Atlas of Genesee County, Michigan*. Ogle & Co., Chicago.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
2024 *Web Soil Survey: Genesee County, Michigan*. Electronic database available at <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. Last accessed December 1, 2024.

**ATTACHMENT A
PROJECT LOCATION FIGURES**



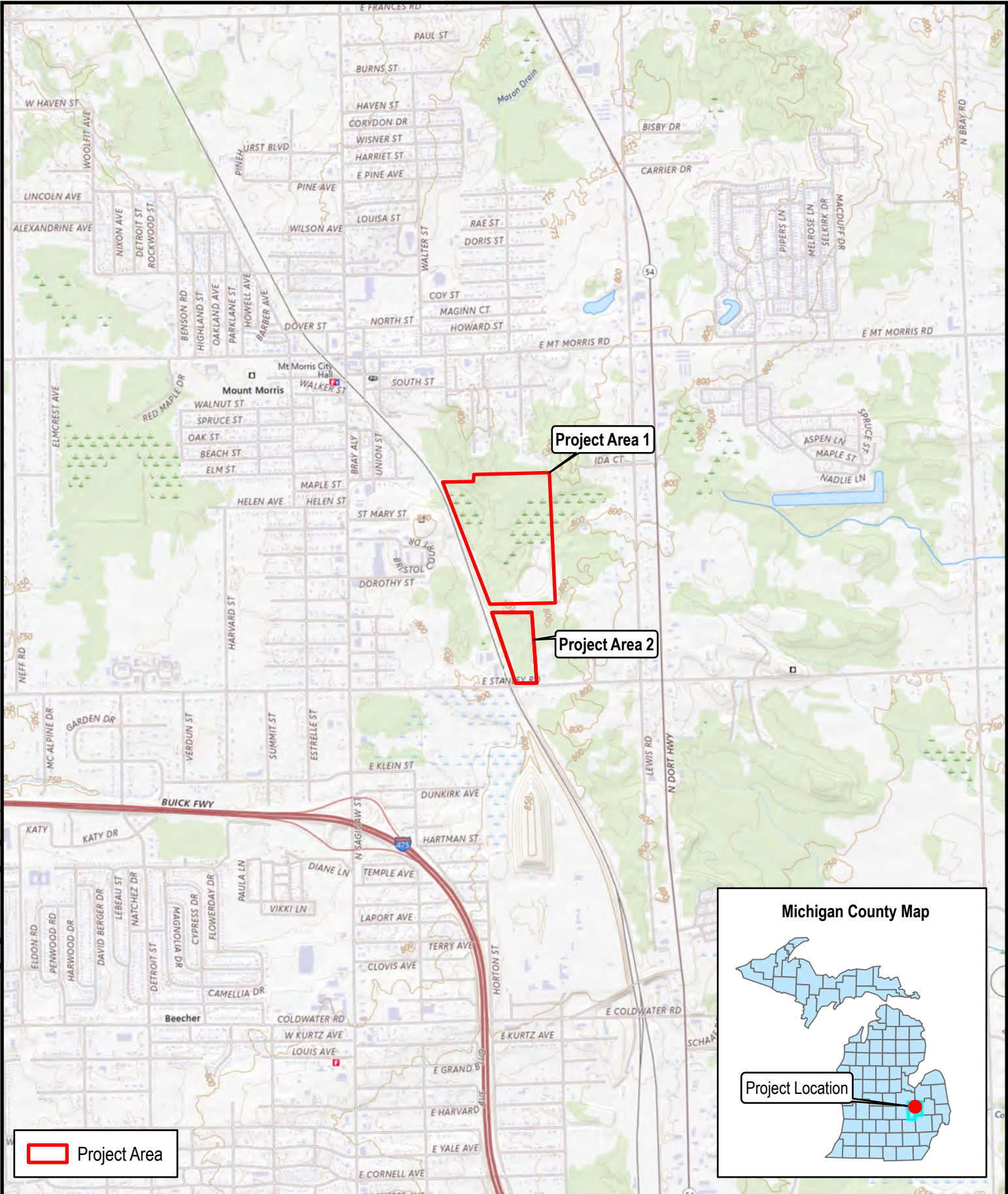
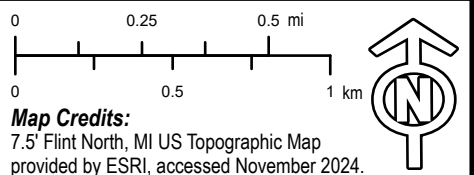


Figure A1: Project Location
Cultural Resources Desktop Review
Genesee Industrial Land
Genesee Township and the City of
Mt. Morris, Genesee County, MI



Map Credits:
 7.5' Flint North, MI US Topographic Map
 provided by ESRI, accessed November 2024.



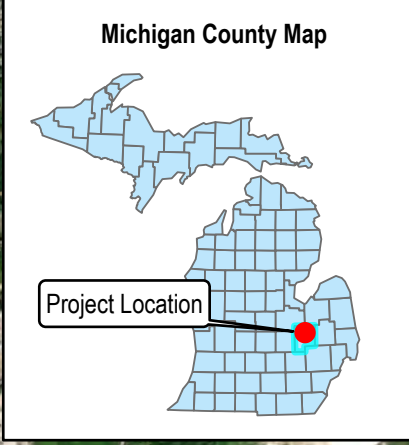
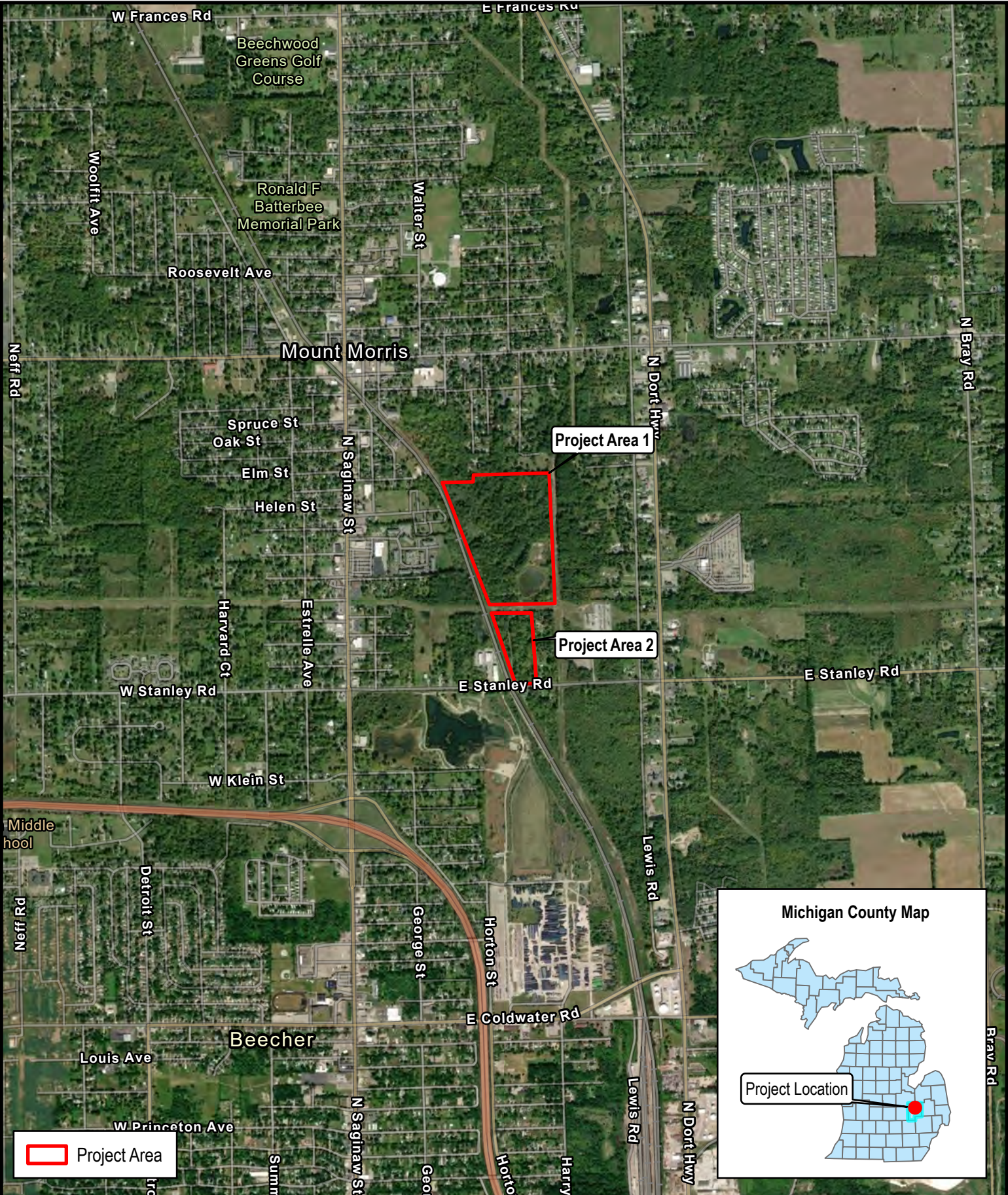
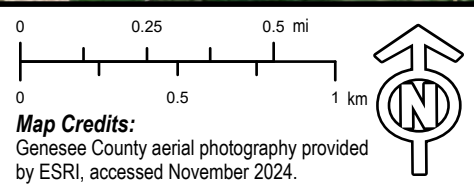
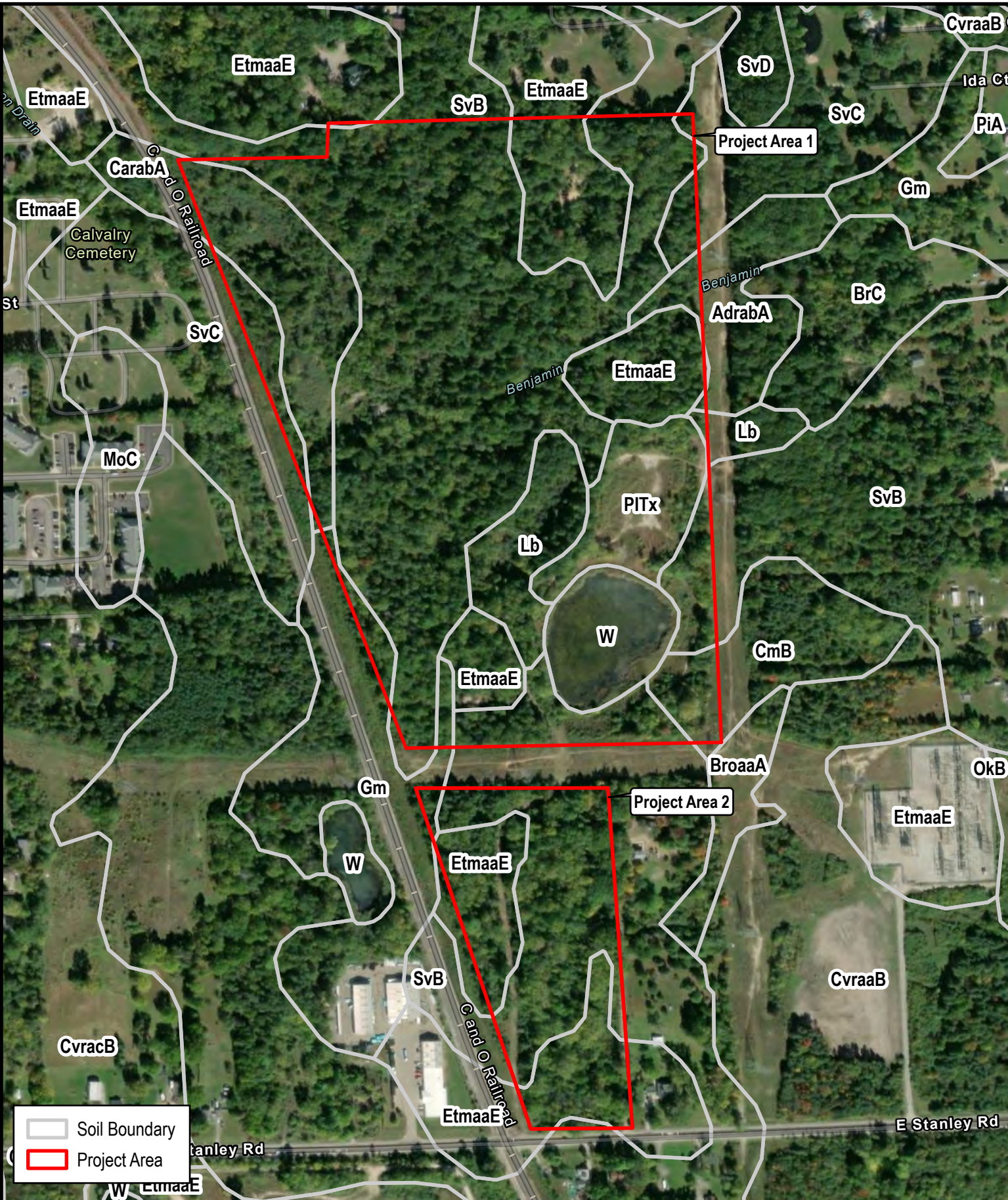


Figure A2: Project Location
Cultural Resources Desktop Review
Genesee Industrial Land
Genesee Township and the City of
Mt. Morris, Genesee County, MI





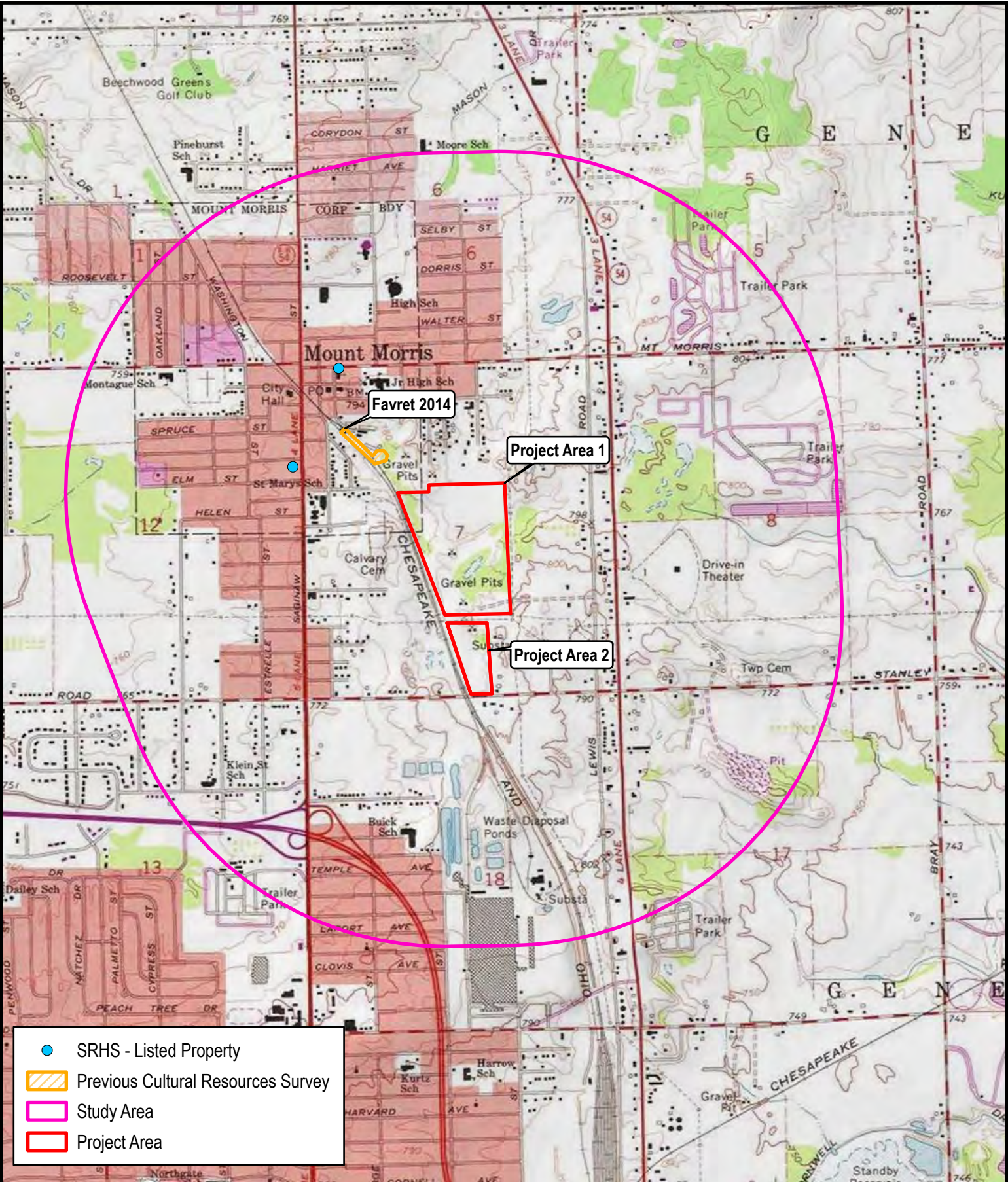
Soil Boundary
 Project Area

Figure A3: Soil Types within the Project Area
 Cultural Resources Desktop Review
 Genesee Industrial Land
 Genesee Township and the City of
 Mt. Morris, Genesee County, MI

0 250 500 Feet
 0 75 150 Meters
Map Credits:
 Genesee County aerial photography provided by ESRI, accessed November 2024.

**ATTACHMENT B
LITERATURE REVIEW**





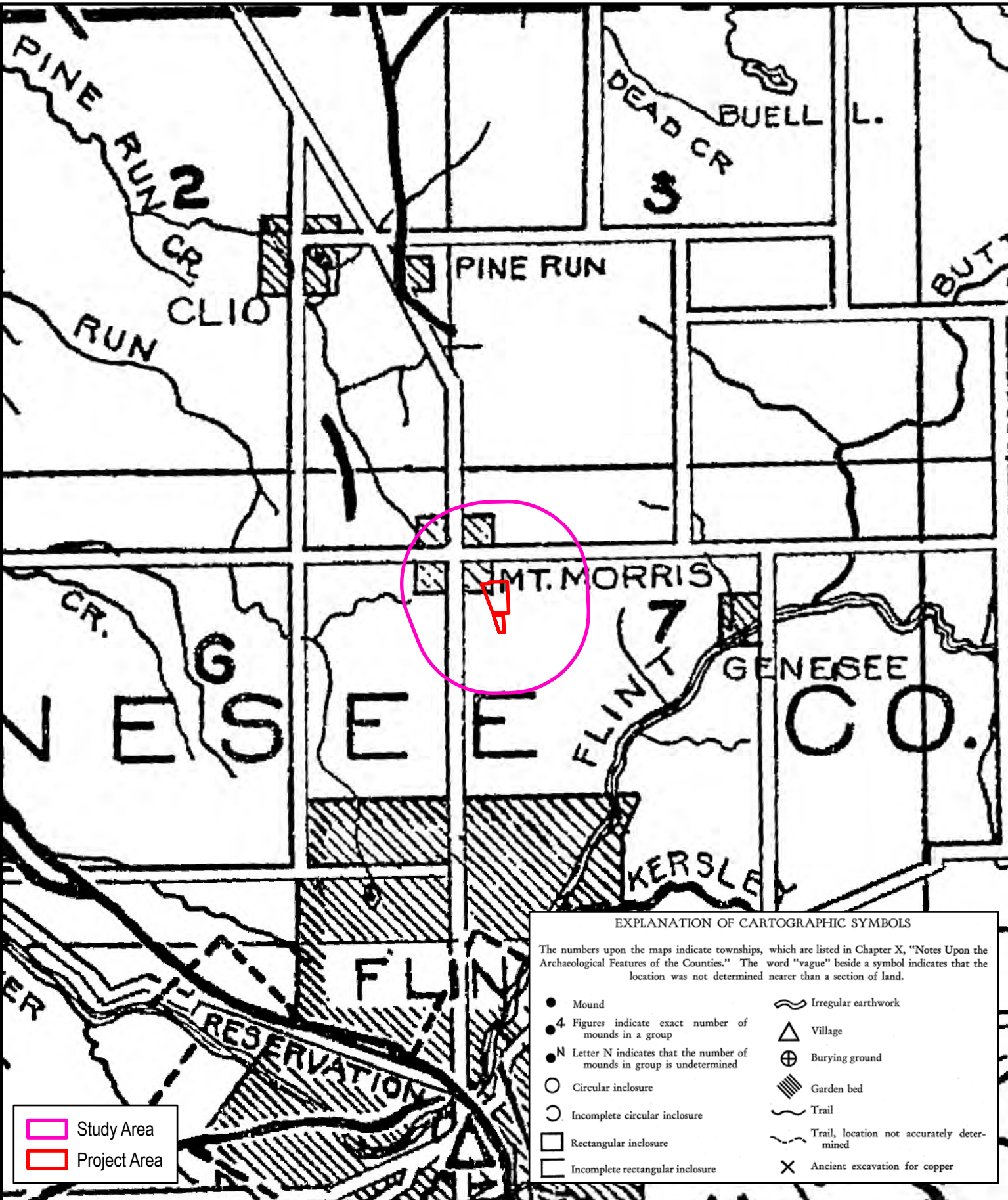
- SRHS - Listed Property
- Previous Cultural Resources Survey
- Study Area
- Project Area



Figure B1: Archaeological Sensitivity Map
Cultural Resources Desktop Review
Genesee Industrial Land
Genesee Township and the City of
Mt. Morris, Genesee County, MI

0 0.25 0.5 mi
 0 0.5 1 km

Map Credits:
 7.5' Flint North, MI US Topographic Map
 provided by ESRI, accessed November 2024.





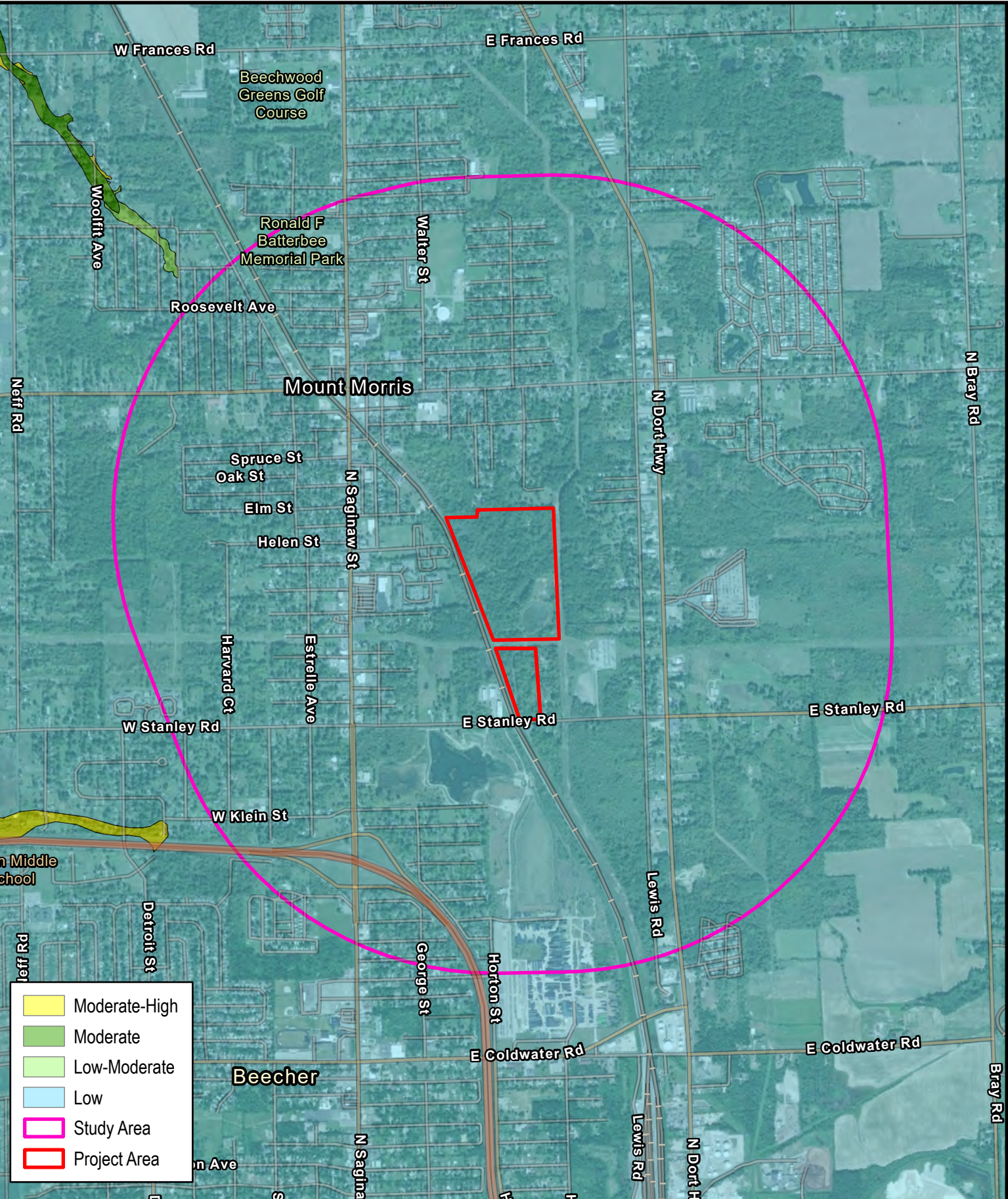
 Study Area
 Project Area



Figure B2: Archaeological Atlas of Michigan Cultural Resources Desktop Review Genesee Industrial Land Genesee Township and the City of Mt. Morris, Genesee County, MI

0 1 2 mi
 0 1.5 3 km
Map Credits:
 Genesee County Map [Detail]
 (Hinsdale 1931)





- Moderate-High
- Moderate
- Low-Moderate
- Low
- Study Area
- Project Area



**Figure B3: Deeply Buried Site Potential
Cultural Resources Desktop Review
Genesee Industrial Land
Genesee Township and the City of
Mt. Morris, Genesee County, MI**

0 0.25 0.5 mi
0 0.5 1 km

Map Credits:
Deeply buried site potential data provided by Monaghan et al. 2005.

Table B1
Michigan State Register of Historic Sites

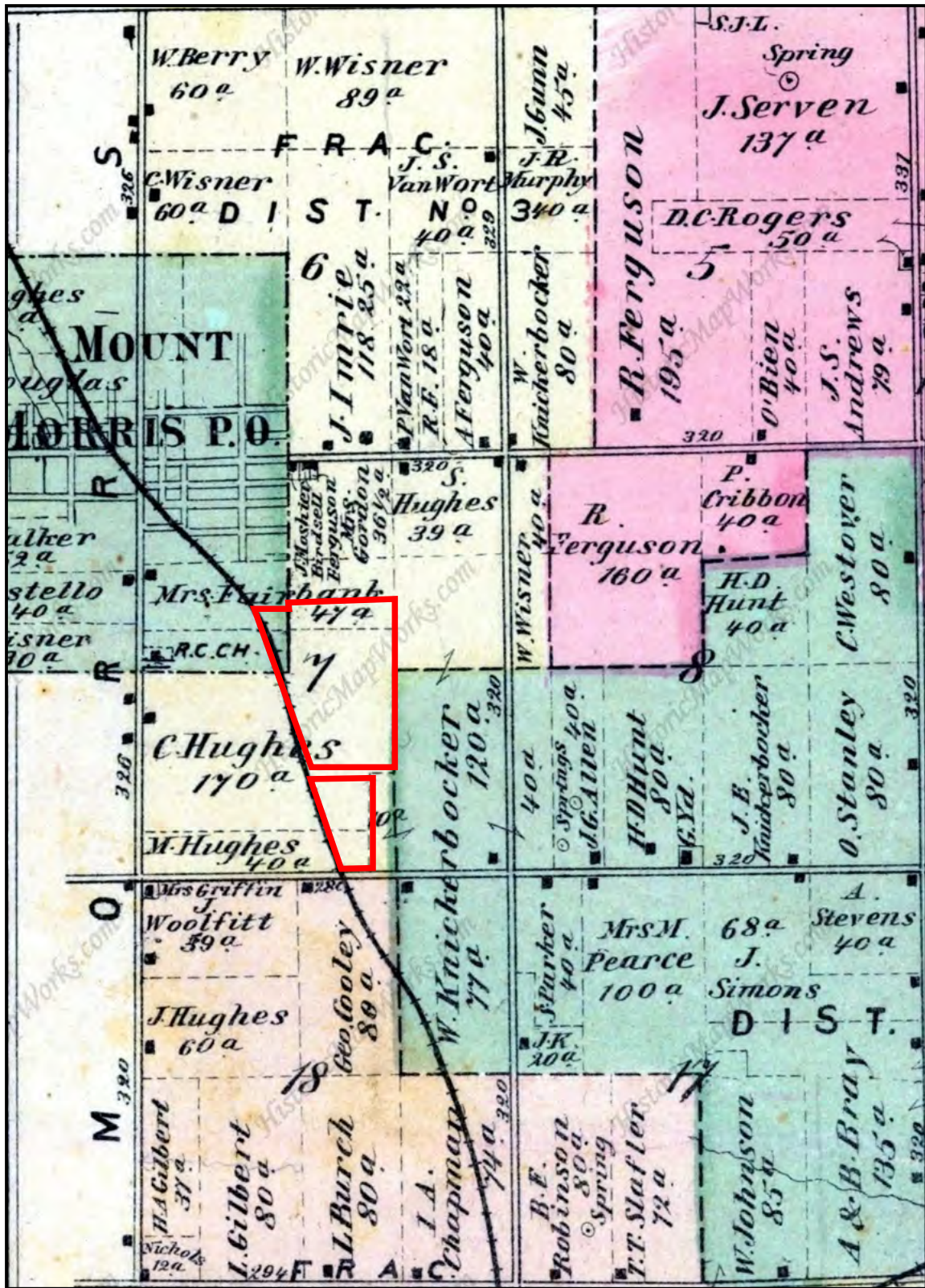
Site #	Site Name	City / Township	Historic Function	Current Function	Significant Date(s)	Level of Significance	Area(s) of Significance	State Register Criteria	NRHP Eligibility
P23120	First United Methodist Church	Mt. Morris	Religion / Religious Facility	Religion / Religious Facility	1886	Local	Historical	B	More Information Needed
P51238	11375 Saginaw	Mt. Morris	N / A	N / A	N / A	Local	N / A	N / A	Eligible

Table B2
Previous Cultural Resource Investigations

ER #	County	Title	Primary Author	Additional Authors	Year	Conducted by	Submitted to	Notes
ER03-477.14.MI4010	Genesee	Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance for a Proposed Cell Tower Location, Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance for a Proposed Cell Tower Location, Goodman Networks, Site MI4010 (FA #12908022), 1000 Church Street, Mount Morris, Genesee County, Michigan	Favret, Amy C.		2014	URS Corporation	Goodman Networks	

ATTACHMENT C
HISTORIC MAPS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

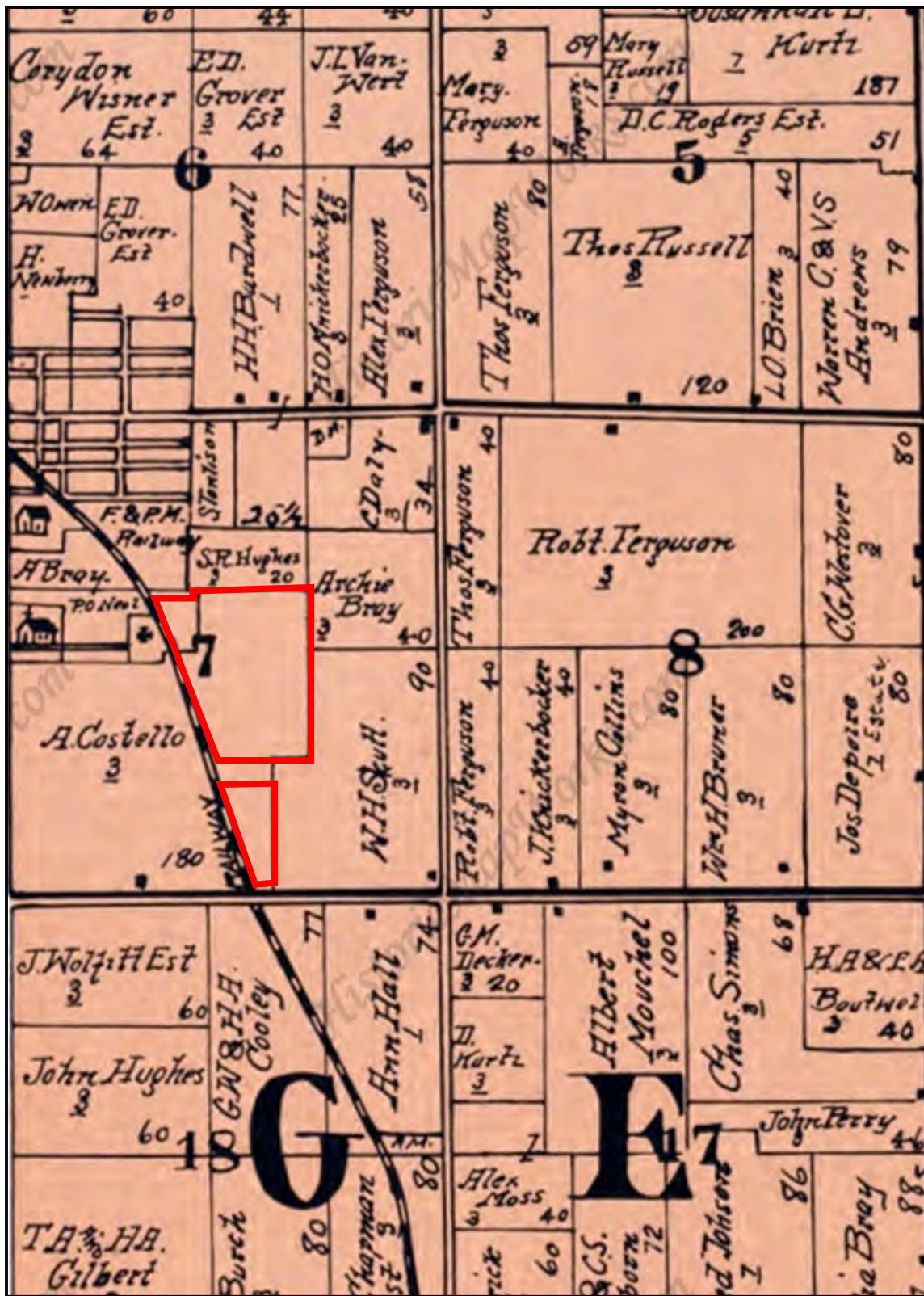




 Project Area

Figure C1
 1873 Genesee Township Map
 (Beers 1873)

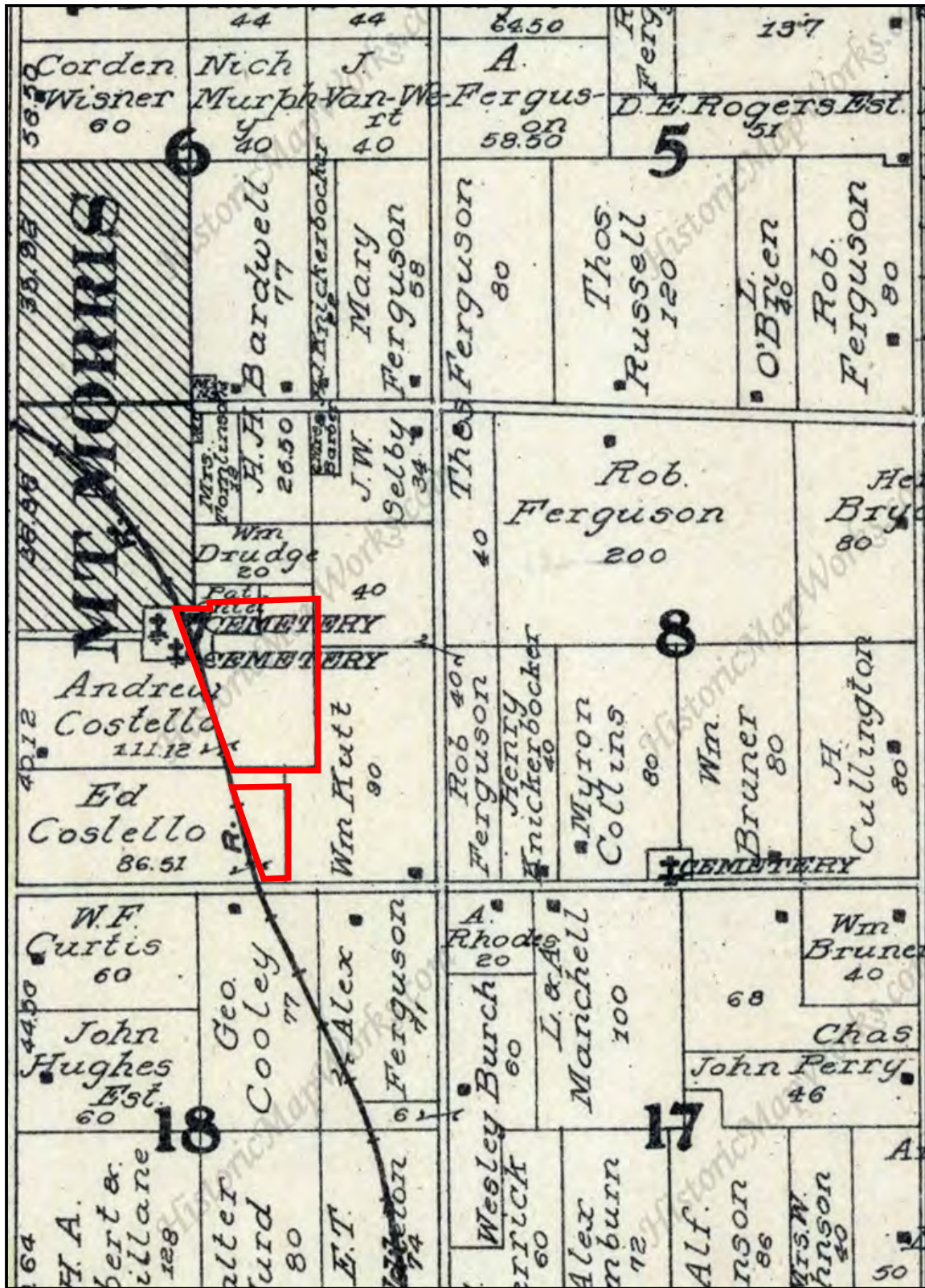




 Project Area

Figure C2
 1899 Genesee Township Map
 (Day 1899)

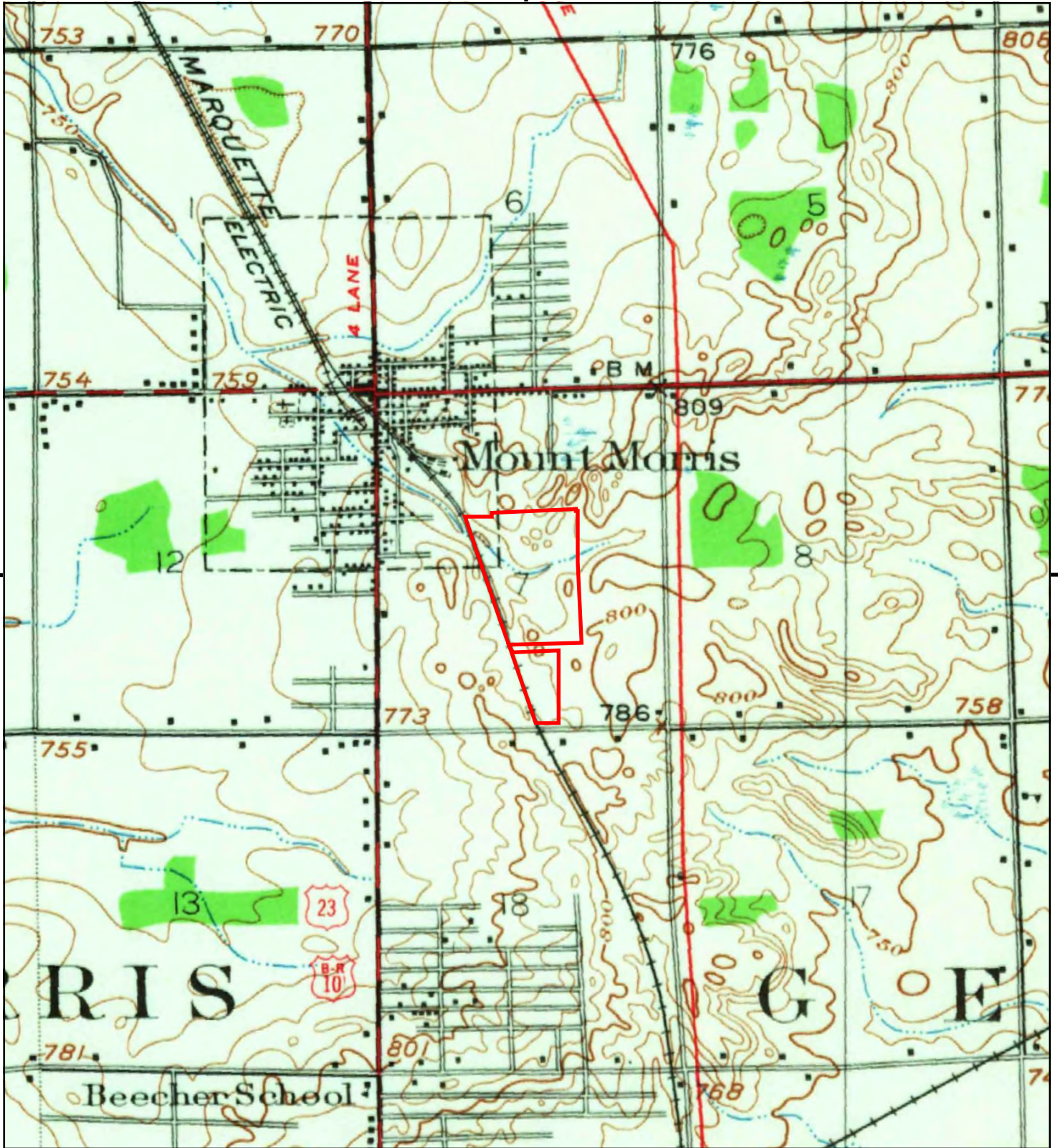




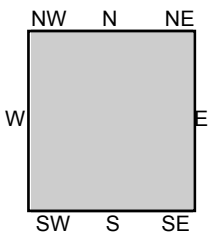
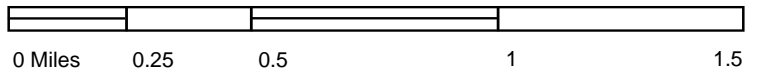
 Project Area

Figure C3
 1907 Genesee Township Map
 (Ogle 1907)





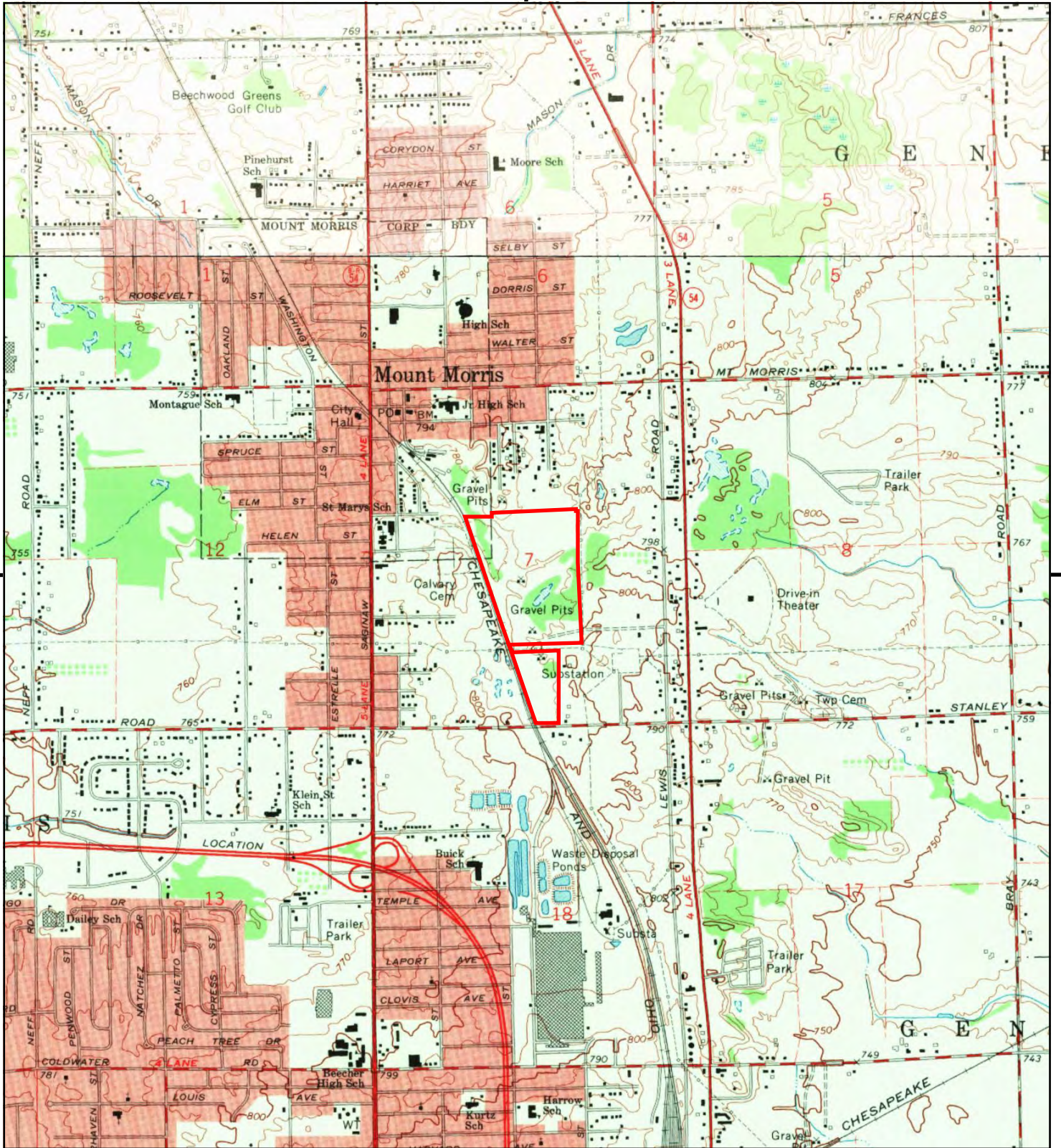
This report includes information from the following map sheet(s).



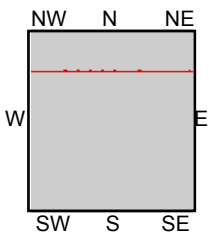
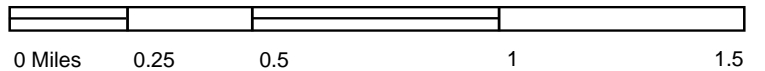
TP, Flint, 1920, 15-minute

SITE NAME: Genesee Industrial Land
 ADDRESS: Not Reported
 Mount Morris, MI 48458
 CLIENT: The Mannik & Smith Group





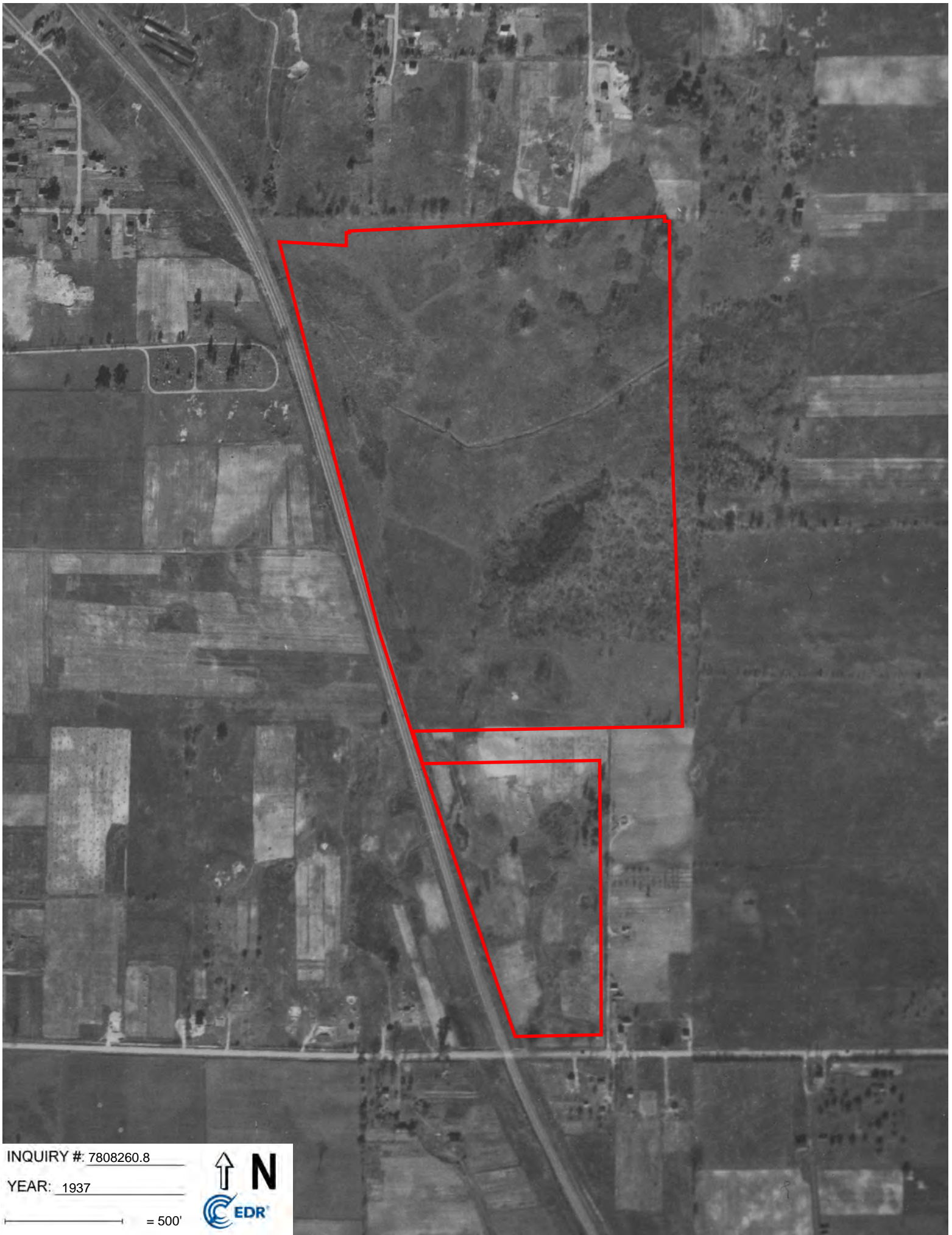
This report includes information from the following map sheet(s).



TP, Flint North, 1969, 7.5-minute
N, Clio, 1969, 7.5-minute

SITE NAME: Genesee Industrial Land
ADDRESS: Not Reported
Mount Morris, MI 48458
CLIENT: The Mannik & Smith Group



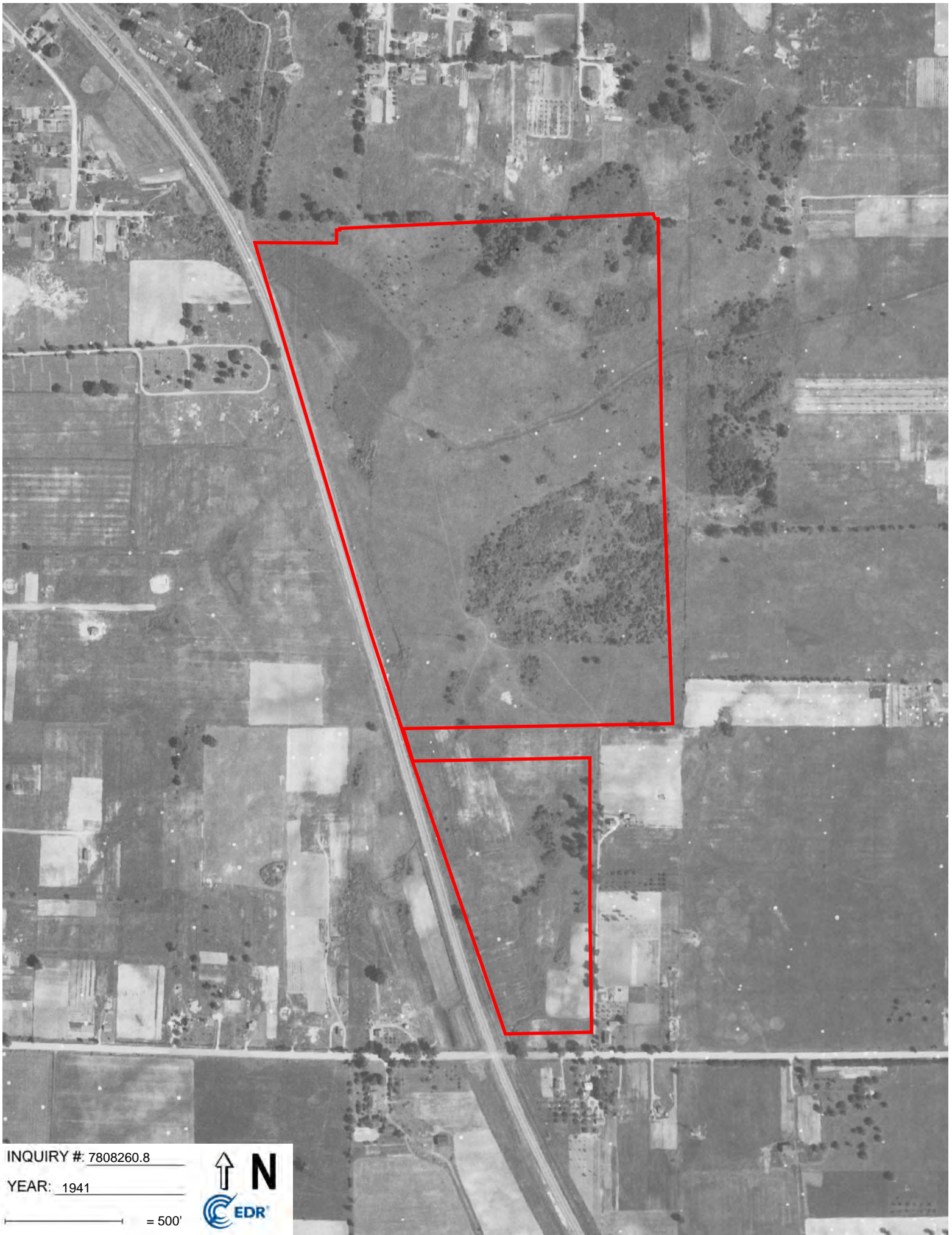


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1937

— = 500'



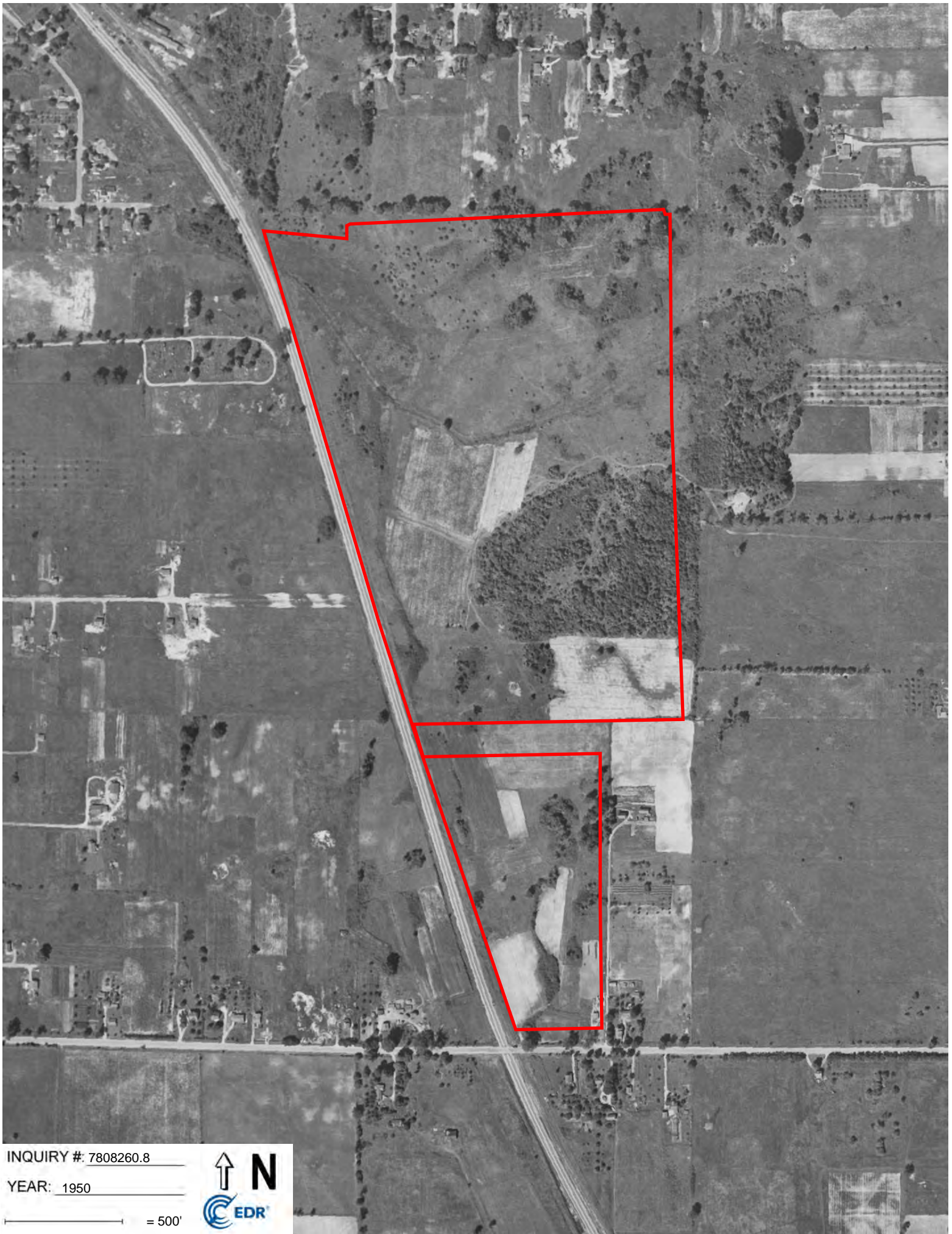


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1941

— = 500'





INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1950

— = 500'



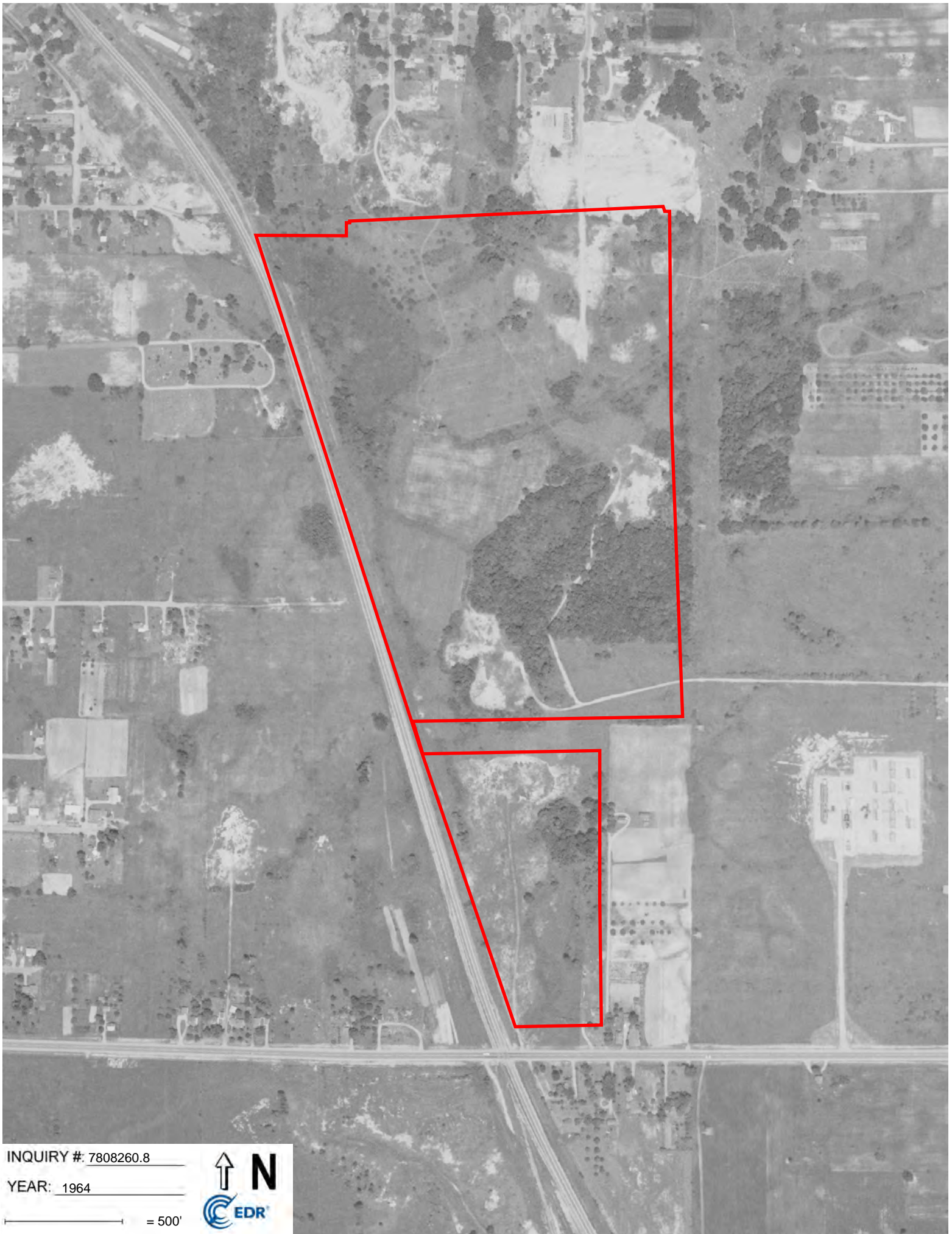


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1957

— = 500'



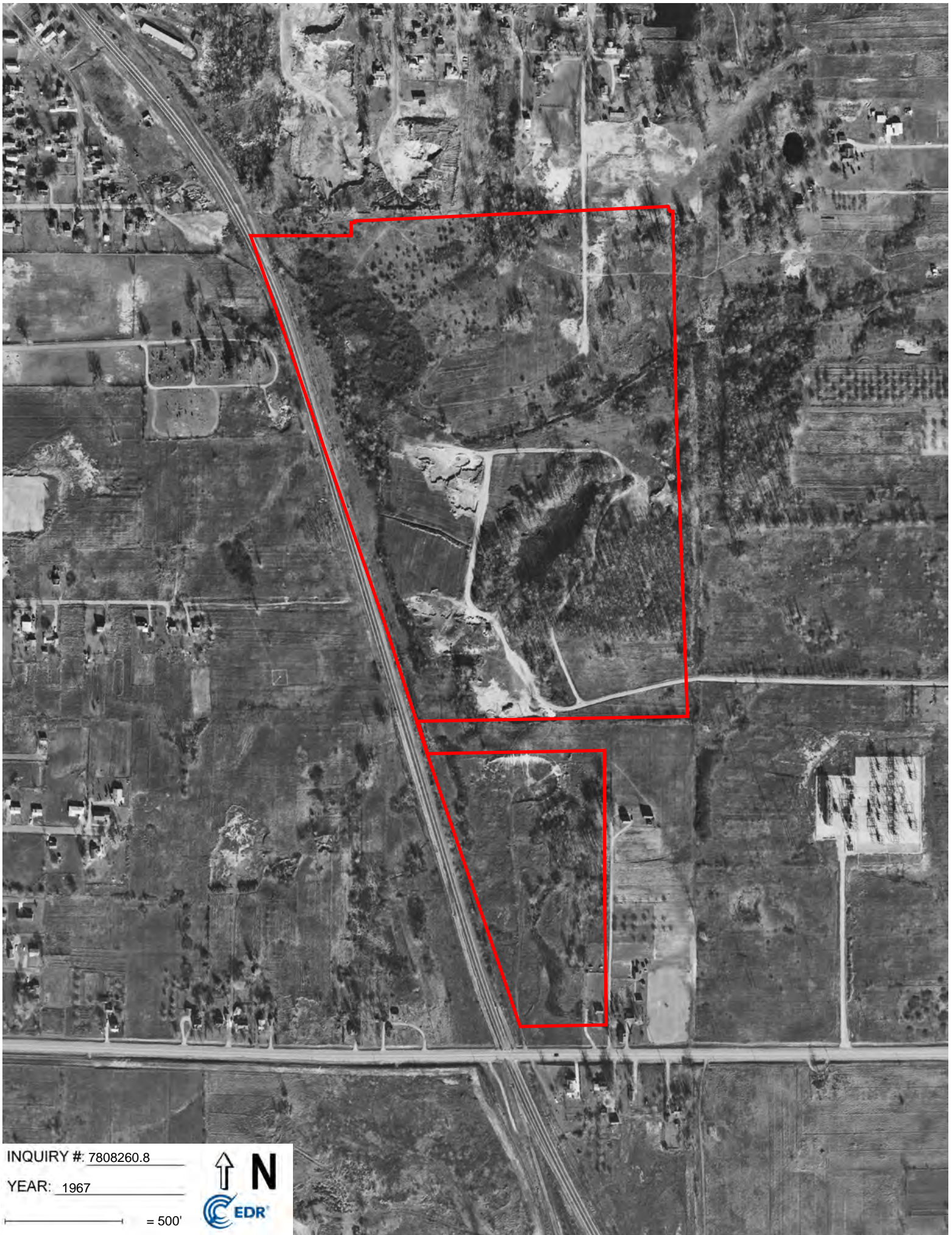


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1964

— = 500'



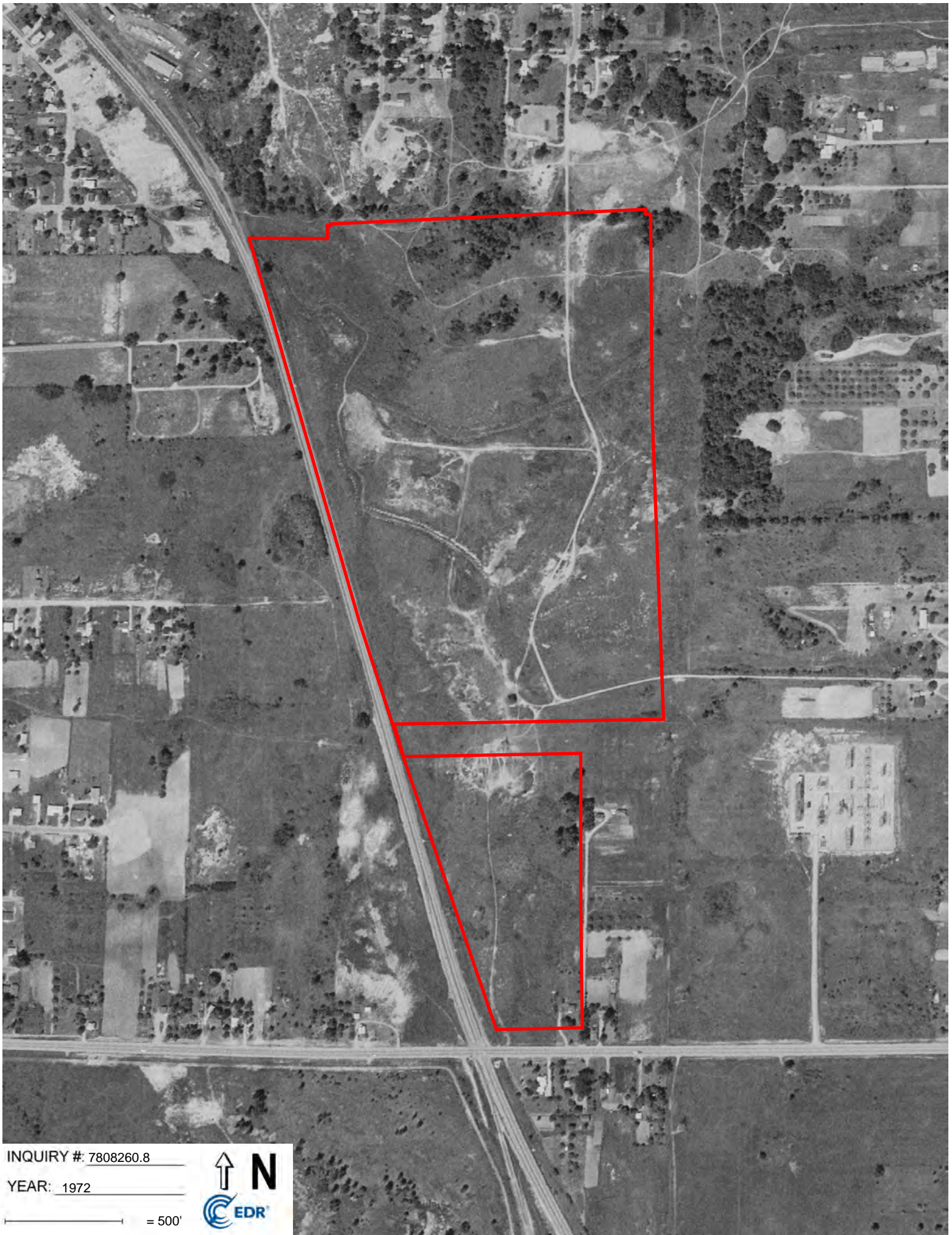


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1967

— = 500'



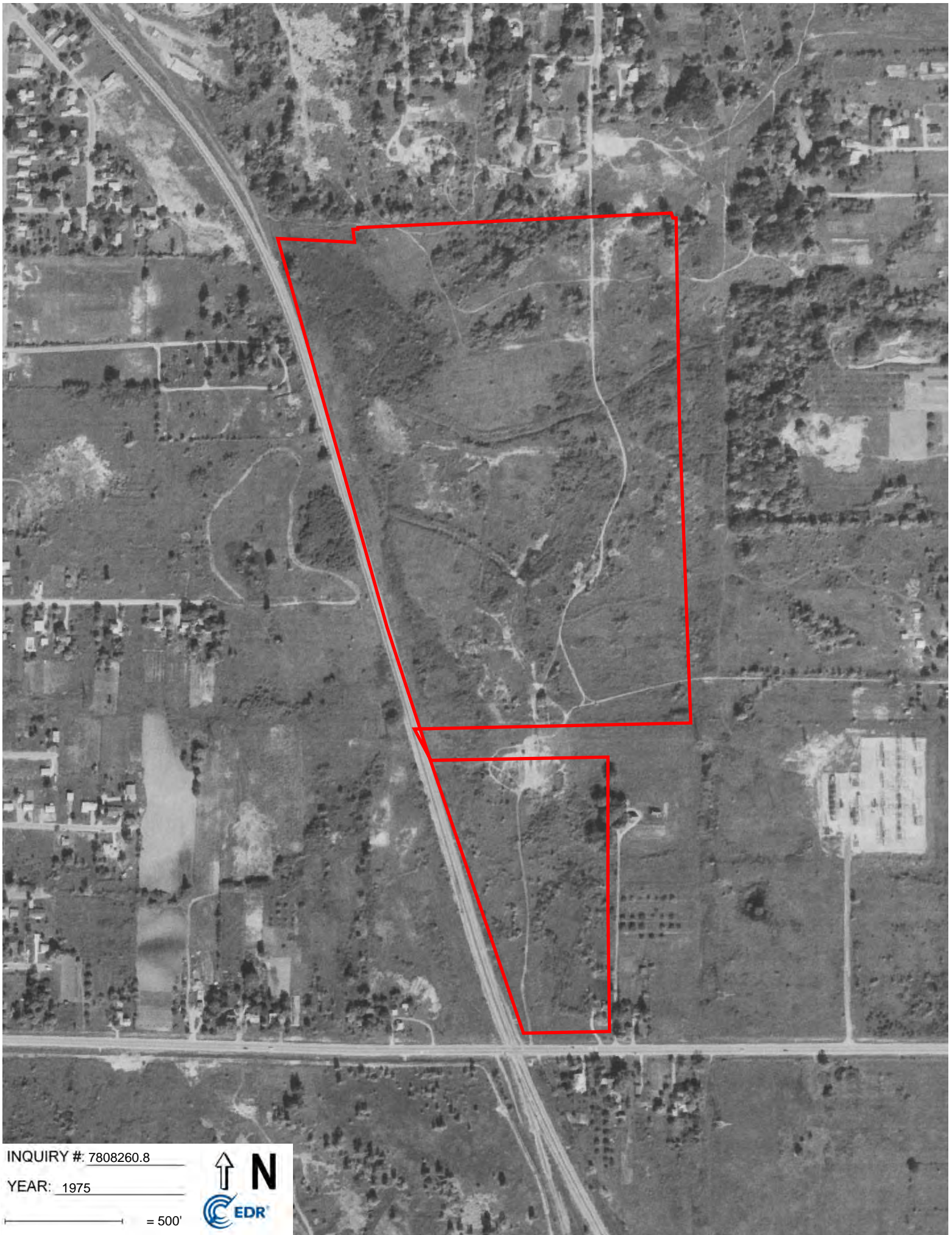


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1972

— = 500'





INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1975

— = 500'



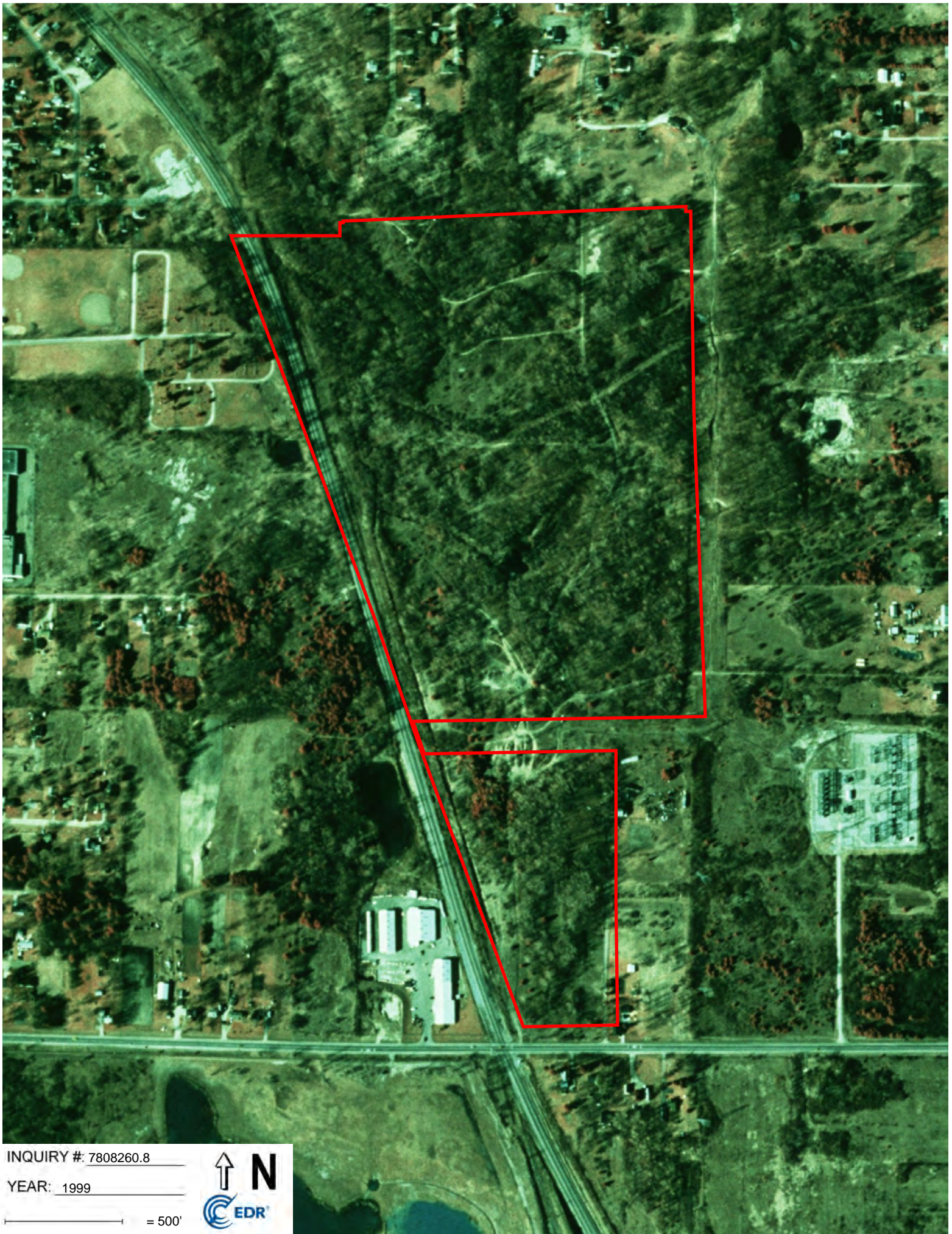


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1982

— = 500'





INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 1999

— = 500'



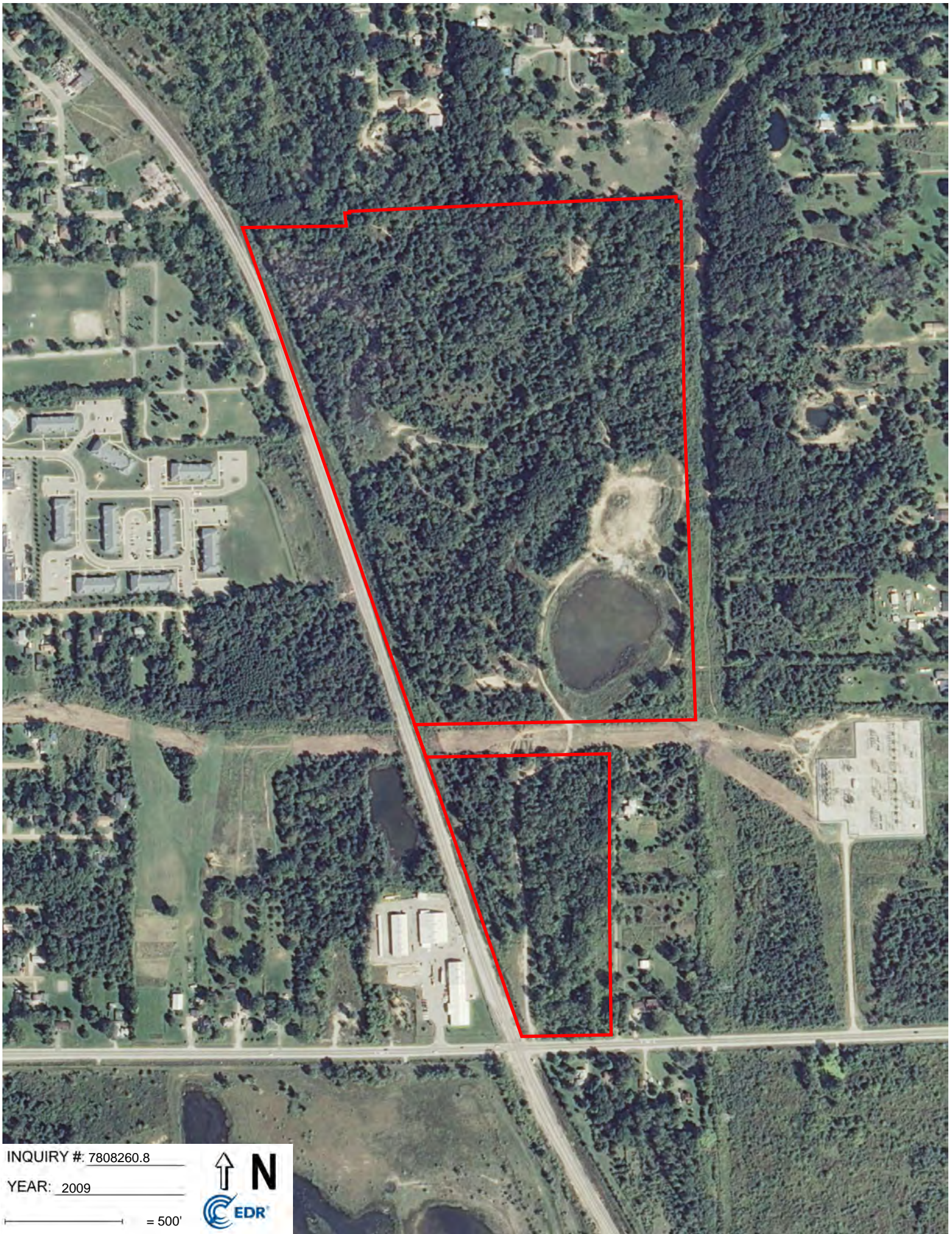


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 2006

— = 500'



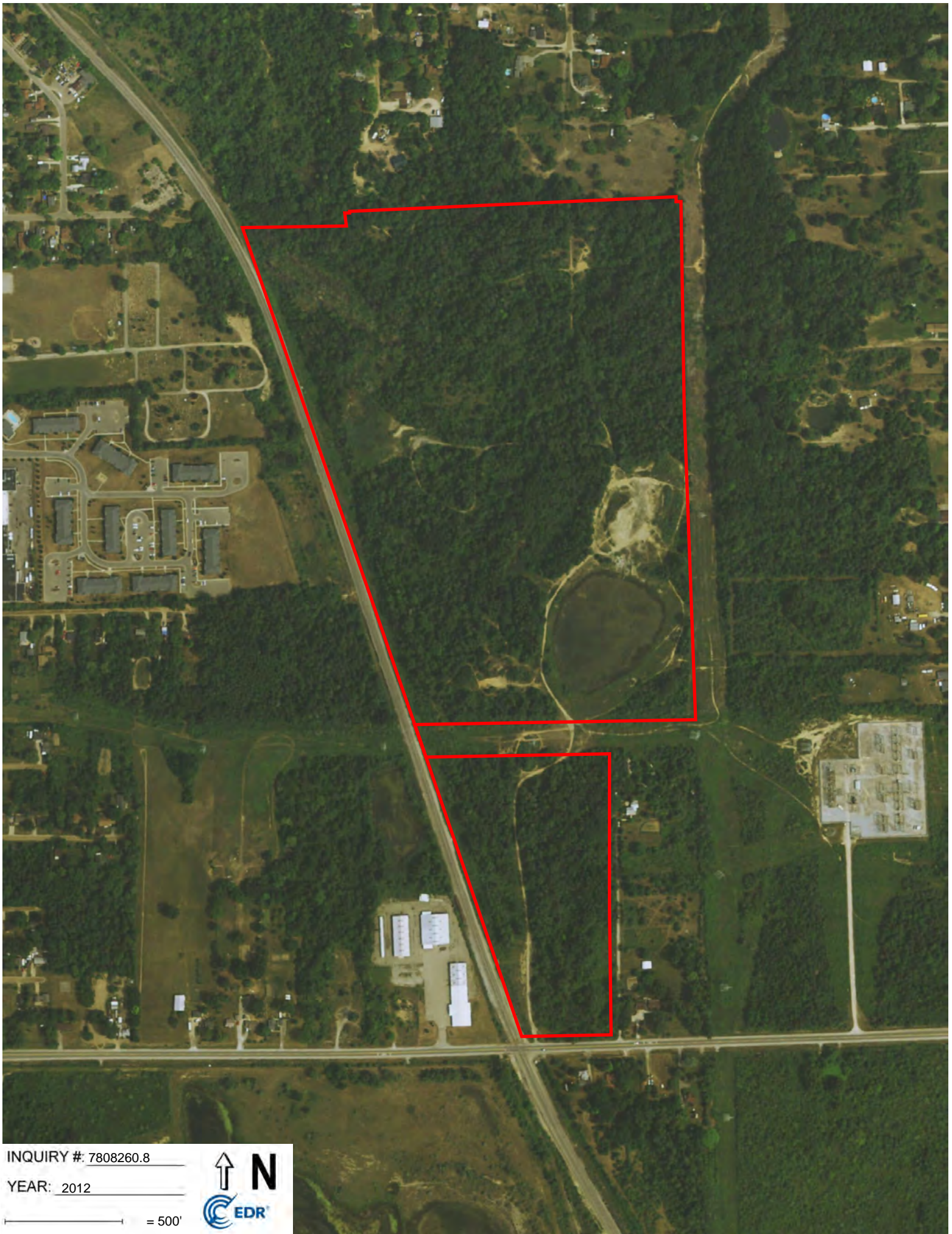


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 2009

— = 500'



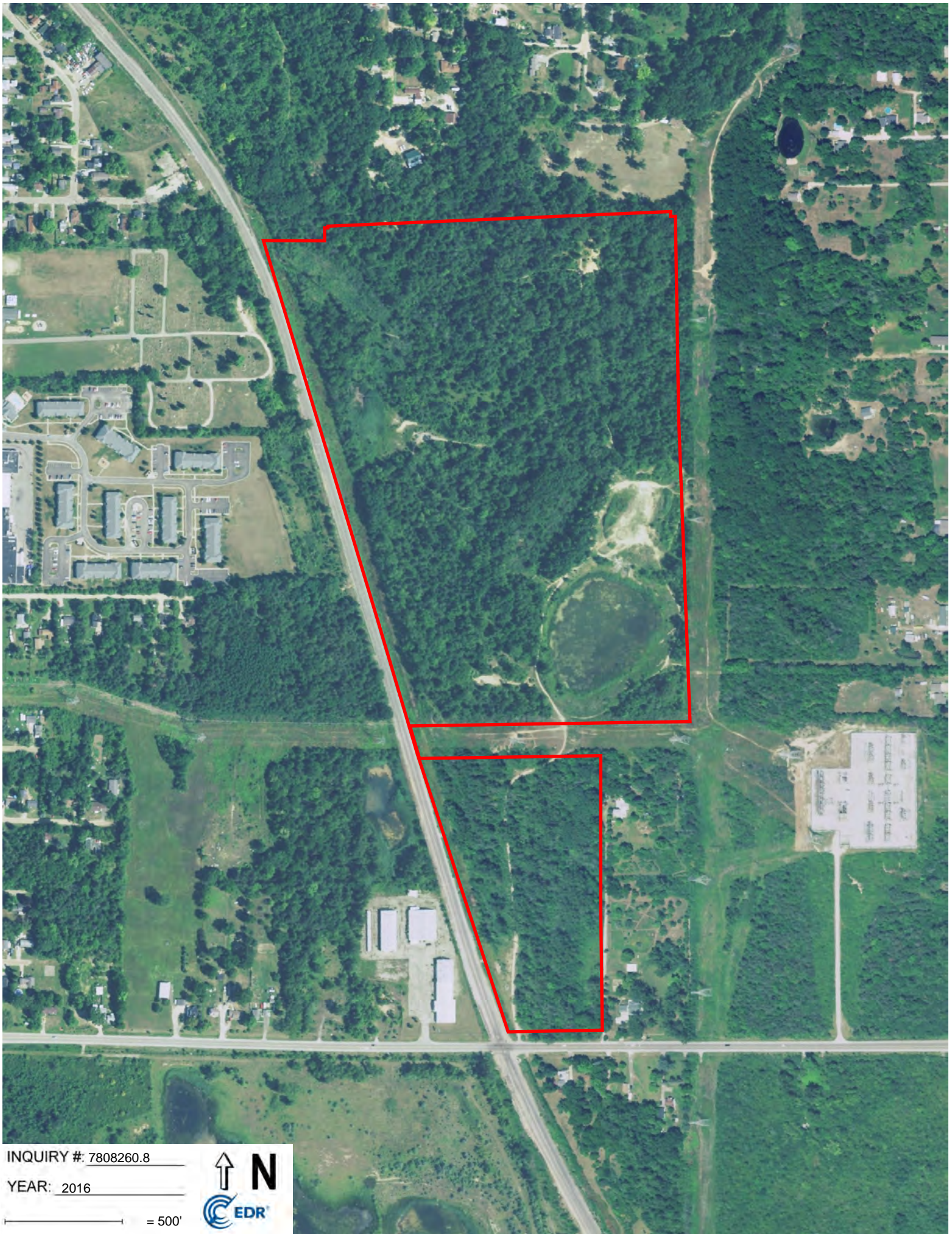


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 2012

— = 500'



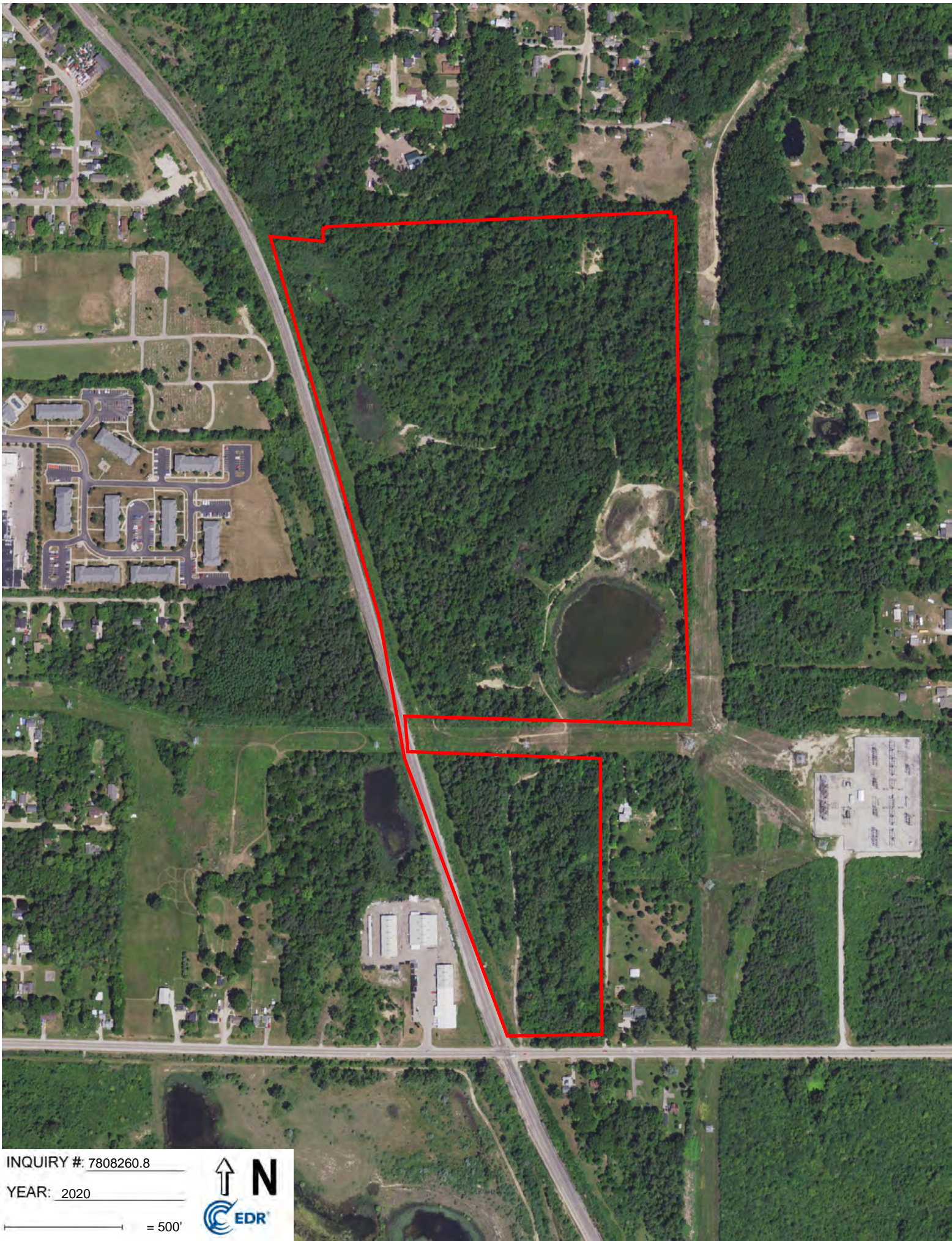


INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

YEAR: 2016

— = 500'





INQUIRY #: 7808260.8

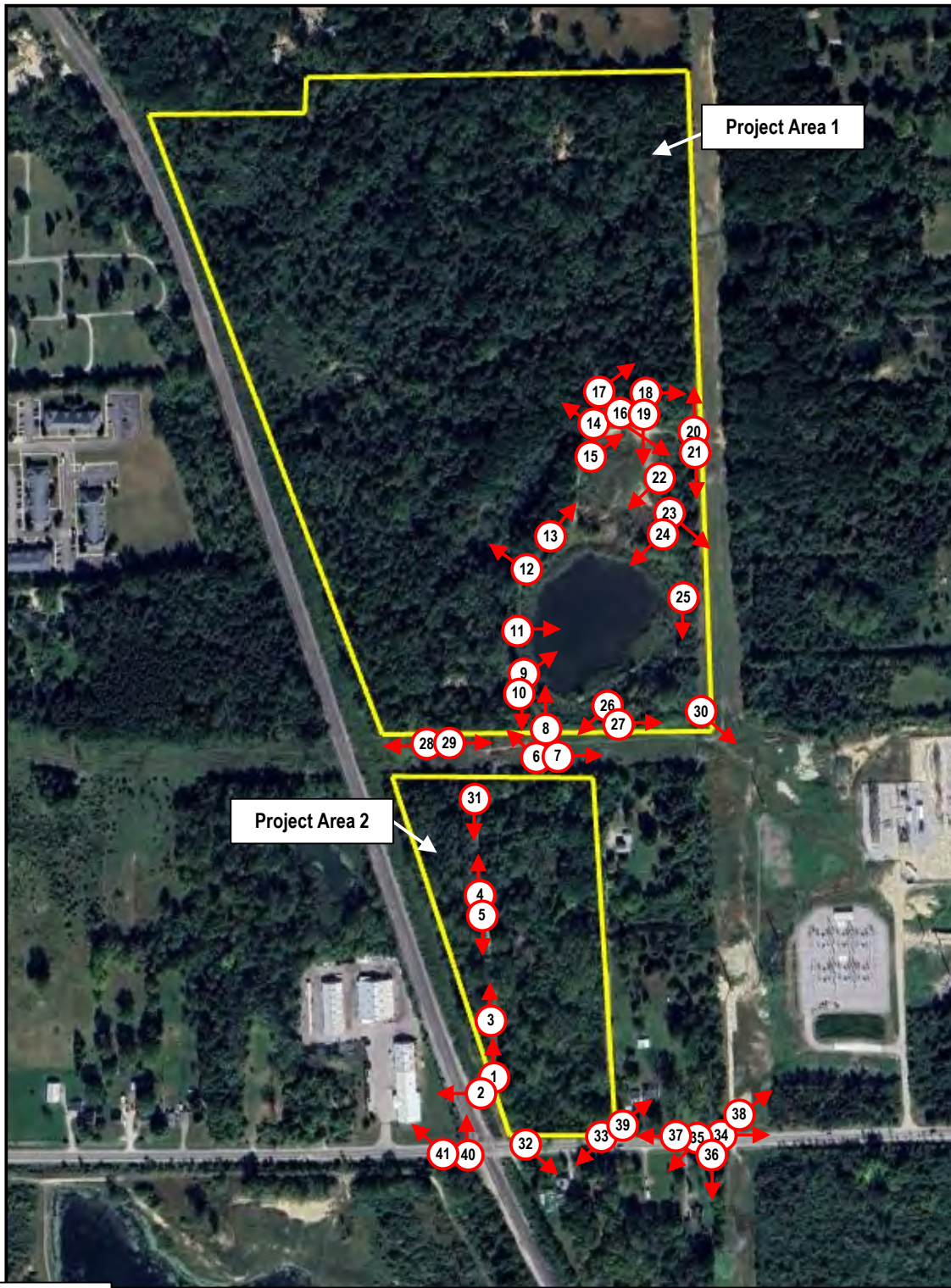
YEAR: 2020



— = 500'



**ATTACHMENT D
PHOTOLOG**





 Project Area
 Photograph

**Figure D1
Photo Key**





Photo 1: Looking north up path from entrance clearing.



Photo 2: Looking west toward adjacent industrial property.



Photo 3: Looking north up path through southern end of heavily wooded Project Area 2.



Photo 4: Looking north up path through central section of Project Area 2.



Photo 5: Looking south down path through central section of Project Area 2.



Photo 6: Looking northwest from Project Area 2 across clearing toward railroad line.



Photo 7: Looking east across central clearing, along power lines.



Photo 8: Looking north across Project Area 1 from central clearing.



Photo 9: Looking northeast across pond and eastern edge of Project Area 1.



Photo 10: Looking south across central clearing toward northern end of Project Area 2.



Photo 11: Looking east across pond within Project Area 1.



Photo 12: Looking northwest through Project Area 1 from path.



Photo 13: Looking northeast through Project Area 1 from path.



Photo 14: Looking northwest through Project Area 1 from path.



Photo 15: Looking northeast across clearing in Project Area 1.



Photo 16: Looking southeast across clearing in Project Area 1.



Photo 17: Looking northeast along path into Project Area 1.



Photo 18: Looking east across clearing in Project Area 1.



Photo 19: Looking south across clearing in Project Area 1.



Photo 20: Looking north up power line clearing from east edge of Project Area 1.



Photo 21: Looking south down power line clearing from east edge of Project Area 1.



Photo 22: Looking southwest across clearing in Project Area 1.



Photo 23: Looking southeast down path along eastern edge of Project Area 1.



Photo 24: Looking southwest across pond from eastern edge of Project Area 1.



Photo 25: Looking south down path along eastern edge of Project Area 1.



Photo 26: Looking southwest across clearing between project areas.



Photo 27: Looking east toward power substation from clearing between project areas.



Photo 28: Looking west across railroad tracks along western project edge from central clearing.



Photo 29: Looking east across central clearing between project areas.



Photo 30: Close up of power substation, looking southeast.



Photo 31: Looking south down path through Project Area 2.



Photo 32: 1278 E Stanley Road, looking southeast. Built c.1920.



Photo 33: 1290 E Stanley Road, looking southwest. Built c.1930.



Photo 34: Looking east up E Stanley Road.



Photo 35: 1302 E Stanley Road, looking southwest. Built c.1930.



Photo 36: 1320 E Stanley Road, looking south. Built c.1920.



Photo 37: Looking west down E Stanley Road.



Photo 38: Power substation looking northeast from E Stanley Road. Built c.1955.



Photo 39: 1297 E Stanley Road looking northeast. Built c.1930.



Photo 40: Looking north up railroad tracks along western edge of project area.



Photo 41: 1217 E Stanley Road looking northwest. Built c.1990.