NPS Form 10-900
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Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Minertown

other names/site number Oneva, FS Site No: 09-06-05-031; State Site No: 47FR0112; FS Special Management Area (SMA) 8F

2. Location

street & number State Trunk Highway (STH) 32 N/A **not for publication**
city or town Town of Carter X **vicinity**
state Wisconsin **code** WI **county** Forest **code** 41 **zip code** 54566

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally statewide _X_ locally. (_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Troy J. Terson / FPO-Eastern Region FS 3/24/10
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

USDA Forest Service - Eastern Region
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

3/17/10
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

Minertown (47FR0112)	Forest County	Wisconsin
Name of Property	County and State	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
__ determined eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
__ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
__ removed from the National Register.
__ other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 5/4/10

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as as apply)

	private
	public-local
	public-State
X	public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

	building(s)
	district
	structure
X	site
	object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing	noncontributing	
		buildings
1	0	sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property listing.
N/A

Number of contributing resources is previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)
Industry/Processing/Extraction - Manufacturing Facility	Recreation and Culture - Outdoor Recreation
Domestic - Single Dwelling	
Domestic - Institutional Housing	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)	
	Foundation	N/A
N/A		
	roof	N/A
	other	N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

_ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

X D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ B removed from its original location.

_ C a birthplace or grave.

_ D a cemetery.

_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ F a commemorative property.

_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Archaeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal
Industry
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1899-1933

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
X State Historic Preservation Office
- _ Other State Agency
- _ Federal Agency
- _ Local government
- _ University

Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 43.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	372569	5027114
2	16	372825	5027199
3	16	372855	5026674
4	16	372619	5026251

N/A See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title C. Stephan Demeter/Historical Archaeologist; Nancy Ford Demeter/Compliance Specialist; Kathryn C. Egan-Bruhy/Principal Investigator
organization Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc. **date** February 5, 2009
street & number P.O. Box 1061 **telephone** 715-358-5686
city or town Minocqua **state** WI **zip code** 54548

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title					
organization	USDA Forest Service, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest			**date**	February 2009
street&number	68 South Stevens Street			**telephone**	(715) 362-1300
city or town	Rhinelander	**state**	WI	**zip code**	54501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Environmental Setting

The Minertown archaeological site (47FR0112) encompasses approximately 43.5 acres (ac) (17.6 hectares [ha]) south of Carter, Wisconsin, between STH 32 to the west, an abandoned railroad grade to the east, and wetlands to the north and south. It is located in Section 33, T34N/R15E, Forest County, Wisconsin, near the southern boundary of the Laona land base, Lakewood-Laona Ranger District, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (Figures 1 and 2). According to the USDA Forest Service Region 9 Cultural Resource Inventory Form, the site is located on the path of a snowmobile trail and is easily accessed from STH 32.

In 2008, site vegetation was characterized by a mix of open grass zones interspersed among woodlot stands dominated by black spruce and scattered aspen, apple, and diverse hardwoods. The northern end of the site is generally defined by marsh and beaver ponds that drain into a tributary of Torpee Creek.

Period of Occupation

The community that was to become Minertown (Oneva[1]) was established soon after the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad track was established in Forest County in 1892. Seven years later, in 1899, brothers Wilbur (also know as William) and Henry T. Miner, originally from Vernon County, Wisconsin purchased a 4,000 ac (1,619 ha) tract from the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad. The Miner brothers began constructing a sawmill that reportedly began operations during the fall of 1900, shutting down briefly later that fall and reopening in 1901 (USDA n.d.). The Miner Lumber Company continued operations until its holdings were reportedly acquired by the Oconto Company in about 1922 (Peek 2000). Nine years later, on June 11, 1931, the mill was destroyed by a fire attributed to a carelessly discarded cigarette. The community continued to be occupied for several years following the fire (LaRock et al. 1997). The Wisconsin Land Economic Inventory (WLEI) map depicts the residences in the southern (Oneva) portion of the community as being occupied in 1933 (WLEI 1933; Figure 3), while a photograph from 1939 (USDA 1939: Photos 401491, 401493, 401495) (Photos 1-3) indicates that the community was abandoned by that date.

[1] According to one informant, Lonnie Boduh, Oneva was the designation given to the southern residential portion of the community (Lonnie Boduh, personal communication, February 3, 2009).

Physical Characteristics

The 1989, 1994 and 2008 field reconnaissance surveys within the site area identified structural remains and artifacts from the Minertown community. Although no complete standing structures are extant, many of the structural remains can be linked to buildings depicted in historic photographs (Figures 2 and 3).

As visible on the 1939 aerial (USDA 19397) and depicted on the site sketch map (Figure 3), a remnant railroad grade runs along the eastern boundary of the site. The area to the west is divided into four separate components. Located on the northern end of the site is the industrial component which contains several foundation remnants. At the far northern end of this area are foundations that are the remains of a sawmill/boiler complex (Leland J. Prater, USDA Photographer, 1939) or engine repair shop or warehouse (Lonnie Boduh, personal communication, February 5, 2009). South of these foundations and south of the beaver pond is an earthen berm foundation (Building [B]-L). This foundation contains a burnt or deteriorated brick and mortar shelf with threaded pipes on the interior and western foundation walls. Another stone foundation (B-M), with a rectangular trench, is located directly east of structure B-L. In addition, 15 concrete footings/pillars are present adjacent to structure B-L. These are likely remnants of a loading platform, perhaps for coal. An earthen mound, that may be the remnants of the roundhouse, and two pits (P-7 and one not mapped), one of which may be a remnant of the turntable for the round house, are located immediately adjacent to the railroad tracks and east and southeast of structure B-L and. Finally, four discontinuous remnant railroad grades, and a possible man-made canal also have been mapped in the northern area (Figures 2, 3 and 4). The dimensions for these features and others described below are approximate:

- Earthen Berm Foundation (B-L): west wall 23 m, south wall 10.5 m, east wall 14.3 m (Figure 4)
- Stone Foundation (B-M): north wall 14 m, east wall 14.3 m
- Rectangular Depression within (B-M): 10 m x 3 m in diameter
- Earthen Mound (cf. Roundhouse): 5.6 m in diameter
- Pit (P-7) (cf. Turntable): 12.5 m in diameter
- 15 Concrete Footings/Pillars: 14 = 50 cm x 50 cm , 1 = 1 m x 5 m (Figure 4; Photo 4)
- Mill Pond ("Beaver Pond") (Figure 2; Photo 5)
- Sawmill/Boiler or Engine Repair/Warehouse Complex: 64 m north/south, 70 m east/west (Photos 1 and 6)
- Remnant Railroad Grades: no dimensions available

- Man-Made Canal: no dimensions available

The central portion of the site is the town center. This area contains two field-stone foundations (Figure 2, B-A and B-B), and four pits (Figure 2, P1 – P3 and P6). B-A is an exposed stone foundation with an associated concrete-walled root cellar. B-B is a stone foundation with a depression. The central area also contains scatters of boulders, a damaged metal pitcher, and a poured-concrete step. A dirt road is present directly south of the central area; from the main entrance road it extends west to east, intersecting with the eastern most railroad grade. Finally, one other unmapped foundation remnant was noted in 2008, at the northeast corner of Highway 32 and the road leading into the site.

- Stone Foundation (B-A): 24 m x 7 m in diameter, 1.7m deep
- Stone Foundation (B-A) associated root cellar: 9.3 m x 6.7 m in diameter
- Pit (P1): 2.5m in diameter, 1.7 m deep
- Pit (P2): 2.5 m in diameter, 1.6 m deep
- Pit (P3): 15 m x 7 m in diameter, no depth
- Pit (P6): 2.4 m x 1.6 m in diameter

Located between the town site and industrial area, to the west was the agrarian sector. A barn, surrounded by pasture is visible on the 1939 aerial (Figure 3) (Lonnie Boduh, personal communication, February 5, 2009). Although no structural remnants were recorded in this area, the vegetation within this portion of the site is somewhat different from the surrounding area, having a higher density of grasses and forbes.

Finally, the southern residential area contains six stone foundations (Figure 2, B-C – B-H), three earthen-berm foundations (Figure 2, B-I – B-K) and three pits (Figure 2, P4, P5 and one unnumbered pit). In addition, two cans and rock middens are noted on the 1989/1994 sketch map (Figure 2).

- Stone Foundation (B-C): 9.3m x 6.3m
- Stone Foundation (B-D): 7.8m x 5.8m
- Stone Foundation (B-E): 9.7m x 6m (Figure 4; Photo 7)
- Stone Foundation (B-F): 7.3m x 6.6m
- Stone Foundation (B-G): 6m x 5m / .8m deep
- Stone Foundation (B-H): 6.6m x 6m / .8m deep
- Earthen Berm Foundation (B-I): 5.5m x 3.7m
- Earthen Berm Foundation (B-J): 7m x 7m

- Earthen Berm Foundation (B-K): 11.5m x 10m
- Pit (P4): 3 m in diameter, 1.1 m deep
- Pit (P5): 3 m x 3 m, 3.6 m deep

In addition, garages, visible on the 1939 aerial were located along Highway 32 (Figure 3) (Sally [Van Cleve] Brooks, personal communication, February 2, 2009).

Historic Appearance of Site

Minertown was structured into four general areas. To the far north was the industrial complex and to the south of that was the initial town site with the boarding house, gabled single family residences, company store, and barber shop. Located to the west, between the industrial area and town, was the barn surrounded by a large field. Finally, to the south of the original town was Oneva, an area of single family residences that was built later.

The industrial area reportedly included an engine repair shop and round house, as well as a mill and loading platform. It is unclear if both the planing and sawmill were located in this area. Further, the beaver pond and wetlands on the northern boundary of the site were reportedly used to store logs (Lonnie Boduh, personal communication, February 5, 2009).

The central town site contained the store, located on the northeast corner of Highway 32, and the road then entered the town (Photo 2). The boarding house was located east of that, in the town center. One informant (Sally Hansen, personal communication March 22, 2009) described a cook shanty in the town center and historic photos suggest that there may have been a second boarding house as well. Additional worker housing was present in the town, its construction quickly followed on the heels of mill's development. A photographic view of the camp depicted on a January 1907 postcard offers some insight into this aspect of community layout. The postcard depicts a group of small one-story gable-roofed structures adjacent to the boarding house, as well as what may be a second boarding house, and what appears to be a cook shanty associated with the boarding house.

Another photographic view, dating to 1939, following abandonment of the town, illustrates a more structured residential area to the south in which houses are laid out in a grid pattern. The photo shows two parallel rows of one-story, square, frame buildings topped with hipped roofs pierced by centrally placed brick chimneys (USDA Photograph 401495) (Photo 3). The Wisconsin Land Economic Survey map (1933) of the area indicates that in 1933 they were still occupied and that they were the only standing structures within the area (Figure 5). Elaine Shepard (2000), whose family worked at Minertown, describes the dwellings as "the same architectural design (square), same color (yellow),

and employees of the Miner Lumber Company lived there" (Shepard 2000:1). Another source describes the interior as a simple four-room design (Peek 2000). This design copied a common cottage form for the period.

Current and Past Impacts

In the past, the threat of impacts from Forest Service logging activity and vandalism were considered moderate to high. However, the present site exhibits excellent integrity, and remnants of many of the complex's buildings and structures are visible. Further, in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests *2004 Land and Resource Plan*, the Minertown Historic Site was designated Management Area 8F (special management area) which prescribes site protection and long-term preservation (US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service 2004: 3-53).

Previous Investigations

Archaeological investigations of the site have been limited to surface reconnaissance survey and mapping. However, detailed review of historic photos of the community and aerial photographs, coupled with informant interviews with a small number of individuals who lived in or near Minertown, provide insight into the structure of the community and potential information that can be gained.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Minertown site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion D for its ability to yield important information relevant to archaeology, industry, and community planning. Specifically, this site has the potential to provide information relevant to the late nineteenth century settlement of Forest County, as well as the history of Wisconsin's hardwood logging era in northern Wisconsin. The largest percentage of archaeological sites in northern Wisconsin are associated with the logging industry (USDA 1998). The Wisconsin Historical Society contains 255 records of historic Euro-American logging camps in Forest County; however, Minertown is the only historic Euro-American mill/sawmill archaeological site identified in Forest County. Minertown site is also one of only two archaeological company mill town complexes known to exist in northern Wisconsin. The other site (47AS0269), commonly referred to as Mineral Lake, is located in Ashland County and remains unevaluated at this time.

The period of significance for Minertown is defined as extending from 1899 until 1933. This period is inclusive of the period of occupation, from when the Miners first moved to the site and began construction of the mill to the last recorded date of residents were present (WLEI 1933). Further, this date range encompasses the archaeological, industrial and community planning and development characteristics of the site, from initial development of the site through the demise and disintegration of the community, which was so intimately linked to the industry that it could not survive as an independent entity.

The Minertown site, with its excellent archaeological integrity, can provide data about the lifeways of the historic logging community. The site also has the potential to provide insight into the dynamics of the lumber industry, during a period when new technologies were incorporated into the production system. Finally, analysis of the community plan may provide information relevant to our further understanding of "company towns" and how they were developed, built and operated. Specifically, it may provide insight into how the Miners structured development of the community for functional and economic purposes, as well as information on settlement behavior associated with the growing and mixed ethnic community as it relates to the social history of the region.

History

Forest County was created from Langlade and Oconto counties in 1885 (Warrner 2002; Wisconline n.d.); the township containing the Minertown site (T34N/R15E) was surveyed in 1859 (Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office n.d.). Soon after, settlement of the county began in earnest with the

construction of the federal Military Road from Green Bay to Copper Harbor on the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan, which allowed for the easy transport of people and goods through the county (Crandon Area Chamber of Commerce 2008).

Logging operations began almost simultaneously with the influx of Euro-American settlers, providing the raw materials for constructing dwellings and industry (Stiles 1994). Initially, logging was conducted by independent entrepreneurs working with limited capital. Following the end of the Civil War and the influx of working capital, the logging industry began to intensify and expand, primarily to meet the lumber needs associated with the growing population and industrialization in Wisconsin and the greater Midwest. The need for lumber in these areas was in part fueled by efforts to rebuild the cities of Chicago, Illinois and Peshtigo, Wisconsin following fires that devastated these communities in the late nineteenth century. As a result, the first major Euro-American settlement of the northeastern Wisconsin can be directly linked to the development of the logging industry, and many of the towns in Forest County, including Crandon, Laona and Wabeno, as well as Mintertown were established as logging towns. Minertown is, however, unique in that it was abandoned and hence the archaeological record retains information relevant to this era that has been lost in other contexts to subsequent development. Further, despite occupation of the town for over 30 years, its history is rarely recounted in local histories (LaRock, et al. 1997; Peek 2000) and there are no informants who recall the town prior to its devastation by fire. Hence, the archaeological record is a significant source of information regarding this company owned community, its role in the development of the county, and the lives of its occupants.

The community that was to become Minertown (Oneva) was established soon after the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad had expanded into Forest County in 1892. Seven years later, in 1899, brothers Wilbur (also know as William) and Henry T. Miner from Vernon County, Wisconsin purchased a 4,000 ac (1,619 ha) tract covered with hardwoods from the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad. The 1900 federal census places Wilbur Miner (employed as a manufacturer) in Cavour, Forest County, Wisconsin, approximately 19 miles (30.6 km) north of Carter. That same census lists Henry Miner in Clinton, Vernon County, Wisconsin, employed in lumber manufacturing (Bureau of the Census 1900). However, in 1899 the Miners began constructing a sawmill that reportedly was reconstructed from their mill in Vernon County that they dismantled and moved north (La Farge Enterprise Newspaper April 28, 1899). The mill began operations during the fall of 1900, shutting down briefly later that fall and reopening in 1901 (USDA n.d.). The initial settlement also included a boarding house and company store and over the next several years, the town grew to include a planing mill, roundhouse, depot, store, a blacksmith shop, a cook shanty, several small four-room houses, and a barn. The Miner brothers' sister Mary assisted in the enterprise, primarily by maintaining the boarding house (Nancy Hansen, personal communication March 23, 2009; La Farge Enterprise Newspaper April 28, 1899; LaRock, et

al.1997; Peek 2000).

Many of the original settlers to the community came with the Miners from the Kickapoo Valley, Vernon County (e.g., Collins, Rabbitt, Tucker, McDaniels, Sherrick, Harris, and Hawkins families) (Peek 2000); however, by the 1920s more than 80 percent of the population of Forest County was from Kentucky, many migrating in the early 1900s. First and second generation Germans and Poles comprised another 10 percent of the population of Forest County in 1920. Approximately 300 Potawatomi and Chippewa Indians were also residing in the county at the time (Davis 1995:7). Hence, while a portion of the population was from Vernon County, Wisconsin, some of the occupants, including the Van Cleve family who lived in Minertown toward the end of its occupation, were from Kentucky (Sally [Van Cleve] Brooks, personal communication February 2, 2009).

From ca. 1901, when the mills began working in earnest, to 1922, when the facility was acquired by the Oconto Company, the mills produced saw-lumber for at least one company, the Menasha Woodenware Company (USDA 1937). Nine years later, on June 11, 1931, the mill was destroyed by a fire attributed to a carelessly discarded cigarette. Mill workers from Minertown and Carter subsequently found work with the Oconto Company and the Wabeno-Soperton Mills operated by the Jones Lumber Company and Menominee Bay Shore Company (USDA 1937).

The burned mill stood unused for a number of years and was reportedly occupied by vagrants (LaRock et al. 1997). The photographic record of the Minertown community made by Leland J. Prater in December 1939 confirms its abandonment by that date.

The establishment of Carter closely followed that of Minertown. Both communities were combined under the Carter post office address heading and the distinction between the two locations was sometimes blurred. This point is squarely illustrated on the 1907 postcard view of the lumber camp with the legend "MINERTOWN/CARTER, WIS." and in a 1937 USDA review of the economic status and potential of mill communities in the Nicolet National Forest, Carter was identified as the Miner Lumber Company settlement (USDA 1937). Although Carter still boasted a population of 100 in 1937, its "Death Date or Life Expectancy" was equated with the closing of the mill in 1919 (USDA 1937). This reference suggests that the mill may have experienced a hiatus in operations from 1919 until the Oconto Lumber Company acquired the mill in 1922.

Statement of Significance

Some of the most significant cultural resources in the Great Lakes region are related to the extraction and processing of timber resources (Rohe 1985). Archival documents, company records, and historical

accounts document the development of the lumber industry and the lives and successes of the wealthy and powerful individuals in the industry. Other than limited information derived from individuals who resided in Minertown as young children (less than five years old), the archaeological record is the only remaining source of information regarding the life-ways of the laborers who were the life force of the industry. Thus, the site is significant in terms of archaeology.

Within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the inventory of logging industry-related sites is on-going. Presently, more than 324 have been identified. The current inventory within the boundaries of the Nicolet land base includes: nineteen railroad spurs, twenty-two logging dams, twenty-four sawmills, seven isolated structures, four farm camps, 248 logging camps, and one ranch camp. Thus, Minertown is unique in that it is the only logging town site within the Nicolet land base. In fact, while there are other logging-related towns in Wisconsin, some of which are listed on the National Register (Paine Lumber Company Historic District, Oshkosh), Minertown is the only archaeological logging town that has been nominated to the register. Further investigation of the site and analysis of its structure and layout is likely to provide significant information regarding community planning and the social history of the community.

Many of the logging-related sites lack integrity as a result of forest management practices preceding the establishment of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which has since helped to protect these sites (Mark Bruhy personal communication 2009). In some instances, portions of logging dams remain intact. Mill races and foundations are also recognizable. At logging camps, foundations, pits, refuse heaps, and activity areas can readily be identified. While more than 50 have been subjected to Phase II evaluation; none has been formally evaluated through preparation of a Determination of Eligibility or National Register nomination.

The Minertown archaeological site (47FR0112) is significant for the information it may offer relative to company town lifeways during the post-1900 hardwood logging period. The variation in logging industry-related sites, as one would expect, is marked. Included in this category are abandoned logging camps, logging dams, rail camps, mills, trestles, sorting works, farm camps, ranch camps, and other settlements or activity sites. These various units were integrated into a system of exploration, settlement, extraction, processing, and marketing of the region's most notable economic commodity, a commodity that can be identified as the impetus for the settlement of the region.

While several logging, farm, and ranch camps have been subjected to archaeological investigation (Bruhy, et al. 1990; Franzen 1984, 1992; Janulus, et al. 2009; Newell 1992; Rohe 1985), logging towns have not. Town sites, however, have the potential to provide valuable information relating to the role

of technological innovations on the logging industry and the social, political, economic, and ethnic aspects of this industry and in turn clarify characteristics of broader industrial complex.

Archaeology

Taken together, logging industry-related sites may be used to address a number of classes of important research data. History has been kind to so-called important personages associated with the development of the industry; however, while logging industry folk-lore, primarily of the Paul Bunyan genre, enjoys nationwide recognition, little data is available to reconstruct the lifeways of the primary population, i.e., those who worked in the woods, at the mills, and on the waterways and rail systems. In the most general sense, the archaeological remains of the industry provide the best opportunity to secure understanding of poorly documented social groups, their activities, and influences on the contemporary regional cultural patterns.

Specifically, archaeology can fill gaps in the historical record and amplify the contributions of those who had little economic or political power. Archaeological remains and their physical arrangement at logging sites and other industrial and camp-like sites are known to elaborate on the lifeways of the workers, as well as the management practices of the company itself (Bruhy et al. 1990; Demeter and Weir 1987; Dunham et al. 1999; Janulis et al. 2006). The archaeological remains at the Minertown site are likely to contribute data relative to the unwritten history of those inhabiting the Minertown site.

Categories of information that are anticipated to be recovered from the site include information relating to ethnic, temporal and economic differences in the community (Bastian 1999). Differences in design characteristics of the gabled and hip roofed residences depicted in the historic photos (postcard 1907; USDA 1939), the physical separation in their locations, and the fact that the southern portion of the site was referred to by a different name, Oneva (Lonnie Bodoh, personal communication February 3, 2009) suggests that they housed temporally, regionally, or ethnically distinct populations. Similarly, it is anticipated that differences in the economic status and lifeways of the boarding house and single family residences may be reflected in the archaeological record.

In sum, archaeological investigations, of company towns such as Minertown have significant potential to expand our understanding of industrial practices and the physical plan of company towns.

Industry

Industrial archaeology is the recording, study, interpretation and preservation of the physical remains of

industrially related artifacts, sites and systems within their social and historical contexts. The study of Industrial Archaeology adds to our understanding of this significant change in the human condition by adding a tangible dimension to technical studies, by providing technical information on obsolete processes not obtainable from other sources, and by supplying useful reference points of economic growth and social change. A research focus on the change reflected in production systems, transportation systems, and communities will enhance our knowledge of the complex relationships that link cultural elements and on an understanding of the mechanisms that produce change in those relationships.

In her evaluation of the logging industry in the Nicolet National Forest, Stiles (1994:9) divides the expansion and eventual decline of the logging industry in northeastern Wisconsin into three time periods. Using Overstreet's (1982) chronology (based on the type of wood harvested) overlaid with Karamanski's (1984) chronology of transportation systems used in the industry:

> Pinewood Era (beginning of the logging industry c. 1850s to 1910s) is characterized by intensive harvesting of pine resources using water as the primary means of transportation. These early years of the logging industry were restricted to the exploitation of pine and utilization of the region's natural waterways to transport lumber to market and processing centers.
>
> Hardwoods Era (1890s to 1940s) is characterized by a focus on hardwood resources transported almost exclusively via rail; although rivers and their tributaries continued to serve as an alternative or supplemental means of transport. With the depletion of the pineries and expansion of rail corridors, many new processing centers developed in the forested interior to allow for serious extraction of hardwoods. Although harvesting activities centered on hardwood resources and rail transport, pine logging remained active, though to a much lesser degree than during the preceding Pinewood Era.
>
> Pulpwood Era (1930s to present). Characterized by the use of secondary products in the production of goods and energy. The pulpwood industry is most often associated with goods produced beginning near the onset of World War II; however, byproducts of logging and milling were certainly used as early as the last decade of the nineteenth century.

The Pinewood Era introduced the first large-scale Euro-American settlement into northern Wisconsin, establishing camps along major waterways and tributaries. Those lumbering concerns situated in the vicinity of the Minertown site focused their camps around the major tributaries of Lake Michigan,

where logs were eventually driven and transported via steamship to the Chicago markets (Great Lakes Archaeological Research Center [GLARC] n.d.; Stiles 1994:13).

Early in the twentieth century, the appetite for pine saw-logs resulted in the depletion of the Wisconsin pineries. Many of the individual and corporate concerns that continued the pursuit of new pine stands abandoned the region, moving to the Pacific Northwest; however, a significant number of companies shifted their emphases to extraction of hardwoods, an endeavor made feasible by the development of narrow-gauge and standard railroads (Fries 1951; GLARC n.d.; Karamanski 1984).

Variation in logging-related archaeological sites associated with these different logging eras is significant. Site types are diverse, including logging camps, dams, rail camps, mills, trestles, farm camps, ranch camps, and other settlements and activity sites. These various site types were integrated into a system of exploration, settlement, extraction, processing, and marketing of the region's most notable economic commodity. A commodity that can be identified as a prime mover not only in the settlement of the region, but also in an all pervasive force in social, political, economic, and ethnic aspects of the area's historical development.

The archaeological remains at the Minertown site have the potential to provide significant information relevant to our understanding of the turn of the century, rail-related, hardwood era (see Bruhy et al. 1990; Janulis et al. 2006). It is anticipated that the Minertown site will provide information regarding systematic, as well as idiosyncratic changes in the industry.

Specifically, this period was characterized by a number of technological innovations, including changes in the saws employed. Many of the smaller companies used circular and gang saws in the 1890s and early 1900s and did not adopt the more efficient band saw until later. Other technological improvements of the time included the shift from steam engine driven mills to electric motor driven operations and "more efficient carriages and conveyors to transport the logs to the saws, log washing machinery, debarking machines, cylinder planes, and a host devices designed to manufacture shingles, lathe, and shakes" (Wyatt 1986: III, 5-9). Throughout the course of thirty plus years of operation, the Miner brothers would have adopted many of these new technologies, as well as sought their own methods to streamline production. For example, historic accounts indicate that the brothers built a skidder they hoped would work on their logging railroad to streamline the loading operation. Unfortunately however, this unique skidder experiment ultimately failed (Peek 2000).

Information relevant to the industrial operations at the site can be used to address a number of unanswered questions about the site and logging in this region. Specifically, depending on the

technologies represented and the timing of their adoption, we may be to address questions relating to why certain technologies were adopted (e.g., labor expenses, cost constraints, market demands). In addition, changes in technology likely affected labor needs and possibly the composition of the labor force. Finally, technological changes may have resulted in changes in the physical layout of the town and industrial complex, in response both to technological needs and to labor and management issues (California Department of Transportation 2008: 121).

Community Planning and Development

There are several logging and other industrial "company towns" in Wisconsin (Northside Historic District of Cream Brick Workers' Cottages, Racine; Fairbanks Flats, Beloit; Paine Lumber Company Historic District, Oshkosh; and the Montreal Company Location Historic District, Montreal). These communities developed in response to the rapid industrial growth in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the goal of retaining a stable and dependable workforce. Many communities not only provided housing for the employees, but were also perceived as improving employee productivity and ensuring the health and morality of the workforce by establishing a company-dictated social order (Garner 1992; http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/archstories/suburbs/industry.asp, March 2009). "The workers who lived in company towns, who conformed to the circumstances imposed on them, created subcultures of their own. Social order derived from labor routine, isolation, and company imposed rules and policies" (Garner 1992:4).

"In a company town, virtually everything associated with the settlement, including the houses, store, school, and even the chapel was subordinate to the business enterprise" (Garner 1992:4). Although some company towns were preplanned, many simply grew as the business expanded (Garner 1992).

While these communities were largely successful economically, they failed socially and politically because they had no elected officials and the residents had no say in community affairs. Further, many of the residents did not own their own homes and, therefore, had less of a commitment to the community. Finally, the paternalism imposed on the resident labor force often led to resentment, labor disputes, and strikes.

Many of the Wisconsin company towns have the potential to convey information regarding the development of the respective industries and their management practices. The Paine Lumber Company Historic District for example had a distinct layout to accommodate monetary transactions and housing for its immigrant workers, many of whom lived in apartments until they could afford to purchase homes. Ethnic segregation is evidenced in communities such as Montreal and Fairbanks

Flats, sometimes intentionally structured by the company and in other instances as a result of the composition of the labor force and the timing of the settlement.

Minertown reflects many of the characteristics of programmed housing to accommodate newly arriving laborers, segregation, and the characteristic managerial control over labor. Minertown's development mirrors a pattern typical of the later-dating logging industry in that it followed closely upon the 1892 Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad expansion into Forest County. Built on woodlands purchased from the railroad, it was also through the railroad that supplies entered the community and from which timber products harvested from the land were shipped. Minertown also had a distinct layout, with the industrial complex separated from the residential and general commercial area and from the agrarian area of the town. In addition, Minertown appears to have been constructed in two stages. Minertown, like Montreal, appears initially to have developed a relatively unstructured residential/commercial area following initial establishment of the company town and only later constructed a more structured residential area in the southern portion of the site area. This pattern is reflected in the 1907 photo of the town which depicts a congested and somewhat chaotic central area that includes a boarding house, cook shanty, individual residences, and other unidentified structures (e.g., blacksmith shop). It is likely that as with the Paine Company town, the boarding house was in part intended to house new arrivals, as well as perhaps laborers who could not afford to rent or purchase houses. There is also some indication that managers like Van Cleve, a "walking boss," lived in the houses (Sally Brooke, personal communication, February 2, 2009).

Many of the initial settlers to Minertown were German-American transplants from La Farge. These early settlers appear to have settled in the central residential/commercial area. Later settlers in the community include families who moved north from Kentucky in hopes of finding a better life. The Van Cleves were one of these families. They lived in the residential area on the south side of Minertown, which suggests that there may have been some ethnic segregation within the community (Sally Brooke, personal communication, February 2, 2009).

Finally, labor violence and labor unions began to emerge in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The lumberjacks and lumber mill workers did not begin to organize until the 1900s. In response, many lumber companies established a number of restrictive measures to control their labor force, including establishment of company stores and establishment of formal contracts (Wyatt 1986:5-14). It appears that the Miner brothers sought to control their force in a number of ways. They managed to control commerce by paying employees with metal coins known as "Miner Money" (Peek 2000) and had a company store within the town. In addition, as opposed to the town of Carter, less

than a mile north of Minertown, that boosted over twenty taverns, Minertown had none. Thus, violence fueled by alcohol was largely kept outside of Minertown.

Interestingly, none of the informants interviewed remembers there being a church or cemetery in Minertown. Thus, it appears that the Miner brothers also maintained a strongly secular character to their community. Again, the intent may have been to focus near exclusive attention on the industry.

Minertown is distinct from the other National Register company towns in Wisconsin as it reflects a relatively short-term discrete occupation. In contrast, the other communities while initially established as "company towns" have continued to be occupied and to evolve. They have, therefore, lost some of the integrity characteristic of this archaeological "time capsule."

Conclusion

The Minertown archaeological site (47FR0112) is significant for the information it may offer relative to company town lifeways during the post-1900 hardwood logging period providing information relating to ethnic, temporal and economic differences in the community (Bastian 1999). In addition, the site has the potential to provide significant information regarding both systematic and idiosyncratic changes in the turn of the century, rail-related, hardwood era mill towns (see Bruhy et al. 1990; Janulis et al. 2006). Finally, Minertown is significant for the information it can provide regarding logging-related community planning and development, and more specifically how this industry and the Miner brothers structured the organization of the community to meet the needs of the industry and ethnically diverse population.

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Description

The Minertown archaeological site (47FR0112) is located in Section 33 (T34N/R15E) between Highway 32 (west) and an abandoned railroad grade (east) about 0.5 mi (0.8 km) south of the town of Carter. The overall site size measures approximately 375 m (1,230 ft) east-west by a north-south distance of about 875 m (2,870 ft), or approximately 43.5 ac (17.6 ha).

Justification

The proposed Minertown archaeological site encompasses the original location of the Minertown settlement between the abandoned State Highway (32) alignment and the abandoned Chicago & North Western Railroad grade. The northern boundary is defined by a wetland that was used to float logs (Lonnie Boduh, personal communication, February 5, 2009). The eastern boundary is defined by the railroad grade and the western by the Highway 32 from which the entry road emanates. Finally the southern boundary is defined by the clearing within which the southern residential area is located. The site boundaries were established based on examination of aerial photographs and field verified identification of stone and earthen berm foundations, a concrete walled root cellar, brick, concrete, and earthen demolition debris, concrete spread footing blocks, abandoned railroad spurs or tramway components and numerous pits and midden depressions (Figures 2, 3, and 4).

Figure 1. Site Location Map: Minertown Site (47FR0112)
Figure 2. Site Sketch Map: Minertown Site (47FR0112)
Figure 3. 1939 Aerial of Minertown
Figure 4. Composite Site Sketch Map, 1939 Aerial, and Historic Photos
Figure 5. Wisconsin Land Economic Inventory Map (1933) and Historic Photo of Southern Residential Area

Photo 1. Abandoned Sawmill/Boiler Complex, View Facing West, USDA Forest Service December 1939
Photo 2. Abandoned General Store, View Facing North, USDA Forest Service December 1939
Photo 3. Abandoned Houses, View Facing South, USDA Forest Service December 1939
Photo 4. Concrete Footings/Pillars Associated with Sawmill, View Facing North, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest April 2008.
Photo 5. Mill Pond, View Facing North, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest April 2008.
Photo 6. Sawmill/Boiler Complex, View Facing North, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest April 2008.
Photo 7. Stone Foundation, View Facing North, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest April 2008.

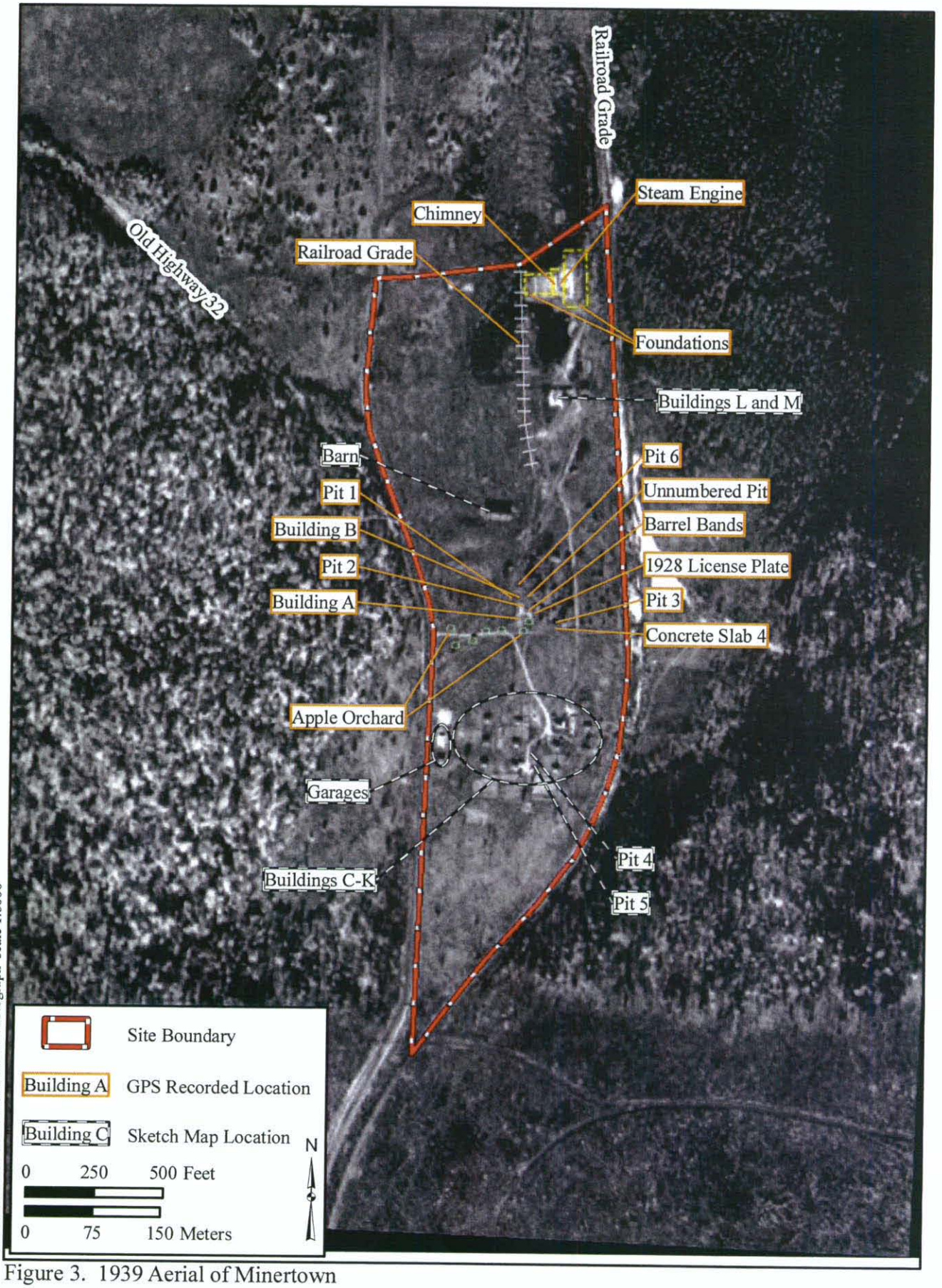


Figure 3. 1939 Aerial of Minertown

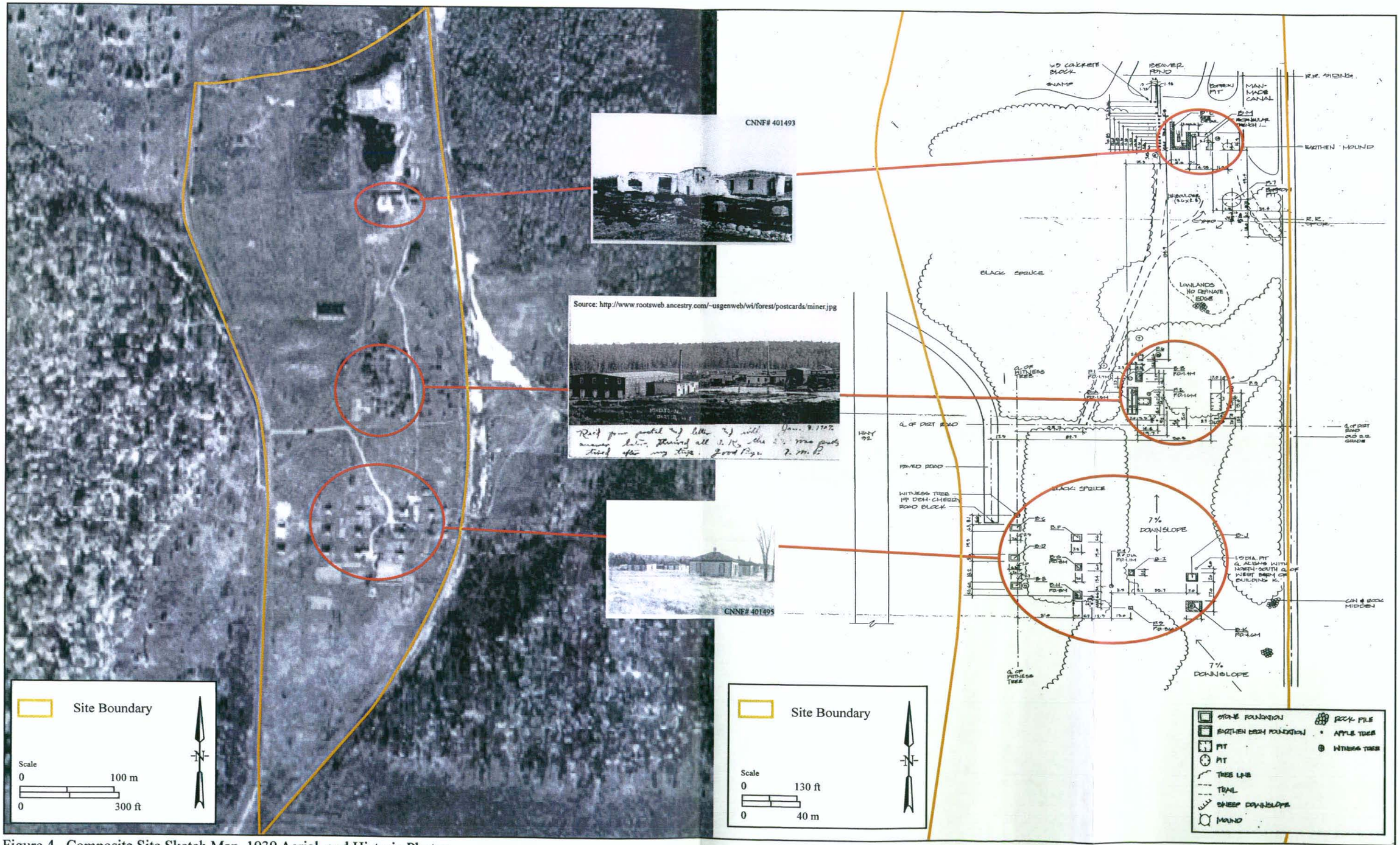
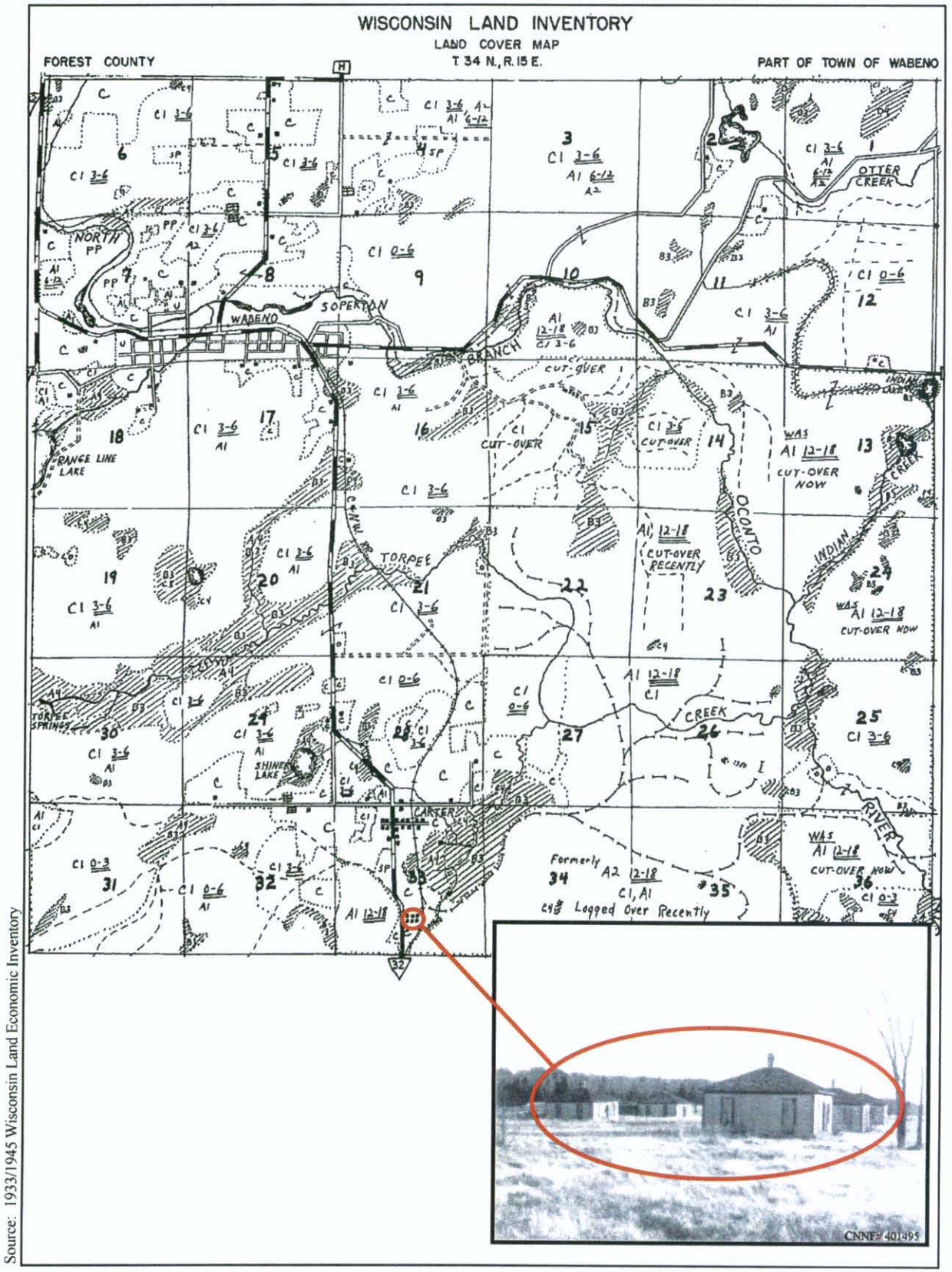
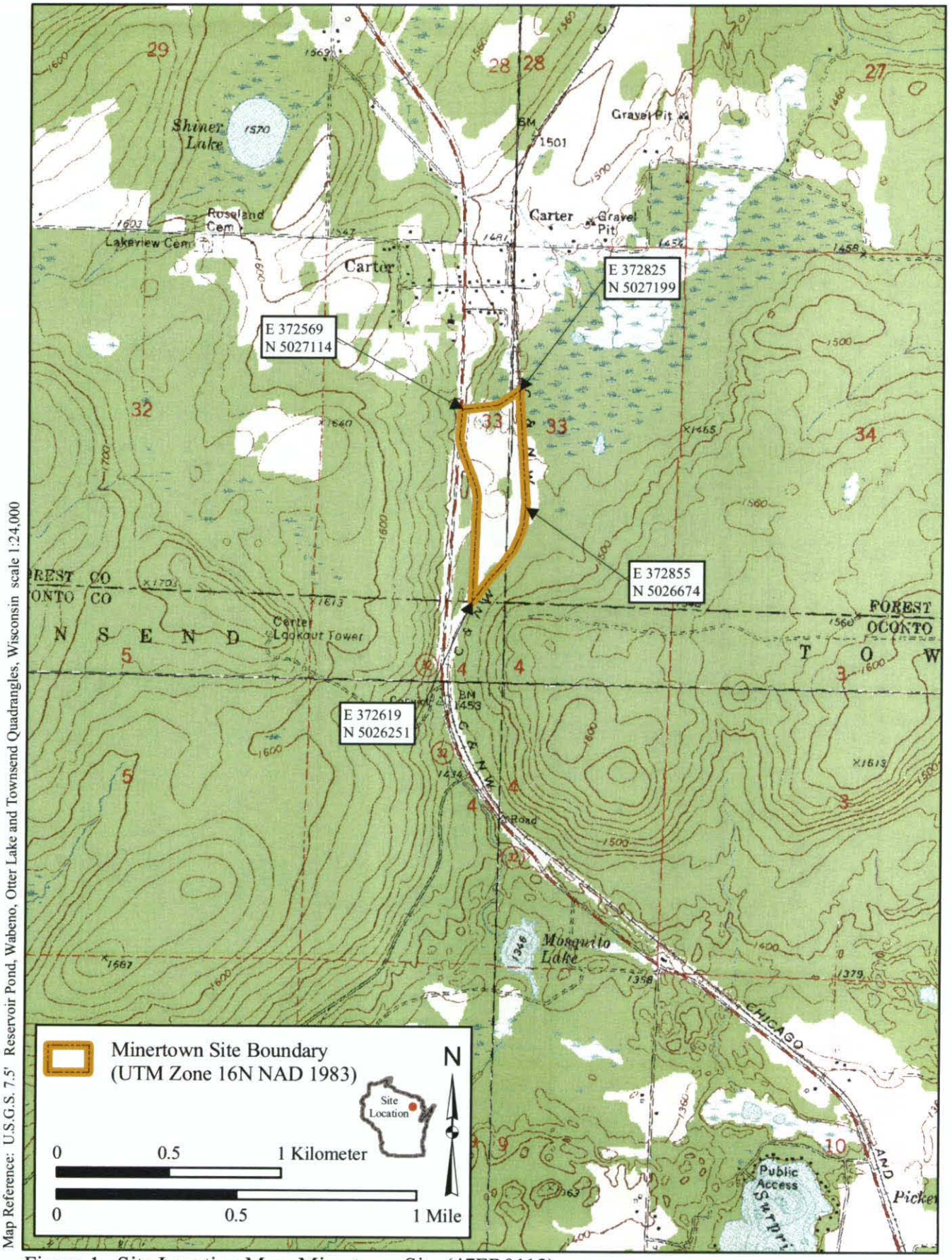


Figure 4. Composite Site Sketch Map, 1939 Aerial, and Historic Photos



Source: 1933/1945 Wisconsin Land Economic Inventory

Figure 5. Wisconsin Land Economic Inventory Map (1933) and Historic Photo of Southern Residential Area



Map Reference: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Reservoir Pond, Wabeno, Otter Lake and Townsend Quadrangles, Wisconsin scale 1:24,000

Figure 1. Site Location Map: Minertown Site (47FR0112)

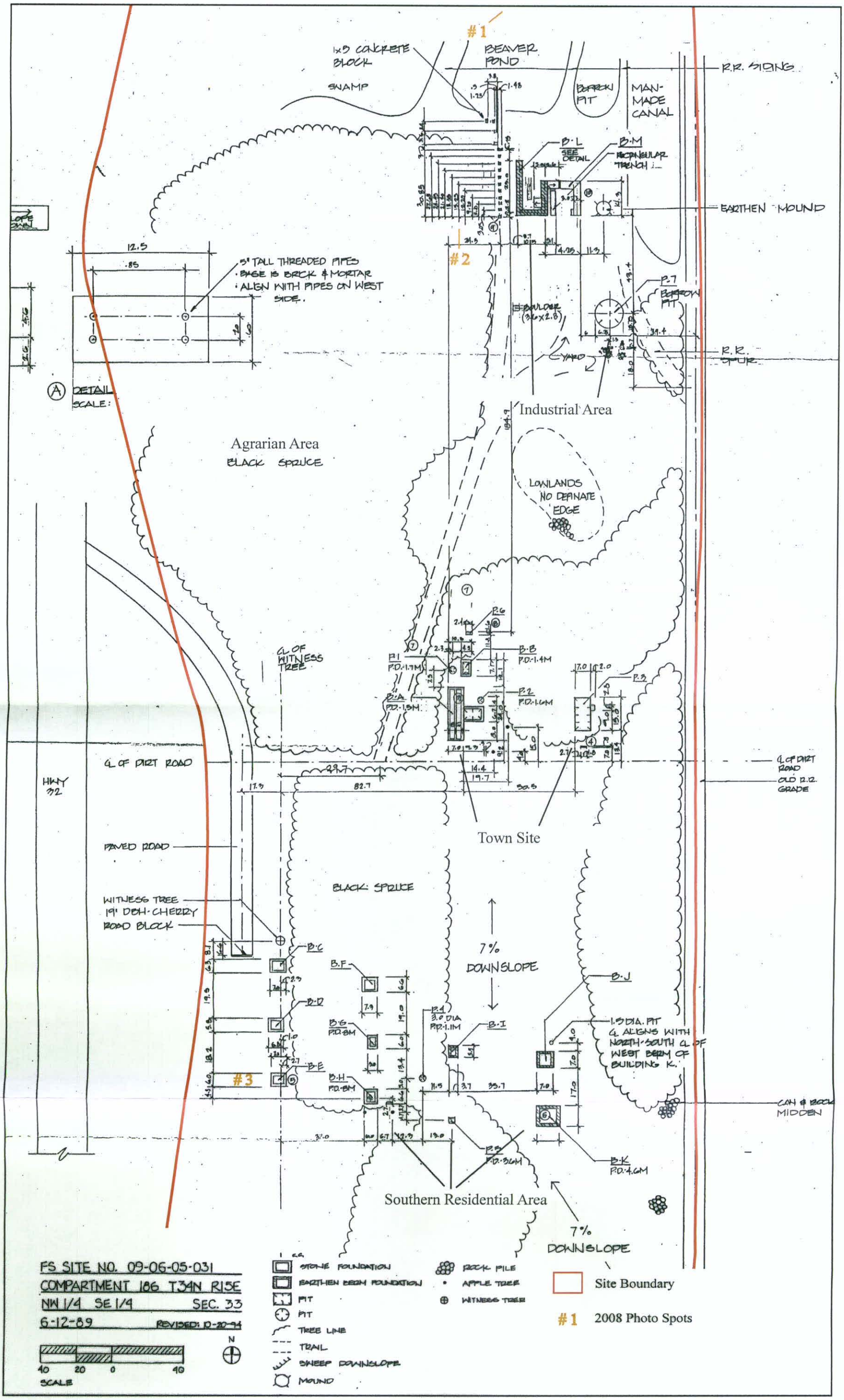


Figure 2. Site Sketch Map: Minertown Site (47FR0112)

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (LELAND J. PRATER)
DECEMBER 8, 1939
CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
ABANDONED SAWMILL - FACING WEST VIEW
PHOTO 1 (FS# 401493)

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (LELAND J. PRATER)
DECEMBER 3, 1939
CHEQUEMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
ABANDONED GENERAL STORE - VIEW FACING NORTH
PHOTO 2 (FS# 401491)

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (LELAND J. PRATER)
DECEMBER 8, 1939
CHEQUEMEGON - NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
ABANDONED HOUSES - VIEW FACING SOUTH
PHOTO 3 (FS# 401495)

04/27/2004

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (KIM POTARACKE)
APRIL 28, 2004
CHEQUEMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
CONCRETE FOOTINGS/PILLARS ASSOCIATED W/ SAWMILL
VIEW FACING NORTH
PHOTO 4

04/28/2004

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (KIM POTARACKE)
APRIL 28, 2004
CHEQUAMEGON - NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
MILL POND - VIEW FACING NORTH
PHOTO 5

04/22/2004

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (KIM POTARACKE)
APRIL 22, 2004
CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
SAWMILL/BOILER COMPLEX - VIEW FACING NORTH
PHOTO 6

MINERTOWN (47FR0112)
FOREST COUNTY, WISCONSIN
USDA FOREST SERVICE (KIM POTARACKE)
APRIL 22, 2004
CHEQUEMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST
RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN
STONE FOUNDATION - VIEW FACING NORTH
PHOTO 7