



1980

46-Archaeological Survey of Relocation Portions of the Climax-Fulton Road Reconstruction Project, Kalamazoo County, Michigan

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PAUL W. McALLISTER

ELIZABETH B. GARLAND

KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

OF THE CLIMAX-FULTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF RELOCATION PORTIONS

1980

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS, NO. 46

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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The area is relatively flat uplands as shown on the Leonidas, Michigan 15' topographic map (Map 2). However, also of note are the extensive marsh-lands throughout the area, and the presence of at least two county drains crossing the project areas. These factors and the in-field examination of the soils (which were consistently clay-silt-loams) indicate that at least

and section 15 of Climax Township (curves 3 and 4). Refer to Map 1 for locations. located in sections 34 and 27 of Climax Township (curves 1 and 2, respectively) The areas to be surveyed include two segments of roadway realignment

3. Description of the Survey Area

- Principal Investigator - Elizabeth B. Garland, Ph.D.
- Field Supervisor - Paul McAlistier, M.A.
- Field Assistant - Diane Goff, Undergraduate student, Anthropology Department, Western Michigan University

2. Project Personnel

This project was undertaken in response to a request by Mr. Ronald Copping of the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, under terms of a written agreement between the Principal Investigator and the Road Commission which was accepted on October 14, 1980. The purpose of the investigation was to determine the existence of historic or prehistoric sites in those portions of the Climax-Fulton Road Reconstruction Project which involve relocation of the existing 66 foot right-of-way. Field work was carried out on October 18, 1980.

1. Introduction

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF RELOCATION PORTIONS OF THE CLIMAX-FULTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, Kalamazoo Co., Michigan

1980
Paul W. McAlistier
1980
Kalamazoo Co., Michigan
1980
1980

some if not all of the project areas were marshland at one time in the past. Landcover over the project areas varied widely. It ranged from woodlot and pasture to unharvested cornfield, to freshly planted winter crops, and plowed fields. The presence of woodlot and pasture necessitated the use of shovel probing in order to examine the soil beneath the cover. This was done at 10 pace intervals across the project areas. Cultivated fields, whether in crops or not provided greater visibility than shovel probes and were therefore simply surface surveyed using 10 pace transects. The soils varied only in the ratio of clay and silt, and in the amount and size of the glacial cobbles within the matrix. The soils in curves #1 and #2 were siltier than those of curves #3 and #4. This may be correlated with their relative elevations, which are about 930' for curves #1 and #2, 940' to 950' for curves #3 and #4 (Map 2).

4. Previous Archaeological Research in the Area

The area around the village of Climax is the location of 4 mounds and a circular enclosure which are recorded in the Michigan Archaeological Site file. The Principal Investigator and Mr. Larry Dorothy of Kalamazoo conducted an intensive search for extant evidence of the mounds reported west of Climax in section 2 in 1966. A school is presently situated on the presumed location of one of these mounds, and a local informant told us that children occasionally find arrowheads in the school yard. Apart from this information, absolutely no trace of any cultural material was discovered in the course of walking extensive areas of cultivated fields under conditions of very good visibility. We did not attempt to relocate the earthworks east of Climax, however a local collector told us he had never been able to find them.

The Hegelshaw Site (20KZ30) was discovered in the course of this earlier

reconnaissance in the Climax area, along with additional evidence of Paleo-Indian and Archaic occupation in section 16 southwest of Climax (20KZ31).

The likelihood of finding prehistoric sites in the survey areas of this

project was considered fair to good, although no sites were known to be

directly in the areas of impact, as was determined in a check of the Michigan

Archaeological Site File and records at Western Michigan University.

5. Procedures and Findings

Curve #1: This was the most minor curve realignment of the four.

It consists of simply smoothing out the curve connecting 42nd Street and

S Avenue. The field had been freshly plowed and surface visibility was

excellent. Two people walked four 10 pace transects the length of the

estimated 171 m (561') of curve relocation. These transects effectively

surveyed an area 30 m (98.4') in width. The soil was silt-clay-loam with

a moderate amount of glacial till ranging in size from pebbles to small

cobbles. No cultural debris was noted.

Curve #2: This curve relocation was more extensive than that of

curve #1. It consists of a complete realignment of the connector between

S Avenue and 43rd Street. The surface cover in this area was woodlot and

pasture. Therefore surface visibility was poor and shovel probes had to

be used across the planned right-of-way. Shovel probing consists of

turning over the soil to a depth where subsoil is reached and then carefully

examining the soil for signs of cultural occupation. This was done at

10 pace intervals in four transects. This effectively covered a swath of

30 m (98.4') for the entire estimated 332 m (1089') length of this realign-

ment. The soil was the same silt-clay-loam with glacial till as its curve

#1. It was noted that the amount and size of the glacial till was greater

stretch. Soils were clay-silt-loam with glacial till in moderate amounts. of what was there by examining the north one-half of the right-of-way for this was shovel probed, but the latter was not as we felt we already had a good idea of lawn on the property at the corner of PQ Avenue and 44th Street. The former length of woodlot at the east edge of the Janvri property, and a short length to PQ Avenue. The right-of-way was easily surface surveyed except for a short determined. Beyond this area, going east, the right-of-way continues straight indicated to us that the exact placement of the right-of-way here had not been surveyed this entire field with 10 m transects, since Mr. Copping had

12 acre unharvested corn field also belonging to Robert Janvri. We surface mucky and was only cursorily investigated. Beyond this is an approximately Northeast of this is a wet fallow field on the Janvri property which was also was deemed unnecessary to extensively investigate this area with shovel probes. north of this field is a marshy woodlot. The soils here were mucky and it corn field, and we surveyed 10 m to 30 m in from the existing road. To the it cuts into the C. and M. Brady property (Map 3). This is an unharvested As the planned right-of-way leaves 43rd Street in a northeast direction,

marshy) to unharvested corn to fallow field to freshly plowed field. Street and PQ Avenue. The ground cover ranged from woodlot (some of it project. It in effect replaces three curves with one as it connects 43rd Curve #3: This is by far the most extensive curve relocation in the

tered. have previously been removed from the pasture. No cultural debris was encountered. are two moderate size piles of cobbles and a scatter of larger boulders that struck by the shovel probes. At the interface of the pasture and woodlot there been cultivated. Medium to large cobbles, and even boulders were consistently here. This was especially evident in the woodlot which has apparently never

In the mucky areas the soil appeared to be almost entirely clay. No cultural debris was found even though this was deemed the area with the greatest potential for containing cultural remains since it is between two wetland areas.

Curve #4: This curve connects PQ Avenue and 44th Street. It cuts across a freshly plowed field and an unharvested corn field. These two fields are separated and the curve is bisected by the Eldred Drain, with attendant wet grasses and woodlot. Surface reconnaissance with four 10 m transects was initiated at both ends of the curve as it was impossible to probe across the drain and its adjacent wetlands. Thus, ca. 335 m (1100') of the total estimated 442 m (1450') length of this curve was surveyed to a width of

30 m (98.4'). However, due to the nature of the unsurveyed portion, it was deemed that no culturally significant debris could exist in that situation. Soils were a clay-silt-loam with moderate glacial till. As one approached the drain area the soil became muckier. At the north end of the right-of-way there were noticeable amounts of cracked rock present. Upon thorough examination of various specimens it was determined that breakage was due to the natural weathering and plow damage of certain kinds of rocks. No cultural debris was found.

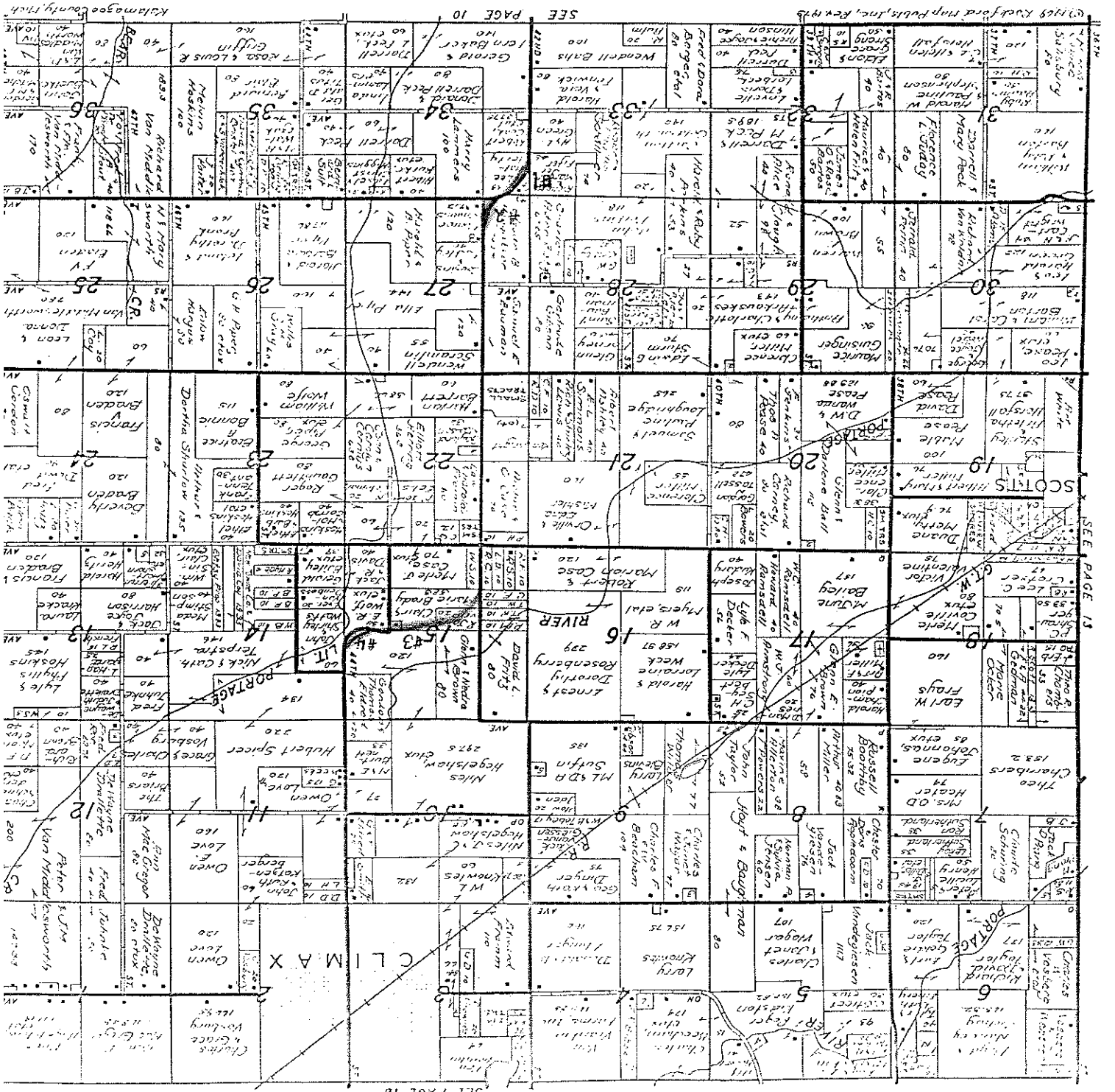
6. Recommendations

It is our determination that no historic or prehistoric cultural resources are affected by this project within the survey boundaries as outlined above, and that the project should proceed as planned.

Prepared and submitted by:

Dr. Elizabeth B. Garland
Department of Anthropology
Western Michigan University
and
Paul W. McAlistter, M.A.

October 23, 1980



SEE PAGE 18

SEE PAGE 19

T3S: ROW

CLIMAX

1867

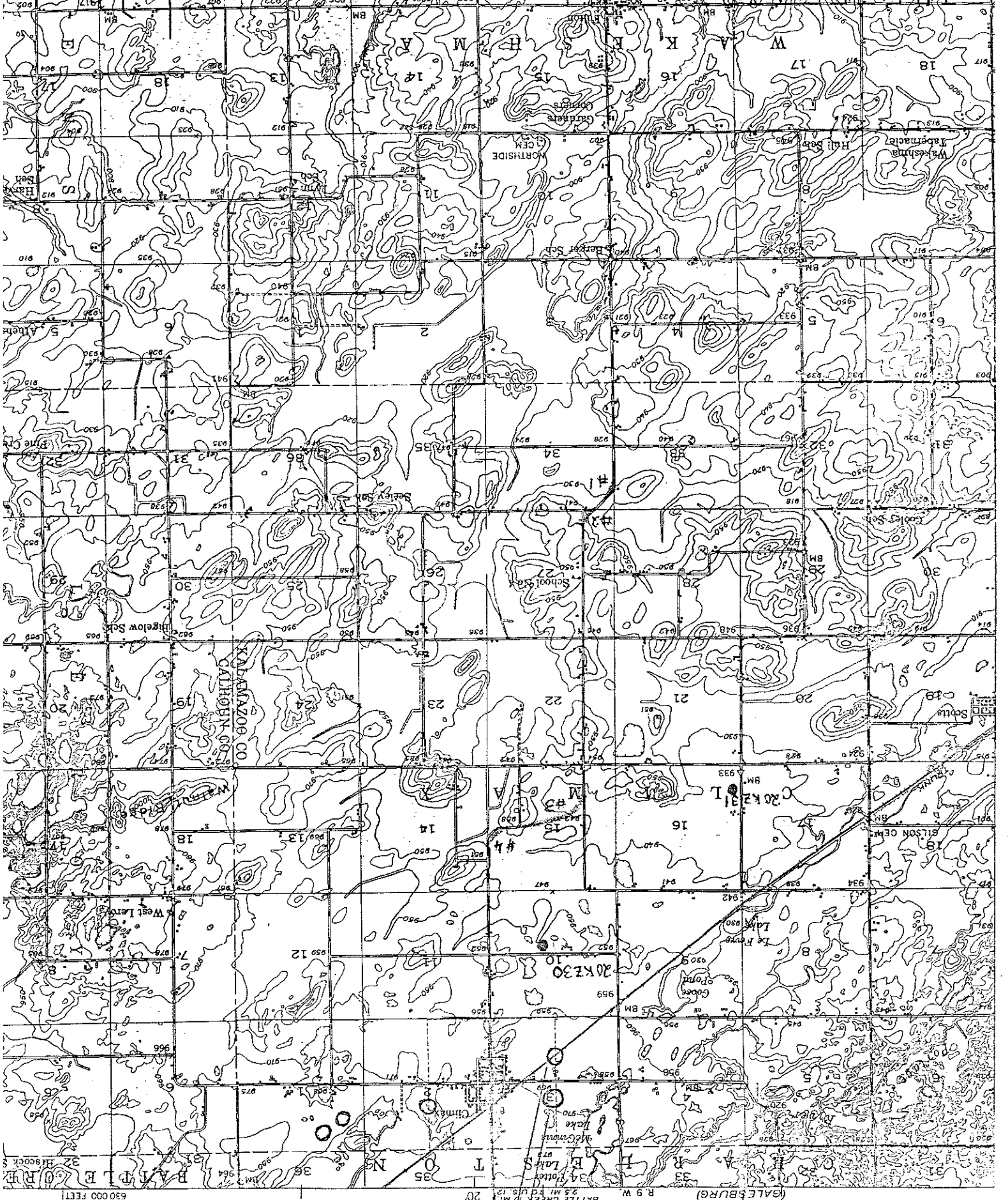
1867

(City of Rockford Map Publications, Inc. Rev. 1975)

Kalamazoo County, Wis.

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LEONIDAS QUADRA
MICHIGAN
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOG)

20KZ8 Sec 3
Mound
20KZ7 Sec 3
Mound

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Map 3

(GALESBURG) R. 9 W. BATTLE CREEK 2.5 MI. E. U.S. 12. 20

630 000 FEET

43 RD. STREET

1/8 LINE

1/8 COR W/1/2 SEC. 15

1/4 LINE

BROWN

1321.3

HAGEL-SHAW

1/4 COR

SEC. 15

1/4 LINE

C&M. BRADY

660.2'

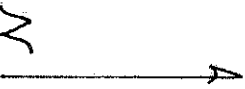
WOODS

JANVRIN
(20 ACRES)

R.O.W.
VARIABLE
(66' - 100')

1322.7'

C&M. BRADY



NET
CIRCULAR
WOODED
AREA

"FOREST"
EDGE"

24' PAVEMENT

GRADING LIMITS

90°

661.3'

