

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED  
GATEWAY BUSINESS PARK IN  
BELOIT, ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

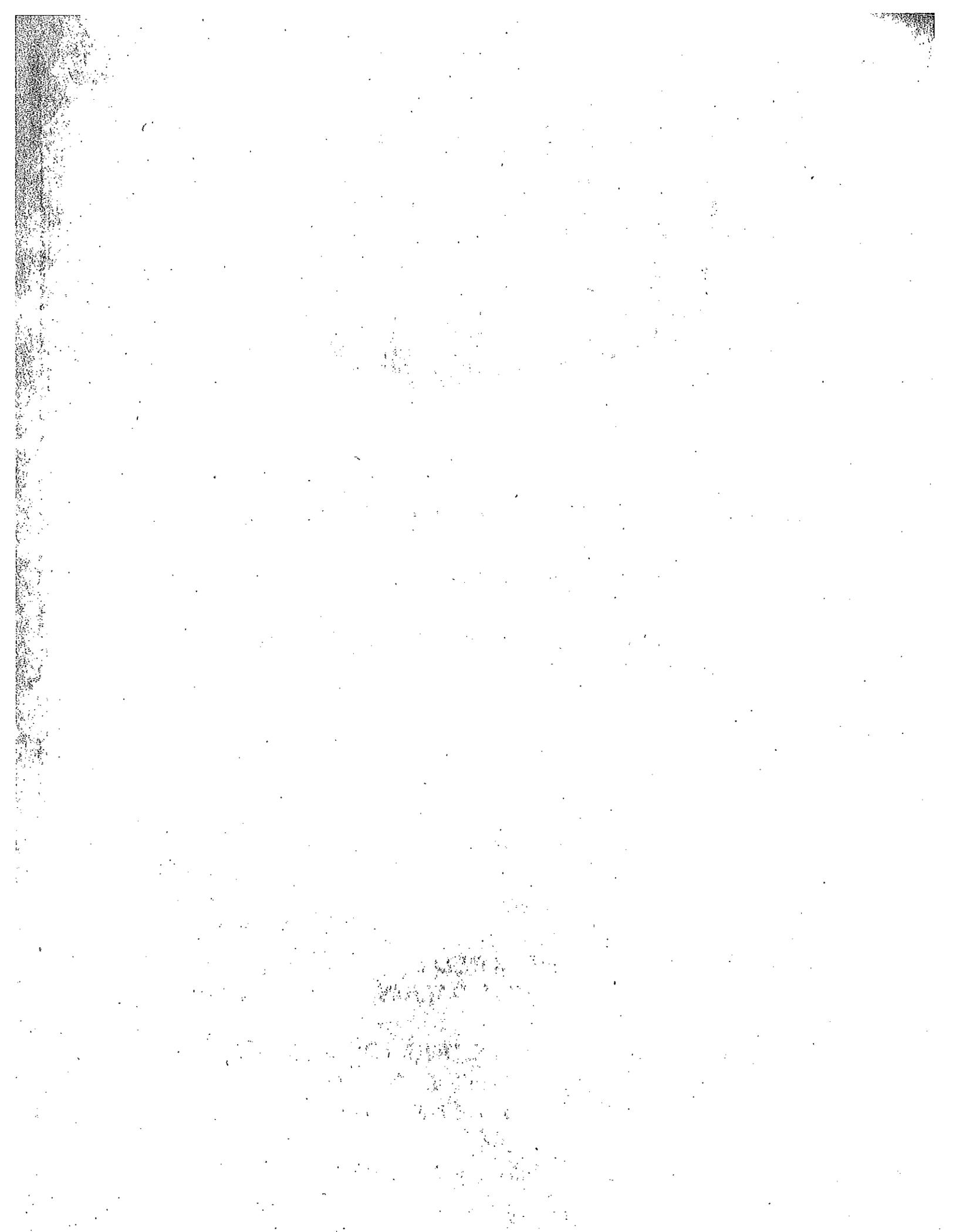
**JUNE, 2001**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS**

**No. 1301**

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*Abstract*

In April, 2001, the author conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Gateway Business Park in Beloit, Wisconsin. In the course of the survey, the project area was subjected to pedestrian survey and the excavation of 526 shovel test units and various shovel probes. Native American artifacts were limited to the isolated find of a single piece of chert debitage from the surface of an agricultural field. No previously reported sites lie in, or immediately near the project area. Euro-American materials were limited to scattered surface finds of recent age. No additional archaeological work is recommended for the project area as no sites were encountered which might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

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## Introduction

In April and May, 2001, the author conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Gateway Business Park in Beloit, Wisconsin. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any archaeological resources might be impacted by the proposed construction. The project area is about 184.2 hectares (455 acres) in size. It is located in the following sections:

- Portions of the W1/2, SW1/4, SE1/4, Sec. 21
- Portions of the SW1/4, the NW1/4 and the NE1/4, Sec. 28
- Portions of the SE1/4, Sec. 29
- Portions of the NE1/4 and the SE1/4, NW1/4, Sec. 32
- Portions of the NW1/4, Sec. 33, T1N, R13E.

The survey was conducted by the author with the assistance of John Hodgson, Jeff Frost, Anna Yoder, Susan Stein and Laura Wagner of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. It was conducted for the firm of HNTB, Inc. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

### The General Area

The project area is located in south-central Rock County in south-central Wisconsin (Figs. 1-2). It lies in the Rock River-Lake Winnebago-Fox River-Green Bay Lowland portion of the Eastern Ridges and Lowlands Province of the state. It is also in close proximity to the Western Uplands Province which dominates most of the western and southwestern portion of the state. The Eastern Ridges and Lowlands Province is characterized as relatively level. The topography is dominated by cuestas; ridges with steep escarpments on one side and long, gentle slopes on the other (Martin 1965: 212). The Beloit area is somewhat hillier than other portions of the Province due to bedrock dissection and uneven drift deposition (Schultz 1986: 89). The region as a whole slopes downhill to the east and north (Martin 1965: 214). The bedrock in the area consists of the dolomites, sandstones and shales of the Prairie du Chien Group (Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey 1981).

Prior to the intensive utilization of the area by Euro-American populations, the dominant vegetation in this region were oak-savannahs and prairies. The former included upland stands of bur, white and black oak, with a mesic prairie understory and lowland stands of swamp white oak with a mesic prairie understory (Curtis 1959: 326). The prairie were dominated by a variety of grasses, forbs, woody shrubs and occasional hardwoods (ibid: 262). Finley (1976) shows the area as covered by oak stands and prairie.

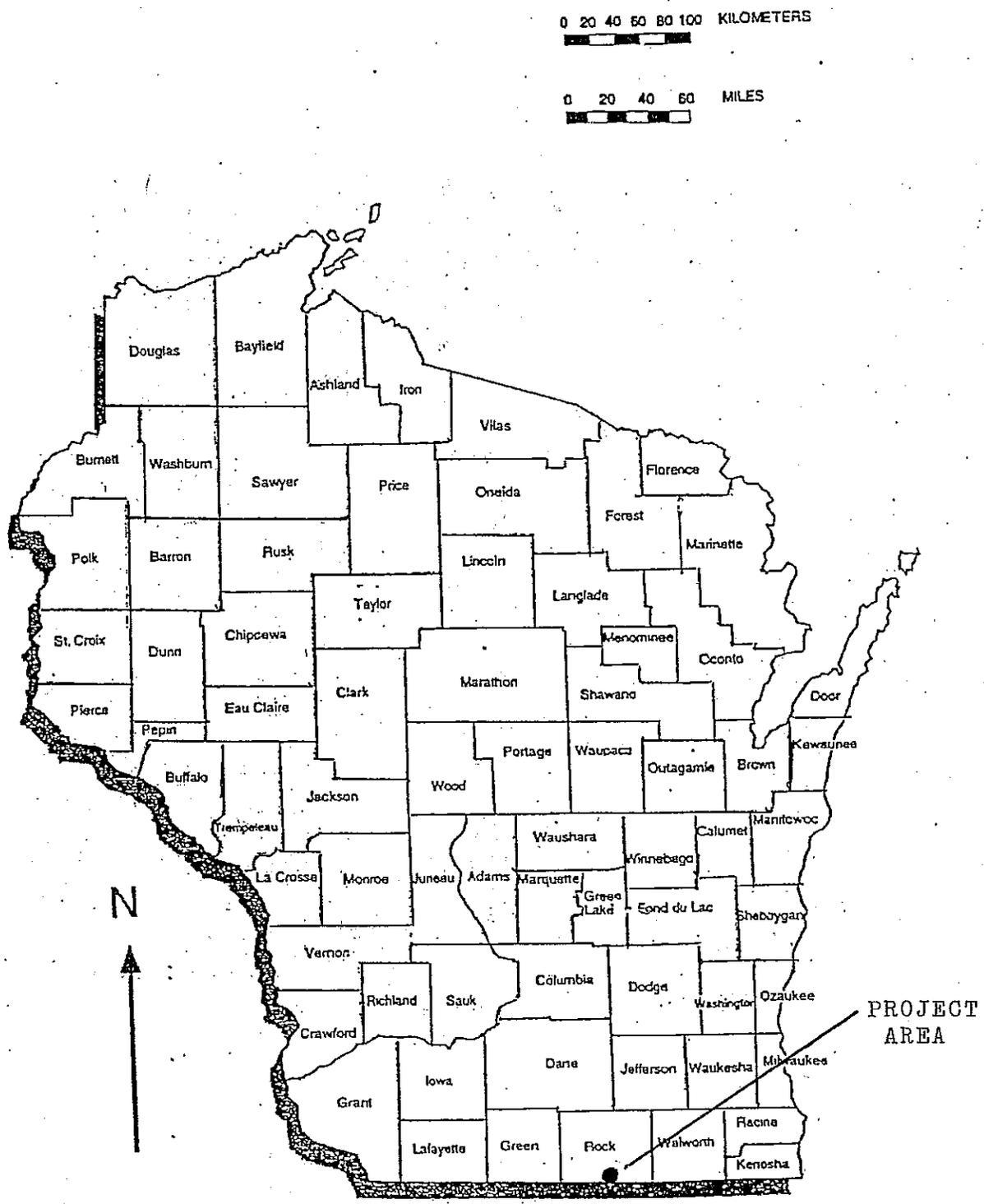


Fig. 1 - The Location of the Project Area in Rock County, Wisconsin

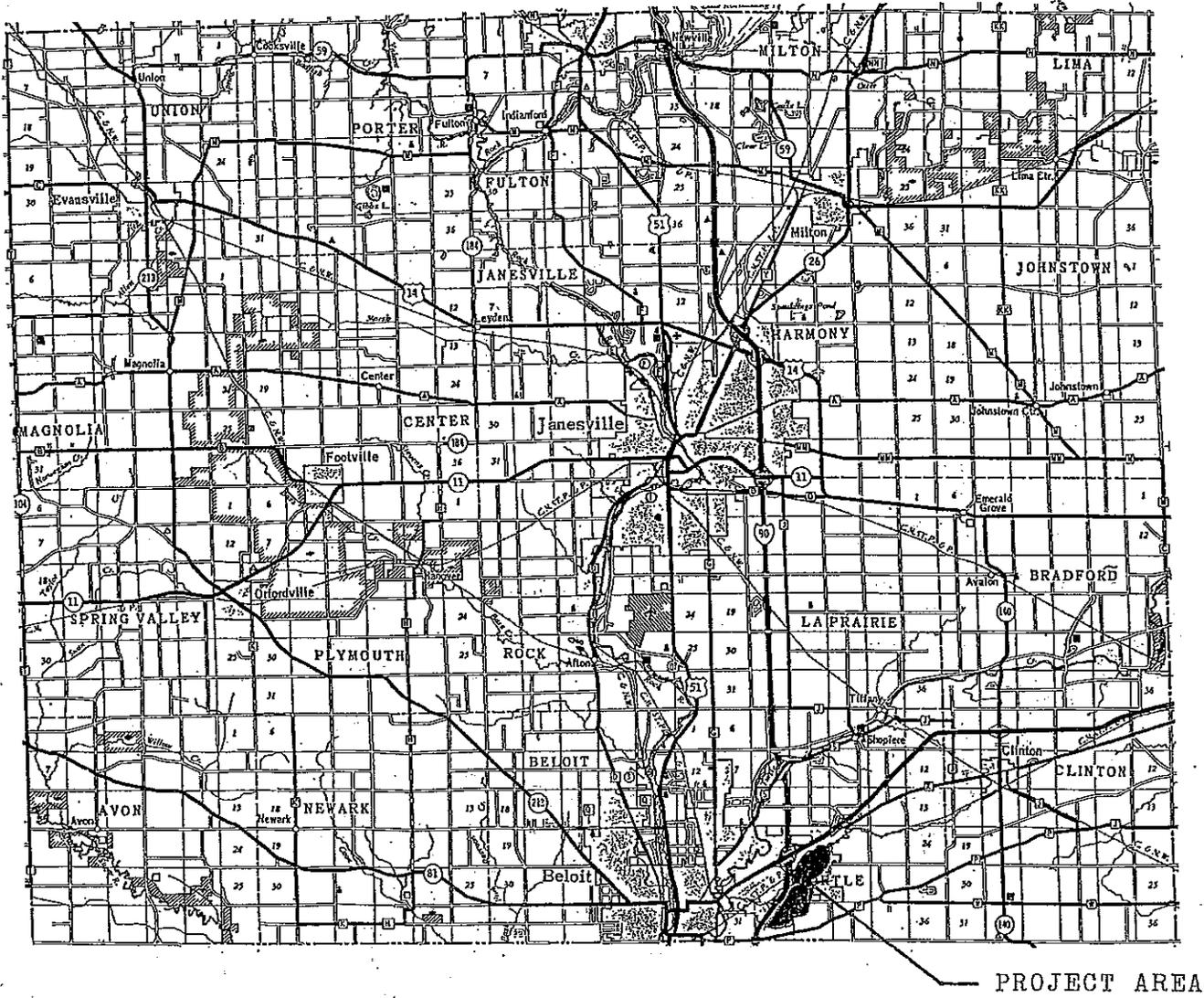


Fig. 2 - The Location of the Project Area in Rock County  
(WisDOT Map)

*The Project Area*

The project area lies east of IH-90 and south of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. It extends as far south as to within .8km of the Wisconsin/Illinois border (Figs. 3-4). The area can be described as a series of narrow ridgetops with moderate to steep slopes. There is a general slope uphill to the north and then downhill in the northern end. Elevations in the southern and northern margins of the project area are as low as 245-250 meters m.s.l. North of Colley Rd., elevations extend up to about 285 meters m.s.l.

At the time of the survey, almost all of the project area lay in agricultural fields with very good to excellent conditions for surface observation. About 14 hectares of land in the SW1/4, Sec. 28, T1N, R13E lay under grass, but portions of that area were proven to be disturbed. Three residential lots are in the project area and all had small areas of domestic landscaping.

As might be expected, considering the topography, there are a variety of soil types in the project area. They main ones include:

Durand silt loam, 6-12% slopes, eroded - moderately well to well-drained soil found on till plains and till-covered ridgetops, side slopes and valley floors - loamy soils underlain by gravelly sandy loam glacial till (Engel, et al 1974: 94-95)

Griswold loam, 2-6% and 6-12% slopes eroded - well-drained soil found on till plains, broad ridgetops and valley floors - loamy soils underlain by calcareous gravelly sandy loam glacial till (ibid: 102-103)

Kidder silt loam, 6-12% slopes, eroded - well-drained soil found on till plains, moraines and lower side slopes - loamy soil underlain by calcareous gravelly sandy loam glacial till (ibid: 108-110)

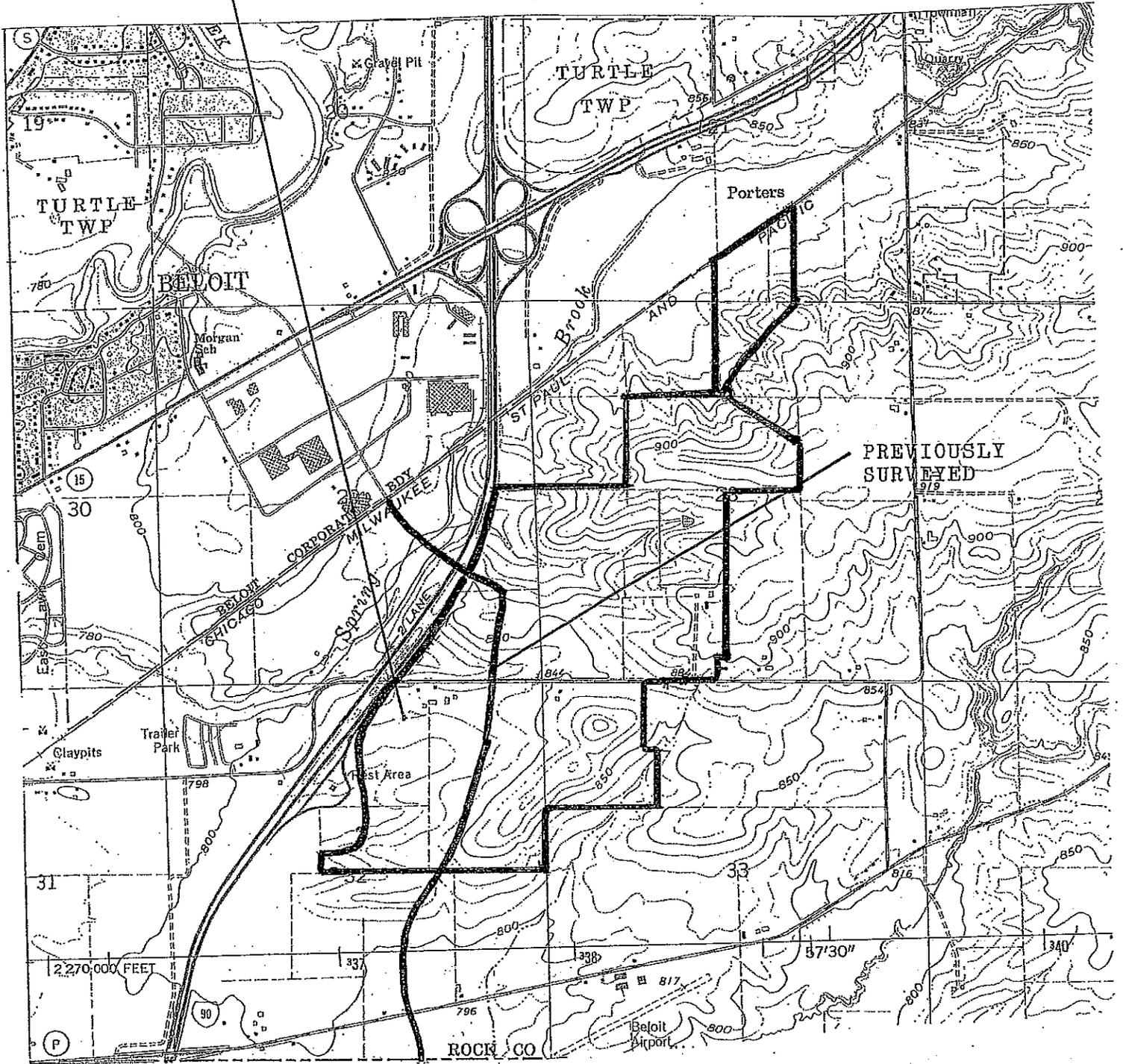


Fig. 3 - The Topography of the General Project Area  
Shopiere, Wis. Quad 1976  
1:24,000

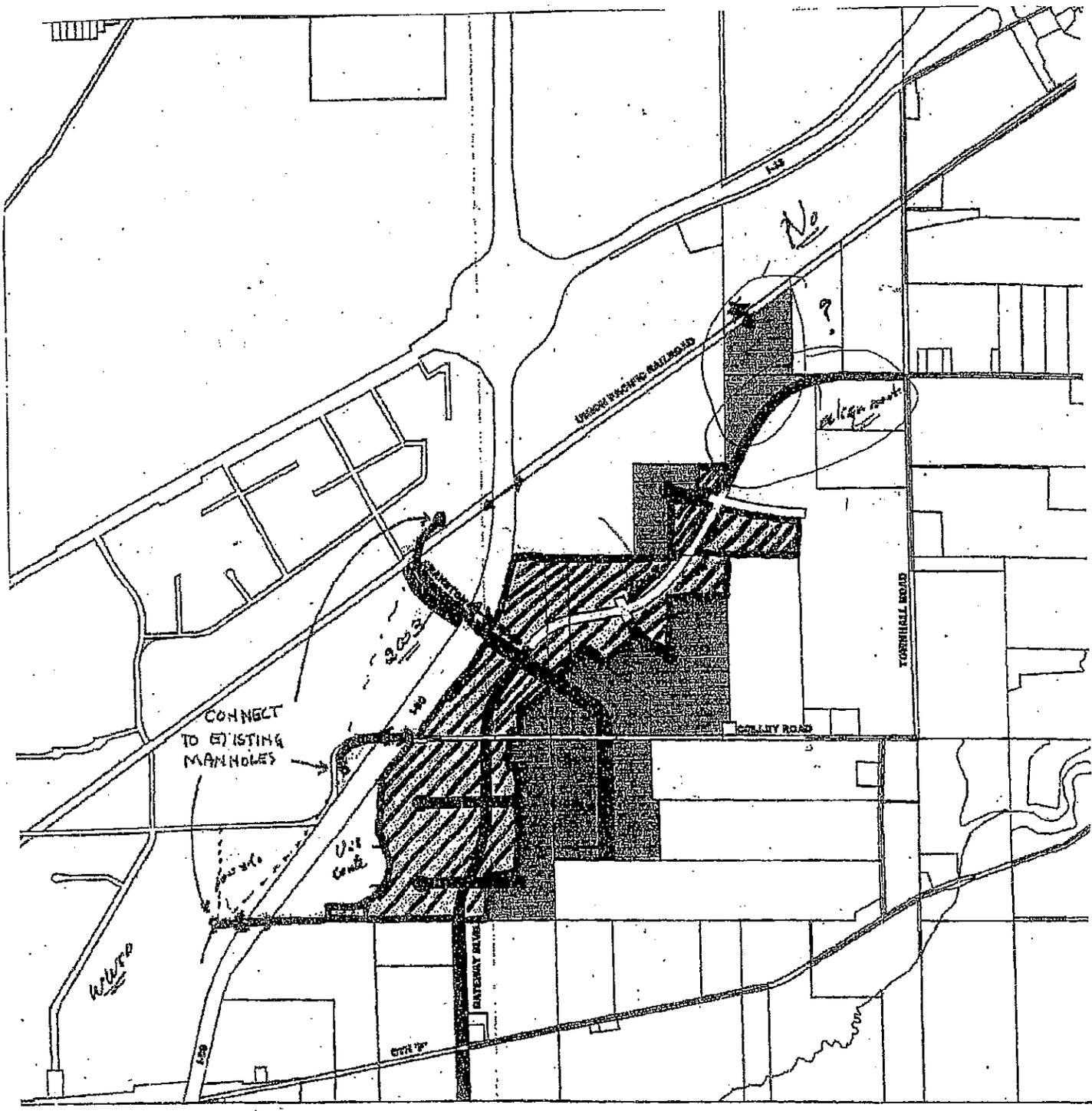


Fig. 4 - The Project Area  
1cm=240m

Ogle silt loam, 2-6% slopes - well-drained soil found on till plains and on broad, till-covered ridgetops, side slopes and valley floors - silty soil underlain by gravelly sandy loam glacial till (Engel et al 1974: 117)

Plano silt loam, 0-2% and 2-6% slopes - moderately well to well-drained soil found on till plains, broad ridgetops and valley floors - silty soils underlain by calcareous gravelly sandy loam glacial till or stratified sand and gravel (ibid: 123-124)

Ringwood silt loam, 2-6% slopes, eroded - well-drained soil found on till plains, broad ridgetops and valley floors - loamy soils underlain by calcareous gravelly sandy loam glacial till - (ibid: 126)

Wauconda silt loam, 0-3% slopes - somewhat poorly drained soils found on glacial lakebeds and drainage basins - silty soils over stratified lacustrine deposits of calcareous silt and fine sands (Engel et al 1974: 140).

There are no significant water resources in, or immediately near the project area. A small intermittent drainage lies in the northern portion of the project area and another in the southeastern corner. At the time of the survey, neither of these drainages had running water.

*Previously Reported Sites in the General Project Area*

Prior to the initiation of the field work, a literature and records search was conducted on the previously reported sites in the general project. The following data sources were utilized:

Site files and archives of the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Division

Site files and archives of the Office of the State Archaeologist

Site files and archives of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. (especially Salkin 2000)

Site files and archives of the Burial Sites Preservation Division

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscripts

National Register of Historic Places

County Histories

Wisconsin Archeologist.

The literature and records search indicated that the following sites are those closest to the project area:

47Ro306 - Quarry Edge Site - Sec. 22, T1N, R13E - Native American occupation - approx. 1.0km northeast of the project area

47Ro210 - Tornado Site - Sec. 34, T1N, R13E - Native American occupation - approx. 1.2km east of the project area

BRO-0008 - East Lawn Cemetery - Sec. 30, T1N, R13E - Euro-American cemetery - approx. 1.4 km northwest of the project area

47Ro286 - Sec. 20, T1N, R13E - Native American earthwork - approx. 1.0km northwest of the project area.

Thus, no previously reported sites lies in, or immediately near the project area. In 2000, the author conducted an archaeological survey of a proposed expansion of Cranston Road which will run through the western portion of the project area (Fig. 3). No archaeological materials were discovered. A review of various maps and plats indicated that one or more Euro-American sites might be located in the SE1/4, SW1/4, Sec. 28, T1N, R13E. Several residential structures and a few agricultural outbuildings will be demolished as a part of this project. They will be discussed in an architectural historical report.

### Methods

Almost all of the project area lay in agricultural fields with very good to excellent conditions for surface observation. These areas were walked at 5 meter intervals. When one piece of chert debitage was located, the general area was rewalked at 1-2 meter intervals. The portion of the project area in a tall grass area and in the residential lots were shovel tested at 15 meter intervals. The units were about 40x40cm in size. They were excavated into the underlying B Horizon. Soils were screened through 1/4" mesh screen and the units immediately backfilled. Grassy areas which were disturbed were shovel probed to insure that the areas were disturbed.

### Results of the Survey

The pedestrian survey of the project area yielded one secondary piece of chert debitage. It was recovered near a residential lot in the W1/2, SW1/4, NEW/4, SW1/4, NEW/4, Sec. 32, T1N, R13E. Additional intensive survey in the general area yielded no other artifacts. Shovel testing in the nearby residential lot also yielded no artifacts. Euro-American items were limited to scattered surface finds of recent age. No evidence of the structures which may have been present in the SE1/4, SW1/4, Sec. 28, T1N, R13E were found, either in terms of structural remains, depressions or artifact clusters.

A total of 276 shovel test units and a number of shovel probes were dug in the grassy area in the SW1/4, Sec. 28, T1N, R13E. Most of the units had Ap Horizons. Other units and the shovel probes indicated the presence of some disturbance which removed most, or all of the Ap Horizon in portions of this area. Two hundred and fifty more units were dug in the residential lots. Some of these had Ap Horizons and some were disturbed. No artifacts were recovered from any of these units.

### Summation and Recommendations

In April, 2001, the author conducted an archaeological survey of the proposed Gateway Business Park in Beloit, Wisconsin. In the course of the survey, the project area was subjected to pedestrian survey and the excavation of 526 shovel test units and various shovel probes. Native American artifacts were limited to the isolated find of a single piece of chert debitage from the surface of an agricultural field. No previously reported sites lie in, or immediately near the

project area. Euro-American materials were limited to scattered surface finds of recent age.

No additional archaeological work is recommended for the project area as no sites were encountered which might be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is always possible that deeply buried archaeological resources might be present in the project area. In the event that such materials are found in the course of construction, immediate consultation may be obtained by contacting the Compliance Section of the Division of Historic Preservation at 608-264-6507. If any burials or potential human remains of any kind are encountered, the Burial Sites Preservation Office should be contacted at 1-800-342-7834.

### Curation

All materials associated with this project will be curated at the facilities of Archaeological Consulting and Services, Inc. in Verona, Wisconsin.

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**Maps and Plats**

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#### Additional Sources

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Site files and archives of the Burial Sites Preservation Office

National Register of Historic Places

Charles E. Brown Atlas

Charles E. Brown Manuscripts

Wisconsin Archeologist.