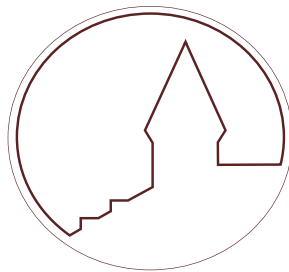


Illinois Archaeological Survey Short Report

Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment of a Proposed, 20-Acre IBR for Deer Run Mine, Hillsboro Energy, Montgomery County, Illinois

Prepared for
Hillsboro Energy
Hillsboro, Illinois

Prepared by
American Resources Group, Ltd.
Carbondale, Illinois



Principal Investigator
Steve Titus

Authors
Monica Lomas
Steve Titus

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHORT REPORT
State Historic Preservation Office
1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507
(217) 782-4836

Reviewer:
Date:
Accept: **Reject:**

SHPO Log Number:

LOCATIONAL INFORMATION AND SURVEY CONDITIONS:

County: Montgomery **Quadrangle:** Coffeen, Illinois 7.5'

Project Type/Title: Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment of a Proposed, 20-Acre IBR for Deer Run Mine, Hillsboro Energy, Montgomery County, Illinois (ARG CRM 2267).

Funding and/or Permitting Federal/State Agencies: IDNR

Legal Location: E½, SE¼, SE¼

Section: 25 **Township:** 8N **Range:** 4W

UTM Coordinates at SE Corner: **UTM North:** 4330862 **UTM East:** 286135

Location: The project area is located at the northwest intersection of Buckeye Trail and County Road 700N, 7.1 km (4.4 miles) northwest of Coffeen, Illinois, and 3 km (1.9 miles) south-southeast of Taylor Springs, Illinois (Attachment A, Figure A-1).

Project Description: Phase I archaeological survey of a proposed IBR location for Hillsboro Energy for a 16-foot diameter ventilation shaft and other smaller utility boreholes.

Topography: The topography of the project area consists of a broad, level upland.

Elevation (AMSL): 619–623 feet amsl

Soils: Oconee-Cowden (University of Illinois 1966)

Drainage: The project area is drained by an intermittent drainage of Miller Creek which drains into Middle Fork Shoal Creek and Shoal Creek before it empties into the Kaskaskia River.

Land Use/Ground Cover (include % visibility): At the time of investigation, the project area was in a harvested corn field affording 0–25% ground surface visibility. A small area at the northeast corner of the project area was bare with 100% ground surface visibility.

Survey Limitations: None

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

Historic Plats/Atlases/Sources: Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites; HARGIS database; Illinois CRM Archive

1818 General Land Office Plat, Township 8 North, Range 4 West (Illinois State Archives) (Attachment B, Figure B-1);

1902 Litchfield Herald's Map of Montgomery County, Illinois (Hixson Map Company) (Attachment B, Figure B-2);

1912 Standard Atlas of Montgomery County, Illinois (George A. Ogle and Company) (Attachment B, Figure B-3);

1925 Plat Book of Montgomery County, Illinois (W. W. Hixson and Company) (Attachment B, Figure B-4);

1941 Plat Book of Montgomery County, Illinois (W. W. Hixson and Company) (Attachment B, Figure B-5);

1947 USGS Hillsboro, Ill. 15-minute series topographic quadrangle (Attachment B, Figure B-6);

Previously Reported Sites: Within project area: None. Within 1-mile of project area: None

Previous Surveys: Within project area: none. Within 1-mile of project area: 3329 (Studmund 1990), 8592 (Neal 1998), 16997 (Hickman 2007), 24090 (Lence 2021).

Regional Archaeologist Contacted: None, consulted the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites (2023)

Investigation Techniques: The entire project area was subject to systematic, screened shovel testing on a 15-m grid, except for the northeast corner which was bare ground was investigated through surface survey on parallel transects spaced 5-m apart.

Time Expended: 32 Hours

Sites/Find Spots Located: None

Cultural Material: n/a

Curated At: n/a

Collection Techniques: n/a

Area Surveyed (acres and square meters): 20 acres; 80,937 square meters

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: (check one)

- ☒ **Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located no archaeological material; project clearance is recommended.**
- ☐ **Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located archaeological materials; site(s) does(do) not meet requirements for National Register eligibility; project clearance is recommended.**
- ☐ **Phase I archaeological reconnaissance has located archaeological materials; site(s) may meet requirements for National Register eligibility; further testing is recommended.**
- ☐ **Phase II archaeological investigation has indicated that site(s) does(do) not meet requirements for National Register eligibility; project clearance is recommended.**
- ☐ **Phase II archaeological investigation has indicated that site(s) meet requirements for National Register eligibility; formal report is pending and a determination of eligibility is recommended.**

Comments: American Resources Group recently completed an intensive, Phase I cultural resources survey and assessment of a proposed IBR for the Deer Run Mine located in south-central Montgomery County, approximately 3 km (1.9 miles) southeast of Taylor Springs, Illinois. The 20-acre parcel is located in the southeastern corner of a large cultivated field that is bound by North Seventh Avenue on the south and Buckeye Trail on the east. The parcel lies 1.2 km (.75 mile) east of US Route 127 (Attachment A, Figure A-1).

A pre-field records check conducted prior to the initiation of the field work revealed that no sites had been recorded within the project area or within 1-mile of it. There are no professional surveys that overlap with the project area, but there were four previous surveys conducted within 1 mile of the project area. One of these surveys had been conducted in association with the Deer Run Mine (Lence 2021). Two surveys involved bridge and road projects, and the fourth was a widespread rural water service project for the Montgomery County Water Company (Hickson 2007; Neal 1998; Studemund 1990).

The results of the pre-field records and literature review suggested that both prehistoric and historic site density was apt to be low. No structures are shown in the project area on any of the historic maps available for review (Attachment B, Figures B-1–B-6).

The project area encompasses a portion of a level upland located near the headwaters of two branches of an

unnamed intermittent stream that is tributary to Miller Creek, a perennial stream that is itself tributary to the Middle Fork Shoal Creek. The head of one branch of the intermittent stream is located immediately south of the project area, and the other is located immediately northwest of the parcel.

At the time of survey, ground surface visibility in the harvested cornfield containing the project area was almost completely obscured by crop stubble (Attachment C, Figures C-1–C-4). The project area was surveyed through screened shovel testing carried out on a 15-m grid, but with entirely negative results. No cultural material was recovered in any of the shovel tests, and no cultural material was observed in scattered bare spots scanned while walking between shovel test locations.

The entirely negative results of the Phase I survey of the Deer Run Mine IBR indicates the proposed undertaking will not have an adverse effect on significant cultural resources. It is recommended the proposed undertaking be allowed to proceed as planned without further archaeological investigation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:

Archaeological Contractor: American Resources Group, Ltd.

Address/Phone: 127 North Washington Street

Carbondale, Illinois 62901-1507 / (618) 529-2741

Surveyor(s): Steve Titus and James Burrow

Survey Date(s): November 6–7, 2023

Report Completed by: Monica Lomas and Steve Titus

Date: November 9, 2023

Submitted by (signature and title):

Steve Titus, Principal Investigator

ATTACHMENT CHECK LIST: (#1 through #4 are mandatory)

- ☒ 1) Relevant portion of USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map(s) showing project location and any recorded site;
- ☒ 2) Project map(s) depicting survey limits and, when applicable, approximate site limits and concentrations of cultural materials;
- ☐ 3) Site form(s): (two copies of each form);
- ☒ 4) All relevant project correspondence;
- ☒ 5) Additional information sheets as necessary.

Address of Owner/Agent/Agency To Whom SHPO Comment Should Be Mailed To:

Hillsboro Energy, LLC

925 S. Main St. #2

Hillsboro, IL 62049

American Resources Group, Ltd.

127 North Washington Street

Carbondale, Illinois 62901-1507

Contact Person: Mr. Clayton Cross

Telephone Number: (217) 532-3983

Contact Person: Mr. Steve Titus

Telephone Number: (618) 529-2741

REVIEWERS COMMENTS:

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Attachment A

Project Topographic Map

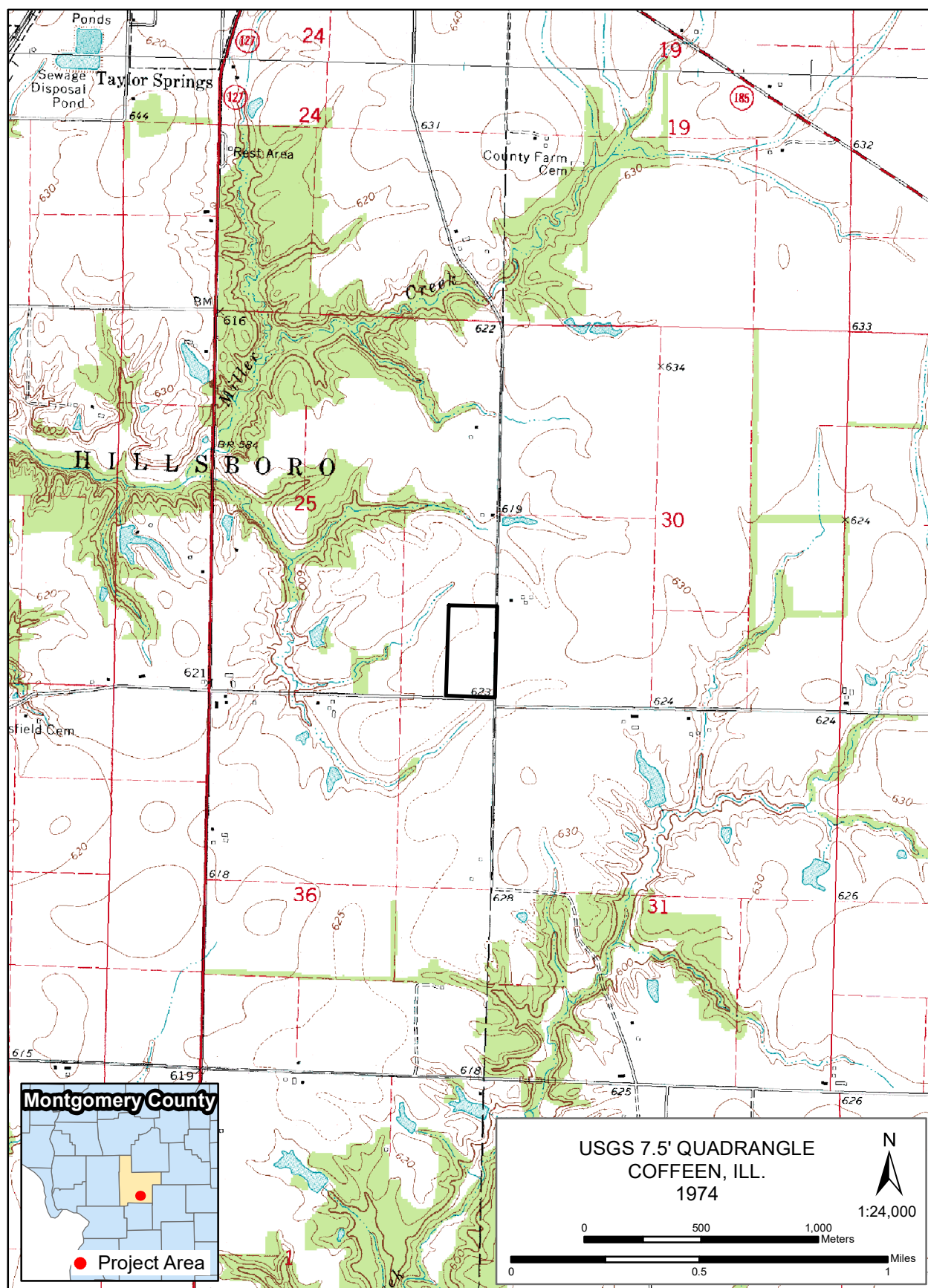


Figure A-1. Topographic location of the project area, Montgomery County, Illinois (USGS 1974).

Attachment B

Historic Maps



Figure B-1. Portion of the 1818 GLO plat illustrating the project area (Illinois State Archives 2023).

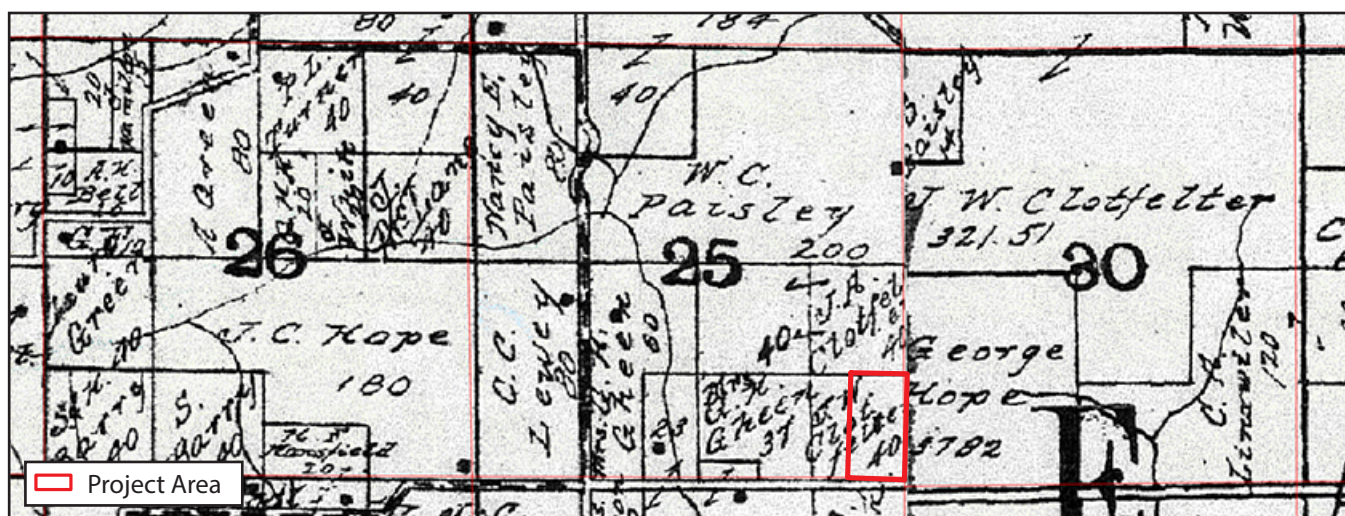


Figure B-2. Portion of the 1902 Litchfield Herald's Map of Montgomery County, Illinois illustrating the project area (Hixson Map Company 1902).

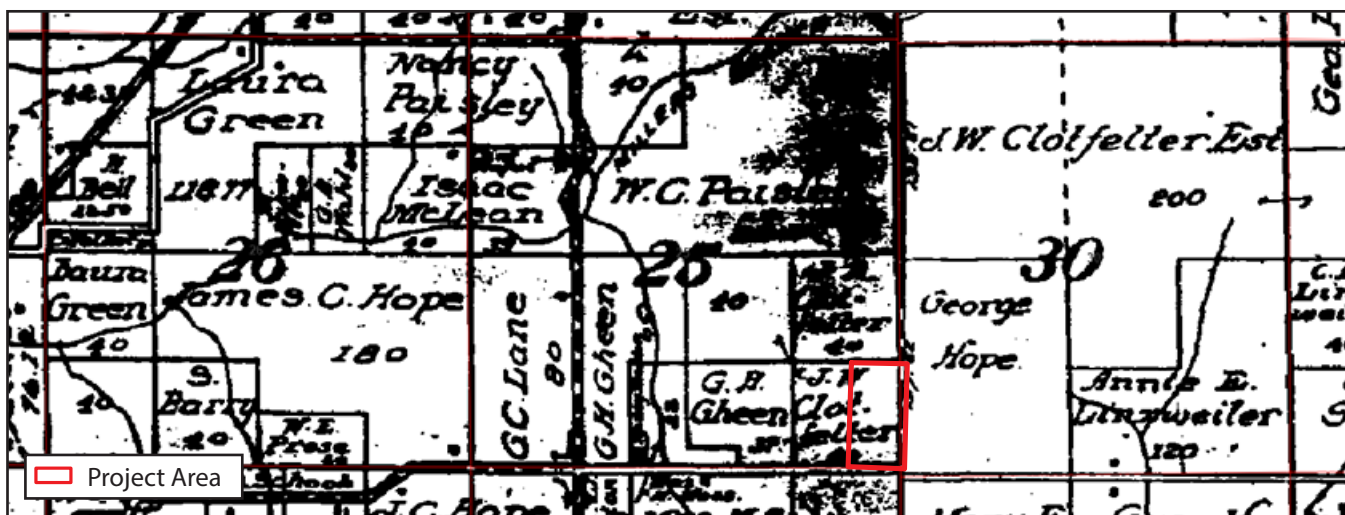


Figure B-3. Portion of the 1912 Standard Atlas of Montgomery County, Illinois illustrating the project area (George A. Ogle and Company 1912).

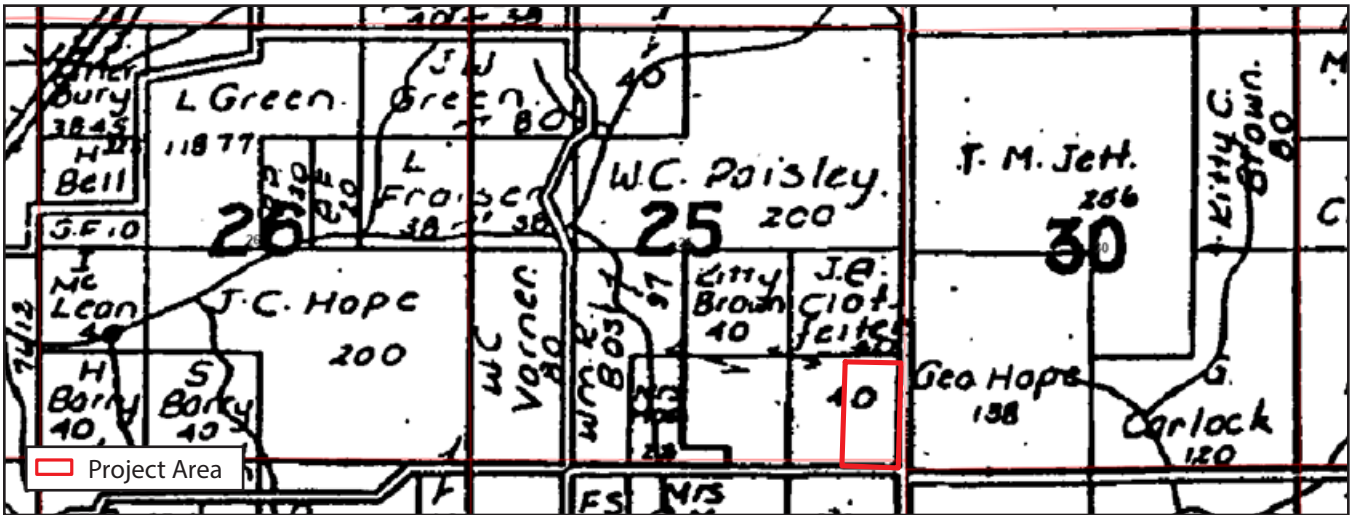


Figure B-4. Portion of the 1925 Plat Map of Montgomery County, Illinois illustrating the project area (W. W. Hixson and Company 1925).

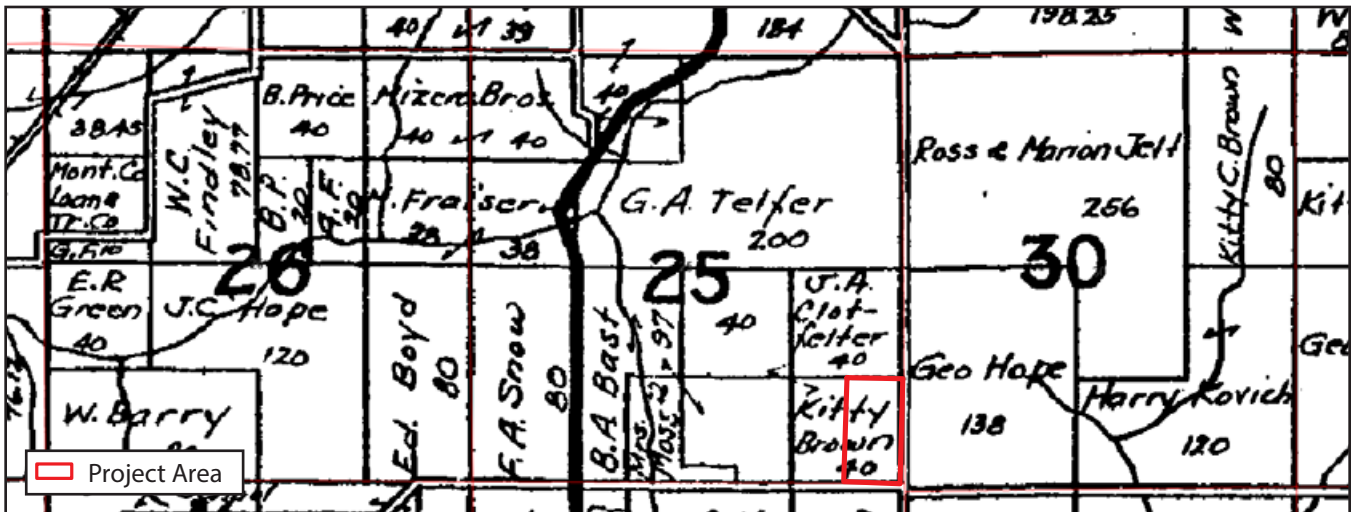


Figure B-5. Portion of the 1941 Plat Map of Montgomery County, Illinois illustrating the project area (W. W. Hixson and Company 1941).

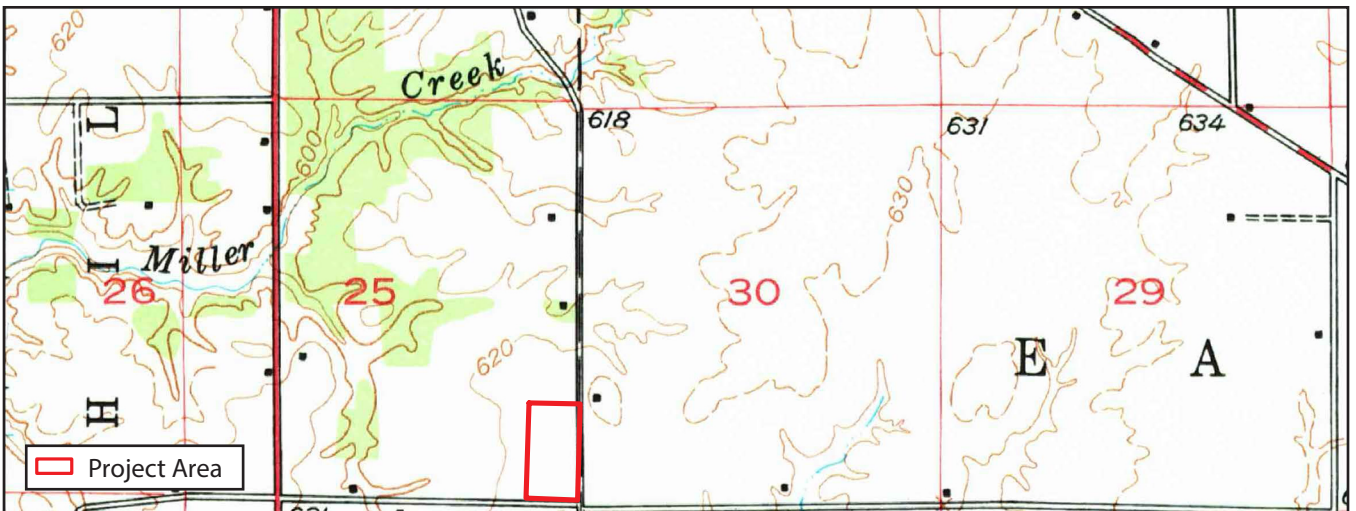


Figure B-6. Portion of the 1947 USGS Hillsboro, Ill. 15-minute series topographic quadrangle illustrating the project area (USGS 1947).

Attachment C

Project Photographs



Figure C-1. Project area overview from southeast corner, looking northwest.



Figure C-2. Project area overview from southeast corner, looking west.



Figure C-3. East-central portion of project area, looking north.



Figure C-4. Northeast corner of project area, looking northeast.

Attachment D

References Cited

George A. Ogle and Company

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Hickson, Robert

2007 FAP42/IL 127 Bridge over Miller Creek SN 068-0022. Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program (ITARP). Champaign, Illinois.

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2023 1818 GLO Township Plat, Township 8 North, Range 4 West. In Illinois Secretary of State, Federal Township Plats of Illinois website <http://landplats.ilsos.net/>

Lence, Cally

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Studemund, Sarah

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1947 Hillsboro, Illinois, 15 minute topographic map.

1974 Coffeen, Illinois, 7.5 minute topographic map.

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1966 *General Soil Map of Illinois*. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Illinois, Urbana. In cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

W.W. Hixson and Company

1925 Plat Book of Montgomery County, Illinois. W.W. Hixson and Company. Rockford, Illinois.

1941 Montgomery County, Illinois. W.W. Hixson and Company. Rockford, Illinois.

