



Illinois State Archaeological Survey
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Document Transmittal Form

To: State Historic Preservation Office-IDNR
Attn: Review & Compliance
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Project Information

NIFS Project No. FPDCC-198

County: Cook

ISAS Log No. 22088

FPCC Parcel: Deer Grove Preserve

Project Title: Deer Grove Culvert History

FPCC Region: 2

Survey Results

Site(s) in Project Area: N/A

NRHP Recommended Sites/ Recommendations:

No NRHP eligible sites were identified within the project area.

NRHP Non-eligible Sites/ Explanation:

No NRHP non-eligible sites were identified within the project area.

Recommendations:

As a result of the on-location reconnaissance and archival research for the Deer Grove Culvert project one culvert was investigated prior to its removal for infrastructure improvements within the Deer Grove preserve. In consultation with the ISHPO and Forest Preserve, the accompanying documentation was completed as the narrative recordation portion for the culvert replacement and to assist in preparation of interpretive signage at another more prominent culvert location within the preserve.

While the larger landscape in which the culvert exists may be potentially eligible for the NRHP, the culvert itself has been previously modified in the 1930s and is not recommended as NRHP eligible. As such, it was approved for removal. This document serves as part of the creative mitigation for the removal. Should there be ground disturbance planned for areas outside the

current project boundary, further archaeological/archival investigations are recommended to evaluate additional potential NRHP eligibility.



Submitted By:

Date: 1/4/23

Dr. Thomas J. Loebel, Assistant Director, Illinois State Archaeological Survey

History of Deer Grove
October 2022
Paula Bryant, ISAS

Introduction and Project Background:

This report provides background research on the Deer Grove Preserves within the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) in advance of proposed infrastructure improvements including the removal and replacement of a historic culvert in Deer Grove West (Figure 1, Figure 2). This research was undertaken as part of the mitigation of potential adverse effects to a historic landscape that is significant to the development of the Cook County Forest Preserves and landscape design in the early to mid-twentieth century.

Today, the Deer Grove Forest Preserves consists of Deer Grove West, which contains the Deer Grove Woodland and Wetland Nature Preserve; and Deer Grove East, which contains the Jens Jensen Grasslands and Woodland Land and Water Reserve and Camp Reinberg, a recreational facility. The preserves are located approximately 2 miles from the center of the Village of Palatine, Illinois. A brief history of the preserves in this area is given to provide context and then specific information on the area in which the historic culvert is located in the Deer Grove West Preserve is also provided.

Deer Grove Area before the FPCC

Historically, the forested area in Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10 in Palatine Township was known as Deer Grove at least as far back as the 1840 GLO plat (Appendix A) and was mentioned as being named Deer Grove since before the arrival of Europeans into the area (Andreas 1884). Grassy Lake was situated on the eastern border of Deer Grove, suggesting a resource rich ecotone for those using the area. The GLO maps shows two other groves, Missionary and English to the south; and several tributaries or intermittent streams and swampy areas associated with Salt Creek to the east. In the southern portion of the Township, a road from the Fox River to Chicago (now Algonquin Rd) traversed Sections 29, 30, and 32-35. By the time of the GLO survey, European settlement had begun. Approximately 12 fields and three houses are present within the township at large. One field (Section 4) and two houses (one in Section 4; one in Section 8) are shown within Deer Grove.

Early settlers were aware of the importance the area had to the Potawatomi, who, until about 1845, would frequent the area to visit their ancestral burial site in Plum Grove, also located in the recently platted township (Andreas 1884, Paddock, et al. 1955). Established trails and artifacts found in the surrounding forests spoke to the long occupation of Native Americans that was present before Euro-American settlement. For several years in the early 1920s a September gathering was held by Native Americans within Deer Grove Preserve and neighboring Camp Reinberg to commemorate the “American Indian day” that was designated by the Illinois legislature. The multi-day gathering was held on old hunting grounds in Deer Grove, with tribal representatives from Minnesota to Oklahoma (Oglala Sioux, Potawatomi, Meskwaki, Pawnee, and Blackfeet) in attendance (Chicago Tribune 1920a, 1920b, 1923a).

Euro-American Land use and History

One of the earliest settlers, and first postmaster, George Ela, had his home and farmland in the northeast corner of Section 4, which contains the culvert in need of removal and replacement (US Surveyor General’s Office [GLO]1840; Paddock et al. 1955) (Appendix A). He applied for the deeds to the NE ¼ and SE ¼ Sections in 1841 and was granted them with a preemption noted on the federal deed for the NE ¼ in 1843 (Illinois State Archives 1841, USBLM 1843). The preemption indicates that George Ela had occupied and improved the land prior to the release of the land for sale by the Federal Government. Ela moved to Deer

Grove in 1835 (Palatine Historical Society 2022), settling on land in Section 4 of Palatine Township and Section 33 of Ela Township to the north. George Ela, a successful businessman and landowner, later moved first to the Lake County area and subsequently to Barrington. However, the parcel containing the culvert remained under Ela's ownership until the late nineteenth century.

The natural landscape and vegetation were largely cleared for agriculture and settlement, although Deer Grove appears to remain in timber throughout the nineteenth century. By 1851, several roads traversed the township, including what are now called Dundee and Ela Roads, which border Deer Grove on the south and west, respectively. The railroad came to Palatine Township in 1855, with a depot in 1866, the year the Village was established. By 1861, two roads passed through Section 4 to connect with Dundee Ave, and an area of parcels west of the Ela property were subdivided into woodlots for use by local families (Flower 1861; Paddock, et al. 1955). While owners may have changed hands over the years, the use of the land appears to have remained relatively static, though by 1886 parts of the George Ela property had been given lot numbers and a subdivided parcel with his former residence was owned by Delia Sinnott who was George Ela's granddaughter (Palatine Historical Society 2022; L.M. Snyder 1886). George Ela died in 1882, but probate was not completed until 1892 resulting in his continued listed ownership on the later plats (Palatine Historical Society 2022). By the time of purchase by the Forest Preserve in 1916 the former Ela property was primarily owned by William O. Lindley, who sold to the FPCC in 1916 (FPCC Records 2022).

Deer Grove and Public Recreation

The Deer Grove area as a whole is known as the "Jewel of Palatine", stemming from its beautiful setting, rich forest resources and habitats. In 1911, an ambitious local veterinarian, Dr. J.W. Wilson, developed "Deer Grove Park" a 70-acre recreational area on the east side of Quentin Road where the Palatine, Lake Zurich & Wauconda Railroad stopped, to encourage city folk to go out to the country for the day (Palatine Historical Society 2011). The park was marketed as a "Beautiful Play Ground at Chicago's Doorway." An undated promotional booklet described the park as a "beautiful, rolling, natural timberland for a playground for all lovers of nature." Amenities included a dance pavilion, an automobile roadway, hitching capacity to accommodate 600 horses, a running track, ball grounds with bleachers and rustic seats to accommodate 500 people, a refreshment parlor, dining hall, and water "of the purest crystal" from a 230' deep well (Wilson n.d.). A spur line, the Palatine, Lake Zurich, and Wauconda Railroad was in operation beginning in 1911 and had a stop at Dr. Wilson's Deer Grove Park. However, the line was ultimately unsuccessful, and was dissolved by 1920 (Paddock, et al. 1955).

Many of the landscape features Dr. Wilson sought to capitalize were also noted by the Plan Commission for the nascent Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC). The FPDCC was one part of the larger *Plan of Chicago* proposed in 1909 by Daniel Burnham. This forward thinking text called for an Outer Park System around the city to enhance the lives of the citizenry and aid in maintaining a healthy ecosystem around an urban center. With a railroad already in place since the mid-1800s, accessibility to the area would have been seen as an added bonus to these properties in the northwest of the county.

The *Plan of Chicago* reflects a larger movement that sought to provide city dwellers access to natural environments and recreational areas. By the early 1920s, roadways had also been improved such that motorists could more readily make a day trip to the nearby preserves.

Deer Grove and the FPCC

The origin of Deer Grove as a preserve is directly connected to the beginnings of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, an effort that spanned over a decade in the early 20th century. In 1904 Dwight Perkins, the architect and a founder of the Prairie School, and noted landscape architect Jens Jensen

among others began lobbying for the creation of a permanent preserve system around Chicago that would preserve the natural landscapes. Supporters included Daniel Burnham and the Commercial Club of Chicago. The *Plan of Chicago* therefore incorporated landscape architect Jens Jensen's approach of supporting the preservation of native landscapes within a design. Dwight Perkins was central in obtaining public and municipal support for the effort.

Jens Jensen not only conducted exhaustive studies of the outlying districts, beginning in 1899 for the Special Park Commission (Hayes 1949); but 9 years later was still involved with the project when he gave a persuasive tour to convince the Outer Belt Park Commission of the value of creating a forest preserve district. (Hayes 1949). This method of giving tours to the general public and public officials was integral to winning the approval of the constituents who would benefit from the preserves once created. Perkins dedicated over two decades to his work in lobbying for the Forest Preserve District and in early years would spend many a weekend at locations all over the county, including Deer Grove, leading Saturday Afternoon Walking Club excursions espousing the natural and cultural resources as well as restorative properties that an afternoon in the woods provided.

The sensibilities of Jens Jensen's naturalistic style that influenced the Prairie School of architecture, future landscape designers, and conservationists can still be seen in parts of Deer Grove, though structures that are currently visible were primarily the work of later groups like the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. Jensen's impact is evident in the development of not only the Cook County Forest Preserve District, but the Illinois state park system, and the Indiana Dunes State Park and National Lakeshore. His works are also still present in Chicago and can be visited today, like Garfield Park, and Columbus Park, where classic stacked stones resembling natural rock outcroppings found in Midwest landscapes create waterfalls and a council ring, for gathering together in nature for storytelling and contemplating nature.

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County was officially established in 1914. The first parcel acquired by the FPDCC was 500 acres in what is now Deer Grove Forest Preserve in 1916 (Cook County Forest Preserve 2022). These 500 acres, originally called Forest Preserve Number 1, were the first of 20,000 acres that formed the original nucleus of Forest Preserve properties identified by the Plan Committee (established in 1916) as the highest quality natural areas within the county that would best serve the public needs and conservation efforts. Today the FPDCC holdings total over 70,000 acres and represent 11 percent of land in Cook County. In 1929, a proposal which came to be known as the 80/20 guideline was adopted to keep a general proportion of the preserves as 80 percent natural area and 20 percent devoted to development and recreation (Prairie Research Institute [PRI] 2014). Deer Grove Forest Preserve represents the first preserve in what is one of the largest and oldest Forest Preserve Districts in the United States.

Deer Grove West

In 1916, a 500-acre area within Deer Grove was the first preserve acquired by the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Purchased from over 100 landowners, it was formally dedicated in 1917 with a Country Life Festival in which the children from local public schools and citizens participated. In his annual message of 1918, President Reinberg reported that 942 acres in "Deer Grove Park" had been acquired for a total of \$103,372. In 1919, the name was officially changed to Deer Grove, citing the fact that it had been called as such for the better part of the previous 75 years (Mann 1965).

Once acquired, the land was improved upon, with public access via trails, picnic groves, and later a toboggan run to provide year-round recreational facilities. Within the first year, a dam was built for \$500 to create a lake for swimming and skating (Reinberg 1917), with a proposal for a second dam and lake (Herrick 1924). A 1942 article notes the 4 miles of paved road for visitors to access the many attractive

parts of the preserve (Becker 1942). These roads are visible on the 1938 aerial (ILHAP 2022) but are not shown on the 1923 and 1935 USGS topographic maps, where a loop from the original entrance at the corner of West Dundee and North Quentin Roads around the southern lake to Camp Reinberg is shown. The expanded road system may have replaced earlier dirt trails, to better enable motorized access to the preserve. The improvements would have encompassed several culverts along the roadways throughout Deer Grove, similar to the one at the center of this project. The culvert in its present form likely dates to construction of landscape features by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The landscaping of the forest preserve therefore reflects both Jensen's focus on water features and other enhancements to the natural landscape, and the CCC and National Park Service focus on the use on natural materials to create landscape features.

One benefit of the early acquisition of this parcel, which eventually grew to over 1300 acres, was that the grove present on the 1840 GLO remained largely intact. By creating the preserve, the Forest Preserve District has been able to use this area for over a century to encourage public access, foster the environmental development and rehabilitation/restoration of the health of high-quality natural areas and habitats in a wide swath of land. At Deer Grove, the rolling upland forest, wooded ravines, wetlands and prairies have had years of dedicated restoration work that build upon its strong foundation; in August 2009 the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission dedicated its 500th site location at the 1,350 acres Deer Grove West Woodland and Wetland Preserve (IDNR).

Deer Grove East

Between 1931 and continuing through at least 1964, over 600 additional acres in Deer Grove East were acquired. The land here included the former Dr. Wilson's Deer Grove Park, which had been purchased by the Chicago, Palatine, and Wauconda Railroad then sold to the FPCC in 1931, where it was named Camp Reinberg after the first president of the Forest Preserve Board.

In January of 2017, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission dedicated the 220-acre Jens Jensen Grasslands and Woodland Land and Water Reserve within the larger 624 acre Jens Jensen Nature Preserve, also known as Deer Grove East. The area was chosen for its important ecological quality within the mesic woodland, freshwater marsh, sedge meadow and on-going prairie habitat restoration all of which hosts 398 species of native plants and 25 bird species in greatest need of conservation (FPDCC 2017).

Camp Reinberg

The land upon which Camp Reinberg sits was initially purchased by the FPCC in 1931 from the Chicago, Palatine, and Wauconda Railroad. Previously known as Dr. Wilson's Deer Grove Park, the facilities at Camp Reinberg were utilized by thousands of visitors to the forest preserve for anything from day trips, camping excursions, restorative getaways for women and children, and large gatherings of people (Figure 2-Figure 19). A train stop was present for several years, until the popularity of automobiles outstripped the need. Throughout the FPCC ownership of the property it has been a camp, but it has had several changes in the frequency of use, depending on the prevailing attitudes towards camping in the preserves. Most recently, the revitalization of promoting camping in the preserves included several upgrades to the camp through the 2013 FPCC Camping Master Plan. This called for several types of access to camping from tent pads to cabins to RV hookups, promoting engagement with nature at different levels to accommodate for the variety of where people are in their relationship with the outdoors.

The CCC at Deer Grove

Camp Deer Grove, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) site was established in 1934 at Deer Grove (Lt. Elmer B. Kolb, commanding officer). At least one segregated African American group, Company 605, was located at this area (Chicago Defender 1936). The 1938 aerial photography shows two groups of structures within the Deer Grove preserves, though it is likely they would have been encamped at Camp Reinberg, as the facilities for housing a large number of people there were present from the Deer Grove Park days. In 1937, a fourth anniversary of the founding of the CCC was held with a tour in National Park Service vehicles to give the attendees a comprehensive look at the impact of the projects that the CCC had been completing to enhance the areas in which they were working in Deer Grove and beyond (Chicago Defender 1937).

Much of the stone masonry work visible in FPCC picnic shelters, buildings, and trail work including culverts was completed during the days of the CCC as they were often stationed throughout forest preserves. The work force would have been using common materials in wood and stone, which would have directly played to the strengths of the ideas behind conservation landscape design. The architectural plans for the culvert likely would have been drawn up around the same time that the CCC camp was active within Deer Grove, suggesting that local improvements made would have included this culvert, and others within the preserve, along with an improved stone dam to replace the 1916/1917 structure. In addition to the infrastructure work, Roberts Mann noted that the CCC also built two groups of cabins at Camp Reinberg in the late 1930s (Mann 1965). This was the largest single project in the northwest preserves: six new cabins to house women and children sent to the camp in summer by the bureau of public welfare, each housing nine people (and costing \$600) plus a camp hospital with 10 beds (Kirkpatrick 1940).

The significance of Deer Grove Forest Preserves

Deer Grove West contains the first parcels of land purchased by one of the oldest and largest forest preserves in the United States. Combined with Deer Grove East, these preserves reflect the original purpose of the FPDCC to provide landscape preservation, public education and public recreation for the inhabitants of Cook County, particularly the heavily urbanized and industrialized areas of the city of Chicago.

Within the approximately 1,800 acres, there are 2 Illinois Nature Preserves that highlight the historic and ecological importance of the area and deepen the connection between early conservation efforts, the people who made them, and the recognition that the preserves are still considered to contain some of the highest quality natural areas within the state. Improvements by the Forest Preserve and their partners in maintaining the integrity and restoration of the tracts within the preserves offer opportunities to those who frequent the area to experience the high-quality Woodland and Wetland habitats along the trails that wind through them and acknowledge the people who paved the way for the above designations.

The Culvert and landscape architecture

The popularity and ease of access to Deer Grove for picnicking, hiking, and swimming, plus the camping facilities led to heavy use of the landscape (Figure 20-Figure 25). In addition to summer activities, winter sports were held on the lake that would have drawn in visitors all year round. In 1923, the Inner Lake at Deer Grove (West) was the one of the sites for ice skating races during the first annual Forest Preserve Races (Chicago Tribune 1923b). It was noted in local papers that it could be reached by the new concrete Dundee Road and through Palatine, suggesting other infrastructure improvements by the local municipality. The events continued over the years as evidenced by the 5th Annual Peter J. Miller Derby held at the Deer Grove Park Rink in Palatine (Chicago Tribune 1953)

It is likely the culvert was initially installed in 1916 or 1917 as part of the landscaping project to create Deer Grove Lake. This 20-acre landscape feature was formed by construction of an earthen dam with a split log bridge over the waterfall formed by the outlet (Figure 26, Figure 27). Several other intermittent streams in the area would have aided in providing water to the lake, including the stream that flows through the culvert discussed here.

Architectural plans for the current culvert from post-1932 drawings were found on file at the FPCC (Figure 28, Appendix B). These plans were prepared for the CCC, as indicated by the US Department of the Interior State Park Emergency Conservation notation in the lower right. However, as discussed above, this culvert was part of improvements to the extant infrastructure rather than part of a new landscaping plan. Similar plans would have been used for the other culverts that were updated within Deer Grove at that time. This may reflect increasing use of the automobile as a means to access the park, as the railroad is not present on the 1935 topographic map.

While many improvements were necessarily made to maintain working and accessible infrastructure, these replacements followed the original goals of the FPDCC, and show the influence of Jensen by creating modern access to nature without disrupting the experience of being in it.

Although the removal and replacement of this particular culvert is necessitated as part of infrastructure improvements, several contemporaneous culverts can be seen throughout Deer Grove that create the framework that underpins the larger cultural landscape. The installation of an interpretative sign as part of a creative mitigation measure at the location of a similar structure, gives preserve goers a chance to experience and engage with a small part of the history of the Deer Grove holdings.

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Figures for Deer Grove Culvert History
ISAS Log No. 22088
FPDCC-198

Figure 2. 1938 Aerial showing Deer Grove Modern Boundary and Culvert Location.

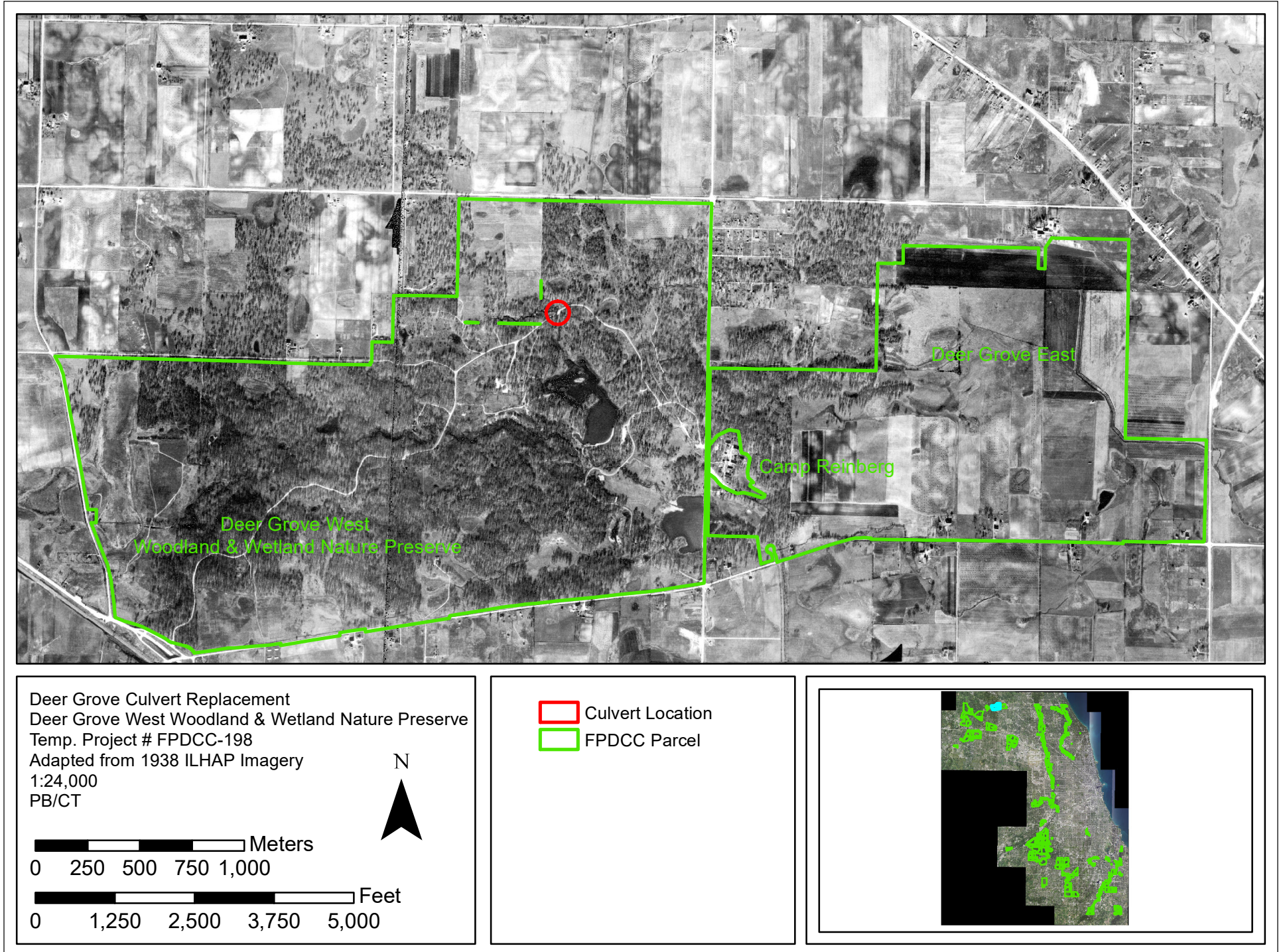




Figure 2. Camp Reinberg Entrance ca. 1900-1925 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 3. Camp Reinberg O'Connell Assembly Hall ca. 1903s (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 4. Camp Reinberg Superintendent's Office ca. 1903 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 5. Camp Reinberg Boy Scouts ca. 1903 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 6. Camp Reinberg Cabin ca. 1903 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 7. Camp Reinberg Library ca. 1903 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 8. Camp Reinberg Girls Dormitory ca. 1903 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 9. Camp Reinberg Cottage ca. 1903 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 10. Camp Reinberg Vehicle ca. 1930s (UIC FPDC Special Collection).



Figure 11. Camp Reinberg staff, Undated (Palatine Historical Society).



Figure 12. Camp Reinberg Camp Cabins ca. 1900-1925 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection)



Figure 13. Camp Reinberg Lawn Tennis ca. 1900-1925 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 14. Camp Reinberg Mothers Dormitory ca. 1930s (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 15. Camp Reinberg Interior Building with Women at Table (possibly Mothers Dormitory) ca. 1930s (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 16. Camp Reinberg Women gathering ca. 1938 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 17. Camp Reinberg Camp Activity Child Band 1938 (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 18. Camp Reinberg Camp Activity Children's Boxing ca. 1938 (UIC FPDC Special Collection).



Figure 19. Mess Hall Line 1938 (UIC FPCC Special Collection).



Figure 20. Recreation at the Deer Grove Lake, Undated (Courtesy Palatine Historical Society)



Figure 21. Recreation at the Deer Grove Lake, Undated (Courtesy Palatine Historical Society).



Figure 22. Recreation at the Deer Grove Lake, Undated (Courtesy Palatine Historical Society).



Figure 23. Recreation at the Deer Grove Lake, Undated (Courtesy Palatine Historical Society).



Figure 24. Deer Grove Beach and Lake, Undated (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 25. Deer Grove Lake Fallen Tree Bridge, Undated (UIC FPDCC Special Collection).



Figure 26. Early Image of Dam with 2 adults and 2 children, Undated (Courtesy Palatine Historical Society).



Figure 27. Early Image of Dam with 1 adult, Undated (Courtesy Palatine Historical Society).

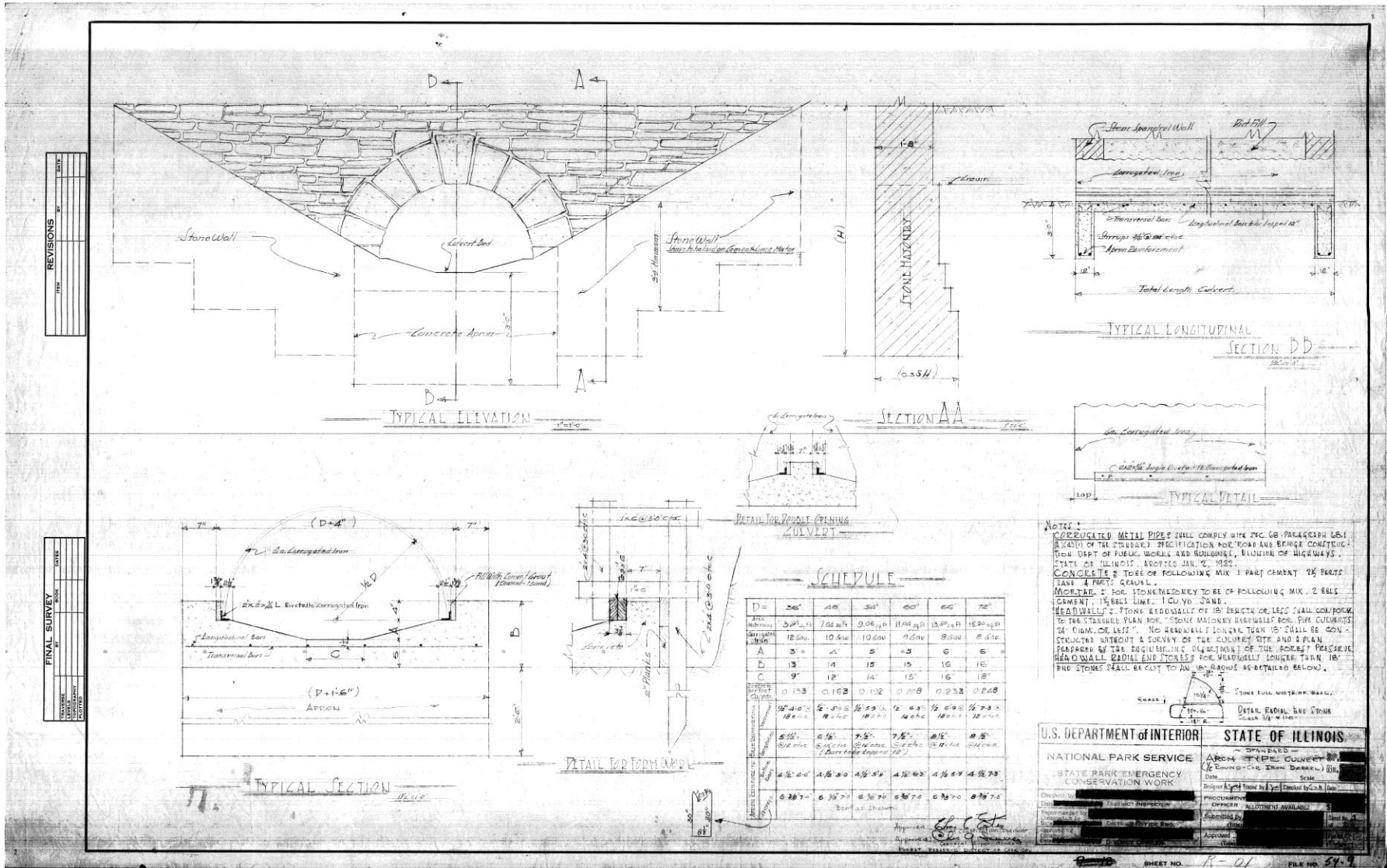
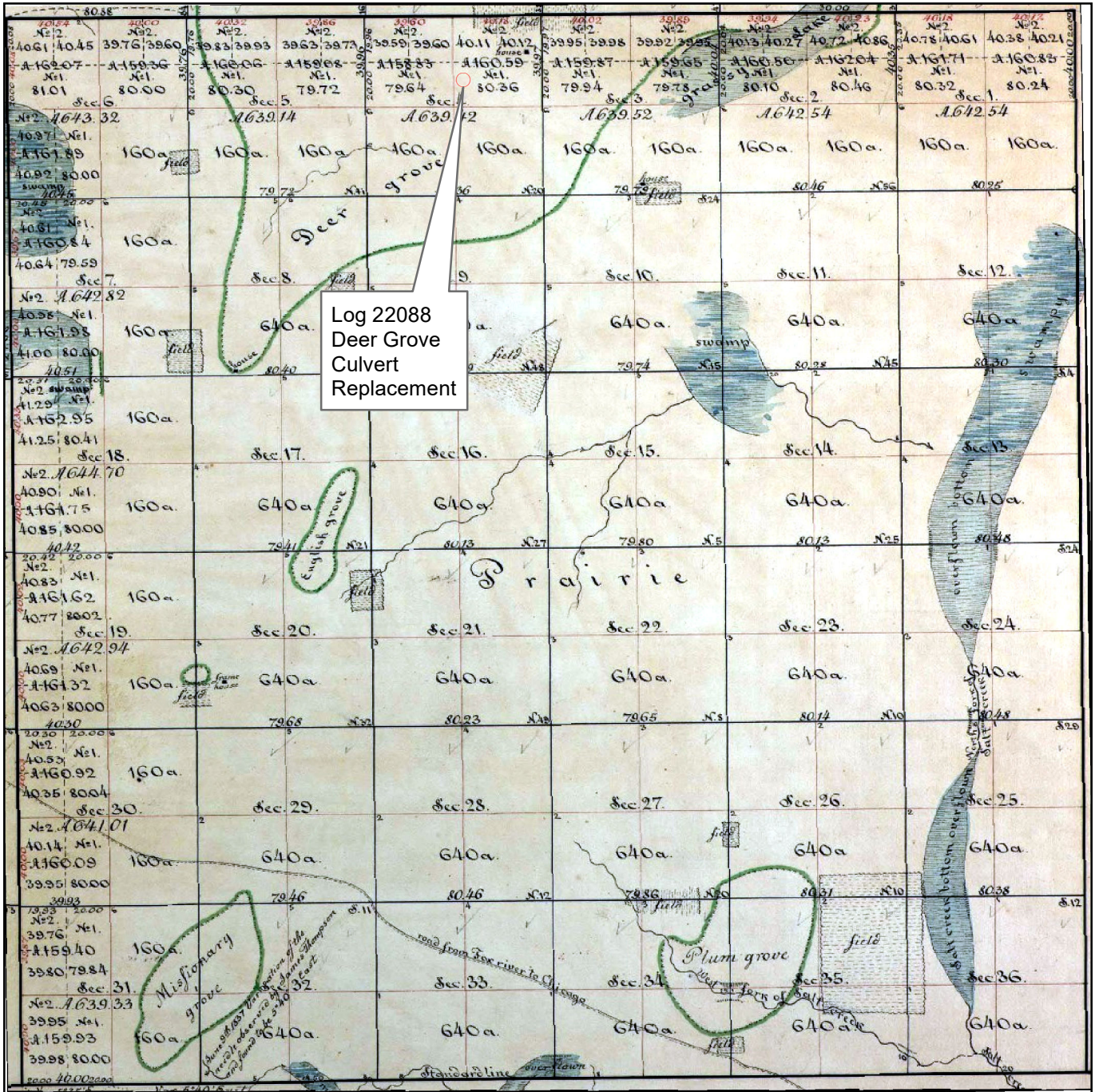


Figure 28. Post-1932 CCC Architectural Drawings of Deer Grove Culvert (On File at FPCC).

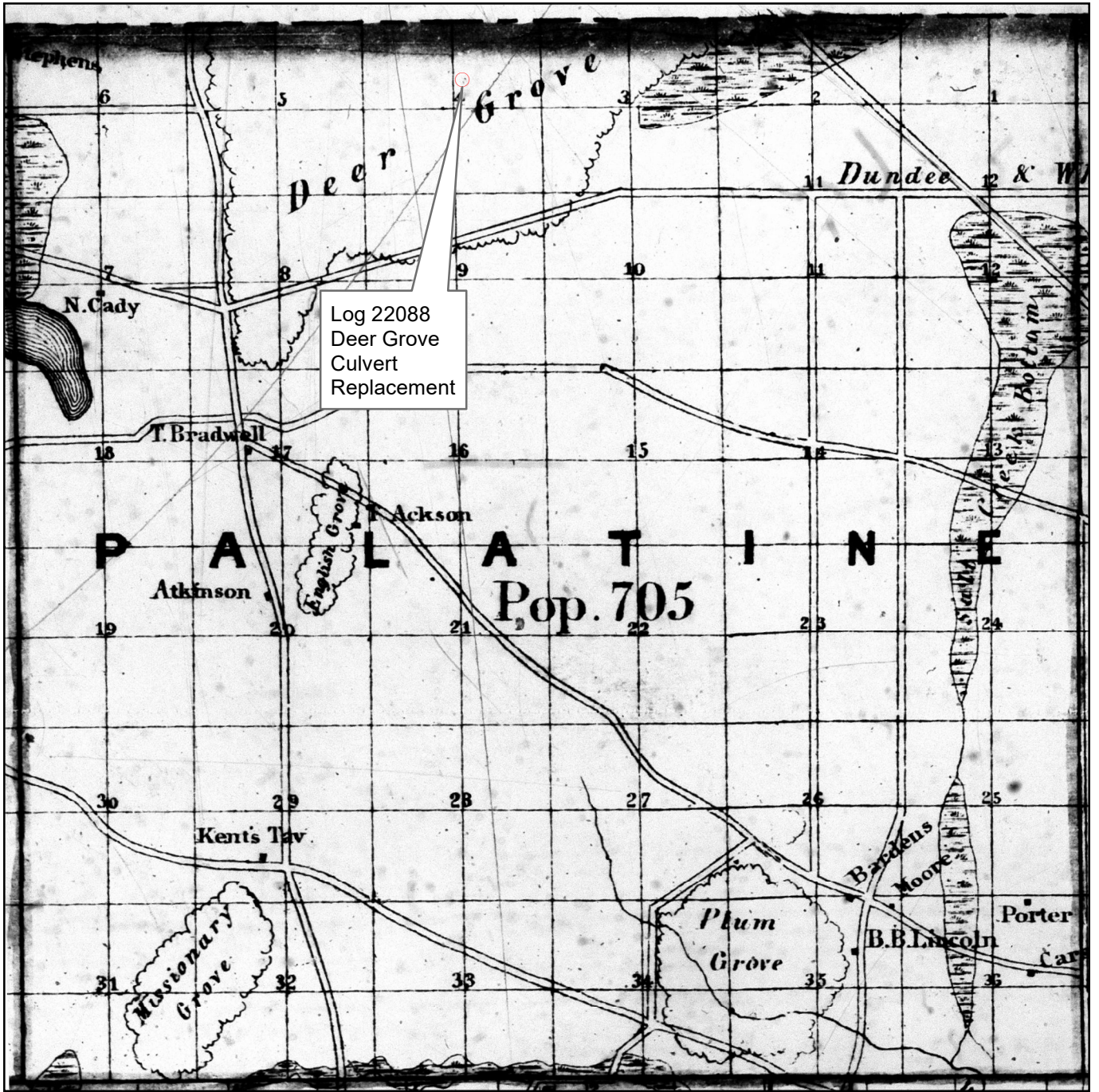
Appendix A
Historic Plats

ISAS Log No. 22088
FPDCC-198

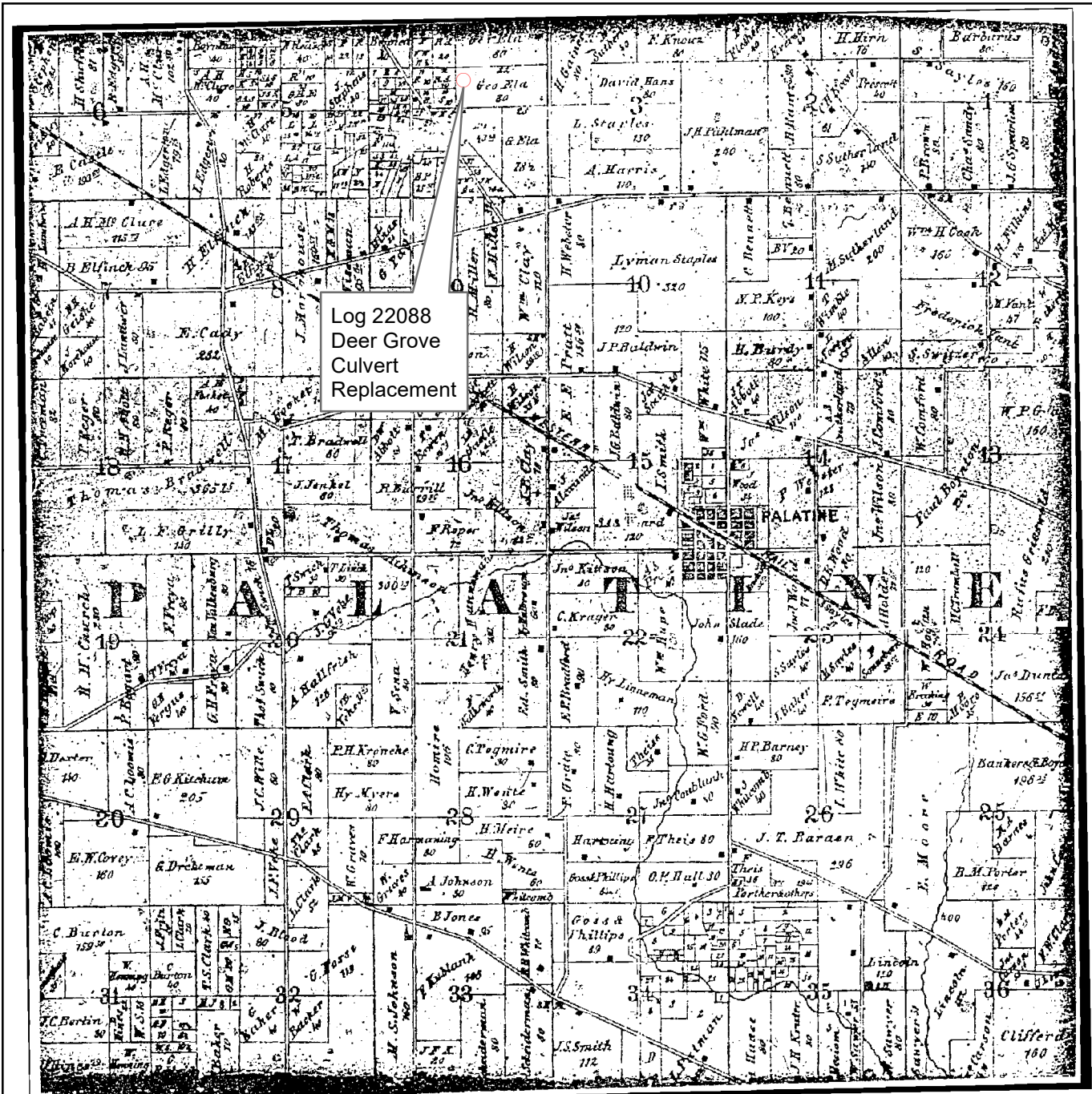
Deer Grove Culvert Replacement
Cook County



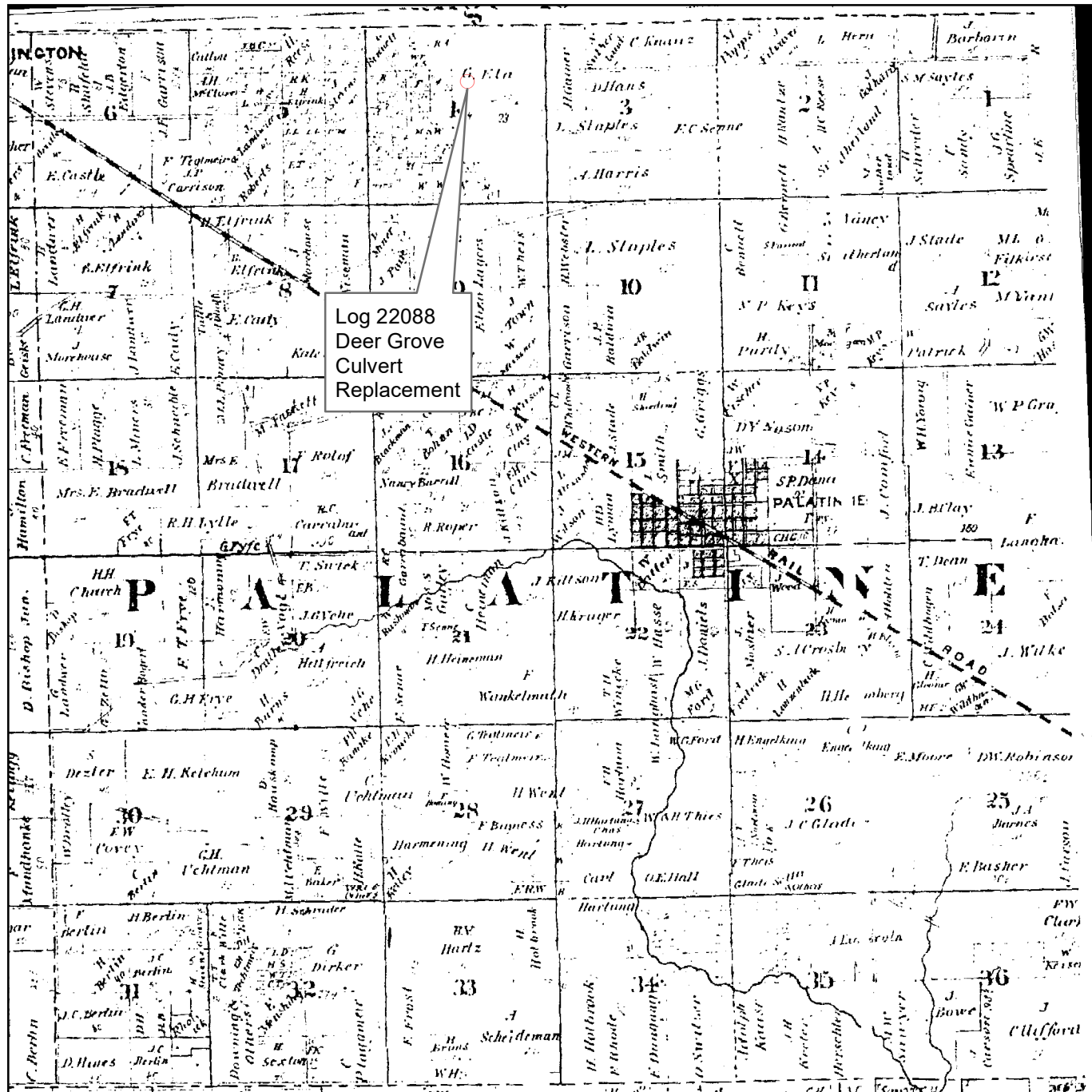
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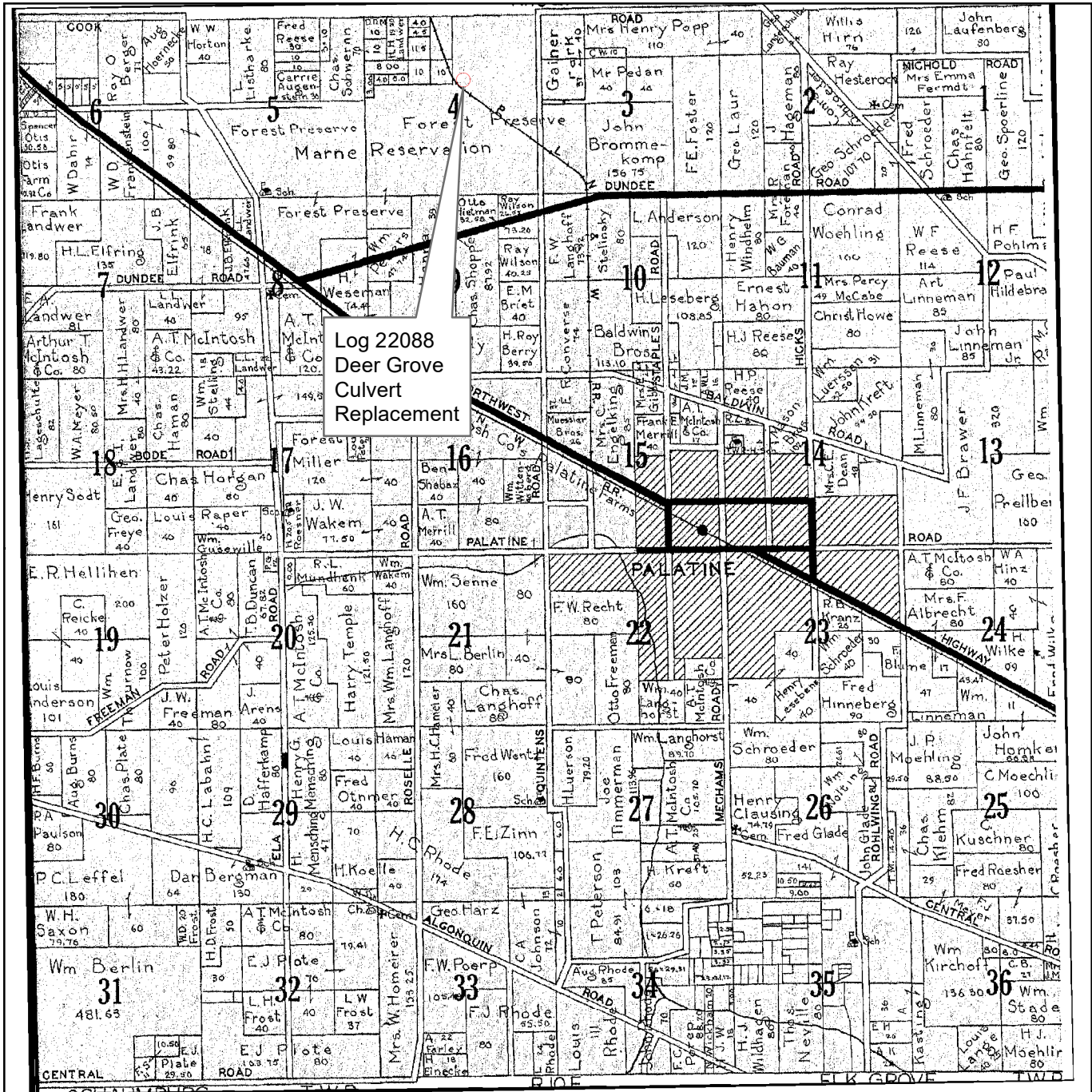


Cook County T42N R10E Sec. 4 (Warner & Beers 1876).



Log 22088
Deer Grove
Culvert
Replacement

Cook County T42N R10E Sec. 4 (Snyder 1890).



Log 22088
Deer Grove
Culvert
Replacement

Cook County T42N R10E Sec. 4 (Thrift Press 1926).

Appendix B
Field Photographs

ISAS Log# 22088
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Deer Grove Culvert Replacement
Cook County



Figure 1. East wall coping detail.



Figure 2. South elevation West half facing NNW.



Figure 3. South elevation West half facing NW.



Figure 4. South elevation West half facing NNW.



Figure 5. South culvert detail facing NW.



Figure 6. Coping on South elevation facing W.



Figure 7. Coping on South elevation facing SW.



Figure 8. Coping on South elevation facing SW.



Figure 9. Coping on South elevation facing E.



Figure 10. South elevation detail facing NE.



Figure 11. South culvert detail facing NE.



Figure 12. South elevation East half facing NE.



Figure 13. Coping on South elevation facing E.



Figure 14. South elevation East half facing NE.



Figure 15. South elevation with coping detail facing NNE.



Figure 16. North elevation East half facing SE.



Figure 17. North elevation East half facing SE.



Figure 19. North elevation West half facing SW.



Figure 20. North culvert detail facing S.



Figure 21. North elevation West half facing SW.



Figure 22. North elevation East half facing SE.



Figure 23. North elevation overview facing SW.



Figure 24. North elevation coping facing W.



Figure 25. North elevation East end coping detail facing S.



Figure 26. North elevation overview with tree facing SW.