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OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE

NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PROFILE REPORT  
MAY 1993

## PROFILE REPORT FOR

### Old Upper Mountain Road Site

By Niagara County Health Department  
MAY 1993

#### Site Description

The Old Upper Mountain Road Site is partially in the City of Lockport, partially in the Town of Lockport, Niagara County, New York. The Site is located in Appendix A, pages 1 through 8. The site is bounded by the Gulf Creek on the east, Harrison Waste Water Treatment Plant on the north, Somerset Railroad Corporation tracks to the west, Consolidated Railway tracks on the south.

The boundaries of the site are difficult to establish at this time, although it appears to include properties primarily owned by the City of Lockport and John Wohlfahrt, 493 Young Street, Tonawanda, New York 14150.

The site should not be confused with the City of Lockport Landfill located about 1,500 feet north of the Old Upper Mountain Road site.

Like the City of Lockport Landfill, the Old Upper Mountain Road Site lies on a re-entrant (angular indentation) of the Niagara Escarpment. A significant portion of the site is located at the top of a steep slope which borders the north and west sides of the site. It is expected that significant amount of debris has been pushed or eroded over the sides and now makes up part of the Gulf floor.

The Gulf Creek flows in a northerly direction and eventually discharges into Eighteen Mile Creek approximately one mile north of the site. A three acre unclassified wetland is located about 3,000 feet downstream.

#### Site Inspection

The site was initially discovered April 14, 1993 during a routine inspection of the Lockport City Landfill. Evidence of ash, glass debris, is noted through the top portion of the landfill. Recent dumping of trash/rubbish/tires is also noted at the southern end of the site.

It appears that a significant amount of this debris was pushed over the embankment and now is found on the side slope or at the bottom of the ravine.

Access to the top portion of the site is most easily accomplished from Old Upper Mountain Road through property owned by John Wohlfahrt.

Access to the bottom of the site (ravine) is most easily accomplished from Old Upper Mountain Road through property owned by Carl Costello. A stone driveway has been cut down the west side of the ravine.

The site is partially overgrown with thin brush, and no cap of significance is noted.

#### Previous Investigations

This department is unaware of any previous investigations of this site. It appears environmental and health regulatory agencies have not been aware of this site.

#### Exposure Potential

Exposure to contaminants at the site are possible through contact with surface wastes or surface waters of Gulf Creek. A spring originates from somewhere along the dumping face. Odors were not evident at the site, and organic vapors are not anticipated to be a major concern at this time.

#### Years of Operation

The dump was reportedly operated between the year 1921 until the 1950's. Access to the landfill at that time was from the east under a railroad viaduct just north of Old Upper Mountain Road viaduct (just south of the railroad viaduct). The 1958 aerial photograph clearly shows the access. In later years of operation, a gate was placed at the viaduct to control unauthorized dumpers because they reportedly dumped anywhere they felt rather than at the dump face in the back. It was, however, left unlocked and anyone could push it open. The method of operation seemed to be based on "filling the Gulf". The City of Lockport moved its dumping area in the 1950's to the area known today as the Lockport City Landfill, on property which it reportedly repossessed on taxes. Again, the method of operation seemed only as away to "fill in the Gulf".

Ownership History

<u>Date</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Transferred To</u>
9-29-05 (L-284 P-324)	Estate of John Bergmann	Myron D. Clapsattle
2-17-25 (L-1446 P-542)	Estate of Myron D. Clapsattle	Mark D. Clapsattle (son) & Marie C. Christy (daughter)
5-19-49 (L-952 P-81)	Mark D. Clapsattle & Marie C. Christy	George Astalos Elmer Astalos Henry Lukask
10-31-56 (L-1240 P-288)	Henry Lukask 248 Oliver Street North Tonawanda	Julius Bergman
10-31-56 (L-1240 P-362)	George Astalos 289 Drake Street North Tonawanda & Elmer Astalos 273 Homestead North Tonawanda	Julius Bergman
12-28-65 (L-1446 P-519)	Julius Bergman 164 Covington Road Buffalo	Eleanor Liptak
9-26-67 (L-1469 P-1094)	Eleanor Liptak 2160 Maple Road Williamsville	Lock City Reclamation "a domestic corporation"
11-18-76	Lock City Reclamation 2160 Maple Road Williamsville	Betty S. Leach
11-19-76	Betty S. Leach 18 Jennell Drive Grand Island	John J. Wohlfahrt 493 Young Street Tonawanda

### Operator

The dump was reportedly rented from Mr. Clapsattle and operated by the City of Lockport. The site was reportedly used by the same clientele as the City of Lockport Landfill as there was only a shift in location between the Old Upper Mountain Road Site and the City of Lockport Landfill. Clientele reportedly included Harrison Radiator, (waste oils, solvents, etc.), VanDeMark Chemical, Milward Alloys, Vanchlor, Upson, Cotton Batting. Reportedly, different areas were assigned to different companies. Neighboring residents often referred to the Harrison Dump, Upson Dump, etc. Several tin shack squatters were seen living at the dump salvaging glass, rags, scrap metal, etc.

### Other Physical Features

A City of Lockport sewer line bisects the site (main service line for Harrison Radiator). Also, a cave was once accessible (at least 30 feet deep), but has since been covered by debris.

### Recommendations

The site is in need of a thorough investigation so that a better determination as to the significance of the site can be made. It appears the hazardous wastes have most likely been disposed of based on the descriptions of past activities at the site, as well as the current knowledge of the Lockport City Landfill.

Due to the similarities of the City of Lockport Landfill, this department recommends an investigation similar in scope.

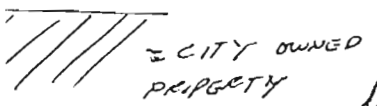
Recommended field activities should include surveying and mapping, air/soil gas survey, subsurface geophysical survey, and preliminary environmental sampling (surface soils, surface water/sediments, soil borings, waste samples, leachate samples).

## Appendix A

### Page

A-1	U.S.G.S. Topographic Map
A-2	City of Lockport Tax Map
A-3	Town of Lockport Tax Map
A-4	1938 Aerial Photograph
A-5	1958 Aerial Photograph
A-6	1966 Aerial Photograph
A-7	1982 Aerial Photograph
A-8	1991 Aerial Photograph
A-9	Niagara County Health Department Sketch

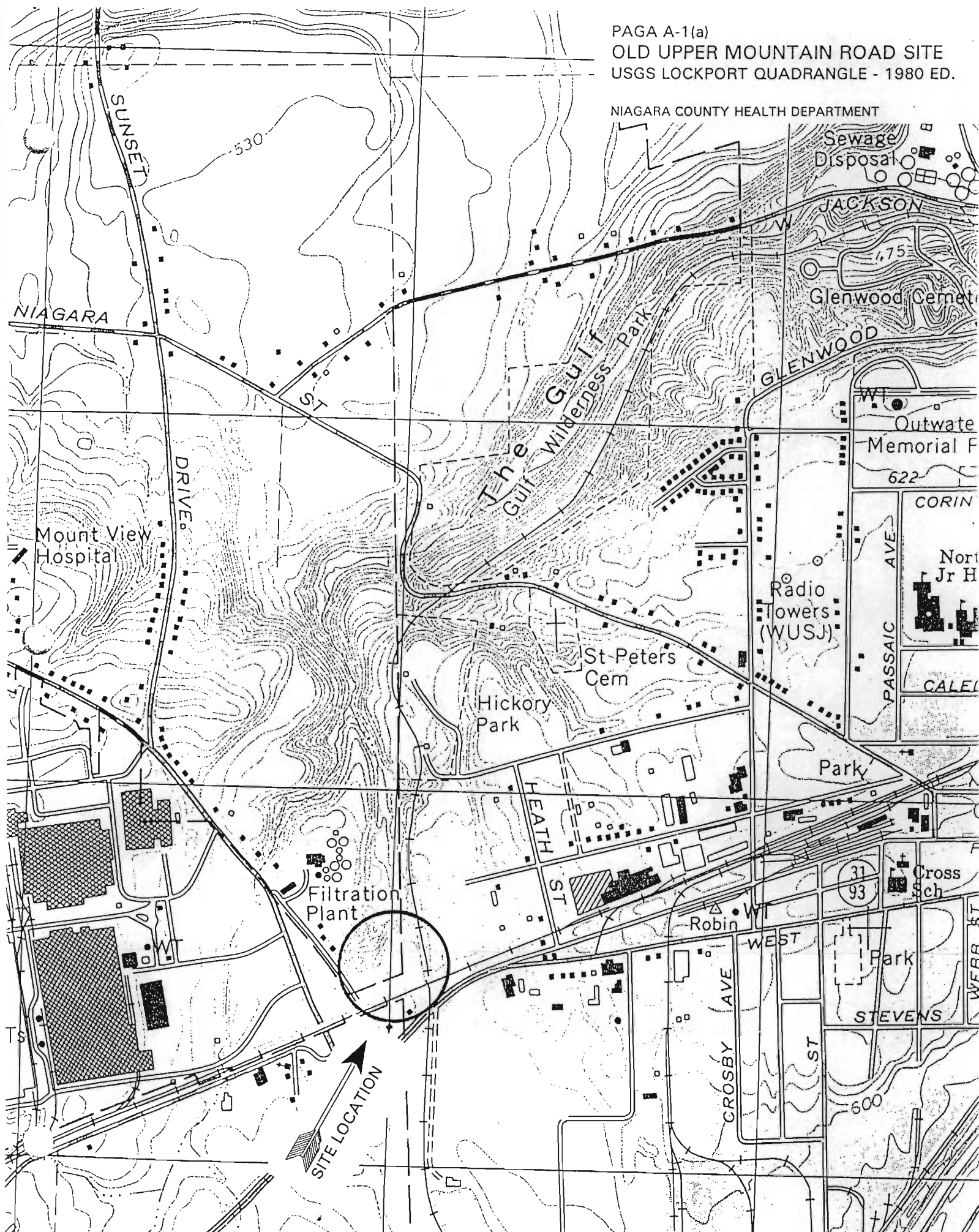
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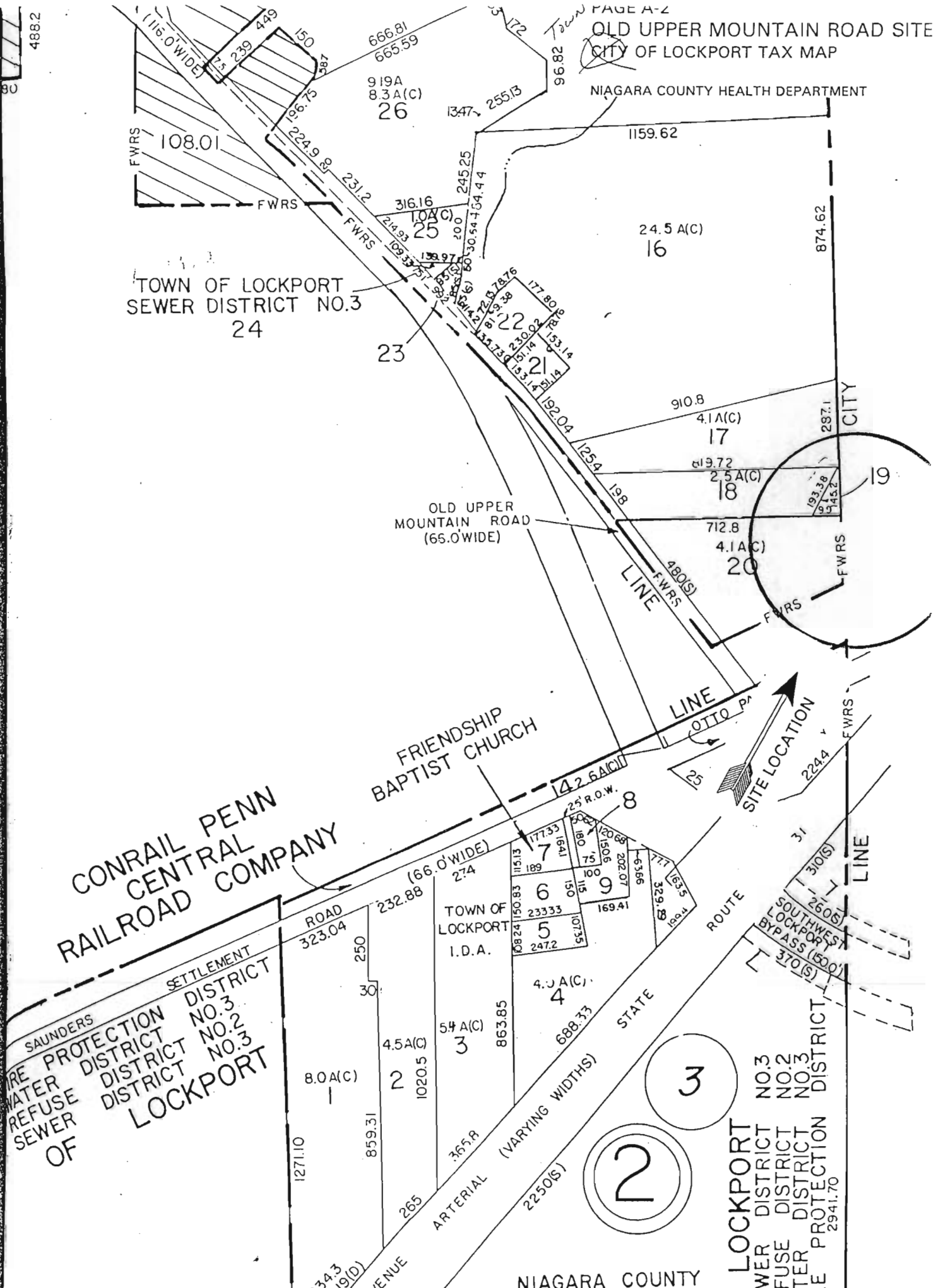
SITE LOCATION

PAGA A-1(a)  
OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
USGS LOCKPORT QUADRANGLE - 1980 ED.

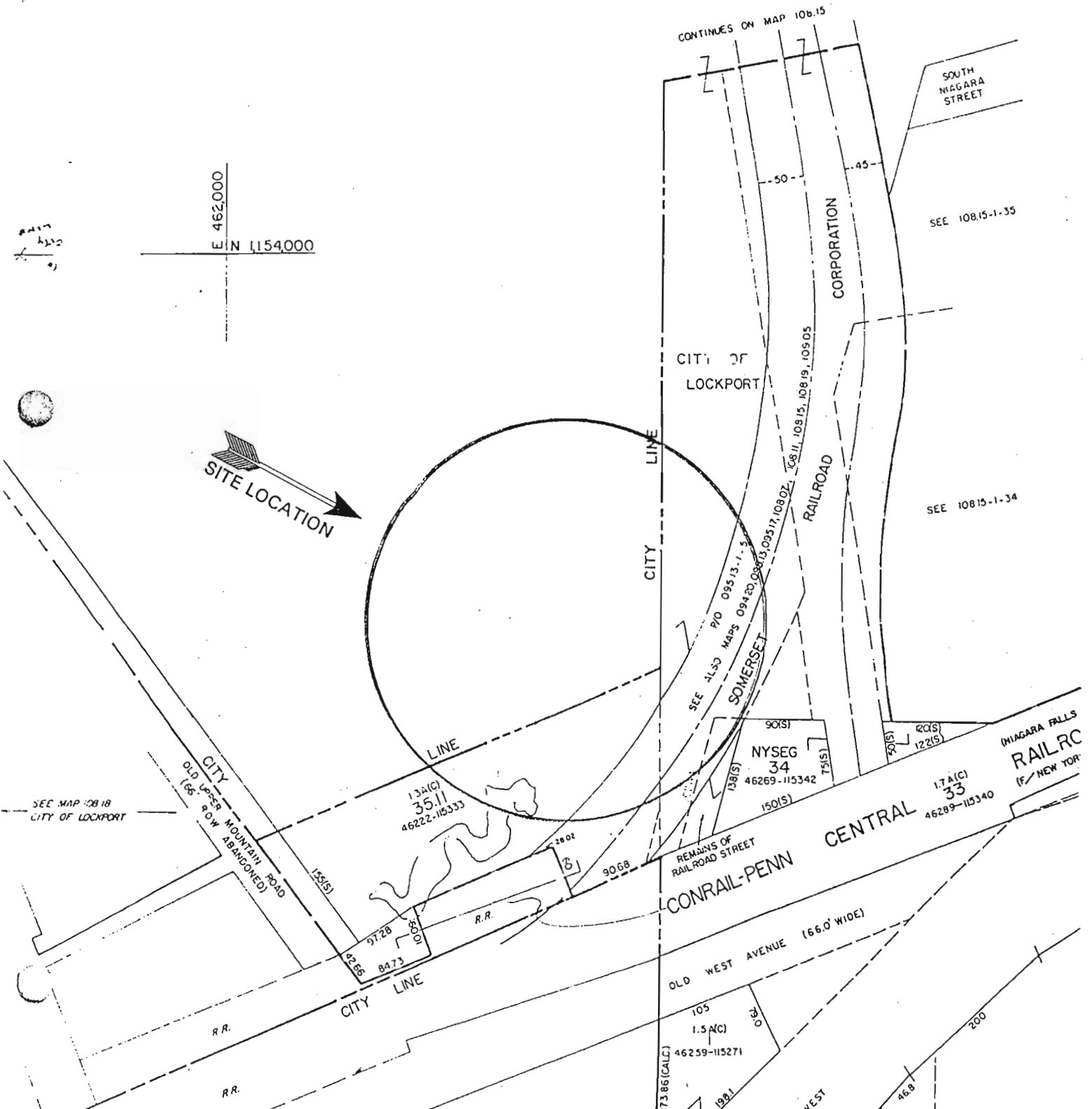
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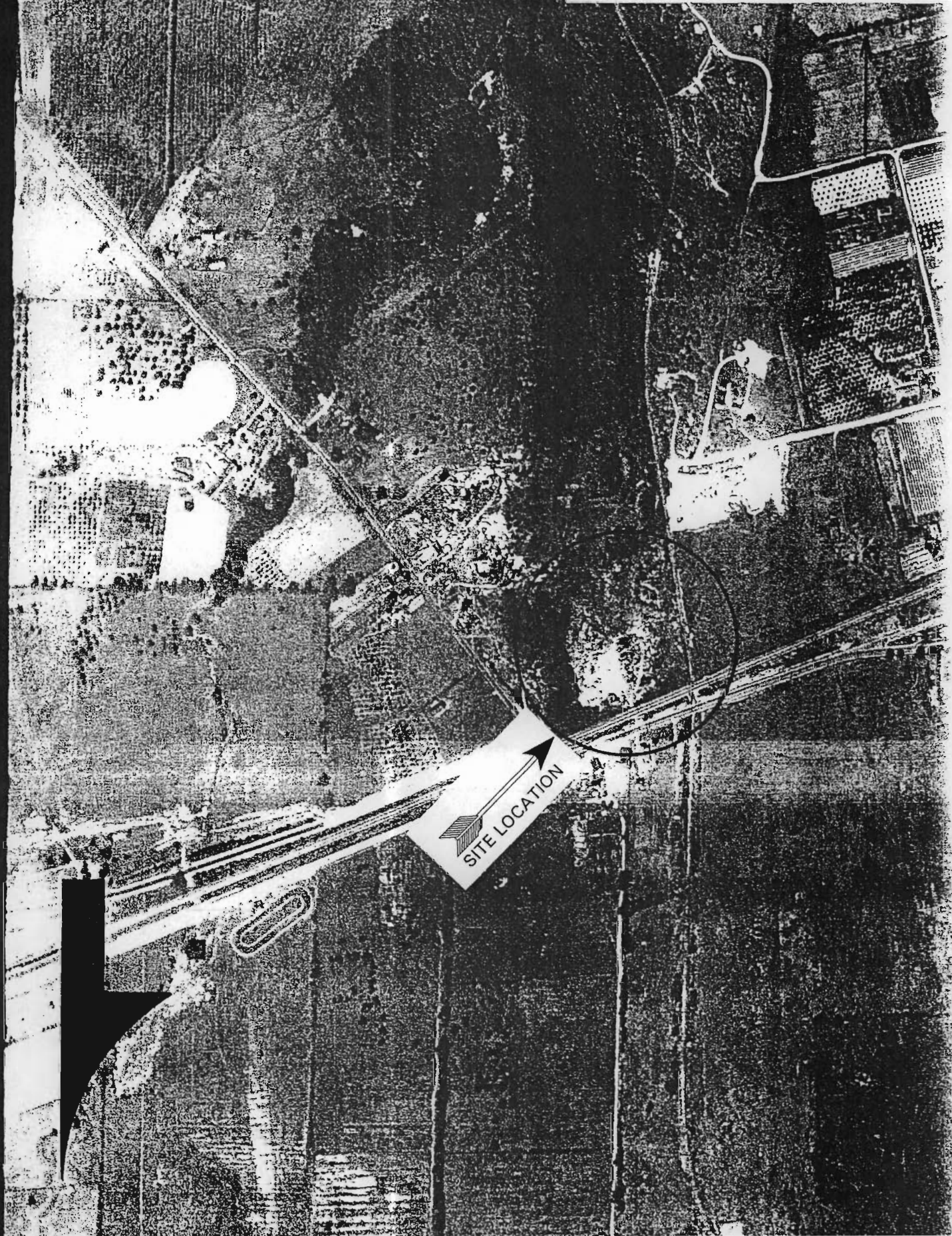


CITY



PAGE A-4  
OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
1938 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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PAGE A-5

OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
1958 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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NORTH

SITE LOCATION



PAGE A-6  
OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
1966 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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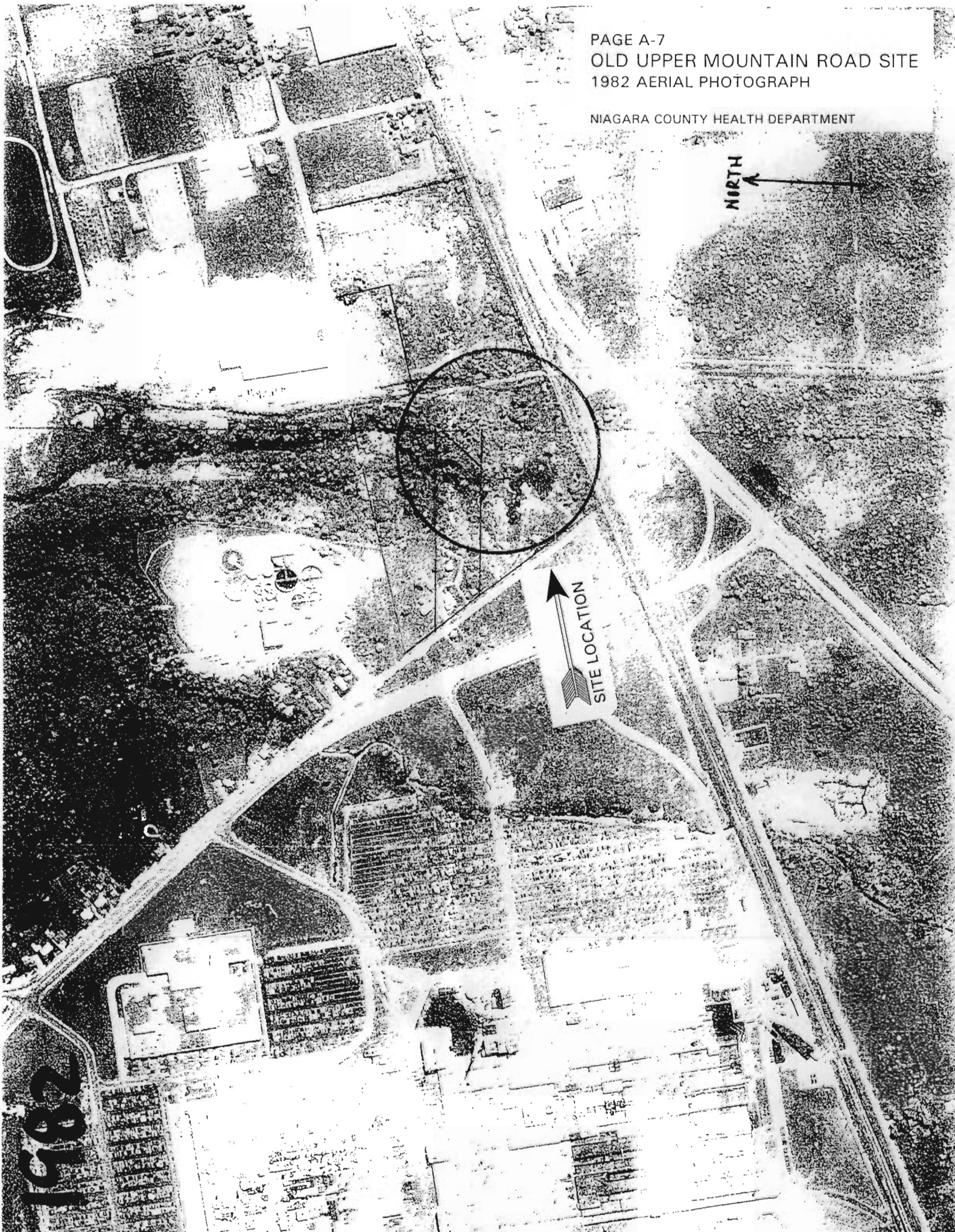
PAGE A-7  
OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
1982 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

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NORTH

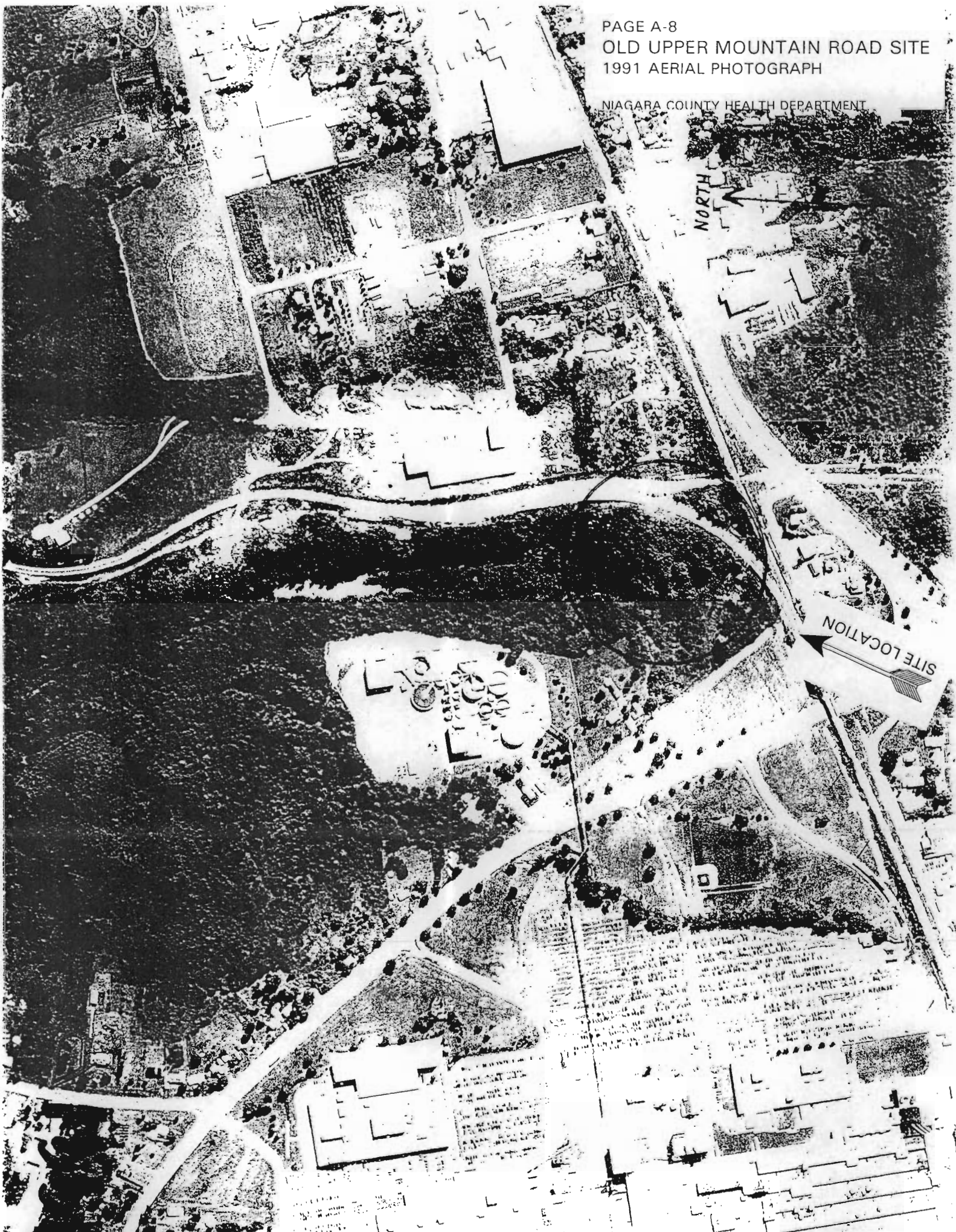
SITE LOCATION

1982



PAGE A-8  
OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
1991 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

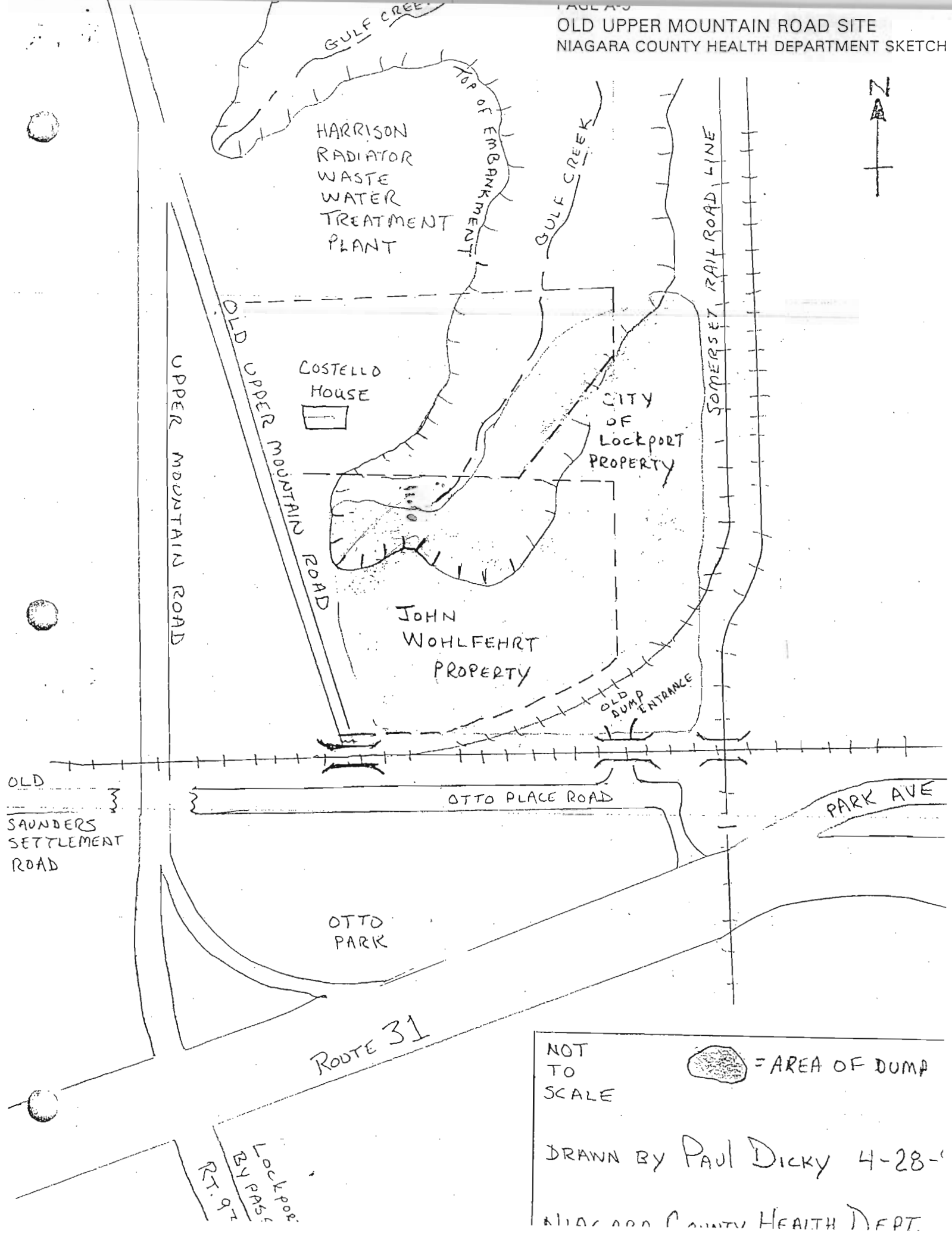
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NORTH

SITE LOCATION





NOT  
TO  
SCALE

= AREA OF DUMP

DRAWN BY PAUL DICKY 4-28-61

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Appendix B

Page

B-1

Photo descriptions

B-2

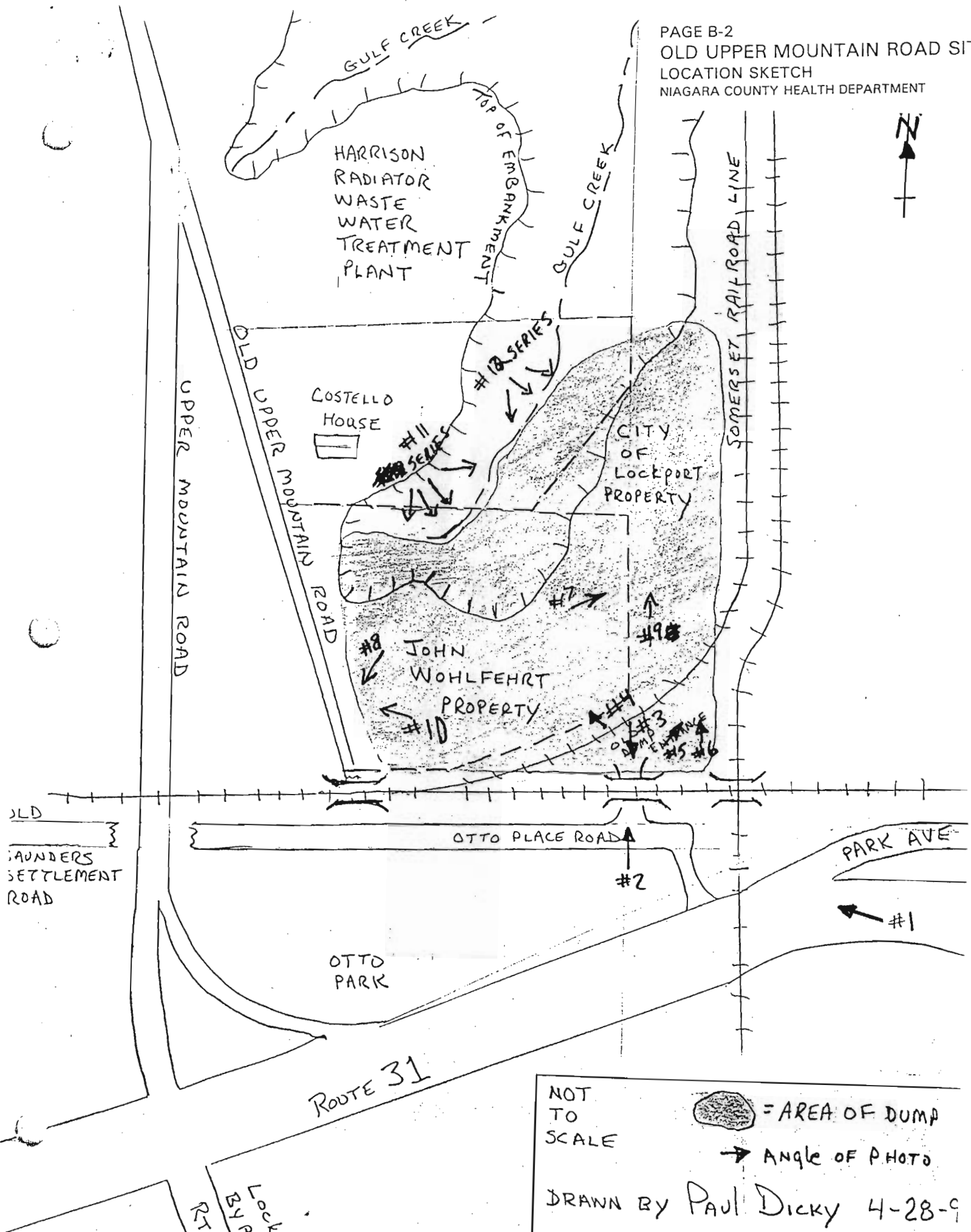
Location sketch

B-(3-7)

Photographs

Photographs

<u>Photo Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
#1	Looking northwest at Otto Park from Route 31
#2	Looking north from Otto Park Road (This was the dump entrance during operating years).
#3	Looking south from Somerset Railroad (again the old entrance).
#4	Looking northeast from Somerset Railroad - view of top of dump.
#5, #6	Both photos show evidence of animal burrowing in an area south of Somerset Railroad. These photos demonstrate that Somerset Railroad either sits atop or at least bisects the site.
#7, 8, 9, 10	Photos show evidence of animal burrowing. Wastes extend in all holes to at least the bottom (probably deeper). Visible wastes seem to be mainly incinerator residues, ash, glass, metal, as well as many tires.
#11	Series (four photos to form panorama) looking south to southeast - shows the exposed wastes on the dump face extending vertically from the top of the escarpment to the bottom (at Gulf Creek).
#12	Series (Three photos to form panorama) looking south to southeast - shows another angle of dump face.







#3



#4





#15



#16





#7



#8





#9



#10





#12 SERIES



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OLD UPPER MOUNTAIN ROAD SITE  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
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#11 SERIES



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