New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
Remedial Bureau D, 12th Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-7013
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Joe Martens
Acting Commissioner

February 3, 2011

Mr. John P. McAuliffe, P.E.
Honeywell International, Inc.
301 Plainfield Road
Suite 330
Syracuse, NY 13212

Re: Cultural Resource Management Report Phase 1B Reconnaissance/Survey
Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM

Dear Mr. McAuliffe:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has reviewed the "Cultural Resource Management Report Phase 1B Reconnaissance/Survey Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM" (WBB/HB Phase 1B CRS report) dated February 1, 2011. Based on this review the Phase 1B CRS report is approved. If you have any questions, please contact me at 518-402-9796.

Sincerely,

Tracy A. Smith

Tracy A. Smith
Project Manager

ecc:
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CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REPORT
PHASE 1B RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

ONONDAGA LAKE PROJECT, UPLAND AND SHORELINE AREA

WASTEBED B/HARBOR BROOK IRM

CITY OF SYRACUSE
ONONDAGA COUNTY
NEW YORK
MCD 06740

Prepared For:

HONEYWELL

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January 26, 2011

RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT IDENTIFIER: Onondaga Lake Project, Wastebed B/Harbor Brook Interim Remedial Measure (IRM)

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY TYPE: Archaeological and architectural reconnaissance.

LOCATION INFORMATION:
Route:
Minor Civil Division: City of Syracuse (MCD 06740)
County: Onondaga

SURVEY AREA: Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM
Size of Area: Approximately 52 acres (21 ha)

SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT:
Prehistoric: Low.
Historic: Moderate.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY METHODOLOGY:
Number of backhoe trenches: 0
Number of units: 0
Surface survey: Walkover to find remnants of Geddes Pier
Geomorphological Analysis by Geoarchaeology Research Associates

RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY:
Number of prehistoric sites identified: 0
Number of historic sites identified: 0
Number of sites recommended for investigation: 0
Number of listed/eligible or potentially eligible sites that may be impacted: 0

RESULTS OF ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY:
Number of structures and/or properties in project area: 5 culverts
Number of known NR listed/eligible structures/districts: 0
Number of recommended eligible structures/districts: 1 (West Shore Railroad Culvert)
Number of listed/eligible or potentially eligible structures that may be impacted: 0

AUTHOR/INSTITUTION: Christopher Hohman and Cynthia Carrington Carter, Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University

DATE OF REPORT: January 26, 2011

SPONSOR: Honeywell

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the Public Archaeology Facility's (PAF) results of the Phase 1B reconnaissance survey for the Wastebed B/Harbor Brook Interim Remedial Measure (IRM) portion of the Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area. This portion of the Onondaga Lake Project is primarily located within the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York. The survey follows the recommendations set forth in the Phase 1B work plan (Hohman and Versaggi 2010). The Phase 1B work plan outlines the scope of the reconnaissance survey, including:

- a surface survey/walkover for the 19th century Geddes Pier;
- an architectural survey of the culverts through which Harbor Brook flows in the project area; and
- archaeological subsurface testing if the walkover and a geomorphological assessment showed the potential to encounter intact pre-contact and post-contact resources with the project area.

The project is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund removal action. Honeywell is the sponsor for the project and Parsons and O'Brien and Gere is conducting the remediation of the project. Potential sources of contamination and areas where soil and sediment removal are necessary have been identified. Site characterization and post-excavation soil sampling continues. A Health and Safety Plan (HSP) was completed by the Public Archaeology Facility in compliance with Parson's HSP; PAF complied with both plans during on-site survey.

The research summarized in this document was performed under the supervision of Dr. Nina M. Versaggi, Director of the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF). Christopher D. Hohman served as project director and is the principal author of this report. Cynthia Carrington Carter completed the architectural analysis of the culverts along Harbor Brook, and is a secondary author of the report. The walkover of Geddes Pier was completed by Hohman and Alex Nevgloski, accompanied by Peter Petrone and Heather Philip of Parsons. All project maps were drafted by Hohman on base maps supplied by Parsons. Maria Pezutti and Annie Pisani performed all related administrative duties.

The cultural resource survey included in this report applies only to potential archaeological and architectural resources. PAF understands that the United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has initiated government-to-government consultations with the Onondaga Nation in compliance with 36 CFR Part 800.4 (a)(b) regarding properties of religious and cultural significance. However, at this time, USEPA has not asked Honeywell, Parsons, or PAF to address the task of identifying religious or cultural properties. Therefore, no analysis has been performed as to whether or not the remediation of the areas included in this report may have an effect on Properties of Cultural and Religious Significance.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Wastebed B and Harbor Brook are located on the southwest shore of Onondaga Lake. Harbor Brook is a small stream that flows into the southwestern corner of Onondaga Lake; Wastebed B is situated adjacent to Harbor Brook. Proposed impacts for Wastebed B/Harbor Brook include installation of a barrier wall through Wastebed B west to the existing Semet/Willis IRM Barrier Wall; excavation and capping of areas outboard of the barrier wall; realigning the confluence of Lower Harbor Brook with the lake; regrading of areas just inboard of the barrier wall; remediation of Upper Harbor Brook, feeder ditches, culverts, and adjacent wetlands (Figure 3); and any other site remedial activities required by the ROD (record of decision).

Much of the anticipated impacts will occur north of CSX (formerly CONRAIL), in areas that were noted as swamps and wetlands on historic maps. Soil borings at the west end of the wastebed show that marl is present below the fill, indicating marshy, boggy conditions. This area probably was not occupied during the precontact period (Hohman 2004). However, the proposed archaeological work outside of Wastebed B was to include an assessment of these data sets by a geoarchaeologist in order to confirm the current interpretations of wetlands. These interpretations will guide decisions regarding subsurface testing (if needed) and the field testing strategies best suited for the environmental context and proposed impacts. Besides the potential archaeological testing, the project includes a surface inspection on the edge of Onondaga Lake in the vicinity of Harbor Brook to search for remains of the Geddes Pier and an evaluation of the five culverts within the project area along Harbor Brook.

III. GENERAL PROJECT AREA

Figure 1 places the project in New York State and Onondaga County. Figure 2 shows the topoghic context on the Syracuse West quadrangle.

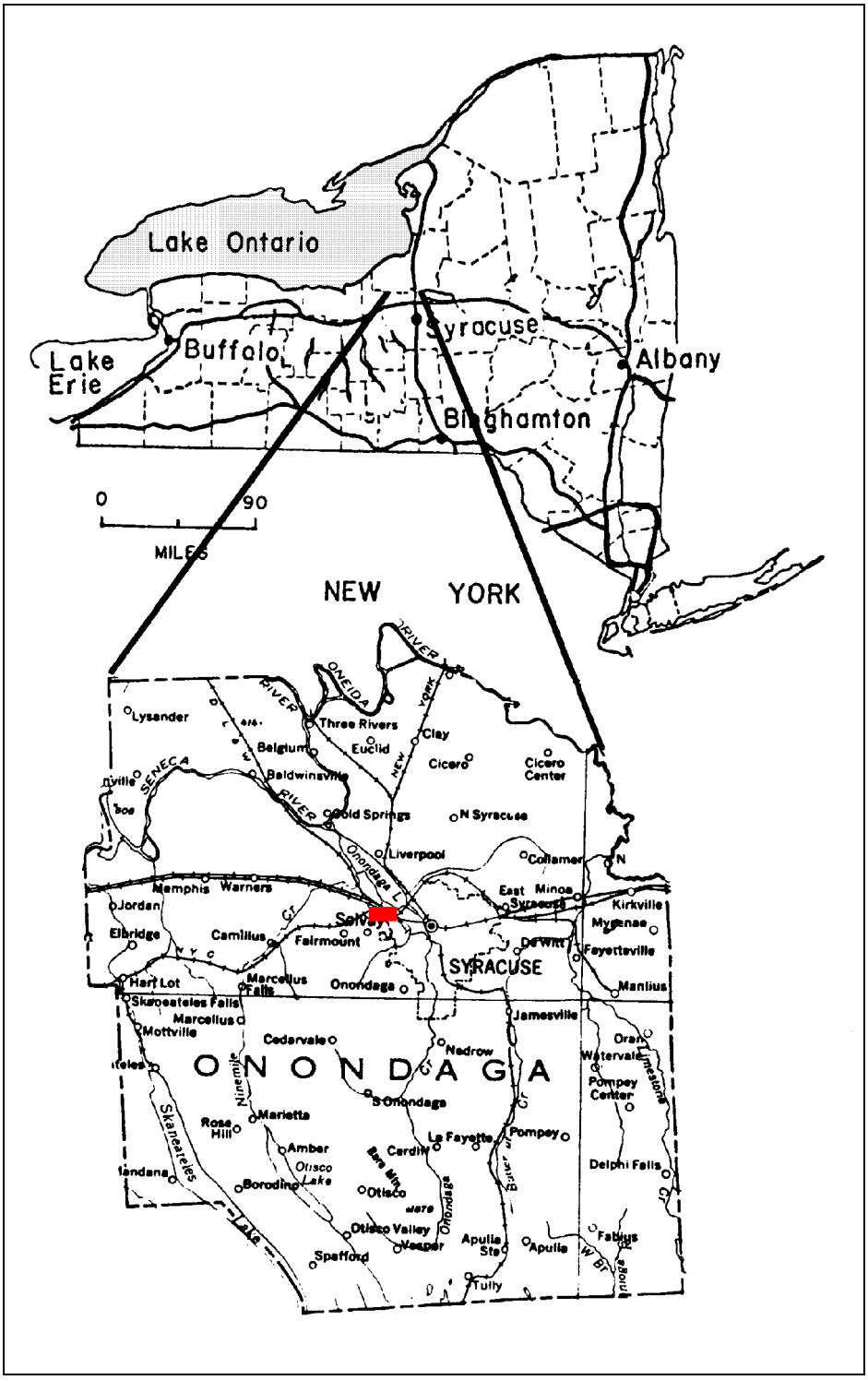

Figure 1. Location of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM portion of the Onondaga Lake Project (Upland and Shoreline Area) in New York State and Onondaga County.

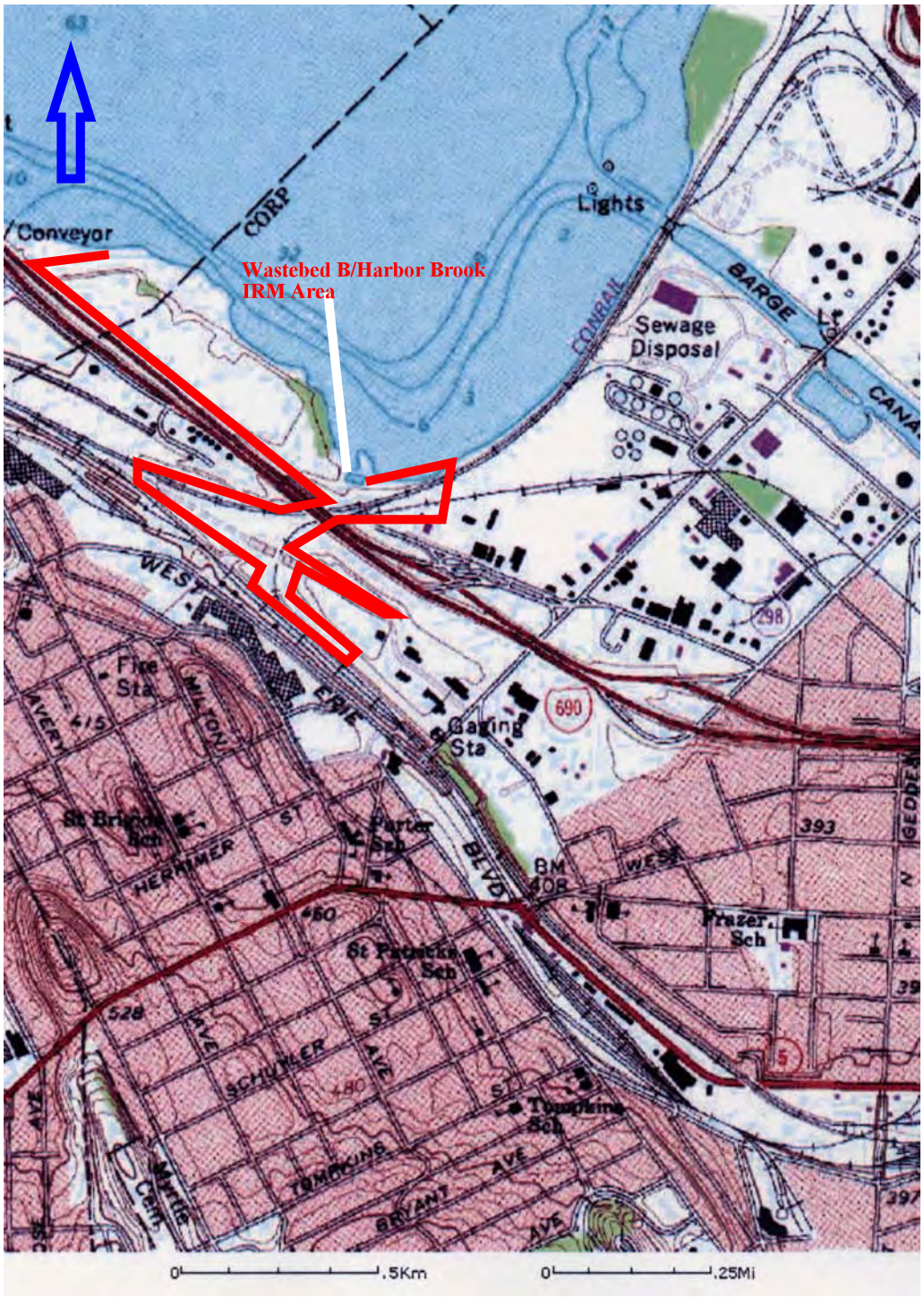

Figure 2. 1978 USGS quadrangle of approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM

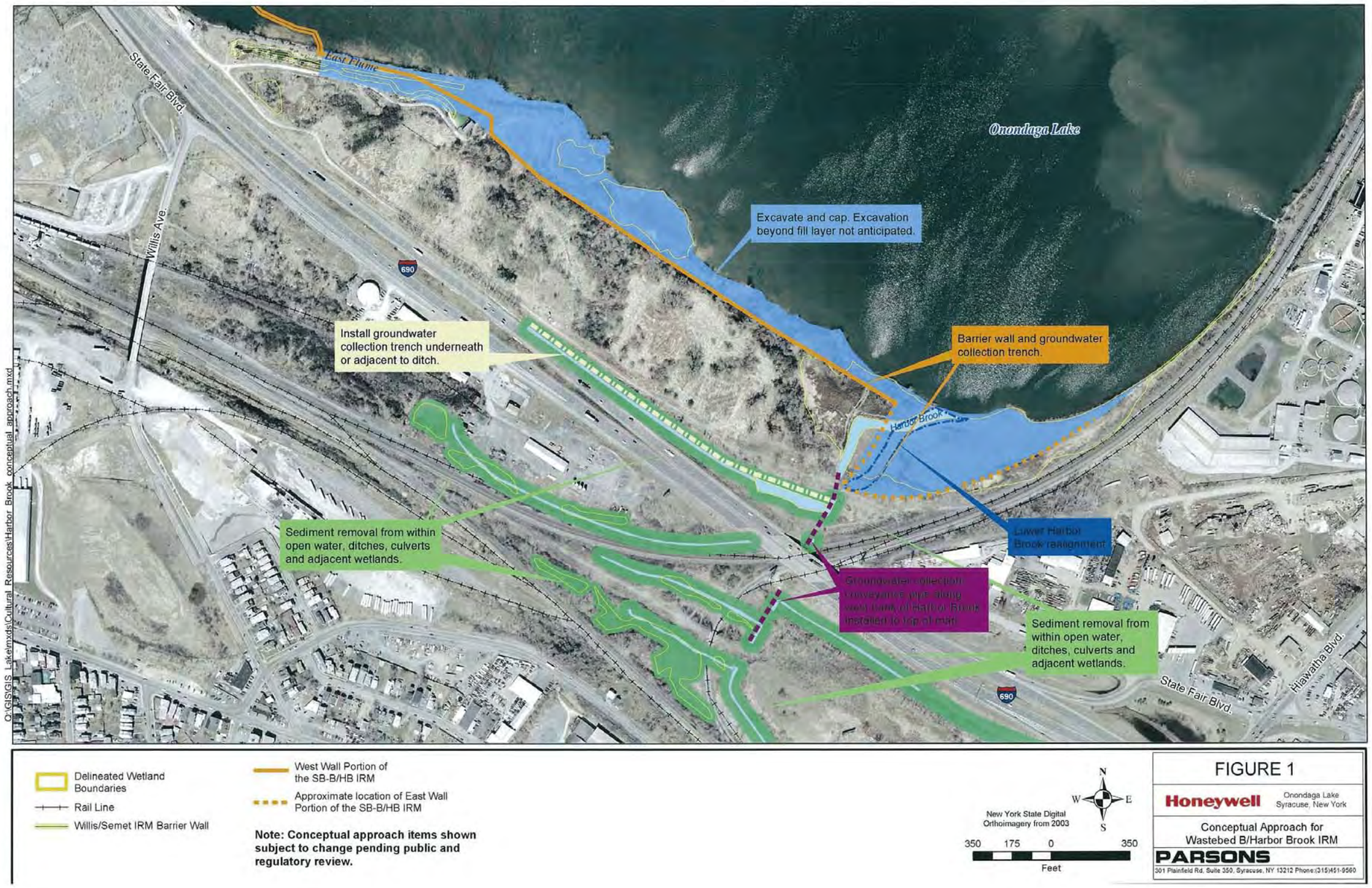

Figure 3. Conceptual Approach for Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM.

IV. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Background research was previously completed for the area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM as part of the Phase 1A survey and the Phase 1B work plan (Hohman 2004, 2010). Supplemental information was added as necessary for the location of this project. The background research was conducted on the environment, precontact and post-contact history of the project area. This research addressed the types of sites likely to be located in the project area based on the results of site file checks, historic maps, county histories, archival documents, and settlement patterns around Onondaga Lake.

4.1 Site Files Search

The site files search indicated that there were at least three precontact period sites and one postcontact period site within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area. The location of one of the precontact period sites (ACP ONDA 83B) was noted as an elevated spot in the marsh west of the creek, which may have placed the site in the vicinity of the original route of Harbor Brook. The remaining two sites were located along the southern shore of the lake. The one post-contact period site is the Native American village of Kaneenda, which was located to the south of the lake. The village was occupied for at least 25 years in the early 17th century (Bradley 1987). There are no architectural resources within the project area that were previously determined as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (www.oprhp.state.ny.us/nr/main.asp).

4.2 Environmental Setting

Harbor Brook flows from the uplands in the southwestern portion of the Town of Onondaga to its present confluence at the southwestern corner of Onondaga Lake. The project area has an elevation ranging from 111 to 112 m (365 to 368 ft) above sea level (ASL) (Figure 2). The brook has been channelized over the last two centuries. The late 18th/early 19th century map (Figure 6, p. 10) placed the confluence at the southern end of the lake in the vicinity of Onondaga Creek. However between 1852 and 1859 (Figures 7-8, pp. 11-12), Harbor Brook appears to have been relocated away from the southern shore to the vicinity of its present course.

On the late 18th/early 19th century map (Figure 6) the APE is shown mainly as stands of ash or black ash within a swampy area. In addition, tamarack and cedar were also identified in the vicinity. Much of the project area appears to be low-lying and wet. The 1938 soil survey (Figure 4, p. 6) shows much of the area of potential effect and vicinity as Made Land (Md), suggesting that the swamps had been drained, filled and elevated for 20th century land use. In 1977, the project area is identified as either Made land (Ma) or Urban Land (Ub) (Figure 5, p. 7). Soil borings and profiles based on these borings suggest that much of Wastebed Bed is made of fill and Solvay waste overlaying marl.

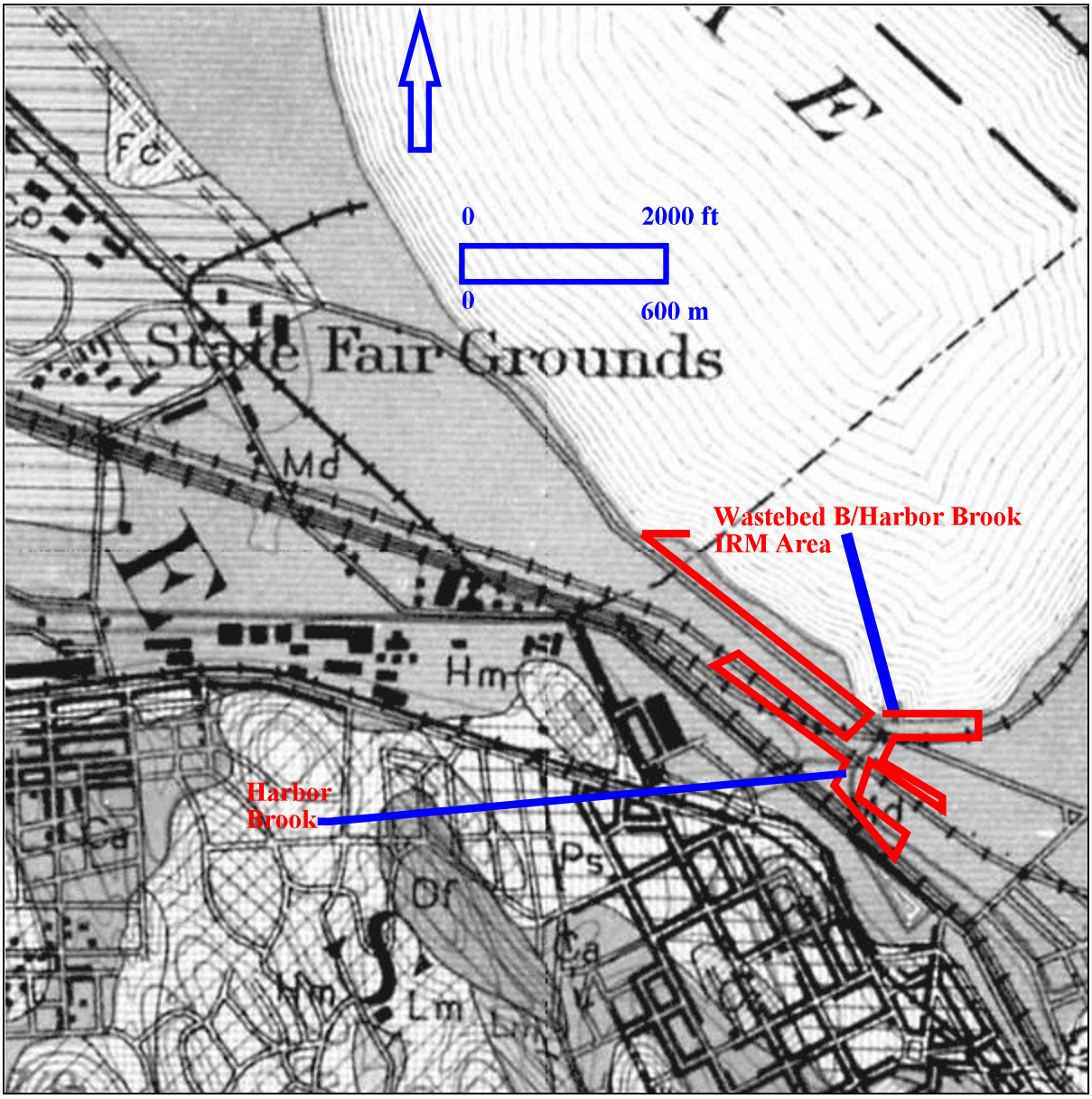

Figure 4. 1938 USDA soil map, with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM highlighted.

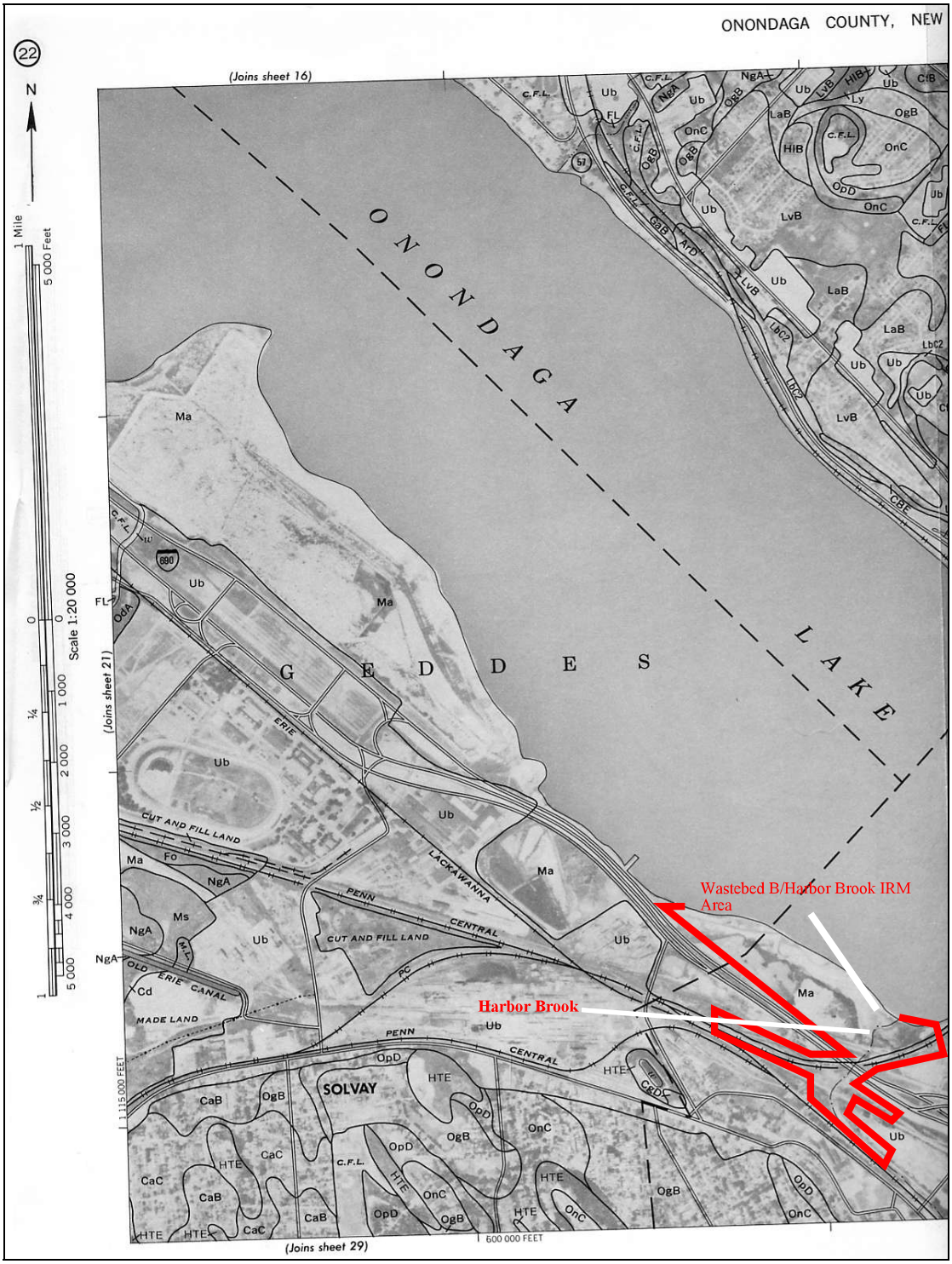

Figure 5. 1977 USDA soil map, with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM highlighted.

4.3 Precontact Period History

The project area is located at the present confluence of Harbor Brook and Onondaga Lake at the southwest corner of the lake. The site files identified at least three precontact sites within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area. All three sites were identified by Arthur C. Parker as "unidentified traces of prehistoric occupation" (Parker 1922). Usually, this description refers to collections of artifacts that did not have sufficient tools or time-sensitive artifacts to allow interpretation beyond the general term used. As noted in Section 3.1, one of these sites (ACP ONDA 83B) occupied an elevated spot in the marsh west of the creek, which probably represents the area near the original route of Harbor Brook. One of the remaining two sites was located along the southern shore of the lake, and may have been associated with either Harbor Brook or Onondaga Creek. The third known site was placed at the southeastern corner of the lake and was probably associated with the original confluence of Onondaga Creek and Onondaga Lake.

The late 18th/early 19th century map (Figure 6, p. 10) shows black ash, cedar, and tamarack in the vicinity of the project area. Black ash would have been a source of staves for basket-making. Cedar may have been used for making baskets, arrows or utensils, canoes, and for siding for dwellings. Tamarack is fairly resistant to decay and warps little during drying. In other parts of the country, tamarack was used to bind seams of birch bark canoes; the wood was used for arrow shafts; and the bark was used for medicine (Johnston and Carpenter 1985). The wood has a high heating value among the softwoods.

Precontact Sensitivity Assessment

The area adjacent to Harbor Brook and near its confluence with Onondaga Lake would have been sensitive for a variety of short term campsites and resource procurement/processing tasks related to the acquisition of cedar, black ash, and tamarack. In addition, an array of hunting and fishing tasks associated with resource procurement and processing common to a lake margin setting would be expected. Since much of the project area is located in an area noted as wet for much of the year, long term settlements and mound sites are not expected in this context.

4.4 Post-contact History

The site files identified one post-contact Native American site within 1.6 km (1 mi) of the project area: the village of Kaneenda. The village was occupied in the early 17th century for at least 25 years (Bradley 1987). A number of Native American cabins were noted along the west bank of Onondaga Creek (Bruce 1896). Although much of the long-term settlement was not around Onondaga Lake, the area adjacent to the lake margins continued to be used by the Onondaga for purposes of everyday activities, including short-term settlement, the procurement of various resources, and for ceremonies.

The historic maps from the 19th and early 20th century (Figures 7-18, pp. 11-22) identify several historic resources in the vicinity of Harbor Brook. These include Geddes Pier; culverts for road or railroad crossings; the former West Shore Railroad, the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad (also known as the Penn Can Railroad and CONRAIL) as well as the Auburn Branch of the NYC Railroad, the Oswego and Syracuse Railroad (also known as the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad, and the former State Fair Boulevard.

Onondaga Nation's Spiritual and Cultural History of Onondaga Lake[1]

The region of Onondaga Lake and the Onondaga Lake watershed has been our homeland since the dawn of time. We have been a steward of Onondaga Lake since time immemorial and will continue to do so forever, as that is what has been mandated from the Gayanashagowa, the Great Law of Peace. In the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua the United States government recognized Onondaga Lake as part of our aboriginal territory.

The Lake is the spiritual, cultural and historic center of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Over one thousand years ago, the Peacemaker brought the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca Nations together on the shores of Onondaga Lake. At the lakeshore, these Nations accepted the message of peace, laid down their arms, and formed the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The Confederacy was the first representative democracy in the West.

To symbolize the Confederacy, the Peacemaker planted a white pine, the Tree of Peace, on the shore of Onondaga Lake. It is understood that the Peacemaker chose the white pine because the white pine's needles are clustered in groups of five, just as the five founding Nations of the Confederacy clustered together for strength. The boughs of the white pine represent the laws that protect all the people. An eagle was placed at the top of the tree to watch for danger from without and within. Four white roots of peace reach out in the four directions towards anyone or any Nation who wishes to come under this tree of peace.

As the birth place of the Confederacy and democracy, the Lake is sacred to the Haudenosaunee. The Onondaga Nation has resided on the Lake and throughout its watershed since time immemorial, building homes and communities, fishing, hunting, trapping, collecting plants and medicine, planting agricultural crops, performing ceremonies with the natural world dependent on the Lake, and burying our ancestors - the mothers, fathers and children of the Onondaga Nation. The Onondaga Nation views its relationship to this area as a place where we will forever come from and will return to.

It brings great sadness to the people of the Onondaga Nation that despite our long stewardship of the Lake and its watershed, it took only one hundred years of abuse to wreak havoc to the Lake, its tributaries and all the plants, animals and marine life that depend on the Lake and its watershed. Industry interfered with the Onondaga Nations's relationship to the land and disturbed the ancestors that were interred throughout the watershed - either by direct excavation or contamination, or indirect efforts such as construction on top of grave sites. We wish to bring about a healing between us and all others who live within our homelands around the lake. We must in order to protect the future generations "whose faces are looking up from the earth."

We are one with this land and this Lake. It is our duty to work for a healing of this land, and all of its waters and living things, to protect them, and to pass on a healthy environment to future generations - yours and ours.

[1]The Onondaga Nation requested that the oral tradition concerning the significance of Onondaga Lake to the Onondaga and Haudenosaunee Confederacy be included in this report. The Onondaga Nation's statement may not necessarily reflect the views of the Public Archaeology Facility, Parsons, or Honeywell International Inc. Further, the inclusion of the Onondaga Nation's oral tradition shall not constitute an admission of any fact or law in any judicial or administrative proceeding. In addition, the statements and findings made in this report by Honeywell, Parsons, and the Public Archaeology Facility may not reflect the opinions and views of the Onondaga Nation, and do not constitute an admission by the Onondaga Nation of fact or law in any legal or other proceeding.

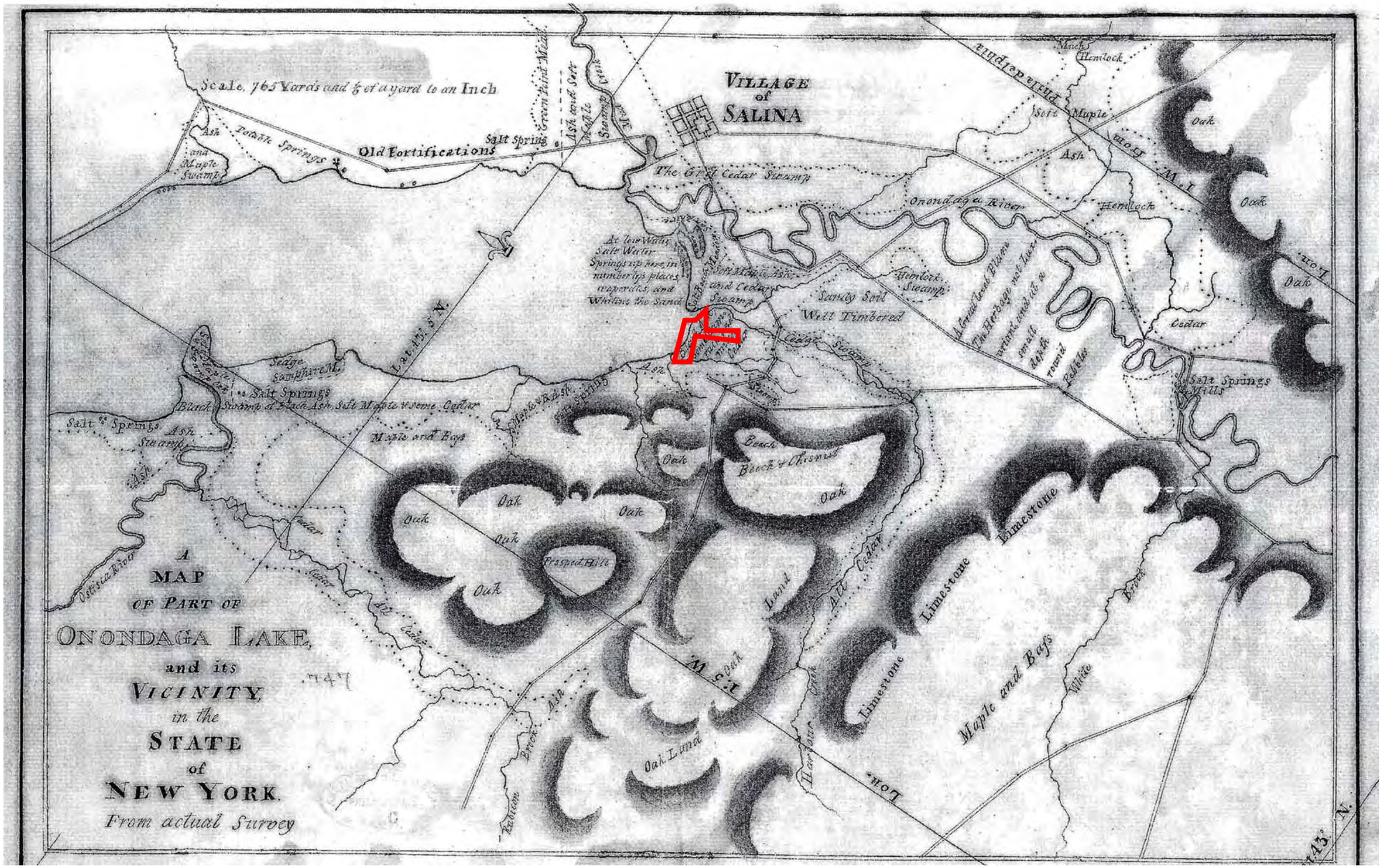

Figure 6. Late 18th century map of Onondaga Lake and its surrounding terrain, with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM highlighted.

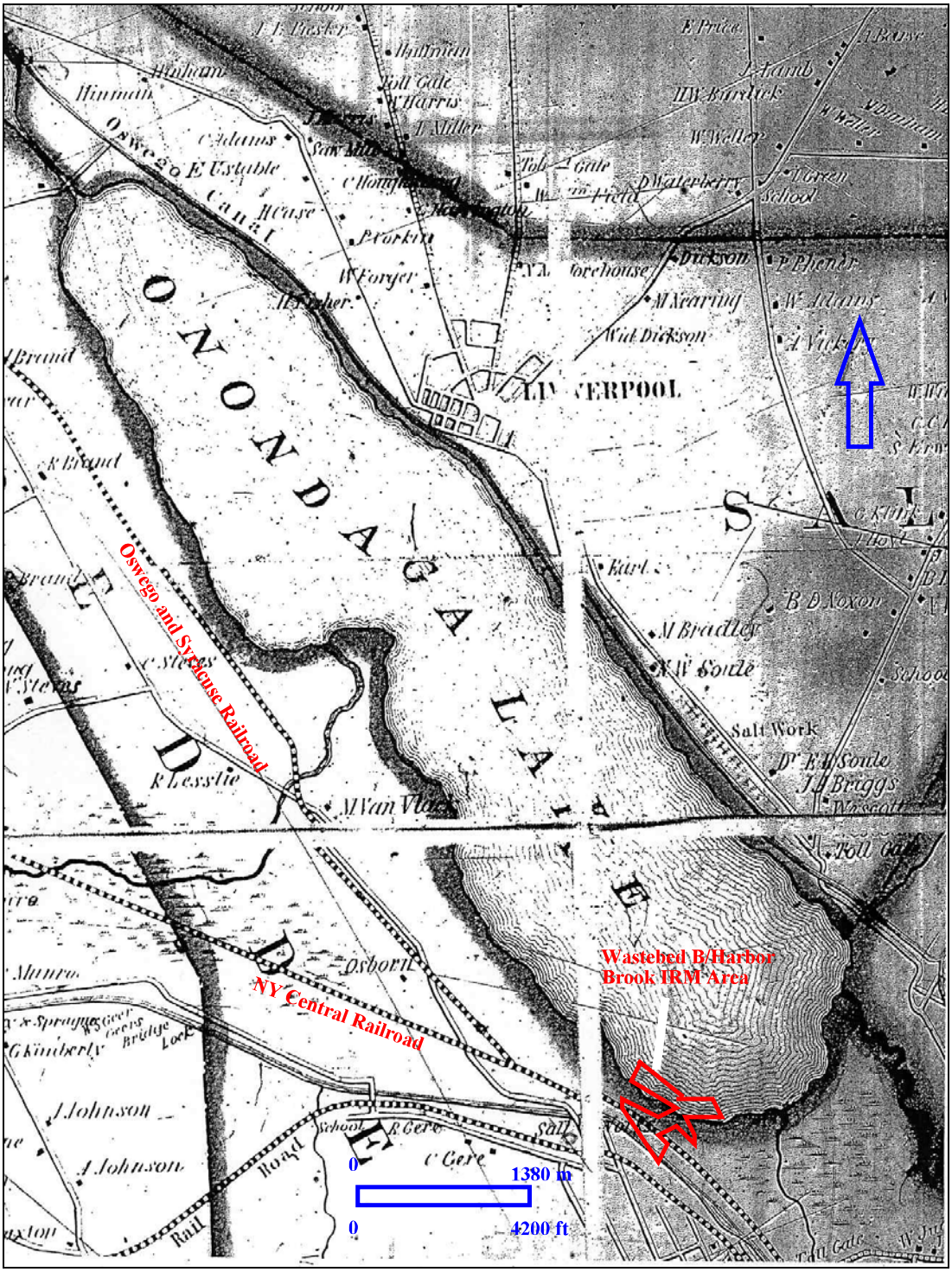

Figure 7. 1852 Fagan map of Onondaga Lake, with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM.

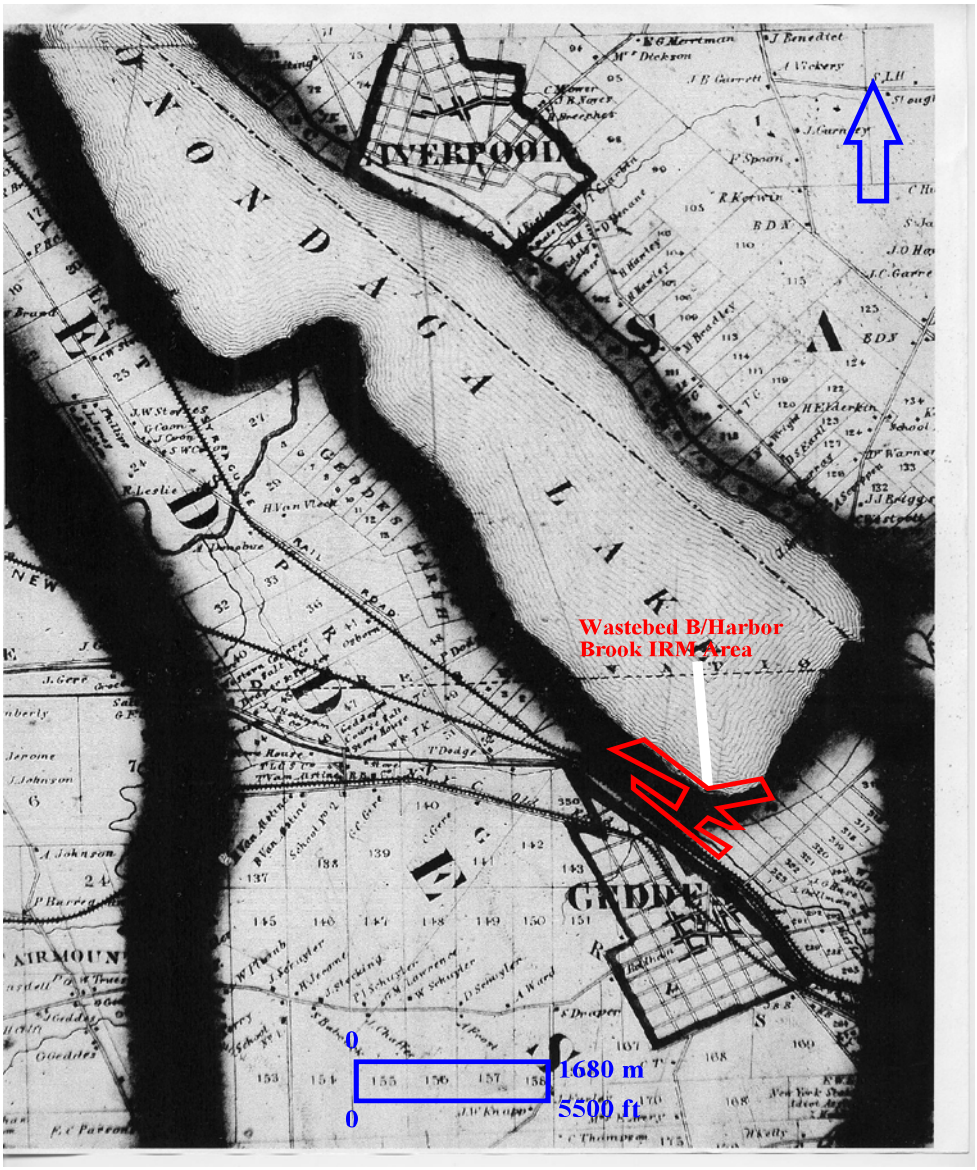

Figure 8. 1859 Sweet map with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM.

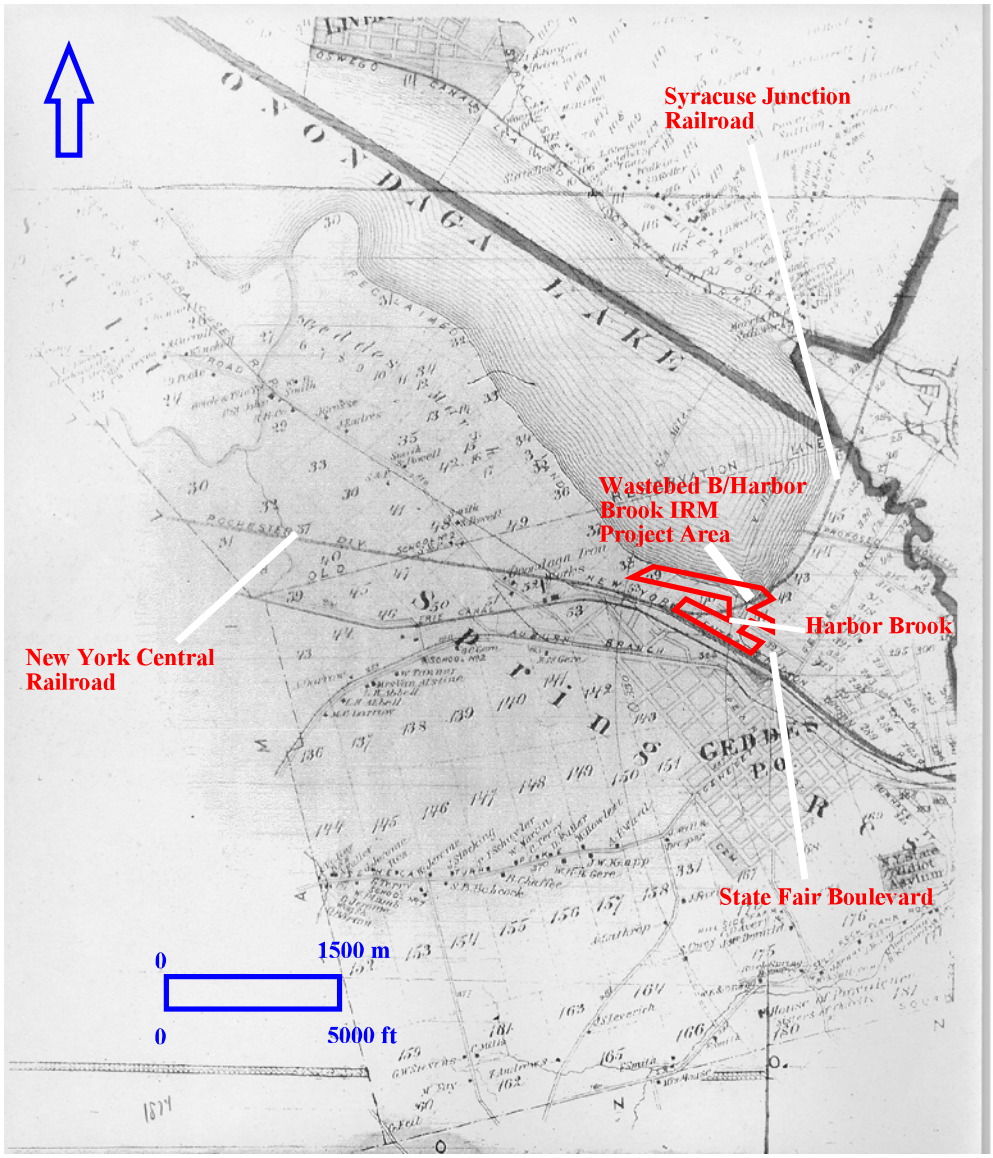

Figure 9. 1874 Sweet map with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM.

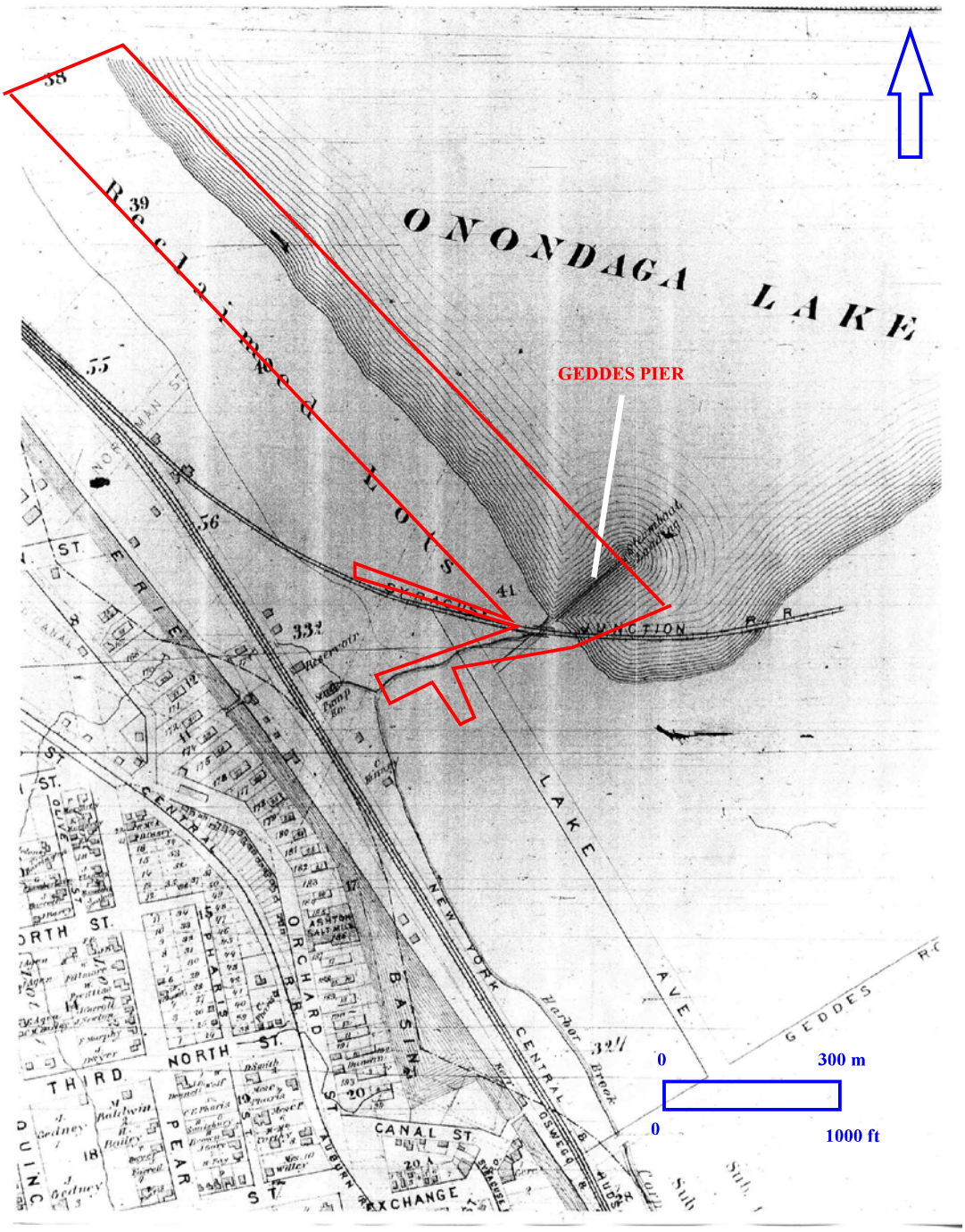

Figure 10. 1874 Sweet inset map of southwestern corner of Onondaga Lake with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM and location of Geddes Pier (Steamboat Landing).

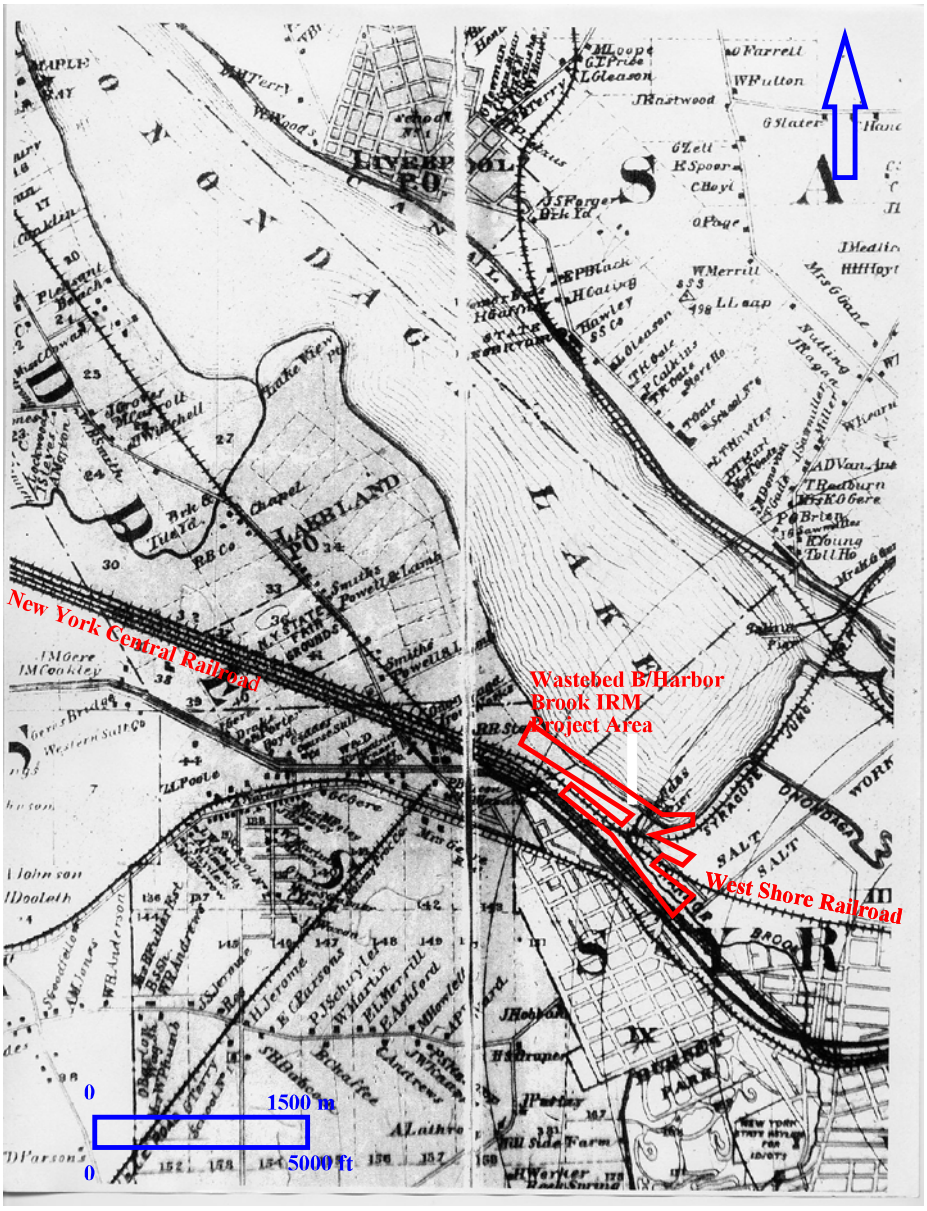

Figure 11. 1889 Sweet map with approximate area of Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM.