

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

850 ROUTE 28, LLC

STEEL AND CONCRETE FABRICATION FACILITY

TOWN OF KINGSTON, ULSTER CO., NY

18PR04534

PREPARED FOR:

850 ROUTE 28, LLC

-AND-

MEDENBACH AND EGGERS

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING, P.C.

4305 US HIGHWAY 209,

STONE RIDGE, NY 12484-5620

OCTOBER 4th, 2019

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INTRODUCTION

This report together with the accompanying historic photographs and maps, and more recent photographs addresses the three bulleted concerns of the State Historic Preservation Office as expressed by Michael F. Lynch in his letter of 9/10/2019 (page 2, paragraph 1) to Solomon Latham of Medenbach and Eggers, PC regarding the 850 Route 28 project.

Lynch's letter of 9/10/2019 rescinded a "No Impact" letter of 7/24/2009 and basically asked for three additional kinds of data regarding the project area. From the 9/10/2019 letter these are;

- "historical information on the age and use of the quarries scheduled to be infilled and/or mined
- representative photos of the quarry area, keyed to a site plan
- site plan locations of the proposed areas of 405,000 cubic feet of excavation to assess their proximity to archaeological sites"

The data request seeks more information on the history and usage of the quarry within the project area. A review of the 1854 Brink and Tillson Map (Map 1) and the 1875 Beers Map of Ulster County (Map 2) does not show any quarries within the project area. The 1875 Beers map shows a quarry, but it is approximately 2500 feet north of the project area. The 1903 USGS Rosendale quadrangle sheet (Map 3) shows no quarries within the project area. At this point, it should be noted that few, if any of these quarries show up on historical maps, since they were extraction industries and the focus of the maps was roads, railroads, houses, stores, and geographical features. A search of the CRIS files at OPRHP on 9/18/2019 failed to locate any archaeological sites in the project area or within a one mile radius of the project area, although it is possible that 19th century quarry sites exist nearby and outside of the proposed construction impact. Map 4 is an aerial photograph of the quarry from 1978, which is very similar to the aerial photograph in the Ulster County Soil Survey (Tornes 1979). Map 5 is an aerial photograph showing the quarry in 1986.

The second request was for photos of the project area keyed to a site plan. These are shown on Figure 1 and each of the photographs are labeled (see below). The photographs show a very deep, very large quarry area covering the center of the project area that was excavated in the 1970's. My walkover of the project area on 9/18/2019 failed to locate any evidence of 19th century quarries within the project area. I walked the project area and the forested area in the northeast corner which is slated to be removed, and did not find evidence of 19th century quarrying. What I did find were large deeply cut roads, significant piles of stone and soil debris, and many piles of extremely large rocks that had been moved with heavy equipment. These were the roads and piles shown on Map 5. The piles of stone and soil are inconsistent with 19th century quarrying locations and were formed by the use of gradalls and large dump trucks moving topsoil away from the areas to be mined. For a brief synopsis of 19th century quarrying see the short description in the

1997 *Unit Management Plan for the Bluestone Forest* (page 2-3), which describes how miners quarried stone and what their backspoil piles look like. Maps 4 and 5 are aerial photographs showing the project area as a mine in the 1970's. The photographs show essentially the area that I walked and that is shown in the photographs. In many cases, the quarried area extends to a depth of 40 feet or more. Additionally, the aerial photographs taken for the Soil Survey of Ulster County (Tornes 1979:Sheet 53) shows the area as a large white "quarry" with soils within the project area described as "Lordstown-Arnot-Rock outcrop complex, sloping (LOC)".

The third bulleted question refers to and references by page number the May 1997 *Unit Management Plan for the Bluestone Forest*, which was prepared by the DEC. Page 1 of Mr. Lynch's 9/10/2019 letter states:

"The area is known for its widespread bluestone...mining which started over 100 years ago". (page i) And "Multiple archaeological sites have been identified in the area as indicated by the New York State Historic Preservation Office Archaeological Site File". (pg. 7)

The 1997 *Unit Management Plan for the Bluestone Forest* has one paragraph on cultural resources (pg. 7). It states "Multiple archaeological sites have been identified in the area as indicated by the New York State Historic Preservation Office Archaeological Site File (Revised Map of 1992). Trails and parking facilities will not disturb below the surface and will be located on pre-existing woods roads or disturbed lands (such as the access and parking along Onteora Lake). Archaeological resources will be identified and considered before any proposed project commences". It should be noted that the 1997 *Management Plan* (and the most recent plan of 2017) also includes parcels in the Town of Hurley overlooking Hurley Mountain Road. A Site File Search of CRIS on 9/18/2019 did not find any precontact (Native American) sites within a one mile radius of the proposed Route 28 project site. However, there are precontact sites near the portions of the Bluestone Forest in the Town of Hurley, and this might be what the 1997 Plan refers to in regards to precontact sites. The nearest precontact site is 2.4 miles away from the Route 28 project site.

My site file search revealed no precontact sites within a one mile radius, but did encounter several other projects (18PR00235, 19PR05053, 16PR06122, 18PR03716) that did not locate cultural resources. One project outside of the one mile radius (17PR00190), and in a similar geographical situation summarized the project area as having "a low sensitivity for archaeological resources due to its steeply sloping nature, the rocky soils and bedrock outcrops as well as its distance from streams and wetlands". This can, to a large extent, be applied to the proposed project area which has a very rocky surface with minimal amounts of soil covering the bedrock, which is the Middle Devonian Plattekill and Ashokan Formations of shale and sandstone (Fisher *et al.* 1970: Lower Hudson Sheet).

Although the archaeological evidence for precontact sites is missing in the area around the proposed facility, the evidence for 19th century bluestone quarrying is obviously not. As mentioned in the 1997 *Management Plan*, bluestone quarrying is evident in the Towns of Hurley, Marbletown, Kingston, Woodstock and Saugerties. Although it does not show on the historic maps in and around the project area, it is noticeable throughout portions of the Bluestone Forest in Hurley, Woodstock and the Town of Kingston. Unfortunately, few if any of these sites have been recorded in the SHPO site files. I have personally

observed quarries on the western side of Onteora Lake, and in all of the Towns mentioned, however they have not been listed at SHPO. My walkover of the project area, particularly the forested portion in the northeast corner, failed to locate any evidence for 19th century quarries, and due to the difficulty in simply walking around on the ground surface, it is highly doubtful if this portion of the property contains any precontact (Native American) sites.

Note that this report was prepared to respond to the concerns raised by SHPO, and is not intended as a Phase 1 archaeological survey. Given the circumstances detailed herein, it is my professional opinion that a Phase 1 archaeological survey is not warranted for the 850 Route 28 project site.

References

Beers, F.W

1875 *County Atlas of Ulster, New York. From Recent and Actual Surveys and Records.* Published by Walker and Jewett, 36 Vesey Street, New York.

Brink, P. Henry, and Oliver J. Tillson

1854 *Map of Ulster County, NY.* Brink and Tillson Publishers, Rosendale NY.

Fisher, Donald W., Yngvar W. Isachsen, and Lawrence Rickard

1970 *Geologic Map of New York, Hudson-Mohawk Sheet.* The New York State Museum and Science Service Map and Chart Series No. 15, Albany.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

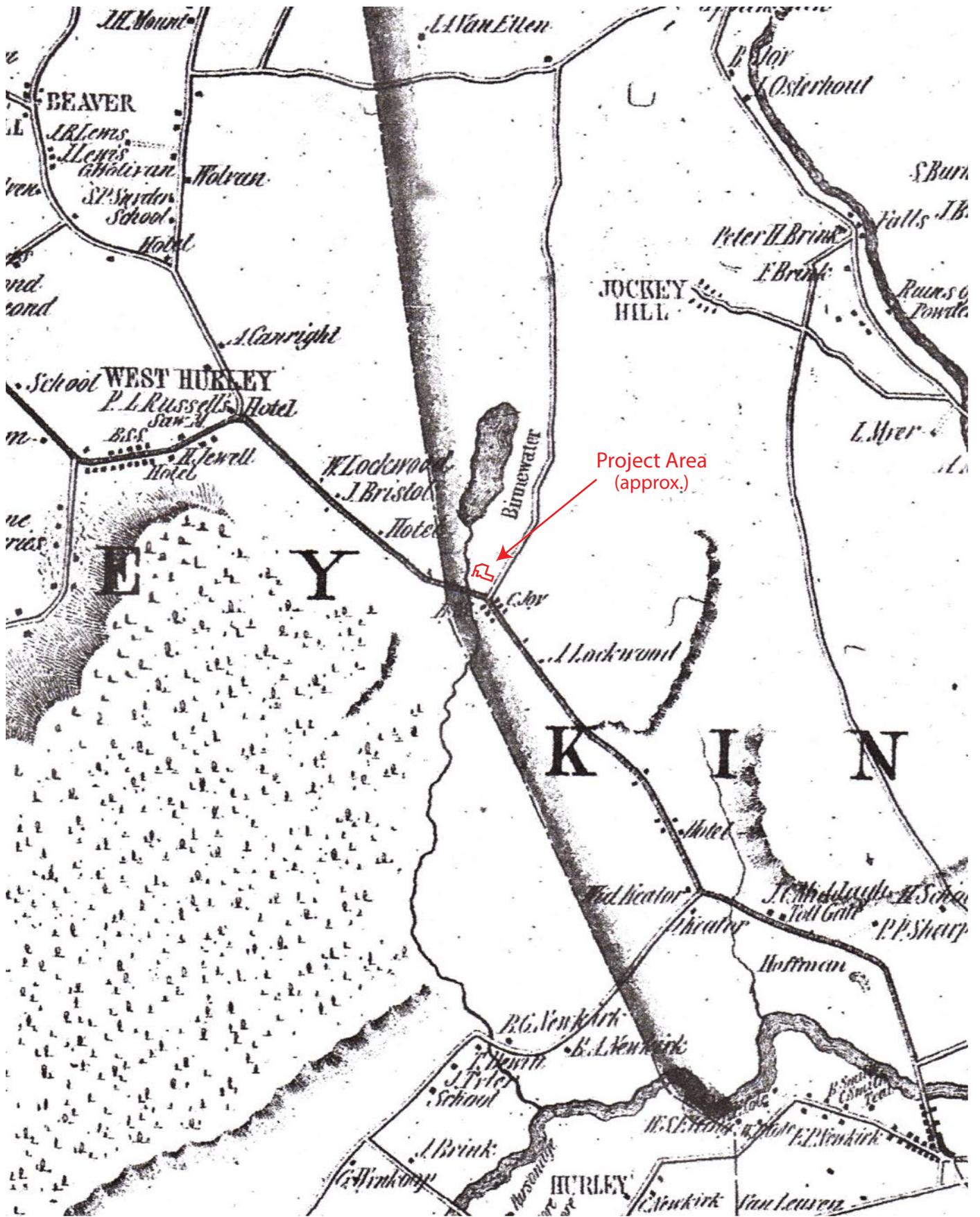
1997 *The Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.* New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests (May 1997).

2015 *Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment, Towns of Woodstock, Ulster and Hurley, Ulster County.* New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests, Region 3 (May 2015).

Tornes, Lawrence A

1979 *US Department of Agriculture in Cooperation with Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station.*

MAPS

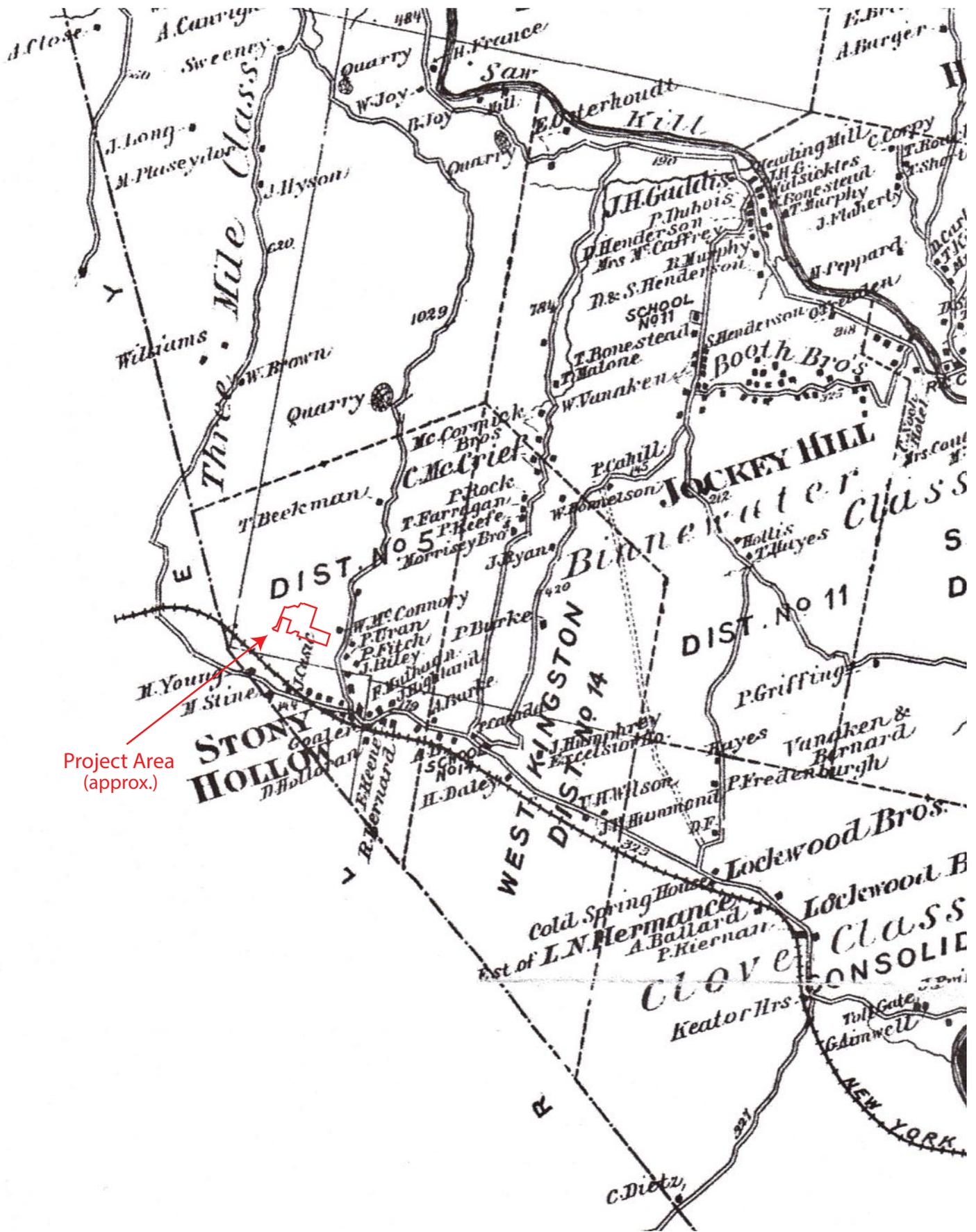


1000 ft. / 305 m.



North

Map 1. 1854 Brink and Tillson Map.



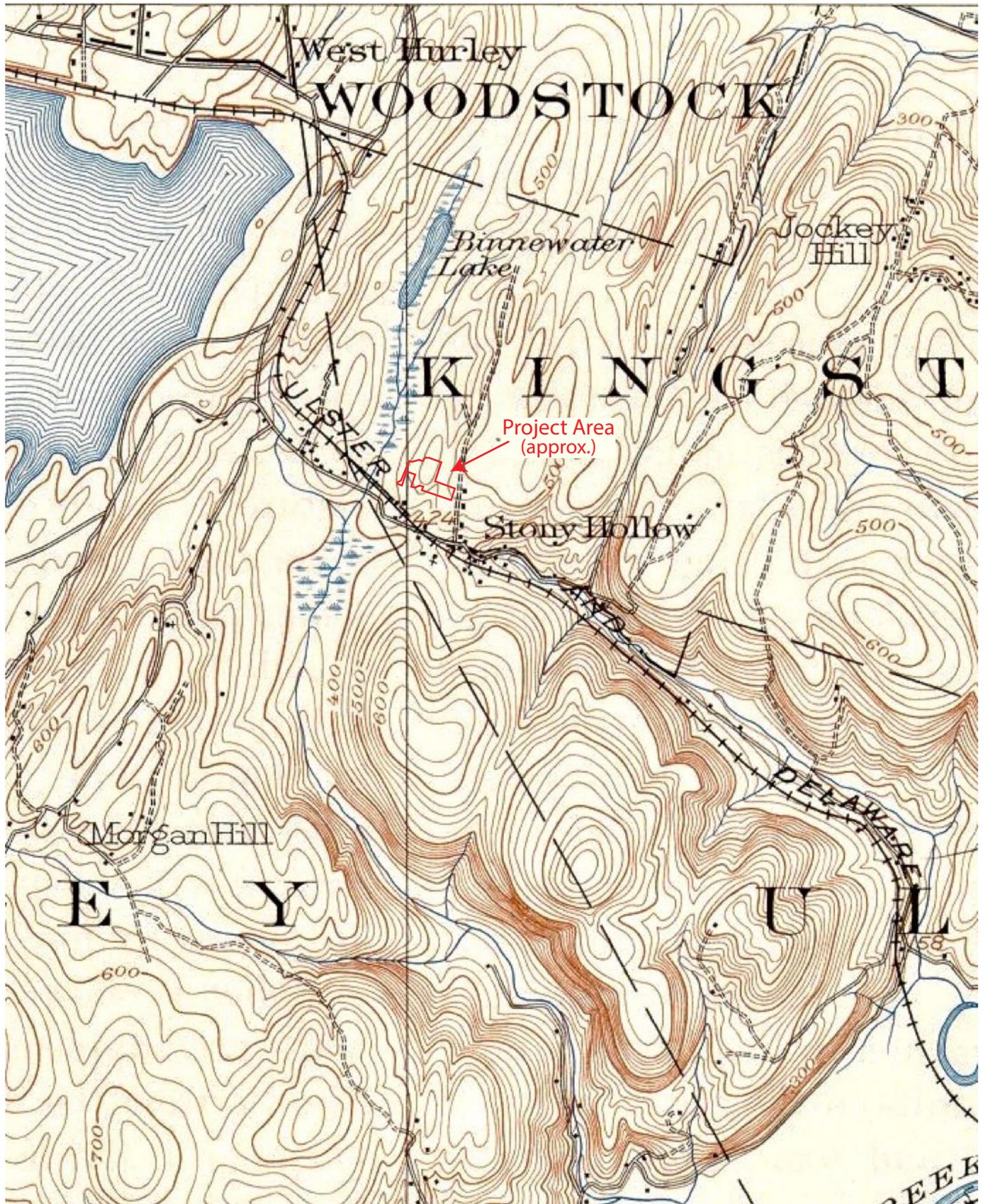
Project Area
(approx.)

2000 ft. / 610 m.

Map 2. 1875 Beers Map.



North



1000 ft. / 305 m.

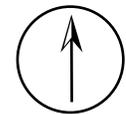


North

Map 3. 1903 USGS Rosendale Quadrangle.

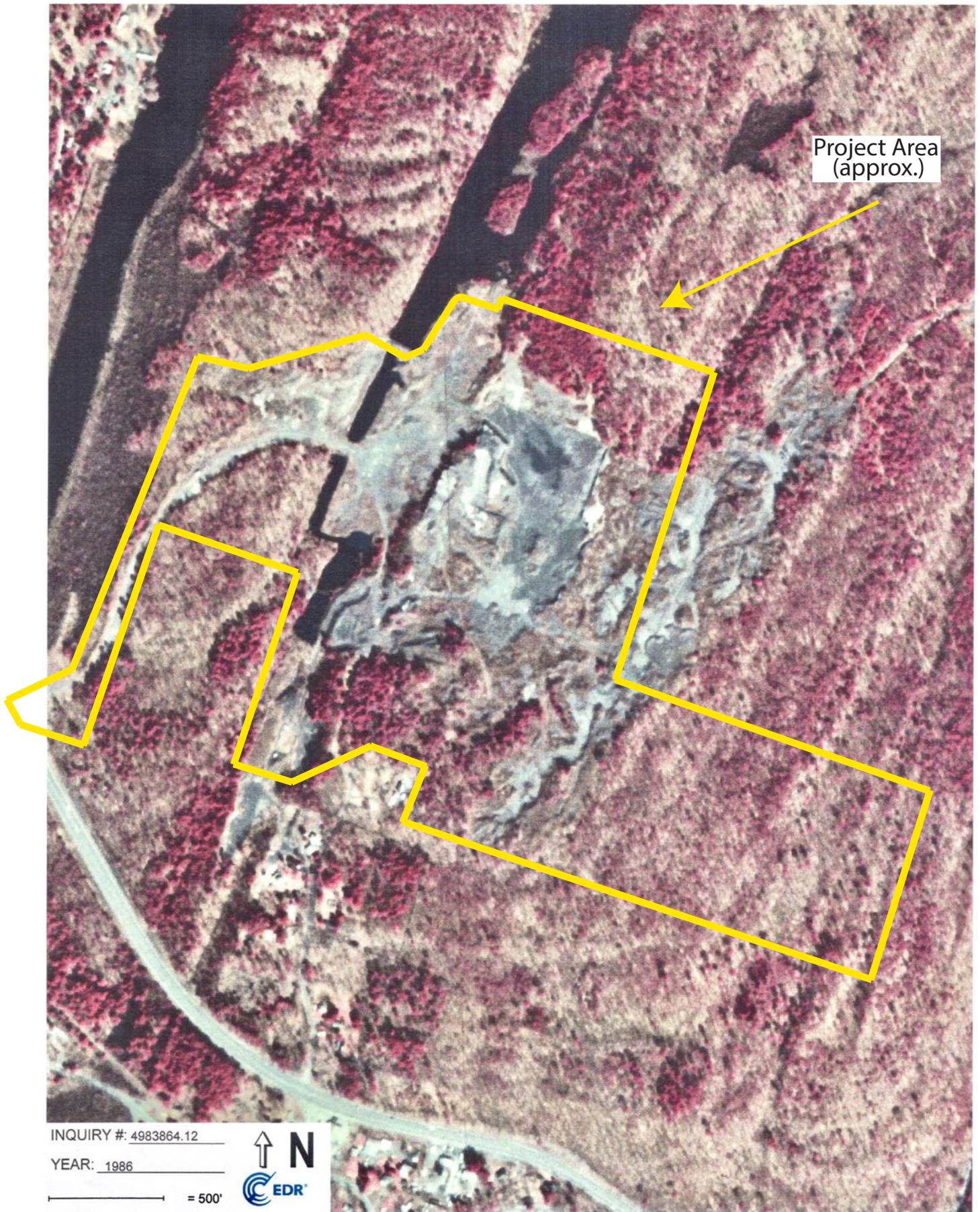


1000 ft. / 305 m.



Map 4. Ulster County Soil Survey (1978: sheet 53).

North



Map 5. Aerial photograph from 1986.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. 1970's concrete structures from mining. View east.



Photo 2. Quarry waste from 1970's mining. View northeast.



Photo 3. View north from approximate center of quarry area.



Photo 4. View north from inside quarry.



Photo 5. View northwest from ledge along southeast rim of quarry area.



Photo 6. Quarry waste along eastern edge of interior of quarry. View north/northeast.

FIGURES



Figure 1. Project area showing photograph locations and directions.