



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Manzanar National Historic Site
P.O. Box 426 5001 Highway 395
Independence, California 93526

February 20, 2010

To: Superintendent, Minidoka National Historic Site
From: Archeologist, Manzanar National Historic Site
Subject: Trip Report, Robeson Property Survey, Jerome County, Idaho, October 29-31, 2009
(Project Number MIIN 2009 B).

From October 29 through 31, 2009, I was in charge of an archeological survey of the Robeson Property at Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho (Map 1). Comprising 57.76 acres adjacent to the west side of the Historic Site, the survey area includes the former location of the relocation center military police compound, the hospital complex, four residential blocks (numbers 4, 6, 8, and 10), and portions of two other residential blocks (numbers 2 and 12). The North Side Canal forms the southern boundary of the Robeson Property (Maps 2 and 3). When the relocation center was occupied, the southern portion of the property was crossed by a wooden sewage effluent pipeline. For the historic background of this area, the reader is referred to survey reports on adjacent properties (Burton and Farrell 2001, 2006).

The Robeson Property had been recently acquired by the Conservation Fund and split into two parcels. Parcel 1 (9 acres) is to be transferred to the National Park Service. Parcel 2 (48.76 acres) is to be sold to a private party with an open space easement. The archeological survey was undertaken to identify and record any cultural resources present for future management. The crew for this project consisted of the author and archeologist Jim Burton, who volunteered his time. Including travel, 14 person-days were spent in the field. Transects were walked at 15 m intervals along compass bearings. When any cultural material was encountered, the surrounding area was examined more closely to learn the nature and extent of the resource. Locations were plotted using a Trimble Juno GPS receiver.

Most of the survey area is currently cultivated fields (Figure 1), but Parcel 1 has a house, barn, small storage shed, and a corral. The three buildings were recorded in detail to prepare plan views and elevations. Unfortunately, the interior of one building was not accessible at the time of the survey, and time constraints preclude the drafting of final building elevations. While the three buildings may contain some recycled materials from the relocation center, none appears to be a reused relocation-



center-era building, in whole or in part. In contrast, the adjacent Herrmann farm reused an in situ relocation center firehouse and parts of two moved barracks.

During the course of the survey 82 historic and modern resources were located and recorded (Table 1; Map 4). These included 47 associated with the Robeson farm, 19 associated with the Minidoka Relocation Center, and 16 potentially associated with both the relocation center and farm. No prehistoric sites or artifacts were encountered.

The recorded resources associated with the farm include three buildings (Figures 2 and 3; Maps 5-7), a corral, two wells, concrete ditches, a fence, an artifact scatter, a trash pit (Figure 4), two isolated artifacts (a bottle and an insulator), 20 rock piles (Figures 5-7; Map 8), 12 rock piles with other modern debris or artifacts, and a dump consisting of concrete fragments from recently removed irrigation ditches. The rocks in the piles may once have been part of internee-constructed landscape features, however no evidence of this use was observed, and it is equally probable that the rocks are from routine clearing of the fields.

No in situ relocation center building foundations were encountered. The only in situ resources from the relocation center is a manhole at the military police compound (Figure 8) and a road grade. All of the other relocation center resources consist of displaced or scattered materials, such as concrete foundation remnants or footers (n=13; Figures 9-12), displaced concrete remnants with associated artifacts (n=2; Map 9), or isolated artifacts (a metal pipe elbow and a section of wood pipe; Figure 13).

Resources that potentially date to both the farm and relocation center include roads, fences, vegetation, and debris. Two currently used roads match relocation center road alignments. The dirt road along the northern edge of the survey area corresponds to 'B' Street of the relocation center. The road leading to the Robeson farm residence and barn corresponds to the road that led to the military police compound. Both roads are likely modified from their historic appearance. For example, when the relocation center was constructed, according to the WRA blueprints, the road to the military police compound lay just west of the security fence. Another road, to the hospital and residential areas, ran parallel, on the inside of the security fence (Figure 14). Now, there is a fence on the opposite side of the military police compound road, along the west side of the road to the farm residence. This fence may incorporate recycled materials from the original security fence, and may have been moved after the center closed, or even possibly during the relocation center use. Although the road to the hospital is overgrown with grasses and is no longer used, its grade is still discernible.

Based on their size and location, cottonwood stumps and some of the trees at the former military

police compound may also date to the relocation center. They are located around and between MP building sites, rather than within the former footprints of MP buildings. Tree ring analysis could verify their ages.

Other resources that potentially date to both the farm and relocation center include six areas with rock piles and concrete remnants or footers (Figures 15 and 16), a rock pile with brick fragments, a rock pile with a brick fragment and a coffee cup fragment (Figure 17), a fallen fence post, a ball of wire fencing, and a rock with hole drilled through it. Two areas (Features 3 and 15) contain unusually large footers and other concrete pieces. The large footings at Feature 3 are likely from the hospital, which was located close by, to the northeast. At other relocation centers, hospital footings tend to be larger than those used for other buildings (Burton et al. 2002:85). According to some of the WRA blueprints, the area around Feature 3 (Map 10) may have been inundated by the North Side Canal during the relocation center use. The large concrete debris at Feature 15, which includes large hexagonal pieces evidently used to reinforce the canal bank (Figure 18), may be from the sewage treatment plant.

The main importance of the Robeson Property is its value as open space, to give the visitors a feel for the size and extent of the former relocation center without modern intrusions. However, the farm buildings (all within Parcel 1) could be retained to interpret the later homesteading made possible by the infrastructure the internees created. If this post-relocation-center history is to be interpreted, the decrepit barn at the farm should be stabilized and not removed; leaving just the residence would portray a misleading picture of a typical small family farm. As occurred at the Herrmann Farm, the Robeson property evidently once included at least one relocation center building: a 20 ft by 60 ft building visible just west of the farm residence in the 1992 and 1993 aerial photographs is also depicted on the relocation center blueprints. No foundations or other evidence of this building were observed during the survey, but its location and appearance could be determined from historic records, if the Park wanted to replace it to show how relocation center features were reused.

Further recommendations regarding resource treatment and Sec. 106 compliance will be completed by the Park as development plans are prepared in more detail.

Sincerely,

Jeff Burton

cc: Dan Sakura (The Conservation Fund), Les Inafuku (MANZ)

attachments: Table 1, Maps 1-10, Figures 1-18.

References Cited

Burton, Jeffery F., and Mary M. Farrell

- 2001 This is Minidoka: An Archeological Survey of Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho. *Western Archeological and Conservation Center Publications in Anthropology* 80. National Park Service, Tucson.
- 2006 An Archeological Survey of the John Hermann "Farm-In-A-Day" Property, Jerome County, Idaho. *Western Archeological and Conservation Center Publications in Anthropology* 95. National Park Service, Tucson.

Burton, Jeffery F., Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, and Richard W. Lord

- 2002 *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*. University of Washington Press, Seattle.

Table 1. Historic Resources within the Robeson Property (MIIN 2009 B).

Fea. No.	Field No.	Component		Description	Notes
		WRA	Farm		
1		X	X	Robeson Farm	400 x 600 ft area
1.1	59		X	farm house with attached garage	1450 sq ft building with 480 sq ft garage connected by 125 sq ft enclosed breezeway; interior not accessible
1.2	60		X	barn	1745 sq ft building
1.3	61		X	storage shed	T-shaped building, 8'-4" x 12'-11", max 8'-10½" high, door on east side, concrete and dirt floors
1.4	63		X	well box	subterranean concrete box 45 x 46 inches, 7 ft deep, top opening is 26x 26½ inches
1.5	62		X	corral	wood rails and posts, adjacent to barn
1.6	49		X	well casing	10 inch inside diameter, concrete fragments below ground, pipe runs under fragments
1.7	48		X	trash pit	trench 25 x 160 ft, up to 6 ft deep, burned domestic trash includes aluminum cans, porcelain doll parts, auto parts
1.8	51		X	rock pile	2 x 2 ft
1.9	20		X	rock pile	2 x 4 ft
1.10	21	X	X	rock pile with concrete fragments	4 x 6 ft, with concrete fragments
1.11	22	X	X	rock pile with concrete fragments	2 x 12 ft, with concrete fragments
1.12			X	rock pile	2 x 3 ft
1.13	54		X	rock pile	5 x 13 ft
1.14	52	X		in situ manhole remnants	concrete oval, approx 31 x 32 inches, broken top edge
1.15	58	X		footer (behind farm house)	loose, top is 8 x 8 x 3½ inches, below ground portion is 11 x 12 x 14 inches
1.16	64	?	X	stumps at farm house	large cottonwood stumps, some resprouting
2		X		scatter of concrete fragments	200 x 440 ft area within farm field, several dozen small concrete fragments, largest piece is 4½ x 6½ x 1¾ inches thick
	28			white glass toy dish fragment	artifact within concrete scatter
	53			terra cotta flower pot fragment	artifact within concrete scatter

Table 1. Historic Resources within the Robeson Property (MIIN 2009 B).

Fea. No.	Field No.	Component		Description	Notes
		WRA	Farm		
	55			cold cream jar fragment	artifact within concrete scatter
	56			cold cream jar fragment	artifact within concrete scatter
3		X	X	Concrete and rock dump	310 x 280 ft area, concrete dumps and scattered pieces, numerous rock piles
3.1	44	X	X	concrete dump, rock piles	at least 16 footers and piers, numerous concrete slab and other concrete fragments, large rocks, overgrown by trees, outside survey area, footings measure 12 x 7½ x 32 inches, 10 x 10 x 3½ inches (n =8), 12 x 5½ x 32 inches, and 12 x 3½ x 32
3.2	42	X		concrete footer	21 x 21 x 14 inches, outside survey area
3.3	41	X		large concrete footer	double footing, each is 9⅞ x 9⅞ x 3½ inches, 12-13 inches thick, outside survey area
3.4	43	X		concrete footer/pier	12 x12 x 32 inches, extruding 2 inch long rebar on one side and bolts on the other (¾ inch with nuts, 8 inches long)
3.5	37	X		concrete footer	along fenceline
3.6	45	X		footings, wood pipe, concrete pipe	three footings (10 x 10 x 3½"), wood pipe remnants, concrete pipe piece (20" long, 8" ID), rocks
3.7	46		X	rock pile	5 x 6 ft
3.8		X		concrete fragment	along fenceline 6 ft north of fence post (was recorded with 36)
4	17		X	bottle	7½ inches high, oval base 2 x 2⅝ (JERGENS / PAT PEND / 2 AHK)
	18	?	X	wire fencing	wire fence bundle, 4 ft high, 15 ft north of #17
	19		X	rock pile and debris	5 x 10 ft, scattered lumber, metal pipes, concrete pipe pieces, 30 ft north of #18
5.1	12	X	X	rock pile, concrete footers, and a brick	2 x 5 ft, 1 brick, three concrete footings to west
5.2	13		X	rock pile and nails	4 x 6 ft with large rocks, 2½ and 3 inch nails, 25 ft northeast of Fea. 5.1
5.3	14		X	rock pile	4 x 8 ft, 30 ft southeast of Fea. 3.1
6	1	X		concrete manhole debris	four large concrete slabs, 20 x 21", 18 x 35", 22 x 32", 32 x 36"
7	8	X	X	rock pile and concrete footer	3 x 10 ft, with concrete footer

Table 1. Historic Resources within the Robeson Property (MIIN 2009 B).

Fea. No.	Field No.	Component		Description	Notes
		WRA	Farm		
8	2		X	rock pile	8 x 22 x 2 ft high, 2 x 2 ft
9	3		X	artifact scatter	tire, three bottles, three bricks, brick fragments, two metal chairs, child's swing parts, refrigerator tray, lumber, insulators, plywood, garden hose, metal bed railing, auto shock, electronic radio tube
10			X	rock piles	45 x 150 ft area, 10 rock piles on low ridge
10.1	4-1		X	rock pile	6 x 7 ft
10.2	4-2	X	X	rock pile with brick fragments	7 x 7 ft, some brick fragments
10.3	4-3		X	rock pile and artifact	5 x 8 ft, metal basket
10.4	4-4		X	rock pile	6 x 12 ft, large rocks
10.5	4-5		X	rock pile and artifact	3 x 4 ft, 3 inch diameter amber bottle base, embossed "83 / ...ORTUGAL SOCIEOANLOOS VINHOS SA... / 4"
10.6	4-6	X	X	rock pile with artifacts	5 x 11 ft, brick fragment, coffee cup fragment
10.7	4-7		X	rock pile	6 x 12 ft, large rocks
10.8	4-8		X	rock pile with artifact	4 x 10 ft, barbed wire
10.9	4-9		X	rock pile	5 x 8 ft
10.10	4-10		X	rock pile with artifacts	3 x 9 ft, lumber, plywood, concrete fragments, aluminum can, plastic
11	6		X	rock pile with artifact	4 x 4 ft, metal roofing (2'-4" x 5'-0") and dug out hole to south
12	7		X	rock pile with concrete pipe fragments	5 x 7 ft, with large rocks and concrete pipe fragments
13	5	X	?	fence post	fallen fence post with barbed wire
14.1	33-1		X	rock pile	10 x 18 ft
14.2	33-2		X	rock pile	5 x 5 ft, 7 ft southwest of Fea. 14.1
14.3	33-3		X	rock pile with artifacts	4 x 6 ft, large coffee can, milk can, aluminum beer can, 8 ft southwest of Fea. 14.2

Table 1. Historic Resources within the Robeson Property (MIIN 2009 B).

Fea. No.	Field No.	Component		Description	Notes
		WRA	Farm		
15	57 (46)	X	X	concrete and rock piles with artifacts	approx 100 ft long area along canal bank and within canal, concrete chunks up to 5 x 7 ft, wood pipe fragments, wood pipe (8½" dia), 4 footings/piers, two footings, three small hexagonal shaped fragments in canal, 7 ft dia hexagonal shaped fragment with 1½ inch hole in the center, concrete pipe (24" ID), 2 concrete pipe (22" ID), 4 concrete pipe (12" ID), 2 rocks with drilled holes (2½ inch diameter), loose wire and cable
16	47	X	X	concrete and rock piles with artifacts	approx 110 ft long area along canal bank, concrete chunks up to 3 x 3 x 4 ft, broken concrete pipe, lumber, possible wood pipe fragments, several rock piles
17	29		X	rock pile	6 x 12 ft, ditch to north
18	30		X	rock pile	5 x 7 ft, ditch to north
19	15		X	rock pile	4 x 5 ft
20	16		X	rock pile with artifact	3 x 9 ft, with iron bar 12 x 3/4 inch diameter
21	9		X	rock pile	8 x 8 ft
22	10	X		metal pipe	elbow 60 degree connection, 12 inches long by 2½ inch diameter
23	11		X	rock pile with artifact	4 x 9 ft, metal piece 2 x 7 inches
24	24		X	rock dump	10 x 75 ft
25	25	X		wood pipe	two sections of wood pipe with wire bundling, 7 ft long, approx 9 inch diameter
26	26	X		concrete dump	10 x 115 ft, along road edge, with concrete footings
27	27		X	rock pile	4 x 7 ft
28	31		X	rock pile	3 x 4 ft
29	32		X	rock pile	12 x 14 ft
30	36	X		concrete footer	along fenceline
31	38	X	?	rock with drill hole	12 x 14 x 17 inches, 2¾ inch diameter hole, two other large rocks nearby, along fenceline
32	36	X		concrete fragment	along fenceline
33	36	X		concrete chunk	along fenceline
34	40	X		concrete footer/pier	9½ x 9½ x 32" inches

Table 1. Historic Resources within the Robeson Property (MIIN 2009 B).

Fea. No.	Field No.	Component		Description	Notes
		WRA	Farm		
35	35		X	rock pile with concrete canal fragments and artifacts	12 x 25 ft, old concrete canal pieces, old 4-cylinder automotive engine flat head , old 1/2 inch ratchet
36	36		X	fence	31 wood fence posts, 53-63 inches high, round and irregular (split?) shapes, two broken 32 and 44 inches high
37	50	?	X	fence	32 wood fence posts, 46-79 inches high, square, rectangular, and irregular shaped
38	65	X	X	road to farm house/MP compound	640 ft long south from Hunt Road to farm, then west 300 ft, 20 ft wide
39	66	X	X	'B' Street alignment	along north edge of survey area, 2,300 ft long, 15 ft wide, has slight jog
40	34		X	insulator	1 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter ceramic knob, embossed "...AR / ...ASTER"
41	68		X	concrete ditch system	currently being removed, 475 ft section near farm house remains
42	23		X	concrete dump, rocks, and artifacts	14 x 29 ft, concrete chunks, large rocks, tire, tire and rim, canal sluice box valve, metal wire
43	67		X	concrete ditch debris in large pit	numerous pieces from recently removed concrete ditches, pit measures 100 x 250 ft
44	39	X		footing in ditch	8 x 8 x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
45	65	X		road grade	road grade with gravel areas, overgrown with grass, approx 20 ft wide, parallels road to Robeson farm



Figure 1. Overview of Robeson Property, view to north.



Figure 2. Farm residence, Robeson Property Feature 1.1; well box (Feature 1.4) in foreground.



Figure 3. Barn, Robeson Property Feature 1.2.



Figure 4. Trash pit, Robeson Property Feature 1.7.



Figure 5. Rock pile, Robeson Property Feature 10.7.



Figure 6. Rock pile, Robeson Property Feature 21.



Figure 7. Rock pile, Robeson Property Feature 14.1.



Figure 8. In situ relocation center manhole, Robeson Property Feature 1.14.



Figure 9. Manhole debris, Robeson Property Feature 6.



Figure 10. Small concrete footer, Robeson Property Feature 44.



Figure 11. Large concrete footer, Robeson Property Feature 3.3.



Figure 12. Large concrete footer, Robeson Property Feature 3.4.



Figure 13. Wood pipe, Robeson Property Feature 25.

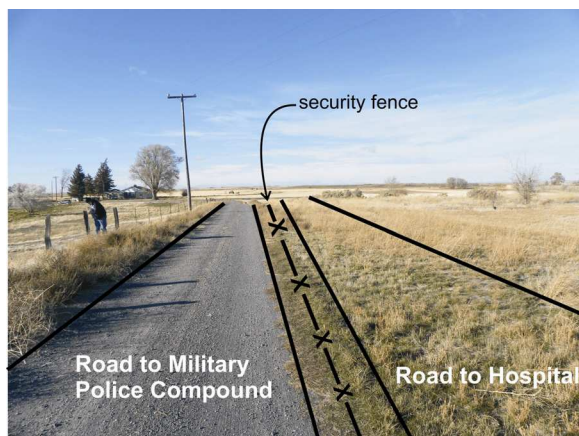


Figure 14. Road to farm residence showing historic road and fence locations.



Figure 15. Large footers and rocks, Robeson Property Feature 3.1.



Figure 16. Rocks and concrete debris, Robeson Property Feature 3.6.



Figure 17. Coffee cup fragment, Robeson Property Feature 10.6.

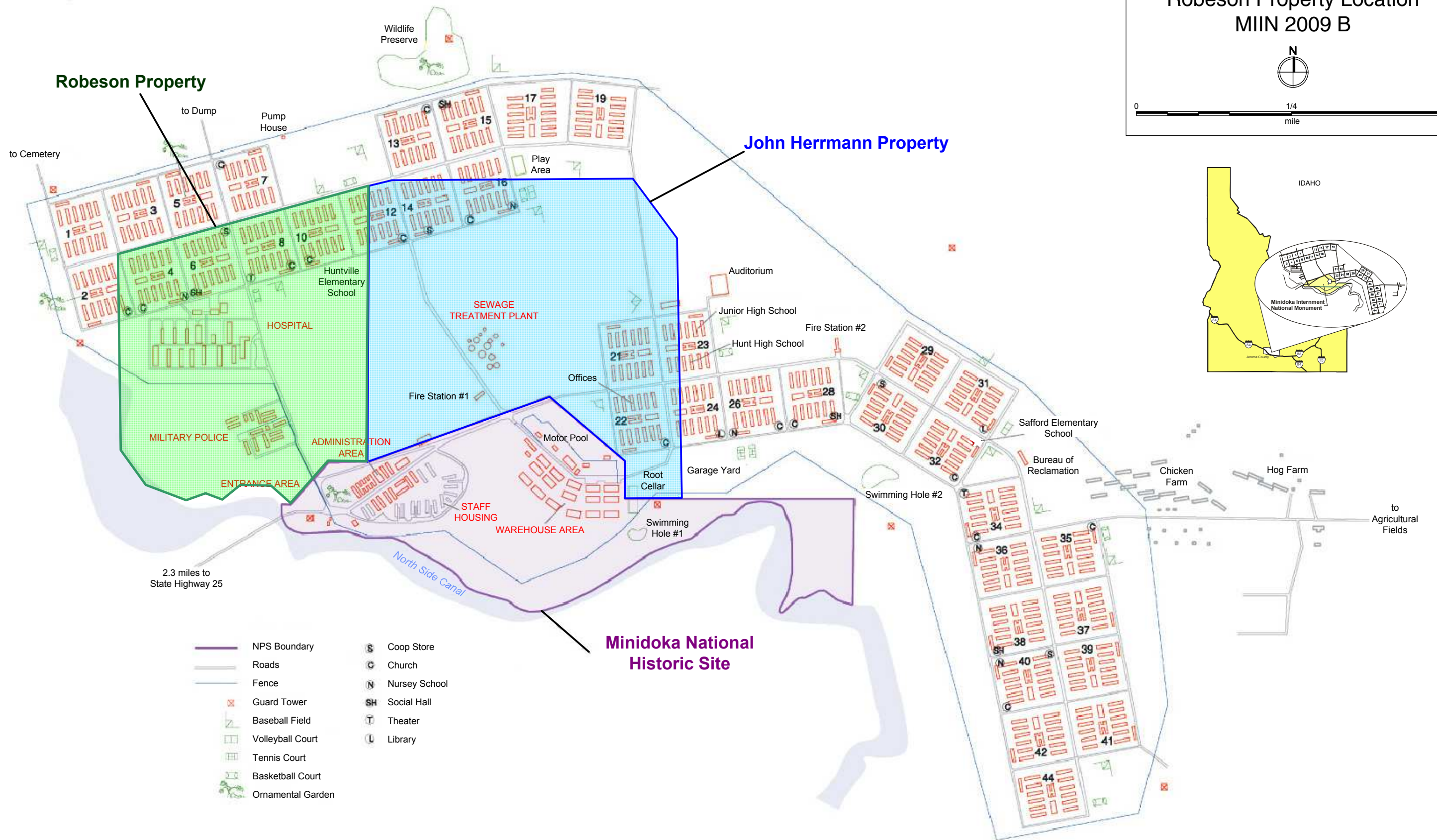
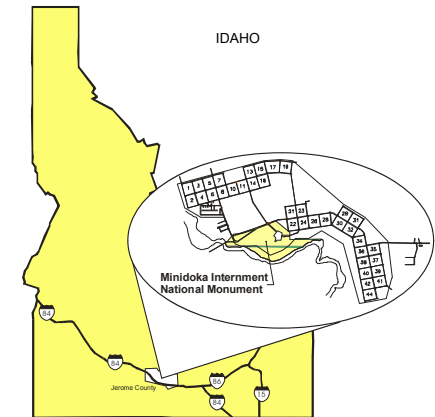


Figure 18. Large concrete debris, Robeson Property Feature 15.

Map 1.
Robeson Property Location
MIIN 2009 B



0 1/4 1/2
mile

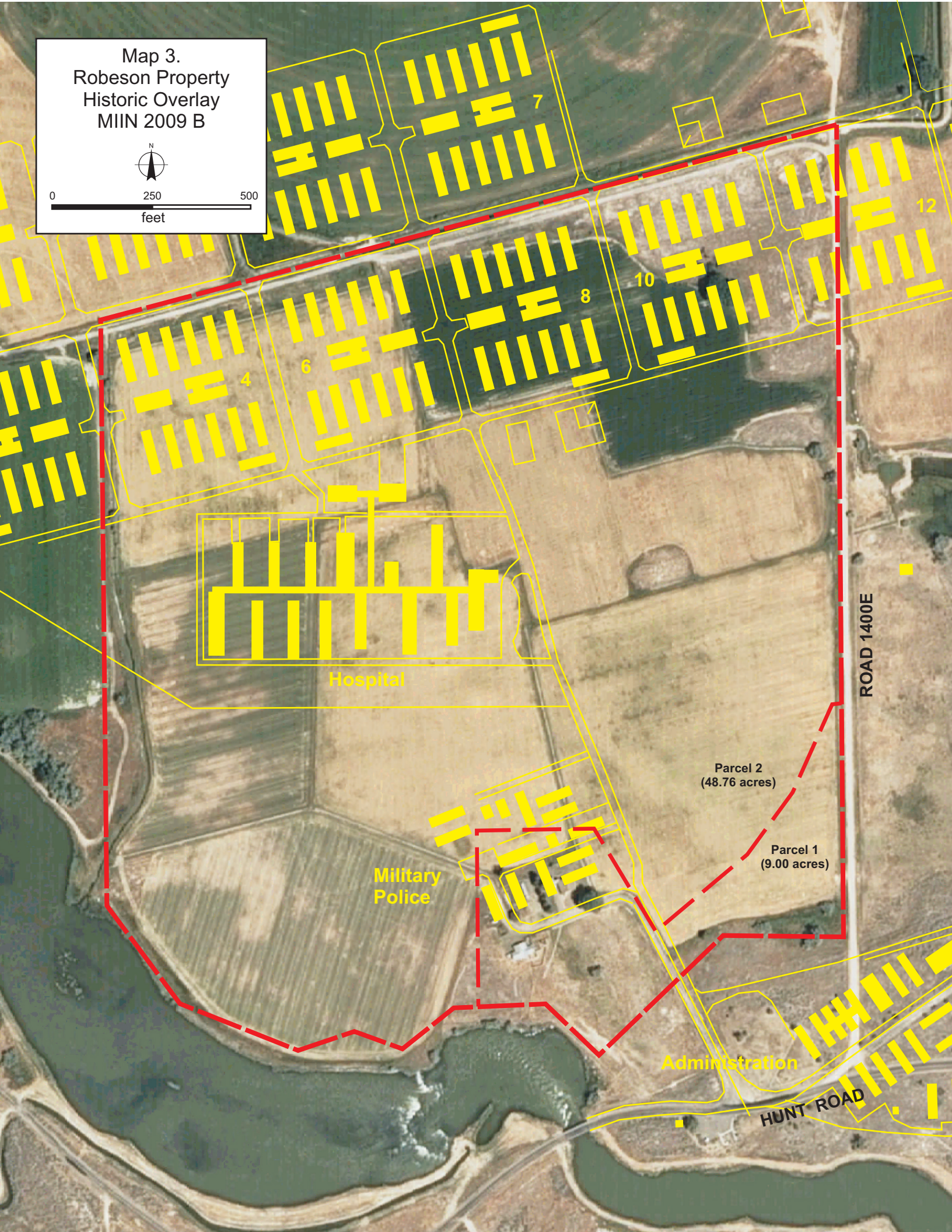




Map 3.
Robeson Property
Historic Overlay
MIIN 2009 B



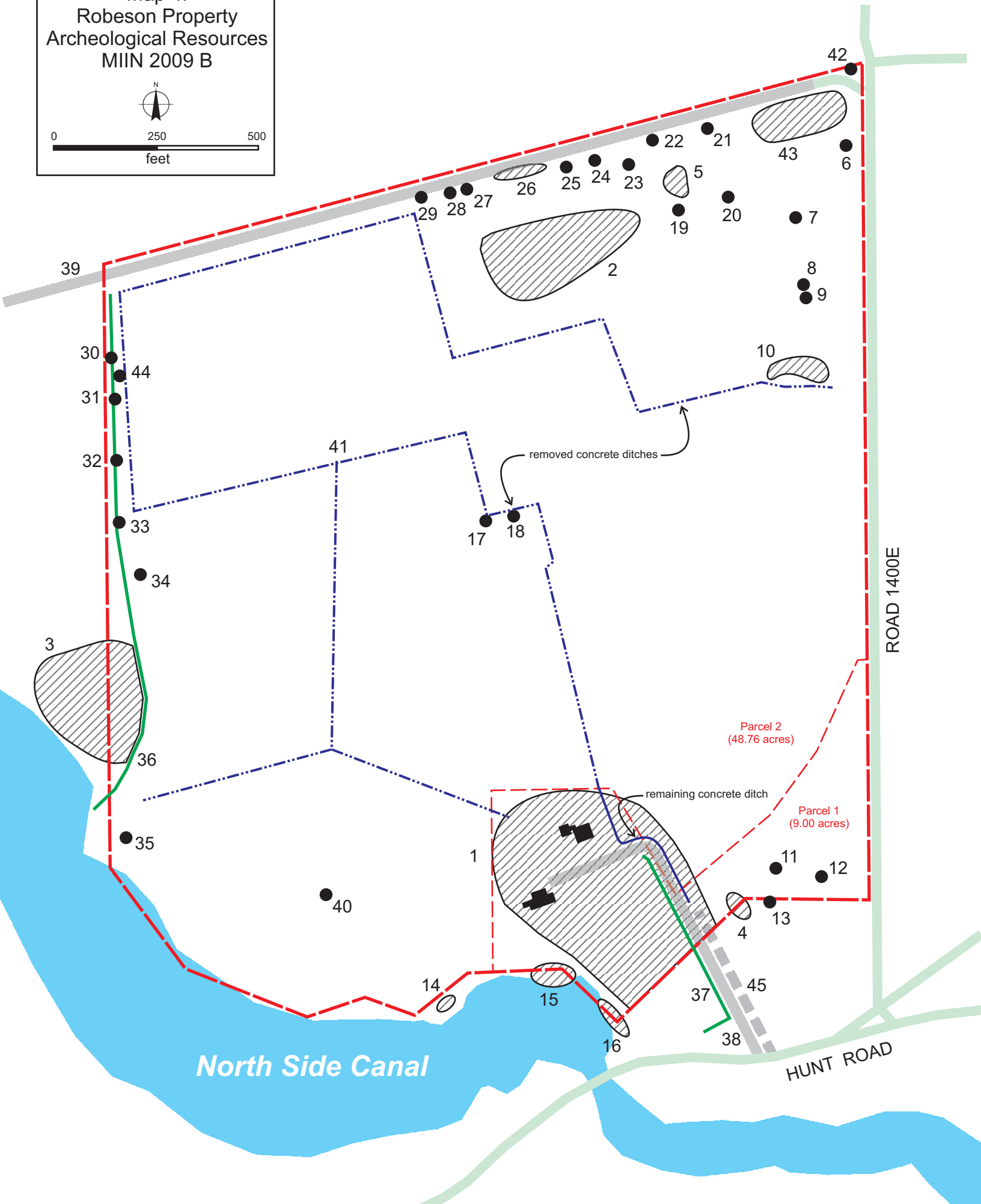
0 250 500
feet



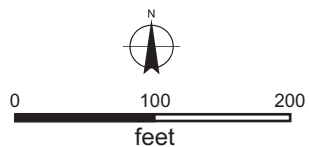
Map 4.
Robeson Property
Archeological Resources
MIIN 2009 B



0 250 500
feet



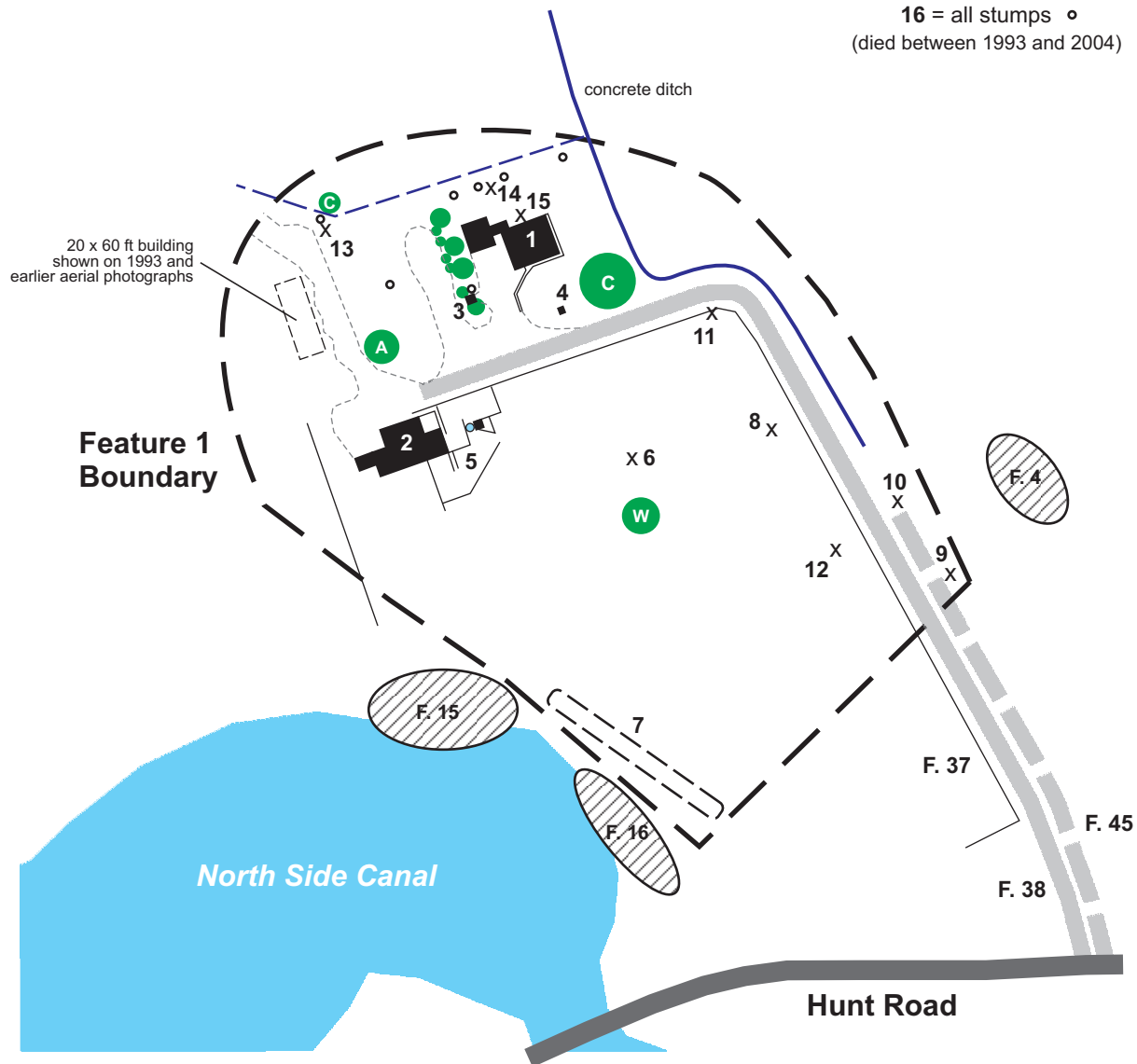
Map 5.
Robeson Farm
Feature 1
MIIN 2009 B



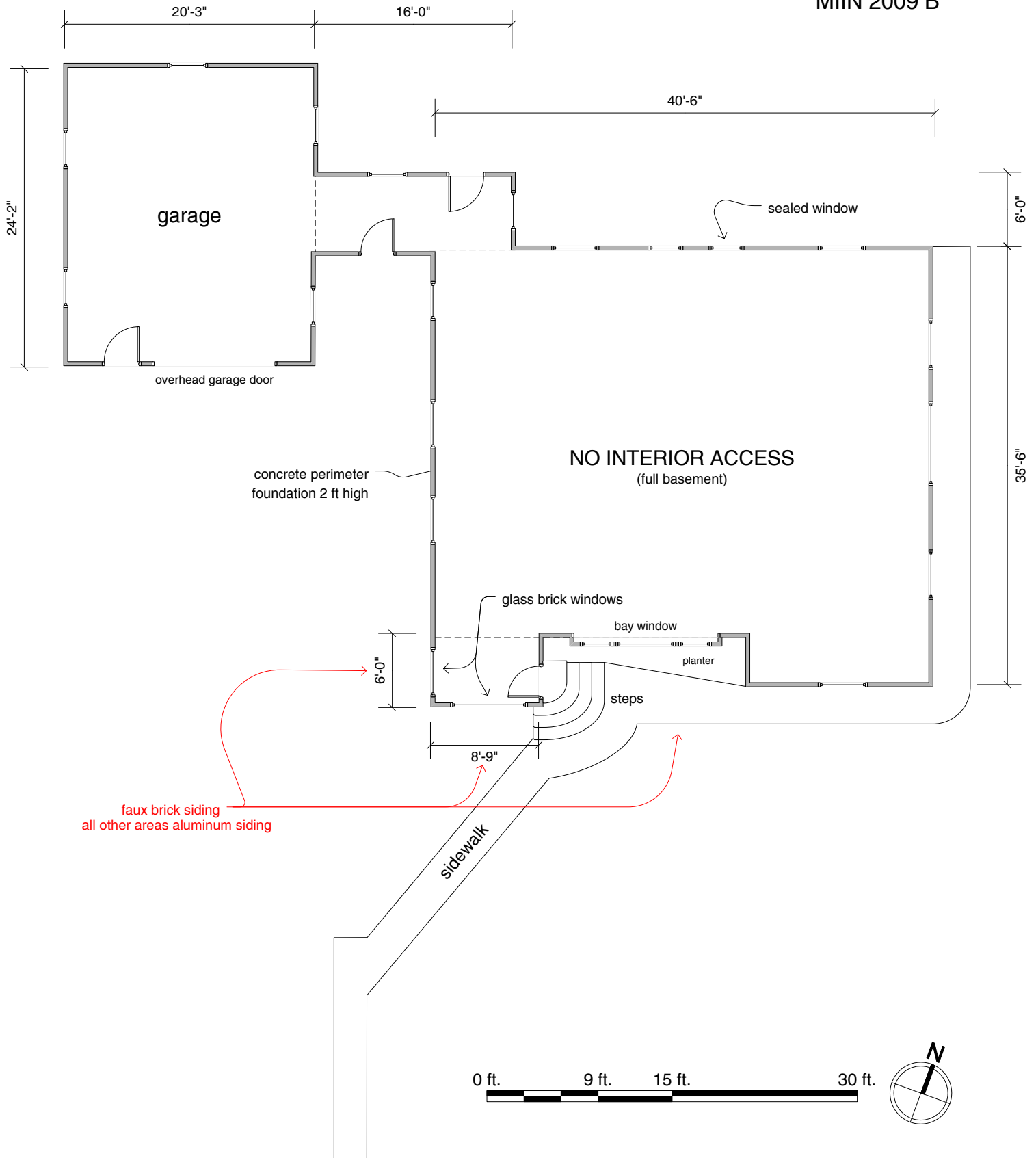
Trees

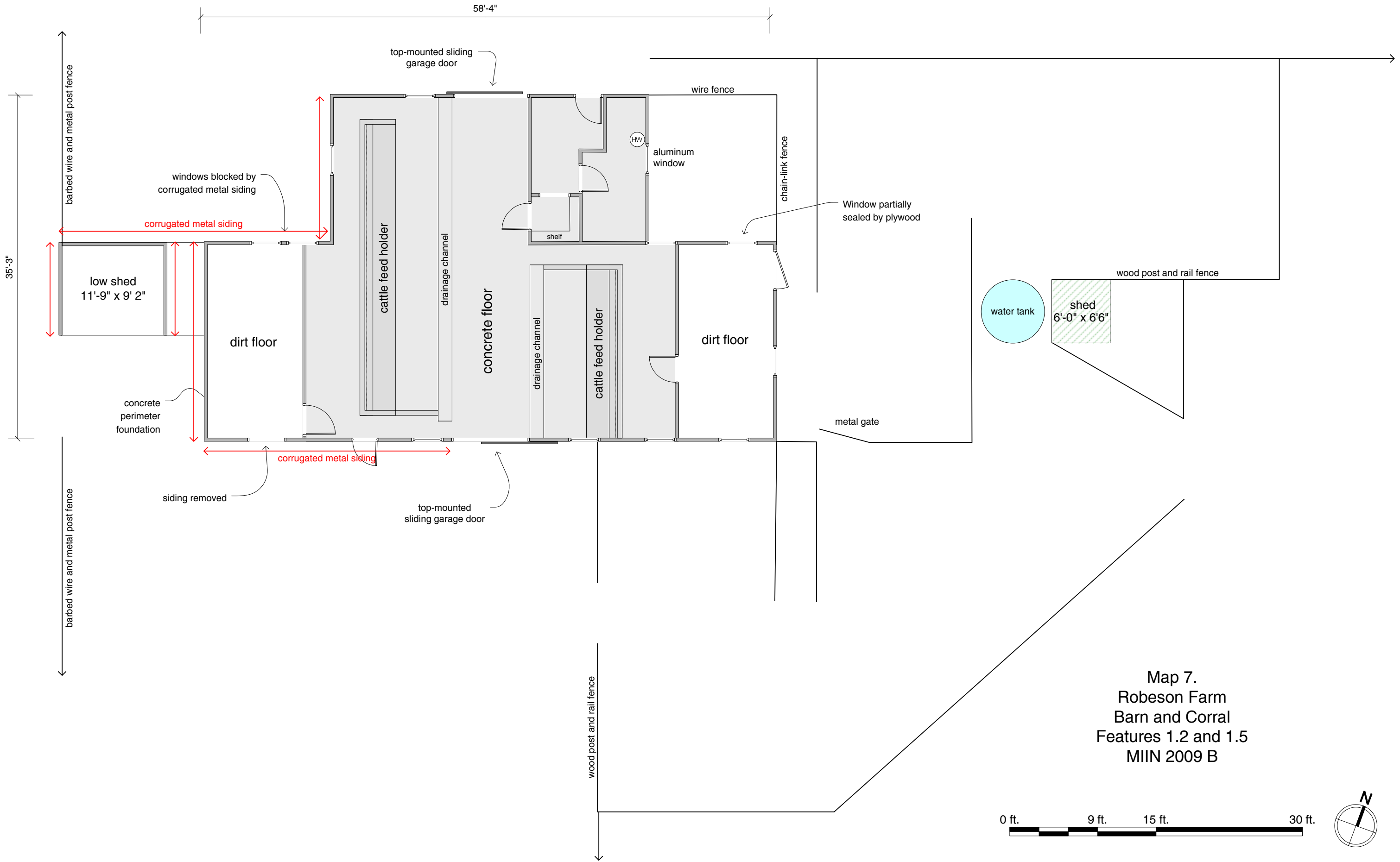
- A A = apple
- C C = cottonwood
- W W = willow
- all others conifer

16 = all stumps ○
(died between 1993 and 2004)

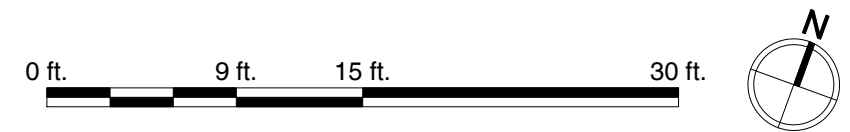


Map 6.
Robeson Farm House
Feature 1.1
MIIN 2009 B

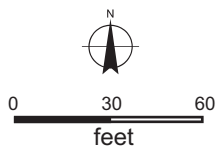




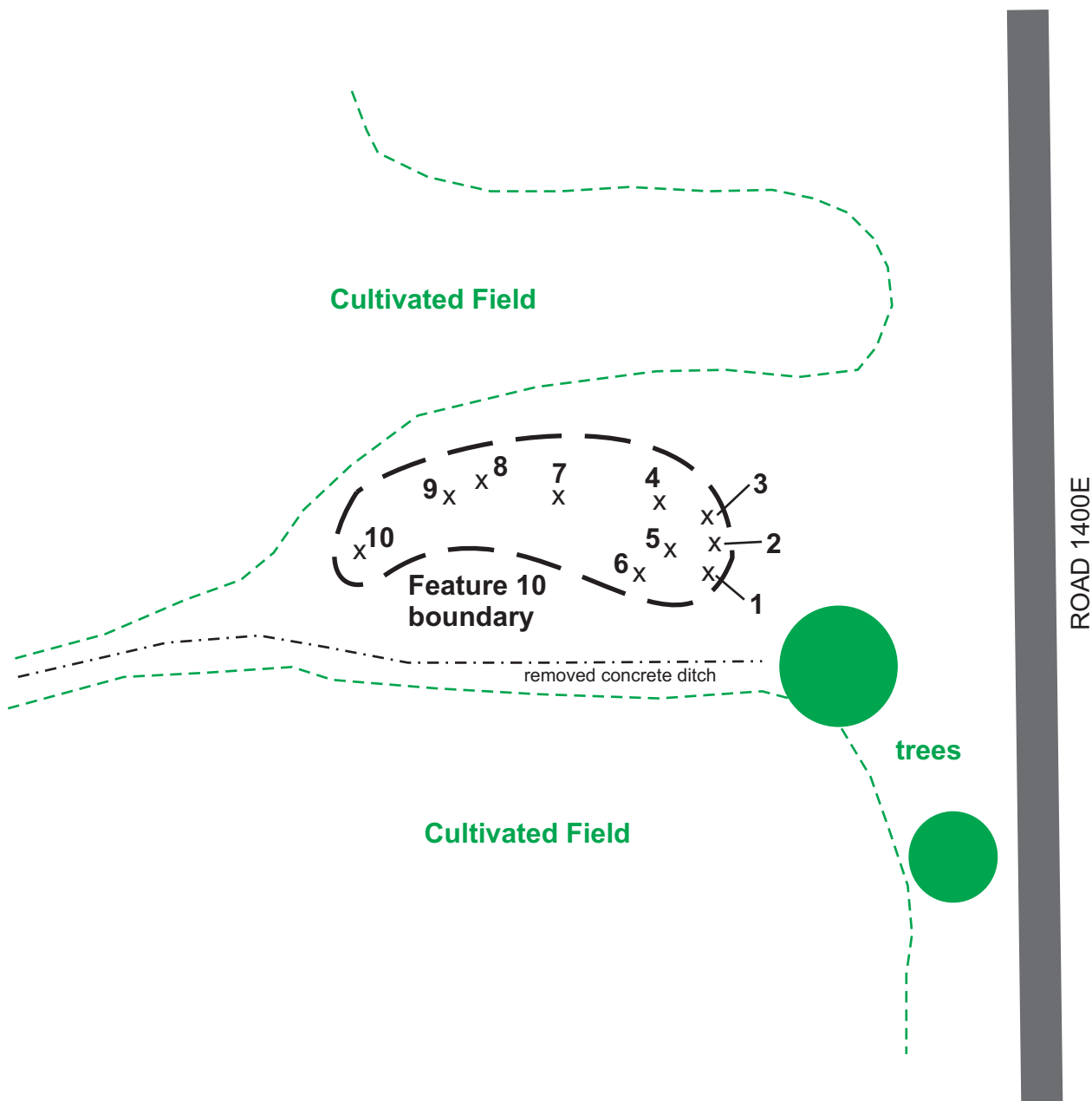
Map 7.
Robeson Farm
Barn and Corral
Features 1.2 and 1.5
MIIN 2009 B



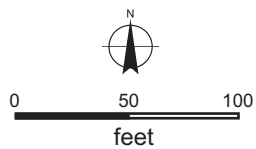
Map 8.
Robeson Property
Feature 10
MIIN 2009 B



x = rock pile

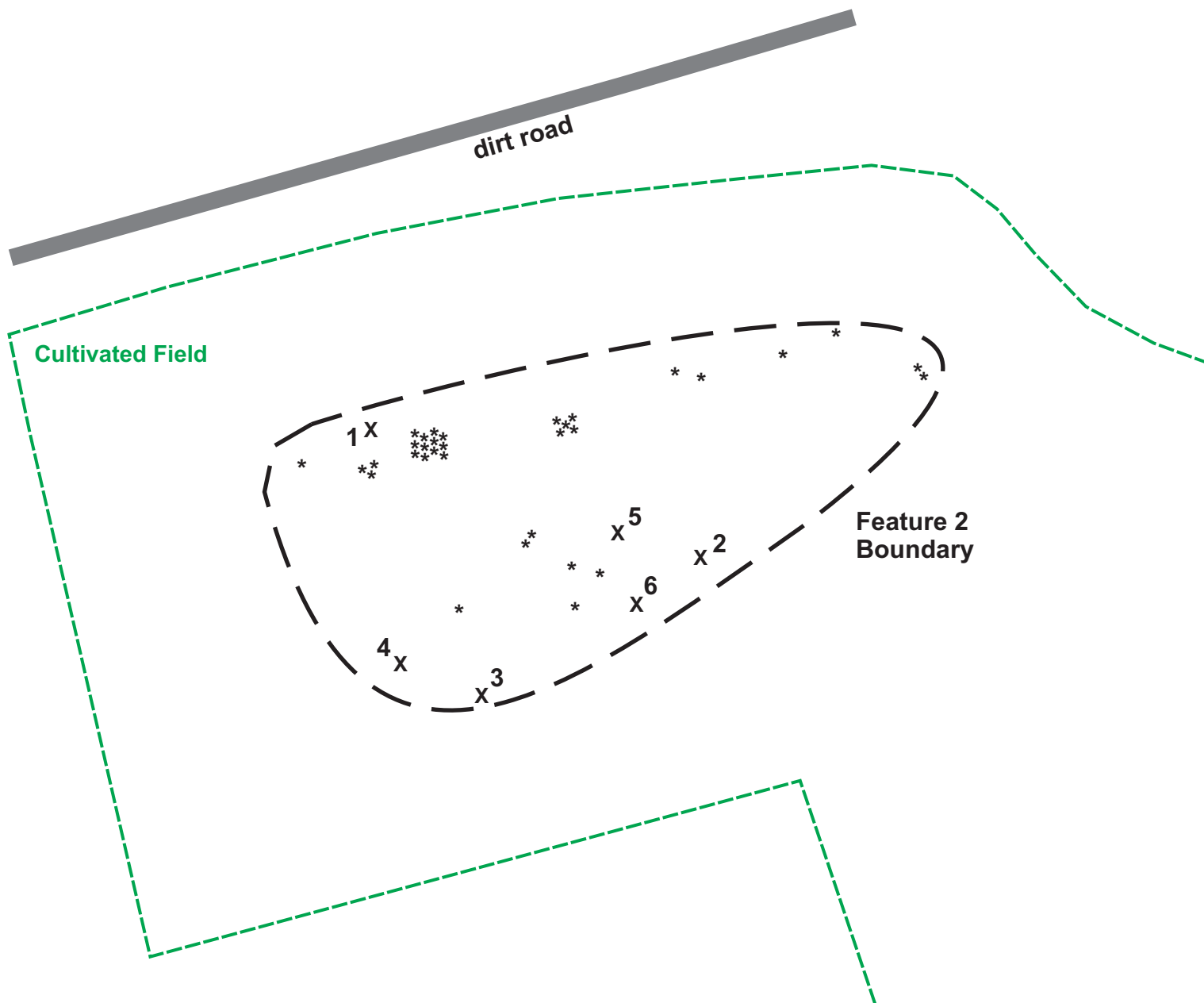


Map 9.
Robeson Property
Feature 2
MIIN 2009 B



1. jar fragment
2. amber glass fragment
3. sewer pipe fragment
4. toy plate fragment
5. flower pot fragment
6. jar fragment

* = concrete fragment



Map 10.
Robeson Property
Feature 3
MIIN 2009 B

N

0

50

100

feet

