

USPLSS RESEARCH RESOURCES

WISCONSIN COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

ORIGINAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY NOTES



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Wisconsin Public Land Survey Records: Original Field Notes and Plat Maps



The field notes and plat maps of the public land survey of Wisconsin are a valuable resource for original land survey information, as well as for understanding Wisconsin's landscape history. The survey of Wisconsin was conducted between 1832 and 1866 by the federal General Land Office. This work established the township, range and section grid; the pattern upon which land ownership and land use is based. The survey records were transferred to the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands after the original survey was completed. Since that time, these records have been available for consultation at the BCPL's office in Madison, as hand-transcriptions, and more recently on microfilm. Now, they are being made available via the internet as electronic images.

Before beginning a search for survey records, users, especially those who have not used this site previously, are strongly encouraged to read the **background material** provided. This information has been developed to assist in understanding, the process of the public land survey and how to interpret the records, as well as to understand the search techniques for this site.

Much of the credit for this project is due to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, General Library System. This organization did the original imaging of the field notes, as well as the developing and hosting of this website.

This website remains a work in progress. Your assistance is needed to continue to develop and improve this website. Please send any comments or suggestions you may have to bcpl.info@wisconsin.gov.

[Township Reference Diagram](#) (opens a new window)

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands | UW-Madison Libraries
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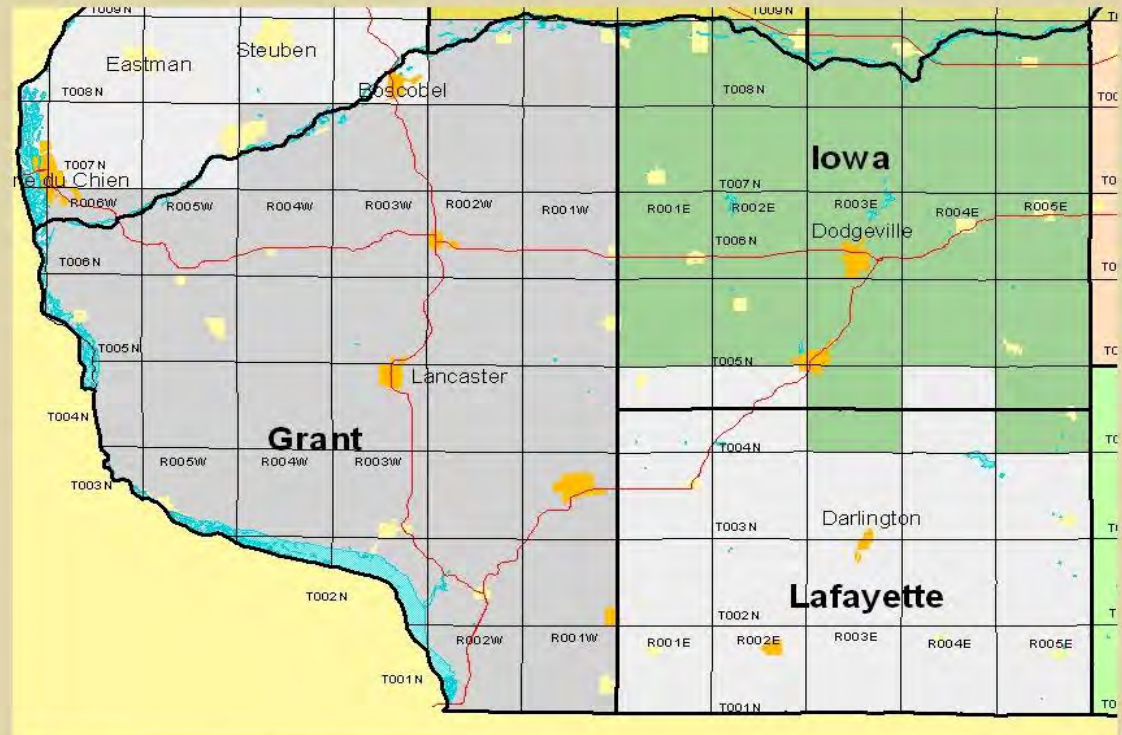
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Select a township from the map:



If you know the Township, Range and Section you're looking for, choose them here:

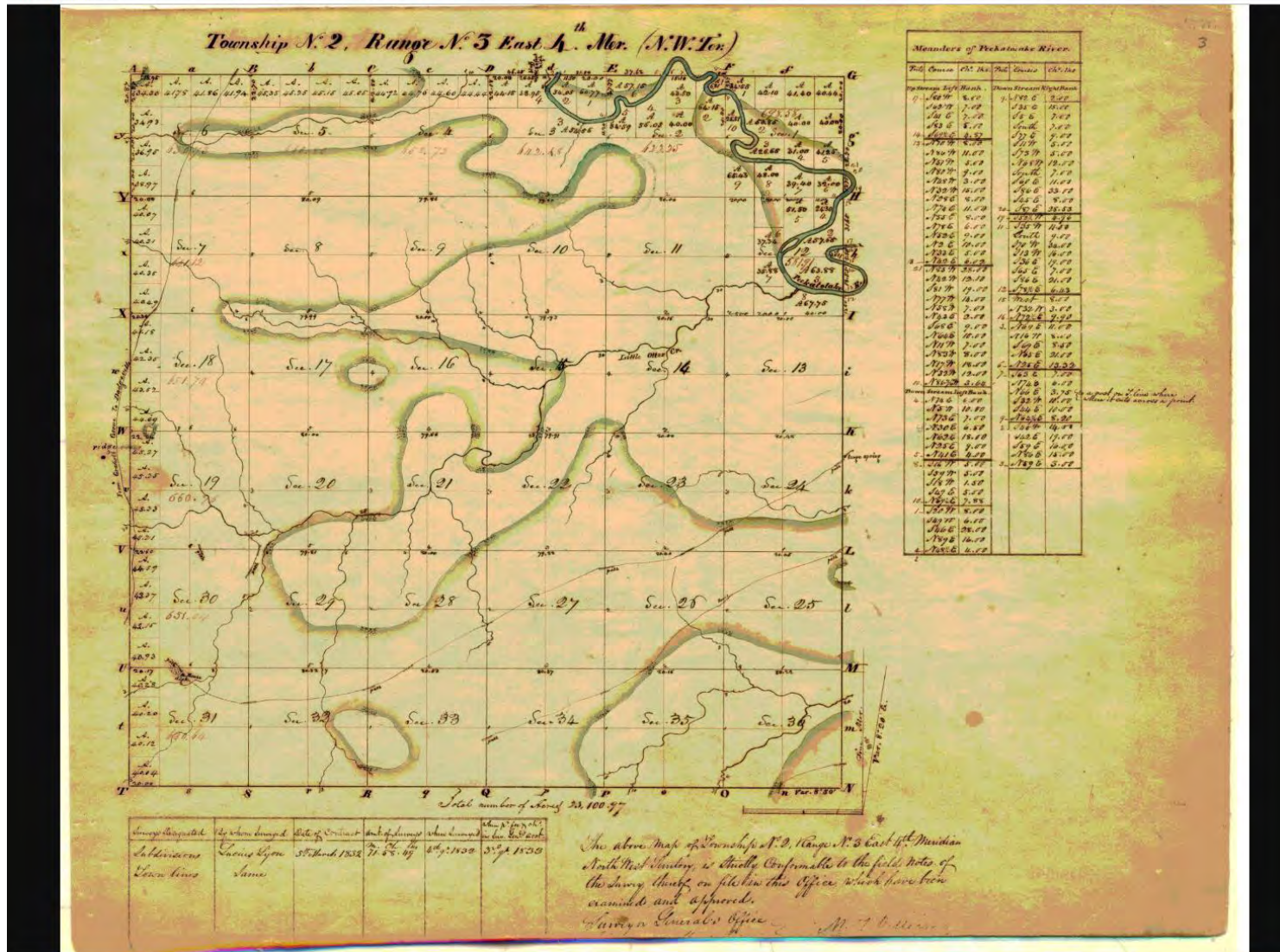
Township: **T2N** ▼ Range: **R3E** ▼ Section (optional): **3** ▼ [Search](#)

Within a Township, sections are numbered like this:

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

ORIGINAL PLAT

images.library.wisc.edu/awareImageServer/SurveyNotesImageNav.jsp?collection=SurveyNotes&resource=PlatMaps/TN02/reference/000203EA.jp2&title=Plat+Map+for+T2N+R3E%20%28original%29



NOTES FOR LINE BETWEEN SECTIONS 3 & 10

32	Page	33
T 2 N. R 3 E. (N. W. Territory)		T 2 N. R 3 E. (N. W. Territory)
<p>East char. On random between Sec. 3 & 10</p> <p>30.00 a point of timber reaches to within 200 links of the line on the north</p> <p>45.00 after passing along beside the timber left it 1 char. N. of line</p> <p>79.60 to East boundary 21 links South of post - Land rolling, 10⁺ rate prairie -</p>		<p>North char. Between Sections 3 & 4</p> <p>17.00 left prairie and enter thicket</p> <p>34.00 left thicket and enter prairie</p> <p>40.00 Set a bur Oak post and raised a mound of earth for $\frac{1}{4}$ Section corner</p> <p>57.00 Leave prairie and enter timber</p> <p>82.18 to the north boundary at post. Land rolling and 10⁺ rate, & timbered in some places with bur Oak -</p>
<p>West Connected west betⁿ Sec. 3 & 10</p> <p>39.80 Set a bur Oak post on true line for $\frac{1}{4}$ Section corner -</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">{ Bur Oak 8 S. 83° E. 228</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">{ Bur Oak 22 N. 51° W. 258</p> <p>79.60 to Section corner -</p>		

LOCAL COUNTY RECORDS

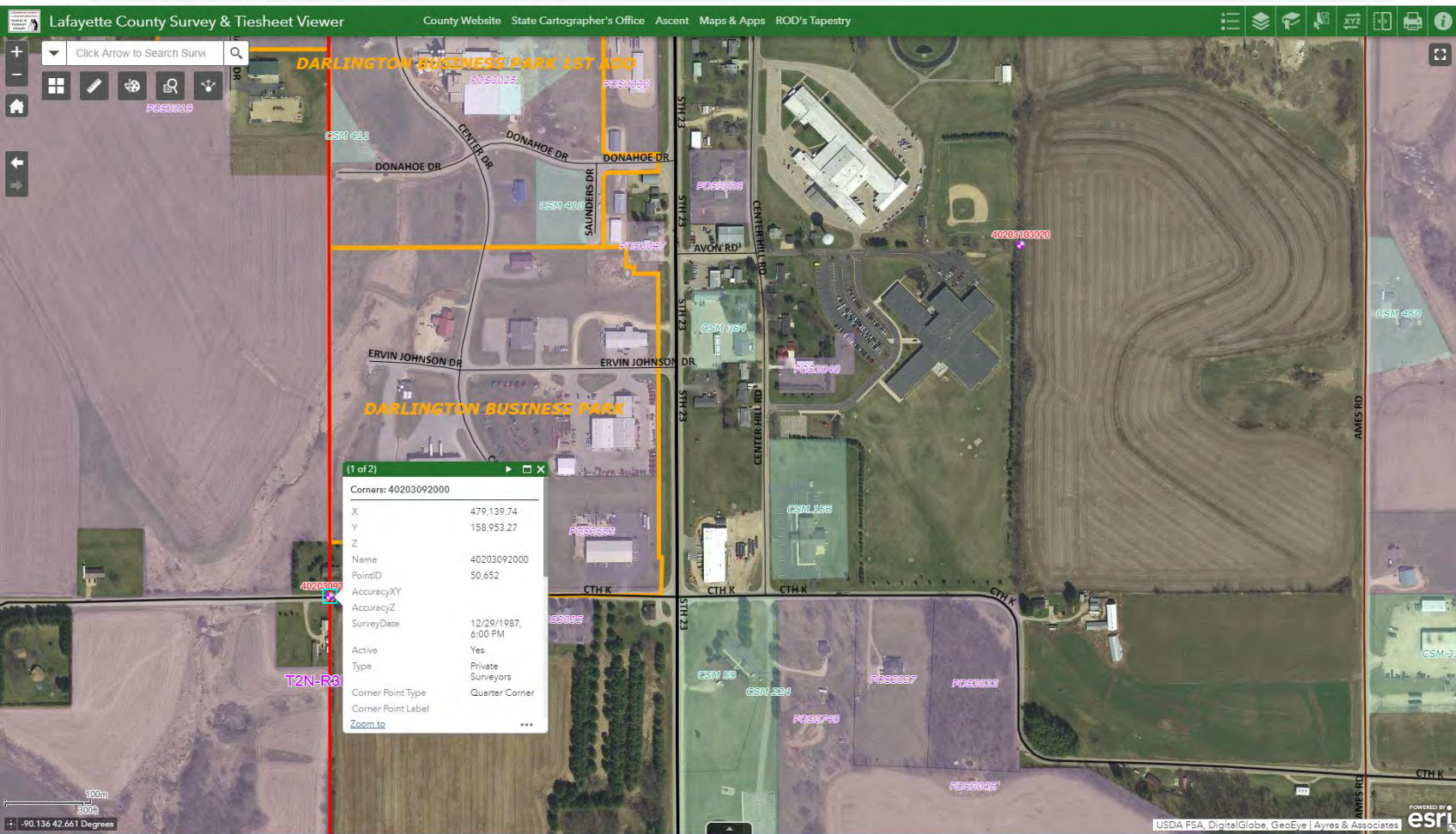
- All Certified Survey Maps and Subdivision Plats are filed with the Register of Deeds. (Minor and Major Land Divisions)
- The official custodian of other survey records, including all other types of land surveys, historic county surveyors notes, PLSS monument records (tie sheets), can vary from county to county.
- If the county employs a county surveyor, they are likely the custodian of these records. If not, it may be the Register of Deeds, Tax Lister or Land Information Office.

Counties around the state are at all different stages of records modernization. Some have all of these records scanned and accessible on- line and others very little. Some sites are free and others may charge a fee to help offset the cost of staff and equipment necessary.

The last survey I would have worked on in Lafayette County would have been around 02'-03'. We drove to the courthouse and paged through the section and plat folders to get copies of monument records, surveys and any other relevant information we could find prior to doing any field work. In many cases we would need to do this just to give an estimate of cost and potentially not get the job. Now:

LAFAYETTE COUNTY SURVEY & TISHEET VIEWER





Paper Weight - 32# 25% Rec Ledger (minius)

U. S. PUBLIC LAND SURVEY MONUMENT RECORD

INSTRUCTIONS: This record shall show the location of the corner and shall include all of the following nine elements (a through i).

Identify the corner by reference to the U.S. Public Land Survey system.

i. Corner monument restored.

E 16th CORNER
 * NORTHWEST 1/4
 * SECTION 10
 TOWN 2 NORTH
 RANGE 3 EAST
 DARLINGTON TOWNSHIP
 LAFAYETTE COUNTY, WI

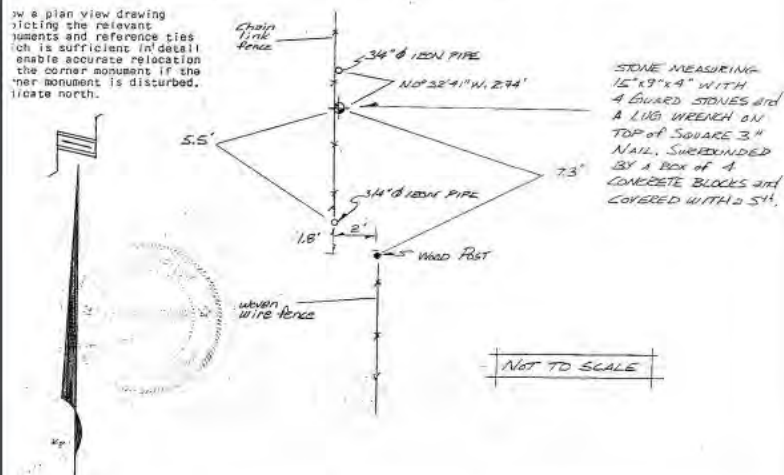


Describe any record evidence, monument evidence, occupational evidence, testimonial evidence or any other material evidence you considered, and whether the monument was found or placed.

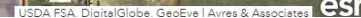
FOUND STONE MONUMENT AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

The plan view drawing below, provide reference ties to at least 4 witness monuments, or, if a location is within a municipality, to at least 2 witness monuments. (Witness monuments shall be made of concrete, natural stone, iron or other equally durable material). (Witness monuments shall be described.)

Draw a plan view drawing showing the relevant monuments and reference ties which is sufficient in detail to enable accurate relocation of the corner monument if the monument is disturbed. Indicate north.







POS3033

PLAT OF SURVEY FOR: RICHARD & KARLA ANDERSON ELIZABETH BARTH

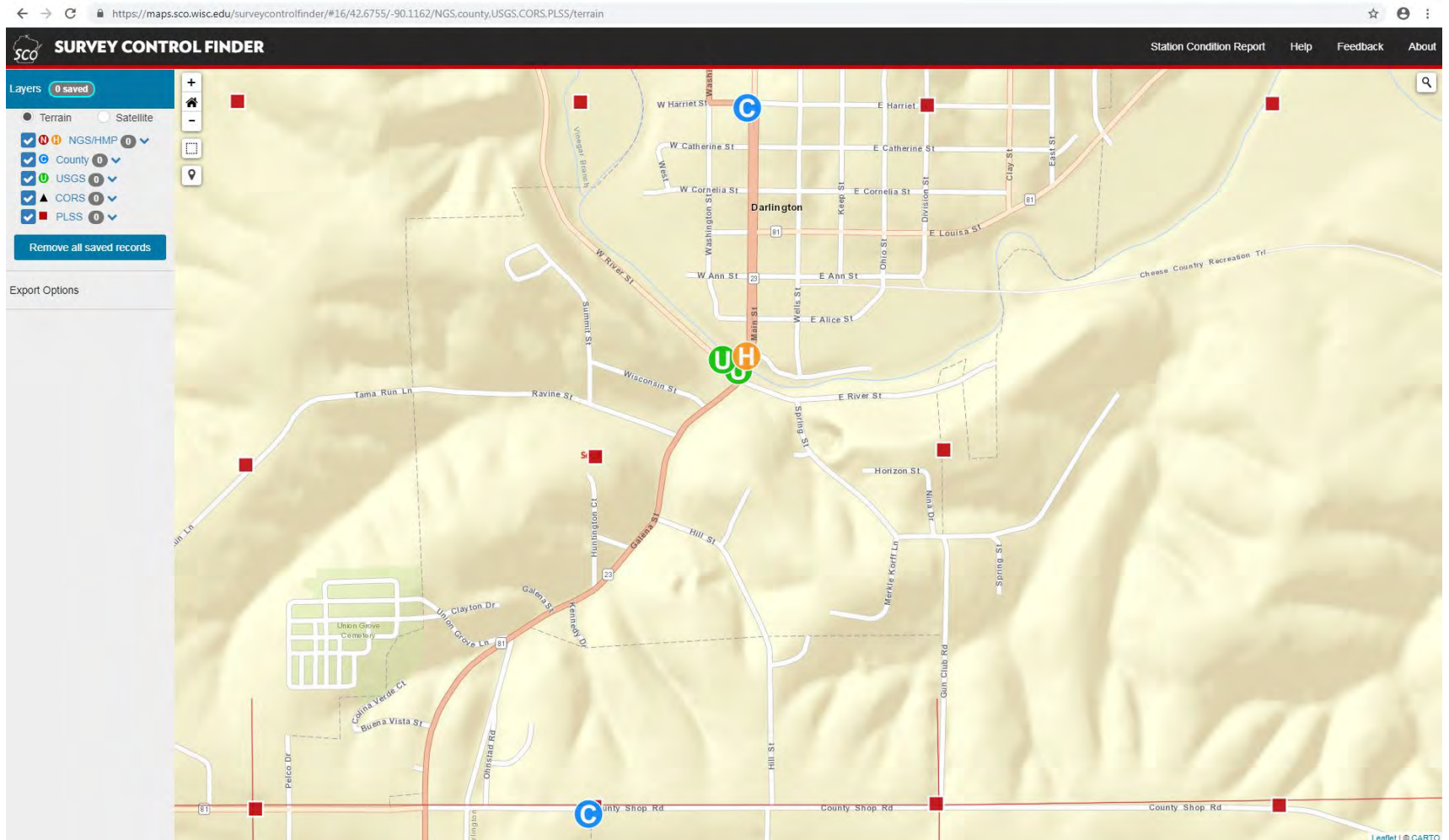
JOB #2003-66
CREW ML SS

LEGEND:

- 3/4" IRON ROD SET
- ▲ 3/4" IRON ROD FOUND
- △ 1" IRON PIPE FOUND
- X- FENCE
- () RECORDED AS

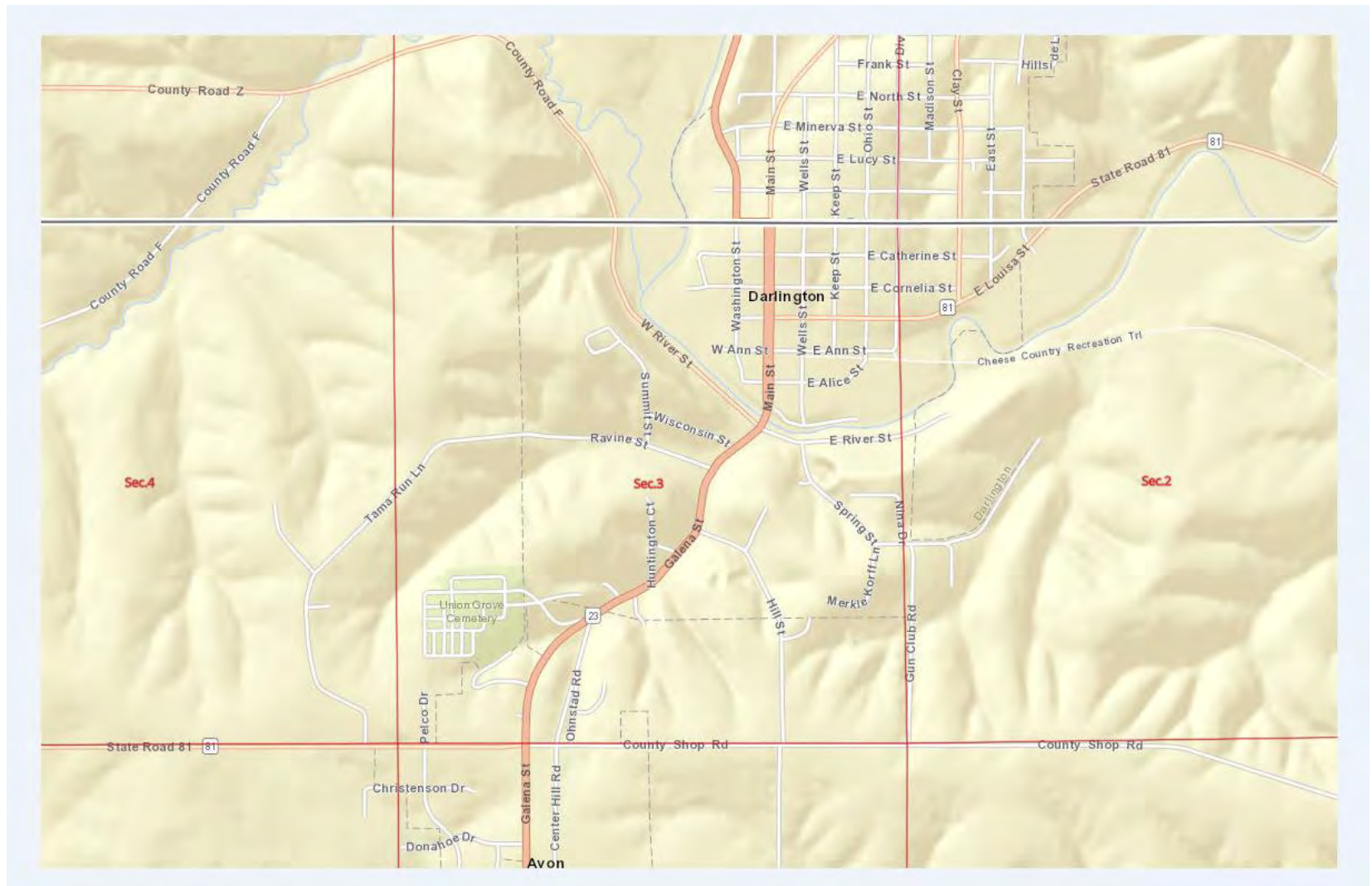


SCO Survey Control Finder

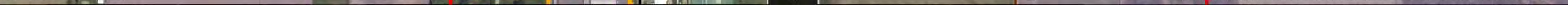


Survey control finder is a fantastic resource to locate all types of survey control monuments; however, for any boundary survey work, a surveyor will still need to research the county records.

S ¼ Corner of Section 3, T2N, R3E







1995 Dane County Imagery for reference.



U.S. PUBLIC LAND SURVEY MONUMENT RECORD - LAFAYETTE COUNTY, WI

Section 3, Town 2 North Range 3 East, Town of Darlington (a)

NOTE: This form is intended and designed to fulfill all requirements of the Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter A-E 7.08, U.S. Public Land Survey Monument Record (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i).

CERTIFICATE: (i)

I, Aaron J. Austin, Wisconsin Professional Land Surveyor, do hereby certify that the corner location on this record was determined by me and/or under my direct supervision and that this U.S. Public Land Survey Monument Record is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2017.

Aaron J. Austin
Aaron J. Austin, S-2932

Lafayette County Coordinates:
NAD 83 (2011)
Northing: 161,596.76
Easting: 481,760.87



● = CORNER LOCATION

HISTORY OF CORNER ESTABLISHMENT:

Original corner was set in 1832 by Lucius Lyon. Bruce Bowden reset the corner and prepared a Survey Monument Record dated 12-29-1982.

DESCRIPTION OF CORNER EVIDENCE FOUND: (b) (f) (g) (h)

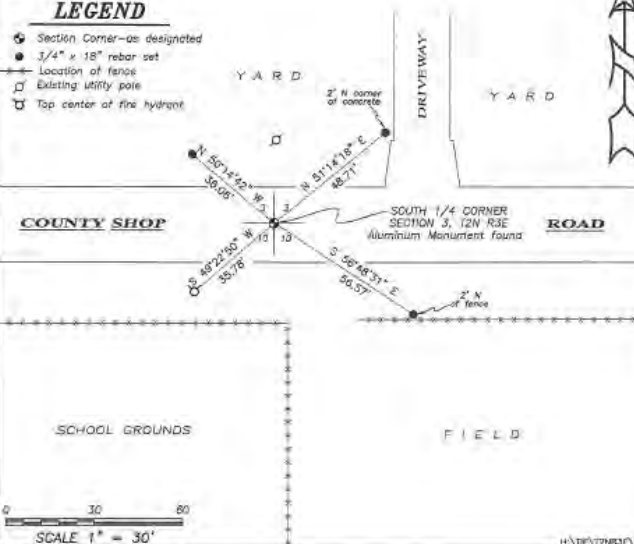
I found the monument set by Bruce Bowden. I established four new Witness Corners after I verified it's location with G.P.S. and E.D.M. methods.

DESCRIPTION OF CORNER AND WITNESS MONUMENTS, references and accessories used to perpetuate the original or re-established location of this corner: (c) (d) (e)
Witnesses to corner location Shane Austin.

SKETCH:

LEGEND

- Section Corner—as designated
- 3/4" x 18" rebar set
- Location of fence
- Existing utility pole
- Top center of fire hydrant



H:\PE\12N03E\28

QUESTIONS?