



**KANSAS  
STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

◆  
**Cultural Resources  
Historic Preservation  
Office (ext. 240)**

◆  
6425 S. W. 6th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas  
66615-1099  
PHONE# (785) 272-8681  
FAX# (785) 272-8682  
TTY# (785) 272-8683

◆  
**KANSAS HISTORY CENTER**

Administration  
Center for Historical Research  
Cultural Resources  
Education / Outreach  
Historic Sites  
Kansas Museum of History  
Library & Archives

**HISTORIC SITES**

Adair Cabin  
Constitution Hall  
Cottonwood Ranch  
First Territorial Capitol  
Fort Hays  
Goodnow House  
Grinter Place  
Hollenberg Station  
Kaw Mission  
Marais des Cygnes Massacre  
Mine Creek Battlefield  
Native American Heritage Museum  
Pawnee Indian Village  
Pawnee Rock  
Shawnee Mission

July 8, 2002

Scott P. Vogel  
Chief, Environmental Services Section  
Department of Transportation  
Docking State Office Building  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: 24-105 K-8248-01  
HPS-K824(801)  
Wyandotte County

Dear Sir:

Staff review of the above referenced project has been completed. The proposed project will have no effect as described in 36 CFR 800.5, on any archeological property listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or the State Register.

Sincerely yours,

Mary R. Allman  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Richard Pankratz, Director  
Historic Preservation Office

pk

**RECEIVED**

JUL 16 2002

BUREAU OF DESIGN  
ADMINISTRATION

Des. Engr  
Road  
Bridge  
Contracts

Coord. Sec.  
Envir. Ser.  
Landscape  
Bul. Bldg.  
File





**KANSAS**  
**STATE**  
**HISTORICAL**  
**SOCIETY**



6425 S.W. 6th Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas  
66615-1099

PHONE# (785) 272-8681  
FAX# (785) 272-8682  
TTY# (785) 272-8683



**KANSAS HISTORY CENTER**

Administration  
Center for Historical Research  
Cultural Resources  
Education / Outreach  
Historic Sites  
Kansas Museum of History  
Library & Archives

**HISTORIC SITES**

Adair Cabin  
Constitution Hall  
Cottonwood Ranch  
First Territorial Capitol  
Fort Hays  
Goodnow House  
Grinter Place  
Hollenberg Station  
Kaw Mission  
Marais des Cygnes Massacre  
Mine Creek Battlefield  
Native American Heritage Museum  
Pawnee Indian Village  
Pawnee Rock  
Shawnee Mission

July 3, 2002

24-105 K-8248-01  
HPS-K824(801)  
Wyandotte County

Mr. Jim L. Kowach, P.E.  
Chief, Bureau of Design  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Subject: Phase II complete, project clearance recommended

Dear Mr. Kowach:

In accordance with the goals and procedures of the Cooperative Agreement for Highway Archeological Salvage Program, the Society has completed a Phase II field survey investigation of the above referenced primary road project as requested by the Kansas Department of Transportation. The actual fieldwork was conducted by Society staff archeologist Randall M. Thies on 9 May 2002. Enclosed, you will find a report of that investigation.

In brief, no significant archeological sites of either the prehistoric or historic period were found in or adjacent to the specified project area. We recommend no further archeological investigations. This recommendation has been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer for his review.

Of course, due to the nature of archeological manifestations, it is always possible that buried cultural deposits could be encountered during the course of the project. If that occurs the remains should be left in place and the State Archeologist contacted immediately so that the appropriate mitigative measures can be carried out as soon as possible.



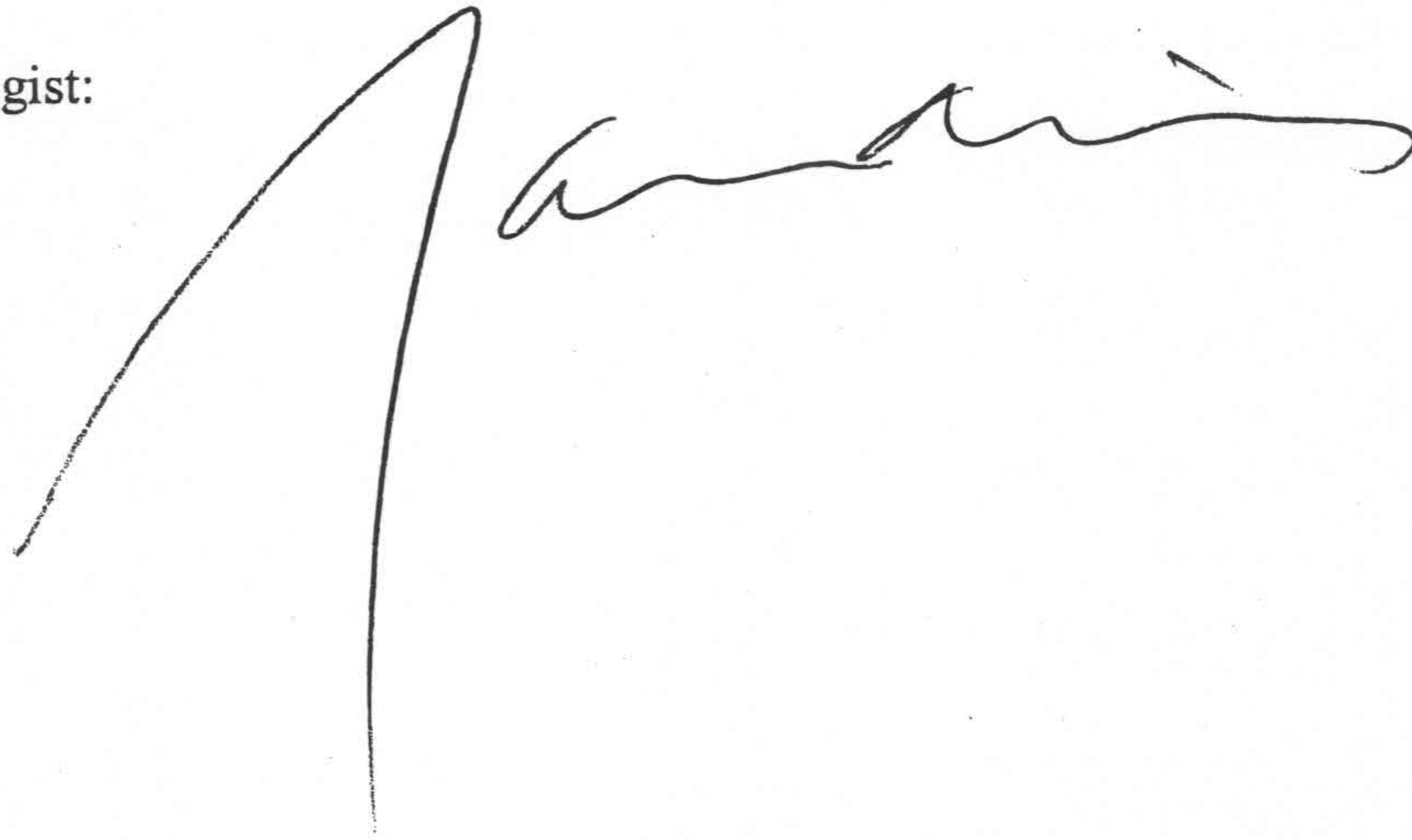
Thank you for your cooperation in helping to preserve the State's archeological resources.

Sincerely,

For the State Archeologist:

Randall M. Thies  
Archeologist

Enc.  
pc: SHPO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randall M. Thies', is written over a large, stylized, handwritten letter 'R'.

**SEARCHING FOR 14WY401:  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF KDOT PROJECT K-8248,  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS**

Report submitted to the Kansas Department of Transportation  
in accordance with the provisions of the  
Cooperative Agreement for Highway Archeological Salvage Program

by Randall M. Thies  
Archeology Office, Cultural Resources Division  
Kansas State Historical Society  
July 3, 2002



SEARCHING FOR 14WY401:  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF KDOT PROJECT K-8248,  
WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

by Randall M. Thies  
Archeology Office, Cultural Resources Division  
Kansas State Historical Society  
July 3, 2002

## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the goals and procedures of the Cooperative Agreement for Highway Archeological Salvage Program and as requested by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS, or "the Society") recently completed a Phase II archeological field survey investigation of primary road project number 24-105 K-8248-01. The investigation was initiated by earlier correspondence between the Society and KDOT relating to the potential impact of the project on cultural resources. A Phase I review was requested by KDOT on 17 December 2001. After reviewing the available documentation and consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Society submitted a Phase I report 8 January 2002 in which it was recommended that a Phase II field survey investigation be performed. The recommended fieldwork was thereby carried out by Society staff archeologist Randall M. Thies, accompanied by State Archeologist Robert Hoard, on 9 May 2002. The purpose of the investigation was to determine whether any significant archeological resources would be affected by the proposed project. More specifically, and with the concurrence of the SHPO, the investigation was to be focused on determining whether the project would have any effect on a small American Indian gravesite known archeologically as 14WY401.

As planned, the project will involve reconstruction of US-24 (State Avenue) to a five-lane roadway from K-7 east to 118<sup>th</sup> Street, including reconstruction of the K-7/US-24 interchange and US-24/40 turnback work. The project is located in rural Wyandotte County, Kansas (Figures 1 and 2).

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

In physiographic terms, the project area is located within the Attenuated Drift Border division of the Dissected Till Plains section of the Central Lowland province of the Interior Plains division of North America (Schoewe 1949:280, 291). The Dissected Till Plains is essentially a formerly glaciated northerly extension of the Osage Plains which cover all of the rest of eastern Kansas. Most of the Dissected Till Plains is taken up by a glaciated area known as the Kansas Drift Plain. The less heavily glaciated Attenuated Drift Border lies along the southern and western periphery of the Dissected Till Plains in a 25-35 mile wide strip roughly marked by



the Kansas, Big Blue, and Little Blue rivers. Bedrock in the western part of the Dissected Till Plains consists of sedimentary formations of Permian age, while bedrock formations throughout the rest of the area are of Pennsylvanian age. The formations are made up of interstratified beds of limestone, shale, and sandstone, covered over by glacial deposits of varying thicknesses. Loess is also present, occurring as a thin upland mantle over most of northeastern Kansas but in thicknesses of up to a hundred ft in the bluffs along the Missouri river. The loess thins rapidly away from the river.

The topography of the region is directly related to the degree of glaciation. The heavily glaciated Kansas Drift Plain has a gently undulating erosional drift-controlled surface, while the lightly glaciated Attenuated Drift Border is more rugged, with an erosional rock-controlled surface similar in most respects to that of the Osage Plains. Unlike the latter, which was never glaciated, the Attenuated Drift Border is covered by isolated patches of glacial till and outwash along with scattered boulders, cobbles, and pebbles of ice-transported materials, including quartzites, granites, and diorites brought in from locations well to the north of the state. The resultant topography is less bold than that of the Osage Plains but decidedly rougher and of greater relief than the Kansas Drift Plain.

Judging from soil survey data and early historical accounts, the prehistoric vegetation of the northeast Kansas region consisted almost entirely of prairie cut through by narrow ribbons of riverine forest. According to Kuchler (1974), the potential natural vegetation of most of the area consists of tall grass prairie consisting of dense stands of tall and medium tall graminoids, mainly big bluestem and little bluestem. The prairie was cut through by riverine forest vegetation consisting of medium tall to tall broadleaf deciduous forests often containing dense undergrowth and many lianas, occasionally interrupted by freshwater marshes with graminoid communities. Hackberry, cottonwood, willow, and elm are listed as the dominant forest species (Kuchler 1974:600-601), although oak, black walnut, linden, sycamore, locust, hickory, pecan, and other hardwoods could also be found along with smaller forms such as Osage orange, persimmon, papaw, elderberry, serviceberry, chokecherry, and wild grape (Wedel 1959:14). Prairie vegetation covered the uplands in all but the eastern edge of the Dissected Till Plains, where forested conditions prevailed. According to Kuchler (1974:599), the potential natural vegetation of that area consists of medium tall multilayered broadleaf deciduous forest, with various forms of hickory and oak being the dominant species. The forest was most pervasive on the bluffs along the Missouri river. To the west, the forest/prairie transition was marked by a "mosaic" situation in which forests with islands of prairie gradually changed westward into prairie with islands of forest (Kuchler 1974:588), and finally into prairie with little or no upland forest vegetation.

A large variety of animals were supported by these vegetational conditions. According to Wedel (1959:15), the faunal assemblage of the Dissected Till Plains closely paralleled that found in the Osage Plains to the south. Both areas contained such big game animals as bison, elk, deer, antelope, and black bear. Predators such as cougar, wildcat, timber wolf, coyote, and fox were present as well, along with raccoon, opossum, the gray, fox, and flying squirrels, beaver, otter, muskrat, badger, jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, and various other smaller mammals. Wild turkey, prairie chicken, ruffed grouse, and quail could be found in abundance, while the larger streams



yielded an abundance of edible fish and shellfish.

The natural ecology of the region has been greatly altered by modern land-use practices. Today, most of the lands within rural Wyandotte County are used for agricultural purposes, primarily the pasturing of cattle and the cultivation of crops such as wheat, corn, milo, and soybeans. Within the project area itself, a mixture of trees, brush, and grasses and weeds was present except for areas which have been modified by house construction and borrow developments. In the main area of concern (the 14WY401 locale), open forest was present with grass predominating.

### CULTURAL-HISTORICAL SETTING

Archeologically, research in this region of Kansas has yielded evidence of prehistoric human occupation dating from around 11,000 years ago and extending up to the modern era, and certainly has the potential for yielding more such evidence. Sites in the region usually represent habitation areas or small workshops and more rarely occur as villages or burials. While the full extent of the area's archeological resources has yet to be determined, it is clear that the region contains materials deriving from all of the major cultural periods thus far identified in Kansas, i.e.,

Paleoindian	circa 9,000 B.C. to 7,000 B.C.
Archaic	circa 7,000 B.C. to A.D. 1
Early Ceramic	circa A.D. 1 to A.D. 1000
Middle Ceramic	circa A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1500
Late Ceramic	circa A.D. 1500 to A.D. 1800
Historic	A.D. 1541 to present

The list consists of broad and somewhat artificial categories, and there is some temporal overlap between periods. As might be expected, more is known about the most recent inhabitants than is known about the earliest (Lees 1989; Brown and Simmons 1987; Thies 1987; Wedel 1959).

With regard to the project that is the subject of this report, documentation consulted during the Phase I review indicated that the study area lacked any compelling potential for archeological remains except in one area, that of archeological site 14WY401. The site was described as an historic cemetery dating from the mid 1800s, containing the remains of one known individual (a Delaware Indian chief named Ne-Con-He-Con, who died in 1863), and possibly other members of the Delaware tribe. Ne-Con-He-Con's grave was said to be the only marked gravesite, with a footstone and the base of a headstone (the headstone was apparently removed from the site some years ago). The site had been reported to the Society by an amateur archeologist but had never been investigated by a professional archeologist—perhaps more importantly, its specific location was somewhat uncertain and therefore its proximity to the project was in question. Because of this, a Phase II survey was recommended to determine whether the site would be affected by the project.



## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Phase II investigation that is the subject of this report initially involved background research consisting of a review of project plans, topographic maps, soil survey maps, and various archeological records pertinent to the project area. Work carried out thereafter consisted of a field inspection including a pedestrian survey of the area in which 14WY401 was reported to be present. Lands inspected during this survey are shown in Figure 3.

## SURVEY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The survey resulted in the successful relocating of 14WY401 (see Figure 4) and enabled more extensive documentation of the site, including photodocumentation of the extant footstone and headstone base. The site was determined to be well outside the area that will be affected by the project—in fact, the site is nearly a quarter mile north of the project area. We conclude that the project as it is now planned will have no effect on any significant archeological resources. Accordingly, no additional archeological investigations are recommended for the project at the present time.

Of course, due to the nature of archeological manifestations, it is always possible that buried cultural deposits could be encountered during the course of the project. If that occurs, the remains should be left in place and the State Archeologist contacted immediately.

Randall M. Thies  
Archeology Office, Cultural Resources Division  
Kansas State Historical Society  
July 3, 2002



## REFERENCES CITED

Brown, Kenneth L. and Alan H. Simmons, editors

- 1987 Kansas prehistoric archeological preservation plan. Unpublished report prepared for the Historic Preservation Department, Kansas State Historical Society, by the Office of Archeological Research, Museum of Anthropology, University of Kansas, Lawrence. Ms. on file, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Kuchler, A. W.

- 1974 A new vegetation map of Kansas. Ecology 55(3):586-604.

Lees, William B.

- 1989 Kansas preservation plan, section on Historical Archeology. Unpublished report prepared for the Historic Preservation Department, Kansas State Historical Society, by the Archeology Department, Kansas State Historical Society. Ms. on file, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka.

Schoewe, W. E.

- 1949 The geography of Kansas, part II, physical geography. Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science 52(3): 261-333.

Thies, Randall M.

- 1987 Kansas Culture History. In Amateur Archeological handbook for Kansas, Kansas Anthropological Association Journal 7(1-9):35-51.

Wedel, Waldo R.

- 1959 An introduction to Kansas archeology. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 174.



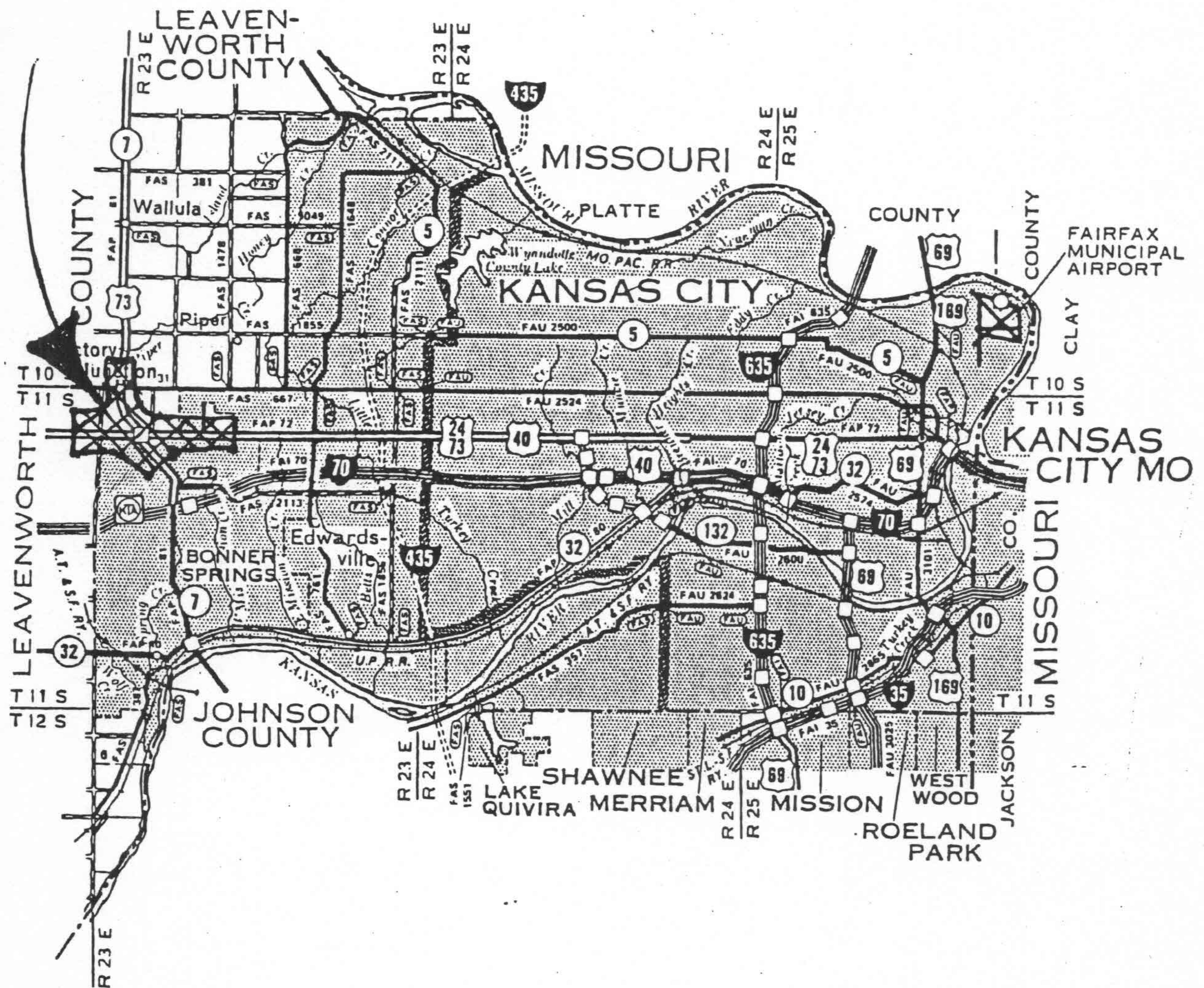


FIGURE 1. Section of Wyandotte County highway map, showing the location of primary road project K-8248.



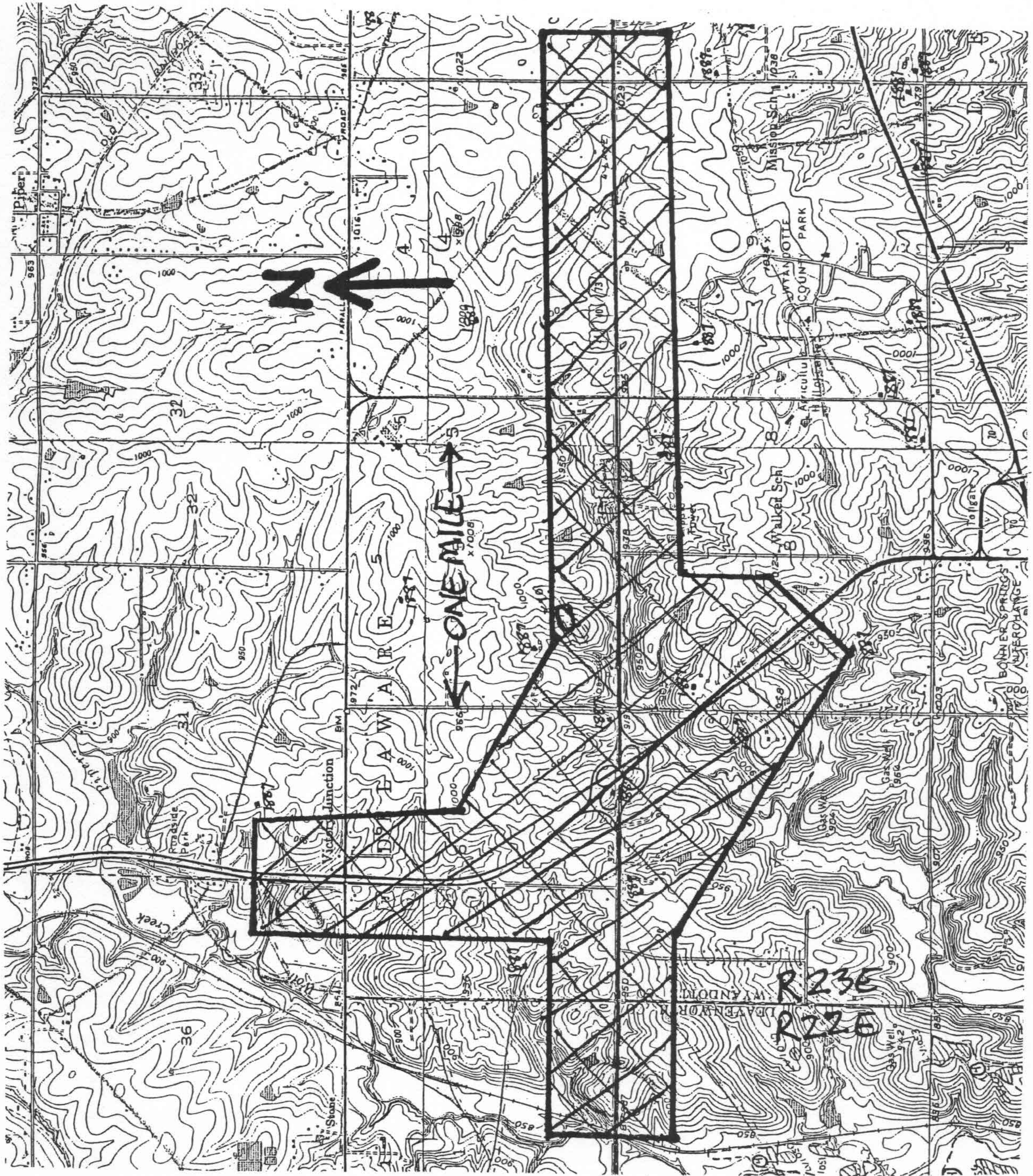


FIGURE 2. Section of U.S.G.S. topographic map (Edwardsville and Bonner Springs quadrangles), showing the location and general extent of the study area associated with project, as indicated by hatching.



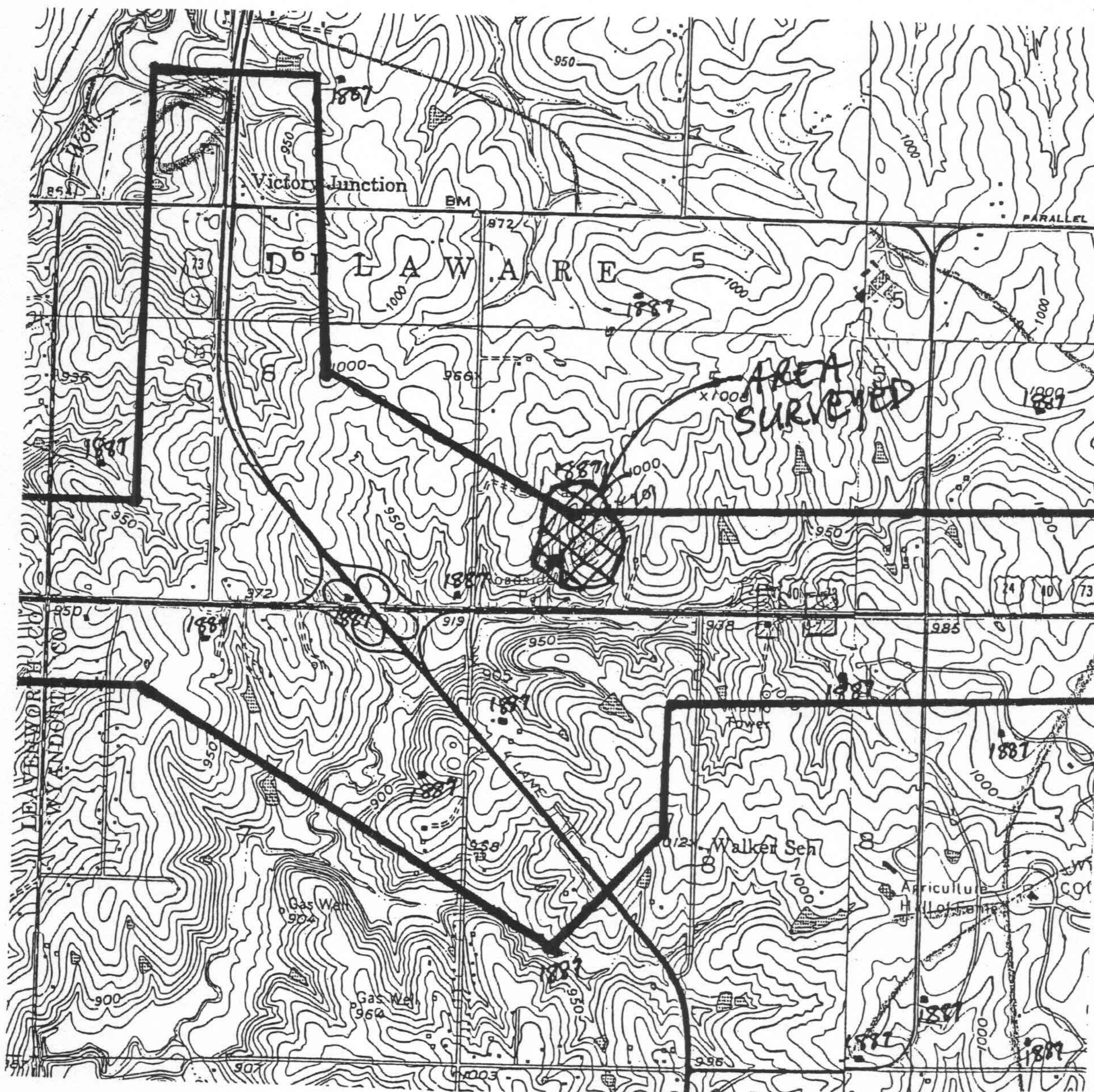


FIGURE 3. Section of U.S.G.S. topographic map (Bonner Springs quadrangle), showing the location and general extent of the areas subjected to pedestrian inspection during the Phase II survey, as indicated by hatching and arrow.



UTM 15 336984E 4331411N



FIGURE 4. Section of U.S.G.S. topographic map (Bonner Springs quadrangle), showing the location of archeological site 14WY401, as indicated by hatching and arrow.