

HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT
Proposed Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville Historic Districts

Town of Norwich
Windsor County, Vermont

HAA # 5202-11

Submitted to:

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

SHPO Project Review Number:

Involved State and Federal Agencies:

Phase of Survey: *Archeological Resource Assessment*

LOCATION INFORMATION

Municipality: *Town of Norwich*

County: *Windsor County, Vermont*

SURVEY AREA

Pompanoosuc Study Area

Length: *634 meters (2,080 ft)*

Width: *238 meters (781 ft)*

Area: *37.2 acres (15 ha)*

Pattersonville Study Area

Length: *399 meters (1,308 ft)*

Width: *191 meters (626 ft)*

Area: *18.7 acres (7.57 ha)*

RESULTS OF RESEARCH

Archeological sites within one mile:

Surveys in or adjacent:

NR/NRE sites in or adjacent:

Precontact Sensitivity:

Historic Sensitivity:

RECOMMENDATIONS

The rich history of the Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville Study Areas provides ample opportunity for historic archeological interpretation. Plans for a webpage and interpretive signs are in development. Other efforts such as a walking tour or public presentations would also be good ways to involve the public. Advocacy for the preservation of archeological sites is also an important aspect of public outreach and can be advanced through a variety of public programs and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Date of Report: *March 2018*

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HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

1 Introduction

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. (Hartgen) conducted an Archeological Resource Assessment examining the historic archeological potential of two areas of the Town of Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont. The ARA is intended to provide an historic context for these areas that will be used in preparation of a preliminary recommendation of National Register of Historic Places historic district eligibility (Map 1). As a Certified Local Government (CLG) funded project, the project requires approvals by Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP). This investigation was conducted to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and will be reviewed by the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission (NHPC) and the VDHP. This investigation adheres to the Vermont State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) *Guidelines for Conducting Archeology in Vermont* (VDHP 2017).

2 Project Information

Research at the Norwich Historical Society (NHS) was conducted by Thomas R. Jamison on December 4, 2017. Nancy Osgood of the NHS provided extensive assistance with the research by providing documents and photographs in the NHS collection for copying and/or scanning. Ms. Osgood also provided a great deal of information from her personal knowledge of the town and the two areas in question. Throughout the process of writing this report, Ms. Osgood has continued to provide invaluable research assistance by searching for information in the Norwich Town Office and other sources to address questions regarding the history of the project area that have arisen during the process. Site visits to the project area were conducted by Thomas R. Jamison, Nancy Osgood and Peter Brink of the NHPC on December 4, 2017 and by Thomas R. Jamison on December 11, 2017 to observe and photograph existing conditions within the Project Area. Thomas R. Jamison also met with long time Pompanoosuc resident Harjit Rakhra who provided additional historic background information. The information gathered during the site visit is included in the relevant sections of the report.

2.1 Project Location

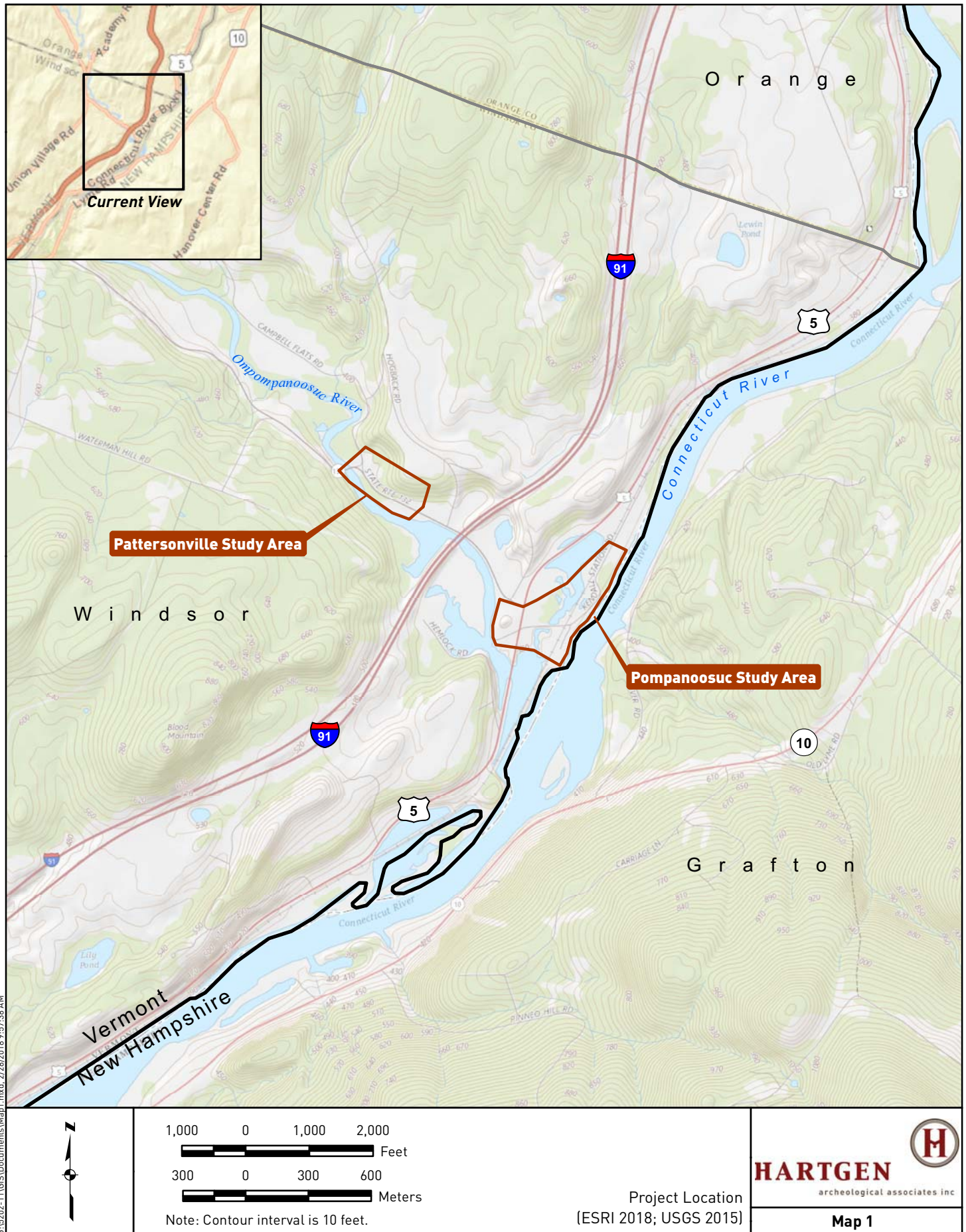
The project study areas are located at the mouth of the Ompompanoosuc River where it empties into the Connecticut River (Map 2). The Pompanoosuc Study Area is focused on the Pompanoosuc Railroad Station and extends to the Ompompanoosuc River to the south and west, the Connecticut River to the east and to the north end of the backwater pond north of the railroad station (Map 3). The Pompanoosuc Study Area covers approximately 37.2 acres (15 ha). The Pattersonville Study Area is focused on an area of industrial development located along the north side of the Ompompanoosuc River west of the I-91 crossing, in particular, the site of the Patterson Chair Factory (Map 4). The Pattersonville Study Area encompasses approximately 18.7 acres (7.57 ha).

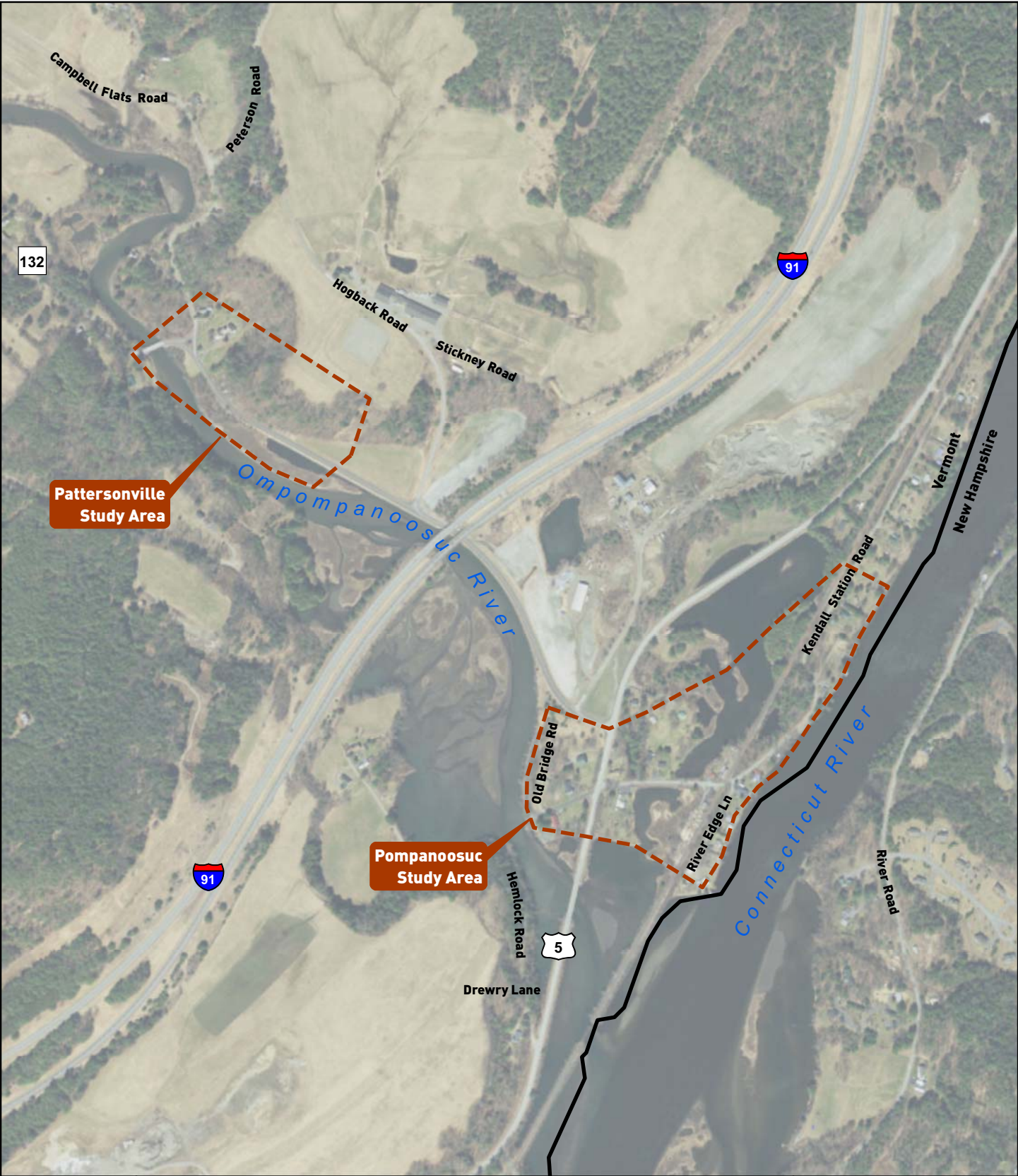
2.2 Description of the Project

The ARA is intended to provide a historic context for the two study areas that will be incorporated into development of nominations of the two areas to the National Register of Historic Places (NR) as historic districts.

3 Environmental Background

The environment of an area is significant for determining the sensitivity of the Project Area for archeological resources. Precontact and historic groups often favored level, well-drained areas near wetlands and waterways. Therefore, topography, proximity to wetlands, and soils are examined to determine if there are landforms in the Project Area that are more likely to contain archeological resources. In addition, bedrock formations may contain chert or other resources that may have been quarried by precontact groups. Soil conditions can provide a clue to past climatic conditions, as well as changes in local hydrology.

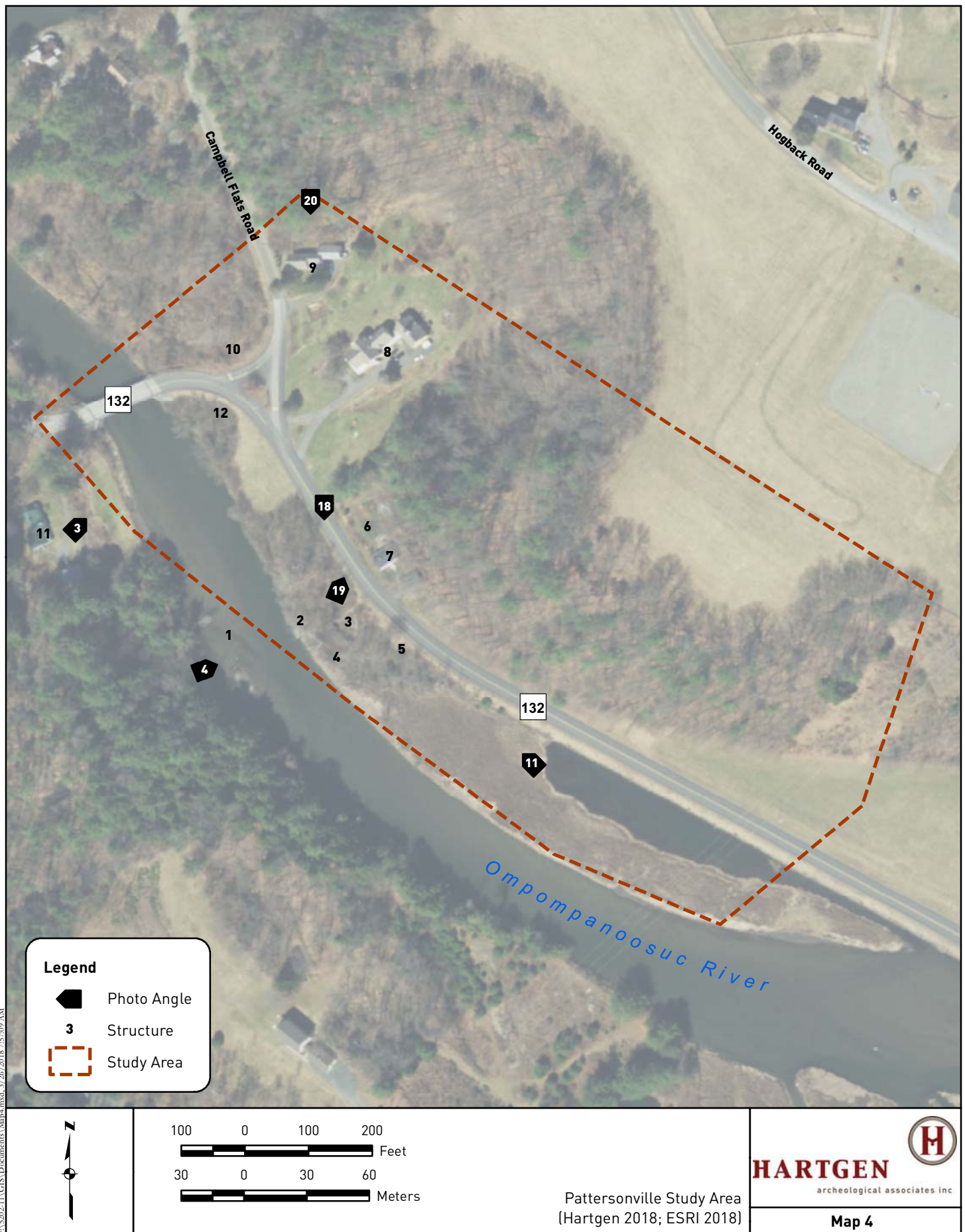




Project Map
(Hartgen 2018; ESRI 2018)







3.1 Present Land Use and Current Conditions

The project area is crossed or bounded by the Ompompanoosuc River, the Connecticut River, US Route 5, VT Route 132, I-91 and local streets, creating a complex interwoven landscape of natural and transportation corridors. Although both study areas are residential today, in the past the Pompanoosuc Study Area was a small village/hamlet with diverse functions and many residents. Although there are no longer businesses in the area, that past is reflected today by the 19 residences within the Pompanoosuc Study Area (Photos 1 and 2). In contrast, the Pattersonville Study Area in the past was focused on industrial pursuits that took advantage of the Ompompanoosuc River hydro power to operate various mills over time. There were several tenement houses associated with the mills and today only four residences and one industrial standing structure are present within the Pattersonville Study Area (Photos 3 and 4).

The riverside setting of Pompanoosuc has encouraged the construction of a row of residences along the Connecticut, some of which may be seasonal. Otherwise, many of the residents of both areas are likely employed in surrounding towns such as Hanover and White River Junction. As generally residential areas, both study areas are characterized by houses surrounded by lawns with generally light tree cover. In many areas, the margins of the rivers and back waters are lined with overgrown brush and marshy vegetation. Route 5 and the Washington County Railroad pass through the Pompanoosuc Study Area, while Route 132 passes through the Pattersonville Study Area.



Photo 1. Pompanoosuc from the Route 5 bridge across the backwater pond. The arrow points to the 1920s former railroad depot (39 Kendall Station Road). View to the north/northeast.



Photo 2. Pompanoosuc along Kendall Station Road. Note the former railroad depot (39 Kendall Station Road) on the right and the former c. 1940 copper shed (38 Kendall Station Road) in the background. View to the south/southwest.



Photo 3. Pattersonville from the Kinney property (227 Route 132). Note former tenement house (12 Campbell Flat Road) to the left and the former home of the Pattersons (202 Route 132) on the right. View to the northeast.



Photo 4. Remains of former Patterson mill. Note standing mill structure on the north side of the Ompompanoosuc River and dam remains on the right side of the photograph. View to the east/northeast.

3.2 Soils

Soil surveys provide a general characterization of the types and depths of soils that are found in an area. This information is an important factor in determining the appropriate methodology if and when a field study is recommended. The soil type also informs the degree of artifact visibility and likely recovery rates. For example, artifacts are more visible and more easily recovered in sand than in stiff glacial clay, which will not pass through a screen easily.

The soils of the study areas are predominantly Windsor loamy sand that developed on glaciofluvial sediments deposited by glacial outwash. A small area in Pompanoosuc at the location of the former Route 5 bridge over the Ompompanoosuc River is characterized as Udipsamments and Udorthents, disturbed areas. In addition, a small area at the northwest end of the Pattersonville area (northwest of the intersection of Route 132 and Campbell Flats Road) is identified as Ondawa fine sandy loam that developed in recent alluvium (USDA 2018). Although the Windsor soils have no potential for deeply stratified archeological deposits, the Ondawa soils do have that potential.

Table 1. Soils in Project Area

Symbol	Name	Textures	Slope	Drainage	Landform
<i>Pompanoosuc Study Area</i>					
5B	Windsor	Loamy sand	0-8%	Excessively drained	Glaciofluvial outwash
28	Udipsamments and udorthents	Varied	Varied	Varied	Disturbed areas
<i>Pattersonville Study Area</i>					
5B	Windsor	Loamy sand	0-8%	Excessively drained	Glaciofluvial outwash
5E	Windsor	Loamy sand	25-60%	Excessively drained	Glaciofluvial outwash
23	Ondawa	Fine sandy loam	0-3%	Well drained	Recent alluvium, occasionally flooded

3.3 Bedrock Geology

The bedrock in the Project Area is a member of the Ammonoosuc volcanics. It consists of “...dark-greenish-gray to medium-bluish-gray metamorphosed andesitic and basaltic tuff, crystal tuff, and tuff breccia; minor pillow lava. Commonly contains plagioclase and (or) altered mafic phenocrysts” (Ratcliffe 2011).

Volcanic tuff is a fairly soft material and is unlikely to have been utilized by Native American groups for stone tool manufacture. However, it could have been utilized in some other manner or on an expedient basis.

3.4 Physiography and Hydrology

The Project Area is generally level along the rivers with small areas of raised ground in a few locations. In Pompanoosuc a glacial esker (ridge) that once extended north to south directly west of the current Route 5 alignment has been largely destroyed by sand and gravel extraction, at least in part associated with construction of I-91. A remnant of that landform is present at the west end of Old Bridge Road where a house at 48 Old Bridge Road sits on a knoll. In Pattersonville, the study area is defined as extending to the northeast onto the raised glaciofluvial terrace that is currently part of Pirouette Farm, a horse training facility. The northwest corner of the Pattersonville Study Area extends onto the southwest side of the Ompompanoosuc River to include 227 Route 132 which is set up on a terrace overlooking the river.

The project area is dominated by the Ompompanoosuc and Connecticut Rivers that run through and adjacent to it. The level of those rivers was raised a number of times due to construction of dams downstream at Wilder, flooding several meadows and low areas that are now part of the Ompompanoosuc or the backwater area that extends through Pompanoosuc. There are no substantial tributaries that flow into the rivers within the project area.

4 Documentary Research

Hartgen conducted research at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) to identify previously reported archeological sites, State and National Register (NR) properties, properties determined eligible for the NR (NRE), and previous cultural resource surveys.

4.1 Archeological Sites

The archeological site files at VDHP contained two sites in the Town of Norwich within five miles (8 km) of the Project Area (Table 2). These two sites are located in close proximity to the project area and are both highly relevant to the history of the project area. The Lower Ompompanoosuc Bridge site (VT-WN-0477) is the location of the former bridge crossing the Ompompanoosuc River. A bridge was at this site from c. 1787 to 1954 when it was replaced by the bridge on the new alignment of US Route 5 to the east. The other reported site in the project area is the Patterson Chair Factory site (VT-WN-0478), located along the northeast bank of the Ompompanoosuc River and the primary focus of the Pattersonville Study Area. The dam that provided power to the factory crossed the river and a remnant of the dam is visible on the south side (Photo 4).

Previously reported archeological sites provide an overview of the types of sites that may be present in the APE and the relationship of sites throughout the surrounding region. The presence of few reported sites, however, may result from a lack of previous systematic survey and does not necessarily indicate a decreased archeological sensitivity within the APE. The long history of the Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville areas indicates that many other archeological sites, both precontact and historic, remain unrecorded or reported in the area.

Table 2. Vermont Archeological Inventory (VAI) sites within one mile (1.6 km) of the Project Area

VAI Site No.	Site Identifier	Description	Proximity to Project Area
VT-WN-0477	Lower Ompompanoosuc Bridge	Location of bridge from c. 1787 to 1954, stone abutments present	Within Pompanoosuc Study Area
VT-WN-0478	Pattersonville Chair Factory	Location of well-known chair factory from 1874 to early 20 th century	Within Pattersonville Study Area

4.2 Historic Properties

An examination of the files at VDHP identified no National Register listed (NR) properties and no NR eligible (NRE) properties within the study areas. However, Lyssa Papazian in her Norwich Windshield Survey report identified some potential for a small historic district on Old Bridge Road and the possibility of several individually eligible structures in the Pompanoosuc/Pattersonville area (Papazian 2016).

Structures that Papazian highlights:

- 8 Old Bridge Road, c. 1770 (I-house, good integrity, would also be part of a Pompanoosac HD).
- 202 Route 132, c. 1820/1880 (Queen Anne), the Patterson home in the Pattersonville Study Area.
- Railroad Bridge at Pompanoosuc/Connecticut River, c. 1930 (steel, Warren truss) maybe not NRE, outside of the Pompanoosuc Study Area.

4.3 Previous Surveys

On file at VDHP are three previous surveys within the immediate vicinity of the Project (Table 3). In 2001, the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program conducted an assessment and some shovel testing for the bridge replacement project in Pattersonville (Knight 2001, 2002). No archeological deposits were found. In 2012, the Public Archaeology Lab conducted background research and archeological sensitivity assessment for the relicensing of the Wilder Dam (Hubbard 2012; TransCanada Hydro Northeast 2012). That work identified the two historic archeological sites within the project area (Table 2). Finally, a site visit and soil cores were conducted for a small solar project along River Edge Lane. The investigation indicated recent flood deposits and some disturbance (Basque 2013).

Table 3. Relevant previous surveys within or adjacent to the Project

Year	Investigator	Project	Methodology	Results	Notes
2001	UVM CAP	Norwich Bridge (Rte 132) Rehabilitation, Pattersonville	ARA: background research, assessment	Recommended Phase IB testing on NW and SW quadrants of bridge	
2012	TransCanada	Wilder Hydroelectric Relicensing	Summary of Hubbard et al. 2012	Identified archeological potential and recommender management plan	
2013	VDHP	Joan White Family Trust Solar Project, 27 River Edge Lane, Pompanoosuc	Site visit and soil cores	Determined area to be disturbed and recent flood deposits	

5 Historical Map Review

There are a number of historic maps documenting the development of Norwich and the Pompanoosuc and Pattersonville areas, although somewhat surprisingly, these do not include any Sanborn maps. The earliest found during our research is a copy of the town division map, showing the lots and associated names of the first, second and third divisions (Dewart 1918). This map lacks details of the location of the mouth of the Ompompanoosuc River, but it appears to fall approximately at the lots labeled Jon. Shackford and Richard Wibard (Map 5). They were two of the original grantees listed in the charter issued in 1761 by Governor Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire (Batchellor 1895). This location is confirmed by the town land records that identify lots 64, 65 and 67 as being purchased by Hezekiah Johnson on September 23, 1769 and being associated with the north side of the Ompompanoosuc River (Town of Norwich 1769). The lots of the first division extended as 25 acre (10.1 ha) narrow east-west running strips numbered from south to north along the

Connecticut River. None of the names on this map correspond to known early settlers in the project area, so it seems none of the original grantees settled in this part of town.

The next map available is the 1856 Doton map of Windsor County that depicts greater detail of the project area (Doton 1856). On that map (Map 6), the Connecticut & Passumpsic Railroad is shown passing through Pompanoosuc, having been constructed in 1848. Two railroad related structures are identified along the west side of the railroad, labeled *Depot* and *Pasm^e RR Co.* The former was a large depot structure that by the early 20th century housed the railroad station, post office and telegraph office. The latter appears to be a structure owned by the railroad company, probably for storage. Bridges cross the Ompompanoosuc River at Pompanoosuc and further upstream to the west at what will become Pattersonville. Other structures in the Pompanoosuc area include five residences and one school house. To the west in what was earlier known as Gleasons Flat (Belanger 1911), structures depicted include from east to west a grist mill, a saw mill, and four residences. This small settlement belies reports of previous activities in this location including linseed oil mill and machine shop operated by R. M. Gleason from 1805 to 1830, a woolen manufactory operated by John Smith c. 1830 that may also have been in that location.

The 1869 Beers map (Beers 1869) of the area does not depict a great deal of change (Map 7). The only change apparent is in ownership of many of the structures depicted. But the grist mill and saw mill remain the only industries labeled in Gleasons Flat, soon to be known as Pattersonville. Outside of the project area, Beers depicts the Waterman Copper Mine on Waterman Hill south/southwest of Pattersonville. Waterman states that copper was found in 1870, but clearly there was some exploitation by the time the mine appears on the 1869 Beers map (Waterman 1911). He also states the mine was operated for about 30 years.

The next available map is a roughly drawn sketch with numerous labels (Map 8) found in Belanger's account of "The Ompompanoosuc Valley" (Belanger 1911). This map by Belanger, who was the station master for the railroad, dates to 1911, after Leslie Patterson established himself in what became known as Pattersonville and depicts three structures labeled Patterson's Mill, Patterson's Store, Patterson's House and four Patterson tenements. In addition, a house labeled L. D. Bullock appears to be the current residence of Jean Kinney at 227 Route 132, on the opposite side of the river from the mill site, the first time it appears on the historic maps. In Pompanoosuc, changes from 1869 include one residence on the south side of Old Bridge Road labeled W. H. Clogston that appears to be the house at 15 Old Bridge Road. In addition, a residence labeled F. L. Belanger is shown on the east side of Kendall Station Road and south of a ferry crossing, reportedly the location of a blacksmith shop (Belanger 1911). There are three structures along the railroad, from south to north: "Station and P.O.," "Vt Copper Co.," and "B & M R.R." On the opposite side of the Connecticut River from the ferry is a row of seven structures labeled Proctor's Mills. This was one of two ferries that operated across the Connecticut for many years. Inquiry concerning Proctor's Mills turned up very little information. Teresa Oden of the Hanover Historical Society identified a Charles Proctor in Hanover from 1880 to 1920 as a professor and a son Fred S. Proctor as working in a "strawboard mill" (Oden 2018).

The USGS quadrangles do not depict a lot of detail, but they do provide the contours that give a view of the topographic variation. In particular, the 1931 USGS quad (USGS 1931) shows the ridge that used to extend to the north from near the bridge across the Ompompanoosuc River (Map 9). This ridge is part of an esker that extends along approximately 50 kilometers (31 mi) of the Connecticut River Valley (Osterberg, et al. 2010) and in the project area was mined during construction of I-91 and more recently during gravel extraction further to the north. A remnant is present at the west end of Old Bridge Road. The 1931 USGS quad is also interesting in depicting as depressions several areas that currently are inundated with water due to the construction of the Wilder Dam in 1950 that flooded two earlier dams at Wilder and raised the height of the river upstream to Pompanoosuc and beyond as far as Newbury, Vermont. In 1931, these areas do not appear to have standing water in them. In addition, the Ompompanoosuc is shown as having a pretty narrow channel, prior to the flooding due to the 1950 dam construction. The school that was once located near the bridge over the Ompompanoosuc is no longer present in that location, but a school is shown along the east side of Route 5 to the north.

The Norwich Historical Society has a copy of a map dated to 1940 (Barrett and Jones 1940) that depicts the project areas with names attached to various structures (Map 10). There are a number of important items

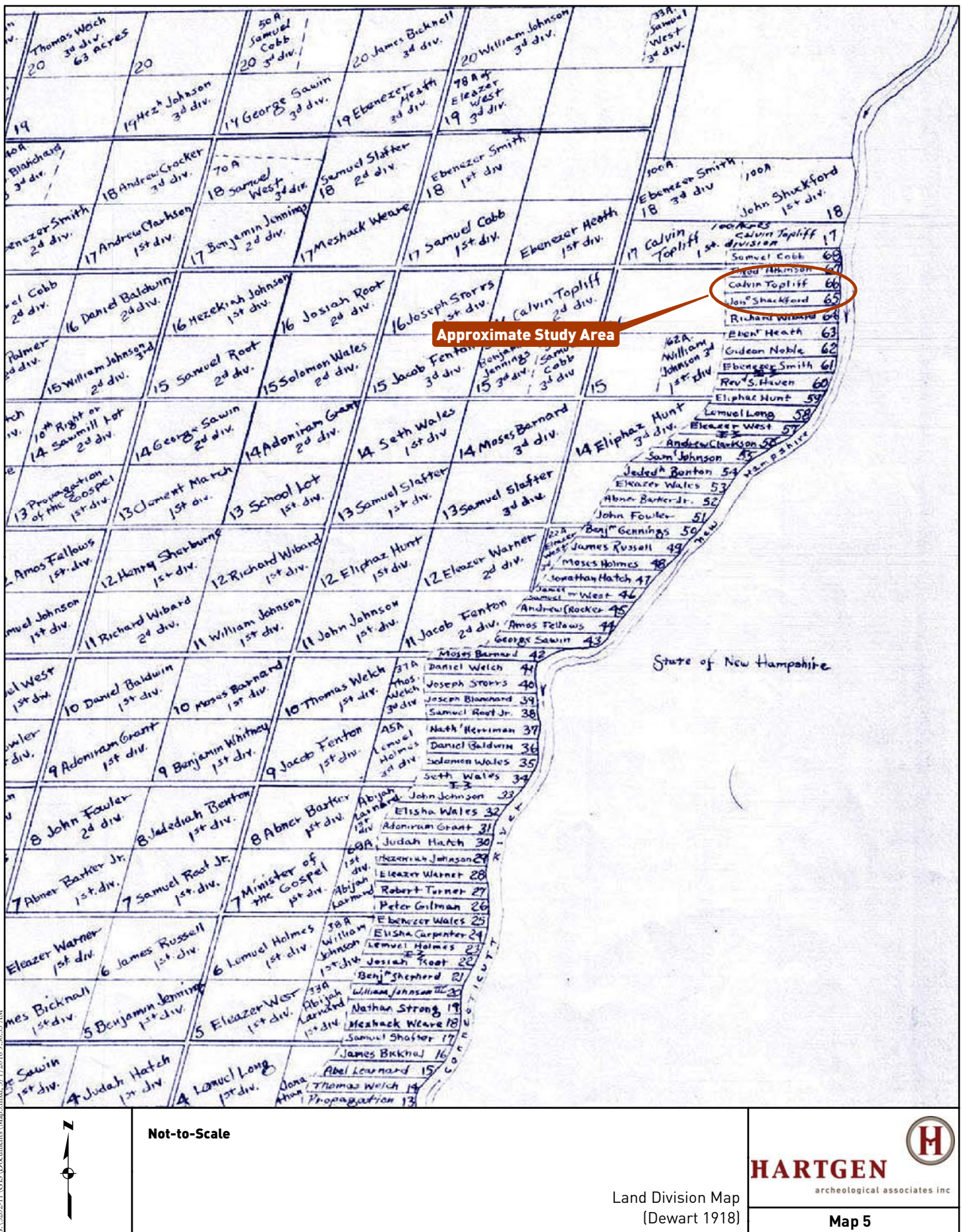
missing from this map including the railroad line (constructed in 1848) and the Pattersonville mill (standing until c. 1964 (Anonymous 1971b)).

A more accurate map in the NHS collection is dated to 1946 (Stevens 1946) and provides a detailed key with names associated with each numbered structure or feature on the map, former (up to 60 years previous) and then current (1946) owners/occupants/functions (Map 11). This map is the first to provide any detail of the operations in Pattersonville. However, at this time the chair factory had been long closed with Leslie Patterson having died in 1910, the factory laying idle until it was purchased by the Goodell family in 1920 and operated as a saw mill. On the map of 1946 are shown structures labeled sawmill (37), engine house (38), chair factory (39) and dry house (40). The mill dam is identified as “Destroyed, Flood of ’27” (69). Goodell had moved the sawmill operation upstream (77) when the power company bought water rights (Anonymous 1971b). A number of structures on the map are labeled as being owned by the “New England Power Co.” in 1946, reflecting the progress toward construction of the new dam at Wilder in 1950. Immediately to the west of the Pattersonville project area is a structure labeled as “Pompa Creamery” (17) that was a residence in 1946, reflecting the agricultural aspect of the local economy.

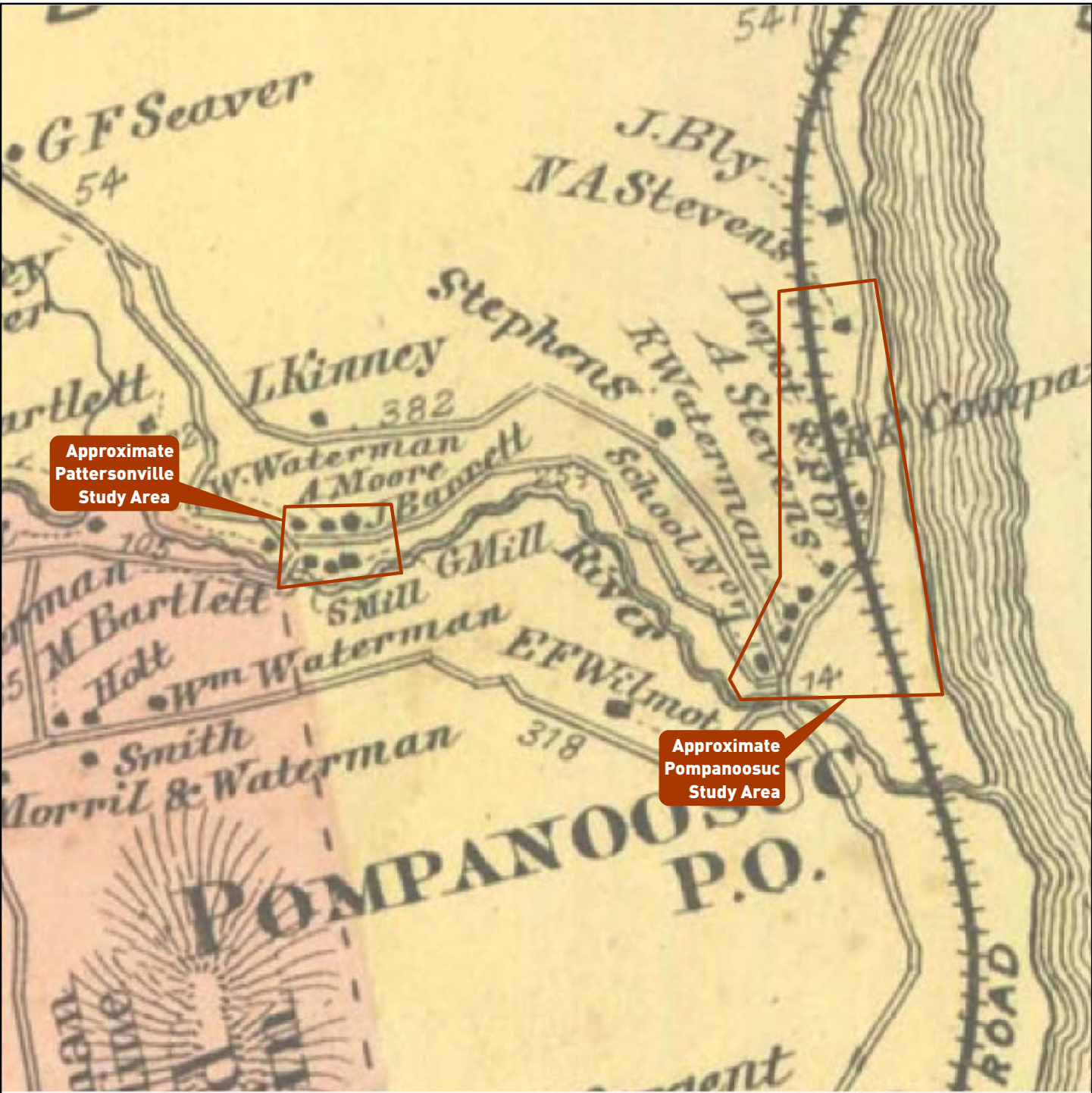
In Pompanoosuc, the “new” railroad station is shown (46) and the “Old Pompanoosuc Railroad Station” is identified as “obsolete” (48). A structure at the covered bridge over the Ompompanoosuc is labeled “obsolete”, but previously had been “Harvey Clogston, Carpenter Shop” (71). Along the banks of the Connecticut River a short distance from the railroad station, is a label for “Log Drivers Camp Ground” (80), probably a long-term use of that location. Another feature to point out is the Pompanoosuc Fairgrounds. The Ompompanoosuc Agricultural Fair Society was in operation from 1885 to 1905 when the organization ceased operation due to low participation (Turner 1911). The facility appears on the 1946 map, but is labeled as “obsolete”. Although outside of the project area, it was on the south side of the river, it was a short-lived feature of the local scene with a half mile race track, a “floral hall”, “dinner tent” and horse sheds.

Another map in the files of the NHS is dated 1959-1973 (English and Orcutt 1959-1973) and shows a variety of features such as the road system (including I-91), the newly flooded areas along the Connecticut and Ompompanoosuc Rivers as well as individual structures. The structures have numbers next to them that correspond to names on a key organized by road.

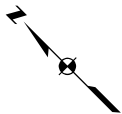
The remaining available maps are the USGS quadrangles dating from 1981, 1983 and 1996 (USGS 1981, 1983, 1996). The each depict the current conditions in the project area with no significant changes (Map 12).







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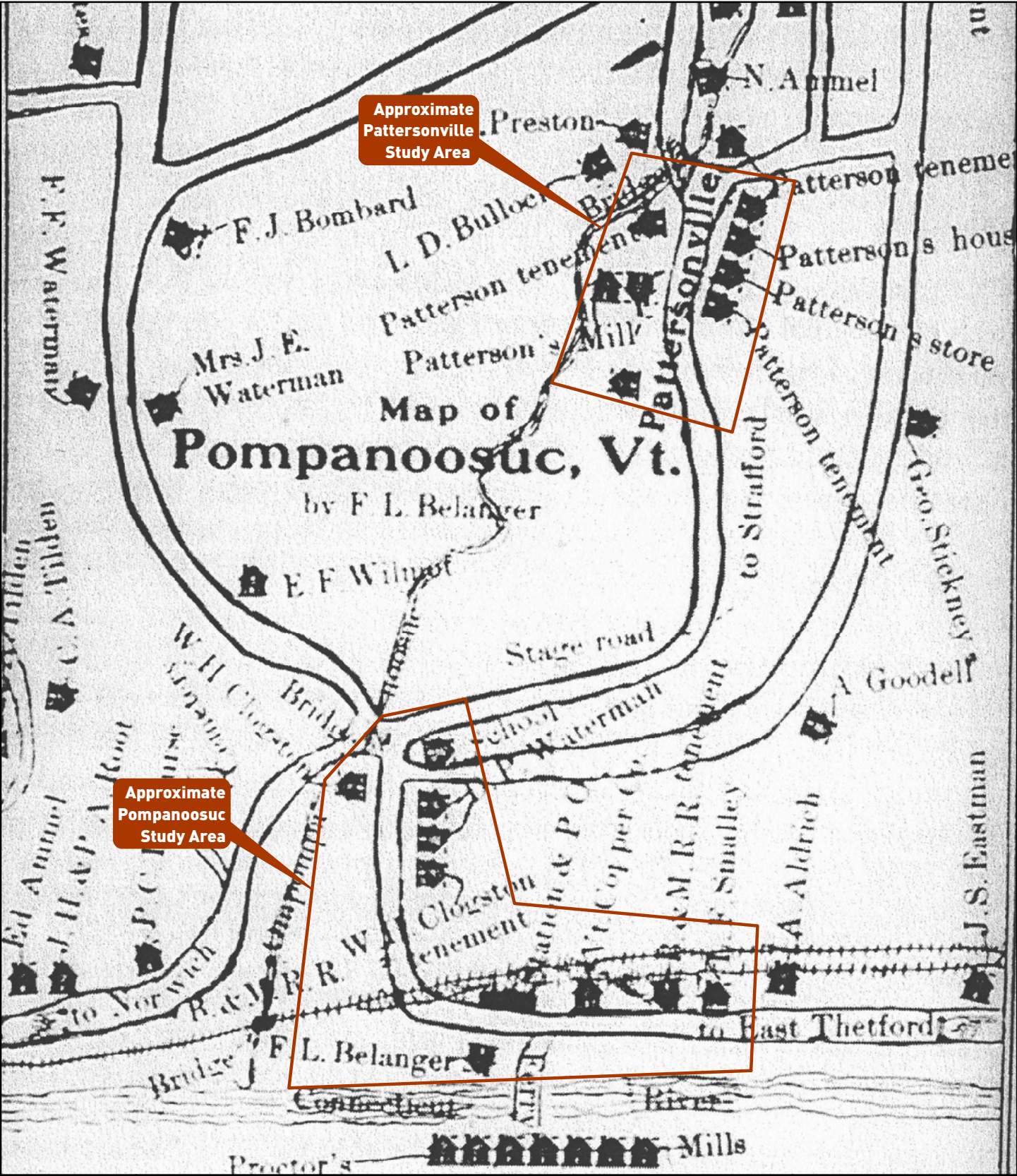


Not-to-Scale

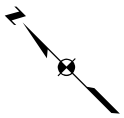
Historical Map
(Beers 1869)



Map 7



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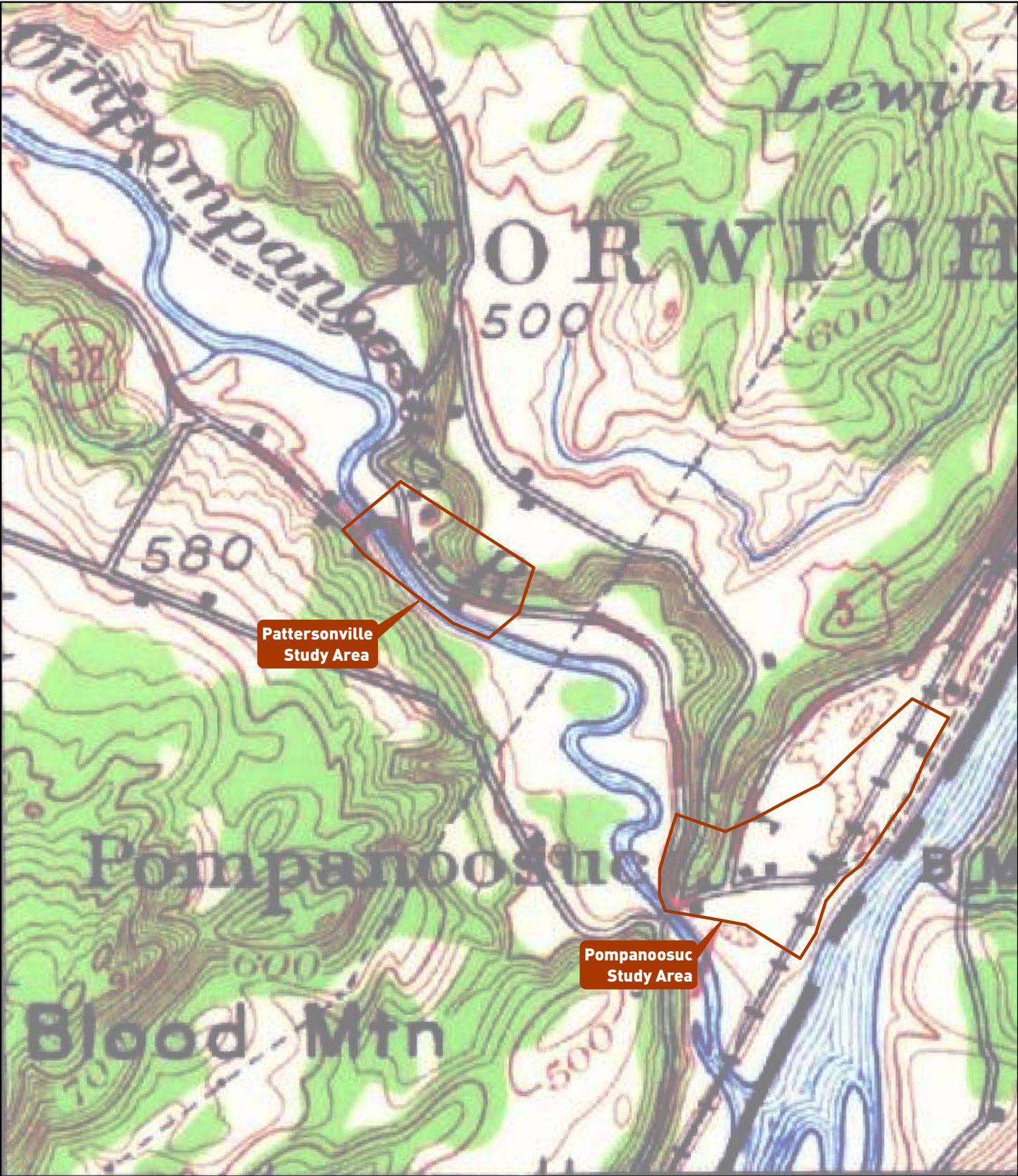



Not-to-Scale

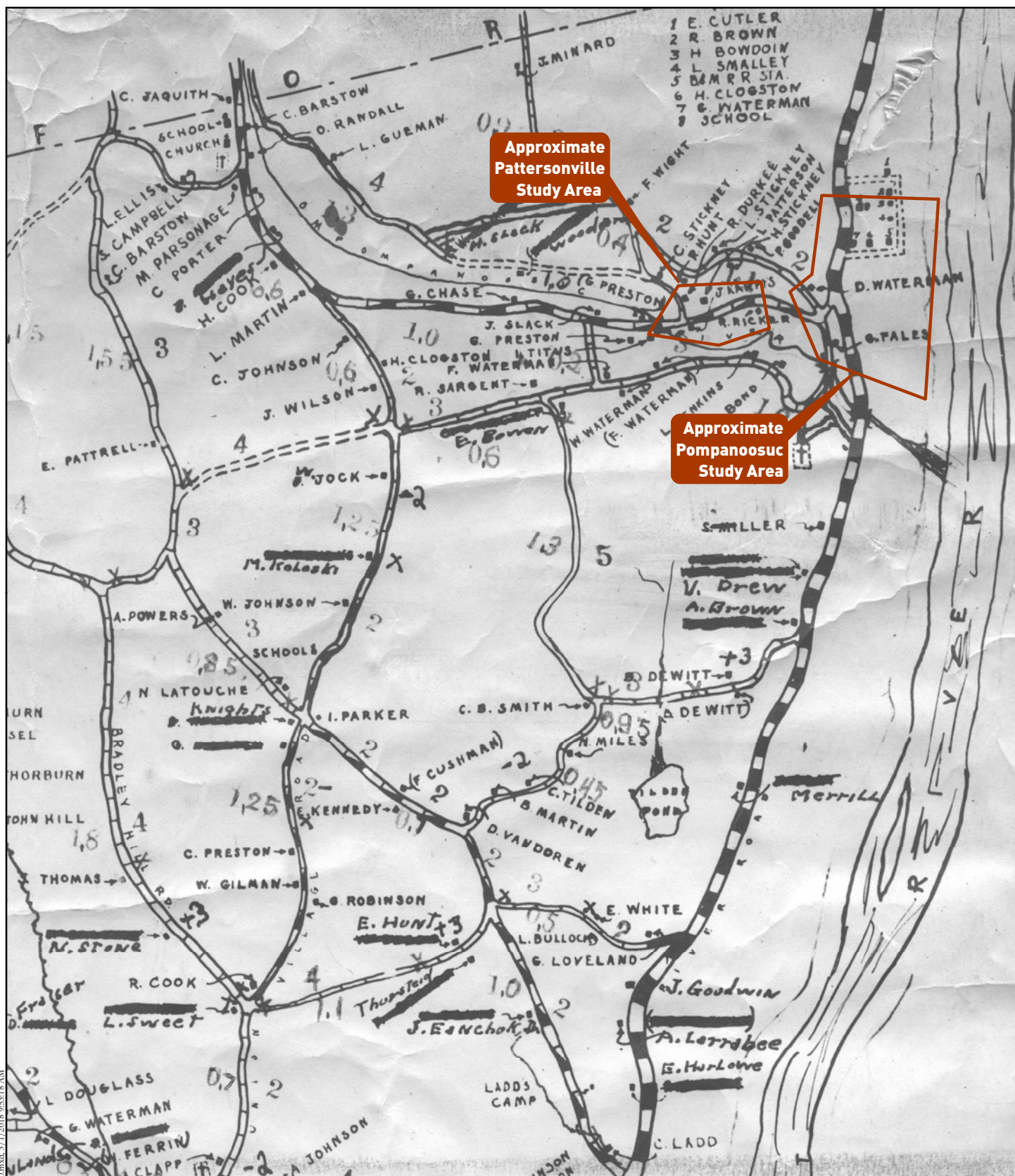
Historical Map
(Belanger 1911)

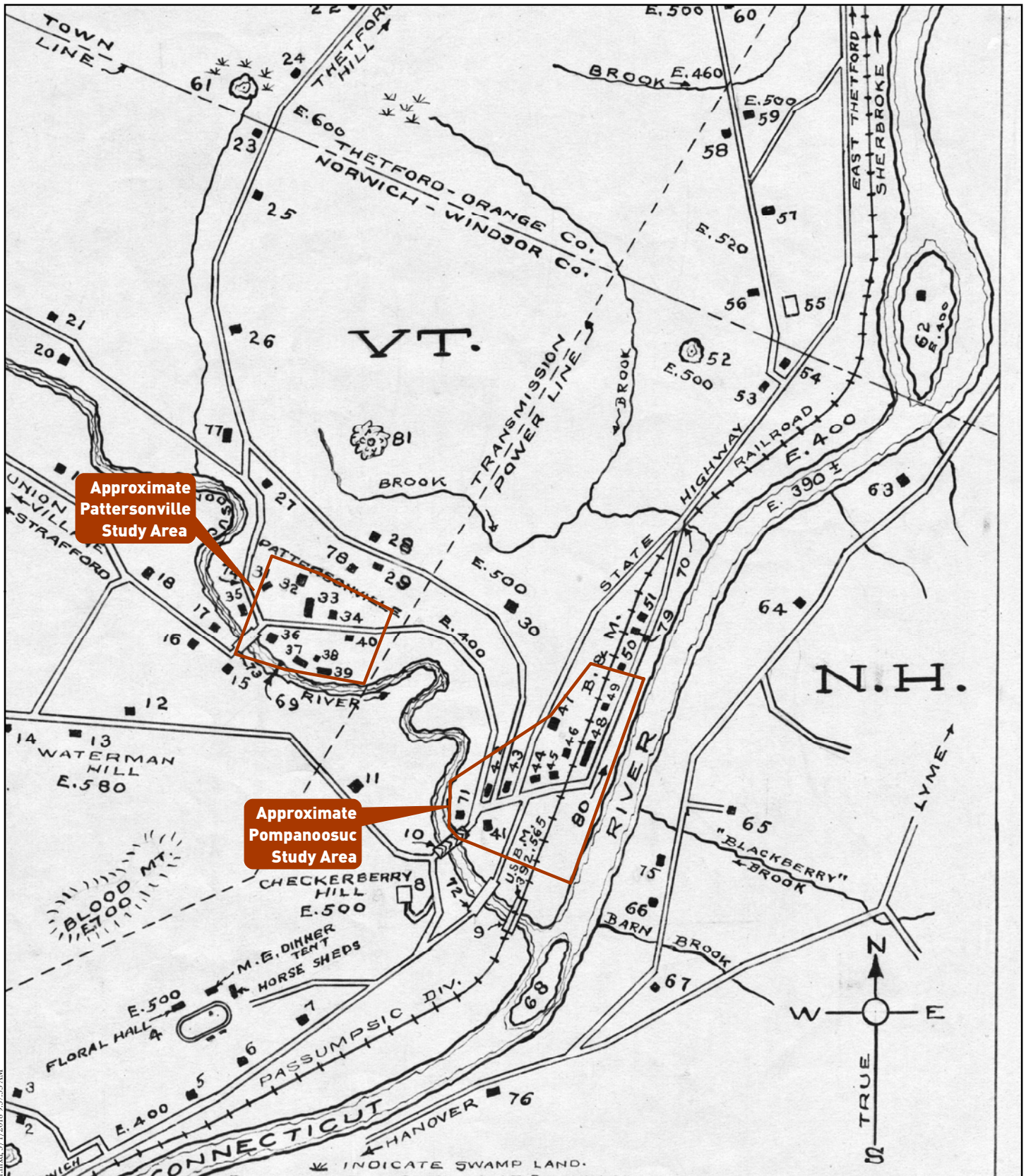


Map 8



	<p>500 0 500 1,000 Feet</p> <p>150 0 150 300 Meters</p>	<div data-bbox="1446 1822 1523 1898"></div> <p>HARTGEN archeological associates inc.</p> <p>Historical Map (USGS 1931)</p> <p>Map 9</p>
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Approximate
Pattersonville
Study Area

Approximate
Pompanoosuc
Study Area



Not-to-Scale



Historical Map
(Stevens 1946)

Map 11

