

Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment

for the
Proposed Hidden Quarry, Part Lot 1 W 1/2, Concession 6
Township of Eramosa, County of Wellington, Ontario

June 2013

Prepared for: **James Dick Construction Ltd.**

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CONTENTS

1.0 Purpose of the Study	2
2.0 Policy Considerations	2
3.0 Historical Overview of the Site	2
3.1 Summary of site history	2
3.2 20th century site history	3
3.3 Pine Tree Plantations/Agreement Forests in Ontario	3
4.0 Site Context	5
5.0 Study Area Review	6
6.0 Conclusions	7
Appendices	
A – Aerial Photographs and Maps	9
B – Site Photographs	19
C - Qualifications	25

1.0 Purpose of the Study

James Dick Construction Ltd. Retained George Robb Architect on May 16, 2013 to prepare an assessment of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes on or adjacent to their proposed Hidden Quarry site. The purpose of this report is to determine the cultural heritage value or interest of resources within the study area.

The following background documents were provided by the applicant.

- A Stage I-II Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed James Dick Construction Limited Hidden Quarry: Located in Part 1 W1/2, Concession 6, Eramosa Township, County of Wellington, Ontario, dated August 31, 2012.
- “Existing Features” and “Operations Plan” drawings (1 & 2 of 5), dated Sept. 21, 2012, prepared by Stovel and Associates Inc.,
- Letter of response from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport regarding the Stage I-II Archaeological Assessment noted above, dated November 7, 2012.

Peter Stewart of GRA visited the site on May 24 and June 1, 2013.

2.0 Policy Considerations

The Provincial Policy Statement, issued under the Planning Act, of 2005 (PPS '05), provides guidance regarding the conservation of built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.

2.6 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

2.6.1 Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved, and

2.6.3 Development and site alteration may be permitted on adjacent lands to protected heritage property where the proposed development and site alteration has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that the heritage attributes of the protected heritage property will be conserved.

In addition, the Wellington County Official Plan, 2006, adds the following:

6.6.5 In considering proposals to establish new aggregate operations, the following matters will be considered:

- i) The effect on cultural heritage resources.*

3.0 Historical Overview of the Site

3.1 Summary of site history

The subject property and surrounding lands in Eramosa, Erin, West Garafaxa and West Luther Townships was surrendered by the Mississauguas in an 1818 treaty. In 1819 Eramosa Township was surveyed into lots and concessions, resulting in a geometric survey grid. The Crown Patent to the subject property (Lot 1 Concession 6) was granted to Gabriel Hopkins in April 1822. The lot was 200 acres in size. Hopkins transferred the title for the west 100 acres to Royal Hopkins in 1837. In 1854 Hopkins sold the lot to Robert Ramshaw. The archeology report suggests that the Ramshaw family appears to own the subject property for the remainder of the 19th century, with descendants eventually selling the lot to neighbouring farmer Archibald Shaw in 1905. The Shaws sold the lot to Robert Johnson in 1916.

3.2 20th century site history

It appears that the subject property was owned by Robert Johnston from 1916 when he purchased it from the Ramshaws until his death in 1961. At this time, land registry records show that the land was granted to his estate. In 1989, the property was sold by Marie Marion Jean Johnston (the spouse of Robert Johnston) to James Dick Ltd.

The archaeological report suggests that the subject property was likely held in pasture rather than divided for crops, due to the low natural fertility of the soil in the area. By the 1930s, topographic mapping shows that all dwellings or outbuildings associated with the Ramshaw farm have been removed from the lot. A 1954 aerial photograph of the subject area shows some remnants of the farmstead located south of the pond. The land is not cultivated at the time of this image, but remnants of fencerows and field divisions are evident on the aerial photograph.

The archaeology report suggests that a pine tree plantation was established at the subject property in the mid-20th century, based on reforestation recommendations in the Speed Valley Conservation Report, by the Grand Valley Conservation Authority (now the Grand River Conservation Authority). While the conservation report does recommend the subject property be acquired as an area for reforestation, no evidence of tree planting appears on the 1954 air photo. A 1966 air photo of the subject property also shows no evidence of tree planting. Based on land registry records for the era, it does not appear that the Conservation Authority formally acquired the land, though they or the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) may have encouraged the landowners to establish a plantation after the 1960s.

By 1982, air photographs show a faint dotting on the terrain of the subject property to the east side, suggesting that by this time what are now the mixed woods have begun to grow. The pine tree plantation on the west side of the property may have been planted by this time, but would likely not have been mature enough to show up on aerial imagery.

As previously discussed, the farm dwelling and outbuildings associated with the agricultural history of the subject property were removed prior to 1933. Until 1972, there are no other structures pictured on topographic mapping. In 1972, a building is depicted just north of the subject property, along Concession 6. By 1980, two structures are depicted towards the east side of the lot, facing Highway 7.

Aerial photos from 1954 and 1966 show some disturbance to land north of the pond, likely a small quarry or pit. By 1982, the quarry area has been enlarged. By 1985, topographic maps depict quarrying activity around the pond on the subject property. Another structure is depicted north of the pond. By 1994, the topographic map no longer depicts quarrying on the site, but the buildings north of the pond remain on the map.

3.3 Pine Tree Plantations/Agreement Forests in Ontario

The pine tree plantation appears to have been planted by the 1980s, judging by the size of the trees and evidence from aerial photographs.

Tree plantations became an important practice in Southern Ontario beginning in the early 19th century. European settlers in southern Ontario from the early 1800s onwards had been very effective at clearing the land for agriculture and the timber industry. By the 1880s settlers or timber companies had cleared 75-80% of southern Ontario forests. In some areas where there were large sand and gravel deposits

from the glaciers, removal of the forest cover created significant problems as the thin layer of topsoil soon blew away, leaving infertile sand and gravel. A number of farms across Ontario were abandoned and hundreds of hectares of once-fertile land were laid to waste.

In the early 20th century, the provincial government began partnering with county governments to create laws and agreements encouraging people to plant trees in the blowsand areas to regenerate the area forests. The government established a forest tree nursery at the Ontario Agricultural College (now the University of Guelph) to produce seedlings for landowners to plant. A forestry station was also opened in St. Williams in 1908, run by the provincial government, to produce seedlings for reforestation efforts. The St. Williams nursery was the first in the province, and was operated by the government until 1998 when it became privatized.

Coniferous trees, such as red pine and white scotch pine were recommended for reforestation projects as they were a native species with future value. On many sites, mature pines were harvested for utility poles and other uses.

There were two types of reforestation efforts in 20th century Ontario: MNR encouragement of private landowners to plant trees on less fertile or agriculturally valuable land; and *agreement forests* on land often owned by counties, townships, municipalities, Conservation Authorities, the Federal Government, or later private companies. On private plantations, seedlings were provided for a very low cost by MNR run tree nurseries like St. Williams. They were planted and maintained by the private landowner. The subject property appears to have been this type of plantation.

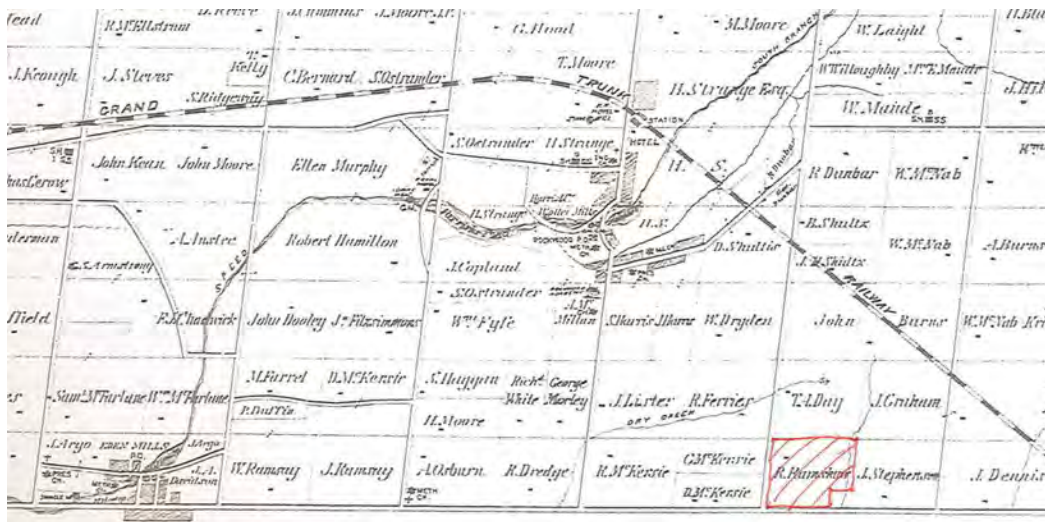
The agreement forests were managed by the land-owner for the Ministry of Natural Resources (previously the Department of Lands and Forests). They were usually formally named as agreement forests or community forests, and many were open to the public when they matured for recreational or educational purposes. By the mid 20th century, Conservation Authorities were being established for many of the southern Ontario watersheds, and the Conservation Authorities became another key group to be involved with agreement forests and tree plantations. By the 1960s, municipalities could qualify for grants to purchase land for agreement forests. Agreement forests functioned by a landowner leasing land to the Ministry of Natural Resources for the specific period of time. During that time, the ministry would manage the land for forestry purposes including wood production of wood and wood products, environmental conditions, recreation, and production or protection of water supplies for the forest. During the agreement period, the ministry would pay expenses for the site and collect revenue. There was typically no charge for trees for reforestation lands.

Although they were initially established in response to drastic problems in the early 20th century, tree plantations and agreement forests continued throughout the 20th century. By the 1990s many of the forests were maturing and the involvement of the MNR in day-to-day management began to decrease and the MNR began to transfer responsibility of the forests back to municipalities or conservation authorities that owned the lands. The agreement forest program ended in 1998, but Conservation Authorities like the Grand River Conservation Authority continue to work with private landowners to plant trees for reforestation efforts.

4.0 Site Context

The property is located on the north east corner of the intersection of Sixth Line Eramosa and Hwy. 7 east of the village of Rockwood. The property was in the hands of Robert Ramshaw (1822-1892) as shown on the 1878 Atlas of Wellington County below.

The building shown as a dark square in the upper left of the Ramshaw site may very well be the site identified in the Stage I-II Archaeological Assessment included as part of the Hidden Quarry application. Three other buildings are located along Sixth Line north of the site; one on the Day property (4963), one on the Ferris property (4958) and one on the Dryden property (5006). The first two are likely the two stone dwellings that remain while the third is not visible from the public right-of-way.



Taken from Atlas of the County of Wellington, 1878



Current Aerial Photo indicating site in yellow

Currently the site, which had been cleared farmland most likely used for grazing livestock, contains a combination of pine plantation (photo 4) from various dates and mixed woods. Sixth Line heads north-west from Hwy. 7 and is a tree-lined rural roadscape (photo 3). It is discontinuous in that it dead ends at the railway approximately two kilometres north of Hwy. 7. Hwy. 7 is a paved two lane provincial highway along the south boundary (photo 1 & 2).

Notable features include remnants of earlier quarry operations in the north west corner (photo 9 -11), a pond south of that area (photo 6) and a former farmhouse foundation identified in the Stage I-II Archaeological Assessment as AjHa-50, the James D site (photo 7 & 8).

There are two mid-twentieth century dwellings in the south east corner of the site. One is outside the site on severed land and the other remains on the site and will be retained. Both are accessed from Hwy. 7 (photo 13 & 14).

5.0 Study Area Review

5.1 Proposed Licensed Area

The licensed area borders Sixth Line on its western boundary. The Sixth Line rural roadscape is a cultural heritage landscape based on its tree lined rural profile and remaining three nineteenth century farmsteads to the north of the property. These three farmsteads are well separated from the site, the closest being approximately 250 metres north west. The applicant intends to maintain/supplement the treed verge of the roadway and design landscaped berms inside the existing tree line (see separate visual impact assessment prepared by Stovel and Associates Ltd.). Although the southerly section of the Sixth Line will be re-graded and paved to a point just north of the new quarry entrance, there will be no visual impact on the rural roadscape north of that point.

The nineteenth century farmhouse and outbuildings were removed from the property prior to 1933 (fig. 4). Later pine plantation plantings removed any other evidence of the nineteenth century agricultural uses. The applicant has agreed to conduct a Stage 3 archaeological assessment of the original farmhouse site as a condition of approval of his application.

The remaining residential bungalow at 8352 Hwy. 7 on the site, based on the topographical mapping, is less than 40 years old and is unremarkable. This dwelling is to be retained on site.

5.2 120 metre off-site zone

There are five buildings within the 120 metre off-site zone. They are:

- The residential dwelling at 8540 Hwy. 7 (photo 14), which is contemporary with the dwelling at #8352,
- The industrial complex south of Hwy. 7 (photo 12), which first appears on the 1985 topographical mapping,
- The residential dwelling at 5036 Hwy. 7 on the south side adjacent to the industrial complex, which first appears on the topographical mapping in 1980,
- The residential dwelling at 4943 Sixth Line, directly north of the site, which first appears on the topographical mapping in 1980, and
- The “mushroom farm” at 4953 Sixth Line, which first appears on the topographical mapping in 1994.

These five structures are unremarkable in terms of cultural heritage value or interest.

6.0 Conclusion

Based on the topographical mapping appended to this report, one structure is within the boundaries of the site and five structures have been identified as being within the 120 metre off-site area. All are unremarkable and less than forty years old and are not considered to have cultural heritage value or interest. No further mitigation is required.

The cultural heritage landscape represented by the rural roadscape of the Sixth Line north of Hwy. 7 will be preserved by the retention of the treed road verge and the landscaped berm beyond. No further mitigation is required.

Sources

Grand Valley Conservation Authority. *Speed Valley Conservation Report*. Department of Planning and Development Conservation Branch, 1953.

Guelph Land Registry Office Title Abstracts for Lot 1 Concession 6 Eramosa Township.

Ministry of Natural Resources. *Evergreen Challenge: The Agreement Forest Story*. Ontario: Queen's Printer for Ontario, 1986.

Ministry of Natural Resources. "From Wastelands to Plantations to Natural Forests: The Amazing Journey of Ontario's Former Blowsand Areas". *Ontario Forest Research Institute*. Accessed 2013. <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/OFRI/2ColumnSubPage/275155.html>

Richardson, A.H. *Conservation by the People: The History of the Conservation Movement in Ontario to 1970*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1974.

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Figure 1: Excerpt of 1954 aerial photograph, Hunting Survey Corporation Ltd. University of Toronto Map and Data Library, online resource: http://maps.library.utoronto.ca/data/on/AP_1954/index.html Subject property denoted by circle.



Figure 2: Excerpt from 1966 aerial photograph. National Air Photo Library, Ministry of Natural Resources. Original scale 1:10,000. Image A19411-3. Subject property denoted by circle.



Figure 3: Excerpt of 1982 aerial photo. Ontario Base Mapping, Toronto-Guelph. Original Scale 1:30,000. Image B 82-30 161-15- 59. Subject property denoted by circle.

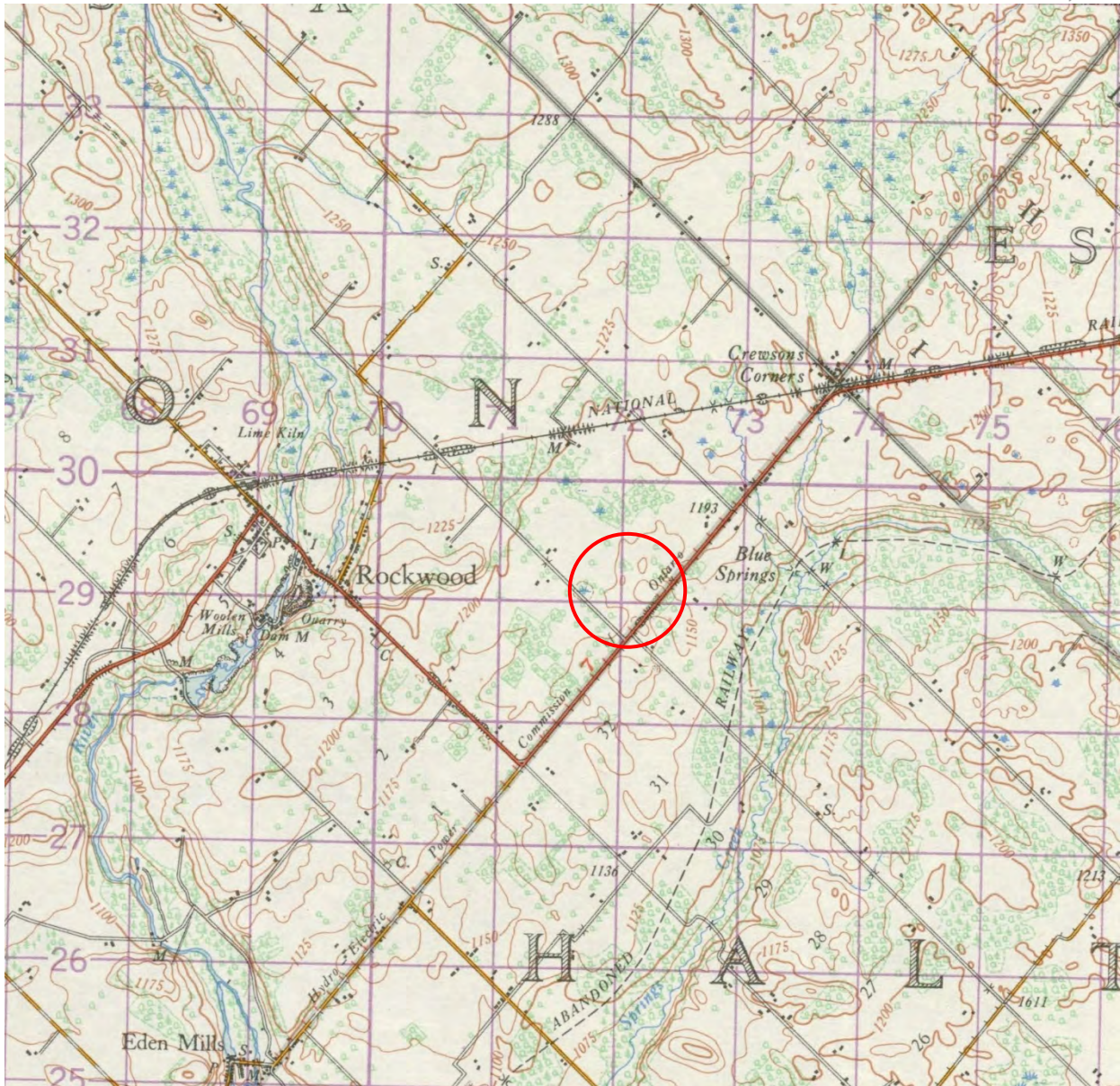


Figure 4: Excerpt from 1933 "Guelph" topographic sheet 40 P/9. Geographic Section, Department of National Defence. 1:63,360. Subject property denoted by circle.

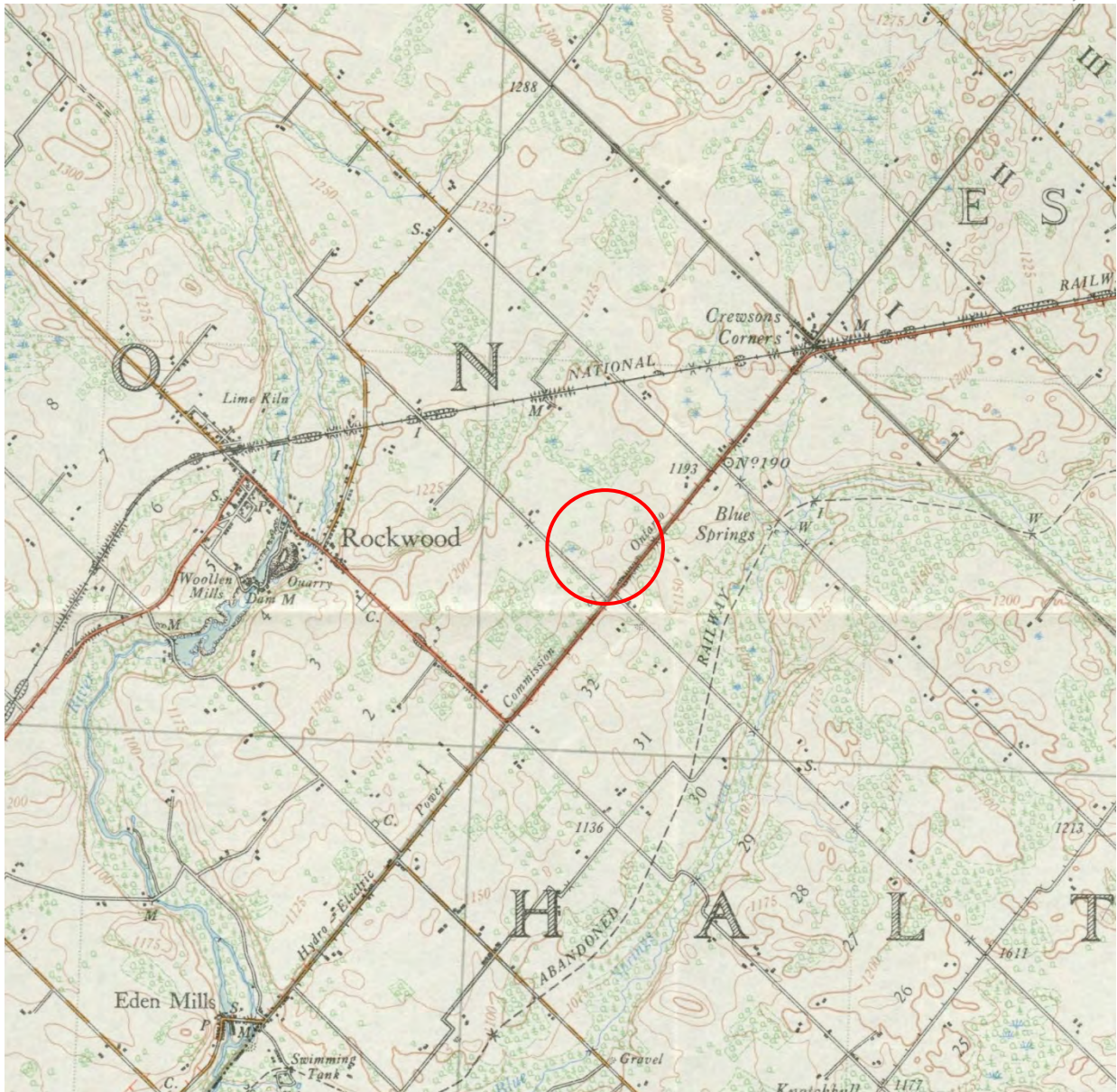


Figure 5: Excerpt from 1935 “Guelph” topographic sheet 40 P/9. Geographic Section, Department of National Defence. 1:63,360. Subject property denoted by circle.

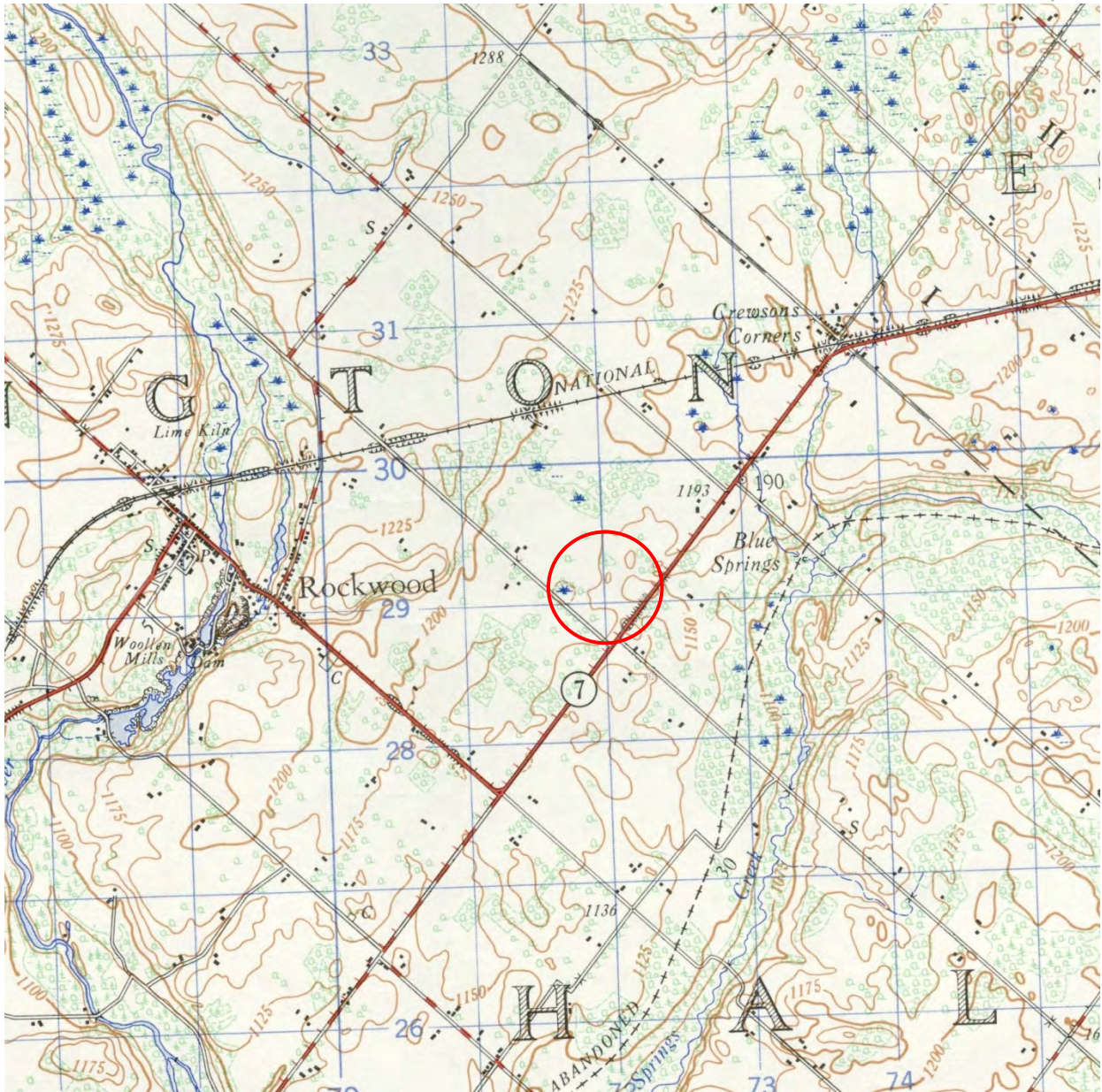


Figure 6: Excerpt from 1952 "Guelph" topographic sheet 40 P/9. Army Survey Establishment R.C.E 1:50,000. Subject property denoted by circle.

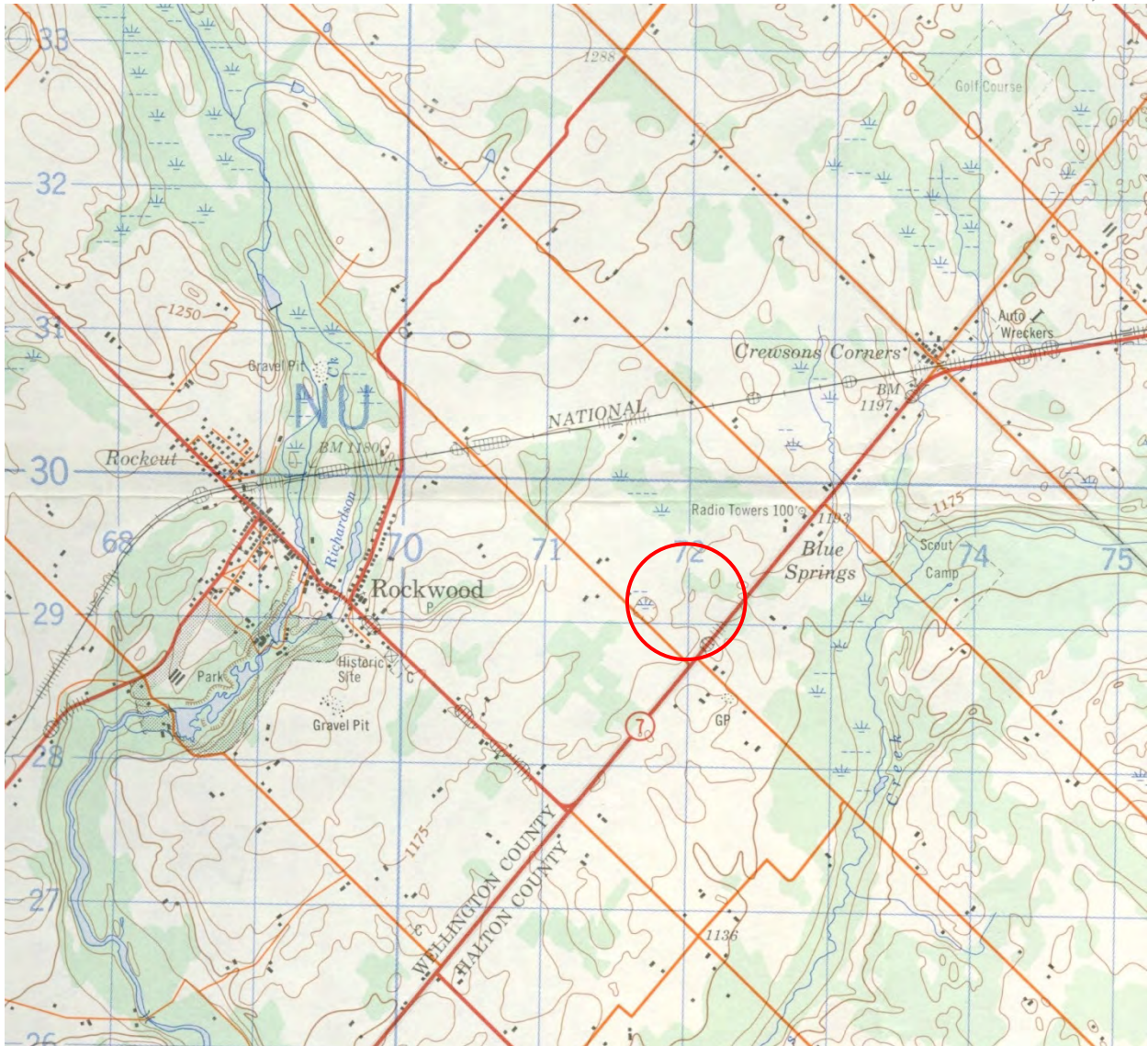


Figure 7: Excerpt from 1973 "Guelph" topographic sheet 40 P/9. Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy Mines and Resources. 1:50,000. Subject property denoted by circle.

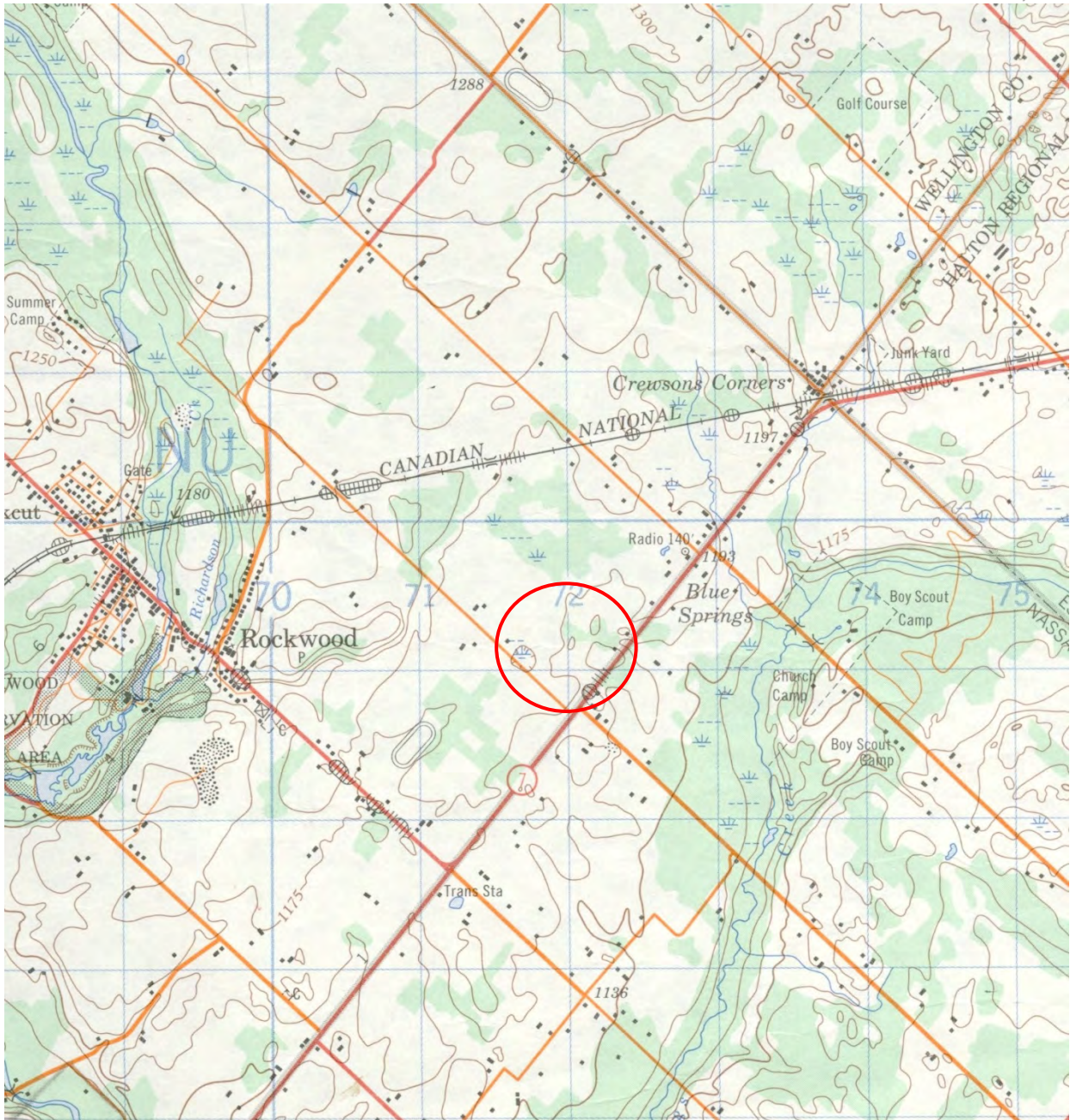


Figure 8: Excerpt from 1980 “Guelph” topographic sheet 40 P/9. Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy Mines and Resources. 1:50,000. Subject property denoted by circle.

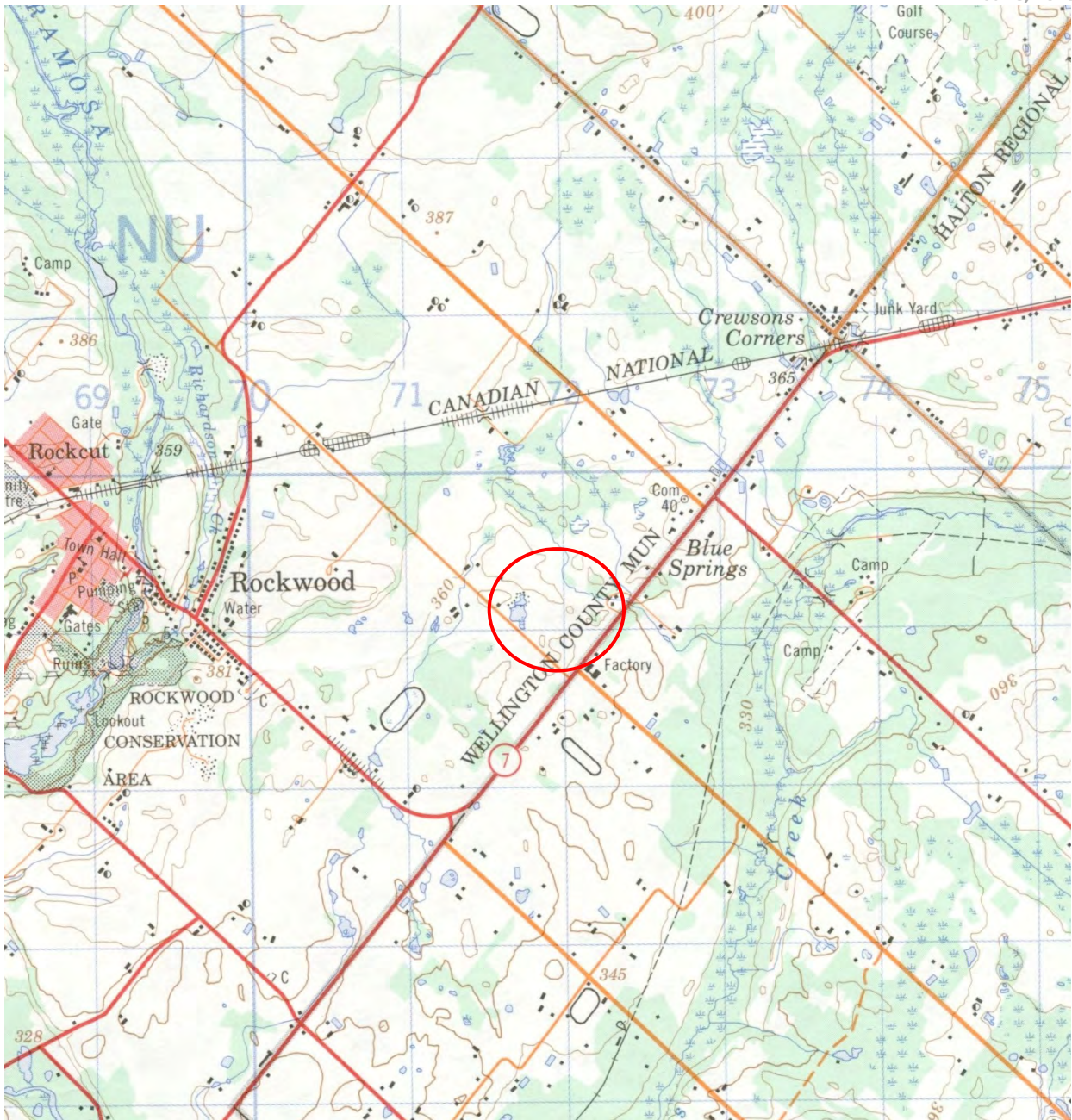


Figure 9: Excerpt from 1985 “Guelph” topographic sheet 40 P/9. Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy Mines and Resources. 1:50,000. Subject property denoted by circle.

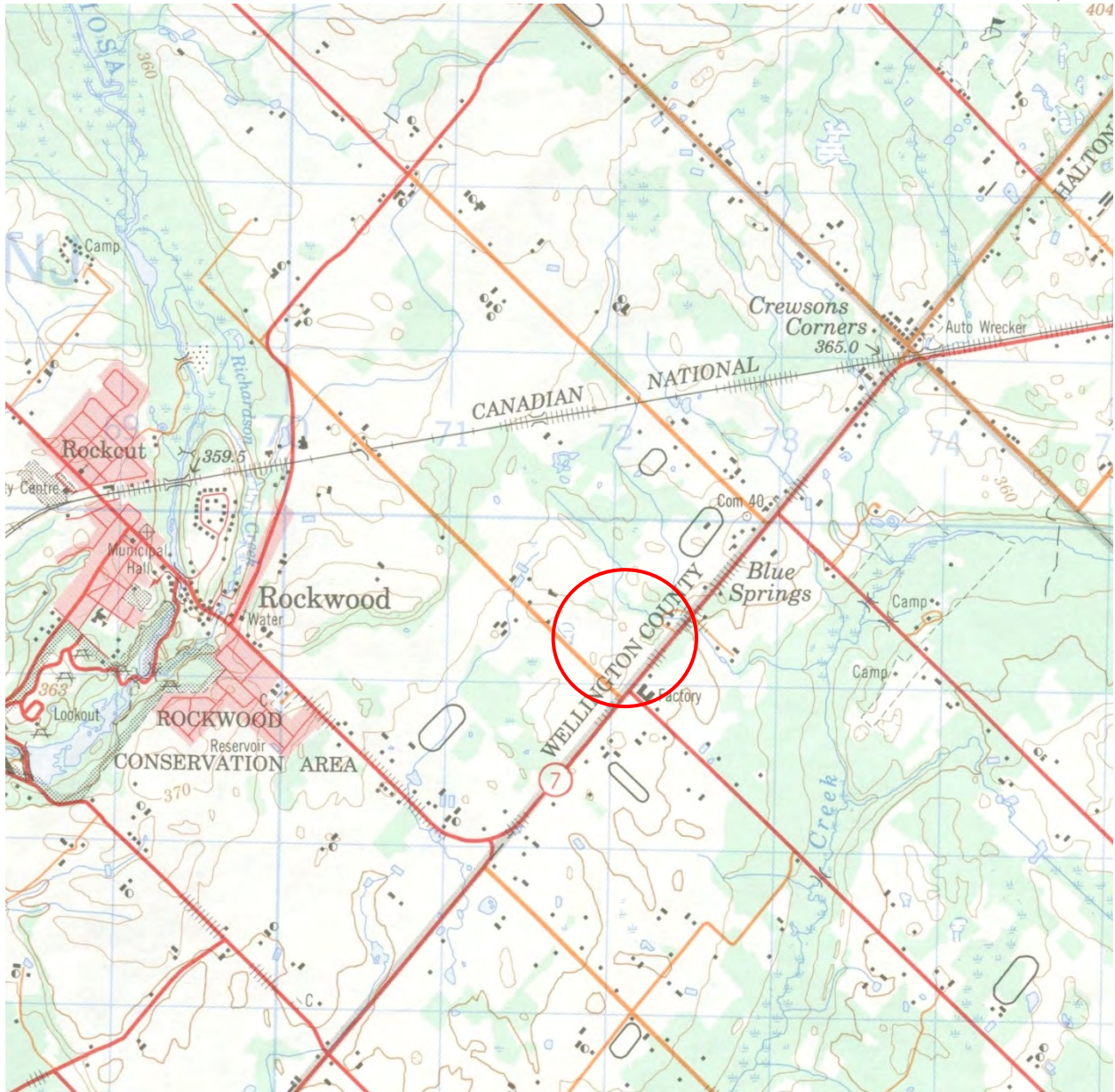


Figure 10: Excerpt from 1994 "Guelph" topographic sheet 40 P/9. Canada Centre for Mapping, Department of Energy Mines and Resources. 1:50,000. Subject property denoted by circle.