



SKIDMORE WOODLAND ATLAS

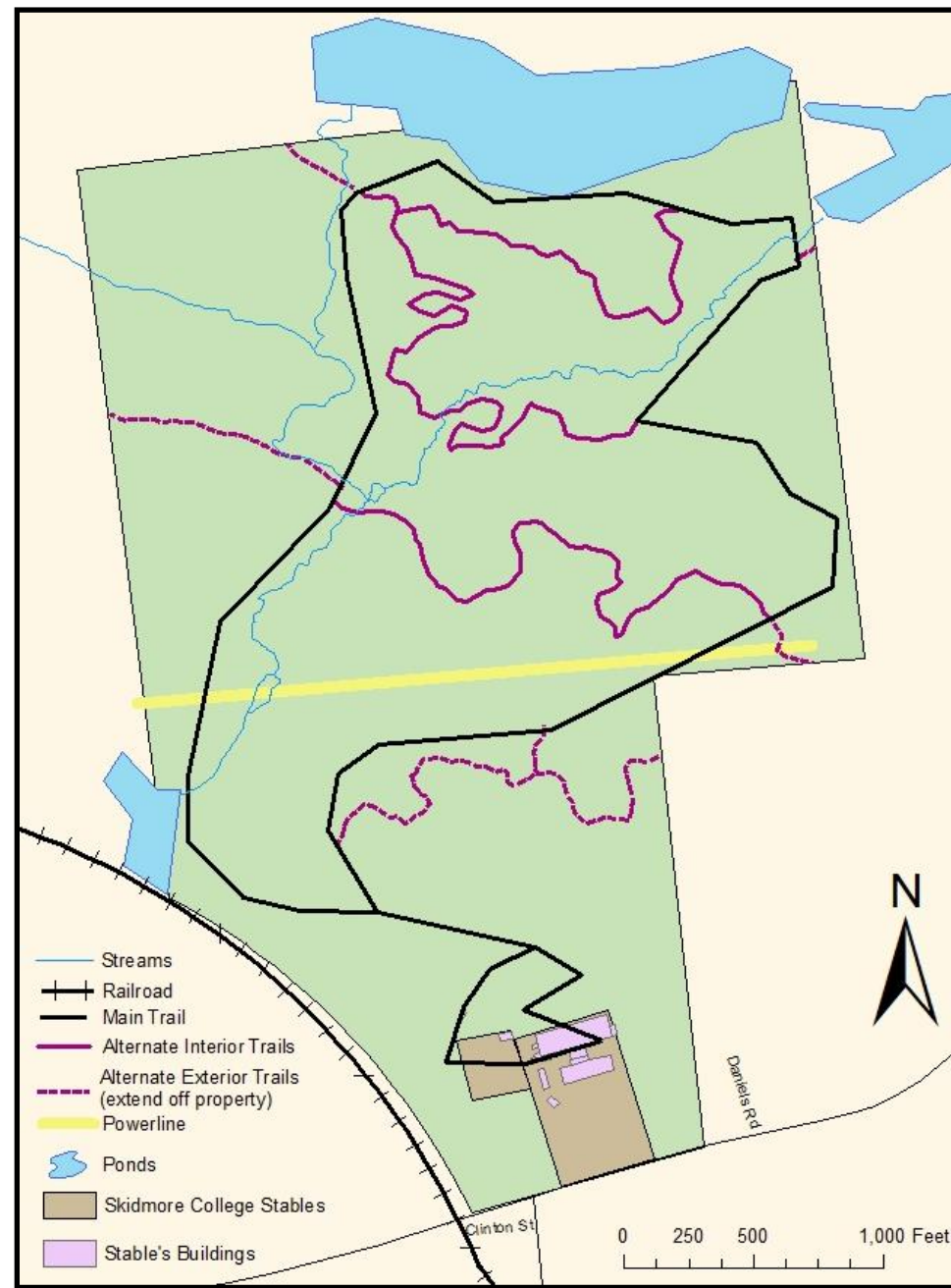
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Robert Jones, Economics Department, Skidmore College



Introduction

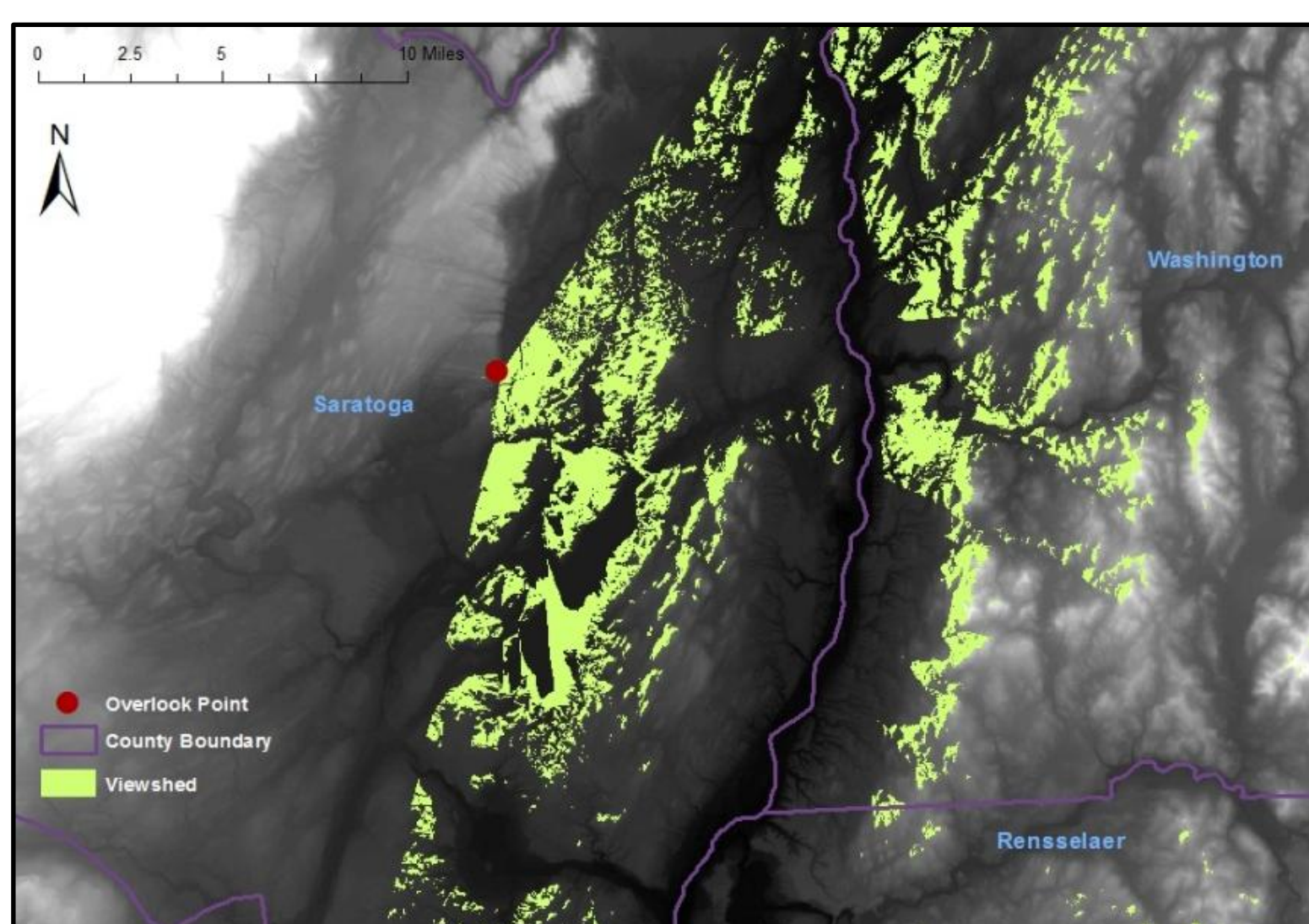
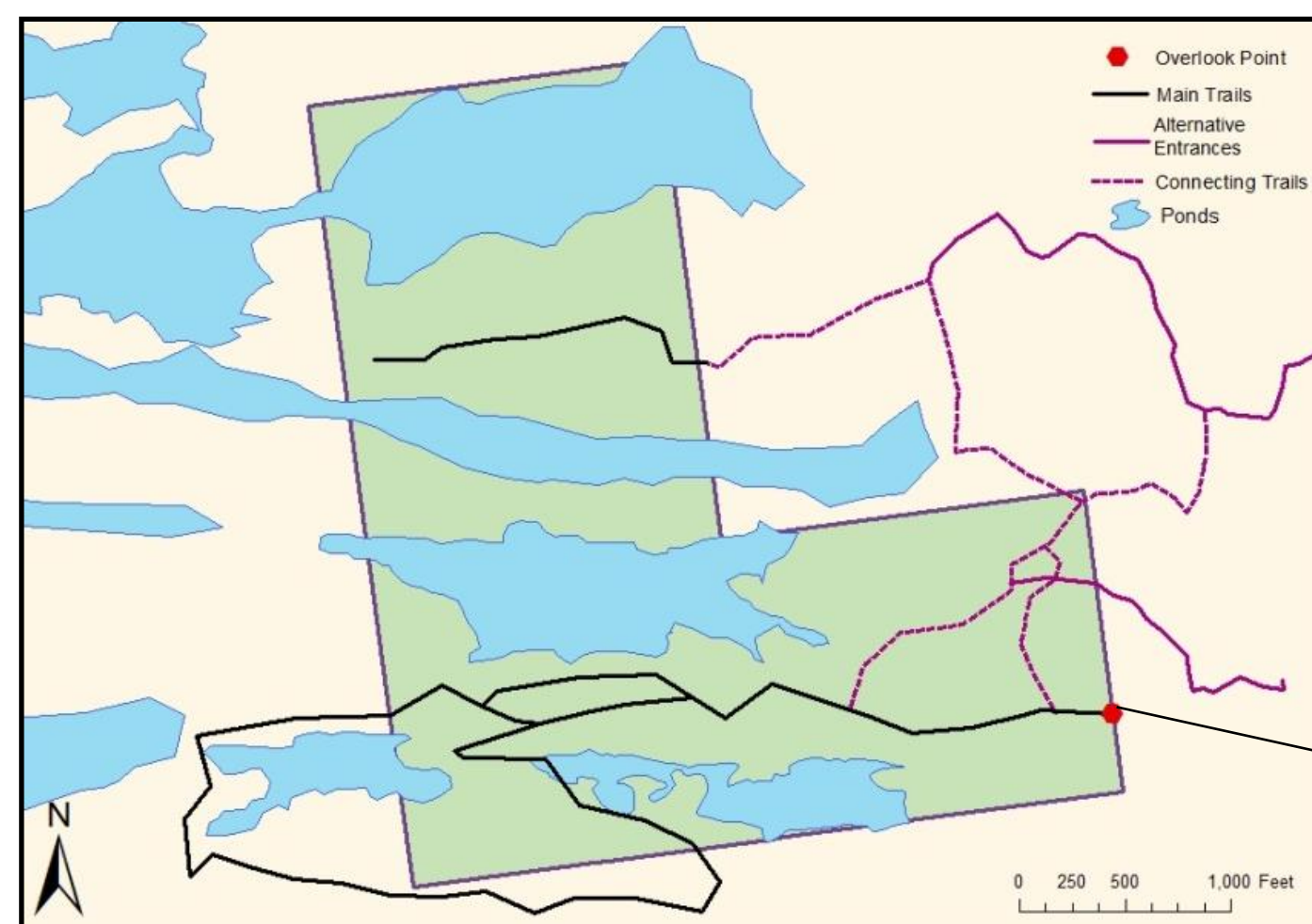
Skidmore College owns 740 acres of woodland attained in 1961. The college's woodland has not been explored and systematically documented in its entirety. Skidmore's acquisition of a new 200 acre parcel of land, north of the college's Stables property, in December 2010, stimulated the need to create an atlas of Skidmore's property including the presence of trails, wetlands, ponds, geology and historical archaeological sites. This atlas includes Skidmore's North Woods, Stables Property, Hillside, Denton Property, and the New Land.

Stables



The main trail that loops around the property was originally part of 22 miles of carriage trails created during the 1880s. Today there are smaller trails that extend off the main trail that highlight unique aspects of the land such as a rock outcropping, beaver damn, and a small waterfall. The trails are used for recreational walks and are also used as part of the Saratoga Mountain Bike Association.

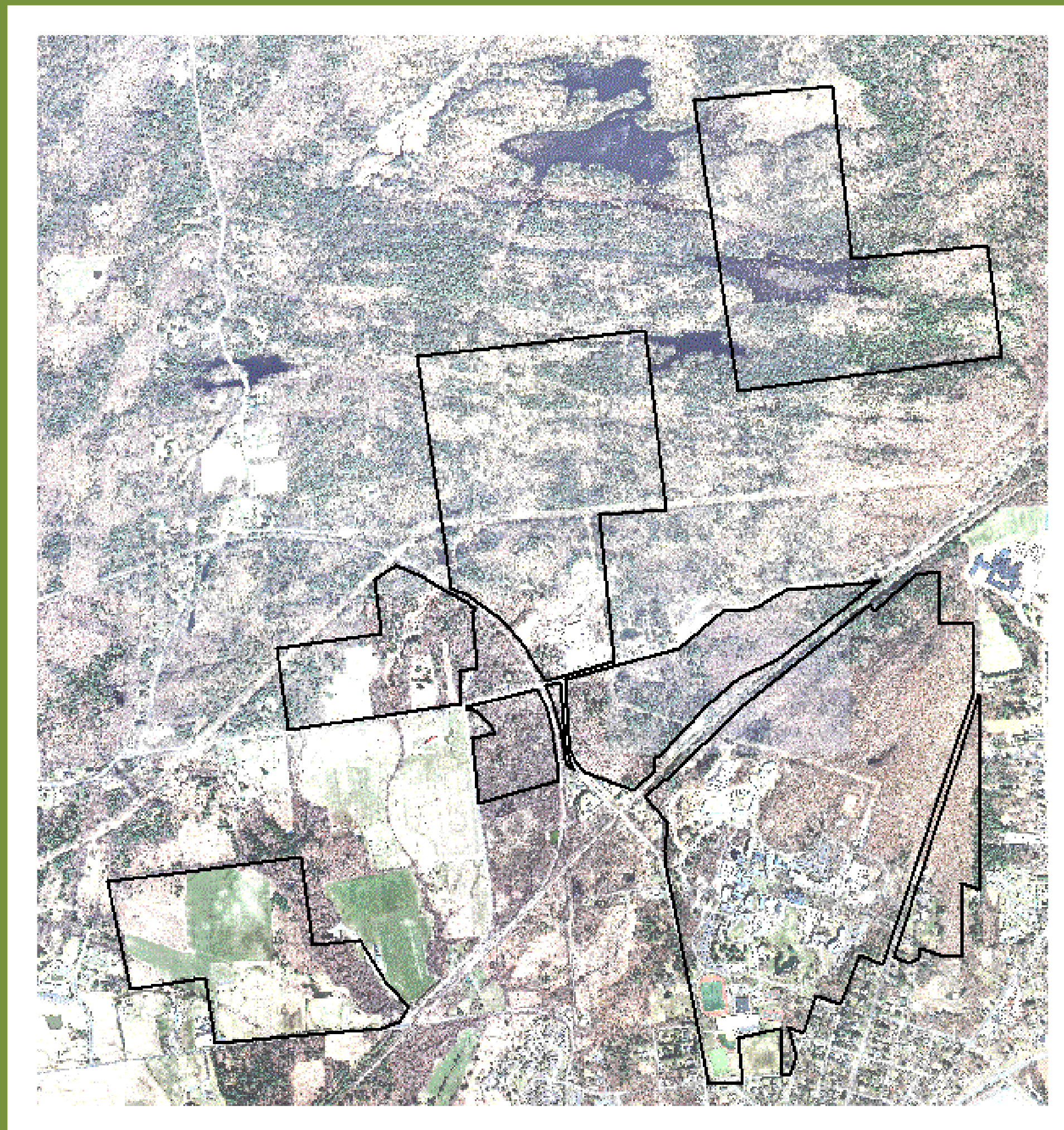
New Land



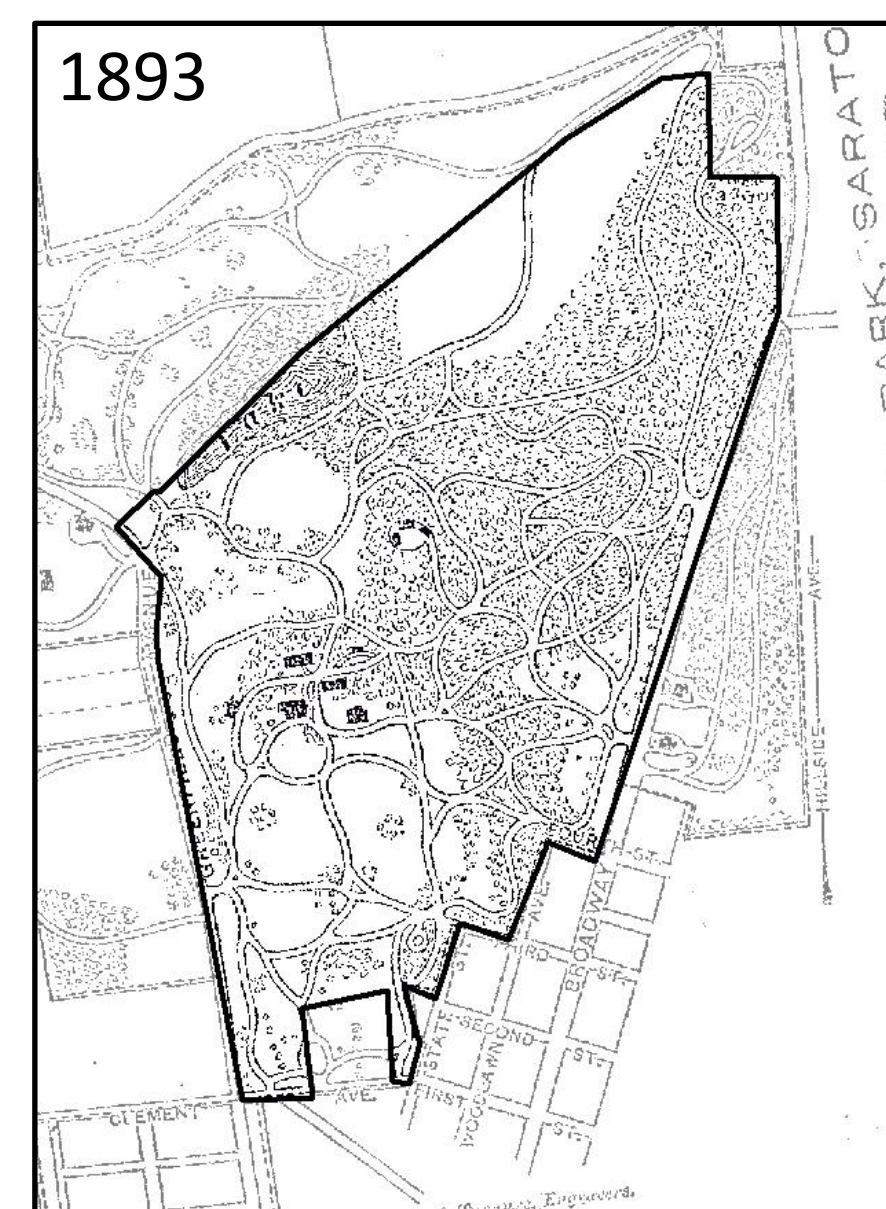
This map depicts the area of land that can be seen from the overlook point in the New Land Property. From the point (in red) a viewer can see all of the highlighted land (green). Here an observer can see into Washington County. This analysis does not include surficial obstructions such as buildings or trees.

Methods

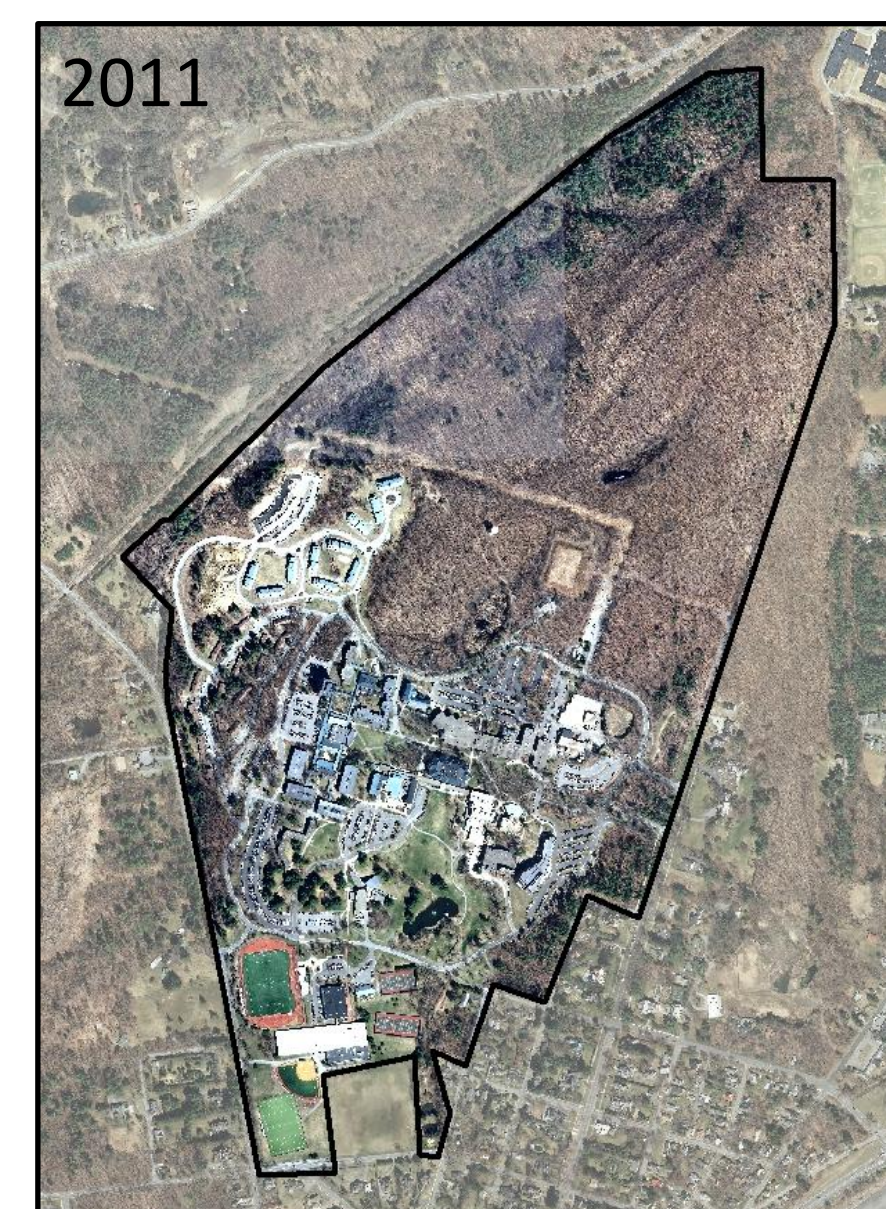
We hiked Skidmore's properties with Garmin GPS units locating main trails, secondary trails, historic trails, points of interest, and archeological evidence. Using the data we collected and the program ArcGIS, we created a series of maps presenting our findings. We also used historic maps located in Skidmore's archives and downloaded maps from Landsat online. Google and other forms of social media served as important resources for answering questions to problems that arose in working with the ArcMap. To learn more about the New Land, we went on hikes with Michael Roohan, the previous owner of the property, and Joe Bruchac, an educator with Abenaki ancestry, familiar with Skidmore's land.



North Woods



The North Woods property, including the main campus and the woods just to the north, is about 328 acres. The woodland represents 165 acres and consists of 3 main trails and historic sites. The water tower, Grotto Stables remains, and whale rock are just a few points of interest that can be found in the woods.



Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Skidmore Summer Collaborative Research, Michael Roohan, and Joe Bruchac.

References

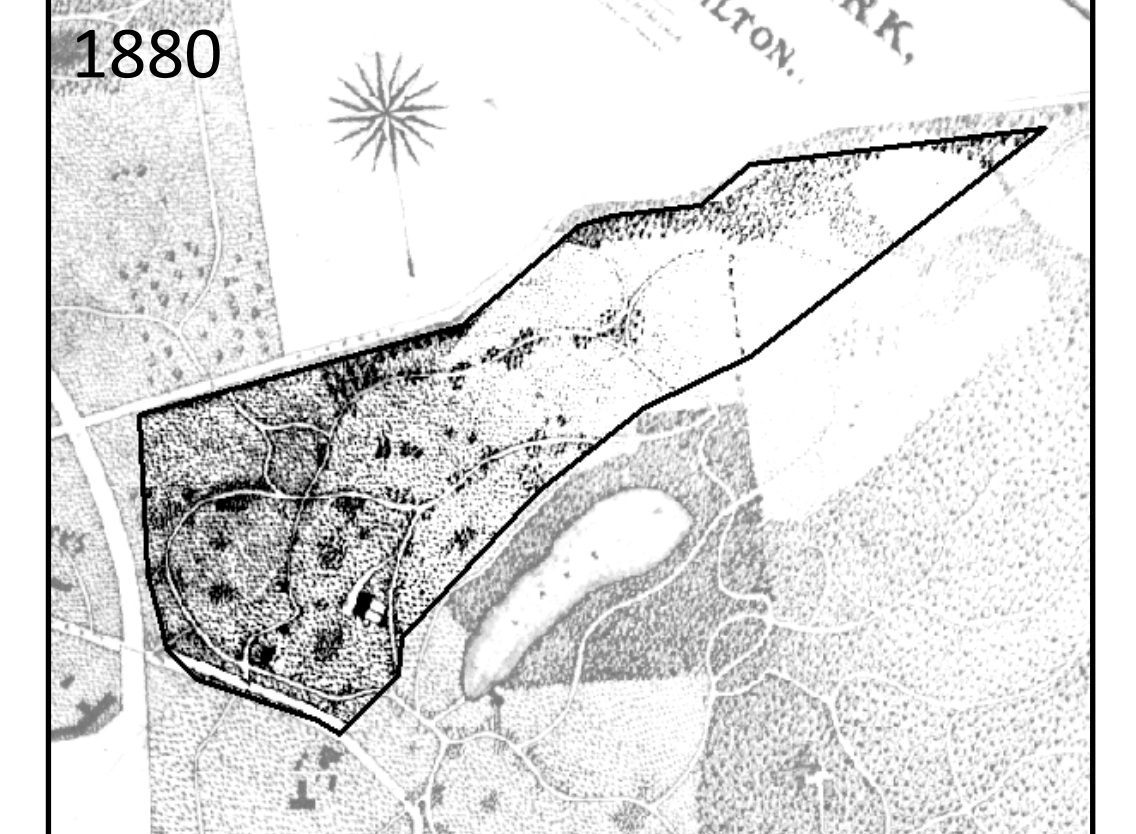
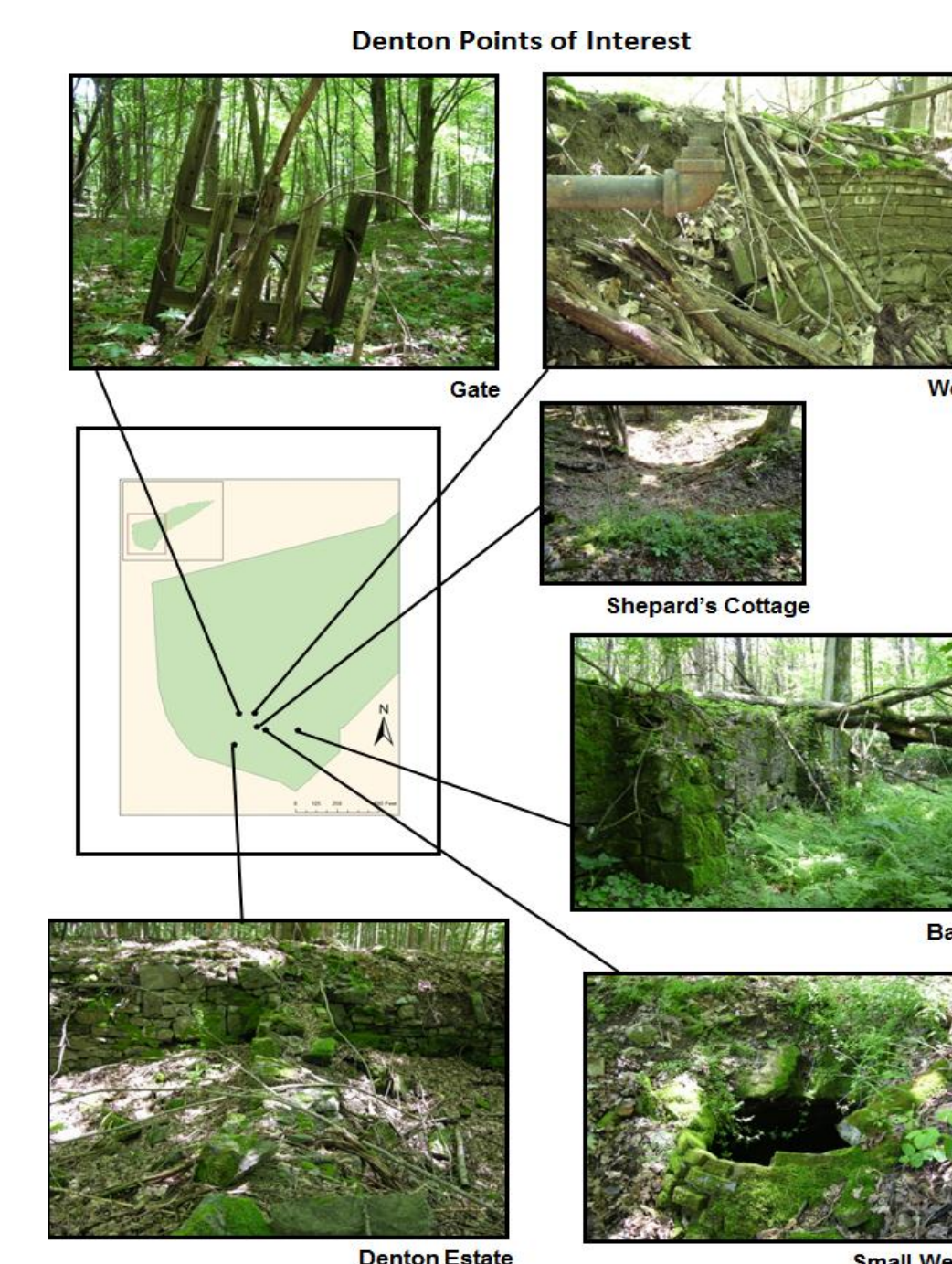
Bruchac, J. 2012, July 14. Personal Interview; Roohan, M. 2012, July 4. Personal Interview; Air Photos: NYS Clearinghouse Orthoimagery 2011; Property Boundaries: Saratoga County Office of Real Property Tax Service Agency; County maps: US Census Bureau; Roads shape files: ESRI Maps; Geological: NYS Museum; Historic Maps: National Archives, Smithsonian Institute

Discoveries

Each parcel of land has unique features of interest. Most of the properties have archeological remains of buildings and historic trails constructed in the 1800s. The Hillside property has evidence of a foundation of an old building, a carriage trail, and a well. The Denton property, which was John Denton's estate, has evidence of a house, a sheep fold, and a well; however, there are no visible trails in the property. The old carriage trail in the Stables property still exists and is mainly used by mountain bikers. The most renowned parcel of Skidmore's woodland, the North Woods, contains numerous trails and historic sites. While the New Land is predominantly wetlands, there is evidence of Native American inhabitation on a large, flat, elevated, and clear-cut plateau where they may have set up campsites as they traveled from Montreal to New York during the summer.

Skidmore's various properties provide students and professors a wealth of information and research opportunities. Departments including but not exclusive to biology, geoscience, environmental studies, anthropology, and history would benefit from using Skidmore's land. We hope that by publicizing these visual maps to Skidmore, students and professors will feel that the land is more accessible to use for academic purposes.

Denton



The Denton Parcel is located northwest of the railroad tracks and south of the stables property. This parcel is 79.5 acres of Skidmore's property. While remains from the John Denton estate such as a sheep fold barn, the Denton household, and two wells are found on this land, no trails are recoverable.

Hillside



The college's Hillside property is approximately 35.4 acres of land. The parcel is located to the east of Skidmore's campus off to the right of Glen Mitchell Road. The college's admissions building and Surrey Hotel are located on this land. The Hillside property was originally part of Woodlawn Park in the late 1800s. In 1819 Henry Walton bought the land and in 1879 Henry Hilton purchased the land and created the Woodlawn Park. The park held his estate, stables, riding trails, and meadows for himself and his guests.