



Wisconsin Office
8669 N. Deerwood Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53209
P: 414.446.4121 | F: 414.446.4325
commonwealthheritagegroup.com

August 6, 2019
W-1485/WR-1560

Tom Lynch
Director of Transportation
City of Madison
Madison Municipal Building, Suite 109
Madison, WI 53703

**RE: Madison Metro Bus Storage Facility
Archaeological Review and Recommendations**

The City of Madison intends to purchase the north 15 acres of the former Oscar Mayer plant at 901 Mayer Avenue for use by its Metro Transit division as a bus storage facility. The purchase and repurposing of this portion of the former Oscar Mayer plant will involve modifications to existing buildings and the parking lot. Additional land purchases to the west may also be part of the project, including 4.1 acres currently leased and used by Metro Transit as a bus transfer point and park-and-ride lot, as well as a one-half mile long and 30-foot wide easement for a shared-use path.

For the purposes of this review, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archaeology was defined to include areas of potential ground disturbance, and therefore encompasses all of the land under consideration for purchase. The APE is within the boundaries of the uncatalogued burial site 47DA0526/BDA0326 (Figures 1 and 2), which is protected under Wisconsin Statute §157.70 and Wisconsin Administrative Code §HS 2. Site 47DA0564/BDA0326 (Oscar Mayer Mounds) is a Late Woodland mound group that consisted of linear and effigy mounds. All surface indications of the mounds have been destroyed and two previous monitoring projects have not identified any subsurface indications of mounds. Monitoring within paved areas such as parking lots has demonstrated disturbed soils below the depth of any cultural deposits.


The APE is located in the north-central portion of site 47DA0564/BDA0326. The portion of the site coincident with the APE is entirely within disturbed contexts. Only two portions of the APE are not paved. One section, immediately south of Aberg Avenue, between the railroad and Packard Avenue, was likely heavily disturbed by utility installation and construction of the railway, the Oscar Mayer facility, and Aberg Avenue. The other section is the vacant lot west of the Oscar Mayer facility, which was previously the site of an industrial building and has likely been heavily impacted by industrial development, including the demolition of the buildings and modification of the ground surface. Given the degree of disturbance, it is unlikely that any part of the site within the APE will contain intact burials or cultural deposits. The site has not been evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and given the degree of disturbance it is unlikely that the site would qualify as eligible, particularly under National Register *Criterion D*.

T. Lynch
August 6, 2019
Page 2

After reviewing the proposed project, the previously recorded archaeological site, and degree of previous disturbance, Commonwealth recommends that any ground disturbing activities be monitored by a "qualified archaeologist," as specified under Wisconsin Statute §157.70(1) (i) and Wisconsin Administrative Code §HS2.04(6). No additional archaeological investigations are recommended.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 414-446-4121 ext. 108 or electronically at redwards@chg-inc.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard W. Edwards IV".

Richard W. Edwards IV, Ph.D., RPA
Principal Investigator

Enclosures

Madison Metro Bus Storage Facility Archaeological Review

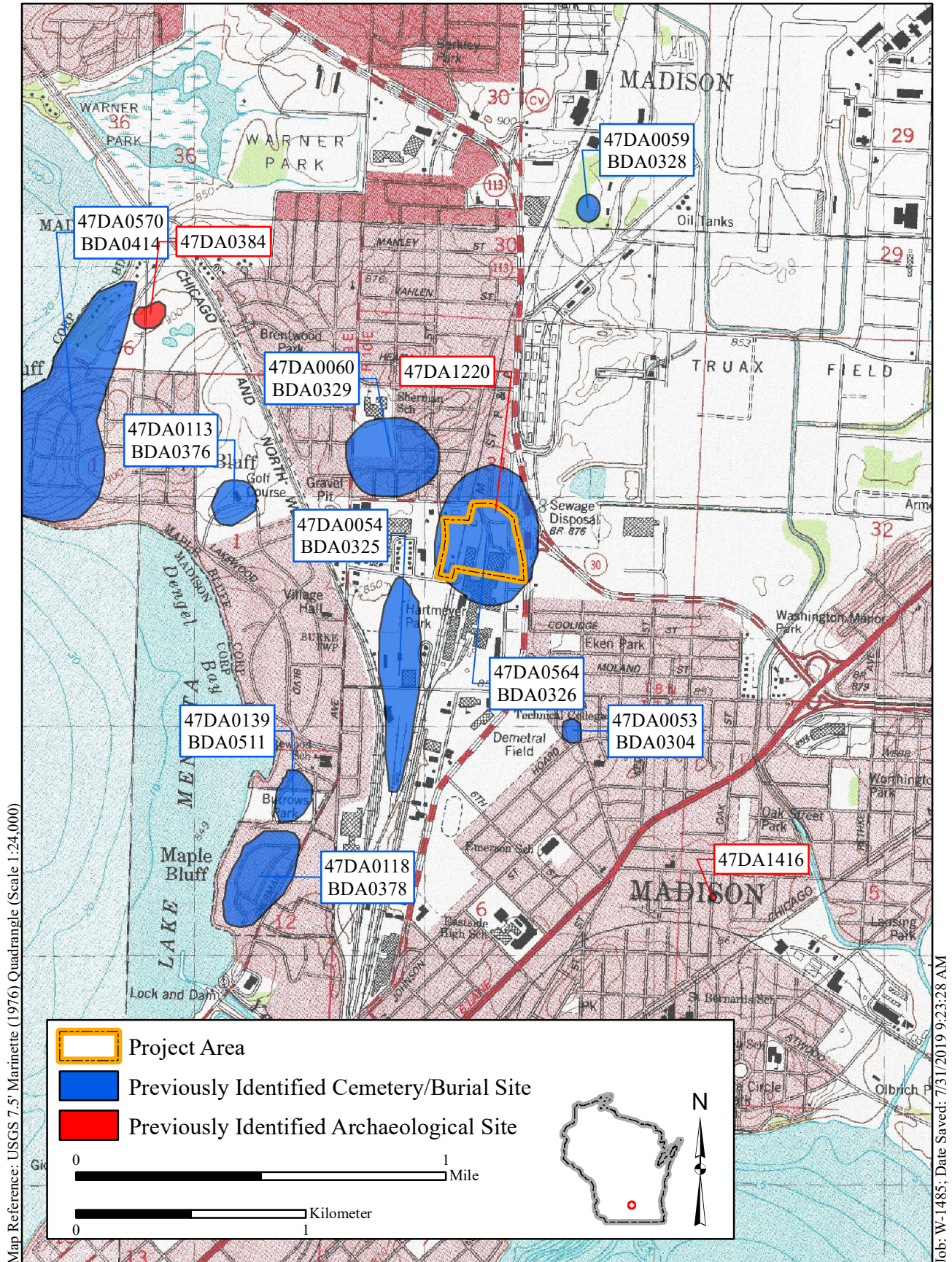


Figure 1. Project Area Location and Previously Identified Archaeological and Cemetery/Burial Sites within One Mile

Madison Metro Bus Storage Facility Archaeological Review

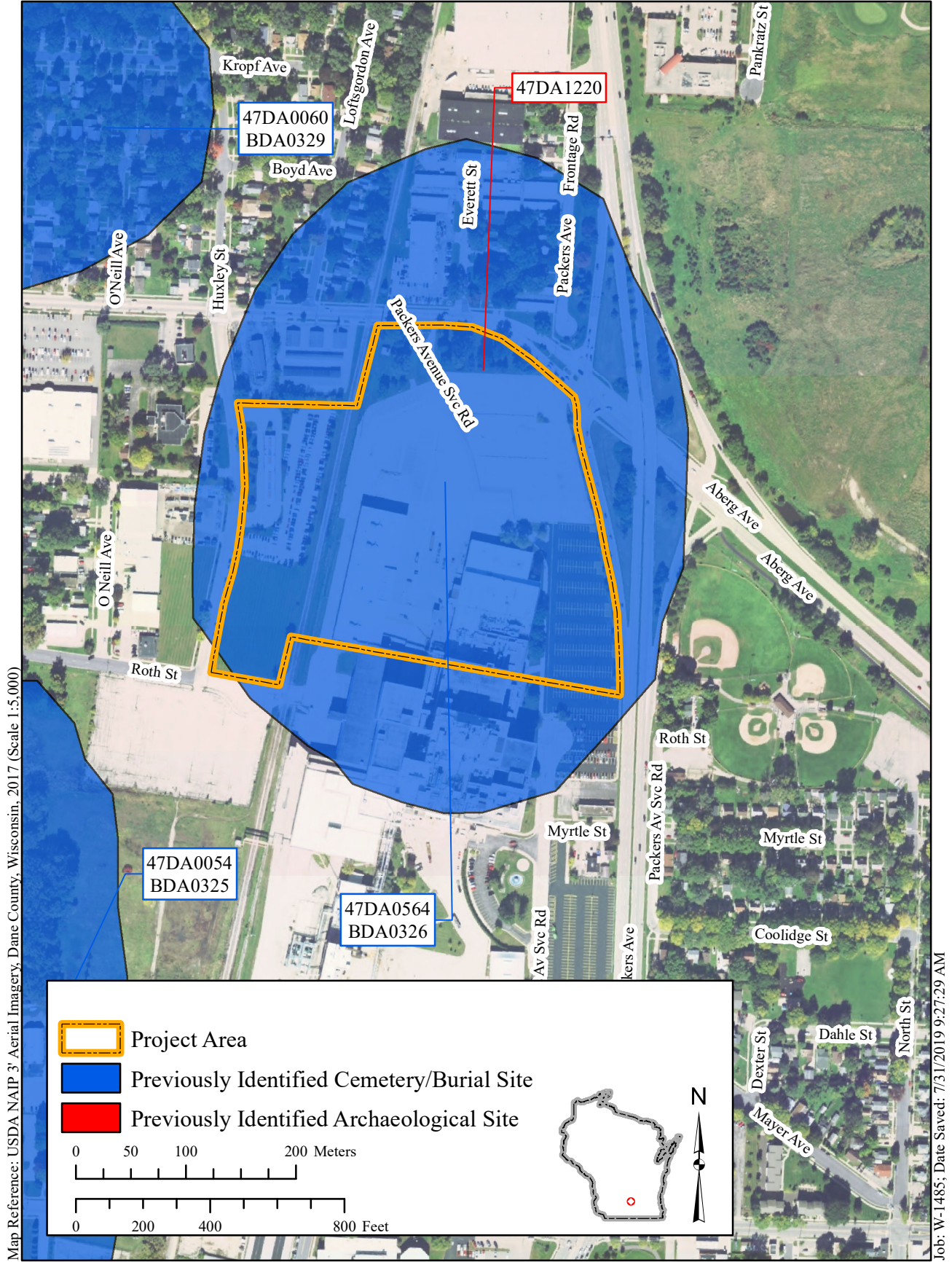


Figure 2. Project Area Location in Relation to Cemetery/Burial Site 47DA0564/BDA0326