

June 30, 2000

Distribution:

The Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (Corps), has contracted Zambrana Engineering, Inc. (ZEI) to conduct an Environmental Assessment of a proposed lease application for the use of Corps property located adjacent to Coralville Lake, northeast of North Liberty, IA. Plate 1 shows the location of the site and Plate 2 is an aerial photograph (March 1990) of the area showing the approximate boundaries of the 106 acre project site.

This proposed site was formerly leased to the Girl Scouts for camping purposes until 1990. Over the intervening years, the facilities have deteriorated and understory vegetation has overgrown the former campsites. The lease applicant, Muslim Youth Camps of America (MYCA), proposes to use the old Girl Scout campsite as a summer camp for recreational and educational activities for multi-cultural campers, and as a retreat/conference site during the non-camping season. The facilities would be available for use by other nonprofit groups when not being used directly for MYCA. Plate 3 shows a layout of the proposed facilities at the site. As indicated in Plate 3, these facilities include eleven cabins, 12 tent platforms, a lodge, a caretaker's residence, restrooms, canoe storage, access road and parking lots. Additional facilities not shown in Plate 3, include a beach on the south side of the site adjacent to the lodge and a floating boat dock on the north side of the site near the embayment area.

The proposed facilities are designed to blend in with the wooded surroundings and located in a way to minimize the loss of large trees. The vegetation to be cleared for the site is mostly understory, saplings and small trees. As presented in MYCA's proposal, the facilities will be located on the south face of the ridge (the existing access road is located on the crest of this ridge) that runs in an east-west direction through the site. Trees and understory located to the north of this ridge and in the ravine that runs along the north side of the ridge would not be disturbed, except for paths to gain access to the embayment area.

Anticipated construction activities at the site include:

- excavation and contouring for buildings, parking areas and wastewater treatment system
- clearing and grubbing
- planting of new and displaced trees
- trenching and filling associated with installation of wastewater treatment, water, telephone, electricity and natural gas collection and delivery lines

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- concrete foundations work
- gravel work for existing access road, and for parking lots and paths
- contouring and placement of sand for a beach
- construction of the lodge, cabins, storage building, toilet facility and caretaker's residence

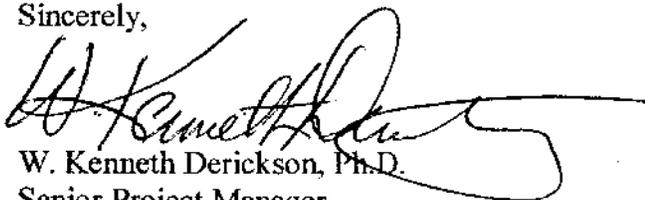
Anticipated usage of the site once construction is complete and the camp is fully operational, is approximately 120 campers per week during a 10-week summer camp period, and about 3,000 to 4,000 retreat/conference attendees (nonprofit groups) spread over the remaining 42 weeks of the year. Activities during the camping season will include swimming, boating, hiking, indoor and outdoor educational activities, onsite work activities, indoor and outdoor cultural activities, and offsite field trips to local points of interest. Similar activities are also planned during the non-camping season at a lower usage level, along with conferences and meditative retreats.

As part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, the Corps has asked that we coordinate with appropriate institutions. The purpose of this coordination is to solicit any relevant information or studies that may be pertinent to our EA efforts as well as any concerns that your institution may have relevant to the proposed leasing application. The Corps has also asked ZEI to conduct a Public Scoping Meeting to solicit concerns and comments from the Public. This meeting will be held in the Penn Elementary School Gym at 230 North Dubuque Street in North Liberty, IA on July 12, 2000 from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon and from 7:00 to 9:00 in the evening. You or your representative is invited to attend either session.

Please provide any relevant studies/data and your comments to the undersigned by July 31, 2000. If you have any questions or require additional clarification, you can contact me at (630) 718-0503 or by e-mail at willkend@aol.com.

We appreciate your assistance on this proposed action and look forward to working with your agency over the next few months.

Sincerely,



W. Kenneth Derickson, Ph.D.
Senior Project Manager

Enclosures: Plates 1-3

Cc: Karen Hagerty – CEMVR-PM-AR



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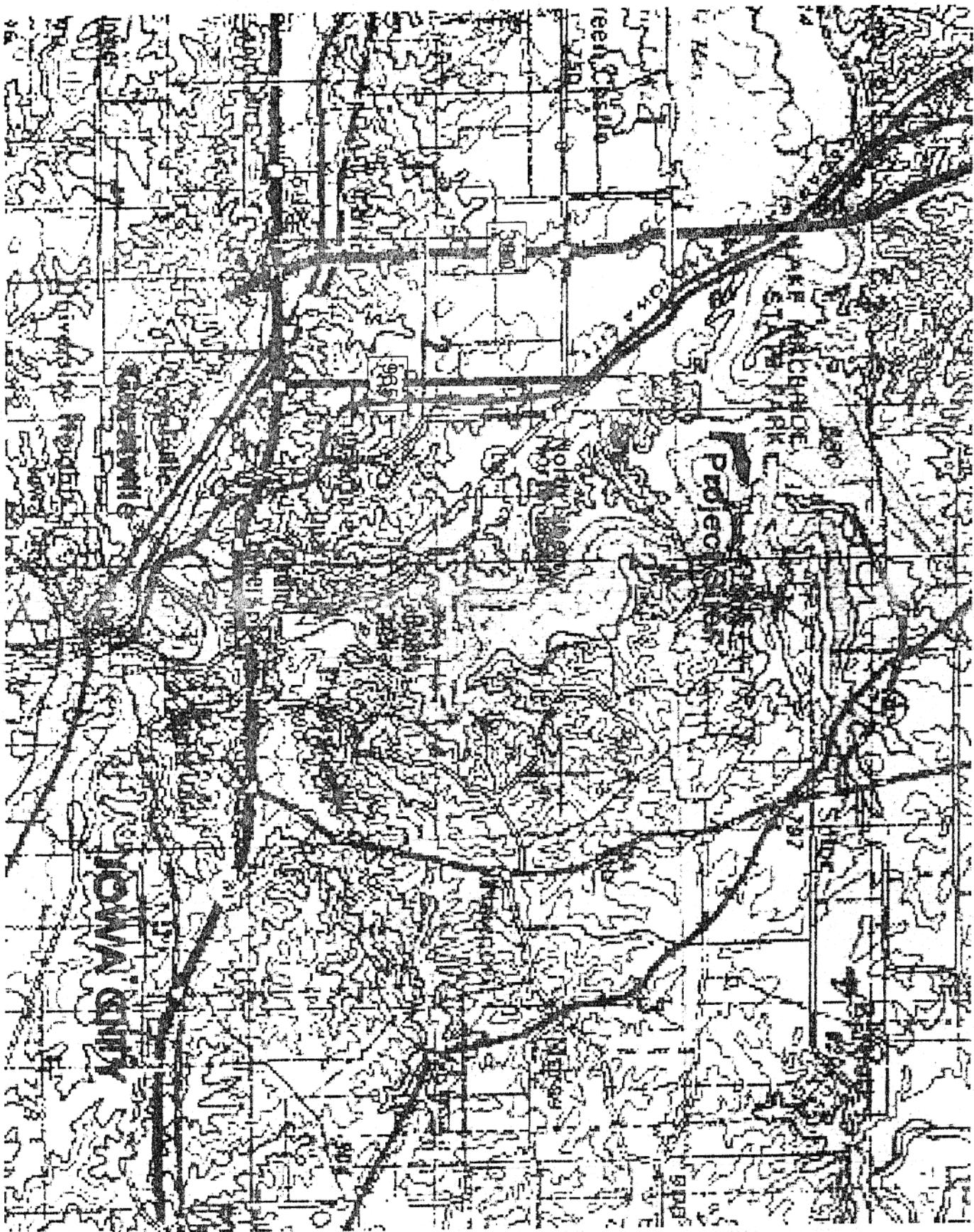
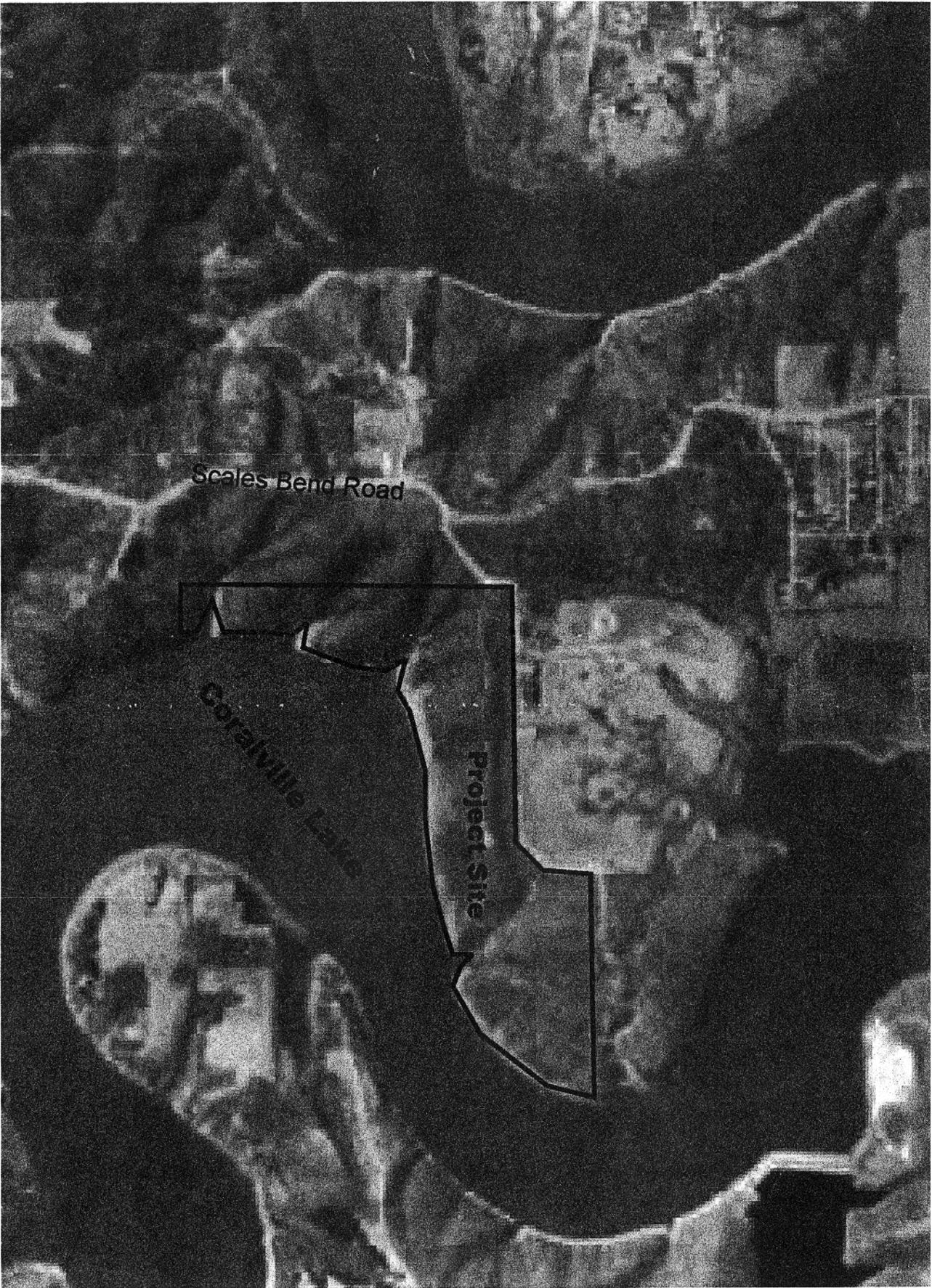


Plate 1. Coralville Lake, IA -Lease Application Environmental Assessment
Area Map and Site Location



**Plate 2. Coralville Lake, IA Lease Application Environmental Assessment
Project Site Boundaries**

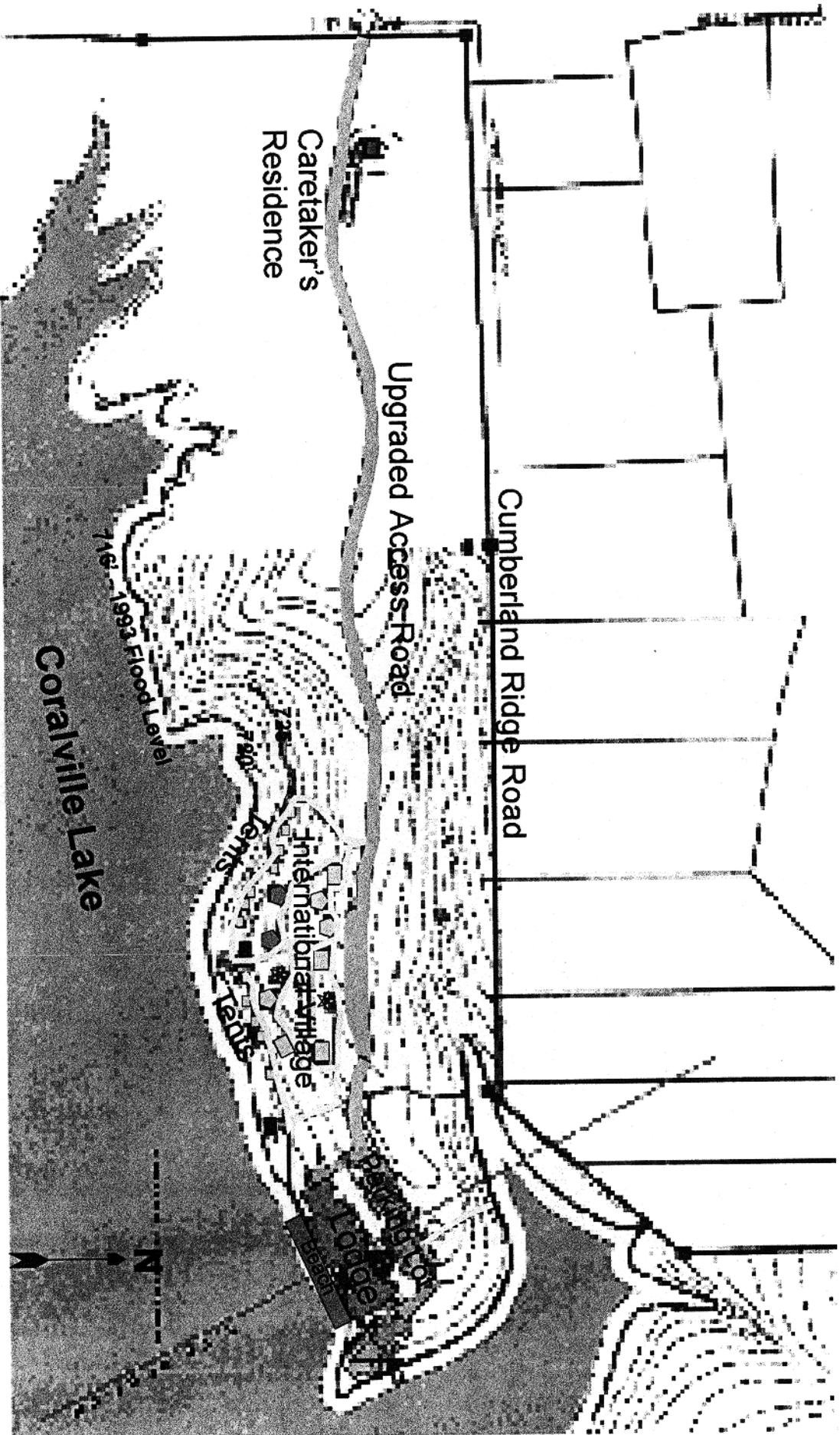


Plate 3. Coralville Lake, IA Lease Application Environmental Assessment Site Plan for Camp Heritage