

Michigan is a Public-Domain State.

Private land claims based on grants made prior to U.S. sovereignty are found for Mackinac and Detroit. These records are in the National Archives (see pages 11-12). Most were "ribbon farms," very narrow but very long to ensure river frontage. Consult Silas Farmer's *History of Detroit and Wayne County and Early Michigan* (Detroit: Silas Farmer and Co., 1890) or D. B. Reynolds's *Early Land Claims in Michigan* (Lansing, Mich.: Michigan Department of Conservation, 1940) for information on private land claims.

The first public-domain land was purchased by settlers in Michigan in 1818. The Ordinance of 1785 had provided the methods for dividing and selling the recently ceded regions. The land was first surveyed into six-mile-square townships, each containing thirty-six sections. The townships were surveyed from an east-west line called a "base line" and a north-south line called a "principal meridian." These public domain lands were offered, at the first land office, in Detroit, for \$2 per acre, with a minimum purchase required. "Installment plans" were available. In 1820 the cost per acre was lowered to \$1.25, with "cash only" and a minimum purchase of eighty acres. Land was usually paid for with silver, gold, bank notes, or drafts. A "patent," usually signed by a clerk, for the U.S. President, would be sent to the landowner, giving title to the previously federal property. A "pre-emption law" in 1841 gave the "squatters" the right to purchase 160 acres at a minimum price.

Federal land patents can be checked online at www.glorerecords.blm.gov. Microfilm copies of the federal land patent records are also at the Michigan State Library. These provide information on the first ownership of all federal lands in the state. The State Archives of Michigan has the original state land patent records. It is necessary to have an exact legal description of the property to utilize either of these valuable sources.

The State Archives of Michigan has numerous records of land transactions. They include the following sources of information (not inclusive) under various departments: tract books of swamp lands purchases, original maps prepared by federal surveyors that show cultural and physical features as they existed between about 1815 and 1855, abstracts of land grants ca. 1837 to 1900, surveys of private claims as early as 1807, and land tract books from 1818 to 1962. See Circular No. 2, *Land Records*, published by the State Archives of Michigan, for more complete information.

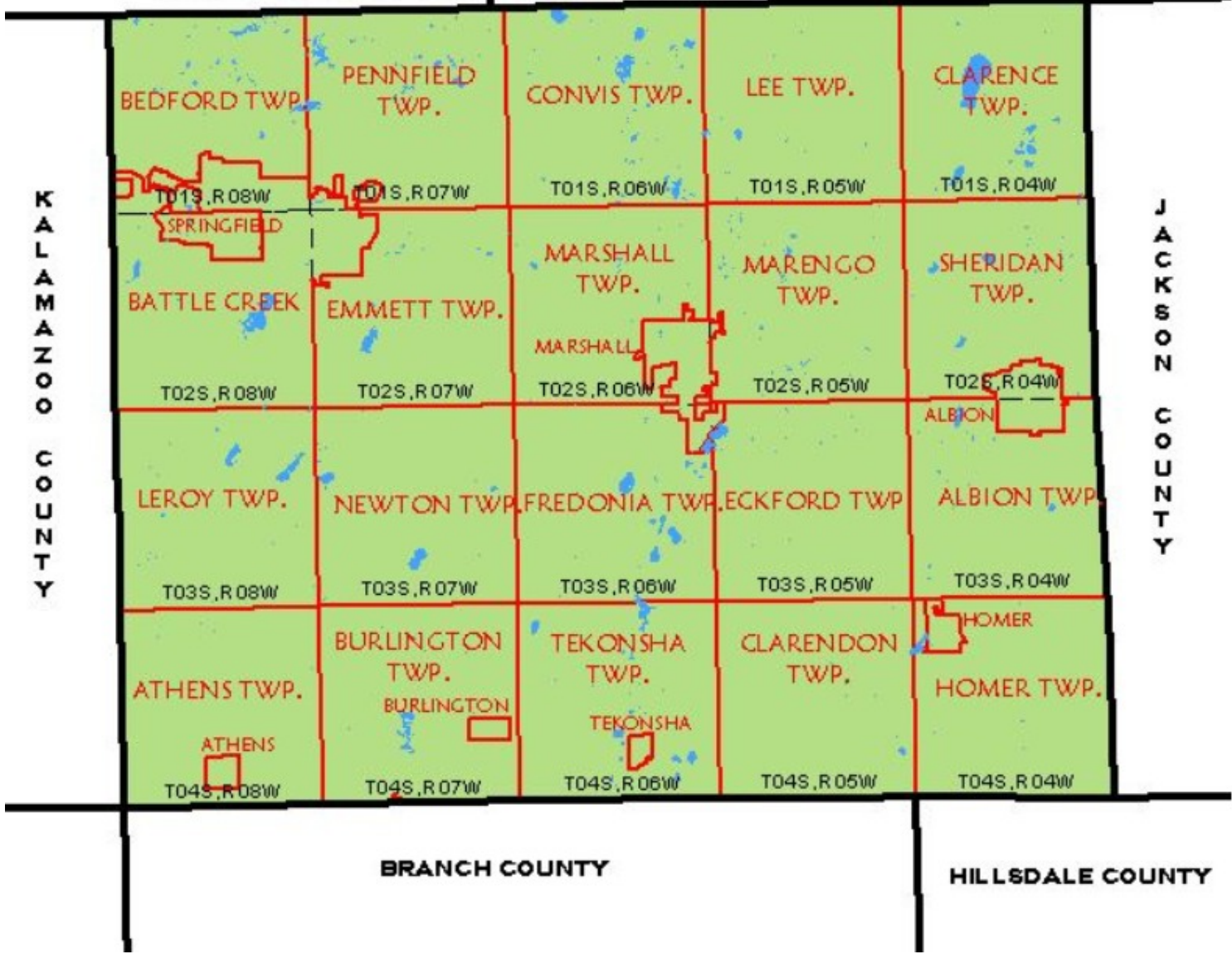
Subsequent land transactions, no longer under federal control, are recorded in the appropriate county registrar's office. Deeds for southeastern Michigan's "Toledo Strip," encompassing portions of Monroe, Lenawee, and Hillsdale counties, may have been recorded in Ohio and Michigan.

The State Archives of Michigan indicates that a long-range goal of publishing "First Land Owners" volumes for each of the counties has been undertaken by either the Michigan Genealogy Council or Col. Paul Peck. To date, about thirteen have been completed.

BARRY COUNTY

EATON COUNTY

CALHOUN COUNTY



KALAMAZOO COUNTY

JACKSON COUNTY

BRANCH COUNTY

HILLSDALE COUNTY

Clarence Township, Calhoun County, Michigan

(NW ¼ and the West ½ of the SW ¼ of Section 21, Township 1 South, Range 4 West, purchased 10 September 1838)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

409

CERTIFICATE
No. 9000

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS Joseph Chedsey, of Middlesex County, Connecticut.

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the **REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE** at Bronson where by it appears that full payment has been made by the said Joseph Chedsey

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North West quarter, and the West half of the South West quarter of Section twenty one, in Township one South, of Range four West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Bronson, Michigan, containing one hundred and sixty nine acres and fifty seven hundredths of an acre.

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said Joseph Chedsey

NOW KNOW YE, That the **United States of America**, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made, and provided, **HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED**, and by these presents **DO GIVE AND GRANT**, unto the said Joseph Chedsey

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Joseph Chedsey and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren -
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made **PATENT**, and the **SEAL** of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.

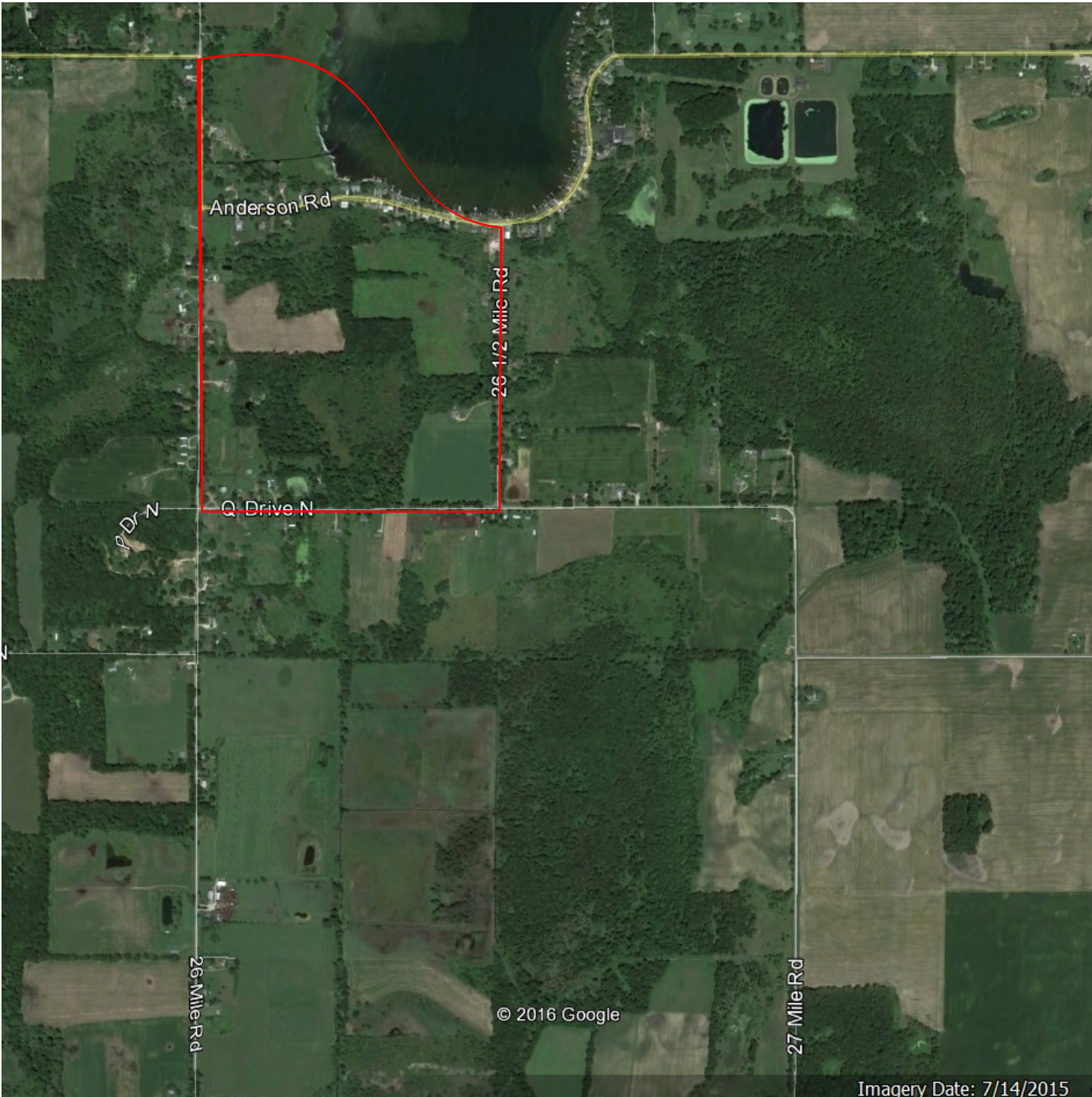
WITNESSE under my hand at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON**, the tenth day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the Sixty third

BY THE PRESIDENT: Martin Van Buren

By M Van Buren Sec'y.
Ed S Wilson Acting **RECORDER** of the General Land Office. ad interim

201591
62002





Anderson Rd

26 1/2 Mile Rd

Q Drive N

P Dr N

26 Mile Rd

27 Mile Rd

© 2016 Google

Imagery Date: 7/14/2015

Clarence Township, Calhoun County, Michigan
(East 1/2 of the NW 1/4 Section 9, Township 1 South, Range 4 west,
purchased 10 Sept, 1828)

408

CERTIFICATE }
No. 7999 }

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Joseph Chedsey of Middlesex County Connecticut*

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Bronson* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Joseph Chedsey*

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

the East half of the North West quarter of Section nine, in Township one South, of Range four West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Bronson, Michigan, containing seventy one acres and ten hundredths of an acre.

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Joseph Chedsey*

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, **HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED,** and by these presents **DO GIVE AND GRANT,** unto the said *Joseph Chedsey*

and to *his* heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Joseph Chedsey*

and to *his* heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, *Martin Van Buren*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *ten* day of *September* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty eight* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *third*



BY THE PRESIDENT: *Martin Van Buren*

By *M. Van Buren Jr.* Sec'y.

J. S. Wilson Acting RECORDER of the General Land Office.
ad interim





Duck Lake

Duck Lake

26 1/2 Mile Rd

27 1/2 Mile Rd

© 2016 Google

Imagery Date: 7/14/2015

Freedonia Township, Calhoun County, Michigan
East 1/2 of NW 1/4, Section 26, Township 3 S, Range 6 W,
purchased 10 May 1839)

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CERTIFICATE

No. 19015

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS

Joseph Chedsey of Calhoun County
Michigan

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND
OFFICE at Kalamazoo whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

according to the provisions of
the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

the East half of the North West Quarter of Section
Twenty Six, in Township Three South, of Range Six West,
in the District of Lands subject to sale at Kalamazoo
Michigan containing seventy four acres and thirty
one hundredths of an acre

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR
GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said Joseph Chedsey

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in
such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto
the said Joseph Chedsey

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights,
privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said Joseph
Chedsey

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the
SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the

First day of May
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty nine and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty third

BY THE PRESIDENT:

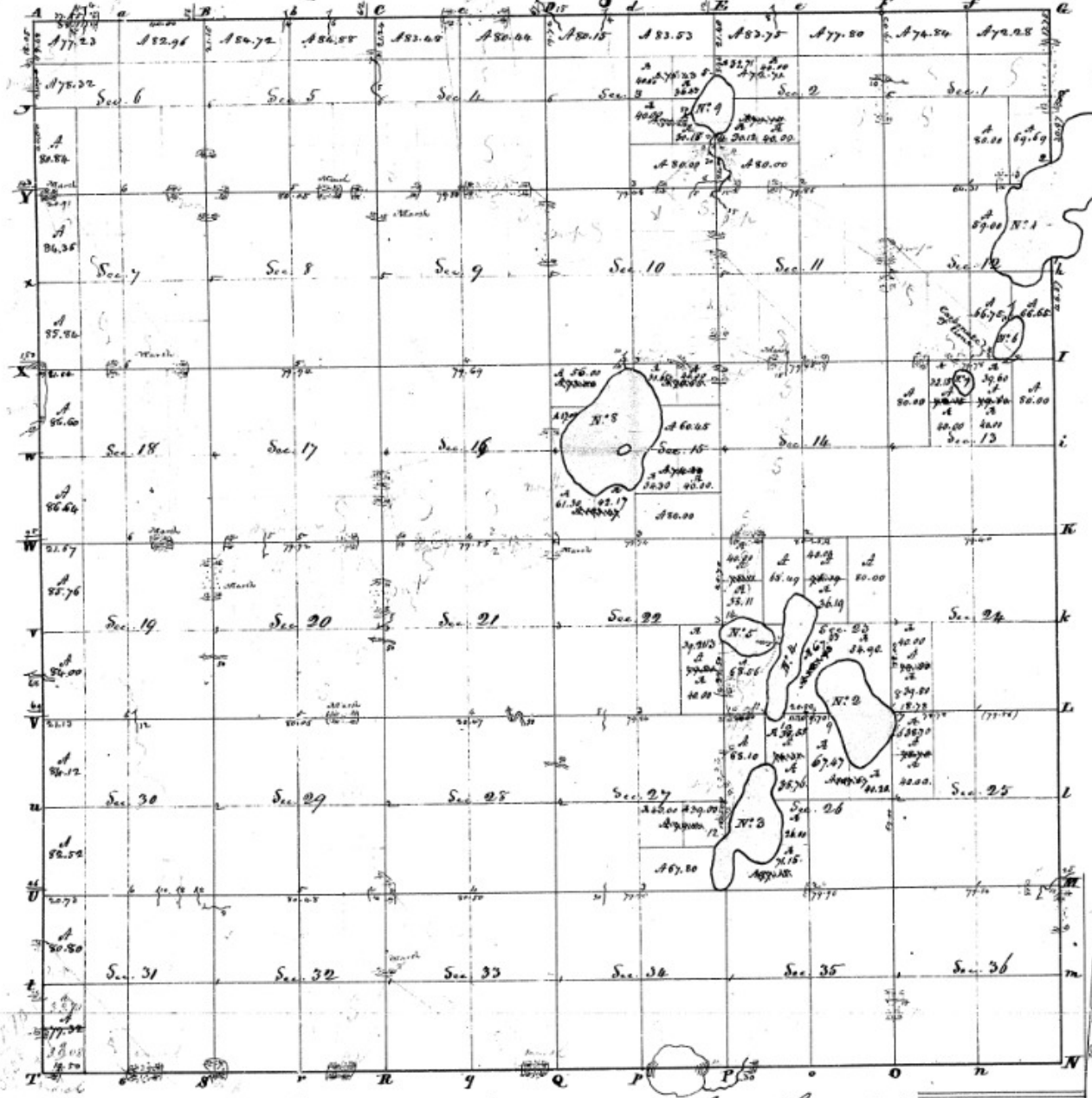
Martin Van Buren
By M. Van Buren Jr. Sec'y.

Joseph Wilson acting
RECORDED of the General Land Office.
Cada interim

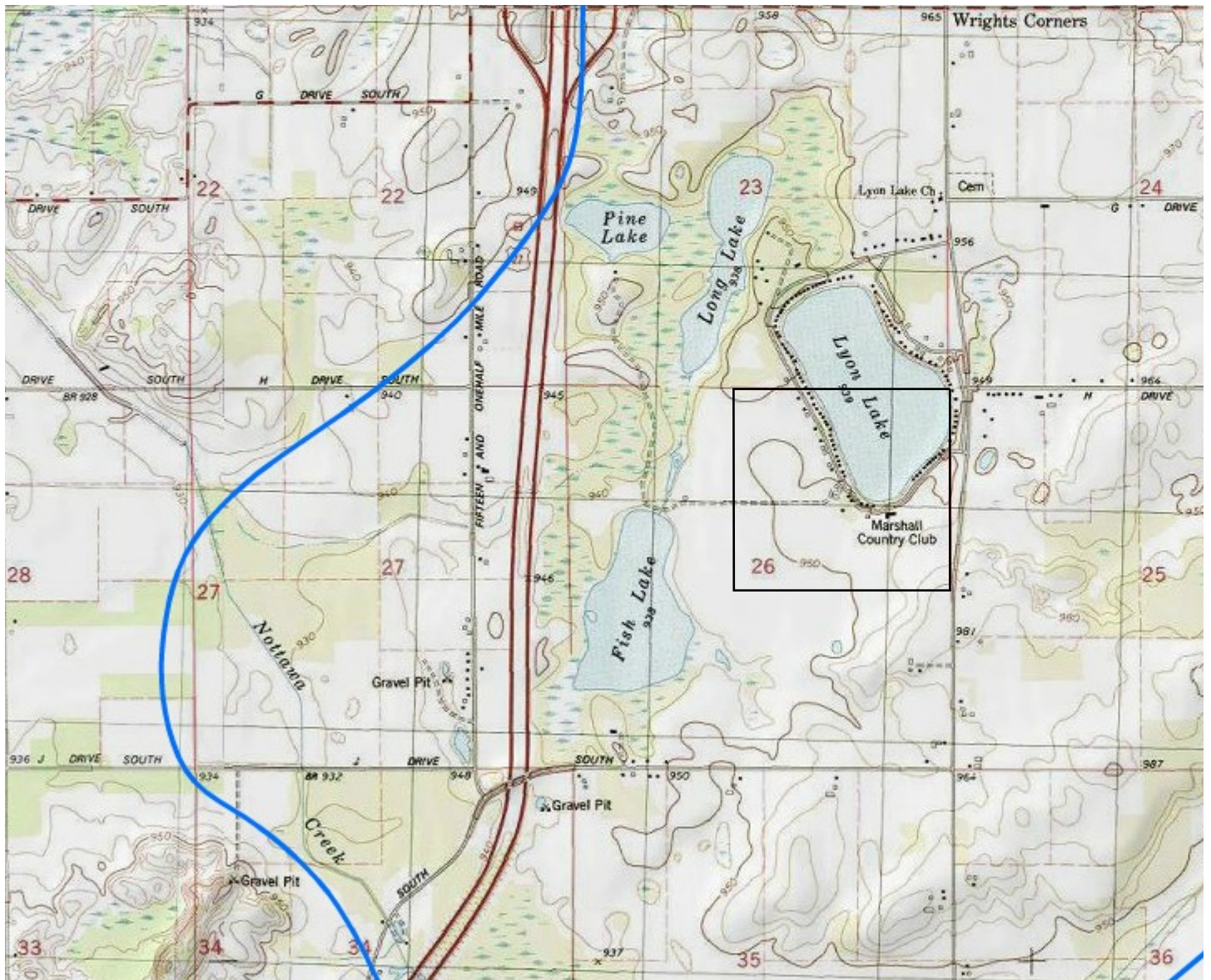


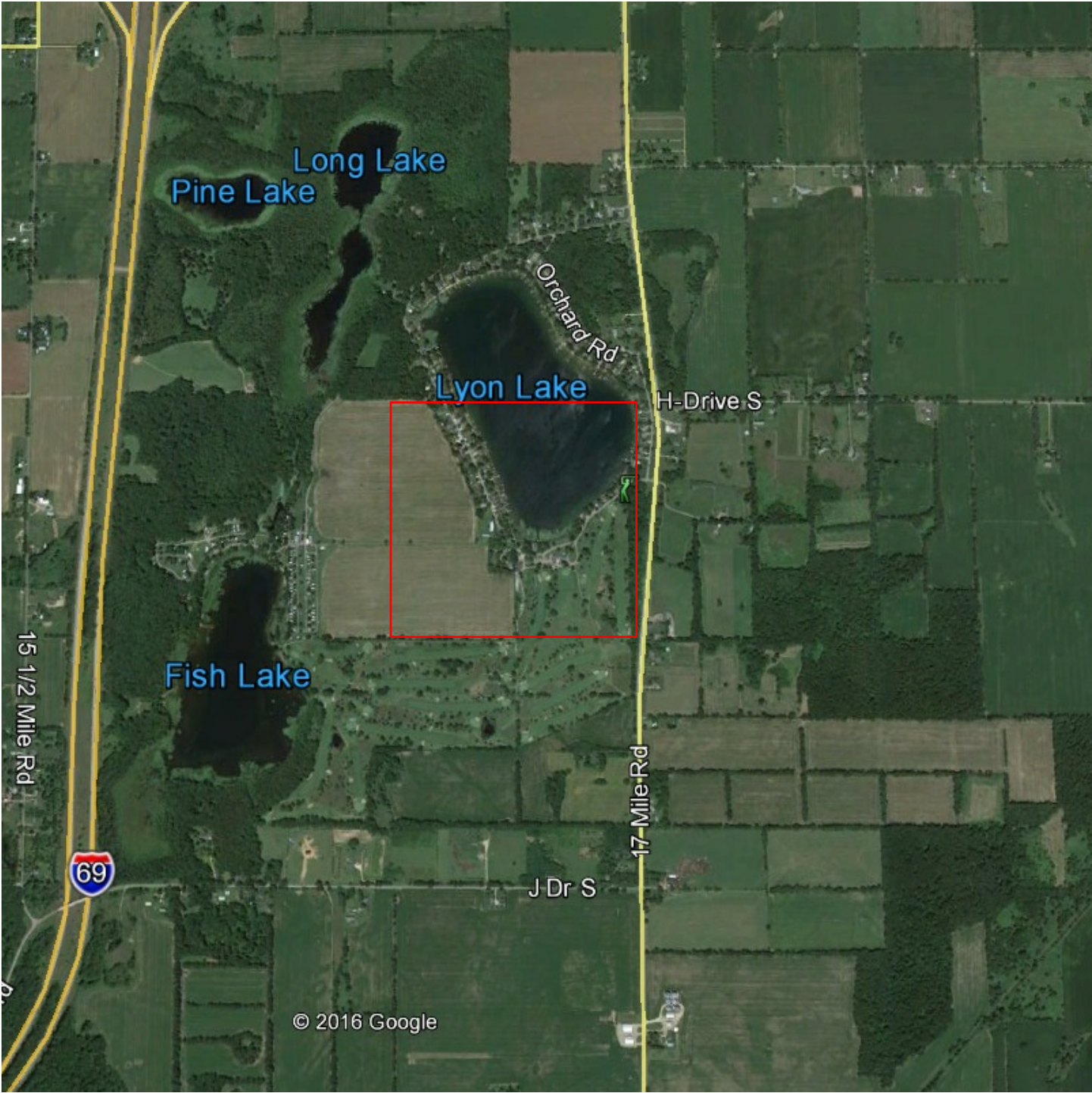
479

Township N: III south, Range N: VI West Mer. (Mic. Tor.)



Surveyed by in November 1825 - by Lucius Lyon S.S.





Eckford Township, Calhoun County, Michigan

(south east 1/4 of the Section 4, Township 1 south, Range 5 west,
purchased 10 May 1839)

CERTIFICATE }
No. 19013 }

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

E 477

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS

Joseph Chedsey, of Calhoun County Michigan

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Kalamazoo* where by it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Joseph Chedsey,*

according to the provisions of

the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

The South East quarter of Section four, in Township one South, of Range five West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Kalamazoo, Michigan, containing one hundred and sixty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR

GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Joseph Chedsey,*

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, **HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED,** and by these presents **DO GIVE AND GRANT,** unto the said *Joseph Chedsey,*

and to *his* heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Joseph Chedsey,*

and to *his* heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I,

Martin Van Buren

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made **PATENT,** and the **SEAL** of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON,** the

First day of *May*

in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty nine* and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the Sixty *third*

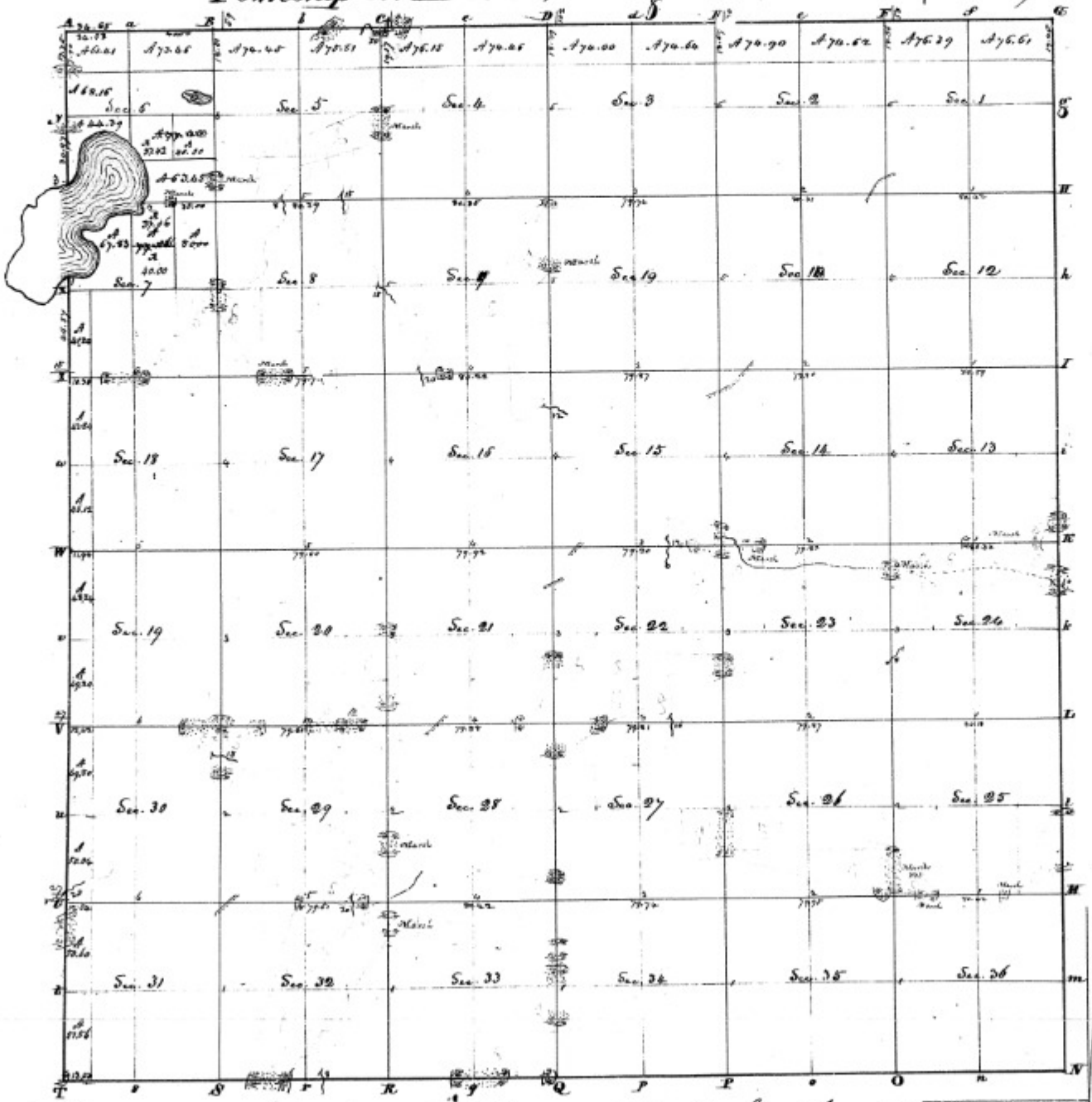


BY THE PRESIDENT:

Martin Van Buren
By *M. Van Buren Jr.* Sec'y.

John M. Wilson Acting
RECORDER of the General Land Office.
ad interim

Township N. III south, Range N. V west Mer. (Mic. Top.)

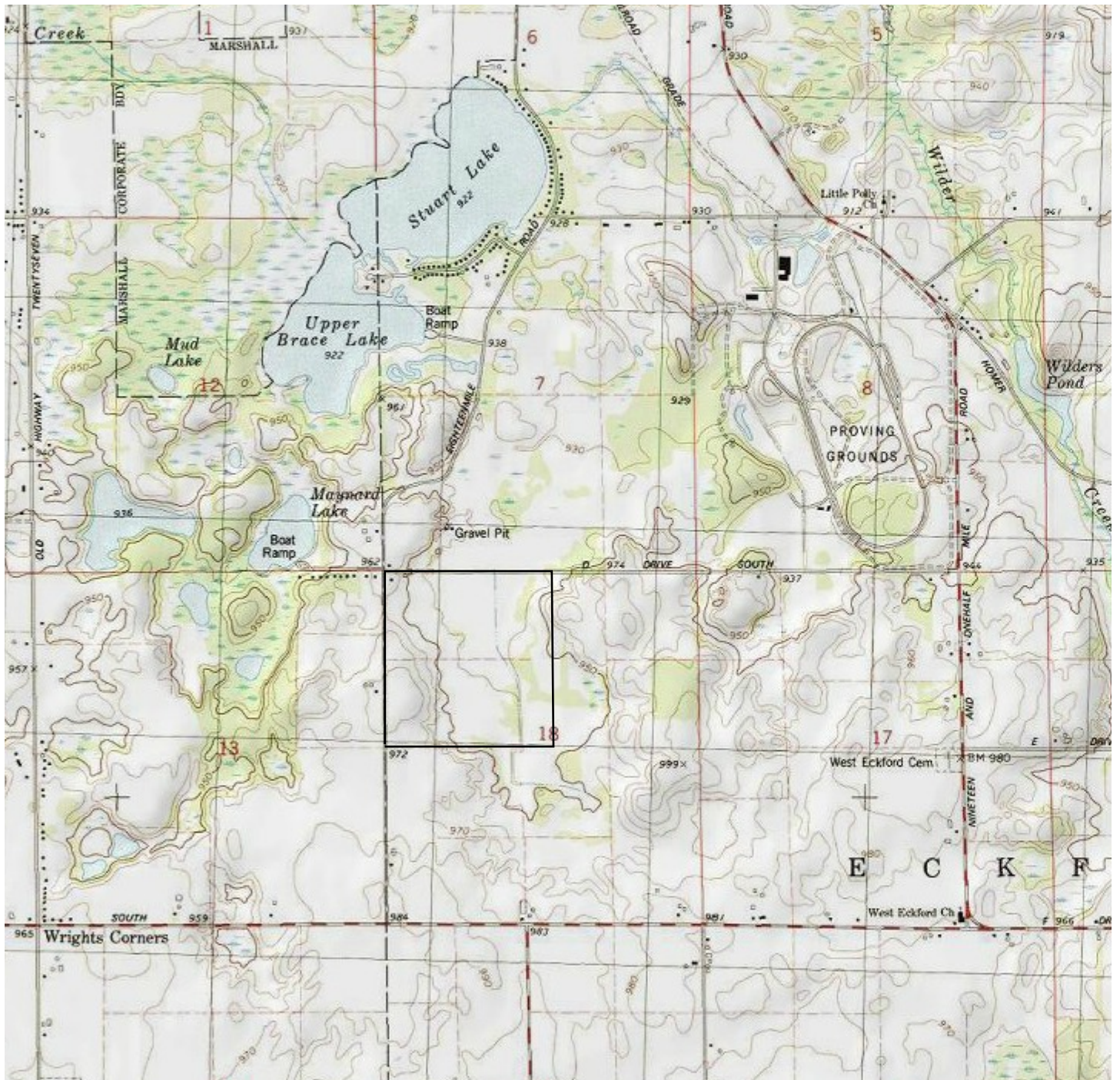


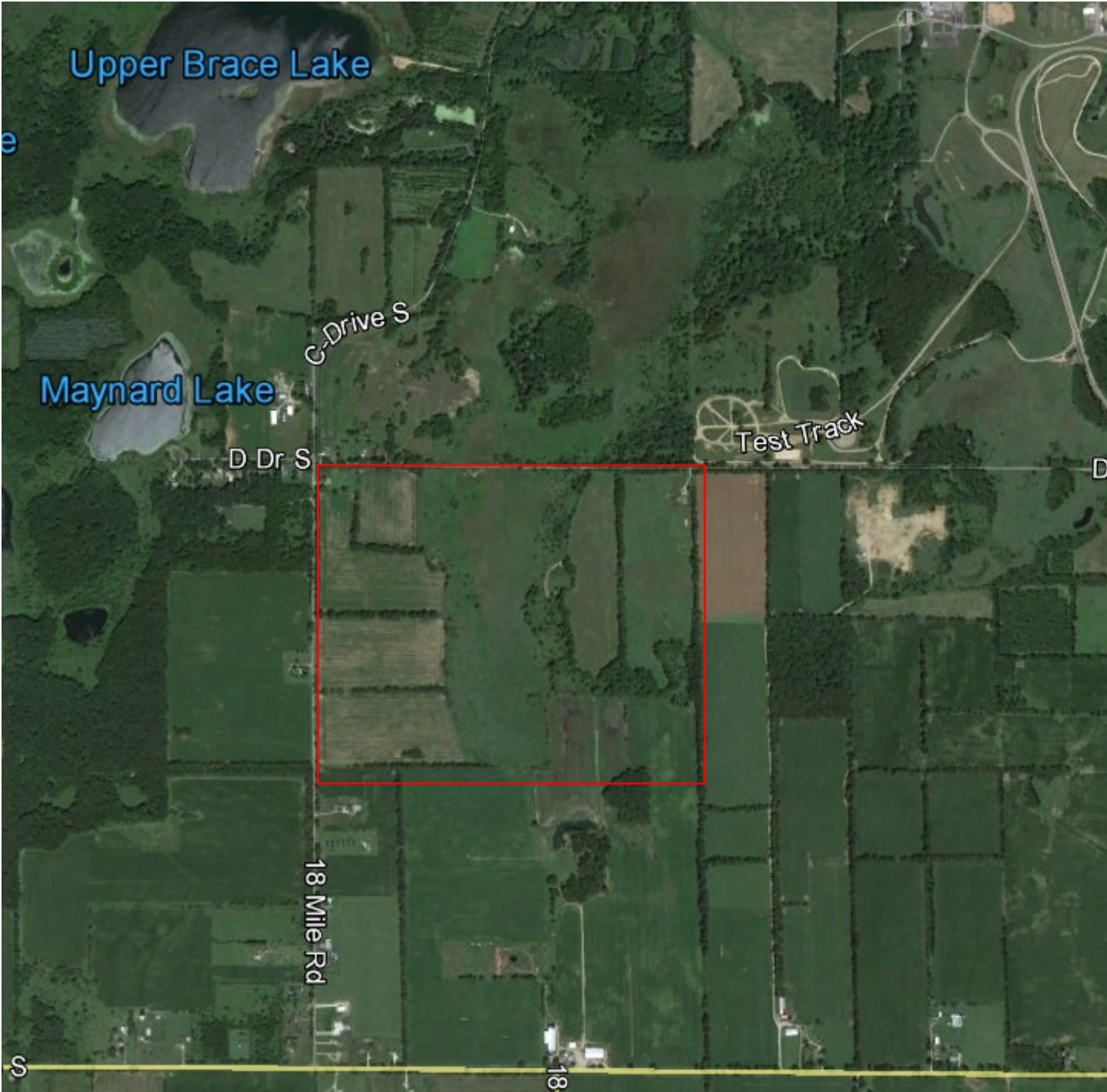
Comp.

T. Var. at this cor.
by Obs. 6' 05'

Surveyed in Oct. & November 1825 - by Amos Apen S.S.

Var. 57' 17" E.





Lee township, Calhoun County, Michigan
South East 1/4 of Section 4, Township 1 South, Range 5 West,
purchased 1 May 1839)

CERTIFICATE
No. 19013

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

E 1477

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Joseph Chedsey, of Calhoun County, Michigan*

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Kalamazoo* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Joseph Chedsey*

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for

The South East quarter of Section four, in Township one South, of Range five West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Kalamazoo, Michigan, containing one hundred and sixty acres

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Joseph Chedsey*

NOW KNOW YE, That the **United States of America**, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, **HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED**, and by these presents **DO GIVE AND GRANT**, unto the said *Joseph Chedsey*

and to *his* heirs, the said tract above described: **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Joseph Chedsey*

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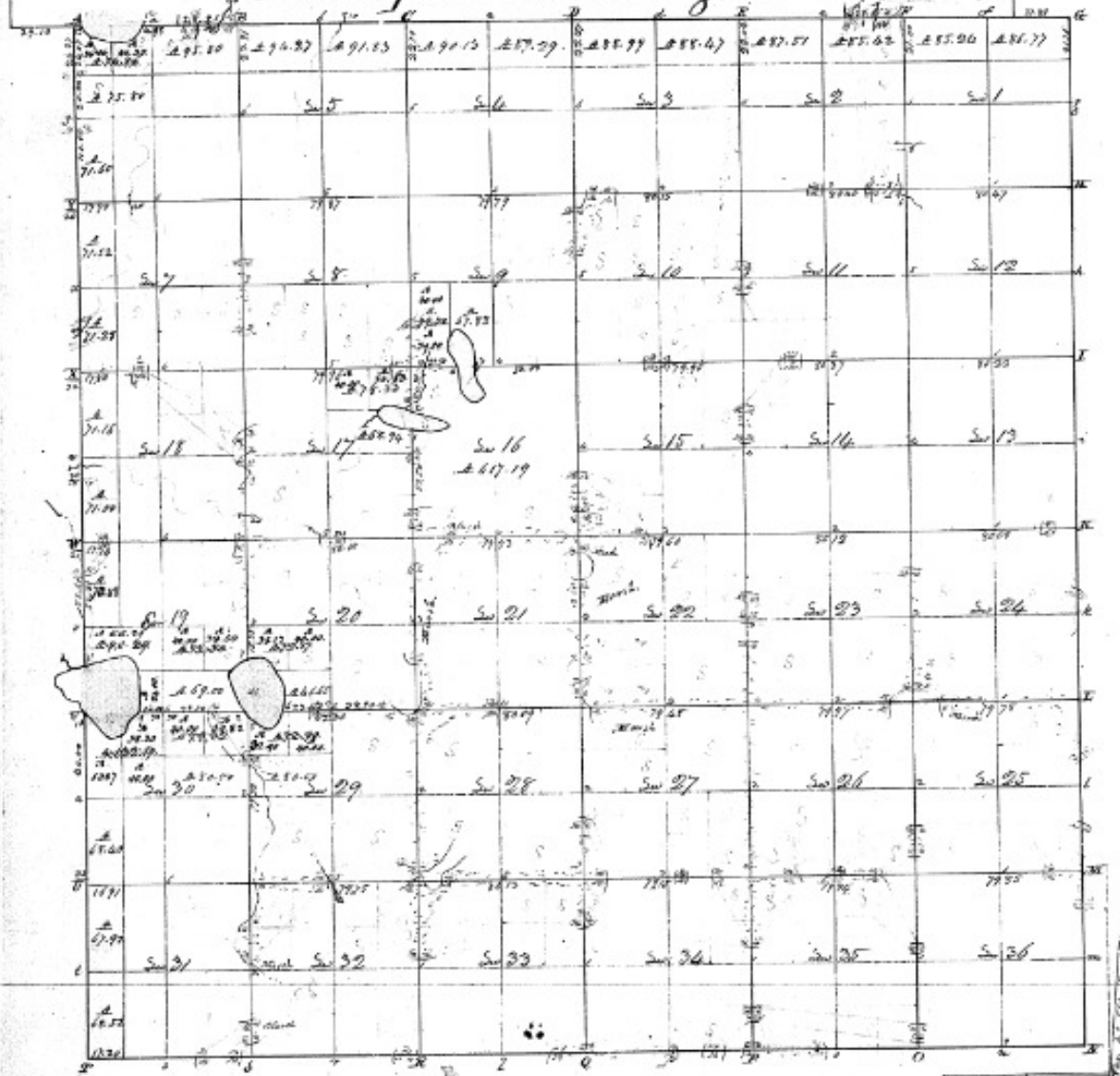
GIVEN under my hand at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON**, the *First* day of *May* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty nine* and of the **INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES** the Sixty *third*



BY THE PRESIDENT:

By *Martin Van Buren* Sec'y.
J. M. Wilson acting **RECORDER of the General Land Office.**
ad interim

Township N. 1 south, Range N. V west (2nd 4th. Tm.)



Surveyed in Oct. 1825 by Sylvester Sibley, D.S.



