

Campus Biological Areas Committee
of the Graduate Biological Division

Revised:
14 Jan. 1967

Introduction

The University of Wisconsin Campus includes a number of biologically significant areas of value for class instruction and research; certain of these also afford personal relief from the crowding presently characterizing marginal as well as central campus areas. Upham Woods and the University Arboretum have been set aside in perpetuity as preserves, with objectives which have been clearly delimited. Other equally valuable natural areas close to the central campus have fared less well and have been encroached upon repeatedly, with the biologists acting in a series of last ditch stands to prevent losses. These acts have occurred as a result of a) vagueness in assignment of responsibility for management and protection to individuals or groups and b) inadequate lines of communication among departments, committees, and individuals responsible for areas, on one hand, and programs of use on the other.

An early and laudable recognition of deficiencies in administrative procedures relating to natural areas was recorded by the late Vice President A. W. Peterson, in a memorandum of December 19, 1962 (copy appended) addressed to members of the Campus Planning Committee. While the recommendations of this document were approved in principle by the Campus Planning Committee in January of 1963, they have received no definitive attention. It was one objective of the present committee to review these recommendations, suggest certain modifications, and to urge their implementation.

Failure of Present Procedures for Protection

The necessity for immediate action to recommend more explicit protection policies for Campus Biological Areas was demonstrated during the summer of 1966. At that time, bulldozing for construction of new units of graduate housing resulted in removal of significant numbers of trees from the Eagle Heights Woods.

The committee wishes first to place on record the apparent reasons for a failure of the existing structures for protection of the natural areas on campus. Examination of the records of the Wooded Areas Committee, the Arboretum Committee, and discussions with members of the Executive Committee of the Graduate Biological Division and its Natural Areas Committee concerned with the Eagle Heights incident last summer have led to the following conclusions:

1) In the winter of 1963, members of the Wooded Areas Committee worked with representatives of the Department of Planning and Construction in designating natural areas on campus and in explaining the biological significance of those areas.

2) Representatives from the Departments of Physical Plant and Planning and Construction were appointed to the Arboretum Committee in 1964, apparently in response to recommendations of Vice President A. W. Peterson in the memorandum of December 1962. In suggesting appointments such as these, Mr. Peterson noted the significance of providing a mechanism for communication between faculty concerned with outdoor teaching facilities on the campus, and the planning and grounds maintenance functions of the University.

3) In addition, an informal practice developed wherein Mr. A. F. Ahearn, Director of Physical Plant, brought to the attention of the Arboretum Committee proposed changes or improvements in areas that might be of concern to campus biologists, whether or not they were part of the arboretum (e.g. the Eagle Heights sewer proposal). An impression was thus created that communication between faculty and administration was proceeding well.

4) The Eagle Heights incident last summer has demonstrated that the assignment of a representative from Planning and Construction to the Arboretum Committee has not, of and by itself, assured that biological interests on campus are informed of all proposed changes in natural areas and other outdoor instructional facilities on campus.

Since it continues to be a matter of individual judgment as to what changes on campus may be of biological significance, the present committee concludes that a formal redefinition of campus biological areas is needed and that mandatory channels of communication are necessary, in order to insure against repetition of such incidents.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

- A) That the following listed areas (see appended map) be recognized as of prime biological value for teaching and research:
1. Eagle Heights Woods,
 2. Second Point North Shore,
 3. Second Point Woods,
 4. University Bay,
 5. Picnic Point Marsh.
- B) (1) That the above areas be officially designated by the President as part of the University of Wisconsin Arboretum; (2) that a buffer zone be defined, protecting the perimeter of these areas or properties belonging to the University, such that any actions affecting the biota in these zones, shall be brought to the attention of the Arboretum Committee; (3) that an appropriate budget be provided to insure maintenance and supervision of these areas; (4) that the Natural Areas Committee of the Biological Division shall act in an advisory capacity to the Arboretum Committee for supervision of these areas.

Recommendation 2:

- A) That a second group of areas be recognized as a significant biological value because of frequent instructional use and for their aesthetic values:
1. Muir Woods (Bascom Woods),
 2. Picnic Point (excepting Marsh Area) and woods west of entrance gate,
 3. Area between Elizabeth Waters Hall and the Kronsage Units,
 4. Lake Mendota Shoreline between the Laboratory of Hydrobiology and University Bay,
 5. Lagoon or marsh remaining or developed west of University Bay (Research in these sites is frequently limited by public use, size, location and/or other factors.)

B) (1) That these areas should be maintained and policed by the Division of Physical Plant, but that the interests of the biologists in such areas be recognized and safeguarded by utilizing the Arboretum Committee or its designated representative in an advisory capacity; (2) that any contemplated action affecting either the structure or composition of these biotic communities be first cleared through the same committee channels previously outlined under Recommendation 1.

Recommendation 3:

That, although decorative horticultural plantings have some utility for the specimens they contain and are frequently used in teaching, management of these areas is more custodial than biological and authority for such care rests with the Division of Physical Plant. (Individual biologists or any group can make suggestions concerning particular species they would like to have represented on the campus.)

11 November, 1966
Revised 14 January, 1967

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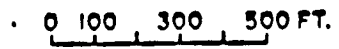
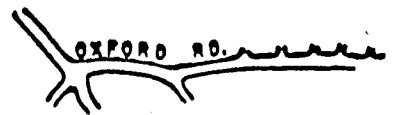
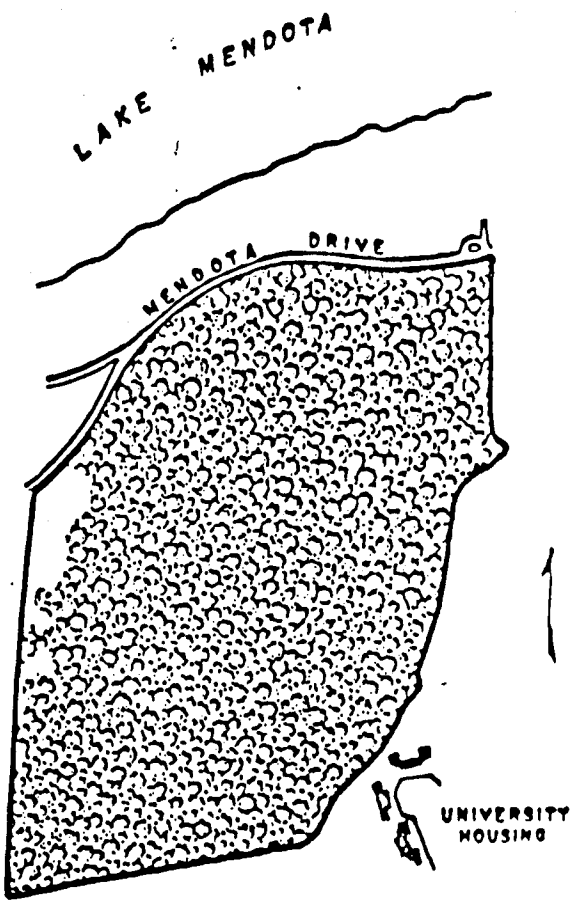
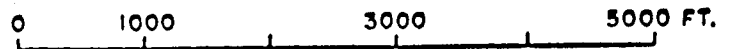
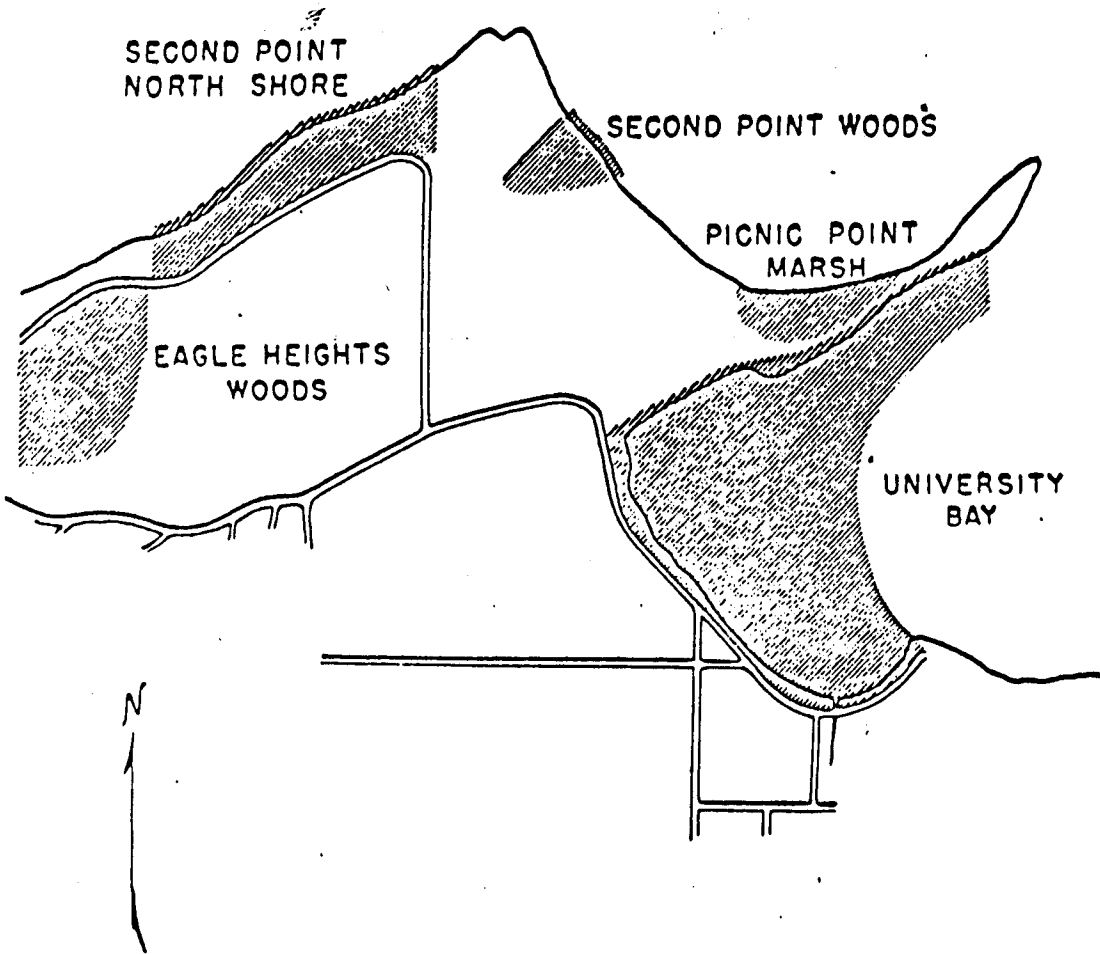
Specifications of the
Prime Biological Areas

The appended maps indicate approximate boundaries suggested for the protected prime areas and their buffer zone.

- 1) Eagle Heights Woods is bounded to the north by Mendota Drive, to the west and south largely by private property. A buffer zone parallel to the margin of the woods at a distance of 50 feet on University of Wisconsin property is suggested.
- 2) The Second Point North Shore area is bounded to the south by Mendota Drive, to the east and west by private property, and along the north by the Lake Mendota shoreline. While the University does not control the lake waters, a 50 foot buffer zone is proposed to extend into the lake, such that any modifications proposed by the University on or near this shore would be discussed with the Arboretum Committee.
- 3) Second Point Woods are bounded to the northwest largely by Jackson property, and to the northeast by the Lake Mendota shoreline; the remainder of the perimeter is University owned land. A 50 foot buffer zone is suggested marginal to these woods on the University property and onto the lake along the shoreline.
- 4) The protected area of University Bay is suggested to include the entire bay and marsh from shoreline to the outer limits of attached submergent vegetation; excepted from this area is the southernmost section of the bay (see map) which may be modified for purposes of flood control. A buffer is proposed to extend westward from the shoreline or marsh border to Willow Drive; along the southern border of Picnic Point from the water's edge shoreward to the main trail; onto the lake 100 feet distant from but parallel to the line of submergent vegetation. The buffer zone is to include the entire southern extension of the bay.

5) Picnic Point Marsh is defined to terminate marginally at the six foot (above lake level) contour. The buffer zone is bounded to the west by the Change House construction area, to the south by the principal trails and to the north by the Lake Mendota shoreline.

EAGLE HEIGHTS WOODS



L A K E M E N D O T A

P I C N I C P O I N T 2

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M A R S H

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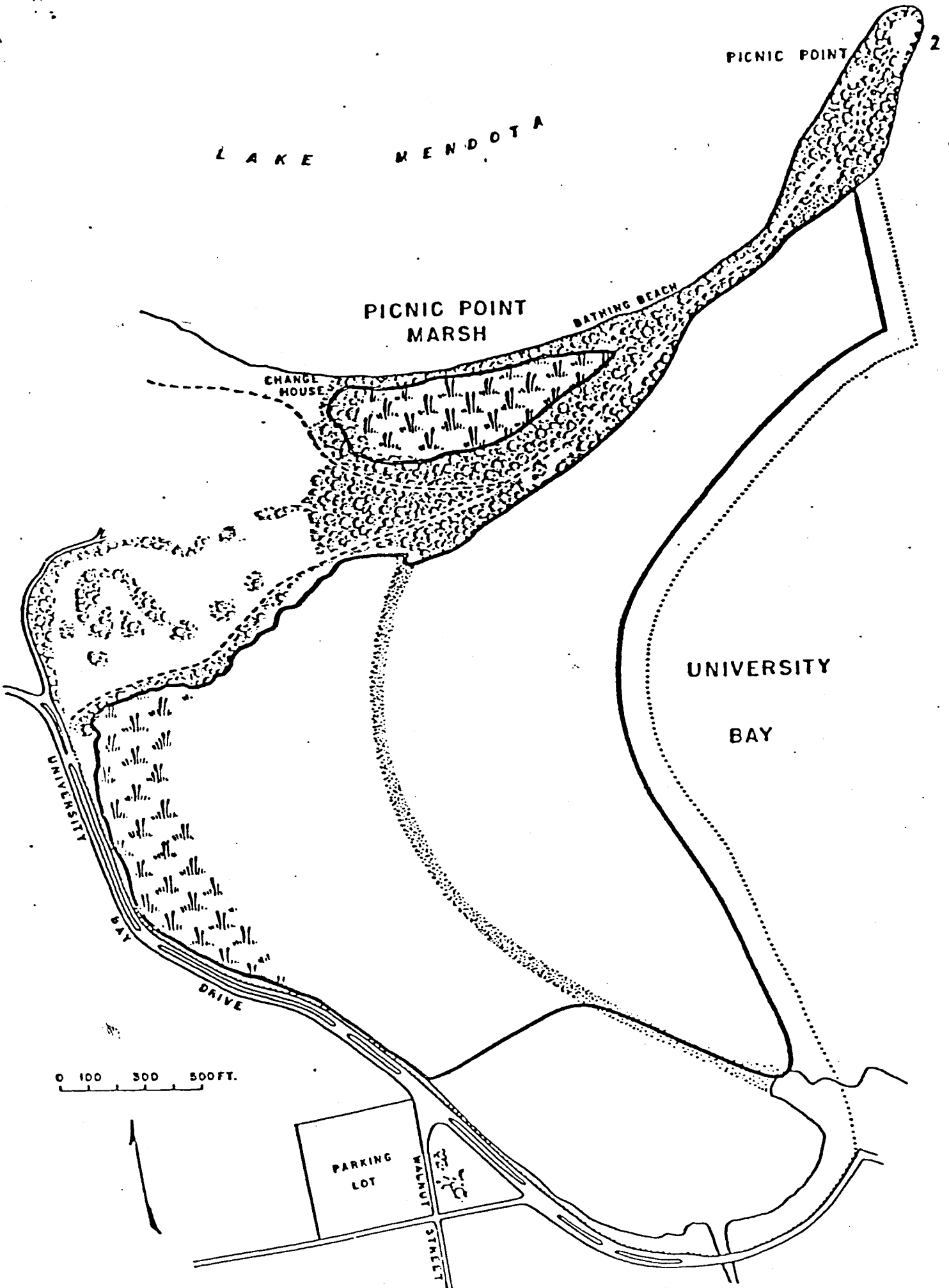
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P A R K I N G
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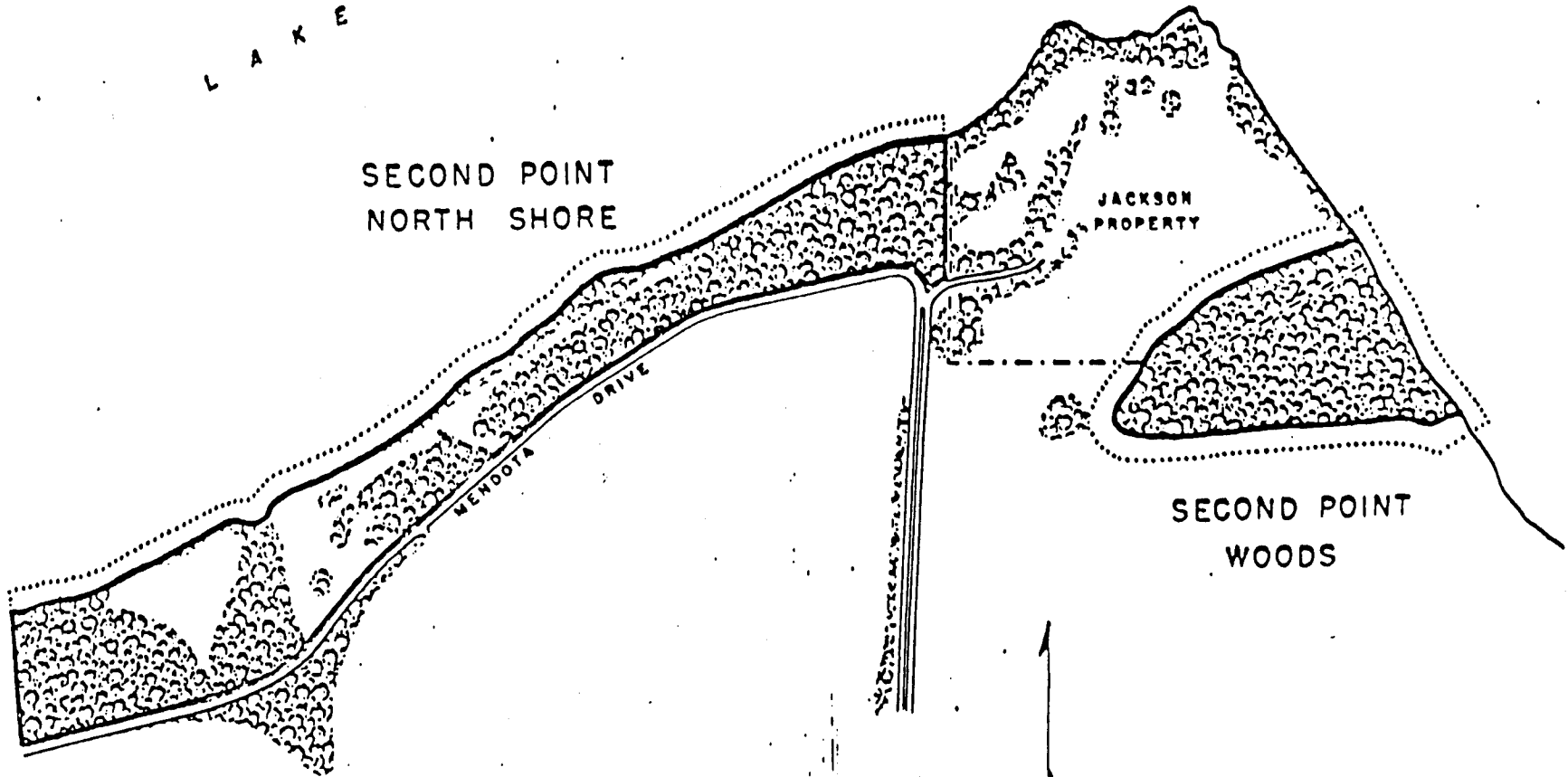


L A K E M E N D O T A

SECOND POINT
NORTH SHORE

JACKSON
PROPERTY

SECOND POINT
WOODS



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