
SPARTA TOWNSHIP

1997
Comprehensive
Plan

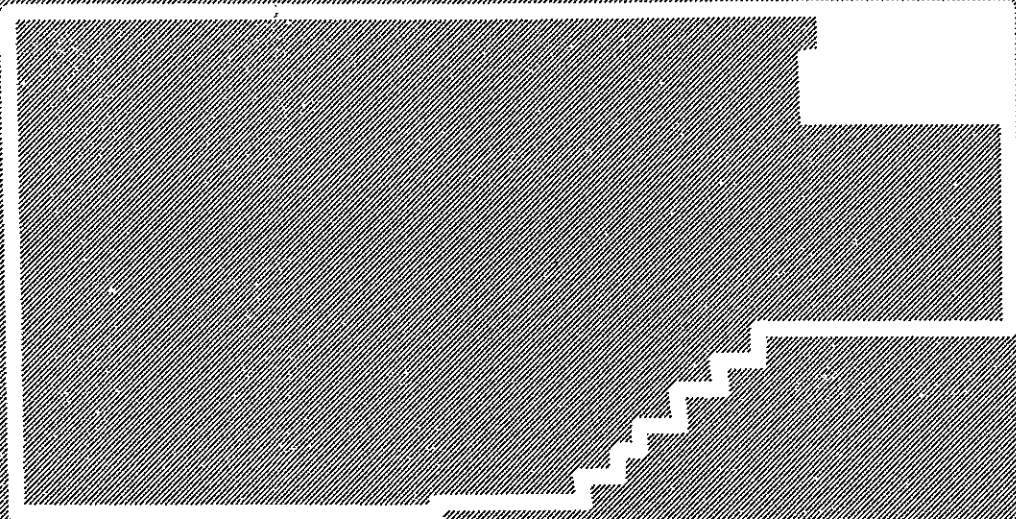


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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Sparta Township Comprehensive Plan is the first planning document to be formulated for the Sparta Region. For several years the Sparta Township Planning Commission has been working with the Crawford County Planning Commission staff to collect data, survey conditions around the Township, solicit public opinion, and formulate goals and objectives for the future of Sparta Township. Citizen participation has been very important to this planning process. In addition to the public involvement associated with the formal adoption of this plan, a citizen attitude survey was conducted during the spring of 1996 and public meetings were held in June and July of 1996.

It is important to understand that this comprehensive plan is neither a legal document nor a land use ordinance. However, if it is in the Township's interest to pursue such ordinances in the future, it must identify the land development issues within its jurisdiction and decide what, in the general public interest, are the best objectives and policies relative to these issues. The Plan is also important in providing the Supervisors with a framework for addressing such diverse issues as future transportation improvements or how to plan for the possibility of a public sewer system in Spartansburg.

This plan contains two major sections. The first is composed of background information for plan-making. This includes studies and analyses of housing, demographics, economic characteristics, land use, transportation, community facilities, and natural resources and features. The second section is the plan itself, which includes community development objectives, a land use plan, a transportation plan, a community facilities and housing plan, and implementation strategies. The organization of these two sections follow the requirements outlined in Article III, Section 301 of the *Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code* (Act 247 of 1968).

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SPARTA TOWNSHIP

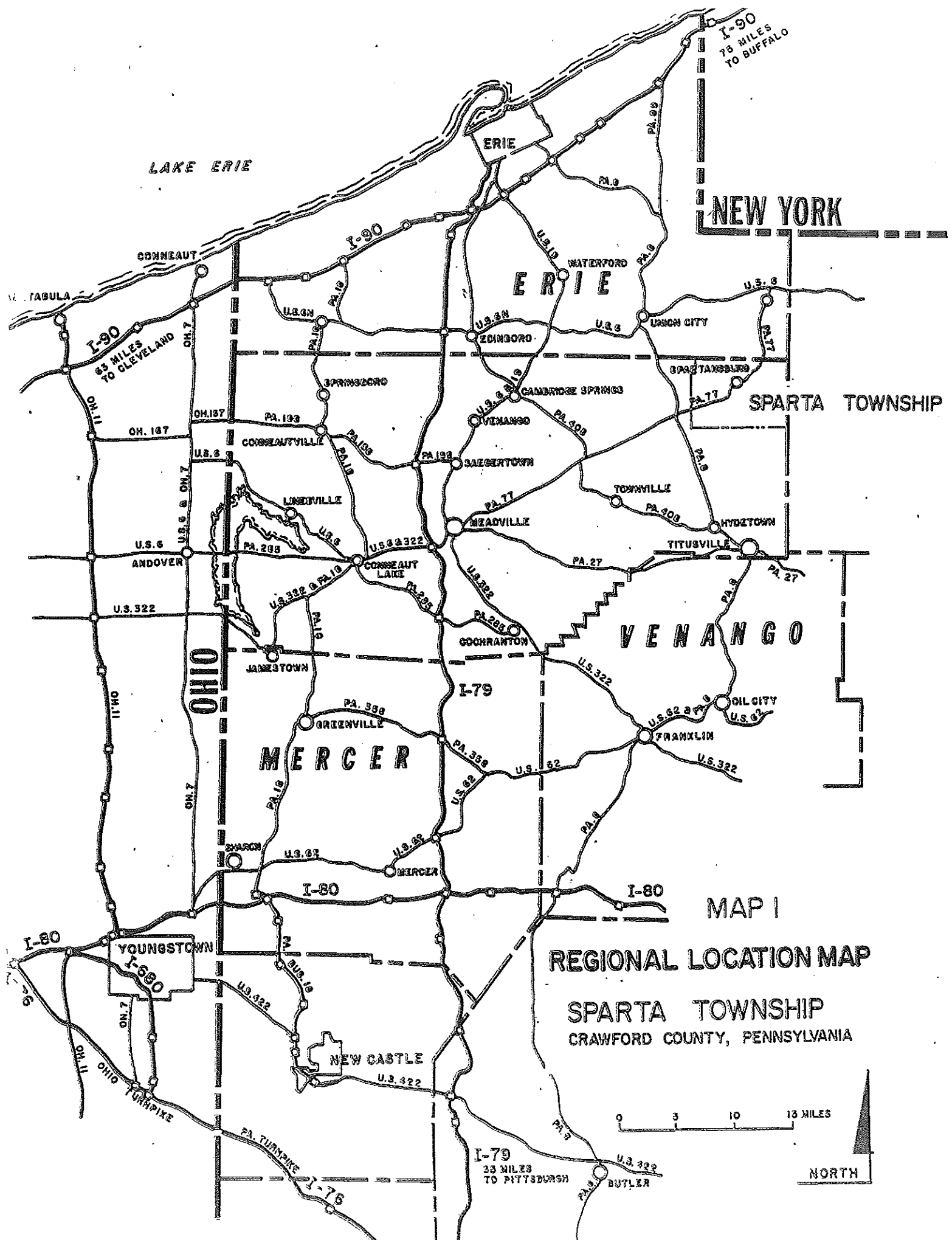
INTRODUCTION

Sparta Township is located in northwestern Pennsylvania in the northeast corner of Crawford County. It is situated approximately 6 miles south of Corry, approximately 28 miles northeast of Meadville and 30 miles southeast of Erie. Sparta Township is bounded on the north by Erie County, on the south by Rome Township, on the west by Bloomfield Township, and on the east by Warren County. The Township completely surrounds the Borough of Spartansburg. Sparta Township encompasses 42.05 square miles of land. The climate of the Township is temperate with an average temperature of 27 degrees Fahrenheit in February and 71 in July. The average annual precipitation is approximately 40 inches. *Map 1* shows the location of Sparta Township in relation to northwestern Pennsylvania.

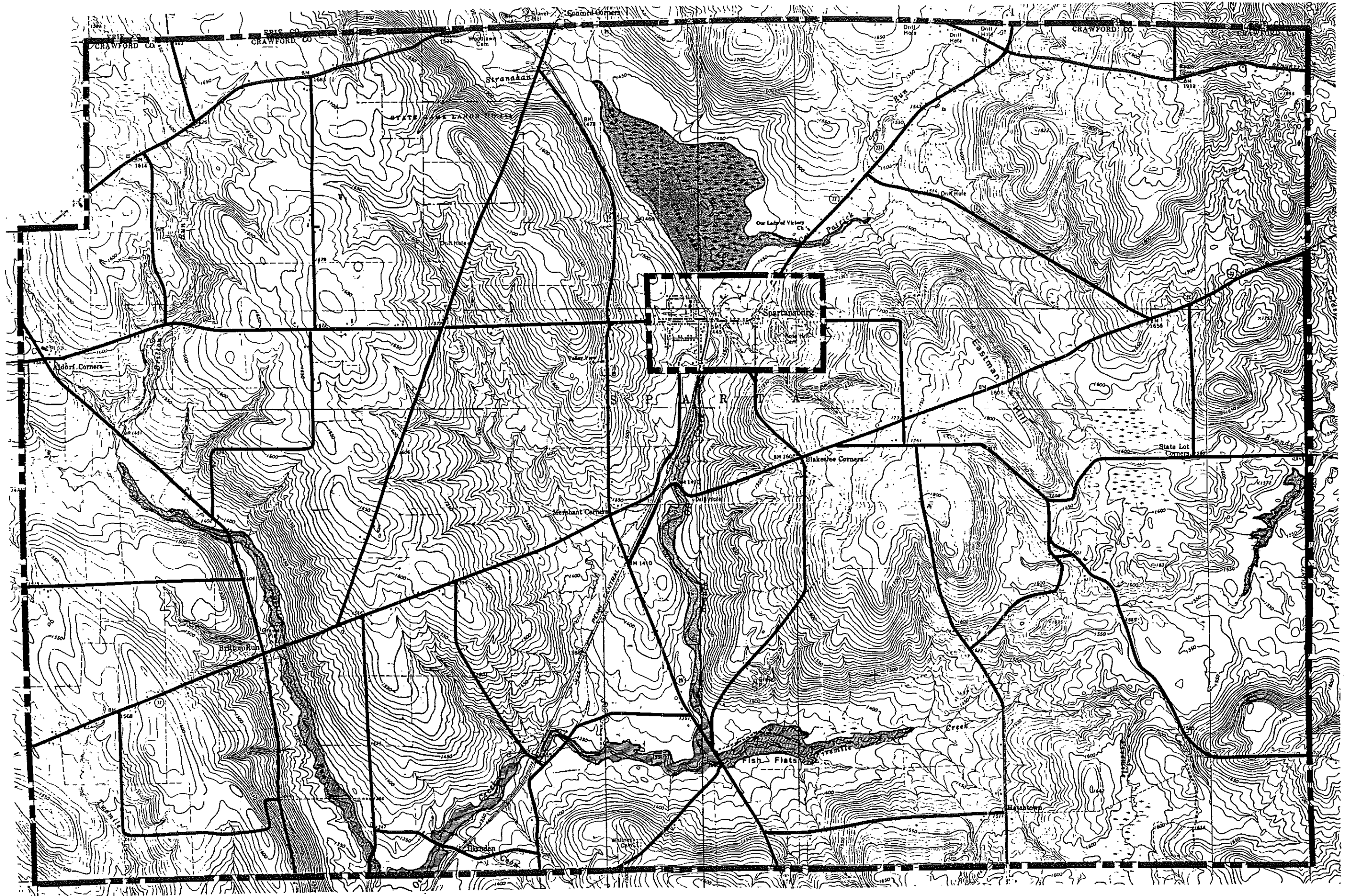
SHAPE OF THE LAND

The topography of Sparta Township generally consists of a deeply incised high plain having an altitude ranging from 1,600 to 1,900 feet above sea level. This high plain is cut by small watercourses (Oil Creek, Britton Run, Patrick Run, etc.). This accounts for the rolling hills characteristic of Sparta Township. The lowest elevation of the Township (1,320), is along the East Branch of Oil Creek by the Sparta/Rome Township Boundary. The highest point in the Township (1,913) is along Erie County Line Road in the northeastern corner of the Township. This is also the highest point in Crawford County. The most dramatic topographic feature of Sparta Township is Eastman Hill which descends 200 feet along a 1,500 foot stretch of Smith Eastman Road.

The Oil Creek Watershed dominates Sparta Township. The watercourses associated with this watershed include the East Branch of Oil Creek, Britton Run, Patrick Run and Five Mile Creek. These waters empty into Oil Creek which in turn empties into the Allegheny River at Oil City in Venango County approximately 25 miles to the south. The northeastern portion of the Township is in the Brokenstraw watershed. Spring Creek and Brandy Run are part of this watershed. These waters empty into Brokenstraw Creek which in turn empties into the Allegheny River at Irvine in Warren County, approximately 20 miles to the east. The most dominant water feature in Sparta Township is Clear Lake which was created in 1855 to power a grist mill in Spartansburg. Another noteworthy feature is the Fish Flats. This is a marshy flat region located where Five Mile Creek empties into the East Branch of Oil Creek. This region is a popular fishing destination.



MAP I
 REGIONAL LOCATION MAP
 SPARTA TOWNSHIP
 CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



TOPOGRAPHY FROM U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FLOOD HAZARD FROM NATION FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP 2

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SCALE 1" = Approx. 3000'



LANDS SUBJECT TO FLOODING

Since the 1970's, both federal and state governments have taken strong actions to deal with the perils of flooding. At that time, the federal government worked with local governments requesting that they regulate new development in areas identified as subject to the hazards of flooding. Under the direction of federal officials, areas subject to flooding have been mapped municipality by municipality. This has been done in Sparta Township. The result of this effort is a map that delineates the flood hazard areas for the Borough in order to establish a rate structure for the purchase of flood insurance. The most recent Flood Insurance Rate Maps were published on January 28, 1983 by the Federal Management Agency. On these maps, certain areas of the Township were classified as Zone A, which means areas of special flood hazards and without base flood elevations determined. The largest area is the land directly surrounding Clear Lake. Other flood hazard areas are along Britton Run, the East Branch of Oil Creek, Five Mile Creek, and Spring Creek. In most cases, these flood hazard areas do not directly affect residential properties

In 1983, the Township adopted Flood Plain Management Regulations within the text of its Building Permit Ordinance. These regulations were later updated in 1992. These regulations restrict the design and construction of all new residential and non-residential structures located in this flood plain. New construction must be built such that the lowest habitable floor, including the basement, is built 18 inches above the 100 year flood elevation. In addition, new mobile home parks and expansions of existing ones are prohibited in these areas. These restrictions, however, do not apply to many developable areas of the Township. *Map 2* shows the location of areas affected by the Township's Flood Plain Management Ordinance.

SUITABILITY OF SOILS FOR ON-LOT SEWAGE

The Township's soils were examined for their suitability to accommodate on-lot sewage systems. The County is fortunate because it has a thorough soils study that was published in 1979. There are 23 basic soil classifications in Crawford County. All of these soils were grouped in four categories that define the utility of these soils for use in the construction of on-lot sewage systems. These categories are given as follows;

- Soils having no limitation for on-lot disposal of sewage. These soils are well drained and are easily adapted to the use of conventionally constructed on-lot systems.
- Soils having slight limitations for on-lot disposal of sewage. These soils are also well drained; in fact they are extremely well drained consisting in large part of gravel deposits. The difficulty associated with installing on-lot systems in these soils is that they allow effluents to reach groundwater too rapidly; this condition may result in contamination of groundwater because the cleaning effects of the trickling process are too abbreviated.
- Soils having moderate limitations for on-lot disposal of sewage. These soils are partially permeable and can be satisfactory for on-lot sewage systems, but there are some constraining factors. For example, PennDEP standards indicate that in order for a conventional on-lot sewage system to be designed and constructed on a property, there should be 6 feet between the ground surface and the maximum height of the seasonal

groundwater table. The maximum height of the groundwater table is, in fact, the level at which the "hardpan" or impervious soils occur in the soil profile. Soils in this moderate limitations category normally have a distance of between 18 inches and 3 feet from the ground surface to the seasonal groundwater table. This distance is not adequate based on PennDEP standards. However, where a mounding technique is used at the ground surface, PennDEP standards can be met by bringing in permeable soil and placing a layer of this on the surface where the on-lot sewage system's tile field will be placed. The soils in this category make it possible to construct what have been termed sand mound systems in order to satisfy sewage disposal requirements.

- Soils having severe limitations for on-lot disposal of sewage. These soils are characterized by a high seasonal water table: between 6 inches and 18 inches from the ground surface. The sand mound construction technique is not suited to such a shallow permeable soil profile. PennDEP standards do not permit the construction of on-lot sewage systems in soils with these permeability characteristics.

A map is on file at the Crawford County Planning office that shows the location of these categories of soils. A study of this map shows that a majority of the land area of Sparta Township has severe limitations for on-lot sewage. It is important to note the soils survey data are generalized, and specific tests on a site, be it a half acre lot or a several acre lot, may reveal that the soil can support an on-lot sewage system. In fact, because public sewer systems are often cost prohibitive, there is a growing emphasis on designing on-lot sewage systems to higher standards so that they can function in less than ideal soils. For example, dosing techniques are used whereby sewage effluent is collected and periodically pumped into a tile drain system, flooding the whole system and using its cleansing action more efficiently. Alternate tile fields are used thus providing rest periods for each system, prolonging the life of the entire tile disposal system. Also, small flow treatment facilities involving chlorinating the eventual effluent and discharging it to an existing water course are permitted for individual users. Manholes are constructed in the tile system areas in order to provide for clean-out opportunities. Although applying these new technologies will require the construction of more elaborate, more expensive on-lot systems, these systems have the ability to function efficiently, and they may be the only way that future development can take place in many areas of the Township.

SUITABILITY OF SOILS FOR AGRICULTURE

The Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has developed a classification system for soils based on their capability to sustain productive agriculture. There are eight classes of soils in this system. Classes 1 and 2 are considered very good for farming. Class 3 is considered fair for carrying on agricultural operations. It requires more careful land management practices but will respond well if managed properly. Classes 4 through 8 are considered poor for farming and use is limited to pasture or range, woodland, or wildlife habitat. Each of these classes is discussed in the Soil Survey of Crawford County (May 1978). The soils in the Township were analyzed and a map made which assigned one of the three categories described above to each soil configuration in the Township. The dominant soils of Sparta Township are of the Venango Frenchtown Cambridge Association. Approximately 75% of the soils in the Township are Class 3. Generally these soils require some artificial drainage to increase the

suitability for the cultivation of crops. Pockets of Classes 4 through 8 soils are generally of the Halsey and Holly Series and occur along stream valleys and along watercourses. Other areas of poor agricultural soils are located in the western portion of the Township and are of the Alden Series. Surface runoff of these soils is ponded to very slow. *Map 3* shows the location of these categories of soils.

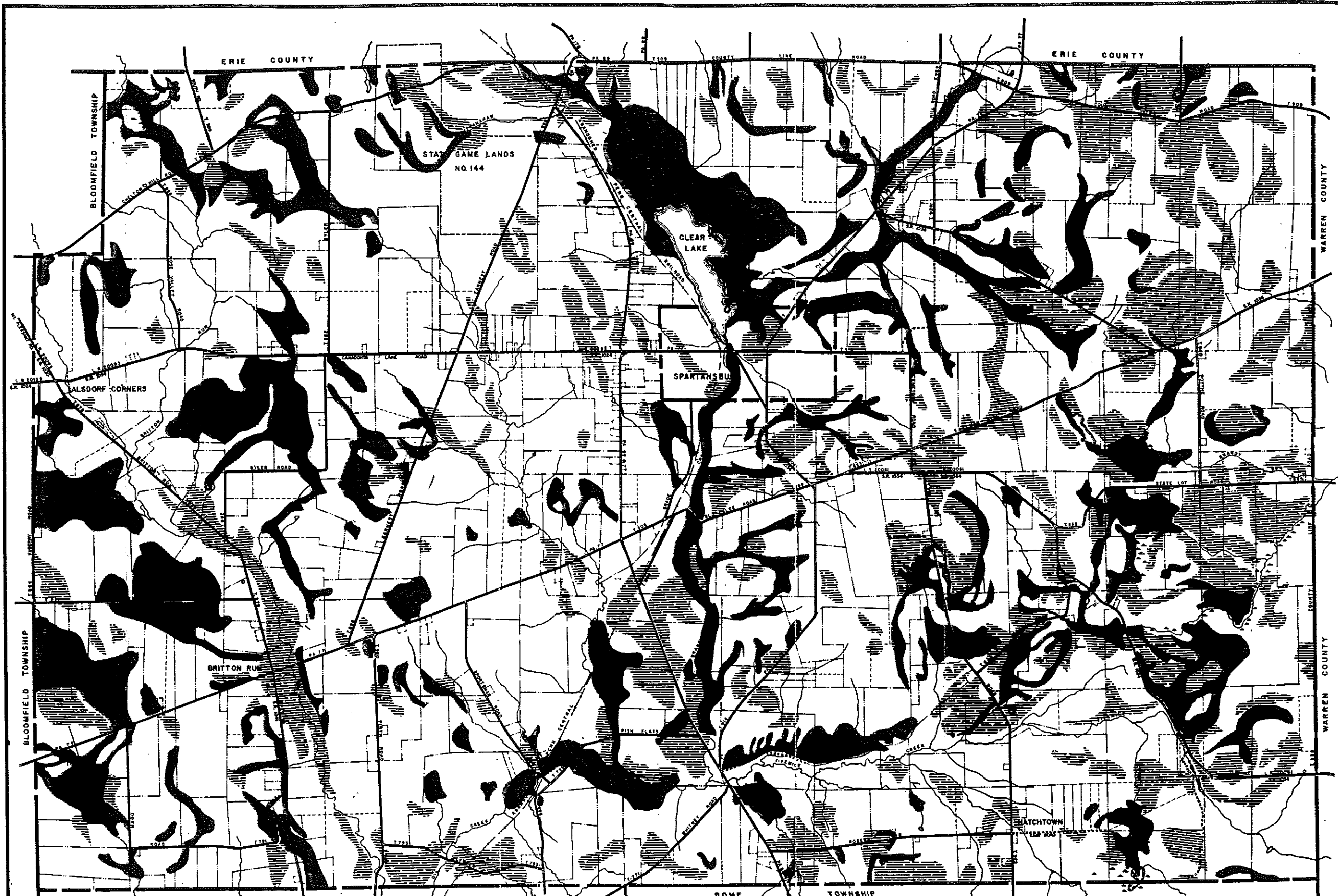
SAND AND GRAVEL POTENTIAL

Again, based upon an analysis of soil types, one can predict with reasonable certainty locations where sands and gravels are present in the soils. *Map 4* identifies those soils that have sand and gravel potential. The soils identified on the map are of the Chenango Series, the Halsey Series, the Haven Series and the Red Hook Series. These soils all consist of 40 % coarse fragments below the depth of 30 inches from the surface. While the suitability of the identified soils may vary widely, this map helps to pinpoint where future surface mining operations may occur.

WETLANDS

Wetland regulations have assumed an increasing importance in the life of communities, especially those with many acres of undeveloped land such as Sparta Township. Current regulatory practice makes it difficult to fill in wetland areas and incorporate the filled land into a developed site plan. This makes it wise to be aware of delineated wetlands and plan around them.

The U.S. Department of the Interior has produced a mapped National Wetlands Inventory. Although it is by no means a definitive wetlands delineation, the National Wetlands Inventory is a good basis for future planning in the Township. The Inventory is done on the U.S.G.S. 7.5 quadrangle map series at 1" = 2,000'. Observing the delineations, it can be noted that a large majority of the Township's wetlands are situated directly east and north of Clear Lake. Another concentration of wetlands is in the Fish Flats Region along the East Branch of Oil Creek and Five Mile Creek. A third concentration is in the southeast portion of the Township



PROPERTY BOUNDARY EXPLANATIONS


— DELINEATES PROPERTY BOUNDARIES OF EACH COMPLETION


- - - DELINEATES SEPARATELY OWNED PARCELS WITHIN A PROPERTY COMPLETION


THE PROPERTY LINES DELINEATED ON THIS MAP WERE DERIVED FROM CRAWFORD COUNTY DEED RECORDS. THE USE OF DEED RECORDS IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED "SURVEY ACCURACY".

PROPERTY LINES AS OF MAY 1955

SOIL CLASSIFICATIONS

 CLASS I & II

 CLASS III

 CLASS IV - VII

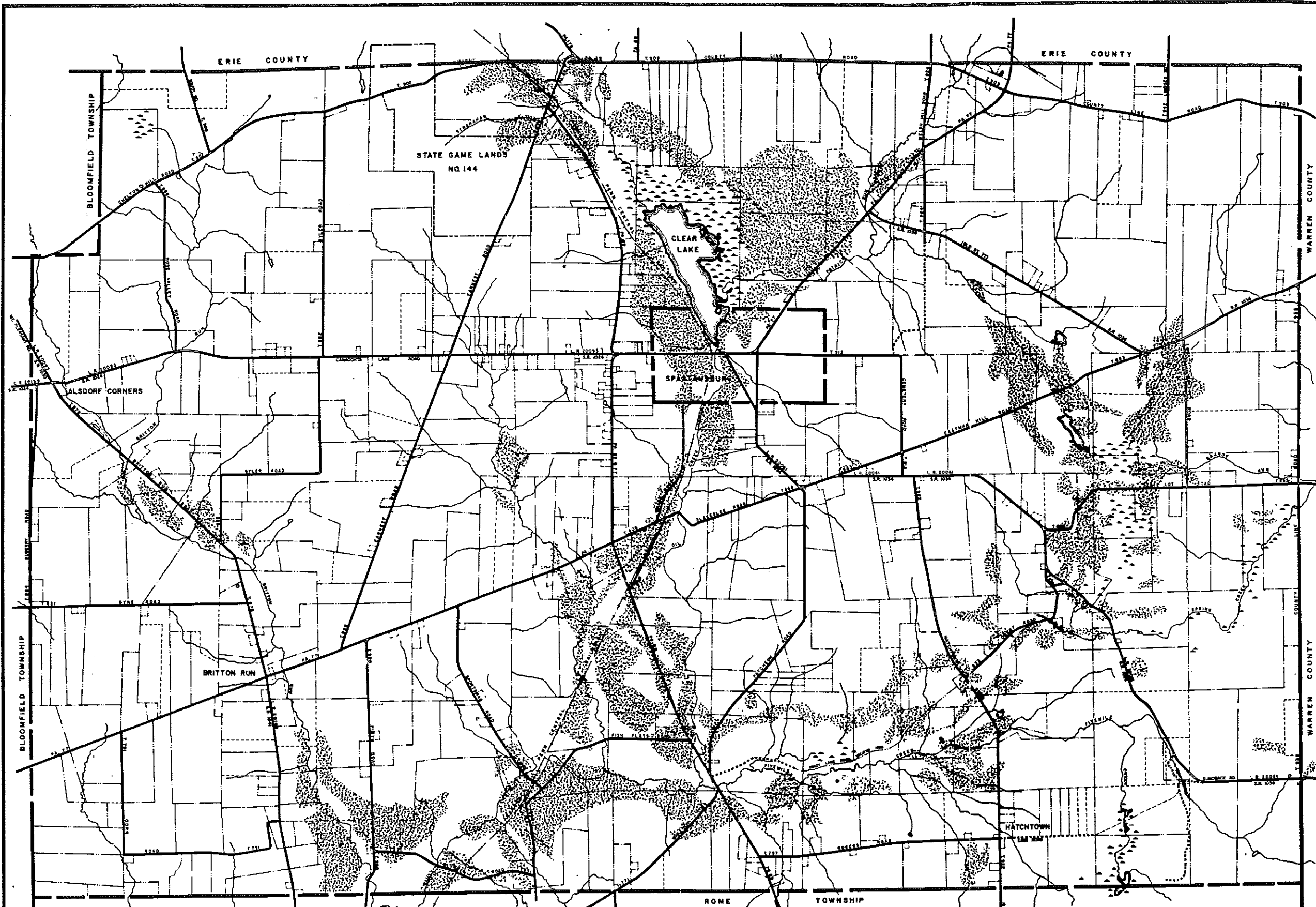
AGRICULTURAL SOILS MAP 3

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
 CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 SCALE 1" = 1000'

PREPARED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPERTY LINE RECORD AS OF MAY 1955

AS OF MARCH 1955 THE 6 SURVEY POINTS RECEIVED FOR A 1955 MAP ARE THE ONLY U.S. BENCHMARKS THE U.S. BENCHMARKS ARE STILL SHOWN ON THE MAP AS A REFERENCE TO PAST RECORDS



PROPERTY BOUNDARY EXPLANATIONS

- DELINEATES PROPERTY BOUNDARIES OF EACH OWNERSHIP
- - - DELINEATES SEPARATELY DEEDED PARCELS WITHIN A PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

THE PROPERTY LINES DELINEATED ON THIS MAP WERE OBTAINED FROM CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE RECORDS FOR LIST BOUNDARIES RECORDED SINCE 1862 TO BE CORRECTED TO CURRENT BOUNDARIES.

PROPERTY LINES AS OF MAY 1946

SOILS WITH SAND & GRAVEL POTENTIAL MAP 4

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 SCALE 1" = 1000'

PREPARED BY THE
 CRAWFORD COUNTY
 PLANNING COMMISSION
 PROPERTY LINE RECORD AS OF MAY 1946

EXISTING USE OF LAND

INTRODUCTION

A current inventory of existing land use is an essential tool in formulating the land use plan that would assist analyzing the development patterns and rate of growth in the Township over time. This inventory also can guide the developing of land use controls such as zoning and subdivision regulations if the need should emerge in the future. Through the process of analyzing the overall patterns of land use in Sparta Township it is possible to identify areas where efficient and logical development occurs and where incompatible uses have developed.

LAND USE CATEGORIES

A field survey of existing land uses was conducted in 1994 to provide the basis for a land use analysis. The results of this survey are graphically represented on *Map 5* and show the existing patterns of development in Sparta Township. The following categories were used in the survey:

- Agricultural: This includes land used for crop production and pasturage, and land that is cleared that, with only a modest amount of preparation, could be used for crops or pasturage.
- Residential: This includes both single-family and multi-family housing. The housing unit may be either of conventional construction, a mobile home or a modular home.
- Multi-Family Residential: This category includes duplexes and apartment buildings. This also includes lots where more than one residential structure is located.
- Mixed Residential and Commercial: This category includes structures which house both commercial and residential uses. This also includes lots which contain both commercial and residential structures.
- Commercial: This includes a wide range of wholesale, retail activities, and office activities, but excludes activities where goods are made and which are more appropriately classified as industrial. This category also includes mixed residential and commercial.
- Industrial: This includes goods producing activities and mineral extraction (sand and gravel).
- Public and Semi-Public: This includes land owned by the Township, utility companies, schools, churches, and cemeteries.
- Conservation Lands: This includes land owned by the State Game Commission.

- **Woodland and Brush:** This includes forested areas, areas with heavy growth of brush and land going to brush, which would not appear to be easily converted to farmland.

Table 1

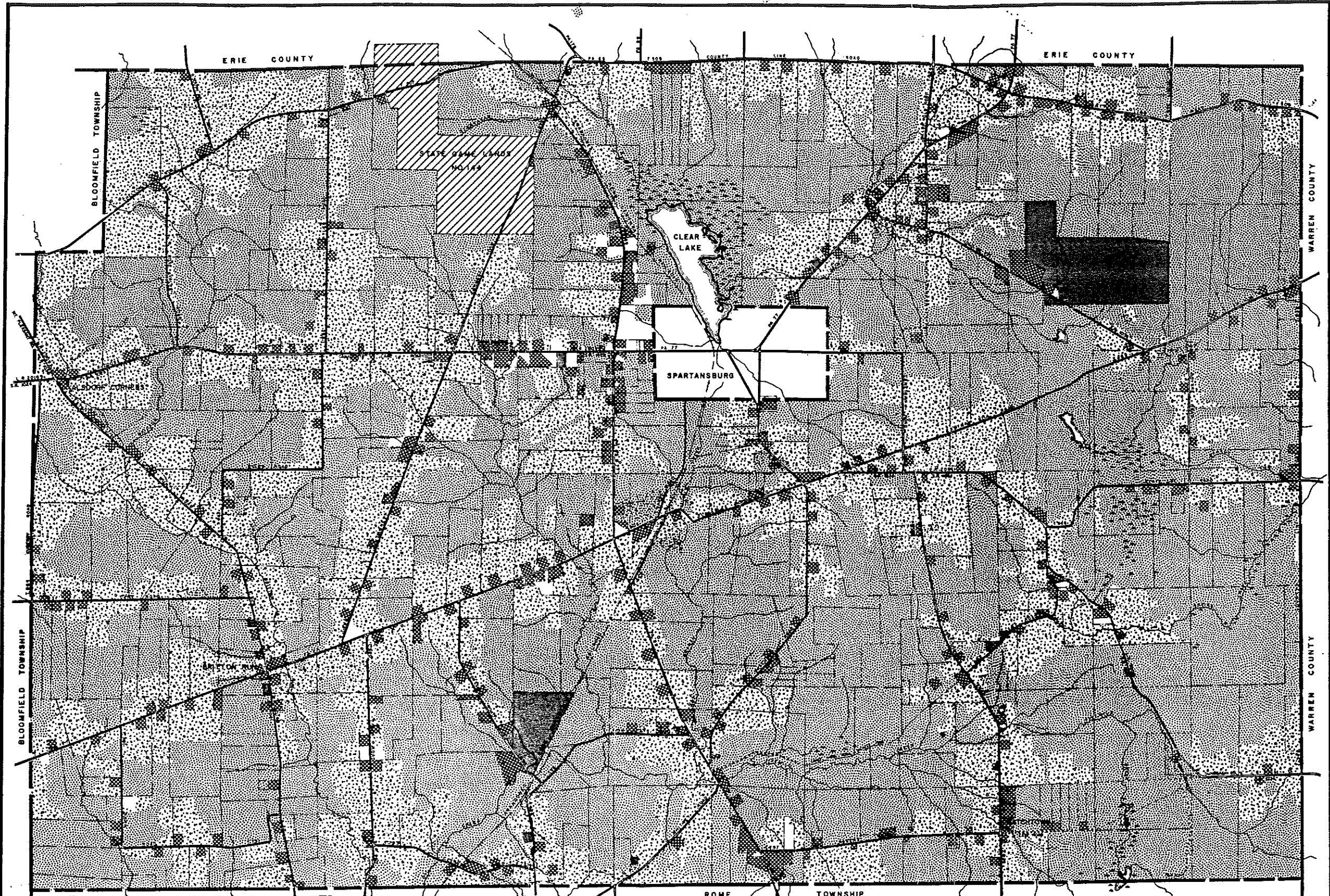
Existing Land Use Accounts











| Land Use | Acreage | % of Total Area |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Agricultural | 8,597 | 31.9 |
| Residential | 979 | 3.6 |
| Multi-Family Residential | 103 | 0.4 |
| Mixed Residential/Commercial | 22 | 0.08 |
| Commercial | 10 | 0.01 |
| Public Roads | 446 | 1.7 |
| Industrial | 56 | 0.02 |
| Public/Semi-Public | 381 | 1.4 |
| Conservation | 386 | 1.4 |
| Woodland and Brush | 15,934 | 59.2 |
| Total Area | 26,914 | 100.00 |

LAND USE ANALYSIS

The following observations were made from this land use survey:

- Agriculture is very important to the economy of Sparta Township. This land use accounts for approximately one third of the entire Township land area.
- Residential land use generally follows a linear form of development concentrating along the Township's roads. The greatest concentration of residences are along PA Route 77 northeast of Spartansburg and along PA Route 89 directly west of the Borough.. Residential development is sparse in the northwest portion of the Township where a number of large farms are located. There are also few residences in the southeast part of the Township where it is heavily wooded.



- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | Residential |  | Agricultural |
|  | Vacant Subdivided Lot |  | Woodlands and Brush |
|  | Mixed Residential/Commercial |  | Conservation Lands |
|  | Commercial |  | Semi-Public |
|  | Industrial (sawmills and gravel pit) |  | Public |

EXISTING
LAND USE PLAN

MAP 5

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SCALE 1" = 1000'

PREPARED BY THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION
PROPERTY LINE RECORD AS OF MAY 1953
ALL OF WHICH ARE THE 40th STATE ROUTE DISTRICTS AND DISTRICTS
THESE DISTRICTS NUMBERED 1-14 AND 15-18 ARE STILL SHOWN ON THE MAP AS
A REFERENCE TO PAST RECORDS



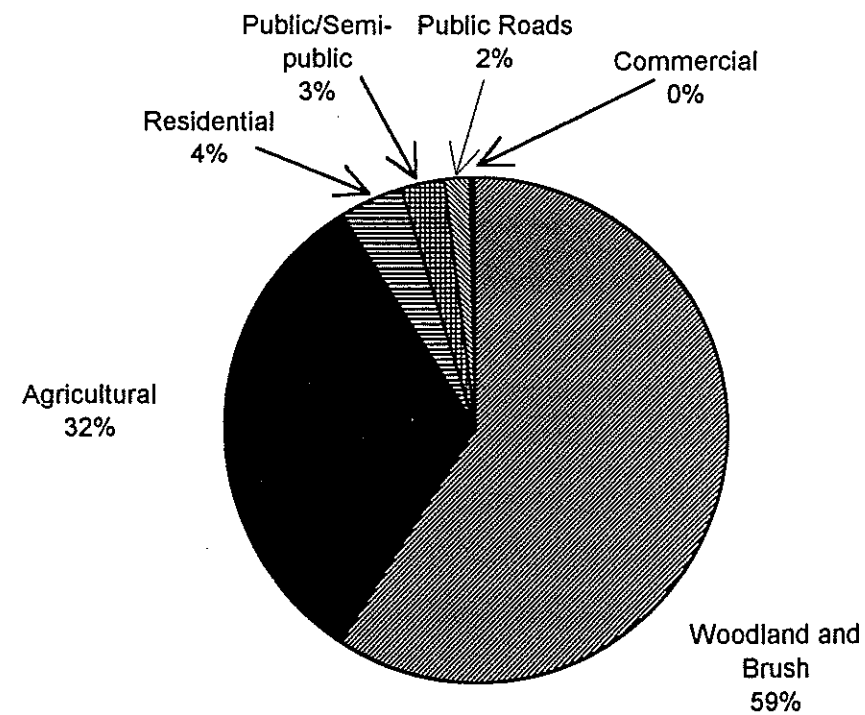
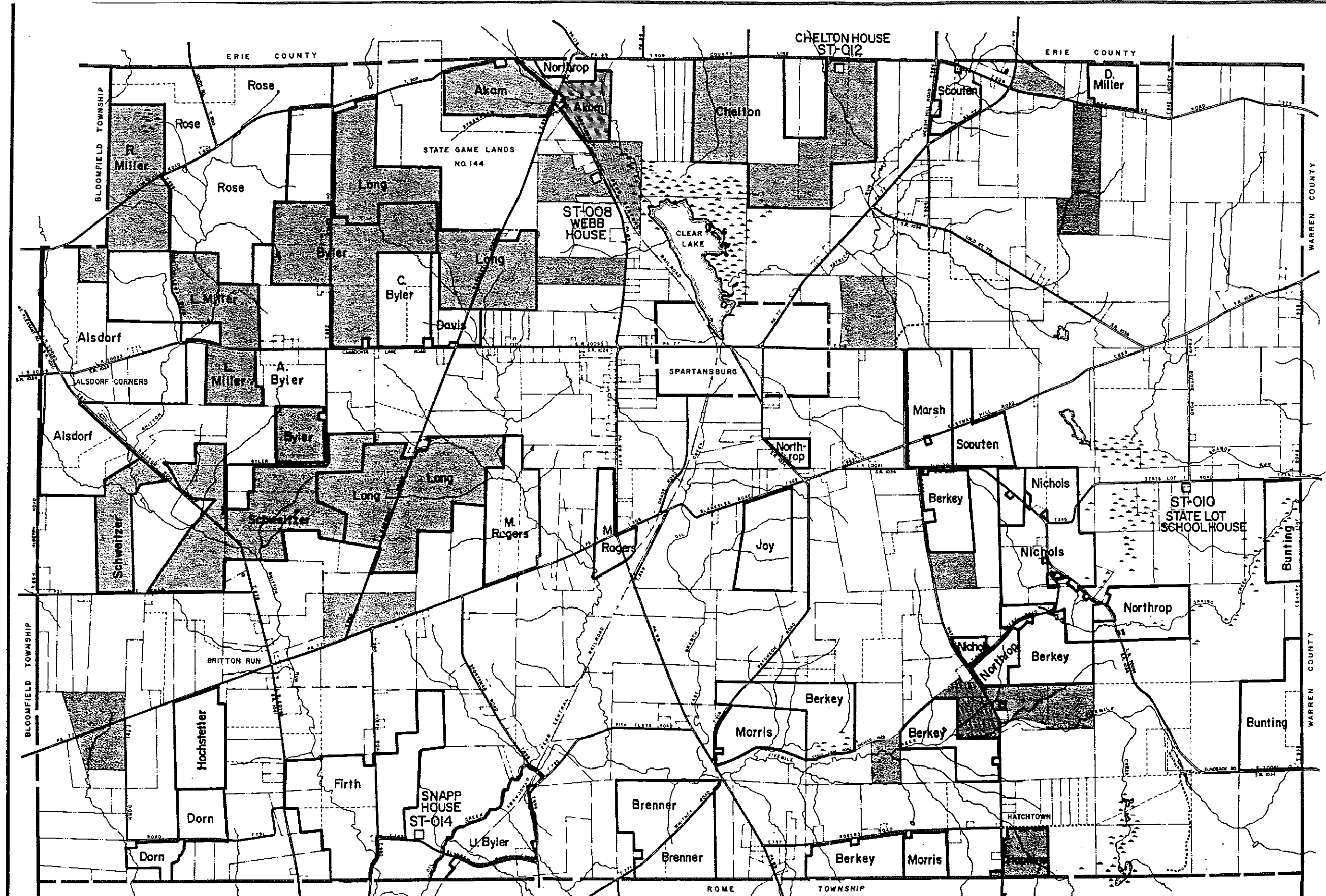


Diagram 1
Existing Land Use Accounts

- There is no real concentration of commercial activity in the Township. Spartansburg Borough generally serves as the service center for the Township. One cluster of activity is on Canadohta Lake Road west of PA Route 89 where there are several businesses that cater to the Township's Amish population. Another cluster is on PA Route 77 northeast of Spartansburg where there are several highway oriented retail establishments.
- The industrial land uses consist of 15 saw mills and one gravel pit. This is typical for rural eastern Crawford County.
- There are 73.56 miles of public roads in the Township. Acreage was calculated by assuming that the average right-of way width was 50 feet.

AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREAS

On December 13, 1994, the Township Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution creating Agricultural Security Areas (ASA) in Sparta Township. The significance of ASA's is that the



PROPERTY BOUNDARY EXPLANATIONS

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- - - DELINEATES SEPARATELY DEEDED PARCELS WITHIN A PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

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PROPERTY LINES AS OF MAY 1985

- Smith ACTIVE FARMS
- AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREAS
- LISTED WITH THE COUNTY ST-000 REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC SITES

AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

MAP 6

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SCALE 1" = 1000' 0 500 1000

PREPARED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROPERTY LINE RECORD AS OF MAY 1985

AS OF 1985 THE 1980 STATE WHITE CERTIFICATE (S.W.C.) REPLACES THE 1970 S.W.C. THE 1980 S.W.C. IS THE 1970 S.W.C. WITH THE 1980 S.W.C. NUMBER AND THE 1970 S.W.C. NUMBER IS STILL SHOWN ON THE MAP AS A REFERENCE TO PAST RECORDS

Township is prohibited from enacting ordinances or engaging in actions which would be harmful to the normal practice of agriculture unless such ordinances and regulations are clearly needed for public health or safety. For example, the Township may not pass ordinances which treat normal farming practices as nuisances. ASA's discourage the condemnation of agricultural land through eminent domain proceedings. By establishing ASA's, the Township has sent a clear message that it supports the preservation of agriculture in the particular areas that are designated.

The participation in ASA's is completely voluntary. Subject properties must contain at least 250 acres and be authorized by the Township. Currently 4,021.55 acres in Sparta Township are designated as ASA's. These properties are shown on *Map 6*.

ACTIVE FARMS

Land in the Township was identified as being actively farmed either by the owner or by others under lease arrangements. Only full-time farm operations were included in this identification process. Full-time operations were defined as those currently yielding a substantial amount of agricultural products and where farming is the major occupation of the owners or of the persons leasing the land. The location of these active farms are shown on *Map 6*.

HISTORIC SITES IN SPARTA TOWNSHIP

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, the Crawford County Planning Commission compiled a study of historical sites in Crawford County. While funding ran out for work in the entire county, a inventory was completed for Sparta Township. The study included an inventory of all places which appeared to have the potential of being historically significant based on the criteria established by the PA Historical and Museum Commission and the U.S. Department of the Interior. After the inventory was compiled, a County advisory committee selected nominations for the following categories:

County Register of Significant Sites

State Register of Historical Places

National Register of Historical Places

The historical and cultural category is measured by four criteria: (1) historical significance, (2) cultural significance, (3) site size (building, district, etc.) and (4) where a site shows evidence of man working with nature. In Sparta Township 19 sites were inventoried. Of those 19, three were chosen for the County Register of Significant Sites. No sites were chosen for the State or National Register of Historical Places.

The following is a brief summary of some of Sparta Township's more significant historical sites. The location of these sites are shown on *Map 6*.

1. **ST-008:** This is a board and batten Gothic Revival cottage overlooking Clear Lake. A rolled tin roof, mitered window heads and a small bay on the facade distinguish this pre-1876 house. County Register Site
2. **ST-012:** This five-bay, 1 ½ story frame cabin has a facade door flanked by sidelights and pilasters and topped by a wide entablature. There are four "eyebrow" windows on the facade second story, and roofline returns. County Register Site
3. **ST-014:** This is a brick Italianate adaptation near Glyndon. This house was built about 1875 by H.G. Snapp, the great-grandfather of the present owner. Brackets support the cornice and the window heads are segmental arches. County Register Site
4. **ST-010:** This is a well preserved old school house. The proportions are one bay by four bays.

TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

The road network makes up the development framework for any municipality. Road locations have strongly influenced the Township's residential development patterns. There are 73.56 miles of roads in Sparta Township. The breakdown of ownership of these roads is as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| State Owned and Maintained (PennDOT) | 25.60 miles |
| Township Owned and Maintained | 47.96 miles |

All Township roads are unpaved. Most PennDOT maintained roads are paved with an exception of Britton Run Road (SR 1041) which south of State Route 77 is State owned but not paved. There is only one road in Sparta Township which could be classified as private. That is East Road which accesses Hatchtown Road near the Sparta/Rome border and extends east for approximately 3,500 feet. There are several hunting camps that use this road.

CLASSIFICATION OF ROADS

Key to understanding the planning for roads is the recognition that they form a network. The relationship of the roads in the network is important because all roads should not serve the same function. The network concept is based on a hierarchy of roads which takes into account the transportation needs that individual roads serve. Some roads serve interstate and inter-county needs. Others serve inter-borough travel requirements, while still others function only to provide access to abutting properties. In reality, however, often the same road serves too many functions in which case problems can arise.

The Federal Functional Classification System defines a "hierarchy" for roads. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) accepts the federal system as the classification system to use in describing and categorizing roads. This plan, therefore, follows the nomenclature in the Federal Functional System. The road classification in this system are as follows:

- Interstate: A road designated as a route of the Interstate System. I-79 is the only Interstate System road in Crawford County.
- Minor Arterial: A road which serves interstate and inter-county travel, and where trips are normally of long duration. In the Sparta Area, only PA Route 77 is in this category. It serves to connect Sparta Township with the cities of Meadville and Corry.
- Major Collector: A road serving inter-county travel which connects development centers within a county. PA Route 89 (where it is not part of PA Route 77) and PA Route 77 (east of where it splits with PA Route 227) are in this category.

- **Minor Collector:** A road which collects traffic from the local road system and funnels it to the major collector and minor arterial systems. Sundback Road, Canadohta Lake Road, and Mt. Pleasant Road are examples of this category in Sparta Township

The four categories described above include roads which have reasonable continuity. The following two categories demonstrate a difference in the continuity characteristics, especially the local access road.

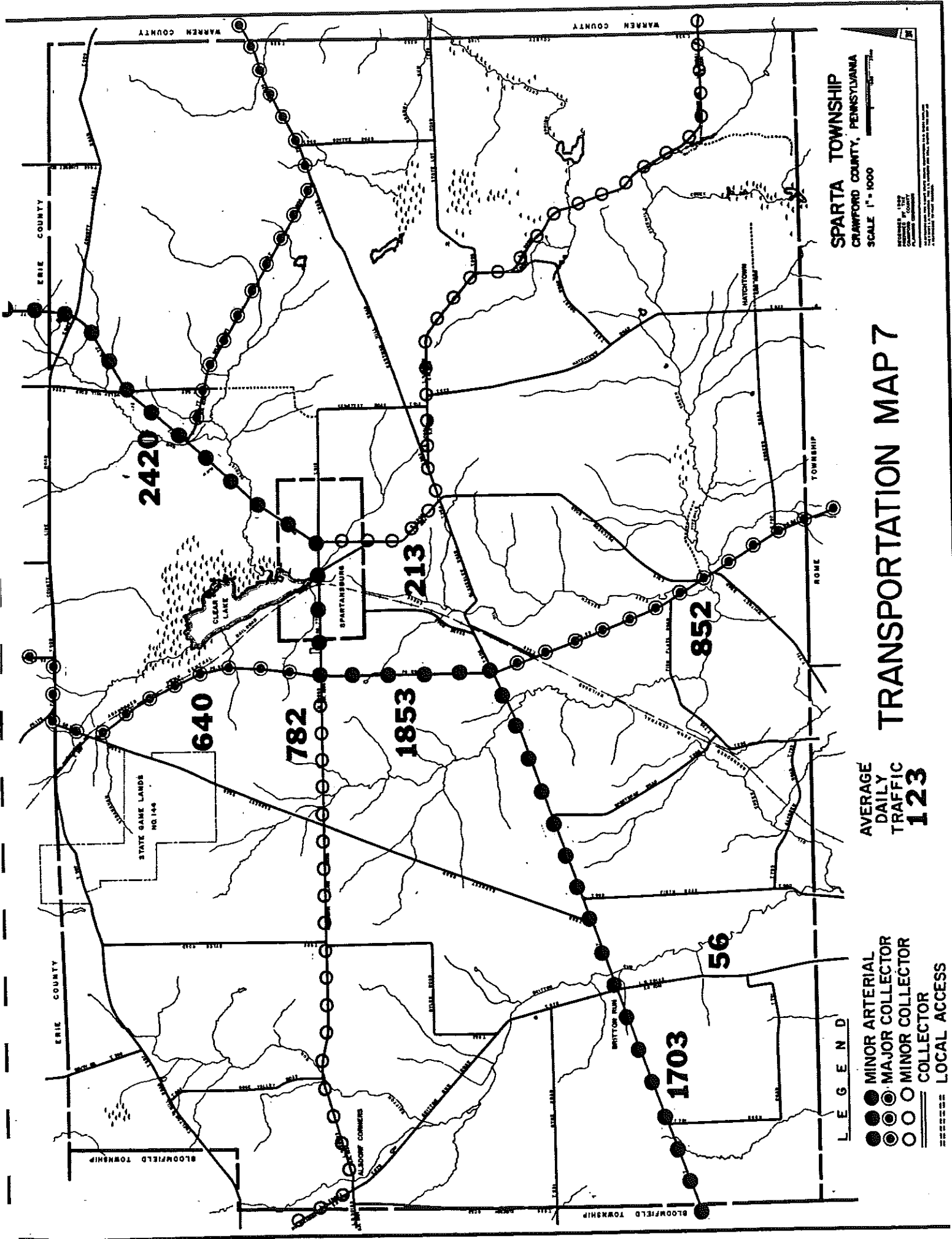
- **Local (Collector):** This category of road is named local in the Federal System and it includes all Township maintained streets.
- **Local Access:** This is the true local street which would never, even with full development surrounding it, carry appreciable through traffic. It primarily serves as access for abutting property owners. East Road and the Welsh Hill Road south of PA Route 77 are the only roads classified as Local Access in Sparta Township.

Map 7 shows how the Federal Functional Classification System applies to the roads of Sparta Township's. Besides providing a convenient way to organize one's thinking about the Sparta Township road network, the Federal Functional System has other important characteristics. It denotes the amount of financial help the federal government will supply to a particular road category. It also is a key to relative road importance and major improvement priorities. Minor Arterial and Major Collector roads qualify for substantial federal aid. Minor Collector and Local (Collector) roads do not participate in the conventional federal aid programs.

The classification system previously described, although developed by the federal government mainly to provide an ordering for state maintained roads, has been articulated and organized in this report to include Township maintained roads. It can be said that the Township has three types of roads based on ownership: state roads, Township maintained roads and private roads. All state and Township roads have number designations. There are three digits in the Township numbers, and four digits in the state numbers. Where a state road has a route designation, this designation is reflected in the four digit number, for example 0077 is the number for U.S. Route 77. All Township roads have names which are reflected in the accompanying maps.

AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (ADT) COUNTS

Average daily traffic (ADT) is a term used to express the number of vehicles which use roads. As the term implies it measures the number of vehicles which use a particular portion of road in a 24 hour period averaged over the time span of one year. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation conducts counts at selected points on certain roads. *Map 7* indicates the ADT counts available for Sparta Township. The counts are based on data from PennDOT's RMS Report dated July 29, 1993. In examining the traffic counts one should keep in mind that a two lane highway in a rural area has a carrying capacity of approximately 7,500 average daily trips; this refers to reasonably well maintained road with a minimum travel way of 20 or 21 feet. These counts are only available for State maintained roads.



Examining the ADT counts it is evident that the busiest intersections in the Township are along PA Route 77 northeast of Spartansburg Borough. On the average day 2,420 vehicles pass along this stretch of highway, 7% are estimated to be trucks. Other busy intersections are PA Route 77 west of the Borough where it intersects with PA Route 89 and Canadohta Lake Road (1,853). This traffic count also applies to the intersection where 89 and 77 split at the Starlight inn.

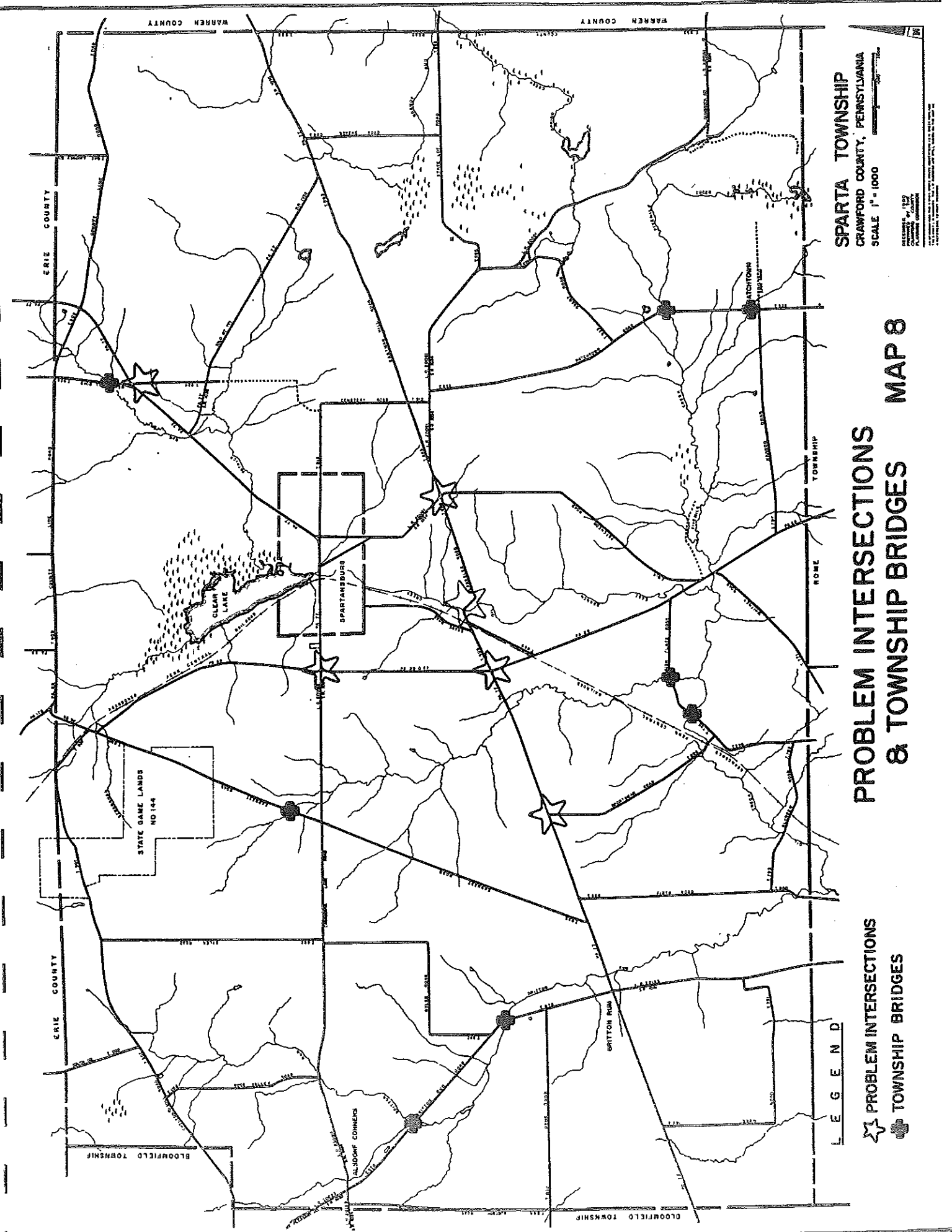
TOWNSHIP BRIDGES

In addition to its many culverts, there are eight bridges owned and maintained by Sparta Township. The location of these bridges are shown on *Map 8*. This does not include the Sportsmen's Road Bridge and the Blakeslee Road Bridge which are owned and maintained by Crawford County. Most of the Township bridges are generally in good condition. Two notable exceptions are:

- **Welsh Hill Road Bridge** This bridge spans Patrick Run. It has a current posting of three tons. This presents problems for school buses and milk trucks.
- **Fish Flats Bridge:** This bridge is located on Fish Flats Road where it crosses the East Branch of Oil Creek. The center pier has recently been repaired to maintain its posted rating of 5 tons. These repairs were a necessary first step to any comprehensive rehabilitation of the bridge.

PROBLEM INTERSECTIONS

- **PA Route 77/89 and Canadohta Lake Road:** This intersection, situated directly west of Spartansburg Borough is hazardous due to several conditions. The curve as one approaches the Borough from the west on PA Route 77 is both sharp and steep. These factors are combined with little to no shoulder along most of the curve. In addition, both Canadohta Lake Road and PA Route 89 both descend steep grades and terminate at stop signs at this intersection.
- **PA Route 77/89 at Blakeslee Road (Starlight Inn):** This intersection is especially hazardous for traffic traveling south on 89 from Spartansburg to Titusville. After crossing the point where PA Route 77 splits to go west towards Meadville, PA Route 89 curves slightly towards the east. This unexpected curve is combined with a poorly banked road surface with no guard rails. This set of conditions results in many vehicles failing to make the curve successfully.
- **PA Route 77 and Sportsman Road:** Because of a slight hill to the west of this intersection, there is poor visibility for those exiting from Sportsman Road onto PA Route 77.
- **Sundback Road and Blakeslee Road:** There is a sharp curve on Sundback Road at this intersection..
- **PA Route 77 and Welsh Hill Road:** For persons traveling north on Welsh Hill Road and approaching the intersection with PA Route 77, there is a blind intersection especially looking west towards Spartansburg.



**PROBLEM INTERSECTIONS
& TOWNSHIP BRIDGES MAP 8**

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
 CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 SCALE 1" = 1000'

LEGEND
 ☆ PROBLEM INTERSECTIONS
 ◻ TOWNSHIP BRIDGES

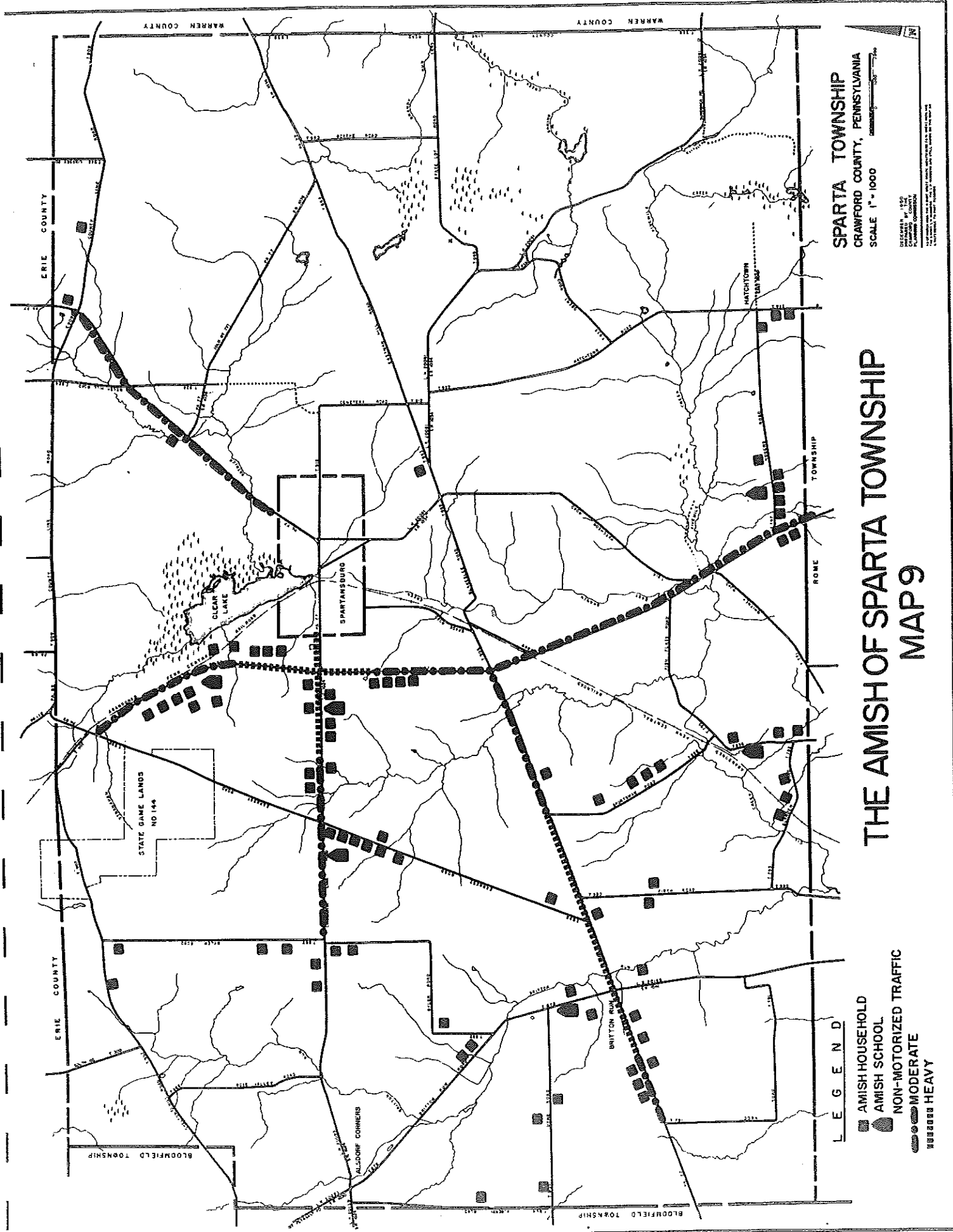
REVISIONS:
 1. 1977
 2. 1978
 3. 1979
 4. 1980
 5. 1981
 6. 1982
 7. 1983
 8. 1984
 9. 1985
 10. 1986
 11. 1987
 12. 1988
 13. 1989
 14. 1990
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 22. 1998
 23. 1999
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 25. 2001
 26. 2002
 27. 2003
 28. 2004
 29. 2005
 30. 2006
 31. 2007
 32. 2008
 33. 2009
 34. 2010
 35. 2011
 36. 2012
 37. 2013
 38. 2014
 39. 2015
 40. 2016
 41. 2017
 42. 2018
 43. 2019
 44. 2020
 45. 2021
 46. 2022
 47. 2023
 48. 2024

■ **Blakeslee Road Bridge:** This bridge is located where Blakeslee Road crosses the East Branch of Oil Creek. The bridge itself is in good condition. It does, however, have awkward approaches at both the east and west ends that are difficult to navigate for larger vehicles.

NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES

Although no official count or comparison has ever been made, it is assumed that Sparta Township has the largest percent of Amish residents in Crawford County. Local travel among the Amish is accomplished both by walking and by horse and buggy. This presents some safety and maintenance issues to the Township. Many of the roadways in Sparta Township have insufficient shoulders and therefore, forcing the Amish residents to use the cartway of the Township's roads for travel. On State roads, the posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour, blind curves and hills, and truck traffic (particularly logging) are some of the factors that make non-motorized transportation in Sparta Township an extreme hazard. Another issue is that of maintenance. Pennsylvania does not require rubber coated buggy wheels and rubber coated horseshoes. Consequently, road surfaces become gouged from steel wheels and horseshoes which adversely affects the service life of the roadway.

In March 1997, when the housing condition survey was conducted for Sparta Township, the locations of Amish houses were indicated. *Map 9* shows the locations of these houses, along with Amish schools. From this information and from observations made in the Township, State roads having moderate and heavy non-motorized traffic were identified. They are also indicated on *Map 9*. The areas of heaviest traffic include the roads in the vicinity of the intersection of Canadohta Lake Road and PA Route 77/89. Another area of heavy traffic is along PA Route 77 between Dorn Road and Sportsman Road. This is exceptionally hazardous because of the deep valley formed by Britton Run. This stretch of 77 has poor sight lines and virtually no shoulder.



POPULATION DATA AND FORECAST

INTRODUCTION

Population analyses and projections are an important component to any comprehensive planning process. The consequences of population change greatly affect many township and regional issues ranging from the supply of housing, demand on water table, fire and police protection, and recreation facilities. Some readily apparent characteristics of Sparta Township's population are its steady growth, its relative youth, and its large average household size.

Table 2

Population Data (1980 and 1990 Census)

| | 1980 | 1990 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Population: | 1,405 | 1,554 |
| Sex of Persons (males): | 695 | 782 |
| (females): | 710 | 772 |
| Persons 65 or Older: | 91 | 111 |
| Number of Households: | 373 | 425 |
| Persons per Household | 3.8 | 3.6 |

The population of Sparta Township as counted in the 1990 Census was 1,554. This was a 10.6% increase from the 1980 figure of 1,405. The data in *Table 3* below was gathered from the 1990 Census. One characteristic that stands out is that Sparta Township's population is younger than Crawford County's on the average. According to the 1990 Census, 42.0% of Sparta Township's residents are younger than 18 years of age, compared to 25.9% in Crawford County. Conversely, only 7.1% of Sparta Township's residents are over 65 years of age compared to the County's 15.4%. Another characteristic that stands out is that the average household size in Sparta Township (3.6 persons) is significantly higher than the County average (2.6 persons).

Sparta Township's demographic characteristics reflect a county-wide trend. Crawford County's Boroughs and Cities have more residents over the age of 65 (19.1%) compared to the Townships (13.4%). Sparta Township is unusual, however in the proportion of residents under the age of 18. Approximately 42% of Township residents are under 18 compared to 25.9% countywide. As a result, Sparta Township has fewer residents between the ages of 18 and 64

than any other municipality in Crawford County. The age distribution of Sparta Township compared to Crawford County is further detailed in *Table 3* below.

Table 3
Age Cohort Analysis

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Sparta Township</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>% Female</u> | <u>Crawford County</u> | <u>% of Total</u> | <u>% Female</u> |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 0-4 | 180 | 11.6 | 50.0 | 5,855 | 6.8 | 48.7 |
| 5-9 | 188 | 12.1 | 50.5 | 6,314 | 7.3 | 47.4 |
| 10-14 | 168 | 10.8 | 44.6 | 6,317 | 7.3 | 47.9 |
| 15-19 | 159 | 10.2 | 47.2 | 6,999 | 8.1 | 49.1 |
| 20-24 | 96 | 6.2 | 50.0 | 5,989 | 6.9 | 49.2 |
| 25-29 | 117 | 7.5 | 52.1 | 5,628 | 6.5 | 51.7 |
| 30-34 | 124 | 7.9 | 52.0 | 6,473 | 7.5 | 51.3 |
| 35-44 | 177 | 11.4 | 49.2 | 12,344 | 14.3 | 50.5 |
| 45-54 | 117 | 7.5 | 47.9 | 8,895 | 10.3 | 51.3 |
| 55-64 | 117 | 7.5 | 52.9 | 8,054 | 9.4 | 52.4 |
| 65-74 | 67 | 4.3 | 44.8 | 7,592 | 8.8 | 55.6 |
| 75-84 | 34 | 2.2 | 58.8 | 4,419 | 5.1 | 60.9 |
| 85+ | 10 | 6.4 | 80.0 | 1,290 | 1.5 | 71.5 |
| Total | 1,554 | 100.0 | 49.7 | 86,169 | 100.0 | 51.5 |

POPULATION GROWTH AND FORECAST

For the past 50 years, the population of Sparta Township has increased considerably. This growth also reflects a county-wide trend. Crawford County's Boroughs and Cities have been experiencing a net population loss while the County's Townships are experiencing gains. Between 1950 and 1990 Crawford County's Boroughs and Cities lost 18.9% of their populations while the Townships grew by 34.7%. Sparta grew by 78% during this same time period. This trend is illustrated in *Diagram 2* below.

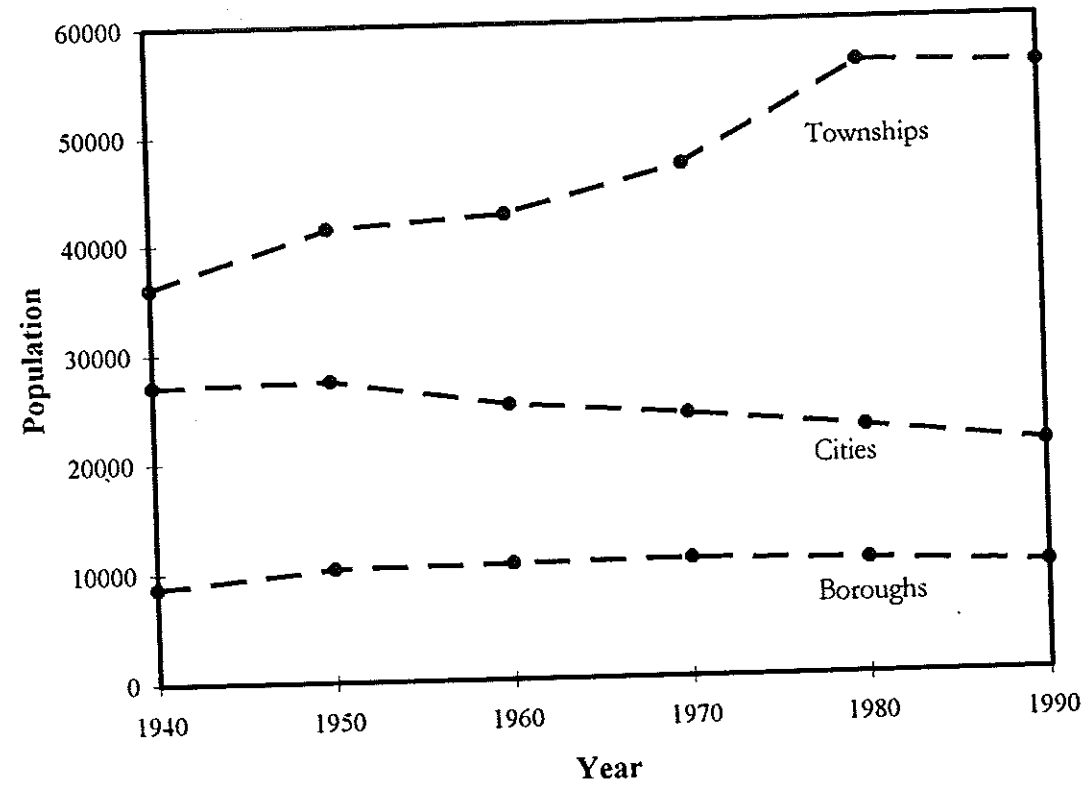


Diagram 2

Growth of Cities, Townships, and Boroughs in Crawford County

An effective population forecasting technique is to "average out" historical population data. In more technical terms this is done by fitting a trend line to past census counts. This trend line is developed mathematically through a linear regression analysis. In *Table 4*, historical population data are provided for the Township and all of Crawford County along with the results of the linear regression. Italicized figures are projections.

Table 4

Population Forecast (Linear Regression)

| Year | Sparta Township | increase/ decrease | % | Crawford County | increase/ decrease | % |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 1940 | 876 | -- | -- | 71,664 | -- | -- |
| 1950 | 871 | -5 | -0.6 | 78,948 | +7,284 | +10.2 |
| 1960 | 921 | +50 | +5.7 | 77,956 | -992 | -1.3 |
| 1970 | 988 | +67 | +7.3 | 81,342 | +3,386 | +4.3 |
| 1980 | 1,405 | +417 | +42.2 | 88,869 | +7,527 | +9.3 |
| 1990 | 1,554 | +149 | +10.6 | 86,169 | -2,700 | -3.0 |
| 2000 | 1,608 | +54 | +3.5 | 91,397 | +5,228 | +6.1 |
| 2010 | 1,753 | +145 | +9.0 | 94,417 | +3,020 | +3.3 |

Based on 1990 U.S. Census data, the number of persons per occupied household unit in Sparta Township was 3.60. Assuming that this figure is typical for future households, in the year 2000 based on the above forecast there will be 55 households added to the Township between 1990 and 2010.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This section of the plan is devoted to an examination of the social and economic characteristics of Sparta Township. These characteristics are determined mainly from the information provided in the 1990 U.S. Census. Although that information is somewhat dated, more current sources are not available that provide such comprehensive data. Where relevant, comparisons were made between the Township and Crawford County, to bring to light the relationship of the Township to its surrounding region.

THE LABOR FORCE AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS

According to the 1990 U.S. Census Sparta Township has 987 persons 16 years of age or older. Of these 390 are not in the labor force. This is very natural considering that many younger persons are still attending school, and many older persons are retired and therefore no longer in the work force. The unemployment rate calculated using the following statistics is 8.4%. These figures date from the spring of 1990.

Table 5

Persons 16 Years or Over By Labor Status

| <u>Labor Status</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Total Labor Force | 389 | 208 | 597 |
| Civilian Force | 389 | 208 | 597 |
| Employed | 363 | 184 | 547 |
| Unemployed | 26 | 24 | 50 |
| Not in Labor Force | 95 | 295 | 390 |

The next two tables are among the most interesting in this section. They show the nature of the labor force indicating the kind of work that families do to earn their livelihoods. Township statistics are arrayed alongside of county-wide statistics to facilitate comparisons. **Table 6** provides the numbers and percentages of persons employed in various occupation categories. It is evident from this table that more Township residents are employed in farming and forestry than the countywide average. Another significant occupational category in Sparta Township is Operators, fabricators and Laborers. It is also evident from this table that far fewer Township residents are employed in the Management and Professional Specialty and the Technical, Sales, and Administrative Support categories. Only 22.7% of Township residents are in these occupation categories compared to 45.8% countywide.

Table 6

Persons 16 Years or Over By Occupation

| Occupation | Sparta Township | | Crawford Co. |
|--|-----------------|-------|--------------|
| | # | % | % |
| Managerial & Prof. Specialty | | | |
| Executive, admin., managerial | 20 | 3.7% | 9.3% |
| Professional Specialty | 21 | 3.8% | 11.3% |
| Tech., Sales, Admin. Support | | | |
| Tech. & related support | 10 | 1.8% | 3.8% |
| Sales | 32 | 5.9% | 9.3% |
| Admin. support, clerical | 41 | 7.5% | 12.1% |
| Service | | | |
| Private Household | 9 | 1.6% | 0.3% |
| Protective | 3 | 0.5% | 1.0% |
| All Other Service Work | 66 | 12.1% | 13.0% |
| Farming, Forestry, Fishing | 83 | 15.2% | 4.7% |
| Precision prod., craft & repair | 75 | 13.7% | 13.6% |
| Operators, Fab. & Labor. | | | |
| Machine operators, assemblers, inspectors | 119 | 21.8% | 11.9% |
| Transportation & mat. Moving | 32 | 5.9% | 5.6% |
| Handlers, helpers, laborers | 36 | 6.6% | 5.1% |
| total | 547 | 100% | 100% |

Table 7 classifies the particular industries that employ Sparta Township residents. Again, this table compares Township breakdowns by industry to those of Crawford County. The data in this table also shows the relative dominance of agriculture and forestry in Sparta Township compared to Crawford County as a whole. Another dominant industry is durable goods.

Table 7

Persons 16 Years or Over By Industry

| Industry | Sparta Township | | Crawford Co. |
|---|-----------------|-------|--------------|
| | # | % | % |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing | 67 | 12.2% | 4.4% |
| Mining | 3 | 0.6% | 0.6% |
| Construction | 37 | 6.8% | 5.8% |
| Manufacturing | | | |
| Non-durable Goods | 24 | 4.4% | 5.4% |
| Durable Goods | 185 | 33.8% | 21.9% |
| Transportation | 14 | 2.6% | 4.0% |
| Communications, other pub. utilities | 8 | 1.5% | 1.5% |
| Wholesale trade | 19 | 3.5% | 2.5% |
| Retail trade | 89 | 16.3% | 17.6% |
| Finance, insurance, real estate | 4 | 0.7% | 3.8% |
| Business and repair services | 9 | 1.6% | 2.8% |
| Personal services | 16 | 2.9% | 2.3% |
| Entertainment and recreation services | 0 | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| Health services | 25 | 4.6% | 8.6% |
| Educational services | 29 | 5.3% | 9.8% |
| Other professional & related activities | 10 | 1.8% | 4.9% |
| Public administration | 8 | 1.5% | 2.9% |
| total | 547 | 100% | 100% |

INCOME DATA

U.S. Census data shows that household income is slightly higher in Sparta Township than the countywide average. What is interesting, however, is the comparison of per capita income, which is significantly lower in Sparta Township (\$7,635) compared to Crawford County (\$10,833). These differences can be explained by the size of the average household in Sparta Township (3.6 persons) which is higher than Crawford County as a whole (2.6 persons).

Table 8

Average Household and Per Capita Income in Sparta Township and Crawford County (1989)

| | Sparta Township | Crawford County |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Median Household Income | \$24,559 | \$23,083 |
| Per Capita Income | \$7,635 | \$10,833 |

Table 9

Household Income Ranges in Sparta Township and Crawford County (1989)

| Income Range | Township % | County % |
|--------------------|------------|----------|
| Less than 5,000 | 5.9 | 5.9 |
| 5,000 to 9,999 | 13.9 | 13.6 |
| 10,000 to 14,999 | 10.4 | 11.9 |
| 15,000 to 19,999 | 10.6 | 11.3 |
| 20,000 to 24,999 | 9.4 | 11.2 |
| 25,000 to 29,999 | 13.4 | 9.0 |
| 30,000 to 34,999 | 8.9 | 8.3 |
| 35,000 to 39,999 | 5.4 | 7.5 |
| 40,000 to 44,999 | 5.6 | 5.8 |
| 45,000 to 49,999 | 3.5 | 3.8 |
| 50,000 to 54,999 | 3.8 | 2.8 |
| 55,000 to 59,999 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| 60,000 to 74,999 | 1.9 | 3.4 |
| 75,000 to 99,999 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| 100,000 to 124,999 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| 125,000 to 149,999 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| 150,000 or more | 1.2 | 0.6 |

POVERTY DATA

Poverty thresholds are established by the federal government and they are made sensitive to family size. They are done on a national basis; therefore no attempt is made to adjust these thresholds for local or regional variations in the cost of living. The poverty line or threshold was established based on U.S. Department of Agriculture study which reflected family size and composition and which determined that families of three or more persons spend approximately one-third of their income on food; the poverty level for these families was set at three times the cost of an economic food plan. The more persons in the family, the higher the poverty threshold is. For smaller families (less than three) the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher in order to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses of these smaller households. The poverty thresholds are updated every year to reflect inflation.

Table 10 illustrates that, reflecting comparisons in income level, in each category, Sparta Township is significantly above the County average in all categories except female headed households.

Table 10

Poverty Level Statistics in Sparta Township and Crawford County (1989)

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Township %</u> | <u>County %</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| All persons | 23.7 | 15.5 |
| Persons 65 years and over | 27.0 | 10.7 |
| Children under 18 yrs. | 31.1 | 22.3 |
| All families | 18.9 | 11.7 |
| Female householder families | 15.3 | 35.9 |

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Table 11 illustrates that Sparta Township has far more residents over age 25 with less than 9 years of education compared to the county average (31.4% compared to 10.0%). This can be explained by the large Amish population in Sparta Township. The Township is also lower than the county average in the number of residents with high school diplomas, college degrees or graduate degrees.

Table 11

Persons 25 Years or Older By Years of School Completed

| <u>Education Category</u> | <u>Township %</u> | <u>County %</u> |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Less than 9 th grade | 31.4 | 10.0 |
| 9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma | 15.1 | 16.0 |
| High school graduate | 37.5 | 47.0 |
| Some college, no degree | 7.9 | 12.0 |
| Associate degree | 3.4 | 3.0 |
| Bachelor's degree | 4.2 | 7.3 |
| Graduate or prof. degree | 0.5 | 4.7 |

TOWNSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1996 a survey was prepared by the Sparta Township Planning Commission in conjunction with the Crawford County Planning Commission for residents of Sparta Township. The survey was devised in an attempt to obtain residents' attitudes and opinions toward the development of the Township.

The surveys were distributed to approximately 399 households. The surveys were mailed to all Township households in an attempt to receive a higher response rate. There were 183 surveys returned, with a total response rate of 45.9%. Standard research techniques, generally, maintain that a response rate of 30% or greater is considered 'statistically representative' of Township residents' opinions and attitudes regarding land use development, future growth, housing and community facility issues.

■ **Opinion of Sparta Township**

- 43.3% of all Township respondents have resided over 30 years within Sparta Township
- 34.7% of respondents work within Sparta Township while 65.3% of respondents are employed outside the Township.
- 69.1% of all Township respondents found Sparta Township a satisfactory place to live.
- 50.3% of respondents felt residential growth in the Township should remain the same.
- 58.9% of respondents believed that the Township should (over 5 to 10 years) focus on road improvements.

■ **Opinion on Township Servicing**

- 55.9% of Township respondents believed that municipal sewerage was not a good thing.
- 98.3% of respondents stated that their water supply was adequate, however, only 94.3% stated that they felt their water quality was adequate.
- For those respondents with low water quality, 37.5% stated that their water quality was low because of unpleasant odor.

■ **Opinion on the Tourism Industry**

- 35.8% of respondents are not in support of developing the tourism industry within Sparta Township while 35.3% are in support of its expansion.
- 71.3% of Township respondents believed tourism would definitely impact the Township.

■ 42.7% of respondents stated the role of the Township in tourism would be to encourage a tourist association while 21.0% felt the Township should have no role in tourism.

■ **Development Concerns**

- 85% of respondents are concerned about the loss of agriculture.
- 39% of respondents are concerned about population growth.
- 12% of respondents are concerned about the influx of outsiders.

HOUSING ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

Housing in most Crawford County townships is strictly a private sector concern. Few municipalities have housing or building codes. Sparta Township does not have any of these codes. However, housing is a very important issue to Sparta Township. Not only does a sound housing stock make the community more attractive for various job-creating developments, it is fundamental to the health, safety, and welfare of the Township's residents. Housing conditions also directly affect the Township's tax base. The information in the following section is derived from two sources; a "windshield" housing condition survey, and the 1990 U.S. Census.

HOUSING CONDITION SURVEY

In March of 1997, a comprehensive housing condition survey was conducted in Sparta Township. The survey area consisted of the entire township. The following rating system was applied to the houses of Sparta Township:

1=Excellent; 2=Good; 3=Fair; 4=Poor

In the entire Township, it was determined that 45.1% of the houses were classified as in either fair or poor condition. For manufactured homes this figure is much higher. Although manufactured homes only make up 16.2% of Sparta Township's housing stock, 75% of these structures were classified as being in either fair or poor condition. The condition of housing occupied by Amish residents is in slightly better condition than the Township average. Of these structures, only 41.3% were classified as fair or poor. *Table 12* below provides the general results of this housing condition survey:

Table 12

Results of 1997 Housing Condition Survey

| STRUCTURE TYPE | EXCELLENT | | GOOD | | FAIR | | POOR | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| All Residential Structures | 137 | 29.1% | 121 | 25.7% | 65 | 13.8% | 147 | 31.3% |
| Conventional Homes | 128 | 32.5% | 111 | 28.2% | 50 | 12.7% | 105 | 26.6% |
| Manufactured Homes | 9 | 11.8% | 10 | 13.2% | 15 | 19.7% | 42 | 55.3% |
| Amish Homes | 15 | 20.0% | 29 | 38.7% | 10 | 13.3% | 21 | 28.0% |

Because of the scattered nature of housing in Sparta Township, the dynamics of substandard housing in rural areas are generally different than in urban areas. It is more difficult to determine concentrations of housing condition problems. *Map 10* shows the geographic distribution of the housing condition survey. Houses in excellent and good condition are combined into one category; houses identified as fair and poor are indicated as such on the map. On this map several areas were identified as having concentrations of houses in fair or poor condition. These areas are:

- PA Route 89 at the intersections of Patcheon Road and Fish Flats Road
- Sundback Road in proximity with State Lot and Obert Roads
- Rogers Road
- Sundback Road in proximity with Smith Eastman Road
- PA Route 77 in proximity with Welsh Hill Road

Many of the structures in the above listed areas are manufactured homes. This is especially the case northeast east of Spartansburg Borough.

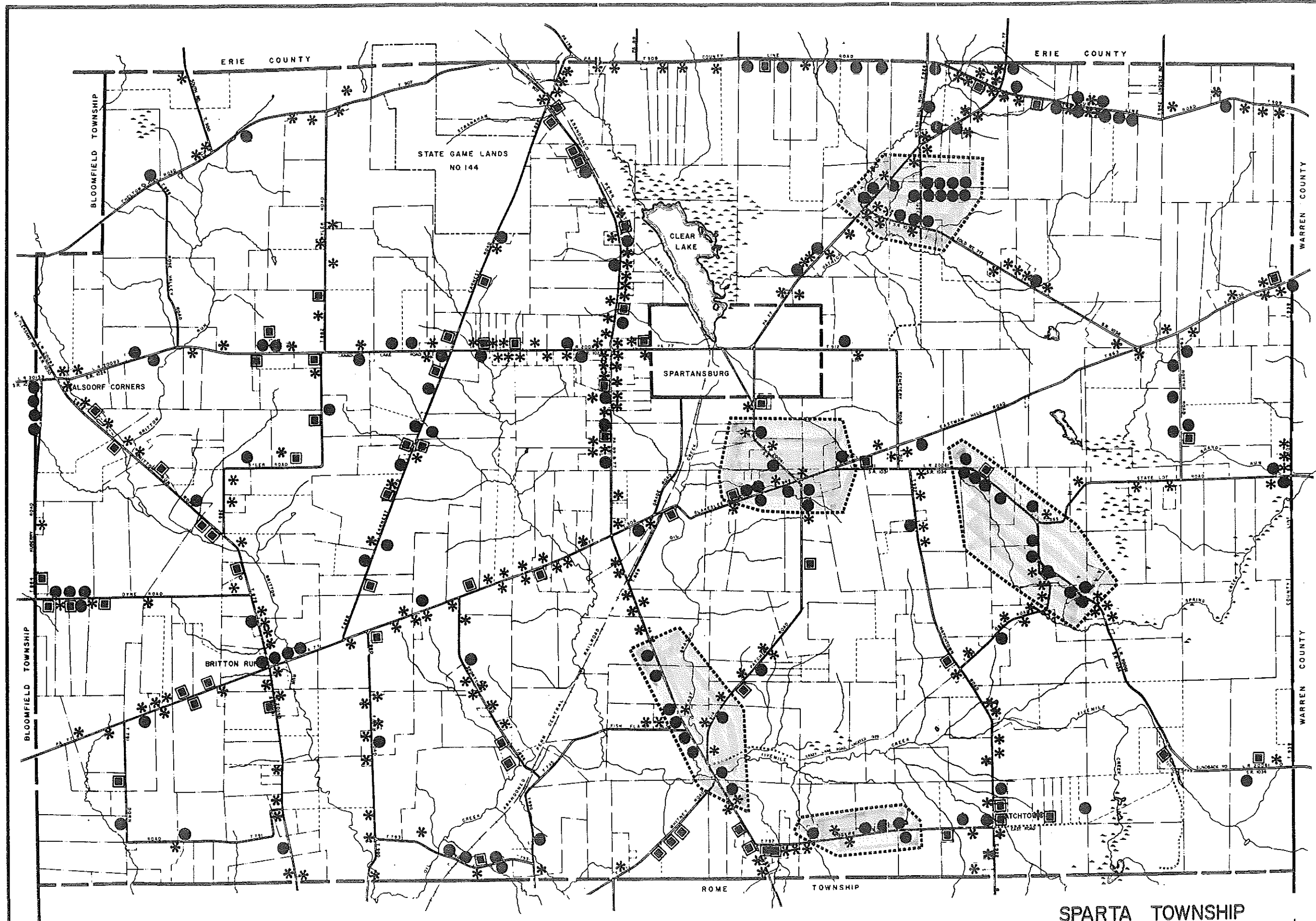
OTHER HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

The following information in *Tables 13, 14, and 15* was compiled from the 1990 U.S. Census. In each of the following tables, Sparta Township information is compared with Countywide census information. Some interesting differences between the Township's and the County's housing stocks emerge from these comparisons. Approximately 84% of the occupied housing units in Sparta Township are owner occupied compared with 73% countywide. Another interesting housing characteristic unique to Sparta Township is the average number of persons occupying housing units. The average number in Sparta Township is 3.64 compared to the county-wide average of 2.6. This figure is high even when compared to the neighboring municipalities as illuminated in *Table 14*.

Table 13

Housing Units by Occupancy

| OCCUPANCY | # IN TOWNSHIP | % IN TOWNSHIP | % IN COUNTY |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Owner Occupied | 355 | 83.5% | 73.4 % |
| Renter Occupied | 70 | 16.5% | 26.6% |
| Total Occupied Units | 425 | 100.0% | 100.0% |



HOUSES CONDITION RATED

- * GOOD-EXCELLENT
- FAIR
- POOR

AREA OF CONCENTRATED HOUSES IN FAIR & POOR CONDITION

HOUSING CONDITION SURVEY

MAP 10

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SCALE 1" = 1000

PREPARED BY THE CRAWFORD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION PROPERTY LINE RECORD AS OF 6-27-1953



Table 14

Density Within Occupied Housing Units

| MUNICIPALITY | % OF HOUSING UNIT WITH MORE THAN ONE PERSON PER ROOM | NUMBER OF PERSONS PER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNIT |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Sparta Township | 11.5% | 3.64 |
| Rome Township | 8.3% | 3.43 |
| Athens Township | 2.5% | 2.88 |
| Bloomfield Township | 2.2% | 2.90 |
| Spartansburg Borough | 0.0% | 2.85 |
| Crawford County | 1.8% | 2.60 |

Table 15

Housing Units by Type

| HOUSING TYPE | # IN TOWNSHIP | % IN TOWNSHIP | % IN COUNTY |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Single Family Dwelling | 381 | 73.9% | 69.1 % |
| Multi Family Dwelling | 6 | 1.2% | 13.8% |
| Mobile Home/Trailer | 101 | 19.6% | 15.9% |
| Other | 27 | 5.2% | 1.2% |
| Total # of Units | 515 | 100.0% | 100.0% |

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Housing affordability is based upon two factors: housing costs and household incomes. Because most of the data in the 1990 Census is now at least 7 years old, listing median purchase and rental costs for housing would give one an inaccurate impression of the housing market in Sparta Township. One way of determining the affordability of housing in the Township is to look at the ratio of housing costs (mortgage, rent, etc.) to annual household income. *Table 16* shows household income, median housing value, and median rent for Sparta Township, Crawford

County, and Pennsylvania. The rental index is the proportion of income that rental costs would amount to for a median family. Thus, for the whole of Crawford County, tenants spend more of their income on housing than in the Township. Purchase Unit Indexes were derived from the proportion that median household income made of median owner-specified value. It can be concluded that housing affordability is not as much of a problem for Township residents than for the whole of Crawford County or of Pennsylvania.)

Table 16

Housing Affordability Indexes for Sparta Township, Crawford County, and Pennsylvania (1989)

| | MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME | ANNUAL RENT | RENT INDEX | MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE | PURCHASE UNIT INDEX |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Sparta Twp. | \$ 24,559 | \$ 1,824 | 7.42 | \$ 37,500 | 65.49 |
| Crawford Co. | 23,083 | 2,520 | 10.91 | 43,200 | 53.43 |
| Pennsylvania | 29,069 | 3,864 | 13.29 | 69,700 | 41.70 |

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

This section of the plan provides the Township the opportunity to collect and summarize information on the facilities and service systems fulfilling “community” needs in the resident’s lives. The following narrative and *Map 11* provide this information.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Board of Township Supervisors: Sparta Township is a Township of the Second Class under Pennsylvania law. It has all the government powers except those in the area of education. Three township supervisors are elected “at large” by township residents for six year terms, and these supervisors exercise all administrative and legislative powers. One supervisor is designated as Township Roadmaster. The roadmaster’s responsibility is to oversee the physical maintenance of all Township roads and bridges. In addition, the Township employs one full and one part time person to maintain the Township’s roads. The Township also employs a part-time secretary.

In addition to employed staff, the township has numerous elected offices which serve the Township, those of: tax collector, assessor and auditor (three auditors are elected). The elected Board of Township Supervisors also use the services of a solicitor (on retainer) and a sewage enforcement officer. These positions are used only on an “as-needed” basis.

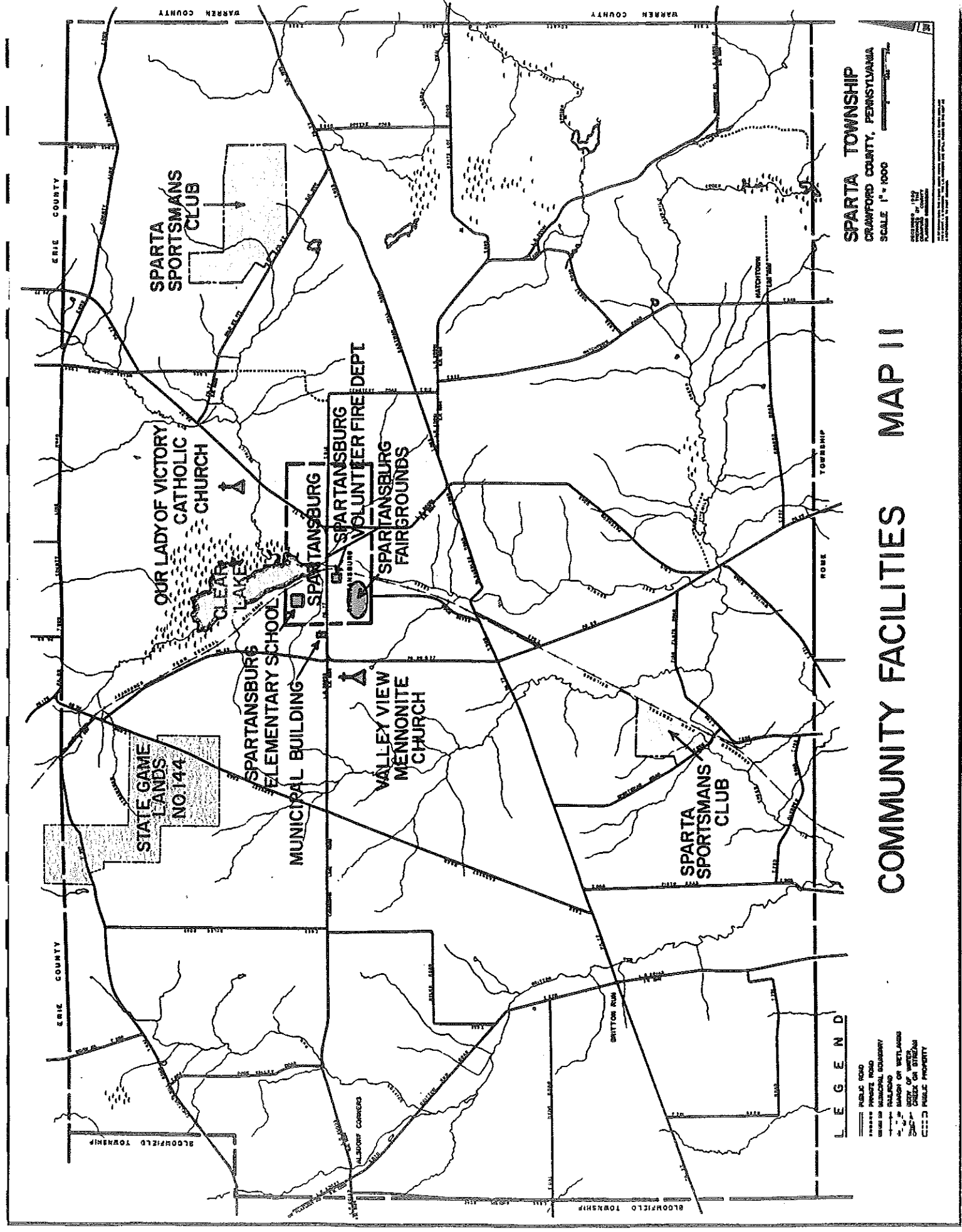
Planning Commission: In 1992 the Sparta Township Supervisors passed an ordinance that created the Sparta Township Planning Commission. The Planning Commission consists of five members. They have been primarily involved in the formulation of the Township’s Comprehensive Plan.

Township Property and Equipment: Sparta Township maintains a Township Building located on the north side of PA Route 77 immediately west of Spartansburg Borough. The building is used for supervisors meetings, planning commission meetings and the storage of maintenance vehicles. The office of the Township Secretary is in a private residence.

The Township owns a variety of commercial and office equipment along with attachments for road maintenance and winter snow removal.

WATER AND SEWER

There is no public sewer or water in or in the immediate vicinity of Sparta Township. The Borough of Spartansburg, however completed an Act 537 Plan that proposes the installation of a sanitary sewer system that would serve 170 homes and businesses in the Borough. The Borough



- LEGEND**
- PUBLIC ROAD
 - PRIVATE ROAD
 - MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
 - TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
 - MARKET OR WETLANDS
 - CHURCH OR OTHER
 - PUBLIC PROPERTY

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
 CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 SCALE 1" = 1000'

COMMUNITY FACILITIES MAP II

anticipates to have this system in place by 2004. This system would potentially place many Township residents within a financially feasible distance to tap into the Borough's sewer system.

OTHER UTILITIES

In terms of electric power, Sparta Township is served by the GPU Penelec. The National Fuel Company (Pittsburgh) provides natural gas service to a limited number of township residents. Township residents are served by the GTE North, Inc. telephone system. The General Telephone Equipment company is based in Ohio and serves the general Erie area and the very northern municipalities within Crawford County.

POLICE PROTECTION

Sparta Township is entirely dependent on the Pennsylvania State Police for protection services. The State Police are based at the Corry Barracks in Erie County.

FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Spartansburg Volunteer Fire Department and Relief Association maintains a building in Spartansburg Borough. Their service include all of Sparta Township, Spartansburg Borough, and the eastern third of Rome Township. The fire department relies on a network of wet and dry hydrants to supply its vehicles. The department is planning to add a bay to its station in Spartansburg. The fire department also provides ambulance service for the same area. All calls for the fire department and ambulance service are dispatched through the Crawford County 9-1-1 Office in the Courthouse in Meadville.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Township residents make use of various waste management techniques. Some Township residents have available to them the 'orange bag' system. Orange bags are purchases at local hardware stores in the area (10 bags for approximately \$24.00) and the bags are picked up by Waste Management of Meadville and Erie. Materials within the township for recycling (i.e. plastics, newsprint, tin cans, etc.) are collected every second Tuesday of the month at the Sparta Township Building. Many residents must rely entirely on burning, composting, and other techniques to dispose of solid waste.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Township is part of the Corry School District. None of the schools which the township's youth attend are located in Sparta Township. Elementary school age children attend Sparta Elementary School in Spartansburg Borough. Junior and Senior High School age kids attend Corry High School in Corry 6 miles to the north.

RECREATION AND PARKS

The Township does not provide any recreation programs nor does it own or maintain park properties. Township residents do, however, have access to several active and passive recreation facilities in the area.

Sparta Fairgrounds: This facility, which is located on Jefferson Street in Spartansburg Borough, has two ball fields, a volleyball court, and picnic facilities

Sparta Elementary School: The school, which is located in the Borough has two ball fields.

Sparta Sportsman's Club: The Sparta Sportsman's Club owns two large parcels of land in the Township. The 85 acre site on Sportsman Road has shooting ranges for archery, shotguns and rifles. There is also acreage available for hunting. The Club also owns 266 acres of land in the northeast portion of the Township on PA Route 77. This land is undeveloped and available for hunting.

State Game Land #144: This wooded area is located in the northwestern portion of the Township and is open to the public for hunting and other uses.

Clear Lake: Clear Lake is a 280 acre lake formed by impoundment of the waters of the East Branch of Oil Creek. It is a popular fishing destination. Although the dam is located in Spartansburg Borough, the lake extends into the Township. The lake surface is in control of the Clear Lake Authority under a 99 year lease arrangement. The lake is currently drawn down, but funding is in place to rehabilitate the dam and restore the lake to its original level.

CHURCHES

In Sparta Township, the churches provide social and recreational support to Township residents as well. There are two churches located in the Township. They are Valley View Mennonite Church and Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church. There are also three churches in Spartansburg Borough. They are Spartansburg & Missionary Alliance Church, Spartansburg United Methodist Church, and a local Baptist Church.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

- To reject the idea of distinct separations between varying types of land use believing that in Sparta Township, residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial activities, on the scale that they are likely to develop, may exist in varied patterns and side by side where lot sizes and distance requirements are observed.
- To encourage medium and large scale residential developments, such as subdivisions and mobile home parks, to locate in such proximity to Spartansburg Borough as to allow for the feasible extension of public sewerage at a future date.
- Conflicting non-farm land uses shall be discouraged in areas where productive agriculture exists by discouraging paved roads and public utilities in agricultural areas.
- Lands which have no concentration of active farm operations, and which are located outside the area feasible to be served by any future public sewerage, shall be encouraged to develop for low density uses in keeping with constraints on development implicit in the land itself.
- To encourage existing agricultural activities to remain functioning and to promote their expansion where possible.
- To discourage concentrated, large scale commercial activities, such as a shopping center from located in the Township.
- To recognize Spartansburg Borough as the primary retail and service center in the area and to target appropriate businesses to locate on the Borough's main street.
- To hold development densities low in areas of the Township which are accessed by gravel roads on steep gradients.
- Subdivision activity within Sparta Township shall be regulated to ensure that acceptable standards are adhered to in all new residential development and to protect the natural quality of the area from unwise exploitation.
- Funding from the Community Development Block Grants and HOME program should be regularly pursued to target housing rehabilitation for Low and Moderate Income persons in the Township.

THE PLAN

LAND USE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Of all the elements that constitute a comprehensive plan, no other is more important than the land use plan. The goal of this land use plan is to provide a framework for future growth by recognizing that Sparta Township is a rural township and that such industries as agriculture and forestry will continue be the mainstays of the local economy for the near term future. Because future residential growth is anticipated to continue, this primary goal of this land use plan is to preserve existing agricultural activity and direct moderate or heavy non-agricultural land uses to locate near Spartansburg Borough.

The land use plan and accompanying maps are the result of a Township-wide inventory of existing land uses provided in the background portion of this comprehensive plan. In addition, the other analyses such as the studies of population, transportation, physical features, economics, etc. were used to make future land use determinations. The general land use categories in this section are mapped out on the accompanying Land Use Map. It is important to note that this plan and accompanying maps are recommendations and do not constitute a zoning ordinance.

- **Objective 1:** To encourage existing agricultural activities to remain functioning and to promote their expansion where possible, but not to consider residential activities incompatible with agricultural activity..

Policy: Support efforts in the County to set up an agricultural Easement Purchase Program in Crawford County. The Farmland Protection Board of the PA Department of Agriculture has a program to purchase Agricultural Easements from farmers to ensure that non-agricultural development of the affected property is prevented. This program benefits the farmers in the form of a cash infusion. The purchase price of the easement is determined by an independent licensed real estate appraiser and based on the difference between the market value and agricultural value of the land. The program is absolutely voluntary and would cost Sparta Township and Crawford County nothing. To enact the program in Crawford County, the Commissioners would have to set up an Agricultural Land Preservation Board which would review Easement Purchase Program applications based on very strict guidelines.

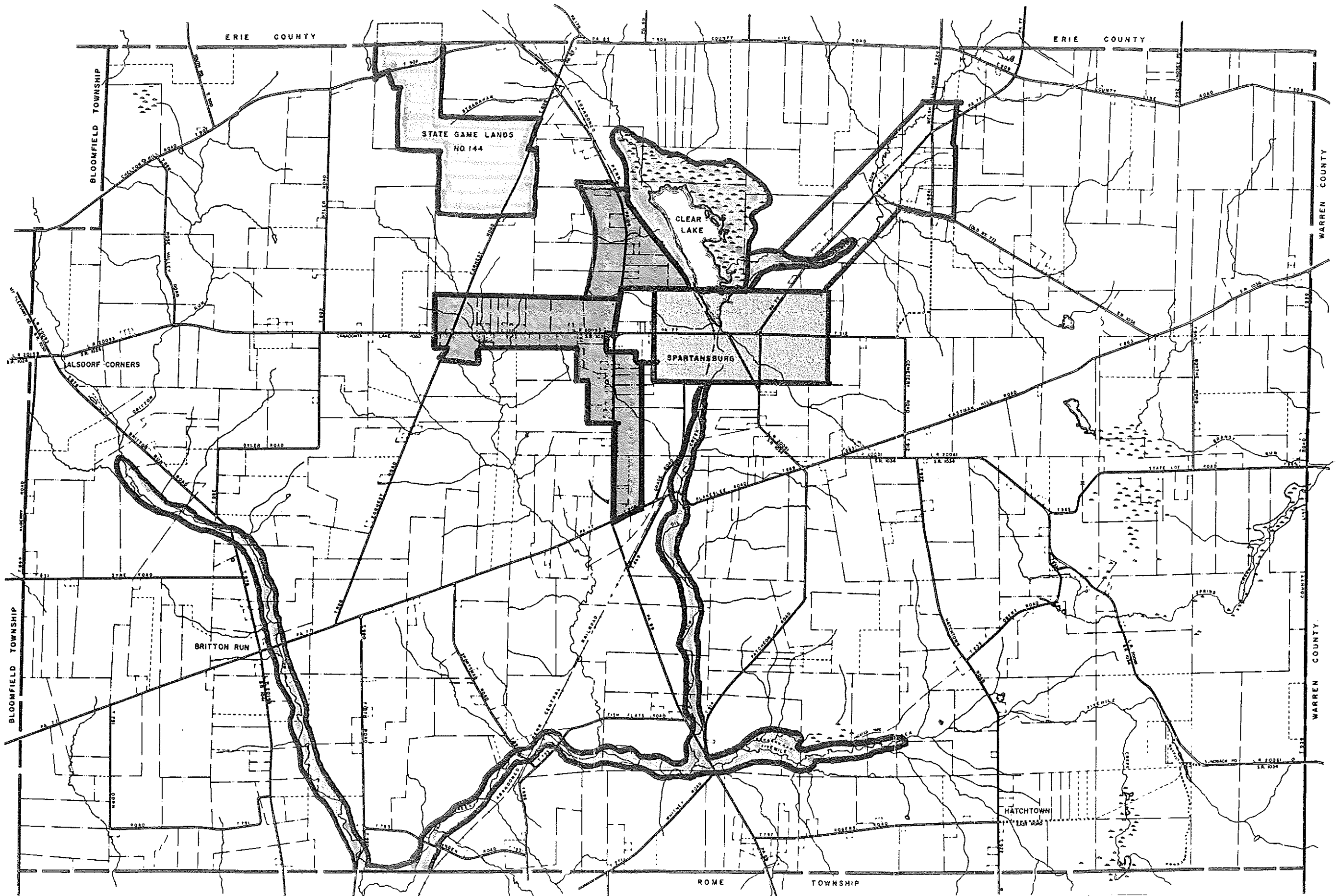
- **Objective 2:** To encourage medium and large scale residential (subdivisions and mobile home parks), commercial and industrial developments, to locate in such proximity to Spartansburg Borough as to allow for the feasible extension of public sewerage at a future date. According to the Population Analysis portion of this plan, it is projected that the Township, at its current rate of population growth, should expect at least 55 new households by the year 2010. Instead of the scattered nature of Township residential growth which puts a strain on rural Township roads, this objective urges the concentration of new residential development to occur in proximity to the Borough





- **Objective 3:** To reject the idea of distinct separations between varying types of land use believing that in Sparta Township, residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial activities, on the scale that they are likely to develop, may exist in varied patterns and side by side where lot sizes and distance requirements are observed. The land use classifications listed below reflect more the scale and concentration of development rather than specific land uses permitted in each area.
- **Objective 4:** Enact a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance to ensure that future residential lots and lot patterns are efficiently ordered and front new or existing public roads.

LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

The following land uses correspond to *Map 12* and provide a framework for future land use for approximately the next 15 years.

- **Agriculture:** The Agricultural District includes areas where active agricultural activities exist or where cleared fields exist that could with relative ease, be put into productive use. Also included in this district are wooded areas that support forestry activities and passive recreation. The purpose of this District is to promote the expansion of agricultural activities wherever possible and to strongly discourage the location of uses that would be harmful to its continuation. Public facilities such as sewer and water systems should not be extended into this area. Public roads should be maintained in a rural character; bituminous pavement is not considered a requirement. New public roads serving residential developments should not be located in this area. Non agricultural uses, particularly rural residential developments, locating in this area should be prepared to accept the primacy of agricultural activity.
- **Rural Development:** Rural Development areas are designated in areas of the Township lacking land and soils suitable to agriculture activities and outside an area feasible to connect onto any future Spartansburg sewer system. Rural Development areas are meant to accommodate varied building and land use activities. These activities should all be developed with a distinctly rural character and at reasonably large distances from each other. No large concentrations of commercial, industrial or residential uses should be sited in this land use area. All activities should be in the scale with the rural environment of the Township.
- **Community Development:** Community Development areas are situated in proximity with Spartansburg Borough where possible future sewer extensions are feasible. These areas are set aside for medium density commercial, residential, and industrial land uses that cannot be accommodated by on-lot septic systems.
- **Conservation:** Conservation areas include those situated in floodplains and wetlands where development is greatly restricted. Also included in these areas is State Gameland #144.



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
|  | Community Development |  | Agriculture |
|  | Conservation |  | Rural Development |

**FUTURE
LAND USE PLAN**

MAP 12

SPARTA TOWNSHIP
CRAWFORD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 SCALE 1" = 1000

PREPARED BY THE
 CRAWFORD COUNTY
 PLANNING COMMISSION
 PROPERTY LINE RECORD AS OF MAY 1993
 IF ANY PART OF THIS MAP IS FOUND TO BE IN ERROR, THE ENTIRE MAP SHALL BE VOID AND THE COMMISSION SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY REVISIONS TO THIS MAP.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Sparta Township is cut almost diagonally by PA Route 77 from the southwest to the northeast. Perhaps not surprisingly, this route has the highest Average Daily Traffic totals. By contrast, the overwhelming balance of the Township is quite rural in character and gravel roads are part of that character. For this reason, this plan avoids a paving schedule in favor of maintaining the Township's existing gravel roads to the Township's best ability given budget realities. One transportation characteristic unique to Sparta Township (as well as numerous other rural townships across northwest Pennsylvania) is the high incidence of non-motorized traffic - specifically "buggy" traffic associated with the Amish.

- **Objective 1:** To accept the Federal Functional Classification System as a proper way to classify highways with respect to their roles in the overall highway network for the Township. If the Township should adopt a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, this System would affect the amount of right-of-way each road category should have.

Most people recognize that the local highway system is part of a *larger overall network* which ties into the national network of highways and byways. Moreover, most people intuitively understand that individual roads in this network serve different purposes. The network concept is predicated upon the principle that, given the different purposes roads serve, there evolves over time a "hierarchy" of needs across this network. In Pennsylvania, PennDOT accepts the federal highway system for describing and categorizing its roads. It would serve Sparta Township well to adopt this classification system since, by definition, the Township contains Minor Arterials, Major and Minor Collectors, Collectors and Local Access Roads. Under such a system, each road in the overall network would be classified as follows:

Table 17

Federal Classification System and its Application in Sparta Township

| ROAD CLASSIFICATION | AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (ADT) <i>(where such data is available)</i> |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Minor Arterial: | |
| 1. PA Route 77 | 1,703 (west) 1,853 (near west) 2,420 (east) |
| • Major Collector: | |
| 1. PA Route 89 | 640 (north) 852 (south) |

- **Minor Collector:**
 - 1. Canadotha Lake Road 782
 - 2. Sundback Road 213
- **Collector:**
 - 1. Rogers Road
 - 2. Whitney Road
 - 3. Fish Flats Road
 - 4. Glynden Road
 - 5. Firth Road
 - 6. Dorn Road
 - 7. Britton Run Road 56
 - 8. Sportsman Road
 - 9. Dyne Road
 - 10. Byler Road
 - 11. Rose Hill Road
 - 12. Chelton Hill Road
 - 13. South Road
 - 14. Blakeslee Road
 - 15. Grade Road
 - 16. Patcheon Road
 - 17. Cemetery Road
 - 18. Earnst Road
 - 19. Hatchtown Road
 - 20. Obert Road
 - 21. State Lot Road
 - 22. Smith Eastman Road
 - 23. Welsh Hill Road
 - 24. Boythe Road
 - 25. Erie County Line Road
 - 26. Lindsey road
- **Local Access:**
 - 1. Five Mile Road
 - 2. East Road
 - 3. Welsh Hill Road (extreme south end)
 - 4. Unnamed Road (in southwest corner)

The above inventor represents some seventy-five (75)-miles of roadway broken downs as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Township Road Miles | 47.96 miles |
| State Highway System | 25.60 miles |
| Private Roads (<i>est</i>) | <u>2.00 miles</u> |
| TOTAL ROADS | 75.56 Miles |

One other thing that should be mentioned in terms of supporting the above contention. If the Township were to adopt a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, this Ordinance would dictate the Right-of-Way each road category should have.

- **Objective 2:** To maintain all Township roads in gravel surfacing unless, finances permitting, the density of development exceeds an average of one use for each 400 feet of road frontage. From the above, it can be seen that two-thirds of all roads in the Township are Township owned and Township maintained. Another way of viewing the same data is to say that of the seventy-five miles of roadway in the Township, almost fifty are either gravel or a dirt/gravel mix. From a standpoint of adopting a strategy revolving around budgetary issues, the Township should consider adopting a formal schedule for grading road profiles and ditches predicated upon their ADT's and incidence of heavy truck traffic.

It would also be in the Township's interest to engage private-sector lumber companies in an attempt to have them contribute to the overall maintenance of local roads they are known to frequently travel. These roads, the roads that see a great deal of logging trucks, also merit special attention in terms of their maintenance.

- **Objective 3:** To effectuate safety improvement and needed major repair or replacement (realignment) projects in the road network with a priority given to those intersections identified in the Transportation Analysis portion of this Comprehensive Plan as "Problem Intersections." The following are a list of transportation project priorities:
 - **Project 1: PA Rout 77/89 and Canadotha Lake Road:** Either the geometry of this intersection should be altered or shoulders should be installed on the area of the curve. An intermediate measure would be to install rumble strips at each approach to this intersection. This project should be a priority on the PennDOT's Twelve Year Program.
 - **Project 2: PA Route 77/89 at Blakeslee Road:** The curve at Route 89 south of Route 77 should be realigned. The Township or its engineer should perform a preliminary analysis to determine if a realignment can be achieved that would stay within the existing Right of Way. A preliminary cost estimate should be an integral part of this analysis. Once it is determined whether or not this realignment will require additional ROW, the Township should advance it as a priority on the Twelve Year Program, or attempt to have it addressed through the Crawford County PADOT Maintenance initiative.
 - **Project 3: PA 77 and Sportsman Road:** This intersection is problematic for a couple of reasons. Due to a slight elevational change to the west of the intersection proper, this intersection has the characteristics of a "blind corner." To remedy the situation, the Township or its engineer should perform a feasibility study to determine what it would take to realign Sportsman Road so that it ties into PA Route 77 at some point west of its present location. This

would likely involve a property transfer from the nearby landowners. In any event, the Township should advance this potential project on the Twelve Year Program.

- **Project 4: Sundback Road and Blakeslee Road:** At a minimum, additional signage should precede the curve on Sunback Road as it ties into Blakeslee Road. The Township should engage its engineer to develop strategies to deal with the problems associated with horizontal curves near this intersection.
- **Project 5: PA Route 77 and Welsh Hill Road:** This blind intersection should be placed within the context of the Twelve Year Program.
- **Objective 4:** To support the improvement and addition of paved shoulders on State maintained roads identified as having moderate and heavy non-motorized traffic in the Transportation Analysis portion of this Comprehensive Plan. Arguably, Sparta Township sees the highest incidence of non-motorized travel in Crawford County. *Map 9* identifies the areas along State Routes that see the greatest “buggy travel”. The Township should interface with the PADOT Crawford County Maintenance Supervisor to investigate the likelihood to have the existing shoulders in and around these areas improved to the point where they would support buggy and pedestrian travel. The Township, or its engineer, should set up a priority list of areas that should be developed first, and follow a long range improvement program that will eventually address all areas that need such improvements.
- **Objective 5:** Restrict the future proliferation of private roads through the use of a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. It is not in the best interests of the Township or its citizens to have an inordinate amount of private roads as part of its road network. For obvious reasons, private roads present difficulties to the Township and, since they lack the profiles and Right of Way of Township roads, represent something of a safety hazard in terms of turning movements on and off private roads which is made even more dire since many of these roads have predominately non-motorized travel.

If the Township were to adopt a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, then there would be a built-in mechanism that would restrict the utility of private roads. Moreover, a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance would standardize the profile and cross section of any road that were to be dedicated over the Township for public use.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND HOUSING PLAN

In a rural township such as Sparta, it has never been customary for many public services to be provided to its citizenry. The responsibilities of the Township Supervisors in rural townships has been chiefly in the area of road maintenance. One issue that may affect the Township's involvement in community facilities in the next 20 years is the installation of a public sewer system in Spartansburg Borough. As mentioned earlier in the Plan, the Borough completed an Act 537 Plan that proposes the installation of a sanitary sewer system that would serve 170 homes and businesses in the Borough by the year 2004. This system would potentially place many Township residents within a financially feasible distance to tap into the Borough's sewer system. The first two objectives provide policies to guide the Township on how to deal with the possibility of public sewer lines extending into Sparta Township.

As mentioned earlier in this plan, housing in Sparta Township has been strictly a private sector concern. Sparta Township has no building codes, although at the time this plan is being compiled, Pennsylvania is considering the adoption of statewide BOCA codes that would be enforced locally. This plan addresses what was identified as the primary housing problem in the Housing Analysis earlier in this Plan. That is the large number of houses in the Township that are in fair and poor condition.

- **Objective 1:** To recognize the portion of the Township northeast of Spartansburg Borough along PA Route 77 as a possible area of the Township that would benefit from the provision of public sewerage. This area was identified in the Transportation Analysis portion of this plan as having the highest Average Daily Traffic counts in the Township. This corridor provides a link between the Sparta Region and the City of Corry. There is also a number of suspected malfunctioning septic systems along this corridor that could benefit from the provision of public sewer.
- **Objective 2:** To discourage the extension of public sewerage in areas of the Township with a high Amish population. Sewer line extensions become economically feasible when all parties along such an extension tap in. Funding sources for public improvements, such as PennVEST and CDBG require that the municipality enact a mandatory tap-in ordinance requiring that all persons and businesses within a certain distance from a sewer line extension, connect into the system. It is likely that the Supervisors will want to avoid any sewer line extensions into areas of the Township where a majority of residents strongly oppose such actions.
- **Objective 3:** To continue to support the system of wet and dry hydrants in the Township as an effective way of controlling fires in a rural area. *Map 13* shows the location of existing wet and dry hydrants and proposed locations of new hydrants.
- **Objective 4:** Promote the maintenance of Sparta Township's housing stock by regularly pursuing funding through the HOME Program and the Competitive CDBG Program to

target housing rehabilitation for Low and Moderate Income persons in the Township. The Sparta Township Planning Commission and the Township Supervisors should jointly develop and send a letter to the Crawford County Development Corporation expressing interest in a CDBG funded and CCDC administered housing rehabilitation program. Maximum grant amounts for a given program year have been traditionally set at \$250,000. This could fund 20 to 25 individual houses. Given the overwhelming Township need for housing rehabilitation, the Supervisors should prioritize very low income persons to take part in this program.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

The Sparta Township Comprehensive plan is a study which designates a recommended course for future development for this municipality. It should be viewed primarily as a framework for action; a flexible guide rather than a rigid document. It consists of a series of general concepts and specific recommendations in the fields of land use, housing, transportation, and community facilities. This guide for action section of the Plan will take those concepts and recommendations and establish short and long range implementation strategies.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Township Supervisors should formally adopt the Sparta Township Comprehensive Plan. The adoption process must follow the requirements of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247 of 1968 as amended). The adoption process includes proper advertisement, public hearings by the Township Planning Commission and Supervisors, and the submittal for review and comment by government agencies and surrounding municipalities (Crawford County, Corry School District, Spartansburg Borough, Rome Township, Bloomfield Township).

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE:

The Sparta Township Planning Commission should study the benefits of a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. If it is in the Township's interest to pursue such an ordinance, the Crawford County Planning Commission could provide the technical expertise to assist the Township Planning Commission in formulating the text for this ordinance. Upon completion, the Township Supervisors would need to formally adopt their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The adoption process must be in compliance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and follow the same procedures as the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

FUNDING STRATEGIES:

Most of the recommendations outlined in this Comprehensive Plan cost money. The following list provides potential funding sources that may be applicable to various plan components.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** Crawford County receives an entitlement of CDBG funds each year. This translates to roughly \$350,000 to be spent countywide on various projects. Sparta Township has tapped into this program to fund the

initial rehabilitation of the Fish Flats Bridge. This program also has a competitive component. This competitive program can be used for a housing rehab program or for larger projects that serve an urgent or compelling need.

What Qualifies: To qualify for this program, a potential project must meet one of three National Objectives – 51% of those served by the project must be of Low or Moderate Income, the project must relieve slum and blight, or the project must serve an urgent need.

Potential Projects: Fish Flats Bridge (phase II), Welsh Hill Road Bridge
Wet/Dry Hydrants
Township-wide Housing Rehab Program (Competitive)

Who to Contact: Crawford County Planning Commission
(814) 333-7341, or
Crawford County Development Corporation
(814) 337-8200

■ **Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME):** This Federal program is primarily used for individual owner occupied housing rehabilitation. The program can also apply to rental housing rehab projects of 4 units or less. There is a 25% local match component for all Federal HOME dollars spent.

What Qualifies: Must serve homeowners of Low or Moderate Income.

Potential Projects: Township-wide housing rehab program
Apartment rehab projects of 4 units or less that serve a Low to Moderate population

Who to Contact: Crawford County Planning Commission
(814) 333-7341, or
Crawford County Development Corporation
(814) 337-8200

