

Proposed Approval of Planned Sports Court (Basketball/Volleyball Half-Court)

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes a determination of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties by, and thus proposes approval of, a project planned and to be funded by the owners of a 44-acre property in the Green Springs National Historic Landmark District, Louisa County, Virginia: a family-use sports court measuring 30' x 50' in area.

For location map; site plan; ground-disturbance plan; elevation/schematic; site photos; and map of Area of Potential Effect, see pages that follow.

The NPS reviews the owners' plan (the review constituting the federal undertaking) under the terms of a 1973, NPS-managed conservation easement that it holds for their property. Stipulation 2 of the restrictions-section of the easement states that the property owner may propose new structures "appropriately incidental to a single-family dwelling," and that construction may occur if "the prior written approval of the Grantee [NPS] to such action shall have been obtained." Stipulation 2 also states that proposed structures must "in the opinion of the Grantee, be in keeping with the historic character of the manor house, its setting and the Character of the Green Springs Historic District."

This property is among 34 described as having "Outstanding" contributing-status to the Landmark District by the National Register of Historic Places. Specifically, the National Register identifies the main house—the "manor house" of the 1973 easement—on the property as "[e]xemplary of the late nineteenth century 'Stick Style,'" including for its "turned finials and brackets at the ridge and eave lines of the cross gables" (National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form, Green Springs National Historic [Landmark] District, 1974, continuation page 19).

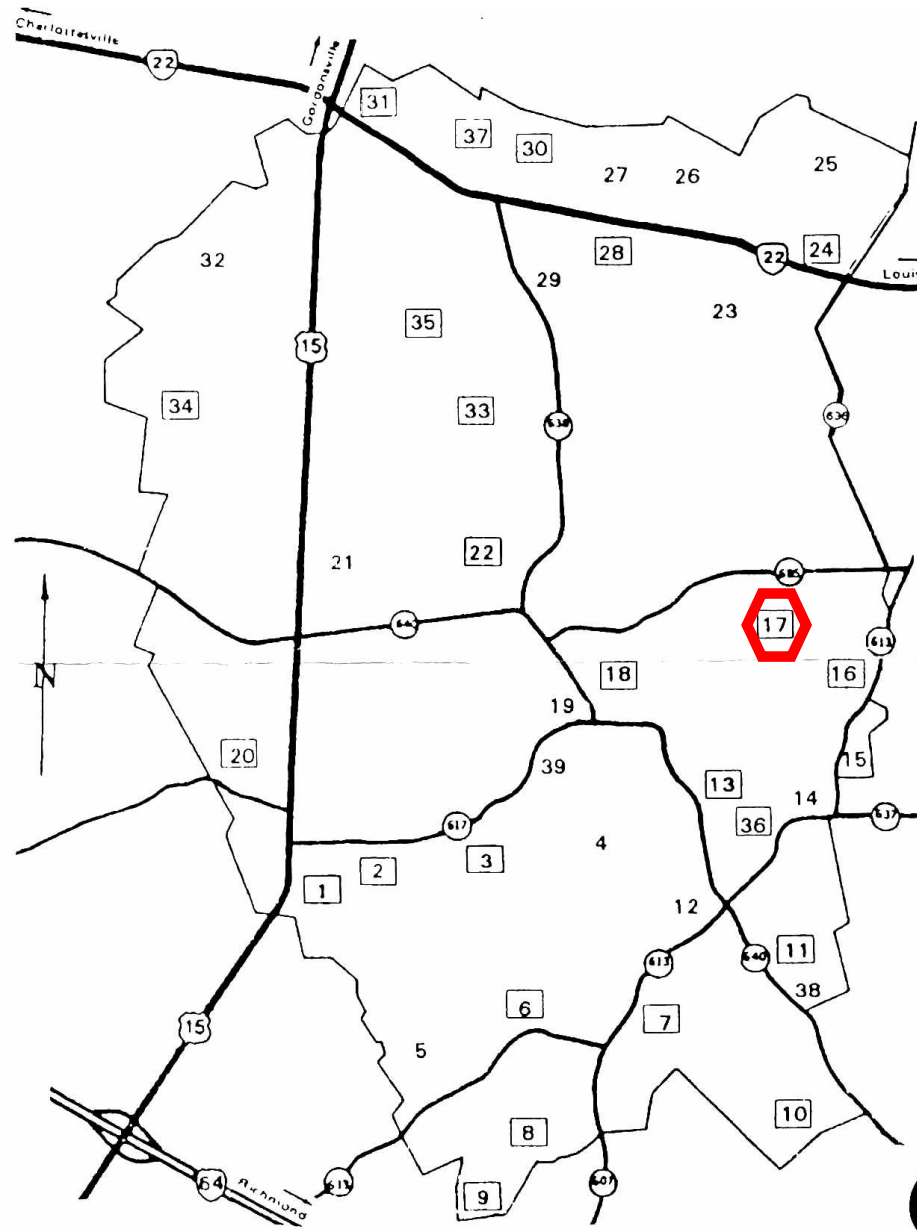
The sports court would be situated 230' southeast of the main house, surfaced in gray tile, and cover an area of 50' x 30'. The tile would be underlain by concrete (4 inches) and, under that, gravel (4 inches). The court would feature a clear basketball-backboard surmounting a pole, and an opposite pole for anchoring a tennis- or volleyball net—the tops of each being about 12' in height, with the poles colored black or dark brown. The only other colors would be the white striping in places on the court surface.

The sports court would not necessitate lighting, other utilities, fencing, or removal of any existing trees or shrubs.

The NPS Section-106 subject-area adviser for historic landscape architecture recommends an NPS determination of No Adverse Effect. Mature woods and a downslope location would visually screen the proposed court from the nearest public thoroughfare and from other properties in the Green Springs National Historic Landmark District. Downslope topography; trees; a one-story equipment-shed built c. 2012; and a pole-fenced, hedge-bordered garden also built c. 2012 would visually screen the court from the 1870's house and kitchen dependency, situated 230' distant as noted above. Despite the intervening, hedge-bordered garden, portions of the court might be visible from a windowless well-house (c. 1940) on the property. But a two-story barn built c. 2012 is situated immediately to the rear of and adjacent to the site of the court, and would thus form a gray colored backdrop to any portions of the court's surface (gray) and pair of poles (black or dark brown) visible from the well house.

The NPS Section-106 subject-area adviser for archeology likewise recommends an NPS determination of No Adverse Effect: “Based on the extensive landscaping and disturbance associated with the construction of the adjacent barn in 2012 the project area is not likely to have intact significant cultural resources.” The sports court would be situated on a sloping lawn that is currently about 30 inches higher at the west end of the proposed court than at its east end. To create an even grade, the court would thus necessitate excavation under the western half of its surface area—25 feet x 30 feet—to a depth of between 30 inches and one inch below current grade. Based on observations during a recent NPS field-visit, the area of the proposed court was extensively disturbed in c. 2012 for construction, grading, and landscaping of the two-story barn; one-story utility shed; and pole-fenced, hedge-bordered garden, and for their shared, gravel-surfaced parking area. As condition for the proposed No Adverse Effect determination, the archeologist recommends: “In the unlikely event that archaeological resources or features are encountered during construction of the basketball/volleyball court please contact NPS archaeologist.”

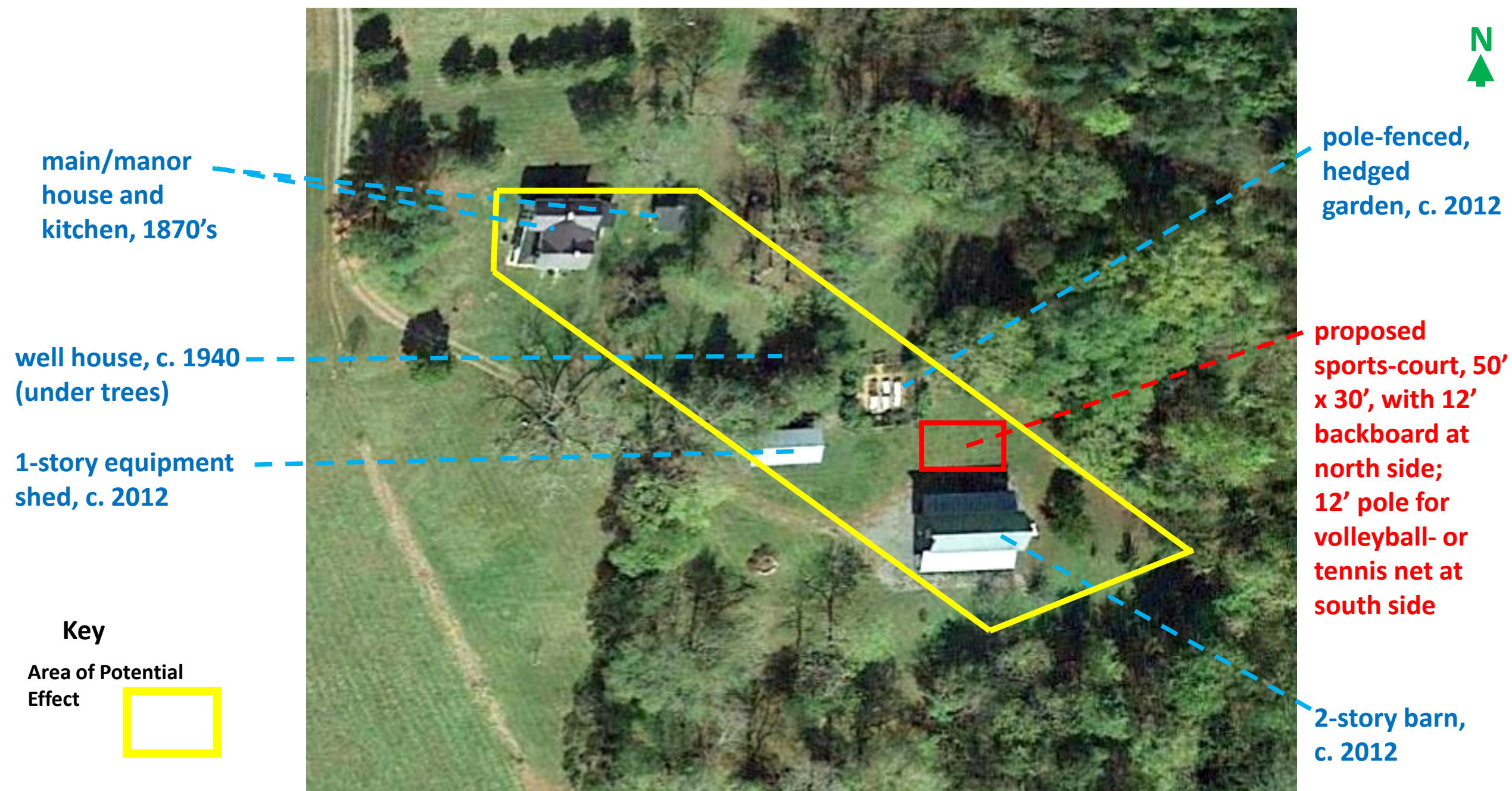
With the concurrence of the NPS Section 106 advisers, and by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, this review combines the Section 106 steps of: Initiation of Consultation; Identification of Historic Properties; and Assessment of Adverse Effects, as per the provision for requesting expedited consultation in 36 CFR 800.3(g).



**Location of Planned Sports-Court, Green Springs
National Historic Landmark District**



**Rear (East) Façade, 1870's Main/Manor House (Left) and Kitchen (Right) on Property:
Site of Planned Sports-Court Situated 250' Southeast of House, Behind Viewer**



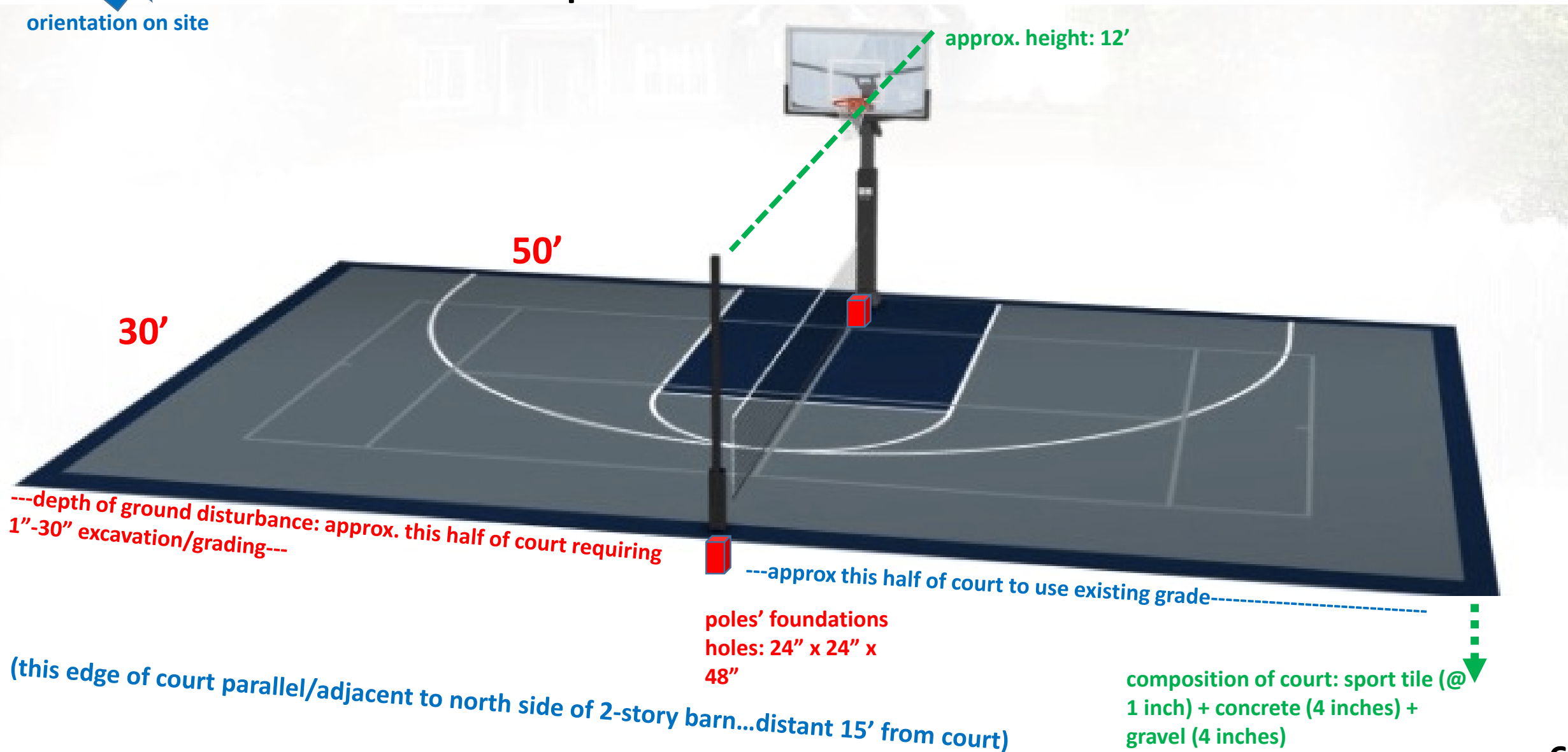
Site Plan and Area of Potential Effect: Proposed Sports-Court



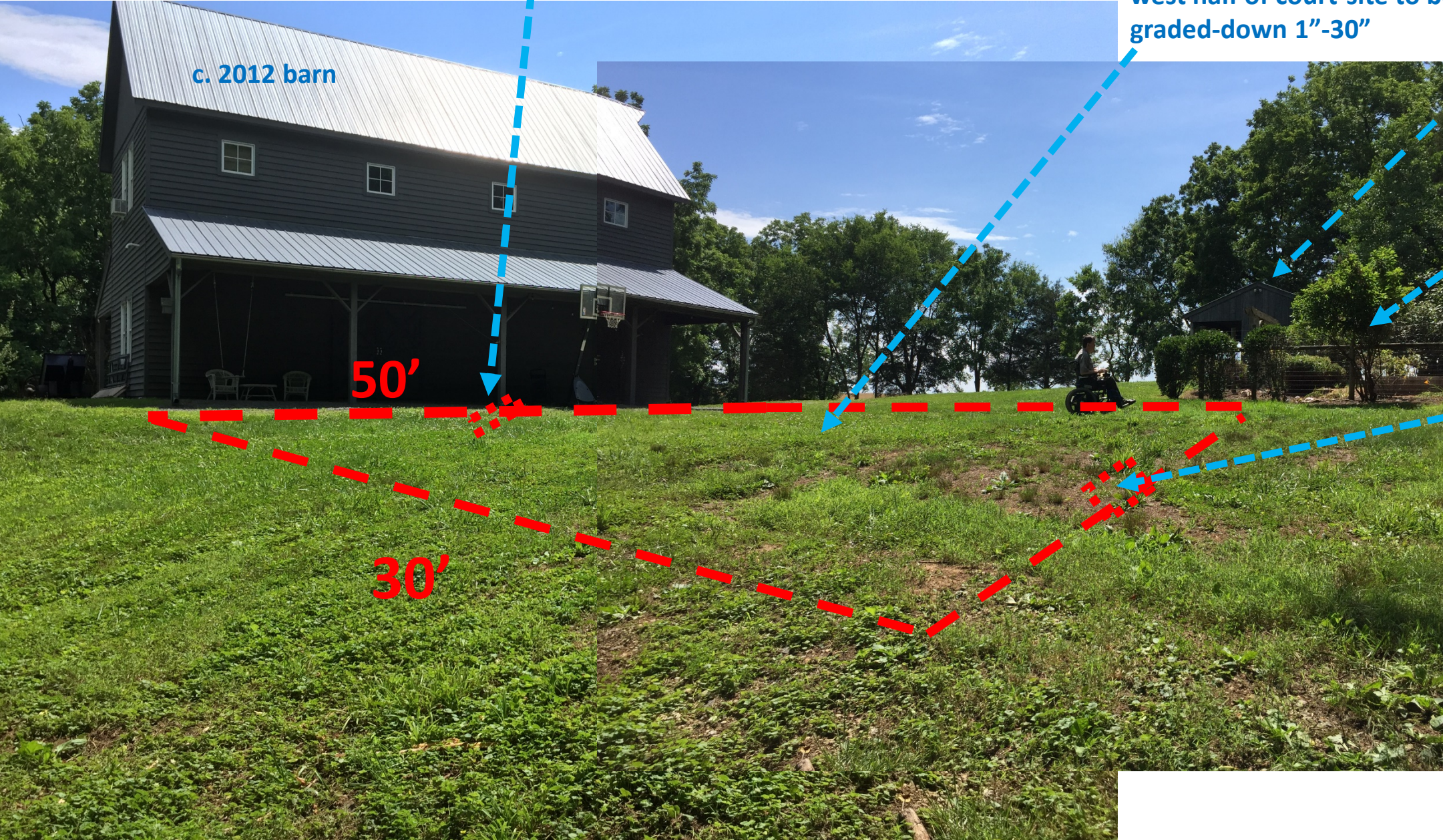
orientation on site

Sports Court: Proposed Ground-Disturbance, Proposed Colors

all colors gray and black, except for
white striping, etc. where shown



Proposed Sports-Court: Site Photo



c. 2012 barn

proposed foundation, net tie- in pole: 24" x 24" x 48"

west half of court-site to be graded-down 1"-30"

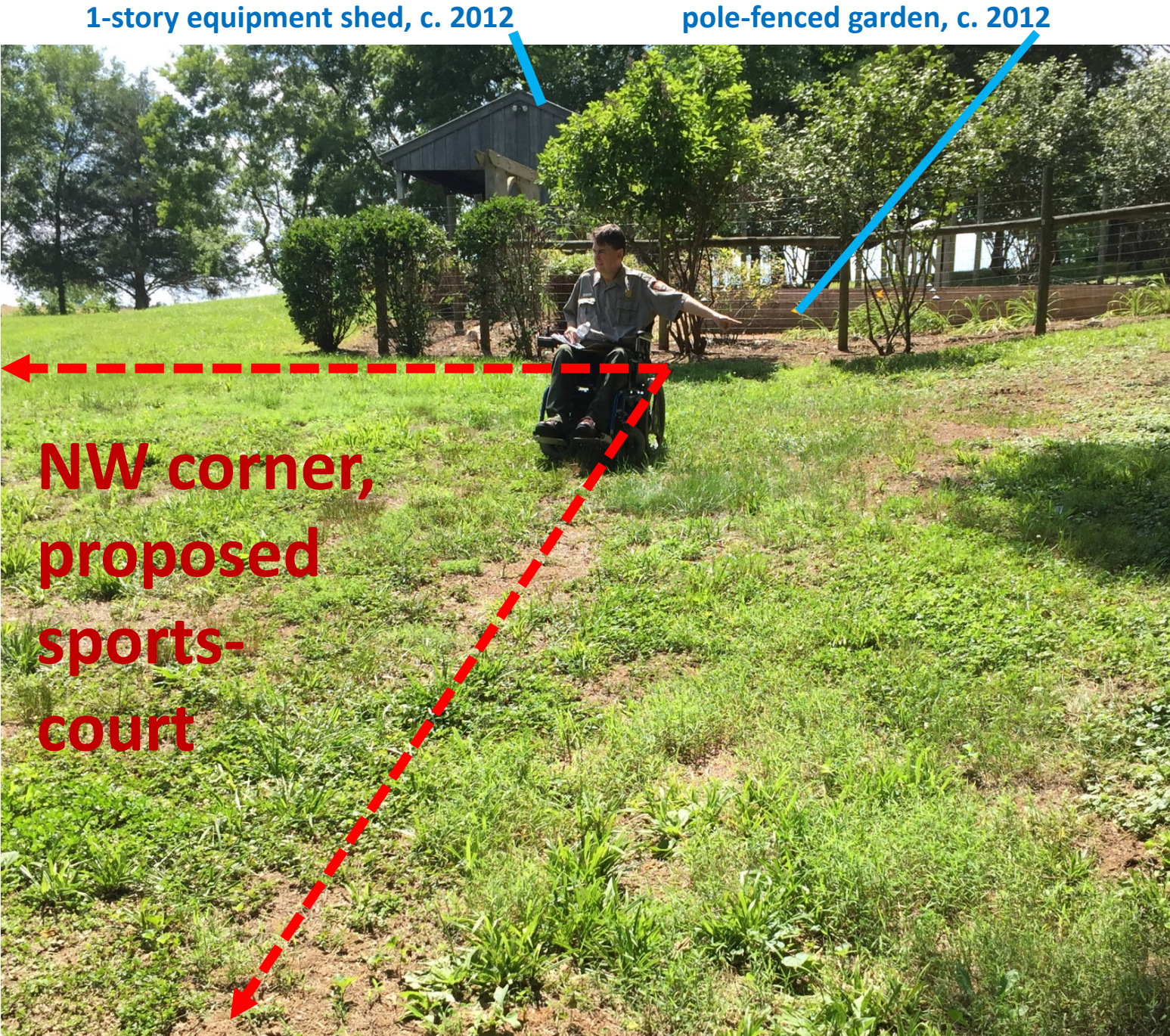
c. 2012 equipment shed

c. 2012 pole-fenced, hedged garden

proposed foundation, backboard-pole: 24" x 24" x 48"

North

Proposed Sports-Court: Patchy Vegetation in Area of Apparent, Existing Ground-Disturbance from c. 2012 Construction



1-story equipment shed, c. 2012

pole-fenced garden, c. 2012

North

2-story barn, c. 2012, to left (south), out of photo

NW corner, proposed sports-court

shed roof on 1st
story of c. 2012
2-story barn
(farthest roof in
background)

site of proposed
sports-court: behind
c. 2012 pole-fence
garden, 1940's well
house, and c. 2012
shed

pole-fenced,
hedged
garden, c. 2012

c. 1940 well house

roof-shadow
of 1870's house



1-story
equipment shed,
c. 2012

Existing Visual-
Screening
of Proposed
Sports-Court
from 1870's
House, Looking
Southeast
from House, at
Rear Porch