

Subject Specific Research Guide

Microfilm Copies of General Land Office Surveyor Field Note Transcriptions owned by Cass District Library Local History Branch

The transcriptions on these films show the measurements taken by the government surveyors, and document the physical and cultural features of the land just before European-American settlement took place.

The volumes contained on the reels owned by the Cass District Library contain the Government surveyor's field notes pertaining to Cass and surrounding Michigan counties (Berrien, Saint Joseph, and Van Buren).

The Cass District Library's Local History Branch is one of few, if not the sole public library outside the Library of Michigan that has a copy of these notes on microfilm.

These notes were the primary source used by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory and Michigan Department of Natural Resources to create the Pre-settlement Vegetation Maps of each Michigan county. An online version of the Pre-settlement Vegetation Map of Cass County, Michigan can be found here: <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/data/veg1800/cass.pdf>

Reel #255 – Government Land Office Plats [Michigan Territory, Township maps circa 1828-1830, for Cass, Berrien and surrounding counties].

Reel #6539 – Government Land Office Surveyors Field Notes Transcriptions. Start: Vol 23 T1-8S; R8-9W. End: Vol 24 T1-8S; R9-11W.

Reel #6540 – Government Land Office Surveyors Field Notes Transcriptions. Start: Vol 25 T1-8S; R11-12W; End: Vol 26 T1-8S; R12-13W.

Reel #6541 – Government Land Office Surveyors Field Notes Transcriptions. Start: Vol 27 T1-8S; R13-15W; End: Vol 28 T1-8S; R15-16W.

Reel #6542 – Government Land Office Surveyors Field Notes Transcriptions. Start: Vol 29 T1-8S; R16-18W; End: Vol 24 T1-8S; R9-11W.