SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES OF CLARK COUNTY, OHIO

By Richard A. Struble

Outwash resources Outwash resources underlying less than 25 feet of alluvium underlying less than 25 feet of till Outwash resources Kame resources

Sand and gravel pit, active (as of March 1986)

Boundary of deposit, dashed where approximate Water-well location

DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES OF CLARK COUNTY, OHIO

Water-well logs

REPORT OF INVESTIGATIONS NO. 137

Measured sections

3½°
62 MILS 1°48′
32 MILS UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH

Area east of the Little Miami River lies within the Virginia Military District Area west of the Little Miami River lies within the Between the Miamis

10,000-foot grid based on Ohio coordinate system, south zone

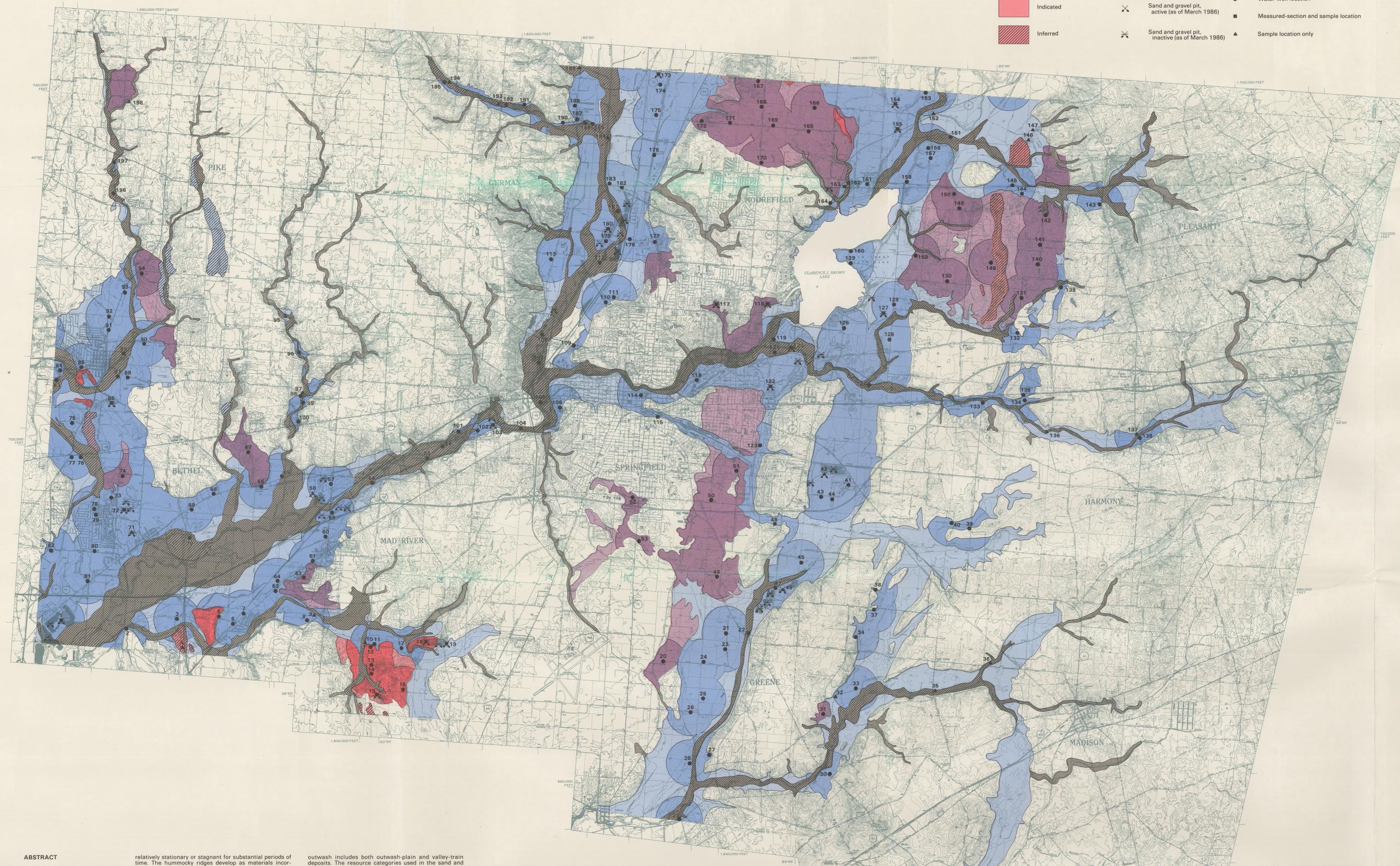
PHOTOTYPESETTING BY JEAN M. LESHER

Land lines based on the Great Miami River Base

VERTICAL SCALE 80 feet - 24 meters CARTOGRAPHIC DRAFTING BY EDWARD V. KUEHNLE

Gravel Shale Limestone

EXPLANATION 19 — Water-well or measured-section number - Depth in feet to unit contact - Sample interval (measured sections only; asterisk indicates stockpile sample) Water table (measured sections only; information not available for all sections)



Sand and gravel resources of Clark County, Ohio, are estimated at approximately 5.7 billion tons. Cumulative sand and gravel production from 1950 through 1985 has been approximately 30 million tons. The remaining sand and gravel resources of Clark County appear adequate to meet the aggregate needs of the county for well into the next century. Analyses of samples collected from widely spaced deposits throughout the county indicate that most of the remaining undeveloped sand and gravel resources will meet most construction and material specifications.

INTRODUCTION The occurrence of large quantities of good-quality sand and gravel in southwestern Ohio has played an important role in establishing this region of the state as an industrial and commercial center. The sand and gravel in Clark County are part of a larger resource of glacially derived sands and gravels which were deposited within the Great Miami River drainage area. The major portion of the reand tributaries of the Mad River and Buck Creek in Logan and Champaign Counties, the Mad River and the Little Miami River in Clark and Greene Counties, and the Great Miami River in Montgomery, Butler, and Hamilton Counties. This sand and gravel resource inventory of Clark County is one of a series of county reports intended to define the distribution, quantity, and quality of the sand and gravel deposits of Ohio. Clark County is located in southwestern Ohio. Springfield, the largest city, is centrally located in the county and is approximately 45 miles west of Columbus, 25 miles ortheast of Dayton, and 70 miles northeast of Cincinnati. The county covers approximately 400 square miles and is primarily agricultural except for the industrial and commercial area around Springfield. Sand and gravel have been produced in Clark County since long before production data were recorded. The total original sand and gravel resource of Clark County is estimated at approximately 5.7 billion tons (table 1). Clark County ranked eighth in Ohio in overall sand and gravel production in 1985 (Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 1986). In southwestern Ohio it ranked fifth behind Hamilton, Butler, Montgomery, and Warren Counties. Annual production of sand and gravel in Clark County between 950 and 1963 averaged approximately 445,000 tons. From 1964 to 1974, annual production averaged approxi-

mately 1,250,000 tons, peaking at 1,492,112 tons in 1971. This period of increased production resulted from commercial, residential, and industrial expansion and the construction of Ohio's interstate-highway network. From 1974 to the present, production has declined to an annual average of approximately 910,000 tons. If the forecast (Ohio Department of Development, 1983) of flat population growth and sluggish near-term industrial and commercial growth to the year 2000 proves correct, the annual production of sand and gravel in Clark County should be in the range of 950,000 tons for the remainder of this century. Because much of the undeveloped sand and gravel resource in Clark County does not fall in or adjacent to densely populated areas, the land-use competition between the extractive industries and industrial and neighborhood developers has not been as intense in this county as in other counties in southwestern Ohio. To insure that the future development of the remaining resource is efficient

and in the best interest of the citizenry of the county, it is essential that detailed maps and reports showing the distribution, quality, and quantity of sand and gravel resources be available to planners, municipal authorities, developers, and property owners in the county. GEOLOGICAL OCCURRENCE The landscape of Clark County is formed chiefly of

unconsolidated glacial materials of Wisconsinan age. Wisconsinan-age ice spread southward from Michigan and Canada into Ohio approximately 50,000 years ago. Materials of older glaciations (Nebraskan, Kansan, and Illinoian) are found south of Clark County in Butler and Hamilton Counties, Ohio, in northern Kentucky, and in southeastern Indiana. These earlier glaciations played an important role in the evolution of the preglacial and interglacial drainage systems in Ohio, but deposits of the earlier glaciations in Clark County are either buried beneath younger Wisconsinan deposits or have been eroded by later glaciations. The morphology of glacial features in western Ohio suggests that glaciers from the Erie basin advanced across central and western Ohio in two lobes, the Miami lobe on the west and the Scioto lobe on the east. The bedrock hills of Logan County to the north acted as a buttress to separate the ice sheet into the two lobes. Analyses of glacial materials from Clark County indicate that at times during the Wisconsinan the ice sheets of the two lobes were in north-south contact across the county and at other times were separated by interlobate areas of varying widths. During fluctuations at the ice margins, Miami-lobe materials were sometimes overrun by Scioto-lobe ice, or Sciotolobe materials were overrun by Miami-lobe ice. The proximity of the two lobes in Clark County has resulted in much interbedding and overlapping of materials from the two The glacial features at the surface in Clark County are considered to be the result of glacial processes associated with the retreat of the Wisconsinan ice sheet from the county. Except for a few outcrops of Silurian rocks in the Springfield, Limestone City, and Donnelsville areas, Clark ounty is covered with unconsolidated materials deposited by glacial ice or meltwaters. The glacial and postglacial

ndforms which dominate the Clark County landscape are:

(1) end moraines, (2) ground moraine, (3) outwash (valley trains and outwash plains), (4) kames, and (5) alluvium on

the floodplains of the primary and secondary streams of the

The end moraines and ground moraine in Clark County

trated on developing the aggregate resource within the floodplains. The resource of outwash underlying less than 25 feet of alluvium in Clark County makes up approximately RESOURCES

of Medway; (3) Moorefield Township, 5 miles north of

Springfield; (4) Springfield and Greene Townships, 1 to 5

miles south of Springfield; and (5) Pleasant Township, 2 miles east of Clarence Brown Lake. The resource of sand

and gravel interpreted to lie beneath less than 25 feet of till

in Clark County makes up approximately 22 percent of the

gravels, cobbles, and some boulders transported from

glaciers by meltwaters, has been classified by geologists

into two types of deposit, outwash plain and valley train.

Valley-train deposits in Clark County are found in the

valleys of the Mad River, Buck Creek, Mud Creek, and

Beaver Creek. During recessions of the ice sheets, large

quantities of materials within the glaciers were transported

by meltwaters from the melting ice into established drain-

ageways at the front of the glacier. Initially the valleys were

partially filled with the outwash materials, but later, as the

glacier receded from the drainage basin, the outwash

materials were dissected by streams, and matched terraces

sist of materials carried from the glacier by meltwaters

unable to find access to a major drainageway leading away

from the glacier. Outwash plains commonly are broadly

sloping and form as materials transported by meltwaters

are deposited in fans or coalescing fans at the front of the

glacier. Outwash-plain deposits are generally thin and

discontinuous and not considered as sources for com-

mercial quantities of sand and gravel. However, the out-

wash-plain deposits of Clark County are thicker and have a

wider distribution because of their unusual mode of deposi-

tion. The Clark County outwash-plain materials formed

when the glacial meltwaters were confined between the

distal margin of the Miami-lobe ice and the higher ground

elevation in eastern Clark County. Other outwash plains

were deposited by meltwaters confined between ice bar-

riers which formed when the Miami-lobe and Scioto-lobe

ice fronts stood only a short distance apart (Goldthwait,

1952). The major outwash-plain deposits are in eastern

Clark County. One large band, continuous from the north-

ern county boundary in Moorefield Township to the south-

ern county boundary in Greene Township, is centered

mile and 5 miles west of South Charleston in Madison and

Greene Townships. Outwash-plain and valley-train depos-

its have not been differentiated on the resource inventory

map but are mapped together as outwash. Approximately

County is found within outwash deposits.

County occurs within kame deposits.

68 percent of the total sand and gravel resource of Clark

Kames are hills or mounds of stratified, water-laid,

generally well-graded sands and gravels. Kames form

deposited between the ice edge and the valley walls or in

County, kames cover only a small portion of the surface and rise from a few feet to 150 feet above the ground surface.

Kames are located in Mad River Township in secs. 17 and

23 southwest of Enon and in secs. 22, 23, 28, 29, 34, and 35 southeast of Enon; in sec. 34, Bethel Township, south of

New Carlisle; and in secs. 10, 11, and 17, Moorefield

Township. A series of kames is inferred in western Pleasant

Township in secs. 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29. Approx-

imately 2 percent of the sand and gravel resource of Clark

County is outwash underlying alluvium within the flood-plains of the primary and secondary streams. Alluvium,

composed of stratified sands, silts, and clays, is generally a

the resource map because some alluvium (river wash and

poor source of sand and gravel, but has been included on

bars) is extracted locally for use as construction aggregate.

The alluvial deposits in Clark County average about 10 feet

in thickness. Where the thickness of the alluvial over-

burden is less than 25 feet, the underlying outwash sands

and gravels have been mapped and included in the resource

is found in valleys where valley-train deposits were en-

trenched by interglacial and postglacial streams and later covered by the alluvium of modern aggrading streams.

Because land use is not as intense on the floodplains as in

the unland areas the extractive industries have concen-

inventory. Outwash underlying less than 25 feet of alluvium

Another important source of sand and gravel in Clark

when sediments carried from the apex of ice tongues are

revasses at the margins of the wasting ice. In Clark

along a line through New Moorefield, eastern Springfield,

and a point 1 mile east of Clifton. Smaller remnants occur

Outwash-plain deposits occur in upland areas and con-

developed along the margins of the valley.

deposits. The resource categories used in the sand and porated within or on top of the ice sheet are thrust forward and stacked along the ice margins. The end moraines in is characterized by a nearly level to slightly hummocky logs from water wells that have penetrated the deposit, surface of low relief. In western Clark County the ground moraine generally averages less than 50 feet thick (Goldor (3) verbal communications from pit or dragline operators. The thickness data are used to estimate the thickness of each mapped unit. Where there are multiple control points ried within the base of the ice sheet are plastered on the land surface during glacial advances or when the materials taken as the thickness of the unit. are dropped to the ground as the ice melts or evaporates Indicated resources are sands and gravels associated with and contiguous with measured resources but which Ground moraine and end moraines, because of the occur farther than ½ mile from a control point. An indicated generally clayey composition of till, have not been included resource is assumed to have the same thickness as the associated contiguous measured deposit. Where an indiin the resource inventory. However, many small pits have cated resource is bounded by more than one measured been developed in localized lenses of sand and gravel within the moraine to provide bank-run materials for use on farm roads and lanes. In some areas of Clark County, till was deposited over previously deposited outwash during fluctuations of the Miami-lobe and Scioto-lobe ice sheets. Where the thickness of the overlying till deposits is less than 25 feet, the outwash deposits have been included in the resource inventory. Areas where outwash underlies sources are assigned a thickness of 20 feet. less than 25 feet of till are (1) Pike Township, 2 miles north of New Carlisle and 3 miles south of Christianburg; (2) Bethel Township, 2 miles northwest and 3 miles northeast

resource, the thicknesses of the measured resources are averaged to define the thickness of the indicated resource. Inferred resources are sand and gravel deposits which are not contiguous with a measured or indicated resource but which are interpreted to exist from analysis of air photos or soil surveys. Inferred outwash resources are assigned a thickness of 10 feet, and inferred kame re-The distribution of the sand and gravel resources of Clark County as shown on the map was determined from analysis of data derived from field examination, air-photo interpretation, soil surveys, and water-well logs. The 71/2-minute (1:24,000) series of quadrangle maps was used as the mapping base for compiling field, water-well, and soil data. In each township the thickness of sand and gravel in each resource category was estimated from water-well log and measure-section data. The estimated thickness and the number of acres within each resource category provided the data needed to calculate the tonnage-per-township volume estimates (table 1). The tonnages shown in table 1 represent an estimate of the portion of the original resource of sand and gravel deposited in Clark County which now occurs at the surface or beneath less than 25 feet of till or alluvium and in no way reflect the quantities of sand and gravel currently available for extraction. Previously extracted sand and gravel and the amount of the resource lost to production because of zoning regulations and residential This report provides general information regarding the distribution, quality, and thickness of sand and grave resources of Clark County and should not be used as a substitute for the detailed site-specific investigations necessary to determine the potential of an area as a site for a commercial sand and gravel operation. However, fairly reliable thickness data are available from the water-well

logs and measured sections included in the report.

ANALYSIS OF MATERIALS

Fifty-two samples of sand and gravel weighing 15 to 20 pounds were collected for laboratory analysis from stream cuts, roadcuts, all active gravel pits, and most semi-active and abandoned commercial sand and gravel pits in Clark County. Letter designations following location numbers indicate multiple samples taken from the face of the pit or stockpile samples dredged from different elevations below the water level in the pit. All samples were air dried at 105°F for 24 hours prior to splitting and subsequent sieve analysis. Material passing the No. 5 U.S. Sieve Series screen was sieved on a Ro-Tap mechanical shaker for 15 minutes. Material retained on the No. 5 U.S. Sieve Series screen was hand sieved for up to 10 minutes. Sieveanalysis results are given in table 2. To determine the percentage of constituent rock types epresented in the gravels, approximately 100 pebbles 1 to 2 inches in diameter were collected at 38 widely separated sampling locations (road and stream cuts and active and inactive gravel pits). These samples were washed, broken, and examined under a binocular microscope to determine the rock type of each. The percentage of constituent rock types for each site is shown in table 3. The stone-count and sieve-analysis data indicate that most of the sand and gravel resource of Clark County, with a minimum of preparation, can meet specifications for use in coarse and fine aggregate in concrete, mortar, and flexible pavements and

The undeveloped potential resource of sand and gravel in Clark County appears adequate to meet the demand of the region for many years if growth projections for the area are correct. The remaining extractable resource is located mostly in rural areas or on the floodplains of primary and secondary streams, so development of the resource will not be subject to the intense land-use competition encountered in other southwestern Ohio counties. The texture and composition of the sand and gravel in Clark County indicate that the deposits will provide good-quality materials for construction aggregate, base, and fill. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author expresses his appreciation to the sand and gravel operators and property owners of Clark County whose cooperation was essential for the completion of this

Goldthwait, R. P., 1952, The glacial deposits, *in* Norris, S. E., The water resources of Clark County, Ohio: Ohio Division of Water Bulletin 22, p. 44-51.

FIGURE 1.—Clark County sand and gravel production for the years 1950 to 1985 (Ohio Department of Industrial Relations, 1951-1981, and Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 1983-1986).

TABLE 1.—Estimated sand and gravel resources, Clark County 536,896,700 253,388,500 198,311,300 79,982,700 2,376,200 Bethel German Greene Harmony Madison 631 600 39 511 100 792 800 6.229 000 64 688 800 113 310 500 4.277 600 113,876,700 138,762,600 14,742,900 83,667,900 76,145,100 11,742,90 217,784,800 507,678,700 33,595,700 31,868,500 397,733,300 22,041,400 160,329,100 555,063,200 994,518,400 TOTAL | 2,259,616,400 | 1,032,193,400 | 16,827,200 | 967,060,100 | 298,484,000 | 6,229,000 | 409,350,900 | 625,597,900 | 74,661,900 | 9,583,200 | 26,660,600 | 5,726,264,600

TABLE 2.—Results of sieve analyses Grain size (% retained) Grain size (% retained) ASTM scale Gravel

LOCATION MAP

1:24,000 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHIC QUAD-RANGLE MAPS COVERING CLARK COUNTY (DATES IN PAREN-THESES INDICATE DATE OF NEGATIVES USED TO COMPILE

TABLE 3.—Pebble counts

occur in a series of alternating north-south bands which are sometimes separated by outwash deposits. End mo-18 percent of the total resource of the county. raines and ground moraine are composed of till, which is Ohio Department of Development, 1983, 1982 Ohio county profiles: Ohio Data Users Center Publication 80-27, 550 p.
Ohio Department of Industrial Relations, 1951-1981, Division of an unsorted mixture of clay, silt, sand, pebbles, cobbles, and boulders.
The end moraines of Clark County occupy approximately 33 percent of the surface of the county (Goldthwait, 1952). Ohio Division of Geological Survey, 1983-1986, 1981-1985 Report on Ohio mineral industries: Ohio Department of Natural The accompanying map shows the distribution of the End moraines are hummocky ridges of till which mark the sand and gravel resources of Clark County and identifies position of an ice sheet when the ice front remained the resources by type of deposit. For mapping purposes, - indicates particle passes through mesh; + indicates particle retained on mesh.