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HAMPDEN INTERSTATE  
PENOBSCOT COUNTY

61-26

SOILS REPORT

EMERSON MILLS BRIDGE  
I-IG-95-7 (15)

SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION FOR  
EMERSON MILLS BRIDGE IN  
HAMDEN, MAINE

State Highway Commission  
Soils Division

61-26

August 1961

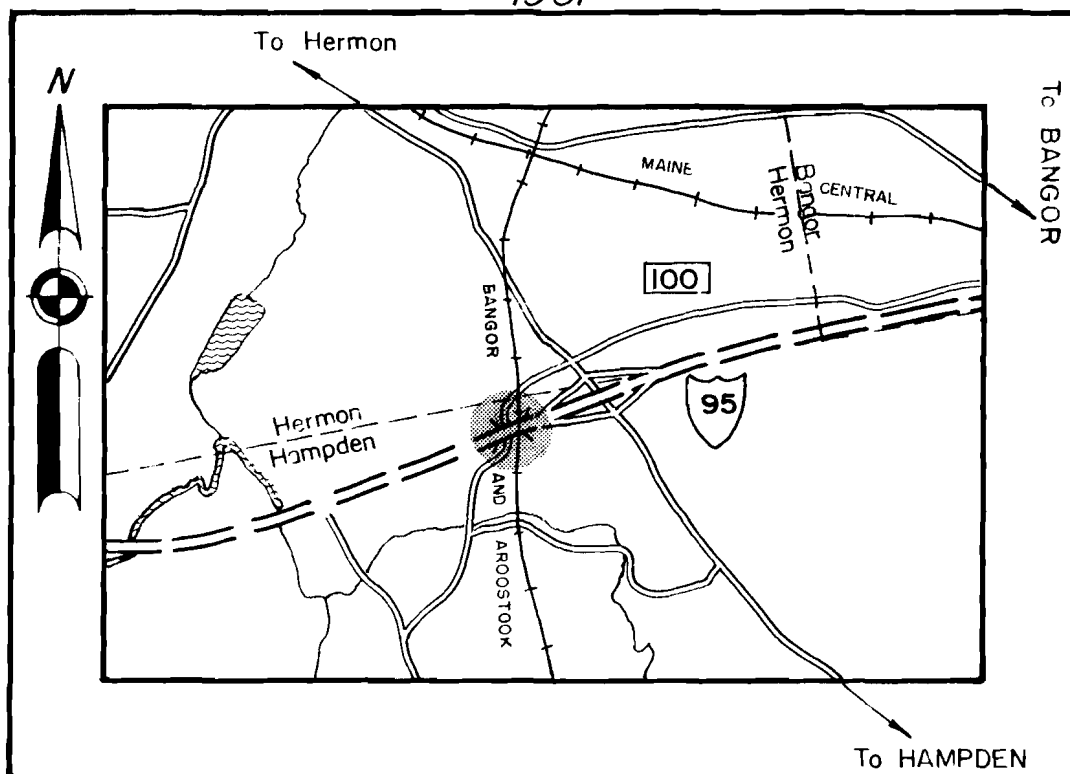
# ***HAMPDEN***

## *PENOBSCOT COUNTY*

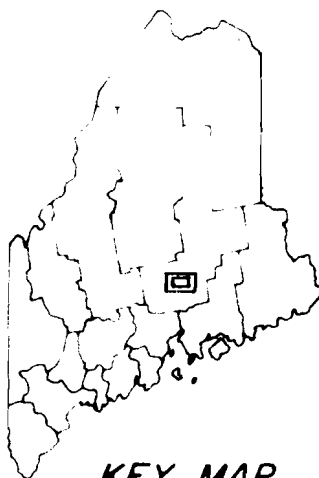
*I-95-7(14)*

*Interstate 95 over  
Emerson Mills & B.&A. Railroad*

*1961*



**LOCATION MAP**  
Scale 1" = 1 Mile



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## EMERSON MILLS BRIDGE

### INTRODUCTION

The subsurface investigation has been completed for the proposed construction of a bridge to carry the Interstate Highway over the relocated Emerson Mills Road and the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Lines in the Town of Hampden, Maine. This project, I-IG-95-7(15), is located approximately .2 of a mile southerly of the present crossing of the Emerson Mills Road and the railroad tracks in Hampden.

A wash boring crew under the supervision of Mr. Carlisle made a boring on the left and right ends of each of the proposed substructure units for the two abutments and three piers, both on the north and southbound lanes. The two roadways, northbound and southbound lanes, are approximately 170 feet apart on center line and thus the substructure report will deal with each bridge.

Included behind the text are the borings notes on Sheet 1 while the details for all the borings are shown on Sheets 2 through 13 inclusive. A plan showing the proposed substructure unit location together with the center line profiles northbound and southbound as well as transverse sections on the abutments and piers are shown on Sheet 14. Design data for spread footings is shown on Sheet 15.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

In order to provide adequate clearance over the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad tracks, it has been necessary to raise the grade on the Interstate to above elevation 163.6. Since the ground surface lies in the vicinity of elevation 131, fills on either side of the bridge will be 30 to 35 feet high. Because the embankments will be completed prior to the construction of the substructures, it is believed that the abutments can derive their support or piles driven through the approach fill into the underlying soils. These underlying soils consist of a layer of stiff weathered silty clays between five and ten feet in depth. These stiff clays are underlain by a very dense till and the ledge surface underlies the fill at a distance of five to fifteen feet. In several of the borings a large boulder was encountered within this underlying till. The casing resistance and spoon count resistance in sampling the tills indicate that piles cannot penetrate to any great depth within this till. The estimated length of piles may be erratic due to the large boulders within the area.

This dense till should adequately support the proposed substructures by spread footing and design data has been included and is shown at the rear of this report, provided the footings are placed in this underlying till. Since the overburden is impervious and the ledge surface is not too far below the tills, some water should be expected in excavating for the footings. The dense weathered clay silts should almost stand on a vertical slope for short periods provided no leakage or weeping is noted within the soils. It would be doubtful in any area that

the footing can be placed directly on the ledge surface without an excess of excavation. In general it is believed that the footing placed eight to ten feet below the surface will be within the tills and should offer adequate support. If piles are to be used to support the substructures and it is doubtful that piles can penetrate to any substantial depth due to large boulders within the till.

## SUBSTRUCTURE UNITS

### Northbound Lane

#### Abutment No. 1

Borings AC-43 and AC-44 were made on the right and left ends respectively of the proposed location of Abutment No. 1 at Station 3625 + 44.42. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheet 7 while the plan and transverse sections are shown on Sheet 14. The ground elevation at the proposed abutment is in the vicinity of 140 whereas the finished grade elevation is near elevation 168 or a fill of 28 feet is proposed behind this abutment. These borings indicate that the subsoils consist of a top layer of very stiff weathered silty clay extending to elevation 131 below which a dense till was noted with the bedrock surface being cored on the right at elevation 123.1 and on the left at elevation 124. These subsoils are high in shear strength and should adequately support the proposed fills without shearing difficulty.

Since the fills will be constructed prior to the substructure, the substructure could be supported by piles. It is doubtful that piles can penetrate through the approach fill and very deep into the underlying dense tills below elevation 131.

A high casing resistance should be encountered the entire depth of driving and thus steel piles would be recommended.

Pier No. 1

Borings AC-45 and AC-46 were made on the right and left sides respectively of the proposed location of Pier No. 1 at Station 3626 + 06.3. The details of these two borings are shown on Sheet 8 while the plan and transverse sections are shown on Sheet 14. As can be seen on the transverse section the ground slopes gently to the left within this area and the same soils as encountered at the abutment were encountered within these two borings. The ground elevation was noted to be 140 on the right and 138.5 on the left and the stiff clay noted to extend to elevation 132.2 on the right and to 130.8 on the left, below which the dense brown till was noted and the ledge surface, five feet of which was cored, in the vicinity of elevation 122. Since the finished grade over the railroad tracks is elevation 163.6 the proposed pier will be quite high. The dense brown till should adequately support the proposed pier by the use of spread footing and design data has been included on Sheet 15 provided the footing is placed within this dense till. This would mean an excavation of at least eight feet and nearer ten. It may be more economical to drive piles through the weathered silt into the tills but it is doubtful because of the high casing and spoon resistance, that the piles can penetrate to the ledge surface. Because of the high casing resistance, steel piles would be recommended.



### Pier No. 2

Borings AC-47 and AC-48 were made at the right and left ends respectively of the proposed location of Pier No. 2 at Station 3626 + 63. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheets 9 and 10 while the plan and transverse sections are shown on Sheet 14. As was similarly encountered at Pier No. 1, the subsoils consist of a brown weathered silt clay below which was a brown till. The ground surface slopes slightly to the left while the silty clay dips in the opposite direction with the top of the dense brown till being noted at approximately elevation 130 on the right and 131 on the left. Since the ground line is at elevation 138 it would take eight to nine feet of excavation to place the footing directly on the ledge surface. Because of the high blow count both on the casing and on the sampling spoon, it is believed that adequate support can be derived within the dense underlying till provided that footing is placed below elevation 129. Design data has been included and is shown on Sheet 15. The substructure could also be supported by piles driven through the clay silt into the dense tills but because of the high casing resistance it is doubtful that the piles could penetrate to the ledge surface.

### Pier No. 3

Borings AC-51 and AC-52 were made on the right and left ends respectively of the proposed location of Pier No. 3 at Station 3627 + 12.60. The details for these borings are shown on Sheets 11 and 5 while the center line profile, plan, and transverse sections are shown on Sheet 14. These two borings

were made adjacent to the present railroad track. Boring AC-51 is in filled land since a gravel layer was noted to be on the surface instead of the brown weather clay previously noted to overlie the entire area. On the left side in Boring AC-52 the stiff clay was underlain by a medium-density sand and the dense till was noted at elevation 126. On the right side the till was noted to start at elevation 129 and the top two feet of it in loose density. It is believed that if the substructure was supported by spread footing placed in the underlying till below elevation 128 that sufficient bearing from the subsoils could be dericed and design data is included on Sheet 15. The ledge surface was noted to be at elevation 119.2 on the left while on the right end 4 feet of boulders was cored beginning at elevation 124.3. Piles could also be used to support the substructure at this site. Steel piles would be recommended due to the high casing resistance anticipated within the area.

#### Abutment No. 2

Borings AC-57 and AC-58 were made at the left and right ends respectively for the proposed location of Abutment No. 2 at Station 3627 / 64.40. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheets 10 and 11 while the transverse profiles are shown on Sheet 14. The ground surface is at elevation 138 with the finished grade above elevation 160. Thus a 30-foot fill is proposed behind the abutment. This fill will be constructed prior to the substructure. It is believed that

piles should be used to support the substructures. It is believed that piles can penetrate through the fill and stiff clay into the underlying dense tills in the vicinity of elevation 128. The stiff weathered clay silts which overlies the area and extend from the surface to elevation 128 should adequately support the proposed high fills within this area without shearing or causing extensive settlement. The dense brown tills previously noted continue to underlie the weathered clay silts and the ledge surface cored on the left at elevation 116.4 while the borings on the right had difficulty when the casing broke off due to the compact tills. It is doubtful if piles could reach this lower elevation due to the friction developed from the approach fills in the top soils. Steel piles would be recommended due to the high anticipated frictional resistance.

## SUBSTRUCTURE DETAILS

### Southbound Lane

#### Abutment No. 1

Borings AC-39 and AC-40 were made on the right and left ends respectively for the proposed location of Abutment No. 1 at Station 3627 + 14.93. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheets 3 and 4 while the plan and transverse sections are shown on Sheet 14. As was previously noted the finished grade of the highway is above elevation 160 while the ground surface noted by these two borings was at elevation 137.

Thus, a substantial fill is to be proposed behind the abutment and this fill would normally be constructed prior to the construction of the substructure. It is believed that it will be more economical to drive through the approach fill and into the underlying soils. The clay silts extend to elevation 129 below which the dense tills were noted. Boring AC-39 was stopped by a boulder at elevation 124 while Boring AC-40 was able to penetrate to the ledge surface at elevation 111.9. These firm underlying soils should be adequate to support the proposed fills and piles without causing settlement or shearing difficulties. Steel piles would be recommended due to the anticipated high driving resistance.

#### Pier No. 1

Borings AC-41 and AC-42 were made on the right and left ends respectively of the proposed location of Pier No. 1 at Station 3627 + 67.70. Boring No. 1 was made on center line of the proposed substructure and was made during December of 1960 for preliminary information on the subsoils within the proposed bridge location. The details for these borings are shown on Sheets 2, 5 and 6 while the plan and transverse section are shown on Sheet 14. The same subsoils previously encountered were noted within this area except that beneath the stiff brown clay the dense brown till changed to gray in color below elevation 129.5 on the right at elevation 121.5 on the left. Casing resistance in general below elevation 128 was well above 100, the practical limit for which piles can be driven. With an excavation of eight to nine feet, it is believed that the substructure can be supported directly

on this dense till. Design data has been included and is shown on Sheet 15, provided the bottom of the footing is placed below elevation 128. Piles could also be used to support the substructure for this pier but it is doubtful if piles can penetrate much below elevation 126 due to the density of the underlying soils. Because of large boulders these piles may be stopped at a higher elevation while others may penetrate three to five feet lower in depth. Steel piles would be recommended.

#### Pier No. 2

Borings AC-49 and AC-50 were made on the right and left ends respectively of Pier No. 2 at Station 3628 / 17.26. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheets 5 and 9 while the plan and transverse section are shown on Sheet 14. Boring AC-49 was stopped by a boulder at elevation 125.8 whereas Boring AC-50 encountered the ledge surface in the vicinity of elevation 112. The ground surface in this area is at elevation 134 and the stiff brown silty clay was noted to extend to elevation 127 on the left but next to the ground surface in Boring AC-49. The top of the till was noted to be at elevation 130 on the right but dropped off to 127 on the left. It is therefore believed that spread footings could be used for the support of this pier provided the bottom of the footing is placed in the underlying dense tills below elevation 126 and design data has been included on Sheet 15. Piles could also be used to support the substructures but because of boulders some piles may go deeper than elevation

130 on the right but in no case should they be able to penetrate below elevation 125. Because of the high casing resistance, steel piles should be used.

#### Pier No. 3

Borings AC-53 and AC-54 were made at the right and left ends respectively of the proposed location of Pier No. 3 at Station 3628 / 61.84. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheet 5 while the plan and transverse section are shown on Sheet 14. The ground surface was noted to be near elevation 133 and on the right side no weathered clay was encountered. On the left side the clay extended to elevation 129. The dense underlying tills should adequately support the spread footing provided the bottom of the footing is placed below elevation 125 and design data has been computed and is shown on Sheet 15. This substructure could also be supported by piles driven into the dense till. It is doubtful if piles can reach the bed-rock surface due to boulders within the area. However, piles should be able to penetrate to the vicinity of elevation 119 although some piles could penetrate to a slightly deeper depth while others may be at a higher elevation due to large boulders. Steel piles would be recommended.

#### Abutment No. 2

Borings AC-55 and AC-56 were made on the left and right ends respectively for the proposed location of Abutment No. 2 at Station 3629 / 12.63. The details for these two borings are shown on Sheets 12 and 13 while the plan and transverse sections are shown on Sheet 14. As was similarly noted at the

previous abutment sites a large fill is proposed in order to allow clearance underneath the bridge for the railroad traffic. Fills of 30 feet are proposed behind each abutment. It is believed that the proposed fill will be constructed prior to the start of the substructures. It is believed that this substructure can be supported by piles driven through the approach fill into the underlying firm soils. The ground surface is at elevation 136. The stiff weathered silts extend to elevation 129 on the right but extended five feet deeper on the left side near elevation 124. It is doubtful that piles driven through the approach fills can penetrate to much deeper depth than the top of the dense tills. Since casing resistance and spoon counts within the tills are high and additional friction will be encountered in driving through the approach fill. Steel piles are recommended. The overlying dense tills and stiff clays have a high shear strength and should not consolidate to any appreciable amount, thus should adequately support the proposed large fills.

#### SUMMARY

The subsoils consist of a layer of stiff weathered silty clay underlain in depth (generally seven to ten feet) by a dense granular till. This till should adequately support the substructures for the bridge provided the bottom of the footing is placed within the dense soils. Design data has been

computed and is shown on Sheet 15. It is recommended that the footing be placed at least below the following elevations:

<u>Substructure Units</u>	<u>Ground Elevation</u>	<u>Minimum Bottom Footing Elevation</u>
<u>Northbound Lane</u>		
Pier No. 1	140	130
Pier No. 2	138	128
Pier No. 3	138	128
<u>Southbound Lane</u>		
Pier No. 1	137	128
Pier No. 2	134	126
Pier No. 3	133	125

Since the Interstate rides above the railroad tracks the finished grade will be well above the ground surface throughout most of this area. In general, it has been more economical to construct the approach fills and place the substructures upon the completed fill. Since this will be of common borrow, it is believed that the substructures for the abutments should derive their support from piles driven through the approach fills into the underlying dense soils. Since the casing resistance will be high, steel piles are recommended. It is doubtful that piles can be driven to much below the top of the dense till. The elevations are as follows:



<u>Substructure Units</u>	<u>Ground Elevation</u>	<u>Depths to Refusal</u>
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Northbound Lanes


Abutment No. 1	140	131
Abutment No. 2	138	128

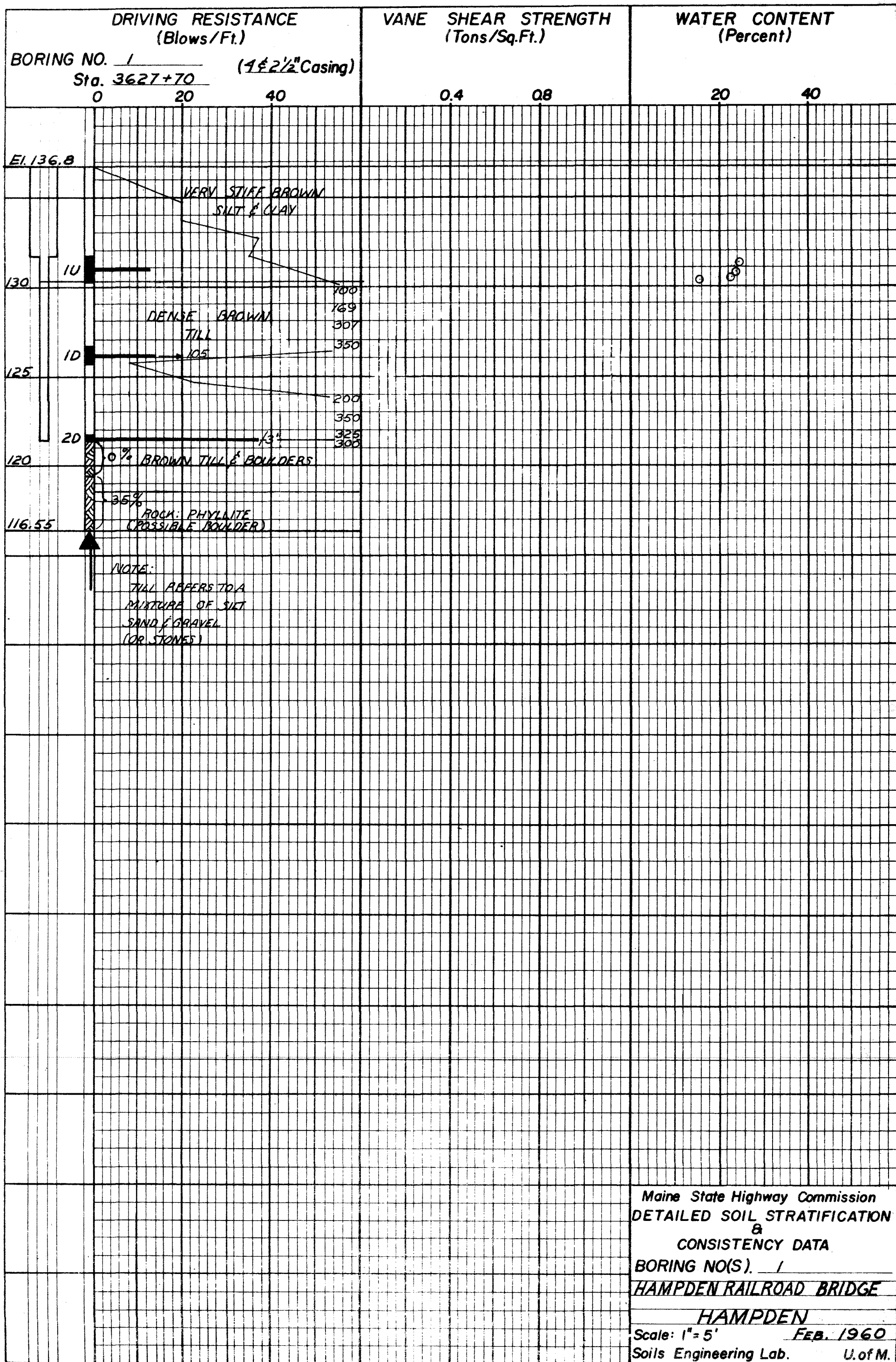
Southbound Lanes

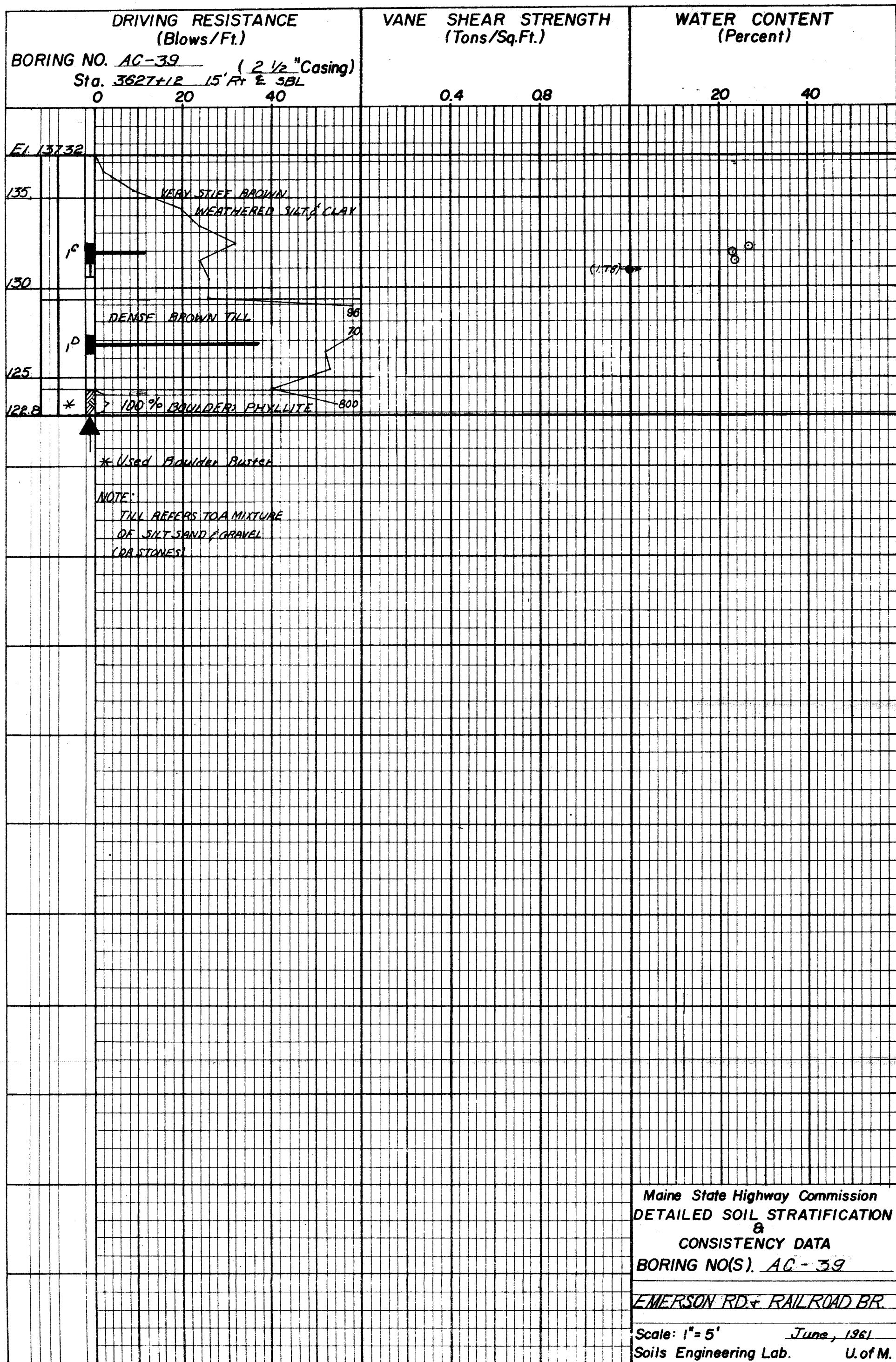
Abutment No. 1	137	128
Abutment No. 2	136	127

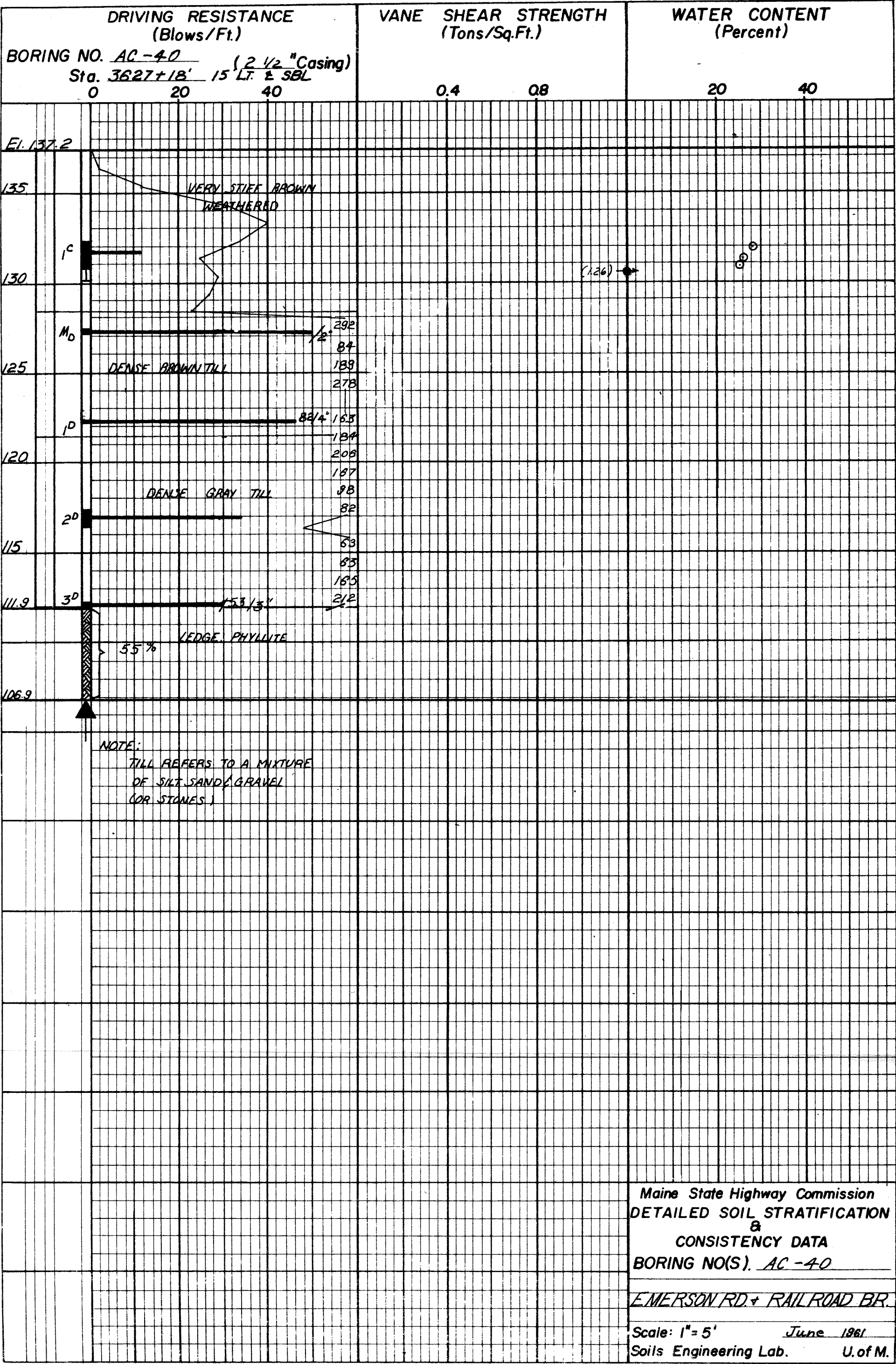
Since clay overlies the area and is underlain by a granular till some water should be anticipated in excavation for the footing. However, the soils are dense and except for a limited souping up of the fines within the immediate area, these tills should adequately support the proposed footing, the designs of which are shown on Sheet 15.

Respectfully submitted,

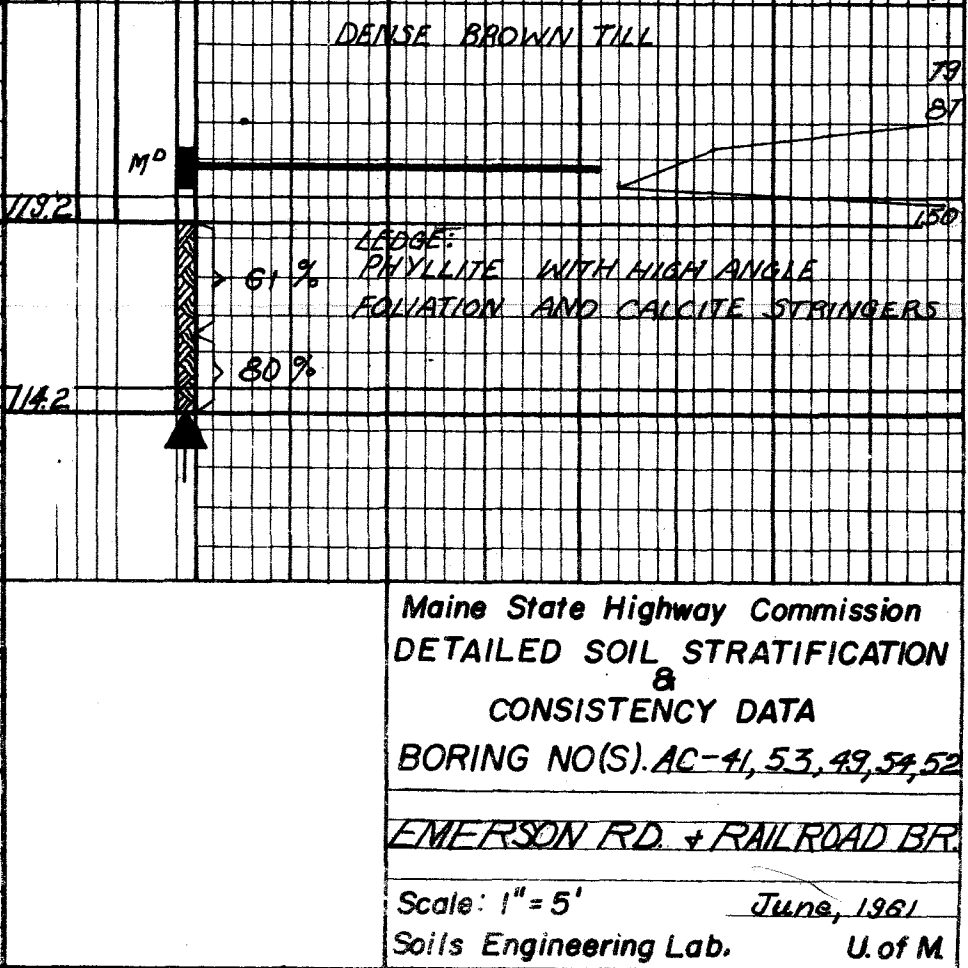
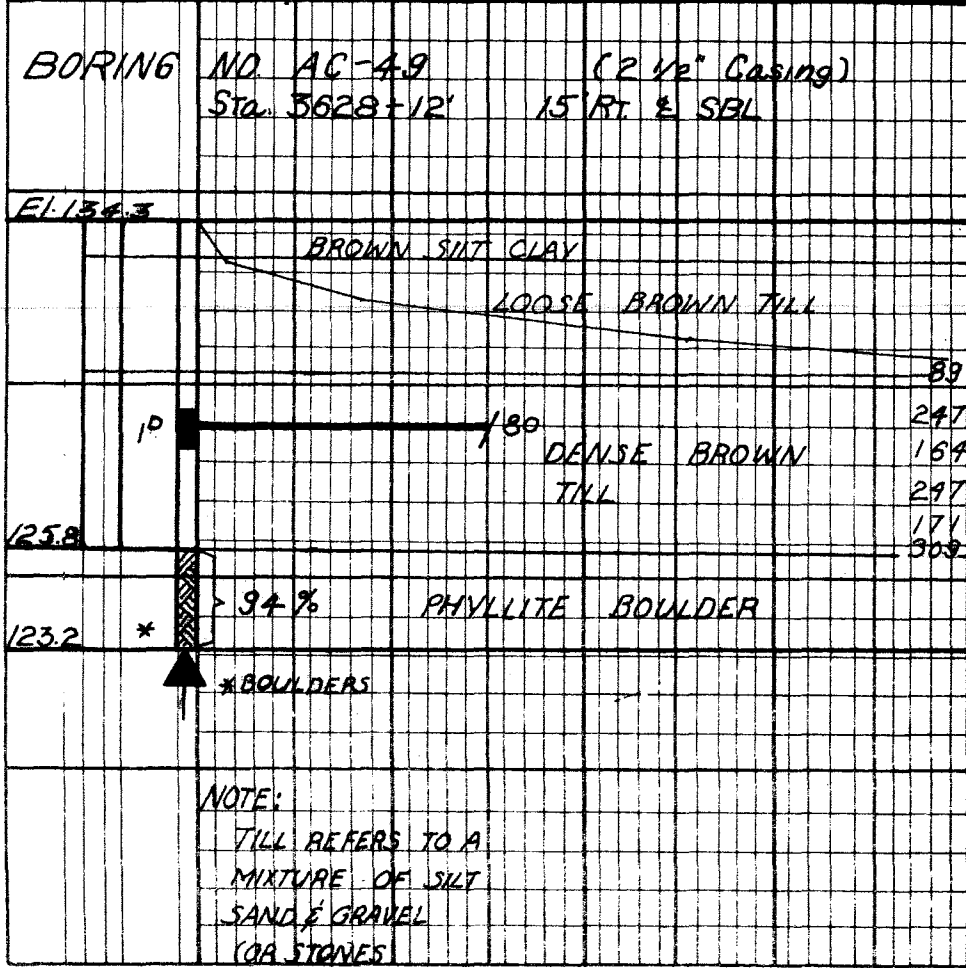
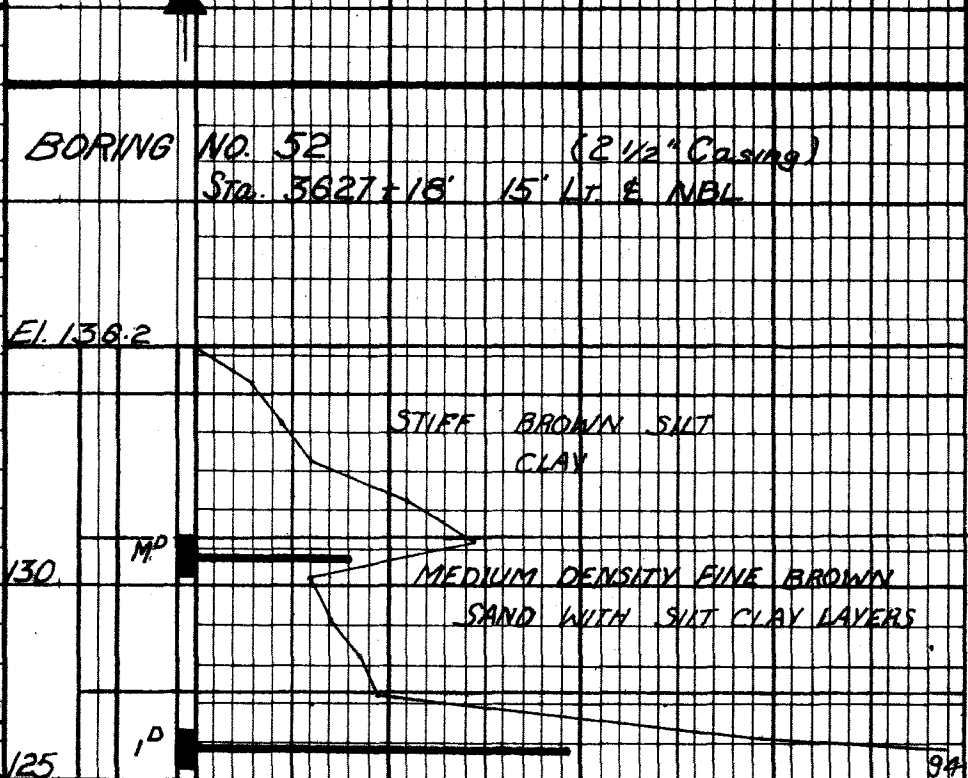
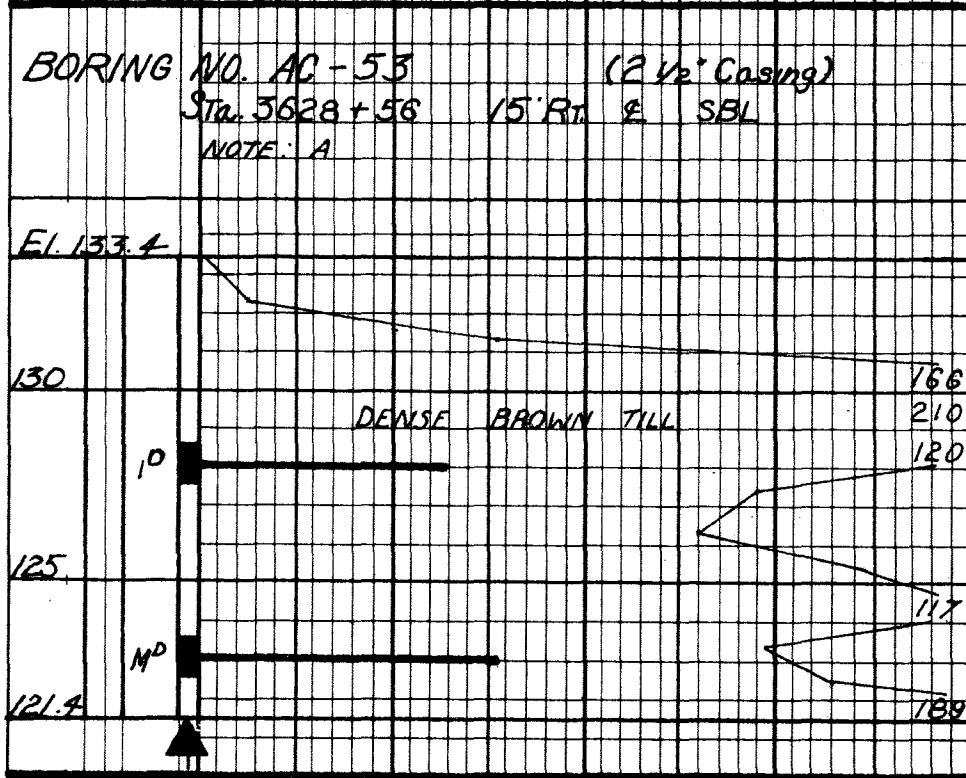
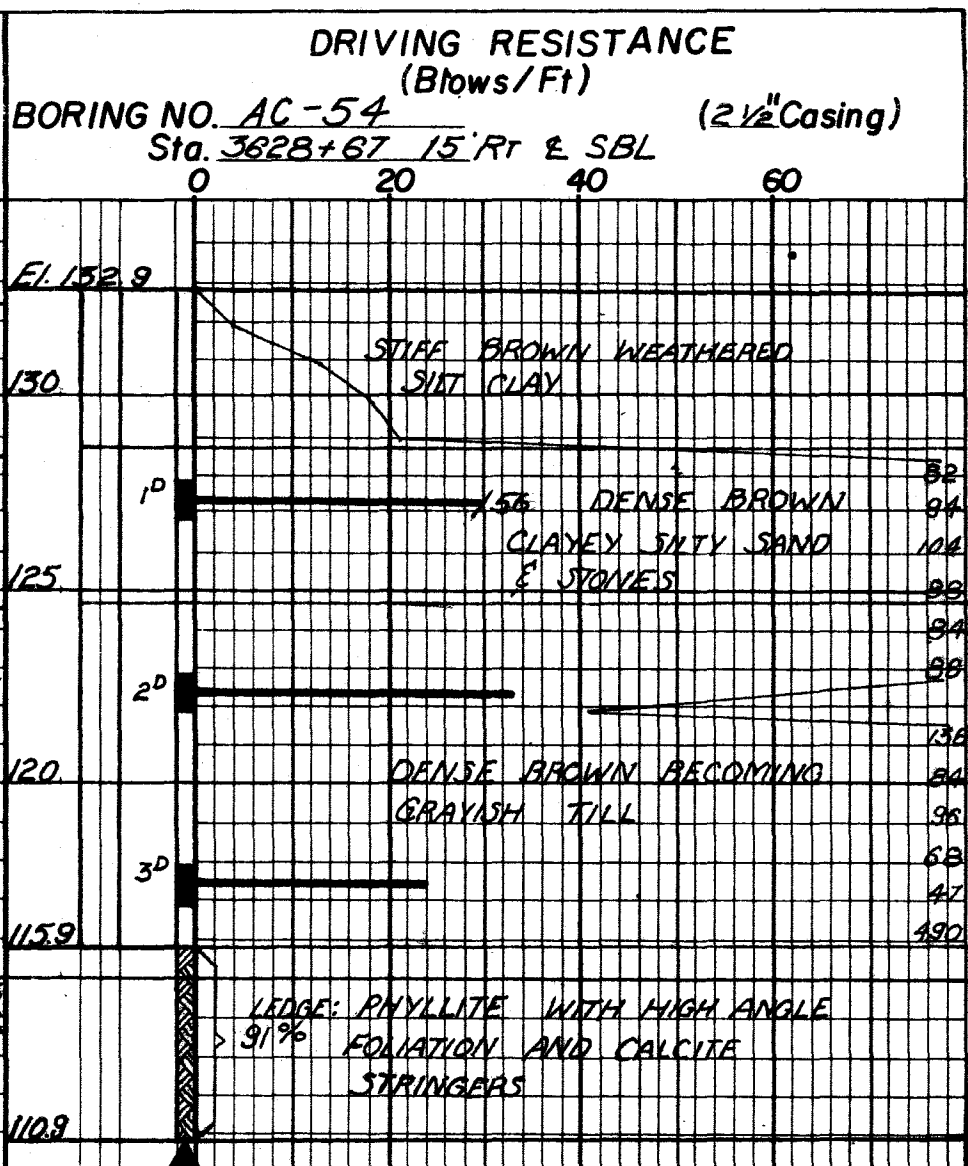
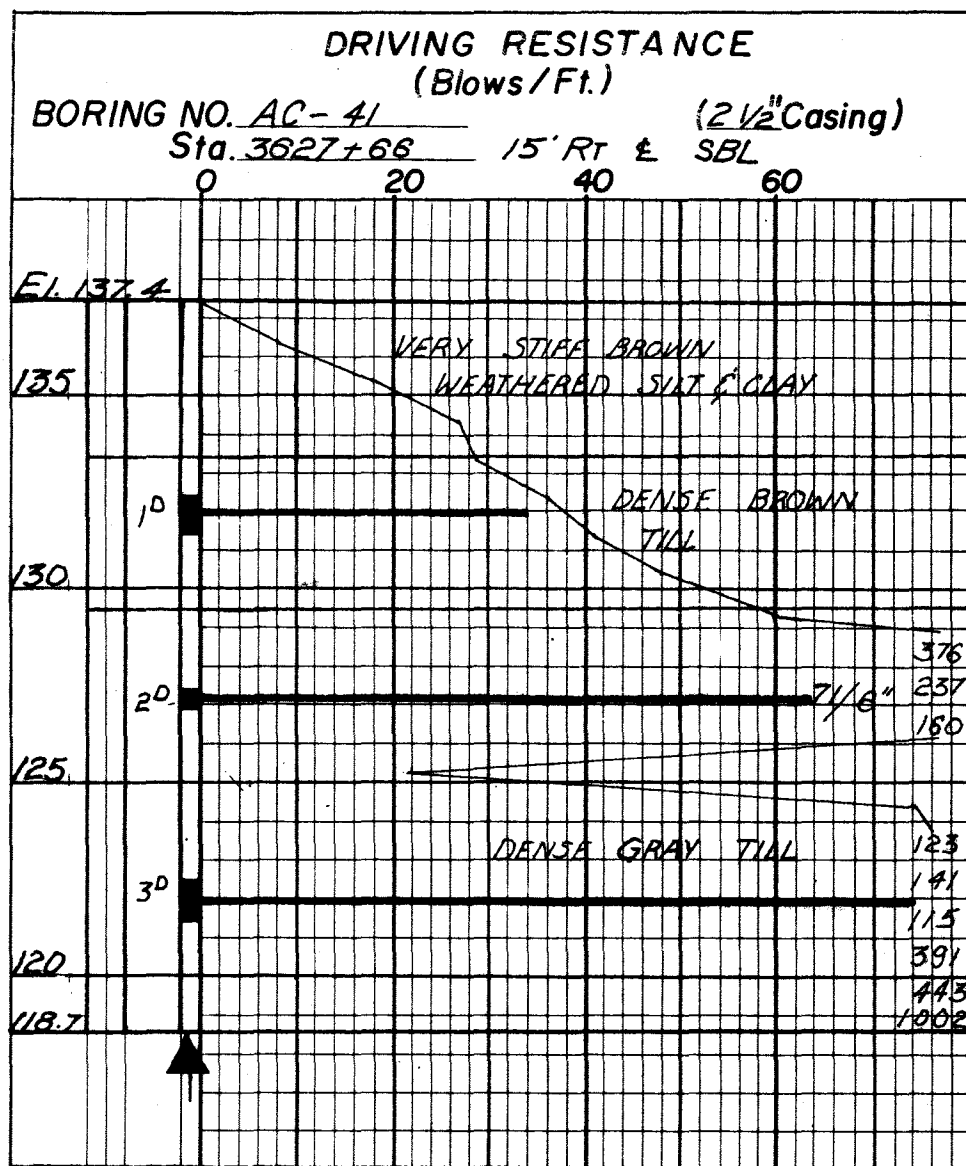
  
Frederick M. Boyce, Jr.  
Soils Engineer





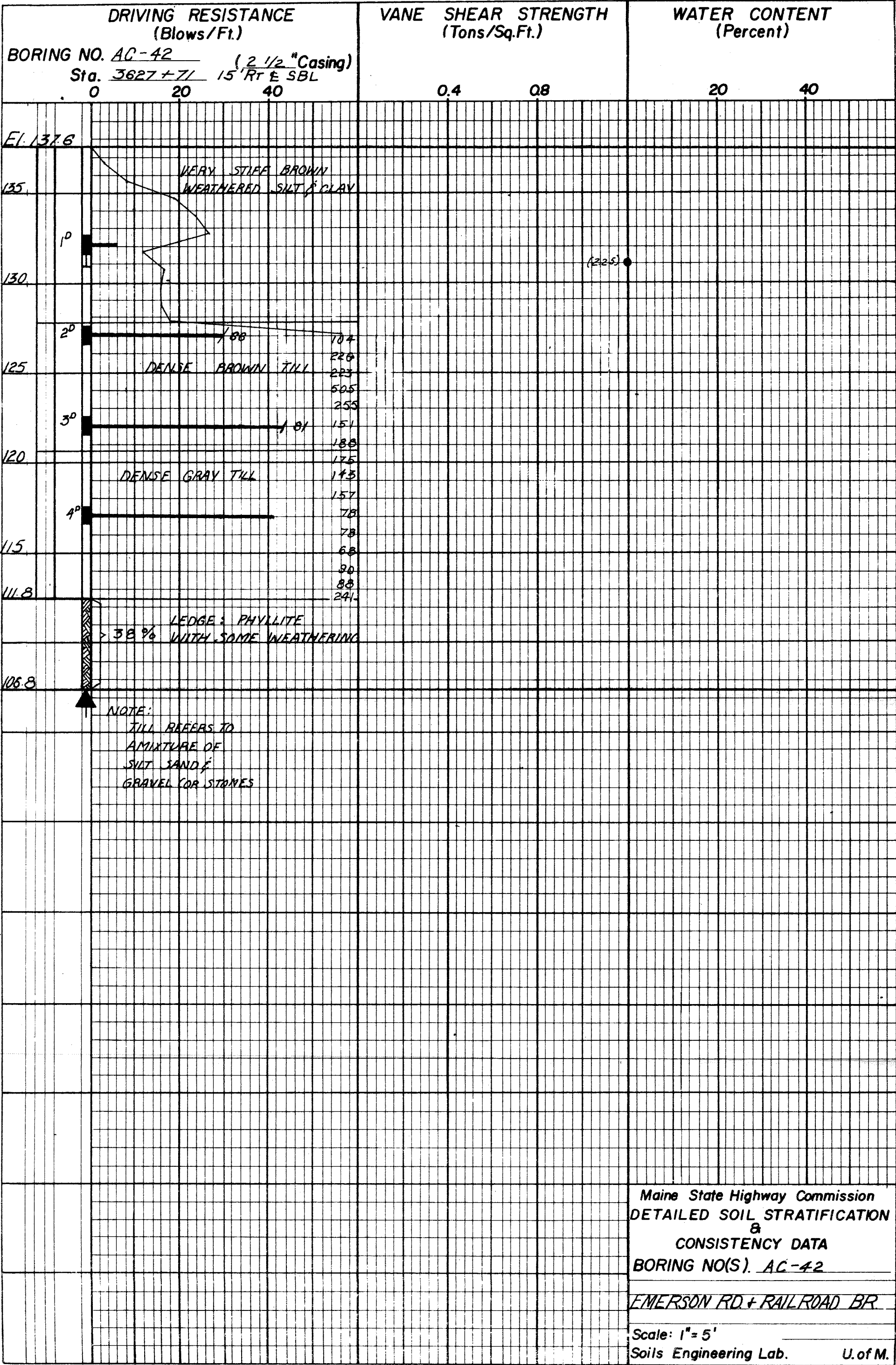


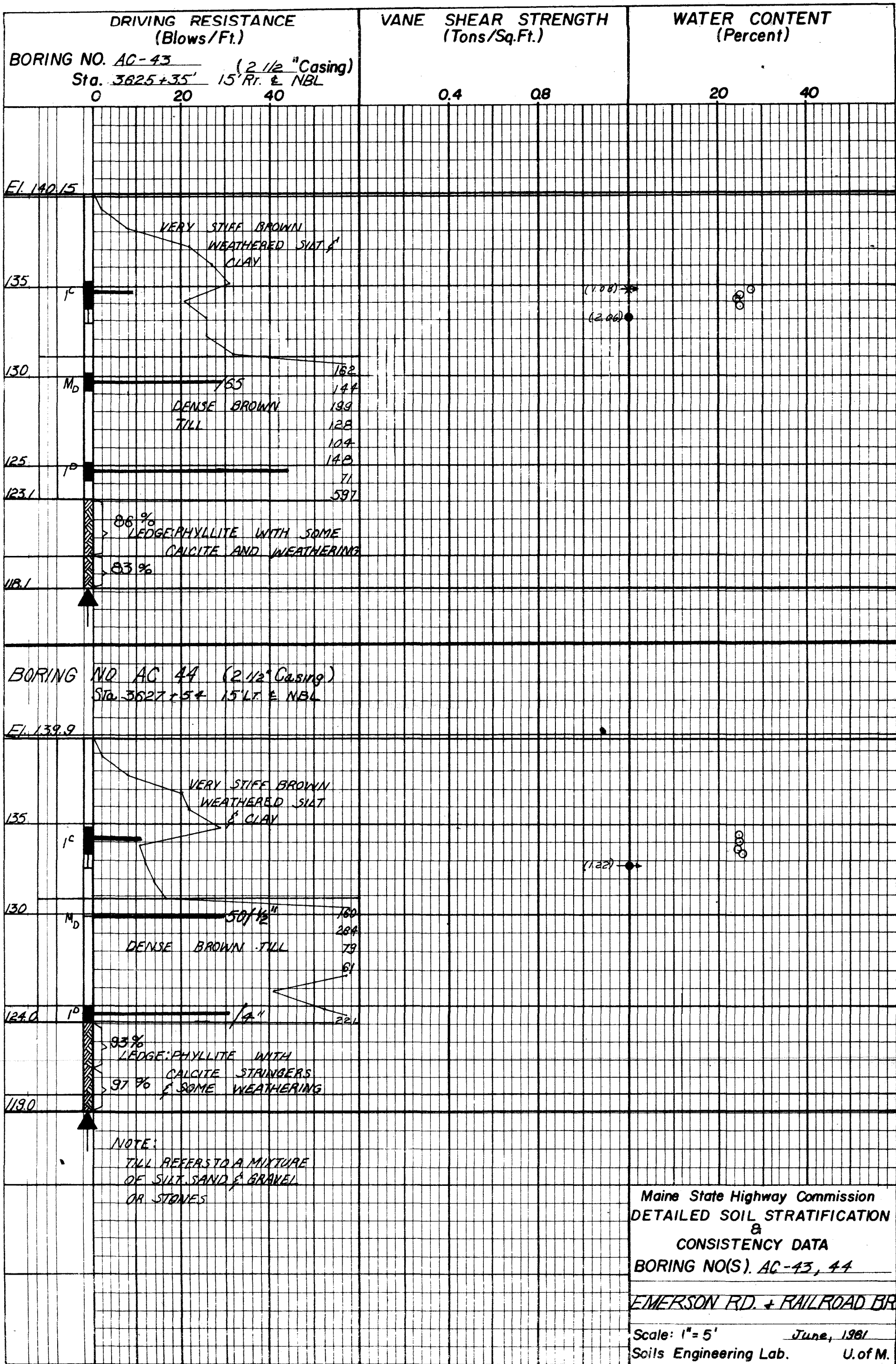




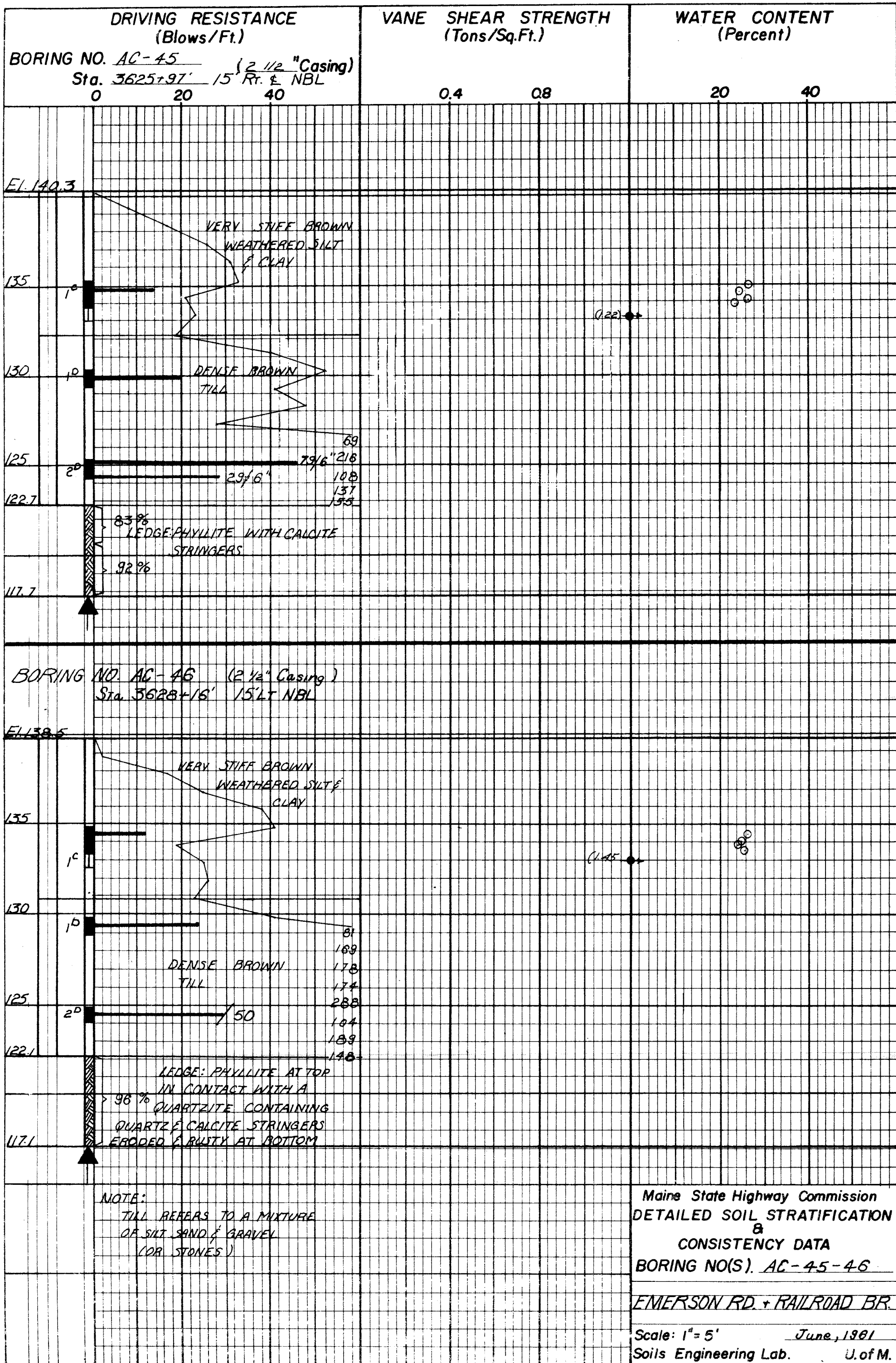
Maine State Highway Commission  
DETAILED SOIL STRATIFICATION  
&  
CONSISTENCY DATA  
BORING NO(S). AC-41, 53, 49, 54, 52  
EMERSON RD. + RAILROAD BR.  
Scale: 1" = 5' June, 1981  
Soils Engineering Lab. U. of M.

Sheet No. 5

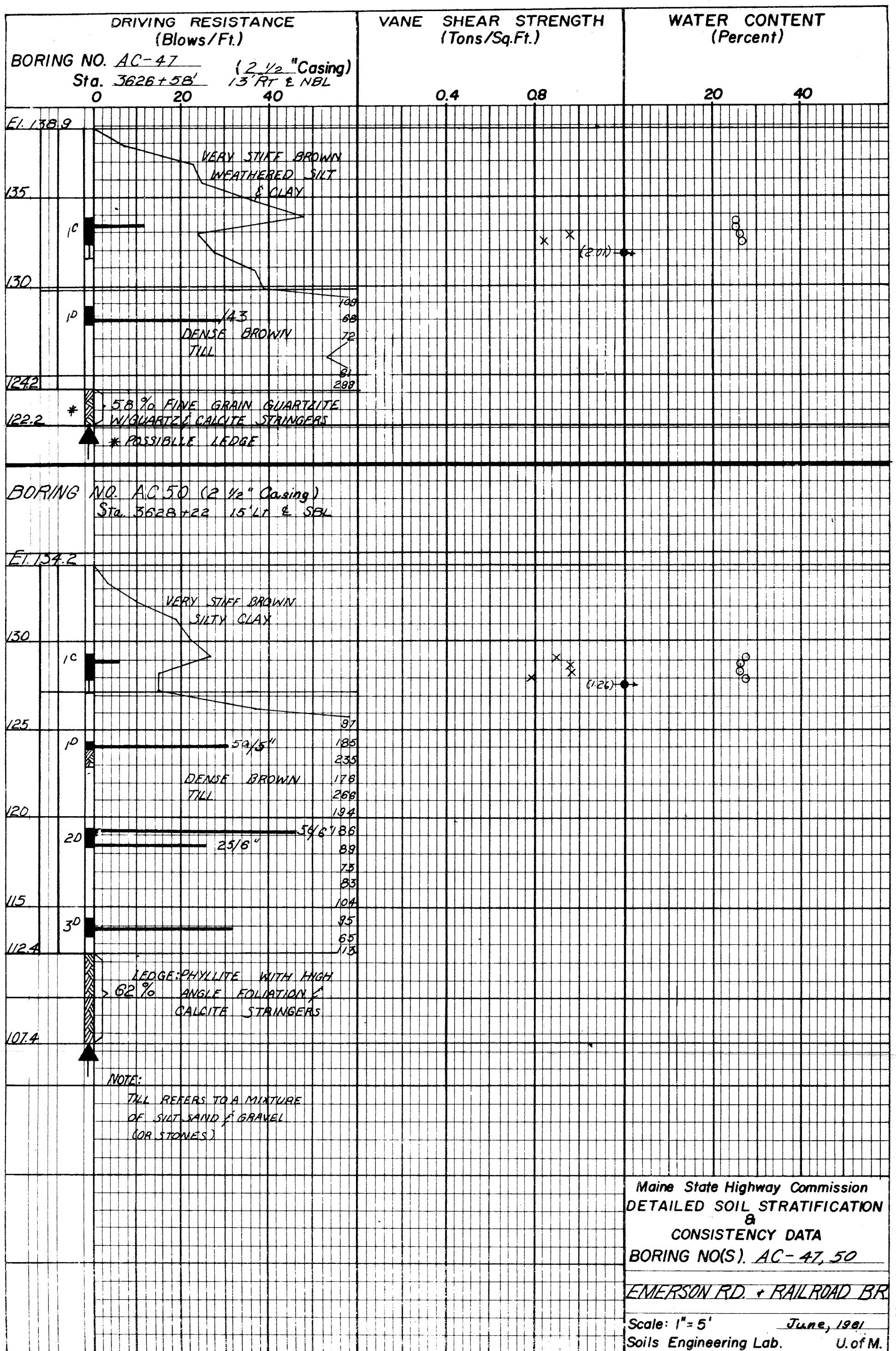


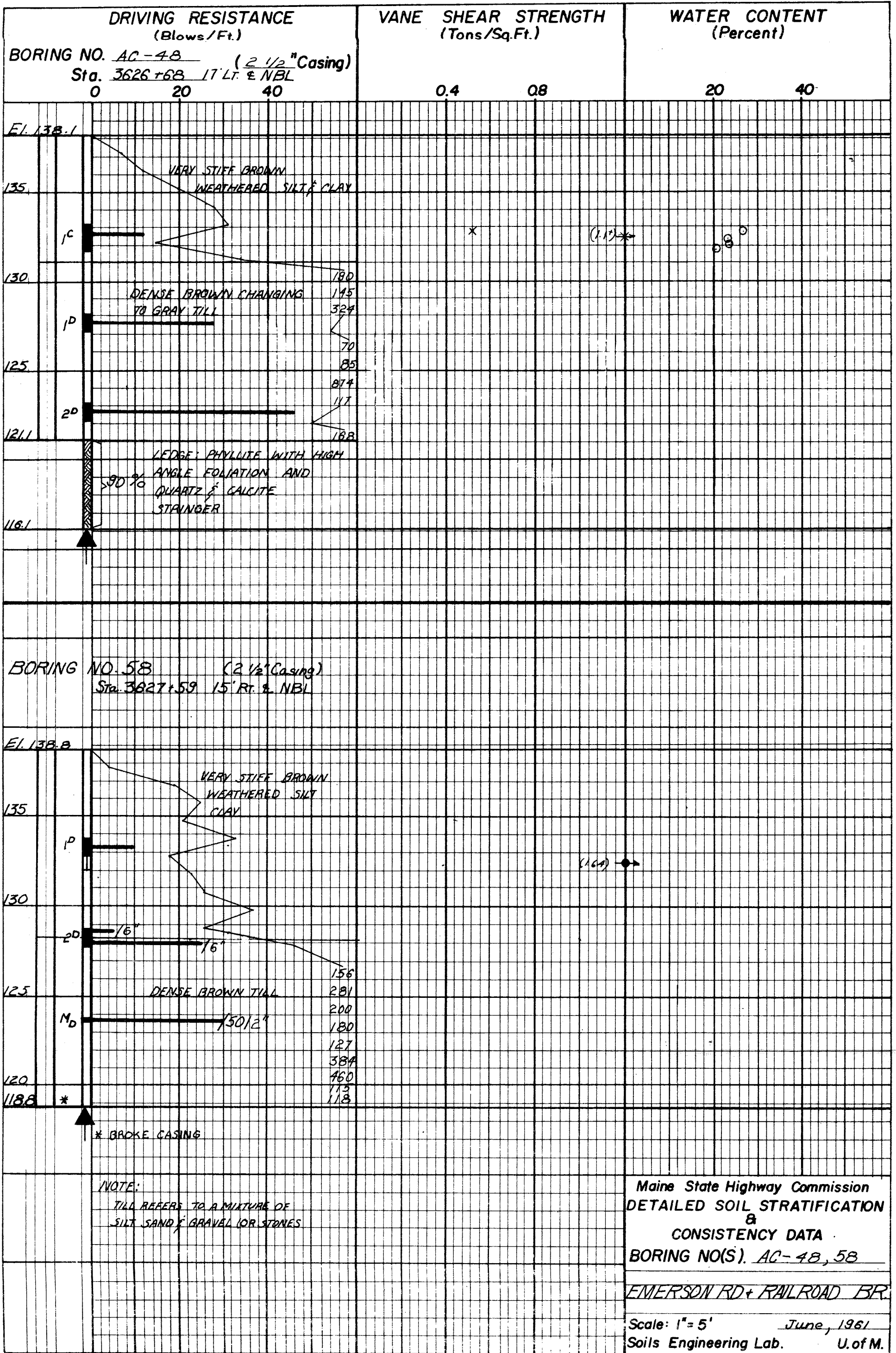


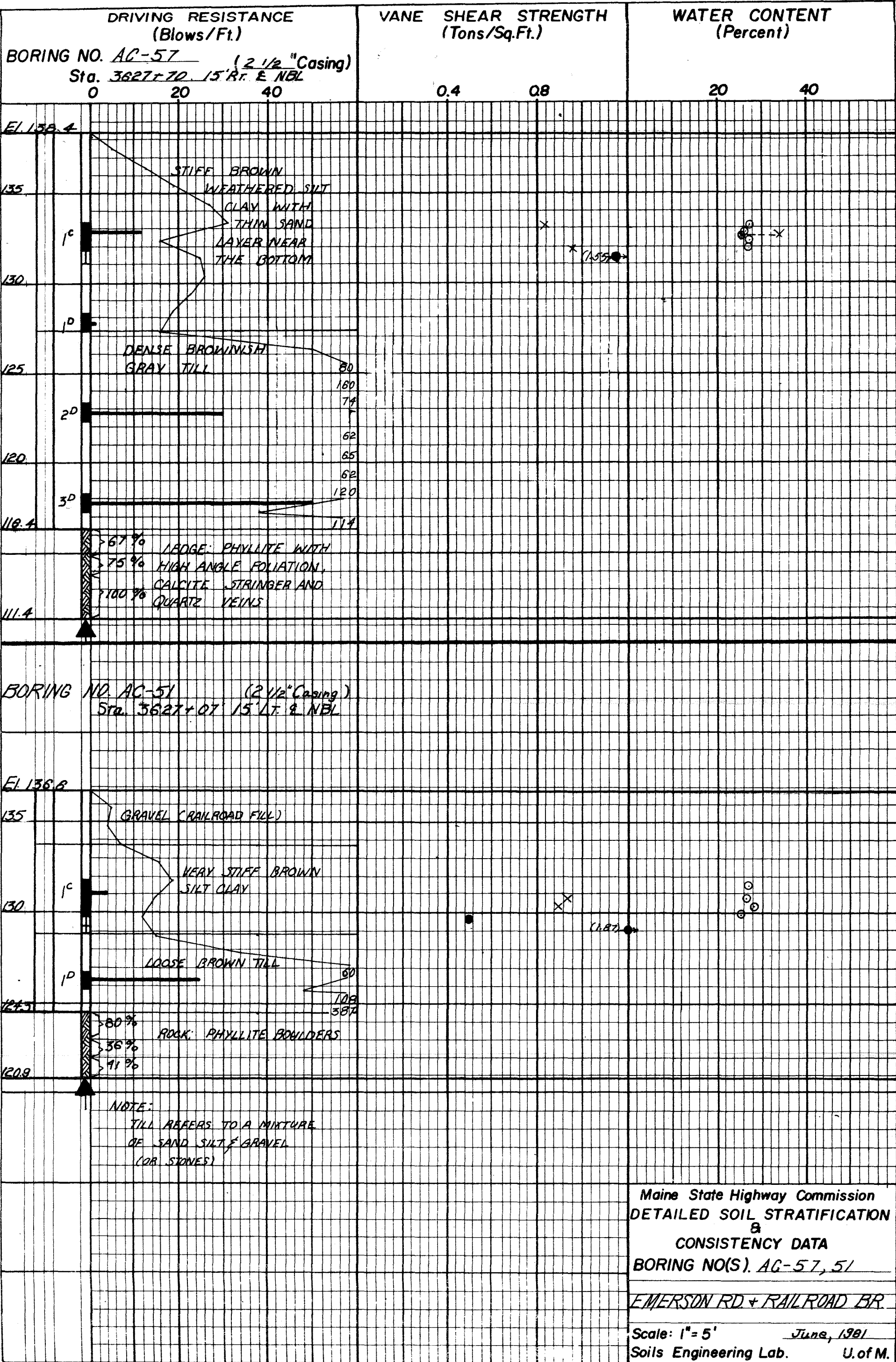




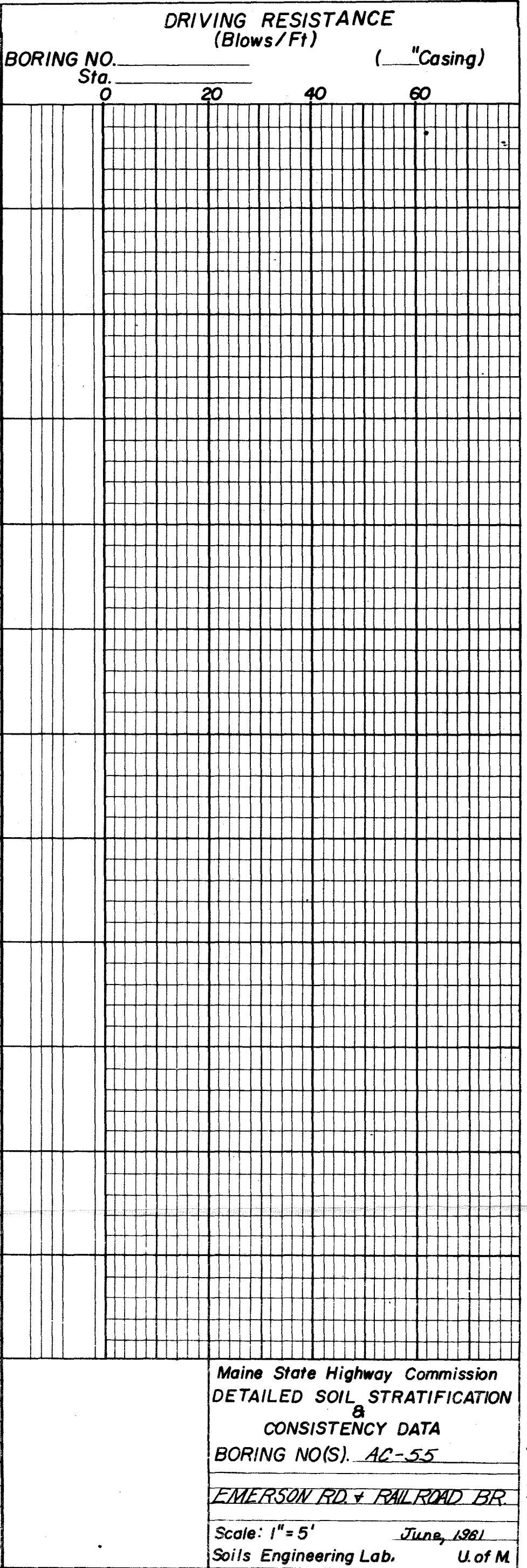
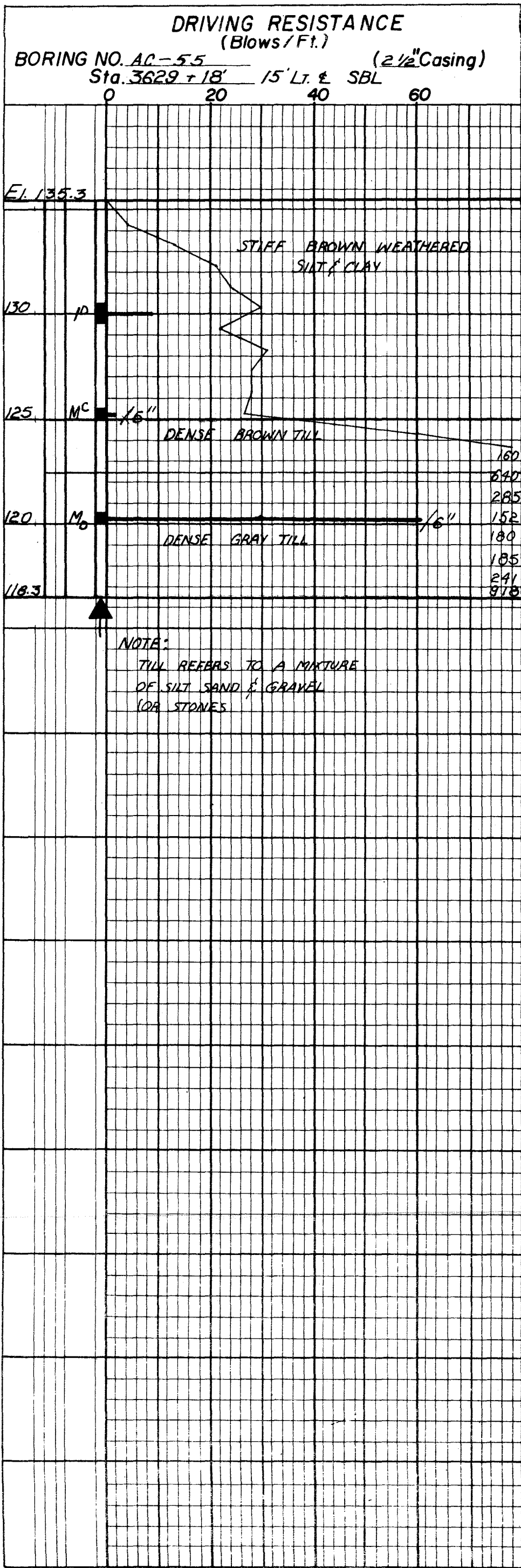


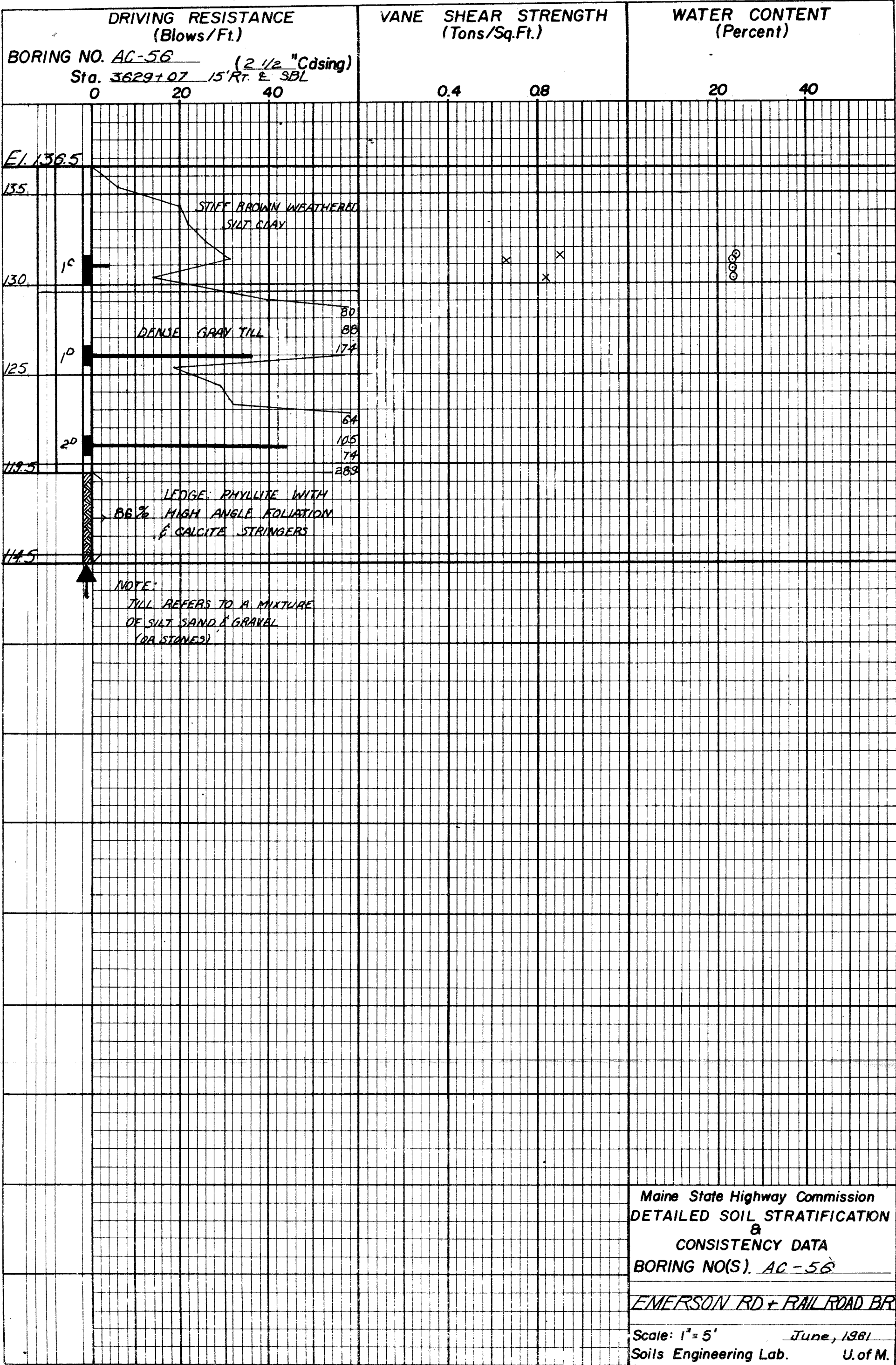








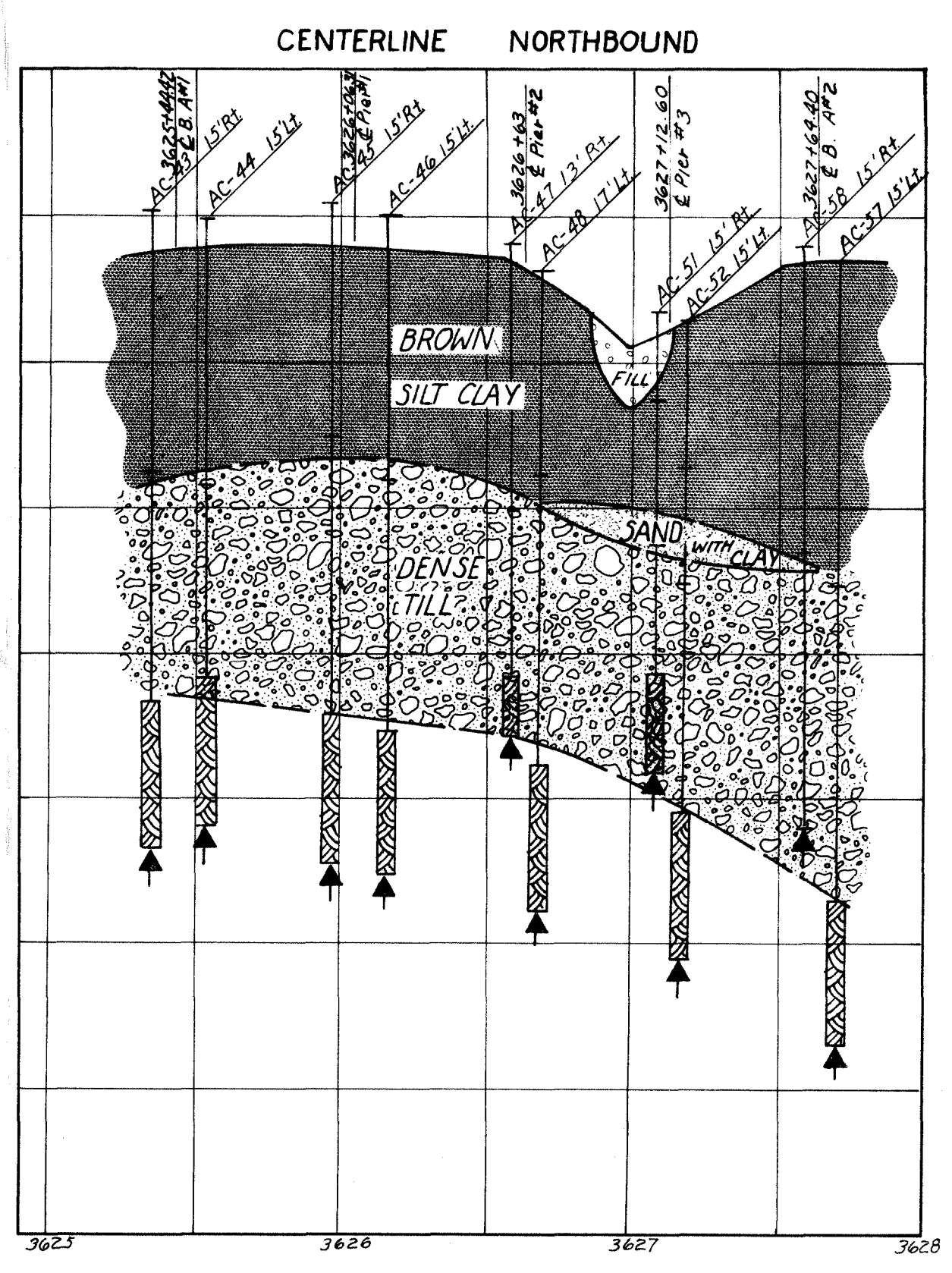
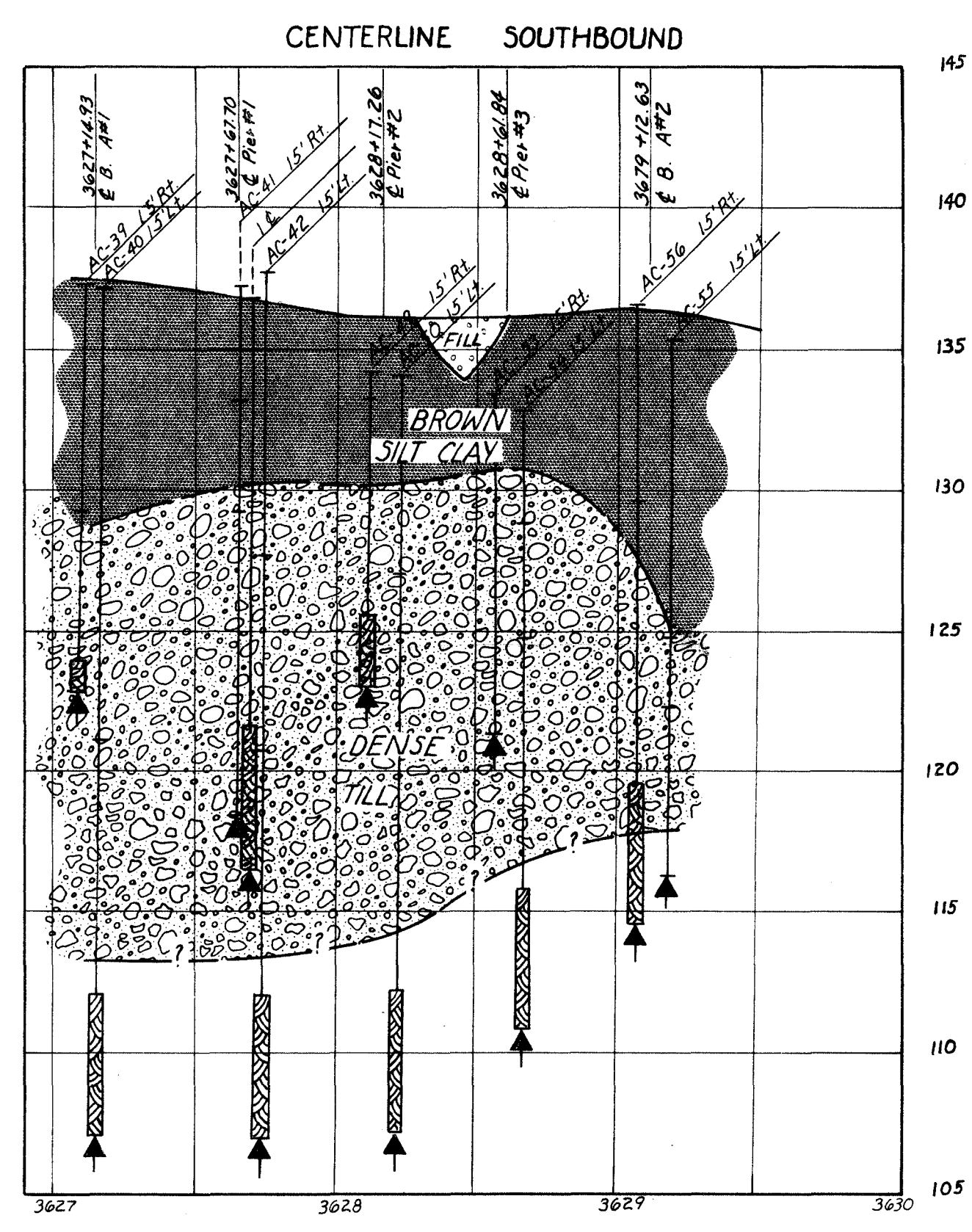
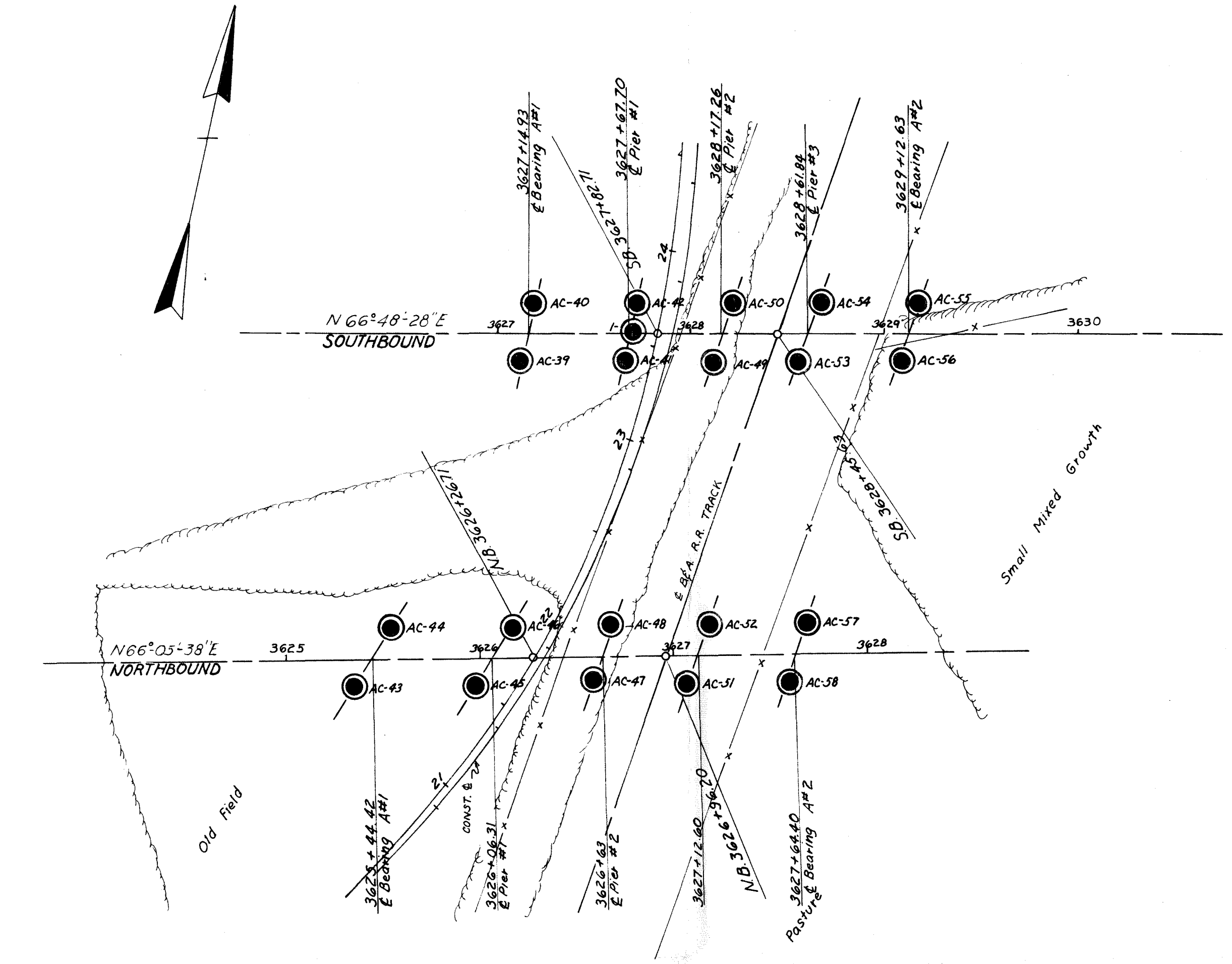
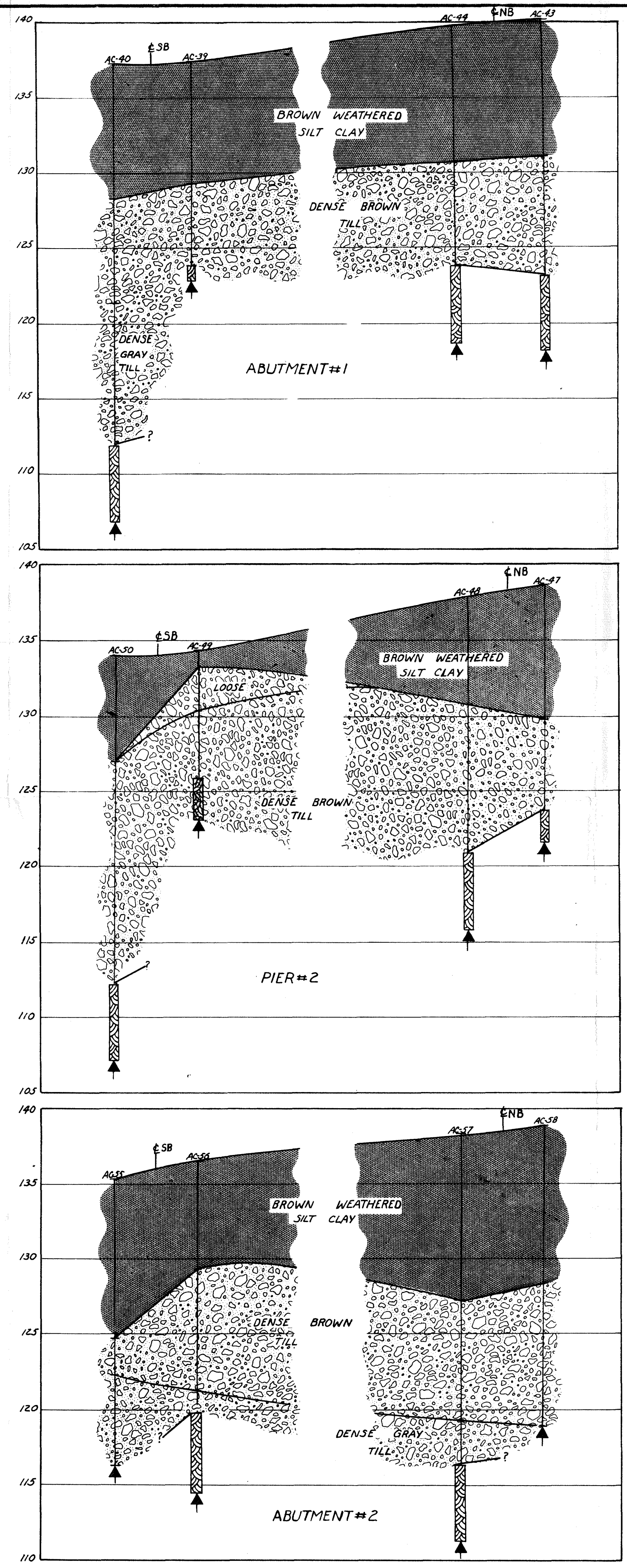
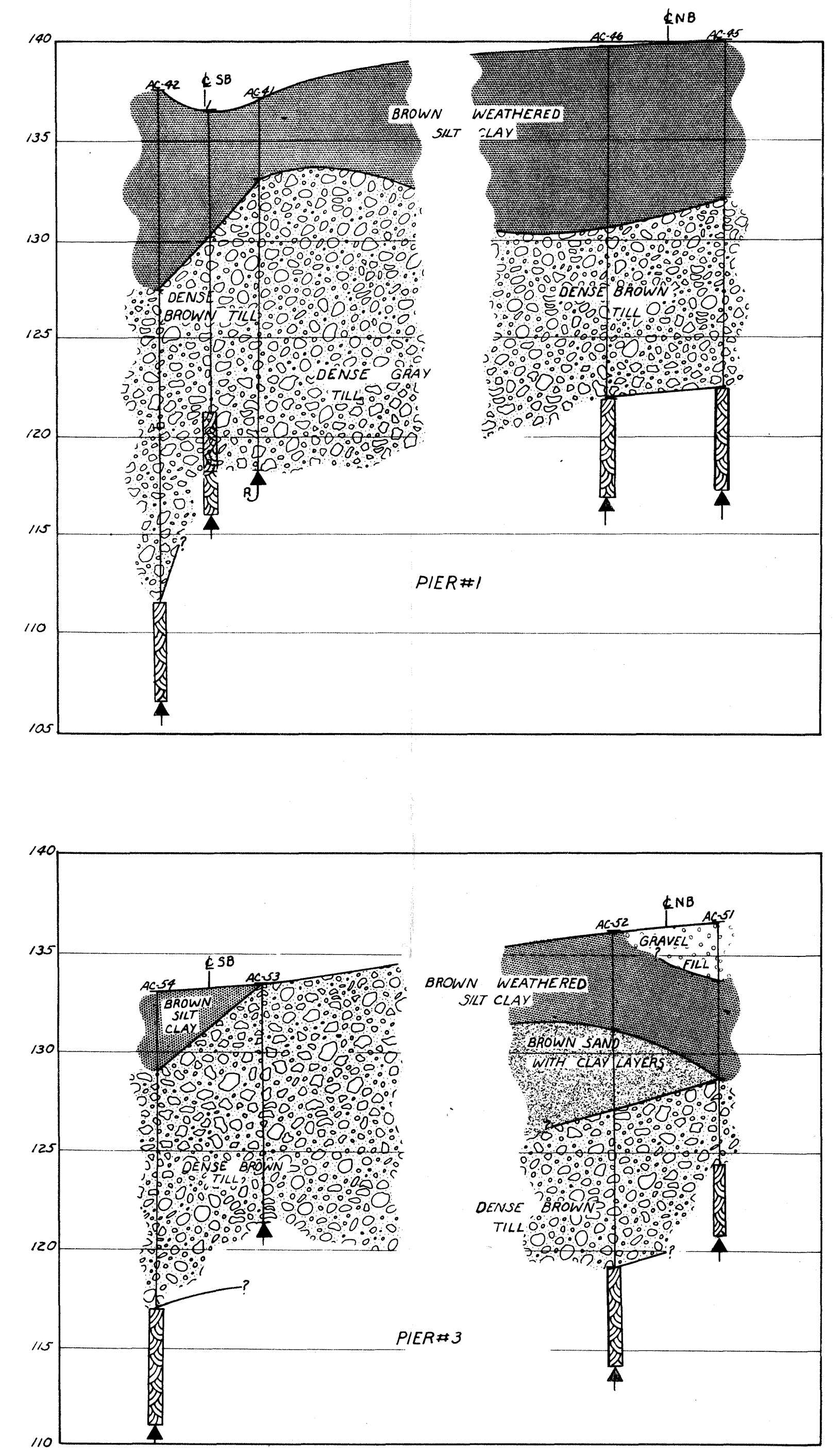






B. P. R. REG. NO.	STATE	PROJECT NUMBER	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
1	MAINE			

TRANSVERSE SECTIONS



DESIGN - TRACE - CHECK -	BRIDGE NO. SURVEY - PLOT -
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION BRIDGE DIVISION	
EMERSON MILL ROAD & RAILROAD BRIDGE	
IN THE TOWN OF HAMPDEN PENOBSCOT COUNTY FOUNDATION SURVEY	
SHEET	OF AUGUSTA, MAINE



14 **DESIGN PRESSURES**  
For use in designing Footings  
when the bottom of the footing  
is placed in the granular fill  
and at least 8 feet below  
12 the surface.  
Pressure can be increased  
by 0.5 ton/ft.<sup>2</sup> for each additional  
foot of depth.

ALLOWABLE BEARING PRESSURES  
(TONS/SQ. FT.)

10

8

6

2

4

6

8

10

WIDTH OF FOOTING (FEET)

MAINE STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

DESIGN PRESSURES

EMERSON ROAD BRIDGE

HAMPDEN INTERSTATE

AUG 1961

SOILS ENGINEERING LAB

U. OF M.

SHEET NO. 15