

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# ¼ Corners of Minimum Control

With John Farnsworth

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CADASTRAL SURVEY

# ¼ Corners of Minimum Control

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Many people do not realize that one-quarter section corners on the north and west boundary of the township may not have been monumented in the original surveys. John Farnsworth will explain how they are established in subsequent surveys.

Let us talk about quarter corners of minimal control which can be found in this edition of the Manual in Chapters 3 and 7. Now, by definition in this Manual any corner controlling the subdivision, only one side of the line has turned the corner of minimum control. We are not going to talk about the various and different classes in minimum control, we are going to really keep ourselves through those quarter corners of minimum control.

The classic situation is where the original survey established closing corners on the exterior boundary of a township. The quarter corners was protracted over the plat but was not established on the ground.

In the graphic that we are looking at, we are showing the closing line on the north boundary of a township. Closing corners were established on that line but the north quarter corner was never set although the position for it is established by the plat.

So in these situations, when you look to establish these quarter corners of minimum control, they are set on the line closed upon at midpoint, or proportion position, and either latitude or departure, based upon the plat record and between the original position of the closing corners.

Now this edition of the Manual gives more consideration to corners in minimum control or more direction to the surveyor than the 1973 Manual. The reference to these previously established corners of minimum control is in the Manual in section 7-30 as shown in this graphic. It shows where an obviously careful retracement of the senior line has been made and the field notes state clearly that new monuments were set on line. The monuments become the best available evidence of the position of the senior line.

In summary, this edition of the Manual clarifies two issues regarding a quarter corner of minimum control. The first issue is clarifying the control points for the establishment of those corners. The second issue, is the guidance it gives to the retracement surveyor to overlook minor technical differences in measurement when evaluating these corners in future surveys.

In other words, if you are out there running net-line and another survey has monumented and filed a plat and established that quarter corner of minimum control and you find it to be a short distance out of position, leave it alone and utilize it in your survey.