

## Site Search Process and Selection

Section 16-50j-74(j) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires the applicant to submit a statement that describes “the narrowing process by which other possible sites were considered and eliminated.” In accordance with this requirement, the description of the general site search process, the identification of the target search area and the alternative locations considered for development of the proposed Meriden telecommunications facility are provided below.

As a tower developer, Optasite bases its decision to seek out a site in an area on its knowledge and understanding of existing weaknesses in the systems of the several wireless carriers operating in the area and/or consultation with individual carriers. A target area is chosen central to the area in which the coverage and/or capacity needs have been identified. The area targeted is the geographical location where the installation of a site would, based on general radio frequency engineering and system design standards, be likely to address the identified problem. Optasite’s goal is to locate sites that will provide for orderly integration into the existing wireless systems of multiple carriers. In this case, T-Mobile had previously initiated a search for a site in this area and identified the proposed location. Subsequently, T-Mobile agreed to pursue development of a site through Optasite.

Optasite is sensitive to State and local desires to minimize the construction of new towers, and does not initiate searches in areas with known acceptable structures. In the area of Meriden that is the subject of this site search, there are no existing towers, transmission line structures or other suitable structures. Any existing towers are too far from the target area to provide coverage specifically to the target area.

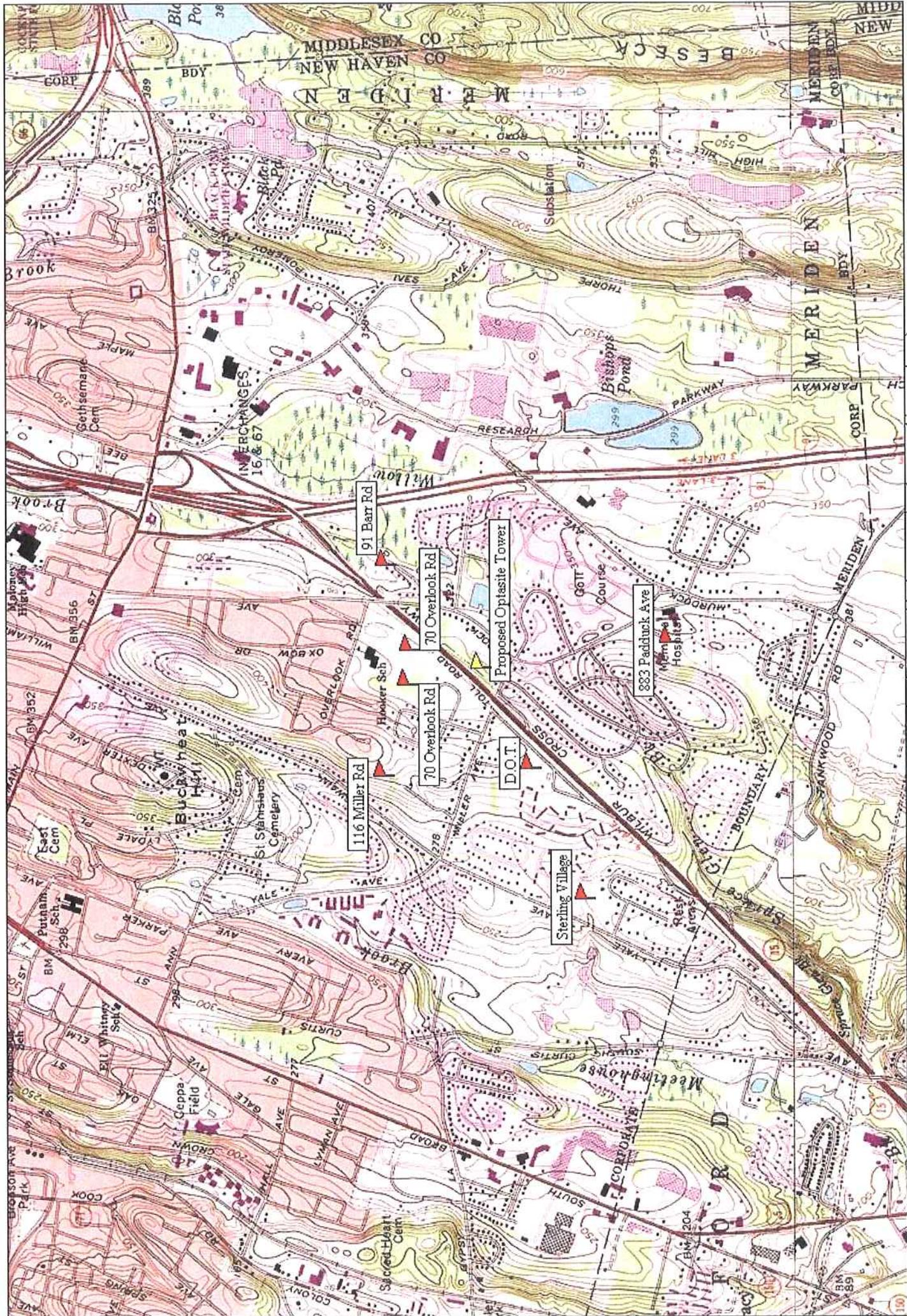
In general, Optasite first studies the area to determine whether industrial or commercial areas or areas which have appropriate environmental and land use characteristics are present. Potential locations are studied by radio frequency engineers to determine whether the locations will meet the technical requirements for a site in the area. The list of potential locations is further refined based on the willingness of property owners to make their property available. Analysis of potential environmental effects and benefits may further narrow the alternatives. In each site search, the weight afforded to relevant factors may vary depending on the nature of the area and the availability of potential sites.

There are no large areas of commercial or industrial use in or next to the target area. The Department of Transportation is directly across the Merritt Parkway but due to the lack of space, the Department of Transportation has refused to lease to Optasite.

Optasite investigated numerous properties in the area surrounding the First Assembly of God Church property. Optasite investigated property located at 116 Miller Road in Meriden owned by Ruth A. Weston. This site was rejected because it is located on top of a hill with high visibility to surrounding properties and minimal to no natural

screening. Optasite investigated various properties owned by the City of Meriden. Optasite investigated city owned properties located at 91 Barr Road, 70 Overlook Road (the Thomas Hooker School), and 70 Overlook Road (the Kogut Memorial Field—in back of the Thomas Hooker School). T-Mobile rejected the property located at 91 Barr Road because of its proximity to an existing on-air site and because any towers on this site would have to be 170-180' tall. The City rejected the Thomas Hooker School site. The City rejected the Kogut Memorial Field site given the impact on wetlands and the importance of this property to the City. Optasite also investigated another property owned by Meriden and located at 883 Paddock Avenue. Optasite has inquired as to the availability of this property and there has yet to be a determination from the City. However, the other city-owned sites which Optasite considered were rejected by Meriden. Finally, Optasite investigated nearby property owned by Sterling Village condominiums and was unable to reach a lease agreement.

The First Assembly of God Church property is superior to other properties in the area. Owned by the First Assembly of God Church, it is an approximately 3.98 acre parcel, with close proximity to the highway. Portions of the property have been developed for use as a church and its associated parking lot. The rear of the parking lot is essentially undeveloped and backs up to the Merritt Parkway.



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