

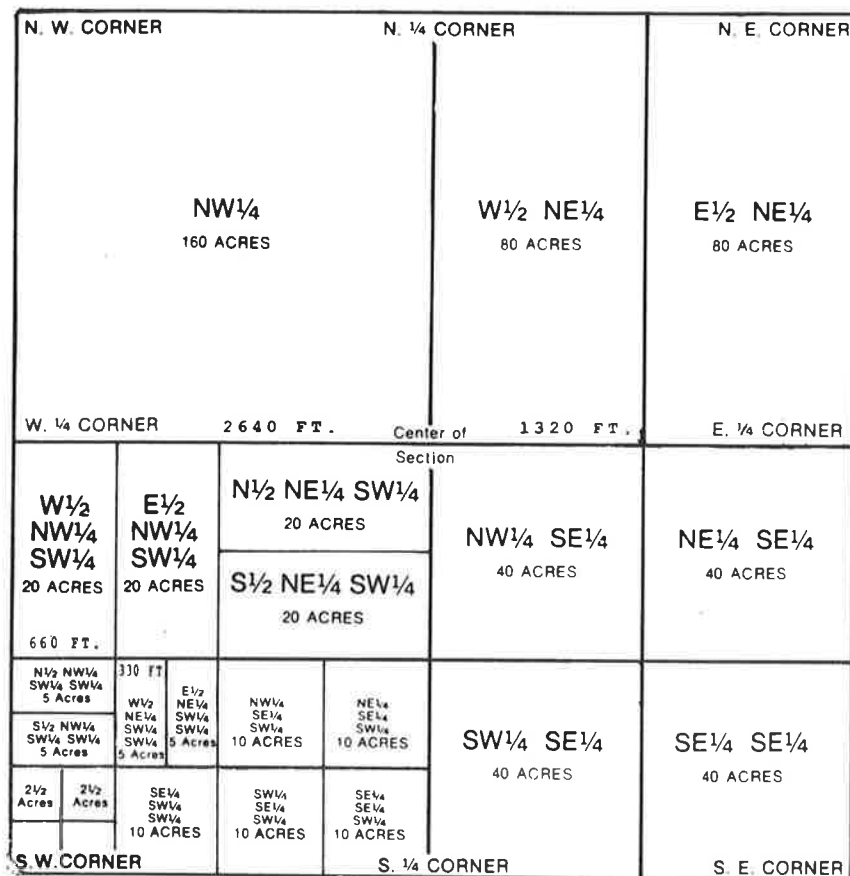
# Important Facts About Land Descriptions

## WHAT IS A LAND DESCRIPTION?

A land description is a description of a tract of land in legally acceptable terms, so as to show exactly where it is located and how many acres it contains.

### A SECTION OF LAND — 640 ACRES

Chains Rods Feet  
Quarter Sections and Subdivisions Thereof



### LEGAL PLAT OF SECTIONIZED AND NUMBERED TOWNSHIP WITH SECTIONS ADJOINING.

36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6
12	7	8	9	10	11	12	7
13	18	17	16	15	14	13	18
24	19	20	21	22	23	24	19
25	30	29	28	27	26	25	30
36	31	32	33	34	35	36	31
1	6	5	4	3	2	1	6

The system of the U.S. Land Survey is cartographically represented by lines running east and west and north and south. These lines are six miles apart and in this manner form squares containing 36 square miles known as congressional townships. This system of survey starts from the intersection of a principal meridian and base line.

The numbers starting from each intersection of a base line and a principal meridian, increasing south or north along the meridians are called township numbers, and those going east and west along the base lines are known as range numbers.

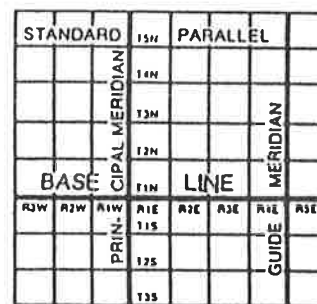


Diagram showing typical division of tract into Townships

Chains	1/4 Mile	1/2 Mile	3/4 Mile	1 Mile
Links	2,000	4,000	6,000	8,000
Rods	80	160	240	320
Feet	1,320	2,640	3,960	5,280

Always on rectangular survey descriptions work from end of description back to the beginning. Example:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
Town and Range Sec. Number 1/4 section 1/4 sec. of 1/4 sec. thence into halves or quarters to beginning  
South 165 feet of S1/2 S1/2 SE1/4 NE1/4 Section 8 Town 7 North Range 7 East  
5 Acres 10 Acres 20 Acres 40 Acres 160 Acres 640 Acres

The preferred order in locating quarter sections is counter-clockwise. North East quarter, North West quarter, South West quarter, and South East quarter. If parts of the quarter sections are to be described, the same order should be observed.

## TABLE OF LAND MEASUREMENTS

LINEAR MEASURE			SQUARE MEASURE	
1 inch.....0833 foot	16 1/2 feet.....1 rod	144 sq. in.....1 sq. ft.	43560 sq. ft.....1 acre	
7.92 inches.....1 link	5 1/2 yards.....1 rod	9 sq. ft.....1 sq. yd.	640 acres.....1 sq. mile	
12 inches.....1 foot	4 rods.....100 links	30 1/4 sq. yds.....1 sq. rod	1 sq. mile.....1 section	
1 vara.....33 inches	66 feet.....1 chain	16 sq. rods.....1 sq. chain	36 sq. miles.....1 township	
2 3/4 feet.....1 vara	80 chains.....1 mile	1 sq. rod.....272 1/4 sq. ft.	6 miles sq.....1 township	
3 feet.....1 yard	320 rods.....1 mile	1 sq. chain.....4356 sq. ft.	208 ft. 8 in. sq.....1 acre	
25 links.....16 1/2 feet	8000 links.....1 mile	10 sq. chains.....1 acre	80 rods sq.....40 acres	
25 links.....1 rod	5280 feet.....1 mile	160 sq. rods.....1 acre	160 rods sq.....160 acres	
100 links.....1 chain	1760 yards.....1 mile	4840 sq. yds.....1 acre		

In non-rectangular land descriptions, distance is usually described in terms of either feet or rods, (this is especially true in surveying today), and square measure in terms of acres. Such descriptions are called Metes and Bounds descriptions and will be explained in detail later.

In rectangular land descriptions, square measure is again in terms of acres, and the location of the land in such terms N1/2 (north one-half), SE 1/4 (south east one-fourth or quarter, etc. as shown in Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5.