

THE PROXIMITY OF PATTERNED FEATURES WITH THE WISCONSINAN
TERMINAL MORaine IN ILLINOIS

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ABSTRACT

Grey-toned patterned features, that appear on aerial photographs, indicate a relationship with the terminal moraine of the Wisconsinan glacier. These relationships that are visually and statistically significant include:

- 1) feature density increases as distance to the terminal moraine decreases;
- 2) features are more clustered in distribution as distance to the terminal moraine decreases; and
- 3) both small and large features are adjacent to the terminal moraine while small features dominate at greater distances.

Along with these relationships, the shape of the features is also examined.

Several origins for these patterns are proposed such as Illinoian stagnation features, erosional rills, anthropogenic features, desiccation polygons, and periglacial landforms. These features are perhaps poly-genetic in nature, however, the proximity of these features with the glacial margin (the majority within 39 miles) tends to suggest a possible periglacial genesis for these landforms.