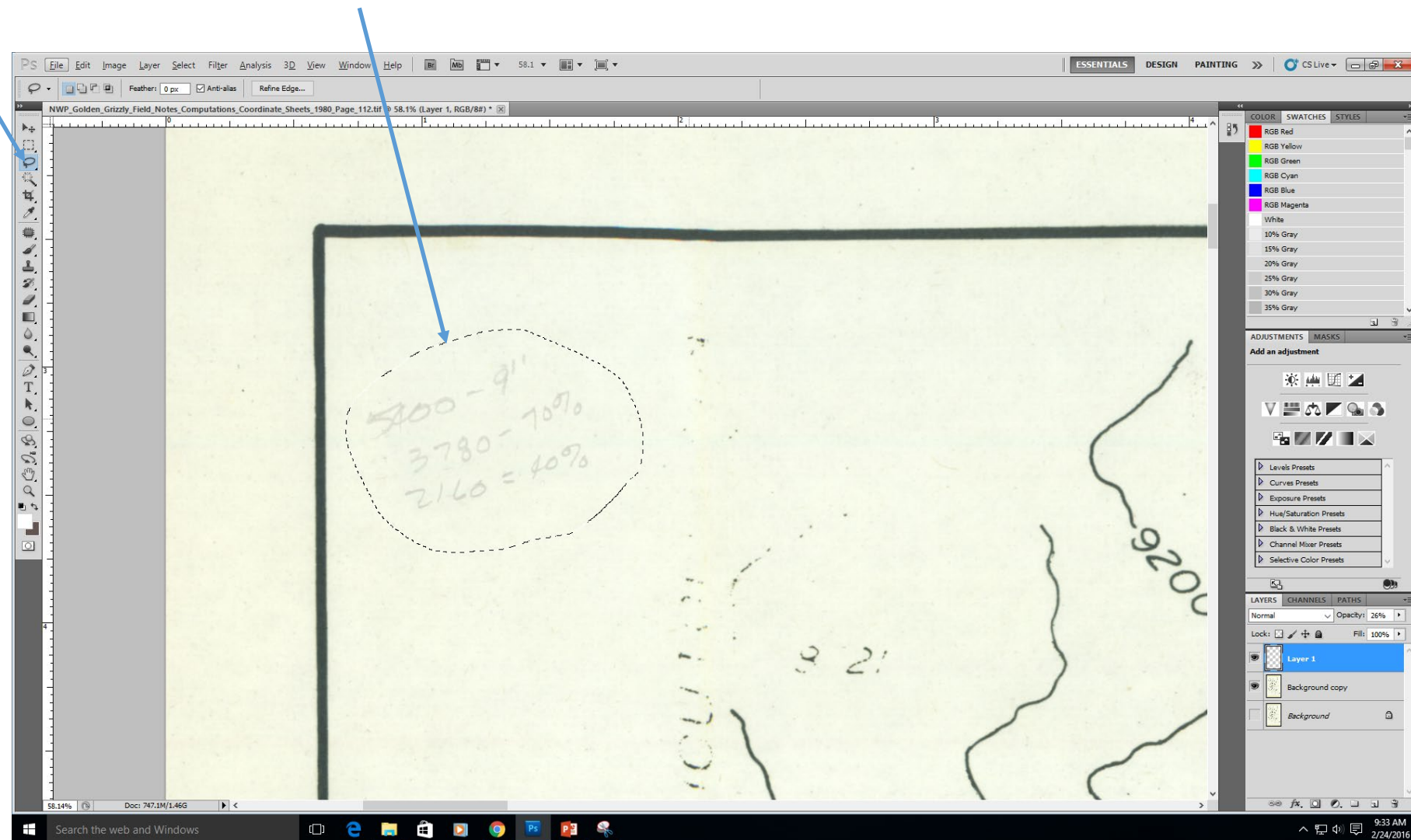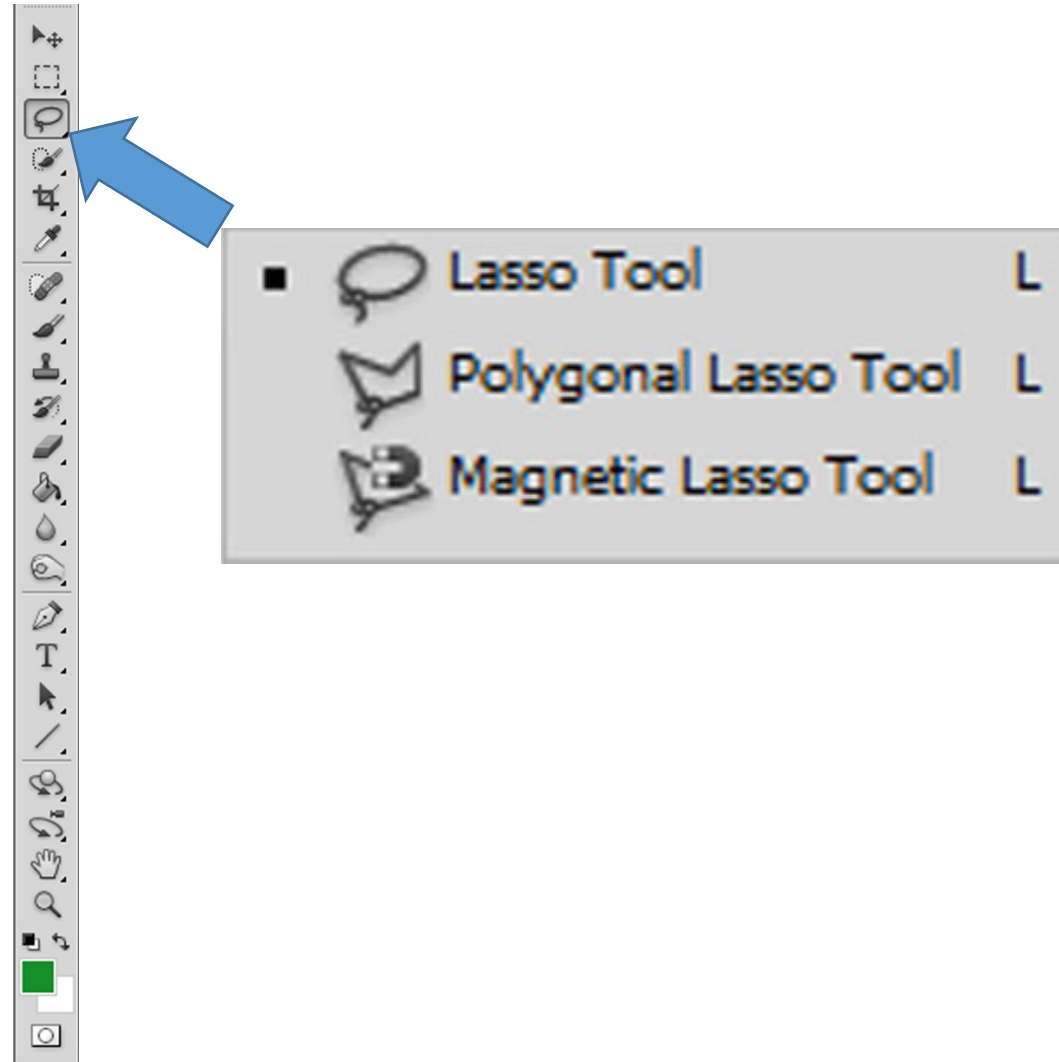# Lasso, Polygonal Lasso, and Magnetic Lasso Tips

The lasso tool is great for making a quick, irregularly shaped selection. For example, if you need to select the area containing this faded, penciled-in text, you could just draw around it with the lasso tool.

It would then be easy to sharpen the text using the Unsharp Mask filter, without having to create a new layer (see next slide).
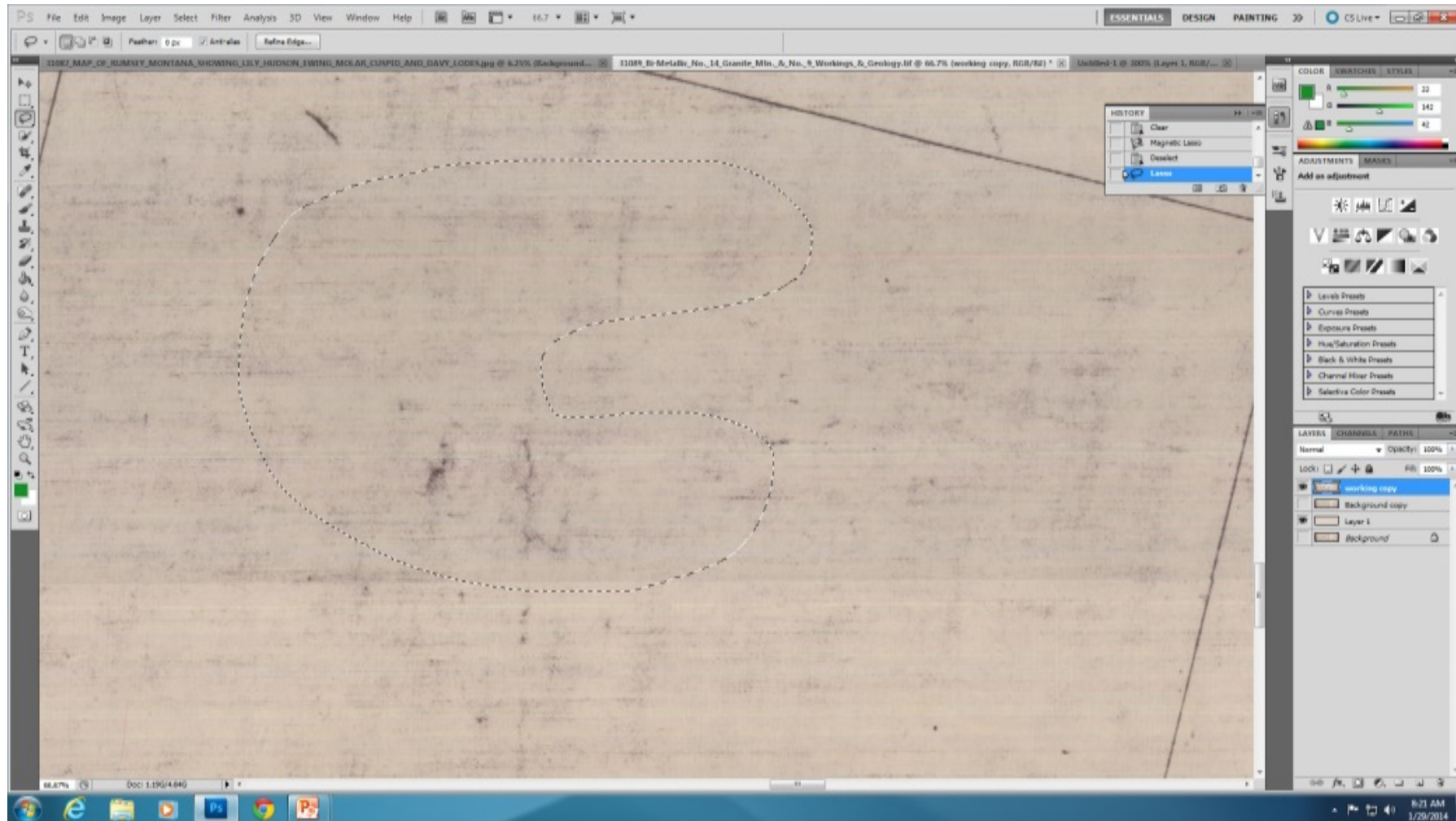
In other situations, the lasso tool can be used to select areas that need to be filled to fix imperfections.
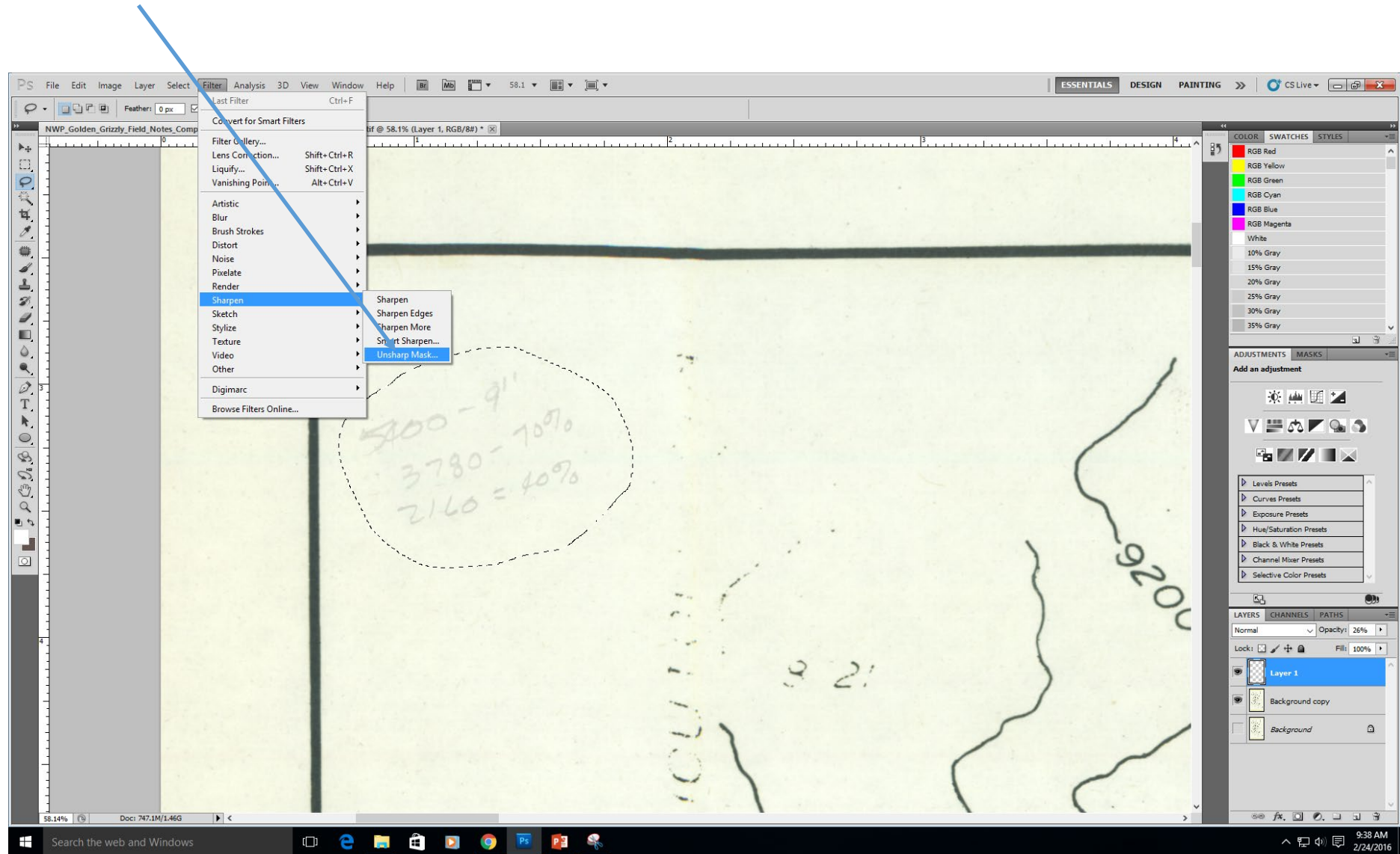
The Lasso Tool (hot key L on the keyboard) is the third icon
down from the top on the left side tool bar. To access the sub menu for the Lasso Tool, hover over
the Lasso Tool icon and right click the mouse.

Lasso Tool   L

Polygonal Lasso Tool   L

Magnetic Lasso Tool   L

The Lasso Tool can be used to "free-hand" draw around an item.
Place the Lasso Tool Icon anywhere on your scan, depress and hold down the left mouse
button and move the mouse wherever you want.
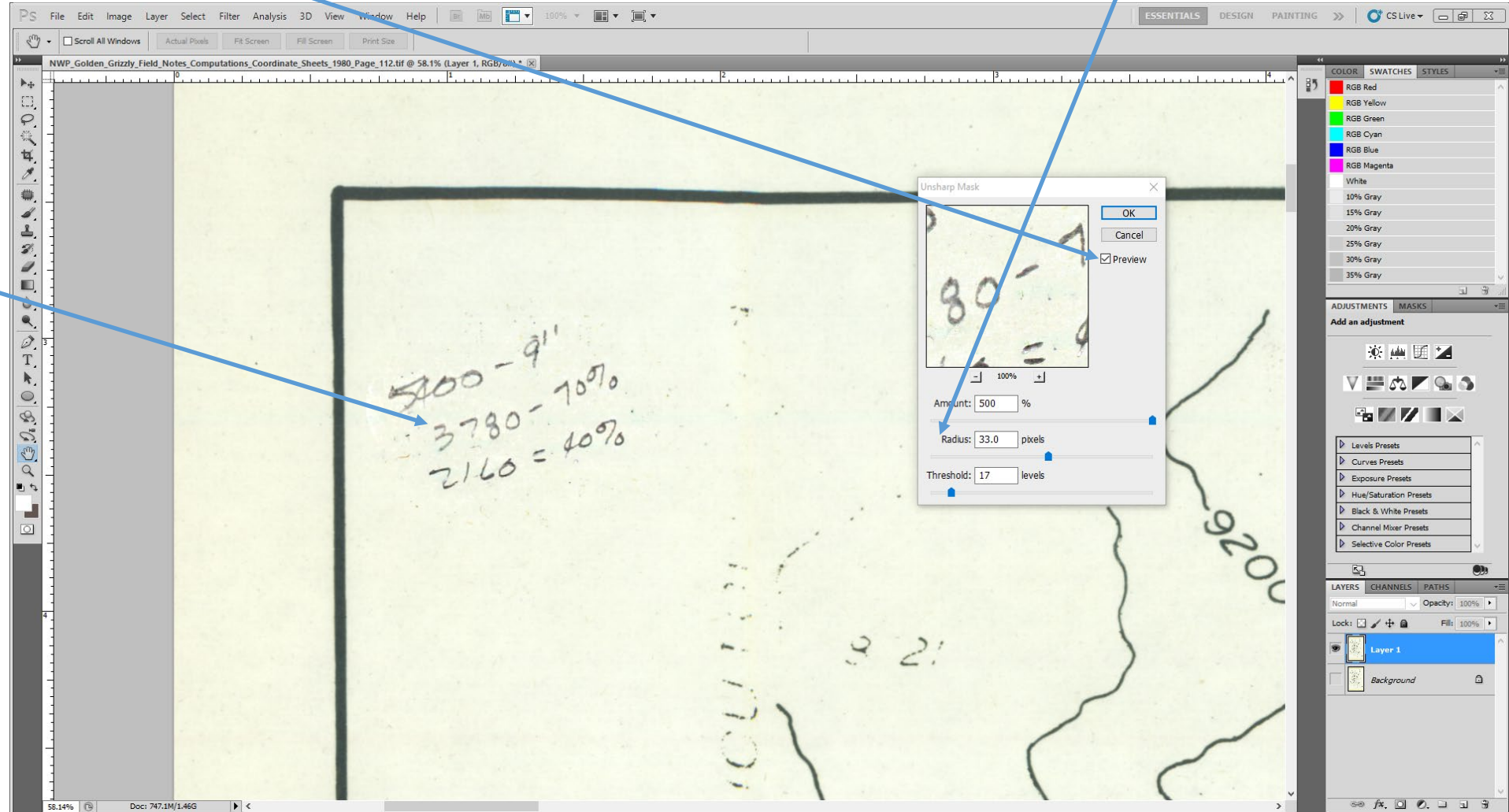You must connect your endpoint to your starting point for the area to be selected.

To darken text within a selection, go to Filter -> Sharpen -> Unsharp Mask

Make sure "Preview" is selected in the Unsharp Mask dialog box, then adjust the Unsharp Mask filter options until the text is as dark as needed.

The Unsharp Mask will only be applied to the area inside the lasso selection, even though it is not on a separate layer.
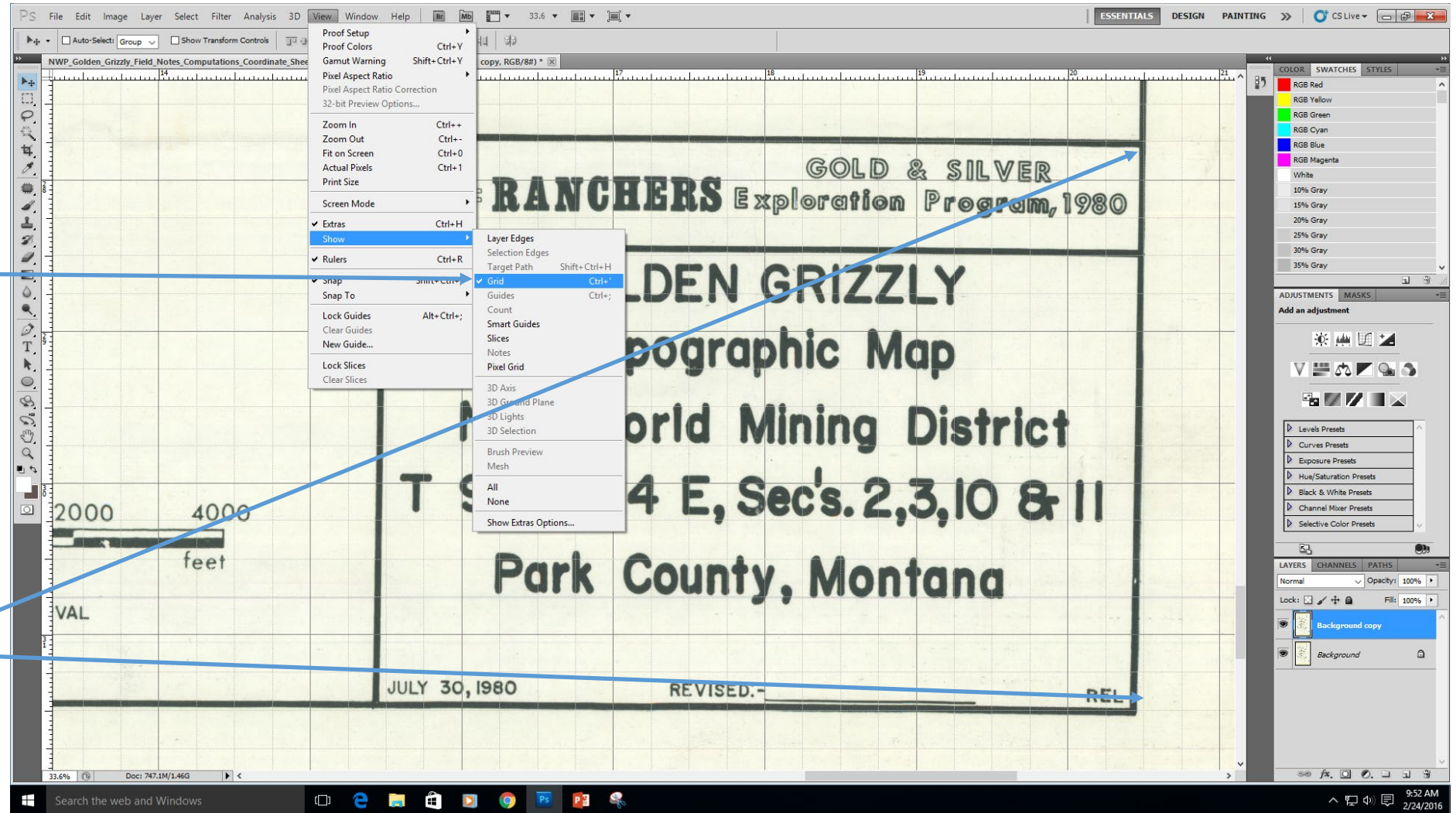
Remember to save your work.

The polygonal lasso tool is useful for selecting areas that have sharp corners, but are not exactly regular in shape.
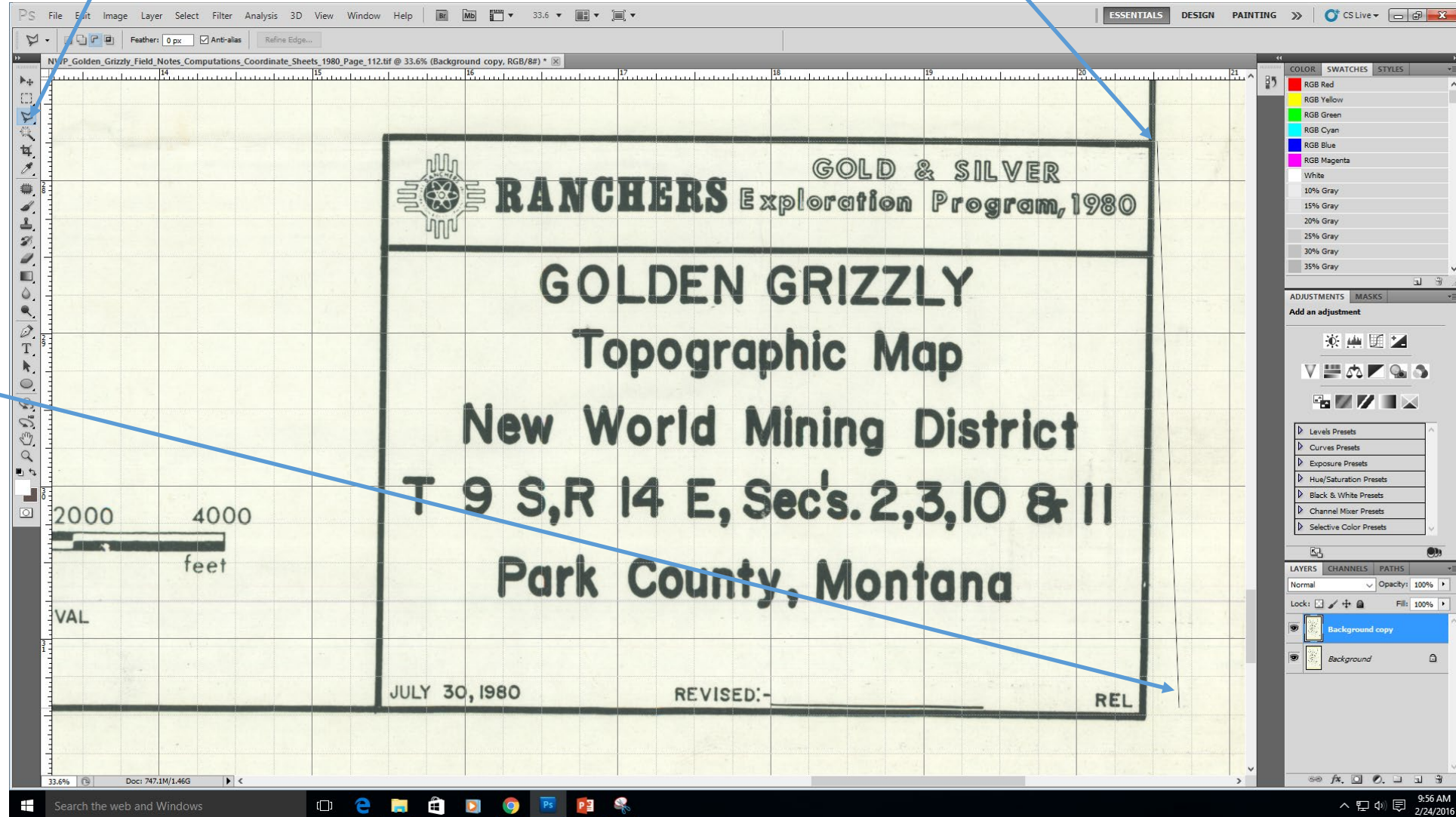
Making the grid visible can help you see whether an area is regularly shaped, or lined up evenly. To make the grid visible, go to
View -> Show -> Grid
(or ctrl + ')

With the grid visible, you can see that the map label area is not exactly square.

With the polygonal lasso tool selected (it's under the lasso tool box), click on one of the corners of the not-quite-square area to add an anchor point.

Then, move the mouse to the next corner. You will see a line connecting the original anchor point to wherever you point the mouse.
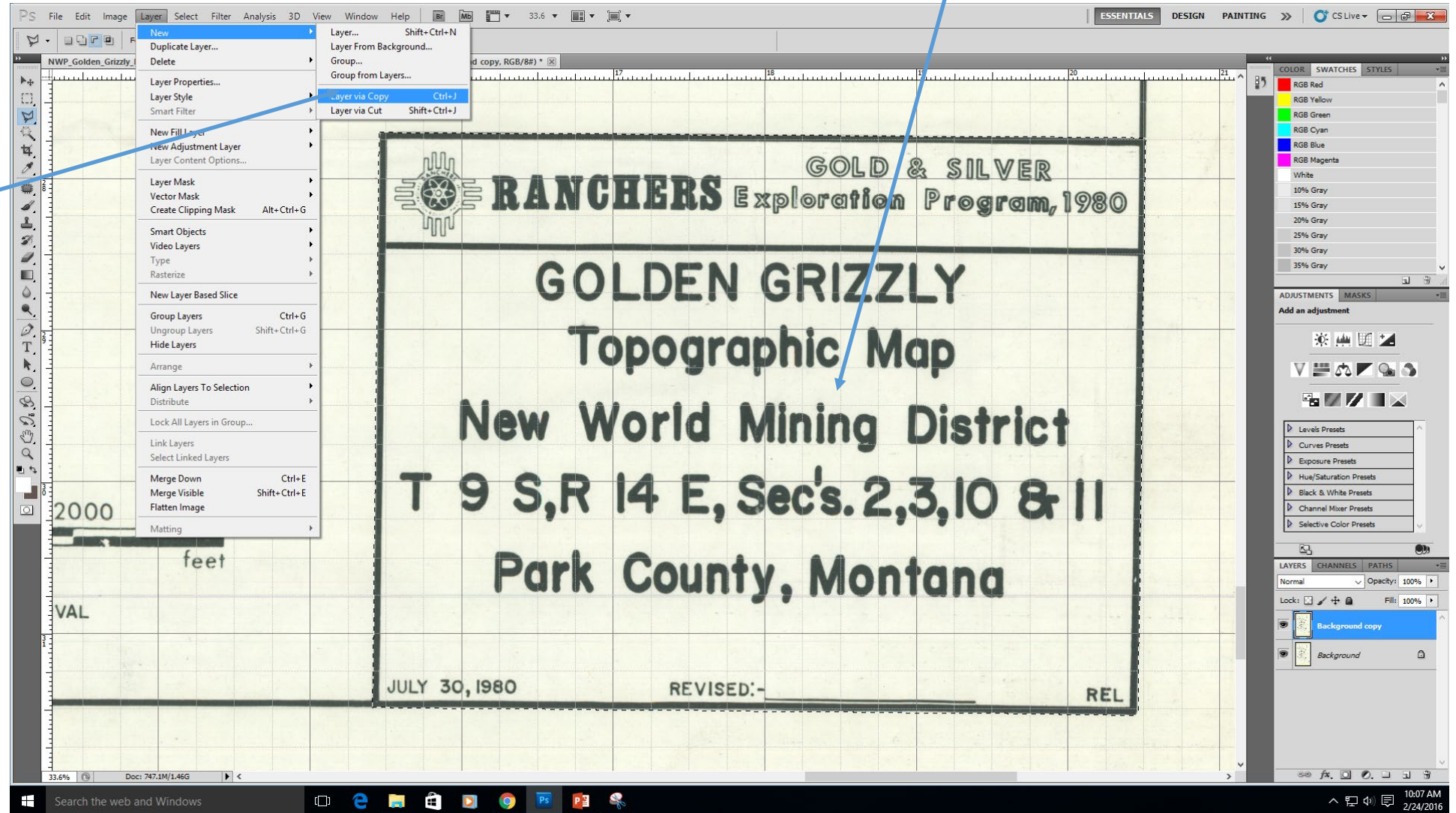
Continue clicking around the area, adding anchor points at each corner, until you get back to the original anchor point. Click once again on the original anchor point to close the polygonal selection. The entire not-quite-square area inside the polygon is now selected.

If needed, you can now make the selected area a new layer using
Layer -> New ->
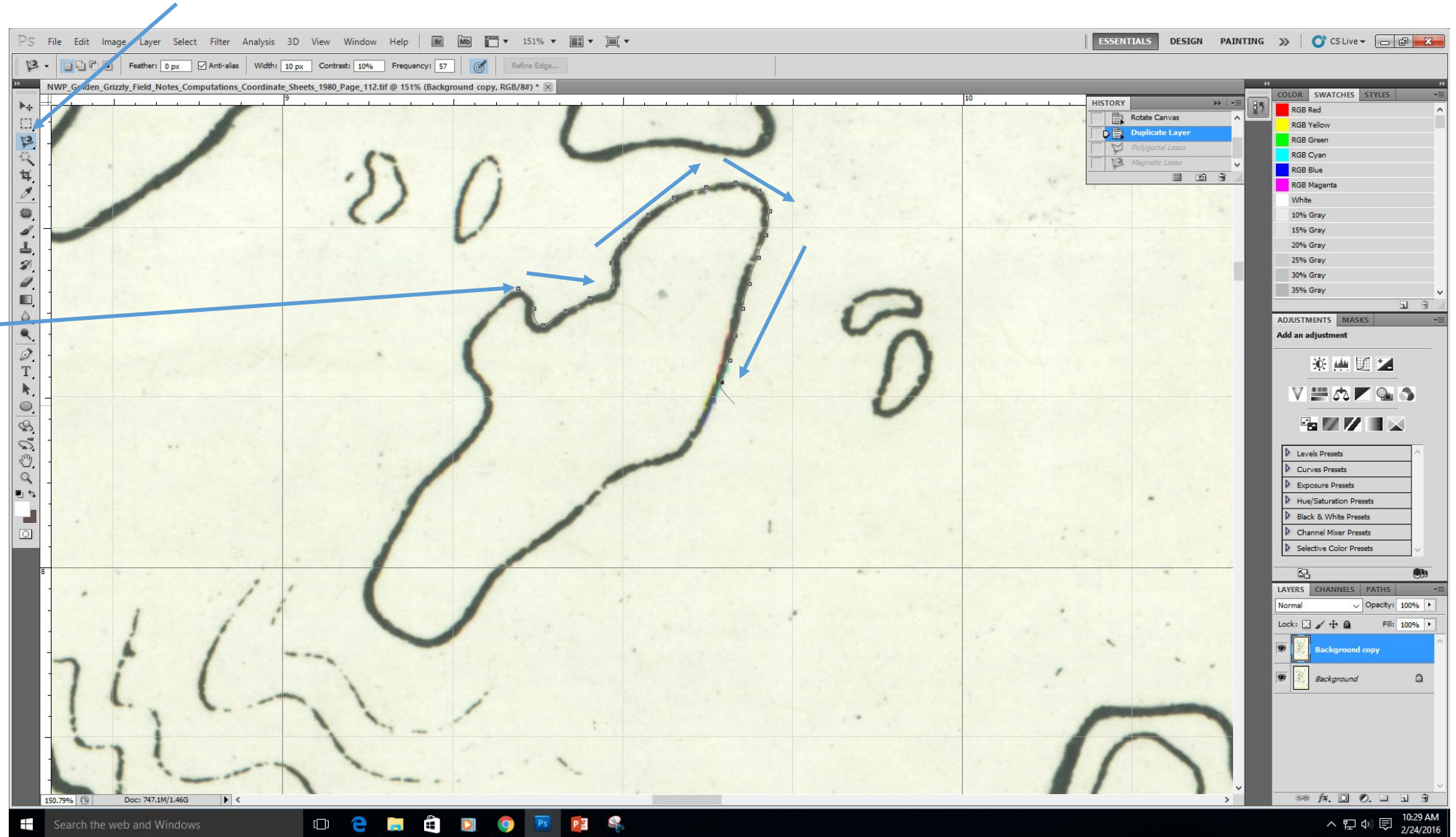Layer via Copy or Layer via Cut (ctrl + J or ctrl + shift + J).

Or, you could perform any other needed adjustments to the area, such as sharpening any faded text (see lasso tool example).

Remember to save your work.

The magnetic lasso tool is useful for selecting irregular areas that would require hand-cramping precision when tracing the area if using the normal lasso tool. It is located under the lasso tool box.

With the magnetic lasso tool selected, click anywhere on the border of the area you need to select. This adds an anchor point. Then, move the mouse around the edge of the selection area. You don't have to be as precise in your mouse movements, since the magnetic effect will "stick" the lasso to the edges, adding anchor points automatically.

Once you trace all the way back to the start, click on the original anchor point again to close the selection area.

Now that the area is selected, you can create a new layer, sharpen the interior, or perform any other necessary adjustments.

Remember to save your work.