

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE STAGE 4  
EXCAVATION OF THE McWATT SITE (BcHb-61),  
HOME HARDWARE PROPERTY,  
PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 40,  
CONCESSION 8, TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD,  
COUNTY OF SIMCOE**



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PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 40, CONCESSION 8,  
TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD, COUNTY OF SIMCOE**

Submitted to

**Home Hardware Stores Ltd.**

and

**Ministry of Culture**

Prepared by

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Archaeological Consulting Licence Number PO13

C.I.F. Number PO13-337-2007

September 2007

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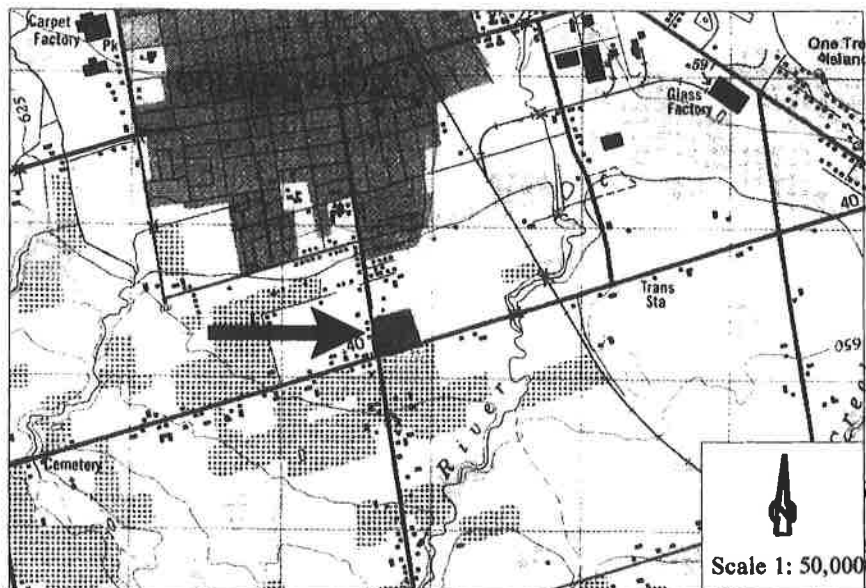
## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This executive summary is intended to provide a brief description of the results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the McWatt site (BcHb-61), Home Hardware Property, Part of the South Half of Lot 40, Concession 8, Town of Collingwood, County of Simcoe. The assessment was undertaken on behalf of Home Hardware Stores Ltd. The McWatt site (BcHb-61) is a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Euro-Canadian homestead. This preliminary report has been prepared in order to facilitate the clearance of the archaeological conditions attached to the development of this retail project. This site represents the only archaeological planning concern on this parcel of land. A Stage 1-3 archaeological assessment report has already been produced for this property (AAL 2007).

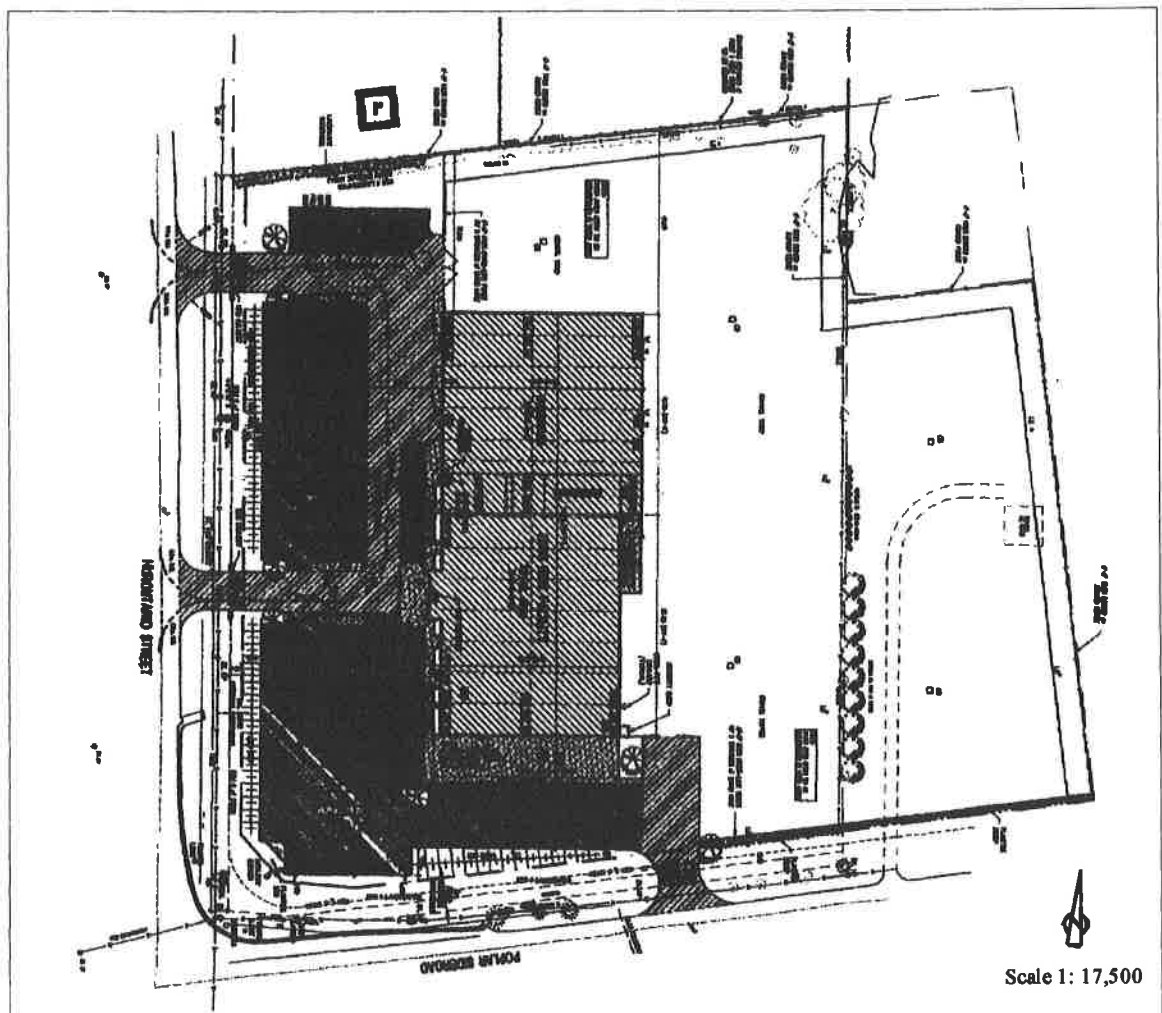
Permission for access to the property and to remove and curate artifacts was granted by the land owner. All fieldwork was conducted under archaeological consulting licence No. PO-13 issued to the firm of Archaeological Assessments Ltd. The assessment was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act (Government of Ontario 1980), and with the technical guidelines for archaeological assessments formulated by the Ministry of Culture (1993, 2006).

## 2.0 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The 8.05 acre subject property which contains the McWatt site is located south of the urban core of the Town of Collingwood, immediately northeast of the intersection of County Road No. 124 (County Road 124) and Poplar Sideroad (Figure 1 and 2).



**Figure 1.** Location of the Subject Property

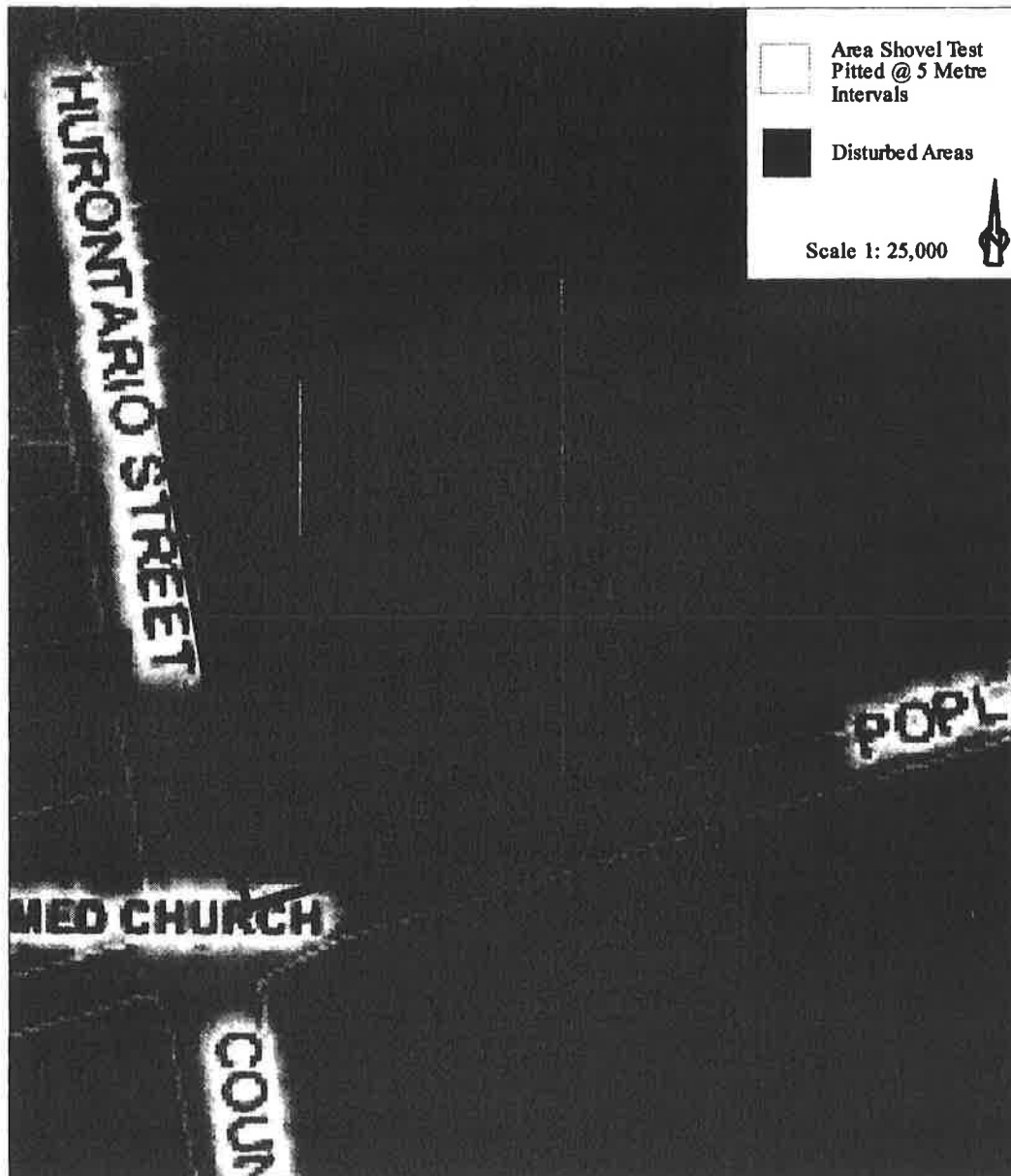


**Figure 2. Subject Property Site Plan**

The subject property consists of some partially disturbed meadowlands and a farm building complex. The farm building complex is situated along the eastern edge of the property and contains a farmhouse, several outbuildings and a long gravel driveway. The property is low and relatively flat with the only relief being a small relic watercourse that passes through the western section of the property. A large area in the central and western section of the property has been partially graded in the past. The top half of the topsoil horizon has been stripped from this area and stockpiled.

### 3.0 RESULTS OF THE STAGE 1-3 ASSESSMENT

A Stage 1-3 assessment of the subject property was conducted by our firm in July and August, 2007 (AAL 2007). Obvious areas of disturbance occupied by the farm house, sheds and gravel laneway in the eastern section of the property were not shovel test pitted. All of the other areas on the property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals (Figure 3). One archaeological site was discovered during the course of the assessment and has been registered as the McWatt site (BcHb-61). A detailed description of the site is provided in the following section of this report.



**Figure 3.** Archaeological Survey Coverage, Techniques and Site Location

## **4.0 THE McWATT SITE (BcHb-61)**

### **Location and Description**

The McWatt site is a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Euro-Canadian homestead. The site is located in the northwestern section of the subject property on a slight rise of land overlooking a relic watercourse to the east (Figure 3). This area had been partially graded in the past. The site has dimensions of 40 metres north-south by 30 metres east-west.

### **History of Investigations**

This site was discovered in July, 2007 while shovel test pitting the property at 5 metre intervals. Nine positive test pits containing historic artifacts were found in this location. In order to recover a larger sample of artifacts from the site prior to topsoil stripping, limited Stage 3 test excavations were carried out at the site in August, 2007. A total of 15 one metre square test units were then excavated at 5-10 metre intervals across the site (Figure 4). All of the test units revealed partially graded topsoil profiles ranging in depth from 10-25 centimetres. Most of the test units were positive and had artifact densities ranging from 2-23 historic artifacts per unit.

### **Artifact Description**

A total of 153 artifacts were collected from the site during the Stage 3 assessment. The artifacts recovered from the Stage 4 excavations are currently being analyzed. Most of the Stage 3 assemblage consists of architectural elements and hardware, followed by ceramics, personal material and bottle glass. The most common household ceramic in the assemblage is plain whiteware, followed by stone ware, transfer printed ware, handed painted ware and edged ware.

All of the transfer printed ceramics were blue in colour. All of the edged ceramics were straight blue edged. The hand painted ceramics were all polychrome patterns. Overall, the ceramic assemblage from the McWatt Site is typical of a site occupied between the 1830's and the 1850's. Blue transfer printed ceramics were available in Ontario during most of the nineteenth century. The hand-painted ceramics all fit within the Early Palette period which would date to before 1840 (Kenyon 1991). Stoneware became available in Ontario during the 1840's. Straight edged ware was most common after 1850.

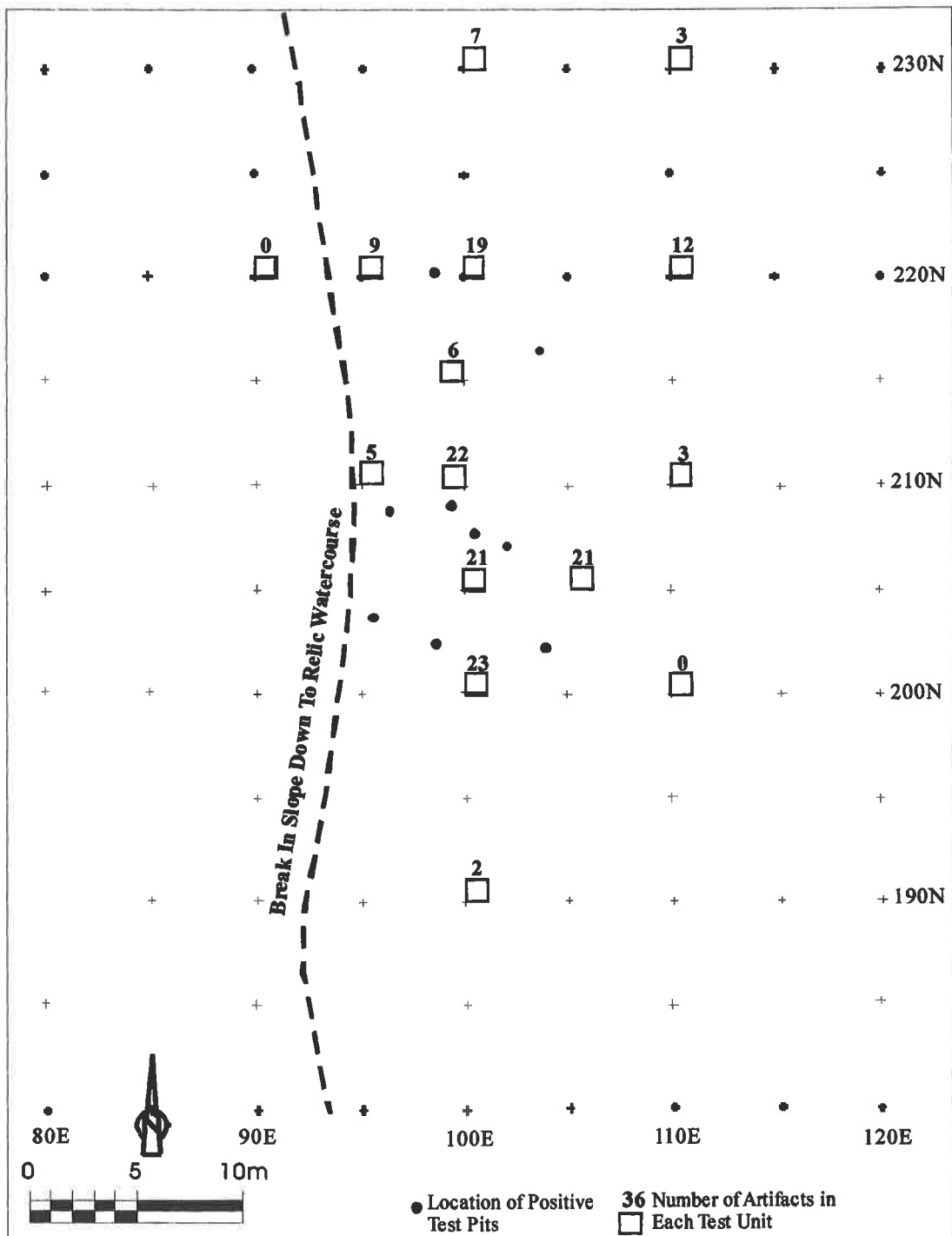


Figure 4. Results of the Stage 3 Assessment of the McWatt Site (BcHb-61)



### ***Settlement Patterns***

The topsoil was stripped from the site by a gradall in September, 2007. The area which was stripped of topsoil measured 55 metres north-south by 30 metres east-west (Figure 5). The stripped area was then shovel shined and a new datum and five metre grid were established. The next step in this process was the recording of the exact position and limits of all of the features which were discovered while shovel shining. The plan view of all features was recorded using triangulation relative to the five metre grid. Once the features had been recorded in plan view, they were sectioned. Profiles were then drawn and photographed. All excavated feature fill was screened through 6 mm mesh in order to maximize artifact recovery. All of the features were completely excavated.

The results of topsoil stripping indicated that subsurface cultural remains were concentrated in the western section of the stripped area, close to the relic watercourse. A total of 4 cultural features were identified. All of the features appear to be small refuse pits.

Feature 1 is ovate shaped in planview and was 44cm long, 35cm wide and had a maximum depth of 10cm. This feature had a shallow basin shaped profile. The fill consisted of a mottled dark brown mixture of topsoil and subsoil. Brick fragments, as well as nails and some shoe leather were recovered from this feature.

Feature 2 is roughly ovate shaped in planview and was 40cm long, 38cm wide and had a maximum depth of 10cm. This feature had a shallow basin shaped profile. The fill consisted of a mottled dark brown mixture of topsoil and brick rubble. Brick fragments, as well as some faunal material were recovered from this feature.

Feature 3 is circular shaped in planview and was 35cm long, 35cm wide and had a maximum depth of 4cm. This feature had a shallow basin shaped profile. The fill consisted of a mottled dark brown mixture of topsoil and subsoil, along with some charcoal. Brick fragments, as well as some faunal material were recovered from this feature.

Feature 4 is triangular shaped in planview and was 65cm long, 50cm wide and had a maximum depth of 9cm. This feature had a shallow basin shaped profile. The fill consisted of a mottled dark brown mixture of topsoil and subsoil. Some brick fragments were recovered from this feature.

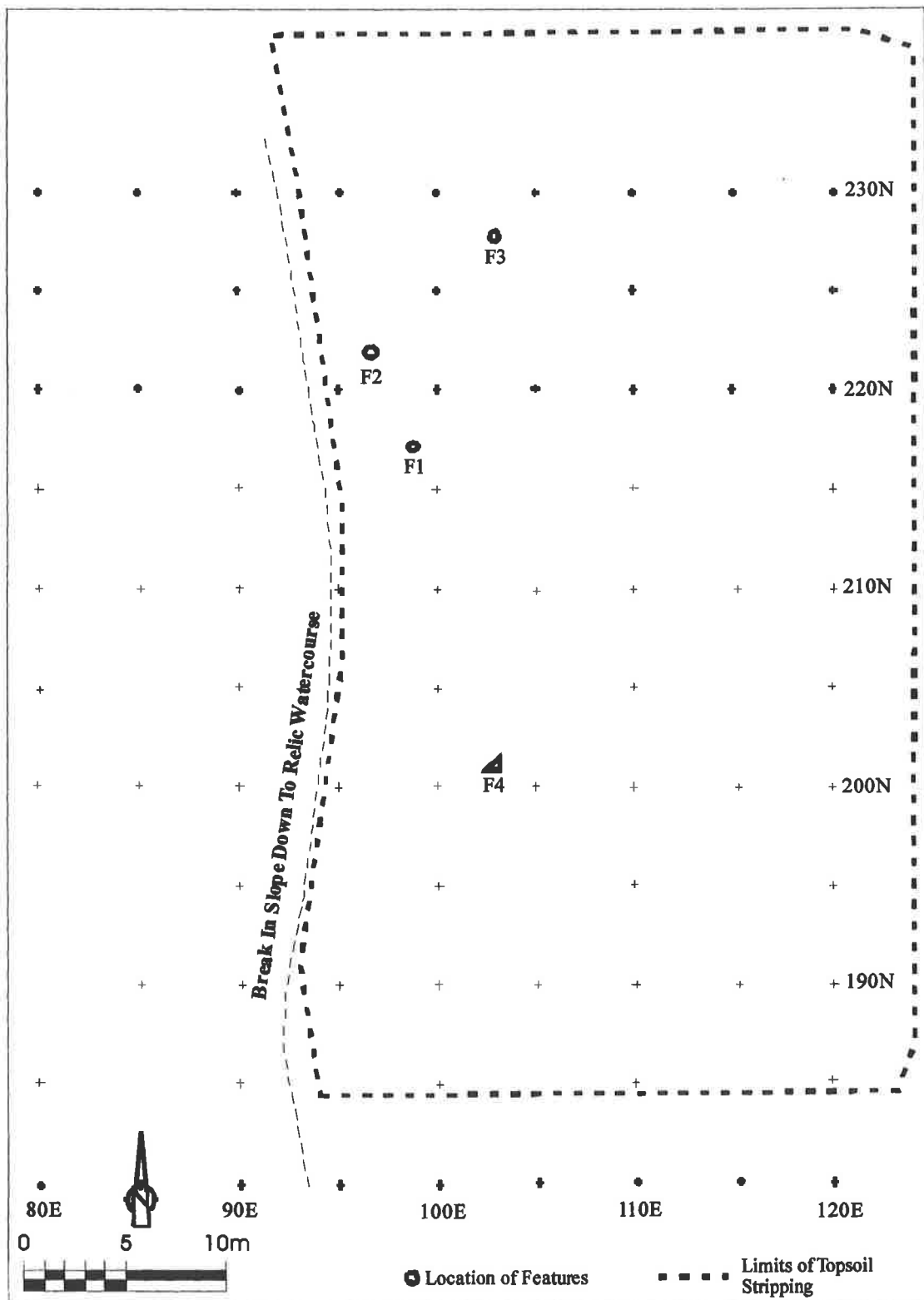


Figure 5. Results of the Stage 4 Excavation of the McWatt Site (BcHb-61)

### Background Research

The Township of Nottawasaga (now the Town of Collingwood) was surveyed for settlement in 1833 (Belden 1880). The earliest settlers arrived in the mid 1830's and settled in the northern sections of the Township on the shores of Georgian Bay. Settlement eventually spread southward in the 1840's and 1850's. The future site of the urban core of the Town of Collingwood only contained 4 families in 1853. The population of this area grew rapidly after 1855 when the railway was completed. In 1858 Collingwood was incorporated as a town.

Land Title records indicate that the original crown patent for South Half of Lot 40, Concession 8 in the Township of Collingwood was issued in 1854 to John McWatt. John McWatt retained ownership of this parcel until 1894. Unfortunately, there is no 1851 or 1861 personal census data for Nottawasaga Township and no agricultural census data for this lot. Hogg's 1871 map (Figure 6) confirms that John McWatt owned this parcel of land at that time. The artifact assemblage and archival research indicates that the McWatt site represents the location of a first generation homestead occupied by John McWatt between the 1830's and the 1850's.

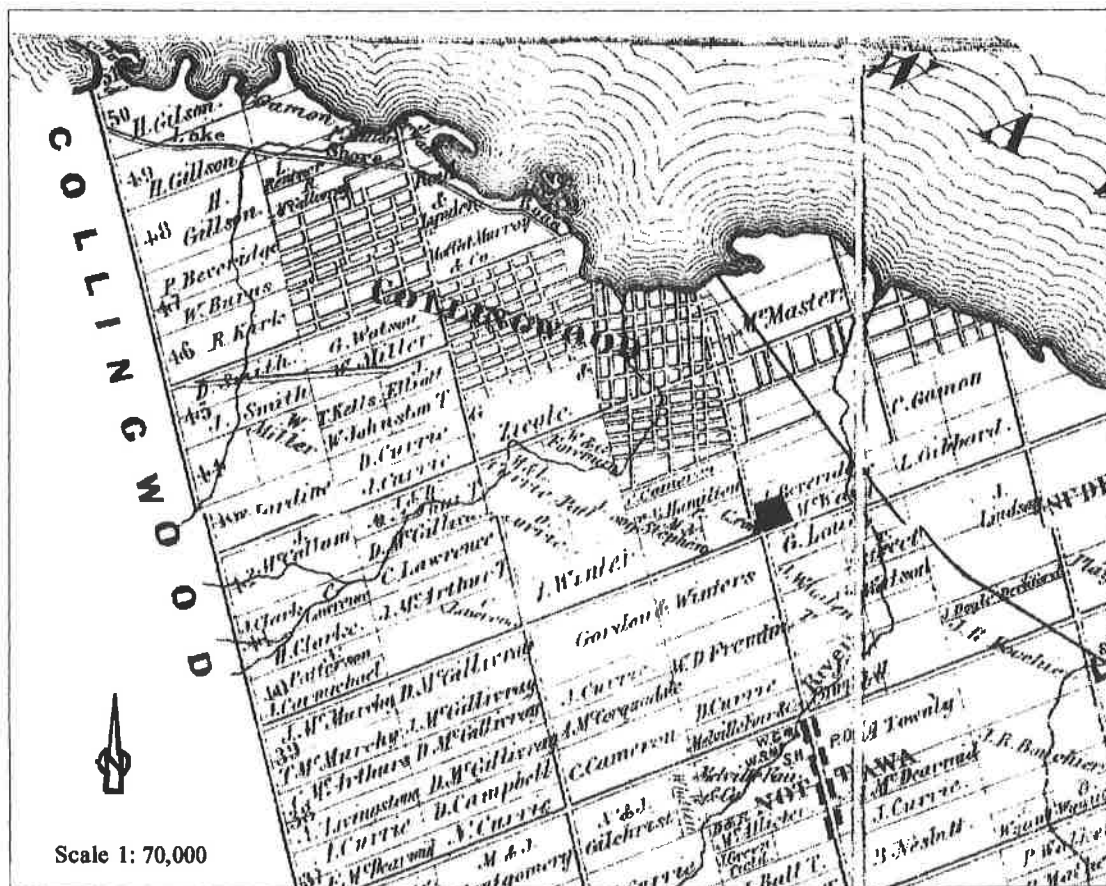


Figure 6. Hogg's 1871 Map of the County of Simcoe Showing Approximate Location of the Subject Property

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Stage 4 mitigation of the McWatt site has now been completed. The completion of the Stage 4 mitigation is considered to have mitigated the only remaining archaeological planning concern associated with the subject property. Accordingly, it is recommended that the remaining archaeological conditions attached to the development of this property should be cleared in order that the retail development may proceed.

Notwithstanding the above, no archaeological survey can be considered to totally negate the potential for deeply buried cultural remains, including human burials. In consequence, it is recommended that the archaeological staff of the Ontario Ministry of Culture (416-314-7147) should be contacted immediately if any deeply buried archaeological remains are discovered during construction. MCL, as well as the Registrar of the Cemeteries Regulation Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, should also be notified immediately if any human remains are discovered.

## **6.0 REFERENCES CITED**

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