

**THE STAGE 1-3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE HOME HARDWARE PROPERTY,
PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 40,
CONCESSION 8, TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD,
COUNTY OF SIMCOE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS LTD.



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Submitted to

Home Hardware Stores Ltd.

and

Ministry of Culture

Prepared by

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SUMMARY

This report details the rationale, methods and results of a Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the 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 8.05 acre subject property consists of partially graded lands and a farm building complex. The physical assessment was conducted in July, 2007. All of the undisturbed sections of the property were shovel test pitted at 5 metre intervals.

One archaeological site was discovered during the course of the assessment and has been registered as the McWatt site (BcHb-61). The McWatt site (BcHb-61) is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead.

Stage 3 test excavations were carried out at the site in August, 2007. The results of the Stage 3 assessment confirmed that this site is a significant archaeological resource and will require Stage 4 mitigation. This would consist of stripping the site with a gradall, and recording and excavating all of the subsurface features and post moulds.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report details the rationale, methods and results of a Stage 1-3 Archaeological Assessment of the 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. In accordance with the Planning Act (1996), an archaeological resource assessment was required as a development approval condition for this proposed retail development.

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 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).

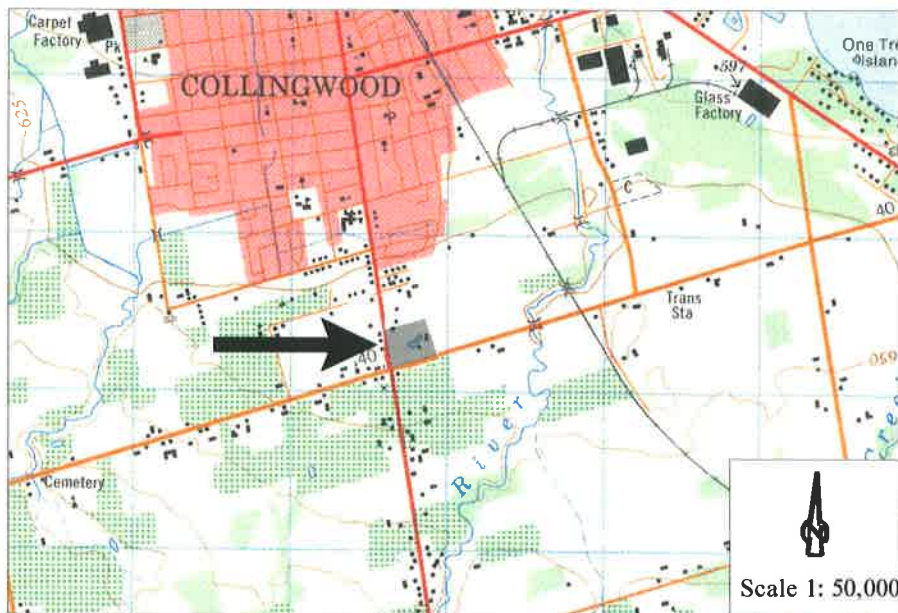


Figure 1. Location of the Subject Property

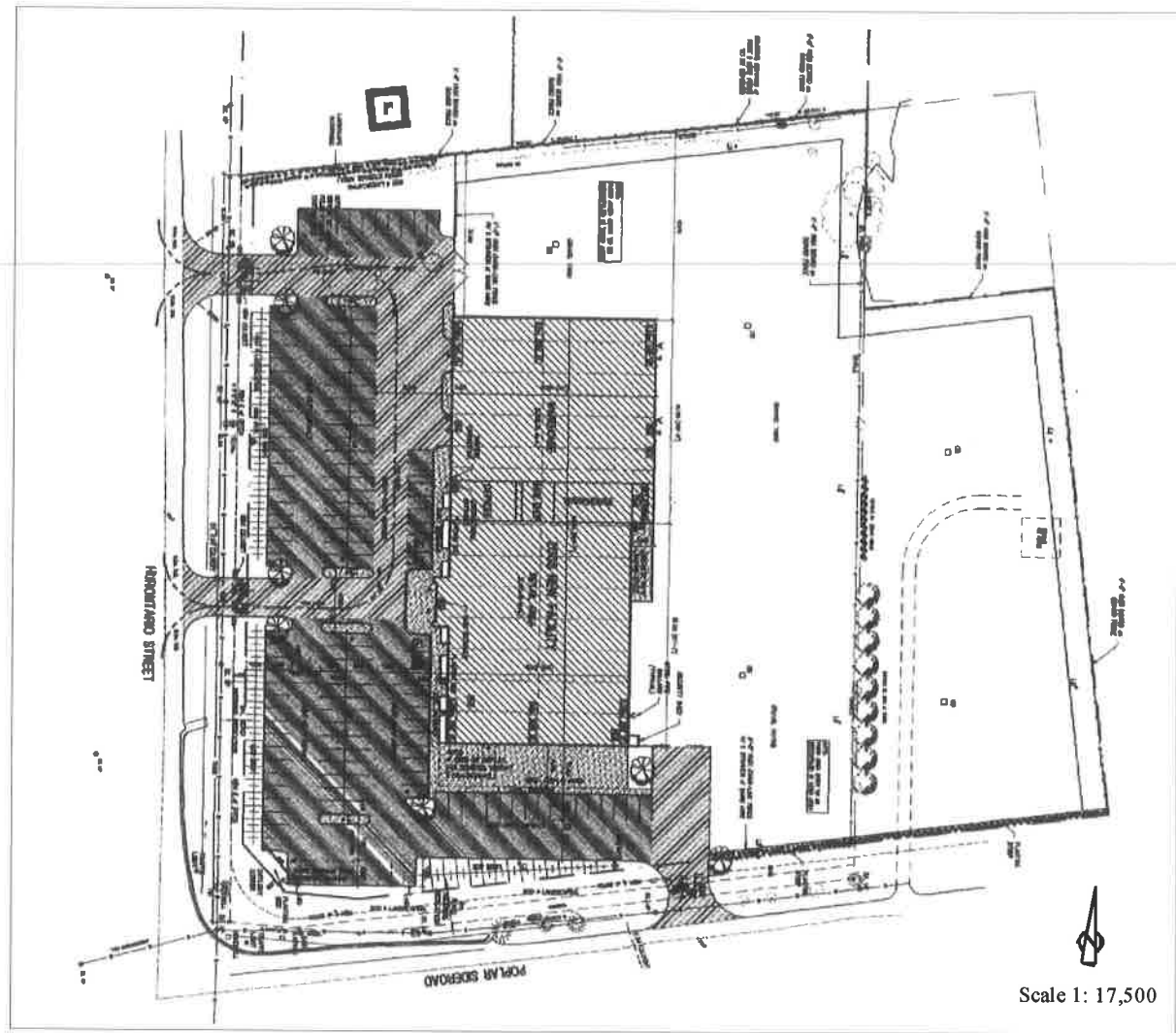


Figure 2. Subject Property Site Plan

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 relict 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.

The Pretty River is situated 650 metres southeast of the subject property. A relict watercourse runs north-south through the western section of the property and drains to the southeast into the river. The property is located in the Simcoe Lowlands physiographic region which is a relatively flat low lying sand plain (Chapman and Putnam 1984).

3.0 STAGE 1 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

METHODS

The first stage of the assessment consisted of background research. This was conducted in order to:

- gather together all of the readily available information on any previous archaeological surveys in the area;
- determine the locations of any registered and unregistered archaeological sites within and adjacent to the subject property; and
- identify areas of archaeological potential which represent concerns for Stage 2 field survey.

In order to provide context for evaluating archaeological planning concerns, a study area was established which included all lands within a 2 kilometre radius of the proposed development. The Stage 1 background research included a variety of published and unpublished reports. Data on registered sites located within the study area was obtained from the Archaeological Sites Data Base (ASDB) of the Ontario Ministry of Culture in Toronto. The ASDB houses site record forms for registered sites, as well as published and unpublished reports on past surveys, assessments and excavations. Information on potential Euro-Canadian archaeological planning concerns was derived from an examination of the 1881 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Simcoe County (Beldon 1881).

RESULTS

The background research confirmed that no archaeological sites had been registered within the subject property prior to this assessment. The subject property had not been subjected to an archaeological assessment prior to this study. The background research determined that there are two registered archaeological sites located within a 2 kilometre radius of the subject property. Both sites were found during the Stage 1-2 archaeological assessment of the 27.68 hectare Pretty River Estates Subdivision, which is located immediately east of the subject property (AAL 2004). The two previously registered sites are the Ainley site (BcHb-54), an isolated late Middle Woodland projectile point (ca. 400-700 A.D.); and a unnamed Historic site (BcHb-53), which is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead.

Historic mapping (Beldon 1881: Figure 3 and 4) indicates that in the late nineteenth century the subject property was situated in the southwestern corner of the Southern Half of Lot 40, Concession 8, in the Township of Collingwood. The 1871 Hogg Map (Figure 3) indicates that the Southern Half of Lot 40 where the subject property is situated was owned at that time by John McWatt. The historical atlas maps do not show the location of any late nineteenth century structures on, or close to, the subject property. However, it should be noted that historical maps of this type were produced by subscription and only the homes of wealthier land owners tended to be illustrated along with the principal roads and villages. Also, homesteads dating to the early or mid 19th century would often not be illustrated on these later maps. This explains why the McWatt site (BcHb-61) which was found in the northwestern section of the property is not illustrated on the historical atlas maps.

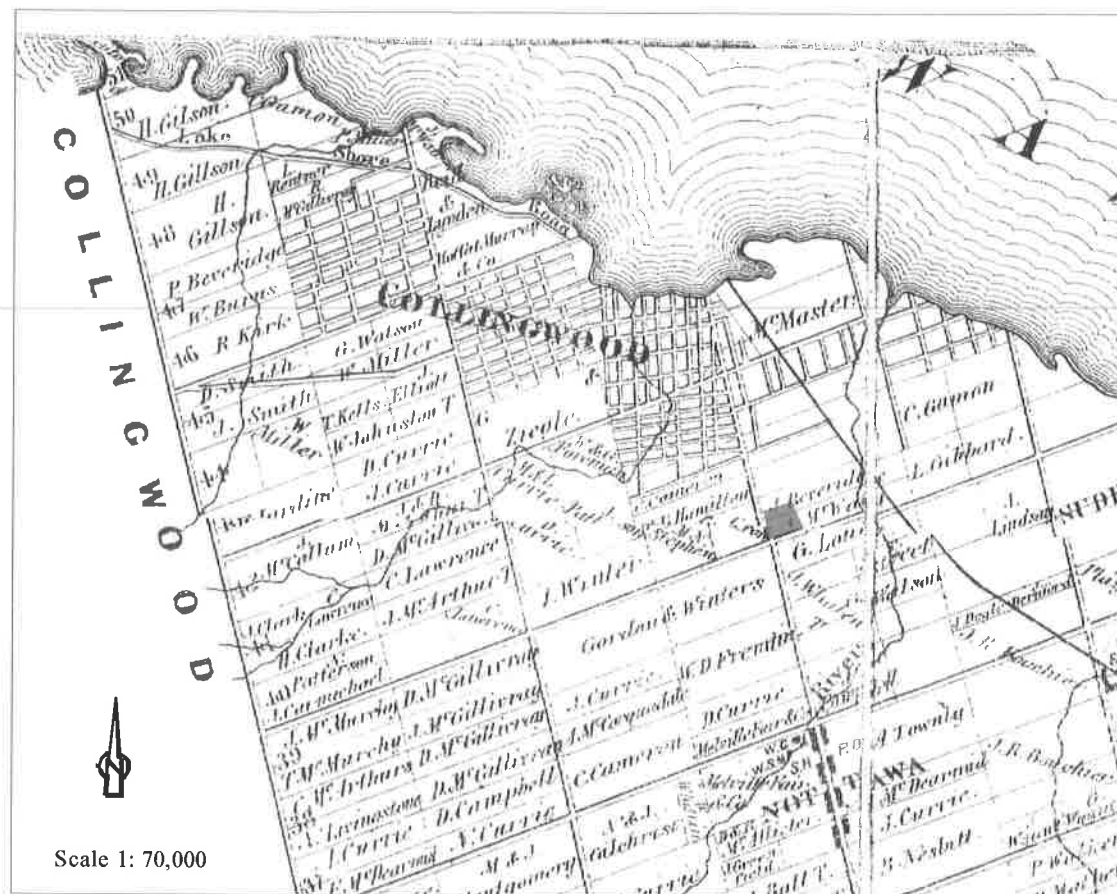


Figure 3. Hogg's 1871 Map of the County of Simcoe Showing Approximate Location of the Subject Property

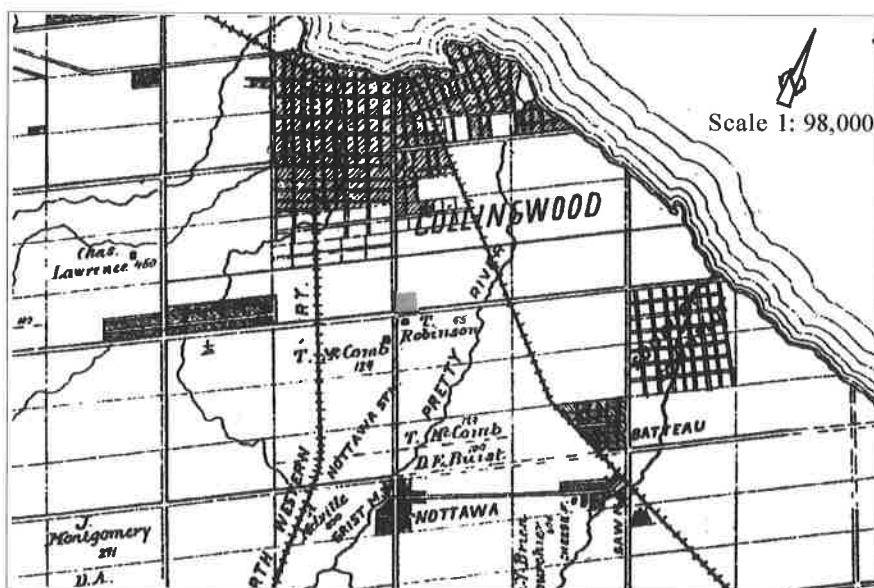


Figure 4. 1881 Historical Atlas Map of Nottawasaga Township Showing Approximate Location of the Subject Property

4.0 FIELD ASSESSMENT

SURVEY METHODS AND COVERAGE

The Stage 2 assessment was conducted on July 18-19, 2007 under sunny and hot weather conditions. 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 5). Each test pit measured about 30 cm (one foot) in diameter and was excavated to subsoil. The soil from each test pit was screened through 6mm mesh in order to look for artifacts. All of the test pits were then backfilled.

The shovel test pitting confirmed that a large part of the western and central section of the property had been partially stripped of its topsoil at some point in the past. Topsoil depths in these areas ranged in depth from 9 to 30cm. Relatively undisturbed topsoil deposits were found in the eastern section of the property, west of the farm building complex. The soil in this area was a hard packed sandy loam topsoil with mottled pink clay subsoil at an average depth of 30-35cm. This area had obviously been cultivated in the past.

The shovel test pitting also indicate that there had been a building and driveway located in the northwestern corner of the property that had been removed. Shovel test pitting of this area produced mottled soil with large brick fragments, glass and asphalt.

RESULTS

One archaeological site was discovered during the course of the assessment and has been registered as the McWatt site (BcHb-61). The McWatt site (BcHb-61) is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. A detailed description of the site is provided in the following section of this report.

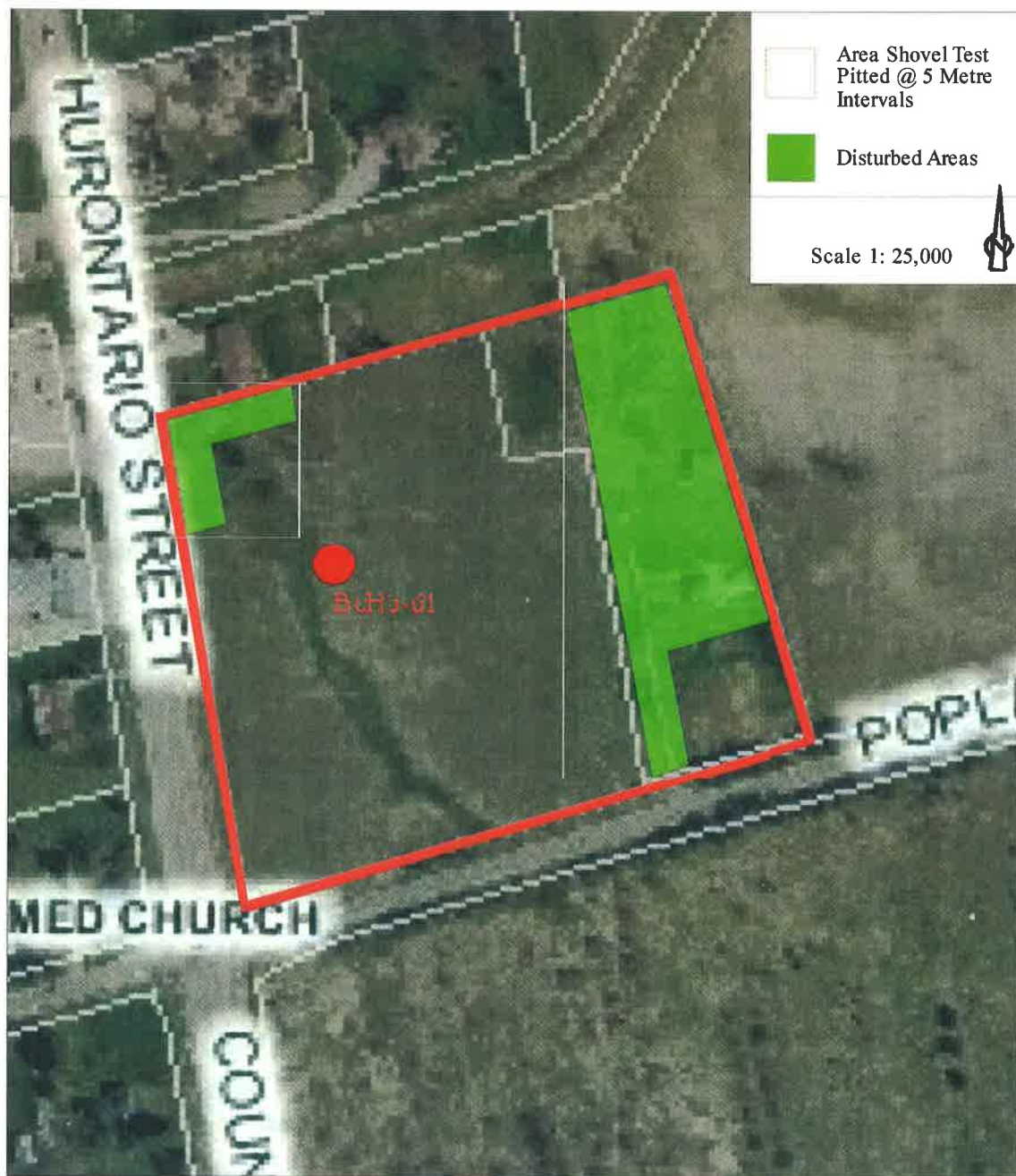


Figure 5. Archaeological Survey Coverage, Techniques and Site Location

5.0 THE McWATT SITE (BcHb-61)

Location and Description

The McWatt site is a mid 19th 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 5). 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 temporary datum (200N 100E) was established in the southern section of the site. A ten metre grid system was then established. A total of 15 one metre square test units were then excavated at 5-10 metre intervals across the site (Figure 6). All of the test units revealed partially graded topsoil profiles ranging in depth from 10-25 centimetres. All of the soils from each square were screened through 6mm mesh to facilitate the recovery of artifacts. 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 (Table 1). Most of the 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.

The pipe stem and pipe bowl fragment collected from the site were both plain. The other personal material consisted of three small slate board fragments. The bottle glass included two clear, one aqua and one green coloured fragment. All of the miscellaneous metal was scrap metal. The architectural items and material consisted of 59 small brick fragments, 27 cut nails, 14 pieces of window glass and 4 unidentified nail fragments.

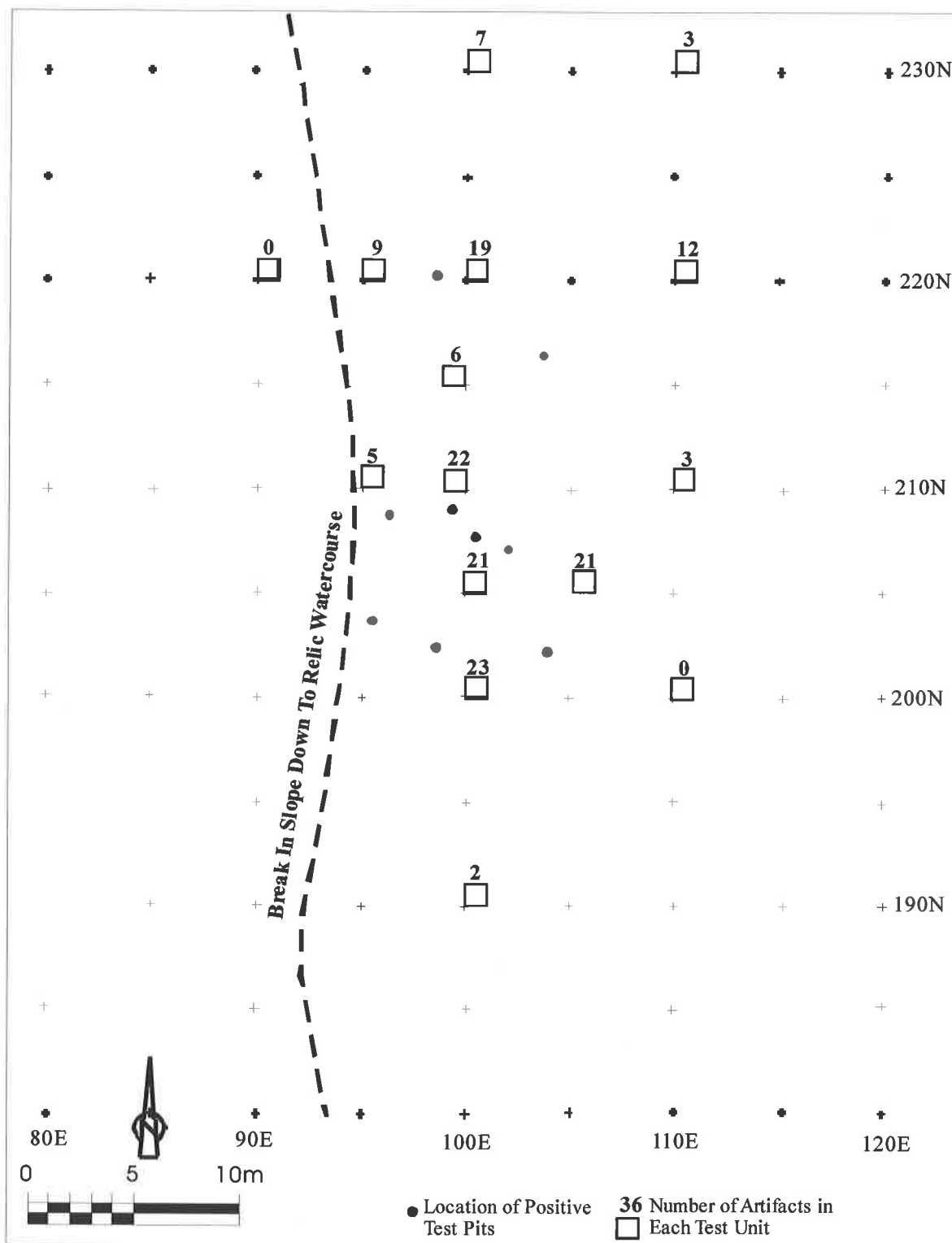


Table 1. McWatt Site (BcHb-61) Artifact Assemblage

COMPONENT/CATEGORY	Total	%
Household Ceramics		
White Ware	15	
Stone ware	8	
Hand Painted Ware	4	
Transfer Printed Ware	5	
Edged Ware	4	
Subtotal	36	23.5
HOUSEHOLD GLASS		
Bottle Glass	4	
Subtotal	4	2.6
ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS & HARDWARE		
Brick	59	
Cut Nails	27	
Unidentified Nails	4	
Window Glass	14	
Miscellaneous Metal	4	
Subtotal	108	70.6
PERSONAL MATERIAL		
Pipe Bowls	1	
Pipe Stems	1	
Slate Board Fragments	3	
Subtotal	5	3.3
TOTALS	153	100%

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 3) confirms that John McWatt owned this parcel of land at that time.

Evaluation of Significance

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. The relatively early date of the occupation, combined with the potential for subsurface remains, indicates that this site represents a significant archaeological resource and is a planning concern. This site will require Stage 4 mitigation. The Stage 4 excavation would involve stripping the topsoil off of the site with a gradall and excavating all subsurface features such as root cellars, refuse pits, etc.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

As detailed in this report, one archaeological site was located during the course of the Stage 1-2. The site has been registered as the McWatt site (BcHb-61) and is a mid 19th century Euro-Canadian homestead. Stage 3 test excavations were carried out at site in August, 2007. The results of the Stage 3 assessment confirmed that this site is a significant archaeological resource and will require Stage 4 mitigation. The Stage 4 excavation would consist of stripping the site with a gradall, and recording and excavating all of the subsurface features and post moulds.

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.

8.0 REFERENCES CITED

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Plate 1. Partially Graded Western and Central Sections of Property (view north)



Plate 2. Undisturbed Area, Central Section of Property (view southeast)



Plate 3. Partially Graded Central Section of Property (view south)



Plate 4. Farm Building Complex, Eastern Section of Property (view southeast)



Plate 5. Location of the McWatt Site (BcHb-61) (view west)



Plate 6. Stage 3 Test Excavations the McWatt Site (BcHb-61) (view southeast)

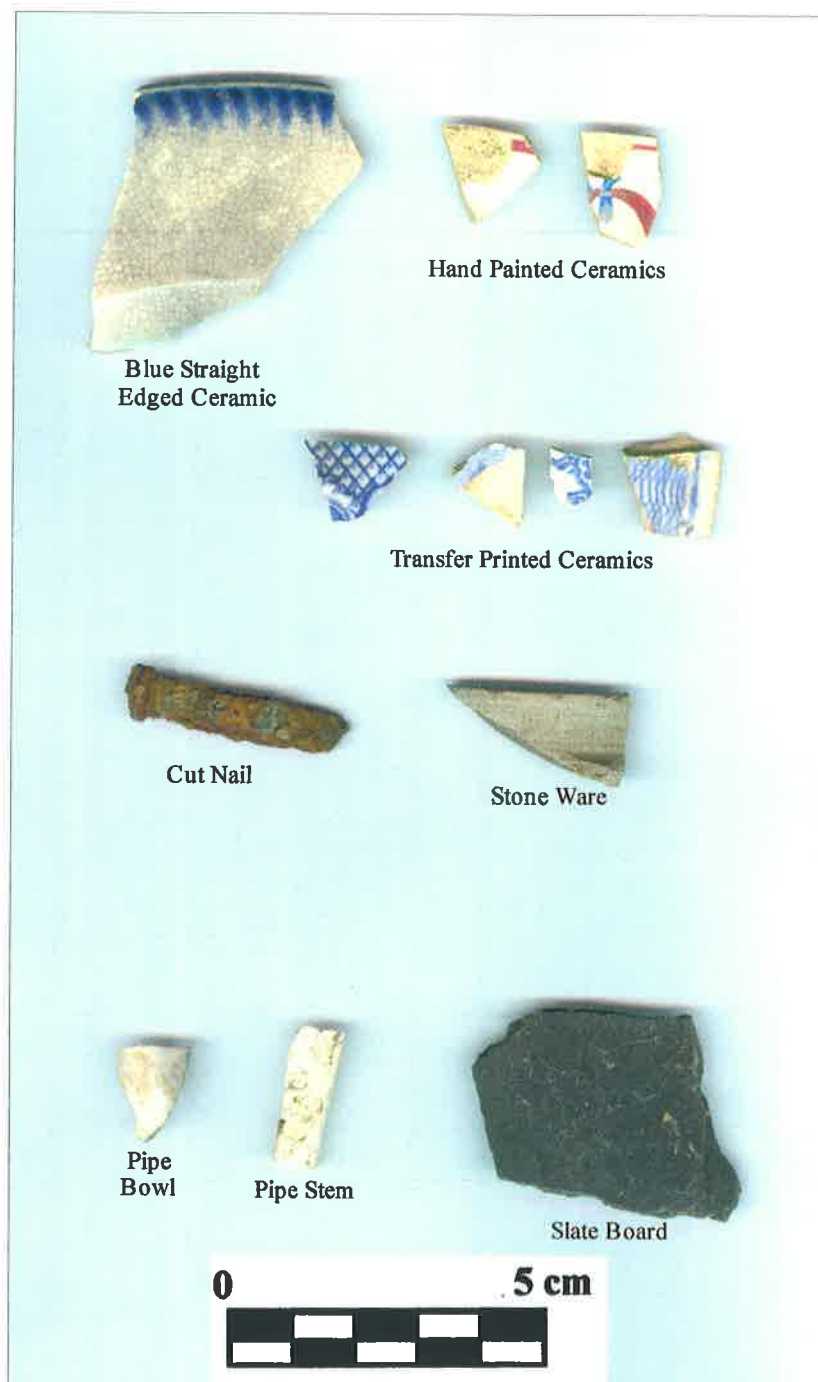


Plate 7. McWatt Site (BcHb-61) Artifacts

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE LEGEND

BR- Brick

WHI – Plain Whiteware

ED – Edge Decorated

TR– Transfer Printed Whiteware

PB- Pipe Bowls

GB – Bottle Glass

NC – Cut Nails

PE – Personal

STO- Stoneware

PA – Painted Whiteware

PS- Pipe Stems

GW – Window Glass

NU – Unidentified Nails

MM – Miscellaneous Metal

THE McWatt SITE (BcHb-61) ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

UNIT	BR	WH	STO	PA	TR	ED	PS	PB	GW	GB	NC	NU	MM	PE	TOTAL
190N 100E									2						2
200N 100E	12	2	1	2				1	1		4				23
205N 100E	1	2	1		2				2	1	6	2	2	2	21
205N 105E	8	1		1		2			1	1	5	1		1	21
210N 95E		1	1			2				1					5
210N 99E	9	2	3		1				2		3		2		22
210N 110E		1		1								1			3
215N 99E	1	1							2	1	1				6
220N 95E	3	1							2		3				9
220N 100E	10	4			1				2		2				19
220N 110E	8		2		1						1				12
230N 100E	4						1				2				7
230N 110E	3														3
TOTALS	59	15	8	4	5	4	1	1	14	4	27	4	4	3	153