Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of

2121 Rathburn Road East, All of Block HHH, Registered Plan M-60 (Formerly Part of Lots A and 1, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Toronto, Peel County), Now in the City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario

Prepared by:

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MCM Project Information Number: P1345-0146-2025

ORIGINAL REPORT

Report Dated: September 11, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc. was contracted to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 2121 Rathburn Road East, All of Block HHH, Registered Plan M-60 (Formerly Part of Lots A and 1, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Toronto, Peel County), Now in the City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario.

The Stage 1 archaeological background study established there is potential for the recovery of archaeologically significant materials within portions of the project area. To determine if the archaeological potential classification of the project area is relevant, a property inspection and desktop review of ground conditions was undertaken using contemporary satellite imagery and historical atlas maps.

The Stage 1 background study concluded that portions of the project area that is located outside of the development area exhibit archaeological potential. The Stage 1 assessment also determined that large portions of the project area that covers the entirety of the development area have undergone significant deep disturbances in the past. Therefore, the report recommends a Stage 2 assessment for portions of the project area that is located outside of the development area and retain archaeological potential (Maps 6 and 8). The Stage 2 archaeological assessment must be conducted via a systematic shovel test pit survey at five metre intervals in areas identified as retaining archaeological potential.

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PROJECT PERSONNEL

Project Manager:	Dr. Rhan-Ju Song (P1345)
Project Director:	Mr. Norbert Stanchly (R149)
Property Inspection:	Mr. Norbert Stanchly
Field Director:	Mr. Norbert Stanchly
Field Archaeologist:	Mr. Norbert Stanchly
Report Preparation:	Dr. Rhan-Ju Song Mr. Norbert Stanchly
Graphics:	Mr. Pete Demarte

INTRODUCTION

The *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. O.18, requires anyone wishing to carry out archaeological fieldwork in Ontario to have a license from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM). All licensees are to file a report with the MCM containing details of the fieldwork that has been done for each project. Following standards and guidelines set out by the MCM is a condition of a licence to conduct archaeological fieldwork in Ontario. ***AS&G Archaeological Consulting Inc. (AS&G)*** confirms that this report meets ministry report requirements as set out in the 2011 *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* and is filed in fulfillment of the terms and conditions an archaeological license.

1.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

This section of the report will provide the context for the archaeological fieldwork, including the development context, the historical context, and the archaeological context.

1.1 Development Context

AS&G was contracted to conduct a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 2121 Rathburn Road East, All of Block HHH, Registered Plan M-60 (Formerly Part of Lots A and 1, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Toronto, Peel County), Now in the City of Mississauga, Regional Municipality of Peel, Ontario.

The proposed development project was triggered by the *Planning Act* and the archaeological assessment was done in advance of a Site Plan Application. The proposed development project consists of the development of one block of stacked, back-to-back townhouses fronting along Rathburn Road East.

Permission to access the project area to conduct all required archaeological fieldwork activities was given by the landowner and their representative.

1.2 Historical Context

Several sources were referenced to determine if features or characteristics indicating archaeological potential for Pre-Contact and Post-Contact resources exist within the project area. These included contemporary satellite imagery and historical atlas maps.

1.3 Archaeological Context

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database (O.A.S.D.), an inventory of the documented archaeological record in Ontario.

Summary information on the known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area was obtained from the MCM site database (MCM 2025). There are no known sites within the project area limits, however, there is one (1) known site situated within a one-kilometre radius of the project area. There are no known sites located within 100-300 metres of the project area limits (Table 1).

Table 1: Known Archaeological Sites within 1-Km of Project Area

Borden Number	Site Name	Time Period	Affinity	Site Type	Current Development Review Status
AjGv-24	Merton	Woodland, Late	Iroquoian	Village	

Based on the current information available in the MCM archaeological sites database **AS&G** is not aware of any previous archaeological assessments that have been conducted on or within 50 metres of the project area.

The project area is situated within the Iroquois Plain physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 190-196). The Iroquois Plan consists of lacustrine deposits located along the western portion of Lake Ontario. These deposits, the old shoreline of glacial Lake Iroquois, consist of a plain which spans a distance greater than 300 kilometres, encompassing a vast area between the Niagara and Trent Rivers. Its width varies from a few hundred metres to 13 km. Soils in the area are coarse, sandy and poorly drained and overlying bluffs or gravel bars.

The project area is approximately 1.79 hectares in size and measures roughly 145 metres east-west by 216 metres north-south. The project area consists of an existing thirteen-storey residential building complex (*Rathburn Apartments*), including asphalt driveways and parking lots, concrete walkways, swimming pool, manicured lawns, landscaped gardens, and mature trees.

There are no unusual physical features that may have affected fieldwork strategy decisions or the identification of artifacts or cultural features.

There is no additional archaeological information that may be relevant to understanding the choice of fieldwork techniques or the recommendations of this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND STUDY

A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is a systematic qualitative process executed to assess the archaeological potential of a property based on its historical use and its potential for early Euro-Canadian (early settler) and pre-contact Indigenous occupation. The objectives of a Stage 1 Background Study are: 1) to provide information about the project area's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork and current land condition; 2) to evaluate in detail the project area's archaeological potential, which will support recommendations for Stage 2 Property Assessment for all or parts of the project area if warranted; and 3) to recommend appropriate strategies for Stage 2 property assessment if warranted.

This Stage 1 Background Study was conducted in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists,* set out by the MCM (2011) pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.0.18.

The scope of work for the Stage 1 Background Study consisted of the following tasks:

- **AS&G** requested a Project Information Number (PIF) from the MCM VIA PastPort.
- Contacted the MCM to determine if recorded archaeological sites exist in the vicinity (1-km radius) of the project area, through a search of the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database maintained by the MCM.
- Contacted the MCM to determine if there are any known reports of previous archaeological fieldwork within a 50 m radius of the project area.
- Conducted a desktop review of the project area's physical setting to determine its potential for both historic and Pre-Contact human occupation, including its topography, hydrology, soils, and proximity to important resources and historical transportation routes and settlements.
- Performed a property inspection of the project area.

- Reviewed the potential for historical period occupation as documented in historical atlases.

- Prepared a report of findings with recommendations regarding the need for further archaeological work if deemed necessary.

In Ontario, the framework for determining the presence of archaeological potential is taken from the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (MCM 2011, Sections 1.3.1 & 1.3.2). Characteristics indicating archaeological potential include the near-by presence of previously identified archaeological sites, primary and secondary water sources, features indicating past water sources, accessible or inaccessible shoreline, pockets of well-drained sandy soil, distinctive land formations that might have special or spiritual places (such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, promontories and their bases, as well as resource areas that include food or medicinal plants, or scarce raw materials), early Euro-Canadian industry, areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, early historical transportation routes, properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* as a federal, provincial, or municipal historic landmark or site; as well as properties that local histories or informants have identified as important locations for historical events, activities, and/or occupations.

Archaeological potential can be determined not to be present for the entire project area or a part of it when the area under consideration has been subjected to extensive and deep land alterations that have severely damaged the integrity of any archaeological resources. This is commonly referred to as 'disturbed' or 'disturbance', and it may include quarrying, major landscaping involving grading below topsoil, building footprints, and sewage or infrastructure development. Archaeological potential is not removed where there is documented potential for deeply buried intact archaeological resources beneath land alterations, or where it cannot be clearly demonstrated through background research and project area inspection that there has been complete and intensive disturbance of an area. When complete disturbance cannot be demonstrated in Stage 1, it will be necessary to undertake a Stage 2 Assessment.

The background study determined that the following features or characteristics indicate archaeological potential for the project area:

- The project area is located in an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement and transportation routes.

- The project area is located within 150 metres of a primary water source (i.e., Etobicoke Creek).
- The project area is situated within the Iroquois Plain physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 190-196). The Iroquois Plan consists of lacustrine deposits located along the western portion of Lake Ontario. These deposits, the old shoreline of glacial Lake Iroquois, consist of a plain which spans a distance greater than 300 kilometres, encompassing a vast area between the Niagara and Trent Rivers. Its width varies from a few hundred metres to 13 km. Soils in the area are coarse, sandy and poorly drained and overlying bluffs or gravel bars.
- There is one (1) known archaeological site located within a one-kilometre radius of the project area.

2.1 Indigenous Historical Context

The project area is situated in an area of Ontario that has a rich and diverse cultural history that extends back at least 11,000 years ago. To provide context for this report, the settlement history is summarized below.

2.1.1 Pre-Contact Indigenous Period

Drawn from Ellis and Ferris (1990), Table 2 provides a general outline of the Pre-Contact and early Euro-Canadian Contact Period cultural history of the project area.

Table 2: General Archaeological Chronology for South-Central Ontario

Cultural Period	Archaeological Material Culture & Cultural Affiliations	Date Range	Cultural Developments
PALEO			
Early	Gainey, Barnes & Crowfield, Fluted Points	11,000-10,500 BP	Big game hunters, i.e., caribou
Late	Holcombe, Hi-Lo & Lanceolate Points	10,500-9,500 BP	Paleo Point Technology
ARCHAIC			
Early	Bifurcate-based, Nettling, & Side-notched Points	9,800-8,000 BP	Nomadic hunters/gathers
Middle	Stanley, Kirk, Brewerton, & Laurentian Points	8,000-4,000 BP	Focused seasonal resource areas

Cultural Period	Archaeological Material Culture & Cultural Affiliations	Date Range	Cultural Developments
Late	Lamoka, Genesee, Innes & Crawford Knoll Points	4,500-2,500 BP	Polished/groundstone tools, burial ceremonialism
	Hind Points	3,000-2,600 BP	
WOODLAND			
Early	Meadowood & Middlesex	2,800-2,000 BP	Introduction of pottery, elaborate burials
Middle	Princess Point, Saugeen & Point Peninsula	2,000-950 BP	Long-distance trade, burial mounds, horticulture
Late	Pickering, Uren, Middleport (Anishinabek/Iroquois) & Algonkian-Wendat Alliance	950-300 BP	Emergence of agricultural villages Large, palisaded villages, trade, alliances, and warfare
HISTORIC			
	Huron, Neutral, Petun, Odawa, Ojibwa, Six Nations Iroquois, Ojibwa & Mississauga	350 BP-Present	Mission villages and reserves
	Early Euro-Canadian		European settlement

2.1.2 Paleo Period

Archaeological evidence demonstrates that people inhabited south-central Ontario, shortly after the end of the Wisconsin Glacial Period, approximately 11,000 years ago. This early settlement period is referred to as the Paleo Period (Ellis and Deller 1990). Based upon current archaeological knowledge, Indigenous groups originally living south of the Great Lakes migrated to the area. The settlement patterns of Early Paleo peoples consisting of small bands, i.e., less than 35 individuals, maintained a seasonal pattern of mobility over vast territories.

These Early Paleo sites are typically located in elevated locations, with well-drained loamy soils, with many known sites found on former beach ridges, associated with glacial lakes (Ellis and Deller 1990). These sites were likely formed when they were occupied for short increments, over the course of many years, possibly as communal hunting camps. Their locations appear conducive to hunting migratory mammals, such as caribou (Ellis and Deller 1990).

During the Late Paleo Period (10,500-9,500 BP), the south-central Ontario environment started to become dominated by closed coniferous forests, with

only some minor deciduous elements. The hunting landscape had also changed, as many of the large game species that had been hunted in the early part of the Paleo Period, either migrated further north, or in some cases, had become extinct, i.e., mastodons and mammoths (Ellis and Deller 1990). Comparable to the Early Paleo peoples, Late Paleo peoples covered large territories as a response to seasonal resource fluctuations. In Ontario, Late Paleo Period inhabitation appears more frequently in the archaeological record, comparable to the Early Paleo Period. Thus, it has been suggested that migratory populations had increased in size (Ellis and Deller 1990).

2.1.3 Archaic Period

During the Early Archaic Period (9,800-8,000 BP), the jack and red pine forests that characterized the Late Paleo environment, were replaced by forests of white pine, with a few correlated deciduous trees (Ellis et al. 1990). Based on material culture, the Early Archaic Period is recognized by the shift to side and corner-notched projectile points. Other notable innovations, include the introduction of groundstone tools such as celts and axes. These tools suggest that there was a woodworking industry. Additionally, the presence of these, often large and not easily portable tools, suggests that there may have been a reduction in seasonal movement. However, the current understanding of the period suspects that population densities were still low, and seasonal territories remained extensive (Ellis et al. 1990).

During the Middle Archaic Period (8,000-4,000 BP), it is speculated that there was an increase in regional population growth, which precipitated a decrease in overall seasonal migration territories. Additionally, as a consequence of population growth, a shift in subsistence patterns occurred, as more people needed to be supported from the resources available within smaller geographic areas (Ellis et al. 1990). Thus, the Middle Archaic Period is characterized by the diversification of toolkits and diets, such as with the introduction of net-sinkers and bannerstones, as well as other stone tools specifically designed for the preparation of wild plant foods. The appearance of net-sinkers suggests that fishing was becoming an important aspect of the subsistence economy. In contrast, bannerstones were carefully crafted groundstone devices that served as a counterbalance for *atlatls* or "spear-throwers", used in hunting large game (Ellis et al. 1990).

Another characteristic of the Middle Archaic Period is an increased reliance on local, often poor-quality chert resources, for the manufacturing of projectile points and other chipped stone tools. Unlike earlier periods, when nomadic groups occupied vast territories, at least once in their seasonal migration it was possible for them to visit a primary outcrop of high-quality

chert. However, during the Middle Archaic Period, individual groups inhabited smaller territories, which usually did not contain a source of high-quality raw material, and were forced to use the locally sourced, poorer quality chert resources (Ellis et al. 1990). It was also during the latter part of the Middle Archaic Period, that long-distance trade routes began to develop, which spanned the northeastern part of the North American continent. For instance, copper tools, which were manufactured from a source located northwest of Lake Superior, were being widely traded (Ellis et al. 1990).

The trend toward a decreasing territory size and a broadening subsistence economy, continued during the Late Archaic Period (4,500-2,500 BP). Similarly, archaeologically Late Archaic sites are more numerous than Early or Middle Archaic sites, which is attributed to increasing population levels (Ellis et al. 1990). With the trend toward larger groups, the first cemeteries have also been dated to the Late Archaic Period. Prior to this, individuals were interred close to the location where they died. Furthermore, during the Late Archaic Period, if an individual died while away from their home territory, the remains would be kept until they could be placed in the group cemetery. Therefore, it is not unusual to find disarticulated skeletons, and/or skeletons lacking minor elements, i.e., fingers, toes and/or ribs (Ellis et al. 1990).

The appearance of cemeteries during the Late Archaic Period has been interpreted as a response to increased population densities. The increased populations also demonstrated evidence of regionalized variation in Late Archaic projectile point styles (Ellis et al. 1990). These differences were likely indicative of the different relationships the people had with the land and waters they inhabited. Additionally, trade networks established during the Middle Archaic Period continued to flourish. For instance, copper native to northern Ontario and marine shell artifacts from as far away as the Mid-Atlantic coast, are frequently encountered as ceremonial grave inclusions. Other artifacts such as polished stone pipes and banded slate gorgets, also appear on Late Archaic Period sites. One of the more unusual and interesting of the Late Archaic artifacts is the "*birdstone*". Birdstones are small, bird-like effigies usually manufactured from green banded slate (Ellis et al. 1990).

2.1.4 Woodland Period

For archaeologists, the Early Woodland Period (2,000-2,000 BP) is distinguished from the Late Archaic Period primarily by the addition of ceramic technology. The first pots were crudely constructed, had undecorated thick walls, and were friable. Spence et al. (1990) suggest they were used in the

processing of nut oils, which required boiling crushed nut fragments in water and skimming off the oil. As these vessels were not easily portable, individual pots were likely not used for extended periods of time. Additionally, as there are many Early Woodland Period sites where no pottery was recovered, it has been suggested that these poorly constructed vessels were not utilized by all Early Woodland peoples (Spence et al. 1990).

Other than the limited use of ceramics, there were other subtle differences between the Late Archaic and the Early Woodland Periods. For example, "pop-eyes", a protrusion from the side of the head, was added to birdstones. Similarly, a slight modification was made to the thin, well-made projectile points made during the Archaic Period, i.e. Early Woodland variants were side-notched rather than the corner-notched (Spence et al. 1990). The trade networks which were established in the Middle and Late Archaic Periods, continued to flourish; however, there appeared to be a decrease in the trade of marine shell during the Early Woodland Period. Additionally, projectile points crafted from high quality American Midwest materials, began to be found on southwestern Ontario sites, dating toward the end of the Early Woodland Period (Spence et al. 1990).

The Middle Woodland (2,000-950 BP) is characterized by rich, densely occupied sites, which are usually found bordering major rivers and lakes. While these locations were inhabited periodically by earlier peoples, Middle Woodland sites are significant as they represent long periods of continuous occupations, i.e., hundreds of years (Spence et al. 1990). The shift in settlement patterning, created large deposits of artifacts, as the sites appear to have functioned as home bases that were occupied throughout the year. Numerous smaller Middle Woodland sites have been found inland, and likely functioned as specialized camps, for the exploitation of local resources (Spence et al. 1990).

The transition to a more sedentary lifestyle, also resulted in a shift in subsistence patterns, comparable to those of the Early Woodland Period. Although, groups still relied on hunting and gathering, fish became a predominant dietary staple, to meet their growing subsistence needs (Spence et al. 1990). Additionally, the people of the Middle Woodland Period, relied more on ceramic technology, with many vessels being heavily decorated with impressed designs covering the entire exterior surface and the upper portion of the interior of vessels (Spence et al. 1990).

Material culture changes that occurred in the early portion of the Late Woodland Period (950-300 BP), include the appearance of triangular projectile point styles, first seen with the Levanna form, as well as a change

to more intricate designs on ceramics. These new methods included cord-wrapped stick decorated ceramics, which were created using the paddle and anvil forming technique (Bursey 1995; Ferris and Spence 1995; Spence et al. 1990; Williamson 1990).

The Late Woodland Period is also marked by an increasing reliance on corn (*Zea mays*) horticulture (Crawford et al. 1997; Fox 1990; Martin 2004; Smith 1990; Williamson 1990). Although corn was possibly introduced into southwestern Ontario from the American Midwest as early as 2,500 BP, it was not considered a dietary staple until at three to four hundred years later. From there, corn cultivation gradually spread into southcentral and southeastern Ontario. Thus, the Late Woodland Period is widely accepted as the beginning of a reliance on agriculture, for subsistence. Researchers have suggested that a warming trend, which increased the number of frost-free days, was likely a catalyst for the spread of maize into southern Ontario (Stothers and Yarnell 1977). Additionally, sites have been identified in a wider variety of environments, including riverine, lacustrine and wetlands (Dieterman 2001).

In southern Ontario, the first agricultural villages have been dated to approximately 1,200 BP to 700 BP. These sites are typically found on elevated areas, with well-drained sandy soils. These early villages share many characteristics with later Iroquoian settlements that were recorded at the time European contact, including longhouses and/or palisades (Dodd et al. 1990; Williamson 1990). However, the scale was much smaller, with early longhouses only averaging 12.4 metres in length. Furthermore, the excavation and exposure of cultural features archaeologically, indicate that there was the possibility of overlapping structures which has been interpreted as evidence of long-term occupation, as it indicates that the structures were present long enough to require them to be re-built (Dodd et al. 1990; Williamson 1990).

It was documented that due to soil depletion resulting from farming, and the scarcity of easily accessible firewood during this period, the Jesuits reported that the Huron moved their villages every 10-15 years (Pearce 2010). Since the more sedentary sites were occupied for considerably longer amounts of time, it is hypothesized that the Indigenous communities relied less heavily on corn. Furthermore, small seasonally occupied sites have also been documented, which relate specifically to nut collection, deer procurement, and fishing activities. Thus, the reduced demand on resources within close proximity to the settlement, coupled with the smaller reliance on crops, indicates that these groups maintained a considerably smaller population size (Pearce 2010).

Around 700-600 BP, the size of villages increased from approximately 0.6 hectares, to approximately 1-2 hectares. Correspondingly, the size of longhouses also increased significantly, to an average of 30 metres, with some longhouses being documented as large as 45 metres in length (Dodd et al. 1990; Smith 1990). Although the enlargement of longhouses can be explained by the significant increase in overall population levels within villages, other possible hypotheses include changes to the greater socio-political and socio-economic structure of the communities. For instance, Dodd et al. (1990) have suggested that several smaller communities may have merged during this period, to increase protection and secure defense from neighbouring tribes. This hypothesis is supported by the presence of known settlements with up to seven rows of palisades, indicating the potential need for strong protective measures.

With the growth of population levels and an increase in village sizes during the Late Woodland Period, it is postulated that there was greater social organization and community planning occurring during this time. Whereas longhouses were originally haphazardly placed, the growing population levels and necessity for security and nearby resources, required further organization to accommodate the increasingly localized communities. For instance, archaeologists have documented the organization of two or more discrete groups of parallel, tightly spaced longhouses on several sites. It has been hypothesized that the organization and grouping of different habitations, may indicate the initial development of clans, a characteristic historically attributed to the Iroquoian peoples (Dodd et al. 1990).

Toward the end of the Late Woodland Period (approximately 600 BP), village sizes continued to increase, as did longhouse lengths, i.e., an average length of 62 metres. However, around approximately 500 BP, longhouse lengths were significantly shorter, with an average length of only 30 metres (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990). The significant decrease in the overall length of longhouses in a short amount of time, is not well understood; however, it has been hypothesized that it is correlated with the introduction of European diseases, i.e., smallpox, which caused a steep reduction in Indigenous population sizes (Lennox and Fitzgerald 1990).

Even with the decrease in the length of longhouses, archaeologists have noted that some village populations continued to grow, with periodic expansions visually documented. With increase in disease and subsequently a rise in warfare between communities, it is postulated that the expansion was the result of the amalgamation of smaller villages during the early Euro-Canadian Post Contact Period. These sites also appeared to be heavily

fortified with many rows of wooden palisades, again supporting the hypothesis that smaller villages united for defensive purposes (Anderson 2009).

2.1.5 Post-Contact Indigenous Period

At the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century, the dispersal of several Iroquoian-speaking peoples by the New York State Iroquois, coupled with the return of the Algonkian-speaking groups from Northern Ontario, formed the post-contact Indigenous occupation landscape of southern Ontario (Schmalz 1991). As European settlers encroached on traditional Indigenous territories, settlement sizes, populations, and material culture shifted. Despite this shift, there remains a continuity from ancient Indigenous groups to the communities written about in historical accounts (Ferris and Spence 2009). Thus, it should be noted that the Indigenous peoples of southern Ontario have deposited archaeologically significant resources throughout the province, demonstrating a shared traditional and continuing history, regardless of whether their presence is recorded in historic Euro-Canadian documents.

York County was included in the 1788 Johnson-Butler Purchase, considered one of the oldest land agreements between the Crown and certain Anishinaabe peoples. The Johnson-Butler Purchase is also known as the 'Gunshot Treaty', as the distances are discussed in relation to how far an individual could hear a gunshot from the lake's edge (Boileau 2020). The Crown purchased this large tract of land along the northern shore of Lake Ontario for Euro-Canadian settlement. During the negotiations, the Indigenous people received £2,000 in ammunition, muskets, and tobacco from Johnson. Although the items were supposed to be a reward for continued loyalty to the Crown during the American Revolutionary War, it has often been interpreted as payment for this tract of land (Boileau 2020). These lands would eventually be included in the 1923 Williams Treaties, as the exact boundaries had not been properly defined (Boileau 2020).

The Williams Treaties also had broad implications for the First Nation Communities in Ontario. The Treaties were signed on October 31 and November 15, 1923, by: Commissioner Angus Seymour Williams, representing the Dominion of Canada; Robert Victor Sinclair and Uriah McFadden, representing the Province of Ontario; the Anishinaabe Chippewa of Simcoe (First Nation Communities of Beausoleil, Georgina Island, and Rama); and the Anishinaabe Michi Saagig of the north shore of Lake Ontario (First Nation Communities of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, and Scugog Island) (Government of Canada 1923). The two treaties encompass 12,944,400 acres

of land, separated into three distinct tracts. Tract 1 is between the Etobicoke and Trent Rivers, bounded by Lake Ontario's Northern Shore, which then extends north to Lake Simcoe to create Tract 2. Tract 3 includes the area between the Ottawa River and Lake Huron, which is delineated in the North by the Mattawa River-Lake Nipissing and French Line (Government of Canada 1923; Manners 2022). The Williams Treaties were the culmination of almost sixty years of the Chippewa and Mississauga (Michi Saagig) lobbying the Ontario and Canadian governments for protection and respect of their rights to harvest, hunt, fish, and trap on their traditional lands (Manners 2022).

The Williams Treaties were originally designed by the Crown to quell the complaints put forth by the various First Nation communities regarding settlers interfering and encroaching on their traditional lands. Instead, the Williams Treaties effectively obtained large tracts of unceded lands held by the First Nation communities, and removed their rights to harvest, hunt, fish, and trap outside of Reserve lands. Thus, the Treaties led to long-standing disputes between the First Nation Communities and the government, regarding compensation, land, harvesting, and access to traditional lands used for hunting, fishing, and trapping (Government of Canada 2018a,b).

In 1992, the Chippewa and the Mississaugas filed a lawsuit against the Crown, under the claim that the Crown had not met their financial and legal obligations set forth in the Williams Treaties (Manners 2022). The matter would remain before the courts until 2018, when the Canadian and Ontario Governments formally settled the matter with the First Nation Communities, by including a billion dollars in compensation, the ability to add up to 11,000 acres to their respective reserve land base(s), and the recognition of the First Nation Communities to hunt, fish, harvest, and trap on their traditional lands. Additionally, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, issued a formal apology on behalf of the Government of Canda, in recognition of the negative impacts the Williams Treaties had on the Chippewas and the Mississaugas (Government of Canada 2018a,b; Manners 2022).

In 1791, the Provinces of Upper Canada and Lower Canada were created from the former Province of Quebec by an act of British Parliament. At this time, Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and was tasked with governing the new province, directing its settlement, and establishing a constitutional government modelled after that of Britain's (Coyne 1895). In 1792, Simcoe divided Upper Canada into 19 counties consisting of previously settled lands, new lands opened for settlement, and lands not yet acquired by Crown.

These new counties stretched from Essex in the west, to Glengarry in the east. By 1798, population levels in Upper Canada had increased to a point where it was desirable to create smaller administrative regions and thus, the Home District was created that comprised the Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York, and Simcoe.

2.2 Post-Contact History of Toronto Township and Peel County

Although Europeans first settled Toronto Township in Peel County in 1805, the county was not officially formed until 1851. The County of Peel is named after Sir Robert Peel, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The county is comprised of several townships and villages and the most notable municipalities within Peel County are Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon (Wikipedia 2025). In 1973, the County of Peel was reorganized and renamed as the Regional Municipality of Peel.

Toronto Township in Peel County was founded on August 2, 1805, by the City of York which had purchased 84,000 acres (~33,994 hectares) of the Mississauga Tract from the Mississaugas. The survey of the township was completed in the spring of 1806 and was opened for settlement that same year resulting in the formation of several small communities, including: Cooksville, Clarkson, Erindale, Port Credit, and Summerville. The majority of the lands in Toronto Township were given by the Crown (in the form of land grants) to United Empire Loyalists who had fled the United States following the American Revolution. Additional lands were purchased by the City of York in 1820, which resulted in the relocation of the Mississauga peoples. Initially, the focus of the colonial settlement was along Dundas Street, the main east-west corridor through the province at that time, and later along Centre Road, known today as Hurontario Street or Highway 10 (Riendeau 2002: 123-126). By 1847, the Mississaugas had been moved to an indigenous reserve in the Grand River Valley. With another expansion of the township in 1873, the Toronto Township Council was formed and took on the responsibility of managing the various affairs of the community.

2.3 Past Land Use of the Project Area

Historically, the project area lies in Part of Lots A and 1, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Toronto, Peel County, Ontario.

Tremaine's 1859 *Historical Atlas Map of the County of Peel, Canada West*, indicates that the portion of Lots A and 1, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Toronto, Peel County, including the current

project area limits, was owned by a "Frans Shaver". No structures or features of interest are depicted on the property. However, a primary water source is depicted within 150 metres of the project area, present-day Etobicoke Creek.

Walker & Miles' 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Peel, Ontario*, indicates that the portion of Lots A and 1, Concession 2 North of Dundas Street, Geographic Township of Toronto, Peel County, including the current project area limits, was owned by a "Francis W. Shaver". No structures or features of interest are depicted on the property. However, a primary water source is depicted within 150 metres of the project area, present-day Etobicoke Creek. In addition, a structure and associated orchard are depicted less than 400 metres to the west of the project area.

In discussing 19th century mapping, it must be remembered that historical county atlases were produced primarily to identify factories, offices, residences, and landholdings of subscribers, and were funded by subscription fees. Landowners who did not subscribe were not always listed on the maps. As such, all structures were not necessarily depicted or placed accurately. Regardless of these limitations, the property depicted on these maps was illustrated directly adjacent to historical transportation routes.

In summary, the Stage 1 background study indicates that there is potential for the recovery of Pre-Contact or Post-Contact early Euro-Canadian archaeological resources within the project area.

3.0 PROPERTY INSPECTION

A property inspection was conducted on August 30, 2025, and consisted of a visit to the project area to gain first-hand knowledge of its geography, topography, and current condition, and to evaluate and map archaeological potential. The project area was inspected when weather conditions permitted good visibility of land features. The weather was sunny and warm.

It is a visual inspection only and does not include excavation or collection of archaeological resources. The inspection was conducted to supplement the recommendation of archaeological potential based on aerial photography, available mapping and the background study. The entire project area and its periphery were inspected. The inspection consisted of random spot-

checking and coverage was sufficient to identify the presence or absence of any features of archaeological potential.

The property inspection identified that there has been complete and intensive disturbance of portions of the project area (including all of the proposed development area), therefore, archaeological potential has been removed. Excluding the existing structure, asphalt driveways and parking lot, concrete walkways, swimming pool, and landscaping, other portions of the property, outside of the development area where no construction is proposed, retain archaeological potential.

In summary, the Stage 1 background study and site inspection indicate that there is potential for the recovery of Pre-Contact or Post-Contact early Euro-Canadian archaeological resources within the project area associated with the current development project.

An inventory of the documentary record generated in the field is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Inventory of Documentary Record

Document Type	Description
Field Notes	• This report constitutes the field notes for this project
Images	• 20 digital images
Maps	• The report figures represent all of the maps generated in the field

4.0 ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

Section 1.3.1 of the 2011 *MCM Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* outlines features and characteristics of a project area that indicate archaeological potential. Based on the research outlined in the preceding sections of this report, these criteria are addressed as follows:

Previously identified archaeological sites: There are no previously identified archaeological sites recorded in the MCM Archaeological Sites Database within the project area limits, however, there is one (1) known site within a one-kilometre radius of the project area.

Water sources: The project area is located within 150 metres of a primary water source (i.e., Etobicoke Creek).

Elevated topography: The project area does not contain any examples of elevated topography.

Pockets of well-drained sandy soil: Soils in the project area are coarse, sandy and poorly drained and overlying bluffs or gravel bars.

Distinctive land formations: No distinctive land formations are identified within the project area.

Resource areas: No resource areas are identified within the project.

Areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement: The project area is within an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement.

Property that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations: We are not aware of any such property.

In summary, the archaeological potential of the project area is supported by the following factors:

- The project area is located in an area of early Euro-Canadian settlement and transportation routes.
- The project area is located within 150 metres of a primary water source (i.e., Etobicoke Creek).
- The project area is situated within the Iroquois Plain physiographic region of southern Ontario (Chapman and Putnam 1984: 190-196). The Iroquois Plan consists of lacustrine deposits located along the western portion of Lake Ontario. These deposits, the old shoreline of glacial Lake Iroquois, consist of a plain which spans a distance greater than 300 kilometres, encompassing a vast area between the Niagara and Trent Rivers. Its width varies from a few hundred metres to 13 km. Soils in the area are coarse, sandy and poorly drained and overlying bluffs or gravel bars.
- There is one (1) known archaeological site located within a one-kilometre radius of the project area.

Section 1.3.2 of the 2011 *MCM Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* outlines features that may indicate the removal or disturbance of archaeological potential. Such features may include quarrying, major landscaping involving grading below topsoil, building footprints, sewage and infrastructure development, etc.

The project area contains features that indicate the removal or disturbance of archaeological potential. These include:

- The grading and removal of natural topsoils associated with the construction of the existing apartment building, asphalt driveways and parking lot, concrete walkways, swimming pool, and landscaping.

These areas are excluded from further archaeological investigation.

The Stage 1 background study concluded that portions of the project area retain archaeological potential. Other portions of the project area proposed for development associated with this project do not exhibit archaeological potential due to previous deep and extensive disturbances associated with the existing building, asphalt driveways and parking lot, concrete walkways, swimming pool, and landscaping.

In summary, there are areas of archaeological potential remaining within the project area, however, these are outside of the limits of the proposed development within project area.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The report makes recommendations only regarding archaeological matters.

The Stage 1 background study concluded that portions of the project area that is located outside of the development area exhibit archaeological potential. The Stage 1 assessment also determined that large portions of the project area that covers the entirety of the development area have undergone significant deep disturbances in the past. Therefore, the report recommends a Stage 2 assessment for portions of the project area that is located outside of the development area and retain archaeological potential (Maps 6 and 8). The Stage 2 archaeological assessment must be conducted via a systematic shovel test pit survey at five metre intervals in areas identified as retaining archaeological potential.

6.0 ADVICE ON COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1a

This report is submitted to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, a letter will be issued by the ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regard to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1b

It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for any party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed archaeologist has completed archaeological fieldwork on the site, submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeological Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1c

Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 1d

The *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.O, 1990 c. C.4 and the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33 (when proclaimed in force) require that any person discovering human remains must notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services.

Section 7.5.9, Standard 2

Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological fieldwork or protection remain subject to Section 48 (1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and may not be altered, or have artifacts removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological licence.

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8.0 IMAGES



Image 1: Shows heavily landscaped lawn. No archaeological potential.



Image 2: Shows existing structure, walkway and storm drains indicating disturbance.



Image 3: Shows visibly disturbed asphalt driveway, structure and landscaping.



Image 4: Shows existing parking lot and entrance to underground parking. No archaeological potential.



Image 5: Shows existing structure and parking lot above underground garage. No archaeological potential.



Image 6: Shows existing air vent and landscaped area. No archaeological potential.



Image 7: Shows existing walkway and wooded area requiring Stage 2 assessment.



Image 8: Shows area of archaeological potential requiring Stage 2 assessment.



Image 9: Shows area of possible archaeological potential requiring Stage 2 assessment to confirm if disturbed or not.



Image 10: Shows heavily landscaped and altered area. No archaeological potential.



Image 11: Shows heavily landscaped and disturbed area. No archaeological potential.



Image 12: Shows existing pool and heavily landscaped and disturbed area. No archaeological potential.



Image 13: Shows heavily landscaped area. Note air vent. No archaeological potential.



Image 14: Shows existing structure and visibly disturbed areas.

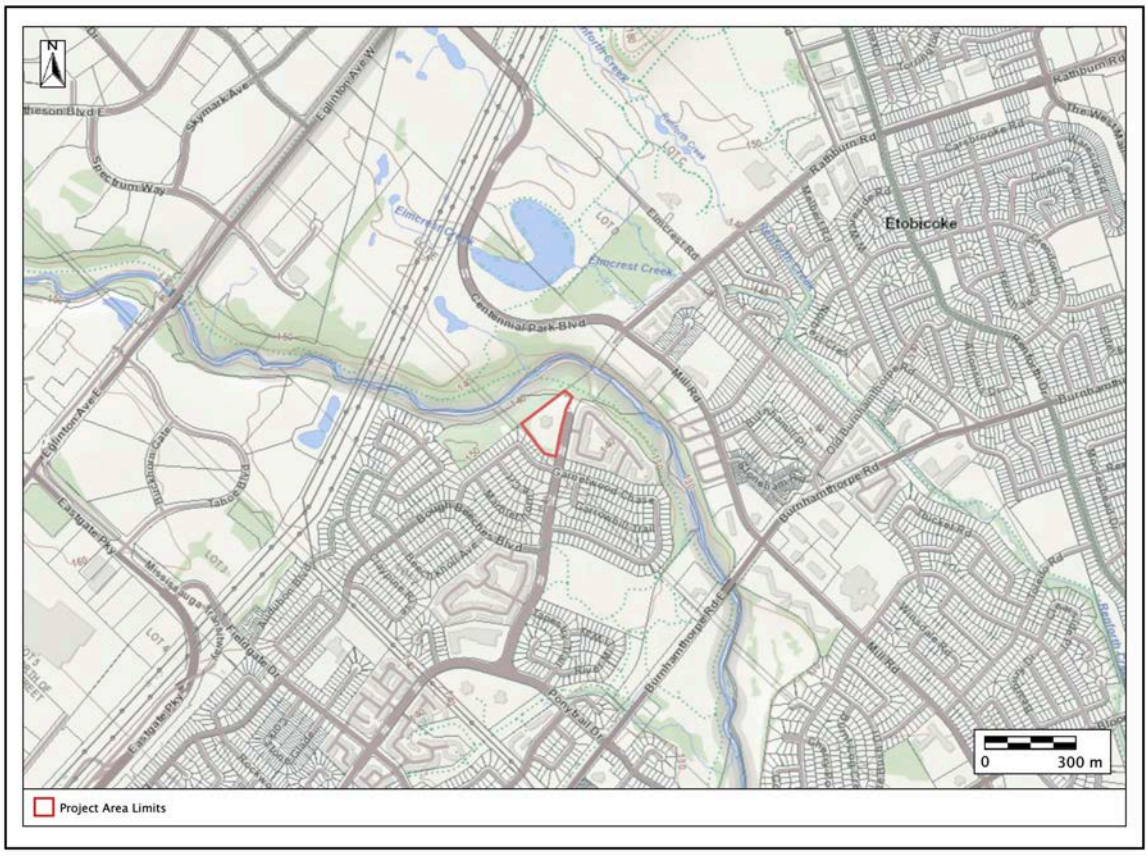


Image 15: Shows area of archaeological potential requiring Stage 2 assessment.



Image 16: Shows area of archaeological potential requiring Stage 2 assessment.

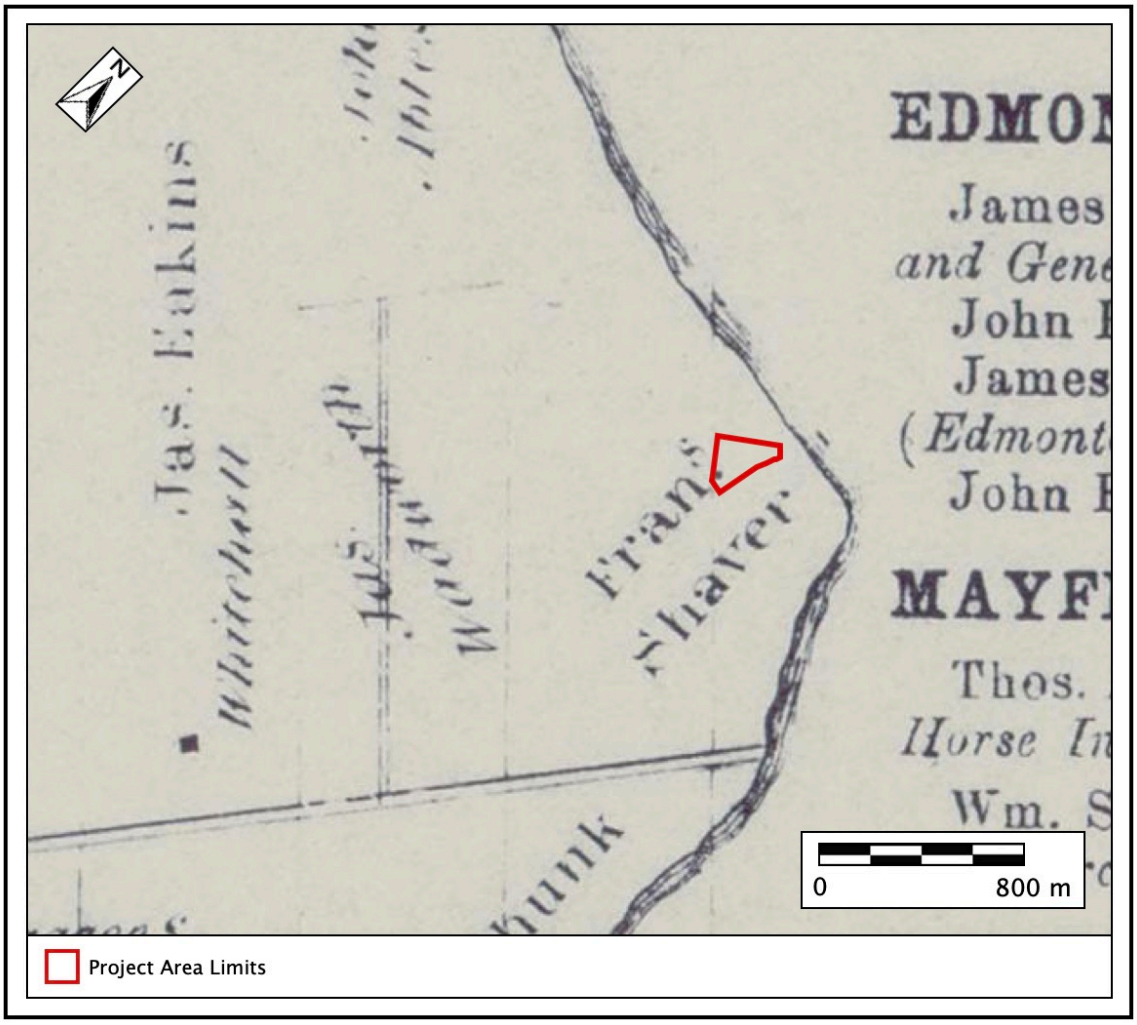
9.0 MAPS



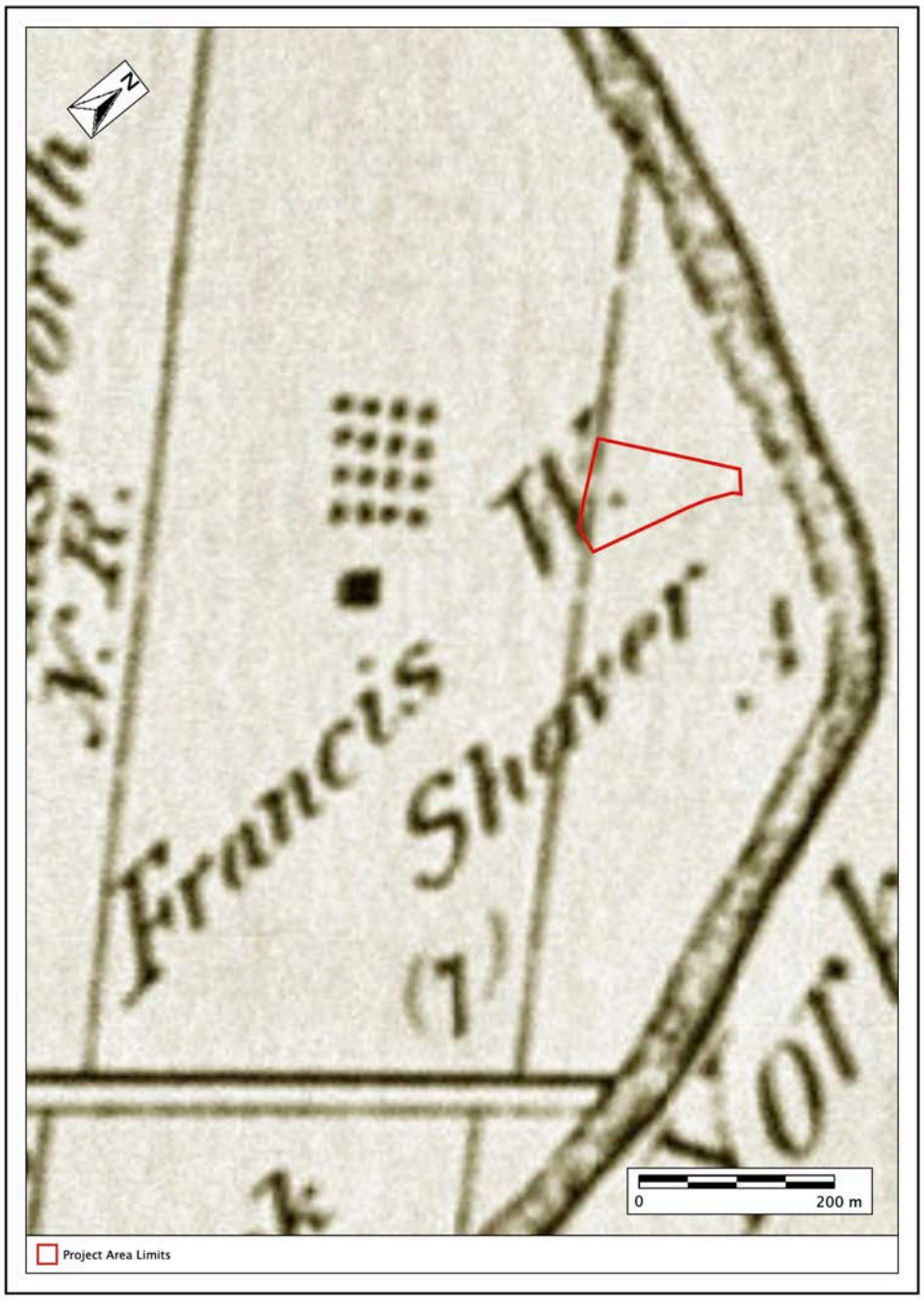
Map 1: General Location of Project Area (MNRF 2025).



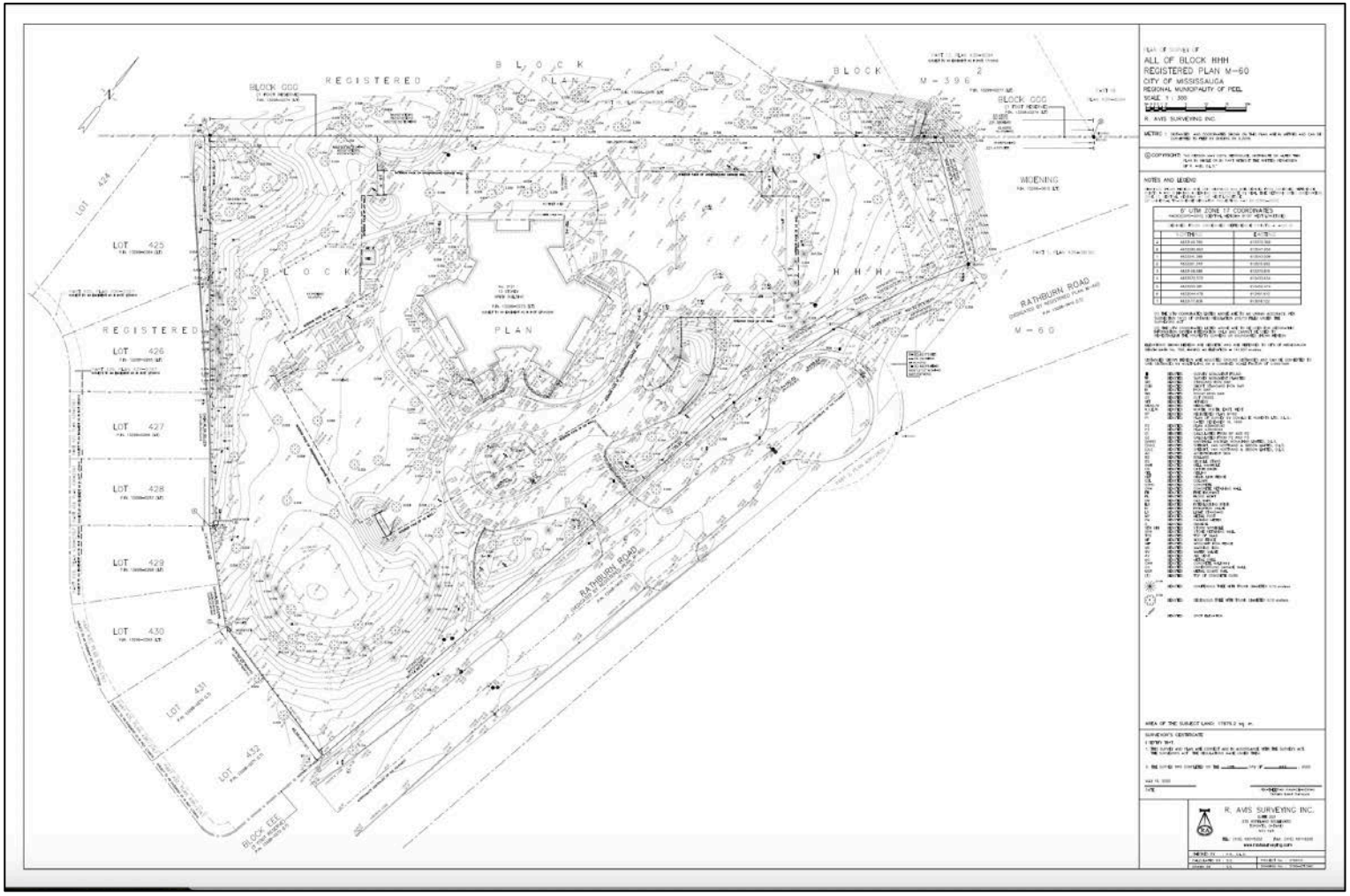
Map 2: Project Area Limits Overlaid on Recent Aerial Imagery (MNRF 2025).



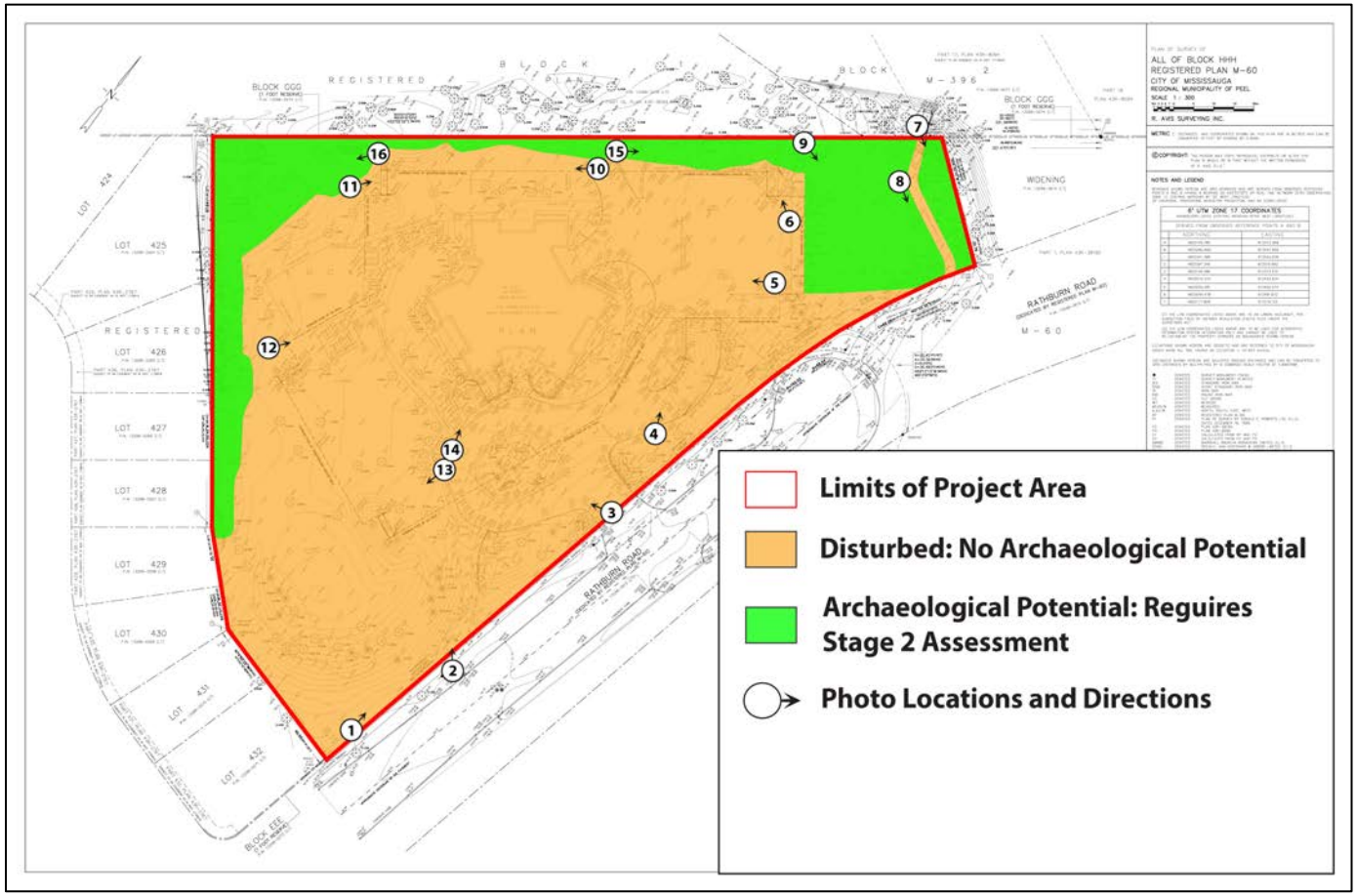
Map 3: Project Area Limits Overlaid on 1859 Historical Atlas Map (Tremaine 1859).



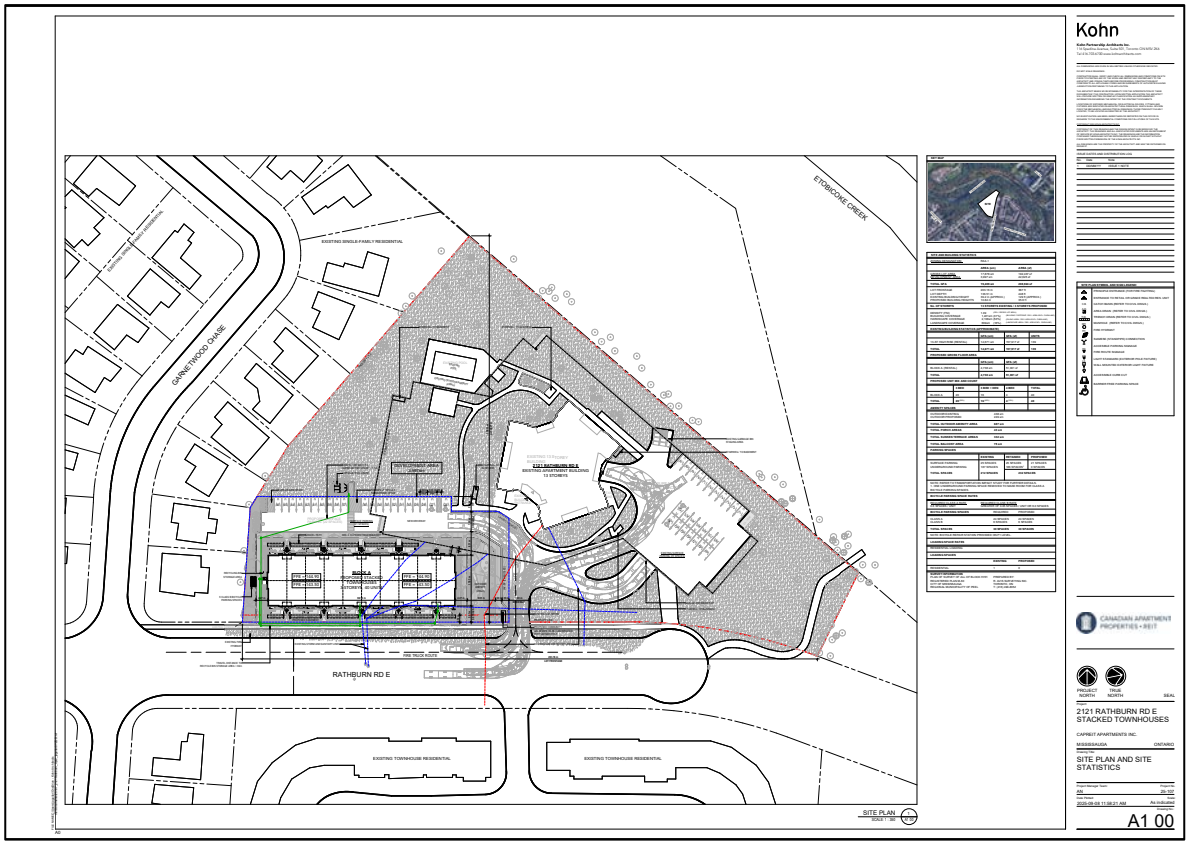
Map 4: Project Area Limits Overlaid on 1877 Historical Atlas Map (Walker & Miles 1877).



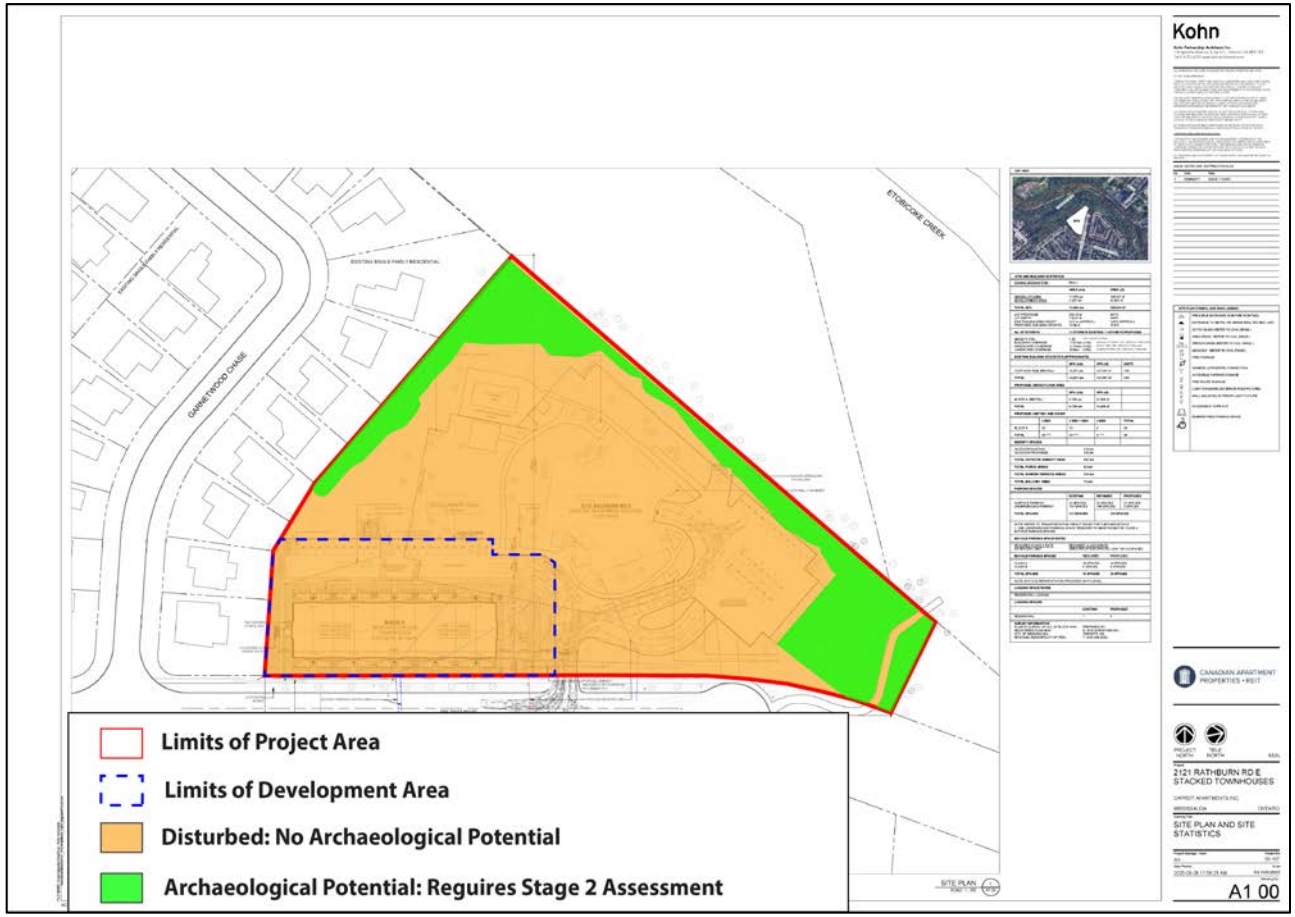
Map 5: Draft Plan of Project Area (Provided by Project Proponent).



Map 6: Results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment.



Map 7: Copy of Site Plan Showing Development Area (Blue Outline) (Provided by Proponent).



Map 8: Results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment Overlaid on Site Plan.