

**PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE  
PROPOSED  
NORWOOD/MAIN STREET  
BRIDGE PROJECT**

Prepared For  
**REID CROWTHER & PARTNERS**

**QUATERNARY  
CONSULTANTS LTD.**

**JUNE, 1989**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....1  
ARCHIVAL INVESTIGATIONS.....3  
FIELD INVESTIGATIONS.....6  
    Bore Hole Monitoring.....6  
    Riverbank Exposure Examinations.....7  
DISCUSSION.....9  
RECOMMENDATIONS.....10  
REFERENCES CITED.....12  
APPENDIX A - HERITAGE PERMIT.....13  
APPENDIX B - CATALOG OF ARTIFACTS.....16

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location of Potential Impact Zones, Bore Holes  
and Riverbank Inspection Sites.....2

## INTRODUCTION

In conjunction with geo-technical studies for the proposed Norwood/Main Bridge Redevelopment, Quaternary Consultants Ltd. was requested to undertake a preliminary assessment of the potential heritage resources within the impact zone.

The impact zone, occasioned by road and bridge construction, consists of the north bank of the Assiniboine River, the section of South Point paralleling Main Street, and the east bank of the Red River (Figure 1). Concomitant with the bridge and street development, a development of the CNR track is projected. This development consists of construction of track bed and trestles east of the Main Line and may result in sub-surface impact in the South Point locality and the west bank of the Red River (Figure 1).

The preliminary archaeological assessment of heritage resources within the impact zones consisted of two components. An archival investigation was conducted to determine potential historical structures which may occur within the area. This was followed by field investigations to assess the potential for heritage resources pre-dating the historic period. The field operations were conducted on June 7 and June 9, under Heritage Permit A13-89 (Appendix A).

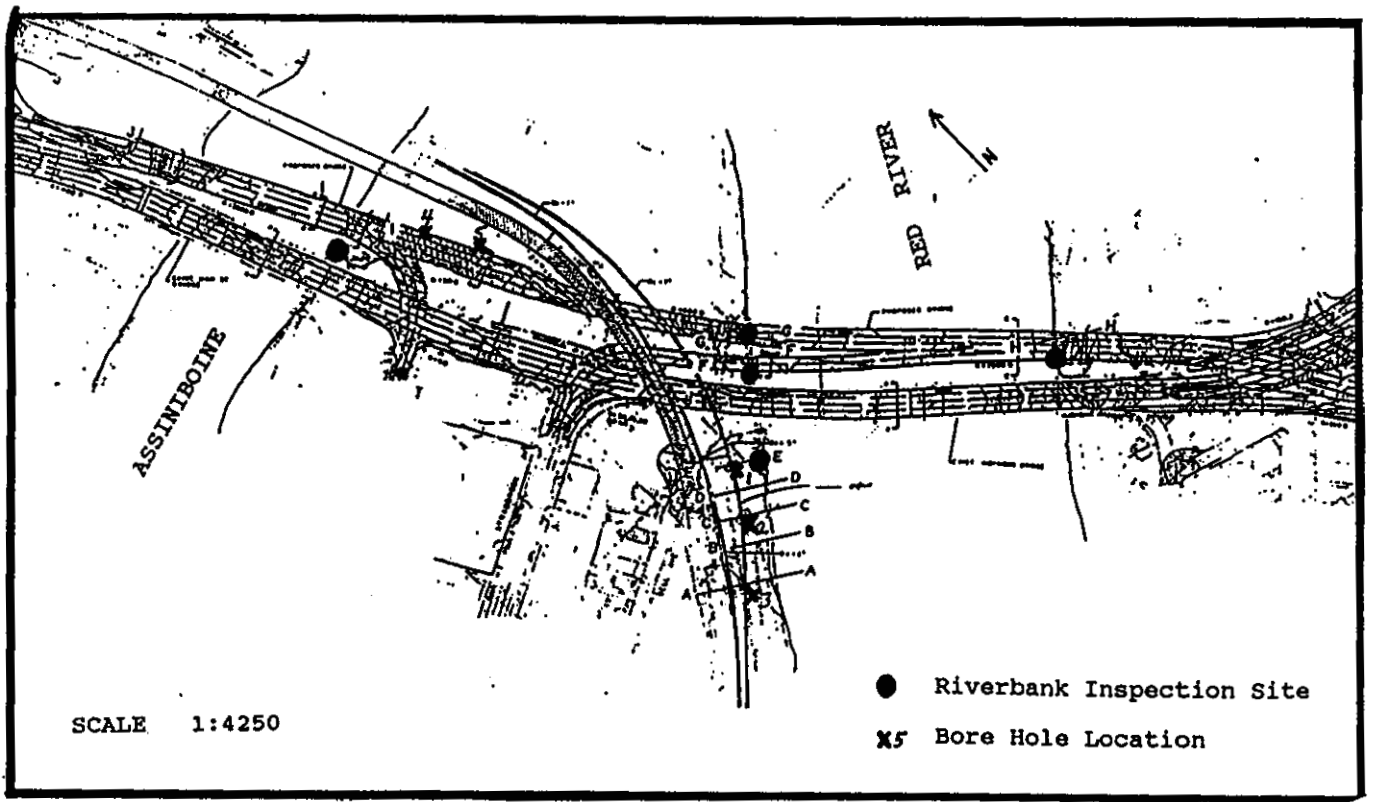


Figure 1: Location of Potential Impact Zones, Bore Holes and Riverbank Investigation Sites

## ARCHIVAL INVESTIGATIONS

A considerable body of literature exists, which details events and occurrences at The Forks. Included within this data, are reports of historical events which occurred at the South Point locality. References to structures and events on the east bank of the Red River are sparser.

The following historical information will be presented in chronological order. Attention will be concentrated upon the four specific locales: North Assiniboine Bank, South Point, East Red Bank, and West Red Bank.

The first recorded event in the Winnipeg region was the visit of La Verendrye. In 1737, he reported two villages of Assiniboine at The Forks and in 1738 he noted that ten cabins of Cree were at the site (FRC 1988:41). The exact locations of these habitations is not known and may occur anywhere within the general vicinity of the junction of the rivers. In 1738, Fort Rouge was established by M. de Louviere, a compatriot of La Verendrye (Guinn 1980a:33). No descriptions of the fort, which was in operation until abandonment in 1749, occur in the literature. Even the location of the structure is disputed: Bell (1927) suggests that it was located on the north side of the Assiniboine River but Guinn (1980b:6-11) vigorously argues that it had been built on South Point.

Winter camps were established at The Forks by St. Pierre (1752) and Bruce and Boyer (1781) (FRC 1988:41). In 1793, McKay recorded a camp of Nor'Westers on the south side of the Assiniboine (Guinn 1980a:37), while McDonnell noted two Indian lodges at The Forks (FRC 1988:41). Other Native encampments at The Forks included Ojibwa and Ottawa (prior to 1800) (Tanner 1956), and Saulteaux (1800) (Tanner 1956, Coues 1965). Between 1800 and 1808, Alexander Henry of the Hudson's Bay Company passed

The Forks 20 times, frequently meeting with groups of Nor'Westers (Coues 1965). In 1803, Louis Dorion wintered at The Forks (Guinn 1980b:11). The locations of these events are unknown and could occur within the impact zones.

In 1845, four homesteads are recorded on South Point (Guinn 1980a:245; Warkentin & Ruggles 1970:Fig. 77). One structure, owned by a Mr. McDougall, occurred near the present location of the CNR Main Line on the south bank of the Assiniboine. Various maps indicate that this building may have existed until 1880 (FRC 1988:Appendix A). A second farmhouse is mapped near the present location of the Norwood Bridge, on the west bank of the Red River. This building is depicted on maps of 1845 and 1848.

In 1873, George McPhillips conducted a survey of the locality for the City of Winnipeg. His field notes record that "Lot 39 was an old Indian camp and burial ground" (McPhillips, 1874:5). The majority of this parish lot underlie the Curling Club and the embankment for the CNR Main Line.

The first Main Street Bridge was constructed in 1880 and has since undergone several rebuildings. A building, identified as the James Anderson house is noted at the east side of the northern foot of the Main Street bridge in 1881 (Guinn 1980a:327; Warkentin & Ruggles 1970:Fig. 190). A house is recorded on South Point on the east side of Main Street, approximately between the embankments for the CNR Main Line and the previous Low Line tracks (FRC 1988:49, Fig. 3). This building appears to have existed from 1884 to 1905. The warehouse of the Arctic Ice Company was built adjacent to this location in 1891 (Guinn 1980a:353). The company moved in 1905 (FRC 1988:54). The construction of the CNR Main Line Bridge and associated embankments and trestles, in 1910, effectively closed South Point to general access and the entire locality was considered as part of the CNR East Yard.

No structures appear to be located near the foot of the Norwood Bridge on several maps: 1836; 1873, 1874, 1881, 1884, 1895 and 1954 (Warkentin & Ruggles, 1970). On the 1848 Moody Map, several buildings are sited along the east bank of the Red River. Owing to problems with the scale of the map, it is difficult to determine whether or not any of these buildings would have occurred within the impact zone.

The archival data indicates that several historical events occurred in the vicinity and may have resulted in the presence of heritage resources within the impact zone. The following table summarizes the known data, including location of the event and the time span. Many of the events cannot be specifically located. However, certain structures can be expected to have occurred within or very near to the impact zone. These are highlighted in boldface. Further details of historic events in this vicinity can be found in FRC (1988) and Guinn (1980a;1980b).

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME SPAN
Two Assiniboine Villages	Unknown	1737
Ten Cree Cabins	Unknown	1738
<b>Fort Rouge</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>1738-1749</b>
St. Pierre Winter Camp	Unknown	1752
Bruce & Boyer Winter Camp	Unknown	1781
<b>Nor'Wester Camp</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>1793</b>
Two Indian Lodges	Unknown	1793
Ojibwa & Ottawa Camp	Unknown	?1799
Saulteaux Camp	Unknown	1800
Alexander Henry Visits	Unknown	1800-1808
Dorion Winter Camp	Unknown	1803
<b>McDougall Farmstead</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>?1845-1880?</b>
<b>South Farmstead</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>?1845-1848?</b>
Unidentified Buildings ?	Red River (East)	?1848-?
<b>Native Campsite/Burial Site</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>pre-1873</b>
<b>James Anderson House</b>	<b>North Assiniboine</b>	<b>1881-?</b>
<b>Dwelling House</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>1884-1905</b>
<b>Arctic Ice Company</b>	<b>South Point</b>	<b>1891-1905</b>

Table 1: Recorded Historic Events and Structures

## FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Bore Hole Monitoring

On June 7, through the agencies of Dyregrov & Burgess, utilizing equipment and crew provided by Subterranean (Manitoba) Ltd., a series of five holes were drilled within the impact zone (Figure 1). These holes, 18" (45 cm) in diameter, were drilled to a depth of 5.0 meters.

A layer of historic fill was encountered in all holes. The thickness of this layer was approximately 1.5 meters in Holes 1, 2, and 3 (to the south of the Norwood Bridge) and 0.9 meters in Holes 4 and 5 in the Curling Rink Parking Lot). The historic fill consisted, primarily, of black cinder and ash with layers of sand and gravel.

There was a considerable degree of consistency in the deposition sequence of riverine silts and clays. All holes passed through a thick clay/silt stratum with a high iron oxide content and terminated slightly below a sand stratum (approximately 4.5 meters below surface). Soil formation zones were thin and indistinct. This factor, combined with the deformation of the strata caused by the rotary action of the drill, made an exact determination of the soil stratigraphic column impossible. Identification of a Pre-Contact occupation horizon requires the presence of a relatively thick (greater than 3 cm) relict soil zone, combined with occupational evidence such as quantities of fish or mammal bone, ash and/or charcoal from a hearth, or fire-cracked rocks. Small artifacts, such as lithic flakes from stone tool manufacture or sherds from native ceramic vessels, can rarely be discerned. Accordingly, it is not reasonable to rely, solely, upon bore hole drilling to ascertain presence or absence of Pre-Contact occupation horizons. Secondly, short-term occupations do not tend to cover large areas and the extremely



localized nature of drilling tests may produce no evidence, while heritage resources could exist nearby.

#### Riverbank Exposure Examinations

On June 9, examinations were made of the exposed riverbanks within the impact zone. These included the north bank of the Assiniboine River, the south bank of the Assiniboine, the west bank of the Red River (north and south of the Norwood Bridge), and the east bank of the Red River. The investigations consisted of shaving vertical bank exposures to examine stratigraphic details.

Minimal information was recovered from the north bank of the Assiniboine River. The area appears to be considerably disturbed adjacent to the existing bridge. Inadequate vertical exposures existed to ascertain the presence of undisturbed, pre-1900 soils, as recent slopewash has masked original strata. A large quantity of historic artifacts were observed at waterline; most appearing to derive from the 1920's.

A good exposure was examined on the south side of the Assiniboine River. A vertical wall, with minimal vegetation, occurs approximately five meters east of the Main Street Bridge. The profile, illustrated in Figure 2, consists of a minimum of four discrete historic strata overlying a sequence of riverine flood deposition. The uppermost layer appears to be slump from the 1950 dyke. This overlies a layer (5 cm thick) of black cinder and ash, deriving from coal fires, which contained a round nail (DLg-32/89A-1). This layer was separated from a lower stratum of grey-brown ash by a band of river silt. The ash layer appears to have derived from wood fires. It contained a portion of the stem of a kaolin pipe (DLg-32/89A-2). Other historic artifacts were retrieved from slope slump below the exposure. These included a blue-on-white porcelain sherd (DLg-32/89A-3), a

plain white plate sherd (D1Lg-32/89A-5), a plain white porcelain crock sherd (D1Lg-32/89A-6), and an aqua beverage bottle sherd (D1Lg-32/89A-4). It would appear that the glass sherd, tentatively identified as the base of a beverage bottle produced by Drewrys in 1923, originated in the upper level, while the white porcelain sherds may have eroded from either of the two ash levels. The decorated sherd, tentatively identified as a pattern similar to the Copeland "Byron Views", could have originated in the lower ash level. The remainder of the stratigraphic column showed evidence of repeated flood deposition sequences, with the formation of several thin, diffuse soil horizons between flood events. No evidence of Pre-Contact occupation was observed at this location.

The upper section of the vertical exposure on the west bank of the Red River, north of the Norwood Bridge, showed several sequences of slope wash from the CNR Low Line embankment. This slopewash was demonstrated by a repeated layering of black cinder and silt bands. Below these strata, which would have developed since the 1890's, natural strata were observed. As at the south Assiniboine exposure, soil horizons were thin and diffuse, containing no evidence of pre-Contact occupations.

The vertical exposures on the west bank of the Red River, south of the Norwood Bridge, consisted solely of slumped historic fill. Numerous historic artifacts, including structural elements such as bricks, glass sherds, and ceramic sherds, were observed on the river bank at waterline. None of these artifacts, covering a timespan from the early 1900's to present, were collected.

Minimal exposures were located on the east bank of the Red River. Evidence seems to indicate that some landscaping and sloping of the terrain has occurred. Only a few recent historic artifacts, primarily of a structural nature, were observed at the waterline.

## DISCUSSION

Even though the land surface has been extensively modified since the 1890's, it would appear that minimal sub-surface activity has occurred. The railroad embankments and the flood control dyke have been built upon existing surface, thereby further protecting buried heritage resources.

No Pre-Contact heritage resources were located during the preliminary archaeological assessment of the impact zone. However, during the Winnipeg Archaeological Survey (1969-70), evidence of native ceramics (ca. 500 to 1500 years old) was found on the east side of South Point, between the impact zone and the tip of the point (P. Badertscher, 1989:personal communication). This presence, plus the extensive findings at The Forks, indicate a high potential for the presence of archaeological material in the undisturbed portions of the impact zone.

Archival research, and the discoveries during the preliminary assessment, indicates that numerous historic structures and events occurred within the impact zone. The potential for the discovery of the remnants of Fort Rouge (1738-1749) must be considered. Other early Fur Trade events may have occurred within the impact zone.

The historic strata, exposed on the south bank of the Assiniboine River, indicate two occupation layers separated by a flood event. The evidence may be explained as either of two possible sequences:

1. The lower layer is representative of the McDougall Farmstead (known as of 1848), covered by silts from the 1850 flood, followed by the second depositional period lasting until the construction of the CNR Main Line Bridge in 1910; or

2. The lower layer represents deposition from the McDougall Farmstead from 1848 until the 1882 flood, which deposited a layer of silt. This is followed by deposition until the turn of the century.

The artifacts do not provide definite time markers. The clay pipe fragment from the lower layer could date before or after the 1850 flood (FRC 1988:50). The round nail, from the upper level, suggests a manufacturing date after 1885 (FRC 1988:17), but it could have derived from recycled lumber and deposited much later. The thickness of the lower layer suggests that the period of deposition was several years in duration, as indicated in the second hypothesis. However, further investigation would be required to provide definite support for this explanation.

The evidence for McPhillips' designation of Lot 39 as a 'campsite and burial ground' is not known. His information may have derived from oral history or physical evidence may have existed at the time of his survey (1873). In any case, considerable significance should be attached to his designation.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the archival research and the preliminary archaeological assessment of the impact zone, Quaternary Consultants proposes the following recommendations.

**It is recommended** that a full-scale heritage resource impact assessment of the impact zone be undertaken. Such an investigation should:

- a. examine the sub-surface deposits in the accessible areas adjacent to Main Street between the street and the embankments,
- b. examine the sub-surface deposits along the west bank of the Red River, south of the Norwood Bridge,

- c. examine the sub-surface deposits within the impact zone on the east bank of the Red River, and
- d. examine the sub-surface deposits on the south bank of the Assiniboine River and the west bank of the Red River, north of the Norwood Bridge.

The first three components can be undertaken with the use of a backhoe to enable faster removal of overburden. The technique of backhoe excavation for archaeological impact assessment has been successfully demonstrated in the past (Quaternary 1988; FRC n.d.) and significantly decreases the required time for such operations. The last component, due to inadequate access, will require manual excavation.

A full-scale assessment will permit specific determination of the extent of the historical resources underlying the Curling Rink Parking Lot, as well as the presence or absence of burials and/or significant pre-Contact occupation horizons. Such delimitation of the potential heritage resources is necessary prior to determining whether or not mitigative procedures would be required under the Manitoba Heritage Resources Act.

It is recommended that discussions be held with the various landowners; The Forks Renewal Corporation, Canadian National Railroad, the City of Winnipeg, etc. to determine an agreement upon the disposition of the recovered artifacts. Under the Manitoba Heritage Resources Act, ownership of heritage artifacts resides in the Crown. However, the right of custody of the artifacts resides in the land-owner. The artifacts resulting from the preliminary investigations were located in 'Parcel B, City of Winnipeg, Plan 22557'. This parcel is under the jurisdiction of The Forks Renewal Corporation which has declared that "custody of all artifacts recovered during archaeological operations within the East Yard will be transferred to the Province of Manitoba" (FRC 1988:108).

APPENDIX A

HERITAGE PERMIT



**Heritage Permit No.** A13-89

FORM 11

PURSUANT to Section/Subsection 53 of *The Heritage Resources Act*:

Name: Quaternary Consultants Ltd.  
Address: 733 Jessie Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3M 0Z6

(hereinafter referred to as "the Permittee"),

is hereby granted permission to:

monitor six proposed geo-technical test holes on the east side of Main Street between the Norwood Bridge and the Bridge of the Old Forts and to shovel-shave the exposed south bank of the Assiniboine River and the north bank of the Red River in this area in order to ascertain the presence or absence of heritage resources within the zone of impact of the proposed Norwood/Main Street Bridge project;

during the period:

May 29 to June 9, 1989

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the information provided in the application for this permit dated the 23rd day of May 1989, is true in substance and in fact;
- (2) That the Permittee shall comply with all the provisions of *The Heritage Resources Act* and any regulations or orders thereunder;
- (3) That the Permittee shall provide to the Minister a written report or reports with respect to the Permittee's activities pursuant to this permit, the form and content of which shall be satisfactory to the Minister and which shall be provided on the following dates:  
July 1, 1989
- (4) That this permit is not transferable;
- (5) This permit may be revoked by the Minister where, in the opinion of the Minister, there has been a breach of any of the terms or conditions herein or of any provision of *The Heritage Resources Act* or any regulations thereunder;

(6) Special Conditions:

That neither the Government of Manitoba nor the party issuing this permit be liable for any damages resulting from any activities carried out pursuant to this permit, and the Permittee specifically agrees, in consideration for receiving this permit, to indemnify and hold harmless the Minister and the Government of Manitoba, the Minister and any employees and officials of the Government, against any and all actions, liens, demands, loss liability, cost, damage and expense including, without limitation, reasonable legal fees, which the Government, Minister or any employee or official of the Government may suffer or incur by reason of any of the activities to or related to this permit.

Dated at the City of Winnipeg, in Manitoba, this 24th day of May 1989.

  
Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation



APPENDIX B

CATALOG OF ARTIFACTS

SPECIMEN CATALOGUE RECORD

Site: DILg-32/89A / THE FORKS Area: RED RIVER

Cat. #	Qty	Object Name / Object Type	Material / Cultural Phase	Location on Site	Coll. Date
1	1	NAIL ROUND	IRON HISTORIC	PARCEL B	19890609
2	1	PIPE ELBOW	KAOLIN HISTORIC	PARCEL B	19890609
3	1	SHERD BOWL?	PORCELAIN HISTORIC	PARCEL B	19890609
4	1	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	PARCEL B	19890609
5	1	SHERD PLATE	PORCELAIN HISTORIC	PARCEL B	19890609
6	1	SHERD CROCK	PORCELAIN HISTORIC	PARCEL B	19890609