

**B & B BUILDING
FOUNDATION INSPECTION:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

The Forks Renewal Corporation

May, 1989

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Winnipeg, Manitoba

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INTRODUCTION

In conjunction with proposed re-development and/or refurbishment of the B & B Building (Figure 1), The Forks Renewal Corporation (FRC) determined that an inspection of the foundation was necessary. Accordingly, a backhoe was engaged to excavate four holes in order to expose the footing of the foundation for assessment of structural stability by engineers.

In accordance with the Manitoba Heritage Resources Act and The Forks Archaeological Plan (FRC 1988), the excavations were monitored by the FRC Site Archaeologist. The operations were conducted, on March 1, 1989, under Heritage Permit A73-88 (Appendix A).

Four excavations were placed around the perimeter of the B & B Building (Figure 2). These were on the southeast corner of the Blacksmith Annex, in front of the west main door on the south side and along the west wall. All excavations encountered frozen soil, the depth depending upon the type of soil and its water content.

STRATIGRAPHY

Disturbed soil was encountered in the upper levels of all excavation units. The upper component of the soil profiles indicated that deposition had occurred in all locations, after the construction of the building in 1889. Three different profiles were observed. These will be discussed in detail.

Hole 1

Hole 1 was excavated at the south east corner of the Blacksmith's Annex. The size of the excavated unit was approximately 1.5 meters long (parallel to the wall of the building) by 1.0 meter

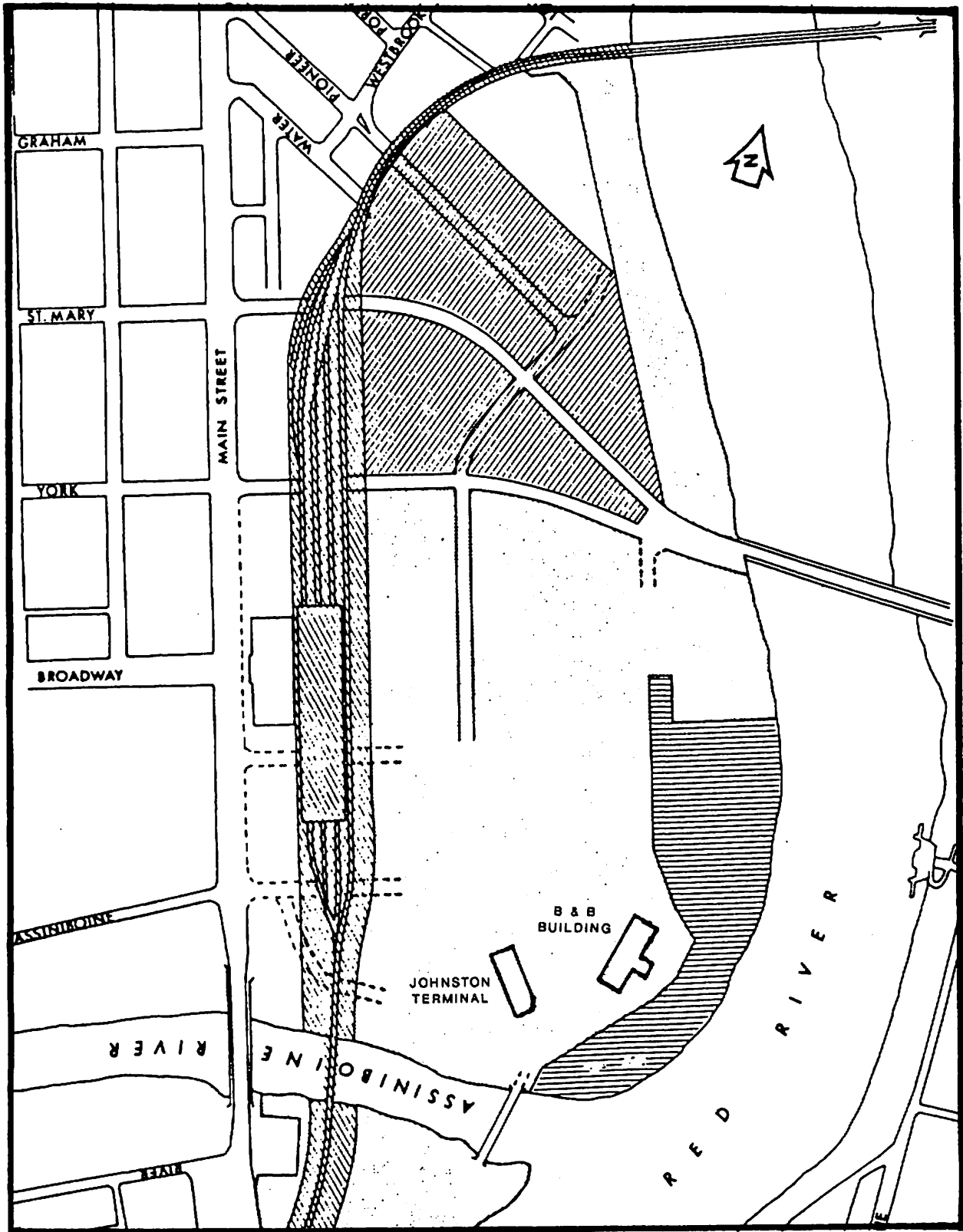


Figure 1: Map of the East Yard

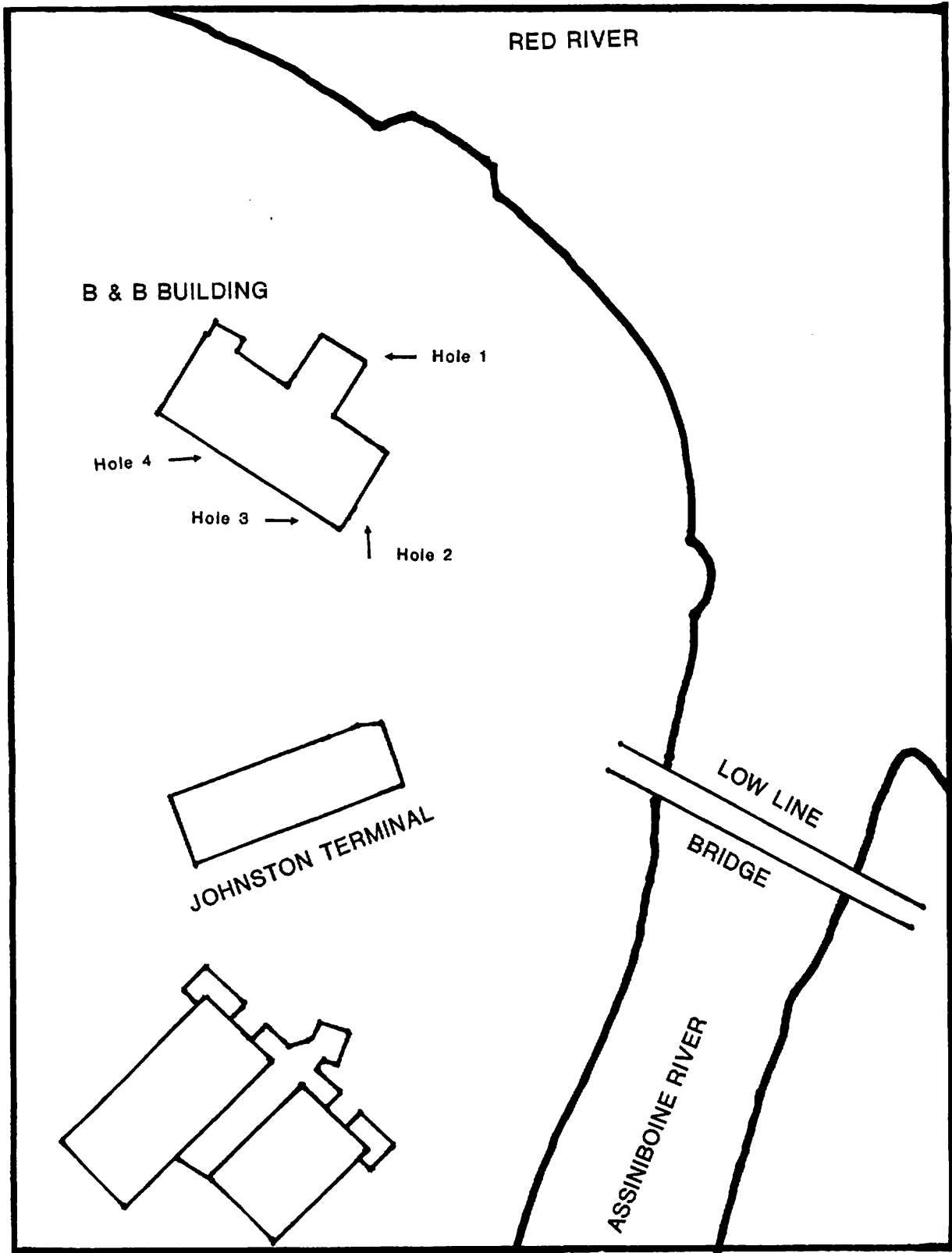


Figure 2: Detail Map Showing Location of Excavations

wide (perpendicular to the building). The hole was excavated to a depth of approximately two meters. This depth penetrated the upper disturbed soil, caused by recent deposition and by the excavation for the foundation, and exposed original, undisturbed strata (Figure 3).

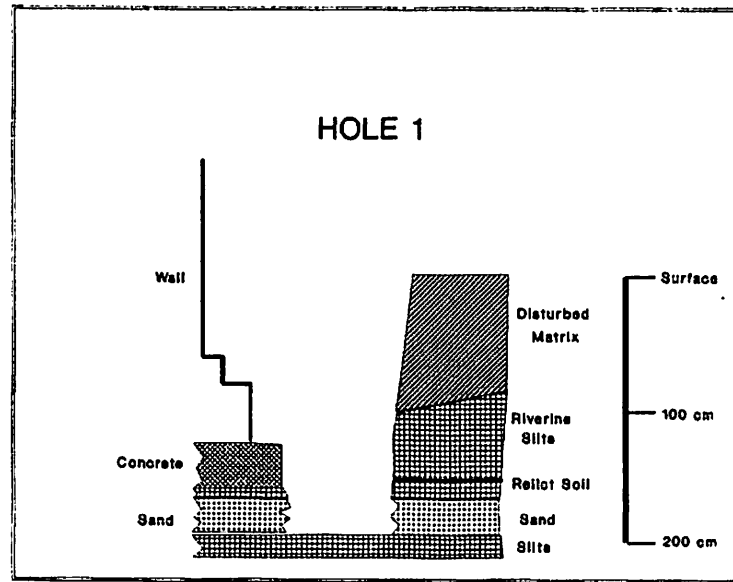


Figure 3: Soil Profile Exposed in Hole 1

The upper 90 cm consisted of a disturbed matrix, composed of gravel in the upper portion, mixed gravel and clay in the middle section and clay in the lower portion. This component overlay undisturbed riverine silts and clays which contained a moderately developed former soil horizon at a depth of 153 cm. Below the silt stratum, a layer of sand occurred between 170 and 200 cm. This sand layer is correlated with other occurrences of a similar stratum which was encountered at the North Point locality (P. Priess, 1988: pers. comm.) and other locations throughout the East Yard during the Stage I Construction Monitoring Program. The lowest stratum encountered was riverine silts and clays.

Hole 2

Hole 2 was excavated on the south wall of the main building, to the west of the main doors. The excavation unit was similar, in size, to Hole 1. The excavation was taken to the concrete base of the foundation (160 cm). The excavations encountered only disturbed clay, mixed with wood fragments.

Hole 3

Hole 3 was excavated on the west wall of the main building, 14 meters north of the southwest corner. The excavation, to the base of the foundation, encountered an upper layer of black cinder fill overlaying disturbed clay to the base.

Hole 4

Hole 4 was excavated on the west wall of the main building, 34 meters north of the southwest corner. The excavation encountered recent deposition layers and disturbed clay fill (Figure 4).

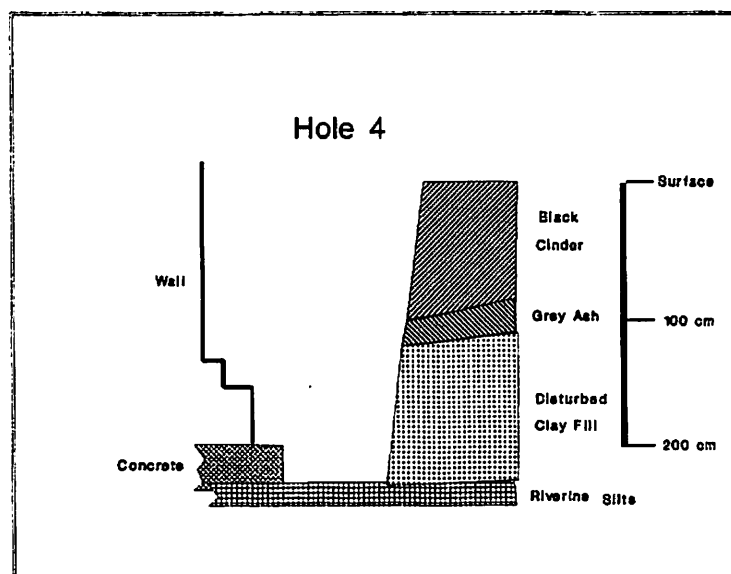


Figure 4: Soil Profile Exposed in Hole 4

The basal layer, upon which the concrete foundation footing rested, appeared to be an undisturbed riverine silt stratum. The upper layer was a thick deposit of black cinder fill, overlying a stratum of grey ash. The grey ash stratum, extending from 70 cm to 90 cm, is correlated with the 'Winnipeg Dump No. 1' stratum which was encountered during the North Assiniboine Node Impact Assessment. This layer was deposited between 1907 and 1917 and occurs at several locations throughout the East Yard: the North Assiniboine Node, near the Powerhouse and on the north side of the Johnston Terminal. Some artifacts were recovered from this layer. Below the ash, the matrix consisted of disturbed clay which was probably infilled soon after the excavation for the construction of the foundation.

ARTIFACT RECOVERIES

Minimal quantities of artifacts were recovered, due to the small size of the excavated units and the shallow depth of these units. In addition, most of the excavated soil consisted of disturbed soil and clay fill. A total of 13 artifacts, all of historic age, were curated. The recovered specimens were catalogued on the CHIN computer cataloguing system, using the Borden designation (DLg-33) and the project designation (89A) (The Forks Archaeological Plan - Appendix D). The project designation indicates that this was the first archaeological project at The Forks for 1989.

A sawn section of an innominate (pelvic bone) from a large mammal (probably cow) was observed in the upper gravel/disturbed soil matrix from Hole 1, as well as a fragment of plain windowpane. These specimens were not curated.

No artifacts were retrieved from Hole 2. Only one glass bottle sherd was recovered from Hole 3. This specimen was the lip/neck

section of a panelled milk bottle. The sherd is amethyst in colour, indicating manufacture prior to 1914.

The majority of the artifact inventory (Appendix B) derives from Hole 4. The specimens were recovered from the grey ash horizon underlying the black cinder fill. The ash horizon correlates with other similar deposits in the North Assiniboine Node and the Stage I Construction localities. These have been attributed to land fill operations which occurred between 1907 and 1915, utilizing transported coal and wood ash and cinder. The artifacts consisted of one large, flat iron washer (DLg-33/89A-8), three white glass sherds from a lamp shade (DLg-33/89A-7) and eight bottle sherds. DLg-33/89A-2 is the basal section of a green beverage bottle. No manufacturer marks occur on the specimen, which appears to be approximately 7 or 10 oz., in size. DLg-33/89A-3 is a cracked, basal sherd from a light green, oval bottle. DLg-33/89A-4 is the side panel of an oval, aqua bottle. DLg-33/89A-5 consists of three sherds from an olive-coloured case gin bottle. Sections include the square base and the straight vertical sides. The sherds show cold mold 'whittle marks' and vertical ribbing. DLg-33/89A-6 consisted of two melted fragments of a brown beer bottle, which could not be identified to manufacturer.

DISCUSSION

It would appear that minimal sub-surface excavation occurred during the construction of the foundations of the B & B Building. The soil profile in Hole 1 (Figure 3) indicates that the original foundation excavations were approximately one meter in depth and apparently did not extend very far, laterally, from the actual placement of the footing. A similar impression was derived from Hole 4 (Figure 4), on the opposite side of the structure.

Post-construction deposition has occurred at all excavation locations. The deposition on the east side of the structure appears to be related to up-grading of the adjacent road, by the addition of gravel. Deposition on the west side of the structure appears to be related to the general land-fill practices which were employed throughout the East Yard, from 1907 to recent. The grey ash layer has been dated between 1907 and 1917 in other portions of the site and appears to have been deposited, in a machine-leveled layer, right up to the building wall. The black cinder fill, probably deriving from waste from coal-fired steam locomotives, appears to have been deposited in a similar manner. There appears to have been minimal or non-existent deposition in front of the main doors on the south side of the building, probably as a function of access requirements. It can be observed that the ground level at this location is considerably lower than at other places on the periphery of the building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the small scale of the project, it is difficult to provide recommendations. Naturally, all future sub-surface operations will comply with the Manitoba Heritage Resources Act and The Forks Archaeological Plan.

Based upon archival research, it is known that the Immigration Shed (1872-1885) and the Experimental Farm Stables (1836-1852?) occur in the immediate vicinity (Guinn 1980a; FRC 1988), probably on the west side of the B & B Building, which was originally constructed as the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway Engine House in 1889 (Guinn 1980b). The Roundhouse component of the structure, lying immediately north of the existing structure, was demolished circa 1926. The remnants of Fort Gibraltar I were located to the northeast, during the 1984 excavations conducted by Parks Canada (Priess & Bradford 1985; Priess et al. 1986). Given the wealth of heritage structures which have occurred in

this locality, and the fact that the extent and exact location is not known for any of these former buildings, it is recommended that any future sub-surface operations in the vicinity of the B & B Building, which will impact below the railway cinder layer, be either monitored by the Site Archaeologist (if the operation is small-scale) or be subject to a project-specific impact assessment.

REFERENCES

Forks Renewal Corporation, The

1988 The Forks Archaeological Impact Assessment and Development Plan (The Forks Archaeological Plan). The Forks Renewal Corporation, Winnipeg.

Guinn, Rodger

1980a The Red-Assiniboine Junction: A land Use and Structural History. Manuscript Report Series No. 355, Parks Canada, Ottawa.

1980b An Historical Assessment of Four Structures in the Canadian National Railways East Yards, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Research Bulletin No. 126, Parks Canada, Ottawa.

Priess, Peter J. & Shiela E. Bradford

1985 The Forks. Manitoba Archaeological Quarterly. Vol. 9, No. 3:31-43.

Priess, Peter J., P. W. Nieuwhof, & S. B. Ebell

1986 Archaeological Investigations of the Junction of the Red and Assiniboine River, 1984. Research Bulletin No. 241, Parks Canada, Ottawa.

APPENDIX A

HERITAGE PERMIT



Heritage Permit No. A73-88

FORM 11

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

Name: The Forks Renewal Corporation
Address: 404 - 1 Wesley Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4C6
ATTENTION: Sid Kroker
Site Archaeologist

(hereinafter referred to as "the Permittee"),

is hereby granted permission to:

monitor the backhoe excavations adjacent to the B & B Building at The Forks in downtown Winnipeg during the investigations of the structural stability of the foundation, to recover any heritage objects or human remains that may be uncovered and to map the stratigraphy;

during the period:

March 1 to 4, 1989

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the information provided in the application for this permit dated the 27th day of February 19 89, 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:
May 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:

- a) That the Site Archaeologist will keep the Historic Resources Branch apprised about the occurrence of heritage resources at the site;
- b) That in the event that human remains are encountered, all activity in the immediate area will cease and the special procedures relative to the treatment of human remains located at The Forks will be implemented forthwith;
- c) 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 27th day of February 1989.



Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation

APPENDIX B

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

SPECIMEN CATALOGUE RECORD

Site: D1Lq-33/89A / THE FORKS Area: RED RIVER
 Donor: THE FORKS RENEWAL CORPORATION Acc. No.: A1989-

Cat. #	Qty	Object Name / Object Type	Material / Cultural Phase	Location on Site	Coll. Date
1	1	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 3	19890301
2	1	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301
3	1	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301
4	1	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301
5	3	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301
6	2	SHERD BOTTLE	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301
7	3	SHERD LAMP	GLASS HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301
8	1	WASHER	IRON HISTORIC	HOLE 4	19890301