

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
OF THE BONNYCASTLE  
AMPHITHEATRE EXCAVATIONS**

Prepared For

**SCATLIFF & RECH**

**Quaternary  
Consultants  
Limited**

August, 1991

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bonnycastle Amphitheatre is a component of the upgrading of Bonnycastle Park, undertaken by the City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation. As sub-surface modification was necessary for the development of the Amphitheatre and attendant features, Scatliff & Rech (Prime Consultants) retained the services of Quaternary Consultants Ltd. (QCL) to conduct an impact assessment of the area which is to be affected. This heritage resources impact assessment was conducted during June, 1990 under Heritage Permit A21-90. The excavation of a roadway cut from grade to river level on the north bank of the Assiniboine River was monitored by an archaeologist. This monitoring observed that a small area of undisrupted soils occurred to the north of the vertical concrete retaining wall (Figure 1). It was recommended that excavation of this section of undisturbed sediments be monitored by an archaeologist (Quaternary 1990:6).

On July 16, 1991, Quaternary Consultants Ltd. was notified that excavation of the Amphitheatre was about to proceed. Accordingly, QCL applied for and received Heritage Permit A33-91 (Appendix A), issued by Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship in accordance with The Heritage Resources Act. The monitoring was conducted by Sid Kroker (Senior Archaeologist) between July 17 and July 26.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The monitoring consisted of visual inspection of the undisturbed sediments which were exposed after the vertical concrete retaining wall had been removed. The presence of multiple horizontal layers of concrete resulted in excavation procedures being interrupted several times to allow for jack-hammer operations. As a result, the excavation of the Amphitheatre took place over several days. The archaeologist was on-site during periods of excavation of the sediments, would depart when concrete curtailed the operation and returned when excavations proceeded.

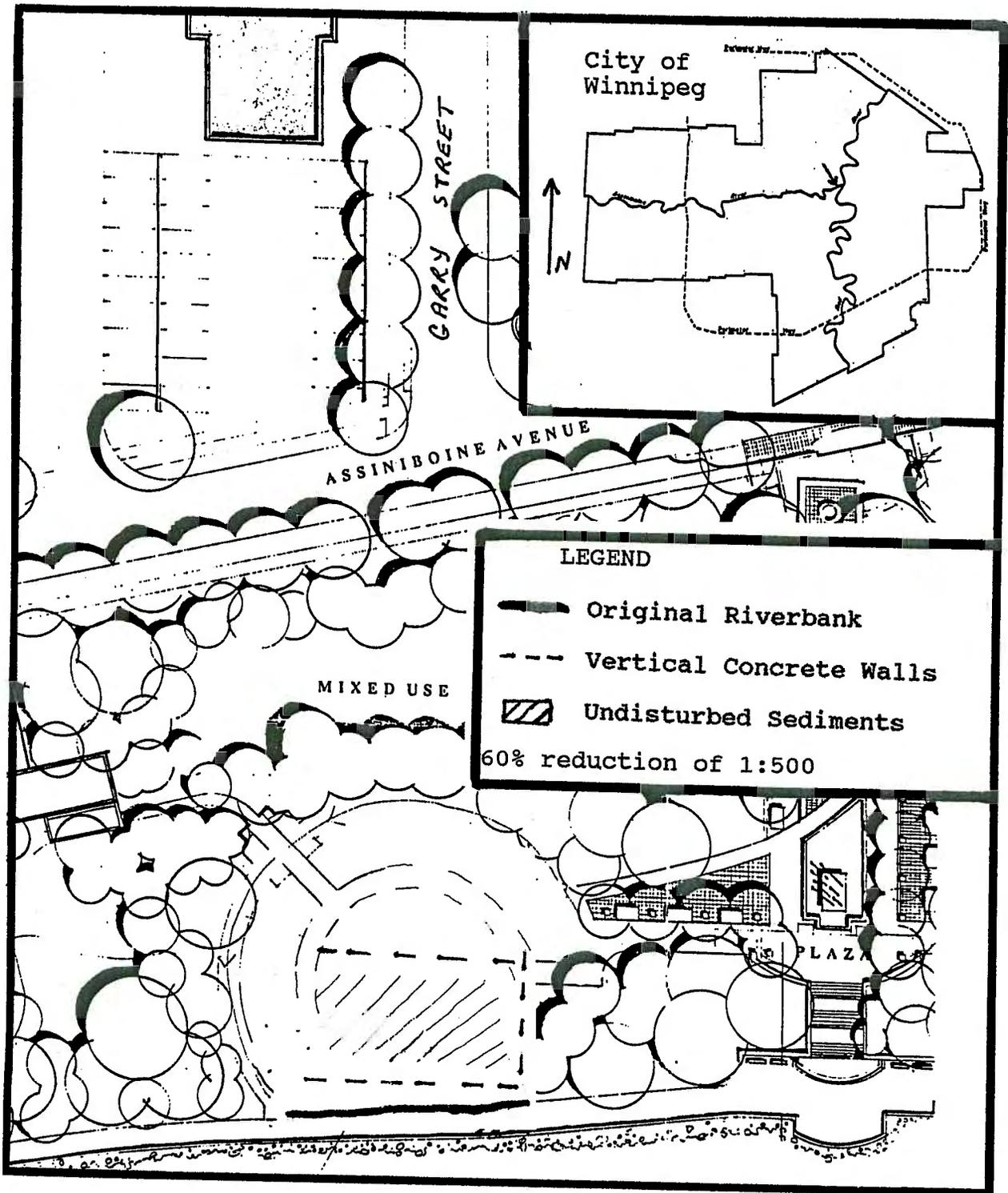


Figure 1: Map of Impact Zone

Construction monitoring entails the presence of an archaeologist while excavations are proceeding. The archaeologist records the presence or absence of structural remnants, collects diagnostic historic artifacts (if present) and observes buried (relict) soil horizons in unmodified situations. If relict soil zones are observed, these layers are examined to determine if Pre-Contact Native occupation had occurred at the location.

Any recovered artifacts are taken to the laboratory facilities of Quaternary Consultants, where they are cleaned and identified, preparatory to recording on a computer inventory database (modified DBASE 3+). This database is then used for the analysis and interpretation components of report preparation.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

During the 1990 investigation, a vertical concrete retaining wall was present at the riverbank edge. The soil profile on the east side of the roadcut indicated that this wall had been poured in a hand-dug trench, parallel to the riverbank. While preparing the roadcut, the retaining wall was broached and a small pocket of unmodified silts and clays was observed, at the southeastern section of the road cut, approximately one meter above the river walkway grade. This section occurred immediately north of the area disrupted by the retaining wall.

During the 1991 excavations which enlarged the roadcut to form the Amphitheatre, the area of undisturbed soils was found to be six meters long (east to west) and extended approximately five meters to the north before being truncated by another vertical concrete wall (Figure 1). The base of the excavation was level with the Assiniboine River Walkway and the vertical height of the undisturbed area was 1.8 meters.

The sediments consisted of multiple bands of sandy silt and silty clay with one layer of redeposited Lake Agassiz clay between a sandy silt stratum and a pale brown silty clay stratum. Two faint organic bands were noted, both underlying sandy silt strata. The organic horizons indicate a certain degree of soil formation between flood deposition episodes.

No evidence of Pre-Contact occupation was present. Given the disruption of upper levels, it is impossible to assign a probable age to these sediments or to correlate them with those which had been observed during the archaeological assessment at 300 Assiniboine Avenue (Quaternary 1990), although one of the sandy silt strata may correlate with the deposits of the 750 Year Flood (Kroker and Goundry 1990:148).

While the vertical and horizon concrete components were being removed, some historic period specimens were observed. These included fragments of rusted tin cans, railroad spikes and parts of machinery. Some glass bottle fragments were observed, probably from beverage bottles dating to the construction of the various concrete components. As these specimens were not diagnostic and represented secondary deposition, they were not curated. No diagnostic historic material was encountered.

## 5.0 INTERPRETATION

The area has experienced significant modification as a result of building activities related to the Guertin Building. The layers of concrete probably represent sequential modifications to the ramps and shipping docks at the rear of the building and evolution of a parking lot. The installation of a vertical concrete retaining wall at the edge of the riverbank appears to have occurred prior to the installation of the uppermost concrete layer. The effect of these construction activities has been to disrupt most of the

natural soils in the area. Examination of the unmodified sediments has yielded no evidence of Pre-Contact occupation.

During excavations for the fountain, northeast of the Amphitheatre, sub-surface structures relating to the presence of the Bus Barns were encountered. Surface levelling encountered the upper roof of a brick basement room (approximately 2.5m by 3m). The structure was made of yellow bricks and roofed with wooden beams overlain with a concrete slab into which tram tracks had been set. At some point, the room had been bricked off from a larger structure as the north wall appeared to have been added after the original construction. The Architecture Section of Historic Resources Branch was notified.

#### 6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations are necessary as all excavations which could impact heritage resources have been completed. If future excavations occur in this vicinity, industrial archaeologists and architectural historians may be interested in the sub-surface components of the Bus Barns.

#### 7.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kroker, Sid and Pamela Goundry

1990 Archaeological Monitoring of the Stage I Construction Program. The Forks Renewal Corporation, Winnipeg.

Quaternary Consultants Ltd.

1990 Archaeological Assessment of the Bonnycastle Amphitheatre Locality. On file with Scatliff & Rech; Historic Resources Branch, Winnipeg.

APPENDIX A

HERITAGE PERMIT

Historic Resources Branch



**Heritage Permit No.** A33-91

FORM 11

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

Name: Quaternary Consultants Ltd.  
Address: 130 Fort Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 1C7

(hereinafter referred to as "the Permittee"),

is hereby granted permission to:

carry out a heritage resource impact assessment by means of monitoring of construction activities relating to the excavation of the Bonnycastle Park Amphitheatre on the north bank of the Assiniboine River at the west end of Bonnycastle Park in order to determine the presence or absence of heritage resources and to undertake appropriate mitigative measures as required;

during the period:

July 16 to 31, 1991

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the information provided in the application for this permit dated the 16th day of July 1991, 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; PLEASE NOTE ATTACHMENT RE CUSTODY AND OWNERSHIP OF HERITAGE OBJECTS.
- (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:  
September 30, 1991
- (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) The Permittee will apprise the Historic Resources Branch of all proposed activities and will notify the Historic Resources Branch as soon as possible about the occurrence of heritage resources in the area under study.
- b) In the event that human remains are encountered, all activity in the immediate area will cease and special procedures relative to the treatment of human remains will be implemented forthwith.
- c) The Permittee will consult with Historic Resources Branch staff concerning any proposed mitigative activities that may be required should heritage resources be encountered at the site.
- d) The Permittee must obtain permission from any land owners, lessee or regulatory authority, as applicable, concerning access to the subject property and permits/permissions required in order to carry out the proposed activities.
- e) That neither the Government of Manitoba nor the party issuing this permit will 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 all employees and officials of the Government, against any and all 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 July 1991.

  
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Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation