

MEMORANDUM NO TE DE SERVICE

Security classification-de security

To David Hems, EA Archaeologist
A Cultural & Natural Ecology Division, PTSC Our file - N/Reference

Your File - V / Reference

From Mary Ann Tisdale, Collections Analyst
De Cultural & Natural Ecology Division, PTSC Date 17 August, 1995

Subject:
Objet: Excavation of Flagpole Base at The Forks NHS

Last week Dennis Toews (LFG Ops) called looking for you and was referred to me, since all of the other archaeologists were out of the office. He requested that someone advise him regarding EA procedure that would apply to the installation of a flagpole base at The Forks NHS, adding that the excavation would probably take place the following week. He called again on Wednesday, August 16th to say that excavations would be carried out early Thursday morning. Paul Morrissette agreed to accompany me at that time to monitor excavation activities.

Ops staff were on site by 8:20 AM on Thursday, August 17th. Paul arrived before I did, and observed the first 10-20 cm of digging. The excavation was done by motorized auger, using a bit approximately 25 cm in diameter. Ops staff informed us that they intended to drill to a depth of about 42 inches (1.07 metres) and then insert the reinforced steel base. The base would be fixed in place by pouring concrete into and around the hole to create a solid anchor (approx. 1.0 m deep) extending down from a concrete pad about 1 metre square. In the end, two attempts were made before a hole of suitable dimensions was created.

The first excavation was situated at the base of the grassy embankment about 12 metres North of the pathway connecting NHS property with the Information Office (on the east side of the Children's Museum). The embankment is a low grassy ridge that runs North - South, parallel to the NHS perimeter walkway and boundary fence (see sketch). The auger point was positioned on level ground, just beside the west edge of the perimeter walkway. The auger went down about 50 cm, struck a PVC water pipe, but did not break it. (The auger bit was somewhat dull, and the crew stopped work immediately upon striking the obstacle.) The soil that came out of this first excavation was a homogenous, sterile grey silt mixed with sand and gravel. It appears to be clean fill brought in the construction phase of the NHS walkways, embankment and boundary fence.

The second attempt was made about 40 cm uphill and immediately to the west of the first hole. This time the auger penetrated to a depth of 62 cm before striking another obstacle. After preliminary examination, it was identified as rock, so the crew pulled out a jackhammer and began breaking it up. We examined the first few fragments and decided it was an unmodified block of limestone. The remainder of the rock was jackhammered out, then the auger was brought back to

complete the excavation. A short distance below the limestone block (approx. 70 cm below surface) the sterile grey fill gave way to a sterile black organic silt mixed with sand and pea gravel. The auger was removed at a depth of 86 cm below surface. Further cleaning of the hole by hand removed approximately 10 more cm of black fill. This layer is probably one of the main constituents of the embankment, and so dates to NHS construction phase.

Paul and I left the crew in process of preparing to mix and pour the concrete. This was about 9:20 AM. Our conclusion is that excavations penetrated clean fill only, and did not extend into deposits that predate construction phase of the National Historic Site.

This memo is the only written documentation of monitoring activities. Aside from the schematic drawing attached, we took several colour photos of the excavation site. These will be forwarded to you once they are developed. Please let me know if you need more information.

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To - A

MAT.

Date

1-6 Aug 70

Time - Heure

From - De

Dennis Trew

Language spoken - Langue utilisée

English / Anglais French / Français

Telephone - Téléphone

Extension / Poste

Please call / Prière d'appeler Returned your call / Vous a rappelé Will call again / Vous rappellera Wants to see you / Désire vous voir

Action / Donner suite Approval / Approbation Note and return / Noter et retourner
 Comments / Commentaires Draft reply / Projet de réponse Note and forward / Noter et faire suivre
 As requested / Comme demandé Signature Note and file / Noter et classer

File No. - N° de dossier

Message taken by - Message reçu par

Thurs: 8:30 AM. - flagpole base @ The Forks - in front of info. centre, by path

To - A

Dennis Trew

Date

9 Aug.

Time - Heure

From - De

MAT

0 781 5457 (Tale.)

Language spoken - Langue utilisée

English / Anglais French / Français

Telephone No. - N° de téléphone

7856050

Extension / Poste

Please call / Prière d'appeler Returned your call / Vous a rappelé Will call again / Vous rappellera Wants to see you / Désire vous voir

Action / Donner suite Approval / Approbation Note and return / Noter et retourner
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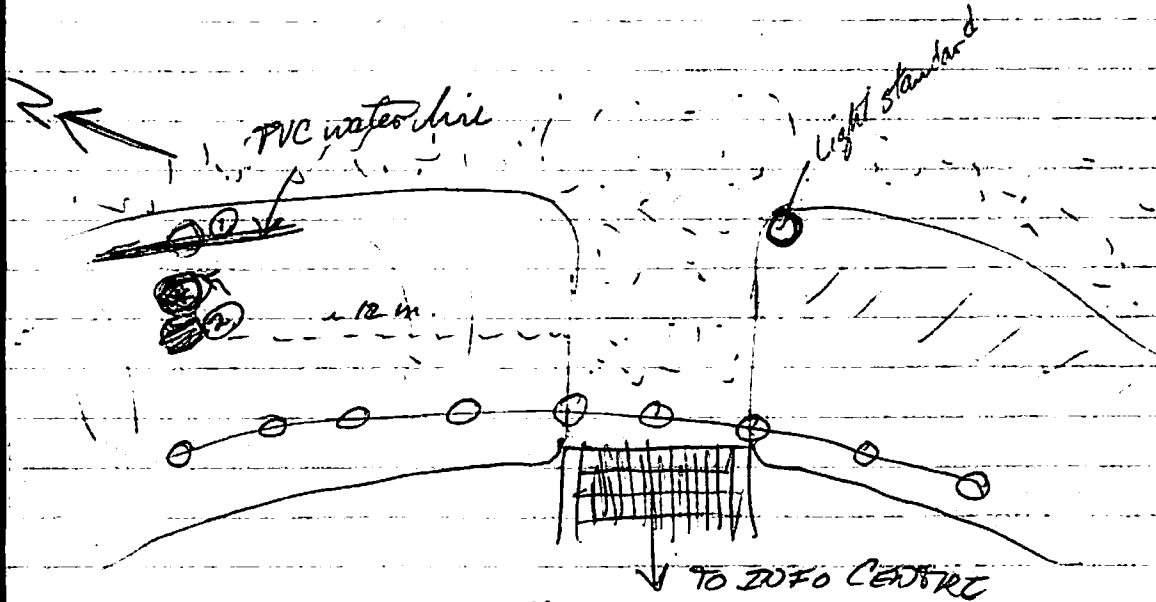
File No. - N° de dossier

Message taken by - Message reçu par

*- base for flagpole @ H.C.
 - impact? The Forks
 - next week ?? in front of info.
 or early following week. Centre just made
 fence line.*

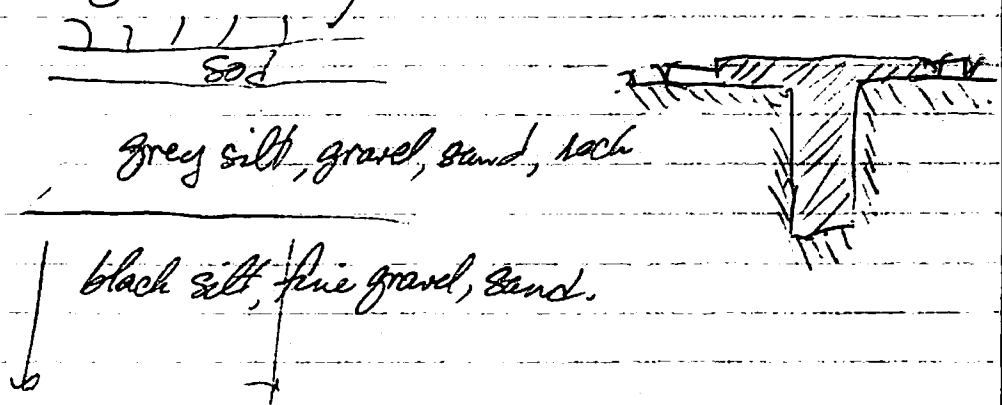
8:28 Am. - Flagpole base - Farker DHS

17 Aug / 95



① Auger went down ~ ⁴⁵50 cm - hit PVC water line (no breaks);
shifted up slope ~ 30 cm

② Auger went down ~ ⁶⁵50 cm - hit solid rock/concrete surface;
(~18 inches) (brick rubble?) -
attached w. jackhammer - broken rock frags came up (limestone);
continued augering; hit black fill; quit ~ 80 cm.



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