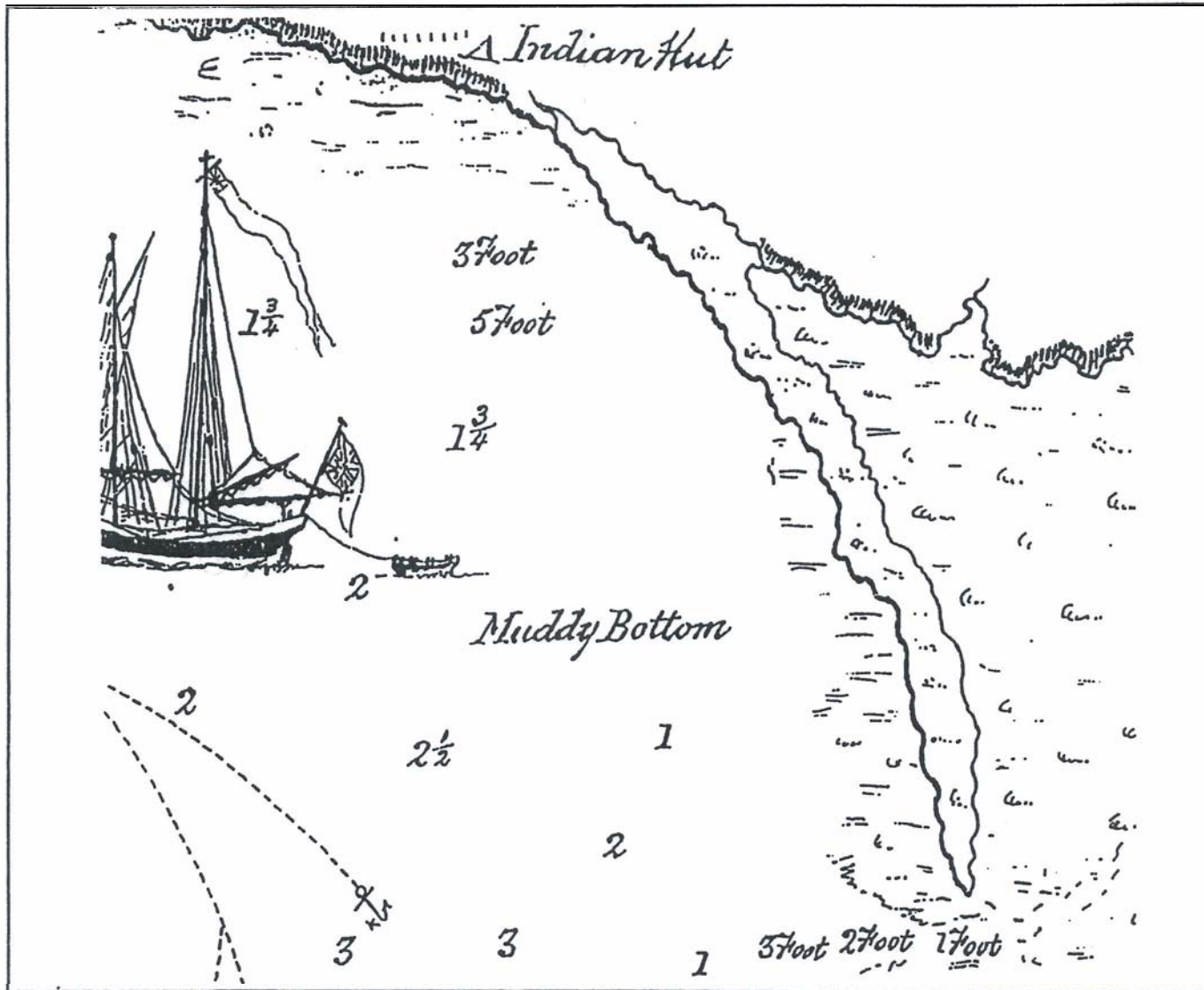


G O O D E R H A M W O R T S
H E R I T A G E P L A N



REPORT No. 1 — ABORIGINAL & EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

Gooderham & Worts Heritage Plan

LIST OF REPORTS

This is Report No. 1 of the Gooderham & Worts Heritage Plan which is composed of a series of co-ordinated reports as listed below.

HISTORY / ARCHAEOLOGY

1. **Aboriginal and Early European Settlement**
Stephen A. Otto/du Toit Allsopp Hillier, 1994
2. **Gooderham & Worts Distillery**
Stephen A. Otto, 1988
3. **Oral History**
Historica Research Limited, 1994

ARCHIVAL RECORD

4. **Inventory of Archival Sources**
Stephen A. Otto, 1994

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND INTERPRETATION

5. **Heritage Equipment Registry**
David Nasby & Associates, 1994
6. **Industrial Heritage Assessment and Interpretation Programme**
Historica Research Limited/David Nasby & Associates, 1994

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7. **Landscape History, Inventory and Guidelines**
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ARCHITECTURE

8. **Photographic Record**
Spencer R. Higgins, Architect Incorporated, 1994
9. **Architectural Description**
Spencer R. Higgins, Architect Incorporated, 1994
10. **Architectural Drawings**
Roger du Toit Architects Limited, 1989-1994
11. **Conservation and Adaptive Re-use Guidelines**
Reprinted from Polymath and Thaumaturge Inc., 1990
12. **Schematics for Adaptive Re-use**
Roger du Toit Architects Limited, 1994

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is Report No. 1 of the Gooderham & Worts Heritage Plan, dealing with the aboriginal, pre-industrial and early settlement history of the site. It was prepared by Stephen A. Otto, Consulting Historian and du Toit Allsopp Hillier, Landscape Architects with advice concerning archaeological potential, value and priorities from Dr. Mima Kapches and Karolyn Smardz.

Potential Aboriginal Occupation

The Gooderham & Worts site should have a high potential for yielding evidence of aboriginal occupation based upon what is known about native patterns of seasonal food-gathering, the rich resources that were available in the Don River area, some aspects of the site that made it ideal for camping, and the parallels that can be drawn from excavations at Fort York. However, it has been more disturbed than Fort York. An attempt to establish areas of relatively undisturbed ground has been made.

Early European Settlement

Using available archival sources, construction and shoreline locations have been mapped as accurately as possible. These are shown together with descriptive text. They are superimposed to illustrate where evidence of early construction may be found during excavation.

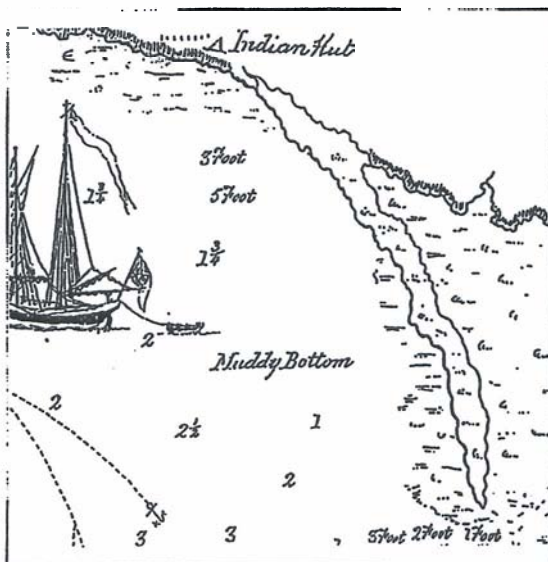


Fig. 1 Joseph Bouchette, Detail from 'Plan of Toronto Harbour with the rocks, shoals and soundings... 15 Nw. 1792' (NAC, NMC 0043214)

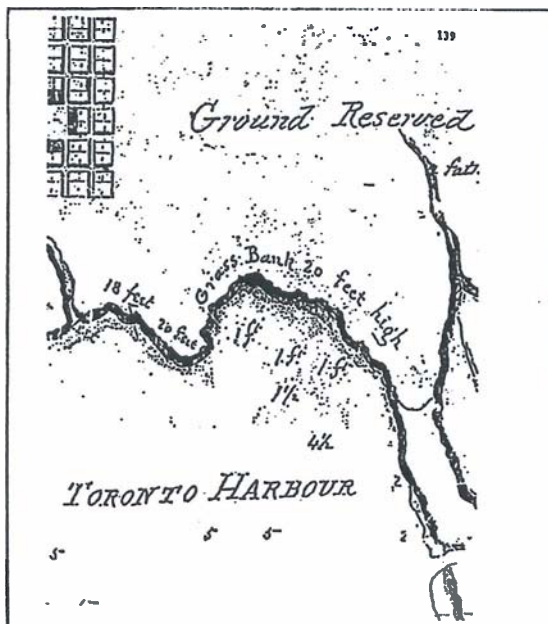


Fig. 2 Alexander Aitken, Plan of the Harbour of Toronto with a proposed Town and Settlement, 1788, Detail (NAC, NMC 0022816)

2.0 ABORIGINAL HISTORY

Railways, expressways dredging and fill dumped in the harbour have obscured the original relationship of Gooderham & Worts mill and distillery to the lake. It takes some imagination to picture ships delivering cargoes to the company's wharf at the foot of Parliament Street. But how much more difficult it is to visualize Toronto Bay during the thousands of years before the Europeans arrived when it was much frequented by native people.¹

It was, of course, the fish and wildlife that drew people to the Bay, and particularly to its east end. Until early in the 19th century the Don River teemed with salmon; there were red trout, black bass and whitefish in the Bay; and flocks of geese, ducks, loons, quail and pigeons lived among the rushes and marsh-grasses at the mouth of the river. Recalling in 1832 his first visit to the Toronto area forty years before, Joseph Bouchette described the marshes then as, "the hitherto uninhabited haunts of immense coveys of wild fowl: indeed [the birds] were so abundant as in some measure to annoy us during the night."²

In a 1792 survey of the harbour (NMC 0043214), Bouchette took soundings and determined that the depth of water at the east end of the Bay was only one to three feet, even at a considerable distance from shore. Alexander Aitken's observations, recorded on a plan of 1788 (NMC 0022816), were similar. Generally the bottom of the lake was muddy and in some places rushes grew thick along the water's edge. In the vicinity of the Gooderham & Worts site, however, there was a wide gravel beach, ideal for repairing canoes and for cleaning and drying fish. Aitken indicated that behind this shoreline strip there was a grass bank eighteen to twenty feet high parallel to the water's edge. George Williams drew the bank in greater detail in his surveys of November 1813 (NMC 22819) and July 1814 (NMC 0021771), showing it as part of a low table of land extending between the more northerly mouth of the Don and a creek that entered the lake at the foot of present-day Parliament Street.

This part of the shore is seen in Thomas Young's *General View of the City of Toronto, U.C., 1835*, a lithograph in which Gooderham & Worts windmill appears in the near foreground. The road to the peninsula (as the Island was called then) runs along the gravel beach while the brick mill-tower is set a little way back from the water surrounded by grasslands. On Samuel Wilmot's survey of 1811 (OMNR, micro 390, H-26), the area to the south and east was described as a "Natural Meadow which may be mowed." Probably these shorelands had never been forested and had long made an excellent seasonal campsite.

On Bouchette's surveys of 1792 and 1793 (NMC 0043214 and 4436) he shows there an 'Indian Hut' and recalled the place was inhabited by 'two families of Messassagas.' The Mississaugas and their linguistic relations,

the Ojibways, had been latecomers to the Toronto area, arriving towards the end of the 17th century after the previous occupants—Iroquois from northern New York—had withdrawn to their traditional lands south of Lake Ontario. They had come north in the 16th century in pursuit of the Huron, Petun and Neutral tribes who are documented to have lived in the Toronto area during the Late Woodland period, that is between 800 and 1550 A.D. The latter tribes are not known to have built their villages near the lake. They preferred to be inland beside springs or on small creeks in areas of sandy, easily-tilled soil. As time passed they came to depend more on their crops of corn and squash than on wild rice, hunting or fishing. Consequently, they did not resort to the lakeshore in autumn to the same extent as their predecessors in the Early Woodland (1000 B.C. to 800 A.D.) or Late Archaic (2000 to 1000 B.C.) periods.

Because occupation of the lakeshore throughout the pre-European period was seasonal and never very dense, any archaeological evidence of aboriginal presence on the Gooderham & Worts site will be scattered and involve relatively little debris. Some stone artifacts are likely to be found, and perhaps some ceramics and iron. It is not possible to predict the depth at which they might occur because the original surface probably had a slight roll to it; there have been varying amounts of fill added; and so few archaeological sites in the area have been excavated that generalizations are risky.

What archaeologists are willing to venture, however, is that those parts of the Gooderham & Worts site above the line of the grassy bank have high archaeological potential if they have not been extensively disturbed by the development of the distillery (Fig. 3). This prediction is based upon the rich discoveries of artifacts of native origin at Fort York, many of them unrelated to later European activity, and upon the preceding analysis of historical evidence.

1. Dr. Mima Kapches of the Department of New World Archaeology, Royal Ontario Museum, provided much of the information included here in a paper she delivered, *The Native Presence on Toronto's Waterfront*, to a seminar, "Toronto's Changing Waterfront: Perspectives from the Past," at the Toronto Harbour Commission, 3 November 1989. Ms. Karolyn Smardz of the Archaeological Resource Centre, Toronto Board of Education was also helpful in defining the potential for uncovering evidence of aboriginal occupation.
2. Joseph Bouchette, *The British Dominions in North America or a Topographical and Statistical Description of the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada*, (London, 1832) p.89.

The drawing below shows areas of the site above the original waterline which have been potentially undisturbed since aboriginal times. It has been developed by mapping and superimposing known construction: buildings, roadworks, railworks and dredging. Zones of disturbance 2 feet from building walls and 5 feet from rail lines have been assumed.

A second judgment is then made to separate primary from secondary potential. A primary zone is shown in a relatively large area of site which has not been paved. Areas which have been paved are given secondary designation.

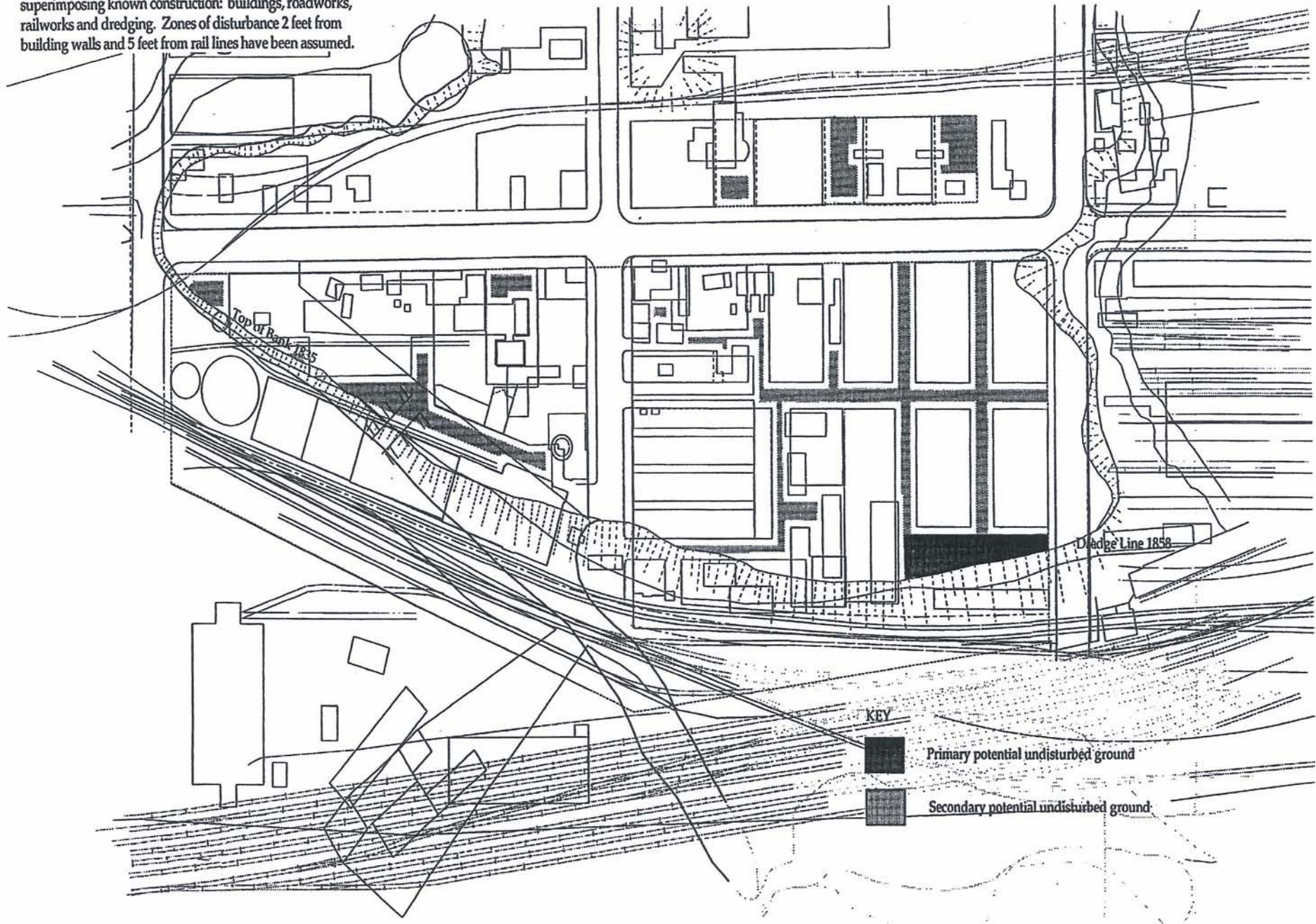


Fig. 3 Potential Undisturbed Area

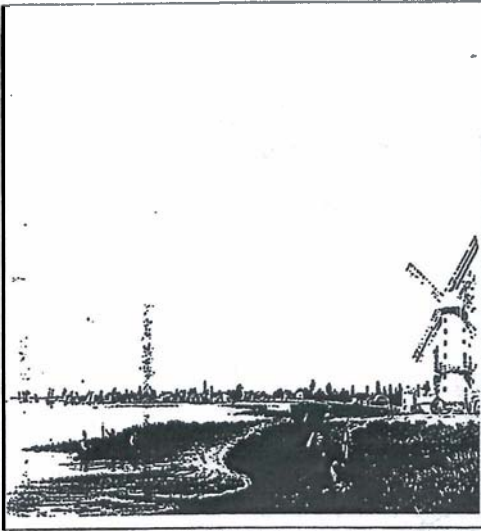


Fig. 4 Thomas Young (c. 1805-1860), *General View of the City of Toronto, U.C., 1835* (MTRL, Baldwin Room, T-10247)

3.0 EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

When Governor Simcoe laid out York in 1793 as a 'temporary' seat of government for the Province of Upper Canada he reserved a large area east of the town plot for future government buildings, including a vice-regal residence. About 380 acres in extent, this tract was bounded by Parliament Street, Carlton Street, the Don River and Lake Ontario. From the beginning it was known as the Government Park, King's Park, or simply as The Park. Today there are echoes of the name in Regent Park, a postwar housing development that sits in the centre of Simcoe's former reserve.

Originally the northern end of the Park was heavily forested and traversed by only a few narrow paths through the woods. The Rev. Henry Scadding recalled it as, "a vast and rather mysterious region, the place which immediately flashed on the mind whenever in poem or fairy tale a wild or wold or wilderness was named."³ But the appearance of the area changed nearer to the lake, where it became more open and pasture-like. Evidence for this is found in an inventory of public property in 1800 which described that part of the Park as having been, 'enclosed for the benefit of the King's Oxen.'⁴ This pasture was interrupted by a watercourse known as the Government Creek that entered Lake Ontario at the foot of Parliament Street. Two roads also cut across it: the highway to Kingston and a track along the shore to the peninsula.

There is nothing to suggest the east end of Toronto Bay held any particular interest for the French who established a trading post on the Humber River in 1720 and thirty years later built Fort Rouillé on Lake Ontario in the vicinity of the CNE Grounds. The first European buildings of substance to rise within the Park were two brick structures erected on Simcoe's orders in 1797 as wings to an intended vice-regal residence but used from the start for sittings of the provincial legislature. They stood at the foot of Parliament Street facing west and were watched over by a blockhouse on a knoll a hundred feet away on the lakeshore. Its protection proved insufficient, however, when York was attacked by the Americans in April 1813. After the invaders had burned Fort York they marched east and set fire to the blockhouse and Parliament Buildings. The walls of the latter remained standing, however, and were soon re-roofed to provide soldiers' barracks. After the war the wings were enlarged and joined up by a centre to function once again as Parliament Buildings, although their time in this role was brief. In December 1824 fire destroyed all but the south wing. Faced with a choice of rebuilding in the Park or relocating elsewhere the government decided to erect new Parliament Buildings on Front Street West.

Even before this there were signs the Park had lost some official favour. In 1819 Sir Peregrine Maitland advised the Colonial Secretary that, "all idea of building a residence for the Lieutenant Governor on a piece of land called the Park... having been now abandoned, I caused a portion of it to be laid out in Town lots, and gave some of them over to certain Trustees for the endowing of an Hospital."⁵ These lots were along King Street. Apparently no further subdivisions of the

Park took place until 1830 when Maitland's successor Sir John Colborne ordered the area south of present-day Eastern Avenue parcelled into lots and sold to benefit the Hospital. Two of the earliest purchasers of properties were Enoch Turner, who established a brewery on Front Street beside the Government Creek, and James Worts. Both acquired sites for their enterprises shortly after immigrating from England in 1831. Worts began construction of his windmill that year in anticipation of the arrival the following season of William Gooderham, his business partner and brother-in-law.

In the maps that follow the development of the Park is traced in a graphic way to highlight the changes that have taken place to the Gooderham & Worts site.

3. Henry Scadding, ed. Frederick H. Armstrong, *Toronto of Old*, Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1987, p. 178.
4. 'General Statement of Public Property...' Quoted in Edith G. Firth, ed., *The Town of York, 1793-1815*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1962, p. 52.
5. Sir Peregrine Maitland to the Earl of Bathurst, 16 Oct. 1819, Quoted in Edith G. Firth, ed., *The Town of York, 1815-1834*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966, p. 223.

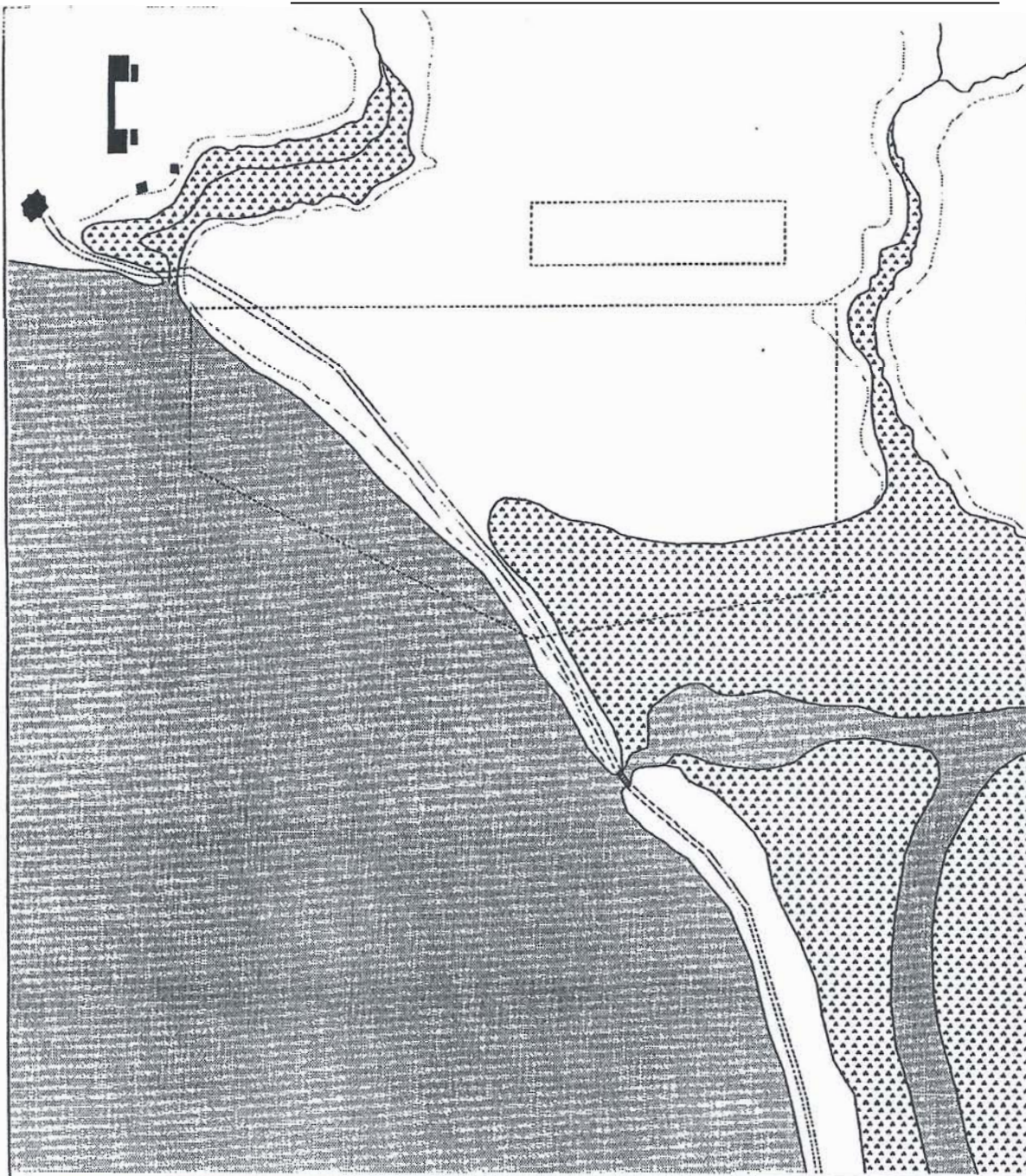


Fig. 5 1811

1811

- the wings of the half-finished Government House, joined by a covered walkway, serve as Upper Canada's first Parliament Building; they face west and back on the road allowance for Parliament Street
- a block house protecting the Parliament Buildings stands at the top of the embankment by the lake shore
- in front of the future Gooderham & Worts site the beach front widens to form a natural meadow at the mouth of the Don River
- on the beach a roadway at lake-level follows the shore to pass over a bridge at the mouth of the Don River and on to the Gibraltar Point Lighthouse
- a survey of the area establishes the location of the future Mill and Cherry Streets



Fig. 6 Samuel Wilmot, Detail from 'A Plan Showing... East End of the Town of York, Feb. 25, 1811' (OMNR, micro 390, H-26)

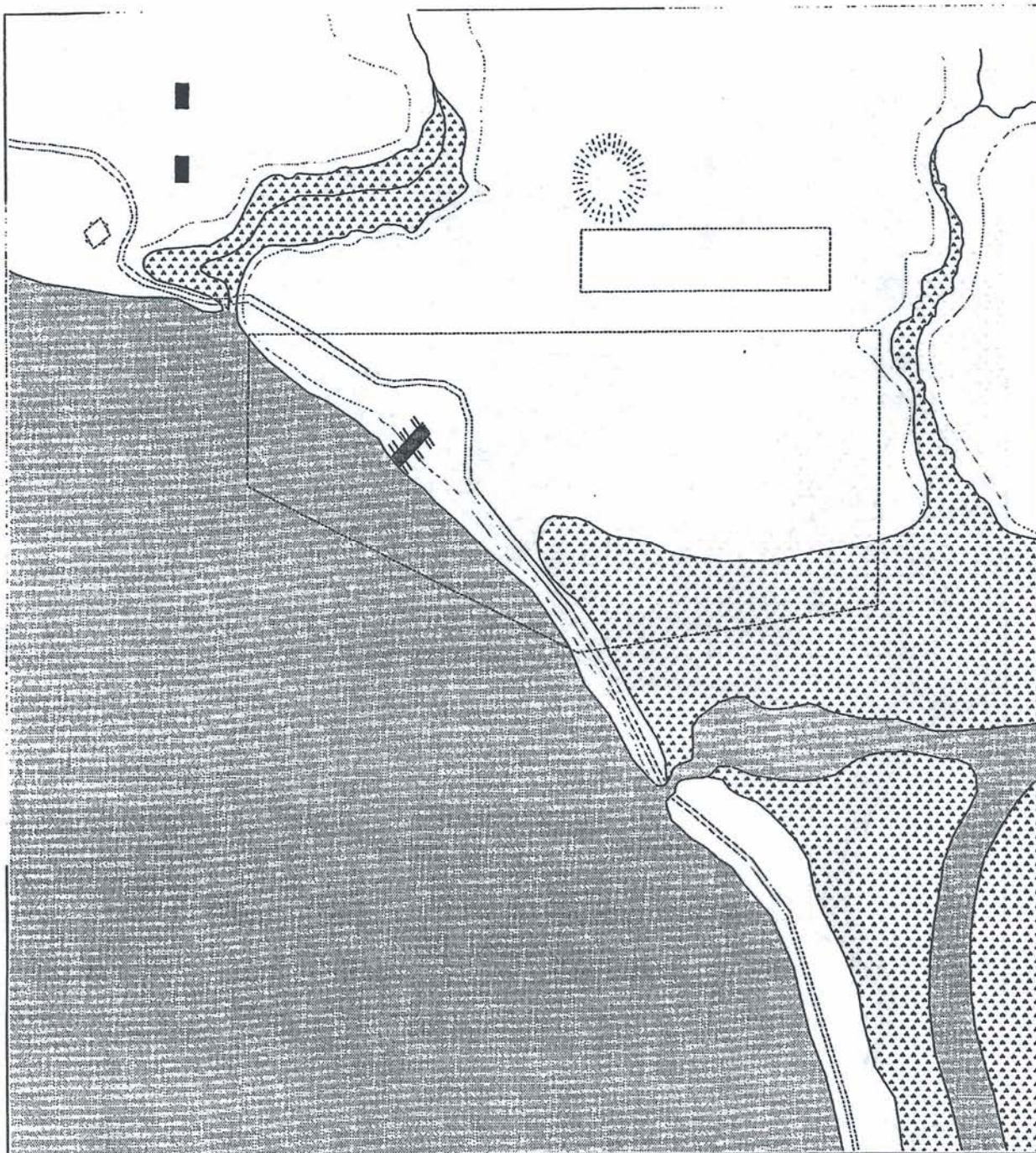


Fig. 7 1813

1813

- the Parliament Buildings and block house are burned by the Americans in April 1813; later that year the brick walls of the Parliament Buildings are re-roofed to serve as barracks
- the Don bridges are destroyed by the British as a defensive measure
- the area east of the Parliament Buildings, between the Government Creek and the Don River, is known as the Park, King's Park or Government Park
- a "merchants shipyard" is established on the beach in front of the site for building vessels to replace those destroyed during the American invasion of York; it is a temporary facility gone by July 1814
- a brickyard is located northeast of the future intersection of Mill and Trinity Streets

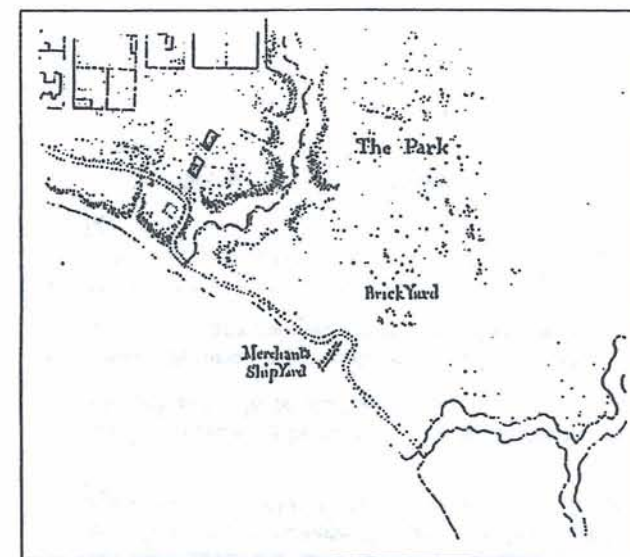


Fig. 8 George Williams, Detail from 'Sketch of the Ground...at York, Nw. 1813', (NAC, NMC 22819)

1830

- rebuilt and enlarged in 1819, the Parliament Buildings burn again in 1824; ruinous, the walls stand until shortly after June 1830
- the south end of the Park is re-surveyed and subdivided into lots; many structures and fences, erected under license of occupation, are found on the site and nearby; rough tracks weave their way throughout the area, which has been given to the Toronto Hospital as an endowment
- a two small structures, possibly sheds for animals, appear on the westerly portion of the site near Mill Street; on the E side of Trinity Street are three other buildings, the largest of which may have been a barn

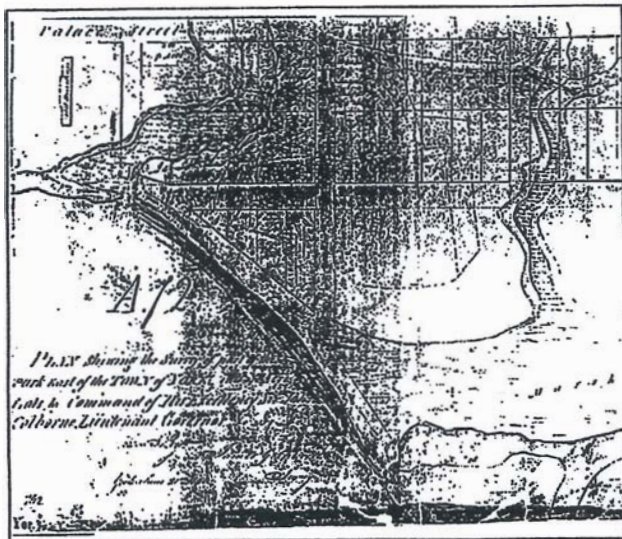


Fig. 9 James G. Chewett, Detail from Plan showing the Survey of...the Park, June 21, 1830' (OMNR, micro 394, H-26)

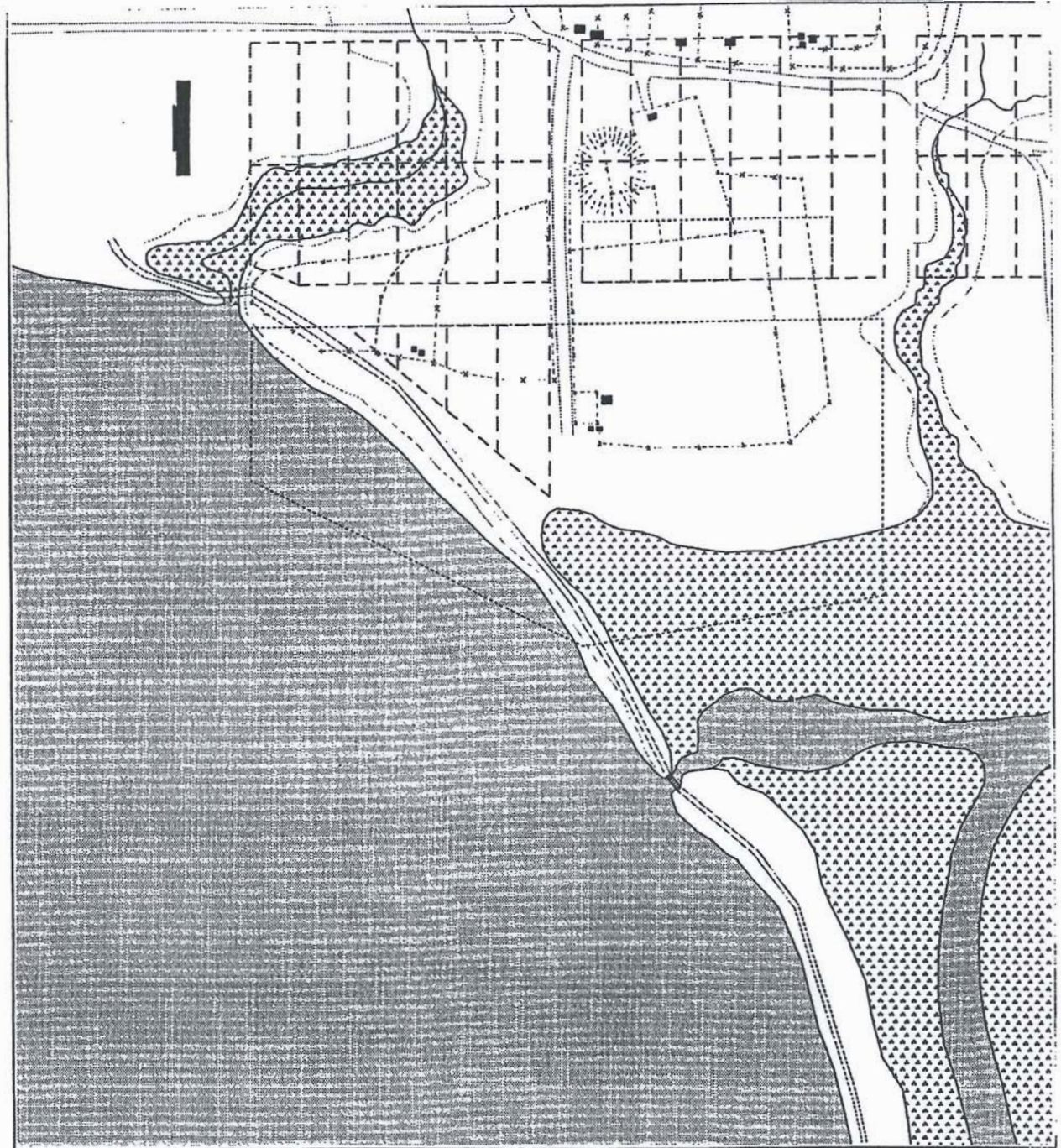


Fig. 10 1830

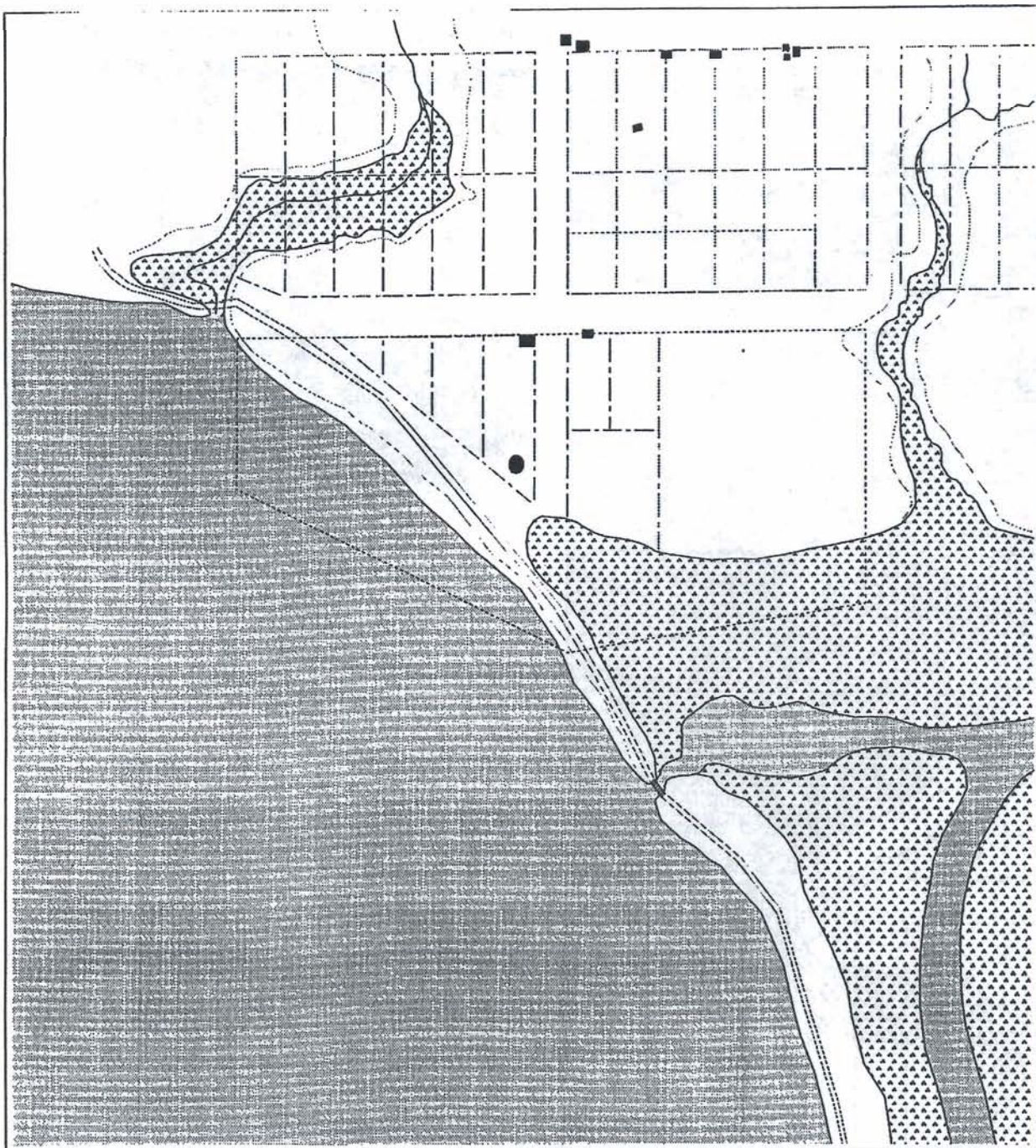


Fig. 11 1835

1835

- the Gooderham & Worts' windmill west of Trinity Street at the top of embankment overlooking the broad beach
- the land east of Trinity and south of Mill Street, which was not laid out in 1830, now is divided into three lots
- a log house is built on Mill Street east of Trinity straddling the edge of the road allowance
- another structure, possibly William Gooderham's house, appears on the southwest corner of Mill Street at Trinity Street

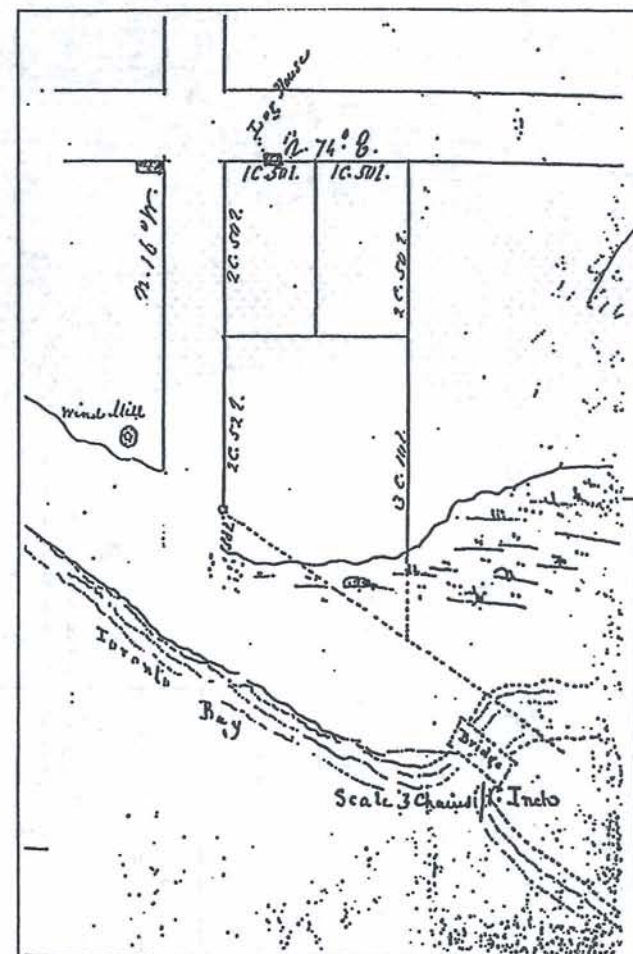


Fig. 12 William Hawkins, Detail from 'Plan of building lots...Twp. of York, 11 May, 1835' (OMNR, micro 347, H-24)

1855

- the windmill, its sails removed, is surrounded by additional buildings
- Gooderham's wharf projects into Toronto Bay; drawings of the period show the wharf to be wood crib and stone construction
- William Gooderham's house and outbuildings are on the south side of Mill Street, west of the Mills and Distillery
- cattle byres are on the east of Trinity Street to use the slops from the distilling process
- the top of the bank at the foot of Trinity Street has shifted south in what appears to be the first step of landfill encroaching into the Don River meadow
- the county jail with two long wings—a third wing was never built—stands on the site of the first Parliament Buildings
- a proposal to bring the Grand Trunk Railway into the city along Mill Street, reflected in an 1855 survey by William Kingsford, was discarded in favour of an alignment which ran diagonally across the south side of the Gooderham & Worts site
- the York Distillery occupied Lot 9 on the south side of Mill Street and divided Gooderham & Worts' property almost in two; they did not acquire it until 1877

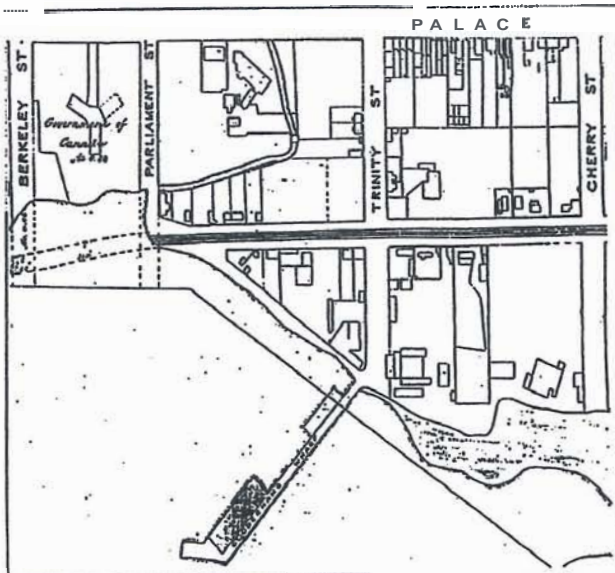


Fig. 13 William Kingsford, Nov. 13, 1855, Detail

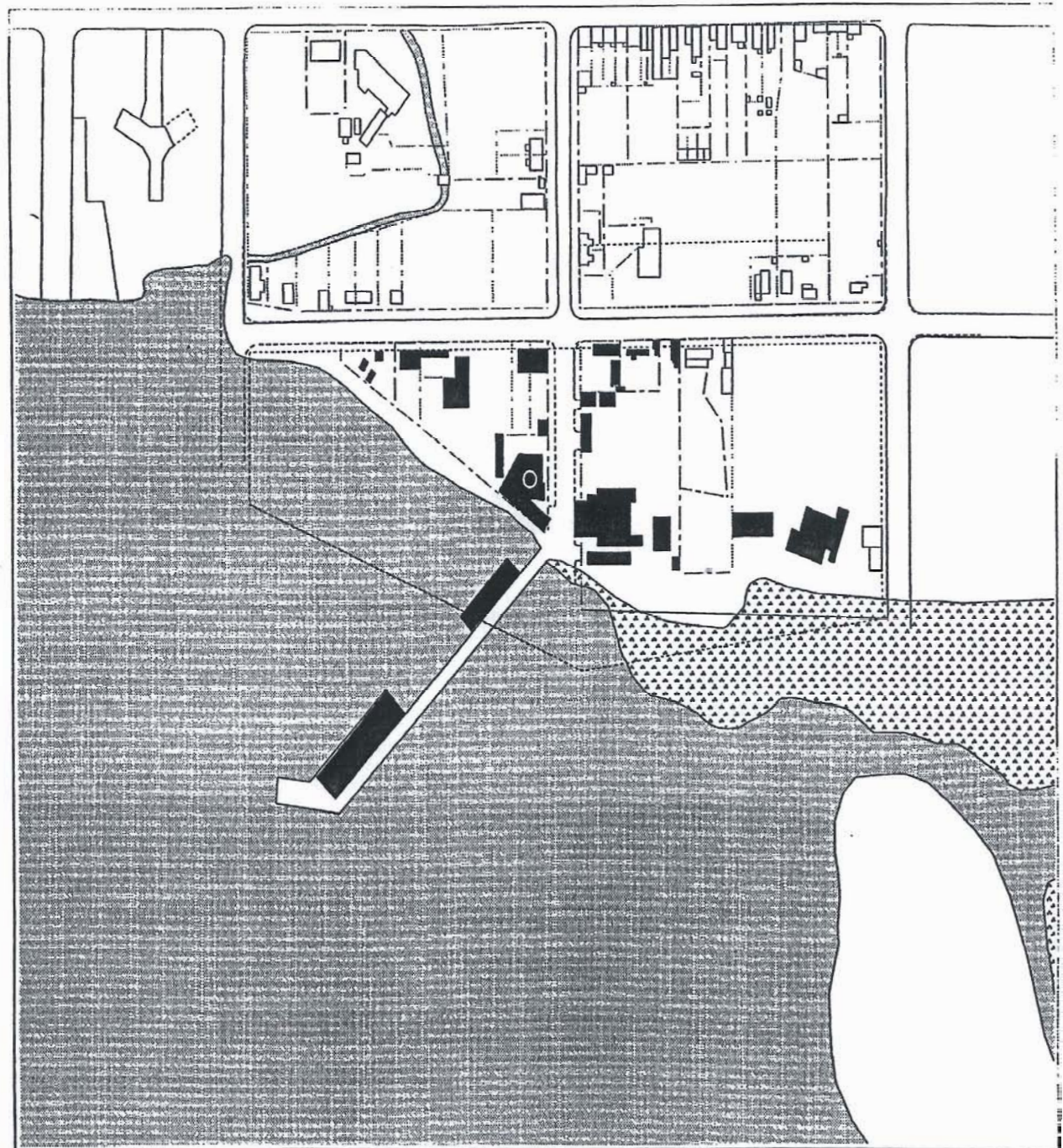


Fig. 14 1855

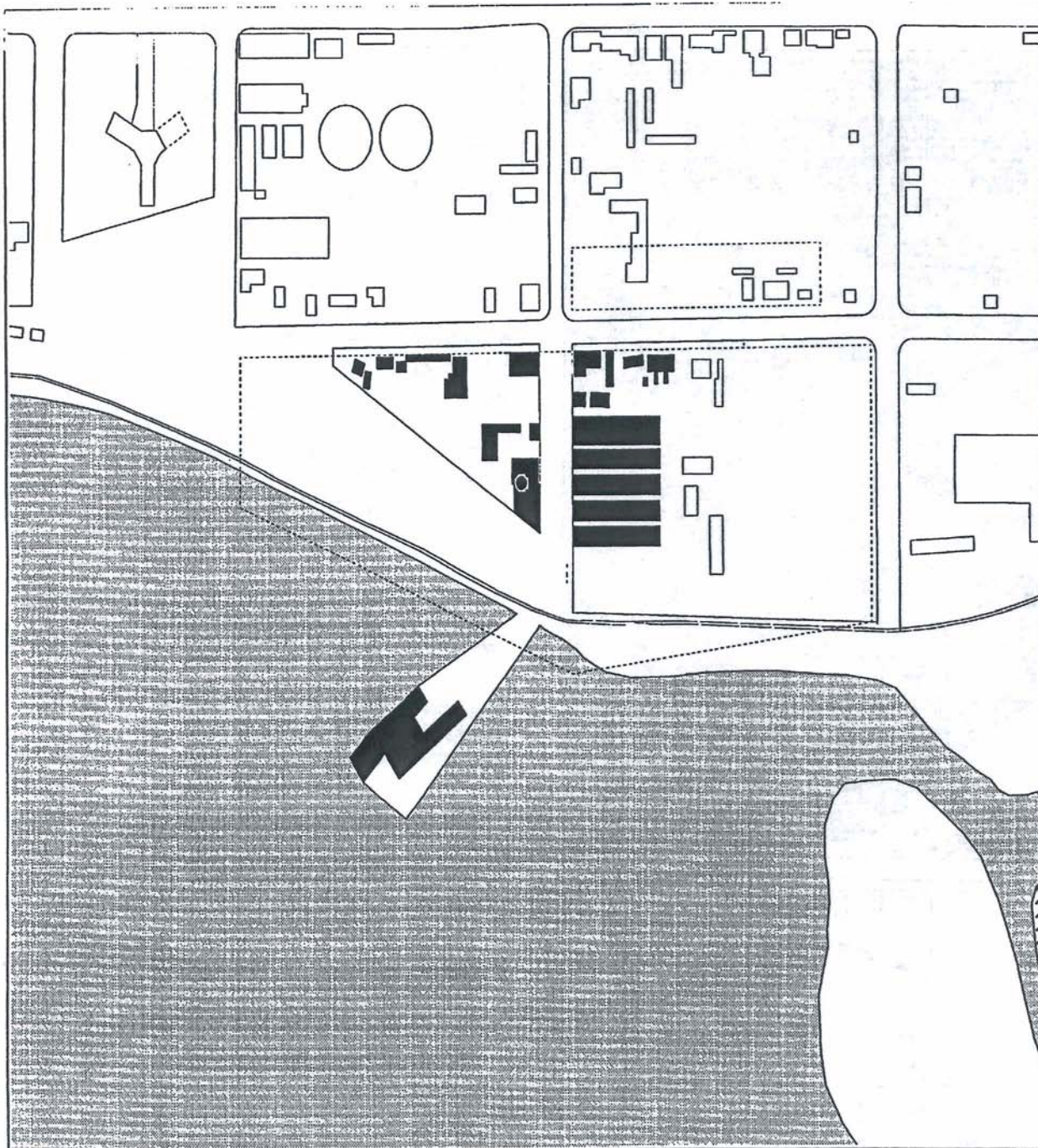


Fig. 15 1858

1858

- Gooderham's wharf has expanded with coal and grain handling facilities
- large new cattle byres have been constructed on the east side of Trinity Street
- the lower Don Meadow appears to have been filled to create a dock east of the wharf
- new Consumer's Gas gasholders stand on the former site of Enoch Turner's brewery
- the Grand Trunk Railway passes south of the mill-distillery, creating a large gore of filled land on which Gooderham & Worts new Stone building will shortly be erected

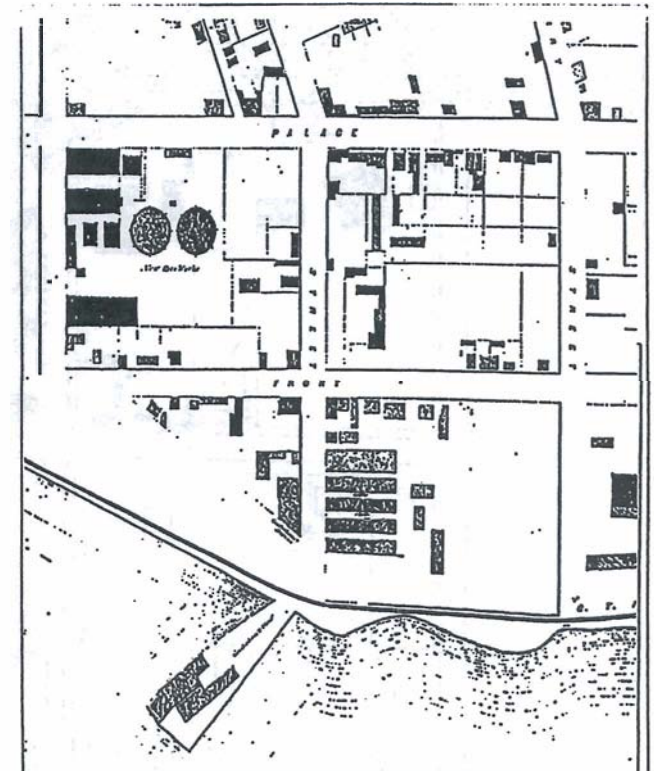


Fig. 16 Atlas of the City of Toronto, W.S. & H.C. Boulton, Detail

CONSOLIDATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS TO 1858

The plan overleaf (Fig. 17) is a composite of the preceding plans. Buildings constructed before 1858 are picked out in black in those places which were not subsequently overbuilt.

Site Disturbances

Buildings

- 1859-1927: extant G&W buildings
- 1902-1916: General Distilling Company
- 1916/1918: British Acetones
- 1932-1968: Liquid Carbonic Canadian corporation

Site Work

- 1858: dredging of the beach, meadow and foreshore to permit docking parallel to the Grand Trunk Railway Line
- grading of the street right-of-ways for Trinity Street and Mill Street
- land filling south of the shoreline embankment beginning in 1855
- 1926: railway grade separated embankment construction

On-Site Archaeological Resources

- **Re-European Contact:** Beach area below the earth and embankment west of the Trinity Street alignment appears to have been dredged in 1855 to make way for docking facilities. The beach area and meadow at the mouth of the Don, east of Trinity Street, appears to have been dredged by 1858 to allow for docking parallel to the Grand Trunk Railway
- the top of bank area possibly used as an Indian trail remains in some open spaces west and east of Trinity Street
- 1811: no buildings appear within the Gooderham & Worts site area
- 1813: A merchants' shipyard appears on the shoreline on the westerly portion of the site; a brick yard and pit appear on the east side of Trinity Street
- 1830: two buildings appear on the westerly portion of the site along with three structures and the remains of the brick yard on the easterly portion of the site
- 1835: the Windmill appears west of Trinity St. near the top of the bank; log houses appear on maps on the south side of Mill St at Trinity

1855: the Windmill is embedded within other buildings on the west side of Trinity St.; Gooderham's wharf extends perpendicular to the shoreline and has grain elevator facilities

- the wharf is likely to be cribbing of stone and wood construction
- Gooderham's house appears on Mill St. at mid-block west of Trinity St.
- cattle byres appear opposite the windmill on the east side of Trinity St.; various residential and industrial buildings are scattered across that part of the easterly block not owned by Gooderham & Worts
- 1858: some alterations are apparent at the base of the Windmill tower
- Gooderham's wharf is modified and reconfigured
- on the east side of Trinity street five large new cattle byres occupy the mid-block of Trinity Street. A number of small residential and agricultural buildings remain north of the cattle byres, and along Mill Street west of Trinity Street; the easterly half of the east block is cleared of agricultural and residential buildings
- the shoreline is armoured with cribbing to retain the Grand Trunk Railway line across the face of the site
- extensive landfill occurs on the westerly portion of the site for the railway alignment
- the dredging occurs to the east of Trinity Street in what was the meadow at the mouth of the Don River

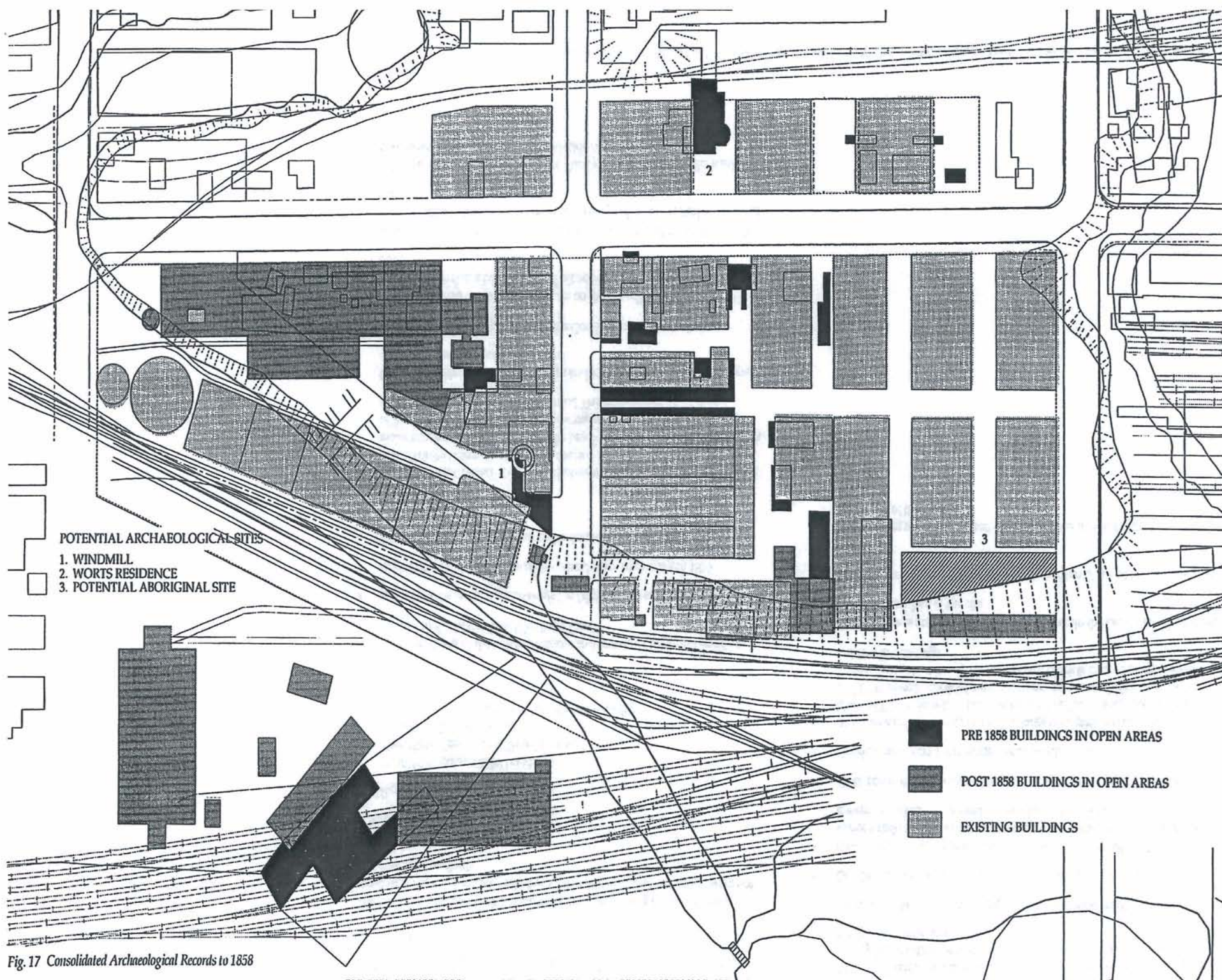


Fig. 17 Consolidated Archaeological Records to 1858

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

4.1 Aboriginal Archaeological Potential (pre-1800)

The site originally had a potential for aboriginal finds, however due to soil disturbance from continuous industrial activity such as building construction, waterfront dredging, lake filling, and roadway grading between 1832 and 1891, the potential on most of the site for intact aboriginal resources is low. The area of least disturbance is indicated on Figure 3.

4.2 Early European Archaeological Potential (1792-c.1860)

A variety of resources are associated with early European use of the property.

- a) The J.G. Worts Residence is the best documented of the former houses along Mill Street, including log cabins either side of Trinity Street. William Gooderham's nephew, James Gooderham Work, was brought into the partnership in 1845. In 1855 the William Kingsford survey shows a large house located on the northeast parcel at Trinity Street and Mill Street. Later surveys show additions and extensions to this original house plan. The house was probably demolished in 1890 to make way for the construction of Rack House 'D' and Rack House 'I'. Golder Associates Ltd., geotechnical engineers, have sampled bore holes in the vicinity of the Worts residence. The bore hole logs indicate cinders in the top metre of soil, but no trace of brick or other fragments confirming building construction. This site offers some promise for archaeological potential and has site interpretive value.
- b) Due to its long association with early Toronto history and development of the harbour, the Windmill site is the primary resource of scientific and interpretive value.

The location of the Windmill is shown on William Hawkins' *Plan of Building Lots situated at the east end of Toronto, Try. of York, May 11th, 1835*, on a site plan prepared by A.E. Williamson, P.L. Surveyor, *Plan of Property belonging to the Wm. Gooderham, Esq., Toronto, circa 1870* and the Toronto Terminal Railways' *Toronto Viaduct Plan of Trackage between Don Station and Bathurst junction*, dated Toronto, February 6th, 1945. This, along with written records from E.D. Shuttleworth's book, *The Wind Mill and its Times*, suggest that the windmill was completed by July of 1832. The former plant manager, Paul Allsop, recalls that during the 1986 renovations of the offices, particularly Building No. 31, that circular portions of footings (possibly the original Windmill foundations) were located under the subfloor. This Windmill location and ancillary buildings may be excavated in the laneway between the Gooderham & Worts offices and the Boiler House.

4.3 Recent Archaeological Potential (c.1860-onwards)

Archaeological resources associated with the Gooderham & Worts distillery are primarily of interpretive value. For example, surface remains like the railway spur and weigh scales are identified in Report No. 7, *Landscape History, Inventory and Guidelines*.

5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POLICY

1. The developer will retain a licensed archaeologist to monitor the site during construction.
2. The developer will notify the Toronto Historical Board of the proposed scheduling of construction work and work with the Toronto Historical Board to refine the Archaeological Strategy (see 6.0 below).
3. Any artifact exposed and/or recovered as a result of excavation or archaeological activities will become public property under The Ontario Heritage Act. The Owner may request that artifacts found on site be loaned by the City and displayed within the Owner's premises provided that the artifacts can be safely displayed there. If the display is subsequently dismantled, these artifacts would be returned to the City or entrusted to a recognized conservation or museum facility satisfactory to the Toronto Historical Board.

6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRATEGY

1. Most archaeological activity will consist of site monitoring during construction.
2. The developer will make the Windmill site, and any other sites of interpretive or scientific value available for archaeological field work prior to construction.
3. The developer will stabilize and conserve any ruins that are to be maintained in the development.