

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
MONITORING OF THE MAIN  
STREET RETAINING WALL FOR  
THE C.N. OVERPASS  
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

Submitted to

**REID CROWTHER & PARTNERS**

**QUATERNARY  
CONSULTANTS  
LIMITED**

April 1996

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

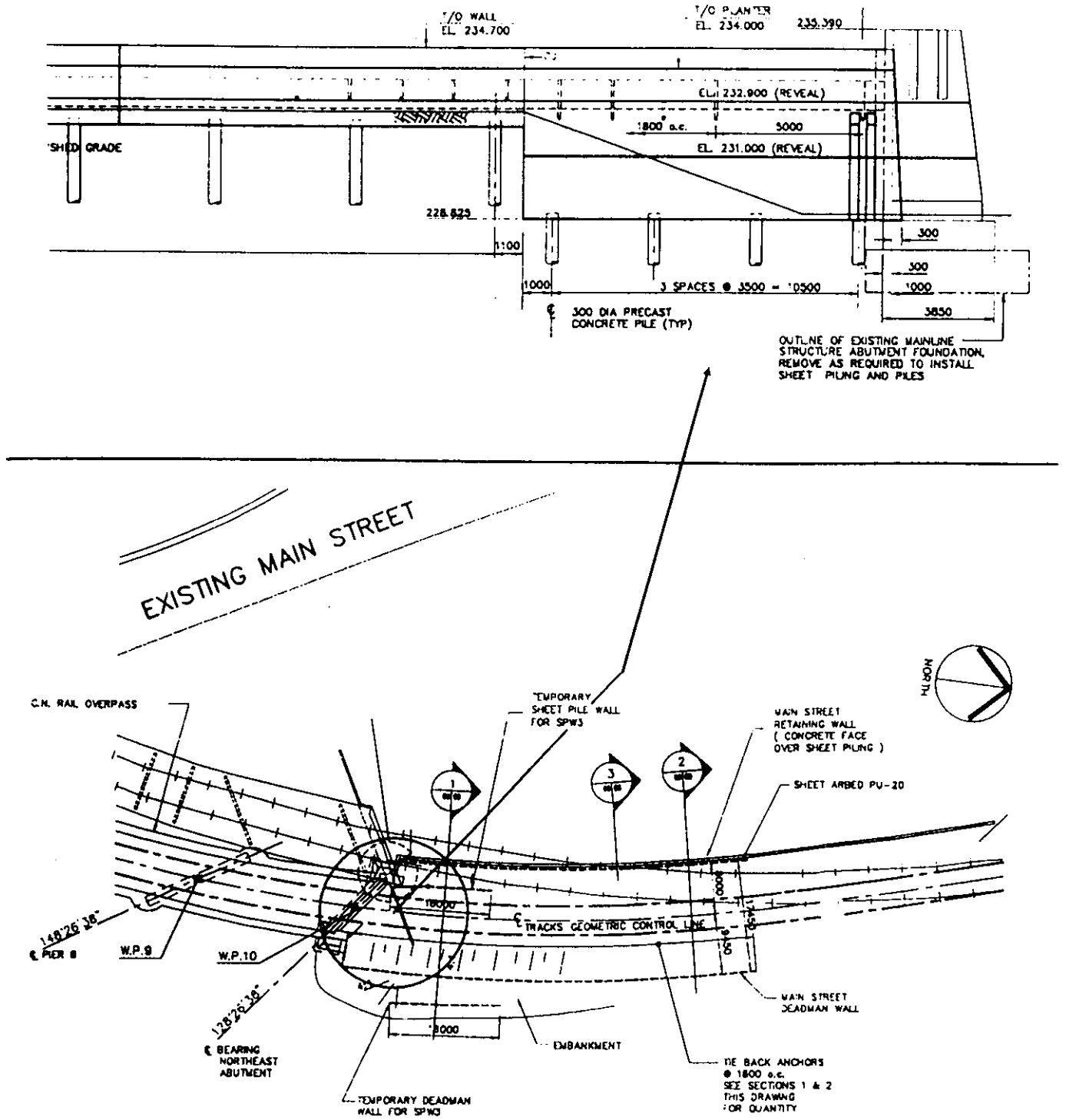
As noted in the previous report concerning archaeological resource management of the C. N. Overpass Reconstruction Project (Quaternary 1995:3), a final component which had sub-surface impact was the construction of a retaining wall on the western side of the embankment along the new route of northbound Main Street. This portion of the project was to be undertaken after the first report was completed and was to be documented in a separate report.

The location (Figure 1) is immediately north of the abutment at the north end of the overpass. Due to the eastward displacement of the tracks during the new configuration, the retaining wall is situated where a portion of the original embankment had been situated. The base of the majority of the excavations for the construction of the retaining wall do not extend below the elevation of the parking lot area between the embankment and Main Street (approximately 231.0 metres above sea level). The southern section of the retaining wall—adjacent to the former and the new north abutments—extends below the parking lot level. Excavations for this ten metre section were taken to 1.50 metres below the parking lot level (Figure 1).

Due to the possibility of impact upon pre-railroad archaeological resources, this excavation was monitored by Quaternary Consultants Ltd. The operation was conducted under the terms of Heritage Permit A86-95 (Appendix A), issued by Historic Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship. The field operations were conducted by Sid Kroker (Senior Archaeologist). Documentation of the project was undertaken by Sid Kroker and Pam Goundry (Research Archaeologist).

### ***1.1 Excavation Monitoring Methodology***

The excavation was undertaken with a large backhoe and the soil trucked away from the site. The monitoring consisted of continual visual observation of the face of the excavation. The primary focus for recoveries from the historic fill horizons was diagnostic artifacts, i.e., those which could provide evidence of time period, company of manufacture, and/or function. Recovery of artifacts from historic levels, particularly those that are composed of fill, is selective. Non-diagnostic structural items, such as generic bricks, concrete fragments, iron fragments, wire-cut nails, etc. are not generally curated. Collection of quantities of these types of artifacts would not add to the existing knowledge base. It is already known what types of materials were used to construct buildings in the early part of the twentieth century. The collection and curation of fragmented components deriving from the demolition of different buildings from unknown locations would not provide new information, while adding considerably to the laboratory processing time and ultimate museum storage space requirements.



PLAN - NORTH APPROACH

Figure 1: Project Location and Scope of Impact

## 2.0 OBSERVATIONS

The upper portion of the embankment was excavated to an elevation of 232.90 metres (1.90 metres above the level of the parking lot) early in the project, after sheet piling had been driven adjacent to the tracks. The upper portion consisted of sod overlying silt and cinder layers that conformed to the slope of the original embankment. The second portion of the excavation, at the south end of the retaining wall, was excavated in two stages. The first stage was the removal of soil and fill material level with the parking lot surface (231.0 metres). The second stage was the excavation below grade for a distance of 10.5 metres at the south end. The base of excavations was at 228.50 metres and extended for a distance of 2.0 metres perpendicular to the sheet piling (Figure 1).

The stratigraphic profile of the excavated area is characterized by sequential layers of relocated silts interspersed with layers of structural material, primarily brick. Two layers of brick occurred. The upper layer was at an elevation of 231.0 metres and was approximately 45 cm thick. The second brick layer was 30 to 50 centimetres below the first and was thinner—approximately 20 centimetres thick. The layers sloped downward at the south end of the excavation area which ended at the concrete abutment. At a point approximately three metres north of the abutment, the lower brick horizon had pinched out and the upper horizon tapered and disappeared at a point two metres north of the abutment.

The two brick layers were the only representation of artifactual deposition. A few fragments of broken concrete and milled lumber were mixed with the upper brick layer. No diagnostic artifacts were present.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

There was no impact upon *in situ* heritage resources deriving from activities which had occurred at the site. The excavation procedures encountered only material which had been deposited immediately prior to and during the construction of the railroad embankment in 1910/11.

**It is recommended** that no further archaeological concerns, relating to the C.N. Overpass Reconstruction Project, remain to be addressed.

## 4.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1995 *Archaeological Monitoring and Mitigation of the C.N. Rail Overpass Reconstruction - Mile 0.40, Rivers Subdivision P.D. No. 94-32*. On file with Reid Crowther & Partners and Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship, Historic Resources Branch.

**APPENDIX A**  
**HERITAGE PERMIT**



**Heritage Permit No.** A86-95

FORM 11

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

Name: Quaternary Consultants  
Address: 130 Fort Street  
Winnipeg MB R3C 1C7

ATTENTION Mr. Sid Kroker

(hereinafter referred to as "the Permittee"),

is hereby granted permission to:

monitor excavation for construction of Main Street retaining wall for the CN Railroad Embankment (part of the Main/Norwood Bridge Project), to record presence or absence of heritage resources;

during the period:

December 20, 1995 to March 31, 1996

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That the information provided in the application for this permit dated the 15th day of December 19 95, 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:  
June 30, 1996
- (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. All surface collections, excavations, etc. are to be carried out using the provenience system established for use at The Forks;
- b. All heritage objects (artifacts) recovered from The Forks are to be catalogued according to the CHIN system and the relevant Borden designation will be DILg-32/95D, as applicable;
- c. All heritage objects from The Forks are to be deposited with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature by June 30, 1996, for permanent curation and storage, unless appropriate loan requirements are arranged with the Curator of Archaeology prior to that date;
- d. A complete set of archaeological field records, catalogue sheets, laboratory analysis records, photographs, reports, etc. are to be deposited with the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature upon completion of the archaeological research, or sooner if required; and any subsequent revisions or additions to these records are to be filed as soon as possible thereafter;
- e. All computer systems and programs employed in archaeological research should be compatible with the computer system established for The Forks;
- f. Appropriate arrangements and funds should be made available for the conservation of perishable heritage objects collected from The Forks;
- g. In the event that any human remains are encountered during the excavations, all activity in that particular locus will cease immediately, and the Historic Resources Branch notified immediately so that appropriate action can be determined and taken;
- h. The Permittee will be on-site supervising all aspects of the field work, including the removal of the railroad overburden during site preparation, at least 75% of the time, but when the Permittee must be absent, a qualified designate acceptable to Historic Resources Branch (copy of vita to be filed prior to commencement of field work) shall be present;
- i. The Permittee shall be responsible for the conduct of the laboratory analysis of recovered heritage objects and information to be included in the permit report;
- j. The report identified in #3 above shall conform at a minimum to "The Contents and Format of a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment" (copy attached);
- k. 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 action, 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 pursuant to or related to this permit.

8280h

Dated at the City of Winnipeg, in Manitoba, this 15th day of December 1995.



Minister of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship