

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES BRANCH

MANUSCRIPT REPORT NUMBER 130

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS ON FORT WELLINGTON, ONTARIO

PARKS CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

Miscellaneous Reports on Fort Wellington, Ontario

The Manuscript Report Series is printed in a limited number of copies and is intended for internal use by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Copies of each issue are distributed to various public repositories in Canada, for use by interested individuals.

Many of these reports will be published in Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History, and may be altered during the publishing process by edition or by further research.

- 1 Documents Useful for the Restoration of Fort Wellington  
by Dale Miquelon
- 23 Restoration of Fort Wellington  
by Dale Miquelon
- 33 Report on Fort Wellington  
by Dale Miquelon
- 75 Report on Excavations at Fort Wellington  
Prescott, Ontario
- 121 Rapport Preliminaire de L'Excavations Partielle des Casemates  
du Port Wellington (Prescott, Ontario)  
par Louis Chevrette

- 139 Historical Themes  
Fort Wellington Musuem  
by David Lee
- 181 Report on the Excavations in the Blockhouse at Fort Wellington  
Prescott, Ontario  
by E.A. Wylie
- 255 Excavations of Two Gun Platforms at Fort Wellington,  
Prescott, Ontario  
by Michael J. Ashworth
- 283 Fort Wellington Excavations, 1968  
by Elizabeth Wylie
- 303 Fort Wellington Gun Positions  
An Archaeological Report  
Steven G. Baker

Documents Useful for the Restoration of Fort Wellington

Dale Miquelon

1963

## DOCUMENTS USEFUL FOR THE RESTORATION OF FORT WELLINGTON

PART A

The documents listed in this section describe the building of the present blockhouse in 1838 - 1839.

C445, p 268.

15th Oct., 1838.  
Engineer's Office

" (Fort Wellington) . . . will contain about 100 men in the two Upper Floors, and in the lower one a good magazine, armory, store room, and guard room having a good supply of excellent water within it.

The exterior of the old Fort has been fraised all round with the exception of the part near the entrance which cannot be done at present without impeding the carriage of materials into the fort for the New Blockhouse--the Entrance requires a great deal of excavation and making up, and I think it will be necessary to make . . . (He proposes) . . . also to dig . . . and build up the foundation of a cook house which may serve as a temporary Guard House, proposed to be a Frame Building which could quickly be got ready for occupation."

C447

Quebec, 8 Feb., 1839, p 103

"The building is now occupied, and the guns mounted, the fraising completed all round, the Entrance is well protected, and the two long sides defended by an Epaulement. The Officers' log Barrack is in an advanced state."

This next item is of peculiar interest, because when the suggestions it makes for alteration of the Fort Wellington plans for use in Cornwall are effected the result is in the present Fort Wellington. In other words, the original plans sent out from England were never used in an unaltered state.

C447

Cornwall, 25th February, 1839, p 179  
Bradley to Wright.

" . . . upon the same plan as that adopted for Prescott with the exception of the introduction of four port holes in the second story, one in the centre of each side, an alteration of the original plan sent from England which he deems necessary in order to afford light as well as the use of Artillery.

2. Of the substitution of musquetry proff blinds of Oak in the Upper story above the machicouli instead of stone walls; in other respects he desires that no alterations be introduced."

---

C447, p 248.

Account of Expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the Military Protection of the Province of Upper Canada, in the years 1837 and 1838.

p 256, Prescott includes:

Military Works

Erecting a New Block House, cooking house, and Privy in Fort Wellington, putting up stockades and mounting guns: £ 1733, 3/3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

---

C449 (1839) brings the rebuilding of Fort Wellington to completion. The new fort and outbuilding were as listed in the following document.

C449, p 75

Separate List or Abstract accompanying the Estimates for Ordnance and Barrack Special Services carried on in the Kingston and Eastern Districts shewing the sums which have been granted by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces on account of the same and also the balance which still remains to be granted.



Prescott  
Windmill  
Fort Wellington  
 New Block House  
 Cook House  
 Privy  
 Repairs to the fort (i.e. fortification)  
 Gateway  
 New Platform and Flagstaff  
 North front  
 Log Barracks  
 Sentry Boxes  
 Superintendance  
 Office Rent  
 Stationary  
 Postage  
 Travelling  
 Cavlry Stables  
 Hired Buildings  
 Divisions for a Barrack.

The sums of these items are given in the original record and are readily available.

---

CL48 p 93, 5th Feb., 1839.

"They were principally wanted for the purpose of drying the Plaster and Walls in the Blockhouse in Fort Wellington."

The above quotation refers to stoves and stove pipe used at Wellington, and accompanied the estimates for their cost (now lost.)

#### PART B

This material is from the "9 Returns" of 1841 and describes the ground floor of the new blockhouse. It is interesting that the projected guardroom is being used for another purpose.

1841  
 At Prescott

		cubic feet
1 Magazine	20 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14' x 6'	1682 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 Armoury	do do do	do
Ordnance Store	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14' 10/12 x 10'	1790
Artillery Store	6' x 14' 10/12 x 10'	890

The whole formine the under part of the blockhouse built of stone -- for the purpose of storing powder, arms, accoutrements, small arm ammunition, etc. etc.

PART C

This relates to ordnance at Fort Wellington.

The new Fort Wellington was first repaired in 1849-50, along the lines of recommendations made in the 1848 estimates. Apparently nothing new was added, and thus it serves as a description of the fort as it was in 1839-1845. The document is the only one found which presents considerable detail. It is most useful for a complete restoration of Fort Wellington's ordnance.

Cl418 Estimates from Engineers Department, 1849-50

For Fort Wellington the following proposed. /See plans which accompany this estimate/:

Item

- 73 Pointing the masonry of the retaining walls at the Entrance gateway of Fort Wellington.
- 74 Painting the Entrance Gates of the fort.
- 75 Renewing Seven Shot Garlands, two Mortar Platforms in the Fort.
- 76 Painting gun carriages and traversing platforms and lacquering guns in the fort.
- 77 Providing a Portable shot furnace for Fort Wellington.
- 78 Repairing the Gun Carriages and traversing platforms etc.
- 79 Incidentals.

- 73 The masonry in the retaining walls at the entrance gate and archway is in a very defective state, the mortar having crumbled away owing to the action of the weather. This item therefore provides for raking out the joints and pointing the walls with water lime mortar, mixed in equal proportions of sand and cement and for renewing the sod work which covers the coping.

The services required at Prescott being generally of a trifling nature there is no contract for Ordnance work at that station. The prices are calculated the same as those in the Kingston schedule with the existing percentages added thereon.

- 74 This item provides for the periodical painting of the gates, etc. etc. at the entrance to the fort which service is urgently required. Last done in 1838-9.
- 75 The Mortar Platforms and shot Garlands in this fort are in a very inefficient state owing to natural decay from exposure to the weather. This item provides for renewing them agreeably to the accompanying sketch. The old shot garlands to be taken up and removed to store and the ground formed to receive the new garlands which are proposed to be of oak 4 x 4 for the shot, 6 x 6 for the shells, and framed and secured at the angles with wrot, iron straps 3 x  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches thick fixed with two inch screws

the sides and top to be painted four coats common colour. The two old ten inch mortar platforms to be taken up and removed to store and the ground formed to receive the new sleepers, and properly filled in rammed round with the same, the new platforms to be eight feet square sleepers of cedar 10 inches wide flattened on top and laid  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches apart. The floor to be of rough pine, 3 inches thick edges shot and spiked down to the sleepers. By measurement.

- 76 This item is submitted agreeably to the accompanying requisition from the commander of officers of Rl. Artillery with reference to boards order 30th ap. 1847 and provides for painting two coats in oil, lead colour, in two wooden traversing platforms, three gun carriages, one wooden carriage for a carronade and twelve hand spikes, the whole to be scoured and stopped previous to painting.

Also for lacquering the bores of guns one coat and painting with anti-corrosion on the outside one coat--two twenty-four pounder guns, one carronade, and two ten inch mortars with their beds, all of which are to be well scraped and cleaned before painting. The woodwork to be painted by measurement and lacquering to be performed by the military labour such of the materials for performing the above named service as cannot be purchased on the spot are included in the demand of stores accompanying this Estimate. Last done in 1843.

- 78 The gun platforms and wooden curb also one Pintle (pintail?) at Fort Wellington being in a decayed state from exposure to the weather, this item is submitted for repairing them previously to the gun carriages being painted as provided in item 76 of this estimate provision is therefore made as follows:

Gun platform at West Angle

Renewing the soles with 3 inch oak (2 of 16' long by 9" wide) wrot. two sides and fixed, two runners of oak 2 x 2 each 16' long wrot. two sides affixed  $2/16.0 \times 0.2$  inches. The old to be taken off, removed and the new wood work to be painted two coats oil, lead colour.

12 Pounders at East Angle

Renewing one cheek of the garrison carriage with oak, 5'.) " x 1'  $1-4\frac{1}{2}$  " thick wrot. two sides and framed notched and shaped to correspond with the one taken out. The iron work to be taken from the old Cheek and refixed to the new work to be painted 2 coats in oil, lead colour.

Carronades over Gateway

Renewing the platform taking up old masonry of Platform 20 x 1 x 1, removing and piling the stone, the new curb to be formed of limestone masonry 20' x 1'.6" x 1' beds horizontal and joints vertical. The top surface to be rough bonchards do. on sides circular 2/20' x 1'.6" The masonry to be made good to the new curb and the studs of racers to be let into the stone and run with lead. The racers to be of Wrot. iron 2" x  $\frac{3}{4}$ " 20' long punched through and counter sunk on top, the studs to be 3" long, 1 x 1 " rivited to the racers, three feet apart, the bed of one carronade to be renewed with pine 13 x 10 wrot. framed and shaped. The iron work to be taken out of the old and refixed in the new work to be painted three coats in oil, lead colour.

Curbs for 24 Pounders

The present wooden curbs are in a very dilapidated state, it is therefore proposed to renew them with stone using the racers again which are servicable -- Provision is made for excavating and removing earth for the foundations which are to be of concrete formed of lime and coarse gravel, in the proportion of one of lime to six of gravel on which a course of Rubble masonry is to be laid to receive the curb stone. The curb to be of lime stone 2/35 x 1 x 1 set in mortar, the top and sides to the depth of 3 inches to be rough boncharded the curbs for the front racers to be of the same as those already described including the foundations for the same. The Pintle stone to be of masonry 5' x 5' by 1 foot deep rough boncharded on the top edges, to the depth of 3 inches. Mortices to be cut for the pintle. The pintle to be of Cast Iron of the approved pattern similiar to those in use at Fort Henry, Kingston, to be let in and run with lead and painted three coats in oil, lead colour.

Traversing Platform

Renew sides with Pine 2/16' x 9" x 8" wrot. formed and fixed, soles 2 / 16' x 2" -- blocks 4 / 6x6x2 of oak wrot. framed and fixed--foot board and stay 2/ 10ft. x 1--6' x 1' 3" of two inch pine, wrot. and fixed. The old stuff to be cut out and removed to store and the new work painted 2 coats, lead colour.

C452, p 52, March 19, 1842.

This item gives the following information of musquetry:

Return of the number of stand of arms in store at several ordnance in Canada.

Prescott: Musquets: India pattern: 1,738.

PART D

As shown by Part C above, the exchanging of masonry for wooden curbs for 24 pounders was the only major change, rather than replacement, which was undertaken in 1849-50. Part D below shows that between 1852 and 1861 no major changes were made.

Cl635, Inspection Reports., 1852 - 1868.

	<u>Description.</u>	<u>Present Condition</u>
1852	Fortification and defence, no repairs Magazine, contains 124 barrels Casemated barracks means to contain 85 men, contains 44 (Blockhouse) The men's quarters are not bombproof. Both wells	good good  good good
1853	Fortification and defence Repairs: receiving the flagstaff, Item 64 in annual estimate for 1853-4 Magazine, contains 137 barrels Men's barracks not bombproof, contains 33 men Wells	good   good good good
1854	Fortifications and defence Magazine, contains 170 barrels Barracks contain 30 men Men's barracks not bombproof Wells	good good good  good
1855	Fort constructed for the following ordnance: 2 12 pounders 2 24 pounders 1 12 pound carronade 2 10 inch mortars Now Mounted Fortifications and defence Manned by enrolled pensioners The men's quarters are not bombproof Wells	      good   good
1856	Fortifications and defence: no remarks Magazine, Empty, no remarks Wells	  good

1858 Nothing

1861 Nothing

PART E

This section consists of items in the Archives Print Collection which refer to Fort Wellington. There were a number of photographs, but all were taken in 1929. The only sketches or paintings of the fort show it as a simple blob of paint. The Canadian Illustrated News and the Dominion Illustrated News, however, did provide valuable information. It may be added here that a sampling of newspapers dating from the time of the construction of Fort Wellington were examined. The result was negative. Apparently the building of fortifications was not the sort of thing that made news in 1839.

Canadian Illustrated News, May 4, 1878, p 280.

Illustration, Woodcut or Engraving: The Fort during the Fenian Raids in 1866. This is an amazing picture which shows the fort with vertical wooden siding on the top storey, but which shows no peaked roof! A village of round tents extends from the glacis of the fort. However, the illustration proves to be more inaccurate than amazing. It is a copy of a photograph, also in the Archives, in the Morton Brown Album. This picture is described below and has been appended to this report.

---

More valuable, is the description of Fort Wellington as it stood at the time of publication of this issue. The useful sections are transcribed below:

p 278

"On the south front there is an earth covered stone sally port extending into the dyke. Its sides are pierced with loopholes to be used for clearing the dyke." Should a storming party attempt to scale the earth - works. "A tall fence of thick poles stuck in the ground close together." (Also describes the palisade en fraise.)

(Referring to the earthworks:)

" . . . having broad sloping roads on each side to enable troops to quickly gain the summit, transport cannon, etc."

"The fort building, or block-house as it was originally called, has several floors, the first comprising vaulted chambers intended to be used for the storage of arms and ammunition; the upper stories are fitted up as barracks. The top storey is of heavy timber with an over-hanging covered gallery running entirely round. This gallery is pierced with numerous windows and loopholes. The roof is covered with bright tin . . . . . The fort is commanded by high ground in the rear, from whence it would be easy to carry away the wooden roof."

---

Morton Brown Album, Case VII A, Acc. # 1956-12, p 24

Here is the original for the Canadian Illustrated drawing, showing the latter to be full of errors. In this photograph, indeed we see no roof, but there is a deep shadow around the top of the upper storey. In addition, only one of the two chimneys is visible, and it appears detached from the building. The only solution is that the "bright tin" roof simply appeared white on the photograph taken with the insensitive equipment of the day. Notice shutters and walls.

---

The Dominion Illustrated

26th Sept, 1891. pp 300-301

Five Photographs, no text, as follows:

1. From outside showing main gate and stockade.
2. Gate from the inside, no gun mounted.
3. Blockhouse. Vertical siding, rain barrels, Officers' Quarters with twin chimnies, smaller building nearby with one chimney. Jessup house and one other by the gate, tree by officers' quarters', Paths to faint to be examined. Empty carronade mount over the gate.
4. Caponiere in the ditch.

#### PART F

Material useful for the refurnishing of Fort Wellington blockhouse.

C447, p 256

Account of Expenditure incurred by Great Britain for the Military Protection of the Province of Upper Canada, in the years 1837 and 1839.

Making Tressel Bedsteads.

---

RG 8 Series 2, volume 34

Diagrams for a new hut, design for Canada. Beds are suggested in simple line drawings. Although no details of construction can be gained from these drawings, exact size of what appears to have been a standard design can be determined. See photostats.

---

C152, p 169 Prescott, 3rd Sept. 1844.

Required to be supplied for service of the troops stationed at this place and Brockville, for the ensuing year the under-mentioned quantity of clean oaten straw of the best quality free from thistles and weeds to be delivered at either places in such quantities as may be required and every second month commencing with November 1844 and ending October 1845, being one years supply calculated for the present strength together with the casual supplies for the hospital at the rate of 220 bundles every second month.

Bundles: 12 lbs. each, 1320 equal to 15840 lbs.

---

C460, July 20, 1848

Requisition for straw

For Eighty-eight men, 1056 lbs of straw in 12 lbs. bundles.

---

C589, p 172 Toronto 18 December 1838

"The Major General commanding has directed me to transmit for the covering warrant of the Commander of the forces the enclosed estimate forwarded by Colonel Young for Tressle Bedsteads made by order of Colonel Wetherall at Prescott."

---

C590, 1839

Reference to an estimate for barrack furniture which did not appear in this or any other volume of the series.

---



C590, p 40

Letter which accompanied an estimate for stoves and stovepipe for the use of the troops in the blockhouse. No document.

PART G

Regiments stationed at Fort Wellington

The names of those British regiments stationed at Fort Wellington and their periods of occupation have been determined from three sources, viz:

Regimental correspondence in the "C" series.

Regimental histories.

C.H. Stewart's compilation BRITISH REGIMENTS IN CANADA AND NORTH AMERICA

These sources do not always agree, nor do they always provide the terminal dates of a given occupation. A perfect list is plainly impossible without further material, but that which follows is reasonably accurate (Arranged by Regiments.)

A. Royal Sappers and Miners (from Stewart alone)

"5th June, 1813 3rd company, 3rd battalion of 81 men under Lt. Phillpotts, Royal engineers and Sub. Lt. J.A. Stephenson arrived at Quebec on "Zodiac" transport, were first of new corps to be in Canadas; had detachments at Burlington Heights, Prescott, Point Henry, York, and Kingston where H.Q. was located. 1814, 8 June, 4th company, 4th battalion arrived, winter at Prescott with detachments elsewhere."

B. Royal Regiment of Artillery.

The earliest reference to Prescott in the regimental papers is dated 30th, January, 1813, and a letter of Feb. 6th, 1813 refers to a captain Pearson commanding there. There are occasional references up until November 28th, 1825, at which time a letter was sent from Headquarters in Kingston stating "I have ordered the detachment up from Prescott." (C747, p 165). At the time of the Battle of the Windmill the artillery was apparently brought up from Kingston by MacBean (C750, p 65.) There is no other references to a detachment of the Royal Artillery at Fort Wellington in the correspondence which would lead one to suspect the Divisions assertion that "A garrison of the Royal Artillery remained

at the fort for some years after this period," (phamphlet, p 4) may be in error. Stewart's account is as follows:

- 1814 2nd Battalion #27 Company at Prescott, July 1, at Kingston, August 1.  
9th Battalion #110 and #112 companies at Prescott, December 5.
- 1815 7th Battalion #93 Company at Prescott, July 1, August 1, Kingston.  
9th Battalion #113 Company, (March?) to June.
- 1816 7th Battalion, #93 Company, June.
- 1817 7th Battalion complete.
- 1818 on, no mention.

The documents, of course, take precedence over Stewart, and indicate that the artillery remained until 1825.

C. The First Regiment of Foot, (The Royal Scots.)

" 1813  
First Battalion

In February the detachment at Montreal moved to St. John's and Chambly, and the following month headquarters were at St. John's with detachments at Quebec and Chambly. In April, headquarters moved to Montreal, with detachments at Chambly, Prescott, Kingston, and Quebec.

1815  
First Battalion

In January the battalion quitted Fort Niagara, and proceeded to Queenstown. From this place it proceeded in April to Fort George, Kingston, Prescott, Montreal, and Three Rivers, which latter place it reached on the 25th of May. In the meantime it had been joined by Captains E.M. Bird and J. Wilson etc. etc. . . . . . The battalion embarked for Quebec, and on its arrival re-embarked on board transports, and sailed for England." (Leask and McCance.)

D. Fifth Regiment of Foot (Northumberland Fusiliers.)

At Fort Wellington from early 1815 to early summer 1815. (Stewart.)

F. The Fifteenth Regiment of Foot (East Yorkshire.)

1827: post-June, arrive in Canada.  
1831: a detachment was in Prescott. (Stewart.)

G. The Sixteenth Regiment of Foot (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.)

The Sixteenth was sent to Fort Wellington and shortly after the British had failed to take Platsburg in 1814 (early summer). After the conclusion of peace, the regiment returned to Quebec in (1815) whence it sailed to England in July. The regiment's earliest letter sent from Prescott was 24th August, 1814 and the last 11th of May, 1815. (Stewart, Canon, and Regimental Letters.)

H. The Seventy-Ninth Regiment of Foot (Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.)

May, 1829, to Kingston with detachments to Fort Henry, Point Frederick, and Prescott. In 1831 the regiment moved to Toronto. (Stewart.) A letter of October 5, 1829, (C991) indicates that the detachment at Prescott was composed of one corporal and three privates.

I. The Eighty-Ninth Regiment of Foot (2nd Battalion Princess Victoria's, now the Irish Fusiliers.)

Stewart merely states that the regiment was at Prescott in the summer and fall of 1813, however, a letter of the 15th of July, 1814 (C1004) names the overseer of the works at Wellington as a member of the regiment.

J. The Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

5 officers and 77 men at Fort Wellington on December 21, 1812.

K. The regimental history of the Royal Marines gives the following account of their activities at Fort Wellington:

1813

The two Marine Battalions were accordingly despatched to Quebec, and on the 26th October the 2nd started for Montreal. The first followed so closely that its leading files entered that city just as the rearguard of the 2nd was marching out en route for Prescott, on the St. Lawrence . . . . .

Before the Marines reached their destination at Prescott, news came that the enemy under General Wilkinson were advancing and already passed the Fort at that place. Upon receipt of this intelligence, the 1st Battalion was pushed on with the rocket company to Lachine on Lake St. Louis, about fifteen miles distant, while Lt. Stevens with two 6 pounders marched to Coteau du Lac on Lake St. Francis. . . . .

Meanwhile the 2nd Marines had been moved up to Coteau du Lac, and were now ordered to Prescott, while the 1st proceeded to Isle aux Noix.

About this time Col. Williams, as senior officer of the Marine Battalions, received an order from the Admiralty directing him to break up the 2nd Battalion, and after completing the 1st to full strength to distribute the remainder of its men among the flotillas on the Great Lakes. His order for the break-up of the 2nd Battalion was issued on 5th of May, but before his despatch reached Lt. Colonel Malcom, at Kingston, where it was then quartered, it had embarked on an expedition against the enemy's fortified position of Oswego." (Field, volume 1, pf 291)

L. The Royal Canadian Rifles.

This was the most important of the many regiments stationed at Fort Wellington, being in garrison from at least December 1842 until 1853. The exact date at which the regiment left Fort Wellington could not be determined. Stewart states that the company left for Toronto on July 11. However, Fort Wellington is referred to in a regimental letter of 29th November. C775 It is possible that when the fort was turned over to pensioners, Royal Canadian Rifle officers remained. This is the impression given by a letter of October 26th, 1855 which orders Brevet Major Walker at Prescott to proceed to Ottawa to inspect the enrolled pensioners there. (C777)

Perhaps the most interesting source giving information about the regiment is also a long memorial by Captain Black located in C770, p 137, 6 of February, 1844. The regiment was apparently recruited from soldiers of long service to do a garrison duty along the Canada-U.S. border, because young men continually deserted from the regiments of the line when given such tempting postings. Black insists that the regiment was more an elite corps than a veterans regiment.

PART H

Militia units in service at Fort Wellington

The only exact information relating to the militia units stationed at Fort Wellington date from the disturbances of 1838-1839 only.

Source: RG9, Series 1, B2, vol 24, Prescott.

Troops stationed at Prescott, 2nd, January, 1839.

Brockville Light Dragoons,  
1st Regiment Grenville Militia,  
2nd Regiment Grenville Militia,  
Captain Donnel's Independant Company,  
Captain Jessup Independant Company,  
total 822 men.

Prescott, Return of the Garrison under the command of Colonel Young,  
February, 1839.

Royal Artillery, (not militia.)  
Toronto Provincial Artillery,  
Brockville Cavalry,  
1st Regiment Grenville Militia,  
2nd Regiment Grenville Militia,  
Lancaster-Glengarry Independant Company,  
Prescott Independant Company,  
Total 853 men.

Prescott, Returns for March also list 885 men and 899 men as totals.

### PART I

Documents examined in the Public Archives of Canada.

Records of the British Army in Canada, the "C" Series.

#### A. Ordnance and Engineers.

C444 1836-7  
C445 1838-1  
C446 1838-2  
C447 1839-1  
C448 1839-2  
C449 1839-3  
C450 1840  
C451 1841  
C452 1842  
C453 1843  
C454 1844  
C455 1845  
C456 1846-1  
C457 1846-2  
C458 1847-1  
C459 1847-2  
C460 1848  
C461 1849-1  
C462 1849-2  
C463 1850  
C464 1851  
C465 1852  
C466 1853-1  
C467 1853-2

#### B. Minute Book, Headquarters Office, Royal Engineers, Montreal

C1416 14th August, 1847 to 17th October, 1848  
C1417 13th August, 1851 to 19th January, 1853.

- C. Letters issued to England from Royal Engineers Headquarters Office at Montreal. C1407 1852 to 1857, incomplete.
- D. Ordnance report and estimate of the works and repairs proposed to be carried out in the Royal Engineers Department in Canada in the year 1849-50. C1418
- E. Inspection Reports  
C1635 Canada, 1852-1868.  
C1636 Canada, 1869-71.
- F. Commissariat.  
C146 1833-36  
C147 1837-38  
C148 1839  
C149 1840  
C150 1841  
C151 1842-43  
C152 1844-46
- G. Barracks. Accounts, certificates, estimates, memoranda petitions, reports, requisitions, returns etc.  
C587 1837  
C588 1838-1  
C589 1838-2  
C590 1839-1  
C591 1839-2  
C592 1840-1  
C593 1840-2  
C594 1841  
C595 1842  
C596 1843  
C597 1844  
C598 1845
- H. Military Posts.  
C518 1828-1838  
C519 1839-1845
- I. The Military Chest.  
C343 1832-1845
- J. Lands and Roads.  
C277 1836-1845
- K. Royal Engineers, Montreal, Kingston, Letters.  
C1824 1851-1857 (Montreal); 1846-1856 (Kingston.)

## L. Estimates.

C1420 1863-64  
 C1421 1862-63  
 C1422 1863-64  
 C1423 1864-65

## M. Regimental Papers Included in the "C" Series.

- a. First Foot  
 C824 1797-1818
- b. Fifth Foot  
 C282 1838-1851; 1814-1868; 1794-1857; 1789-1867;.
- c. Fifteenth Foot  
 C840 1817-1829  
 C841 1830-1831
- d. Sixteenth Foot  
 C846 1814-1854
- e. Seventy-ninth  
 C991 1828-1830
- f. Eighty-ninth  
 C1004 1812-1815
- g. Royal Canadian Rifles  
 C769 1840-1842  
 C770 1843-1844  
 C771 1847-1848  
 C772 1849  
 C773 1851  
 C774 1852  
 C775 1853
- g. Royal Artillery  
 C745 1812-1815  
 C746 1816-1818  
 C747 1819-1825  
 C748 1826-1836  
 C749 1837-1838  
 C750 1839-1845  
 C751 1846-1848  
 C755 1860-1861  
 C756 1861-1862  
 C764 1866-1867
- h. Royal Marines  
 C788 1813-1843
- i. Royal Newfoundland Regiment  
 C720 1801-1814

Records of the British Army in R.G.8, Series 2: Ordnance

- A. vol 53: "9 returns" for 1841.
- B. vol 73: "9 returns" for 1851.
- C. vol 7: Memoire on defence: 1856.
- D. vol 18: Report on Canada: 1862.
- E. vol 34: Report on Barracks: 1864.
- F. vol 20: Report on Defence: 1864.
- G. vol 32: Report on Defence: 1865.
- H. vol 29: Report on Defence: 1867.

Records of the Canadian Militia.

R.G.9, B2 vol 24 Returns of the Militia arranged by station, 1838-1842.

State Papers, the Q Series.

The Calendar for the "Q" Series, 1837-1840, Upper Canada, Archives Reports for 1941 and 1942.

Newspapers.

- A. The Brockville Statesman, original, 1838-1840.
- B. The Cornwall Observer, original, 1838-1840.
- C. The Kingston Chronicle and Gazette, microfilm, 1838-1840.
- D. The Kingston (later Toronto) Patriot, microfilm, 1838-1840.
- E. The Dominion Illustrated, 26th September, 1891.
- F. Canadian Illustrated News, May 4, 1878.

The Print Collection of the Public Archives of Canada.

The Map Collection of the Public Archives of Canada.

PART J

Bibliography of secondary sources examined.

Cannon, R. Historical Record of the Fifteenth Foot, London: 1848.

Historical Record of the Sixteenth Foot, London: 1848.

Cunliffe, Marcus. The Royal Irish Fusilliers, London, New York, and Toronto: 1952.



Field, Col. Cyrus. Britain's Sea-Soldiers, Liverpool: 1924.

Jameson, Capt. R. Historical Record of the Seventy-Ninth Regiment of Foot,  
Edinburgh and London: 1843.

Leask, J.C. and McCance, H.M. The Regimental Records of the Royal Scots,  
Dublin: 1915.

Stewart, C.H. British Regiments in Canada and North America, Ottawa: 1962.

RESTORATION OF FORT WELLINGTON

by

DALE MIQUELON

MAY, 1964

RESTORATION OF FORT WELLINGTON

An earlier report, "Documents useful for the restoration of Fort Wellington", contains some of the material referred to in this report. However, in the main, this paper is intended to round out the information in that report. Its concern is structural.

-----

Materials pertaining to our restoration of Fort Wellington can be divided under four distinct headings, viz:

1. Estimates and letters pertaining to cost;
2. Maps and plans;
3. Descriptions of the fort; and
4. Illustrations.

1. Estimates and letters pertaining to cost

1839, March 28th - Tenders called for sundry works.  
(Brockville Recorder, March 29, 1839).

1839, July 4th - Tenders called for Caponière, Gallery, Stockade, Ditch, and Fence. (Brockville Recorder, Thursday, July 4, 1839).

1849-50 - Repairs to Ordnance. (C Series, v. 1418. See earlier report).

1866, November 19th - Repair to blockhouse and outbuildings, costing £200 (C540 pp. 348-50).

Fiscal YearEstimates of Dept. of Public Works

1 July, 1878-30 June, 1879	Recorded in Estimates 1881-82, Contracts. Donald Grant, contract 5751, Sept. 26, 1878, completed June 1, 1879. Amount of contract is \$2,385. Final estimate - \$2,761.50. For a revetement and general repairs (see plan)...2,761.50
1 July, 1879-30 June, 1880	Estimates 1879-80 Repairing Drain.....\$ 450.00 General Repairs.....\$1,050.00

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimates of Dept. of Public Works</u>
1 July, 1880-30 June, 1881	Estimates 1881-82, #3, p. 242. Alfred Hough contracted to do several works of repairs &c required at the fort. Ref. letter 9497, date Nov. 23, 1880.....\$ 620.00 Contract for \$545, final estimate \$620. See Vol. 25, p. 92.
1 July, 1881-30 June, 1882	Estimates vol. 19, #5, p. 222. New roof and general repairs .....\$ 800.00
1884	Repairs to Guardhouse (R.C.9, II, B2, 17, #36)
1901	Fitting up Armoury for 56th Regiment (R.C. 9, II, E1, 114, p. 201)  Specifications (R.C. 9, II, E1, 115, p. 40)  Supply large lock on outside door, renew handle, doors and windows, replace broken windows,  "Supply and fit a doorframe, and 4 panelled door with 4 inch butts, knob, mortice, lock and two keys complete, on stairs leading to second or top floor, completing filling in space between ceiling and stairway".

These documents indicate three principal periods during which construction or repairs were undertaken: 1838-40 - original work; 1866 - unspecified repairs prompted by Fenian scare; and 1878-82 - extensive repairs. The plans of construction and repairs roughly match these periods.

-----

## 2. Maps and Plans

a) Royal Engineers' plan of Fort Wellington, July, 1839. This shows the ground plan of the fort in general with cross sections of the blockhouse and caponière, and earthworks. Buildings appear in the same positions as on subsequent maps. The blockhouse appears substantially as today with hip roof surmounting three layers of logs. The caponière is shown with a roof. The distance of the caponière from the crest of the embankment immediately south is 30 feet. This seems to be about the same as at present, but should be checked.

b) There are two undated very important plans of the blockhouse. That, which seems to be the earliest, is numbered 732 which would make it seem to be much newer than the earlier map considered above, numbered 278. However, the numbers are probably within years, so that there may be no more than a year's difference between the two. In fact, we cannot be sure which is really the older. On this map (732) room usage is indicated for the ground floor of the blockhouse, and is the same as in proposals prior to construction (C445, p. 268). The plan is marked Upper Canada which indicates but does not prove that the plan was made in 1841 or 1840 whichever may be taken as the date for union of the two Canadas.

c) The second plan is labelled Canada West which was thus made subsequent to the union (1840 or '41). It is date-stamped 1863 but is probably earlier, bearing evidence of two and possibly three room changes since 1839. The date-stamp may correspond to any of these changes. It is a duplicate of the earlier map with changes added. Room usage of the ground floor nearly corresponds to the "9 Returns" of 1841: magazine, armoury, two store rooms divided by a thin partition, and a guard room and artillery store divided by a line which may or may not indicate a wooden partition. In black ink the word "guardroom" is crossed out and "Ordnance Store" marked in. This same black ink marks the storeroom "Canteen" and the partition is removed. These changes make the plan correspond exactly to the "9 Returns" of 1841, thus the early date of the changes is proved. The same black ink has marked a cupboard in the hall as well as a doorway and partitioned off a hospital on the third floor. A pump too is marked in. Can we then infer that these changes too date from 1841?

There are also a number of changes in pencil. The windows on the second floor are thus marked as well as references to "fall gutters" and eaves-troughs. Finally, soem changes are marked in blue ink. I would guess these are

the most recent. The blockhouse contained 54 men at the time of the pencil marking (assuming they all bear the same date). Unfortunately, this does not correspond to any of our returns -- but as a rather large number argues in favour of an early date.

d) A map of 1868 shows proposed changes never carried out and lists the ordnance as two 24 pounders, two 12 pounders, two small mortars, but does not mention the carronade.

e) There are three plans showing gallery changes. One of these is on linen painted on the back, after the manner of the Canadian Department of Public Works in the 1870's and 1880's. The fact that all three of the plans do not display the same technique presents a difficulty that cannot be explained away. From a photograph mentioned below, we know the change was made after 1866. Hence, it seems fairly certain that the change occurred in the period of extensive repair, 1878-82. This is the most logical place for such an extensive repair.

f) The plan showing Grant's work on the revetement and caponière, dated 1878 and bearing his signature, has been in our possession for some time. Numerous other original maps of the area are now in our possession. They were preserved by Mr. Robinson, acting head of the Engineering Division and are formally in the care of that Division. It is recommended that steps be taken to repair and preserve these maps which are in poor condition. However, it must be pointed out that anything done must be undertaken with the concurrence of Mr. Robinson, who along is responsible for the preservation of these maps to date. Either the originals or photostat copies should be deposited with the Public Archives. This is virtually a moral obligation.

### 3. Description of the fort

Canadian Illustrated News, May 4, 1878, p. 280

"On the south front there is an earth covered stone sally port extending into the dyke. Its sides are pierced with loopholes to be used for clearing the dyke should a storming party attempt to scale the earthworks....A tall fence of thick poles stuck in the ground close together...(earthworks) having broad sloping roads on each side to enable troops to quickly gain the summit, transport cannon, etc....The fort building or block-house, as it was originally called, has several floors, the first comprising vaulted chambers intended to be used for

the storage of arms and ammunition; the upper stories are fitted up as barracks. The top storey is of heavy timber with an over-hanging gallery running entirely round. This gallery is pierced with numerous windows and loopholes. The roof is covered with bright tin....The fort is commanded by high ground in the rear, from whence it would be easy to carry away the wooden roof".

#### 4. Illustrations

Public Archives of Canada. Bainbridge Album #2, picture 80. "Fort Wellington and Mill near Prescott" (1839). The blockhouse has a light coloured roof (hip) indicating a metal covering. (A coloured photograph of the original would look good in the museum, especially alongside a coloured photo of the first Fort Wellington which can be obtained from the Ontario Archives.)

Public Archives of Canada. Morton Brown Album Case VLL A Acc #1956-12, p. 24. In this photograph, the earlier structure of the gallery is evident as is the "roof of bright tin".

-----

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The map described in 2c above and the nine returns for 1841 would seem to serve as the best basis for restoration of the blockhouse. The present gallery is from a much later period but still dates from an era which we must admit as "historic", 1878. Perhaps then it would be best to leave the gallery as it is. (Restoration always being a compromise.) The covering on the roof is definitely unsatisfactory. There is no doubt that the original was tin or some tin alloy, perhaps fer-blanc. Inspection shows that the roof of the blockhouse is presently covered with metal underneath the asphalt shingles. However, this looks like galvanized iron which would thus make it the roof put on in 1881-82. At that time a number of military establishments in Canada were roofed with that material. Specimens of original tin may exist beneath that covering.

The original plans of the caponnière show it with a pitched roof. The present roof dates from 1879 and the description of 1878 above describes it as "earth covered". However, the problem of drainage seems to rule out replacing the roof with sod. The best solution seems to be to leave the roof as it is. Tin, however, could be applied over the

shingles to give it a more historical appearance.

The earthworks have settled a great deal over the years, and three of the "roads" leading to the gun emplacements have almost disappeared. These should be fixed.

A separate report on the guardhouse has been prepared.



Appendix OneBALLAD OF THE PRESCOTT VOLUNTEERS

Written by J.F. Steel of Prescott, January 24, 1839.

TUNE: "The girl I left behind me"

"One Tuesday morning we marched out  
Under command of Colonel Fraser  
With swords and baynote of polished steel  
As keen as any razor.

"When to the Windmill plains we went  
We gave them three loud cheers  
And we let them know that day below  
With the Prescott Volunteers

"We are the boys that fear no noise  
Where the cannons loud did roar  
We cut the filibusters right and left  
When they landed on our shore.

"Bravo McDonald so nobly led  
His men into the field  
They did not flinch no not an inch  
Till the bandits had to yield.

"He swung his sword right round his head  
Saying 'Glengarries follow me.'  
'We'll gain the day without delay  
And that you'll plainly see.'

"If they dare return again  
They'll see what we can do  
We'll show them British play my boys  
As we did at Waterloo.

"If I was like great Virgil Bright  
I would employ my quill  
I would write both day and night  
Concerning the Windmill.

"Lest to intrude I will conclude  
And finish off my song  
We will pay a visit to Ogdensburg  
And that before long."

Appendix Two

From a Montreal paper, Saturday, 21 July, 1888.

"As early as 1684 the Jesuit de Lamberville recommended that a fort should be established at the spot under pretence of erecting a blacksmith shop. It was at this place that de Lamberville joined M. Denonville in his expedition against the Senecas in 1687. The place was more particularly brought to the notice of the French Government by Clerambault d'Aigremont in 1707 who recommended that a fort should be established at Niagara with a second fort at La Calette Prescott. He had the judgement to see...that pork and grain could be raised in the neighbourhood and the passage of supplies up the dangerous navigation of the St. Lawrence could be avoided."

Jessup Papers, Ontario Archives

Appendix Three

"Edward Jessup, the original U.E. Loyalist, was known by the name of Major Edward Jessup, and he died in the year 1816, without a will. He had an eldest son also named Edward, and he died the year before his father in 1815; this was the Edward who married Sussanah Colville, and Dr. H.D. Jessup was the son of this marriage and the present Edward Jessup was a grandson of this second Edward who died in 1815. Now in addition to this Edward Jessup, the second mentioned, he had a son named Edward. By reason of law in force at that time he received the property that was left undisposed of by the first Edward and he owned considerable property in Prescott among which was the fort and the ordnance land in rear of Fort and this was the reason of the application to Parliament when this Edward was an infant giving Power to convey these lands to the crown. This third Edward was a brother of H.D. Jessup."

French Papers, Ontario Archives  
Written in 1918 by Judge Riddell

REPORT ON FORT WELLINGTON

Dale Miquelon  
August, 1964

REPORT ON FORT WELLINGTONa) STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

The Province of Canada, as at present circumstanced, is all Frontier and nothing else.

The Duke of Wellington (1841)

In June, 1812, the United States of America declared war against England. The war in North America took the form of an attempt by the Americans to conquer Canada. The British were faced with the necessity of maintaining communication between Lower and Upper Canada along a water transport route which was also the frontier--the St. Lawrence. Prescott was regarded as a particularly strategic site on this transport route. From a point twelve miles below Prescott to Lake St. Francis, a bulge in the St. Lawrence beginning near Cornwall, the river consists of about 35 miles of continuous rapids. To facilitate transport along this section of the route, boats were tracked close to the Canadian shore, unloaded or loaded depending upon the magnitude of the obstacle, or even portaged. Smaller boats were employed in the rapids than on smooth water, and the commencement of the rapids was the point at which stores were transferred from large to small boats (or vice versa depending on which way goods were moving).<sup>(1)</sup> It was thus seen to be one of the most vulnerable points on the supply line, and worthy of a fortification of its own. Prescott was considered as a better place from which to defend the batteaux because of its position directly opposite Ogdensburg, then an American city of considerable importance. Here was the obvious base for American military activity; and from Ogdensburg, in fact, numerous border raids were directed against the Canadian shore. From a base at Prescott, British gunboats could intercept American ships moving toward the head of the rapids, and troops stationed there could prevent American troops landed above the rapids from descending upon the convoys by land.

Apart from considerations of transport, strong outposts were required all along the exposed frontier from Kingston to Prescott. In the War of 1812, Prescott was the only well fortified post on that frontier, seconded by block-houses at Cornwall and Gananoque. Baron de

Gaugreben described these as stations for "flying corps" whose operations he detailed as follows:

"These flying corps are destined to oppose the Enemy's operations by rapid marches; in order to endeavour to render them abortive in their commencement or before the Enemy is prepared, or to unite themselves, if the Enemy should be prepared and superior in strength to one or two of these flying corps, in order to be strong enough to attack him, in all probability with success."<sup>(2)</sup>

These strategic role of Prescott as a border station remained following the War, but its relation to military transport was radically altered in the third decade of the century. Baron de Gaugreben tendered a report on Canadian defence to the War Office shortly after the War of 1812. In it he suggested that, "If we could establish a water communication from the Grand or Ottawa River to Kingston by taking advantage of the waters laying between Kingston and the Ottawa River, and by uniting them with canals; our transports from Montreal to Kingston would then be safe."<sup>(3)</sup> This document, as suggested by H.R. Holmden who discovered it in 1921, appears to be the first reference to the Rideau Canal, a military concept which figured prominently in Canadian strategy until 1870. Built in 1826-1832, it was thereafter a central feature of Canadian defence, which depended on rapid transport of bulky war materials through a thinly populated country with little or no industrial production. Thereafter, Prescott assumed importance as "covering the most direct communication to the most exposed part of the Rideau Canal."<sup>(4)</sup> A second consideration reinforced the above. Even in the 1840's, Ogdensburg was connected with American industrial centres by railways and canals. In 1850, the Ogdensburg Railway was completed making that city the only railhead on the entire frontier until the Grand Trunk built a line along the Canadian shore in 1853. Prescott became strategically more important as the years passed. One factor was the connection of still more rail lines with Ogdensburg. Another important feature was the completion of a system of canals on the Canadian side of the river passing the rapids between Prescott and Cornwall (1832-47).

However, Prescott never became the site of a fortress equal to the strategic importance attached to it by military observers. The Duke of Wellington's memoranda on defence recommended the enlarging of Fort Wellington.<sup>(5)</sup>

In 1846, the Commanding Royal Engineer in Canada submitted plans for extending the fort to hold 650 men.<sup>(6)</sup> His impressive drawings underscore the importance of the fort in military thinking. In 1862, a commission suggested that 20 guns should be mounted on an enlarged fort accommodating 500 men.<sup>(7)</sup> Fort Wellington was a secondary point, however; and the works proposed for it were insignificant compared to the works both projected and completed for the transportation arteries and major points d'appui. First there was the £700,000 Rideau Canal. The eastern terminus of this transport route was Montreal, the approaches to which were protected by the Citadel at Quebec (1820-1831) and Fort Lennox (1819-1829). Further east, British supremacy on the Atlantic approach to Canada was assured by the British Navy and the impressive citadel at Halifax (1828-1856). The western end of the route was guarded by the fresh water fleet at Kingston protected by Fort Henry (1832-1836), and the four Martello towers (1846-48). But these fortifications were only a part of a projected master plan which included a canal from Toronto to the the naval base of Penetanguishine (1830-34) by way of Lake Simcoe, five more forts for Kingston, and a citadel for Montreal. The obstacle to the completion of the system was lack of funds. The long-suffering British taxpayer could not possibly bear a larger bill for Canadian defence. The British government expended as much money on the Canadian military establishment as it dared. It is no wonder then that Fort Wellington was never elevated above the position of a border station.

As the border became more and more difficult to defend, there came to be less and less reason to do so. Following the Rebellion of 1837, there had been a period of border raids concluded by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty (1842). This was followed by the Oregon Dispute (1845-46), the disputes occasioned by the American Civil War (Trent Affair, 1861, and Alabama Claims), and the Fenian Raids of 1866 and 1869. But with the signing of the Treaty of Washington in 1871, Anglo-American tensions finally subsided. As the burden of fortification had become so onerous for the British taxpayer, an investigation of Canadian defence had been undertaken by William Jervois in 1864. His report recommended a jointly financed Canadian-British defence program. The scheme had never materialized, and in 1873 the British guarantee for a fortification loan was converted into a guarantee for a railway building loan. Canadians and Americans thereafter awakened to the interdependencies pertaining between them, and undertook the psychological transition from enemies to allies.

b) THE WAR OF 1812

In spite of the fact that war with the United States was expected, Canadian defences were in a dismal state when hostilities commenced in June, 1812. With regard to that section of frontier with which we are concerned, as late as April, Edward Macdonnell, Quarter Master General, was able to write that "The defence of the Strait between Lakes St. Francis and Ontario, and the transport of stores of every description between the Lakes, will, if hostilities take place, become arduous undertakings but will be facilitated by having previously had the entire attention of an intelligent officer devoted to the consideration of these subjects." (8) At the outset of the war, Forts St. Joseph, Amherstburg, George, Erie, and Chippewa were the only defensive works in Upper Canada. (9) In July, Inspecting Field Officer Lt. Col. Lethbridge was given command of the frontier between Cornwall and Kingston, and ordered to arrange a plan for its defence. He was asked to arrange a system of convoys, a task which had received so little attention that the military secretary was able to ask, "Would boats help in this regard?" (10) The militia at Prescott had been called out as early as June 10th, (11) and a month later 200 stand of arms and equipment for 25 horsemen were sent up from Montreal. (12) Gunboats on the way to Kingston were already using Prescott's harbour as a "safe place". (13) By the end of July, Col. Fraser, militia commander at Prescott, had received "two long nine pounders" which seem to have been the port's first ordnance. At the same time, it is quite clear that batteaux in convoy now made Prescott a regular stopping place en route to Kingston. (14) As early as August, Lethbridge informed Brock that he had "no doubt that a proportion of those troops are intended for Prescott and I especially reported the necessity of a force there." (15) Troops do not seem to have arrived at Prescott, however, until the Glengarry Regiment was ordered there on October 9th. (16) From that point to the end of the war, Prescott was regularly garrisoned by both militia and regulars. According to Lethbridge, the militia at Prescott had erected "a stockaded fort with three embrasures at each of two angles", but the exact site of this fortification is not known. (17) On the 9th of October, Lethbridge was replaced by Inspecting Field Officer Lt. Col Pearson who remained in command of the Cornwall-Kingston frontier until the end of the war. (18) According to a spy, the American army at Ogdensburg was thereafter "in continual apprehension of an attack from Prescott, the commander of which...established his character with the enemy." (19) By the end of the year, we

find references to a magazine and batteries at Prescott.<sup>(20)</sup> Whatever the nature of these field fortifications was, they are not to be regarded as the beginning of Fort Wellington. That earthwork was not begun until 1813.

On January 8, 1813, the Commanding Royal Engineer, Lt. Col. Bruyeres, informed the Commander of the Forces that while going to Kingston, he would take Lt. de Gaugreben of the King's Royal German Engineers with him and "leave him at Prescott to survey that, and the contiguous posts and to commence immediately the necessary works of defence which must be established".<sup>(21)</sup> On arrival at Prescott, Bruyeres remarked that it was in a "very rough state", but was "the essential point to be first strengthened".<sup>(22)</sup> On Friday, January 15th, Bruyeres ordered Gaugreben "to erect without delay a blockhouse on a small commanding spot in rear of the present battery which it will completely protect. It is also intended to improve and close this battery as soon as it is possible to break ground".<sup>(23)</sup> Thus began the history of Fort Wellington. The construction of an earthen redoubt, which was completed in two years, was undertaken by military labour.

Meanwhile, more exciting military activities were continuing. Sometime after February, two 12 pounders were added to Prescott's ordnance,<sup>(24)</sup> and the land batteries continued to protect supply convoys of snow sledges. At the same time, however, the American force at Ogdensburg was making numerous nocturnal depredations on the Canadian shore. In February, the Commander of the Forces, Governor General Prevost, visited Prescott and "deemed it absolutely necessary...to dislodge the enemy from his position at Ogdensburg to secure from interruption my line of communication with Upper Canada".<sup>(25)</sup>

On February 22nd, Major MacDonnell led a party of 480 militia, and regulars of the Glengarry, Eighth, Newfoundland, Engineer, and Artillery Regiments against Ogdensburg, capturing 11 pieces of cannon, all the enemy ordnance, marine commissariat, and quarter master general's stores, together with 74 prisoners. The force also burned two armed schooners, two large gunboats and two barracks.<sup>(26)</sup> The American colours were captured and sent to the Prince Regent.<sup>(27)</sup> It would be useless to attempt to catalogue every night patrol that set out from Prescott, and it would be of little value. But the raid on Ogdensburg ranks as a celebrated feature of the war and the most glamorous exploit of the Prescott



garrison. The role of the Prescott establishment in the war was generally functional and routine -- thus stripped of glamour but not of significance. It remained a base for gunboats and an officer was designated as superintendent of gunboats and marine.<sup>(28)</sup> It was also the headquarters of Lt. Col. Pearson.

On September 1, 1813, Gaugreben proceeded to York, thence to Fort Niagara, which he helped to take, and finally on December 29, 1814, he took command of the Engineer's Division in Upper Canada. Recurrent attacks of ophthalmia prevented his continuing in such a commanding position.<sup>(30)</sup> On April 2, 1814, he was ordered back to Prescott to superintend work on the fort.<sup>(31)</sup>

The work undertaken by Gaugreben at Prescott consisted of an advance battery on the beach and a large earthen redoubt on a piece of rising ground in back of the battery (i.e., the site of the present fort).<sup>(32)</sup> The general form of Gaugreben's fort is known from a plan, which from stylistic features appears to be his own, from his description of daily building activity, and from an early painting.<sup>(33)</sup> The squat blockhouse could not be seen from outside the fort. Its roof was covered with several feet of heavy clay, making it bombproof. The blockhouse was built to enclose Edward Jessup's well, thus ensuring a water supply.

Only a very small courtyard surrounded the blockhouse, the ramparts being much thicker than those of the present fort, since they were built to contain casemates of wood. The rampart could not be climbed from the inside except by means of the appareille. Above the casemates, except on the northeast angle which was taken up with the sloping clay roof of a store, there extended a broad terre plein which was about the same width as the courtyard. A proper banquette was constructed beneath the parapet. The parapet itself sloped gradually at an angle of 15 degrees for several feet then abruptly turned downward and the escarp slope was built at the very steep angle of 75 degrees. The steep escarp had to be revetted with logs to hold the earth in place. The ditch appears to have been rather broad with a low counterscarp.

An earthen bulwark or glacis was constructed in front of the main gate sloping gently toward the country. The fort site was drained by stone channels leading to the river. The enceinte of the original fort was probably the same as that of the present one, since the ramparts were never razed, but merely altered.<sup>(33)</sup> It had from the

first the same trace as at present -- a square redoubt with a redan projecting on the landward side. The gate was in the position of the present gate.

The work was completed on December 3, 1814, when Gaugreben dismissed the militia. The fort was constructed under poor conditions and with great difficulty. A month after its completion, it was described as "a great mass of earth badly put together".<sup>(34)</sup> It was recommended that the blockhouse be made into a cavalier by the addition of a parapet, and that a covert way and a palisade be placed around the ditch.<sup>(35)</sup> It has not been determined whether these changes were executed, but one plan shows the blockhouse with a flat roof. On January 29, 1814, while the fort was still in the process of being built, a general order was issued from the military secretary's office commanding, that it should be named in honour of the Duke of Wellington, the great hero of the European campaign.<sup>(36)</sup> This could not possibly have been done because of Wellington's victory at Salamanca, as sometimes stated, for that battle had occurred two years before and had been announced in Canada on October 20, 1812. If any single event was in mind when the fort was named, it was more probably the Duke's first battle on French soil (November 10, 1813) when he defeated General Soult. In all probability, the military secretary was thinking of Wellington's brilliant career throughout the entire war.

#### c) 1815-1838

Very little is known about Fort Wellington during the period 1815-1838. In 1822, the British Government purchased the land on which the fort was built from its owner, Edward Jessup, grandson of Edward Jessup who founded the town of Prescott.<sup>(37)</sup> The decision was taken immediately after the war to keep the fort in good repair.<sup>(38)</sup> Repairs are known to have been undertaken in 1816<sup>(39)</sup> and in 1818.<sup>(40)</sup> The fort was occupied by a detachment of some sort at least until 1826, although it was ordered abandoned in 1822.<sup>(41)</sup> When the British Government suddenly had need of the fort in 1838, they found that it was amongst those "scarcely required or occupied by troops for many years past and from a great portion of them being of wood and in a dilapidated state they have been abandoned".<sup>(42)</sup> When an engineer was sent to Prescott with instructions to rebuild the fort in 1838, he found the ramparts falling away in many places and the fort crossed by paths and cattletacks and filled with rubbish.<sup>(43)</sup>

d) FORT WELLINGTON REVOLT STATION

The Canadian Rebellion of 1837 sparked a series of border raids undertaken by sympathetic Americans. In fact, the authorities were more concerned about American aid than about the insurgents themselves. It was determined to rebuild Fort Wellington as a station "calculated only to resist desultory attacks from Rebels and their supporters".<sup>(44)</sup> On June 24, 1838, the fort was directed to be repaired and a blockhouse built for 100 men and 1000 stand of arms.<sup>(45)</sup> Fort Wellington and numerous other small fortifications repaired or erected at that time were thereafter known as "revolt stations", and it is the "revolt station" which remains with us today.

A Captain Randolph from the Engineer's Office in Montreal was sent to Prescott immediately, and provided with "a Plan, Estimates, and a Form of every voucher" by Major Bonnycastle at Kingston.<sup>(46)</sup> Randolph seems to have been something less than efficient, and, like Gaugreben before him, was troubled with bad eyes. "I left Montreal in a hurry without knowing what services were required," he explained to Bonnycastle, "and my drawing instruments were left behind and can not be got at by any other person. You are perfectly aware that my sight is so bad, that I cannot see to draw these small plans and dimensions."<sup>(47)</sup> Bonnycastle's immediate reaction was a dry observation to Commanding Engineer Wright, "I am afraid His Excellency Sir J. Colborne, who is about to return to Lower Canada, will be exceedingly displeased at the want of exertion at Prescott."<sup>(48)</sup> Randolph continued to badger Bonnycastle with requests and complaints, most particularly requesting a Clerk of Works. He was eventually sent a Mr. Duff from Kingston. Duff was, of course, not sent out of charity but, as Bonnycastle put it, "That there may be no more delay and that I may be borne as blameless as possible of the disobedience of Sir John Colborne's and Colonel Wright's orders."<sup>(49)</sup>

The work, to consist of erecting a blockhouse, cookhouse, privy and guardhouse, was to be done by contract rather than military labour. The blockhouse itself was erected in 1838 by Edward Noble, a Kingston contractor.<sup>(50)</sup> Randolph had to use all his powers of complaint to obtain money for renewing the ramparts which he had been ordered to do. This included the en fraise palisade to make up for other deficiencies. His own opinion was that the ramparts must be reformed and sodded to prevent erosion.<sup>(51)</sup> J.R. Wright, the Commanding Royal Engineer, visited Prescott in November, 1838, with the result that

authorization was obtained for a further expenditure of £2,000 on the fort.<sup>(52)</sup> It should be noted in this regard that the working drawings used in the construction of the fort are dated 1839.<sup>(53)</sup> The resulting fortification showed a much more gradual slope to the escarp (45 degrees) with greater command of the ditch from the parapet. The escarp was fraised all round. A caponiere was thrust into the south ditch, pushing a salient angle out toward the river. The ditch was in general deeper than that surrounding the original fort, and the counterscarp more fully formed. Epaulements were extended out on both sides of the fort. (Pencil markings and figures on the original plan may reveal other refinements to engineers after inspection of the ground.)

The identity of those who successfully bid for works other than the blockhouse is unknown; however, a great deal was indeed done. Aside from the repair of the ramparts and construction of the blockhouse, Ordnance and Barrack Estimates show money was expended in 1838-39 on building a new cookhouse, privy, gateway, log barracks, platform and flag staff, sentry boxes and cavalry barracks. Guns were mounted and a stockade erected.<sup>(54)</sup> The barrack, it has already been proven, is that small building which still remains on the site and which has been recently restored. The cookhouse occupied the site of the present office, and the privy, the site of the tool shed. It is exceedingly doubtful whether either of these two structures is original, but neither of them is new. The woodwork in the tool shed, in particular, is reminiscent of the closet in the hall of the blockhouse. There remains to be considered the guardhouse, for which no estimates or tenders can be found. Nevertheless, as has been shown elsewhere, this guardhouse was almost certainly erected in December, 1839, or early 1840 -- probably by the same craftsman who built the officers' quarters.<sup>(55)</sup> A building was also hired in Prescott as a barrack.<sup>(56)</sup>

The blockhouse naturally commands attention as the most important and most attractive building in the fort. It is a three storey composite structure. The third storey was surrounded by a machicouli gallery built of three inch thick planks<sup>(57)</sup> laid horizontally. The blind was loopholed and fitted with shuttered windows.<sup>(58)</sup> The roof was classified as capable of resisting small shells or "splinters".<sup>(59)</sup> It was built of three tiers of log. In maps these are shown with a space between each tier, and this may have been filled with earth. The whole was surmounted by a hip roof covered with tin.<sup>(60)</sup> The hip

roof was probably considered necessary because of the problem of rain and snow. In the event of warfare, its essential lightness would be of little consequence because of the heavy protection it concealed. Much is to be learned about the interior of the blockhouse from old plans, but this has been considered elsewhere.<sup>(61)</sup> It should be added, however, that there was a pump in the blockhouse. The original (1838) was entirely of wood, but this proved unserviceable. In 1842, the wooden pump was replaced with a metal pump, the specifications for which are in our possession.<sup>(62)</sup>

Two twenty-four pounders on wooden traversing platforms were placed on the southwest and southeast corners of the fort. Two ten inch mortars and a six-pounder gun were placed in the courtyard south of the blockhouse. Twelve-pounder guns were placed at the northwest and northeast corners, and a 12-pounder carronade was mounted over the gate. In 1849, the wooden traversing platforms were replaced with limestone.<sup>(63)</sup> Plank walks were provided for the sentry posts on the ramparts and at the gate in 1845.<sup>(64)</sup>

It will be seen from the above that the new Fort Wellington presented an appearance quite different from the old. The casemates gone, the interior of the fort was more spacious. The slope rising to the terre plein was more gradual, and the entire rampart was sodded. The blockhouse projected above the ramparts, and its bright roof could be seen gleaming in the sun from a great distance. The new Fort Wellington was altogether worthy of the water colour done of it by Bainbridge shortly after its completion.<sup>(65)</sup>

Following the suppression of rebellion in Upper Canada, a series of raids were made on Canadian territory by insurgents fled into exile or by American sympathizers. The most bloody engagement of the rebellion resulted from just such a raid. On November 12, 1838, an army embarked from Oswego and Sackett's Harbour. One of the two schooners carrying the men ran aground off Ogdensburg; the other anchored just down river from Prescott, in sight of Fort Wellington. The invaders took possession of the windmill (which still stands) and several stone houses nearby (the ruins of which still exists). Unfortunately not a gun was mounted on Fort Wellington,<sup>(65)</sup> but militia soon occupied the still unfinished blockhouse.<sup>(66)</sup> The entire engagement is described very well by Professor Stanley:

A small vessel, the Experiment, commanded by Lieutenant Power, rushed from Brockville to assist the defence, but she carried only two small guns and was able to do very little until the arrival of two more vessels from Kingston. Captain Sandom, who, along with 200 seamen from the British ships-of-war at Quebec, had been sent to re-open the Kingston naval base, promptly despatched two armed steamers and a force of 70 marines and regulars to Prescott. At the same time the militia was mustered, and militiamen from Glengarry, Dundas, and Grenville arrived at the scene of battle. Although they were on high ground and very much exposed, the militia succeeded in driving the invaders from their forward positions behind the stone fences and outworks into the adjacent buildings, one of which was a stone structure rather like a Martello Tower about 100 feet in circumference, 80 feet in height with walls three and half feet thick. [The Windmill] The guns from the steamers had little effect upon the walls of the stone buildings and it became obvious that it would be too serious a problem for the troops to dislodge the defenders without the assistance of heavier artillery.

Two days passed in comparative inaction, militia and invaders exchanging desultory shots; but with the arrival of four companies of the 83rd Regiment and a detachment of Royal Artillery with several guns, the attack upon the windmill was re-opened. The guns bombarded the building, while a company of regulars with militia support took up a position on the flank to prevent the defenders from slipping away from the mill and across the river to the United States. Under the fire of the Canadian guns, the buildings close to the mill were soon in flames; the defenders hung on, although it must have been obvious that they would soon run short of ammunition and would receive no more assistance from the United States, as the river was now commanded by the British vessels. As darkness fell Von Schoultz [the Commander of the insurgents, a Polish nobleman of high ideals] and several others made an effort to escape, but they fell into the hands of the troops, and when a demand for unconditional surrender was sent to the windmill the remainder of the American force agreed to throw themselves upon the mercy of the Canadian authorities. They had shown great courage. The fighting had lasted four days -- it

was not until the 16th that the windmill was surrendered -- and had inflicted no fewer than 80 casualties upon the British and Canadian troops. The losses of the invaders are hard to ascertain as some of them had been taken back to the United States; probably about fifty were killed and wounded. Some 160 prisoners were taken and several hundred kegs of powder, a large quantity of cartridges, swords and pistols, 200 stand of arms and a silken flag on which was a beautifully worked spread eagle surmounted by a single star. In the pockets of one of the casualties was found a list of the proscribed persons in Prescott who were to have been put to death. (67)

Subsequent to the Battle of the Windmill, Col. Phillpotts, the Assistant Quarter Master General, decided that the windmill should be itself fortified. To that end in December, 1838, he brought with him from Cornwall a mason who directly built a powder magazine in the mill, which Randolph had already begun to put in a state of defence. (68) Later, a carronade was mounted on the tower, (69) but by July procedures were already being undertaken to return the mill to its owner, Mr. McQueen. (70) Notwithstanding that, the commander at Prescott established a solitary confinement cell in the mill in September "having found it impossible to keep some of the independent companies at this post in order without a place of that kind". (71)

#### e) THE ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLES AT FORT WELLINGTON

The Rebellion and the American border raids served to impress the War Office that Canada would long remain a military frontier. The High Command turned to the problem of keeping the country sufficiently garrisoned at minimum expense. One problem immediately taken into consideration was that of desertion, "a crime so prevalent that hundreds of men are annually required to supply the gaps it occasioned". (72) In 1840, the creation of some sort of veterans' regiment ["security against desertion frontier posts derived from the unwillingness to incur forfeiture"] was determined upon. (73) In the following year, the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment was established. An arrangement was made "permitting soldiers of 15 years service and upwards to volunteer from the regiments serving in North American into that corps. It was required that they should be men of good character, and as inducement for them to extend their services, they have been allowed the pay of the Foot Guards and the right to their discharge after 25 years of which 10 years is required to be in the

Canadian Regiment".<sup>(74)</sup> In 1844 Captain Black, who commanded a company of the regiment at Prescott, was able to pronounce that, "As regards the primary object, namely to have a battalion of soldiers who could be trusted in any part of the country without fear of their deserting, that has been attained."<sup>(75)</sup> It should be noted in passing that the usual explanation, that the regiment was formed to prevent desertion, is most inapt; and conveys an idea other than that expressed above.

After tensions with the United States had been eased by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty in 1842, the Commander of the Forves ordered that the Provincial Force or militia should be disbanded on May 1, 1843. Thereafter the barracks, "designated as Revolt Barracks", were to be occupied by the regular troops.<sup>(76)</sup> Fort Wellington was one of these "Revolt Barracks", and was thereafter occupied by the Royal Canadian Rifles. In January, 1843, the fort was occupied by two officers and 159 men.<sup>(77)</sup> Whether these were Royal Canadian Rifles or not remains unknown. The Regiment was definitely in garrison in June.<sup>(78)</sup>

The Rifles continued to garrison Fort Wellington, their strength varying between one company and one-half company, until 1853.<sup>(79)</sup> In mid-July, 1853, the company in Prescott left for Toronto and was replaced by a detachment of one officer and 32 men from St. Jean.<sup>(80)</sup> This detachment remained until December and was apparently the last garrison of Royal Canadian Rifles in Fort Wellington for several years.<sup>(81)</sup> The War Office had determined to man posts of lesser importance, like Fort Wellington, with enrolled pensioners. This was to be done partly at Provincial expense.<sup>(82)</sup> The pensioners were first called out in November, 1854.<sup>(83)</sup>

It is not yet known what arrangement was made for Fort Wellington in the period between the date that the last detachment of regulars left and the date that the first pensioners arrived. Some representatives of the Royal Canadian Rifles undoubtedly remained, e.g., barrack master. A body of 12 pensioners garrisoned the fort from November, 1854, until April, 1856, when the size of the detachment was augmented.<sup>(84)</sup> The next three years in the fort's history present a blank. Perhaps it was manned by pensioners; perhaps not. In 1859, we find a detachment of Royal Canadian Rifles "on lookout duty".<sup>(85)</sup> This duty was probably of short duration since the fort is not listed as a regular station. The fort falls into obscurity for a further seven years.



f) THE LAST YEARS

We next hear of Fort Wellington in 1866 when the Fenian raids brought about a feverish military activity at the border. The condition of the fraising indicates neglect, and the authorization of an expenditure of £200 sterling for repairs to the blockhouse and outbuildings suggests that the fort had been abandoned for some time.<sup>(86)</sup> The troops arrived at the fort on June 3, 1866, but found no accommodation within. Tents were pitched on the ordnance land and Prescott was for a while an armed camp. <sup>(87)</sup> A merchant steamer, Hercules, was hired and fitted out as a gunboat to defend the town and vicinity.<sup>(88)</sup> Three batteries of garrison artillery were installed in Fort Wellington. These military preparations prevented a large body of Fenians gathered at Ogdensburg from attacking Prescott.<sup>(89)</sup>

The Fenian Raids brought the Royal Canadian Rifles back to Fort Wellington, and a detachment remained there, at least intermittently, from 1867-1869.<sup>(90)</sup> They may have provided the force that was still in garrison when the second Fenian Raids commenced early in 1870.<sup>(91)</sup> Reaction to the second raids was much like that in 1866. Three hundred men were placed under arms in Prescott, supported by two field guns.<sup>(92)</sup>

In 1870 the British Army left their inland posts in Canada, and these were turned over to the new Dominion Government. Fort Wellington was amongst them. The Canadian Government continued to maintain it as a fortification, and during the following two decades it was extensively repaired. Most of the work was done between 1878 and 1882. Virtually every part of the fort, including both buildings and earthworks, was repaired. The guardhouse was the only exception, and it was repaired in 1884.<sup>(93)</sup> Fort Wellington was not garrisoned during this period, but was provided with a permanent caretaker.<sup>(94)</sup> The town of Prescott boasted a militia battery of garrison artillery which mustered for drill at the fort once a year.<sup>(95)</sup>

The Prescott Battery of Garrison Artillery was disbanded in April, 1885.<sup>(96)</sup> This was at the outbreak of the Riel Rebellion. On April 24, 1885, the Adjutant General of Militia ordered that Fort Wellington be garrisoned with one company of the 56th Militia Battalion.<sup>(97)</sup> The detachment was released from duty by an order of July 29th, shortly after the end of hostilities in the North West.<sup>(98)</sup> This was the last military garrison to occupy Fort

Wellington. In 1901, the blockhouse was fitted up as an armoury for the 56th Regiment.(99) The fort remained in the hands of the Department of Militia and Defence until 1923 when it was turned over to the Department of the Interior as a National Historic Park.

## END NOTES

- (1) C388, pp. 258-261, 31 December, 1814.
- (2) H.R. Holmden (ed.) "Baron de Gaugreben's Memoir on the Defence of Upper Canada," Canadian Historical Review, vol. II, pp. 58-68, March, 1921, p. 67.
- (3) Ibid., p. 65.
- (4) W.O. 55/880, p. 345f, 24 March, 1846.
- (5) W.O. 1, vol. 96, 1841.
- (6) W.O. 55/880, p. 345f with drawings on pp. 347, 348, 349, 351.
- (7) W.O. 33, vol. II, pp. 1901-1972, 1862.
- (8) C1218, pp. 218f, 27 April, 1812.
- (9) W.O. 1, vol. 96, 18 May, 1812.
- (10) C688A, p. 123, 10 July, 1812.
- (11) C688D, p. 26.
- (12) vide supra note (10).
- (13) C676, pp. 119-20, 5 July, 1812.
- (14) C676, pp. 215-216, 28 July, 1812.
- (15) C688A, pp. 167-172, August 10, 1812.
- (16) C677, p. 123, October 9, 1812.
- (17) C688A, pp. 167-172, August 10, 1812.
- (18) C1168, p. 294, 9 October, 1812.
- (19) C677, November 29, 1812.
- (20) Ibid., pp. 226-228, 2 December, 1812.

- (21) C387, p. 1f, 8 January, 1813.
- (22) Ibid., p. 7, January 14, 1813.
- (23) Ibid., p. 10f, 19 January, 1813.
- (24) C745, p. 49, 30 January, 1813.
- (25) W.O. 1, vol. 96, 20 March, 1813.
- (26) Q 121, p. 110, February 22, 1813.
- (27) Q 122, 14 June, 1813
- (28) C1170, p. 137, 23 March, 1813.
- (29) C1222, p. 9, 29 December, 1813. C1219, p. 179,  
19 December, 1813. C1221, p. 196, 1 September, 1813.
- (30) C682, p. 11, 27 January, 1814.
- (31) W.O. 55/860, p. 513, April 2, 1814.
- (32) The plan is on file at National Historic Sites and  
can be compared to a plan of Chimney Island in  
C388, p. 249. A description of that part of the  
work undertaken between July 4 and December 3, 1814  
is in W.O. 55/860, pp. 495-512.
- (33) C445, pp. 268-271, 15 October, 1838.
- (34) C388, pp. 258-261, 31 December, 1814.
- (35) Ibid.
- (36) C1171, p. 174, 29 January, 1814.
- (37) French Papers, Ontario Archives. Note written by  
Judge Riddell in 1918. Plan of Ordnance property  
at Prescott purchased by the Crown in 1822 from E.  
Jessup. (See Appendix of Maps).
- (38) Q133, p. 5, 15 August, 1815.
- (39) W.O. 55/860, p. 184, 24 June, 1816.
- (40) C405, p. 199.
- (41) C274, p. 181, 20 November, 1826. C994, p. 24,  
9 December, 1822.

- (42) Q249, pt. 2, pp. 389-391, 8 March, 1838.
- (43) W.O. 55/874, 23 July, 1838, and C445, pp. 268-271, 15 October, 1838.
- (44) W.O. 55/876, p. 47, 1841.
- (45) C447, 8 February, 1838.
- (46) W.O. 55/874, p. 216, 6 August, 1838.
- (47) Ibid., p. 212-214, 20 July, 1838.
- (48) Ibid., p. 214, 24 July, 1838.
- (49) Ibid., p. 217, 6 August, 1838.
- (50) C449, p. 105, August, 1839.
- (51) C445, pp. 268-271, 15 October, 1838.
- (52) C446, 6 November, 1838.
- (53) On file in Historic Sites office.
- (54) C449, p. 75, 1839.
- (55) Fort Wellington Guard House Report, May, 1964, and Mr. Richardson's memorandum proving it was not the Jessup House on File F.W. 325.
- (56) W.O. 55/875, p. 120, 1840.
- (57) W.O. 55/880, p. 345f, 24 March 1846.
- (58) Plans showing this on file at National Historic Sites.
- (59) W.O. 55/874, pp. 212-214, 20 July, 1838.
- (60) Shows on photograph from 1866 and conforms to the standard method of the time. See W.O. 55/886, p. 463, "Schedule of Contract work, Ironmongerv, Shingling, and Tinning (Montreal: 1844)." Reference to L.C. tin showing 6 inches to the weather.
- (61) See Report on Fort Wellington, May, 1964.
- (62) W.O. 55/877, p. 249, on card file.

- (63) C148, 1849-50, on file: Mr. Gooding.
- (64) W.O. 55/879, p. 209f, 27 February 1845. See card file.
- (65) Appended to this report.
- (65) C447, 8 February, 1839, p. 103.
- (66) C449, p. 105.
- (67) GFG, Stanley, Canada's Soldiers, pp. 205-207.
- (68) C447, pp. 64-65, 26 December, 1838.
- (69) *Ibid.*, p. 235, 30 April, 1839.
- (70) C448, p. 7, 29 July, 1839.
- (71) C449, pp. 108-09, September, 1839.
- (72) C770, p. 107, 6 February, 1844.
- (73) W.O. 1/537, 27 August, 1840.
- (74) C770, p. 112, 6 February, 1844.
- (75) Ibid., p. 113.
- (76) W.O. 55/878, p. 712, 13 June, 1843.
- (77) W.O. 55/877, p. 303f, January, 1843.
- (78) C770, p. 36, pp. 33-35, 2 June, 1846.
- (79) Compilation by Stewart (Mr. Fuller's File), 1844-1853. C772, p. 95, (1849). W.O. 55/885, p. 151 (1851). W.O. 1/565, p. 610 (1852).
- (80) C31, p. 290, 25 July, 1853.
- (81) Stewart (vide supra note 79).
- (82) C503, p. 140, 6 November, 1854.
- (83) Ibid., p. 147, 29 November, 1854.
- (84) C503, p. 238, 25 July, 1855; p. 371 (April).
- (85) C779, p. 97, 25 September, 1859.
- (86) C540, pp. 348-50, 19 November, 1866.

- (87) C1038, pp. 38-39, June 22, 1866.
- (88) C785, p. 82, 24 August, 1866.
- (89) GFG, Stanley's Canada's Soldiers, p. 228.
- (90) C785, p. 82, 24 August, 1866. C787, p. 34, 12 March, 1868. C787, p. 71, 22 October, 1869; p. 101, 17 February, 1870.
- (91) C184, 25 May, 1870.
- (92) Ibid.,
- (93) See Restoration of Fort Wellington, May, 1964.
- (94) RG9, II, B1, vol. 492, p. 836, April, 1885.
- (95) Ibid., vol. 492, p. 477, 14 April, 1885.
- (96) Ibid., vol. 492, p. 300, 5 April, 1885.
- (97) Ibid., vol. 492, 24 April, 1885.
- (98) Ibid., vol. 493, p. 1226, 29 July, 1885.
- (99) RG9, II, E1, 115, p. 40, 1901.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## I Records of the British Army in Canada, "C" Series.

## A. War of 1812, General Orders.

1168

1169

1170

1171

1172

1172A

1173

1174

## B. War of 1812, Guard Books.

1195A

1195B

1195D

1195E

1195F

1195G

1195H

1195I

1195J

## C. War of 1812, Military Secretary's Office.

1218



1221

D. War of 1812, Miscellaneous.

31

387

388

405

676

677

678

679

680

681

682

683

684

685

686

687

688

688A

688B

688C

688D

688E

1708

1709

## E. Militia Papers.

700	1805-15
701	1816
702	1817-41
703	1801-1814
703A	1803-4
703B	1807
703C	1812
703D	1812
703E	1814-15
729	1813 - Marine
797	1805-09

## F. Headquarters.

228	1812
-----	------

## G. Ordnance and Engineers.

445	1836-7
445	1838-1
446	1838-2
447	1839-1
448	1839-2
449	1839-3
450	1840
451	1841
452	1842
453	1843
454	1844

455	1845
456	1846-1
457	1846-2
458	1847-1
459	1847-2
460	1848
461	1849-1
462	1849-2
463	1850
464	1851
465	1852
466	1853-1
467	1853-2

H. Minute Book, Headquarters Office, Royal Engineers, Montreal.

1416 14 August, 1847 to 17 October, 1848

1417 13 August, 1851 to 19 January, 1853

I. Letters issued to England from Royal Engineers Headquarters Office at Montreal.

1407 1852-1857, incomplete

J. Ordnance report and estimate of the works and repairs proposed to be carried out in the Royal Engineers Department in Canada in the year 1849-50.

1418

K. Inspection Reports.

1635 Canada, 1852-1868

1636 Canada, 1869-71

## L. Commissariat.

146	1833-36
147	1837-1838
148	1839
149	1840
150	1841
151	1842-1843
152	1844-1846

## M. Barracks.

552	1813	
587	1837	
588	1838-1	
589	1839-1	Accounts, certificates,
590	1839-1	estimates, memoranda,
591	1839-2	petitions, reports,
		requisitions, returns, etc.
592	1840-1	
593	1840-2	
594	1841	
595	1842	
596	1843	
597	1844	
598	1845	

## N. Military Posts.

518	1828-1838
519	1839-1845

- O. The Military Chest.  
343 1832-1845
- P. Lands and Roads.  
274 1821-26  
277 1836-1845
- Q. Royal Engineers, Montreal, Kingston, Letters.  
1824 1851-1857 (Montreal); 1846-1856 (Kingston)
- R. Canals.  
59 1834-41
- S. Estimates.  
1420 1863-1864  
1421 1862-1863  
1422 1863-1864  
1423 1864-1865
- T. Regimental Papers Included in the "C" Series.
- a. First Foot  
824 1797-1818
- b. Fifth Foot  
282 1838-1851; 1814-1868; 1794-1857;  
1789-1867
- c. Fifteenth Foot  
840 1817-1829  
841 1830-1831
- d. Sixteenth Foot  
846 1814-1854
- e. Seventy-ninth

991 1828-1830

f. Eighty-ninth

1004 1812-1815

g. Royal Canadian Rifles

769 1840-1842

770 1843-1844

771 1847-1848

772 1849

773 1851

774 1852

775 1853

779 1859

787 1869

h. Royal Artillery

745 1812-1815

746 1816-1818

747 1819-1825

748 1826-1836

749 1837-1838

750 1839-1845

751 1846-1848

755 1860-1861

756 1861-1862

764 1866-1867

i. Royal Marines

788 1813-1843

## j. Royal Newfoundland Regiment

720 1801-1814

## k. Pensioners

501 1831-54

503 1854-60

## U. Fenians.

184 1865-70

185 1866

## V. Miscellaneous.

37 1864-70

1203½ 1863

Rifle Brigade

1038 1866-70

## II War Office Records, transcripts and microfilms of documents preserved in the Public Record Office, London.

Manuscript Group 12, Series B.

War Office 1: SECRETARY AT WAR IN LETTERS, 1755-1855.

Vols. 96

537

538

552

564

565

567

War Office 33: REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS

Vols. II, pp. 1901-1922

War Office 44: ORDNANCE OFFICE IN LETTERS, 1812-1855

Vols. 18

40

49

War Office 55: ORDNANCE MISCELLANEA, 1740-1863,  
subsection: Engineers' Papers.

Vols. 860

874

875 1840

876 1841

877 1842-43

878 1843-44

879 1845

880 1846

881 1847

882 1848

883 1849

884 1850

885 1851

886 1852-53

887 1854-56

III Manuscript Group 11, Public Record Office:  
Colonial Office Papers, "Q" Series.

121

122

126

127



128-2

133

244

245

246-1

246-2

247

249-2

249-3

250

252-1

254-2

315

318-1

318-2

IV Record Group 7, Governor General's Office, "G" Series.

Vols. 1

2

3

29

V Department of Militia and Defence, Adjutant General's Office.

RG9, II, B1, Vols. 492, 493

RG9, II, B2, Vol. 17

Engineers Branch.

RG9, II, E1, Vol. 115

- VI Estimates of the Department of Public Works.  
RG11, A, 11, 1867-1910
- VII Records of the British Army in RG8, Series 2:  
Ordnance.
- A. Vol. 53: "9 returns" for 1841
- B. Vol. 73: "9 returns" for 1851
- C. Vol. 7: Memoire on defence, 1856
- D. Vol. 18: Report on Canada, 1862
- E. Vol. 34: Report on Barracks, 1864
- F. Vol. 20: Report on Defence, 1864
- G. Vol. 32: Report on Defence, 1865
- H. Vol. 29: Report on Defence, 1867
- VIII Records of the Canadian Militia.
- RG9, B2, Vol. 24, Returns of the Militia arranged  
by station, 1838-1842
- State Papers, the "Q" Series.
- The Calendar for the "Q" Series, 1837-1840,  
Upper Canada, Archives Reports for 1941 and 1942.
- IX Newspapers.
- A. The Brockville Statesman, original, 1838-1840.
- B. The Cornwall Observer, original, 1838-1840.
- C. The Kingston Chronicle and Gazette, microfilm,  
1838-1840.
- D. The Kingston (later Toronto) Patriot, microfilm,  
1838 and 1840.
- E. The Dominion Illustrated, 26 September, 1891.
- F. Canadian Illustrated News, May 4, 1878.

- X The Print Collection of the Public Archives of Canada.
- XI The Map Collection of the Public Archives of Canada.
- XII Bibliography of Secondary Sources Examined.
- Cannon, R. Historical Record of the Fifteenth Foot,  
London: 1848
- Cannon, R. Historical Record of the Sixteenth Foot,  
London: 1848
- Cunliffe, Marcus The Royal Irish Fusiliers, London,  
New York, and Toronto: 1952
- Field, Col. Cyrus Britain's Sea-Soldiers, Liverpool:  
1924
- Jameson, Capt. R. Historical Record of the  
Seventy-Ninth Regiment of Foot,  
Edinburgh and London: 1843
- Stanley, G.F.G. Canada's Soldiers, Toronto: 1960
- Stacey, C.F. The Military Problems of Canada,  
Toronto: 1940
- Stacey, C.P. Canada and the British Army 1846-71,  
London: 1936
- Leask, J.C. and McCance, H.M. The Regimental  
Records of the Royal  
Scots, Dublin: 1915
- Stewart, C.H. British Regiments in Canada and  
North America, Ottawa: 1962

XIII Errata:

The following should have been included in the list of "C" Series volumes.

- 1611 Letters Received by the Royal Engineers,  
Canadian West, 1861-1863.
- 1610 Letters Received by the Royal Engineers,  
Canadian West, 1859-1861.

## APPENDIX 1

## MAPS AND PLANS OF FORT WELLINGTON

## Section I

Rejected Proposals for a Fort at Prescott

1. Plan of the first floor and ground floor, Fort Wellington, undated proposal.
2. Section of Fort Wellington, undated proposal copied in 1826.
3. Plan Elevation and Section of a log guardhouse to be erected at Fort Wellington, 28 November, 1839, #961-13.
4. Series of drawings showing proposals for enlarging Fort Wellington, 1846, War Office 55/880, pp. 347-351.

## Section II

The First Fort Wellington

1. Fort Wellington. Board of Ordnance mark, undated, and F.
2. Ground plan and Sections of the Interior of the Blockhouse within the fort at Prescott, plate I, September 24, 1823.

## Section III

Detailed Plans of the Present Fort or Buildings Therein

1. Plan and Section of a Blockhouse, Fort Wellington, Prescott, Upper Canada, #961-9.
2. Plan, Fort Wellington, Prescott, proposed changes, 1 August, 1868, #961-10.
3. Plan and Section of a Blockhouse, Prescott, C.W.,

#961-12.

4. Prescott, C.W., Plan and Elevation of Existing Guardhouse showing the proposed two new cells and corridor. Existing Guardhouse copied from Plan, No. 2 Case, Canada West, District Office, signed by H. Wright, "C.W. 13 December, 1839" and proposed new cells drawn by Thomas Roe, Clerk of Works.
5. Prescott, C.W., Plan of Mortar Platform and Shot Garlands to Accompany OAE 1849.50.
6. Prescott, C.W., Sketch showing the Relative positions of Mortar Platforms, Shot Garlands, and curbs to Gun Carriages at Fort Wellington to accompany OAE 1849-50.
7. Prescott, Canada, Fort Wellington, May, #5 (outline with contour changes in ordnance marked in yellow), 1868.
8. Fort Wellington, Prescott, proposed changes, 1 August, 1868, #961-10.
9. Repairs to Fort Wellington, Prescott, Submitted with Tender of Donald Grant, September, 1878.
10. Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario, Gallery of Blockhouse as at Present and as Proposed.
11. Section of Top of Window, full size, #961-7
12. Fort Wellington, Gallery of Blockhouse, details, full size, #961-6.
13. Fort Wellington, Plan showing Second Floor, Blockhouse, Fittings required for Central Armoury, 56th Regiment, Prescott, Ontario, 12 March, 1901, #961-3.
14. Small plan on linen, second floor, undated.
15. Small plan on linen, first floor, undated.
16. Fort Wellington, Prescott, Caretaker's Quarters, 24 April, 1914.
17. Fort Wellington, Prescott, Married Quarters, #1, RCE 1929.
18. Fort Wellington, Prescott, Officers' Quarters, #961-14, 1929, probably reduced.

19. Caretaker's Quarters, Fort Wellington National Historic Park, Prescott, Floor Plan, April, 1942.
20. Porch Addition for Caretaker's Quarters, Fort Wellington National Historic Park, July 19, 1945, (blue-print and tracing).
21. Caretaker's Quarters, Fort Wellington National Historic Park, Prescott, April, 1946.
22. Blockhouse, Fort Wellington, Prescott, showing position of Engineer fixtures, undated.
23. Blockhouse, Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ground Floor, National Park Service, undated.

#### Section IV

##### Maps Showing the Fort and Surrounding Area

1. Sketch of Prescott and Environs, Reference and Remarks by J. Jebb, Lt. Royal Engineers, 29 January, 1816 (names of outbuildings are given).
2. Township of Augusta showing every building, no date but probably before 1820.
3. Part of a map of Ordnance property purchased from E. Jessup in 1822, #960-5.
4. Plan of the Ordnance Premises at Prescott in the Kingston District, V.G., showing the situation of the House lately burnt, 30 June, 1831, War Office 44, Vol. 49, p. 468, A (mf).
5. Battle of Prescott, November 13, 1838.
6. Plan of the Ordnance Premises at Prescott corrected from plan signed "D. Bottom", Lt. R. Engineers, undated. Corrections marked in yellow, 13 July, 1839, #960-6, F (o), (pst), reduced.
7. Prescott, Canada West, Plan of military reserve, 1 August, 1850, #961-1.
8. Plan of Ordnance property at Prescott purchased by the Crown in 1822 from E. Jessup Esquire, 25 February, 1842. Attached typed on linen: "Account

of survey by T. Fraser Gibbs, Kingston, 26 April, 1854".

9. Prescott, Canada, Plan showing the boundaries as marked on the ground of the land belonging to the Ordnance near the town of Prescott, Township of Augusta, County of Grenville. Surveyed by Mr. T.F. Gibbs, Provincial Land Surveyor, in the month of May, 1854.
10. Plan of Ordnance property, town of Prescott, as surveyed under instructions from Crown Lands Department, dated 11 May, 1859.
11. Town of Prescott, Plan of Ordnance property, surveyed under instructions from Crown Lands Department, 11 May, 1859. Certified copy, 27 January, 1881.
12. Plan of C.P.R. Eastern Division, Prescott, Proposed yard showing approximate position of Fort Wellington and drain connections, 25 April, 1908, #960-4.
13. Plan showing Ordnance lands under control of Department of Interior in Town of Prescott, Ontario, 1922.
14. Plan of Entrance road from #2 Highway to Fort Wellington, Prescott, Department of Mines and Resources, July, 1939.
15. Motor entrance, Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario, plan elevation and detail, June, 1939.
16. Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Fort Wellington National Historic Park Entrance, Road and Parking Area, March 19, 1956.
17. Fort Wellington National Historic Park, Proposed Memorial Planting.
18. Proposed site development for Fort Wellington National Historic Park, Prescott, September 19, 1961.

## APPENDIX II

FORT WELLINGTON GUARD-HOUSE

Two plans are particularly relevant. One is Mr. Wright's sketch of the guardhouse proposed for Fort Wellington. It was drawn on the 28th of November, 1839. It is similar to the existing building but smaller and with only one window. Its construction is of square logs of similar construction to the Officers' Quarters as we might well expect.

The second plan, which shows proposed additions to the guardhouse: then extent was drawn in 1850. These additions, it will be noted, were postponed; and indeed since there is no reference to them in the estimates, were never undertaken. The plan bears the explanation, "Existing guardhouse copied from Plan 2 Case, Canada West, district office - signed by H. Wright C.W. 13 Dec. 39." The "existing guardhouse" in this plan is the same as the guardhouse which exists today. The dimensions of the building in the plan are 16' x 24'; the dimensions of the building extent today are 16' x about 25'. It is evident that the guardhouse location between 28th November, 1839 and 13 Dec. 1839. It is just possible that an old house (the Jessup House or some other) was moved to this location since it was winter and the weather discouraged carpentry. This would account for the slight difference in size, although no such accounting is necessary. It is more likely that the building was constructed on the site, the method of construction being identical with that of the Officers' Quarters.

Photographs of the present building are appended. It is abundantly evident that this building existing today is the original building built in 1839 between the two dates mentioned above from the following evidence:

- (1) Same size as Plan 2.
- (2) Same design as Plan 2.
- (3) Same construction as Officers' Quarters.
- (4) Obvious antiquity of present structure.
- (5) Absence of reference in Estimates to building of guardhouse at any other time.

Thus there is no doubt about the historic character of the present structure and steps should be taken to preserve it. Consequently a guardroom is not needed in the blockhouse.



"Fort Wellington & Mill near Prescott  
defended by Sympathizers in 1838".

Water-colour by P.J. Bainbrigge

Courtesy Public Archives of Canada  
(P.J. Bainbrigge I-80)



REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT FORT WELLINGTON  
PRESCOTT, ONTARIO

KARALEE COLEMAN

JANUARY 21, 1966

INTRODUCTION

From December 10 to December 17, 1965, I excavated the powder magazine and recorded external excavations which had previously been dug without records (but for several not-to-precise-scale drawings) at Fort Wellington, in Prescott, Ontario. The powder magazine was excavated because the existing floor was reported to be in need of repair; a new floor had to be installed before the summer of 1966, and its installation would make such research at a later date unnecessarily expensive. It was suspected, also, that a brick floor existed below the fill under the wooden floor, and this suspicion required investigation.

Some uncertainty is apparent in the numbering of the excavation. Doubt has arisen about the site number; Fort Wellington may in previous excavations have been designated site 3H, but to coincide with my field notes and drawings I shall refer to it as site 2H until the reports of previous excavators have been submitted.

Furthermore, I do not know how many operations were performed by previous excavators. Subject to change, then, I have arbitrarily assigned the following operation numbers:

2H5 - excavations carried out by the site superintendent around the outside of the existing blockhouse, exposing its foundations;

2H6 - excavations in the powder magazine, the north-west corner room on the ground floor of the blockhouse.

OPERATION 2H6

The powder magazine was excavated in five sub-operations:

2H6A - This comprises the floor of the magazine and the space between

It and the top of the fill beneath it. See notes 65-17-3,

4-13; photographs 1 to 8.

2H6B - is the north-west quadrant of the magazine, an area measuring

10' north-south by 7' east-west. See notes 65-17-14 to 15,

34-35; photographs 9, 10, 12, 13.

2H6C - is the north-east quadrant, similarly an area measuring 10'

north-south by 7' east-west. See notes 65-17-36, 39-40.

2H6D - is the south-west quadrant, again an area 10' north-south by

7' east-west. See notes 65-17-19 to 20, 29-31, 33-34.

2H6E - is the final 10' by 7' quadrant, in the south-east corner of

the magazine. See notes 65-17-14 to 15, 19, 31-32, 33, 35,

36, 41-42; photographs 11, 16.

See also general notes 65-17-2, 3-4, 13-14, 16-18, 25-28, 32-33,

37-39, 42-43.

#### THE PRESENT FLOOR

The existing floor of the magazine was made of wood, heavily oiled on top, but otherwise apparently untreated. Despite its reasonably sound appearance, the wood was in very bad condition. The floor-boards were dry-rotted, and most of the beams beneath were moldy shells which would break easily. The bottoms of these beams were

so crumbly that one could remove large chunks of wood with one's hand.

The surface of the floor, which covered all of the 20' by 14' room and continued out through the door at the north end of the east wall, was formed of 23 board widths (48 individual boards) running north-south. These boards varied between 0.5' and 0.7' in width, and between 3.4' and 12.6' in length. All were about 0.16' thick.

The floor-boards had tongue-in-groove joints, with the tongue pointing east. These joints were rectangular, about 0.05' wide and 0.06' thick. The first board, on the west edge, had a tongue on one side, but was cut at an angle on the side next to the wall, so that it could be snapped into place. Similarly, the twenty-third board, on the west edge, had a groove on one side but was again cut at an angle on the side nearest the wall. Where the floor continued through the door, this board was cut at a right angle, but still lacked a tongue to join it to the boards of the hallway.

Each board was joined to the sleeper beams beneath with two nails (3" long square spikes, with square heads) to each sleeper. On the 21 boards not touching the east and west walls, these nails were driven at an angle through the tongue and the lower edge of the board into the sleeper. The first and twenty-third boards were nailed from the top straight through to the sleepers. On these, each pair of nails was aligned along the sleeper, rather than across it as were those

on boards not touching the walls.

There were fourteen sleepers supporting the floor boards, placed at fairly regular intervals and running east-west. All but two were slightly less than 14' long; the other two continued through the doorway to support the floor of the hall. Each was approximately 0.5' wide and 0.5' thick, but for the most northerly one, which was only 0.3' thick.

Continuing down, each sleeper beam was in turn supported at three points--both ends and the middle--by irregular rubble-type stones and occasionally bricks or pieces of brick<sup>1</sup>. Other than their being located in lines roughly seven feet apart, these supports were amazingly haphazard in appearance, contrasting sharply with the regularity of the floorboards and sleepers.

I have seen this type of feature before, but never in relation to an existing floor, so never before have I been able correctly to interpret it.

Occasionally, in a long, narrow building, one will find fairly solid wall foundations for the outside walls, then a haphazard, loose, but precisely centered longitudinal line of stones. This is almost

---

1. It is interesting to note that those areas of the beams supported by brick were more badly rotted than those supported by stone.

invariably interpreted as evidence of a central wall, although one is always curious why this wall should, unlike all others, be so very decrepit. I think that in all cases where this problem arises, the Interpreter should consider the distance between the outside walls and this longitudinal feature. I feel safe in predicting that the distance will always be short enough that a wooden beam could span it safely--the feature is in fact not a wall, but a floor support. Thus the feature not only yields evidence of a wooden floor originally raised above ground surface, but also gives an approximation of the elevation of the bottom of the floor beams.

In the floor being considered, these supports were not mortared together, nor were they attached to the mortar layer which covered the entire area of the magazine and on which they rested.

Above this mortar layer, surrounding the supports and much of the beams, was a loosely packed layer of charcoal lumps, approximately 0.6' thick. Apparently it was fairly common practice to add this charcoal beneath a powder magazine, to absorb moisture seeping up from the ground and thus to protect the powder.<sup>2</sup>

---

2. N.B. Castle Hill excavation. This charcoal layer was found under the magazine, and at the time was interpreted as a "post-military occupation level"--presumably the remains of fires built by itinerant shepherds who used the magazine for shelter. It should be noted that, on the evidence above, this is probably incorrect. The



Throughout most of the area of the magazine, the mortar beneath the charcoal was an average 0.15' thick. However it became thicker (and harder) near the walls, at times as much as 0.4' thick.

#### THE PREVIOUS FLOOR

There is evidence that this floor--the floorboards, beams, supports, charcoal, and quite possibly the mortar layer--is not the original floor built in the magazine, but a later reconstruction. The original floor was probably lower.

First, there was some charcoal in the mortar, and even some few pieces in the earth fill beneath it. This might indicate an earlier charcoal stratum which was almost completely removed before the new floor was constructed. Furthermore, where the walls of the magazine are undercut (i.e. where the mortar beneath the bottom row of bricks has fallen out) charcoal was found tightly packed throughout the recesses. As there was no pressure on the charcoal to force it into these holes as they were formed, I assume that the holes appeared before the floor was replaced, and rather than going to the effort of repairing the walls, the builders simply crammed charcoal in to protect against this added source of moisture.

---

charcoal was a legitimate part of the magazine, and was undoubtedly beneath the floor of the structure.

Also, some wood was found in and beneath the mortar, not related to the present beams. This may be the remains of earlier beams torn out, leaving chips behind.

Finally, along all four walls and dividing the room longitudinally beneath the mortar were solidly built flat stone sills, approximately 1.6' wide around the walls and 2' wide in the center. These sills are deep--those along the walls undoubtedly extend unchanged to the bottom of the foundation, while the central sill extends to a depth of one foot. As it would not be logical to build these strong, regular supports, then mortar over them and add a casual row of left-over stones to support the floor, I find it reasonable to assume that originally the floor beams rested directly on these sills, possibly with a shallow space below them filled with charcoal. Or, the mortar may have been poured over them, with the beams resting on it and depending on the sills for prime support; however, this is doubtful.

#### UNRELATED STRUCTURES

Among these sills were found earlier stone structures, unrelated to the existing magazine. They are probably the remains of the larger original blockhouse which stood on this location.

One wall was found in the south portion of the magazine--from the west wall almost to the east wall of the present magazine. This wall was 1.85' wide, 1.1' deep, and terminated 3.3' west of the east wall, where it was roughly squared off. It was built mainly of ir-

regular flat stones, and at the east end seemed to be hollow, or at least loosely filled and poorly mortared inside. Where it intersected the west sill, it was neatly cut off rather than joined. The space between the old and the new walls was very narrow. I suspect that previously the wall extended to and beyond the location of the present east sill as well, but more has been cut off. Soil stains support this possibility (see section on diagrams.)

At the central sill, however, the wall was not cut off. Presumably the central sill was not designed to support as heavy a load as the other sills (i.e. it supported the floor rather than the building walls) so it was not necessary to make it either as deep or as strong as the others. Therefore this sill was built around and over any firm structures remaining from previous buildings. The stones of the sill were mortared to this wall, but the wall itself remained intact.

Besides the wall, four other structures were found to remain [from the previous blockhouse]. These structures, large, rectangular platforms, were located one to a quadrant.

In 2H68, the structure measures 3.5' east-west and 2.5' north-south. Like the south wall, it has been integrated into the central sill, however I do not know whether it continues through the sill. The north and south faces are regular, while the west face, 2.5' east of the west wall, is not. The platform is made of large, roughly squared stones. It may have continued west, and been cut off when

the west wall of the existing building was constructed.

East of this, in 2H6C, is a similar structure, measuring 3' east-west and 2.5' north-south, also integrated into the central sill and almost aligned with that structure in 2H6B. It too has smooth north and south faces and an irregular east face (3' west of the east wall). The two may be combined, and may be the remains of a building wall, or they may be separate platforms as are those described below.

3.5' south of the 2H6B structure, in 2H6D, is a stone platform approximately 3' square. It is made of large square stones and all its faces are roughly regular--it has not been cut away. It is 2' east of the west wall. On its north side, continuing its west face, is a projecting stone plate 1.3' north-south and 2' east-west (extension I.) Rubble consisting of large stones lies between this and the 2H6B structure. On its east side, again even with its north face, is a similar plate integrated into the central sill, measuring possibly 1.5' east-west (the presence of the sill prevents anything but conjecture) and an average 1.7' north-south (extension II.)

East of this and approximately aligned with it, in 2H6E, is another structure, similar in construction to the other three. It is 3.1' west of the east wall of the magazine, and measures 3' north-south and approximately 1.65' east-west. All its faces are roughly squared, although there is some rubble around its north-east corner. It extends to and probably beyond the bottom of the excavation, 2.3'

B.S. (of mortar): possibly it and the other three structures are as deeply founded as the walls of the existing blockhouse.

I have never before seen similar structures, and as I have not had access to plans of the original blockhouse, interpretation of the four "platforms" and the south wall is difficult. Presumably the south feature is a room foundation of some sort. It is not deep enough to have been a main building wall, and is not even as deep as the other remaining structures. Furthermore, its top surface is reasonably flat: there was no further stone construction above the existing top limit. Either it supported a floor, as does the central sill, or it was a foundation for an interior wooden wall.

Similarly, the four stone platforms have level top surfaces. As they do not seem to be parts of walls (especially those in 2H6D and 2H6E) I propose that they are foundations for upright wooden beams which would have been necessary throughout the original blockhouse to support the heavy roof which, I am told, consisted of three feet of log construction and an additional five feet of earth fill above that.

#### ARTIFACTS

Throughout the excavations in the powder magazine, artifacts were few and far between. Those found were predominately bones and nails, with a few percussion caps, a few pieces of glass, and one plastic button. Several pieces of pottery were found, all from the same vessel I believe. The latter were all located in 2H6D and 2H6E,

south of the unrelated south wall, which leads me to believe that this feature is more probably a wall foundation than a floor support.

DRAWINGS, 2H6

65-17-01 - this plan shows the top of the floor before excavation. Board widths are numbered to correspond with the references in this report. Areas of particularly bad rot have been indicated, and the north board # 23 has been removed to reveal the sleepers beneath.

65-17-02 - is a plan of the sleepers when the floor surface was removed and the charcoal had not yet been excavated. Beams that had broken before being moved are marked; note that most breakage occurs in the north and south end beams, and just south of center.

65-17-022 - is a reconstructed cross-section through the floor to beneath the overlap of the sill. It demonstrates the angle cut on the first and twenty-third boards, the variation in placing nails, the sleeper supports in relation to the sills of the previous floor, and the under-cutting of the brick walls.

65-17-04, 08, 09, 03 - are plans of 2H6B, 2H6C, 2H6D and 2H6E respectively, after the removal of the charcoal. Areas of wall under-cutting are indicated, although the depth of these holes is not shown. The haphazard placing and nature of the stones and bricks supporting the sleepers may be seen; especially in 2H6B (04) which

was excavated without first removing the beams.

65-17-D5, D6 - together form a longitudinal cross-section of the above mortar surface of the powder magazine. D5 is the west pit wall of 2H6E; the beams were removed before excavation, so ideal beams and floor have been indicated according to their location on D2. D6 is the west pit wall of 2H6C, although technically it is a reversed view of the east pit wall of 2H6B, which was excavated with beams in position. Ideal floorboards have been indicated to complete the above surface representation.

65-17-D10, D11, D12, D13 - are plans of 2H6B, 2H6C, 2H6D and 2H6E respectively after all excavation was completed. The bottoms of the various areas are at different elevations, which is why the soil types vary (on the whole, stratigraphy was reasonably uniform); the profiles and cross-sections must be consulted for further edification.

D10 shows the north, west and central sills, the balk which was left for a soil cross-section, and the north-west platform or wall. I believe northernmost soil stains to be simply an accident of fill. Note that the central sill stops short of the north sill, and that the north sill is unusually narrow. Traces of wood were found in the interval between the two, as if a beam had once replaced the stone wall which should be there. The presence and disintegration in part of such a beam might explain the black soil stain.

The area of gray clay is a foundation trench for the west sill. Beneath this clay is rubble fill similar to that seen in the south center of the plan, which happened to be at a higher elevation. Some explanation of the nature of the fill is needed: I postulate that the foundations for the original blockhouse were built in a completely excavated area (since walls and supports were thickly distributed) and that filling with rocks and earth was performed during or after construction. When the present blockhouse was built, foundation trenches were used rather than complete excavation as not nearly as much masonry was required. These trenches were filled with clay, and an additional layer of fill was added over all before the final mortar layer was poured. (This final operation was not necessarily carried out immediately after the rest of the fill--see p. 7.) Thus the foundation trench appears in section beneath earth fill. In D10, the trench appears to stop abruptly: probably it continues north at a greater depth, assuming that while the top layer of fill is level, the surface during reconstruction (i.e. beneath this top layer) was not necessarily so.

D11 shows the north, east, and central sills, the rest of the balk, and the north-east platform or wall. No soil stains are yet evident at this depth. Note that the north sill abruptly increases in width: wood splinters were found to extend as far as this step-out--further remains of the possible beam between the north and central sills.

D12 shows the west, central, and south sills, as well as the south-



west structure and part of the south wall. I have indicated the continuation of the south wall through the central sill. Irregularities in the south face of this wall are areas of disintegration, which especially occurs at the west end where the wall has been cut off. As all these structures are covered with very firm mortar, it is difficult to tell where one stops and the other starts, so boundaries are indicated approximately by dotted lines.

This plan of the south-west platform shows the main portion of it, and its north and east projecting plates. The north plate, extension I, is continued in D10, and the east extremity of the east plate (extension II) is indicated, although the presence of the sill and the mortar over it makes this indication no more than a guess. The division between the north plate and the main platform could not be seen from above because of the mortar, so is marked by a dotted line. This line however is not a guess, as the limits of the plate could be seen in profile.

D13 is the final post-excavation plan. It shows the east, south, and central sills, the south-east platform, and the remainder of the south wall.

The excavation limit continuing east along the south face of the south wall marks the limit of the deeper pit which revealed the depths of central sill and south wall, and which followed the east sill and south-east platform as far as was practicable. The area marked "gray clay" is the foundation trench for the east sill.

65-17-D14 - is a cross-section and profile of the south face of the lateral balk dividing the two south sub-operations from the north ones. The three sills are shown in profile, as is the north plate projecting from the south-west platform.

The main area of interest is the stratigraphy on the east and west /extremes of the drawing. The gray clay strata, on east and west sills, are two foundation trenches. Observe some difference between them, for that on the west side extends right up to the mortar layer while on the east side earth fill has been added above it--evidence to support my discussion (on p. 13) stating that the surface of this area was most irregular when the present blockhouse was built.

Stratum I, containing much wood and plaster, is confusing. Wood and plaster (samples of which have been submitted) were found beneath the mortar throughout, but widely scattered. In this area alone they exist as a definite stratum 0.15' thick, tapering off as it approaches the east sill. It may be left from the previous floor, or may remain from collapsed walls--the latter seems to be a reasonable explanation for the irregularity of its distribution.

65-17-D15 - This is an east-west profile from the west sill, over the south-west platform, in section along the south face of extension II of this platform, over the central sill and the south-east platform to the east sill. Besides profiles of the features, it shows the depths of excavation and the below surface extent of the central sill.

Note that the east sill alone has a projecting lip.

65-17-D16 - Is a north-south profile through the middle of 2H68 and 2H60. It shows the depths of excavation, and profiles of the various structures.

65-17-D17 - the last drawing of this set, It is another north-south profile, this time through 2H6C and 2H6E. It reveals the depth of the south wall, and the unusual construction of the south-east platform--large squarish stones, stepped out on the south side and possibly stepped in on the north side.

OPERATION 2H5

This operation consists of an almost continuous trench around the outside of the 50' square blockhouse. The excavation was completed about a month before I arrived, so my records are at best sketchy. However in most cases the excavation is so shallow that the lack of records simultaneous to digging is not particularly frustrating. Little information was available, so almost none was lost.

Artifacts from the excavation had been separated by horizontal location into eight lots. To the areas from which the lots had been acquired I arbitrarily assigned sub-operation numbers as follows:

2H5A - north side of blockhouse, excluding 2H5G and 2H5H. See notes 65-17-21 to 22.

2H5B - area around the drain spout on north side. See notes 65-17-22.

2H5C - east side of blockhouse, excluding 2H5D. See notes 65-17-22.

2H5D - south-east corner of blockhouse. See notes 65-17-23.

2H5E - south side of blockhouse, excluding 2H5D and the area in front of the main door into the blockhouse, which has not been disturbed. See notes 65-17-23.

2H5F - west side of blockhouse, excluding 2H5G and 2H5H. See notes 65-17-23.

2H5G - area around the drain spout on the west side. See notes 65-17-24.

2H5H - north-west corner of blockhouse. See notes 65-17-24.

See also general notes 65-17-1 to 2, 20-21, 43. The length of these

sub-operations is unspecified.

The semi-stylized soil profile in drawing 65-17-D7 illustrates what is apparently standard stratigraphy throughout the area of excavation. Approximately 0.4' of sod and topsoil is succeeded by a rubble layer averaging 0.8' thick. In all but two sub-operations (2H5G and 2H5H) excavation was carried only to the top of the rubble layer--i.e. only the topsoil was removed. This stratum was replete with artifacts (notably nails and clay pipe fragments) which were duly collected. No varying features were observed at this depth, so any further areas of archaeological interest may be assumed to exist undisturbed below the present excavation limits. In most cases, little requires recording but the dimensions of the trenches, which are neat and uniform.

Around the blockhouse, a sill projects 5" out from the wall at sod level. Above this, a new sill has been built this winter, level with the original one, increasing its height by 5 to 6 inches.

2H5A: A 3' wide strip of sod, 0.05' thick, has been removed along the wall. From the sill to 2' from the wall, topsoil has been removed to a depth of 0.5' B.S.

2H5C: A 3' wide strip of sod, 0.1' thick, has been removed as in 2H5A. From the sill to 1.8' from the wall, topsoil has been removed to a depth of 0.6' B.S.

2H5E: East of the doorway, topsoil and sod have been removed to a depth of 0.2' B.S. The excavation extends from the sill to 1.4' from the wall. West of the doorway, topsoil and sod have been removed to a depth of 0.5' B.S., from the sill to 2.5' from the wall.

2H5F: Again, a 3' wide strip of sod, 0.1' thick, has been removed along the wall. From the sill to 1.6' from the wall, topsoil and some rubble have been removed to a depth of 0.6' B.S.

At the four corners, in front of the doorway, and beneath the drain-spouts, are large flat stone "plates". That before the door formed a sort of entrance, and was not covered by sod. The corner ones may have been splash stones, as those beneath the drains definitely are; they are not firm enough to have been some type of structural support. They are either broken, or of flagstone construction.

2H5B: The plate here has not been fully exposed, and remains in situ. The excavation limits (widthwise) are the same as those of 2H5A. The plate itself lies immediately beneath the sod, 1' north of the sill, although it looks as if portions have been removed; it may originally have extended right up to the sill. It is approximately 4' long and 0.2' thick.

2H5D: This pit had been backfilled, and the only record of the plate found in it is in adapted drawing 5-17-D18. The plate measures roughly 3' by 3', and is quite irregular. It appears to have been

cracked in the south-east quadrant.

2H5G: is the only sub-operation carried to any significant depth. Immediately beneath the sod, i.e. 0.1' B.S., was what drawings imply to be flagstone-type splash stones, over an area 3' north-south and 1/2' east-west. I do not know how close to the sill these stones were. See drawing 65-17-D20.

Drawing 65-17-D7 gives a semi-stylized cross-section view of the strata in the pit, and a plan of the pit floor. At a depth of 1.8' B.S. is (presumably) fill of large stones and gray clay. At this depth the rubble extends outwards at least 5' from the wall, and is probably part of a wide foundation trench.

No attempt was made to separate lots of artifacts by strata in this pit, although some difference might have appeared between those strata above and below the first rubble layer. As well, artifacts were found above, below, and around the splash stones, and all were bagged together.

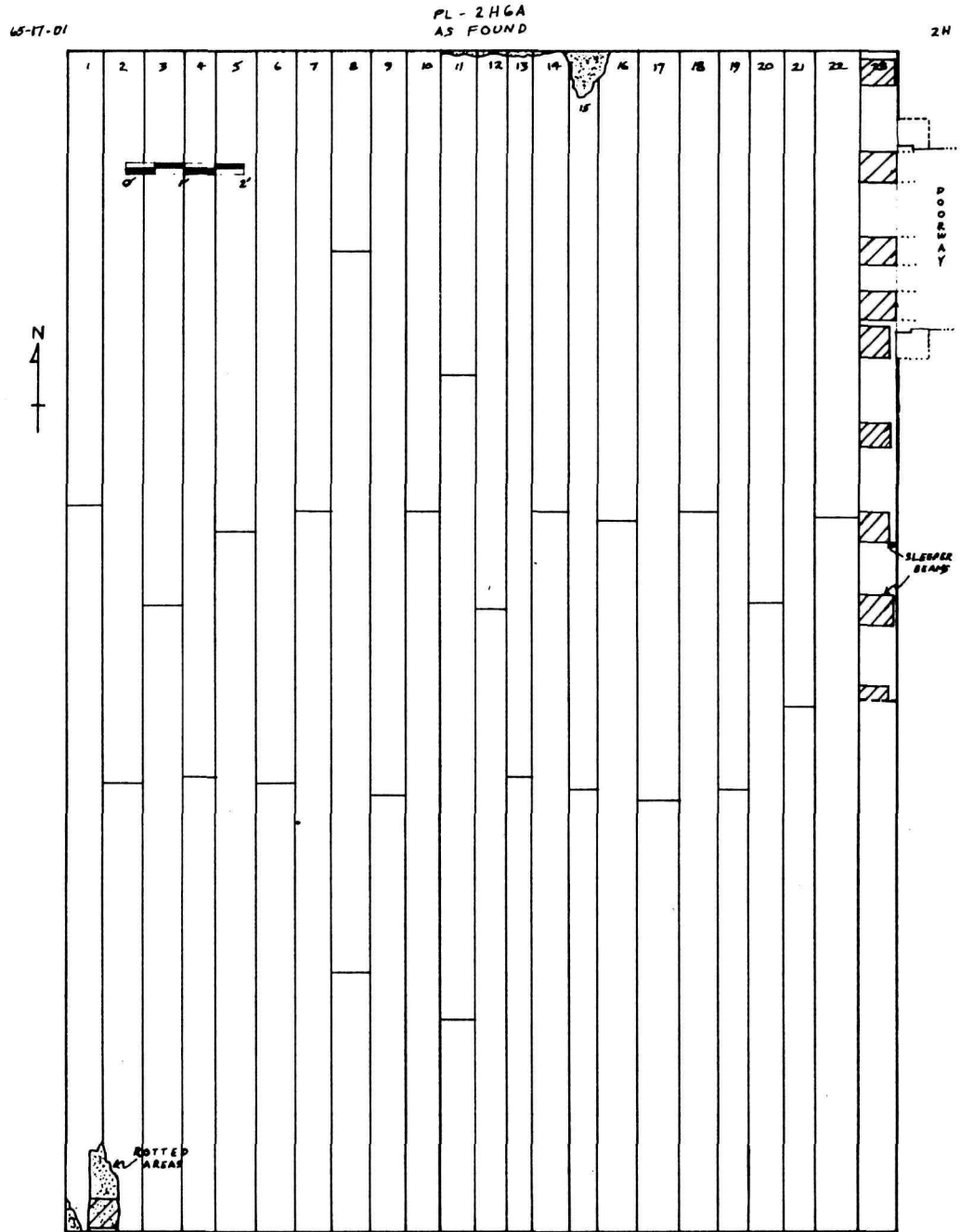
Drawing 65-17-D21 shows the foundations of the blockhouse as revealed by sub-operation 2H5G. (The wall continues below the pit floor.)

The wood found 2.5' B.S., in the large stone rubble layer, may be part of the fill, jammed in between the rocks of the irregular foundations. Below the sill, considerably less care has been taken in construction: the smooth above-sill face is not continued.

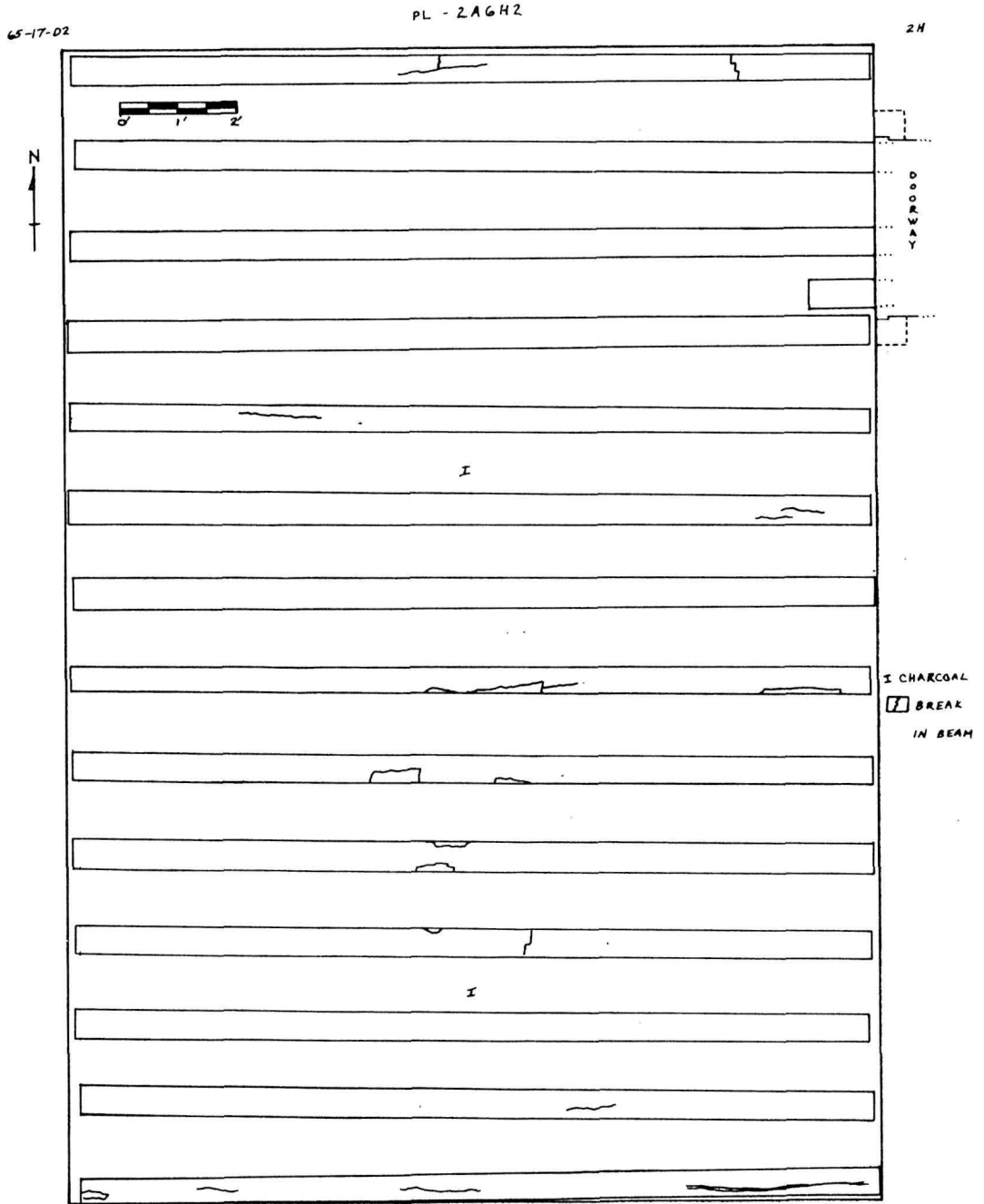
2H5H: Around the north-west corner of the blockhouse, a 3' wide pit has been dug to a depth of 1.2' B.S. Along the west side, another stone plate was found, this time apparently two layers deep. The plates are 3' long and 2.3' wide, formed of several flat stones each. Below them the rubble layer was removed. See drawing 65-17-D19.

No further excavation was carried out here.



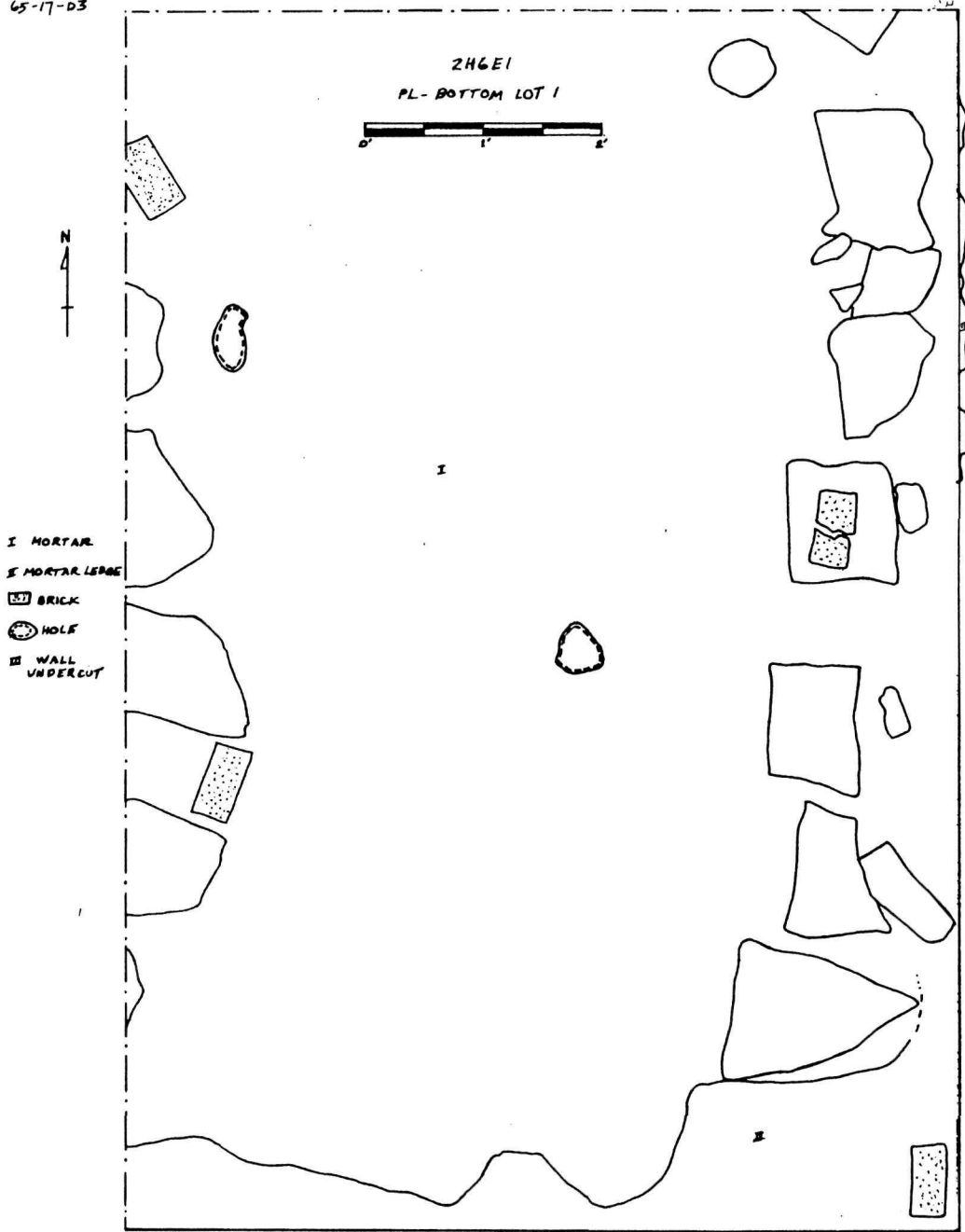


(2H-65-17-1)

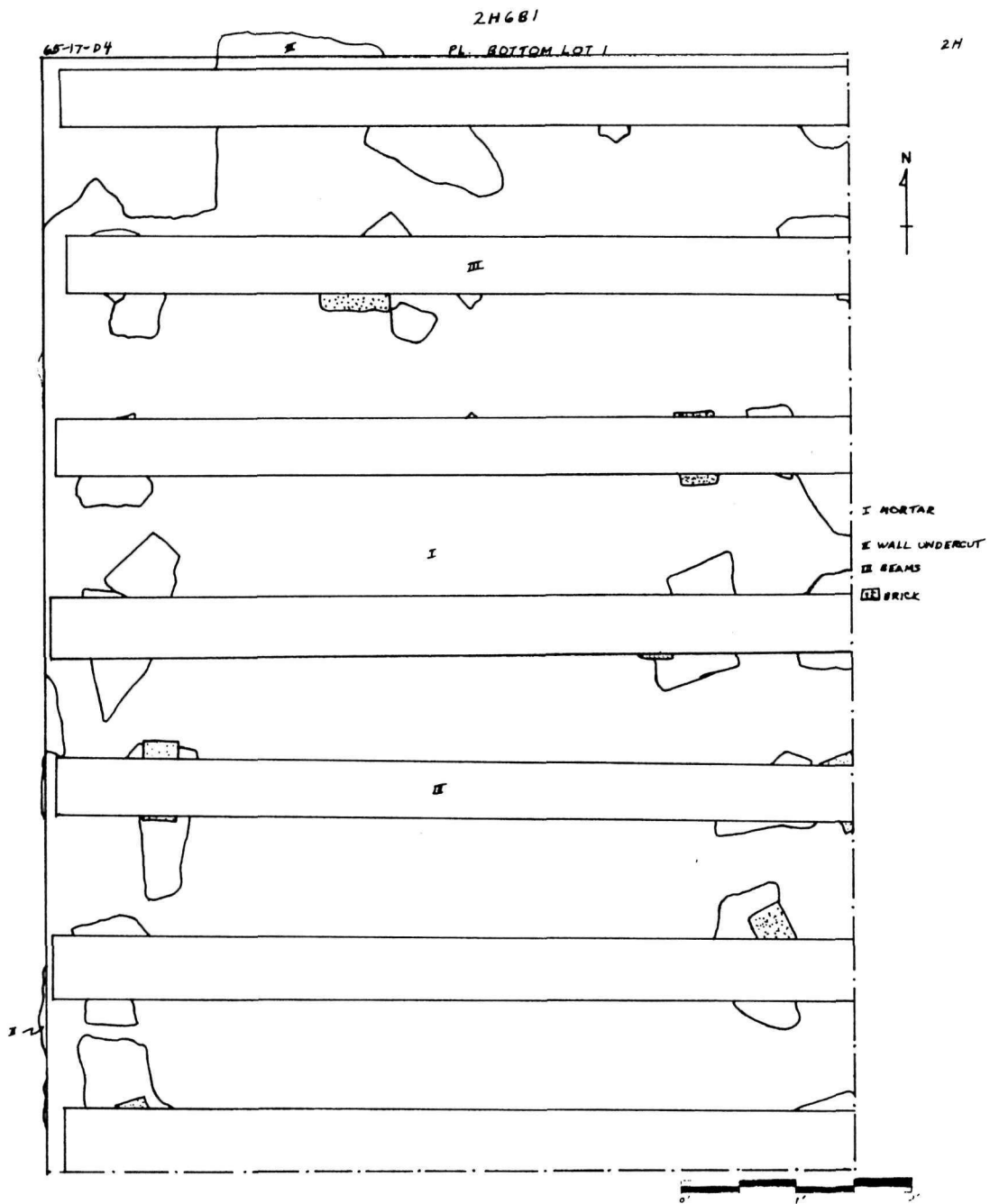


(2H-65-17-2)

65-17-D3



(2H-65-17-3)

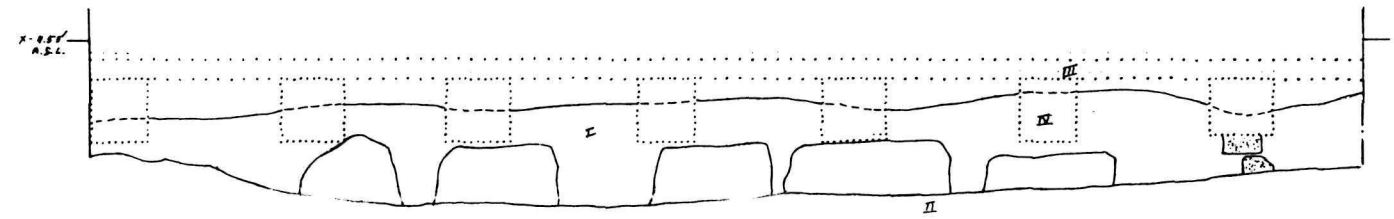
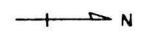
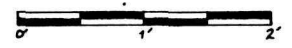


(2H-65-17-4)

65-17-05

2H6E  
XS - WEST PIT WALL

2H



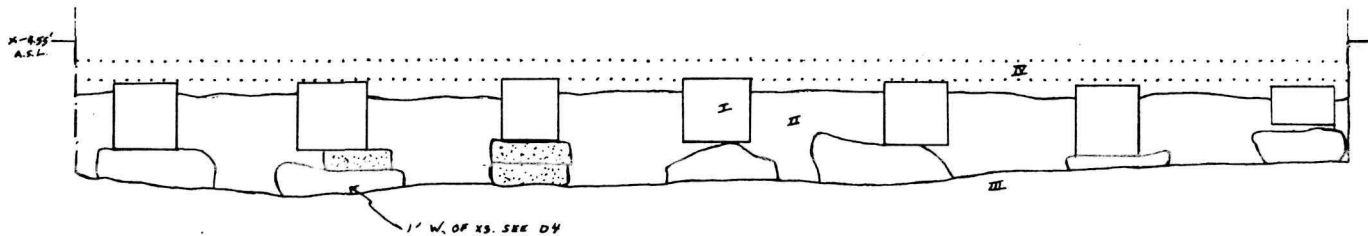
- I CHARCOAL
- II MORTAR
- III FLOOR BOARDS
- IV BEAMS
- V BRICK

(2H-65-17-5)

65-17-D6

2H6C  
XS WEST PIT WALL

24



- I BEAMS
- II CHARCOAL
- III MORTAR
- IV FLOOR BOARDS
- V BRICK

(2H-65-17-6)

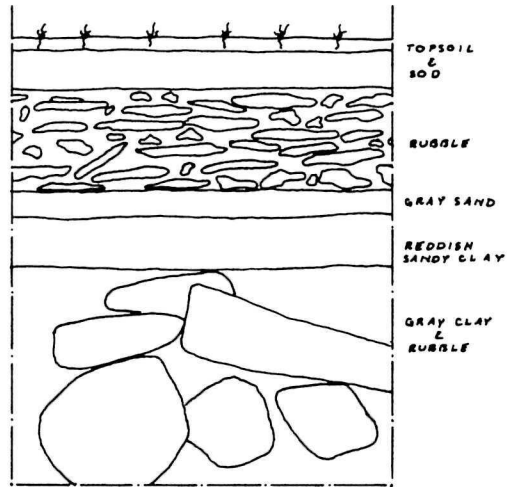
65-17-07 (Adapted)

2H

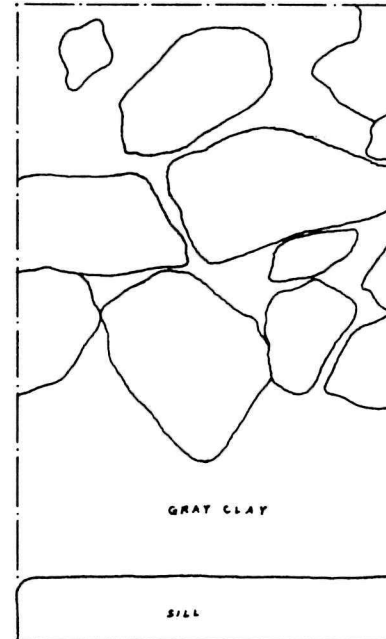
2H5G

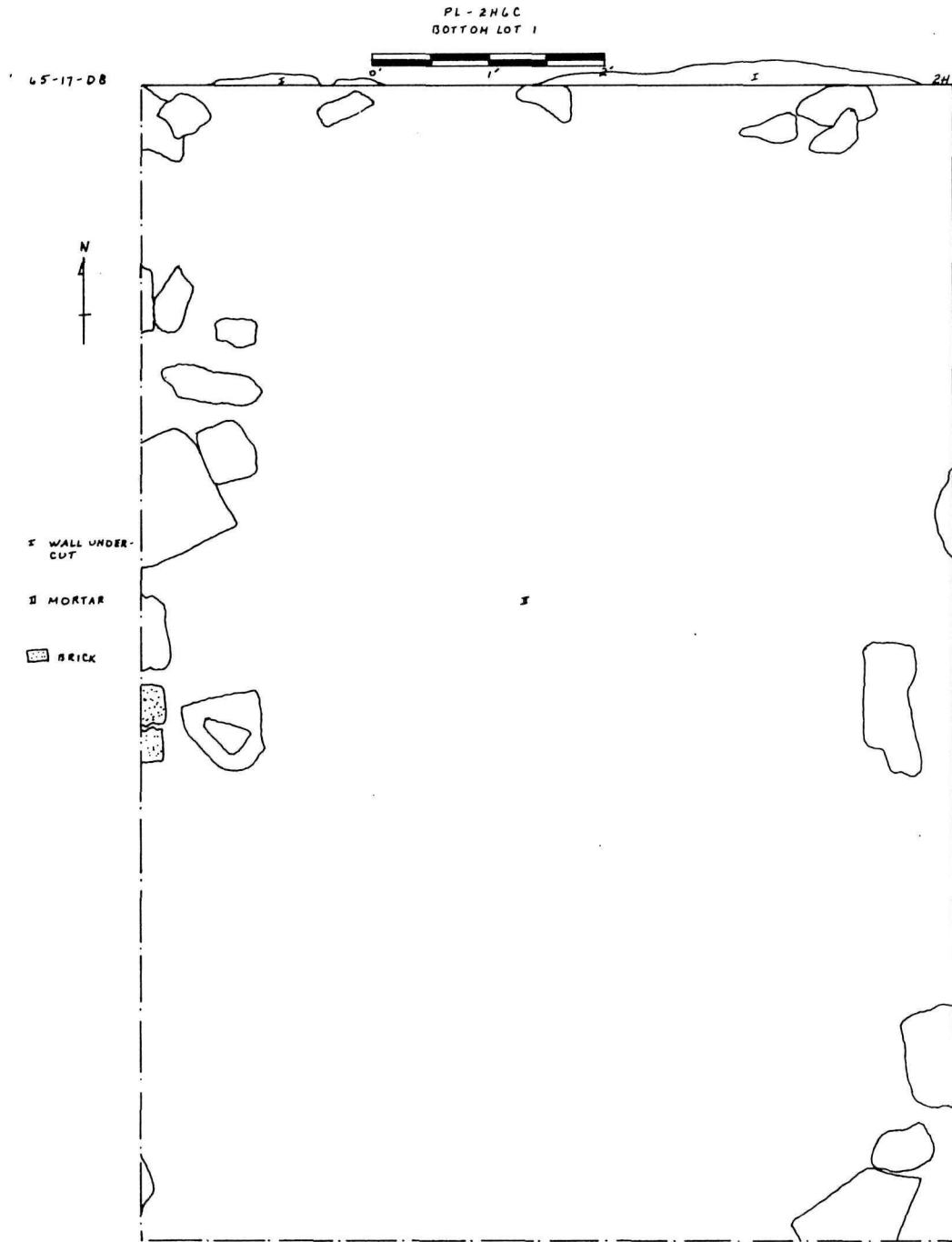


X5 - W. PIT WALL 2H5G



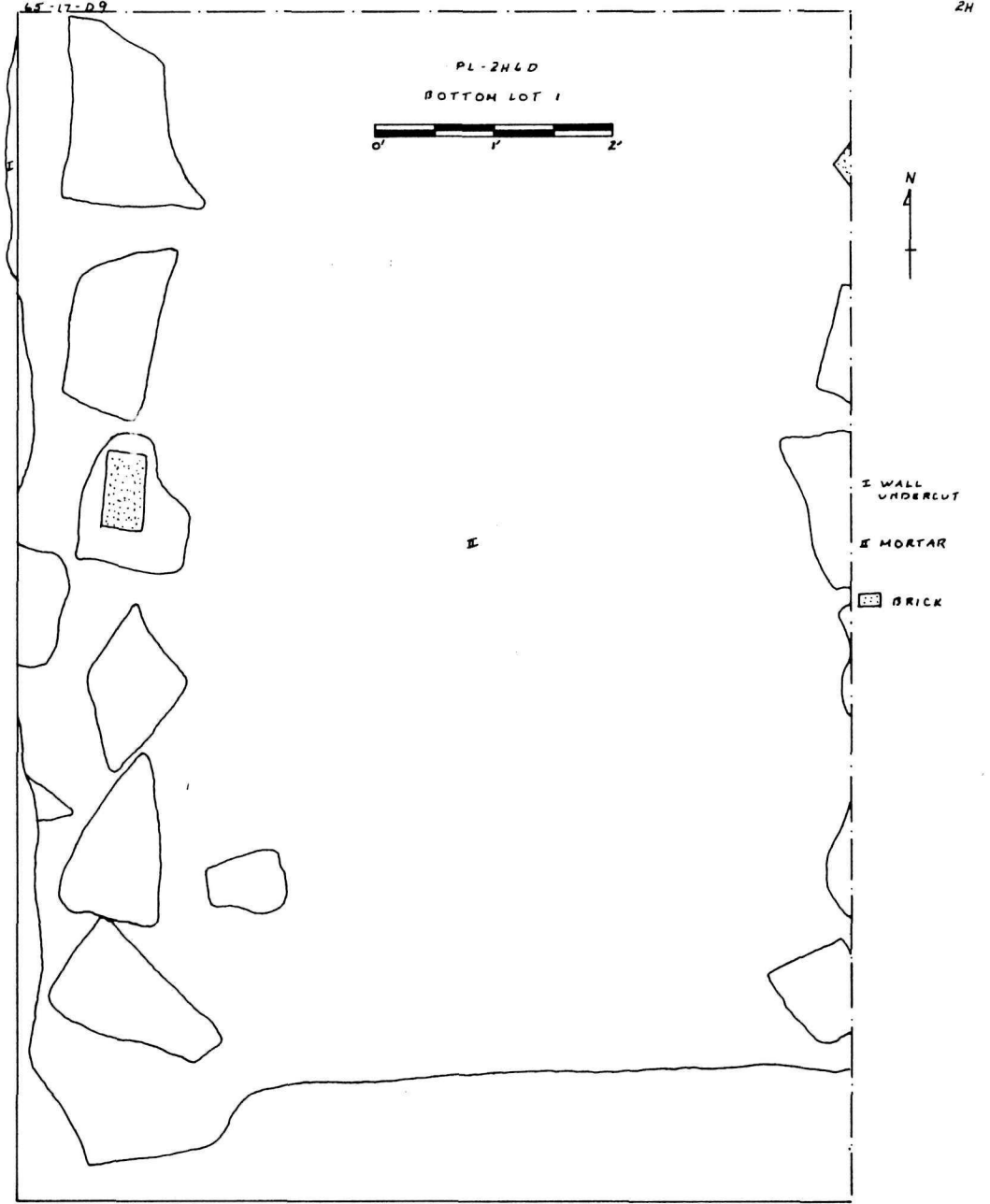
PL. - 2H5G



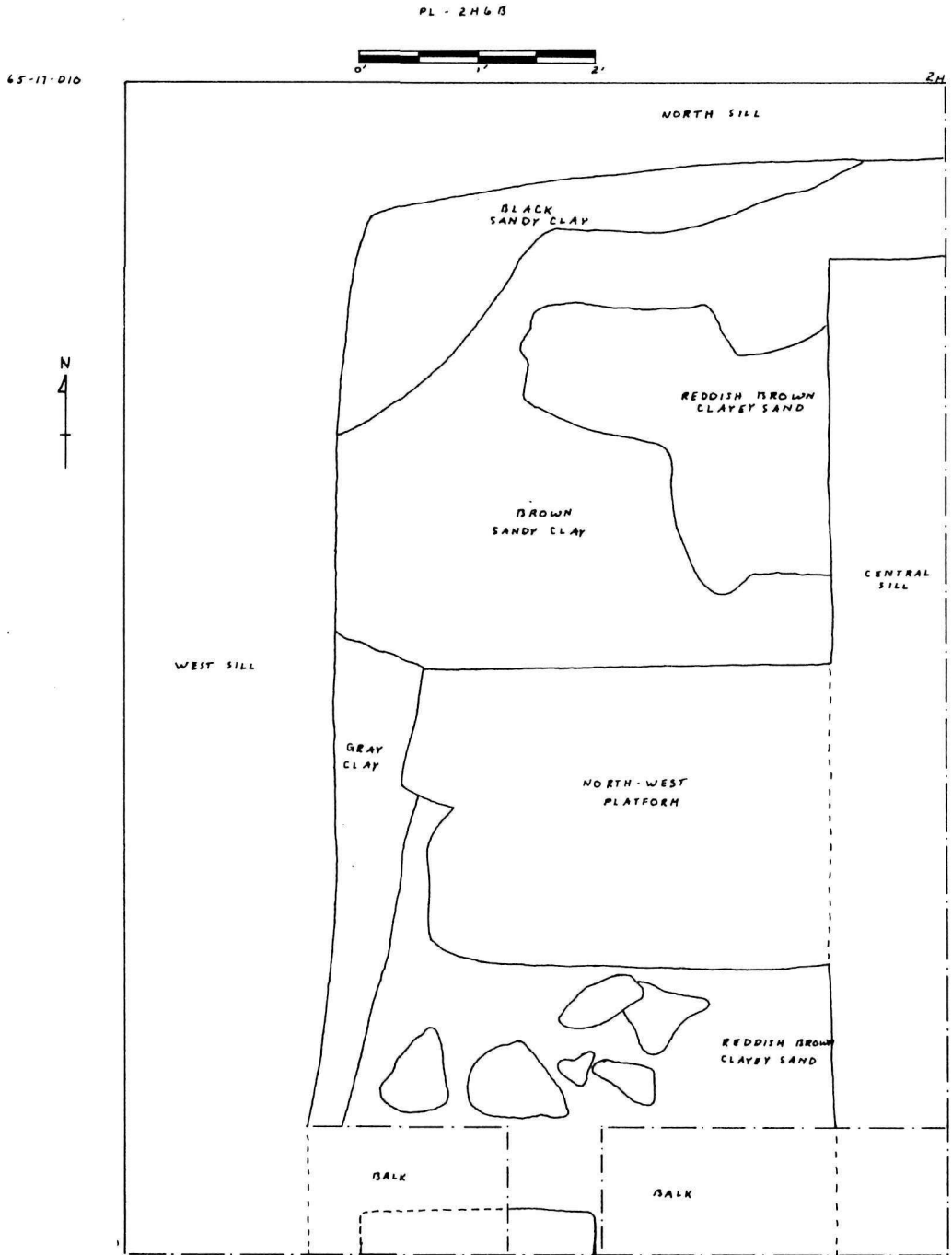


(2H-65-17-8)

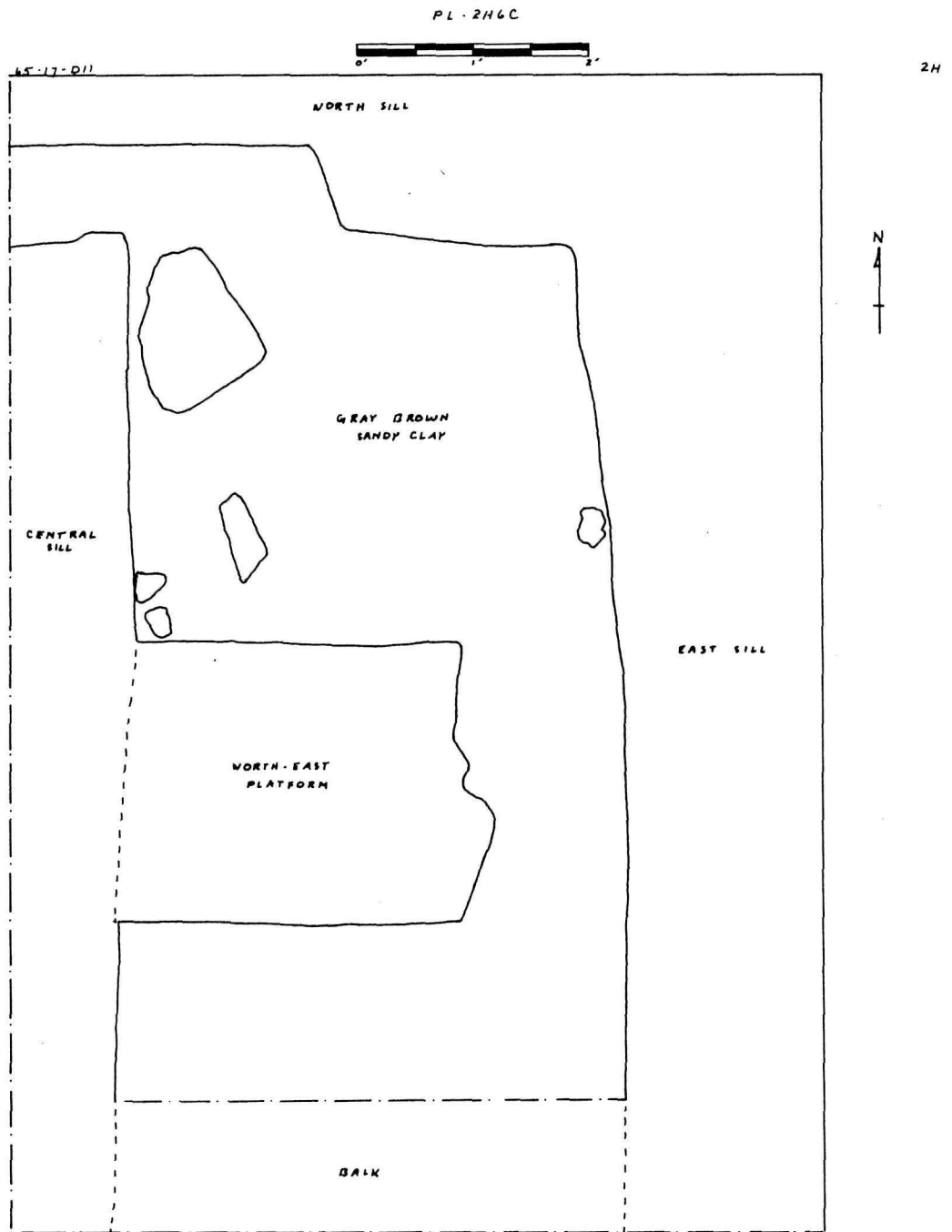




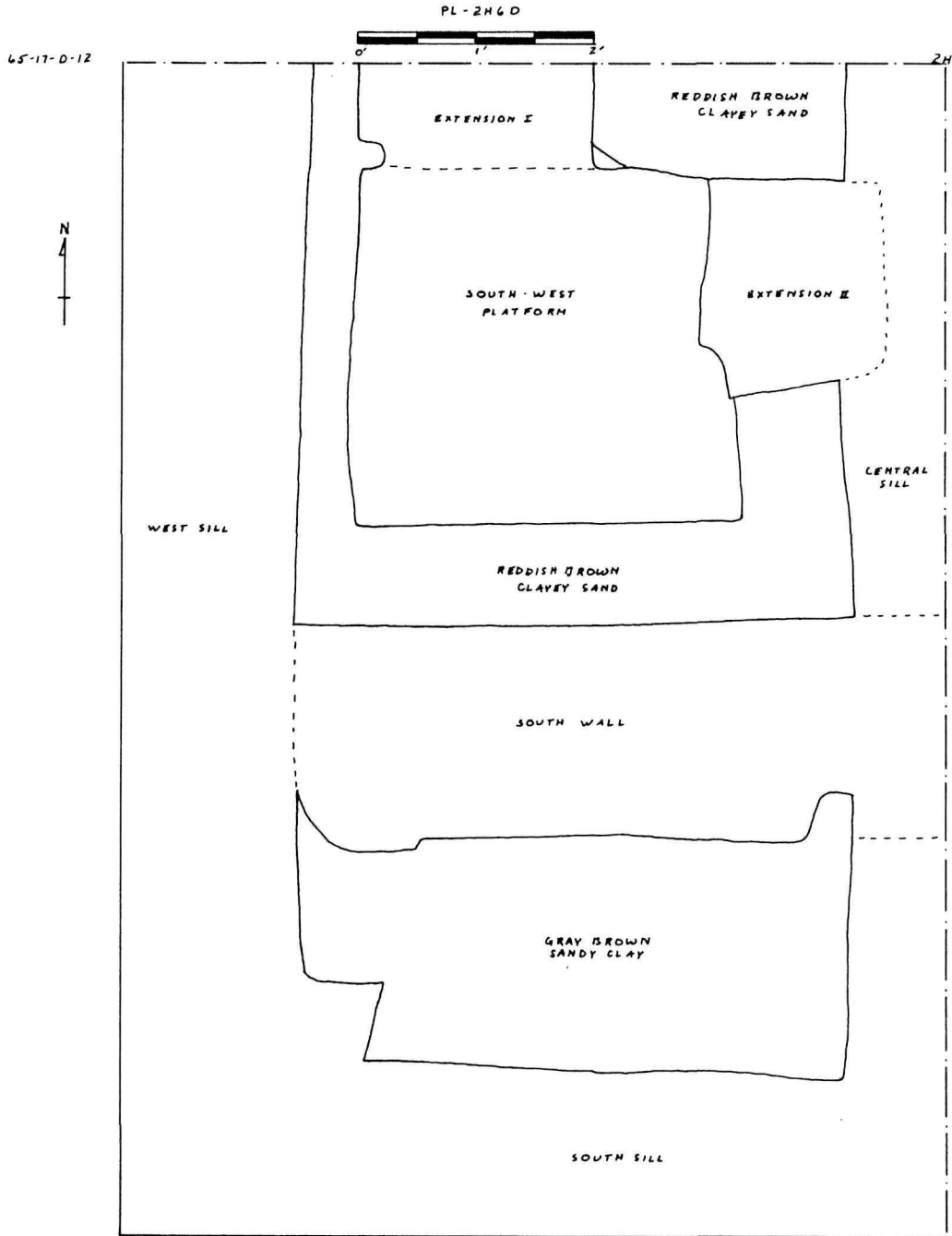
(2H-65-17-9)



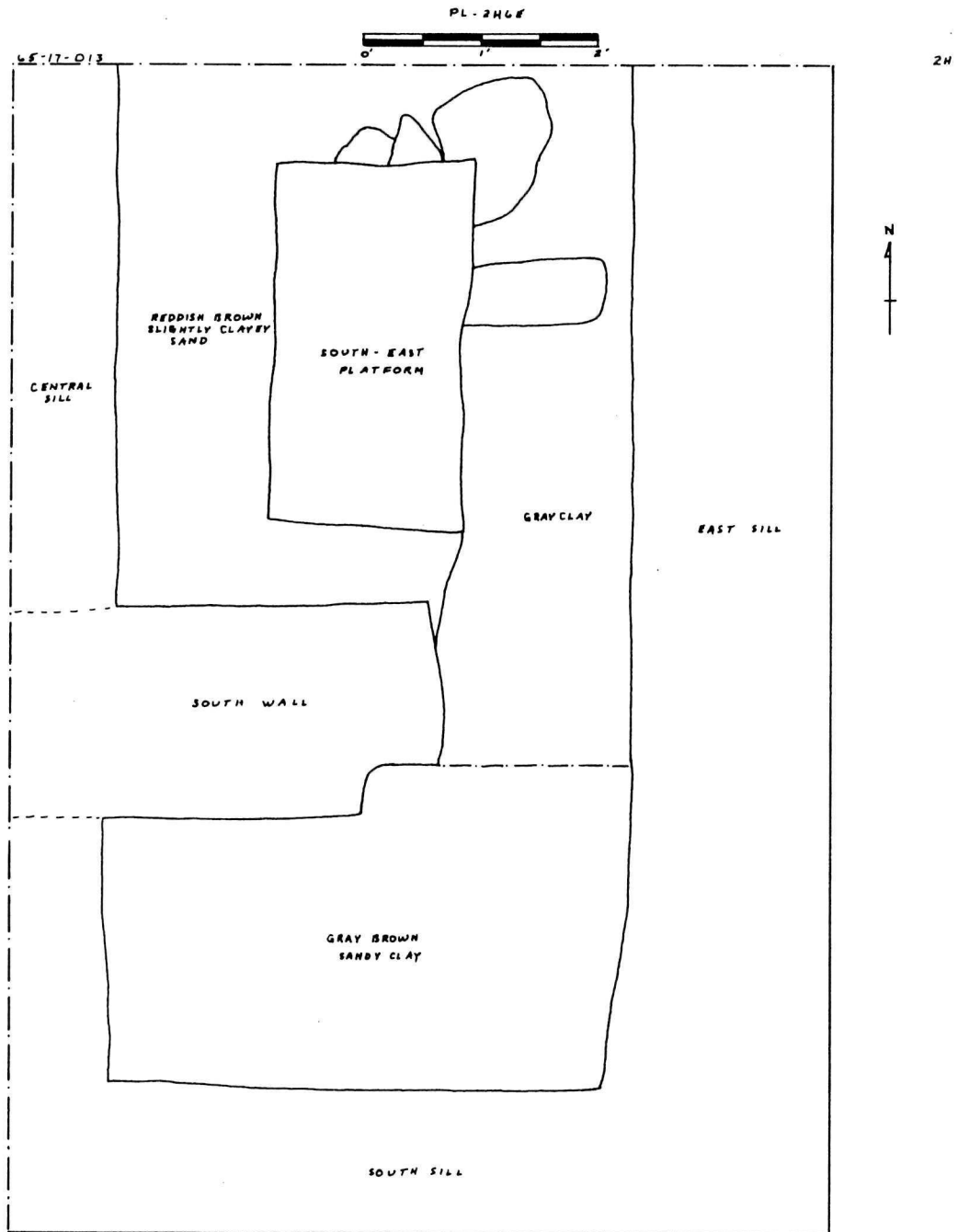
(2H-65-17-10)



(2H-65-17-11)



(2H-65-17-12)



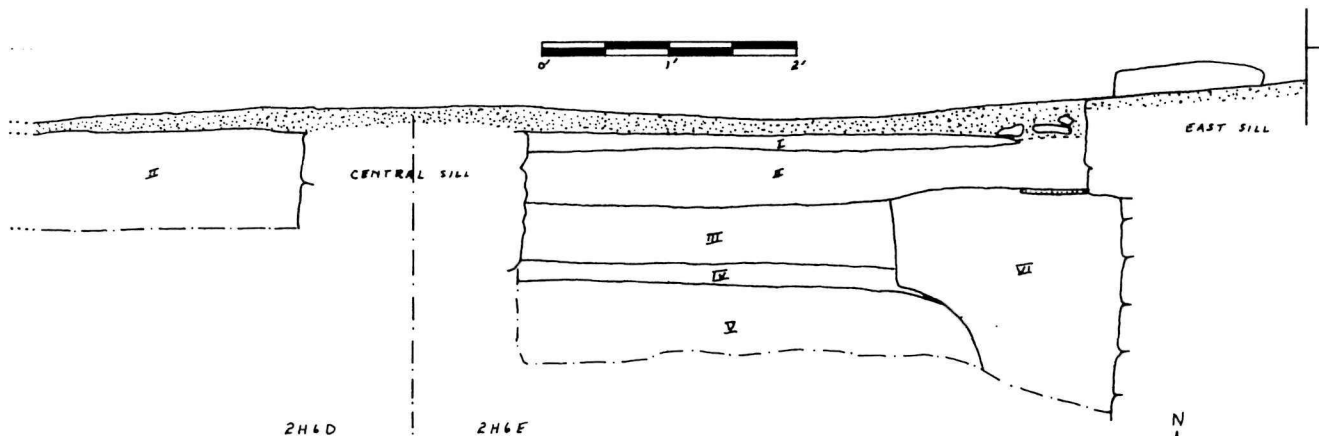
(2H-65-17-13)

65-17-D14

2H

X5 - NORTH PIT WALLS - 2H6D & 2H6E

X-5.2'  
A.S.L.



I WOOD AND PLASTER

II MIXED GRAY CLAY + RED CLAYEY SAND

III BROWNISH GRAY SLIGHTLY SANDY CLAY

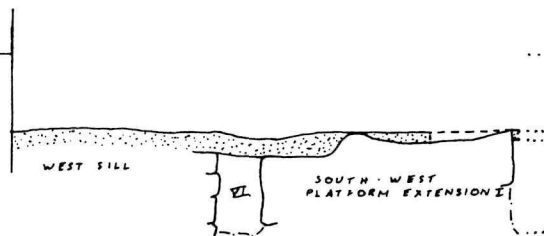
IV BLACK SANDY CLAY

V REDDISH BROWN SLIGHTLY CLAYEY SAND

VI GRAY CLAY

 MORTAR

X-5.2'  
A.S.L.



2H6D

111

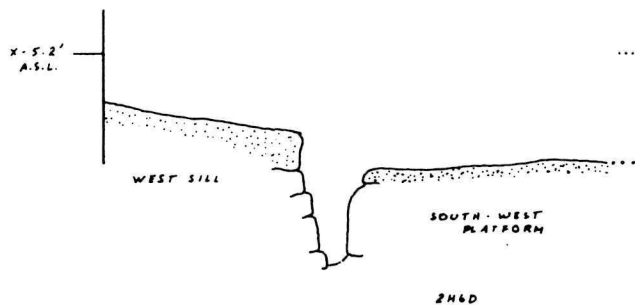
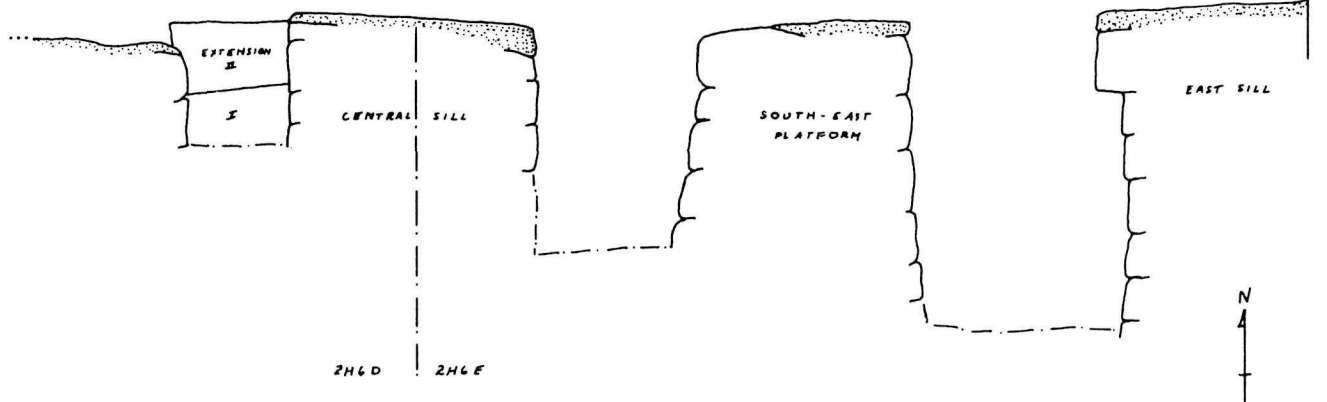
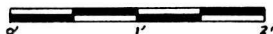
(2H-65-17-14)

65-17-015

2H

PR - 2H6D & 2H6E

X-S. 2' ...  
A.S.L.



I RED SANDY CLAY

MORTAR

65-17-D16

ZH

PR - 2H6B & 2H6D

X-4.95'  
A.S.L.

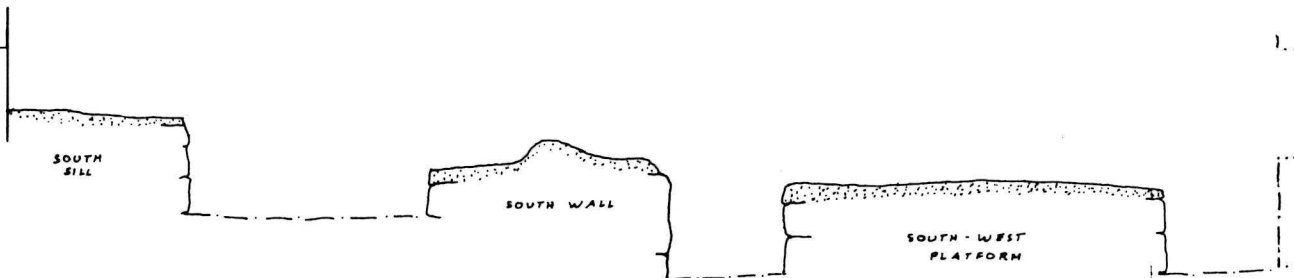


N



2H6B

X-4.98'  
A.S.L.



2H6D

(2H-65-17-16)

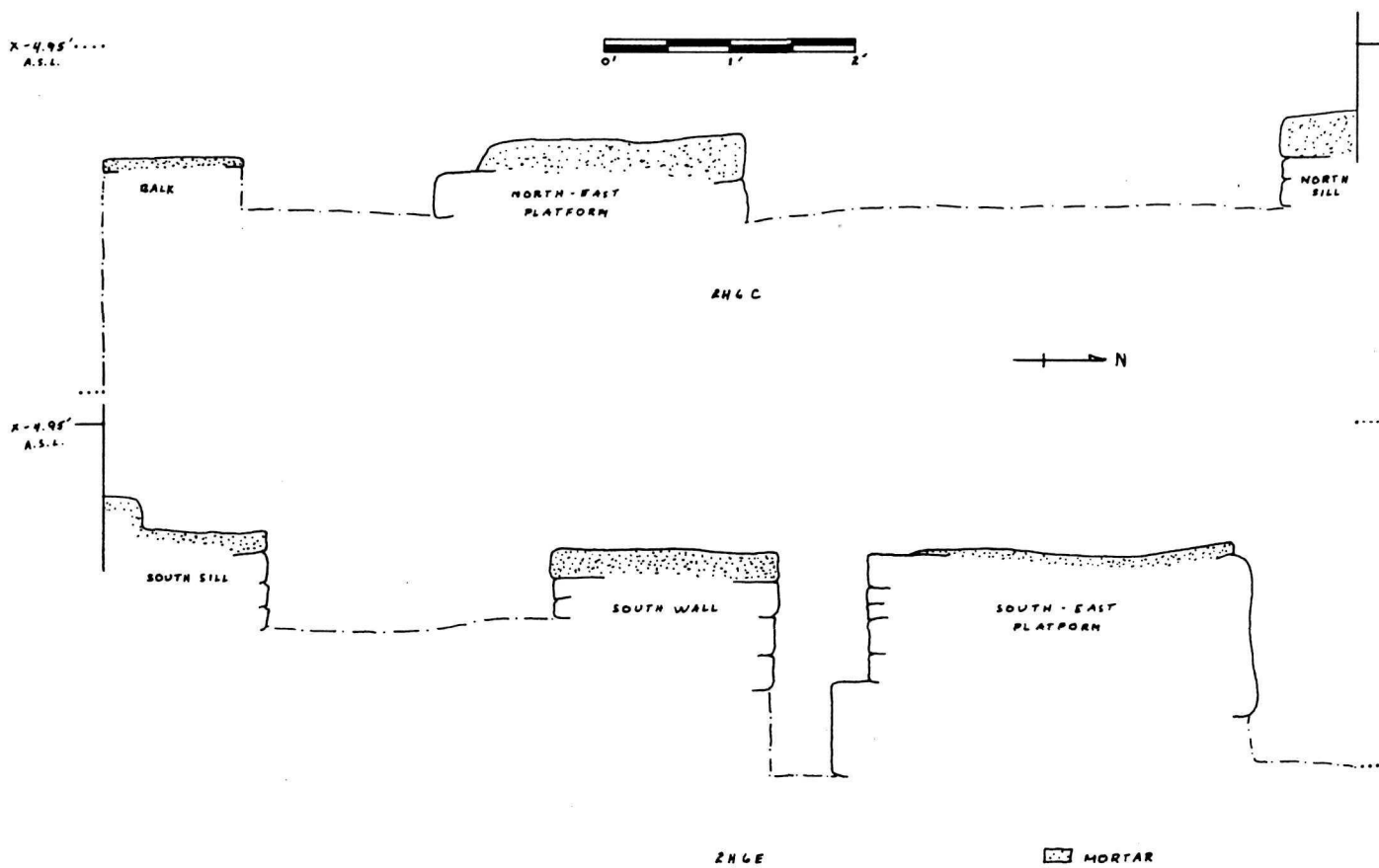


65-17-D17

2H

PR-2H6E & 2H6C

X-4.95' .....  
A.S.L.



2H6E

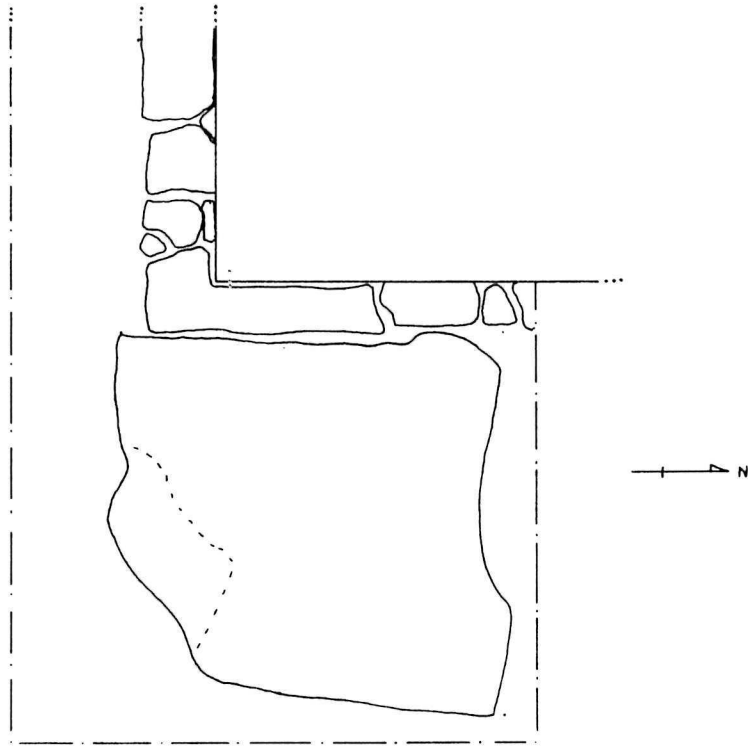
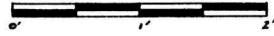
MORTAR

(2H-65-17-17)

65-17-D18 (ADAPTED)

24

2H5D  
PL. STONE PLATE BENEATH SOD



(2H-65-17-18)

65-17-D19 (ADAPTED)

2H

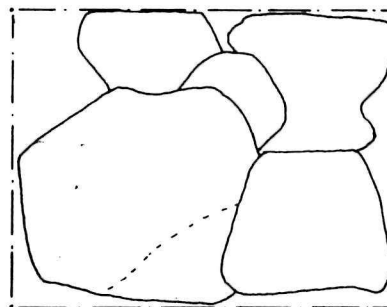
2H5H  
STONE PLATES AT N.W. CORNER



TOP PLATE  
(UNDER SOD)



BOTTOM PLATE  
(UNDER OTHER)

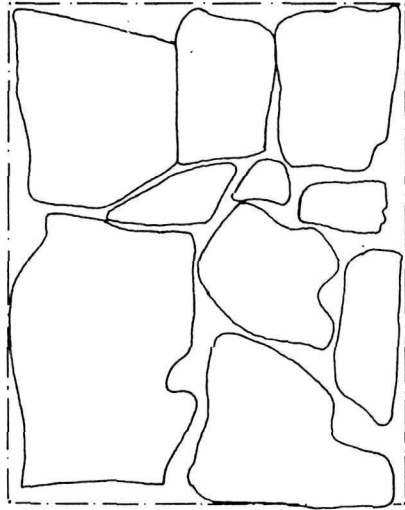
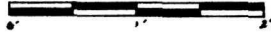


(2H-65-17-19)

65-17-D20 (ADAPTED)

2H

PL - 2H5G  
STONE PLATE BENEATH DRAIN  
UNDER TOPSOIL



(2H-65-17-20)

65-17-021

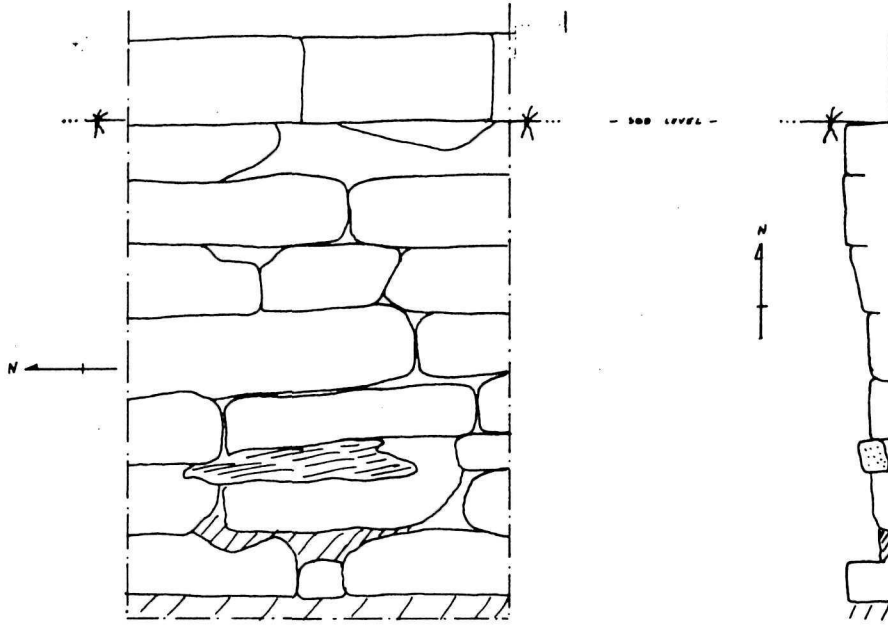
2H

2H56



X5 - E. PIT WALL 2H56

PR - E PIT WALL 2H56



WOOD

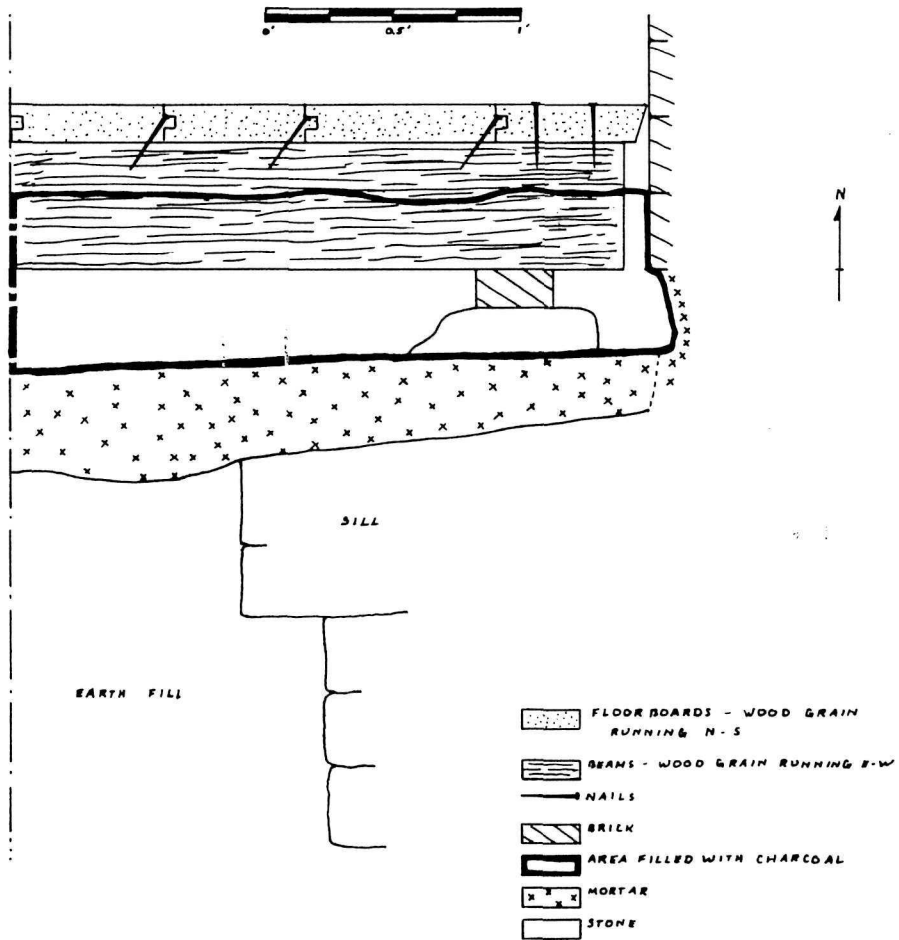
GRAY CLAY

(2H-65-17-21)

65-17-022

2H

HYPOTHETICAL CROSS SECTION, 2H 6



(2H-65-17-22)

RAPPORT PRELIMINAIRE  
DE  
L'EXCAVATION PARTIELLE DES CASEMATES DU PORT WELLINGTON  
(PRESCOTT, ONTARIO)

par  
Louis Chevrette

Février 1966

### Avertissement

Le présent rapport est essentiellement préliminaire, et pour cause: la campagne de fouilles dont il veut rendre compte en fut une ordonnée d'urgence et trop rapidement terminée pour s'être révélée vraiment exhaustive et concluante. Pour que cela eût été, sans doute aurait-il fallu continuer longtemps encore cette campagne-éclair que nous avons entreprise du 9 au 21 août dernier sur le site du fort Wellington, dans le but premier d'y prévenir un effondrement de terrain et sans nous attendre, à vrai dire, d'y trouver des ruines aussi imposantes que celles que nous avons commencé de dégager.

Qu'on ne s'étonne donc pas de la brièveté non plus que du contenu plus descriptif qu'interprétatif du compte rendu donné ici de nos fouilles au fort Wellington. Rien d'autre que la conscience prise de leur état d'inachèvement au moment où nous les avons discontinuées nous a contraint à pareille concision, surtout dans notre partie interprétative.

### Buts des fouilles

Le fort Wellington se situe aujourd'hui à peu près au centre de la petite ville de Prescott en Ontario. Inscrit monument historique national depuis 1923, il est de ce fait la propriété du Gouvernement fédéral canadien et la Division des lieux historiques du Canada veille à sa conservation. C'est donc l'archéologue en chef de cette division du Ministère du Nord canadien et des Ressources nationales qui nous a chargé d'aller y faire des fouilles en août dernier.<sup>1</sup> Cela dans un double but. Le premier était d'essayer de mettre fin à un affaissement de terrain progressif dans la région sud-est de la banquette du rempart sud du fort. Cet affaissement allait s'accroissant depuis nombre d'années et risquait de se transformer un jour en un effondrement subit capable de causer quelque accident à des touristes visiteurs. Car on avait certaines raisons de le croire, il pouvait bien être produit par un vide à l'intérieur du rempart, vide lui-même attribuable à quelque chambre restante des casemates du premier fort Wellington, construites en 1813-15 et supposément démolies ou enterrées (on ne savait trop) sous les remparts du fort actuel en 1838-39. Trouver ce qui restait de ces casemates et tenter par là de préciser, dans la mesure du possible, leurs traits

<sup>1</sup> Nous étions assisté dans cette tâche de Vandra Ward (Université de Toronto) et de Paul Villeneuve (Université Laval).



d'architecture et matériaux de construction<sup>2</sup> constituait donc le second but de nos fouilles.

### Enregistrement de la topographie des régions à excaver

Avant de commencer les excavations, nous n'avons pas jugé nécessaire de cartographier dans le détail la topographie des régions des remparts où des tranchées seraient éventuellement ouvertes. D'un côté, nous n'en avons pas le temps et de l'autre, la topographie des remparts actuels du fort Wellington, avons-nous cru, n'offrait plus à l'archéologue un intérêt suffisant pour nécessiter qu'on l'enregistrât, avant de l'altérer, par une carte hypsométrique d'une grande précision. Trop souvent en effet, et non certes pour des motifs de restauration fidèle, avait-on transformé cette topographie depuis 1923 pour qu'elle ait pu retenir encore une quelconque valeur archéologique. Aussi bien, nous sommes-nous contenté de photographier, selon plusieurs points de vue différents, les parties des remparts que nous allions excaver.

### Plan et marche générale de l'excavation

Une carte historique consultée avant les fouilles<sup>3</sup> rapportait que les casemates du fort Wellington construites en 1813-15 étaient contigues à ses remparts sud, est et ouest et les longeaient en entier. Par ailleurs d'autres documents vus<sup>4</sup> précisaient que, si les importantes rénovations apportées au fort en 1838-39 avaient entraîné la disparition de ces casemates, elles n'avaient cependant pas changé la position initiale des remparts. Il fallait donc présumer que les restes des casemates de 1813-39, s'il en était encore, devaient se trouver tout le long des remparts sud, est et ouest du fort actuel, ceux-ci étant toujours les mêmes qu'en 1839. Aussi cette déduction tirée des documents, de même que la prise en considération de la région affaissée du rempart sud et surtout des irrégularités topographiques remarquées dans les trois remparts en question, expliquent-elles le choix<sup>5</sup> de l'emplacement de nos trois premières tranchées de sondage. Chacune d'elles a été disposée de façon à inclure une de ces irrégularités assez semblables entre elles et symétriquement placées pour nous faire penser à des formes de ruines ensevelies, celles précisément des casemates recherchées.

2 Les documents historiques n'en disant presque rien de vraiment précis.

3 Elle date du 24 septembre 1823 et on en trouvera une photocopie aux archives de la Division des lieux historiques du Canada, à Ottawa.

4 Dave Miquelon les cite tous dans son Report on Fort Wellington (non publié) rédigé en août 1964 pour la Division des lieux historiques du Canada

5 Ces tranchées sont les sous-opérations 3H1A, B et C.

Dans chacune de ces tranchées de sondage a été mise à jour une partie d'un mur de pierre des casemates. C'est ce fait, devons-nous dire, qui a déterminé l'emplacement des tranchées ouvertes par la suite et orienté ainsi la marche des fouilles jusqu'à la fin. L'aspect de ces parties de mur de pierre découvertes en 3H1A, B et C nous a en effet signifié dès le début que les ruines des casemates à excaver avaient une profondeur et une étendue telles qu'il valait mieux, avec les moyens et le temps dont nous disposions, ne faire rien d'autre que continuer de dégager en entier si possible ces murs déjà trouvés et leurs environs immédiats. Ceci afin de recueillir un ensemble de données qui nous permettraient de reconstituer non pas tout le plan des casemates, ce qui était impensable, mais une coupe montrant le profil de leur largeur et de leur hauteur. Le dégagement simultané de trois murs ayant apparemment même orientation (dans le sens de la largeur des casemates), même forme et même fonction dans l'architecture des casemates s'avérait particulièrement apte à fournir les renseignements nécessaires à cette reconstitution: il offrait la possibilité d'établir des comparaisons après avoir rassemblé des données complémentaires.

#### Dimensions des casemates

##### A - Hauteur

La partie dégagée du mur de pierre passant en 3H1C (appelons-le "mur de soutènement") n'a plus, de toute évidence, ses pierres de faite. L'on n'a donc pu savoir quelle était la hauteur véritable de ce mur quand il était complet. L'autre mur de soutènement voisin de ce dernier et excavé en 3H1B s'est au contraire bien conservé et possède toutes ses pierres finales: on en a donc mesuré le niveau. Mais on n'a pu, à cause du danger d'effondrement des remparts, déterrer ce mur jusqu'au bas. Alors qu'on l'a fait pour le mur passant en 3H1C et mal conservé dans sa partie haute. De fait, on a même dégagé, au fond de la tranchée 3H1C, le plancher de bois des casemates adjacent au bas du mur. Il nous a donc été possible de prendre le niveau exact de ce plancher. Aussi, en supposant que les niveaux du plancher du plafond des casemates étaient sensiblement les mêmes partout, avons-nous pu déduire la hauteur des casemates, prise du niveau de leur plancher à celui du dessus de leurs murs de soutènement: il a suffi pour cela de soustraire le niveau du plancher trouvé en 3H1C à celui du haut du mur de soutènement de 3H1B et la différence a donné 11'.

Cette hauteur de 11' vaut vraisemblablement pour les casemates en général, puisqu'elle se vérifie dans la tranchée 3H1A où un troisième mur de soutènement a été excavé qui se trouve relativement éloigné des deux autres. Notons par ailleurs qu'elle correspond assez bien à celle d'approximativement 10' que nous donne le plan historique de 1823.

#### B - Largeur

Mais ce même plan historique indique que les casemates avaient une largeur totale de 44' et qu'un mur intérieur, équidistant de leurs murs extérieur et de fond et parallèle à eux, séparait en deux chambres de 22' de large chacune cet espace de 44', cela sur toute la longueur des casemates. Or les évidences archéologiques nous mettent en mesure d'affirmer que ces indications du plan historique ne correspondent pas à ce qui fut réellement. Effectivement, les casemates n'avaient que 23' de large et voici comment et pourquoi nous sommes arrivés à cette conclusion :

- Disons d'abord que nous avons trouvé et dégagé le mur de fond des casemates du rempart sud en 3H1B. Puis, parallèle à ce mur de fond et en face de lui, à une distance de 23' plus au nord, a été trouvé un autre mur de pierre qu'on a partiellement découvert en 3H1F et 3H1E. Et c'est ce mur que nous prétendons être le mur extérieur des casemates, i.e., celui faisant face à la cour intérieure du fort.
- En effet, comme devait nécessairement le faire le mur extérieur des casemates, ce mur se prolonge vraisemblablement sur toute la longueur du rempart sud: nous l'avons retrouvé dans 3H1E et 3H1F.
- De plus, il est construit selon un mode qui ne peut être employé que dans le cas d'un mur extérieur et pour cela, il ne saurait être le mur intérieur indiqué par le plan historique et qui, comme lui, se serait trouvé à 22' du mur de fond. Le profil de ce mur (qu'on trouvera sur le dessin 65-10-D1) montre que le parement de sa face intérieure (sud) est plat et vertical jusqu'au niveau du plancher des casemates, alors qu'au contraire, sa face nord, justement sa face extérieure, a un parement plat et vertical qui cesse de l'être à un certain niveau supérieur à celui du plancher et au-dessous duquel elle s'élargit par le nord et n'est plus régulièrement construite. Comme l'indique la photo 1. Il nous semble que, si l'on avait voulu faire de ce mur un mur intérieur, l'on n'aurait pas élargi de façon aussi irrégulière sa face nord à partir d'un niveau qui eût été au-dessus

de celui d'un plancher dont aucune évidence n'a d'ailleurs été aperçue au nord de cette face, au contraire.

- Car ce certain niveau où la face du mur cesse d'être plate et verticale coïncide avec celui d'une couche stratigraphique d'ancien humus de surface qu'on ne retrouve pas du côté sud du mur (i.e., à l'intérieur des casemates) puisqu'elle commence vis-à-vis sa face extérieure et se prolonge vers le nord pour être coupée quelque 9' plus loin par un ancien drain de surface en pierre, passant au même niveau qu'elle et excavé en 3H1H. La seule présence d'une telle couche et du drain qui la coupe suffirait, selon nous, à démontrer d'emblée qu'immédiatement au nord du mur de pierre lui-même situé à 23' au nord du mur de fond des casemates se trouvait la cour intérieure du fort Wellington.

Et c'est pourquoi nous ne craignons pas de dire que les casemates de ce fort avaient 23' de large et non pas 44'. Au reste, si tel avait été le cas, il n'y aurait plus eu alors, étant données les dimensions du fort, d'espace laissé pour une cour intérieure entre les casemates et le blockhaus qui avait, à ce moment, réellement 90' de côté. Et cela paraît tout à fait invraisemblable.

### Matériaux et mode de construction

#### A - Mur de fond

La photo 2 la fait voir, on a pu dégager, dans la sous-opération 3H1B, une partie de la face nord du mur de fond des casemates du rempart sud. Fait de pierres non taillées et reliées entre elles par du mortier brun pâle, ce mur s'est bien conservé et a encore ses pierres du dessus, recouvertes d'une mince couche de mortier. Il a une épaisseur de 1.8' et d'après les déductions faites plus haut au sujet de la hauteur des casemates en général l'on peut supposer avec vraisemblance qu'il a 11' de haut, même si on ne l'a pas dégagé jusqu'au bas.

#### B - Murs de soutènement

Trois autres murs de pierre ont été partiellement mis à jour. Nous les avons appelés "murs de soutènement" pour les distinguer des autres murs excavés et parce qu'ils semblent aussi que, vu leur épaisseur et leur position, ils avaient des fonctions identiques: celles de soutenir le plafond des casemates et d'en appuyer, jusqu'à un certain point, les murs de fond. En effet, deux de ces murs de soutènement, ceux qui se trouvent respectivement dans les

sous-opérations 3H1B et 3H1C, sont perpendiculaires et adjacents au mur de fond des casemates du rempart sud. Quant au troisième, c'est dans la sous-opération 3H1A qu'il se trouve et, bien que cela n'ait pu être constaté de visu (le mur de fond du rempart ouest n'a pas été excavé), sa position peut nous laisser présumer sans difficulté qu'il était lui aussi perpendiculaire et adjacent au mur de fond des casemates adossées au rempart ouest.

Ces trois murs ont les mêmes dimensions: leur épaisseur est de 4', leur hauteur de 11' et leur longueur de 21.8'. Mais ils diffèrent sensiblement dans leur mode de construction. En ceci que, s'ils vont tous trois en s'élargissant par à coups successifs (de quelques pouces chacun) à mesure qu'ils s'élèvent, ils ne le font pas selon une progression semblable et à partir de la même hauteur. Ces légères différences paraissent dues à la façon dont on a construit ces murs de pierre, soit en les parant de poutres de bois à l'intérieur des casemates.

#### C - Poutres de bois

Car deux sortes d'indices rencontrés nous permettent d'avancer qu'aucun mur de pierre qui en formait la structure n'était visible à l'intérieur des casemates, chacun s'y trouvant caché par un revêtement de poutres de bois grossièrement équarries, montées horizontalement pièce sur pièce et bousillées de mortier:

- 1 - Le premier de ces indices, le plus significatif il va sans dire, consiste dans la présence constatée, au bas de toutes les faces intérieures des murs de pierre excavés, de plusieurs poutres plus ou moins déplacées mais encore superposées les unes aux autres et accolées aux murs, de façon à les recouvrir depuis le niveau du plancher jusqu'à une hauteur variant de 3' à 5'.
- 2 - Le second indice est l'existence également vérifiée d'empreintes de poutres laissées sur le mortier des parties actuellement découvertes (les parties hautes) des faces intérieures des murs de pierre. Ces marques de poutres horizontalement placées étant visibles jusqu'en haut des murs qui ont encore leurs pierres de faite, elles démontrent que c'est bien de bas en haut que les poutres de bois recouvraient les murs de pierre à l'intérieur des casemates.

Mais comment l'on a érigé ces murs de fond et de soutènement reste une question à laquelle, présentement, nous ne pouvons répondre de façon définitive et certaine. Il se peut qu'on

ait recouvert de bois l'intérieur des casemates en même temps qu'on en a construit les murs de pierre, comme il se peut aussi qu'on ait ajouté à ces murs de pierre leur parement de bois un certain temps après leur construction, et cela possiblement pour les étayer et élargir les murs de soutènement. Cette seconde hypothèse nous apparaît cependant beaucoup moins vraisemblable que la première: nous ne la soumettons qu'en raison de ce que nous avons pu apercevoir de la composition interne du mur de soutènement trouvé en 3H1C. Il est en effet certain que la structure de pierre de ce mur a été faite en deux temps dont le premier fut celui de l'érection d'un mur de pierre plus mince que cette structure et pour ainsi dire placé à l'intérieur d'elle. La photo 3 montre bien la présence de ce premier mur enchassé, encore très solide et fort soigneusement construit, dont le parement tout à fait uni contraste avec celui formé par les moellons qu'on semble lui avoir accolés comme pour l'élargir. La couleur et la texture du mortier liant ces moellons accolés n'étant pas du tout semblables à celles du mortier vu sur le parement du mur enchassé, il ne fait pas de doute que ce dernier mur a été fait avant qu'on lui ait surajouté les moellons.

Un aussi curieux mode de construction fut-il généralisé à tous les murs de soutènement des casemates qui, effectivement, ont eux aussi 4' de large? Il eût été intéressant de le vérifier, du moins pour les deux autres murs de soutènement dégagés. On n'a malheureusement pas eu le temps de démolir ces deux murs pour le faire. Il n'en demeure pas moins que, même si ces autres murs de pierre avaient aussi été bâtis en deux temps, ce fait eût été loin de prouver pour autant l'hypothèse émise plus haut à l'effet que, en raison d'un tel mode de construction, les parements de bois qu'on leur a trouvés seraient postérieurs aux murs de pierre des casemates, parce qu'ils n'auraient été faits alors que lorsqu'on aurait élargi ces derniers murs... Pour notre part, nous optons présentement pour l'hypothèse contraire, qui veut plutôt voir que les murs de pierre sont contemporains de leur revêtement de bois. Car d'un côté, il nous paraît peu probable que toutes les structures de pierre des murs de soutènement sont construites à la façon de celle du mur de soutènement de 3H1C (i.e., en deux temps, comme il vient d'être expliqué plus haut); et ainsi, cette façon ne serait qu'une anomalie particulière à un seul mur, anomalie à laquelle il faudrait chercher une autre explication que celle de l'élargissement des murs de soutènement. D'autre part nous sommes portés à voir une preuve assez tangible de cette contemporanéité des murs de pierre et de leur revêtement de bois dans l'existence constatée de deux espaces libres de 1' de large et 8.5' de haut laissés entre les extrémités de chaque mur de soutènement et les deux murs qui leur sont perpendiculaires (i.e., mur de fond et mur extérieur). Car on a

toutes les raisons de croire que ces espaces ne servaient pas de passages pour communiquer entre les chambres des casemates (ils sont trop étroits et vis-à-vis d'eux il y a encore des marques de poutres de bois sur les murs qu'ils séparent), mais qu'ils ont plutôt été laissés au moment où on a construit les murs de pierre pour pouvoir y insérer les poutres de recouvrement des murs extérieur et de fond, de façon à ce que le revêtement de bois de ces murs soit continu sur toute leur longueur. Aussi bien, si telle était leur utilité, ces espaces, on le voit, se trouveraient à démontrer par le fait même et avec assez de force que les murs de pierre sont contemporains de leur revêtement de bois.

#### D - Plafonds et planchers de bois

Plusieurs documents historiques nous disent qu'un terre-plein recouvrait les casemates du fort de façon à leur faire un toit anti-mortier. Les données archéologiques ne nous ont pas fourni les moyens de prouver ou de contester cette assertion: aucun plafond et partant aucun terre-plein ne subsistent actuellement des casemates. Il demeure cependant qu'il est tout à fait caractéristique de l'architecture habituelle des casemates d'avoir un terre-plein et pour cela il y a tout lieu de croire qu'ici les documents disent vrai, pour peu que les casemates du fort Wellington ne faisaient pas exception à cette règle.

Mais si l'on ne peut pratiquement pas douter que plafond et terre-plein il devait y avoir au fort Wellington, la question reste de savoir maintenant quel genre de plafond supportait le terre-plein. Car ici, encore rien n'a été trouvé pour nous en signifier directement la réponse et il n'est pas aussi sûr d'accepter d'emblée ce que disent les documents, à savoir que le plafond était de bois. Si tel était bien le cas, nous serions alors en présence d'un fait plutôt singulier de l'histoire de l'architecture des fortifications militaires canadiennes du XIXe siècle. On le sait pour l'avoir vu, toutes ces fortifications qui ont encore leurs plafonds de casemates et qui sont à peu près contemporaines du fort Wellington ont ces plafonds voûtés et faits de pierre de taille ou plus souvent de brique.

Pourtant la présence et plus encore, disons-le, l'absence de certains indices rencontrés au cours de nos fouilles nous ont fourni quelques bonnes preuves à l'appui de ce que disent les documents. Et même si rien n'a été vu des plafonds, nous croyons pouvoir répéter qu'ils étaient de bois, parce qu'ils ne pouvaient être de pierre ou de brique étant donné le mode de construction des murs qui les supportaient. En effet, pour pouvoir supporter des plafonds de pierre ou de brique, les murs de pierre des casemates eussent assurément

été construits autrement qu'ils ne le sont. D'abord, certains d'entre eux du moins eussent été voûtés dans leur partie supérieure dont aucune, forcément, n'aurait été trouvée complète, avec un dessus parfaitement plat et horizontal comme celui, précisément, des murs de 3H1B. De plus, il nous semble également significatif qu'aucune évidence de brique, pierre taillée ou mortier n'a été trouvée dans les tranchées que nous avons pratiquées et dont plusieurs descendaient pourtant jusqu'au niveau du plancher des casemates. Il en eût fort probablement été autrement si les plafonds avaient été faits de ces matériaux.

Il faut donc croire que ces plafonds étaient de poutres de bois. Y avait-il deux rangées de ces poutres? Quels arrangements de colonnes et colombages avait-on imaginés pour les supporter entre les grands espaces d'environ 30' laissés vraisemblablement entre les murs de soutènement en pierre? Nous ne pouvons présentement répondre à ces importantes questions.

Les planchers aussi justifient l'expression "wooden casemates" souventesfois rencontrée dans les manuscrit relatifs au fort Wellington: ils étaient de planches de bois bousillées de mortier, on s'en est parfaitement rendu compte au fond de la tranchée 3H1C. Et ces planches ne devaient pas reposer directement sur le sol, cela sans doute afin qu'elles ne pourrissent pas trop vite. Le côté du mur de soutènement excavé en 3H1A (côté dégagé jusqu'au bas) nous l'a en tout cas laissé présumer: il s'élargit tout à fait au bas du mur, de façon à former là un rebord de 1.2' de large et 1.6' de haut<sup>6</sup> et ce rebord, nous le croyons sans avoir pu le vérifier, existe au bas de chaque côté des murs de pierre des casemates et il devait servir à appuyer les poutres des planchers, afin qu'il y ait justement un espace entre ceux-ci et le sol. Notons que de cette manière, l'espace laissé entre les niveaux du plancher et du plafond des casemates serait d'un peu moins de 10'.

#### Conclusion et suggestions pour une prolongation éventuelle de nos recherches

Nous ne voudrions pas terminer ce rapport en nous contentant de synthétiser brièvement l'acquis de nos fouilles dont le détail vient d'être donné ci-dessus. Le faire serait conclure sur du connu uniquement et risquerait de conférer à notre travail un caractère définitif qu'il ne saurait avoir. Car il a été dit, en introduction, combien nos fouilles nous ont paru inachevées au moment où il a fallu les discontinuer.

<sup>6</sup> Voir la coupe stratigraphique 65-10-D2.



C'est qu'au point où nous en étions alors, nous étions en mesure d'estimer, à partir de ce qui était déjà fait, tout ce qui restait à faire avec profit sur le site du fort Wellington. Aussi souhaitions-nous fortement que nos fouilles soient reprises un jour. Nous le souhaitons encore et c'est justement pourquoi nous aimerions que cette conclusion soit, plus qu'un résumé et une interprétation du déjà connu, une orientation, faite par quelques suggestions, des recherches futures qui, éventuellement, pourront compléter les nôtres. Ainsi faite, une telle conclusion montrera mieux l'importance réelle de ces dernières et s'avérera sans doute d'une plus grande utilité.

D'ailleurs nous n'avons pas cru faire plus et mieux, pour résumer et interpréter, en termes de reconstitution, l'acquis de nos fouilles, que de procéder par deux croquis: cet acquis étant, somme toute, assez minime et ne permettant de préciser que les traits du profil des casemates, pareille façon de le résumer nous est apparue la plus simple et la plus pratique. L'on verra donc les deux croquis placés en annexe, si l'on veut prendre une vue d'ensemble de l'apport nouveau, certain ou probable, de nos recherches.

Considérons tout de suite, par conséquent, ce qui, d'après nous, resterait à faire essentiellement au fort Wellington pour en compléter l'excavation des casemates: soit d'abord une série de vérifications plus poussées visant à confirmer certaines de nos hypothèses ou consolider quelques-uns de nos avancés; puis, évidemment, un ensemble de recherches portant sur des traits architecturaux des casemates déjà soupçonnés par déduction certes, mais dont aucune évidence n'est encore apparue, faute de temps pour les mettre à jour.

#### A - Vérifications et confirmations

- Il faudrait, en premier lieu, essayer d'établir de façon définitive si le mode de construction du mur de soutènement rencontré en 3H1C est bien exceptionnel, comme nous l'avons supposé, ou s'il ne serait pas, au contraire, propre à l'architecture d'ensemble des casemates. Pour faire la preuve de l'une ou l'autre de ces alternatives, dont la seconde, si elle se trouvait vérifiée, aurait des implications assez importantes quant à la datation des casemates, il suffirait de démolir un ou deux murs de soutènement autres que celui de 3H1C et comparer à celle de ce dernier leur composition interne.
- On aurait également intérêt à rendre plus certain par d'autres preuves archéologiques ce que nous avons présumé des planchers des casemates, à savoir qu'ils

ne devaient pas toucher au sol parce qu'ils auraient été construits sur un rebord devant se trouver au bas de chaque mur de pierre à environ 1.5' plus haut que le niveau du sol. Comme nous avons aperçu ce rebord au bas du seul mur de pierre qui a été excavé jusqu'au bas, il importerait de le chercher au bas de quelques autres murs de pierre, pour s'assurer qu'il s'y trouve bien et qu'ainsi il avait vraiment la fonction de soutenir le plancher.

- L'on pourrait enfin rechercher les dimensions précises des poutres de bois qui étaient accolées aux murs de pierre. Car il existe encore de ces poutres qui sont en bon état: nous en avons aperçu quelques-unes au bas du mur de soutènement trouvé en 3H1B. Mais un effondrement de terrain ayant rempli aussitôt cette tranchée, nous n'avons pas eu le temps de dégager à nouveau ces poutres pour les mesurer.

#### B - Traits architecturaux encore non précisés

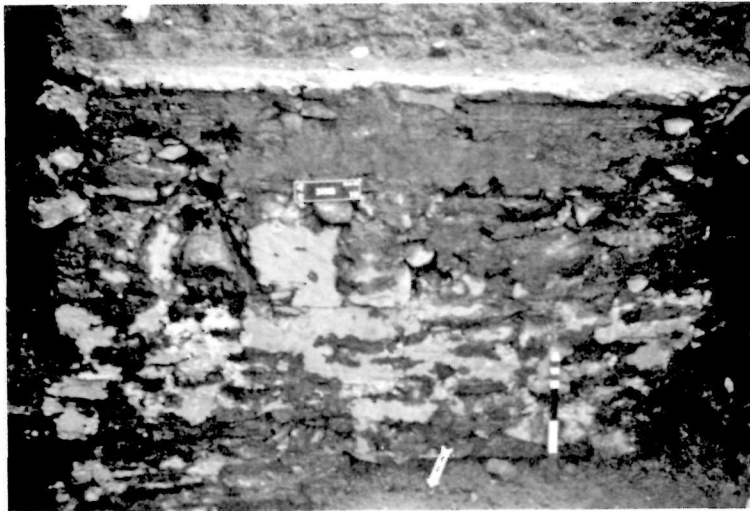
Disons simplement ici que toutes les données relatives au plan des casemates restent encore à trouver et l'on aura tout de suite une idée du long et important travail qu'il reste à accomplir au fort Wellington. Des dimensions horizontales des casemates, nous n'avons pu en effet préciser que la largeur. Quant au reste, il n'en a pas même été question dans ce rapport et il est facile de s'imaginer tout ce que ce reste peut impliquer: emplacement des entrées, divisions intérieures, longueur des casemates, etc... D'autant que maintenant, après ce qui a déjà été trouvé, l'on peut affirmer sans crainte qu'il doit se trouver encore bien des évidences ensevelies se rapportant à tous ces traits architecturaux demeurés imprécisés à la fin de notre travail.

C'est dire combien ce travail est incomplet et tout l'intérêt qu'il y aurait à le continuer.

1. Bas du mur extérieur des casemates du rempart sud. Vu par le nord.

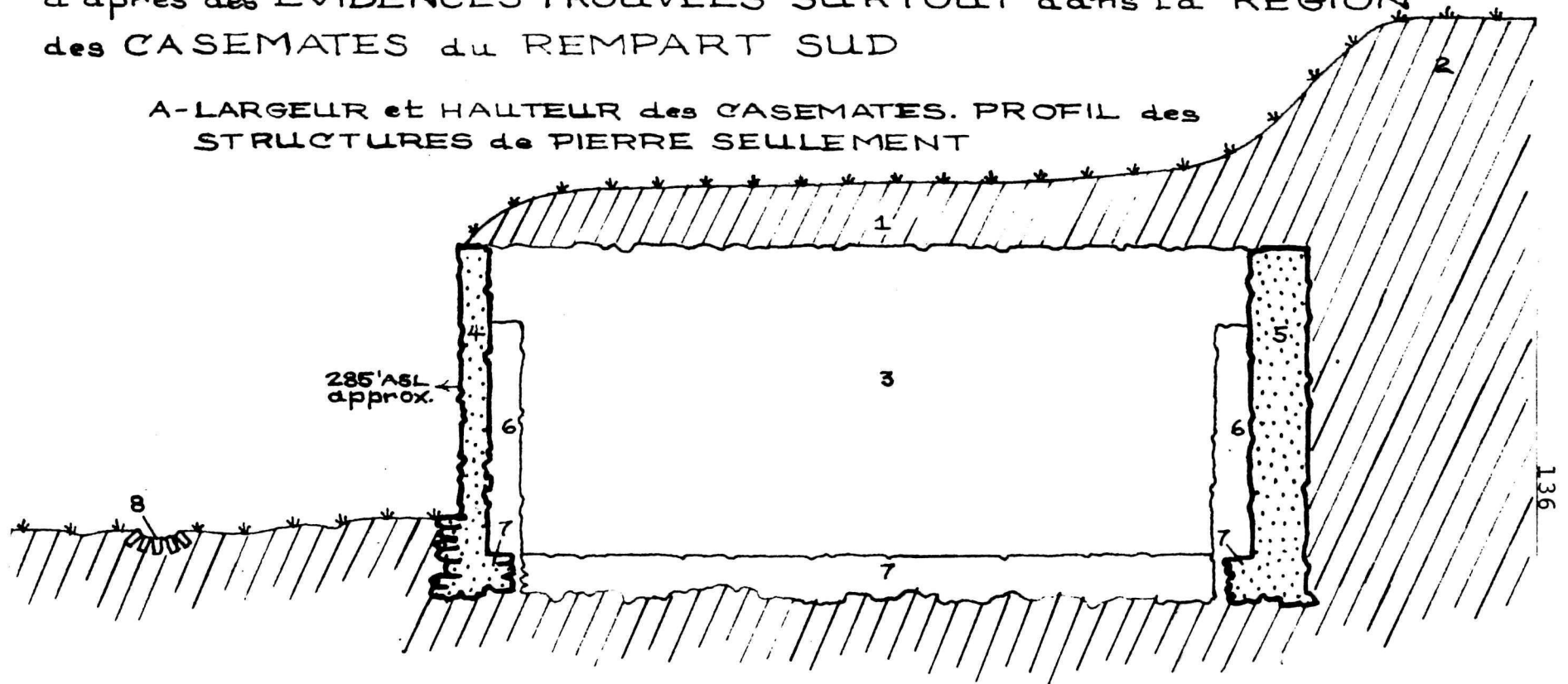
2. Casemates longeant le rempart sud. Face intérieur du mur de fond, non dégagée jusqu'au bas.

3. Rempart sud. Côté du mur de soutènement des casemates partiellement dégagé en 3H1C.



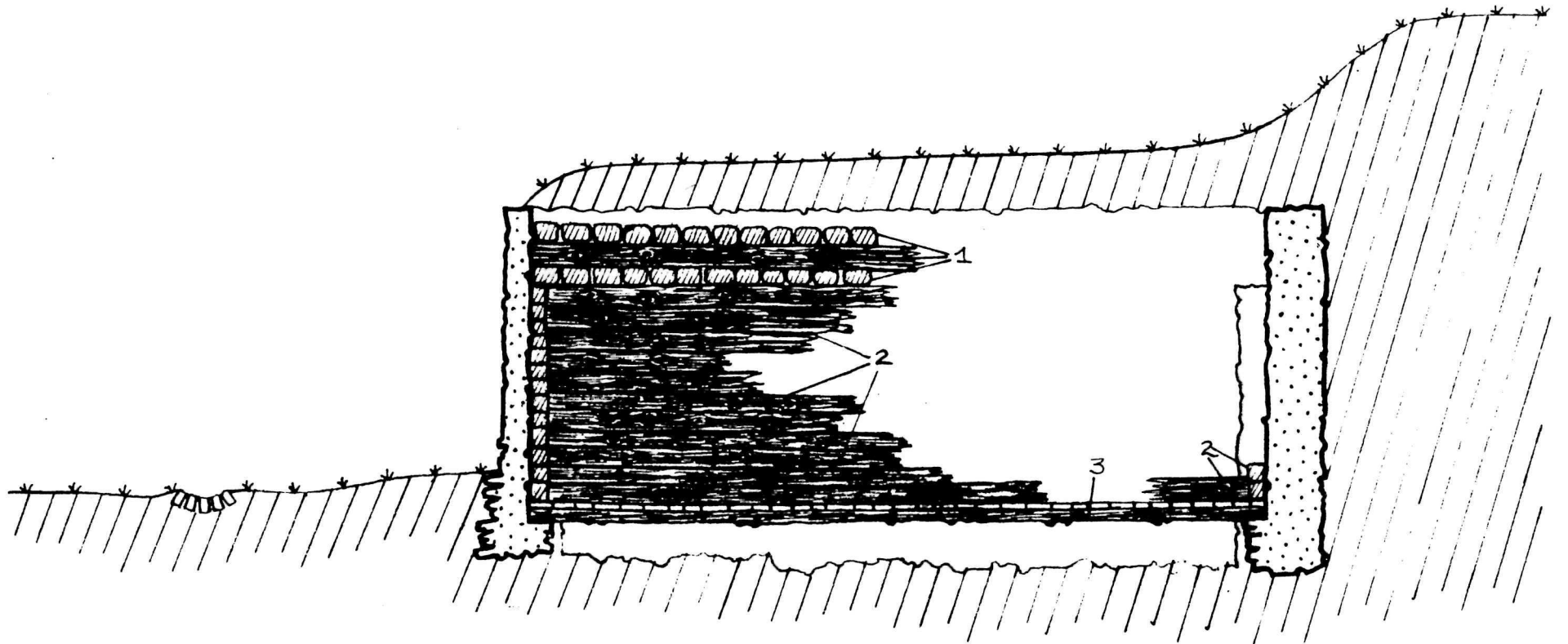
CASEMATES du FORT WELLINGTON. PROFILS RECONSTITUES  
 d'après des EVIDENCES TROUVEES SURTOUIT dans la REGION  
 des CASEMATES du REMPART SUD

A-LARGEUR et HAUTEUR des CASEMATES. PROFIL des  
 STRUCTURES de PIERRE SELLEMENT



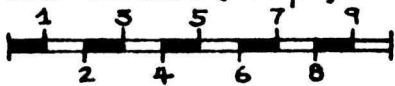
- 1 TERRE-PLEIN
- 2 BANQUETTE
- 3 MUR de SOUTÈNEMENT
- 4 MUR EXTERIEUR
- 5 MUR de FOND
- 6 ESPACES LIBRES
- 7 REBORD pour ASSEoir (es PLANCHERS (DONNEE PROBABLE))
- 8 DRAIN de SURFACE

B-PROFIL des STRUCTURES de PIERRE avec PLANCHER, REVETEMENT et PLAFOND de BOIS



- 1 RANGÉES de POUTRES SUPERPOSEES FORMANT le PLAFOND de BOIS ANTI-MORTIER (Le NOMBRE de RANGÉES et leur HAUTEUR DONNÉS ICI SONT HYPOTHÉTIQUES)
- 2 POUTRES de REVETEMENT des MURS
- 3 SOLIVES et PLANCHER de BOIS (POSITION sur les REBORDS de PIERRE et NIVEAU PROBABLES)

ECHELLE (en pi) :



HISTORICAL THEMES  
FORT WELLINGTON MUSEUM

by  
David Lee

June, 1966

## HISTORICAL THEMES, FORT WELLINGTON MUSEUM

This report is an attempt to provide some short basic information (no references are included) on which an interpretative museological display can be based. The projected display takes the form of six themes to interpreted:

1. A fort at Prescott to guard the St. Lawrence River communication route.
2. The Duke of Wellington.
3. The Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles and the Ogdensburg Raid.
4. The Rebellions of 1837-1838 and the Battle of the Windmill.
5. The second Fort Wellington.
6. The Royal Canadian Rifles Regiment.

At the end is an appendix listing the regular and militia regiments and the commanding officers of the Prescott garrison.



A Fort at Prescott to guard the St. Lawrence River  
communication route

Upper Canada in the early 19th Century was still a frontier community or group of communities -- many in the first stages of development and vitally dependent on the importation of the essentials of life -- administered by a Lieutenant-Governor resident at York. The province was connected to the more settled Lower Canada by the St. Lawrence River communication artery. There was a road which followed the river from Montreal to York but it was never in good condition; transportation was cheaper and quicker by the river despite rapids which caused great delay. The rapids between Lake St. Francis and Lake St. Louis were avoided by means of canals by the year 1800. But above Lake St. Francis there was about 35 miles of treacherous rapids around which bateaux and Durham boats had to be tracked.

Bateaux were flat-bottomed boats about 30' to 40' long and from 5' to 8' wide at the centre; the sides were about 4' high and nearly perpendicular, with both bow and stern usually coming to a sharp point about a foot higher than the rest of the boat. Four or more benches or seats were laid across the middle for the passengers and crews. The boats were sailed downstream but were poled and rowed upstream. They could carry about 40 barrels or about four tons of cargo.

By 1812 Durham boats which could carry ten times as much were common on the St. Lawrence. The Durham boat was actually a flat-bottomed barge with a slip keel and centre board, rounded bow, square stern and long rudder. It had to be about 80' to 90' long and 9' to 10' wide to carry the heavier loads. Like the batteau the Durham boat was sailed downstream and poled upstream.

When rapids were met with, however, cargo and passengers were usually removed, transported by land and reloaded above while the boat was tracked or towed upstream from shore by ropes. Going downstream the boatmen often shot the rapids but often they also portaged cargo and passengers.

These tedious means of transport would naturally be quite vulnerable in the event of war and in wartime freight to be transported is usually more extensive and essential than in peacetime. News of the American declaration of war on Britain (and thus Canada) reached Canada around the end of June 1812 and immediate steps were taken to guard the communications of the St. Lawrence. Volunteer flank companies guarded points on the river where the channel was narrow and where there were rapids. As well, relay escorts were provided for the batteau convoys all the way from Montreal to Kingston; these were especially important during overnight stops between rapids when, having drawn the boats onto the shore, the convoys were particularly vulnerable to attack. Occasionally the escort service was provided by regular troops being conveyed by batteaux upriver for service in Upper Canada. This was the fortunate case on 16 September 1812 when some of the 49th Foot and Royal Newfoundland Fencibles drove off an attack by American militia a few miles below the present town of Prescott. In 1813 the escort system was supported by the provision of three gunboats at each of Kingston, Gananoque and Prescott and it was continued for the duration of the War. (See J.M. Hitsman: The Incredible War of 1812, pp. 53-54, 95-98, 159).

As the map of 1813 shows, settlement between Kingston and Montreal was scattered. On the map is indicated the site of a new village which was named Prescott by Col. Edward Jessup who founded it. Jessup had led a famous regiment known as Jessup's Corps during the American Revolution and established himself in Upper Canada after peace with the United States.

In 1810 he surveyed a townsite and named it after Major-General Robert Prescott who had recently (1807) retired after ten years as Governor-in-Chief of Canada. Jessup established himself in Prescott and the town quickly became an important centre for the trans-shipment of goods because it was just above the important 35 mile stretch of rapids.

Across the river in New York state was the earlier established town of Ogdensburg. The town, located where the St. Lawrence is joined by the Oswegatchie River, was the site of the French mission of La Presentation and of the later British Fort Presentation. In 1792, Samuel and Abraham Ogden bought land in the area which soon developed into the only American settlement on the United States side of the St. Lawrence. The only road leading to Ogdensburg came from the Mohawk Valley settlements to the south. Even though it was small the Americans early recognized the importance of the town's strategic location: a garrison was stationed there, at least temporarily, from as early as 1808.

The British recognized the equally strategic position of tiny Prescott when war loomed imminently in 1812 and it was war which caused its rapid development. In 1813 gunboats were stationed there but before that a permanent fortification was begun, as Prevost said, "for the Regulars and Militia, to secure the Navigation of the St. Lawrence above the Rapids to Lake Ontario...". For the first year only a makeshift "stockaded fort with three embrasures at each of two angles" was built. The next year was begun the fort which was later given the name of Wellington.

Frederick, Baron de Gaugreben, a Lieutenant in the King's Royal German Engineers, was sent to Prescott in January 1813 and ordered "to erect without delay a blockhouse on a small commanding spot in rear of the present battery which it will completely protect." It is not known, then, whether the

fortifications of 1813 were built on those of 1812; there was certainly more than a battery there in 1812. The project became more ambitious as the year progressed, however, as magazines and storehouses were built and the block-house was enclosed. The garrison was not able to get into the fort until Autumn 1813 and even then the work was far from complete, continuing throughout the following year. The fort seems to have been officially completed by December 1814, the month the War ended.

It was certainly Prescott's strategic position which caused the fort to be built there. As early as June 1812 it was known that there was a large movement of troops to Ogdensburg and, of course, the danger of this became quickly evident when the bateau convoys were attacked. The fort at Prescott, then, was a stronghold where were accommodated the troops and provisions of the escort parties which were protecting the convoys in the river towards both Cornwall and Kingston. It was never intended that the guns of the fort should command the river navigation as the river was far too wide for this.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS:

1. The text (supra) mentions a map of the Canadas in 1813. This is a very good map showing the small settlements on both sides of the St. Lawrence and the road and water connections.
2. A plan of de Gaugreben's fort from the Public Archives is quite interesting as it shows how small was the village of Prescott at the time.
3. Prevost's letter to Lord Bathurst suggesting a fort be built at Prescott could be reproduced but it has the disadvantage of not calling the village by name: it merely says "above the rapids."
4. Perhaps a reproduction of the document ordering the establishment of a convoy escort system on the St. Lawrence would be a better possibility.

5. Among the illustrations of bateaux and Durham boats on order from the Public Archives are photographs of scale models made by Admiral Pullen, R.N. Perhaps museology could investigate the authenticity of these models. The River Museum at Upper Canada Village would also probably be helpful.
6. The Burrowes painting of the first Fort Wellington. This was done in 1830 after the abandonment of the fort, and after it had begun to deteriorate. However, it is the only illustration there is of the first fort and it is a satisfactory one.

## The Duke of Wellington

Fort Wellington was named after the great British hero of the Napoleonic Wars. The order naming the half-finished fort came through Montreal 29 January 1814.

Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington, was born Arthur Wesley (the family name was changed about 1790) in Ireland in 1769. The son of a baron and earl, he entered the army as an ensign (1787) and passed rapidly through the ranks, becoming a brevet Colonel in 1796 the year he went to India (whence his older brother was sent the year following as Governor-General). After several brilliant campaigns there he returned home as a Major-General and ran for Parliament. He returned to service during the Napoleonic Wars: in 1808 he was promoted to Lieut.-General and sent to fight in Portugal. For his brilliant victories there and in Spain he was created a Duke in 1814. After the Peace of Paris was signed (30 May 1814) he was appointed Ambassador to France.

War in Canada (the war of 1812-14 against the United States) was still continuing, however; on 11 September 1814, Governor Sir George Prevost led Wellington's veterans, who had recently been sent to Quebec, into a humiliating defeat at Plattsburg, N.Y. Writing from Paris, Wellington tentatively agreed to go to Canada to lead the 1815 campaign.

The Duke of Wellington to Earl Bathurst, the  
Secretary of State for War, 4 November 1814.

My Dear Lord:

I see that the Public are very impatient about the want of success in America. I think that matters are in such an uncomfortable a state here, and they are so settled in Congress, that you could not spare me out of Europe; and, indeed, it is too late to think of going to America

this year; and I believe I should not be able to go to Quebec till April. If, however, in March next you should think it expedient that I should go there, I beg that you will understand that I have no objection whatever. It will be for you to consider whether I can be most useful to you there, here, or elsewhere.

Ever yours, my dear Lord,  
most sincerely

(sgd.) Wellington

Wm. Wood: Select British Documents of the Canadian War of 1812,  
vol. I, p. 131.

The following month, however, the Treaty of Ghent was signed and peace was re-established in North America. In Europe, however, Wellington found himself re-called into service to remove once again the Napoleonic menace to European peace; the occasion was Wellington's greatest triumph - the Battle of Waterloo.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS:

- Portrait of 1817, see: Richard Aldington: The Duke, New York, 1943, p. 222.
- General Order naming the fort at Prescott, Fort Wellington; a photocopy of the document is readily available but may not be very suitable for display as this item is only two lines among three pages of orders.
- Wellington's letter to Bathurst is presumably from the Wellington Papers in England, but a facsimile (photo) of it is reproduced in Wood (supra).

THE GLENGARRY LIGHT INFANTRY FENCIBLES AND THE RAID ON  
OGDENSBURG, 1813.

'Fencibles' were permanent regiments of infantry or cavalry recruited strictly for local defence. They had been used, for example, in Scotland which had no militia prior to 1797. One of these was the first Roman Catholic regiment in the King's Service since the Reformation. Father Alexander Macdonell had convinced the British Government to organize this regiment in 1794, to provide employment for his fellow Glengarrians who had been pushed off their lands in the move towards sheep-runs in Scotland and he served as the chaplain of the regiment until its disbandment in 1802 after the Treaty of Amiens. He then successfully solicited for his men 200 acre land grants in Canada from the Government. Despite Government discouragement he moved a large number of the soldiers and their families to the settlement of Glengarry, which had been begun on the St. Lawrence River, by earlier immigrations of Glengarrians to Upper Canada.

With the worsening military situation in Napoleonic Europe at the turn of the century there were fewer British troops available for service in North America. In consequence, fencible regiments were formed in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Canadas. There were a few abortive attempts to establish a new Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles Regiment in Canada but none succeeded until war in North America seemed imminent. Governor-General Sir George Prevost directed Captain George ('Red George') Macdonell, a Glengarrian serving in the 8th (or King's) Regiment of Foot, to try forming a small battalion of 376 rank and file, which he might command with the rank of major.



The corps was to be organised and uniformed (in green) like the 95th Rifles. Recruiting began early in 1812 and 'Red George' naturally got Father Macdonell to help. The establishment was soon increased to more than 800 men, necessitating the appointment of higher officers - Colonel Edward Baynes and Major Francis Battersby. Recruitment was extended to the Maritimes but was still confined principally to men of Scottish extraction. As the Quebec Gazette said:

The terms of this Levy exact a service, but little more than what every man may be called on in time of war to perform, as a militia man, while it holds out the substantial recompense at its completion, of a valuable grant of Crown Lands, making every soldier of this favoured corps, an Independent Freeholder.

The summer was spent training the new regiment in Lower Canada and in October a detachment was ordered to Prescott. Other detachments performed convoy escort duty on the St. Lawrence.

By February 1813, Major Macdonell was second-in-charge at Fort Wellington. On the night of 21 February, Sir George Prevost stopped at Prescott on his way from Quebec to York by sleigh. He came with the plan of transferring Lieut.-Colonel Pearson, the Commandant at Wellington, to Kingston, and giving Macdonell the command there; both were given a higher local rank. During the night Macdonell tried to impress Prevost with the facility with which the American post at Ogdensburg could be taken. The American garrison there, commanded by Major Benjamin Forsyth, was an immediate threat to communications on the St. Lawrence, having attacked convoys and more recently attacked and looted the undefended town of Brockville. Macdonell had long been eager to remove the American menace but Prevost would allow it only if the prospects of success became even more favourable - being apprehensive about the possibility of escalating predatory warfare along the St. Lawrence.

That night, however, two men deserted to Ogdensburg from the garrison at Prescott. With the Americans now undoubtedly knowing that Prevost was just across the river, it was felt necessary to have the garrison at Fort Wellington conduct manoeuvres on the ice, the surveillance of which would keep the Americans occupied and incapable of capturing Prevost. Accordingly Macdonell took his men onto the ice as Prevost left with only an Indian escort. This was Macdonell's first day in command and he was eager to move right across the river and engage the enemy. He says that he roused them with a shot and then surveilled them "with my glass" and found them to be "no great obstacle". Accordingly he says, "I availed myself of the conditional permission I had received this morning from His Excellency...."

Macdonell led the principal column, on the left, consisting "of about 120 of the King's Regiment ( under Captain Eustace ) and 30 of the Newfoundland ( under Captain Lelievre ) with about 230 militia ( under Colonel Fraser ) . The Right Column was composed of the Right Flank Company of the Glengarry Light Infantry and 70 militia and was commanded by Captain ( John ) Jenkins of the Glengarry Regiment." Macdonell's column was to dislodge the enemy from their gun positions near the town which was to the east of the Black or Oswegatchie River which joined the St. Lawrence at that point. Jenkins was to come up behind the American stronghold on the west side of the river - the old French and British fort of La Presentation.

Despite deep snow and cannon fire the first column rolled the enemy back and chased them through the streets of Ogdensburg, across the river to the fort. Macdonell tarried there to await his field pieces which

came across on horse-drawn sleighs and proceeded to silence, with grape-shot, the sniping-fire from nearby buildings. Meanwhile, Captain Jenkins led his column through even deeper snow up the river bank against heavy fire towards the back of the fort. Grape-shot tore off one of his arms and canister shot lacerated the other and, though he pushed on for awhile longer, he finally collapsed and the column fell back. Just at this point, however, 'Red George' gained the height across from the fort. He called for immediate surrender but the Americans refused "without more fighting". Forming a storming party, he crossed the river and took the fort without difficulty as the enemy left by the back way. Jenkins' men were unable to prevent their escape.

The Americans, estimated at 500 men, fled 14 miles inland but left behind four officers and seventy men as prisoners. Macdonell lost eight killed and 52 wounded including himself. Among those mentioned in the despatches were Jenkins, who apparently lost both arms, and Lieut. de Gaugreben, R.E., who led a reserve detachment. Macdonell felt unable to pursue the fleeing Americans but emptied the magazine, burned the old and new barracks, two schooners, scows, gun boats, guard houses, etc., and carried off all the ordnance stores he could. The attack had not been intended to result in British occupation of Ogdensburg; nor was it really a retaliatory raid for there was only negligible looting of the town. The attack was more truly intended to remove the American means for conducting raids across the river and for harassing shipping. The Americans were too few in number to re-occupy the town so Forsyth took his men to Sackett's Harbour which remained the only real threat to St. Lawrence communications for the duration of the War.

When Prevost got to Brockville that morning he hurried off a note ordering Macdonell not to attack except under extreme circumstances, but naturally it arrived too late. Prevost later answered Macdonell's account of the battle thusly: "Although you have rather exceeded my orders, I am well pleased with what you have done...." And the next month when Prevost reported the victory to the Duke of York, he took credit for ordering the attack. In any case, however, 'Red George' received a C.B. for his daring.

---

**CAPTURED U.S.  
ORDNANCE**

two long iron 12 pounders,  
four " " 6 " ,  
one " " 4 " ,  
two " brass 9 " ,  
two " " 6 " .

**UNIFORMS OF  
THE G.L.I.F.**

Bill Boss says (p. 30) that "at this time the Corps was clothed in white cloth jackets, with green cuffs and a green forage cap. Green jackets were taken into wear before the end of 1812."

**SUGGESTED  
ILLUSTRATIONS**

- Photographic copy of a portrait of unknown origin of 'Red George' Macdonell on order from the Public Archives.
- Xerox copies of the document authorizing the formation of the Glengarry Fencibles or of Macdonell's documentary account of the Ogdensburg Raid might be suitable for display.
- On order from the Public Archives is a xerox copy of an interesting announcement in the Kingston

Gazette, 12 December, 1812, for the recruitment of men for the G.L.I.F. Each man would receive four guineas, 100 acres of land and a uniform (the particulars of which are listed).

- Copy of the printed General Order of 23 February, 1813, announcing the victory at Ogdensburg.

## THE REBELLIONS OF 1837-1838

The Rebellion of 1837-38 in Upper Canada was the result of political, economic, social and religious differences which had been developing for years. It was largely a protest against the entrenched oligarchy known as the Family Compact. This group of long-established families, mostly Loyalist and Anglican, and allied with the Lieutenant-Governor, controlled the Executive and Legislative Councils (similar to the present Cabinet and Upper House) of the provincial government, the judiciary, much of the unsettled land, most public offices and the Established Anglican Church. Because positions in all of these institutions were appointive they could be easily controlled by the oligarchy even though Anglicans and descendants of Loyalists were no longer in the majority by the 1830's. This fact was clearly represented in the elective Legislative Assembly (Lower House) which most of the time had a majority of "reformers", those who wished to reform the political system by one means or another. Since the Executive and Legislative Councils could block any legislation which the Assembly proposed some reformers wanted to follow American practise and establish a republic wherein all levels of government would be elective. Other reformers demanded that the Executive Council follow the British practise of responsible government and hold office only on the approval of both Houses. The authority of the Assembly was too weak, however, and some of the more extreme reformers, seeing little prospect for success by political means, chose to use violence. The attempt was a complete failure and, after a small uprising near Toronto, such extremists as William Lyon Mackenzie fled to the United States. The Rebellion was more widespread in Lower Canada where a similar political situation existed, but there as well the leaders, like Louis-Joseph Papineau, were forced to flee the country.

Some of these political refugees located in such northern States as New York and Michigan where they found many people who listened sympathetically to their story. The 1830's was the time of Andrew Jackson, a period of immense American enthusiasm for republican democracy. Hearing of conditions in the Canadas many Americans felt it was important that the people of Upper Canada should enjoy the blessings of the American system. Societies expressing sympathy for exiled Canadian "patriots" were established; some, known as "Hunter's Lodges" were secret organizations planning the violent overthrow of the Family Compact and particularly the British monarchical system, and its replacement by republican institutions. In late 1838 a few invasion attempts were made across the border -- one of these was organized in northern New York. In November 1838, a small invasion army was collected at Sackett's Harbour, New York, the ranks of which, however, were mostly filled by young men attracted by the promise of free farms in the new republic of Canada. In the group were only about five Canadians and nearly 200 Americans. The Hunters or "Patriots" had connections with discontented Canadians across the border but none came to join them at the Battle of the Windmill.

## BATTLE OF THE WINDMILL

Officials in the Canadas were aware of invasion preparations and called out the militia to protect the St. Lawrence communication route. Fort Wellington was still in the process of reconstruction but 200 men of the 83rd Regiment under Major Plomer Young were in garrison and the local militia was mobilized in early November. Major Young knew about the force being collected across the border by John Ward Birge. Birge recruited Nils Szolteevky von Schoultz, a refugee Polish officer, convincing him that the people of Canada were living in oppressive conditions under the British similar to those which his countrymen were suffering under the Russians. The two planned to seize Fort Wellington which, it was felt, would open all of eastern Ontario invasion from the United States as well as allow Canadians to show themselves and throw out the British; they even expected help from the militia.

12 NOVEMBER (Monday):

The force moved up-river from Sackett's Harbour in three boats, but only von Schoultz's 150 men ever reached Prescott (Birge took sick and landed at Ogdensburg), where they tied up for a short time. While deciding what to do next the line broke and they drifted down to Windmill Point which they seized along with a few other store buildings. Despite patrols by the armed British steamer Experiment more men were landed that day but then United States troops arrived at Ogdensburg and stopped further crossings.

13 NOVEMBER (Tuesday):**Colonel**

During the night the Glengarry Militia under ~~Angers~~ Macdonell arrived hurriedly from Beauharnois Lower Canada, where it had been serving. Later in the day, as one of the Macdonell family recounted it some years later, Lieutenant-Colonel



Gowan arrived with a detachment of the 9th Provincial Battalion along with a battalion of the first Grenville militia under Colonel John Crysler. The force formed up, "the left wing consisting of 30 marines under Lieutenant Parker, part of Captain Macdonell's Glengarry volunteers, and a portion of the Grenville and Dundas militia under Colonel R.D. Fraser, took up a Position along the edge of the woods, where the enemy had posted their piquets, and drove them in a gallant style. The right wing, consisting of forty men of the Eighty-Third Regiment of the line, part of Colonel Gowan's battalion, sixty men under Edmonston, and part of the Dundas Militia, the whole under the command of Major Young, proceeded along the bank of the river, and, having advanced within a few rods of the Windmill encountered a sharp fire from the enemy...." Captain Williams Sandom, R.N., sent from Kingston directed the two armed steamers Experiment and Queen Victoria, which fired on the invaders from the river. The British were unable to dislodge the Patriots from their stronghold before sunset.

14 & 15 NOVEMBER, (WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY):

The dead and wounded lay on the field until the next morning when both forces tended to them under a flag of truce. These two days were quiet as the British awaited the return of the officers who had been sent to Kingston to procure heavier artillery.

16 NOVEMBER (FRIDAY):

As Macbean recounts: "On the 13th Inst. I embarked with Lieutenants Kennedy & Gardiner and my demi-Battery, consisting of 1 Lt. 6 Pr. and 1 12 Pr. Howitzer, with the 83rd Reg't commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. H. Dundass, and proceeded down the river to Prescott: but learning from Captain Sandom R.N. at Brockville, the nature of the Buildings to be attacked, and that 300 Brigands were

in possession of a strong windmill and other stone houses, I represented to Colonel Dundass, the propriety of procuring Battering Guns, Captain Sandom having failed to dislodge them on the day previous, and suffered a heavy loss. The force, however, proceeded to Prescott without disembarking and Colonel Dundass, Captain Randolph R.E., and myself having reconnoitred the place, returned here Kingston, and procured 2 18 Prs., with Travelling Carriages, and with the 12 Pr. How'r. returned to Prescott on the 16th at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 12 o'clock noon, and disembarked the Guns: ... there were delays due to few horses, narrow wharf, muddy roads ... but assisted by many volunteers and rope harness, the Guns were taken across the country nearly 2 miles, in some parts, swampy, and opened their fire with the Howitzer at  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 3 o'clock.

"The object to be attained was to breach the Mill, but as I knew the stone houses were also occupied by the Brigands, I directed one Gun to play upon them, and the other upon the Mill .... The spot (previously chosen) for the Guns, was about 450 Yards distant, on a gentle rising ground, and from which place alone, the upper part of the door of the Mill could be seen. A breast-work of stone 6 feet high, with embrazures, was built upon before the door, and under cover of which three Guns were placed in Battery (two Brass & one Iron) 4 Pounders. These Guns were silent (believed from want of shot) as the Iron one contained a bag of 50 bullets, a bolt, and a rough piece of iron. After firing for an hour and an sic/half, with the best effect, at the houses, the first shot striking near the door, I advanced the Gun on the Mill, but as the Pirates had twice quitted it, and been driven back, shewing also white flags, Colonel Dundass ordered the Regiment to advance, (with which I sent the Howitzer), and ceased firing with the 18 Prs. at 5 o'clock. The fire was nearly direct, at a little over Point Blank range, and the Practise upon the houses never missed, and would have shortly brought them down: that on the Mill does not appear to have been so effective, the Shot having glanced off the circular walls ..."

All buildings but the Mill were burnt after the surrender.

CASUALTIES The casualties were fairly heavy on both sides: the British and Canadians lost 13 killed and 67 wounded; the Patriots lost 30 killed. Very few Patriots escaped and the rest were taken prisoner and court-martialled at Fort Henry. About a dozen of these were executed, and several transported to Tasmania; the majority were released and returned to the United States.

JOHN A.  
MACDONALD

Among those convicted and executed was von Schoultz who, as was acknowledged by all, led his men brilliantly on the field. His advisor at the court-martial (no counsel was allowed) as a 23 year old Kingston lawyer, John Alexander Macdonald, who later became Canada's first Prime Minister.

JOHN KING

Another interesting connection with the Battle is that a young gunner stationed at Kingston, John King, was the grandfather of another Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King. The officials in Canada did not know the whereabouts of William Lyon Mackenzie and it is possible that King shot at the invaders knowing that Mackenzie (W.L.M. King's other grandfather) might possibly be among them (he was actually in New York).

BRITISH &  
CANADIAN  
REGIMENTS

2nd Grenville militia

Glengarry militia under **Angus** Macdonell, Colonel, 4th Regiment

9th Provincial Battalion under Lt.-Col. Gowan

1st Grenville militia under Colonel John Crysler

Dundas militia under Colonel R.D. Fraser

83rd Regiment under Major Plomer Young, from Prescott garrison

30 marines under Lieutenant Parker

83rd Regiment under Lt.-Col. Henry Dundas, from Kingston garrison

Royal Navy detachment under Captain Williams Sandom.

detachment of the Royals and 71st Regiment under Colonel Wetherall  
93rd Regiment

THEIR  
GUNS

William Munro claims that the 93rd Regiment "was armed with the old small-bore 'Brown Bess' with flint-locks, that the grenadiers carried a musket three inches longer in the barrel than 'Bess', and a bayonet with a spring in the handle; and that many of the rear rank men were armed with Brunswick rifles." And, of course, Macbean mentioned (supra) that he brought in from Kingston one light 6 pounder and one 12 pound Howitzer then, later, two 18 pounders and a 12 pound Howitzer.

PATRIOT  
GUNS

Of the three guns captured from the Patriots Macbean says one was an iron English gun (William Gates says it was a 12 pounder) "of the reign of George the Third, weight 11 cwt. 2 Qrs., (?) 9 lbs. Length 5 ft. 6 in. Diameter of Bore  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ." The other two he says were brass 4 pounders (Gates says they were 7 pounders) "from United States Arsenals. Weight 3 cwt., 15 lbs. Length 3 ft.  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. Diameter of Bore 3 in. marked I.M.P. and S.N.Y. .... The Carriages are the work of the United States Arsenals, being complete, and made with Cheeks."

PATRIOT  
FLAG

Also captured after the Battle was the Patriot flag which had flown atop the Mill. Theller says it was a "tri-coloured flag" and Wright describes it as having "an eagle and twin stars upon a ground of blue." He continues to say that years later he saw it in the Armoury of the Tower of London.

THE MILL

The Mill upon which flew the flag had supposedly been built in 1822 by a West India merchant named Thomas Hughes. The mill is not shown on a map of the Prescott area in 1828.

However, a copy of the property deed on file H.S. 8-3, III, shows that Hughes did not own the lot until 1832. After the battle the mill was presumably purchased from its owner and fitted with a magazine on the ground floor, a carronade up higher, and later with a solitary confinement cell. It became a lighthouse in the 1870's.

ILLUS-  
TRATIONS  
SUGGESTED

- Handbill of Buffalo Patriotic Society (copy might be ordered from Buffalo Historical Society; see also Guillet: Lives and Times of the Patriots, p.51.)
- Xerox or photocopy of Macbean's manuscript report of the Battle (can be ordered from the P.A.C., C750, pp. 65-67).
- Various contemporary and later illustrations of the Battle scene already ordered from the R.O.M. and the P.A.C.

## THE SECOND FORT WELLINGTON

A small garrison occupied Fort Wellington until the 1820's when it was abandoned and, although some repair work was done in this period, the fort fell into ruin. With the outbreak of Rebellion in 1837 the important and growing towns on the St. Lawrence like Lancaster, Ganonoque, Brockville, Cornwall and Prescott were occupied by troops. The redoubt at Prescott was in such a ruinous state that a complete reconstruction was commenced in the summer of 1838. The new fortification was only partly finished at the time of the Battle of the Windmill; at that time troops were quartered inside and work had to cease for awhile. The new fortification was built to accommodate 100 men and 1000 stand of arms and was "calculated only to resist desultory attacks from Rebels and their supporters" and that "for a few hours only".

The new fort was built by local contractors under the supervision of the Royal Engineers. Only the general outline of the former earthworks could be retained for use in the reconstruction and even these had to be altered. The gun battery which had faced the river beyond the earthworks was removed and a different work, a caponiere, was built into them to protect the ditch on the river side. The gateway was altered to hold a swivel gun facing the landward side. The wooden casemates which also served as platforms for the guns of the old fort were filled in and the new guns were placed on the solid earthen ramparts supported by wooden platforms. This necessitated the construction of appareilles or ramps to run the cannons up to their platforms. This was now possible as the new blockhouse covered a much smaller area of the enceinte or interior of the fort. There was more space to move around in now and this provided room for the erection of a separate officer's

quarters, guardhouse, privy and cookhouse inside the fort. The new fortification was built of more permanent materials than was the first; two storeys of the second blockhouse, for example, were made of solid stonework.

Though small, Fort Wellington was an important part of the fortification system needed to protect communications between Upper and Lower Canada which, by the 1840's and 1850's, had been improved through the construction of the Grand Trunk Railway and canals on the Rideau Waterway and around the rapids between Prescott and Cornwall. The fort was not completed until 1839, months after the last Rebel raid onto Canadian soil, but the threat remained a prominent consideration in British military strategy for years after, so 'revolt stations' like Fort Wellington and Fort Mississauga had to remain. The only major frontier fortifications in the 1840's and 1850's were at Quebec, Ile-aux-Noix and Kingston.

#### SUGGESTED

- ILLUSTRATIONS - Photograph of troops tenting in front of Fort Wellington in the 1860's.
- Plans: 1850 (town and fort by Vavasour).
  - 1854 (town, fort and railway under construction).
  - 1839 (original in Parks Engineers' dossier; shows fort).
  - 1842 (original in Parks Engineers' dossier; shows fort).
  - 1868 (blockhouse)
  - 1923 (shows use of the blockhouse by the militia).
  - no date (blockhouse).

- Plans showing proposals for alterations to:
  - the windows of the blockhouse gallery (no date)
  - the officers' quarters (c. 1870)
  - the guardhouse (1849)
  - the blockhouse (c. 1846)
  - the caponiere, ditch and stockade (1878)
  - the fort (1868) (original in Parks Engineers' dossier).
- Xerox copy of tenders advertized in the Brockville Recorder, 11 July 1839, for the construction of the caponiere, ditch and stockade.
- Copy of the specifications required of the contractor in the erection of the blockhouse (dated 13 August 1838).
- The illustrations might be supplemented by the addition of a small model of the first Fort Wellington to show how the present fort differs from the former. An overlay enclosed may help in making this possible.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLES REGIMENT AT  
FORT WELLINGTON

One remarkable threat to the security of frontier posts was desertion across the nearby border: hundreds of men were annually required to fill gaps left by deserters so it was decided to form a regiment of veterans who, under pain of forfeiting a good pension, would be more secure against desertion. Consequently, in 1841, volunteers were solicited from men who held a "good conduct" badge and who had a minimum 15 years service in other regiments, whether they were or were not at present in the Army; after twenty-five years total Army service, they would qualify for a pension. The Colonel-in-Chief was the Governor-General and the authorized strength was ten companies. By 1849 it was noted that the average age of the men in the Regiment had grown considerably older principally because it was difficult to get men who met the high standards. Consequently, the minimum service requirements were reduced and a new maximum service requirement (less than 16 years) was instituted. In 1852 the establishment was reduced to six companies but the lowered standards began to succeed in attracting more

men to enlist in the Regiment allowing the establishment to be increased again to ten companies by 1858 and fourteen by 1860.

By the mid-1840's the R.C.R.'s formed the garrison of most Canadian frontier posts and it was found that desertion was greatly reduced. A survey showed that at three selected frontiers (Amherstburg, Niagara and Isle-aux-Noix) 223 men had deserted in the three years between 1839 and 1842: in the following three years (1842 to 1845) these frontiers, garrisoned by R.C.R.'s, had suffered only 33 desertions. There are no desertion figures available for Fort Wellington.

The Regiment was in garrison at Fort Wellington by at least June 1843 and stayed until about mid-1854 when Enrolled Pensioners are reported there. A small detachment was sent to Prescott for a few months in 1859 to perform look-out duties. By the next year, however, the fort was apparently empty and it remained empty until the Fenian menace became worrisome in 1865-66. Repairs were hurriedly required and tents had to be pitched outside the fort in 1866. The steamer Hercules was hired and fitted up as a gunboat to protect the area, preventing trouble from a large body of Fenians gathered at Ogdensburg. Indeed, on St. Patrick's Eve, 1866, a large group of Fenians actually tried to cross the river to plant their flag atop the

Windmill, but bad weather forced them back. Among the troops garrisoning Fort Wellington between 1867 and 1870 was a detachment of the R.C.R.'s again. In 1870 all British troops were withdrawn from Canada, the R.C.R.'s disbanded and Fort Wellington abandoned.

ILLUSTRATIONS

SUGGESTED

- Xerox copy of a document authorizing the formation of the Royal Canadian Rifles Regiment.
- Painting of a private of the R.C.R.'s in a xerox copy of an article on that regiment in the Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research, 1957, p. 182.

For information on the uniforms of the R.C.R. see: "The Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment, 1840 to 1870" by Major G. Tylden in The Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research, 1956, pp. 59-61.

## BRITISH REGIMENTS AT FORT WELLINGTON

The following is a table of regiments which the documents indicate stayed at Fort Wellington 1812-1870. In some cases the regiments may not have actually stayed in the fort itself but rather in the town; in the documents both the town and fort are used interchangeably. An attempt is made to show the strength of the detachments but it is often impossible; when the documents do not specify it is even possible that there be only one individual of a particular regiment present. As well, it is possible that a regiment might have stayed only overnight on its way up or down the river. It is often difficult to determine the length of their stay and in most cases the best we can do is note that they were there on a particular date.

**A. FIRST REGIMENT OF FOOT (ROYAL SCOTS):**

The first battalion passed through Prescott on its way from Niagara to Montreal in January 1815. Twenty-four years later, a detachment of the second battalion spent two days in Prescott, again while moving from one place to another. The occasion was the Upper Canada Rebellions. An account says that "the town was full of Troops (93rd Regt.) and Militia" in December 1838 so they occupied a dilapidated house in the town and did not stay in the Fort.

**B. EIGHTH (KING'S) REGIMENT OF FOOT:**

A detachment of 56 men is reported at Prescott 24 October 1812. The detachment must have been augmented for by the time of the Ogdensburg Raid it was a company of 120 men led by Capt. James Hardy Sustace.

**C. SIXTEENTH (BEDFORDSHIRE) REGIMENT OF FOOT:**

It is possible that it was the whole regiment which arrived at Prescott 8 August 1814 from Montreal. Lieut-Colonel Henry Tolley, their Commanding Officer, remarks that from August to November "one subaltern and 26 privates of the 16th Regiment have been employed in a Gunboat on the River St. Lawrence, between this place and Kingston." The Regiment left Canada in August 1815 and the last mention of it at Prescott is 11 May 1815.

**D. FORTY FIRST (WELCH) REGIMENT OF FOOT:**

There were probably troops of the 41st Regiment at Prescott as early as November 1812. Some of the Regiment is reported on guard duty at the "new fort" 13 August 1813. The only other mention of the Regiment being there was 15 September 1813 when ten rank and file of the second battalion are noted there.

**E. EIGHTY-THIRD REGIMENT OF FOOT (ROYAL IRISH RIFLES):**

Some of the regiment was at Prescott under Major Plomer Young, the rest at its Kingston Headquarters in November 1838. Those at Kingston were sent to help at the Battle of the Windmill and then returned to headquarters. Some of the regiment (presumably the same unknown number as previous to the Battle) are reported at Prescott 21 December 1838 and Young (now Lieut-Col.) is still there March 1839.

**F. EIGHTY-NINTH (PRINCESS VICTORIA'S) REGIMENT OF FOOT:**

A few of 89th are reported at Prescott 15 September but we know with certainty that by 1 February 1814 there were 1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 3 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 1 Paymaster, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quartermaster, 1 Surgeon, 27 Serjeants, 18 Drummers, 449 rank and file, 6 horses, 50 women, and 56 children of the second battalion in the garrison. Lt.-Col. Morrison was the Officer Commanding. The Regiment moved to Kingston 16 July 1814.

**G. NINETIETH (CAMERONIAN) REGIMENT OF FOOT:**

The 90th Regiment spent only a few weeks at Prescott arriving 21 July 1814 and leaving probably in August.

**H. NINETY-THIRD (HIGHLANDER) REGIMENT OF FOOT:**

The Regiment came to Prescott for the Battle of the Windmill (November 1838) and many seem to have stayed on into 1839. The last mention of the Regiment there is 2 April 1839.

**I. CANADIAN FENCIBLES:**

It is difficult to determine the stay of the Canadian Fencibles at Fort Wellington for there are only two mentions of them in the documents and they are confusing. 15 September 1813 there are 1 Major, 1 Captain, 3 Lieutenants, 3 Ensigns, 8 Serjeants, 6 Drummers, 196 rank and file, 1 woman and 1 horse of the Regiment reported there. But the Regiment is also reported to have assumed command at Fort Wellington 13 July 1814 and then been replaced 21 July 1814! Col. Robinson was in command.

**J. DE WATTEVILLE'S REGIMENT:**

Men from this regiment under Lt.-Col Roderic de May were on guard duty at the "new fort" 13 August 1813. The strength of the Regiment is reported 15 September 1813 to have included 1 Lt.-Col., 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 11 Serjeants, 4 Drummers, 201 rank and file, and 2 horses.

**K. GLENGARRY LIGHT INFANTRY FENCIBLES:**

The first detachment of Glengarrians arrived at Prescott 9 October 1812. 22 October 1812 Capt. John Jenkins is ordered to lead a detachment to Prescott: we cannot say with certainty that either detachment remained at Prescott for both were on convoy duty on the River. However, 21 December 1812 there were reported there 1 Major, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 5 Serjeants, 3 Drummers and 115 rank and file Glengarrians, and Macdonell and Jenkins led a company in the Ogdensburg Raid of February 1813. Some of the men seem to have stayed at Prescott for at least another year. For example, 1 February 1814 1 Ensign, 1 Serjeant and 27 rank and file are reported there.

**L. ROYAL MARINE ARTILLERY:**

It is quite possible that a detachment or company of the Royal Marine artillery was stationed at Prescott throughout 1813-1814. 1 November 1813 a detachment is reported there and 1 February 1814 there are reported 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer and 13 rank and file. These are the only mentions of the Regiment, however.

**M. ENROLLED PENSIONERS:**

150 Pensioners went on garrison duty in 1854 in Upper Canada but Fort Wellington got only 12 of them: 1 Serjeant, 1 Corporal and 10 Privates. The Pensioners, administered and paid by the Provincial Government, were in garrison at Prescott by at least 6 November 1854. In April 1856 Capt. Moore led a reinforcement of 13 more Privates to Prescott from Ottawa. It is not known how long they stayed in garrison at the fort but it certainly would be no longer than until 1860.

**N. ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY:**

It is quite possible that a detachment of the Royal Artillery was stationed at Prescott continuously from 1812 to 1825. The Artillery (and Drivers) reported there 25 May 1813 included 1 Subaltern, 1 Serjeant, and 32 rank and file. By 15 September the detachment is a little bigger but by 14 February 1814 it has been reduced to 13 men. A lieutenant Shaw is reported there 22 September 1819 and 28 November 1825 the detachment is ordered removed. A detachment (1 Corporal and 4 Privates) is reported there again February 1839 and again in September 1868.

**O. ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLES REGIMENT:**

The R.C.R.'s were in garrison at Fort Wellington by at least 2 June 1843 and probably considerably earlier. There are no figures for the size of the garrison which was commanded by Captain James Black. 10 September 1847 the garrison is described as being a "company and Detachment" commanded by Lieut. William H. Fitzgerald. 9 May 1850 the garrison is reported as a company and in 1851 as 61 men. 24 July 1851 (Brevet) Major William Atkin is commanding a detachment there and he is succeeded 21 March 1853 by Capt. W.H. Kingsmill. The following year the Regiment was replaced by Pensioners but 22 September 1859 two men were reported at Prescott with their wives and 5 children; they had apparently been there since 9 July performing lookout duties. This was probably for a short time as the fort was empty from about 1860 to 1865. A detachment of the R.C.R.'s is reported back at Prescott by the Spring of 1867 -- commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Donovan. The detachment

remained there until 1869 and was subsequently commanded by Capt. E.B. Wilson. On the occasion of Fenian renewed threats the garrison was augmented by another detachment under Major Edward Whyte. This detachment arrived 12 August and tented inside the fort; the subsequent arrival of militia reinforcements probably resulted in tents being pitched outside the fort as well. The R.C.R.'s left Prescott forever 20 October 1869.

#### P. CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS:

There were engineers at Prescott throughout the construction periods of 1812-1814 and 1838-1839 but only one breakdown of the Corps' strength is immediately available: 2 Lieutenants, 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer, 9 rank and file and 4 women are reported there, 15 September 1813. Lieut. Frederic Baron de Gaugreben was in charge there from January to August 1813, and from about April to December 1814. Capt. F. Randolph was in charge from about June 1838 to at least July 1839.

#### Q. ROYAL NEWFOUNDLAND FENCIBLES INFANTRY REGIMENT:

It is not known how long men of this Regiment stayed at Prescott but 3 Captains, 2 Ensigns, 4 Serjeants, 2 Drummers and 71 rank and file are reported there 21 December 1812. Thirty of them participated in the Ogdensburg Raid (February 1813) under the command of Capt. Lelievre. 25 May 1813 there was still 1 Captain, 1 Subaltern, 1 Serjeant, and 31 rank and file there.

#### R. ROYAL SAPPERS AND MINERS:

A detachment of the third company, third battalion is said to been stationed at Prescott during the second half of 1813. As well, the entire fourth company, fourth battalion is said to have wintered at Prescott, 1814-1815.

#### S. INDIANS:

A few Indians are reported at Fort Wellington 4 June 1813 and 15 September 1813. One subaltern, 27 rank and file, 25 May 1813.



## CANADIAN MILITIA AT FORT WELLINGTON

A. WAR OF 1812

The first mention of militia at Fort Wellington is 28 July 1812. 110 men of the 9th Incorporated Militia are reported there 24 October 1812. The number had grown by February 1813 for about 300 militia participated in the Ogdensburg Raid. This would be close to the number reported 25 May 1813:

Embodied Militia - 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 6 Captains, 13 Subalterns, 1 Paymaster, 1 Adjutant, 13 Serjeants, 8 Drummers, 245 rank and file.

Dragoons - 2 Captains, 4 Subalterns, 6 Serjeants, 100 rank and file.

The numbers reported 15 September 1813 are a little higher; those reported 1 February 1814, however, indicate a reduced force:

Provincial Dragoons - 1 Captain, 1 Serjeant, 8 rank and file, 10 horses.

Incorporated Militia - 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 7 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 6 Ensigns, 1 Adjutant, 1 Q.M., 14 Serjeants, 7 Drummers, 144 rank and file, 4 horses, 20 women, 65 children, 4 civilian servants, 2 deserters.

In November 1813 Captain R.D. Fraser commanding troops of the Provincial Light Dragoons at Fort Wellington was ordered to Brockville to gather all the local militia and bring it to Prescott in view of General Wilkinson's march down the River.

B. UPPER CANADA REBELLIONS

There seems to have been no troops, regular or militia, stationed at Fort Wellington for the first year of the Rebellions but the fort was garrisoned for many years after. The militia seems to have been there first (by at least 18 January 1838).

- 
1. January 1838 - Capt. Jessup's Volunteer Company

1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 3 Serjeants, 3 Corporals,  
51 Privates.

(Signed) Hamilton D. Jessup  
Captain, 2nd Company  
Royal Prescott Rangers

---

2. 16 August 1838 - "...the Glengarry Company now at Prescott..."
- 

3. 5 November 1838 - "200 men of the 2nd Grenville Militia at Prescott."
- 

14 December 1838 - First Regiment Grenville Militia

1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 6 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 6 Ensigns,  
1 Adjutant, 1 Q.M., 1 Surgeon, 1 Paymaster, 2 Staff Serjeants,  
17 Serjeants, 248 Privates.

(Signed) Lt.-Col. Hugh Munro

---

4. 16 December 1838 - Company of the Lancaster Glengarry Highlanders

1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 2 Drummers, 4 Serjeants, 70 rank and  
file, 4 women, 8 children, 1 servant.

(Signed) Capt. George Macdonell

---

5. 1 April 1839 - Company of the Lancaster Glengarry Highlanders  
(same strength as above).
- 

6. 24 December 1838 - 2nd Grenville Militia

1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 6 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 5 Ensigns,  
1 Paymaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Asst.-Surgeon, 1 Q.M., 1 Serjeant-Major,  
15 Serjeants, 15 Corporals, 323 Privates.

(Signed) Col. R.D. Fraser

---

## 7. 2 January 1839 - Militia troops

- Brockville Light Dragoons - 1 Corporal, 14 Privates;
- First Regiment Grenville Militia - 1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 6 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 6 Ensigns, 1 Paymaster, 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon, 1 Asst.-Surgeon, 20 Serjeants, 18 Corporals, 292 Privates;
- Second Grenville Militia - 1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 5 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 5 Ensigns, 1 Paymaster, 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon, 1 Asst.-Surgeon, 17 Serjeants, 15 Corporals, 323 Privates;
- Captain Macdonell's Company - 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 4 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 4 Corporals, 69 Privates;
- Captain Jessup's Company - 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 3 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 2 Corporals, 55 Privates.

(Signed) Plomer Young, Colonel PS

---

## 8. 21 January 1839 - Captain H.D. Jessup's Permanent Independent Company

1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 1 Colour Serjeant, 2 Serjeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Drummers, 56 Privates.

---

## 9. February 1839 - Militia at Prescott

- Toronto Provincial Artillery - 1 Serjeant, 1 Corporal, 14 Privates;
- Brockville Cavalry - 1 Subaltern, 2 Corporals, 19 Privates;
- First Grenville Militia - 1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 6 Captains, 12 Subalterns, 1 Paymaster, 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon, 1 Q.M., 18 Serjeants, 18 Corporals, 276 Privates;
- Second Grenville Militia - 1 Lt.-Col., 1 Major, 5 Captains, 9 Subalterns, 1 Paymaster, 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon, 1 Q.M., 15 Serjeants, 15 Corporals, 301 Privates;
- Lt. Glengarry Independent Company - 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 4 Serjeants, 4 Corporals, 2 Drummers, 70 Privates.
- Prescott Independent Company - 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 3 Serjeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Drummers, 53 Privates.

(Signed) Colonel Plomer Young

---

10. March 1839 - Militia at Prescott  
(substantially the same strength as above)

---

## 11. 22 April 1839 - First Grenville Embodied Militia

1 Major, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 3 Ensigns, 1 Paymaster,  
 1 Adjutant, 1 Q.M., 1 Surgeon, 9 Serjeants, 9 Corporals,  
 216 Privates.  
 (At the Windmill - 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 2 Corporals,  
 25 Privates).

(Signed) Major Duncan Clark

---

## 12. 20 January 1840 - Lancaster-Glengarry Company

1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 3 Surgeons, 3 Corporals,  
 1 Drummer-Bugler, 54 Privates.

(Signed) George Macdonell (Captain)

---

## 13. 24 March 1840 - Prescott Independent Company

1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Serjeants, 3 Corporals, 1 Drummer,  
 37 Privates.

(Signed) H.D. Jessup

---

## 14. 1 January 1841 - 2 companies, 4th Battalion Incorporated Militia

1 Lt.-Col., 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 1 Paymaster,  
 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon, 10 Serjeants, 6 Corporals, 4 Drummers,  
 121 Privates.

Over 100 men detached locally, especially on the Rideau Canal.

(Signed) Lt.-Col. Joseph Hill

---

## 15. 1 December 1842 - 2 companies, 5th Battalion Incorporated Militia

1 Lt.-Col., 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 1 Paymaster,  
 1 Adjutant, 1 Surgeon, 12 Serjeants, 8 Corporals, 3 Drummers,  
 148 Privates.

Over 100 men detached locally, especially on the Rideau Canal.

(Signed) Col., the Hon., Philip Van Koughnet

(This, the 5th battalion took over from Col. Hill's 4th battalion  
 c. 1 July 1842. This is the last mention of either battalion).

---

C. 1860's (FENIANS)

Lieutenant James S. Maitland, first battalion, 15th Regiment (Militia?), was commanding several corps of militia at Prescott as early as 20 November 1865. These corps are listed in a return of June 1866:

corps	O.C.	officers	men
Ottawa Garr. Battery	Forrest	3	67
Morrisburg do.	Callway	3	68
Prescott do.	Twomley (?)	1	48
Iroquois do.	McDonell	2	51
Prescott Rifle No. 1	Jessup	3	65
do. 2	White	3	56
Merrickville Rifles	Gwynne	3	51
Burrts Rapids	Sheppard	3	46

However, 8 June 1866, 1144 volunteers (and 182 regulars) are reported at Prescott under Col. Atcherley! Presumably when the Royal Canadian Rifles came to Fort Wellington in 1867 the number of militia was reduced; there is no mention of militia there again until 14 August 1869. This date was the occasion of the renewed Fenian threat: Col. Forrest led 6 batteries of Volunteer Artillery and Col. Jessup led the 56th Battalion of Volunteers. Under an arrangement with the Dominion Government the R.C.R.'s handed over the command of Fort Wellington to 1 subaltern, 1 serjeant, and 24 rank and file Canadian militia 20 October 1869. The Governor-General described to the Lieutenant-General Commanding (Windham) the nature of this new force: they "must be looked upon rather as Civilians or Police placed as caretakers in charge of a public building and such being the case it appears that there is a legal difficulty in the way of placing them under your Command." They can be called militia, however. The force was augmented for some reason the next year as 300 militia are reported there 25 May 1870. Later in the year, however, the fort was finally vacated.

## OFFICERS COMMANDING THE PRESCOTT GARRISON

NAME	DATES	UNIT
Col. R.D. Fraser	reported C.O. 28 July 1812	militia
Col. Thomas Lethbridge	terminated C.O. 9 Oct. 1812	?
Lt.-Col. Thomas Pearson	Became C.O. 9 Oct. 1812; terminated 22 February 1813	?
Major (later Lt.-Col.) George Macdonell	Became C.O. 22 Feb., 1813; reported still there 4 June 1813	G.L.I.F.
Lt.-Col. Roderic de May	reported C.O. 13 Aug. 1813	de Watterville
Lt.-Col. Thomas Pearson	reported C.O. 15 Sept. 1813; still there 14 Feb. 1814	?
Lt.-Col. Morrison	reported C.O. 22 April 1814; terminated 13 July 1814	89th Regiment
Col. Robinson	Became C.O. 13 July 1814; terminated 21 July 1814	Cdn. Fencibles
Lt.-Col. Henry Tolley	reported C.O. 8 Aug. 1814; still there 11 May 1815	16th Regiment
?	1815-1838	
Capt. Hamilton D. Jessup	reported C.O. 18 Jan. 1838	Prescott Indep. Militia
Major (later Lt.-Col.) Plomer Young	appointed C.O. 26 March, 1838; still there March 1839	P.S. (Particular Service)
Lt.-Col. Joseph Hill	reported C.O. 1 Jan. 1841; terminated c. 1 July 1842	4th Battalion Incorporated Militia
Col., the Hon. Philip Van Koughnet	Became C.O. c. 1 July 1842; still there 1 Dec. 1842	5th Battalion Incorporated Militia
Capt. James Black	reported C.O. 2 June 1843	R.C.R. Regiment
Lt. William H. Fitzgerald	reported C.O. 10 Oct. 1847	R.C.R. Regiment
Brevet Major William Atkin	reported C.O. 24 July 1851; terminated 21 March 1853	R.C.R. Regiment
Capt. W.H. Kingsmill	Became C.O. 21 March 1853; died 22 April 1853	R.C.R. Regiment
Lt. James S. Maitland	1853-? reported C.O. Nov. 1865; still there June 1866	Enrolled Pensioners militia?
Col. Atcherley	reported C.O. 8 June 1866	militia
Lt. Thomas Donovan	reported C.O. 6 May 1867	R.C.R. Regiment
Capt. E.B. Wilson	reported C.O. 4 June 1869	R.C.R. Regiment
Major Edward Whyte	reported C.O. 14 Aug. 1869; still there 27 Aug. 1869	R.C.R. Regiment
?	?	militia

REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS IN  
THE BLOCKHOUSE AT FORT WELLINGTON,  
PRESCOTT, ONTARIO.

E.A. WYLIE

1966

### INTRODUCTION

The history and documents of Fort Wellington are contained in several reports prepared by members of the History Section of the Division and are listed in the bibliography of this report.

What we are concerned with in this report are the two blockhouses. The first, built in 1813 fell into disrepair and in 1838 was torn down to make way for a new one which still stands. The first covered twice the area of the second. Some of these features are shown in fig. 1. The second blockhouse is 50' square. It is a 3 storey structure, the two lower storeys being fieldstone and the overhanging storey being of boards (fig. 2). Although clearing was done to facilitate the building of the second blockhouse, the outline of the earlier one shows up in photographs which date to the 1920's and 30's (figs. 2, 3).

The present excavation from October 5th to November 6th was undertaken when it was decided to replace the floor in the rooms of the ground floor. A similar replacement had resulted in excavation of the Magazine carried out in 1965 by Karalee Coleman (1966). There were three rooms to be dug; the Armoury, Storeroom, and Guardroom. These were designated with the operation numbers 2H12, 2H13, and 2H14 respectively. Each room was dug in quadrants so that complete cross sections could be obtained.



PART I: OPERATION 12A. DESCRIPTION:

This operation consisted of the excavations carried out in the Armoury, the SW room of the blockhouse. The Armoury is a vaulted chamber 20' N-S and 15' E-W. The side walls rise to 4.2' and then become a barrel vault rising to a height of 8'. The ceiling is built of bricks set on their narrow sides.


When I arrived on October 5th the floorboards had been removed after being recorded by Mr. Hugh Gilmour. Beneath the floorboards are 13 heavy oak timbers lying E-W (fig. 4, 5, 6). They vary in width from 0.2' to 1.2', have a uniform depth of 0.5' and are approximately 1' apart. They all display straight rather than curved saw marks and on all but the four northern ones, the bark has been removed. (fig. 6) The latter still have bark on 2 sides. The beams are several inches shorter than the width of the room and at either end rest on pieces of brick, stone or wood which in turn rest on a masonry sill. The centre of each beam is supported by bricks or stones resting on a central sill which runs N-S, the length of the room. The beams are solid oak and despite the effects of age and dry rot are still unbroken and sturdy.


Filling the spaces between the beams and worked under them is a layer of charcoal (fig. 7), the pieces averaging 0.15' in diameter. Some pieces are saplings burnt only on the outside with haste and probably for this specific purpose.

The dimensions and positions of the beams may be seen in the plan view (fig. 4).

The beams were removed and the room divided into four quadrants preparatory to excavation. Sub-operation

designations for the quadrants were B, C, D and E, A having been used to classify those artifacts found in or on top of the charcoal over the whole room.

The charcoal layer became a repository for artifacts from the 2nd fort period but was contaminated by debris which has sifted through the floor boards. Pieces of metal, brick, pottery and wood were common. Some of the wood was worked as small blocks  molding or door frame, painted with gray enamel.

In this room there was a patch of sawdust, a  shaped mass 0.3' thick in the south-west corner of the room. It was probably deposited after the beams were in place because it is around the beams not under them. It is conceivable that the sawing for the floor planks was done in this corner during the original construction. Otherwise the sawdust would indicate later repairs to the building at which time the floor was lifted. I doubt that such a quantity of sawdust could be deposited in this configuration, simply by seeping through the floor boards.

Digging began with the north-east quadrant 2H12B. This was followed by the south-west quadrant 2H12C, the north-west quadrant 2H12D and the southeast one 2H12E.

#### B. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The following architectural features were uncovered in this room. At 3' below the central sill in 12B an east-west wall appeared projecting from under the sill. When this wall was followed, it could be seen to run to the east sill and then to turn and run partially under that sill to the north sill. (fig. 8, 9, 10). The wall itself consisted of rubble stone, a combination of both round field boulders and broken sandstone slabs. It was only 2 courses in height and its upper course was covered by a thin sealing layer of gray clay which isolated it from the trench dug down to the wall

from the sill above. (fig. 11) Although not mortared themselves the rocks bore traces of mortar. This differed from the white gritty mortar found on the rocks of the present structure, being instead of creamy, yellow and very fine textured.

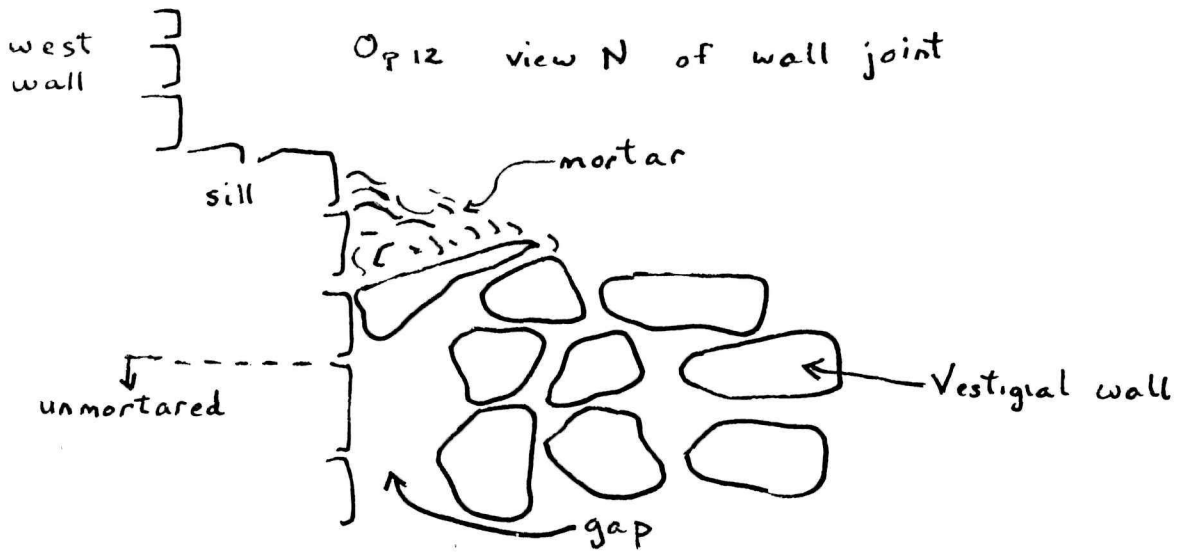
The vestigial wall's relationship to the east sill is interesting. When excavation in the room had been completed, the stones were pulled out. They came away from the sill cleanly leaving a hollow. It would appear that the east sill was built around the already existing rubble stone wall.

The stones of this vestigial wall immediately next to the north sill had been removed leaving a gap of several inches. There is no indentation of the sill at this point, indicating that the vestigial wall at one time continued possibly into the adjacent magazine, but was completely removed to accommodate the present blockhouse walls.

No Architectural features were found in 12C.

In 2H12D several interesting features were uncovered. The E-W wall continues from 12B projecting into the pit and ending about 1' from the west sill. Here it makes an unusual joint with the west sill. The stonework of the wall itself stops a few inches short of the west sill. There is a capstone and spilled mortar covering the space between the two. The area of the west sill at the point of intersection was free of spilled mortar indicating that the west sill was built up against the already existing vestigial wall, so that the excess mortar from the sill fell on the top of the vestigial wall, creating this cap. The stones of the west sill from this elevation to the foot of the excavation are not mortared.

Unfortunately we did not reach the bottom of the sills of the building. I suspect that since a wall could not be built to any height without mortar or forms, that part of the west sill which is not mortared was dropped into a trench,



and topped with a layer of mortar, which oozed out on to the then ground surface. The rest of the sill was then built above, on this.

In addition to the E-W wall large chunks of mortar projected from the west sill. One of these was 5' long and 2' wide and 1.5' deep. Such a mass of mortar would have to have support while in its liquid form, indicating again that the west sill up to this mass was sunk into a trench, and the mortar which was dumped flowed out on to what was ground surface during the construction of the second blockhouse.

The last quadrant to be dug was 12E, the south-east one. It revealed no architectural features.

As a result of our excavation several features relating to the present blockhouse were uncovered. Running down the centre of the room N-S was a 2' wide masonry sill which supported the floor beams. It is constructed of sandstone slabs square cut and averaging 0.5' x 2' x 1'. They are cemented together with a white grainy lime mortar. The sill consisted of two courses 1.5' thick and butts against the north and south sills. (fig. 12)

In addition to the central sill the sills of all four walls were uncovered. Although digging in all four quadrants extended to natural soil, at no point in the room was the bottom of any of these sills reached. To do so would have undermined the building, and it was felt that such information could be gained by digging external trenches later.

### C. STRATIGRAPHY

The stratigraphy from this room confirms the sequence of those features already discussed. (See fig. 11, 13) Layers I and II are natural, I being a heavy sandy gray clay at which level digging ceased, and II being a layer of fine yellow compact sand. Layer III is a black greasy clay similar to buried turf. It is this layer which I have interpreted as ground surface during the construction of the present blockhouse. This does not mean that it was a grass surface then, for the old blockhouse stood on this spot also. The consistency of the soil also suggests the sludge which results from an exposed surface.

Layer IV is a lens of gray clay so compact and pure in texture that in other circumstances would be described as natural. However, this lens contained artifacts such as bone and pieces of wood used in construction. It may have some relationship to the well in the adjacent hallway. The well would account for the presence of a substance whose virtue as a construction material is its ability to retain water. Notice in fig. 13 that this clay is restricted to the area east of the central sill. A certain contradiction seems to exist.

The clay appears in section as a wedge suggesting an accidental deposition in the manner of flowing; however the east wall of the room stands between this deposit and the well. It is conceivable that the clay was residue from dredging carried out during the construction of the building, but in this case it is difficult to understand why it would

be deposited in the wedge shape. A possible explanation is that the well was dredged at the time the sills were completed but before the walls of the room had begun. The dredged clay could then be either thrown by shovel-fulls or tipped in from wheelbarrows and still flow out towards the centre of the room in this wedge pattern.

It may be seen (fig. 13) that the gray clay has flowed over the bottom course of the E-W wall thus sealing it from the layers of fill above. It is only in this area immediately above the wall that it is pure clay. It becomes sandier north and south of this point.

Layers Va and Vb are a brown loam and a mottled sand layer respectively. I have interpreted them as being back fill related to the walls of the present blockhouse. Their order of deposition is reversed on either side of the intrusive robber trench (fig. 13) representing a former wall which obstructed the horizontal flow of fill. Alternate wheelbarrow loads could have been dumped to create this stratigraphy.

Layers VIa and VIb are both mortar layers.

Layer VIa is a compact (fig. 14) crusty layer of mortar which includes pieces of unpainted wood and brickbats. It rose toward the sides of the room and even more in the corners. This layer follows the backfill in order of deposition. Since the backdirt was only deposited after the sills were built, Layer VIa must be associated with the construction of the wall and/or roof. The unpainted wood, possibly laths or scaffolding, and the brickbats strongly suggest this association.

Layer VIb is the brown ash-like loam of the intrusive trench which appears in the N-S section (fig. 11). It differs from layer VIa in its high loam and rock content. The trench which contains this layer was dug after the backfill had been deposited but before the central sill had been built. There is no break in the interlocking pattern of

of the stones of the sill to indicate removal. Therefore the trench was not dug after the sill had been built. It must have been dug to remove a then existing wall although this could have been done before layers Va and Vb were deposited. It seems strange that they would fill the room before realizing that this wall had to be removed. There are two variations to this suggested by the stratigraphy. One is that the central sill and the intrusive trench do not date to the building period of the blockhouse but to a later repair in the 19th century. But such a repair could not have been later since the surface layer contained 19th century artifacts. A second suggestion is that a late 19th century repair removed everything in the room to layer III. However, too many features such as the spilled mortar were found on the old ground surface which relate to the construction period of the 2nd blockhouse.

However, as a consequence of the date of the sill, Layer VIa must be considered. Because of the way in which it is cradled by the central sill and the outside walls, flowing up against them, it could not have been deposited before the central sill was built. Any consideration then, that the central sill was a post-1838 repair involves the problem of this mortar layer. It would be very hard to account for the mortar layer with its wood and brick inclusions except in the context of original construction.

Layer VII is the charcoal already described (figs. 6, 15). Included in it and resting on the plaster floor is a layer of boulders. They were not mortared together but the individual stones bore traces of mortar. They would help provide a solid foundation under the beams and might have provided spaces for the circulation of air. The charcoal's purpose was to absorb the moisture in the powder magazine (Coleman, 1966).

A look at the stratigraphy of Op. 12 shows no trenches to explain the building of the outer walls of the room. If

Layer III was ground surface at the time of construction, a trench was dug through this. Then unmortared rubble stones were thrown in to ground surface (Layer III). A layer of mortar was poured over them, some of it spilling out onto ground surface. The wall was then continued up, each course being mortared.

Unfortunately the area on the other side of the walls was not excavated. Coleman dug the adjacent room to the north. She reported finding no trench but was unable to dig more than 2' below the sill. Thus she did not reach Layer III where such a trench would have begun. It is interesting to note that although some of the structures uncovered are related to the old blockhouse, none of the stratigraphy is. All stratigraphic evidence of the old building has been scraped away.

#### D. SEQUENCE

The following construction sequence took place.

The outer walls were built as described above with the vestigial wall being all that was left of the old blockhouse in this room. Layer Va and Vb were dumped into the room to provide a base for the floor. The trench VIb was dug to remove the vestigial wall and use its stones for the sill. As the walls and ceiling were finished, excess mortar was dumped in as Layer VIa. Next small boulders and a layer of charcoal were put in to keep the room dry as it was designed to be a powder magazine.


A possible variation is that there was an earlier floor built on the fill and that repairs were later carried out which robbed the vestigial wall and added the mortar layer VIa, the central sill, the charcoal, beams and present floor.

Third variation is that at some time after the original construction period, the floor was lifted and either the beams or the planks were replaced.



E. ARTIFACTS

On the surface of the charcoal were found pieces of wood, the remains of tongue and groove planking. They bear traces of gray paint. The presence of paint suggests that the building was in a finished state when these were deposited, as it is unlikely that any painting would be done before the floors are put down. The possibility exists that these pieces of wood date to a post-1838 repair.

Nails were discovered both in the planks and beams and lying loosely on the surface of the charcoal. They are cut. All date to a post-1830 period but cannot be pinpointed more closely than that. They have a longitudinal grain to the metal, a feature of post-1830. In addition, they have been from one side only producing the characteristic  profile.

Unfortunately no sealed artifacts were found.

PART II: OPERATION 13A. DESCRIPTION

Operation 13 consisted of the excavations carried out in what is generally known as the Storeroom of the Blockhouse. There is a reference in a map of 1858 to its use as a canteen as well.

The room is a rectangle lying N-S with a floor space measuring 22' x 15'. The east and north walls are mortared, whitewashed field stone. The west and south walls are whitewashed brick. In addition, the south wall has been broken through to furnish an entrance from the adjacent room while it was used as a museum. A steel girder was inserted as a lintel.

The floor consisted of 24 1 1/2 inch thick tongue and grooved boards laid N-S, the groove pointing east. The floor was not painted but was heavily oiled. At the north end, near the NW corner, holes appear. Some of these were drilled, possibly for museum cases and two or three of them have been enlarged by rats. These floorboards are not in good condition. They are held in place to horizontal oak beams by square shafted cut nails, but can be lifted by hand due to dry rot. (See figs. 16, 17, 18)

The floorboards rest on 14 horizontal E-W 6 x 6' oak beams, placed anywhere from 0.5' to 1' apart. The beams are a few inches shorter than the width of the room and rest on brick and stones, stone and mortar sills. The beams in this room were very solid. They could not be broken although dropped and took some effort to remove. The first span at the north end is actually 2 beams. The second and the fourth from each end project into the hall and support the door

jamb (figs. 17, 19).

The beams are supported at either end by bricks and stones resting on a stone and mortar sill. Like the other 2 rooms, there is a central sill 2' wide running down the centre of the room to support the floor beams. The central sill has been partially removed at both the north and south ends about 3' from either wall.

At the south end where the sill is removed, the second beam was twisted sideways and had partially tipped into a hollow against the south sill. The fourth board from the west wall was partially collapsed as a result. This area of collapse is limited to a semi-circular spot in the area where the sill has been removed (see dotted line in fig.18). Digging here revealed a large pine root. Either rot or the partial removal of the root could have created such a hollow.

Beneath the beams was a surface covered not with charcoal but with a 2 to 3' layer of dust containing an assortment of artifacts (see below).

For excavation purposes the room was divided into four quadrants so that cross sections could be obtained. Because there was a danger of modern contamination in the surface layer, all the artifacts from it were bagged under sub op A. The other quadrants were then designated B, C, D and E.

#### B. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The removal of the beams revealed the sills around the four walls and the central sill. The outer sill is stepped. It is interesting to note that the lower level projects from the sill at this end to the same extent that it undercuts the wall in the south-east corner of the building, indicating that at least the east wall of the building is deflected about 5° east of the line of the sill (see figs. 20, 21).

The sills are hammer-dressed sandstone slabs and are bonded with a gritty white lime mortar. As in the Armoury

and the Guardroom, there is a 2' wide central sill two courses deep running N-S down the centre of the room.

After excavation, additional walls were revealed (see fig. 18).

The first is a 2' wide rubble stone wall running E-W 5 1/2' south of the north wall. It has been cut to accommodate the outer walls and was probably there when the present wall was built.

Another structure appeared in the south half of the room. It is a massive block size of "rubble stone" capped by a 0.8' layer of very durable mortar, which in sub-operation D becomes a 4' wide wall butting against East Sill (see fig. 22).

There is an unusual joint with the central sill. This mass seems to bond with the bottom course of the central sill which would indicate contemporaneity. But it is also possible that the joint would appear like this if the sill were built over an already existing structure. Actually the central sill butts against the mortar mass (figs. 21, 23). The mortar mass in turn butts against the outer walls.

The difficulty in interpretation arises because only the upper course of the central sill has been removed at the north end and a layer of lath and plaster covers the lower course (fig. 24). This suggests the possibility that the sill was constructed in two different phases.

The exact purpose of this mass remains a mystery. Its horizontal extent combined with a depth of 3 1/2' is enough to support a tower in a masonry structure, but there was none in either building. There were three fireplaces in the first blockhouse but none fell within the bounds of the present one. It must also be remembered that the previous building was twice the size of the present one and supported a heavy earth and timber roof.

A vestigial third wall appears at a point 16' south of the north wall. It appears in a plan (fig. 18) as a

projection from either side of the central sill. Its small size and rubble stone construction makes its purpose uncertain.

All three walls pass under the central sill, but the fact that this sill was part of a different building operation does not mean that it belongs to a different building period. Only bonding can definitely establish contemporaneity.

### C. STRATIGRAPHY

Digging in this room averaged 3.5' deep revealing the stratigraphy seen in fig. 25.

Layer I is a natural layer of gritty gray sand. Digging became difficult at this depth and the layer terminated excavation.

Layer II is a natural layer of fine yellow sand.

Layer III is a layer of black stained sand in places becoming a greasy clay. It constitutes ground surface at the time of the construction of the present blockhouse.

Layer IVa is a mottled loam fill of yellow sand, brown loam, and black sand patches. It was deposited at the time the new blockhouse was built.

Layer IVb occurs as an isolated patch at the south end of the room. It is also fill but lacks the black patch inclusion.

There are additional layers which do not appear in the N-S section. They would appear in an E-W section between the sills.

Layer V is a 0.4' layer of lath and plaster in brown loam. This material was known to have been directed for use according to the specifications to the contractor "... ceilings where required to be plastered, will be two coat works on split laths..." (Specifications, 1838). It is most likely that this layer dates from the original construction of the second blockhouse. This is the material which was found between two courses of the central sill. The most likely

explanation is that the plastering of the ceilings and the buildings of the central sill were going on simultaneously.

The second interpretation involves a repair phase to account for layer V during which time a second course was added to the sill. This interpretation would involved other evidence of repairs. Even evidence of repair to the floor boards or beams does not necessarily mean that this layer was involved.

Above this is a layer of pure gray clay (Layer VI) approximately 0.1' deep. It forms a skin over the lath and plaster layer. Its smooth compact composition suggests that it is water deposited. As in Operation 12, I have suggested that it could be the result of dredging the well. The only other explanation would be that it could provide a water proof skin to keep out moisture.

Layer VII is a skin of crusty lime mortar. Its depth varied from 0 to 0.4' deep and was unevenly spread over the room. It is the remains of some kind of finishing in the room. It is perhaps excess plaster from the walls. According to the sequence of deposition it would have to come later in the building sequence than the lath and plastering of the ceiling.

Layer VIII is the surface layer of loose dirt and mortar dust which contained most of the artifacts. Small pieces of painted wood and bones litteres the surface of the room. One coin was found in this layer - an American half dime of 1853.

Unfortunately stratigraphy here does not help us to discover the origin or purpose of the walls and structures already described in part A above. Combining the stratigraphic and structural evidence the following sequence is suggested:

#### D. SEQUENCE

Phase I in the construction of the present fort was undoubtedly

the removal of debris from the former building.

Phase II involved the building of the outer walls of the room. Those walls already there from the old building would be removed where necessary. As in the other room, the trench for the outer walls would be filled to ground surface with rubblestone. Mortar would be poured among the stones and the wall continued. Backfill would be deposited to the correct level and those portions of old walls which appeared above this were removed.

The tiny east-west vestigial wall could be related to the present structure as it did not penetrate the former ground surface. The problem here is to explain why it appears to have been robbed if it belongs to the present building. Its size appears to make it useless as a structural support. The document of specifications mentions "dwarf walls" necessary to support the floor beams. Whether this means only the central sills of the four rooms on other walls is not clear.

The central sill was built next. It was built over the E-W vestigial wall, butts against the mortar mass, and goes over the E-W partition wall.

The final phase involved the laying of the beams and floorboards. The beams contained cut nails which had been used to hold the floor boards. This is interesting since the specifications called for the use of "wrought nails". Also the floor boards themselves measured 1 1/2" in thickness. The specifications called for 2" tongued and groove plank. These anomalies could be taken to indicate that repairs were made at a later date or simply that the contractor was saving money and did not follow the specifications.

As in Operation 12, the floor boards at the time of removal were oiled but not painted. The specifications called for paint consisting of white lead and linseed oil to be used on ... "Sashes, Sash frames, Doors, Door frames

both in the interior and exterior..." This does not include the floors. A piece of wood found bore gray paint, was tongue and grooved, and was, therefore, probably a piece of floor plank. At no point in the specifications is mention made of the floors having been painted. The floor of the hall was painted gray but this is quite modern.

Many artifacts on the surface date to the period of the Fort suggesting that repairs, if carried out, did not involve the addition or removal of soil layers.

#### E. ARTIFACTS

The artifacts at this moment have not been washed or numbered so that only a cursory statement is possible concerning their dates.

Layer VIII Dusty surface soil.

The surface layer contained a few datable pieces. One pipe stem HENDERSON could date from 1848 to shortly after 1903. In any case, it postdates the construction period. Its size prohibits the conclusion of repairs to the floor since it could easily have slipped through the floorboards. Four other pipe stem fragments bear traces of varnish, either yellow or brown, apparently an 19th century characteristic (a great many at Coteau du Lac and Fort Lennox in contexts of this period) but not closely datable.

There were small fragments of pottery none of it datable to any closer than the 19th century.

One wine bottle neck and a few body pieces - light green colour were found. There is no seam to indicate that it was machine made. The light green glass has bubbles in it. The surface has a longitudinal groove around the neck as though it was held in wood mould or wrapped here while still molten. There is no lip which appears in earlier bottles and which was used to carry them. The top is perfectly flat. The lack of a mould line on the neck would put it at pre-1860



but closer dating is impossible at this stage.



Quite a few large mammal bones were found especially joints and ribs. Some bear marks of a knife or cutting instrument. Some may have been brought in by rats, others are undoubtedly food remains.

One coin, an American half dime 1853. This was found against the south wall and probably fell through the floor.

Unfortunately no large article was found under the floor whose presence could definitely establish repair or replacement of the planks.

Layer VII - mortar layer beneath the dust.

Bones - Again mammal bones were discovered. They bore traces of knife marks indicating their use as food.

Pottery - Unfortunately little more can be said than that it is 19th century material. Three basic types prevailed - Transfer ware, Banded and Edged (feathered).

Pipes - Three pipe stem fragments were found; one is plain, one varnished, and one decorated. The decorated one is a crossmend with a bowl fragment found in Layer VI gray clay.

Bottles - One piece of light green bottle glass matches in colour and texture though not in thickness with the unknown bottle of Layer VIII.

Nails - There were no nails from this layer.

Layer VI Gray Clay.

Nails - One cut nail was found with longitudinal grain - date post 1830.

One heavy metal ring.

Several pieces of light wood, possibly laths, were found.

The bottom portion of a bowl with raised rim is creamware - it probably dates to the 1st quarter of 19th century.

Pipes - One piece of bowl fragment having a floral pattern. Part of an embossed pattern also appears on the side. This is typical of 19th century pipes.

The archaeological significance of the artifacts was not in providing divisions of building sequence but in establishing the contemporaneity of Layers VI, VII, and VIII. Besides the crossmend of a clay pipe linking Layers VI and VII, the artifacts of identifiable dating fall between 1800 and 1850.

PART III: OPERATION 14A. DESCRIPTION

The Guardroom, a rectangular room with a floor dimension 18.8' long N-S and 15' wide, was excavated as Operation 14. Two doorways at either end of the west wall provide access to a hallway (see figs. 19, 26, 27).

The east and north walls are constructed of field stone, bonded with lime mortar. The west and south walls are brick laid common bond, three courses stretchers, the fourth course headers. There is a doorway in the north wall put through when both rooms were used as a Museum. A second floor was laid over the oiled planks at this time (fig. 28). This floor passed through the doorway as a ramp uniting the rooms. The Guardroom floor was approximately 0.2' higher in elevation than the Storeroom floor (Operation 13).

The oiled planks stop on either side of the brick wall dividing Operations 13 and 14 (see fig. 29). In Operation 14 there are 24 1/2" tongue and groove oiled planks oriented N-S with the tongue pointing west. The floor before excavation was in reasonably good condition. During the excavation of Operation 13 this room was filled with backdirt. Undoubtedly this accounts for the broken beams found when the planks were lifted (see fig. 30). The planks were held in place to horizontal oak beams with cut nails driven at an angle through the tongue of the board.

There are 12 oak beams of varying widths 0.4' to 0.6' and approximately 0.5' deep. There are marks on the beams (fig. 31) showing where they were broken by the weight of Operation 13 backdirt. They are all a few inches shorter than the width of the room and rest on bricks or pieces of wood

which in turn rest on a masonry sill. (The combination of these features were evidently used to level the floor.) At the south end, the 2nd and 3rd beams had to be carved to rest on the west sill.

#### B. ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The removal of the beams and subsequent excavation revealed several masonry features.

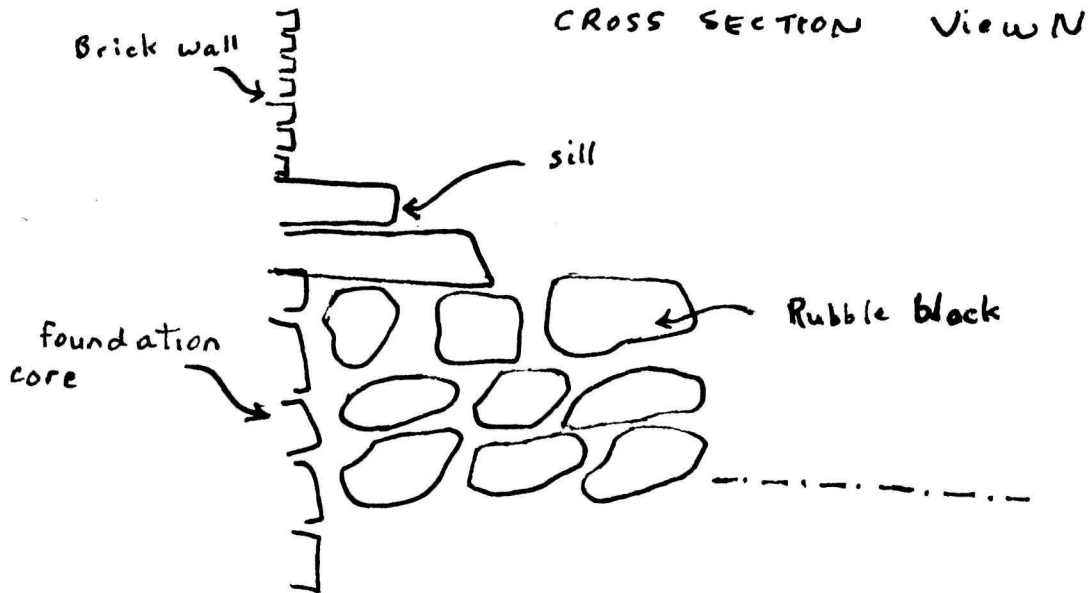
Around the four walls and projecting from them 1.5' to 2' is a sill constructed of broken sandstone slabs set in lime mortar (fig. 32). Along the south and east walls is a second level of this sill, the south projecting, the east undercutting the surface sill. This anomaly created the phenomenon mentioned previously. The depth of these sills is not known. The bottom was not reached even in the deepest quadrant excavated to a depth of 3 1/2' below the top of the sill. The north and west sills overlap the east and south ones (see fig. 32).

Overlapping the north and south sills, though bonded to them, is a central sill 2' wide and 2-3 courses deep, running north-south down the centre of the room. This sill supported the beams for the floor. It consists of angular slabs bonded with lime mortar (fig. 33).

Projecting from under this central sill are 2 vestigial walls 2 1/2 to 3' wide and 1' deep (fig. 32). So little of them was found that their construction is uncertain. They appear to be constructed of rubble stone, with a cap of mortar that has oozed out from the sill.

Another feature found was a massive block of loose rubble stone forming a rectangular mass against the west sill. It is 4' wide and 3' deep. This feature shows clearly in section (fig. 34). The rocks making it up are rounded boulders (much like the loose stones under the charcoal in Operation 12). Making an unusual juncture with the west sill.

They appeared to be bonded to sill, but when removed could be seen to be butted against an inner core with part of the sill built over them.



At a point along the west sill 4' from the south wall there is a projection of stones (fig. 35). I believe they are a part of the rubble stone mass around which the present west sill has been built.

### C. STRATIGRAPHY

- Layer I is a natural layer of fine yellow sand.
- Layer II is a layer of black sand. This is ground surface of 1838 appearing here as sand and in the other room as clay or loam. It is not different from Layer I in its consistency. It simply is a distinct stain, the result of exposure.
- Layer III is a pocket of brown loam. It is an intrusive trench, penetrating the ground surface of 1838 (Layer II). However, it may have originated

with one of the old blockhouses soil horizons, scraped away prior to the construction of this building. It is most likely a foundation trench for the south wall even though it does not penetrate to the base of the wall. Since the wall ends within a few inches of this point it can still be interpreted as a foundation trench. The bottom course or two of unmortared stones would fill the trench completely leaving no line for the south wall.

- Layer IV is a thick band of smooth gray clay used as either fill in the construction of the blockhouse or is residue from dredging and cleaning the well carried out at the same time. Its deposition is not even (fig. 34) and a lens of surface staining occurs within it in the E-W section.
- Layer V is a layer of yellow sand which occurs as a lens in the N-S section. It is not pure, having clay patches. It is limited to the area east of the sill and is most likely a part of the construction fill.
- Layer VI is a layer of brown loam becoming mixed with mortar at the top. It covers the area east of the sill. A small space on the west side of the sill between it and the rubble mass. It does not cover the rubble stone mass. It is also a part of the construction fill.
- Layer VII is a layer of loose mortar and sand containing brickbats, pieces of wood and on the surface, artifacts. It is compact next to Layer VI and becomes powdery near the surface where it is mixed with dust.

These layers bear some resemblance to those in the other rooms. Layer II is the surface during the construction of the

present blockhouse. It is cut by a foundation trench, Layer III. Layers IV to VII were then deposited as fill in association with the building of the blockhouse.

#### D. SEQUENCE

Combining the masonry remains with the soil stratigraphy the following sequence can be deduced. Phase I involved the destruction and clearing away of the old blockhouse. It must have been done thoroughly as no traces remain of stratigraphy related to the old building.

In Phase II, the outside walls of the 2nd fort were then built and the surface became stained and trodden (Layer II). A trench for the construction of the south wall appears in the N-S section drawing penetrating this surface. The south sill was then constructed and the trench backfilled. When the west sill was built, it went around and over the rubble stone mass already there.

#### Phase III

In Phase III, the gray clay was deposited, followed by yellow sand. The brown loam fill of Layer VI did not run over the top of the rubble block. This could indicate that there was no more of this fill to dump. However, there is reason to believe that the rubble block in 1838 consisted of more courses than it does now, which arrested the flow of fill. Then after Layer VI was deposited, the stones above the fill were removed for use elsewhere in the construction of the present blockhouse. This would explain the way the fill stops so abruptly at this precise point (See fig. 34).

Phase IV involved the building of the two vestigial rubble walls, the stones of which were dropped into a shallow 1' deep trench dug into the brown fill. Then the central sill was constructed over this. Meanwhile the walls of the building were being finished and residue mortar and brick were deposited in an uneven layer over the whole floor, creating as well a crest of mortar on the sills.

Phase V involved the laying of horizontal beams and the building of the floor. There is a question of replacement of the floor. Evidence supporting this is the discovery of 20th century, datable artifacts under the floor and the departure from the specifications of 1838 in materials found in 1966. Both pieces of evidence here are suggestive but not conclusive.

If the floor was repaired it is unlikely that any digging was done. The surface was littered with 19th century artifacts that would have been swept away and not redeposited on the surface.

#### E. ARTIFACTS

There were few artifacts from the operation and those of a datable nature were on the surface under the floorboards.

##### Layer VII

Bones - about a dozen fragments mostly long bones and joints were discovered. They are mammal and all but three bear knife marks.

Metal - a dozen nails at least six of which are modern wire nails. 303 shell bearing the broad arrow, the date 1917 and two insignia LA and VII. This is a product of the Lindsay arsenal in Ontario.

Pipes - three pipe fragments were found, two partial stem bearing yellow varnish and one stem with R. BANNERMAN and MONTREAL impressed on it, dated 1850 to 1900.

Buttons - two amber bone buttons, four holed shirt type.

Wood - one piece of unevenly cut 6" long groove light wood. It is 1 3/4" thick but one side is ragged and splinters could be missing. Groove is 1/2". It bears traces of gray paint or preservative.

Pottery - two pieces of an earthenware jug including the neck.  
- Three pieces of banded ware in yellow, rust and black.



Bottles - One bottle neck and lip. It matches Noel Hume's terminal type which has a mid date of 1850.

Layer VI. This is the brown loam fill.

Metal - One piece of tin folded over. Total length 10" x 5" - one 3 1/2" wrought nail; rose head.

- 1 chunk of plaster bearing the imprint of wood on one side.
- 1 piece of white pearl ware with blue underglaze transfer rim. This probably dates to the 1st quarter of the 19th century.

Some of these artifacts might be significant had they been found in a sealed context. As they occur on the surface or in layers of fill they have no value for dating.

In the surface layer, the pipe stems, buttons and pottery are types which fall within the date of the blockhouse.

The 303 shell is a later intrusion and raises the problem of floor repairs. The fact that the floor as found is tongue and groove makes accidental deposition unlikely; moreover, the shell was found in the middle of the floor. Secondly, the piece of wood is also too large to slip through the floor. It is 1 3/4" board and does not match the 1838 specifications.

In the layer of brown loam fill, the interesting artifact was a wrought nail. The specifications of 1838 called for the use of wrought nails throughout but none was found in either the floor or in any other part of the blockhouse. Since it is unlikely that the complete interior of the building has been repaired, replacing all wrought nails with cut ones, the contractor probably took the liberty of using cut nails throughout. This wrought nail coming in a layer of fill placed there during the original construction is probably one of the ones used in the old blockhouse.

### CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this excavation was to augment our knowledge of the building techniques used in military establishments, and to investigate the physical remains which would link the old and new blockhouses meaningfully. Certain building techniques characteristic of this period were confirmed. At the same time certain questions remain unanswered even after excavation.

A characteristic of foundations built at this time was confirmed by excavations in all three rooms. A trench about 4' deep was dug. Into this loose rubble stone was piled to ground surface. A layer of mortar was poured over these stones and allowed to seep through. When it hardened the rest of the sill was built an additional 2' or so. Then the wall was begun above this.

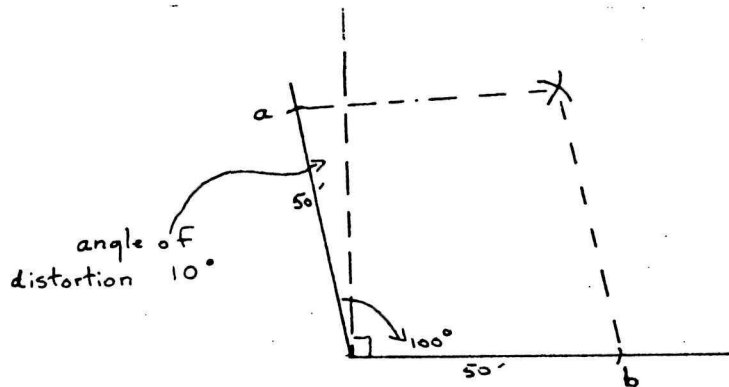
This technique was more time saving than the leveling of the ground and careful building of a sill would have been. It also meant that unlike modern buildings, the base of the wall was supported horizontally by undisturbed soil rather than fill. This more than made up for the weakness of using sand and lime mortar rather than concrete.

A unique feature of this 2nd building may be evidence of an error on the part of the builder. It was observed in rooms on the east and west sides of the building that the sill either undercut the wall in one corner or protruded from it, indicating that the walls and sills do not line up on 2 sides of the building.

It would appear that the foundation sill is actually a rhombus distorted to the east and west by a foot or so. The error must have been noticed in time to correct in the

building which is a 50' square.

The error could have taken place if no instrument was used to line up the walls. Probably a 3-4-5 formula was used to get a  $90^\circ$  angle in one corner. If this was out slightly, and intersecting 50 foot string lines were used from points A & B to get the opposite angle, the result would be a rhombus.



The mortar used in the building of the second blockhouse was a gritty white lime type. It showed no signs of decomposition even in walls below the ground surface. The mortar used in the 1st blockhouse may have been a smooth creamy lime with very fine sand. A few traces of it were found on rocks believed to have been reused in the construction of the second blockhouse.

The nails used in either building raise questions of authenticity and original intent. The second blockhouse used cut nails exclusively, contrary to the contractors' specifications. Only one wrought nail was found in the fill of the second blockhouse. Although one nail is not highly conclusive, I believe that the novelty of its presence in the 2nd blockhouse context suggests that this type was used in the 1st building. The proximity in date of the two buildings raises the question of whether or not the British

began to use cut nails as an official practice sometime between 1813 and 1838. If this can be established, we would have a further aid to the dating of old buildings in Upper Canada at least.

In her report on Fort Wellington Coleman (1965) mentions the use of charcoal in powder magazines as standard practice by the British military. This excavation, in finding charcoal exclusively in the two rooms used for the storage of powder confirms this as general practice, and can be used in an undocumented building to indicate the purpose of that structure.

Questions left unanswered by the excavation concern repairs, the purpose of certain masonry features, and the confirmation that some of the features uncovered are walls which appear on the plans of the 1st blockhouse.

The artifacts found sealed under the floorboards in Op. 14 suggest that the floor has been replaced at some time. At the same time contrary evidence, including artifacts of datable to the first quarter of the 19th century, suggests the originality of the floors. Certainly no repairs were carried out after 1890 since there are no wire nails.

Some of the vestigial walls found remain a mystery. They seem to have no purpose. Here may be a construction technique or custom which we have failed to comprehend.

Overlaying maps suggests that the walls discovered were some of the interior walls of the 1st blockhouse. Only a small portion of the 1st building falls within the bounds of the present building, and the synthesis provided by the overlay seems to be the most reasonable interpretation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Coleman, K.C., Report on the Excavations at Fort Wellington,  
1965 Prescott, Ontario.

Lee, David, Historical Themes for Fort Wellington Museum  
1966

Miquelon, Dale, Fort Wellington, Documents Useful for the  
Restoration.

Noel-Hume, I., Here Lies Virginia, New York: Alfred A.  
Knopf, 1963, p. 267.

Specifications for Building a Stone Blockhouse within Fort  
Wellington, Prescott, August 13, 1838.

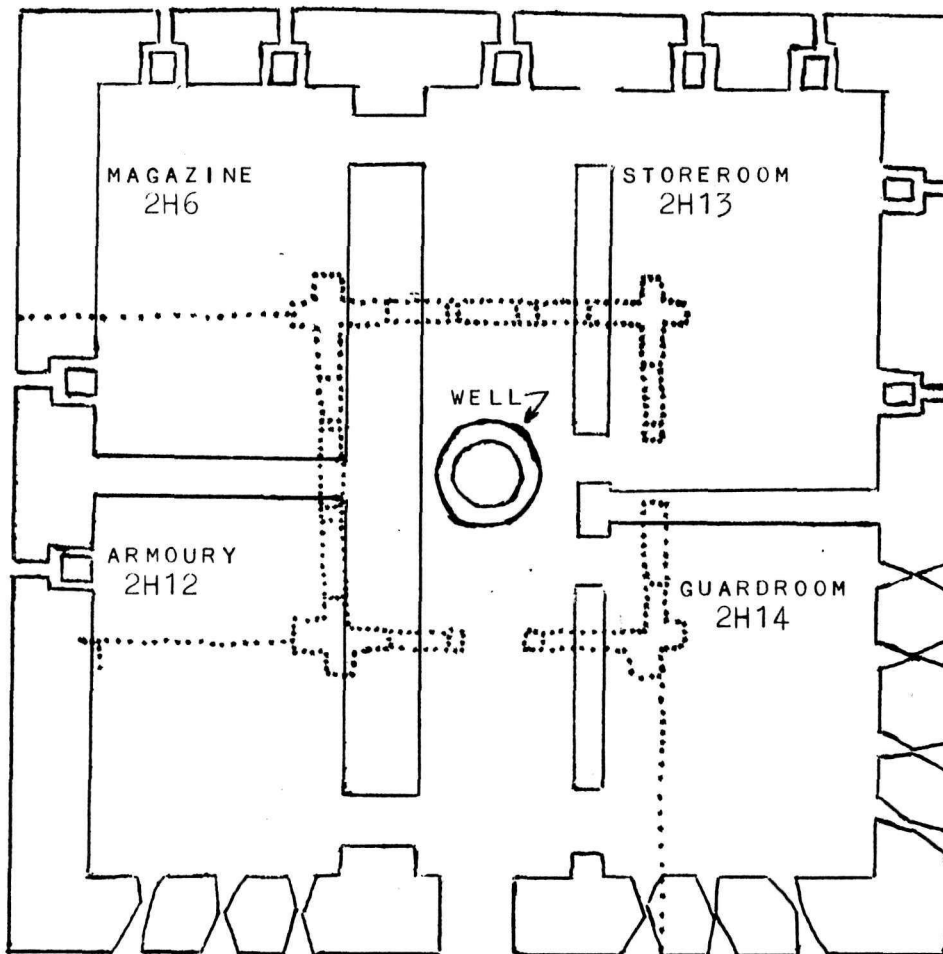


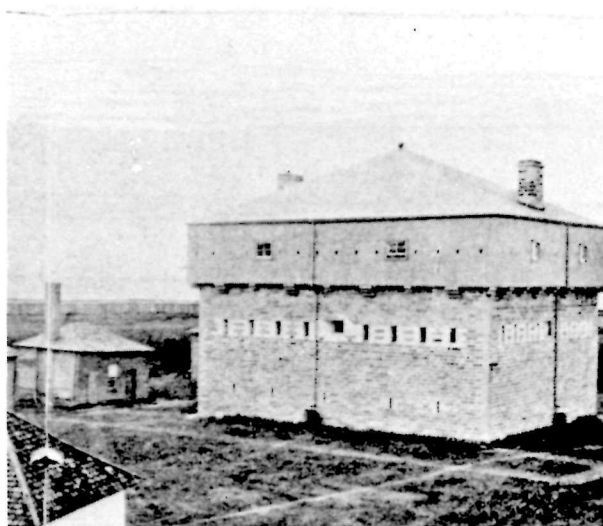
FIG. 1: FORT WELLINGTON BLOCKHOUSES

FEATURES OF OLD BLOCKHOUSE (1813-1838)  
ARE SHOWN IN DOTTED LINE. SECOND  
BLOCKHOUSE IS SHOWN IN SOLID LINE.

SCALE: 1" = 10'

2. 1921 Photograph of Blockhouse II looking N.E. The earlier blockhouse foundations are visible as light coloured lines in the grass.

3. Same as Fig. 2. View S.E.





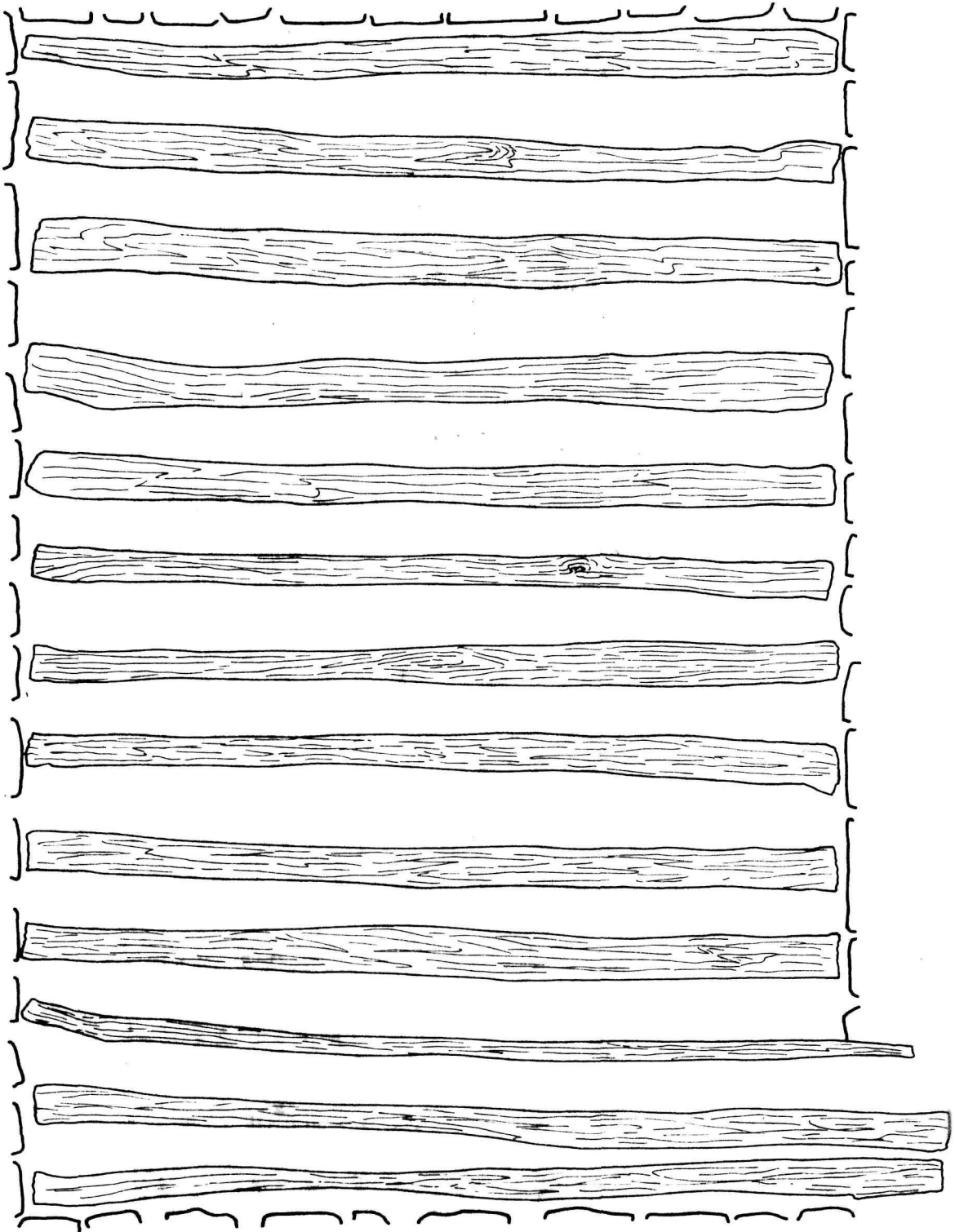
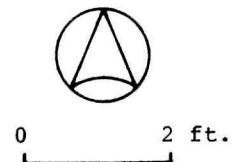
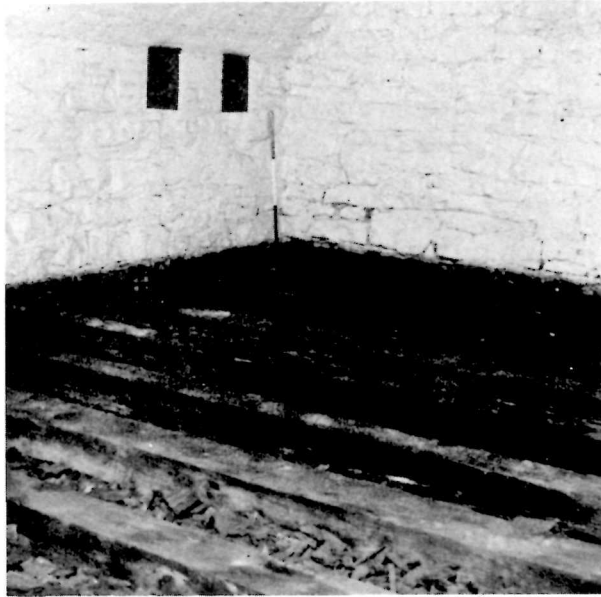


Figure 4

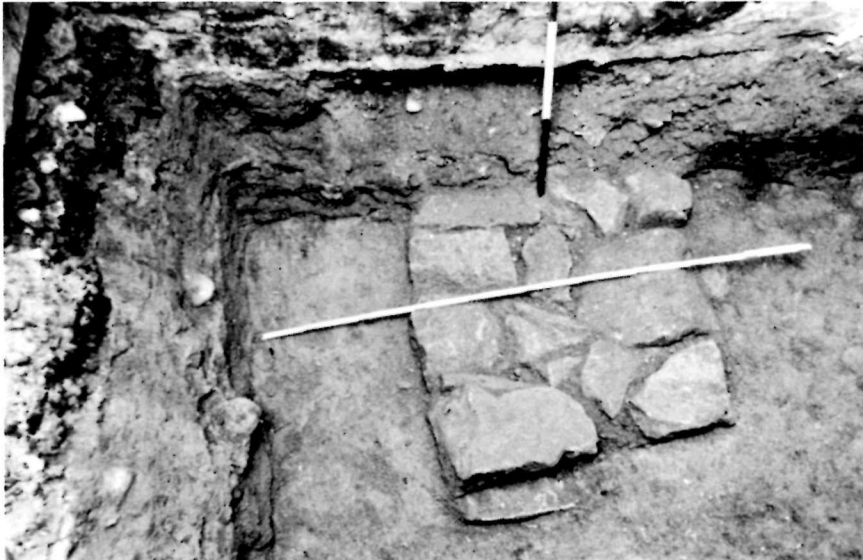
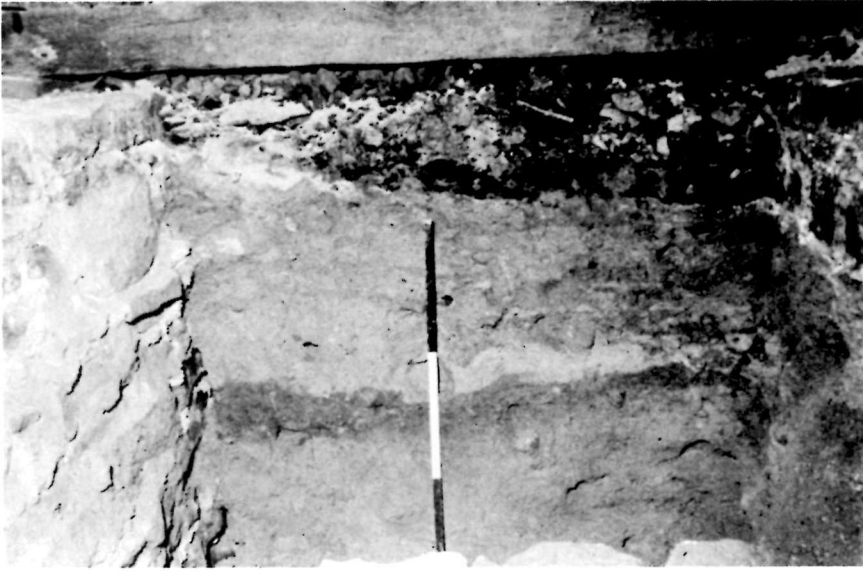


5. OP.12: Armoury Floor  
Beams. View N.W.

6. OP.12: Close-up of Beams  
at North end of armoury.  
View East.

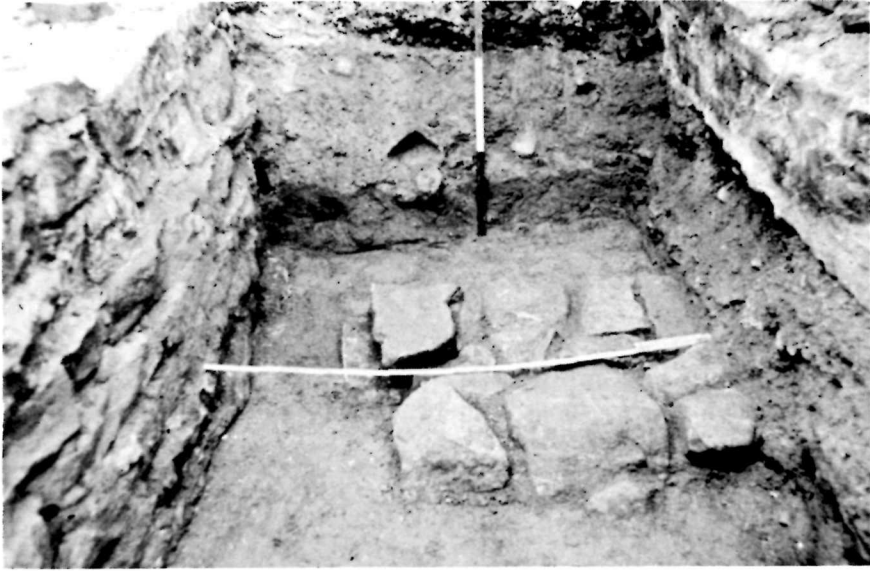


7. OP.12B: Cross-section of the north pit wall showing charcoal layer under the beam.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. OP.12B: Looking west and down on vestigial wall appearing from under central sill.



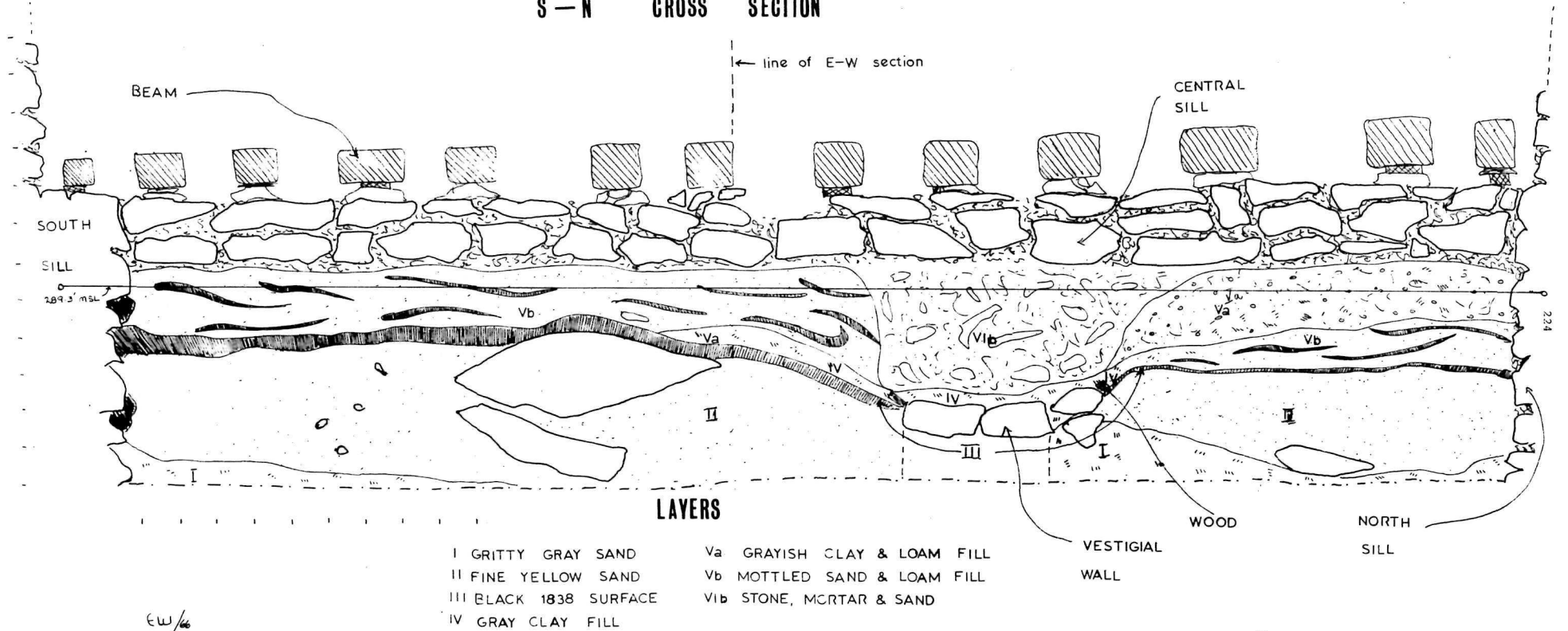
9. OP.12B: Vestigial wall against  
backdrop of north pit wall.

10. OP.12B: View north showing  
extent of the vestigial wall  
within the walls of the  
present building.



2H FORT WELLINGTON BLOCKHOUSE OPERATION 12 ARMOURY

S - N CROSS SECTION



EW/66

scale

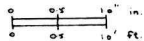
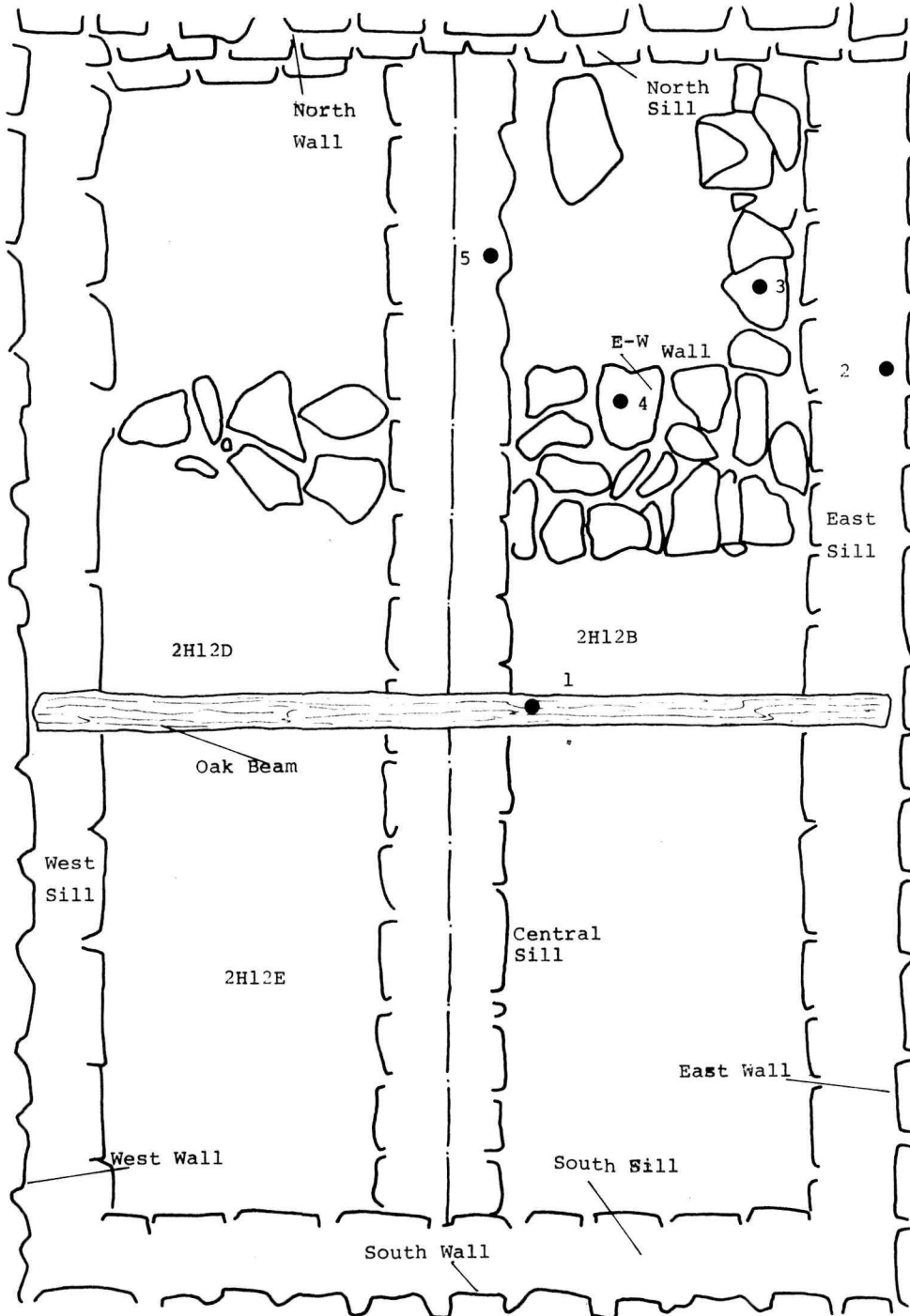


fig. 11



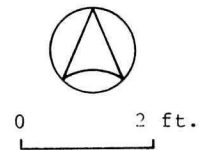
Figure 12

FORT WELLINGTON  
Operation 12 Armoury Plan View



Geodetic Elevations

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1 291.05 ft. | 3 287.38 ft. |
| 2 291.37 ft. | 4 288.18 ft. |
| 5 290.88 ft. |              |

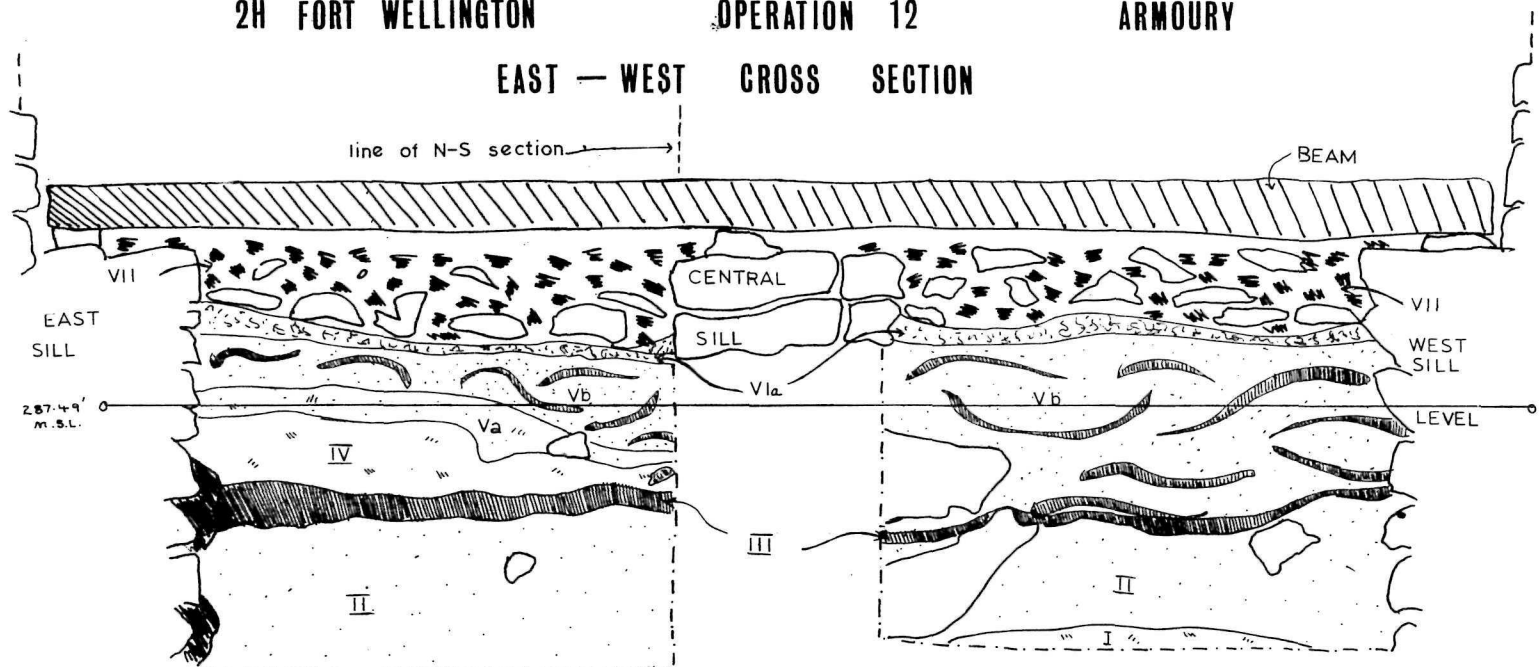


2H FORT WELLINGTON

OPERATION 12

ARMOURY

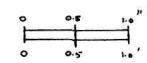
EAST — WEST CROSS SECTION



LAYERS

- |     |                           |     |                    |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| I   | GRAY CLAY                 | Va  | SANDY GRAY CLAY    |
| II  | FINE YELLOW SAND          | Vb  | MOTTLED SANDY FILL |
| III | BLACK 1838 GROUND SURFACE | VIa | CRUSTY MORTAR      |
| IV  | PURE GRAY CLAY            | VII | ROCKS & CHARCOAL   |

scale



EW/66

fig. 13

14. Mortar layer VI.  
View north.

15. OP. 12B: Boulders of  
layer VII; charcoal on  
the left and beam supports  
on the right. View NE



Figure 16

230

FORT WELLINGTON

Operation 13 Store Room Plan View  
Planking

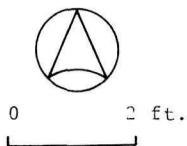
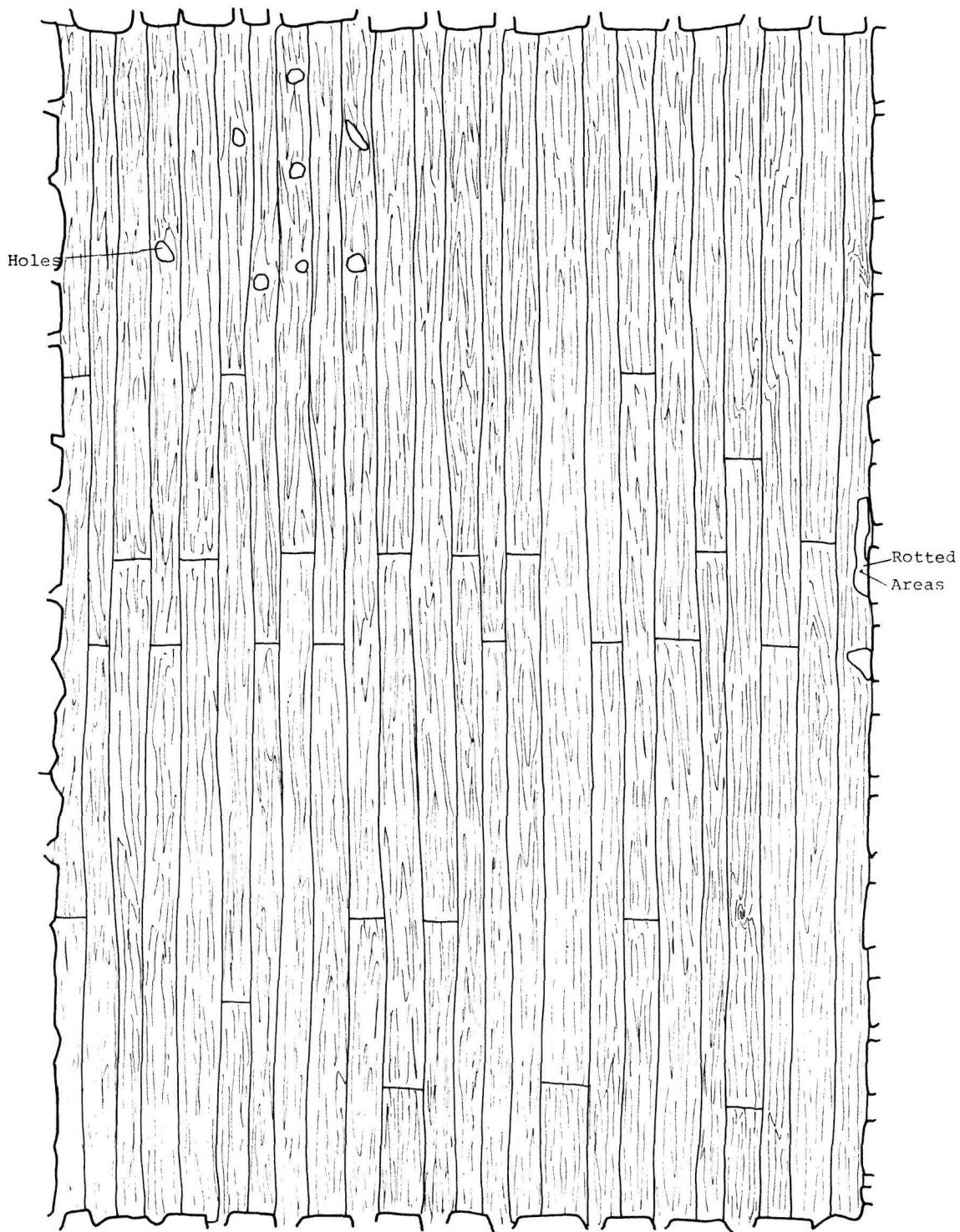


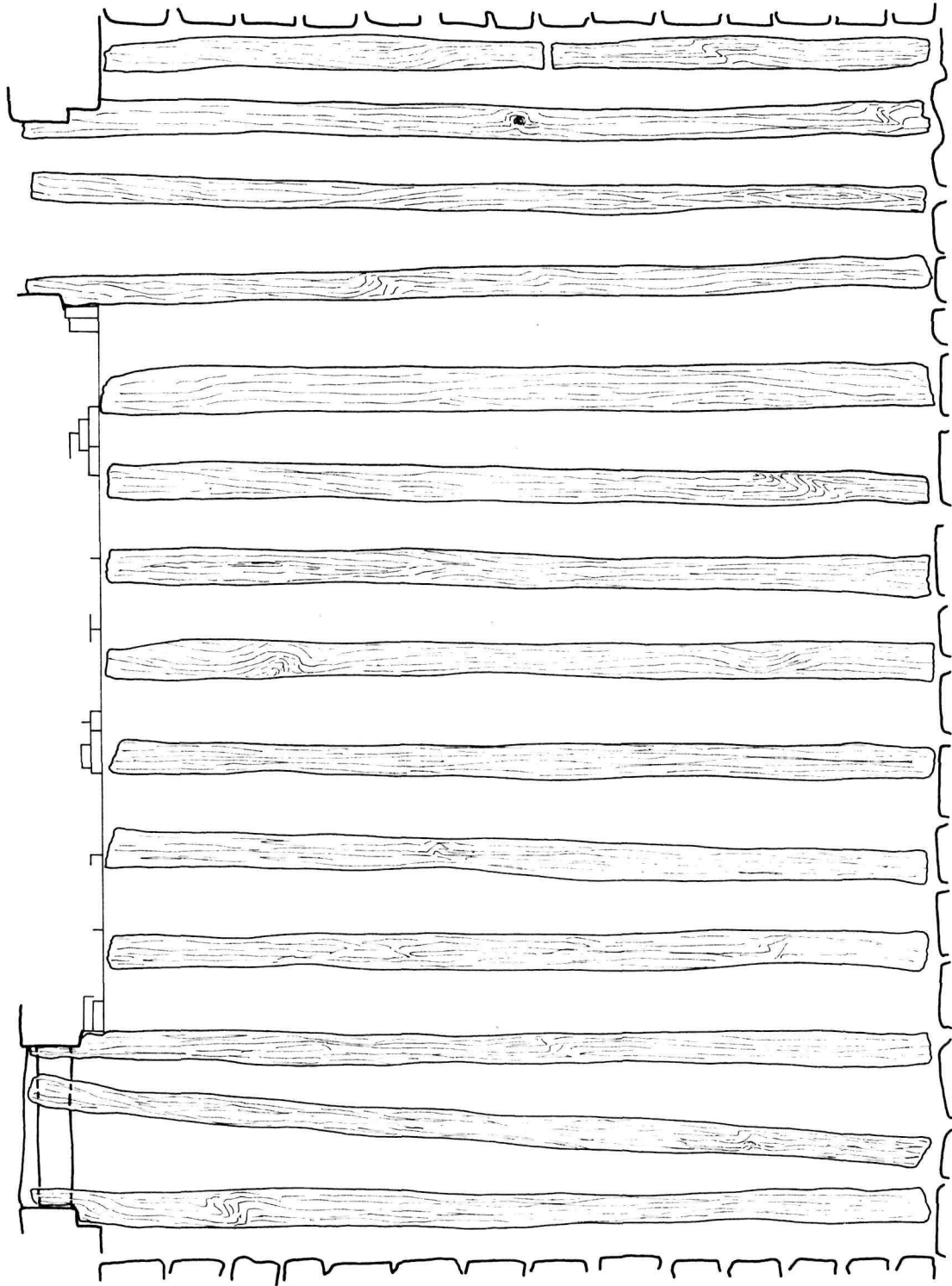
Figure 17

231

FORT WELLINGTON

Operation 13 Plan View

Floor Remains

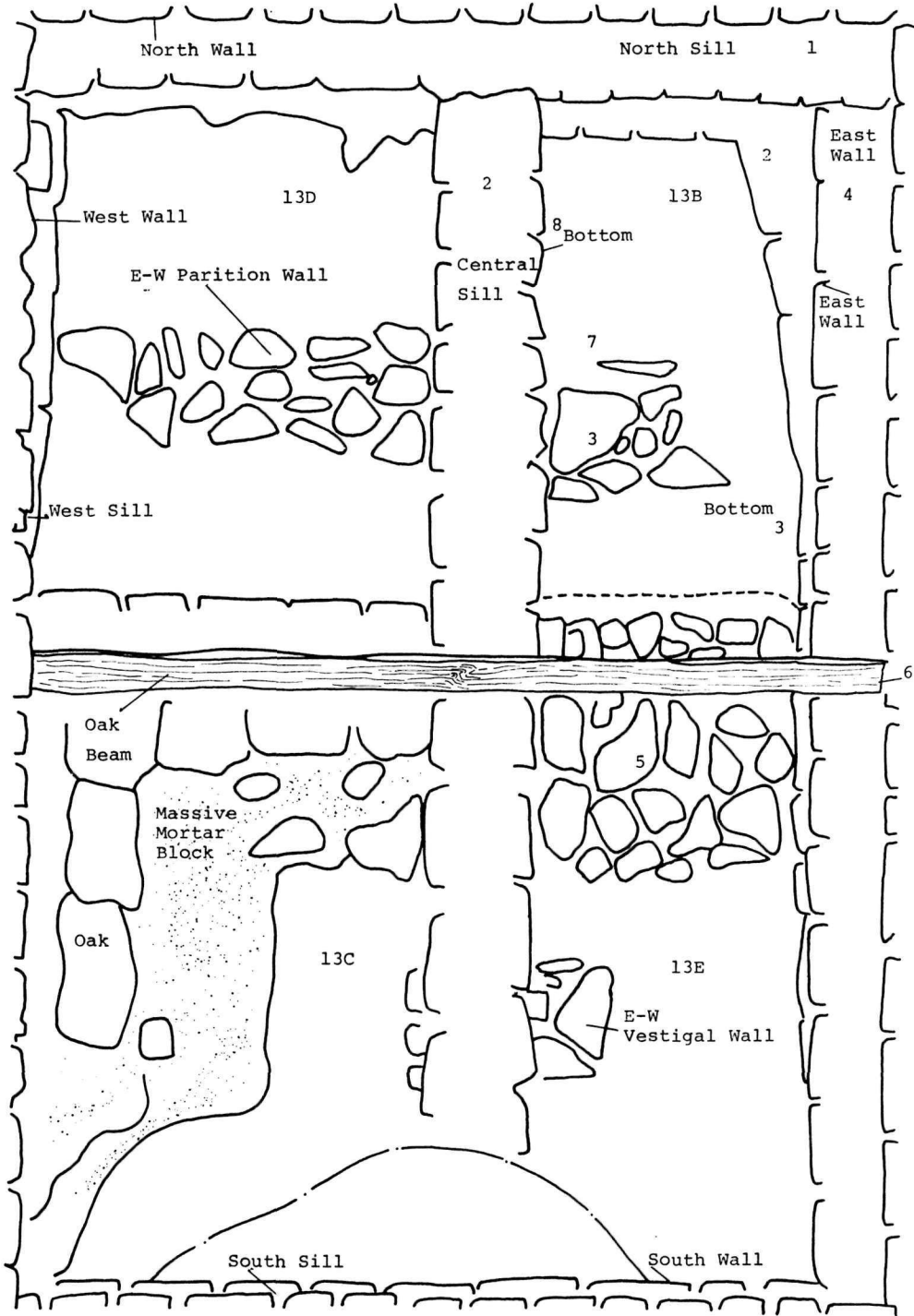


0 2 ft.

Operation 13

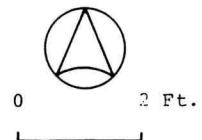
Plan View

Architectural Features



Elevations

1	290.8ft. MSL	5	288.2ft. MSL
2	289.9ft. MSL	6	291.0ft. MSL
3	289.4ft. MSL	7	288.1ft. MSL
4	290.4ft. MSL	8	289.8ft. MSL



19. OP.14: Doorway. Oak beams supporting the door jambs. View east.

20. OP.13: NE corner of the room showing the stepped sill and the E-W partition wall in the foreground. View NE.





21. OP.13: Central sill butts  
against E-W partition. View  
south.

22. OP.13E: The mortar block  
butting against the east  
sill. View NE.



23. OP.13: Central sill butts  
against E-W partition wall.  
Close-up showing mortar skin  
over both walls. View south.

24. OP.13D: Lath and plaster of  
layer V covering the lower  
course of the central sill.  
View east.



2H FORT WELLINGTON

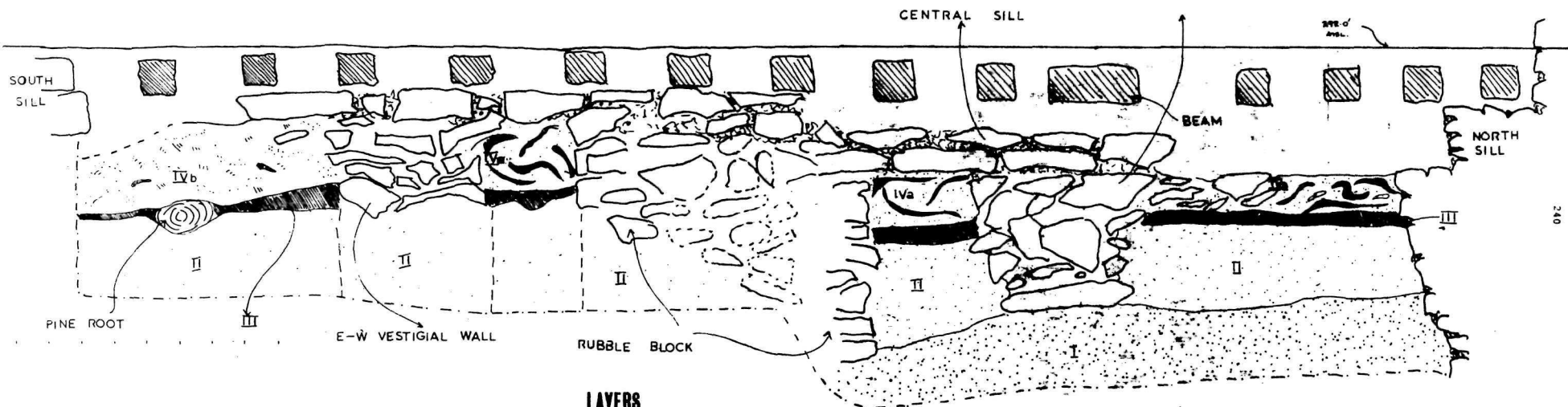
BLOCKHOUSE

OPERATION 13

STORE ROOM

N-S SECTION

E-W PARTITION WALL



- I GRITTY GRAY SAND
- II FINE YELLOW SAND
- III BLACK 1838 SURFACE

**LAYERS**

- IVa MOTTLED SAND & LOAM
- IVb BROWN CLAYEY LOAM

**scale**

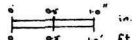


fig. 25

*cut*

240

26. Hallway of the Blockhouse.  
Beams supporting the stairs.  
View NW.

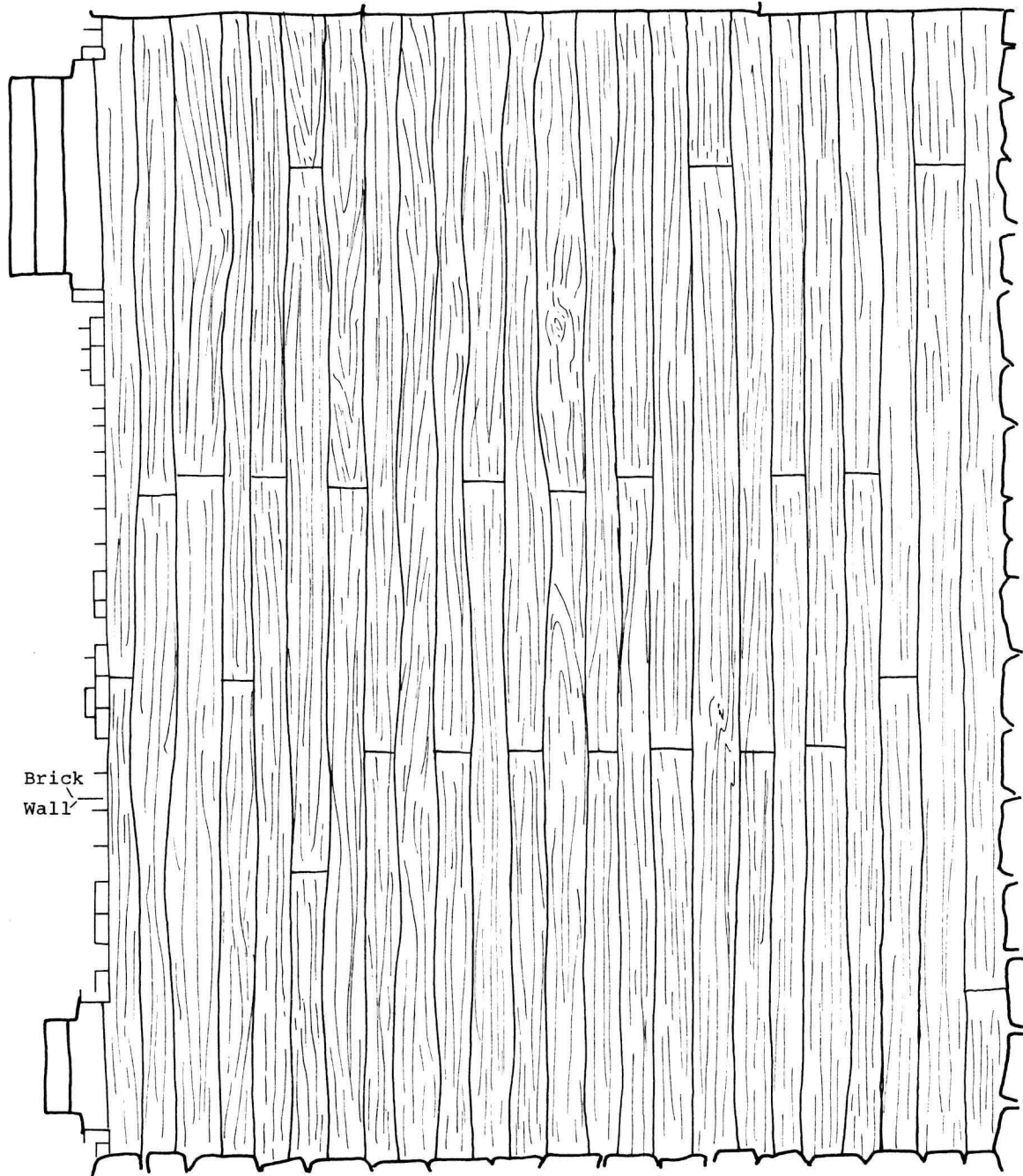
27. Well in the Hallway.  
View NW.



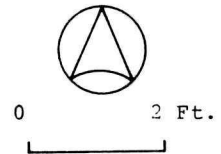


FORT WELLINGTON  
Operation 14 Plan View

Planking



Brick  
Wall



29. OPS.13-14: Brick dividing wall and sill in section. View east.

30. OP.14: View south of room with planks removed. Note broken beams.

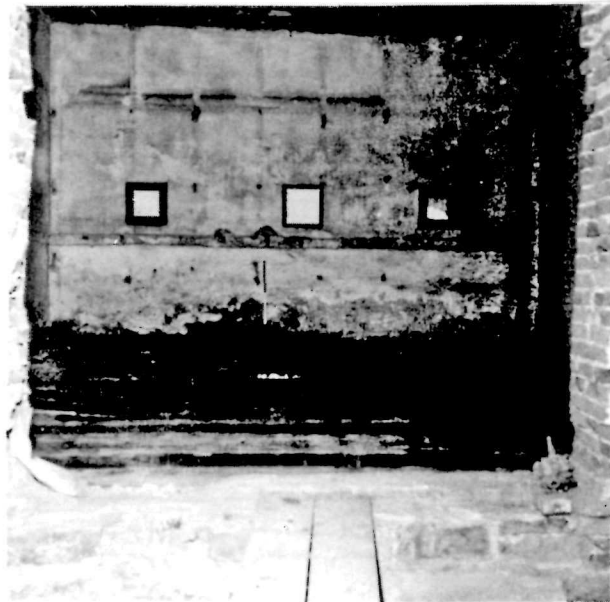


Figure 31

Operation 14

Plan View

Floor Beams

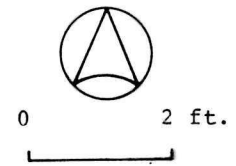
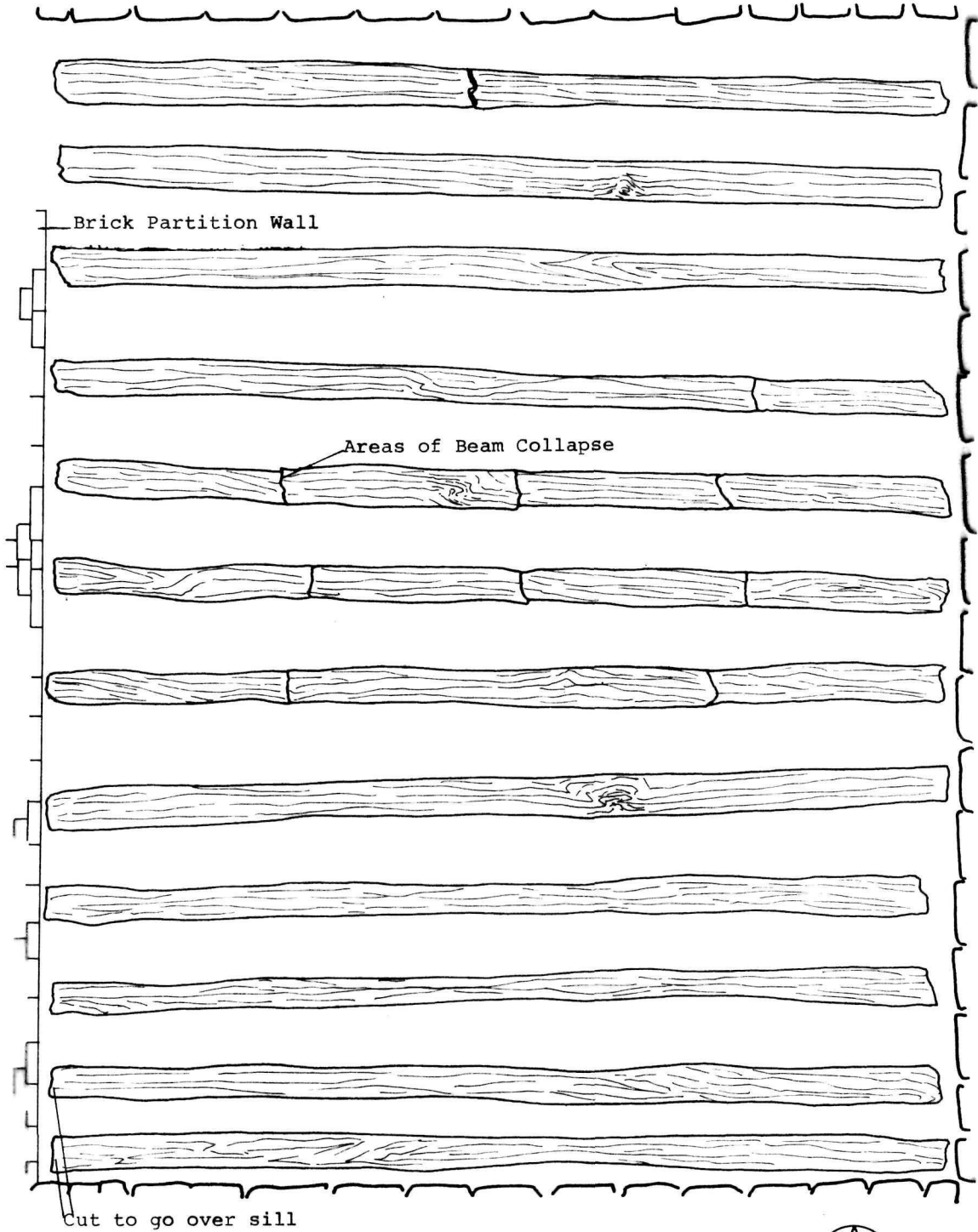
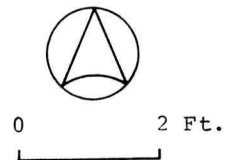
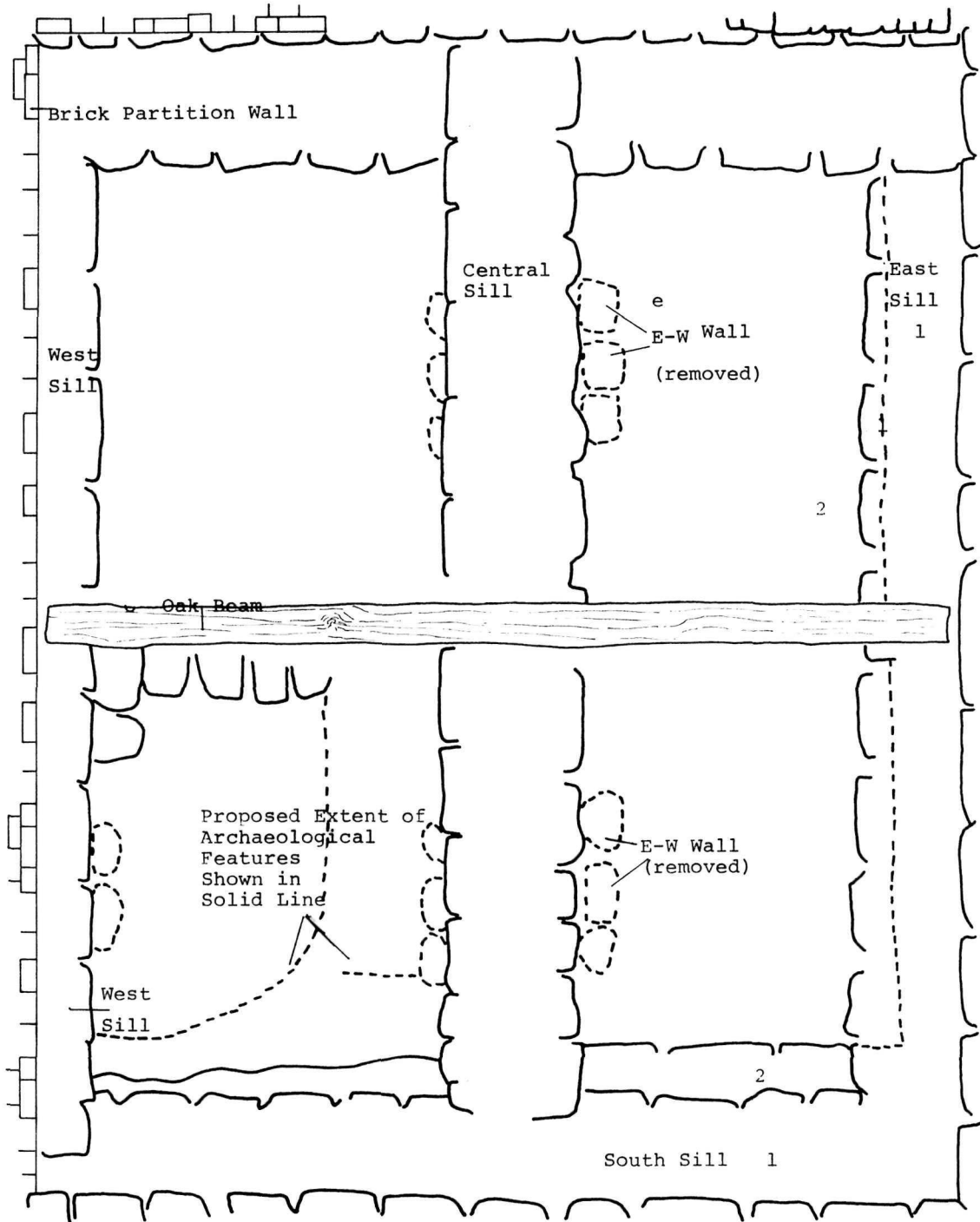


Figure 32

FORT WELLINGTON

Operation 14

Plan View



2H FORT WELLINGTON BLOCKHOUSE OPERATION 14 GUARDROOM

S-N CROSS SECTION

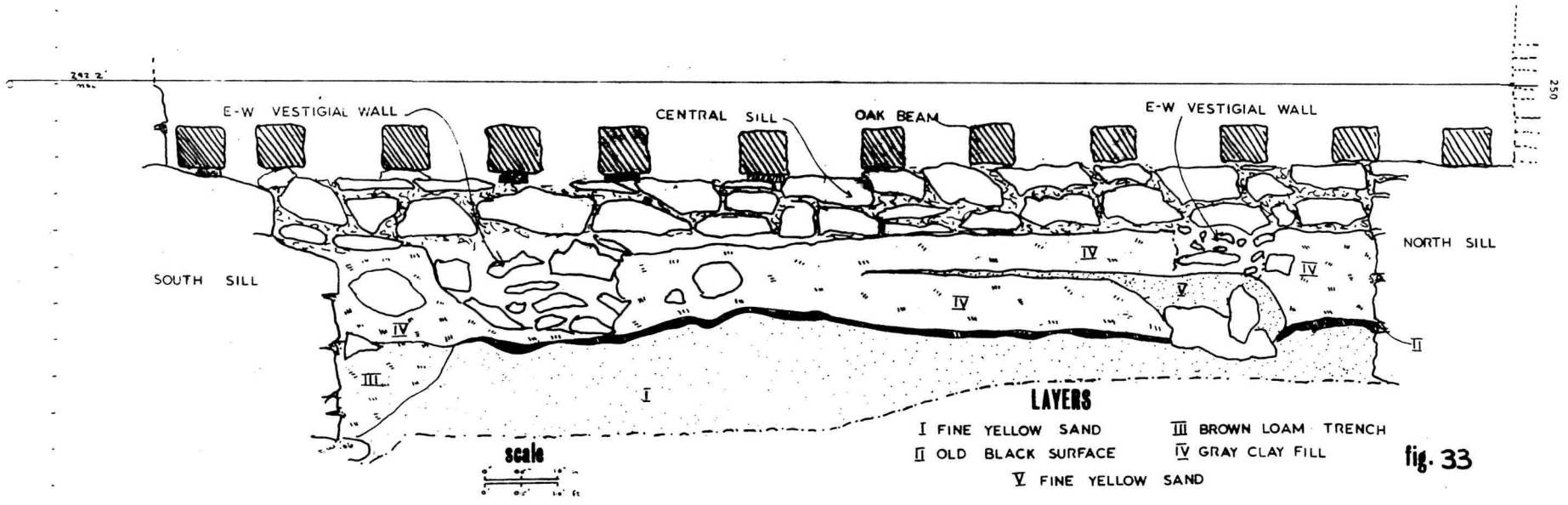


fig. 33

2H

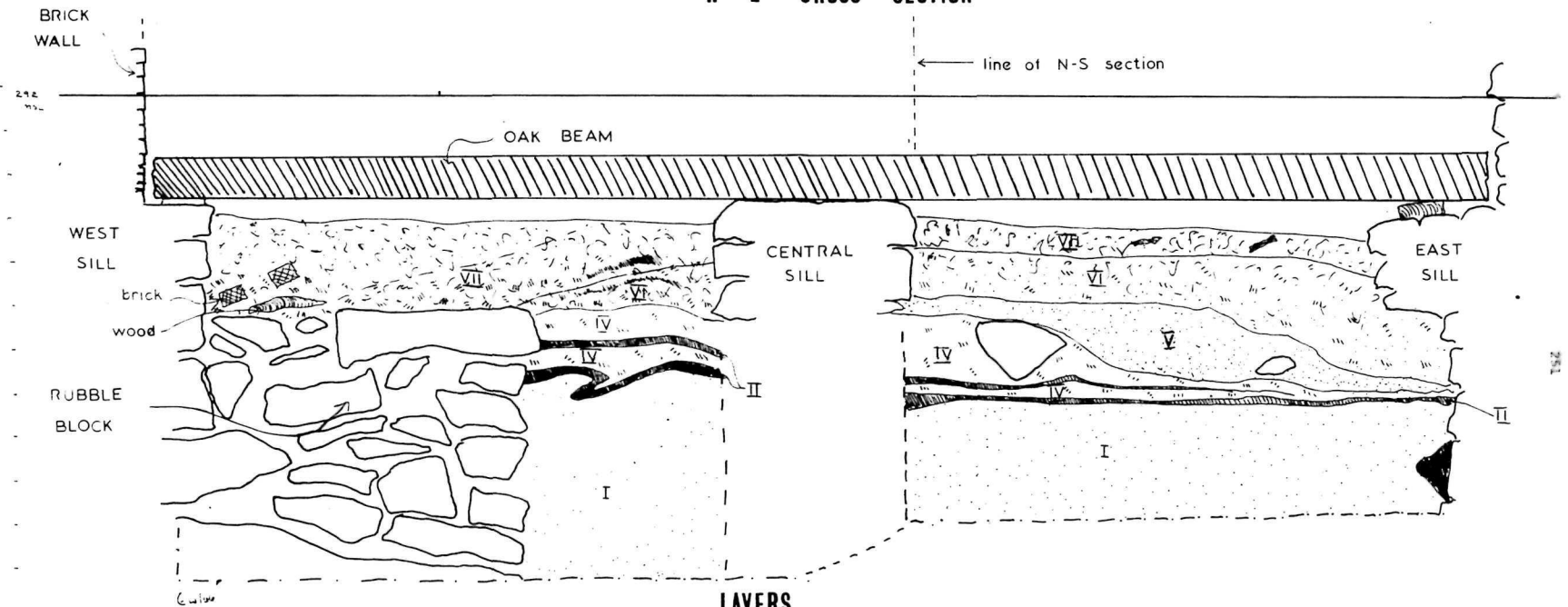
FORT WELLINGTON

BLOCKHOUSE

OPERATION 14

GUARDROOM

W—E CROSS SECTION



LAYERS

- I FINE YELLOW SAND
- II BLACK OLD SURFACE
- III GRAY CLAY FILL
- IV YELLOW BROWN SAND
- V BROWN SANDY LOAM FILL
- VI MORTAR DETRITUS & DUST
- VII

scale

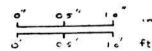


fig. 34

35. OP.14B: Apparent bonding of  
the rubble block to the west  
sill. View NW.

36. OP.14B: Rubble block in  
section. View north.





**EXCAVATION OF TWO GUN PLATFORMS AT  
FORT WELLINGTON, PRESCOTT, ONTARIO**

**by Michael J. Ashworth.**

**September, 1966.**

Excavation of the gun positions in the southeast and in the northeast corners of Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario was undertaken on three different occasions during July and August 1966. The work was done by the author of this report, assisted by Don Groh, at the request of the Museology Section of the Canadian Historic Sites Division.

The summary history of the armaments of the Fort was known from a historical report on Fort Wellington, which states that:

"Two twenty-four pounders on wooden traversing platforms were placed on the southwest and southeast corners of the fort. Two ten inch mortars and a six-pounder gun were placed in the courtyard south of the blockhouse. Twelve-pounder guns were placed at the northwest and northeast corners, and a 12-pounder carronade was mounted over the gate. In 1849, the wooden traversing platforms were replaced with limestone." \*

However, the Museology Section is contemplating the possible restoration of the gun positions, and required as much information as possible about them. For this reason a small trench was cut across the traversing mount on the 27th July, and this proved sufficiently interesting to necessitate further work. Consequently the work on the traversing platform was continued on the 2nd and 3rd of August, and at this time a cut was made across the mound indicating a gun position in the northeast corner of the Fort. This trench revealed four posts, and to uncover the complete plan of the platform the whole corner was stripped in the period from 12th to 21st of August, and in addition, the area of the traversing mount was tidied up, and the turf was relaid.

\* "Report on Fort Wellington" by Dale Miguelon. August 1964 p. 15  
On file, Canadian Historic Sites Division.

The "Estimates from the Engineers' Department, 1849-50" for Fort Wellington \* state that:

The gun platforms and wooden curbs also one Pintle at Fort Wellington being in a decayed state from exposure to the weather. This item is submitted for repairing them previously to the gun carriages being painted as provided in item 76 of this estimate.

There is little relevant information concerning the 12 pounder at the northeast angle, since the only repair necessary here, was

Renewing one cheek of the garrison carriage with oak, 5'0" x 1' 1-4 1/2" thick wrot. two sides and framed notched and shaped to correspond with the one taken out. The iron work to be taken from the old Cheek and refixed to the new and the new work to be painted 2 coats in oil, lead colour.

However, in the case of the 24 pounders in the two southern angles, there is a great deal more information.

The present wooden curbs are in a very dilapidated state, it is therefore proposed to renew them with stone using the racers again which are serviceable--Provision is made for excavating and removing earth for the foundations which are to be of concrete formed of lime and coarse gravel, in the proportion of one of lime to six of gravel on which a course of Rubble masonry is to be laid to receive the curb stone. The curb to be of lime stone 2/35 x 1 x 1 set in mortar, the top and sides to the depth of 3 inches to be rough boncharded the curbs for the front racers to be of the same as those already described including the foundations for the same. The Pintle stone to be of masonry 5' x 5' by 1 foot deep rough boncharded on the top and edges, to the depth of 3 inches. Mortices to be cut for the pintle. The pintle to be of Cast Iron of the approved pattern similiar to those in use at Fort Henry, Kingston, to be let in and run with lead and painted three coats in oil, lead colour.

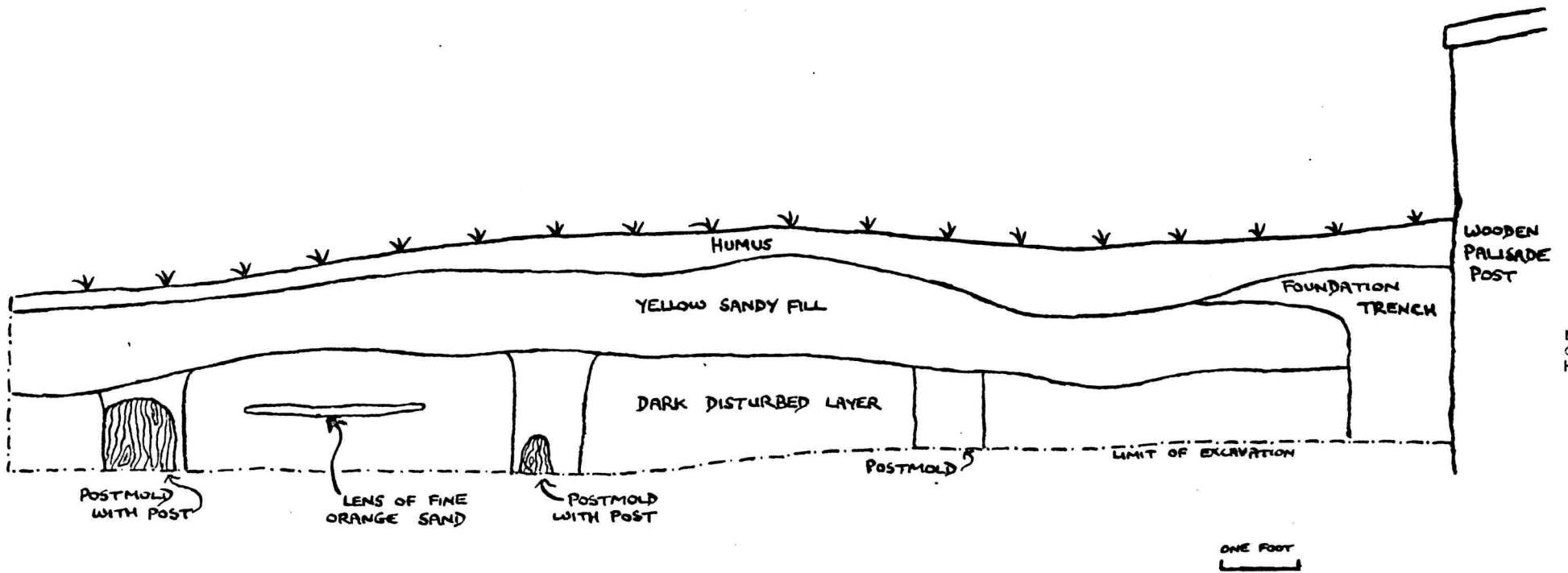
In the excavation of the traversing gun mount, it was found that it was possible, not only to confirm that the work was performed to the

\* C1418, quoted in "Documents Useful for the Restoration of Fort Wellington" by Dale Miguelon, 1963. On file, Canadian Historic Sites Division.

specifications set out in the estimates by the Engineers, but also to determine some additional measurements that were not listed in this source, but which will be essential when the time comes for a restoration of the position. When completed, the traversing mount must have been very much like the example shown in the military textbooks of the day, such as the "Aide-Mémoire to the Military Sciences".\* The measurements tally exactly with those given in the Estimates, except that though the Pintle stone is 5' x 5', it is in reality 1'2" deep, rather than the recommended 1'. The racers are 2 1/2" wide in the rear arc, and 3 3/4" wide for the circle around the pintle, with an outside diameter for this circle of 3'8". The curb stones for the rear racer have settled to a certain extent, giving a variation of a few inches for the radius from the centre of the pivot to the rear of the iron racer. At the east of the arc, the measurement is the smallest, being 10'1", while to the center it is 10'6" and at the west it is 10'5". This compares with the 12'10" rear radius suggested in the Aide-Mémoire.

The pintle is also in a very good condition, and when compared to those at Fort Henry, is found to be similar in general size and design, though less squat-looking, and rather more attractive. At its base, the pintle forms a shape very much like a "plus sign" and it has an over-all dimension of 2'2" from the tip of one arm to the tip of the one opposite, and these arms have a width of 6" and a length of 10" at the base of the pintle, where they are set into the pintle block, to

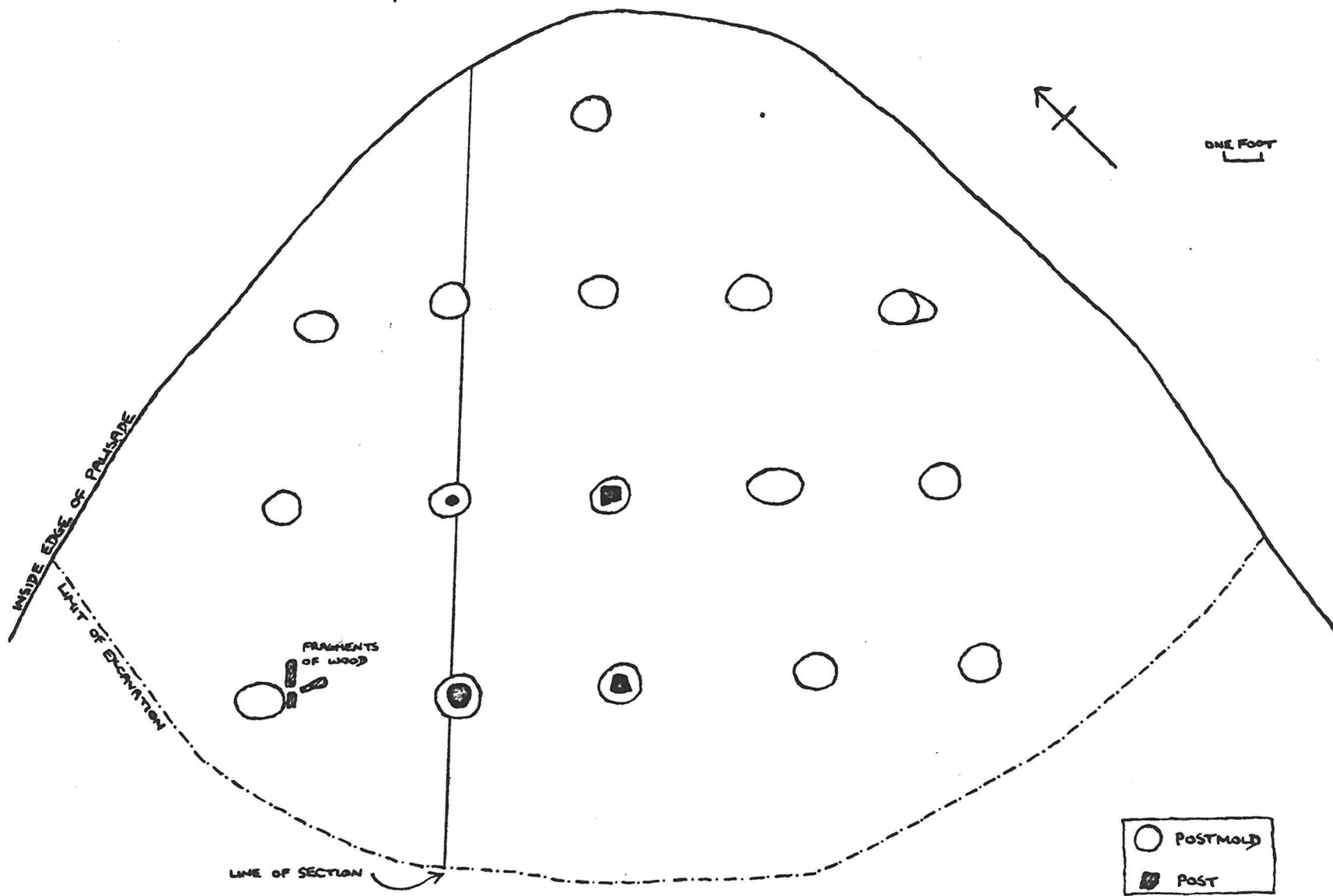
\* Aide-Mémoire to the Military Sciences. Framed from Contributions of Officers of the Different Services, and Edited by a Committee of the Corps of Royal Engineers, 1853.



261

66-22-D1 FORT WELLINGTON

SECTION OF NORTH-EAST GUN PLATFORM.



66-22-D2 FORT WELLINGTON  
 PLAN OF NORTH-EAST GUN PLATFORM.

which they are secured by bolts and lead, which has been run in to seal the joint. The pintle has an over-all height of  $1'8\frac{3}{4}"$  and the top 9" is circular in cross-section to form the actual pivot for the carriage. Finally, it should be mentioned that both sets of racers were "serviceable" when removed from the wooden traversing platform, since they are secured to the stone with fewer fastenings than was necessary with the wood, and some of the former countersunk holes can be seen.

The excavation of the platform in the northeast angle proved to be a little less straight forward, and while it answered some questions, it also posed some problems which cannot be answered without further work.

The first trench dug served to show the presence of a structure, evident at a depth of approximately 2.5 feet, and also showed the details of the stratigraphy in the area of the gun platform which was probably built in the period 1838-39. Conversation with the present custodian of the Fort has brought to light the fact that apparently one of the previous custodians had added some fill in the area, and this was borne out by the exploratory trench, which revealed, just below the surface, a layer of yellow sandy fill varying in depth between 0.75 of a foot, and 1.5 feet, but the artifacts incorporated in this layer are of such a nature as to give no information as to the possible date of deposition. However, if it is true, as the custodian states, that the palisade on the inside edge of the parapet was erected about 8 years ago, then the



sandy layer pre-dates this, since the foundation trench fill lies on top of the sandy fill layer on its inside edge. Below this layer of fill, there is a layer of dark disturbed soil, which has been laid down at a time after the erection of the gun platform, but prior to its demolition, since the postmolds were evident as running up through this layer, in the cases where the posts had been removed; and where the posts were still in position, they attained a height of about 1 foot into this layer. Excavation was stopped at a depth below the present surface of about 3 feet, and it is believed that this level approximates reasonably closely to the level of the terre-plain of the Fort. Presumably the platform was raised up above this level when it was in use, but there is little indication of what this level might be, since it is not possible to learn if the sandy fill was placed immediately on top of the "occupation" layer, or whether some soil was removed first, although this latter possibility is unlikely. At the rear of the platform, there is a layer of rather compact gravel, lying between the layer of yellow sandy fill, and the disturbed layer beneath it, which was revealed when the area excavated was enlarged from a simple trench to the complete stripping of the whole corner. This gravel might have formed a ramp up to the back of the platform, and if this is the case, this would obviously mark the level of the top of the timbers of the platform.

When the northeast corner of the Fort was completely stripped, it was seen that there had, indeed, been a platform in this corner of the

terre-plain, and it can be said with reasonable certainty that the whole of the platform has been recovered. Luckily the disturbance caused by the later erection of the palisade did not encroach to too great an extent on the area under study, and it seems certain that if there had been further posts of the platform either to the sides or to the rear, that these would have been located by our excavation. Similarly, though the same cannot be said of the front of the platform, the plan as uncovered seems to be symmetrical, and also to be reasonably logical, so that it can be inferred that we are dealing with the whole platform.

The platform as uncovered consisted of three rows of posts running approximately parallel to each other, each with five posts separated from each other by a distance of about four feet. The separation between the three rows is about five feet, and five feet in front of the center post of the front row, there is one single post. It should be pointed out that there is a slight convergence of the sides of the platform towards the front center, and also that there is an outward "bowing" of the front row of posts, towards the single forward post. Four posts were still in position when discovered, but it is evident that after the platform went out of use it was just allowed to stand and rot, but then twelve of the posts were removed, and the subsequently produced holes were filled-in with either earth and stones, or with general garbage in three cases (the holes at the two front corners, and the one to the rear east corner). This material was not deposited all at the same

time, but the artifacts are generally of a date around 1900. For example, there is a cartridge which has been given the date of 1900 by Mr. Gooding, and there is also some ironstone china which has a date of 1897\* is identified by the mark on the sherd.\* There were two fragments of horizontal planking close to the hole at the rear west corner, but unfortunately there was a considerable amount of disturbance around this general area, and consequently it is not possible to tell whether or not this wood was part of the original platform.

A similar difficulty is encountered when one considers the historical report, in which (p. 15) it is stated that:

Plank walks were provided for the sentry posts on the ramparts and at the gates in 1845.

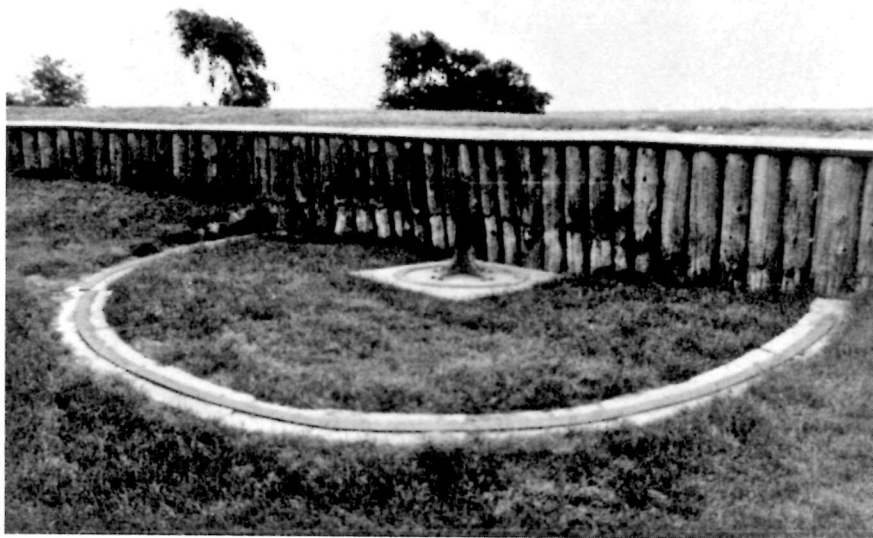
These would have presumably been situated close to where the present palisade is located, and in fact, at some points along the perimeter of the terre-plein, there are traces of a banquette. It was hoped that we might have found traces of either this banquette, or else of the sentry walk, but unfortunately, there has again been too great a subsequent disturbance in this area, connected with the erection of the palisade, about eight years ago. Some horizontal timbers were located at the extreme southeastern corner of the excavation area, but these logs were incorporated in the foundation trench fill material of the palisade, and it is thus impossible, without further work, to ascertain if these are merely recent timbers used as fill, or else are

\* Alfred Meakin, 1897\*. Mark 2583-5 in Godden, GA "Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks", London 1964

traces of the original sentry walk. A point that should be mentioned in passing is that the posts of the palisade on the interior of the parapet appear above ground to be in a rather poor condition. During the course of the excavation, it was possible to examine these timbers below the ground surface, and they are in an advanced stage of decay, and it would be advisable to replace them within the near future.

**PLATES**

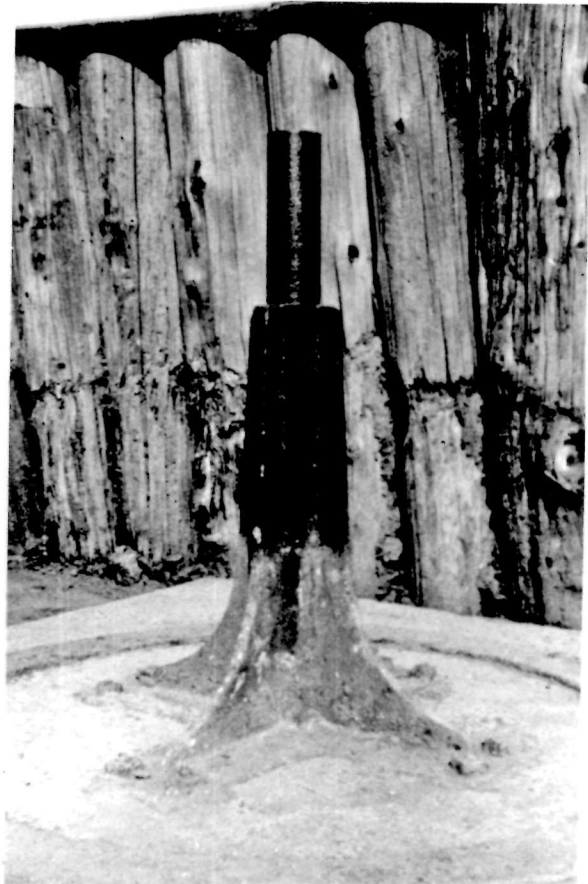
1. Southeast gun position before excavation.  
The pintle can be seen beneath the barrel  
of the cannon in front of the carriage.  
The rear racer is evident as a crop-mark.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Southeast traversing position after excavation  
and replacement of the turf in the area.



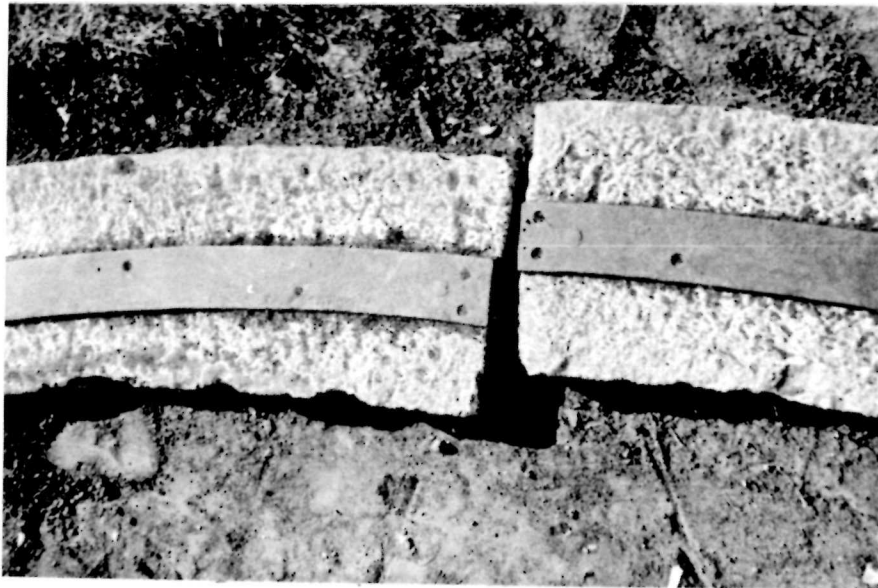
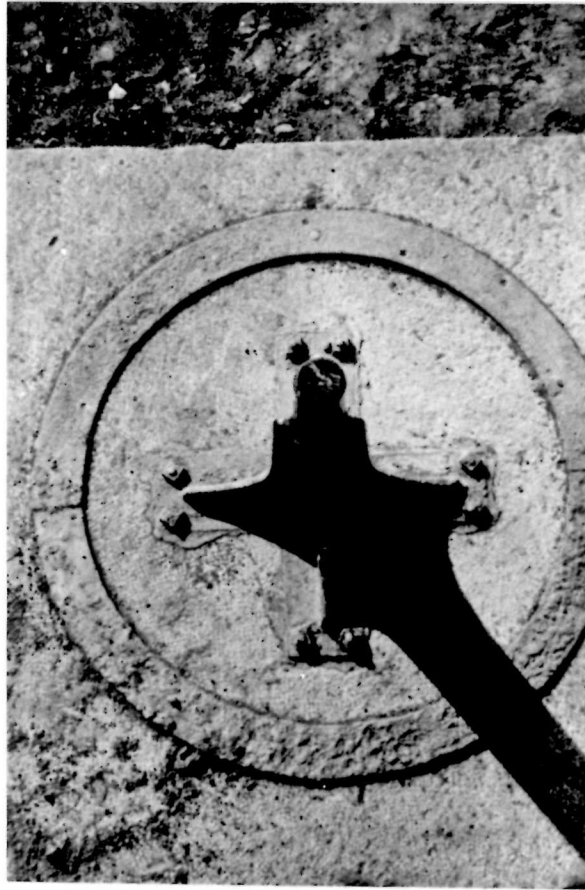
3. Pintle stone during the course of excavation, showing how the stone has been dressed for the first three inches from the top, but has then been left in a rough state below that point.

4. Pintle after excavation.

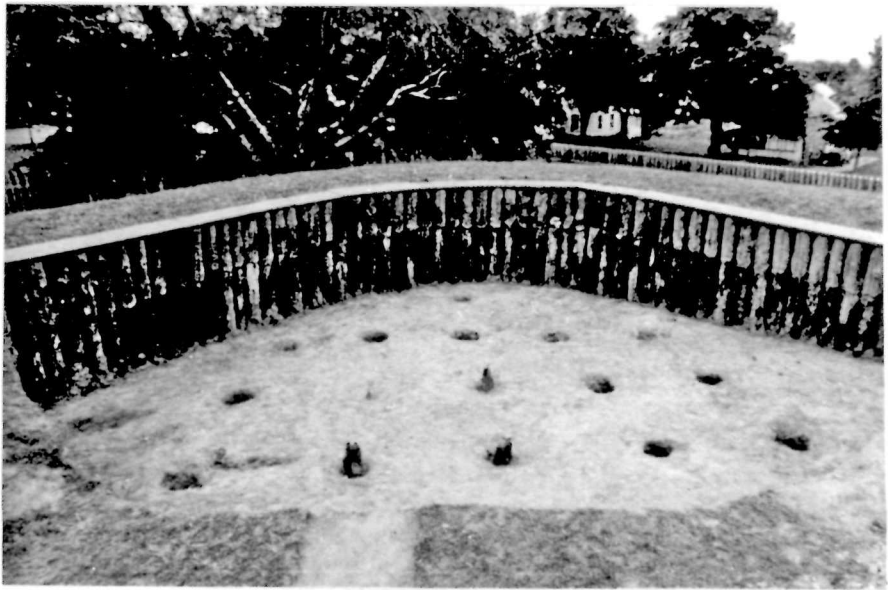




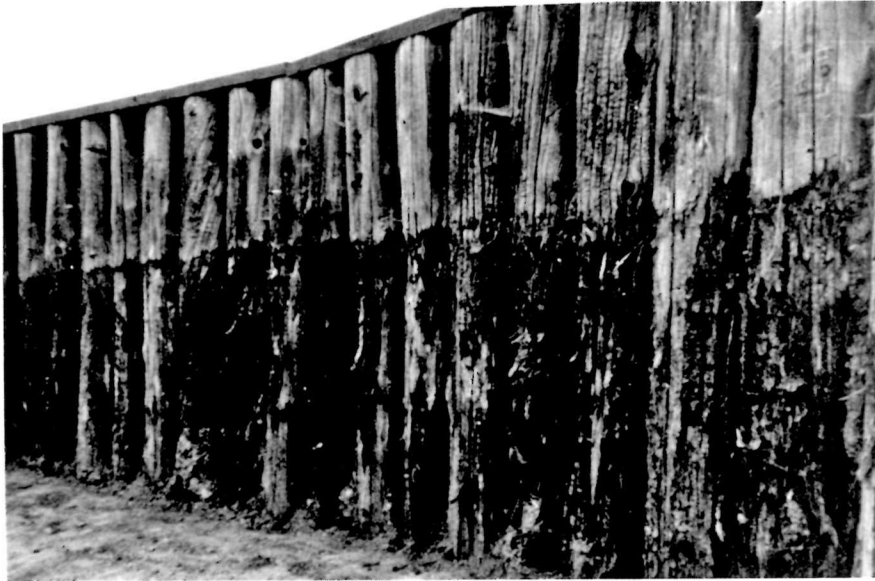




7,8. Two views (from west, and from rear) of the northeast gun platform after excavation.



9. Two of the posts of the northeast gun platform still in position, and in the section to the back, the layer of gravel possibly marking the height of the platform.
10. The palisade put in about eight years ago can be seen to be in a very poor condition, especially below present ground level.



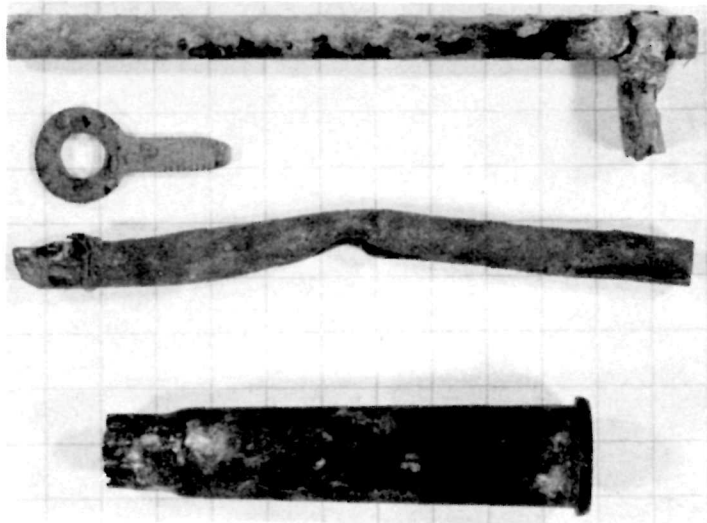
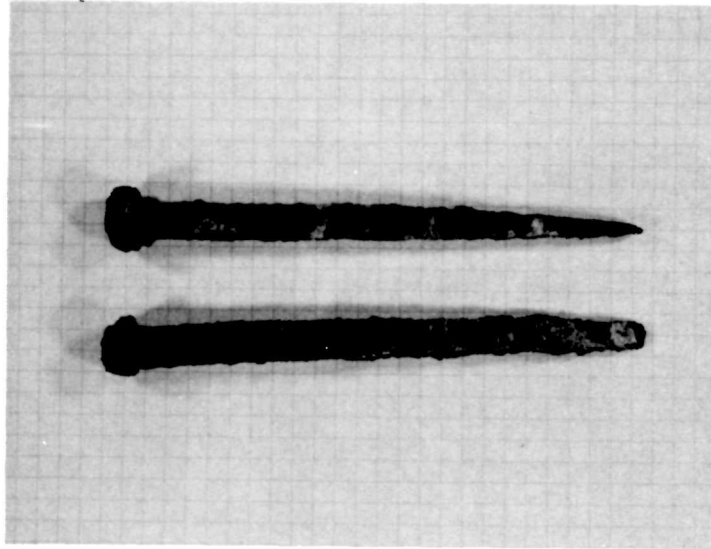
- 11, 12. Close-up of the marks from two ironstone plates.  
The lower fragment is part of a complete wheat-  
edged plate. (Squares  $\frac{1}{2}$ "x $\frac{1}{2}$ " )





13. Two spikes which were probably used in the construction of the platform. (Squares  $\frac{1}{2}$ "x $\frac{1}{2}$ ")

14. Upper: Two friction tubes and a ring found in the layer of dark disturbed soil.  
Lower: A cartridge dating to 1900 found in the fill of the southeast corner posthole.



FORT WELLINGTON EXCAVATIONS, 1968

by

Elizabeth Wylie

May, 1968

## FORT WELLINGTON EXCAVATIONS, 1968

Excavation of two trenches on the north and south sides of the Guard house at Fort Wellington has revealed the following information. The front and back walls of the guard house do not appear to be contemporary. The back (north) foundation projects to a depth of 93' or 3½' B.S. and is not mortared. The south foundation projects to a depth of 92.96' and is mortared.

The original ground level on the south side is easily distinguished by a buried turf line at 93.66' or 1.9' B.S. into which has been cut a small foundation trench against the guard house. About 0.4' of fill was put in to create a new ground surface which is now buried and appears as a zone of root hairs. Thus at least two courses of the foundation would have been left exposed. There has been an accumulation since this time of about 7" including an additional few inches of fill (brick and rubble), added when the cementing of the upper course was carried out. Thus the present ground surface at the front of the guard house is 1.9' higher than it was before the foundation was built, and 1.5' higher than it was after the foundation was finished.

The stratigraphy on the north side of the building is extremely complicated (see figs. 1 and 2). A very large trench was dug some time after 1814 at the 95' level. (a Br. coin of this date was found.) It is more than 6' from the foundation wall making it extremely unlikely that it was a foundation trench. The artifacts below the upper layer of brick chips suggest a period not later than 1840. Those in the upper layer of brick chips are comparatively later though no period can be established. It may be that the line marking the bottom of the brick lens delineates the ground level after the construction of the foundation. This would conform to a slightly steeper rampart than at present, and a ground surface near the building of 95' leaving about two courses of the foundation above ground.

The upper layer of brick chips is concentrated enough to suggest a sudden and massive collapse of the chimney. If the lower area of brick chips at 3' B.S. (figs. 1 & 2) represents bricks associated with the chimney of the present guard house, then three distinct construction periods are suggested. The bricks from the lower area do not have the same dimensions as those from the brick lens. The bricks on the lens do not have the same dimensions as either the lower layer or the bricks in the chimney. There is one brick in the chimney which has the same dimensions as those in the brick lens and it may have been reused.

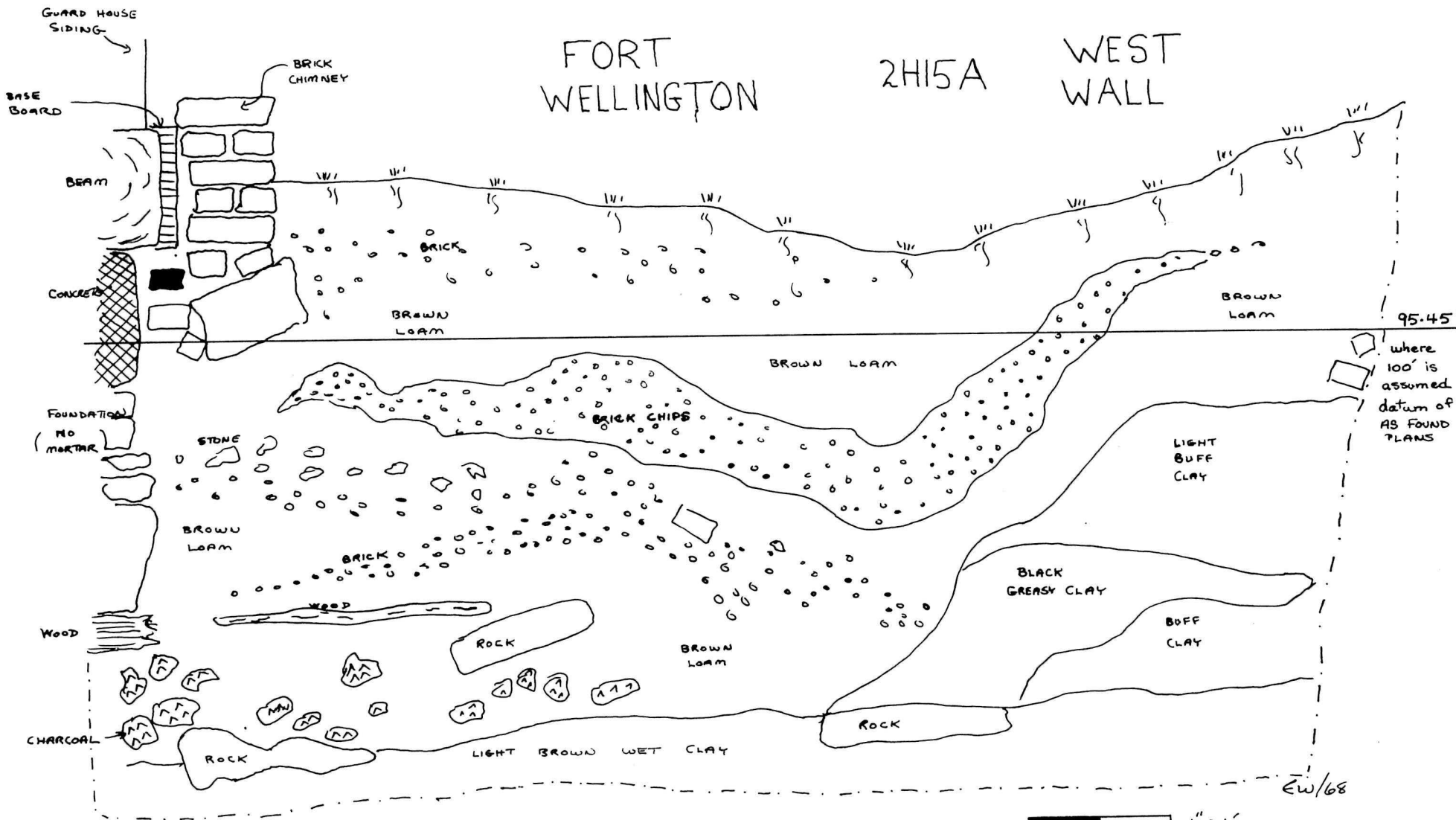
Thus the absence of a clearcut foundation trench makes it difficult to say what the pre-foundation ground level was on the north side of the guard house. The contour of the lower edge of the brick lens (figs. 1 & 2) suggests the ground surface at least as far back as when the chimney first collapsed.

Some cleaning was done of the dirt floor in the interior of the building to reveal the following features (fig. 4). The diagonal masonry wall is parallel to the N.W. wall of the cistern and both seem to be part of a previous structure in this area. It has been suggested that they may be part of the revetting of the old 1812 rampart, or they may be connected with an earlier entrance. The masonry is substantial enough to warrant further investigation. It may be necessary to put more trenches against the exterior of the guard house as well to establish the context.

# FORT WELLINGTON

2H15A

# WEST WALL



287

Scale 1" = 1'  
fig 1

FORT WELLINGTON

2H15A

EAST WALL

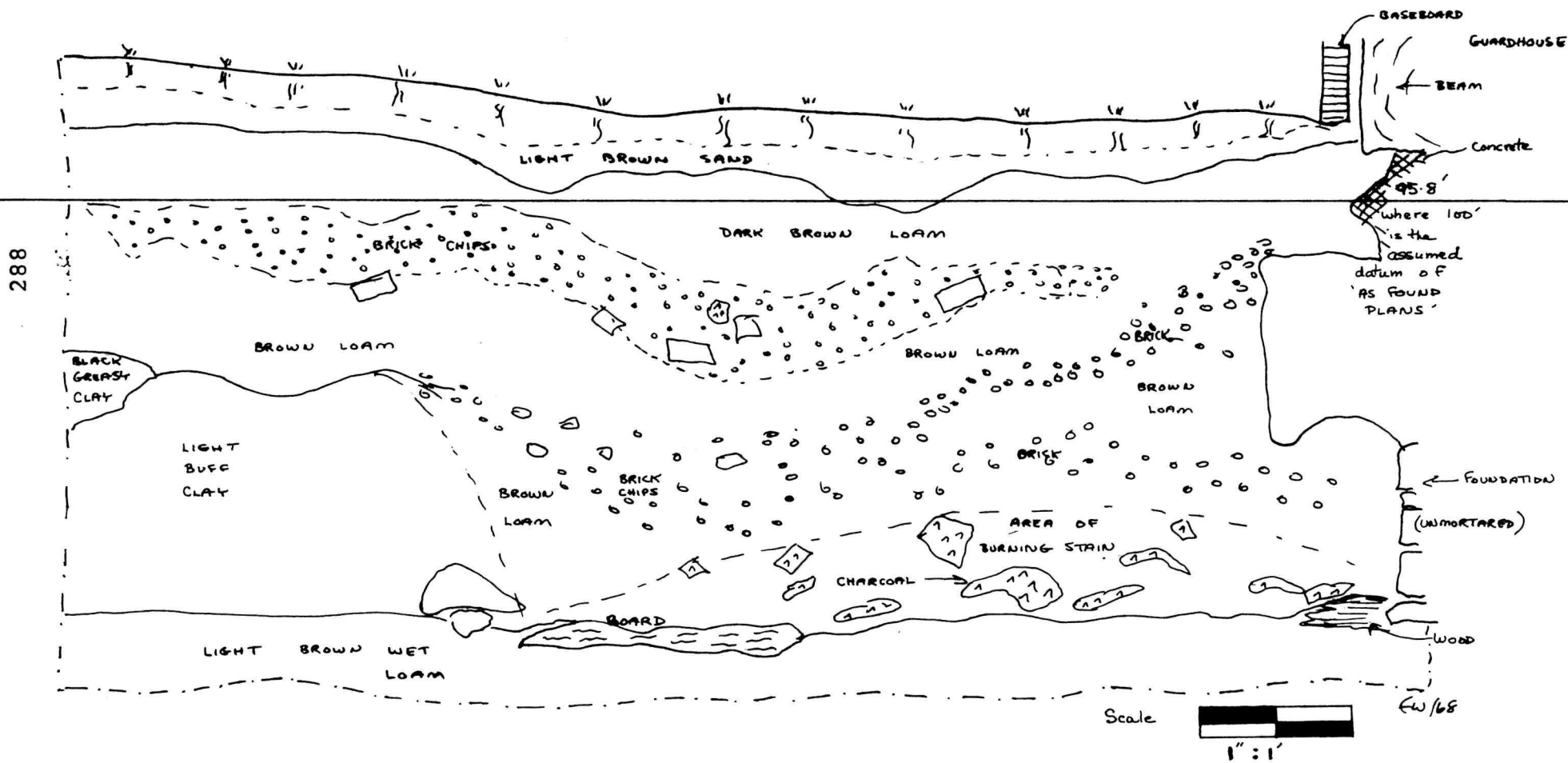


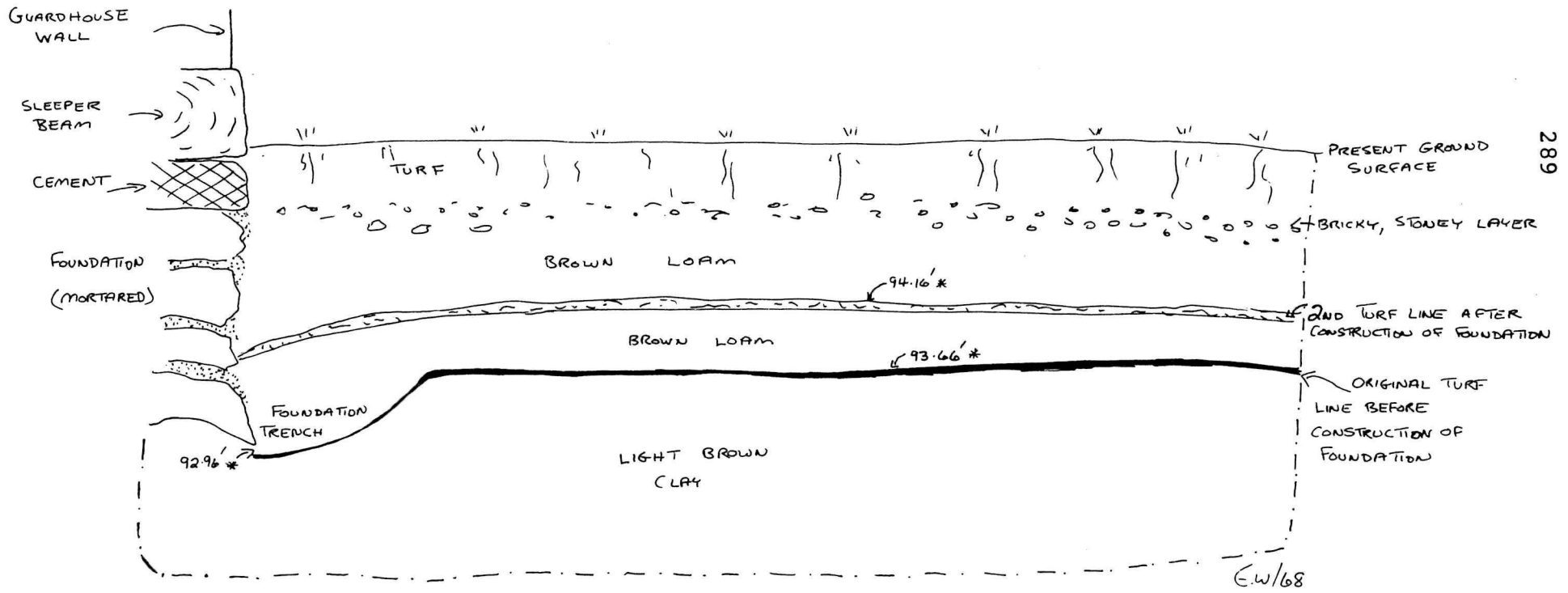
Fig. 2



FORT  
WELLINGTON

2H15B

EAST  
WALL



289

\* elevation where 100.0' is assumed datum of 'AS FOUND PLANS'

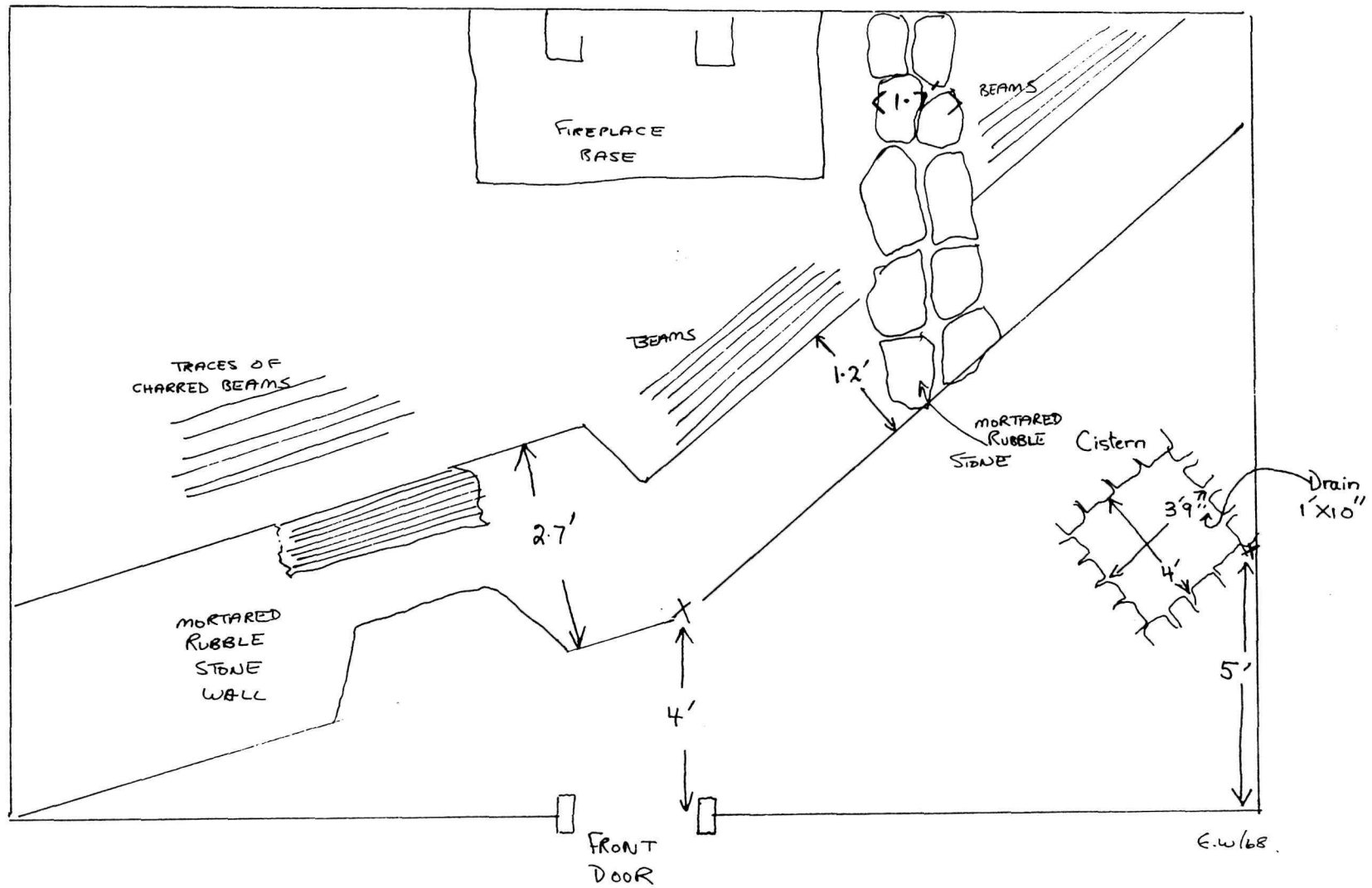
NOT TO SCALE

fig. 3

FORT WELLINGTON

GUARDHOUSE

SKETCH OF INTERIOR MAY 15/68



290

fig. 4.



1. Guardhouse-view east from entrance gate.



2. Guardhouse view east showing contours of the N. rampart behind the building.



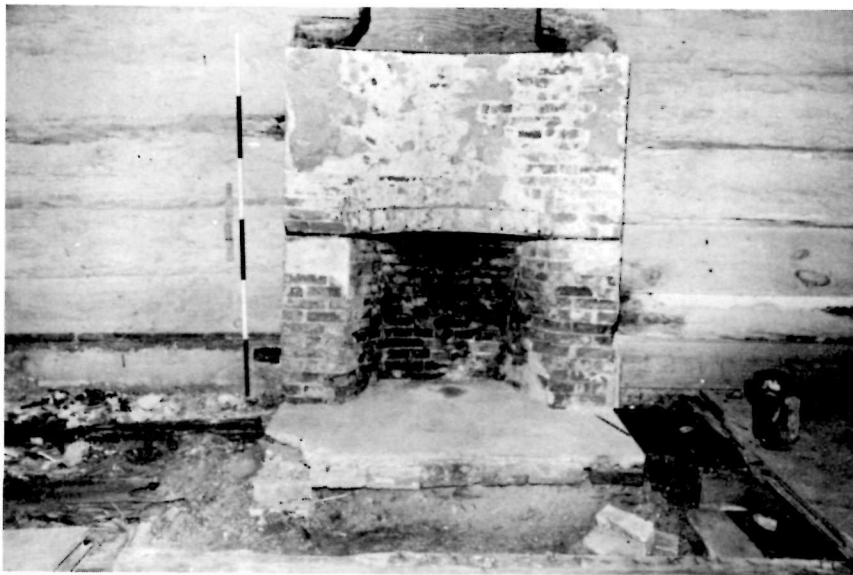
3. Guardhouse view west showing building in relation to land contours with one north rampart on right.



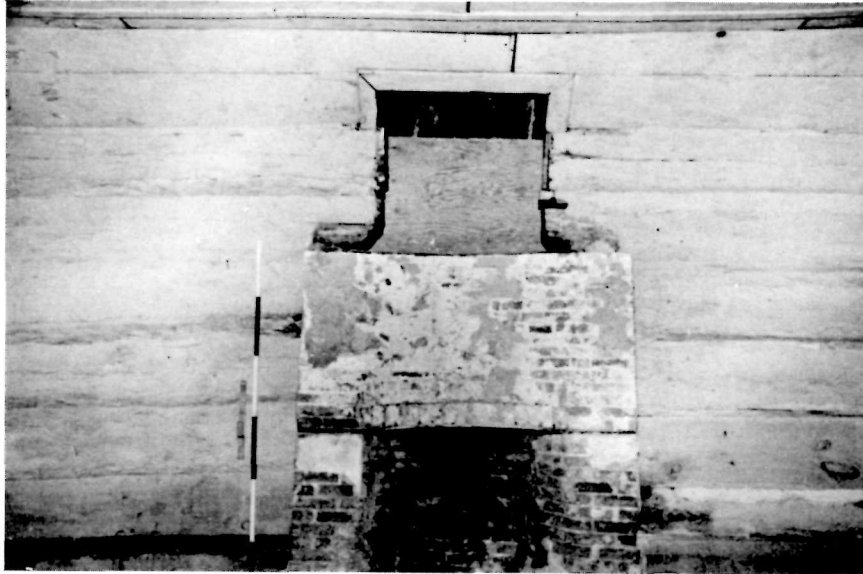
4. Guardhouse view west showing area to be excavated at rear of building.



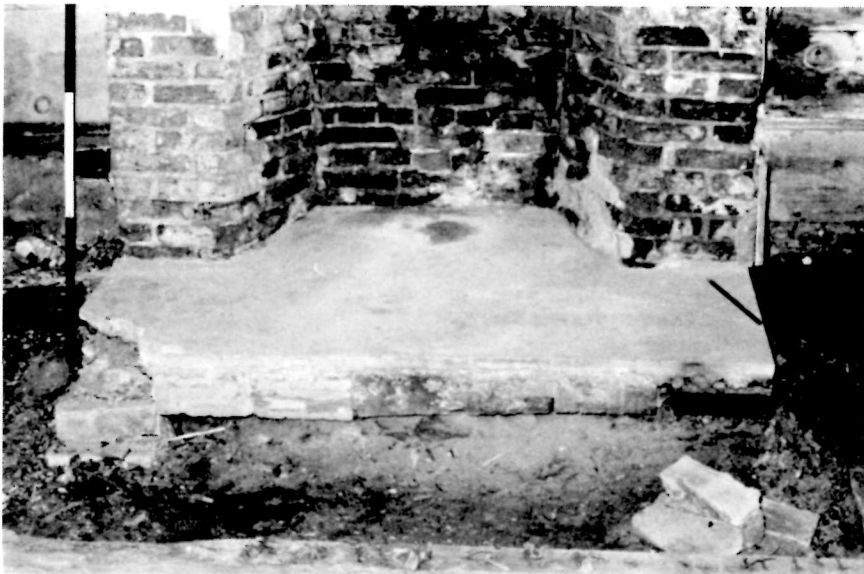
5. Guardhouse interior, view north east with floorboards partially removed.



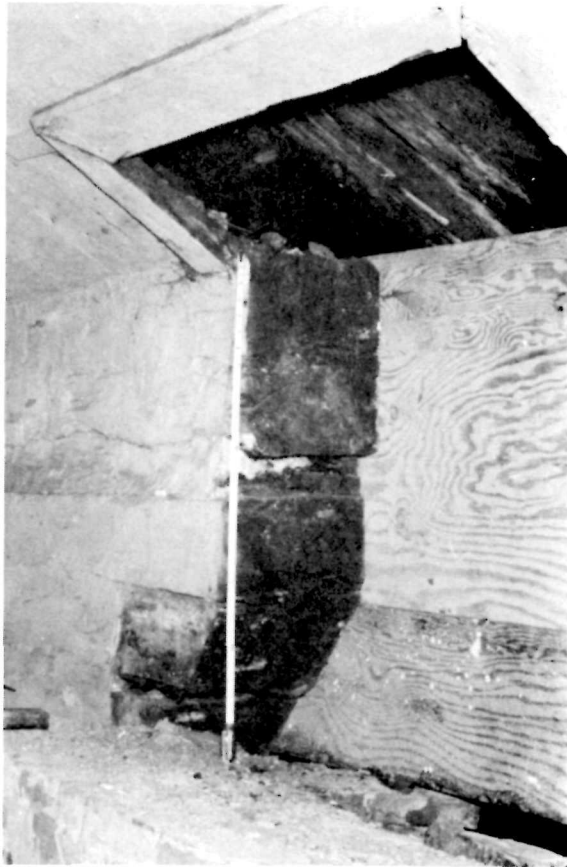
6. Guardhouse interior view north of fireplace with surrounding floorboard removed.



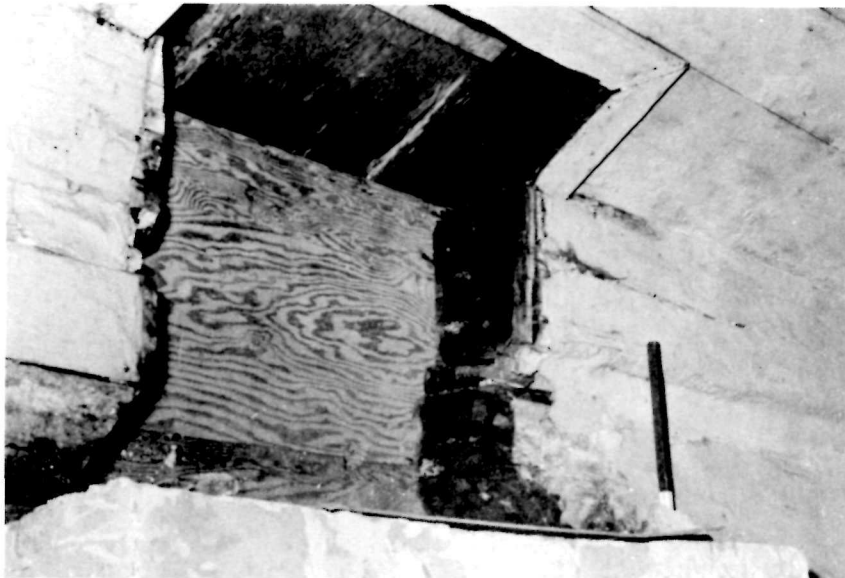
7. Guardhouse interior view north of fireplace and chimney hole.



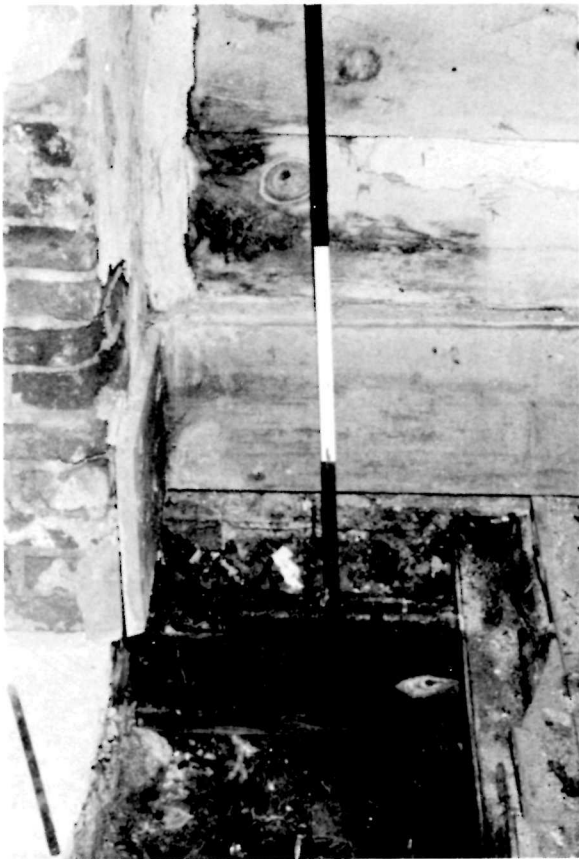
8. Guardhouse interior view north of fireplace base with surrounding floorboards removed.



9. Guardhouse interior view north west of beams of north exterior wall where they join the chimney now removed.



10. Guardhouse interior view north east of the beams of north exterior wall where they join the chimney now removed.



11. Guardhouse interior view north of corner showing juncture of chimney, north wall, fireplace base and floor.



12. Guardhouse interior view north west of corner with baseboard removed.





13. Guardhouse interior view north east of cistern before excavation note collapsed wood planking of former cover.



14. Guardhouse interior view north of cistern showing excavation.



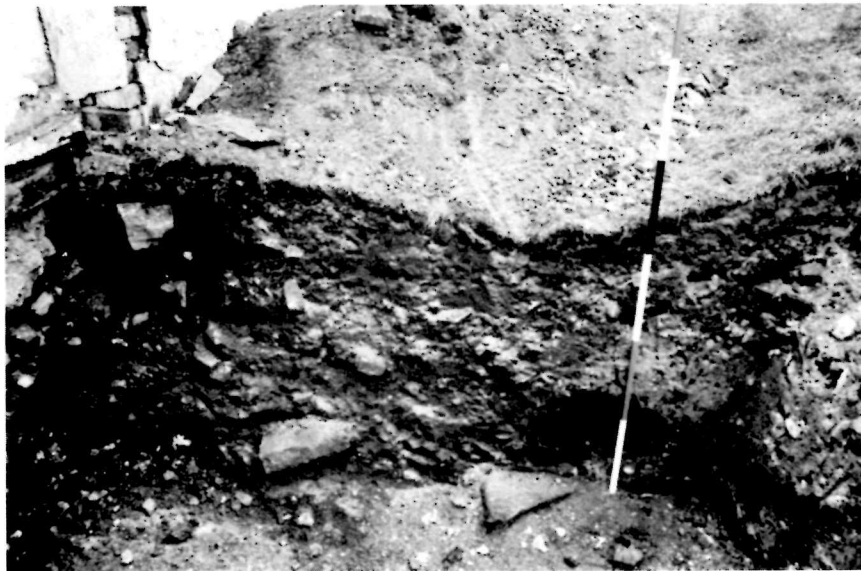
15. Guardhouse interior view north east of cistern-foundation on right is outer east wall of Guardhouse.



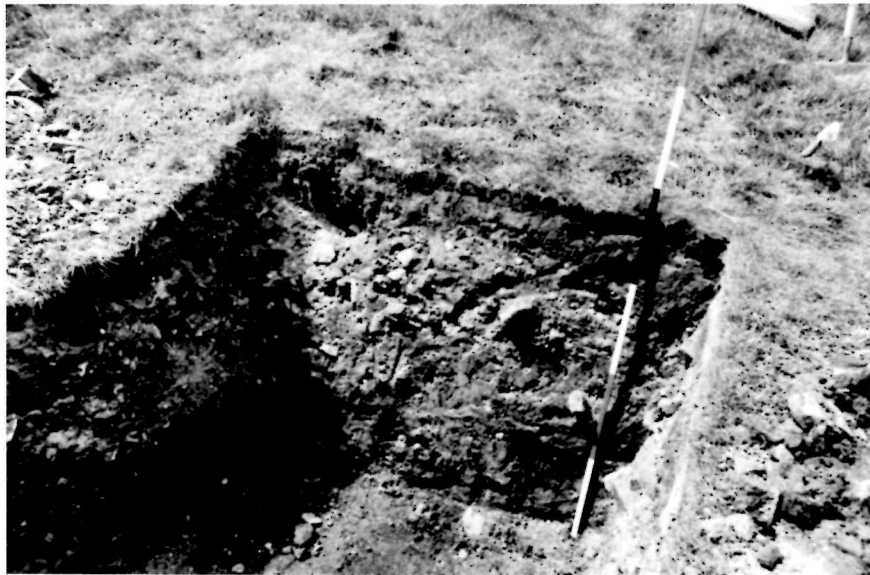
16. Guardhouse view south west showing location of operation 15 A against north wall of Guardhouse.



17. Guardhouse view south west of excavation of operation 15A.



18. Guardhouse view west of pit wall of operation 15A showing stratigraphy in relation to chimney and building foundation.



19. Guardhouse operation 15A view north west of north pit wall.



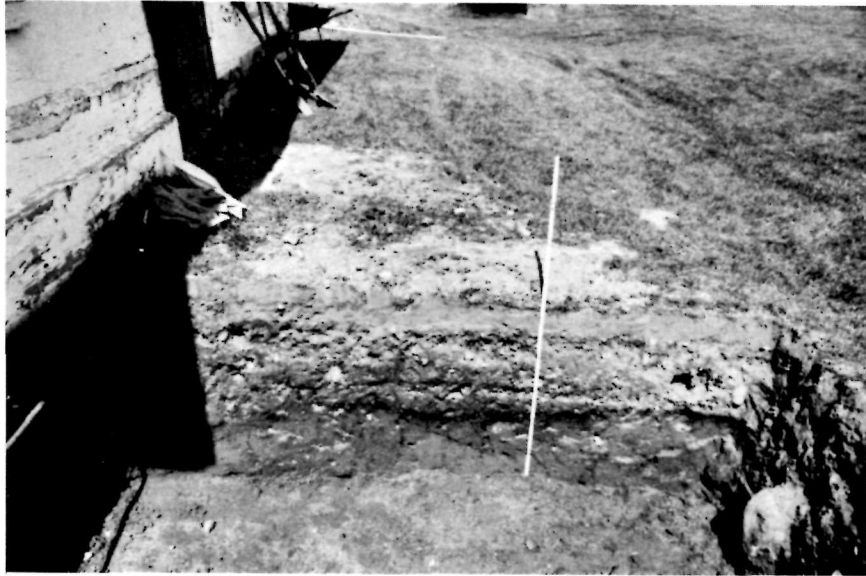
20. Guardhouse operation 15A view east of east pit wall.



21. Guardhouse operation 15A view south of foundation of Guardhouse showing building sleeper, 1 foot concrete, and rubble stone foundation.



22. Guardhouse exterior view north of south side of building showing location of operation 15B.



23. Guardhouse exterior south side view east of east pit of operation, 15B.

FORT WELLINGTON GUN POSITIONS

An Archaeological Report

by

Steven G. Baker  
Contract Archaeologist

April 1969

## PREFACE

Although many people have made contributions to the investigations of the Fort Wellington Gun Positions, I wish to express special appreciation to crew members Michael Belanger, Richard South, and Yves Deslaurier for their uncomplaining labor during this, and the other research of the field season. Also I wish to thank Mr. Stephen Epps of the National Historic Sites Service for his help in the preparation of many of the figures in the present report.

It is sincerely hoped that this report will be of help to those persons involved with the research and restoration programs of Fort Wellington, and that it will stand as a useful contribution to the study of Canadian Military History.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	page
I. Introduction	1
II. 2H33 The Southeast Gun Position	2
A. Dimensions and Construction	3
B. Elevations	6
C. Stratigraphy	7
D. Archaeological Associations	7
E. Hardware	8
F. Artifacts	9
III. 2H31 The Southwest Gun Position	9
A. Dimensions and Construction	10
B. Elevations	11
C. Stratigraphy	12
D. Archaeological Associations	13
E. Hardware	13
F. Artifacts	14
IV. Historical Considerations and Discussion	14
V. Comments and Recommendations	18
VI. Glossary	20

## List of Illustrations

- Fig. 1        2H33 SE Position  
"as found" plan
- Fig. 2        2H31 SW Position  
"as found" plan
- Fig. 3        2H33 SE Position  
Overall dimension plan
- Fig. 4        2H31 SW Position  
Overall dimension plan
- Fig. 5        2H33 SE Position  
Crossection and elevations
- Fig. 6        2H31 SW Position  
Crossection and elevations
- Fig. 7        2H33 & 2H31 Three view drawing  
showing examples of the construction  
of positions foundations and race curbs
- Fig. 8        2H31 SW Position  
Sub-operations and Lots
- Fig. 9        2H33 SE Position  
Sub-operations and Lots
- Fig. 10       2H33 SE Position  
Pre-excavation photo
- Fig. 11       2H33 SE Position  
Post-excavation overview photo
- Fig. 12       2H33 SE Position  
Post-excavation photo showing foundation  
detail
- Fig. 13       2H33 SE Position  
Photo of detail of outer race, top view
- Fig. 14       2H33 SE Position  
Photo of detail of outer race, side view
- Fig. 15       2H33 SE Position  
Photo of pintle, pintle block, and foundation
- Fig. 16       2H33 SE Position  
Photo relating to stratigraphy and detail  
of position

## List of Illustrations (Con't)

- Fig. 17      2H31 SW Gun Position  
Pre-excavation photo
- Fig. 18      2H31 SW Position  
Post-excavation overview photo
- Fig. 19      2H31 SW Position  
Post-excavation photo showing detail  
of pintle block, race, and foundation  
damage
- Fig. 20      2H31 SW Position  
Post-excavation photo showing  
detail of pintle block and foundation
- Fig. 21      2H Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario  
Site map showing excavation unit designation
- Fig. 22      2H31 SE Position  
Photo of cannon used as pintle
- Fig. 23      2H31 SW Position  
Plan of probable pintle construction
- Fig. 24      2H31 SW Gun Position**

## INTRODUCTION

Excavation of the gun positions in the southwest and southeast corners of The Fort Wellington, Fort Wellington National Historic Park, Prescott, Ontario were undertaken in 1968 in order to provide information for use in their reconstructions, and to salvage information that might be destroyed at the time of such reconstruction. It is the purpose of this report to give a detailed descriptive report of the gun positions, to discuss them in light of the known and surmised history of Fort Wellington, and to make comments which are pertinent to the anticipated restoration of the positions.

Definitions of specific terms relating to the description of the gun positions in this report are given in the glossary which accompanies it (Baker 1969b:20). For other terms relating to the fortifications the Glossary of Military Terms Used In Fortifications (Sheridan 1963) should be consulted.

The positions excavated contained the foundation and race systems of large traversing gun positions. The two positions in question were originally of wood construction dating to the period of The Canadian Rebellion of 1837, and were replaced with limestone in approximately 1849 (Miquelon 1964: 12, 14). The positions were built for, and accommodated one twenty-four pounder cannon apiece.

The present report deals only with the archaeological aspects of the gun positions, but detailed information on the guns and gun carriages for this type of position is available in the Aide-Memoire to the Military Sciences (Weale 1853: vol. 1).

It should be noted that there have been previous excavations and reports on the southeast and other gun positions of the Fort (Ashworth 1966).

Both of the positions consist of a semi-circular race and foundation system which have their open portions facing against the revetment of their respective corner positions (Figs. 1-6 & 21). In the center of the positions are foundations and tracks for the pintle and pintle race of the traversing system. Prior to excavation only the tops of the cut limestone blocks of the outer race curbs, the pintle block, and most of the original track were visible (Figs. 10 & 17). The sod level was flush with the top-most portion of the foundation system, and allowed only portions of the outline of the stones to be seen.

Each position was divided in half across the middle and the two halves then designated as separate sub-operations. Individual lots of the sub-operations were based solely on stratigraphic changes, with a third sub-operation being established for each position along the outer circumference of the semi-circle in order to totally expose the foundation system. (Figs. 8 & 9)

#### THE SOUTHEAST GUN POSITION

2H33

Although the southeast position was excavated after the southwest one, it will be discussed first due to anomalous aspects to the southwest position.

Excavation of the southeast gun position, 2H33, was begun on September 19, 1968, and due to rain was carried on intermittently until October 7. It was excavated by shovel, and the break-down of sub-operations is shown in Fig. 9.

The excavation of the gun position revealed that it consisted of a

semi-circular foundation of stone (Fig. 1) composed of three major vertical components (Figs. 7 & 14). The first component is a layer of river gravel and mortar, on top of which is a stone foundation of mortared split limestone which is capped by large dressed limestone blocks, to which the steel tracks for the carriage race are fastened (Figs. 7 & 14). In the center of the excavation unit (Figs. 1 & 15) is the foundation and block for the pintle and pintle race of the traversing system. The foundation of the pintle is constructed in the same way as that of the outside race, and is capped with a block of cut limestone, to which is riveted the smaller track of the pintle race (Fig. 15). Leaded into a mortice cut in the center of the pintle block is a cast iron pintle (Fig. 15).

#### Dimensions and Construction

The maximum extreme dimensions of the position are 23 ft. across the open end of the semi-circle where it abutts the revetment of the parapet (Fig. 3), and the extension of the foundation system to a maximum of 13.5 ft. westward from the inside of the revetment (Fig. 3). The average total radius of the foundation system is between 10 and 12 ft., with the exact radius of the outer track being 10 ft. It is difficult to be precisely sure of this latter measurement because the curb stones holding the track have become unevenly displaced (Fig. 1).

The outer foundation system is capped by eleven pieces of dressed crystalline limestone, to which the track of the race is riveted (Fig. 1). The individual stones dimensions can be taken from Figure 1, and an example of these race curbs is given in Figure 7. The average stones

dimensions are 4 ft. long, 1.3 ft. wide, and 1.1 ft. thick. The stones are finely dressed from the top downward to an average of .3 ft., where, at this level the stones are very roughly finished on the outside edges, while the ends are evenly dressed all the way down (Figs. 7 & 14). The top and bottom of the stones are also finely dressed, and a metal track is riveted to the top surface of the stone.

The limestone blocks supporting the track of the outer race are aligned along the middle of a foundation of split limestone which runs under the entire circumference of the position (Figs. 1, 7, 12 & 13). This foundation is mortared and is composed of an average of three to four somewhat flat courses of limestone. This foundation is usually 2 to 2.5 ft. wide and is approximately 1 ft. high. The capping curb stones were originally mortared to the top of the foundation, although most of the mortar has eroded from this contact of the two elements.

The pintle block and the limestone blocks of the outer race curbs are believed to be cut from the Trenton Blackriver limestone. This is a high quality crystalline limestone that is regionally local to the Fort and has been heavily used as a building material in that area for over a century. This stone is quarried very heavily at Kingston, Ontario where, of its many varying lithologies, the high quality crystalline stone is particularly well known. This stone is a very dark color when it is quarried, but upon exposure to the weather, very shortly weathers to a light grey color. Detailed lithologic studies were not made, but initial observations tend to confirm that it is the Trenton stone. The underlying foundation is of a more brownish and much less crystalline limestone that would probably prove to be more local

to the vicinity of the Fort. (Chapman and Putnam 1966: fig. 1; Wilson 1964: 21-26) other sources include (Maycock 1955-60; Sharp 1955-60; Baker 1969a).

The mortared foundation lies directly on top of a prepared base of river gravel, and mortar (Figs. 7 & 14). This base is approximately 1 ft. thick and is 2 to 3 ft. wide while running under the entire foundation system. This prepared base sits directly on top of the fill of the ramparts. The mortar is badly decayed.

Figures 1, 7, and 14 illustrate the significant details of the outer circumference of the gun positions foundation system.

Situated in the center of the position is the pintle block and foundation, (Figs. 1 & 15). The cap stone to which the pintle is fastened is made of the grey crystalline limestone, and is situated on a foundation and base identical in construction to that of the outer race (Fig. 13). The pintle block measures exactly 5 x 5 ft. across and is 1.1 ft. thick. The stone is finely dressed over its top surface, and approximately .3 ft. down the sides, except for the south side which is rather well dressed down the entire thickness of the stone; probably due to the saw in the original quarrying of the stone (Figs. 15 & 16). The east side was not examined because the revetment of the parapet covered it. A mortice had been cut into the center section of this stone and a cast iron pintle had been leaded and bolted into it (Fig. 15). This mortice is in the form of a cross and is 2.2 ft. across each arm, and each arm is .5 ft. wide (Fig. 1). The pintle will be



described with the hardware of the position.

The foundation underlying the pintle block is as already stated, nearly identical to that of the outer race of the position. The total depth of the foundation and prepared base is 2 ft., with the limestone foundation portion being four courses and 1.2 ft. thick. The foundation and base are basically 5 x 5 ft. across, which is the size of the pintle block itself. (Figs. 1, 15, and 16)

#### Elevations

As can be seen from the as found plan (Fig. 1), a certain amount of slippage of the foundation system has occurred along the outer race circumference. As well as this horizontal slippage, there has been some vertical settling and crumbling. After checking the great number of elevations taken on the position, it was determined that the elevation of 295.00 ft. A.S.L. is representative of the original operative height of the tracks, on both the outer and pintle races. The foundations extended to a depth of approximately 292.00 ft. A.S.L., although there has been approximately 1 ft. or less subsidence of the total system on the westward extreme. This is probably due to soil movement on the inside slope of the ramparts (Fig. 5). The height of the present parapet at the position is nearly 299.00 ft. A.S.L. This elevation is open to some serious scrutiny in terms of its original height. Due to the restoration of the revetment, and foreseeable soil movement in the parapet, it is difficult to reply on the present elevation. However, the present difference of approximately 4 ft. gives some idea of the original relationship of the foundation system to the parapet around

it. Figure 5 illustrates the relationships of the various elevations discussed.

### Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the gun position was extremely simple and straight-forward. The topsoil was a very dark, grayish-brown loam (10 YR 3/2), and covered the area of excavation to an average depth of 3 inches. Below the topsoil the fill of the ramparts starts and no more stratigraphic components were encountered. The fill of the ramparts was variable, but a yellowish-brown, sandy-loam (10 YR 5/6) is representative of it. The original operative ground surface of the position appears to have been approximately 294.70 ft. A.S.L., as the fill of the rampart came only to a point .3 ft. down from the top of the curbstones of the outer race and the pintle block. This distance corresponds with the .3 ft. of the stones which are completely dressed (Figs. 5 & 16).

The correlation of lots and stratigraphic layers is quite simple and is as follows: 2HA1, 2HB1 consist of the sod and topsoil; 2HA2 and 2HB2 consist of the fill of the ramparts; and 2HC1 includes both the sod and topsoil and also the fill of the ramparts. (Fig. 9 a & b)

### Archaeological Associations

There was no evidence of any of the other elements of the gun position such as carriage parts. There were also no evidences of earlier structures or stages of the gun position.

## Hardware

The hardware of the position consists of the iron tracks of the carriage race on both the outside and inside races, and the cast iron pintle. The outer track is composed of three different sections (Fig. 1). The sections are curved and measure 10 ft. from point to point as opposed to along the curvature. The outer track is .25 in. thick. The track of the inner race (pintle race) has a maximum radius of 2.0 ft., and is composed of two sections. Each section is curved and measures 3 ft. between the points across the curvature. The inner track is .35 ft. wide and less than .25 in. thick. Both the tracks on the inner and outer races are secured to their mounts with iron rivets. These rivets are  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. thick and approximately 1.7 inches long. There were usually five rivets apiece in each of the sections of track on the outer race, and three for each section of the inner or pintle race. Both the inner and outer tracks' rivets were set into holes drilled into the respective mounting stone, leaded in, and flattened over the top of the section of track in question. Both the inner track and outer track had many unutilized holes in them, which indicates that they were probably re-utilized from earlier positions (page fifteen, this report). Each section of the track of the outer race had fifteen holes besides those for the rivets. Each of the inner track sections of the pintle race had ten unutilized holes.

The pintle (Fig. 15) is of cast iron and stands 1'  $\frac{8}{4}$ " tall. The uppermost 9 in. is circular with the lower portions merging into the cross which is descriptive of its base. The cross of this base is composed of arms that are 2 ft. 2 in. across and 6 in. wide.

## Artifacts

There was no significant artifact association with this position. Except for a few odd bits of detritus in the sod, there was little other than a few pieces of bone from the lower portions of the excavations. Conspicuously absent from the artifact assemblage were any items pertaining to the care and operation of this type of position, ie: friction tubes etc. Ashworth (1966) makes mention of a few artifacts from his excavation on this position, and this would help to explain the lack of artifacts in the present excavations.

SOUTHWEST GUN POSITION  
2H31

The southwest gun position (Figs. 17 & 21) at Fort Wellington was excavated between July 8 and July 14, 1968. It was excavated by shovel and divided into three separate sub-operations (Fig. 8). The position originally functioned in the same manner as the position in the southeast corner, 2H33. It shows nearly identical construction detail to 2H33, and the detailed description of that position will, with a few exceptions, also adequately describe the southwest position.

The remains of the position consist of a semi-circular foundation of stone with three major components (Figs. 2 & 7). Compared with the southeast position, the only truly deviant feature of the southwest position is in the pintle and pintle block. The pintle block contained no pintle, nor evidence to suggest that it had been fitted with one such as found in 2H33. This difference will be

discussed separately.

#### Dimensions and Construction

The distance across the open end of the semi-circle where it abutts the revetment of the parapet (Fig. 4) in the southwest corner of the fort is 23 ft., which is the same as for 2H33. The foundation system has a maximum eastward extension of 14 ft. from the revetment of the parapet (Fig. 4), which is comparable to the southeast position. The apparent functional radius of the outer race of the traversing system was again 10 ft.

There are twelve pieces of dressed crystalline limestone capping the outer portion of the foundation system (fig. 2) while there were only eleven in 2H33. The curb stones are dressed in an equivalent fashion to those in 2H33 (Fig. 7), but the size of the stones is somewhat more variable. The example of the foundation and race curbs provided in figure 7 applies to this position as well as to 2H33, even though the length of the curb stones would average somewhat less than 4 ft. For both positions all other aspects of the outer race foundation systems appear comparable (Figs. 1 & 2). The state of preservation of the southwest position is much poorer than the southeast, and more severe displacement has occurred than in the other (Figs. 1 & 2).

The dressed stone in this position is also believed to be the Trenton Blackriver limestone, (Wilson 1964: pp. 21-26).

Situated in the center of the semi-circular foundation of the outer race of the position is the pintle block and foundation

(Fig. 2). The foundation and block of the pintle are again similar in construction to that of 2H33, as they are composed of three distinct vertical components (Fig. 20).

Like the pintle block of 2H33, one side, the north, of the pintle block is completely dressed (Figs. 18 & 29). It is felt that in both positions, these completely finished edges were the edges cut when the stone was originally quarried. The other two visible sides are dressed down only .3 ft. from the top. It measures the same as 2H33, being 5 x 5 ft. across and 1.2 ft. thick.

In direct contrast to the pintle block in 2H33, there was no cross-shaped mortice cut into the top of the pintle block. Instead of a mortice there was a square hole cut completely through the block, and measuring 1.2 ft. square (Figs. 2 & 19). This was the only direct evidence relating to a pintle for this position. The pintle block and foundation were very badly damaged (Fig. 19). The pintle block was in four major pieces, with one large section missing. The foundation was completely destroyed on the south edge, directly under the missing section of the pintle block (Fig. 19).

It is apparent that the pintle block of the southwest gun position was not intended to accommodate a pintle of the type present in 2H33.

#### Elevations

In the "as found" plans of the position there is a very large amount of horizontal displacement apparent in the foundation and curbstones of the outer race (Fig. 2). There apparently has been

some considerable vertical movement as well, again on the inside edge of the position toward the east and the inward slope of the ramparts. Even though there has been a reasonable amount of such slippage it appears that the original level of the tracks on both the outer and pintle race was at least 303 ft. A.S.L. The foundation system extended approximately 3 ft. down, or to 300 ft. A.S.L. The top of the parapet for the position is nearly 307 ft. A.S.L., allowing for 4 ft. of difference between the top of the parapet and the tracks of the functional position. It is again to be noted, that this is only an approximation due to soil movement and erosion on this parapet. Figure 6 illustrates the relationships of the discussed elevations.

#### Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the position is very simple, and there is little information to be obtained from it. The topsoil was a very dark, grayish-brown loam (10 YR 3/2) and covered the area to a depth of approximately 3 inches. Below the topsoil the fill of the rampart started, and all stratigraphic changes ended. The fill of the ramparts varied, but was basically a yellowish sandy-loam (10 YR 5/6). The original ground surface at the time of utilization of the position would have been approximately 302.50 ft. A.S.L. and came to a point roughly .3 ft. down from the top of the outer race curb stones. This corresponds to the finely dressed .3 ft. down the sides of the curb stones and pintle block.

The lot-layer correlation for the position is as follows:

2H31A1 is the sod and topsoil; 2H31A2 is the fill of the rampart; and 2H31B1 and C1 both include the sod and topsoil and also the fill of the rampart.

#### Archaeological Associations

As was the case in 2H33, there were no other elements of the original gun position present, nor were there any evidences of earlier structures.

#### Hardware

The tracks of the position were again in three pieces on the outer race, and two on the pintle race. One of the three pieces of track on the outer race was broken and had a large section missing (Fig. 2). The tracks of the outer race measured .25 in. wide and contained five rivets and fifteen unutilized holes apiece. The track of the inner race was 3.25 in wide, and consisted of two sections together having a radius of 2 ft. The track of the inner or pintle race was also bent and partially missing, but contained three rivets and ten unutilized holes per section.

A cannon reportedly was removed from the pintle block and foundation system (Webb 1969), and from this provenience probably served as a pintle. The cannon (Fig. 22) is probably a French 18 pounder of the middle 18th century (Zubatiuk 1969). It is in very poor condition and probably has not been serviceable for a great many years. The muzzle shows many large cracks, and the trunnions are broken off nearly flush with the surface of the barrel.



The gun measures roughly 9 ft long, and has a maximum diameter of 17 in. at the breech. The bore is 5.5 in. and the muzzle diameter is approximately 11 in.

#### Artifacts

There were few artifacts present, and nothing was found which gives further information to the interpretation of the position.

#### HISTORICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND DISCUSSION

From evidence and comparisons drawn from the excavation of the two gun positions at Fort Wellington it has become possible to more fully draw them into the historical record of the Fort.

The first Fort Wellington was built in 1813 during the War of 1812 (Miquelon 1964: 7-11). The fort was totally revetted during the period of 1838-39 as a result of the Canadian Rebellion of 1837, and it is at this time that the first traversing platforms for twenty-four pounders seem to have been installed (Miquelon 1964: 11-15). The original traversing carriages were mounted on wooden platforms. Information is scanty regarding the replacement of these wooden platforms with the described limestone ones, however the following quote (Lee 1966: item 78) makes important reference to the positions: "The gun platforms and wooden curbs also one pintle at Fort Wellington being in a decayed state from exposure to the weather,..... This item is submitted for repairing them previously to the gun carriages being painted as provided in item 76 of this estimate provision is therefore made as follows: (sic) This quote from

the period of 1847-1848 apparently was prior to the following estimates from the engineers department dated 1849-1850: "The present wooden curbs are in a very dilapidated state, it is therefore proposed to renew them with stone using the racers again which are serviceable--Provision is made for excavating and removing earth for the foundations which are to be of concrete formed of lime and coarse gravel, in the proportion of one of lime to six of gravel on which a course of rubble masonry is to be laid to receive the curb stone. The curb to be of limestone  $2/35 \times 1 \times 1$  (sic) set in mortar, the top and sides to the depth of 3 inches to be rough boncharded, the curbs for the front racers to be of the same as those already described including the foundations for the same. The pintle stone to be of masonry 5' x 5' by 1' deep rough boncharded on the top and edges, to the depth of 3 inches. Mortices to be cut for the pintle. The pintle to be of cast iron of the approved pattern similar to those in use at Fort Henry, Kingston, to be let in and run with lead and painted three coats in oil, lead colour". (Miquelon 1963: C1418)

It is not certain if the work was carried out in the same year as the estimate, but it is reasonably established that the masonry positions were constructed in the 1850 period, or perhaps better said the middle of the 19th century. From the archaeological evidence coupled with the mentioned historic documentation, it is felt that the southeast gun position was built exactly as specified in the original estimates. It represents a good example of such a position and fits its documentation even to the reutilization of the track (racer) from the earlier wooden platforms as evidenced by the large numbers of unutilized holes present in them.

It is with the southwest position, 2H31, that problems arise in interpretation. It is apparent that the overall construction of the position was also specified in the 1849-1850 estimates, with the exception of the pintle. The position never accomodated a pintle such as was specified in the proposal, and found in the other position. Nevertheless, there is evidence to indicate that there was some type of pintle constructed for the position.

The explanation offered for this problem of pintle discordance lies in the use of cannon barrels as pintles in traversing gun positions of the period. The former curator of the Fort, Mr. Walter Webb of Prescott, admittedly removed the gun from the position, and the destruction of the pintle block and foundation (Fig. 19) would bear this out.

A large amount of detail regarding this pintle was supplied by Mr. Webb in a conversation with the present writer (Webb 1969). The following paraphrased discussion is offered in support of the use of a cannon as a pintle in the southwest gun position, 2H31, and also to shed further information on the original construction method involved: Mr. Webb was asked if he had even excavated a cannon from a gun position at Fort Wellington. He answered, yes I dug a cannon out of there, it was sticking about 2 ft. above, just about the same height as the pintle in the other corner, a big block of limestone. It had its muzzel stuck through a hole in the middle of the block. When they built the position they had to lower the block over the cannon, because the hole is pretty small. It had another block of limestone around it, which was buried within the foundation. We had a hard time getting the gun out, and had to break up this stone. It was about 3 ft. square and 1 ft. thick

with a round hole in the center which allowed it to be slipped down around the gun. It was down around the chase of the gun. I remember it well, it had a round hole in it, but we broke it up. There was a piece of round axle, probably from a gun carriage, set real solidly into the muzzle, so that the whole thing was just about equal to the height of the pintle in the other corner (southeast). It would have been 2 ft. more or less. Mr. Webb was asked if he knew what became of the gun. He responded with the statement that it was at the Fort the last time he was there, and that it was a French gun that had been brought over from Fort de Levis. He further added that it had taken two winches and at least two men to get the gun out. He emphasized that it had been a lot of work, Mr. Webb said that he was acting on the suggestion of the government engineer, who felt that the gun should be out where people could see it. Mr. Webb was curator of Fort Wellington from 1924-1958, and he feels that the removal of the gun took place in his second year on the job, 1926.

An attempt was made to verify Mr. Webb's statements, and the Fort Wellington records for that period (August 1928) were checked. The following entry was found: August, 1928; Excavating Cannon; expenses include labor 28 hours at 35 cents an hour, winch rental 2 dollars, and five chain links. From the testimony of Mr. Webb, the record books, the historic literature of the times, and the archaeological evidence it is apparent that there was a cannon used as a pintle in the southwest gun position at Fort Wellington.

The use of cannon as pintles in traversing gun positions is

apparently known from other examples of military history. Drawings in the Aide Memoire to the Military Sciences (Weale 1853: vol. 1) show the use of such a pintle, and this type of pintle can still be seen in some of the positions of the Grand Battery of Quebec City. With more detailed research it should be possible to locate more supporting sources for this type of pintle.

The statement quoted on page 11 of this report points out that there is only one pintle which needed to be replaced. This could be inferred to mean that one of the pintles was in servicable condition, and could be the one which is now located in the southeast gun position. If this was the case and a pintle of the normal specifications was not available at the time of construction, there is reason to believe that a substitute acceptable to military specifications of the period would have been employed. Cannon were apparently acceptable for this purpose.

On the basis of Mr. Webb's testimony and the archaeological evidence coupled with drawings in the Aide Memoire to the Military Sciences (Weale 1853: vol. 1) it has been possible to arrive at a plausible reconstruction of the pintle system of the southwest gun position. The drawing can be termed "generally representative" of the pintle prior to its destruction in 1928, although it is by no means offered as a highly accurate reconstruction, particularly in regard to dimensions. This drawing (Fig. 23) is a basic interpretation of all data located, and is only offered with that qualification in mind.

#### COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the total evidence available it is historically accurate

to accept the southeast gun position in its "as found" condition as an accurate representative of a 19th century masonry traversing gun position. It is offered as a well-documented and well preserved example of such a position, and to reconstruct it in its present configuration is historically accurate.

It is just as acceptable to treat the southwest gun position as representative of an anomalous, but not abnormal example of a masonry traversing gun position. The use of a cannon as its pintle is an absolute requirement in any restoration or reconstruction which is intended to be in keeping with the accurate and factual military history of Fort Wellington National Historic Park.

## GLOSSARY

of

## \*Descriptive Terms of Gun Positions at Fort Wellington

Pintle is the stationary point or axis at the center of the gun position where the radius of the swing of the carriage has its origin. The term is used in reference both to the point itself and to the specific piece of structural hardware utilized at this point of origin.

Pintle Block is the supporting feature on which the pintle is situated or mounted

Race is used to indicate the course of travel of the traversing portion of a gun carriage, but does not mean the specific structural or mechanical hardware associated **with** this traversing movement.

Race Curb is used to indicate the supporting structural feature on which the course of travel is carried out.

Track of the race is indicative of the track as a piece of the mechanical apparatus of the traversing system utilized in the functional operation of the carriage. It is the stationary portion of the hardware on which the movement takes place.

## REFERENCES CITED

Ashworth, M. J.

- 1966 Excavations of the Two Gun Platforms, Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ontario. National Historic Sites Service, Ottawa. MS.

Baker, S.G.

- 1969a Fort Wellington Archaeology. National Historic Sites Service. Ottawa. MS.
- 1969b Fort Wellingtons Gun Positions. National Historic Sites Service. Ottawa. MS.

Chapman, L.J. and Putnam, D.F.

- 1966 The Physiography of Southern Ontario. Ontario Research Foundation, published by the University of Toronto Press. Toronto.

Fort Wellington

- 1928 The Fort Wellington Summary Record Book 1925-1958. Central Regional Office. National Historic Sites Service. Cornwall.

Lee, D.E.

- 1966 Fort Wellington: A Structural Report. National Historic Sites Service. Ottawa. MS.

Maycock, Ian

- 1955-1960 (date not currently known)  
Stratigraphy of Kingston. University of Toronto.  
Unpublished M.A. Thesis. Toronto. (secondary source)

Miquelon, Dale

- 1963 Documents Useful For the Restoration of Fort Wellington. National Historic Sites Service. Ottawa. MS.



Miquelon, Dale

- 1964 Reports on Fort Wellington. National Historic Sites Service. Ottawa. MS.

Sharp, D.

(actual date not currently known)

1955-1960

Physical Characteristics of the Trenton Blackriver Limestone at Kingston. Queens University. Unpublished B.S.C. Thesis. Kingston. (secondary source)

Sheridan, S.

- 1968 Glossary of Military Terms Used in Fortifications. National Historic Sites Service. Ottawa. MS.

Weale, John ed.

- 1853 Aide-Memoire to the Military Sciences. Framed from Contributions of Officers of the Different Services. Edited by a Committee of the Corps of Royal Engineers, 1853. Second edition, corrected. 1853. High Holborn, London.

Webb, Walter

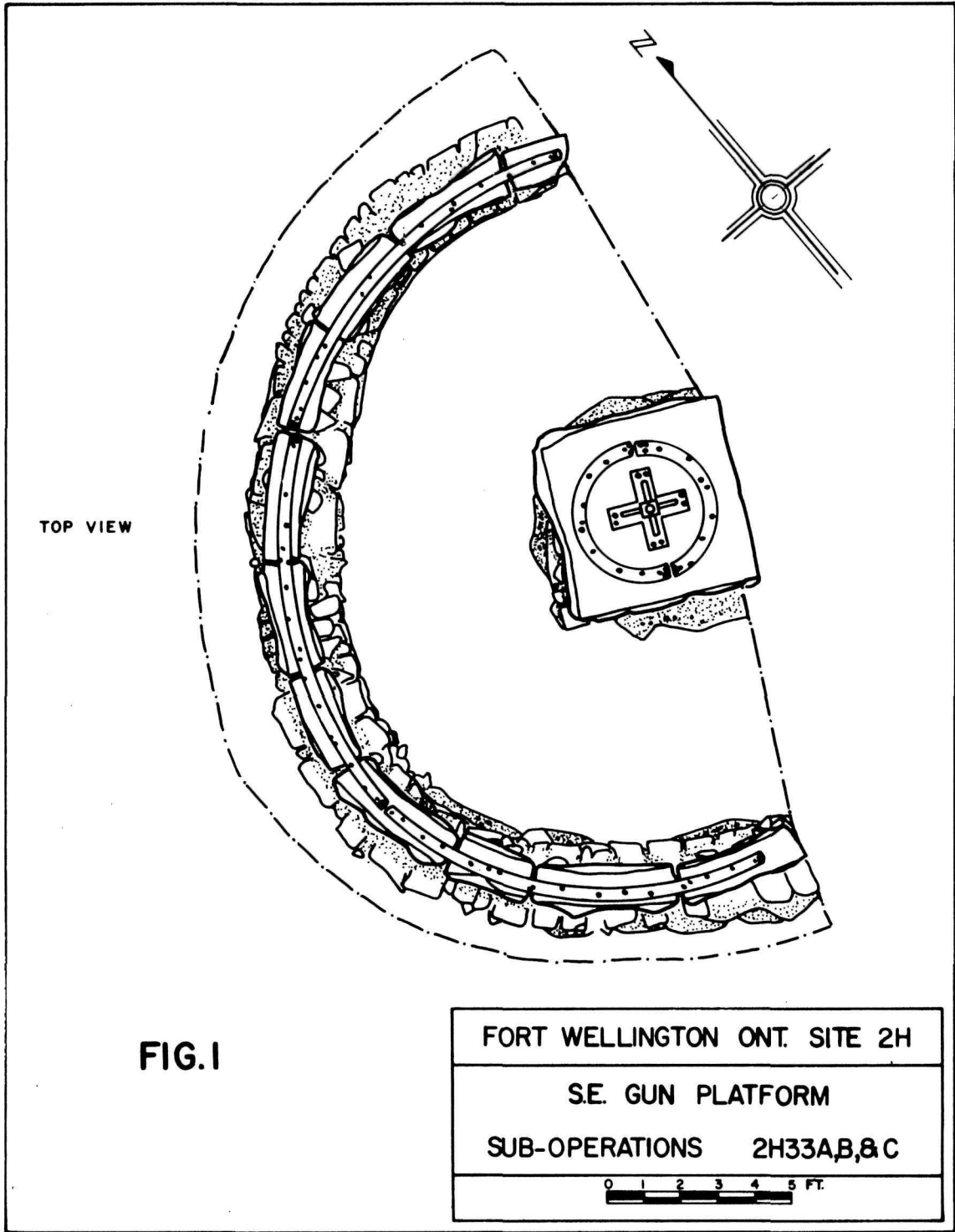
- 1969 Personal Communication With S.G. Baker. Thursday April 17, 1969. Prescott, Ontario.

Wilson, Alice E.

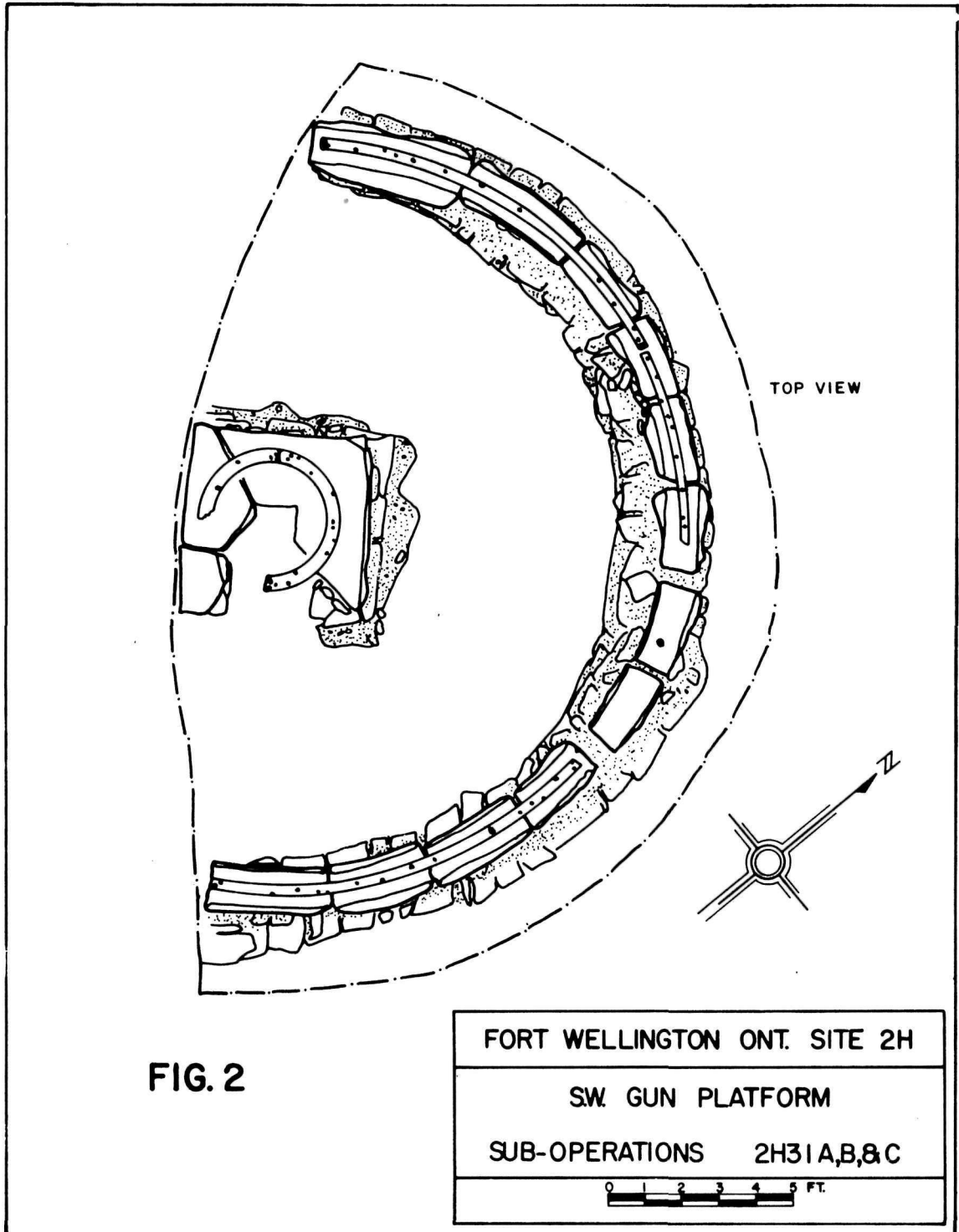
- 1964 The Geology of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Lowland, Ontario and Quebec. Memoir 241. Geological Survey of Canada. Ottawa.

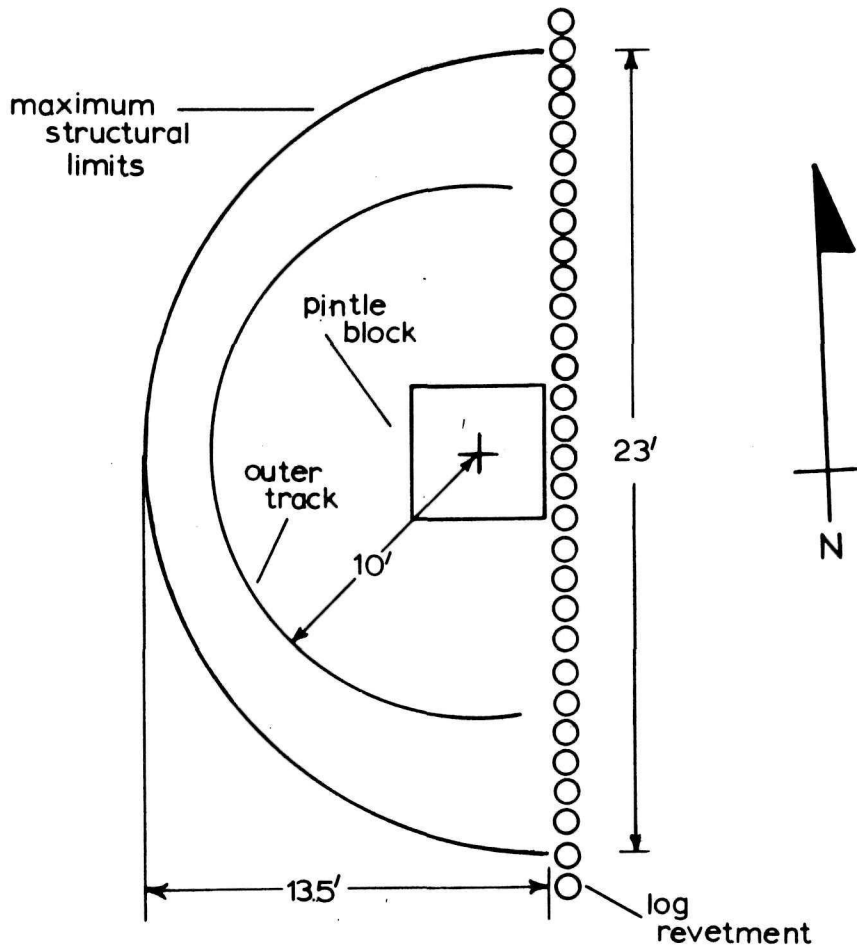
Zubatiuk, Victor

- 1969 Personal Communication With S.G. Baker. March 15, 1969. Prescott, Ontario.



(2H-68-102-7)

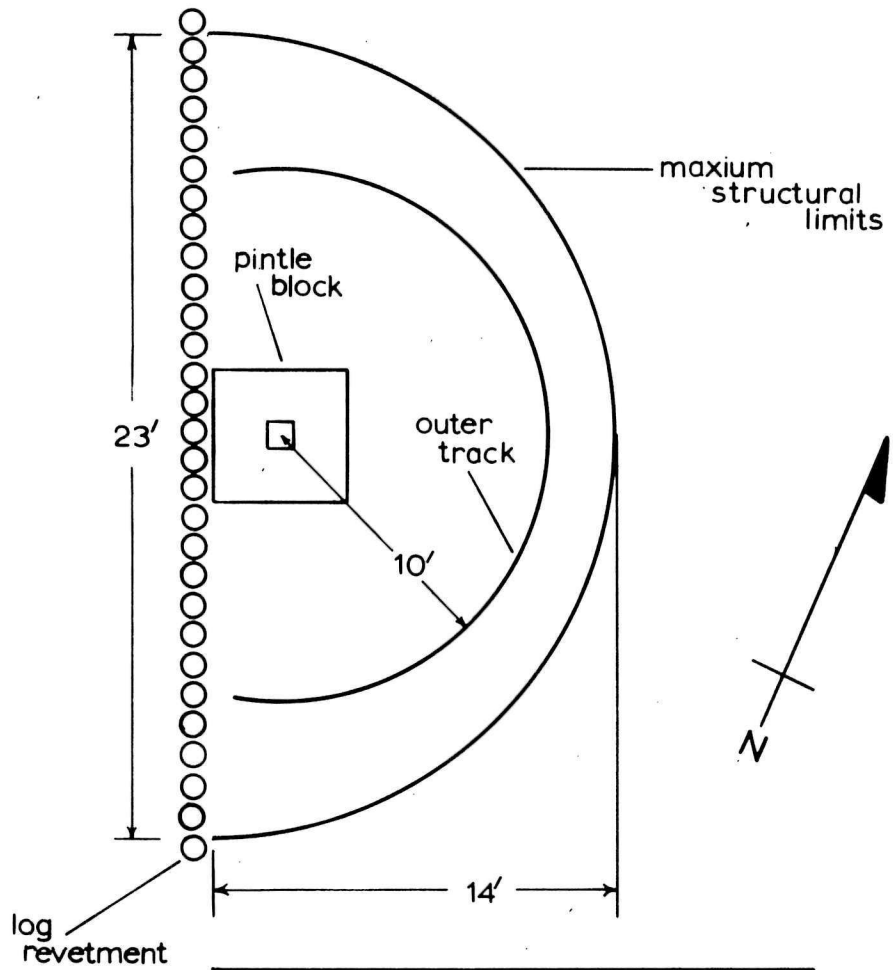




**FIG. NO. 3**

<b>FORT WELLINGTON ONT. SITE 2H</b>
<b>S.E. GUN POSITION OP33 GROSS DIMENSIONS NO SCALE</b>

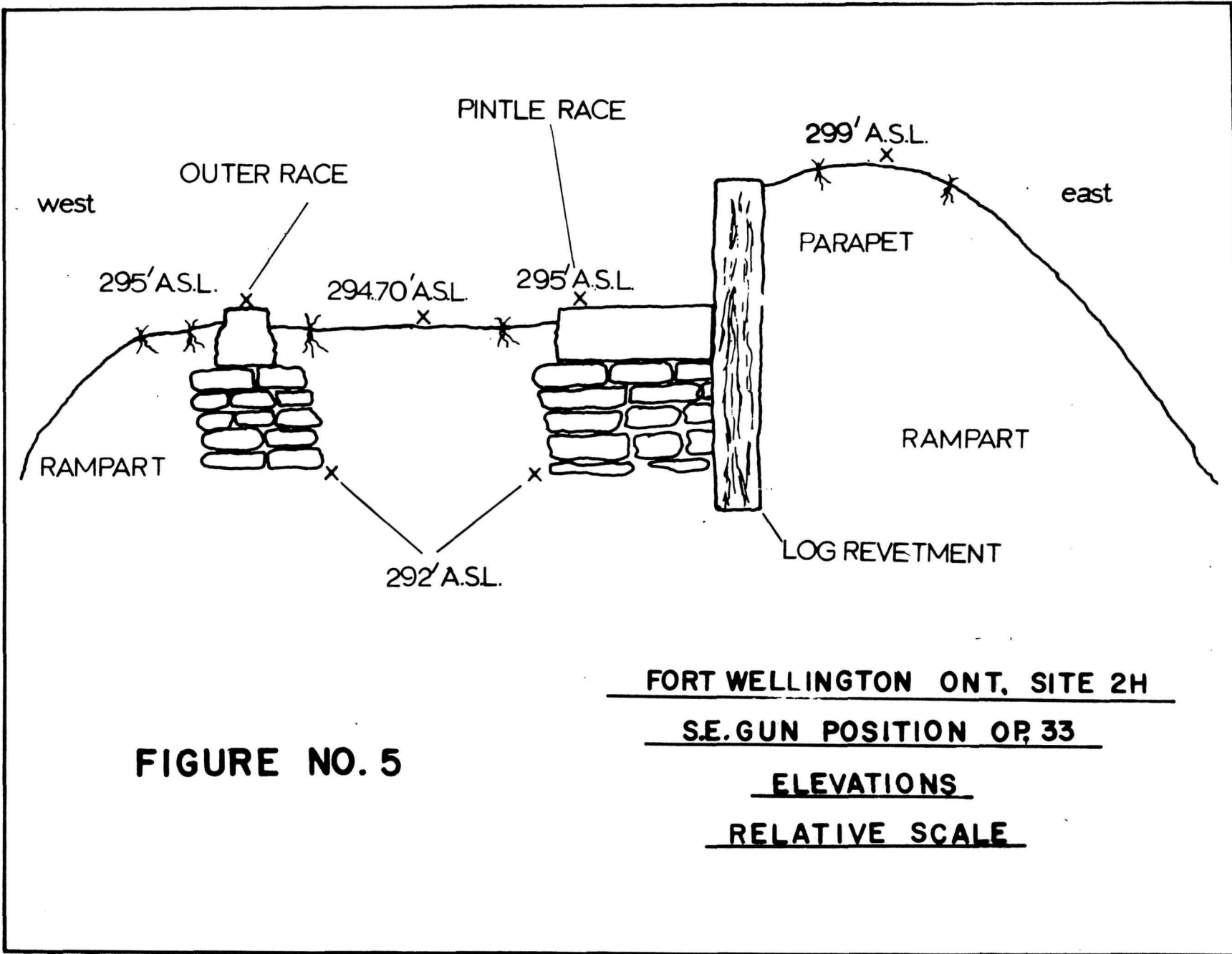
(2H-68-102-15)



**FIG. NO. 4**

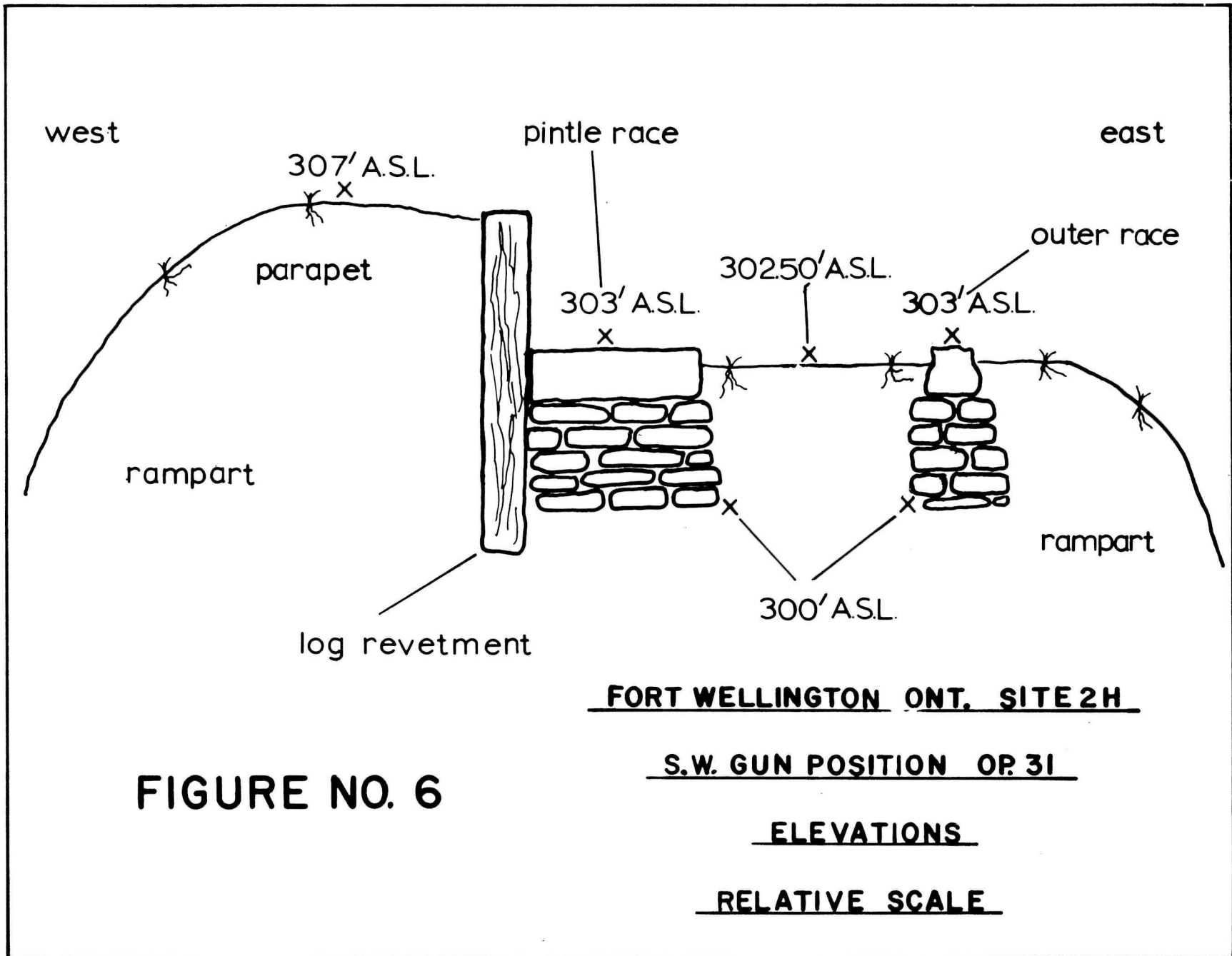
<b>FORT WELLINGTON ONT. SITE 2H</b>
<b>S.W. GUN POSITION OR 31 GROSS DIMENSIONS NO SCALE</b>

(2H-68-102-16)



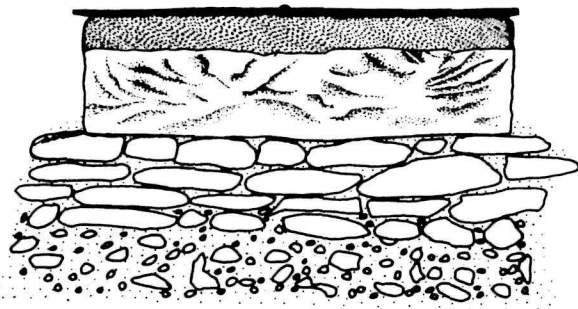
335

(2H-68-102-17)



336

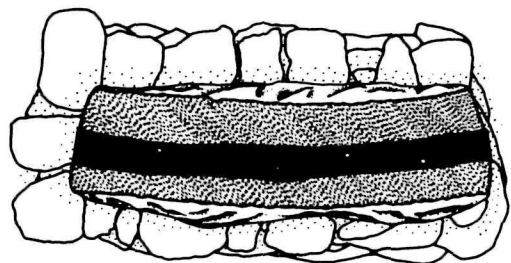
(2H-68-102-18)



SIDE VIEW



END VIEW



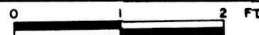
TOP VIEW

FIG. 7

FORT WELLINGTON ONT. SITE 2H

CONSTRUCTION OF GUNMOUNT

FOUNDATION & RACE CURBS



(2H-68-104-3)

2H-68-104-3



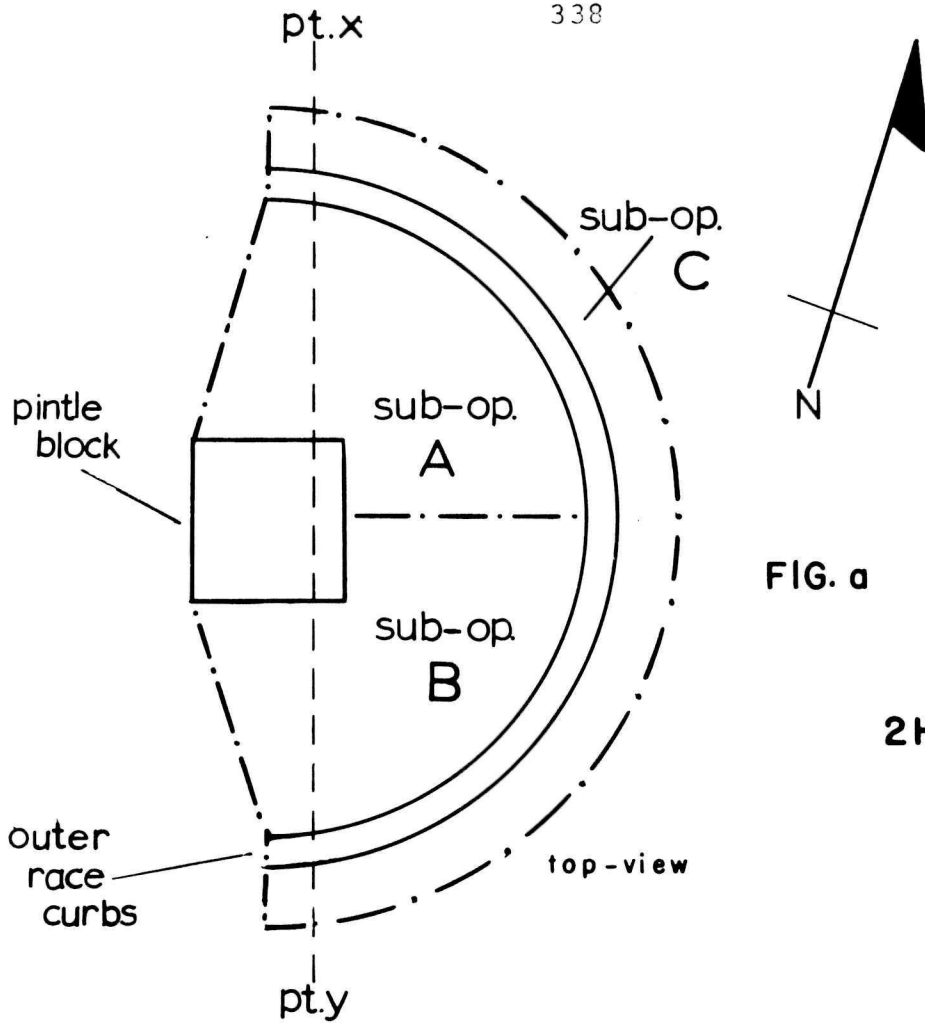


FIG. a

2H 31

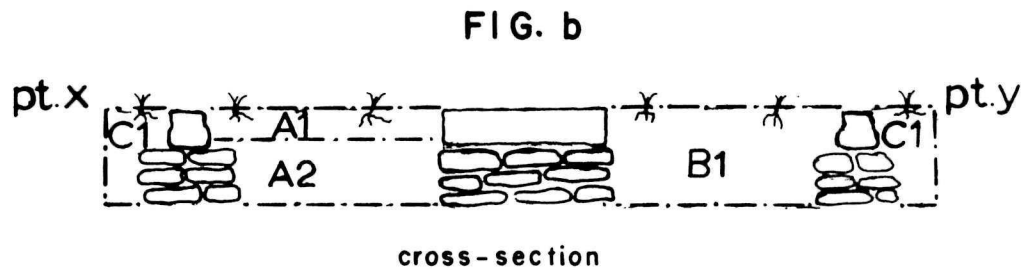


FIG. b

# FIG. 8 a & b

--- = excavation limits

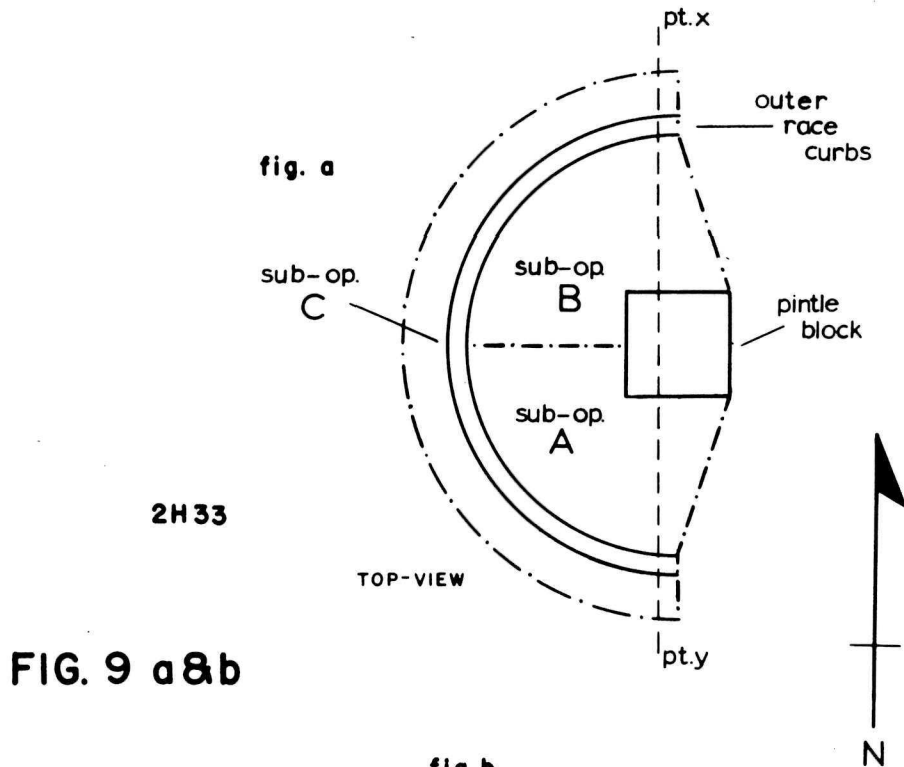
— = feature limits

- - - = section line

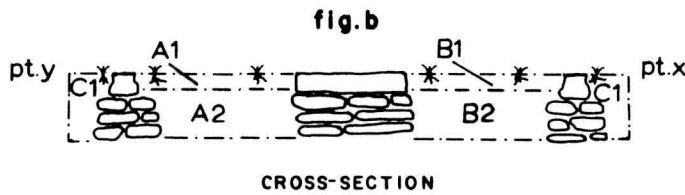
X X = sod

○ = stone

FORT WELLINGTON ONT. SITE 2H
S.W. GUN POSITION OP. 31
SUB-OPS. & LOTS
approx. scale 1 in. = 6 ft.



**FIG. 9 a&b**



- = excavation limits
- = feature limits
- - - = section line
- \* \* = sod
- = stone

<b>FORT WELLINGTON ONT. SITE 2H</b>
<b>S.E. GUN POSITION OP 33</b>
<b>SUB-OPS. &amp; LOTS</b>
<b>approx. scale lin. = 6ft.</b>

(2H-68-102-20)

Fig. 10. 2H33, The southeast gun position prior to excavation. The view is to the east with the 6' scale oriented NE-SW. Sept. 1968. 2H-240 M.

Fig. 11. 2H33. The southeast gun position after completion of excavation. The view is to the northeast with no scale present. 4 Oct. 1968. 2H-319 M.

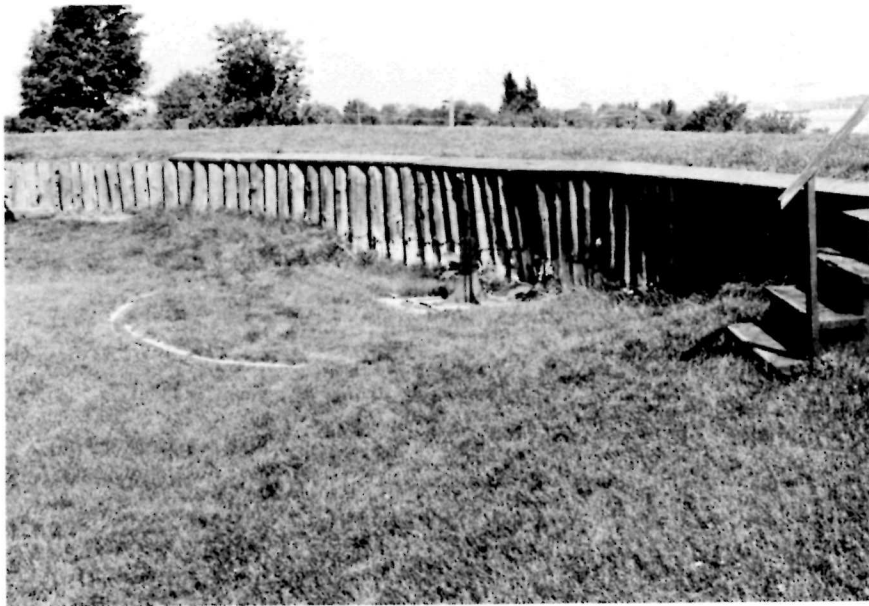


Fig. 12. 2H33. The southeast gun position after completion of excavation showing the general detail of the entire position. The view is to be the south with the 6' scale oriented N-S, and the 2' scale oriented up-down. 4 Oct. 1968. 2H-312 M.

Fig. 13. 2H33. The southeast gun position after completion of excavation showing the details of the outer race foundation, curb, and track systems. The view is from the side with the 2' scale oriented up-down. 4 Oct. 1968. 2H-314 M.

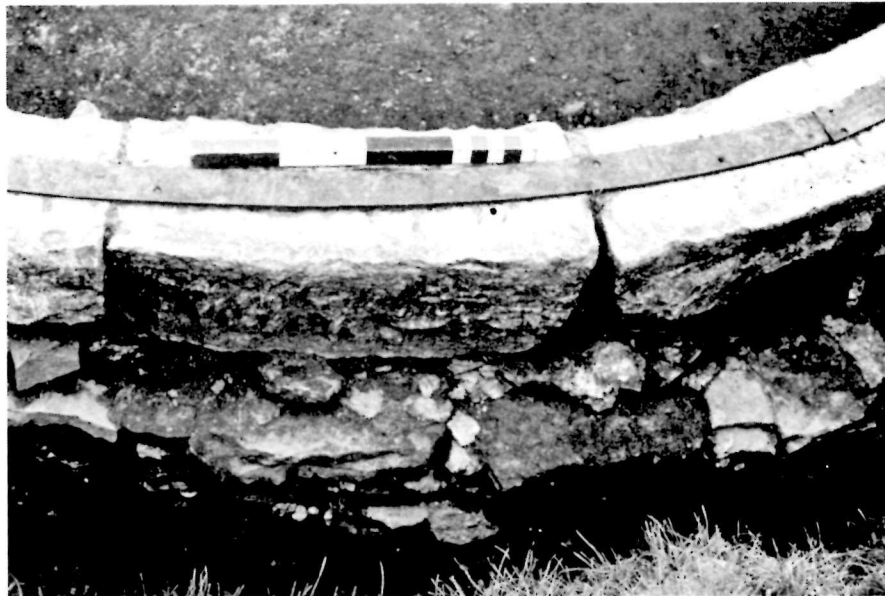


Fig. 14. 2H33. The southeast gun position after completion of excavation showing the construction detail of the outer race foundation and curbs. The view is from the side with the 2' scale oriented up-down. 4 Oct. 1968. 2H-317 M.

Fig. 15. 2H33. The southeast gun position after completion of excavation showing the details of the pintle foundation, block and race as well as the cast-iron pintle. The view is from the side looking east with the 6' scale oriented N-S and the 2' scale up-down. 4 Oct. 1968. 2H-313 M.

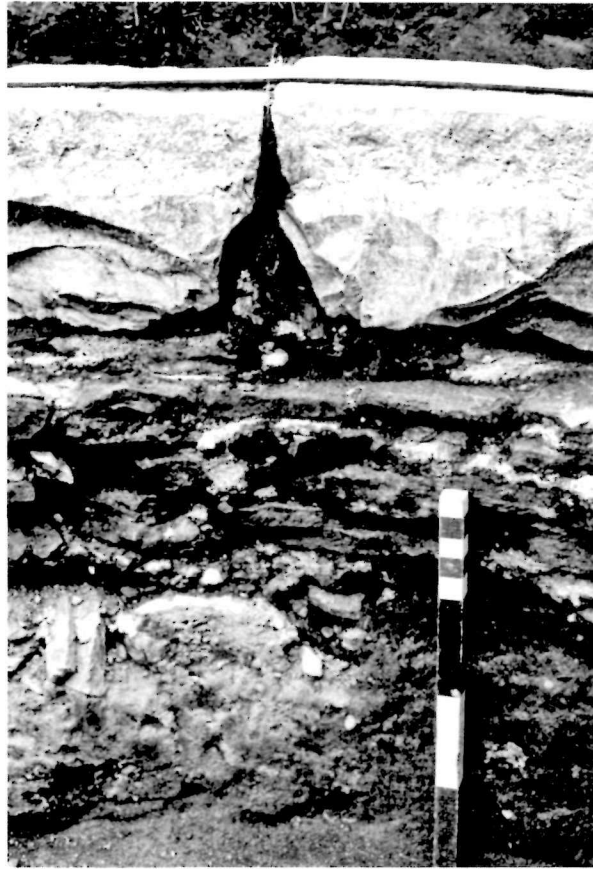




Fig. 16. 2H33. The southeast gun position during excavation showing the stratigraphy of the position. The view is to the northwest with the 6' scale oriented E-W and the 2' scale up-down. 30 Sept. 1969. 2H-296 M.

Fig. 17. 2H31. The southwest gun position prior to excavation. The view is to the northwest with no scale present. 3 July 1968. 2H-49 M.

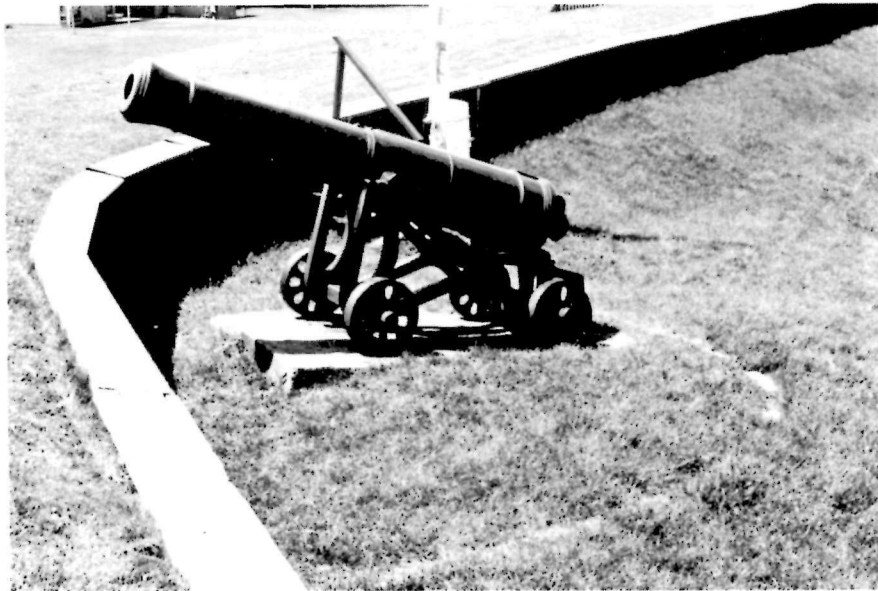


Fig. 18. 2H31. The southwest gun position after completion of excavation showing the general detail of the entire position. The view is to the south with the 6' scale oriented N-S and the 2' scale up-down. Oct. 1968. 2H-327 M.

Fig. 19. 2H31. The southwest gun position after completion of excavation showing the detail of the damage to the pintle foundation, block, and track. The view is down and to the north with the 6' scale oriented E-W and the 2' scale N-S. Oct 1968. 2H-320 M.

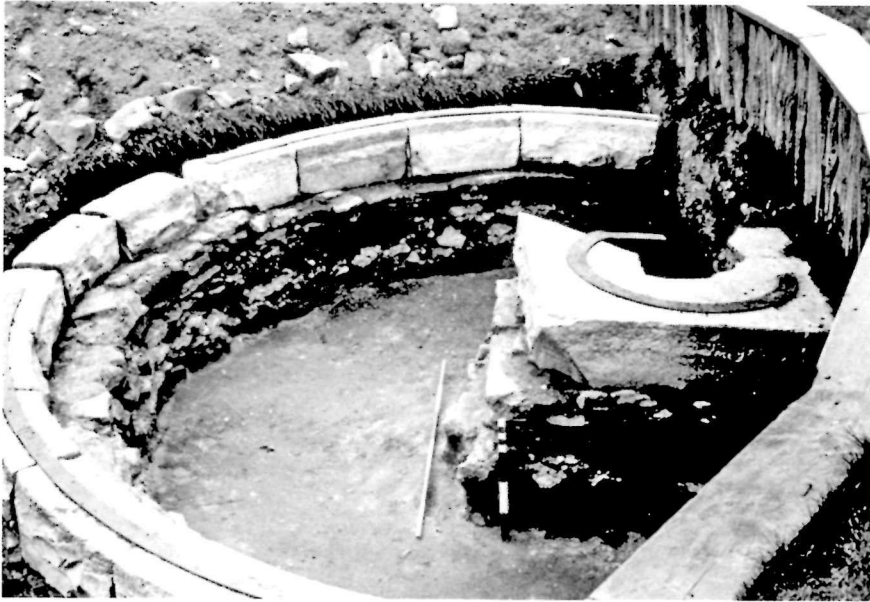
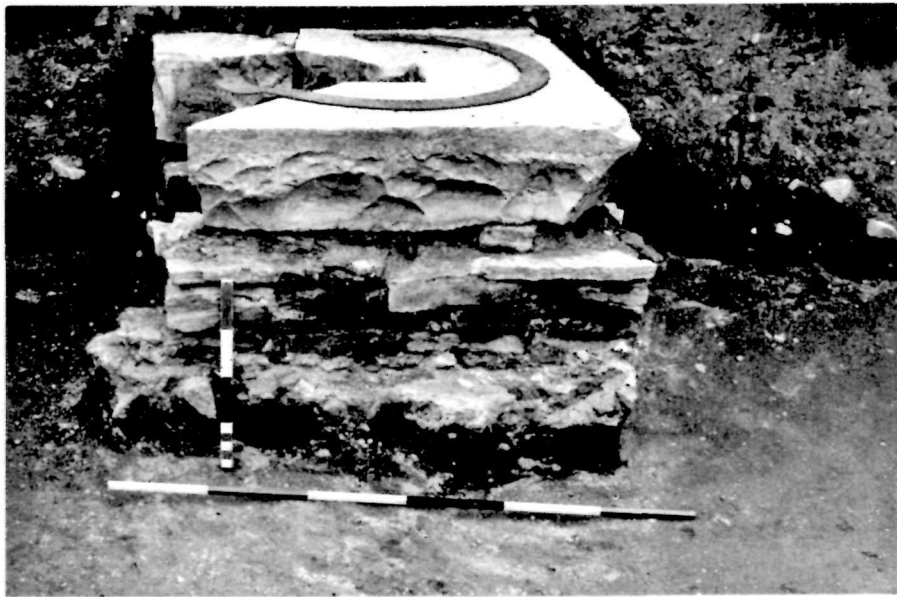


Fig. 20. 2H31. The southwest gun position after completion of excavation showing the details of the pintle foundation, block, and track. The view is to the west with the 6' scale oriented N-S, and the 2' scale up-down. Oct. 1968. 2H-322 M.



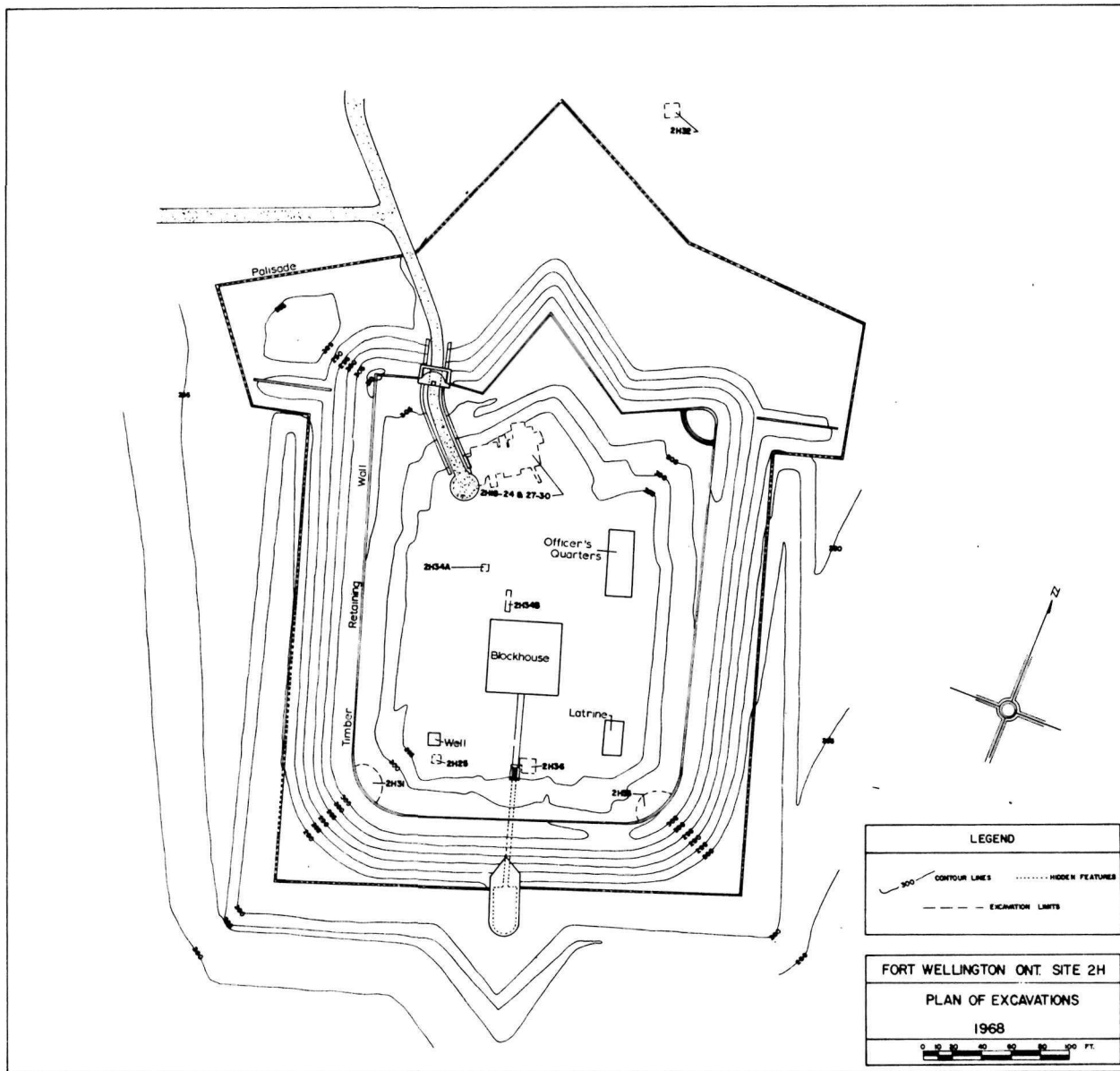


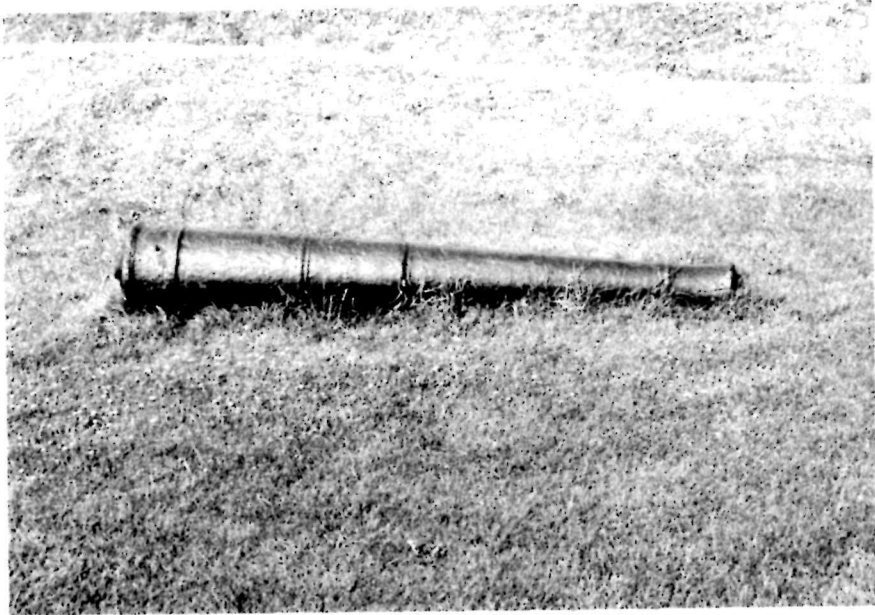
Figure 21

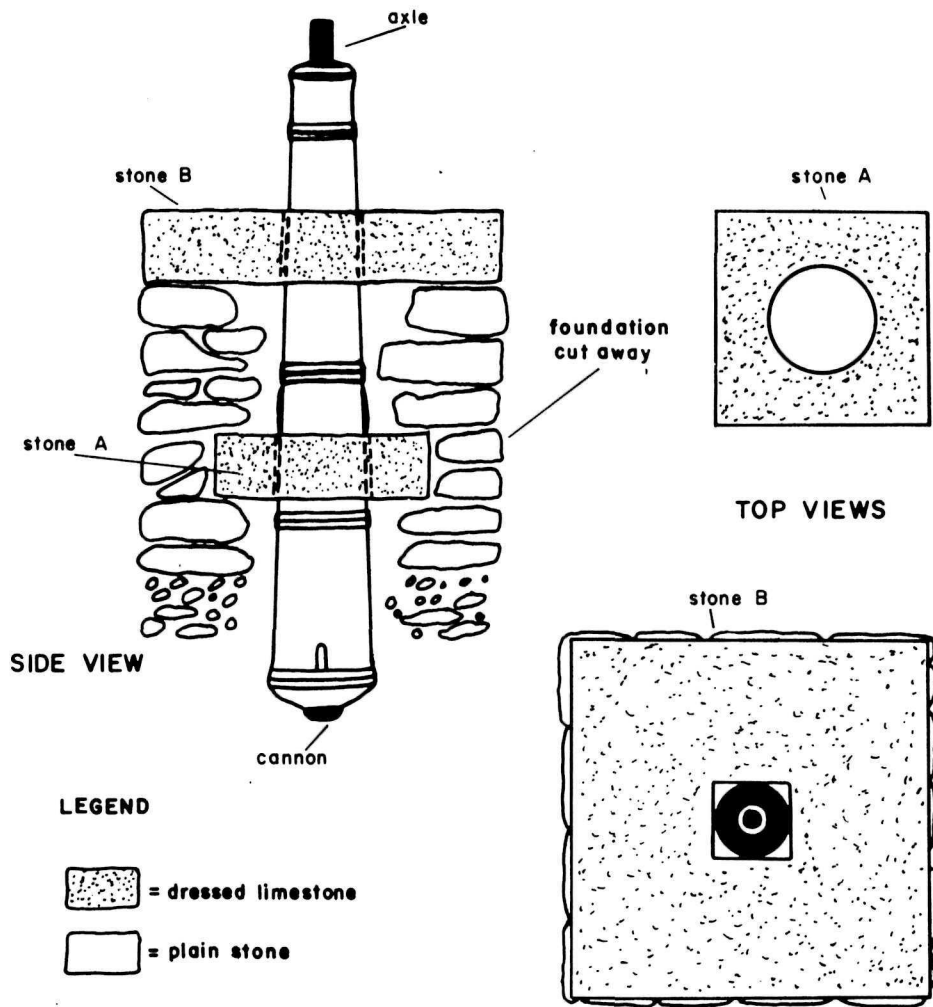
(2H-68-101-1)

Fig. 22. 2H31. The cannon which was used as a pintle in the southwest gun position. Length is approximately 9'. The gun is probably a French 16 pounder. Note crack in muzzle. 16 July 1968. 2H-156 M.

Fig. 24. (2H-1 B) 2H31. Southwest gun position. Circa 1924-1928 showing the protruding muzzle of the cannon utilized as the pintle prior to its removal in 1928 by Mr. Walter Webb. Photo courtesy of Mr. Webb. Woman is Mrs. Webb. Mounted gun is a British 24 pounder. Photo is looking south.







**FIG. 23**

**FORT WELLINGTON ONT. SITE 2H**

**S.W. GUN POSITION OP. 31**

**THE PINTLE**

**ITS PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION**

0 1 2 3 4 5 ft.

Canadian Printco Limited  
Montreal  
01KT. A4104-S-A3103-130