



The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

Telephone (905) 468-3266
Facsimile (905) 468-2959

1593 Four Mike Creek
Road
P.O. Box 190
Virgil, Ontario
L0S 1T0

Report: MHC-20-012 **Committee Date:** October 13, 2020

Report To: Municipal Heritage Committee
Subject: Ordnance Boundary Stones
Creation of Sub-Committee

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

- 1.1 A sub-Committee be created to explore options for the conservation and commemoration of the Ordnance Boundary Stones within the Old Town urban area, and that the following people be invited to form part of the Committee:

- 1.1.1 At least one Municipal Heritage Committee Member to report back to the Heritage Committee;
- 1.1.2 At least one local land surveyor;
- 1.1.3 A local Parks Canada employee;
- 1.1.4 A member of the Friends of Fort George;
- 1.1.5 A member of the NOTL Museum Board or Museum Staff; and
- 1.1.6 Mr. Ted Rumble.

2. PURPOSE / PROPOSAL

The purpose of this report is to provide a recommendation to Council regarding the creation of a sub-Committee to explore options for the conservation and commemoration of the Town's Ordnance Boundary Stones (the "OBS").

3. BACKGROUND

Mr. Ted Rumble, resident, provided a presentation to the Municipal Heritage Committee on the history of the OBS and requested that the stones be conserved. The Municipal Heritage Committee (the "MHC") provided the following recommendation which was ratified by Council:

Moved by Ken Douglas that the presentation be received and that staff be directed to bring back a report back to the Committee regarding the points Mr. Rumble

raised at tonight's meeting and that such direction considers a partnership including Mr. Rumble, Parks Canada and The Friends of Fort George. The intent of this partnership is to create a protection plan for the Ordnance Boundary Stones within the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

4. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

4.1 Re-exposing, Replacing and Repairing Boundary Stones

Staff have reached out to several local surveying companies for more information on the markers. Surveyors have made it clear that the Ordnance Boundary Stones are still utilized for surveying purposes. Therefore, the primary consideration is that these stones must continue to function as needed. All other matters, including a plan for commemoration and protection of the stones is secondary.

In addition, the *Criminal Code of Canada, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46* states that it is an offence for anyone other than a Land Surveyor to alter a boundary mark as follows:

Interfering with international boundary marks, etc.

443 (1) Every person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction who intentionally pulls down, defaces, alters or removes

(a) a boundary mark lawfully placed to mark any international, provincial, county or municipal boundary, or

(b) a boundary mark lawfully placed by a land surveyor to mark any limit, boundary or angle of a concession, range, lot or parcel of land.

Saving provision

(2) A land surveyor does not commit an offence under subsection (1) where, in his operations as a land surveyor,

(a) he takes up, when necessary, a boundary mark mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) and carefully replaces it as it was before he took it up; or

(b) he takes up a boundary mark mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) in the course of surveying for a highway or other work that, when completed, will make it impossible or impracticable for that boundary mark to occupy its original position, and he establishes a permanent record of the original position sufficient to permit that position to be ascertained.

Staff recommend that local surveyors be brought into the sub-Committee as members, or at least as regular consultants, at the outset, prior to sub-Committee discussions on plans to re-expose, replace or repair any marks. In addition, consultation with the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors would be recommended

at the outset. These conversations would inform any decisions on re-exposing, replacing or repairing the OBS.

4.2 On-going Protection of Stones

Staff intend to engage several Town Departments including Community and Development Services and the Operations Department to create an internal process for protecting the OBS during public or private construction works. The goal would be to fully document and map the location of exposed OBS so that appropriate processes could be put into place to physically protect the OBS.

4.3 Commemoration

It is recommended that the sub-Committee explores options for the commemoration and recognition of the OBS in order to raise community awareness and celebrate the long history of the OBS.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.

6. OPTIONS

Not applicable.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There would be costs associated with the consulting services of local surveyors as well as for any proposed alterations of the stones.

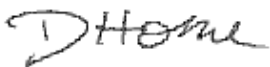
8. COMMUNICATIONS

The recommendations of the MHC will be provided to Council for endorsement as part of the Minutes.

9. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the MHC consider the establishment of a sub-Committee to explore options for the conservation and commemoration of the OBS.

Respectfully submitted,



**Denise Horne, MA, Diploma Heritage Conservation
Planner II**



Mark Iamarino, MCIP, RPP

Senior Planner

ATTACHMENTS

First Capital of Upper Canada - 1792



The Town of Niagara-On-The-Lake

Telephone (905) 468-3266
Facsimile (905) 468-2959

1593 Four Mile Creek Road
P.O. Box 190
Virgil, Ontario
L0S 1T0

Report: MHC-21-028

Committee Date:

May 11, 2021

Report To: Municipal Heritage Committee

Subject: Proposed Plan for the Ordnance Boundary Stones

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that:

1.1 The Municipal Heritage Committee advise Council to undertake the proposed plan for the conservation and commemoration of the Ordnance Boundary Stones (the "OBS") located on Town property as outlined in **Appendix I**, and specifically:

- 1.1.1 Heritage Staff research and prepare a proposed budget to plaque the stones;
- 1.1.2 Heritage Staff prepare a plan to repair the broken stone located at the corner of Simcoe Street and Prideaux Street under the supervision, and in coordination with, a certified Ontario Land Surveyor;
- 1.1.3 Heritage Staff map the OBS on the Town's internal GIS program and create an internal process to protect the OBS which may be impacted by development or maintenance activities; and
- 1.1.4 Heritage Staff develop a plan to recognize the cultural heritage value of the OBS and physically protect the OBS in Town policy or otherwise as appropriate.

2. PURPOSE / PROPOSAL

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Heritage Committee advise Council to undertake and implement the proposed plan for conservation and commemoration of the OBS, which includes four aspects:

- 1. Recognize the OBS
- 2. Restore the OBS
- 3. Protect the OBS
- 4. Celebrate and tell the story of the OBS

3. BACKGROUND

The OBS are early stone markers (see **Figure 1**) dating to as early as 1823, which were placed to demarcate early military lands in the Town. The OBS exist in both Old Town and Queenston. Many are located on Town-owned lands within the public boulevard or public parks, some are located on Federal lands and Niagara Parks Commission owned lands (see **Appendix II** for location map of the OBS).



Figure 1 - OBS #26, photos courtesy of Dr. Ted Rumble

At the July 14, 2020 Municipal Heritage Committee (the "MHC") meeting, Dr. Ted Rumble, a resident, provided an overview of the OBS, their history and relevance to the Town. The MHC subsequently requested Staff return with a report to the Committee to address the points raised in Dr. Rumble's presentation (Dr. Rumble's research on the history and current state of the OBS is attached as **Appendix II**).

Staff prepared a follow-up report for the October 13, 2020 meeting with a recommendation to explore options for the conservation and commemoration of the Ordnance Boundary Stones within the Old Town urban area. That recommendation was endorsed by Council.

A sub-Committee of the MHC was created to discuss a plan for the conservation and commemoration of the OBS. Residents and Staff from Friends of Fort George, the NOTL Museum, Parks Canada and the Niagara Parks Commission were invited to sit on the sub-Committee. Two meetings were held with the sub-Committee, which resulted in the proposed plan. The minutes of the sub-Committee are attached as **Appendix III**.

4. DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

The proposed plan for the conservation and commemoration of the OBS stones is meant to assist in physically protecting the OBS, identifying the cultural heritage

value of the OBS and telling the story of the stones.

4.1 Recognize the Stones

Section 1 of the proposed plan outlines a method to recognize the stones. Recognition of the stones would serve several purposes: to draw attention to the OBS and prevent potential physical impacts from maintenance activities in the boulevard, to draw attention to the artefacts for those interested in the history of the OBS, and to direct readers to further information about the OBS.

The sub-Committee discussed the potential use of bollards, cages, or small plaques to recognize and protect the stones. Staff are in support of the proposed use of small plaques (see example photo in **Appendix I**) that could be installed directly beside any extant or buried stones, noting the OBS number and perhaps referring the reader to the NOTL Museum for further information. Further consideration could be given to the installation of a single larger plaque in a more prominent location with the history of the OBS. There is also the possibility of utilizing a QR Code on the plaque which would direct readers to the NOTL Museum website for further information.

In addition, given the anticipated study to review the Queen-Picton Heritage Conservation District boundaries and to update the District Plan, the OBS that fall within the boundaries could be identified. The OBS may be a contributing heritage attribute within the revised District Plan.

Considerations for this proposal include the costs of purchase, installation and on-going maintenance of each plaque for each OBS. Staff further note that the use of QR Codes can be challenging if the code or technology changes, resulting in additional costs to the Town to update the plaques. Staff intend to consult further with the Municipal Heritage Committee after consideration of a budget for the proposed plaques.

4.2 Restore the Stones

The sub-Committee discussed the current condition of the stones, some of which are broken or chipped or which sit low in the ground. Staff are recommending that OBS #23, located at the corner of Simcoe Street and Prideaux Streets, which was recently broken in half, be repaired. Staff have discussed the process with a local surveying company. Under the *Criminal Code of Canada, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46* it is an offence for anyone other than a Land Surveyor to alter a boundary mark. As such, Staff would need to work in concert with an Ontario Land Surveyor to repair the stone.

With respect to the OBS that remain buried, Staff recommend that, at present these stones not be raised out of the ground. The buried OBS are best protected by remaining under ground. Raising the stones leaves them vulnerable to weathering and physical damage. In addition, raising the any stones would incur the costs of hiring an Ontario Land Surveyor to oversee the work and prepare surveys for their

final placement. If the use of plaques is supported, the buried OBS could still be demarcated by a plaque to denote their original/current location.

Considerations for this proposal include the costs of hiring a Ontario Land Surveyor to assist in the process of preparing a plan to fix OBS #23, and the costs of actual repairs.

4.3 Protect the Stones

Staff are recommending that an internal process is developed and implemented to ensure protection of the OBS. The internal process would include updating internal GIS mapping so that the OBS can be easily located and flagged when development is proposed in close proximity and a plan for protection during development implemented (for instance the requirement to install construction hoarding around the OBS for physical protection). There is Staff capacity to update the internal GIS mapping.

4.4 Celebrate the Stones

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (the "Museum") is already hosting information regarding the history of the OBS on their website. Staff are of the opinion that the Museum is the best location for historical information related to the stones.

With respect to formally identifying the stones as cultural heritage resources within the Town, Council could consider recognizing the OBS within the Town's Official Plan as opposed to designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* would not be the best tool to recognize the OBS as they are located throughout the Old Town and Queenston, and designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* must be tied to real property with a clear legal description. Recognition within the Town's Official Plan, and potentially within the updated Heritage Conservation District Plan, would allow for the formulation of policies for physical protection and recognition of the stones. Staff intend to consult further with the Committee on the most appropriate means to formally recognize the stones.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN

Not applicable.

6. OPTIONS

Not applicable.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications include the need for Staff to prepare a budget for consideration by Council with the proposal to install plaques for each OBS. Additional costs would be incurred by the Town for the repair of OBS #23.

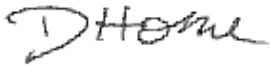
8. COMMUNICATIONS

The recommendations of the Municipal Heritage Committee will be forwarded to Council as part of the meeting minutes. If adopted by Council, Staff can begin to implement the proposed plan for conservation and commemoration of the OBS.

9. CONCLUSION

The proposed plan for the conservation and commemoration of the OBS will offer a level of protection and recognition of the OBS, which does not currently exist. The MHC's comments are requested on the proposed plan, and Staff respectfully recommend that the MHC advise Council that the proposed plan for conservation and commemoration be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,



**Denise Horne, MA, Diploma Heritage Conservation
Planner II**



**Mark Iamarino, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner**

ATTACHMENTS



Appendix I - Proposed Plan for the Ordnance Boundary Stones.pdf



Appendix II - OBS Research.pdf



Appendix III - OBS Sub-Committee Minutes.pdf

First Capital of Upper Canada - 1792

Appendix I

Proposed Plan for Conservation and Commemoration of the Ordnance Boundary Stones

(1) Recognize the stones;

- i. Suggest use of small standing plaques (see example photo below) to be erected at the corner of (diagonal to) the extant and/or buried stones to note OBS # and perhaps that further information can be obtained from the NOTL Museum
- ii. Consider the use of a larger central plaque in a more prominent location to provide general information to readers on the history of the OBS
 - Considerations: Council would need to budget for these plaques; information on plaque, to keep plaque as small as possible, discussions with NPC and Parks Canada to determine if they support the proposal
- iii. Recognize the stones within the upcoming Heritage Conservation District Plan Expansion Study and Plan

(2) Restore the stones;

- i. Broken stone on Prideaux and Simcoe can be repaired with the assistance of, and under the supervision of, a licensed Ontario land surveyor Staff have spoken with a local surveying group.
 - o Considerations: Council would need to budget for repairs and assistance from surveyors
- ii. Leave buried stones in situ for best preservation at this time

(3) Protect the stones;

- i. Town Staff to develop internal process to:
 - a) Recognize the location of the stones on internal GIS mapping;
 - b) Flag the stones during public and private development;
 - c) Require hoarding to be used to protect stones where necessary

(4) Celebrate the stones and tell the story of the stones

- i. The NOTL Museum has created a webpage on their website to host information related to the OBS
- ii. Consideration can also be given to including information on the stones within the Town's Official Plan, where policies for conservation and protection can be incorporated

Appendix I



Possible example of a small plaque to demarcate each OBS



Ordnance Boundary Stones *of* Niagara-on-the-Lake

Ted Rumble | Niagara Historical Society | 2020

Introduction

At its very founding, Niagara on the Lake was a British military town. It had four parcels of land that were reserved for military use. The Ordnance Boundary Stones (OBS) were erected around the perimeter of these four military reserves almost 200 years ago. Some of these stones can still be seen today.

History of the Ordnance Boundary Stones

The earliest reference to the Ordnance Boundary stones appears in a letter from Col. E.W. Durnford to Col. Darling dated June 19, 1823. (See transcript below.)

Col. Elias Walker Durnford was the commanding officer of the Royal Engineers in Canada in from 1816 to 1831.¹ He was stationed in Quebec.²

Col. Darling was the Military Secretary to the Governor of Upper Canada, Sir Peregrine Maitland.

This letter draws a direct connection between the 1823 'Crooks Swap' and the installation of the Ordnance Boundary Stones.

There were originally 37 stones. As discussed below, it appears that OBS 1-28 were put in place in or soon after 1823. OBS 29-36 were probably put in place in 1855.

¹ <http://durnfordfamily.com/famous.html>

² Family Recollections of Lieut. General Elias Walker Durnford by Mary Durnford.

Appendix II

Royal Engineer Office

Quebec, 19th June, 1823

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 17th inst. with an enclosure from his Excellency Sir P. Maitland³ bearing date the 31st May last relative an exchange of Government property contiguous to Fort George Niagara and Mississague. ⁴

In obedience to the desire of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces for me to report or offer any observation on the above Exchange, I have to state that I consider it desirable for Government to cause the necessary steps to be taken for making the exchange alluded to without delay.

I conceive it advisable that a corrected Survey of both the respective Properties to be exchanged should be made by a Sworn Surveyor and the whole of the Government property then existing contiguous to the Town of Niagara or Newark should be made to be attached to the respective deeds of conveyance ⁵and the land should be

Colonel Darling

Military Secretary

delivered into the charge of the Commanding Royal Engineer of the post⁶ with directions to define the same by regular boundary Posts⁷ rising about 3 feet above the surface of the ground. ⁸

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient

Humble servant

(signed) E.W. Durnford

Commanding Royal Engineers

Canada

³ Sir Peregrine Maitland (1777-1854) fought in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada in 1818-28.

⁴ This refers to the "Crooks swap" in which the Royal Engineers (H. Vavasour) expanded the Mississauga reserve by obtaining the property of James Crooks in exchange for four lots carved out of the Garrison Reserve bounded by Castlereagh, Wellington, Picton and King Streets today, as well as three lots near the entrance to Fort George, with water access (Bonnycastle, 1835). This exchange was approved by the provincial Executive Council on April 16, 1823 (Merritt, 2012). The 1853 Passmore map also refers to this exchange.

⁵ The earliest map we have found showing the Ordnance Boundary Stones is the 1853 Passmore map, but this makes it sound like there is an original survey done earlier, perhaps in or soon after 1823.

⁶ Henry Vavasour was the Royal Engineer in charge in Niagara.

⁷ Interesting that the installation of the boundary stones was tied to the Crooks swap. It sounds like the Government wanted to guarantee that the newly acquired land on the Mississauga reserve was recognized as military land. So, it sounds like the Ordnance Boundary Stones were put in place in or soon after 1823.

⁸ None of the Ordnance Boundary Stones today is 3 feet above the ground. I am assuming these "Posts" refer to the Ordnance Boundary Stones. (I think of a 'post' as made of wood.)

Historic Maps of Niagara on the Lake

I have studied several maps from the Niagara Historical Society, Brock University, and Parks Canada. The two below have been especially helpful.

This is a map surveyed by F.F. Passmore and published in 1853 of the town of Niagara (as it was called then) (Passmore, 1853). It shows the location of all 37 Ordnance Boundary Stones (OBS). They were placed around the perimeter of the military reserves.

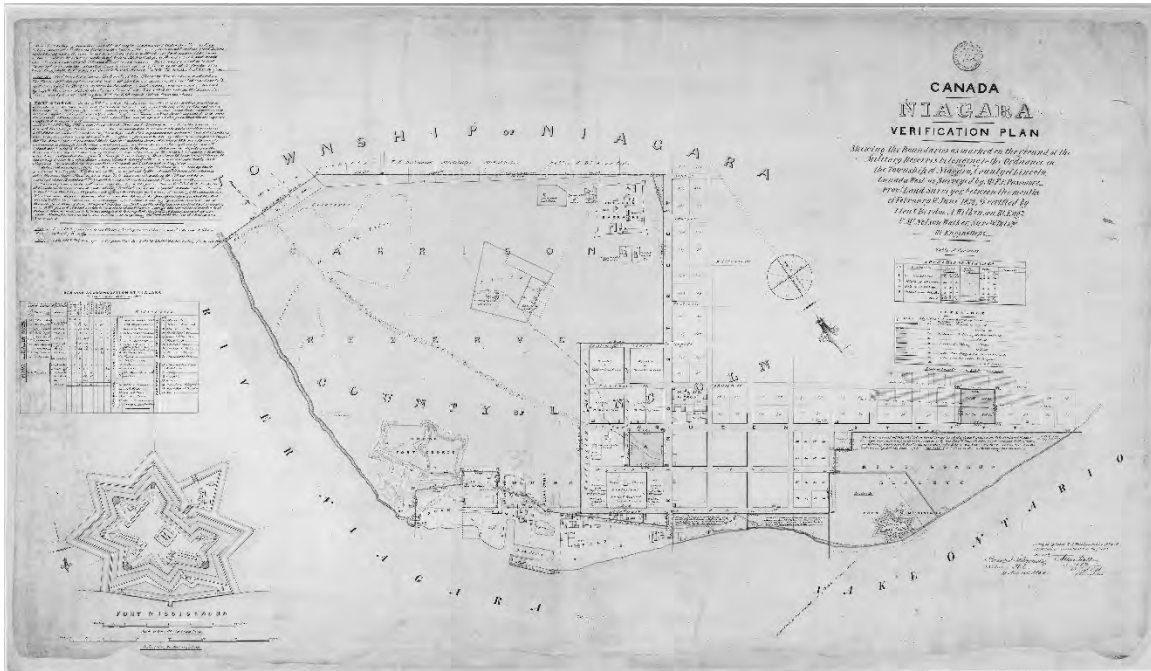


Figure 1: 1853 Passmore map

Appendix II



Figure 2: 1853 Passmore map showing the location of the OBS.

N.B. - Red = found. Blue = Missing.

Appendix II

This is a second map surveyed by Alexander Niven published in 1910 that shows all the OBS found at that time (Niven, 1910). The location and the numbering of some stones differs between the two maps.



Figure 3: 1910 Niven map of Niagara, which shows the location of the OBS at that time.

MILITARY RESERVES

This table is taken from the right side of the 1853 map above. It lists the four military reserves. They are the Garrison Reserve, the Mississagua Reserve (sic), Lots 79,80,89,90, and Vacant Town Lot A.

TOWNSHIP OF NIAGARA.											
No.	Description.	Land			Water			Total.			Remarks.
		A	R	P	A	R	P	A	R	P	
1	Garrison Reserve.	355	3	24				355	3	24	
		374	0	20	"	"	"	374	0	20	
2	Mississagua Reserve.	66	2	14	"	"	"	66	2	14	
3	Lots, 79, 80, 89 & 90.	4	0	3	"	"	"	4	0	3	
4	Vacant Town Lot, A.	4	0	0	"	"	"	4	0	0	
	Total.	448	2	37	"	"	"	448	2	37	

Figure 4: The four Military Reserves of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Note the early spelling of Mississauga (consistent with the street signs for the road coming into town).

Military Reserve	Known Today as	Ordinance Boundary Stone Numbers	Original Number of Stones (Total 37)	Stones Found Today (Total 17)
Garrison Reserve	The Commons	1-19	20 (including OBS 5 ½)	3, 4, 5, 10, 16, 17
Mississagua Reserve	NOTL Golf Course	20-28	9	21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27
Lots 79,80,89,90	Residential lots	33-36	4	33, 35, 36
Vacant Town Lot A	Simcoe Park	29-32	4	31, 32

Appendix II

Appearance

The stones appear to be matching. They are made of light gray Queenston limestone⁹ measuring 9 inches square, with beveling on the top edge. The front is engraved with the initials BO, beneath the Broad Arrow. An Arabic number is engraved on the back, corresponding to the map references (for the most part).

The BO stands for the Board of Ordnance, the custodian of military property for the British Government from 1671 to 1855.¹⁰

The Board used the Broad Arrow symbol to identify military property of the British government.¹¹

⁹ Frank Racioppo, owner of Queenston Quarry, confirms that the stone came from his quarry, which has been in operation since the late 1700's.

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Board_of_Ordnance

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broad_arrow

Appendix II

Garrison Reserve

The Garrison Reserve corresponds closely to The Commons today.

It was originally laid out by Lt. Pilkington R.E. (Royal Engineers) in 1796 (Bonnycastle, 1835).

It was originally bounded roughly by (today's) John Street, King Street, and the Niagara River (Vavasour, 1817). In 1817 there were only military installations below King Street along with the English Church.

Over the years, several parcels of land below King Street on the Garrison Reserve were ceded. The biggest of these was the Crooks Swap in 1823, in which James Crooks¹² gave up his land on the Mississagua Reserve in exchange for 7 lots on the Garrison Reserve. Four of these were in the block bounded by King, Picton, Wellington, and Castlereagh Streets. The other three were Lots 9, 17, and 18, adjacent to the entrance to Fort George, with water access (Bonnycastle, 1835).

¹² By 1823 James Crooks was living in West Flamborough (today part of Hamilton), but he was a major landowner in several parts of Upper Canada.

Appendix II



Figure 5: Garrison Reserve in 1853, bounded by OBS 1-19.

Appendix II

OBS 1 Missing and OBS 2 Missing

OBS 1 was at the southern end of the Garrison Reserve, close to the river. I have scoured the bushes all around near the walking path but have not been able to find it.

The 1853 map says that it is located 223 links from the shoreline¹³, which is about 150 feet.

OBS 2 is probably on private property at the curve of John Street, so I have not searched for it.

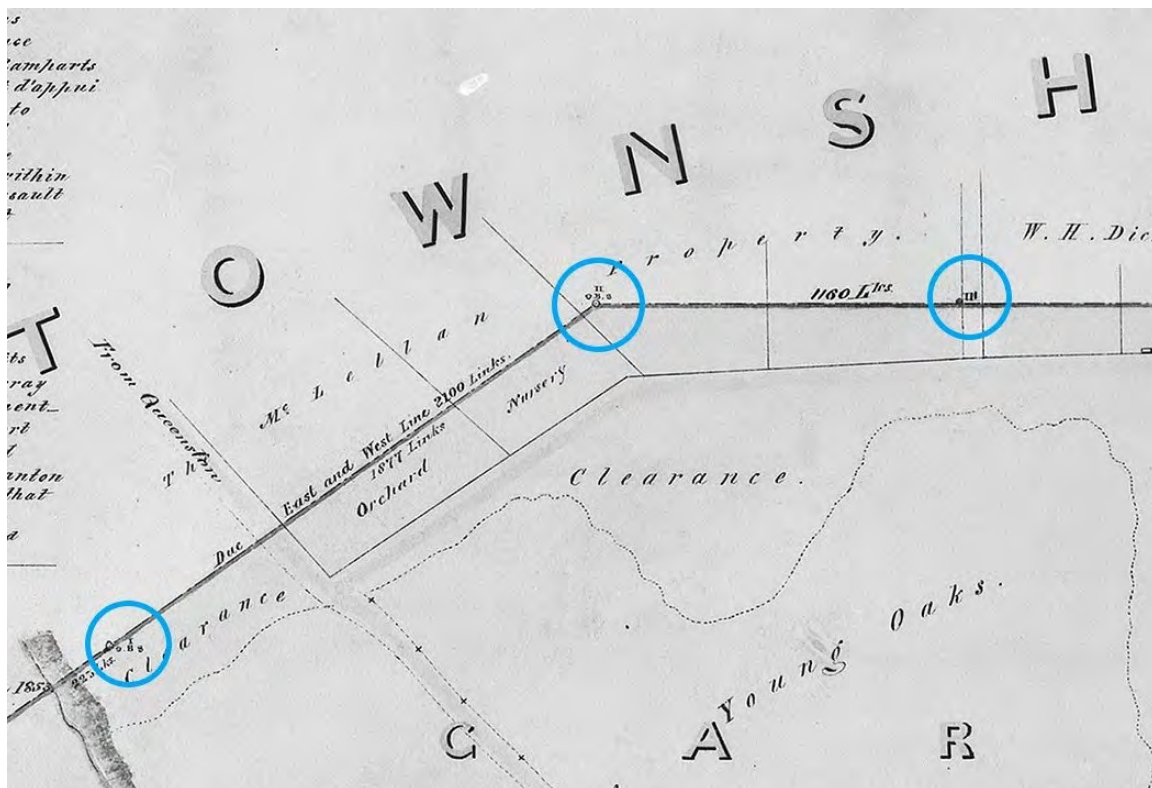


Figure 6 OBS 1, 2 and 3 on the 1853 map. Note the “Due East and West Line” is the boundary but is not a road. It runs parallel to today’s John Street and has nothing to do with today’s East and West Line road. This map shows the original position of OBS 3, which today is found in Butler’s Barracks. Note also how private property of McClellan and Dickson extends inside the boundary.

¹³ One link is 1/100 of a chain and is equal to 7.92 inches.

Appendix II

OBS 3 Found

This stone can be seen today in the centre of Butler's Barracks, which is not an Ordnance Boundary. The 1853 map shows it (see above) on today's John Street, so clearly it has been moved. This probably explains why it is set higher out of the ground than any other stone.

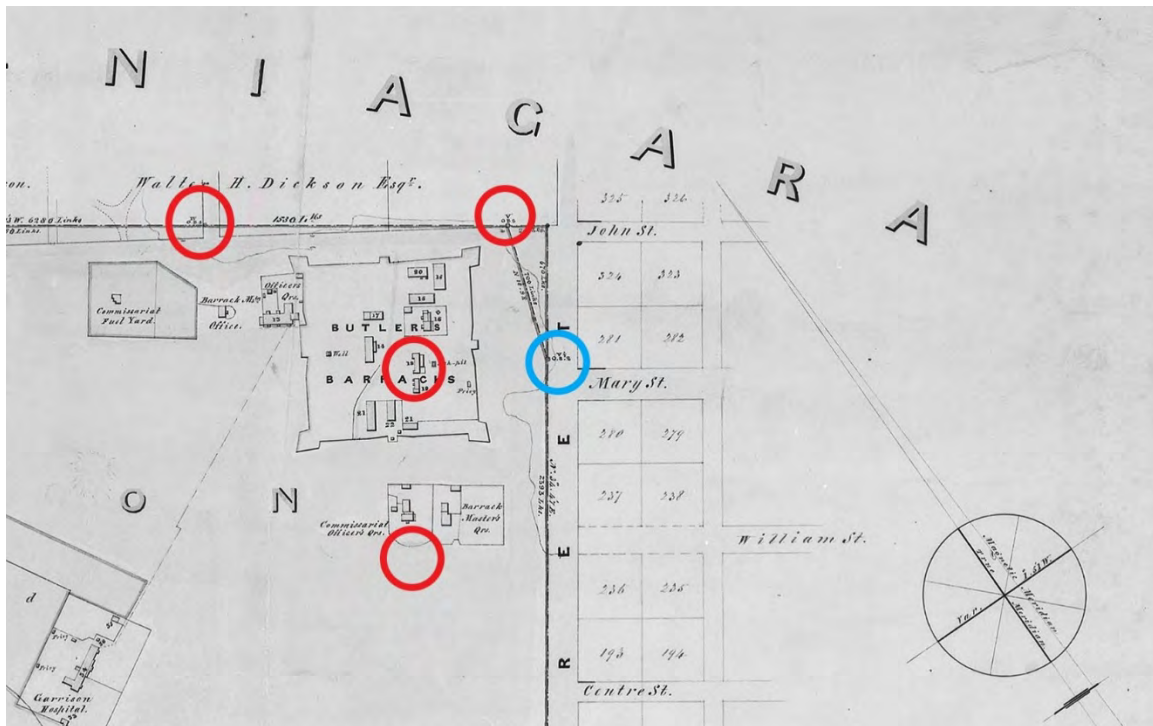


Figure 7: OBS 3 in the current location in the centre of Butler's Barracks. OBS 4 and 5 both found. OBS 5 ½ missing. OBS 27 is located in front of the Junior Commissariat (moved from Queen and Simcoe)

Appendix II



OBS 3 has suffered some damage over the years, but the inscriptions are clearly seen. It is also too high out of the ground, having been moved.

Appendix II



Figure 8: OBS 3 is located in the centre of Butler's Barracks, totally unprotected.

Every August many antique cars swirl around this stone in the Kinsman Show and Shine car show. It is surprising that it hasn't been knocked over yet.

Appendix II

OBS 4 Found

This stone appears on the 1853 map and on the 1910 map on Charlotte Street, near John. It is found today embedded in the stone wall of the Rand Estate which was built in 1908.



Figure 9: OBS 4 in the Rand Estate wall.

Appendix II



Figure 10: OBS ₄ at the base of the wall.

Appendix II



Figure 11: OBS 4 bottom right on Charlotte Street looking toward John Street.

Appendix II

OBS 5 found

On the 1817 map the Garrison Reserve extended to the corner of King and John Streets. By 1853 the boundary was moved to allow the Erie and Ontario Railway track to curve around to what is now the Heritage Trail. The line was constructed in 1854. The E&O became the Michigan Central Railway, as it appears on the 1910 map.¹⁴

The MCR came from the harbour, over the trestle bridge, down King Street, and then curved around at John Street, and continued along today's Heritage Trail.



Figure 12: OBS 5 marks the boundary between railway land and the Garrison Reserve. Note the Pillar and Post Hotel in the distance.

¹⁴ <https://www.niagarafallsinfo.com/niagara-falls-history/niagara-falls-municipal-history/railroads-of-niagara-falls/erie-ontario-railroad/>

This source says that the Erie and Ontario Railway was extended to Niagara on the Lake in 1854 to connect with the Lake Ontario steamships. This accounts for the location of OBS 5 and OBS 5 ½.

Appendix II



M.C.R. Train approaching Queen St. Station, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada.

Appendix II



Figure 13: OBS 5

Appendix II

OBS 5 ½ Missing

Why was there a 'half' designation? The 1910 map shows it was because the military gave the Erie and Ontario Railway the triangle at the corner of King and John Streets, to allow the track to curve around to the south. So OBS 5 must have been moved further away from King Street, necessitating an additional stone to mark the King Street Boundary. Hence the 5 ½ designation.

The "1/2" designation suggests that this stone was erected later than the others, which supports the idea that not all stones were erected at the same time.

I have searched for this stone but have been unable to find it anywhere.



Figure 14: 1910 map showing positions of OBS 5 and OBS 5 1/2 dictated by the curve of the MCR.

Appendix II

OBS 6 Missing

On both the 1853 and 1910 maps this stone is at the south corner of Castlereagh and King Streets, but I can't find it anywhere.



Figure 15: King and Castlereagh Streets. OBS 6 should be here.

Appendix II

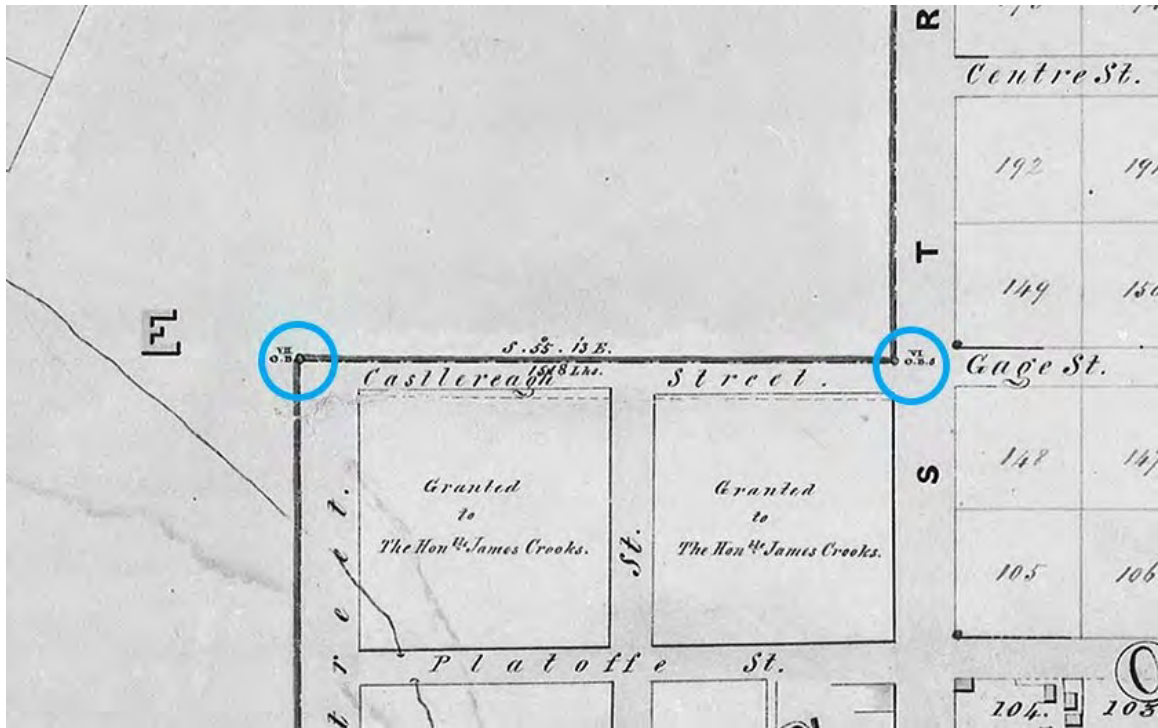


Figure 16: OBS 6 and OBS 7 in 1853

Appendix II

OBS 7 Missing

Like OBS 6, this stone appears on the 1853 and 1910 maps; it is on the corner of Castlereagh and Wellington, where the sidewalk to Upper Canada Lodge is today. It was still present on the 1972 map, but I cannot find it anywhere today. Perhaps it was removed when they put in the sidewalk.



Figure 17: Corner of Castlereagh and Wellington, where OBS 7 should be.

Appendix II

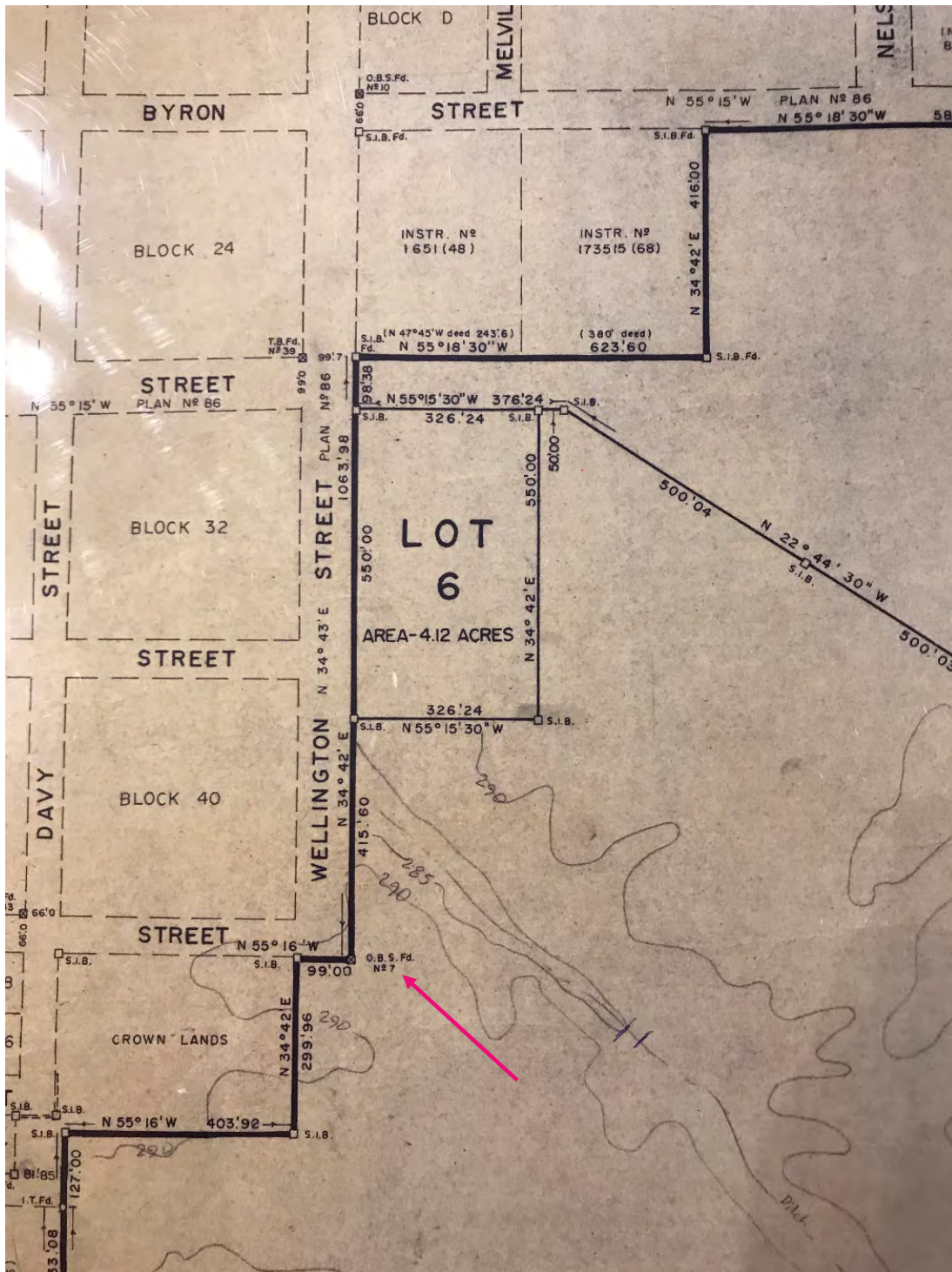


Figure 18: 1972 map showing OBS 7 still in evidence at that time. ("Fd" = Found).

Appendix II

OBS 8 Missing

OBS 8 is located on Ricardo Street at the end of Wellington on both maps, but I cannot find it today.

The 1865 Niagara Harbour and Dock Company map (see Fig. 22 below) has an X here, suggesting that this stone was removed.

According to the 1910 map, it was 243 feet along Ricardo from Melville Street on the river side.

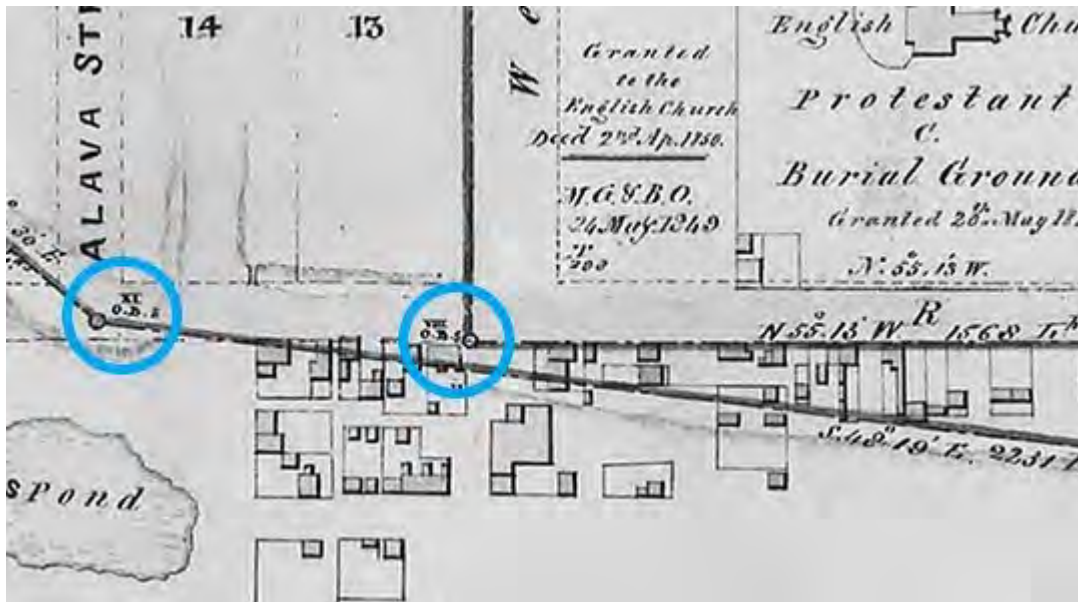


Figure 19: OBS 8 should be at the corner of Wellington and Ricardo.

Appendix II

OBS 9 Missing and OBS 10 Found

On the 1853 map these stones are located in the middle of King Street, near Queens Royal Park.

OBS 9 does not appear on the 1910 map.

OBS 10, however, appears in a different location on the 1910 map at Byron and Wellington, and indeed I found a stone there. It has sunk down, so I can't read the number, but I'm pretty sure it's OBS 10.



Figure 20: OBS 10 at the corner of King and Byron.

Appendix II

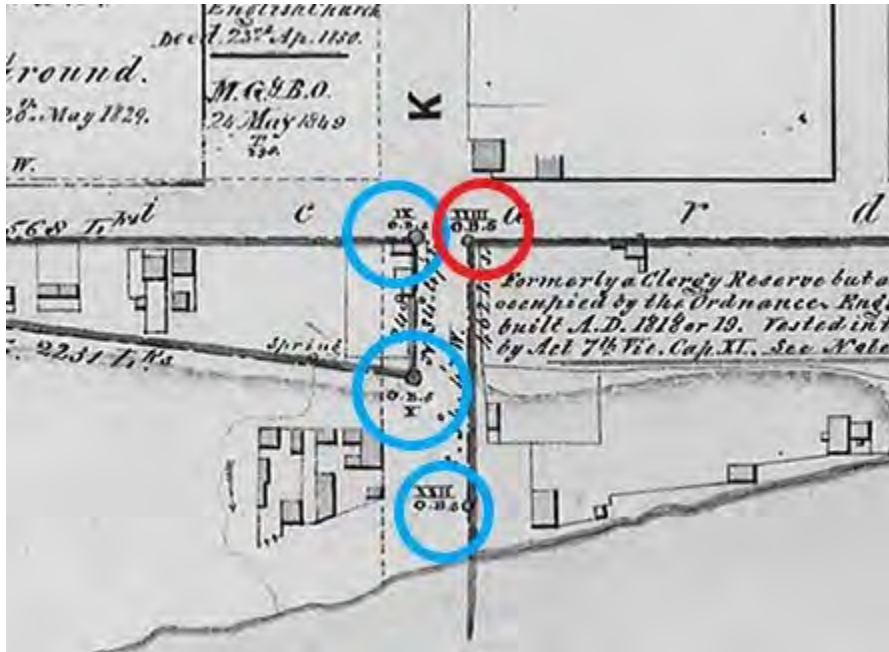


Figure 21: In 1853 OBS 9 and 10 were located in the centre of what is now King Street, but on the 1910 map OBS 10 is in a completely different location at Wellington and Byron, where it is found today.

Why does OBS 10 appear in different locations on the 1853 and 1910 maps? I do not know. It may have been moved by the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company.

Appendix II

OBS 11-15 Missing

These stones cannot be found today.

On the 1853 map, they are shown below.



Figure 22: This section of the 1853 map shows OBS 11-15.

On the 1865 Niagara Dock map, they are shown in the same locations, but are all scratched off with an X, suggesting they were removed by the Niagara Harbour and Dock Company.

Appendix II



Figure 23: 1865 Niagara Dock map with X marking locations of OBS 11-15, suggesting they were removed.

Appendix II

It is interesting the the 1910 map shows OBS 13 on Byron Street, a different location from the 1853 map. In any event, I cannot find it anywhere.

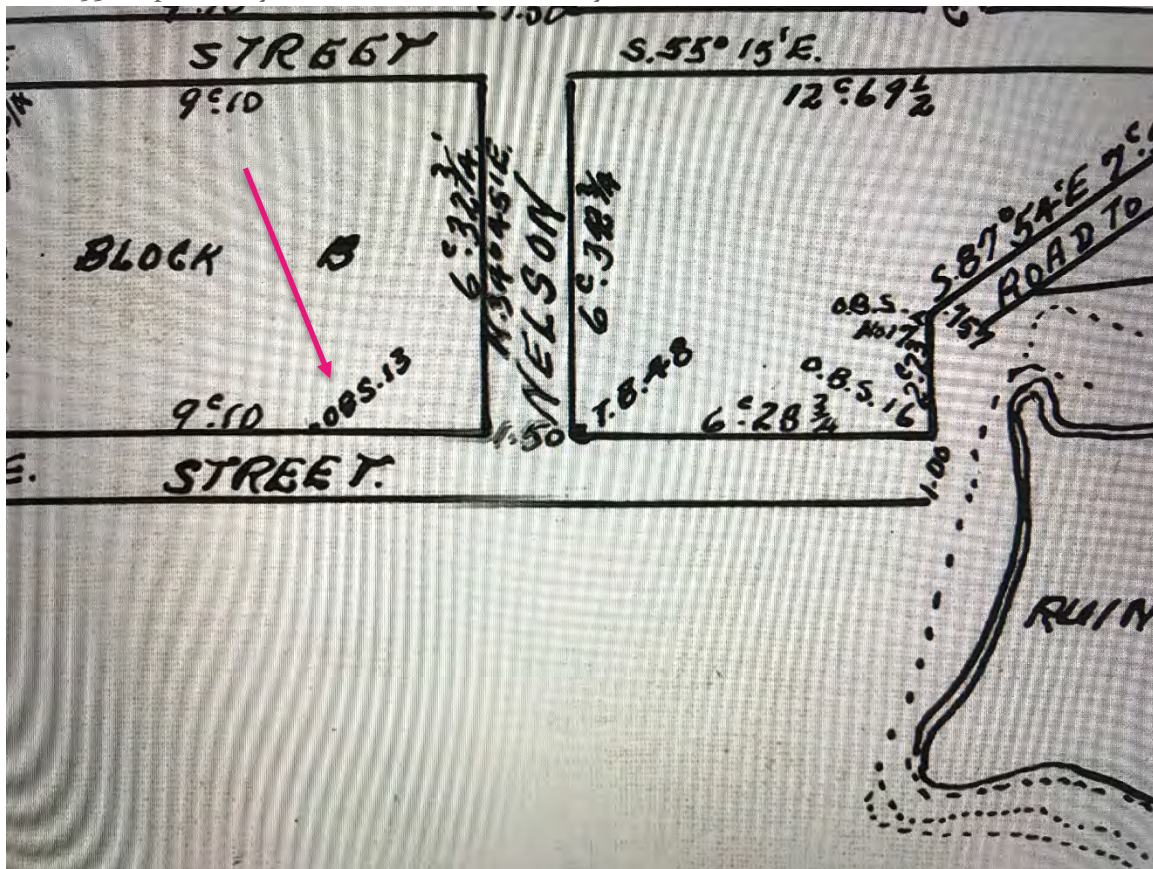


Figure 24: 1910 map shows OBS 13 on Byron Street.

Appendix II

OBS 16 Found

This stone was found near the entrance to Fort George, right where it appears on both maps. It is near the base of a large tree, quite sunken and tilted. It was on the corner of the property owned by James Crooks.



Figure 25: OBS 16 near the entrance to Fort George.



Figure 26: OBS 16

Appendix II

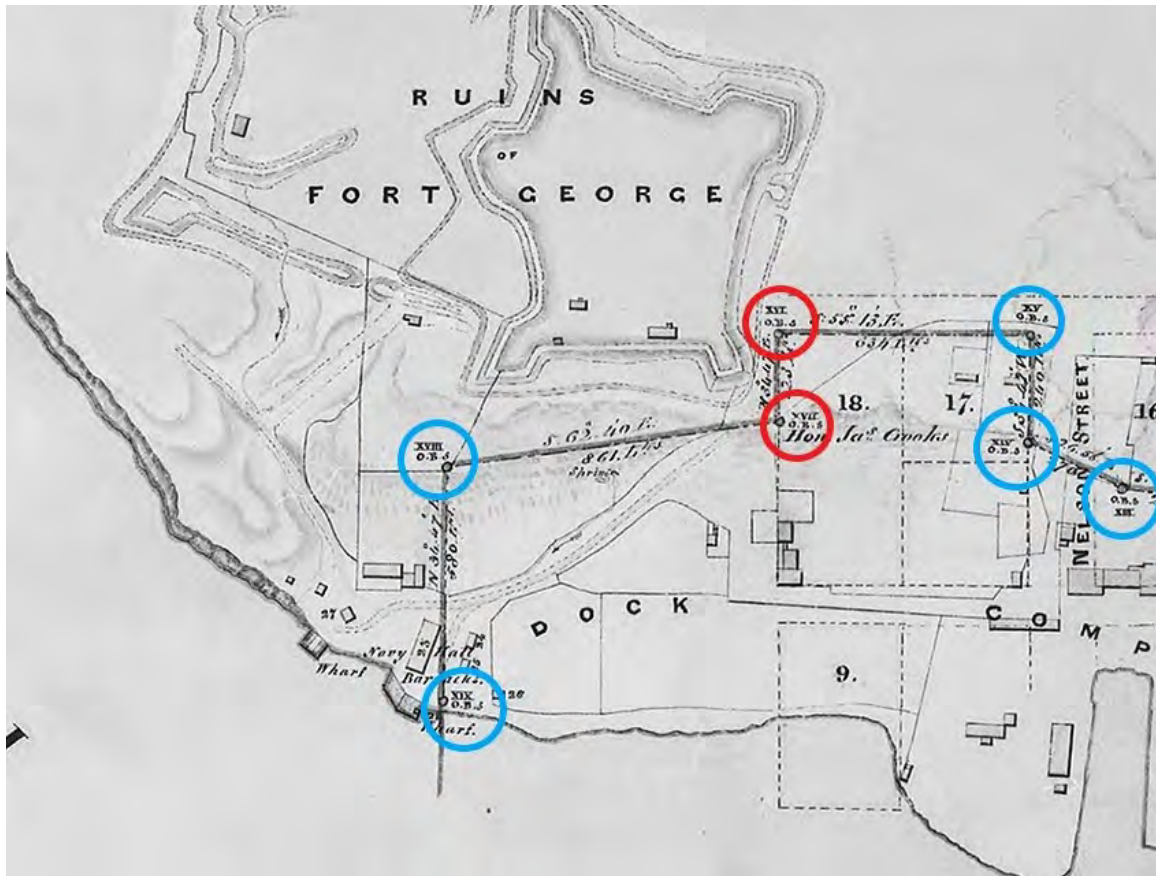


Figure 27: 1853 map showing OBS 16-19.

Appendix II

OBS 17 Found

This stone was found in the thicket off Brock's Bastion, exactly where both maps show it. It is very sunken down and covered in moss.



Figure 28: OBS 17 is located in the thicket just off Brock's Bastion.

Appendix II



Figure 29: OBS 17 covered in moss.

Appendix II

OBS 18, 19 Missing

OBS 18 should be on the hillside below Fort George, but I cannot find it. OBS 19 should be by Navy Hall wharf, but again, I cannot find it.

The map above (see OBS 16) gives the distances in links and the compass directions from OBS 17 so it might be possible to narrow down the possible sites for these two stones. The measurements also appear on the 1863 Niagara Dock Property map.

Appendix II

Mississauga Reserve

The Mississagua Reserve was demarcated by OBS 20-28. (Modern spelling is Mississauga.)

The Mississagua Reserve was probably named after Mississagua Point, the most prominent part of the shoreline at the mouth of the Niagara River. Originally this reserve was much smaller but was augmented by the 1823 Crooks swap.

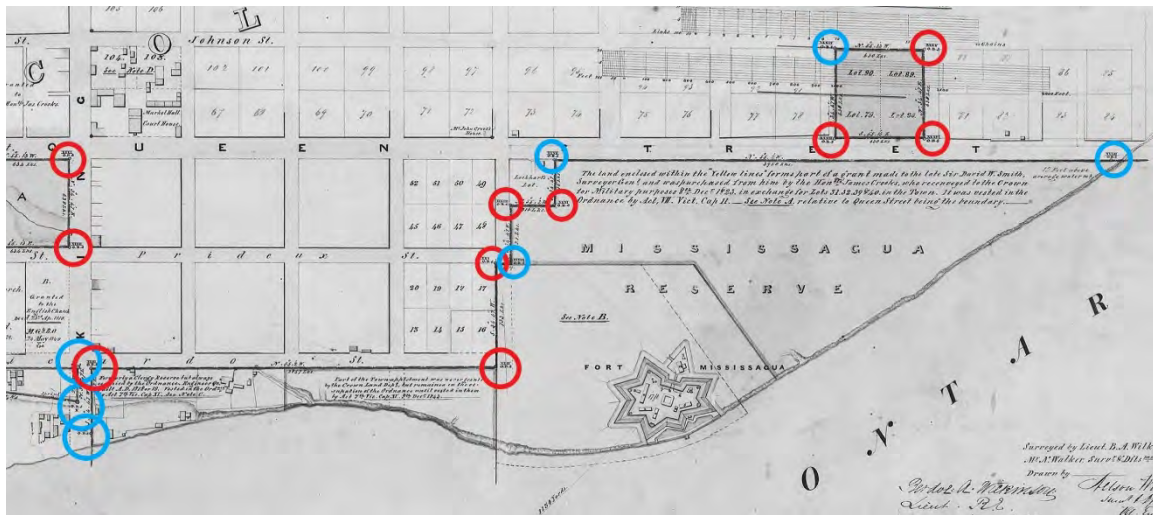


Figure 30: 1853 map showing original and expanded Mississauga Reserve. Note Simcoe Street ends at Prideaux. Note also that the Reserve extends to King Street.

Appendix II

OBS 20 Missing

OBS 20 should be beside King Street near the gazebo, but I cannot find it.

On the 1853 map, there is no stone marked XX, but I think the numbering is incorrect.

OBS 19 (XIX) appears at the Navy Hall wharf. The next stone is at the waterfront at the foot of King Street and is numbered XXII (22). This cannot be right, as OBS 22 is definitely at Front and Simcoe (see OBS 22).

If we count back from OBS 22, then the stone at King and Front is OBS 21 (found), and the stone at King and the water's edge is OBS 20 (missing).

As late as 1817 King Street ended at Front Street, and did not extend to the water, though by 1853 it appears to have been extended to the water. Further support for the date of installation of the stones after 1823. (See map under OBS 9 and OBS 10 above.)

Appendix II

OBS 21 Found

On the 1910 map, this stone is at the corner of King and Front Streets, and indeed it can be seen today at the entrance to Queens Royal Park, just beside the steps. It is nearly flush with the ground, and again, it would need excavation to verify the number, but I am quite sure it's OBS 21.

On the 1853 map this stone is numbered XXIII (23) which makes no sense, since the next stone along Front Street at the corner of Simcoe is clearly OBS 22. (see map under OBS 9 and OBS 10 above.)



Figure 31: OBS 21 located near the entrance to Queens Royal Park



Figure 32: OBS 21 sunken down nearly flush with the ground.

Appendix II

OBS 22 Found

This stone is clearly visible at the corner of Front and Simcoe, beside the golf path. It is partially sunk into the ground. It is totally unprotected from lawn mowing equipment.



Figure 33: OBS 22 near the golf cart path, clubhouse in the distance.

Appendix II



The number on the stone is 22, which is consistent with the 1910 map. The 1853 map, however, labels this XXIV (24) which is patently incorrect. (see below)

Appendix II

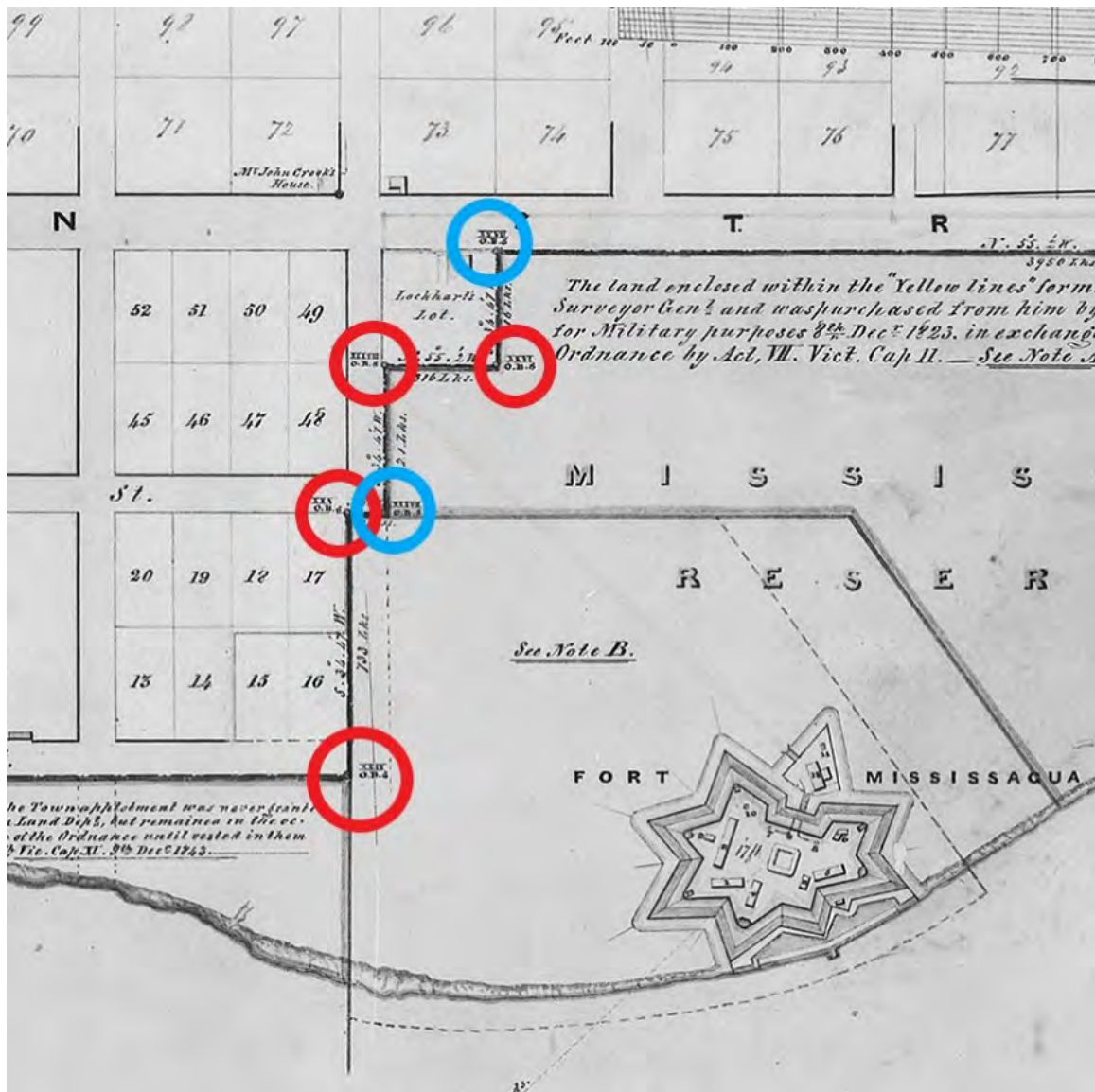


Figure 34: 1853 map shows the correct locations, but numbers are wrong. Starting from the bottom, the correct numbers should be 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

Appendix II

OBS 23 Found

This stone is clearly visible at the corner of Prideaux and Simcoe, opposite the golf course. It is broken at the base, probably from impact from a riding mower or snowplow; the top can be lifted off. It will deteriorate rapidly unless repaired properly.

The number is obscured by what appears to be cement from the sidewalk installation.

On the 1910 map it is clearly marked 23, but on the 1853 map it appears to be mis-labelled as XXV (25), which makes no sense (see above).

On both maps Simcoe Street stops at Prideaux, where you must turn right, or you find yourself on the military reserve.

OBS 23 and 24 mark the original Mississauga Reserve line, before the 1823 Crooks swap. (see map under OBS 22 above.)



Figure 35: OBS 23 at Simcoe and Prideaux Streets, Fort Mississauga in the distance.



Figure 36: OBS 23

Appendix II



Figure 37: The back of OBS 23 on Dec. 31, 2019 (left) and March 25, 2020 (right) showing shifting of the stone. It was probably hit by a riding lawn mower or snowplow.

Appendix II

OBS 24 (Missing)

This stone appears on the 1910 map across Simcoe Street from OBS 23. OBS 24 should be on the edge of the golf course today, but it cannot be found.

OBS 23 and 24 are closer to each other than any other pair of stones on the maps, 1 chain apart.



Figure 38: The red survey stake in the foreground marks the exact location of OBS 24, one chain (66') from OBS 23 across Simcoe Street. This stake was placed by JD Barnes Surveying in September 2020.

Appendix II

OBS 25 Found

OBS 25, 26, and 27 mark the boundary between today's Charles Inn property and the Mississauga military reserve. This parcel of land was once owned by James Crooks, but he sold it before 1823, which explains why it was not included in the Great Swap.

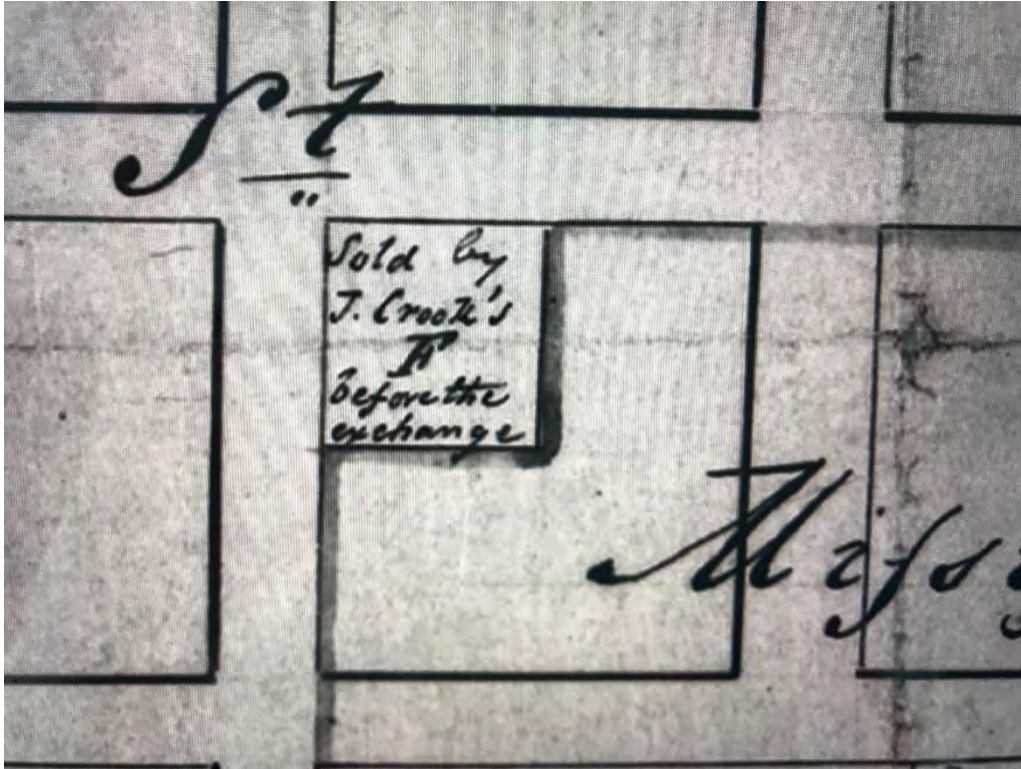


Figure 39: 1835 map showing Charles Inn property.

OBS 25 was found and marked by JD Barnes Surveying in September 2020, while surveying the golf course. It is 6" below grade, they dug down and found the stone. It is marked by a stake and a flag.



Figure 40: OBS 25 at Simcoe near Queen.

Appendix II

OBS 26 Found

This stone is at the corner of the Charles Inn property, hidden in the bushes, close to the 9th tee of the golf course.

It is in very good shape, at the right height, showing the beveling and the engraving clearly.

On both maps it is labelled 26, which corresponds to the number engraved on the stone.



Figure 41: OBS 26 with the Charles Inn in the distance through the branches.

Appendix II



Figure 42: OBS 26 in very good condition.

Appendix II

OBS 27 Found

According to the 1853 map this stone should be on Queen Street at the west corner of the Charles Inn property, but it is not there. It was found in front of the Junior Commissariat in Butler's Barracks.

On the 1910 map it does not appear at all, but it is clearly marked as XXVII (27) on the 1853 map. (see map above under OBS 22)



Figure 43: View from Queen Street along the Charles Inn property line looking towards OBS 26. OBS 27 should be in the foreground.

Appendix II



Figure 44 OBS 27 in front of Junior Commissariat at Butler's Barracks

Appendix II

OBS 28 Missing

On both maps Queen Street ends at the water. On the 1853 map, OBS 28 is located on the edge of Queen Street near the water's edge. On the 1910 map, it does not appear at all. I cannot find it today.

This stone was placed at the far end of the property ceded to the military by James Crooks in 1823, which again proves that the stones were erected after 1823, (assuming they were all put in place at the same time.)



Figure 45: View along Queen Street. OBS 28 should be in the foreground.

Vacant Town Lot A (Simcoe Park)

This parcel of land is located south of King and Picton Streets, beside the parcel allotted to the Roman Catholic Church.

On the 1853 map OBS 29-32 are the four stones on the corners of Vacant Town Lot A, which we know today as Simcoe Park. They are also recorded on the 1910 map.

The plot is nearly square (634 links X 630 links).

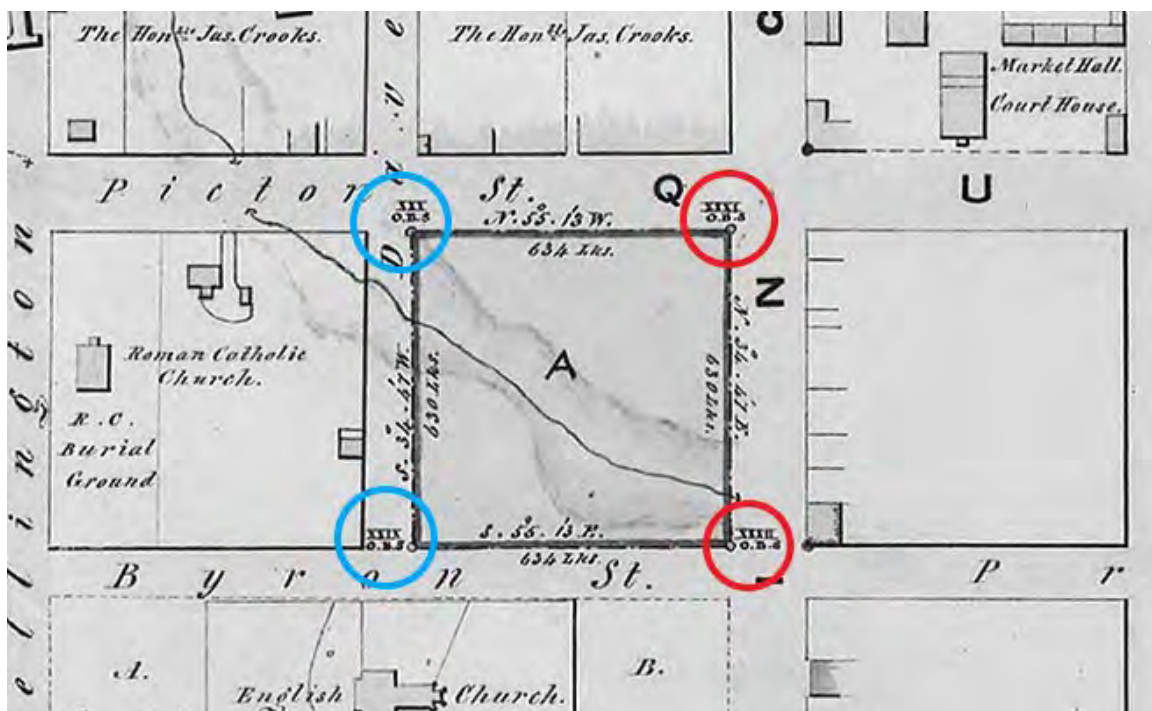


Figure 46: Simcoe Park (Vacant Town Lot A on the 1853 map) showing OBS on all four corners.

OBS 29 and OBS 30 cannot be seen today. (see photos below)

Since we know the position of OBS 31 and OBS 32 and since the map shows the distances to the other two stones, we should be able to measure to find where they would be.

Appendix II



Figure 47: East entrance to Simcoe Park where OBS 29 should be.

Appendix II



Figure 48: South corner of Simcoe Park where OBS 30 should be in the foreground. Looking straight down Davy Street.

Appendix II

OBS 31 Found

This stone is seen today at the entrance to Simcoe Park, at the corner of King and Picton, across from the Prince of Wales Hotel. It is beside a bench, with paving stones all around. It has sunk a long way down, though the “BO” and Broad Arrow can still be seen. It is vulnerable to damage from snow removal equipment.



Appendix II

OBS 32 Found

This stone is found today in the Simcoe Park garden at the corner of King and Byron Streets.

It was completely buried but brushing away some dirt showed it in the right place, as indicated on both the 1853 and 1910 maps.



Figure 49 OBS 32

Appendix II



Figure 50 OBS 32 in the corner of Simcoe Park, looking toward King and Queen

Lots 79, 80, 89, 90 (Hospital Block)

There is a note on the 1853 map saying, "Lots 103&104 Conveyed to Corporation for Lots 79, 80, 89, & 90 Bd's order 4 March 1853." Lots 103&104 are the western half of the block bounded by King, Queen, Regent and Johnson Streets (where the Irish Harp is today). This supports the idea that this military reserve was the last one added.

The land grants record¹⁵ shows that these four lots were exchanged from the Town to the Board of Ordnance in October and November of 1854. Since the Board of Ordnance was abolished and absorbed into the War office in 1855, we can safely assume that these four stones were erected in 1854 or 1855. (After 1855 Boundary Stones bore the initials WD for War Department.)

Stones 33-36 were on the four corners of the Hospital Block. (See map under OBS 28)

There is an undated map at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum that indicates that the town was planning to build a public hospital here, but in the end, they swapped it for lots 103 & 104, and it became a military reserve.

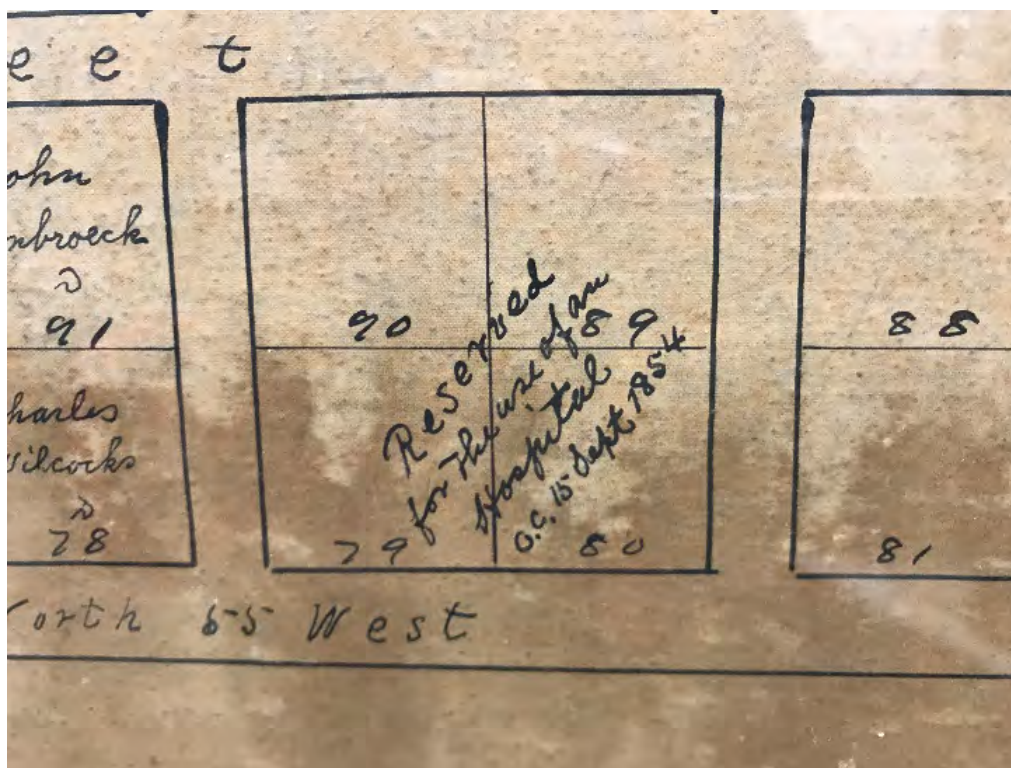


Figure 51: Lots 79, 80, 89, and 90 were intended for a hospital.

¹⁵ <http://www.nhsm.ca/media/LR-NOTLTown-Patentto1860s.pdf>

Appendix II

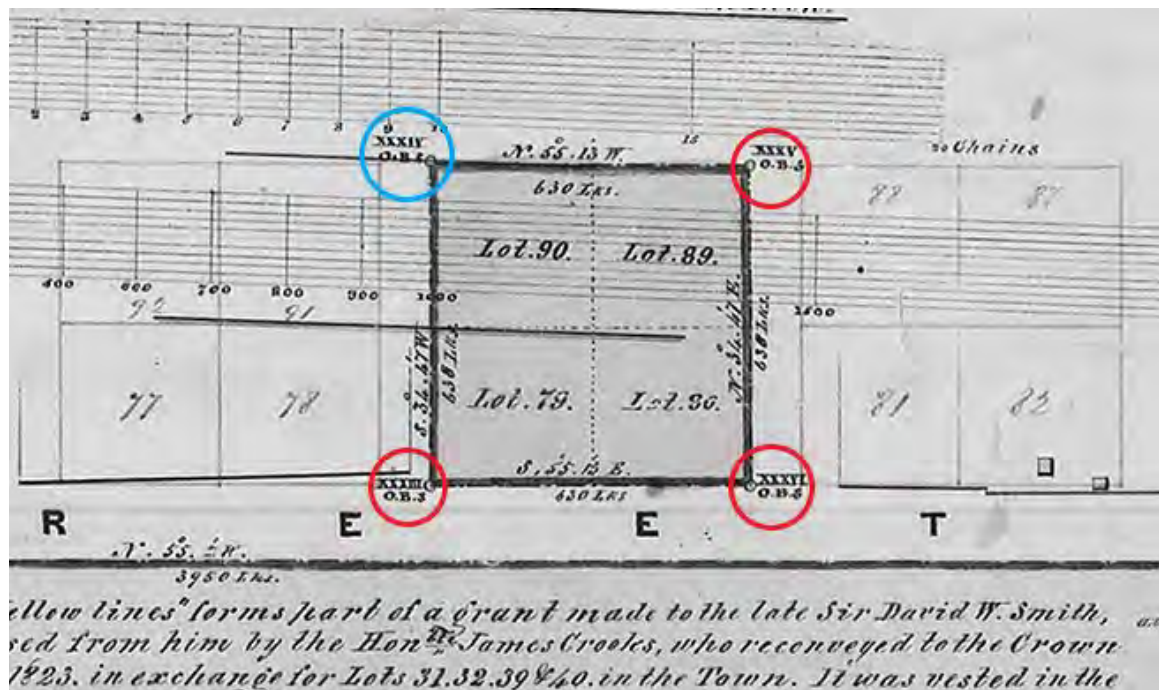


Figure 52: Lots 79, 80, 89, and 90 had OBS on all four corners.

Appendix II

OBS 33 Found

OBS 33 is at the corner of Queen and Dorchester.



Figure 53: OBS 33. Clearly at risk of damage from lawn mowers.

Appendix II

OBS 34 Missing

This stone was at the corner of Dorchester and Johnson on both maps, but I cannot find it today.



Figure 54; OBS 34 should be here. OBS 33 is at the end of the block on the right, and OBS 35 is at the end of the block on the left.

Appendix II

OBS 35

This stone is at the corner of Johnson and Nassau Street. It was struck by construction equipment and damaged sometime between June 2019 and November 2019. (see photos below.)



Appendix II

OBS 36 Found

This stone is at the corner of Queen and Dorchester. Completely unprotected from lawn mowing equipment.



Appendix II



Figure 55: OBS 36

Appendix II

Conclusion:

The Ordnance Boundary Stones of Niagara on the Lake are an important historical artifact that take us back to the very founding of our town.

Seventeen of the original stones can still be seen today, more than any other town in the world, as far as I can find.¹⁶

It is incumbent upon us to . . .

- **Recognize** the historic value of these stones
- **Restore** these stones by repairing those that are broken, and raising up the ones that are sunken
- **Protect** them from further damage, and
- **Celebrate** them as having great historic interest to both residents and visitors for generations to come.

¹⁶ There are 36 boundary stones around Washington DC, placed by the US Government in 1792, but these are not Ordnance Stones

Appendix II

Online Sources

1816 Plan of a Fort proposed to be erected at Mississaugue Pt

<https://dr.library.brocku.ca/handle/10464/10567>

Shows proposed Fort Mississauga

Erie and Ontario Railway History

<https://www.niagarafallsinfo.com/niagara-falls-history/niagara-falls-municipal-history/railroads-of-niagara-falls/erie-ontario-railroad/>

This source says that the Erie and Ontario Railway was extended to Niagara on the Lake in 1854 to connect with the Lake Ontario steamships. This accounts for the location of OBS 5 and OBS 5 ½.

Mississauga Cession of Land along the Niagara River to the British 1781

<http://mncfn.ca/mississauga-cession-at-niagara-1781/>

Augustus Jones order to Survey Niagara Township 1 - 1796

<https://www.aols.org/sites/default/files/Jones-A.pdf>

States that Jones "...began the survey of the Township of Niagara on June 11, 1787. This was then Township 1."

Augustus Jones Survey of Newark (Lenox)

<http://collections.mun.ca/PDFs/acmla/ACMLAIII.pdf>

This is the Bulletin of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives published in 2001. It provides a detailed biography of Augustus Jones (p. 6). According to the Bulletin, the survey of Lenox (NOTL) began on November 28, 1791

Transactions of the Canadian Institute. Vol. 1. 1889-1890

https://books.google.ca/books?id=rIY1AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA97&lpg=PA97&dq=augustus+jones+niagara&source=bl&ots=GbXeOWohl&sig=ACfU3UoudfDW3JMEWUN2ozlthABPWVHrGQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiXt6y3nv_mAhVHI6wKHaMjBxA4ChDoATASegQICRAB#v=onepage&q=augustus%20jones%20niagara&f=false

This says on page 98 that "The survey of the military reservation was made in 1794, but the town of Newark was surveyed in 1793."

Prideaux and the capture of Fort Niagara Chapter XXVI

Appendix II

https://books.google.ca/books?id=zEY1AQAAAMAJ&pg=PA529&lpg=PA529&dq=parkman+ii+245+Prideaux&source=bl&ots=f2gmEmnphb&sig=ACfU3UosLEp4A-_dGbuYMEawfjOAz7GfWw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjBlvXsnYvnAhWVccoKHUB7DL8Q6AEwAHoECAYQAQ#v=onepage&q=parkman%20ii%20245%20Prideaux&f=false

Biography of David Smith

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/smith_david_william_7E.html

Smith was appointed Deputy Surveyor General by Simcoe in 1792 until 1802 when he returned to England.

Bibliography

- Bonnycastle, H. (1835). Sketch of the Military Reserve at Niagara. Niagara, Ontario, Canada: Royal Engineers Office.
- Merritt, R. D. (2012). *On Common Ground*. Dundurn.
- Niven, A. (1910). Plan of the Town of Niagara. Niagara, Ontario, Canada: Department of Lands, Forests and Mines.
- Passmore, F. (1853). Canada Niagara Verification Plan. Niagara, Ontario, Canada: Office Commanding Royal Engineers Canada.
- Vavasour, H. (1817). Plan of Forts Mississauga, George, and Niagara, the Military Reserves, and the Town of Newark. Royal Engineer Office.

Appendix III

Ordinance Boundary Stones Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2021

In attendance: Amanda Demers, Amanda Gamble, Lisa Ladd-Curtis, Sarah Kaufman, Shawna Butts, Dr. Ted Rumble

Denise Horne Planner II/Heritage Advisor introduced the members of the sub-Committee and provided an overview of how the sub-Committee was established and the anticipated goals and timelines of the Committee.

Dr. Ted Rumble provided a historical overview of the OBS and highlighted which stones have been located, mapped and documented to date. Ted recommended the following be considered: (1) Recognize the stones; (2) Restore the stones; (3) Protect the stones; (4) Celebrate the stones and tell the story of the stones

Amanda Gamble raised the question as to whether Jim Hill from NPC could be invited to discuss the OBS in Queenston.

Discussion took place regarding the following matters:

- Raising buried OBS above grade, concerns with respects to costs of such and exposing stones to further damage if exposed;
- Physical protection of the stones by the Town and Parks Canada physical protection of stones;
- The museum has started hosting information regarding the OBS on their website.

Appendix III

Ordnance Boundary Stones Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2021

In attendance: Amanda Gamble (Friends of Fort George), Shawna Butts (NOTL Museum), Dr. Ted Rumble (Resident), Louise Leyland (Friends of Fort George), Jim Hill (Niagara Parks Commission), Denise Horne (Town Staff)

Regrets: Amanda Demers (MHC Member), Lisa Ladd-Curtis (Parks Canada), Sarah Kaufman (NOTL Museum)

The Ordnance Boundary Stones Sub-Committee was established as a sub-Committee to the Municipal Heritage Committee.

Denise Horne Planner II/Heritage Advisor welcomed the members.

Discussion ensued regarding possible designation of the stones and consideration to recognize them within the Heritage Conservation District Plan.

Denise Horne reviewed the proposed plan for recognizing, restoring, protecting and celebrating the stones. The Committee discussed various ways to protect the stones including the use of bollards or small plaques at each Ordnance Boundary Stone (OBS) to demarcate the location and draw attention to their presence. There was discussion on the possibility of including a larger plaque with background information on the history of the OBS in a prominent location to draw attention to the stones. Considerations include costs to the Town and whether other government agencies would be willing to utilize a similar method of identification for the stones located outside of municipal property.

There was discussion regarding raising stones out of the ground and how best to preserve the OBS from further damage. Denise Horne noted that it would be preferred to leave the existing buried OBS as they are in order to ensure they are protected in the future. In addition, there would be costs associated with raising any buried OBS including the costs of hiring a surveyor to oversee the works and ensure they are placed back in the appropriate location. It was noted that raising any buried OBS could be considered in the future, but that the immediate need was to protect the existing stones. The Committee also discussed plaquing the buried stones to at least demarcate their location.

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Information Report to Council

SUBJECT: Restoration of Ordnance Boundary Stones – Updates
DATE: 2024-06-05
REPORT #: CDS-24-088
PREPARED BY: Sumra Zia
DEPARTMENT: Community & Development Services

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake was originally founded as a British military Town. The British military maintained their presence in Town through the early to mid-1800s. During this time, four parcels of land were reserved for military use and a total of 37 OBSs were installed to mark these reserves. Military reserve lands included Simcoe Park, Queen's Royal Park, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course, several (now) residential lots, and the Commons. Of these 37 stones, 19 have since been discovered (blue) and 18 are currently missing (red). A map of the locations is included as **Appendix IV**.

The Municipal Heritage Committee (the "MHC"), in collaboration with Dr. Ted Rumble, has initiated a plan to restore the Ordnance Boundary Stones (the "OBS") located in the Town. As a result of efforts of the Town Staff, Ted Rumble and Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (the "NOTL Museum") the following milestones have since been accomplished on this project since it commenced in 2020:

- The NOTL Museum has set up a webpage containing a brief history and information of all the stones that have been discovered (<https://www.notlmuseum.ca/ordnance-boundary-stones/>).
- A request for budget approval was approved by Town Council in 2023 to initiate the restoration program for the OBS. A budget of \$5,000 was approved for the restoration of OBS 32, on the corner of Simcoe Park at the intersection of King Street and Byron Street. The proposed work included restoration, resetting and cleaning of the OBS, together with the installation of a fence to ensure long-term protection of the stone.
- The proposal for the restoration of OBS 32 also included installation of a bronze plaque to commemorate the significance of the OBS. The text for the OBS 32 plaque was prepared in partnership with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum staff, Town's Heritage Planner, MHC member Alex Topps and Ted Rumble. The text reads:

The British Army maintained a military presence in the Town of Niagara until 1865, to guard against another American invasion from Fort Niagara. Between 1823 and 1854 the British Army Royal Engineers placed 37 Ordnance Boundary Stones around the perimeter of the four military reserves in the town of Niagara. Military reserve lands

included Simcoe Park, Queen's Royal Park, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Course, and the Commons. Each Ordnance Boundary Stone is carved with the initials BO (Board of Ordnance) under the Broad Arrow symbol, which identifies military property of the British Government. Many of these stones can still be seen today.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is committed to a program of restoration and protection of the Ordnance Boundary Stones as an important part of Town's history and heritage.

- Initially a fence design with vertical and horizontal posts was proposed in consultation with the MHC. The design of the fence was reconsidered to make it less cluttered and visually jarring to the stone. A new design of four posts with moulded capping connected through a chain link is being considered. The details of the fence design and the details of the restoration of the stone are attached as **Appendix I**.
- An additional budget of \$7,500 has been approved by the Council in 2024 for the restoration of additional OBS. The additional budget is anticipated to allow for the restoration of a total of 6 OBS. The stones that are currently being considered for restoration are attached as **Appendix II**. Similar to OBS 32, these stones would be restored, reset and cleaned. A small plaque would also be installed with each of these stones that would contain a QR-code. The QR-code would connect the visitors to the webpage set up by the NOTL Museum about OBS.
- The Larocque Group of Surveyors have volunteered their time for the project and to produce locates for the OBS.

NEXT STEPS

- Town Staff, in collaboration with Dr. Rumble, is currently seeking permissions from the property owners for the restoration of OBS that are located on private property or Parks Canada lands. Staff are investigating the use of an easement or agreement to be signed with the owners to address ownership of the fence and the QR code plaque, as well as the future maintenance responsibility of the installations.
- The staff is also working towards finalizing a contractor for the restoration work together with a vendor for small QR code plaques and the posts and chain link fence. The contractor currently being considered for the work is Memorial Restoration from Sarnia.
- Input from the MHC is requested for the 5 additional OBS shortlisted for restoration in 2024.
- MHC's input is also needed to shortlist OBS that could be considered for restoration in 2025 (**Appendix III**) and requested through the 2025 budget process.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Appendix I** – Fence Design and Restoration of Stone
- **Appendix II** – OBS Restoration 2024
- **Appendix III** – Complete List OBS with Required Work
- **Appendix IV** – Map of Location of OBS

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Information Report to Council

SUBJECT: Restoration of Ordnance Boundary Stones – Updates
DATE: 2024-10-02
REPORT #: CDS-24-165
PREPARED BY: Sumra Zia
DEPARTMENT: Community & Development Services

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

An update to the Ordnance Boundary Stones (the “OBS”) project was requested by the Municipal Heritage Committee (the “MHC”) at its meeting on September 4, 2024. This report provides a status update following milestones have since been accomplished on this project since the last update report [CDS-24-088](#) to the MHC on June 5, 2024 (report linked).

The MHC in collaboration with Dr. Ted Rumble, has initiated a plan to restore the Ordnance Boundary Stones (the “OBS”) located in the Town. As a result of the coordinated efforts of the Town Staff, Ted Rumble and Alexander Topps, the following has been accomplished:

- Locates for OBS 32 (Simcoe Park), OBS 25 and 26 (Charles Inn), OBS 33 (corner of Queen and Dorchester Street), OBS 36 (corner of Queen and Nassau Street) and OBS 23 (corner of Prideaux and Simcoe Street) have been ordered. The Larocque Group of Surveyors have volunteered their time for the project and to produce locates for the OBS.
- The details about the design of the fence and the specifications of the restoration work have been finalized (**Appendix I**).
- The inspiration for design, size and the material of the main plaque, to be installed at Simcoe Park, has been derived from the existing plaques at Simcoe Park, see **Appendix II** for reference. The plaque is proposed to be:
 - Bronze material
 - 18” by 24” in size and 28” high
 - Mounted on a post
 - Proposed text for the plaque was provided to the MHC in the June report

Note: Due to budgetary and timing restrictions the Staff are considering installation of a temporary plaque at Simcoe Park, but the design for the permanent plaque is also being finalized in collaboration with the Communications department.

- The Staff is currently in contact with multiple fence vendors to get a fair price on the fences being proposed to be installed around the stones.
- Expectations have been discussed with the Town’s Operations department about the maintenance of the fences and the restored OBS.

- Informal permissions have been acquired from the property owners for the restoration of stones and installation of fences on private properties. An agreement has been drafted.

NEXT STEPS

- The Staff are looking to place an order for the fences as well as the plaques being proposed to be installed as part of the restoration project.
- Based on the delivery date for the fences, the Staff are also looking to finalized a date in October to do the restoration work.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Appendix I** – Fence Design and Restoration of Stone
- **Appendix II** – Plaque Reference Images