Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 2365-2377
Lakeshore Road West, Lots 177 and 178, and Part of
Lot 179, Plan M-7(BA-147), Part of Lot 29, Broken
Front Concession, Geographic Township of Trafalgar,
County of Halton, now in the Town of Oakville,
Regional Municipality of Halton

#### **Original Report**

Prepared for:

**Graywood Bronte Village Limited Partnership** 

c/o Graywood Developments

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PIF P449-0599-2022

Archaeological Services Inc. File: 21PL-393

21 March 2022



# **Executive Summary**

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by Graywood Bronte Village Limited Partnership c/o Graywood Developments to undertake a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 2365-2377 Lakeshore Road West, Lots 177 and 178, and Part of Lot 179, Plan M-7(BA-147), Part of Lot 29, Broken Front Concession, Geographic Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton, now in the Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton. The subject property is approximately 0.36 hectare.

The Stage 1 background research entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites and the original environmental setting of the property, along with its development history, as well guidance from the *Master Plan of Archaeological Resources for the Regional Municipality of Halton* (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2009). This research indicated that there would typically be potential for the presence of both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources on the subject property. It was concluded, however, that the presence of any intact archaeological deposits within the property is unlikely due to the widespread and intensive ground disturbance across the entire property from previous development and grading activities.

The Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment has determined that the entire subject property retains no landscape integrity or archaeological potential due to previous ground disturbance. It is recommended that no further archaeological assessment be required on the subject property.



# **Project Personnel**

- Senior Project Manager: Jennifer Ley, Honours Bachelor of Arts (R376),
   Lead Archaeologist, Manager, Planning Assessment Division
- Project Manager: Robb Bhardwaj, Master of Arts (P449), Associate Archaeologist, Project Manager, Planning Assessment Division
- Project Director: Robb Bhardwaj
- Project Administrator: Lauren Vince, Honours Bachelor of Arts (R1235), Associate Archaeologist, Project Administrator, Planning Assessment Division
- Project Archaeologist: Robb Bhardwaj
- Archival Research: Brian Narhi, Master of Arts, Historian, Planning Assessment Division
- Report Preparation: Dana Millson, Doctor of Philosophy, Archaeologist, Technical Writer, Planning Assessment Division
- Graphics: Adam Burwell, Master of Science, Archaeologist, Geomatics Specialist, Operations Division; Peter Bikoulis, Doctor of Philosophy, Archaeologist, Geographic Information System Technician, Operations Division
- Report Reviewers: Robb Bhardwaj; Jennifer Ley



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## 1.0 Project Context

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## 1.1 Development Context

This assessment was conducted under the senior project management of Jennifer Ley (R376), and the project management and the project direction of Robb Bhardwaj (P449) under Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (hereafter "the Ministry") Project Information Form P449-0599-2022. All activities carried out during this assessment were completed prior to an official plan amendment and zoning by-law amendment, as required by the *Planning Act* (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 1990). All work was completed in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* (Ministry of Culture (now the Ministry), 1990) and the *Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (hereafter "the Standards") (Ministry of Tourism and Culture (now the Ministry), 2011).

The work carried out for this assessment was also guided by the *Master Plan of Archaeological Resources of the Regional Municipality of Halton* (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2009), which provides further refinement with regard to potential buffers surrounding any noted features or characteristics which affect archaeological potential.

Permission to access the subject property and to carry out all activities necessary for the completion of the assessment was granted by the proponent on January 17, 2022.



#### 1.2 Historical Context

The purpose of this section is to describe the past and present land use and settlement history, and any other relevant historical information gathered through the Stage 1 background research. First, a summary is presented of the current understanding of the Indigenous land use of the subject property. This is followed by a review of historical Euro-Canadian settlement trends.

Historically, the subject property was located in the centre of Lot 29, Broken Front Concession, in the Geographic Township of Trafalgar, County of Halton. Currently, the subject property comprises a commercial building and associated gravel and paved parking lots, and a vacant commercial lot fronting Lakeshore Road West in Bronte Village.

#### 1.2.1 Pre-Contact Settlement

Table 1 provides a general summary of the pre-contact Indigenous settlement of the subject property and surrounding area.

**Table 1: Pre-contact Indigenous Temporal Culture Periods in Southern Ontario** 

Period	Description		
Paleo 13,000 Before present – 9,000 Before present	<ul> <li>First human occupation of Ontario</li> <li>Astronomers/ Artists/ Hunters/ Gatherers/ Foragers</li> <li>Language Unknown</li> <li>Small occupations</li> <li>Non-stratified populations</li> </ul>		
Archaic 9,000 Before present – 3,000 Before present	<ul> <li>Astronomers/ Artists/ Hunters/ Gatherers/ Foragers</li> <li>Small occupations</li> <li>Non-stratified populations</li> <li>Mortuary ceremonialism</li> <li>Extensive trade networks for raw materials and finished objects</li> </ul>		



Period	Description		
Early Woodland 3,000 Before present – 2,400 Before present	<ul> <li>Astronomers/ Artists/ Hunters/ Gatherers/ Foragers</li> <li>General trend in spring/summer congregation and fall/winter dispersal</li> <li>Small and large occupations</li> <li>First evidence of community identity</li> <li>Mortuary ceremonialism</li> <li>Extensive trade networks for raw materials and finished objects</li> </ul>		
Middle Woodland 2,400 Before present – 1,300 Before present, Transitional Woodland 1,300 Before present – 1,000 Before present	<ul> <li>Astronomers/ Artists/ Hunters/ Gatherers/ Foragers</li> <li>A general trend in spring/summer congregation and fall/winter dispersal into large and small settlements</li> <li>Kin-based political system</li> <li>Increasingly elaborate mortuary ceremonialism</li> <li>Incipient agriculture in some regions</li> <li>Longer term settlement occupation and reuse</li> </ul>		
Late Woodland (Early)  Anno Domini 900 — Anno  Domini 1300	<ul> <li>Foraging with locally defined dependence on agriculture</li> <li>Villages, specific and special purpose sites</li> <li>Socio-political system strongly kinship based</li> </ul>		
Late Woodland (Middle)  Anno Domini 1300 – Anno  Domini 1400	<ul> <li>Major shift to agricultural dependency</li> <li>Villages, specific and special purpose sites</li> <li>Development of socio-political complexity</li> </ul>		
Late Woodland (Late) Anno Domini 1400 – Anno Domini 1650	<ul> <li>Complex agricultural society</li> <li>Villages, specific and special purpose sites</li> <li>Politically allied regional populations</li> </ul>		



#### 1.2.2 Post-Contact Settlement

#### **Treaty Information**

The subject property is within Treaty 13a, signed on August 2, 1805, by the Mississaugas and the British Crown in Port Credit at the Government Inn. A provisional agreement was reached with the Crown on August 2, 1805, in which the Mississaugas ceded 70,784 acres of land bounded by the Toronto Purchase of 1787 in the east, the Brant Tract in the west, and a northern boundary that ran six miles back from the shoreline of Lake Ontario. The Mississaugas also reserved the sole right of fishing at the Credit River and were to retain a one-mile strip of land on each of its banks, which became the Credit Indian Reserve. On September 5, 1806, the signing of Treaty 14 confirmed the Head of the Lake Purchase between the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Crown (Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation, 2001; Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, 2017).

#### **Township of Trafalgar**

While other lands in the "Golden Horseshoe" at the western end of Lake Ontario were acquired by the British government for settlement by the United Empire Loyalist refugees during the 1780's, Halton County (including Trafalgar Township) remained in the hands of the Mississauga Nation until August 1805, when the lands were acquired under the terms of the Mississauga Purchase (Armstrong, 1985:148). The concessions lying on either side of Dundas Street were formally surveyed in 1806 and are known as the Old Survey. Additional lands were purchased from the Mississauga Nation in 1818 extended the boundaries of Trafalgar Township, and this portion of the Township became known as the New Survey.

Dundas Street, the baseline survey road in Trafalgar Township had been surveyed in 1793, as a military road connecting Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and Lake Huron, as well as a road to aid Loyalist settlement and deter expansionist claims in Upper Canada. After the two concessions south of Dundas Street were opened up, two new east-west concession line access roads, the Upper Middle Road and the Lower Middle Road, were surveyed. These early east to west roads were later complemented by the Lakeshore Road in 1832, which was constructed



nearby and parallel to an Indigenous pathway skirting Lake Ontario. The concession roads of the 1806 survey, and the line roads running perpendicular, blocked out the township in areas a mile and quarter square with five 200-acre lots to a square. Between every five lots ran a line road (Mathews, 1953:45).

Trafalgar was simply known as Township Number 2 when it was first surveyed by Samuel S. Wilmot, and was subsequently renamed Alexander Township in honour of Alexander Grant, who was President and Administrator of the Province of Upper Canada (Mathews, 1953:6). Shortly thereafter, when news reached Upper Canada of Lord Nelson's victorious sea battle off the coast of Spain, the names of two townships in the county were changed to Nelson and Trafalgar.

The New Survey of Trafalgar was undertaken by Richard Bristol between April and June 1819. His Survey Diaries and Notes are still extant on microfilm, and we learn from it that the survey of the township proceeded westward from Concession 11 along the Peel County line towards Milton. The crew encountered wet snow "nearly an inch deep" on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and by May 22 Bristol noted "the mosquitoes beginning their hostilities against us." On June 6, while in the vicinity of Concessions 1 and 2, the crew was inundated by a thunderstorm: "we necessitated [sic] to grin and bear it...no sleep this night for us," and a few days later "mosquitoes rather too many for us." The survey of Concession 2 was completed between June 5 to 7, 1819, and Bristol dismissed his men on June 10, 1819. Bristol noted that the timber was primarily elm, beech, maple, white oak, "black ash" and pine.

Trafalgar Township originally formed part of the West Riding of York in the Home District and following 1816, it became part of the Gore District, with Hamilton as the administrative District seat. Although the old Districts of Upper Canada were abolished by legislation in May 1849, the area that was to subsequently become Halton remained as part of the United Counties of Wentworth and Hamilton until it was finally separated and elevated to independent County status by an act of legislature in June 1853.

Smith (1850:261) noted that the settlement of Trafalgar commenced about 1807, and the price for wild land at the time was valued at 7/6- per acre. By 1817, the population had increased to 548, and the township contained one grist mill and



four sawmills. The value of land had increased to 22 shillings per acre. In 1846, the township was described as "well settled... containing numerous well cleared and cultivated farms, most which have good orchards" (Smith, 1846:198-199). By 1850, the population had increased to 4,513, and the township contained three grist and nineteen saw mills (Smith, 1850:261). The timber cover in the township was described as "principally hardwood with a little pine intermixed" (Smith, 1850:261).

The earliest families to settle within the township included those of Sovereign, Proudfoot, Katting, Freeman, Post, Biggar, Mulholland, Kenney, Chalmer, Albertson, Chisholms, Sproat, Brown, and Hagar.

#### **Village of Bronte**

The Village of Bronte was a post office town situated where Lakeshore Road crossed the Twelve Mile Creek (now Bronte Creek), on part of Lots 28 to 32 in the Broken Front Concession, Trafalgar Township. One of the first settlers here was Philip Sovereign in 1814. The village was named in honour of Admiral Lord Nelson, who was given the title "Duke of Bronte." A wharf extended into Lake Ontario on the east side of the creek, which provided a small, protected harbour. The town was also served by the Great Western Railway. It contained a telegraph office, printing office, several stores, and hotels. The population numbered about 550 in 1873 (Crossby, 1873:49; Brimacombe, 1976; Scott, 1997:35; Rayburn, 1997:44).

### 1.2.3 Land Use History

The subject property was originally part of Lot 29 in the Broken Front or 4th Concession South of Dundas Street (S.D.S.). This land was later subdivided as part of the Town of Bronte and comprised Lots 11 and 12 on the north side of Triller Street. Most recently it formed parts of Lots 177, 178, and 179 on Registered Plan M-7, and is now known as Parcel Sections 177-1, 178-1, and 179-1, Section M-7.

#### Part Lot 29 Concession 4 S.D.S.

This lot was retained by the Mississaugas until 1820 as part of their fishing reserve lot at the mouth of the Twelve Mile Creek. It was then surveyed in the 1830s and opened for settlement by the Upper Canadian government.



#### Lot 11 North side of Triller Street

Lot 11 was patented from the Crown to Peter Matthews on June 13, 1856. No biographical information could be located for Matthews.

In November 1901, John James Wilson and his wife quit-claimed any interest that they held in this land to Charles Taylor and his wife for \$15. No definitive biographical information could be located for Wilson or Taylor (Trafalgar deeds #8612X).

In April 1920, Taylor sold the lot to James and Elizabeth Ford. The property was subject to a vendors' mortgage in the amount of \$2,400. There are two couples located in the 1921 census matching these names. The one was a teamster who resided with his wife and three children in Etobicoke. The other couple, who appear to be more promising, resided in Mimico. That James Ford (b. ca. 1870) was employed as a "real estate agent." His wife was born in England ca. 1880. They had four children and were members of the Church of England (Trafalgar deeds #13419D2, 13421D2; 1921 York West/Mimico Census, district 145, subdistrict 74, p. 19; 1921 York West/ Etobicoke Census, district 145, sub-district 3, p. 25).

In March 1938, ownership was transferred to the Corporation of the Township of Trafalgar for \$439.83 in satisfaction of tax arrears (Trafalgar deeds #18809H2).

In May 1949, the Township of Trafalgar sold the lot to James Percy Joyce for \$405. In February 1950, the executor of the Joyce estate transferred ownership of this land to Olive Lorene Joyce, the widow of James Percy Joyce. James Lester Percy Joyce (b. Feb. 4, 1888) was a native of Bronte and the son of James L. and Mary (Roberts) Joyce. His father was a fisherman by profession. James was married in December 1923 to Olive Lorene Osbourne (b. ca. 1891), who was the daughter of Charles and Ethel (James) Osbourne. At the time of their marriage, James was employed as an "electrical operator" and Olive was a "graduate nurse." James may have later worked for the family's fishing business. James was a Methodist and Olive was a member of the Congregational Church (Trafalgar deeds #23400L2, 24060L2, 6534GR; Ontario Vital Statistics, birth registration



#12462/1888; marriage registration #12488/1923; 1940 Federal List of Electors, Trafalgar poll 9, p. 3582).

In July 1952, Olive L. Joyce transferred ownership of the lot to Watkins Thomas Martin and James Robert Joyce. Records indicate that Martin (Aug. 25, 1924-Apr. 20, 2014) was a native of Halton and the son of Thomas and Elsie Martin. He was self-employed as a "contractor" at Milton and in Bronte. He was married to Alma Doreen Patterson (Sept. 5, 1930-Dec. 9, 2009). They are interred in the Bronte Cemetery. Joyce was undoubtedly the son of James Percy and Olive Lorene Joyce (Trafalgar deeds #118-I; 1957 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll 52, p. 4488; 1965 Federal List of Electors, Oakville poll 78, p. 5782; Martin tombstone inscription, Bronte Cemetery).

In January 1953, Martin and Joyce severed the lot when they sold part to Stan and Nellie Rakoczy. Records indicate that Rakoczy was employed as a "gardener" who lived with his family in Burlington (Trafalgar deeds #204-I; 1965 Federal List of Electors, Burlington poll 240, p. 6116).

In November 1953, the Rakoczy land was purchased by Clare K. Rosen. No biographical information could be located for Rosen (Trafalgar deeds #481-I).

In September 1959, Rosen sold her property to S.T.R. Investments Ltd. (Trafalgar deeds #105173).

Under Application D37, S.T.R. Investments applied to have this land transferred to Parcel 177-1 Section M-7. For a continuation of the land use history refer to that parcel section listed below.

The remainder of Lot 11 was sold along with part of Lot 10, and now forms parts of Lots 171-1 and 176-1 Section M-7. These parcels comprise surrounding land and do not form part of the subject property.



#### **Lot 12 North side of Triller Street**

On November 12, 1858, this lot was patented from the Crown by Elijah Williams. Williams (b. Nov. 27, 1813) was a native of Randolph, Vermont, and the son of Henry Dickinson and Cynthia (Ellis) Williams. Elijah had settled in Bronte as a merchant prior to 1838. He was undoubtedly a partner in the firm of "Williams & Belyea" which was described as a "general store." By 1857-1858, the firm specialized in "dry goods." Williams himself served as the local postmaster and he was also referred to as a "general dealer." He was married in Bronte on Jan. 1, 1838, to Susan Amelia Belyea (Dec. 13, 1812-Jan. 15, 1877). She was a native of Bronte and the daughter of John and Isabella (Goodwin) Belyea. They appear to have raised a family of nine children (three sons, six daughters) who were born between 1838 and 1855, some of whom died during their infancy or early childhood. The family belonged to the Methodist Church. Their household in 1851-1852 included a domestic servant, Abigail Nelson, and a "clerk" named Alexander Douglas. The family residence in Bronte was a two-storey brick dwelling which the census shows was constructed in 1858. Sometime during the 1860s (but before 1870) the family moved to Toledo, Ohio, where Williams became a partner in the firm of "Williams & Halloran," grain merchants. Following the death of his first wife, Elijah was married at Michigan in February 1878 to Caroline E. Whiting. Williams died in Toledo on April 24, 1879. A newspaper account reported that a drainage trench had been excavated at the rear of the Williams house; Williams went to inspect the trench after he arrived home from work and while he was in it the sides caved in and he was buried. Workmen immediately came to his aid, but Williams was dead by the time that they recovered his body. Williams and his wife were interred in the family plot at the Forest Cemetery in Toledo (Christian Guardian, Jan. 31, 1838; MacKay 1851:42; 1851 Trafalgar Census, division 2, p. 206; Lovell, 1857:77; 1861 Bronte Census, district 5, p. 111; Cincinnati Daily Star, Apr. 25, 1879; Williams family tombstone inscription, Forest Cemetery, Toledo).

In January 1861, Elijah Williams and James Belyea sold this lot to Justus Wright Williams, Joseph Hixon, and Benjamin Hagaman "in trust." In February 1861, new trustees were appointed to manage this property, and in April 1869, the trustees



sold it on behalf of Elijah Williams to Algernon Galbraith McCay (Trafalgar deeds #571D, 512E, 176G).

Justus Wright Williams (Apr. 24, 1798-Mar. 29, 1875) was a native of Randolph, Vermont, and the son of Henry Dickinson and Dorcas (Wright) Williams. He was therefore the half-brother of Elijah Williams who was the first owner of this lot. Williams was first married to Nancy Eliza Aikman, and then to Eliza Hammill. He died from "apoplexy" at Bronte. Justus was described as a "gentleman" at the time of his death (Ontario Vital Statistics, death registration #2677/1875).

McCay (b. Dec. 11, 1814) was a native of Halton Co. and the son of William and Martha Eliza (Campbell) McCay (or McCoy). Records refer to him as a "merchant." He was married ca. 1845 to Amanda Fitzallen Chisholm (June 15, 1822-Dec. 18, 1901). She was a native of Halton and the daughter of Colonel George and Eliza (McCarter) Chisholm. The Chisholm's were an old family in Halton and among the first settlers at Oakville. McCay and his wife raised a family of six children (four sons and two daughters) who were born between 1846 and 1858. The family belonged to the Church of England. By 1870, the family resided at Bronte where Algernon was described as a "gentleman." He died on July 24, 1881 (1861 Nelson Census, division 2, p. 22; 1870 Halton/Bronte *Directory*, p. 4).

This property passed through the estate of A.G. McCay to his daughter, Martha Fitzallen McCay, in 1881 (Trafalgar deeds #10631A2). McCay (b. Mar. 30, 1851) was a native of Halton and the daughter of Algernon Galbraith and Amanda Fitzallen (Chisholm) McCay. She was first married in December 1871 to George Kiefer McCranley (Apr. 5, 1842-Feb. 6, 1899). He was the son of William and Rebecca (Teeter) McCranley. The Teeter family had settled in Grimsby in the Niagara District at an early date. George was described as a "clothier" at the time of their marriage. George and Martha raised a family of six children, four sons and two daughters, who were born between 1874 and 1892. George died suddenly as the result of "apoplexy." His widow then married for a second time in December 1905 to Robert Wilson Williams (Mar. 8, 1844-Dec 1, 1924). He was the son of John and Margaret Williams, and he was employed as a "mariner" aboard one of the Toronto ferries. He had been previously married and had raised a family of six children with his first wife. Robert died from a cerebral hemorrhage and senility.



Martha died at Toronto on Sept. 3, 1941, as the result of "senility, inanition, and poor appetite." She was interred at St. Jude's Cemetery, Oakville (Ontario Vital Statistics, marriage registration #1290/1905; death registration #10929/1899, 3772/1924, 6994/1941; Ontario Marriage Registers, vol. 26 [1871-74], p. 420).

In May 1905, McCranley sold this property to Charles Taylor for \$40 (Trafalgar deeds #8613X).

In April 1920, Taylor sold this lot to James and Elizabeth Ford for \$2,400 (Trafalgar deeds #13419D<sup>2</sup>, 13421D2).

In March 1938, this land was seized by the Reeve and Treasurer of the Corporation of the Township of Trafalgar to satisfy the tax arrears owing on this property. Ownership passed to the Corporation of the Township of Trafalgar (Trafalgar deeds #18809H2).

In May 1946, the Township sold part of this lot to John Harvey and Emma Sarah McCue (Trafalgar deeds #21567K2).

McCue (b. Mar. 15, 1867) appears to have been a native of Windsor, Ontario, and the son of John and Emma (Johnston) McCue. Records indicate that he was a "farmer" and "gardener." He was re-married at Windsor in February 1937 to the widow Emma Denison (b. ca. 1867) of Port Credit. She was the daughter of George Truman and Naomi Scott. They resided on Triller Street on part of the subject property in 1940. John died on June 17, 1946, within one month from the date when he and his wife purchased this land. The causes of death were listed as coronary thrombosis, nephritis, and hypertension. His remains were taken to Windsor for burial. His widow continued to reside in Bronte until at least 1957 (Ontario Vital Statistics, marriage registration #11852/1937; death registration #18324/1946; 1940 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll #9, p. 3582; Windsor Star, June 19, 1946; 1949 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll #9, p. 3839; 1957 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll #51, p. 4486).

In April 1952, the widow Emma S. McCue sold this land to Lucy Barbara Wilson. She in turn transferred part of the land back to McCue in July of that same year. In March 1954, McCue sold this land to a trustee named Walter Denison and in



October 1956 he transferred part of this land back to Lucy B. Wilson. Denison was a Toronto barrister. In October 1961, Wilson transferred this property to herself and to her daughter Joan Dorothea Wilson. Lucy (b. June 1906) was a native of Lorne Park and the daughter of George and Emily (Truman) Denison. George was a native of England and employed as a carpenter. In December 1924 Lucy was married to Edgar Clarence Wilson (Mar. 31, 1905-Nov. 30, 1963). He was the son of John and Violet (Wilcox) Wilson of Erindale and employed as a mechanic. They had at least two children, one of whom (their son) died in infancy in 1937. Lucy resided in Bronte where she died shortly after transferring this land, sometime just prior to August 1962. She was interred at the Springcreek Cemetery in Mississauga. Records indicate that Joan Wilson resided on the Triller Street property and was a long-time "assembler" in a factory (Bronte deeds #96-I, 553-I, 554-I, 111520, 117668, 143724GR; Ontario Vital Statistics, marriage registration #11068/1924; 1957 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll #51, p. 4486; Wilson tombstone inscription, Springcreek Cemetery; 1965 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll #116, p. 5861).

Under Application D37, Wilson applied to have this land transferred to Parcel 178-1 Section M-7. For a continuation of the land use history refer to that parcel section listed below.

In May 1946, the Township sold part of this lot to Elisha and Christina Grice (Bronte deeds #97-I).

Grice (b. ca. 1880) was a native of Lincolnshire, England, and the son of Richard and Sarah (Whitworth) Grice. The family emigrated to Ontario in May 1883 and settled in Bronte where Richard took up farming. In June 1908, Elisha was married to Christina Osborne (b. ca. 1887). She was a native of Halton and the daughter of Permenus and Charlotte (Skelton) Osborne. Census records from 1911 and 1921 list Elisha as a "farmer" and "farm labourer." During the 1930s and 1940s he is referred to as a "labourer" and "carpenter." In 1949 he and Christina resided on part of the subject property on Triller Street. Elisha and Christina had at least one son who was born in 1908. The family belonged to the Methodist Church. Elisha died sometime between 1968 and 1974 (1891 Trafalgar Census, division I-4, p. 1; Ontario Vital Statistics, birth registration #21143/1908; marriage registration



#10018/1908; 1911 Bronte/Trafalgar Census, district 76, sub-district 9-6, p. 17; 1921 Bronte Census, district 86, sub-district 20, p. 10; 1935 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll 9, p. 2921; 1949 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll 9, p. 3838; 1953 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll 40, p. 4088; 1965 Federal List of Electors, Bronte poll 116, p. 5861).

Under Application D37, Grice applied to have this land transferred to Parcel 179-1 Section M-7. For a continuation of the land use history refer to that parcel section listed below.

#### Parcel 177-1, Section M-7

Under Application D37, S.T.R. Investments was entered as the owner of this parcel section.

In August 1965, premises were leased on this property to Cairncroft Investments Ltd. for a period of ten years. In May 1975, space was leased to Abdulhusein Investments Ltd. for a period of five years ending in August 1980. In September 1976, this leasehold was assigned (transferred) to Dharm Vir Sharma and Devi Sharma "carrying on in business as Whiteoak Cleaners." A mortgage of the leasehold was registered on title (Transfer parcel #200473, 6253, 77731, 125791).

In June 1989, reference plan 20R-9361 (part 4) was registered on title for this parcel (Reference Plan 20R-9361).

#### Parcel 178-1, Section M-7

Under Application D37, Joan Dorothea Wilson was entered as the owner of this parcel section.

In June 1969, Wilson sold this property to Oakville Gem Construction Ltd. (Transfer parcel #5431).

In August 1984, ownership of this land was acquired by Troy Labelle "in trust." This land was mortgaged on at least four occasions between August 1984 and July 1990 for a total of \$475,000 (Transfer parcel #229701; Charges parcel #229702, 379005, 379006, 452467).



In June 1989, reference plan 20R-9361 (part 5) was registered on title for this parcel (Reference Plan 20R-9361).

#### Parcel 179-1, Section M-7

Under Application D37, Elisha and Christina Grice were entered as the owners of this parcel section.

In May 1974, Thomas Canboro Browne (of Oakville, mailman) and Eva Bee (of Toronto, dress shop owner) were entered on title as the executors and trustees of the estate of the late Elisha Grice. In February 1976, ownership of this parcel was transferred to Browne and Bee, and then transferred to Browne as the sole owner (Transfer parcel #39535, 69209, 72414).

In March 1979, Browne sold this land to Raffaele Naccarato (Transfer parcel #129496).

In October 1980, Naccarato sold a part of this land to the Town of Oakville which was required for the widening of Lakeshore Road. That strip now comprises parcel 179-2 Section M-7. The remainder of the property was re-entered as Parcel 179-3 Section M-7.

### Parcel 179-3, Section M-7

In November 1981, Naccarato sold this parcel to Harry and Sally Wong (Transfer parcel #178965).

In July 1985, Wong sold this property to Troy LaBelle for \$150,000. This land was mortgaged on at least four occasions between August 1984 and July 1990 for a total of \$475,000 (Transfer parcel #249136; Charges parcel #229702, 379005, 379006, 452467).



### 1.2.4 Review of Map Sources

A review of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mapping was completed to determine if these sources depict any nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian settlement features that may represent potential historical archaeological sites within or adjacent to the subject property. Historical map sources are used to reconstruct/predict the location of former features within the modern landscape by cross-referencing points between the various sources and then georeferencing them to provide the most accurate determination of the location of any property from historical mapping sources. The results can be imprecise (or even contradictory) because sources of error, such as the vagaries of map production, differences in scale or resolution, and distortions caused by the reproduction of the sources, introduce error into the process. The impacts of this error are dependent on the size of the feature in question, the constancy of reference points on mapping, the distances between them, and the consistency with which both are depicted on historical mapping.

In addition, not all settlement features were depicted systematically in the compilation of these historical map sources, given that they were financed by subscription, and subscribers were given preference with regards to the level of detail provided. Thus, not every feature of interest from the perspective of archaeological resource management would have been within the scope of these sources.

The 1806 Map of Trafalgar Township (Wilmot, 1806) depicts the subject property within an unowned area labelled as plains (Figure 2). The subject property does not contain any structures, but an Indigenous trail is illustrated traversing the property. The trail extends from Lake Ontario to an Indigenous campsite to the north. Bronte Creek (here labelled as 10 Mile Creek) is illustrated to the west of the subject property.

The 1858 *Tremaine Map of Halton County* (Tremaine, 1858) illustrates the subject property in the centre of the Village of Bronte, east of Bronte Creek and northwest of Lake Ontario (Figure 3). The 1858 *Village of Bronte Map* shows that the property overlies Lots 11 and 12, Range III, fronting Triller Street (present-day Lakeshore Road West), between Jones Street (west) and Nelson Street (east). A



watercourse bisects the property in the northwest and exits at the southeast corner.

The 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Halton* (Pope, 1877) (Figure 5) depicts the subject property, similar to the 1858 *Tremaine* map, in the centre of the Village of Bronte.

Early topographic mapping from the 1915 was also reviewed to understand past land-use on the subject property (Department of Militia and Defence, 1915). Land features such as waterways, wetlands, woodlots, and elevation are clearly illustrated on this series of mapping, along with roads and structure locations. Figure 6 illustrates the subject property just below the 275-foot (84 metre) elevation contour on a gradual slope that extends southeast to the shore of Lake Ontario. The property remains in the centre of the Village of Bronte on the east side of Bronte Creek and is situated in a town block bound by present-day Lakeshore Road West to the south, Jones Street to the west, an unnamed watercourse to the north, and Nelson Street to the east. Although there are no buildings on the property, an unnamed watercourse flows through the north corner of the subject property. Bronte Creek, with areas of marsh on either side, is illustrated to the west.

### 1.2.5 Review of Aerial Imagery

In order to further understand the previous land use on the subject property, twentieth century (McMaster University, 2022) and twenty-first century aerial imagery was reviewed (Google Earth Pro, 2018).

In the 1954 aerial imagery, the subject property consists of a residential lot fronting Lakeshore Road West in the Village of Bronte (Figure 7). The east portion comprises of a partially graded area, associated with development to the east. The balance of the property consists of an open grassed area, which corresponds with the unnamed watercourse on earlier mapping.

In 1960 (Figure 7), the subject property has gone through significant changes. The east half of the property now consists of an extant commercial building and parking lot, while the western portion of the property consists of two residential



lots fronting Lakeshore Road West. The balance of the property still consists of an open area.

By 1962, the layout of buildings within the subject property remains similar to the previous imagery (Figure 7). However, the unnamed watercourse, depicted on earlier historic mapping (Figures 5-6) has now been channelized and runs along the north boundary of the subject property. Although there is snow cover on the ground, the channelized watercourse appears to have an embarkment on either side.

By 1999 (Figure 8), the subject property now contains a commercial buildings and associated asphalt parking lots fronting Lakeshore Road West. The commercial building within the east half of the property now has an addition to the east. The northwestern corner of the subject property remains the only unchanged portion of the property since 1962, as the remnant embankment of the former channelized watercourse is still visible.

In the 2009 aerial imagery (Figure 8), the west half of the property has undergone significant alterations. The commercial building and asphalt parking lot that was present in 1999 has now been demolished and turned into a gravel parking lot. The remnants of the asphalt parking lot can be seen in the central portion of the property. The embankment along the northwest limits of the property remains intact. The eastern portion of the property appears relatively unchanged, except for an additional expansion to the commercial building.

## 1.3 Archaeological Context

This section provides background research pertaining to previous archaeological fieldwork conducted within and in the vicinity of the subject property, its environment characteristics (including drainage, soils, surficial geology, and topography), and current land use and field conditions.

## **1.3.1** Registered Archaeological Sites

In order that an inventory of archaeological resources could be compiled for the subject property, three sources of information were consulted: the site record



forms for registered sites housed at the Ministry, published and unpublished documentary sources, and the files of Archaeological Services Inc.

In Ontario, information concerning archaeological sites is stored in the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database, which is maintained by the Ministry. This database contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system. The Borden system was first proposed by Doctor Charles E. Borden and is based on a block of latitude and longitude. Each Borden block measures approximately 13 kilometres east to west by 18.5 kilometres north to south and is referenced by a four-letter designator. Sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The subject property is in the AiGw Borden block.

Eleven sites have been registered within an approximate one-kilometre radius of the subject property (the Ministry, 2021). A detailed summary of the sites is in Table 2 below. The nearest site is the Glendella Hotel (AiGx-452) site, a multi-component archaeological site, located approximately 285 metres southeast of the subject property.

Table 2: Sites Located within a One-kilometre Radius of the Subject Property

Borden number	Site Name	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
AiGw-108	Fred Fell	Late Archaic		Roberts, 1975
AiGw-109	Flummerfelt	Archaic		Roberts, 1975
AiGw-110	Subdivision			N/A, 1975
AiGw-111	Walmsley	Late Archaic, Early Woodland		Roberts, 1975
AiGw-115	Cudmore	Archaic		Swayze and Emerson, 1973



Borden number	Site Name	Temporal/Cultural Affiliation	Site Type	Researcher
AiGw-338	Rebecca	Undetermined Indigenous	Scatter	Archaeological Services Inc., 1999
AiGw-452	Glendella Hotel	Undetermined Indigenous, Euro- Canadian	Midden, hotel	Archaeological Services Inc., 2006; 2007a
AiGw-459	AiGw-459 P1	Late Archaic	Campsite, findspot, scatter	Archaeological Services Inc., 2007b; 2007c
AiGw-460	Bronte Village	Undetermined Indigenous, Euro- Canadian	Scatter, homestead	Archaeological Services Inc., 2007b; 2007c
AiGw-552	AiGw-552 P1	Archaic		Archaeological Services Inc., 2012a; 2012b
AiGw-999		Undetermined Indigenous	Scatter	Archaeological Services Inc., 2018a; 2018b

#### 1.3.2 Previous Assessments

During the course of the background research, it was determined that no archaeological assessments are known to have been completed on or within 50 metres of the subject property.

## 1.3.3 Physiography

The subject property is located on the Sand Plains in the Iroquois Plain physiographic region. The Iroquois Plain physiographic region of Southern Ontario



is a lowland region bordering Lake Ontario. This region is characteristically flat and formed by lacustrine deposits laid down by the inundation of Lake Iroquois, a body of water that existed during the late Pleistocene. This region extends from the Trent River, around the western part of Lake Ontario, to the Niagara River, spanning a distance of 300 kilometres (Chapman and Putnam, 1984:190). The old shorelines of Lake Iroquois include cliffs, bars, beaches, and boulder pavements. The old sandbars in this region are good aquifers that supply water to farms and villages. The gravel bars are quarried for road and building material, while the clays of the old lake bed have been used for the manufacture of bricks (Chapman and Putnam, 1984:196).

The surficial geology of the subject property consists of coarse-textured glaciolacustrine deposits of sand, gravel, minor silt and clay from foreshore and basinal deposits (Ontario Geological Survey, 2000).

The subject property is within the Bronte Creek watershed (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2020). Bronte Creek is approximately 280 metres west of the subject property.

### 1.3.4 Existing Conditions

The subject property is 0.36 hectare and is located within a mixed-use commercial and residential area of the Village of Bronte (Figure 9). It is bounded by commercial lots to the east and west, residential lots to the north, and Lakeshore Road West to the south. The subject property consists of a gravel parking lot (Image 1), a ditch (Image 2), an asphalt parking lot (Images 3-4), and a commercial building (Images 5-7) (Figure 10).

### 1.3.5 Review of Indigenous Archaeological Potential

The Standards, Section 1.3.1 stipulates that lands within 300 metres of primary water sources (such as lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks), secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, and swamps), as well as ancient water sources (for example, glacial lake shorelines indicated by the presence of raised sand or gravel beach ridges, relic river or stream channels indicated by clear dip or swale in the topography, shorelines of drained lakes or marshes, and cobble beaches) are characteristics that indicate archaeological



potential. Geographic characteristics also indicate archaeological potential and include distinct topographic features and soils.

Potable water is the single most important resource necessary for any extended human occupation or settlement. Since water sources have remained relatively stable in south central Ontario after the Pleistocene era, proximity to water can be regarded as a useful index for the evaluation of archaeological site potential. Indeed, distance from water has been one of the most commonly used variables for predictive modelling of site location.

Other geographic characteristics that can indicate pre-contact archaeological potential include elevated topography (eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateaux), pockets of well-drained sandy soil, especially near areas of heavy soil or rocky ground, and distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places for indigenous populations, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. There may be physical indicators of their use by indigenous peoples, such as burials, structures, offerings, rock paintings or carvings. Resource areas, including food or medicinal plants (migratory routes, spawning areas, prairie), and scarce raw materials (quartz, copper, ochre, or outcrops of chert) are also considered characteristics that indicate pre-contact archaeological potential.

The generic distance to water potential model has been refined for the *Master Plan of Archaeological Resources of the Regional Municipality of Halton* (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2009). According to the modelling criteria, all undisturbed lands within 200 metres of any water source have Indigenous archaeological potential. This was further refined to include all lands beyond 200 metres of water, but within 200 metres of the top of bank of all two-line rivers, including the Credit River and Bronte Creek, to also have significant potential for selection by pre-contact peoples.

Given that the subject property overlies an early trail associated with Bronte Creek, and the presence of an unnamed watercourse traversing the property in historical mapping, the property would typically be considered to contain Indigenous archaeological site potential. However, aerial imagery from 1954 to 1999 indicates that the entire subject property was thoroughly disturbed by



various development, demolition, and grading activities within the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Given the extent of these disturbances, no Indigenous archaeological resources may be expected to survive.

### 1.3.6 Review of Historical Archaeological Potential

The Standards, Section 1.3.1 stipulate that areas of early Euro-Canadian settlement, including places of early military pioneer settlement (pioneer homesteads, isolated cabins, farmstead complexes), early wharf or dock complexes, pioneer churches, and early cemeteries, are considered to have archaeological potential. There may be commemorative markers of their history, such as local, provincial, or federal monuments or heritage parks. Early historical transportation routes (trails, passes, roads, railways, portage routes), properties listed on a municipal register or designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* or a federal, provincial, or municipal historical landmark or site, and properties that local histories or informants have identified with possible archaeological sites, historical events, activities, or occupations are also considered to have archaeological potential.

For the Euro-Canadian period, most early nineteenth-century farmsteads (such as those which are arguably the most potentially significant resources and whose locations are rarely recorded on nineteenth century maps) are likely to be captured by the basic proximity to the water model, since these occupations were subject to similar environmental constraints. An added factor, however, is the development of the network of concession roads and railroads through the course of the nineteenth century. These transportation routes frequently influenced the siting of farmsteads and businesses. Accordingly, undisturbed lands within 100 metres of an early historical transportation route are also considered to have potential for the presence of Euro-Canadian archaeological sites.

The Master Plan of Archaeological Resources of the Regional Municipality of Halton Plan considers a similar suite of criteria or indicators (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2009). There is potential for historical sites within 100 metres of registered or designated historical sites, cemeteries and features illustrated on historical maps. There is also potential within 100 metres of settlement roads and



early railways. There are no registered Euro-Canadian sites within 100 metres of the property.

Given that the subject property fronts present-day Lakeshore Road West, which was constructed in 1832, and is located within the historical village of Bronte, the subject property would typically be considered to contain Euro-Canadian archaeological site potential. However, the lots making up the subject property remained as undeveloped land until at least the 1920s, and they may not have been built upon until the period between 1946 and 1949 when they were bought from the Township by private owners. Moreover, aerial imagery indicates that the entire subject property was thoroughly disturbed by various development, demolition and grading activities in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Given the extent of these disturbances, no Euro-Canadian archaeological resources may be expected to survive.

## 2.0 Field Methods

A Stage 1 field review was completed on March 6, 2022, in order to assess the geography, topography, and current conditions of the project area, as well as to evaluate and map archaeological potential of the project area prior to development. The field review was conducted by Robb Bhardwaj (P449) and was carried out in accordance with the Standards. The weather conditions were appropriate for the completion of fieldwork, permitting good visibility of the land features.

Representative photos documenting the field conditions during the Stage 1 field review are presented in Section 7.0 of this report, and photo locations and field observations have been compiled on project mapping. (Images 1-7; Figure 10).

## 2.1 Findings

Inspection of various imagery sources (Figures 7-8) and upon the conclusion of the Stage 1 field review, it was determined that the entire subject property is devoid of archaeological potential due to extensive and deep land alteration (Figure 10). These disturbances include the construction and subsequent demolition of various structures and grading on the property. In accordance with



the Standards, Section 1.3.2, this degree of extensive and deep land alteration has removed all potential for the survival of archaeological resources within the subject property.

# 3.0 Analysis and Conclusions

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by Graywood Bronte Village Limited Partnership c/o Graywood Developments to complete a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment of 2365-2377 Lakeshore Road West, Lots 177 and 178, and Part of Lot 179, Plan M-7(BA-147), Part of Lot 29, Broken Front Concession, Geographic Township of Halton, County of Halton, now in the Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton. The subject property is approximately 0.36 hectare.

The Stage 1 background research entailed consideration of the proximity of previously registered archaeological sites and the original environmental setting of the property, along with its development history, as well guidance from the *Master Plan of Archaeological Resources for the Regional Municipality of Halton* (Archaeological Services Inc., 1998, 2009). This research has indicated that there would typically be potential for the presence of both Indigenous and Euro-Canadian archaeological resources on the subject property. It was concluded, however, that the presence of any intact archaeological deposits within the property is unlikely due to the widespread and intensive ground disturbance across the entire property from previous development and grading activities.

The Stage 1 field review confirmed that the entire subject property had been heavily altered by extensive and deep ground disturbance between 1960 and 2009. The construction and demolition techniques employed during this time would have obliterated any traces of earlier occupations within the property.

## 4.0 Recommendations

In light of these results, the following recommendation is made:

1. The subject property may be considered free of archaeological concern. No further archaeological assessment is required.



**NOTWITHSTANDING** the results and recommendations presented in this study, Archaeological Services Inc. notes that no archaeological assessment, no matter how thorough or carefully completed, can necessarily predict, account for, or identify every form of isolated or deeply buried archaeological deposit. In the event that archaeological remains are found during subsequent construction activities, the consultant archaeologist, approval authority, and the Cultural Programs Unit of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries must be immediately notified.

The above recommendations are subject to Ministry approval, and it is an offence to alter any archaeological site without Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries concurrence. No grading or other activities that may result in the destruction or disturbance of any archaeological sites are permitted until notice of Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries approval has been received.

# 5.0 Advice on Compliance with Legislation

Archaeological Services Inc. advises compliance with the following legislation:

- This report is submitted to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 2005, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that it complies with the standards and guidelines that are issued by the Minister, and that the archaeological field work and report recommendations ensure the conservation, preservation, and protection of the cultural heritage of Ontario. When all matters relating to archaeological sites within the project area of a development proposal have been addressed to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, a letter will be issued by the Ministry stating that there are no further concerns with regards to alterations to archaeological sites by the proposed development.
- It is an offence under Sections 48 and 69 of the Ontario Heritage Act for any
  party other than a licensed archaeologist to make any alteration to a known
  archaeological site or to remove any artifact or other physical evidence of
  past human use or activity from the site, until such time as a licensed
  archaeologist has completed archaeological field work on the site,



submitted a report to the Minister stating that the site has no further cultural heritage value or interest, and the report has been filed in the Ontario Public Register of Archaeology Reports referred to in Section 65.1 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

- Should previously undocumented archaeological resources be discovered, they may be a new archaeological site and therefore subject to Section 48

   (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act. The proponent or person discovering the archaeological resources must cease alteration of the site immediately and engage a licensed consultant archaeologist to carry out archaeological fieldwork, in compliance with Section 48 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.
- The Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c.33, requires that any person discovering or having knowledge of a burial site shall immediately notify the police or coroner. It is recommended that the Registrar of Cemeteries at the Ministry of Consumer Services is also immediately notified.
- Archaeological sites recommended for further archaeological field work or protection remain subject to Section 48(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act and may not be altered, nor may artifacts be removed from them, except by a person holding an archaeological license.

# 6.0 Bibliography and Sources

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# 7.0 Images



Image 1: View of the west half of the subject property, looking south.



Image 2: View of diverted watercourse along the north limit of the subject property, looking southwest from the centre of the property.





Image 3: View of the east half of the property and rear of the existing building fronting Lakeshore Road West, looking southeast.



Image 4: View of the east half of the property and rear of the existing building fronting Lakeshore Road West, looking southeast.





Image 5: View of the rear parking lot, looking southwest from the north corner of the property.

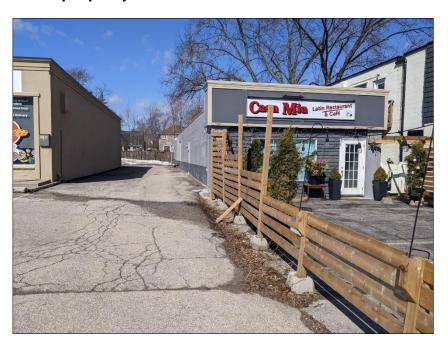


Image 6: View of the east limit of the subject property, looking northwest from east corner of the property.





Image 7: View of the parking lot fronting Lakeshore Road West, looking north.



## **8.0** Maps

See following pages for detailed assessment mapping and figures



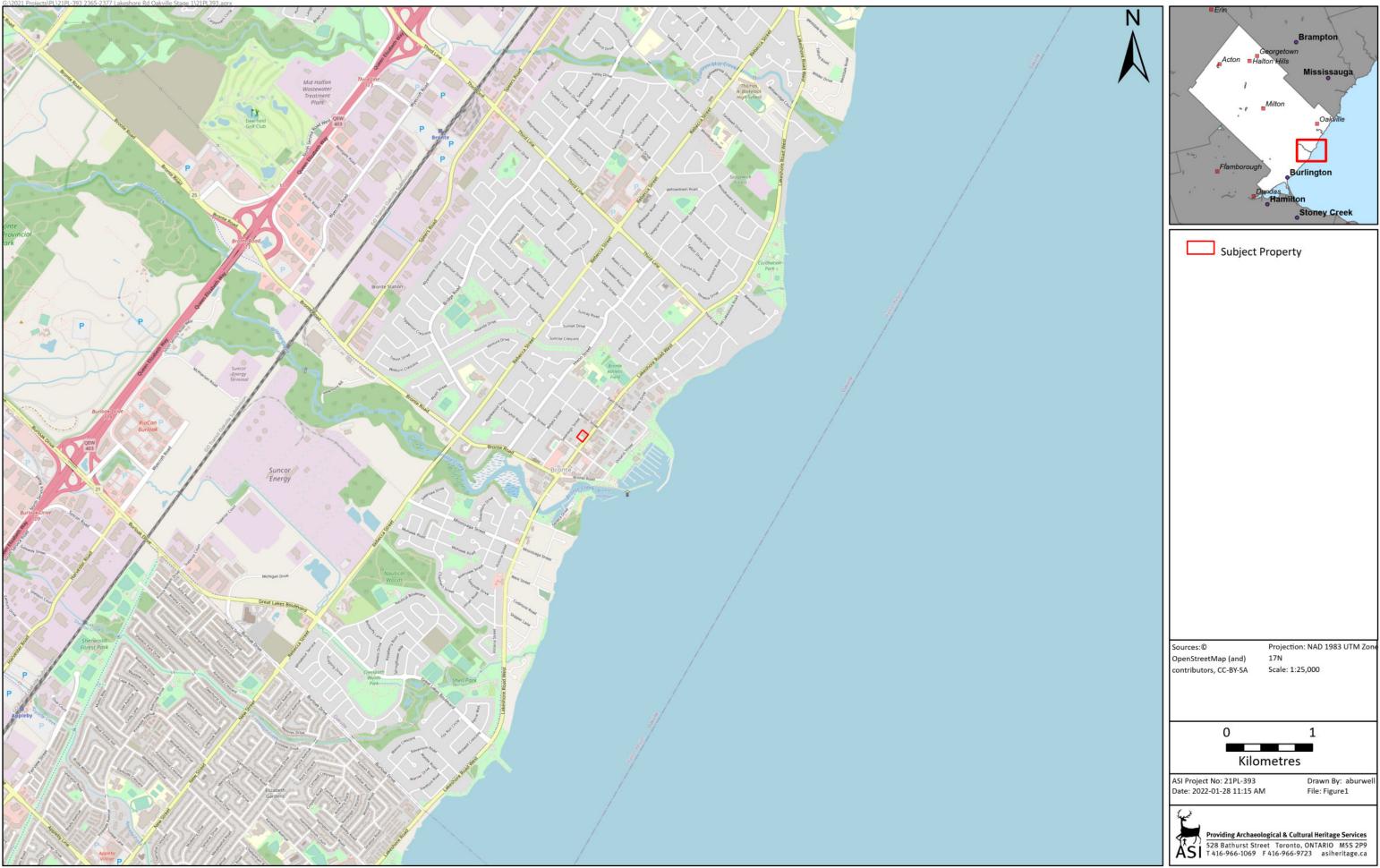


Figure 1: Location of the Subject Property



Figure 2: Subject Property Located on the 1806 Map of Trafalgar Township

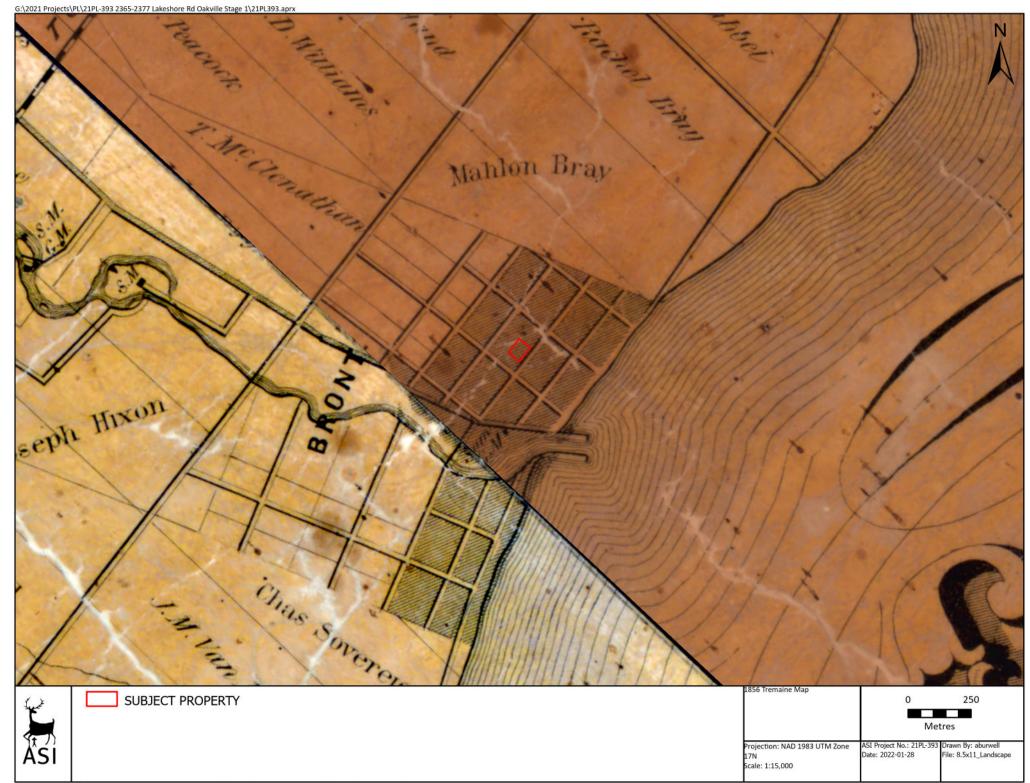


Figure 3: Subject Property Located on the 1858 Tremaine Map of Halton County

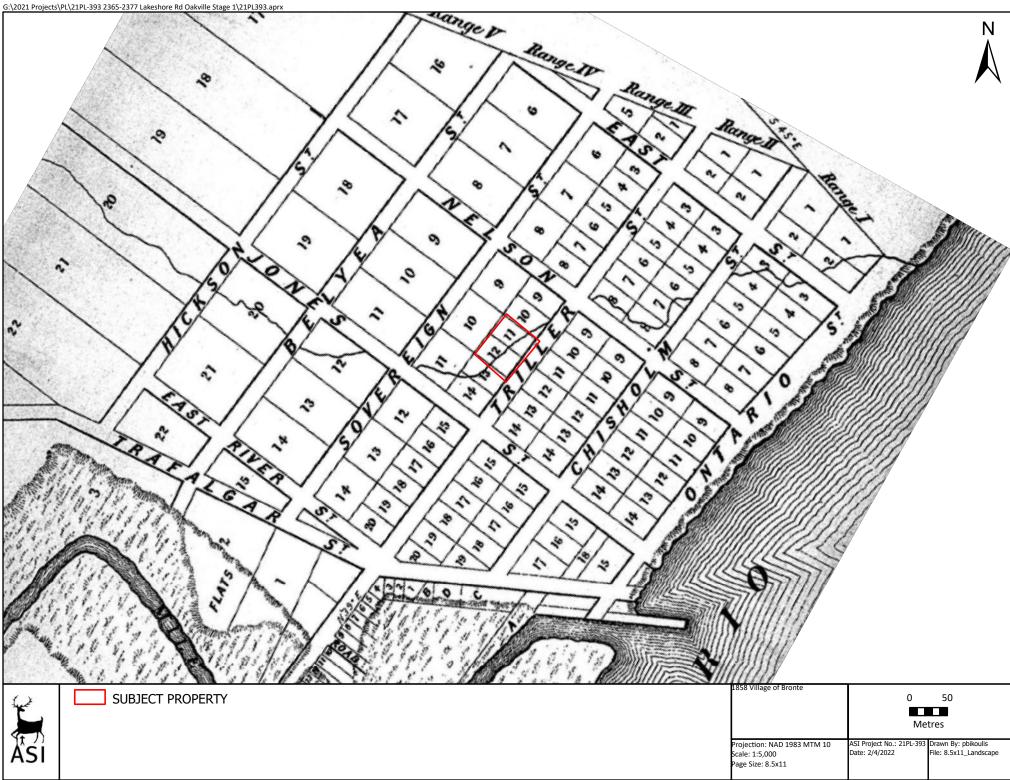


Figure 4: Subject Property Located on the 1858 Village of Bronte Map

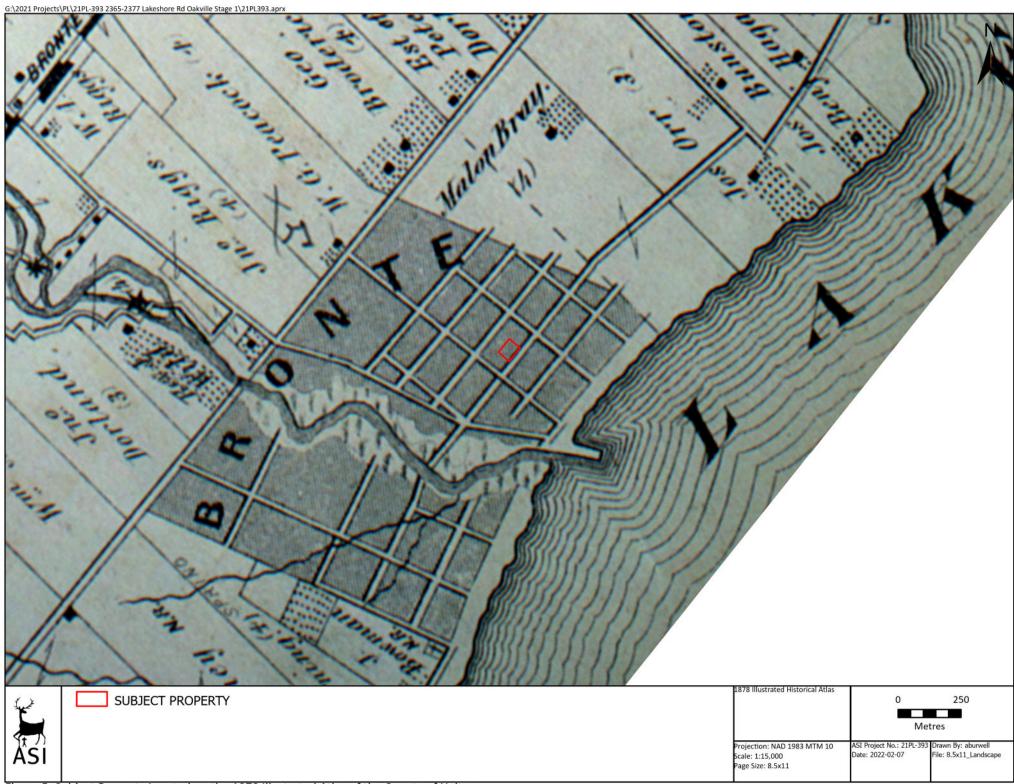


Figure 5: Subject Property Located on the 1878 Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton

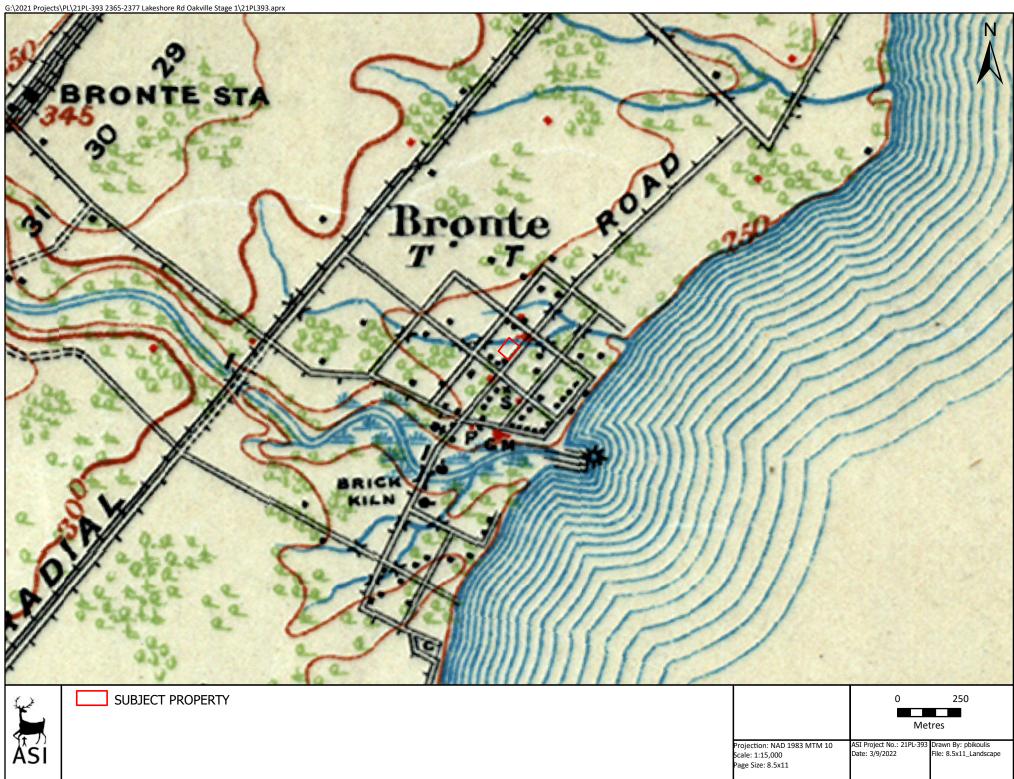


Figure 6: Subject Property Located on the 1915 Hamilton Topographic Map









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Figure 9: Existing Conditions of the Subject Property

