Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment
The Shaver Estates Neighbourhood Park
Project Number 02-1042.00.PG,
Part of Lot 37, Concession 3
Former Township of Ancaster, County of Wentworth
Now the City of Hamilton

Prepared for:

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Archaeological Licence P049 (Debbie Steiss)
MCL CIF P049-502-2010
ASI File 10TS-008

July 2010
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by the City of Hamilton, Ontario, to conduct a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of The Shaver Estates Neighbourhood Park, within Lot 37, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Ancaster, County of Wentworth, now in the City of Hamilton. The subject property is comprised of approximately two hectares.

The Stage 1 background research revealed that no archaeological sites had previously been registered within the limits of the subject property and that 32 sites had been registered within a one kilometre radius. A review of the subject property’s physiography determined that it is situated in close proximity to a tributary of Big Creek and an unnamed watercourse. A review of the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wentworth revealed that present day Shaver Road and Highway 2 (Wilson Street East) are located just west and north of the subject property. Based on these factors, the subject property is situated within a zone of historical and pre-contact archaeological potential.

The Stage 2 assessment was completed by a test pit survey of the areas deemed to have archaeological potential employing five metre transect intervals, depending on the degree of disturbance. All test pits were hand excavated into subsoil and all topsoil was screened through 6 mm mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Upon completion, all of the test pits were completely backfilled. During the course of the survey, no archaeological resources were found.

It is recommended that the subject property be considered clear of any further archaeological concern with the proviso that the appropriate authorities be contacted if deeply buried archaeological or human remains be encountered during future development of this subject property.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES INC.  
PLANNING DIVISION  

PROJECT PERSONNEL  

Project Manager: Beverly Garner, Hon. BA, Assistant Manager of Planning Division  
Project Director: Debbie Steiss, MA, Partner & Senior Archaeologist (P049)  
Field Director: Robert Wojtowicz, BSc, Staff Archaeologist (R291)  
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Graphics: Nicole Gavin  
Report Reviewer: Beverly Garner
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by the City of Hamilton to conduct a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of the Shaver Estates Neighbourhood Park – Project Number 02-1042.00.PG, Part of Lot 37, Concession 3, Former Township of Ancaster, County of Wentworth, Now the City of Hamilton (Figure 1). The subject property is comprised of approximately two hectares.

Figure 1: The location of the subject property, Brantford NTS Sheet 40 P/01 and Hamilton-Grimsby NTS Sheet 30 M/04

The Stage 2 assessment was conducted under the field direction of Mr. Robert Wojtowicz on July 6, 2010 and project direction of Ms. Debbie Steiss (MCL CIF # P049-502-2010) in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act (RSO 1990, 2005). Ms. Beverly Garner was the project manager.

Permission to access the subject property and to carry out the activities necessary for the completion of the Stage 2 assessment was granted by the City of Hamilton on January 25, 2010.
2.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

A Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment involves research to describe the known and potential archaeological resources within the vicinity of a subject property. The background research for such an assessment incorporates a review of previous archaeological research, physiography, and nineteenth and twentieth-century development for the subject property. Background research was completed to identify any archaeological sites in the subject property and to assess its archaeological potential.

2.1 Previous Archaeological Research

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 of Tourism and Culture; 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 (O.A.S.D.), a database maintained by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. This database contains archaeological sites registered within the Borden system.

Under the Borden system, Canada has been divided into grid blocks based on latitude and longitude. A Borden block is approximately 13 kilometres east to west, and approximately 18.5 kilometres north to south. A four-letter designator references each Borden block, and sites within a block are numbered sequentially as they are found. The subject area under review is located within the AhHa Borden block.

No archaeological sites are located within the subject property, however, 32 sites are located within a one kilometre radius of the subject property.

There are two sites that are in close proximity to the subject property; Swamp Edge site (AhHa-186) and Second site (AhHa-187), both located east of the property limits within Lot 37, Concession 3. Swamp Edge (AhHa-186) is a Late Archaic, Early Iroquoian site and was documented by Philip Woodley in 2002. Over 500 artifacts were collected, including an abundance of lithic debitage, pre-contact ceramics and lithic tools. The artifact assemblage classified the site as a camp. The Second site (AhHa-187), also documented in 2002 by Philip Woodley, is a Late Archaic camp. Over 40 artifacts were recovered from the site including lithic debitage, and various projectile points. Of particular interest are two small points that were collected; one Innis projectile point, circa 1,500 B.C. and one Crawford Knoll projectile point, circa 1,300 – 900 B.C.

Another site to note is the Snyder Cemetery (AhHa-26), located just south of Garner Road in Lot 38, Concession 4. Neutral/Iroquoian human remains and artifacts, such as glass, copper, shell and iron beads were unearthed in 1983. This site was documented by George Parkin.

A complete summary of all 32 of the sites is provided below in Table 1. Regional sites can be expected to relate to the cultural/temporal categories outlined in Table 2.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borden #</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Cultural Affiliation</th>
<th>Site Type</th>
<th>Researcher</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>AhHa-3</td>
<td>Snyder</td>
<td>Iroquois/Neutral/Historic</td>
<td>Village</td>
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<td>Cemetery</td>
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<td>Campsite</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Undetermined</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AhHa-62</td>
<td>Westview</td>
<td>Middle Archaic</td>
<td>Scatter</td>
<td>P. Lennox, 1988</td>
</tr>
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<td>P. Lennox, 1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>AhHa-89</td>
<td>Old Shed</td>
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<td>Undetermined</td>
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<td>P. Lennox, 1988</td>
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<td>Little Shaver</td>
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<td>Campsite</td>
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<td>AhHa-166</td>
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<td>Archaic</td>
<td>Findspot</td>
<td>MTO, 1993</td>
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<td>AhHa-186</td>
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<td>Campsite</td>
<td>P. Woodley, 2002</td>
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<td>Second</td>
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<td>Campsite</td>
<td>P. Woodley, 2002</td>
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<td>Tag</td>
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<td>Campsite</td>
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<td>Late Archaic</td>
<td>Campsite</td>
<td>P. Woodley, 2002</td>
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<td>Unnamed</td>
<td>Late Woodland</td>
<td>Findspot</td>
<td>G. Warrick, 1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>AhHa-197</td>
<td>Sam's Estate 1</td>
<td>Pre-contact Aboriginal</td>
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<td>Scatter</td>
<td>H. Martelle, 2005</td>
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<td>H. Martelle, 2005</td>
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<td>Pre-contact Aboriginal</td>
<td>Scatter</td>
<td>H. Martelle, 2005</td>
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<td>Scatter</td>
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<td>Findspot</td>
<td>NDA Ltd, 2006</td>
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<td>Scatter</td>
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<td>Pre-contact Aboriginal</td>
<td>Scatter</td>
<td>Mayer Heritage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MTO* - Ministry of Transportation      NDA Ltd.** - New Directions Archaeology Ltd.
2.2 Physiographic Setting and Assessment of Pre-contact Archaeological Potential

The subject property falls within the Haldimand Clay Plain physiographic region of southern Ontario. The Haldimand Clay Plain is among the largest of the physiographic regions of southern Ontario, comprising approximately 3,500 square kilometres (Chapman and Putnam 1984:156; MacDonald 1980:3). Generally, this region is flat and poorly drained, although it includes several distinctive landforms including dunes, cobble, clay, and sand beaches, limestone pavements, and back-shore wetland basins. More specifically, the property lies within the Onondaga Sand Plain Transition subregion (MacDonald 1980). The Onondaga Sand Plain Transition is a somewhat poorly defined subregion of southwest-sloping, gently rolling, morainic clay plains with broad expanses of thin sandy 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 modeling of site location.

The MTC’s Draft Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2009:5) stipulates that primary water sources (lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, etc.), secondary water sources (intermittent streams and creeks, springs, marshes, swamps, etc.), ancient water sources (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, cobble beaches, etc.), as well as accessible or inaccessible shorelines (high bluffs, swamp or marsh fields by the edge of a lake, sandbars stretching into marsh, etc.) are characteristics that indicate archaeological potential. The subject property is located approximately 200 metres west of a tributary of Big Creek and approximately 35 metres northeast of an unnamed creek.
Other geographic characteristics that can indicate 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, distinctive land formations that might have been special or spiritual places, such as waterfalls, rock outcrops, caverns, mounds, and promontories and their bases. Resource areas are also considered to be characteristics that indicate archaeological potential (MTC 2009:5-6).

Based on the proximity to a tributary of Big Creek and the unnamed creek, the subject property is considered to have the potential for the recovery of pre-contact archaeological remains, depending on the degree of modern land disturbances.

### 2.3 Summary Review of Nineteenth-Century Maps and Assessment of Historical Archaeological Potential

The 1878 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wentworth* was reviewed to determine the potential for the presence of historical archaeological remains within the subject property. The subject property is comprised of Part of Lot 37, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Ancaster, County of Wentworth.

The *Atlas* shows that the subject property was under the ownership of Mr. Daniel Shaver. The *Canadian County Atlas Digital Project* indicates that Mr. Shaver was a Canadian-born farmer who settled in Wentworth County in 1813. He owned the entire 200 acres that constitute Lot 37, Concession 3 and 50 acres in the north part of Lot 38, Concession 3. Daniel was a stock raiser and a Justice of the Peace. His Victorian homestead, dating to circa 1860, is depicted just north of Highway 2, currently at 377 Shaver Road (Mikel, 2004). No features are indicated within the subject property on the historical map (Figure 3).

The property is located in close proximity to two historic transportation routes; present-day Shaver Road to the west and Highway 2 (Wilson Street East) to the north, which leads into the historic settlement of Ancaster.

It should be noted that 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 regard to the level of detail provided. Moreover, not every feature of interest from the perspective of archaeological resource management would have been within the scope of these sources.

The MTC’s *Draft Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists* (2009:6) stipulates that areas of early Euro-Canadian 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 historic 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. Therefore, based on the close proximity to historic Highway 2 (Wilson Street East) and Shaver Road, the subject property is considered to have the potential for the recovery of historical archaeological remains within the subject property depending on the degree of more recent land disturbance.

### 3.0 STAGE 2 FIELD WORK

The Stage 2 field assessment was carried out in order to inventory and describe any archaeological resources extant on the subject property prior to development. Field observations have been compiled on project mapping for the subject property (Figure 3).

#### 3.1 Methods

The archaeological assessment was conducted under the field direction of Mr. Robert Wojtowicz on July 6, 2010. The weather was hot with a mix of sun and clouds.

The property is bounded by Brooking Court to the east, a new subdivision to the south and a steep slope to the north (Figure 3; Plates 1-2). Dense bush covers the majority of the property, including deciduous and conifer trees, shrubs, tall grasses, weeds, sedges and cattails. The topography is relatively flat with a gentle slope towards the low and wet areas of the property.

The majority of the subject property is comprised of low and wet lands (Figure 3; Plates 3-4). Vegetation within this area is consistent with seasonal or continuously wet landscape and includes sedges, cattails and willow trees (Figure 3; Plate 5). Low and wet areas are not considered to have archaeological potential; therefore, the central portion of the property was not subject to further archaeological concern.

Also excluded from further survey was the steep slope along the northern boundary, as well as two portions of disturbed land along the western and southern boundaries. The placement of relocated soil and modern construction debris was evident in these locations; most likely relating to the new subdivision in the south and the construction of the homes on Brooking Court (see Plate 1 and Figure 3; Plate 6). These areas were considered to be disturbed and excluded from further archaeological concern.

The remainder of the subject property was subject to test pit survey at five metre transect intervals (Figure 3; Plate 7). Test pits were hand excavated into subsoil and all of the topsoil was screened through six millimetre mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Upon completion, all of the test pits were backfilled. Test pits comprised of approximately 25-30 cm of dark reddish brown clay loam atop reddish brown clay subsoil (Figure 3; Plate 8). Despite careful scrutiny, no archaeological resources were found.
Figure 3: Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment of The Shaver Estates Neighbourhood Park - Project Number 02-1042.00.PG, City of Hamilton.
4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeological Services Inc. was contracted by the City of Hamilton, Ontario, to conduct a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Assessment of The Shaver Estates Neighbourhood Park, within Lot 37, Concession 3, in the Geographic Township of Ancaster, County of Wentworth, now in the City of Hamilton. The subject property is comprised of approximately two hectares.

The Stage 1 background research revealed that no archaeological sites had previously been registered within the limits of the subject property and that 32 sites had been registered within a one kilometre radius. A review of the subject property’s physiography determined that it is situated in close proximity to a tributary of Big Creek and an unnamed watercourse. A review of the 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wentworth revealed that present-day Shaver Road and Highway 2 (Wilson Street East) are located just west and north of the subject property. Based on these factors, the subject property is situated within a zone of historical and pre-contact archaeological potential.

The Stage 2 assessment was completed by a test pit survey of the areas deemed to have archaeological potential employing five metre transect intervals, depending on the degree of disturbance. All test pits were hand excavated into subsoil and all topsoil was screened through 6 mm mesh to facilitate artifact recovery. Upon completion, all of the test pits were completely backfilled. During the course of the survey, no archaeological resources were found.

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

1. The subject property may be considered free of any further archaeological concern.

The following conditions also apply:

- This report is submitted to the Minister of Tourism and Culture as a condition of licensing in accordance with Part VI of the Ontario Heritage Act, RSO 1990, c 0.18. The report is reviewed to ensure that the licensed consultant archaeologist has met the terms and conditions of their archaeological licence, and that the archaeological fieldwork and report recommendations ensure the conservation, preservation and protection of the cultural heritage of Ontario.

- 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 sec. 48 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

- The Cemeteries Act requires that any person discovering human remains must immediately notify the police or coroner and the Registrar of Cemeteries, Ministry of Consumer Services.

The documentation related to this archaeological assessment will be curated by Archaeological Services Inc. until such a time that arrangements for their ultimate transfer to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Ontario, or other public institution, can be made to the satisfaction of the project owner(s), the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture, and any other legitimate interest groups.
5.0 REFERENCES CITED

Chapman, L.J., and D.F. Putnam

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Wentworth, Ontario
1878 Reprinted in 1972 by Mika Silk Screening Limited, Belleville, Ontario.

MacDonald, I. D.

Mikel, Robert

MTC (Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture)

The Canadian County Atlas Digital Project
6.0 PHOTOGRAPHY

Plate 1: View of southern boundary and disturbance.
Plate 2: View of steep slope along northern boundary.
Plate 3: View of vegetation in central portion of property.
Plate 4: View of low/wet vegetation.
Plate 5: View of low/wet conditions in southwestern portion of the property.

Plate 6: View of the disturbed portion along Brooking Court and the low/wet area.

Plate 7: View of field crew conducting a test pit survey in the southern half of the property.

Plate 8: View of excavated test pit in southern half of the property.