

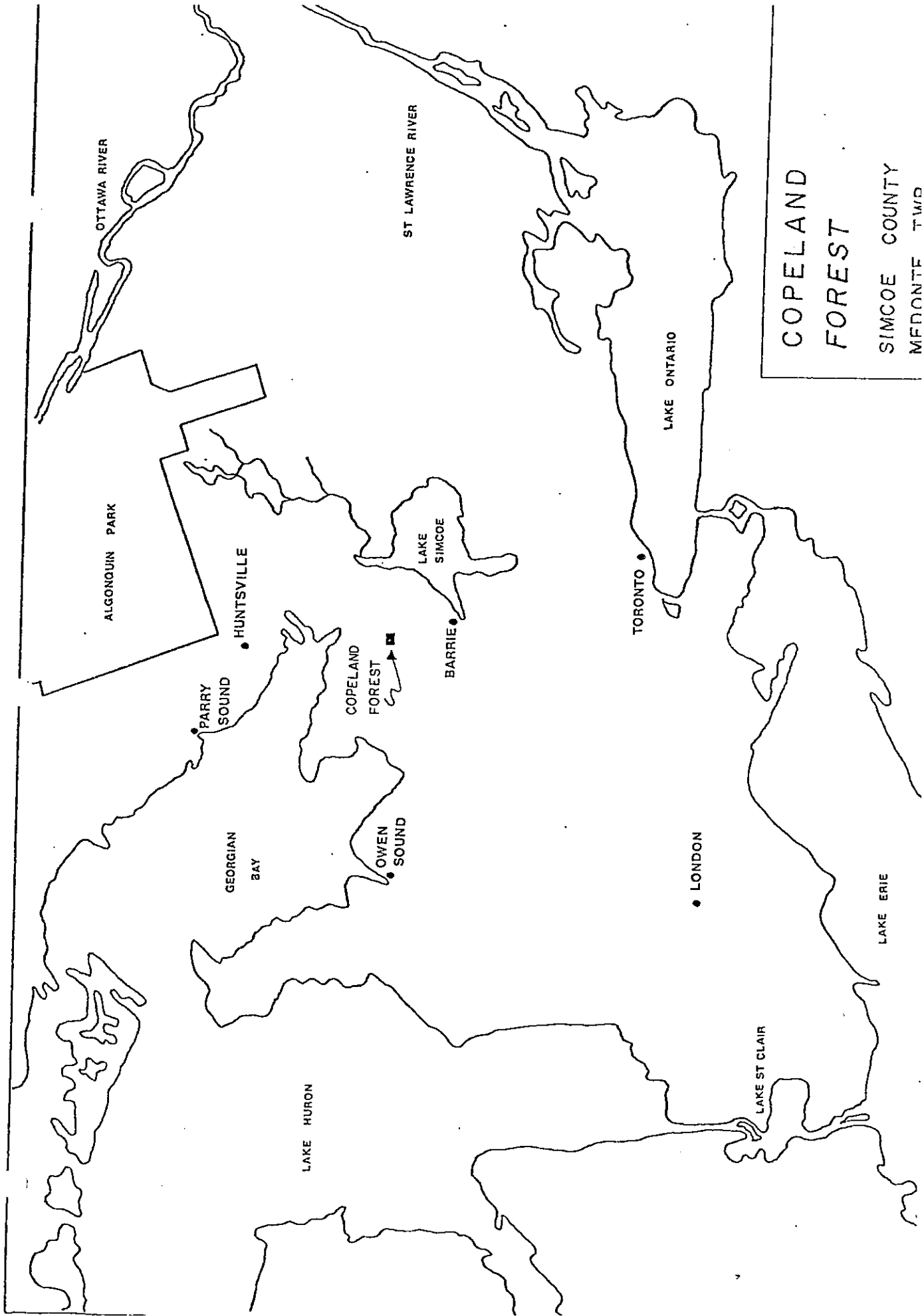
REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE  
COPELAND FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA,  
MEDONTE TOWNSHIP COUNTY OF SIMCOE.

STUDY CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND RECREATION FOR THE  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

D. Spittal  
Project Archaeologist  
September 1979

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) Since no significant archaeological resources were disclosed by the 1979 survey, no further work of an archaeological nature is recommended for the Copeland Forest. Monitoring of areas which are disturbed during future development activity is recommended in the event that further find-spots are revealed.
  
- (2) In regard to the historical segment of the area's cultural resources, it is strongly recommended that a thorough historical overview of the mill complex and associated community of Martinville be undertaken. The area of the mills, railway spur and dwellings located at the main entrance to the Forest was once a small but thriving commercial centre and exerted an important influence on the local area. It could advantageously be incorporated into an interpretive programme for users of the Copeland Forest.



COPELAND  
FOREST  
SIMCOE COUNTY  
MFRONTE TWD

## INTRODUCTION

Survey of the Copeland Forest Resources Management Area was undertaken by personnel from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation in liaison with the Ministry of Natural Resources, the agency responsible for the management and development of the property.

The purpose of the survey was to locate and identify possible archaeological resources located on the property and to submit this data to the Ministry of Natural Resources with the intent that this information be incorporated into their planning processes in advance of actual on-site development.

## SURVEY METHODS

In-field archaeological survey was conducted by a walking survey through all accessible areas east of the 3rd line and through selected areas west of the 3rd line. Random 1" x 1" test pits were dug with shovel and trowel wherever possible along all walked transects. In addition, areas more likely to contain archaeological resources because of their proximity to water etc., were more intensively test-pitted. Any exposed areas such as stream banks, eroded areas, tree falls and gravel pits were surface examined as they were encountered. Most roadways in the property were also surface surveyed. When artifacts were encountered, the general area of the find was intensively test-pitted and surface examined. No test excavation was undertaken on the property.

Interviews with Mr. J. Copeland, the former owner of the property, and with several of the people removing timber from the property revealed no useful information regarding archaeological sites. All of these individuals have extensive knowledge of the property,

## SURVEY RESULTS

In the course of survey, three locations yielded evidence of prehistoric occupation of the Copeland Forest and environs. Only one isolated find of aboriginal material was actually made on the Copeland Forest property; the other two finds were made on land adjacent to the management area.

### BdGw-29

Included in the Regional sites files was a reference for a reported site in the west half of Lot 2, Concession III, Medonte Township. When this portion of the Copeland Forest was test-pitted, a single projectile point fragment was discovered. The location of this isolated find was adjacent to a minor drainage feature, presently dry. This small stream bed arises at the foot of the highlands to the south and drains in a north-westerly direction, away from the highlands and eventually into the low swamplands to the north. The area of the find represents a fairly level stretch of ground which lies at the foot of the highlands and separates them from the swampy lowlands a few hundred metres to the north.

Soil overburden is typical of the Copeland Forest and is a fairly clean pebbly sand. Natural springs are common in this area of the Forest.

The artifact recovered is the basal part of the stemmed projectile point. It is biconvex in cross-section, weakly notched with an expanding stem and convex base. Secondary retouch is bifacial on stem and lateral edges. The raw material from which this item is produced is a waxy, grey mottled chert, identified as Kettle Point chert.

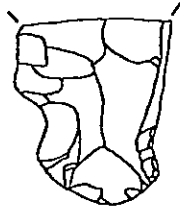
Three small pottery fragments were located on the surface of a corn field. Despite intensive survey of the field and test-pitting of the Copeland property nearby, the artifact sample could not be increased. The sherds are very small, thin, and only one bears decoration. A few parallel incised lines can be seen on one sherdlet.

The nature of the remains recovered suggests that this is a small temporary campsite of the Woodland Period. More specifically, the site is probably a field camp associated with a larger site, the Ellesmere-Morrison site, located only 1 kilometre to the west.

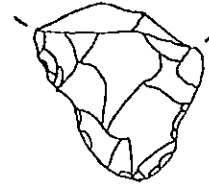
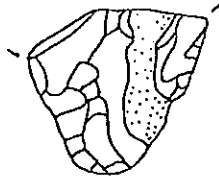
The Ellesmere-Morrison site (BdGw-1) is a large Huron village, about 7 acres in size and dates to the contact period (16th Century A.D.). It is an agricultural settlement. Incorporated into the village would have been fields where a variety of crops were raised, notably corn. Small groups of people tended the fields and sometimes lived in small temporary field camps. It is suggested that the pottery remains located by the 1979 survey represent one such field camp. The property in this area is level and the soil is a light, well drained pebbly sand, suitable for aboriginal agricultural pursuits.

Besides a surface survey of the corn field, special attention was given to the adjacent property across the fenced row to the east; property which is within the Copeland Management Area proper. No additional artifacts were recovered. If this small site does extend onto the Copeland property, it would be badly disturbed as the road allowance between Concessions II and III runs alongside this area.

LITHIC ARTIFACTS - COPELAND FOREST



A. Isolated Find BdGw-29



B. Isolated Find BdGv-13

east. It is assumed that the Copeland property has been under water at some time in the past.

The low-lying, wet nature of the Copeland Forest property has exerted an important influence on the cultural history of the area. In recent times, only a small part of the property has been developed for agricultural purposes. Limited areas were at one time cleared for farming. These areas are not extensive and have not been utilized within the past few decades. The community of Martinville at the main entrance on the 3rd Concession was a mill complex. As an economic enterprise, this complex exploited the timber available on the property, notably in the production of cedar shingles which face many old buildings in the area and which can still be seen on houses and farm buildings at least as far away as Elmvale.

Beyond limited exploitation of timber on the property and short-lived agricultural pursuits, the Copeland Forest has not seen extensive development in the recent past. As witness to the unsuitability of the property for such development the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Concession lines do not run across the property as opened and improved roadways and with the exception of the Ingram Road, there are no open lot lines developed as roadways across the Forest area. All around the Copeland property, side roads and Concession lines are open and developed.

As it is presently and was in the recent past, so it appears to have been in more remote prehistoric times. The Copeland Forest with its low-lying wet landscape presented an unfavourable area for extensive occupation by aboriginal peoples. No extensive or significant archaeological remains were discovered on the property.

It should be noted, however, that the surrounding areas of Medonte, Oro and Flos Townships did contain large numbers of settlements



The Copeland Forest is ideal for supporting large numbers of animal species. Deer, bear, wolf, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, racoon, turtles, fish, grouse and other species are found on the property in sizeable numbers. All are species exploited by prehistoric hunters for food. This low, wet property provides an excellent hunting territory for peoples of both the Archaic and Woodland periods. In addition, a large and diverse plant assemblage is and would have been available for prehistoric exploitation.

Access to the Forest is easy from the adjacent uplands and via the Willow Creek and Coldwater River. It should be noted that hunting activity is still going on in the Copeland Forest.

The Copeland Forest can be interpreted as an area that was exploited in a temporary and occasional way for its rich floral and faunal resources but that was avoided by peoples seeking a place of permanent habitation.

This interpretation can be applied to both the Archaic and Woodland period peoples and also to the more modern population of recent historic times. In all periods, the nearby highlands were the areas of choice for all major activities.

## HISTORIC FEATURES

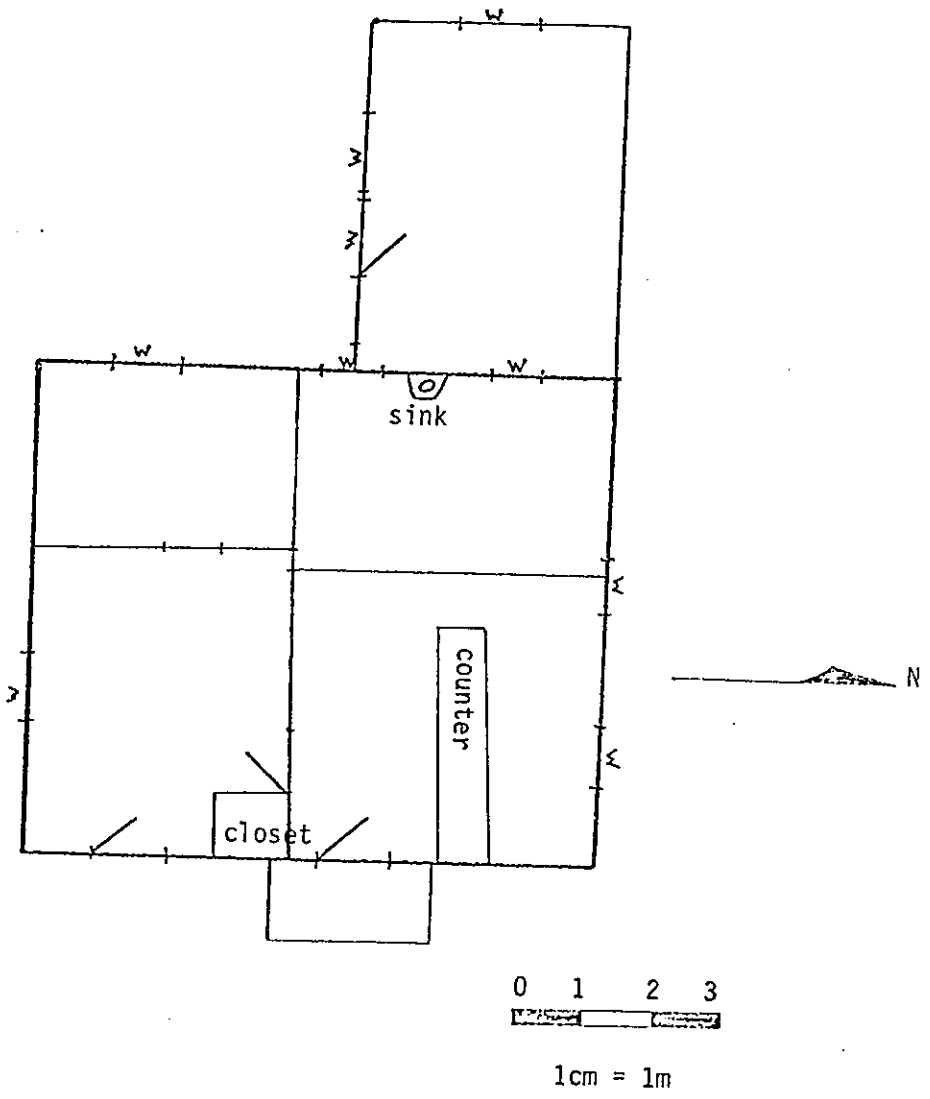
In addition to the archaeological survey of the Copeland Forest, a summary inventory of historical buildings was undertaken.

Located at the main entranceway to the property at the 3rd Concession are the remains of a mill complex at one time a thriving commercial centre. Access was by the Ingram Road and the 3rd line with secondary roads entering the Copeland property at the 4th line at the 5th side roads on both east and west sides. These roads were never improved and have been closed for some time. In addition, a railway spur serviced the mill complex from the main CPR line which runs through the Copeland property.

The community of Martinville included a complex of mill buildings and the houses which belonged to the employees as well as several farm buildings further south on the 3rd line. Agricultural pursuits did not seem to have been too successful on the property; given the lack of extensive arable land this is not surprising. At some time in the past, open fields were converted to pineries. Many of these are presently to be found on the property. They tend to indicate the presence of former farm fields and by examining their locations, a rough idea of the extent and location of more recent settlements can be obtained.

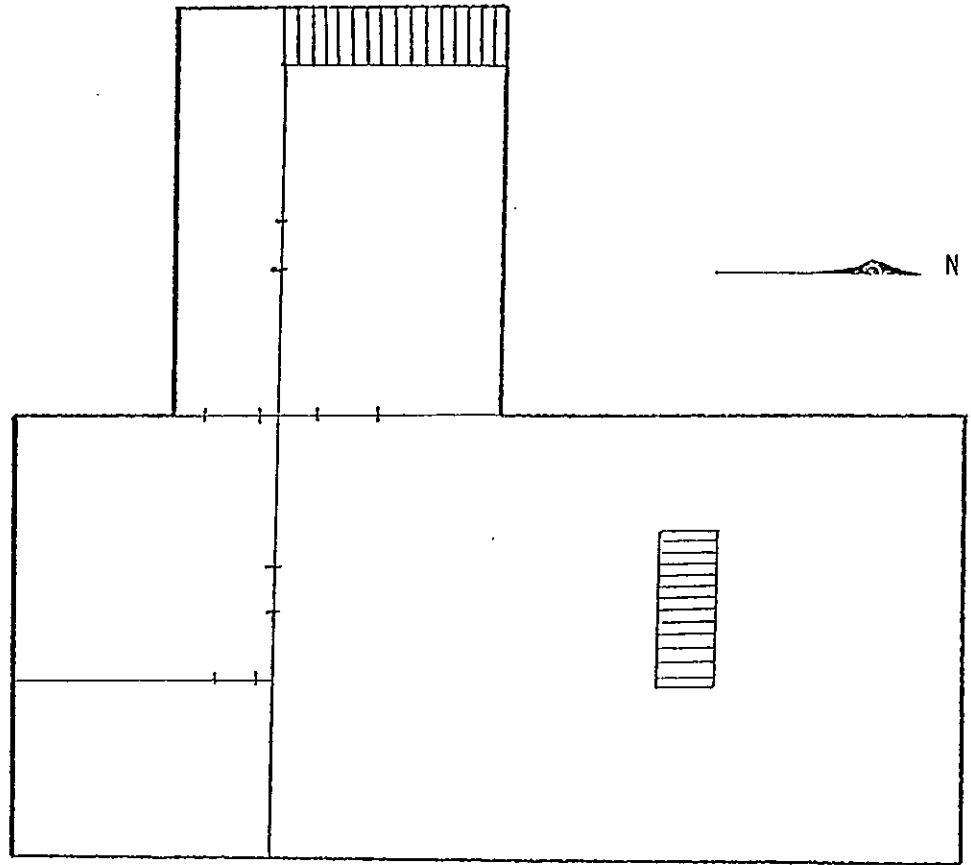
With the exception of the buildings still remaining at the main entranceway there are no original structures still standing on the Copeland property. Stone foundations were found by the survey crew in two places. In the south-east corner of the property are several stone lined cellar foundations. These structures are adjacent to the 5th line, Lot 4, Concession V. Associated with the remains are stone

STORE AND POST OFFICE - 3rd CONCESSION



Exterior wall of store faced in cedar shingles.  
Addition on west end faced in horizontal boards.

SECOND FLOOR - BOARDING HOUSE

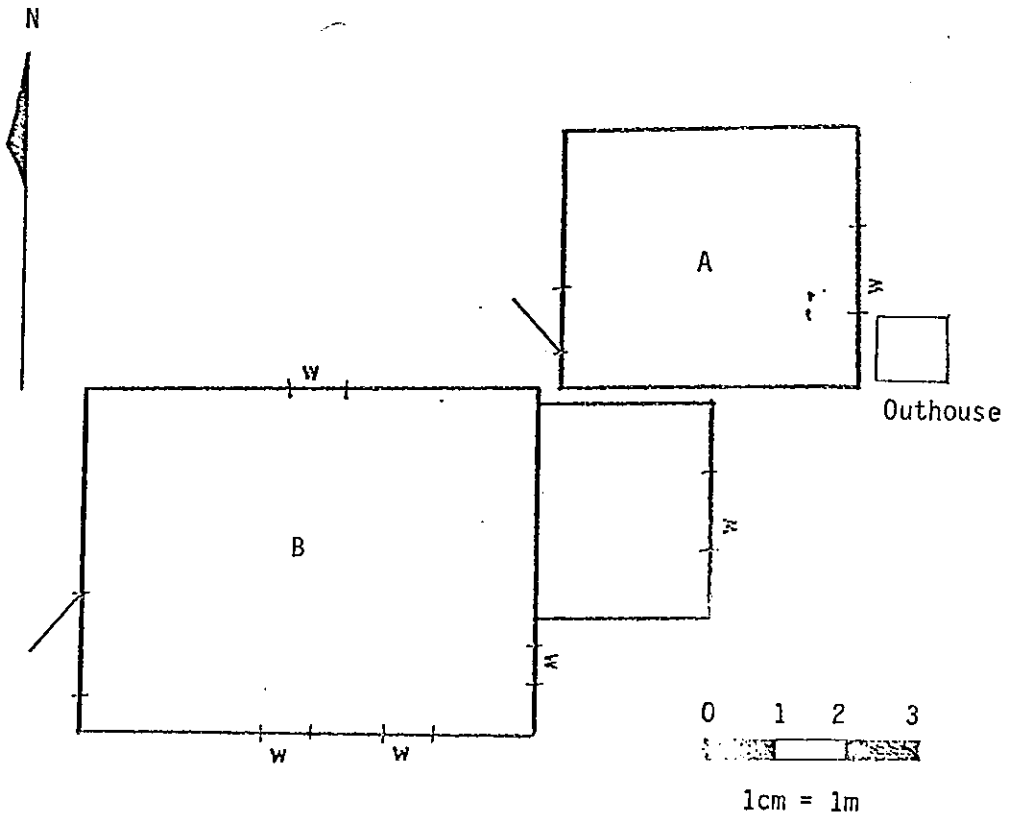


0 1 2 3

1cm = 1m

Faced with cedar shingles

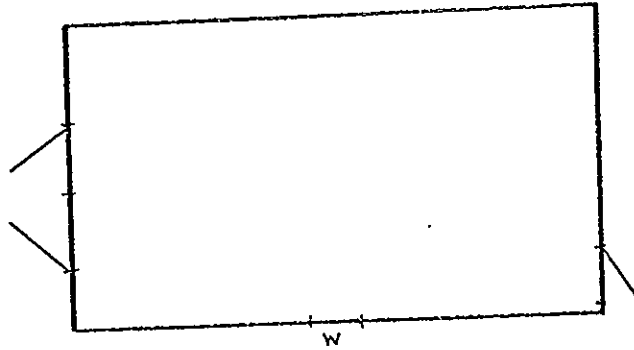
MILL BUILDING - 3rd CONCESSION



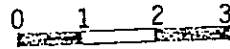
A - Faced with horizontal boards

B - Faced with sheet metal

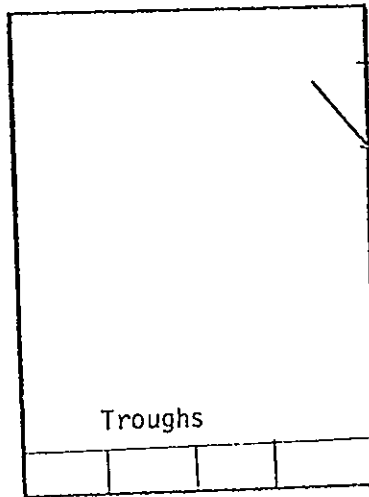
SUGAR SHACK - 3rd CONCESSION



Faced in horizontal boards



1cm = 1m



Stable - 3rd Concession

Faced in shingle