

**Probability of Discovering Items  
of Historical Significance  
in Block Bounded by 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets,  
and by 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues, New Westminster  
and  
Plan of Action to Deal with  
Found Items of Historical Significance**

**Prepared for  
School District No. 40 (New Westminster)  
821 - Eighth Street  
New Westminster, BC V3M 3S9**

**March 2005**

## Introduction

This report has been prepared following acceptance by School District No. 40 (New Westminster) of a proposal submitted by *A Sense of History Research Services* at the request in October of 2004 of Mr. Doug Wong, Secretary-Treasurer of the School District. Authority was given to proceed with the study in November, 2004.

The purpose of this report is threefold:

1. to describe and analyze the history of the site bounded by Eighth and Sixth Streets, and by Eighth and Tenth Avenues in New Westminster;
2. to determine the probability of discovering items of historical significance, including human remains, during construction; and
3. to make suggestions and recommendations regarding a plan of action to be followed in the event that items of historical significance are found during that process.

Various sources were examined to determine the history of usage of the site, the types of items of historical significance that could be discovered, and to provide the approximate areas in which the probability of discovery is higher than in others. These sources include official records such City Council and School Board minutes; burial records; cemetery plot maps; correspondence and records from City Departments held in the New Westminster Archives and the BC Archives; and records provided by the Corporate Records Management Branch, Ministry of Management Services, Province of British Columbia. Other source documents include those held by *A Sense of History Research Services* which have been accumulated over many years of research and work within the area of cemetery studies, particularly photographs, newspapers, maps and charts as well as anecdotal accounts derived from personal interviews, correspondence and journals.

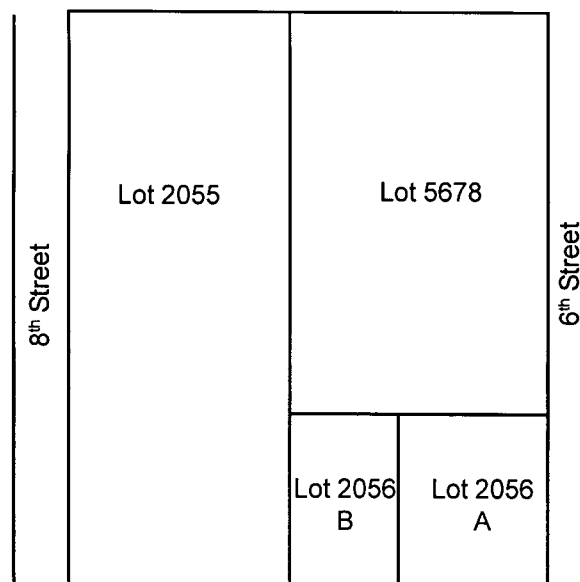
## General Description of Site

The site that now houses the New Westminster Secondary School, playing fields, Mercer Stadium, the Royal City Christian Centre, and Moody Park arena has a interesting history. Prior uses include a City Cemetery, a works yard compound, an isolation hospital, an orphanage, a military camp, an ice rink, schools, a church, and an area where for a time, livestock, namely horses, used to graze. Various early plans for the property have included housing, streets, a golf course, a provincial university, a swimming pool, a park, and a museum.

While a great deal of information has been assembled over the years about this land and its varied uses and plans, one part of the site has always provided far more questions than answers. This latter part concerns its cemetery use. The principals of *A Sense of History Research Services* have been seeking background information on this location for many years. In this case, while much of the story is now known, actual documentation continues to be elusive. The search for this material has been extensive and will be ongoing. However, the information currently gathered, both factual and circumstantial, allows for a detailed portrayal of the use of the property to be put together with reasonable accuracy.

The use of directions within the City of New Westminster is often confusing. To be accurate, one must recognize that a line from the corner of Sixth Street and Tenth Avenue to the opposite corner of the site at Eighth Street and Eighth Avenue is the true north-south line. However, following common usage which refers to the Fraser River as south, this report refers to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue as North, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue as South, 6<sup>th</sup> Street as East and 8<sup>th</sup> Street as West.

The main focus of this report is the land bounded on the west by 8<sup>th</sup> Street, from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and on the east by the road between the school and the playing fields, ice rink, etc. connecting 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues. This area, known as Lot 2055, included a cemetery from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to a position on 8<sup>th</sup> Street about opposite Dublin Street. It had a City Works Yard from about opposite Dublin Street to about half way to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The actual 8<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> corner, for the purposes of this report, was open land.



Not drawn to scale

## Evolution of Ownership of Site

The earliest maps of the City of New Westminster, those drawn by the Royal Engineers, show the city block bounded by 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets and by 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues as either "Cemetery" or "Cemetery Reserve". In April of 1861, City Council passed the following resolution: "The Clerk is hereby instructed to write to Col. Moody, requesting him to direct that the Cemetery granted by the Government to the inhabitants of this City, be immediately surveyed, in order that the Council may commence improving it." What is now known as 8<sup>th</sup> Street, was then called Douglas Road or Douglas Street, and so the cemetery that was developed by the City on that site became known as the Douglas Road or Douglas Street Cemetery, or sometimes, simply the "Public Cemetery".

Actual ownership of the property remained for many years with the Colonial and then Provincial Government in spite of continuing efforts on the part of the City to obtain title to it.

In 1914, 14.85 acres running from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to about where the fence separating the parking lot from the playing fields is today, were granted to the Corporation of the City of New Westminster as Lot 2055, Group 1, New Westminster. The remaining portion of the block remained as Government Reserve.

The Government Reserve was divided in 1925 when the City purchased five acres for use as an orphanage and title was given to the Royal City True Blue Lodge who then built the Loyal Protestant Home for Children. That five-acre lot was given the designation of Lot 2056 and encompassed the sites of today's Royal City Christian Centre and Moody Park Arena. In 1975, the Orphanage sold 1.27 acres of that original 5 acre lot to the City and the arena was built on it.

Lot 5678 formed the remainder of the City block – from the eastern edge of 2055 through to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue down to the edge of Lot 2056, about 13.75 acres in total. In 1933, Lot 5678 was granted to the City of New Westminster for \$1,501.00.

In 1950, the Corporation of the City of New Westminster exchanged Lots 2055 and 5678 with School District #40 (New Westminster) for the Lister School building and the building and land of Howay School as well as the assurance that the land under the then-Robson School would be transferred to the City when it became available. Lister School was adjacent to Kelvin School and the building was demolished almost immediately. The land referred to as occupied by Howay and Robson schools, was that parcel lying between Royal and Queens Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets which had been formally granted to the Board of School Trustees by the Province in October 1949.

In 1958, The Board of School Trustees sold 7.377 acres of Lot 5678 to the City, who in turn, agreed to build public playground and recreational facilities on it, including a running track and concrete stadium etc. This section includes today's Mercer Stadium and the area south of it, up to Lot 2056.

## History of Usage of North Section of Block 2055

New Westminster was founded in 1859 by the Columbia Detachment of Royal Engineers who selected the site of the City as the capital of the colony of British Columbia. The townsite was surveyed in detail over the next few years and the layout for the streets, block patterns, parks, and so on, was clearly defined. Early maps from this period show the block now bounded by 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, marked with the word "Cemetery". (Appendix A)

In about 1865, a five-acre space within the overall site was cleared for an actual cemetery, although burials had begun prior to this date. Access was provided by a roadway into the site from the 8<sup>th</sup> Street side, then known as Douglas Street or Douglas Road. The story of the early graveyard with all its debates and discussions about rules for its use, whether it would be sectarian or non-sectarian, how it would be kept up and who would pay for it is interesting, but not really needed for this report.

A change in focus with this cemetery occurred in 1869-1870 when, driven by a desire to have a burial ground of their own over which they had control, the Church of England and local members of the Masonic Lodge, developed adjacent cemeteries in Sapperton. This was the beginning of what, in time, would become the current Fraser Cemetery. What it meant in 1870 was that, since the Church of England now had consecrated ground for its burials and the Masons could also look after their own, for many from these two groups, the Douglas Road Cemetery was no longer needed. In the 1870s, the Independent Order of Oddfellows developed their own cemetery adjacent to that of the Church of England and the Masonic Cemetery in Sapperton and in the 1880s, the Catholic Church followed suit, and so members of those groups also drew away from Douglas Road.

However, the Douglas Road Cemetery continued to be used until 1919 as it was the City's cemetery. Interments included individuals who were unable to acquire a plot in one of the burial grounds located on the hillside in Sapperton, as well as those whose burial followed that of other family members at Douglas Road. At the request of the Chinese community, two acres on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street were set aside for their exclusive use. Plot maps and burial records show that, adjacent to that area, but further south along 8<sup>th</sup> Street, two acres, referred to as the "Public Cemetery Grounds", were designated in 1908 for individuals for whom the municipal government provided a grave and burial. This included the indigent and those whose identity at death was unknown. The next two-acre section south along 8<sup>th</sup> Street, sometimes referred to as "Asylum Grounds", was also designated in 1908 for the interment of several groups of individuals whose remains were not claimed for burial elsewhere. Examples include those from the Provincial Hospital at Essondale (these formed the majority of burials in this section), from the "asylum" (the Provincial Hospital for the Insane, later known as Woodlands but not at the time of this cemetery), those who died at the Provincial Jail, and some early deaths at the BC Penitentiary. Some people have referred erroneously to the entire cemetery as a place for burials of those under Provincial care or jurisdiction or as only a pauper's graveyard. While there are elements of truth in these statements, the fact remains that this was a City cemetery with a variety of burials until the City finally closed it in 1919.

A carriage road south of the "Asylum Grounds" provided major access to the cemetery. South of that carriage road was another two-acre section, which was used by the general public, individuals and families with no particular affiliation or designation. The southern boundary of this area constituted the southern boundary of the entire cemetery and was about opposite today's Dublin Street.

**History of Usage of North Section of Block 2055 (continued)**

Based on the plot maps of two sections of the Cemetery, it could be said that if all four sections were laid out in a similar and orderly fashion, and if all the plots were filled, the entire cemetery could have contained approximately 6,000 burials. However, the sections were not all laid out in an orderly fashion, nor were all the plots filled. There are references to two of the sections (Public Grounds and Asylum Grounds) being full, however, even that is somewhat suspect since there are notices in the early newspaper on occasion asking for families to put headstones or markers on the graves of their loved ones so that the authorities might have some idea of where the graves are and how many are present. It seems likely therefore, that the maximum number of interments that might have taken place at the Cemetery would be between 2,000 and 3,000, although in the absence of complete burial records, any number must be speculative.

It should be noted that the City did develop another City Cemetery which was available from 1913 in Sapperton, close to the previously mentioned sites of the Church of England, Masons, Oddfellows, and Catholics.

Over the ensuing years, much of the Douglas Road Cemetery was forgotten except for one specific area, often referred to as the "pioneer cemetery". This was a relatively small location on 8<sup>th</sup> Street opposite Dublin Street. Plans were underway for the creation of a park with a museum behind it when World War II intervened and this plan was never pursued.

In November of 1939, military authorities began construction of huts to house the Westminster Regiment on the northern section of Block 2055. Between 1939 and 1943, several other regiments were also stationed at the camp on the site, including members of The Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, The Rocky Mountain Rangers, the BC Dragoons and the Edmonton Fusiliers.

Another feature that occupied the northern portion of Block of 2055 was an isolation hospital. It was variously referred to as the pest house, smallpox hospital, quarantine hospital, and isolation hospital and appears in records as early as 1892. There were other similar hospitals around town including one on Poplar Island, but the one on the "cemetery reserve" was perhaps the longest-standing. It burned to the ground in 1911 but was rebuilt on the same site, re-opening in May of 1912. It included a watchman's house and woodshed and had a 7-foot fence around the grounds. It fell into disuse over the years, but was re-opened in 1925, kalsomined and furnished with beds and bedding. References to it as a City Asset disappear around 1932.

After the war, the Board of School Trustees applied to have 35 acres between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues and between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets reserved for school purposes.

## History of Usage of Remainder of Site

The southern portion of Lot 2055, that area lying between Douglas Road Cemetery and Thorne Road (now Eighth Avenue) was cleared along its western edge in 1865 to a distance of 165 feet into the block as was the rest of the Lot. However, there is no record of usage until the City Board of Works moved to the site from Tipperary Park in 1912. A huge barn was built for storage in 1914 and was followed by storehouses, an office building, garages, barns and equipment to form the Board of Works and Waterworks headquarters. After a disastrous fire in 1931 which totally destroyed the waterworks office and storerooms as well as part of the Board of Works buildings, most of the buildings, including a caretaker's residence were rebuilt in the same location. In 1948, the City Works depot was relocated from Lot 2055 to a new site at 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Before the construction of Mercer Stadium in 1958, Lot 5678 was used only for grazing cattle and horses, although there is some unconfirmed anecdotal evidence that an early transportation company may have had stables on the property.

Lot 2056, five acres in total, has only been used by the Royal City True Blue Lodge who built the Loyal Protestant Home for Children in 1925, followed by the Royal City Christian Centre in the same building, and by Moody Park Arena in a 1.27-acre section in the western portion of the Lot.

## **Likelihood of Finding Human Remains Interred at the Douglas Road Cemetery**

One of the recurring questions concerning the Douglas Road Cemetery of New Westminster is, "What happened to those people who were buried there?" In addressing this question it should be noted that, as of the date of this writing, there are no complete cemetery records to show burials over the years and there are no complete records to show lists of disinterments. There are however, partial records including plot maps and burial records, and research shows that many of the remains in this cemetery were disinterred and moved to other cemetery sites beginning early in the cemetery's history.

Once the new cemeteries were opened up in Sapperton, (as noted earlier in this report) people began to move the remains of friends, family, and loved ones to the new grounds. Extensive research into the records of all sections of Fraser Cemetery shows numerous examples of this activity. Sections of Fraser Cemetery show burial dates that are simply too early to have been original to the cemetery. An example of this comes from Church of England records that show original burials at Douglas Street, that are also recorded as being in the Church of England area of Fraser Cemetery. Experience with this type of activity has shown that there are probably many more than the ones that were "officially" recorded. A number of personal letters, diaries, journals, etc. mention family members being "moved" from Douglas Road Cemetery to one of the Sapperton cemeteries, but those second burials do not necessarily show as re-interments in the official records.

We know that the Chinese section had most of the remains removed for repatriation "home" to China, for final burial. There are references in City Council records to applications for large numbers of disinterments, and with the opening of the new City site on Richmond Street in Sapperton in 1913, many Chinese chose to be buried there.

In China the tradition is to bury a body twice. The first burial is done in a shallow grave soon after death. At the end of seven years, the bones are removed and placed in a box or urn. These are then placed in the family tomb where they should remain undisturbed thereafter. Traditional Chinese belief says that the soul of a person who dies in a foreign place wanders lost until their bones are returned home. Therefore the practice of removing the bones after seven years, cleaning and packaging them to be shipped home was continued when Chinese emigrated in large numbers to North America, Australia, Indonesia and other places in the mid-nineteenth century. This practice was followed in New Westminster and in all of Canada. Bones were disinterred, cleaned, and prepared for shipment, then sent to Victoria where they were stored awaiting shipment to Tung Wah Hospital in Hong Kong, which then distributed them back to various villages for reburial. This practice ceased after 1938 when the Chinese Government refused to accept any further bones for reburial.

Anecdotal evidence of disinterments usually refers to a couple of parts of the Douglas Road site. The Chinese area of this site prompts people to remember the many holes and indentations where remains had been removed, collected, and carefully wrapped for shipment. Stories of the disinterment of remains also centre on the "pioneer" area across 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Dublin Street. A number of people remember the process in which graves were dug up and the remains taken away for reburial. Some other accounts note the removal of old grave markers that were purportedly stacked at the site, to be used for walkways,



**Likelihood of Finding Human Remains Interred at the Douglas Road Cemetery (cont'd)**

walls, and foundations throughout the area.

Circumstantial evidence is often vitally important to historical research and that is certainly true in the case of this cemetery site. A number of reports about plans for the overall block and its development (streets, housing, etc.) acknowledge that the area had been a cemetery but do not pursue the obvious next step of dealing with remains. Several of the people involved with these ideas and projects were very aware of the City's history and they took great pains to see that the City's past and story was always at the forefront. A number of them were extremely active in the community's history with strong family connections to the City's earliest years. It is difficult to imagine that they were then disposed to simply stand back while the site was bulldozed with remains trucked away.

Another aspect has to do with what was actually found over the years. In the early 1940s, part of the site was a military camp and there are stories of a few bones having been turned up. Also, a coffin was uncovered in 1949 while part of the ground close to the new "Vincent Massey" school was being levelled. No other references have come to light to this time. To date, no stories have surfaced concerning the discovery of remains during the tremendous amount of digging and levelling that went on during the construction of the schools, lawn areas, road improvements, and the like. Many of the people who attended Massey, Pearson or New Westminster Secondary schools know that they were constructed on an old cemetery site, but factual stories of remains becoming evident are not part of the folklore. Logic dictates that if there were great numbers of human remains still in the ground when the projects were carried out, they would have come to light and we would know about it.

The few photographs that are available to show this old cemetery site show rough, indistinct impressions of the location but little in the way of detail. These aerial photos do show that the site was cleared and levelled, and by the 1940s, the only identifiable object from the cemetery is a cluster of trees opposite Dublin Street. This is the area that held some old graves and markers, and for which there is anecdotal evidence of the graves having been removed. The grave markers still on the site were apparently stored in the City Works yard that was located right next door.

While the search for further evidence will continue, it would appear from the evidence at hand, that most of the remains were removed from the old cemetery during the years from mid-1919 to the late 1940s, and of course, many remains were removed prior to this period. Another factor in determining the likelihood of finding human remains on the site is the combination of length of time since interment, and the fact that the soil has always been very wet and at times, water-logged. These two factors combine to make it highly unlikely that any remains would still be distinguishable from surrounding earth. Metal coffin handles or metal name plates would likely remain, but actual human remains in the wetter areas of the site are highly unlikely.

While the likelihood is low of any remains being discovered anywhere on the site, the area of highest probability is the strip of land along Eighth Street from Tenth Avenue, with that probability being highest opposite Dublin Street and diminishing toward 10th Avenue. The plateau before the land drops near the school is the area which has been the least disturbed by former construction and in which markers were observed most recently. The southern boundary of the cemetery was not always clearly marked and it is possible that some early burials might have occurred in the area later occupied by the Board of Works. This would account for a coffin being unearthed in 1949 in that area. The actual cemetery extended under what is now sidewalk and a short distance under Eighth Street.

## Historic Objects Which Might Be Found

In 1912, the Board of Works equipment and buildings were moved from their location in Tipperary Park to the southern portion of Block 2055. The Yard covered the entire width of the lot and lay along Eighth Street close to the cemetery opposite Dublin Street. It was generally known as the City Barns property and contained the Waterworks building, storage sheds, stables, barns, a steam roller and other equipment. In July of 1931, a fire at that site totally destroyed the waterworks office and store rooms, as well as part of the Board of Works buildings and resulted in total loss of three Waterworks trucks, all tools and equipment, including the whole of the Waterworks stock contained in the building. All of the records and maps except the meter books were destroyed, but fortunately the records were largely duplicated in the City Hall.

In 1948, when the Board of Works Headquarters was moved from Eighth Street to its current location on First Street, one of the buildings to be demolished was a large barn 220 feet long and 60 feet wide, built in 1914. It had been used since then for housing and servicing equipment used by the Board of Works.

As workers prepared it for demolition, they found in it several historic items including:

- two field guns from Boer War days which were turned over to The Westminster Regiment;
- a set of cut-stone hitching posts which had at one time flanked the entrance to the old Columbian College on First Street;
- stepping stones used by gentlemen and ladies to enter their carriages outside the residence of Dr. G.E. Drew on Sixth Street;
- a massive stone trough originally used for watering horses which had been used by city garage employees as a tank to locate punctures in truck tires;
- a cut granite fountain that commemorated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee when it was erected in front of the post office in 1897, that had been stored at the barn site since it was removed from Columbia Street in 1940.

Several individuals who were present at the time and after the demolition, have related accounts of these items and possibly others, including some grave markers, being placed in a depression in the northwest corner of what is now the parking area next to Moody Park Arena.

**CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**IN THE EVENT OF THE DISCOVERY OF**

**ITEMS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**A) HUMAN REMAINS**

**B) HISTORIC OBJECTS**

## A) Found Human Remains

Any activity in an area in which human remains are found is regulated under either the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act (CIFS Act) enacted in July 2004, or the Heritage Conservation Act [RSBC 1996] (HCA).

After being apprised of the situation regarding Block 2055, Grp.1, Pam Aarnoudse of the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Authority of BC (BPCPA) which administers the CIFS Act, indicated that, as the land in question is not currently a cemetery, the requirements in section 16 of the Act for regular disinterments would not apply as there is no operator – and if any remains are discovered it is unlikely they would be identifiable and therefore no one would be able to authorize the disinterment under that Act.

The Heritage Conservation Act deals with found human remains, and is administered through the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Archaeology Branch. The following section of the HCA is relevant to this project:

### Heritage protection

13 (2) "Except as authorized by a permit issued under section 12 or 14, or an order issued under section 14, a person must not do any of the following:

(b) damage, desecrate or alter a burial place that has historical or archaeological value or remove human remains or any heritage object from a burial place that has historical or archaeological value;

After lengthy discussion regarding the School District project, James Pike of the Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, advised *A Sense of History Research Services* that, in his opinion, a heritage permit would not be required provided the School District followed the following steps:

1. Demonstrate due diligence in attempting to identify the likelihood of human remains being discovered and the locations in which they might be expected to be found;
2. Use any tools at their disposal to determine whether or not there were actual grave sites in the locations identified;
3. Prepare a contingency plan to follow in the event that human remains were discovered.

He agreed that the contract between *A Sense of History Research Services* and the School District effectively demonstrated due diligence in identifying the likelihood of finding human remains. He strongly advised that the School District employ Ground Penetrating Radar in the areas identified by *A Sense of History* as having a greater likelihood of containing human remains.

**Found Human Remains (continued)**

Regarding a contingency plan, clear legal procedures apply in cases “where human remains are discovered fortuitously” through various land altering activities such as building renovations, construction or natural erosion. These procedures include notification of the Coroner’s Office and local policing authority for determination of whether the matter is of contemporary forensic concern. The respectful handling and disposition of the remains through an accredited Funeral Director and their re-interment in a recognized Cemetery would be essential.

## **B) Found Historic Objects**

Other objects of historical interest such as artifacts which might be discovered during the course of construction on the site would only fall under the protection of the Heritage Conservation Act if they were from a date before 1846. Clearly this would not be the case on this site. Therefore, there would be no legal restriction on their removal.

However, since the objects in question were, at the time of their placement in the ground, owned by the City of New Westminster and would be of historical significance to the City as a whole, steps should be taken to ensure that they are restored if needed, preserved and become part of the City of New Westminster's history. Depending on what objects are found, this might include becoming part of a display on-site or in some other part of the City, or being donated to one of the City's museums, or being displayed in the new school. Input from the community would need to be solicited before final disposition of the objects.

It is important that the School District have arrangements in place before any construction or other work begins on the site for the secure storage of any items which might be found. Unfortunately, it is likely that attempts might be made by unscrupulous individuals to remove the items once their potential location is identified and, once removed, if they are not secure, they would almost certainly be stolen.

## Recommendations

### Human Remains

1. *BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING, ANYWHERE ON THE SITE!*  
This site has a 145-year history that includes a variety of activities, any of which might have left items behind - deliberately or accidentally. When burials first occurred on the site, there were no formal markers delineating the cemetery, nor were there regulations requiring permits or any other records to be kept. That reinforces the unpredictability of what might be found and where, and so there must be a heightened awareness of the possibility of finding "something" throughout the period of demolition and removal of soil.
2. Conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) examination of the area indicated along 8<sup>th</sup> Street. This will complete the three steps recommended by the Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management noted earlier.
3. Notify the Police and/or Coroner's Office of the possibility (though low probability) of finding human remains on the site so that they are prepared to respond quickly if needed.
4. If the presence of remains is indicated by the GPR examination, develop a protocol for removal, storage and final disposition in conjunction with the Archaeology Branch, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.
5. Arrange with Columbia Bowell Funeral Home to accept and store on a temporary basis any remains found, and then to arrange re-interment at Fraser Cemetery once there is a certainty of no further remains being found.
6. Arrange with the City of New Westminster to provide a burial plot in Fraser Cemetery for any re-interment required from the site.

### Historical Objects

1. Conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar examination of the area indicated in the vicinity of Moody Park Arena parking lot indicated in this report. This could be done at the same time as the examination of the area along 8<sup>th</sup> Street.
2. If the presence of objects is indicated, arrange for a qualified individual or team to document and photograph the objects, their precise location and positioning prior to removal from the ground. This will facilitate planning for display, study and interpretation at a later date.
3. Arrange for secure premises for the objects to be stored following their removal.
4. Plan for separate documentation and handling of grave markers if any are found as they are likely to be fragile. Again, a qualified individual or team should record names, dates, and any other information on the markers so that the individual they commemorate can be identified at a later date. Special consideration must be given to the final disposition of any markers uncovered. Possibilities include their being incorporated into any commemoration of the site or being placed in some form in Fraser Cemetery. If a marker for a Royal Engineer were uncovered, it might appropriately be displayed and interpreted at the Regimental Museum.
5. Consider the eventual display of objects unearthed during construction. This could include a display at the new school, or cultural centre on site, or the City museum etc. Input should be sought from a variety of groups including Resident Associations, the City, the public, etc.

**Security**

It is important to be fully aware of the interest and curiosity that will develop around the possibility of locating anything historic during construction. It will be necessary to include this aspect in any security plans already in place for the site.

**Communications**

It will also be important to keep the public informed of any discovery of artifacts on the site. A photo and short story would go a long way to encouraging positive public comment and the overall security and care of any objects located. Remains located should be appropriately reported to the public as being carefully and sensitively handled. All of this would help to lessen any rumours about what is "really" being found on the site.

**Commemoration of Site****Cemetery Site**

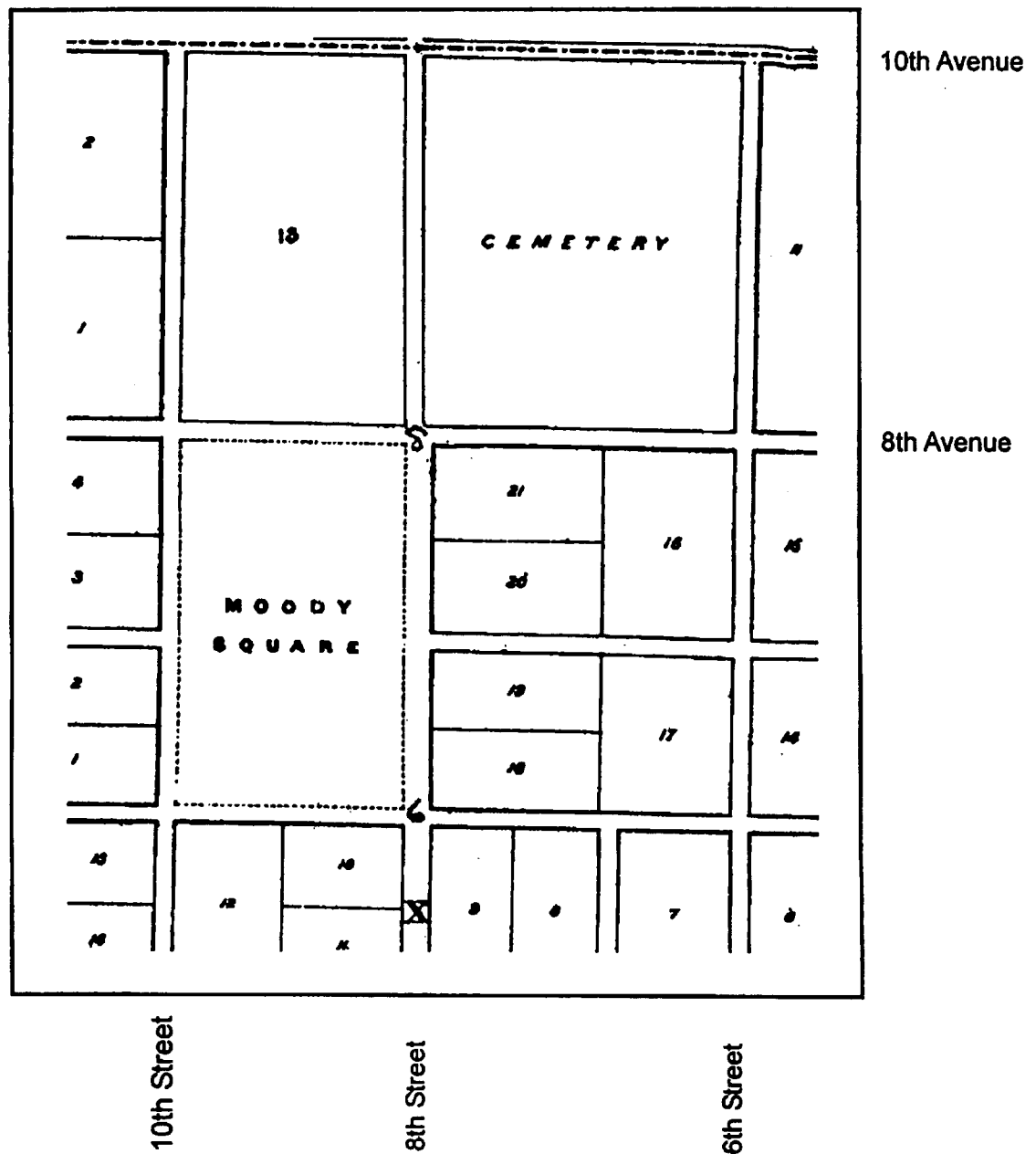
Closing a cemetery, with or without the removal of the remains of those interred there, is always a sensitive issue which causes strong emotional reactions that do not diminish with time. A memorial to those interred on the site, even placed over 86 years after the cemetery's closing, will help to ease the discomfort of those troubled by the perceived lack of respect for those individuals and their families. The memorial should include the burial ground's years of operation and a description of the site's boundaries. It could commemorate the "categories" of people buried there, including pioneers and early residents of the city, Lower Mainland, and Fraser Valley; racially identifiable groups, specifically Chinese, Japanese and First Nations; patients of Provincial Hospitals (Essondale and Provincial Hospital for the Insane); those who died while in Colonial custody, the Provincial Jail or the BC Penitentiary (prior to 1912), indigents and the unknown.

The memorial might be a large rough stone, suitably inscribed on a dressed face, a fountain, a grove of trees or any other significant object appropriately dedicated and marked.

**Overall Site**

An interpretive sign either in conjunction with or separate from the Cemetery commemorative marker would be appropriate to note the other uses of the site. This marker might briefly note the site's history, connections to the Royal Engineers' survey, and the location of the City Works yard and Military Camp. A map with locations marked with dates etc. would work well. The sign might include current (2005) photographs and descriptions and be similar in style to the Heritage Interpretive signs on heritage buildings in the Downtown area. This would address the fact that a few years after the completion of the overall project, many people will not know what the schools looked like in 2005.





# **Map of a Portion of New Westminster Showing the Cemetery (reserve) and Moody Park**

[Map is from the Royal Engineers, 1862]

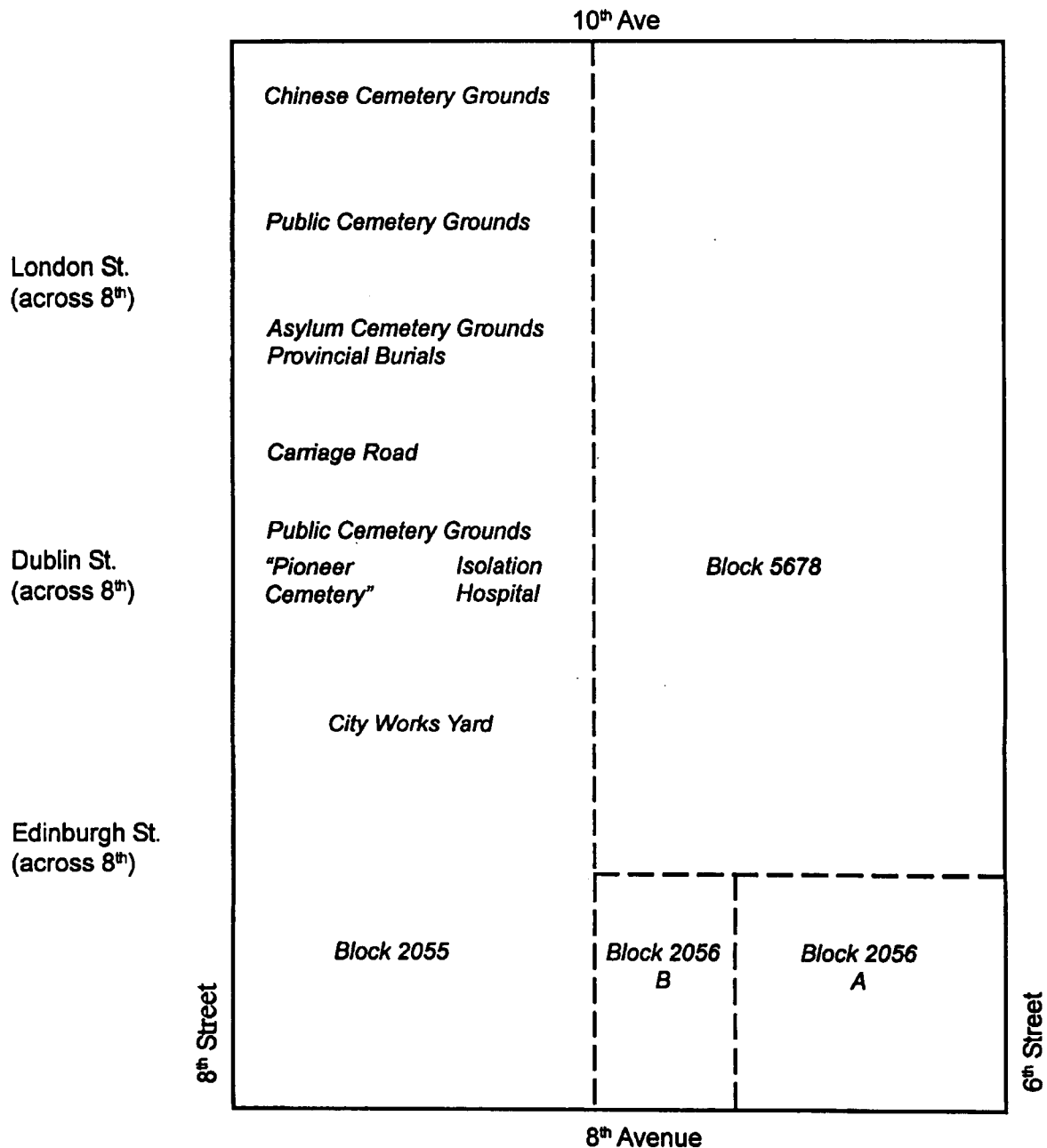
[Streets marked outside the box that is framing the map  
show current designations for reference purposes]

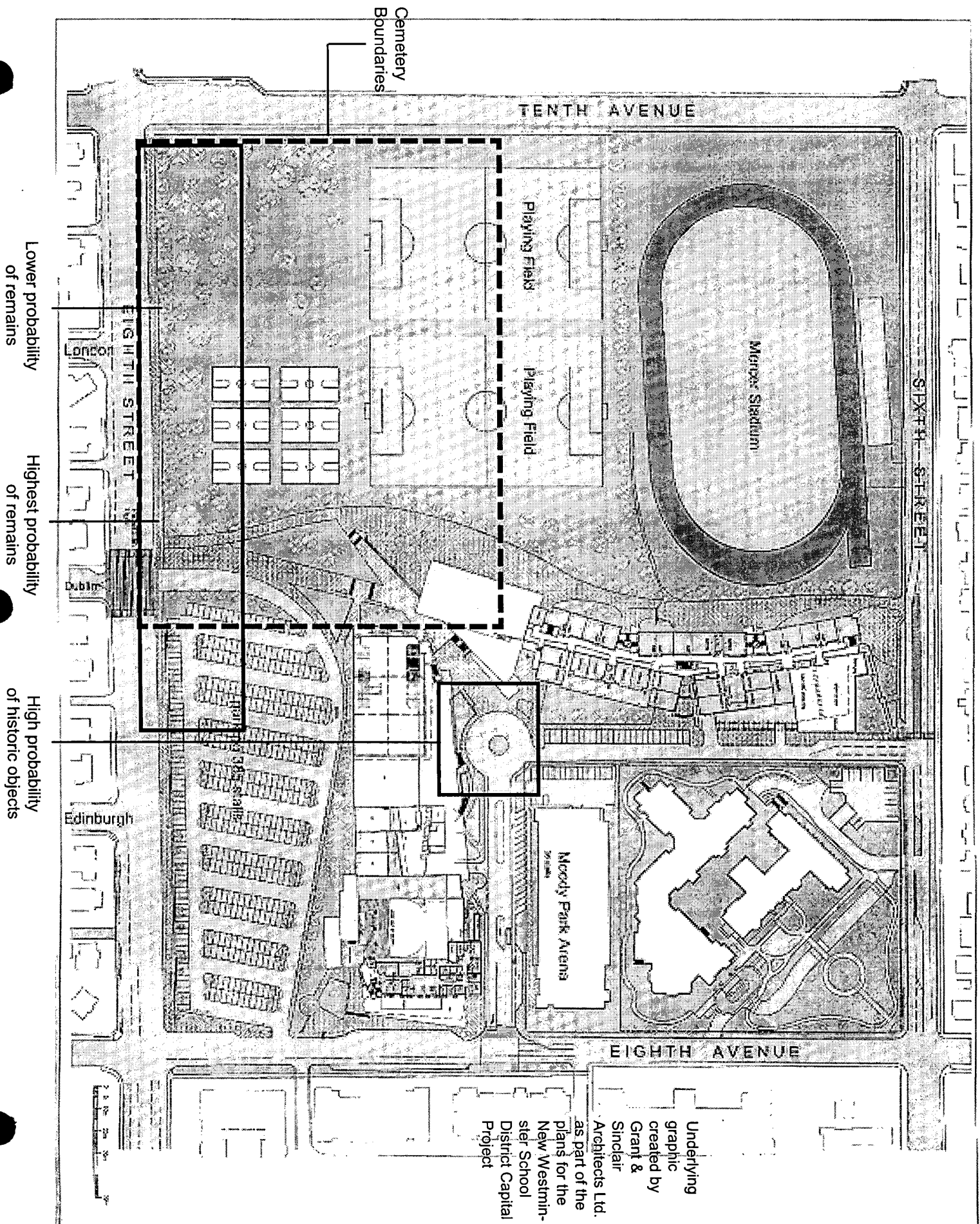
# **Block bounded by 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., 8<sup>th</sup> St., 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., 6<sup>th</sup> St.**

**New Westminster, BC**

*Information about the cemetery area in Lot 2055 -  
extrapolated from a number of sources  
and ongoing research relevant to the site*

*[Not drawn to scale - representational only]*



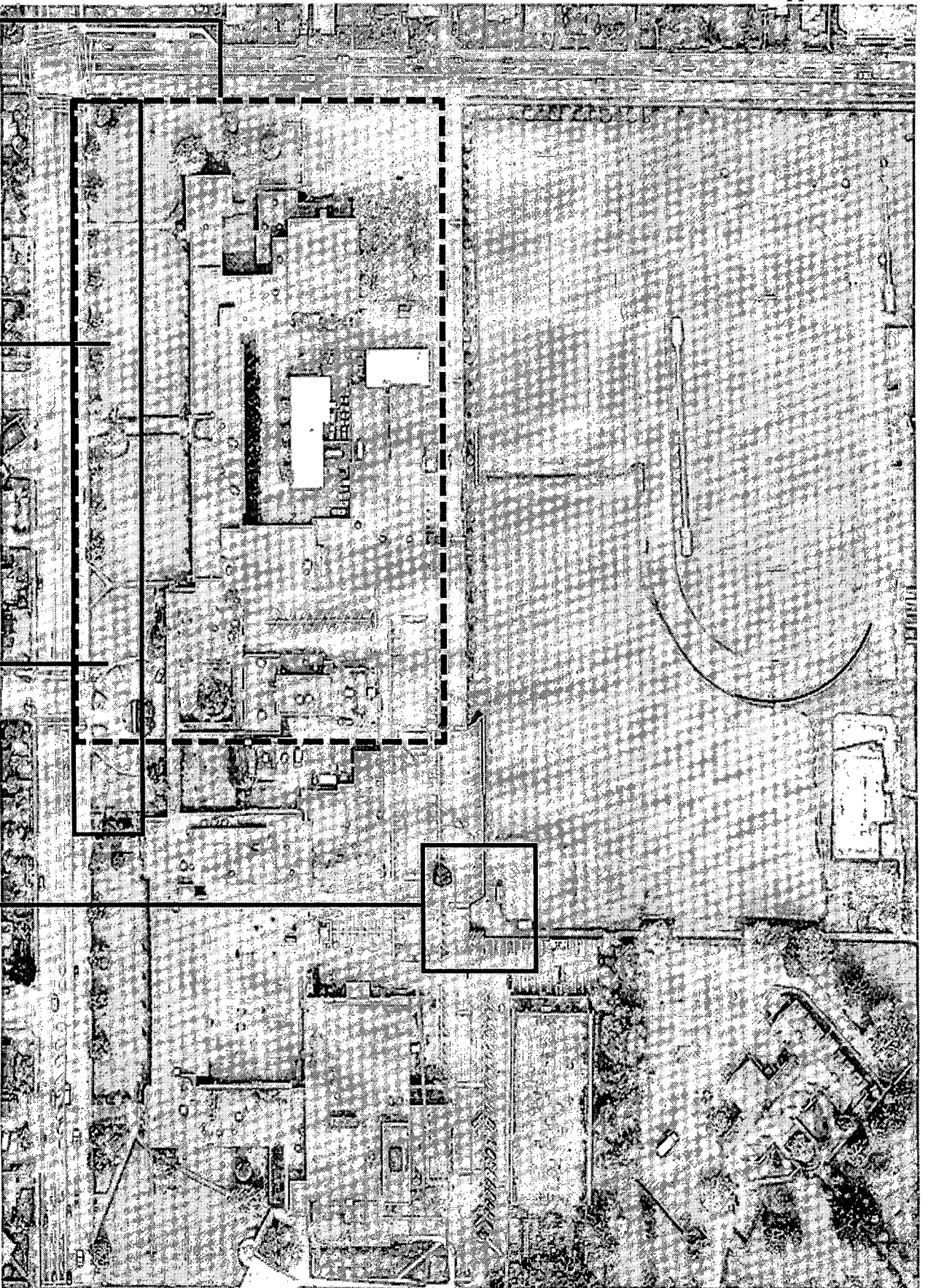


Cemetery  
Boundaries

Lower probability  
of remains

Highest probability  
of remains

High probability  
of historic objects



Underlying  
graphic  
created by  
Grant &  
Sinclair  
Architects Ltd.  
as part of the  
plans for the  
New Westminster  
School  
District Capital  
Project