



4.3 Early Settlers

The European settlement of Adelaide Township began in 1832 with three main groups of immigrants converging into the area, including a group of well to do Irish gentlemen, a group of English immigrants referred to as the “Petworth Settlers” and also many discharged British soldiers. The influx of settlers into the area occurred extraordinarily quickly. An 1832 article from the *Montreal Gazette* illustrates the excitement that was raised over such a quick settlement:

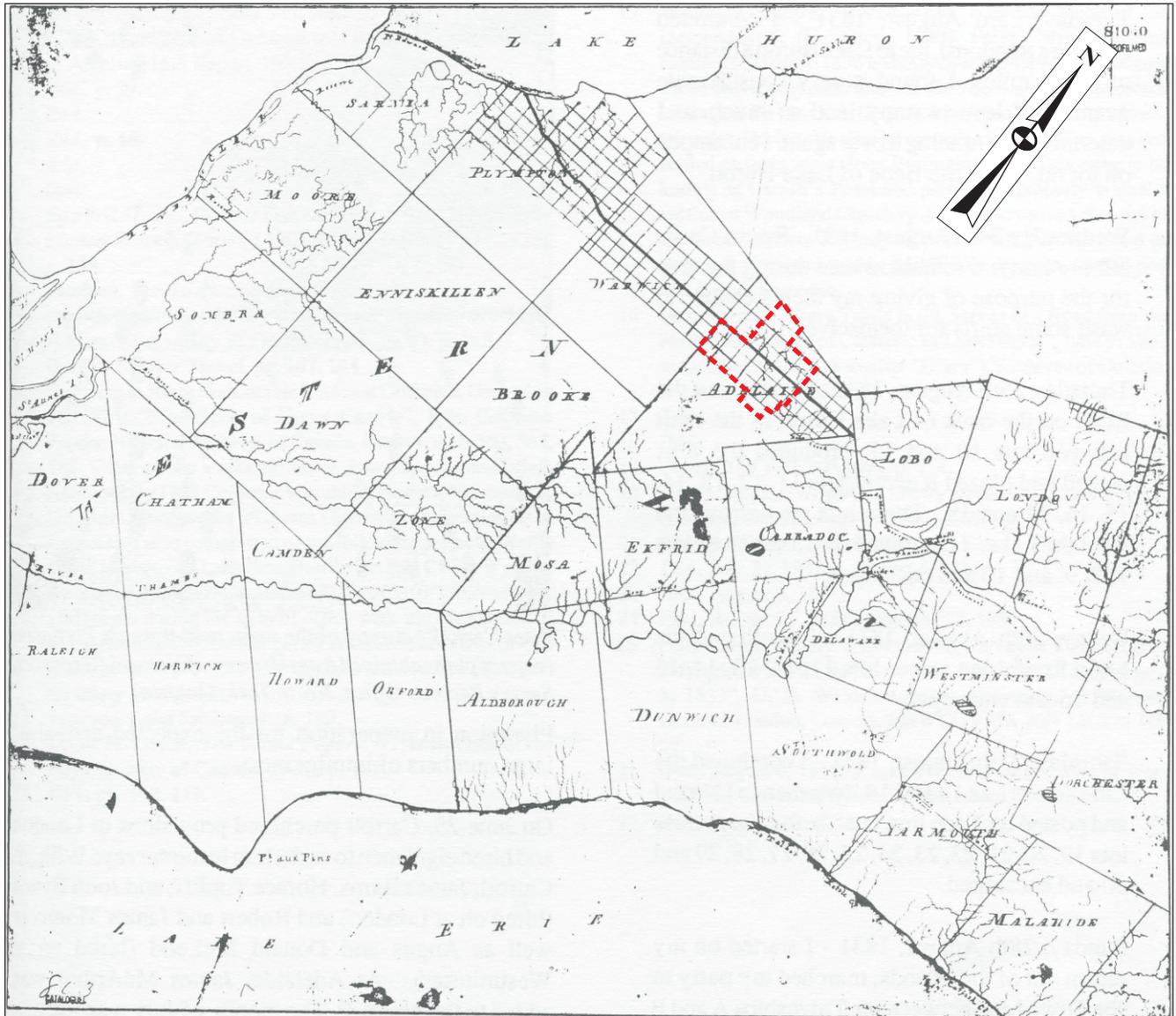
The new Township of Adelaide, in the London district, containing 80,000 acres, which five months ago was a complete desert, without house or inhabitant, now possesses a population of 1,600, with leading roads and numerous buildings, which, though rude, will afford a comfortable shelter to their inmates until time permits better ones to be erected.

(Talman 1929: 48).

The Radcliffe family, a prosperous Irish family including the brothers William and Thomas, were the first recorded settlers in the township in 1832 (Nielsen 1993: 10). The Radcliffe name can be observed on Carroll’s original 1831 map of the Township (Figure 6). The name of Dr. Thomas Phillips also appears on this map. Dr. Phillips is recorded in the historical record as erecting the first house in the township (Nielsen 1993: 10). Other names that appear on the original map of the township are conspicuous later additions. For example, Thomas Pennington is written into the west half of Lot 15, Concession 2 N.E.R. (Figure 5) but he is recorded as having only purchased the land from the Crown in 1856 (ATHG 2001: 329). His name also overwrites a now illegible inscription reading “W¹/₂ specification for [...]” which might be related to the land’s designation as a clergy reserve. In fact, all lands that were marked with a blue watercolour oval were designated as Clergy Reserves. This meant that all proceeds from the Crown Patent went in support of the Protestant clergy, usually the Anglican Church (ATHG 2001: 439). However, by the time of Thomas Pennington’s purchase in 1856 the land had been secularized (Fahey 2008). Incidentally, the lots marked with a red watercolour oval were designated as Crown Lands. In any case, close examination of the study area as depicted on the original township map does not reveal any squatters recorded from before 1831 or any notable First Nations activity in the area.

In order to help relieve some of the overpopulation of poor families living in England during the early 19th century, the Petworth Emigration Society was created (Nielsen 1993: 12). A number of families from parishes in Sussex, who were sponsored by the Earl of Egremont, immigrated to Adelaide Township in 1832 and became known as the Petworth Settlers. These settlers were largely poverty stricken families and unemployed individuals who strove for a better life and living conditions in the recently surveyed Township of Adelaide in Upper Canada (Nielsen 1993: 12). The Petworth settlers, in general, prospered in their new setting and the Earl of Egremont continued to sponsor additional waves of English families into the area until his death in 1837 (Gibb 2006: 5).

Two later historical maps from the 19th century record the first settlers and illustrate the growth in the study area: the 1862 Tremaine Map (Tremaine 1862) and the 1878 H.R. Page and Company Historical Atlas Map (H.R. Page 1878). The Tremaine Map (Figure 7) provides the names of all of the landowners but only illustrates a select number of structures on the properties. However, the later Historical Atlas Map (Figure 8) not only provides the names of the landowners but also the structures on the majority of the properties. In addition to the houses, the structures noted on this map include brickyards, cemeteries, churches, hotels, manufactories, mills and schools.



LEGEND

 Approximate Location of Study Area

REFERENCE

DRAWING BASED ON
 Nielsen, Eleanor
 1993 *The Egremont Road: Historic Route from Lobo to Lake Huron*. Lambton Historical Society, Sarnia. p. 7.

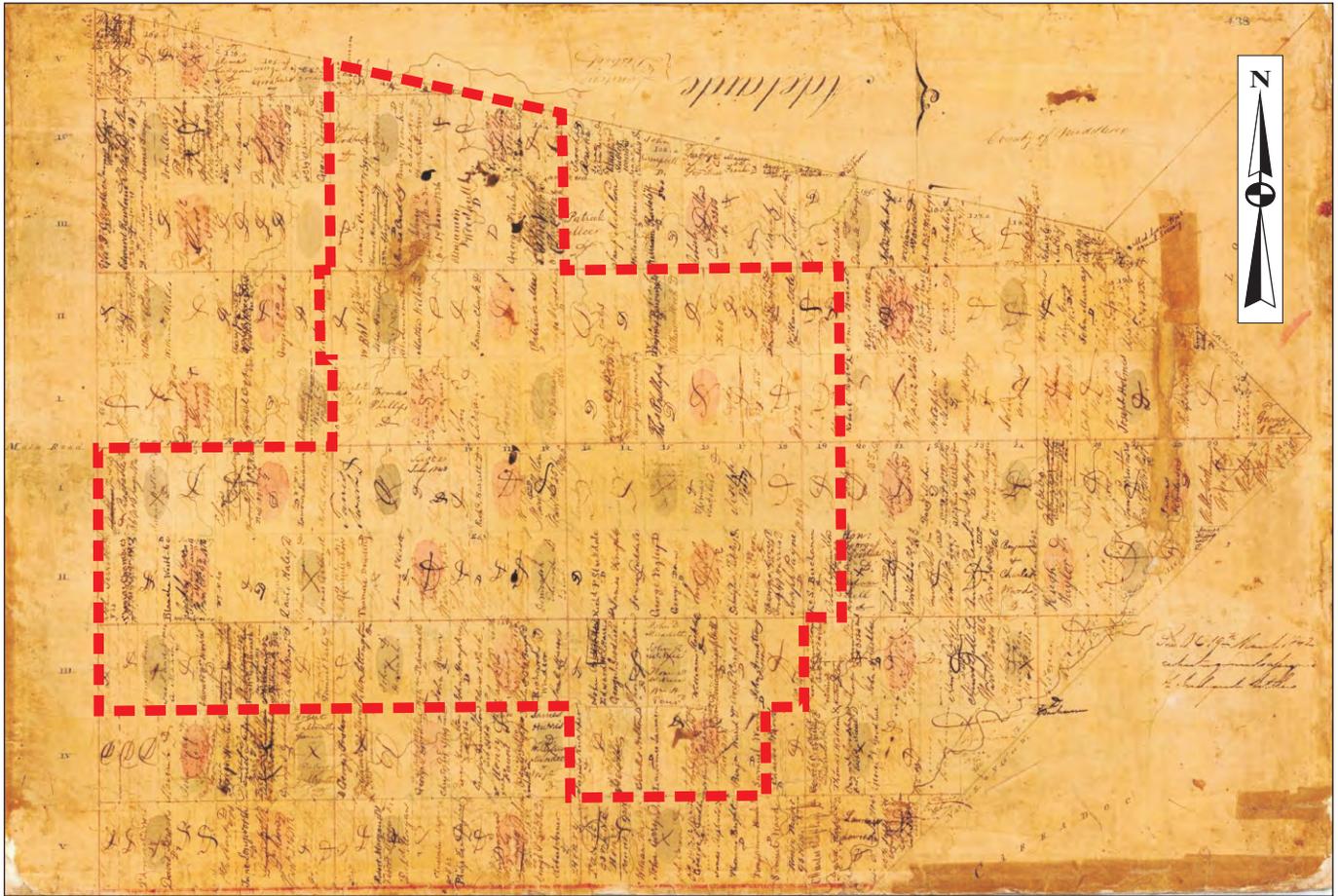
NOTES

THIS DRAWING IS SCHEMATIC ONLY AND IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH ACCOMPANYING TEXT.

ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

PROJECT			
Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study Adelaide Wind Farm Geo. Twp. of Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario			
TITLE			
Map Showing Peter Carroll's Original 1831 Egremont Road Survey			
PROJECT No. 07-1112-0151-1800		FILE No. 0711120151-1800-R02004	
CADD JM Feb 26/09		SCALE NOT TO SCALE REV.	
CHECK		FIGURE 4	





LEGEND

 Study Area

REFERENCE

DRAWING BASED ON
Carroll, Peter

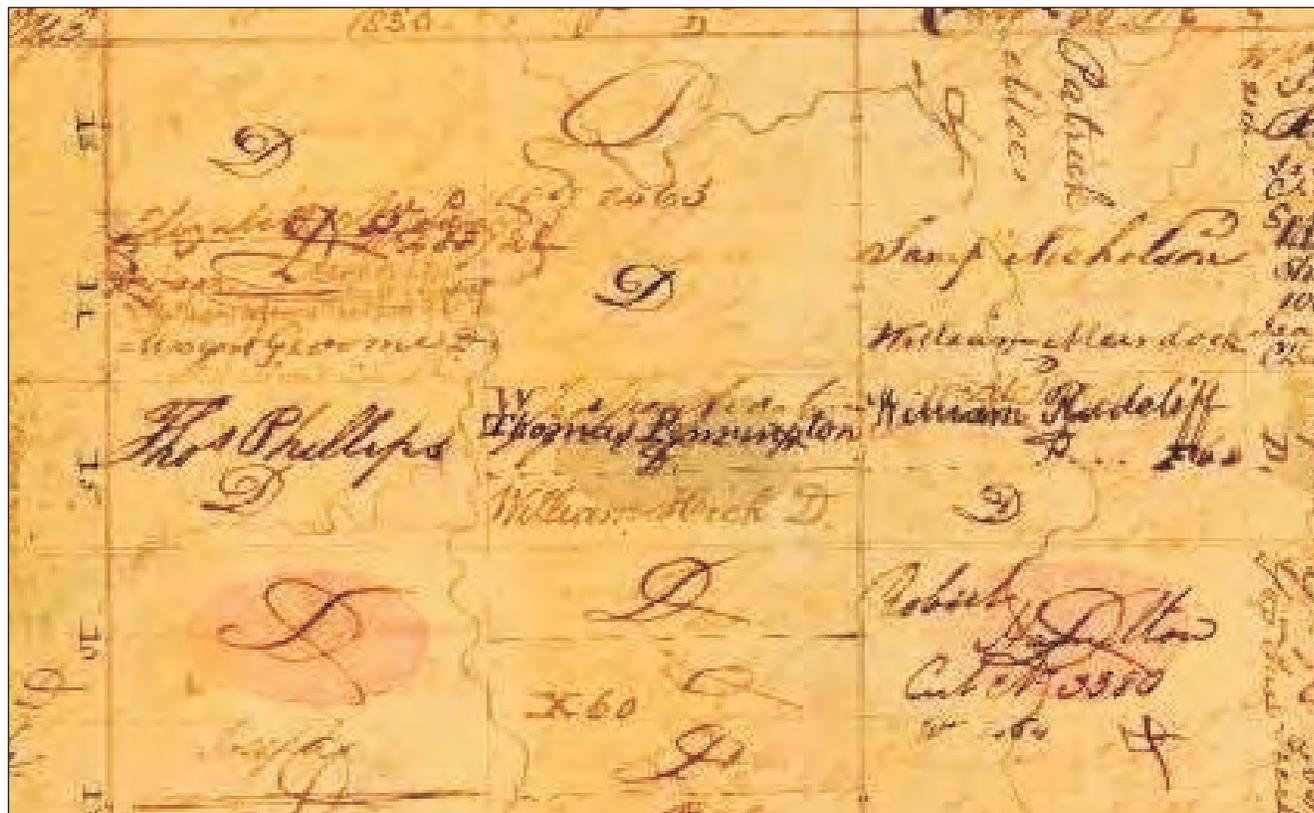
1831 *Plan of the Township of Adelaide*. By Peter Carroll, Deputy Surveyor, 29th December 1831. Map No. 438. On file with the Ministry of Natural Resources Crown Land Survey Records Office, Peterborough, Ontario.

NOTES

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ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

PROJECT			
Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study Adelaide Wind Farm Geo. Twp. of Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario			
TITLE			
A Portion of Peter Carroll's 1831 Map of the Township of Adelaide			
PROJECT No.		07-1112-0151-1800	
FILE No.		0711120151-1800-R02005	
SCALE		NOT TO SCALE	
REV.			
CADD		JM	Feb 26/09
CHECK			
		FIGURE 5	



REFERENCE

DRAWING BASED ON
 Carroll, Peter
 1831 *Plan of the Township of Adelaide*. By Peter Carroll,
 Deputy Surveyor, 29th December 1831. Map No. 438.
 On file with the Ministry of Natural Resources Crown
 Land Survey Records Office, Peterborough, Ontario.

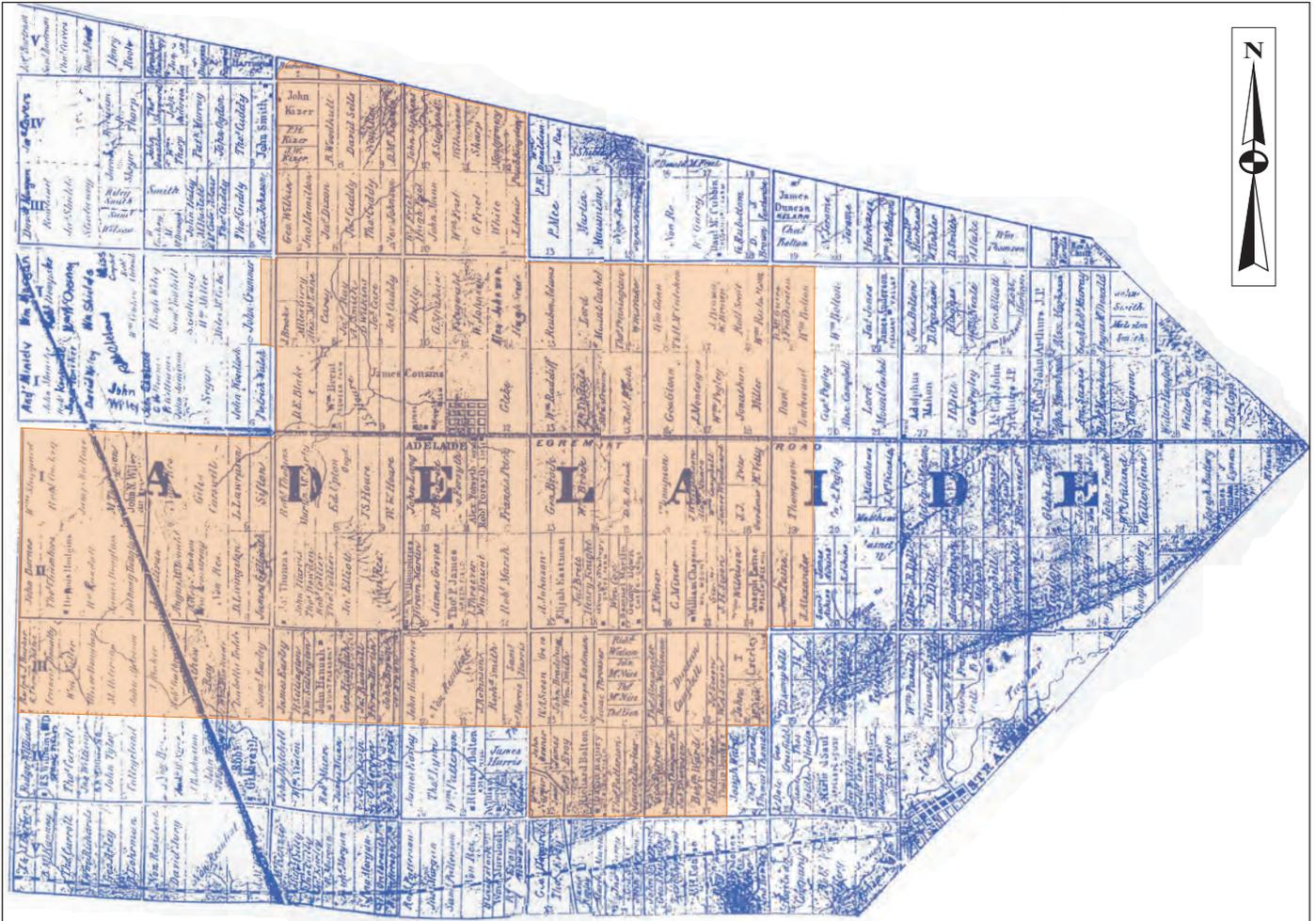
NOTES

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 IN CONJUNCTION WITH ACCOMPANYING TEXT.

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PROJECT			
Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study Adelaide Wind Farm Geo. Twp. of Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario			
TITLE			
Detail from Peter Carroll's 1831 Map of the Township of Adelaide			
PROJECT No. 07-1112-0151-1800		FILE No. 0711120151-1800-R02006	
CADD JM Feb 26/09		SCALE NOT TO SCALE REV.	
CHECK		FIGURE 6	





LEGEND

 Study Area

REFERENCE

DRAWING BASED ON
Tremaine, George R.
1862 *Tremaine's Map - London and Middlesex County*.
George C. Tremaine, Toronto.

NOTES

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH ACCOMPANYING TEXT.

ALL LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.

PROJECT

**Built Heritage and Cultural Landscape Study
Adelaide Wind Farm
Geo. Twp. of Adelaide, Middlesex County, Ontario**

TITLE

**A Portion of the 1862 Map of the
Township of Adelaide on *Tremaine's
Map - London and Middlesex County***



PROJECT No.	07-1112-0151-1800	FILE No.	0711120151-1800-R02007
CADD	JM	Feb 26/09	SCALE NOT TO SCALE REV.
CHECK			FIGURE 7