GLOOSCAP LANDING DEVELOPMENT TREE & BRUSH CLEARING AT LOWER HORTON BAPTIST CHURCH (BgDb-14) ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING KINGS COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA

2016 FINAL REPORT



Submitted to: Nova Scotia Special Places Program & Glooscap Ventures

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Heritage Research Permit #: A2016NS051

October 2016



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Glooscap Ventures, on behalf of Glooscap First Nation, is proposing to undertake a commercial highway development, at Exit 8A (Ben Jackson Road) on Highway 101, known as Glooscap Landing. Community engagement sessions, with the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community, revealed that historical records indicate that the nineteenth-century Lower Horton Baptist Church and cemetery were once located on the property. In 2004, a program of shovel testing, conducted by Cultural Resource Management Group Limited (CRM Group) in conjunction with the twinning of Highway 101 and construction of an interchange, identified the potential remains of the church. Highway development plans were subsequently altered and no further investigations were undertaken.

In 2015, Kelman Heritage Consulting was retained by Glooscap Ventures to conduct further research, and field reconnaissance, in order to more definitively delineate the limits of the church and cemetery site. The 2015 work was conducted under Heritage Research Permit A2015NS062 and offered several resource management recommendations, which were approved by the Special Places Program, including:

no ground disturbance take place within the registered archaeological site boundaries. Should any such ground disturbance be planned, it is recommended that Glooscap First Nation undertake prior consultations with both the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community and a qualified professional archaeologist (Kelman et al 2015: 11).

Following discussions between Glooscap First Nation and the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community, it was decided that the church and cemetery site should be "cleaned up" by removing some of the smaller trees and brush that had overgrown the site. In order to ensure that ground surface disturbance was limited, Glooscap Ventures retained Kelman Heritage Consulting to provide on-site archaeological monitoring services and advice during the tree and brush removal process.

The tree and brush clearing at the Lower Horton Baptist Church site (BgDb-14) archaeological monitoring program consisted of the visual assessment of tree and brush clearing activities within the registered site area. No actual ground disturbance took place during the tree and brush clearing.

Based on the results of the archaeological monitoring, it is recommended that the tree and brush clearing activities conducted at the Lower Horton Baptist Church site (BgDb-14) in 2016, as described in this report, be cleared of any requirement for further archaeological investigation. It is recommended there continue to be no ground disturbance within the registered archaeological site boundaries. Should any such ground disturbance be planned, it is recommended that Glooscap Ventures undertake prior consultations with both the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community and a qualified professional archaeologist.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODU	INTRODUCTION		
2.0	STUDY A	STUDY AREA2		
3.0	METHODOLOGY		5	
	3.1 Background Research (Screening)			
		ld Reconnaissance		
4.0	RESULTS		6	
	4.1 Background Research (Screening)			
		ld Reconnaissance		
5.0	CONCLUS	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS11		
6.0	REFEREN	RENCES CITED		
		LIST OF FIGURES		
	Figure 1:	General Study Area	3	
	Figure 2:	Detailed Study Area	4	
	Figure 3:	A.F. Church Map		
	Figure 4:	Results	10	
		LIST OF PLATES		
	Plate 1: Rese	Plate 1: Researchers and locals on-site		
		Plate 2: Depression		



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Glooscap Ventures, on behalf of Glooscap First Nation, is proposing to undertake a commercial highway development, at Exit 8A (Ben Jackson Road) on Highway 101, known as Glooscap Landing. Community engagement sessions, with the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community, revealed that historical records indicate that the nineteenth-century Lower Horton Baptist Church and cemetery were once located on the property. In 2004, a program of shovel testing, conducted by Cultural Resource Management Group Limited (CRM Group) in conjunction with the twinning of Highway 101 and construction of an interchange, identified the potential remains of the church. The church site area, including a 100m x 100m buffer to account for the potential cemetery, was registered as archaeological site BgDb-14. Highway development plans were subsequently altered and no further investigations were undertaken.

In 2015, Kelman Heritage Consulting was retained by Glooscap Ventures to conduct further research, and field reconnaissance, in order to more definitively delineate the limits of the church and cemetery site. The 2015 work was conducted under Heritage Research Permit A2015NS062 and offered several resource management recommendations, which were approved by the Special Places Program. Firstly, it was determined that a buffer of 30m x 30m would more accurately encompass the limits of the site. It was further recommended that the registered site name by changed from Lockhartville Baptist Church to Lower Horton Baptist Church. Finally, Kelman Heritage recommended:

no ground disturbance take place within the registered archaeological site boundaries. Should any such ground disturbance be planned, it is recommended that Glooscap First Nation undertake prior consultations with both the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community and a qualified professional archaeologist (Kelman et al 2015: 11).

Following discussions between Glooscap First Nation and the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community, it was decided that the church and cemetery site should be "cleaned up" by removing some of the smaller trees and brush that had overgrown the site. In order to ensure that ground surface disturbance was limited, Glooscap Ventures retained Kelman Heritage Consulting to provide on-site archaeological monitoring services and advice during the tree and brush removal process.

The archaeological program was managed and directed by Darryl Kelman, Principal Archaeologist with Kelman Heritage Consulting. The archaeological monitoring was conducted according to the terms of Heritage Research Permit A2016NS051 (Category 'C'), issued to Kelman by the Special Places Program. This report describes the archaeological monitoring, presents its results, and offers resource management recommendations.



1

2.0 STUDY AREA

The study area is located at Exit 8A, Highway 101 in Kings County, Nova Scotia (*Figure 1*). The overall Glooscap Landing development area extends approximately 25 acres and encompasses land under PID#55234439, formerly owned by Wallace Gregory Maguire, deeded to Glooscap First Nation Economic Development Corporation Limited in July 2014 (*Figure 2*). The current archaeological investigation is centred upon the area covered by the Lower Horton Baptist Church site (BgDb-14), as registered in Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory (MARI). The site was identified by CRM Group, in 2004, while conducting an archaeological assessment for the twinning of Highway 101 and construction of an associated interchange at Ben Jackson Road. A program of shovel testing, undertaken by CRM Group at that time, recovered artifacts dating to the mid-to-late nineteenth century (Stewart & Sanders 2005). Further research was undertaken by Kelman Heritage Consulting in 2015 to more precisely delineate the church and cemetery site (Kelman *et al* 2015).

2.1 Historic Background of Study Area

The following discussion outlines the historic setting of the study area, with specific focus on the nineteenth century Lower Horton Baptist Church site (BgDb-14), and is taken directly from a previous Kelman Heritage Consulting report on the site (Kelman *et al* 2015).

The study area is situated north of Ben Jackson Road, in Kings County (*Figure 2*). The currently-named Ben Jackson Road once formed a part of what is still known as the 'Old Post Road'. This portion of the road was renamed 'Ben Jackson' to commemorate a decorated American Civil War veteran who was born and lived in Lockhartville. The Old Post Road, established by the 1780s, connected Halifax to Annapolis Royal and followed the approximate alignment of an earlier Acadian drove road (Dawson 1988: 136, 139).

Historic property records reveal that, in 1860, a tract of land north of the Old Post Road was deeded to Reverend James Thomas and Deacons Dennis Doleman and Daniel Doleman, by Benjamin Shaw and John Porter, for the site of a new African Meeting House (NS Land Registry 1860; NS Registry of Deeds 1860). This Meeting House was most likely Lower Horton Baptist Church, which was first voted into the African Baptist Association (ABA) in 1859. At that time, the church was listed as having a congregation of fourteen members (ABA 1895).

The 1872 A.F. Church map of Kings County depicts a Baptist Church in the vicinity of study area. Local resident Aileen Johnston remembers a large apple tree growing in a clearing opposite 459 Ben Jackson Road, during her childhood, and being told that a church and cemetery once stood there (Johnston 2015). By georeferencing the 1871 Church map, using the current Google Earth image for the area, Kelman Heritage researchers were able to confirm that the position of the Baptist Church on the nineteenth century map matches the locational information passed down via local oral history.

The church appears to have had a relatively short occupation period. The death of Reverend Thomas, in 1879, marked the last year in which the Lower Horton Baptist

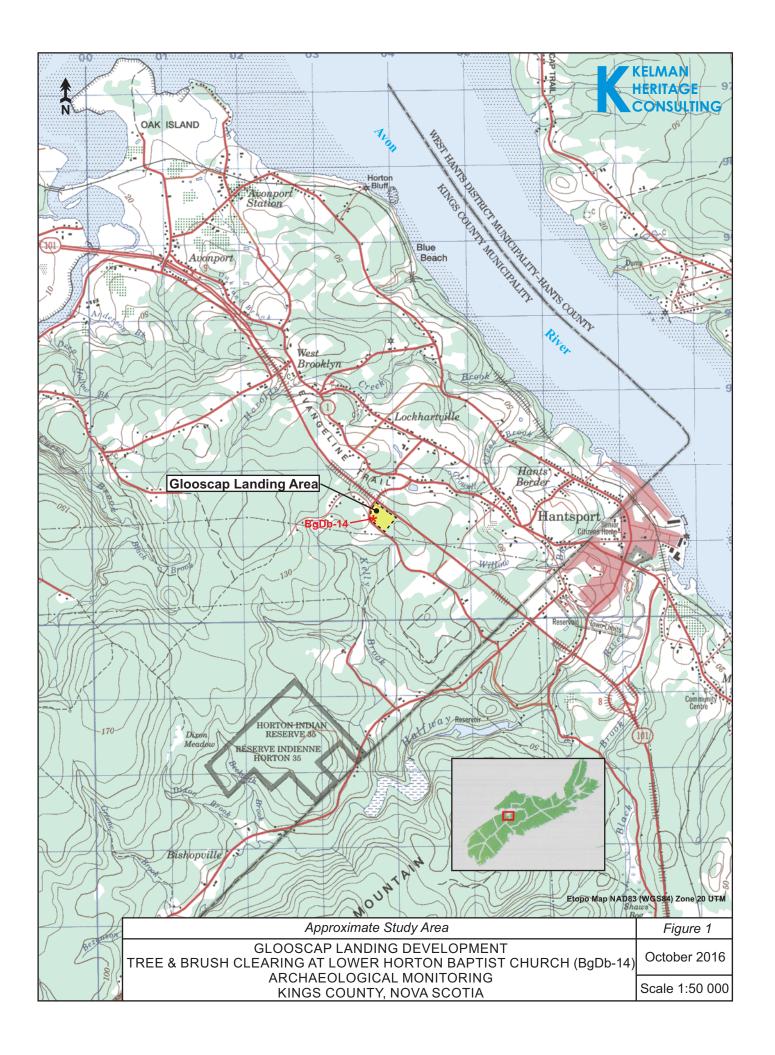


Church contributed vital statistics to the ABA. In 1885, the church was listed in the ABA's Session Minutes; however, there is no record of church members providing the ABA with congregational information at the time (ABA 1895). Furthermore, Aileen Johnston told researchers that, according to her grandmother, the church was no longer standing when her grandmother first came to the area in 1902 (Johnston 2015). The earliest air photo available for the study area dates from 1945 and shows the area where the church once stood as being slightly overgrown. The 1966 air photo, taken during construction of Highway 101, shows extensive disturbance associated with the highway construction. The area around the church, however, remained untouched and is depicted as being completely overgrown.

Local oral history, according to residents Aileen Johnston and Dorothy Brown, suggests there was a cemetery associated with the Lower Horton Baptist Church (Johnston and Brown 2015). This cemetery was likely fairly small. Membership remained low throughout the church's period of service, with a maximum congregation of only twenty-five followers recorded, in 1861, and a low of ten members in 1867 (ABA 1895). In 1876, a female delegate represented the Horton church at the annual ABA session, where it was recorded that the congregation was composed principally of seafaring men, who were often absent; and church meetings were kept up through the assistance of the female members and nearby ministering Brethren (ABA 1876: 6). It has been suggested that given its small membership, combined with the fact that many seafaring members may have died while away from home, one would not expect a large burial ground (McKerrow 1975). In fact, only five deaths were recorded, in the ABA's records, among the congregation of the Lower Horton Baptist Church (ABA 1895).

Before the 20th century, when decorative markers became more popular, graves of African descendents were most often left "unmarked or indicated by handmade markers or stones" (King 2010). This description would appear to be in keeping with local oral tradition for the Lower Horton Baptist Church cemetery. Sisters Aileen Johnston and Dorothy Brown informed researchers that their grandmother had described a small graveyard of unmarked stones situated in close proximity to where the church once stood (Johnston and Brown 2015).







3.0 METHODOLOGY

The goals of the archaeological monitoring program were to ensure that very limited to no ground surface disturbance took place during the tree and brush clearing of the BgDb-14 site area. The archaeological monitor determined select restricted areas where limited ground disturbance could take place, if necessary. Had ground surface disturbance been necessary, the archaeological monitor would have observed and documented the extent of such disturbance, including detailed descriptions of any soils observed, as well as any archaeologically or culturally sensitive resources observed. Documentation of monitoring activities included site plans, field notes, and photographs.

Contact with Mi'kmaq

As per Heritage Research Permit (Category 'C') guidelines, contact was initiated with the Mi'kmaq regarding the archaeological program.



4.0 RESULTS

Tree and brush clearing activities, within the study area, took place on July 12, 2016, under clear, sunny, and warm conditions. The area was cleared manually by a crew of three using chainsaws and trimmers (*Plates 1 & 2*). Stumps were left in place, as were larger trees with deep roots systems. All brush was piled for later removal from the site.

Manual clearing activities were confined to the BgDb-14 site area as defined in the 2015 report (Kelman *et al* 2015). No ground disturbance took place. No archaeological resources or significant deposits were encountered.



PLATE 1: Tree & brush clearing team preparing to start. July 12, 2016.



PLATE 2: Tree & brush clearing in progress. July 12, 2016.



Following removal of the brush piles, Kelman Heritage archaeologists returned to the site to undertake further visual reconnaissance and documentation of the cleared area. The reconnaissance took place on September 7, 2016. With the majority of the brush removed from the site, it was easier to identify and measure some of the visible features. A measured site plan was produced (*Figure 3*) and additional photographs and field notes were taken.

The site area includes a roughly rectangular depression, believed to be the remains of the church structure itself (*Plate 3*). The depression measures approximately 4m x 3.5m. Two small wall segments are visible in the southwest and southeast corners of the depression. The stones used for the walls appear natural (ie: no obvious work has been done to shape them) and are dry-laid. Two courses are visible in the southwestern corner (*Plate 4*). Various other stones were observed in, and just outside of, the depression that looked as though they could originally have formed part of the wall. A small amount of 'mounding' was observed on the north and south sides of the depression. No evidence of mounding was noted on either the east or west sides.

A gently sloped and level area to the south may represent the remains of a pathway that provided access to the church from Ben Jackson Road (*Plate 5*). However, it is also possible that the levelled area was formed more recently, as a result of widening Ben Jackson Road. Just to the east of the possible pathway is a large fill pile that is most likely associated with past roadwork along Ben Jackson Road. To the west of the possible pathway, the area is still somewhat sloped, but the terrain appears much more natural, with slight undulations.



PLATE 3: View of depression; looking west. September 7, 2016.

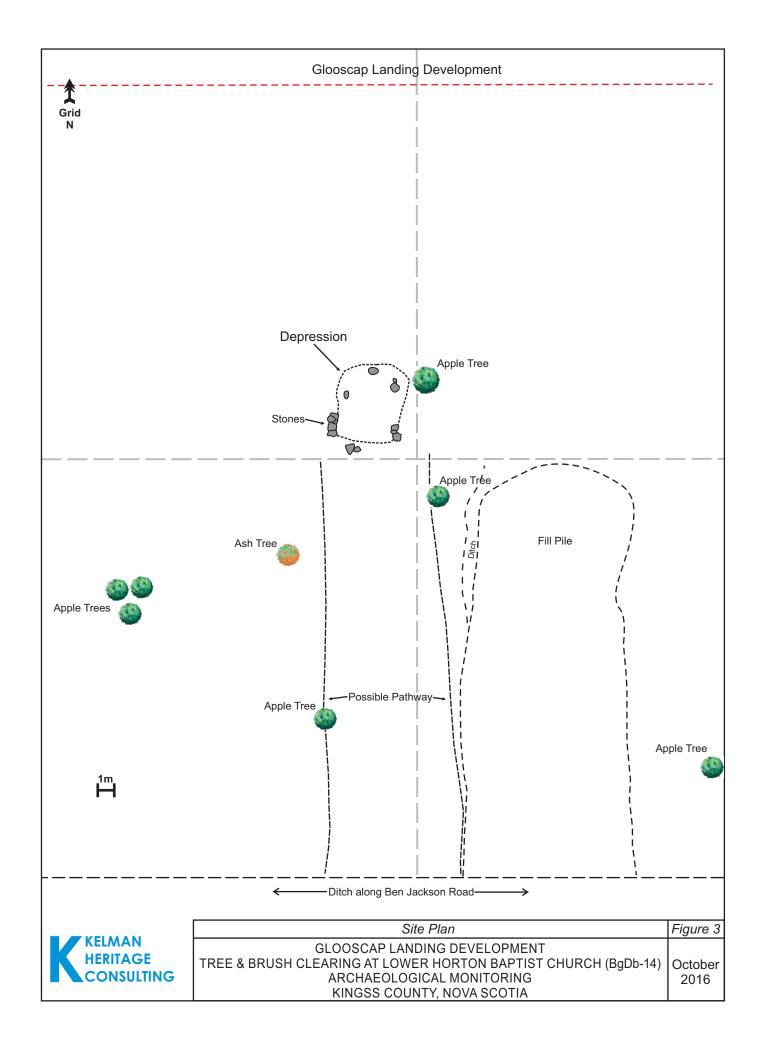




PLATE 4: Detail on portion of stone wall visible in the southwestern corner of the depression. September 7, 2016.



PLATE 5: Depression in foreground with sloped levelled area leading to Ben Jackson Road in the background; looking south. September 7, 2016.



5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological monitoring program, during tree and brush clearing at the Lower Horton Baptist Church site (BgDb-14), consisted of a visual assessment of tree and brush clearing activities within the registered archaeological site area. No actual ground disturbance took place during the tree and brush clearing.

Based on the results of the archaeological monitoring, Kelman Heritage offers the following management recommendations:

- 1. It is recommended that the tree and brush clearing activities conducted at the Lower Horton Baptist Church site (BgDb-14) in 2016, as described in this report, be cleared of any requirement for further archaeological investigation.
- 2. It is recommended that no ground disturbance take place within the registered archaeological site boundaries. Should any such ground disturbance be planned, it is recommended that Glooscap Ventures undertake prior consultations with both the Lockhartville African Nova Scotian community and a qualified professional archaeologist.
- 3. In the unlikely event that significant archaeological resources or human remains are encountered during any construction activities, all work in the associated area(s) should be halted and immediate contact made with the Coordinator of Special Places (Sean Weseloh McKeane: 902-424-6475).



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