

Surveyor General's Office
 York 18th May 1830.

Sir

In obedience to an Order in Council bearing date the 4th February last, relative to a change proposed in the Site of the Town plot, lately laid out at the upper Forks of the River Thames, from the North bank of said River, to that of the South, - wherein it is ordered that Mr. Burwell Deputy Provincial Surveyor, be directed to examine and report upon the arrangement, which will best suit the general convenience of the inhabitants.

The Plan, and report, having been returned by Mr. Burwell, I have the honor to lay the same before you, for the information of His Excellency.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most Obedt
 humble Serv^t

W. Chiswell
 Asst Surveyor Genl

To
 Lieut^g Major Genl^l
 Secy to His Excellency
 The Lieut Governor
 &c - &c - &c

To His Excellency Sir John Colborne Kt.
C. B. Lieut Governor of the Province of Upper
Canada &c. &c. &c. - In Council

The petitioners of the township
inhabitants of the Township of Oxford
humbly shew that your petitioners
perceive that a tract of land situated on
the North side of the Thames, near the
upper locks thereof (in this township)
has lately been laid out into seven lots which
they expect will shortly be offered for
sale - It is the firm persuasion
of your petitioners that the opposite
shore possesses a far more eligible
site for a village than the place lately
laid out; the land not only being a
more elevated situation, but a finely
watered and embraced advantageously
- and by superior to the other - therefore
they can not help regretting that the land
not at first been selected - whereupon we
humbly pray that your Excellency will
be pleased to order a few lots to be
laid out on the Reserve adjoining the
Farm of Jacob Harn and as in duty
bound they will ever pray

Oxford 27 Jan 1830 -
Inhabitant

Isaac Birch
Jacob Harn

of Terra

Silas Finch Sr
Isaac Fuller
Silas Finch Sr

Isaac Merrill
George S. Merrill
Allen Allen
Isaac Merrill
Wallurray

James Aldrich
William Clark
S. W. Wray
Nicholas Bunker
Samuel J. Wray
Thomas Phillips

John Baldwin
Abel Thornton
Emah Bunker
Abraham Sidwith
Isaac Fuller
Horace Fuller
Charles Swan
Benjamin Sampson
& Prantle

Daniel Prantle
John Clarke

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA
Upper Canada Land Petitions 1601-1831
(Box 1, L. 3, Vol. 393 (a))

In Council 31st May 1830.

167

Recommended that no Town Site be granted in the lot vacant
lying on the North Bank of the Thames the site not appearing to
be the most eligible, and that the Petitioners (27th January 1830) be informed
that the Government consider the site proposed in General Russell's
Report to be the most convenient, and will take measures for laying
out a Village there.

It is recommended further, that after a sufficient time
has been allowed for the Inhabitants to make any communication they
may desire, the Surveyor General direct a Village to be laid out as
suggested by General Russell.

Wm. Robinson
Chairman

H

A Petition from
the Inhabitants of the
Town of Berlin
to the Honble Secy of State
for the Colonies
in Council 31st May 1830
The petition is
returned respecting
the Town of Berlin
Ont. of Canada
And in Council 31st May 1830
the petition

O. 16

Upper Canada Land Petitions 1801-1831
Bridle 16, 1829-1831
80 1, 1, 3, Vol. 399 (6)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

16X

O. 16.
M^o 16.
Mayor Sedgwick's
Office 18th May
1830.

Forwarding a report
of Mr Burwell's
respecting the change
of site for a Town
Plot on the River
Thames at Bedford
Government House
21st May 1830

Referred for the
consideration of the
Hon^{ble} Secretary Council
By order
W. Mudge

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

16a

By Surveyors Office, Port Gullett,
29th April 1830.

Sir,

I have the honor to report,
that in obedience to your letter of instructions
of the 31st Ult. which came to hand with
its accompanying enclosure on the 5th
Instant, I proceeded to the Upper Forks
of the River Thames, and examined the
Town Plot already surveyed - the reserve
on the opposite side of the River up to the
forks - and the reservation immediately
above the forks, on the North side of
Dundas Street, and West of Blandford:
and beg leave most respectfully to state
my opinion, that should His Majesty's
Government in any time to come, be
disposed to allot - a situation near the
upper forks of the Thames for public buildings
or District purposes, the point marked
A, in the accompanying Diagram is
best suited for that object. - It is a fine
elevated, and healthful situation, affording
a very commanding view of the Country
to William Christie, Esquire
Acting Surveyor General
variagated

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

navigated by the windings of the Thames
 below the forks to the Westward - above the
 forks to the Northward - and of Cedar Creek,
 to the Southward - as also of the settlements
 along Dundas Street to the Eastward, in
 all of which directions the prospect is
 beautiful - the banks from this position,
 showing from their summits quite irregular
 but easy slopes, frequently intersected by
 rills of Spring water, and various ravines,
 exhibiting altogether an appearance
 exceedingly picturesque - there are however
 in several instances at the base of these
 slopes small white Cedar swamps which
 detract from the beauty of the landscape
 as you approach the borders of the river -
 Between the point A, and where the road
 turns from Dundas Street to the bridge
 across Cedar Creek it is well situated for
 a town - the land is cleared to the East
 and West of the point A, and there are
 several squatters upon this reserve - the
 following are their names, as returned
 upon the Assessment roll for the present
 year, with the number of acres each
 has given in for his improvement. Sgt.
 Henry Lampost, 10 acres - Thomas Tollman

160

7 Acres — Abraham Sudworth 3 Acres —
John Hallock, 20 Acres — William Clark 10 Acres —
Nathaniel Hill, 20 Acres — and David Thompson,
12 Acres — but I am satisfied that there is
twice the quantity of clearing they have
stated — Nathaniel Hill, lives near the
point A.

The other reserves are also settled by
squatters, whose number and names,
I have not ascertained, nor the amount
of their improvements, which however are
considerable: And I am satisfied that
if His Majesty's Government should determine
upon selling these reserves, excepting
what may be necessary for a Town Plot,
that they could sell them in lots — say
of 50 Acres each — If the parts upon
which the squatters have improved were
sold to them in lots of that size, they could
pay for them by four Annual installments,
at a pound per acre.

A principal objection to the site of
the Plot already surveyed is, that part of
it is situated on the declivity of the bank
between Dundas Street, and the Thames,
and a little beyond the foot of the declivity
it is interspersed with Cedar Swamps to
near

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

16A

4

near the water edge; and besides, will be entirely out of the view of the traveller as he passes along Dundas Street, in either direction, until he is almost arrived at its intersection with the Thames. — The same objection, as far as cedar swamp is considered, lies against that part of the reserve on the south side of the River which is situated between Dundas Street, and the farm of Jacob Karn, which however has decidedly the preference to the other, on account of its being exceedingly well watered by Spring wells, and the ground has a surer surface, and in most instances a more gradual sloping, better suited for the erection of houses, and farming of gardens.

Several of the inhabitants were speaking to me about a mill site at the point C, in the Diagram, at the foot of a rapid in the River, where they informed me that four feet of fall can be had by damming the river to set the water back only five chains, and a greater fall by flowing the river higher up: but this, I submit,

is

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

is objectionable, because it would prevent the draining of the cedar swamps, particularly that on the south side of the river, and about the entrance of cedar creek, which might make the place unhealthy. — I do not believe that a sufficient fall can be had by damming the river, to work good flouring Mills, to advantage, without flowing the water past the bridge when it is met by Dundas Street. There is a small rapid of about two feet, in cedar creek, at the point B, in the Diagram, below which there is also some fall before it enters the Thames. — Mr. Peter Carrall, Dy. Surgeon of Oxford, who was with me on the ground, informed me that he had some time before, at the request of some of the inhabitants, taken a level from the point B, to the point C, in the Diagram, and found eleven feet fall. — This being the case, there can be no question but that it affords an excellent site for flouring Mills of the best description. — Cedar Creek is entirely made up of Spring water, and all the inhabitants with whom I spoke on that subject, informed

166

6

informed me that during the month of
Summer it affords nearly the same
quantity of water as the Thames. If the
waters of Cedar Creek were diverted at the
point B, by a Dam of three feet, and
taken by a Canal along the red line
at the foot of the low bank to the point
C, where Mills could be erected, it
would effect all useful purposes in
regard to mills at that place without
any accompanying disadvantages,
And I feel convinced that if His
Majesty's Government should deem it
advisable to offer a grant of one hundred
Acres about the point C, as marked in the
Diagram, with a right to the Canal, and
one Chain on each side of it, Conditional
for the making of the Canal, and the erection
of Mills of a good description, that re-
sponsible persons would propose who would
be glad to avail themselves of such an
opportunity. — If this was effected, I
have no doubt but that Government
might lay out a number of Town
lots on the South side of the proposed
canal, and a Village of Mechanics
would

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

7

169

would grow up in the neighborhood of
the hills that are marked on the Diagram—
At present, let a Town Plot be surveyed
where it may in that neighborhood, but
few lots will be settled for some time
to come, because there is no material
for forming a village, nor any induc-
ment to mechanics.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient
humble servant

M. Berwick
By Surveyor

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

16h

From 29th April 1830

Depy Sur: M. Burrows

Report of his inspection
of the site proposed
for a Town Plot
opposite the Town Plot
of 12th and of another
site immediately above
the Jorks of the Thames

En Dir Sur Lettres^{pt 11}
pages 79. 80 & 81

W

016

Upper Canada Land Petitions "O" Bundle 16, 1829-1831
(RG 1, L 3, Vol. 393 (a))

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA