

Chapter 5. Location and Condition of Battlefield

The Siege of Newport played out over approximately 1,351 acres on opposing hills in Middletown, Rhode Island, not far from the Newport border.¹⁹⁵ The battlefield was comprised of the British outer line, in the Bliss Hill and Tonomy Hill areas, the American works on Honeyman Hill, and the valley between them. Although the hills and valleys remain, few of the defensive works still stand.

5.1 - Location of the Battlefield

The American defenses at Honeyman Hill were located around today's intersections of Green End Avenue, Aquidneck Avenue and Turner Road.¹⁹⁶ The British outer line ran northeast from a 10-gun battery at the intersection of Green End Avenue and [REDACTED], and up the crest of Bliss Hill, passing Card's Redoubt, and including Bannister's and Dudley's Redoubts. From Bliss Hill the line continued north, where it crossed West Main Road (just south of Two Mile Corner), at Irish's Redoubt, and then turned westward to Tonomy Hill.¹⁹⁷

Largely developed today, the area was farmland and orchards when the British arrived in 1776. By the time of the Siege, the landscape had changed dramatically. "The country within a mile of the works has the most desolate appearance that possibly can be imagin'd", Thomas Hughes noted in his diary. "The houses are all burnt for fear they should afford shelter to the enemy, their fences are destroy'd, and their orchards cut to the stumps either for opening the

¹⁹⁵ Based on calculations from measurements taken using Google Earth.

¹⁹⁶ Fage, *Plan of the Works*, 1778. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

¹⁹⁷ Fage, *Plan of the Works*, 1778. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

country or making the abbatis. In short this island, formerly the Garden of America, is now the picture of war and rapine.”¹⁹⁸

5.2 Surface Condition

5.2.1 Battlefield at the Turn of the Century

After the Revolution, Middletown remained a rural farming community and by the turn of the 20th century, had become a mix of farmland and modest cottages on country estates. This is reflected in the *1907 Atlas of Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth*. Honeyman Hill and the east side of Easton’s Pond appears to be comprised of working farms. In contrast, the west side of the pond still had plenty of open space but also included a growing number of estates with elegant names and landscaped paths. These appear mainly along the Newport border with Middletown, in the Bliss Hill area, and are likely sprawl from rapidly growing Newport.¹⁹⁹

The landscape seen in the *1907 Atlas* is backed up by historic photographs from the Middletown Historical Society archives, dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Images of Honeyman Hill (Figure 5.1) and the top of Easton’s Pond show a rural landscape of farmhouses and fields ascending up the hill along Green End Avenue.²⁰⁰ A winding road along the top of Easton’s Pond’s west bank also shows little development (Figure 5.2).²⁰¹ The heavily agricultural setting that was Middletown at the turn of the century made it likely that many of the defenses could have survived.

¹⁹⁸ Hughes, Thomas, 45-46, as quoted in Abbass 1: 434.

¹⁹⁹ Newport-Middletown-Portsmouth 1907 Atlas, Plate 018 Middletown, L.J. Richards & Co. 1907, HistoricMapWorks.com.

²⁰⁰ Historic Photographs PV-56, PV-56-2, Middletown Historical Society.

²⁰¹ Historic Photograph PV-8, Middletown Historical Society.

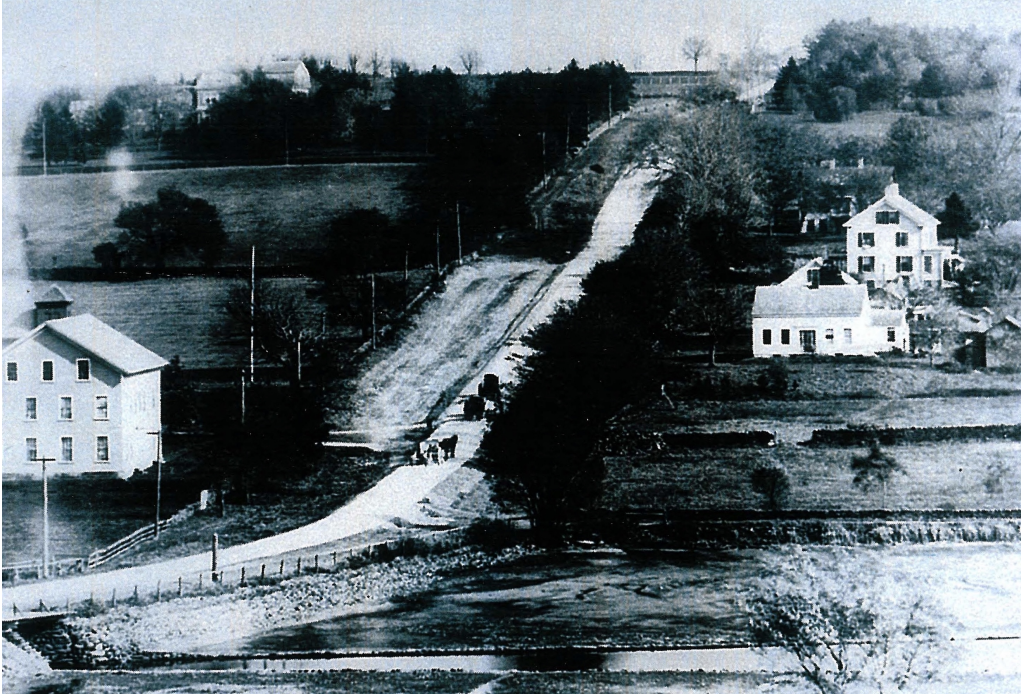


Figure 5.1 Green End Avenue sloping down Honeyman Hill, to the crossing at the top of Easton's Pond, c. 1900. Courtesy of the Collections of the Middletown Historical Society, Middletown, RI.²⁰²



Figure 5.2 Green End Avenue on the west side of Easton's Pond, at the base of Bliss Hill and the Green End area, late 19th century. Courtesy of the Collections of the Middletown Historical Society, Middletown, RI.²⁰³

²⁰² Historic Photograph PV-56-2, Middletown Historical Society.

²⁰³ Historic Photograph PV-8, Middletown Historical Society.

The first major interest in sites from the Siege in Middletown came in 1894, when a group of partners came together to purchase and preserve the fort on Vernon Avenue. Thought to be the remains of Card's Redoubt because of its proximity to Green End, it was eventually donated to the Newport Historical Society (who owns it to this day). Two years later, in 1896, a new book *Revolutionary Defenses of Rhode Island* was published. Written by historian Edward Field, the book references several fortifications that still existed at the time and even includes a map of Rhode Island noting the locations of known fortifications (Figure 5.3). According to Field, although filled decades earlier, some remnants of the works on Honeyman Hill were still visible as late as the 1890s.²⁰⁴ Two forts, "Honeyman's Hill Fort" and "Barkers Hill Fort" were listed on his map of the state and may be all that remained in the late 19th century of the ruined American defenses on Honeyman Hill.²⁰⁵

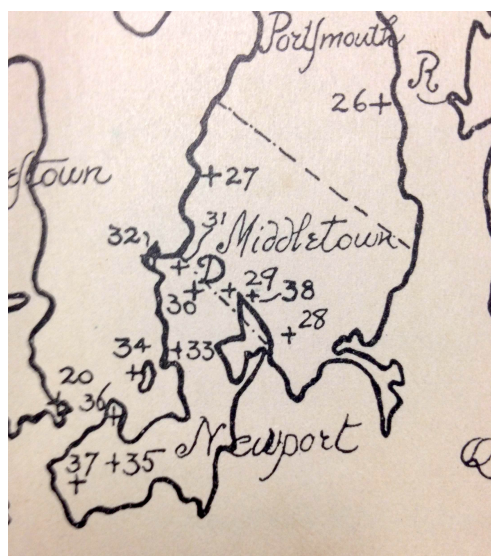


Figure 5.3 The 1896 map of existing fortifications on Aquidneck Island, seen in Field's "Revolutionary Defenses in Rhode Island."²⁰⁶

²⁰⁴ Field, 132.

²⁰⁵ Field, Map # 28.

²⁰⁶ Field, Map # 28.

Many of the works were also still visible in Field's time. He reported, "...the line of intrenchments ran northerly towards Coddington's Point. Within the past dozen years all have disappeared; portions of it in 1884 could be seen at [REDACTED], Collin's place, and Bailey's farm."²⁰⁷ According to the *1907 Atlas*, a [REDACTED] was the owner of the property where Card's Redoubt was located.²⁰⁸ The existence of some lingering defenses on this property were noted again in 1923, when H. W. H. Powel wrote an article for the *Newport History Bulletin*, in which he referred to the visible works at "Old Fort Farm," a common local nickname for the property where Card's Redoubt sits.²⁰⁹ Photographs taken from multiple positions on Honeyman Hill, looking west, toward Card's Redoubt and West Main Road, depict rolling hills of farmland, along with a lush stretch of trees on Bliss Hill (likely the neighborhood of cottages) (Figure 5.4).²¹⁰ This same wooded area is visible from the other side of Bliss Hill in photos taken looking south, back into Newport, from One Mile Corner, and likely provided privacy for this more exclusive area (Figure 5. 5).²¹¹ The scene, looking north from the same spot and up West Main Road into Middletown, is one of open fields and few structures (Figure 5.6). It is possible the remnants of Dudley's, Bannister's and Irish's Redoubts could have still existed in this type of agricultural setting.²¹²

²⁰⁷ Field, 132.

²⁰⁸ Newport-Middletown-Portsmouth 1907 Atlas.

²⁰⁹ H.W.H. Powel, "Early Defenses of Newport During the Siege in 1778," *Bulletin of Newport Historical Society*, No. 47 (November 1923.), 23

²¹⁰ Historic Photograph PV-87, PV-123, Middletown Historical Society

²¹¹ Historic Photograph PV-81, Middletown Historical Society.

²¹² Historic Photograph PV-83, Middletown Historical Society.



Figure 5.4 The turn-of-the-century view from Green End Avenue (in foreground) on Honeyman Hill, looking west toward the tree-lined Bliss Hill. The Witherbee School (which stands today in the same location at the corner of Green End Ave. and Valley Road and is owned by the Middletown Historical Society) can be seen in the lower left corner, serving as a point of reference. Behind it, Miantonomi Avenue winds up Bliss Hill toward the area where Card's Redoubt is located.²¹³



Figure 5.5 The view from One Mile Corner at the town line, looking south into Newport. Bliss Hill is within the treed area on the left.²¹⁴

²¹³ Historic Photograph PV-87, PV-123, Middletown Historical Society.

²¹⁴ Historic Photograph PV-81, Middletown Historical Society.



Figure 5.6 View from One Mile Corner looking north, toward the farm fields of Middletown.²¹⁵

The remains of the fort at Tonomy Hill were also still visible in Field's time. As the highest spot in Newport and one of the highest on the island, Tonomy Hill had been a significant landmark and lookout point for centuries. "In the centre of Tonomy Hill Fort there is an observatory which replaces an old one blown down many years ago, from which an extensive view of Newport and its harbor can be seen."²¹⁶ Field even includes a photograph labeled "Tonomy Hill Fort and Observatory, Newport" where one can see what it looked like at the time he was writing. In 1922 the City of Newport purchased a parcel of land that included Tonomy Hill. Once the seat of power for the Narragansett sachem Miantonomi, the hill was incorporated into a new public park created by the city and named for this historic figure.²¹⁷ Later in 1929, the city replaced the old observatory at the top of the hill with a stone lookout tower, built as a World War I memorial. With sweeping views of Newport and Middletown, it is clear why it was

²¹⁵ Historic Photograph PV-83, Middletown Historical Society.

²¹⁶ Field, 133.

²¹⁷ Abbass 3: 408.

chosen as the site of a lookout and a fortification. Built high atop a rocky outcropping, from here the British could have safely observed their forces at work during the Siege and kept an eye on West Main Road and the bay at the same time.²¹⁸ While other defenses around the island could have been disturbed by agriculture or development, Tonomy Hill Fort and the defense on Little Tonomy, survived into the 20th century, more or less untouched, due to their elevation and rocky terrain. This topography made the sites less useful for practical purposes and better suited for a picturesque lookout and picnic area.²¹⁹

In the early 1920s, the Newport Historical Society became interested in British forts from the American Revolution. A map was drawn up showing what forts were visible on the farmland in Middletown, on what had been the battlefield (Figure 5.7). When compared to contemporary maps of the battlefield, it appears that the NHS map documented the 10-gun battery, Redoute de Saintonge, Card's Redoubt, Irish's Redoubt, Tonomy Hill Fort, and several others defenses constructed by the French near Coddington Point; but at the time, little documentation was available to sort out British from French forts.²²⁰ It was assumed that all defenses were British at their beginning, including the well preserved fort on Vernon Avenue. So in 1924, the Newport Historical Society and its president, Roderick Terry, chose this location as a dedication site to represent the British forts. A ceremony was held and a marker placed that read "Green End Fort built 1777 by the English for the Defense of Newport." The very detailed *Diary of Frederick Mackenzie* had not yet been published (that would happen in 1930), leaving no reason at the time to doubt the fort's assumed origins.

²¹⁸ Field, 102.

²¹⁹ Abbass 3: 407, 408.

²²⁰ Terry, 15.

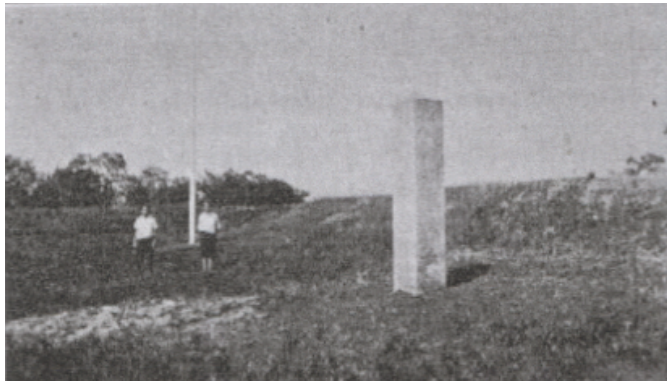
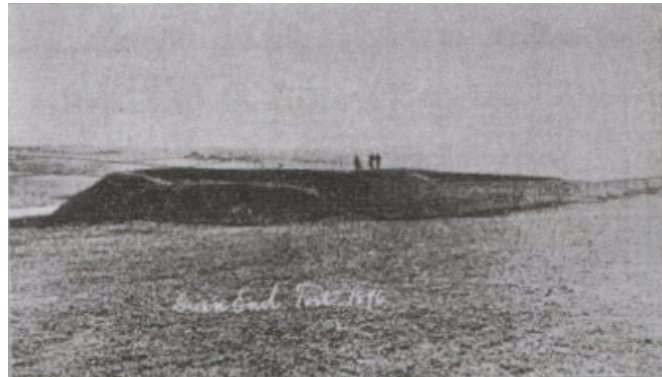


Figure 5.7 Images from Rockerick Terry's 1924 article about the fort on Vernon Avenue. The fort is seen as it looked in the 1870s (upper left, caption on photograph reads: "Green End Fort 1876") and shortly after its 1924 dedication (lower left). The map produced by the Newport Historical Society (right) was also included in Terry's article.²²¹

5.2.2 Battlefield Pre-WWII

A 1939 aerial map of Middletown shows the impact of time to the battlefield. Although little has changed on the farm fields of Honeyman Hill, new neighborhoods cropped up across Bliss Hill (Figure 5.8). The area is a mix of new, tightly laid out streets, older cottages and a few remaining agricultural fields. Card's Redoubt, still in existence, sat in the backyard vegetation of

²²¹ Terry, 2, 15.

a large residence at the corner of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Trees in the shape of the redoubt can be seen in the aerial map (Figure 5.9). In 1778, the British line stretched northwest from Bliss Hill towards Irish's Redoubt, just south of Two Mile Corner. Following this route in 1939 would take one out of the developing Bliss Hill and back into farm fields south of East Main Road. Although no written documentation has been found asserting the ruins of Bannister's, Dudley's or Irish's Redoubts existed into the late 1930s, the aerial photos suggests Irish's Redoubt may have survived. There is a suspicious shape visible in a farm field where it would have been (Figure 5.9), a shape similar to the image of the same redoubt depicted in one of the 1780 French maps.²²²

Having been purchased by the City of Newport in the 1920s and made the site of a park and World War I memorial, little changed at Tonomy Hill in the intervening years. Aerial photos from the late 1930s show the stone tower and paths peeking through trees and brush (Figure 5.9). The park and Little Tonomy, surrounded mainly by farm fields but with residential developments to its south, remained largely undisturbed.²²³

²²² Rochambeau Map Collection, Library of Congress.

²²³ Historic Aerial Photographs, Middletown, RI, 1939. Web. ProvPlan, (mapper.proplan.org/ha).



Figure 5.8 Aerial photo from 1939 shows the use of land pre-WWII. The Honeyman Hill area (east of the pond) is comprised of wide open farm fields, while the Bliss Hill area (west of the pond and closer to Newport) is much more developed. All works that were visible at the time, including Card's Redoubt, Redoute de Saintonge, Irish's Redoubt, Tonomy Hill Fort and Little Tonomy have been marked in red. No evidence has been found to suggest the works on Honeyman Hill survived into the WWII era.²²⁴

²²⁴ Historic Aerial Photographs, ProvPlan.

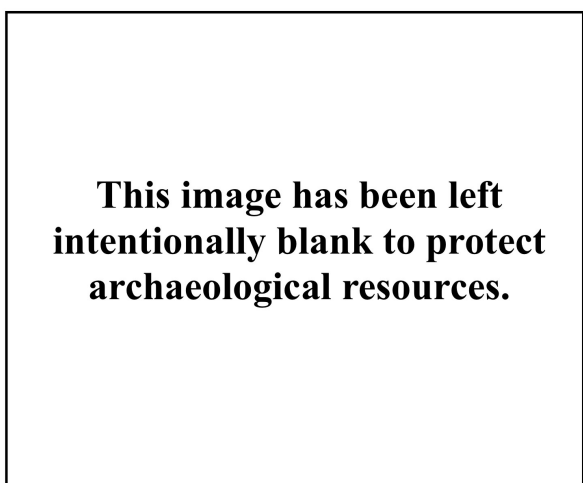


Figure 5.9 Close up aerial photographs taken in 1939 showing the remains of Card's Redoubt (top left), possibly Irish's Redoubt (bottom left) and the defenses at Tonomy Hill (right), Tonomy Hill Fort and "Little Tonomy."²²⁵

²²⁵ Historic Aerial Photographs, ProvPlan.

5.2.3 Battlefield Today

In the post-World War II era, America experienced a building boom as rural communities became suburbs. Middletown was no different. As a result, the battlefield today is largely developed. It is currently comprised of 58% private space, 28% public and 13% non-profit owned land.²²⁶ Only 527 of its 1,351 acres remain unchanged.²²⁷ Much of the developed land is residential but stretches of commercial properties can be found in the valley (on today's Valley Road), along Aquidneck Avenue, and on West Main Road. What little open land that remains is mostly located within the valley and along Bailey's Brook, leading toward Easton's Pond²²⁸, the area that had been impassable in 1778 due to flooding from the hurricane (the Middletown Historical Society owns a 1.15 acre undeveloped parcel in this area). At least 300 acres of the battlefield are threatened due to the ongoing trend of developing open land into residential property.²²⁹

Although Field reported that remnants of the American works at Honeyman Hill were still visible in the 1890s, it is highly unlikely they could still be seen today. The post war suburban developments off of Green End Avenue and commercial landscape of Aquidneck Avenue have left little if any terrain untouched. However, a Middletown resident recently donated to the Middletown Historical Society a 12-pound cannonball that had been buried in his yard on Turner Road. The artifact has since been identified (based on its weight) as a British cannonball that was fired at American defenses during the Siege. Based on where it landed and Mackenzie's accounts, it is likely that the Turner Road cannonball was fired from the British gun

²²⁶ Based on calculations from measurements taken using Google Earth.

²²⁷ Based on calculations from measurements taken using Google Earth.

²²⁸ Today, Easton's Pond is actually broken into two portions. Separated by an earthen embankment, the northern section is now called Green End Pond and the southern remains Easton's Pond. Since it was all one body of water during the 18th century, this landmark will continue to be called Easton's Pond and referred to as one body of water throughout this report.

²²⁹ Based on calculations from measurements taken using Google Earth.

battery #1. Figure 5.10 shows the location of this gun battery on a contemporary map, where the blue and yellow lines intersect. The blue line represents the location of the British defense line and the yellow indicates the path of the cannonball towards Honeyman Hill, which landed south of and a little beyond the American battery #1 (see Figure 5.11). The area is now built up but there is space to look for the remains of the American trenches and gun batteries.

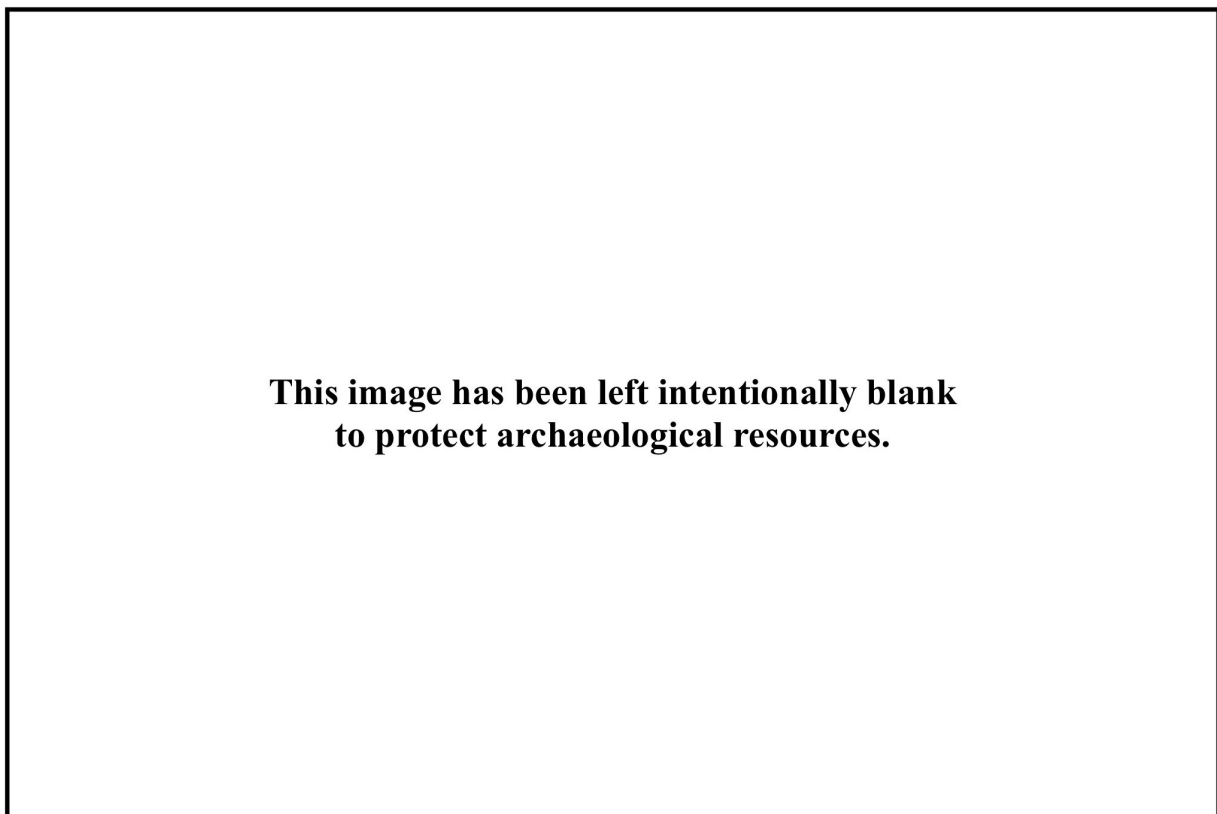


Figure 5.10 North end of the battlefield, as seen on a Google earth map. The blue line shows where the British defense line was and the yellow indicates the path of the cannonball that was found on Turner Road. Note the wide open land in the Bailey's Brook valley.²³⁰

²³⁰ Location calculated using Fage, *Plan of the works*, 1778. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

**This image has been left intentionally blank
to protect archaeological resources.**

Figure 5.11 Honeyman Hill as seen on a Google earth map. The yellow line shows the path of the cannonball that was found on Turner Road.²³¹

The Bliss Hill area is also heavily residential today. Several of the cottages still stand, but the areas between them have been further filled in. The 10-gun battery, where the British outer line began, was located at the top of Green End Avenue, near its intersection with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but no remains exist (see Figure 5.12). The ruins of Card's Redoubt, still visible, sits in a pine grove behind [REDACTED], at the corner of [REDACTED], at Green End (see Figure 5.13). Although not part of the Siege, the fort on Vernon Avenue is nestled into this same neighborhood and sits in excellent condition among modest suburban homes, a block away from Card's Redoubt (see Figure 5.14).

²³¹ Location on Google Map determined using Fage, *Plan of the works*, 1778. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

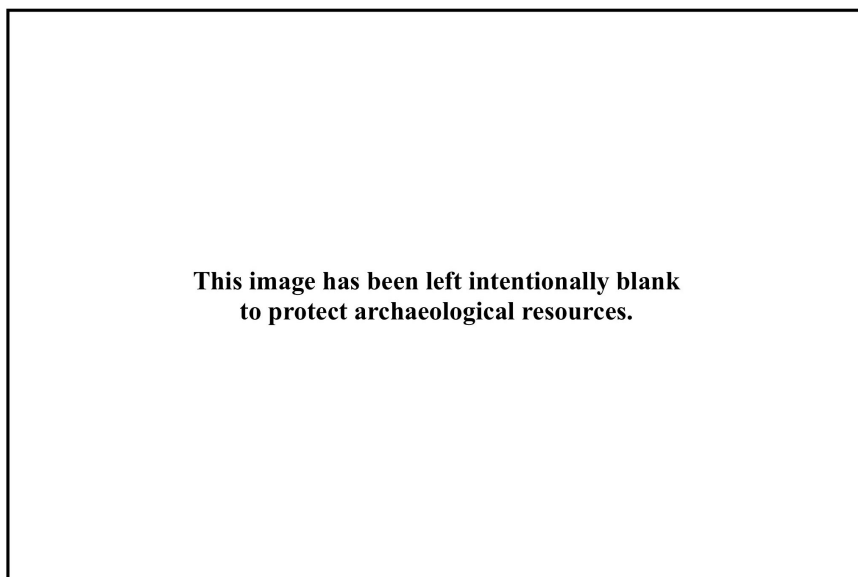


Figure 5.12 The location of the 10-Gun Battery, where the British outer line began, at the top of Green End Ave.²³²

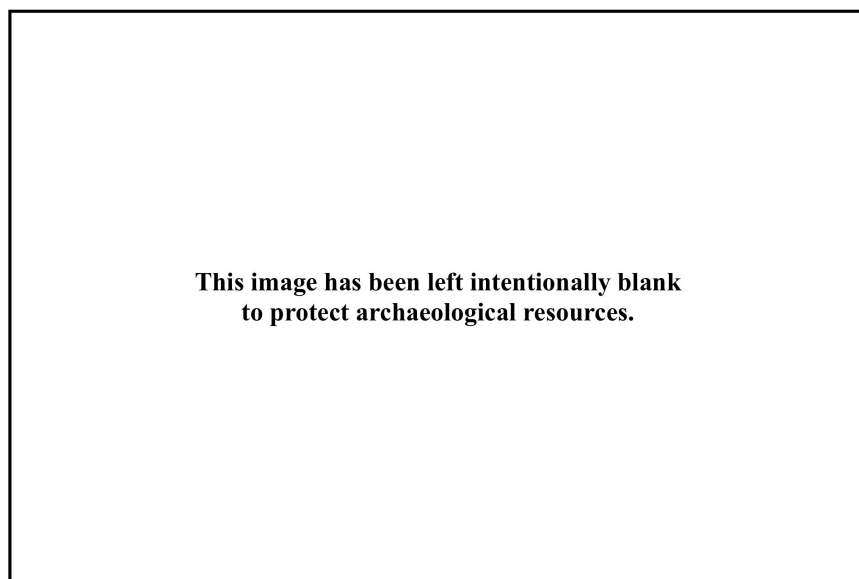
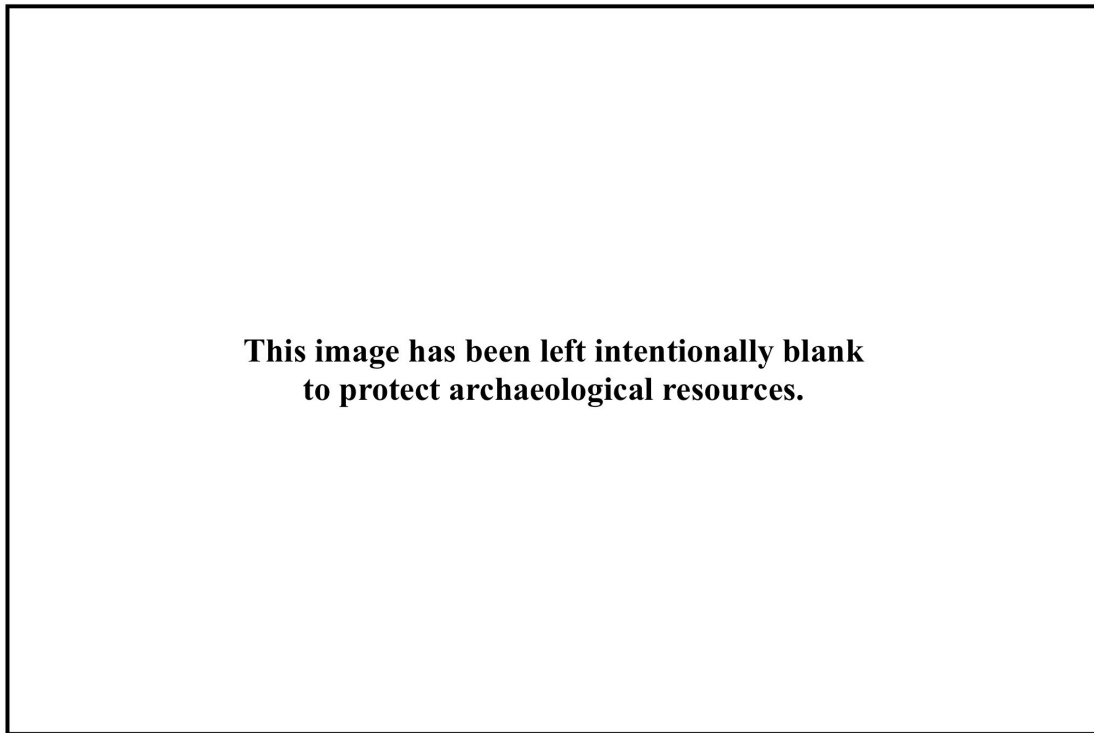


Figure 5.13 The present day location of Card's Redoubt in a pine grove behind 218 Boulevard.²³³

²³² Location on Google Map determined using Fage, *Plan of the works*, 1778. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

²³³ Google Maps.



*Figure 5.14 The location of the fort on Vernon Avenue, the Redoute de Saintonge, as seen on Google earth.*²³⁴

Studies conducted by Ken Walsh, a member of the Newport Historical Society and founding member of the Middletown Historical Society, in the 1970s indicated that Green End Fort was actually the Redoute de Saintonge, built by the French (with help from the American militia) in 1780, when Rochambeau's forces were stationed here (Figures 5.15 and 5.16, bottom, circled in blue).²³⁵

²³⁴ Google Maps.

²³⁵ Walsh, Memo on Location of "Green End Fort", *Newport History*, 1976

Ouvrages neufs construits par les François	
1 Redoute de Coddington	2 lunette de Soissonnois
3 lunette des américains	
4 Queue d'hyronde des Chasseurs	
5 lunette de bourbonnois	6 Redoute St Orige
7 Redoute de la Queue de l'étang	
8 Redoute de la tête de l'étang	
9 lunette de la gauche du Camp	
10 lunette de la droite du Camp	
11 Flèche en avant de la maison Collins	
12 lunette de la pointe du Neck	
13 Redans de la gauche	} de la Castle hill
14 Redans de la droite	
15 Redoute de lauzan	
16 Batterie de mortiers de la Cote de Bréton	
17 Batterie de canons de la Cote de Bréton	
18 Batterie de canons, et mortiers de la pointe de Bréton	
19 Batterie de canons et Retranchemens de Rose island	
20 Redoute de Coasters island	
21 Batterie de canons de Coasters island	

Figure 5.15 List of forts built new for the French, including the Redoute de Saintonge (see #6, abbreviated as Redoute St. Onge).²³⁶

²³⁶ Colbert, 1783. William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

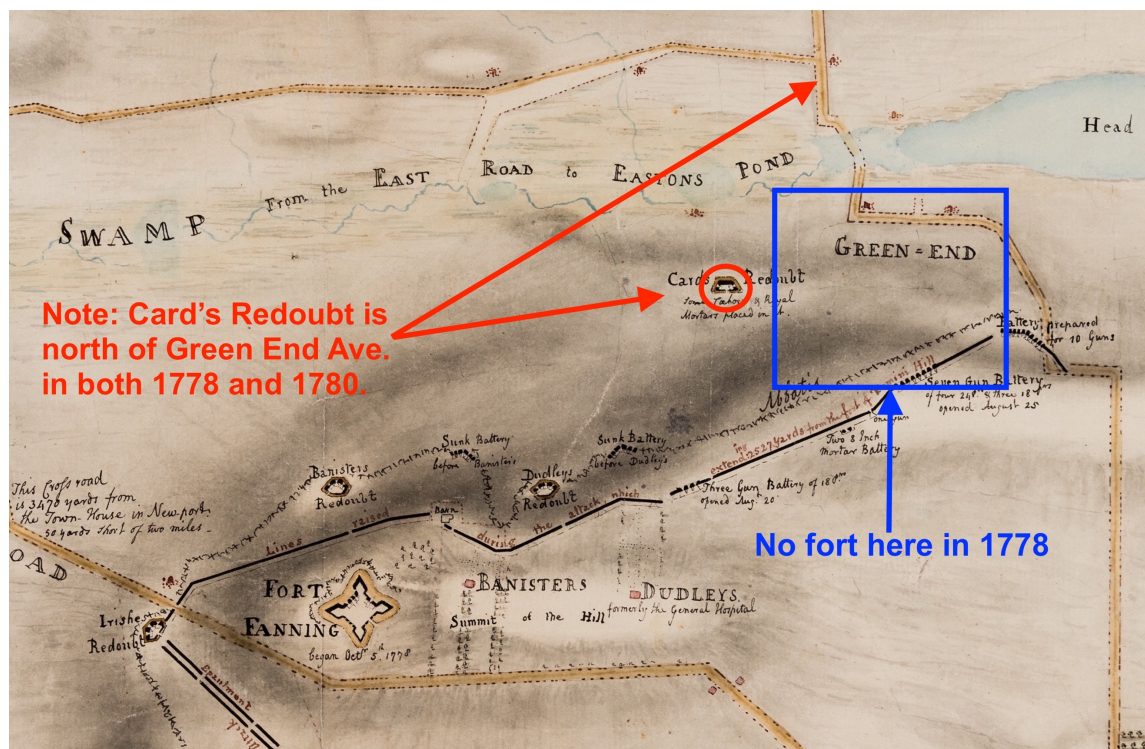


Figure 5.16 The outer line on Bliss Hill, built by the British in 1778 (top) and repaired and expanded by the French in 1780 (bottom). Redoute de Saintonge is not visible on this or any 1778 map but can be seen as #6 (circled in blue), south of Card's Redoubt (#28, circled in red) on the 1780 French map. On both maps Card's is located north of Green End Avenue's crossing of Easton's Pond, while Saintonge is in line with it, which was an early indicator that they were not the same fort.²³⁷

²³⁷ Fage, *Plan of the Works*, 1778 (top); Colbert, 1783 (bottom). William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

The crest of Bliss Hill running north is now home to a large postwar residential development looking down on High Street and the valley below. Any remains of Dudley's or Bannister's Redoubts were likely leveled during the neighborhood's construction. There is also nothing left of Irish's Redoubt, since the area where it was located has also long since been paved over and used as commercial space and parking.

The site of the Tonomy Hill Fort holds the distinct honor of being the least developed site of all the defenses in use during the Siege, thanks in part to the continued existence of Miantonomi Park (Figure 5.17). Its paths and World War I memorial tower are also still there. Other than this monument, which is only open to the public a few days a year, Tonomy Hill Fort sits empty and forgotten. The trees that have grown up around it now block the once spectacular view, leaving little reason for the public to visit it. Some of this overgrowth is eroding away at what had been the edges of the fort and there is no signage or marker indicating its former use. Today, Little Tonomy is completely overgrown. For years, it had been owned by the Newport Housing Authority and had survived perhaps due to its proximity to the Miantonomi Park but it was not officially part of it and thus was in danger without the city's protection.²³⁸ In 2006 the Aquidneck Land Trust became involved and it was soon incorporated into the park. Today, both hills are protected thanks to both their own topography and their inclusion in this public space.

²³⁸ Abbass 3: 405, 408.



Figure 2.17 View from the top of the WWI memorial tower, at the top of Tonomy Hill Fort. The open area below was once part of the fort's interior. Photo by author.

5.2.4 Preservation Recommendations for Existing Sites

With the exception of Card's Redoubt and Tonomy Hill Fort, most of the defenses present during the battle have been leveled or covered with newer construction, though the cannonball discovered on Turner Road is a good sign that evidence of the Siege may still exist beneath the surface. Currently the only defensive work within the boundaries of the original battlefield in excellent condition is the Redoute de Saintonge, which didn't exist in 1778. Clear of brush and looking as if it were built yesterday, it is carefully maintained by the Rhode Island chapter of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The "ruins" of Card's Redoubt and Tonomy Hill Fort, although still in existence, suffer from neglect with their integrity threatened by the increasing growth of vegetation along their earthen walls. Care and routine

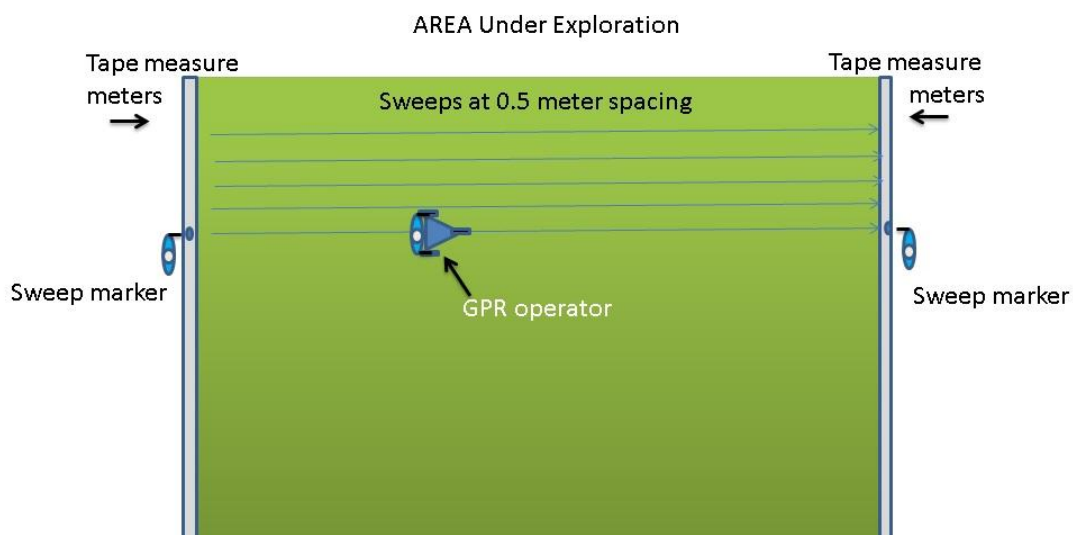
upkeep preserved the Redoute de Saintonge, the same maintenance is lacking but essential for the long-term preservation of Card's Redoubt and Tonomy Hill Fort. Further still, since Tonomy Hill Fort is accessible to the public, it would benefit from signage, placing the area into historical context. Such signage would also benefit the Redoute de Saintonge. Today, the stone marker that incorrectly states "Green End Fort built 1777 by the British for the defense of Newport" remains the only information available at the site. A sign, detailing its history and addressing this confusion, would provide a more accurate context for the casual visitor and prevent the perpetuation of this misnomer.

5.3 Archaeological Evidence

The existence of modern day archeological equipment, such as Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR),²³⁹ has allowed the search for the battlefield to go below the surface (Figure 5.18, 5.19). Three sites associated with the Siege of Newport were selected for GPR surveys based on the historical record and available access to the properties (Figure 5.20). The Redoubt de Saintonge, located on Vernon Avenue, although not in existence during the Siege has been wrongly identified as Green End Fort (a nickname for Card's Redoubt) over the years. It is hoped that evidence uncovered using GPR will further support the true, French, origins of the redoubt. The Aaron Lopez Farm was the location of an outpost used by the British to monitor Patriot activities in Tiverton and the Sakonnet River, in the lead up to the engagement. When the French entered the bay, causing all British forces to pull back to Newport, the post was abandoned. Fort Fanning was a centrally located fort constructed along the outer line (October – December 1778), following the battle, as the British sought to strengthen their defense lines.

²³⁹ A device that uses radar pulses to image the subsurface without disturbing the soil.

Measurement Procedure



The Sweep Markers place their poles on the tape at each end of a sweep. The GPR operator moves between them. When the sweep is finished, the markers are moved 0.5 meters and the next sweep is performed.

Figure 5.18. Procedure used to conduct a GPR study.

GPR Receive Patterns

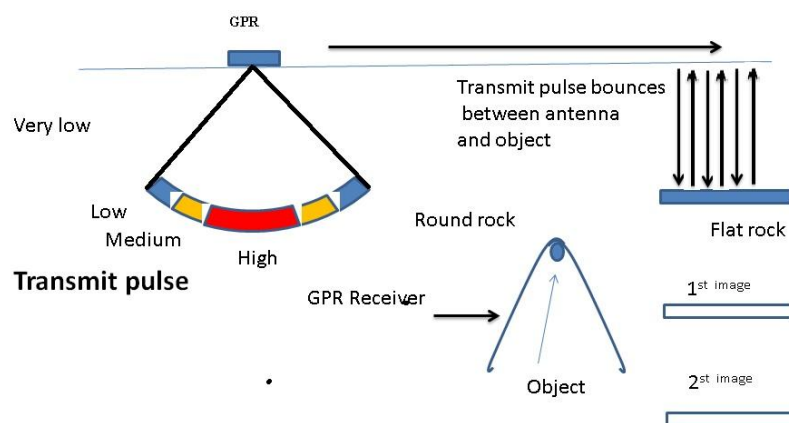


Figure 5.19 GPR Receive Pattern.

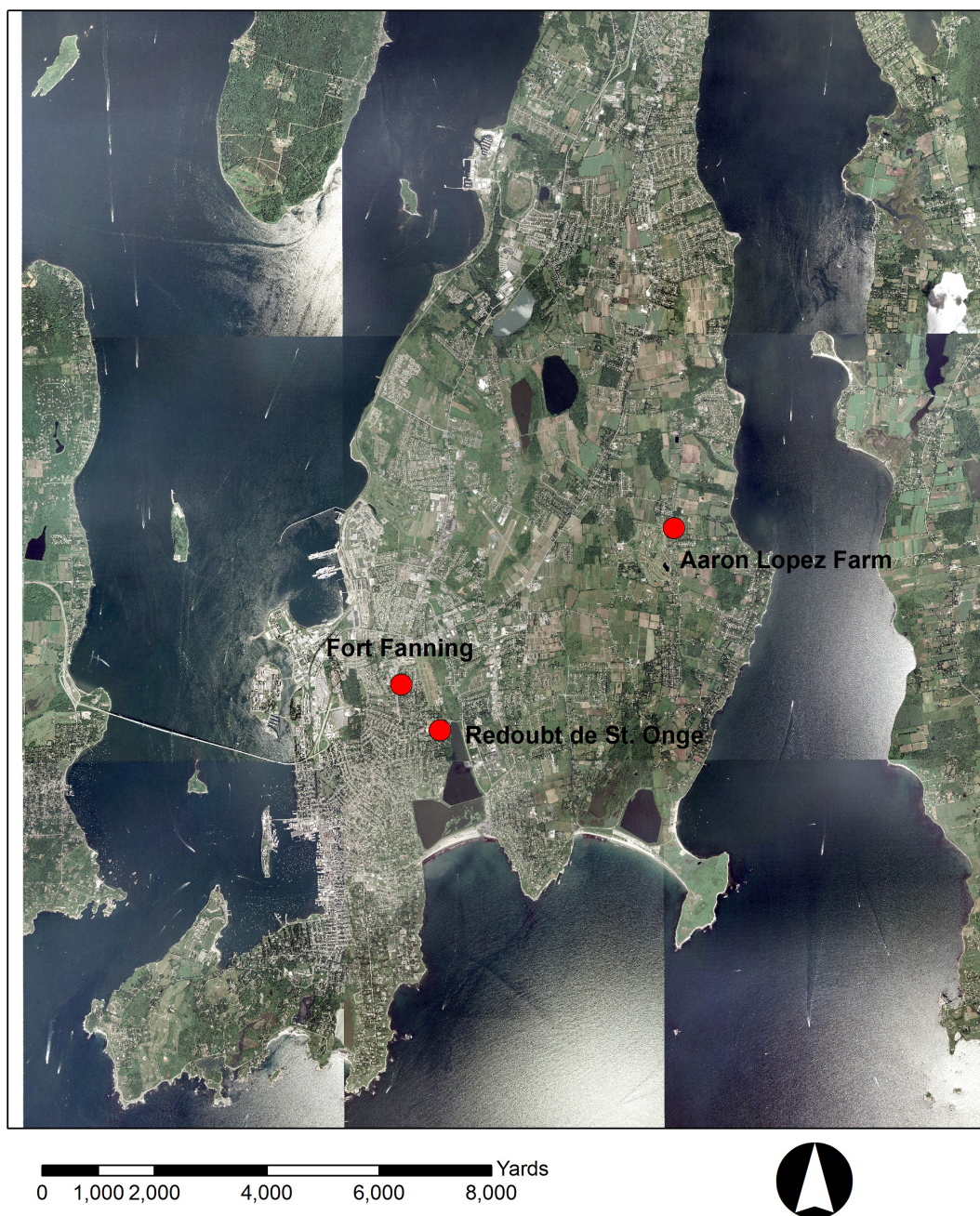


Figure 20 The locations on Aquidneck Island of the three sites where GPR surveys were conducted, the Aaron Lopez Farm, Redoute de Saintonge (abbreviated as St. Onge) and Fort Fanning.

Dr. Jon Bernard Marcoux of Salve Regina University performed these GPR surveys between July 16, 2015 and November 19, 2015, and was assisted by Dr. Kenneth Walsh and Mersina Christopher of the Middletown Historical Society Research Team and students from Salve Regina University's Cultural and Historic Preservation program (Figure 5.21). The results of the surveys were processed by Dr. Marcoux. His findings are discussed in the below paragraphs but his full report can be seen in Appendix F.



Figure 5.21 The GPR survey team at work. Top: Sweep markers, Mersina Christopher (MHS) and Eleni Soares (volunteer from St. Micheal's School,) acted as guides for the GPR survey. Bottom: A Salve Regina University student and Dr. Marcoux scan the survey area at Linden Park, in search of Fort Fanning.

5.3.1 Aaron Lopez Farm

During the British occupation of Aquidneck Island, a number of farm houses along the Island's east coast were seized and fortified. One of these farms was the country estate of Aaron Lopez, who in 1775 was Newport's wealthiest man and was among the 2,000 people who fled the Island at the outbreak of war. When the British fortified the island the Lopez Farm became an outpost and barracks.²⁴⁰ Located in Portsmouth, the Lopez farmhouse was 1,203 feet south of the junction of Wapping Road and Bramans Lane and can be found in a number of contemporary sources. The farm is visible in two Revolutionary War era maps, *A Plan of Rhode Island*, by Charles Blaskowitz, 1770 and *A Plan of Rhode Island, by Edward Fage, Captain Of Artillery, 1777-1779*. It is also detailed in the Town of Portsmouth land records. An indicator of British presence at the Lopez site is the changing footprint of Wapping Road on various historic maps. When a modern map of the area (Figure 5.22) is overlaid on the 1770 Blaskowitz map (Figure 5.23), the path of the Wapping Loop (created by Wapping Road, Michells Lane and Bramans Lane) is a good fit.²⁴¹ When the Google Map overlay is placed on the Fage map, which was created during the British occupation, it appears the British moved Wapping Road in Two places (Figures 5.24 – 5.26).²⁴²

²⁴⁰ *DFM*, 1: 180; “200 at Lopez’s house on the east side.”

²⁴¹ Charles Blaskowitz, *A Plan of Rhode Island with the country and islands adjacent including a plan of the Town of Newport*. 1770. Heritage Charts (heritagecharts.com).

²⁴² Fage, *Plan of Rhode Island*, 1779, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

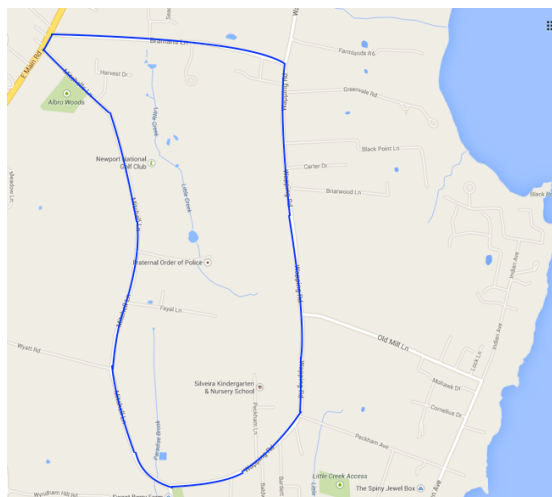
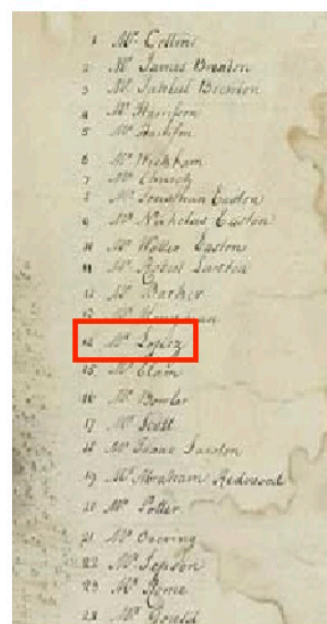


Figure 5.22 Outline of the Wapping loop, as seen today on Google maps, used as a map reference.²⁴³

The Lopez Farm and the “Wapping Loop”



Aaron Lopez listed among the other landowners in the area.

Figure 23 Location of the Lopez farm as recorded on the 1770 Blaskowitz map (left) and the list of farms in the area (right).²⁴⁴

²⁴³ Google Maps.

²⁴⁴ Blaskowitz, *A Plan of Rhode Island with the country and islands adjacent including a plan of the Town of Newport*. 1770.

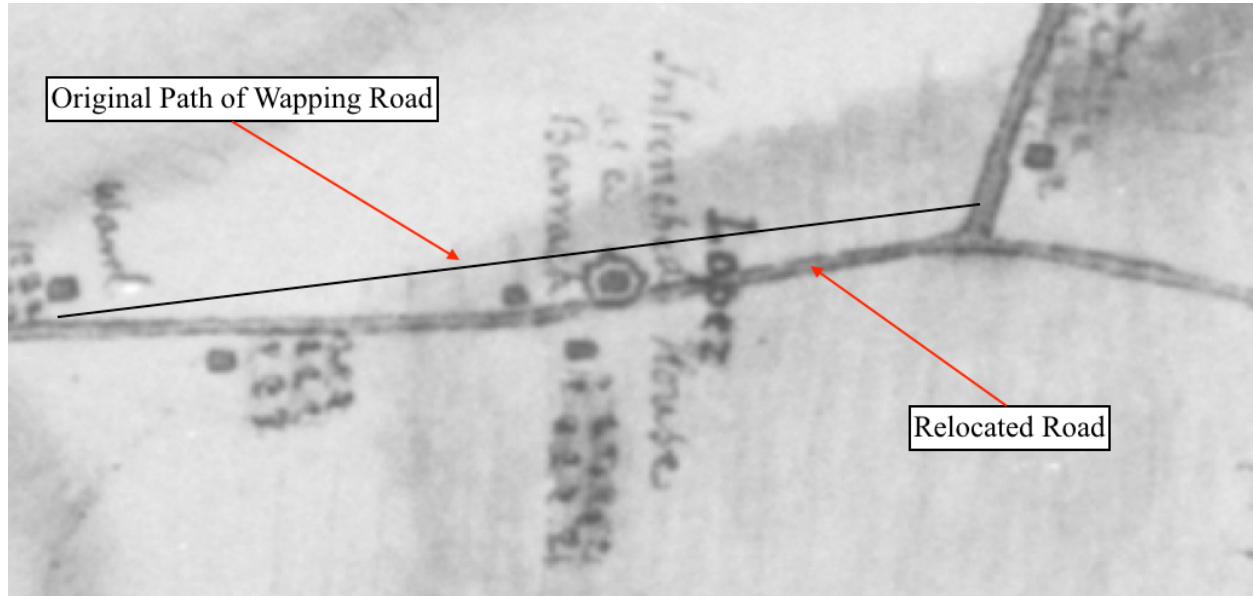


Figure 5.24 The British rerouted Wapping Road to the east of the Lopez house.²⁴⁵



Figure 5.25 There appears to be a path from the corners of Bramans Lane and Wapping Road through the stone walls and to the rear of the house that follows the British modifications.

²⁴⁵ Fage, *Plan of Rhode Island*, 1779, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.



Figure 5.26 The gap in the wall where the road was rerouted.

Today the site of the Lopez Farm is part of Greenvale Vineyards, leaving much of the landscape open and accessible for study. To find further evidence of the British outpost, two GPR surveys were conducted in an attempt to locate intact remains of 18th century outbuildings associated with the farm. Survey areas were identified and set up with a 25m-x-12m grid and a 23m-x-27m grid (Figure 5.27). In the first area (Figure 5.28), multiple linear anomalies intersecting to create a square-shaped feature is believed to be the possible remnants of a long-filled stone foundation. This is likely an outbuilding from the farm. The second area (Figure 5.29) revealed two filled pits, features common in surveys of 18th century archaeological sites. Together, the existence of these features and their context within the site are promising. They suggest that remnants of the Lopez Farm still exist, and thus evidence of the Revolutionary War era outpost could too.

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to protect archaeological resources.**

Figure 5.27 The site of the Lopez Farm with the two survey grids labeled in red.

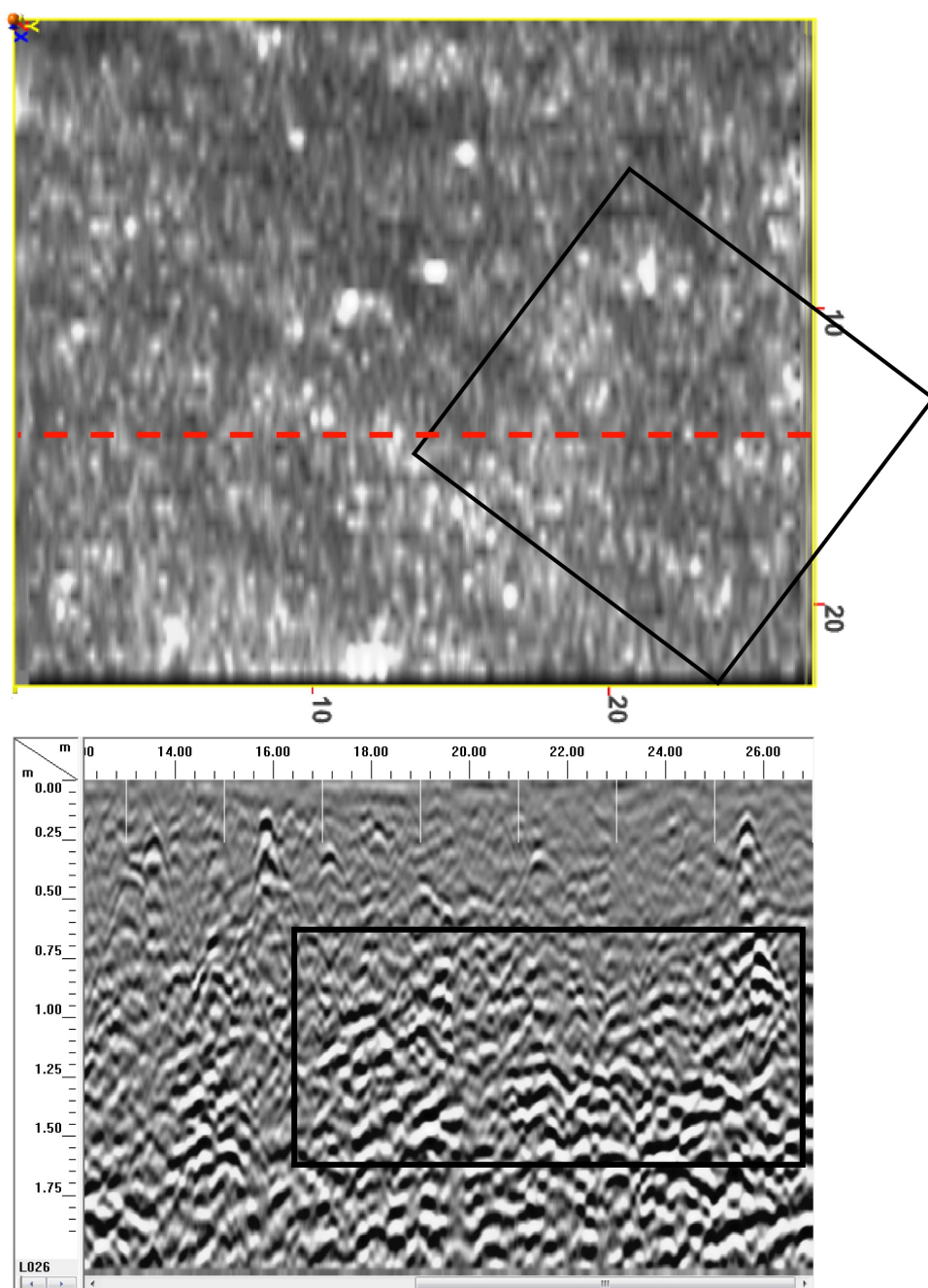


Figure 5.28 GPR results from grid 1 of the Aaron Lopez site.

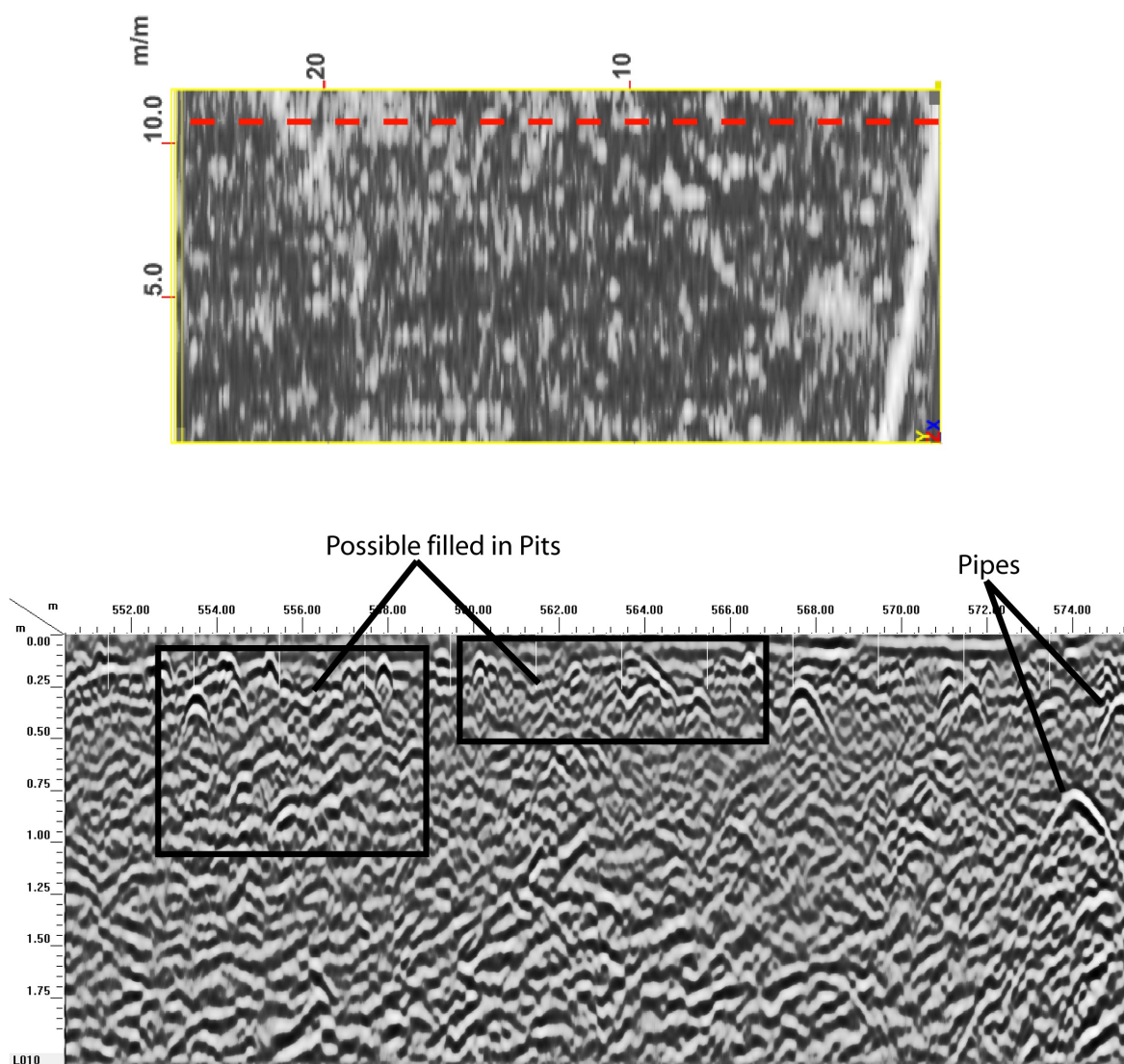


Figure 5.29 Results from grid 2 of the Aaron Lopez site.



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to protect archaeological resources.**

Figure 5.31 survey area at Linden Park in Middletown, suspected site of Fort Fanning.

The GPR results returned several anomalies, but specifically a diamond shaped feature reminiscent of what would be expected for Fort Fanning (Figure 5.32). However, it was too small and its profile too uniform. Upon further analysis and research, including the study of a 1962 aerial photograph, it was determined that this feature was not the 18th century fort but instead a 20th century baseball diamond from the time the school was in use (Figure 5.33). In the end, no evidence of Fort Fanning was detected through this survey but further GPR testing to the east and west of the survey grid should be conducted before ruling out the fort's presence.

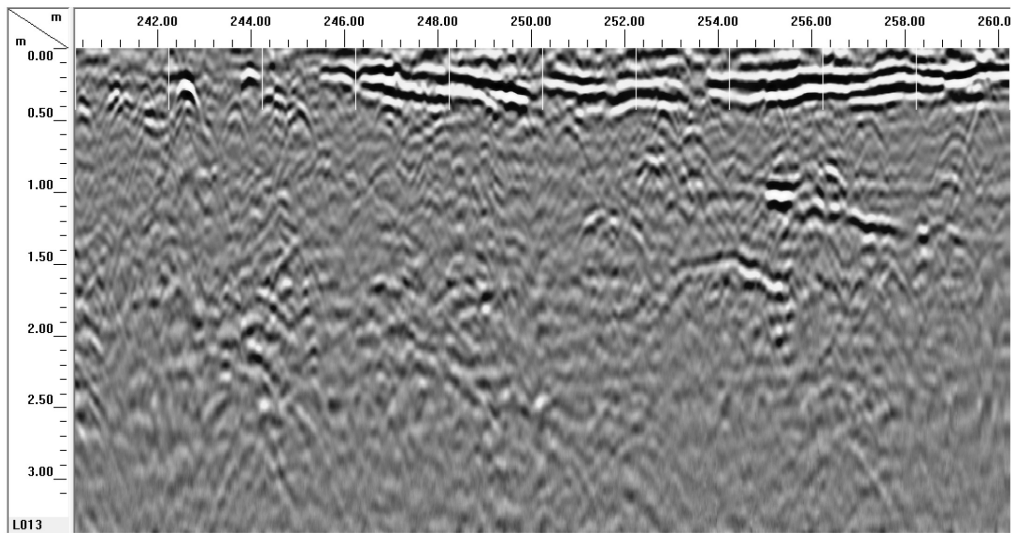
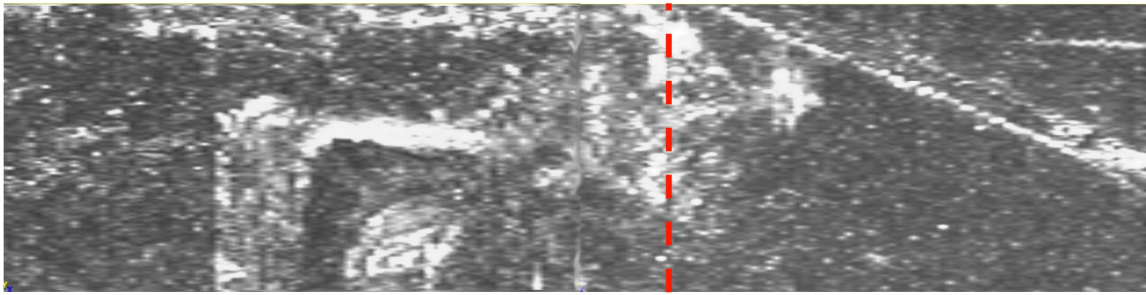


Figure 3 GPR results from the Fort Fanning survey.

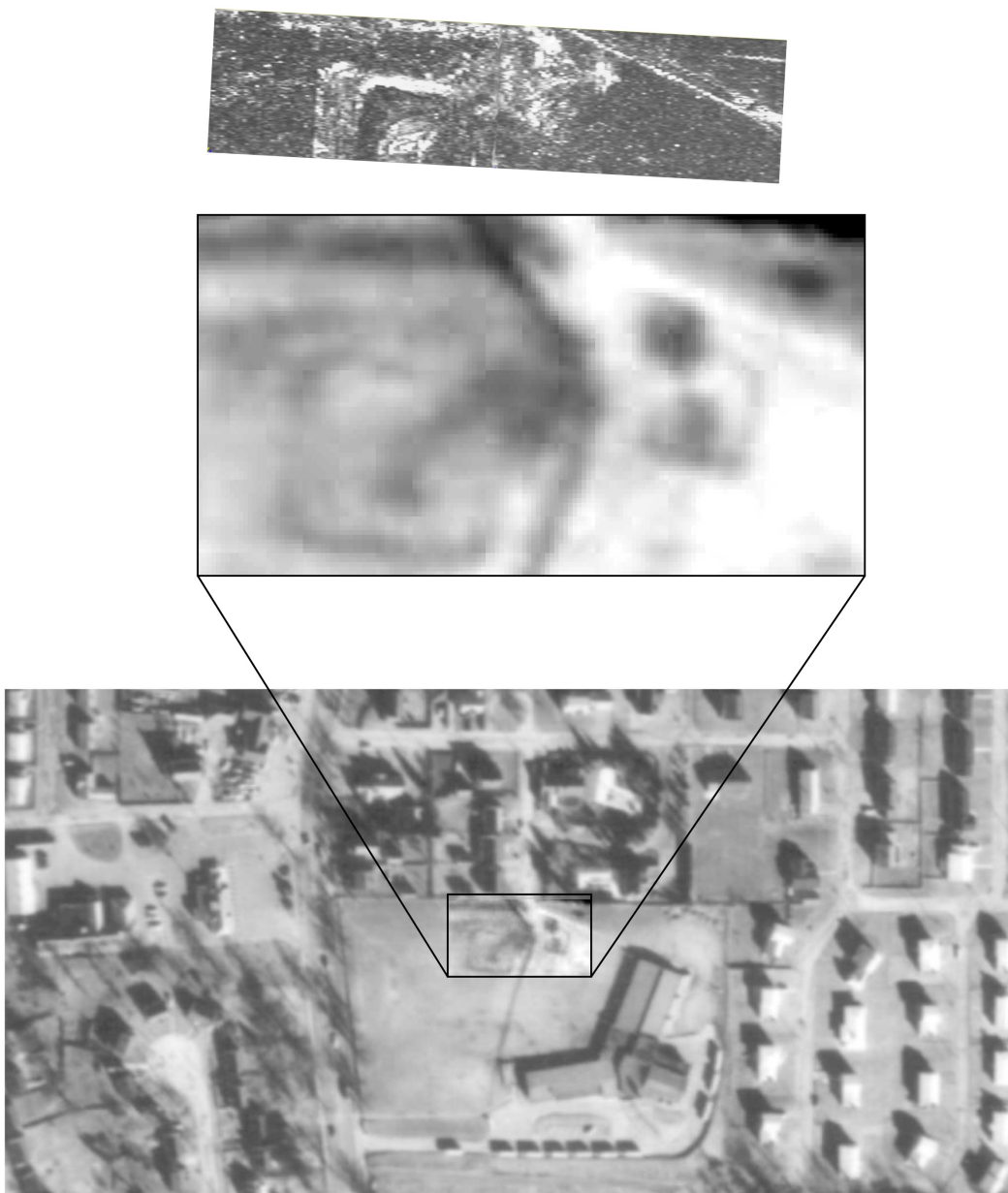


Figure 5.33 The 1962 aerial photograph (bottom and center) showing the existence of a baseball diamond in the same location as the feature (top).

5.3.3 Redoute de Saintonge

Less than a year after the British abandoned Aquidneck Island in October 1779, the French arrived and set to work restoring and expanding on Newport's ruined defense lines, including the addition of Redoute de Saintonge (see Figure 5.34). Dr. Marcoux and his students established a 45m-x-19m grid within the current fortification for a GPR survey (Figure 5.35).



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to protect archaeological resources.**

Figure 5.34 The GPR survey area of the Redoute de Saintonge on Vernon Avenue in Middletown.

The search box was scanned in an east west direction at 50 cm. intervals using a frequency of 400 MHz

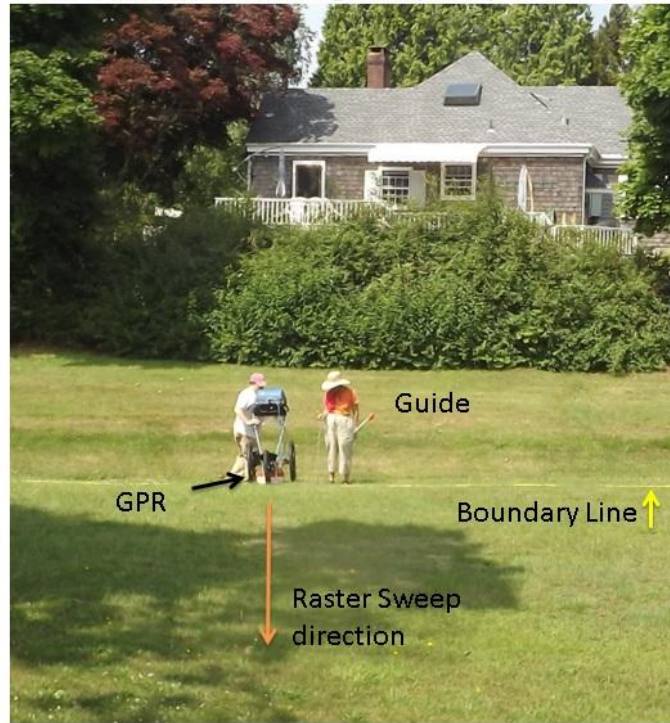


Figure 5.35 GPR scan the Redoute de Saintonge

The features detected during the survey provide evidence of the redoubt's construction. It indicated the original ground surface of the slope from which the redoubt was built, the rammed earth used to level and extend the redoubt away from the natural slope of the land, and the construction of the embankment that protected the soldiers within the redoubt (Figure 5.36). The survey at Saintonge has also shown no evidence of cannonballs beneath the surface. This suggests that it saw no action, further supporting that it was not in existence during the Siege.

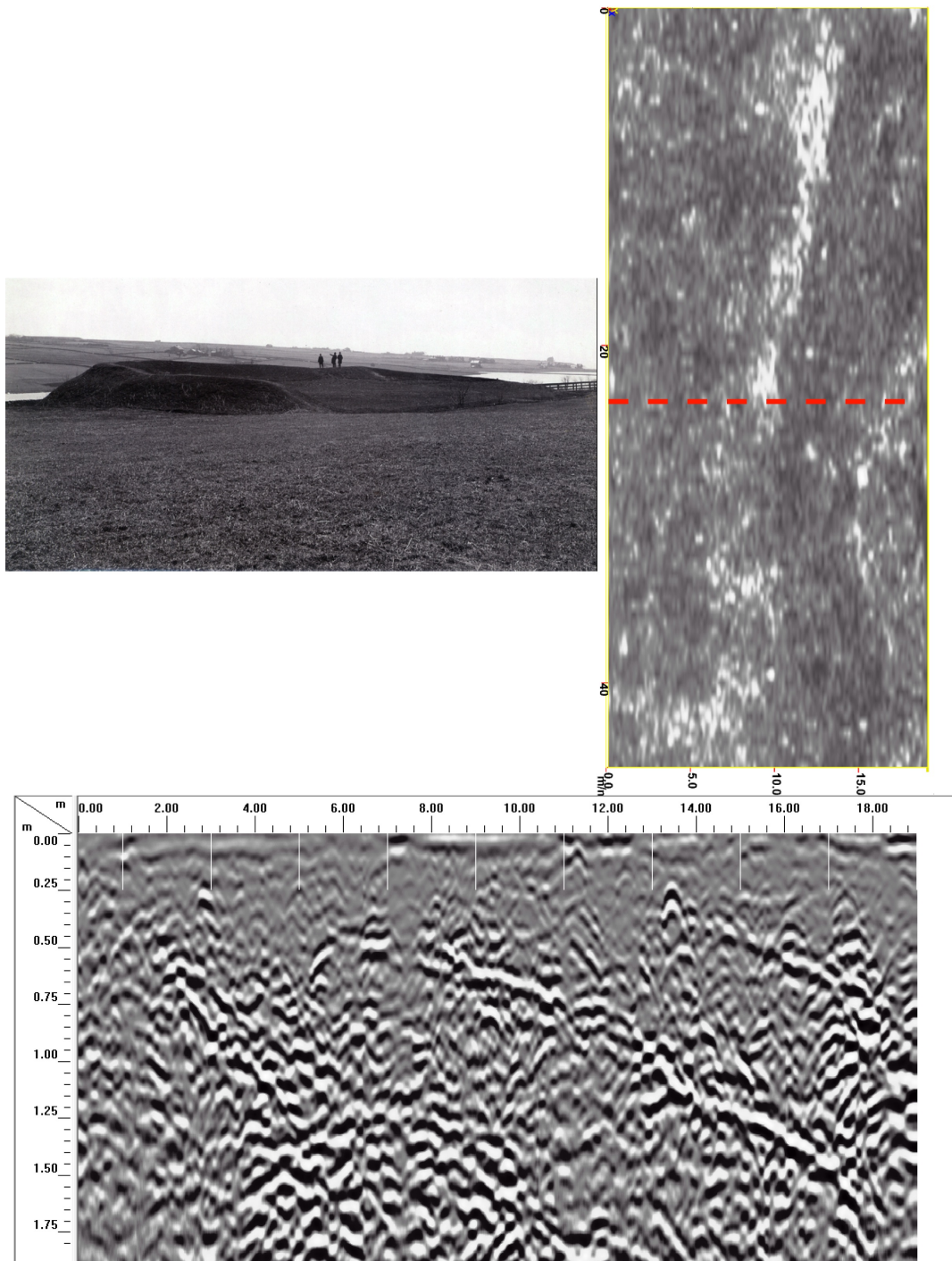


Figure 5.36 GPR results from the Redoute de Saintonge survey.