

***DRAFT HERITAGE REPORT:
REASONS FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION***



*Camp Naivelt
8596 Creditview Road*

May 2010

**Brampton Heritage Board
Date: May 18, 2010**

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Planning, Design & Development



PROFILE OF SUBJECT PROPERTY:

ROLL NUMBER	10-08-0-011-15800-0000
PIN NUMBER	140870045
MUNICIPAL ADDRESS	8596 Creditview Road
WARD NUMBER	6
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Con 4 WHS PT LOTS 2,3
SECONDARY PLAN	
PROPERTY NAME	Camp Naivelt
CURRENT OWNER	Eldorado Camp and Amusements Ltd (United Jewish Peoples Order)
CRITERIA GRADE	A
CURRENT ZONING	Agricultural, Open Space, Floodplain (multiple zoning)
OWNER CONCURRENCE?	YES
CURRENT USES AND FUNCTIONS	Summer Camp / Recreation Facility
PREVIOUS OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS	Same
CONSTRUCTION OR CREATION DATE	1936

REASONS FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION:

Camp Naivelt is a significant cultural heritage landscape. It is worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value or interest. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design or physical value, historical value and/or contextual value. Historical and contextual value criteria elements are especially significant.

GENERAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:

The property known as Camp Naivelt falls within a portion of Lots 2 and 3 in Concession 4, WHS (former township of Chinguacousy). The area was surveyed in 1819.

Camp Naivelt is situated in the heart of the Credit Valley. A portion of the Credit River runs through the property. The overall shape of the parcel is an irregular L-shape that comprises almost 50 acres. Much of the landscape is defined by gently rolling hills with some steep slopes and gullies dropping down toward the Credit River valley. Overall Camp Naivelt is dominated by forest with some open space areas for gatherings and recreation. Property lines are defined by mature hedgerows and page wire fences in some areas.

The subject property as it is today, can be divided into three components. 'Hill 1' is a triangular parcel located on the west side of Creditview Road and linked to the road by an unpaved laneway. In the 1940s and 1950s rudimentary one-room wood frame cottages were built in two converging rows, surrounding a large central open space that serves as a common area.

Hill 1 comprises 24 cottages. The main entrance into Camp Naivelt is situated here, leading in from the west side of Creditview Road. The entrance is partially screened by a hedgerow of cedars and shrubs.

A portion of the Credit River creates a natural divide between Hills 1 and 2. A footbridge, connects the two hills. It was built in recent years by the City of Brampton, replacing an earlier bridge constructed in the 1950s by Camp Naivelt.

Hill 2 is situated on the west side of the Credit River, deeper within the subject property. Some 33 cottages are found on Hill 2. A long row of frame cottage flanks the western property line along its length. It is still known today as "King's Row". The open space fronting Hill 2 is known as "the Hill 2 Circle".

The "Lasowsky Centre" is on Hill 2. The simple cinder block facility is used for meetings, dances and other larger scale events. It replaces an earlier wood frame dining hall built originally when the property was owned by the Canadian National Railway (CNR). It was lost to fire some years ago.

A private laneway bi-sects Hill 2 and 3. The original children's camp (Camp Kindervelt) was located in this general area, along a slope dropping down toward what is the site of the Eldorado Pool. Most of the children's camp area is now overgrown with small trees and vegetation. A topographical map created in 1960 indicates that the children's cottages were laid out in a U-

shaped plan facing east. Some ruins of these cottages survive but most structures appear to have been removed from the area.

Some 32 cottages populate Hill 3. Hill 3 is generally laid out in the same fashion as Hill 2, with a long relatively straight row of frame cottages along the western property line. A camp facility known as “The Ritz” is located in the Hill 3 area. Two vacant buildings that functioned as the children’s camp Infirmary are located just west of “The Ritz”. A frame shed located directly adjacent to the “The Ritz” houses a boiler.

The sloping ravine that drops down toward the Credit River is heavily wooded.

With the exception of a few relatively small clearings that front the cottages and some unpaved laneways, the property is generally defined by dense woodland cover.

STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST OF THE PROPERTY

Camp Naivelt is located at 8596 Creditview Road north of Steeles Avenue. It represents a significant and unique cultural heritage landscape, exhibiting a range of historical, cultural and natural heritage attributes. The cultural heritage value of Camp Naivelt is related primarily to its rich and varied historical value and cultural associations as well as its contextual value.

Historical / Associative Value

Camp Naivelt (Yiddish word for “New World”) has direct associations with a range of important historical and cultural themes.

Eldorado Area

Camp Naivelt contributes much to our understanding of the historical and physical evolution of the Eldorado area within the Credit River valley.

The subject lands were first settled by the Mary Ann Forrest on Lot 3 (sawmill owner) and Jacob Snure on Lot 2, (owner of Eldorado Mills). Creditview Road was surveyed and in place before 1859. The 1877 Atlas identifies Kenneth Chisholm as owner of the subject property. Chisholm purchased the Eldorado Mill site from Jacob Snure prior to 1877. Mapping indicates that the general area remained sparsely populated until after the 1940s.

Originally the property was part of the mill operations along the Credit River but was never seen as either an ideal farming site or suitable for milling.

By the early 1900s the property became part of a large private recreational area known as Eldorado Park. In 1925 the Canadian National Railway (CNR) purchased these lands to establish a full-scale amusement park. The CNR equipped the facility with a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, a dance hall and other amenities. The CNR’s strategy was to use the park attraction as a means to draw families into the area - ideally using the struggling suburban radial railway line that the CNR had purchased in 1918. The line ran through Eldorado and Camp Naivelt in a north-westerly direction, on the west side of the Credit River bank. The rail bed

remains intact along a portion of the river bank, just outside Camp Naivelt near the Eldorado Park swimming pool. A segment of railway track survives inside Camp Naivelt itself.

During the depths of the Great Depression the CNR determined that Eldorado Park was too much of a financial burden. The CNR elected to sell the Eldorado Park attraction. In 1936 a holding company purchased the land for Camp Naivelt.

In the 1930s the secular Jewish organization that founded Camp Naivelt identified Eldorado Park as an ideal location for a permanent camping facility. A holding company was formed called, "Eldorado Camp and Amusements Limited" to purchase the property from the Canadian National Railway, because the CNR evidently would not sell the land to a Jewish organization. Early campers recall a hateful sign that had once been posted at the main entrance to Eldorado Park that warned, "*No Jews or Dogs Allowed*".

In the 1960s, membership at Camp Naivelt declined for a period of time. Approximately 52 acres of Camp Naivelt, containing many camp facilities, was sold to the Township of Chinguacousy (now City of Brampton).

Although almost half of the original Camp Naivelt site was sold the general area retains a rural and undisturbed pastoral quality, partly because the land sold off is still used as parkland and open space (Eldorado Park), also because Camp Naivelt itself has changed little since its inception in the 1930s and because it retains its original, generally passive recreational use.

"Summer Camp" Movement

Camp Naivelt is important in helping to define the importance of the "summer camp" movement that only really took root after World War One. With urbanization many parents started looking for places to take their children that could offer fresh air, open spaces, fun and escape from crime and other problems of the inner-City. It also offered an escape from the risk of polio which always emerged in the summer months. Summer camps were established across North America.

According to Nancy Mykoff of the Jewish Women Encyclopedia, the summer camp concept was especially popular with Jewish organizations, in part because anti-Semitism barred Jewish youth from other more established camps. Jewish summer camps of every political and cultural stripe were formed throughout the continent.

Camp Naivelt became affiliated with similar camps in Quebec and on Sylvan Lake in Hopewell Junction, NY, just outside New York City.

Women's History

The site also has meaningful associations with women's history. The origins of Camp Naivelt rest with a group of six industrious and progressive immigrant women, named: Becky Lapedes, Ray Watson, Leah Linzon, Bella Goodis, Gertie Blugerman and Ethel Temkin. These women formed the Jewish Workers Women's League in 1923 and were central to the eventual creation of Camp Naivelt.

The League established small “workers children’s camps” in the Rouge Hills north of Toronto and at Long Branch as recreational escapes for working class Jewish families. Initially the group only had the means to lease property. When the initiative grew in popularity the Women’s League partnered with the all-male Labour League in order to purchase a larger and better equipped camp site at Eldorado Park, which became Camp Naivelt.

One of their objectives with Camp Naivelt, and its earlier incarnations, was forcefully described by the Women’s League:

“We will explore all avenues in order to create a summer home for workers’ children so that they don’t have to go to the rich charity institutions who with one hand take the skin from our bodies, and with the other throw us a bone and humiliate”.

These women were from poor working families, where the husbands and wife had no choice but to work. They often had no safe places to leave their children in the City so the workers’ camp concept was embraced. It served both a pragmatic aim (caring for the children) and a means to foster a sense of communal living, along with certain cultural and political ideals in their children.

Camp Naivelt was officially opened on June 28, 1936 (see figure one). Initially only a children’s summer camp was in operation on site, (known as Camp Kindervelt). The adult portion of the operation emerged later as Camp Naivelt. In later years the distinction between the two components seems to have blurred and the operational focus shifted to families in general. Eventually the children’s camp was abandoned although remnants of it survive.

Secular Jewish Culture in Canada

In addition to offering relief from the crowding and heat of inner city life, Camp Naivelt was used to promote secular Jewish cultural traditions. A key element of the Camp Naivelt mission has been to foster a deep and meaningful understanding of secular Jewish culture and folklore, the Yiddish language, music, folk art and dance.

In the 1940s the United Jewish People’s Order (UJPO) took over ownership and operations of the property. The UJPO describes itself as: “...an independent, socialist-oriented, secular cultural and educational organization” with branches in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, and members in Montreal and other Canadian centres.

From its beginnings in 1926, the UJPO has always had a socially progressive outlook, consistently promoting labour unionization, peace, and social justice in Canada and the world. All of these ideals were woven into the operational mandate of Camp Naivelt.

Political History

The Camp helps interpret an interesting period in Canada’s political history when utopian Leftist ideology and reform-socialism was popular in many circles.

Political and social activism was a significant part of Camp Naivelt. Its early mission was to promote Socialist and Communist philosophy, tightly integrated with secular Jewish and Yiddish cultural traditions.

Nancy Mykoff's description of Camp Naivelt's sister organization, Sylvan Lake Camp in New York State, might also apply to Camp Naivelt in the early years:

Yiddish culture was mobilized to teach communist ideology...Although the camp was proudly secular...it was a Jewish camp because most of the children were Jewish.... that [many children] learned to identify being Jewish with being communist speaks to the camp's success in collapsing the two identities.

Camp Naivelt was described in the 1992 book "The Un-Canadians", by Len Scher, as:

reflecting a secular, non-Zionist, socialist perspective. It was a community of like-minded, working class people, largely in the needle-trade. There were people who were active in union affairs and, yes, there were people who followed the Communist line.

When Camp Naivelt was officially opened on June 26, 1936, several prominent local Leftist made speeches, including Sam Lipshitz, a activist who had started working for the Canadian Communist party in the early 1930s. His wife Manya taught Yiddish and Jewish history at the Winchevsky Centre for twenty-five years. Sam and Manya Lipshitz and their daughter May (later a prominent Toronto physician and professor of medicine) had a cottage at Camp Naivelt. (*Figure six*) There is a snapshot of Sam Lipshitz speaking at the opening of the Camp, among his personal papers in the York University Archives (*Figure one*).

The Lipshitz family were Naivelt attendees along with other prominent Toronto activists, including Morris Biderman and his family.

Canadian Communist Party leader Tim Buck sometimes spoke at Camp Naivelt. The Multicultural History Society of Ontario has film footage in their collection of a labour picnic at Camp Naivelt, (about 1948), which includes footage of Buck delivering a speech. There are also photographs of Tim Buck at Camp Naivelt in 1945 in the York University Archives (*Figure four*).

Camp Naivelt also helps explore how fears of Soviet expansion during the mid and late 20th century triggered a wave of anti-Communist hysteria known as the "Red Scare" in North America. Camp Naivelt flourished for many years, even during much of the Cold War era when terms like McCarthyism, "Red Menace" and blacklisting became part of popular culture. During the height of the so called, "Red Scare" of the 1950s Camp Naivelt might be described as a refuge of sorts for many prominent American performers that had been blacklisted in the US and banned from performing in many places.

The property was rather secluded when first established. Surrounding lands were either undeveloped or used as farmland. The nearest populated centres were the small rural hamlets of Churchville and Huttonville. During the height of anti-Communist hysteria in the late 1950s, one wonders how many people living nearby or in the town of Brampton were aware that a workers camp with Communist leanings was flourishing in their part of so called, "conservative small town Ontario".

The RCMP was aware of Camp Naivelt however. Many visitors recall the RCMP monitoring activities and goings-on there from time to time through the late 1940s and 1950s. The RCMP would periodically 'stake out' the park entrance, recording license plate numbers and photographing anyone visiting during public events.

Atrocities and widespread anti-Semitism associated with Stalinist Russia were exposed after the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953. These revelations, along with anti-Communist fervor during the Cold War eventually impacted the mission of Camp Naivelt. Social Scientist Ester Reiter documents how membership at Camp Naivelt went through a temporary period of decline in the late 1950s and 1960s, finally resulting in the closure of the children's camp and the sale of 50 acres of the property to the Township of Chinguacousy (now Eldorado Park).

The History of Music and the Arts in Canada

Perhaps Camp Naivelt's most significant historical value is its rich and direct associations with Canada's musical and artistic heritage. Camp Naivelt was clearly a crucible, gathering together and nurturing young, creative minds. The mission of the Camp helped these people tap into and develop their musical, artistic and literary talent. The long list of Naivelt alumni who went on to forge distinguished careers in music, film, literature, journalism and the arts is astounding.

This well spring of creativity is particularly evident with regard to folk music, a musical genre that focused on the struggles of the working class, the poor and new immigrants; all matters of concern to the founders of Camp Naivelt.

Folk music was an integral part of Camp Naivelt's activities and children's programming. The United Jewish People's Order, owners of Camp Naivelt, established the UJPO Youth Singers in the early 1950s. Groups toured the country singing folk songs, Yiddish music and political anthems. Many Camp Naivelt attendees participated in these national tours.

Gillian Mitchell's book, "North American Folk Music Revival: Nation and Identity in the United States and Canada, 1945-1980" states that "one of the crucial centres for early Jewish-Canadian folk music was a summer camp for Jewish families named Camp Naivelt" and that "Camp Naivelt and the Toronto Jewish community were instrumental in promoting folk music in Canada".

The founding members of Canada's first and best known folk music group, *The Travellers*, met as youth at Camp Naivelt and formed the group while there. In the summer of 1953 Jerry Gray, Simone Johnston, Sid Dolgay and Jerry Goodis became friends after watching American folk music legend, Pete Seeger perform at Camp Naivelt (Figures 8 and 9). Seeger was a regular visitor in the 1950s. Seeger acted as a mentor to the fledging folk group and encouraged them to form essentially a Canadian version of his own folk group, "The Weavers".

In 1955 *The Traveller's* adapted Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" with Canadian place references. Their version of this iconic folk anthem became a nation-wide hit record and remains their signature song. *The Travellers* also have the distinction of being the first Canadian musical group to gain international fame.

The CBC Archives holds a July 1960 recording from a summer evening concert at Camp Naivelt. It features the teenage voice of camp member Zalman Yanovsky. As a youth, Zal Yanovsky spent most of his summers at Camp Naivelt. In the early 1960s Yanovsky relocated to New York City. He became a member of a group called the *Mugwumps* with friends John Sebastian, Mama Cass Elliott and Denny Doherty (later members of *The Mamas and The Papas*). In 1964 Yanovsky and John Sebastian co-founded the rock band, *Lovin' Spoonful*. Yanovsky was lead guitarist. *Lovin' Spoonful's* hits include "Summer in the City" and "Do You Believe in Magic". He left the group in 1967 for a solo career.

The tape mentioned above, also features the voice of another Naivelt attendee, Sharon Trostin. She would later become a member of the children's group *Sharon, Lois and Bram*. *Sharon, Lois and Bram* became very popular in the 1980s with their CBC television programs, "The Elephant Show" and "Skinnamarink TV". The Juno Award winning trio sold millions of albums, performed at the Clinton White House in 1994 and were awarded the Order of Canada in 2002. Sharon Trostin was married Joe Hampson, a member of *The Travellers* starting in 1965.

Juno Award winning singer, songwriter, Eddie Schwartz, is a Camp Naivelt alumnus. He spent a great deal of time there in the 1970s. Schwartz is perhaps best known as the composer of the 1980 pop song "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" which became a hit for rock star Pat Benatar. He was also music producer for artists including, The Doobie Brothers, Donna Summer and Rita Coolidge.

Ben Mink is another Camp Naivelt attendee who has had a distinguished music career. Mink has collaborated with such stars as k.d. Lang, both producing some of her best albums and co-authoring many of her hit songs. In 1993 he and Lang won a Juno for Best Songwriter. They were also nominated for a Grammy Award. Mink has also produced work for the *Barenaked Ladies*.

Estelle Klein, the first artistic director of the *Mariposa Folk Festival* was another alumnus of Camp Naivelt. An obituary describes her as the "Queen Mother of Canadian folk music". She was artistic director of the Mariposa Folk Festival for 20 years beginning in 1964. As director she innovated the "standard" format of Canadian folk festival as day long events with workshops, arts and crafts and public interaction with artists. The Ontario Council of Folk Festivals created a prestigious award named in her honour. Estelle Klein developed her deep and life-long love for folk music while at Camp Naivelt, according to her obituary.

Camp Naivelt influences extended beyond folk music to the arts in general. Another significant Camp Naivelt alumnus was Dusty Cohl, co-founder of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Cohl was a camp counselor in the 1940s.

A close friend of Cohl's was Hollywood film director, Ted Kotcheff. The two met at Camp Naivelt in the 1940s. Kotcheff is best known as director of "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz", "Uncommon Valour", "First Blood", "Weekend at Bernie's" and several other Hollywood feature films. He has also directed several American television series, including "Law and Order: SVU".

Toronto Star columnist David Lewis Stein and well known author James Laxer were long time visitors to Camp Naivelt as children. Stein recalls how desperate his parents were to get him out of the crowded city so as to avoid the dreaded polio epidemics that hit Toronto every

summer. James Laxer details his Camp Naivelt memories in his autobiographical book, "Red Diaper Baby: A Boyhood in the Age of McCarthyism".

Jerry Goodis, a long time Naivelt attendee and founding member of *The Travellers*, left the folk group in 1960. He formed what would become Canada's largest advertising agency. His firm created such phrases as, "At Speedy You're a Somebody" and "Harvey's makes your hamburger a beautiful thing." Goodis also worked as a publicist for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Another prominent Naivelt figure was Avrom Yanovsky (1911-1979), father of rock performer Zal Yanovsky. Avrom Yanovsky was a noted political cartoonist and artist, who studied with members of the Group of Seven. Yanovsky's cartoons were featured in the Toronto Tribune newspaper and in several left-wing magazines and newspapers.

Camp Naivelt was visited regularly by a range of prominent American folk singers, authors and artist between the 1940s and 1960s. A long-time fixture at Camp Naivelt was legendary American folk singer Pete Seeger. Seeger performed there starting in the mid 1950s after he was 'blacklisted' by the US House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). As 'red baiting' intensified in the 1950s Seeger could only make a regular living on the college campus circuit and at "Left summer camps" according to a biography by Richard Taskin.

David Lewis Stein recalls that on sunny days Pete Seeger would just sit on a picnic table at Camp Naivelt and start strumming his banjo. Soon he was giving impromptu concerts for anyone that gathered around him.

Pete Seeger either wrote or adapted several of the most important folk songs of the 20th century including: "Where Have All The Flowers Gone", "If I Had A Hammer", the civil rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome" and "Turn, Turn, Turn", which became a huge hit for the folk rock band, "The Byrds" in 1965. Seeger also co-founded the legendary folk group, "The Weavers". Their rendition of "Goodnight Irene" was a #1 pop hit in 1950.

Camp Naivelt Cultural Committee minutes for a meeting held on April 18, 1955 suggests that well known performers and authors were actively sought out and paid to visit Camp Naivelt. The April 1955 minutes record that Pete Seeger would be visiting in the summer.

The Cultural Committee minute book records that Canadian folklorist Ruth Rubin was booked to visit in July, presumably for lectures on Yiddish music and folklore, which she devoted her life to studying.

The minutes also record that American author Bernard Malamud was "prepared to spend 10 days in camp for \$100 which includes travelling expenses". Malamud is a Pulitzer Prize winning author perhaps best remembered as author of "The Natural" about a fictional baseball player.

Earl Robinson, an American born songwriter, musician and leftist political activist, was "prepared to come to Camp Naivelt's opening weekend for \$100 plus expenses". Robinson composed the folk song, "Joe Hill", also, "The House I Live In" for a short film on anti-Semitism starring Frank Sinatra. The song was a hit record for Sinatra in 1945 and the film later won an Academy Award. Robinson was blacklisted in the McCarthy era.

Paul Robeson (1898-1976), the great American baritone, stage and film actor and political activist, also visited Camp Naivelt and performed there many times in the 1950s and is fondly remembered by many Naivelt attendees. Like Seeger and Earl Robinson, he too faced blacklisting during the McCarthy era for his leftist politics. Robeson is best known for his performances in the musical, *Show Boat* and Shakespeare's *Othello*. James Laxer, cited above, recalls in his autobiography how enthralled he was hearing Robeson sing at Camp Naivelt and marveling at the sheer power and, as he put it, “velocity” of his famous baritone voice.

American folk singer Phil Ochs, best known for the 'protest song' "I Ain't A March'n Anymore" visited and performed several time at Camp Naivelt in the 1960s. Ochs is fondly remembered by many Camp Naivelt attendees.

Camp Naivelt clearly served as a crucible allowing a great many gifted young people to hone their talents, and in its heyday, was also a destination for prominent folk singers and other performers. It can certainly be argued that the musical and cultural associations alone, give Camp Naivelt national heritage significance.

Contextual Value

Camp Naivelt is physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings. It is a key component within the Eldorado area, a large, complex and interwoven cultural landscape, nestled within a few hundred acres of the Credit Valley.

It is most directly historically and physically associated with the modern day Eldorado Park, owned by the City of Brampton. Originally this parcel contained many of the key recreational facilities either constructed by Camp Naivelt or taken over when the property was purchased from the CNR in 1936. These facilities included the Dance Pavilion, amusement rides, fire pit, swimming holes and in-ground swimming pool (originally one of the largest pools in Southern Ontario).

Another compelling contextual association is the now abandoned Guelph electric radial railway line. It was constructed as the Toronto Suburban Street Railway. The suburban railway ran through Camp Naivelt on its way to Huttonville and points west. A visible portion of the original rail bed survives along the eastern property line of Camp Naivelt and Eldorado Park. The rail bed follows the bank of the Credit River in a southerly direction, starting at the Eldorado Park swimming pool. The rail bed is visible starting at the south-west corner of the swimming pool.

A surviving portion of iron track from the radial line is situated inside Camp Naivelt. The rails extend over a narrow gully. Concrete piers and planks rest in a pile at the base of the gully just below the track. Presumably this structure was once a small railway bridge.

Camp Naivelt is also associated with other discrete and important historical properties and features such as the Credit River, the nearby Bonnie Braes farmstead, Creditdale Farm, the Bowstring Bridge, the site of Eldorado Mills, the nearby hamlets of Huttonville and Churchville, the former Credit Valley Railway line (later the CPR line).

The site is also linked physically and contextually to Creditview Road, which in this area, remains one of Brampton's scenic, rural roadscapes. The main entrance into Camp Naivelt is off Creditview Road. The frontage of Camp Naivelt, facing Creditview Road, is screened by vegetation and is defined by a rural road cross-section with swale. The only signage is a hand painted wooden "Camp Naivelt" sign posted at the road. These attributes contribute to the prevailing rural character of the property.

Camp Naivelt is important in defining and maintaining the rural character that still prevails in the Eldorado / Credit Valley area. Overall the property is dominated by rolling hills, dense forest and ribbons of sodded open space areas fronting cottages and surrounding general purpose buildings such as "The Ritz", the now abandoned children's camp infirmary and "Lasowsky Centre". These common spaces are used for meetings, recreation, laundry and showering.

Camp Naivelt contains remnants of the Carolinian forest zone of southern Peel Region. Much of the property is defined by mostly deciduous forest, particularly along the sloping hillsides and ravines that drop down toward the Credit River. Several tall white pines (some likely as old as 500 years or more), along with beech, shagbark hickory, maple, black walnut and oak are found. A variety of shrubs, ground covers and clusters of trillium plants dot the forest floor. Preservation of this woodland area contribute to the overall ecological health of the Credit Valley. Large weeping willows are located near some cottages.

Property lines are generally defined by mature hedgerows, page wire fences and vegetation which help screen Camp Naivelt from neighbouring properties. The property is also defined by a series of unpaved laneways, footpaths, grassed clearings and open areas for recreational activities and social gatherings.

Design / Physical Value

The cottages, site plan characteristics and natural, rural setting at Camp Naivelt form a significant and utterly unique cultural heritage landscape in the City of Brampton.

In the early years of Camp Naivelt only tents were available to campers. Starting in the 1940s permanent, one-storey wood-frame cottages, clad in either clapboard or insulbrick, were constructed. By the 1950s the UJPO had also built a band shell, boathouse, swimming pool and two bridges over the Credit River.

At its peak of operations, Camp Naivelt had some 90 cottages, a communal dining hall, dance hall, youth recreation hall, grocery store and a camp office. There was a camp directors cabin, arts and crafts cabin, infirmary, and a communal washroom and shower area known as, "The Ritz".

Several dozen rustic frame cottages remain standing throughout the site; arranged in rows surrounding or fronted by large, open common areas. The site plan characteristics of Camp Naivelt remain intact.

The cottage structures retain most of their original character-defining elements such as either low hip or front gable roofs (many with exposed rafter tails), original wooden sash windows and wood storm shutters, doors and cladding (e.g. clapboard, insulbrick and shiplap siding). Some

cottages have small open porches (with or without low wood railings), and wood screen doors, other have screened-in sunrooms. Trim, doors and shutters of many of the cottages are accented with bright and vibrant paint treatments or small hand-painted decorative murals.

Also of note is the camp building known as “The Ritz”. The rectangular wood frame building with exhibits characteristics of a 1940s era camp ‘canteen’ with a hipped roof, exposed trusses and rafter tails, large screened-in verandahs with a tongue-in-groove wood ceiling and two decorative, boxed roof vents. The small adjacent frame shed houses a large boiler.

Some 300 children would attend camp during the summer and as many as 5000 people would fill Camp Naivelt every summer weekend.

The original children’s camp infirmary buildings (now abandoned) are still standing, just west of “The Ritz”. These structures, along with remains of an abandoned cabin inside the site of the former children’s camp help tell the Camp Naivelt story. These structures may be beyond salvage, but their locations are of significance.

Also of note is a surviving section of iron railway line that crosses over a gully inside Camp Naivelt. This is possibly the only surviving remnant of railway line from the Guelph Radial Railway established in the 1890s. Presumably it is the surviving element of a small bridge that once crossed the gully as the line made its way through Eldorado Park.

The statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the subject property, including a description of the heritage attributes of the property along with all other components of the Heritage Report: Statement of Reasons for Heritage Designation, constitute the "reason for heritage designation" required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES OF THE PROPERTY:

Unless otherwise indicated, the reason for designation apply generally the exterior massing, built-form, facades, finishes and details of all cottages, all mature trees, groupings of mature trees, hedgerows, other significant vegetation, the pattern, arrangement and site plan characteristics of cottages on the property, along with open spaces, site and setting, grounds, landscapes and vistas generally.

To ensure that the cultural heritage value of this property is conserved, certain heritage attributes that contribute to its value have been identified specifically and they include:

Historical / Associative Value:

- Direct associations with the history and development of Canadian folk music;
- Contributes to the understanding of Canada in the Cold War era, Canadian political history, history of music and the arts in Canada, secular Jewish cultural and political history and Canadian women’s history;

- Direct historical associations with prominent folk singers and musicians, including: Pete Seeger, Paul Robeson, Zal Yanovsky, Sharon Hampson of *Sharon, Lois and Bram*, Eddie Schwartz, Ben Mink, *The Travellers* and Phil Ochs;
- Direct historical associations with prominent figures in film, literature and the arts, including: Avrom Yanovsky, Estelle Klein, James Laxer, David Lewis Stein, Dusty Cohl, Ted Kotcheff, and Jerry Goodis;
- Historical associations with Bernard Malamud, Ruth Rubin and Earl Robinson;
- Direct historical associations with left-wing politicians and organizations: Tim Buck, Sam Lipshitz, Morris Biderman, United Jewish People's Order (UJPO), Labour League, Jewish Workers Women's Labour League;
- Direct historical associated with the development of the 'summer camp' movement starting in the early 20th century;
- Direction historical associations with the history and development of Eldorado Park and the Credit Valley;

Contextual Value:

- Visually, physically and historically linked to its surroundings particularly Eldorado Park;
- Key component with Credit Valley and Eldorado cultural landscape;
- Linked to Creditview Road as a scenic roadscape;
- Frontage of Camp Naivelt facing Creditview Road screened by vegetation and is defined by rural road cross-section;
- Property lines defined by mature hedgerows of mixed vegetation;
- Property is important in defining and maintaining the rural, pastoral and scenic character of the area;
- Rolling hills, dense woodland areas, mature trees, mature hedgerows, steep hillsides and ravines, gullies and Credit River define the landform;
- A significant Carolinian woodland area and dense groupings of mature trees contribute to the cultural landscape formed by Camp Naivelt. Species include: ancient white pine, oak, shagbark hickory, beech and maple species, along with dense hedgerows, mature willow trees, ground covers and other vegetation;
- Property is predominately woodland with small open space clearings fronting cottages and surrounding camp facilities;

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- Landscape patterns and site characteristics have changed very little since Camp Naivelt was established in the 1930s.
- Internal road and path system of unpaved laneways, footbridge over Credit River and footpaths;
- Page wire fences marking property boundary lines;
- Simple, rustic cottages, natural heritage elements, rolling hills, gullies and rural character at Camp Naivelt form a significant and unique cultural heritage landscape in the City;
- Sites associated with abandoned structures and other built elements and Radial rail line;

Design / Physical Value:

- Series of small, rustic one-storey wood-frame cottages;
- Low hip or gable roofs (many with exposed rafter tails); wood sash windows; wood board siding or “Insulbrick” siding, screened sun-porches or small open porches (some with wood railings); wood shutters;
- Many cottages are accented with vibrant paint colours on doors, shutters and trim;
- Original road pattern and site plan comprising cottages arranged around an open common area (Hill 1) or in long rows (Hills 2 and 3);
- Wooden “Camp Naivelt” sign posted at entrance into Hill One of Camp Naivelt, off Creditview Road;
- Camp Naivelt buildings known as “The Ritz”;
- Site locations of certain abandoned elements or ruins such as: original Camp Kindervelt (children’s camp) infirmary (just west of “The Ritz”); other abandoned cabins
- Surviving section of iron railway track from the Guelph Radial Railway line, that crosses over a gully inside the subject property;

HERITAGE EVALUATION / CRITERIA NOTE:

The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under Ontario Heritage Act Regulation 9/06.

At the recommendation of staff and the Brampton Heritage Board, Camp Naivelt was listed in the Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Resources in 2004 as a "Category A" heritage resource.

Camp Naivelt was identified as a significant cultural landscape in the Credit Valley Secondary Plan study focusing on built heritage and cultural landscapes (December 1998). This study was completed by Unterman, McPhail, Cumming Associates.

It was also identified as significant in the Heritage Resource Management Study for the Bramwest Study Area (September 1998) completed by Polymath and Thaumaturge Inc. for the City of Brampton.

NOTE ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL:

Camp Naivelt is an area with archaeological potential due to its proximity to the Credit River, and as a result of documented activities on the property following European settlement in the area. The following is a summary description of archaeological potential in the area, provided by David R. Lipovitch, PhD WD Archaeological Consulting:

There are at least 6 registered archaeological sites within two kilometres of Eldorado Park. This list only represents those sites identified and registered within the Borden database of archaeological sites. The proximity of the Credit River would suggest that the likelihood of further prehistoric aboriginal sites within the park and Camp themselves are quite high. Typically any land within several hundred metres of a river course is likely to have significant archaeological potential. The dearth of identified sites is clearly much more of a reflection of the lack of development and investigation rather than low potential.

Archaeological Services Inc. completed an assessment in 1989 of the proposed subdivision on Part of Lot 2, and 3, con 2, WHS in the City of Brampton. The property is approx. 1.5 km east of Eldorado Park. The property was ploughed and four isolated pre-contact artifacts were recovered. The first was a projectile point tip of Onondaga chert (AjGw-189). The second was the base of a corner-notched projectile point of Onondaga chert (AjGw-190). The size and notching were reminiscent of Otter Creek points of the Middle Archaic period (8,000-4500 years ago). The third was a corner notched point that was heavily re-worked from a high grade bluish grey chert that graded into a creamy white near the base (AjGw-191). The material, extreme re-sharpening, and general morphology suggested that this was a Vanport point dating to the Middle Woodland period (circa 200 BCE to 900 CE). The fourth was the mid-section of an Onondaga chert projectile point (AjGw-192). In addition, test pits were excavated in part of the property and a mid-nineteenth century homestead was identified but was not registered as it was found in a disturbed context.

Approximately 1 km northwest of Eldorado Park, AjGw-11 was registered by Joanna Godja of the University of Toronto in 1966. It is a Woodland campsite (circa 800 BCE to 900 CE) on a terrace between two small creeks flowing into the Credit River.

Axelby Farm (AjGw-35) was registered approx. 1 km south of the park. It is an Archaic campsite (circa 2900 to 9500 years ago) found in a market garden (ploughed field) and registered in 1980.

Given that this region (the banks of the credit River) was the final home of the Mississauga before they were relocated to Six Nations Iroquois land near Brantford, it is likely that there will be aboriginal material dating to the post-Contact period before the area was developed by Euro-Canadians. Equally significant is the likelihood that there are remains of what was the site of

Eldorado Mills, the key industry in the region (and one of the main reasons for the establishment and growth of Brampton) within Eldorado Park as well as remains that may be tied to the early history of the Grand Trunk and Credit Valley Railroads and the later use of the property as an amusement park in the early 1920s.

NOTE ON ALTERATIONS:

Chain link fencing and berms were constructed by the adjacent golf course on lands abutting Camp Naivelt (particularly evident along the western property line). This treatment is not appropriate from a heritage standpoint and is not sufficient to protect the heritage attributes of Camp Naivelt. The property line treatments should be enhanced with any future planning proposals submitted by the owners of adjacent lands. Appropriate treatments would include dense vegetation buffers to screen the golf course as well as more appropriate fence treatments.

Vegetation buffers should be applied as part of site planning when any other properties abutting Camp Naivelt are redeveloped.

All future applications on adjacent and nearby lands that might impact Camp Naivelt should be subject to prior-to heritage due diligence, which generally includes: heritage impact assessments and archaeological assessments. These due diligence requirements, along with any mitigation that may be recommended, are the responsibility of the adjacent land owners.

EXCLUSIONS:

The following features and attributes are specifically excluded from the scope of heritage designation. The designating by-law shall not apply to the following:

- interiors of any cottages and other standing structures.

A NOTE ON RECOMMENDED CONSERVATION MEASURES:

The United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) are excellent stewards of Camp Naivelt's cultural heritage resources. If cottages are replaced, the original site plan of the demolished cottage should be used where possible. Replacement cottages should be of a form, massing and detailing that is similar to the existing cottages. City heritage staff can be of assistance.

If trees, hedgerows and other mature vegetation is removed the vegetation should be replaced using either the same or a similar species - where feasible.

Some cottages require basic repair and a very small number might be candidates for removal from the site. If cottages must be demolished their locations within the property should be marked or commemorated in some fashion by the Camp. City heritage staff can photo-document the structures prior to demolition upon invitation from Camp Naivelt.

POLICY FRAMEWORK BEHIND MUNICIPAL HERITAGE DESIGNATION

Section 2.6.1 of the PPS states that: "significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved".

Section 3 of the Planning Act requires that land use decisions by municipalities and approval authorities shall be consistent with the PPS, 2005.

“Cultural heritage landscapes” are defined within the PPS as:

“a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. Examples may include, but are not limited to, heritage conservation districts designated under the Ontario Heritage Act; and villages, parks, gardens, battlefields, main streets and neighbourhoods, cemeteries, trail ways and industrial complexes of cultural heritage value.”

In the context of land use planning, the Province of Ontario has declared that the wise use and management of Ontario’s cultural heritage resources is a key provincial interest.

The Ontario Heritage Act now broadly describes cultural heritage value: “Cultural heritage property is generally understood as encompassing real property that is of aesthetic, historic, architectural, scientific, archaeological, social, spiritual or other cultural significance for past, present or future generations.”.

These principles are reflected in Brampton’s Official Plan. The relevant policies are as follows:

4.9.1.3: All significant heritage resources shall be designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest in accordance with the *Ontario Heritage Act* to help ensure effective protection and their continuing maintenance, conservation and restoration.

These principles are also guided by recognized best practices in the field of heritage conservation in Ontario and in Brampton’s Heritage Program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Camp Naivelt: Heritage Listing Report, 2004 (Jim Leonard, Heritage Coordinator).
- Helen Warner, Brampton Heritage Board, for completing a comprehensive survey of primary historical research materials relating to Camp Naivelt.
- Heritage Resources Sub Committee of the Brampton Heritage Board.
- Maxine Hermolin, Executive Director, United Jewish Peoples Order (UJPO).
- Ruth Grossman, United Jewish Peoples Order (UJPO).
- Councillor John Hutton.
- Pete Seeger.

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- Barbara and ‘Sollie’ Blaser.
- George Wharton.
- The published writings of: James Laxer, David Lewis Stein, Ester Reiter, Unterman, McPhail, Cuming Associates, Matthew Behrens.
- Archival records held by the UJPO, the Clara Thomas Archives at York University and the Ontario Jewish Archives.
- Nancy Mykoff, :Summer Camping in the United States”: Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia (2009).
- David R. Lipovitch, Ph.D. WD Archaeological Consulting.

IMAGES:

Figure 1: Opening of Camp Naivelt, June 28, 1936. Sam Lipshitz (1910-2000) a prominent member of the United Jewish People's order is addressing the crowd, possibly in front of the former Eldorado Park Dance Pavilion. (Source: *Sam and Manya Lipshitz fonds, York University Archives*).



Figures 2 and 3: Snapshots showing activities at the children's camp within Camp Naivelt, circa 1945. (Source: *Sam and Manya Lipshitz fonds, York University Archives*).





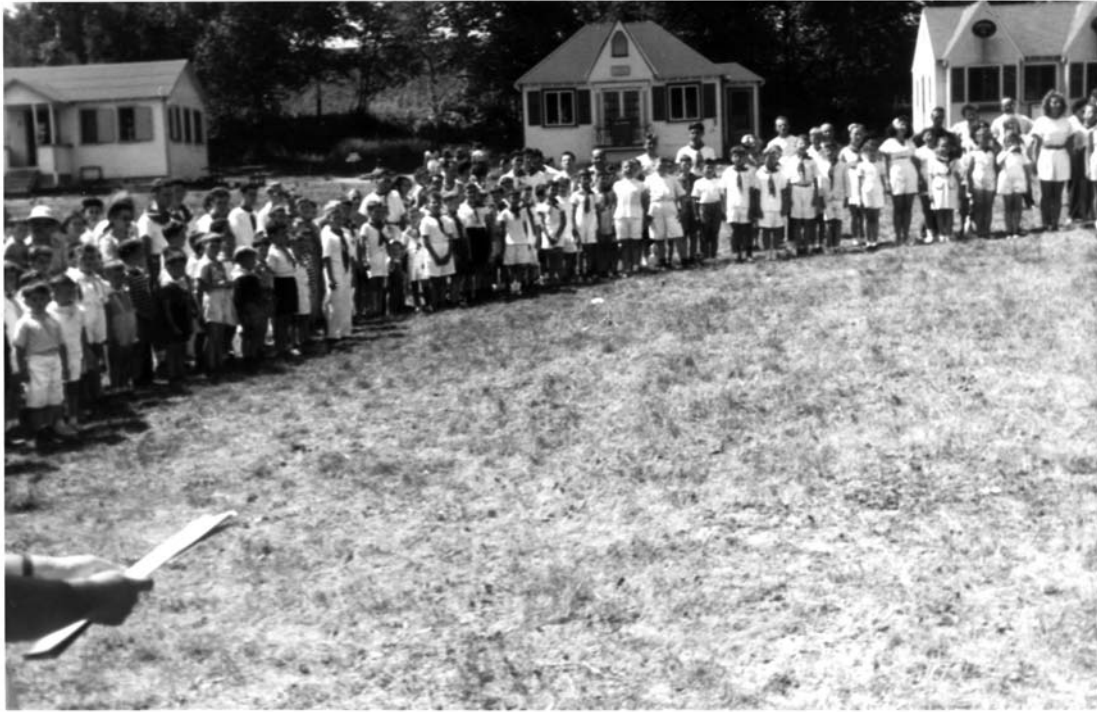
Figure 4: Tim Buck, leader of the Canadian Communist Party during a visit to Camp Naivelt in 1945. (Source: Sam and Manya Lipshitz fonds, York University Archives).



Figure 5: Visit of Polish Delegation to Camp Naivelt, July 1946. (Source: Sam and Manya Lipshitz fonds, York University Archives).



Figure 6: Members of the Lipshitz family at Camp Naivelt, 1946. The young woman is May Lipshitz (later Cohen), a prominent Canadian physician and educator. (Source: *Sam and Manya Lipshitz fonds*, York University Archives).



Figures 7: View of activities of children's activities at Camp Naivelt, 1945. (Source: *Sam and Manya Lipshitz fonds, York University Archives*).



Figures 8 and 9: Pete Seeger performing at Camp Naivelt, 1955. (source: Barbara Blaser)



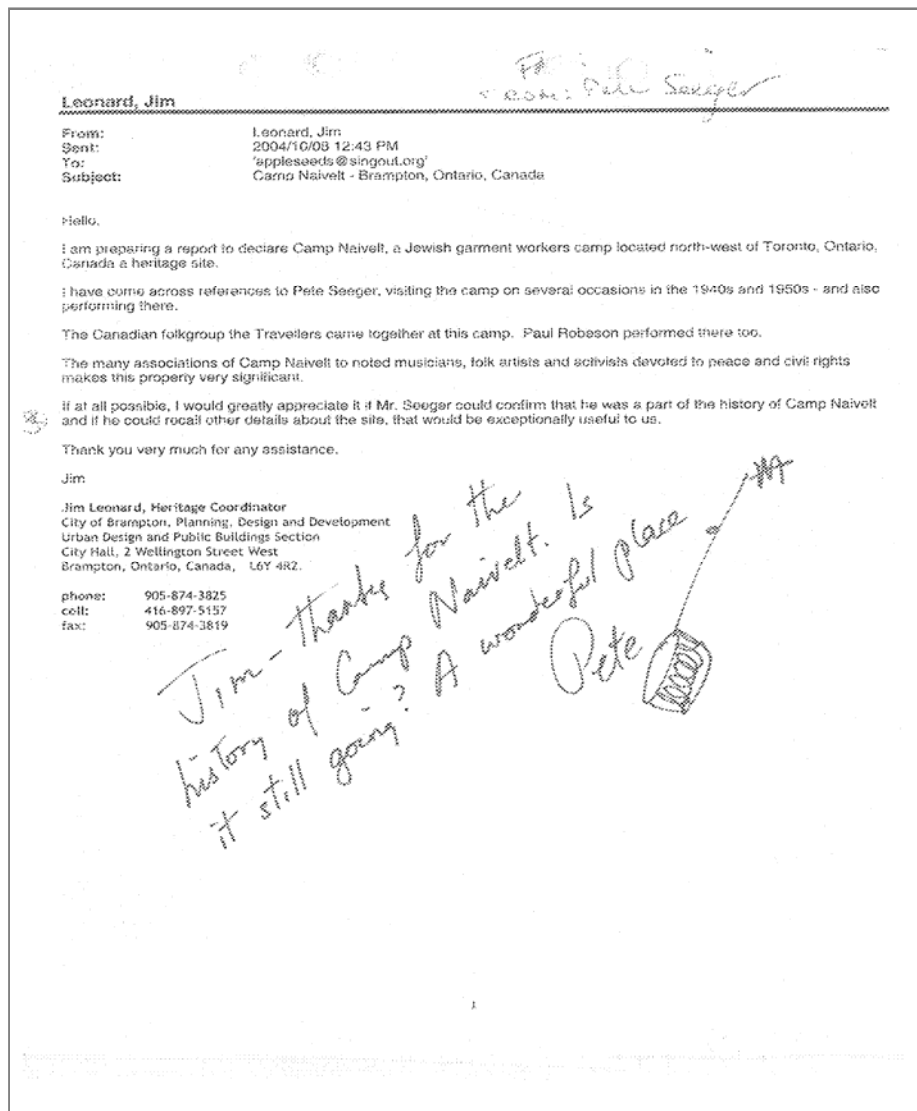


Figure 10: Scan of note to City Heritage Coordinator from Pete Seeger, regarding Camp Naivelt, October 2008.



Figure 11: *The Travellers*, 1963; From left to right, Sid Dolgay, Simone Cook, Jerry Gray, and Ray Woodley.



Figure 12: Eldorado Park promotional flyer, circa 1930. (TrainWeb)

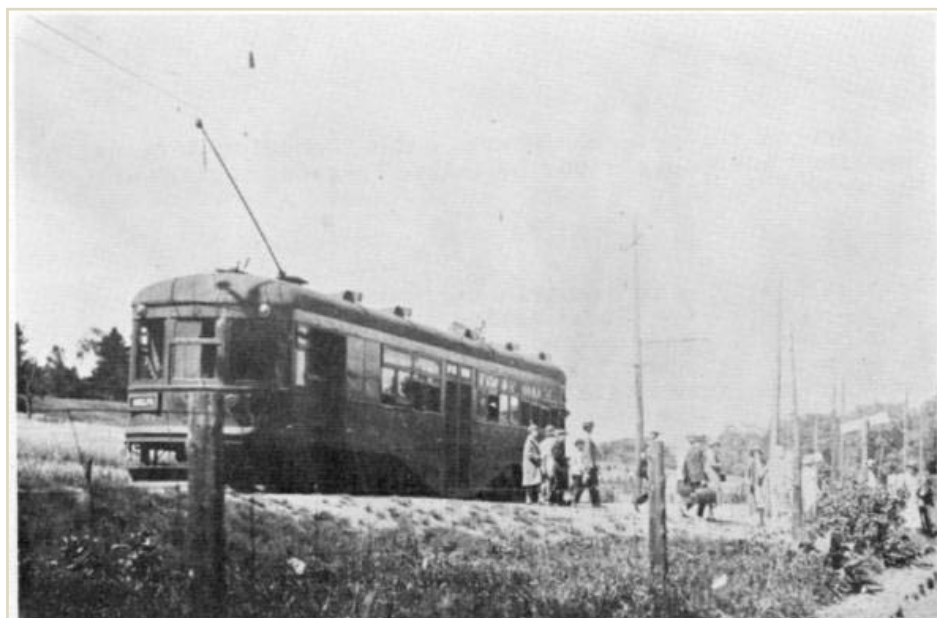


Figure13: Radial rail car #106 dropping off visitors at Eldorado Park, circa 1930. (TrainWeb)



Figures 14 and 15: Entrance into Hill One from Creditview Road (above) and general site characteristics inside Hill One (below).



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Figures 16 and 17: Hill One





Figure 18: Lasowsky Centre, located just inside Camp Naivelt's entrance from Eldorado Park.



Figure 19: Series of frame cottages along Hill Two.



Figure 20: Cottages on Hill Two



Figure 21: Hill Two "Circle"



Figures 22 and 23: Cottages on Hill Two





Figures 24 and 25: Cottages on Hill Two





Figure 26: Unpaved laneway leading to “The Ritz”.



Figure 27: Medical infirmary for Children's Camp (currently abandoned).



Figure 28: "The Ritz".



Figure 29: Shed adjacent to "The Ritz".



Figures 30 and 31: General views of Hill Three showing site characteristics, mature trees and vegetation.



Figures 32 and 33: Examples of wood frame cottages on Hill Three.





Figures 34 and 35: Additional examples of cottages on Hill Three.





Figure 36 : View showing a portion of original site of Camp Kindervelt (children's Camp).



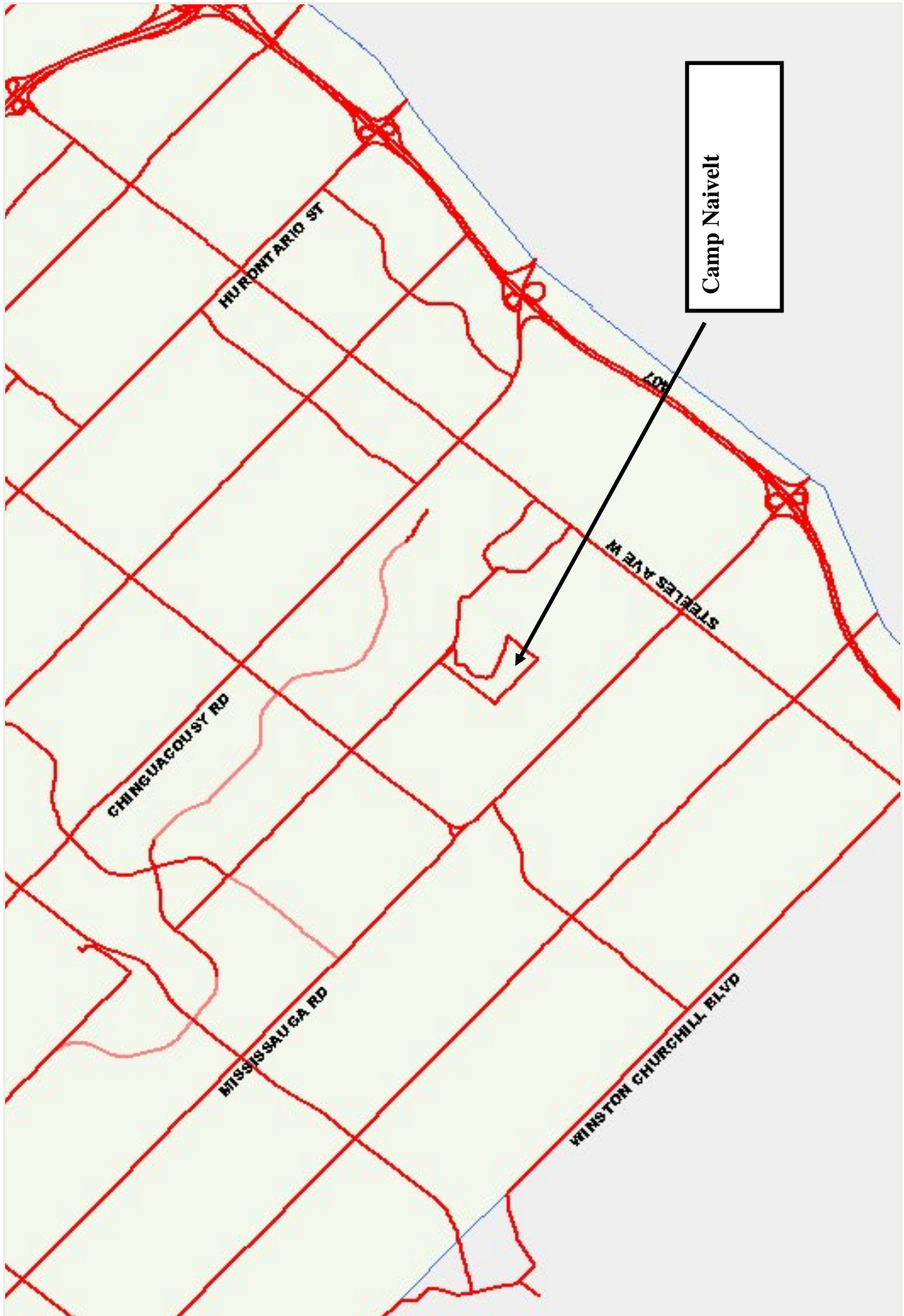
Figure 37: View showing characteristics of a laneway inside Camp Naivelt.



Figure 38: A detail photo showing a portion of Creditview Road fronting Camp Naivelt's Hill One. The rural road cross-section, swale, hedgerow are visible.



Figure 39: View showing a portion of the Carolinian forest running down the slope along Hill Three.

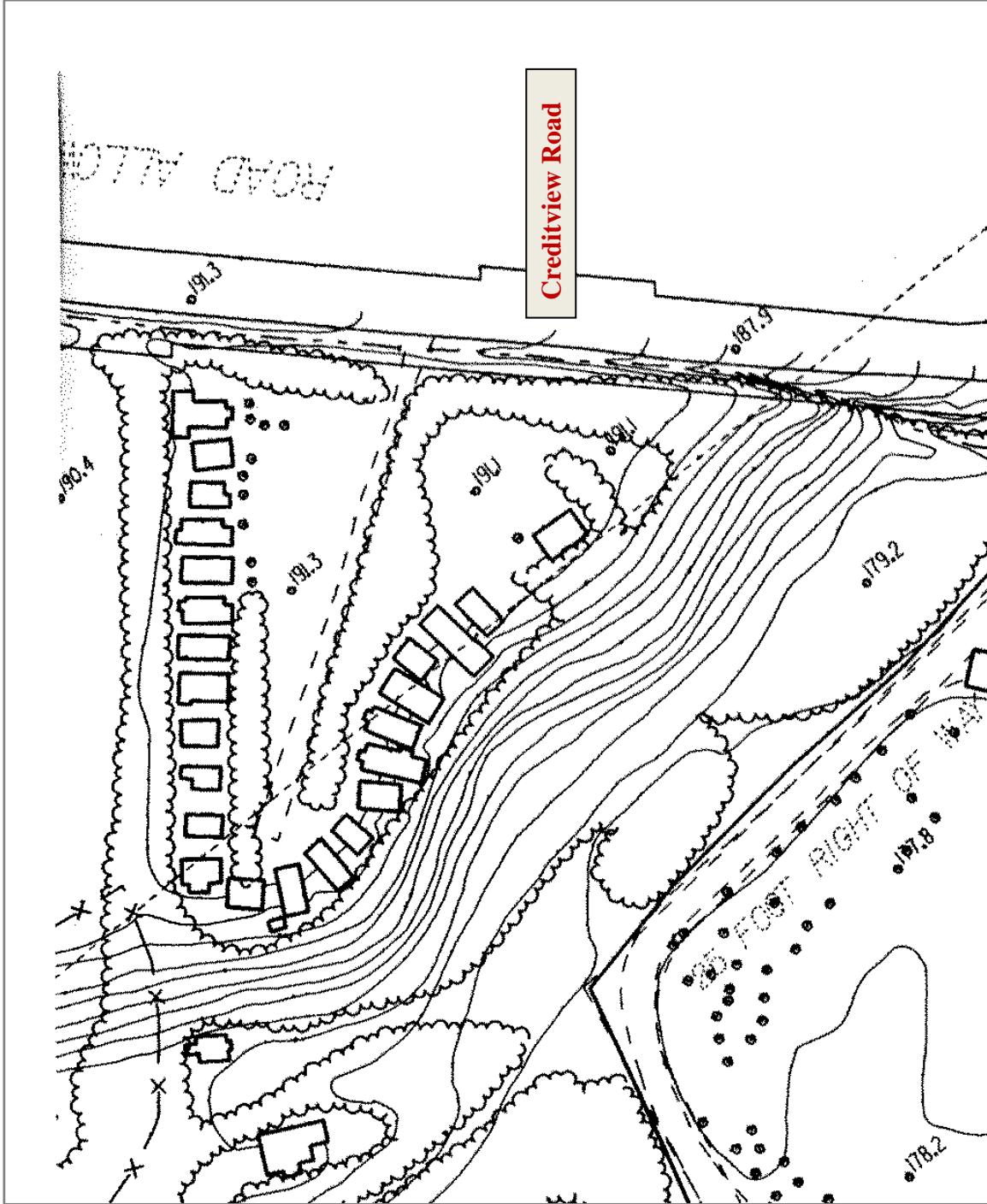




Aerial view – Camp Naivelt



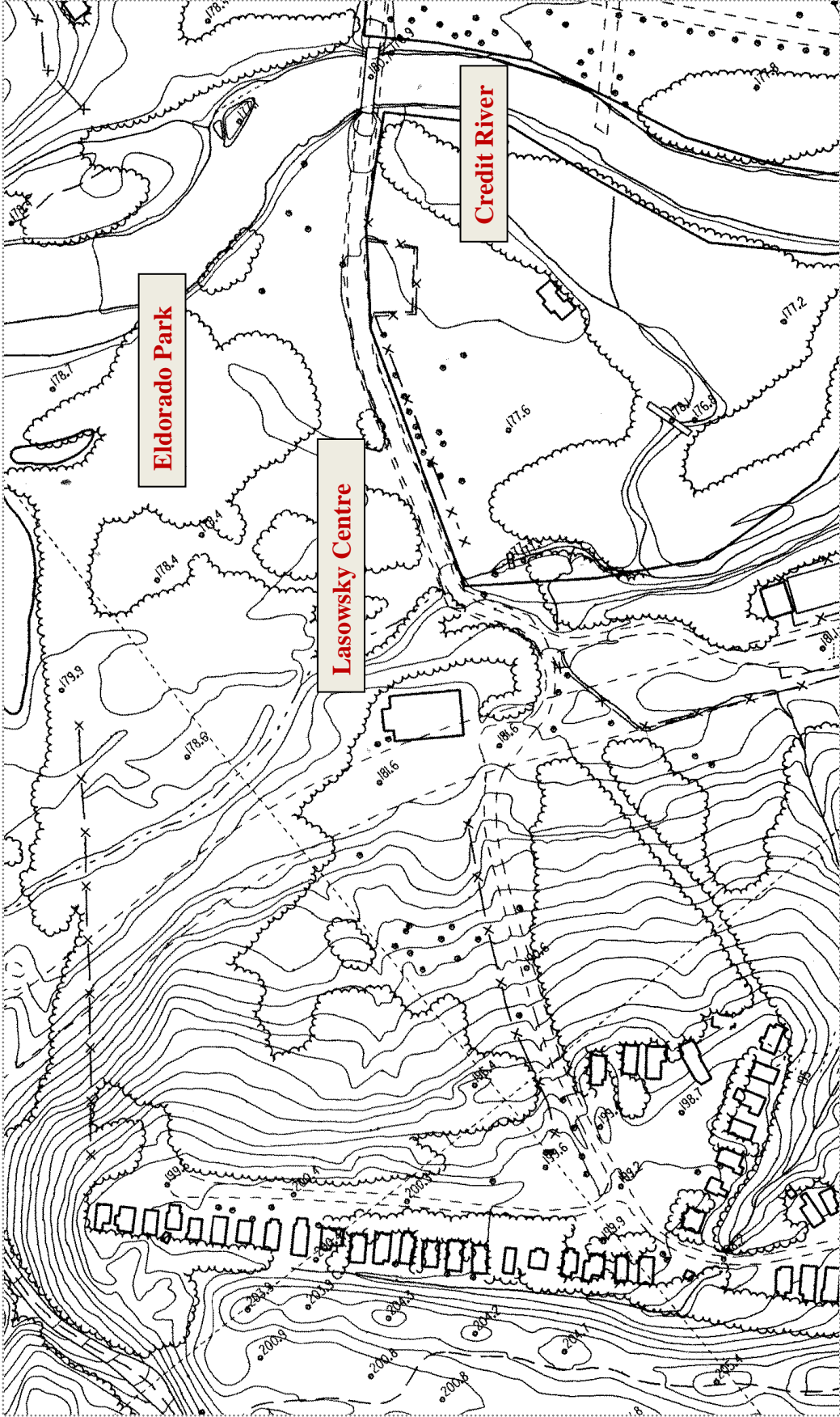
Camp Naivelt: Hill One



Detail from Topographical Map – Camp Naivelt – Hill One



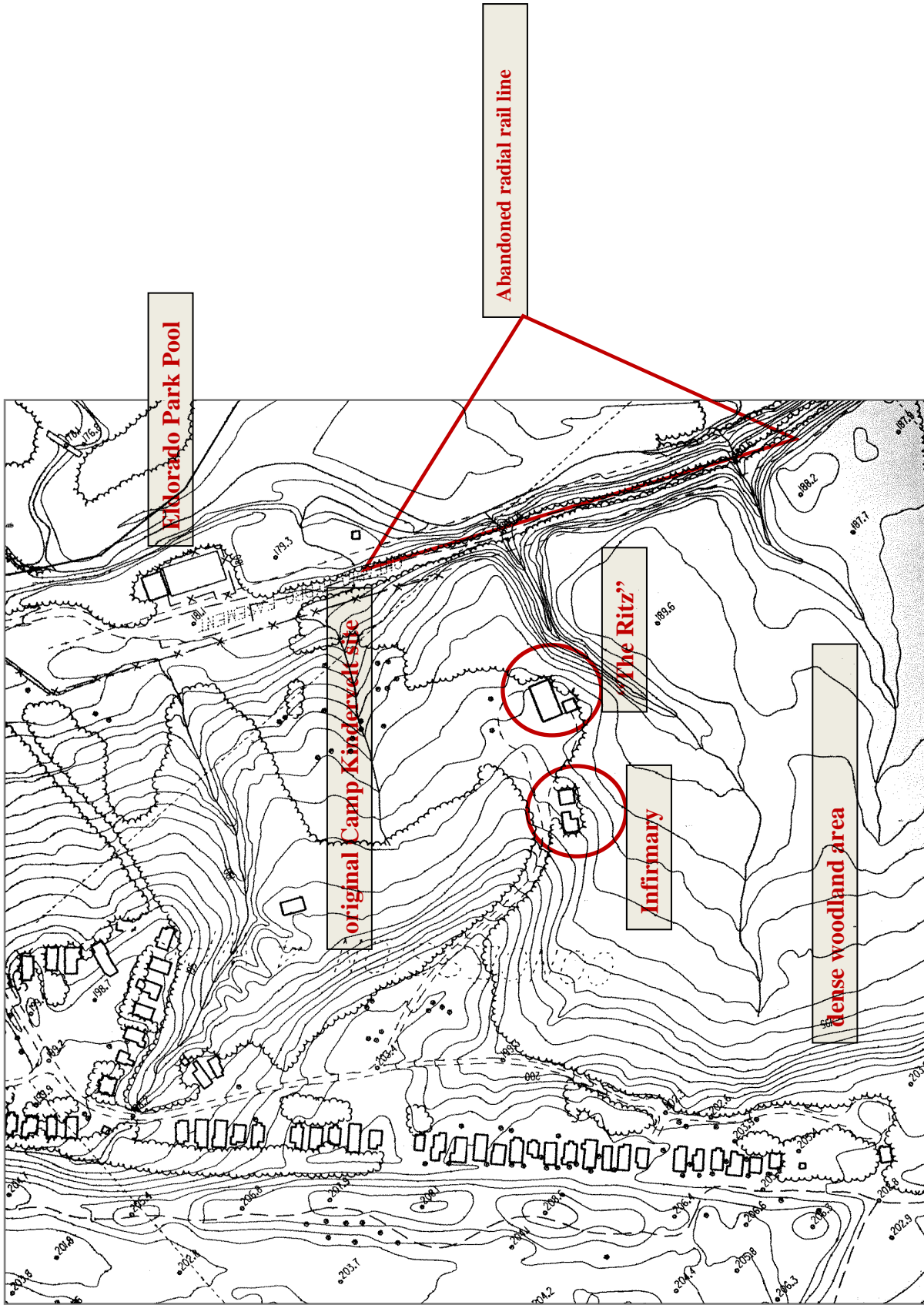
Camp Naivelt: Hill Two



Detail from Topographical Map – Camp Naivelt – Hill Two.

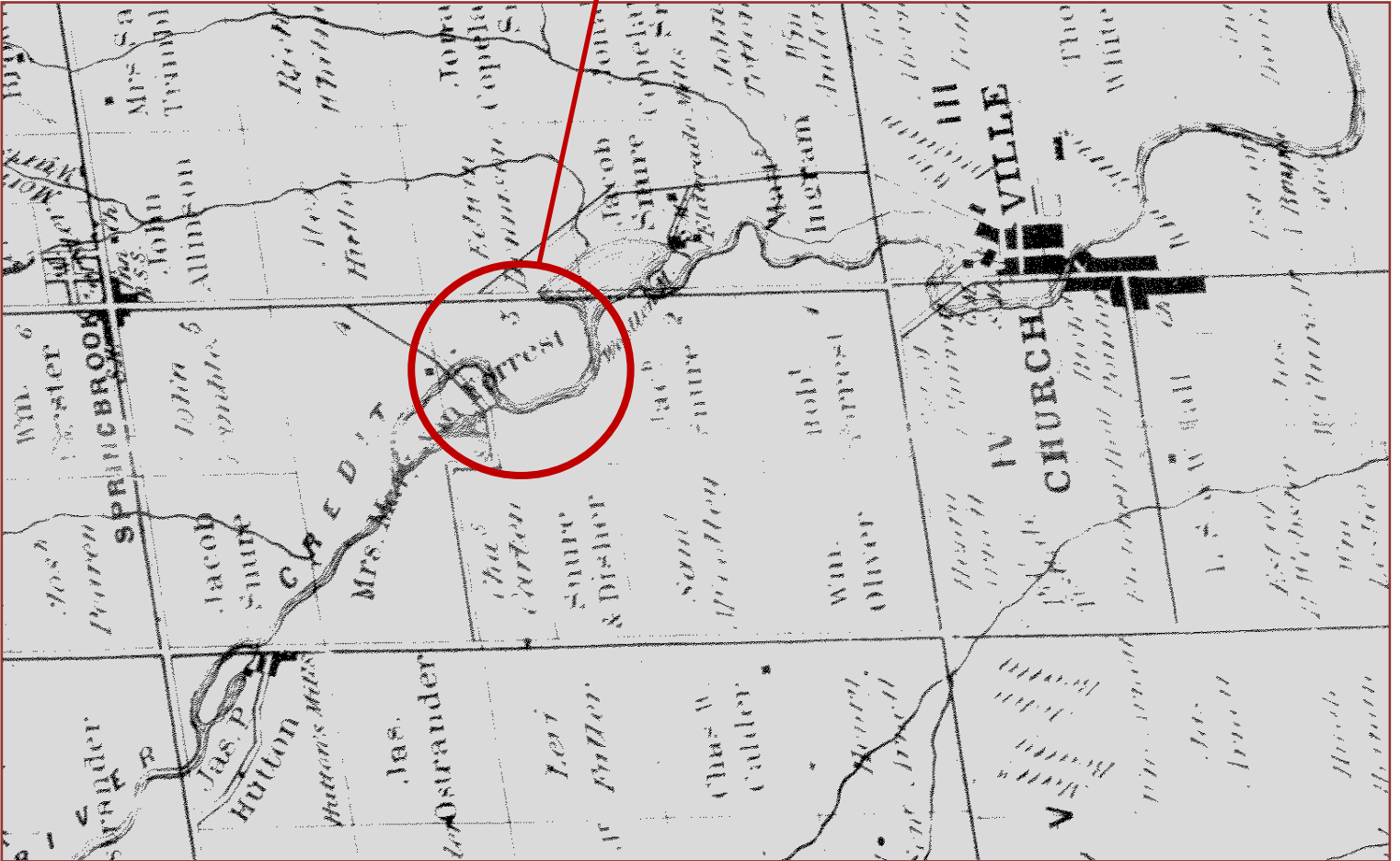


Camp Naivelt: Hill Three

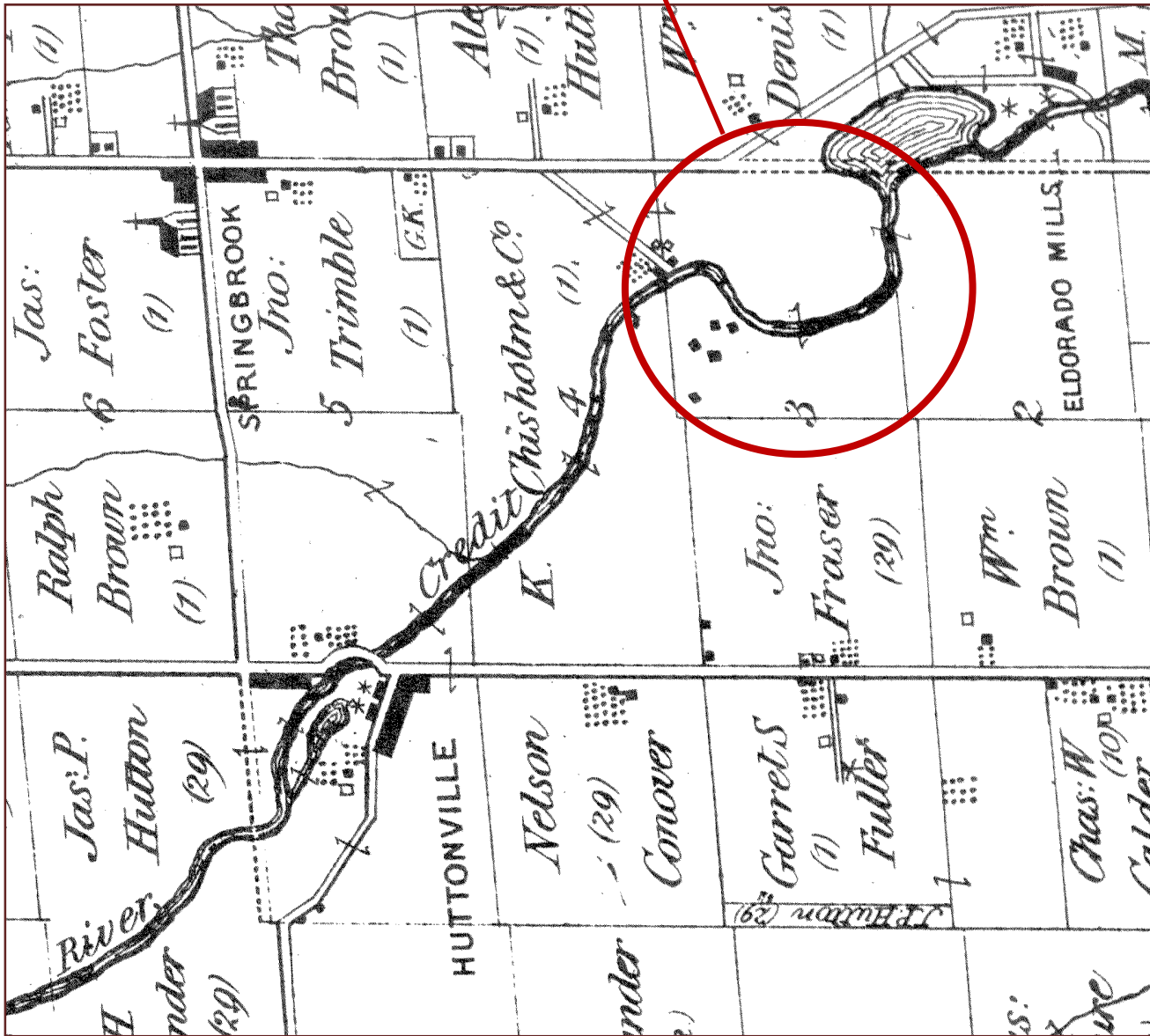


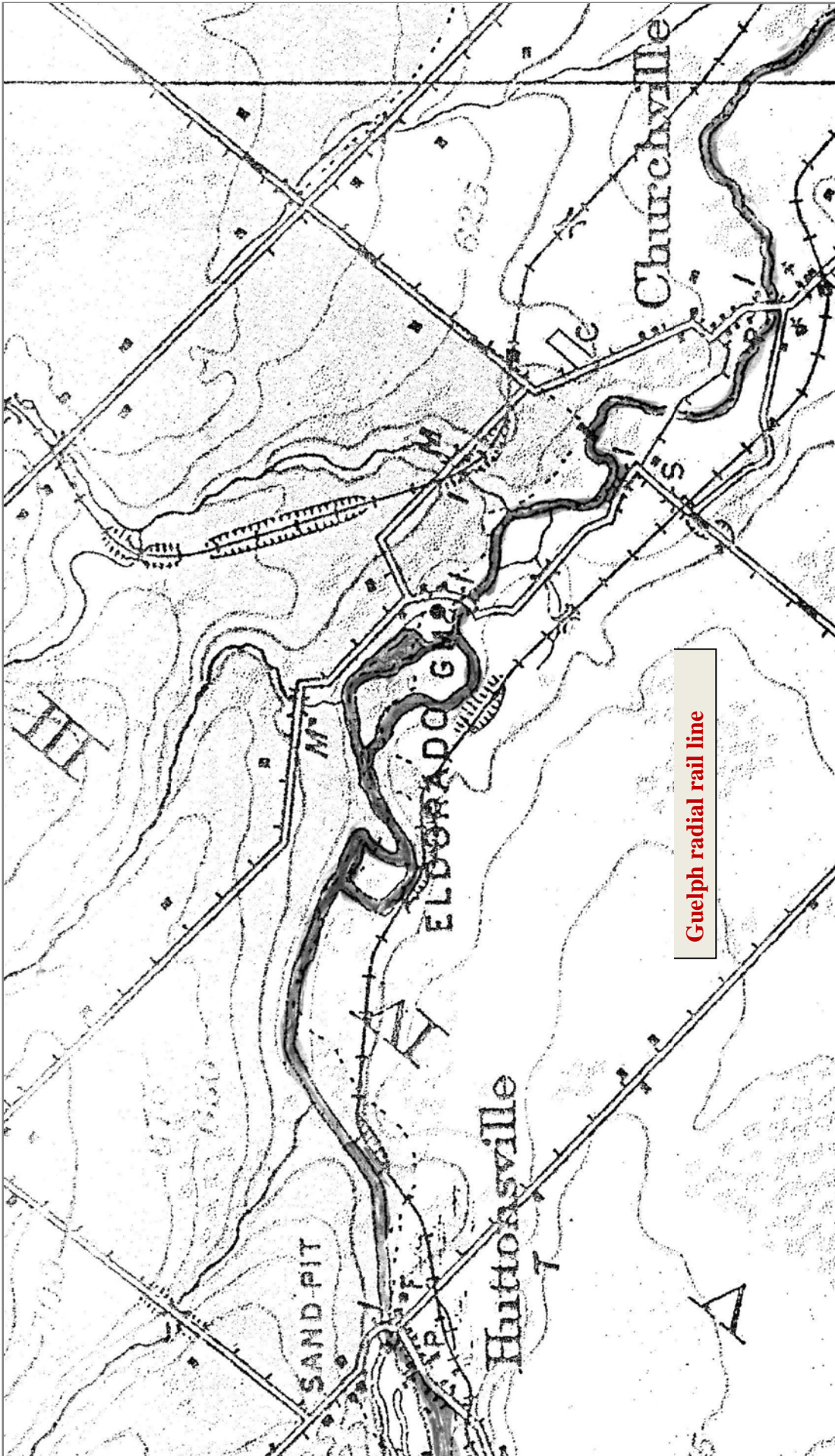
Detail from Topographical Map - Camp Naivelt: Hill Three.

Approximate Location of Camp
Naivelt on 1859 Tremaine Map of
Peel County

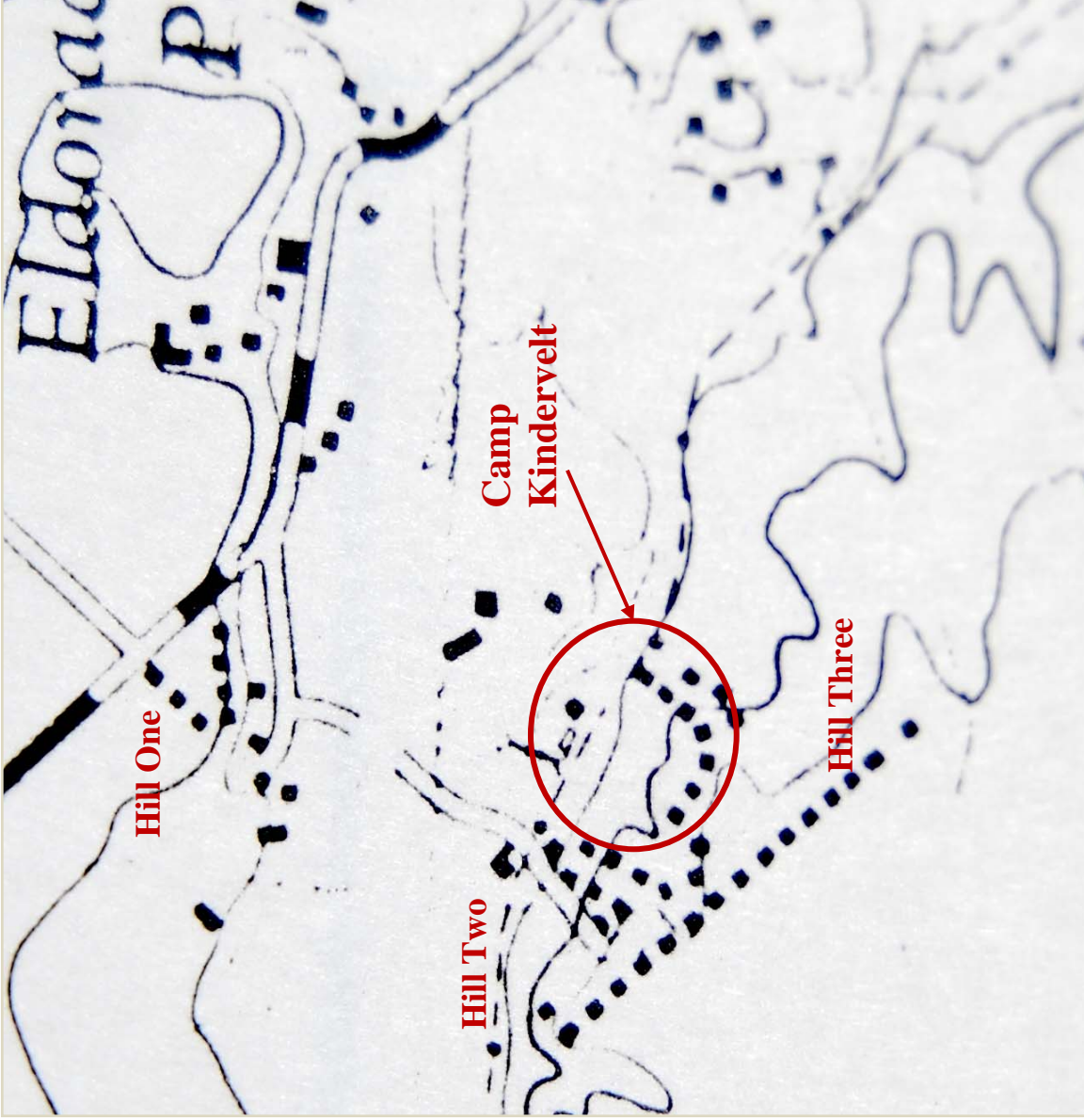


Approximate Location of Camp
Naivelt on 1877 Peel County Atlas





Detail from 1918 Topographical Map showing Eldorado area.



Camp Naivelt seen in detail taken from topographical map printed in 1964. The site of the original Camp Kindervelt within Camp Naivelt is circled.