

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE

VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

by

Colette Middleton

BENVD, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1997

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

in

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

We accept this thesis as conforming to the required standard

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 2001

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Department of Landscape Architecture

The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

Date August 30, 2001

ABSTRACT

It has long been demonstrated that increased appreciation of place initiates stewardship and responsible management of the land. Interpretative design possesses the potential to generate this stewardship through recovering the connections between place and the people that inhabit it. It is essential that interpretation be integrated into the everyday landscape to deepen one's respect of the past and one's commitment to its future. This vision of an interpretive trail in Mission, British Columbia, explores techniques of illuminating place history to inspire and challenge cognitive participation with the landscape.

The format of this project begins with a discussion of the values and limits of interpretative methods. Secondly, the study area is introduced through site reconnaissance with special emphasis on historical morphology and social history. Next, interpretive design strategies are explored in conjunction with significant landscape precedents, culminating in a design approach for an interpretive trail on Mission Flats. Six nodes along the trail serve as keystones for this approach, with individual nodes revealing historical processes, both natural and cultural, through design.

Akin to Mission Flats, every place is intimately bound to the people and events that have shaped it. Illumination of this connection is the goal of interpretive design. The planning and design phases of development are incomplete without the inclusion of this holistic vision of place. It is therefore imperative that we further explore interpretive design, so that it may be integrated into the oft-impersonal contemporary landscape, for the generation of authentic place identity.

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Part I OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

The form of the city is seen as the result of complex, overlapping, and interweaving narratives that, together, comprise the context of place, the storylines that connect the place, and all those who dwell within it. The issues of time and change, process and pattern, order and randomness, being and doing, and form and meaning are inherent to this theory. - Anne Whiston Spirn, *The Language of Landscape*

1.1 Introduction

What distinguishes place individuality is an evolving woven texture of ecology, inhabitation, and change. Nurturing the preservation of any place's textural past instills in its inhabitants a sense of uniqueness. Finding pride in their uniqueness, a community will celebrate its identity ensuring stewardship of place. Unfortunately, current development trends don't adequately allow a community to artfully express their distinctiveness. Rather these forces limit individuality by imposing a status-quo development for ease and monetary profit. Urban theorists have termed this ubiquitous phenomenon *placelessness*, to describe those areas that have been increasingly homogenized and fragmented with no rootedness. Our contemporary everyday world is devoid of significant landscapes that have a sense of place, and instead embellish a banal uniformity that prohibits one community from distinguishing itself from another.

Interpretive design can address this phenomenon by unveiling the intricacies of a place's history-rich past. This paper seeks to explore several interpretative strategies as a tool for providing texture to community design. A design that invokes inquiry and engagement, and celebrates the multitude of layers that make up a place's individual identity.

1.2 Thesis Statement, Project Goals, Objectives, and Process

Thesis Statement

Interpretive design strengthens community identity, heightening appreciation and stewardship of place.

Project Goal

To demonstrate what an interpretive trail on Mission Flats might be if it were designed to reveal and accentuate the ecological, historic, and cultural processes occurring on site.

Project Objectives

- To validate interpretive design as an integral component for creating place identity
- To determine methods of integrating interpretation with landscape architecture
- To explicate through existing narrative design practices and landscape precedents how interpretative design can create informative, vibrant places
- To develop design ideas as examples of interpretive landscapes

Process

1. Define interpretation and evaluate several interpretive design methods
2. Conduct site reconnaissance of Mission Flats focusing on social history, physical morphology, and site narratives
3. Examine Potteiger and Puriton's narrative design practices illustrated through significant landscape precedents
4. Generate a design approach, employing these narrative design practices, for an interpretive trail on Mission Flats
5. Conduct planning phase of an interpretive trail on Mission Flats that explores trail alignment, urban form, materials and plantings, trail sections, and selected interpretive design nodes
6. Design a vision for six nodes along the trail of Mission Flats that illuminate the site's unique history

Part II INTERPRETATION AND INTERPRETIVE METHODS

An interpretive landscape is a place, natural or urbanized, that is intentionally designed to help users understand something about that place, such as its history, ecology, processes, or culture.

-Michael Southworth, *Landscapes are for Learning*

2.1 A Brief History of Interpretation

The idea of interpretation gained widespread acceptance in the 1960's after the now classic work of Freedman Tilden's titled Interpreting Our Heritage was published. As a result, a paradigm shift occurred in the way information was communicated in museums, national parks, and other recognized historical sites. Whereas before, at these points of interest, visitors had been personally escorted on tours by educated guides, they were now encouraged to move about at their own pace, on their own route, engaging more freely in a personal dialogue with the multitude of ideas and artifacts displayed.¹ Tilden views interpretation as "revealing...something of the beauty and wonder, the inspiration and spiritual meaning that lie behind what the visitor with [their] senses perceive."² Building upon Tilden's vision, environmental designers in the early 1980's expanded the types of places they would interpret, to include the ordinary, those places not traditionally deemed historically significant. Using a multitude of interpretive design approaches, they began to humanize our non-place urban realm by deepening sites' historical significance. It is this act of interpreting our everyday environments that I will explore.

2.2 Evaluation of Interpretation Methods

The methods in which environments are interpreted vary from mere identification of landscape features to more elaborate reconstructions of past landscape events. These methods greatly influence the way we experience the landscape and the perceptions we gain of them. In "Interpreting the Landscape: A Hebridean Perspective," Rabinowitz defines and critiques three separate methods of landscape interpretation introduced as the following: interpretation *placed*

¹ Friedman, Renee, "For the Curator of Trees and Teacups: The Landscape as Artifact," CRM 17, no. 7 (1994): 5.

² Tilden, Freeman, *Interpreting Our Heritage*, (Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 1957): 3.

on the landscape, interpretation *carried into the landscape*, and interpretation *built out of the landscape*. (See Figure 1: Interpretation and Landscape Interpretive Methods)

The first method, interpretation *placed on the landscape*, consists of a series of historical markers, panels, or commemorative plaques that are placed in the landscape. Travel along roads or trails in North America and you will frequently encounter these interpretive markers along your route. Typically installed as a final design layer, they attempt to bring to your attention an awareness of the past through explanation, yet ignore the cultural and ecological context of the contemporary environment and the “history” still present that continues to evolve on site. Furthermore, Rabinowitz remarks on the irony that interpretive panels must be “conspicuous enough to attract attention but not so intrusive as to compete with landscape features they are meant to interpret.”³ In addition, the author addresses the tendency for historical markers to create a “rhythmic structure that virtually supplants the experience of the landscape itself; visitors may construe their visits as the passage from number 1 to number 57 rather than a walk.”⁴

This potentially distracting “rhythmic structure” also applies to numbering systems printed on maps and brochures, a common example of the second practice, titled interpretation *carried into the landscape*. While portable interpretative methods may be more sensitive than marking up the landscape with signs they require the “visitor to transform their eye-level perspective on the environment into a kind of abstracted aerial view,”⁵ as in the case of a map. While many printed and audio materials brought on site can serve as helpful guides, some visitors may find they require too much attention. Extensive text becomes ultimately too demanding, inhibiting their sense of exploration in the landscape.

The final method, *interpretation built out of the landscape*, is most applicable to the realm of landscape architecture and the one I will be investigating for making place meaning accessible in my design. While exhibits and panels rely on text, this method uses design to illuminate the history of the land. Interpretation is constructed out of the landscape and is meant to suggest rather than impose landscape meaning. Moreover, the story is provided a richer more powerful meaning by interpreting the environment in which it occurs. Interpretation integrated in the landscape allows the visitor the satisfaction of being “richly rewarded by learning to read

³ Rabinowitz, Richard, “Interpreting the Landscape: A Hebridean Perspective,” *CRM* 17, no. 7 (1994): 10.

⁴ Rabinowitz 10.

⁵ Rabinowitz 11.

historical and cultural traces actually embedded in the landscape.”⁶ It goes beyond the confines of interpretation *placed* and *carried* in the landscape, by becoming an explicit element of the design itself.

Yet it must be acknowledged that there are limits to all types of interpretation. It is ultimately the designer’s responsibility not to over-interpret or over-package a landscape to the degree where experiences become artificial and inflexible. Carried too far, interpretative environments are at risk of overpowering the imagination, intruding on the everyday urban functions, and ultimately diminishing the visitor’s enjoyment of a place. Instead, interpretation needs to be sensitive to the environment it is interpreting and provide just enough of an informative framework that visitors are encouraged to weave their own story and build their own pattern of thought, the art of self-discovery. It is with these considerations that I will explore the stories in a trail design through Mission Flats.

⁶ Rabinowitz 11.

PLACED ON THE LANDSCAPE

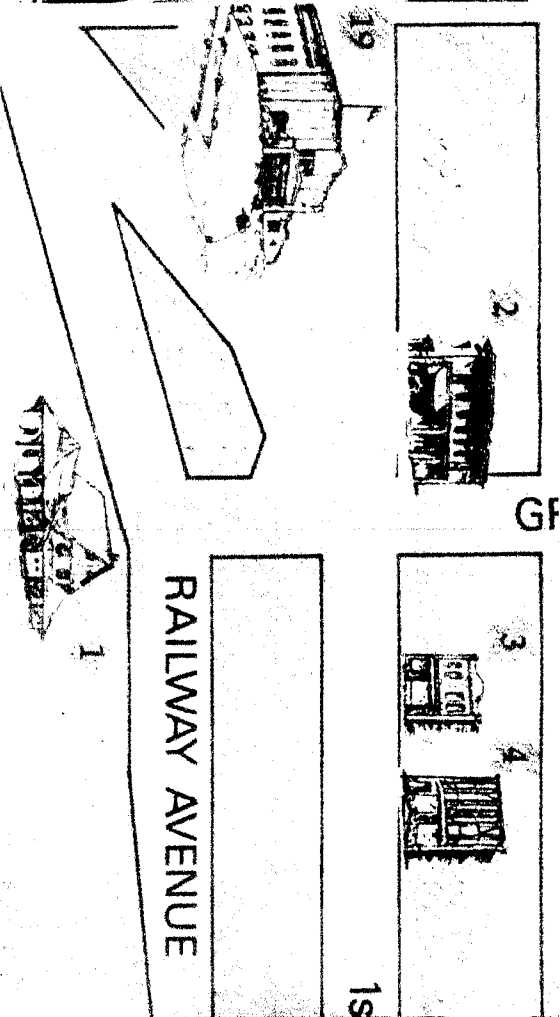
CARRIED INTO THE LANDSCAPE

BUILT OUT OF THE LANDSCAPE

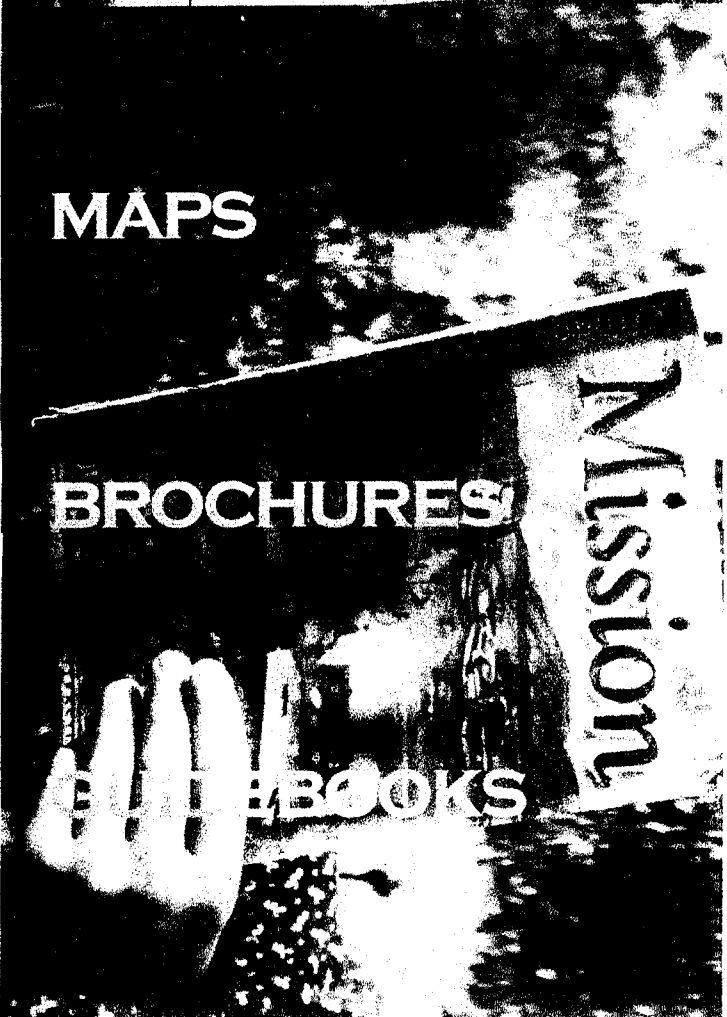
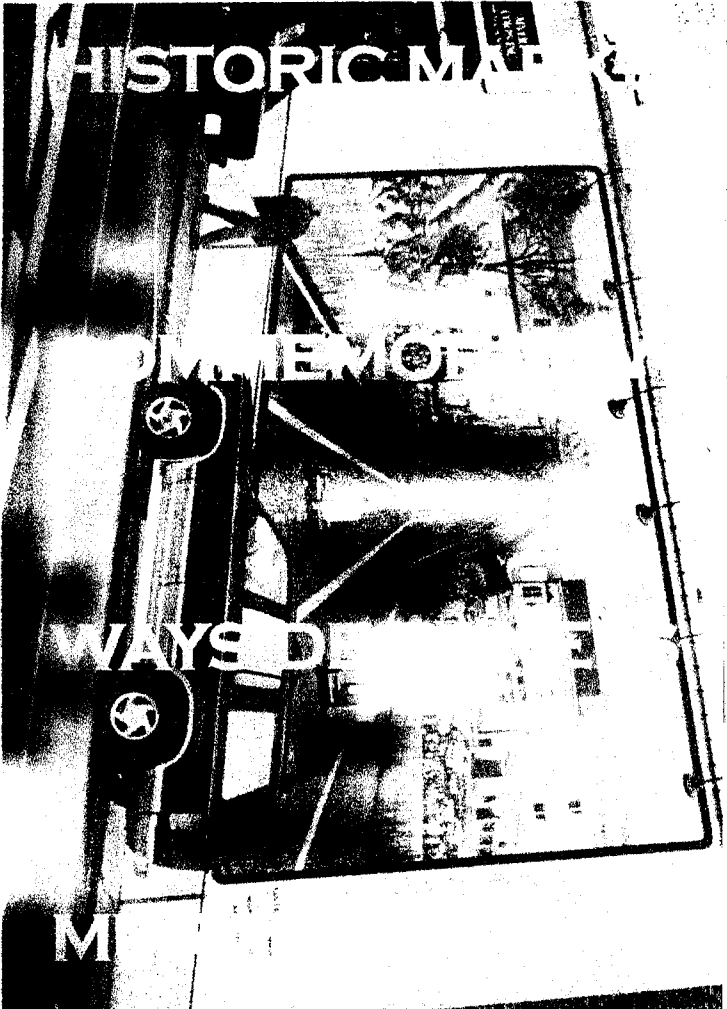
Murals of the Soapbox Derby and Japanese-Canadian Evacuation located in Downtown Mission



Mission's Visitor Guidebook and map of historic buildings downtown



A historic shoreline wall and stones in a graveyard convey ideas about place



INTERPRETATION & LANDSCAPE INTERPRETIVE METHODS

POWER OF PLACE: PLACING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISION FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION PLAINS

Part III THE SITE: HISTORY & RECONNAISSANCE

Imagine... Saturday 2005...walking from your southwest Mission home, viewing spawning salmon in the Stave River, hiking through the Silverdale wetlands to the Junction Mall, where you do your banking and shopping, grab a coffee, and continue on your walk to visit Xay:tem, the First Nations' cultural center on the east side of town, before your afternoon paddle in Hatzic Lake. – Ken Lewis, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, *Letter of Intent: The VanCity Gateway Project Proposal*

3.1 Site Selection and Introduction

While seeking a thesis project that encompassed my interests and values I came upon an announcement requesting a landscape architecture student to develop a concept plan for a multi-use recreation and interpretative streamside trail on Mission Flats. The proposed Mission Flats trail is the centerpiece of a larger plan to develop a network of accessible trails and wildlife areas from Mission's western edge along the Stave River east to Hatzic Lake. This proposed citywide trails plan links Mission's growing residential community to its commercial and industrial areas while providing protection to its endangered streams and shoreline, enhancing its economic and environmental social values.⁷ The project immediately engaged my desire to investigate a topic involving many facets with emphasis on ecologic and historic educational opportunities.

The District of Mission is located 70 kilometers east of Vancouver on the Fraser River. Surrounded by natural beauty and some of the most affordable land and housing in the Lower Mainland, Mission's 32,000 residents enjoy a livable community with a high quality of life.

Mission Flats is the approximate 237-acre area floodplain located between the highlands of Downtown Mission, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Fraser River. Like much of the Fraser River, the foreshore has historically been devoted to industrial uses with few spaces planned for public recreation. Most of Mission Flats is commercial and industrial in character with areas planned for mixed residential/commercial redevelopment. Recreational areas are limited to the diminutive Fraser River Foreshore Park and Mission Motor Raceway. Open green spaces not formally accessible to the public include a network of streams, wetlands, river foreshore areas,

⁷ Lewis, Ken, *Letter of Intent: Vancity Gateway Project Proposal*, (Mission, BC, April 2001): 2.

and forested Crown-owned land, all of which are considered significant fish and wildlife habitat zones.

The proposed trail on Mission Flats was initiated by the need for a wheelchair accessible connection to the community's streams and Fraser River foreshore. Located primarily along segments of Lane Creek, Windebank Creek, and the Fraser River, the trail offers opportunities for various recreational activities such as walking, biking, running, and fish and wildlife viewing. The Mission Flats trail also provides a linkage with several of Mission's notable amenities such as the Downtown, West Coast Express, Junction Shopping Centre, Mission Hills Shopping Centre, and the Mission Harbour. Proposed mixed-use residential areas on Mission Flats are also increasing the need for a trail, to provide alternative transportation and recreational opportunities to the residents of these future developments.

3.2 Social History

Mission's heritage contains many significant stories that lay tucked away in the memory of a rapidly shifting society. The design of an interpretive trail is one opportunity to bring the stories of Mission's heritage to life, and instill within them the historical social importance they inherently possess. Below is a brief synopsis of Mission's social history, focusing on the recent changes occurring on Mission Flats. This brief history corresponds with the timeline of images, illustrated in Figure 2: Site Morphology - Mission's Social History, highlighting the considerable impact of ethnic populations in the development of a frontier town.

Mission takes its name after St. Mary's Mission a native residential school established in 1862 by the Order of the Oblates whose aim was to spread Catholicism and teach agricultural practices to the First Nations people, while providing mediation between the natives and white miners.⁸ The natives were mainly Sto:lo (meaning "of the river") tribes who had been subsisting in the Fraser Valley area for over 10,000 years.⁹ In 1885, the Canadian Pacific Railway chose the site of St. Mary's Mission to locate its first railway junction connecting British Columbia with the rest of Canada and the United States. In anticipation of this new development, James Welton Horne, a

⁸ Schroeder, Andreas. *Carved from Wood: Mission, B.C. 1861-1992*, (Mission: The Mission Foundation, 1991.) 29.

⁹ Schroeder 36.

wealthy real estate speculator, acquired land around the planned junction and began to develop a commercial core on Mission Flats he smartly named Horne Avenue. Following construction, which was built on pilings due to the marshy nature of the flats, J.W. Horne orchestrated a "Great Land Sale", advertising the area as the "New Seattle." Horne expected Mission to become a bustling metropolis and many of the streets of the prematurely laid out town were named after cosmopolitan locations: Washington, Montreal, California, and Seattle. Though the land auction was a success, many of the buyers never settled in Mission and Horne's expectations for the "New Seattle" were never realized. Its' street names stripped and replaced with unassuming numbers, St. Mary's Mission became simply known simply as, the utilitarian "Mission Junction."

Horne's choice of the town center location was also proven to be an error in judgment. In May 1894 the Fraser River flooded the flats up to the CPR tracks with a high watermark of 25.75 feet, causing merchants and residents to flee their quarters and relocate upland to Mission's current downtown location. Horne Avenue's abandoned buildings on the flats would become a nucleus for Chinese workers who initially immigrated to work on the C.P. rail expansion. In Mission, the Chinese workforce found employment in one of the town's two main industries: agriculture and logging. Mission's south-facing bench lands proved ideal for producing small fruits, becoming one of the most productive berry growing areas in Canada and U.S., earning its name "The Home of the Big Strawberry." Japanese farmers contributed to Mission's growing success in the fruit industry, eventually controlling more than 75% of berry producing property. This was achieved by effectively transforming unused barren land into productive farms, a skill perfected in their homelands. The wood industry also proved to be highly influential in Mission's economic development with shake and shingle mills established along the Fraser River attracting new settlers, many from India.

Just prior to the 1920's, a fire destroyed some of Mission's first buildings along Horne Avenue, including Mission's unofficial Chinatown, resulting in a diminished visual Chinese presence in Mission. Although the old Horne Avenue was destroyed, Mission's downtown was thriving with businesses and a new department store, serving as the main shopping nucleus within the mid-valley. This economic boom came to a halt in the 1930's when the Depression effectively weakened Mission's economy and brought more transients into Mission via railway than any other town between Vancouver and the interior of B.C., morphing "the flats" into a Hobo jungle of informal settlements.¹⁰ Approximately two decades following the Chinatown fire, Mission lost

another important ethnic population during WWII when Japanese-Canadians were forced to evacuate their farms, creating a devastating impact on Mission's fruit and berry industry.

Following the war, festivities such as the Soap Box Derby and the Strawberry Festival were created in an effort to boost community morale and jumpstart a suffering berry industry. Unfortunately flood prevention efforts replaced the celebratory atmosphere in the warm spring and summer of 1948's. Over a six-week period, the Fraser River flooded again and peaked at 24.73 feet, submerging Mission Flats and the former Chinatown under more than 10 feet of water. This catastrophe proved to be an insurmountable setback for many berry farmers in Mission and its hinterlands. An industrial wood processing industry replaced the berries with tree farming with the kick off of B.C.'s first municipal tree farm in Mission in the early 1950's. Accordingly, Mission Flat's waterfront was transformed in the fifties into a flourishing mill industrial area. As a result, the flats were finally re-settled, 30 years after the Chinatown fire, by Mission's growing Sikh population.¹¹ Yet, overall Mission's population was stagnant compared to the rapid expansion of areas south of the Fraser. While communities across the river such as Abbotsford had plenty of large flat plots for commercial and industrial expansion, development on Mission's steep hills proved tricky and uneconomic.¹² From the 1960's on, Mission's status as the mid-valley's shopping nucleus disintegrated due to an migration of businesses to nearby Abbotsford, and Mission experienced a difficult series of boom and bust economic cycles extending for the following three decades.¹³

The building of a vehicular bridge across the Fraser River was anticipated to reinvigorate Mission's sagging economy.¹⁴ Completed in the early 1970's, the bridge provided a much-needed linkage to communities across the Fraser River such as Abbotsford, and the Trans-Canada Highway. Although in terms of economic growth, it inevitably drained Mission's commerce, as retailers and industry relocated to Abbotsford. An additional economic crash occurred when Mission's primary employer the lumber industry, was downsized drastically, establishing the need for new diverse industries. This need was met with the creation of Mission's Industrial Park, located on the flats with existing shake and shingle industry, and attracting what would be a major employer until 1989, Fiberglass Canada.¹⁵ However, a majority of the industrial park

¹¹ Schroeder 178.

¹² Schroeder 171.

¹³ Schroeder 191.

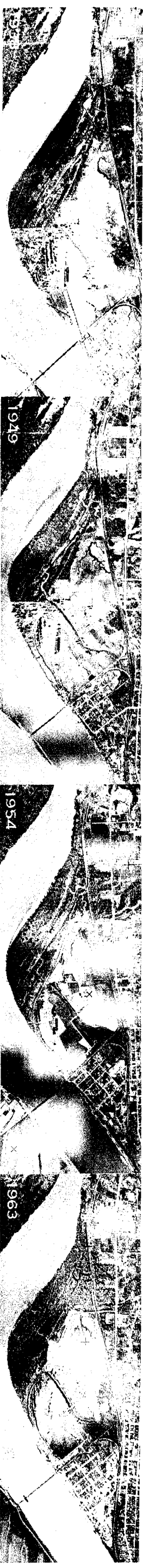
¹⁴ Schroeder 198.

¹⁵ Schroeder 202.

remained empty for much of the early 1980's, while the recession took its toll on Mission's economy, shutting down businesses and eradicating saw-milling on the flats. The economy finally advanced in the latter half of the 1980's, reactivating development on the flats, within the industrial park, and along the Fraser River in the form of Mission's very own drag strip, Mission Raceway. This upswing of the economy in the late 1980's made Mission one of the fastest growing communities in the province.¹⁶ Mission's affordable housing attracted many professional artists and the community increased its cultural attractions such as the architecturally renowned Westminster Abbey, popular annual Folk Festival at Heritage Park, international Native Pow Wow, and River Day Fest.

Mission's attraction by ex-urbanites was further increased with the opening of the West Coast Express commuter rail system between Mission and Vancouver in the mid 1990's. The West Coast Express Station on Mission Flats brought a revamped look to the railway as well as a pedestrian bridge over the C.P. Rail tracks linking downtown with Mission Flats. Other major changes to Mission Flats include the recent commercial developments of the Junction Shopping Centre and industrial development of a plastics manufacturer, InterWrap. The Junction Shopping Centre instigated the completion of the massively elevated Lougheed Highway Bypass, ultimately increasing vehicle access. This increase of traffic and infrastructure on the flats has unfortunately contributed to the fragmented, auto-dominated character present today.

While Mission continues to boast a high quality of life, affordable housing, and celebrated community events, Mission Flats and the Fraser River foreshore remain neglected and inaccessible to the pedestrian. The redevelopment opportunity of Mission Flats has fortunately been recognized with zones planned for mixed-use residential and commercial development. Furthermore, Mission's foreshore is beginning to be acknowledged as a unique natural, recreational, and fiscal amenity, and the need of improved access for the community's enjoyment is becoming increasingly important. A trail through Mission Flats has the opportunity for not only enhancing investment for redevelopment and much needed access to the foreshore, but also uncovering its' intriguing multifaceted history to increase the community's awareness of Mission's heritage and its relationship with the Fraser River.



The Sto'lo tribes were river oriented people subsisting largely on salmon, inhabiting the Fraser Valley over 10,000 years ago. Fishing camps, canoe building, and real collecting are likely to have occurred on what is now known as Mission Flats.

Downtown Mission, located just up on the hillside from the flats, was also constructed on trestles.

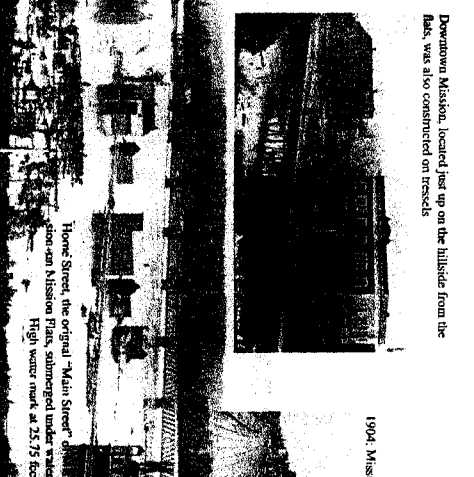
1904, Mission Junction Railway Station

Mission's bobo population. Shanty towns popped up on Mission Flats housing one of the largest transient populations in B.C. during the Depression.

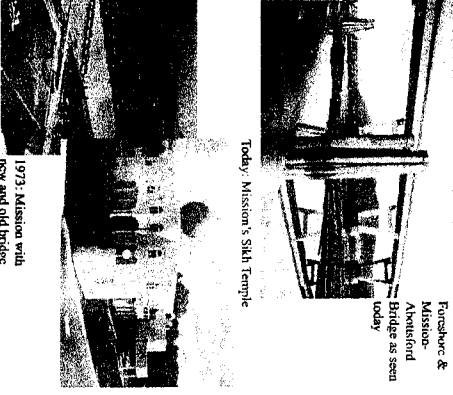
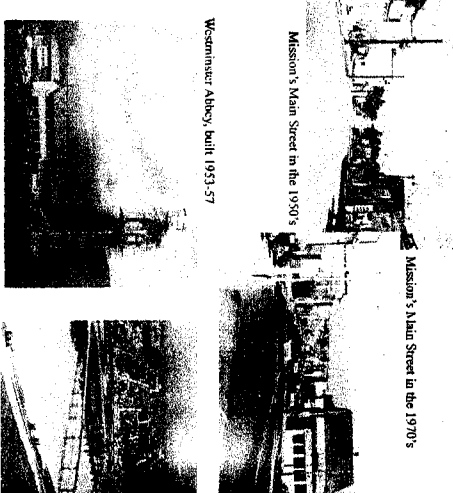
1948 Flood. Home Street on the flats under water.

Mission's Main Street in the 1970's

Fraser River
Municipal &
Municipal
Bridge as seen today



1910: Changing Bridge from wood to steel. This would be the only way to cross the Fraser until 1972.



STOLO TRIBES
OVER 10,000 YEARS AGO

1862 "ST. MARY'S MISSION"

1894 THE GREAT FLOOD

EARLY 1900'S
WOOD/PRODUCE INDUSTRIES

THE DEPRESSION
1930'S

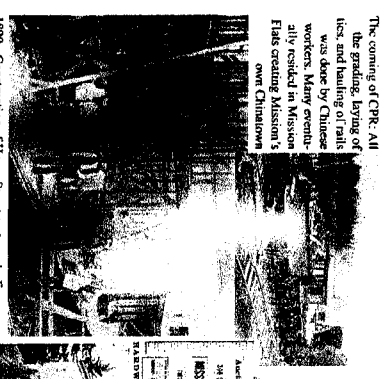
1940'S: WWII

1948: THE SECOND GREAT FLOOD

1950'S POST WAR
FESTIVITIES & FORESTRY

1970'S THE NEW BRIDGE

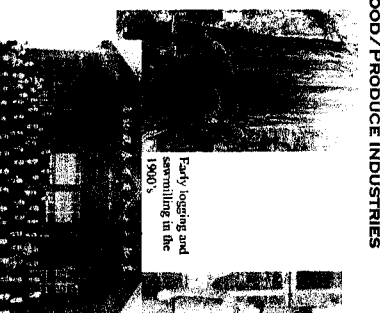
MISSION TODAY



The coming of CPR. All the grading, laying of ties, and hauling of rails was done by Chinese workers. Many eventually resided in Mission Flats creating Mission's own Chinatown.



1892: Grants of Our Lady Lourdes built on a high hill overlooking Mission and the entire Fraser Valley.



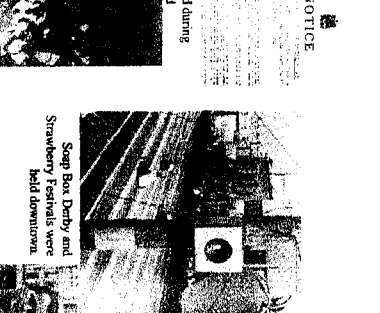
1891: Land Auction orchestrated by local owner James Watson. The land was given to the St. Mary's Mission, often called the "New Seattle".

Chinese berry pickers were an integral part of Mission's economy in the 1900's.

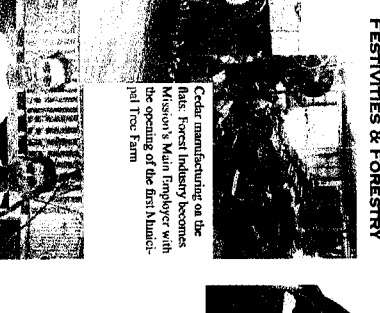
Scattered cleared, dyed, drained and planked Mission Flats for agricultural use.



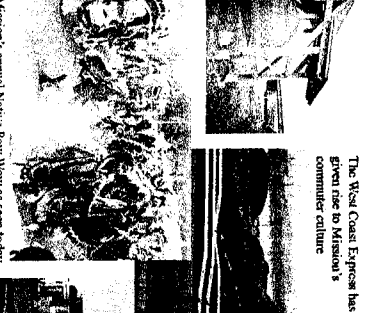
1916: Mission's Japanese Farmers Association reported a significant presence in the berry industry.



1916: Mission's Japanese Farmers Association reported a significant presence in the berry industry.



1916: Mission's Japanese Farmers Association reported a significant presence in the berry industry.



1916: Mission's Japanese Farmers Association reported a significant presence in the berry industry.



SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION'S SOCIAL HISTORY

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

3.3 Site Morphology

These historic aerials illuminate the site's former landscape features and the developments that have shaped it. The following series of aerial photographs (Figures 3-11) highlight the physical changes that have occurred on Mission Flats over seven decades, from 1938 to present.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1938 (Figure 3) - This first aerial documents the former stream alignments, open drainage system, vegetation patterns, presence of beach ridges, and roads defining farm plots on the flats. The established road network east of the railway illustrates the significance of Horne Avenue as Mission's former main street.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1949 (Figure 4) - The study area just one year after the great flood of 1948. Construction of Mission Flats dyke has begun and increased development spreading out from downtown Mission is evident.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1954 (Figure 5) - Six years following the second great flood, Mission Flats has been safeguarded with a dyke constructed to its present alignment, seen here as the most southerly roadway. More development had occurred not only Downtown, but also on the flats along the existing street network and within the flat's center in the form of additional farm plots.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1963 (Figure 6) - Farm plots within the center of Mission Flats are removed in this next aerial and replaced with what appears to be the beginning construction of a drag strip. Increased growth has occurred primarily downtown and along the existing street network on the flats.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1974 (Figure 7) - Just one year after completion of the Mission-Abbotsford Bridge. Major changes have occurred on the flats including a completed Mission Raceway dragstrip and the appearance of earth-bermed areas in anticipation of an elevated transportation linkage between the Mission-Abbotsford Bridge and the Lougheed Highway. The Murray Street overpass is another new addition to the flats, connecting lower Horne Avenue with Downtown over the C.P. Rail tracks. Originally intended to initiate commercial development on

the flats, by the time the Murray Street overpass was completed Mission's retailers had already chosen the Lougheed Commercial Corridor, Mission's west side for their development plans.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1982 (Figure 8) - Development occurring along the Lougheed Commercial Corridor and the establishment of Mission's Industrial Park on the flats. Fiberglass Canada is the only major industry to have been established. Additional transit infrastructure has been built including a cloverleaf connecting the Mission-Abbotsford Bridge with the existing and future bypass section. Perhaps the most extreme impact occurred within an approximate 71.5-acre area along the Fraser River that was cleared and leveled for the future Mission Raceway established 1985, substantially diminishing the vegetated marshland areas on the flats.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1994 (Figure 9) - The bypass completed on the west end connecting the Mission-Abbotsford Bridge with the Lougheed Highway. The Lougheed Highway has been expanded to four lanes and increased development has occurred both along the highway's commercial corridor and in the Mission's Industrial Park.

Site Morphology - Mission circa 1999 (Figure 10) - The bypass with its current additions (on-off ramps connecting to London Avenue) and new development occurring along London Avenue, namely the Junction Shopping Centre. The West Coast Express' commuter parking area and walkway across the C.P. Rail tracks were established 1995, creating a much needed pedestrian linkage to Downtown and increasing Mission's appeal to city workers desiring rural living.

Site Morphology - Mission Today (Figure 11) - Current fragmented configuration of Mission Flats today. New construction include the substantial plastics wrap development, Inter-wrap, within the Mission's Industrial Park and additional stores and businesses within the Junction Shopping Centre. Sadly, one of the remaining forested patches on the flats, an approximate 18.5-acre triangularly shaped plot, was clear-cut to presumably accommodate future log-sorting functions, severely diminishing wildlife habitat areas.



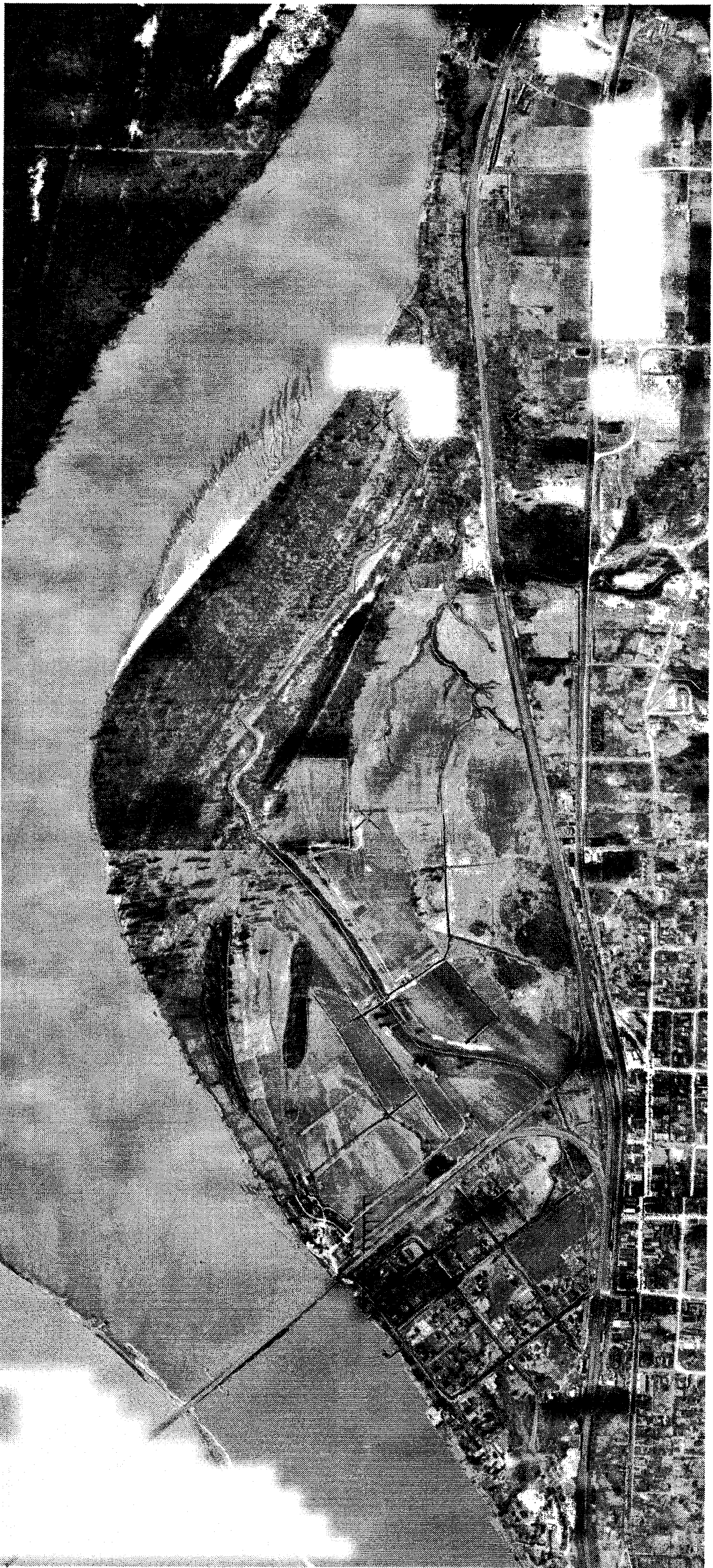
NATURAL-
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES



CULTURAL-
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK, FARM PLOTS

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1938

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



NATURAL-
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES



CULTURAL-
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK, FARM PLOTS

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1949

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



 **NATURAL-**
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES

 **CULTURAL-**
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK, FARM PLOTS

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1954

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

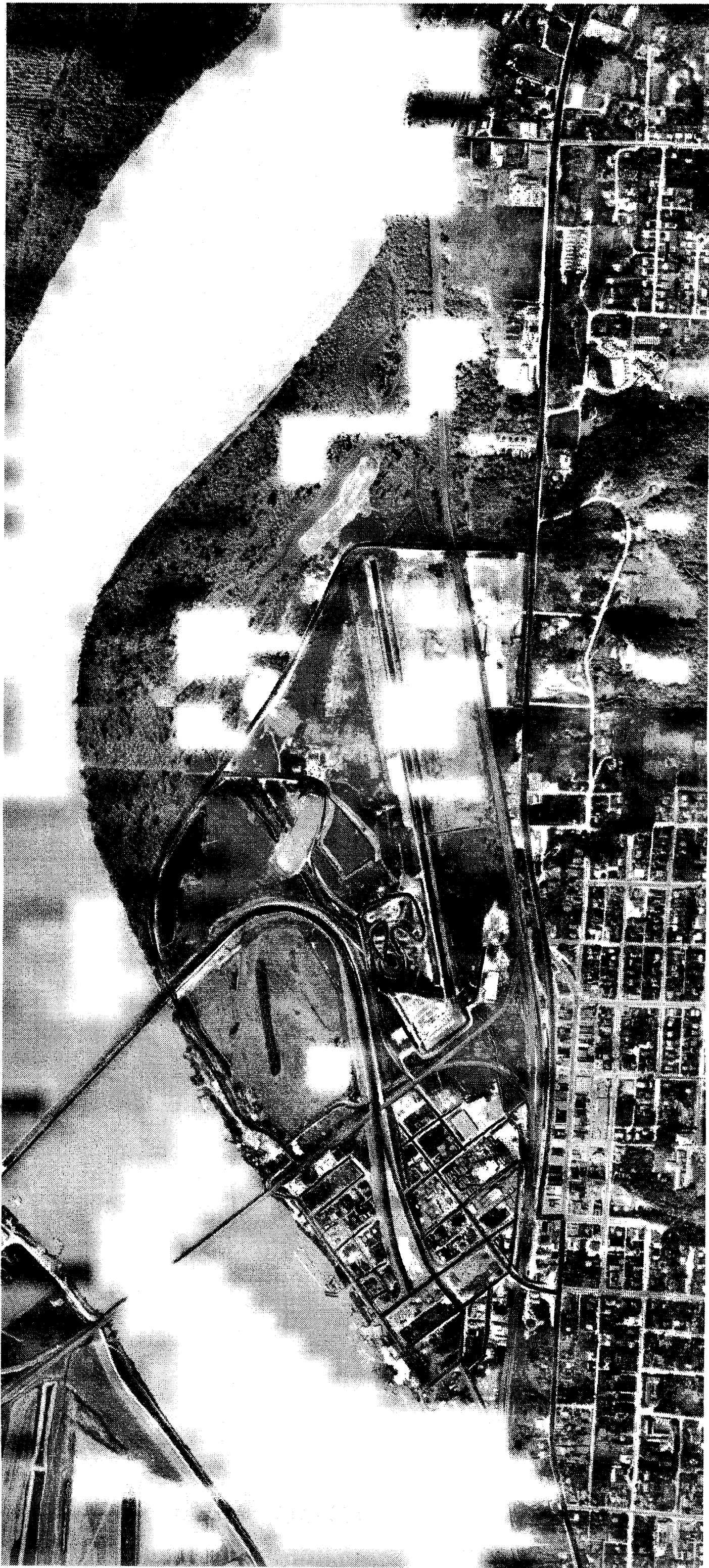


 **NATURAL**
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES

 **CULTURAL**
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1963

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



NATURAL-
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES

CULTURAL-
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1974

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

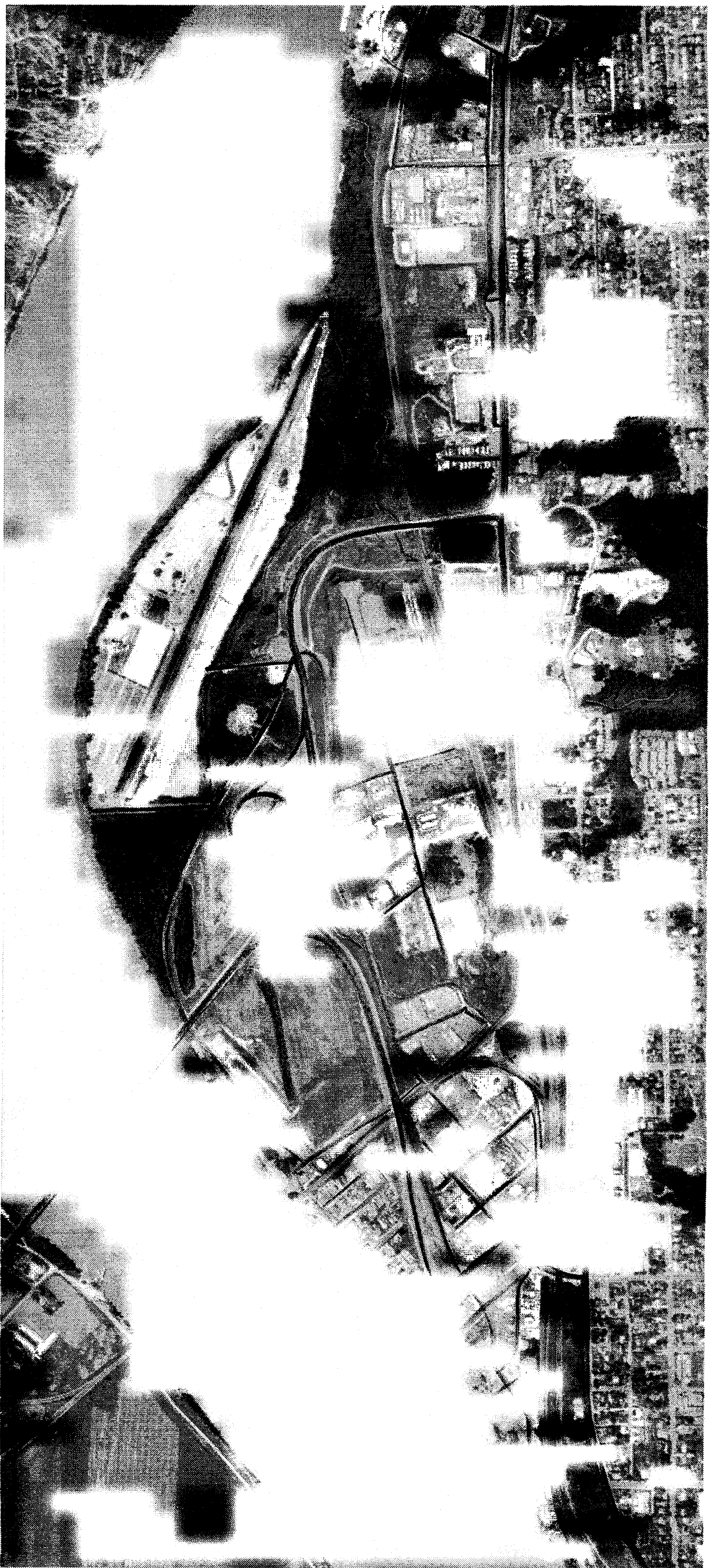


 **NATURAL**
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES

 **CULTURAL**
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1982

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

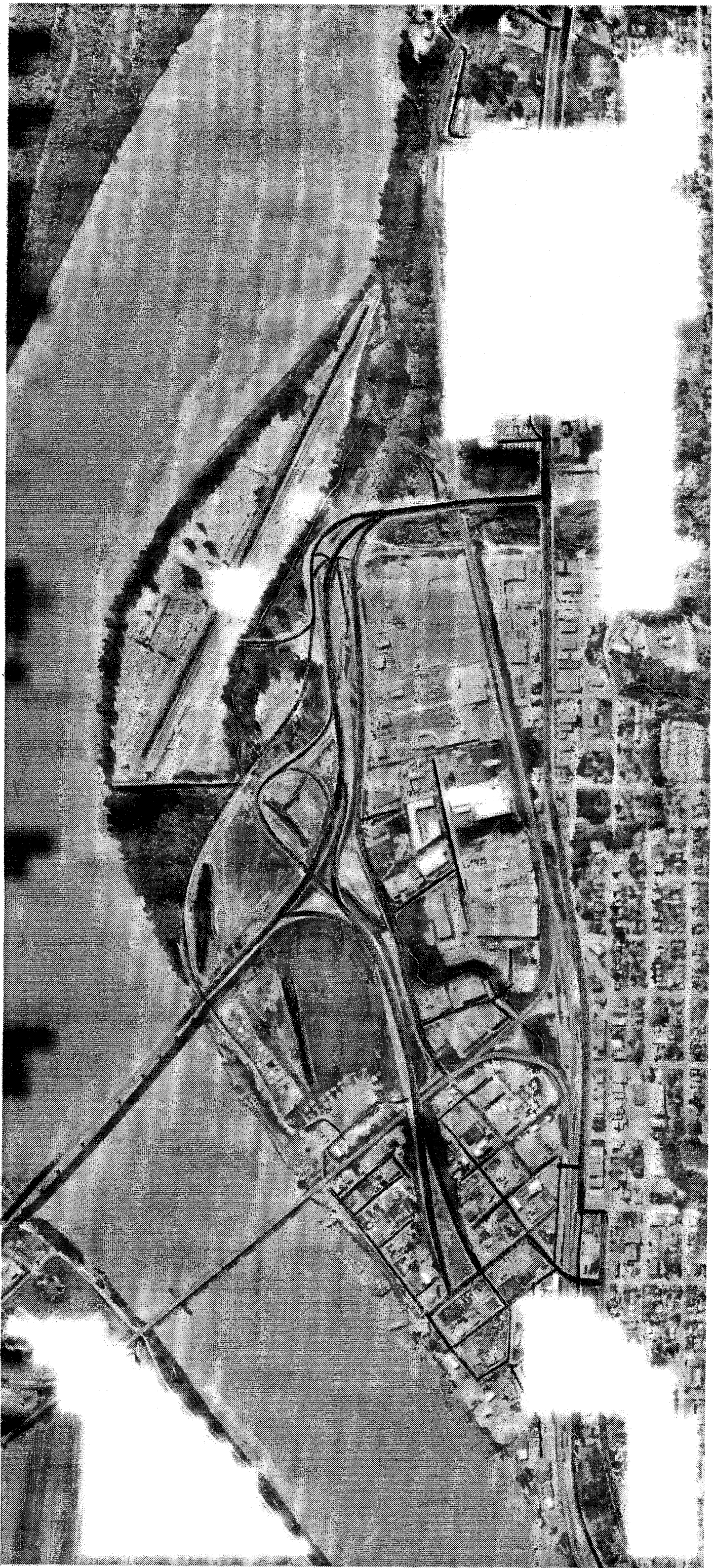


 **NATURAL-**
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES

 **CULTURAL-**
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1994

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

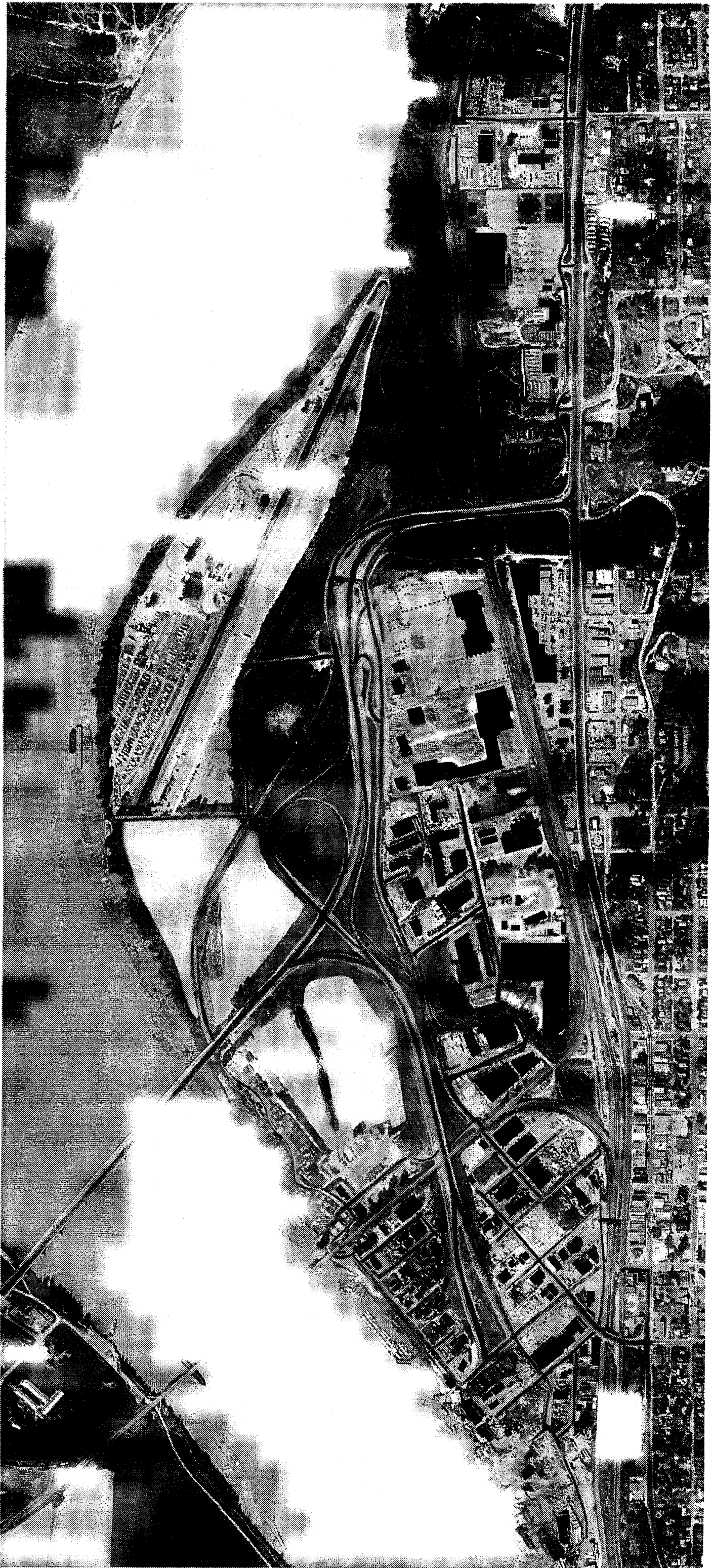



 **NATURAL-**
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES


 **CULTURAL-**
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION CIRCA 1999

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



 NATURAL-
STREAMS, BEACH RIDGES

 CULTURAL-
ROAD & RAIL NETWORK

SITE MORPHOLOGY - MISSION TODAY

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

3.4 Site Reconnaissance

In addition to conducting numerous site visits and consulting conventional planning documents, my reconnaissance of the site involved searching the archives for historic maps and photographs, interviewing residents, and experiencing the landscape from the viewpoint of the pedestrian. The following Site Reconnaissance maps (Figures 12-17) document various existing and proposed site conditions by means of a digital database created to compare and overlay this information.

3.4.1 Site Context and Trail Network (Figure 12)

The study area of Mission Flats within the urban area of Mission, bounded by Silverdale and Hatzic. Illustrates linkage opportunities between the proposed trail on Mission Flats to other trails (existing and proposed), schools, and parks within urban Mission as indicated in the Official Community Plan.

3.4.2 Future Land Use (Figure 13)

Based on the Official Community Plan, the future land uses of Mission Flats and its surrounding edges. Mission Flats is primarily commercial and industrial in use, historically devoid of proper housing due to its' flood plain condition. However, current flood plain exemptions, based on adaptive building design, have led to the future land use proposal of two areas zoned for mixed-use residential and commercial developments: the Commuter Rail Redevelopment and Waterfront District Redevelopment. The former is located in the present industrial area surrounding the West Coast Express Station and proposes multi-residential units that establish a pedestrian scale and encourage commercial uses that cater to commuter rail patrons as well as the larger market. The vision of the Waterfront District Redevelopment area is a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-used development with a waterfront theme that increases the community's access and enjoyment of the river.

3.4.3 Waterways and Vegetation (Figure 14)

Based on contour mapping, the Gartner Lee Environmentally Sensitive Areas Study, and multiple site visits this map identifies vegetation communities, re-vegetated stream banks, stream classification, location of culverts, and the floodplain boundary. The floodplain boundary marks

the area that would statistically flood in the next 200-year flood. The lower reaches of Lane Creek and Windebank Creek have been designated as Class A watercourses, providing essential rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids swimming down the Fraser River from spawning areas upstream.¹⁷ Unfortunately the Lane Creek corridor is highly developed without proper vegetated buffers to support fish rearing and reduce erosion. Substantial efforts have been made by the Mission Indian Friendship Centre to restore Lane Creek by removing garbage, invasive exotic species, and revegetating banks with native riparian plantings. Wildlife areas are limited to the wetlands of Mandale Slough and forested Crown-owned land on the western edge of the flats.

3.4.4 Trail Alignment Character (Figure 15)

The trail corridor location was generated in conjunction with District of Mission Planner Adam Fitch and contributed to by additional members of the community. The route responds to the present context and allowable right-of-ways by weaving through existing and proposed land uses. The map identifies character alignment (shoreline, streamside, roadside, etc.), major areas of access, and intersections with rail line requiring controlled crossings.

3.4.5 Trail Access and Views (Figure 16)

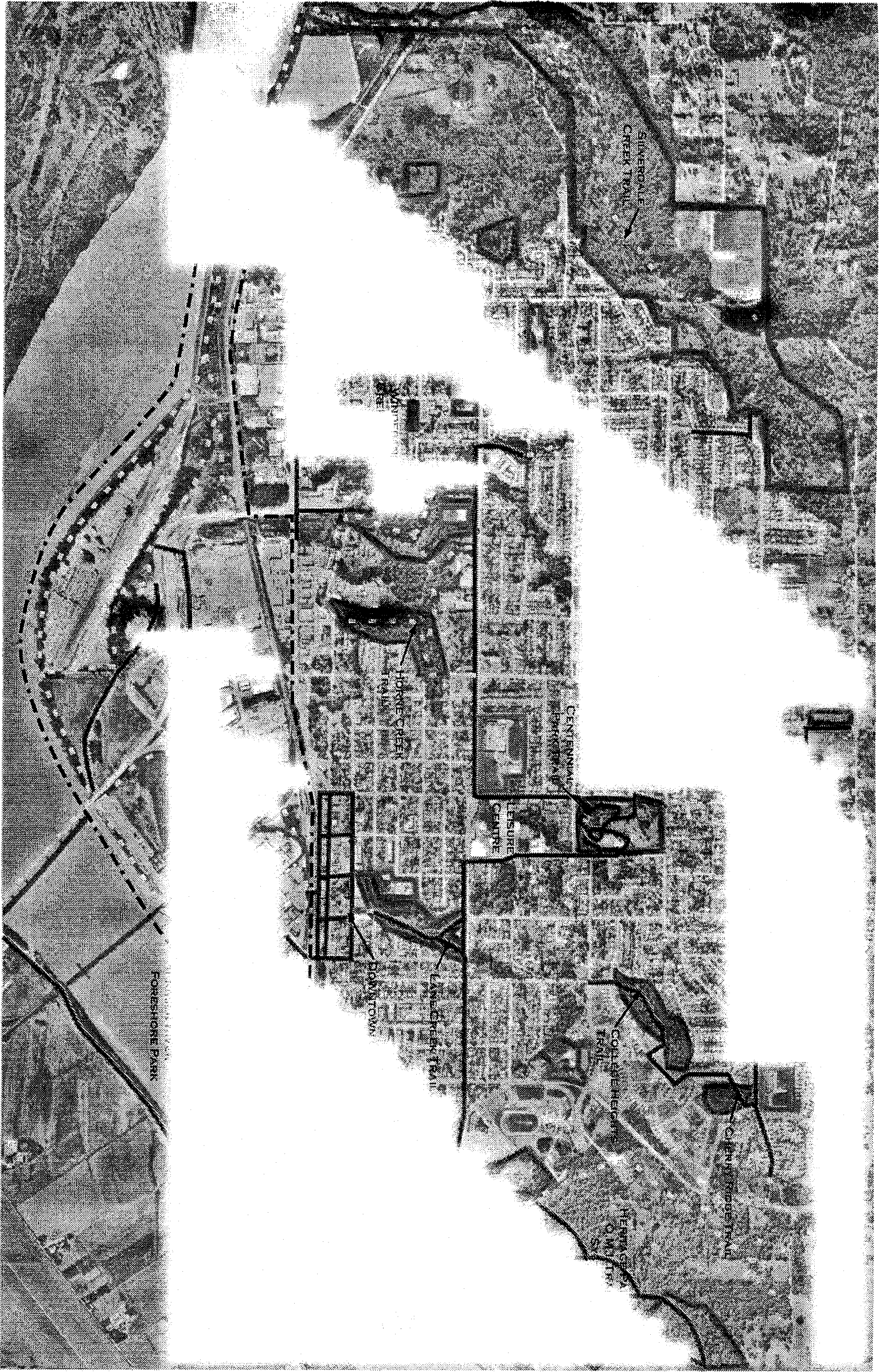
This map identifies those portions of the proposed trail alignment that are either publicly owned with allowable access or privately owned with access under negotiation. While industrial uses along the waterfront such as log sorting, make access presently difficult, it is necessary to establish a future right-of-way so that in the event of a new land-use, waterfront access may be more easily realized. Vantage points along the trail are represented with arrows denoting short-range views of streams and creeks, and long-range views of the surrounding mountains.

3.4.6 Trail Narratives (Figure 17)

A conceptual organization for revealing various natural and industrial narratives and lost traces on Mission Flats. Natural narratives include ecological conditions and processes such as the wind and water that shape the land, as well as the vegetation and habitat that support the species that occupy the flats. Artifacts, like the Mission Gauge, serve as reminders of the power of the Fraser River and the floods that have influenced the development of Mission. The earliest days of

¹⁷ Gartner Lee Limited, *Environmentally Sensitive Areas Study: District of Mission* (October 1993) 14.

Mission City, the introduction of the railroad and subsequent wood industries provide significant industrial narratives, linking laborers from the past to the present. Stories no longer visible in the landscape, such as Horne Avenue's birth as the original town center and the site of the Sto:lo fish camp are characterized here as lost traces. Selected narratives are tied to specific landscape features of Mission Flats, others more generally associated with its morphology.



LEGEND

- EXISTING SCHOOL
- DESIGNATED MUNICIPAL PARK
- FUTURE PARK
- EXISTING TRAIL/SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED TRAIL
- STUDY AREA

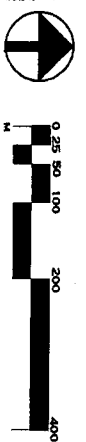
N.T.S.

SITE RECONNAISSANCE - SITE CONTEXT & TRAIL NETWORK

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

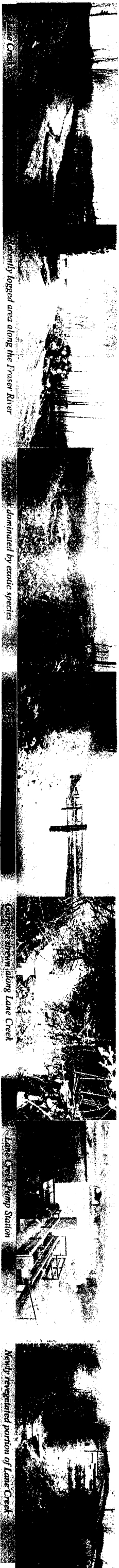


- LEGEND**
- URBAN RESIDENTIAL
 - MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL
 - CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
 - DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS AREA
 - DOWNTOWN WEST EXPANSION AREA
 - DOWNTOWN EAST EXPANSION AREA
 - SCHOOLS
 - INSTITUTIONAL
 - SERVICE COMMERCIAL
 - WATERFRONT DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT AREA
 - COMPUTER RAIL REDEVELOPMENT AREA
 - GENERAL INDUSTRIAL
 - BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL
 - PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE



SITE RECONNAISSANCE - FUTURE LAND USE

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



Recently logged area along the Fraser River

Area dominated by exotic species

Grass stream along Lane Creek

Lane Creek Pump Station

Newly revegetated portion of Lane Creek



LEGEND

- MIXED FOREST
- MARSH & RIPARIAN COMMUNITIES
- TURF GRASS
- REVEGETATED AREAS
- AREAS PLANNED FOR RE-VEGETATION
- CLASS A WATERCOURSE
HIGHLY FISH SENSITIVE - FISH PRESENT YEAR ROUND
- CLASS AO WATERCOURSE
FISH SENSITIVE - FISH PRESENT ON SEASONAL BASIS
- CLASS (U) WATERCOURSE
UNKNOWN
- CLASS B WATERCOURSE
INTERMEDIATE CLASS - PROVIDES FOOD AND NUTRIENTS FOR FISH
THOUGH NO FISH MAY BE PRESENT
- CLASS C WATERCOURSE
NOT CLASSIFIED AS FISH SENSITIVE - I.E. DRAINAGE SWALES
- CULVERT
- TOP OF BANK
- CONTOURS
2 METER INTERVALS
- FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARY



SITE RECONNAISSANCE - WATERWAYS & VEGETATION

MISSION PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISUAL INTERPRETIVE PLAN ON MISSION FLATS



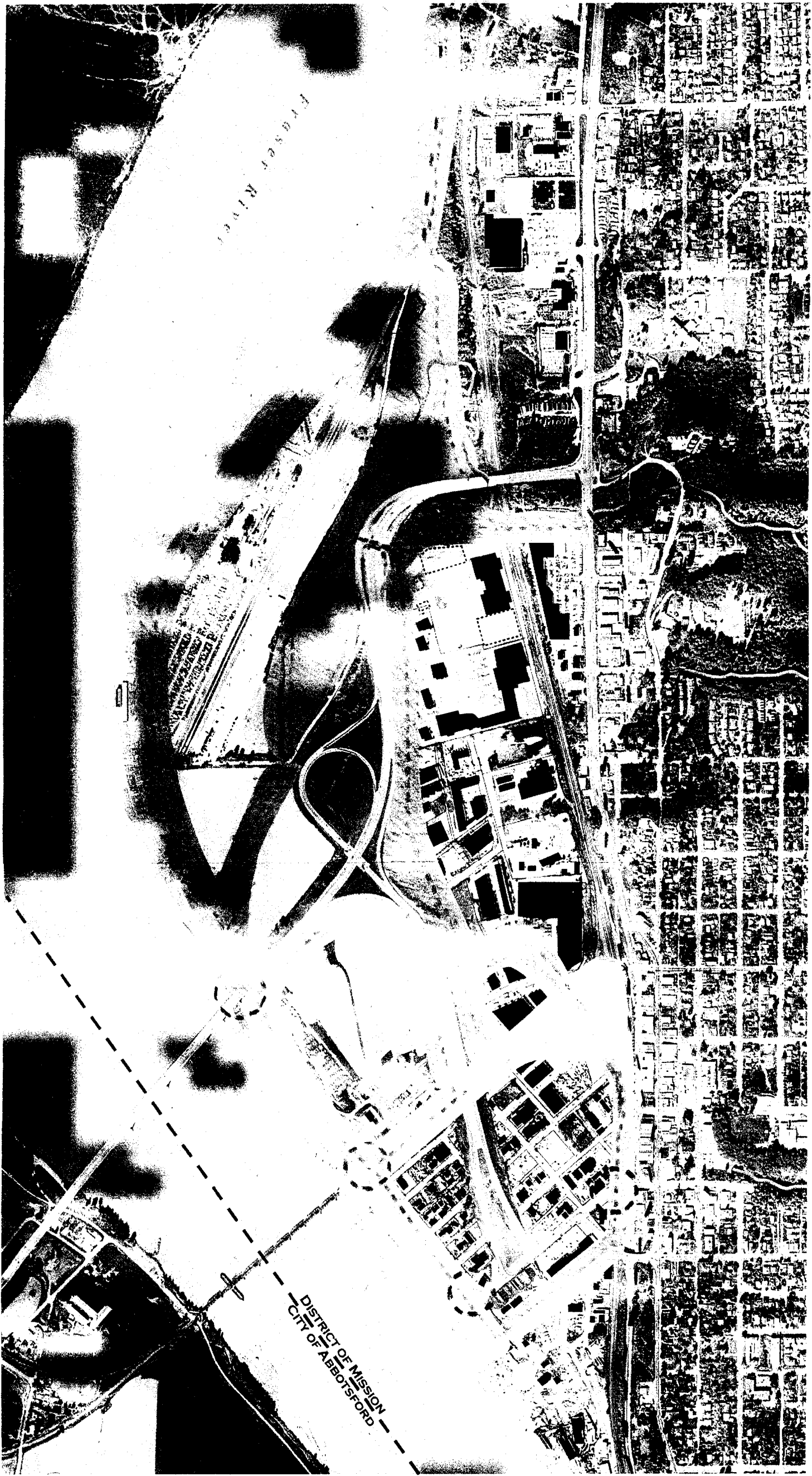
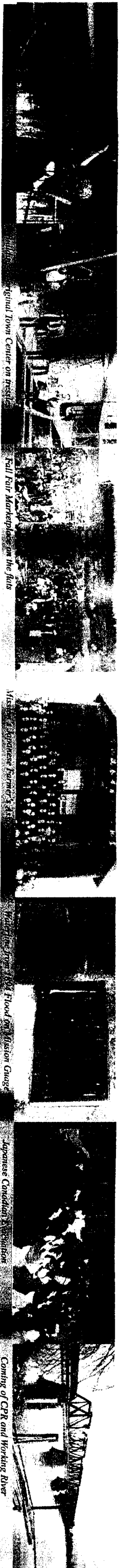
LEGEND

- SHORELINE ALIGNMENT
- STREAMSIDE ALIGNMENT
- FOREST ALIGNMENT
- DYKE ALIGNMENT
- MARSH ALIGNMENT ON BOARDWALK
- ROAD LINK ALIGNMENT ON SIDEWALK
- ROAD/RAIL ALIGNMENT WITH BUFFER
- MAJOR POINTS OF ACCESS / PARKING
- CONTROLLED RAIL CROSSINGS
- STREAMS
- FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARY



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - TRAIL ALIGNMENT CHARACTER

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



NATURAL NARRATIVES

- FRASER RIVER-SHAPING THE FLATS (BEACH RIDGES & DYKE ALIGNMENT)
- LOW LANDS- MARSH, SLOUGH & STREAMS, AQUATIC SPECIES & HABITAT
- FLOODS- 1894, 1948, 1996
- MISSION GAUGE

INDUSTRIAL NARRATIVES

- RAILROAD- FORMER STATIONS, SOCIAL HISTORY (IMMIGRANT WORKERS, TRANSIENTS, JAPANESE CANADIAN EVACUATION)
- WORKING RIVER- (WOOD STORING, PROCESSING)
- OTHER PRODUCTION & MANUFACTURING: PAST & PRESENT TRADES

LOST TRACES

- HORNE AVENUE: MARSH, ORIGINAL TOWN CENTER, FLOODS, CHINATOWN, FIRE, LITTLE INDIAN
- STOLO PRESENCE: SITE OF FORMER FISH CAMP
- TRAIL ALIGNMENT CONCEPT
- FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARY



SITE RECONNAISSANCE - TRAIL NARRATIVES

POWER OF PLACE: LANDSCAPE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

Part IV NARRATIVE THEORY, PRECEDENTS, & DESIGN APPROACH

It is through narrative that we interpret the processes and events of place. We come to know a place because we know its stories. –Matthew Pottleiger and Jamie Purinton, *Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories*

4.1 Introduction to Narrative Design Practices

The presence of landscape narratives is pervasive in landscape architecture, from classical gardens to contemporary urban streetscapes. Landscape narratives are the “fundamental way people shape and make sense of experience and landscapes.”¹⁸ Interpretive design is one type of landscape narratives with the specific aim of uncovering narratives, historic and ongoing.¹⁹ Pottleiger and Purinton in *Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories*, explore a wide range of landscape precedents, designed and vernacular, analyzed in terms of five *narrative design practices*. Narrative design practices are fundamental techniques of designing places that communicate a story, contending “stories link the sense of time, event, experience, memory, and other intangibles to the more tangible aspects of place.”²⁰ Each practice is both a way of “physically communicating narrative as well as a metaphor for narrative.”²¹

In the following pages, five narrative design practices are investigated - *naming*, *sequencing*, *concealing/revealing*, *gathering*, and *opening*, as defined in *Landscape Narratives: Design Practices for Telling Stories* with the subsequent addition of, *recycling*. These practices reflect a typical design methodology looking initially at the broader scale, in *naming* of place, then shifting to the design details, covered in the *recycling* of materials. Collectively, the practices constitute an interpretive design language. The practices within this language are woven loosely together, with the “most complex work engaging many at once.”²² The practices are introduced here with a brief definition, applicable landscape precedent(s) and corresponding design approaches that illustrate how each method is applied in a vision for Mission Flats. (See Figure 18)

¹⁸ Pottleiger, Matthew and Jamie Purinton. *Landscape Narratives*, (NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc, 1998.) ix.

¹⁹ Pottleiger 11.

²⁰ Pottleiger ix.

²¹ Pottleiger 73.

²² Pottleiger 73.

4.2 Naming

The act of naming is a fundamental component of developing place identity. It “is as much a creative act as giving it form.”²³ Naming both generates the origin of a places’ story and shapes its’ plot as new names are applied over time building a palimpsest of names. Names reveal change. The settler’s initial attempt to fix the place’s identity with religion with St. Mary’s Mission and the layered collage of names that follow (i.e. “New Seattle”, Mission Junction, “Home of the Big Strawberry,” Mission City, Village of Mission, Town of Mission, District of Mission) relating the hopes, dreams and reality of Mission’s ever changing economic and political condition. In addition to offering abbreviated stories of discovery and biography of place, naming reveals the social values of its inhabitants. First Nations’ naming traditions reveal their intimate relationship to the land (i.e. Sto:lo meaning “of the river”). Mission’s settlers street naming practice after illustrious cities, uncovers their expectations for Mission to become a thriving metropolis. Moreover, naming practices often expose the political influences and ambitions of those who shaped a place. In the case of Mission, James Welton Horne, the first town developer has one stream and three roads named after him. These traces of naming in the landscape create a temporal collage, transforming indistinguishable areas into distinctly remembered places.

Traces of names in the landscape aren’t always retained. Designers play an important role by restoring those names considered historically significant and making them intelligible to the public. Fredrick Law Olmsted used naming strategies for his design of Franklin Park in Boston completed 1885. He investigated historic names linked to the site including homesteaders, Native Americans, and people and events of the Revolutionary War. Olmstead recovered names, such as “Resting Place” where a lieutenant rested his army, for their particular narratives associated with place evoking a sense of heritage within the park.²⁴

Naming trail segments and trail nodes on Mission Flats is an initial step of my design approach. By uncovering names directly associated to site, such as “Salmon Ceremony” at the former First Nations fish camp or “Timber Row” along the wood-processing waterfront, a richer description of significant landscape narratives are identified. As a result, this naming strategy distinguishes the character for each trail segment and highlights the local history connected to Mission Flats.

²³ Potteiger 75.

²⁴ Potteiger 93.

4.3 Sequencing

Narrative sequence is developed by the proximity and succession of landscape features. The order of experience is essential to narrative, as every feature is understood in terms of what comes before and what follows, while one moves through the landscape. Aided by linear ordering devices such as roads and streams, the sequencing of landscape narratives controls the users experience in a way to orient, open, and make legible the various historical layers.

Sequencing is used in many designed landscapes to choreograph the experience of the user. The garden of Stourhead in Wiltshire, England is particularly notable for its choreography in narrating the story of the fall of Rome. The gardens' pathways sequentially unfold the plot through a series of landmarks, alluding to events along a perceivable timeline. This technique was more recently utilized in Lawrence Halprin design for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial along Washington Mall. Halprin uses a series of processional rooms that serve as a sequencing device for organizing phases of FDR's political and personal life in a chronological way.²⁵

Linear devices are critical for their direction to users who reach a point of interest via different routes. This movement choreography is considered specifically on the Mission Flats Trail at the interpretive nodes, "Horne Historic Overlooks" and "Watermark Walkway", where the stories unfold sequentially referencing materials and significant landscape features. Juxtaposition of land use types also applies sequencing by accentuating change between elements overtime. This contrast between old and new is established on site through the use of infill in designated mixed-use development zones that preserve the old industrial while allowing new commercial to fill in incrementally. Finally, sequencing is utilized with plantings and materials at significant locations, such as cottonwoods along the foreshore and rail scraps along CPR trail corridors, serving as cues to orient the user along the trail and enhance the landscape coherence.

²⁵ Potteiger 121.

4.4 Opening

Open narratives emphasize the vitality of authenticity. While themed landscapes attempt to simulate reality through scripted-decoration, they tend to exclude those aspects that are less orderly and marketable. In contrast, the act of opening encourages the gritty and unpredictable layers of history to be revealed, allowing for a more dynamic, diverse landscape experience. Opening inspires multiple readings in lieu of a narrow one-dimensional point of view, given that the “landscape designer does not solely make meaning, for meaning resides in and evolves with the layers of personal and social experience attached to place.”²⁶ Furthermore, the “open” landscape is not only made up of multi-layered stories but offers a new story each day by means of constantly shifting cultural and natural processes intended to be re-read over time.

The Parisian Parc de la Villette presents a deconstructivist approach to opening where the architect, Tschumi, leaves certain elements in an unfinished state, receptive to change.²⁷ While this project relies on architectural elements to evoke transformation, Byxbee Park, a former landfill, uses solely ecological processes to create a landscape in constant flux. Designed by Hargreaves Associates, this project celebrates natural change through the use of wind-shaped landforms, evoking former garbage heaps, that are left to evolve on their own overtime.

Often the land unencumbered is the best storyteller of all. Opening allows for this by cautioning the heavy-handed designer not to over-package places or intrude on everyday urban functions. The interpretive nodes of Mission Flats are designed to under-interpret its’ spaces, like “Living Loop”, with minimal interference, allowing for self-exploration. “Living Loop” also utilizes this method through ongoing natural processes to create spaces that are allowed to transform, even flood freely. Opening also presents a means of revealing the hidden narratives of Mission’s diverse ethnicity to illuminate a broader sense of history. The design of multi-layered interpretive nodes addresses the complexities of Mission’s past, however unglamorous, by employing the philosophy of opening to nurture acceptance of self.

²⁶ Potteiger 189.

²⁷ Potteiger 203.

4.5 Revealing & Concealing

Revealing and Concealing are tools the designer consistently uses when interpreting a site. This narrative technique can manifest itself by either revealing certain processes occurring on site, or deliberately concealing elements to create a sense of mystery. By not making everything apparent at once, revealing and concealing encourages further exploration and engagement of the site.²⁸

Richard Haag uses revealing and concealing in the Bloedel Reserve project on Bainbridge Island to disclose the site's logging history by selectively clearing low growth vegetation, exposing stumps and blemished tree trunks.²⁹ Hagg unmasks the site's ecological disorder in only chosen areas and in a very restrained way, producing in the user an enhanced reaction. Fellow designer Gary Strang's proposal for Herman Park brings highlights the site's annual tendency to flood by inviting an area to fill with water in the spring. The area's water recedes during the dry season to reveal the previously concealed garden, further accentuating the rhythmic ecological processes occurring on site.³⁰

Revealing and concealing techniques are used in the Mission Flats trail design as an opportunity for education and anticipation, by gradually exposing processes on site and inviting questions as to how they work. "Trades Trail" regularly reveals the manufacturing methods of surrounding businesses while "Watermark Walk" makes evident the purpose and function of an inconspicuous Mission Gauge through a series of clues. Each subsequent node reveals another layer of history. Yet, the act of revealing and concealing used simultaneously forbids these stories from being readily apparent, inviting a sense of heightened mystery and exploration to the user's experience.

²⁸ Potteiger 135.

²⁹ Potteiger 139.

³⁰ Potteiger 149.

4.6 Gathering

Gathering is a way of re-membering, re-telling, and re-collecting stories in the landscape. “Any narrative, no matter how simple, is more than just a scattered series of events, but a “grasping together” of events, characters, processes, and place into meaningful configurations.”³¹ The act of gathering brings together everyday experiences in an organized way so it may be shared with others, nurturing the collective memory. Gathering can be manifested through condensing the story into a miniature landscape, by representing the story with a souvenir or artifact, or through collecting pieces that describe the story and ordering them in a recognizable way.³² It is “both the literal pulling together of parts as well as the joining of collective memory and social ideals.”³³

The design for the Village of Yorkville Park in Toronto is an example of gathering the symbolic larger landscape into the design of an urban park. Designers Smith, Swartz, and Meyer drew upon the diversity of the Canadian landscape by collecting or “gathering” various ecological zones, with plant communities found in nature, from upland conifers to lowland grasses. The result provides ecological educational opportunities along an urban street through a series of rooms, representing the larger dynamic landscape, gathered for the public’s collective enjoyment.

In a fragmented landscape such as Mission Flats, gathering offers an opportunity to bring together diverse social histories to create a collective identity, by representing a range of stories through interpretive nodes. Gathering surmises the collection of various industrial processes along the “Trades Trail” segments. This segment allows users to experience these often-masked materials and methods by representing them in a tangible, cohesive way. Land use types juxtaposed such as the proposed restored marshland flanked by the existing log sorting area serve to narrate the evolution of the site overtime, by gathering together its former and present uses. The collection of stories and artifacts on the site in interpretive nodes as in “Horne Historic Overlooks”, “Timber Row”, and “Salmon Ceremony” also provide an opportunity for sharing and representing narratives no longer visible in the landscape.

³¹ Potteiger 164.

³² Potteiger 165.

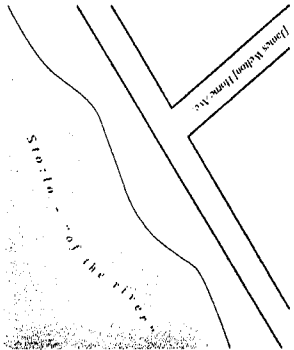



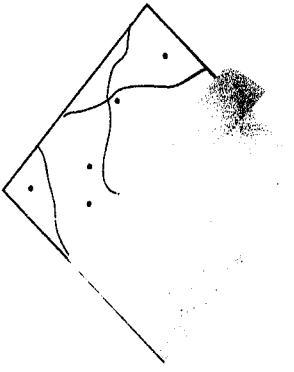

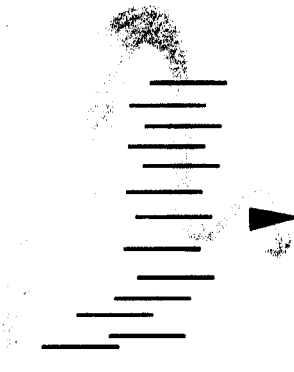
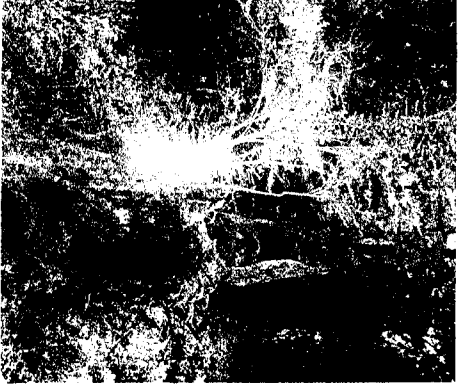
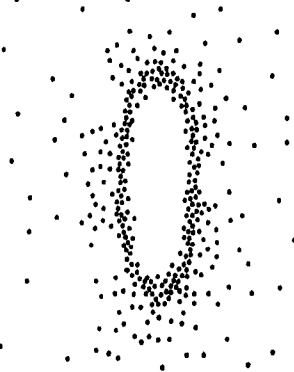
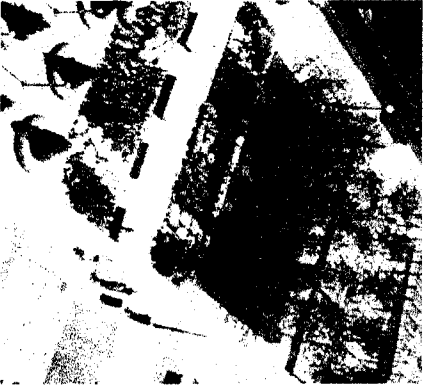
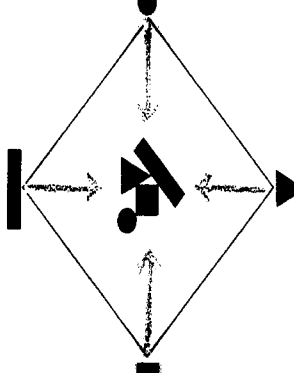

³³ Potteiger 73.

4.7 Recycling

Recycling entails using materials from the site and reordering them for functional or aesthetic applications. Materials in themselves tell a story and when they've had a former recognizable use, attach another layer of history and complexity to the narrative. Furthermore, by reusing materials found on site, the design takes on a vibrant quality, supporting a phenomenological understanding of place.

Frank Lloyd Wright employed recycling for the Taliesin West project set in the rugged Sonoran desert of Arizona. By reusing materials scooped up from the desert floor, Wright constructed garden paths and building walls, resulting in rough organic surfaces and unique architectural forms. Concrete mixed with desert rocks and sand creates a fusion between the design and the greater landscape, to become a composite desert sculpture. Taking a less naturalistic approach, landscape architect Martha Schwartz uses recycling for many projects, designing with both found objects and unusual materials. By using familiar objects in an unfamiliar way, Schwartz adds another layer of inquiry and meaning to her designs.

The interpretive trail narrative materials plan proposes use of such abandoned materials as rail scraps and auto-parts. The "Timber Row" interpretive node uses recycling to celebrate abandoned artifacts from the sawmill industry, reusing them as both functional site infrastructure and whimsical sculpture. By arranging these materials in imaginary ways, the designs reference the local industrial history and reinforce its regional identity.

DEFINED	PRECEDENTS	DESIGN APPROACH
<p>DEVELOPS ABBREVIATED STORIES OF DISCOVERY, IDENTITY, AND BIOGRAPHY ASSOCIATED WITH PLACE</p> 	<p>PORTION OF PLAN FOR FRANKLIN PARK - OLNSTEAD: PLAN RECOVERED NAMES FOR THEIR PARTICULAR NARRATIVES AND ASSOCIATION WITH PLACE.</p> 	<p>NAME TRAIL NODES AND TRAIL SEGMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT LOCAL HISTORY AND DEVELOP TRAIL CHARACTER</p> <p>(Watermark Walk, Timber Row, Salmon Ceremony, Cedar Yard Park, Trades Trail, Motor Alley, Living Loop, etc.)</p>
<p>ORDERS ELEMENTS IN THE LANDSCAPE TO STRUCTURE MEANING AND CHOREOGRAPH LANDSCAPE EXPERIENCE</p> 	<p>STOURHEAD - SIR HENRY HOARE: A GARDEN PATH LINKS A SUCCESSION OF LANDMARKS THAT PROVOKE ASSOCIATIONS AND STORIES OF THE PAST.</p> 	<p>CONSIDER HOW STORIES WILL BE UNDERSTOOD ACCORDING TO USERS' APPROACH AND MOVEMENT ALONG TRAIL</p> <p>(Home Historic Overlooks, Watermark Walkway)</p> <p>ENCOURAGE MIXTURE OF LAND-USE TYPES AND ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS TO ACCENTUATE AND REVEAL CHANGE OVER TIME</p> <p>(Mixed-Use Incremental Development)</p> <p>CREATE LEGIBILITY IN THE LANDSCAPE WITH PLANTING AND MATERIAL CUES ALONG THE TRAIL TO ENHANCE LANDSCAPE COHERENCE</p> <p>(Narrative Materials Plan, Narrative Planting Plan)</p>
<p>REVEALS HIDDEN LAYERS OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROCESSES</p> 	<p>BYXBEE PARK - HARGREAVES ASSOCIATES: WIND SHAPED LANDFORMS INSPIRED BY CULTURAL PROCESSES (GARBAGE HEAPS) ARE LEFT TO TRANSFORM OVER TIME.</p> 	<p>USE ONGOING PROCESSES OF NATURE (WIND, WATER, EARTH) TO CREATE SPACES THAT ARE ALLOWED TO EVOLVE AND TRANSFORM ON THEIR OWN</p> <p>(Living Loop)</p> <p>RECOVER AND RETELL COUNTER-NARRATIVES</p> <p>(Sto:lo Nation, Chinatown, Little India, etc.)</p> <p>REVEAL COMPLEXITIES OF MISSION'S HISTORY TO CREATE AN AWARENESS AND RESPECT FOR ITS UNIQUE SENSE OF PLACE</p> <p>(Multi-Layered Interpretive Nodes)</p>
<p>ENGAGES READER WITH STORY THROUGH SELECTIVE EDITING OFTEN WITH A QUALITY OF SUSPENSE OR SURPRISE</p> 	<p>BLOEDEL RESERVE - RICHARD HAAG: SELECTIVE CLEARING REVEALS REMNANT STUMPS ILLUMINATING THE SITE'S HISTORY OF LOGGING.</p> 	<p>USE ACT OF CONCEALING AND REVEALING SYSTEMS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING BY PROVIDING CLUES AND INVITING QUESTIONS OF HOW THINGS WORK</p> <p>(Trades Trail, Watermark Walkway, Living Loop)</p>
<p>DRAWING TOGETHER BROADER EXPERIENCE INTO A TANGIBLE AND COHESIVE PLACE</p> 	<p>VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE PARK - SCHWARTZ, SMITH, MEYER: A COLLECTION OF ECOLOGICAL ZONES REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF THE CANADIAN LANDSCAPE.</p> 	<p>BRING VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES TOGETHER INTO TANGIBLE EXPERIENCES ALONG PATHWAY</p> <p>(Trades Trail)</p> <p>Juxtapose land-use types that reveal evolution of site overtime</p> <p>(Restored Marshland adjacent to Log Sorting Area)</p> <p>CELEBRATE AND ACCENTUATE THE LANDMARKS AND ARTIFACTS ON SITE</p> <p>(Home Historic Overlooks, Timber Row, Watermark Walkway, Salmon Ceremony)</p>
<p>REUSING MATERIALS FROM SITE TO SUPPORT A PHENOMENOLOGICAL READING OF PLACE</p> 	<p>TALESIN WEST - FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: MATERIALS GATHERED FROM DESERT FLOOR ARE REORDERED TO CONSTRUCT PATHS AND WALLS ON SITE.</p> 	<p>CONSTRUCT PATHWAYS USING INDUSTRIAL BYPRODUCTS FROM SITE</p> <p>(Narrative Materials Plan)</p> <p>CELEBRATE ABANDONED ARTIFACTS AS SITE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SCULPTURE</p> <p>(Timber Row, Narrative Materials Plan)</p>

NARRATIVE THEORY - AN INTERPRETIVE DESIGN LANGUAGE

OVER OF PLACE: LIVING WATER, HISTORY AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON THE

Part V THE DESIGN: VISIONS FOR MISSION FLATS

Designers are storytellers. Design is a way of imagining and telling new stories and reviving old ones, a process of spinning out visions of landscapes that pose alternatives from which to choose, describing the shape of a possible future. The products of design are settings for living that convey meanings further through processes of construction and cultivation, use and neglect, as we dwell in what began as dreams. – Anne Whiston Spirn, *Language of Landscape*

5.1 Site Planning and Design

The trail design experience satisfies more than just functional aesthetic requirements by communicating the dynamic processes and narratives of place. The approach specifically addresses the ways in which interpretation can be implicit in the design of the trail, constructed out of, instead of being applied later. Mission Flats is expressed through urban form, plantings, materials, and the experiences of six interpretive nodes that unfold as one moves along the trail. These designs are meant to provide a framework for the visitor to form their own story and increase their engagement with place. The following graphics and text describe how these design solutions reflect this approach.

5.1.1 Trail Concept Plan (Figure 19)

Trail alignment corresponds with future zoning parameters based on the Official Community Plan and is structured to utilize existing right-of-way corridors. The concept plan details the trail structure in terms of width and surface (bituminous vs. permeable), and distinguishes segments with separated trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes. Increased connectivity to the site is achieved through additional pedestrian walkways over rail lines. These pedestrian points of access are identified as well as areas for picnicking, improved water access, farmers market, and location of interpretive nodes.

5.1.2 Urban Form Concept Plan (Figure 20)

Enriching the physical structure with infill is proposed with emphasis on healing the fragmented landscape through transit-oriented human-scaled design and increased connectivity.

Redevelopment along Horne Avenue with ground level commercial buildings and residences built above initiates an active commercial nucleus for commuter rail patrons and Mission Flats residents. The existing light industrial zones surrounding the West Coast Express Station and Waterfront Harbour area are enhanced with pedestrian-oriented residential units that provide opportunities for work/live activities such as small-scale manufacturing and processing with up to 70% of the space devoted to work use. The connectivity between these work/live areas, commuter rail and waterfront, is enhanced by reducing the barrier effects of the Lougheed Highway Bypass by establishing a viaduct structure at Durieu Street providing vehicular access under the highway.

The anticipated Cedar Yard neighborhood located on the existing log sorting area is more residential in character with three types of mixed land-uses: multiple residential, urban residential, and “main street” commercial with residences above. The redevelopment layout utilizes the historic street network established in 1913 never realized and is intersected by remnants of a former beach ridge landform. Multiple residential is characterized by stacked townhouses or row houses with ground oriented access at a density average of 30 dwelling units per acre. Urban residential is comprised of ground-oriented single-family row housing with an average density of 20 units per acre with designated rear alley vehicular access to support a unified pedestrian streetscape. Both residential types provide live/work opportunities for home office use with approximately 30% devoted to commercial business activities. The proposed Mission Riverfront Park offers accessible green space for Mission Flat residents and is lined with neighborhood commercial amenities along Harbour Avenue.

5.1.3 Narrative Planting Plan (Figure 21)

Plant communities associated with a microclimate, landscape feature or landscape narrative demarcate the Mission Flats into perceivable spaces, increasing landscape coherence and reducing the scale of the Lougheed Highway Bypass to humanize the flats. For example, harvestable grasses, barley and oat, are seeded along the east-west rail line to evoke a vanishing industrial heritage. Black cottonwood and oceanspray, plants traditionally found along the Fraser River, are replanted on disturbed foreshore areas. The north-south rail lines on the site are lined with bamboo to highlight the Chinese contribution to the construction of rail lines and their use of bamboo to transport the rails from the foreshore, where steamboats off loaded them. Plant associations with the site provide additional cohesiveness in an otherwise disjointed landscape.

5.1.4 Narrative Materials Plan (Figure 22)

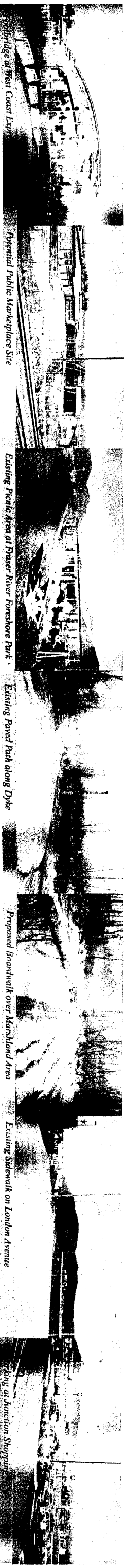
Industrial materials applied along the interpretive trail create respect and understanding for Mission Flat's industrial past. Abandoned materials including: rail scraps, timber artifacts, auto-parts, and miscellaneous industrial by-products, are re-used for both functional and aesthetic applications. An old car engine is re-imagined as a planter or sculpture at the entrance of Mission Raceway and rail scraps become part of the trail surface along the rail corridor. Bringing new life and meaning to discarded industrial materials provides an opportunity to artfully express the site's multi-layered heritage.

5.1.5 Illustrative Plan (Figure 23)

Distills key information from previous detailed maps: urban form, trail concept, and narrative plantings.

5.1.6 Trail Sectional Perspectives (Figures 24-27)

Eight sectional perspectives illustrate how the trail will appear at various segments. Narrative planting schemes are depicted where relevant, demonstrating each segment's uniqueness.



LEGEND

- EXISTING SIDEWALK OR PAVED ROAD LINK
- EXISTING INFORMAL UNPAVED PATH OR ROAD
- PROPOSED BITUMINOUS PATH (8'-9' WIDE)
- PROPOSED PERMEABLE PATH (4'-6' WIDE)
- PROPOSED BIKE LANE
- PROPOSED BOARDWALK (4'-6' WIDE)
- EXISTING FOOTBRIDGE
- PROPOSED FOOTBRIDGE
- PROPOSED RAIL CROSSING AT GRADE WITH LIGHT
- ☀ MAJOR PUBLIC PARKING
- MINOR PUBLIC PARKING
- ▲ IMPROVED WATER ACCESS / SMALL BOAT LANDING
- ⊗ PICNIC AREA
- * INTERPRETIVE OPPORTUNITIES
- Ⓜ PROPOSED PUBLIC FARMERS MARKET/PLACE
- ↑ PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

0 25 50 100 200 400

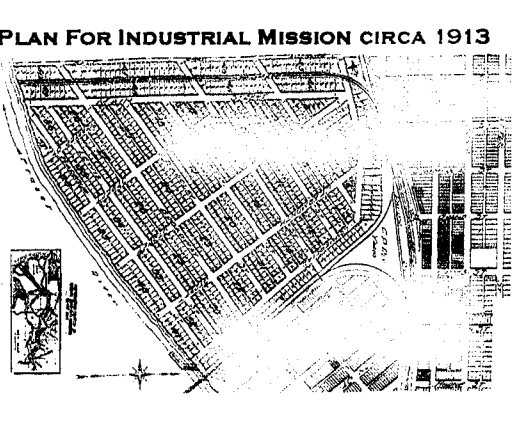
↑

SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

POWER OF PEOPLE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



- ### LEGEND
- MIXED-USE MAIN STREET RESIDENTIAL
 - URBAN RESIDENTIAL LIVEWORK OPPORTUNITY
 - MULTIPLE RESIDENTIAL LIVEWORK OPPORTUNITY
 - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL WORKLIVE OPPORTUNITY
 - COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INFILL
 - WATERFRONT PARK
 - MODIFIED ROAD ALIGNMENTS



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - URBAN FORM CONCEPT PLAN

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



LEGEND

FORESHORE PLANTINGS

- OCEANSIDE HEDGES
- HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY
- BLACK COTTONWOOD

INDUSTRIAL PLANTINGS

- STREET TREES
- PACIFIC CRAB APPLE
- LAVILLE HAWTHORN
- COMMON HORSECHESNUT

HIGHWAY EMBANKMENT VEGETATION

- RED FLOWERING CURRANT
- RED OSTER DOGWOOD
- WESTERN RED CEDAR

RIPARIAN PLANTINGS

- PACIFIC NINEBARK
- SALMONBERRY
- RED ALDER
- PAPER BIRCH

RAIL CORRIDOR PLANTINGS

- NORTH-SOUTH ALIGNMENT
- BAMBOO
- EAST-WEST ALIGNMENT
- COMMON VELVET GRASS
- REED CANARY GRASS
- MEADOW BARNYARD
- QUACK GRASS
- BLACK RASPBERRY
- SALMONBERRY

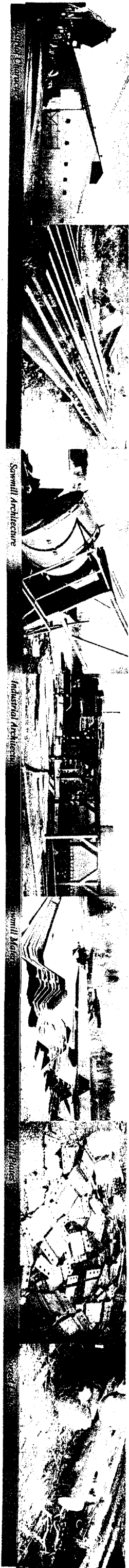
DYKE PLANTINGS

- SALAL
- HOOVER'S WILLOW
- PACIFIC WILLOW
- BOTTLEBRUSH



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - NARRATIVE PLANTING PLAN

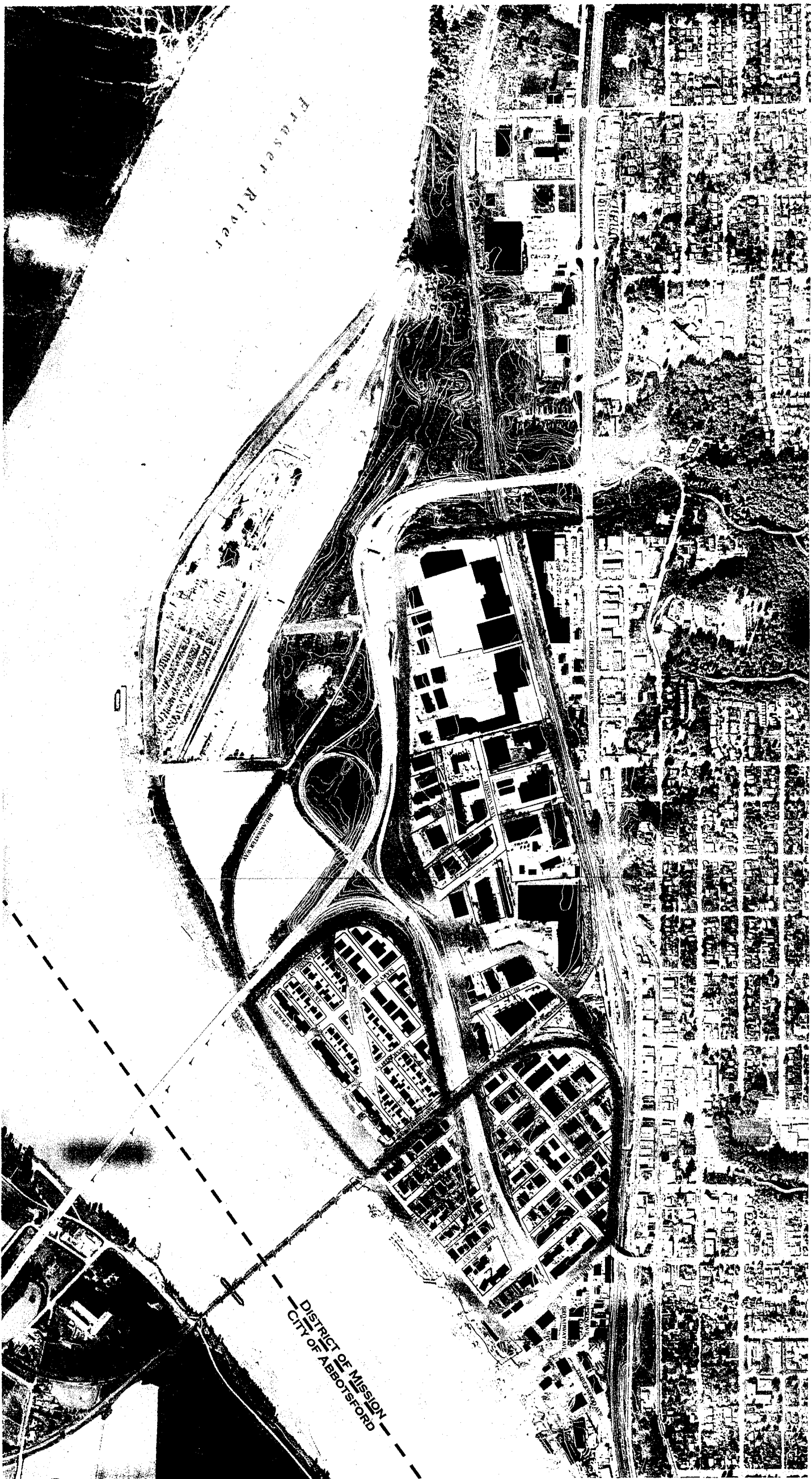
POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



Somnill Architecture

Industrial Architecture

Somnill Architecture



LEGEND

RAIL SCRAPS

TIMBER ARTIFACTS

MIXED INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS

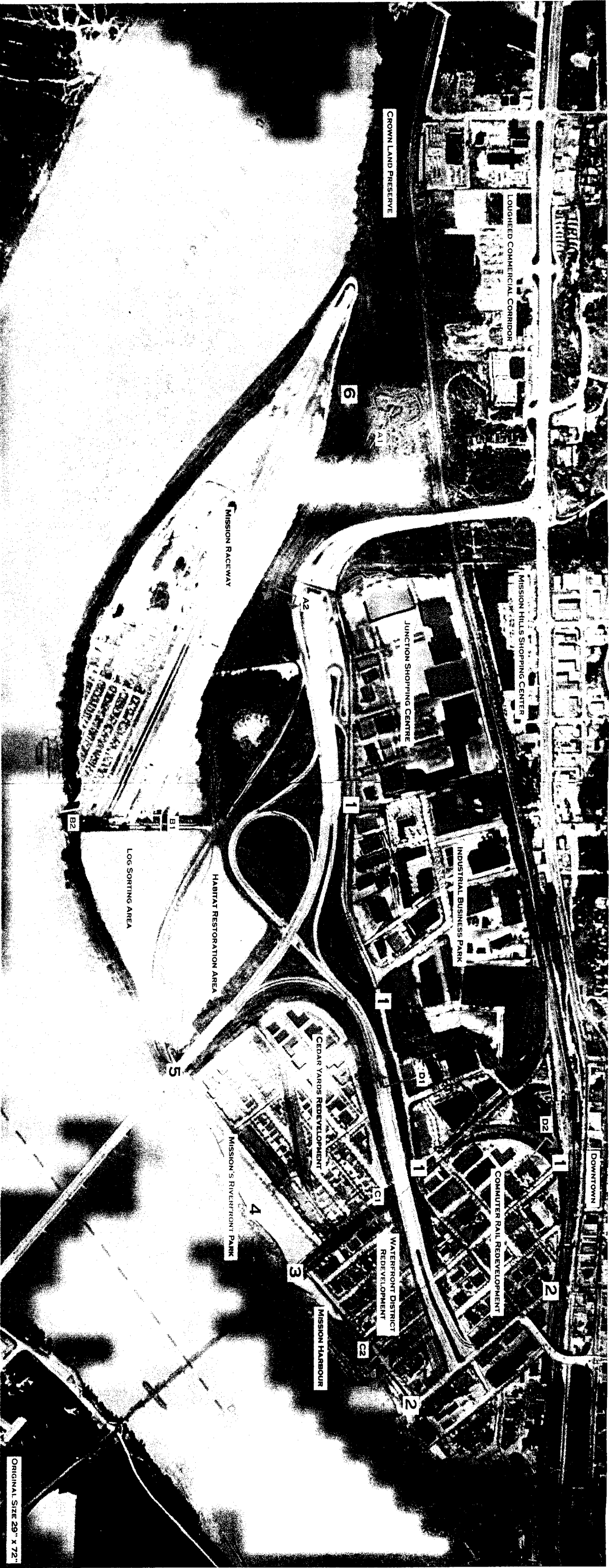
ADAPTIVE AUTO PARTS

RAIL SCRAPS REUSED IN TRAIL CONSTRUCTION



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - NARRATIVE MATERIALS PLAN

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL



ORIGINAL SIZE 29" x 72"

LEGEND

- EXISTING FOOTPRINTS
- PROPOSED FOOTPRINTS
(BOTH POTENTIAL INFILL & NEW DEVELOPMENT)
- SECTION CUT LOCATIONS
- PROPOSED TRAIL ALIGNMENTS
- STREAM ALIGNMENTS

DOMINANT PLANTING SCHEMES

- RIPIARIAN
- COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS
(LONDON AVE. & HORNE AVE.)
- DYKE ALIGNMENT
- RAIL CORRIDOR
- FORESHORE

INTERPRETIVE NODE LOCATIONS

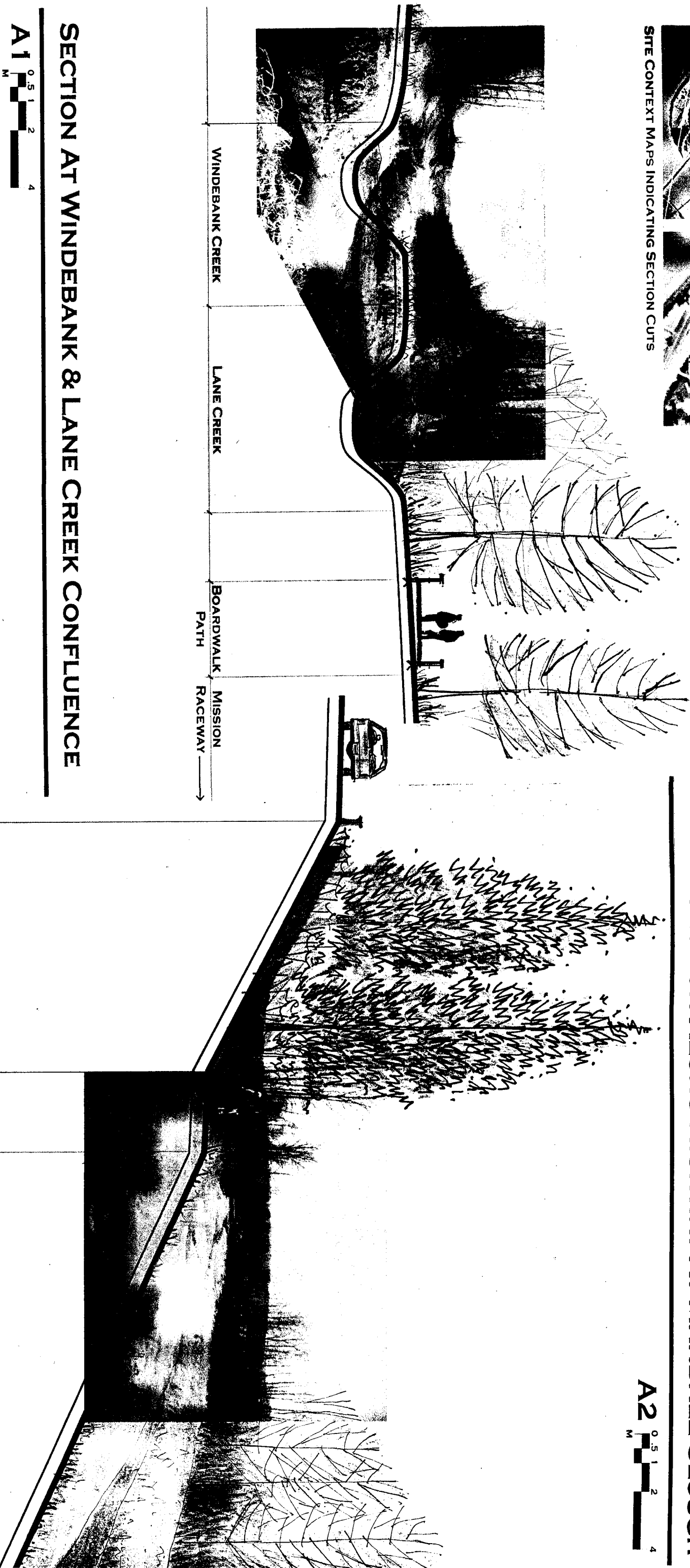
- 1. TRADES TRAIL
(GATEWAYS FOR INDUSTRIAL SEGMENT)
- 2. HORNE HISTORIC OVERLOOKS
(LOCATED ON OPPOSING ENDS OF HORNE AVENUE)
- 3. WATERMARK WALKWAY
(SITE OF MISSION GUAGE)
- 4. TIMBER ROW
(SITE OF EXISTING LOG SORTING AREA & WOOD INDUSTRIAL WATERFRONT)
- 5. SALMON CEREMONY
(SITE OF THE STALO TRIBES' FORMER FISH CAMP)
- 6. LIVING LOOP
(LOCATED AT CREEK CONFLUENCE IN MARSHLAND)

SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



SITE CONTEXT MAPS INDICATING SECTION CUTS

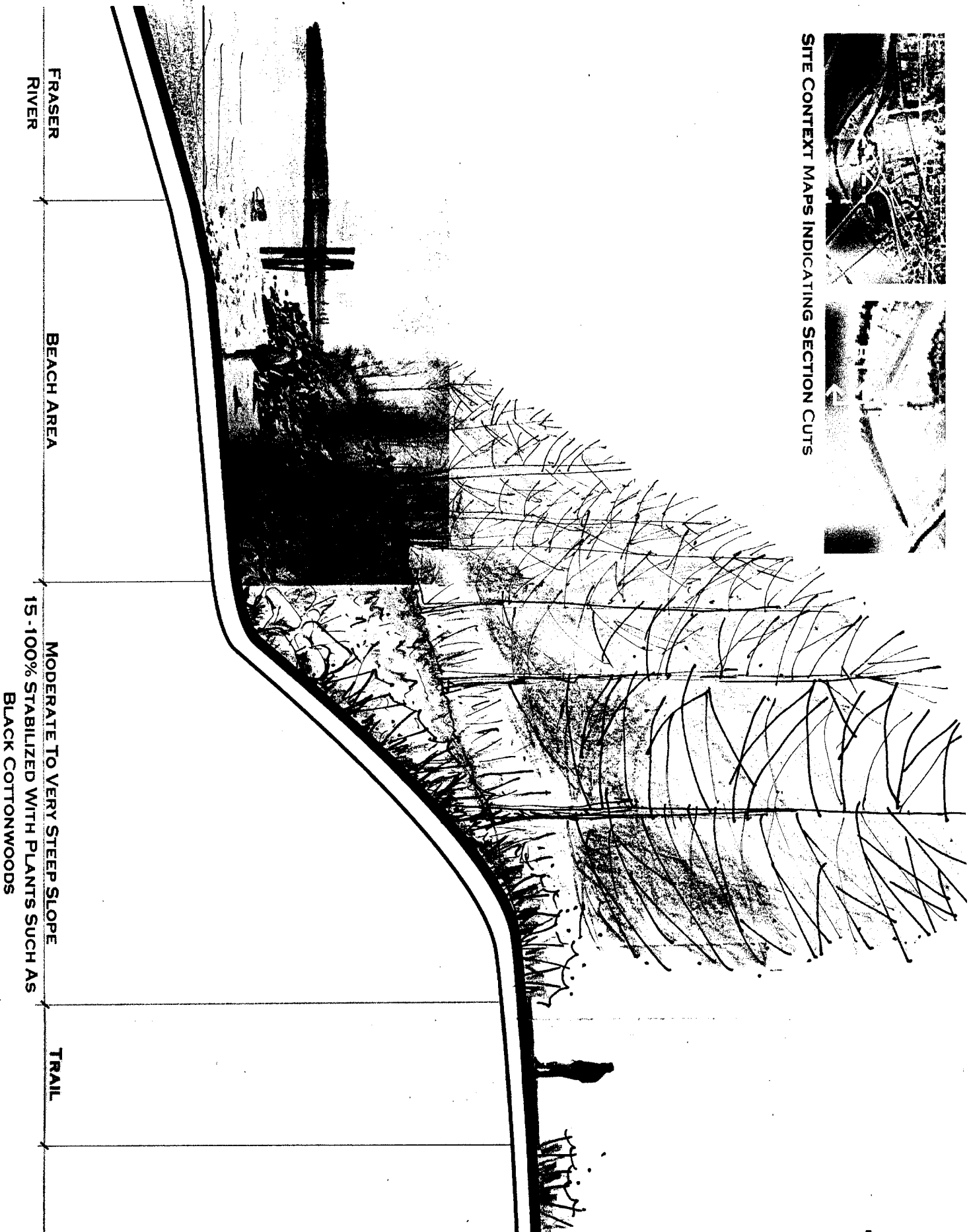


SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - TRAIL SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



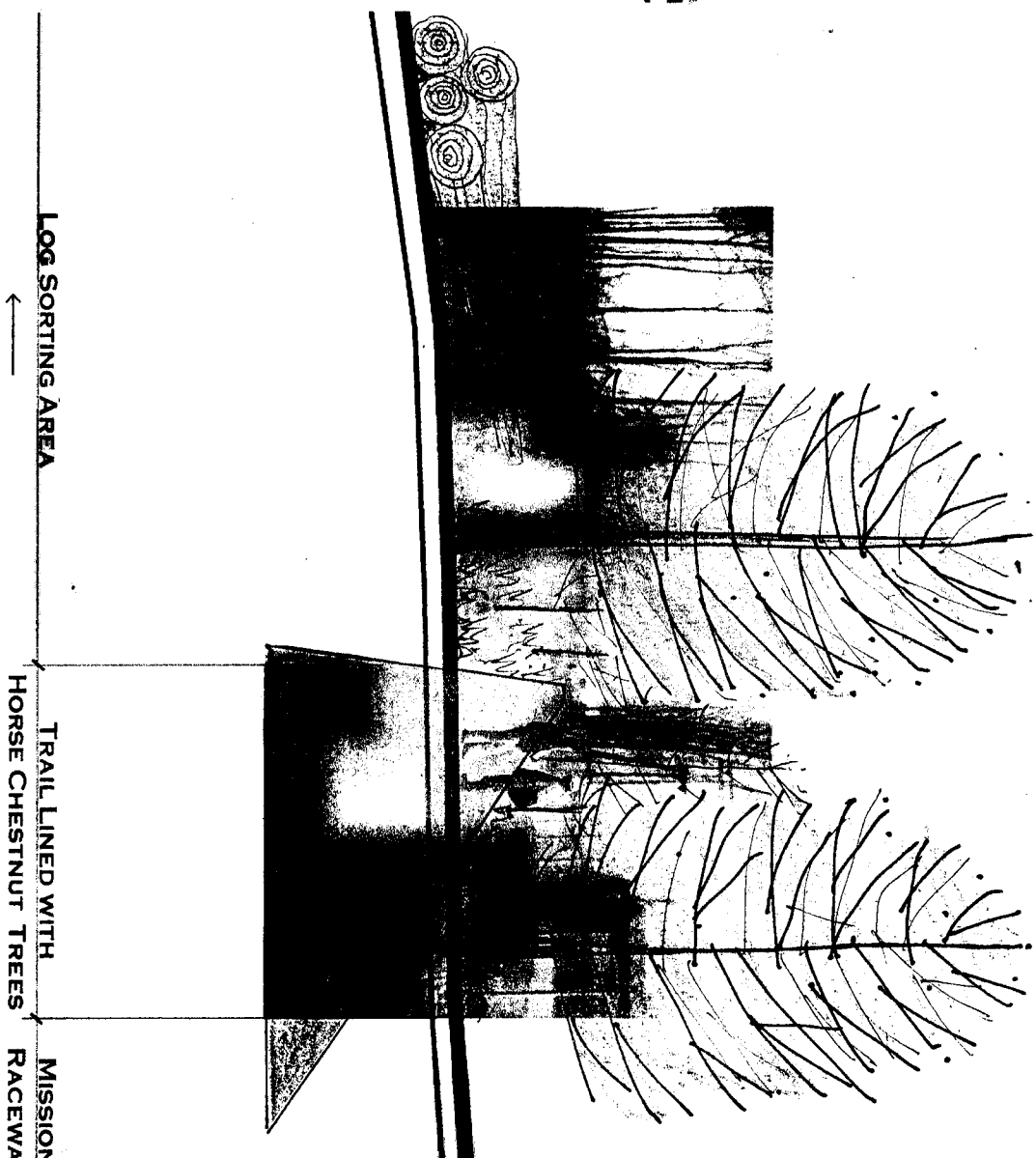
SITE CONTEXT MAPS INDICATING SECTION CUTS



SECTION AT FORESHORE



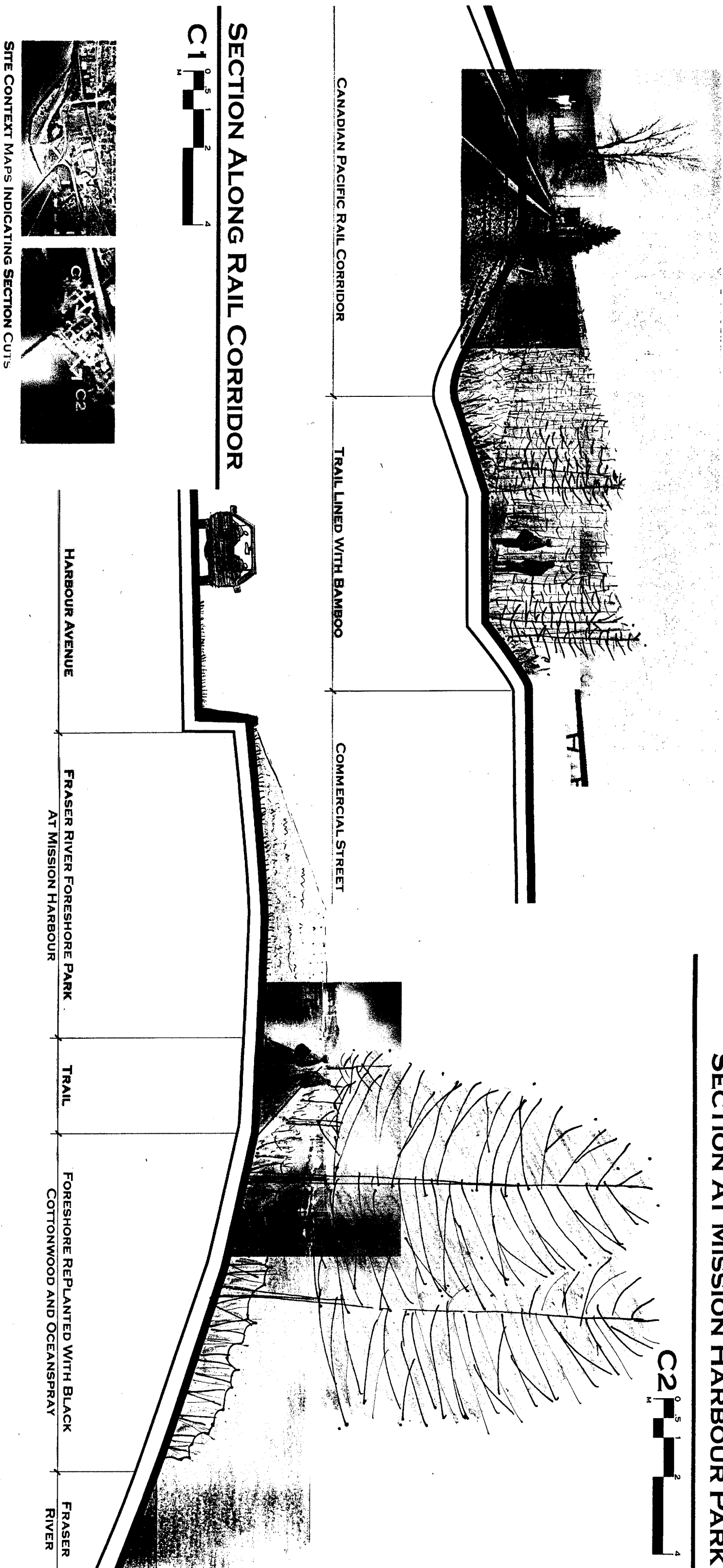
SECTION ALONG "MOTOR ALLEY"



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - TRAIL SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION PLAINS

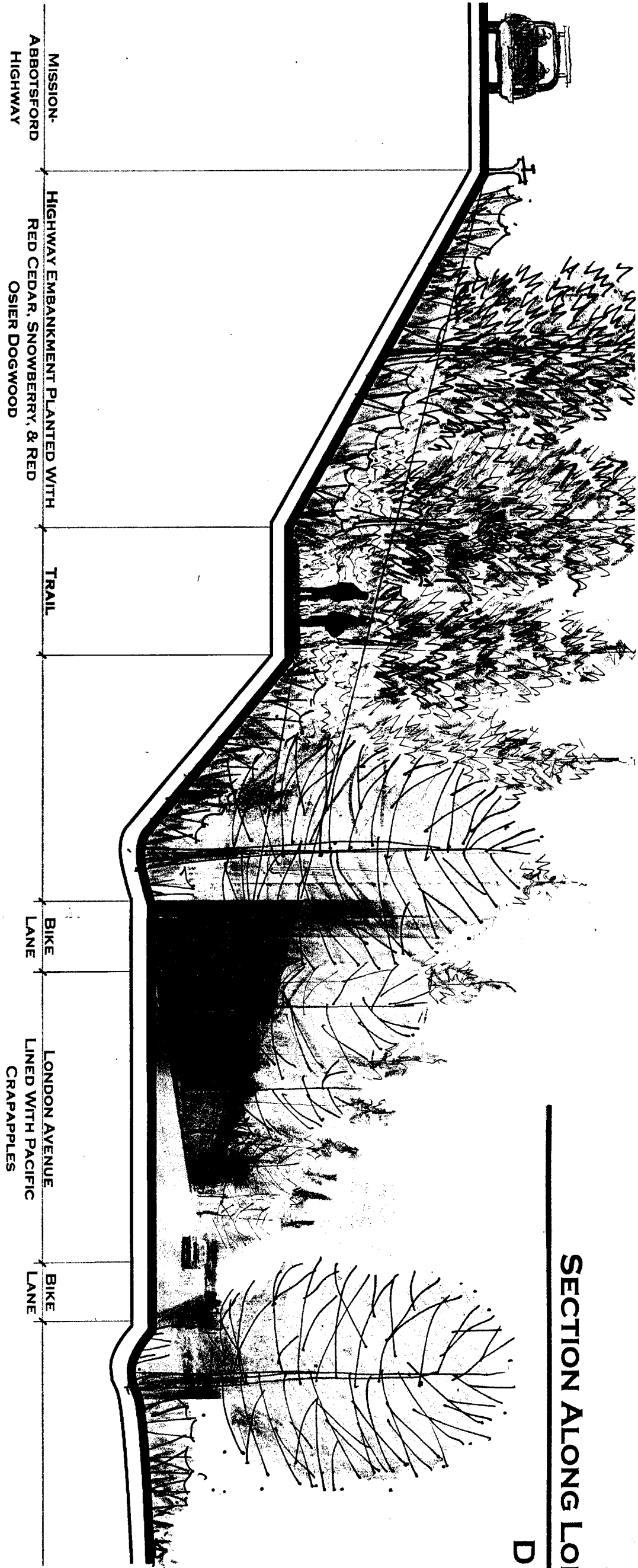
SECTION AT MISSION HARBOUR PARK



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - TRAIL SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

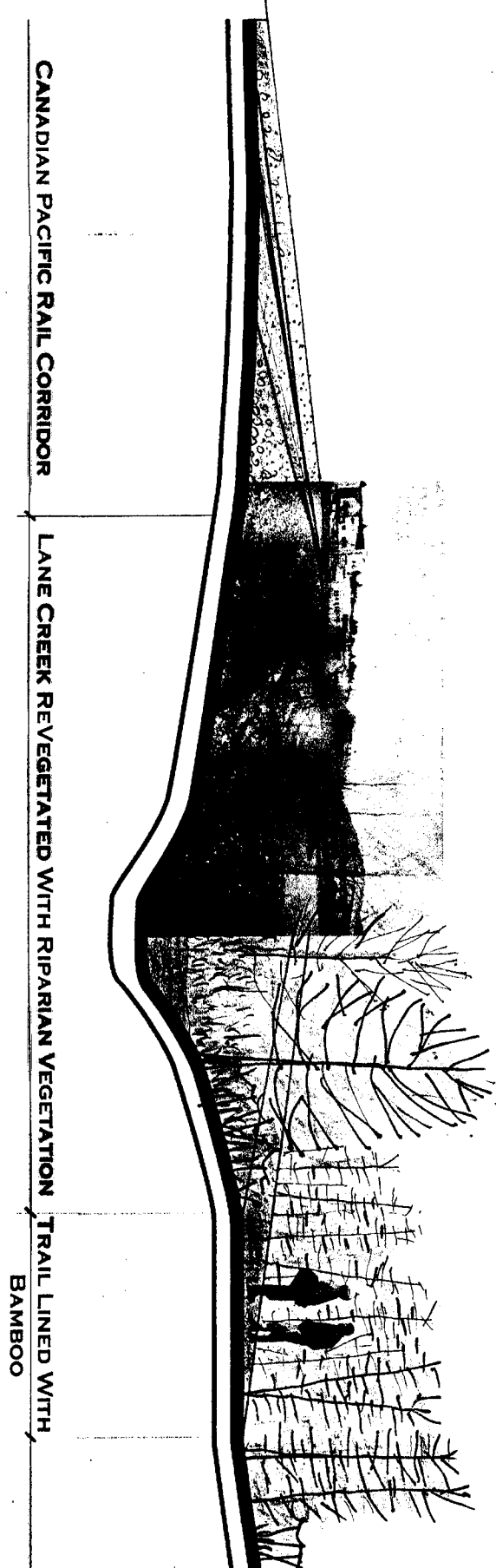
POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

SECTION ALONG LONDON AVENUE



SITE CONTEXT MAPS INDICATING SECTION CUTS

LANE CREEK SECTION



SITE PLANNING & DESIGN - TRAIL SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

Figure 27 - Page 52

5.2 Design of Interpretive Nodes

Six interpretive node locations are selected along the trail. Each is rich with opportunity for revealing historic traces, now concealed, or celebrating a particular landscape feature or artifact not readily apparent. The nodes are explicated through a design description with relevant narrative design practices.

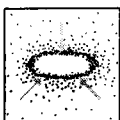
5.2.1 Trades Trail

The present development of Mission's industrial business park is boxy, non-differential, and lacking the vitality of the practice that takes place within. The Trades Trail would aid in the remedy of this situation by allowing businesses the opportunity to advertise to the community in exchange for trail maintenance and beautification in an adopt-a-trail modeled program.

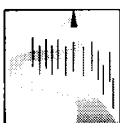
The four gateways to the Trades Trail segment are fashioned with time clocks symbolizing the daily toils of the laborers of Mission past and present. The trail surface is stamped concrete, patterned off of anonymous timeclock punch-cards. Participating businesses are given the opportunity to design a large rebar figure in a working position that best represent the industrial processes carried out by their employees. The corresponding business name, date, and other vital company information is applied to the punch-card paving directly in front of the laboring rebar figure. These over sized metallic workers act as events along the trail, reconnecting the public with the industrial activities occurring on the flats.



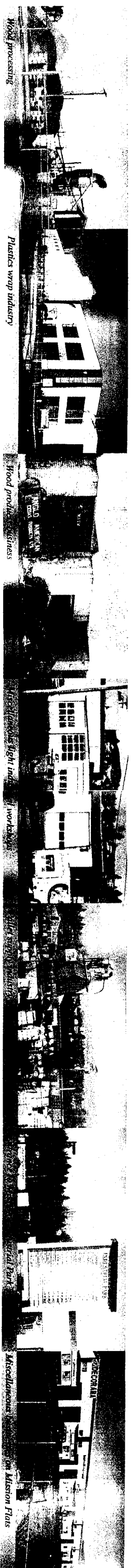
Naming uncovers industrial narratives attached to place.



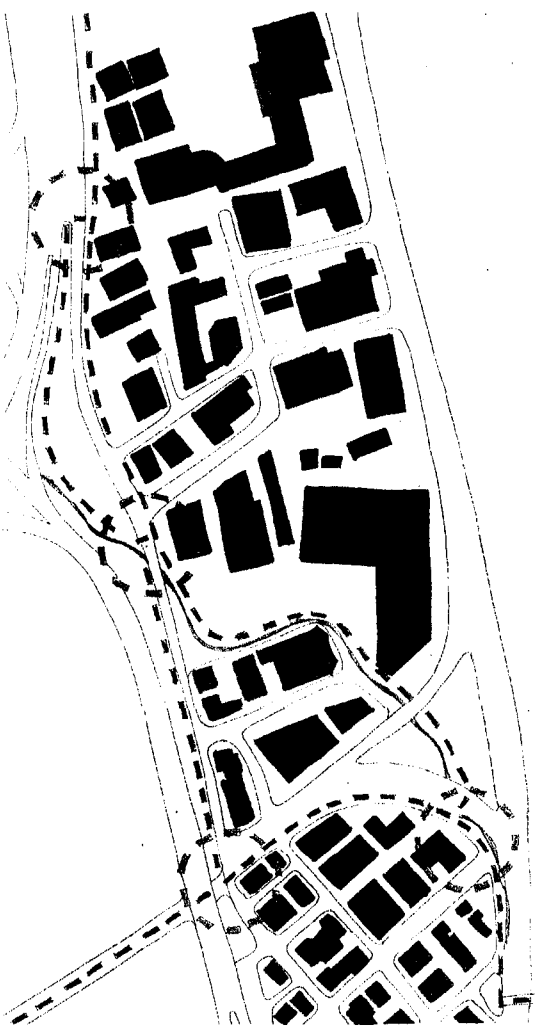
Gathering provides a means of collecting and representing various industrial processes.



Concealing and Revealing exposes manufacturing processes of surrounding industries.



VIEW OF GATEWAY



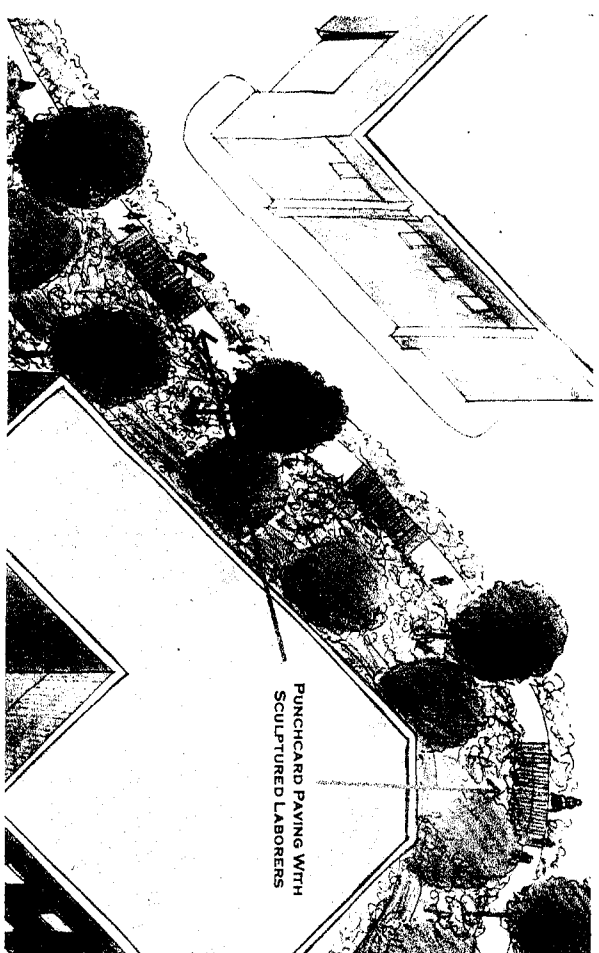
PLAN DENOTING TRADES TRAIL GATEWAYS



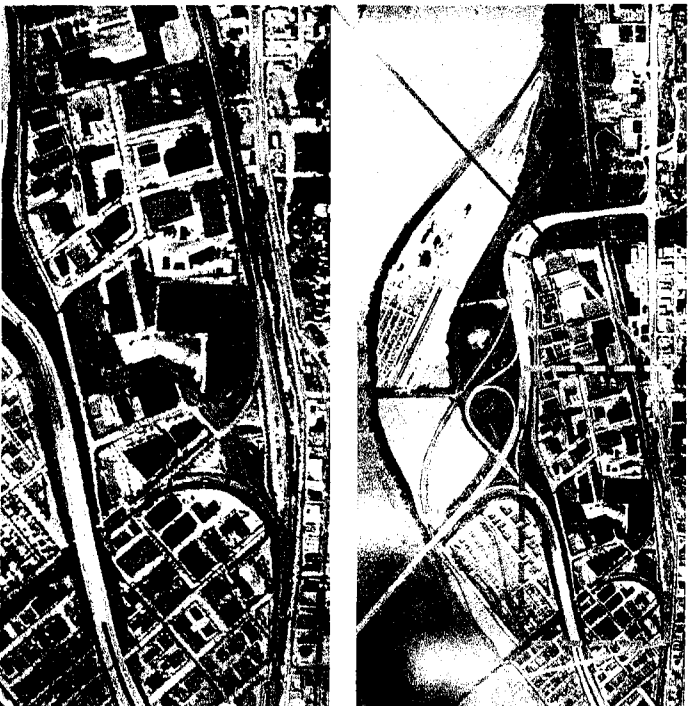
- CONCEALING & REVEALING
- GATHERING
- NAMING
- NARRATIVE DESIGN PRACTICES



VIEW OF SCULPTURED LABORER



AXON OF LANE CREEK CORRIDOR



SITE CONTEXT MAPS INDICATING INTERPRETIVE NODE LOCATIONS

INTERPRETIVE NODE DESIGN - TRADES TRAIL

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

5.2.2 Horne Historical Overlooks

From marsh to farm, to one man's dream of a town center, Horne Avenue is a living monument of Mission's change. Though unperceivable today, the forgotten chapters of this once proud street are central to the understanding of a town and its citizens will to succeed.

Two heavy timber framed overlooks embraced by grass plantings, reminiscent of the street when it was first constructed of planks over marshland, creates an anchored node at each end of the Avenue where the trail crosses. The first overlook, through translucent images, tells the story of its evolution from marshland to Main Street and its demise during the Great Flood of 1894. The second overlook expresses its ethnic histories as a Chinatown and Little India. This is achieved primarily through regionally expressive architectural details. Horne Avenue's natural disasters of fire and flood are represented in materials and translucent images. Finally, this overlook provides the user with an unobstructed view of the present state of Horne Avenue allowing reflection and comparison.



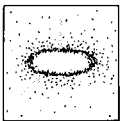
Naming reveals the site's uniqueness.



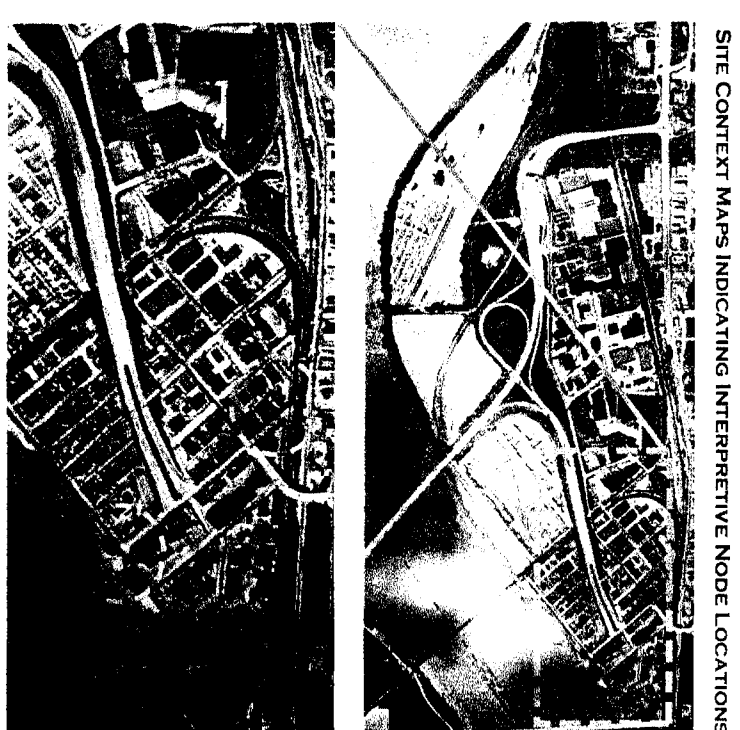
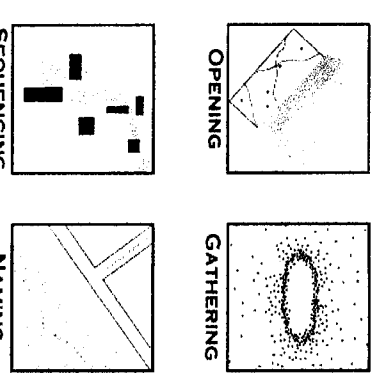
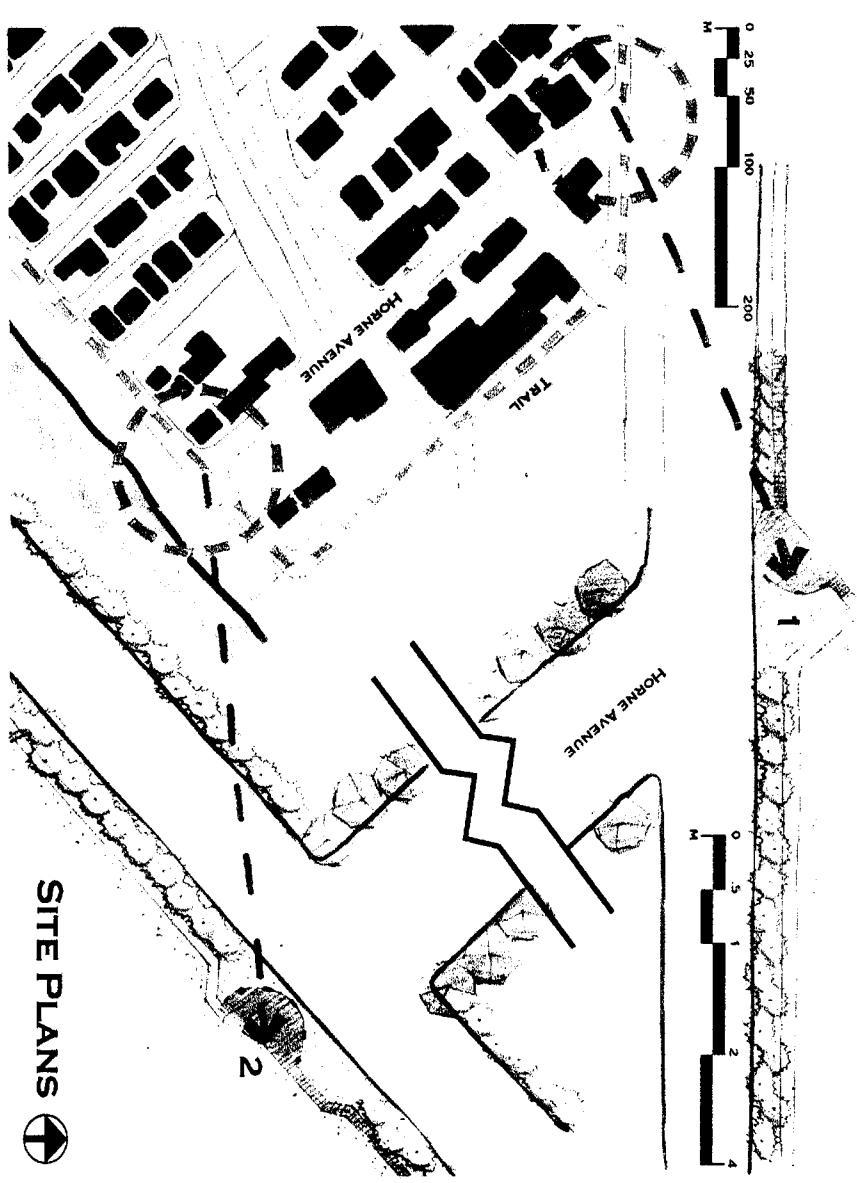
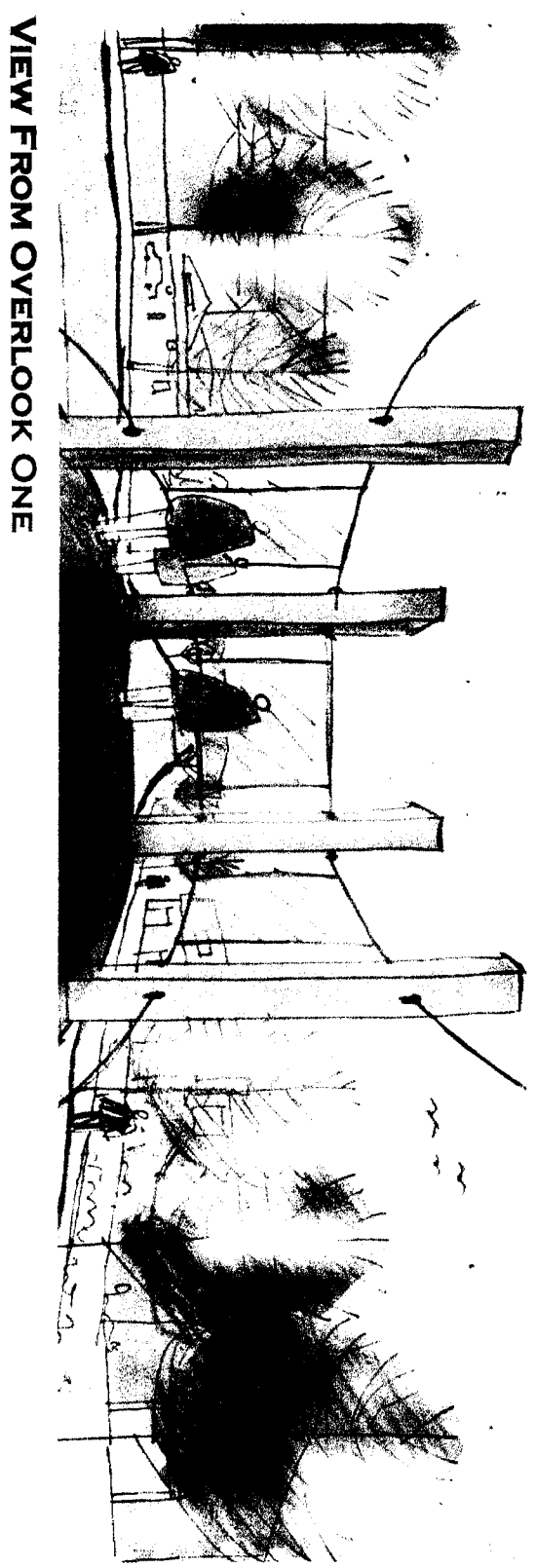
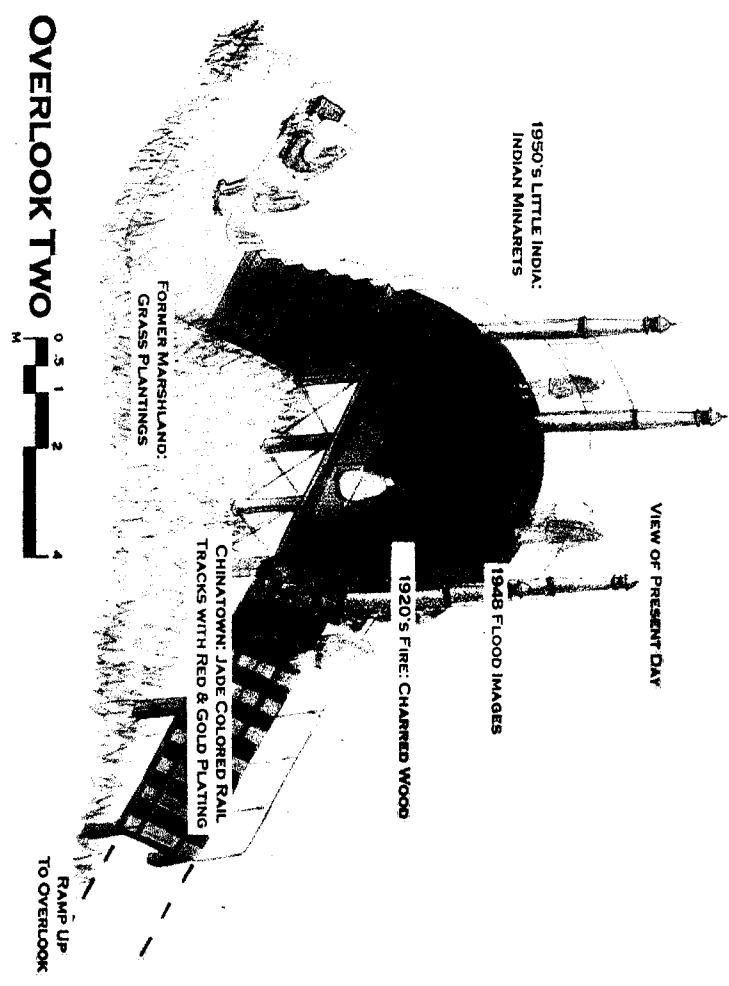
Sequencing provides a linear device for unfolding the stories of Horne Avenue along two overlooks.



Opening reveals Horne Avenue's hidden narratives illuminating a broader sense of history.



Gathering is manifested through representing a range of diverse social histories.



INTERPRETIVE NODE DESIGN - HORNE HISTORIC OVERLOOKS

POWER OF PLACE, LANDSCAPE, ECONOMY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FROM AN INTERPRETIVE RAIL ON MISSION FLATS

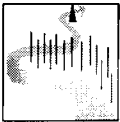
5.2.3 Watermark Walkway

Presently overlooked, a four-foot square six-foot high concrete blockhouse, was historically the focus of the town's attention. During each spring runoff, the hopes and fears of the Fraser Valley farmland owners resided in the readings of the Mission Gauge. A designed walkway attempts to make the importance of the Mission Gauge more evident and tell the story of the Great Floods and historic water levels.

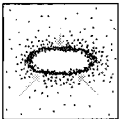
Since 1876 the Fraser River's water levels have been recorded using a counterweight gauge that engages a pen to scribe the change of water depth onto a scroll of segmented paper. The walkway's paving pattern mirrors this practice through the peaks and valleys of a gravel line set within a concrete grid depicting recorded water level highs and lows. Historic flood levels are depicted by blue banners flown at the height of the floodwaters illustrating the power of the river and its subsequent impact to every facet of life on Mission Flats.



Naming reveals the site's uniqueness and uncovers narratives attached to place.



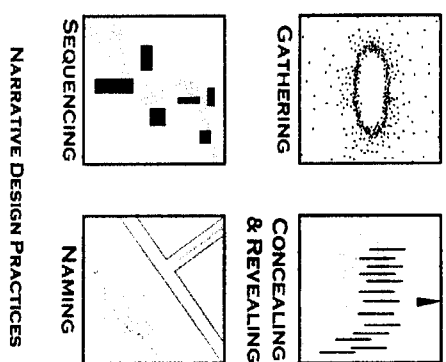
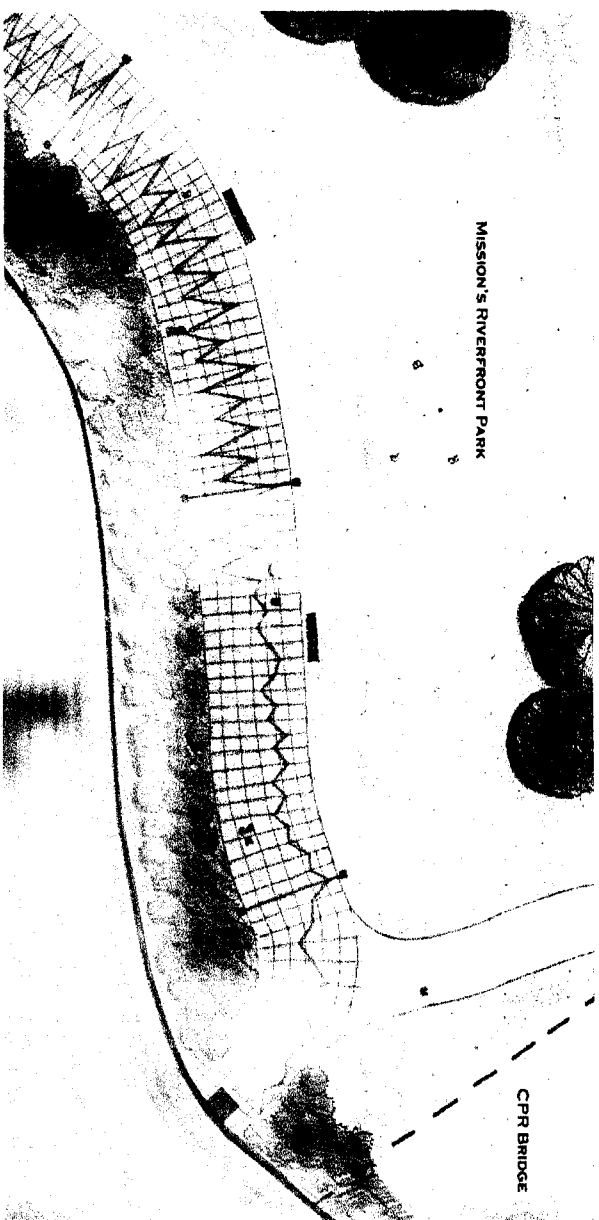
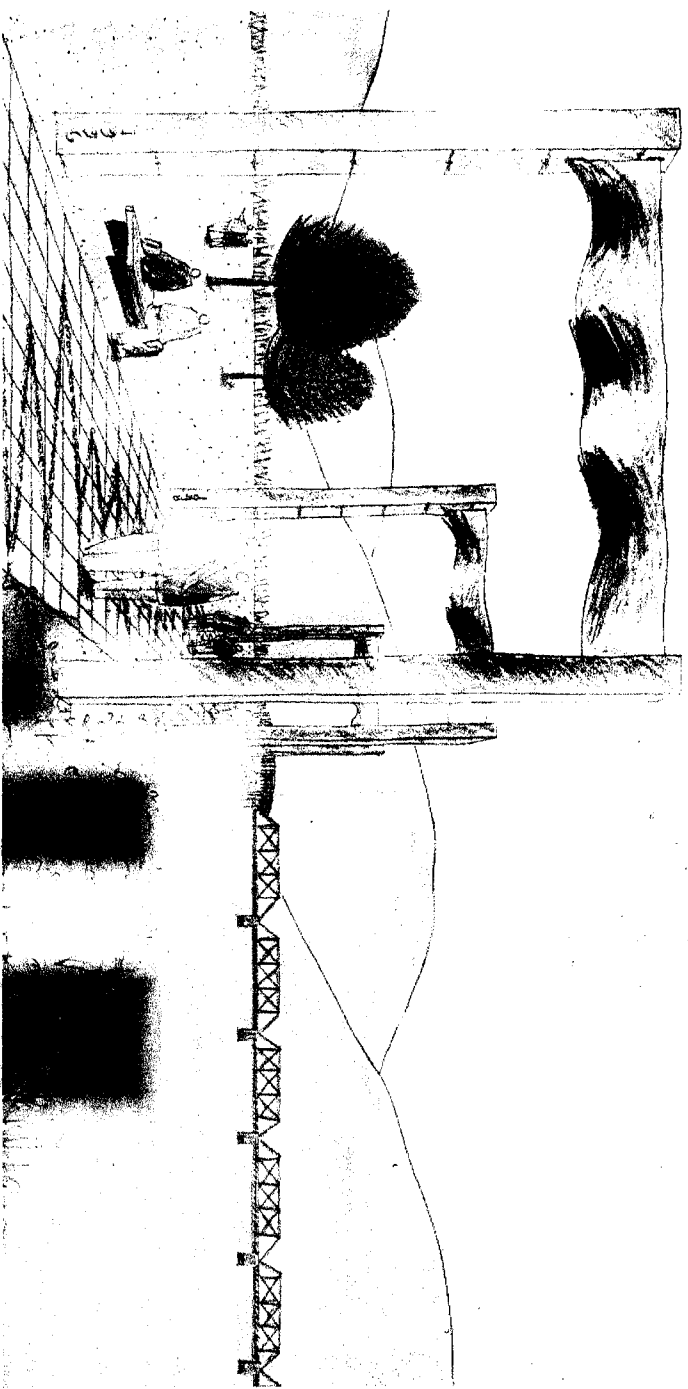
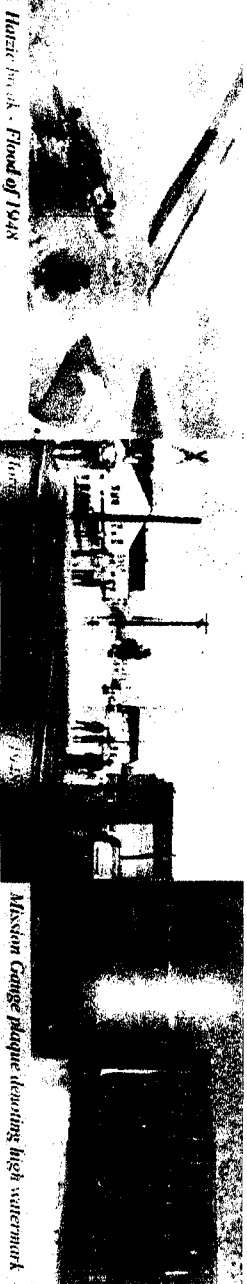
Concealing and Revealing exposes the purpose and function of an inconspicuous Mission Gauge.



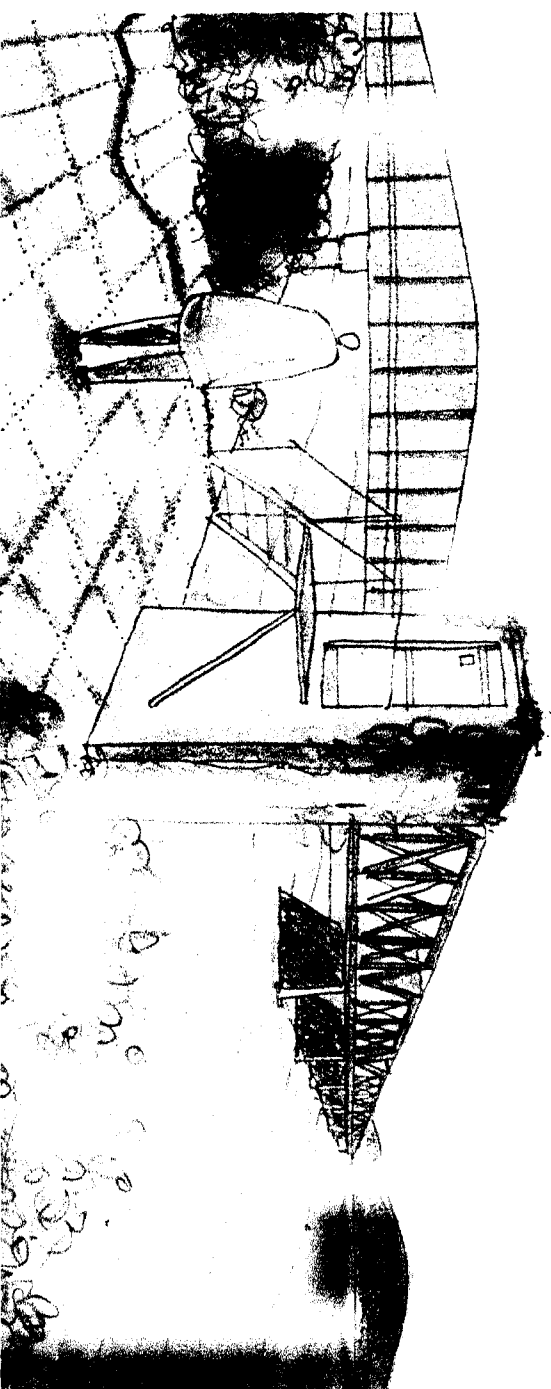
Gathering provides an opportunity for representing the magnitude of historic floods in the contemporary landscape.



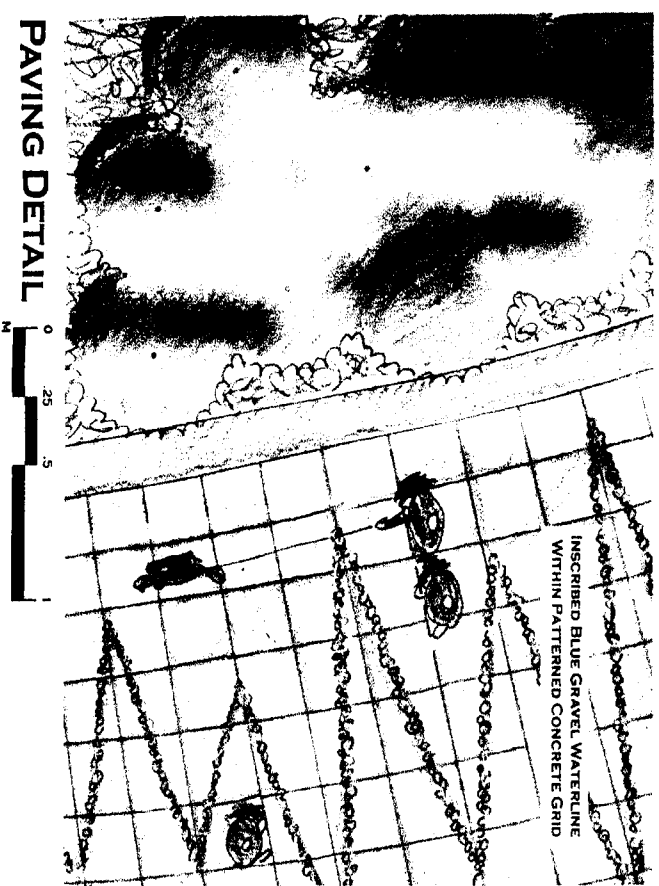
Sequencing acts as an ordering device for referencing historic water levels along a timeline with respect to the Mission Gauge.



VIEW OF HIGHWATER ARCHWAYS



VIEW OF MISSION GAUGE AND FRASER RIVER



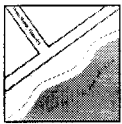
INTERPRETIVE NODE DESIGN - WATERMARK WALKWAY

POWER OF PLACE, LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

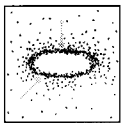
5.2.4 Timber Row

The wood industry has shaped much of Mission's heritage. While remnants of the industry such as shake and shingle mills still remain on the flats many operations along the Fraser River have shut down. This node artfully expresses the forms and architecture of wood processing and the manufacturing history at the site of the present log sorting area and proposed Riverfront Park.

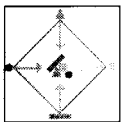
Borrowing from the sawdust pile shapes found along the Fraser River, grass covered earth is mounded for informal picnic/viewing areas and to display sawmill industrial relics. Additional artifacts and industrial architecture are distributed along the pathway creating various shelters, planters, and whimsical sculptures. A slice through the park planted with reed grass and intersected with logs reveals the sites two most prominent histories as natural marsh and the grounds for log storing and sorting. Log booms are retained along the foreshore and used as structural devices for floating docks providing improved access to the water.



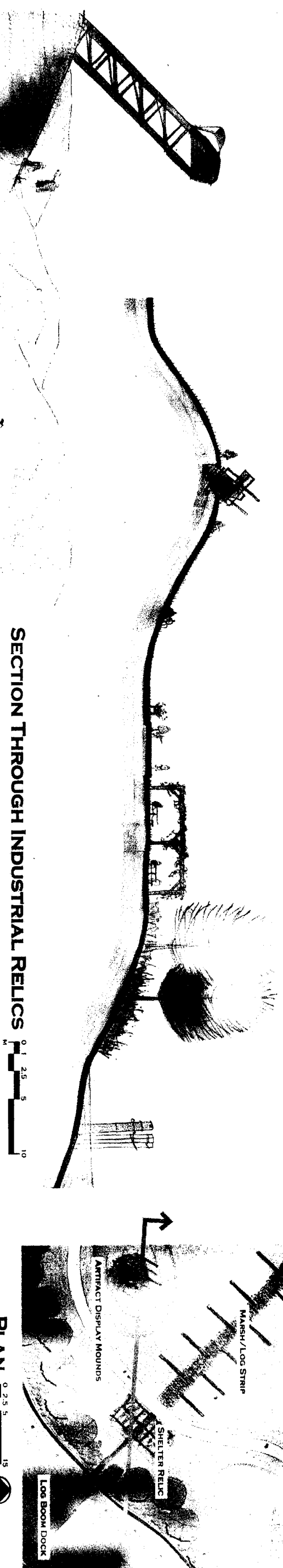
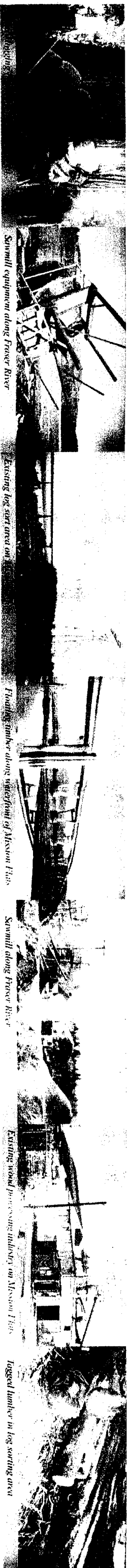
Naming reveals the site's uniqueness and uncovers industrial history connected with place.



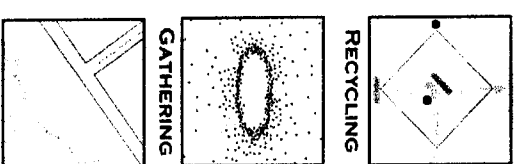
Gathering of artifacts provides an opportunity for sharing and representing narratives disappearing in the landscape and reinforcing their significance to Mission's history.



Recycling abandoned sawmill artifacts references the local industrial history, supporting a sense of place identity.



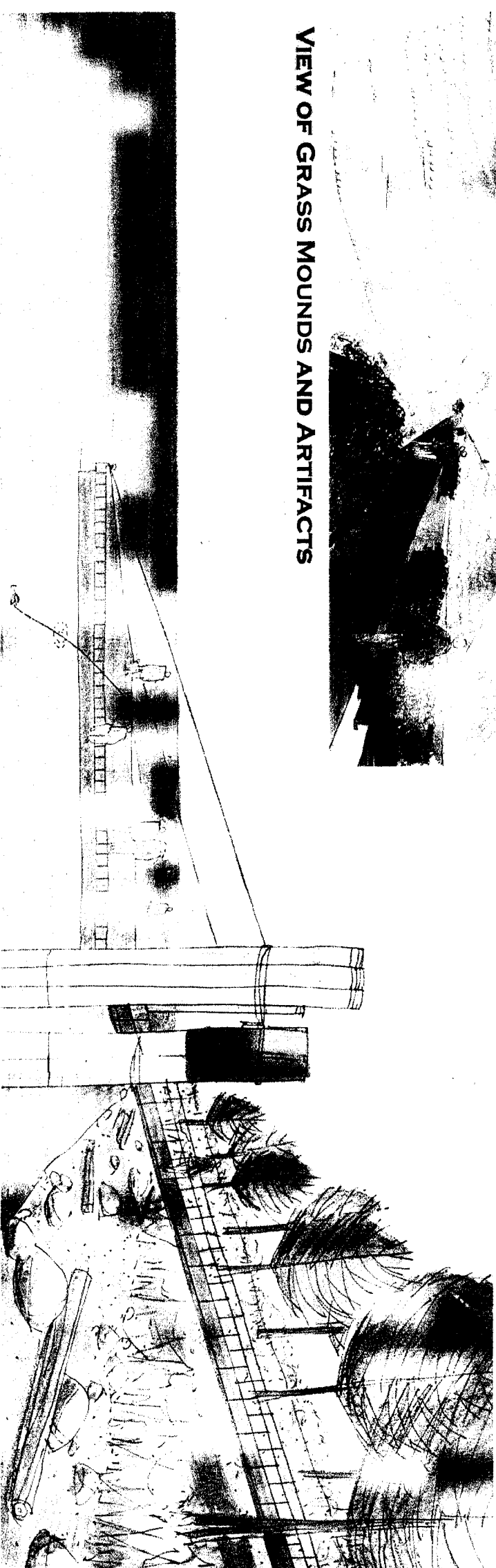
PLAN 0 2.5 5 10



VIEW OF GRASS MOUNDS AND ARTIFACTS

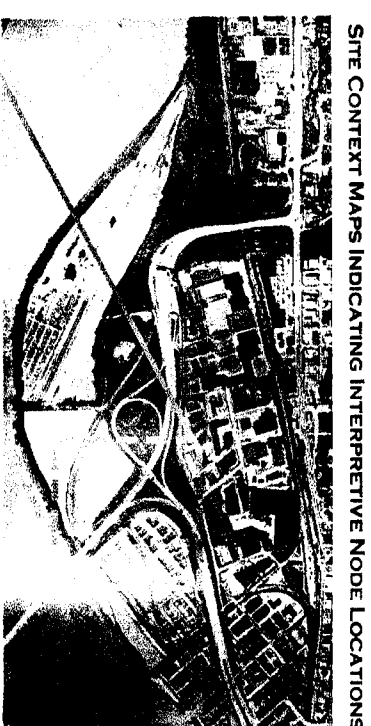


VIEW OF LOG BOOM DOCK



INTERPRETIVE NODE DESIGN - TIMBER ROW

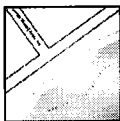
POWER OF PLACE: LIVING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS



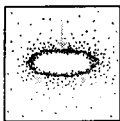
5.2.5 Salmon Ceremony

The Sto:lo people have inhabited the Fraser Valley for over 10,000 years. They are a river-oriented people that historically created temporary fish campsites from spring to fall along the Fraser River. Sto:lo people came not only to fish, but to harvest cedar trees for canoe building, collect reeds and bulrushes to construct mats and baskets, and gather berries and other native plants for food and medicinal purposes. Located at a former Sto:lo campsite, the design of this interpretive node is symbolic of the First Salmon Ceremony performed each spring. Bones of the season's first salmon taken from the river were thrown back to give thanks to the Salmon People, honoring their souls, ensuring that their children would return the following year.

The site is defined by western red cedars, the cornerstone of First Nation's culture, on the north edge, and the Fraser River on the south. A curved path detours off the main trail route, mimicking the forces of the river shaping the land of Mission Flats while recalling the geologic history of the site. Along the river path a series of sculptural silhouettes of fish fins, heads and tails emerge from the rivers edge expressive of the natural rhythm of salmon returning upstream each year. Tidal patterns of rocks are arranged through the core of the site, underneath the bridge, to symbolize the salmon ceremony offering of bones that have washed ashore over thousands of years. The spaces between these tide lines are filled with native plants such as reed canary grass, salal, salmonberry, kinickinick, oceanspray and other vegetation important to the survival of the Sto:lo people.



Naming reveals Sto:lo past traditions connected with place.



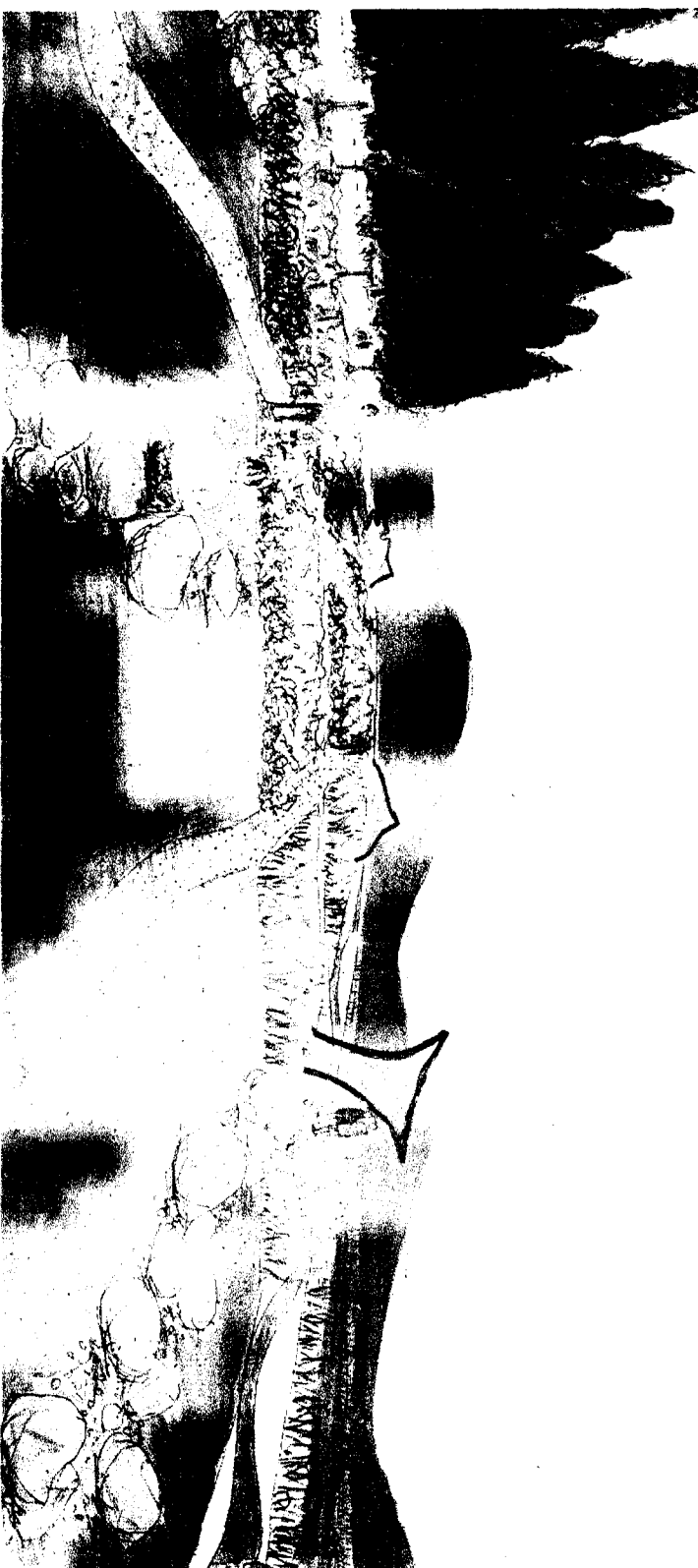
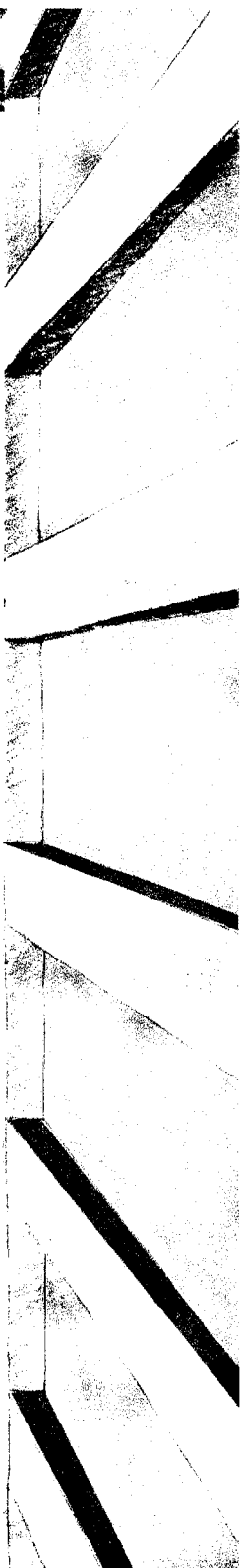
Gathering references the floodplain in the trail's outline and brings together native plants to reinforce their significance to the Sto:lo natives.



Opening narratives of the Sto:lo peoples presence on Mission Flats and former fish camp location presents a means of broadening Mission's sense of history.



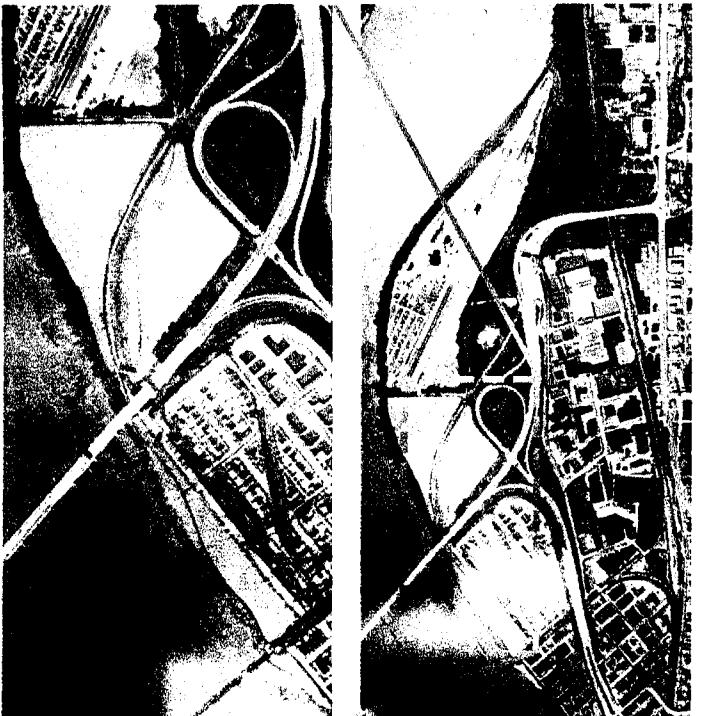
METALWORK SALMON PROFILES



VIEW FROM UNDER BRIDGE LOOKING EAST



AXONOMETRIC



INTERPRETIVE NODE DESIGN - SALMON CEREMONY

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

Figure 32 - Page 62

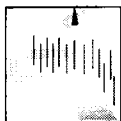
5.2.6 Living Loop

The only untouched terrain on Mission Flats, this marshland provides habitat for a myriad of fish and wildlife species. Restrained interpretive design can unlock the ecological processes ongoing and bring a renewal of interest in the natural beauty that surrounds the Flats. The design is shaped by occurring natural phenomenon suggestive of the fundamental need of a healthy ecosystem.

An elevated boardwalk path forms a loop beginning at the confluence of Windebank and Lane Creeks and closing on itself at the mouth along the Fraser River. The lower section of constructed path becomes an ephemeral mark of seasonal change by flooding each spring with runoff water. On the higher, dry path, a visual and textural handrail is experienced, constructed of driftwood, pebbles, and cold metal tubing. The same handrail can be viewed from a distance, suspended above the water of the submerged path. Material used on the handrail simulates the sensory experiences of interaction with many of the key requirements of a riparian ecosystem.



Naming offers an abbreviated narrative of place.



Revealing and Concealing exposes ephemeral processes on site inviting a sense of anticipation with each coming spring.



Opening allows for spaces to transform on their own through ongoing natural processes.



Mourning Dove on Mission Flats

Great Blue Heron

Red Alder gone

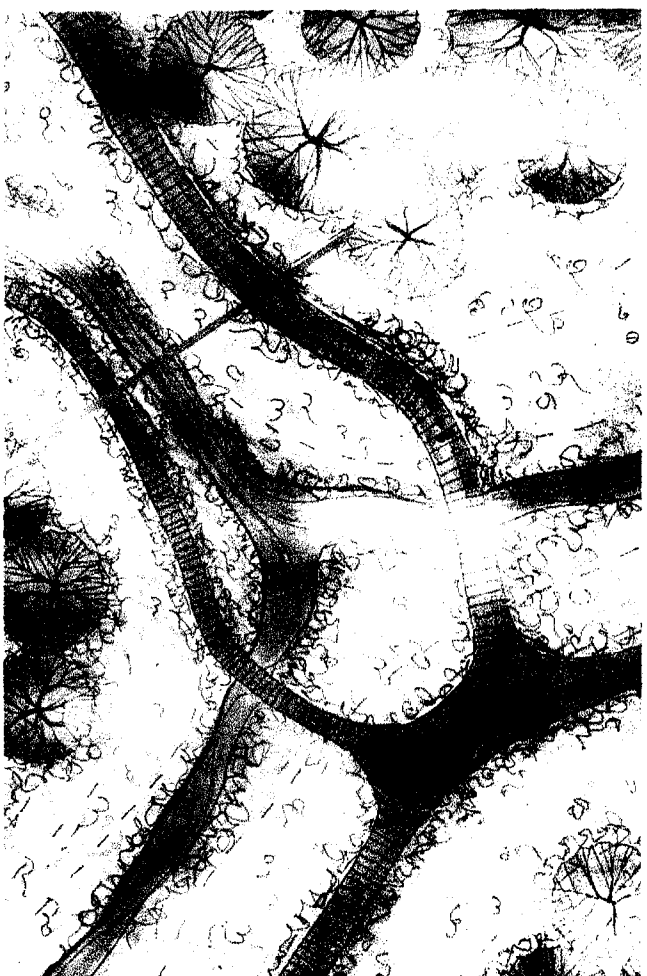
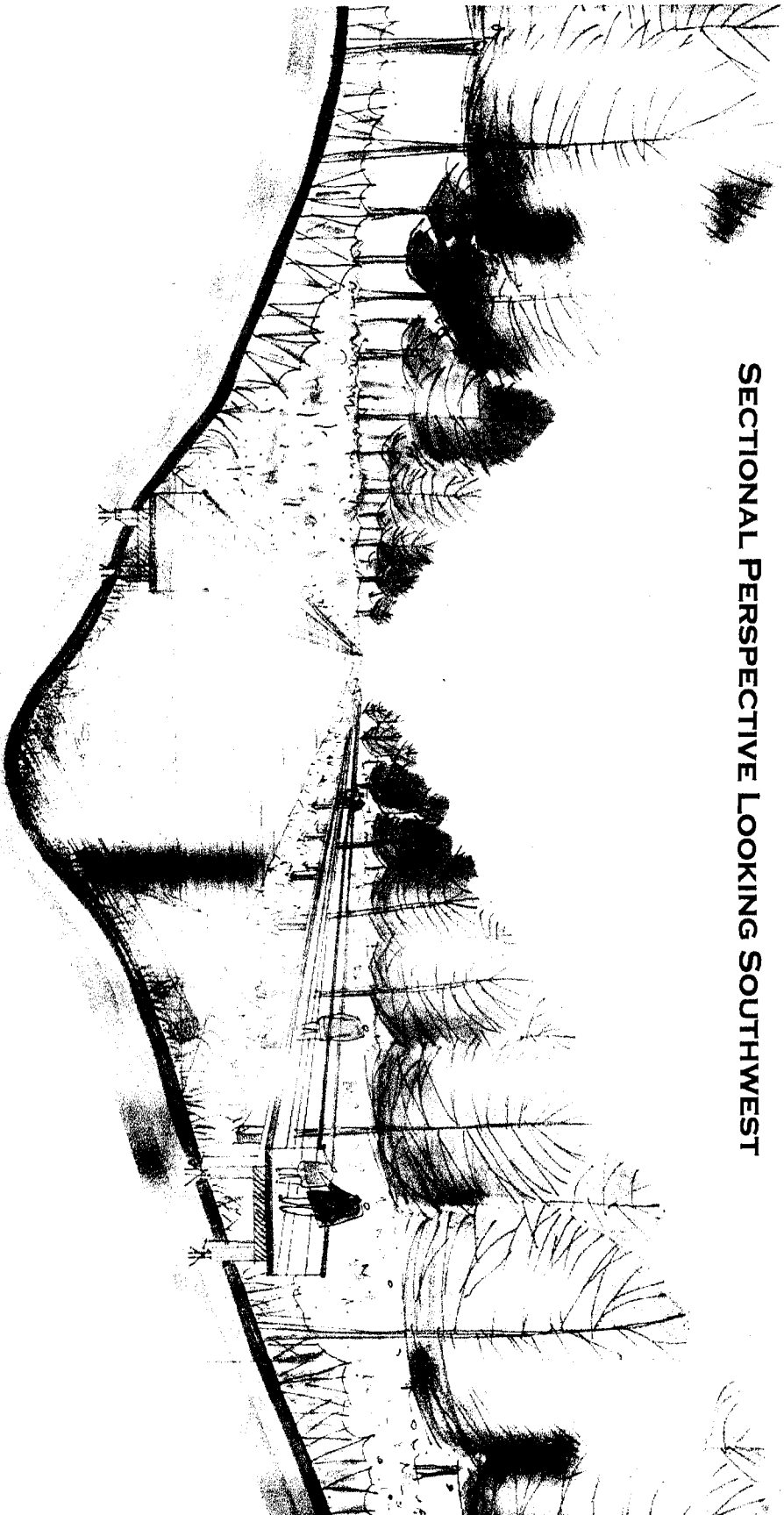
Common Sparrow in Mission Flats creek

Black Tail Deer

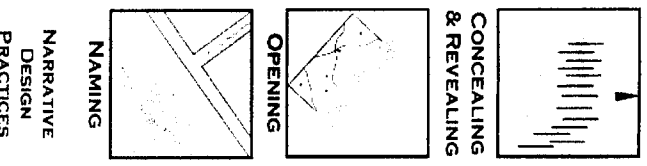
Bald Eagle nesting along Fraser River

Downy of plain life within the

SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE LOOKING SOUTHWEST

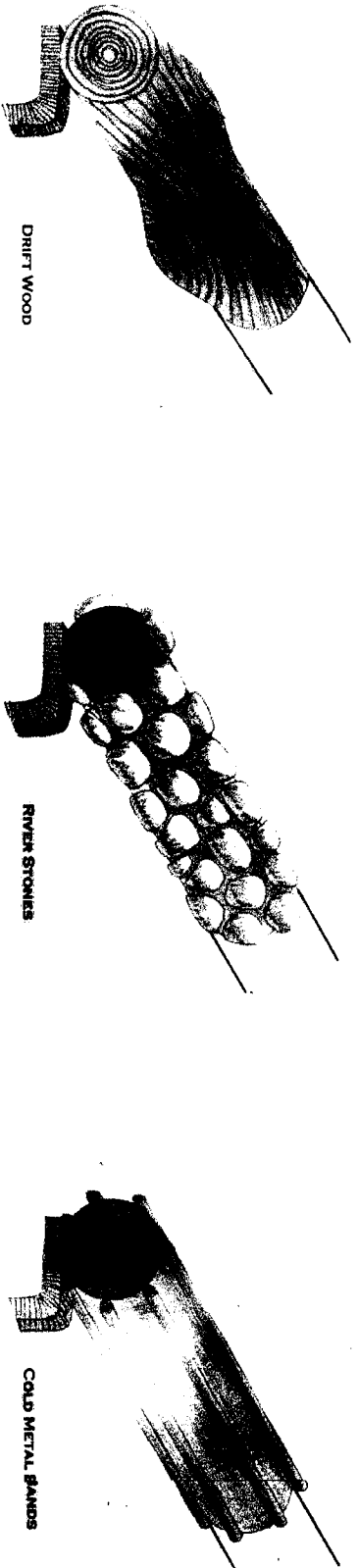
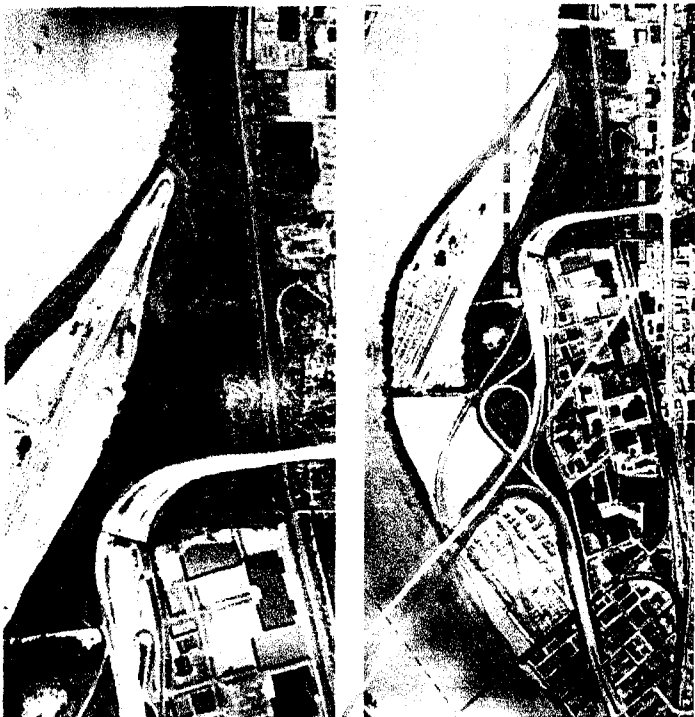
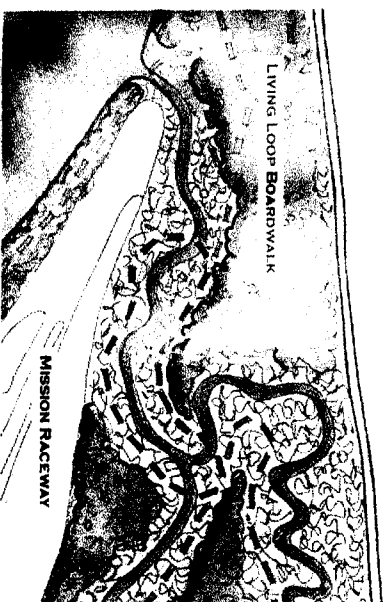


PLAN 0 1 2.5 5 10



SITE CONTEXT MAPS INDICATING INTERPRETIVE NODE LOCATIONS

SITE PLAN 0 25 50 100 200



DRIFT WOOD

RIVER STONES

COLD METAL BANDS

HANDRAIL DETAILS 0 1 2.5 5 10 CM

INTERPRETIVE NODE DESIGN - LIVING LOOP

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

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Part VI DESIGN IMPLICATIONS

Choosing a past helps us to construct a future. – Kevin Lynch, *What Time Is This Place?*

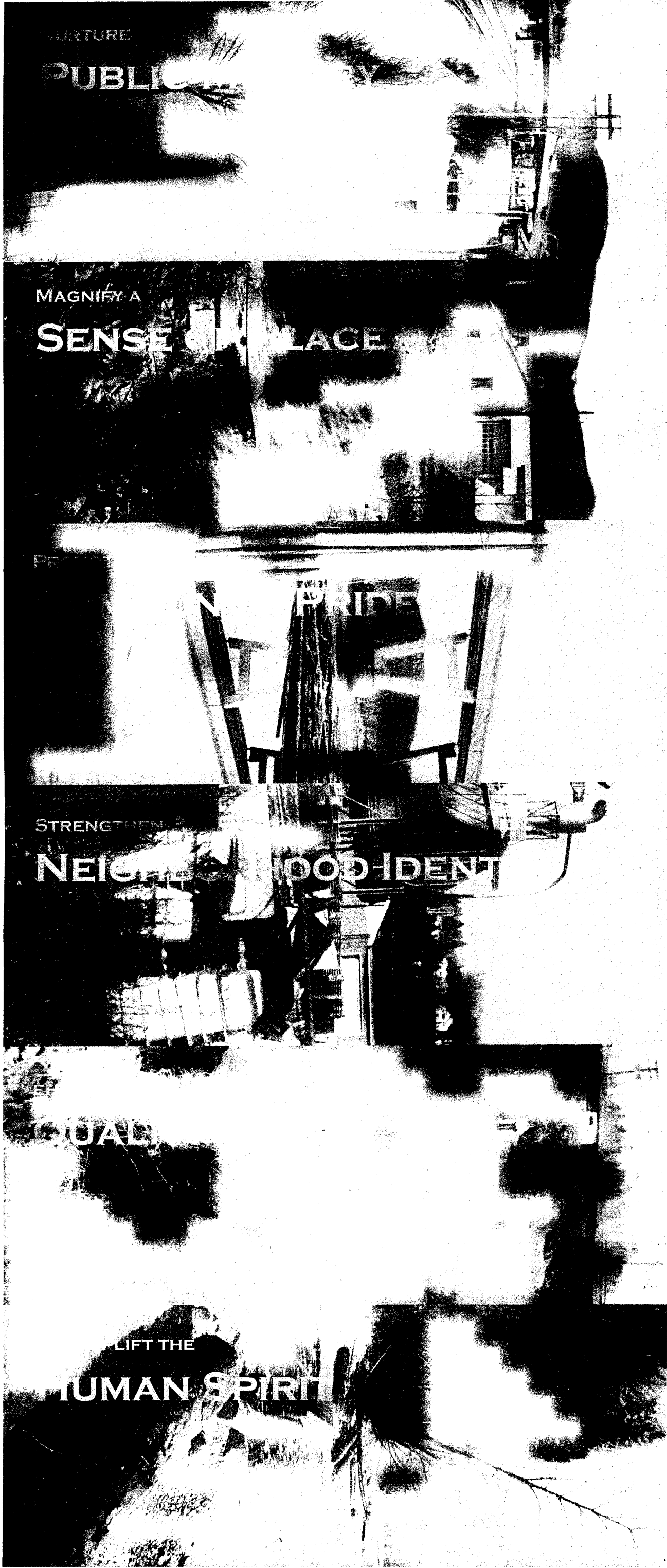
7.1 A Point of Departure

Mission Flats is at risk of becoming a neglected, fragmented place by alienating the human spirit. This design project has been dedicated to nurturing the Mission Flat's existing physical structure through an interpretive trail, increasing connectivity and strengthening its sense of place.

Interpretive design benefits a community's identity by giving unique meaning to forms created in the public realm. It inspires community involvement and regeneration of place by revealing and sharing its authentic roots and exclusive character, mending a disjointed landscape and shaping its future visions. Interpretive design will generate community pride, uplifting and reconnecting the human spirit to the land it depends upon.

TO CONSTRUCT A FUTURE. KEVIN

INTERPRETIVE LANDSCAPES ...



POWER OF PLACE - A POINT OF DEPARTURE

POWER OF PLACE: LINKING PEOPLE, HISTORY, AND NATURE - VISIONS FOR AN INTERPRETIVE TRAIL ON MISSION FLATS

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