

## APPENDIX G – Historic Stone Walls



Commonwealth recommends that a more complete survey of the potential quarry and mill locations on private property, in conjunction with property owner interviews and a detailed examination of primary sources, is warranted for planning purposes.

## Stone Walls

Stone walls are reminders of Dublin's origins as a rural agricultural village, and are a distinctive feature of the landscape. Although largely decorative in purpose today, Dublin's stone walls represent the use of a naturally occurring and abundant resource to construct necessary tools on any farmstead – the livestock fence and the field/property boundary (Valentine and Bauer 2016). Dublin's stone walls also reflect the profession of some of the area's earliest settlers, many of who were stone masons. Aided by the abundant and easily accessible limestone, these stone masons established masonry as a tradition unique to Dublin in the central Ohio area (Klimoski 1979).

A spatial inventory of stone walls was included with the NRHP nomination for the Washington Township MRA (Klimoski 1979) and served as the basis for the list of previously documented stone wall resources. Fifty-nine separate historical stone wall remnants were drawn on a 1:24,000 USGS topography map as part of the nomination package. Each of these stone walls was coded in the GIS, given a unique identifier starting with the letter W, and included in a summary table with basic locational and descriptive information that was generated for the field survey. Each recorded location was visited and, if a wall was present, it was described, measured, and photographed. During the field survey it became apparent that some of the previously recorded walls had either been mapped inaccurately or were no longer in existence. In addition, the field team discovered stone walls that were older in appearance, but which had not been recorded in the Washington Township MRA. These unrecorded walls were also documented and added to the master list of surveyed stone walls. Note that recently constructed walls, such as those that were obviously created as part of a transportation or housing project, were not included in the survey. The location of all extant, surveyed stone walls are shown in Figure 91.

Based on the collected data, stone walls in Dublin were classified as one of eight categories on the basis of overall type and repairs. These eight categories can be reduced to three basic types:

- Traditional dry-laid stone walls made of tabular limestone with a vertical tabular limestone top course, including those with concrete and cement repairs;
- Atypical stone walls, including any wall that does not fit the traditional definition; and
- New build stone walls, including those made to resemble the traditional dry-laid stone walls.

Surveyed traditional dry-laid stone walls are all very similar in appearance and construction, but vary in terms of the size of the limestone slabs used and overall dimensions. Walls were made of either small limestone slabs (under three inches thick and less than one foot long, as shown in Figure 92) or they were made from slabs of limestone that were larger (see Figure 93). It is suspected that the size of the stone in the vertical top course may be related to the age of the wall, either as the result of mechanical breakdown of the rock or changing



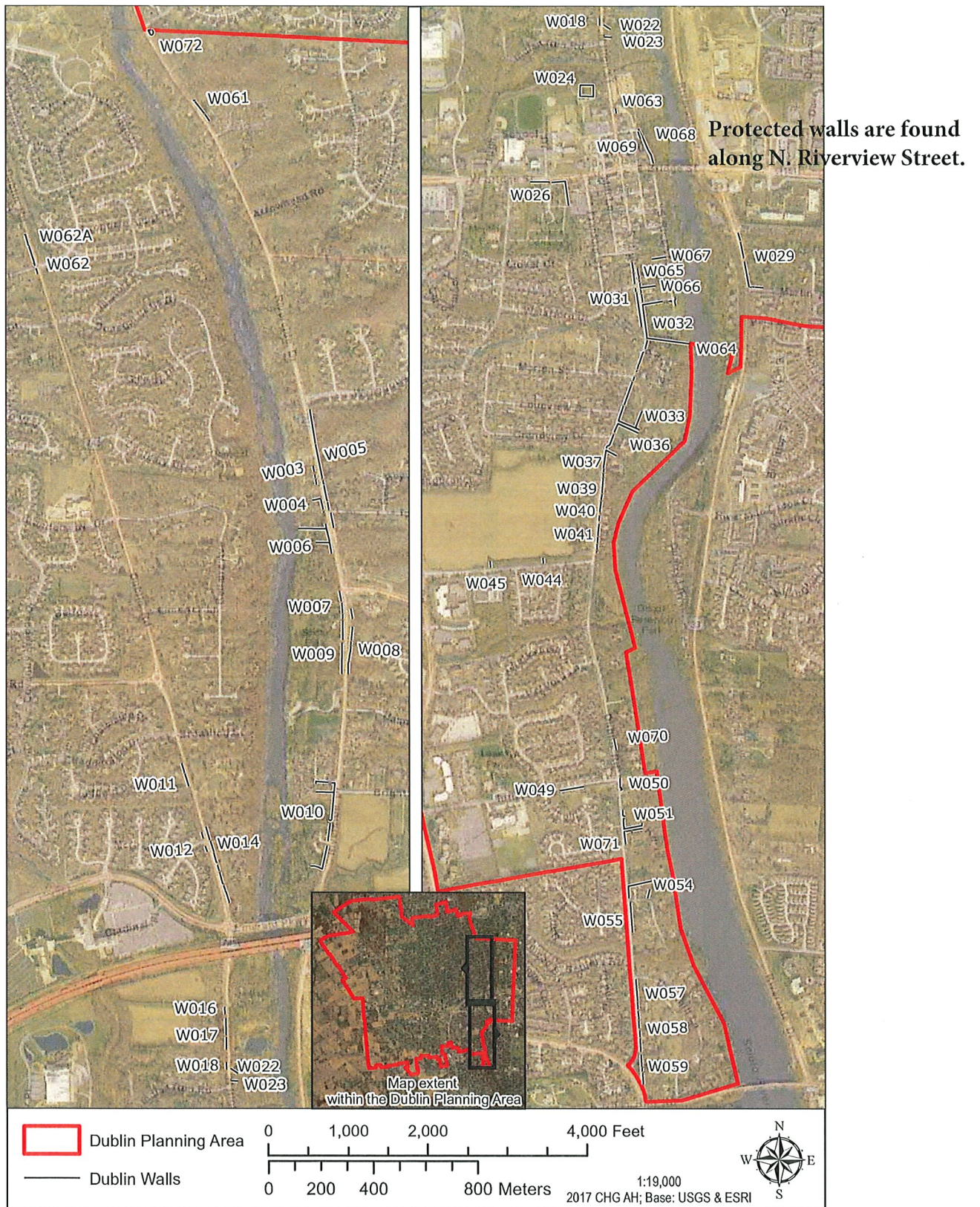


Figure 91. Locations of all extant, surveyed stone walls



construction practices through time. Walls made with the smaller stones are typically no more than three feet in height. Walls made with the larger stones are wider and taller, averaging over three feet in height. This is an interesting difference in light of stone mason Eli Pinney's recollection that the walls were designed to fence cattle and were typically between 42 and 48 inches in height (Valentine and Bauer 2016). Pinney's description matches the description of nearly identical dry-laid stone walls found in Kentucky's Bluegrass region. Hart (1998:185) notes that stone livestock fences became more popular in the 1840s after timber had been depleted in the Bluegrass Region. The fences were typically five feet in height "with smooth sides that tapered from a width of three feet at the base to eighteen inches at the top" (Hart 1998:187). Hart (1998:187) also states that by the 1880s dry-laid stone walls became more expensive to construct and maintain because of labor costs so that their popularity diminished, except to those who could afford to construct them as status symbols. By the 1920s and 1930s many stone walls in the Kentucky Bluegrass region were removed so that roadways could be widened for the automobile (Hart 1998:187). It is possible that the difference in height among Dublin's stone walls is related to age or relocation. It may be that as walls deteriorated or were moved, they were not built as high because they no longer functioned as livestock fences. In conjunction with this practice of partially rebuilding walls, it is possible that only the top vertical courses were reset to maintain the original appearance of the walls. In Dublin, very few traditional dry-laid stone walls are missing the top vertical course. Some walls without this vertical top course appear to once have had it since the rest of the wall construction is the same as those walls with vertical top courses. It is also interesting to note that only a very few of the traditional dry-laid stone walls in Dublin have repairs or patches of cement along the lower courses, although some have had the top vertical course set in cement.



Figure 92. Example of lower wall with slightly smaller stones (Wall W033 along Riverside Drive, looking south)





Figure 93. Example of taller wall with larger stones (Wall W005 along Riverside Drive, looking north)

Dublin's atypical stone walls appear to be related to individual property owner's preferences rather than any larger trend. In general, these walls tend to be along residential property boundaries, are mortared, and may feature rounded rather than tabular stone. A greater diversity of raw material types is also common. Figure 94 depicts one of the atypical stone walls of Dublin.

Walls built within the last 10 years tend to be of machine cut, square slabs, as depicted in Figure 95, and the walls built in 2016 as part of the trail project were constructed with mortar between the courses (Figure 96).





Figure 94. Example of an atypical stone wall (W065A) in front of 824 S. High Street, looking northeast



Figure 95. Modern wall with square, cut stones, near intersection of Dublin and Frantz Roads, looking southeast





Figure 96. Wall in process of being rebuilt as part of trail project (W034 along west side of Dublin Road south of downtown, looking north). Note top course set in mortar.