Confirmed Tornado
Wheatley, Ontario
October 4, 1985

Date- Local: Friday, October 4th, 1985.
UTC: Friday, October 4th, 1985.
Time-Local: 15:45
UTC: 19:45
Location: Wheatley area, Essex County
Region: Windsor – Essex – Chatham-Kent
Classification: Confirmed Tornado
Category: G
Casualties: None
Track Length: None Available
Width: None Available
Motion: None Available
Damage Estimate: None Available
F-Scale Rating: F1
Code: BS
Damage Survey: None
Spotter Reports: None
Other Documents:

Logged event citing tornado as the event.
Summer Severe Storm Survey conducted by Windsor Weather office in response to eyewitness reports. Also attached are damage photographs and hand drawn map.

Tornado F-Scale Assessment

Marci Vanhoucke
Tornado Data Production Assistant, Environment Canada
July 21, 2005.

Classification: Confirmed Tornado
Date: Friday, October 4th, 1985.
Location: Wheatley area (Essex county), Windsor – Essex – Chatham-Kent

Assessment: F1
F-Code: BS
Explanation of Assessment: There is a Summer Severe Storm Survey (including photos of damage) conducted by the Windsor weather office detailing an eyewitness account of the tornado and the damage that occurred. Damage was mostly contained to a wooden barn (looks like an older barn from pictures) with a metal roof that was flattened and moved from west to east. There was also minor tree damage. Due the damage described, this tornado is rated an F1.

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm
SOURCE/WATCHER ID:
EVENT TIME (UTC): 19-45 **EVENT DAY:** 4.0 **MONTH:** 10.0 **YEAR:** 1985.0 **EVENT DURATION (HR):** 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0
DAY OF THE WEEK:
EVENT LOCALE: Wheatley, Essex Co.
ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN: Windsor-Essex-Kent
DETAILED DESCRIPTION:
INITIAL ASSESSMENT: YES
SPL WX STATEMENT IN EFFECT ?: UKN **STATEMENT LEAD TIME (HR):** **(MIN):**
WATCH IN EFFECT ?: UKN **WATCH LEAD TIME (HR):** **(MIN):**
WARNING IN EFFECT ?: UKN **WARNING LEAD TIME (HR):** **(MIN):**
TORNADO:
WINDSPEED:
RAINFALL: MM **RAIN DURATION:**
HAIL DIAMETER: MM **HAIL DESCRIPTION:**
EVENT DESCRIPTION: Tornado
Mesoscale ?: **Synoptic ?:** **Big Event ?:**
Statement Est Hit/Miss:
Watch Est Hit/Miss:
Warning Est Hit/Miss:
Separate Event (30km/30min): YES
Vetted by:
Vetted date:

8960-4

Summer Severe Storm Survey

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR	INVESTIGATOR'S PHONE	DATE OF INVESTIGATION
Mr. J. Adamson & Mr. P. McCallum	969-1792	October 5, 1985.
INVESTIGATOR'S ADDRESS		
Windsor Hub Weather Office		

1. NAME(S) OF PERSON(S) INTERVIEWED

   Mrs. Ross Hyatt

2. ADDRESS (NOT RR#) OF THIS LOCATION

   2.3 KM NE of Hwy. #1 on Concession #5, in Romney Township.
   And 5 KM N of Wheatley
   Lot Con. Twp Co. or # street, town

3. PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON INTERVIEWED

   825-4981 (519 Area Code Number)

4. (a) TIME AND DATE OF THE EVENT AT THIS LOCATION

   Between 4:45 - 5:00 p.m., Friday October 4,1985.

   (b) HOW WAS THE TIME DETERMINED (STOPPED CLOCK, POWER FAILURE, MEMORY, A TIME-FIXING EVENT ETC)

   The time was estimated after arrival back to farm house from fields.

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE DAMAGE

   Wood barn with metal roof, approximately 15' by 30', and was flattened and moved from West to East.

6. VISUAL SKY COLOUR?

   Y or N if yes, describe The sky became very dark (black) in colour, and very fast.

7. (a) HAIL?

   Y or N

   There was no hail, thunderstorms or lighting sighted.

   (b) HAIL SIZE (CIRCLE)

   PEA GRAPE WALNUT GOLF BALL

   TENNIS BALL OTHER UNKNOWN DIAMETER(MM)

8. RAIN, HOW MUCH?

   No rain at this time but received some showers a few hours later.

9. (a) COMMENTS ON RELIABITY OF WITNESS REPORTS

   Mrs. Hyatt seems to be very reliable and very weather conscious. She seemed to be very knowledgeable of what she saw and reported.

   (b) DOES WITNESS KNOW OF OTHERS WHO WERE AFFECTED BY OR WITNESSED STORM?
   If yes:

   No.

   Name Address Phone#

0. ANY INJURIES RELATED TO STORM

   Not to her knoledge.

1. DOES EVIDENCE INDICATE NEED FOR DETAILED ON-SITE SURVEY?

   Y or N If Y contact Severe Weather MT OWC

   No.

Wheatley is a small farming community 13 kilometres East of Leamington and 40 kilometres Southeast of the Windsor Airport. The farm is located on Concession Road #5, which is 45 kilometres Southeast of Windsor Airport. The barn which sustained the damage, was located on the North side of the concession, no more than 1/4 of a mile East of the farm house, which is located on the South side of the concession.

The barn was completely demolished except for the roof which was still intact but in two long sections. The barn was well constructed of wood, with large beams, 2x4's, 2x6's and with a wood roof. None of the barn was left standing except the foundation, which was concrete, and although boards and beams were flattened and broken, none seemed to be strewn around or driven into the ground. Also the damage was confined to the immediate area although the barn had been flattened from a West to East direction and no pieces were more than 10 to 15 feet away from the structure.

Just to the East of the barn were a few trees, approximately 30 feet,which were around and protecting two older sheds. These older sheds were run down and not kept up, and yet they received no visible damage and were left standing.

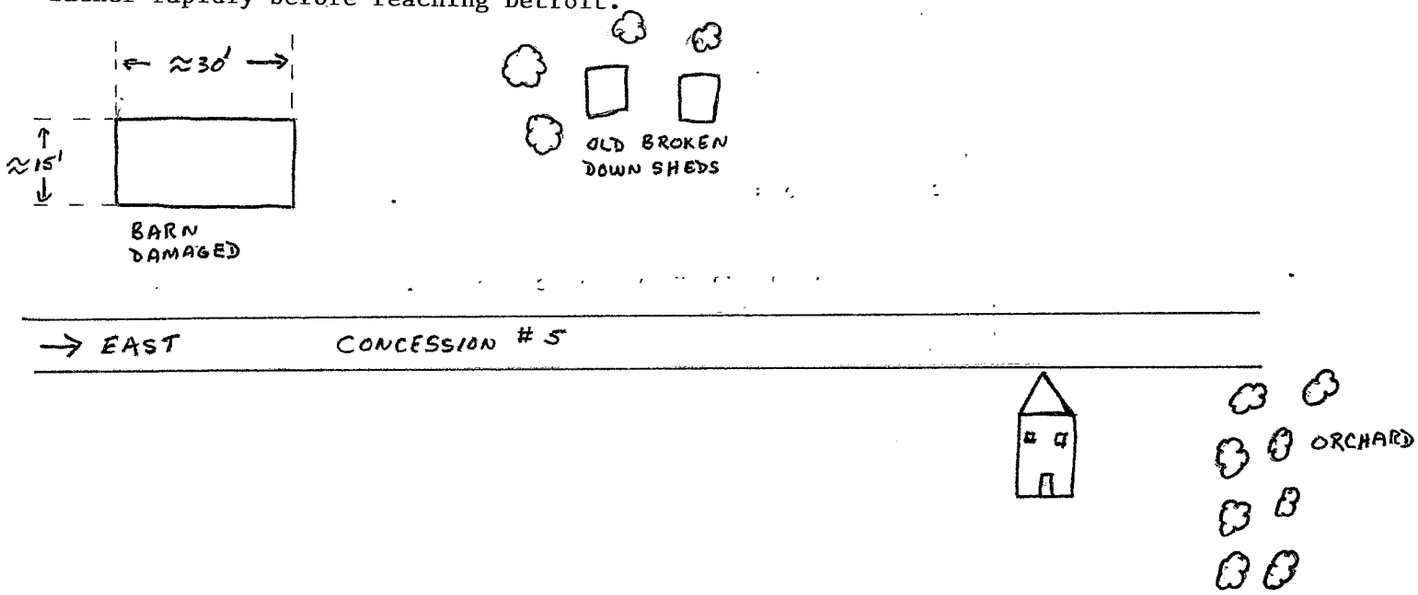
Fifty to one hundred feet East of the farm house, on the same side of the concession, were several apple trees which sustained some damage. Several limbs were either twisted and broken or completely broken off, as evidenced in the photos. One large limb was broken off completely and all apples on the tree were blown off. In the open field behind the apple trees, a large section of drainage tile had been moved about 50 feet to the East of where it had been stored.

Mrs. Hyatt was on her way back to the farm house on another concession road and driving the tractor with her husband following in the combine. Her husband first brought the colour and the condition of the sky to her attention and she continued to watch the sky as she drove the tractor back to the farm. She first noticed what she thought was smoke to the Southwest towards the Wheatley-Leamington area, but as she continued to watch it she realized it was dust and dirt being drawn up into the sky. The sky also became very black in colour at this time and the winds became very strong, making the tractor very hard to manage. In contact with her husband in the combine, by CB radio, he told her that it was becoming increasing difficult to manage and that it kept gearing down until he couldn't go any farther as the combine finally was unable to buck the strong winds and longer and it finally stopped. He then told her she should also stop the tractor, and as soon as she did the winds abated and things started to clear up. However, Mrs. Hyatt noticed debris being drawn in and then straight up into the sky and as this passed, the debris was being thrown out behind.

The storm seemed to pass from Southwest to Northeast and that a similar occurrence was reported in Florence, just North of Thamesville at 5:20 p.m. E.D.T., and was investigated by Mr. W.J. Adamson.

At the Windsor Airport on October 4th, 1985, a maximum temperature of 20°C was recorded between 1800 and 2000 GMT. A wind shift occurred at 2007 GMT and the winds shifted from 180° to 240° at this time with a maximum gust of 39 knots. The winds then backed to 200° to 190° by the next hour and the temperature had dropped from 17.9°C at 2000 GMT to 11.9°C at 2100GMT.

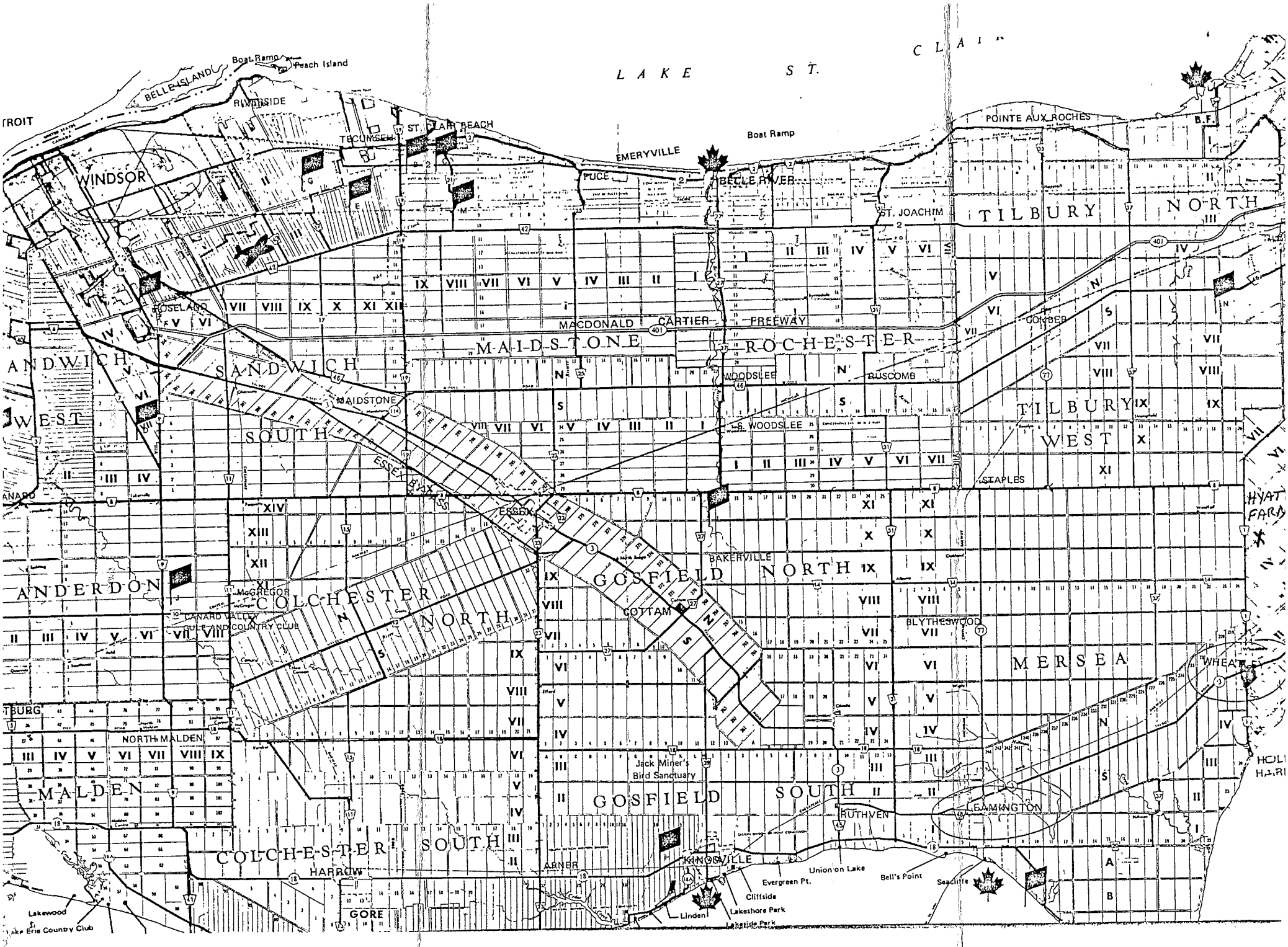
Also during the interval of the wind shift occurrence at the Airport, the Detroit Metro Radar only showed level 2's and 3's as the precipitation pattern crossed our immediate area. However, earlier in the day several level 4's and 5's were spotted in the Hillsdale, Michigan area but they kept forming and dissipating rather rapidly before reaching Detroit.



Peter C McCallum

Attachments: Map
Photos

c.c. A/OAEWR: No photos


LAKE ST. CLAIR
Boat Ramp
Peach Island
BELLE ISLAND
RIVERSIDE
TECUMSEH
ST. CLAIR BEACH
EMERYVILLE
PUCE
Boat Ramp
BELLE RIVER
POINTE AUX ROCHES
WINDSOR
ST. JOACHIM
TILBURY NORTH
ROSELAND
MACDONALD CARTIER FREEWAY
401
CONNOR
MAIDSTONE
SANDWICH WEST
SANDWICH SOUTH
WOODSLEE
S. WOODSLEE
RUSCOMB
TILBURY WEST
STAPLES
ESSEX
ANDERDON
COLCHESTER NORTH
MacGREGOR
CANARD VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
BAKERVILLE
GOSFIELD NORTH
COTTAM
BLYTHESWOOD
MERSEA
NORTH MALDEN
MALDEN
Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary
GOSFIELD SOUTH
RUTHVEN
LEAMINGTON
COLCHESTER SOUTH
HARROW
ARNER
KINGSVILLE
Union on Lake
Evergreen Pt.
Bell's Point
Seacliffe
Cliffside
Lakeshore Park
Lakeside Park
Linden
GORE
Lakewood
Lake Erie Country Club