Confirmed Tornado
Florence, Ontario
October 4, 1985

Date- Local: Friday, October 4th, 1985.
UTC: Friday, October 4th, 1985.
Time-Local: 16:30
UTC: 20:30
Location: Florence, Lambton county
Region: Sarnia - Lambton
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: MB
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: Florence, Sarnia – Lambton

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 contained to a galvanized metal storage shed that was completely demolished except for the back and west wall. Due the damage described, this tornado is rated an F1.

CLASSIFICATION: Severe Thunderstorm
SOURCE/WATCHER ID:
EVENT TIME (UTC): 20-30 **EVENT DAY:** 4.0 **MONTH:** 10.0 **YEAR:** 1985.0 **EVENT DURATION (HR):** 0.0 **(MIN):** 0.0
DAY OF THE WEEK:
EVENT LOCALE: Florence, Lambton Co.
ASOCTD PUBLIC RGN: Sarnia-Lambton
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:

Summer Severe Storm Survey

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR	INVESTIGATOR'S PHONE	DATE OF INVESTIGATION
W.J. Adamson	(519) 969-7585	¢ October 1985

INVESTIGATOR'S ADDRESS

Windsor Weather Office, RR#1, Windsor Ontario

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

Ms. Ann Bookin

El;liot Farm Equipment Company, Florence , Ontario

2. ADDRESS (NOT RR#) OF THIS LOCATION

Lot Con. Twp Co. or # street, town

3. PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON INTERVIEWED

(519) 692-4969 - Work (519) 692-4358 _ Home

Area Code Number

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

October 4th, 1985 at approximately 17:20 local

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

Just leaving work to go home

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE DAMAGE

A galvanized metal storage shed approximately 90-100 feet long by 30 feet wide . Back height about 8 feet with the front height 15-18 feet.

6. VISUAL SKY COLOUR?

Y or N if yes, describe

The sky turned very black very quickly

7. (a) HAIL?

Y or No

No precipitation- no thunder- no hail

(b) HAIL SIZE (CIRCLE)

PEA GRAPE WALNUT GOLF BALL

TENNIS BALL OTHER UNKNOWN DIAMETER(MM)

8. RAIN, HOW MUCH?

Nil

9. (a) COMMENTS ON RELIABITY OF WITNESS REPORTS

Good- Co-owner of the Company(Elliot Farm Equipment)

(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

No

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

Y or N If Y contact Severe Weather MT OWC

No

(over)

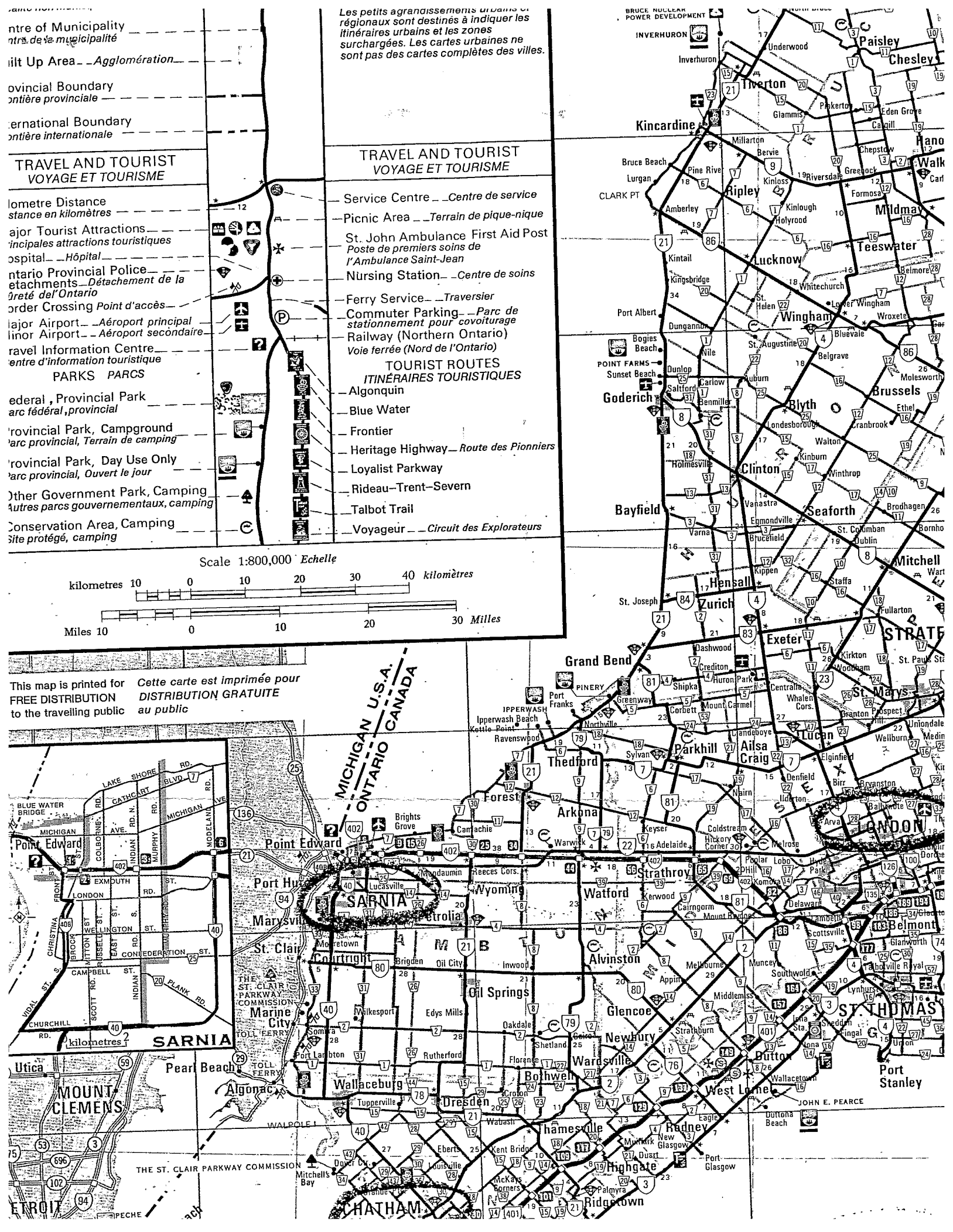
Florence is a small rural community north of the village of Thamesville on highway 26 and #1. It consist of one main thorough-fare running north and south and it was on the east side of this thorough-fare in the centre of the community that this incident occurred . Elliot Farm Equipment is a small dealer handling everything from small tractors to large combines. Their garage and storage shed which is completely demolished except for the back and west wall was constructed of 2X6 2X8 and 4X4 timbers covered with galvanized sheet metal. The front of the building faced south and was approximately 15-18 feet highby 90-100 feet in length while the back wall was approximately 8 feet high.The roof - front sliding doors and east wall were completely destroyed with splintered and broken timbers strewn about the lot . The galvanized sheet metal was bent and twisted and in some cases wrapped around the large ties of combines parked to the north. Debris of wood metal etc., was confined mainly within the area of the lot which was paced off to be approximately 250 feet by 250 feet.

A decorative fruit tree on a lawn adjacent to and 100 feet north of the shed still retained clusters of berries and was unscathed. Buildings approximately 95 feet to the south of the demolished shed, of similar construction were not affected.

Ms. Ann Bookin who is co-owner of the business has her sales office directly across the street from the lot witnessed the building's roof being torn off as she had just stepped outside to depart for the day at 17:20. She stated debris and dust and gravel appeared to be swirling in a circular fashion such as one might see from a dust devil on a hot summer day. The sky turned very black very quickly . The storm moved from south-west to north-east. It is interesting to note that a similar phenomena occurred north of Wheatley on the same day at approximately 16:45 to 17:00 as reported by Mrs. Hyatt.(see report by W.J. Adamson and P.C. McCallum on this incident) It is of further interest to note that we recorded a maximum temperature of 20.0 degrees at 0000 G.M.T. and between 20:00 and 21:00 G.M.T. we fell 6 degrees from 17.9 to 11.9. Winds shifted from 180 degrees briefly to 240 degrees but then backed again to 190-200 degrees. Maximum gust recorded were to 39 knots at 2007 G.M.T. . With regards to the radar picture between 1600 and 1700 local , as viewed at Windsor there was nothing noteworthy was replicated except levels 1-3 precipitation moving across Essex and Kent counties.

W.J. Adamson
Officer-in-Charge
Windsor Weather Office

Attachment: Map / Photographs
cc A/OAEWR nil photographs



Les petits agrandissements urbains et régionaux sont destinés à indiquer les itinéraires urbains et les zones surchargées. Les cartes urbaines ne sont pas des cartes complètes des villes.
ntre of Municipality
ntre de la municipalité
ilt Up Area — Agglomération
ovincial Boundary
ontière provinciale
ernational Boundary
ontière internationale
TRAVEL AND TOURIST
VOYAGE ET TOURISME
lometre Distance
stance en kilomètres
ajor Tourist Attractions
incipales attractions touristiques
ospital — Hôpital
ntario Provincial Police
etachments — Détachement de la
ûreté del'Ontario
order Crossing Point d'accès
ajor Airport — Aéroport principal
inor Airport — Aéroport secondaire
ravel Information Centre
entre d'information touristique
PARKS PARCS
ederal, Provincial Park
arc fédéral, provincial
rovincial Park, Campground
arc provincial, Terrain de camping
rovincial Park, Day Use Only
arc provincial, Ouvert le jour
ther Government Park, Camping
utres parcs gouvernementaux, camping
onservation Area, Camping
ite protégé, camping
TRAVEL AND TOURIST
VOYAGE ET TOURISME
Service Centre — Centre de service
Picnic Area — Terrain de pique-nique
St. John Ambulance First Aid Post
Poste de premiers soins de l'Ambulance Saint-Jean
Nursing Station — Centre de soins
Ferry Service — Traversier
Commuter Parking — Parc de stationnement pour covoiturage
Railway (Northern Ontario)
Voie ferrée (Nord de l'Ontario)
TOURIST ROUTES
ITINÉRAIRES TOURISTIQUES
Algonquin
Blue Water
Frontier
Heritage Highway — Route des Pionniers
Loyalist Parkway
Rideau–Trent–Severn
Talbot Trail
Voyageur — Circuit des Explorateurs
Scale 1:800,000 Echelle
kilometres 10 0 10 20 30 40 kilomètres
Miles 10 0 10 20 30 Milles
This map is printed for FREE DISTRIBUTION to the travelling public
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MICHIGAN U.S.A.
ONTARIO CANADA
BRUCE NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT
INVERHURON
Paisley
Chesley
Tiverton
Kincardine
Ripley
Lucknow
Teeswater
Mildmay
Wingham
Goderich
Blyth
Brussels
Clinton
Bayfield
Seaforth
Mitchell
Hensall
Zurich
Exeter
Grand Bend
Parkhill
Ailsa Craig
Thedford
Forest
Arkona
Strathroy
Watford
Wyoming
Petrolia
Point Edward
SARNIA
Marysville
St. Clair
Courtright
Oil Springs
Alvinston
Glencoe
Newbury
Wardsville
Bothwell
Dresden
Wallaceburg
Marine City
Algonac
Pearl Beach
Utica
MOUNT CLEMENS
Thamesville
Highgate
Ridgetown
CHATHAM
Rodney
West Lorne
Dutton
Port Stanley
ST. THOMAS
LONDON
Belmont
Lucan
Port Edward
BLUE WATER BRIDGE
THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION
JOHN E. PEARCE
WALPOLE I.
kilometres