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| <b>Asset Ref No.</b>        | <b>Lifford, Townparks: Historic Town (DG071-008); Church (DG071-008001); Graveyard (DG071-008003); House (DG071-008004); Town defences (DG071-008005); DG071-008006-); Wall monument – Effigial (DG071-008007)</b>  |                        |
| <b>Heritage Type</b>        | Built   |                        |
|                             | <i>Lifford Historical town, etc</i>   |                        |
| <b>Location</b>             | OS 6-inch map sheet   |                        |
|                             | Townland  | Lifford                |
|                             | Parish  | Clonleigh              |
|                             | LCA   | River Deelee - Lifford |
|                             | ITM Coordinates   | 633345/898491          |
|                             | NG Coordinates  | 233400/398500          |
| <b>Protection Status</b>    | RMP (Some are also NIAH & RPS)  |                        |
| <b>Condition</b>            | Substantial remains   |                        |
| <b>Ownership (if known)</b> | unknown   |                        |
| <b>Site Description</b>     | <p><b>DG071-008:</b> Described in the Urban Survey of Donegal as 'Like most of Donegal's plantation towns Lifford owes its existence to its strategic location, at the meeting of the rivers Murne and Finn, and at the beginning of the River Foyle. There was no bridge and throughout the seventeenth century the river crossing was negotiated by ferry. The town is also located in an area of particularly good agricultural land and was described as early as 1623 as "seated in the richest soil of all the north, the country about it champaign" (Butlin 1976, 149). Its strategic significance was evident before the plantation period, however, and it was here that the O'Donnells built a castle in the fifteenth century (this castle is located in Co. Tyrone). The earl of Essex arrived here in 1574 as part of his ill fated Ulster expedition and formally restored it to Hugh O'Donnell (Hayes McCoy 1976, 97). Ten years later, in 1584, Perrott proposed it for the site of an English garrison if Ulster was to be subdued. Perrott's proposals went unheeded, however, and it was not until 1600 when it was captured by Dowcra's forces, under the command of Niall garbh O'Donnell that it fell into English hands. By 1600 there was evidently some form of settlement in the vicinity of the fort. A contemporary account describes it as : "some eighty houses set in a plain green upon the river side and encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). Evidently the settlement was substantial enough by 1603 for Sir Henry Dowcra, governor of Lough Foyle, to be granted the right to hold a market there. Shortly after the flight of the earls Lifford was earmarked for plantation and on 27 October 1611 the village of Liffer with the fort, "commonly called captain Brooke's Fort" and about 500 acres of land were granted to Sir Richard Hansard for 21 years. He received the grant on condition that within five years he should allot portions of land to 60 inhabitants for the erection of houses with gardens and 200 acres for a common (Ir Rec Comm 1830, 182). The fort was excluded from a new grant of 31 jan 1612, when Hansard was given licence to hold a Monday market and two annual fairs, while the number of colonists he was to settle was halved to "30 persons, English or Scots, chiefly tradesmen to be the burgesses" (ibid. 206-7). Lewis (1837, ii, 260) adds that in addition he was to set aside 100 acres for the keep of 50 horses, should His Majesty think proper to assign a garrison to the town. Hansard evidently invested a sizeable amount of</p> |                        |

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his personal income in the town. By 1611 he had built some twentyone half-timbered houses and thirtyseven cottages of one hearth each were constructed about the same time (Rowan 1979, 347). In the same year, 1611, Pynnar described Lifford as having : "a good and strong fort built of lime and stone, with bulwarks, a parapet, and a large ditch of good depth cast above it on the river side, with a storehouse for victuals and munition, a gatehouse and a drawbridge.....There is another small fort in the town rampiered and ditched, about which are certain houses built of good timber after the English manor, which serve for the use of a gaoler and to keep prisoner...Upon view of the town we found it well furnished with inhabitants of English, Scottish, and irish, who live by several trades" (quoted in Butlin 1977, 89). By 1622 the town had at least 54 houses and a male population of about 100, making it one of the more successful plantation boroughs in Ulster (Hunter 1981, 60-1). Sir Richard Hansard died in 1619 and left an unusual bequest, recorded on his monument in Lifford parish church, making financial provision for the corporation (Hunter 1971, 55), for building a church and school, and for the salaries of the schoolmaster and the officers of the town. It is a remarkable demonstration of the founders interest in the welfare of his town. In the census of c. 1659 the adult population is given as 44 English and Scots, and 24 Irish making a total of 68' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 50-2).

The physical layout of the town is described in the Urban Survey as 'The core of the seventeenth century Lifford was concentrated on the Diamond and on the street running SW from it towards the modern bridge, then the site of a ferry. It was presumably in this area that the twentyone houses, built for Sir Richard Hansard by 1611, were located. The presence of a burgage plot pattern on the street running NW from the town, past Ballyduff House, suggests that it too may be of seventeenth century origin. Indeed it may have been the location of the 27 cottages referred to in 1611. In 1603 Sir Henry Dowcra was granted the right to hold a weekly market at Lifford while in the incorporation charter of 1612 it is stated that the market should be held on Mondays. The market place was evidently located in the Diamond. An account of 1600 refers to Lifford as having "some eighty houses" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). There is no information on the form of these houses, however. By 1611 there were some 21 half-timbered houses in the town and 37 cottages, while in 1622 the town had at least 54 houses. Evidence for inns is indicated by the fact that the inhabitants of Lifford were "able to give entertainment to passengers" shortly after the foundation of the town (Robinson 1984, 173). An account of the settlement, written in 1600, describes it as lying beside the river and "encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). An outline of these defences is shown on a map, prepared perhaps to accompany this account, now in the library of Trinity College Dublin (Ms. 1209 (17)). No trace of this ditch now survives' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 53-4).

***Excavation Number : 93E0008***

A series of trial trenches was cut in the vicinity of Lifford Courthouse in January on behalf of the Lifford Association for Tourism, Commerce and Heritage. The trenching was carried out in the rear of the courtyard and nothing of archaeological value was uncovered with the possible exception of a mortared stone wall which retained a steep bank of sand and gravel. The wall lay 6m-9m in from the modern bank of the river Foyle and it is probably of relatively recent origin. The fill of the trenches was largely made up of sands and gravel and suggest that the Foyle has been considerably narrowed since the plantation town was

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|  | <p>established in the 1600s.</p> <p>Neil O'Flanagan, ADS Ltd., Powerhouse, Pigeon House Harbour, Dublin 4.</p> <p><b>DG071-008001:</b> Clonleigh Parish Church (DG071-008001-): Erected under the will of Sir Richard Hansard and the foundations laid by 1622, the present church is of late 18th century appearance (Rowan 1979, 348). In the S wall is a segment-headed recess (DG071-008008-) containing two kneeling figures in Jacobean attire facing each other across a draped predieu — part of the monument of Sir Richard Hansard Kt. and Dame Anne, his wife (for whom see Loeber 1977-80, 238-9). The tablet bears the following inscription: ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF SR RICHARD HANSARD/KNIGHT BORNE AT BISKERTHORPE IN THE COVNTY OF LINCOLNE IN/ENGLAND WHO DYED THE 5 OF OCTOBER 1619 AND OF DAME ANNE HIS WIFE/DAUGHTER TO SR EDWARD MARBVRY OF GEISBY IN, THE SAID COVNTY KNIGHT/WHO DYED THE 3 DAY OF OCTOBER 1619 SR RICHARD HANSARD AFTER HE HAD/OF ART IN CAMBRIDGE TOOKE VPON HIM THE PREFESSION OF A SOLIDER IN THE PRIME OF/LIFE HE HAD DIVERS SINDRY HONORABLE PLACES OF COMAND IN THE WARES HE/WAS MAD GOVERNOR OF LIFFORD AND THE PARTS ADIOYNING WHER HE DID MANY GOOD/SERVES IN THE TIME OF TYRONES REBELION AND LAST OF AL IN SR CAHIR O DOHERLES REBELIONIKING JAMES THE FIRST GAVE HIM THIS TOWNE OF LIFORD AND FOWER QVARTERS OF CROHAN TO/PLANT A CORPORACON THERE WHICH HE EFECTED AT HIS DEATH HE DISPOSED BY WIL OF THESE LANDS AND OTHERS TO DIVERS OF HIS NAME NOT NEARE OF KINDRED TO HIM BVT FOR WANT/OF A FEOFTMIENT TO ENABLE HIM TO DISPOSE OF HIS LANDS BY WIL BY LAWE ITFEL A[L]/TO HIS YONGER BROTHER WILLIAM HANSARD OF BISKERTHORPE IN LINCOLNSHIRE ESQVIRE/HE ORDAINED BY HIS WILL SR IOHN VAVHAN KNIGHT SR GEORGE MERBVRY KNIGHT AND/THOMAS PERKINS ESQUIRE THEN LIFTENNANT TO HIS COMPANY HIS EXECITORS/AND DIRECTED THEM TO BVILD THIS CHVRCH THE SCHOOLE AND SCHOOLE HOUSE IN/THIS TOWNE AS NOW THEY ARE DONE AND LIKEWISE GAVE 86L P ANNVM IN PPETVITY/OUT OF HIS LANDES (VIDELICET TO THE WARDEN OF LIFFORD XXL TO THE RECORDER THERE/OF XL TO THE 2 SERGEANTS 6L TO THE SCHOOLE MAISTER XXXL AND TO THE USHER XXL P ANNUM/AND FOR THAT BY LAWE THIS LAND FELL TO HIS YONGER BROTHER WHEERBY THESE PIOVS/INTENTIONS WEER LIKE TO BE FRVSTRATED THEREFORE THE 3 SORNAMED EXECVTORS DID/PVRCHASE OF HIS SAID BROTHER THE WHOLE LANDES FOR ONE THOUSAND AND 5 HUNDRED/POUNDS AND SO HAVE FINISHED THE SAID WORKES AND PPETVALL DONATION ACCORDING/TO THE WILL AND INTENT OF THE SAID SR RICHARD.</p> <p><b>DG071-008003:</b> Clonleigh Parish Church (DG071-008001-): Erected under the will of Sir Richard Hansard and the foundations laid by 1622, the present church is of late 18th century appearance (Rowan 1979, 348).</p> <p><b>DG071-008004:</b> The physical layout of the town is described in the Urban Survey as 'The core of the seventeenth century Lifford was concentrated on the Diamond and on the street running SW from it towards the modern bridge, then the site of a ferry. It was presumably in this area that the twentyone houses, built for Sir Richard Hansard by 1611, were located. The presence of a burgage plot pattern on the street running NW from the town, past Ballyduff House, suggests that it too may be of seventeenth century origin. Indeed it may have been the location of the 27 cottages referred to in 1611. In 1603 Sir Henry Dowcra was granted the fight to hold a weekly market at Lifford while in the</p> |
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Lifford Historic Town (DG071-008); (DG071-008001); (DG071-008003); (DG071-008004); (DG071-008005); (DG071-008006); (DG071-008007)

incorporation charter of 1612 it is stated that the market should be held on Mondays. The market place was evidently located in the Diamond. An account of 1600 refers to Lifford as having "some eighty houses" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). There is no information on the form of these houses, however. By 1611 there were some 21 half-timbered houses in the town and 37 cottages, while in 1622 the town had at least 54 houses. Evidence for inns is indicated by the fact that the inhabitants of Lifford were "able to give entertainment to passengers" shortly after the foundation of the town (Robinson 1984, 173).' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 53-4).

**DG071-008005:** The physical layout of the town is described in the Urban Survey as 'The core of the seventeenth century Lifford was concentrated on the Diamond and on the street running SW from it towards the modern bridge, then the site of a ferry. It was presumably in this area that the twentyone houses, built for Sir Richard Hansard by 1611, were located. The presence of a burgage plot pattern on the street running NW from the town, past Ballyduff House, suggests that it too may be of seventeenth century origin. Indeed it may have been the location of the 27 cottages referred to in 1611. An account of the settlement, written in 1600, describes it as lying beside the river and "encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). An outline of these defences is shown on a map, prepared perhaps to accompany this account, now in the library of Trinity College Dublin (Ms. 1209 (17)). No trace of this ditch now survives' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 53-4).

**DG071-008006:** Described in the Urban Survey of Donegal as 'Like most of Donegal's plantation towns Lifford owes its existence to its strategic location, at the meeting of the rivers Murne and Finn, and at the beginning of the River Foyle. There was no bridge and throughout the seventeenth century the river crossing was negotiated by ferry. Its strategic significance was evident before the plantation period, however, and it was here that the O'Donnells built a castle in the fifteenth century (this castle is located in Co. Tyrone). The earl of Essex arrived here in 1574 as part of his ill fated Ulster expedition and formally restored it to Hugh O'Donnell (Hayes McCoy 1976, 97). Ten years later, in 1584, Perrott proposed it for the site of an English garrison if Ulster was to be subdued. Perrott's proposals went unheeded, however, and it was not until 1600 when it was captured by Dowcra's forces, under the command of Niall garbh O'Donnell that it fell into English hands. By 1600 there was evidently some form of settlement in the vicinity of the fort. A contemporary account describes it as : "some eighty houses set in a plain green upon the river side and encompassed by an old ditch" (CSPI 1600-1, 93). Evidently the settlement was substantial enough by 1603 for Sir Henry Dowcra, governor of Lough Foyle, to be granted the right to hold a market there. Shortly after the flight of the earls Lifford was earmarked for plantation and on 27 october 1611 the village of Liffer with the fort, "commonly called captain Brooke's Fort" and about 500 acres of land were granted to Sir Richard Hansard for 21 years. He received the grant on condition that within five years he should allot portions of land to 60 inhabitants for the erection of houses with gardens and 200 acres for a common (Ir Rec Comm 1830, 182). The fort was excluded from a new grant of 31 jan 1612, when Hansard was given licence to hold a Monday market and two annual fairs, while the number of colonists he was to settle was halved to "30 persons, English or Scots, chiefly tradesmen to be the burgesses" (ibid. 206-7). Lewis (1837, ii, 260) adds that in addition he was to set aside 100 acres for the keep of 50 horses, should His Majesty think proper to assign a garrison to the town. Hansard evidently invested a sizeable amount of

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his personal income in the town. By 1611 he had built some twentyone half-timbered houses and thirtyseven cottages of one hearth each were constructed about the same time (Rowan 1979, 347). In the same year, 1611, Pynnar described Lifford as having : "a good and strong fort built of lime and stone, with bulwarks, a parapet, and a large ditch of good depth cast above it on the river side, with a storehouse for victuals and munition, a gatehouse and a drawbridge.....There is another small fort in the town rampiered and ditched, about which are certain houses built of good timber after the English manor, which serve for the use of a gaoler and to keep prisoner...Upon view of the town we found it well furnished with inhabitants of English, Scottish, and Irish, who live by several trades" (quoted in Butlin 1977, 89).' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 50-2). Nothing remains of the "good strong fort of lime and stone" mentioned in 1611. A plan of "the king's fort at Lifford", prepared about this time is in the library of Trinity College Dublin (Ms. 1209 (30)). The 1611 account, quoted above, mentions a second fort in the town but is whereabouts remains unclear' (Bradley & Dunne 1989, 55).

**DG071-008007:** Clonleigh Parish Church (DG071-008001-): Erected under the will of Sir Richard Hansard and the foundations laid by 1622, the present church is of late 18th century appearance (Rowan 1979, 348). In the S wall is a segment-headed recess containing two kneeling figures in Jacobean attire facing each other across a draped predieu — part of the monument of Sir Richard Hansard Kt. and Dame Anne, his wife (for whom see Loeber 1977-80, 238-9). The tablet bears the following inscription: ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF SR RICHARD HANSARD/KNIGHT BORNE AT BISKERTHORPE IN THE COVNTY OF LINCOLNE IN/ENGLAND WHO DYED THE 5 OF OCTOBER 1619 AND OF DAME ANNE HIS WIFE/DAUGHTER TO SR EDWARD MARBVRY OF GEISBY IN, THE SAID COVNTY KNIGHT/WHO DYED THE 3 DAY OF OCTOBER 1619 SR RICHARD HANSARD AFTER HE HAD/OF ART IN CAMBRIDGE TOOKE VPON HIM THE PREFESSION OF A SOLIDER IN THE PRIME OF/LIFE HE HAD DIVERS SINDRY HONORABLE PLACES OF COMAND IN THE WARES HE/WAS MAD GOVERNOR OF LIFFORD AND THE PARTS ADIOYNING WHER HE DID MANY GOOD/SERVES IN THE TIME OF TYRONES REBELION AND LAST OF AL IN SR CAHIR O DOHERLES REBELIONIKING JAMES THE FIRST GAVE HIM THIS TOWNE OF LIFORD AND FOWER QUARTERS OF CROHAN TO/PLANT A CORPORACON THERE WHICH HE EFECTED AT HIS DEATH HE DISPOSED BY WIL OF THESE LANDS AND OTHERS TO DIVERS OF HIS NAME NOT NEARE OF KINDRED TO HIM BVT FOR WANT/OF A FEOFTMIENT TO ENABLE HIM TO DISPOSE OF HIS LANDS BY WIL BY LAWE ITFEL A[L]/TO HIS YONGER BROTHER WILLIAM HANSARD OF BISKERTHORPE IN LINCOLNSHIRE ESQVIRE/HE ORDAINED BY HIS WILL SR IOHN VAVHAN KNIGHT SR GEORGE MERBVRY KNIGHT AND/THOMAS PERKINS ESQUIRE THEN LIFTENNANT TO HIS COMPANY HIS EXECITORS/AND DIRECTED THEM TO BVILD THIS CHVRCH THE SCHOOLE AND SCHOOLE HOUSE IN/THIS TOWNE AS NOW THEY ARE DONE AND LIKewise GAVE 86L P ANNVM IN PPETVITY/OUT OF HIS LANDES (VIDELICET TO THE WARDEN OF LIFFORD XXL TO THE RECORDER THERE/OF XL TO THE 2 SERGEANTS 6L TO THE SCHOOLE MAISTER XXXL AND TO THE USHER XXL P ANNUM/AND FOR THAT BY LAWE THIS LAND FELL TO HIS YONGER BROTHER WHEERBY THESE PIOVS/INTENTIONS WEER LIKE TO BE FRVSTRATED THEREFORE THE 3 SORNAMED EXECVTORS DID/PVRCHASE OF HIS SAID BROTHER THE WHOLE LANDES FOR ONE THOUSAND AND 5 HUNDRED/POUNDS AND SO HAVE FINISHED THE SAID WORKES AND PPETVALL DONATION ACCORDING/TO THE WILL AND INTENT OF THE SAID SR RICHARD.

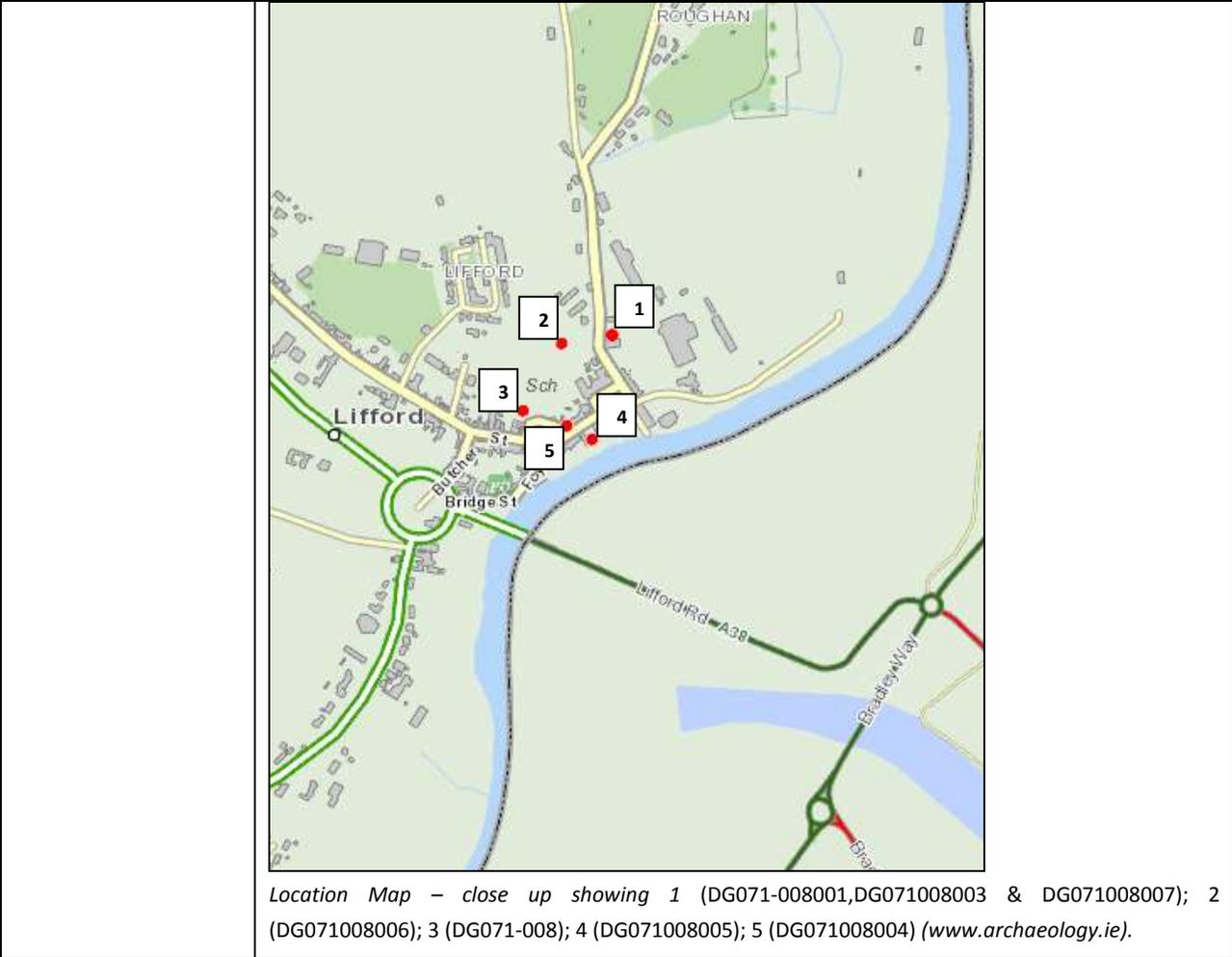
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| <b>Landscape Context (setting)</b> | Set within Lifford town to the west of the River Foyle  |
| <b>Site Appraisal</b>              | The sites are very accessible within the town of Lifford and together constitute an interesting package of sites as a visitor experience.                         |
| <b>Sensitivity</b>                 | Archaeological sites are always sensitive to human interference, especially in an urban setting such as this.   |
| <b>Associations</b>                | These sites are all associated. See also NIAH40800801.  |
| <b>Recommendations</b>             |   |
| <b>Mapping</b>                     |  <p data-bbox="500 1801 857 1835"><i>Location Map (www.archaeology.ie)</i></p> |

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*Location Map – close up ([www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))*

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1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map c. 1830 ([www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie))

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|                                |  <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map c. 1905 (www.osi.ie)</i></p> |
| <p><b>References</b></p>       | <p>Lacey, B. (1983) Archaeological Survey of County Donegal.</p> <p>NIAH Survey 1996</p>   |
| <p><b>Plates</b></p>           |  |
| <p><b>Additional Notes</b></p> |  |

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