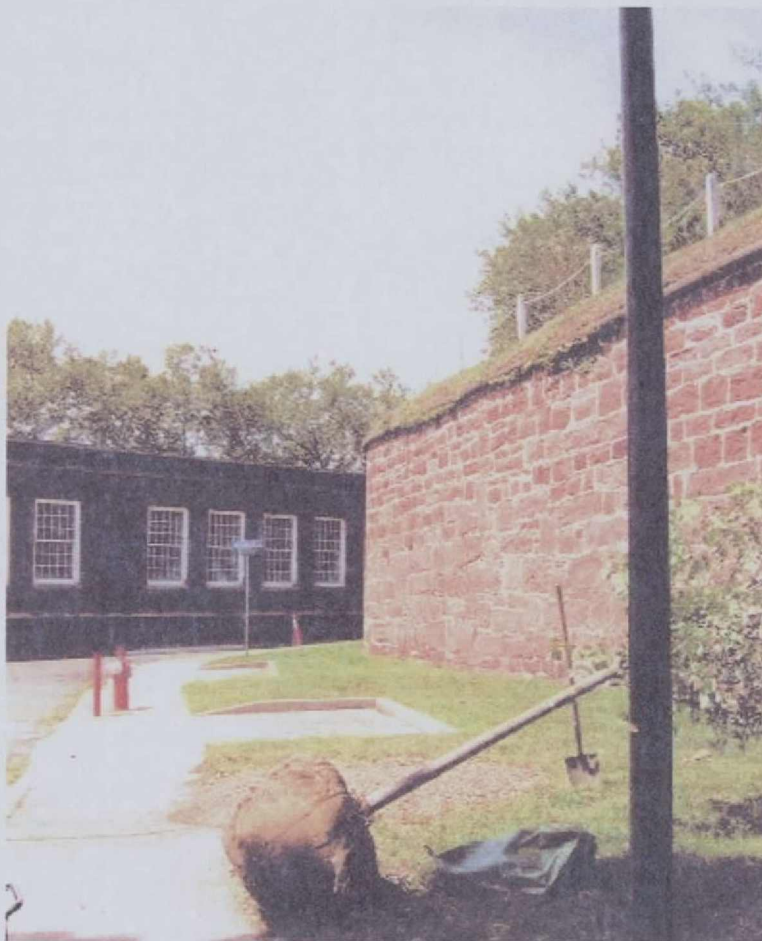


25247m

Stone
2008

REPORT ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING
FOR TWO TREE REPLACEMENTS
ON GOVERNORS ISLAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



Behind Building 298 at Tree 134, facing west.

Prepared for: Almstead Tree & Shrub Care
Company
58 Beechwood Avenue
New Rochelle, New York 10801

Submitted by: Linda Stone, MA, RPA
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017

September 8, 2008

1114

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report on archaeological shovel testing at the locations of two tree replacements on Governors Island, New York City. Tree #812 is within the former Parade Ground, a location previously determined sensitive for the preservation of possible Native American archaeological resources. Tree #134 is within the area considered sensitive as the former location of the chapel and surgeon's house. Both are within the boundaries of both the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District (outside of the National Monument) and the New York City Landmark District.

This report is being prepared to comply with environmental review regulations and meets the standards of both the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC).

The shovel tests did not identify any Native American cultural material, nor were remains of the former chapel or surgeon's house identified. No further archaeological work is recommended for these tree locations. However, it is recommended the tree locations for this project be recorded in the GIPEC Governors Island GIS database.

SHPO MANAGEMENT SUMMARY FORM

SHPO Project Review Number (if available):

Involved State and Federal Agencies (DEC, CORPS, FHWA, etc): GIPEC

Phase of Survey: 1B

Location Information

Location: Governors Island, New York City
Minor Civil Division: n/a
County: New York

Survey Area (Metric & English) - Two shovel tests
Length: n/a
Width: 1.5 feet (46 cm) diameter
Depth: (when appropriate): 2.2 feet (66 cm) average
Number of Acres Surveyed: n/a
Number of Square Meters & Feet Excavated (Phase II, Phase III only): n/a
Percentage of the Site Excavated (Phase II, Phase III only): n/a

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map: Jersey City, NJ - NY

Archaeological Survey Overview

Number & Interval of Shovel Tests: 2 (1 per tree replacement location)
Number & Size of Units: n/a
Width of Plowed Strips: n/a
Surface Survey Transect Interval: n/a

Results of Archaeological Survey

Number & name of prehistoric sites identified: n/a
Number & name of historic sites identified: n/a
Number & name of sites recommended for Phase II/Avoidance: n/a

Results of Architectural Survey

Number of buildings/structures/cemeteries within project area: n/a
Number of buildings/structures/cemeteries adjacent to project area: n/a
Number of previously determined NR listed or eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: n/a
Number of identified eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: n/a

Report Author(s): Linda Stone, RPA

Date of Report: September 8, 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	
SHPO Management Summary Form	
List of Figures and Photographs	ii
INTRODUCTION.....	1
SITE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	2
Pre-Contact Period.....	2
Historic Period.....	2
METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS	3
Tree 134	3
Tree 812	3
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	4
FIGURES	after 4
BIBLIOGRAPHY	5

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Archaeological Work Plan
Appendix B – Shovel Test Stratigraphy
Appendix C – Artifact Inventory

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Locations of the tree replacements on Governors Island.
- Figure 2 Location of Tree 134 shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.
- Figure 3 Location of Tree 812 shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- Cover Behind Building 298 at Tree 134, facing west.

INTRODUCTION

The Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) was planning to replace two trees in the Governors Island Historic District, New York City (see Figure 1 and Appendix A: Figures 1 and 2). One of these locations (Tree #812) is on the edge of the former Parade Ground. The other (Tree #134) is in the area of the former chapel and surgeon's house, as mapped in the Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment (PAL 1996: Figure 4.1 and reproduced in Appendix A). This tree is located directly behind Building #298, the South Battery.

GIPEC, the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) had previously indicated archaeological testing of the new tree locations would be appropriate for this project. Appendix A is the approved archaeological work plan for this project.

This report presents the findings of the archaeological work conducted for the tree replacements. The work has been done in accordance with the guidelines of both the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. This report was prepared by Linda Stone, RPA for Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Company. The archaeological fieldwork described in this report was conducted by Ms. Stone on July 10, 2008. The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Justin Rawson of Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Company and Claire Kelly of GIPEC for facilitating the archaeological component of this project.

SITE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Pre-Contact Period

Previous testing at various locations on Governors Island has unearthed Pre-Contact period archaeological resources from disturbed contexts (PAL 1997: 63-64; Stone 2006: 4-5; 2008: 7). "No intact Native American features or soil anomalies were identified" (PAL 1997: 63-64). However, there are three documented Native American sites on Governors Island and Native American cultural material has been found on the Island in many other redeposited contexts as well (PAL 1996: 11; Stone 2006: 10; UMass 2003: 110-111).

Historic Period

The Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment of Governors Island indicates the area of the South Battery (Building #298) may contain the archaeological remains of the chapel and surgeon's house which formerly stood there (PAL 1996: 18). Potential archaeological resources may include structural remains or other deposits associated these buildings.

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The scope of work for this project is attached as Appendix A. The shovel testing methodology used was standard stratigraphic excavation to a minimum depth of two feet (61 cm), the maximum depth needed to plant the new trees (see Appendix B for the shovel test stratigraphy). All excavations were preceded by detection for unexploded ordinance (UXO) hazards. UXO testing was conducted over a circular area around the existing trees being replaced to choose multiple safe locations for the new plantings. Alternate locations were considered in case potentially significant archaeological resources were identified and avoidance necessary. The contractor and UXO subcontractor marked the cleared locations prior to archaeological shovel testing.

All recovered artifacts were washed and rinsed in tap water and left to air dry before labeling and rebagging in clean 4-mil perforated zip-lock bags. Ceramic and glass artifacts were individually labeled with the site abbreviation "GI" and project identifier "TR" and the context number (tree number with a decimal subdivision representing stratum). All zip bags were labeled with the same information. Bags containing glass were not perforated. The artifact inventory is attached as Appendix C. Some of the artifacts known in the field to be non-diagnostic modern materials or found in the turf were noted in the field and generally either sampled or not retained. These are all noted in Appendix C as "not retained from field." All ceramic and glass artifacts are considered sherds, unless otherwise noted in the inventory. Governors Island is the current repository for all artifacts recovered during the conduct of work described in this report. Artifacts will be transferred there from the archaeological consultant upon acceptance of this report by the review agencies.

Tree 134

Tree 134 was located on the south side of Building #298, the South Battery (see Figure 2). The hole for the new tree was located approximately three feet from the original. The location of the former tree in relation to the new planting can be seen on the report cover. The shovel represents the location of the new tree and the wood chips represent the removed tree. The new tree location is 12 feet (3.7 m) north of Comfort Road and nine feet (2.7 m) south of the Building #298 retaining wall. The shovel test for Tree 134 was excavated in four strata. The upper stratum was turf and loam. It was underlain by very dark grayish brown dry compact sandy silt. Beneath that, a mottled transition stratum was separately excavated and screened. The basal stratum was yellowish brown compact fine sandy silt. Two bottle glass sherds were retained from Stratum 2 and one from Stratum 3. However coal, slag, corroded nails and shell fragments were also noted in the field, but not retained. A beginning manufacture date for one of the glass sherds was established as 1867, although this type of glass is still manufactured today (Jones & Sullivan 1989: 49). No evidence of building foundations or related features was encountered.

Tree 812

Tree 812 was located at the western edge of the Fort Jay Parade Ground, across the street from Building #406, on the east side of Comfort Road (see Figure 3). The hole for the new tree was located approximately six feet from the original. The new tree location is 10 feet (3.0 m) east of the street light and thirty feet (9.1 m) south of the existing adjacent tree. The shovel test for Tree 812 was excavated in three strata. The upper stratum was turf and topsoil. It was underlain by dark yellowish brown silty sand. The basal stratum was also dark yellowish brown silty sand, but was noted as being sandier than Stratum 2. Although no artifacts were retained from the Tree 812 excavation; coal, slag, plastic, shell and brick fragments were noted in the field and not retained. No diagnostic artifacts were present. No Native American artifacts were present.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Two shovel tests were excavated in advance of tree replacements at on Governors Island. One was south of Building #298 and the other was on the western side of the former Parade Ground. No Native American artifacts were recovered. No archaeological features were identified.

Stratigraphy within the two tests was somewhat different. The Tree 812 location was typical of the soil profiles identified in other testing episodes on Governors Island (PAL 1997; Stone 2006, 2007, 2008). However Tree 134 was not. The soil in this test was drier and more compacted and the basal stratum was a lighter color. This localized anomaly could be due to a variety reasons. Possibly, there was more fill here and/or the fill itself was derived from a different source. The results of the current work do not lend themselves to an obvious interpretation. In any case, no potentially significant archaeological resources were present at either of these locations and no further archaeological fieldwork is recommended. Should additional locations be needed for tree plantings, they should be evaluated for their archaeological potential. It is also recommended the tree locations for this project are recorded in the GIPEC Governors Island GIS database.

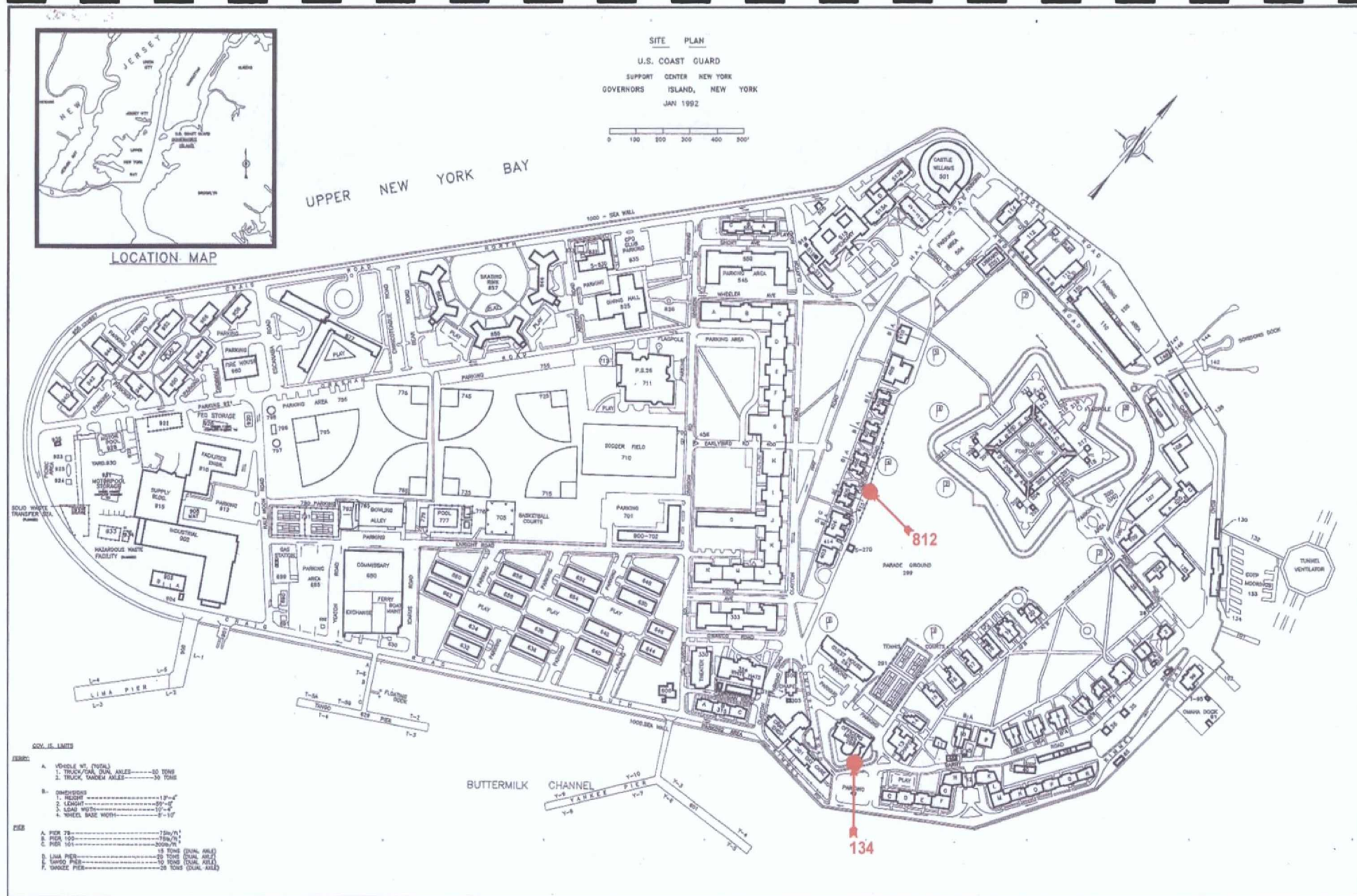


Figure 1 Locations of the tree replacements on Governors Island.

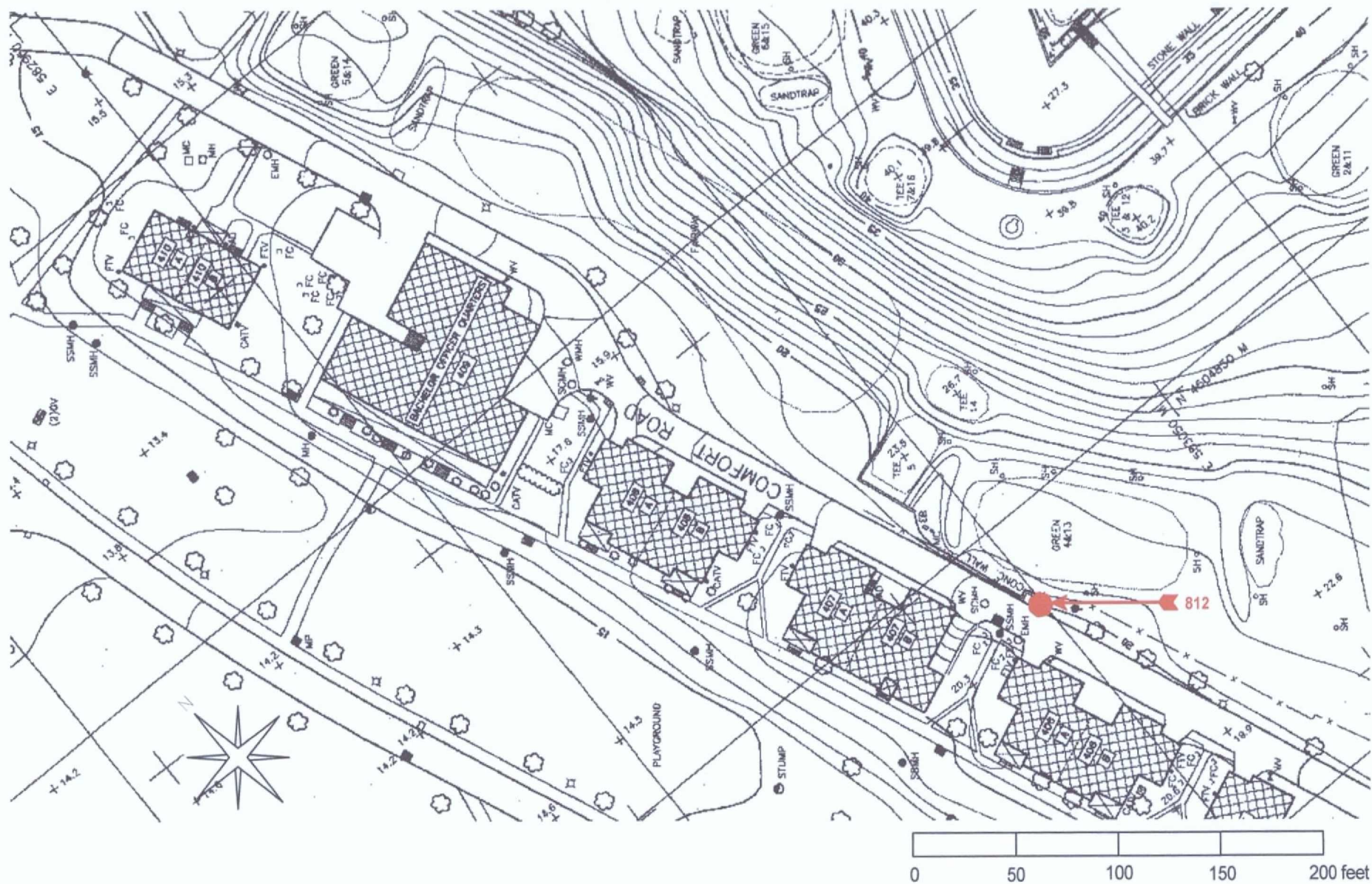


Figure 3 Location of Tree 812 shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jones, Olive and Catherine Sullivan

- 1989 *The Parks Canada Glass Glossary for Description of Containers, Tableware, Flat Glass, and Closures. Studies in Archaeology, Architecture, and History.* Ottawa: National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Environment Canada.

Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

- 1996 Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment of the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District, Governors Island, New York. Submitted to ABB Environmental Services, Inc. Revised August 1996. PAL Report No. 751.
- 1997 Technical Report. Phase 1B Archaeological Survey of the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District, Governors Island, New York. Submitted to HRP Assoc., Inc. and USCT/CEU Providence. Revised October 16, 1997. PAL, Inc. Report No. 851.

Stone, Linda

- 2006 Report on pre-Construction Archaeological Testing and Construction Monitoring for New Sewers in and Around Buildings 107, 108, 125 and 135 on Governors Island, New York, New York. Prepared for Bedford Construction Corp. August 7, 2006.
- 2007 Report on Archaeological Testing and Monitoring for Eight Tree Replacements on Governors Island, New York, New York. Prepared for Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Company. July 30, 2007.
- 2008 Report on Archaeological Testing and Monitoring for Sign Post Hole Excavations on Governors Island New York, New York. Prepared for Turner Construction Corporation. August 6, 2008.

University Of Massachusetts, Archaeological Services

- 2003 Archaeological Overview an Assessment of Governors Island national Monument New York, New York. Presented to: William Griswold, National Park Service. UM-410.

APPENDIX A

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK PLAN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK PLAN FOR
EXCAVATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH
TREE REPLACEMENT
ON GOVERNORS ISLAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

February 26, 2008

GIPEC is planning to replace two trees (#s 134 & 812) on Governors Island in New York City (see Figures 1 and 2). The work is being conducted by Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Company and will be conducted in a similar way as the tree replacements conducted last year (Stone 2007). The location of the planned work will be within the boundaries of both the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District (outside of the National Monument) and the New York City Landmark District. As such, this archaeological work is subject to review and approval by both the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). The archaeological standards and requirements of both agencies will apply.

The Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study (PAL 1996: 29) contains a map showing areas of sensitivity (see Figure 3). Tree #812 is within the former Parade Ground, a location mapped as sensitive for the preservation of possible Native American archaeological resources. Tree #134 is within the area considered sensitive as the former location of the chapel and surgeon's house.

As was the case last year, tree replacement is a two step process. First the existing tree is removed by cutting and grinding the stump. Once completed, a new hole for a new planting will be done. The planting holes will be a maximum of four feet in diameter and up to two and a half feet deep. They will be located within four meters (13.2 feet) of the original tree. The holes will be hand excavated by the tree contractor to obtain the depth and width required for the new trees.

This is a plan to identify potential archaeological resources within these two locations prior to planting. The plan involves systematic archaeological shovel testing to determine if any archaeological resources are present in these two archaeologically sensitive locations. However, should the testing identify potentially significant archaeological resources, the project may require redesign to preserve the resource(s) and/or additional archaeological work may be required.

Archaeological shovel testing will be done within the footprint of both planned new tree planting locations. Each test will be about one and a half feet in diameter. Each will be excavated to the depth of non-artifact bearing subsoil or two and a half feet (the maximum tree planting depth), whichever is shallowest. The presence or absence of archaeological remains will be determined and nature of the soils will be evaluated. Previous archaeological testing on Governors Island encountered natural subsoil at a depth of less than three feet below ground surface (PAL 1997:61; Stone 2006:4-5). All soils excavated from the shovel tests will be screened through 1/4 inch mesh for the recovery of artifacts. Soils; stratigraphy and artifact inclusions will be recorded on forms. Shovel test

locations will be mapped on the site plan. Photodocumentation and drawings will be done as appropriate.

Should an archaeological feature be encountered, GIPEC will be notified of the find. It will remain *in situ* and an alternate location for the new tree will be identified. Any changes to the tree replacement plans will also be archaeologically evaluated. If the feature is present throughout the 4 meter radius, GIPEC will initiate consultation with the review agencies on how to proceed with the project and determine if the feature should be partially excavated or if the tree location radius increased. In either case, any exposed portion of the feature would be measured, drawn, photographed and otherwise archaeologically documented. Should no intact archaeological deposits be found or should cultural materials be found in previously disturbed contexts, no additional archaeological work will be done in those locations.

Almstead Tree and Shrub Care Company, or their surrogate, will be responsible for any necessary testing for unexploded ordinance. They will also be responsible for marking the locations of the new trees on the ground prior to archaeological field testing. This plan assumes weather conditions for fieldwork will be favourable (i.e. no snow, rain or frozen ground). If artifacts are recovered, standard methods of artifact processing, labelling, identification, evaluation and documentation will be done on the recovered materials. Upon completion of all archaeological work specified in this plan, the archaeologist will provide a written report detailing the results of the field testing and monitoring to GIPEC for submission to SHPO and LPC.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

1996 Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment of the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District, Governors Island, New York. Prepared for U.S. Coast Guard. Submitted to ABB Environmental Services, Inc. Revised August 1996. PAL Report No. 751.

1997 Technical Report. Phase 1B Archaeological Survey of the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District, Governors Island, New York. Submitted to HRP Assoc., Inc. and USCT/CEU Providence. Revised October 16, 1997. PAL, Inc. Report No. 851.

Stone, Linda

2006 Report on Pre-Construction Archaeological Testing and Construction Monitoring for New Sewers In and Around Buildings 107, 108, 125 and 135 on Governors Island, New York, New York. Prepared For Bedford Construction. August 7, 2006.

2007 Report on Archaeological Testing and Monitoring for Eight Tree Replacements on Governors Island, New York, New York. Prepared for Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Company. July 30, 2007.

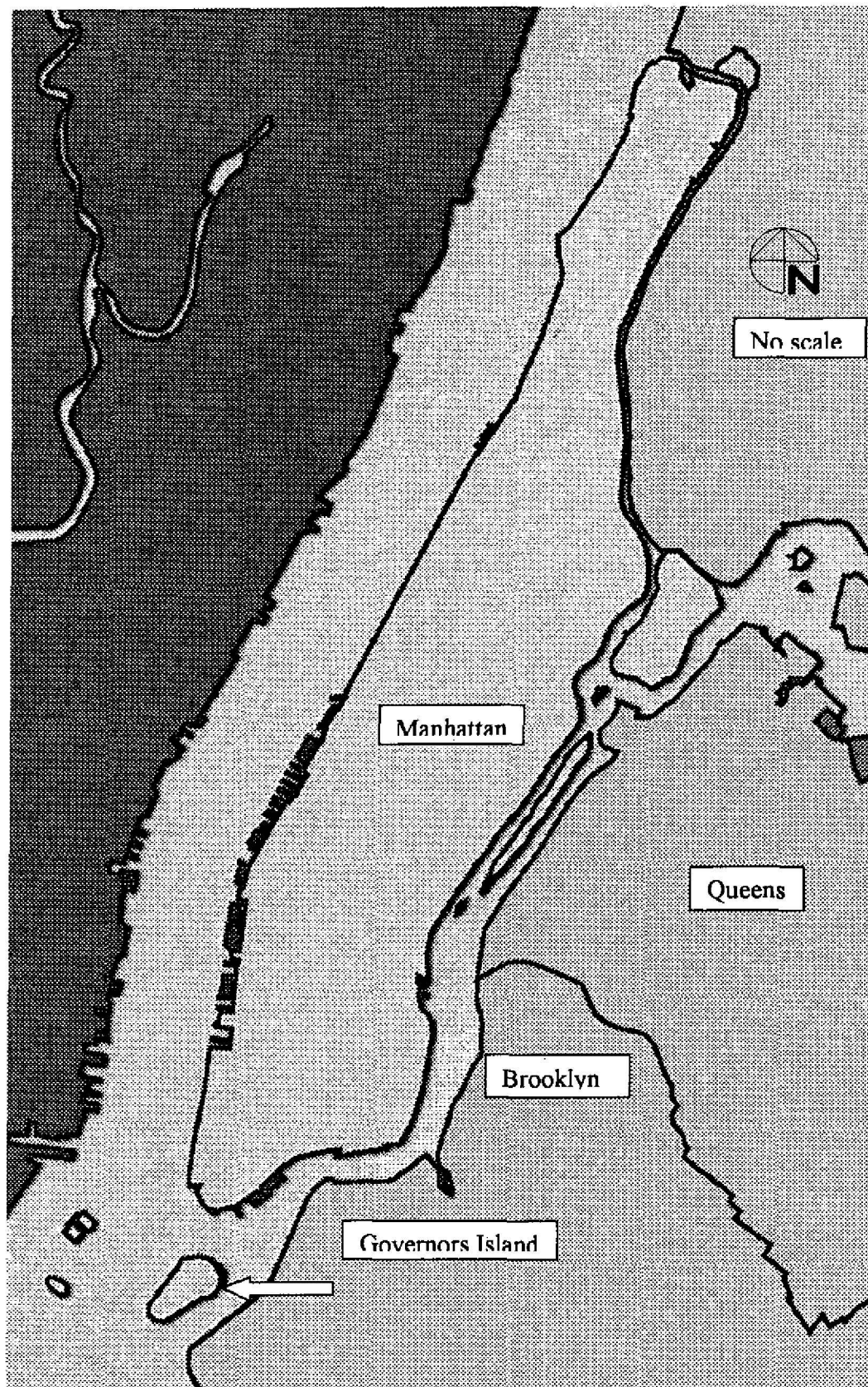


Figure 1 Location of Governors Island in New York City.

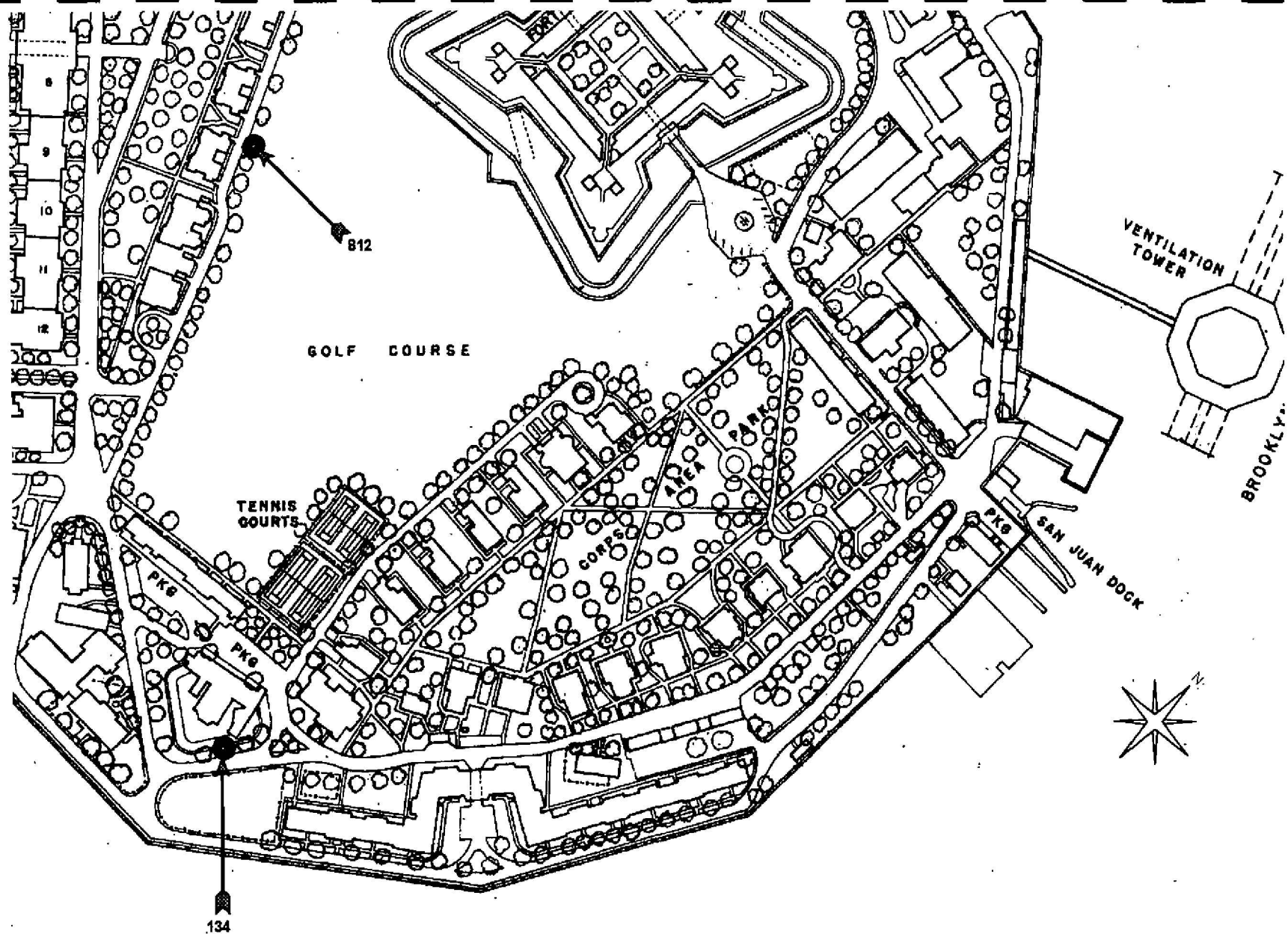


Figure 2 Part of the 1954 Tree Map of Governors Island showing the locations of two tree replacements.

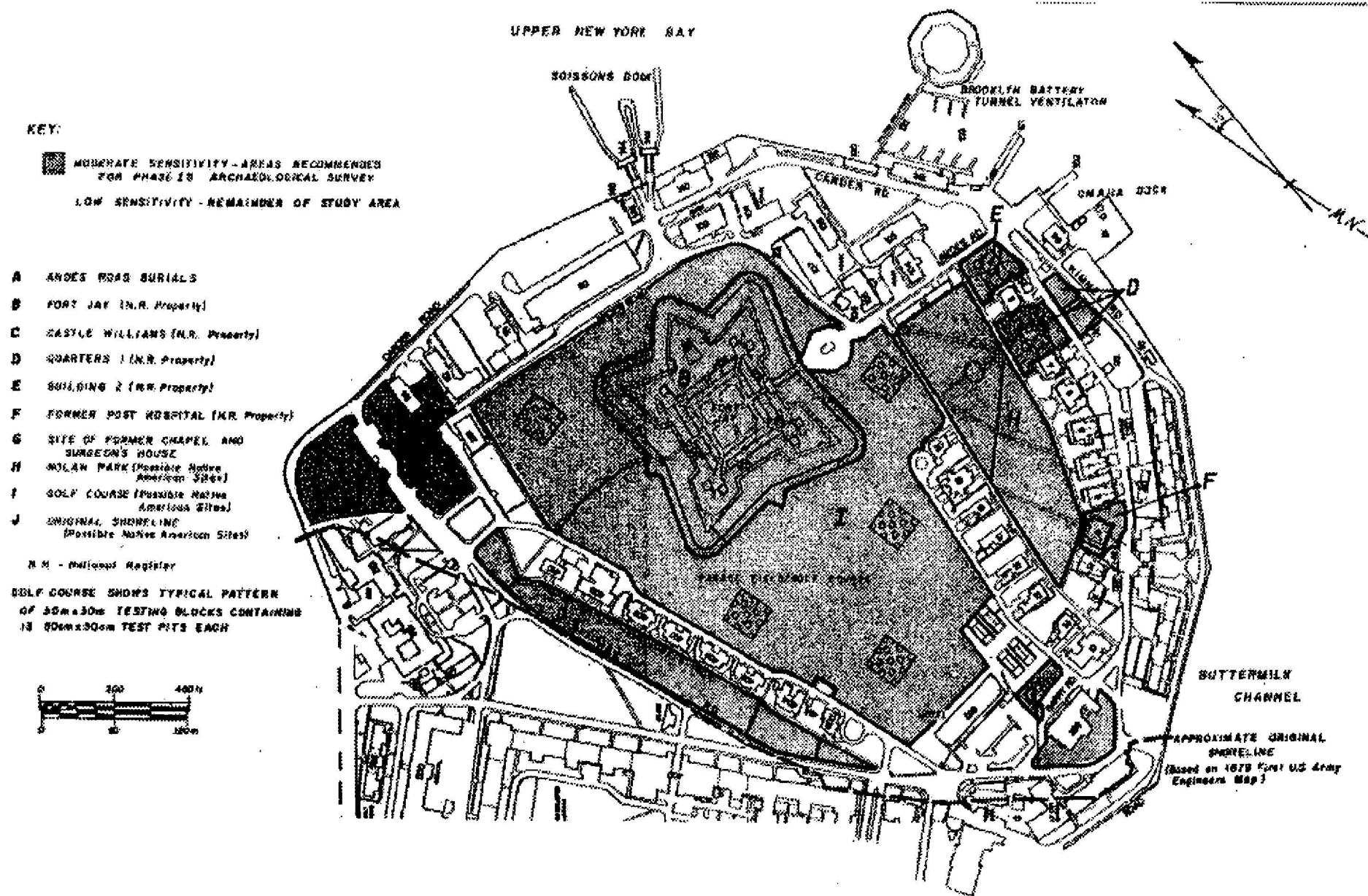


Figure 3 PAL 1996 Figure 4.1 showing the areas of archaeological sensitivity on Governors Island.

APPENDIX B

SHOVEL TEST STRATIGRAPHY

Governors Island Tree Replacement Project Stratigraphy

Tree Stratum	Depth	Munsell	Color	Texture	Comment
134 . 1	0.5	10YR 3/3	dark brown	turf and sandy loam	large roots extended to Stratum 2
134 . 2	1.0	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown	dry compact sandy silt	
134 . 3	1.2		mottled transition	compact andy silt	
134 . 4	2.0	10YR 5/4	yellowish brown	fine compact sandy silt	ncm
<hr/>					
812 . 1	0.4	10YR 3/3	dark brown	turf and loamy topsoil	
812 . 2	1.4	10YR 4/4	dark yellowish brown	silty sand	lots of small roots
812 . 3	2.3	10YR 4/4	brown	silty sand	sandier than Stratum 2, roots peter out

APPENDIX C

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

GovernorIsland Tree Replacement Project Artifact Inventory

Page 1 of 1

Context	Material	Identity	Form	Color	Count	Description	Date Range
134 . 1	Coal				1	not retained from field	
	Glass		curved	clear	1	not retained from field	
	Shell				3	not retained from field	
134 . 2	Coal				>5	not retained from field	
	Glass		bottle body	pale aqua	1	molded; embossed partial lettering	1867 - present
	Glass		curved	clear	1	possible bottle neck	
	Metal		nail		3	badly corroded	
	Shell				1	not retained from field	
	Slag				2	not retained from field	
134 . 3	Glass		curved	clear	1	possible bottle neck	

Artifacts Retained From Tree 134 (10 records) 3

812 . 1	Glass	curved		amber	4	not retained from field	
812 . 2	Brick			fragments	2	not retained from field	
	Coal				4	not retained from field	
	Plastic			pipe insulation	1	not retained from field	
	Slag				1	not retained from field	
812 . 3	Coal				2	not retained from field	
	Shell				1	not retained from field	

Artifacts Retained From Tree 812 (7 records) 0

Total Artifact Retained = 3