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REPORT ON
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
ASSOCIATED WITH THE
DEMOLITION OF BUILDING #293
ON GOVERNORS ISLAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Block 1

Lot 10



Building #293 from the corner of Barry and Comfort Roads facing north.

Prepared for: Nacerima Environmental Services
Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 183
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

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

November 17, 2008

1124

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a report on archaeological monitoring of the work done in association with the demolition of Building #293 on Governors Island, New York City. The location of this work was primarily within the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District and the New York City Landmark District, although a small part of it was also within the Governors Island National Historic Monument. 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 work was conducted for the Nacirema Environmental Services Company, Inc. by Linda Stone, RPA.

In addition to the actual building demolition, the Building #293 parking lot and the adjacent tennis courts were to be removed and four of the nearby golf course holes leveled and the tee box removed as part of the plan. The entire area would then be re-graded.

Building #293 was built in 1986 as a motel and guesthouse. It replaced the Quartermaster Corps Quarters that was constructed c. 1871-72. Part of the project area is within the footprint of the former Fort Columbus Cemetery. In addition to the cemetery, other potential archaeological findings included prehistoric resources, a former chapel and two complexes of small nineteenth-century former buildings. These include a paint shop, carpenters' shop, bandmasters' quarters, sutlers' stores and laundress' quarters. Previous fieldwork in the vicinity uncovered an undated brick feature and a footing for an historic post, possibly a former gun battery.

None of these potential archaeological resources were exposed during monitoring. However, two discrete concentrations of building demolition debris were found, as was part of a brick foundation. Research and analysis did not reveal any specific association for the demolition debris. The brick foundation is most likely the remains of the structure which Building #293 replaced, built c. 1871-72.

It was recommended the locations of the work and the foundation be recorded in the Governors Island GIS database. Should additional ground disturbing actions be planned at or near the foundation site or the locations of the demolition debris, those should be investigated archaeologically to determine the extent and significance of these finds.

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 – Building #293 and vicinity

Minor Civil Division: n/a

County: New York

Survey Area (Metric & English) - Monitoring of building and pavement removal and grading

Length: approximately 480 feet (146 m)

Width: approximately 450 feet (137 m)

Depth: (when appropriate): up to approximately 2 feet (61 cm)

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: n/a

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: 1 – partial brick foundation

Number & name of sites recommended for Phase II/Avoidance: 1 – partial brick foundation

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: November 17, 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) has begun implementing the plan to demolish some of the non-historic structures on Governors Island. Building #293, its parking lot and the adjacent tennis courts were to be removed and four of the nearby golf course holes leveled and the tee box removed as part of the plan. The entire area would then be re-graded. Most of this work is within the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District and the New York City Landmark District with the northernmost of the golf course holes also within the Governors Island National Historic Monument. See Figure 1 for the location within the Island and Figure 2 for the 1994 topographic survey showing the project area limits.

The below ground work for this project involved the following:

- Removal of Building #293 and its basement.

- Filling the hole left by the building removal and adding soil to the north to bring it up to grade.

- Exposing Building #293 utility connections and capping them at the curb.

- Removal of the tennis court and adding soil to re-establish current grade.

- Removal of the parking lot and adding soil to re-establish current grade.

- Removal and re-grading of four golf holes, one located directly north of Building #293, one north of the tennis court, one approximately 300 feet to the north of Building #293 and the other to the east of Fort Jay.

- Removal of the tee box located north of Building #293, reducing the grade by less than one foot.

- Removal of the hedges and retaining wall behind Building # 293 and re-grading by adding soil.

- Re-grading the area between the tee box and tennis courts removing approximately 1 foot of soil.

An Archaeological Work Plan to monitor the contractor's excavations was prepared and approved by both the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) (see Appendix A). This report presents the findings of archaeological monitoring conducted for the Building #293 demolition and related removals and excavation. 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 Nacirema Environmental Services Company, Inc. The archaeological fieldwork described in this report was conducted by Ms. Stone from June 11 through July 21, 2008. The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Gina Casalinova and David Opferkuch of Turner Construction Corporation, Robert Peña and Mike Hamilton of Nacirema Environmental Services Company, Inc. and Claire Kelly of GIPEC for facilitating the archaeological component of this project.

SITE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Pre-Contact Period

The Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment of Governors Island indicates the areas to the north of Building #293 and the golf course are sensitive for the preservation of "possible Native American sites" (Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. 1997:67) cultural material has also been found on the Island in many other redeposited contexts (PAL 1996: 11; Stone 2006: 10; Stone 2008c: 7; UMass 2003: 110-111).

Historic Period

Building #293 was built in 1986 as a motel and guesthouse. It replaced the Quartermaster Corps Quarters that was constructed c. 1871-72 (JCA 2003). Prior to the construction of Building #293, Louis Berger and Associates (LBA) researched and tested the area. They were particularly concerned about the former cemetery located in the vicinity (see Appendix A). The Fort Columbus Cemetery was active from 1798 to 1878. LBA found documentation the graves had been moved and no physical evidence of the cemetery was identified during testing (LBA 1986: 3-5 – 3-6). However, due to the sensitive nature of human remains, archaeological monitoring of the Building #293 demolition work in the footprint of the Fort Columbus Cemetery was recommended.

In addition to the cemetery, other potential archaeological resources included a chapel and buildings labeled Paint Shop, Carpenters' Shop, Bandmasters' Quarters, Sutlers' Stores and Laundress' Quarters on the 1867 Barnard Map (see Appendix A: Figure 3). The chapel was built in 1847 and was replaced by a nearby new construction in 1905, now located outside of the current project area.

The southern two golf course holes affected by the work were also the subject of an earlier archaeological investigation (Stone 2007). This work documented that disturbances related to reconstruction of the golf course in 2006 reached depths of approximately 1.5 feet (46 cm) below ground surface for the hole directly behind Building #293 and up to 3.5 feet (107 cm) for the hole north of the tennis court. In addition, an undated brick feature was identified in the green of the hole near Building #293 buried only 0.8 feet (24 cm) deep. This location was recommended for avoidance.

Earlier archaeological testing was also conducted in the area between the two golf holes. PAL excavated a grid of 13 test pits and a trench. The PAL trench "exposed the footing for an historic post and associated fill lenses capping undisturbed dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) subsoil at circa 80 cmbs" (PAL 1997:31). It was hypothesized the footing could relate to former gun batteries. No excavations were conducted in this area for the re-grading project.

While the proposed demolition and re-grading project is within the footprint of the former Fort Columbus Cemetery, the former chapel/surgeon's house, two complexes of small nineteenth-century former buildings to the northwest of Building #293 (one to the north of the fence line depicted on the 1867 Barnard Map and the other to the south), batteries, an undated brick historic feature and Native American resources, none of the impacts from the demolition and re-grading would theoretically be deep enough to disturb any of those possible resources, should they exist.

METHODOLOGY

For purposes of establishing provenience, each grading area was numbered (see Figure 3). Grading Areas (GAs) 1 – 6 were assigned to locations directly behind (north of) Building #293. GA 7 is located north of the tennis court. GA 8 is the golf hole east of Fort Jay (not depicted on Figure 3, see Figure 2). GA 9 is the golf hole located in the Parade Ground north of Building #293. Proveniences established for the tennis court removal were abbreviated TC and for the parking lot removal, the abbreviation PL was used. All recovered artifacts were assigned a provenience number that was comprised of the two letter abbreviation followed by a number. The numbers used for GAs relate to the location as mapped. The numbers used for TC and PL artifacts were also assigned based on location (see Results and Appendix C).

Grading was done with a backhoe using a four-foot (122 cm) wide bucket. Once soil was removed with the backhoe, the area was smoothed either with the flat side of the backhoe bucket or with the bucket of a front-end loader, filling in depressions and the golf course sand traps (see Photos 1 & 2). Standard archaeological monitoring protocol was established giving the archaeologist authority to temporarily stop the excavation to examine and document any potentially significant archaeological resources. Elevations were recorded as depth below ground surface (bgs). Stratigraphy was recorded using comparison to the Munsell Soil Color Charts. Photo documentation was done as appropriate.

The 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 "293" and the context number. All zip bags were labeled with the same information along with the excavation date. Bags containing glass were not perforated. All ceramic and glass artifacts are considered sherds, unless otherwise noted in the inventory. Some of the artifacts known in the field to be non-diagnostic or modern materials were noted in the field and not retained. In such cases, these artifacts are discussed in Results. 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.

RESULTS

A total of nine grading areas were monitored, as was the removal of both the tennis courts and the parking lot (see Figure 3). The amount of soil requiring removal for grading was approximately 1 foot (30 cm). Grading was completed prior to the demolition of Building #293. Removals were done after the demolition. The demolition of the Building #293 footings was not part of the monitoring effort, however the removal left exposed a small a 2.6 feet (79 cm) deep section of stratigraphy which was documented. Very dark grayish brown loamy silt extended to a depth of 0.7 feet (21 cm) below ground surface (Munsell 10 YR 3/2). Very dark grayish brown silt containing some brick fragments was observed to a depth of 1 foot (30 cm) (Munsell 10 YR 3/2). The basal stratum was dark yellowish brown fine sandy silt (Munsell 10 YR 4/6). Similar stratigraphy has been previously documented elsewhere on Governors Island (PAL 1997; Stone 2008c). The following is a discussion of the work at each location, including the stratigraphy recorded and artifacts found. Appendix B is the artifact inventory.

Grading Areas

GA 1

Grading Area 1 was located directly to the northeast of Building #293. It measured approximately 55 feet northwest to southeast and 30 feet northeast to southwest (17 x 9 m). The grass was underlain by gravel and sand that were likely imported. No features or artifacts were present.

GA 2

Grading Area 2 was located to the north of the retaining wall behind Building #293 (see Appendix A: Photo 1). It measured approximately 75 feet east to west and 25 feet north to south (23 x 8 m). The retaining wall itself was 2.6 feet (76 cm) high. The wall was removed and the soil spread southward to fill in the depression on the south side of the wall. This deposit consisted of gravelly loam. No features or artifacts were present in GA 2.

GA 3

Grading Area 3 encompassed the area of the tee box (see Appendix A: Photo 4). It measured approximately 40 feet north to south and 35 feet east to west (12 x 11 m). The grass was underlain by gravelly loam. The gravel became less prevalent and the loam darker with depth. The gravel had likely been added to create the elevation for the original tee box construction. No features were identified and no artifacts were observed at GA 3.

GA 4

Grading Area 4 was located directly north of the northwest corner of Building #293 (see Appendix A: Photo 2). It was a rough horseshoe shape and measured approximately 110 feet long and 15 feet wide (34 x 5 m). The soil was brown compacted silt fill (Munsell 10 YR 4/4). A concentration of demolition debris in the form of brick and red sandstone fragments was observed in the fill at the elevation of the golf hole green (see Photo 3). The soil matrix was also brown, but with a redder hue, likely imparted from the brick and stone (Munsell 7.5 YR 4/3). The demolition debris was observed approximately 20 feet (6 m) north of Building #293 in a line 10 feet (3 m) east of the northwest corner (see Figure 4). The smear of debris measured approximately 12 feet east to west and 8.5 feet north to south (3.6 x 2.5 m). No archaeological features were identified in GA 4 and although brick and stone fragments were observed, none were retained. No other artifacts were present.

GA 5

Grading Area 5 was located to the north of GA 4 (see Appendix A: Photo 2). It was also a rough horseshoe shape, but measured approximately 60 feet long and 15 feet wide (18 x 5 m). The soil was very dark grayish brown gravelly loam, although with less gravel than documented in GAs 1, 2 and 3. No artifacts or features were identified in GA 5.

GA 6

Grading Area 6 was located north of GA 4 and west of GA 5 (see Appendix A: Photo 2). It measured approximately 65 feet northeast to southwest and 25 feet in the other direction (20 x 8 m). The soil was the same as that documented in GA 5. No artifacts were found and no archaeological features identified at GA 6.

GA 7

Grading Area 7 was located directly to the north of the tennis court (see Appendix A: Photo 3). It was close to circular and measured approximately 110 feet (34 m) in diameter. This was one of the locations of previous testing to determine the extent of the disturbance created by reconstructing the golf course in 2006 (Stone 2007). The very dark grayish brown sandy loam documented during the 2007 testing was also found during the GA 7 grading. This soil represents fill that was added to build the golf course. The depth of the grading did not extend beyond this stratum. Two ceramic sherds were recovered from the backdirt. No features were identified.

GA 8

Grading Area 8 was located to the east of Fort Jay. It was somewhat oval and measured approximately 60 feet northeast to southwest and 40 feet southeast to northwest (18 x 12 m). This was in the vicinity of previously conducted archaeological monitoring for a water valve shut-off (Stone 2008a, 2008b). The previous testing was still evident as a bald spot is seen among the grass in Photo 3. That testing was conducted at a lower elevation than the grading and uncovered a concentration of unarticulated brick fragments at a depth of approximately 2 feet (61 cm) below ground surface in a matrix of dark yellowish brown sandy silt. The grading at GA 8 did not reach to the depth of that soil type. No features were identified in GA 8 and no artifacts found.

GA 9

Grading Area 9 was located in the Parade Ground approximately 300 feet north of the northeast corner of Building #293 (see Photo 5). It measured approximately 50 feet northwest to southeast and 35 feet southwest to northeast (15 x 11 m). This was a former golf hole that had not been reconstructed in 2006 and; therefore, was overgrown and the berms and sand traps less pronounced than at the other golf holes. The excavated soil was very dark grayish brown loam. A fallen concrete marker was uncovered just beneath the grass (see Photo 6). It measured 2.5 feet (76 cm) long and six inches (15 cm) square at the base and 4.5 inches (11 cm) square at the top. There were no markings or impressions in the concrete and its potential former use is unknown. One may speculate it was used in the general vicinity because it was quite heavy and; therefore, unlikely to have been brought in just for the purpose of adding fill. A few ceramic and glass sherds were recovered from the matrix. However, these do not assist in the identification of a possible use of or a deposition date for the concrete marker.

Tennis Court

The tennis courts measured 250 by 100 feet (76 x 30 m). The edges of the paving were visible above the ground surface in places, exposing layers of asphalt and concrete approximately six inches (15 cm) thick (see Photo 7). The paving was carefully removed with the backhoe so the contractor could separate the asphalt from the concrete as the work progressed. The upper layers of the tennis courts were asphalt. Once removed, the painted lines of the earlier concrete tennis courts were exposed. The concrete was laid in slabs measuring approximately 8.5 by 6 feet (3 x 2 m) and 2.5 inches (6 cm)

thick. The combined thickness of the asphalt and concrete measured 1.3 feet (40 cm) thick. It was underlain by 2.5 inches (6 cm) of gravel. The underlying soil was brown sandy silt (Munsell 10 YR 4/3) throughout most of the tennis court area. However, compacted mottled clayey silt was observed underlying the gravel toward the east side of the courts, near the center. In all cases, this soil was exposed, but not excavated. Some of the brown soil was stained green and pink, in the southern part of the tennis court and pinkish toned gravel was also seen toward the center of the courts. This, perhaps, is a result of earlier clay or grass courts that may have been present.

The courts had been surrounded by a fence whose footings were generally ten inches (25 cm) in diameter and 3 feet (91 cm) deep. However, seven larger footings were present on the northern side of the tennis courts, in a line about 12 feet (4 m) away. These measured 22 inches (56 cm) square and were spaced an average of 6.1 feet (186 cm) apart. This side of the tennis courts also had a continuous concrete footing abutting the courts along a portion of it (see Photo 8). This slab measured roughly 1 foot (30 cm) wide and 3 feet (91 cm) deep and was about 34 feet long (10 m). Both the longer slab and the larger footings were related to a former wall that was used to play handball. The removal of the long footing exposed a deposit of coal ash that continued southward for approximately 10 feet (3 m). This deposit was very dark gray silty sand (Munsell 10 YR 3/1) and contained a concentration of unarticulated bricks at roughly 1.5 feet (4 cm) below ground surface (see Photo 9). None of the bricks was marked, but several had frogs. There were six whole bricks and fifty-four partial bricks exposed. The brick concentration measured approximately 7 feet east to west and up to 4 feet north to south (2 x 1 m) before diminishing, although it is possible the brick concentration continued into the unexcavated surrounding area and brick pieces were observed east of there. The coal ash matrix contained a number of artifacts (contexts = TC 1 and 2). However, only four of these artifacts are temporally diagnostic with a combined beginning manufacture date of c. 1890. The underlying deposit was brown sandy silt (Munsell 10 YR 4/3). The brick concentration was left *in situ* and the underlying deposit not excavated. Additional bricks; however, far fewer, were observed approximately 30 to 40 feet (9 – 12 m) to the south. A partial mark was documented in the frog of one brick, "SHU...". The soil within and adjacent to this concentration was trowelled, but no temporally diagnostic artifacts were present. A few corroded nails were observed in that area and a 1.5 inch (4 cm) thick by 11 inch (28 cm) piece of marble from a sink, roughly triangular in shape, was retained. A concentration of cut stone (gneiss/schist) was also documented in this general area. The stones were generally less than six inches (15 cm) in diameter. They were also in a coal ash matrix. A portion of the matrix measuring 2 by 1.5 feet (61 x 46 cm) was trowelled to 6 inches (15 cm) deep, but no cultural material was found, unlike the coal ash deposit at the northern end of the tennis courts which contained numerous artifacts.

Footings for the former tennis nets were also exposed and removed. These measured approximately 5 feet north to south by 4 feet east to west (152 x 122 cm) and 3 feet (91 cm) deep. The removal of these large footings exposed soil that was quite gravelly, similar to that seen in some of the Grading Areas. No cultural material was present in these deeper holes.

Parking Lot

The largest dimensions of the parking lot are 275 feet east to west and 160 feet north to south (84 x 49 m). The lot had a grass center island. There were three entrances to the parking lot, one on the southeast and two on the southwest (see Figure 2). Grass islands also separated the entrances. There was concrete curbing surrounding both the parking lot and the islands. The curbing was 2.2 to 2.5 feet (67 – 76 cm) deep. Three inches (8 cm) of asphalt covered the entire parking lot. The asphalt was either underlain by sandy gravel or by concrete slabs.

The concrete was located along the southern part of the parking lot, south of the grass island. The orientation of the slabs changed at the southwest of the grass island from roughly east – west throughout most of the area to northeast – southwest in that corner towards the central parking lot exit. The concrete was generally eight inches (20 cm) thick and underlain by gravel in all but the

southern quarter where dark yellowish brown (Munsell 10 YR 4/4) silty sand was present at that level.

The gravel under both the concrete and the asphalt was in a very dark grayish brown (Munsell 10 YR 3/2) dry compacted silty sand matrix. The deposit beneath the gravel was brown (Munsell 10 YR 4/3) sand. Artifacts recovered from this deposit include a 1924 penny (context = PL 1).

The manhole and three drainage catch basins in the southern part of the parking lot were preserved during the parking lot removal (see Figure 3 for their locations). The manhole is dated 1937. The soil in the area of these drains was very dark gray silty sand mottled with brown sand, previously described. It contained some small pieces of window glass, corroded nails and coal. None were retained.

Part of a long concrete footing was uncovered approximately 2 feet (61 cm) to the south of the parking lot's central grass island. It measured 1 foot (30 cm) wide and extended from the western end of the grass island to at least 6.6 feet (2 m) to the east of it. No excavation was conducted east of that point to determine if the footing extended. This footing was not removed. The deposit beneath the paving in the area to the north of the grass island was drier and more compacted than that seen to the south. Cultural material documented from that area, but not retained, includes a plastic coffee cup lid, a red and white striped plastic straw and an aluminum foil wrapper. Very dark grayish brown silty sand (Munsell 10 YR 3/2) in the southwest quadrant of the northern half of the parking lot contained earlier artifacts which were retained. These include ceramic and glass sherds. The most recent beginning manufacture date of the temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered is 1892. This is for a piece of wire reinforced safety glass (context = PL 2).

As part of the demolition of the parking lot, the retaining wall at the southern edge of the lot that lined the northern side of the grass island dividing the eastern from the central parking lot driveway entrances was also removed (see cover photo). This concrete retaining wall was five feet (152 cm) high (combined buried and above ground height) and had a spread footer. Therefore its removal displaced a substantial amount of soil, up to three feet (91 cm) at the wall itself. This fill was mottled brown and dark yellowish brown (Munsell 10 YR 4/3 and 4/4) silty sand. Two pieces of glass were retained. One is a twentieth-century bottle base. Other artifacts documented include much coal and brick fragments, two window glass sherds and one corroded nail.

Removal of the paving at the western driveway entrance to the parking lot exposed the top of a corner of a brick foundation (see Figures 6 and 7 and Photo 10). The overlying soil was dark brown (Munsell 10 YR 3/3) silty sand and gravel. Ghosts of brick frogs were present in the mortar on the south side of the foundation. Some decaying brick was exposed at the corner and unevenly demolished mortar and brick along the western side of the foundation. The soil on the exterior of the foundation was identical to that on the interior; mottled dark grayish brown and yellowish brown (Munsell 10 YR 4/2 and 5/4) compact sandy silt. Only one artifact was found and retained from the interior fill of the foundation, a bottle finish. The presence of a screw top indicates a post-1920 production date. The foundation clearly continued into the unexcavated soil to the north. It also likely continues to the east, but, if so, would be at a lower elevation with at least one less course of brick preserved. No further excavations were conducted in this area. The contractor was asked to cease driving equipment through this entrance so as to preserve the foundation and to add fill to this area first during reconstruction.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Building #293 demolition project involved 1) grading of nine areas to remove approximately one foot (30 cm) of soil and 2) removal of pavement and re-grading of the parking lot and tennis courts. The soil exposed during grading was generally mixed with gravel behind (to the north of) Building #293. However, the stratigraphy exposed was otherwise consistent with that documented elsewhere on Governors Island.

Concentrations of demolition debris were observed in GA 4 and in the northern half of the tennis courts. However no structural remains were found there. No former buildings were depicted on the historic maps of 1867 and 1962 in the footprint of GA 4 (see Appendix A: Figures 3 and 4). Nor were any structures depicted in this footprint in 1813, 1857 or 1879. A chapel once stood in the footprint of the tennis courts from 1847 to 1905. However it would have been in the central and southern parts of the tennis courts. While it is likely the cultural material recovered from the tennis courts is the result of a building demolition, evidenced by the presence of nails, tile, sewer pipe and a sink part, it is not as likely this material was from the chapel itself. This interpretation is based on the position of the material relative to the location of the former chapel and the fact that no cultural material was present in the central or southern parts of the tennis courts. However, no firm conclusions about the source of the demolition debris can be made based on the minimal amount soil removal conducted for this project.

The corner of a brick foundation was documented and then preserved in place within the southwestern corner of the parking lot. The fill on the interior of the foundation was identical to that on the exterior. The fill dates from post-1920, however a narrower date range could not be applied based on the paucity of temporally diagnostic artifacts recorded. It is most likely this foundation is the remains of the Quartermaster Corps Quarters, the structure which Building #293 replaced, built c. 1871-72 and standing until 1986.

No other archaeological features were encountered during the Building #293 demolition project. It was recommended that Turner Construction record the location of the foundation in the Governors Island GIS database. Furthermore, the locations of the work and demolition debris should also be thusly recorded. Should additional ground disturbing actions be planned at or near the foundation site or the locations of the demolition debris in GA 4 or the tennis courts, those should be investigated archaeologically to determine the extent and significance of these finds.

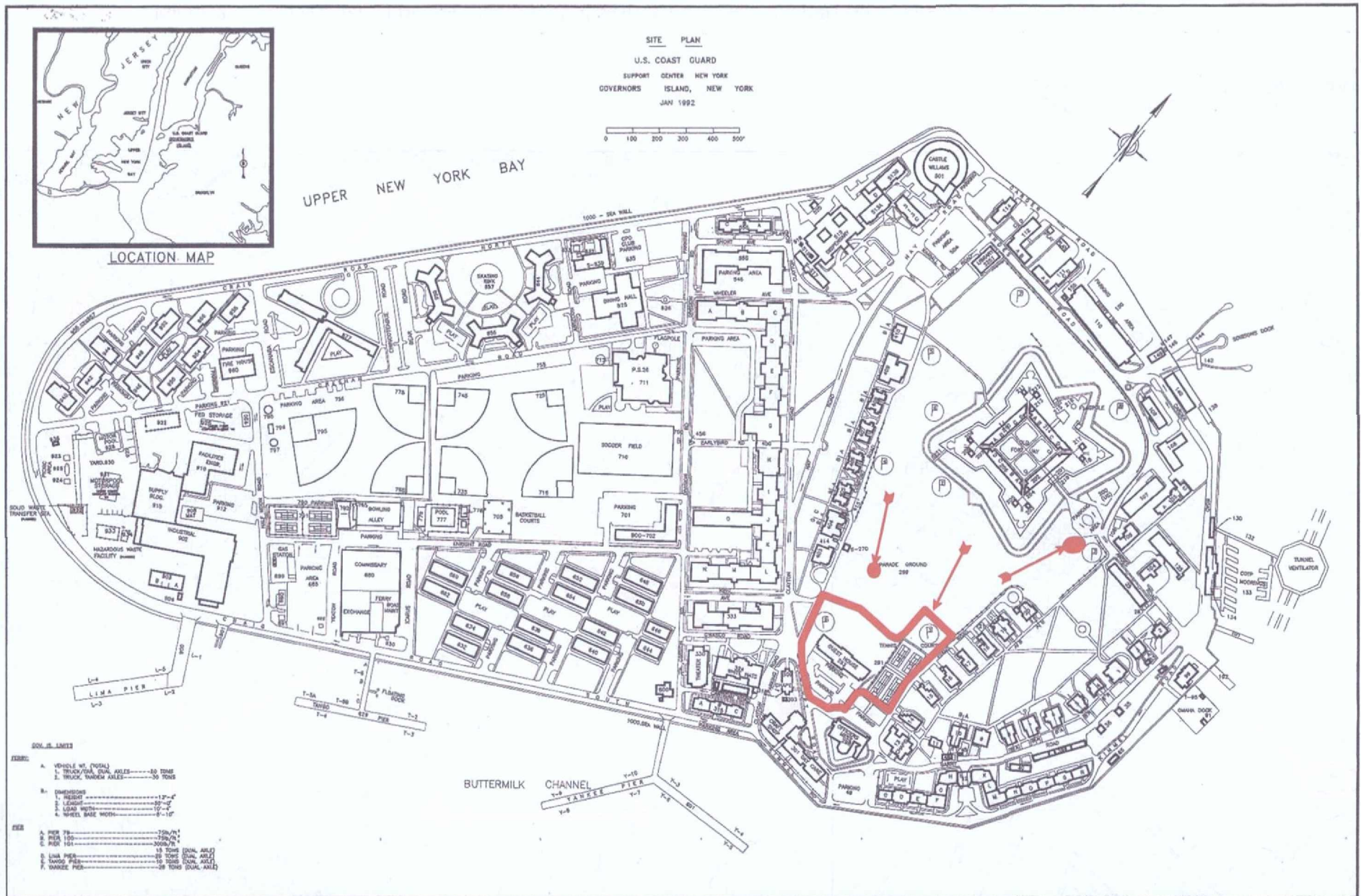


Figure 1

Locations of the demolition work on Governors Island.

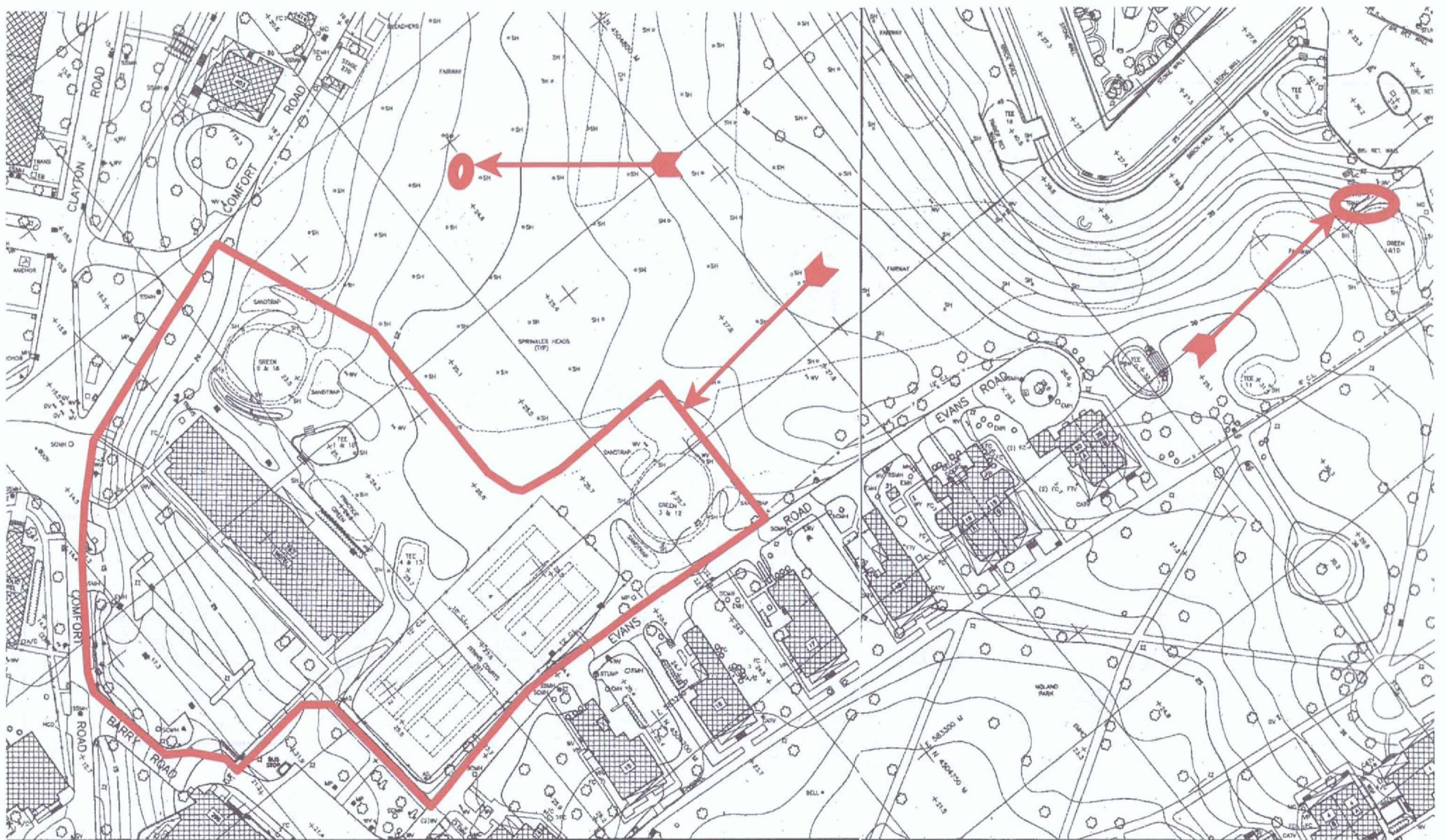


Figure 2 Locations of the demolition work shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.

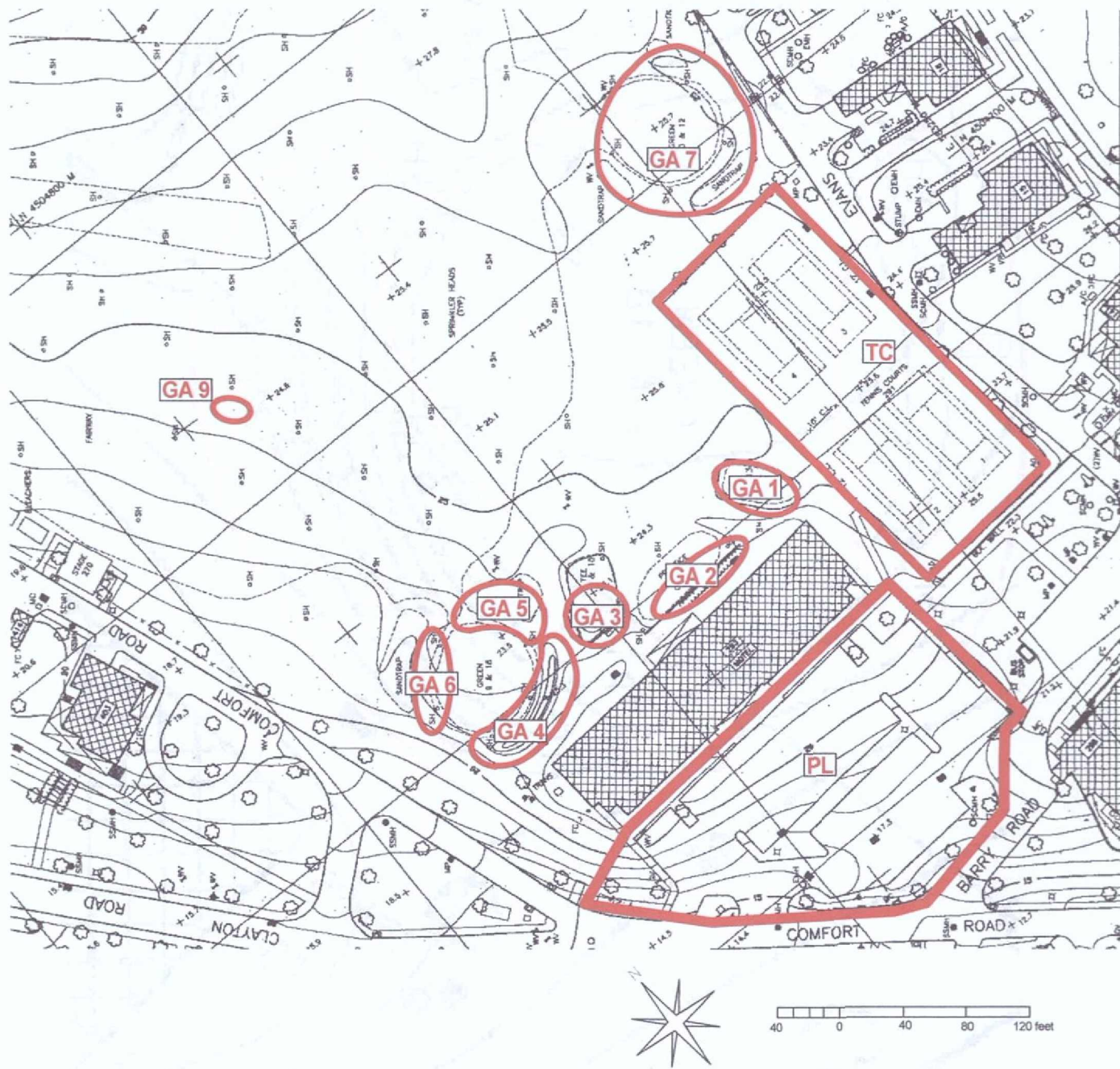


Figure 3

Grading Areas (GAs), Parking Lot (PL) and Tennis Courts (TC) shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.

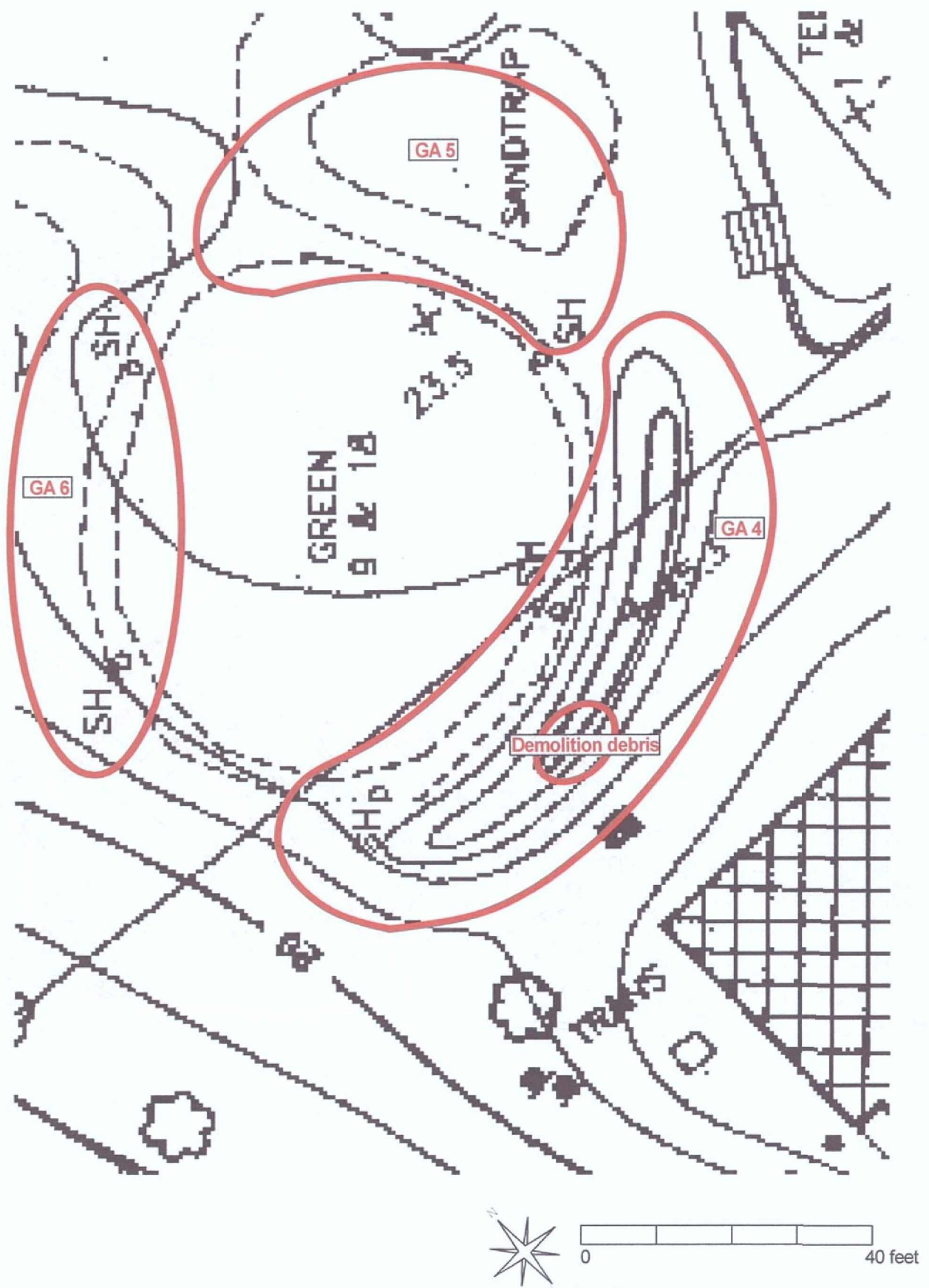


Figure 4 Location of demolition debris documented in GA 4 shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.

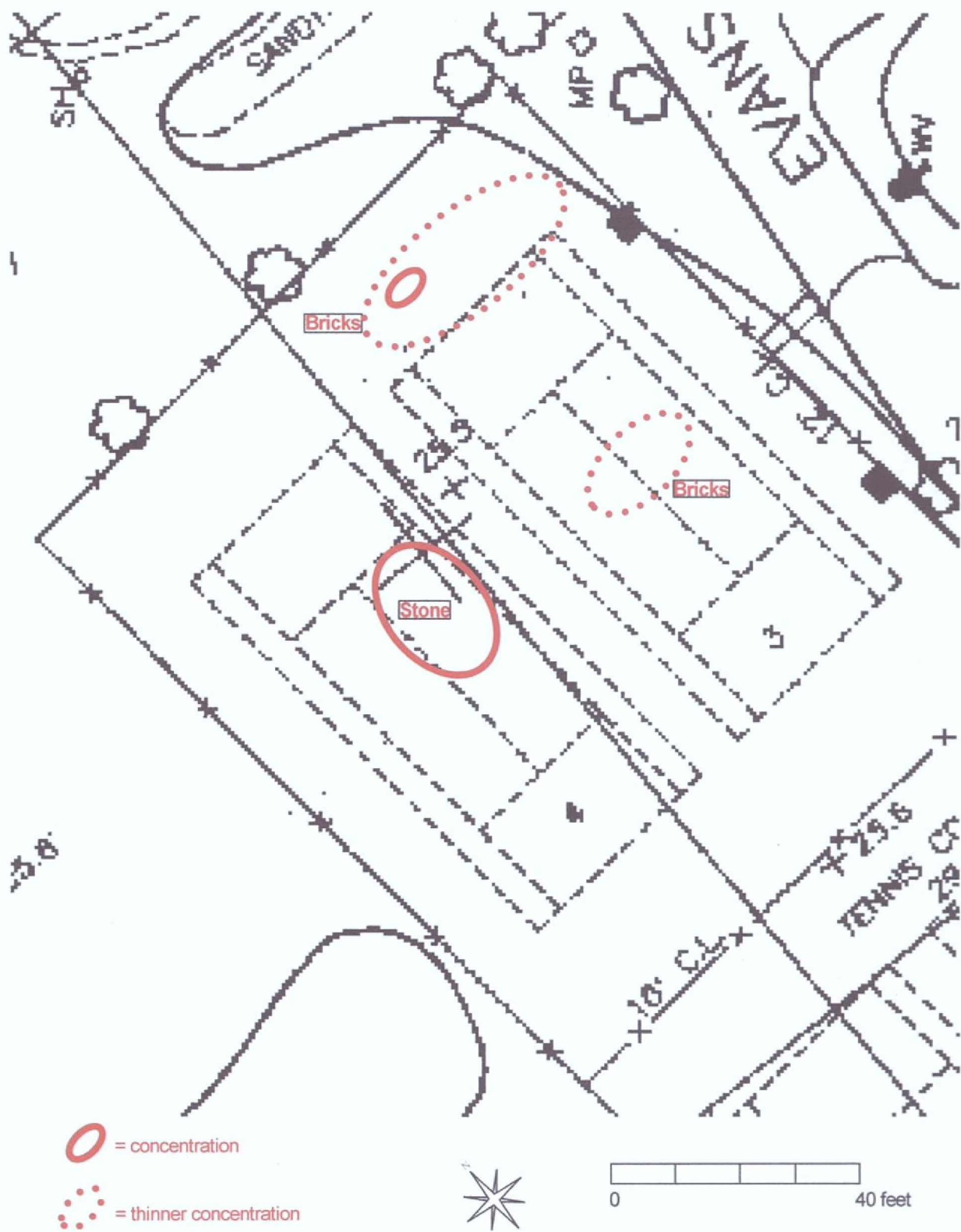


Figure 5 Location of brick and stone concentrations documented in the northern half of the tennis courts shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.

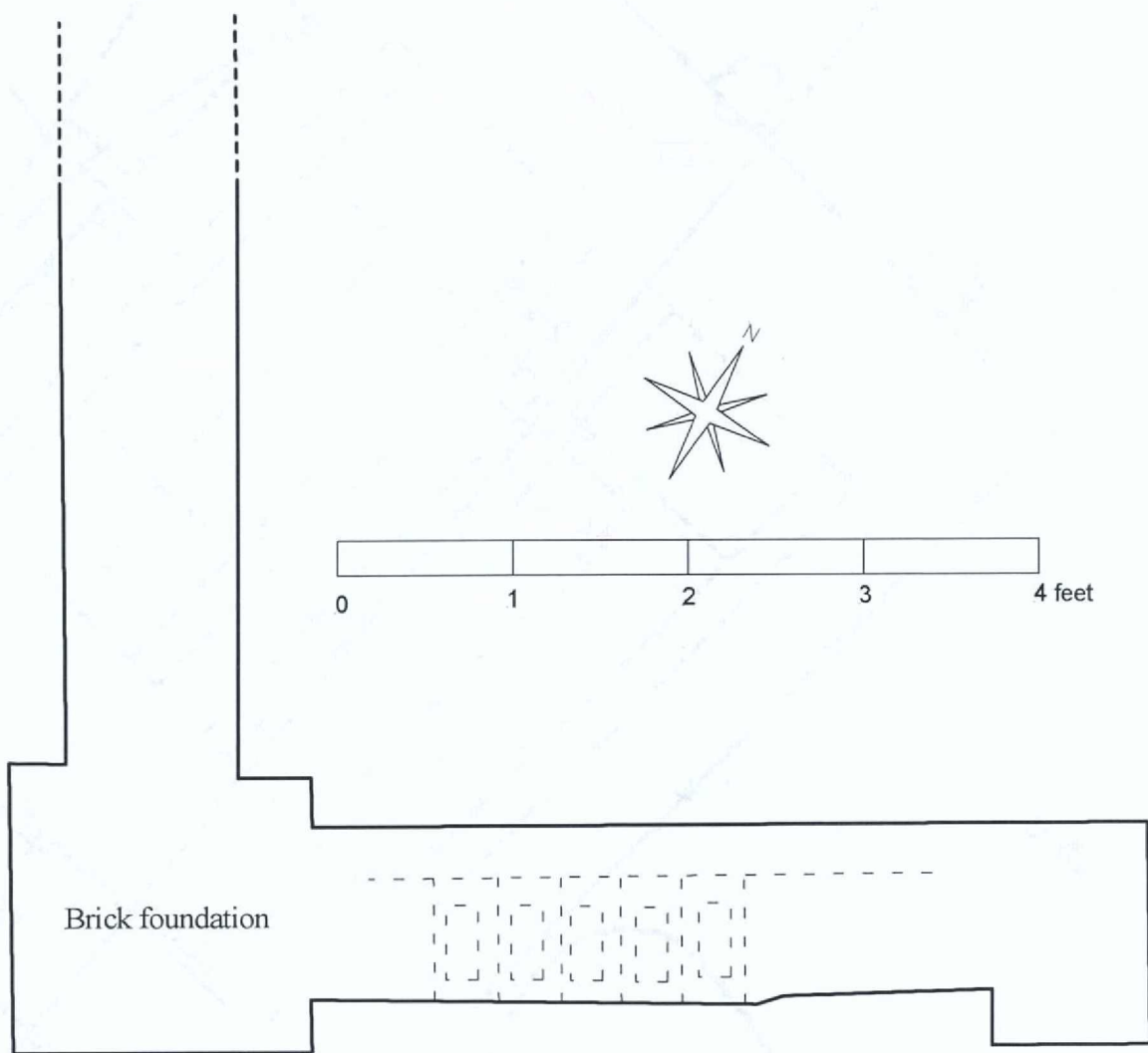


Figure 6

Brick foundation detail.

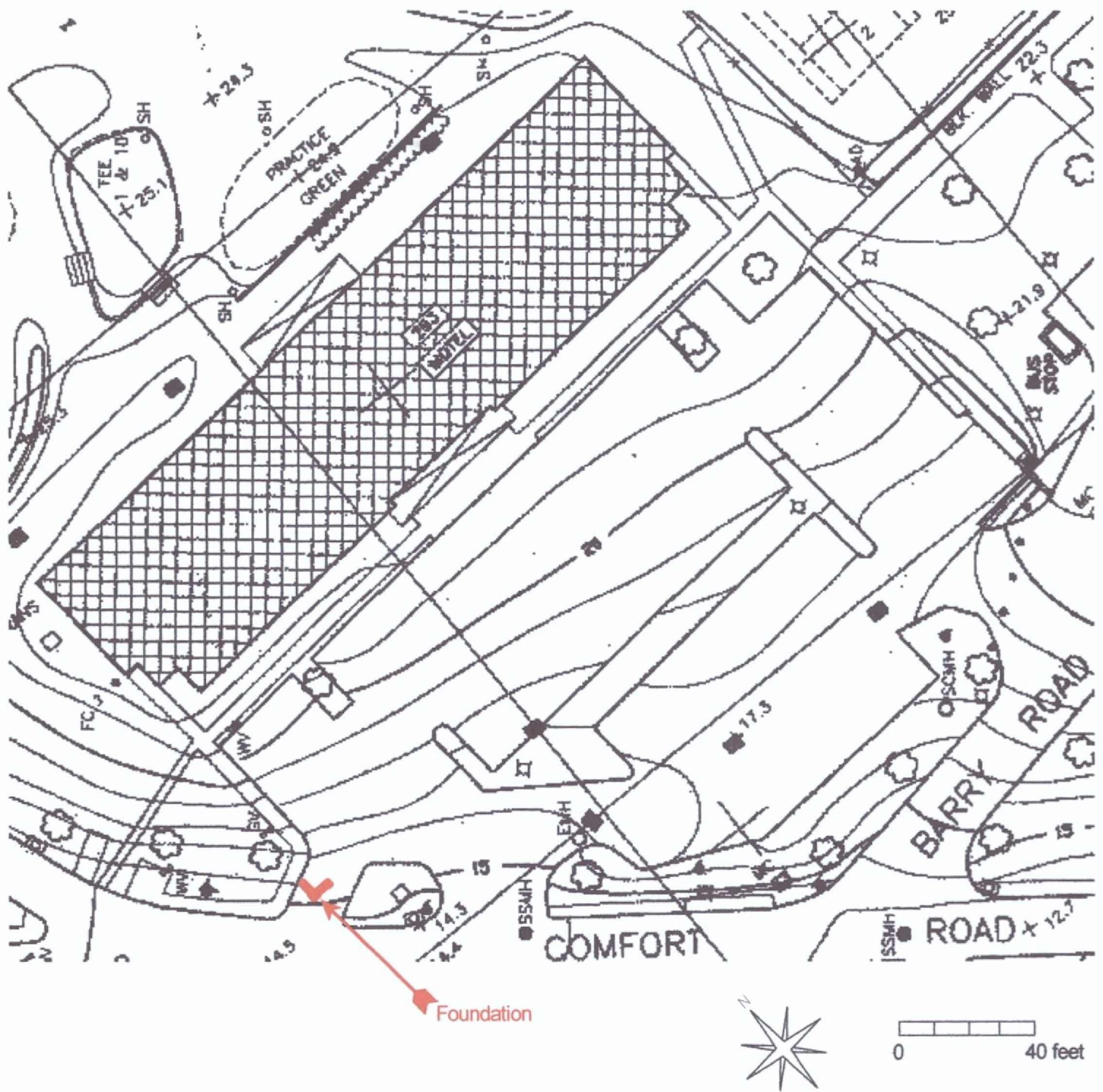


Figure 7 Location of brick foundation shown on a section of the 1994 Governors Island topographic survey.



Photo 1 Excavation at Grading Area 1 underway (June 11, 2008).



Photo 2 Grading Area 1 excavations nearly completed (June 11, 2008).



Photo 3 Grading Area 4 showing demolition debris with 3-foot scales, facing east (June 11, 2008).



Photo 4 Grading Area 8 prior to excavation, facing southeast (June 11, 2008).



Photo 5 Grading Area 9 prior to excavation, facing northeast (June 11, 2008).



Photo 6 Concrete marker found in GA 9 (July 21, 2008).



Photo 7 Layers of asphalt and concrete exposed above the ground surface prior to excavation, facing south (July 7, 2008).



Photo 8 Concrete fence footings on the northern side of the tennis courts, facing southwest (July 7, 2008).



Photo 9 Brick concentration at the northern end of the tennis courts, facing south (July 8, 2008).

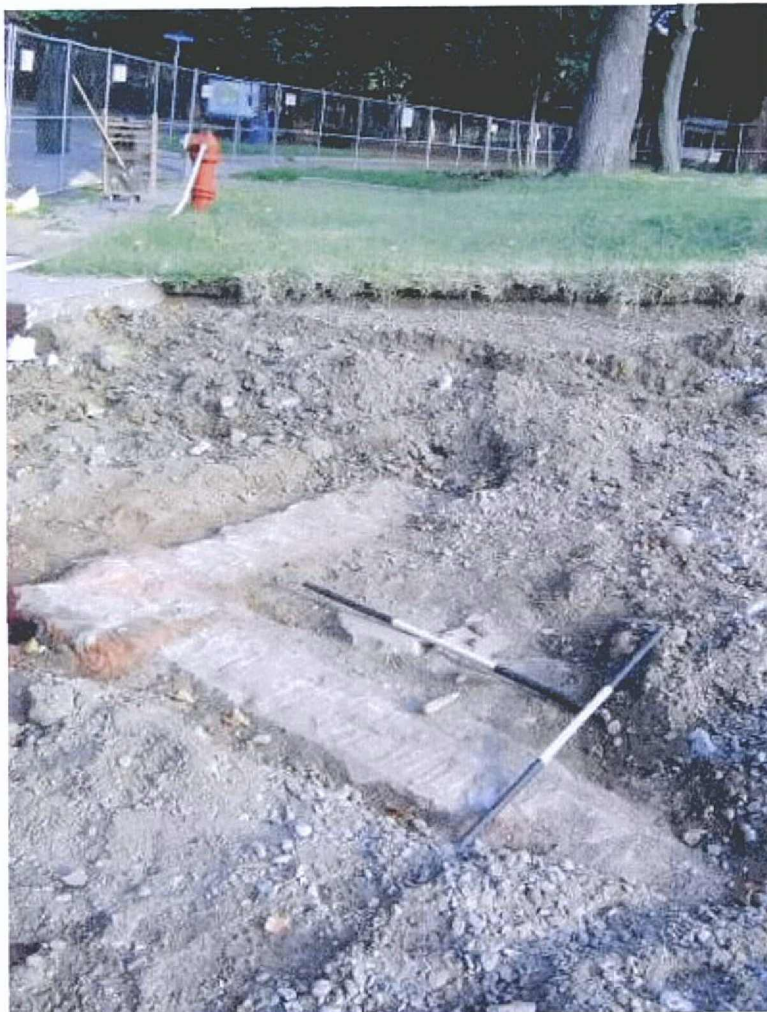


Photo 10 Brick foundation, facing northwest (July 21, 2008).

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APPENDIX A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK PLAN
AND ADDENDUM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK PLAN FOR
DEMOLITION AND GRADING AT AND NEAR
BUILDING #293 AND THE ADJACENT TENNIS COURTS
ON GOVERNORS ISLAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

April 4, 2008

Turner Construction is planning to demolish Building #293 on Governors Island and the adjacent tennis courts and parking lot. The area will then be levelled and re-graded, including the two golf holes to the north of the building and tennis courts. See Figure 1 for the location within the Island and Figure 2 for the 1994 topographic survey showing the project area limits. This work is within the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District and the New York City Landmark District, although not within the Governors Island National Historic Monument. Therefore the 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 below ground work for this project will involve the following:

- Removal of Building #293 and its basement.
- Filling the hole left by the building removal and adding soil to the north to bring it up to grade (see Photo 1).
- Removing the Building #293 utilities and capping them at the curb.
- Removal of the tennis court and adding soil to re-establish current grade.
- Removal of the parking lot and adding soil to re-establish current grade.
- Removal of two golf holes, one located north of Building #293 and the other north of the tennis court, bringing those locations to the surrounding grade (see Photos 2 & 3).
- Removal of the tee box located north of Building #293, reducing the grade by less than one foot (see Photo 4).

Building #293 was built in 1986 as a motel and guesthouse. The Building Property Summary Sheet (JCA 2003) lists it as a Category 4 structure (an intrusion in the historic district). The building has a one-story full basement. Turner Construction estimates that the parking lot, sidewalk and tennis courts are all six to twelve inches thick concrete and/or asphalt. They plan to remove the building and its surrounding paved areas using typical demolition equipment (back hoes, bulldozers, dump trucks and jack hammers, etc.). They plan to take appropriate measures to prevent any potential damage to the surrounding Historic District. One of these measures is the consideration of potential archaeological resources that may be impacted by the work. Another measure is to preserve the existing trees.

In describing the historic development of Building #293, the Building Property Summary Sheet states:

It replaced a one-and-a-half story frame structure built as quarters for officers of the Quartermaster Corps c. 1871-72. The parking lot in front of Building #293 was the site of the Fort Columbus cemetery. The bodies were removed to Cypress Hills Cemetery, Queens, in 1889 as the post was expanding and constructing new buildings.

The 1996 Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment places the portion of the demolition and re-grading project located within the golf course as partially within the archaeologically sensitive zone for "possible Native American sites" (PAL 1996: 29). Previous testing nearby uncovered Native American artifacts, although "recovered in disturbed deposits mixed with historic debris". (PAL 1997:67).

Prior to the construction of Building #293, Louis Berger and Associates (LBA) researched and tested the area. The Fort Columbus cemetery was active from 1798 to 1878. However, it was not located, as the Building Property Summary Sheet states, in the "parking lot in front of Building #293", rather was to the west (see Figure 3). The 1813 Mangin Map and both the 1857 and 1867 Barnard Maps depict the cemetery having been in only the westernmost part of the current planned demolition and re-grading area. Records of the individuals interred, which were made during the exhumations, reportedly conflict with the actual burial records, a possible indicator that the removal of the graves was more thoroughly recorded than the actual burials were (LBA 1986:: 3-5 - 3-6; UMass 2003: 65-67). The original contract for the removal required "Each grave from which remains were taken was to be strewn either with powdered iron sulphate or 'chloride of lime', tamped down to a level surface and generally left 'in a neat and tidy condition.'" (LBA 1986:3-6). It is unclear from the secondary reports whether individual empty grave sites could now be discerned, should they be encountered, by identification of the chemicals applied to the soil, or if the chemicals were applied consistently to the entire area precluding the identification of individual grave locations. The 1986 field testing did not identify any grave sites, however the report conceded that some of the graves may have been missed during the 1889 disinterment and the entire former cemetery should not be written-off without archaeological consideration.

A second cemetery reportedly existed to the northeast of the South Battery (Building #298). However, this would be outside of the current demolition and re-grading project (UMass 2003:67).

The 1867 Barnard Map (see Figure 3) also shows the footprint of the currently planned work contained the chapel and buildings labelled Paint Shop, Carpenters' Shop, Bandmasters' Quarters, Sutlers' Stores and Laundress' Quarters. The cemetery is shown to west of the fence line at the Paint Shop. The chapel was built in 1847 and was replaced by a nearby new construction in 1905, now located outside of the current project area. The 1954 tree map shows the structure which Building #293 replaced, built c.1871-72, to the south of where Building #293 now stands (see Figure 4).

The 1994 topographic survey of Governors Island depicts the tennis courts at an elevation of 25.5 feet, although more recent survey data from 2006 indicates an elevation of 22.5 - 23.5 (see Figure 2). The parking lot was at an approximate elevation of 15 - 21 feet in 1994 and the more recent data 12 - 20 feet. The tee box had elevations of 24 - 25.1 feet in 1994 and 21 - 22.7 in 2006. In these three cases, the new elevation data is lower than the earlier data when all locations should show the same grades, indicating possible differences in survey methods. The golf hole area north of Building #293 had an approximate elevation of 21 - 25 feet in 1994. The more recent survey data from 2006, prior to the golf course reconstruction, shows that location at elevations of 20 - 22.7 feet. The golf hole to the north of the tennis court had elevations of 24 - 26 feet in 1994 and more recently 22.2 - 23.9 feet. In the golf hole locations, the 1994 elevation data is likely closer to the existing conditions today because of the 2006 reconstruction (see Photos 2 - 4).

The Turner plan is to level the sand traps and berms within the golf course, remove the tee box and have a gentle slope from the location of the demolished Building #293 toward Comfort and Barry Roads to the south, as currently exists in the parking lot.

The two golf course holes that would be affected by the work were also the subject of an earlier archaeological investigation (Stone 2007). The golf course was originally constructed by the army after World War II. A reconstruction was completed in July 2006. The archaeological investigation revealed the extent of the disturbance to the original course in 2006 and found the area near Building #293 was least disturbed at that time, approximately 1.5 feet below ground surface as opposed to up to 3.5 feet for the hole north of the tennis court. Furthermore an undated brick feature was identified in the hole near Building #293 buried only 0.8 feet deep. This was located in the green and is theoretically beneath the planned depth of the re-grading project.

Earlier archaeological testing was conducted in the area between the two golf holes. PAL excavated a grid of 13 test pits and a trench. The PAL trench "exposed the footing for an historic post and associated fill lenses capping undisturbed dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) subsoil at circa 80 cmbs" (PAL 1997:31). It was hypothesized the footing could relate to former gun batteries. No excavations are planned in this area for the re-grading project.

The proposed demolition and re-grading project is within the footprint of the former Fort Columbus cemetery, the former chapel/surgeon's house, two complexes of nineteenth-century small former buildings to the northwest of Building #298 (one to the north of the fence line depicted on the 1867 Barnard Map and the other to the south), batteries, an undated brick historic feature and Native American resources. However, none of the impacts from the proposed demolition and re-grading should be deep enough to disturb any of the possible resources, should they exist.

It is not likely any graves would be encountered because those would have been buried somewhat deeper than the currently planned work, and should have been historically relocated. The only project related impacts in the area of the former cemetery will be from the levelling of the golf hole at Building #293. The previous archaeological testing of the golf hole exposed levels below those which the current project should reach and did not encounter any graves or cemetery related deposits (Stone 2007). However, due to the sensitive nature of human remains, it would be prudent to archaeologically monitor any of the planned work in the location of the former Fort Columbus cemetery.

Additionally, two features have already been identified during archaeological projects within the golf course area of the planned re-grading. It is possible the brick feature is larger than was originally exposed and that other footings related to the former batteries may exist. Therefore the golf course area should be monitored, not only to identify other potential archaeological resources, but also to ensure those previously identified features remain undisturbed. The current demolition plan indicates no grading should be done in the area of the former batteries.

Currently, the tennis courts are level and the parking lot slopes in the natural direction toward the south, the same as the re-grading plan. No excavation, beyond the removal of paving is planned for these areas. Therefore, very little soil, if any, would be removed from these locations. However, if the former buildings that were once located

within the footprints of the parking lot and tennis courts were not entirely demolished, it is possible foundations could be exposed. Should this be the case, archaeological monitoring and documentation of these structures is recommended. Furthermore, it is recommended that the removal of the paving in these locations is the last contract item to take place during the Building #293 demolition project. This way, potential archaeological remains will not be disturbed by the heavy machinery driving over them during the course of the project.

Although, it was previously assumed the re-grading plan would likely include the relocation of storm drains and lighting, this is not the case. The utilities will be removed and capped at the curb. Excavations will be within footprints of the existing utilities and; therefore, will not disturb any potential archaeological resources.

The monitoring protocol gives the archaeologist authority to halt contractor excavations to document any archaeological resources, should they be encountered. The archaeologist will communicate directly with the machine operator should excavations need to temporarily stop for archaeological purposes. Should this be necessary, excavation will be temporarily suspended while the archaeologist hand excavates, measures and records the find(s). The amount of time necessary for this will be relative to the extent of the find(s) and the weather conditions. A minimum of one half hour will be needed for each location where an archaeological resource is encountered.

Documentation of soils and stratigraphy will be done for all monitoring. Soil colors will be compared to the Munsell Soil Color charts. Measurements and photographs will be taken. If no *in situ* deposits and no archaeological features are encountered, no further archaeological documentation will be done.

If an *in situ* archaeological deposit is encountered, it will be archaeologically exposed. Measurements will be taken for field drawings and the find(s) will be photographed. Should the find be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, consultation will occur with the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to consider available options, including project redesign. As with any historically important site, significant archaeological finds could be incorporated into interpretive programs and such recommendations would likely be made for Governors Island if such finds are encountered, possibly altering construction plans midstream. Any changes to the project plans will also be archaeologically evaluated, not only for locations where alterations to the work discussed here are proposed, but also should additional excavations be added. Those locations would be assessed archaeologically for their potential to impact archaeological resources and this plan amended.

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 monitoring to Turner Construction and GIPEC for submission to SHPO and LPC. The report will include detailed maps indicating results of the investigations with locations of the work and of archaeological resource recovered, if any.

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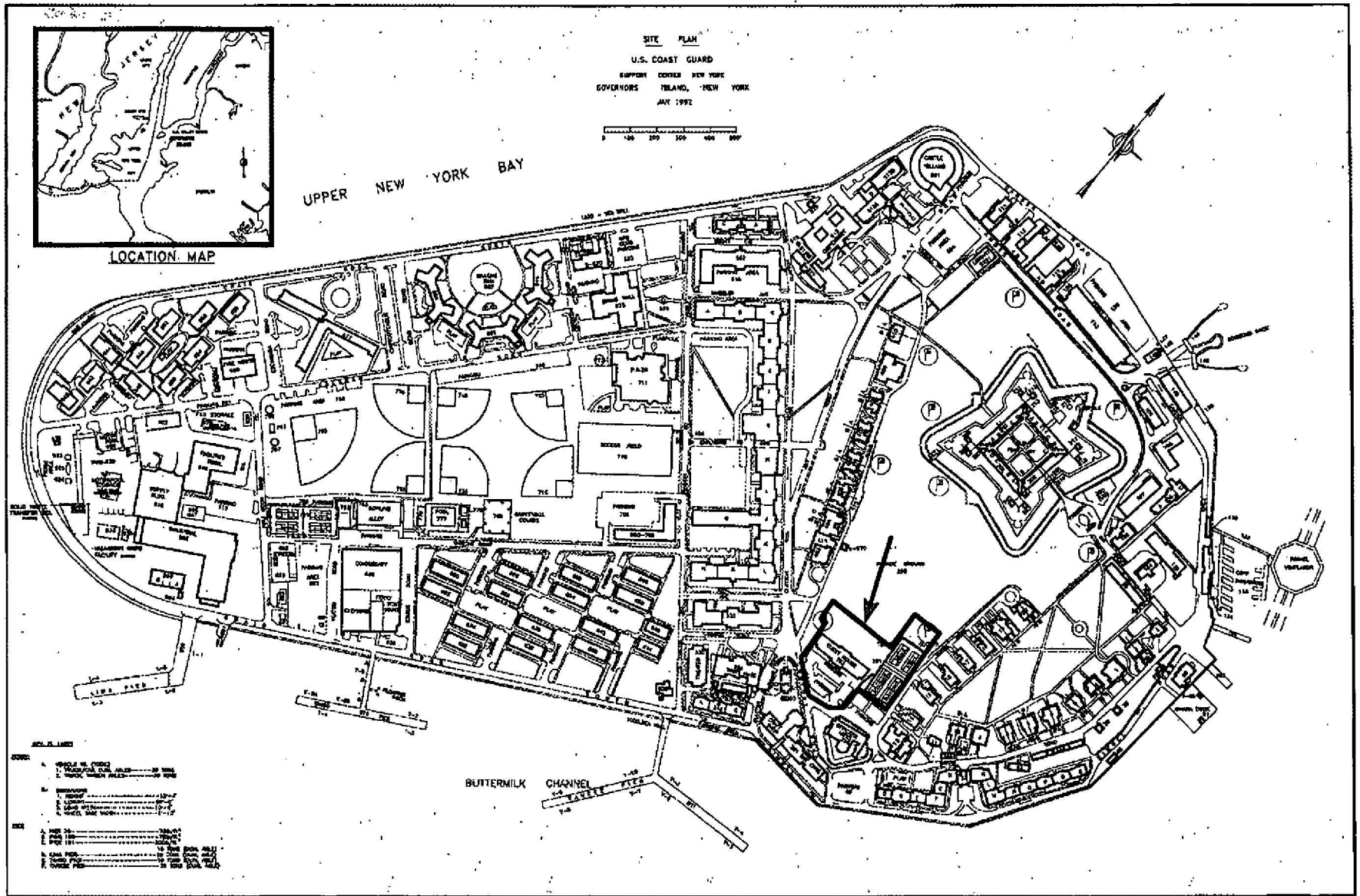


Figure 1 Map of Governors Island showing the location of the planned demolition and re-grading.

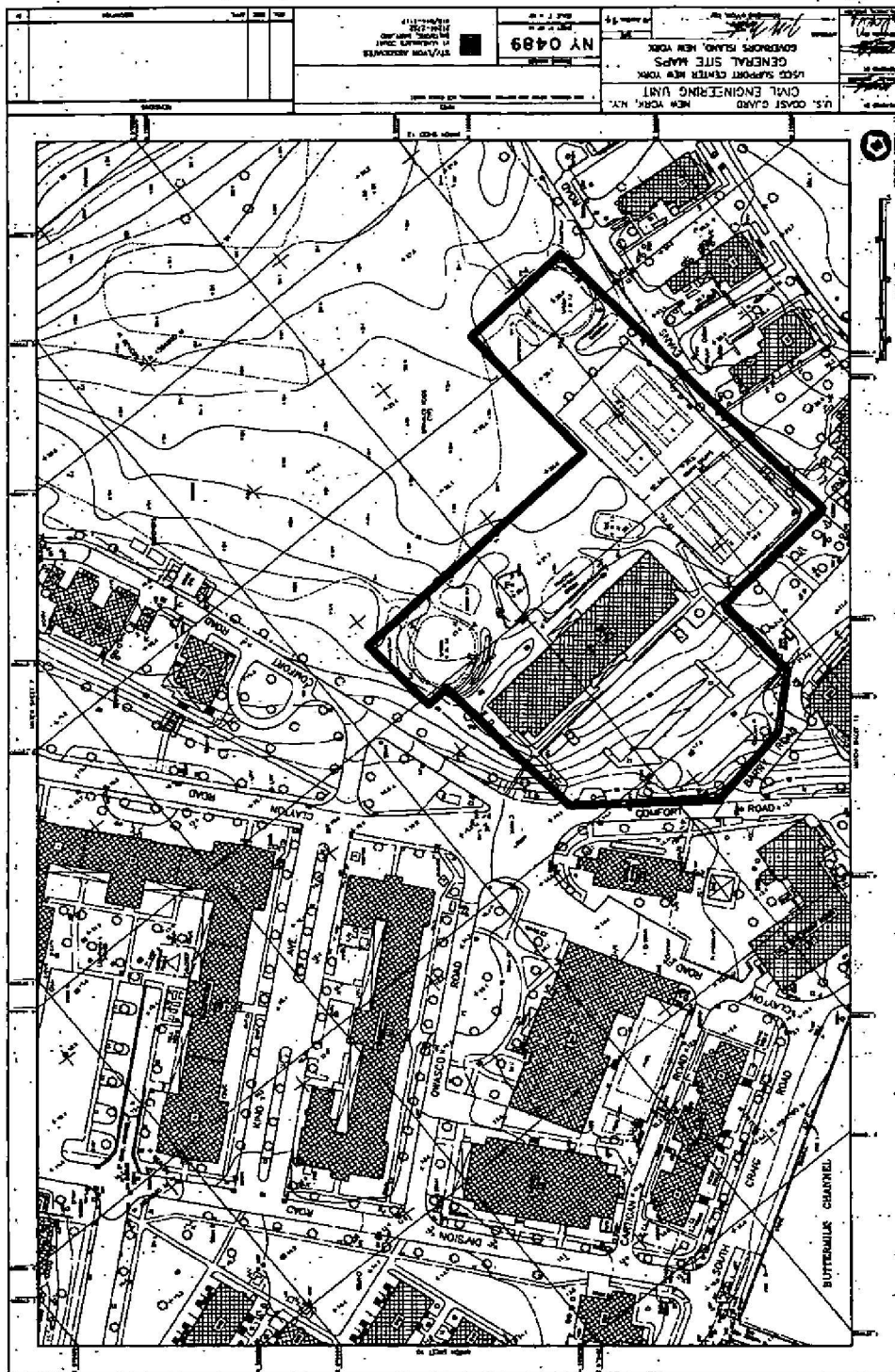


Figure 2 Topographic survey (1994) showing the limits of the Building #293 demolition project outlined in red.

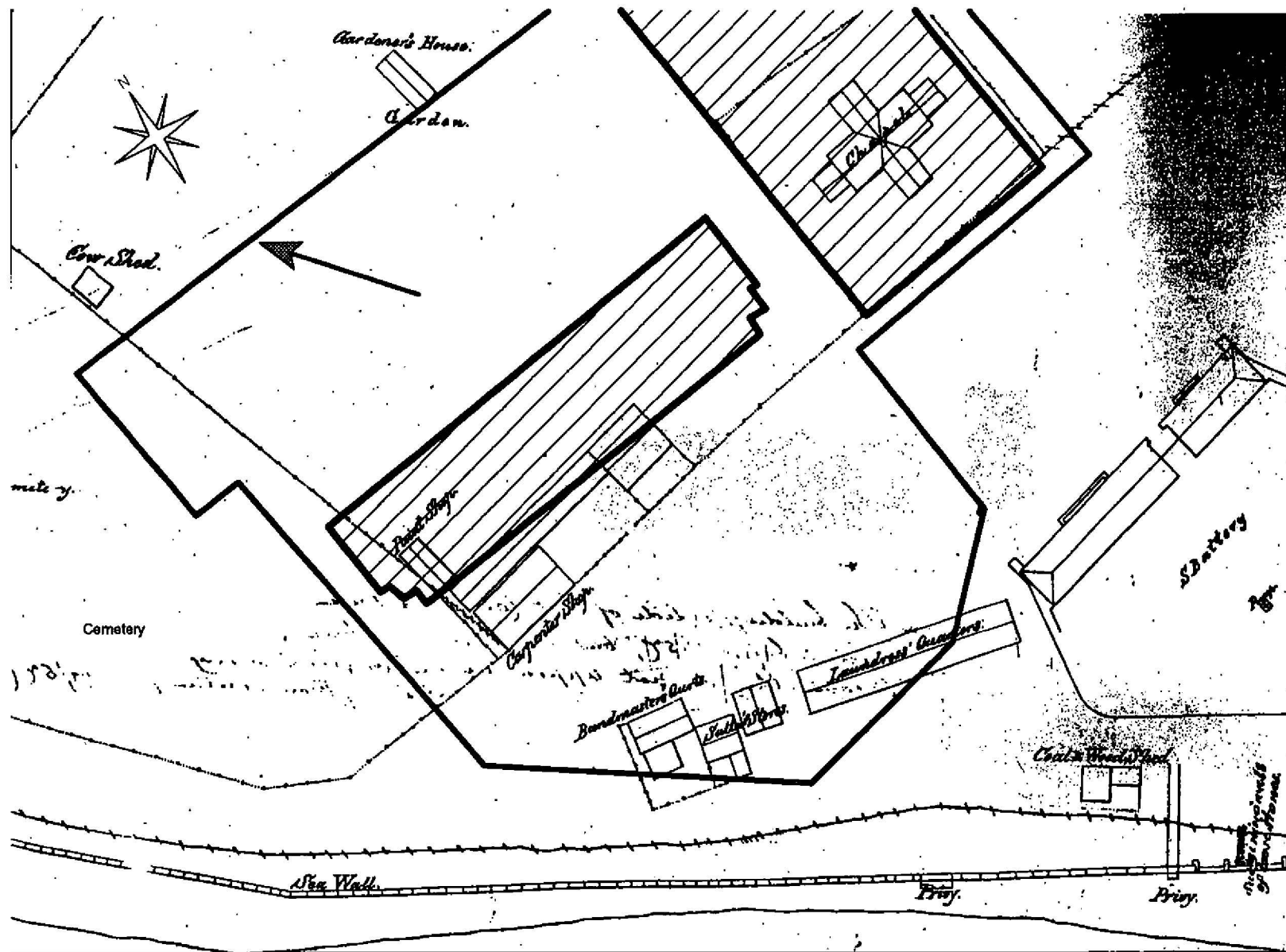


Figure 3 Portion of the 1867 Barnard Map showing the location of the planned demolition and re-grading with Building #293 and tennis court hatched showing the former Fort Columbus cemetery toward the west.

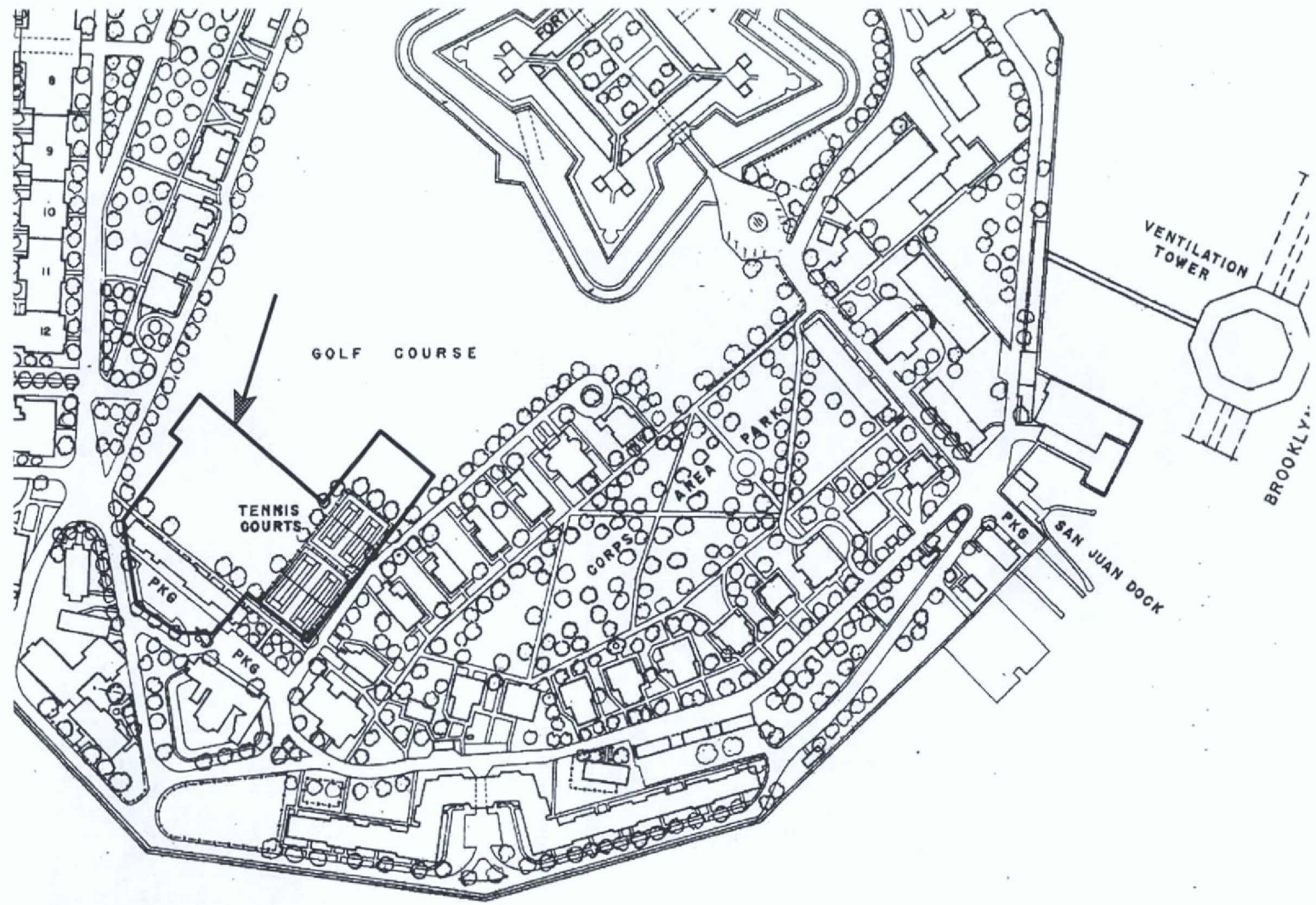


Figure 4 Governors Island 1954 Tree Map showing the location of the planned demolition and re-grading.



Photo 1 View behind Building #293 facing east showing a depression in the ground due to an existing drainage line which will be filled.



Photo 2 View north of and behind Building #293, facing southwest, showing the area around the golf hole that will be taken down to the surrounding grade.



Photo 3 View north of the tennis court, facing northeast, showing the area around the golf hole that will be taken down to the surrounding grade.



Photo 4 Tee box, facing northeast, to be removed and the grade reduced to that of the surrounding lawn.

ADDENDUM TO April 4, 2008
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK PLAN FOR
DEMOLITION AND GRADING AT AND NEAR
BUILDING #293 AND THE ADJACENT TENNIS COURTS
ON GOVERNORS ISLAND
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

June 9, 2008

The plan for demolition of Building #293 on Governors Island and the adjacent tennis courts and parking lot has been augmented (see Figures 1 & 2). Two locations outside of the original project limit line have been added to the grading plan and one location within the project limit. All of this work is within the Governors Island National Historic Landmark District and the New York City Landmark District and one of the locations is within the Governors Island National Historic Monument (number 8 on Figure 2). Therefore the 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 excavation work that has been added for this project will involve:

- Re-grading sand traps at two additional golf holes (#s 8 & 9 on Figure 2 - #s 10 & 11 were going to be added, but have since been eliminated although the attached map not yet updated).
- Remove hedges and retaining wall and re-grade behind Building # 293 by adding soil (#4 on Figure 2).
- Re-grade the area between the tee box and tennis courts removing approximately 1 foot of soil (#7 on Figure 2).

The 1996 Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment locates the added re-grading within the archaeologically sensitive zone for "possible Native American sites" (PAL 1996: 29). Previous testing nearby uncovered Native American artifacts, although "recovered in disturbed deposits mixed with historic debris". (PAL 1997:67). An overlay of the proposed work onto the 1879 Map of Governors Island shows location #9 within the footprint of the former magazine or barbette batteries (see Figure 3). Location #8 is directly to the northwest of recent archaeological work where two concentrations of brick fragments were identified (Stone 2007 & 2008).

Location #7 is partially within the area previously tested by PAL and identified as the Golf Course Battery Site (PAL 1997: 66-70). PAL excavated a trench and exposed a footing possibly associated with the 19th-century batteries. The feature was described as "a circular iron form (badly decomposed) filled with white lime mortar. The bottom of the post was visible at 75 cmbs; the upper section had been truncated by later fill deposits. A builder's trench for this post was visible..." (PAL 1997: 68). The top of the exposed feature was buried approximately 55 cmbs (21 inches).

Archaeological monitoring is recommended for location #s 7, 8, and 9. Location #s 7 and 9 are sensitive for possible identification of both Native American resources and of remains of historic military construction. The remains of the Battery Site previously

uncovered were buried less than two feet (55 cm) below the ground surface. Excavations planned for these locations are only 1 foot and should not encounter features associated with the previously identified battery feature, but care should be taken to ensure that should such feature(s) remain that they are archaeologically documented. Monitoring for location # 8 is recommend to document resources from either the Native American period or those associated with the previously identified concentrations of brick fragments. No monitoring is recommended for location # 4 since the retaining wall will be removed and then the area filled to bring it up to grade.

The monitoring protocol gives the archaeologist authority to halt contractor excavations to document any archaeological resources, should they be encountered. The archaeologist will communicate directly with the machine operator should excavations need to temporarily stop for archaeological purposes. Should this be necessary, excavation will be temporarily suspended while the archaeologist hand excavates, measures and records the find(s). The amount of time necessary for this will be relative to the extent of the find(s) and the weather conditions. A minimum of one half hour will be needed for each location where an archaeological resource is encountered.

Documentation of soils and stratigraphy will be done for all monitoring. Soil colors will be compared to the Munsell Soil Color charts. Measurements and photographs will be taken. If no *in situ* deposits and no archaeological features are encountered, no further archaeological documentation will be done.

If an *in situ* archaeological deposit is encountered, it will be archaeologically exposed. Measurements will be taken for field drawings and the find(s) will be photographed. Should the find be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, consultation will occur with the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC), Governors Island National Monument (for location #8), the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to consider available options, including project redesign. As with any historically important site, significant archaeological finds could be incorporated into interpretive programs and such recommendations would likely be made for Governors Island if such finds are encountered, possibly altering construction plans midstream. Any changes to the project plans will also be archaeologically evaluated, not only for locations where alterations to the work discussed here are proposed, but also should additional excavations be added. Those locations would be assessed archaeologically for their potential to impact archaeological resources and this plan amended.

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 monitoring to Turner Construction and GIPEC for submission to SHPO and LPC. The report will include detailed maps indicating results of the investigations with locations of the work and of archaeological resource recovered, if any.

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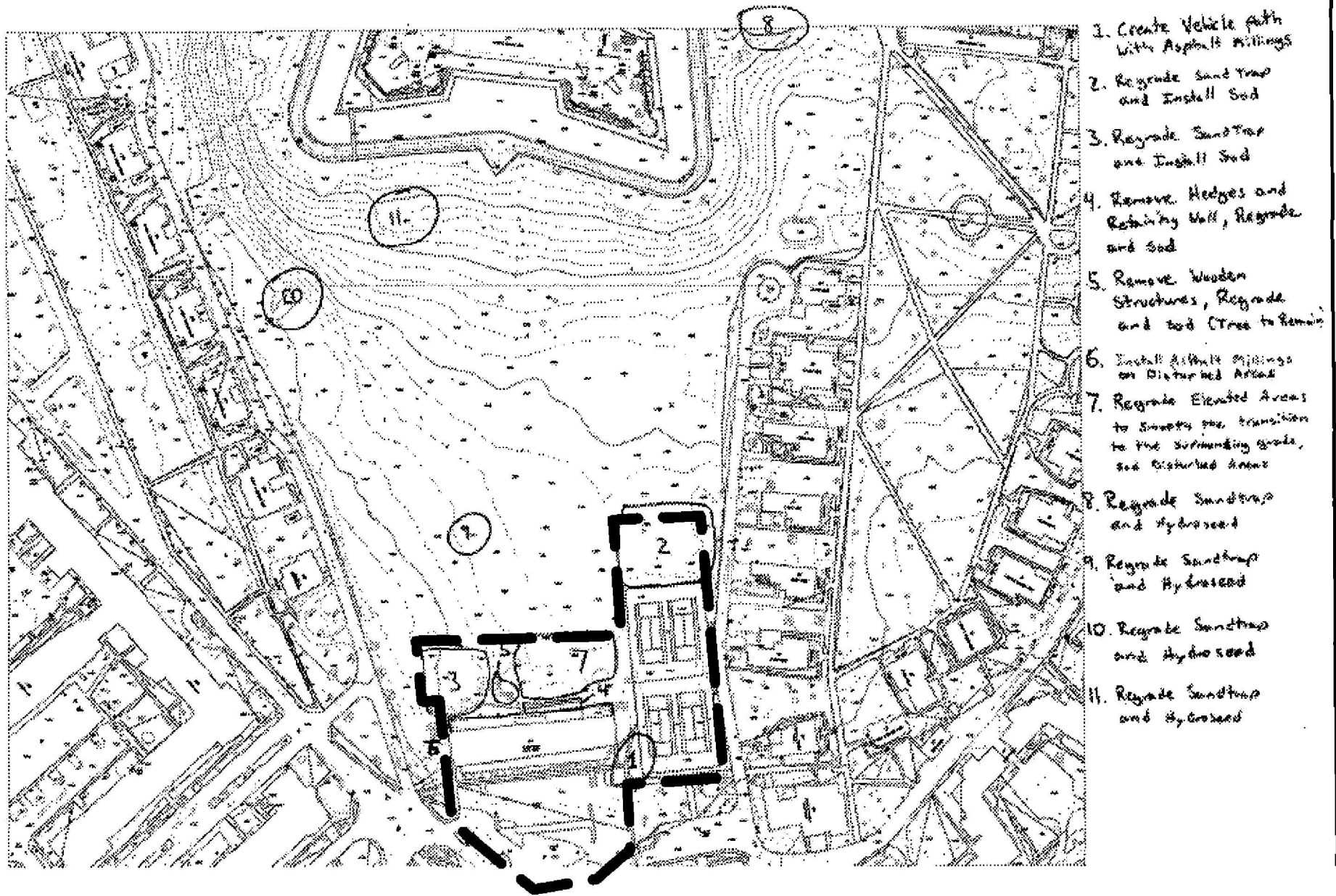


Figure 2 Additions to the original excavation plan for Building 293 demolition with the original project limit outlined in red dashes.

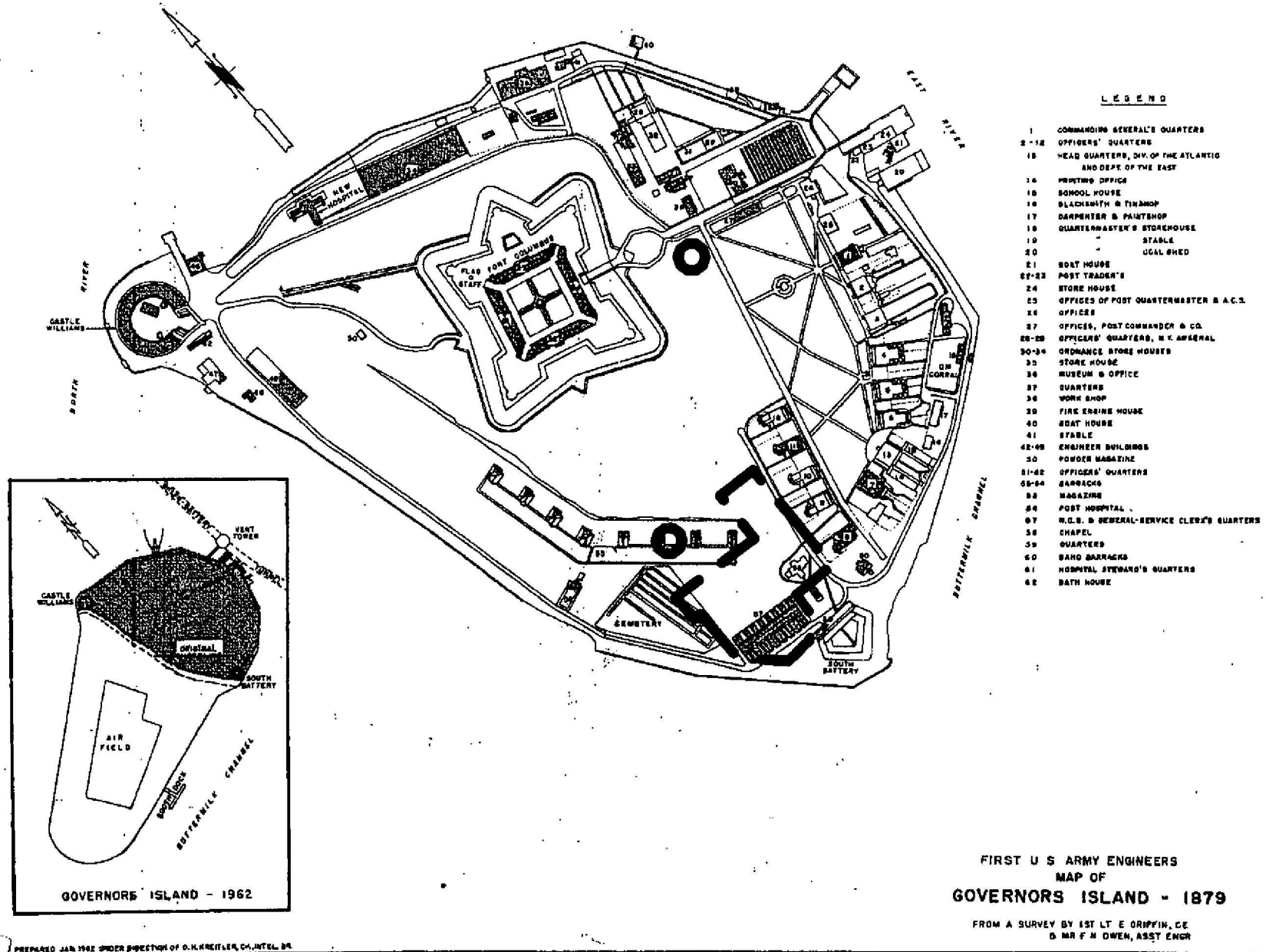


Figure 3 Map of Governors Island in 1879 showing the location of the original project limit outlined in red dashes and the two added areas in red circles.

APPENDIX B
ARTIFACT INVENTORY

Governors Island - Building #293 Demolition Artifact Inventory

Page 1 of 2

Context	Material	Identity	Form	Color	Count	Description	DateRange
GA 7	Ceramic	refined earthenware		white	1	light blue partial decoration or band	1798-1890
	Ceramic	whiteware		white	1		early 19th C.- present
					Artifacts Recovered From	GA 7 (2 records) = 2	
GA 9	Ceramic	whiteware		white	1		early 19th C.- present
	Concrete		marker ?		1	2.5' long x 6"square x 4.5" square	
	Glass		curved	green	1		
	Glass		curved	clear	1	possible lamp chimney sherd	
					Artifacts Recovered From	GA 9 (4 records) = 4	
PL 1	Ceramic	creamware		white	1		1762-1820
	Ceramic	ironstone		white	1	spall	early 19thC.- present
	Ceramic	stoneware		gray	1	partial decoration, cobalt blue	1705-1930
	Metal	copper	penny		1	Lincoln	1924
					Artifacts Recovered From	PL 1 (4 records) = 4	
PL 2	Ceramic	ironstone		white	1		early 19thC.- present
	Ceramic	pearlware	rim	white	1	blue geometric transfer print	1784-1864
	Ceramic	porcelain		white	1		
	Ceramic	porcelain	tile	white	1	decorative shape	
	Ceramic	whiteware		white	1		early 19th C.- present
	Glass		curved	green	1		
	Glass		reinforced	clear	1	wire reinforced; ribbed one side	1892-present
					Artifacts Recovered From	PL 2 (7 records) = 7	
PL 3	Glass		bottle finish	clear	1	screw top; molded	1920s-present
					Artifacts Recovered From	PL 3 (1 record) = 1	
PL 4	Glass		bottle base/body	clear	1	molded; ovoid with flat short sides; base embossed "3013/PATENT/APPLIED/FOR/3"	c.1905-present
PL 4	Glass		bottle finish	aqua	1	devitrified	
					Artifacts Recovered From	PL 4 (2 records) = 2	

Governors Island - Building #293 Demolition Artifact Inventory

Context	Material	Identity	Form	Color	Count	Description	DateRange
TC 1	Ceramic	porcelain	rim	white	1	blue rim pattern overglaze and gilding worn off	1860s-early 20th C.
					Artifacts Recovered From TC 1 (1 record) =	1	
TC 2	Ceramic		sewer pipe	buff	1	mineral glaze	
	Ceramic	porcelain		white	1	partial blue decoration	
	Ceramic	porcelain	tile	white	1		
	Ceramic	refined earthenware	rim	white	3	scalloped; blue glaze	
	Ceramic	whiteware	rim	white	2		early 19th C.- present
	Glass		bottle	clear	1	molded; embossed; 2 partial letters	c.1890-present
	Glass		curved	aqua	1	devitrified	
	Marble		sink	white	1	11" x 11" x 1.5"	
	Metal		nail		1	whole; corroded; 1 3/4"	
	Metal		nail		1	whole; corroded; 2 3/4"	
					Artifacts Recovered From TC 2 (10 records) =	13	
Total Artifact Recovered =					34		

Context Key

- GA 7 - Grading Area 7, collected 6/11/08
- GA 9 - Grading Area 9, collected 6/11/08
- PL 1 - Parking Lot south end, beneath concrete, collected 7/16-18/08
- PL 2 - Parking Lot north half, southwest quadrant, beneath asphalt, collected 7/17/08
- PL 3 - Parking Lot south side, inside brick foundation, collected 7/18/08
- PL 4 - Parking Lot southwest, retaining wall removal, collected 7/18/08
- TC 1 - Tennis Court north end, collected 7/15/08
- TC 2 - Tennis Court north end, collected 7/18/08