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ADDENDUM

**Stage 1A Literature Review and Archaeological and Historic
Sensitivity Potential
for
Block 3995. Lot 1-7 and Lot 33 & 34.**

**Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing.
359 Hendrix Street. East New York.
Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York.**

Prepared For:

Pratt Planning & Architectural Collaborative
379 DeKalb Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205

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CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants
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January 1996

140

ADDENDUM

Stage 1A Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Potential Block 3995. Lot 1-7 and 33 & 34.

**Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing
East New York Urban Youth Corps
359 Hendrix Street. Block 3995. Lot 1-5, 7, 33 & 34.
Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, NY.**

The information presented contains material in support of the Stage 1A Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Evaluation submitted to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in October 1995. At the request of the NYC LPC tax assessment records located at the New York City Municipal Archives were examined to determine whether they supported the conclusions of the Stage 1A document that all of the lots within the project area possessed the potential to yield historic archaeological remains consisting primarily of privies and cisterns associated with the dwellings formerly located on the lots.

The information gathered and the conclusions reached are outlined in the table entitled: Analysis of Potential to Yield Historic Archaeological Materials from Privies and/or Cisterns.

As part of the original investigation, historic maps and atlases including the project area were examined. The earliest map located that includes buildings is dated 1859. That map indicates that in that year, no structures had been built within the project area.

Real estate records on file at the Brooklyn Historical Society indicate that, with the exception of Lot 4 which remained vacant until 1893, the dwellings formerly located within the project area were built between 1860 and 1867. On Hendrix Street (formerly Smith Avenue) they consisted of frame dwellings, some of which had structures located in the rear yards. In one case, the rear yard structure is identified as a store room, but the purpose of the other rear yard structures is not known.

It is not until 1886 that buildings located within the project area can be identified. The description of the land use and the real estate assessment have been included in the attached table. By 1886 all of the lots within the project area (with the exception of Lot 4) contained or had contained dwellings. Lot 6 had been identified as containing a frame dwelling on the 1886 insurance map, but the assessment for the property (\$85.00) indicated that it was a vacant lot. A new house was built on this lot in 1892 at the cost of \$1400.00. It is possible that the building had burned between the time that the information for the map was collected and the real estate assessment was made. According to the 1886 insurance

map water lines were available to the project area, but no sewer lines appear on the maps until 1898, when a 15" sewer line is shown in Hendrix Street.

The sewer had been installed somewhat earlier than 1898, for an examination of the records at the Brooklyn Sewer Department indicates that connections were being made to the sewer as early as, but not prior to, 1895. The buildings within the project area continued to be connected to the sewer between 1895 (Lot 1, 4, & 7) and 1912 (Lot 3).

The earliest tax assessment records available for Block 3995 date from 1886. At that time Lot 1, 2, and 3 were each assessed at \$575.00. Lot 4 (vacant land) was assessed at \$85.00. Lot 5, containing a frame dwelling, was assessed at \$400.00. Lot 6, which as noted above had contained a frame dwelling, was assessed at \$85.00, suggesting that it was now vacant. Lot 7 contained a frame dwelling assessed at \$450.00. Lot 33 contained a brick dwelling assessed at \$700.00, and Lot 34 contained a frame structure assessed at \$100.00. Tax assessment records include the names of owners, lot numbers, the assessment and occasional remarks. The tax assessment records for Block 3995 in 1883-1887, 1887-1889, and 1891-1894 are presented in tabular form below. The block numbers located within the project area changed three times (Block Y became Block 387 and finally Block 3995). The lot numbers also were changed and the order in which they were numbered reversed (Lot 944-960 became Lot 21-31 and finally Lot 1-7 and 33 & 34). The street name also changed from Smith Avenue to Hendrix Street. The house numbers became established in 1898; those numbers are included on the three tables to assist in identifying the lots correctly. Although a column was included on the tax assessment records in which to describe the buildings located on the lots, no details were included for buildings within the project area.

The names of the owners of the various lots within the project area are given in the tax assessment records. For the most part, these correspond with the names included in the census records included in Appendix B of the Stage 1A document.

In conclusion, the information gathered indicates that, with the exception of Lot 4, all of the lots within the project area contained buildings by the end of the 1860's -- many years prior to the time that either water or sewer lines were installed in the area. The census data (beginning in 1880) and the tax assessment records (beginning in 1886) confirm that structures were located on all the lots (except Lot 4) prior to the time that sewer lines were installed. The records at the Brooklyn Sewer Department indicate that the earliest connections to buildings located within the project area were made in 1895, by which time even Lot 4 contained a dwelling. In short, the entire project area contains a high potential to yield historic archaeological evidence of the mid to late 19th century occupants of these properties in the form of debris that may have been deposited in the privies and, in all likelihood, cisterns that would have been located on the lots. In view of this conclusion, a Stage 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance of the entire project area is recommended.

ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL TO YIELD HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL FROM PRIVIES AND/OR CISTERNS

Block 3995: Lot Number (by 1898)	Address: (by 1898)	Block Y: Lot Numbers (1886)	Block 387: Lot Number (1893)	Date Built	Description 1886 & Assessment	Description 1893 & Assessment	Connect to Sewer	Remarks: potential for archaeological remains
Lot 1	353 Hendrix	Lot 956	Lot 25	c. 1861	frame dwelling \$575	frame dwelling & rear \$800	1895	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 2	351 Hendrix	Lot 954	Lot 26	c. 1860	frame dwelling \$575	frame dwelling & rear \$800	1906	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 3	349 Hendrix	Lot 952	Lot 27	c. 1860	frame dwelling \$575	frame dwelling \$800	1912	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 4	347 Hendrix	Lot 950	Lot 28	c. 1860	vacant lot \$85	frame dwelling \$1200 new 1893 \$2200	1895	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 5	345 Hendrix	Lot 948	Lot 29	c. 1860	frame dwelling \$400	frame dwelling \$600	1898	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 6	341 Hendrix	Lot 946	Lot 30	c. 1860 rebuilt 1892	frame dwelling \$85	frame dwelling \$900 new 1892 Cost \$1400	Not noted, but 1895 or later	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 7	339 Hendrix	Lot 944	Lot 31	by 1867	frame dwelling \$450	frame dwelling & rear \$900	1895	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 33	2261 Pitkin	Lot 961	Lot 21	unknown	brick dwelling \$700	brick dwelling \$600	Not available	High potential: privy & cistern
Lot 34	2259 Pitkin	Lot 958-60	Lot 22-24	c. 1860	frame structure \$100	frame structure \$3000 for all lots	1899	High potential: privy & cistern

ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE
26TH WARD -BLOCK Y - SMITH AVENUE & BROADWAY
1883-1887

Owner	Street Name & House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	Remarks
Michael McInerney	1898: 339 Hendrix	none	Lot 944	none	none	none	450	85	
Thomas Loney	1898: 341 Hendrix	none	Lot 946	none	none	none	85	85	
Thomas Loney	1898: 345 Hendrix	none	Lot 948	none	none	none	400	85	
Thomas Loney	1898: 347 Hendrix	none	Lot 950	none	none	none	85	85	
George Dunlap	1898: 349 Hendrix	none	Lot 952	none	none	none	575	85	
John Dunbar	1898: 351 Hendrix	none	Lot 954	none	none	none	575	85	
Charles Zick	1898: 353 Hendrix	none	Lot 956				575	85	
P. A. Barrett	1898: 2261 Pitkin	none	Lot 961				100	100	
P. A. Barrett	1898: 2259 Pitkin	none	Lot 958-960				700	85	

Printed Page 115 in Assessment Book

**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE
26TH WARD (BLOCK 387. HENDRIX STREET & BROADWAY
1887-1889**

Owner	Street Name & House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1887	Land liable to gas tax	1888	Land liable to gas tax	1889	Land liable to gas tax 1889 & Remarks
Matias & Angel Alvarez 86 \$2000	1898: 339 Hendrix	none	Lot 31	900	300	900	200	900	200
Joseph Reiter 86 \$800	1898: 341 Hendrix	none	Lot 30	250	200	250	200	250	200
Thomas Loney	1898: 345 Hendrix	none	Lot 29	600	200	600	200	600	200
Thomas Loney	1898: 347 Hendrix	none	Lot 28	800	200	800	200	800	200
George Dunlap	1898: 349 Hendrix	none	Lot 27	800	200	800	200	800	200
John Dunbar	1898: 351 Hendrix	none	Lot 26	800	200	800	200	800	200
Charles Zick	1898: 353 Hendrix	none	Lot 25	800	200	800	200	800	200
Adolph Kraus	1898: 2261 Pitkin	none	Lot 21	400	200	600	200	600	200 Cost \$1275
August "Moll" 86 \$2600	1898: 2259 Pitkin	none	Lot 22-24 & 25	Lot 22: 200 Lot 23: 1800 Lot 24 & 25: 2800	200 for each lot	Lot 22: 200 Lot 23: 1800 Lot 24 & 25: 2800	400	Lot 22: 200 Lot 23: 1800 Lot 24 & 25: 2800	400 Stable '84 Cost \$250 Stable '87 Cost \$300

Printed page 74 in Assessment Book

ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE
26TH WARD (BLOCK 387. HENRIX STREET & BROADWAY)
1891-1894

Owner	Street Name & House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1891	Land liable to Gas Tax	1892	Land liable to Gas Tax	1893	1894 & Remarks
Matias & Angel Alvarez	1898: 339 Hendrix	none	Lot 31	900	300	900	200	900	900
Theodore & Cath "Staff" new	1898: 341 Hendrix	none	Lot 30	250 NB Sept 91	200	900	200	900	900 new 1892 Cost \$1400
Thomas Loney	1898: 345 Hendrix	none	Lot 29	600	200	600	200	600	200
Thomas Loney	1898: 347 Hendrix	none	Lot 28	200	200	200 NB Nov '92	200	1200	1500 new 1893 2200 each
George Dunlap	1898: 349 Hendrix	none	Lot 27	800	200	800	200	800	800
John Dunbar	1898: 351 Hendrix	none	Lot 26	800	200	800	200	800	800
Charles Zick	1898: 353 Hendrix	none	Lot 25	800	200	800	200	800	200
Adolph Kraus	1898: 2261 Pitkin	none	Lot 21	800	200	800	200	600	800
Patrick M Barrett	1898: 2259 Pitkin	none	Lot 22-24 & 25	3000	600	3000	600	3000	3000

Printed Page 94-95 in Assessment Book

**BLOCK 3995.
LOT 1-5, 7, 33 & 34.**

**MARJORIE RICHARDSON COURT SENIOR HOUSING.
359 HENDRIX STREET. EAST NEW YORK.
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN. KINGS COUNTY, NY.**

**STAGE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD
RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY**

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December 1996

BLOCK 3995
LOT 1-5, 7, 33, & 34.

MARJORIE RICHARDSON COURT SENIOR HOUSING.
359 HENDRIX STREET. EAST NEW YORK.
BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN. KINGS COUNTY, NY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Stage 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Introduction.....	1
Project Description.....	1
Environmental & Archaeological Setting.....	3
Prehisotirc Background.....	4
Testing Strategy.....	6
Field Methodology.....	7
Field Results	8
Summary and Conclusions.....	10
Bibliographic References.....	12

APPENDICES:

- A. Shovel Test Record & Artifact Catalogue
- B. Photographs
- C. Maps

INTRODUCTION

On October 5, 1996 City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants completed a field reconnaissance level archaeological survey of the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site*, located within Block 3995 in the East New York section of the Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York.

Archaeological field work was carried out by Stephanie Roberg-Lopez, Gail T. Guillet, Luis A. Lopez and Bolivar Lopez. Preparation of the final report and the Field Reconnaissance Map was completed by Stephanie Roberg-Lopez, Principal Investigator. Production of the report and photographs were completed by Gail T. Guillet.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION (See also Stage 1A Literature Review, City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants, October 1995)

The project area includes Lots 1-5, 7, 33 and 34 of Block 3995 in the East New York section of the Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. (Map 1) Block 3995 is bounded on the east by Hendrix Street (formerly Smith Avenue), on the north by Glenmore Avenue (formerly Baltic Avenue), on the west by Schenck Avenue and on the south by Pitkin Avenue (formerly Eastern Parkway/Broadway). The current address for the parcel is 359 Hendrix Street, however the houses that formerly stood on the lots were, until their demolition, identified as 339 Hendrix Street (Lot 7), 347-353 Hendrix Street (in reverse order, Lots 5-1) and 2259-2261 Pitkin Avenue (Lot 33 and 34). The history of the proposed project area is complex, in that Hendrix Street was formerly known as Smith Avenue and Pitkin Avenue was at one time identified as an extension of Eastern Parkway (though never constructed as a parkway). Prior to being called Eastern Parkway, Pitkin Avenue had been identified as Broadway. Just as the street names have changed, so too have the block, lot and house numbers for the lots within the project area. For example, Block 3995 was formerly Block 387 and prior to that Block Y. The lot's numbers have also changed with each of the changes in the block numbers. The following table documents the history of these changes:

Block 3995: Lot Number (by 1898)	Block 387: Lot Number (1893)	Block Y: Lot Number (1886)	Address of Houses Formerly on Site	Probable House Addresses (pre- 1898)
Lot 1	Lot 25	Lot 956	353 Hendrix Street	238 Smith Avenue
Lot 2	Lot 26	Lot 954	351 Hendrix Street	236 Smith Avenue
Lot 3	Lot 27	Lot 952	349 Hendrix Street	234 Smith Avenue
Lot 4	Lot 28	Lot 950	347 Hendrix Street	232 Smith Avenue
Lot 5	Lot 29	Lot 948	345 Hendrix Street	230 Smith Avenue
Lot 6	Lot 30	Lot 946	341 Hendrix Street	226 Smith Avenue

Block 3995: Lot Number (by 1898)	Block 387: Lot Number (1893)	Block Y: Lot Number (1886)	Address of Houses Formerly on Site	Probable House Addresses (pre- 1898)
Lot 7	Lot 31	Lot 944	339 Hendrix Street	224 Smith Avenue
Lot 33	Lot 21	Lot 961	2261 Pitkin Avenue	516 Eastern Parkway/ Broadway
Lot 34	Lot 22-24	Lot 958-960	2259 Pitkin Avenue	512-514 Eastern Parkway/ Broadway

At the present time the parcel associated with Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 33 and 34 are vacant. The area is closed off by a heavy chain link fence and access is blocked by a large wooden log. There is virtually no vegetation growing on this parcel for two reasons; first the sterile nature of the gravelly hardpan that covers the site and second because the lot has been heavily used as an illegal parking lot and a gathering place as indicated by a substantial collection of empty liquor bottles strewn across the surface. Despite the fact that the city had cleared the lot of derelict autos as recently as two months earlier, three vehicles were on the lot. This level of usage and substantial traffic has discouraged plant growth. With the exception of the liquor bottles the lot is very nearly clean of litter. Because the three cars parked on the lot blocked an area that required testing, the owners had to be searched out by asking neighbors of their whereabouts. The cars were subsequently moved by the owners.

Lot 7 is separated from the other lots by Lot 6, a parcel not included in the project area. Sixty percent of the surface of Lot 7 is inaccessible due to the presence of four large cars owned by the owner of Lot 6, who reports that he rents Lot 7 from the city. Two thirds of the lot appears to be paved driveway, and the rear third appears to be disturbed, though this required testing for confirmation. City/Scape explored the possibility of testing the small backyard area of Lot 6, since it was indicated that the city would be purchasing this lot for inclusion in the project area. A visual inspection, however, revealed that the testable areas are paved with concrete to form patio and storage areas. This lot will be testable only when a backhoe has clearance to remove these construction features.

The overall site is uniform in elevation. When compared with the elevation recorded in 1887, height above sea level has remained the same at 34 feet. Also, by comparison with the lots bordering the site where 19th century structures still exist, the project area is equal in altitude indicating that substantial filling has not taken place.

The Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Evaluation prepared by City/Scape documented that a total of eight historic houses and various associated outbuildings had once stood on these eight lots. (Map 2) In addition, the 19th century occupants of these houses were identified and are as follows:

Lot Number	Address	Date of Construction	Date Connected to Sewer
Lot 1	353 Hendrix Street	c. 1861	1895 (#98862.12)
Lot 2	351 Hendrix Street	c. 1860	1906 (#25822.15)
Lot 3	349 Hendrix Street	c. 1860	3-30-1912 Owner: M. "Engert" (spelling uncertain) (#13611.17)
Lot 4	347 Hendrix Street	c. 1860	1895 (#99242.12)
Lot 5	345 Hendrix Street	c. 1860	3-15-1898 Owner: J. Lonney (#107600.13)
Lot 6	341 Hendrix Street		Not included in project area
Lot 7	339 Hendrix Street	by 1867	1895 (#100119.12)
Lot 33	2261 Pitkin Avenue		No date provided
Lot 34	2259 Pitkin Avenue	c. 1860	10-25-1899 Owner: Joseph Rappold (#3564.13)

An evaluation of known destruction episodes at the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site* strongly indicated that although these eight houses had been destroyed, the backyard areas extending to the rear property line had not been profoundly disturbed. The presence of historic sub-surface features such as privies and cisterns was judged to be highly probable, warranting an archaeological field reconnaissance level survey.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

The project area lies within the larger prehistoric archaeological zone identified as Prehistoric New England. (Map 3) The area is routinely divided for study into major river drainages, as these waterways and their associated lands comprised the geophysical and political boundaries recognized by the indigenous groups themselves. Along with distinct waterways such as the Hudson, the Connecticut and the Housatonic, large inland and peninsular areas such as Long Island and Cape Cod are treated as discrete environmental units (Snow 1980:5). The majority of prehistoric New England (as defined by Map 3) is generally treated as a single physiographic unit. Only Long Island, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod are identified as being northern expressions of the coastal plain that broadens and dominates the landscape to the south (Snow 1980:6).

The entire New England land surface was covered by the Wisconsin glaciation that receded only 12 to 10,000 years ago. The soils of Long Island are a direct result of this glacial episode, and are dominated by deep, strongly acid soils that have developed in unconsolidated sand and clay (Snow 1980:6). The soils of the project area are classic

glacial deposits, associated with the Harbor Hill terminal moraine that represents the maximum line of advance of the second glaciation episode on Long Island. (Map 4) The prehistoric forests of Long Island, unlike those of the mainland, were dominated by yellow pine and hardwood forests.

PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

New England, particularly Southern New England including the Hudson, Thames and Connecticut drainages, has emerged as one of the richest archaeological zones in the northeastern United States. The reasons for this are several, the most important being the cluster of prime waterways that enrich the landscape and the fertile seacoast that marks its southern border. The prehistoric inhabitants of this region had ready access to very high quality raw materials for tool making, and the moderating influence of the ocean maintained a climate significantly milder than those regions to the north.

As the first native Americans, indeed the first humans, entered the area during the Paleo Indian period some 12,000 years ago, their logical route would be along the open seacoast and the mighty river systems that were the "super highways" of the times. Not only humans, but the post-Pleistocene mega fauna, the mammoth, the mastodon and the caribou that inhabited this tundra-like area would be logically drawn to these corridors. Mammoth and mastodon finds are densely clustered just south of Long Island (on the continental shelf) with one find just south of the project area. (Map 5) As the great ice sheet began to retreat from southern New England both the hunter, the Paleo Indian, and the hunted began to move into this region.

Research indicates that the post glacial landscape was tundra-like, the colonizing grasses, sedges and herbs supporting a variety of large and small game animals. Among the fauna were giant beaver, giant ground sloth and horse, all of which became extinct, as well as the caribou, musk-ox and bison that persist to modern times.

Paleo-Indians, as these small bands of nomadic hunter-gatherers are called by archaeologists, appear to have entered the previously uninhabited northeast from the south and west. Their sites, identified primarily by characteristically fluted points, are found all over North America. It has traditionally been assumed that these nomadic peoples were strictly "big game" hunters, however that assumption has been called into question by the discovery of fish, bird, small mammal bones and some plant remains found in association with Paleo-Indian sites. It now seems that in addition to the large animals that comprised their principal food source, the Paleo-Indians also hunted small game and gathered a wide variety of plants to support their diet. Paleo-Indian sites are quite rare in the archaeological record, and have been found in association with major waterways such as the Hudson, quarry zones such as the Wallkill Valley, and most notably for our present investigation, at the Port Mobil site on Staten Island. (Map 6)

The Archaic period in New England is better represented than the Paleo-Indian. It is divided into four stages: the Early Archaic, the Middle Archaic, the Late Archaic and the Terminal Archaic. In many important respects, the nature of life in the Archaic period was

little different from the nomadic lives lived by the Paleo-Indians, however, during the time span of the Archaic significant changes in the environment occurred. The tundra-like landscape began to give way, first to spruce forest and then to a forest composed of various conifers, hemlocks and hardwoods. As the hardwood forests advanced northward, a new ecosystem became available, an ecosystem that provided a range of nuts (in particular the acorn), grasses and tubers that supported both the smaller game of the Archaic period and the human population as well.

Like the Paleo-Indian culture, Archaic occupations are found throughout New England. In eastern New York this period is divided into a series of phases, Vergennes, Vosburg, Sylvan Lake, Wading River and Snook Kill. There are indications that Archaic man was by this time exploiting shellfish, a fact of particular importance on Long Island. The Archaic period, however, is still dominated by the hunting and gathering lifestyle.

The Archaic period on Long Island is followed by the Transitional Stage. Chief among the general characteristics that separate the Transitional Stage from the earlier periods is the use of stone vessels. With soapstone as the most common raw material, these vessels were extremely heavy and were later replaced by pottery vessels of various types.

Long Island takes front stage during the Transitional Period as the locus of the highly distinct Orient Culture. This Transitional phase is identified by the diagnostic Orient Fishtail projectile point, by the use of soapstone vessels whose raw materials were most likely quarried in Rhode Island and in Bristol Connecticut, by distinctive burials and by the intense exploitation of shellfish. It is possible that the supply of large game was being exhausted on Long Island as early as 900 BC, making exploitation of these alternate food sources a necessity for survival (Ritchie 1980:166). We must take particular note of the fact that contact with mainland New England was clearly an easy and frequent occurrence at this time, with passage across the narrows between Long Island, Staten Island, Manhattan Island, the lower Hudson drainage and southern New England a common occurrence. Important sites in close proximity to the project area include Muskeeta Cove, Wilkins, Grantville B and Clason's Point.

The Woodland Stage, like the Archaic is divided into several substages, including the early Woodland Stage, the Middle Woodland Stage and the Late Woodland Stage. Sites used by Woodland groups tend to be away from the major waterways and are frequently located on inland streams. In later periods there is some indication of the presence of palisaded villages. Around these sites, on the alluvial plains of nearby streams, the Indian fields were located. Horticulture, although practiced in other parts of North America at an earlier date, does not appear in this area until c. 1000 AD. The changeover to cultivation of a variety of domesticates, among them maize, beans, gourds, sumpweed and sunflower, created a marked change in the pattern of land use and settlement. With the advent of sedentary of occupations the character of sites changed.

On Long Island the Transitional, particularly the later period, is hallmarked by the Sebonac Phase. The Sebonac sites are large occupations located on well-drained sites on bays and tidal streams close to available sources of marine shellfish. Typical of these sites

are deep shellfish middens, abundant pit structures and elaborate burials. This implies stable communities with people living in circular rush wigwams up to twenty feet in diameter made of grass or rush harvested from the tidal marshes and wetlands that were abundant on prehistoric Long Island.

The Sebonac Phase is followed on western Long Island by the Bowman's Brook phase of the East River tradition. Bowman's Brook sites are located on tidal streams or coves, and typically contain large village occupations with associated shell middens and pit structures. Unlike the Sebonac peoples, the Bowman's Brook culture did not focus on highly ritualized mortuary practices, although dog burials have been noted (Ritchie 1980:271).

By the time the Europeans arrived, the dominant indigenous groups on Long Island were the Montauk speakers of the eastern tip of the island, the Quiripi-Unquachog speakers of central Long Island (closely associated with Connecticut groups) and Munsee speakers on the western tip of Long Island, who were referred to by Johan de Laet as Nawaas (Snow 1980:87). (Map 7) Population figures are difficult to calculate due to the lightning speed with which European diseases wiped out the indigenous population. Snow states that "There is almost no data on which to base a population estimate for the middle and lower Connecticut and central Long Island populations". With the coming of first the Dutch, then the British settler, the indigenous population of Long Island decreased to its current negligible size.

In terms of the greater archaeological context, research on the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site* has not indicated prehistoric sites either near or associated with the project area. The Archaeological and Historical Sensitivity Evaluation of the site therefore assigned a low probability for prehistoric occupation for the project area.

TESTING STRATEGY

The testing strategy for the project area was dictated by the conclusions and recommendations of the Archaeological & Historical Sensitivity Evaluation for the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site*. As a result the Stage 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey of the site focused on the seven contiguous lots in the project area (Lots 1-5, 33 and 34) and the separate Lot 7 as described above. (Photo 1 & 2) The historic house foundations that make up fully 45% of the site were ruled out as profoundly disturbed. This left the 55% rear portion of the lots available for testing. Recommendations focused on testing for the presence of privies and cisterns dating back to the 19th century occupation of the row houses. Since privies are most commonly found at the far rear of these house lots and cisterns most commonly found directly behind the house structures themselves, it was recommended that two five foot wide trenches be mechanically excavated in an effort to expose these features should they continue to exist on the site. This testing strategy formed the basis of the research design employed by City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants to test for historic cultural remains.

A major concern on urban sites such as the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing* project area is the depth of the non-stratified overburden. Events such as destruction episodes, burning episodes, deliberate introduction of non-local fill for grading and sealing potentially hazardous surfaces littered with destruction debris are the rule rather than the exception in these areas. As there was no documentary evidence for the chain of events on the lot subsequent to the leveling of the houses, it was necessary to hand-test in a series of stratigraphic controls (shovel testing and trenching) in order to establish a history of the site. These tests, when combined with altitude comparisons, confirmed that the site had not been filled or sealed.

FIELD METHODOLOGY

Field methodology for the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site* consisted of several stages of investigation. These included:

1. A walkover and visual inspection of the area to assess the probable depth of the non-stratified overburden and to determine if the surface exhibited the presence of artifacts related to the historic houses. In addition to examining the site itself, extant houses from the period under study that still remain on the block, specifically those flanking the site, were very carefully examined for comparative purposes and to verify the accuracy of the historic maps as guides to the location of the historic house foundations.
2. The excavation of a stratigraphic control test to establish the stratigraphy of the site and to identify the depth and composition of the sterile glacially deposited sub soils.
3. The controlled mechanical excavation of six trenches, three directly behind the house foundations and three more at the rear of the lots. This controlled testing was designed to locate cistern and privy features.
4. Shovel testing along the line of the rear house foundation and at the rear property line of Lot 7 (seen in Photo 2), where mechanical testing was precluded by the cars covering the lot surface. It will not be possible for a backhoe to access this area until these cars are removed.
5. Cleaning, measuring, photographing and drawing all features exposed through the combination of mechanical and hand excavation employed in testing.
6. Photographic documentation of the overall site.

Because of the readily available information on the historic location of structures on this site, it was not difficult to focus the testing on areas of highest potential.

In those areas that could not be tested by backhoe trenching, the team tested sensitive areas by excavating 40 cm diameter shovel tests at five foot intervals. Soils were passed through a 0.25 inch steel mesh screen and the materials remaining in the screens were carefully examined for historic and prehistoric artifacts. Items recovered were

assigned to the stratum from which they were obtained. The stratigraphy of each test was recorded, including the depth and the soil description of each stratum. A total of five shovel tests was excavated. (Appendix B: Shovel Test Records and Appendix C: Artifact Catalogue)

FIELD RESULTS

Despite the volume of historic data available on the project area, a number of archaeological questions remained to be answered before introducing mechanical equipment to the excavation. Initial excavation was devoted to assessing the condition of the site and establishing a stratigraphic control. By examining the ground level of the extant row houses, it seemed clear that no overburden had been introduced to alter the historic elevation of the site.

A site datum was established at the southwestern corner of the project area (Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Map). Datum was set at ground level at an altitude of 34 feet above seal level.

The first test trench excavated on the site was placed along the rear boundary of Lots 1 through 5. (Photo 3) The backhoe operator was instructed to open a trench 5 feet wide and five feet deep removing soils in arbitrary one foot strata. The principal investigator examined the sediments and emerging wall profiles as the testing proceeded. (Photo 4) The purpose of placing this trench was to uncover any traces of 19th century privies that may remain present up to modern times. The presence of privies is strongly suggested by the site history as reported in the Stage 1A Literature review. Two very large trees impeded testing in Lots 2 and 4, however the loci obstructed by the trees were hand tested by the field crew. (Photo 5)

Lot 5 proved to be a deep deposit of non-stratified urban soils. Occasional fragments of brick and window glass were recovered, however no traces of privy features -- coursed stonework, brick foundations, telltale dark organic soil stains, or concentrated artifact deposits -- were encountered. (Photo 6) On Lot 4, the large tree obstructing excavation obscured approximately half of the trench. Hand excavation by the crew did not turn up any cultural remains, nor did mechanical excavation of the remaining half of the trench. Soils were consistent with those noted in Lot 5. Lot 3 yielded a similar soil profile, however a small concentration of bricks midway along the back wall of the trench and a deposit of coal slag and cinder near the southern edge of the lot required further manual testing. Both of these deposits were small and contained lacked any associated artifacts. They appear to be isolated dumping episodes. (Photo 7) Lot 2 was also partially obstructed by a large tree, however the backhoe was able to excavate close enough to the tree to reveal the edge of a fragment of dressed stone. Manual excavation subsequently uncovered a foundation of coursed field stone and brick. (Photo 8) The foundation spanned the back of the lot and corresponds with the outbuilding illustrated in the 1887 Sanborn map. Had a privy feature been present, it would have been eradicated by the construction of this outbuilding. Lot 1, like Lot 5, was yielded unstratified urban soils with occasional brick and glass inclusions. Much to the surprise of the investigators, the privy features potentially on

the site were not encountered in Trench A, nor were any other features apart from the outbuilding foundation in Lot 4.

Trench 2 was placed along the rear boundary of Lots 33 and 34. (Photo 9) Like Trench 1 it was designed to locate privy features that should have been located at the rear of the lots. Trench 2 was identical to Trench 1 in size and execution, with the backhoe operator digging a five foot wide and five foot deep trench in arbitrary one foot strata. At the midpoint of the trench, a substantial amount of brick and burned timber was encountered. This corresponded to an outbuilding noted on maps as early as 1887. In addition, a large concrete foundation wall was encountered at the eastern boundary of Lot 34. (Photo 10) Once again, there were no subsurface traces of 19th century privy features.

Trench 3 was excavated directly behind the rear foundation of the historic house on Lot 34. This house was larger and more substantial than others on the project area, and it was judged highly likely that a cistern feature would have remained intact to modern times. Despite the presence of some burned debris and fragments of brick wall, however, no cistern features were encountered.

Past experience in historic Brooklyn excavations has indicated that a total lack of privies and cisterns on this site was a highly unusual situation given the known site history. As a result, two more trenches were placed at different locations on Lots 33 and 34, both attempting to intersect the rear foundations of the historic houses on the lots. Although Trenches 4 and 5 should have intersected with cistern features, particularly since they now sampled a total of 15 feet in east-west trenching in the high potential zone behind the house in Lot 34, no features were encountered. Testing on Lots 33 and 34 was completed with the excavation of these four trenches.

The team next turned to the high potential zone at the rear of the historic row houses on Lots 1 through 5. After carefully measuring the area behind the houses as they are located on historic maps, and using the extant house on Lot 6 as an orienting point, Trench 5 was placed along what should have been the line of the rear foundations of the houses. This trench, unlike the others, did show discreet differences in the soil profiles of each of the five lots hinting at the nature of the destruction episodes of the houses.

On Lot 5 the test trench uncovered sandy soils mixed with jumbled brick debris and wood fragments. (Photo 11) There was no trace of burning on the wood, and all items noted were quite small in size. The presence of galvanized pipe excited a small amount of hope that the cistern feature might be present, however the pipe was present in the soil as a loose artifact. (Photo 12) There was insufficient material in the deposit to represent a feature of any kind, and the objects noted were the result of the destruction of the house. A small east-west brick wall separated Lots 5 and 4. Based on the discovery of this wall, the trench was widened to approximately eight feet to insure that the test cleared the rear foundation. Like Lot 5, the trench in Lot 4 contained substantial wood and brick debris. None of this debris, however indicated the presence of a feature of any kind, and was once again judged to be the remains of the destruction episode. The profile of the trench in Lot 3 was dramatically different from those of Lots 5 and 4. At the junction of the row houses,

the deposit turned immediately to clean, sandy fill. (Photo 13) For the length of Lot 3 virtually no artifacts were noted in the fill indicating that the destruction debris from the house had been removed from the site and that the lot had been filled with trucked in material. Lots 2 and 1 were similar to Lot 3 with perhaps a few more brick and wood inclusions, but fundamentally the same as Lot 3. No cistern features, or features of any other kind were encountered on these lots.

The lack of features of any kind on the site now posed a perplexing question. Had the unrecorded history of the site included building and destruction events about which we knew nothing? It was decided that an additional trench should be excavated five feet east of Trench 5 to rule out our having simply misjudged the location of the rear house foundations, as unlikely as that might have been. Trench 6 was excavated along the north-south length of Lots 5 through 1. Trench 6, in effect, was an near exact reproduction of Trench 5, lacking only the brick separating wall between the lots. No features were encountered in Trench 6.

Final testing took place on Lot 7. Because the parked cars obstructed access, the lot was tested manually. A total of five shovel tests was excavated on Lot 7, three in the probable location of cistern features and two along the rear boundary of the lot where privies might exist. (see Field Reconnaissance Map) The soils were very disturbed hardpan littered with debris. Because they tests were not stratified, artifacts were noted, but not collected with the exception of an 1896 Indian head penny. In addition to this coin, investigators noted broken glass, brick, metal fragments, clam shell, whiteware fragments, plastic and wood. Shovel test 3 encountered what appears to be a brick feature covered with a piece of sheet metal. Due to on-site obstructions and the density of debris in the soils, the team could not manually uncover the feature. It was noted that the bricks appear to be somewhat curved in construction and therefore potentially part of a cistern feature. The feature was excavated to the limit possible through manual digging, however a positive identification of the feature -- which might simply be debris -- awaits the time when a backhoe can be brought onto this lot. All of the remaining four shovel tests dug to the limit of manual excavation through non-stratified soils. No features of any kind were encountered.

All trenches and shovel tests were backfilled upon completion of photography and mapping.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A walkover reconnaissance was completed on the *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site*, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. After reviewing the Archaeological and Historical Sensitivity Evaluation completed for the project area, a testing strategy was created for the site focusing on the possible presence of historic cisterns and privies associated with the now destroyed historic houses.

Six trenches were excavated along carefully selected axes on the site using a combination of mechanical excavation and manual excavation. No features from the

historic occupation period were identified, nor were prehistoric artifacts of any kind encountered. Of the seven lots making up the southern portion of the project area, all were found to be profoundly disturbed and unsuitable for further testing.

Lot 7 produced a possible feature in the form of a suggestive brick and sheet metal structure located just behind the historical foundation of the house. Obstruction of the lot by parked cars prevented further testing to determine whether this structure might be a cistern or not. The remaining tests on Lot 7 failed to encounter features of any kind and indicated that the soils were highly disturbed.

The *Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site* was thoroughly tested for the presence of historic features. None were encountered in Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 33 and 34. As a result no further archaeological testing is recommended for this portion of the site. Should Lot 7 be impacted by construction, it is recommended that the locus where the brick and sheet metal feature was identified (Shovel test 3) be further exposed to make a positive identification.

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APPENDICES

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Shovel Test Records & Artifact Catalogue

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Maps

APPENDIX A

**SHOVEL TEST RECORDS &
ARTIFACT CATALOGUE**

MARJORIE RICHARDSON COURT SENIOR HOUSING SITE				
Shovel Test Record				
		Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material Recovered
ST 1	0-5"	10YR 4/3	hard pan/soil mixed with debris	Disturbed soils
	-		of rock/brick/pebbles/sandy soil	whiteware frag., wood frag.
	5-12"	10YR 3/4	dark yellowish brown sandy silt	NCM
ST 2	0-5"	10YR 4/3	hard pan/soil mixed with debris	Disturbed soils
	-			brick, broken glass, metal frag.
	5-17"	10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM
ST 3	0-6"	10YR 4/3	brown sandy soil mixed with	Brick with slight curve/ possible
			debris	brick cistern/not determined
			Brick impasse	due to difficulty of excavation
ST 4	0-3"	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown soil	Surface find: 1896 Indian head
				penny
				sheet metal approximately 2' x 4'
				removed to excavate deeper
	3-20"	10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	mixed debris/plastic/broken
			glass/ clam shell
ST 5	20-27"	10YR 5/6	yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM
	0-6"	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown soil	mixed debris/plastic/broken
	6-18"	10YR 5/4	yellowish brown sandy soil	glass/ clam shell
	18-21"	10YR 5/6	yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM

Shovel Test	Artifacts Recovered
STP 4	Surface find: 1896 Indian head penny

APPENDIX B
PHOTOGRAPHS

Appendix B: Photographs

Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site. Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York.



Photo 1: View of the site of proposed Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing facility looking northwest. Large trees exist along rear property line, but otherwise site is clear.

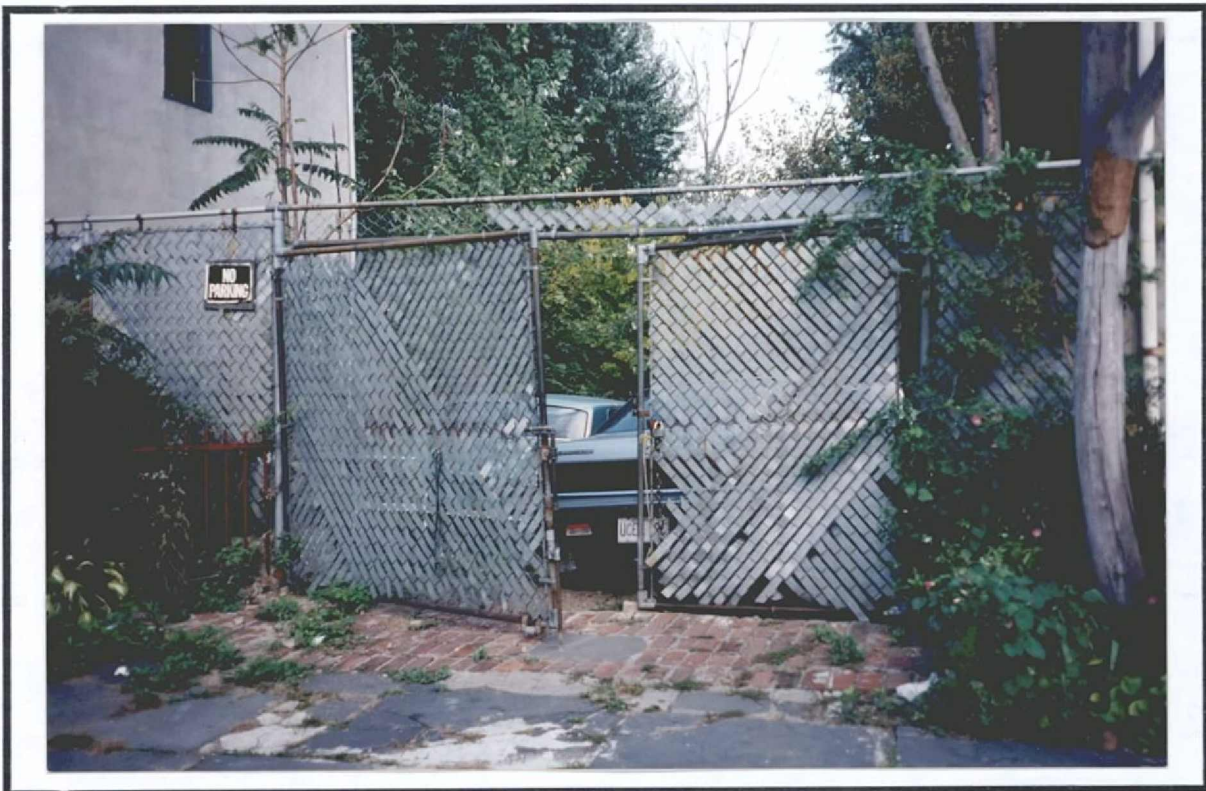


Photo 2: A number of cars are currently parked on Lot 7 making it impossible to utilize backhoe. This area was partially examined through shovel testing.



Photo 3: A trench was excavated along rear property lines in attempt to locate privy features. Large trees made excavation difficult. No privy features were revealed.

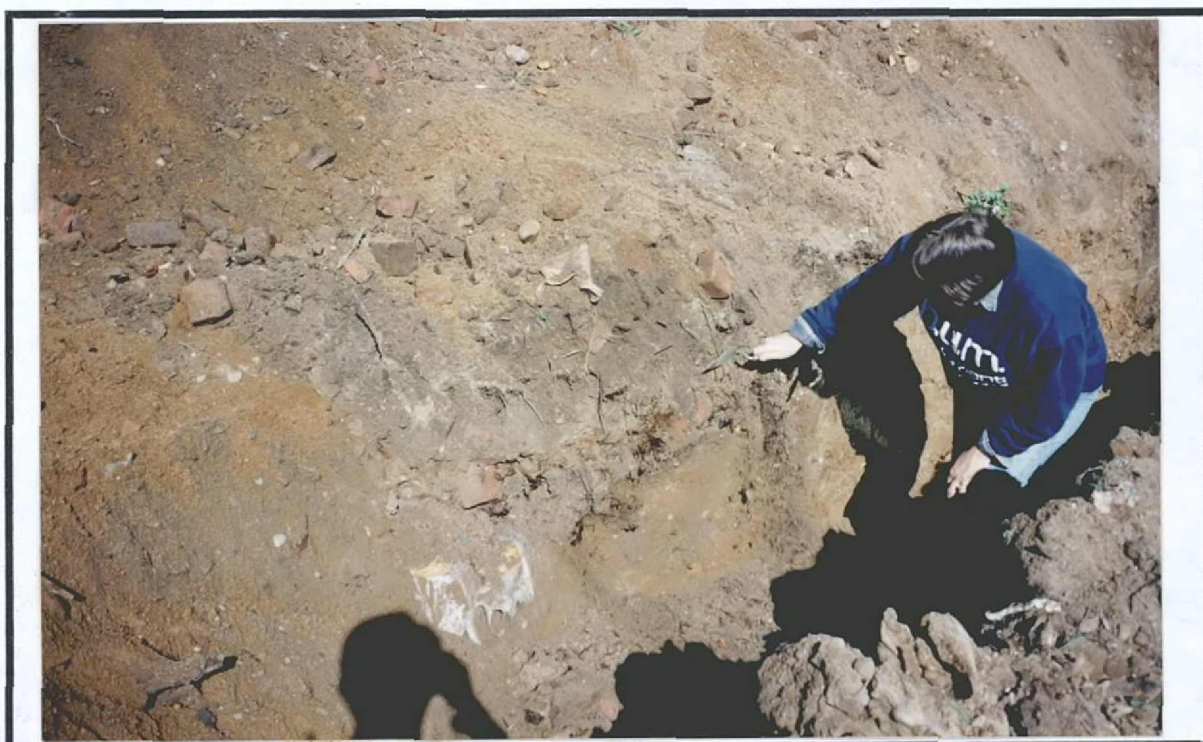


Photo 4: The principal investigator examining trenches for evidence of features. Some areas of brick were examined, but were determined to be areas of disturbance and not intact features.



Photo 5: Large trees along the rear lot lines on Lot 1-5 made excavation difficult. No privy features were revealed during trenching.

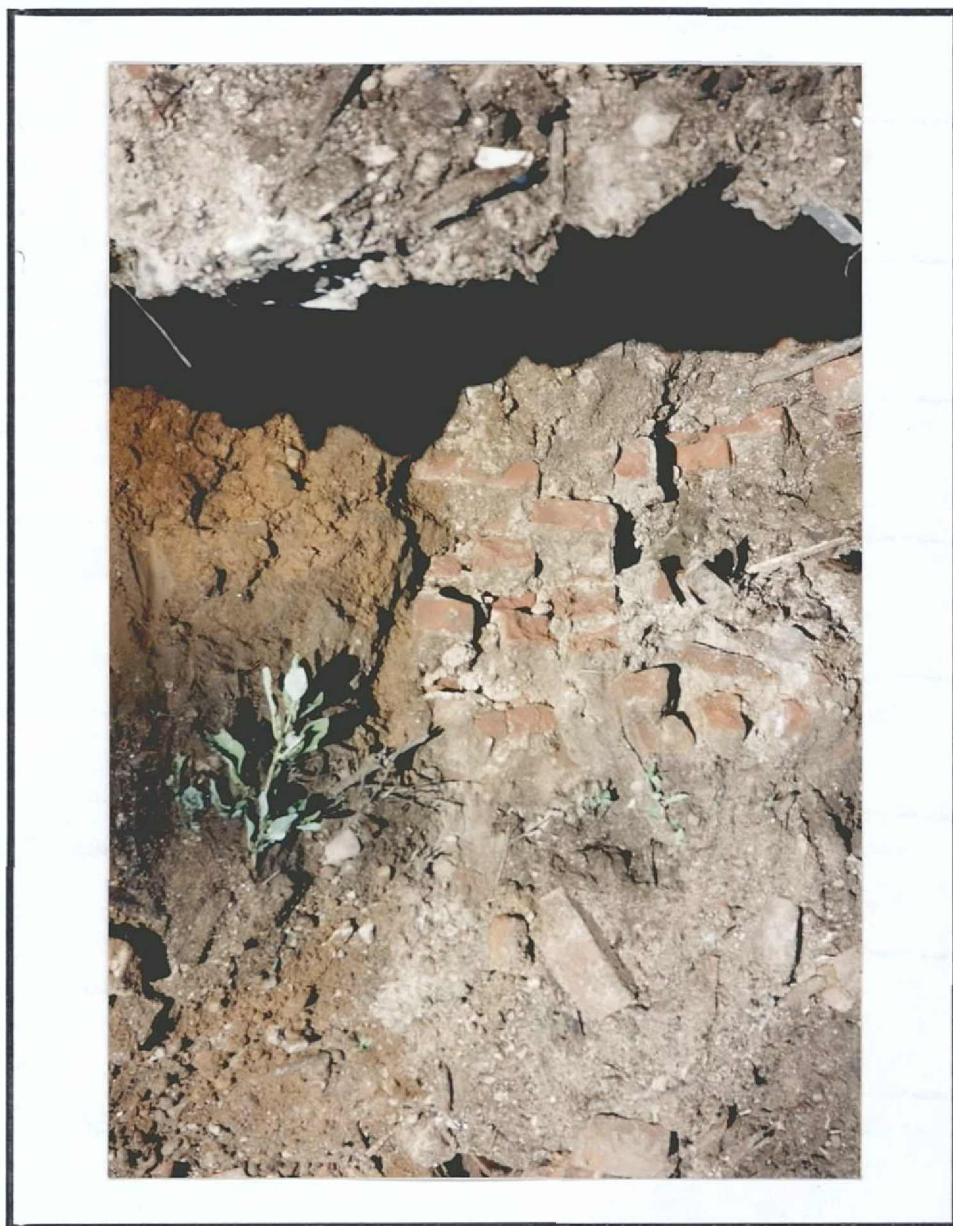


Photo 6: Areas of brick debris corresponded with an outbuilding located on Lot 34.



Photo 7: A number of areas suggested burned materials. This material may have come from demolished structures, but were not interpreted as historic dumping episodes.



Photo 8: Along the rear lot lines of Lot 1-5 a foundation of dressed stone was uncovered. However, hand excavation revealed that this was the foundation of an outbuilding seen on Sanborn maps rather than a privy feature.



Photo 9: A trench was run along the rear lot lines of Lot 33 & 34 looking for privy or other features.



Photo 10: Brick debris and a substantial concrete foundation wall were revealed. These are interpreted as part of an outbuilding appearing on Sanborn maps of the site.



Photo 11: A trench was run along the line of the rear walls of the houses located on the main portion of the site in an effort to locate cisterns. None were found.

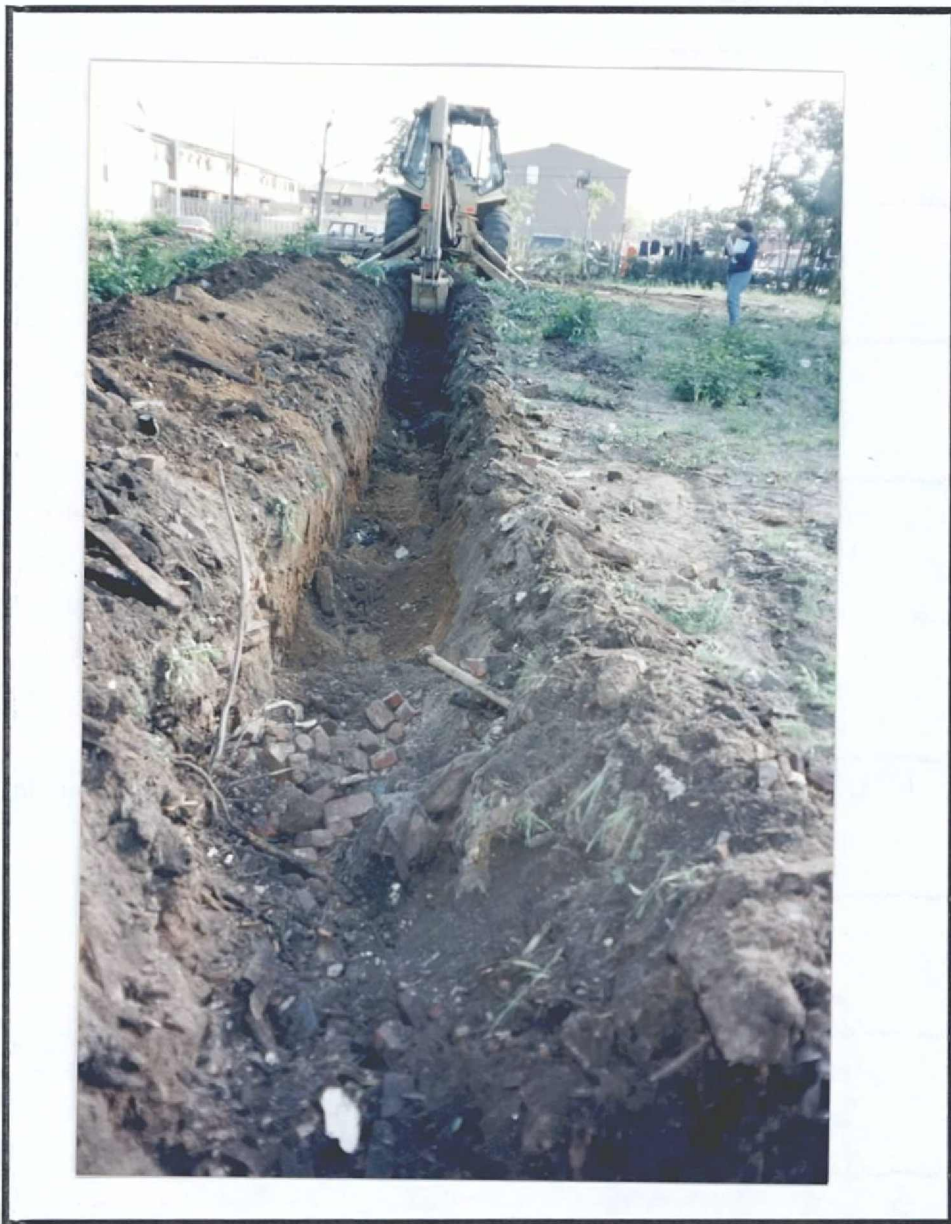


Photo 12: Although a galvanized pipe excited hopes that a cistern might be present on one of the lots, trenching revealed no intact features.

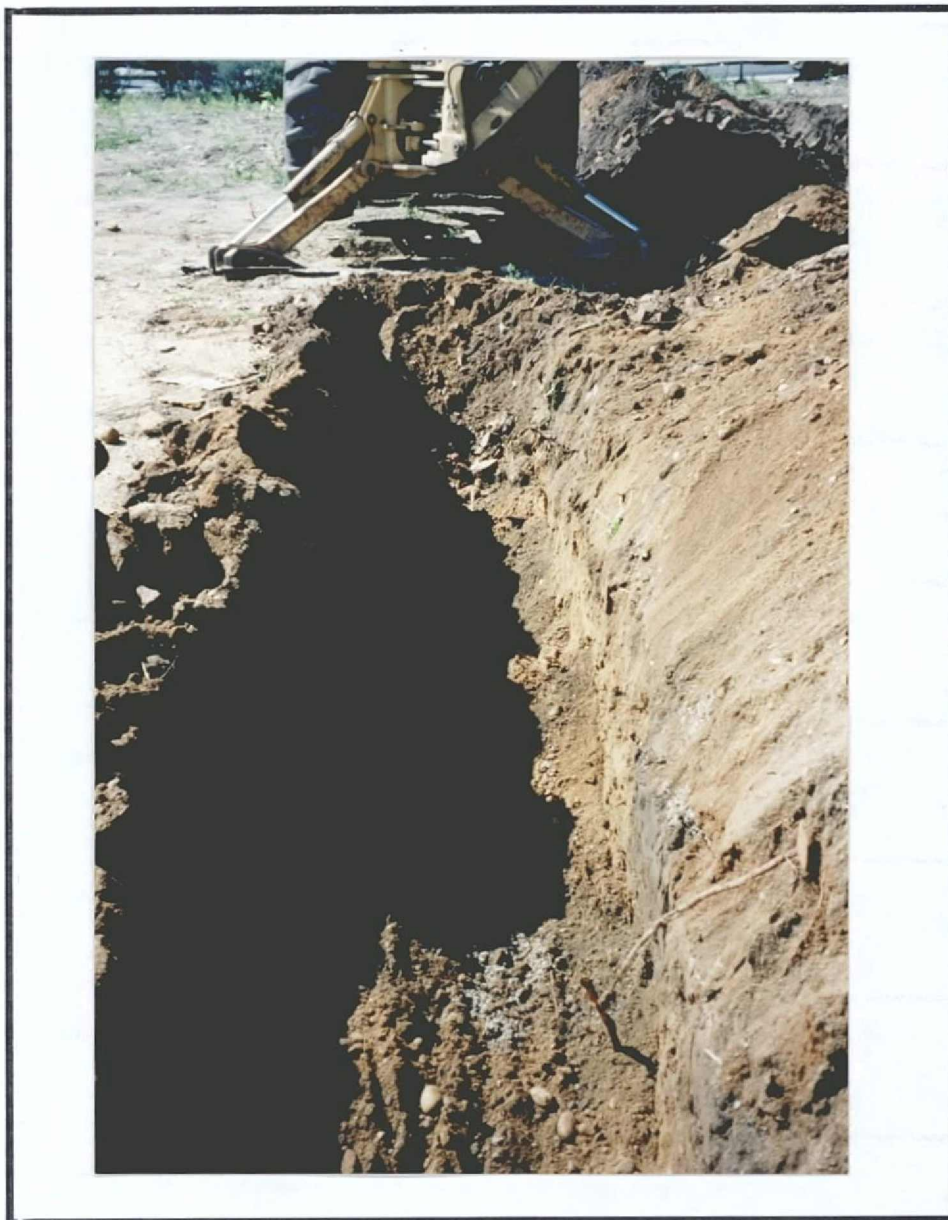


Photo 13: At least one lot appears to have been filled with clean sand. Conditions on the lots varied. Despite no indication in the building records that large scale alterations had taken place on the lots after the construction of the houses, no features of any kind were revealed on Lot 1-5, 33 & 34.

APPENDIX C

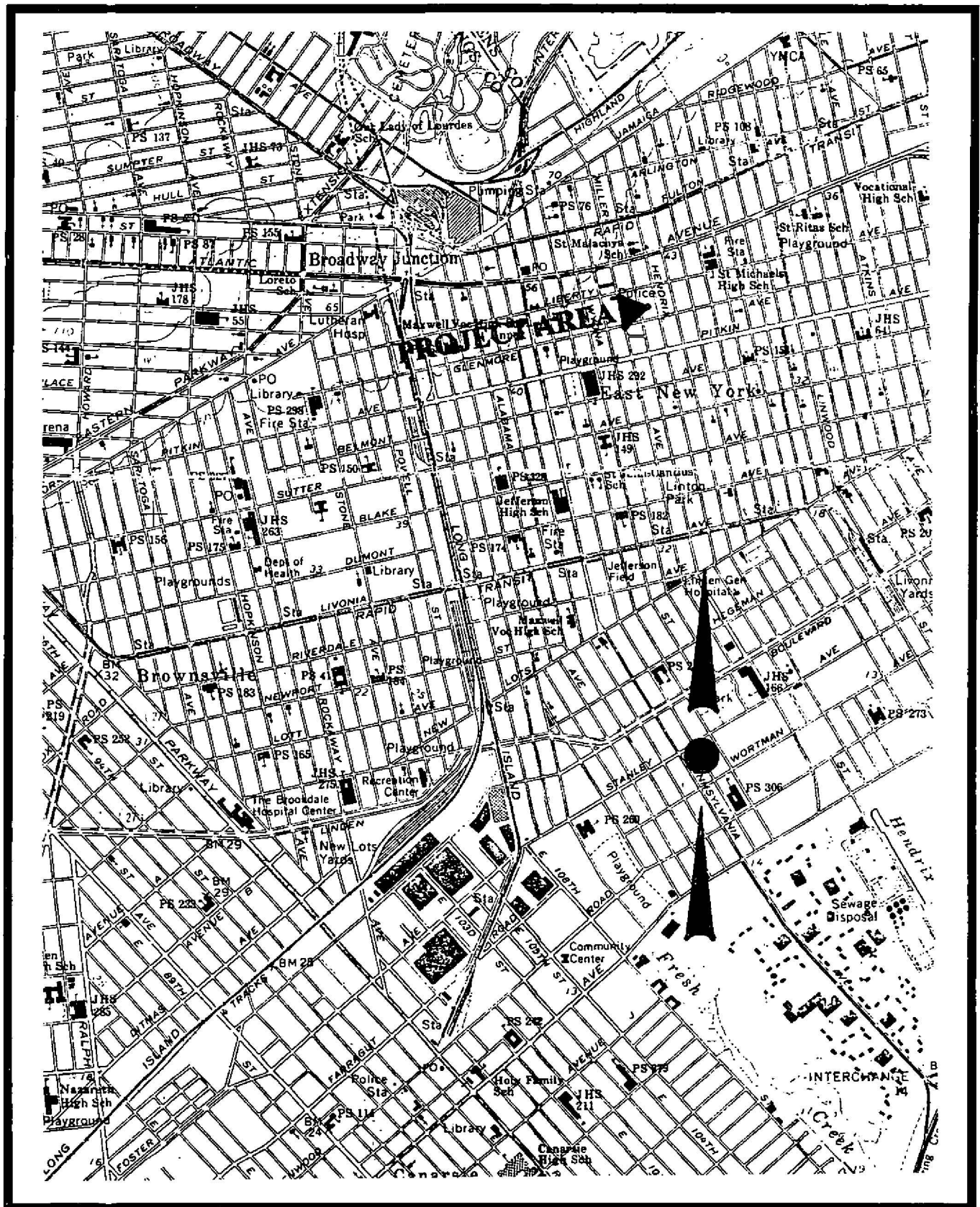
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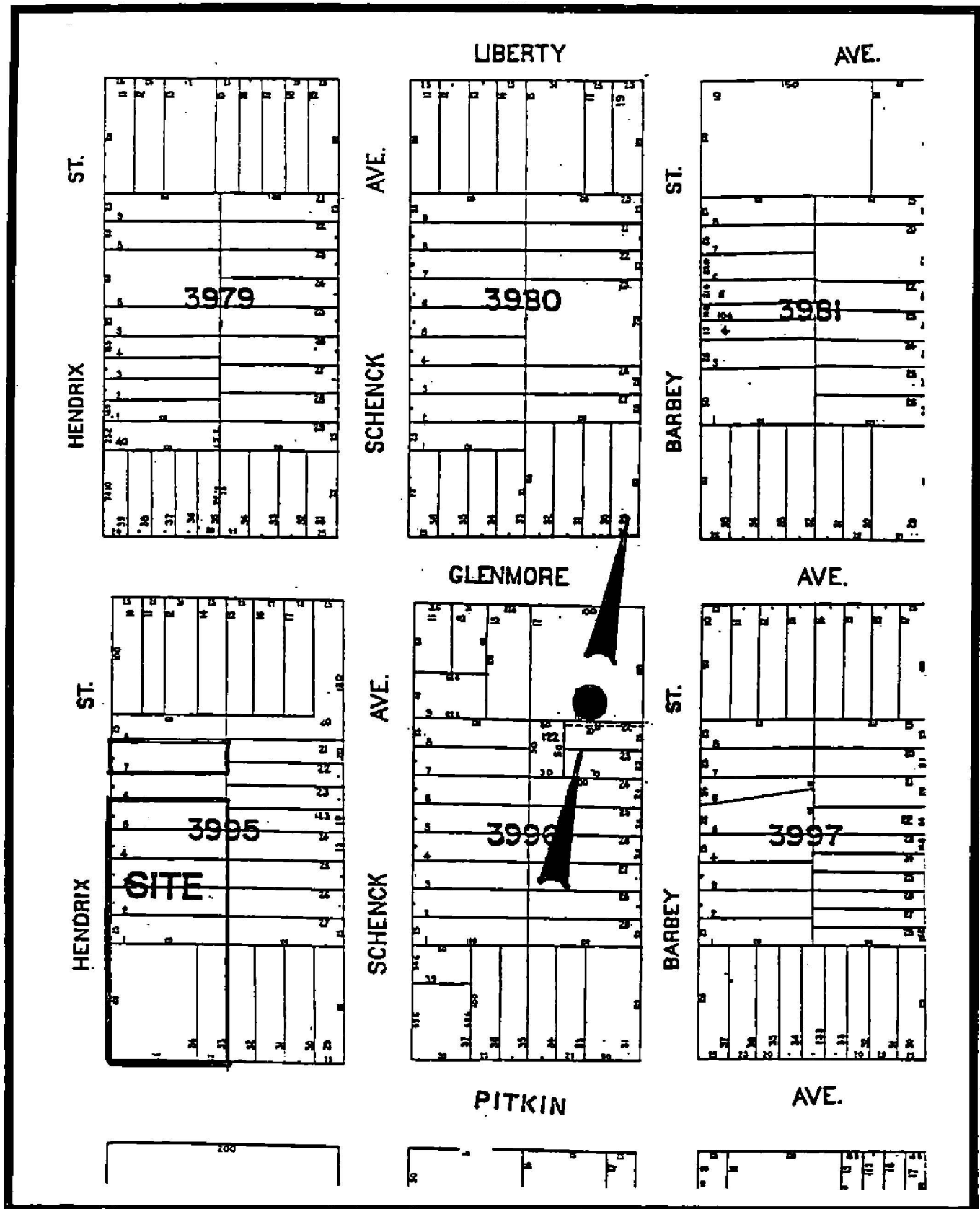
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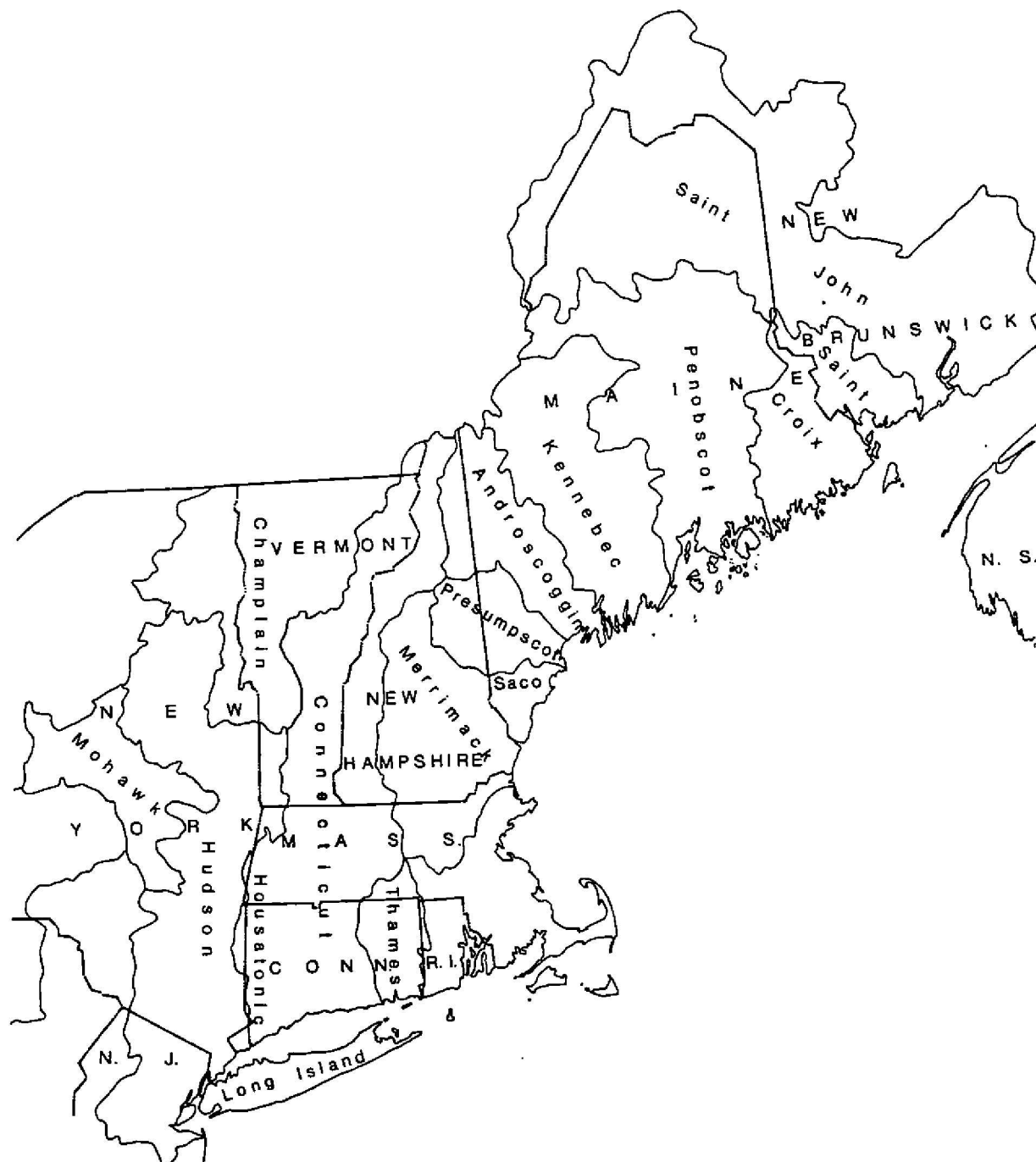
MAPS AND FIGURES LIST

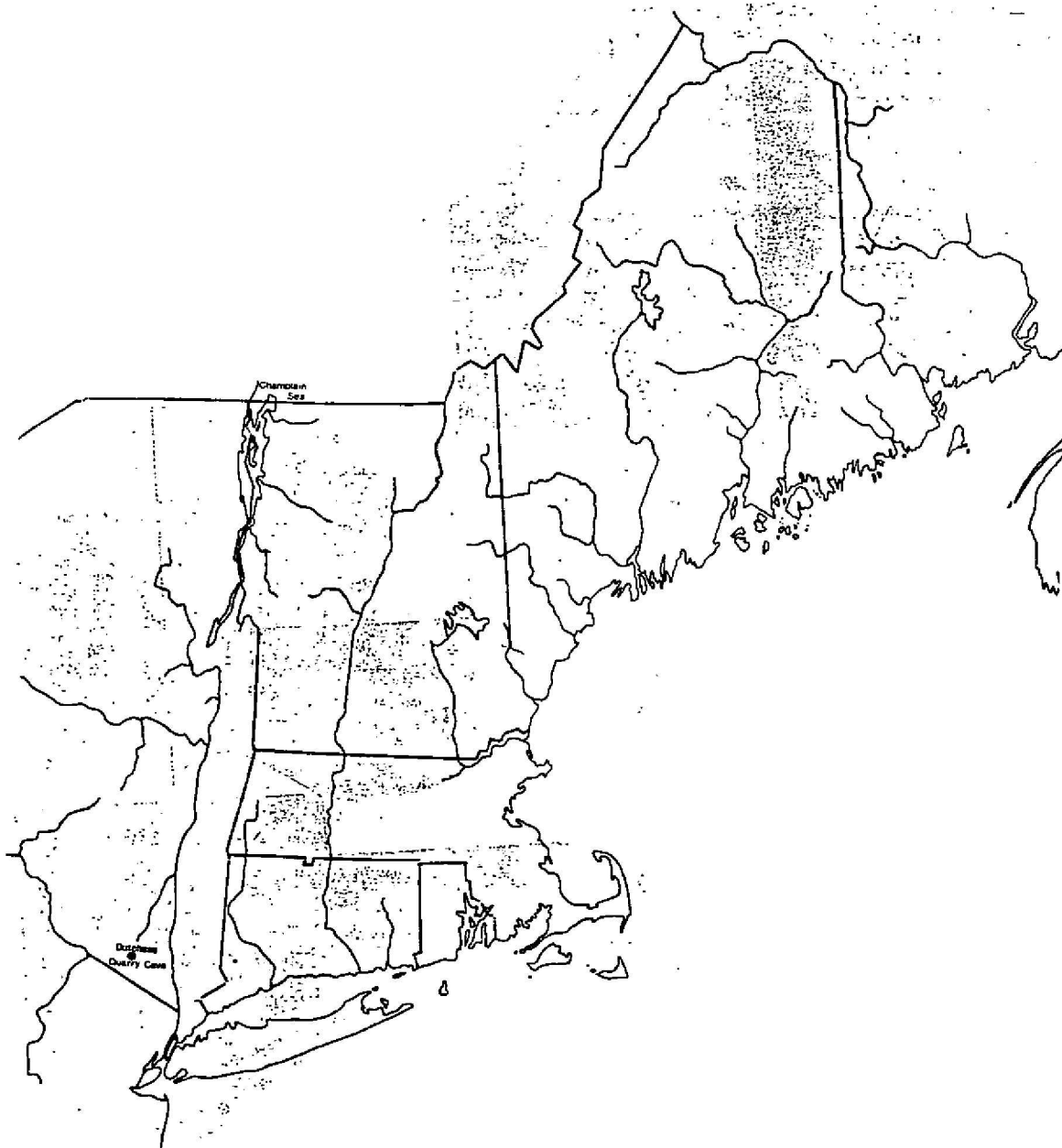
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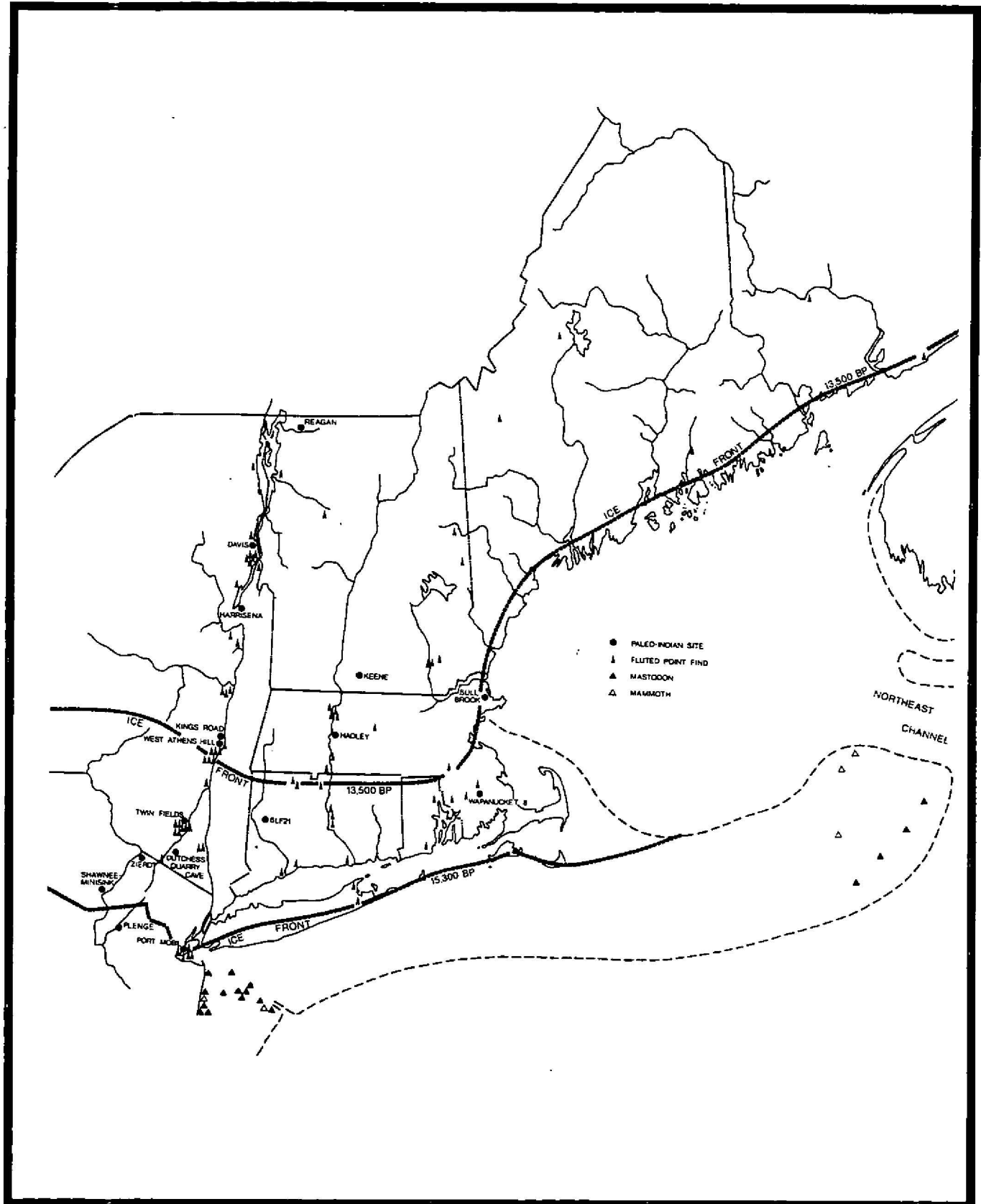
- Map 1: Location Map. USGS Brooklyn Quadrangle. 7.5 Minute Series. Taken 1967. Revised 1979. Scale: 1:24,000.
- Map 2: Site Location Map. NYC Tax Map showing 359 Hendrix Street Site. East New York. Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York. (Scale unknown)
- Map 3: Modern political New England and prehistoric New England as defined by constituent river drainages. (Snow, 1980: Fig. 1.1) (No scale provided)
- Map 4: New England at the beginning of the Paleo-Indian period (12,500 BP) indicating extent of continental shelf exposure. (Snow, 1980: Fig. 3.4) (No scale provided)
- Map 5: Excavated Paleo-Indian period sites and published fluted point finds. Also indicated location of mastodon and mammoth finds on continental shelf. (Snow, 1980: Fig. 3.1) (No scale provided)
- Map 6: Location of Paleo-Indian sites in New York region, including Port Mobil on Staten Island. (Eisenberg, 1978: Fig. 1) (No scale provided)
- Map 7: Distribution of major cultural units in aboriginal New England around AD 1600 indicating location of cultural units on Long Island. (Snow, 1980: Fig. 2.1) (No scale provided)
- Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Map for Marjorie Richardson Court Senior Housing Site.

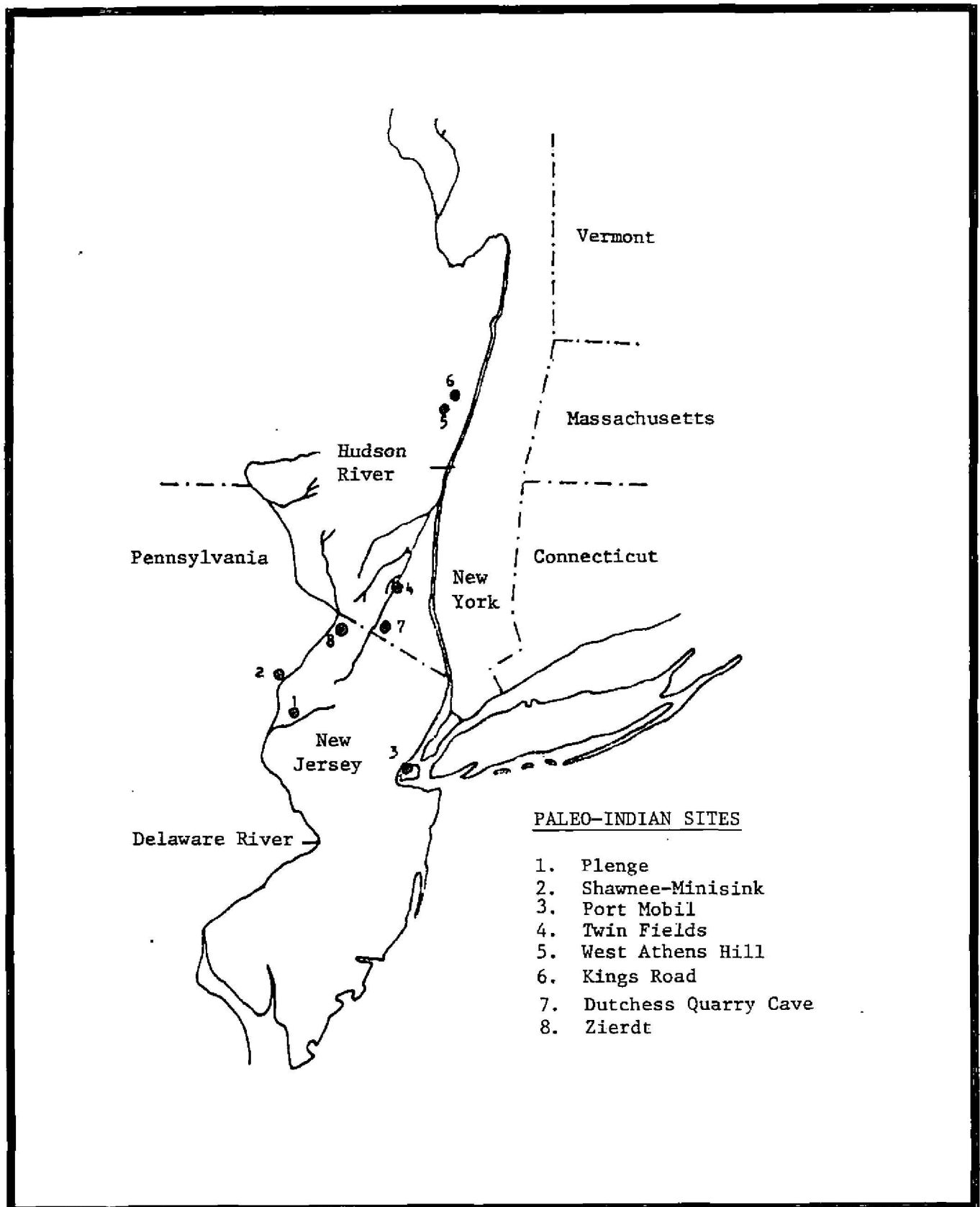


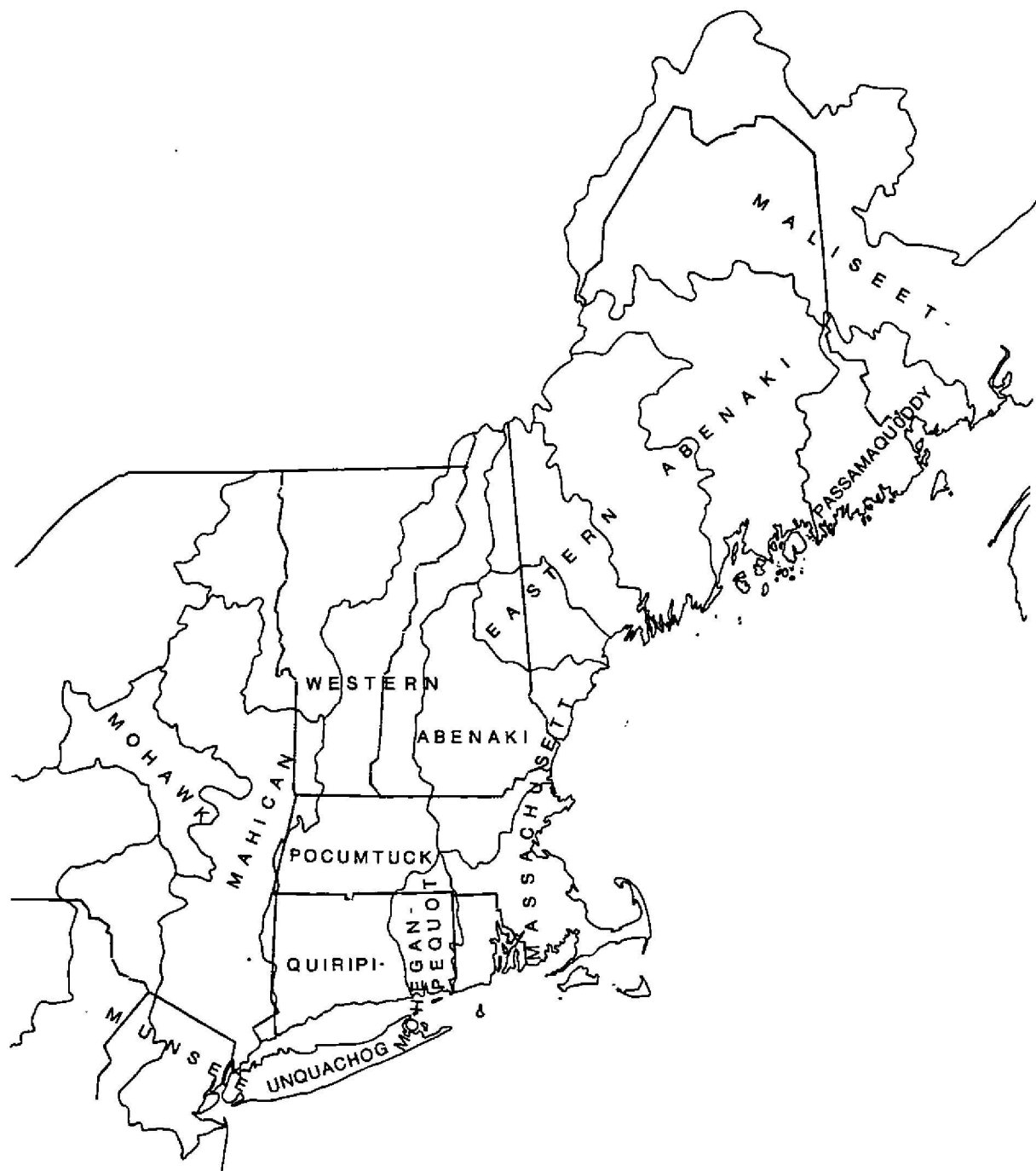


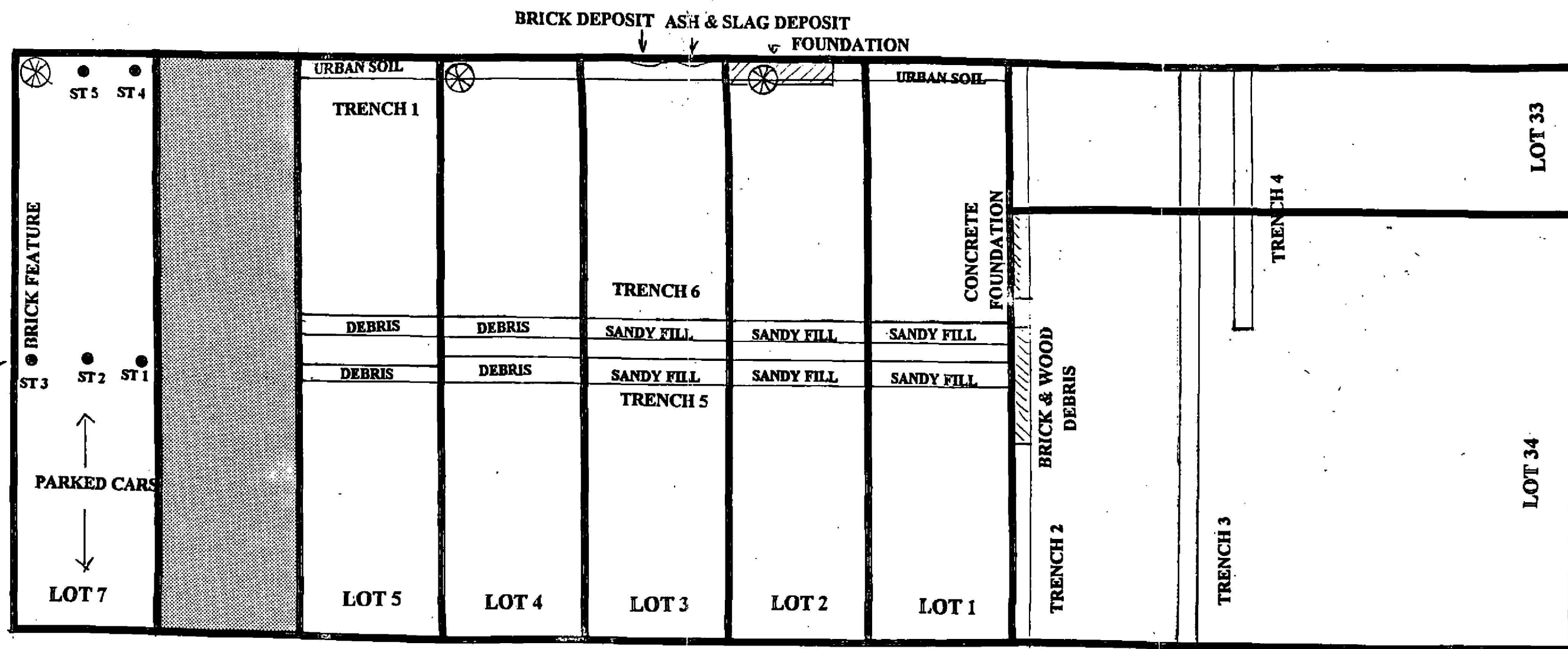
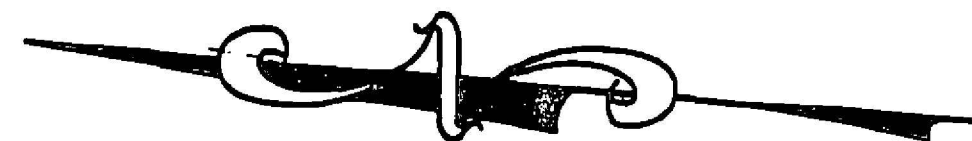












MARJORIE RICHARDSON COURT
SENIOR HOUSING SITE
Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York
Stage 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey

FIELD MAP
Scale: 1 Inch = 20 Feet

Prepared by:
CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants
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