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**PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TESTING**  
**90-15 Corona Avenue**  
**BLOCK 1586, LOT 10**  
**BOROUGH OF QUEENS, NEW YORK**

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The phase IA archaeological assessment of the 90-15 Corona Avenue project site, submitted by Jo-Ann McLean Inc. (2006), determined that the property might contain up to 290 burials of the cemetery associated with the former church of the United African Society, whose successor church is the present-day St. Mark's A.M.E. Church (Fig. 1). The number of potential burials on the project site was calculated based on Seyfried's statement that by 1888, 310 individuals had been interred here, while only twenty are known to have been removed, to the Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Maspeth (cited in McLean 2006, 20, and see below). The exhumations and re-interments were made in 1928, prior to the widening of Corona Avenue (Ibid.). The Phase IA assessment therefore concluded that archaeological field testing must be undertaken on the project site in order to determine the presence or absence of human remains there.

The United African Society was founded in 1828 on a one-and-a-half acre tract of land on Corona Avenue, and initially met for worship in a carpenter's shop. According to Seyfried, a church was built and the first burials made in the surrounding land within a few years of the society's founding (McLean 2006, 18-19 and references cited therein). The name of the Society was changed to St. Mark's A.M.E. Church when the society joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1906. The church and its cemetery are still shown on the 1914 Sanborn map (Fig. 1) but by 1931, the church had been converted to a "Screen Fact'y" and the cemetery is no longer marked as such on the Sanborn map of that date. Apparently, the church was closed in 1929 or 1930 (Seyfried, cited in McLean 2006, 23).

The maps do not indicate the precise boundaries or fence line of the "Old Cemetery" (Fig. 1), but it is clear that it was partly or wholly located on the project site in the area now occupied by the parking lot and the one-story building at the rear (northwest) side of the property (Fig. 2). The southwestern corner of the site, formerly occupied by the church and what was probably the pastor's dwelling, immediately northeast of it, is now covered by a three-story building and a narrow driveway (Fig. 3). The former machine parts factory of Peerless Instrument Company, the building was erected in 1948 (1950 Sanborn map, McLean 2006, Fig. 22). The building is now vacant.

Because of this building's negative impact to potential archaeological remains -- it contains a twenty- to forty-foot wide basement at the front, along Corona Avenue -- and the likelihood that the cemetery would not have been situated directly next to the pastor's home, this portion of the site was not considered archaeologically sensitive for burials. The rest of the site, however, consisting of the vacant, paved area of the lot as well as that part now covered by the one-story building along the northwest lot line, built on a slab and lacking a basement, were considered potentially sensitive for human remains (Figs. 3 and 4). The one-story building is currently occupied by a woodworking shop.

A protocol for testing the project site was developed in consultation with the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and consists of three phases. Two of these have been completed and the results are contained in the present report. The first phase consisted of the excavation of five five-by-five foot test pits (TPs) randomly sited over the entire vacant area of the lot. The purpose of this phase was to record the stratigraphy, collect and identify any redeposited human remains, and record the presence of any *in situ* burials that might be discovered, these last to be excavated in a later, Phase II operation. In the second phase of the Phase IB testing, twelve fifteen-by-fifteen foot test trenches (TTs), again randomly sited, were excavated with a backhoe. The purpose of this operation was to test a large and representative sample of the site for the presence of burials. The bucket of the backhoe was equipped with a straight edge, which permitted the even and controlled removal of soils in approximately eight-inch increments, leaving with each pass of the bucket a clean flat surface that would have revealed the existence of burial shafts, had any such existed. Both the TPs and the TTs were excavated down to natural soils, approximately four feet below surface. Neither phase of the testing revealed any human remains on the site. The third operation will consist of the excavation of test trenches below the one-story building along the northwest lot line, after it has been demolished and the building detritus removed. The conclusion for the first two operations of the Phase IB testing is therefore that the project site's sensitivity for the recovery of human remains is very low. We recommend, however, that the third phase be completed in accordance with the approved scope. Detailed conclusions and recommendations are presented in part IV, below.

The excavation was directed by Celia J. Bergoffen. The Physical Anthropologist was Thomas Amorosi. Dubravko Lazo assisted with the site survey. The crew for the excavation of the test pits was: Joseph Biringer, Chase Cohen, Anna Kouremenos, Coni Rocklein, and Courtney Tomaselli. Joseph Biringer assisted during the excavation of the test trenches.

## II. FIELD REPORT

Although the 90-15 Corona Avenue site is in reality oriented northwest / southeast (Corona Avenue), southwest / northeast, the directions used in the following report have been simplified to north (rear of the site) / south (Corona Avenue) / west and east.

The first and second operations of the Phase IB archaeological testing took place on June 2 (survey), June 5 to 8 (excavation of test pits) and June 9-10, and 12 (excavation of test trenches).

### A. SITE SURVEY

The site survey and preparation of the base plan included with this report was conducted on June 2nd, 2007. Three dry wells were noted and planned, two on the west side of the vacant area and the third and largest, on east side of the parking area, near the southeast corner of the one-story building (Figs. 2 and 5). A third underground installation of unknown purpose is signaled by a square metal plate on the surface in a slight depression, approximately at the center of the parking lot. The western two wells are connected by an underground pipe, the trench for which is visible on the pavement surface (Fig. 5, right). A second, narrower channel leads from the western well north to the building. Two rectangular trenches were excavated by hand, by unknown parties, apparently at the instigation of the owner, prior to the commencement of our investigations apparently in order to find out if there were burials on the site. These unauthorized trenches (UT) were located near the southeastern end of the parking area (Fig. 2). The western one measured approximately 5 by 9 feet; the eastern one, 5 by 9.6 feet. The manager of the woodworking shop, Anil Budhraj, who observed their excavation, reported that the diggers reached a depth of about six feet and found nothing. The location of these trenches was immediately apparent, both by the outline of the broken pavement and by the mounded dirt inside them. The northeastern corner of the site was occupied by many tons of metal ramps. Two stacks of these were moved to another part of the site to permit the excavation of TT 12.



The location of the underground installations and the two previously excavated trenches were taken into consideration in siting our test pits test trenches, whose locations were only indicated in a very general way on the plan submitted with the proposal for Phase IB testing dated May 11, 2007. We nevertheless covered almost all of the undisturbed portions of the site, following the original plan and intention of the scope as far as site conditions permitted.

## B. EXCAVATION OF TEST PITS (TP)

After removing the pavement with a backhoe, the excavation of the five test pits was completed by hand on June 5 to 8.

### UNAUTHORIZED TRENCH 1 (Fig. 6)

Since any potential cultural remains located in UT 1 would have been destroyed by those who excavated it, we re-excavated it, using the backhoe, to a depth of six feet to get a preview of the site stratigraphy. Below a deep layer of brown sandy soil containing many pebbles we encountered the natural deposit of yellow clay (or silty clay), devoid of artifacts, that is found all over the site at similar depths.

Layer 1: 0 - 0.8' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.8 - 3.0' brown soil, many pebbles and small stones.

Layer 3: 3.0 - 4.3' dark brownish-grey silt.

Layer 4: 4.3 - 6.2' yellow clay.

### TEST PIT 1 (Fig. 7)

This TP was located at the western end of the site at the head of the driveway leading into the parking area from Corona Avenue.

Layer 1: 0 - 1.2' pavement and dark grey to black powdery soil probably mixed with tar below it, dense gravel and stones with some brick and nails, including one carpenter's nail.

Layer 2: 1.2 - 1.6' gravel, deepest on the north side of the trench and tapering towards the south.

Layer 3: 1.6 - 2.1' yellowish-brown sandy soil, mottled; brick, small stones, and gravel, densely packed. Two bone fragment found at the bottom of this layer were examined by Amorosi. Following their discovery, the remainder of this layer and layer 4 were sifted 100%. Artifact density was low: one nail, piece of wood, and one plastic button. The bones were identified by Amorosi as "Proximal metapodial fragment, adult, caprine; and large mammal, distal femur, condyle, both suffering second or third transport".

Layer 4: 2.1 - 3.3' dark brownish-grey silty clay; medium artifact density: wine and glass bottle fragments, tea cup, yellow ware, cream ware, clay marble pipe stem fragment, fragments of pipe bowl, fragment of ceramic beer stein, a nail, metal nut and square-headed bolt, shell, butchered beef bone, chicken bones.

Layer 5: 3.3 - 3.7' brownish-yellow clay; every third bucket of this layer was sifted but there was no cultural material.

Closing depths were NW 3.7', NE 3.6', SE 3.6', SW 3.7'

#### TEST PIT 2 (Fig. 8)

This TP was located near the center of the parking lot on its southern side, on the west side of UT 1.

Layer 1 - 0 - 0.5' pavement and dark grey to black powdery soil probably mixed with tar below it; brick, ceramic pipe fragments, bottle glass, nails, tile, and ceramic.

Layer 2 - 0.5 - 3.0' yellowish-brown sandy soil laminated with grey silt, many pebbles, small stones and gravel, densely packed.

Layer 3 - 3.0' - 3.3' grey with many small pebbles, very fine silty soil; high artifact density: brick, and especially large amount of broken glass and much metal, some tile, ceramic, fragment of the plastic red back light of a bicycle (?).

Layer 4 - 3.3 - 4.3' dark grey silt.

Layer 5 - 4.3' yellow clay. Since the stratigraphy in this test pit matched that in the unauthorized trench next to it, the pit was closed upon reaching the top of the sterile yellow clay layer.

Closing depths were NW 4.25', NE 4.25', SE 4.3', SW 4.2'

#### TEST PIT 3 (Fig. 9)

This TP was located midway between TPs 1 and 2 on the north side of the parking lot.

Layer 1 - 0 - 0.5' pavement and dark grey to black powdery soil probably mixed with tar below it

Layer 2 - 0.5 - 2.4' brown soil, many pebbles and small stones, few cobbles; low artifact density: glass bottle fragments, building detritus including tile;

Layer 3 - 2.4 - 2.6' buried pavement

Layer 4 - 2.6 - 3.1' pavement make-up, a lot of broken glass

Layer 5 - 3.1 - 3.25' brown, greasy layer smelling strongly of sulphur. Excavation of this TP was terminated when one of the crew became ill due to the fumes.

Closing depths were NW 3.0', NE 3.25', SE 3.1', SW 3.2'

#### TEST PIT 4 (Figs. 11 and 12)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.75' pavement and below it, dark grey to black powdery soil probably mixed with tar.

Layer 2: 0.75 - 1.1' broken concrete.

Layer 3: 1.1 - 2.6' yellowish-brown sandy silt laminated with dark brown clay, pebbles; medium artifact density: many fragments of glass vessels, glass wall sconce fragment, metal shoe cream container, milk glass, porcelain tableware fragments, porcelain insulator, butchered beef bone and rib. A wooden post or tree trunk, 13 inches diameter, was encountered on the west side of the trench (Fig. 12). It was surrounded by clay and stones near the base. The trench was sectioned W/E to the edge of the post or trunk revealing that it tapered below the stones.

Layer 4: 2.6 - 3.4' light and medium grey ashy layer containing coal slag, glass slag, metal; low artifact density.

Layer 5: 3.4 - 4.1' brownish-yellow clay, no cultural remains.

Layer 6: 4.1 - 4.7' dark brown silt, no cultural remains.

Layer 7: 4.7 - 4.8' yellow clay, no cultural remains.

Closing depths were NW 3.8', NE 4.8', SE 3.2', SW 3.1'

## TEST PIT 5

This test pit was located in the northeast corner of the project site. It was sectioned with the northern half excavated to six feet and the southern to five feet.

Layer 1: 0 - 0.7' pavement and below it, dark grey to black powdery soil probably mixed with tar.

Layer 2: 0.7- 3.7' medium brown sandy silt, few patches of grey clay, few cultural remains.

Layer 3: 3.7 - 4.5' medium gray silty sand, one piece of white ware, fragment of bottle glass.

Layer 4: 4.5 - 6' yellowish-brown silty clay, no cultural remains.

Closing depths were NW 6.0', NE 6.1', SE 5.0', SW 4.8'

## C. EXCAVATION OF TEST TRENCHES (TT)

Because one of our crew became ill after excavating TP 3, the client hired Hydro Tech Environmental Corp. to monitor air quality when we began excavating the test trenches. Monitoring was conducted on the first two of the three days required to complete the twelve trenches planned in the scope for testing. The environmental team found only negligible levels of volatile or semi-volatile organic compounds throughout.

#### TEST TRENCH 1 (Fig. 14)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.7' pavement

Layer 2: 0.7 - 1.3' brown sand, many small stones, ceramic tile, brick, bathroom fixtures and hexagonal tile - at 2.5' below grade a sewer pipe was encountered in the eastern third of the trench and the trench was therefore dug down in the western half only to avoid the disturbed area of the pipe

Layer 3: 1.3 - 2.1' yellowish-brown sandy silt, few stones.

Layer 3: 2.1 - 2.7' grey silt.

Layer 4: 2.7 - 4.6' yellowish-brown sandy silt, no cultural remains.

Closing depths were NW 4.2', SW 4.6'

#### TEST TRENCH 2 (Figs. 15 and 16)

Layer 1: 0 - -0.7' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.7 - 1.3' yellowish-brown sand.

Layer 3: 1.3 - 1.5' lens of grey crumbled asphalt.

Layer 4: 1.5 - 1.75' thin layer of reddish-brown clayey-sand, many small stones, ceramic fragments.

Layer 5: 1.75 - 2.8' greyish-brown sandy silt, as layer 5 in TT 6, window pane glass, milk glass, bottle glass, storage jar glass (mason jars), very high artifact density; within this layer we encountered a pit beginning at a depth of 2.2' below grade and continuing to 4.7' below grade, 3.7' wide at its widest point, containing hundreds of ceramic handleless cups (beakers, Fig. 15) with the following stamps: Royal china Sterling Ohio; Sterling China Company vitrified East Liverpool; Bailey Walker China Co. Bedford Ohio 1942; Corning Made in U.S.A. (this was a glass version of the same shape); McNicol China Clarksburg W VA 1942.

Layer 6: 2.8 - 3.4' yellow silty clay, no cultural remains.

Layer 7: 3.4 - 4.7' reddish-yellow clay, small stones, no cultural remains.

Closing depths S 5.3', E 5.2', N 4.8', W 5.3'

### TEST TRENCH 3 (Fig. 17)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.5' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.5 - 1.2' brown sand, many small stones, bricks, green glazed floor or wall tile, white ware, glass fragments, metal, artifact density low.

Layer 3: 1.2 - 2.3' yellowish-brown sandy silt, few stones.

Layer 4: 2.3 - 2.9' grey silt.

Layer 5: 2.9 - 3.75' yellow clay, no cultural remains.

Layer 6: 3.75 - 4.3' reddish-yellow sandy clay, few large cobbles and many small stones, no cultural remains.

Closing heights were SE 4.3', SW 4.5', NE 4.4', NW 4.75'

### TEST TRENCH 4 (Fig. 18)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.5' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.5 - 2.3' brown sand, many small stones, marble pedestal or architectural fitting (Fig. 28).

Layer 3: 2.3 - 2.4' buried pavement.

Layer 4: 2.4 - 3.0' Black oily greenish clay layer smelling slightly of sulphur.

Layer 5: 3.0 - 5.5' yellowish-brown silty clay, no cultural remains.

Closing depths: NW 4.5', NE 5.5', SW 4.5', SE 5'.

### TEST TRENCH 5 (Fig. 19)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.6' pavement. At ca. 0.5' below surface along the south side of the trench near the east corner a drainage pipe was encountered. This was probably connected with the dry wells.

Layer 2: 0.6 - 2.25' brown sand with many small stones, bottle glass, green glass, white ware.

Layer 3: 2.25 - 3.25' degraded buried pavement and greenish gray silt, red paint (industrial).

Layer 4: 3.25 - 4.25' yellow sand, no cultural remains.

Closing depths: NW 4.25', NE 4.25', SW 4.7', SE 4.25'.

#### TEST TRENCH 6 (Fig. 20)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.3' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.3-1.0' yellowish-brown sand.

Layer 3: 1.0 - 2.25' light greyish-brown sandy silt, many pebbles, brick detritus, porcelain fittings.

Layer 4: 2.25 - 2.75' ash layer, deepest on the southern side of the trench, high artifact density, ceramics, brick, porcelain, metal.

Layer 5: 2.75 - 3.75' greyish-brown sandy clay, more sand than clay, very few small pebbles, as layer 4 in TT3.

Layer 6: 3.75 - 5.3' yellowish-brown clay, no cultural remains.

Closing depths: NW 5.4', NE 5.5', SW 5.3', SE 5.3'.

#### TEST TRENCH 7 (Fig. 21)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.3' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.3 - 2.1' yellowish-brown sand, many small stones, bricks, glass, metal, ceramics, copper strip.

Layer 3: 2.1 - 2.2' decomposed pavement, grey and crumbled, bathroom fixtures.

Layer 4: 2.2 - 3.3' greyish-brown sandy silt, bricks, metal pipe (four-foot segment), cobbles and a large boulder at the bottom of this layer.

Layer 5: 3.3 - 4.0' yellow silty clay, many small stones at the top of this layer especially on the northwest side of the trench, no cultural remains.

Layer 6: 4.0 - 5.1' reddish-yellow clay, no cultural remains.

Closing levels NW 5.1' SW 5.0', SE 5.25', NE 4.9'.

## TEST TRENCH 8 (Fig. 22)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.5' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.5 - 1.0' yellowish-brown sand, many small stones, brick, wire, metal, green and clear glass, bathroom porcelain, asphalt shingle.

Layer 3: 2.1 - 2.4' very dark grey, buried pavement.

Layer 4: 2.4 - 3.2' yellow silty clay, very few cultural remains.

Layer 5: 3.2 - 4.3' greyish-brown sandy silt, no cultural remains.

Layer 6: 4.3 - 5.5' yellow clay, no cultural remains.

Closing levels NW 5.4', SW 5.7', SE 5.5', NE 5.4'.

## TEST TRENCH 9 (Figs. 23 and 24)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.7' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.7 - 1.4' buried concrete and grey powdery layer of sand, ash, and pieces of asphalt; red and yellow brick fragments, glass, bathroom ceramic fixtures, many fragments of roof tile, metal architectural fittings.

Layer 3: 1.4 - 1.5' lens of brown fine sand.

Layer 4: 1.5 - 1.8' decomposed asphalt and concrete, a pit begins at the bottom of this layer or just below it, at 1.75' depth and continues to 5.4' depth.

Layer 5 1.8 - 4.2' yellowish-brown silty sand with reddish tinge, more sand than silt, the large pit in the western half of the trench continuing to the lowest level excavated contained complete glass bottles, glass bottle fragments, oyster shell, dinner ware, including a porcelain plate fragment marked ...nton NJ ...wood china 1862, Homer Laughlin Empress (plate design), urinal fragment marked Kalamazoo Manf. Co., one spoon, butchered beef bone / scapula, copper gutter, brick.

Layer 6: 4.2 - 4.8' grey silty clay.

Layer 7: 4.8 - 6.9' reddish-yellow silty clay, no cultural remains.

Layer 8: 6.9 - 7.6' reddish-yellow silty sand with small pebbles, no cultural remains. A ceramic sewer pipe was encountered at 7.0' depth crossing the western half of



the trench diagonally from the southwest corner. The bottom of the pit lies just above the trench for the pipe, i.e. it cut through the upper part of the pipe's trench.

Closing levels NW 6.25', SW 6.25', SE 7.2', NE 7.6'.

#### TEST TRENCH 10 (Fig. 25)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.7' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.7 - 3.6' reddish-brown sand with yellowish-red clay mixed in, many small and medium-sized stones, cobbles, hexagonal bathroom tile, brick, porcelain fixtures, copper gutter.

Layer 3: 3.6 - 4.8' wet grey clayey silt, lens of a white, organic decomposed material mixed with ash, charcoal, slag, metal; in the rest of this layer ceramic, white ware, brick; a huge boulder was removed from this layer.

Layer 4: 4.8 - 6' reddish-yellow clay, no cultural remains.

Layer 5: 6.0 - 6.7' yellowish-red sand with many tiny stones, no cultural remains.

Closing levels: NW 4.9', SW 5.4', SE 5.4', SW 5.4'.

#### TEST TRENCH 11 (Fig 26)

Layer 1: 0 - 0.3' pavement.

Layer 2: 0.3 - 3.6' brown silty-sand mottled with yellowish-gray silty clay, many small stones, few large and cobble-sized stones, one complete bottle marked John H. Wehmhoefer 219, 221 & 223 Frost St. Brooklyn E.D. 1889.

Layer 3: 3.6 - 4.8' grey silt layer with slimy texture, one glass transistor for a telephone pole.

Layer 4: 4.8 - 6.0' reddish-yellow sandy-silt, no cultural remains.

Closing levels: NW 5.7', SW 6.0', SE 5.7', SW 6.0'.

TEST TRENCH 12 (Fig. 27)

Layer 1: 0 - 1.0' pavement.

Layer 2: 1.0 - 3.4' reddish-yellow sand, many small stones, mottled with yellowish-red and grey silty clay, no cultural remains; a small section of concrete (buried pavement?) was encountered at 3.2' below grade, just above Layer 3.

Layer 3: 3.4 - 4.3' grey silt, very few small stones and cobble-sized stones, one fragment of opaque glass wall sconce.

Layer 4: 4.3 - 6.2' reddish-yellow clay, no cultural remains

Layer 5: 6.2 - 7.4' reddish-yellow sand with many tiny pebbles, no cultural remains.

Closing levels NW 7.4', SW 5.25', SE 5.1', NE 7.0'.

### III. DISCUSSION: SITE STRATIGRAPHY

Two or three surfaces exist on the project site: the present parking lot surface; a lower pavement, in places quite well preserved, elsewhere degraded and crumbled, or absent / untraceable; and, either directly below this pavement, or separated from it by a layer of fill, a dark grey silty layer whose occasionally slimy consistency, color and high artifact density indicated that it should be understood as a layer of decomposed grass and its root layer ("A" and "O" layers).

Below the parking lot pavement is a layer of fill composed of brown to yellowish-brown sandy soil, in places laminated or mottled with grey silt and containing many pebbles. This layer generally contained few cultural remains, but where present, they consisted largely of building detritus (i.e. layer 2 in TT 7, TT 8, TT 9 and TT 10). The exception is layer 2 in Test Pit 4, whose contents may be accounted for by the former presence of a residential building in its immediate vicinity, as shown on the 1950 Sanborn map (Mclean 2006, Fig. 22). In Test Trench 1, we encountered a sewer pipe in this layer (layer 2). It is possible that this layer was spread over the site to level the ground over the earlier, largely degraded pavement.

The earlier, buried asphalt pavement, where it could be discerned, was encountered at approximately two feet below grade (TP3, TT 2, TT 4, TT 5, TT 7, TT 8, and TT 9). Where there was no trace of the buried asphalt, the brown sandy soil layer was followed by the dark grey silt layer. The asphalt was laid over the dark grey or dark greyish-brown silt layer, except in TT 8 and TT 9, where there was a layer between the dark grey silt (layer 6) and the buried pavement (layer 4). This layer, layer 5, may be accounted for by the former presence of a dwelling in the immediate vicinity, as shown on the 1931 Sanborn map. A vast pit, dug from layer 5 and continuing down to the bottom of test trench 9, contained quantities of domestic garbage such as bottles -- condiment, ink, cosmetic / tonic -- datable to the late 19th to early 20th centuries; dinner ware, including one plate stamped with a date of 1862; a spoon; oyster shell, and a Homer Laughlin Empress Plate 2 20 N. The series number of this last gives the date, 1920, which provides a *terminus post quem* for the pit (My Granny's... 2007). The pit also contained building detritus and this, together with the general character of the household

refuse suggests that the pit and layer 5, in which it was dug, were deposited when the building shown on the 1931 Sanborn map was demolished to make way for the larger structure shown on the 1950 Sanborn map that is, probably in the late 1940s, immediately after the dark grey silt layer underneath it.

In several of the areas tested the artifact density in the upper part of the dark grey, silty organic layer was medium to high (TP 1, layer 4; TP 2, layer 3; TT 2, layer 5; TT 6, layer 4). The pit dug into this layer in TT 2 contained hundreds of ceramic beakers whose makers' marks included dates in the early 1940s. These thick-walled, handleless cups were not tablewares but were probably used in the machine tool factory next door. The Peerless Instrument Company built the three-story structure on the western side of the site ca. 1948. If the beakers were in fact associated with that building, then the buried pavement, which lies above the grey silty layer, post-dates 1948. It seems also that the pit must have been cut into what was still, during the 1940s, an unpaved area.

The top of the dark grey silt layer; layer 5 and the pit in TT 9, and the laying of the buried pavement, may therefore be very close in date, ca. 1949-1950.

Below the dark grey silt layer we encountered in every test pit and trench a layer of yellow or brownish-yellow, silty-clay or clay that contained no cultural remains. This layer was as much as two feet deep thick (TT 1, TT 4, TT 9, and TT 12). Any disturbance, such as the digging of grave shafts, would have been readily apparent in this light colored, fine matrix. The layer's position below the dark grey silt layer, which we interpret as a buried A plus O horizon, together with the absence of cultural remains, indicates that it is a natural deposit and not an artificial fill. Moreover, it was immediately followed by another sterile layer of similar composition: reddish-yellow silty sand or sand, but containing many tiny pebbles and so most probably glacial outwash.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The test pits and test trenches did not reveal any traces of the former cemetery, either in fragments of grave stones or human bones. This is very puzzling, in view of the evidence of the maps, which clearly indicates that there was a cemetery here at least until ca. 1914. It is known that twenty interments were removed in 1928, when Corona Avenue was widened. Other burials that surely existed where the row of stores along Corona Avenue were erected would, however, have been destroyed. If, as McLean's sources state, the cemetery continued in use until 1930 (McLean 2007, 24), then the builders of those stores may well have knowingly destroyed graves. But this still does not account for the interments that must have once existed on the project site in the vacant area and under the one-story structure at the rear (northwest side) of the property. Excavations for the three dry wells and the unknown subsurface installations in the center of the parking lot, now covered by a metal plate, would certainly have resulted in the destruction of any burials that might have been located in these areas, but the three to four feet of fill and pavements over the rest of the site would not have disturbed those decently interred in deep graves. The character of the deposits below the dark grey silt layer indicates that they are natural and not artificial fills and it is in these layers that we would have expected to find evidence for the burial shafts. It would indeed be very unlucky if graves were located just in the interstices between our excavated areas, and very surprising that no trace of markers or human remains from the 290-odd graves should have been recovered from any of our five test pits or twelve test trenches. We can only suggest that the main part(s) of the cemetery were either closer to Corona Avenue or further back, where the one-story shop stands at present.

It is therefore all the more important that the above results be verified by carrying out the third phase in the scope for phase IB testing, which provides for the excavation of test trenches under the one-story structure at the rear of the project site, along the northwest lot line. This area will be tested by backhoe trenching after the building is demolished and the building detritus removed. It is further recommended that even should this final phase of testing not produce any evidence of the former burial ground, an archaeologist should still be present to monitor excavations during construction.

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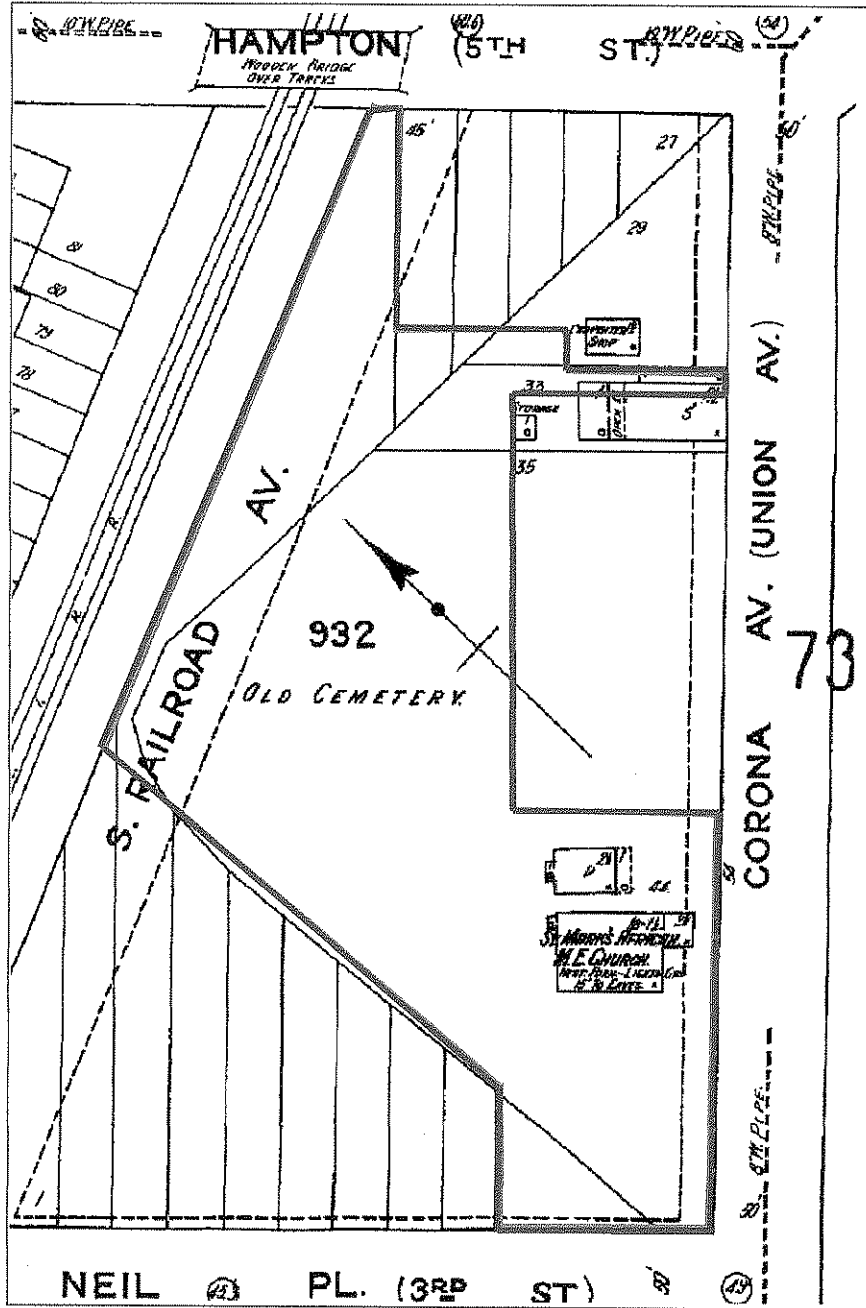


Fig. 1. 1915 Sanborn map showing the location of the project site.

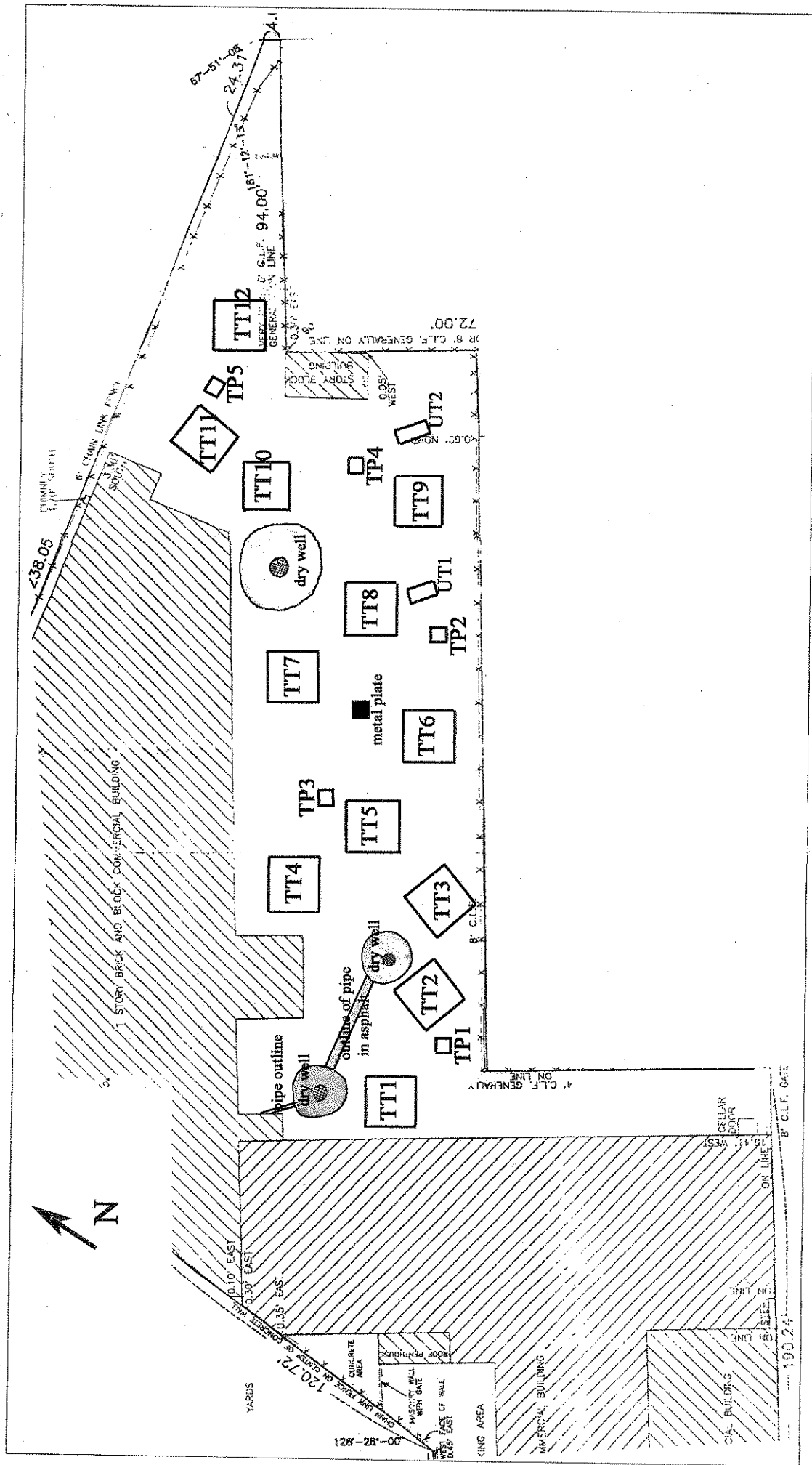


Fig. 2. Plan showing the location of the test pits and test trenches and pre-existing subsurface features





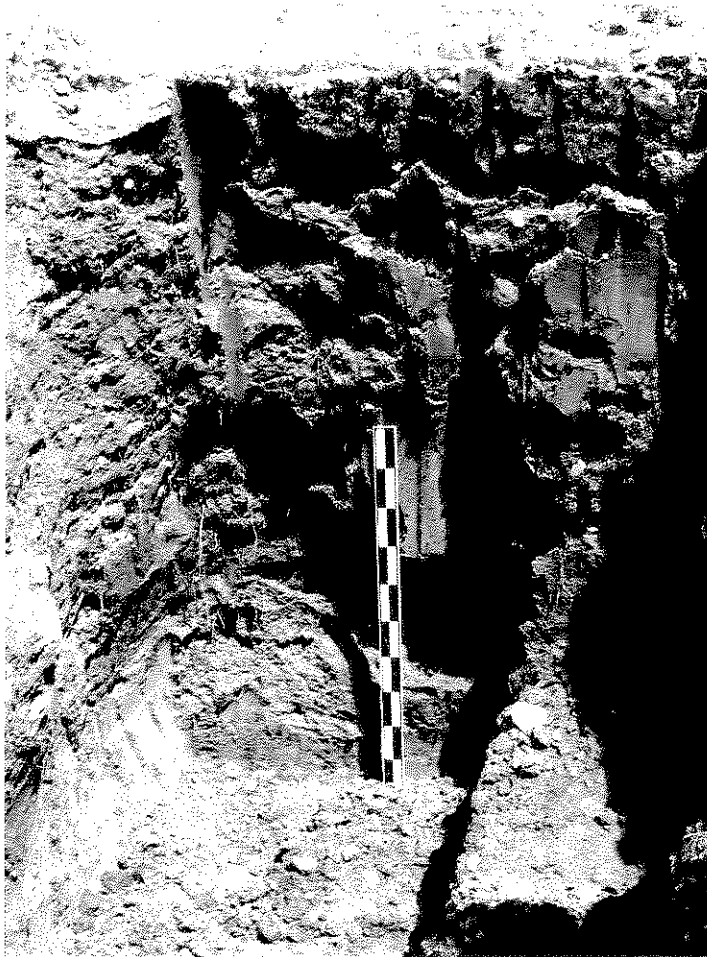
**Fig. 3. View of the southwestern end of the project site and the building at 90-15 Corona Avenue.**



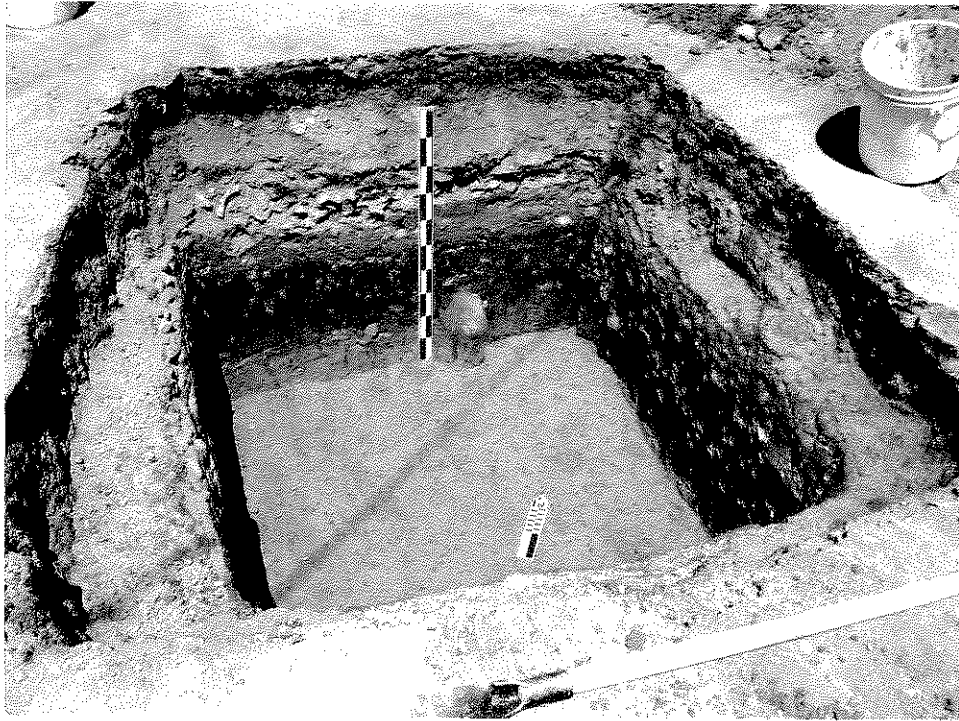
**Fig. 4. View of the parking lot on the project site looking northeast.**



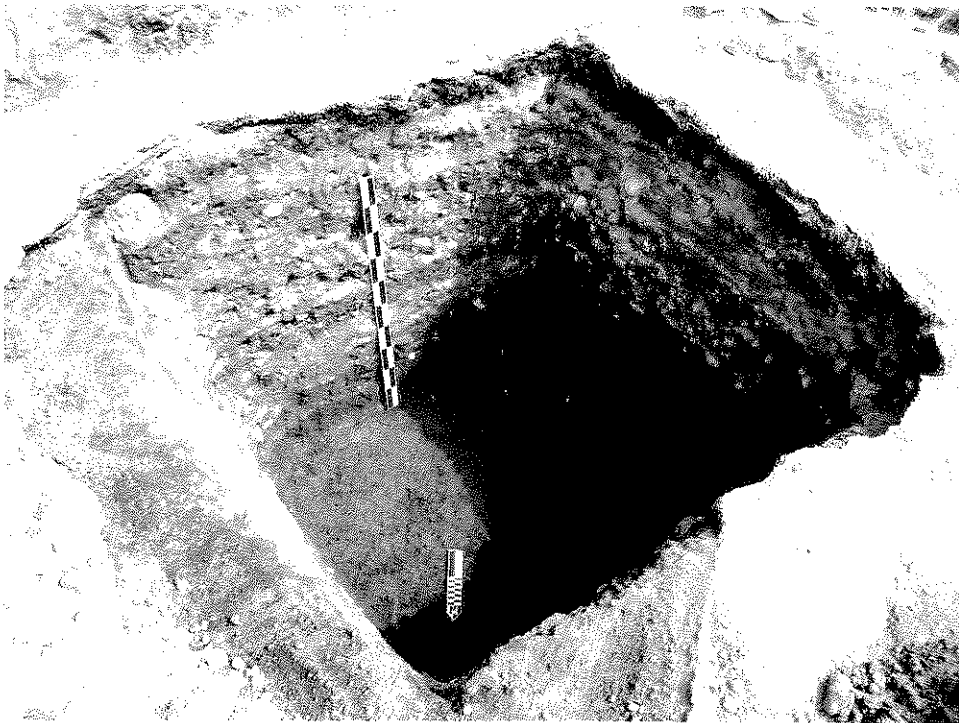
**Fig. 5.** View of one of the drywells at the western end of the parking lot on the project site.



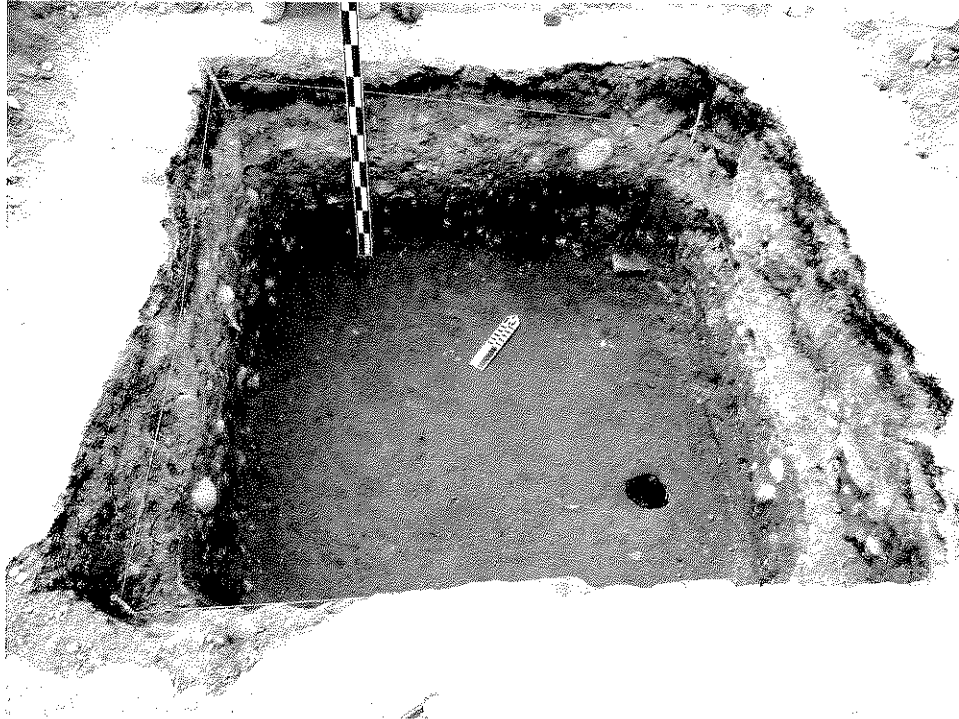
**Fig. 6.** Unauthorized trench 1 re-excavated, south baulk



**Fig. 7. Test pit 1, north and east baulks.**



**Fig. 8. Test pit 2, south and west baulks.**



**Fig. 9. Test pit 3, buried pavement and west, south and east baulks.**



**Fig. 10. Test pit 3, north and east baulks.**

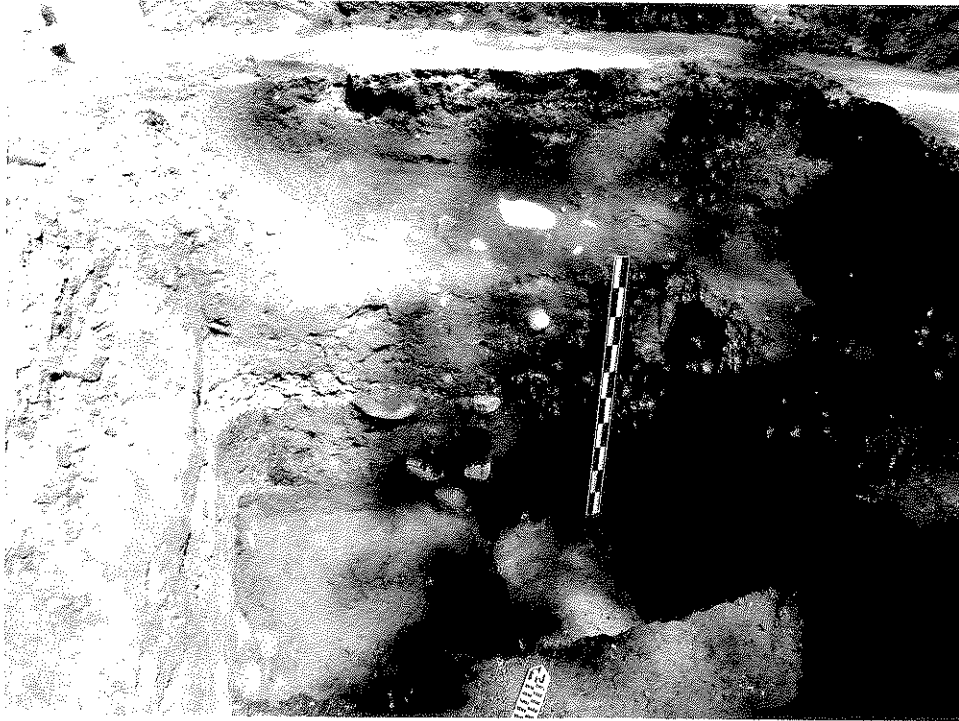
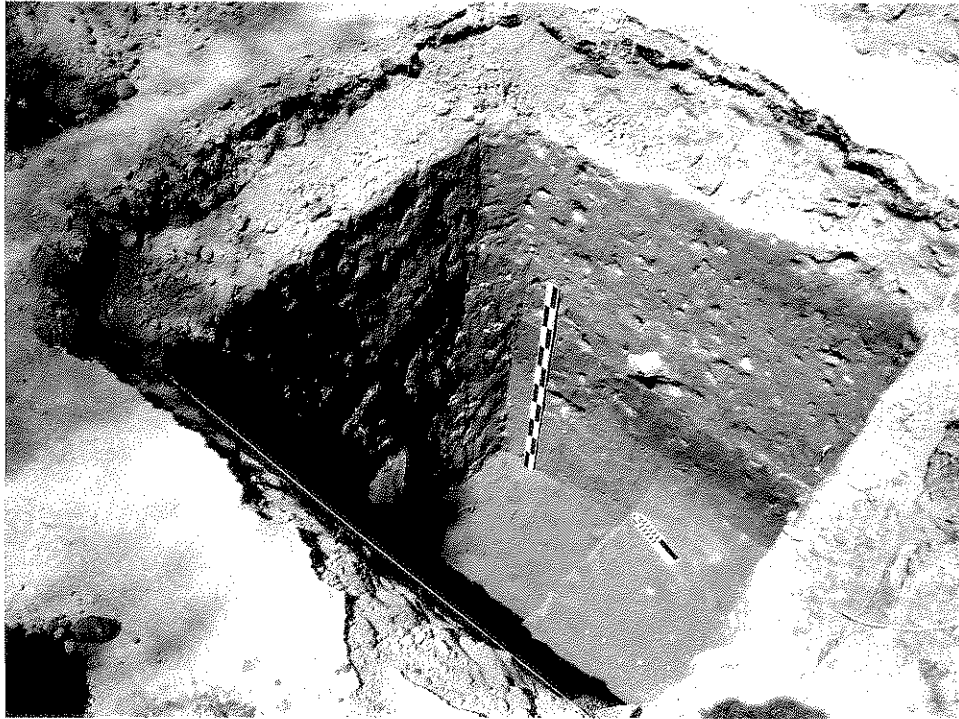


Fig. 11. Test pit 4, north baulk



Fig. 12. Test pit 4, west baulk.

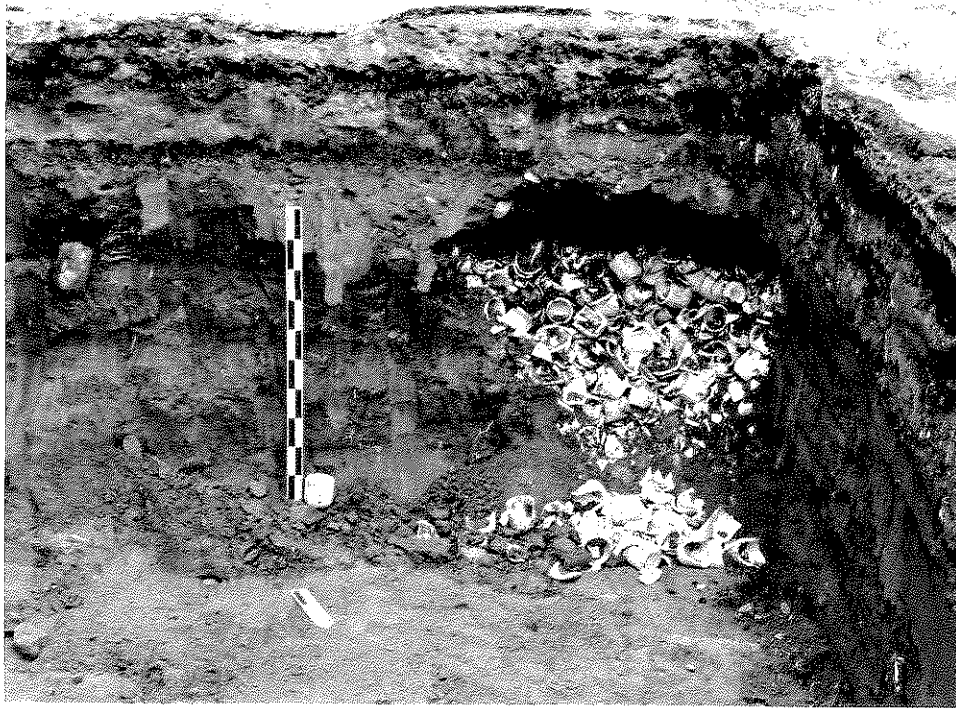




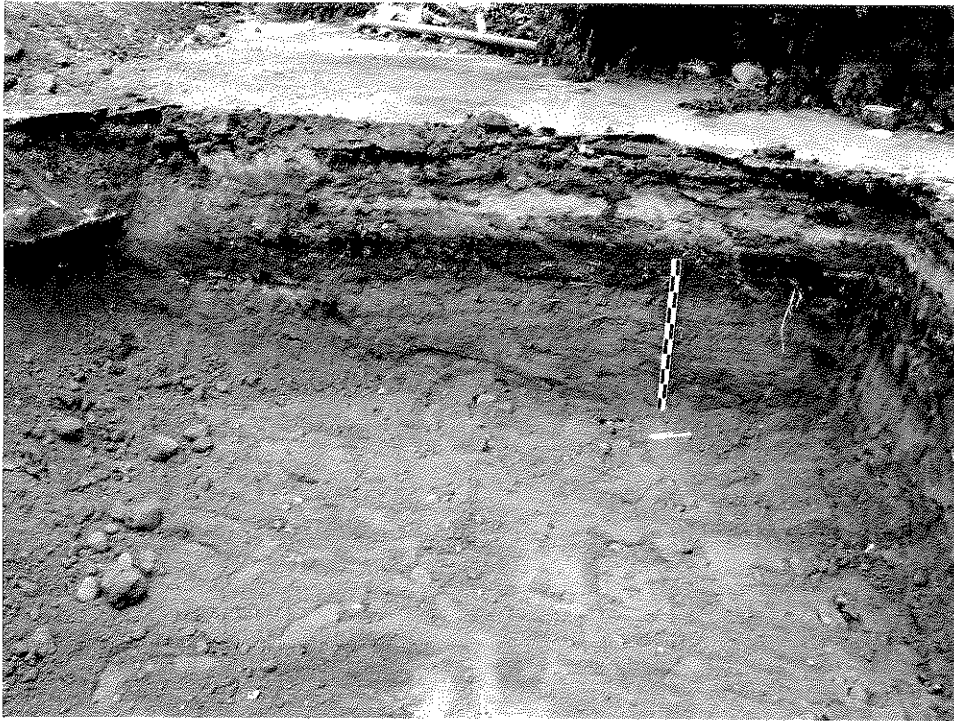
**Fig. 13. Test pit 5, east baulk.**



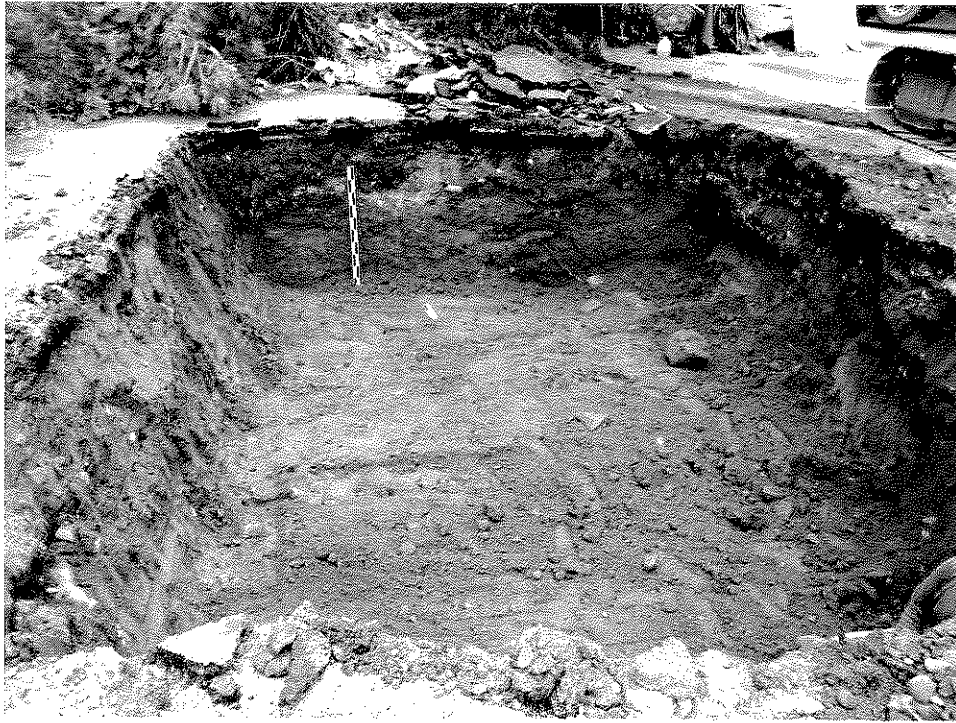
**Fig. 14. Test trench 1, north and east baulks.**



**Fig. 15. Test trench 2, west end of south baulk.**



**Fig. 16. Test trench 2, east baulk.**



**Fig. 17. Test trench 3, south baulk.**



**Fig. 18. Test trench 4, west and south baulks.**





**Fig. 19. Test trench 5, west, south and east baulks.**



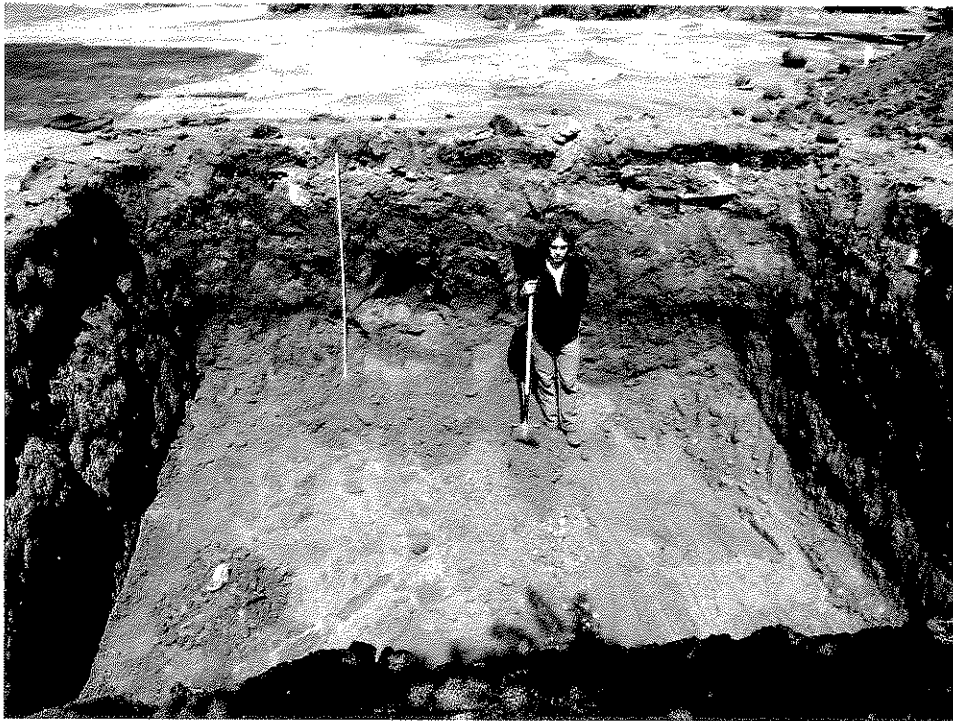
**Fig. 20. Test trench 6, south and west baulks.**



**Fig. 21. Test trench 7, north and east baulks.**



**Fig. 22. Test trench 8, south and west baulks.**



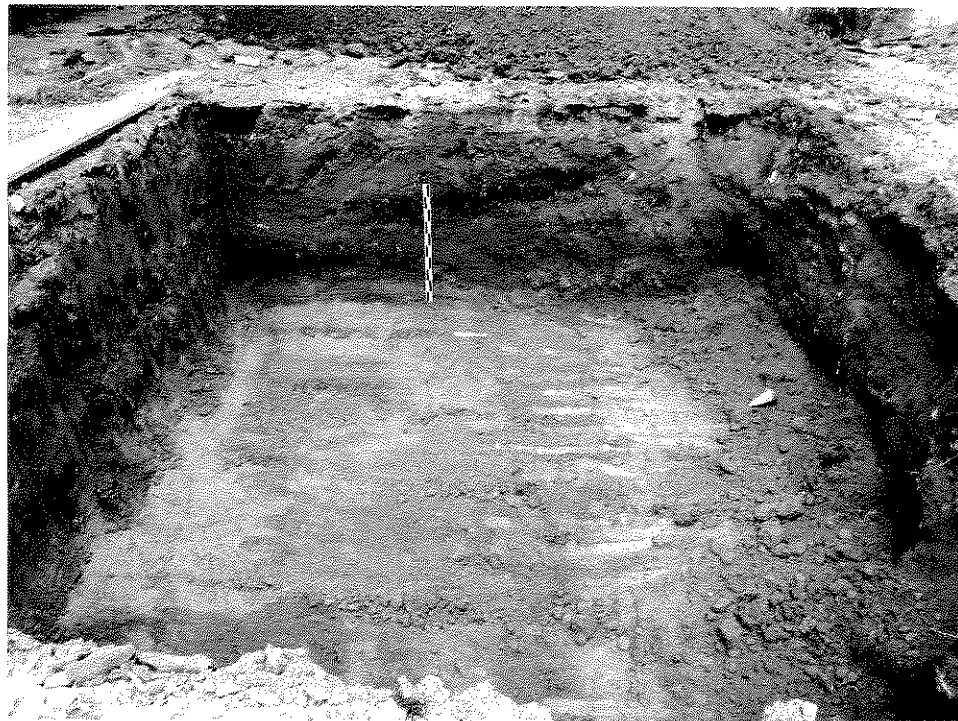
**Fig. 23. Test trench 9, north baulk with six-foot ruler.**



**Fig. 24. Test trench 9, south baulk, west corner, the refuse pit and sewer pipe trench visible in the baulk and the ceramic sewer pipe at the bottom of the trench.**



**Fig. 25. Test trench 10, east and south baulks.**



**Fig. 26. Test trench 11, north, east and south baulks.**





**Fig. 27. Test trench 12, north and east baulks.**



**Fig. 28. Marble pedestal found in test trench 4.**