

*City/Scope
2005-K*

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**REVISED
PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY**

*Rec e LPC
11/7/05*

BLOCK 576

**71 Wolcott Street (Lot 23-29 & 43) &
79 Wolcott Street (Lot 12-15, 22, 49 & 50)
Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York**

Prepared For:

Fifth Avenue Committee

141 fifth Avenue

Brooklyn, New York 11217

Prepared By:

CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants

166 Hillair Circle

White Plains, New York 10605

October 2005

1952

Block 576

71 Wolcott Street (Lot 23-29 & 43) and
79 Wolcott Street (Lot 12-15, 22, 49 & 50)
Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York.

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INTRODUCTION

The original Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey for the Red Hook Houses site in Red Hook, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York was submitted to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in August 2005. On September 2, 2005, the comments requested that the Phase 1B report be revised to include: (1) the length, width and depth of each of the trenches excavated, and (2) additional information on the stratigraphy of each of the trenches excavated, including profiles and plans for each of the trenches. This revised report addresses these issues.

On November 4 and 5, 2004, January 18 and 19, 2005 and February 23, 2005 CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants completed a field reconnaissance level archaeological survey of the *Red Hook Houses* site in Red Hook, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. (Map 1 & 2) The project is sponsored by the Fifth Avenue Committee. Archaeological fieldwork was supervised by Stephanie Roberg-Lopez, MA, RPA. Stephanie Roberg-Lopez and Gail Guillet supervised the mechanical excavations on site, with James Garfield working as the field technician. Preparation of maps and diagrams and the final report were completed by Stephanie Roberg-Lopez. Photographs, laboratory analysis and production of the final report were completed by Gail Guillet.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The *Red Hook Houses* site is comprised of 15 contiguous lots in Block 576. They are; Lot 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29 fronting on Wolcott Street and Lot 43, 49, and 50 fronting on Dikeman Street. (See Field Reconnaissance Map & Fig. 1) These lots, when combined, create an irregular parcel of land. The bulk of the parcel (Lot 12-24 & 26-28) runs approximately 300 feet along Wolcott Street frontage and extends half way deep into the block, abutting equally deep lots fronting on Dikeman Street. The result is a near rectangle measuring approximately 100' by 300' at the Wolcott Street perimeter. The project area is completed by three lots (Lot 43, 49 and 50) extending southwest that front on Dikeman Street, creating narrow access corridors from Dikeman into the project area.

PROJECT HISTORY

In July 2003 CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants was retained to prepare Phase 1A Literature Review and Sensitivity Analysis for the site. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission had previously indicated that the project area

had the potential for the recovery of remains from the 19th century occupation of the site, and requested that a Phase 1A investigation be undertaken to assess the site's potential. Specifically, the Phase 1A assessment was to determine whether either privies and/or cisterns might have been used by the inhabitants of the project area before water and sewer were available. The results of this initial investigation are as follows:

Prehistoric Sensitivity

Based on the environmental models promulgated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the project area, as described in the Phase 1A report, was located in the extensive salt marsh that surrounded Red Hook on the northeast, east and southwest. (See Phase 1A: Map 3) There were also a series of tidal ponds associated with the salt marsh that were drained by several tidal creeks. Map research indicates that, with the possible exception of the southwestern corner of Lot 43 (fronting on Dikeman Street), the project area contained no fast land. Based again on the map research, it is clear that before Block 576 could be developed the salt marsh and the tidal creek that crossed it had to be filled. Due to the fact that the project area was inundated twice daily by the tides in New York Harbor, it is unlikely that any significant, intact prehistoric cultural resources in the form of habitation sites or short term or special use camps would be expected. No prehistoric archaeological studies were recommended for the site.

Historic Sensitivity

Based on documentary research, including an examination of Sensitivity Maps for the Borough of Brooklyn at the LPC and an examination of historic maps and atlases of the area, it was concluded that the project area did not contain the potential to yield significant historic archaeological resources dating from the 17th or 18th centuries. Red Hook is one of the early hamlet areas in Brooklyn, but the early maps do not show a road leading through the salt marshes to it. At a later date, Red Hook Lane crossed the project area, impacting all the lots except Lot 43; however, it does not appear on maps until the early 19th century. Ratzel's 1766-7 *Plan of the City of New York in North America* (See Phase 1A: Map 6) indicates that Red Hook was located at the tip of an island surrounded by salt marsh. No roadway is shown leading to the island, even though it must be assumed that some method of reaching the island existed, and it is probable that in the early years Red Hook was reached by boat, canoe or dugout.

With respect to the potential for 19th century cultural remains, it appears that plans to fill the salt marsh and extend the shoreline beyond the high water mark in the Buttermilk Channel dated, at the latest, to the 1830's. That plans were well developed can be seen from the 1839 map (See Phase 1A: Map 3), which lays a grid pattern of streets over the areas of salt marsh and extends those streets beyond Ferris Street, the westernmost point on the island on which Red Hook was located. Filling of the salt

marsh and the tidal creek that crossed Block 576 has taken place by 1850, when the first houses appear on the block. (See Phase 1A; Map 10) At that time there were two dwellings and an outbuilding located within the project area. By 1869 the majority of the lots within the project area had been developed. The exceptions were Lot 44 (72 Dikeman Street) and Lot 25/26 (69 Wolcott Street). By that date Red Hook Lane had been closed, but the angle of the street through the site, running from the southwest to the northeast, resulted in the odd shaped lots found on Block 576. (See Phase 1A: Map 11) From the documentary research it appears that, with the exception of Lot 27-29, the rear lot lines for the properties fronting Wolcott Street was the line of Red Hook Lane, rather than the straight line that would divide the lots on Wolcott from those on Dikeman.

Based on the date of the earliest houses on the block, it is probable that neither water nor sewer had yet been installed. We do not know the date of the installation of water lines in Wolcott Street, but the earliest date we have for the connection of the houses on Block 576 to the sewer is 1873. At the very least, water would have been installed at the same time, but, if Red Hook followed the pattern of much of New York, it is possible that water was available somewhat earlier. In certain parts of Red Hook sewers were not available as late as 1886. (See Phase 1A, Map 14) Whatever the case for the individual lots within the project area, the map research indicates that structures were being built on Block 576 from 1850 onward. This suggested that both cisterns and privies could be present.

Block 576 appears to have been a residential block, but businesses had been established in the Red Hook area as early as 1850, by which time both the Atlantic and Erie Basins had been built. The Atlantic and Erie Basins served shipping, providing, among other services, dry dock service, and many of the businesses in Red Hook were related to shipping, shipbuilding and ship repair. The residential development seen in this area was likewise related to the Atlantic and Erie Basins, providing housing for the men who worked there and at the businesses that served them. At that time Red Hook was being populated by a high percentage of families with Irish surnames – Brady, Fitzpatrick, McMannis, Cronin, Gillmartin, etc. As noted in the Phase 1A report, these families tended to maintain their ties to the neighborhood (Phase 1A:11). They also tended to remain in their homes for long periods of time, often breaking up floors into apartments or building an additional dwelling unit in the rear yard (See Photo 24) in order, presumably, to increase their income so that they could remain in the house.

To summarize, based on the research undertaken for the Phase 1A Literature Review, it was not possible to determine the precise date that water was available, but an examination of the records of sewer hook-ups indicate, as noted above, that the earliest hook-ups were not until 1873, with many dating to the 1880s. This led to the conclusion that a number of the lots within the project area, where houses had been built from the 1850s on, had the potential to contain historic archaeological deposits.

The neighborhood around Block 576 is only now beginning to experience development. The public housing built to the northeast was constructed before the need

for archaeological investigation. This means that the Red Hook area has not been subjected to extensive testing for archaeological resources. The potential for privies and cisterns in an area that has not been extensively investigated would provide an opportunity to gather information concerning the ethnicity, occupation, and economic status of the inhabitants living within the project area. It also could provide a snap shot of the types of material goods and food stuffs available in Red Hook in the 19th century and provide an opportunity to compare these findings with those from other areas of Brooklyn and Manhattan. In addition, such an investigation might provide insight into the types of service businesses (i.e., stores) occupying the ground floor of two of the buildings. An examination of the historic maps allows us to rank the lots with respect to the potential to yield historic subsurface features.

Table 1
Potential for Lots to Contain Historic Archaeological Resources
(Based on Presence of Buildings on Lot in 1869)

Street Address	Lot No	Front Lot	Rear Lot
61 Wolcott	Lot 29	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
63 Wolcott	Lot 28	None - vacant in 1869	None - vacant in 1869
65 Wolcott	Lot 27	No potential in front of lot/ possible in rear lot	Privy on east lot line mid-lot
69 Wolcott	Lot 25/26	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
71 Wolcott	Lot 24	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
73 Wolcott	Lot 23	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
75 Wolcott	Lot 22	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
77 Wolcott	Lot 15	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
79 Wolcott	Lot 14	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
81 Wolcott	Lot 13	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
83 Wolcott	Lot 12	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
85 Wolcott	Lot 11	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot
72 Dikeman	Lot 43	Cistern behind house	Privy in rear lot

As a result of the historic study outlined above, it was determined that a Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey of the project area could provide a unique opportunity to examine a mid-19th century Brooklyn neighborhood that has not been thoroughly studied.

1. A walkover and visual inspection of the area to assess surface conditions and confirm that site elevation corresponds with street elevation and does not contain a deep overburden.
2. The controlled mechanical excavation of a series of 5-foot wide trenches directly behind the historic house foundations and across the rear boundaries of the lots.
3. Backfilling of each trench after profiles were drawn and photographs were taken. (See Appendix D: Trench Profiles)
4. Photographic documentation of the overall site.

Because of the readily available map information on the historic location of structures on this site, it was possible to anticipate and locate sub-surface structures with precision. Where warranted, 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. All items recovered were assigned to the stratum from which they were obtained. The stratigraphy of the trenches was recorded, including depth and soil description.

Due to the number of lots involved in the excavation, the conditions on the various lots varied widely. A number of impediments to the excavations had to be resolved over the course of the project, resulting in a three-stage effort. These impediments included electrical wires blocking the backhoe on Lot 24, as well as a broken water main that had inundated the area behind the house of the same lot. As noted above, a large tree located at the northeastern corner of Lot 27 presented a hazard to the backhoe operator and was initially scheduled to be removed, however, consultations with Amanda Sutphin of the Landmarks Preservation Commission resulted in an agreement that, based on the large statistical sample being recovered from a relatively small area and the fact that no features on adjacent lots had been identified, the tree would be left in place, and the trench across the rear lots impacted by the tree would not be excavated. (Photo 15 & 24)

At the time of the initial Phase 1B work, the front portion of Lot 43 on Dikeman Street was crowded with abandoned shopping carts and large scale debris that prevented excavation by the backhoe. On the next occasion when excavation on Lot 43 was planned, it was found that the owner of an adjoining lot, while renovating his own house, had used Lot 43 as a staging area, which again made access impossible. (Photo 23) These access issues were resolved over the course of the project investigation, and Lot 43 was excavated on February 23, 2005.

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. The first question involved the condition of the site and determining the level of overburden. By extrapolating from street elevation and the ground level of the adjacent, extant row houses the overburden was determined to be negligible.

A site datum was established at the southwest corner of the project area at the corner of the chain link gate. Working with historic maps, and using existing structures that abut the site as scale references, trenches were laid out (See Field Reconnaissance Map) in the loci judged to have the highest probability for the presence of cisterns and privies. The general conditions on the site were recorded photographically. (Photo 1-2)

After carefully explaining to the backhoe operator the nature of the excavation, the type of features believed to be present and the anticipated level and character of the features, the archaeological team began systematically excavating the 18 trenches one by one. (Photo 3-5) The trenches were excavated in the order of easiest access, beginning with Lot 15 (77 Wolcott Street). The trenches, four feet in width, were excavated to between 5 and 6 feet in depth. The length of the each trench varied, depending on whether it spanned a single lot (Lot 15, 22, 23, 24, 12, 13, 14 & 43), which were 25' in width, or extended across several lots, as was the case with Trench 8 (Lot 12-15, 22-24), which ran at an angle and spanned 7 lots, each of which was 25 feet in width.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on Lot 15 directly behind the location of the historic house rear foundation. It measured 4 feet wide, and was excavated in approximately one-foot deep increments to a depth of 6 feet. The trench, which spanned the lot, was 25 feet in length. The upper layers of sediment were mixed urban soil with large scale rubble inclusions, such as broken brick, mortar and metal debris. (Photo 6) At approximately four feet below surface, the backhoe encountered a 4" thick layer of concrete that effectively extended across the trench. The trench was then widened to identify the edges of the concrete slab. At the northwestern edge of the trench, a small deposit of spent coal ash was identified. It contained small fragments of whiteware intermixed with modern debris, including plastic and metal bottle caps. In addition to being churned, this deposit was small and lacked depth. It appears to have been a single dumping episode that was ultimately disturbed by the construction of the concrete slab. The slab was broken up and removed to reveal an underlying subsoil of yellow gravelly sand mixed with brick and other destruction debris. (Photo 7) No features were identified in Trench 1. (Appendix D: Lot 15/Trench 1 Profile & Plan)

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located adjacent to Trench 1 on Lot 22. The row houses on Lots 79, 77 and 75 were identical allowing for the three rear trenches to be placed along the same line. Trench 2 was excavated using the same methodology as Trench 1. The trench was 4 feet wide, 25 feet in length and 6 feet in depth. As the backhoe peeled back the foot-deep levels, a fairly homogeneous mixture of rotted timbers, brickbat, plastic, electric cable, sewer pipe and mortar were recovered. At no time in the excavation of the trench was segregated strata of any kind encountered. The mixture of large-scale debris was consistent to a depth of six feet below surface. No features of any kind were identified in Trench 2. (Appendix D: Lot 22/Trench 2 Profile & Plan)

Trench 3

The third trench was placed in Lot 23 at the point where the rear foundation would have been located. The first two feet excavated yielded the typical mix of bricks, mortar and other destruction debris. At approximately 2.5 feet below surface, a brick wall was located at the northwestern corner of the trench in what would have been a perpendicular orientation to the house foundation. The wall was carefully exposed, cleaned and examined. It terminated at approximately four feet below surface and was identified as a relatively ephemeral support foundation, most likely for a small back porch. At approximately three feet below surface small pockets of ash were encountered in the northeastern perimeter of the trench and in the southwestern perimeter of the trench. Unlike the ash deposit in Trench 1, these deposits were not intermixed with artifacts of any kind. At approximately four feet below surface, the backhoe encountered soft sand. No artifacts other than building debris were noted or recovered from this trench. Trench 3 was four feet wide, 25 feet in length and 6 feet in depth. (Appendix D: Lot 23/Trench 3 Profile & Plan)

Trench 4

Trench 4 was placed directly behind the extant house on Lot 24. (See Photo 2, 5 & 8) This excavation took place in January 2005, as it had taken some time to resolve the impediments to excavation caused by the electrical wires and the broken water main. The area behind the house was heavily littered with debris associated with the most recent occupation of the house, including a plastic chair, plastic milk crates, broken bottles, the remains of an air conditioner and a television set. (See Photo 8) The backhoe operator opened a four foot wide trench approximately three feet behind the dwelling. The trench was then systematically excavated across the width of the house. With the exception of the concrete footings for the extant brick steps into the back of the house, no structures were encountered in the excavation. No features were identified or artifacts recovered, and glacial subsoil was identified at between three and four feet below surface. Trench 4 was 25 feet wide and between 5 and 6 feet in depth. (Appendix D: Lot 24/Trench 4 Profile & Plan)

Trench 5

After gaining access to Lot 12, separated from Lot 13 by a fence (Photo 1), the excavation team placed Trench 5 at the location of the rear foundation of the historic house. At approximately two feet below surface, the backhoe encountered a 3 inch thick concrete palate covering approximately $\frac{1}{6}$ th of the northeastern perimeter of the trench. This thin concrete floor was cleaned and inspected, then removed. It appears to have been a recent ephemeral floor of some kind, perhaps a small landing for steps leading out of the house. The entire contents of this trench, to a depth of four feet, were completely churned. The material noted included modern PVC pipe, a plastic water bottle, and modern destruction debris with a high content of brick. Unlike other trenches, this debris was intermixed with a high proportion of sand. The sand was identical to the subsoil, which was reached at approximately 5 to 5½ feet. No features were identified in this trench. Trench 5 was 4 feet wide, 25 feet in length, and 6 feet deep. (Appendix D: Lot 12/Trench 5 Profile & Plan)

Trench 6

The excavation proceeded to the next lot (Lot 13), where the historic house had had a slightly different configuration, and the rear foundation was located closer to Wolcott Street. Trench 6 was excavated along the rear of the house. At the northwest perimeter, a narrow brick wall was encountered just below surface. (Photo 9) This wall was similar to the one found in Trench 3 on Lot 23. Once again, it was ephemeral in nature, and probably a support for steps or a small structure extending from the back of the house. The percentage of debris, which was essentially modern in nature, that was recovered from this trench was much lighter than that on the other lots. It is likely that the destruction debris was trucked off this lot, as opposed to being spread across the surface of the lot. The sub surface, a red/orange glacial sand, was reached at between three and four feet below surface. No features other than the narrow brick wall were noted in the excavations. Trench 6 was four feet wide, 25 feet in length and six feet deep. (Appendix D: Lot 13/Trench 6 Profile & Plan)

Trench 7

The rear foundation of the historic house on Lot 14 corresponds with the house on Lot 12; therefore, the trench excavated on this site was placed parallel to Trench 5. The first two feet of sediments excavated from Trench 7 were very large fraction destruction debris intermixed with plastics of various types. A small pocket of ash and klinker was noted at the southern perimeter of the trench, however this deposit lacked depth and was sterile of artifacts. At four feet below surface, a 4-inch thick concrete slab was encountered that covered almost the entire trench floor. Once this slab was exposed, it was broken up and removed to reveal non-artifact bearing sub soils of red/orange glacial sand. No features other than the thin concrete slab/floor were noted in this trench. Trench 7 was four feet wide, 25 feet in length and six feet deep. (Appendix D: Lot 14/Trench 7 Profile & Plan)

Trench 8

Trench 8 was the longest of the trenches excavated on the project area. It spans seven of the lots – 24, 23, 22, 15, 14, 13 and 12 – that are in part delineated by the historic Red Hook Lane. The northeast-southwest orientation of the historic lane was carried through along these back lot boundaries, giving Trench 8 an east-west orientation as well. The Principal Investigator calculated the location of the angled rear boundary, flagged it, and laid out a four foot wide trench that was 180 feet in length. The trench was then excavated to varying depths, ranging from four feet to six feet, depending upon what was encountered by the backhoe. The southwestern section of Trench 8 spanned the rear of Lot 12. Excavation was easy, as the majority of the material removed from the trench was yellow/brown sand consistent with the known subsoil. Some small inclusions were noted including metal pipe, small bits of gray cement, metal pipe, plastic fabric and a tire. No features of any kind were identified. (Appendix D: Lot 24/Trench 8 Profile & Plan)

The next section of Trench 8 spanned the rear of Lot 13. The deposit was very much like that of Lot 12, in that the majority of the material recovered was sandy soil. Debris from the trench included foam rubber padding, a metal can, brick, coiled wire, broken ceramic sewer pipe fragments and several very large rocks. Continuing westward, the trench was extended across the rear of Lot 14. Below a light deposit of brick and mortar debris, this trench yielded soil with a very few fragments of ceramic. These included one rim sherd fragment of a graniteware blue transfer print bowl, a small plate, and a rim sherd from a pink saucer. Other than these very scant remains, no features or artifacts were noted in the trench. At the western boundary of Lot 14, a chain link fence separated the lots. This fence was removed by the backhoe, and the trench was extended westward to Lot 15. This section of the trench produced substantially more debris in the churned sediments than had the others. Excavators noted dark brown fill with metal, cloth, plastic, brick, a corkscrew, large pieces of a metal kitchen cabinet, linoleum flooring and very large stones. At approximately four feet below surface, at the western edge of the trench, a pocket of ash was noted. This ash pocket was removed and inspected, however it lacked any inclusions other than klinker. (Photo 10-12) (Appendix D: Lot 12-15/Trench 8 Profile & Plan)

As the trench continued to Lot 22, just west of Lot 15, the backhoe revealed yellow brown fill. In the upper two feet of the sediments, tubular metal, broken brick and a section of brick wall, clearly not *in situ*, were noted. This section of trench was excavated to approximately four feet in depth, with the lower two feet being pure sandy soil fill. (Appendix D: Lot 22/Trench 8 Profile & Plan)

Trench 8 continued across Lot 23. The characteristic of the soil from the trench on Lot 23 was a lack of debris of any kind. It appears that this lot was cleared of debris and that the excavation was then filled with clean sand. (Appendix D: Lot 23/Trench 8 Profile & Plan)

The final lot tested in Trench 8 was Lot 24. This lot is the only one in the project area with an extant structure. The upper two feet of sediments from the trench yielded broken brick, bent and broken water pipe, plastic can tops, a spackle bucket, electrical wiring components and fragments of a broken concrete slab. At the eastern boundary of the lot, an ash deposit was identified at four feet below surface. This ash deposit was removed and screened, and yielded small bits of metal and small bits of charred wood. No artifacts were present in the ash.

No features of any kind were identified in Trench 8. The vast majority of soils were churned and intermixed with debris from the destruction episodes that removed the houses. (Appendix D: Lot 24/Trench 8 Profile & Plan)

Trench 9

The absence of features or stratified deposits along Trench 8 indicated that privy features, if present, might only remain along the very back boundary of this group of lots. Therefore, Trench 9 was placed along the rear boundary, marked by a green chain link fence that spans most of Lots 15, 22, 23 and 24. Trench 9 was excavated using the same methodology as the previous trenches. The southeastern perimeter of the trench provided a moment of excitement as a small brick foundation was identified in the rear yard corresponding with Lot 23. However, no artifacts were associated with the foundation, and once the trench in this locus had been deepened to five feet with no trace of cultural materials, the brick foundation was quickly identified as the footing for a potting or tool shed. The central portion of the trench was a mixture of fill and debris, however once again, at the northeastern boundary of the trench; an ephemeral brick foundation was identified. This foundation, unlike the first one, had a shallow concrete slab as flooring. Once this brick and concrete structure was removed, a subsoil of orange/red sand was encountered. No features other than the two ephemeral brick foundations were noted in Trench 9. Trench 9 was four feet wide, 80 feet in length and six feet deep. (Appendix D: Lot 15, 22-24/Trench 9 Profile & Plan)

Trench 10

Trench 10, excavated in January 2005, was excavated along the rear of the house foundation in the irregularly shaped Lot 26. The angled rear boundary was delineated by a wooden fence that at one time had enclosed a garden. Local informants reported that the area had been a community garden and a sign hanging on the gate confirmed that mulch could be left there for use in the garden. The backhoe operator began excavating a trench that was set back only slightly from Trench 4. No building had stood on Lot 26, but Trench 10 was dug to determine if any features associated with the building at 71 Wolcott Street were located there. At the east corner of the lot a depression was noted, but careful excavation revealed that it was a concrete birdbath rather than a shaft feature (i.e., well). The soil profile was consistent with that found on Lot 24. No artifacts or features, other than the birdbath, were encountered. After excavating Trench 10, which was four feet wide and 55 feet in length, to approximately four feet, subsoil was encountered, the trench was backfilled. (Appendix D: Lot 26/Trench 10 Profile & Plan)

Trench 11

Lot 28 and 29 was separated from Lot 27 by a chain link fence. At the completion of Trench 10, the backhoe operator found that the gate to Lot 28-29 was inaccessible. Trench 11 was, therefore, excavated on January 19, 2005. Trench 11 was excavated in the area directly behind the historic rear house foundations on Lot 28 and 29. Although no artifacts were encountered in the top layers of Trench 11, as the trench was deepened across Lot 29, a segment of brickwork that appeared to be curved was exposed. Another moment of excitement ensued as we anticipated identifying a beehive cistern; however, as the crew cleared the brickwork, the curved wall was found to be a distorted section of a non-anchored segment of brick wall. (Photo 13) In the area of the brick wall, at a depth of over 3 feet, a cross cut saw was excavated, indicating that this lot, as well as most of the others within the project area, had been substantially disturbed during the removal of the building on the site. (Photo 14) Other than the brick and mortar fragment and the cross cut saw on Lot 29, no other artifacts or features were noted. Trench 11 was four feet wide, 40 feet in length, and six feet in depth. (Appendix D: Lot 28-29/Trench 11 Profile & Plan)

Trench 12

Trench 12 was placed at the rear of Lot 28 and 29 to test for the presence of privy features. This excavation also took place on January 19, 2005 under extremely cold circumstances. The backhoe broke through a 4 inch layer of frozen soil revealing soft sand from the top of the four foot wide trench to the bottom, at five feet below surface. (Photo 16-17) Had a privy feature been present on the site, this would have been the most likely place to encounter it. The soils were very carefully inspected in the hopes that they represented undisturbed strata that would clearly show a shaft feature. However, despite extending the trench across the rear yard lot lines, no features were present in this trench. Trench 12 was four feet wide, 40 feet in length, and six feet in depth. (Appendix D: Lot 28-29/Trench 12 Profile & Plan)

Trench 13

Trenches 13 and 14 are located on Lot 43, which fronts Dikeman Street. This lot was the least accessible, having a dense overburden of debris scattered all across the surface. The debris included, as noted above, shopping carts, construction materials and construction debris. We examined Lot 43 on several occasions, but were prevented from excavating until the project sponsor had the lot cleared of the construction materials associated with the renovation of the house on the adjoining lot. The excavation on Lot 43 was successfully completed on February 23, 2005. Trench 13 was placed at the rear of the lot in an effort to identify a privy feature. Although no privy feature was identified, the trench did produce a scattering of ash and artifacts. Among the scant artifacts were two fragments of yellowware, a broken medicine bottle and a robin's egg blue fragment of "milk" glass. Beneath this scatter, which did not extend below three feet, the backhoe encountered only clean sand to a depth of five feet below surface. This does not appear to be fill – it is likely natural sediments. Trench 13 was four feet wide,

25 feet in length and six feet in depth. (Photo 18-19) (Appendix D: Lot 43/Trench 13 Profile & Plan)

Trench 14

The final trench excavated on the *Red Hook Houses* site was located at the rear of the historic house on Lot 43. The first two feet of sediments excavated from the trench were typical churned soils, including destruction debris intermixed with modern refuse. The volume of refuse and debris gradually lessened as the trench deepened, and at approximately four feet below surface, the orange/red sandy subsoil was reached. No features of any kind were identified in Trench 14. Trench 14 was four feet wide, 25 feet in length and six feet in depth. (Photo 20-22) (Appendix D: Lot 43/Trench 14 Profile & Plan)

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A walkover reconnaissance was completed on the Block 576 site located in the Reed Hook section, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. After reviewing the Phase 1A Literature Review and Sensitivity Assessment completed for the project area, a testing strategy was created for the site focusing on the possible presence of cisterns and privies associated with the now destroyed (with the exception of the house still standing on Lot 24) historic houses.

Fourteen trenches were excavated in those loci identified as having potential to retain a shaft feature that might contain stratified archaeological deposits. Using a combination of mechanical excavation and manual excavation, each locus was carefully examined for artifact deposits or structures that might indicate the presence of such features. Despite a comprehensive testing plan over this relatively confine area, none were encountered. Few artifacts of any kind were encountered, and virtually no artifacts associated with the 19th century, indicating that, if shaft features or sheet middens, had been present on any of the lots, they had, in accordance with the law, been removed at the time that the buildings were demolished.

Based on these conclusions, no further archaeological investigation is warranted for the Block 576 site and it is the conclusion of CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants that the project may proceed.

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APPENDICES

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Maps & Figures

Appendix B: Photographs

Appendix C: Artifact Catalogue

Appendix D: Trench Profiles & Plans

APPENDIX A

MAPS & FIGURES

MAP & FIGURES LIST

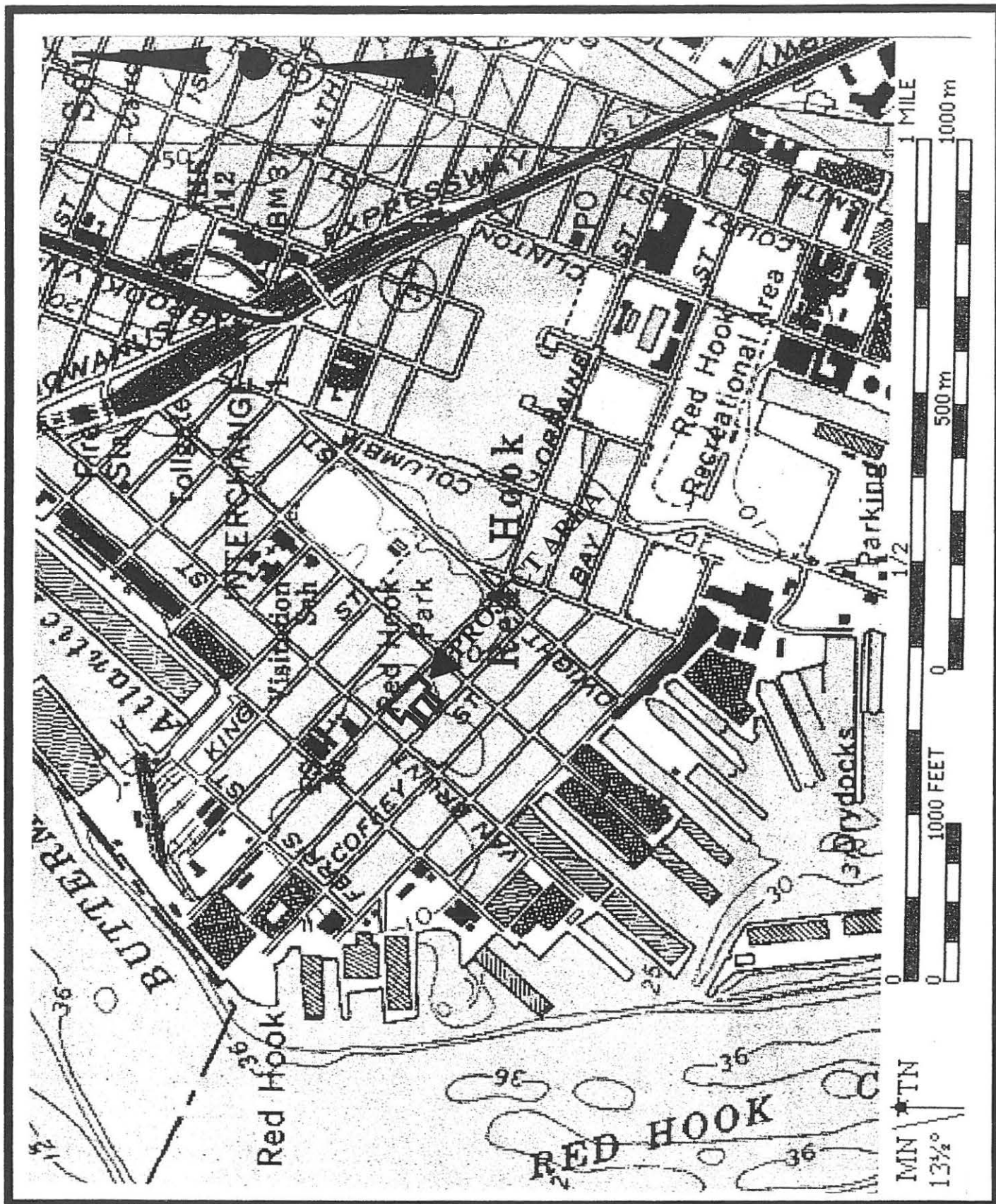
MAPS

- Map 1 Location Map. USGS Brooklyn Quadrangle. 7.5 Minute Series. Taken 1967. Revised 1979.
- Map 2 Area Map (derived from Hagstrom's *New York City 5 Borough Atlas*) Map 41 & 44) Scale: 3" = 1 Mile.

FIGURES

- Fig. 1: Sanborn 1995 Diagram of Lots on Block 576 & Surrounding Area with Present Lot Numbers
- Fig. 2: Sketch of Project Area showing Tentative Lot Numbers as Overlay on Old Lot Numbers.

Phase 1B Field Reconnaissance Map (See Appendix A)



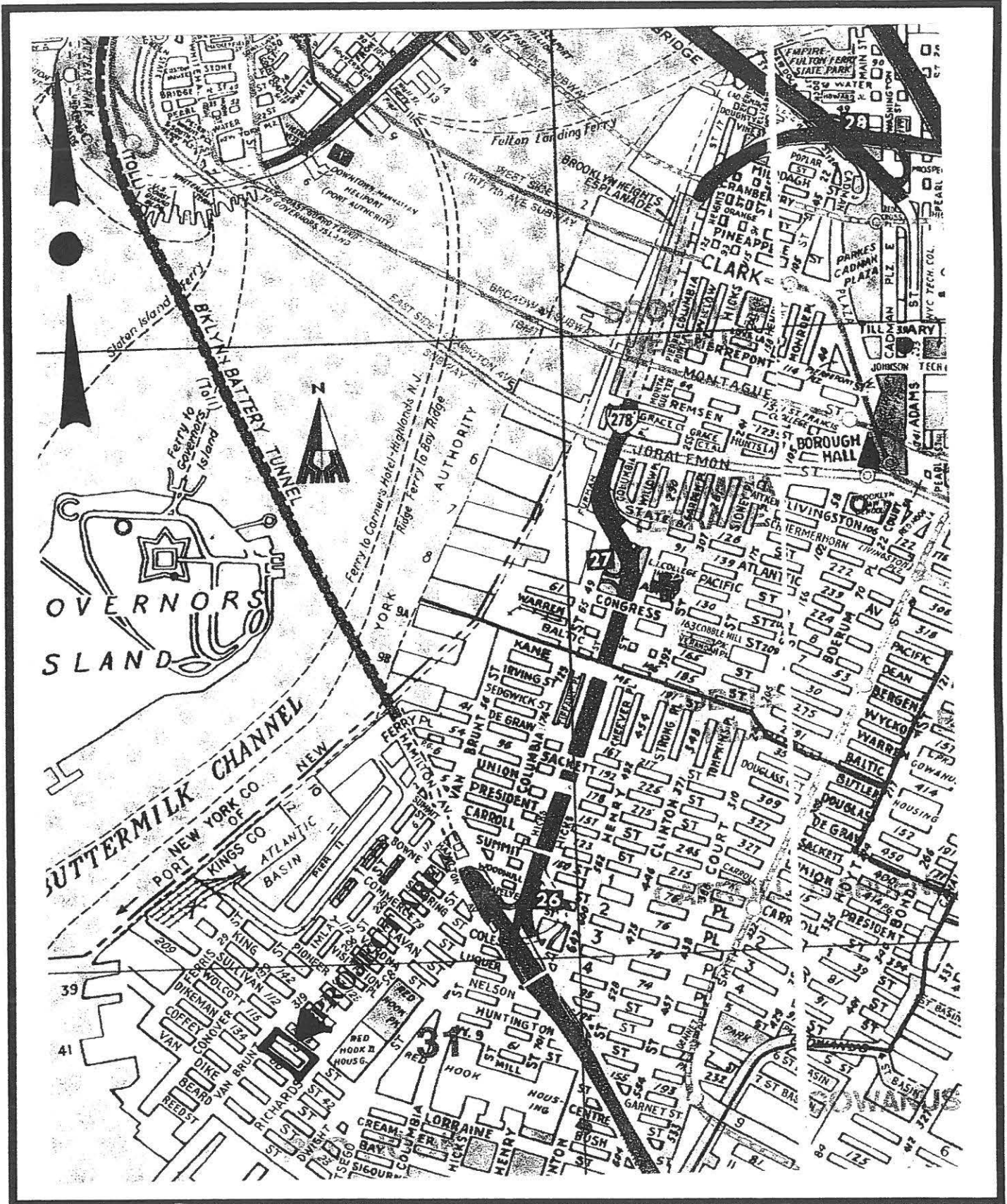
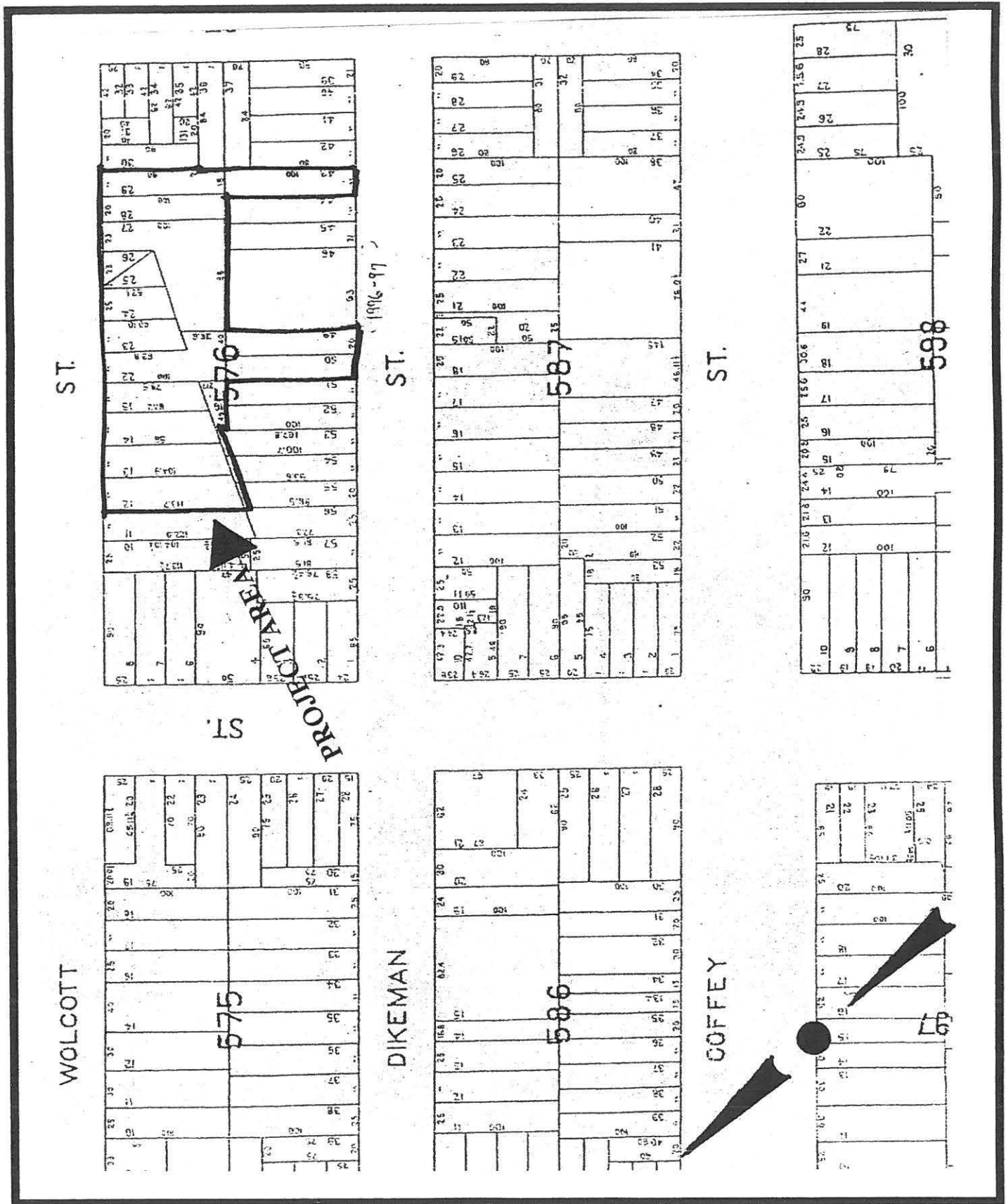


Fig. 1: Sanborn 1995 Diagram of Lots on Block 576 & Surrounding Area with Present Lot Numbers



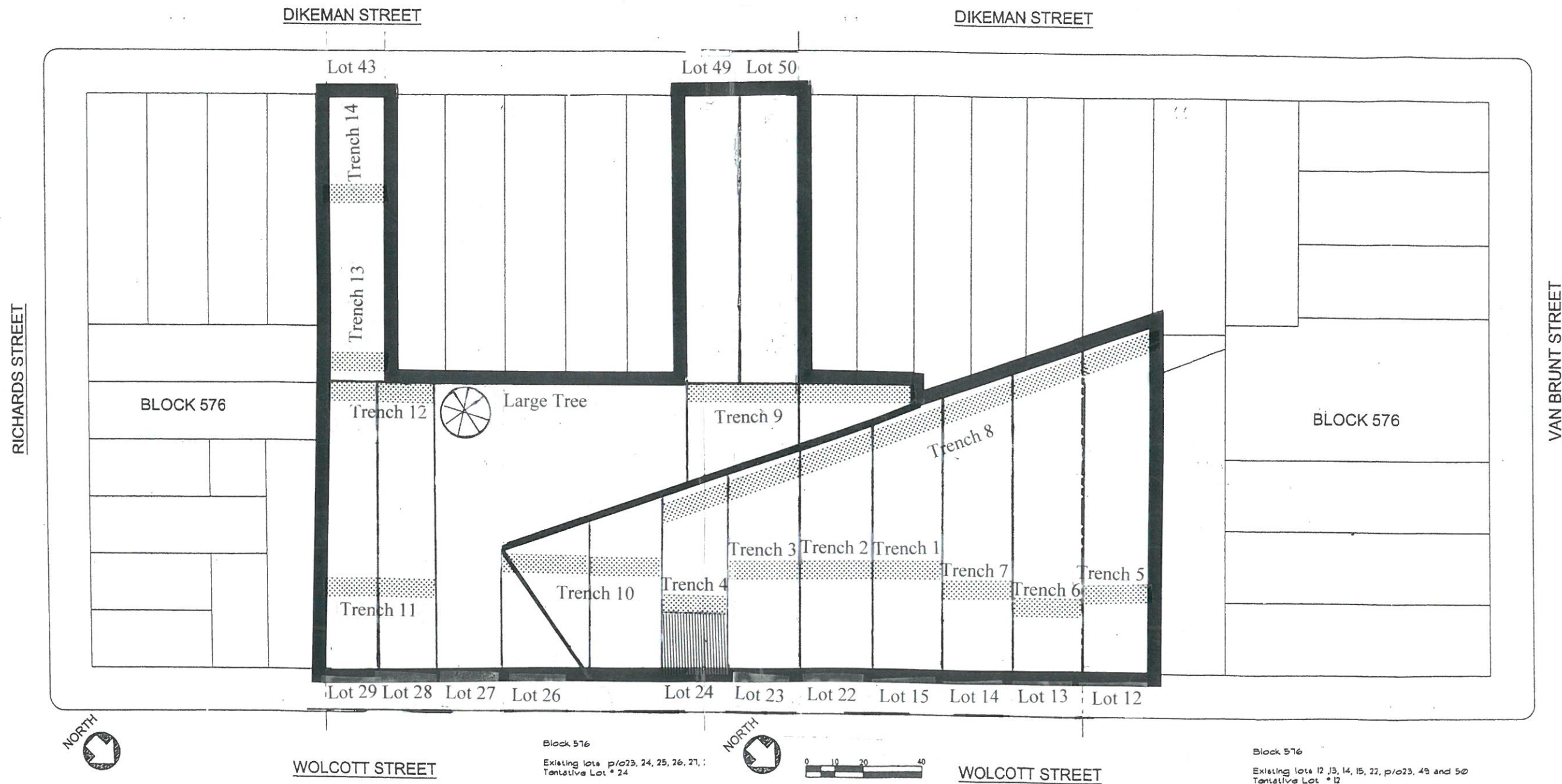


CITY / SCAPE:
Cultural Resource Consultants
166 Hillair Circle
White Plains, NY 10605

**PHASE 1 B FIELD
RECONNAISSANCE MAP**

BLOCK 576

71 Wolcott Street (Lot 23-29 & 43) &
79 Wolcott Street (Lot 12-15, 22, 49 & 50)
Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York



APPENDIX B

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: View of project area. School and public housing project are to the north and northeast. Chain link fence divides several of the lots within the project area. This fence divides Lot 15 from Lot 14. House on Lot 24 is only structure remaining on the project area.



Photo 2: House on Lot 24 dates to mid-19th century. It is probably typical of the type of buildings constructed in Red Hook at that time. Photo taken from Lot 26, location of community garden. View to northwest.



Photo 3: Backhoe excavating Trench 5 on Lot 12. View to northwest.



Photo 4: Trench 3 on Lot 23. This trench is typical of those dug in 2004. House at 71 Wolcott is at rear. View to east.



Photo 5: Excavating Trench 10 on Lot 26 in January 2005. Trench 4 (Lot 24) is essentially an extension of Trench 10. View to west.



Photo 6: Brick and metal, as well as modern cans and bottles, were typical inclusions in soils excavated on project area. This particular material was excavated from Trench 1 on Lot 15.

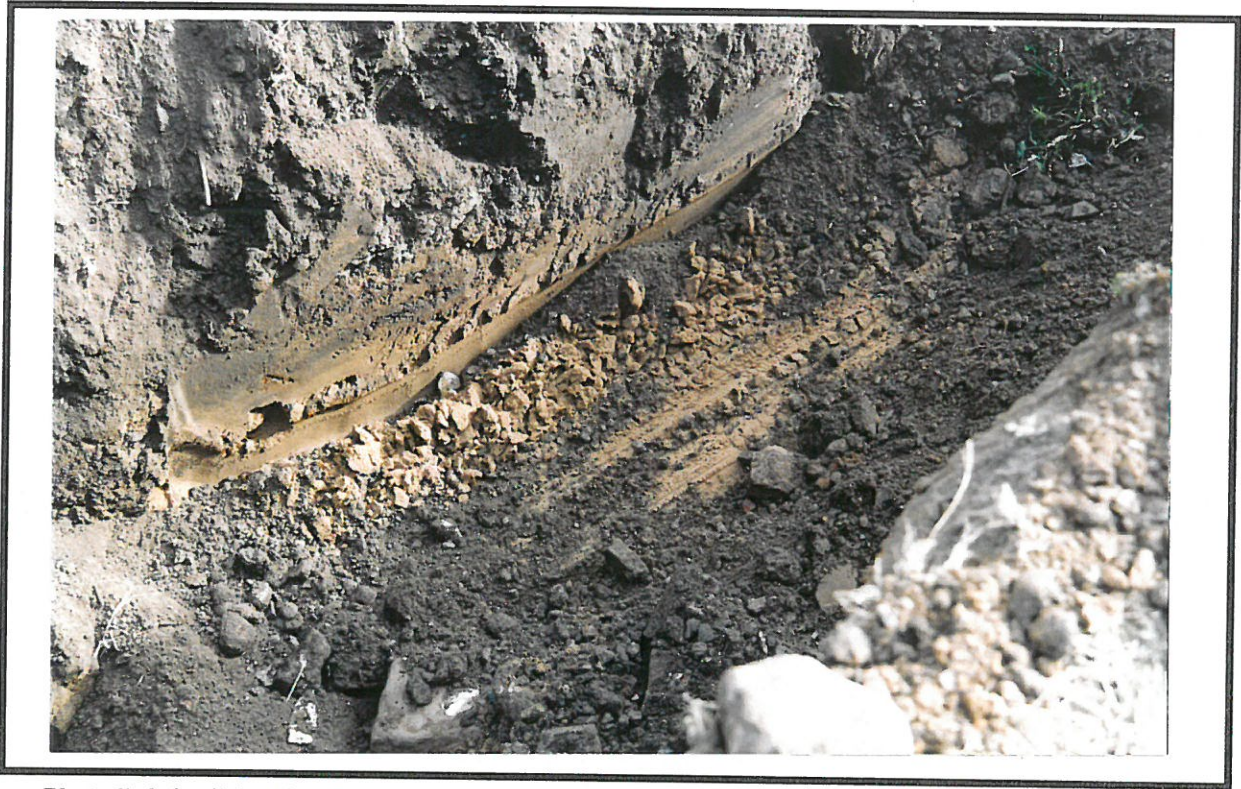


Photo 7: Subsoil found on project area was typically red/orange, or, as in this case, yellowish brown sand. This subsoil was in Trench 1 on Lot 15.

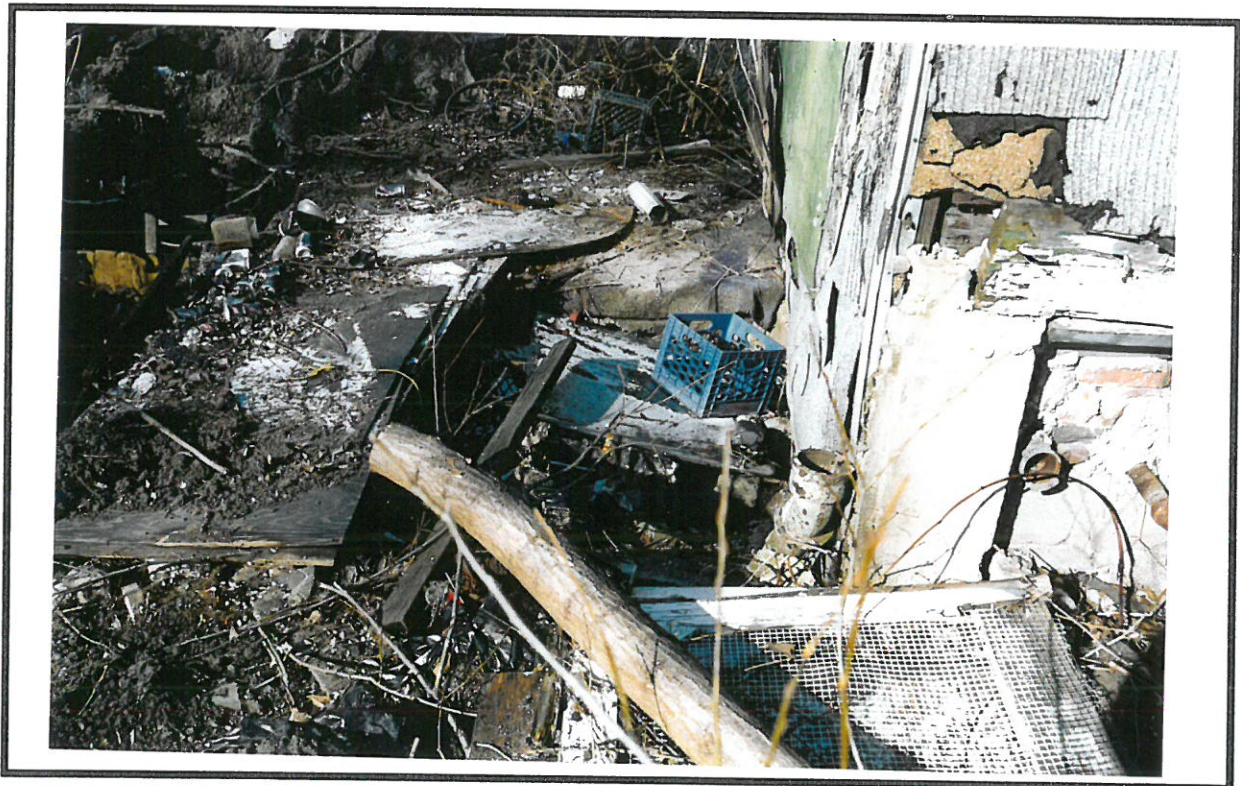


Photo 8: Debris at rear of 71 Wolcott Street. In 2004 the area behind the house had been filled with water from a broken water main. The excavation took place in January 2005 after the water main had been capped and the soil allowed to drain.



Photo 9: Principal Investigator inspects Trench 6 on Lot 13. Narrow brick wall that supported steps of a small extension was observed, but otherwise, no artifact concentration was observed. View to northwest.



Photo 10: Trench 8 was excavated along the line of Red Hook Lane, which represented the historic rear lot lines of Lot 12-15 & 22-24. It was thought possible that privies might be located along this line.



Photo 11: Trench 8 yielded metal, cloth, plastic, brick, a corkscrew, large pieces of a metal kitchen cabinet, linoleum flooring and very large stones. No artifact concentrations were observed. No evidence of features was found.

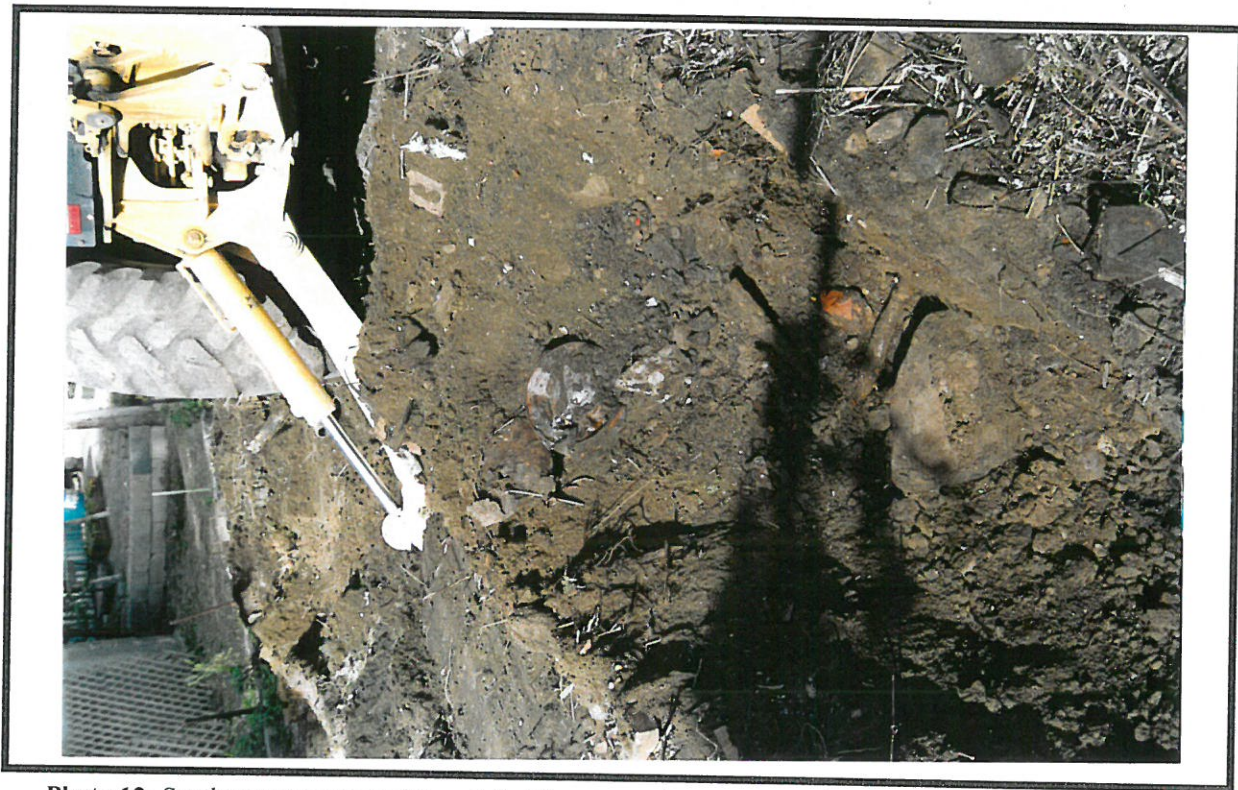


Photo 12: Southwestern corner of Trench 8. View to south.



Photo 13: Brick wall, similar to those seen in Trench 3 & 6, was exposed in Trench 11 on Lot 28. View to northeast.



Photo 14: Cross-cut saw excavated about 3 feet below ground level in Trench 11 on Lot 28.



Photo 15: Backhoe clearing area on Lot 27 near large willow tree that prevented excavation along rear lot line. View to southwest.



Photo 16: Top soil was frozen on Trench 12 when it was excavated in January 2005. As layer was noted, but no artifact concentration observed.



Photo 17: Excavating west side of Trench 12 in effort to located privy on Lot 28. Beneath frozen top soil, soils were sandy and soft. View to west.



Photo 18: Backhoe preparing to excavate Trench 13 on rear of Lot 43 (Dikeman Street) in February 2005. Reported to be location of shed or shack, a light scattering of artifacts were recovered, but no evidence of structure or shaft feature was identified. View to northwest



Photo 19: Trench 13 on Lot 43 was excavated to subsoil View to east. As noted, although a light scattering of artifacts was recovered, no evidence of features was present.



Photo 20: View looking northwest on Lot 43 (Dikeman Street). Until February 2005 this lot had been inaccessible because of debris and construction material.



Photo 21: Excavating Trench 14 on Lot 43. Note shopping cars and bagged debris along wall of house to left. When the initial site visit was made, this type of material had littered the front of the lot.



Photo 22: Trench 14 contained a good deal of debris in the form of brick and other construction materials. No evidence of a cistern was found, and a local informant reported that, unlike the houses on Wolcott, the houses on Dikeman had not been built until water and sewer were available. View to southwest.

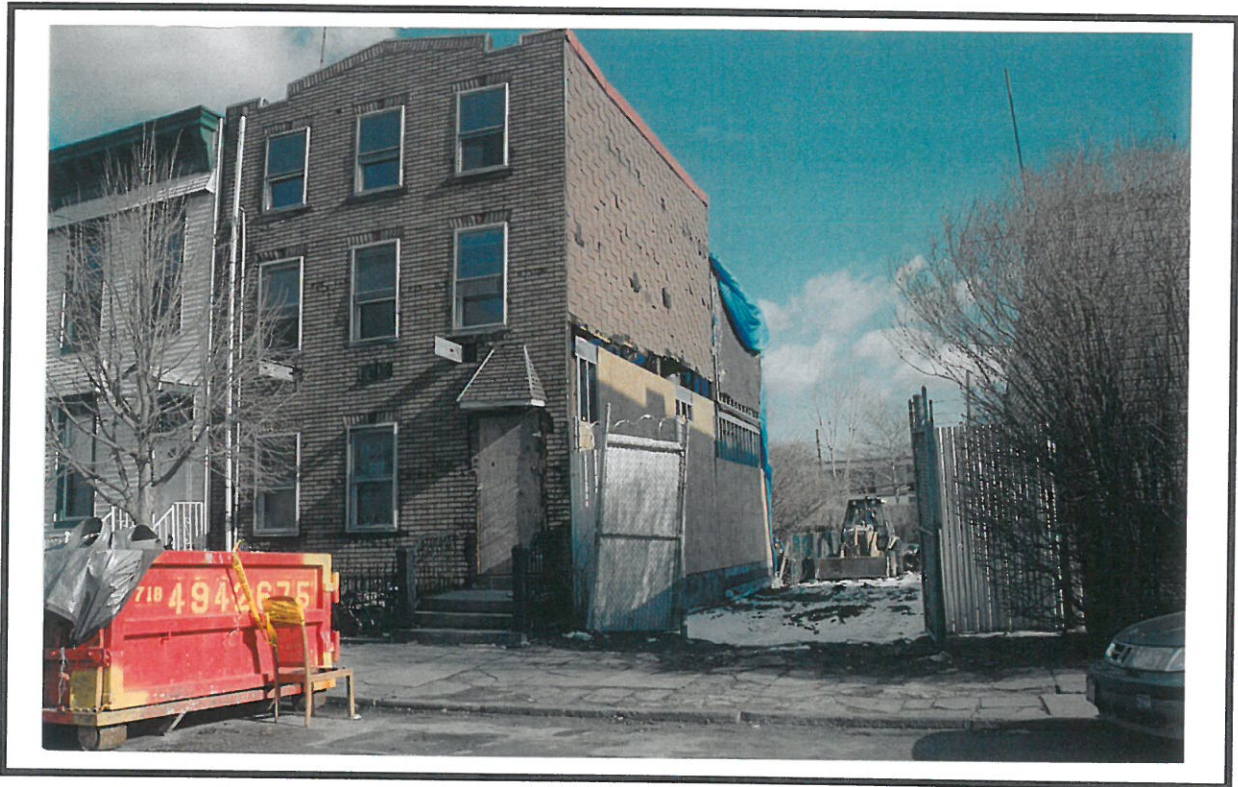


Photo 23: House located west of Lot 43 is reported to date from late 19th century, after installation of sewer and water on Dikeman Street. View to northwest.

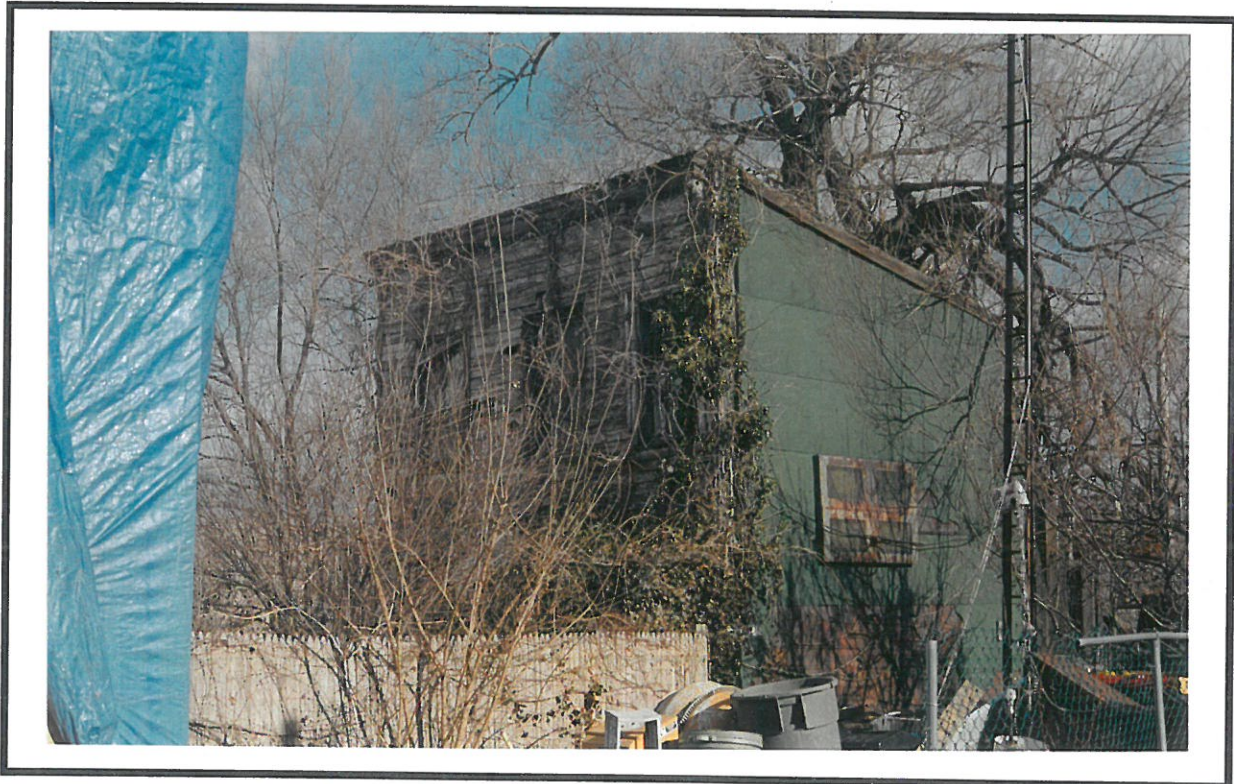


Photo 24: Structure on rear of Lot 45 on Dikeman Street is not in project area, but represents a relic of type of wooden dwelling built in rear yards, probably to increase family income. Large willow tree located on Lot 27 on Wolcott Street is seen at rear of structure. View to northwest.

APPENDIX C

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

APPENDIX C
Artifact Catalogue

Trench	Functional Group	Class	Material	Count	Element	TPQ/Range	General Description
Trench 1	Food S/P/S	Container	Glass	2	Lt. grn tint		Probable milk bottle
Trench 1	Food S/P/S	Container	Glass	1	Clear glass		
Trench 1	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Body sherd	m. 19 th C.	Small whiteware sherd
Trench 1	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Body sherd	m. 19 th C.	Small whiteware sherd
Trench 1	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Body sherd	m. 19 th C.	Small whiteware sherd
Trench 2	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Rim sherd	m-19 th C.	Lt. blue TP whiteware with modified Willow design
Trench 2	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Rim sherd	l. 19 th C	Whiteware - probable cup
Trench 2	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Body sherd	m. 19 th C.	White graniteware sherd - heavily crazed
Trench 2	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Body sherd	m. 19 th C.	White graniteware sherd - heavily crazed
Trench 2	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Body sherd	m. 19 th C.	Small white graniteware sherd

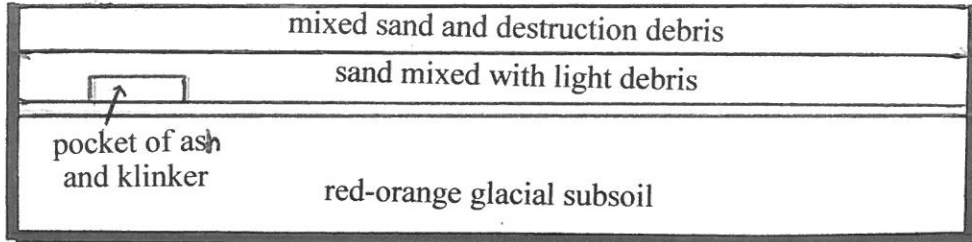
Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey
 Block 576, Wolcott Street, Red Hook, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York
 Appendix C: Artifact Catalogue

Trench 2	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Rim sherd	m. 19 th C.	White graniteware sherd - heavily crazed - unidentified vessel type
Trench 8	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Rim sherd	m. 19 th C.	Blue TP graniteware rim sherd with "feather" decoration, probable bowl
Trench 8	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1		20 th C.	Small whiteware plate
Trench 8	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Rim sherd	l. 19 th - e. 20 th C.	Saucer fragment with pink rim
Trench 8	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Refined earthenware	1	Rim sherd	l. 19 th - e. 20 th C.	Saucer fragment with pink rim
Trench 13	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Yellowware	1	Rim sherd	19 th - 20 th C.	Rim sherd of yellowware vessel
Trench 13	Food S/P/S	Ceramic	Yellowware	1	Rim sherd	19 th - 20 th C.	Rim sherd of yellowware vessel
Trench 13	Food S/P/S	Glass	Milk glass	1	Body sherd	^h	Robin's egg blue body sherd of "milk" glass - probable candy dish or similar decorative vessel
Trench 13	Medicinal	Container	Glass	1	Lt. green tint	19 th - 20 th C.	Fragment of medicine bottle

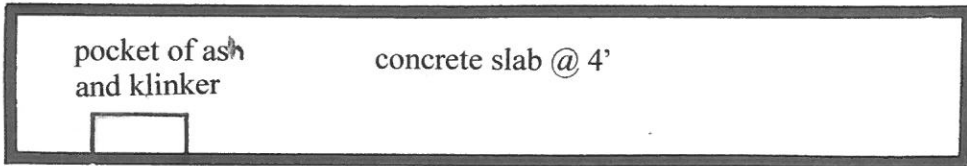
APPENDIX D

TRENCH PROFILES & PLANS

LOT 14

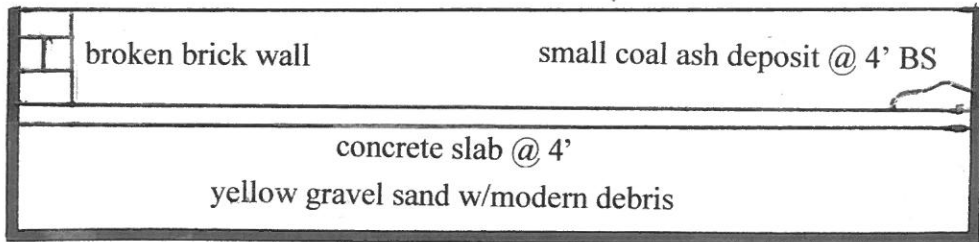


TRENCH 7 PROFILE

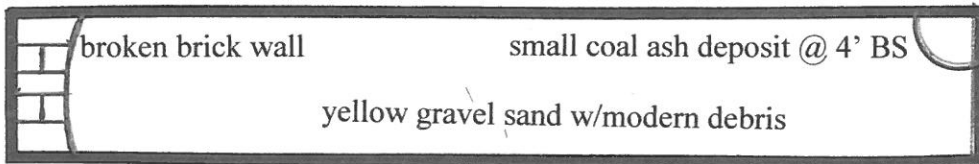


TRENCH 7 PLAN
At 4' below surface

LOT 15



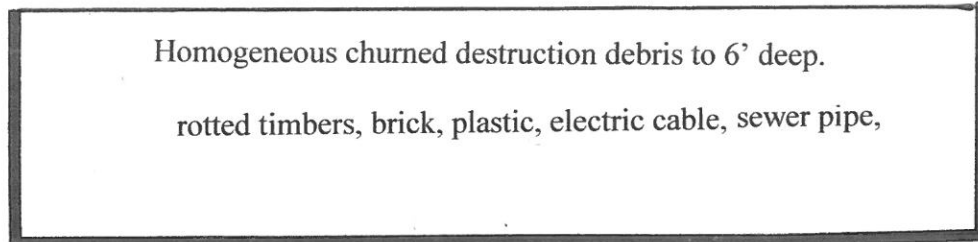
TRENCH 1 PROFILE



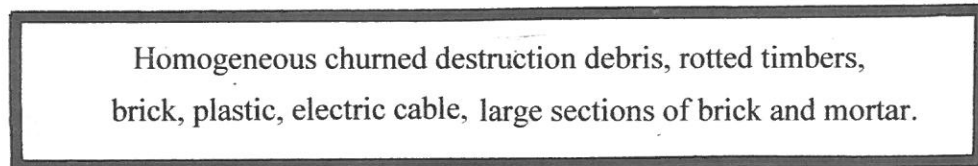
TRENCH 1 PLAN
At 4' below surface

SCALE: 1" = 5'

LOT 22

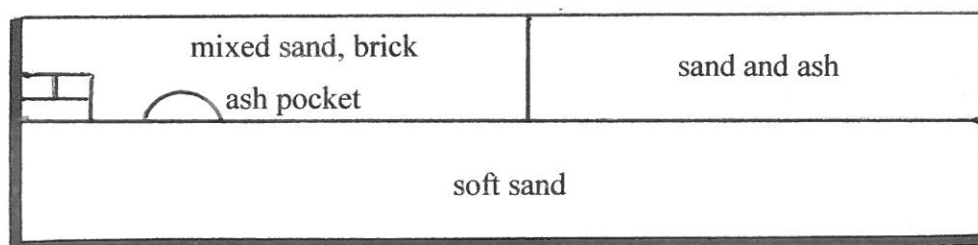


TRENCH 2 PROFILE

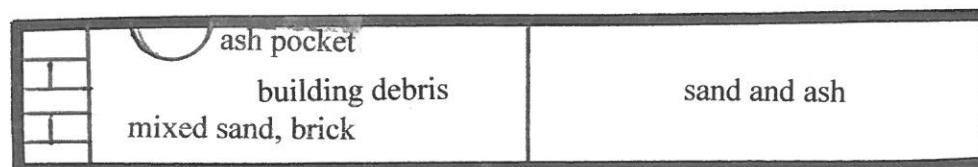


TRENCH 2 PLAN

LOT 23



TRENCH 3 PROFILE

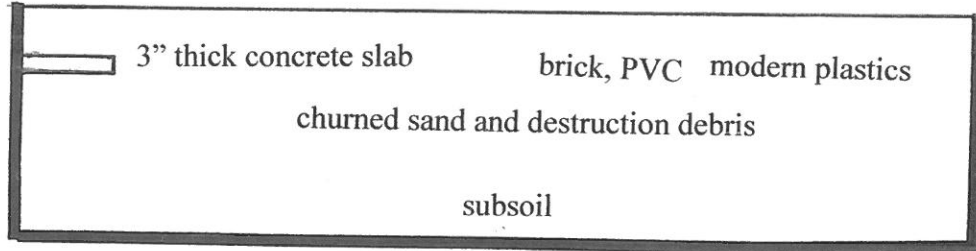


TRENCH 3 PLAN

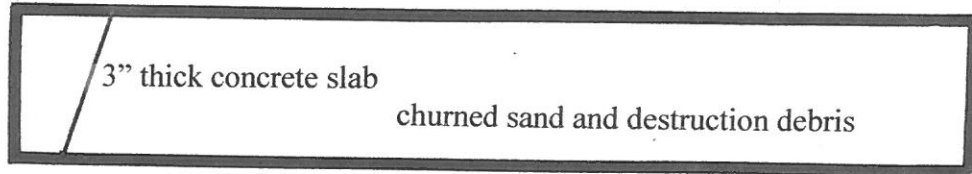
At 4' below surface

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LOT 12

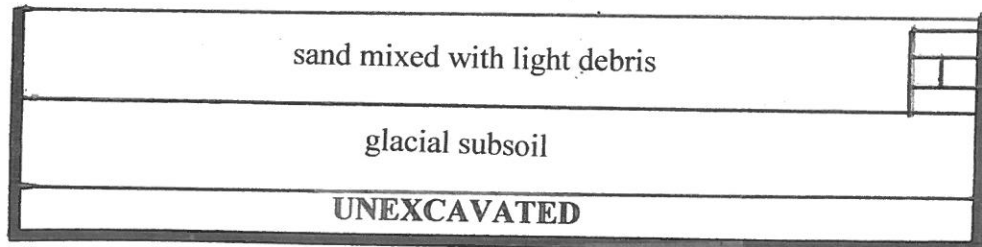


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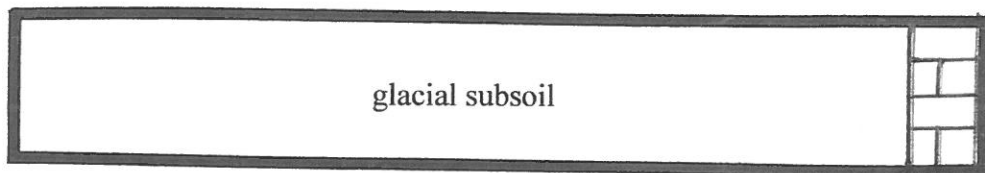


TRENCH 5 PLAN
At 4' below surface

LOT 13



TRENCH 6 PROFILE




TRENCH 6 PLAN
At 4' below surface

SCALE: 1" = 5'


TRENCH 8

REAR LOT 12

metal pipe, cement fragments,
plastic fabric, tire

 ash pocket

yellow-brown sand/clean fill

 ash pocket

metal pipe, cement fragments, plastic fabric,

At 2' BS

REAR LOT 13

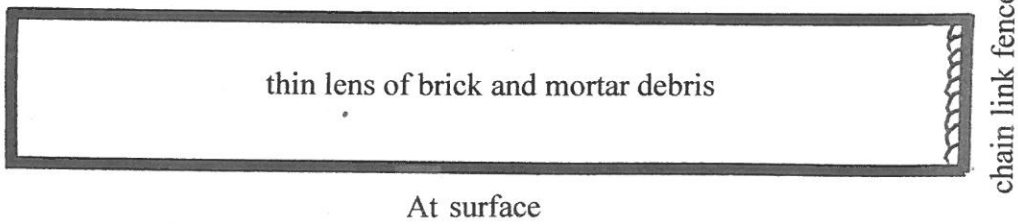
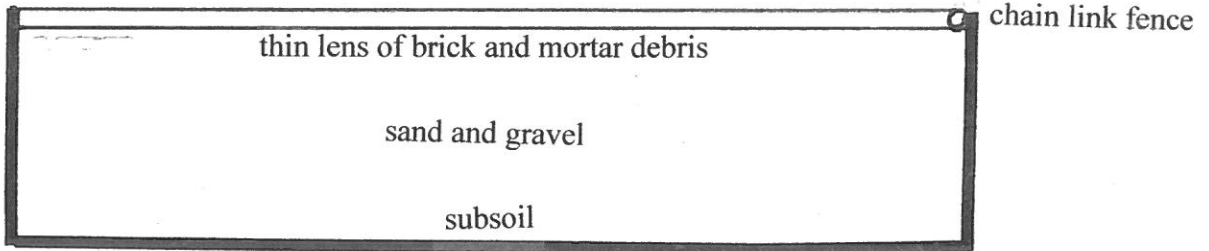
sandy soil w/sparse inclusions rubber padding, metal can, brick,
coiled wire, ceramic sewer pipe several large rocks

sandy soil w/sparse inclusions rubber padding, metal can,
brick, coiled wire, ceramic sewer pipe several large rocks

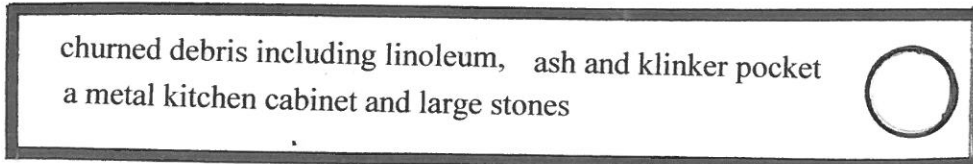
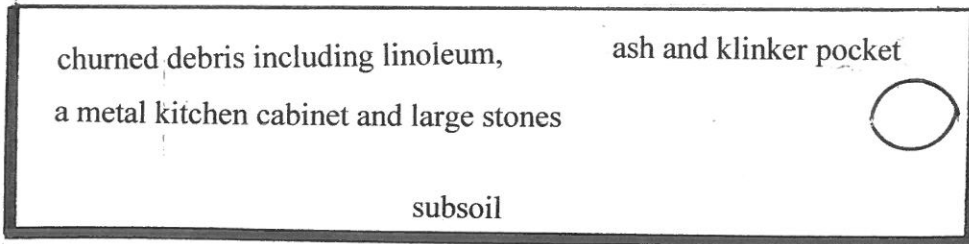
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TRENCH 8

REAR LOT 14



REAR LOT 15

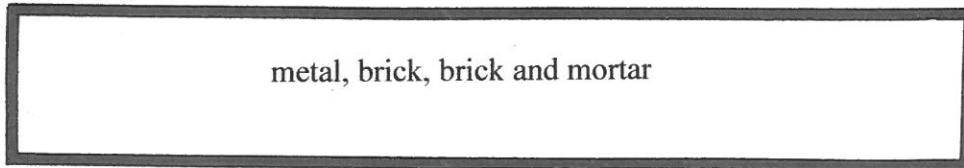
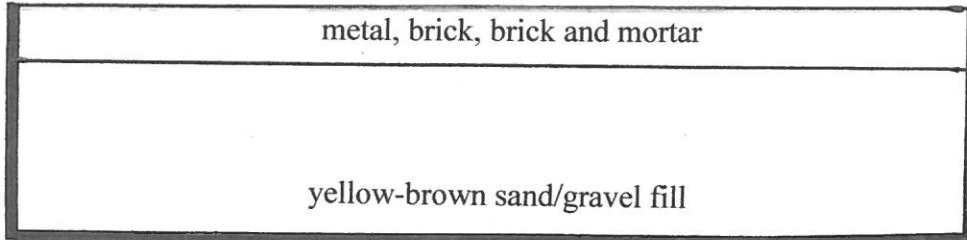


At 4' BS

SCALE: 1" = 5'

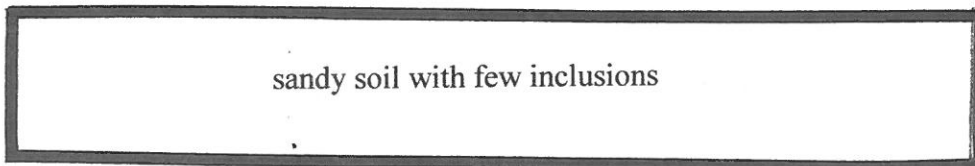
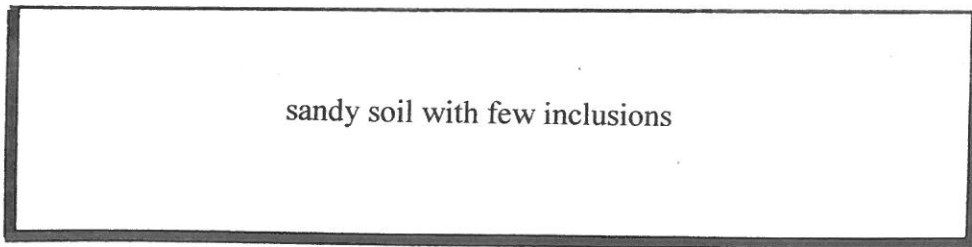
TRENCH 8

REAR LOT 22



At 4' BS

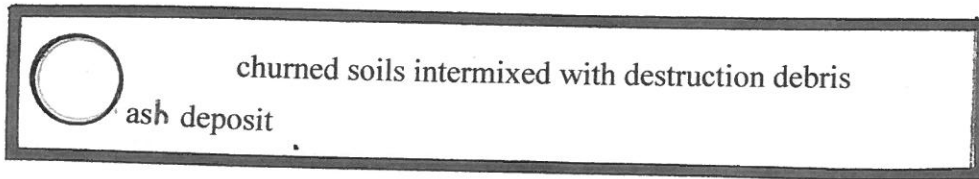
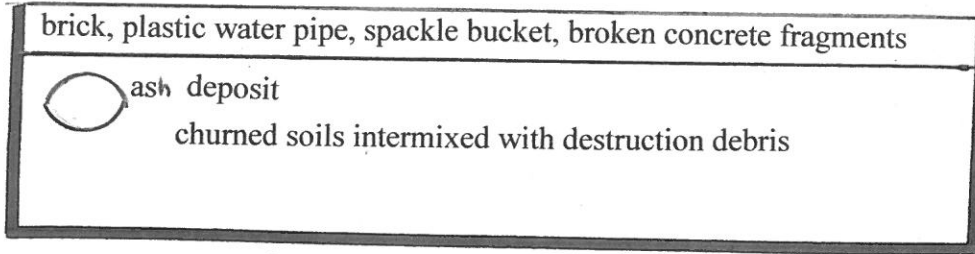
REAR LOT 23



SCALE: 1" = 5'

TRENCH 8

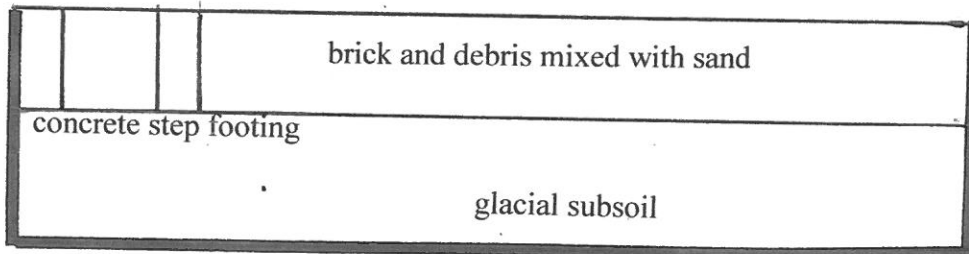
REAR LOT 24



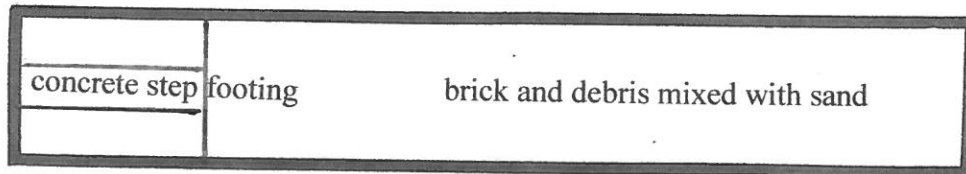
At 4' BS

SCALE: 1" = 5'

LOT 24



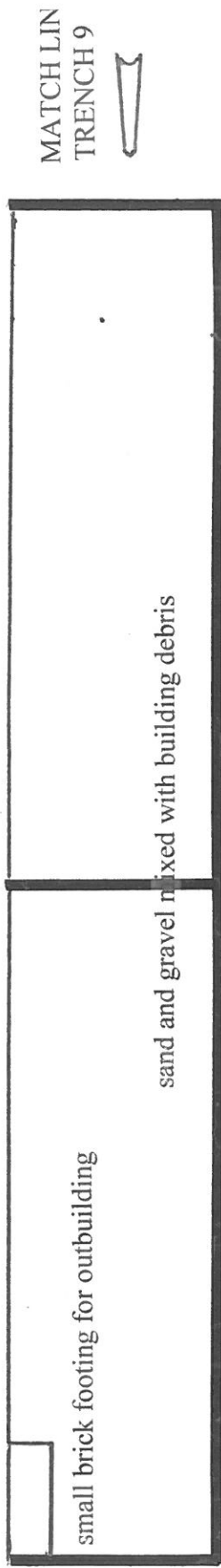
TRENCH 4 PROFILE



TRENCH 4 PLAN

At 4' BS

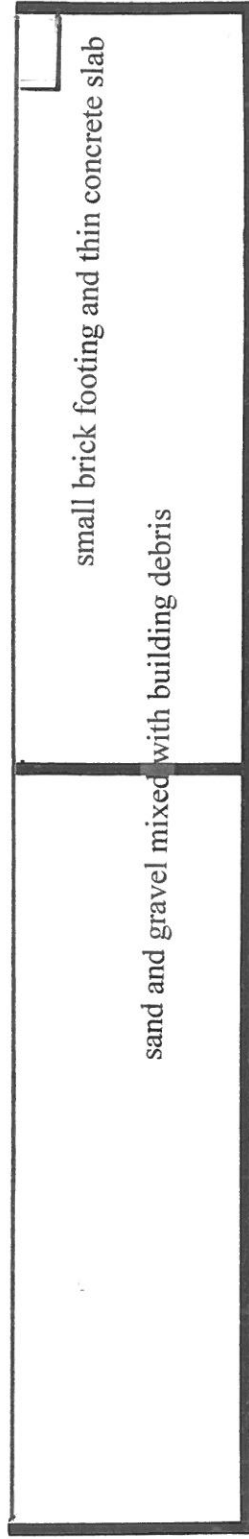
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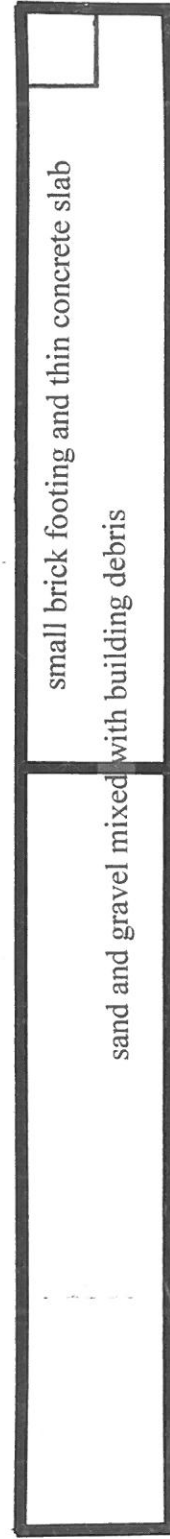
TRENCH 9 PROFILE



TRENCH 9 PLAN



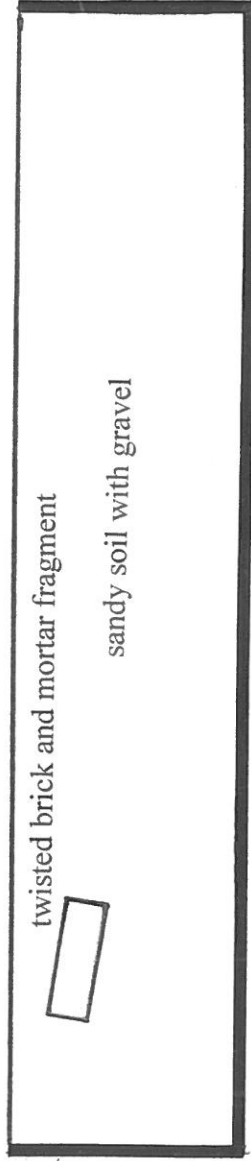
TRENCH 9 PROFILE



TRENCH 9 PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 5'

LOT 26



MATCH LINE TRENCH 10



TRENCH 10 PROFILE



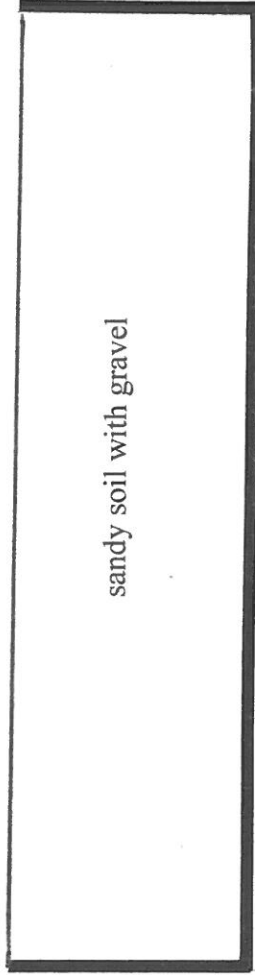
MATCH LINE TRENCH 10



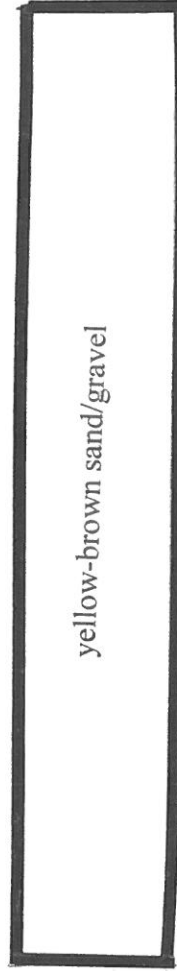
TRENCH 10 PLAN
At 3' BS

LOT 25

MATCH LINE TRENCH 10



TRENCH 10 PROFILE



MATCH LINE TRENCH 10



TRENCH 10 PLAN
At 3' BS

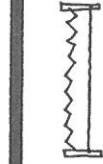
SCALE: 1" = 5'

LOT 29



LOT 28

TRENCH 11 PROFILE



TRENCH 11 PLAN

LOT 29

soft sandy soil soft sandy soil

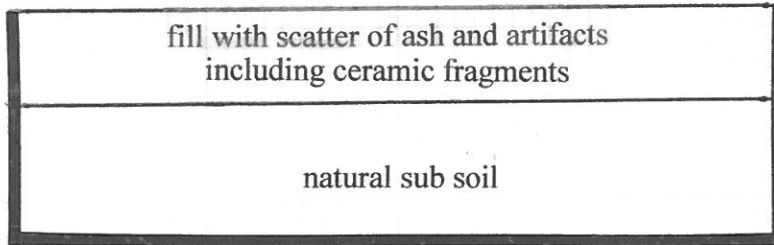
LOT 28

TRENCH 12 PROFILE

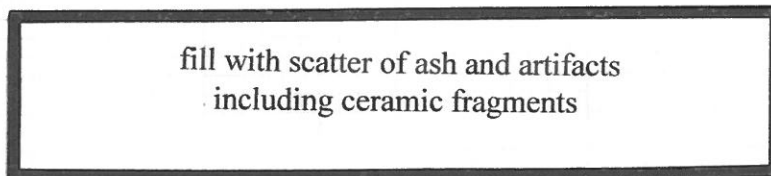
soft sandy soil soft sandy soil

TRENCH 12 PLAN

LOT 43

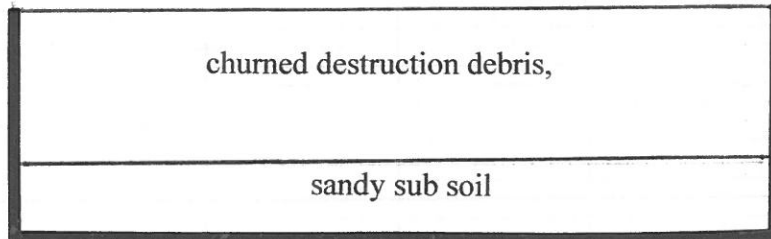


TRENCH 13 PROFILE

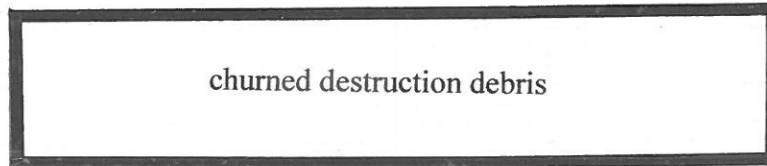


TRENCH 13 PLAN

3' BS



TRENCH 14 PROFILE



TRENCH 14 PLAN

At 4' BS

SCALE: 1" = 5'