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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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REVISED
CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT
FOR
CHAPEL FARM II
RIVERDALE, NEW YORK

85-335X

Prepared By:

City/Scape: Cultural Interpretations
726 Carroll Street
Brooklyn, New York 11215
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CHAPEL FARM II REVISED CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

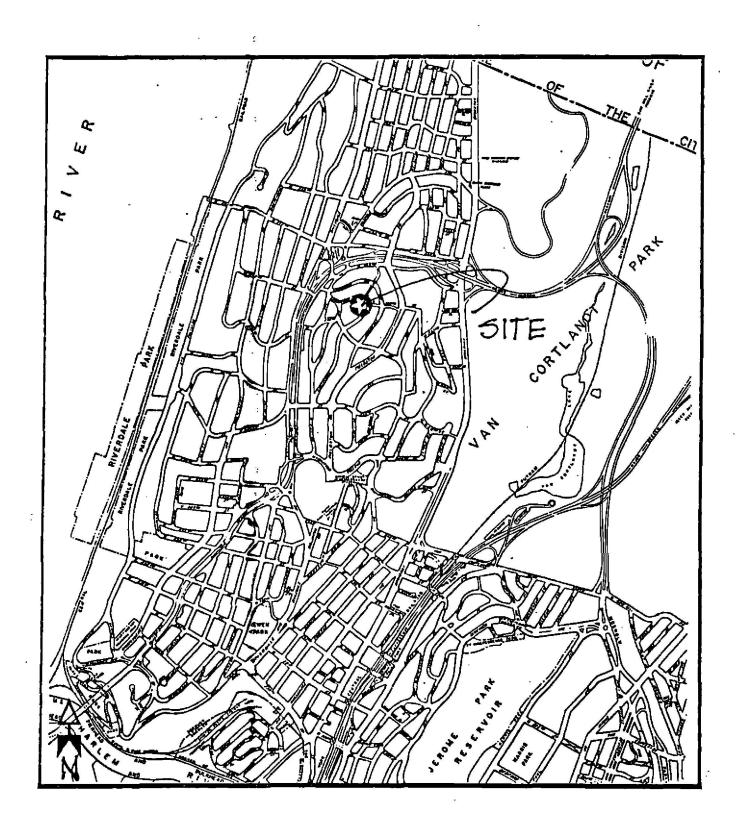
The purpose of this report is to document the potential cultural resources on the site of a proposed project in Riverdale, Bronx County, New York.

Cultural resources can consist of prehistoric archaeological remains as well as historic archaeological and architectural remains. In order to identify cultural resources on the subject property documentary research was undertaken. Documentary research consisted of a review of existing documents pertinent to prehistoric and historic land use on and near the subject property. That research included a review of documentation housed at The New-York Historical Society, the Map Room at the New York Public Library, the Bronx County Historical Society, and Wave Hill in Riverdale.

In addition, the architectural and archaeological site files and previously completed cultural resource reports held at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in Albany were reviewed.

The proposed project site, containing approximately 15 acres, is located on the eastern edge of Riverdale. [Map 1] Historically, this property was part of Philipseburg Manor, which was, in turn, part of Westchester County. Following the American Revolution and the confiscation of the manor, the land was considered part of the Town of Yonkers. On on June 1, 1872 the legislature of the City of Yonkers established a new charter which excluded from the City's boundaries all of the land south of Mount Saint Vincent. This area was then erected into the short-lived Town of Kingsbridge on December 16, 1872. The first bill requesting the annexation of the Town of Kingsbridge to New York City was presented to the State legislature the following year. Despite some misgivings on the part of the people of Westchester, the bill was moved rapidly through the legislature, formal annexation taking place January 1, 1874. By this legislation Morrisania, West Farms and Kingsbridge were annexed to New York City. Initially referred to as the "Annexed Territory," the area was quickly renamed the Borough of the Bronx. Although there were pockets of population in the Borough of the Bronx, it was for many years considered a suburban locality.

For the purposes of this report, the Riverdale area will be referred to historically as being part of Philipseburg Manor and later of the Town of Yonkers until its annexation to New York City in 1874, after which it will be referred to a part of the Borough of the Bronx.



The Chapel Farm II site is located on the Riverdale Ridge, the highest point in the Bronx.¹ It is bounded by Fieldston Road to the east; by 253rd Street on the north; by Iselin Avenue to the west;, and by 250th Street to the south. [Map 2] At the present time, the site is wooded. No structures are presently standing on the site, although there is surface debris, providing evidence of the buildings which formerly were located on the site.² Throughout the site there are paths, stone walls, and cultivated plant material, such as daffodils and crocuses - indications of the garden once located here.

The report is organized in the following manner: first, a section which describes the environmental setting of the site, this includes discussion of the geography and physical characteristics of the area; second, a section describing the prehistoric context of the area; third, a narrative of the history of the area and the land use history of the site; finally, the conclusions and recommendations are presented.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

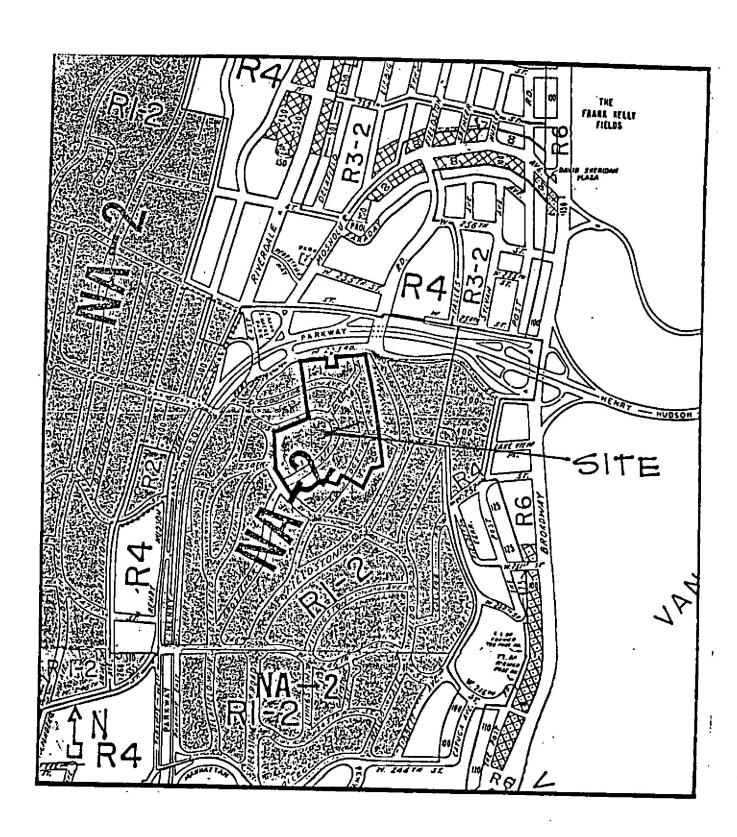
In order to create a context for previous cultural activities and occupation it is necessary to include some description of the environmental setting, past and present. Through the action of natural forces as well as human intervention, the prehistoric and historic setting of a site can vary considerably from the present.

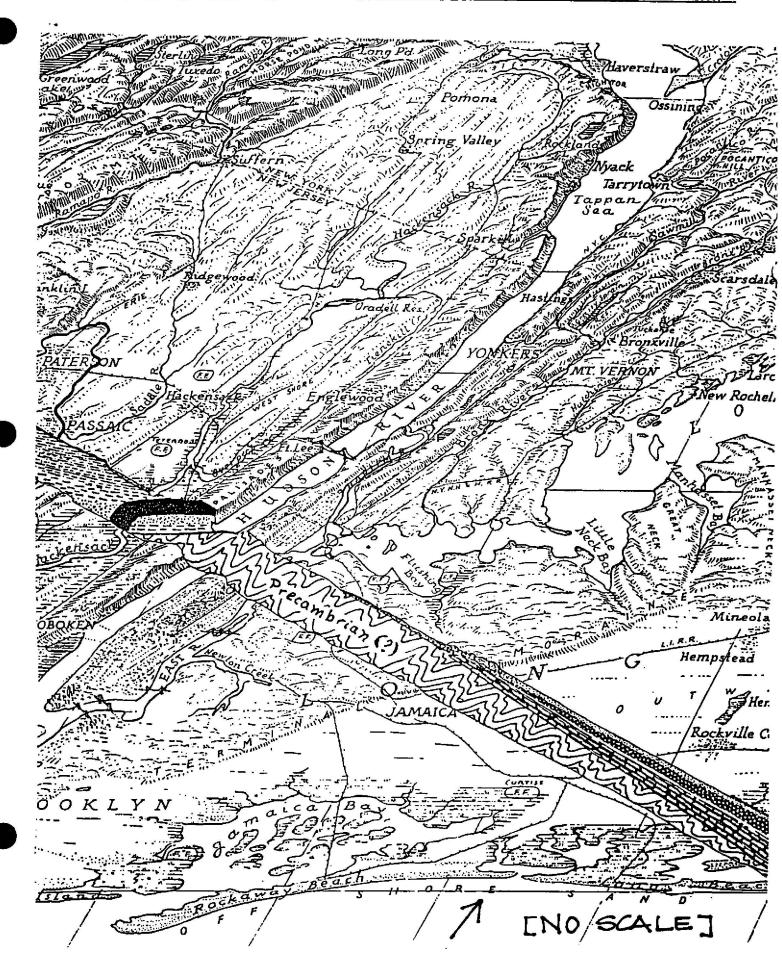
As already noted, the site is located on the highest point in the Bronx. The elevation of the site rises from approximately 260 feet to 280 feet above sea level. The topography of the project area falls off from this high point towards the Hudson River on the west and Van Cortlandt Park on the east. The land drops south toward 250th Street. On the north the drop down to 253rd Street is extremely steep. The site is characterized by rock outcroppings, although there are areas where a considerable amount of soil has been deposited. The majority of the site has generally moderate to steep slopes, with a few plateau areas.

The site lies in the Hudson Valley region, which is described in geological terms as lying in the New England Upland Physiographic Province, being a northern extension of the Great Appalachian Valley. [Map 3] The area of the Bronx in which the site is located may be further delineated as a southern extension of the New England Upland called the Manhattan Prong. Made up of igneous and highly metamorphosed bedrock with intrusions of granite, the Manhattan Prong extends southward from the area of Peekskill to the tip of

^{1.} Christopher J. Schuberth. The Geology of New York City and Environs. The Natural History Press: Garden City, NY. 1968. p. 74. "The highest point on the bedrock in New York City . . . is in the Riverdale section of Bronx County. Immediately to the west of the Riverdale Country School, near Goodridge Avenue and West 252nd Street, the elevation is just over 280 feet."

The location of these structures is indicated on the map which can be found at the back of this report.





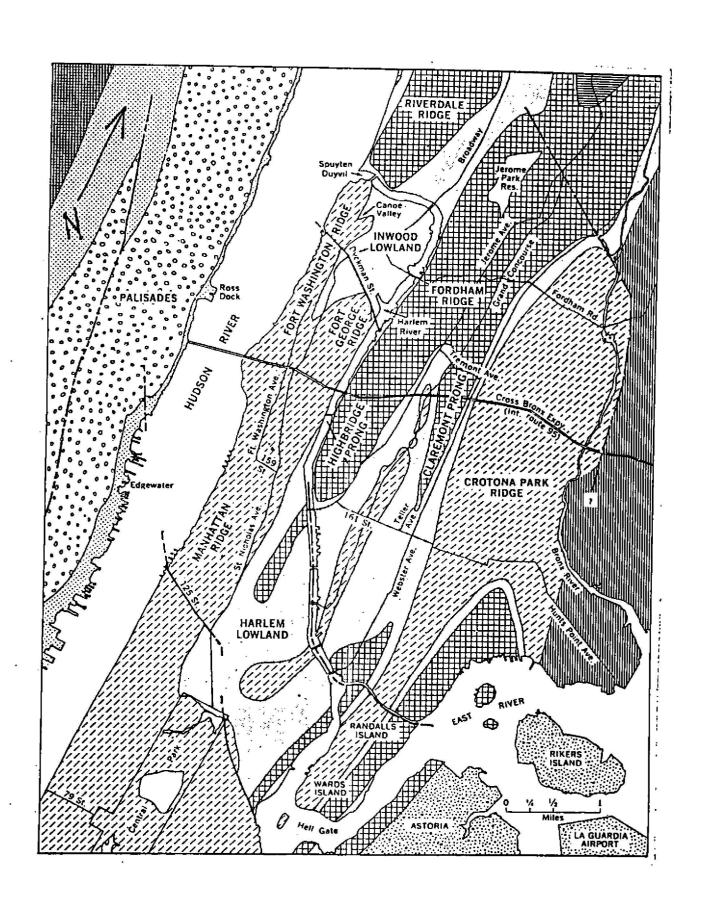
Manhattan Island. Despite the fact that today the area is relatively flat, in geological terms the Manhattan Prong is part of an ancient mountain chain - one which has been worn down over millions of years. Along the Riverdale Ridge, on which the site of Chapel Farm II is located, and Fordham Ridge to the west (University Heights), Fordham gneiss is the underlying rock formation. [Map 4] More recently, the movement of the glaciers, which repeatedly advanced and retreated across North America, created the more familiar features of the terrain. During the last period of glaciation - the Wisconsin glaciation - the Bronx was covered by a sheet of ice, the terminal moraine of which may be seen in Brooklyn's Prospect Park and in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. As the Wisconsin glacier retreated it contoured the land and smoothed off mountain tops, leaving exposed rock like that found here.

To the west of the site, following the retreat of the last glacier, a large proglacial lake, called Lake Hudson, covered much of the Hudson Valley below the Highlands, while Lake Albany, at a slightly later date, filled the valley from north of the Highlands to Troy.³ Into these lakes, rushed streams which poured deposits of sand and silt across the lake beds. It is likely that Lake Hudson inundated this site; however, once the level of the lake dropped, the site and the area surrounding it would have been influenced by the volume of water carried by the streams across it and the glacial till left behind by the retreating ice.

Pollen cores taken from boggy areas and former lake beds indicate a good deal about the climate and the flora of the period just after the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. Immediately following the withdrawal of ice from this part of the state, the region was dominated by arctic or tundra-like vegetation. Large game animals, such as the mammoth and mastodon, roamed these expanses of grass and low-growing shrubs. It was at this time, approximately 12,000 years ago, that archaeologists say man first entered the Hudson Valley.

The tundra was succeeded by a landscape characterized by herbs and grasses, shrubs, and open conifer parkland with some areas supporting spruce, pine, fir and birch forest. The nature of this landscape changed again about 10,000 years ago, when spruce forest became dominant. Another change occurred about 7,000 years ago, when, as temperatures increased, this spruce forest was succeeded by a mixture of conifers and deciduous trees. These trees were, in turn, replaced by oak, hemlock, beech, and, before the blight in the 1930's killed them, chestnuts. In the Northeast these trees are components of the climax forest.

^{3.} Proglacial lakes are those bodies of water which were formed as a result of the action of the glaciers. Some were quite small and shallow, while others, like Lake Albany and Lake Hudson, which filled the Hudson River Valley, were very large. Both Lake Albany and Lake Hudson had drained prior to about 12,000 B. C., when the dam south of the Highlands was breached. The precise configuration of these lakes and their time period is a matter of some dispute, some experts contending that Lake Albany post-dated Lake Hudson and that it did not reach south of Kingston.



The archaeological history of man in the Hudson Valley will be further addressed in the second section of this report, but some comment on their relationship to the land is appropriate here. In general, the native people of North America are believed to have had little impact on the land, but, if European records are to be believed, it is obvious that the Indians of the pre-Contact period manipulated and significantly altered the landscape through clearing and burning. Their land management techniques, however, were not restricted to agriculture. Adriaen van der Donck, the first European patentee in the Bronx, reported in 1655 that

The Indians have a yearly custom (which some of our Christians have also adopted) of burning the woods, plains and meadows in the fall of the year, when the leaves have fallen, and when the grass and vegetable substances are dry. Those places which are then passed over are fired in the spring in April. This practice is named by us and the Indians 'bush-burning,' which is done for several reasons: First, to render hunting easier, as the brush and vegetable growth renders the walking difficult for the hunter, and the crackling of the dry substances betrays him and frightens away the game. Secondly, to thin out and clear the woods of all dead substances and grass, which grow better the ensuing spring. Thirdly, to circumscribe and enclose the game within the lines of the fires, when it is more easily tracked over the burned parts of the woods.⁴

Early European records of visits to New England indicate that the areas along the coast were clear of underbrush and that large inland areas were treeless. In the Hudson Valley, early 17th century writers report dense forests filled with tangled undergrowth, but along the banks of the Hudson River they also describe Indian corn and other vegetables growing in cleared fields and orchards with apple, peach and pear trees. Despite these occasional openings in the forest, it was not until the coming of Europeans into the Hudson Valley that wholesale clearing was undertaken.

Initially, the Dutch who came to the Hudson Valley did so, not as farmers, but as traders. It was the abundance of beaver and other game that attracted them. Only later did men like Frederick Philipse, first lord of Philipseburg Manor, begin to establish tenant farmers on their holdings.

Early settlement in the area which became the Borough of the Bronx took place in the 17th century, but was located near King's Bridge, which joined the island of Manhattan to the mainland, and along the Bronx River, rather than along the banks of the Hudson River. The first European settler in the Bronx is said to

^{4.} Quoted in Julian H. Salomon. "Munsee and Mahican: Indians of Dutchess County." <u>Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook: 68</u>. Poughkeepsie: NY. 1983.

have been Jonas Bronck, for whom the borough is named. During the early years, the Albany Post Road, which ran north from the King's Bridge to Philipse (later called Yonkers) and then northward to Fort Crailo opposite Albany, was the only road through the area. Early maps indicate that early settlement took place along the roadway. It was not until the mid-19th century that farm lanes ran west from the Albany Post Road to the riverside villas which were then becoming fashionable. None of these farm lanes cross the Chapel Farm II site, making it unlikely that the site would have been readily accessible until the second half of the 19th century.⁵

PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT

In recent years much information has been gathered on the settlement patterns of the Native Americans in the Hudson Valley; however, the conclusions drawn from this information remain open to interpretation. The material related to the Hudson Valley presented below is a synthesis of the research of William Ritchie, Robert Funk, Bert Salwen and others. [Figure 1 and 2]

Palco-Indian Stage (c. 10,500 - 8,000 B.C.)

Archaeologists have identified the presence of man in the Hudson Valley by approximately the year 10,580 B.C. at the time that the last glacier withdrew from the valley. It is possible that the southern portions of the Valley and the coastal areas, many of which are now inundated by the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound, may have been inhabited somewhat earlier. As previously noted, the post-glacial landscape was tundra-like, the colonizing grasses, sedges and herbs supporting a variety of "big" and small game animals. Among the fauna was mastodon, mammoth, giant beaver, giant ground sloth, and horse, all of which became extinct, as well as caribou, musk-ox and bison which persist in modern time.

Paleo-Indians, as these small bands of nomadic hunters and gatherers are called by archaeologists, appear to have entered the previously uninhabited northeast from the south and west.⁹ Their sites, identified primarily by the

^{5.} See Map 9: 1853 Map of the Riverdale Area.

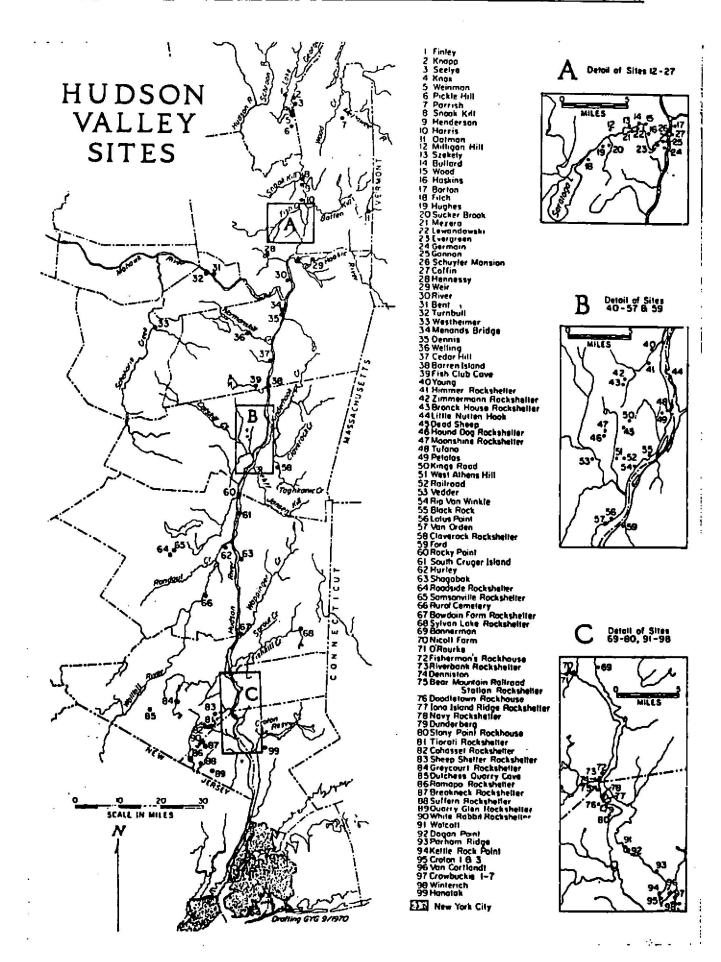
^{6.} William A. Ritchie. The Archaeology of New York State. [revised edition] Harbor Hill Books: Harrison, NY. 1980 and An Introduction to Hudson Valley Prehistory. New York State Museum and Science Service Bulletin No. 367. Albany: NY. 1958; Robert Funk. Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory. New York State Museum Memoir 22. Albany: NY. 1976; Bert Salwen. "Post-Glacial Environments and Cultural Change in the Hudson River Basin." Man in the Northeast:10. 1975.

^{7.} This site, located in Orange County, New York, is to date the earliest recorded site in the Northeast. Although it is extremely early, it is unlikely that it is unique.

^{8.} Horses, of course, exist in modern time, but the horses of the Pleistocene era died out, as did the mammoth. The horses we know were brought to North America by the Spanish.

^{9.} Their probable path is determined in part by the types of foreign flint which are found at their sites.

In New York State, sites have contained "exotic" flints from areas in Pennsylvania and Ohio, hence the assumption



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characteristic fluted Clovis javelin or spear points, are found all over North America.¹⁰ It has traditionally been assumed that these bands of men and women 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 likely that in addition to the large animals that comprised their principal food source, they also hunted small game and probably collected a variety of plants which they processed for food.¹¹

Characteristically, Paleo-Indian sites are found along major waterways such as the Hudson River, where a number of sites have been found to the north of the Chapel Farm II site on the west bank of the river in Greene County and Ulster County. Frequently these sites are associated with sources of stone, as is the case on one site in Greene County where a quarry-workshop complex has been excavated. More frequently, the sites appear to have been temporary campsites. Many of these campsites are located on high ground where it would be possible to watch for game as it moved across the open landscape, but sites have also been found on flood plains or along migration routes. One example of a Paleo-Indian site within the boundaries of New York City is located on high ground overlooking the Arthur Kill on the southern side of Staten Island. 13

Another important Palco-Indian site in this general vicinity is the Dutchess Quarry rockshelter, between Florida and Goshen in Orange County. This site is notable because of the association of the Clovis point with the bones of caribou. While animal remains and projectile points have been found in other areas of the country, this is the only known site of its kind in the Northeast. The site is located some distance west of the Hudson River, on the edge of what would have been at the time a shallow proglacial lake. While Dutchess Quarry appears to have been used only briefly in Palco-Indian time, it represents the carliest known evidence of man in the Northeast.

that they entered southeastern New York State from those directions. It should be noted, that while Funk (1976) spends some time discussing the various possible migration routes, he also mentions the alternate hypothesis which suggests that the fluted point culture originated in the Northeast rather than having been brought here from elsewhere.

^{10.} Sites have been identified on the High Plains, the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado Plateau and the deserts of New Mexico and Arizona. Here in New York State, the culturally diagnostic fluted Clovis points have been found at Port Mobil on Staten Island, the Piping Rockshelter on the Croton River, as well as at the Dutchess Quarry Site in Orange County and the West Athens Hill Site in Greene County.

II. Funk makes the point that there is no hard evidence that Paleo-Indians hunted mastodon or mammoth, and that it is probable that caribou was their mainstay as the white-tail deer was to later groups.

^{12.} Sites have also been found along the Connecticut River and within the Housatonic River basin.

^{13.} This site, discovered in 1967, is located on land which at that time belonged to the Mobil Oil Company. It is called Port Mobile.

To date no Paleo-Indian sites have been recorded in Bronx County, but the presence of a Paleo-Indian site on Staten Island and the identification of a Paleo-Indian site to the north in the area of White Plains make it probable that Paleo-Indians utilized the Hudson River, and, in all likelihood, the Bronx River as a migration corridor.

Archaic Stage (8,000 - 1,500 B.C.)

The Archaic period in New York State is better represented than the Paleo-Indian. It is divided into four stages: the Early Archaic (8,000 - 6,000 B.C.); the Middle Archaic (6,000 - 4,000 B.C.); the Late Archaic (4,000 - 1,700 B.C.); and the Terminal Archaic (1,700 - 1,000 B.C.). These stages are characterized by a number of phases, which need not concern us here, except to recognize that the various phases represent regional manifestations of the widespread Laurentian culture.¹⁴

In many important respects, the nature of life in the Archaic period was little different from the nomadic lives lived by the men and women of the Paleo-Indian period; however, during the time span of the Archaic, significant changes in the environment occurred. As mentioned above, the tundra-like landscape gave way, first to the spruce forest and then to a forest composed of various conifers, hemlocks, and hardwoods. This biological association is called the Lake Forest culture. It was in the hardwood forest areas, rather than in the pine and hemlock forests, that evidence of man is found. This is because the hardwood forests supported the types of foods, including acorns and grasses, needed by the animals hunted by Archaic man.

Like the Paleo-Indian culture, evidence of Archaic man is found throughout North America. As noted above, in New York State the culture is identified as Laurentian by William Ritchic, for many years State Archaeologist. In eastern New York this culture is then broken down into a series of phases: Vergennes, Vosburg, Sylvan Lake, River and Snook Kill. Although there are indications that some groups fished and collected shellfish, Archaic man has been considered primarily a hunter, the major food source being the white-tail deer. Agriculture was unknown to them, and, indeed, remained unknown until Late Woodland times

^{14.} The chronology presented in this report is based on Funk; Salwen dates the Archaic in the Northeast as 7,000 to 1,000 B.C. Both Funk and Salwen, in works written in the 1970s, indicate that there was a hiatus of approximately 4000 years between the Paleo-Indian period and the Late Archaic stages in the Hudson Valley. The reasons for this are uncertain, especially since Early and Middle Archaic sites are found throughout the Southeast and as far north as southern Pennsylvania. It has been suggested that some environmental condition, such as the changing flora or extremes of temperature, may have made the Northeast inhospitable to man.

^{15.} Lake Forest culture refers to the typical plant life of the area, not to the faunal or human components.

^{16.} Vergennes is not well represented in the lower Hudson Valley, while River is found only in the upper Hudson Valley. Snook Kill is primarily a northern Hudson River Valley phenomenon, although some evidence of Snook Kill has been found at Shagbark in Hyde Park. Vosburg and Sylvan Lake are, however, well represented.

(1000 - 1600 A.D.).¹⁷ They did, however, gather wild vegetables and fruits. Diagnostic traits, meaning those cultural traits which may be used to identify a group, include the lack of pottery and the smoking pipe. Ritchie describes Archaic people as highly mobile, although there is evidence that at some periods they may have used central base camps from which small bands of men and women moved to seasonal camps.¹⁸

It is hypothesized that this loosely knit group was headed by a chief or, perhaps, a shamen, who guided them in an advisory capacity. In addition to this simple social system, evidence indicates a developing sense of territoriality. This is based on the discrete, regional quality of the phases mentioned above. In all probability the territories related to drainage systems and water sheds.

In the Hudson Valley, the Early Archaic is represented by only a few campsites, which appear to have been small and temporary. On the Hudson River north of Riverdale, there are three sites: South Cruger Island, just south of Tivoli, Shagbark, located in Hyde Park, and Bannerman's Island, south of Beacon. (See Figure 1) South Cruger Island is particularly interesting in that it contains a group of burials, each of which is protected by a heavy stone slab.²⁰

Comparing the various sites, Ritchie draws a picture of a people engaged in seasonal activities along the river and adjacent forest upland, with small temporary camps associated with the streams which empty into the Hudson.²¹

The Middle Archaic period saw another change in the landscape as the coniferous forest was replaced by deciduous trees beginning in approximately 6,000 B.C. While sites of this period in the Hudson Valley are not numerous, those that exist are usually located on well-drained, low-lying terraces adjacent to the river or on the ridges which over-look the river. Vosburg artifacts have also been recovered on the banks of the Hudson River at the site in Hyde Park, at Bannerman's Island, at Bowdoin Park in Poughkeepsie, and at South Cruger Island. On Staten Island, one site, identified as Old Place and related to this general time period, is located on the banks of the Arthur Kill.²²

^{17.} There is some dispute concerning the time when agriculture began in the Northeast. Ritchie does not find firm evidence for it until the Middle Woodland period (approximately 1000 A.D.), at the earliest. Other, including Salwen, appear to believe that agriculture did not develop until just prior to or even at the time of European contact (1600 A.D.).

^{18.} William Ritchie. The Archaeology of New York State. 1980.

^{19.} For example, the Lamoka culture is strongly association with central New York, but is not found in the Hudson Valley, where for the same general time period the Vosburg Phase has been identified.

^{20.} William Ritchie. An Introduction to Hudson Valley Prehistory. 1958. p. 62.

^{21. &}lt;u>Ibid</u>., p. 82.

^{22.} Ritchie. op. cit. p. 140. There an assemblage of points and scrapers, made of quartzite, rhyolite, argillite, jasper, and flint, identified as typical of Snook Kill Phase, was found at the lowest level.

With the advent of the Late Archaic period, sites in the Lower Hudson Valley become more numerous, reflecting, it is thought, a substantial increase in the population and more established settlement patterns. Once again, evidence from Sylvan Lake in Dutchess County, which contributes its name to one of the Late Archaic phases (c. 2,500 - 1,500 B.C.), attests to a well-defined culture in the region. Ritchie describes the typical setting of such sites as situated on "a high, level, well-drained, sandy or gravelly river or stream terrace."²³

As noted above, the material recovered along the Hudson River attests to its important. The fact that artifacts from different periods and different cultures are found on the same sites indicates that those spots considered hospitable by earlier groups of people were reused by later groups. This fact has led to the destruction of many sites, especially those along rivers and streams, since Europeans were often attracted to the same locations.

The Transitional Stage (c. 1,500 - 1,000 B.C.)

The Archaic period in the Hudson Valley was followed, according to Ritchie and Funk, by the Transitional stage. Chief among the characteristics which separate the Transitional from the earlier period is the use of stone pots.²⁴ Made of soapstone and extremely bulky, these pots were later replaced by ceramic vessels of various kinds. Evidence of this stage in the Hudson Valley has also been found at the Sylvan Lake Rockshelter.

Like the people of the Late Archaic, the sites selected by the people in this time period were frequently on high bluffs and on low-lying sites along the Hudson River. The weight of the stone pots suggests the use of water transport, probably the canoe. The depth of the water needed for a canoe may explain their absence from the smaller inland streams and lakeside camps. According to Funk, Transitional groups also tended to avoid the inland rockshelters, although his excavation of Transitional period artifacts at Sylvan Lake calls this conclusion into question.

The Woodland Stage (. 1000 B.C. - 1500 A.D.)

The Woodland Stage, like the Archaic, is divided into several substages, including the Early Woodland Stage (c. 1000-760 B.C.), the Middle Woodland State (c. 760 B.C. - 400 A.D.), and the Late Woodland Stage (c. 400 - 1500 A.D.).

The characteristic details of each of the stages need not concern us, except to note that, in addition to the reliance by archaeologists on the form of projectile

^{23.} William Ritchie. op. cit. 1980. p. 136.

^{24.} Salwen does not identify the appearance of stone pots as a separate stage, but refers to it as the end of the Archaic Stage.

points, the presence of fired clay ceramics, which replaced the heavier soapstone vessels of the Transitional Period, is a cultural indicator. Archaeologists use the variations in the decoration of these ceramic wares as a means to identify different groups during this period.

Unlike many of their predecessors, the sites used by this group of people tend to be away from the major waterways. Located on inland streams, the sites selected are frequently on high bluffs. In the later period there is some evidence for palisaded villages. Around these sites, on the alluvial plain 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 A.D. The requirements of the cultivation of maize, beans, and squash created a marked change in the pattern of land use and the selection of locations for villages. It was no longer necessary for the entire group to move from place to place following a seasonal round of migration fueled by fluctuating sources of food. Even if some men continued to travel to the back-country camps to hunt and fish, the women, children and older men of the tribe would have remained to tend the crops on which they increasingly relied.

In central and western New York State, the Late Woodland stage is known as the Owasco; however, despite years of investigation, Ritchie has found no evidence for the Owasco culture in the Hudson Valley. As he stated, it was as though "little known occupants of the Hudson Valley barred the Owasco people and their culture from the former's domain." It is assumed, although not absolutely proved, that the "little known occupants" were members of the Algonquin language group who had entered this area from the south and west. Funk reports that he has found nothing in his investigations to disprove Ritchie's suggestion.

Evidence for the Woodland Period within the boundaries of New York City comes again from Staten Island, where evidence of the Bowmans Brook Phase is found. The Bowmans Brook site is located on the northwest shore of Staten Island. The site is described as a large village. In general the sites have been located along tidal streams or coves, with evidence being found that marine shellfish constituted a large part of the inhabitants diet. By this period, it is thought that corn was also raised.

Another site, this one located in the Borough of the Bronx, is Classon's Point. C. S. Smith believes that the Classon's Point Phase succeeded the Bowmans Brook Phase over a large portion of western Long Island and northward between

^{25.} Various reasons for this apparent desire to hold and maintain protected positions are advanced, including the idea that an increase in population and the needs of an agricultural based economy, such as access to cleared fields, created territorial friction between various tribes.

^{26.} Cited in Funk. Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory. p. 300.

the Hudson and Housatonic rivers, perhaps as far north as the Hudson Highlands. This phase continued in the lower Hudson Valley until the time of the first European contact in the 17th century.

Contact Period (1600 - 1750 A.D.)

While acknowledging the "little known occupants," it is generally assumed that there was a cultural continuity between the Indians living in the Hudson Valley in the Late Woodland period prior to the arrival of Europeans in the early 17th century and the tribes described by the Dutch and English in their early records. While archaeologists are extremely careful about the inferences they draw from the evidence presented, it seems reasonable to believe that the Wappinger Indians, members of the Algonquian language group that lived in the Hudson Valley, had been the inhabitants of the area for many, many generations.

The Contact period in the Hudson Valley is dated from the first authenticated voyage up the Hudson River by Henry Hudson in 1609.²⁷ His mate, Robert Juct, kept a log of the journey, noting that on September 13, 1609, the Half Moon dropped anchor off an area which we call Spuyten Duyvil Creek.²⁸ Juet reported that

Wildlife abounded, springs were numerous, the hills offered shelter, and the rivers and streams teemed with all sorts of finfish and shell fish.²⁹

It was at this time, apparently, that Hudson attempted to detain two Indians aboard the Half Moon. Not to be confined, they leaped over board, swam to shore, crying back to him "in scorn." The Half Moon then continued up stream, but as the ship returned downstream some days later, the Manhattan Indians attacked the Half Moon in retaliation. Just's Journal recounts the battle:

... two canoes full of men, with their bows and arrows, shot at us after our sterne, in recompense whereof we discharged six muskets, and killed two or three of them. Then above a hundred of them came to a point of land to shoot at us. There I shot a falcon at them and killed two of them; whereupon the rest fled into the woods. Yet they manned another canoe with nine or ten men, who came to meet us. So

^{27.} Giovanni da Verrazano sailed into New York harbor in 1524, and Estevan Gomes is presumed to have done so the following year, but neither of these explorers ascended the river.

^{28.} There is some difference of opinion concerning the precise date: Shonnard cites the 13th, but Scharf, in the History of Yonkers, prefers the 14th.

^{29.} William A. Tieck. Riverdale, Kingsbridge, Spuyten Duyvil: A Historical Epitome of the Northwest Bronx. Reprinted by the Kingsbridge-Riverdale-Van Cortlandt Development Corporation: New York, NY. p. 3.

^{30.} Frederic Shonnard. History of Westchester County, New York: From its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1900. Reprinted by Harbor Hill Books: Harrison, New York. p. 53.

I shot a falcon and shot it through, and killed one of them. So they went their way.³¹

Hudson came in contact with various tribes as he sailed along the shore of the river, including the Weccquesqueecks, whose territory, according to E. M. Ruttenber, historian of the River Indians, extended from Norwalk on Long Island Sound to the Hudson River, including much of the land which later became the Manor of Philipseburg. Their principal village was located at Dobbs Ferry, with another at Tarrytown. According to Frederick Shonnard, History of Westchester County, the Weccquesqueecks' had several established "castles" or fortified areas along the river. In 1663, it is reported that these "castles" were protected by eighty warriors.

Estimates of the population, always a difficult business at best, indicate that at the point of contact there may have been several thousand Indians in this area. Fourteen years later the Dutch arrived, bringing with them diseases and technology which destroyed the Indian populations of the Hudson Valley.³³

Bolton, early historian of Westchester County and an indefatigable researcher and recorder, lists nineteen Indian sites located in the portion of Westchester County which is now the Borough of the Bronx. Of those, only two are located in the vicinity of the Chapel Farm II site: one, on Spuyten Duyvil Hill overlooking the Hudson River, said to have been a palisaded fortress or "castle"; and another, in Morrisania, on land purchased by Jonas Bronck, said to have been a village site.

According to William Beauchamp and Arthur Parker, there were a number of Indian sites in the vicinity of the project site. Those mentioned by Beauchamp include:

- 1. A large site, approximately 14 acres, in Van Cortlandt Park, west of the Van Cortlandt Lake, containing bowl-shaped fireplaces, shells, and four skeletons. Nearby were another nine burials. In addition there were artifacts of bone and stone, a shell heap was located on the topmost knoll southeast of the lake.
- 2. A shell heap reported east of Fieldston Road and north of 247th Street. The street named Indian Road may indicate the general location of this traditional site.

^{31.} Shonnard. op. cit. p. 27. A falcon is a type of cannon.

^{32.} These "castles" should not be confused with their villages, which were not were not palisaded. They were, rather, small palisaded areas where the members of the tribe could withdraw in case of attack.

^{33.} According to some estimates, by 1774 there were no more than 300 Indians left in the Hudson Valley. Some had moved to Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Ohio, and to western New York State, but far more were dead of disease.

- 3. Another shell heap located north of West 247th Street and west of Pascal Avenue. (Pascal Avenue is no longer indicated on the Bronx street map.)
- 4. and a shell heap located on the Hudson River north of the Riverdale Station.³⁴

Arthur Parker, writing in the 1920's, includes in his list of Indian sites in the Riverdale section, the Van Cortlandt Park village site west of the lake cited by Beauchamp, and a village site located at the mouth of Tibbett's Brook, which Beauchamp does not mention.³⁵

More recently, the Riverdale Archaeological Project, a now defunct program of Wave Hill Environmental Center, has located several prehistoric sites in Riverdale Park, a narrow strip of land which parallels the Hudson River. Work, which began in 1985, has identified these sites as shell middens, but they have not yet been dated.³⁶

It has been noted that archaeologists are notoriously reluctant to reach broad-ranging conclusions, but, based on the archaeological evidence presented above, it is possible to state with certainty that prehistoric peoples visited the area now called Riverdale and utilized its resources. Tradition suggests it, common sense predicts it, and archaeological evidence confirms it.

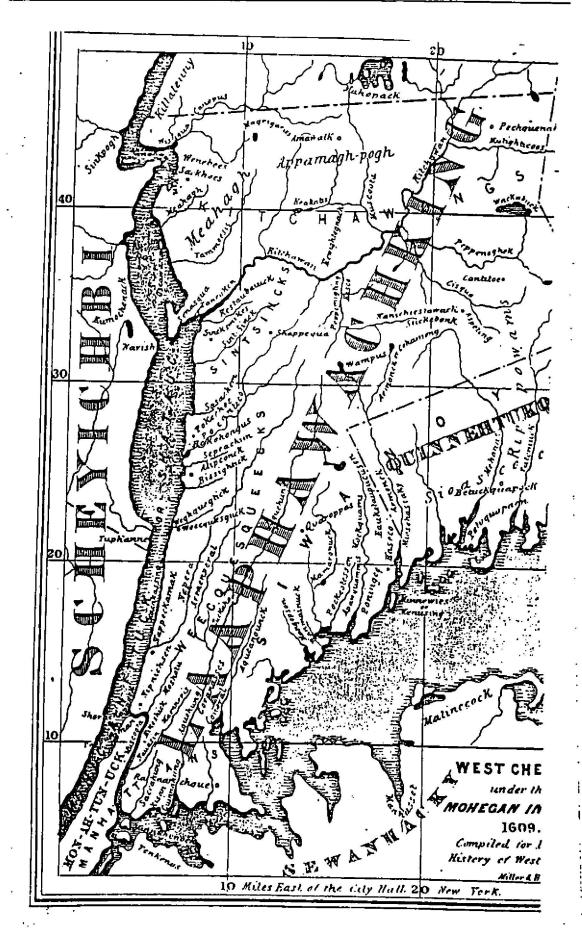
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SITE:

As noted above, the property included in Chapel Farm II was originally under the control of the Weecquesqueecks, a sub-tribe of the Wappinger Indians, who were, in turn, Mohicans. [Map 5] The Mohicans influence is described as extending from a point somewhat north of Albany to the southern side of Long Island and from the Connecticut border to the Hudson River. They also controlled some lands on the west bank of the Hudson extending southward to Catskill and west to Schenectady. While the name Mohican is found in the northern portions of their territory, Ruttenber and Bolton identify the Indians in the southern part of their territory as members of the Wappingers, a division of the Mohicans. Ruttenber considered the entire Mohican tribe to be an independent group, but others considered the Mohicans to be a division of the Lenni Lenape, itself composed of three tribes, identified by their totems as the Wolf, the Turkey, and

^{34.} William M. Beauchamp. Aboriginal Occupation of New York. Bulletin of the New York State Museum: Albany, NY. No. 32. Vol. 7. Feb. 1900.

^{35.} Arthur C. Parker. The Archeological History of New York. New York State Museum Bulletin: Albany, NY. No. 235-236. July-August 1920.

^{36.} Because of the cessation of this project, the reports which document the finds has not been completed. The sited were visited by the author in the Fall of 1989.



the Turtle. The Lenni Lenape were also referred to by English writers as the Delaware Nation.

While we are learning more about the life of the Indians who lived in the Hudson Valley, in an historical sense they remain unknown prior to the arrival of the Europeans.

While the Chapel Farm II site is located on land which belonged to the Weecquesqueecks in the years prior to the arrival of the Europeans, the site, as noted above, is historically part of the Manor of Philipseburg, which was established in 1693.³⁷

While it is clear that Europeans had crossed to the mainland of North America from the first years at a place referred to as "the fording place," it was Jonas Bronck who made the first purchase from the Indians in about 1639. He purchased land "lying between the great kill (Harlem River) and the Ahquahung (now the Bronx River)," building his house in the area now known as Morrisania. The house was described as a stone structure, covered with tile, to which was connected the barn, tobacco-house, and two barracks. At his death in 1643, the inventory of Bronck's estate indicates that he had been able to provide himself with many of the luxuries of life. Among his possessions were pictures, a silvermounted gun, silver cups, spoons, tankards, bowls, fine bedding, satin, grosgrain suits, linen shirts, gloves, napkins, tablecloths, and over 40 books, including books by Calvin and Luther. Following his death, the land was sold several times. Om 1697 it become part of the Manor of Morrisania, one of several manors established in Westchester County. 40

Bronck may have been the first European settler in the Bronx, but Adriaen Van der Donck was the first substantial landholder, purchasing from the Indian inhabitants an area which ran from Spuyten Duyvil north along the Hudson River to a small stream named by the Indians Amackassin and inland castward to the Bronx River. The land included some property which had been previously purchased in 1639 by Secretary Van Tienhoven for the West India Company.

Adriaen van der Donck had come from Holland to New Netherlands with Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, a wealthy diamond merchant and the patroon of Rensselaerswyck, in 1641. Rensselaerswyck was located on the east bank of the Hudson River south of Albany. Van der Donck became the sheriff of Rensselaerswyck, remaining there until 1646. William Ticck believes that Van der

^{37.} Other manors located in Westchester County were: Fordham (1671), Pelham (1687), Cortlandt (1697), and Scarsdale (1701).

^{38.} Shonnard. op. cit. p. 88.

^{39.} Barracks are another name for hayricks.

^{40.} See Footnote 36.

Donck's patroonship, the only one established in Westchester County, dated from 1646, but other historians are uncertain as to the precise year because the record of purchase has been lost. It is clear, however, that by 1649 he was in possession of the property, having built a sawmill at the mouth of the Nepperhan River (now called the Sawmill River) and laid out a farm and plantation near the present location of the Van Cortlandt Mansion in Van Cortlandt Park.⁴¹

Van der Donck is known to have spent time on his plantation, but he was also an active member of the New Amsterdam community. At one point he was imprisoned for questioning the government of Peter Stuyvesant, and upon his release sailed to Holland to present the subject to the States-General. Political forces in the West India Company prevented his return to New Netherlands until 1653. During the years he stayed in Holland he studied law and wrote Description of New Netherlands (as It is Today) which has been quoted above.⁴²

Van der Donck and his family were at his farm during the "Peach War" of September, 1655, which laid waste to Pavonia, Staten Island and "cast a pall" over Westchester County. The cause of the "Peach War" is said to have been the theft from a peach orchard at New Amsterdam by an Indian woman, who was shot dead by the owner of the peaches. Several days later, sixty four canoes of armed Indians descended upon New Amsterdam, turning "much of the day into a nightmare." During their attack virtually every

... settler on whom they laid their hands was murdered, women and children dragged into captivity, and, though the settlements around Fort Amsterdam extended, at this period, thirty English miles to the east and twenty-one to the north and south, the enemy burned the dwellings, desolated the farms and farmhouses, killed the cattle, destroyed the crops of grain, hay, and tobacco, laid waste the country all around, and drove the settlers, panic-stricken, into Fort Amsterdam. 44

Adriaen van der Donck was not killed by the Indians, but he did not long survive these horrifying events, dying sometime between September 15, 1655 and

^{41.} In 1910, workman constructing a new sewer line in the park came upon a dry-wall foundation, brick, lead frames, glass. Delft china, old hinges, and pieces of clay pipe about 150 feet south of the Van Cortlandt mansion. These archaeological remains are presumed to be the ruins of Van der Donck house.

^{42.} The full title of the book was <u>Description of New Netherlands</u> (as It is <u>Today</u>), <u>Comprising the Nature</u>, Character, Situation, and Fertility of the Said Country; Together with the Advantageous and <u>Desirable Circumstances</u> (both of Their Own Production and as Brought by External Causes) for the <u>Support of the People Which Prevail There</u>; as Also the Manners and <u>Peculiar Qualities</u> of the <u>Wild Men or Natives of the Land</u>. And a <u>Separate Account of the Wonderful Character and Habits of the Beavers</u>; to which is Added a <u>Conversation on the Condition of New Netherland between a Netherland Patriot and a New Netherlander</u>, <u>Described by Adriaen Van Der Donck</u>, <u>Doctor in Both Laws</u>, <u>Who at present is still in New Netherland</u>. At <u>Amsterdam</u>, by <u>Evert Nieuwenhof</u>, <u>Bookseller</u>, <u>Residing on the Russia at the Writing-book</u>.

^{43.} Tieck. op. cit. p. 7.

^{44.} Shonnard. op. cit. p. 99

January 10, 1656, when his wife was described in court papers at New Amsterdam as "the widow of Adriaen van der Donck, deceased."

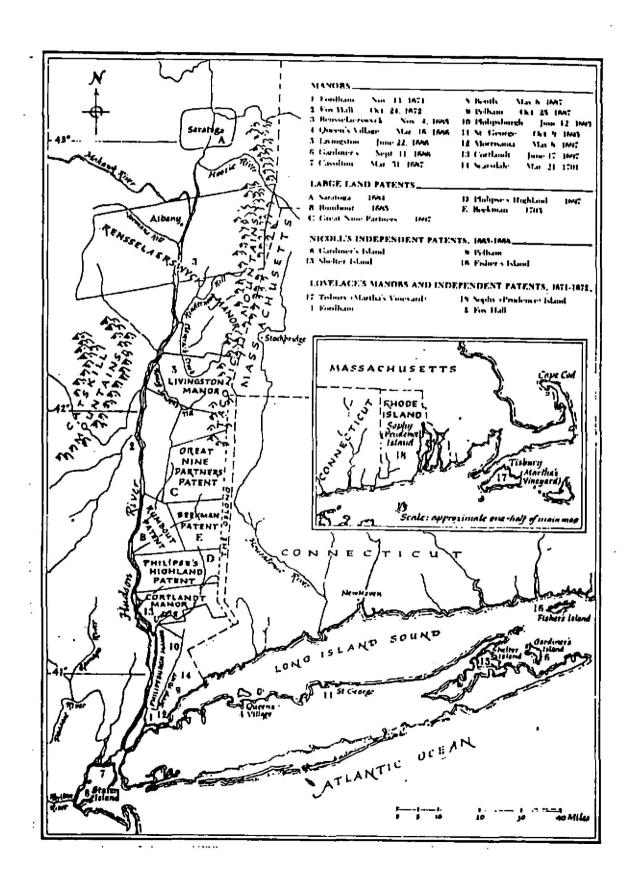
Following his death, his widow married Hugh O'Neale, a Maryland land owner. Determining to move to Maryland with her new husband, the former Mary Doughty Van der Donek transferred the Van der Donek land to the possession of her brother, Elias Doughty of Long Island. Over the next six or seven years, Doughty negotiated the sale of the land in six separate parcels. Among these was a parcel of almost 8000 acres which he sold to Frederick Philipse, Thomas Delavall, and Thomas Lewis in 1672. Subsequent to this purchase, Philipse purchased the two-thirds interest of the others, leaving himself in sole possession of the land known as the Yonkers plantation. It is from this purchase that the history of the Manor of Philipseburg dates.

Over the next fifteen years, Frederick Philipse made additional purchases until he owned all the land between Spuyten Duyvil and the Croton River and from the Hudson River to the Bronx River. This land, vested in him by Governor Fletcher on June 12, 1693, became the Manor of Philipseburg. [Map 6]

Frederick Philipse (1) is said to have arrived in New Netherlands in 1653, beginning life in New Amsterdam as a carpenter; however, within a few years he had increased his wealth and his status, marrying Margaret Hardenbrock, widow of Pietries De Vries, in 1652. She had a daughter by her former marriage, whom Philipse adopted. By 1674 Frederick Philipse was considered the wealthiest man in New York. Following the death of Margaret in 1690, Frederick Philipse married Catherine Dervall, daughter of Oloff Stevensen Van Cortlandt. Margaret's daughter, Eva, later married Jacobus Van Cortlandt, brother of her father's second wife, making him her uncele by marriage.

In 1699, Frederick Philipse sold Jacobus Van Cortlandt fifty acres of land in the lower Yonkers plantation which became the nucleus of the Van Cortlandt estate and the present day Van Cortlandt Park. Between 1710 and 1719, Jacobus dammed Tibbett's Brook to form what is now Van Cortlandt Lake. There he built a saw mill and a grist mill, which continued to stand until the early years of the 20th century. Van Cortlandt Mansion was begun by Frederick Van Cortlandt, son of Jacobus Van Cortlandt, in 1748.

^{45.} The adoption was one of the conditions of the marriage stipulated by the guardians of the child's estate. Margaret was a business woman in her own right, owning and operating ships which regularly crossed the Atlantic. On one of these ships, Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter, authors of <u>Journal of a Voyage to New York</u> quoted below, arrived in New Amsterdam in 1679.



Frederick Philipse (1) died in 1702 and was buried in the church yard at the Upper Mills in the Manor of Philipseburg.⁴⁶ His children, besides his adopted daughter Eva, were Philip, Adolph, Anna, and Rombout.⁴⁷ The eldest son, Philip, died before his father in 1700 leaving an heir Frederick Philipse (2). It was to this grandson that Frederick Philipse bequeathed a portion of his property, including

... all those Lands tenements and herediments in the County of Westchester (to wit) That Island Papiriniman with ye meadows and Bridge and ye Tolls and all ye right and Title I have to ye same. And all those lands and meadows called ye Jonckers plantation together with all and singular houses, Mills. mill dams, orchards gardens Negroes, Negroes children, cattle horse swine and whatever else belongs to me within that Patent as well what is tenanted as not.⁴⁸

By his father's will, Adolph Philipse received the northern portion of the Philipse land, including the Highland Patent, which became Putnam County. When Adolph Philipse died without heirs in 1749, Frederick Philipse (2) became the owner of the entire Manor of Philipseburg.

Frederick Philipse (2), who died in 1751 at the age of 53, bequeathed the lands on which the *Chapel Farm II* site is located to his cldest son, also named Frederick. The inheritance is described as follows:

All the manor of Philipseburg and all tracts of land in Westchester County, that are on the east of Hudson's river and bounded northward by a creek called by the Indians Kichtawank and by the English Kroten's river, and so eastward in a direct East line to Bronks river, and so running Southward along Bronks river, until a direct west line cutteth the South side of a neck or Island of land at a creek or Kill called Papparinimo, which divides York island from the main, and so from thence north ward along Hudson's river to the creek called Kichtawank. (excepting the farm in the possession of William Jones hereinafter devised) also the bridge called Kingsbridge with all the Tolls. . .49

The King's Bridge has been mentioned in both of the wills quoted above, which merely underscores the importance of transportation to the development of the Bronx. Historically, there had been a "wading place" at the northern end of

^{46.} He is buried in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery at Tarrytown. The house in which he lived at Upper Mills is now owned by Historic Hudson.

^{47.} Rombout was named for Francis Rombout, one of the partners in the Rombout Patent, which encompasses the southeastern portion of Dutchess County.

^{48.} William S. Pelletreau. <u>History of Putnam County, New York</u>. W. W. Preston & Co.: Philadelphia, PA. 1886. p. 24. The bridge referred to in the will was the King's Bridge which joined Manhattan to the mainland of North America.

^{49.} Pelletreau. op. cit. p. 30-31.

Manhattan, located at about 230th Street and Broadway, where the Harlem River and the Spuyten Duyvil Creek joined. As reported by Jasper Dankers and Peter Sluyter in their Journal of a Voyage to New York, it was possible at low tide to walk across Spuyten Duyvil on the rocks, but, on the occasion when they crossed to the mainland, they did so in a canoe.⁵⁰ They describe their visit as follows:

This morning, about half-past six, we set out from the village [New Harlem], in order to go to the end of the island; but before we left we did not omit supplying ourselves with peaches which grew in an orchard along the road. The whole ground was covered with them and with apples, lying upon the new grain with which the orchard was planted. The peaches were the most delicious we had yet eaten. We proceeded on our way, and when we were not far from the point of Spyt den duyvel, we could see on our left hand the rocky cliffs of the main land on the other side of the North [Hudson] river, those cliffs [the Palisades] standing straight up and down, with the grain, just as if they were antimony. We crossed over Spyt den duyvel in a canoe, and paid nine stuivers for us three, which was very dear. 51

Having reached the mainland, they walked "through the woods and over the hills" for some time, returning by the shore. There they were carried back across the Spuyten Duyvil by an Englishman who refused payment, but offered them rum.

Dankers and Sluyter do not indicate that they crossed the Spuyten Duyvil at the site of Johannes Verveelen's ferry, which was operating at the wading place by 1669, but is possible that they did so.⁵² The ferry was replaced by a bridge in 1693, called "King's Bridge." It was this bridge which the Philipse family bequeathed in their wills. Dislike of the tolls and the Philipse family led to the establishment of a free bridge connecting Honnas Vermilye's land in Westchester to Jacob Dykeman's land on Manhattan in 1758.

The free bridge is seen by William Ticck as a blow for freedom, rather than merely an effort to save money. He writes that

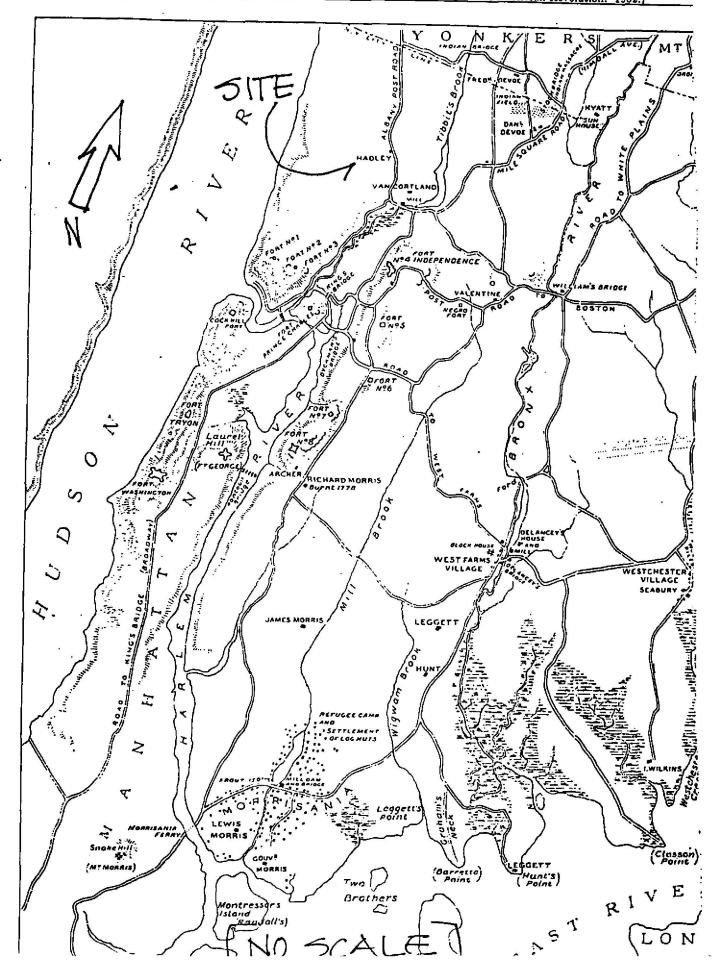
Wealthy hauteur was made to bow before the will of the commonalty. The power and prestige of Frederick Philipse, third lord of the manor, could not prevail over "the spirited exertions of Mr. Palmer," a yeoman. Entrenched privilege had been shaken by the gathering forces of democracy. 53

^{50.} Dankers and Sluyter. <u>Journal of a Voyage to New York</u>. Reprinted by Harbor Books: Harrison, NY. p. 135. October 6, 1679.

^{51.} Dankers and Sluyter. op. cit. p. 138-9.

^{52.} Veryeelen had established his ferry at the village of Harlem, but the tradition of crossing at the wading place was so strong that he was forced to relocate his ferry.

^{53.} William A. Tieck. op. cit. p. 24.



Tieck believes that the fact that the blow was effective is indicated by the advertisement found in the Weyman's New-York Gazette dated April 9, 1759:

TO BE LET, and entered upon immediately, the House, Farm, and Bridge, at King's-bridge, in the manor of Phillipseburg, in the County of West-Chester. For Particulars, enquire of Frederick Phillipse.⁵⁴

However, it is also possible that the advertisement related to arrangements being made by Frederick Philipse (3) for the on-going lease of the operation of the bridge.

In 1703, the King's Bridge was identified as the starting point of the King's Highway, one branch of which led from the northern end of King's Bridge on the Harlem River to the fenry at Fort Crailo across the Hudson River from Albany. [Map 7] This was the Albany Post Road. The other branch, the Boston Post Road, led eastward across William's Bridge to Eastchester and New Rochelle, then on across Connecticut and Massachusetts to Boston. The King's Highway was the only road in Westchester County which constituted a public roadway, and for many years it was the only road between King's Bridge and Philipse (Yonkers).

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY

As administrative units, the counties were established on November 1, 1683, when the New York State legislature divided the Province of New York into twelve counties. 55 Westerhester County was one of the original twelve. In 1683, Westerhester County was described by the New York General Assembly as containing:

West and East Chester, Bronx Land, Ffordham, Anne Hooks Neck [Pelham Neck], Richbell's [de Lancey's Neck], Miniford's Island [City Island], and all the Land on the Maine to the Eastward of Manhattan Island, as farr as the Government Extends, and the Yonckers Land and Northwards along Hudson's River as far as the High Lands. 56

In 1693, the year the Manor of Philipseburg was established, the area was further divided into two parishes: Westchester and Ryc. Westchester contained the towns of Westchester, Eastchester, Yonkers, and the Manor of Pelham; while Ryc contained Ryc, Mamaroneck, and Bedford. The Manor of Philipseburg was, then, considered administratively part of Westchester County, although as a manor it had certain privileges which provided a measure of independence.

^{54.} loc, cit.

^{55.} The original counties were: Dutchess (of which Putnam County was part until 1812) Albany, Cornwall (now part of Maine), Dukes (now part of Massachusetts), Kings, New York, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster and Westchester.

^{56.} Shonnard. op. cit. p. 198.

By the beginning of the 18th century, virtually all the land in Westchester County had been purchased. Tenants were being settled upon the land, and a number of small hamlets were growing up; however, for many years the area now known as Riverdale remained relatively isolated and undeveloped. In 1698, Governor Bellomont wrote that "... there were no more than twenty 'poor families' in the whole Manor of Philipseburg. This estimate is regarded as unreliable, but it provides some indication of the general density of the population. In 1712, the census indicated that there were 260 people living on the Yonkers plantation in the Manor of Philipseburg, with perhaps 605 inhabitants on the entire Manor.⁵⁷

According to historians, the history of Westchester County prior to the American Revolution was not remarkable. Wealthy and influential men purchased land and built their estates, which were inhabited by tenant farmers - men who leased the land and improved it, but could never own it. Early maps indicate that the land along the Albany Post Road, west of Chapel Farm II, was settled prior to the American Revolution, probably by the farmers who purchased the land after it was confiscated from Frederick Philipse (3) by the Commissioners of Forfeiture. Two names in particular - George Hadley and John Warner - appear in the records during the period when Frederick Philipse was still lord of the manor. After the American Revolution, these men purchased the land which became Riverdale.

CONDITIONS ON THE "NEUTRAL GROUND" DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Although we know of no specific event which took place on the Chapel Farm II site during the American Revolution, the site was within the area known as the "Neutral Ground." The "Neutral Ground" was much fought over during the war, and a number of events occurred there which provide some insight into the general conditions under which the farmers of Westchester County labored during the years of the war.

After the withdrawal of the American forces from Manhattan Island, the principal centers of conflict were in the area of the King's Bridge, since this provided access between Manhattan and the mainland, and along the major north-south roadways, including the Albany Post Road and the Mile Square Road, which led to Mile Square, an area now within the boundaries of the City of Yonkers. According to maps of the area, there were only three inhabitants along these roads north of King's Bridge: Hadley, on the Albany Post Road, Van Cortlandt, where the Mile Square Road branched off from the Albany Post Road, and Daniel Devoe, where the massacre of the Stockbridge Indians, which will be noted below, took place. [See Map 7]

^{57.} Shonnard. op. cit. p. 226 and 256. The Yonkers plantation included all of the land now considered part of Riverdale.

In addition to Fort Prince Charles, located south of King's Bridge, on the island identified in the Philipse wills as Papparinimo, there were three small fortifications on the hills overlooking Spuyten Duyvil and one more substantial fort on the ridge overlooking the Albany Post Road and the Boston Post Road. These forts, identified as Fort No. 1, Fort No. 2, Fort No. 3, and Fort Independence (Fort No. 4), are described by Robert B. Roberts in New York's Forts in the Revolution.⁵⁸

Fort No. 1 was constructed by the Dutchess County Militia under the command of Colonel James Swartwout. Located on the southwestern slope, just north of the present Henry Hudson monument, it was a square fort protected by an abatis. After the withdrawal of the American troops from southern Westchester, Fort No. 1 was manned by Hessian soldiers until November 1778 when British guards replaced them. The fort was occupied until the Fall of 1779, but is presumed to have been demolished when the British withdrew from Manhattan. This fort was supported by a half moon earthwork erected on orders from George Washington in October 1776. Located just north of the present Marble Hill railroad station, this earthworks could still be seen on military maps as late as 1781.

Fort No. 2 was built between August and September 1776 also under the supervision of Colonel Swartwout. It is thought that this was a circular, abatised fort on the crest of Spuyten Duyvil Hill. Called Fort Swartwout, it was abandoned on October 28, 1776, the day of the Battle of White Plains. Like Fort No. 1, it was then occupied by Hessians and demolished in 1779.

Fort No. 3 was located to cover the Albany Post Road and King's Bridge. Built in the summer of 1776 on the eastern slope of Spuyten Duyvil Hill, it was a square, abatised earthwork. Fort No. 3 was abandoned on November 28, 1776.

Fort Independence, the largest of the four, was a square palisaded earthwork redoubt protected by a ditch. It was about seventy five feet on each side. This fort, located on a farm which had belonged to General Richard Montgomery, was immediately south of the Jerome Park Reservoir. 59

These forts had, therefore, not been abandoned by the American forces on November 19, 1776, when General Cornwallis marched, apparently unseen, with 5000 men across King's Bridge and up the Albany Post Road past George Hadely's

^{58.} Robert B. Roberts. New York's Forts in the Revolution. Fairleigh Dickinson University Press: Rutherford, NJ. 1980.

^{59.} In 1910, according to Roberts, the officer's quarters and the guard house were excavated by archaeologists.

farm to Philipse (Yonkers).⁶⁰ George Hadley, who purchased 265 acres of the Manor of Philipseburg from the Commissioners of Forfeiture on December 6, 1785 and may be presumed to have had been sympathetic to the struggle for independence, was a tenant farmer on manor.⁶¹ According the Hufeland:

West of the Bronx River, all [the farmers] were tenants of the Phillipses whose farms were scattered between the steep and rocky hills which to-day are crowned by fine summer residences, some of which even the changes of a century have not made easily accessible. 62

In this area, horses and cattle roamed at large, and only the fields containing crops were fenced to keep them out. The area was served by dirt roads and farm lanes which ran west from the Albany Post Road, which was, as noted, the only public highway in the western part of the County. But we should not presume that the Albany Post Road resembled any highway with which we are familiar; for, in 1776 the Albany Post Road was described as "... very much out of repair, particularly that part that leads thro' the highlands to the Manor of Philipseburg..."63

After the Battle of White Plains, on October 28, 1776, the withdrawal of the American troops to the north side of the Croton River and the British troops to Morrisania, left the country between them a "Neutral Ground." This "Neutral Ground" suffered heavily from bands of marauding troops who over-ran the area, "robbing, burning, and killing indiscriminately." These marauding troops were called the "Cowboys" and "Skinners," the "Skinners" being men of the British army stationed near Morrisania, while the "Cowboys" were members of the American army.

The official purpose of these groups was to control the flow of supplies between the counties to the north and the City of New York. Across this land, traveling by night along deserted back roads and accompanied by armed guards, moved grain, herds of cattle and sheep, and other supplies toward the British lines. In addition to attacking the supply trains and harassing one another, the "Cowboys" and the "Skinners," not infrequently, robbed and abused the residents of the "Neutral Ground." Washington Irving described the situation as follows:

^{60.} Otto Hufeland. Westchester County during the American Revolution. Reprinted by Harbor Hill Books: Harrison, NY. 1982. p. 174.

^{61.} He is presumed to have been sympathetic since it is unlikely that the Commissioners of Forfeiture were confiscating land from Loyalists only to sell it to men who had not supported the American cause.

^{62.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 180.

^{63.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 181. The highlands, located on the north edge of present-day Putnam County, divided the Philipse Highland Patent from the Rombout Patent in Dutchess County.

^{64.} J. Thomas Scharf. History of Westchester County, New York, including Morrisania, Kings Bridge, and West Farms which have been annexed to New York City. L. E. Preston & Co.: Philadelphia, PA. 1886. v. II. p. 476.

This debatable territory was overrun by predatory bands of outlaws from either side, sacking hen roosts, plundering farm houses and driving off cattle. Hence arose those two great orders of border chivalry, the 'Skinners' and the 'Cowboys.' The former marauded under the British, the latter under the American banner; but both in their hurry of military ardor were apt to err on the safe side and rob friend as well as foe. Neither of them stopped to ask the politics of the horse or cow they drove into captivity or to trouble their heads, when they rung the neck of some rooster, to ascertain whether he had crowed for Congress or King George. 65

Writing in 1821, Timothy Dwight graphically described the condition of the people living in this war-torn region during the Fall of 1777.

In the autumn of 1777 I resided for some time in this county. The lines of the British were then at King's Bridge and those of the Americans at Byram River. The unhappy inhabitants were therefore exposed to the depredations of both. Often they were actually plundered, and always were liable to this calamity. They feared every body whom they saw and loved nobody. It was a curious fact to a philosopher and a melancholy one, to hear their conversation. To every question they gave such an answer as would please the inquirer: or, if they despaired of pleasing, such a one as would not provoke him. Fear apparently was the only passion by which they were animated. The power of volition seemed to have deserted them. They were not civil, but obsequious; not obliging but subservient. They yielded with a kind of apathy, and very quietly, what you asked, what they supposed it impossible for them to retain. If you treated them kindly, they received it coldly, not as a kindness, but as a compensation for injuries done them by others. When you spoke to them, they answered you without either good will or ill nature and without any appearance of reluctance or hesitation; but they subjoined neither questions nor remarks of their own; proving to your full conviction that they felt no interest in the conversation or in yourself. Both their countenances and motions had lost every trace of animation and feeling. Their features were smooth, not in serenity, but apathy; and instead of being settled in the attitude of quiet thinking, strongly indicated that all thought, beyond what was merely instinctive, had fled their minds forever.

Their houses, in the meantime, were in a great measure scenes of desolation. Their furniture was extensively plundered or broken to pieces. The walls, floors and windows were injured, both by violence and decay, and were not repaired because they had no means to repair them, and because they were

^{65.} Quoted in Alvah P. French. <u>History of Westchester County, New York</u>. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc.: NY. 1925.

exposed to the repetition of the same injuries. Their cattle were gone, Their enclosures burnt when they were capable of becoming fuel, and in many cases thrown down when they were not. Their fields were covered with a rank growth of weeds and wild grass.

Amid all this desolation, nothing struck my eye more forcibly than the sight of this great road Where I had heretofore seen a continual succession of horses and carriages, life and bustle-lending a sprightfulness to all the envisoning objects - not a single, solitary traveller was seen, from week to week, or from month to month. The world was motionless and silent, except when one of these unhappy people ventured upon a rare and lonely excursion to the house of a neighbor no less unhappy; or a scouting party, traversing the country in quest of enemies, alarmed the inhabitants with expectations of new injuries and sufferings. The very tracks of the carriages were grown over and obliterated, and, when they were discernable, resembled faint impressions of chariot wheels said to be left on the pavements of Herculaneum. 66

The situation of the farmer on the Manor of Philipseburg would have been further exacerbated by the competing needs of the American forces for provisions and the necessity of preventing food and forage from falling into the hands of the British. On October 14, 1776 the State Convention passed a resolution which appointed a commission in Westchester County to purchase "all Cattle fit for use of the Army within that County." If a farmer refused to sell his cattle at a reasonable price, they were to be taken, and the money for which they were sold returned to the farmer. Farmers were also to thresh their grain, in order to provide the army with straw. In addition,

... all the Horses. Hogs. Sheep and Cattle from those parts of the County of Westchester which lay upon the Sound or Hudson's River, and which are in any way exposed to the enemy, ...

were to be driven to the interior of the County to protect them from falling into the hands of the enemy.⁶⁸ The farmers living on the Manor of Philipseburg would have suffered from these measures.

On January 18, 1777, American troops marched south on the Albany Post Road through Yonkers to the high point above the Van Cortlandt House. [See Map 7] The purpose of the manoeuvre to capture Fort Independence (Fort No. 4), which protected the Harlem River, and from which the American troops could control British access to the interior of Westchester County. The attempt failed. As a

^{66.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 237-239.

^{67.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 184-5.

^{68.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 185.

result, Washington determined to destroy all the forage in the area to decrease the incentive for the British raids. The letter describing the area subject to this destruction is dated February 6, 1777:

... it will be essential to destroy all the forage and Grain to the Southward of the post Road from New Rochelle to Eastchester from thence South westerly of the Road from Eastchester to Benjamin Hunt; from thence Southwesterly of the Road from said Benjamin Hunt (at Hunt's Bridge) to Coll. Phillips excepting so much as the foraging Team may be able to Carry off on the day this business is to be Carried into Execution. 69

The foraging party in the lower part of the county was specifically prohibited from destroying any buildings, "... except such as contain quantities of forage etc Grain in the Straw which cannot be removed..." It is not hard to imagine that the privations of war fell heaviest on the farmers who lived nearest the British lines.

In the Summer of 1778 one of the most infamous battles of the American Revolution took place on the western edge of Van Cortlandt Park, just north of the Daniel Devoe farm. [See Map 7] As has been indicated by the manoeuvres described above, it was always the purpose of the American forces to limit the forays which the British could make northward from their camps in Morrisania. and, as has been described, on several occasions attempts were made to capture the small forts which overlooked the Harlem River, including Fort Independence (Fort No. 4). On this particular occasion, American troops accompanied by a group of Stockbridge Indians, led by their chief, Nimham, were located on Woodlawn Heights watching the "Mile Square Road." According to Shonnard, on August 20, 1778, these Indians attacked a battalion of British troops under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Emmerick, driving them down toward Kingsbridge. skirmish lasted over a number of days, during which the Indians moved further and further south into the lower part of the Town of Yonkers. On August 31, they were surprised by a group of Queen's Rangers, stationed at Fort Independence.71 These troops, led by Lieutenant-Colonel J. G. Simcoc, slaughtered the Indians "like so many sheep," killing thirty seven of the fifty braves, including Chief Ninham and his son. 72 Scharf reports that they were driven through Van Cortlandt's woods, over Tibbett's Brook, and into the woods on the ridge beyond. Many of those that died were buried in an area afterward called Indian Field.73

^{69.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 196.

^{70.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 196.

^{71.} Queen's Rangers were Loyalists. Fort Independence was called by the British Fort Knyphausen.

^{72.} Hufeland. op. cit. p. 260.

^{73.} Scharf. op. cit. p 744-768. The "Indian Field" is said by Hufeland to have been west of the land which has become Jerome Avenue (p. 261). Map 7 indicates the location.

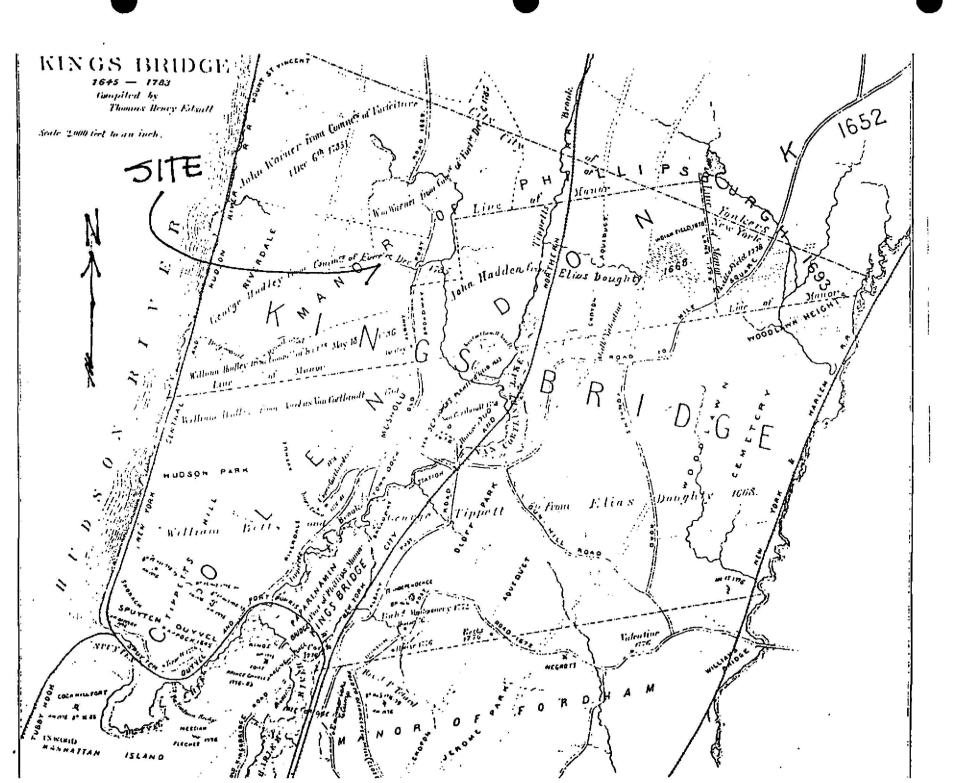
Following the Revolution, the lands of men who had adhered to the Loyalist cause were confiscated by the government and sold by the Commissioners of Forfeiture. In Westchester County the principal lands seized were those of Frederick Philipse (3). It is not certain that Frederick Philipse was an avowed Loyalist, for on at least one occasion he stated that he was "a friend to the rights and interests of my native country." Nonetheless, it was suspected that he "preferred the triumph of England," and, on that basis, General George Washington required him to leave the Manor of Philipseburg to live in Connecticut, where he would be further from the British lines. During an authorized business trip to British controlled New York, he was informed that he was to return immediately to Connecticut. His failure to do so, and his subsequent removal to England when the British troops evacuated New York, led to the confiscation and sale of all his land, including the Manor of Philipseburg.

At the time of the forfeiture, the Manor of Philipseburg was divided into more than 300 farms, which were rented to tenants. Many of these tenants purchased the property which they had farmed, including, according to Scharf, George Hadley. His deed of purchase was dated December 6, 1785.⁷⁴ A map prepared by Thomas Henry Edsall in the 19th century is more specific, showing that the land immediately south of the present Yonkers line was purchased by John Warner on December 6, 1785, and that, on the same date, George Hadley purchased the land south of that bought by Warner. [Map 8] The site of Chapel Farm II is located within the boundaries of the land purchased by George Hadley.

On March 7, 1788, Westchester County was divided into townships, including Westchester, Morrisania, Yonkers, Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Westchester, Pelham, New Rochelle, Scarsdale, Mamaroneck, White Plains, Harrison. Rye, North Castle, Bedford, Pound Ridge, Salem, North Salem, Cortlandt, Yorktown and Stephentown. The Towns of Yonkers, Mount Pleasant, and Greenburgh were carved out of the Manor of Philipseburg. The original boundaries of Yonkers have been altered by the annexation of the southern portion of the Town to New York City.

The growth of the Town of Yonkers was relatively slow, due in part to the inaccessibility of the southern portions of the Town. The plateau overlooking the Hudson River is effectively separated from flat lands along the Bronx River and Tibbett's Brook by a high ridge which runs along the west side of Broadway. Even today, the Mosholu Parkway is the only highway which runs east-west in the vicinity of the Chapel Farm II site. It was not until the construction of Riverdale Avenue that Riverdale became more than a rural enclave. In 1810, according to the census, the population of the Town of Yonkers was 1,365; in 1825 it was 1,761;

^{74.} Shonnard does not include his name in the list of purchasers of forfeited lands in Yonkers, probably because Shonnard was writing after lower Yonkers had been ceded to New York City.



by 1845 it had increased to 2,517; and by 1855 it had reached 7,554. In 1860, French's Gazetteer of the State of New York provided the following information for the Town of Yonkers:

Yonkers. - Population, 11,848. Local particulars: - 1. Yonkers: an incorporated village; population in 1859. 6,800; contained nine churches, several private seminaries, two banks, two newspaper offices, and various manufactories. 2. Spuyten Duyvil; the seat of several large foundries; inhabited chiefly by operatives. 3. Tuckahoe; a station on the Harlem Railroad; Hodgman's rubber goods manufactory employed about seventy-five hands. 4. Kingsbridge. 5. Riverdale; "a group of villas, and a railroad station." 6. South Yonkers; a post-office. 75

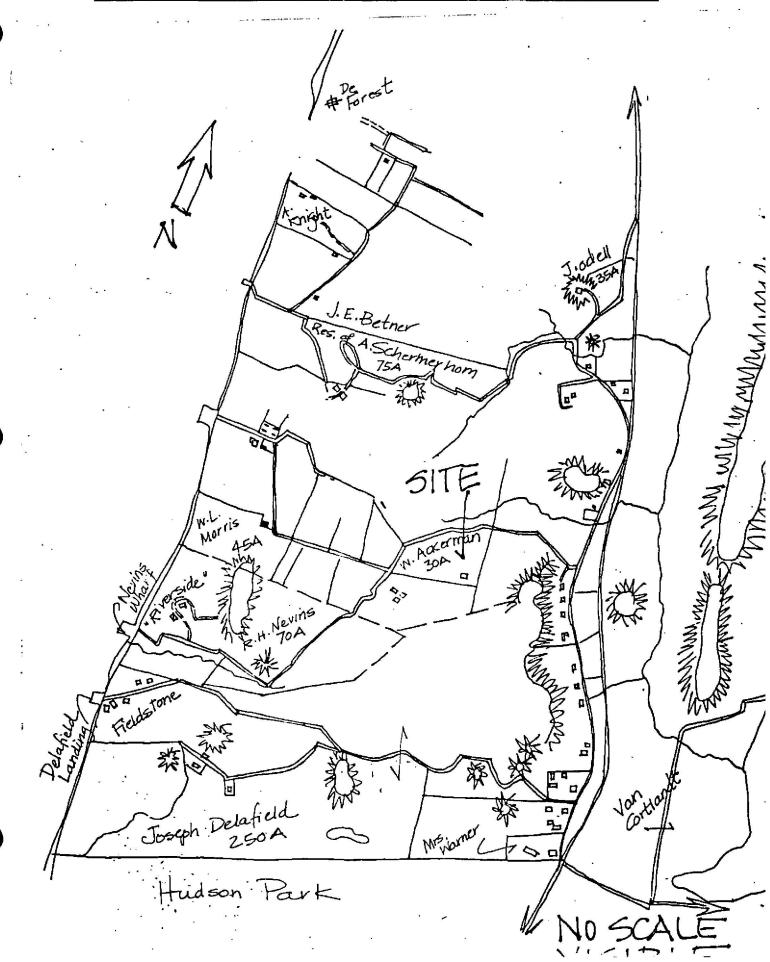
HISTORY OF RIVERDALE

Based on French's identification of Riverdale as the site of a "group of villas and a railroad station" it is clear that the area had by 1860 acquired the character which it continues in large measure to possess today. A map located in the Bronx Historical Society indicates the original outlines of the area. [See Map 8] As previously noted, the area of Riverdale was originally purchased by Adriaen van der Donck, and after his death was sold by his widow's brother to Frederick Philipse (1) and several others. This land remained in the hands of the Philipse family until it was confiscated at the close of the American Revolution. At that time the Philipse land was sold by the Commissioners of Forfeiture, often to the tenant farmers who had lived there prior to the war. According to the records, the Riverdale area was purchased by John Warner and George Hadley on December 6, 1785. John Warner purchased 254 acres of the land immediately south of the present New York City line, including the land on which Mount Saint Vincent stands. The southern boundary of his land would have been on a line with present-day 254th Street. 76 George Hadley purchased 267 acres of land to the south of Warner's land and to the west of the Albany Post Road. The southern boundary of his land was Dogwood Brook. The Chapel Farm II site falls within the boundaries of George Hadley's farm.

By 1853, prior to the construction of Riverdale Avenue, the land along the Hudson River was already undergoing development. The Albany Post Road, from which a number of farm lanes extended westward to the villas overlooking the Hudson River, was dotted with houses. [Map 9] Broadway, which parallels the older road in this area, was by now established. At this time, the Hudson River would still have been the preferred transportation route for the Delafields and the

^{75.} French. Gazetteer of the State of New York. Reprinted by Heart of the Lakes Publishing: Interlaken, NY. 1981.

^{76.} This southern boundary is approximate, having been fixed in relationship with the curve of Mosholu Avenue seen on the Edsall map.



other Riverdale families to travel to their villas. The numerous landings along the bank of the river attest to this fact. Because of the changes in the road patterns it is not possible to state with absolute certainty the ownership of the Chapel Farm II site in 1853, but it appears likely that the land was owned by William G. Ackerman, who, according the Scharf, purchased 100 acres of land in 1843. He subsequently sold some of this land to H. L. Atherton, Samuel D. Babcock, and C. W. Foster. Scharf does not identify the purchasers of the Hadley farm, but specifically states that the Warner farm was purchased by A. Schermerhorn, whose name appears on the 1853 map, J. E. Bettner, and E. F. Brown, and that "some fine stone country houses have recently been erected on these tracts." By that date, De Forest had already erected the eastle which now belongs to Mount Saint Vincent.

By 1856, Scharf lists the following owners of country houses in "Riverdale"

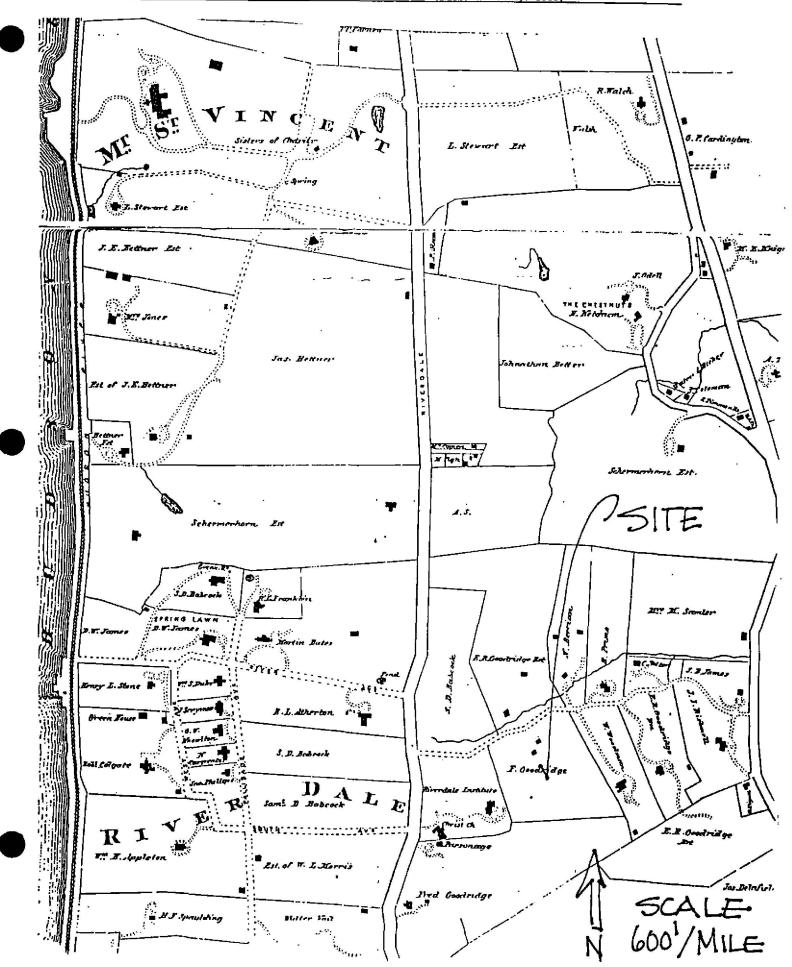
William H. Appleton Samuel Babcock Martin Bates George H. Bend Robert Colgate William S. Duke George H. Forster W. L. Franklin Frederick K. Goodridge
Laura Harriman
D. Willis James
Percy R. Pyne
Moses Taylor Pyne
Henry F. Spaulding
H. L. Stone
and others.⁷⁸

In 1867 F. W. Beer's prepared a map of the Town of Yonkers in Westchester County. [Map 10] On this map the developed areas are Spuyten Duyvil, where the Johnson foundry was located, Mosholu, which had a post office, and Riverdale. Property lines are not shown on this particular map, but the property belonging to Frederick K. Goodridge is indicated.

An unidentified map of the Town of Yonkers dated 1868 appears in William Tieck's Riverdale, Kingsbridge. Spuyten Duyvil: A Historical Epitome of the Northwest Bronx. [Map 11] On this map the Spuyten Duyvil area has established street, and Hudson Park has been subdivided into a series of small lots. However, to the north of Hudson Park Riverdale remained a rural area. Although Riverdale Avenue had been constructed, Palisade Avenue appears as a planned improvement, and there are a number of east-west streets proposed, including South Avenue, River Avenue, and Valentines Lane, the majority of the estates continue to be served by private roadways. The Hudson River Railroad has been built and Riverdale Station established at the foot of the property owned by Henry L. Stone. By this date, Christ Church and its parsonage had been built, and the Riverdale Institute established. On this map the property on which Chapel Farm II is located belonged to Frederick K. Goodridge.

^{77.} Scharf. op. cit. p 744-768. 78. Scharf. op. cit. p 744-768.





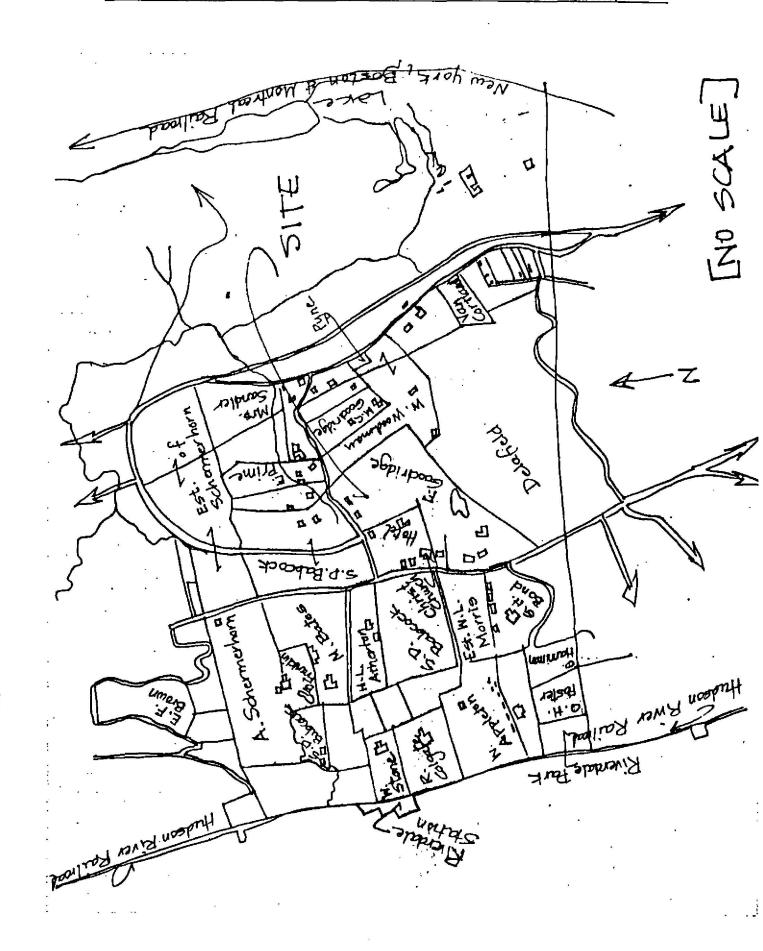
Frederick K. Goodridge, a wealthy businessman, had built his house prior to the Civil War. In 1886 this house was enlarged. It is said that the house contained fifty rooms, with space for twenty servants. It was intended to be a replica of an old English castle. According to Ticck, the grounds included a garden, greenhouse, barn, chicken coop, and stable. The house was situated on forty acres, on the west side of which there was a spring-fed pool filled with fish. After the tenure of the Goodridge family, this house, which was located southwest of the Chapel Farm II site, had a varied history, serving as a roadhouse, a girl's finishing school, a dormitory for the Horace Mann School, and, after 1953, as a synagogue. In 1960 the house was demolished to make way for the building which now houses the Riverdale Temple.⁷⁹

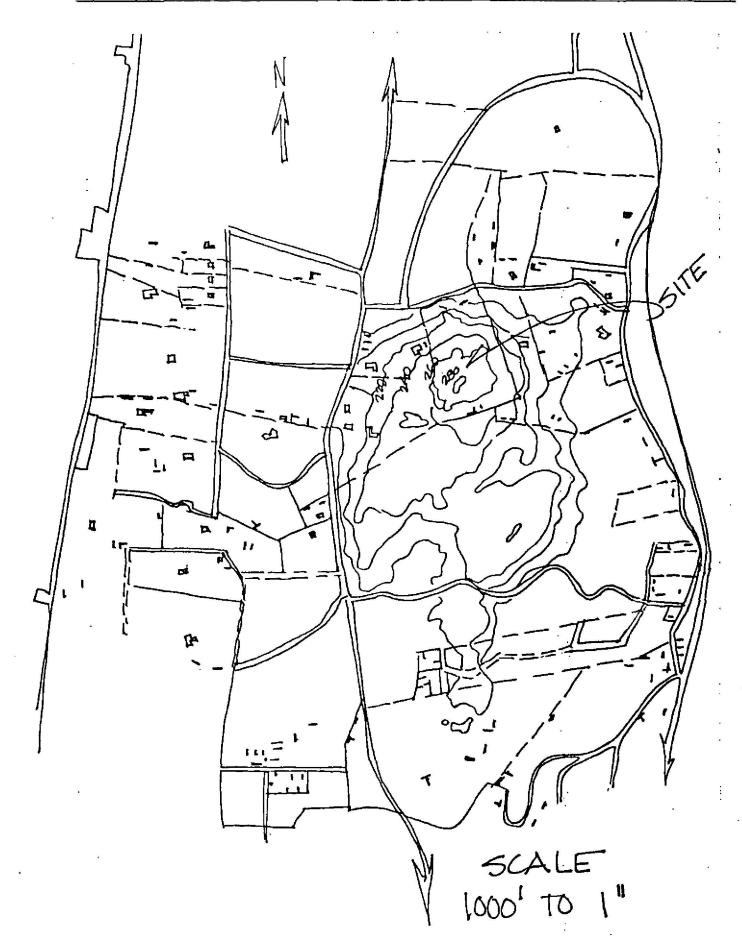
In 1873, just prior to the annexation of the Westchester County Town of Kingsbridge to New York City, two maps were produced which show the Chapel Farm II site. The first was prepared for Potter Brothers, "Brokers for the Sale of Real Estate." [Map 12] This map clearly identifies the Goodridge property, including the Goodridge pond mentioned above. The Goodridge property extended from Riverdale Avenue, rapping around the Christ Church and Riverdale Institute property, to abut present-day 253rd Street on the north. On Riverside Avenue, the Goodridge mansion and two smaller buildings are located west of the pond. On the side of the property abutting 253rd Street, two structures are shown.

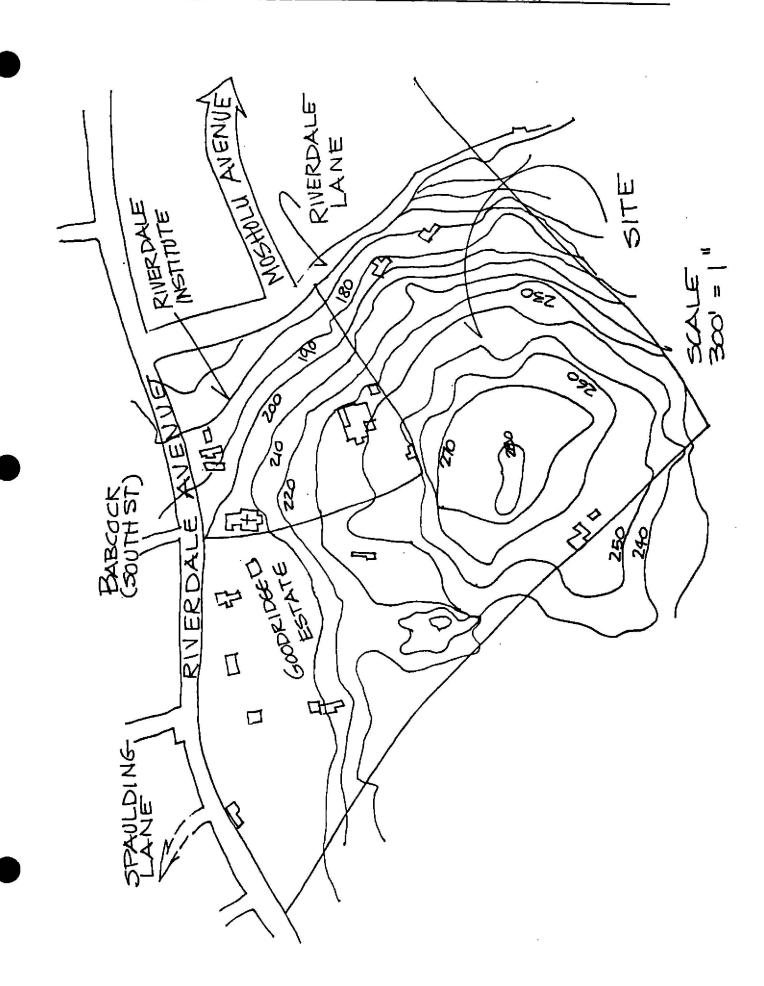
A topographical map, prepared by the New York City Department of Parks in 1873, which includes the Goodridge property enables us to determine with some accuracy where the buildings on the property were located. [Map 13/13A] As on the Potter Brothers map, the mansion house and the two out buildings along Riverdale Avenue are shown, as are the two buildings abutting 253rd Street. All of these buildings are outside the limits of the Chapel Farm 11 site. There are, however, two buildings shown on the southern boundary of the Goodridge property which are within the present boundaries of the project site. One is quite small, perhaps a shed. The other is an L-shaped structure. At the present time, its purpose is unknown.

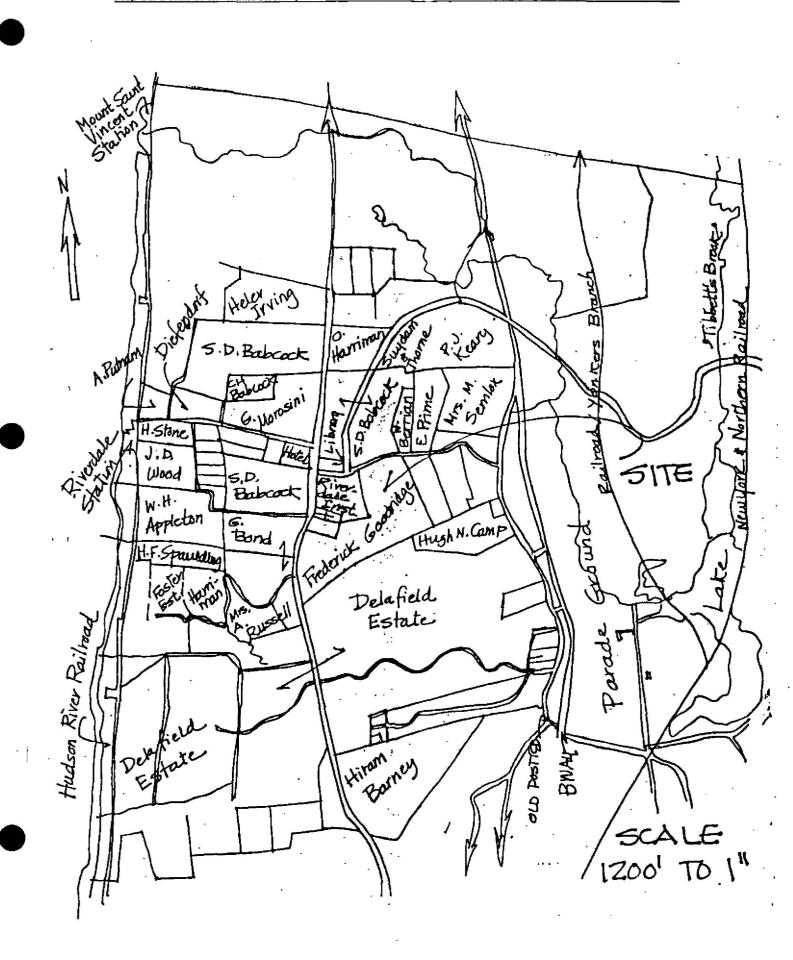
Beer's Atlas of the Hudson Valley (1891) provides a wealth of information concerning the structures which were located on sites north of the New York City line, but, unfortunately, no such detail is included within the boundaries of New York City. [Map 14] The map does, however, indicate that the Chapel Farm II site was still owned by the Goodridge family.

^{79.} Tieck. op. cit. p. 176.









THE CHAPEL FARM II SITE

The early history of the Chapel Farm II site has been noted in the material presented above. In summary, the land was first part of the patroonship established by Adriaen van der Donek in the 17th century. After his death, it came into the hand of the Philipse family in 1693, and from that time until 1785 it remained part of the Manor of Philipseburg. Information provided in the histories of the period indicate that the Chapel Farm II site was included in a farm of approximately 275 acres which was occupied by George Hadley. Hadley purchased the farm from the Commissioners of Forfeiture in 1785. It probably remained in the family until the mid-19th century when it was divided and sold. The land which is Chapel Farm II appears to have belonged to a William G. Ackerman in 1853, but had become the property of Frederick K. Goodridge by 1856. It remained in the Goodridge family for much of the 19th century, but then changed hands a number of times. Portions of the property are the subject of deeds from the 1870s. On May 29, 1871, the Riverdale Institute sold land to Mary Combs, Widow. Interestingly, a restriction in the deed states that

the premises hereby conveyed shall not nor shall any portion thereof at any time be rented to used or occupied by or sold or conveyed to any Roman Catholic Institution, association, or organization whatsoever...⁸¹

On the same date, Samuel D. Babcock and his wife, Elizabeth, executed a deed selling property to Mary Combs, Widow. The same restriction applied.

In the 1920's a portion of the Delafield estate was sold to Alfred V. S. Olcott and his wife, Ruth Purvis Olcott. The use of the property sold to the Olcott's was restricted to a one family dwelling house and one garage. Among the restrictions was the express prohibition of the manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages on the property

... nor the doing of anything or matter thereon or any use thereof that may be a nuisance or which may become noxious or dangerous to health or good morals or offensive to residents in the neighborhood.⁸²

Most of the restrictions of the property were to run until 1930, but this particular restriction was to be perpetual.

In September, 1923, the Goodridge Estates, Inc. sold land to the Order of The Living Christ Incorporated agreeing that the Order of The Living Christ Incorporated would have the right

^{80.} Westchester County Clerk's Office. Liber 773, 353.

^{81.} Westchester County Clerk's Office. Liber 773. 353.

^{82.} Bronx County Clerk's Office. Liber 413. 454. Dated August 28, 1923,

... in connection with its religious undertakings and operations.

educational and otherwise to erect upon a portion of its lands and to maintain, mange and operate a boarding or day school...83

On July 7, 1925, Fieldston Inc. sold land to Genevieve Ludlow Griscom. While on November 30, 1925, the Goodridge Estates sold land to the Order of The Living Christ, Incorporated, a corporation for religious and educational purposes.⁸⁴

A map included in Atlas of the City of New York: Borough of the Bronx prepared by G. W. Bromley provides some indication of the buildings constructed on the land belonging to the Order of the Living Christ between 1924 and 1932, when the map was updated to indicate the construction of several houses along the northeastern perimeter of the property. [Map 15] The fact that the only portion of the map to be updated was where the mansion, chapel, and the three residences are located indicates that the small wooden cottages and associated structures were present when Bromley prepared the map in 1924. To assist in identifying the various structures they have been lettered as follows:

A: wood building with stucco

B: wood building with stucco

C: wood building with stucco

D: wood building (The Chapel)

E: stone building (The Mansion)

F: wood prefabricated cottage

G: wood prefabricated cottage

H: wood outbuilding

I: wood outbuilding

J: wood prefabricated cottage

K: wood outbuilding

L: wood prefabricated cottage

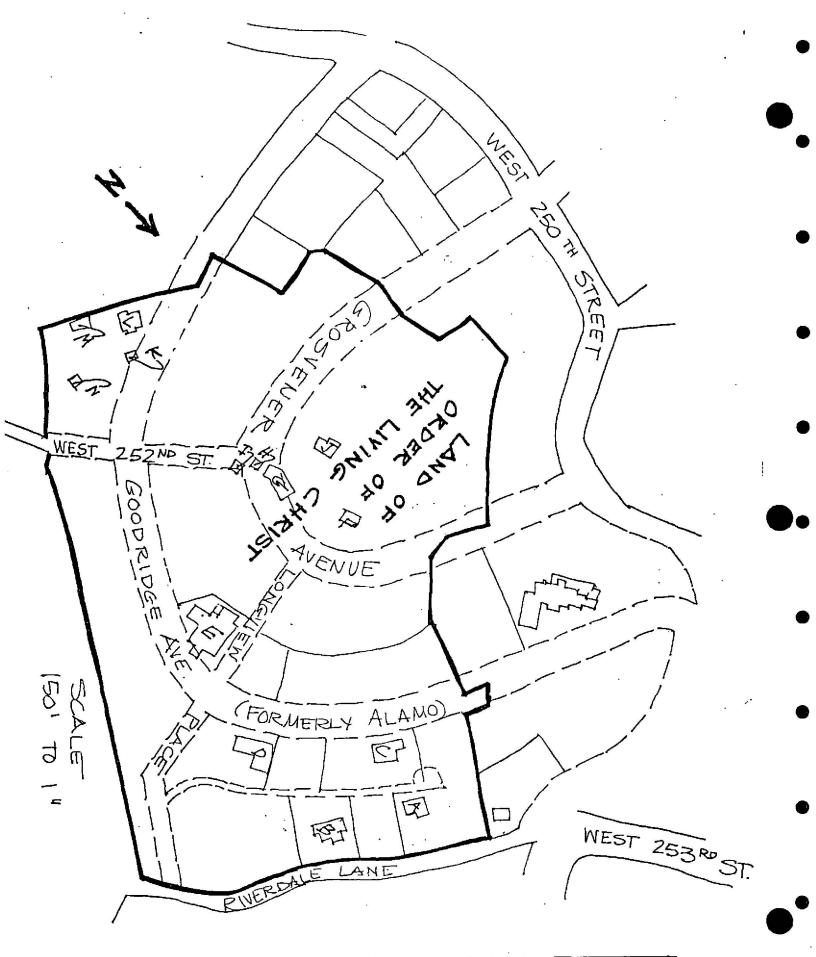
M: wood outbuilding

N: wood outbuilding

The buildings identified as Building A, C, D and E were part of a subdivision of the property called Chapel Farm I. Due to the prior sale of these buildings, they no longer belong to the Chapel Farm II site being described in this report. They are mentioned only because they originally belonged to "The Order of the Living Christ." Building B, which also belonged to "The Order of the Living Christ" was separated from the other houses and sold separatedly. With respect to the wooden structures and cottages identified on this map, none of these buildings

^{83.} Bronx County Clerk's Office. Liber 414, 158. Dated September 29, 1923

^{84.} Bronx County Clerk's Office. Liber 518. 347.



Map 15: Land of the Order of the Living Shrist. (G. W. Broinley. Atlas of the City of New York: Borough of the Bronx. 1924.)

remain standing, although portions of the buildings and abandoned appliances may still be seen on the site.

Mrs. Griscom still owned the land in 1953, for on March 23, she entered into an agreement with the City of New York to grant the right to

... lay, maintain, use, inspect and replace water mains, pipes, hydrants, connections and all other necessary accessories for furnishing water to buildings and premises abutting said street and avenue (West 250th Street and Iselin Avenue).⁸⁵

While on July 26, 1957, she granted to the Outer Court Incorporated of The Order of The Living Christ, a membership corporation, a right of way over Iselin Avenue and 250th Street.⁸⁶

In January 1969, the property which had belonged to The Order of The Living Christ was purchased by Manhattanville College. In an article which appeared the Riverdale Press at the time, Chapel Farm was described as a religious retreat founded in 1917 by Clement A. Griscom, Jr., a wealthy businessman and his wife, Genevieve. Clement A. Griscom died in 1918, but his wife maintained Chapel Farm until she died on September 2, 1958 at 90 years of age. The gardens located on the grounds were maintained by seven gardeners. The gardens consisted of "velvety moss lawns that blanketed the grounds" and Spring flowers and dogwoods were everywhere. The various portions of the property were connected by flagstone paths.

In the article the main house was identified as containing sixty rooms, all lavishly furnished. This is an exaggeration, although the house is large. Throughout Mrs. Griscom's tenure at Chapel Farm, the house elaborately cared for, with a large library containing over 30,000 books. There was a marble fireplaces in each room. Ornamented and inlaid ceilings decorated the house, which had marble floors with a black and white pattern. There was also a pipe organ, which is said to have been played by Mrs. Griscom. Despite the elaborate details of the house it remained empty.

Mrs. Griscom, who is rumored to have built the house for the use of Jesus Christ when he returned, lived in "a simple pre-fabricated cottage of rustic design," which was warmed by a pot-bellied stove. The cottage had electricity, but the light bulbs were unshaded. The "art" which hung on the walls was said to have been clipped from magazines.

^{85.} Bronx County Clerk's Office. Liber 2114. 149.

^{86.} Bronx County Clerk's Office. Liber 2248. 207.

^{87.} Riverdale Press. February 6, 1969.

There were a number of other pre-fabricated cottages on property, of which about six remained in 1969. Today all of these buildings have been demolished, although the remains of some of them can still be seen. Their locations are indicated on the map located at the back of this report. These cottages were used in the summer - only Mrs. Griscom living on the site year-round.

In addition to the cottages, there were three permanent residences on the grounds. These houses still exist, along with the mansion house, and the rustic chapel, in which services were held. None of these building is located on the site of Chapel Farm II.

It is clear from the articles and conversations with persons knowledgeable about the property, that many rumors and "legends" surrounded the ownership of The Order of The Living Christ. However, on March 27, 1986, the Riverdale Press printed an article including information received from Rev. W. Sydney Fisher, an Episcopal priest who had been acquainted with Mrs. Griscom and who had visited Chapel Farm during his youth. He described Chapel Farm as the summer retreat of an organization with ties to Episcopal Church and the Theosophical Society, a world-wide ethical society. He stated that Mrs. Griscom supported a mission school at 10 Horatio Street near 13th Street, which was associated with the Chapel of the Comforter, an Episcopal parish ministering to families of longshoremen in Chelsea section. Chapel Farm was their retreat in the country

Today the cottages are all gone, victims of vandalism, fire and time. The gardens are overgrown. The dogwoods are gone, although a number of large evergreens still exist on the site. More recently, Chapel Farm was subdivided. The mansion house site was sold, and is being restored by its current owner. The rustic chapel, now converted to a dwelling, still remains. It too has been separated from the Chapel Farm II site. The three other houses which were associated with Chapel Farm have also been sold. None are located on the Chapel Farm II site.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prehistoric and Historic Archaeological Sensitivity

With respect to the sensitivity of the site for historic archaeological artifacts, a walkover of the site did not reveal any structures presently standing on the Chapel Farm II site. An examination of the historic maps and atlases of the area indicates that, with the exception of the two structure noted above, no 19th century dwelling or outbuildings were located within the boundaries of the project area. (See Map 13) The foundations of the 20th century pre-fabricated cottages remain and are their locations are indicated on the map at the back of this report. Information gleaned from newspaper reports and through personal communication indicate that the structures were summer cottages for members of the religious

group, known as The Order of The Living Christ, associated with Chapel Farm. These buildings by their nature were intended to be ephemeral. Photographs of at least one of the buildings appeared in the Riverdale Press article referred to above. In terms of their appearance they resemble pre-fabricated camp buildings. They lacked basements or, except in one or two cases, permanent foundations. They were, with one possible exception, one story with screened porches. Wires found on the site indicate that they were supplied with electricity, and the presence of derelict stoves and the remains of refrigerators indicate that they contained kitchens. Bathroom fixtures are also found on the site, indicating that some contained bathrooms.

All of these buildings date from the period between the purchase of the property by Mr. and Mrs. Clement Griscom in 1917 and the sale of the property to Manhattanville College in 1969. Mrs. Griscom died in 1958 at the age of 90. It seems logical to assume, and the evidence of the maps and a visual inspection support the conclusion, that nothing new was built on the property between 1958 and 1969. It also seems likely, though not absolutely proven, that during the last years of her life Mrs. Griscom did not engage in further building projects. The date of the buildings, therefore, is most probably between approximately 1920 and the beginning of the Second World War.

Turning to the potential for prehistoric archaeology on the site, an examination of the site files in Albany and an examination of local source material, indicates that there are several prehistoric archaeological sites recorded in the vicinity of the Chapel Farm II site. Based on this information, the possibility that the Chapel Farm II site contains prehistoric resources could not be ignored. Among the sites noted were two sites located to the east in Van Cortlandt Park. In addition, there are several sites located immediately to the west on the banks of the Hudson River in Riverdale Park. The fact that the Chapel Farm II site is located on the highest point in the Bronx adds to its sensitivity. The elevation of the site, as noted above, rises from 260 feet to 280 feet above sca level.

Earlier investigations in New York City have tended to focus on the banks of the Hudson River and on Long Island Sound, rather than on the interior areas. The locations of the sites recorded by William Beauchamp and Arthur C. Parker have been noted above. Like Beauchamp and Parker, Ritchie and Funk have concentrated their investigations on the shores of the Hudson River. [See Figure 1]

As part of the preparation of this report, letters were sent to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the New York

^{88.} The two archaeological sites reported in Parker are located in the vicinity of the Conrail railroad line. These are identified as #2823 and 2837.

^{89.} The State Museum does not yet list the sites located in Riverdale Park. Those noted in the report were visited with a member of the Wave Hill archaeological staff.

State Museum requesting that they review their site files for prehistoric and historic cultural resources identified in the immediate vicinity of the Chapel Farm II site.

Responses to these letters have been received. The letter from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), dated November 29,1989, indicates that an archaeological site may be located on the property. A copy of this letter is attached to this report. Based on a predictive model, the letter received from the New York State Museum identifies the Chapel Farm II site as possessing an average probability for yielding prehistoric archaeological artifacts. A copy of this letter is attached to this report.

Based on the potential for prehistoric archaeology identified in the letters received from OPRHP and the State Museum, a second walkover of the site was conducted by the author and Karen Hartgen of Hartgen Archeological Associates. The purpose of the walkover was to more precisely identify those areas which might be considered archaeologically sensitive, as opposed to those which could be excluded from consideration on the basis of environmental factors, such as the types of soils and the degree of slope encountered. Although much of the site contains steep slopes and exposed bedrock, based on our examination of the site, several sensitive areas were identified. These included several small plateau areas where top soil had gathered. As a consequence, the recommendation was made to the project sponsor that a Stage 1B Field Investigation of the sensitive areas be undertaken.

The logic for this recommendation is based on several factors:

1. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has indicated in response to a request for information on the Chapel Farm II site that the "project area may contain an archaeological site." The letter then continues, "Therefore it is our recommendation that unless substantial ground disturbance can be documented an archeological survey is warranted."

It should be noted that, while the material presented in this report indicate that there have been a number of buildings located on the site and that gardening may have changed the soil level on the property, there is no indication that these activities would have disturbed prehistoric archaeological artifacts if such were present on the site.

 The response to the request for information submitted to the New York State Museum indicates that there is an average probability of the Chapel Farm II site producing prehistoric archaeological data. The reason given for this statement is that "the physiographic characteristics of the location suggest a medium probability of prehistoric occupation or use."

- 3. The Chapel Farm II site is located within one mile of known archaeological sites located on the banks of the Hudson River within Riverdale Park. Several of those sites have been investigated and artifacts collected; however, an evaluation of the material collected and dating of the sites has not been undertaken due to financial constraints. Information regarding these sites was gained from personal communication with one of the archaeologists responsible for the Wave Hill archaeological program. While it is, perhaps unlikely, that the sites in Riverdale Park, consisting primarily of shell middens, are as early as the Paleo-Indian period, there is no reason to suppose that they could not date from the Archaic period or later.
- 4. The Chapel Farm II site is located within an area identified by Beauchamp and Parker as containing archaeological sites. A number of those identified by Beauchamp and Parker are located along the north bank of Spuyten Duyvil, approximately two miles to the south.
- 5. The area immediately adjacent to the Chapel Farm II site is reported to have yielded a projectile point, described as an arrowhead. The location of this find is said to have been on a hillside immediately south of the mansion. According to the son of the present owner, the arrowhead was discovered when the hillside was being cut back to accommodate an enlarged driveway. Again, according to the son of the present owner of the mansion house, the arrowhead was removed from the site by one of the construction crew.
- 6. Most importantly, the Chapel Farm II site is located on the highest point in the Bronx. The elevation of this site rises from 260 feet to 280 feet above sea level. This suggests the possibility that the area could have been used as a game observation point from very early times. It also suggests the potential for the site to have been used as a cemetery or sacred precinct in the Transitional period.

It might be suggested that the lack of water on the site was a bar to its use by prehistoric peoples; however, 19th century maps indicate that immediately north of the site one stream flowed westward toward present day Van Cortlandt Park. [See Map 8, 9 and 11] This stream has "gone underground" as development took place in the Riverdale area. Tibbett's Brook, although located some distance east, provided a reliable source of water and food in the vicinity of the site.

It is not possible to state with certainty whether the area would be most likely to have been used by one group rather than another. Paleo-Indians sites are generally associated with major river systems such as the Hudson River. The presence of known Paleo-Indian sites on the shores of Staten Island and along the banks of the Hudson River to the north in Ulster County may be cited as examples. However, there is one Paleo-Indian site in the vicinity of White Plains, indicating the sites may also be found some distance from the major waterways.

Using Ritchie's description, it is unlikely that the Chapel Farm II site will contain Archaic sites. Ritchie describes the Archaic site as

...numerous, small, nearly always multicomponent sites, variously situated on tidal inlets, coves, bays, particularly at the heads of the latter, and on fresh water ponds on Long Island, Shelter Island, Fishers Island, and along the lower Hudson River on terraces and knolls, at various elevations having no consistent relationship to the particular cultural complex. 90

The same type of site is described by Ritchie for the Transitional Phase. As is the case with the Archaic period, it is not likely that the Chapel Farm II site was utilized for any period of time as a camp site during the Transitional period. It is, however, possible, as it was in the Paleo-Indian period, that the area was used intermittently as a place from which to observe the movement of game.

It is also possible that the Chapel Farm II site could have had religious importance to the peoples of the Transitional period. While there has been no suggestion that the Chapel Farm II site was ever used as a burial site, the location could, according to Ritchie, meet the requirements of a burial place for the people of that time. Ritchie wrote of the Transitional Period on Long Island in The Archaeology of New York State:

Burial was made in a definite cemetery, invariably at the summit of the highest hill in the selected district . . . not, as in earlier Archaic times, more or less at random in the refuse of the settlement. In fact, these cemeteries seem to have constituted . . . a sacred precinct of the dead, a distinctive aspect of the religious ideology which was emerging at this period in various parts of the eastern United States.

Despite the lack of suggestion that this site contained a burial site, it is concluded that its unique elevation suggests that it may have been used at some time by people during the prehistoric period.

^{90.} William Ritchie. The Archaeology of New York State. Revised edition. Harbor Hill Books: Harrison, NY. 1980. p. 143.

Based on the facts presented above and the predictive model used by the State Museum, the location of the Chapel Farm II site on the highest point in the Bronx suggests that a Stage 1B Field Investigation is warranted.

It was also recommended that an attempt be made to locate the two 19th century structures identified on the 1873 map. From an examination of the maps included in this report it seems likely that these two buildings were outbuildings of the Goodridge Estate. From an examination of the site, it is assumed that the foundation of one of these buildings was built into one of the structures associated with the religious organization that owned the property prior to its purchase by Manhattanville College. While these outbuildings may not be in and of themselves of special historical significance, the destruction of many of the historic sites in the Riverdale area and the lack of information concerning the types of outbuildings associated with the 19th century estates in Riverdale suggest that any information gathered on this site would increase our knowledge. The recommendation is to measure and photograph the foundations, and to place several shovel tests near the foundation to determine the approximate date of these buildings.

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FIGURES AND MAPS INCLUDED IN REVISED CHAPEL FARM II REPORT

MAPS:

- 1: Riverdale Area with Chapel Farm II site.
- 2: Chapel Farm II sitc.
- 3: Hudson Valley Geological Map. (Detail of map identified as "Physiographic Diagram of the New York Region" in Christopher J. Schuberth. The Geology of New York City and Environs. The Natural History Press: Garden City, NY. 1968. Insert map.)
- 4: Riverdale Area Geological Map. (Detail of Map 2 identified as "Geological map of the northern part of Manhattan, west Bronx County, eastern Bergen county, New Jersey" in Christopher J. Schuberth. The Geology of New York City and Environs. The Natural History Press: Garden City, NY. 1968. p. 75.)
- 5: Hudson River Indians and Their Neighbors c. 1600 A.D. (Illustrated in .Frank E. Sanchis. Westchester County Architecture: Colonial to Contemporary. Harbor Hill Books: Harrison, NY. 1977. p. 5.)
- 6: Manors of the Hudson River Valley. (From Sung Bok Kim. Landlord and Tenant in Colonial New York: Manorial Society. 1664-1775. Institute of Early American History and Culture: Williamsburg, VA. 1978.)
- 7: New York City and Vicinity. (Portion of a map illustrated in Otto Huscland. Westchester County in the American Revolution. Harbor Hill Books: Harrison, New York. 1982.)
- 8: Thomas Edsall's Map of Kingsbridge. (Kingsbridge: 1645 1783. Compiled by Thomas Henry Edsall. c. 1880. In Robert Bolton. The History of the Several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the County of Westchester, from its First Settlement to the Present Time. [revised edition] Charles F. Roper: NY. 1881.)
- 9: Riverdale Area in 1853. (Detail showing Riverdale area. R. F. O. Conner.

 Map of the Southern Part of Westchester County, New York. M. D. Dripps: New
 York, 1853.)
- 10: Map of Riverdale Area. (Detail of Map 19: "Map of the Town of Yonkers" in F. W. Beers. Atlas of New York and Vicinity. F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis & G. G. Soule: New York. 1868.)

- 11: Map of Riverdale Area. (Detail of Map 21: "Map of the Town of Yonkers" in F. W. Beers. Atlas of New York and Vicinity. F. W. Beers, A. D. Ellis & G. G. Soule: New York. 1868.)
- 12: Map of Riverdale Area. (Detail from Map of the Northern portion of the City of New York... Issued by Potter Brothers, Brokers. Croes & Van Winkle: New York. 1873.)
- 13: Topographical Map of Riverdale Area. (Parks Department. Topographical Map made from survey by the Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks of the City of New York of the part of Westchester County adjacent to the City and the County of New York. Parks Department: New York. 1873.)
- 14: Detail of Riverdale Area. (Map of a Portion of Yonkers and the 24th Ward. F. W. Beers. Atlas of the Hudson River Valley from New York City to Troy... Watson & Co.: New York. 1891.)
- 15: Land of Order of the Living Christ (Chapel Farm Site). (Detail from Goroge W. Bromley & Walter S. Bromley. Atlas of the City of New York: Borough of the Bronx. G. W. Bromley & Co.: Philadelphia, PA. 1924. Updated to 1932.)

FIGURES:

- 1: Archaeological sites in the Hudson Valley (Figure 1 in Funk. Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory. 1976. p. xiii,)
- 2: Cultural sequence in the Hudson Valley (Figure 27 in Funk. Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory. 1976. p. 306.)