54 Stone Street
Penthouse Suite
New York, New York 10004
212 514-9520

PHASE IB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT
OF PUBLIC SCHOOL 234
WASHINGTON STREET URBAN RENEWAL
PROJECT SITE 5C

Prepared For:
New York City Board of Education
28-11 Queens Plaza North
Long Island City, NY 11101

Prepared By:
William I. Roberts IV
Nancy A. Stehling
Greenhouse Consultants Inc.

November 1986

Greenhouse CONSULTANTS incorporated
Atlanta New York

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF PLATES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

William I. Roberts IV	-	Principal Investigator, Co-Author
Nancy A. Stehling	-	Laboratory Director, Artifact Analyst, Co-Author
Michael W. Davenport	-	Cartographer
Stephen Zingone	-	Field Technician
Alfred G. Cammisa	-	Field Technician, Laboratory Technician
Allen M. Drost	-	Field Technician
Gregor Szurnicki	-	Field Technician
George J. Myers Jr.	-	Computer Data Processing
Joshua Nefsky	-	Artifact Photographer
Sasha Stollman	-	Conservator
Mindy H. Washington	-	Word Processing
Anna V. Farkas	-	Plate Layout

PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING REPORT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL 234 WASHINGTON STREET URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT SITE 5C

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological testing of Public School 234, the Washington Street Urban Renewal Project (Site 5C), was planned to use two techniques in order to recover two distinct data sets. The investigation into the landfill and its associated fill retention structures was to be carried out by monitoring the contractor's foundation excavations, while the recovery of the sections through Washington Street and Bishop Lane was planned to utilize preliminary backhoe trenches followed by controlled manual excavation of test units. The following paragraphs describe the planned testing procedures as proposed by the Principal Investigator and approved by Dr. Sherene Baugher of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission staff.

The Landfill

Since the contents of the landfill on Site 5C were found to be generally similar to the samples recovered from the Shearson Site, the main purpose of the archaeological testing of Site 5C was to recover information about landfill retention structures (wharves, piers, bulkheads, sunken ships, etc.). This was to be accomplished by archaeological monitoring of the contractor's foundation excavations in parcels 85 and 86. The backhoe or other equipment used in the foundation excavations and the operators were to be supplied by the contractor. The monitoring archaeologist had the ability to stop the excavation at any point to photograph, record and draw archaeological features for as long as it might take to accomplish these tasks. It was possible that the excavation would be delayed in Parcels 85 and 86 for up to three days. If any discrete deposits were encountered within the landfill, the monitoring archaeologist had the authority to have a sample taken by the backhoe operator (one or two backhoe buckets) and placed on a nearby surface for screening through 1/4 inch mesh.

Washington Street and Bishop Lane

The sections through Washington Street and Bishop Lane were initially investigated by cutting two trenches completely across the streets at right angles to their axes, utilizing a backhoe and operator supplied by the contractor. When the trenches were cut through the lowest street surface identifiable, their sections were photographed, drawn and recorded. When this had been accomplished, the monitoring archaeologist and/or Principal Investigator planned to select the best portion of each section

where 5'x5' test units were to be positioned. These two test units were to be manually excavated using standard archaeological field procedures from the uppermost street surface down through the lowest identifiable street surface. All materials from these units were to be screened through 1/4 inch mesh.

The actual archaeological testing of the P.S. 234 site took place between 25 June and 4 August 1986. This testing was performed by Greenhouse Consultants Inc. for the Board of Education of the City of New York. A description of the testing performed is included below in the section on Field Methodology. Following this section are sections describing the stratigraphy encountered, the processing and analysis of the artifacts recovered, and the results of the testing. The final section of this report contains the conclusions and recommendations regarding the possibility of future archaeological work on this site.

FIELD METHODOLOGY

The archaeological field testing of the Public School 234 site that was actually performed was somewhat different than that proposed in the scope of work and outlined above. A description of the testing performed follows, with reasons why it differed from the proposed testing. Figure 1 provides the site location and Figure 2 the location of the monitoring (B) and the section through Washington Street (A).

The Landfill

Archaeological monitoring of the contractor's excavation into the landfill deposits beneath the basement floors of the now demolished structures was planned for Parcels 85 and 86 (lots 4 and 5). When the contractor began excavations at the P.S. 234 site, it became obvious that, due to the location and planned depth of the foundation excavation, virtually none of parcel 86 would be available for observation, but that nearly all of parcel 84 (lot 1) was available. For the simple reasons of expediency, it was decided to concentrate the monitoring effort on parcels 84 and 85 instead of 85 and 86. As the contractor's excavations proceeded east across the former line of Bishop Lane, (the southern part of parcel 116), The western half of parcel 93 (lot 15) also became available, so this area was also monitored. The monitoring consisted of one or occasionally two or three archaeologists closely watching the contractor's equipment (bulldozers, front-end loader and backhoe), removing in sequence the cellar fill, the basement floors, and finally the upper portion of the landfill. Artifacts were collected from the removed soil after it had been stockpiled at the west end of the site, and while it was in situ during the excavation. Additional artifacts were recovered from deposits exposed in the sections at the sides of the excavation. Occasionally, the monitoring archaeologist requested the backhoe operator to take a sample of a particular deposit. These samples were placed on relatively

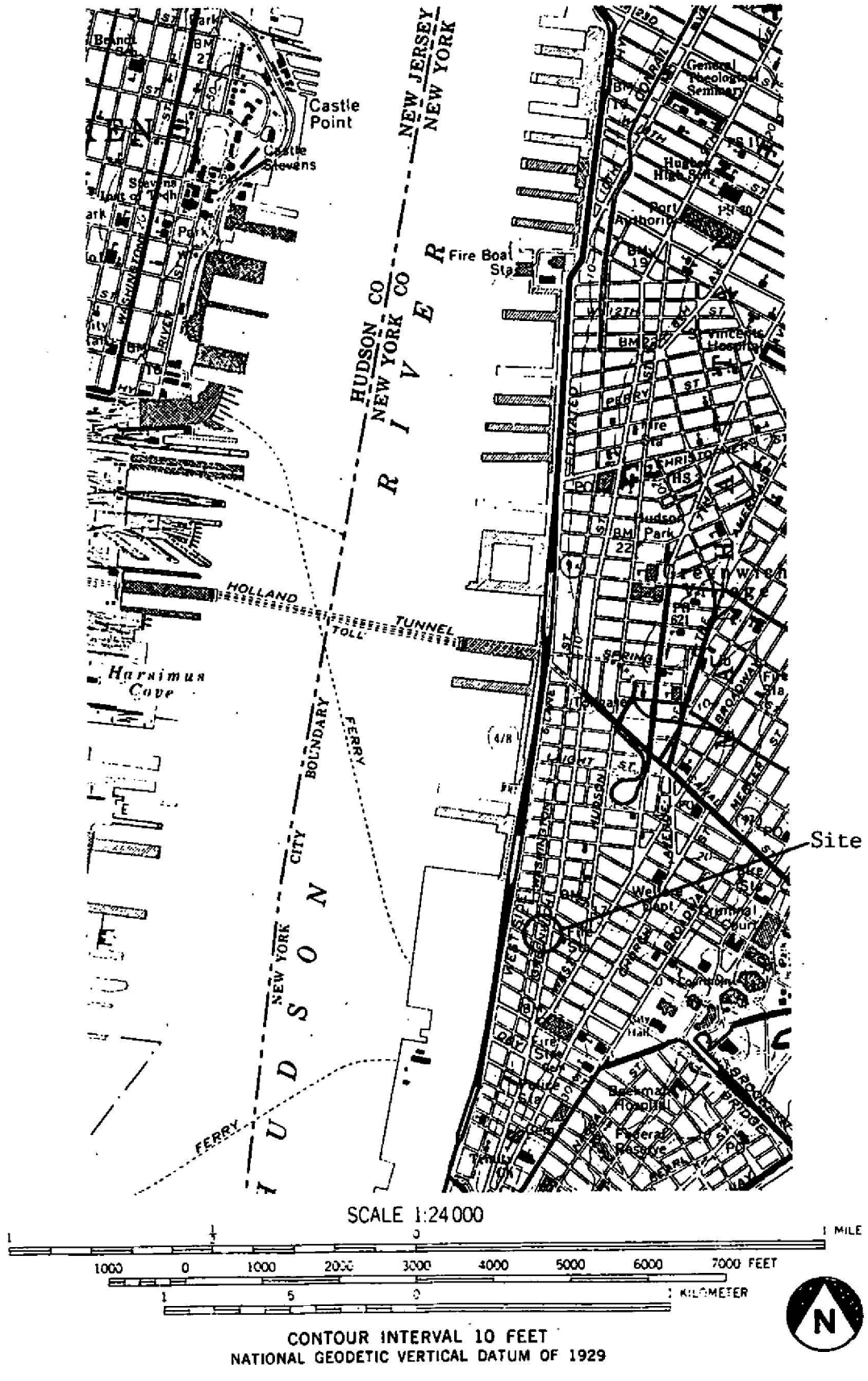

Figure 1: Site location shown on portion of USGS 7.5 minute series topographic Jersey City Quadrangle.

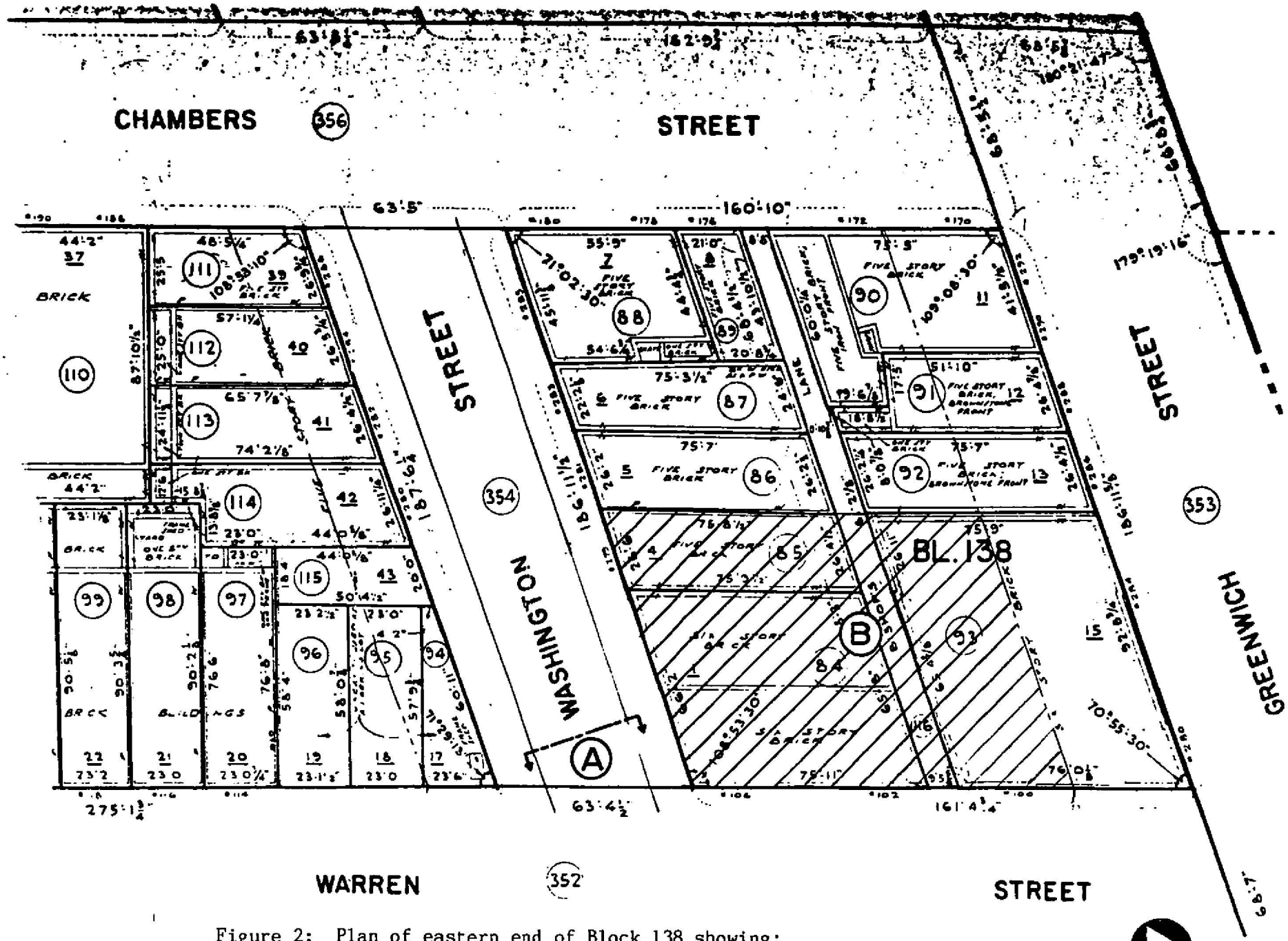

Figure 2: Plan of eastern end of Block 138 showing:
A. Location of section through Washington Street (See Figure 3)
B. Location of archaeological monitoring, indicated by hatchure.
Numbers in circles indicate parcel references.
Scale 1:500

clean areas of pavement where they were screened through 1/4 inch mesh. Soil samples were taken from selected contexts observed during the monitoring.

Washington Street and Bishop Lane

A trench approximately 3 feet wide by 35 feet long was cut at right angles to the axis of Washington Street by the contractor's backhoe. This trench was located approximately 50 feet south of the location proposed in the scope of work in order to cause a minimum of disturbance to the excavation contractor. This new location was considered by the Principal Investigator as equally well suited to investigating the former surfaces of Washington Street. When the backhoe trench across Washington Street was complete, it became apparent that two street pavements and two associated bedding deposits were preserved. Since these consisted of asphalt, stone, sand and concrete, and virtually no artifacts were observed in the surfaces or between them, it was decided that the proposed 5'x5' excavation unit would be unlikely to yield any relevant dating information. For this reason, no manual excavation was made into the course of Washington Street. A detailed section drawing was made of the south side of the backhoe trench, and soil samples were taken from selected contexts revealed. The removal of at least 75 feet of the course of Bishop Lane was observed by the monitoring archaeologist while the landfill deposits were being exposed. At no time during this task were possible surfaces of the former lane observed. The section revealed at the south side of the foundation excavation also failed to provide any evidence of the former lane. For this reason it was not possible to record a section through Bishop Lane or to manually excavate any portion of it.

STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

The stratigraphy for the P.S.234 site can be summarized as follows. A total of 44 context numbers were assigned to the various deposits encountered during the archaeological field testing. These were assigned to 5 components during the subsequent analysis. The term component (CMP) is used here as the next higher order of stratigraphic analysis above the context (CX), which is the minimal unit of stratigraphic recording. All contexts of a similar nature have been grouped together as a component, which represents a specific functional or temporal unit. For an explanation of the context recording system see Appendix 2.

Component 1: (5 Contexts total).
One context from Parcel 354, Washington St.:Cx. 48.
Two contexts from Parcel 84: Cx. 50, 103.
Two contexts from Parcel 93: Cx. 100, 102.

Interpretation: Landfill.
General Description: Dark brown coarse sand with many cobbles, pebbles and red brick fragments.
T.P.Q. is 1860, based on linoleum from Cx. 50.

Component 2: (3 Contexts total)
Two contexts from Parcel 84: Cx. 19, 101.
One context from Parcel 85: Cx. 14.
Interpretation: Building associated deposits including cellar floors, walls and foundations and builders' trenches.
General Description: Concrete floors, red brick and hard mortar walls and foundations, and a builders' trench filled with brown coarse sand with cobbles and pebbles.
T.P.Q. is 1834 based on plate glass from Cx. 101.

Component 3: (29 contexts total)
Eight contexts from Parcel 84: Cx. 11, 12, 17, 20, 28-30, 32.
Fourteen contexts from Parcel 85: Cx. 1-10, 13, 15, 16, 18.
Five contexts from Parcel 86: Cx. 21-25.
Two contexts from Parcel 93: Cx. 26 and 27.
Interpretation: Cellar fill.
General Description: Red brick, mortar and concrete rubble in a matrix of brown slightly silty sand, with occasional cinders, ashes and wood fragments.
T.P.Q. is 1893 based on an electrical insulator from Cx. 2.

Component 4: (6 Contexts total)
Six contexts from Parcel 354, Washington Street: Cx. 41-43, 45-47.
Interpretation: Deposits associated with Washington Street including pavements, bedding and curbs.
General Description: Macadam and granite block pavements, sand and concrete pavement beddings, stone and steel curbs.
T.P.Q. is 1817 based on the concrete of Cx. 47 (McKee 1973).

Component 5: (1 Context only)
One context from Parcel 354, Washington Street: Cx. 44.
Interpretation: Service trench cut into Washington Street.
General Description: Dark reddish brown silty sand with red brick rubble and occasional pieces of asphalt.
No datable artifacts were recovered from CMP5, but its stratigraphic position indicates a date of post-1817.

ARTIFACT PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Artifact Processing and Inventory

Subsequent to the fieldwork, all recovered materials were washed, marked, stabilized and catalogued in the Greenhouse laboratory. The conservator was able to examine materials as they came through the cleaning process in order to remove the objects that would not be able to withstand the rigors of the standard process.

The majority of artifacts were washed in room temperature tap water with added ORVUS paste (modified sodium lauryl sulfate), which is a non-ionic detergent. Harsh detergents leave an alkali residue of not completely rinsed away, and will chemically attack certain artifacts (the overglazed decoration on porcelain for example). ORVUS is a mild, free-rinsing surface active agent with a low pH of 6.3. Metal artifacts were systematically dewatered by submersion in acteone immediately after rinsing. Other cleaning techniques were performed when necessary by the Conservator and Laboratory Director. The drying procedure was dependent upon the condition and material class of the artifact. The standard procedure employed was slow air drying on screens in the laboratory artifact processing area.

All recovered materials were then catalogued according to The National Park Service Cultural Material DataBase Taxonomy (see Appendix 1). All historic artifacts were coded as to group, class and material. All diagnostic historic artifacts consisting of glass, ceramics and pipe fragments were dated based on the stylistic and technical criteria according to their TPQ (terminus post quem, or beginning date of manufacture). The TPQ provided a time frame for establishing the initial date after which the deposit had to have been laid down.

Subsequent to cataloguing, all artifacts were then computer inventoried on the micro-computer data base system, which provided sorted catalogues with totals and dates for each excavated group of artifacts by units of stratigraphic association. The final inventory is reproduced on paper and appears as Appendix 1, as well as stored as an ASCII file readable on IBM compatible hardware and other software programs.

Artifact Analysis

A total of 136 artifacts were recovered from the Washington Street archaeological monitoring. Three of the five identified components contained finds, most of which were recovered from Component 1, the landfill. Ceramics were the most prevalent class of artifact recovered from these three components. Bottle glass, kaolin pipes fragments, and architectural demolition debris were all encountered. No faunal or floral artiacts were recovered from the samples. Architectural debris such as red and yellow brick, mortar and a portion of the concrete floors were sampled during the monitoring. All TPQ date references are cited in the inventory and are not duplicated in the following discussion.

Component 1: The Landfill

This component contained a total of 46 artifacts. The TPQ for this component is 1860, based on the presence of linoleum from Cx. 50. Its ceramic TPQ date is 1844, based on the presence of flow-blue transfer printed whiteware. The ceramic assemblage, however, represents the late 17th century through the mid-19th century. Included are varied lead glazed redwares, red bodied slipware, gray salt glazed stonewares, hand painted porcelain, buff bodied slipwares (TPQ 1680), white salt glazed stoneware (TPQ 1720), creamware (TPQ 1762), various styles of pearlwares (TPQ 1780) and transfer printed whitewares (TPQ 1830). Pipestems and a pipebowl, bottle glass and yellow brick fragments were also identified. The last half of the 19th century was represented by linoleum and porcelain bathroom tile fragments in Cx. 50. A sherd of bisque, or unglazed buff bodied earthenware, was recovered from Cx. 50. (See Plates 2 and 3)

Component 2: Building Associated Deposits

This component contained 37 artifacts, most of which were construction/destruction related. For example, cement, window glass, red bricks, plate glass, and porcelain bathroom tiles were recovered. Bottle glass, ceramics, pipestems, a coin or token, milk glass and a bicycle wheel spoke were also identified. The TPQ for this component is 1834, based on the presence of plate glass. The diagnostic ceramics range from the 17th century through the 19th century, including delftware (TPQ 1640), buff bodied slipware (TPQ 1680), Nottingham stoneware (TPQ 1700), blue painted pearlware (TPQ 1780) and undecorated whiteware (TPQ 1820). Undated salt glazed stoneware crock fragments and blue painted porcelain were also recovered. The coin or token is copper alloy, 3cm in diameter and is too covered by corrosion products to be legible. (See Plates 3 and 4)

Component 3: Cellar Fill

This component contained 45 artifacts representing a wide array of artifact classes. Ceramics, bottle glass, pipestems, window glass, brick, hardware and an electrical insulator were identified. The TPQ for this component is 1893, based upon this insulator. It is brown glazed porcelain and it features drip points on its base, which prevented the accumulation of moisture on the interior. This insulator feature was patented in 1893. (According to Auburn 1971:17, glass insulators were used for telephone and telegraph lines and pottery was generally used for power lines). A whole aqua beverage bottle was recovered, TPQ 1881, based on its manufacture technique. It was produced by a semi-automatic bottle machine and has a blob-top finish. The

ceramics again range from the late 17th century through to the mid-19th century (see inventory). The ceramic TPQ is 1850, based on the presence of embossed ironstone, which does not occur in components 1 and 2. A sherd of bisque, or unglazed buff bodied earthenware, was recovered from Cx. 28. (See Plates 6 through 9)

The three components can be summarized as follows: Component 1 contains mostly ceramics, ranging in date from the late 17th century through the Mid 19th century. Component 2 contains the greatest amount of architectural debris encountered during the monitoring. Component 3 displays the greatest array of artifact classes and represents, as expected, the most recent depositional episode.

RESULTS

The Landfill

Component 1, the landfill deposits, was dated by one small piece of linoleum recovered from Cx. 050. This artifact yielded a Terminus Post Quem of 1860 (Encyclopedia Brittanica 1964:457b). This is approximately 70 years later than the 1790-1797 dates of landfilling found in the documentary evidence (Roberts et al 1986:7). This tends to indicate that Cx. 050 was contaminated in some manner prior to or during its excavation.

Two possible explanations of this apparent contamination appear likely:

1. artifacts dropped through the broken concrete cellar floor from the cellar fill above (Cmp 3) during the excavation of these lower deposits by backhoe and bulldozer.
2. the artifacts in question were trampled into the exposed surface of the landfill during the construction and/or subsequent modification of the buildings in Parcel 84 (originally lots 1 - 3) during the 19th century, and therefore originated in Cmp 2.

If Cx. 050 is eliminated from Component 1 for dating purposes, the TPQ then becomes 1680 based on a sherd of buff bodied slipware from Cx. 100. This obviously presents no possibility of contradiction with the dates from the documentary evidence. No evidence of fill retention structures was seen during the monitoring of the excavation of the landfill deposits in Parcels 84, 93, and 354 (originally lots 1, 2, 3, 15, 15 1/2, 16, 16 1/2 and under Washington Street). Although no deposits such as wasters or kiln furniture were recovered, two bisque earthenware sherds were recovered from Component 1 (Cx. 050) and Component 3 (Cx. 028). It is possible that these sherds represent evidence of the pottery owned by Abraham Wilson located opposite the Public School 234 site at 90 Greenwich Street (Roberts et al 1985:25-27). Visual and microscopic comparison of these bisque sherds with known products of Wilson's pottery might provide evidence that these finds from the landfill beneath Block 138 were produced by Wilson.

Building Related Deposits

The building related deposits consist of those derived from construction and modification of the structures, Component 2, and those derived from their demolition, Component 3.

Component 2, the deposits related to building construction and modification, was dated by the presence of plate window glass in Cx. 101, which yielded a TPQ date of 1834 (Peterson 1976). The majority of the artifacts recovered from this component were probably related to building construction which is not suprising considering the contexts from which they were recovered. The date range of the artifacts recovered from the archaeological testing of Component 2 is also what one would expect given the history of building construction for lots 1, 2, and 3.

Component 3, the cellar fill deposits, was dated by the presence of a porcelain electrical insulator in Cx. 002, which yielded a TPQ of 1893 (Auburn 1971). This date is considerably earlier than that of 1969 which is the probable date of demolition indicated by the documentary research (Roberts et al 1986:3). This disparity was probably caused by biases introduced due to the nature of artifact recovery for Cmp 3. Since the cellar fill deposits were not screened and only visually obvious artifacts were collected, it is probable that various 20th century items were included in these deposits but were not collected.

Washington Street and Bishop Lane

The courses of both Washington Street and Bishop Lane were investigated by backhoe excavations during the course of this archaeological testing program. Two former surfaces of Washington Street were observed and recorded, but no evidence of the former Bishop Lane was seen at all. The contexts recorded in the section cut through Washington Street were analyzed as Component 4, street surfaces and bedding deposits, and Component 5, service trench. (See Figure 3 for a section drawing of these deposits) No artifacts were recovered from these components, so the only dating evidence is based on the fact that the lowest and therefore earliest deposit in Cmp 4, Cx. 047, consisted of unreinforced concrete. This provides a TPQ of 1817 (McKee 1973:68) for Cx. 047 and the remainder of Cmp 4. Therefore the Belgian block pavement of Washington Street, Cx. 042, could date from virtually any time after 1817 and prior to the demapping of this portion of the street by 1939 (Roberts et al 1986:6). The only later pavement of Washington Street recorded is the asphalt of Cx. 041. It is likely that this reflects the use of the area as a parking lot from circa 1969 to early 1986. Component 5, the service trench under Washington Street, was cut from the surface of Cx. 42, and therefore must be post-1817. It probably represents the 21 inch diameter sewer line which documents indicate was probably installed after 1870 (Roberts et al 1986:4-5).

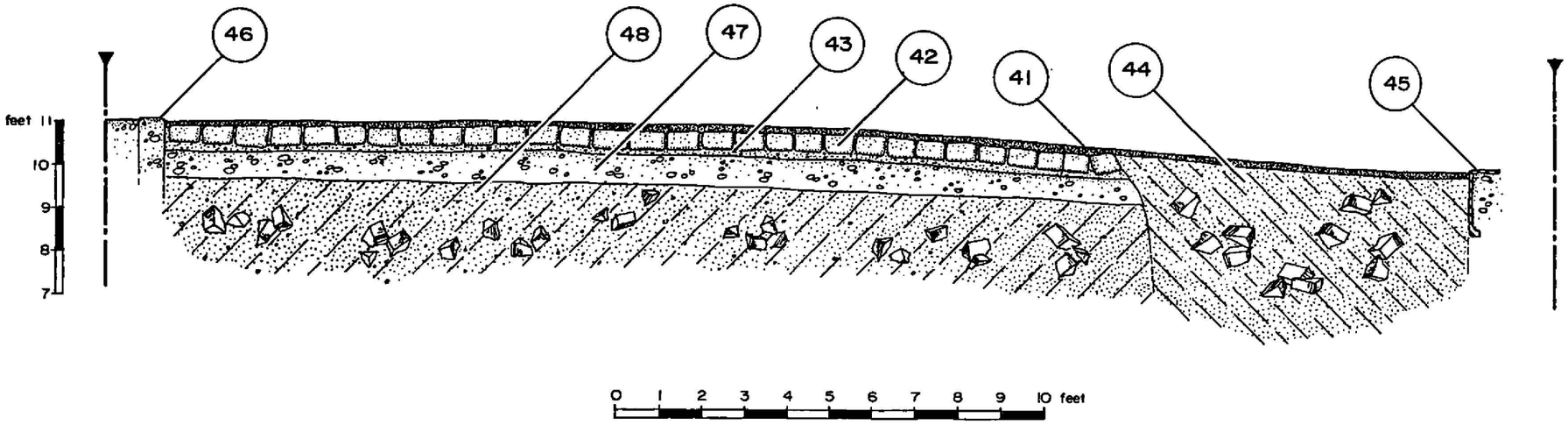

Figure 3: South section of trench through Washington Street, vertical datum is US Coast and Geodetic Survey mean sea level at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, which is 2.75 feet below the Borough of Manhattan datum.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This final report documents the procedures and results of the Stage IB testing within the Public School 234 Washington Street Urban Renewal Project Site 5C. Based on this objective ground testing, and in accordance with the dictates of the scope of work, it is now possible to make concrete recommendations that:

1. no potentially significant archaeological or historical resources are present within the Public School 234 Washington Street Urban Renewal Project 5C impact zone, and

2. additional testing is not necessary and no Stage II/III work is recommended.

PLATE 1: View looking west of foundation excavation showing vaulting under sidewalk along east side of Washington Street in Parcel 84. Below the vault can be seen in section the cellar floor (Cmp 2) and the upper part of the landfill (Cmp 1).

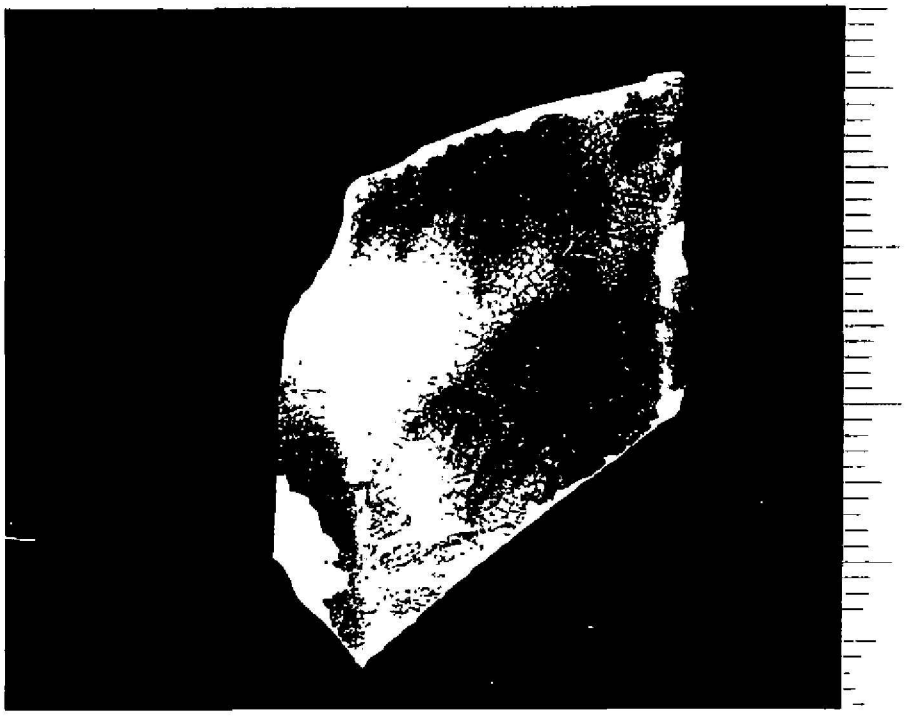

PLATE 2: Component 1, Cx. 50, TPQ 1844 (Lofstrom 1976), flow blue transfer printed whiteware body sherd.

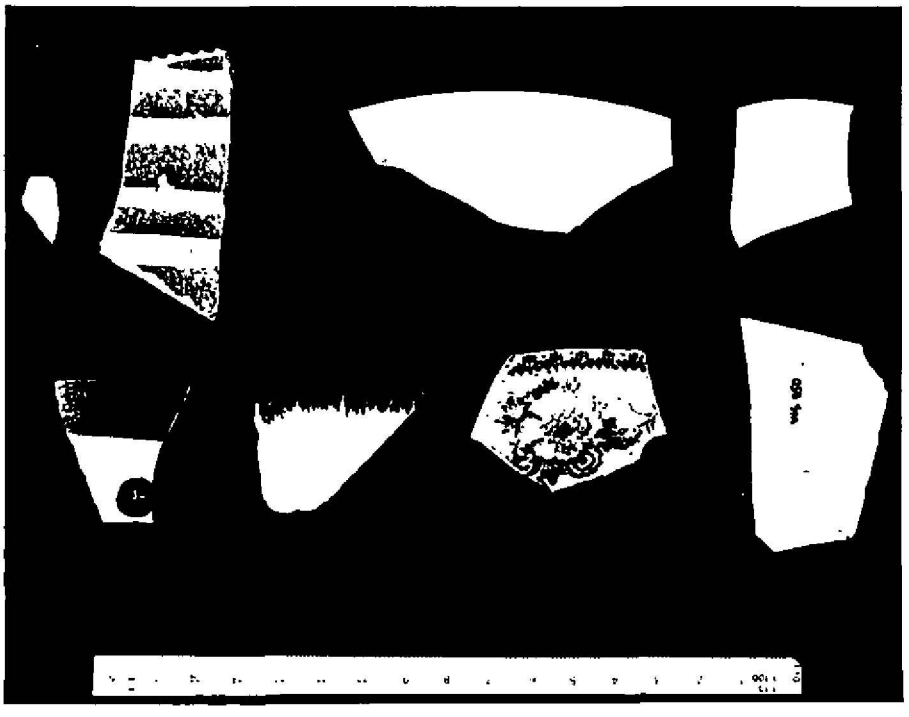

PLATE 3: Component 1, Cx. 50 range of variation, Left to right: Decorated delftware (TPQ 1640, Huey 1984), pie crust edge red trailed slipware, two white salt glazed stoneware (TPQ 1720, South 1972, Noel Hume 1976), hand painted pearlware (TPQ 1780, ibid), blue shell edge pearlware (TPQ 1780, ibid), transfer printed whiteware (TPQ 1830, Price 1979), ceramic tile.

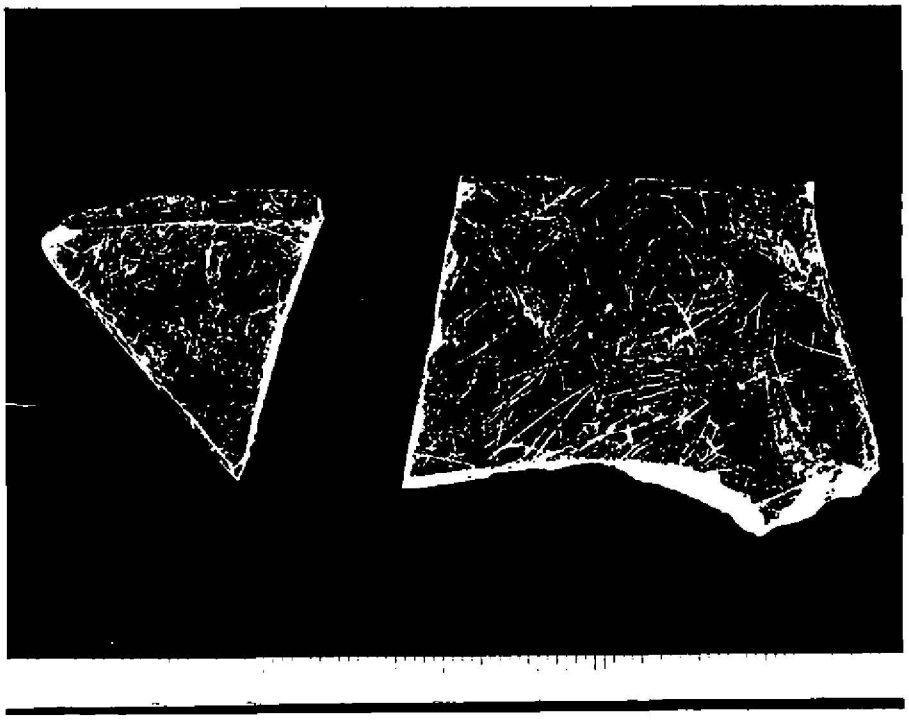

PLATE 4: Component 2, Cx. 101, TPQ 1834 (Peterson 1976), plate glass fragments.

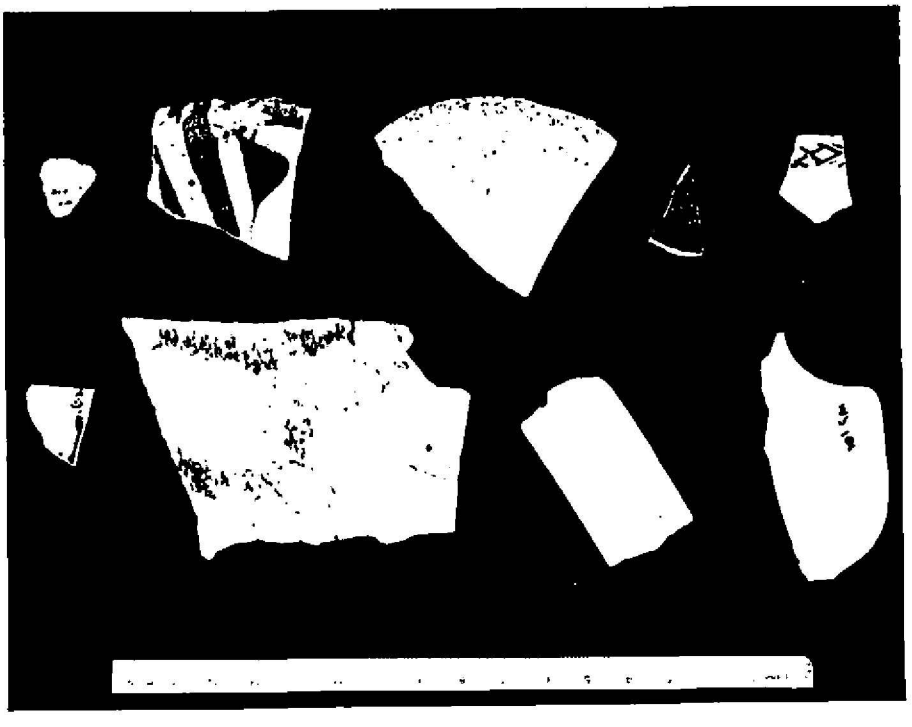

PLATE 5: Component 2, Cx. 101 range of variation, Left to right: Decorated delftware (TPQ 1640, Huey 1984), buff bodied trailed slipware rimsherd (TPQ 1680, ibid), buff bodied slipware base, possibly a posset pot (TPQ 1680, ibid), hard paste, hand-painted porcelain rimsherd, hand painted pearlware (TPQ 1780, South 1972, Noel Hume 1976), blue decorated gray salt glazed stoneware, plain whiteware handle (TPQ 1820, South 1972, Noel Hume 1976), porcelain fixture fragment.

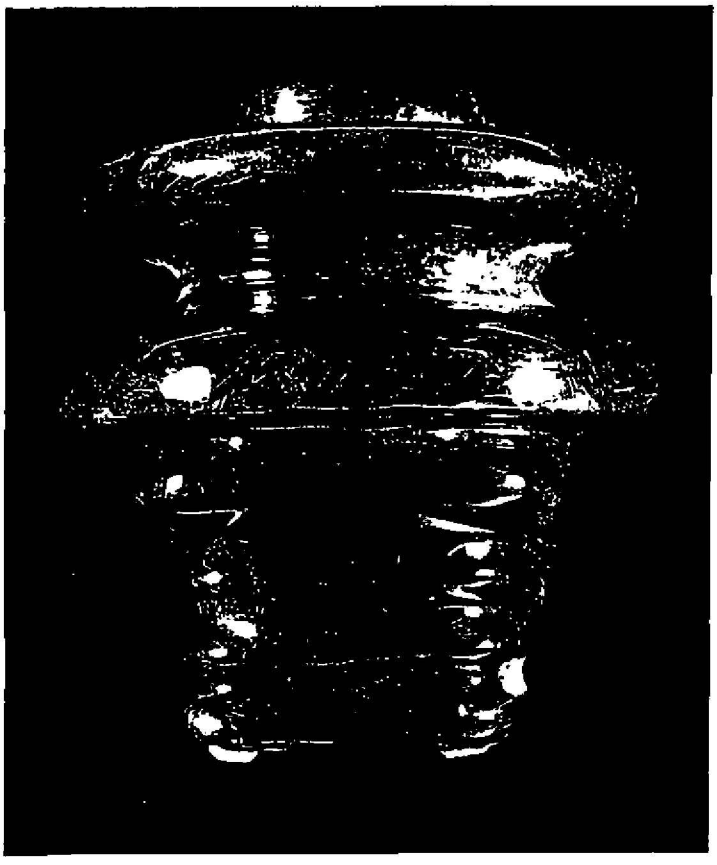

PLATE 6: Component 3, Cx. 002, TPQ 1893 (Auburn 1971) Brown porcelain insulator. Note drip points on base.

PLATE 7: Component 3, Cx. 001, 009, 003, 026. Variety of slip decorated wares recovered from the cellar fill, extreme left is buff bodied (TPQ 1680, Huey 1984).

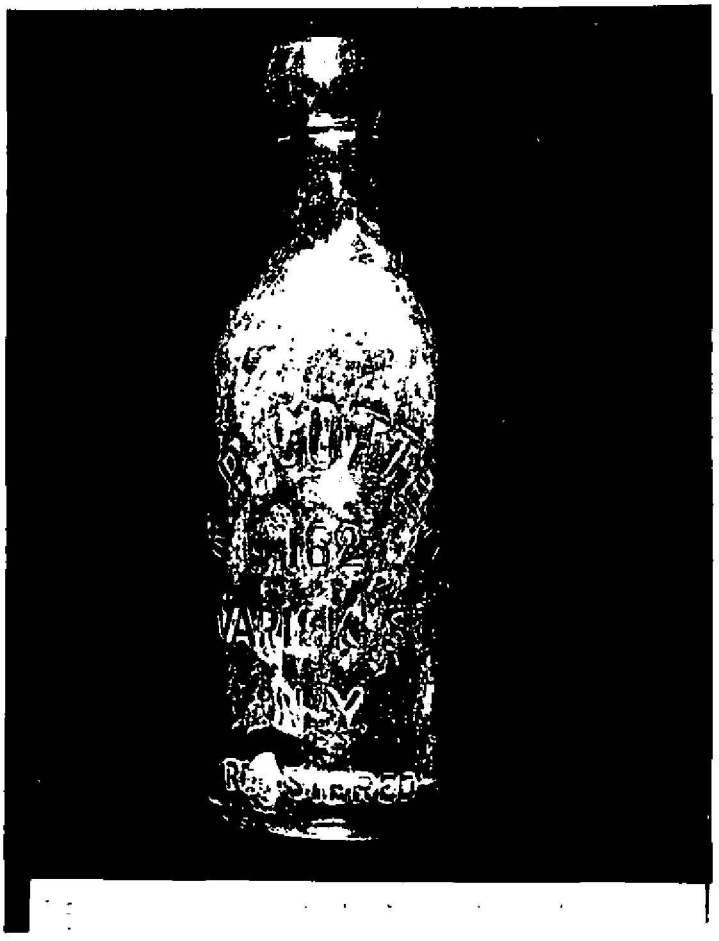

PLATE 8: Component 3, Cx. 018, TPQ 1881 (Lorrain 1968) Whole beverage bottle, semi-automatic machine made, blob-top finish, embossed "R.P. Cotter Varick St. N.Y. Registered".

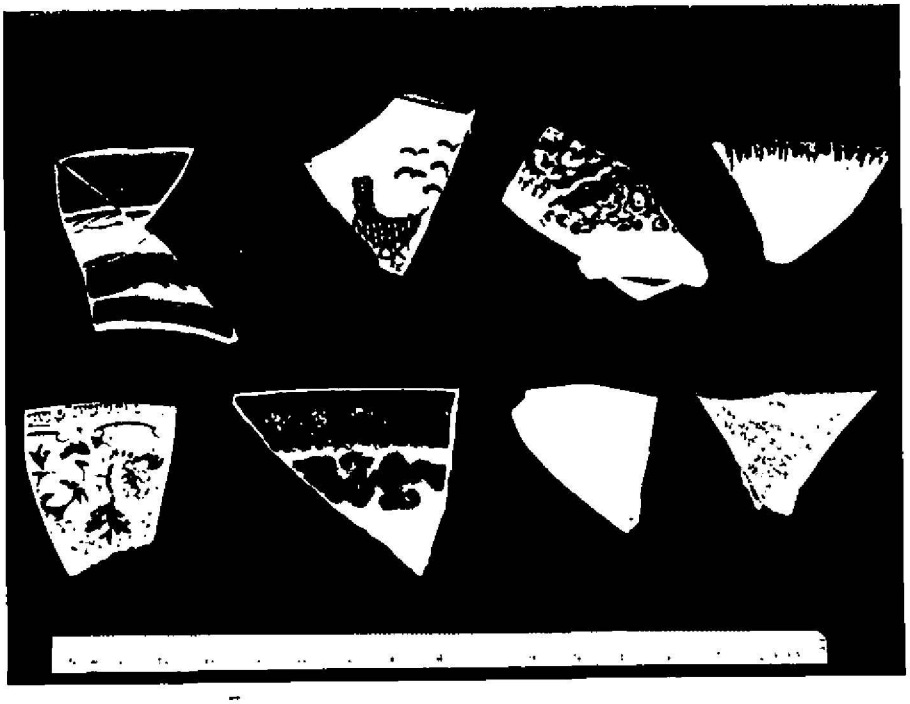

PLATE 9: Component 3, range of variation of ceramic types from the cellar fill. Left to right: Canton/Nanking hard paste porcelain (TPQ 1790, Huey 1984), hand painted pearlware (TPQ 1780, South 1972, Noel Hume 1976), transfer printed pearlware (TPQ 1795, ibid), blue shell edge whiteware (TPQ 1830, Price 1979), transfer printed whiteware (TPQ 1830, ibid), flow blue transfer printed whiteware (TPQ 1844, Lofstrom 1976), embossed ironstone (TPQ 1850, Price 1979), gray salt glazed stoneware.

C	CXNO	GR	CL	MAT	COU	TPQ	COMMENTS	REF	TECH
1	50.00	01	01	004	1	1844	FLOW BLUE WW	LOFSTROM,ET AL,76	
1	50.00	01	01	004	1	1830	TRANSFER PRINT WW	LOFSTROM,76;PRICE,79	BLUE FLORAL DEC
1	50.00	01	01	004	1	1820	PLAIN WW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	
1	50.00	01	01	004	1	1820	PLAIN UNDEC. WW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	BURNED?
1	50.00	01	01	004	1	1820	PLAIN WW	HUME,76; SOUTH,72	
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1795	TRANSFER PEARLWARE	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	BLUE DEC
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1780	GREEN SHELL EDGE PW	SUSSMAN,77	
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1780	UNDERGL BLUE PEARLWARE	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1780	UNDERGL BLUE PEARLW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	RIMSHERD
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1780	BLUE SHELL EDGE PW	SOUTH,72 HUME,76	
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1780	BLUE PAINTED PW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	
1	50.00	01	01	003	3	1762	UNDEC CREAMWARE	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	HOLLOWARE
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	1762	UNDEC CREAMWARE	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	HOLLOWARE
1	50.00	01	01	002	2	1720	WHITE SLT GLZ SW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	
1	100.00	01	01	003	1	1680	BUFF BODIED SLIPWARE	HUEY,84	BODY SHERD
1	50.00	01	01	001	1	0	BLUE PAINTED PORCELAIN		
1	50.00	01	01	001	2	0	PORCELAIN		
1	50.00	01	01	001	1	0	PAINTED PORCELAIN RIMSH		BLUE FLORAL DEC
1	50.00	01	01	002	1	0	BLUE DEC.GRAY SALTGL SW		
1	50.00	01	01	002	1	0	GRAY SLT GLZ SW		
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	0	RED EW-BROWN LEAD GL		
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	0	RED BODIED SLIPWARE		TRAILED WHT PCE
1	50.00	01	01	003	2	0	RED BODIED SLIPWARE		TRAILED WHT PCE
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	0	UNGLAZED EARTHENWARE		
1	50.00	01	01	003	2	0	SLIP DEC REDWARE		PIE CR. EDGE
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	0	DECORATED DELFTWARE		
1	50.00	01	01	003	1	0	LEAD GLZ RED EW		
1	50.00	01	02	078	1	0	DK GREEN BOTTLE BASE		PROB. WINE
1	50.00	01	02	078	1	0	GREEN GLASS		VASE OR GIN BOT
1	50.00	01	02	078	1	0	BOTTLE GLASS		AQUA COLOR
1	50.00	03	06	003	2	0	BATHROOM TILE:1PINK,1WHIT		
1	50.00	03	06	101	1	0	LINOLEUM		
1	50.00	03	06	155	1	0	YELLOW BRICK		
1	50.00	03	06	155	1	0	YELLOW BRICK		
1	50.00	08	01	062	2	0	PIPESTEMS, 19TH CENTURY		LESS THAN 5/64
1	50.00	08	01	062	3	0	PIPESTEMS		5/64 BORE
1	50.00	08	01	062	1	0	PIPE BOWL		WHOLE
1	50.00	08	01	062	2	0	PIPESTEM		5/64 BORE,19 C
1	50.00	08	01	062	1	0	PIPESTEM		4/64 BORE;19C
1	100.00	01	01	002	1	0	BLUE DEC GRAY SLT GLZ SW		INCISED ROSETTE
1	100.00	03	06	069	1	0	YELLOW BRICK		
1	102.00	01	01	003	1	0	YELLOW GLZ REDWARE		
1	103.00	01	01	003	1	0	BROWN GL REDWARE		
2	101.00	03	06	078	2	1834	PLATE WINDOW GLASS	PETERSON,76	
2	101.00	01	02	004	1	1820	PLAIN WW HANDLE	SOUTH,72;HUME,76	
2	101.00	01	01	003	1	1780	UNDERGL BLUE PAINT. PW	SOUTH,72;HUME,76	CHINESE MOTIF
2	101.00	01	01	002	1	1700	NOTTINGHAM STONEW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	
2	101.00	01	01	003	1	1680	BUFF BODIED SLIPWARE	HUEY,84	TRAILED DEC
2	101.00	01	01	003	1	1640	DECORATED DELFTWARE	HUEY,84	BLUE DEC
2	14.00	03	06	069	1	0	WHOLE RED BRICK		W/ CEMENT CRUST
2	19.00	03	06	071	3	0	CEMENT		
2	101.00	01	01	002	1	0	BLUE DEC GRAY SLT GLZ SW		BODY SHERD
2	101.00	01	01	002	1	0	SLT GLZ SW		
2	101.00	01	01	002	1	0	GRAY SLT GLZ SW		COBALT BLUE DEC

C	CXND	GR	CL	MAT	COU	TPQ	COMMENTS	REF	TECH
2	101.00	01	01	003	1	0	UNDEC POSS. CREAMCOLOR W.		
2	101.00	01	01	001	1	0	BLUE PAINTED HP PORC		
2	101.00	01	02	002	1	0	DRAB SALTGLZ SW		CROCK BR SLIPIN
2	101.00	01	02	013	2	0	MILK GLASS		
2	101.00	01	02	078	3	0	BOTTLE GLASS FRAGS		APPEAR MODERN
2	101.00	01	02	078	3	0	DEVIT. GREEN BOTTLE GLASS		
2	101.00	03	01	078	1	0	WINDOW GLASS, ETC.		MOLDED
2	101.00	03	01	078	3	0	WINDOW GLASS		1 AQUA, 2 CLEAR
2	101.00	03	06	001	1	0	BATHROOM TILE		PORCELAIN
2	101.00	03	06	001	1	0	PORC. BATHROOM		FIXTURE
2	101.00	03	06	003	1	0	BATHROOM TILE		EW
2	101.00	03	06	003	1	0	BATHROOM TILE		EW
2	101.00	07	01	028	1	0	COIN		
2	101.00	08	01	062	2	0	PIPESTEMS		5/64 BORE
2	101.00	09	03	028	1	0	BICYCLE SPOKE		
3	2.00	09	00	001	1	1893	ELECTRICAL INSULATOR	AUBURN;1971;18	DRIP POINTS
3	18.00	01	02	078	1	1881	WHOLE BEV. BOTTLE	LORRAINE, 68	SEMI-AUTO BLBTP
3	24.00	01	01	004	1	1850	EMBOSSED IRONSTONE	PRICE,79	FLORAL RIMSH.
3	25.00	01	01	004	1	1850	POLYCHROME WW	PRICE,79	FLORAL BASESH
3	29.00	01	01	004	1	1844	FLOW BLUE WW	LOFSTROM,76	RIMSHERD
3	1.00	01	01	004	1	1830	BLUE SHELL EDGE WW	PRICE,79	
3	7.00	01	01	004	1	1830	TRANSFER PRINT WW	PRICE,79	
3	11.00	01	01	004	1	1830	SHELL EDGED WW	PRICE,79	
3	23.00	01	01	004	1	1820	PLAIN WW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	
3	6.00	01	01	003	5	1795	TRANSFER PRNT. PW	SOUTH,72; HUME,76	BLUE FLORAL
3	10.00	01	01	003	1	1795	POLYCHR DEC PEARLW	SOUTH,72;HUME,76	BROWN FLORAL
3	20.00	01	01	003	1	1795	TRANS. PRINTED PEARLW	SOUTH,72, HUME,76	SM. CUP BASE
3	5.00	01	01	001	4	1790	CANTON/NANKING HP	HUEY,84	
3	1.00	01	01	003	1	1680	BUFF BODIED SLIPWARE	HUEY,84	1/4 POSSET BASE
3	9.00	01	01	003	1	1680	BUFF-BODIED SLIPWARE	HUEY,84	COMBED
3	3.00	01	01	003	1	0	SLIP DEC REDWARE		
3	4.00	01	01	001	1	0	PAINTED PORCELAIN		CHINESE MOTIF
3	4.00	01	01	003	1	0	RED BODIED SLIPWARE		TRAILED DEC
3	8.00	03	06	115	1	0	YELLOW BRICK		
3	12.00	0*	08	078	1	0	BLUE GLASS		
3	13.00	08	01	062	1	0	CLAY PIPE STEM		4/6 BORE
3	15.00	03	01	078	4	0	WINDOW GLASS		STARBURST PATT.
3	16.00	03	01	078	2	0	WINDOW GLASS		
3	17.00	01	02	013	4	0	MILK GLASS		
3	21.00	08	01	062	1	0	PIPESTEM		5/64 BORE
3	22.00	01	01	002	1	0	BROWN SLT GLZ SW		
3	26.00	01	01	003	2	0	SLIP DEC REDWARE		
3	27.00	01	01	002	1	0	GRAY SLT GLZ SW		BODY SHERD
3	28.00	01	01	003	1	0	UNGLAZED EARTHENWARE		NO GLAZE
3	30.00	03	05	028	1	0	METAL WASHER		CU ALLOY

APPENDIX 2: THE CONTEXT SYSTEM

Including an example of the Context Recording Form

APPENDIX 2
THE CONTEXT SYSTEM

Complex strata were a possibility at the Public School 234 Washington Street Urban Renewal Project Site 5C, so a field recording system that could encompass this situation as well as the large number of surface finds expected, was required. Another requirement of the system was that it be compatible with computerized data management. It was with these requirements in mind that the field recording system used at the Public School 234 site was selected.

The stratigraphic recording system used at the site was derived from recent developments in British archaeological field methodology. In this system, the term Context is used to represent the minimal unit of stratification. On the Public School 234 site, this was the smalled observable natural stratigraphic deposit within a grid unit. A unique 3-digit Context number was used to identify each Context observed and described in the field. Contexts representing parts or all of strata are treated in exactly the same manner as those representing parts of all of the features. Each Context is given its own identifying Context number when initially described. It can then be interpreted as a feature or part of a stratum at any stage during the excavation or post-excavation stratigraphic analsis. In the case of deposits with a series of lenses or layers within a feature, decimal subdivisions of the Context number were employed (i.e. 397.02), to stress the relationship of these deposits as part of the same feature. This system can easily be used on a site where excavation by arbitrary stratigraphic units have been deemed necessary. The context was also used on the Fort Edward site to record the location of surface finds.

The primary record of each Context is the Context Recording Sheet. Most of the form should be self-explanatory. All the various slots and boxes were filled in immediately with the appropriate information by the excavator. Particular attention was paid to the accurate recording of the soil texture and inclusions, the Munsell color reading, and the various stratigraphic inter-relationships. An example of the Context Recording Sheet follows this text.

There are a number of advantages in the Context recording system. The use of only one number register to identify all varieties of soil deposits eliminates the premature interpretation of deposits that was necessary with many other recording systems. It is often difficult, if not impossible, to classify soil deposits when they are initially uncovered. Using the Context system,

deposits are simply assigned Context numbers and excavated. They can be interpreted or re-interpreted at any time during or after their excavation without any need to change their identifying Context number. This leads directly to the Context system's second advantage. There is no possibility of confusing numbers issued from one register with these from any others if there is only one number register used to record and identify soil deposits. Another advantage is derived from using this single identifying number not only for the soil deposits and its description, but also for all the artifacts from the deposit during all stages of their processing, analysis and curation. One further advantage is the ability to expand the system. The Context numbers are a potentially infinite sequence, so any size site or survey can be encompassed. The final advantage present here is that the Context system is a digital recording system. As such, it is immediately adaptable for computer entry and numerical data sorting.

CONTEXT NUMBER

SITE CODE ____ ____ ____ GRID UNIT N____ E____

CREW CHIEF _____

RECORDER _____

DATE ____/____/____

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X____.____ Y____.____ Z____.____

DIGGING TOOLS _____

Context Description (Composition, texture, inclusions) _____

Munsell Color _____

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # _____

Overlies Cx # _____

Cuts Cx # _____

Cut by Cx # _____

Abuts Cx # _____

Eqvlent to Cx # _____

INTERPRETATION

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

	B&W	COLOR
VERTICAL		
SECTION		
OBLIQUE		
GENERAL		

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #: _____

PLAN #: _____

Samples Taken:

Flotation _____

Soil _____ Other _____

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Auburn, Steve
1971 "A Primer for Insulator Collectors". Bottles and Relics, Vol. 2, No. 3, Pp. 16-20. Collectors World Publishing Company, Inc. Conroe, TX.

Encyclopedia Brittanica
1964 "Floor Coverings". 1964 Edition Volume 9 P. 457b Wm. Benton, Pub. Chicago, Illinois

Huey, Paul R.
1984 Personal Communication. Division for Historic Sites Preservation, Peebles Island, N.Y.

Lofstrom, Ted, Douglas C. George and Jeffrey P. Tordoff
1976 "A Seriation of Historic Earthenware in the Midwest 1780-1870". Paper presented at the Joint Plains-Midwest Anthropological Conference.

Lorrain, Dessame
1968 "An Archaeologist's Guide to Nineteenth Century Glass". Historical Archaeology, Vol. 2, Pp. 35-44.

McKee, Harley Jr.
1973 Introduction to Early American Masonry, Stone, Brick, Mortar and Plaster. National Trust/Columbia University, Washington D.C.

Noel Hume, Ivor
1976 A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America. Hawthorn Books, New York.

Peterson, Charles E. (ed).
1976 "Window Glass In America" by Kenneth M. Wilson. Carpenters Company Building Early America. Chilton Book Co., Radnor, PA.

Price, Cynthia R.
1979 "19th Century Ceramics in the Eastern Ozark Region". Monograph Series #1, 1st Edition. Center for Archaeological Research. Southwest Missouri State Univeristy.

Roberts, William I. IV

1986 Washington Street Urban renewal Project Site 5C, Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Analysis Revised Report. March, 1986. Greenhouse Consultants Inc., N.Y., N.Y.

South, Stanley
1972 "Evolution and Horizon as Revealed in Ceramics Analysis in Historical Archaeology". The Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology 1972, Vol. 6(2):71-106.

Sussman, Lynne
1977 Changes in Pearlware Dinnerware 1780-1830. Historical Archaeology Vol. 11, Pp. 105-111.