PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
THE 641 WEST 59TH STREET SITE
TV CITY PROJECT
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Phase IB Archaeological Survey is to provide evidence regarding the presence or absence of archaeological resources on the 641 West 59th Street project area. It was concluded in our Phase IA Sensitivity Study on this project (Roberts & Zakalak 1987), that this location potentially preserved remains of mid-19th century industrial buildings associated with the Hamersley Forge and later bone black manufactory. After operations ceased at the bone black manufactory, a larger structure was built for the Union Stock Yards and Market, sometime between 1871 and 1882. This structure covered over half of the block and remained intact until sometime in the 20th century, when its eastern end was demolished and the upper floors of its central portion rebuilt. This structure now occupies the central portion of the block while paved parking areas cover the remainder to the east and west (ibid).

The project parcel is located within the block bounded by 59th and 60th Streets and 11th and 12th Avenues, in Manhattan, New York. The site includes the standing structure at 641 West 59th Street and the present parking lot to the east. See Figure 1 for the location plan.

This report is organized in the following manner: first, this introductory section describing the purpose of the survey and the location of the project area; second, a section describing the subsurface testing conducted; third, a section describing the stratigraphy observed; fourth, a section on the processing and analysis of the artifacts recovered; fifth, a section describing the results of this survey; and finally, the conclusions and recommendations. A quantified inventory of all artifacts recovered during this survey is included here as Appendix 1.

FIELD TESTING

The subsurface testing of the 641 West 59th Street project parcel began on May 19, 1987 and was concluded on May 28, 1987. The subsurface testing included mechanically excavated trenches, as this was deemed to be the most efficient method of investigating the deposits potentially buried beneath the basement floor of the former stockyards structure. This Phase IB testing was limited to the parking lot east of the
Figure 1 TV City property (indicated by bold line) shown on 1982 New York City Mapped Streets: Section 8. Black rectangle in southeast corner indicates the location of the study area.
Figure 2: Parking lot east of standing structure showing existing conditions with locations of principal brick structures taken from Dripps 1854 and Perris 1862 maps.
Figure 3 Map of existing conditions showing location of Northern and Southern trenches.
Figure 4  West section drawing of northern trench.
standing structure at 641 West 59 Street, so that a minimum of
disturbance would be caused to its tenants. As demonstrated in the
Phase IA report (Roberts & Zakalak 1987:9-10) and as presented here in
Figure 2, the majority of the principal structures associated with the
Hamersley Forge are located under the parking lot which replaced the now
demolished east end of the stockyard's structure.

The actual subsurface testing performed included two backhoe trenches.
As a preliminary effort to provide access to the buried deposits that
required examination, an area of 25 feet by 100 feet was opened and
mechanically excavated to the depth of the basement floor of the former
stockyard building, providing for slopes on the sides to alleviate
potential subsidence. At this point, test trenches were begun in order
to examine the deposits below the floor. Two trenches were excavated
along a line running north to south. The southern trench was
approximately 3'x12' and the northern trench was approximately 4'x8'.
The latest basement floor located (prior to the demolition of the east
end of the structure) was found to be of concrete (Cx. 102). When this
floor was broken and removed, a second, earlier floor, constructed of
Belgian block paving stones (Cx. 103) was revealed. This stone floor
was set into a layer of clean sand (Cx. 104) and probably represents the
original cellar floor of the late-19th century stockyard structure.

The macadam surface of the parking lot (Cx. 100) and the rubble fill of
the cellar (Cx. 101) were found in both test trenches, as were Cx. 9's
102-104. Below Cx. 104 was an obviously burnt rubble deposit which was
designated Cx. 105 and Cx. 107 in the south and north trenches. Below
Cx. 107 in the northern test trench were a series of deposits. A thin
clay lens, Cx. 111, was found to seal a deposit of relatively clean
silty sand, Cx. 108, and north of Cx. 108 was an unmortared schist
wall, Cx. 113. To the north of the wall and directly beneath Cx. 111
was Cx. 112, a loose sandy silt with gravel and clay inclusions which
extended down to the base of Cx. 113. Below Cx. 108 and also extended
to as deep as Cx. 112 and 113 was Cx. 109, a silt sand which had no
inclusions. Below Cx. 109, 112 and 113 was Cx. 110. This silty sand
with inclusions of gravel, pebbles, schist and brick fragments was
exposed at the bottom of the northern test trench but not extensively
evacuated as damp conditions were encountered about 0.2 feet below the
surface of this context.

STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

All soils encountered throughout the Phase IB testing were recorded on
pre-printed forms. The descriptions included soil texture and
inclusions, and color. All specific references used are taken from the
Munsell Soil Color Charts. Soil samples were taken from each soil
variety excavated for examination in the laboratory. The recording
system was used throughout both stages of the archaeological testing is known as the Context System. It is described in Appendix 3. Each individual deposit was assigned a Context number (Cx.). Decimal subdivisions of these numbers were used to represent horizontal subdivisions within a given context. The 16 decimal contexts were analyzed and assigned to 4 components.

The term Component has been used here as the next higher order of stratigraphic analysis above the context, which is the minimal unit of stratigraphic recording. All contexts of similar nature have been grouped together as a component, which therefore represents a unit of relative contemporaneity. Since both the test trenches were located within a reasonable distance from one another, they were analyzed using components common to both test trenches if they included appropriate contexts.

Component 1: 2 contexts, Cx. 100, 101.
Interpretation: Deposits post-dating the demolition of the eastern end of the former stockyards structure.
Description: Macadam parking lot surface and rubble fill of cellar.
Color Range: Brown to 7.5 YR 2/0 Black.

Component 2: 4 contexts, Cx. 102-104, 106.
Interpretation: Deposits associated with the stockyards structure.
Description: Concrete floors, Belgian block (stone) floor, sand make-up for stone floor, and lens of burnt debris between floors.
Color Range: Black through very dark grey, grey to grey-brown to 10 YR 5/4 yellow brown.

Component 3: 9 contexts, Cx. 105.01-105.03, 107-109, 111-113.
Interpretation: Deposits associated with the Hamersley Forge and/or bone black manufactory.
Description: Ranges from clay and sandy silt with no inclusions to silty sand with few inclusions to silt dense with slag, charcoal and burnt wood rubble. Also includes unmortared schist wall.
Color Range: 5 YR 5/6 yellowish red through 10 YR 5/4 yellow brown, 10 YR 5/3 brown, 10 YR 3/3 dark brown and 10 YR 3/2 very dark grey brown to 10 YR 2/1 black.

Component 4: 1 context, Cx. 110
Interpretation: Deposit(s) pre-dating the Hamersley Forge.
Description: Silty sand with some pebbles, gravel and schist fragments.
Color Range: 10 YR 5/2 grey brown.
ARTIFACT PROCESSING, ANALYSIS AND INVENTORY

Subsequent to all fieldwork, all recovered materials were washed, marked, stabilized, and catalogued in the Greenhouse laboratory. 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 if not completely rinsed away, and will chemically attack certain artifacts (the overglazed decoration on porcelain, for instance). ORVUS is a mild and free-rinsing surface active agent with a low pH of 6.3. Metal artifacts were systematically dewatered by submersion in acetone immediately after rinsing. Bones recovered were usually dry brushed, unless they were recovered from a damp context. 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 processing area.

All recovered materials were then catalogued according to the National Park Service Cultural Material Data Base taxonomy for artifacts (see Appendix 1). All historic artifacts were coded as to group, class, and material. All diagnostic historic artifacts such as glass and ceramics 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 cataloging, all artifacts were then computer inventoried on the micro-computer data base system. 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:

Component 1, the macadam parking lot surface and rubble fill of the cellar did not yield any historic artifacts. The cellar fill, which was as deep as 13 feet at the eastern end of the block, was mixed rubble and 20th century debris. This was noted, but not collected.

Component 2, the deposits associated with the stockyards structure. These cellar floor deposits did not yield any diagnostic artifacts. The only artifacts noted were the stone paving blocks.

Component 3, the deposits associated with either the Forge or bone black manufactory, produced all the artifacts recovered during the testing. Of the nine Contexts identified as Component 3, only three, Contexts 105.01, .02 and .03 contained artifacts. A total of 44 finds were recovered; 10 from 105.01; 27 from 105.02; and 7 from 105.03. The historic artifacts recovered from these three contexts represent one
deposit separated by horizontal divisions within the test trench, according to the imposed site grid. The finds consist of construction/destruction debris, probably industrial refuse and associated occupation related material. Construction debris finds included brick fragments, mortar, window glass, plate glass and tar paper. Industrial refuse finds included slag, cinders and coal. The slag may represent refuse from the operation of the Hamersley Forge. Calcined bone was also found in this deposit, which may represent the refuse from the operations of the later bone black manufactory. The cinders and coal recovered could be associated with either industrial process once in operation on the block. Occupation related finds included ceramic sherds and shell fragments, which may also be associated with either industry mentioned above.

The historic ceramics recovered included hand-painted pearlware, TPQ 1780 (South 1972; Noel Hume 1976); undecorated whiteware, TPQ 1820 (ibid.); and transfer printed whiteware, TPQ 1830 (Price 1979). The TPQ for the deposit is 1835, based on the presence of press molded plate glass from Context 105.02.

In general, the artifacts were quite fragmentary and no horizontal or vertical patterns were noted in their distribution.

Component 4, the deposit which pre-dates the Hamersley Forge did not contain any cultural material. The only possible cultural related finds were brick and schist fragments, which were noted but not collected.

RESULTS

Based on the evidence obtained from the subsurface testing, it is now possible to make several statements regarding the former industrial uses of the 641 West 59th Street site, as the Union Stockyards, a bone black manufactory and the Hamersley Forge. Clear evidence was obtained from the northern test trench that two industrial structures existed on the site prior to its conversion to a parking lot. The more recent of these two structures was represented by the two cellar floors and associated deposits (analyzed as Component 2). The horizontal and vertical placement of the floors as well as the general similarities to the cellar of the standing structure immediately west of the parking lot indicate that these remains are from the demolished eastern end of that structure. This building, prior to its partial demolition and reconstruction, was the Union Stockyards and Market, constructed 1871-1882 (Roberts & Zakalak 1987:8, Fig.'s 5 and 6).

Below the Component 2 deposits were a second group of deposits analyzed as Component 3. Since all the Component 3 deposits were sealed beneath Component 2, and no cut lines were observed in the Component 2 deposits, Component 3 must pre-date Component 2. The uppermost deposit of
Component 3 was characterized as destruction debris. This debris contained both calcined bone fragments and ferrous slag, as well as building destruction rubble, glass and ceramics. The slag and bone are both evidence of industrial processes relating to the Forge and bone black maker, respectively. Both the glass and ceramic sherds could be dated, yielding a Terminus Post Quem for the deposit of 1835. In the northern test trench, this debris sealed a thin clay layer which in turn overlay a dry-laid schist wall running east to west. To the south of this wall were two deposits of relatively clean sand. To the north was a deposit of mottled silt with gravel and clay inclusions. The bottom of this deposit to the north of the schist wall may be somewhat deeper than that of the lower sand deposit to the south or the base of the wall itself. From this evidence it would appear that the schist wall was intended as part of a retaining structure. Based on the cartographic evidence, it clearly lies within the central brick building of the Hamersley Forge, and appears to correspond to the southern end of the furnace. See Figures 2 and 3. It is our opinion that it probably served as a retaining wall for a shallow pit just west of the furnace. This pit could have served to provide access to the base of the furnace for the removal of ash and cinder, or as an area for placing molds to make castings. From the evidence derived from the retaining wall and the overlying destruction debris, Component 3 represents a phase of industrial activity on this block prior to the construction of the Union Stockyards. The TPQ of 1835 from Component 3 indicates that the date range is correct for these deposits to represent the remains of the Hamersley Forge and the subsequent bone black manufactory.

Underneath Component 3, another deposit identified as Component 4 was exposed. Unfortunately, this deposit could not be excavated due to the proximity of ground water, so no data is available to provide a means of interpreting Component 4. We have described it as pre-dating the Hamersley Forge solely on the basis of stratigraphic evidence derived from the section drawing (Figure 4) and the context descriptions.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is now possible to conclude that this Phase IB Archaeological Survey revealed the presence of deposits sealed beneath the floors of the demolished eastern end of the Union Stockyards building. Based on an analysis of the archaeological evidence from the test trenching and cartographic evidence from previous research, it is highly probable that these remains represent the central structure that housed both the Hamersley Forge and the subsequent bone black manufactory. These remains were found to lie at least one foot beneath the bottom of the lower floor of the former stockyard building and no service trenches or other intrusions were observed cutting into them, so they appear to be relatively undisturbed. The Architectural/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation established that the Hamersley Forge is of potential
importance to both national and regional history through its association with particular persons and events of significance to industrial and technological developments during the 19th century (Roberts & Zakalak 1987:4-6), and that the subsequent use of the Forge structures as a bone black manufactory is of potential importance to the economic history of the region (ibid:6-7). It is therefore our recommendation that a Phase II Archaeological Survey be undertaken to determine the boundaries and research potential of this 19th century industrial archaeological site.

Upon completion of this Phase II archaeological survey, the results of the analysis would be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). If it is determined that the forge structure remains are too disturbed to be of value, construction excavation could begin in this area without further archaeological investigation. If this analysis indicates that the structure which housed the forge and bone black manufactory and/or other related artifacts remain relatively undisturbed and have significant archaeological value, we as project archaeologists would work with the LPC to develop a Phase III mitigation plan which would include further archaeological excavation and laboratory analysis to the extent deemed necessary to safeguard such resources.

The Phase II survey does not need to commence immediately. As we estimate that the survey and any required mitigation may take six (6) months to complete, the Phase II survey field work can begin as late as six (6) months prior to the commencement of construction excavation on the site.
Plates 1 - 10.

Artifact scale in mm.
Plate 1: View of the project area looking southwest, showing backhoe beginning excavation of basement fill.

Plate 2: View of basement area looking north, after the removal of the majority of the fill.
Plate 3: View of the northern test trench, looking south.

Plate 4: View of south section of northern trench showing Belgian block floor (Cx 103) with drain in foreground and other contexts below.
Plate 5: Oblique view of northern trench looking southwest and showing portions of west and south sections. Note schist wall (Cx 113) below menu board.

Plate 6: View of west section of northern test trench. Menu board rests on concrete floor (Cx 102).
Plate 7: Fragment of press-molded plate window glass with starburst pattern, from CMP3, Cx 105.02, TPQ 1835.

Plate 8: Body sherd of transfer printed whiteware with black floral design, from CMP3, Cx 105.02, TPQ 1830.
Plate 9: Body sherd of transfer printed whiteware with blue floral design, from CMP3, Cx 105.02, TPQ 1830.

Plate 10: Body sherd of transfer printed whiteware with black floral design, CMP3, Cx 105.03, TPQ 1830.
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1854 Topographical Map of the City of New York North of 50th Street.

Perris, William  
1862 Maps of the City of New York Surveyed Under the Direction of Insurance Companies of Said City.

Robinson & Pidgeon  
APPENDIX 1:
THE COMPLETE ARTIFACT INVENTORY

including:

TABLE 1: The National Park Service Material Culture Data Base Coding Chart
TABLE 2: Coded Examples from the Data Base
TABLE 3: Data Base Codes for Ambiguous Items
Table 1: Coding Chart with Group, Class, and Material Common List (National Park Service Material Culture Data Base).
APPENDIX 1

01 KITCHEN
02 Bed Group
03 Architectural Group
04 Furniture Group
05 Appliance Group
06 Clothing Group
07 Personal Group
08 Tobacco Pipe Group

GROUPS AND CLASSES

01 Dishes
02 Containers
03 Telephone
04 Kitchenware

01 Marbles
02 Area
03 Reptiles
04 Amphibians
05 Fishes

01 Window Class
02 Hall
03 Splits
04 Door & Window Hardware
05 Other Structural Hardware
06 Construction Materials

01 Hardware
02 Materials
03 Lighting device
04 Decorative Furnishings

01 Projection
02 Cartridge Case
03 Arm Accessories
04 Gun Parts

01 Apparel
02 Ornamentation
03 Making & Repair
04 Footwear

01 Cigars
02 Cigs
03 Writing Paraphernalia
04 Grooming & Hygiene
05 Personal Ornamentation
06 Other Personal Items

01 Tobacco Pipe
02 Tobacco Pipe Class

SAMPLE ARTIFACTS

- Historic fragments, plate, cup, salt cellar
- Bottle glass fragments
- Eating utensils
- Cooking utensils, pot, kettle
- Manual bones
- Bird bones
- Reptile bones
- Amphibian bones
- Fish bones
- Window pane glass
- Copper nails, iron nails
- Railroad spikes
- Door knobs, door hinges
- Pipe, fireplace tiles
- Brick, mortar, metal roofing
- Handle, drawer pull, latch
- Store parts, chair parts, bed frame
- Constrictions, lamp base
- Flower pot, clock parts, vase
- Shot, bullets
- Cartridge
- Gun flints, bullet molds, powder horn
- Pistol barrel, flint lock assembly
- Hat, coat, scarves, glove, shoe
- Beads, beads, headdress, feather
- Thimbles, straight pin, straight scissors
- Buttons, snaps, buckles, cuff links
- Silver coins, copper coins
- Door lock keys, padlock keys
- Quills, fountain pens, nibs, graphite pencil
- Hairbrush, razor, mirror, tweezers
- Jewelry, ribbon, ornamental comb
- Pocket watch, key chain, pocket knife

GROUPS AND CLASSES (cont'd)

09 ACTIVITIES GROUP
10 Prehistoric Group

01 Construction Tools
02 Tool Tools
03 Leisure Activities
04 Fishing Gear
05 Tobacco Pipe
06 Smoking Accessories
07 Pottery Class
08 Storage Items
09 Ethnological Zoological
10 Stable and Barn
11 Miscellaneous Hardware
12 General Activities
13 Military Objects
14 Housekeeping
15 Public Services
16 Ethnobotanical

01 Weapons
02 Domestic
03 Stone Working
04 Wood Working
05 Digging Tools
06 Other Fabricating or Processing Tools
07 Other General Utility Tools
08 Ceremonial and Ornamental
09 Miscellaneous Artifacts

Ax head, drill bit, saw, point brush
Hoe, rake, plow blade
Horse, yoke, harrow, doll parts
Fish hooks, sinkers, crab trap
Corn cob pipe
Snow, tobacco tin, pipe cleaner
(Indian) water jar, effigy pot
Crook, barrel sieve, neck
Oyster shell, crab shell
Sizzup, horse shoe, rein, harness belt
Rope, bolts, mail, washers, chain
Button blanks, metallic debris, ongara
Insignia, insignias
Broom, coat hanger, washboard
Sewer pipe, water pipe

PROJECTILE POINT, ATLAS II hook
Vessel, mortar, pestle
Hummerstone, baton, flake, core
Gilt, grooved knife
Saw
Drill, chisel, needle
Knife, prismatic blade, chopper
Sheet, gorgon, head
Function unknown

Table 2: Coded Examples (National Park Service Material Culture Database).
APPENDIX 1

THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW MAY BE AMBIGUOUS OR HARD TO PLACE IN A TAXONOMIC CATEGORY, BUT AS A CONVENTION, FOR INVENTORY PURPOSES, WILL BE CODED AS FOLLOWS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Code(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unident Wood Frag ------------ Construction Wood, Wooden Pegs, Wood Planks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twigs, Branches                  Burned Wood (Partial)</td>
<td>09 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charcoal &amp; all small frag of completely burnt wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>98 00 093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slag, burned coal, vitrified metaworking or manufacturing by-products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pantiles</td>
<td>03 06 003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delfit fireplace tiles, wall skirting, etc</td>
<td>04 04 003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porcelain bathroom tiles, other bathroom furniture (sub, toilet, etc)</td>
<td>03 05 001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber Pot</td>
<td>04 02 ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower Pot</td>
<td>04 04 003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teeth</td>
<td>02 ( ) 132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish scales</td>
<td>09 09 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral</td>
<td>98 00 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggshell</td>
<td>09 09 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds, Seed Covering</td>
<td>09 16 121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schist (construction)</td>
<td>03 06 043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schist (unident)</td>
<td>98 00 043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Brick</td>
<td>03 06 169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Brick</td>
<td>03 06 155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linoleum</td>
<td>03 06 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Hardware (probably construction)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture Hardware</td>
<td>04 01 ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. hardware (other and unident), screen, etc, parts</td>
<td>09 11 ( )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Shoe Parts</td>
<td>06 01 015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unident Leather scraps</td>
<td>98 04 015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Personal Items</td>
<td>07 ( ) 015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: National Park Service Material Culture Data Base Codes for Ambiguous Items
## APPENDIX 1: Artifact Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHNO</th>
<th>LOC</th>
<th>GR</th>
<th>CL</th>
<th>MAT.</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>TPQ</th>
<th>REFERENCE</th>
<th>IDENTITY</th>
<th>COMMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>105.01</td>
<td>N25E35</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1780</td>
<td>South 1972; N. Hume 1976</td>
<td>Hand-painted pearl. Blue dec.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.01</td>
<td>N25E35</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cinders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.01</td>
<td>N25E35</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>070</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mortar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.01</td>
<td>N25E35</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>277.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ferrous slag</td>
<td>1 Lg. slightly magnetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.01</td>
<td>N25E35</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>017</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Calcined mamal bone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.01</td>
<td>N25E35</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Calcined bone</td>
<td>Possibly bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105.02</td>
<td>N30E35</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>004</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Price 1979</td>
<td>Trans. print. whitew. Blue floral dec.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>004</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>South 1972; N. Hume 1976</td>
<td>Undec. whiteware Rim sherds</td>
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<td>N30E35</td>
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<td>004</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>1830</td>
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<td>01</td>
<td>004</td>
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<td>1820</td>
<td>South 1972; N. Hume 1976</td>
<td>Undec. whiteware Tiny sherd</td>
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<td>01</td>
<td>017</td>
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<td>00</td>
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<td>09</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>089</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shell fragment</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<td>078</td>
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<td>00</td>
<td>049</td>
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<td>06</td>
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<td>01</td>
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<td>Peterson 1976</td>
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APPENDIX 2:
CONTEXT RECORD FORMS

Cx. 100-113
Context Description
(Composition, texture, inclusions) Macadamia - mixture of packing lot 1-2" (See schematic section-over)

Context Number

SITE CODE
GRID UNIT N 25 E 35

CREW CHIEF
RECORDER
DATE 5/22/87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

DIGGING TOOLS Dynahoe 190

Bill Moran operator

Munsell Color Black 7.5 YR 2/0

Context Description
(Composition, texture, inclusions) Macadamia - mixture of packing lot 1-2" (See schematic section-over)

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx #
Overlies Cx # 101
Cuts Cx #
Cut by Cx #
Abuts Cx #
Eqvlent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

DRAWINGS:

B&W COLOR

SECTION #:
PLAN #:

Samples Taken:
Flotation
Soil Other

OBlique

GENERAL
CONTEXT NUMBER

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

CREW CHIEF

RECORER

DATE

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

DIGGING TOOLS

Bill Meesin operator

Context Description

(Context composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color

Fill of basement

of Penn Central Stock Yard - subfloor

later uses

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # 100

Overlies Cx # 103

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx #

Eqvlent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Fill

at low edge of parking lot is approx 13' deep

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

Mixed 20th century debris

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W / COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBELIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil / Other

Other
**Context Number**

| Context Number | 102 |

**Site Code**

- [ ]

**Grid Unit**

- N 25 E 35

**Center Point Coordinates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Crew Chief**

- MD

**Recorder**

- MD

**Date**

- 5/22/87

**Digging Tools**

- Dynashot

---

**Context Description**

Munsell Color: Gray

Composition, texture, inclusions:

- Aggregate, principally rounded (natural) quartz pebbles, no post carded stone

---

**Stratigraphy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overlaid by</th>
<th>Cx #</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Cuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cut by</td>
<td>Cx #</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuts</td>
<td>Cx #</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eqvlt to</td>
<td>Cx #</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Interpretation**

- Basement Floor
- probably assoc. with final building phase on lot. post
- stockyard - perhaps @ 1920

**General Artifacts**

- 

**Artifacts In Situ**

- 

**Photographs (Roll #):**

- [ ] B&W
- [ ] Color

**Drawings:**

- [ ] Section #:
- [ ] Plan #:
- Samples Taken:
  - Flotation
  - Soil
  - Other

**Vertical**

- 

**Oblique**

- 

**General**

- 

**CONTEXT NUMBER**

| CONTEXT NUMBER | 103 |

**SITE CODE**

<table>
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**GRID UNIT**

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**CENTER POINT COORDINATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**DIGGING TOOLS**

Dynahoe

---

**Context Description**

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Granite Blocks

---

**Munsell Color**

grey brown

---

**STRATIGRAPHY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stratigraphic Feature</th>
<th>Cx #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Cut by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abuts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**INTERPRETATION**

Baseline Floor probable original floor of New York Central Stockyard building

---

**GENERAL ARTIFACTS**

Granite rough cut block approx. 4 x 6 x 8

---

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (Roll #.)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Format</th>
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<th>COLOR</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oblique</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
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**DRAWINGS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Samples Taken</td>
<td>Flotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Other</td>
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</table>
**CONTEXT NUMBER**

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<tbody>
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<td>N 25 E 363</td>
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**CREW CHIEF**

| MD |

**RECORDER**

| MD |

**DATE**

| 5/22/87 |

**CENTER POINT COORDINATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**DIGGING TOOLS**

Dynamax

**Bill Moran - operator**

**Context Description**

Munsell Color 10 YR 5/4 Yellow Brown

sand

ranges from fine to medium, mostly fine

6" to 15" thick

**STRATIGRAPHY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>103</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overlies</td>
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<td>Cut by</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eqvlent to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INTERPRETATION**

apparent base material for

cobble floor of N.Y.C.

Stock yard building

**GENERAL ARTIFACTS**

- [ ]

**ARTIFACTS IN SITU**

- [ ]

**PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B&amp;W</th>
<th>COLOR</th>
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</table>

**DRAWINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTION #:</th>
<th>PLAN #:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Samples Taken:

Flotation /

Soil / Other
**Context Number** 105

**Site Code**

**Grid Unit** N 75 E 35

**Crew Chief** MD

**Recorder** MD

**Date** 5/22/77

**Center Point Coordinates**

**Digging Tools** Dynacoe

**Bill Moran, operator**

**Context Description**

Munsell Color: 10 YR 3/2 Very Dark Grey Brown

Burned layer - slag
charcoal - burned wood - rubble including cinder in matrix of silt

**Stratigraphy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overlaid by</th>
<th>Overlies</th>
<th>Cuts</th>
<th>Cut by</th>
<th>Equivalent to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cx # 104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Interpretation**

Possible spread of material

demolition refuse from Black and earlier forge assoc. structures

**General Artifacts**

**Artifacts in Situ**

**Photographs (Roll #.):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B&amp;W</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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**Drawings:**

<table>
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<th>Plan #:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Samples Taken:

- Flotation
- Soil
- Other
Context Description
(Composition, texture, inclusions) Thin (~2") exhumed layer under concrete floor and overlying cobble's - local area of demolition material

Stratigraphy
Overlaid by Cx # 102
Overlies Cx # 103
Cuts Cx #
Cut by Cx #
Abuts Cx #
Equivalent to Cx #

Interpretation
Demolition layer associated with demise of N.Y.C. stock yards

General Artifacts

Artifacts in Situ

Photographs (Roll #.):
B&W

Color

Drawings:
Section #:
Plan #:
Samples Taken:
Flotation
Soil ✓ Other
**Context Number**
- Site Code: 107
- Grid Unit: N 50 E 30

**Context Description**
- (Composition, texture, inclusions)
  - Oily sooty layer
  - Silt w/ much charcoal, wood fibers, cinders, soil etc.

**Stratigraphy**
- Overlaid by: Cx # 104
- Overlies: Cx # 114 + 108
- Cuts: Cx #
- Cut by: Cx #
- Abuts: Cx #
- Equivalent to: Cx #

**Interpretation**
- Possibly comparable to 105 but seems to contain no slag or rubble. May be associated with demolition of specific area or object i.e. furnace or chimney soot.

**General Artifacts**
- Artifacts in situ
  - Bone
  - Bone block

**Photographs (Roll #.)**
- B&W
- Color

**Drawings**
- Section #:
- Plan #:
- Samples Taken:
  - Flotation
  - Soil
  - Other
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRATIGRAPHY</th>
<th>INTERPRETATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overlaid by Cx # 111</td>
<td>Fill layer associated w/ sheet wall possibly contemporary w/ Forge or Bone Black Man</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Context Number
100

Site Code:  

Grid Unit: N150 E130

Date: 5/28/87

Digging Tools: Manual, Trowel, Shovel

Context Description
Munsell Color 10YR 5/4 yellow brown
Sandy Silt w/ no inclusions

Stratigraphy
Overlaid by Cx # 108
Overlies Cx # 110
Cuts Cx #
Cut by Cx #
Abuts Cx # 113
Equivalent to Cx #

Interpretation
Like 108, Fill layer associated w/ shist wall, possibly contemporan
w/ Forge or Bone Block Manuf.
Have considered that this layer
could be molder's sand and shist wall
retainer for large casting bed.

General Artifacts

Artifacts in Situ

Photographs (Roll #.):

B&W  Color

Vertical  

Section  

Oblique  

General  

Drawings:

Section #:

Plan #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil / Other
Context Description
(Composition, texture, inclusions)
- Dark/Med Brown silt clay soil
- pebble - gravel inclusions, very fine
- to bottom of excavation - in soil
- became very wet at this point - found
- standing water at this level at beginning of
- following day - some small packets of yellow/red
- sand, high concentration of mica - flecks.

STRATIGRAPHY
Overlaid by Cx # 109 - 113
Overlies Cx #
Cuts Cx #
Cut by Cx #
Abuts Cx #
Eqvlent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION
May be original natural surface
strata... 

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU
at surface
- some brick frags! very few
- small flecks of charcoal

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):
B&W COLOR

DRAWINGS:
SECTION #:
PLAN #:
Samples Taken:
Flotation:
Soil: l Other:
CONTEXT NUMBER

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

CREW CHIEF

RECORER

DATE

DIGGING TOOLS

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions) Very densely compacted dark red/brown clay lens - runs about 3 feet in the west part and ends immediately above schist rock wall (113) on north end. disappears into south section at south end of unit - In south section layer extends only about 1.5' easterly from corner until west section.

Munsell Color

5 YR 3/6 Yellowish Red

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx #

107

Overlies Cx #

108

(113)

Cuts

Cut by

Abuts

Equivalent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

This lens may be earliest demolition layer - post Bone Black Manufactory alternately could be associated with (a cap) on earthen structure 108, 109, 113

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

a few tiny brick frags

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other
### CONTEXT NUMBER

<table>
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<td>MD</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/29/87</td>
<td>Traveled</td>
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</tbody>
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### Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions) Mottled, loosely compacted, yellow/brown mixed sand/silt/clay. Slightly silt w/ clay and gravel inclusions. Because of water level w/ soil is not clear. The bottom limit of this layer is - but it probably ends on 109 at a slightly lower level than 109-113.

### Stratigraphy

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<th>Cuts</th>
<th>Cut by</th>
<th>Abuts</th>
<th>Equivalent to</th>
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<td>Cx # 110</td>
<td>Cx #</td>
<td>Cx #</td>
<td>Cx # 109 - 113</td>
<td>Cx #</td>
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### Interpretation

### General Artifacts

### Artifacts In Situ

### Photographs (Roll #):

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<table>
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### Drawings:

<table>
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<th>Plan #:</th>
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Samples Taken:

- Flotation
- Soil [✓] Other [ ]
CONTEXT NUMBER

SITE CODE
GRID UNIT

CREW CHIEF
RECORER
DATE 5/24/87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

DIGGING TOOLS

Context Description
(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color

unmodified stone alignment (wall)

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # 107/111

Overlies Cx # 110

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx #

Equivalent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Not a footing and not the wall of a major brick building allegedly appears to be a simply constructed oirly laid retaining wall of fill structure or lining of pit structure

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

DRAWINGS:

B&W COLOR

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil Other

GENERAL

OBLIQUE

GENERAL
APPENDIX 3:
THE CONTEXT SYSTEM
APPENDIX 3
THE CONTEXT SYSTEM

Complex strata were a possibility at the 641 West 59th Street Site, so a field recording system that could encompass this situation as well as the large number of 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 in this project 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 this project, this was the smallest 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 analysis. 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 has been deemed necessary. The context was also used on other projects 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.

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 those 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
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.