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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION



ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY EVALUATION
PROPOSED FISH MARKET RELOCATION
HUNTS POINT
BRONX, NEW YORK

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see also USF 3958

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prepared for:

Urbitran

71 West 23rd Street

New York, New York 10010

prepared by:

Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated

40 Exchange Place, 13th Floor

New York, New York 10005

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LIST OF PERSONNEL

William I. Roberts IV	-	Principal Investigator Co-Author
Paula M. Crowley	-	Co-Author Documentary Researcher
Richard Clark	-	Documentary Researcher
William Goldsmith	-	Project area Photography



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this archaeological and historical sensitivity evaluation is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed relocation of the Fulton Fish Market, Hunts Point, Borough of the Bronx through field inspection and the review of existing archival, cartographic, and published references. Recommendations regarding further documentation or archaeological testing are also noted. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey includes a synthesis of published and unpublished documentation of prehistoric and historic resources within and around the project area.

This sensitivity evaluation is organized in the following manner: first, an overview of the geography and physical setting of the project area; second, a review of prehistoric findings in the vicinity of the Hunts Point project area; third, a discussion of the historic sensitivity of the area; and finally, conclusions and recommendations.

The project area is located within the neighborhood known as Hunts Point. It is bounded by Ryawa Avenue to the north, Halleck Street to the west, Hunts Point Avenue to the east, and the East River to the south. The nearest New York City Landmark is Sunnyslope, now the Bright Temple A.M.E. Church at 812 Faile Street. This structure is 1.25 miles northwest of the project area (NYCLPC 1979:52-27;1988:1). There are no New York City landmarks within or adjacent to the Hunt's Point project area. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

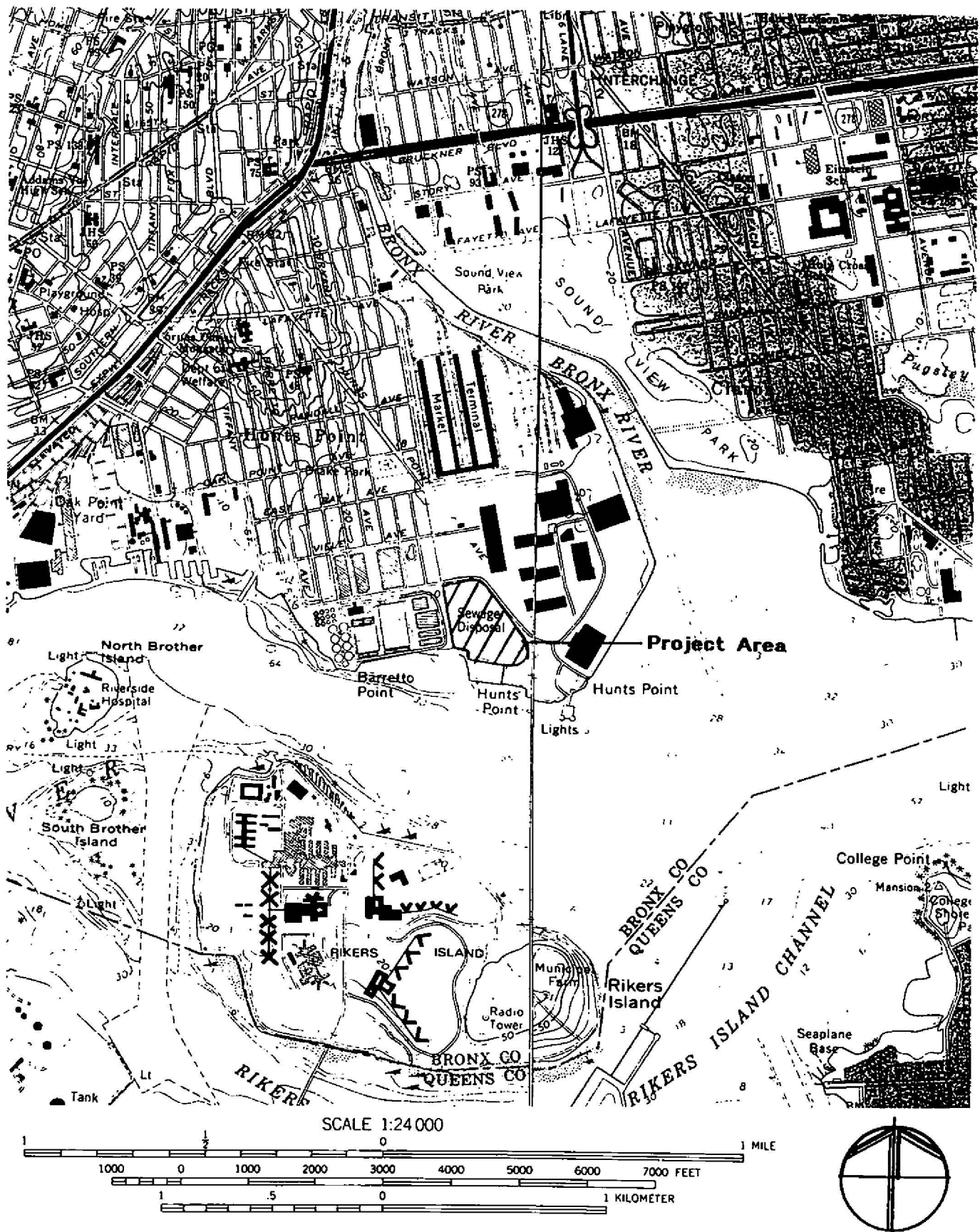


Figure 1 Location of project area shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minutes series, Central Park, New York quadrangle.



GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The general region including the project area lies in the New England Upland Physiographic Province, which has three subdivisions. The project area is within the Manhattan Hills Subdivision (Cressey 1977:28). The Taconic Mountains lies to the east and the Hudson Hills Subdivision to the north. The New England Upland Physiographic Province is bordered to the north by the Hudson Mohawk Lowlands Province. The climate is characterized by mild, wet winters and warm, humid summers (Carter 1977:77).

Attempts were made to obtain information regarding the soil conditions within the project area. No soil survey was ever undertaken for Bronx County, nor is one planned (Soil Conservation Service 1990). The only information regarding the soil that could be obtained was derived from soil boring logs prepared for engineering purposes. The Subsurface Exploration Section of the New York City Department of General Services was contacted regarding soil borings in the vicinity of the project area. Borings were found to the east and west of the project area. Boring Job 2449 completed during 1994 includes one boring approximately 200 feet east of the northern part of the eastern boundary. This boring recorded thirteen feet of fill over a grayish brown sand with a trace of silt (Subsurface Exploration Section 1994:Job 2449). Job 644A and B includes numerous borings completed for the sewage treatment plant west of the project area. Borings 9, 114, 11, 12, 106 and 10 are arranged in a line approximately 170 feet west of the project area running from south to north. The first three, nearest to the East River, have fill from 18.0 feet to 29.9 feet thick over dark grey organic silt with a little clay and shells. The northern three borings have fill from 6.6 feet to 14.7 feet thick over similar dark grey organic silt. Borings 113, 105, 13 and 14 are arranged in a second line approximately 320 feet west of the project area running from south to north. Only Boring 113 is near the east river. This boring shows 27.0 feet of fill over dark grey organic silt with a little clay and shells. Borings 105, 13 and 14 have fill from 7.7 feet to 13.4 feet thick over similar dark grey organic silt (Subsurface Exploration Section 1969:Job 644A and B).

The Rock Line map maintained by the Subsurface Exploration Section shows the original high and low water lines, as well as the mid-twentieth century streets and shoreline. This map shows that only the eastern portion of the project area was above the high water line. The northern end of the project area and a narrow band surrounding the high ground in the central and southern portions of the project area was between the high and low water lines was formerly salt marsh. A field stream ran through the northern section. The southwestern and south-central portions were



beyond the low water line, and therefore originally in the East River (Subsurface Exploration Section 1938:Bronx Sheet 5).

The project area was inspected by Greenhouse Consultants. It is surrounded by chain link fences topped by barbed wire. The project area is covered by mounds of earth and rubble and a number of fairly young trees. Debris including old tires has been dumped along the eastern side. The southern end is lower than the other sections and somewhat wet. The tops of wooden pilings were visible there, as well as an abandoned automobile. Plates 1 through 4 provide illustrations of the current conditions.



PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished references in the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and material on file at Greenhouse Consultants.

A total of nine or ten confirmed prehistoric sites are located within two miles of the project area. The first two sites discussed are on Hunts Point itself, and closest to the project area. Both were reported by R.P. Bolton during the early twentieth century. A in Table 1 and Figure 2 refers to the Quinnahung site which Bolton describes as a midden and occupation. No description of artifacts recovered is included, so no estimate of date range can be made. Quinnahung is located approximately 0.3 miles northwest of the project area. Bolton also reported another site which he called Hunt's Point in a later publication. This site is approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the project area. No description is included. This may refer to the Quinnahung site or another discovery. See B in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Alanson Skinner, a professional archaeologist who worked during the early twentieth century, reported the Snakapins site. It lies east of the Bronx River on the northern part of Clasons Point, approximately 1.0 miles northeast of the project area. Skinner found evidence of occupation and burials, which he dated to the Late Woodland and Contact Periods. See C in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Three sites were reported by former New York State Archaeologist Arthur C. Parker, who described them as two shell middens and one village with burials. Unfortunately, no description of artifacts recovered are included, so assignment of cultural affiliations and date ranges is not possible (Parker 1922:490, 672, Plate 208). Site D is a shell midden called Clasons Point located approximately 1.4 miles east of the project area. No description of artifacts was available so no estimate of date range is possible. This site is located close to a fresh water course which flows into the East River.

Site E is a site called Clasons Point located approximately 1.5 miles east of the project area. No description of artifacts was available so no estimate of date range is possible. Sites D and E are located adjacent to one another and probably form a larger site complex or are part of the same site.



Based on a Dutch colonial report, R.P. Bolton describes Castle Hill as a fortified settlement. The actual location of this settlement may have been the former Wilkins House, or another knoll located about 2,700 feet further north. These are the only two locations on the point close to 60 feet in elevation, which conforms with Bolton's description of the settlement being on "the crest of a hillock, 60 feet high" (Bolton 1975:80). Bolton also describes cultivated fields and shell middens to the south of the settlement. Alanson Skinner located a shell midden and debris from the manufacture of 'sewan' (wampum) during 1918. These are described as being on the extreme point within what is now Castle Hill Park (Bolton 1975:80; Grumet 1981:8). Unfortunately no archaeological evidence or reliable historic description exists firmly locating this site. See F in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Site G is the College Point Site in Queens County and described as a village with burials. It is probable that this site dates to the Woodland period, but no information exists to confirm this. The College Point Site is located 1.8 miles southeast of the project area. This site is located close to a fresh water course which flows into the East River.

Site H is a shell midden located 1.9 miles southwest of the project area. No description of artifacts was available so no estimate of date range is possible. This site is located close to a fresh water course which flows into the East River.

Site I in Table 1 and Figure 2 refers to Ranachqua, another site reported by R.P. Bolton. Hearths and pits, including shells and pottery were discovered around the Morris Mansion at the end of Cypress Avenue (Bolton 1975:79). Ranachqua is located approximately 2.0 miles west of the project area.

In terms of potential prehistoric sensitivity, the project impact area was evaluated from two points of view:

- 1) the proximity of known prehistoric sites in or near the project area; and
- 2) the presence of fresh water drainage courses in general, and particularly the identification of river or stream confluence situations, where two or more drainages come together, providing access to both the water and food supplies of both systems.

This survey has documented the recorded or published location of at least nine prehistoric archaeological sites within two miles of the Hunts Point project area. None of the locations are within or immediately adjacent to portions of the project area. All these sites are near present or former stream courses. Evidence exists for stream

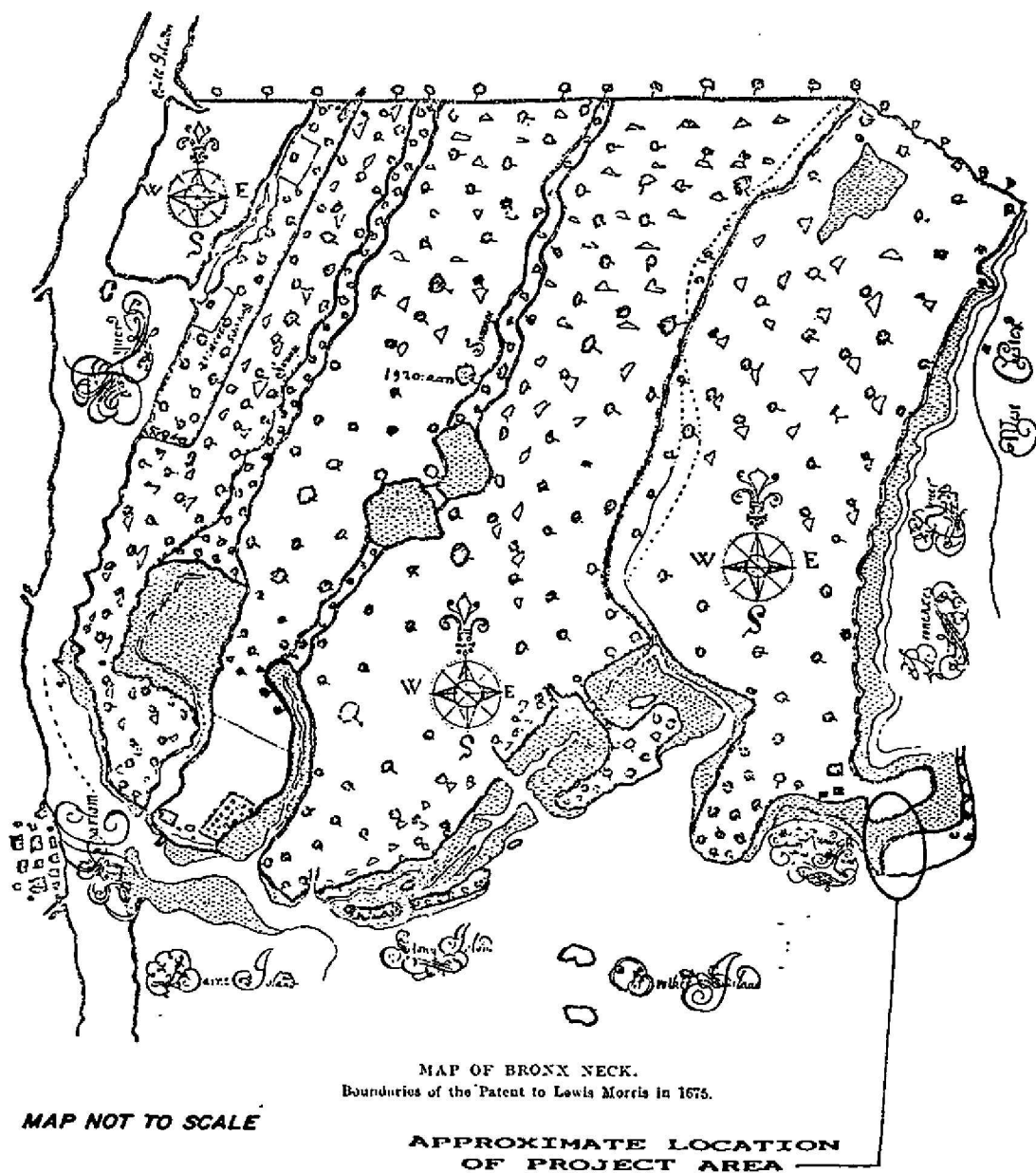


Figure 4 Map of Bronx Neck, 1675. From Morris (1886).

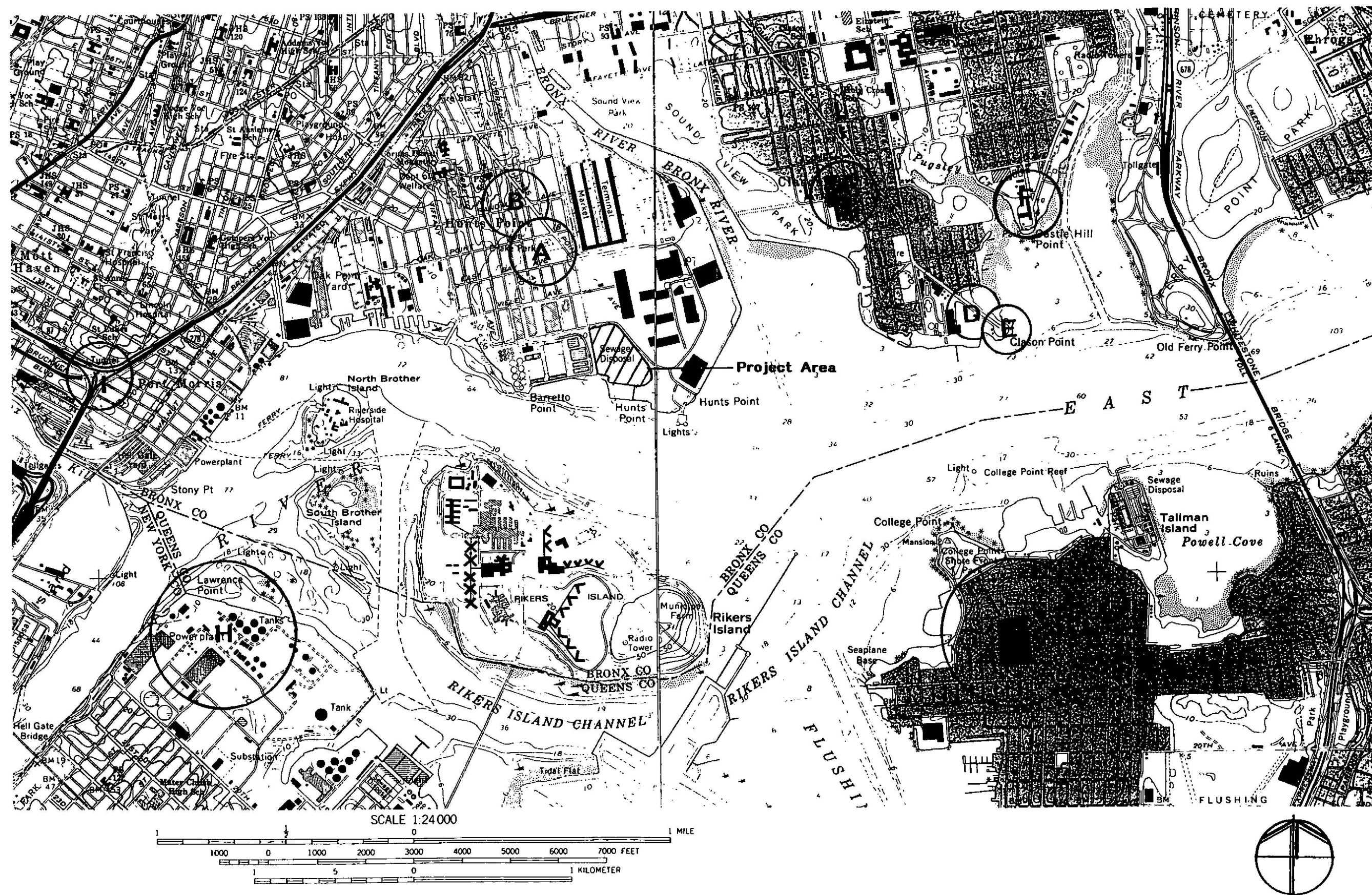


Figure 2 Known prehistoric sites within two miles of the project area.



courses within the northwestern portion of the project area. Since fresh water resources are indicated near this location, as well as access to the marine resources of the East River, it would appear that the project area may preserve evidence of prehistoric occupation. However, later development of Hunt's Point may have destroyed or disturbed this evidence should it exist.

Table 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Hunts Point

Site Name	Registration #	Reference	Period(s)	Description
A. Quinnanung/ Hunts Point	A0050.000028	Bolton 1975:79-80	----	Midden
B. Hunts Point		Bolton 1934:137	----	----
C. Snakapins		Skinner 1919	Late Woodland/ Contact	Burials
D. Clasons Point	NYSM 2840 ACP-BRNX-18	Parker 1922:490	----	Midden
E. Clasons Point	NYSM 713 HAR 5-4		----	----
F. Castle Hill		Bolton 1975:80	Contact or Woodland	Fort Shell midden
G. College Point	NYSM 4527 ACP-QUNS-4	Parker 1922:672	? Woodland	Village Burials
H.	NYSM 4539 ACP-QUNS	Parker 1922:Pl. 208	----	Shell midden
I. Ranachqua	A00501.000027	Bolton 1975:79	Late Woodland/ Contact	Shell middens Hearths Pottery



HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

During the Contact Period from 1614 through 1655 one group of Indians occupying the region, were known as Wiechquaesgeck, Quiripi-Unquachog dialect speakers, who were occupants of the Bronx, southern Westchester County, northern Manhattan and Fairfield County, Connecticut (Grumet 1981:59-62; Ultan 1993:6; Wood 1886:11). Members of the Siwanoy (Grumet 1981:53; Ultan 1993:5) were a group occupying the shore of Long Island Sound from the eastern Bronx to Fairfield County, Connecticut. They were speakers of the Munsee dialect of Lenape (Grumet 1981: 65,66).

The project area was first purchased by the Dutch on August 3, 1639 as an area called Keskeskeck (Morris 1885:769; Jenkins 1912:25; Wood 1885:23). See Figure 3. This tract of land

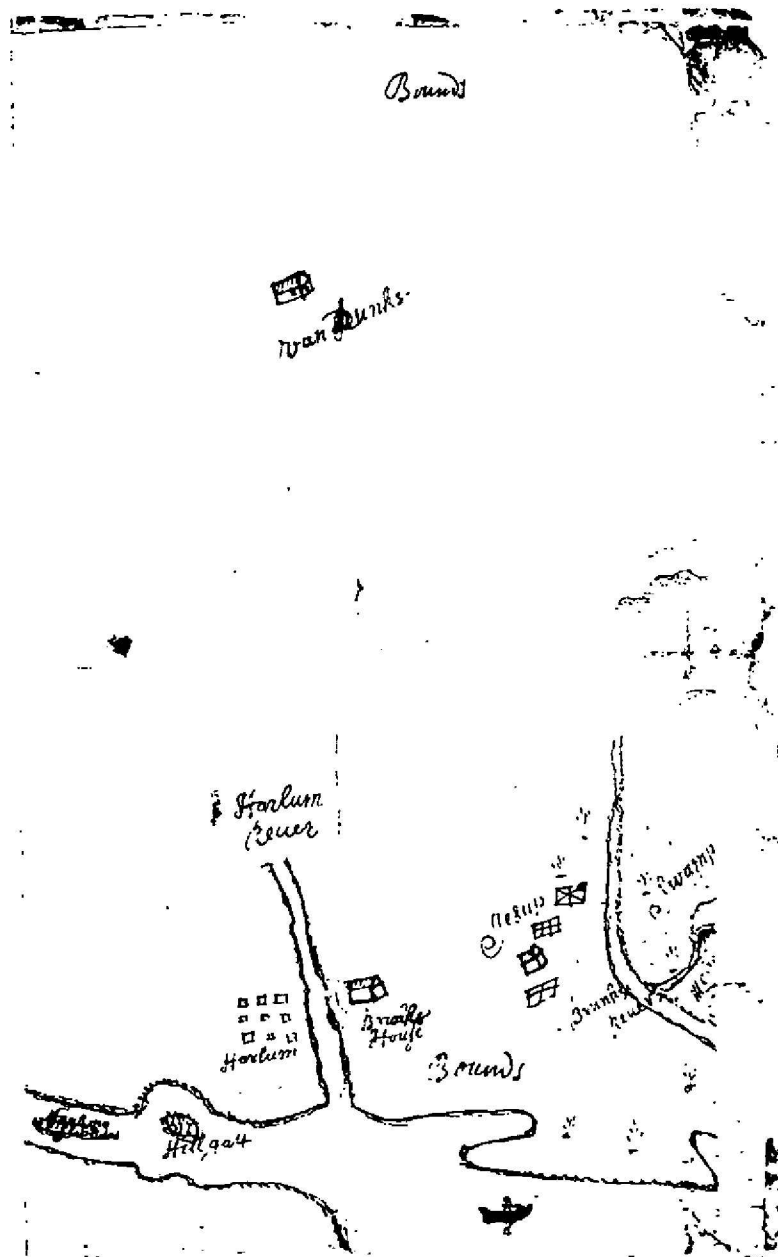
...called Keskeskeck, stretching lengthwise along the Kil which runs behind the island of Manhattan [Harlem River], mostly east and west, and beginning at the head of said Kil and running to opposite of the high hill by the flat [Harlem], namely by the Great Kil [Hudson River], with all right, titles, etc., etc.

(Jenkins 1912:25)

A second purchase was made in 1640, east of the Keskeskeck tract. During the next 25 years the territory again was bought by Europeans in the vicinity of the project area, including Jonas Bronck with Bronckland; John Archer with Fordham; Richardson and Jessup with West Farms; and Daniel Turneur's purchase. Cornelis Van Tienhoven purchased Keskeskeck for the Dutch West India Company from Tequeemet, Rechgawac and Pachimiens (Jenkins 1912:25, 27).

After the English established control over the area, manor grants were made to individuals. In February 1668 the Westchester Town patent included Broncksland, West Farms, Cornell's Neck, Throggs Neck, Eastchester, as well as Westchester (Ultan 1993:70).

The West Farms tract lay along the west side of the Bronx River to Bungay Creek, south to East River and north to a lake in an area that became Bronx Park. On March 12, 1663 Edward Jessup and John Richardson purchased this land from nine Indians (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:149-150; Jenkins 1912:42; Cook 1913:89). After the English takeover, Jessup's and Richardson's ownership was reconfirmed by a patent from Governor Nicholls on April 25, 1666 (Cook 1913:89; Bolton 1848(2):259-260).



BRONCKSLAND, WEST FARMS, AND YONKERS IN THE 1660s

This map, drawn shortly after the purchase of West Farms by Richardson and Jessup, indicates areas of settlement on the mainland north and east of the Harlem ("Harlem") River. Jonas Bronck's house ("Brunk's House") still stands opposite the village of Harlem on Manhattan Island. Far to the north is the house of Adriaen van der Donk ("van Dunks"). Near the Bronx ("Brunk's") River is the house of Edward Jessup ("Jesup") and three cultivated fields. Across the river is a swamp, The East River ("Hellgatt") is shown out of its true geographical position, here extending westward.

MAP NOT TO SCALE

New York State Archives

Figure 3 Map of Brouckslan, 1660s. From Ultan (1993).



Upon ye maine being bounded to the east by the river commonly called by the Indians *Aquehung* otherwise Broncke river, extending to the midst of said river to the north, by the mark't trees and by a piece of hassock meadow, westwardly a little brook called by the natives *Sackwrahung*, and southward by the Sound or East river, including within a certain neck of land called *Quinnahung*, which said parcel or tract and neck of land with the appurtenances, together with commonage and liberty for range of horses and cattle, as free as they please into the woods, hath heretofore been jointly purchased of the Indyan proprietors by Edward Jessup and John Richardson of Westchester aforesaid,

(Bolton 1848(2):259-260)

Richardson and Jessup created two home plots. Each home plot consisted of 30 acres of upland and eight acres of meadow. Cook located the home plots on the old Hunt's Point Road, south of Lafayette Avenue. Cook described the Dickey and Spofford properties located on the east side of the old road as containing Richardson's 30 acres and most of the two meadow parcels (Cook 1913:89).

Jessup died in 1666. His widow, Elizabeth, married Robert Meacham in 1668 and conveyed the Jessup property on June 20, 1668 to her son-in-law, Thomas Hunt, Jr., who married her daughter, Elizabeth Jessup (Bolton 1848:261-2; Cook 1913:90). See Figure 4. This figure (ca. 1663 or 1666) shows Bronck's house, van der Donk's (Yonkers) house, and Edward Jessup house along with three cultivated fields. Ultan (1993:63) warns that the East River or "Hellgatt" is not located geographically correct but west of where it should stand.

Hunt sold the home lot on which he resided in 1669, and subsequently built on land at the north end of Barretto's Point, near the old Landing Road (Cook 1913:90). Disputes occurred between Richardson and Hunt over the patent and four commissions were held in 1669 to resolve the problems. Richardson had used a twenty acre parcel of upland as cornfield at the southern end of Hunt's Point along the Sound. Richardson and Hunt both cut meadows on the east side of the Point, Richardson the upper part and Hunt the lower part. Richardson was awarded the twenty acres occupied by him and sixteen acres of meadow cut by him at the northwest corner of Hunt's Point and Barretto's Point on the west (Long Neck). Hunt was awarded all the rest of Hunt's Point or Cornfield Neck, and meadows at its upper end (Cook 1913:90-91).

In 1680 Hunt and Richardson planned to divide the upper portion of the patent into twelve great lots but Richardson died before completion of this project. In 1681 the land was divided, and called the Twelve Farms. The Richardson and Hunt families each drew six lots. Hunt sold one lot and divided the remainder among his sons and grandson (Cook 1913:92).

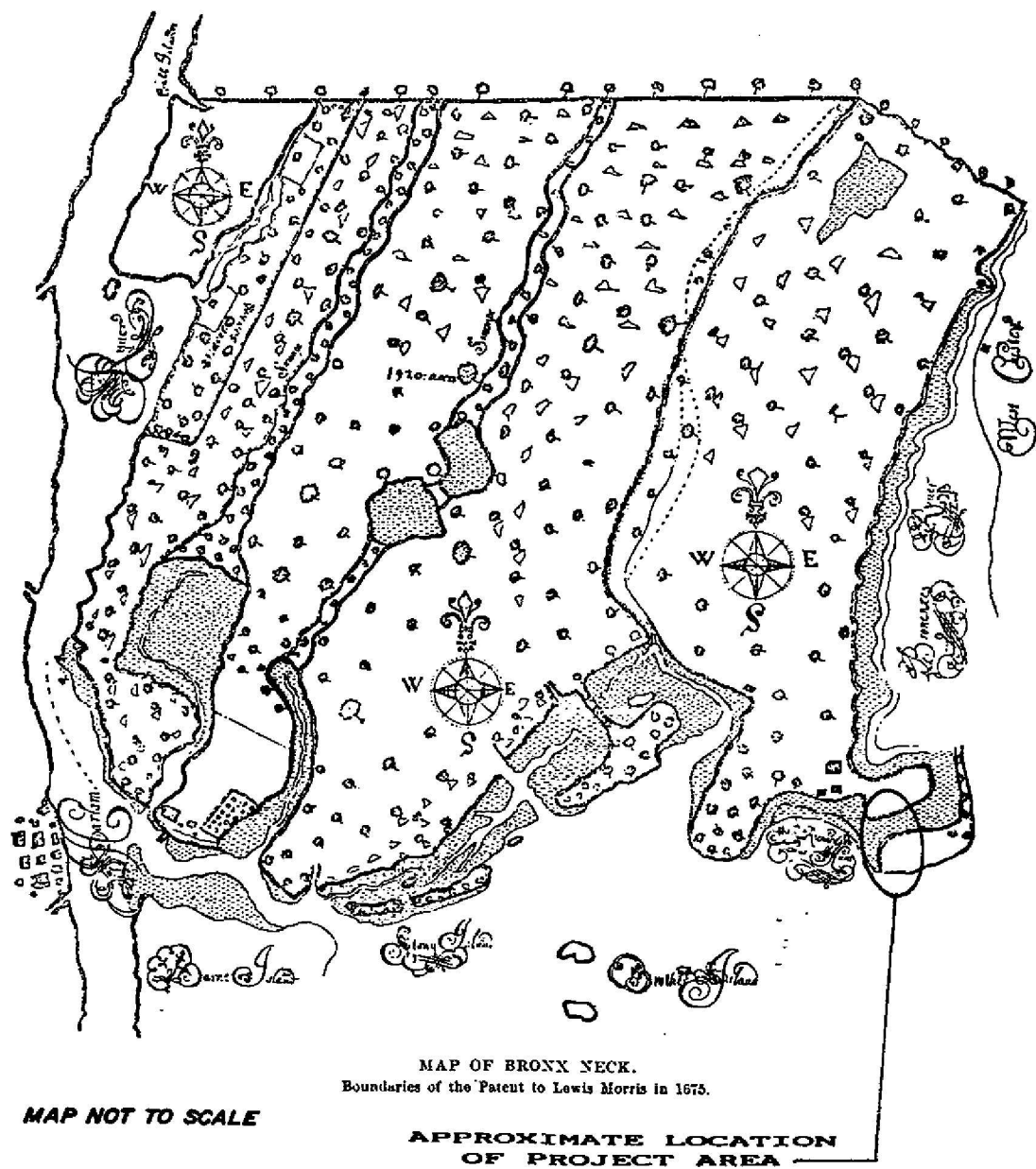


Figure 4 Map of Bronx Neck, 1675. From Morris (1886).



Richardson died leaving his property to his wife Martha to use during her lifetime and dispose of as she saw fit (Bolton 1848(2):263). Martha received all housing and the orchard, all moveables within and without, all livestock, all land, all the meadow on the planting neck and all the Long Neck running southward from Thomas Hunt's new house to the Sound. His son-in-law, Thomas Hadley received a pasture of three acres and a divided meadow above the planting neck. His three daughters each received 200 acres of land apiece (ibid.). On October 17, 1687 Hadley conveyed to Thomas Williams, eight acres given to him by Richardson (ibid.:264).

Martha Richardson, around July 1683 married Captain Williams (Cook 1913:92). Gabriel Leggett had married Richardson's daughter, Elizabeth. Richardson had built a grist mill and a saw mill on the Bronx River in 1671, and Leggett helped him run the saw mill. Williams had no use for a step-son-in-law, and Leggett had no use for the new step-father-in-law. Leggett attempted to evict Williams from the Richardson house, and failed (Ultan 1993:138). Owning a mill was an important economic, social and political position during colonial times. As a result of owning one of two mills in southern Westchester County, Williams became a member of Lieutenant Governor Leisler's Council (ibid.). When the French and the Indians attacked Schenectady in February 1690, Richard Ponton and Williams called upon the Westchester militia company for volunteers. Leggett spoke against this, Ponton told Leggett to shut up, and Leggett called Williams "the father of rogues" (ibid.). Leggett went further and stole a hog of Williams, and then later, when drunk, told Williams he was a thief, murderer, and a liar. Williams obtained a warrant against Leggett, and Leggett was hauled into court. Martha Richardson/Williams prevailed upon her husband and son-in-law to shake hands and settle the problem. Leggett did so, returning the hog, paying court costs and apologizing (ibid.:138-139).

At this point in time, the Leisler Rebellion occurred, and was put down by the new English governor. In April 1691 the grand jury indicted Thomas-Williams, along with others, for high treason (Ultan 1993:143). The grand jury found "that he had no property to their knowledge that could be confiscated" (ibid.:143), and sentenced him to be drawn and quartered. Leisler and his son-in-law were executed, while the new governor held off on the others. A new Assembly pardoned most of Leisler's people, excepting 30 individuals, including Williams. In April 1692, the Queen agreed to pardon Williams and his associates, if they asked for it (ibid.:144). By September 1692, Williams was still in jail, refusing to petition. In 1693 King William ordered their release and a royal pardon was finally issued in March 1694, after the governor petitioned.

Gabriel Leggett did not sit still during those four years. In May 1691 Leggett sued Thomas Statham, the sheriff who arrested him for the hog incident, for £200 for assault



and false imprisonment (Ultan 1993:146). The Westchester Court decided that Stratham should pay Leggett £25. Ponton, of the militia, agreed to post bond. In October of 1692, Leggett still was not paid, and the Court of Sessions had to intervene in the quarrel between Leggett, Stratham and Ponton. Leggett went to the New York City Supreme Court, suing Ponton for £25. Ponton never showed at court and the court ordered Ponton to pay Leggett £50. Richard Ponton, in turn, sued Thomas Stratham in the Court of Common Pleas in Westchester County in order to pay Leggett. In December 1692, the court ordered Stratham to pay Ponton £40. Since Stratham could not pay, he was jailed with the new sheriff to seize his land for sale (ibid.). In 1695, Ponton still had not paid the debt, and Leggett sold Ponton's debt to Thomas White, who went to the colony's Supreme Court, which ordered Ponton to pay in October 1695 (ibid:149).

Thomas Williams, upon his release, forgot the handshake, and pressed criminal charges against Leggett. In December 1693, in Westchester court, Leggett freely admitted he stole the hog, but that the Legislature's act of May 1691, pardoning all New Yorkers for crimes committed during Leisler's Rebellion covered his act. The court respectfully disagreed, observing the hog incident occurred before Leisler's Rebellion. Leggett was sentenced to pay court charges, pay a year's security for his good behavior or go to jail (Ultan 1993:147). Leggett, irrepressible as usual, appealed to the New York colony's Supreme Court, insisting that there were errors in the trial. Since this august body had sentenced Williams to death in the first place, they ruled in Leggett's favor in October 1696.

By the end of the seventeenth century, Hunt's Point and the West Farms Patent was concentrated in the hands of the families of the Hunts and Leggetts. Thomas Hunt's eldest son, Thomas, acquired Richardson's 20 acres at the south end of Hunt's Point and his father conveyed the Planting Neck/Quinnahung in 1698. The property remained in the Hunt family into the nineteenth century (Cook 1913:94). Bolton (1848(2):272) stated that Thomas Hunt, the elder, gave Thomas Hunt, his son, in 1688 one hundred acres lying on the south side of Leggett's land, and was bounded on the east and south by the Bronx River. This piece of property became the property of Daniel Winship in the nineteenth century, who married Eliza Hunt, the widow of Richard Hunt, Esq.

On April 16, 1697, Gabriel Leggett deeded to his wife, Elizabeth, all his household goods, and to his son, John, his house, outbuildings, orchard, land and meadows in the Planting Neck, and the meadow and tenement that Thomas Williams (original Richardson house) dwelt, along with additional lands Gabriel Leggett had acquired (Bolton 1848(2):275-276).



The County of Westchester, as defined on November 1, 1683 consisted of the towns of East and West Chester, Broncksland, Fordham, all land east of the province, northward to the Highlands, west to the Hudson, south to the Sound and the Harlem River (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:1).

At the conclusion of the seventeenth century, the project area can be best described as situated in a sparsely populated region in Westchester County. Settlement was characterized by either small hamlets or isolated farmsteads hugging the coast of the Sound or interior waterways.

The eighteenth century settlement continued in the same way. Settlers dwelled near the coast and left the interior undeveloped.

Early roads included Old Hunt's Point Road running through the middle of the West Farms Patent into Hunt's Point. It probably opened first at its lower end for use of Richardson and Hunt. The Old Landing Road branched from Hunt's Point Road and ran to Barretto's Point. The Old Landing Road opened prior to 1700 (Cook 1913:91). In 1729 a road was ordered which led from the King's Road "...to the landing below John Hunt's house, which landing was formerly known by the name of White Bank' and the people on whose property it touched were authorized 'to keep gates.' It would seem that this must be a road leading from the highway between Morrisania and West Farms to Hunt's Point" (Morris 1886 800-801).

The Hunt Grange may have been erected as early as 1688. Bolton described it as being in a beautiful location overlooking the East River and Flushing Bay near the end of the point (1848(2):272). The fourth Thomas Hunt occupied the mansion during the Revolution. He was a patriot, and the British frigate, *Asia*, kept anchor in the Sound near his property. Cook pried a cannonball from the west brick wall early in the twentieth century (1913:93). During Cook's time the then rundown mansion, was still a tourist site on Hunt's Point, but Cook stated in prescience that "... its inevitable downfall, when some factory or dwelling will ... take its place, is but a few years distant" (1913:92). Late in the eighteenth century into the early nineteenth century it became the residence of a famous poet of the period, Joseph Rodman Drake, who died at age 25 (Bolton 1848(2):272). Initial construction of the mansion used stone because of the heavy tax on timber. Once construction commenced, the tax was lifted, Hunt completed the building using lumber. Brick in the chimneys were obtained from Dutch traders who had used them as ballast (Cook 1913:94).

Following the revolution, the county of Westchester was subdivided into townships on March 7, 1788 (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:531). Twenty-one townships were named: Westchester, Morrisania, Yonkers, Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Eastchester,



Pelham, New Rochelle, Scarsdale, Mamaroneck, White Plains, Harrison, Rye, North Castle, Bedford, Poundridge, Salem, North Salem, Cortlandt, Yorktown, and Stephentown. The Westchester township included West Farms and Fordham Manor. Morrisania was annexed to Westchester by an act of February 22, 1791.

The population grew slowly during the eighteenth century. The Census of 1712 counted 2,815 for the county with 62 persons in Morrisania and 572 in Westchester. In 1790 the county total was 24,003 with 1,336 in Westchester (including West Farms, Morrisania and Fordham Manor) (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:226, 533).

Nineteenth Century

The development of the railroad led to more rapid population growth in Westchester during the nineteenth century. The New York and Harlem railroad was originally incorporated on April 25, 1831 and originally was to extend only from lower Manhattan to Harlem. On April 17, 1832, the New York and Albany railroad was incorporated, where a line was planned from the end of Manhattan through the center of Westchester County (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:546-47). In 1838 the second company ceded its rights and in May 1840, the state legislature approved of the compact between the two companies. By October 1841, a line had been constructed through Fordham. Jenkins (1912:366) credits the ensuing population boom directly to the railroad. And, if there was no population, "Wherever stations were located, stores and houses soon followed" (Jonnes 1986: 14). As the population exploded the Town of West Farms was created from Westchester on May 13, 1846. The new Town of West Farms included the old West Farms, Morrisania and Fordham. The Town of Westchester now lay east of the Bronx River (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:576-77). The population increased so in the next decade that the Township of Morrisania was created from West Farms on December 1855 (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:584-85).

Dramatic population changes are evident in the nineteenth century after the introduction of the railroad. In 1810 the county of Westchester totaled 30,272, with the township of Westchester having 1,969 (Shonnard and Spooner 1974:539). The state census of 1845 found 47,394 persons residing in the county and 5,052 in the town of Westchester. In the state census of 1855, 80,678 people resided in the county, 3,464 in the reformed town of Westchester and 12,436 in West Farms (ibid.:577-78). The 1860 census showed the Town of West Farms had a population of 7,098, including divisions into West Farms, Tremont (formerly Upper Morrisania, South Fordham, Adamsville, and Mount Hope), Central Morrisania, Williams's Bridge, Fairmount and Claremont (ibid.: 592). By 1870 the county had grown to 131, 348 in population with the following breakdowns in the vicinity of the project area:



West Farms	9,372
Belmont	171
Clairmont	158
Fairmount	508
Fordham	2,151
Monterey	118
Mount Eden	116
Mount Hope	487
Tremont	2,025
West Farms	1,761
Williams's Bridge	144
Woodstock	307
	(ibid.:605-06)

The first annexation of part of the County of Westchester to New York City occurred on January 1, 1874, consisting of Morrisania, West Farms and Kingsbridge, 12,317 acres, 30,000+ population and property value of \$23,000,000 (Shonnard and Spooner 1974.: 610). The new addition to the city was organized as the 23rd and 24th Wards. In 1880 the population of the annexed district was 42,898 (ibid.:612) and 1890, either 74,085 (federal census) or 81,255 (police enumeration) (ibid.:620).

The Richardson/Hunt/Leggett tract on Hunt's Point became an attractive area for grand country seats for New York City's wealthy elite. The view from Hunt's/Spofford and Barretto's Points were considered by nineteenth century authors as the finest on the East River (Bolton 1848(2):272; Scharf 1886(1):520; Morris 1886(1):806; Cook 1913:89-101). To the west of the project area lay Fox's Corners, owned by William Fox, a wealthy New York City merchant who married a daughter of William Leggett. Nearby lay the residence of Brightside, owned by Colonel R.M. Hoe, who owned the R.N. Hoe and Company printing press. On Hunt's Point proper, within and around the project area, were situated the residences of Edward G. Failé, Paul N. Spofford, William Caswell and Francis Baretto. Barretto was a New York city merchant, and the area of his residence became known as Baretto's Point during the nineteenth century. Faile was a co-founder of the firm, Thomas Hall and Edward G. Faile and Company, grocers in New York City. Faile was also president of the New York State Agricultural Society, an extensive breeder and importer of Devonshire cattle. Caswell was part of the grocery concern of Wm. Caswell and Company of New York City. Paul N. Spofford was a co-founder of the firm, Spofford and Tileston, in New York City. They were shipping merchants and managers of the Charleston and Savannah Line of steamers. Spofford moved to Hunt's Point around 1830 and built the house extant in 1886. His children included General Paul Spofford, Gardner Spring Spofford, Joseph Spofford and Mrs. Thomas Pearsall (Morris 1886(1):806). Spofford co-owned Vault



38 with Thomas Tileston at the New York Marble Cemetery in Manhattan, the first non-sectarian cemetery in New York City, established in 1830 (Brown 1998; New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1998:48-49). Paul Spofford is not interred at this cemetery. During the nineteenth century, Hunt's Point and its vicinity appeared to be an enclave of wealthy New York City merchants engaged in the grocery business and its ancillary activities.

At the turn of the century the Hunt family cemetery was located near the entrance of the point. Thomas Hunt died July 4, 1808, age 80. The poet, Drake, is also located here, dying September 21, 1825 (Bolton 1848(2):274). Cook described the cemetery as less than half an acre in area, located on the summit of a wooded knoll, close to the Hunt's Point Station branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. In 1910 Parks Commissioner Higgins repaired the cemetery (1913:98). Opposite the Hunt Cemetery "... is a small enclosure in which the slaves of early residents were interred. It is also said that 'Bill,' the negro pilot of the wrecked British frigate *Hussar*, was buried there" (ibid.:101).

Twentieth Century

While rapid population occurred during the nineteenth century after the introduction of the railroad, early twentieth century population growth was due to the introduction of the subways. In 1904 the Third Avenue elevated subway was extended to West Farms. Land speculation was rampant. Jonnes (1986:28) quotes the *New Yorker* as reporting that 'lots leaped from five hundred dollars to five thousand dollars literally overnight. Farms were dismembered; the Lydig Estate, at the West Farms terminus, was almost torn apart by the bidders'. New groups of immigrants followed the Irish and Germans northward from Manhattan. Irish settled in Mott Haven, Melrose and Highbridge. Italians moved to Morrisania and Belmont. The largest group of immigrants were Jews, who settled in Hunt's Point, West Farms, East Tremont and along the Grand Concourse (ibid.:4). In 1913 Cook discussed the potential for development in the borough. Rapid transit was one solution being developed at the time, both for residential and manufacturing purposes. He noted the groundbreaking for the new Broadway-Lexington subway in 1911 with the potential to be operating within three years (Cook 1913:35).

The American Real Estate Company, Henry Morgenthau Company, Geo. F. Johnson and James F. Meeham had purchased practically all of the property of the Hunt's Point section. Cook described Hunt's Point as chaos, with blasting, streets being laid out, and sewers being installed. These four developers were spending approximately one million dollars to transform Hunt's Point into buildings that could house 100,000 people (Cook 1913:39).



The American Bank Note Company had a plant at Hunt's Point employing over 2,000 people. Cook believed that the company was the foremost engraving and printing company in the United States, if not the world (1913:41).

The Bronx borough president, Cyrus C. Miller was planning industrial development for a district encompassing fourteen square miles of The Bronx. The plan would link sea and rail transportation with waterfront industries.

The Borough President has directed his engineers to draw up tentative plans for the Industrial Railway and has interested men of capital in the plan. One step in this development has been made by the Ryawa Realty Company, which has begun a \$20,000,000 development at the mouth of the Bronx River, similar to the Bush Terminal stores in Brooklyn.

Part of the plan is to have a Union Terminal Market on the line of the Industrial Railway, where food products may be carried by all the railroads and steamships coming to The Bronx and distributed directly and cheaply to the retail dealers of the Borough. (Cook 1913:44)

Considering the time, 1913, \$20,000,000 dollars was an amazing amount of money to be spent on development.

The second half of the twentieth century witnessed the expansion of the "South Bronx" until it became a national symbol for urban decay. Jonnes (1986:8) locates the original "South Bronx" as a one-mile square area in the extreme southeastern corner of Mott Haven.

As crime, abandonment, and arson engulfed each successive neighborhood in the lower, and then the middle, Bronx, each came to be stigmatized as the "South Bronx." ... Year by year as the arson epidemic raged, Melrose, Mott Haven, Hunt's Point, Morrisania, West Farms, Tremont, Concourse, Highbridge, and Morris Heights were overwhelmed, immobilized, destroyed, and subsumed by the "South Bronx." ... By 1980, the city of New York and the media had redefined the boundaries of the infamous South Bronx to include everything south of Fordham Road, or twenty square miles.



Cartographic Evidence

The 1912 Jenkins map which depicts the Bronx at the end of the period of Dutch control. The project area is within the West Farms patent of 1663. No roads or structures are shown within or adjacent to the project area. See Figure 5.

Figure 6 depicts the Bronx during the Revolutionary War. The project area is the location of one structure labeled Leggett. A road leads from this structure to the northwest. It joins the road to West Farms Village about 1.5 miles from the project area. There is another structure labeled Leggett approximately 2.3 miles distant to the north-northwest. The Hufeland map depicts farms, villages, roads, forts, mills, and skirmishes, with dates are illustrated.

The 1851 Sydney and Neff map shows one structure within the project area labeled Winslap. This is the earliest map to use the name Hunts Point. See Figure 7.

Figure 8 is taken from the 1858 Merry map. The project area appears to include two structures labeled P.N. Spofford. A road is shown leading north and then west. The point is now labeled Spofford's Point. Approximately 1.0 mile northwest of the project area is another structure labeled Paul Spofford.

The 1867 Beers map shows a very similar situation to the 1858 map. The project area includes one structure labeled P.N. Spofford. A road leads north and then west. The point is still labeled Spofford's Point. See Figure 9.

The 1876 Farmline map by Beers shows the owner of the project area as Paul Spofford. The farm is named the Hunts Point Farm. No structures are shown.

Figure 10 is taken from the 1882 Bromley Atlas. This map clearly shows two structures within the southeastern portion of the project area. The owner is P. N. Spofford.

The 1899 tax map shows the owners of the project area as J.B. Simpson and W. Simpson.

Figure 11, taken from the 1907 Bromley Atlas, shows that there are three structures within the project area by this time. Ownership is not listed, but this map does show the high water lines.

The 1915 Sanborn Maps are the source for Figure 12. This map shows that the structures shown on the 1882 and 1907 maps have been demolished. There are now four small one-story frame structures within the project area. The larger two are an



RESULTS

The section on prehistoric sensitivity shows that the Hunt's Point project area may have been used during prehistory. It is within two miles of at least nine known prehistoric sites. A stream previously flowed through the northern portion of the project area, which could have supplied fresh water. The marine resources of the East River were nearby. The most likely use would have been a fishing or hunting camp. Since this location has seen historic use from the late seventeenth century through to the present, any evidence of prehistoric use may well have been destroyed or disturbed.

The section on historic sensitivity shows that the Hunt's Point project area has seen extensive use since the 1660s. It is associated with the Richardson, Jessup, Hunt and Leggett families during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. During the nineteenth century the project area was owned by the Winship, Spofford and Simpson families. Two structures were built within the project area by 1858, evidently by Paul N. Spofford. One of these was his house. By 1907 a third structure was constructed, possibly by the Simpsons. After 1915 the project became a plant operated by Consolidated Edison. This plant was evidently a coal gassification plant. It was constructed by Con Ed between 1924 and 1932, and operated until the early 1960s (LMS Engineers 2000). Most of the plant facilities were above ground, however there were buried pipes and at least one large underground storage tank. The pipes and tanks could have disturbed prior remains if they were deep enough to penetrate the fill which evidently covers the project area.

Remains of the former Spofford and/or Simpson structures may still exist under the fill. If the fill was deep enough, the Con-Ed plant may not have impacted these structures. The structures could also survive if they were not directly beneath any tanks or pipelines. The most important would be the Spofford house. All of these structures were located in what is now the southeastern portion of the project area. The western half of the project area was formerly either salt marsh or in the East River.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is our conclusion that the Hunt's Point project area may preserve archaeological evidence beneath the present ground surface, particularly from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Two structures existed by 1858 and a third by 1907, all within the southeastern portion of the project area.

We recommend that archaeological testing be undertaken at these three locations prior to any construction activities. This testing would search for the remains of these structures as well as any features such as cisterns, privies or refuse deposits that may be nearby. These features should be associated with the Spofford or Simpson families who owned or occupied this land from circa 1830 until after 1907. This testing should consist of backhoe trenching possibly augmented by manual excavations should features or deposits dating to the appropriate period are found.



Plate 3 View of the eastern portion of the project area looking southwest from Hunts Point Avenue.

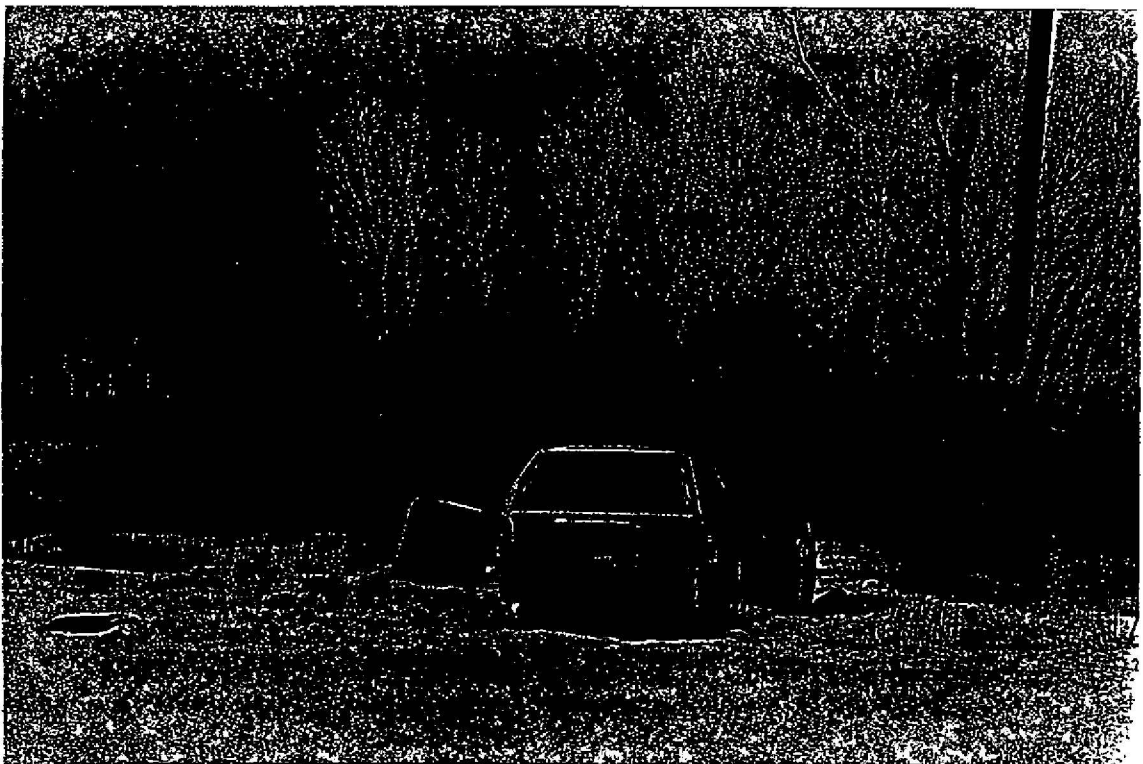


Plate 4 View of the southern portion of the project area looking north

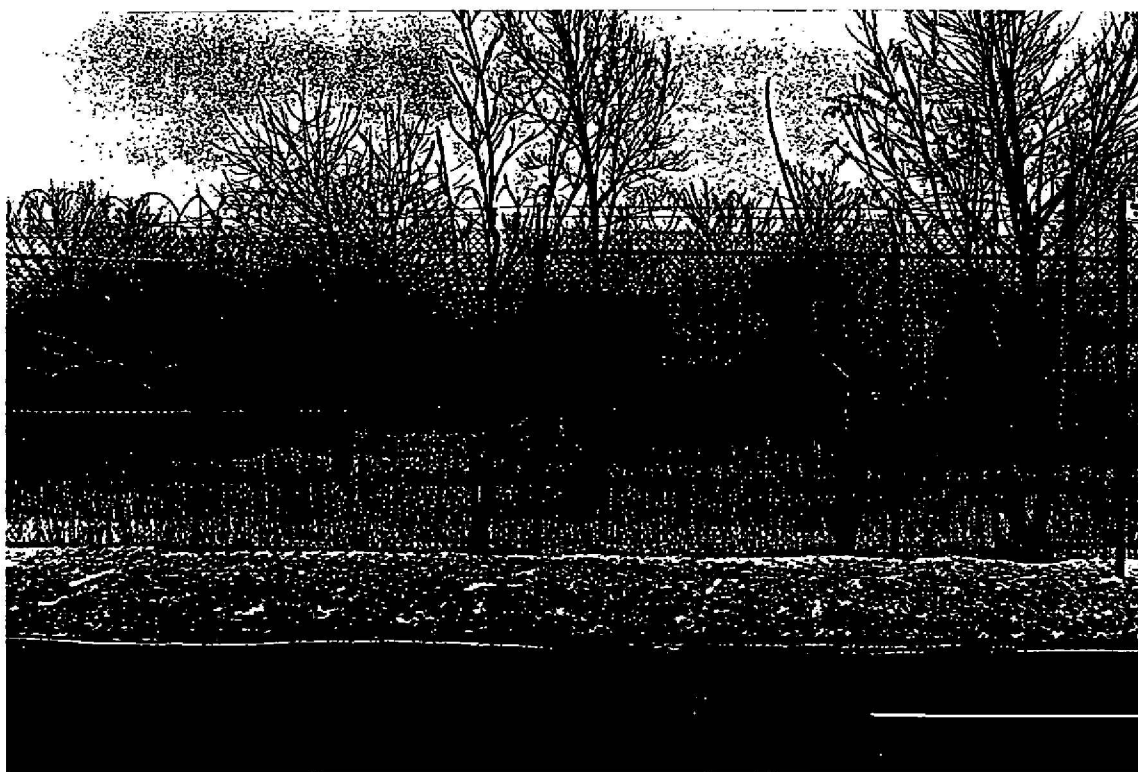


Plate 1 View of the northern portion of the project area looking south from Ryawa Avenue.



Plate 2 View of the western portion of the project area looking east from Halleck Street.



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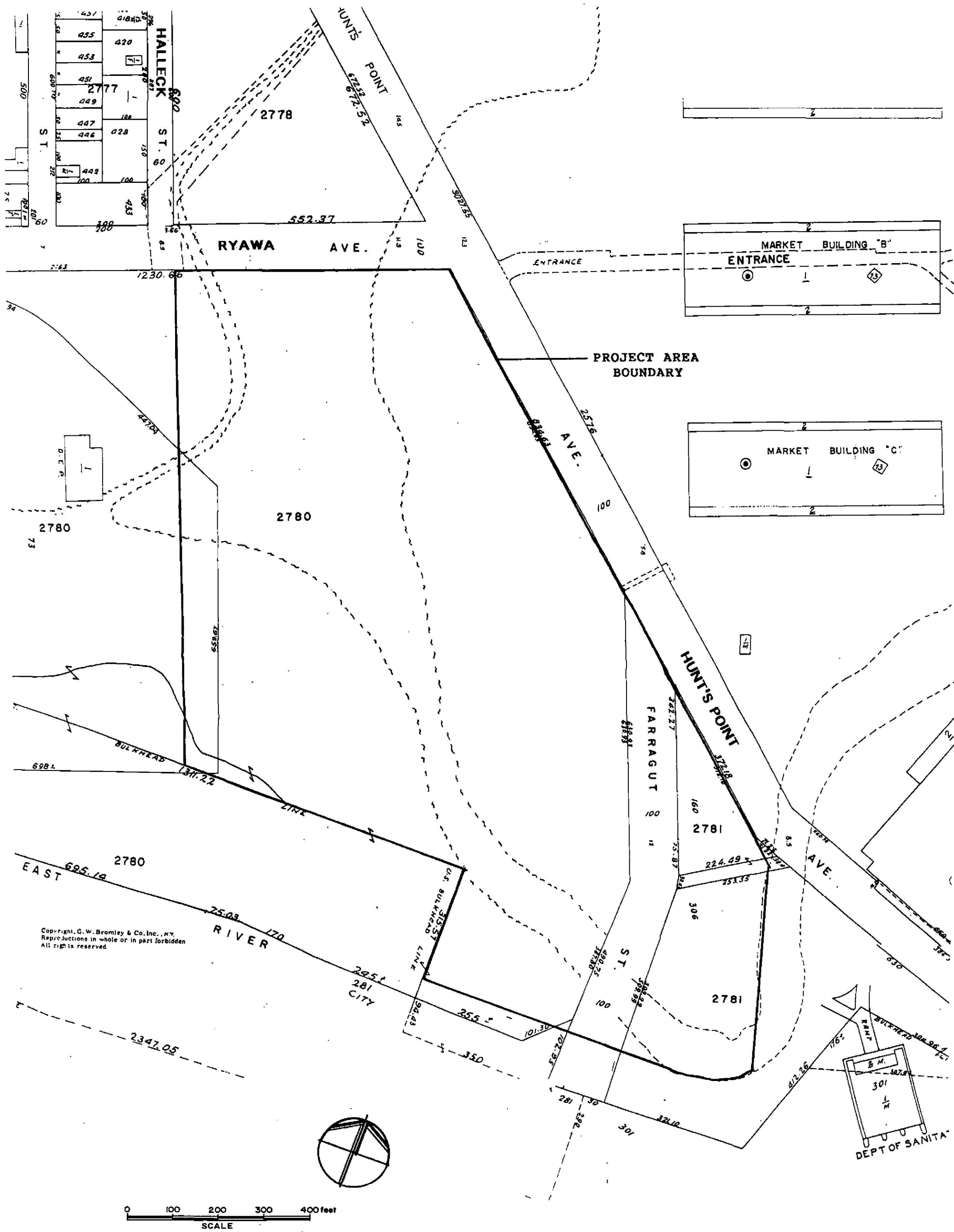


Figure 14 From the 1999 Sanborn Maps.



office and a blacksmith's shop. The other two are unlabeled. Hunt's Point Avenue and Farragut Street are shown, as is the shoreline of the East River.

Figure 13 is taken from the 1915 Sanborn maps updated to 1951. The four small structures shown in 1915 have all been demolished. The southwestern portion of the project area has been filled in, extending to the bulkhead line. The project area is now labeled Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. A number of above ground storage tanks and pumphouses are shown, as well as one 2,000,000 gallon below ground tank just west of the intersection of Hunt's Point Avenue and Farragut Street.

The 1915 Sanborn Maps updated to 1977 were also examined. The same structures and labels are shown within the project area. A note has been added that all the tanks and structures have been removed.

The 1999 Sanborn maps are the source for Figure 14. The project area is shown as vacant land. Since the date of this survey, Halleck Street has been extended south of Ryawa Avenue.

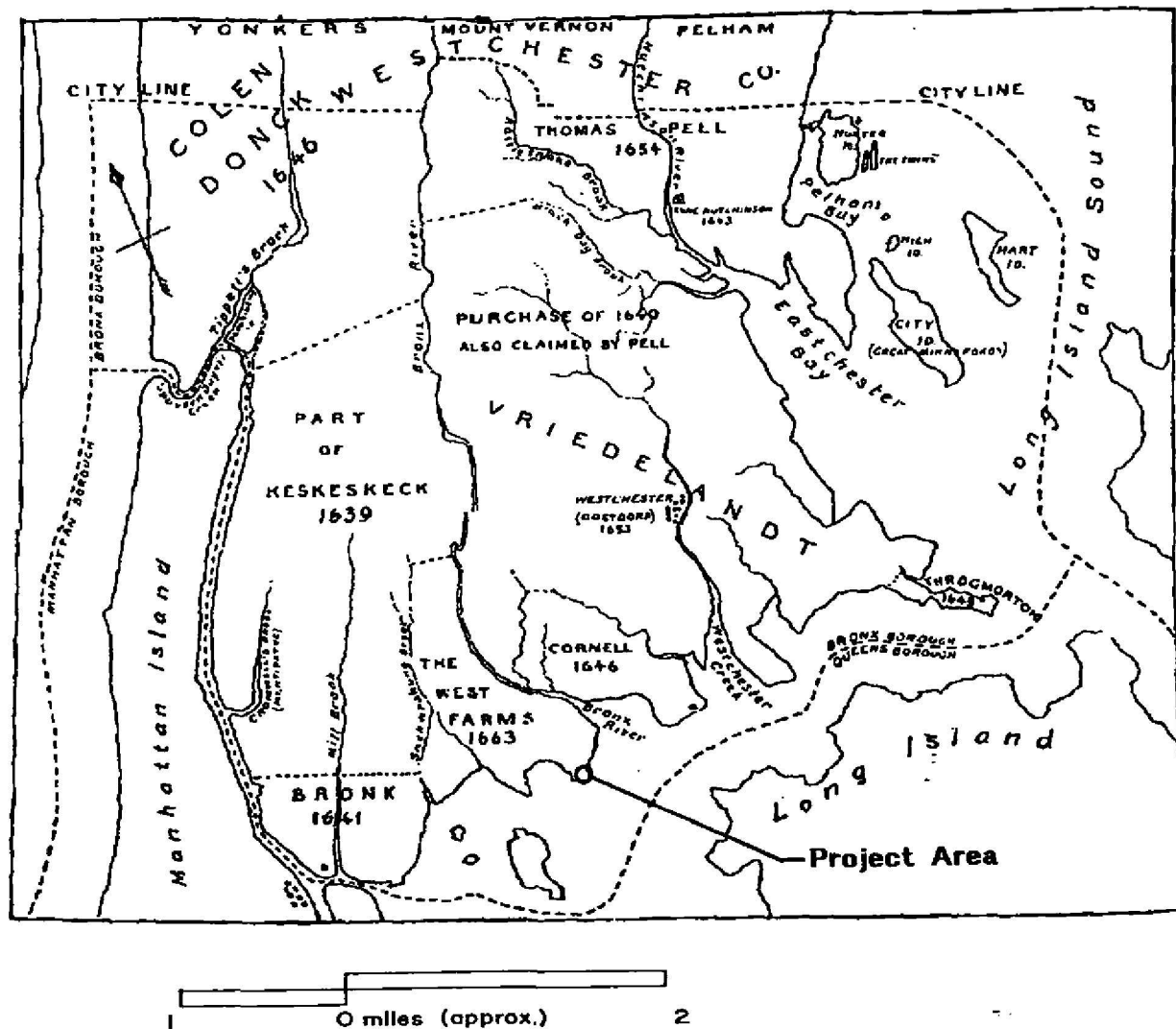


Figure 5 The Borough at the End of the Dutch Period. From Jenkins 1912, facing page 44.

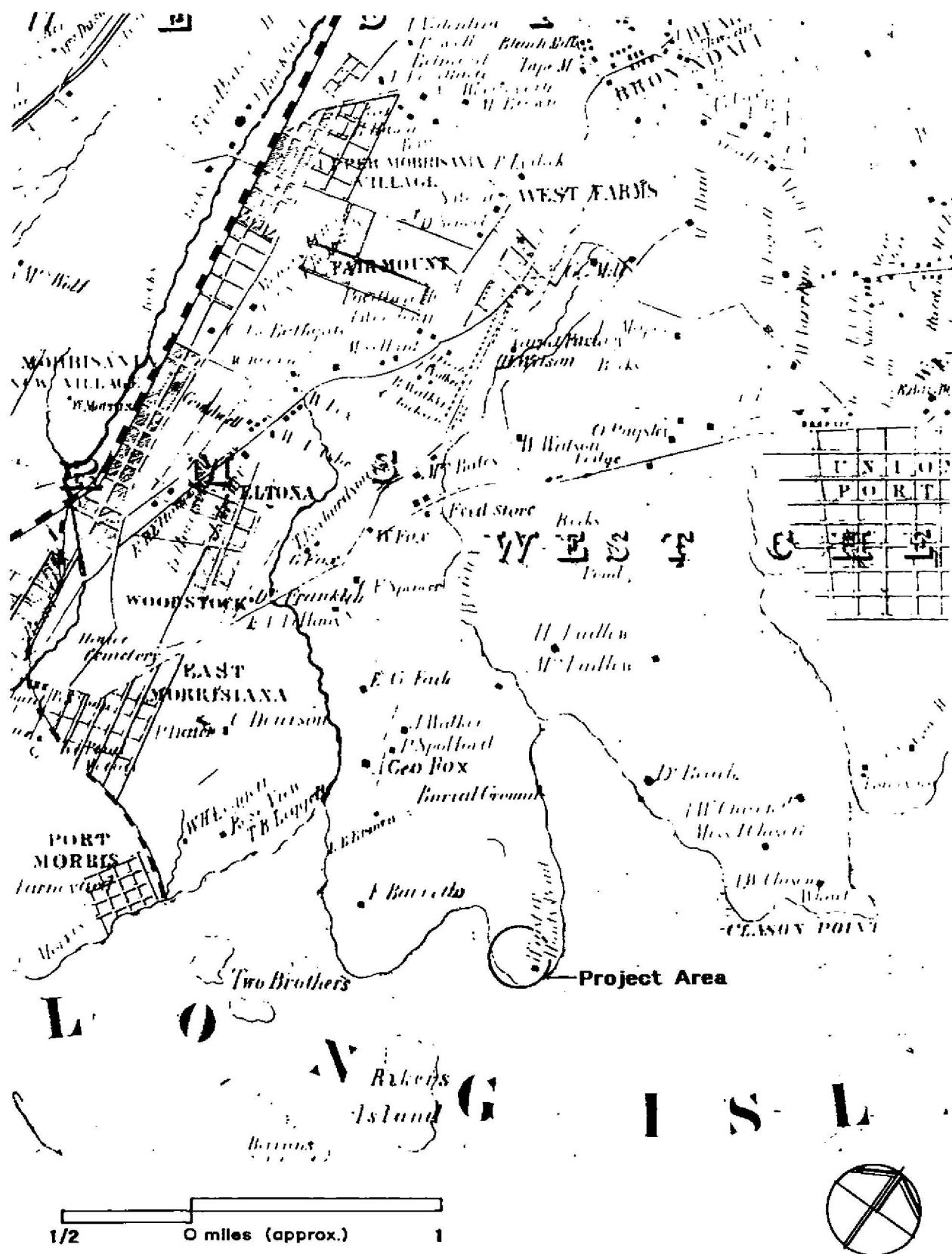


Figure 7 From the 1851 Sidney and Neff Map of Westchester County, New York.



Figure 8 From the 1858 Merry Map of Westchester County, New York.

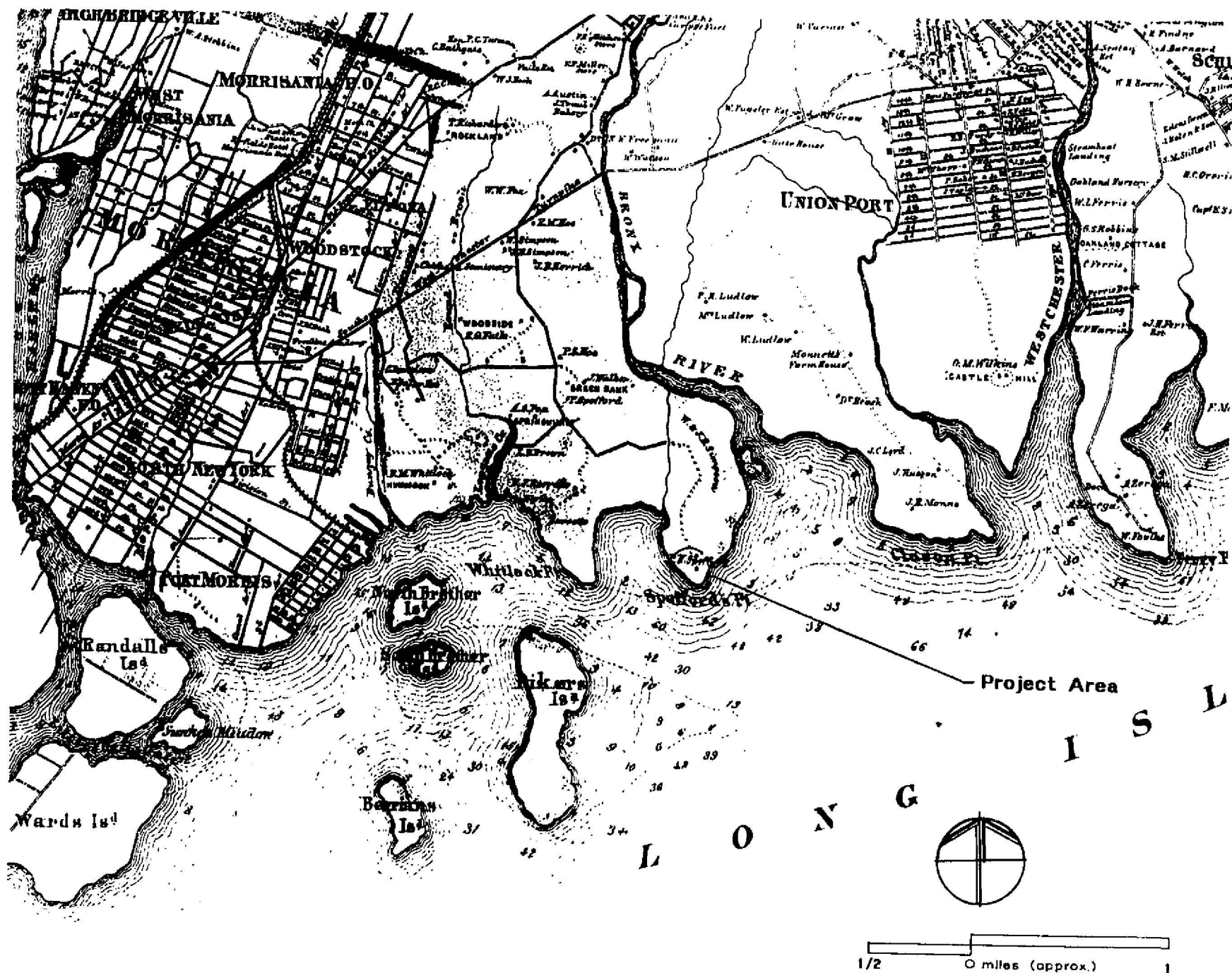
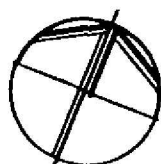
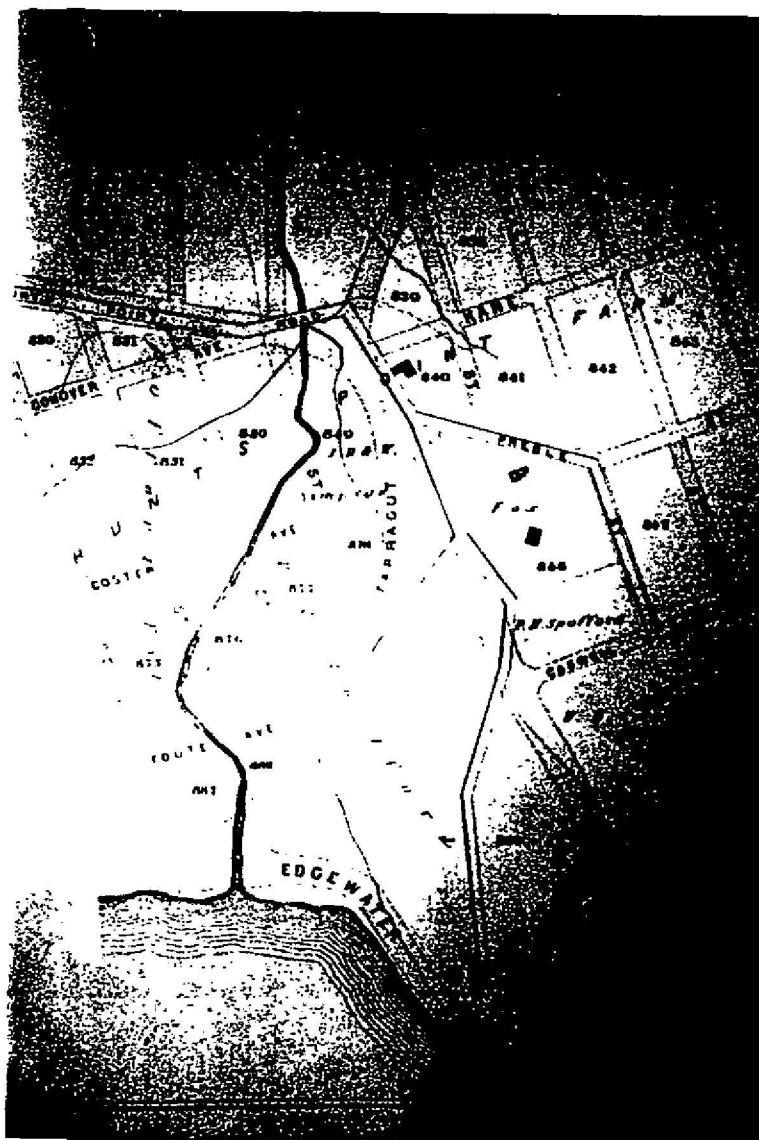
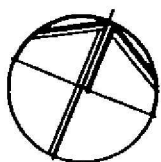
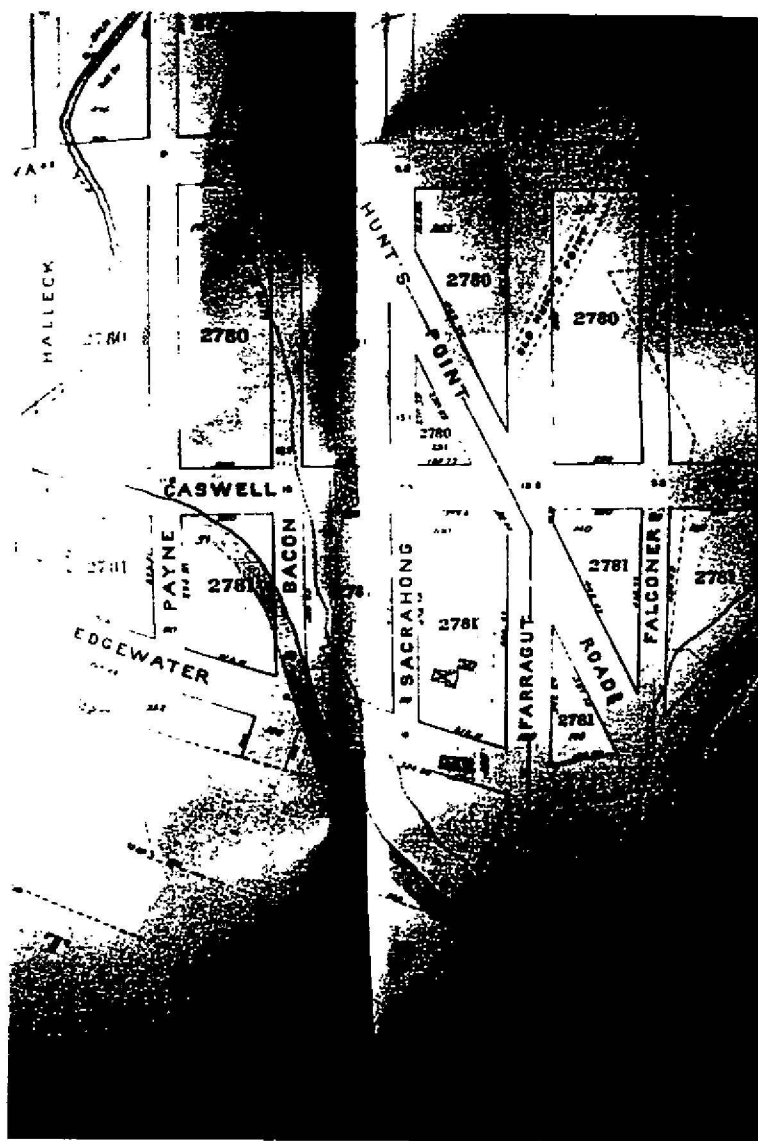


Figure 9 From the 1867 Beers Atlas.



500 0 feet 1000
SCALE APPROX.

Figure 10 From the 1882 Bromley Atlas.



0 200 400 600 800 feet
SCALE

Figure 11 From the 1907 Bromley Atlas.

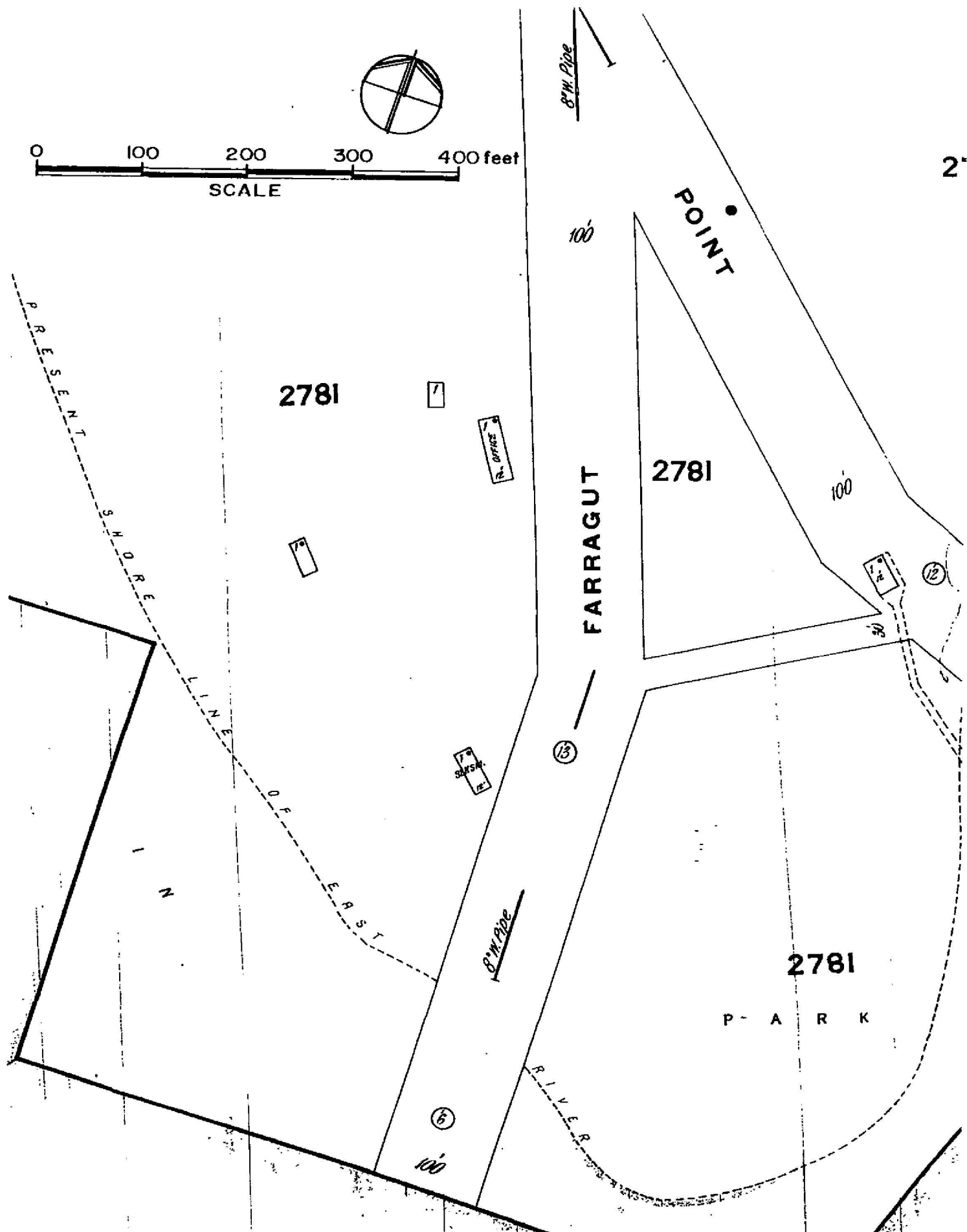


Figure 12 From the 1915 Sanborn Maps.

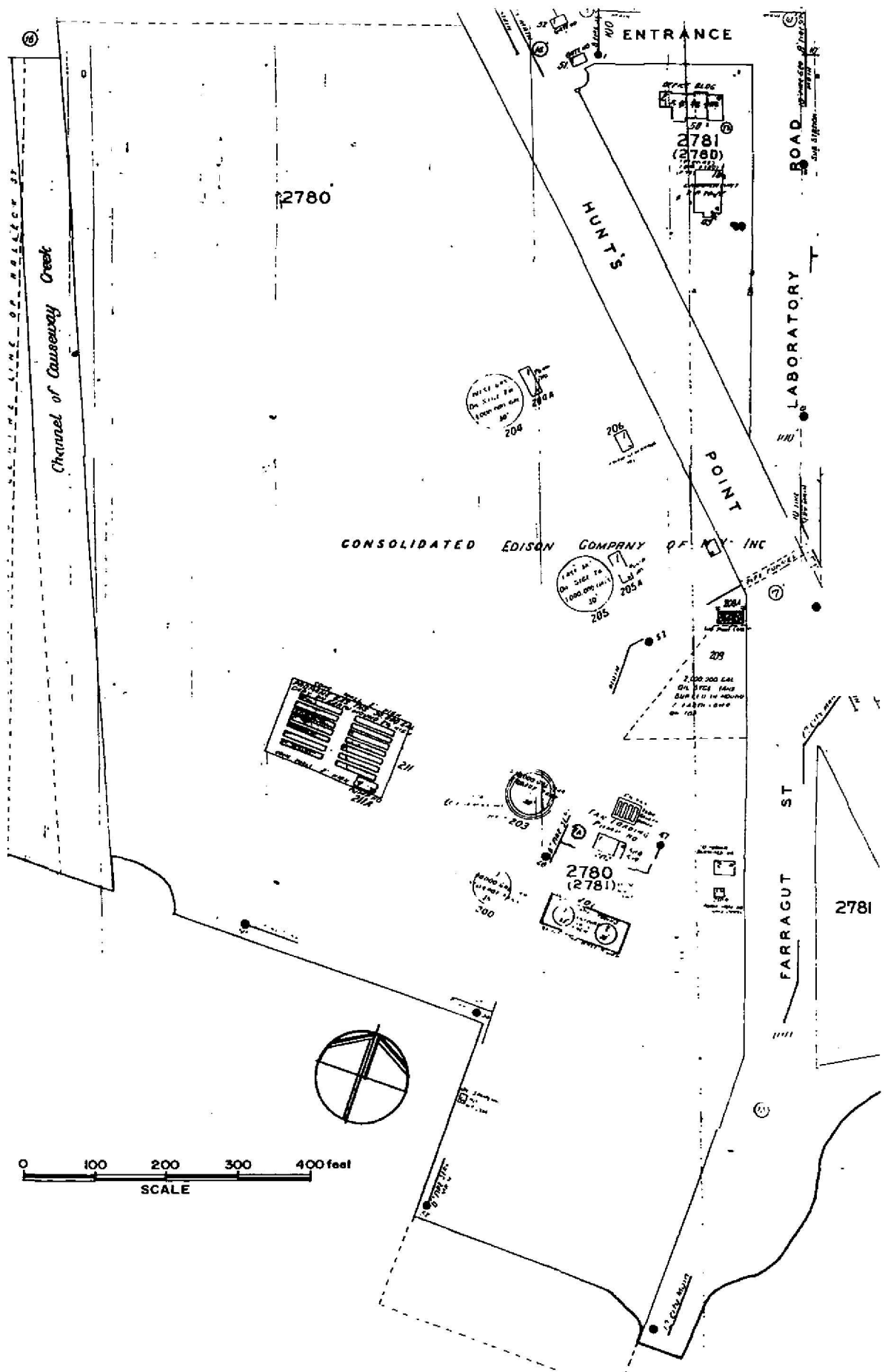


Figure 13 From the 1951 Sanborn Maps.