

SHOREHAVEN PROJECT CEQR 87-010X

Second Level Documentary Study

CEQR

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SECOND LEVEL DOCUMENTARY STUDY - PHASE IA

SHOREHAVEN PROJECT

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NEW YORK, N.Y.

CEQR 87-010X

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INTRODUCTION

Soundview Associates, Company proposes to develop a large scale residential complex on Clason's Point in The Bronx. This development depends on various discretionary approvals required by both the city and state of New York. In compliance with certain of these regulations, a "Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Report, CEQR 87-010X" was prepared by Historical Perspectives of Riverside, Connecticut. This survey was reviewed by archaeologists from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. 1

The sensitivity assessment of the archaeological potential on the Clason's Point property was accepted by the review agencies. In order to minimize the fiscal and scheduling burden on the Shorehaven Project developer, as well as to satisfy agency requirements, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has required a second level of project-specific research for the Shorehaven Project. Historical Perspectives was directed to produce a series of overlay maps, accompanied by an explanatory text, that would visually synthesize the Phase IA results and, specifically, delimit the project areas recommended for field testing. This booklet and maps I - VII are in fulfillment of the "Shorehaven Project, CEQR 87-010X: Second Level Documentary Study."

The following report is divided into sections, I - XI. Sections I - VIII correspond directly to the overlay maps, also labeled I - VIII. The Phase IA study is referred to often in the following pages but the text, figures, and photographs are not reproduced in this booklet. References to figures and text in the original study are noted by the IA abbreviation and can be reviewed in the original copy.

I. BASE MAP

Map I presents orientation data such as street names, current block and lot numbers, and the present shoreline and contours. Also on this map, illustrated with a dotted line, is an earlier Clason's Point shoreline, recreated from midnineteenth century water grant maps. The overlay maps correspond in orientation and scale with map I.

II. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

AREAS OF IMPACT AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES

Soundview Associates, Company proposes to develop a large scale middle income housing coomplex on a roughly triangularshaped property on Clason's Point in The Bronx. This proposal is referred to as the Shorehaven project. This parcel is bounded on the south and east by the East River, on the west, in part, by Bolton Avenue (a paper street), on the north, in part, by Soundview Avenue and Cornell Avenue, and on the east by Betts This proposed development will include approximately Street. 1,200 residential units (three- and four-story touwnhouse clusters), a neighborhood convenience center, a pedestrian promenade, a forty foot wide view corridor, eighteen acres of landscaped open space, and a community/day care center. Two small publicly owned parcels of undeveloped land, on the eastern and western edges of the project site, are to be improved by the developer as a part of the proposed action.

In order to raise all residential units above the 100 year flood line, fill will be introduced to certain portions of the site. Housings units in this fill area will be erected on pilings and the housing units to be placed on present grade will be erected on spread footings. Regardless of either approach, the foundation depth impact will extend to pre-twentieth century soil strata.

At this time the exact placement of on-site utility lines and hook-ups is not finalized but anticipated to impact all the residential and support buildings, the abutting parking lots and all new streets, except for the southernmost ring road. Two new sewer easements, one new sewer connector, and a storm sewer easement will involve work in public roadways and on the property of the adjoining yacht club, on Soundview Avenue.

III. AREAS OF KNOWN DISTURBANCE

The blocked out areas shown on overlay map Figure III represent areas of known disturbance. The documented history of the Clason Point region has indicated that these portions have been extensively impacted by a variety of earth moving activities. It is a composite illustration of all the sub-surface disturbances we have been able to locate. Figures 2 and 3 in the accompanying text are two examples of the sources used to trace this history of disturbance. They may be overlaid on any of the figures in the map series for further study. Data from soil boring logs were not figured into this graphic representation for two reasons: 1) on historic sites, what the soils engineer identifies as "fill" may be the archaeological resource itself such as a trash pit or building foundation; and 2) the depth of fill deposits as recorded on the boring logs was erratic and could not be forced into some kind of horizontal pattern without distortion. IV. BORING PLAN

Overlay Map Figure IV shows the locations of soil borings taken on three occasions by Python Drilling Company. The numbers by each location dot indicate the depth of fill as recorded in the logs. No significant pattern is discernible; the depth of fill varies widely. The Block and Street analyses discuss the borings for specific locations as they are applicable.

V. HISTORIC SITE POTENTIAL

Overlay Map Figure V shows the area of potential for archaeological resources of the historic era. Straddling the width of what was the paper street Bronx River Avenue, extending north into Block 3432 and south into Block 3434 is the site of the Cornell/Willett/ Clason house, originally built cl643. The history, in so far as it can be reconstructed through archival sources, was traced in Section V, pages 18-32 of Historical Perspectives' IA report.

Local lore suggests that Thomas Cornell, the first settler on the point, built a house at this location which passed to his daughter and son-in-law, Thomas Willett, and thence to the Clason family (in c1793) for whom it served as a kitchen wing for their It apparently survived, though poorly perserved, farmhouse. until Clement Stephens - under intense local pressure - incorporated it into his inn near the turn of the century. Because the inn was razed to make way for the Shorehaven Beach Club in the late 1940s, there is no way without subsurface testing to prove or disprove tantilizing documentary, cartographic, hearsay, and photographic clues that less than 10 feet below the ground surface lie the partial remains of a very early homesite. As pointed out by Paul Huey of the New York State Historic Sites Bureau (personal communication 8/11/87), the earliest building construction in New York state - that is, prior to c1660 - was generally of perishable materials. After the 1660s and 1670s more permanent building techniques such as stone foundations were employed. This would dovetail with the sequence of events at the Cornell/Willett/Clason house. Probably Cornell, the first owner either did not build on the property or erected a temporary home (which may have been destroyed by Indians) since he returned to Rhode Island sometime between 1650 and 1665. In all probablity his daughter and her husband, Thomas Willett constructed the first substantial building sometime in the 1660s. This hardly diminishes the significance of the site; colonial home sites with their associated yard/farm features are rare indeed in the New York City area.

On the overlay map (Figure V), what may be the site of the earliest portion of the Cornell/Willett/Clason house is shaded. Later building phases are outlined. The area of sensitivity within the dashed line was based on where features associated with the farmhouse/inn might reasonably be expected to be found considering where that area has been encroached upon by modern development activities. For example, there is merely a small area considered sensitive to the south of where the inn stood because of a carousel which was part of the Clason Point amusement park. One can assume that the construction of this ride and its subsequent removal would have destroyed the integrity of any archaeological resources. Similarly, directly east of the inn stood two 19th century houses which were demolished during the Shorehave Beach Club swimming pool construction during the 1940s. Here again, construction/destruction would have des5

troyed the integrity of archaeological resources. These houses are shown on Photographs 1 and 8, but have been torn down by shows both the houses the time Photo 3 was taken. Figure and the carousel as theyappeared in 1928; the inn is indicated by an X. Allegedly, the old homestead stood at least partially intact until 1949. (see Figure 1) In Photograph 1, The Clason Point Inn is the somewhat blurred building complex shown at the lower right. It is also visible on the far left of Photograph 3. A close-up view appears in Photograph 2. Today, the area where the farmhouse/inn once stood is occupied by handball courts, suffle boards, open frame picnic sheds, and land-The soil borings taken closest to the structure scaping. numbers B18 and B17 - show 8 feet and 4 feet 6 inches of "fill" respectively. The fill, which is underlain by sands, represents the stratum bearing cultural material.

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Recommendation: The information that might be gained from a study of original house foundations, early alterations, and/or wells, privies, cisterns, and trash pits would undoubtedly qualify as significent archaeological resources according to National Register criteria. It is possible that ground disturbances over the decades have obliterated these features, but the chance for their survival appears strong enough to make it imperative to test for cultural remains. VI. NATIVE AMERICAN BURIALS AND SITES: RECORDED AND POTENTIAL

A. Burials

The Skinner excavations earlier in this century, the reported discovery of a burial at 217 Pugsley Avenue and the rumored disturbance of burials during the construction of the turn of the century amusement park on Clason's Point, and the known pattern of late-prehistoric burial practices indicates that there is a distinct possibility that the project site area may have, at one time, hosted Native American burials. "The discovery, study, documentation, and re-interment of Native American osteological remains is an increasingly complex scientific, ethical, and emotional problem." (Poirier, et al, 1985:p.3) European disease and settlement severely disrupted the lifeways of the New York coastal Indians, leaving contemporary Native Americans, anthropologists, and archaeologists with a minimum of information on this lost culture. Archaeologically excavated and recorded stone tools, pottery, shell middens, and hearths provide evidence concerning the culture of prehistoric southern New York Indians. Human skeletal remains provide evidence concerning the biology of the people themselves. Data on the health and nutritional status of prehistoric populations can be gleaned from properly documented skeletal materials. (ibid:p.4) The analysis of interment practices and grave goods serves as a direct reference for cultural developments, population migrations, and trade networks. Despite the information that can be gained from the analysis of human skeletal remains, an "acknowledgement of cultural values of local Native Americans" precludes the disturbance of burial grounds unless there is an imminent danger of destruction. (ibid:p.9)

As discussed in the Phase IA report, Alanson Skinner's excavation of the Snakapins Site (southwest of the intersection of Lacombe Avenue and Sound View Avenue; see Figure 16/IA) revealed 5 single pit burials (adult male) and 1 double pit burial (adult Skinner believed there was evidence of at least 2, and male). possibly 4, disinterred burials, indicating the practice of secondary or bone burial (See Figure 16/IA). These oval, or dish-shaped, pits, encountered between 8" and 22" beneath the 1918 grade and measuring 3-4' in length, contained articulated flexed skeletons interred in a variety of contexts: encased within or resting on clean sand, resting on a bed of discolored sand or shells, or lying beneath a heap of boulders. Skinner speculated that plowshare action was responsible for a majority of the damage to the skeletal remains. (Skinner, 1918:pp. 79-88) Although sherds and/or bone or lithic implements were in association with 6 of the burials, Skinner reported only two burials with deliberately interred grave goods, one containing a bone awl (Pit #44) and one containing a stemmed, white quartz projectile point (Pit #13). (ibid: p. 113) Two fragments of kaolin pipe were noted in two pits, indicating some contact with Europeans. Pit #19 intruded into what Skinner interpreted as "the remains of a semi-subterranean storehouse."

The Snakapins Site was situated on a natural rise of land, approximately 30'to 40'above MHW, between the Bronx River and Pugsley Creek. In describing the vicinity of the Snakapins Site Skinner referred to shell middens and additional burials that most likely were located, at least in part, on the project site:

The nearest shellheaps lie on the eastern side of the point, not more than two hundred yards away, and extend thence to the tip. [This description roughly locates shell middens near the intersection of White Plains Road and the original course of Pugsley Creek. The shell middens more than likely paralleled the Pugsley Creek shoreline.] Those farther away, however, seem to be of an earlier character than the Leland Avenue heaps, for notched and stemmed arrowpoints, crude Algonkian pottery, and grooved axes are reported from them. Several skeletons, supposedly Indian, were unearthed when some of the attractions at the "Park," which now occupies the point, were constructed. (Skinner, 1918:p.79)

This reference to additional burials south of Gildersleeve Avenue - the northernmost limits of any of the "Park" activities - is frustratingly vague. We requested a file search by the archivist at the Heye Foundation for any pertinent field notes by Skinner but the search yielded no additional information. (Nancy Rosoff, personal communication, 8/3/87) Likewise, the informant data on the Pugsley Avenue burial is scanty. As reported in the Phase IA study (IA:p.12; see IA, Photo 15:p.100), house construction excavations at 217 Pugsley Avenue unearthed an Indian burial.

Skinner's excavation at Snakapins was a major contribution toward our understanding of the evolution of the cultural sequences along the New York border. A distinct cultural phase* of New York prehistory is named the Clasons Point phase after the type site on Clasons Point.

Estimated to have attained its characteristic conformation by approximately A.D. 1300 (there are no carbon-14 dates)...and survived to the period of European contact in the first quarter of the seventeenth century.

Most of the sites are situated on the second rise of ground above high-water level on tidal inlets andy they approximte an acre in extent. Refuse, occurring as a surface veneer and in pits, consists of profuse

^{* &}quot;The phase may be defined as a recurring complex of distinctive archaeological traits, sufficiently different from any other complex to suggest that it represents the product of a single cultural group, pertaining to a limited territory and to a relatively brief period of time." (Ritchie, 1980:p. xxviii)

remains of marine shellfish and much lesser amounts of mammal, bird, amphibian and fishbones. Pits ... are numerous, some being of larger size, but all probably serving the same functions of storage and cooking, and later trash bins and graves for the human and canine inhabitants. (Ritchie, 1980:p.271)

In keeping with the burial practices of this time throughout the New York State area, the Clasons Point Indians disposed of their deceased without apparent ritualistic observances, by simply placing the flexed corpse, unaccompanied by grave goods, in a convenient storage or cooking pit, or in a shallow grave dug in a midden. There is some evidence for secondary or bone burial. (ibid:p.272)

Our research into recorded late pre-contact Native American burial excavations supports the Skinner findings of shallow interments in coastal shell middens and refuse pits on well-drained knolls. (Skinner, 1919; Skinner, 1909) Bellantoni's 1983 synthesis of "Prehistoric Human Skeletal Remains from Connecticut" states that a major difficulty in retrieving archaeological data "is the shallow depth of the burials. The body was often laid at around the three foot level (Coffin 1963b:61), though some were buried as little as 18 inches below the surface (e.g., Rogers 1935:2, 1943:24; Russell 1947:41). As a result, a great number of discoveries are made accidently by non-archaeologists in the course of other activities, often with earth-moving equipment. Skeletal material has been unearthed while excavating housing foundations (Rouse 1943:4), digging wells (Hubbell 1946:6), and building roads (Coffin 1963b:43)." (Bellantoni, 1983:p. 117) Coffin's discovery of a "group burial" in Bridgeport, Connecticut was on a sandy knoll overlooking a pond and stream and included clusters of individual interments - two clusters of three and one cluster of 4 individuals. The approximate depth of these interments was three feet below grade. (Coffin, 1940:pp 35-37) Praus' excavations at the Old Lyme Shell Heap Site in Connecticut uncovered two burials in a shell-free portion of the Long Island Sound site, lying 18" and 22" beneath the ground surface.

Archaeological reports from southern New York detail pit interment practices, the cluster pattern and shallow depth of Native American burials. M. R. Harrington's excavations (c. 1900) at Port Washington, Long Island, centered on a sandy hill at the "mouth of a little salt creek near a spring," yielded burial depths below grade of 18" to 39". (Harrington, 1900:pp. 3-87) Spooner's work at the Crabmeadow Site on Long Island located cluster burials on an elevated "plateau" bounded by a tidal inlet and 100 yeards from a fresh water lake. These burials, found in pits, were approximately 3' below grade. Spooner recorded extensive shell middens at the "base of the plateau." (Spooner, 1955:p. 123-125) Roy Latham's 1962 report on a prehistoric burial site in Long Island states "The grave was 26 inches in depth and the fragile skulls were badly fractured by 9

freezing of the heavy soil. The grave was situated 150 feet from salt marshes on land many times inunundated by marine tides. Ten feet south of the grave was a circular pit 28 inches in depth by 30 inches in diameter which contained only valves of the soft clam." (Latham, 1962:p. 37) The Throgs Neck Schurz Site, described as a vast field that slopes gradually uphill from the East river shoreline, revealed shallow burials (30" below grade) in direct association with extensive shell middens. (Lopez, 1955:pp. 102-116) Two burial clusters at the Schurz Site are noted on Figure 9.

B. Habitation and Shell Midden Sites

As described above, the environmental conditions and topographic features associated with Native Ameircan burials of the late prehistoric period are the same conditions and features associated with either habitation sites or shell midden sites. A direct, physical association between pit burials and both home sites and shellfish harvesting stations is normative. (Solecki, n.d.:p. 92) The potential for Native American pit burials, habitation sites, and shell middens on a large portion of Clason's Point is high. As outlined above, late prehistoric Native American pit burials were often clustered in areas used repeatedly over time for successive burials, shellfish harvesting, or living areas and all of these activities have been documented for Clason's Point. Settlement pattern data indicates that burials of this Late Woodland period are associated either with habitation sites located on well-drained, elevated knolls (a minimum of 20' above MHW) in close proximity to a fresh water resource or with shell midden sites located on a relatively protected area of a marine or estuarine shoreline. Slope-side conditions were not commonly exploited for interments but those that have been documented were low incline slopes with a south/ southeast face. (John Pfeiffer, Anthropology Department of SUNY-Albany, personal communication, 8/3/87)

On overlay map Figure VI the recorded archaeological sites in the immediate Shorehaven project area are identified. Figure VI also includes an estimation of the extent of pre-twentieth marshland and of the original contour elevations. Topographically, the Clason's Point neck of land was, before intensive farming and construction, spotted with hillocks and low-lying areas (see IA: 22). One historian described two 40' knolls on the Point. This topography was a result of the pleistocene era. Contact stratified drift was deposited during the retreat of glacial The sediment was laid down as the ice remained stationary ice. for a while or from a large piece that broke off and eventually wasted away. The hillocks were formed as the ice covered sediment melted and the sediment clollapsed around it. (Dennis Weiss, Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences of City College, personal communication, 8/8/87; see Photograph 14)

On Figure VI the shaded areas within the 10' contour bordering the pre-twentieth century shoreline are considered areas of high potential for shell midden sites and associated burials. The shaded area that falls within the 20' contour line in the north and northwest portion of the project site is considered an area of high potential for a habitation site and associated burials. Although it is distinctly possible that Native American features lie beneath the unshaded areas on Figure VI, the best estimation of the potential for Native American burials and sites is based on the topographic stratification of the Point.

VII. PARCEL ANALYSIS: BLOCKS AND STREETS

A. Blocks

The following block by block assessment of the project site is based in large part on the material presented in the Phase IA Report. The text and figures of the Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Report will be referred to repreatedly and indicated with an IA notation. Only new data will be referenced. Efforts to obtain more definitive information on the specific project site blocks and lots from The Bronx Demolition Department, the Block and Lot Folders Department, and the Sewer Department were frustrating unsuccessful. We have included what facts we could glean from the Block and Lot Folders. However, the materials in the few folders which could be located was so sparse that the record is clearly very incomplete.

As in any developing urban neighborhood, the Clason's Point block and lot boundaries have been divided and consolidated over time, yielding the current block and lot designations that do not necessarily correspond to the designations recorded fifty or seventy-five years ago. The Secondary Level Study base map lists the current block and lot numbers (Real Estate Atlas of New York City, Bronx Land Book, Vol. 3, Plate 1). For an understanding of the "old Block numbers" review Figure 42/IA.

A concerted effort was made to collect as much cartographic evidence as possible for the creation of the overlay maps that accompany this booklet. Some of these maps were traced, some copied with a hand-held machine, and others xeroxed directly from atlases or microfilm. The varying scales employed on the maps researched and copied were adjusted to one standard for both the large and small overlays. Minor discrepancies in the overlays, due to these numerous and disparate reproduction processes, were unavoidable. Block 3455, Lot 1

Bounded by: Soundview Avenue, Gildersleeve Avenue, and Bolton Avenue (a paper street)

Currently: vacant and covered with weed grasses

History:

Until the 1793 east-west split of the Clason's Point neck this block was part of the Cornell-Willett farmstead, with no known appurtenances. During Issac Clason's possession this portion of the Point continued to be used for farming. This block was part of the Leland and Tompkins 37 acre parcel (c.1885) and later came under the ownership of Thomas Higgs (c.1898). Maps and atlases reveal no activity on the block as late as 1905 (see Figure 32/IA).

By 1921 the Bromley Atlas depicts two one-story, frame structures on Lot 1, see Figure 42/IA. The construction of these structures, possibly corresponding to the current Soundview Avenue #203 and #213, is not recorded in The Bronx Borough Block and Lot Folders. These structures are not exactly duplicated on any subsequent atlases and no more information is available on them. However, the more southerly of these structures may have been incorporated into an enlarged complex at #201-5 Soundview Avenue, which continues to have a one-story structure on it for at least another 25 years (see Figure 4 and Figure 40/IA).

Plans and/or permits for a c. 1924 structure at #255 Soundview Avenue, referred to on the Tap Cards in The Bronx Department of Environmental Protection: Tapping Division, are also not included in the Folders. However, this building does appear on the Sanborn Insurance Maps of New York, Vol. 17, in 1928 and on the 1927 Bromley Atlas (Figure 43/IA) as a one-story structure designated Pres. Ch. This building, aproximately 162 feet south of the south curb of O'Brien Avenue, was disconnected from city water before 1976.

In 1939 a one-story frame dance hall was built at #1893 Gildersleeve Avenue, see Figure 4. The owner was St. Luke's Hospital but the lessee, the Patterson Athletic and Social Club, Inc., acquired the Public Assemblage Permit (#117) for a 13 table/60 chair capacity. Within a few years the lessee was the Continental Athletic Club and by 1954 the Black Eagle Social Club (a "motorcycle club") took over the premises. (The Bronx Block and Lot Folders) The athletic fields and assembly hall can be seen in a c. 1945 aerial photo, see Figure 40/IA.

This block has experienced a minimum of recorded disturbance - farming, isolated and limited construction, recreational fields.

Borings Data:

According to the Python Drilling logs (1987), three soil borings on this block revealed landfill overburden to a depth of 4'6" to 8'.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to (1) prehistoric period topographical features, an elevated and relatively flat rise overlooking a major salt water and a fresh water resource; (2) the proximity of known prehistoric period sites; (3) accepted settlement pattern data; and (4) the minimal modern disturbance, we regard this block as sensitive for both prehistoric habitation and burial potential.

Recommendations:

We recommend that those areas of the block not covered by recorded construction (i.e., excluding 255, 201, 203, and 205 Soundview Avenue and 1893 Gildersleeve Avenue) be tested for prehistoric features. Block 3443, Lot 1 and Lot 4

Bounded by: Gildersleeve and Cornell Avenues, White Plains Road, and Bolton Avenue (a paper street)

Currently: vacant and covered with weed grasses except for a one-story, frame structure on the northern end of the block and the numerous parked/abandoned vehicles surrounding the structure

History:

Note: the old block and lot numbers, as well as some of the house numbers, do not correspond to the present designation and there is a degree of unavoidable confusion as to the exact location of some of the following activities.

Until the 1793 east-west split of the Clason's Point neck this block was part of the Cornell-Willett farmstead, with no known appurtenances. During Issac Clason's possession this portion of the Point continued to be used for farming. Lot 4 of this block was part of the Monnot Estate (c.1868), subsequently the Leland and Tompkins 37 acre parcel (c.1885) and later came under the ownership of Thomas Higgs (c.1898). Lot 1 became part of the Bradish Johnson Estate (c.1895). Maps and atlases show no development on the block as late as 1905 (see Figure 32/ IA) although New Building permits were issued earlier. The 1905 Bronx Borough Topographic Bureau map does show a structure, unrecorded in the Block and Lot Folders, on Lot 4 in the southwest corner of the block.

<u>Lot 1</u>

Adelaide Burlando is listed as the owner of a threestory frame store and two family dwelling at 107 White Plains Road in 1906.

Higgs, as owner, applied for a series of permits related to his Campground/amusement park business. It is unclear from the official Block and Lot Folders exactly where each plot is and if, in fact, all of the following requests were granted and/or the proposed construction completed:

- (1) 1910, Plan #250, blueprint by Novelty Machine Company for a "swing" with a 60' pole, 7'6" underground, concrete footings.
- (2) 1911, permit to raise one 40' high striker pole, 12" thick with an in-ground depth of 5',
 - "southwest of Clason Point and Gildersleeve, rear of lot."
- (3) n.d., New Building Permit request for a frame 14' x 20' ballgame, Dip or Dodge Ballgame, covered

with canvas and netting.

Bradish Johnson is listed as the owner of "camp #3" (25'x50' deep) west and south of White Plains Road and 500' south of Soundview Avenue, and James McMann is listed as the lessee. The New Building permit (1922) details the construction of the frame summer bungalow on 4"x6" foundation posts.

In 1925 Alice Carr is listed as the owner of 43 White Plains Road, 50' south of Soundview Avenue, on a New Building permit form for a summer bungalow.

It is obvious that this degree of activity could hot take place on the slender sliver of land now designated as Lot 1 but on a much larger parcel, presumably including part of the present White Plains Road and land on the east side of White Plains Road that was also in the Johnson Estate and designated as old block 3444 (see Figure 42/IA). Lot 1 was evidently used for construction/maintenance storage during the construction of the Shorehaven Beach Club, see Photograph 1.

Lot 4

In 1902 Clinton Stephens, owner, filed a New Building (frame) application for "about 500' southwest of Clason point Road, 2500' north of East River". The character of the ground was listed as "salt meadow over hardpan." A "private sewer" is mentioned. Clinton Stephens, Jr. was listed as the architect. The plans were officially requested, but they are not in the Folders.

In 1903, "4" extra H.R.I. sewers leading to the Sound below the low water mark into East River" were installed. Water pipes of 5/8", 3/4" and 1/2" are noted for the Stephens' pavillion, casino, house, and other buildings. (Block and Lot Folders)

Note: According to the available records, Clinton Stephens never owned or conducted a business on Lot 4. See Figure 8. It is most likely that the pavilion, casino, house, etc, referred to were, in fact, east of this block.

A May 1911 application to build frame "open stands" on the south side of Gildersleeve Avenue, commencing about 38' from the southwest corner of Gildersleeve and Clason Point Road specifies concrete piers and no cellar. (ibid.)

Both the Bromley Atlas of 1921 and 1927 depict buildings in the extreme northeast corner of the block and in the extreme southwest corner of the block (see Figure 42/IA and 43/IA) It is impossible to connect any of the above Lot 4 permits/plans with the atlas notations. As can be seen from the c.1945 aerial photograph (see Figure 40/IA), these structures were demolished. The southwesterly units were most probably associated with the Higgs house and old campgrounds and were removed when the house was, c. 1925 (see IA:p. 26) By 1949 a one-story frame dwelling, labeled Harding Park Camp, is situated on Lot 4 and is probably the structure still standing on the block today (see Figure 4). This same structure is found on the Con Edison Gas Mains and Service Plate survey (#5-S, 1/28/86).

Borings Data:

Four soil borings were recently taken on this block, (Python Drilling, 1987) and they indicate a fill overburden between 3' and 5'6" thick.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to (1) prehistoric period topographical features, an elevated and relatively flat rise overlooking a major salt water and fresh water resource; (2) the proximity of known prehistoric period sites; (3) accepted settlement pattern data; and (4) the minimal modern disturbance, we regard this block as sensitive for both prehistoric habitation and burial potential.

Recommendations:

We recommend that those areas of the block not covered by recorded construction/buildings (i.e., the extreme southwestern and northeastern corners, the standing structure currently on the block, and Lot 1) be tested for prehistoric features. Block 3430, Lot 40, north of Bronx River Avenue and Lot 82, south of Bronx River Avenue

The public land that Soundview Associates, Co. proposes to landscape for public pedestrians is located on this block, west of the project property, and south of Bronx River Avenue, see overlay map Figure II.

Bounded by: Bronx River Avenue and White Plains Road

Currently: vacant and covered, in part, with bituminous pavement, trash piles, and abandoned cars (see Figure 40/IA)

History:

Until the 1793 east-west split of the Clason's Point neck this block was part of the Cornell/Willett farmstead, with no known appurtenances. During Issac Clason's possession this portion of the Point continued to be used for farming. Andrew Findlay's 1838 survey (see Figure 26/IA) places two of the lots on the area covered by this block; these lots are designated: #2 - adjoining mansion h.lot including land and #3 - mansion house lot. By c. 1895 this block was part of the 12.4 acre Johnson estate.

The Block and Lot Folders specify a 1908 "locker house" construction, 150' west of White Plains Road and 50' south of Bronx River Avenue and 5' from the sea wall, which places it in this block. The sublessee of the ground for this new building, which was placed on a foundation of large flat stones, was the Unionport Yacht Club. No structures are shown on this block until the 1913 Bromley Atlas (updated to 1921) includes the Life Saving Service boathouse at the edge of the water on Lot 82. It is not known if the Unionport Club and the Service were one and the same. The frame headquarters, containing emergency gear and boats, of the District 1, Division 2 Service was staffed by thirty volunteers. (Grace Higgs Reel, personal communication, October 16, 1986) The 1927 Bromley Atlas shows the Service boathouse and two additional boathouses (see Figure 43/IA). The extension of the shoreline into the East River during the second and third quarters of this century has obliterated any evidence of these structures.

Borings Data:

Soil Boring logs (Python Drilling, 1987) have yielded two patterns in this one block that undoubtedly reflects the pre 1900 shoreline and topography. Lot 40 and the northernmost section of Lot 82 have only 1'9" to 4' of fill while the remainder of Lot 82 appears to have between 20' and 30'6" of introduced overburden. This introduced material, referred to as "heavy fill" in the logs, came from at least two known sources: Robert Moses initiative to expand the New York City shoreline (IA:p. 30) and the dumping of excavated soil and blasted rock during the construction of the Shorehaven Beach Club (see Photoraph 5).

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to (1) prehistoric period topographical features, shoreline location within close proximity to a fresh water resource; (2) the proximity of known prehistoric period sites (see Figure 19/IA and Figure VI); (3) accepted settlement pattern data; and (4) the minimal modern disturbance, we regard this block as sensitive for both a shellfish harvesting site, referred to as a shell midden, and the possibility of burials within the shell midden itself.

Recommendations:

We recommend that Lot 40 and approximately the northern one quarter of Lot 82 be tested for prehistoric features.

Our assessment of this block is also pertinent to the area of public land that is slated for landscaping. In consideration of the depth of recorded overburden and the minimal subsurface disturbance planned for the park beautification, we recommend no further archaeological consideration for the remainder of the parcel. Block 3432, Lot 1

- Bounded by: White Plains Road, Soundview Avenue, and the paper street of Bronx River Avenue and other lots in the block not part of the proposed development
- Currently: The defunct Shorehaven Beach Club facilities, including a massive swimming pool, ball courts, both male and female locker rooms, a cafeteria, a bandstand, and picnic grounds covers the entire lot.

History:

As discussed in great depth in the Phase IA report, pages 18 - 31, this block and lot was settled in the mid-1600s and remained an active farmstead site until the end of the nineteenth century. Several early maps place a fresh water pond at approximately the intersection of Pugsley, Cornell and Soundview Avenues - contiguous to and possibly partly within At the turn of the century Clinton Stephens Lot 1. transformed the original farmstead building - which had undergone alterations and additions over time and the immediate 12.37 surrounding acreage into a public amusement park. This park hosted various concessions, thrill rides, dining rooms, and dance pavilions. A succession of large-scale swimming pools were incorporated into the public facilities (see IA:p. 27). Clason's Point Park was open until the 1930s.

Note: Remove Figure 2 from the booklet and place it on the base map, I, for an appreciation of the scope of this entertainment complex by 1928.

Refer to page IA/27 for a review of the available information on building permits and construction plans for this lot. As discussed in the analysis of Block 3437 and Block 3443, additional information on Stephens' activities may exist but be misfiled in the Bronx Borough Block and Lot Folders Department. Although many of the individual concessions were designed to rest on wooden piles, the "Park" entrance at Stephens Avenue on the Soundview Avenue frontage, the series of swimming pools, and the numerous, large thrill rides entailed large-scale subsurface excava-Additional research into the organization and tions. layout of this early amusement park has yielded substantiation for the presence of private water and sewer lines during Stephens' ownerhsip. (Bronx DEP Tapping Division)

"The creation of the Shorehaven Beach Club obliterated most of the remnants of the Clason Point Park." (IA:p. 29) In 1947 Lot 1 was purchased and became part of the plans to transform the then vacant property into a private beach club. Accompanying photographs 1 - 14 depict the massive construction project involved in establishing the Club complex that was in operation until 1986. (See Figure 3) On the series of photographs, note the amount of bulldozed and dumped soil, the amount of blasted bedrock, the depth of foundation and drainage construction, and the extensive grading. A field visit to the Shorehaven Beach Club compound on Lot 1 confirmed the degree of impact suggested by the c.1947 photographs. Deep basements (with standing water), underground tanks, catch basins, the empty "largest saltwater pool in New York," and the evident sewer and drainage system strongly suggest that the vast majority of Lot 1 was severly impacted by the Beach Club construction. (See "Check into Shore haven for the Summer," Figure 6)

As can be seen by a review of photographs 1 - 3 and the discussion on IA:p. 29, the early farmstead building (possibly seventeenth century) and its immediate yard were not disturbed during the initial phases of Club construction. For a full discussion of the potential significance and possible integrity of this historic structure, see V. HISTORICAL SITE POTENTIAL.

The only other area in Lot 1 that appears to have escaped severe subsurface disturbance is situated on the Soundview Avenue frontage between the eastern curb on Stephens Avenue and the western curb on Pugsley Avenue where they intersect with Soundview Avenue. An analysis of the atlases, available building plans, and aerial photographs and a field visit did not yield any indication that this plot has undergone serious subsurface disturbances during the installation of either twentieth century entertainment comples. See Figure III: Areas of Known Disturbance, for a more precise location of this undisturbed area.

Borings Data:

Twenty-two soil boring tests were conducted in Lot 1 during the past year (Python Drilling, 1987). Depths of fill ranged from 1' to 16'. Only 4 of the borings encountered fill overburden of more than 8' and three of these tests were located in an area that most likely reflects the fill pushed into the cavity of Stephens' swimming pool, known as the "inkwell" (IA:p. 27). Boring #22, 15' of fill, recorded "peat" under the fill. Post-boring analysis has not been conducted on the soil samples so the the source of this peat - estuarine deposition, post pleistocene pond, filled early twentieth century pool - has not been determined. (Honey Peacock, Python Drilling, personal communication, 8/3/87) No borings were taken from the Soundview Avenue frontage parcel that was discussed above as being possibly undisturbed.

Archaeological Potential:

It is remarkable that even a portion of a midseventeenth century home, i.e., the Cornell/Willett farmstead, survived into the twentieth century. The potential for a significant historical archaeological site is high. As discussed in section V, the wealth of potential information to be gained from this historical site would add greatly to our understanding of the historic period settlement and development of the southern New York coastline.

As can be seen on Figure VI, the major portion of Lot 1 falls within either of the two areas of Native American burial and site potential - within the coastal zone of less than 10' above MHW and the upland zone of at least 20' above MHW. As discussed in VI. NATIVE AMERICAN BURIALS AND SITES, it is most probable that shell midden sites and associated burials would have been deposited within this block and lot and that upland zone habitation and burial sites would have existed within the northern portion of this block and lot.

The post pleistocene fresh water pond, situated roughly at the intersection of Pugsley, Cornell, and Soundview Avenues would have been a natural resource of particular concern to Native Americans, affording a range of foods and materials different from those of the estuarine environment along the East River and Pugsley Creek shorelines. The one section of Lot 1 that appears to have been undisturbed over time is approximately on the banks of this pond (see Figure VI).

Recommendations:

The intense, documented development of two twentieth century amusement complexes effectively obliterated both the historical and prehistorical archaeological potential in the vast majority of Block 3432, Lot 1. However, there is evidence that two areas of Lot 1 may have escaped the extensive subsurface disturbances evident on the remainder of the lot. We recommend that field testing be conducted in an effort to precisely locate and investigate the Cornell/Willett home and associated yard features.

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We recommend that the one portion of Lot 1 that is not documented as having been excavated or severely graded and appears to have been in close proximity to a fresh water resource be field tested for prehistoric features. Block 3434, Lot 1

Bounded by: White Plains Road, the East River, and two paper streets, Bronx River Avenue and Pugsley Avenue

Currently: The defunct Shorehave Beach Club facilities, including a large wading pool and pavilion, picnic sheds, swing sets, a pumping station, an arboretum, and passive recreational acreage covers the block.

History:

As discussed in great depth in the Phase IA report, pages 18 - 31, this block and lot was settled in the mid-1600s and remained part of an active farmstead site until the end of the nineteenth century. This farmstead straddled the current city block designations of #3432 and #3434. The historical import of this parcel is fully described under the parcel analysis of Block #3432, see above.

Evident on Figure I and Figure 40/IA, the southern one-half of this lot was underwater through the middle of the nineteenth century and the northern one-half of the lot functioned as a docking site (see Figure 26/IA). Expansion of the shoreline began after 1894 when Clinton Stephens received a city water grant. During the heyday of Stephens' amusement park there was at least one thrill ride, a marina, dock, bathing beach, dancing pavilion, and nineteen unidentified concessions and related structures. Note: Remove Figure from the booklet and place it on the base map, I, for an appreciation of the scope of this entertainment complex by 1928.

By the demise of Stephens' amusement park, the size of lot 1 had been expanded by fifty per cent (see Figure 40/IA). This shoreline expansion was continued during the Shorehaven Beach Club construction, see photographs 1, 4 - 13. During the mid 1950s the Beach Club management further refined the new shoreline through extensive landscaping. A "Celebrity Arboretum" of 50 shade trees, named after famous guests (e.g., Marilyn Monroe, Buddy Hackett, and Eydie Gorme) at the club, was planted in 1955. (New York World - Telegram and Sun, Arpil 10, 1955:p. 31)

Borings Data:

The boring logs reflect this landfilling history, citing overburden depths of 14'6" to 31'6" along the current shoreline. A total of 17 tests were conducted on this lot, 4 of these locations revealed overburden depths of less than 10'. Boring #20 recorded only 5' of fill over 9'6" of decomposing mica schist boulders. We believe this anomaly and the shallow overburden depths north of this location reflect the presence of a pre-twentieth century boulder-stabilized coastline dock, probably built upon a natural rise in the topography (e.g., a bedrock outcropping). This shoreline position corresponds to: (1) the old dock and embankment on the 1838 survey of Clason's Point and the 1868 map (see Figures 26/IA, 28/IA); (2) the natural looking spit of land jutting into the River on the 1874 and 1888 U.S.G.S. surveys (see Figures 29/IA, 30/IA); and, (3) the positon of Stephens' pier c.1900 (see Figure I). Boring #124 revealed 8' of fill overlying peat. The presence of peat (an organic rich horizon) indicates sea level at the time it was laid down and has been used by archaeologists to identify potential environments for Native Americans.

Archaeological Potential:

As discussed on pages 20 - 23 above, it is remarkable that a portion of a mid-seventeenth century home survived into the twentieth century. As discussed in section V, the wealth of potential information to be gained from this historical site would add greatly to our understranding of the historic period settlement and development of the southern New York coastline.

This lot falls within the coastal zone of Native American potential sites. As discussed in VI. NATIVE AMERICAN BURIALS AND SITES, it is most probable that shell midden sites and associated burials would have been deposited within this block and lot. The naturally elevated land (i.e., boring location test #325, #319, #124) would have been the most attractive location for Native American exploitation within this lot. However, it is this same embankment area that has been used extensively during historic times.

Recommendations:

We recommend that field testing be conducted in an effort to precisely locate and investigate the Cornell/Willett home and associated yard features.

We feel that the potential for a shell midden site and associated pit burials would be high at the historic docking area on this lot, but that the 300 years of use and construction has most likely severely impacted such features. We do feel that the prehistoric potential in the vicinity of boring #124/peat - possibly removed from the most extensive docking activities - should be investigated.

Block 3445, Lot 27, Lot 29, Lot 33

Bounded by: Soundview Avenue and Stephens Avenue

Currently: vacant and covered with weed grasses The Soundview Avenue frontage of this block is dominated by the two multiple-story brick dwellings that have stood for over forty years. These buildings are evident in a c.1947 photograph, see photograh 4.

Until the 1793 east-west split of the Clason's Point History: neck this block was part of the Cornell-Willett farmstead, with no known appurtenances. During Issac Clason's possession this portion of the Point continued to be used for farming. By 1868 this block was a part of the 33.78 acre parcel tentatively designed for development (see IA:p.22; see Figure 28/ In 1900 the owner is listed as G. R. Sheffelin IA). but by 1905 the parcel owner is J. H. Benedict. However, no structures are shown on this block (see Figures 29/IA, 30/IA, 31/IA, 32/IA) until the Bromley Atlas of 1921 depicts both the "Green Coaster" and the "Royal Gorge" on the block.

Lot 27 and Lot 29

The "Gorge," (described as an "old mill") was already in place by 1915 when an Alterations Permit was processed by the city. Located approximately 175' from the Newman Avenue corner and owned by the Gorge Scenic Ride Company, the structure was listed without a cellar. Although the Block and Lot Folders information lists this amusement concession in Lot 29, the 1921 Atlas shows two structures associated with the Royal Gorge and covering what appears to be both Lot 27 and Lot 29. Although not listed in the Folders, the Bromly Atlas shows the Green Coaster ride as intruding on Lots 32 and 33 (see Figure 42/IA). It is supposed that any form of public "thrill ride" would involve a deep and massive form of foundation construction.

In 1925 a New Building permit for a dwelling, with a cellar and cesspool, was processed for Lot 27. The foundation, resting on "earth," was specified as 7' below the curb level and the water supply was to be from 3/4" and 5/8" pipes. Perhaps it is this structure that is visible in the c.1945 aerial photograph (see Figure 40/IA), although the 1927 Bromley Atlas shows the only structure to be on Lot 25 (see Figure 43/IA).

Lot 33

We were unable to obtain any lot-specific data.

According to the Sanborn Insurance Maps (updated to 1949) the present configuration of these lots is over forty years old.

Borings Data:

Only two borings were recently done on this block and they indicate an overburden of between 8' and 15'.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to (1) prehistoric period topographical features, a sloping terrain between two slightly elevated knolls; (2) accepted settlement data; and (3) the high degree of known construction disturbance and fill overburden on a limited space, we anticipate no prehistoric archaeological potential.

Recommendations:

We do not recommend any further archaeological consideration for this block.

Block 3446, Lot 1 (Previously designated as Lots 1, 7, and 11.)

Bounded by: Soundview Avenue, Pugsley Avenue, and Stephens Avenue

Currently: vacant land covered with weed grasses and a few trees See Photograph 2/IA.

History:

This block was undoubtedly part of the Issac Clason farm by the end of the eighteenth century. It appears that this block falls either within the #10 or the #9 plot - described as "meadow" (see Figure 26/IA) on the 1838 survey, "Map of Clason's Point." The 1905 Bomley Atlas places this block within James H. Benedict's 33.78 acre parcel (see Figure 32/IA) with no structures are. By 1921 (see Figure 42/IA) two amusement park concessions were on the block and occupying the Soundview frontage, labeled at that time as Lots 1, 7, and 11. [Note: Located in another Block and Lot Folder was information concerning Benedict's 1912 plans for a pine and maple building for a skating rink to replace a carousel, located on the north side of Soundview Avenue and 900' east of White Plains Road. It is possible that this data was mis-filed and is pertinent to this block.] The "racing coaster" and the "skating rink" were evidently short-lived enterprises since the 1927 Bromley Atlas shows the block completely subdivided into residential lots, with Lots 1, 7, and 11 vacant. The 1949 Sanborn Insurance Maps (see Figure 5) show the lots in question as vacant, which is confirmed by the c.1945 aerial photograph (see Figure 52/IA).

Borings Data:

Two borings were taken on the block, each 30' in from the curb, at the intersection of Pugsley and Soundview Avenue and at Stephens and Soundview Avenue. The depth of fill overburden was recorded at 10' and 11'6".

Archaeological Potential:

Pre-twentieth century, this block of land was between two slightly elevated knolls, - one due east and one due northwest (see Figure 31/IA and Figure VI). This positioning would not have afforded adequate drainage for either shellfish harvesting or burials. The settlement pattern data for southern New York indicates a preference for non-slope sites. If, however, prehistoric features are on this block, the degree of fill overburden makes field testing unrealistic. This extensive fill may have been necessary to properly grade the site before the public concessions were built. Or, the fill overburden recorded in 1987 may, in part, be the remnants of these two concessions. It is supposed that any form of public "thrill ride" would involve a deep and massive form of foundation construction.

Recommendations:

We do not feel that Block 3446 warrants any further archaeological consideration.

Block 3436, Lot 1, Lot 12, Lot 33, Lot 44, and Lot 49

- Bounded by: Lots 1 and 12 are on the north side of Soundview Avenue between Cornell Avenue, Pugsley Avenue, and Husson Avenue (a paper street). Lots 33, 44, and 49 are on the south side of Soundview Avenue between the two paper streets of Pugsley Avenue and Bronx River Avenue.
- Currently: The northern section of this block has no standing structures. The southern section hosts abandoned structures. Both sections have been most recently used for recreational activities.

History:

Like the other blocks at Clason's Point this area remained as farm land through the nineteenth century. The split block was under joint ownership at the turn of the century, including James Benedict, Taylor, and Clinton Stephens (see Figure 32/IA).

Lot 1

The small Lot 1 remained undeveloped by 1905 and does not host structures on subsequent atlases of 1921 and 1927. It was owned by the Margaret and Martin Kane family. A 1911 Alterations Permit for Block 3437/Lot 2 incorporated this Lot 1 in the Kane's plans for changes to the then operating "amusement apparatus." Several other applications in that same year, that included Lot 1, indicated the construction of a brick building, the installation of a refreshment stand and a boardwalk, and the installation of a hexagonal steel tower for a 62' diameter swing called the "Frolic." (Block and Lot Folders)

Lot 12

A frame, two-story Italianate house was situated on this lot by 1905. There are no available building plans for this structure but it appears to have been enlarged by 1906 when it is functioning as the Kane Hotel. This building had a deep and extensive foundation (see IA:p. 28; see Figure 50/IA and 52/ IA). The Hotel had burned by 1945. The borough Water Tapping Division notified the owner of lot 12 in 1961, G. W. V. Associates, Inc., that they had no record of a public water tap to the parcel. Two city hydrants connect Lot 12 with the Soundview Avenue water mains. (The Bronx Borough DEP, "Water Mains and Hydrants)

Lot 33

By 1912 a portable frame stand was placed on the lot, which had been vacant up until this time. (Block and Lot Folders) In 1922 a frame refreshment stand was built at 67 Soundview Avenue. There were no other structures on the lot, measuring 72'x 100' deep.

Lot 44

As discussed in Block 3435, the 1956 owner of this parcel, Sam Piazza, received permission to fill in the vacant lot since it was a "menace to children and health." See Figure 7 for the block and lot diagram that was included with the permit request. By 1963 the owner, representing his tenant, requested additional water supply from the city for the "bar and grill" located at 69 Soundview Avenue. (The Bronx Borough DEP Water Tapping Division)

Lot 49

In 1972 a 5/8" water tap was connected to the premises at 65 Soundview Avenue. Located 8' north of the south building line of the premises and 9' from the east curb line, this structure is apparent on the 1927 Bromley Atlas (see Figure 43/IA) and the 1949 Sanborn Insurance Map (see Figure 5). It can also be noted on the c.1945 aerial photograph, nestled among the boats at what appears to be the boat club marina (see Figure 52/IA). This structure and possibly the lot 44 building, both now abandoned, can still be seen from Soundview Avenue.

Borings Data:

No borings were taken from Lot 1 and Lot 12 of the block. Borings from the surrounding streets indicate a fill of approximately 10'. Three borings were taken on the periphery of lots 44 and 33, yielding 5'6" and 8' of fill along the southern boundary and 16' of fill on the western boundary. One boring from approximately the center of lot 33 revealed a fill layer of 5'6". Lot 44 was the area filled as late as 1956. The 16' of fill on the eastern edge of the Pugsley Avenue paper street route may be explained by the presence of the "BATHS" that is noted on the 1905 Bromley Atlas.

Note: Remove Figure 5 from the booklet and place it on the boring location plan overlay for a more precise understanding of these locations.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

It is known that the late prehistoric Native Americans exploited the resources of low-lying marsh areas adjacent to the East River. Extensive prehistoric shell middens and associated burials are often found on stable land in close proximity to the harvesting loci. Such a zone of exploitation potential is shown on Map VI (convention: diagonal lines) for the land between the c.1400 marshland/shoreline and the 10' contour line. Block 3436 was most probably inundated marshland during the late prehistoric period, or roughly c.1400. Until the 1950s this plot was partly under water. The soil boring data does not reveal a peat lens which would indicate a distinct shoreline presence and the environmental conditions appropriate for a prehistoric site, although organic silt is noted beneath the 5'6" fill layer inside lot 33 (Boring #227)

We feel that the extensive development of the c.1905 Kane Hotel complex, with documented foundation construction, on Lots 1 and 12, would have severely impacted the potential for prehistoric archaeological potential.

Recommendations:

2.5

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to construction history, no further archaeological consideration is warranted for Lots 1 and 12.

Lots 33, 44, and 49 do not fall within the sensitive zone of prehistoric archaeological potential. We feel that testing in a c.1400 marsh, where there is no definitive evidence of an old shoreline, would not yield a shell midden/associated burials site. We do not recommend any further archaeological consideration for Block 3436. Block 3435, Lot 3 and Lot 18

Bounded by: the New York City Clason Point Park, the East River, Pugsley Avenue (a paper street south of Soundview Avenue) and Bronx River Avenue (a paper street between Soundview Avenue and White Plains Road)

Currently: Lot 18, the eastern portion of the block, is occupied by a local boating club (1 Soundview Avenue) and is not included in the proposed development. This lot has been held by a yacht club since at least 1927 when the water taps were connected. (Bronx Tap Cards) A good aerial photo of the boat club, c.1945, is on IA:p.90. There is however a proposed 36" RCP sewer easement that will cross this lot from Soundview Avenue to the East River. (Kravchenko Associates, Sewer Location Plan, 6/29/87)

Lot 3, a vacant picnicing area and ballfield on the western portion of the block, is slated for development.

History:

According to water grant maps of the third quarter of the nineteenth century, only the northeast quarter of this block was above mean high water 100 years ago (the extreme northern, northeastern section of Lot 3 and one-half of Lot 18). (Saeid Jalilvand of Montrose Surveying Company, Inc., personal communication, August 10, 1987) A review of nineteenth century and early twentieth century maps and photographs reveals that this block has been inundated marshland until recent history (see Figure 30/IA; 31/IA; 52/IA).

Lot 3

Ownership notations on a 1905 Bromley Atlas (see Figure 32/IA) place this block partly in a 2.21 acre parcel (labeled lot 34) held by Taylor, partly in a 2.32 acre parcel held by Bradish Johnson (labeled lot 33), and partly in Clinton Stephens 12.37 acre parcel (labeled lot 35). No structures are shown on lot 3 until the 1949 Sanborn Insurance Maps when both a one floor store and associated dock and a one-story dwelling are shown in the extreme northeastern corner. (see Figure 5). We were unable to obtain any demolition records for these structures. Note: Remove Figure 5 from the booklet and place it on Figure I for a more precise understanding of these locations.

The Block and Lot Folders did not contain any information on ownership or structures prior to the 1950s. In 1956 the owner of Lot 3 (also the owner of Lot 44 Block 3436), Sam Piazza, requested permission from the borough to "fill in lot 200' x 100' x 10' deep"
since it was a vacant parcel and a "menace to children and health." He received permit #693. (Block and Lot Folders) The hand drawn sketch that accompanied this form, see Figure 7, places all the 1956 filling activity north of Bronx River Avenue in what is now considered Block 3436. Two years later (4/10/58) Sam Piaza received a water grant to fill Lot 3 to the U.S. Bulkhead Line (Liebman and Melting, 1987).

Borings Data:

The borings data (Python Drilling, 1987) lists overburden depths for Lot 3, and the western portion of Lot 18, at 12', 15', 20', 25', and 26'6". The depth of fill between Block 3435 and Block 3436 - within the line of Bronx River Avenue - is consistent with these depths. Two additional borings taken at the northern edge of the defunct Bronx River Avenue right-of-way, between Pugsley Avenue and Stephens Avenue, registered 5' and 6' of fill. The presence of peat and organic silt was noted underneath fill at testing points that roughly parallel the line of Soundview Avenue, roughly 200' to 225' west of Soundview Avenue. This information corresponds roughly to the mapped marshlands and to the known filling activities along the shoreline.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

The process of landfilling has extended the Clason's Point shoreline beyond what it would have been at c.1400 A.D., or the late prehistoric period. Lot 3 has experienced intense filling. Inundated shoreline at c.1900 A.D. would roughly correspond to the inundated shoreline of c.1400 A.D. Lot 18 has not experienced the same degree of filling. It is most likely that shell midden sites would appear inland from the extended shoreline of Block 3435.

It is known that Native Americans exploited the resources of low-lying marsh areas adjacent to the East River. There are reports of shell midden sites along the River edge of Clason's Point and a neighborhood informant loosely identified this section of the project site as a site of a shell midden. It is our estimation that the pre-1400 A.D. shoreline is evidenced by the presence of peat in the borings directly northwest of and outside of Block 3435.

Recommendations:

According to the soil borings data for Lot 3 and the western side of Lot 18, the overburden of heavy fill is too deep to warrant testing for prehistoric resources. We do not recommend any field testing for Block 3435.

However, the analysis of Block 3435 has indicated the potential for prehistoric resources in that area directly north of the block - Bronx River Avenue. The extensive overburden present on Block 3435 is also present on the south side of Bronx River Avenue. However, the potential for prehistoric shell midden sites, and associated burials, is high in that area of the northern side of the Bronx River Avenue paper street that is covered with only 5' to 6' of fill and where peat has been noted. The presence of peat (an organic rich horizon) indicates sea level at the time it was laid down and has been used by archaeologists to identify potential environments for Native Americans. Although Stephens' amusement center construction (rides and pool) impacted a portion of the Bronx River Avenue paper street (see Figure 2 and Figure 32/IA), we recommend that field testing for prehistoric sites be conducted along the route of Bronx River Avenue between the east side of Pugsley Avenue and the west side of Husson Avenue. The eastern end of this paper route, from the west side of the Husson intersection to Soundview Avenue, appears to have an overburden layer of at least 10'-12' which precludes reasonable field testing.

The recommendation to test a portion of Bronx River Avenue is also noted on page 42 of this report. Block 3437, Lot 2 and Lot 23

Bounded by: Cornell Avenue and Soundview Avenue and two paper streets, Husson and Betts Avenues

- Currently: vacant land covered with weed grasses and phragmites Illegal dumping is evident.
- History: This block remained in Clason's Point farm production until the twentieth century (see Figure 26/IA and 31/ IA). The 1905 Bromley Atlas places Lot 2 under the ownership of James H. Benedict (pre-1908) and Lot 23 under the ownership of Bradish Johnson (c.1895). No structures are shown on the block in the 1905 Atlas and none later in the 1921 Bromley Atlas. However, by the 1927 Bromley Atlas "Kane's Park" was fully established and numerous one-story dwellings are depicted on both lots of the block (see Figure 43/ IA).

Lot 2

Kane's Park dominated Lot 2 by the 1930s. The Kanes installed private water mains. (The Bronx Borough DEP Water Tapping Division). A complaint concerning the hazards of a fire damaged one-story dwelling, at 200' from the northwest corner of Betts and Soundview Avenues, was filed with the city. The only other entry in the Block and Lot Folders concerned a permit for a wood shed. A 1939 letter addressed to Mayor LaGuardia assessed the impact of Kane's Park on the rest of the neighborhood. This letter, signed by Cornell Avenue residents, states:

There are located on the southerly side of Cornell Avenue the following: four bungalows, four garages, coal bins, clothes poles, fences, etc.

As the above are located and built on city street, they not only obstruct the street, but are also an eyesore.

P.S. Mrs. Kane of 1723 Park View Ave., Bronx, is collecting \$12.50 per month from each owner of the bungalows which are using the city street. (Block and Lot Folders)

Although the 1949 Sanborn Insurance Maps (see Figure 5) confirm the 1939 assessment, with onestory dwellings not only on the block but also situated on Cornell, Husson, and Betts Avenues, the c. 1945 aerial photograph (see Figure 52/IA) shows Husson and Cornell Avenues as unobstructed. Note: Remove Figure 4 from the booklet and place it on the bse map for a more precise understanding of these locations.

Lot 23

In c.1895 this lot was the property of Bradish Johnson. The first atlas to show structures on this southernmost lot is the 1927 Bromley. However, the Block and Lot Folders include two 1901 New Building applications by Clinton Stephens, "owner of Clason Point Grounds," for open frame bathing houses to be supported by sleepers "laid on sand." (Plan #1428 and Plan #1429) It is possible that these structures were not located on the block now designated as 3437 since the locational data, albeit vague, appears to place the bathing houses on the "center of Lot on the south side of Clason Point Road [Soundview Avenue]." There is record of the move of a refreshment stand, replacing wooden posts with "cement footings in the swamps 7 ft below established grade," from Block 3436 (Block and Lot Folders) Lot 44 to Block 3437 Lot 23.

In 1929 a metal office and gasoline station were constructed on the triangular-shaped southern section of Lot 23, 38-40 Soundview Avenue. This structure, "concrete on earth," included three 550 underground gas tanks, stone cesspools and leeching cesspools. (Block and Lot Folders, #S.A. 941) Vacated in 1937, the premises were used, c.1940, for the storage of naphtha. (Block and Lot Folders) This gas station and six dwellings are shown on this lot in the 1949 Sanborn Insurance Maps (see Figure 5).

Borings Data:

Three borings taken froom the block and the adjoining Husson Avenue recorded a depth of overburden between 15' and 31'.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

The late prehistoric shoreline on the east edge of Clason's Point would have afforded Native Americans a protected environment rich in natural resources (e.g., marsh grasses, water fowl, shellfish, fresh water). New York State inventoried prehistoric sites are on this shoreline (see Figure 19/IA). Native American shell middens, although sometimes found up to one-quarter mile inland, were concentrated within a range of easy access to the water's edge. (For a full discussion see IA:p. 15.) Archaeological research in southern New York has created sufficient data to predict the exploitation of the resources at this loci. Block 3437 has a high potential for yielding shell midden and burial features.

Recommendations:

The degree of fill overburden and the documented subsurface disturbance on Lot 23 is sufficient to make testing on this block unrealistic. Block 3438, Lot 1, Lot 43, and Lot 1

- Bounded by: Cornell Avenue, Betts Avenue, Pugsley Creek and the New York City Clason Point Park. According to the current Real Estate Atlas, east of this block is paper street Compton Avenue.
- Currently: vacant and covered with marsh grasses The coastline is littered with abandoned houseboats and debris. Cornell Avenue is lined with abandoned cars. Dirt bike trails are evident. See Figure 40/ IA.
- History: According to water grant maps of the third quarter of the nineteenth century, more than one-half of this block was under water until twentieth century filling activities. (Saeid Jalilvand of Montrose Surveying Company, Inc., personal communication, August 10, 1987) Presently, the entire block is not above mean high water.

Ownership notations on an atlas place this block partly in a 4.41 acre parcel in the c.1895 Johnson Estate and partly in the Benedict parcel of 33.78 acres and partly in the A. DeWitt 5.04 parcel (see Figure 32/IA). The current lot lines still correspond to this division. Requests for Block and Lot Folders were unsuccessful.

The 1927 Bromley Atlas shows six small dwellings situated between the shoreline and Betts Avenue (see Figure 43/IA). This development increased by the late 1940s to include (approximately) 9 onestory dwellings and numerous outbuildings (see Figure It is difficult to determine from atlases but 5). at least a portion of these illustrated dwellings were probably large, flat commercial barges removed from sea duty, pulled ashore and converted to resi-dences. Such "houses," some with their boat outlines still visible, are located directly north and west of this block on Husson Avenue. According to local residents, an extended network of raised platforms and boardwalks originally connected these houseboats to each other and the dry inland. These wet alleyways were slowly filled in, permanently anchoring the boats to the expanded shoreline.

Borings Data:

There are no available soil borings for this block. Three soil borings on block 3437, 60' west of and parallel to Betts Avenue, recorded 20', 26', and 31' of fill.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

The protected shoreline location of this block, on a marsh resource at the confluence of Pugsley Creek and the East River, coupled with information from both the New York State Museum (see IA:p. 104-105) and Skinner's discussion of shell heaps on Clason's Point would point to a strong potential for a prehistoric shell midden and associated burials on the western edge of the block. However, the neighboring, inland soil borings data does indicate the presence of extensive over-burden that would preclude the possibility of realistically researching the original coastline.

Recommendations:

According to available soil borings data, it is probable that the overburden of heavy fill is too deep to warrant testing for prehistoric resources. It is anticipated that the present plans to create a ballpark and fenced playground on this block (as discussed in IA: p. 16) would not disrupt deeply buried resources. However, without soil boring data from the parcel a definitive statement of "no impact" is impossible. We recommend that at least one soil boring be conducted on Block 3438 and the results analyzed by an archaeologist to determine the actual depth of overburden.

Allee King Rosen & Fleming, Inc.

TRANSMITTAL

Date $\frac{9/18}{87}$ To <u>Ms. Sherene Baugher / LPC</u>_____ Attention ______ Mr. John Finguson / DEC Mr. Michael Sinquino / DEC-Cultural Resources CEOR No. 87-010X Job Title _ Shouhaven Job Number 1434-102 DEC Application No. 20-86-0376 Text 🔽 Print(s) \Box Drawing(s) \Box Photos 🗆 Slide(s) \Box Other 🗌 Quantity Description Page 40 of the Second Level Documentary Study as revised in accordance with LPC Comments

Please Return 🗌

Returning to You 🗆

Keep This \Box

For Review

I apologize for any inconvenience.

Christina Platmer

Allee King Rosen & Fleming, Inc.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

The protected shoreline location of this block, on a marsh resource at the confluence of Pugsley Creek and the East River, coupled with information from both the New York State Museum (see IA:p. 104-105) and Skinner's discussion of shell heaps on Clason's Point would point to a strong potential for a prehistoric shell midden and associated burials on the western edge of the block. However, the neighboring, inland soil borings data does indicate the presence of extensive over-burden that would preclude the possibility of realistically researching the original coastline.

Recommendations:

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to have between 20' and 30'6" of introduced overburden. This introduced material, referred to as "heavy fill" in the logs, came from at least two known sources: Robert Moses initiative to expand the New York City shoreline (IA:p. 30) and the dumping of excavated soil and blasted rock during the construction of the Shorehaven Beach Club (see Photoraph 5).

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to (1) prehistoric period topographical features, shoreline location within close proximity to a fresh water resource; (2) the proximity of known prehistoric period sites (see Figure 19/IA and Figure VI); (3) accepted settlement pattern data; and (4) the minimal accepted settlement pattern data, modern disturbance, we regard this block as sensitive for both a shellfish harvesting site, referred to as a shell midden, and the possibility of burials within the shell midden itself.

Recommendations:

We recommend that Lot 40 and approximately the northern one quarter of Lot 82 be tested for prehistoric features.

Our assessment of this block is also pertinent to the area of public land that is slated for landscaping. 5.3 In consideration of the depth of recorded overburden and the minimal subsurface disturbance planned for .1 the park beautification, we recommend no further archaeological consideration for the remainder of the parcel.

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Block 3432, Lot 1

Bounded by: White Plains Road, Soundview Avenue, and the paper street of Bronx River Avenue and other lots in the block not part of the proposed development

Currently: The defunct Shorehaven Beach Club facilities, including a massive swimming pool, ball courts, both male and female locker rooms, a cafeteria, a bandstand, and picnic grounds covers the entire lot.

History:

As discussed in great depth in the Phase IA report, pages 18 - 31, this block and lot was settled in the mid-1600s and remained an active farmstead site until the end of the nineteenth century. Several early maps place a fresh water pond at approximately the intersection of Pugsley, Cornell and Soundview Avenues - contiguous to and possibly partly within At the turn of the century Clinton Stephens Lot 1. transformed the original farmstead building - which had undergone alterations and additions over time and the immediate 12.37 surrounding acreage into a public amusement park. This park hosted various concessions, thrill rides, dining rooms, and dance pavilions. A succession of large-scale swimming pools were incorporated into the public facilities (see IA:p. 27). Clason's Point Park was open until the 1930s.

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Note: Remove Figure 2 from the booklet and place it on the base map, I, for an appreciation of the scope of this entertainment complex by 1928.

Refer to page IA/27 for a review of the available information on building permits and construction plans for this lot. As discussed in the analysis of Block 3437 and Block 3443, additional information on Stephens' activities may exist but be misfiled in the Bronx Borough Block and Lot Folders Department. Although many of the individual concessions were designed to rest on wooden piles, the "Park" entrance at Stephens Avenue on the Soundview Avonue frontage, the series of swimming pools, and the numerous, large thrill rides entailed large-scale subsurface exclva-Additional research into the organization and tions. layout of this early amusement park has yielded substantiation for the presence of private water and sewer lines during Stephens' ownerhsip. (Bronx DEP Tapping Division)

"The creation of the Shorehaven Beach Club obliterated most of the remnants of the Clason Point Park." (IA:p. 29) In 1947 Lot 1 was purchased and became

part of the plans to transform the then vacant property into a private beach club. Accompanying photographs 1 - 14 depict the massive construction project involved in establishing the Club complex that was in operation until 1986. (See Figure 3) On the series of photographs, note the amount of bulldozed and dumped soil, the amount of blasted bedrock, the depth of foundation and drainage construction, and the extensive grading. A field visit to the Shorehaven Beach Club compound on Lot 1 confirmed the degree of impact suggested by the c.1947 photographs. Deep basements (with standing water), underground tanks, catch basins, the empty "largest saltwater pool in New York," and the evident sewer and drainage system strongly suggest that the vast majority of Lot 1 was severly impacted by the Beach Club construction. (See "Check into Shore haven for the Summer," Figure 6)

As can be seen by a review of photographs 1 - 3 and the discussion on IA:p. 29, the early farmstead building (possibly seventeenth century) and its immediate yard were not disturbed during the initial phases of Club construction. For a full discussion of the potential significance and possible integrity of this historic structure, see V. HISTORICAL SITE POTENTIAL.

The only other area in Lot 1 that appears to have escaped severe subsurface disturbance is situated on the Soundview Avenue frontage between the eastern curb on Stephens Avenue and the western curb on Pugsley Avenue where they intersect with Soundview Avenue. An analysis of the atlases, available building plans, and aerial photographs and a field visit did not yield any indication that this plot has undergone serious subsurface disturbances during the installation of either twentieth century entertainment comples. See Figure III: Areas of Known Disturbance, for a more precise location of this undisturbed area.

Borings Data:

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Twenty-two soil boring tests were conducted in Lot 1 during the past year (Python Drilling, 1987). Depths of fill ranged from 1' to 16'. Only 4 of the borings encountered fill overburden of more than 8' and three of these tests were located in an area that most likely reflects the fill pushed into the cavity of Stephens' swimming pool, known as the "inkwell" (IA:p. 27). Boring #22, 15' of fill, recorded "peat" under the fill. Post-boring analysis has not been conducted on the soil samples so the the source of this peat - estuarine deposition, post pleistocene pond, filled early twentieth century pool - has not been determined. (Honey Peacock, Python Drilling, personal communication, 8/3/87) No borings were taken from the Soundview Avenue frontage parcel that was discussed above as being possibly undisturbed.

Archaeological Potential:

It is remarkable that even a portion of a midseventeenth century home, i.e., the Cornell/Willett farmstead, survived into the twentieth century. The potential for a significant historical archaeological site is high. As discussed in section V, the wealth of potential information to be gained from this historical site would add greatly to our understanding of the historic period settlement and development of the southern New York coastline.

As can be seen on Figure VI, the major portion of Lot 1 falls within either of the two areas of Native American burial and site potential - within the coastal zone of less than 10' above MHW and the upland zone of at least 20' above MHW. As discussed in VI. NATIVE AMERICAN BURIALS AND SITES, it is most probable that shell midden sites and associated burials would have been deposited within this block and lot and that upland zone habitation and burial sites would have existed within the northern portion of this block and lot.

The post pleistocene fresh water pond, situated roughly at the intersection of Pugsley, Cornell, and Soundview Avenues would have been a natural resource of particular concern to Native Americans, affording a range of foods and materials different from those of the estuarine environment along the East River and Pugsley Creek shorelines. The one section of Lot 1 that appears to have been undisturbed over time is approximately on the banks of this pond (see Figure VI).

Recommendations:

The intense, documented development of two twentieth century amusement complexes effectively obliterated both the historical and prehistorical archaeological potential in the vast majority of Block 3432, Lot 1. However, there is evidence that two areas of Lot 1 may have escaped the extensive subsurface disturbances evident on the remainder of the lot. We recommend that field testing be conducted in an effort to precisely locate and investigate the Cornell/Willett home and associated yard features.

We recommend that the one portion of Lot 1 that is not documented as having been excavated or severely graded and appears to have been in close proximity to a fresh water resource be field tested for prehistoric features. Block 3434, Lot 1

- Bounded by: White Plains Road, the East River, and two paper streets, Bronx River Avenue and Pugsley Avenue
- Currently: The defunct Shorehave Beach Club facilities, including a large wading pool and pavilion, picnic sheds, swing sets, a pumping station, an arboretum, and passive recreational acreage covers the block.

History:

As discussed in great depth in the Phase IA report, pages 18 - 31, this block and lot was settled in the mid-1600s and remained part of an active farmstead site until the end of the nineteenth century. This farmstead straddled the current city block designations of #3432 and #3434. The historical import of this parcel is fully described under the parcel analysis of Block #3432, see above.

Evident on Figure I and Figure 40/IA, the southern one-half of this lot was underwater through the middle of the nineteenth century and the northern one-half of the lot functioned as a docking site (see Figure 26/IA). Expansion of the shoreline began after 1894 when Clinton Stephens received a city water grant. During the heyday of Stephens' amusement park there was at least one thrill ride, a marina, dock, bathing beach, dancing pavilion, and nineteen unidentified concessions and related structures. Note: Remove Figure from the booklet and place it on the base map, I, for an appreciation of the scope of this entertainment complex by 1928.

By the demise of Stephens' amusement park, the size of lot 1 had been expanded by fifty per cent (see Figure 40/IA). This shoreline expansion was continued during the Shorehaven Beach Club construction, see photographs 1, 4 - 13. During the mid 1950s the Beach Club management further refined the new shoreline through extensive landscaping. A "Celebrity Arboretum" of 50 shade trees, named after famous guests (e.g., Marilyn Monroe, Buddy Hackett, and Eydie Gorme) at the club, was planted in 1955. (New York World - Telegram and Sun, Arpil 10, 1955:p. 31)

Borings Data:

The boring logs reflect this landfilling history, citing overburden depths of 14'6" to 31'6" along the current shoreline. A total of 17 tests were conducted on this lot, 4 of these locations revealed overburden depths of less than 10'. Boring #20 recorded only 5' of fill over 9'6" of decomposing mica schist boulders. We believe this anomaly and the shallow overburden depths north of this location reflect the presence of a pre-twentieth century boulder-stabilized coastline dock, probably built upon a natural rise in the topography (e.g., a bedrock outcropping). This shoreline position corresponds to: (1) the old dock and embankment on the 1838 survey of Clason's Point and the 1868 map (see Figures 26/IA, 28/IA); (2) the natural looking spit of land jutting into the River on the 1874 and 1888 U.S.G.S. surveys (see Figures 29/IA, 30/IA); and, (3) the positon of Stephens' pier c.1900 (see Figure I). Boring #124 revealed 8' of fill overlying peat. The presence of peat (an organic rich horizon) indicates sea level at the time it was laid down and has been used by archaeologists to identify potential environments for Native Americans.

Archaeological Potential:

As discussed on pages 20 - 23 above, it is remarkable that a portion of a mid-seventeenth century home survived into the twentieth century. As discussed in section V, the wealth of potential information to be gained from this historical site would add greatly to our understranding of the historic period settlement and development of the southern New York coastline.

This lot falls within the coastal zone of Native American potential sites. As discussed in VI. NATIVE AMERICAN BURIALS AND SITES, it is most probable that shell midden sites and associated burials would have been deposited within this block and lot. The naturally elevated land (i.e., boring location test #325, #319, #124) would have been the most attractive location for Native American exploitation within this lot. However, it is this same embankment area that has been used extensively during historic times.

Recommendations:

We recommend that field testing be conducted in an effort to precisely locate and investigate the Cornell/Willett home and associated yard features.

We feel that the potential for a shell midden site and associated pit burials would be high at the historic docking area on this lot, but that the 300 years of use and construction has most likely severely impacted such features. We do feel that the prehistoric potential in the vicinity of boring #124/peat - possibly removed from the most extensive docking activities - should be investigated. Block 3436, Lot 1, Lot 12, Lot 33, Lot 44, and Lot 49

- Bounded by: Lots 1 and 12 are on the north side of Soundview Avenue between Cornell Avenue, Pugsley Avenue, and Husson Avenue (a paper street). Lots 33, 44, and 49 are on the south side of Soundview Avenue between the two paper streets of Pugsley Avenue and Bronx River Avenue.
- Currently: The northern section of this block has no standing structures. The southern section hosts abandoned structures. Both sections have been most recently used for recreational activities.

History:

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Like the other blocks at Clason's Point this area remained as farm land through the nineteenth century. The split block was under joint ownership at the turn of the century, including James Benedict, Taylor, and Clinton Stephens (see Figure 32/IA).

Lot 1

The small Lot 1 remained undeveloped by 1905 and does not host structures on subsequent atlases of 1921 and 1927. It was owned by the Margaret and Martin Kane family. A 1911 Alterations Permit for Block 3437/Lot 2 incorporated this Lot 1 in the Kane's plans for changes to the then operating "amusement apparatus." Several other applications in that same year, that included Lot 1, indicated the construction of a brick building, the installation of a refreshment stand and a boardwalk, and the installation of a hexagonal steel tower for a 62' diameter swing called the "Frolic." (Block and Lot Folders)

Lot 12

A frame, two-story Italianate house was situated on this lot by 1905. There are no available building plans for this structure but it appears to have been enlarged by 1906 when it is functioning as the Kane Hotel. This building had a deep and extensive foundation (see IA:p. 28; see Figure 50/IA and 52/ IA). The Hotel had burned by 1945. The borough Water Tapping Division notified the owner of lot 12 in 1961, G. W. V. Associates, Inc., that they had no record of a public water tap to the parcel. Two city hydrants connect Lot 12 with the Soundview Avenue water mains. (The Bronx Borough DEP, "Water Mains and Hydrants)

Lot 33

By 1912 a portable frame stand was placed on the lot, which had been vacant up until this time. (Block and Lot Folders) In 1922 a frame refreshment stand was built at 67 Soundview Avenue. There were no other structures on the lot, measuring 72'x 100' deep.

Lot 44

As discussed in Block 3435, the 1956 owner of this parcel, Sam Piazza, received permission to fill in the vacant lot since it was a "menace to children and health." See Figure 7 for the block and lot diagram that was included with the permit request. By 1963 the owner, representing his tenant, requested additional water supply from the city for the "bar and grill" located at 69 Soundview Avenue. (The Bronx Borough DEP Water Tapping Division)

Lot 49

In 1972 a 5/8" water tap was connected to the premises at 65 Soundview Avenue. Located 8' north of the south building line of the premises and 9' from the east curb line, this structure is apparent on the 1927 Bromley Atlas (see Figure 43/IA) and the 1949 Sanborn Insurance Map (see Figure 5). It can also be noted on the c.1945 aerial photograph, nestled among the boats at what appears to be the boat club marina (see Figure 52/IA). This structure and possibly the lot 44 building, both now abandoned, can still be seen from Soundview Avenue.

Borings Data:

No borings were taken from Lot 1 and Lot 12 of the block. Borings from the surrounding streets indicate a fill of approximately 10'. Three borings were taken on the periphery of lots 44 and 33, yielding 5'6" and 8' of fill along the southern boundary and 16' of fill on the western boundary. One boring from approximately the center of lot 33 revealed a fill layer of 5'6". Lot 44 was the area filled as late as 1956. The 16' of fill on the eastern edge of the Pugsley Avenue paper street route may be explained by the presence of the "BATHS" that is noted on the 1905 Bromley Atlas.

Note: Remove Figure 5 from the booklet and place it on the boring location plan overlay for a more precise understanding of these locations.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

It is known that the late prehistoric Native Americans exploited the resources of low-lying marsh areas adjacent to the East River. Extensive prehistoric shell middens and associated burials are often found on stable land in close proximity to the harvesting loci. Such a zone of exploitation potential is shown on Map VI (convention: diagonal lines) for the land between the c.1400 marshland/shoreline and the 10' contour line. Block 3436 was most probably inundated marshland during the late prehistoric period, or roughly c.1400. Until the 1950s this plot was partly under water. The soil boring data does not reveal a peat lens which would indicate a distinct shoreline presence and the environmental conditions appropriate for a prehistoric site, although organic silt is noted beneath the 5'6" fill layer inside lot 33 (Boring #227)

We feel that the extensive development of the c.1905 Kane Hotel complex, with documented foundation construction, on Lots 1 and 12, would have severely impacted the potential for prehistoric archaeological potential.

Recommendations:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

Due to construction history, no further archaeological consideration is warranted for Lots 1 and 12.

Lots 33, 44, and 49 do not fall within the sensitive zone of prehistoric archaeological potential. We feel that testing in a c.1400 marsh, where there is no definitive evidence of an old shoreline, would not yield a shell midden/associated burials site. We do not recommend any further archaeological consideration for Block 3436. Block 3435, Lot 3 and Lot 18

- Bounded by: the New York City Clason Point Park, the East River, Pugsley Avenue (a paper street south of Soundview Avenue) and Bronx River Avenue (a paper street between Soundview Avenue and White Plains Road)
- Currently: Lot 18, the eastern portion of the block, is occupied by a local boating club (1 Soundview Avenue) and is not included in the proposed development. This lot has been held by a yacht club since at least 1927 when the water taps were connected. (Bronx Tap Cards) A good aerial photo of the boat club, c.1945, is on IA:p.90. There is however a proposed 36" RCP sewer easement that will cross this lot from Soundview Avenue to the East River. (Kravchenko Associates, Sewer Location Plan, 6/29/87)

Lot 3, a vacant picnicing area and ballfield on the western portion of the block, is slated for development.

History:

According to water grant maps of the third quarter of the nineteenth century, only the northeast quarter of this block was above mean high water 100 years ago (the extreme northern, northeastern section of Lot 3 and one-half of Lot 18). (Saeid Jalilvand of Montrose Surveying Company, Inc., personal communication, August 10, 1987) A review of nineteenth century and early twentieth century maps and photographs reveals that this block has been inundated marshland until recent history (see Figure 30/IA; 31/IA; 52/IA).

Lot 3

Ownership notations on a 1905 Bromley Atlas (see Figure 32/IA) place this block partly in a 2.21 acre parcel (labeled lot 34) held by Taylor, partly in a 2.32 acre parcel held by Bradish Johnson (labeled lot 33), and partly in Clinton Stephens 12.37 acre parcel (labeled lot 35). No structures are shown on lot 3 until the 1949 Sanborn Insurance Maps when both a one floor store and associated dock and a one-story dwelling are shown in the extreme northeastern corner. (see Figure 5). We were unable to obtain any demolition records for these structures. Note: Remove Figure 5 from the booklet and place it on Figure I for a more precise understanding of these locations.

The Block and Lot Folders did not contain any information on ownership or structures prior to the 1950s. In 1956 the owner of Lot 3 (also the owner of Lot 44 Block 3436), Sam Piazza, requested permission from the borough to "fill in lot 200' x 100' x 10' deep" since it was a vacant parcel and a "menace to children and health." He received permit #693. (Block and Lot Folders) The hand drawn sketch that accompanied this form, see Figure 7, places all the 1956 filling activity north of Bronx River Avenue in what is now considered Block 3436. Two years later (4/10/58) Sam Piaza received a water grant to fill Lot 3 to the U.S. Bulkhead Line (Liebman and Melting, 1987).

Borings Data:

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The borings data (Python Drilling, 1987) lists overburden depths for Lot 3, and the western portion of Lot 18, at 12', 15', 20', 25', and 26'6". The depth of fill between Block 3435 and Block 3436 - within the line of Bronx River Avenue - is consistent with these depths. Two additional borings taken at the northern edge of the defunct Bronx River Avenue right-of-way, between Pugsley Avenue and Stephens Avenue, registered 5' and 6' of fill. The presence of peat and organic silt was noted underneath fill at testing points that roughly parallel the line of Soundview Avenue, roughly 200' to 225' west of Soundview Avenue. This information corresponds roughly to the mapped marshlands and to the known filling activities along the shoreline.

Archaeological Potential:

We anticipate no historical archaeological potential.

The process of landfilling has extended the Clason's Point shoreline beyond what it would have been at c.1400 A.D., or the late prehistoric period. Lot 3 has experienced intense filling. Inundated shoreline at c.1900 A.D. would roughly correspond to the inundated shoreline of c.1400 A.D. Lot 18 has not experienced the same degree of filling. It is most likely that shell midden sites would appear inland from the extended shoreline of Block 3435.

It is known that Native Americans exploited the resources of low-lying marsh areas adjacent to the East River. There are reports of shell midden sites along the River edge of Clason's Point and a neighborhood informant loosely identified this section of the project site as a site of a shell midden. It is our estimation that the pre-1400 A.D. shoreline is evidenced by the presence of peat in the borings directly northwest of and outside of Block 3435.

Recommendations:

According to the soil borings data for Lot 3 and the western side of Lot 18, the overburden of heavy fill is too deep to warrant testing for prehistoric resources. We do not recommend any field testing for Block 3435.

However, the analysis of Block 3435 has indicated the potential for prehistoric resources in that area directly north of the block - Bronx River Avenue. The extensive overburden present on Block 3435 is also present on the south side of Bronx River Avenue. However, the potential for prehistoric shell midden sites, and associated burials, is high in that area of the northern side of the Bronx River Avenue paper street that is covered with only 5' to 6' of fill and where peat has been noted. The presence of peat (an organic rich horizon) indicates sea level at the time it was laid down and has been used by archaeologists to identify potential environments for Native Americans. Although Stephens' amusement center construction (rides and pool) impacted a portion of the Bronx River Avenue paper street (see Figure 2 and Figure 32/IA), we recommend that field testing for prehistoric sites be conducted along the route of Bronx River Avenue between the east side of Pugsley Avenue and the west side of Husson Avenue. The eastern end of this paper route, from the west side of the Husson intersection to Soundview Avenue, appears to have an overburden layer of at least 10'-12' which precludes reasonable field testing.

The recommendation to test a portion of Bronx River Avenue is also noted on page 42 of this report. Kravechenko Associates, 1987). The State Museum Inventoried site is loosely placed on the eastern shore of Clason's Point and it should be remembered that this Arthur Parker (c.1920) shell midden site was located on the shore and the shoreline has been extended by landfill since that time. The c.1900 marshland which would roughly correspond to the c.1400 marshland - extended westward to between Betts Avenue and Husson Avenue. A reasonable testing field could be limited to that elevated area just west of the c.1400 marsh shoreline. We recommend that field testing be conducted on Cornell Avenue between Pugsley and Husson Avenues.

4. A utility line will be installed on a portion of Block 3435, Lot 18, private boat club property, and a portion of Bronx River Avenue. As discussed in the analysis of Block 3435, this shoreline area most assuredly hosted prehistoric shell middden sites. There is no soil boring data from this proposed easement area; however, based on neighboring boring tests, one can comfortably assume an approximate fill overburden ranging for more than 10' to 25'. Although this locus may be potentially sensitive, the fill overburden is too deep to warrant testing for prehistoric resources. Recommendation: We feel that there are no previously intact

archaeological resources to be impacted by the proposed utility placement.

5. As discussed in the analysis of Block 3435 (see page 35), we recommend that field testing for prehistoric sites be conducted along the route of Bronx River Avenue between the east side of Pugsley Avenue and the west side of Husson Avenue.

VIII. SUMMARY

Based on the information gathered during the Phase IA research, which has been augmented by the Second Level Documentary Study results, we analyzed the project site (and directly impacted off-site areas) for Native American site and burial potential and historic site potential. The predicted potential for each block and lot and impacted street was then related to the documented disturbances for each block and lot and street. These disturbances included such activitites as utility placement, deep foundation construction, installation of swimming pools, introduced fill, and substantial concrete pier construction. Additionally, we took into consideration the impact of the proposed development. The subsequent recommendations for field testing or for no field testing were based on the likelihood of recovering prehistoric or historic resources that possessed both integrity and the potential for contributing to our understanding of past lifeways.

Archaeological field testing is recommended for portions of the following blocks. The lot by lot analysis has delimited areas within each block which must be tested for either prehistoric or historic archaeological resources. They are defined in detail in section VII.

Block 3455

Block 3443

Block 3430

Block 3432

Block 3434

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Block 3436.

Archaeological field testing is recommended for portions of these streets:

Cornell Avenue, between Pugsley Avenue and Husson Avenue, and Bronx River Avenue, between Pugsley Avenue and Husson Avenue.

There is inadequate information to assess the archaeological potential of Block 3438. We recommend that soil boring data be obtained from this parcel so that a final decision on the need for field testing on the block can be made.

The research design and finalized site map for the field testing recommended for the Shorehaven Project will be submitted to the appropriate review agency after consultations on the results of this Second Level of Documentary Study.

B. Streets

The consideration of resources under city streets is also addressed. There are four off-site areas that will be severely impacted by sewer and storm drain installation. Each of these four areas, shown on Figure I will be discussed below.

1. White Plains Road, roughly between the northern and southern curbs of Bronx River Avenue, will be the site of a proposed utility placement. As documented in the Phase IA report (see IA:p29), White Plains Road has experienced considerable subsurface disturbance over the years, including gas lines, water mains, and a sewer interceptor station. Recommendation: We feel that there are no previously intact archaeological resources to be impacted by the proposed utility placement.

2. Soundview Avenue, roughly between Gildersleeve Avenue and mid-block between Husson and Betts will be the site of a proposed utility placement. According to various maps of Clason's Point, the Soundview Avenue route has long been in use as the primary passage to the southern tip of the Point. (see Figures 28/IA and 30/IA) The 1912 trolley tracks were laid on this road (see Figure 43/IA). Two water main lines are in the roadbed, as are shallower gas and low tension lines (Con Ed). The depth of fill recorded in soil boring logs reflects the known c1900 topography - that is the elevated knoll west and north of Stephens Avenue.

Recommendation: We feel that there are no previously intact archaeological resources to be impacted by the proposed utility placement.

3. The eastern end of Cornell Avenue and the Pugsley Creek shoreline, will be the site of a proposed utility placement. A c1900 topographic map shows Cornell Avenue traversing an elevated knoll (10° contour) between Pugsley and Husson Avenue (see Figure VI). This elevation is reflected in the recorded depths of fill for this portion of Cornell - 2 feet to 5 feet As discussed above, Skinner's 1918 report discussed 6 inches. the numerous shell midden sites along the eastern shore of Although the precise boundaries are unknown, Clason's Point. the New York State Museum site # 2840 is near the eastern terminus of Cornell Avenue (see Figure 19/IA and IA:p105). The proposed utility placement will necessitate a trench cut in the roadbed deeper than the recorded overburden. Bronx Borough records do indicate the presence of a water main on Cornell Avenue.

Recommendation: This small section of Cornell Avenue poses high potential for a prehistoric shell midden and associated burials site. The limited amount of introduced fill makes testing in this roadbed viable. The previous utility installation probably disturbed any archaeological resources in its path; however, the proposed sewer line will be installed at a depth lower than the existing utility line (Sewer Location Plan,

Kravechenko Associates, 1987). The State Museum Inventoried site is loosely placed on the eastern shore of Clason's Point and it should be remembered that this Arthur Parker (c.1920) shell midden site was located on the shore and the shoreline has been extended by landfill since that time. The c.1900 marshland which would roughly correspond to the c.1400 marshland - extended westward to between Betts Avenue and Husson Avenue. A reasonable testing field could be limited to that elevated area just west of the c.1400 marsh shoreline. We recommend that field testing be conducted on Cornell Avenue between Pugsley and Husson Avenues.

4. A utility line will be installed on a portion of Block 3435, Lot 18, private boat club property, and a portion of Bronx River Avenue. As discussed in the analysis of Block 3435, this shoreline area most assuredly hosted prehistoric shell middden sites. There is no soil boring data from this proposed easement area; however, based on neighboring boring tests, one can comfortably assume an approximate fill overburden ranging for more than 10' to 25'. Although this locus may be potentially sensitive, the fill overburden is too deep to warrant testing for prehistoric resources.

Recommendation: We feel that there are no previously intact archaeological resources to be impacted by the proposed utility placement.

5. As discussed in the analysis of Block 3435 (see page 35), we recommend that field testing for prehistoric sites be conducted along the route of Bronx River Avenue between the east side of Pugsley Avenue and the west side of Husson Avenue.

VIII. SUMMARY

Based on the information gathered during the Phase IA research, which has been augmented by the Second Level Documentary Study results, we analyzed the project site (and directly impacted off-site areas) for Native American site and burial potential and historic site potential. The predicted potential for each block and lot and impacted street was then related to the documented disturbances for each block and lot and street. These disturbances included such activitites as utility placement, deep foundation construction, installation of swimming pools, introduced fill, and substantial concrete pier construction. Additionally, we took into consideration the impact of the proposed development. The subsequent recommendations for field testing or for no field testing were based on the likelihood of recovering prehistoric or historic resources that possessed both integrity and the potential for contributing to our understanding of past lifeways.

Archaeological field testing is recommended for portions of the following blocks. The lot by lot analysis has delimited areas within each block which must be tested for either prehistoric or historic archaeological resources. They are defined in detail in section VII.

Block 3455

Block 3443

Block 3430

Block 3432

Block 3434

Block 3436.

Archaeological field testing is recommended for portions of these streets:

Cornell Avenue, between Pugsley Avenue and Husson Avenue, and

Bronx River Avenue, between Pugsley Avenue and Husson Avenue.

There is inadequate information to assess the archaeological potential of Block 3438. We recommend that soil boring data be obtained from this parcel so that a final decision on the need for field testing on the block can be made.

The research design and finalized site map for the field testing recommended for the Shorehaven Project will be submitted to the appropriate review agency after consultations on the results of this Second Level of Documentary Study.

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although rebuilt during the centuries, withstood the Indian wars The original walls are at th

Figure







Figure 5

Sanborn Insurance Maps, updated to 1949











TENNIS? Yes. Full use of three outdoor courts are included with membership.



BASKETBALL? Yes. 8 courts are yours to enjoy. Basketballs and equipment are available at our fieldhouse.



HANDBALL? Yes. 48 professional handball courts are available at Shorehaven. Plus two complete 4-wall handball courts!



PADDLEBALL? Yes. Play on any one of 48 courts at Shorehaven. And check in at the field house for all kinds of other athletic equipment too!

SHOREHAVEN BEACH CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT? Yes. Some of the biggest names in show business entertain at Shorehaven each summer. For no extra charge you can enjoy names like Red Buttons, Anna Marie Albergetti, Dick Shawn, Norm Crosby, Nipsey Russel and many more.

100 White Plains Rd. Bronx, N.Y.

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POOL? Yes. The largest saltwater pool in New York comes complete with high and low board diving areas. Professional life guards are always on duty.



Page 52a Figure 6a


SHUFFLEBOARD?

Yes. Shorehaven has 12 shuffleboard courts with all the equipment. Even regularly scheduled tournaments.

SOFTBALL?

Yes. A complete playing field is yours to enjoy. As well as the chance to compete with softball greats like the King and his Court!



RELAXING AREAS?

Yes. Shorehaven has spotlessly clean sprawling grounds, gardens and grand shade trees for your total relaxation.

KIDDIE POOL?

Yes. With 2 trained life guards, of course. But our kiddie pool is just one of the many special children's facilities at Shorehaven.

PLAYGROUND?

Yes. A whole range of facilities has been provided for younger children, including a grassy safety playground all their own.





CAFETERIA?

Yes. A complete dining cafeteria, as well as several snack bars are open for your convenience around Shorehaven's lovely grounds and gardens.





PICNIC AND BARBECUE AREAS?

Yes. Shorehaven has set aside lovely special areas for picnics and barbecues.

















TRANSPORTATION SERVICE?

Yes. If you live in the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens or Westchester, it's easy to get to Shorehaven. We've got our own direct convenient bus service on regular daily and weekend schedules.

If you drive, Shorehaven provides plenty of free parking for the summer. All you have to do is get to the Bruckner Expressway and follow the map on right to Shorehaven.

Check into Shorehaven for a summer of fun. <u> Celephone: 893-540</u>0





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Circa 1947. Cornell/Willett/Clason farmhouse, later Clinton Stephens' Clason Point Inn. Earliest house section is at the extreme left. View is west to east. Courtest of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club pool, cafeteria, pumping station, and promenade deck. Cornell/ Willet/Clason farmhouse/inn on extreme left. View is from north looking south. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club swimming pool. View is south looking north. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Sewer easement at south terminus of White Plains Road and rip rap along river shoreline, Blocks 3430 and 3434. View is east looking west. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.

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Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club wading pool. East River in rear of photo. View is north looking south.

Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club swimming pool. House in rear is on White Plains Road. View is east looking west. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



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Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club - laying of drain pipes. View is south looking north. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club. View is west looking east toward Ferry Point slips. Courtesy of Arthur Seifery.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehave Beach Club. Laying of pipeline. Note the size of boulders extracted from the site. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club. Note deep disturbance. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club pumping station south of swimming pool. Courtesy of Arthur Seifert.

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Circa 1947. Construction of Shorehaven Beach Club. Note depth of pipes and foundations. Courtesy of ARthur Seifert.



Circa 1947. Construction of the retaining wall north of the Shorehaven Beach Club 's Womens Locker Building. View is southwest to northeast.

Note the evidence of ice contact stratified drift in the exposed soil bank.





EAST RIVER

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SHOREHAVEN PROJECT CEQR 87-010X Second Level Documentary Study

OVERLAY FIGURE I

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August 1987

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Construction phases Utility placement

CEQR 87-010X SHOREHAVEN PROJECT 11

Second Level Documentary Study

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OVERLAY FIGURE II

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RIVER EAST

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SHOREHAVEN PROJECT CEQR 87-010X

Second Level Documentary Study

OVERLAY FIGURE III

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CEQR 87-010X SHOREHAVEN PROJECT

Second Level Documentary Study

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OVERLAY FIGURE IV

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OVERLAY FIGURE V

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Approximate location B Bolton I Informant NYSH NY State Auseum and inventory #

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Second Level Documentary Study

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

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OVERLAY FIGURE VI