

10/89

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## **CHAPTER II.F. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES**

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## CHAPTER II.F. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

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### II.F.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This section describes the archaeological and historic resources in the Arverne URA area, the area directly proximate to the URA, and the shoreline of Jamaica Bay where storm water outfalls are proposed to be constructed.

#### F.1-1 The Prehistoric Period

The earliest accounts (c. 1645) of land transactions in the southern portion of Queens, corroborated by seventeenth century ethnographic studies, definitively state that Native Americans were present at the time of initial European contact. They were Algonquian-speaking Upper Delaware Indians. Anthropologists and linguists agree that the name Rockaway (Rackeaway, Rahawacke) is derived from the Delaware language and means "sandy place" and originally referred to both a geographic location and a culturally similar associated group of Native Americans. "The Rockaway group lived on western Long Island in portions of southeastern Queens and

southwestern Nassau Counties. Their main settlement of Rechqua Akie was probably located in the town of Far Rockaway, Queens." (Grumet, 1981: p. 47).

Although the record indicates that Far Rockaway was the site of prehistoric settlement, there is no definitive evidence of prehistoric occupation on the south side of the Rockaway Peninsula. Archaeological reports have identified numerous sites on the north side of Jamaica Bay and have commented on the presence of shell middens on the north shore of the Rockaway Peninsula. (Shell middens or shell heaps are the physical remains of the Indian activity of harvesting, processing, and, in part, consuming shellfish.) The north and the south side of the Peninsula offered disparate resources through time. The assessment of the archaeological potential of the Arverne impact areas must rest upon the resource options associated with the area and the known settlement patterns of the Native Americans in all time periods.

Settlement pattern data indicates that the Native Americans moved, in different time periods to a greater or lesser permanency, to the shore for a seasonal harvesting of shellfish, an important natural food source. Such camps were usually located near the harvesting station and large Indian villages were located inland within walking distance of shellfish collection stations (Lucianne Lavin, 11/4/1986, personal communication). Shellfish beds would not have formed on the southern, ocean shore of the peninsula. Oysters do not ordinarily reproduce in the open ocean, where salinity is high



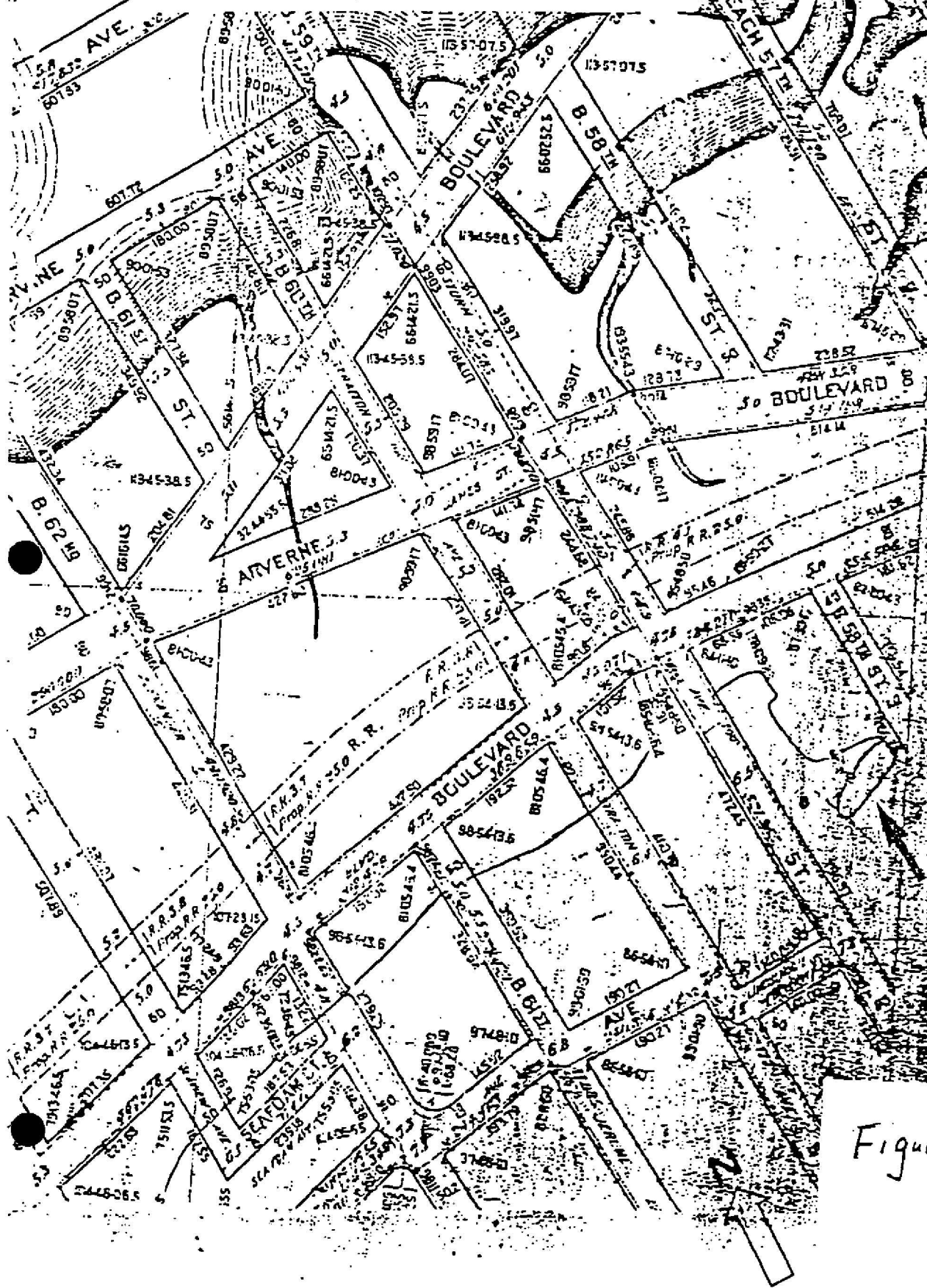
(Kochiss, 1974: p.33). Since the Arverne URA is adjacent to the ocean, the known settlement patterns indicate that it is unlikely that an Indian village would have been located there.

Furthermore, prehistoric settlement pattern research indicates a marked preference for elevated sites, particularly if in some way protected from buffeting winds (e.g., an embayment or a rock outcrop). As illustrated on the 1918, 1922, 1925 Queens Borough Topographic Bureau Final Map sections, the highest contour elevations of the primary impact area were recorded at no greater than 10 feet above sea level. This was in only one small area, on the north end of the block bordered by Beach 58th Street, Beach 59th Street, and the Rockaway Beach Boulevard (see Figure II.F-1). The vast majority of the primary impact area was recorded at an elevation of less than 5 feet above sea level.

Inquiries directed to archaeologists on Long Island (Stan Wisniewski, Mary Anne Mrozinski, Emily Brown, Ben DuBose, and Donna Ottusch-Kianka) revealed an absence of known and/or anticipated archaeological sites on the Rockaway Peninsula.

The State Historic Preservation Office, Albany, reported "no inventoried archaeological sites" within proximity to the Arverne URA (B. Ewing, 10/24/1986, personal communication). The Anthropological Services division of the New York State Museum responded to an archaeological file search request, noting only the

MAP SHOWING STREET SYSTEM FOR THE  
TERRITORY DESIGNATED AS PARTIAL  
SECTION 219 OF THE FINAL MAPS OF THE  
BOROUGH OF QUEENS, 1922.



219

only area  
of 10' elev.

Figure II.F-1

location of a prehistoric campsite (#4050) at Inwood (see Appendix 2F-1).

The exposed, low-lying characteristics of the Arverne URA and adjoining beach strongly argue against any form of sustained harvesting station, camp site, or village location. If any prehistoric resources were possibly deposited in this area, it is most likely that subsequent storm and tidal actions completely destroyed their contextual integrity (Kearns and Kirkorian 1989:9).

#### F.1-2 The Historic Period

Arverne owes its existence to the efforts of one man, Remington Vernam. In 1882, Vernam and a group of investors began development of the vacant and unimproved land that later became known as Arverne (named for R. Vernam). By 1900, construction of the Arverne hotel and many private cottages was completed, a boardwalk was constructed, and an Arverne station was added to the recently opened railroad. Privately financed water supply and drainage systems were part of the original development. Also at this time, the marshland at the Bayside was filled in with sand pumped from the bottom of the Bay but the project was never completed. After Vernam's death in 1907, the filling, bulkheading, and development of streets and cottages was continued.

Following the turn of the century and its incorporation into the Greater New York area in 1898, the booming Rockaway resort area could not continue to exclude commercial enterprises. An influx of new residents stimulated commercial development of the entire Jamaica Bay area. Commercial development was further encouraged by the proximity of the passenger and freight railroad stations. In May 1904, a new popular hotel, Shanley's, was built at Beach 80th Street. It was the largest in Arverne, eclipsing the old Arverne Hotel. The boardwalk was extended and reached two miles in length. In June 1904 the Halcyon Casino Co. built bowling alleys and a carrousel.

Stores began to be erected on the boardwalk at 64th Street and elsewhere (1904), and a theatre was built on a new 150 foot pier at the foot of 67th Street (New York Tribune, April 12, 1905). Realty values advanced enormously within five years of annexation to New York City. The demand for small houses at moderate rates became so pressing that Vernam reclaimed a large tract of land lying north of the tracks with an extensive frontage on Jamaica Bay, and named it Vernam Park (now Rockaway Community Park).

Through the World War I years and the 1920s Arverne grew but the new construction was almost entirely small bungalows built for lease to summer tenants. Meanwhile, the large homes of an earlier era were either converted into rooming houses or were torn down altogether and replaced by much smaller rental units on 25 X 100 plots. Arverne's ocean breezes and clean streets for years

attracted vacationers, primarily Jewish families from Brooklyn and other parts of the City.

In 1922 Arverne suffered a disastrous fire. About 150 dwellings were destroyed: 83 residences, 53 bungalows and 10 hotels. Five blocks - 55th Street to 62nd Streets - were wiped out. Because the land was valuable beachfront property, the tract was rebuilt, but the new construction was almost entirely summer rental units built close together and lacking heating facilities (Moss, 1972: n.p.).

Arverne's prosperity continued through the depression of the 1930's and into the first five years of the post-war era. Then a change, scarcely perceptible at first, began. This change is traceable to five factors: (1) the movement of many city families into the residential suburbs, thereby lessening the need for summer cottages; (2) the improved recreational amenities in residential developments such as pools, day camps, etc.; (3) the greater freedom of movement given to vacationers by newer means of transportation - auto ownership and planes; (4) the increase in public recreational facilities; and (5) the higher standards of resorts and the wider choice in vacation opportunities (ibid).

When the summer boarders stopped coming in the 1950s, the landlords began to neglect their properties and many began to sell or rent to slumlords who installed minimal heating facilities for all-year round use.

When the City began slum clearance in the Redern section of Far Rockaway, many of the displaced people moved to Hammels. Not long after, the City began urban renewal in Hammels and these people, once again uprooted, gravitated to the least expensive housing left in the area - Arverne (ibid). Families from other renewal sites in Harlem, East New York and Brownsville were also relocated to Arverne, until it too was declared a renewal site in 1964 and cleared in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

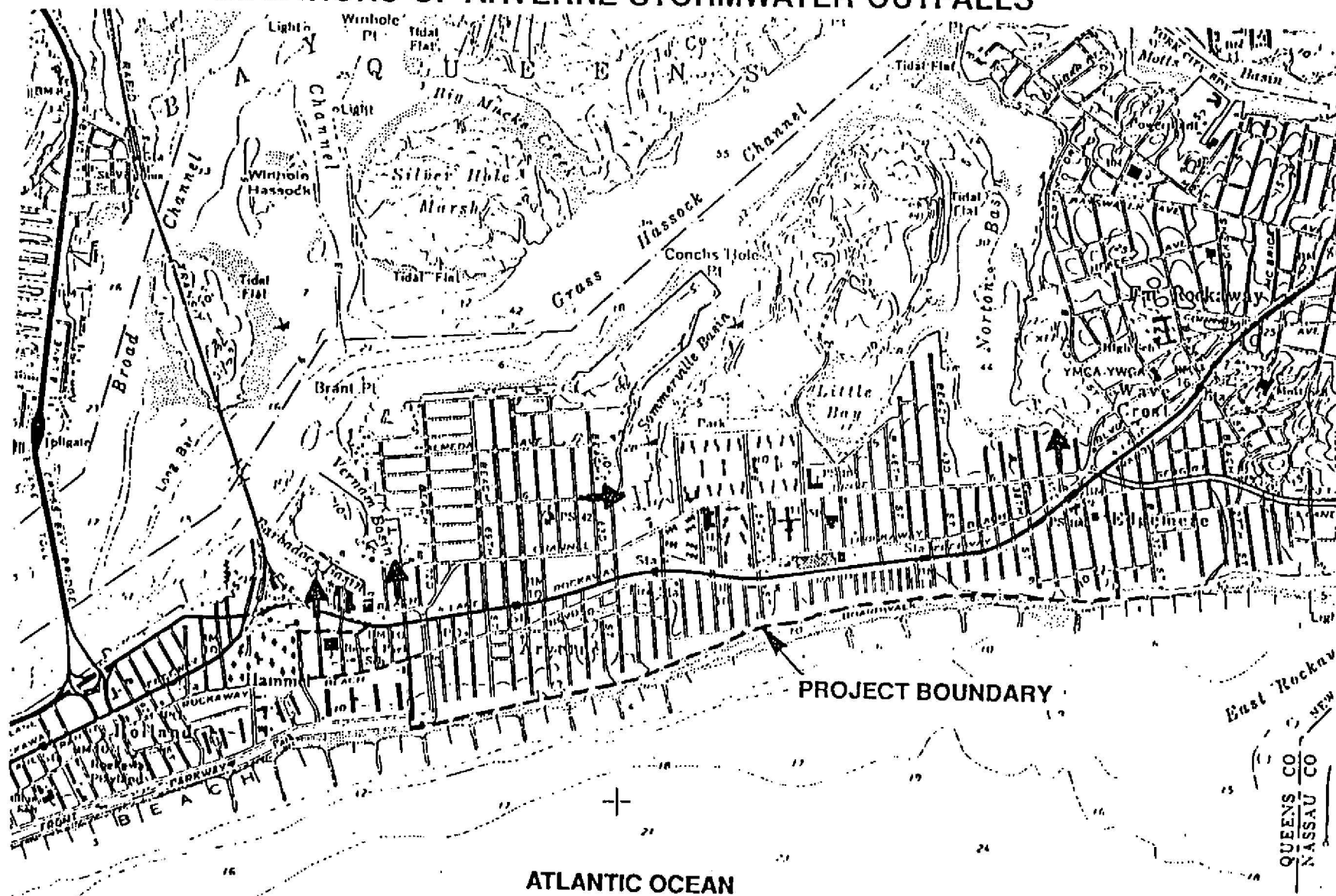
#### Area of Proposed Outfalls: Archaeological Resources

An archaeological review was also conducted of four parcels which are the proposed sites for storm outfall facilities along Jamaica Bay, each with an impact zone of approximately 20 feet square, extending inland from the present shoreline. The proposed locations are: Beach 80th Street and Barbadoes Basin; north of the intersection of Beach 74th Street and Amstel Boulevard at Vernam Basin; the intersection of Thursby Avenue with Sommerville Basin (east of Beach 62nd Street); and north of the intersection of Beach 36th Street and the projected Norton Avenue at Norton Basin (see Figure II.F-2).

The outfall parcels along the shore of Jamaica Bay were once part of an environment rich in wildlife, providing a valuable food source for Native Americans. Until they were filled in for development, the salt marshes along the north shore of the Rockaway Peninsula abounded in game, and fish and shellfish thrived in the



## LOCATIONS OF ARVERNE STORMWATER OUTFALLS



water of Jamaica Bay. The salt grass which grew abundantly in the marshes also had many uses. That local Indians recognized and exploited these resources is clear from the shell heaps and middens created around Jamaica Bay as a result of their harvesting, processing and consumption of shellfish. The Native Americans preferred elevated areas, often with a southern exposure, which were also sheltered from strong winds, perhaps by a rock outcrop or high dunes. The presence of a fresh water source was also an important criterion for site selection. Although there are no known archaeological sites on the Rockaway Peninsula, the recorded Native American presence in Far Rockaway, with easy access to the peninsula, and the shellfish beds of the bay make the presence of such a site possible. In order to determine whether such past usage is probable, it is necessary to determine the original elevations of the parcels and their positions in relation to the predevelopment shoreline, and hence their suitability and attractiveness to the Native American populations.'

#### Pre-Development Elevation

Pre-development topographic maps are clear on at least one point concerning the four parcels in question; they were not on dry land. As illustrated by the 1859 Walling Map (see Figure II.F-3), all land north of the primary impact zone was part of a low-lying,

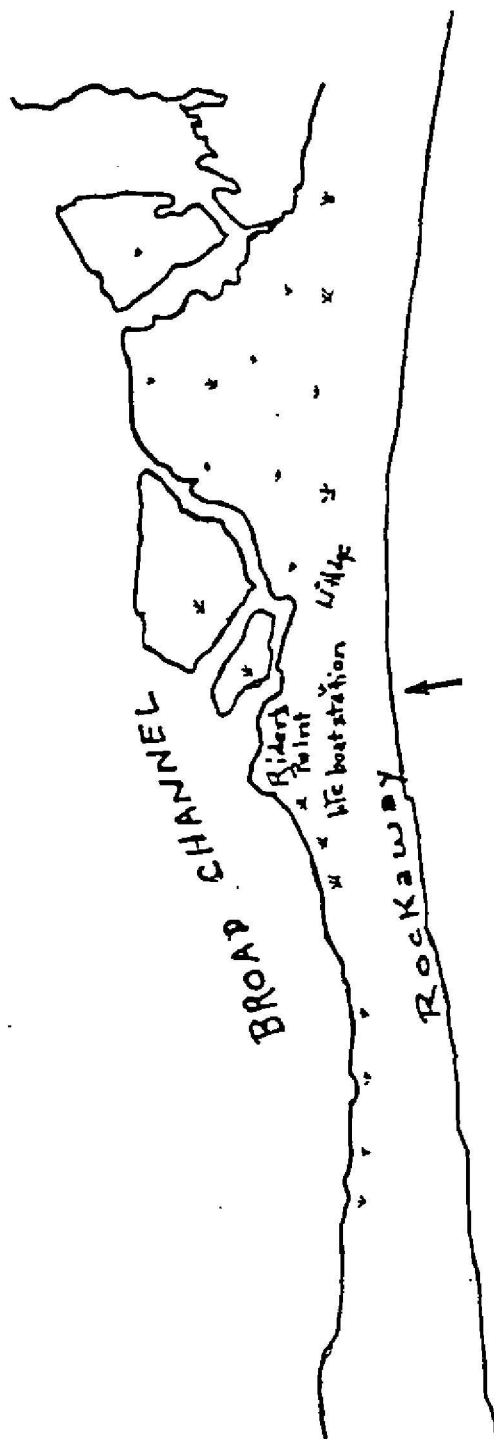
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\*This paragraph is based on the Prehistoric Era section and the Conclusion of Betsy Kearns, Cece Kirkorian, A. Dolkart, R. Schaefer and V. Seyfried, "Cultural Resources Survey for the Arverne Urban Renewal Project, Queens, New York, CEQR 85-322Q", 1989.



Tracing of  
"Walling Map"  
1859

repository: New York Public Library



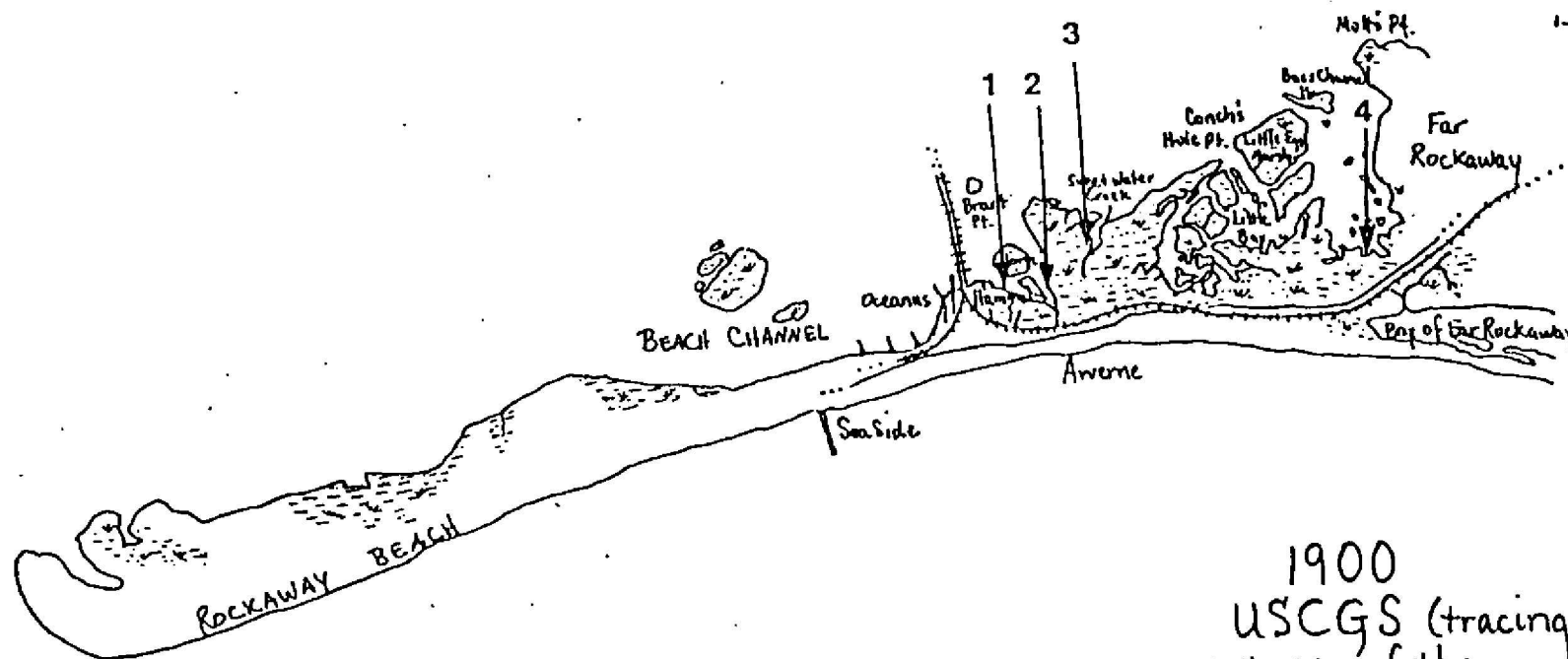
inundated salt marsh. When Remington Vernam and other developers started filling in sections for construction, this marsh began to disappear gradually (Compare 1900 and 1927 Maps, Figures II.F-4 and II.F-5). The earliest map to provide contour lines is the 1900 topographic map, which shows no elevation over 20 feet on the entire peninsula. If there were points higher than 20 feet in the area, these were certainly eliminated when Vernam levelled the "sand hills, some of which were 20 feet high" circa 1882. Unfortunately, pre-1882 maps show only a stylized marsh "pattern" in the secondary impact zone. Furthermore, their scales are such that small details are not readily discernable. The earliest map to delineate small changes in elevation on the Rockaway Peninsula is a 1901 plan (Figure II.F-6) of the draining of the Rockaway Beach Watershed. This map shows elevations near the Jamaica Bay shore of between 0.4 and 4.1 feet, a height which is never exceeded in the northern part of the secondary impact zone. South of this, elevations gradually increased, reaching to between 8 and 10 feet near the Atlantic shore (see 1901 Map). Such a low and gradual slope would hardly have provided shelter for an Indian camp. Although we know that high dunes did exist until the 1880s, neither accounts nor available maps show the dunes or their position in relation to the present outfall discharge sites. This may be due to the fact that by their very nature, sand dunes are unstable features in the landscape. However, it is unlikely that such an anomaly, if it had existed in the middle of a marsh would have gone unrecorded.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP NEW YORK STATE  
BROOKLYN QUADRANT  
1900 Reprinted 1916

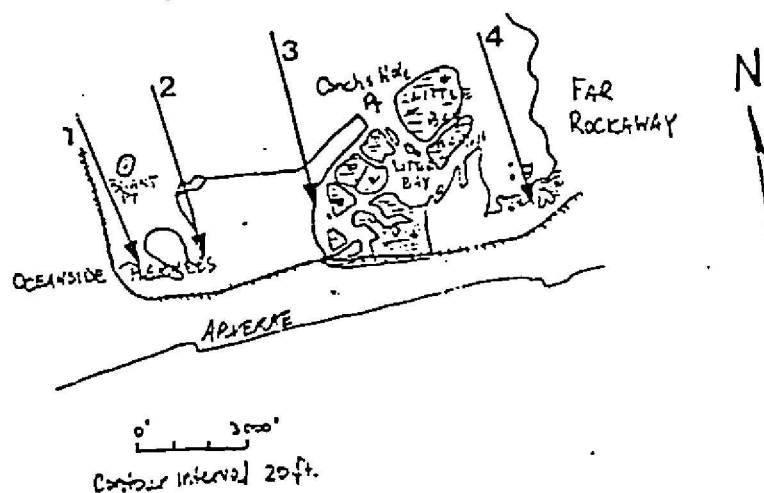
Scale 1/62500

1/2 miles

Contour  
Interval  
20 feet

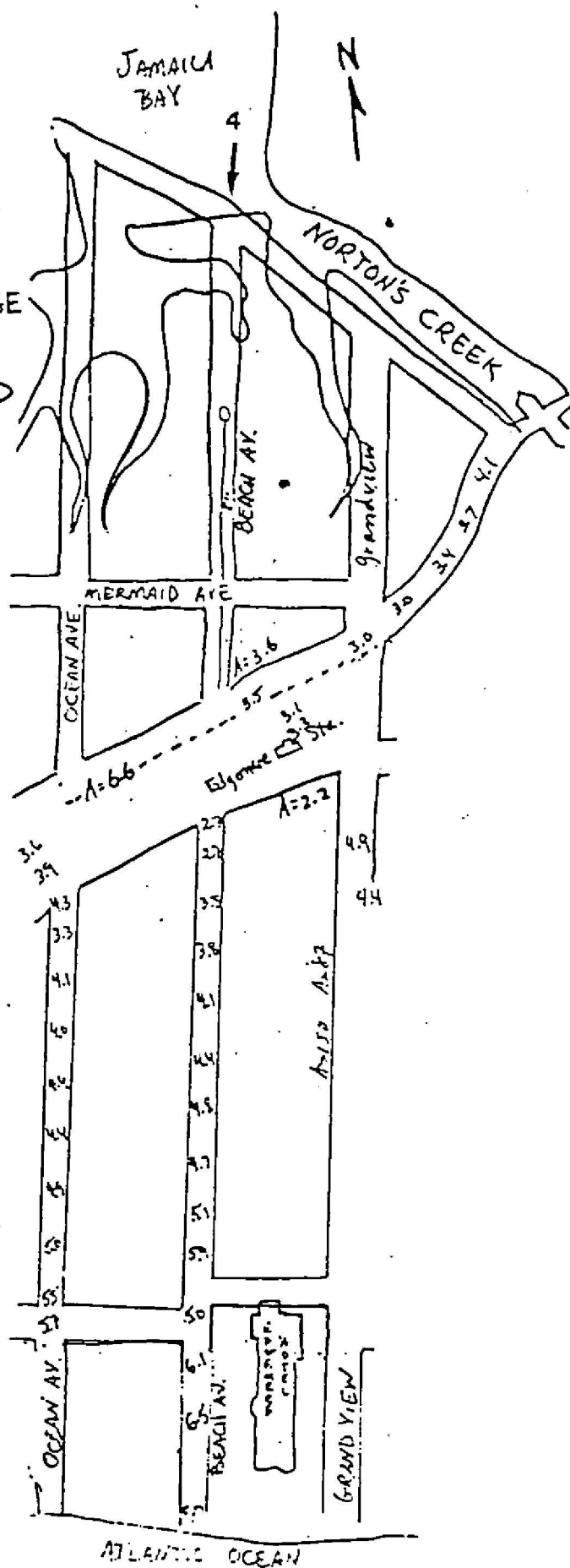
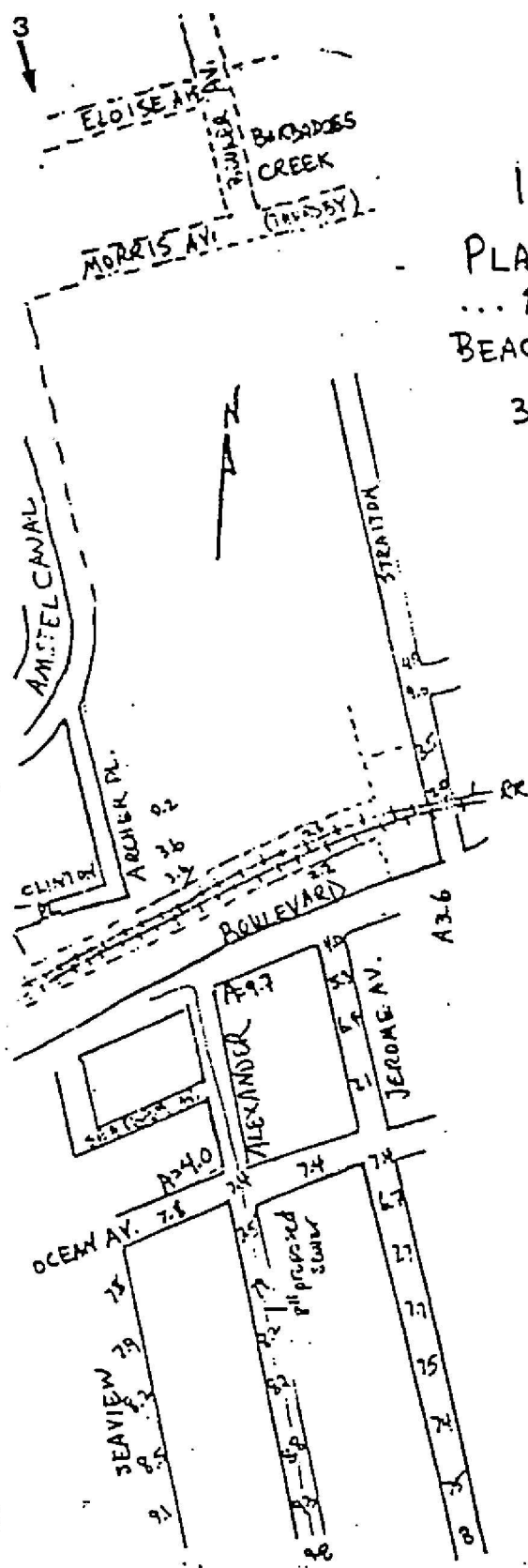


1900  
USCGS (tracing)  
Collection of the  
New York Public Library



U.S.C.G.S.  
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
BROOKLYN QUAD. (tracing)  
1927  
Collection of New York Public Library

1901  
PLAN OF DRAINAGE  
... ROCKAWAY  
BEACH WATERSHED  
300' to 1"  
N.Y.P.L.  
(tracing)



### Pre-Development Shoreline

The proximity of the four outfall discharge sites to the pre-development shoreline was investigated through a comparison of the available contemporary and historical maps of the area. There are several difficulties with this procedure. The different land use, insurance and topographic maps are of varying scale and accuracy. Their reliability is especially questionable in the depiction of the original shoreline, which is often completely omitted when streets and blocks have not been laid out, and proposed streets may vary in width and placement from map to map, eliminating any basis for comparison. Furthermore, shoreline change was due to more than the activities of the landowners. Natural deposition and removal of sand and soil not only expanded the northern shore, but also caused it to contract, as illustrated in maps drafted to show changes in the Atlantic shoreline which incidentally include sections of the Jamaica Bay shore. Unfortunately, they stop just short of the proposed outfall locations (Map of Rockaway Peninsula from Rockaway Point to Nassau County, n.d.). Since neither shoreline can be considered constant, the railroad tracks running along the peninsula were chosen as a fixed datum from which to measure coastline variation. The tracks are depicted on the earliest maps, and their route is still followed by the present subway line. In the interest of consistency, measurements were taken beginning at the end of the block bordering the tracks, along the west side of the street.

The 80th Street Outfall site is where Beach 80th Street, formerly Pleasant Avenue, meets the bulkhead at Barbadoes Basin. The 1891 Wolverton map shows that the shore extends 450 feet north of the railroad tracks, but this distance is questionable because of the extremely regular manner in which the coastline is drawn. It does not agree with any of the later maps. The 1901 Drainage Map gives the same distance as 365.6 feet, which is in close agreement with the 1912 Hyder and 1919 Ullitz maps (see Figures II.F-7 and II.F-8), which show 368.75 and 370.3 feet respectively. The 1919 Ullitz plate also superimposes the outline of the original shore. The contemporary map provided by the Department of City Planning, gives a distance of 337.5 feet. The indentation illustrated at the point along Barbadoes Basin would account for this difference, definitely placing the proposed 80th Street Outfall site on land along or at the predevelopment shoreline.

On the shore of Vernam Basin, north of the intersection of Beach 74th Street, formerly Atlantic Avenue, and Amstel Boulevard, lies the 73rd Street Outfall review parcel. Sometime between the printing of the 1912 and 1919 maps, the shoreline moved north over 550 feet. This would coincide with 1913 as the date of the creation of the small peninsula which lies between Vernam and Barbadoes Basins. Marsh land was filled in with sand pumped up from the bottom of the bay, and the basins were bulkheaded." The

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"Taken from: Betsy Kearns, Cece Kirkorian and Richard Schaefer, "U.S. Truck Body Site, Queens, New York: Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment, CEQR 88-164Q," 1988. Mss. on file with Allee King Rosen and Fleming Inc., p. 12.

Figure II.F-7

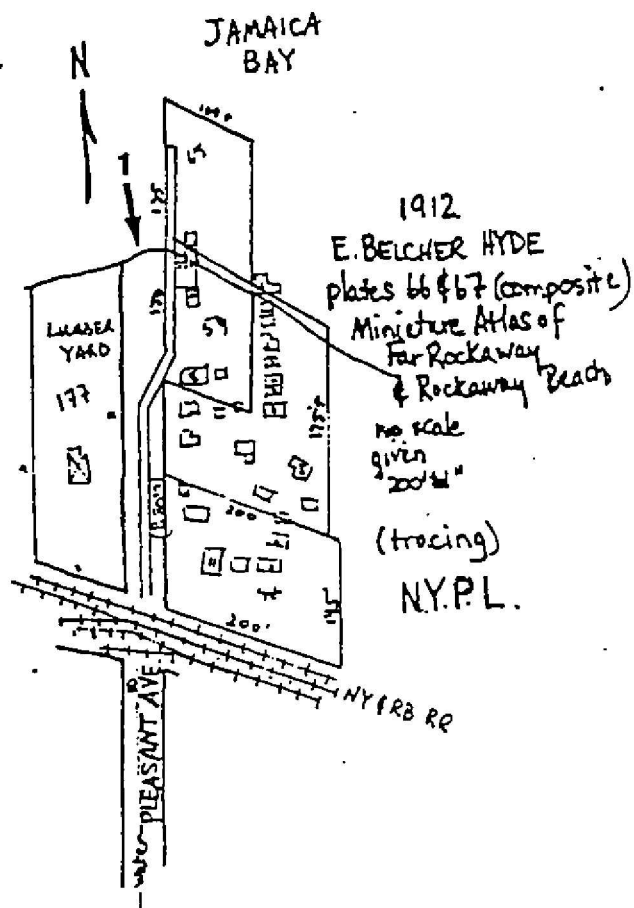
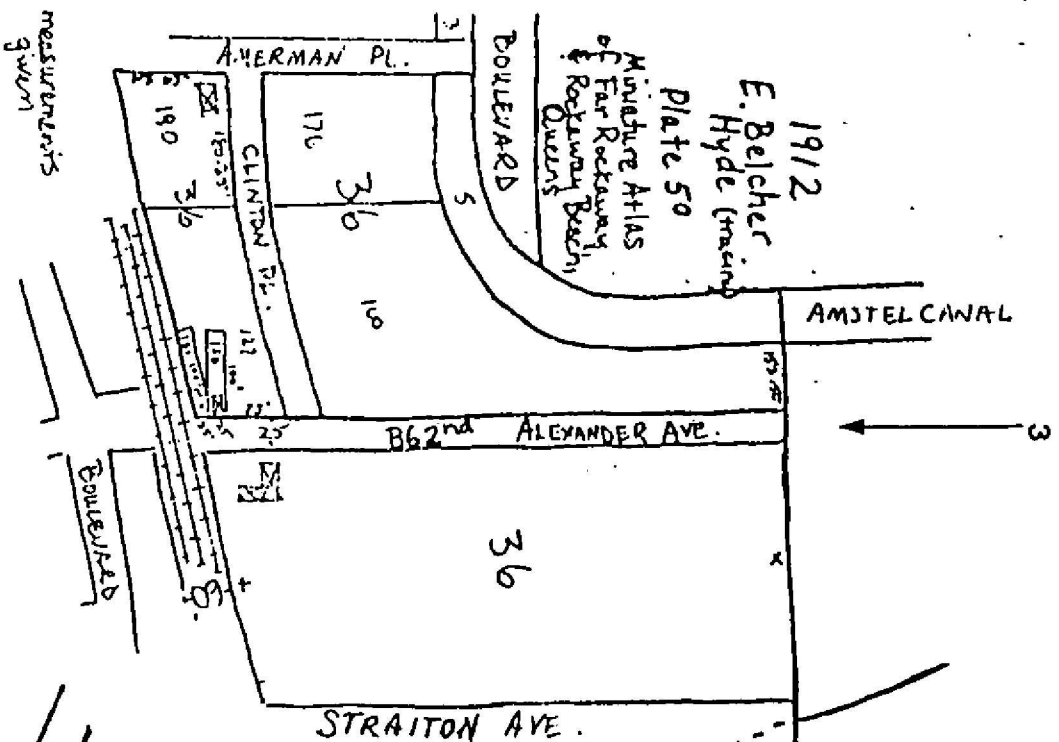




Figure II. F-7 (contd)

Collection of  
New York Public  
Library



1912  
E. BECHER Hyde (tracing)  
plate 42 scale 1/2" = 100'

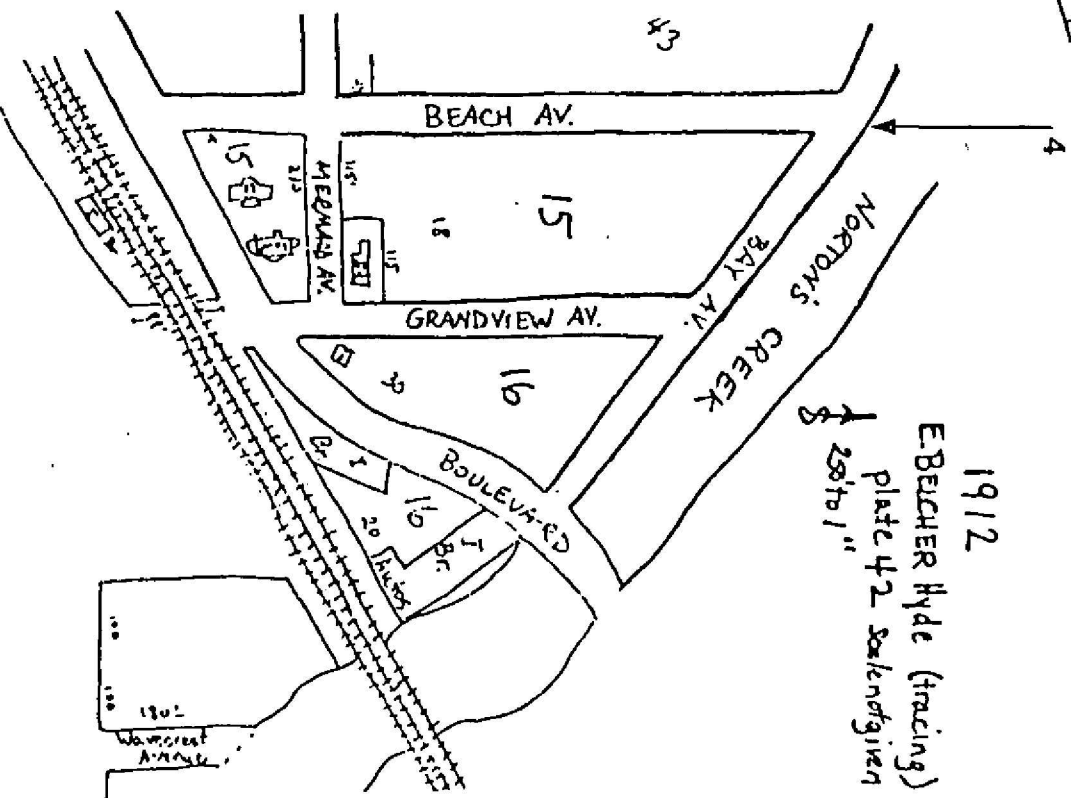
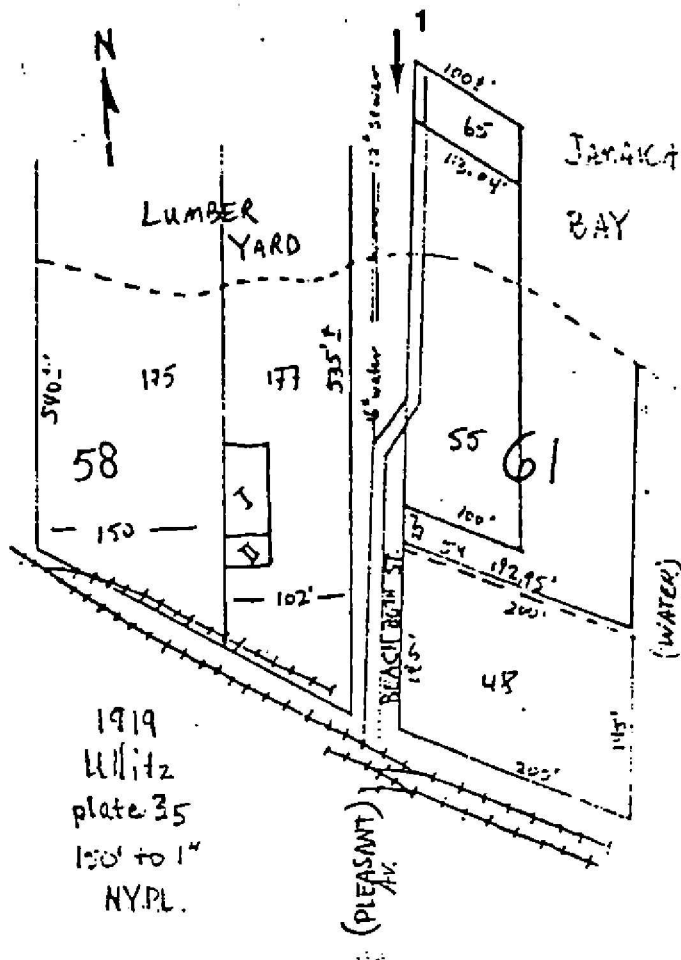
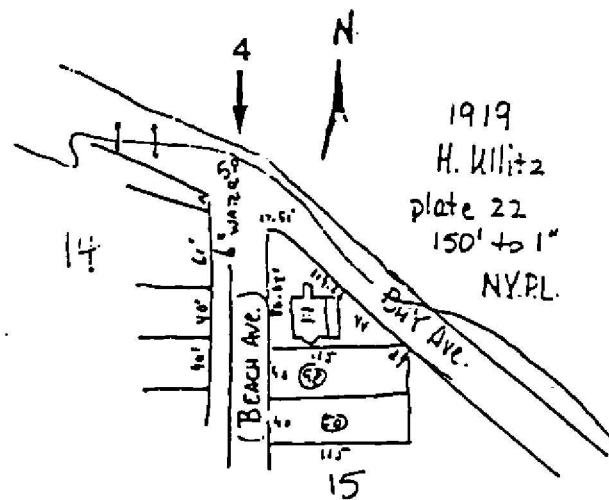


Figure II.F-8



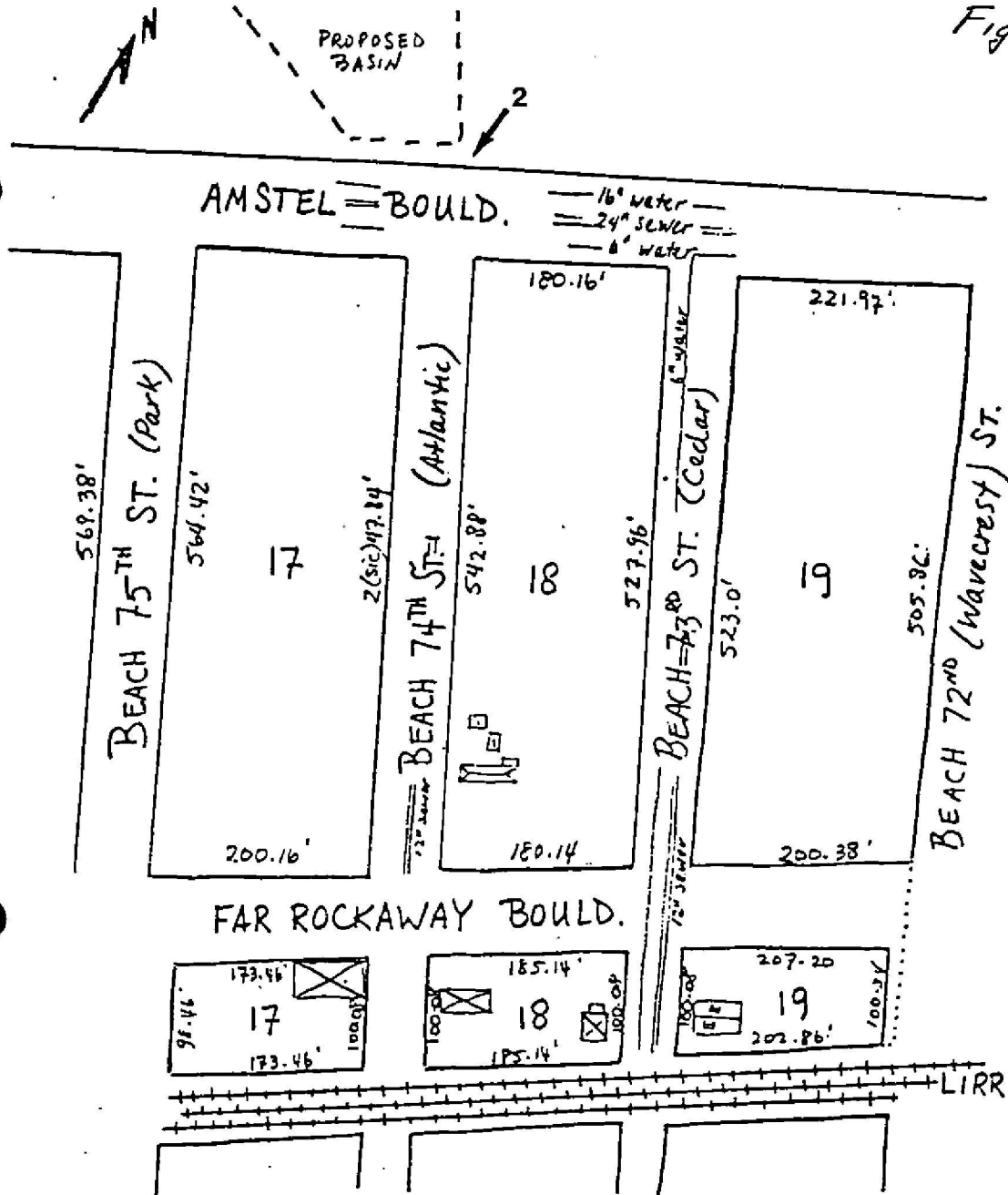
1919  
Ullitz (tracing)

1919  
Ullitz  
plate 35  
150' to 1"  
NYPL.

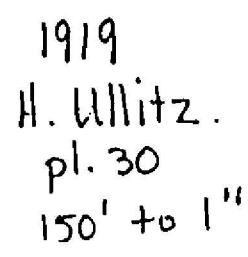


1919  
H. Ullitz  
plate 22  
150' to 1"  
NYPL.

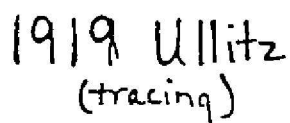
Figure II.F-8 (cont'd)



1919  
H. Kllitz (tracing)  
Atlas of Queens  
Plate 35  
150' to 1"  
N.Y.P.L.

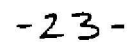


1919  
H. Ullitz  
plate 27  
400' to 1"



Collection  
of the  
New York  
Public Library

1919  
H. Vilitz  
plate 26  
250' to 1"



1901 and 1912 maps are in fair agreement, giving the shore as 290.6 and 243.75 feet north of the railway line, while the 1919 map and contemporary data show not only a new street, Amstel Boulevard, but the new shoreline from between 853 and 812.5 feet north of the railroad tracks. ~~Therefore the 73rd Street Outfall parcel is in~~ a location which would have been underwater before being altered during the 1910s.

The 62nd Street Outfall review area is at the shoreline of Sommerville Basin, at the eastern end of Thursby Avenue (formerly Morris Avenue), 150 feet east of Beach 62nd Street (formerly Alexander Avenue). The original shoreline, where Beach 62nd met Jamaica Bay has changed dramatically, probably during the same episode of land consolidation which altered the shore at the 73rd Street Outfall site. Remnants of this bulkhead, probably constructed during this period, can still be seen today. Two versions of the 1919 map (see Figure II.F-8, plates 30, 26 and 27) show an arm of the future Sommerville Basin crossing Beach 62nd Street south of Thursby Avenue. However, they also show that Thursby Street extended beyond the existing Beach 63rd, by between 375 and 445.3 feet, depending on which version of the map is used. Since the proposed location lies 375 feet east of Beach 63rd, the parcel would not have been in the basin, but in the marsh at or near its shore.

The 36th Street Outfall review area is located on the shore of Norton Basin, north of the intersection of Beach 36th Street

(formerly Beach Avenue) and the route of the unregulated Norton Avenue (originally Bay Avenue). The shore shown on the contemporary map is comparable to that shown on the 1919 map. The present distance from shore to tracks is 1,050 feet. 1901, 1912 and 1919 maps all show the coast to be in Norton Avenue, while the present-day map confirms the reality that the shore extends north of Norton. However, this rough roadway must have been redrawn several times, for the measurements from 1919, 1,054.7 feet, and 1901 1,040.6 feet reveal no major alterations. The 1901 map does indicate a far more irregular shoreline, but the proposed outfall location is still in the marsh rather than in the bay.

There is a low potential for archaeological resources at three of the four proposed storm outfall locations, Beach 80th Street, Beach 62nd Street and Beach 36th Street.

## **II.F.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS**

### **F.2-1 Arverne URA and Adjoining Beach**

The physical and environmental characteristics of the southern shore of the Rockaway Peninsula most probably did not offer resources to the Native Americans sufficient to support a camp or village or shell midden site. Undoubtedly, at one time or another Indians did roam across the sandy dunes of Arverne; however, the possibility of recovering single artifacts finds does not warrant further archaeological research into its prehistoric past.

The residential development of Arverne was accompanied by the installation of a water supply and sewage drainage system. The existence of cisterns, privies and wells in the area prior to such installation is possible, albeit slight. However, the archaeological potential of such deposits - from very late nineteenth century, secondary and seasonal housing - is not considered sufficient to warrant further archaeological investigations.

The cultural resource survey performed for this project has determined that the Arverne URA is archaeologically non-sensitive.

#### F.2-2 Proximate Impact Area

The proximate impact area surrounding the Arverne URA, which extends roughly three blocks beyond the Arverne URA's east, west, and north boundaries, possesses a minimal prehistoric archaeological potential and no historical archaeological potential. This area reflects the same characteristics as the Arverne URA and is considered to have no archaeological potential.



F.2-3      Outfall Area

With respect to the four stormwater outfall parcels, it has not been possible to conclusively determine historic elevations and nearby topography. The lack of highly detailed topographic maps dating from before the alteration of the peninsula makes any pronouncement uncertain. There is the possibility of raised areas within the marsh which would have been suitable for a Native American shellfish processing center, but this is not likely.

The determination of the pre-development shoreline has been more successful. Of the four outfall parcels, one, the 73rd Street Outfall site, can be dismissed, since it has been shown to have been in Jamaica Bay before development altered the shore of the Rockaway Peninsula, and, therefore is not archaeologically sensitive.

Given the available information, the remaining three outfall parcels have been shown to have been part of the salt marsh which covered the secondary impact zone, until the advent of development in the late nineteenth century. However, as can be seen on Figures II.F-4 and II.F-5, the majority of this north shore was a low, inundated marshland until developers like Vernam filled the low lying area during the twentieth century. The possibility that Native Americans exploited the Jamaica Bay resources from sites within the secondary impact area does exist although, as compared to the more inland locations bordering the north shore of the Bay,

this shore afforded scant protection from the strong winds of the ocean.

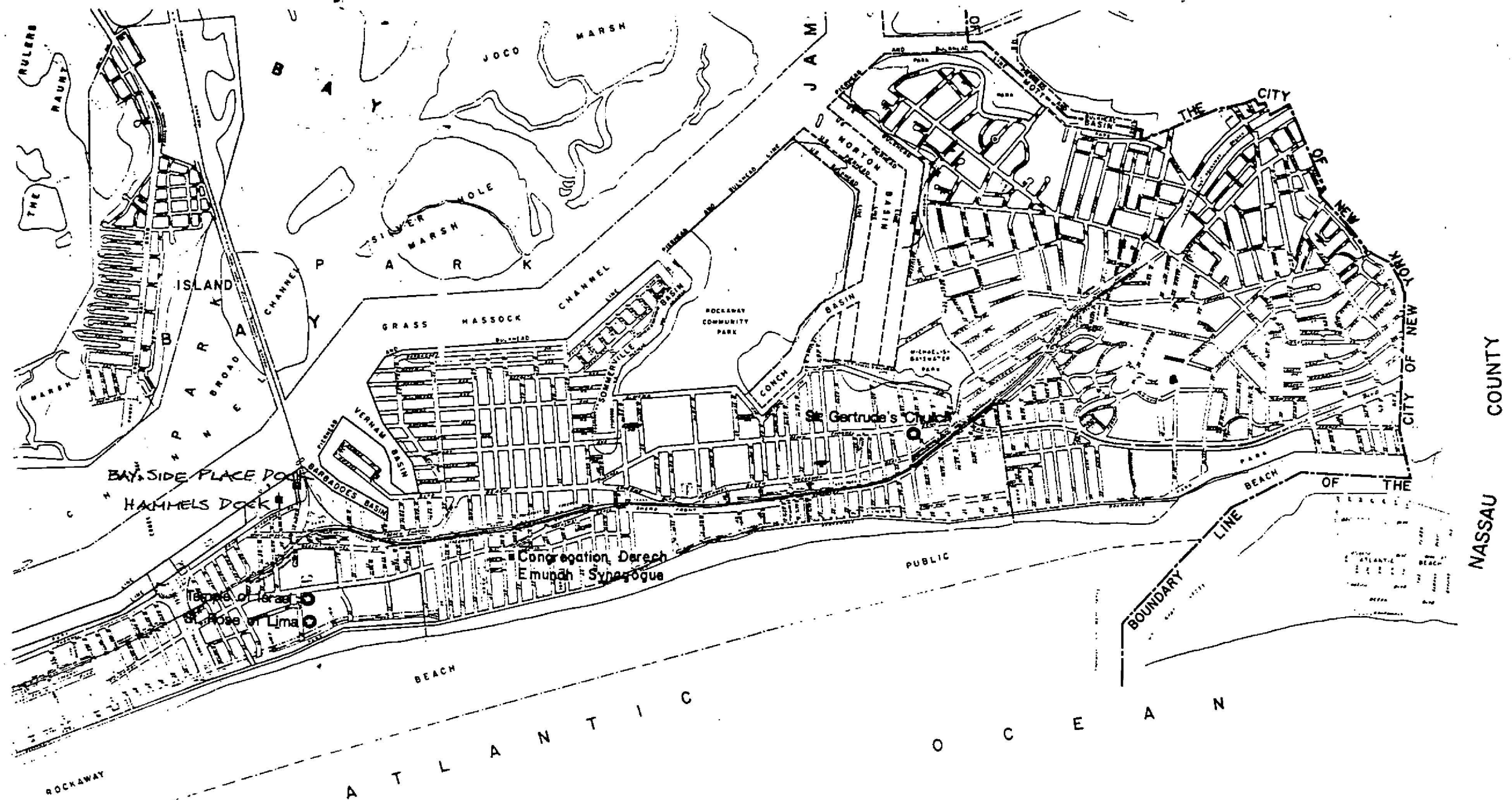
#### F.2-4 Historic Buildings

##### Arverne URA

The entire Arverne URA, stretching from Beach 32nd Street, westward to Beach 81st Street, south of Rockaway Beach Boulevard, was surveyed during November 1986. An additional survey of the secondary impact area was undertaken in 1989. These surveys were undertaken to identify any extant buildings of architectural and/or historical interest that would be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or would be eligible for designation as a New York City Landmark. The locations of these buildings are shown on Figure II.F-9. Most of the area is now vacant and there were few buildings to review.

##### *Congregation Derech Emunoh Synagogue*

This synagogue is the most important standing building in Arverne and is one of the finest synagogues in New York City. The building was the religious and communal center of this Jewish resort community. The Colonial Revival style wooden building was designed by William A. Lambert and built in 1905-06. Colonial Revival was the style most commonly used for resort architecture at the turn of the century. The style is often associated with houses and

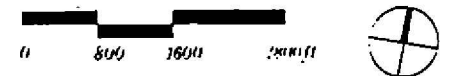


**ARVERNE URBAN RENEWAL AREA**  
Queens, New York  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**  
Department of City Planning

**Historic Resources**

- NYC Landmark Designation (Not Approved)
- Cultural Resources
- Arverne Urban Renewal Area Boundary

Prepared By  
Dresdner, Robin & Associates, Inc.



clubs, but was also adapted for synagogues. America's oldest synagogue, the Truro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, is a Colonial structure. As Colonial architecture became a model for late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings, the Newport building influenced synagogue design.

The Arverne synagogue is a rectangular structure, but Lambert used a series of design motifs to give the building its special character and impressive sense of grandeur. These motifs include a series of large triangular pediments, an Ionic portico, Ionic pilasters, and large round arched windows filled with stained glass. A rooftop cupola called attention to the building from a distance and marked the structure as one of the major community facilities in Arverne.

The importance of the building in its community is accented by the fact that it is one of only two buildings in Arverne illustrated in Alfred H. Bellot's discussion of Arverne in his History of the Rockaways (see below photocopied from Bellot, 1917, Bellot's Histories, Inc. Far Rockaway: p. 101).

On November 15, 1977, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the designation of the synagogue as a landmark. On January 10, 1978, the synagogue was designated a New York City Landmark. The Commission found that the building has a "special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as a part of the development, history and

cultural character of New York City" and commented in its finding on the design, the building's social importance, and on its survival. Several weeks after the Commission's action, the Board of Estimate reversed the designation, citing the fact that the building was in an urban renewal area. The condition of the synagogue has deteriorated since 1978, but it remains a building of great distinction and is unquestionably eligible for National Register listing.

*Beach 68th Street Apartment House*

Located near the western end of the URA, on Beach 68th Street, is a six-story Art Deco style apartment building, probably erected c. 1935. The Art Deco style first became popular for middle-class multiple dwellings in the late 1920s, with large numbers of these buildings appearing in the late 1930s. The Art Deco apartment houses were erected by speculative builders who commissioned designs in the latest style, thus hoping to attract prosperous tenants. These Art Deco style apartment buildings are almost all six stories (taller buildings had to meet more rigid fireproofing requirements) and were almost invariably faced with brick and trimmed with stone, terra cotta, or cast stone. The Arverne apartment house is typical of the style with its light-colored brick facades trimmed with red brick and what appears to be terra cotta at the entrance and roofline. The most notable features of the building are the stepped parapets flanking the entrance bay and on the water tower.

This apartment building is something of an anomaly in Arverne. It was erected later than most buildings, perhaps as part of an effort to change Arverne from a seasonal to a year round community. The building stands in isolation today, but even at the time of its construction it was one of the few apartment houses on the Rockaway peninsula. The building is not a rare or particularly sophisticated example of Art Deco middle-class apartment design. High quality buildings of this type appear in larger concentrations on the National Register listed Grand Concourse Historic District, as well as in the West Bronx, Washington Heights/Inwood area of Manhattan, and several neighborhoods in south central Brooklyn.

The building is not known to be associated with events of significance or with the lives of significant people; it is not a significant example of Art Deco style design; it does not possess high artistic value; and it does not reflect a significant period in Arverne's development. Therefore, this building is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register.

#### Secondary Impact Area

##### *St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church*

The only building within the proximate secondary impact area that is considered possibly eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, due to its architectural significance,

is St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church. This neo-tudor style summer church is situated on the southeast corner of Beach 38th Street and Beach Channel Drive. Very probably designed originally as an Episcopal Church, this building was erected in 1911. The building is not a City landmark, nor is it listed on the state or national registers.

*St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church*

*Temple of Israel*

St. Rose at 130 Beach 84th Street recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of its parish. The current red brick edifice, with twin pyramidal roof towers, was erected in 1906 at a cost of \$150,000, replacing a c.1886 wooden Gothic church. Church design saw the most frequent application of the Romanesque Revival style between c. 1840 and 1900 and St. Rose is an adaptation of this style, presenting a polychromatic exterior finish by using contrasting sandstone with red brick. The compound arches and piers dominating the front entrance are typical features of this well known style.

The original Temple of Israel was erected in 1900, possibly at Beach 84th Street. By 1921 the Temple of Israel was in its current building at 188 Beach 84th Street and was rehabilitated. This rehabilitation included raising the structure so that an added basement could be used for religious classes. The pediment roofline and the pedimented frontispiece with Ionic-like flanking

columns are indicative of a vernacular, classical revival institutional building of no particular distinctive character.

Although St. Rose and Temple of Israel are probably not eligible for the National Register because of architectural significance, they may be eligible due to their historical importance to the community. The neighborhood Catholic parish, established in 1886, first occupied a smaller frame church until the erection of the present St. Rose in 1906. This church, like its predecessor, has served as a community center for the Arverne neighborhood since its construction. Temple of Israel, erected in 1900, has also served as a community center. Many neighborhood functions have been held at these two religious centers, giving each an important place in the history of Arverne.

Bay Side Place Dock at Beach 84th Street, one of two extant seasonal residential piers immediately west of the Jamaica Bay subway trestle, is considered an historic resource potentially eligible for consideration for designation as a New York City Landmark or as part of an historic district, or for nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The seasonal community of Hammels, developed at the end of the last century, revolved around the Bay and water-related activities. This Dock of 25 two-story frame bungalows along a pile-supported boardwalk is one of the last remnants of this period in Rockaway's neighborhood development. Bay Side Place Dock is approximately 500



feet north of the URA's boundary at Beach 84th and the Rockaway Freeway.

Approximately 400 feet north of the URA's boundary at Beach 84th and the Rockaway Freeway and one block west of Bay Side Place Dock is the Hammels Dock, the second still seasonally-active residential pier. Also a remnant of the c. 1900 Hammels development, this boardwalk at Beach 85th Street supports 18 bungalows. As can be seen on Ullitz's 1919 Atlas, Louis Hammels' c. 1857 steamboat landing was at the terminus of Beach 85th Street and may, in part, still be visible today.

As part of a much larger bungalow community that thrived along the Hammels shoreline, these two residential piers are vestiges that represent the Peninsula's recreational past.

## II.F.3 THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROJECT

### F.3-1 Archaeological Resources

As there are no significant archaeological resources within the Arverne URA, there would be no effect on such resources in the future without the proposed action.

If there are archaeological resources in the area of the proposed stormwater outfalls (at Beach 80th, Beach 62nd and Beach 36th

Streets), they would not be disturbed by utility construction in the future without the project.

#### **F.3-2 Historic Resources**

Without the proposed action the Congregation Derech Emunoh Synagogue located at 199 Beach 67th Street would remain standing at least for the time being. However, the building is, condemned and would likely continue to deteriorate.

The Art Deco building on Beach 68th Street would most likely remain in its current deteriorated and vacant state.

St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Temple of Israel, Bay Side Place Dock, and Hammels Dock, all located in the proximate impact area surrounding the URA, would remain in their current state without the proposed action.

### **II.F.4 PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

#### **F.4-1 Archaeological Resources**

As there are no significant archaeological resources in the Arverne URA, the proposed action would not have any affect on such resources.

As stated above there, there is a possibility that the outfall areas could have supported a shellfish harvesting area. However, there is a low potential for archaeological resources at three of the four proposed storm outfall locations, Beach 80th Street, Beach 62nd Street and Beach 36th Street.

Although shellfish beds, an important food resource to Native Americans, were present in Jamaica Bay, and valuable game and useful salt grasses were available in the marshes, there is no firm documentary evidence of the other attributes of an Indian settlement site, which studies of settlement patterns have led archaeologists to expect, namely, an elevated position with southern exposure, a fresh water source and shelter from wind. However, the presence of a short-lived shellfish processing site has not been definitely disproved. Because of their high visibility and scale, a shoreline processing center, or shell midden, can often be identified utilizing soil borings data. If requested during CEQR review, soil borings would be performed at each of the proposed outfall locations at the Beach 80th Street, Beach 62nd Street and Beach 36th Street under the direction of a SOPA (Society of Professional Archaeologists) certified archaeologist. It is anticipated that the results of this borings analysis would indicate if there is, or is not a shell midden site at these outfall locations.

If such evidence is found from the borings, field tests would be conducted prior to proceeding with outfall construction. The

research design for this testing phase, or monitoring phase, would have to be approved by the Landmarks Commission prior to initiation.

#### F.4-2 Historic Resources

The proposed action includes the retention and restoration of the Congregation Derech Emunoh Synagogue in a park setting which would result in a significant positive benefit.

The proposed action does not include the retention of the Art Deco building located on Beach 68th Street. Since this building is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic places, its demolition would not result in a significant adverse impact. It is, however, possible that some of the building's elements might be salvaged, perhaps by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's salvage program.

Plans for the development of the Arverne URA do not entail actions that would adversely impact St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church.

Additionally, St. Rose of Lima Church at 130 Beach 84th Street and the Temple of Israel, which are not considered eligible for the National Register because of architectural significance but potentially eligible due to their historical importance to the community, would not be adversely impacted by the proposed action.

Additionally, the two boardwalk bungalow communities on the Jamaica Bay shoreline north of the westernmost edge of the URA are not scheduled to be directly impacted by the proposed development. The Rockaway Freeway, the elevated subway trestles, park land, vacant lots, houses, and small businesses separate the URA from the Bay Side Place and Hammels Docks. Although Bay Side Place Dock and Hammels Dock might be considered eligible for designation as a City Landmark or historic district, or for nomination to the State or National Registers of Historic Places "These bungalow communities currently exist in a context that has been greatly altered from its nineteenth and early twentieth century use as a seaside resort" \*\*\*

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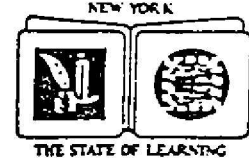
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**APPENDIX 2F-1**



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, N.Y. 12234

Search Results:

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
Prehistoric Site File

Date: 8 October 1986

To: Cece Kirkorian  
Historical Perspectives  
P.O. Box 331  
Riverside, CT 06878

Area Searched: Site Location as shown in your letter of Sept. 29th

Our staff has conducted a search of our data files for locations and descriptions of prehistoric archeological sites in New York State which are within the area indicated above, as requested.

The results of the search are given below. Please refer to the NYSM site identification numbers when requesting additional information.

If specific information requested has not been provided by this letter, it is likely that we are not able to provide it at this time, either because of staff limitations or policy regarding disclosure of archeological site data.

Any questions regarding this reply can be directed to Philip Lord, Jr., at (518) 473-1503 or the above address.

RESULTS OF THE FILE SEARCH:

4050 - ACP NSAU\*

Campsite

\*This notation refers to Arthur C. Parker's Archeology of New York State (1922).

SEARCH CONDUCTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (initials)  
Staff, Office of the State Archeologist

