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Phase IA Documentary Study of the

Wilkins Site



for Proposed Improvements to 14th Avenue and 141st Street Borough of Queens, New York

prepared for
New York City
Department of Design and Construction,
30-30 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, New York 11101

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. PREVIOUS RESEARCH	6
3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND	17
4. HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT SITE	23
5. EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL	33
6. RECOMMENDATIONS	37

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

- A. List of Contacts
- B. Wilkins Site: 1939 Excavations -- Field Map and Artifact Illustrations
- C. Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations -- Notes and Correspondence of Herbert Pretzat,
James A. Ford, and Carlyle S. Smith
- D. Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations -- Recent Correspondence
- E. Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations -- Skeletal Inventory Sheets
- F. Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations -- Pretzat Collection Artifact Inventory
- G. Recent Correspondence with Native American Representatives
- H. Scope of Work for Archaeological Services

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.1	Location of Project Area	2
1.2	Detailed Plan of Project Area	3
2.1	Previously Identified Prehistoric Sites	7
2.2	Previous Cultural Resource Management Projects	8
2.3	Detailed Plan of Pretzat Lot	11
3.1	Taylor and Skinner New York Vicinity map - 1781	18
3.2	Detail of Taylor and Skinner New York Vicinity map - 1781	19
3.3	Aerial Photograph - 1924	20
4.1	Sidney New York Vicinity map - 1849	25
4.2	Connor Kings and Part of Queens Counties map - 1852	26
4.3	Walling Kings and Queens Counties map - 1859	27
4.4	Queens Borough map - 1904	28
4.5	Sanborn map - 1916	29
4.6	Detail of Aerial Photograph - 1924	31
4.7	Sanborn map - 1943/1951	32
6.1	Plan of Project Area with Recommended Testing Locations	39

LIST OF PLATES

<u>Plate</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.1	Block 4109, Lot 2	4
2.1	Excavation of Burial Pit	12
2.2	Refuse Pits	13
2.3	Artifacts from Burial Pit	14
2.4	Artifacts from Burial Pit	15

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Description

This report is of an archaeological documentary study of the intersection of 14th Avenue between 141st and 142nd Streets, Borough of Queens, City of New York (Figure 1.1), in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the City Environmental Quality Review as dictated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) (LPC Memorandum dated 4/16/1996).

DDC plans for the 14th Avenue/141st Street area (Figure 1.2) call for the widening of 141st Street adjacent to Block 4109, Lot 2. Installation of new sidewalks along both sides of 141st Street and along the north side of 14th Avenue between 141st and 142nd Streets is also planned, and the driveway servicing the garage on Block 4109, Lot 2 will be realigned. The planned improvements will require substantial grading within an approximately 31-foot-wide strip of raised ground, currently overgrown with weeds, adjacent to the side yard of Block 4109, Lot 2 (Plate 1.1). Grading for sidewalk installation will also be necessary adjacent to Block 4108, Lots 9, 13, and 14, and along 14th Avenue between 141st and 142nd Streets. An existing 10"-diameter sewer which runs beneath 14th Avenue will be reconstructed/replaced, and catch basins will be installed at the northwest and southwest corners of the 14th Avenue/141st Street intersection as well as on both sides of 141st Street near the middle of the block. Minor roadway improvements along 14th Avenue at this intersection include new curbs and repaving.

Description of Research

Block 4109 is the location of a known archaeological site, the Wilkins Site, which has yielded human remains and artifacts from previous excavations (described below). Therefore, this documentary study differs from others which have been conducted in the area. The general potential of the project area for the presence of archaeological resources was easily established, and the focus was on gathering information on previous finds and determining the potential for survival of additional archaeological remains. This documentary study included the following:

- A file search at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and a review of previous cultural resource surveys in the vicinity of the project area.
- A review of published information on Native American sites in the vicinity of the project area, in particular the Wilkins Site.
- Examination of unpublished documentation on the Wilkins Site.
- A review of secondary literature on the historic development of this part of Queens.
- Compilation and analysis of historic maps of the project area.

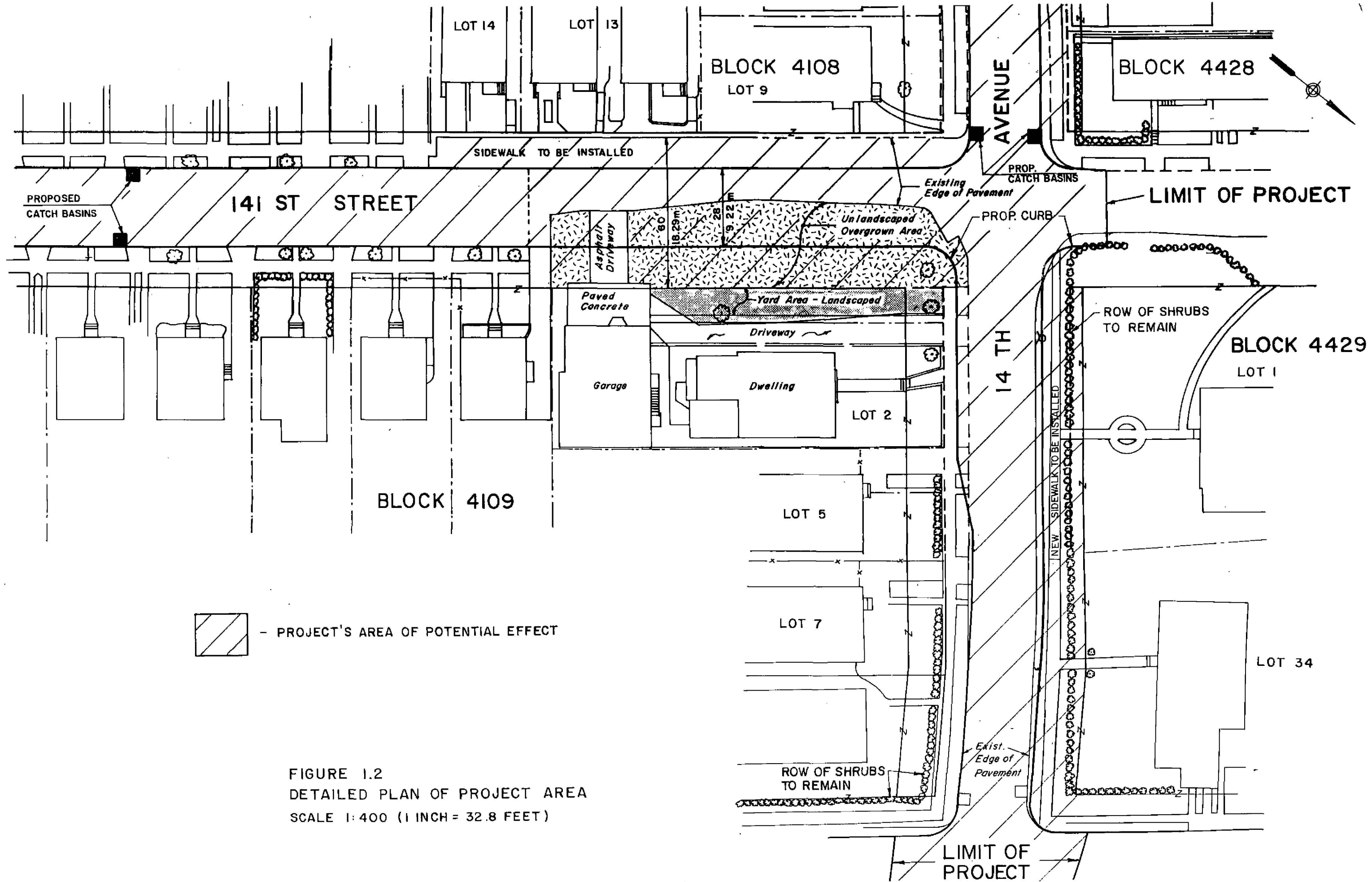


FIGURE 1.2
 DETAILED PLAN OF PROJECT AREA
 SCALE 1:400 (1 INCH = 32.8 FEET)

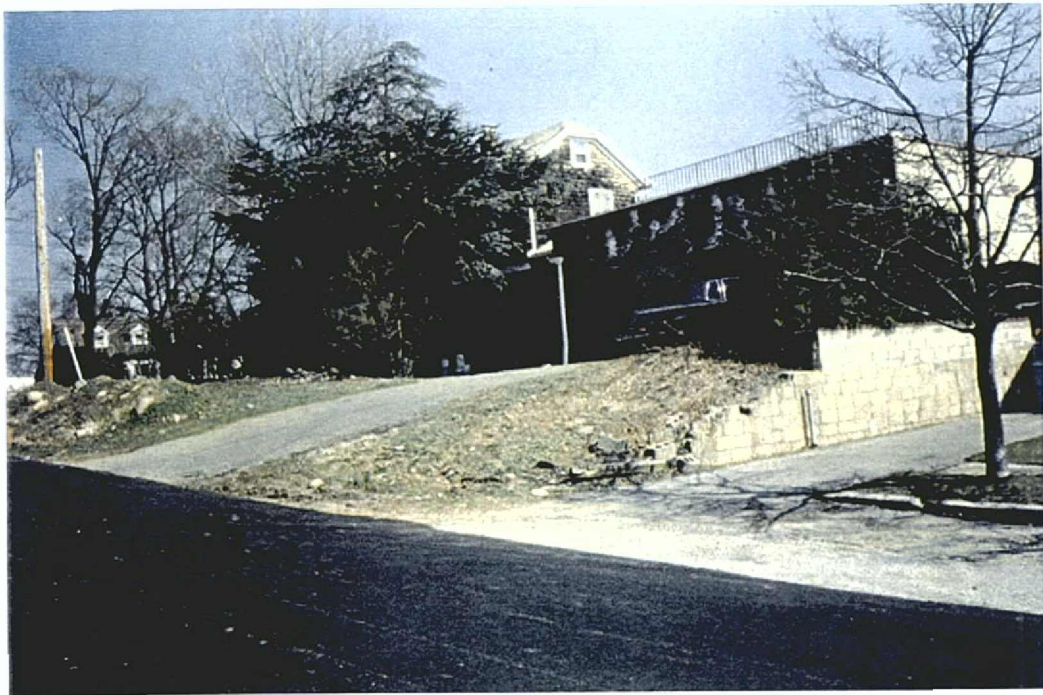


Plate 1.1 Photograph of Block 4109, Lot 2.
View is from 141st Street, toward northeast.
Cleared area along the street is currently
overgrown with weeds.

- A search of building records for information about twentieth century disturbances within the project area.
- A review of boring records in the vicinity of the project area for information on subsurface stratigraphy.
- Field reconnaissance and analysis of the current landscape.
- Location of previously-excavated human remains and artifacts from Block 4109, Lot 2, as well as all existing documentation pertaining to these finds.
- Communication with professional archaeologists with knowledge of previously-excavated materials from Block 4109, Lot 2.
- Communication with appropriate representatives of Native American tribal groups having links to prehistoric and historic Native American occupants of the area.
- Communication with current and former residents of Block 4109, Lot 2.

Appendix A contains a list of individuals contacted in the course of this research.

2. PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Previously Identified Sites in the General Vicinity

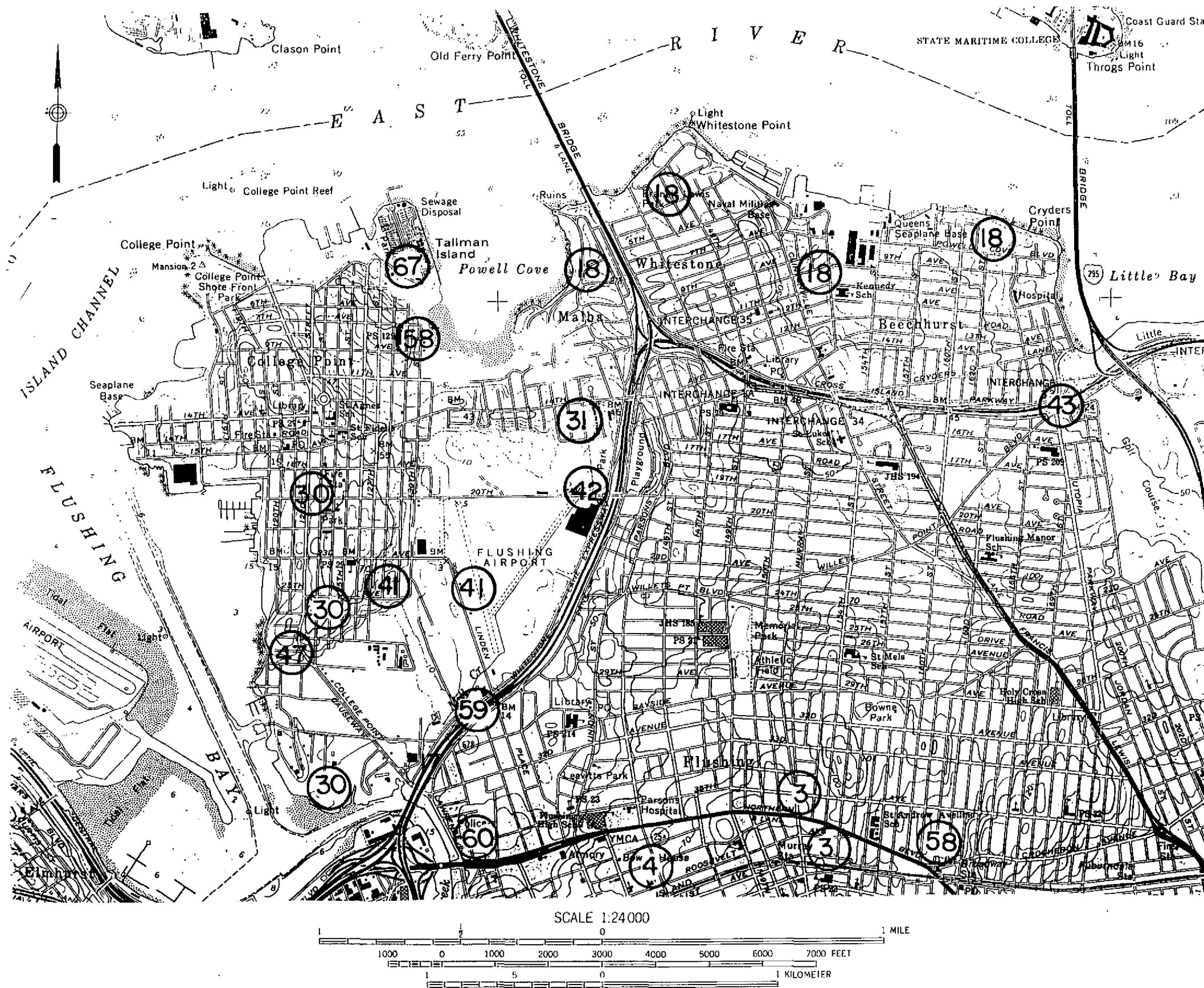
Boesch (1996) has mapped all identified prehistoric sites in Queens (see Figure 2.1 for the current project vicinity), incorporating information from the New York State Museum and New York State Historic Preservation Office files as well as published site descriptions. Previously-assigned site numbers and a brief description of each site are listed on Figure 2.1. Full references for each site are included in Boesch's survey, on file at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Important sources on prehistoric sites in the area include Beauchamp (1900), Bolton (1922, 1934, 1975), Parker (1922), Smith (1944, 1950) and Solecki (1941). In addition to the sites listed by Boesch, an Early Archaic site has been reported at an unspecified location near Little Neck Bay (Platt 1994).

The project area is located immediately on or adjacent to the Wilkins Site, a late Woodland settlement labeled number 31 on Figure 2.1 (Smith 1950:177; Schneider n.d.). The Wilkins Site will be described in detail below.

A number of cultural resource management studies have been prepared for project sites in the general vicinity of the 14th Avenue/141st Street site (Figure 2.2). These reports provide useful overviews of the historic development of the area as well as assessments of archaeological potential for both prehistoric and historic periods. The site most similar in setting to the Wilkins Site is the Point Little Bay Development site, labeled number 57 on Figure 2.2). Pickman (1989) recommended testing at the site due to its potential to contain Native American archaeological remains. Two sites south of the current project area, numbered 39 and 45 on Figure 2.2, were also considered to have archaeological potential and have been recommended for testing (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 1988, 1992). Testing was conducted at the Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant site (labeled number 72), also considered sensitive for prehistoric remains (Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. 1990). Two backhoe trenches failed to locate archaeological resources and no further work was recommended. Other sites in the vicinity were considered unlikely to contain archaeological resources either because of their environmental setting or the degree of recent disturbance.

The Wilkins Site

The Wilkins Site, a Late Woodland period settlement, was excavated by the Flushing Historical Society in 1939 and 1940 under the direction of the late Carlyle Shreeve Smith (Smith 1944; 1950:122-123, 177-178, Site #20). The site was located within Block 4109 and partially beneath present 142nd Street in an area 100-150 feet south-southeast of the garage on Lot 2. Appendix B includes a copy of the plane-table field map drawn by Smith showing the locations of numerous pits, though a scale is not provided. In addition

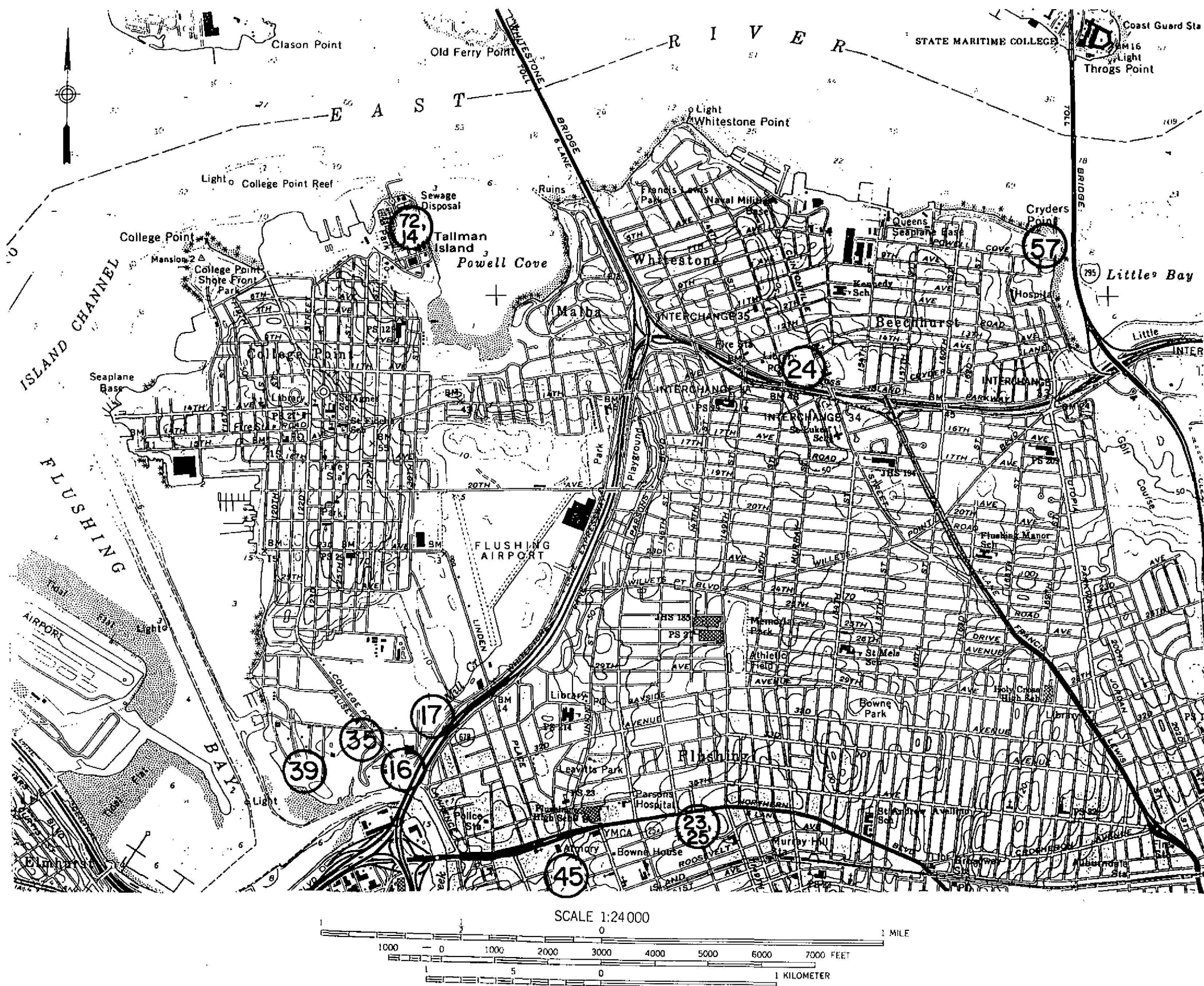


KEY

1. Habitation and mortuary site. Human remains recovered from site of Knickerbocker Hall in 1861. Possible Contact Period component.
NYSM #4527, Parker (1922) #ACP-Quns-4
3. Mortuary site on former Thomas Duryea Farm; also Contact Period village possibly associated with the Matinecock. NYSM #4526
4. Contact Period (Matinecock) habitation site (may be part of site #3 above).
17. Traces of occupation.
18. Traces of occupation and shore line shell middens. Area described as containing shell heaps and fishing camps. Site area includes Bolton (1934) #128. NYSM #4541
30. Grantville site- habitation site with pre-ceramic component. NYSHPO #A081-01-0133
31. **WILKINS SITE.**
41. Camp site with burial. NYSM reference for burial #4540.
42. Camp site.
43. Camp site.
47. *Graham Court*- habitation site with burials. NCM #94 or #194, NYSM #719 or #519, Mark Raymond Harrington Site # 30 Har 11-4
58. General vicinity of a burial site on Thomas P. Duryea's farm. Site discovered in 1880. NYSM #4525
59. Camp site. May be Parker (1922) site- see #17 above. NYSM #4542
60. Camp site and traces of occupation. NYSM #4545
67. Site, probably shell midden. NCM #128

Source: Boesch, Eugene J. (1996) "Previously Recorded Native American Sites in the Borough of Queens." New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.
 NYSM= New York State Museum
 NYSHPO= New York State Historic Preservation Office
 NCM= Nassau County Museum

Figure 2.1 Previously Identified Prehistoric Sites in Project Vicinity



KEY

14. Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (1990), Tallman Island Water Pollution Control Plant, Stage 1B. No further archaeological investigations recommended.
16. Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (1989), Mebco Development, Stage 1A. No further archaeological investigations recommended.
17. Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. (1989), Petracca Development, Stage 1A. No further archaeological investigations recommended.
- 23,25. Grossman and Associates, Inc. (1993) Flushing Manor Geriatric Center, Stage 1A, Stage 1B. No further archaeological investigations recommended.
24. Grossman and Associates, Inc. (1993) Romano Property, Stage 1A. No further archaeological investigations recommended.
35. Historical Perspectives, Inc. (1991) NY City Long Range Sludge Management Plan, Stage 1A. No further archaeological investigations recommended.
39. Historical Perspectives, Inc. (1992) Flushing Bay Stormwater Storage Tank Facility, Stage 1A. Testing recommended for Prehistoric cultural resources.
45. Historical Perspectives, Inc. (1988) Flushing Center Project, Stage 1A. Testing recommended for Prehistoric and Historic cultural resources.
57. Pickman, Arnold (1989), Point Little Bay Development, Stage 1A. Testing recommended for Prehistoric cultural resources.
72. Linda Stone (1994), Dockwork at Six NY City Water Pollution Control Plants, Stage 1A. No further archaeological investigations recommended.

Source: Boesch, Eugene J. (1996), "Annotated Bibliography of Cultural Resource Investigations in the Borough of Queens through September, 1996." New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Figure 2.2 Previous Cultural Resource Management Projects in Project Vicinity

to the published accounts, excavation notes are available on file at the Nassau County Museum. The site was discovered when the topsoil and "much of the subsoil" on the Wilkins property was mechanically removed for sale to the 1939 World's Fair, exposing a number of pit outlines. Smith described the site as follows:

Pits filled with marine shells and other refuse were exposed by the action of power shovels; most of them appeared as discolored areas on the surface of the exposed subsoil. The 18 pits excavated varied greatly in size. It was often impossible to determine the original size of the pit or whether or not it had been decreased by the action of the power shovel in removing the upper portion. Some were no more than 2 feet in diameter and a few inches deep, while others were 12 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep. All the pits tended to be bowl shaped and to be composed of alternating layers of nearly whole shells and stained soil containing scattered fragments of shells. The soil near the center of some pits was burned to a red or orange color.

Smith used the Wilkins Site to define the Bowmans Brook Focus of the East River aspect, dating to the early part of the Late Woodland period, circa 900 B.P. The Bowmans Brook type site on Staten Island, excavated by Skinner at the turn of the century, and a component of the Grantville Site on College Point (Figure 2.1), were the only other sites included by Smith in this cultural group, but neither was as well documented as the Wilkins Site. There are stylistic indications that the Bowmans Brook "culture" may have been related to contemporaneous cultures to the west and southwest in what is now New Jersey, and it is believed these sites' inhabitants were ethnically a division of the Delaware (Lenape) (Ritchie 1980:270).

A total of 826 ceramic sherds were recovered from within the 18 pits excavated at the Wilkins Site. All but one of the sherds are grit-tempered, and most are cord-marked. Smith assigned the ceramics to three types: Bowmans Brook stamped, East River cord marked, and Bowmans Brook incised. Stone tools from the site were identified by Smith as triangular and stemmed projectile points, knives, and retouched flakes. A single polished slate gorget and rough stone implements, such as hammerstones, anvils, a pestle and several mortars, a hoe or chopper, and several net sinkers were also reported. Bone and antler awls and "flakers," an antler point, turtle carapace dishes, deer phalanges perforated for use in the cup-and-pin game, and a worked beaver incisor were also included in Smith's artifact inventory. An illustration of material excavated at the Wilkins Site will be found in Appendix B.

Material Excavated in 1950

In 1950, Mr. Herbert Pretzat, a resident of the house now standing on Lot 2 of Block 4109, noticed that grading for the development of houses on the block had exposed pits similar to those discovered during the Wilkins Site excavations. Fortunately, Pretzat had been a volunteer at the Wilkins Site and on several other archaeological excavations with Carlyle Smith and students from Columbia. He identified eight new pits in the general

area of the Wilkins excavations, and two additional pits located immediately behind his garage, some 100 to 150 feet north-northwest of the original site area (Figure 2.3). The machine excavator had partially dislodged a human skull from one of these two pits. Mr. Pretzat proceeded to record the pit profile (see Appendix C) and excavate it, exposing two skeletons in place, which he photographed. He also managed to collect materials from three of the other pits, which appeared to contain refuse only. Photographs of the 1950 excavations were retained by Pretzat's brother, Walter, who supplied them to archaeologists at Historical Perspectives, Inc., in 1991. Plate 2.1a is a photograph of the pit containing the burials during excavation, and Plate 2.1b shows the exposed skeletons in situ. Plates 2.2a and 2.2b appear to be profiles of two additional pits, perhaps two of those from which Mr. Pretzat collected artifacts.

Mr. Pretzat contacted the American Museum of Natural History, and archaeologist James A. Ford came out to the site to record and remove the skeletons (Appendix C). He identified the remains of an adult female and a child, with the child's skeleton lying immediately atop the adult. Herbert Pretzat also contacted Carlyle Smith, who added a footnote about the burials to his 1950 publication on the Wilkins Site (Smith 1950:177). Smith examined the ceramic material from the burial pit, identifying it as Bowmans Brook cord marked pottery similar to the rest of the ceramics from the site.

Pretzat's written description of the excavation of the burials is reproduced in Appendix C of this report. The pit was located 7.5 feet south of the Pretzat's garage, 10 feet east of its southwest corner (see Figure 2.3). It was approximately 60 inches wide and 52 inches deep, beginning beneath an 18-inch plow-zone layer. No shell or artifact concentrations, typical of the other pits at the site, were present in the burial pit. The soil was brown sandy loam with widely scattered fragments of shell, charcoal, and "cracked animal bone." The skeletons were both in the flexed position, on their left side, with the heads toward the southwest. Pretzat noted that the child's bones were in poor condition and that its lower jaw was displaced. He attributed the disturbance to a rodent burrow which ran north-south across the pit about 2 inches above the child's skeleton.

Herbert Pretzat's list of artifacts from the burial pit is also included in Appendix C. These items were sent to Carlyle Smith to confirm the identifications; Smith apparently had done so by the time he published his Archaeology of Coastal New York (1950) (see Appendix D for relevant correspondence). No artifacts were clearly associated with the interment, though Pretzat noted that a small concentration of ceramic sherds a few inches below the plow line might be from a killed pot. In the collection of burial-pit artifacts currently on loan to The RBA Group from Walter Pretzat, the rim and shoulder of a large ceramic vessel had been mended from a total of 28 sherds (rather than the 19 listed by Herbert Pretzat – some fresh breaks may have occurred in handling). The vessel is cord-marked on the exterior and has a flared rim. In addition to the ceramics, artifacts found in the pit included a pipe bowl fragment, a point base, and a broken atlatl weight identified by Pretzat as netsinker. Also noted in Pretzat's correspondence is a charred corn kernel. Plates 2.3a-b and 2.4a-b illustrate some of the artifacts collected by Pretzat from the

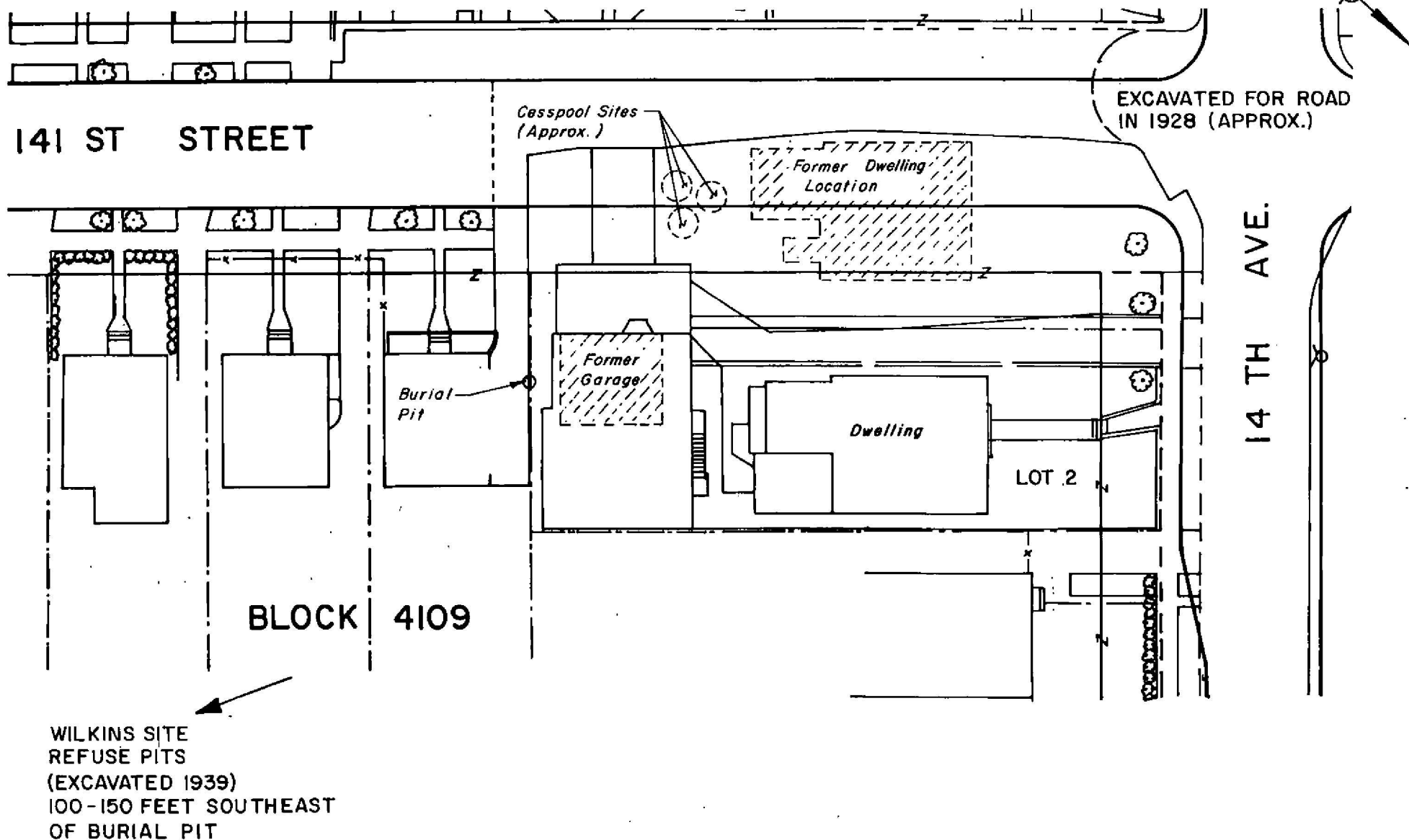
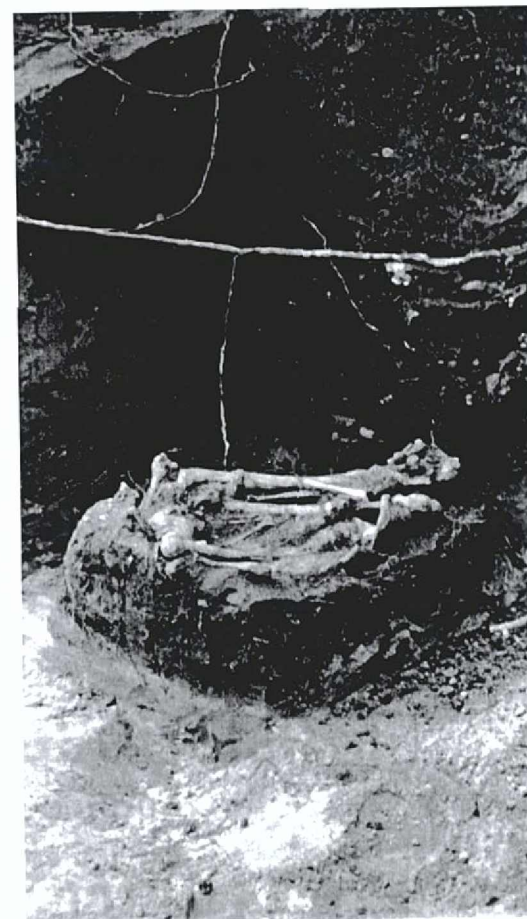


FIGURE 2.3
DETAILED PLAN OF PRETZAT LOT SHOWING LOCATION OF
BURIAL PIT EXCAVATED IN 1950.
SCALE 1:400 (1 INCH = 33.8 FEET)



a.



b.

Plate 2.1

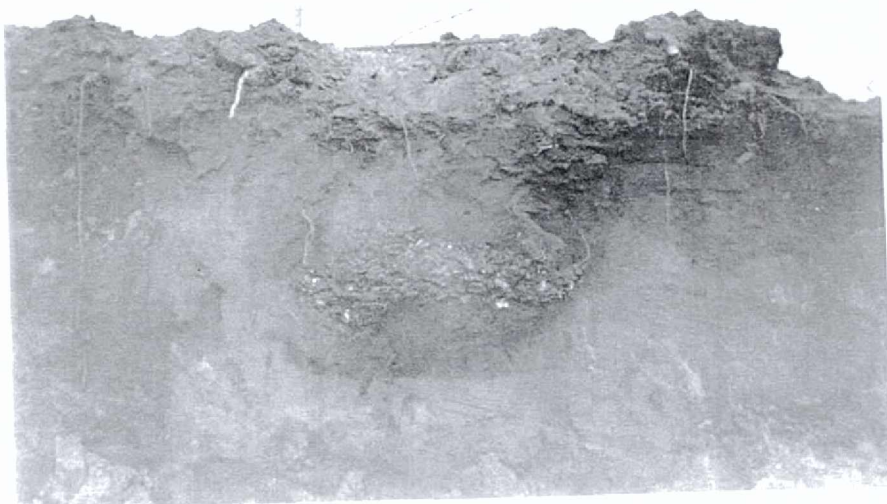
Excavation of burial pit, Wilkins Site.

a.) Archaeological excavation of pit (partially truncated by bulldozer).

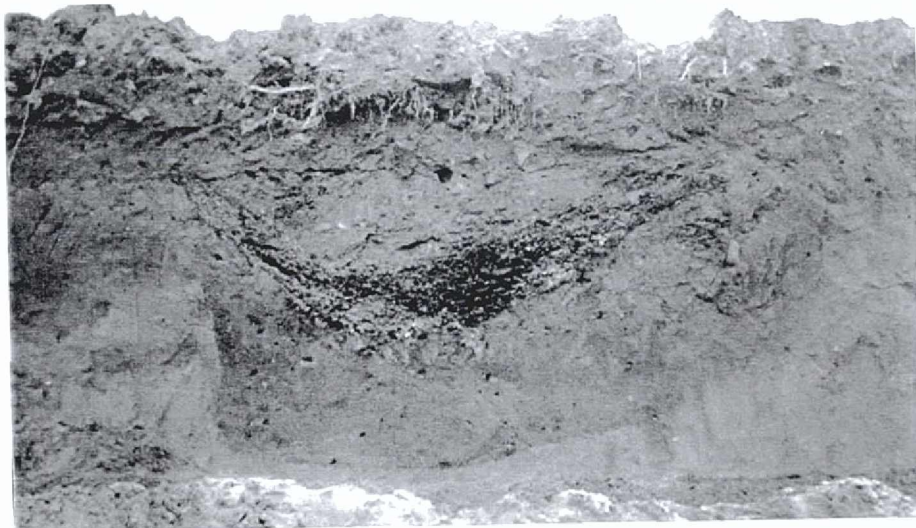
View is toward northwest. Wilkins house (since demolished) is in background.

b.) Pedestaled skeletal remains.

Photographer: Herbert Pretzat, May 1950



a.

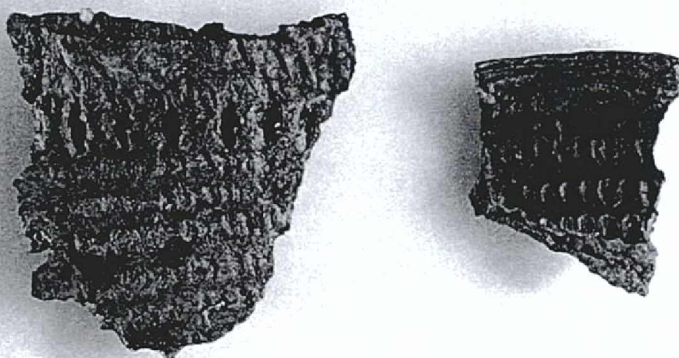


b.

Plate 2.2 Refuse pits cross-sectioned and excavated somewhere at the Wilkins Site in 1950.
Photographer: Herbert Pretzat, May 1950



a.



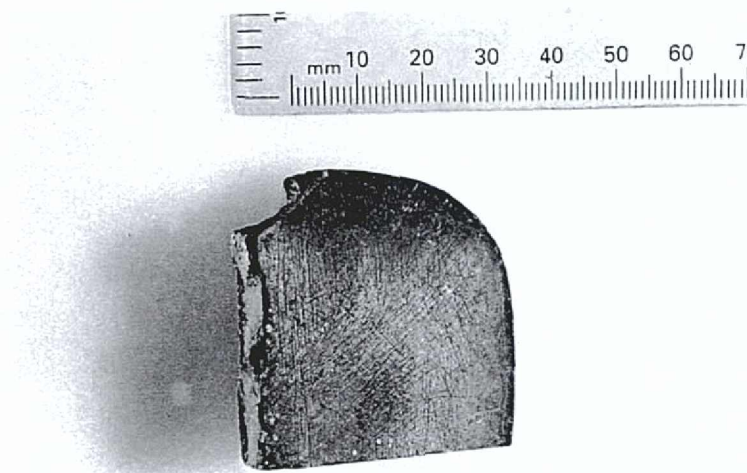
b.

Plate 2.3

Artifacts from Wilkins Site burial pit.
a.) incised ceramic pipe bowl fragment
b.) pottery sherds
Photographer: John Barritt



a.



b.

Plate 2.4

Artifacts from Wilkins Site burial pit.

a.) right: quartz Levanna point; left: chert stemmed point

b.) broken half of atlatl weight

Photographer: John Barritt

burial pit. Note that two projectile points, one triangular and one stemmed (Figure 2.4a) were with the collection – it is not clear which one Herbert Pretzat listed on his inventory.

After Herbert Pretzat's death, the remains were stored by Mr. Walter Pretzat at his home until he contacted archaeologists at Historical Perspectives, Inc. in 1990, wishing to find a suitable repository for the skeletal remains or arrange for reburial. He had attempted to arrange for the remains to be reunited with the Wilkins Site collections, but was unsuccessful (see Appendix D for correspondence). In 1990, the remains and some of the associated artifacts were sent to the Department of Anthropology at New York University for further study. Dr. Leslie Eisenberg, formerly of New York University and now at the Wisconsin Burial Sites Preservation Office, conducted a preliminary examination of the human remains (Appendix E) and has since stored them on Long Island. The artifacts listed on Herbert Pretzat's inventory from the burial pit were loaned by Mr. Walter Pretzat to Historical Perspectives, Inc. and are currently on loan to The RBA Group. The other group of artifacts, those which had accompanied the skeletal remains to New York University, were transferred to Dr. Annette Silver for study. These are apparently those salvaged from the non-burial refuse pits which Herbert Pretzat noted in his 1950 report, along with additional ceramics from the burial pit not included in the sample which he sent to Carlyle Smith. The assemblage was examined for the present report and a brief inventory is included in Appendix F.

Based on a preliminary examination of the skeletal material, Dr. Eisenberg noted the bones of at least three and possibly four individuals (*personal communication* 1997; also see Appendix D for correspondence and Appendix E for the skeletal inventory). Thus it is possible the pit held another burial, perhaps a secondary or "bundle" burial, in addition to the woman and child double interment first identified by Ford and Pretzat.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

The project area is on the north shore of western Long Island within the Coastal Plain physiographic province. It is located on a strip of high ground, along which 14th Avenue runs, separating Powell's Cove to the north and low-lying former marshlands to the south. Historically, this spit of land connected the peninsula now known as College Point (formerly Lawrence Neck) to the mainland and the town of Whitestone (Figures 3.1 and 3.2). The portion of the Wilkins Site settlement that has been explored archaeologically was on a small pad of high ground surrounded by marshes to the southwest, south and east. A 1924 aerial photograph (Figure 3.3) indicates this setting was still largely intact into the present century, with plowed fields covering the site. The settlement was also at the head of a fresh-water stream which flowed southward through the meadowlands to Flushing Bay (Figure 3.2).

Environmental factors – relative elevation, proximity to a protected inlet, surrounding marshlands, and a fresh water source – thus made the site extremely attractive for Native American habitation. Although the site has yielded Late Woodland remains thus far, it is entirely possible it also contains remains from earlier periods.

The earliest human occupation on Long Island was during the Paleo-Indian Period, approximately 10,000 years B.P., when the glacial ice sheet responsible for the island's surface topography was receding. Fluted projectile points diagnostic of this period have been recovered as surface finds at several locations on the island. Nomadic game hunters, the Paleo-Indians utilized small camps on a temporary basis, and their population density was probably very low. The record of this period is sparse, due to the nature of occupation, the inundation of sites (sea levels rose as ice melted, up to approximately 3000 years B.P.), and the density of subsequent development. It is likely the project area was exposed as ice retreated at the end of the Pleistocene, and the environment may have supported fauna hunted by Paleo-Indians – ephemeral remains associated with early inhabitants may no longer be extant, however.

During the next period, the Archaic (circa 9000 to 3300 B.P.), a warming climate led to increased variety in the flora and fauna of the region and a shift in subsistence strategy to exploit these resources, including an increased reliance on shellfish and on smaller game species. Ritchie postulates that "a number of inland phases of the Archaic stage reached the coastal region at different times and from different directions, there to become adapted to a marine littoral environment..." (1980:142). Like the Paleo-Indian period, the early part of the Archaic is represented only sparsely on Long Island, with sites of the Late Archaic more common. The Archaic in coastal New York generally is represented by "small, nearly always multicomponent sites, variously situated on tidal inlets, coves and bays, particularly at the heads of the latter, and on fresh-water ponds" (Ritchie 1980:143). Though a settlement pattern focused on temporary or seasonal campsites has been the traditional model for the period, there is evidence suggesting that by the Late Archaic some well-situated settlements on the Long Island's north shore would have been

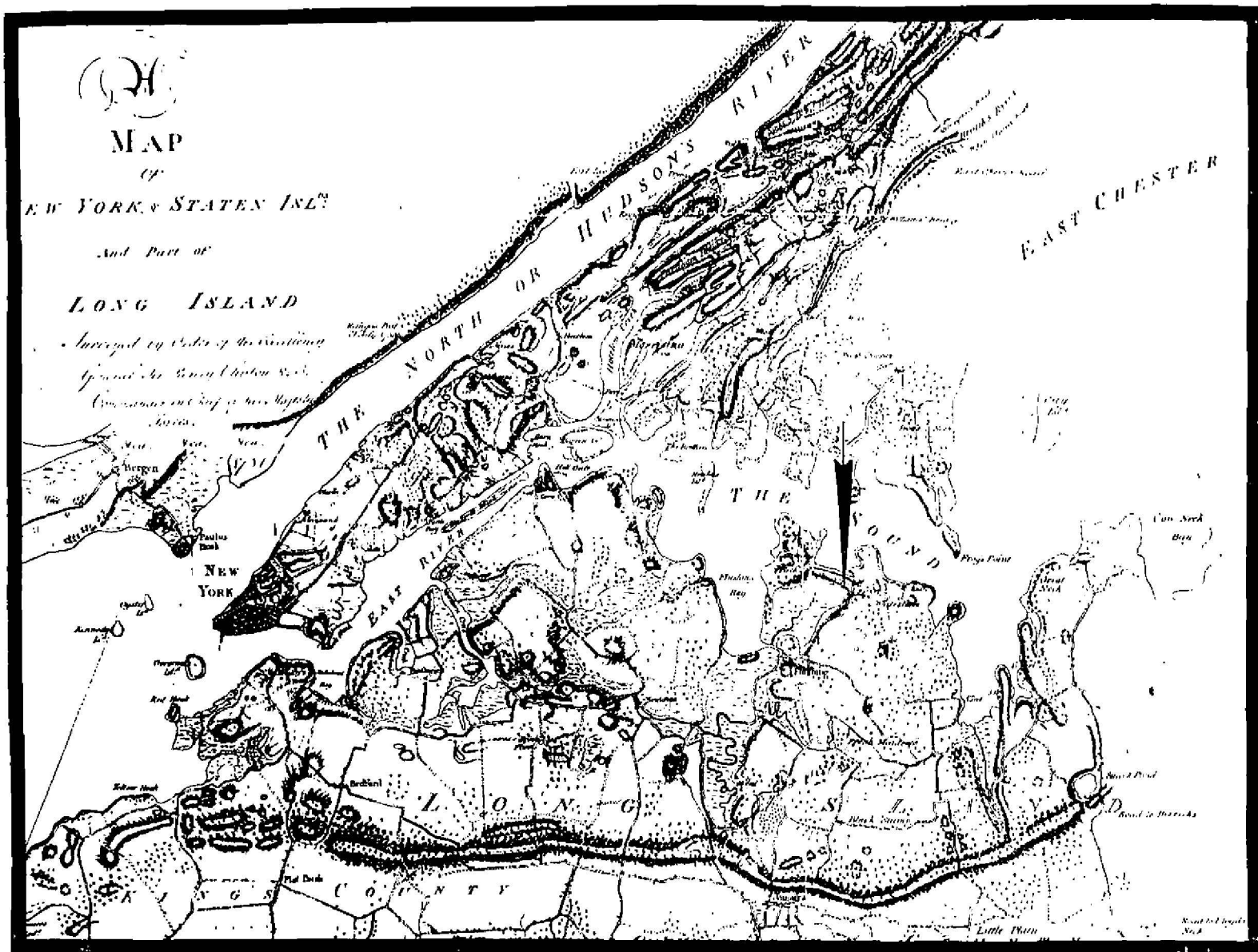


Figure 3.1 Taylor and Skinner, Map of New York and Staten Island and Part of Long Island. 1781.
Arrow indicates Wilkins Site.



Figure 3.2 Detail of Taylor and Skinner map, 1781. Arrow indicates Wilkins Site.
Scale: 1 inch = 1800 feet (approx.)



Figure 3.3 Aerial photograph taken in 1924. Powells Cove is at center top.
Arrow indicates Wilkins Site. Scale: 1 inch = 600 feet (approx.)

occupied year-round (see Lightfoot and Cerrato 1988, Gwynne 1982, and Bernstein 1990, 1990a, all cited in Strong 1997:39). The final centuries of the Archaic (circa 3300 to 3000 B.P., sometimes referred to as the "Transitional" stage) are represented on Long Island by the Orient culture, with its distinctive mortuary complex, steatite pots, and fishtail projectile points (see Latham 1978, 1978a, 1978b, 1978c, 1982; Ritchie 1980:164-178).

The Woodland Stage, beginning approximately 3000 years ago, is defined by the introduction of ceramics, and, about 1000 years ago with the transition to the Late Woodland, horticulture. The extraordinary natural abundance of food and other resources in coastal New York probably led to increasing sedentism and population density, with a village-based settlement pattern predominating even before the introduction of horticulture. Strong (1997:59) describes Woodland-period Long Island as a "natural 'shopping mall' complete with bountiful supermarket, pharmacy, clothing, hardware, and jewelry outlets." Expanded trade networks were bringing in exotic materials, though there is evidence that these may have collapsed in the Late Woodland. Woodland material culture included houses of saplings and bark, pottery in a sequence of styles, basketry, shell beads, ceramic smoking pipes, and various chipped, rough, and polished stone implements. Woodland "cultures" and "phases" are defined largely according to ceramic and lithic typologies. The detailed typologies (through seriation techniques) provide a dating tool in the absence of Carbon 14 analysis for many sites. For Coastal New York, Early, Middle and Late Woodland periods, with locational and temporal "cultures" or "traditions" (Smith's "aspects") and "phases" (Smith's "foci") were described by Carlyle Smith based on ceramic stylistic attributes and overall trait lists, and his culture sequence, as well as his ceramic typology, are still generally used (Smith 1950; Ritchie 1980).

The Wilkins Site, as noted above, was classified by Smith as belonging to the Bowmans Brook Focus of the East River Aspect of the Late Woodland period (Smith 1950:116-129). The East River tradition, dating from circa A.D. 1100 (900 B.P.) through A.D. 1600 or the contact period, is described as occurring about the mouth of the Hudson and extending from Staten Island to northeastern New Jersey, southeastern New York, Manhattan, and western Long Island. Villages, some of which were probably occupied year-round, ranged in size from very small groups of houses to large settlements. Dwellings were rectangular and/or rounded in shape and had pole frames with bark or skin coverings. Smith noted that village sites known archaeologically

are marked by accumulations of refuse in the form of marine shells, stained earth, broken bones, and artifacts. Bowl-shaped pits abound at most of the sites. Pits may have been dug for storage or cooking, but eventually all of them became receptacles for refuse. Occasionally a flexed burial with little or no grave goods is found in one of the pits (1950:117).

Subsistence was based on shellfishing, gardening, hunting, fishing and gathering of wild plant foods, possibly in that order, though the relative importance of horticulture is debated. Grit-tempered pottery predominated, to be replaced by shell-tempered pottery

only very late in the period. Pottery designs represented at archaeological sites are incised, shell- or cord-wrapped-stick-stamped and, rarely, punctate. Lithic materials include mainly quartz, but also chert, slate, shale, granite, sandstone, and argillite.

The Bowmans Brook phase is the earliest part of the East River tradition, characterized by exclusively grit-tempered pottery (in styles which fall early in the sequence for the region) and the presence of stemmed as well as triangular projectile points. There is no evidence of European contact at components assigned by Smith to the Bowmans Brook phase, though Ceci (1977) included the Wilkins Site on her list of historic-period sites.¹ Evidence of agriculture may be present from this phase at the Bowmans Brook site (Ceci 1990:151), and is apparently present, though previously unpublished, at the Wilkins Site. Flexed and bundle burials are reported from the Bowmans Brook site on Staten Island (Skinner 1909, cited in Smith 1950:122), and as noted, from the Wilkins Site.

¹ Ceci considered evidence of shell bead or wampum manufacture to be evidence of post-contact occupation; the shell reported from the Wilkins site did not appear to have been from wampum manufacture, however (Smith 1950 and manuscript inventory).

4. HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT SITE

General Area

The project area is within the historic-period territory of the Matinecock, who occupied the north shore of western Long Island from Flushing Bay to Smithtown in Suffolk County (see Beauchamp 1900; Bolton 1920, 1922; Grumet 1981; Strong 1997). It can be presumed that the Wilkins Site inhabitants belonged to a related and perhaps ancestral group. The Matinecock were Algonquian-speaking people, ethnically part of the Delaware or Lenape. Historic accounts are inadequate, but indicate they lived in villages ranging in size from twenty to as many as five hundred inhabitants, built wigwams and long houses of saplings, bark and woven mats; made pottery, basketry, and stone tools; practiced horticulture, fished and collected shellfish, hunted, and gathered wild plant foods; and practiced ceremonies related to seasonal and life cycles (see Kraft 1986 and Strong 1997 for general accounts of the historic Delaware in New Jersey and Long Island, respectively).

Contact with Europeans began long before Europeans began to settle the area, as Dutch traders made inroads seeking profits from furs. Traders' demand for wampum (the currency of the fur trade) made from Long Island quahog and whelk shell had profound effects on local indigenous economic, social and political structure. It is thought that relatively loose alliances of villages and kin groups were transformed as leaders sought economic power and broadened their spheres of political influence. Political change accelerated on Long Island after the Pequot War, as leaders consolidated support and made overtures to the English. The early history of Native-European relations in western Long Island is dealt with in Strong's (1997) recent narrative, and some of the complexities involved in unraveling historic transactions and identifying individuals and villages are illustrated in Grumet (1996). As summarized by Strong (1997:188), the growth of Dutch settlements and the arrogance of Governor Kieft led to armed resistance by native inhabitants in the early 1640s. It is estimated that one thousand Native Americans were killed, and Dutch villages of western Long Island were destroyed. An uneasy Dutch-Native American truce prevailed after 1645, but the Dutch and English colonists resumed their scramble for Native lands on the island, and Indian leaders played the two European groups against each other in an attempt to maintain their own control. Ultimately, the military superiority of the colonists as well as exceedingly high mortality among the Native population (due to disease as well as warfare) made it impossible for the latter to hold on to their lands in the face of continual pressure on their leaders to "sell."

Colonial accounts indicate there was a large Matinecock settlement located on Flushing Bay at Flushing Creek (Bolton 1920:89), with additional villages nearby (see Grumet 1981). It is not known whether any villages were located along the north shore near present-day College Point and Whitestone. The town of Flushing (Dutch *Vlissingen*) was

settled by English colonists from New England in 1643 and its proprietors were granted a charter in 1645 by Governor Kieft. Early settlers were attracted to the area by agricultural land but also by the marsh grass for their cattle and the excellent hunting and fishing. The Whitestone portion of the town of Flushing was first settled by Quakers in 1664, and Lawrence Neck (previously known as Tew's Neck and presently College Point) was settled by the Lawrence family as early as 1665. Queens County was organized in 1683 under Governor Dongan's first assembly, and in 1684 the freeholders of Flushing formally purchased from the Matinecock a parcel along the north shore of Long Island stretching from Flushing Creek to Hempstead, including the project area. The Matinecock reserved the right to cut bulrushes from the marshlands. The total population of the town of Flushing was about 500 in 1700 (Munsell 1882; Mandville 1860; Waller 1899; Hazelton 1925).

The 18th century saw little further development of the lands north of the village of Flushing along the East River. The 1781 Taylor and Skinner map (Figure 3.2) indicates the road which would become 14th Avenue, linking Lawrence Neck to Whitestone. There were a few houses in Lawrence Neck, Whitestone, and further south in Flushing at that time, but no development had yet occurred along the road through the project area. As seen on the 1849 Sidney map (Figure 4.1), Whitestone had begun to develop more rapidly in the first half of the 19th century, while Lawrence Neck remained sparsely settled. By 1852, however, the latter village (then called Strattonport) was also growing quickly (Figure 4.2), with streets laid out and lots surveyed. Jacob Wilkins had purchased 100 acres from the Lawrence family of Lawrence Neck circa 1835, selling some of this acreage off the following year (Hecht 1987:13, cited in Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. 1989a:4). The Wilkins house is depicted on the 1849 Sidney map and on subsequent maps, standing on a 15.5 acre parcel into the 20th century (Figures 4.1 through 4.4). This parcel comprised a slightly elevated piece of land surrounded by marshes on the southwest, south, and east (see Figure 3.3 above).

During the second half of the 19th century, with industrialization, advances in transportation, and the influx of German and Irish immigrants, Flushing, College Point, and Whitestone had all developed more rapidly. The area along the south shore of the East River could no longer be characterized as rural by the turn of the century, though 14th Avenue (then 3rd Avenue) had few houses along the stretch between College Point and Whitestone. By 1904 (Figure 4.4) some north-south streets had been laid out between 14th Avenue and the shoreline, but the salt meadows to the south remained undeveloped. An atlas of 1909 shows most streets laid out (on paper) north of 14th Avenue but none to the south (Bromely 1909). Sometime between 1909 and 1916, Wilkins partitioned his lot to allow another house to be built to the east of the original dwelling (Figure 4.5) – this became the Pretzat house.

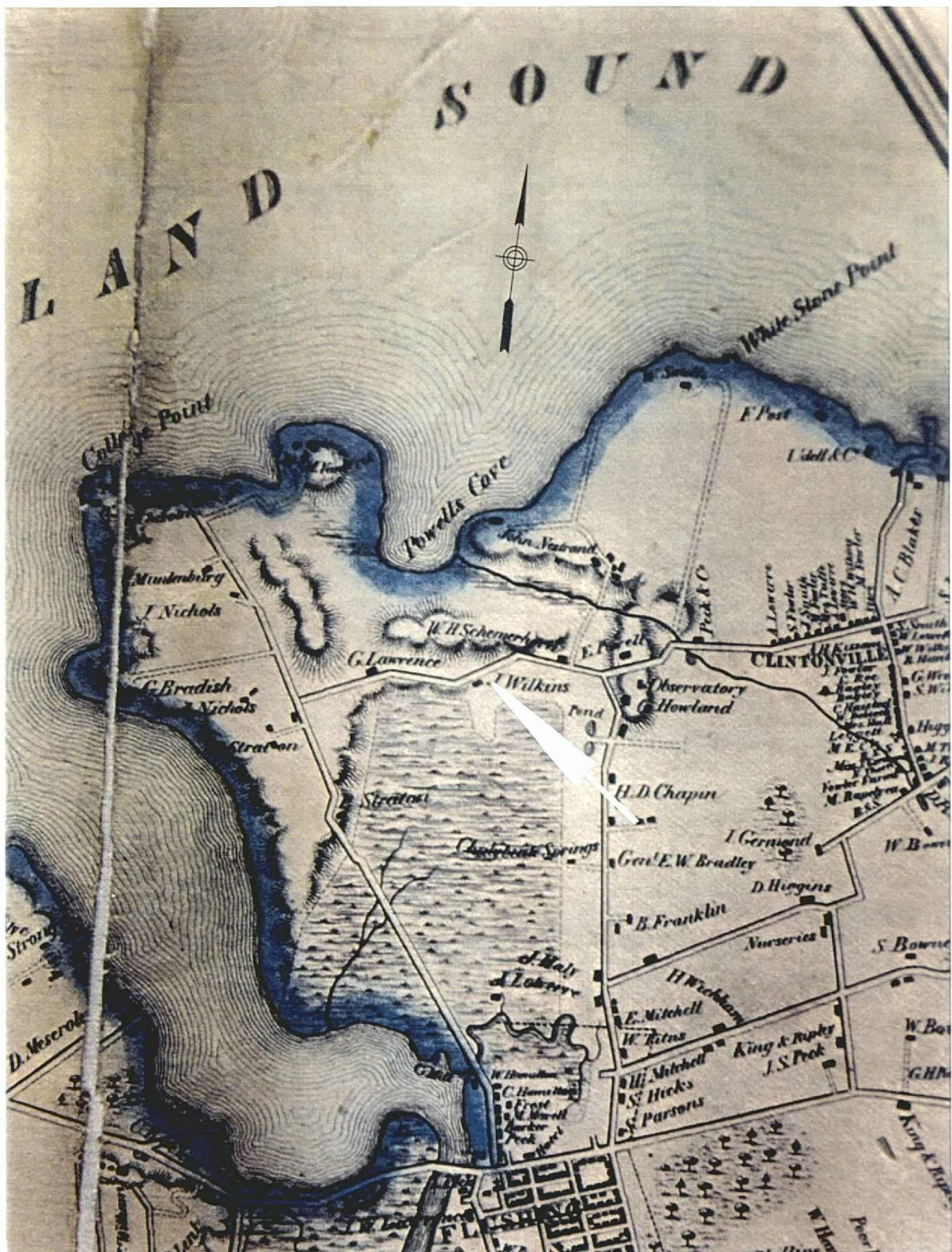


Figure 4.1 Sidney, J.C. Sidney's Map of Twelve Miles Around New York. 1849.
 Arrow indicates project area. Note small "neck" of land extending south
 into marsh behind Wilkins house.
 Scale: 1 inch = 2250 feet (approx.)



Figure 4.2 Connor, R.F.O. Map of Kings and part of Queens Counties. 1852.
 Arrow indicates project area.
 Scale: 1 inch = 1000 feet (approx.)

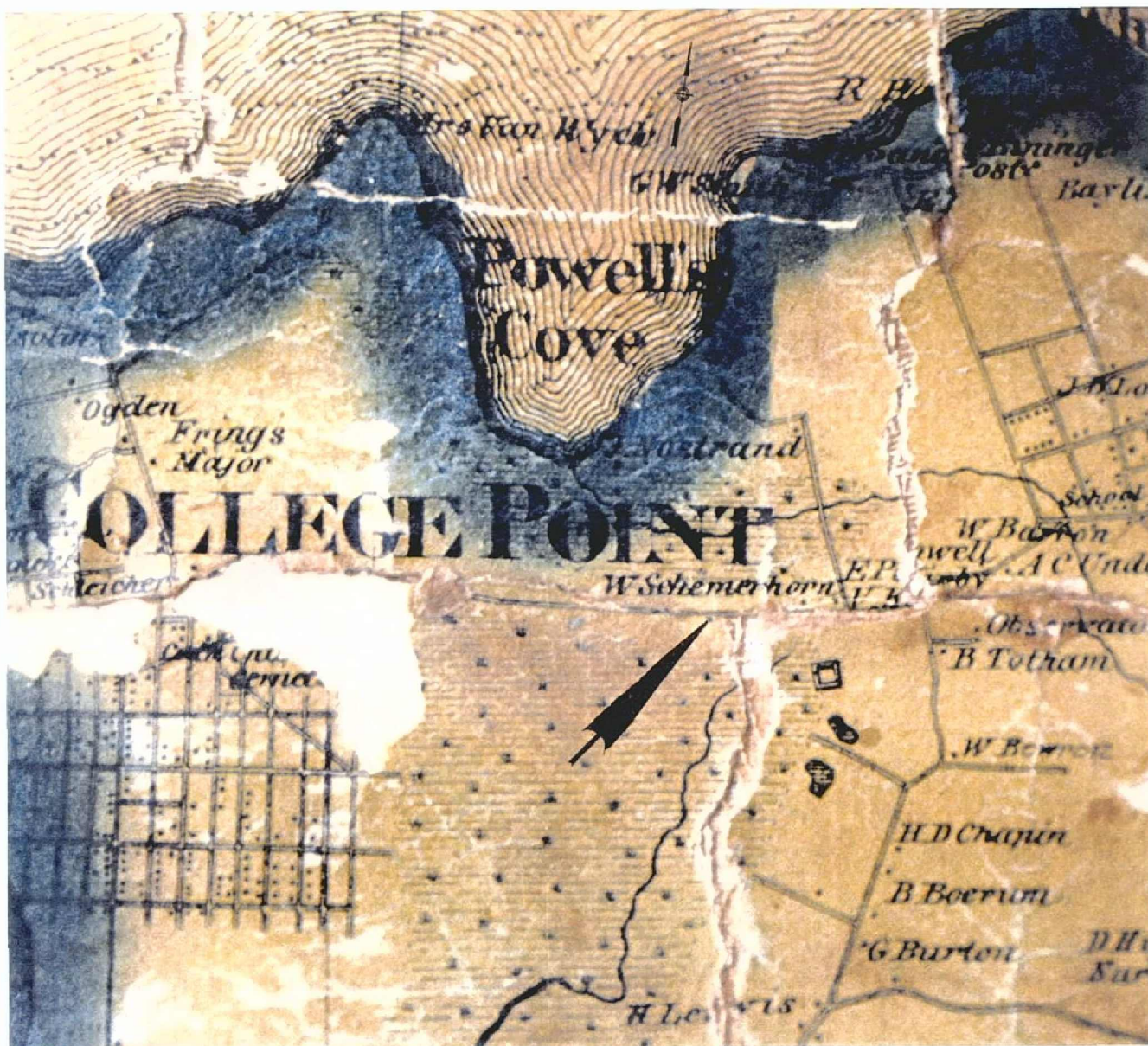
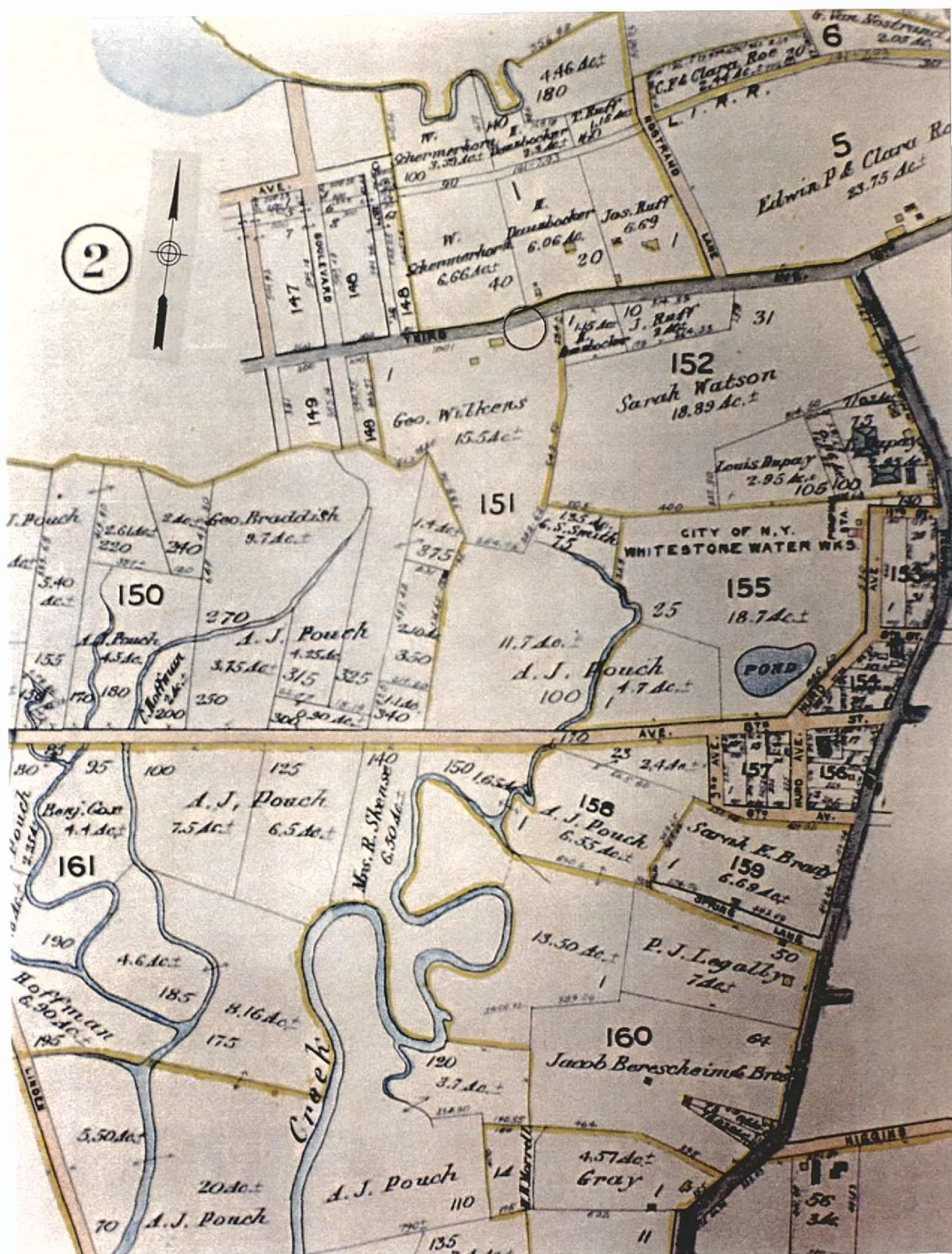


Figure 4.3 Walling, H.F. Topographical Map of the Counties of Kings and Queens. 1859. Arrow indicates project area. The Wilkins house is not visible due to damaged original.
Scale: 1 inch = 900 feet (approx.)



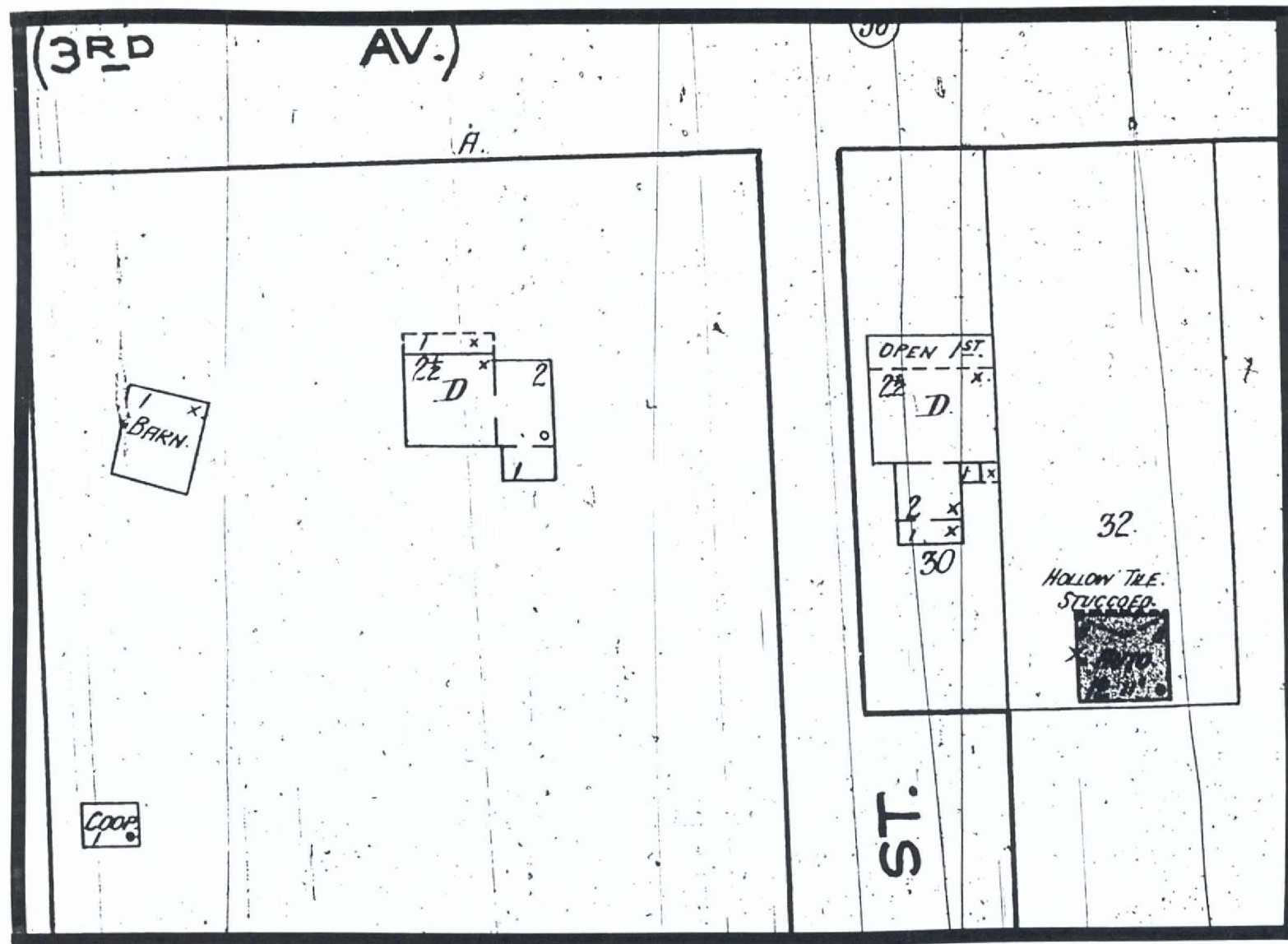


Figure 4.5 Portion of Sanborn Insurance Map. 1916. The Wilkins house and barn are on the left and the Pretzat house is on the right, facing 3rd Avenue (now 14th Avenue). The path of 141st Street is shown perpendicular to 3rd Avenue.

Project Site

By 1916, streets had been laid out on paper to the south of 14th Avenue, extending through the Wilkins property. As shown on Figure 4.5, the second house on the Wilkins land stood within the proposed street bed of 141st Street. The salt meadows were not filled in, nor was the Wilkins land developed, until much later, however, and the streets remained paper only until 1950. A detail from the 1924 aerial photograph (Figure 4.6) shows fields behind the Wilkins and Pretzat houses surrounded by marshlands. The Pretzat house was a two and a half-story frame structure with a rear extension. It had a basement which extended the full length of the house and extension (Walter Pretzat, personal communication, and Department of Buildings, Alteration Application, 1962). To the rear of the house and offset to the east was a stuccoed garage (Figure 4.5). On the east side of the house was a garden area (Walter Pretzat, personal communication), with a row of trees along the east property line. There was no road separating the Pretzat and Wilkins yards from each other, though a few large trees screened the Wilkins house from its neighbor.

In 1928 Mr. Wilkins sold off his land to a developer, who began grading for 141st Street, making way for the development of Block 4109. With the crash of 1929 and the Depression, development was halted. The excavation which had begun for 141st Street south of 14th Avenue left a large hole just west of the Pretzat house, which was filled in by neighbors (Walter Pretzat, personal communication). In 1939, the property owner sold off the topsoil behind the houses for use at the World's Fair grounds. It was during the excavation of this soil that the Wilkins archaeological site was discovered (see above). The land remained undeveloped until the Spring of 1950, when grading was resumed for construction of houses on Blocks 4108 and 4109 (Figure 4.7). At that time a second group of prehistoric pit features was exposed and the burial pit was excavated (see above).

The Pretzat house stood within the projected path of 141st Street, leaving only a narrow roadway through to 14th Avenue. In 1962, Mrs. Louise Pretzat applied to have her house moved to the eastern portion of her lot, with the city acquiring the remaining width of the street (Department of Buildings, Alteration Application with plans, 1962). The house was moved in 1964 (see Figure 2.3), but the street was never widened. The only other major change on the property has been the replacement of the original hollow-tile stuccoed garage with the current 3-car masonry garage in 1985 (Department of Buildings, New Building Application with plans, 1985).

Across 14th Avenue on the block between present-day 141st and 142nd Streets, no houses were built until sometime between 1916 and 1924. The 1924 photograph (Figure 4.6) and the 1926 Hyde Atlas of the Borough of Queens show the house which now stands on Block 4429, Lot 1. This house is set well back from the avenue within an oversized lot. The house on Block 4429, Lot 34 was not built until sometime between 1943 and 1951 (Figure 4.7). The lots to the west of the Pretzat house on the south side of 14th Avenue were not developed until after 1955.

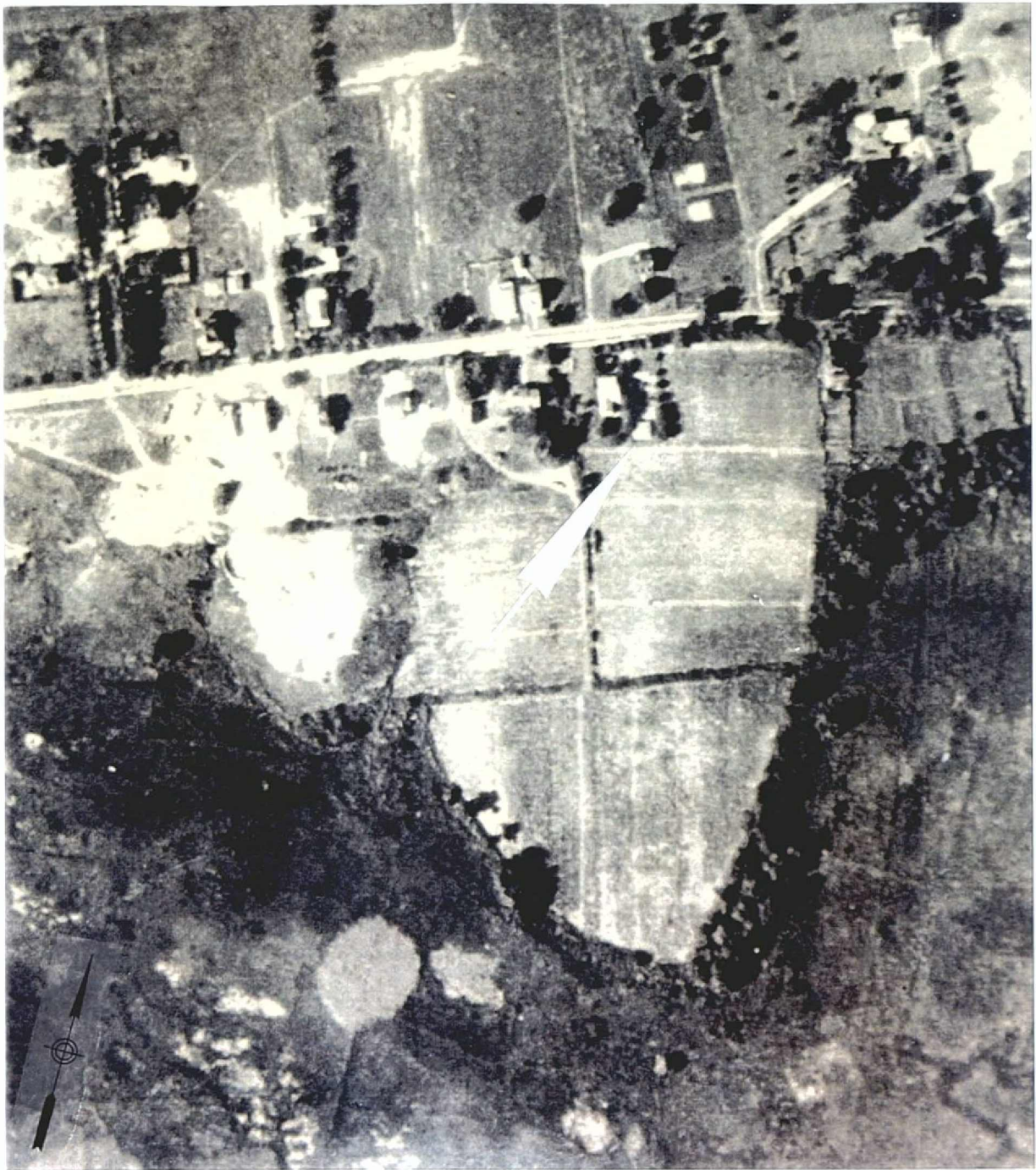


Figure 4.6 Detail of 1924 aerial photograph showing Wilkins and Pretzat Houses. Arrow points to location of buried pit behind Pretzat garage.

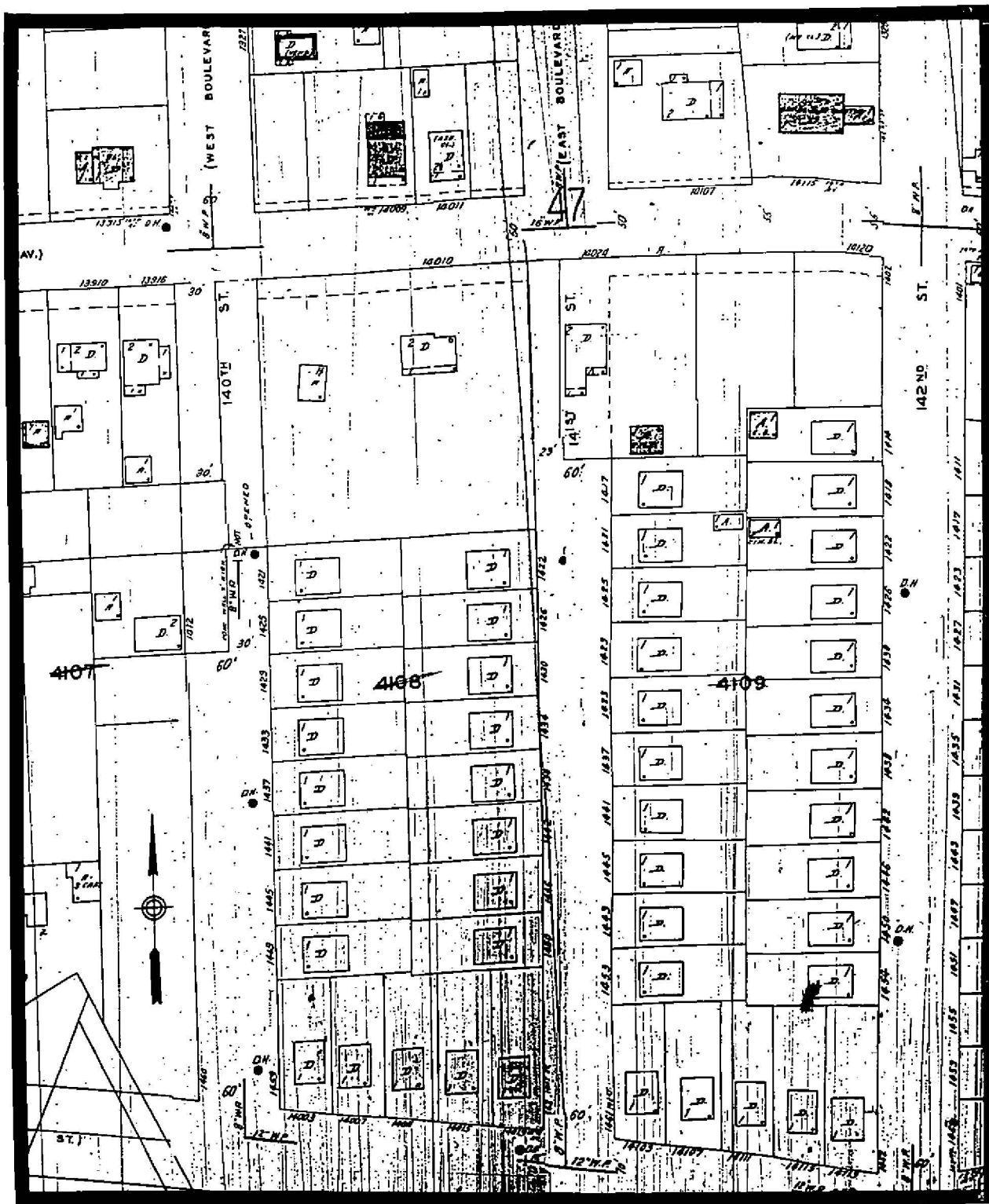


Figure 4.7 Portion of Sanborn Insurance Map. 1943 corrected to 1951. Note Pretzat house in 141st Street and development of lots on Blocks 4108 and 4109. Scale: 1 inch = 120 feet (approx.)

5. EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL

Previous Impacts

Doubtless numerous impacts to the Wilkins Site occurred prior to its discovery by archaeologists in the 20th century. 14th Avenue is an historic road which probably cut across the site in the 18th century if not earlier – it may have impacted the route of a prehistoric path through the wetlands. With the development of the Wilkins property in the early 19th century, the small elevated area south of 14th Avenue was plowed, resulting in a plowzone reported as eighteen inches deep and possibly destroying the original surface entirely.

Impacts to the Wilkins Site have been substantial since it was discovered in 1939. Grading at that time destroyed portions of the site, and archaeological excavations removed the remains of eighteen pit features. Again in 1950, all of the land on Block 4109 behind the Pretzat house was cut and leveled for house construction. Additional prehistoric pit features were destroyed, others were salvaged, and one burial was removed by archaeologists. Construction of houses along 14th Avenue may also have disturbed remains, since the extent of the site is not known.

With residential development, utilities were installed in the streets, possibly disturbing further remains. The Department of Design and Construction provided plans of existing utilities, which include sewers and gas, water, and electric lines. Sewers require the deepest and widest trenches, therefore potentially causing the greatest disturbance to archaeological resources. The 141st Street sewer line is located 27 feet west of the east curb line. It does not extend through to 14th Avenue, but begins at a point 100 feet south of 14th Avenue and runs southward. Its trench is approximately 15 feet deep at the north end and 10 feet deep toward the south end of the block. The 14th Avenue sewer line is located 20 feet north of the south curb line. Its trench extends to approximate depths of from 11.9 to 12.35 feet. Water, gas and electric lines run at shallower depths beneath the pavement, along the full length of both streets within the project area.

The construction of the original Pretzat house foundation and excavation of the basement would have destroyed any portions of the site within its footprint. Walter Pretzat (personal communication) described his house as having had a full height basement, indicating a probable disturbance to a depth of approximately 10 feet. Also, according to Pretzat there were three cesspools located in the rear yard (see Figure 2.3), and remains may have been destroyed by their excavation.

The relocation of the house to the east would also have resulted in destruction of remains within its new cellar hole, though Walter Pretzat recalls that no remains were exposed at the time. Considerable disturbance may have been caused in the area surrounding the

house in the process of moving it. It appears that the former cellar hole was simply filled and the parcel relinquished to the city left unlandscaped. It has since become overgrown with weeds (though occasionally mowed) and is subject to littering.

The demolition of the original garage and construction of the existing one in 1985 may have disturbed archaeological remains. The current garage's foundation walls extend four feet below grade. Prior to the garage's construction, a building inspector excavated a four-foot-square test pit within the proposed footprint to determine the nature of underlying soils. That test pit indicated "organic fill and clay" to a depth of four feet, underlain by four feet of "sand and clay." It is possible archaeological strata are represented by the designation "organic fill and clay."

Additional previous below-grade impacts within the project area have included excavations for roadbeds, curbs and sidewalks. Though these are shallow disturbances, archaeological deposits may have been affected. Plantings may also have caused some disturbance of below-ground deposits. There are large trees along the west side of Block 4109, Lot 2, and a row of shrubs lines 14th Avenue along Block 4429.

Remaining Potential

Despite substantial disturbance, the potential exists for archaeological resources associated with the Wilkins Site or other prehistoric components to be preserved below grade in several parts of the project area, namely:

- Undisturbed areas to the north and south of the filled cellar hole of the former Pretzat house, adjacent to Block 4109, Lot 2.
- Beneath and immediately south of the existing asphalt driveway leading from 141st Street to the garage on Block 4109, Lot 2.
- Beneath the sidewalks and grass-covered curbside strips on 14th Avenue, adjacent to Block 4109, Lot 2 and Block 4429, Lots 1 and 34
- Beneath the existing roadbeds

Pit features similar to those excavated previously by archaeologists at the Wilkins Site, as well as remnants of former ground surfaces containing artifact deposits or traces of structures, may be present in these areas.

Significance and National Register Eligibility of Potential Resources

The Wilkins Site, as discussed above, was excavated by archaeologists in 1939-40 and 1950. It represents an early component of the Late Woodland period, assigned by Carlyle Smith in his classic study The Archaeology of Coastal New York to the Bowmans Brook focus (phase), beginning approximately 900 years ago. The Wilkins Site is the de facto type site for this phase within the East River tradition, since no other site was as well

excavated or documented. The excavated portions of the site contained numerous bowl-shaped pits of varying size filled with refuse, as well as one pit containing human remains. Artifacts from the site included ceramics, mainly Bowmans Brook Incised, Bowmans Brook Stamped, and East River Cord Marked; stemmed and triangular projectile points; a gorget and an atlatl weight of polished stone; chipped stone knives and scrapers; various rough stone implements; and bone and antler tools; ceramic pipes; game pieces; and turtle carapace "dishes." Shell and other faunal material was not analyzed, nor were paleobotanical specimens collected. Dating is based solely on seriation techniques.

Any remaining portion of the Wilkins Site would be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by virtue of its potential to yield information important to our understanding of the prehistory of the local area and the region. The early part of the Late Woodland stage, to which the site is attributed, is of particular interest. The transition from Middle to Late Woodland in the Middle Atlantic region has been the focus of recent research addressing questions surrounding the adoption of agriculture, the intensification and collapse of regional exchange networks, and population movements (Custer 1990, 1991). The Wilkins Site is well-situated geographically and chronologically to provide new data on these issues. A single kernel of charred corn recovered by Herbert Pretz at in 1950 suggests that the site's occupants participated in the innovations of the period. Cultural relationships with other Algonquian groups in New York, New Jersey and southern New England, indicated by early studies, may be further explored through continuing analysis of stylistic affinities and evidence of trade. New research on ceramic and lithic types in the region can be brought to bear on the Wilkins data, and the latter in turn may enhance the current understanding of sequences of change and diffusion of styles. Questions regarding sedentism, settlement size and type, and seasonality, as well as specific details of the subsistence base in the area may be addressed through new analyses of site features and faunal/floral remains. Such analyses will have the benefit of new techniques (flotation, pollen studies, soil chemical analyses) to produce data unobtainable from earlier excavations.

Previous work at the Wilkins Site was conducted only after bulldozers had exposed pit features. New archaeological excavations may for the first time expose the former ground surface, allowing for an analysis of spatial distribution of surface scatter or even the identification of post holes or other ephemeral features related to structures and the use of space at the settlement. Even though the "window" of archaeological visibility of such remains would be small, any such evidence would considerably enhance our understanding of the site.

Excavation of refuse pits at the site may also address the question of shell bead production and its relationship to European contact. Thus far no European trade goods have been recovered at the site, and its early placement in the ceramic sequence for the region further points to a fully pre-contact occupation. Evidence of shell-working at a site such as this would contribute to our understanding of the development of pre-contact bead production.

There is also a potential for the presence of interred human remains at the site. Although burial and skeletal data would certainly have the potential to provide new information on the physical and ceremonial aspects of life at the Wilkins Site, the scientific significance of such remains must be viewed as secondary to the need to respect their religious context. While other types of archaeological resources at the site would be significant under National Register Criterion D alone, burial remains should be assessed as traditional cultural properties having significance under additional Criteria A and/or C. Representatives of Native American groups contacted for this study reiterated a general policy that human remains not be excavated solely for the purpose of scientific study.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is the conclusion of this report that there exists a potential for the preservation of significant archaeological resources within the project area, and in order to determine whether such resources are in fact present a program of archaeological field testing is recommended. The testing should be planned and carried out in advance of any construction, with sufficient lead time to allow for a decision to be made regarding avoidance or data recovery of eligible resources.

Figure 6.1 indicates areas requiring field testing and monitoring. It is recommended that this testing consist of the following tasks:

- Delineation on the ground of the footprint of the former Pretzat house.
- Hand excavation of at least four small test units to the north and south of the former house location in order to determine the depth of disturbed soils.
- Stripping of disturbed soils over the entire area to the north and south of the former house (including beneath the driveway) to expose undisturbed strata and possible archaeological features. Machine-aided stripping may be possible depending upon the nature of upper disturbed strata. Hand excavation techniques should be applied as beginning immediately above undisturbed strata.
- Machine-aided excavation of test units beneath the asphalt at intervals along the west side of 141st Street where sidewalk is to be installed. Below the asphalt, hand excavation techniques should be used.
- Hand excavation of test units at intervals along the north side of 14th Avenue adjacent to Block 4429, between the existing curb line and the row of shrubs.
- Hand excavation of test units along the south side of 14th Avenue near the corner of 141st Street, where paving for a bus-stop cut-out will require grading into the soils within the curb line.
- Monitoring by archaeologists of sewer trench in 14th Avenue. Since it is expected this trench will be dug into previously-disturbed soils only, testing prior to its excavation is not deemed necessary. However, the archaeologists should be authorized to halt excavation and record, recover, or stabilize in place any human remains encountered.

If archaeological remains are exposed during the above testing tasks, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission should be notified and a letter report prepared immediately. With the concurrence of LPC and notification of appropriate Native American groups (see Appendix G), any pit features uncovered should then be sectioned to determine their contents. If human remains are encountered, excavation should cease immediately and the remains should be stabilized and left in place. The Landmarks Preservation Commission should be notified, and with that office's assistance consultation with Native American representatives should be sought and a treatment plan devised. Options such as preservation in place, removal and reinterment at a suitable

alternative site, and reinterment following a limited program of scientific study should be considered in devising a treatment plan. If no human remains are encountered at the site, it may be possible to proceed to a full data recovery excavation pending approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The data recovery should include excavation, laboratory analysis, and report preparation, and provisions for the permanent curation of artifacts by an appropriate institution should be made.

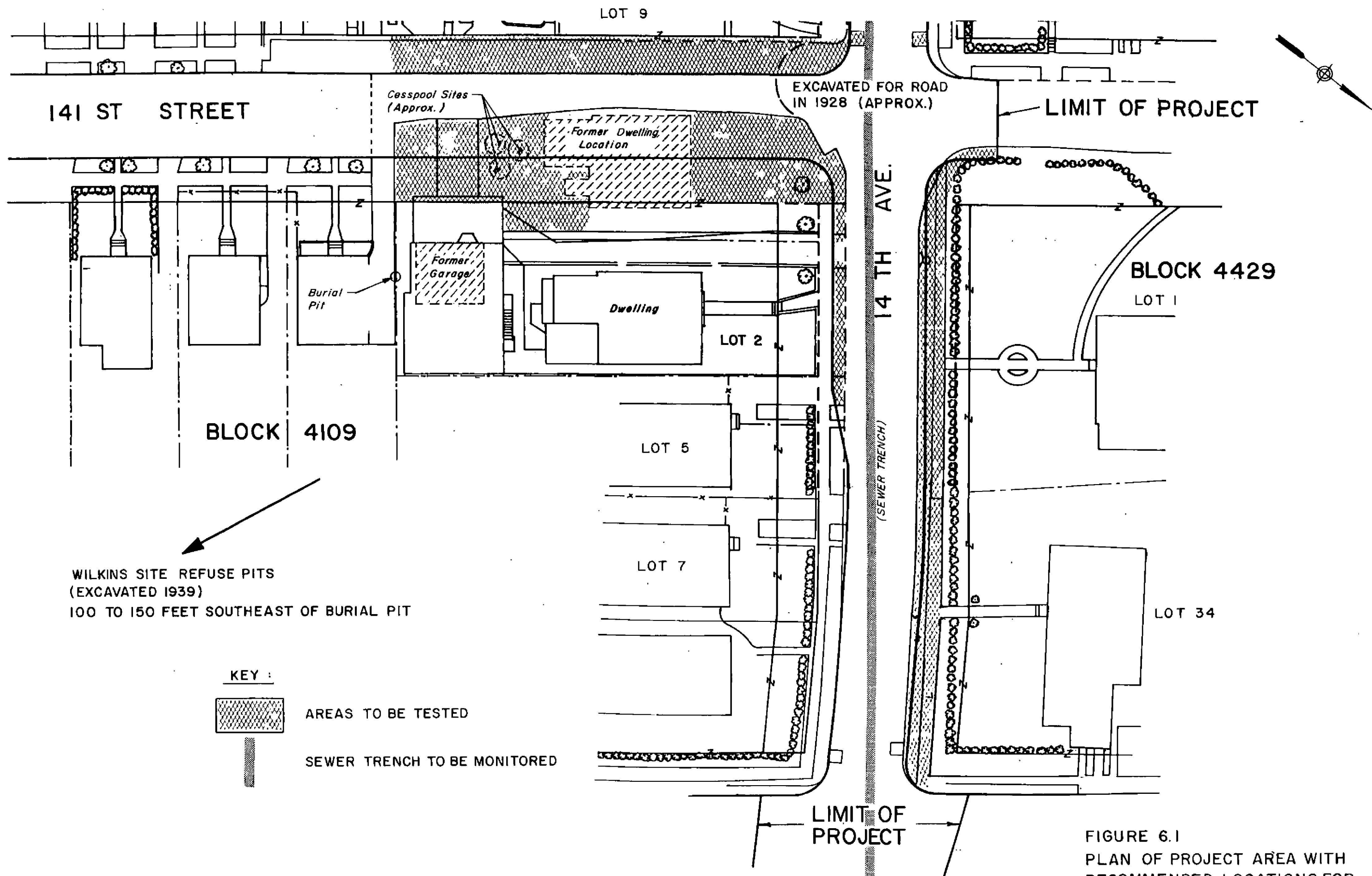


FIGURE 6.1
PLAN OF PROJECT AREA WITH
RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS FOR
FIELD TESTING.
SCALE 1: 400 (1 INCH = 32.8 FEET)

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

List of Contacts

The following individuals and institutions were contacted during the course of this study:

Mr. Fred Bess
Shinnecock Tribal Council
Southampton, New York

Dr. Leslie Eisenberg
Oregon, Wisconsin

Nassau County (Garvies Point) Museum
Glen Cove, New York

American Indian Community House
New York, New York

Dr. Daniel Pagano
Director of Archaeology, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
New York, New York

Ms. Linda Poolaw
Delaware Executive Committee
Anadarko, Oklahoma

Mr. Walter Pretzat (brother of Herbert Pretzat [deceased], who excavated the human remains at
the Pretzat property in 1950)
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

Ms. Cece Saunders
Historical Perspectives, Inc.
Westport, Connecticut

Dr. Annette Silver
Woodmere, New York

Professor John A. Strong
Southampton College, Long Island University
Southampton, New York

Chief Osceola Townsend
Matinecock Tribe
Kew Gardens, New York

Ms. Vivian Turriago (current owner of the former Pretzat property)
Queens, New York

Chief Harry Wallace
Unkechaug Tribe
Mastic, New York

Chief Curtis Zuniga
Delaware Tribe of Indians
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Appendix B

Wilkins Site: 1939 Excavations

- **Field Map (from Nassau County Museum Collections)**
 - **Artifact Illustrations (from Smith 1950)**

Incomplete Flap

06 QV 7

Pits 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 missing

House

House

+ S. P. 271

200 4th 3 1/2

QV 4

QV 4

QV 4

QV 4

QV 4

QV 4

QV 4

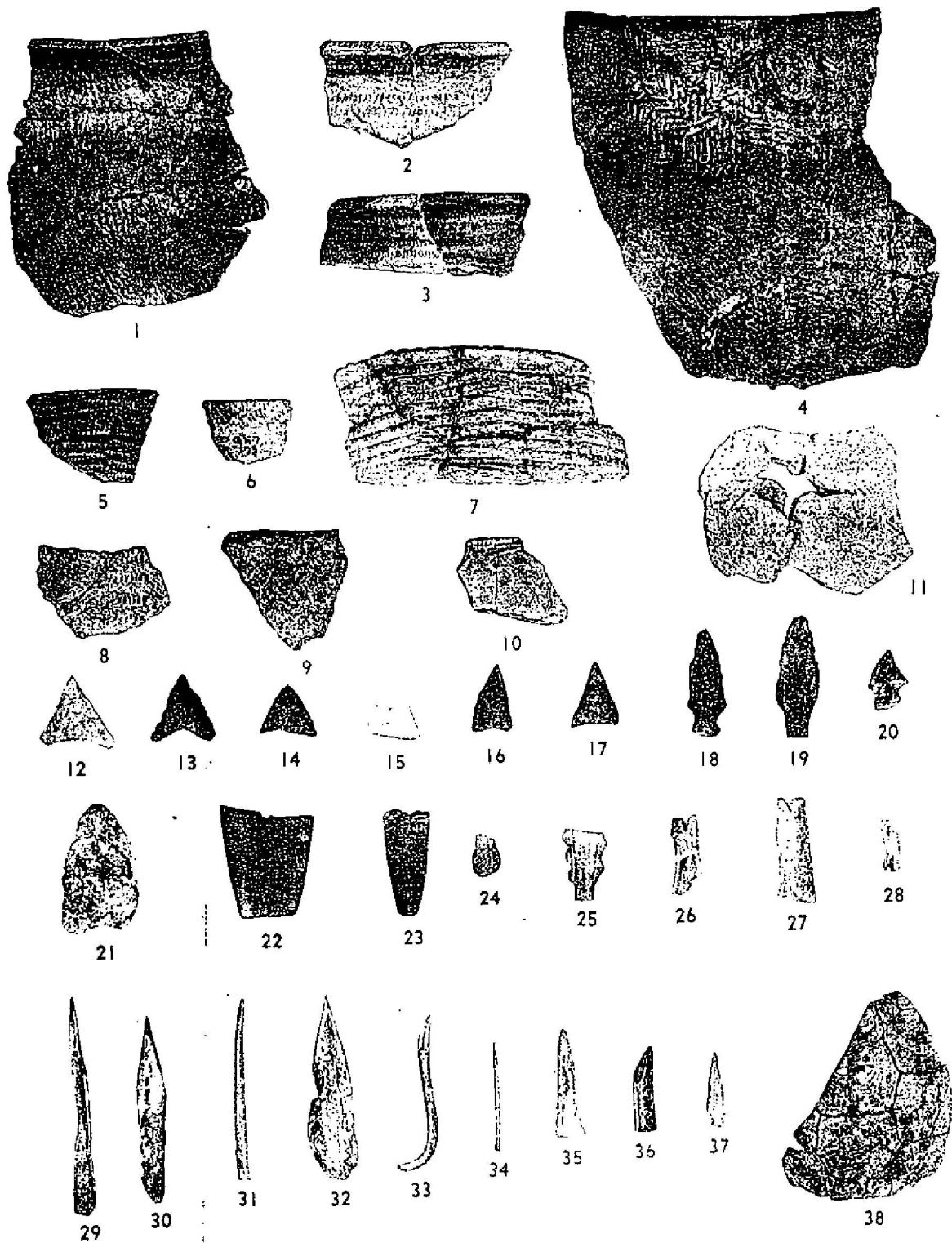


PLATE 12

ARTIFACTS OF POTTERY, STONE, BONE, AND ANTLER OF THE
BOWMANS BROOK FOCUS, EAST RIVER ASPECT

1, 11, East River cord-marked pottery; 2, 3, 5-8, Bowmans Brook stamped; 4, Bowmans Brook incised, bearing face formed by three punctates; 9, unclassified cord wrapped stick stamped; 10, unclassified sherd bearing faint incised lines; 12-17, broad and narrow, triangular projectile points with straight and concave bases; 18, narrow, side-notched form; 19, 20, narrow and broad, stemmed forms; 21, trianguloid knife; 22, fragment of a polished stone gorget; 23-25, fragments of pottery smoking pipes; 26, 27, worked deer phalanges, used in the cup-and-pin game; 28, beaver incisor; 29-34, bone awls; 35, 36, flakers of antler and bone; 37, conical antler projectile point; 38, fragment of a turtle shell dish.
1-6, 8-38, Wilkins site; 7, Component B, Grantville site.

Appendix C

Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations

- **Notes and Correspondence of Herbert Pretzat, James A. Ford, and Carlyle S. Smith**

4/26/50

Double Burial--Wilkins Site¹

Description of site

The flexed burial of an adult female and a child of about six was discovered at the Wilkins site in a refuse pit 60" wide at its widest measurable point and ~~at a depth of~~ 52" deep. It was discovered when a power shovel, digging a foundation for a house battered and dislodged substantial portions of the skull only. Cleaning the profile showed up a pit of typical outline for this site (roughly "U" shape), but without any concentrated shell layer, with the skeletons approximately 5" to 12" from the bottom.

The pit was located approximately 100' to 150' ft. WNW of the general area dug by Smith et al. (75' south of Pretzats garage, 10' E. of SW corner), but probably still part of that campsite area, judging from the material found. And the presence of another partly destroyed pit (refuse) 10' east of the burial pit. There was a gradual slope with a drop of 6' to the main area. The subsoil near the burial is a fine gray clayey sand, streaked with yellow sand above which is gritty yellow sand 15" to 23" thick. Above that is about 18" of topsoil regularly dug or plowed (with never a surface indication of shells or artifacts). The present surface at this point has probably not been materially changed during historical times.

The adult skeleton was found in a flexed position, lying on its left side with its head toward the southwest. The condition of the skeletal material was fairly good. The child's skeleton was similarly arranged, on a similar axis but not so tightly flexed. It was completely and immediately superimposed on the adult skeleton. Its skull was crushed in, due apparently to decomposition and pressure of backfill. The remainder of its bones were also in poor condition. The presence of a rodent burrow running north--south ~~by~~ about 2" above the skeleton may account for the misplacement of the child's lower jaw to about 4" north of its skull.

The soil of the pit itself was brown sandy loam, containing widely scattered shells (oyster, clam, scallop), numerous flecks of charcoal, and some cracked fragments of animal bone.

There appeared to be no indication of any ceremonialism involved in the interments. Two fairly large stones were found in the pit (one was 10" upwards and west of the adult skull the other 4" or ~~X~~ 5" above the feet) but these do not show arrangement. The only exception is the possibility that the concentration of pot sherds (see photo 1.) a few inches below the plow line may have been far more extensive and have been part of a complete or a "killed" pot.

¹ Carlyle S. Smith, "Clues to the Chronology of Coastal New York,"
American Antiquity, Vol. X, No. 1, July, 1944
2. Carlyle - Would you verify or revise this statement?

Artifacts

Artifacts from the top 30" are designated "upper level" --
(to a point somewhat below the large sherd in photo)
All sherds grit temper.

Upper level

# marked on artifact	Description	Quantity
1 (sample)	Cord wrapped paddle only	19 (same pot)
2	Cord wrapped-stick & dentate with thickened neck	1
3	Plain with punctate marks	1

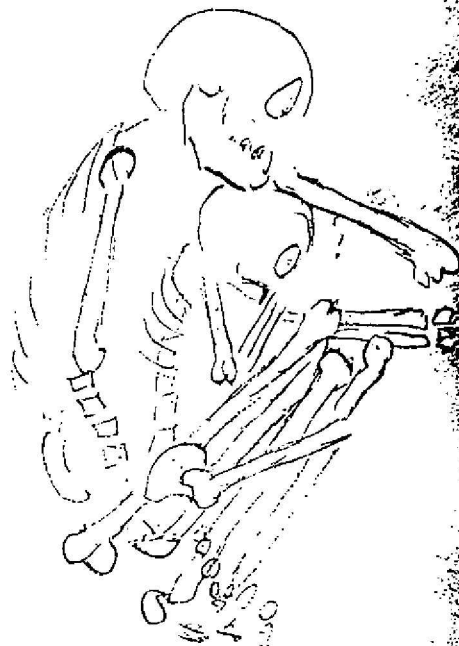
Lower Level

4 (sample)	Cord wrapped paddle	6
5	Cord wrapped stick (rim)	1
6	Plain	1
7	Plain with punctate marks (same pot as 3?)	1
8	Incised-sherd--from pipe bowl(?) Located 4" east of adult pelvis	1

Other artifacts--Lower Level

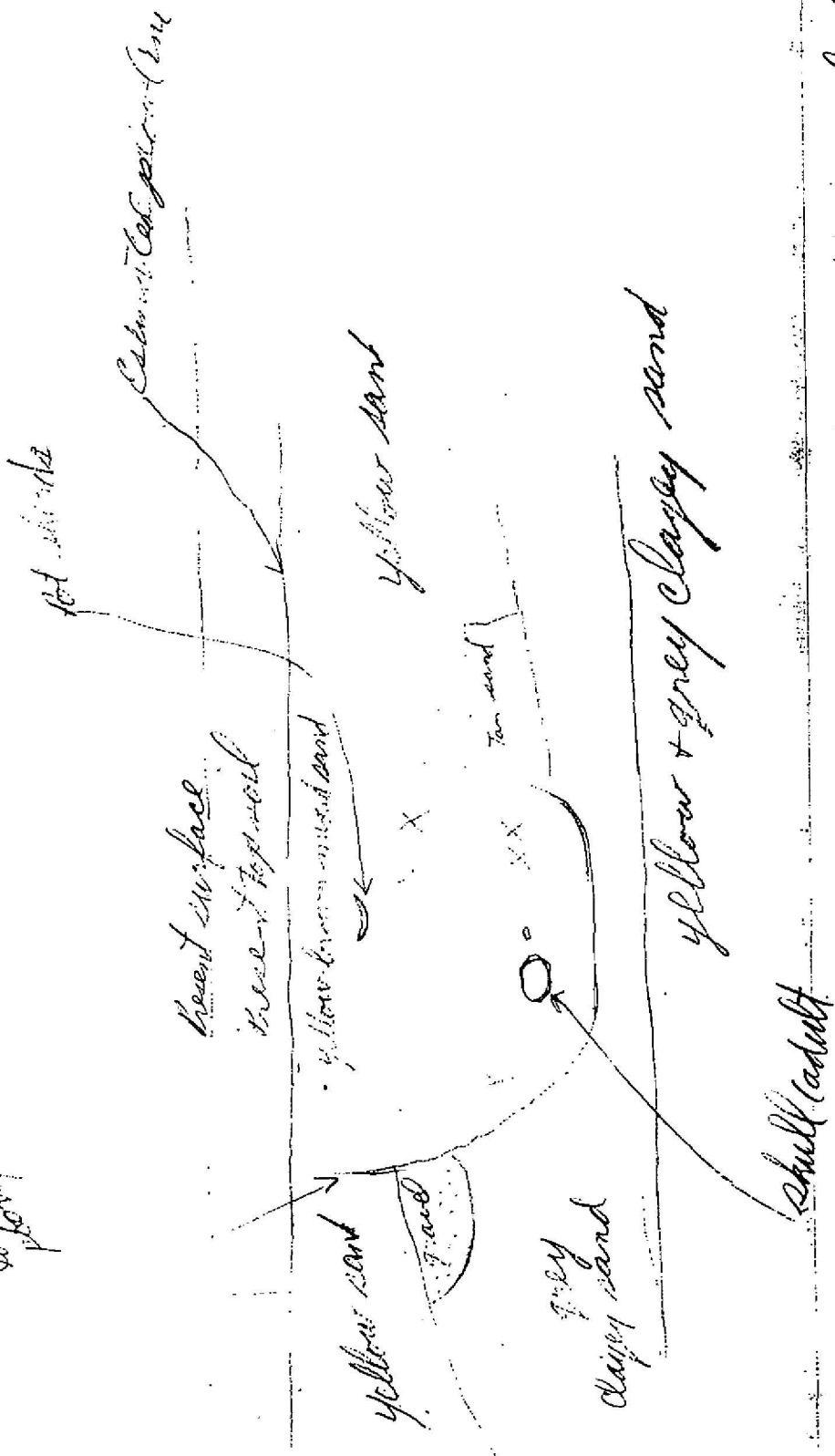
Base of triangular arrowpoint (black chert)	1
Net sinker	1

Dr. Ford's sketch of burials



scale $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 ft

deeply bedded



X = shell (shells scattered sparsely thru pit.)

sherds mentioned
in notes

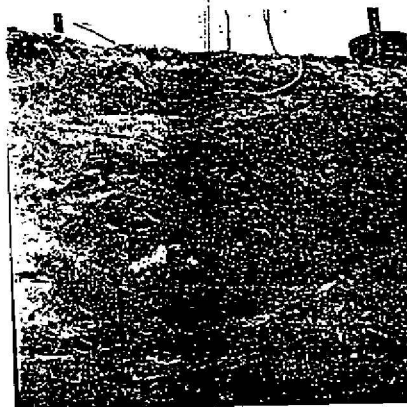
092



showing indistinctly
position of child's
pelvis + legs
over adult's pelvis
+ legs.

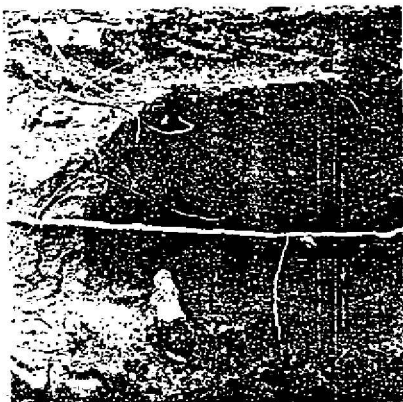
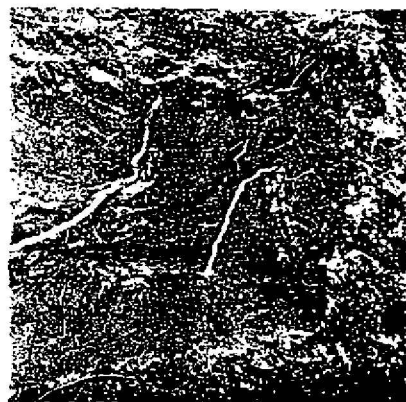
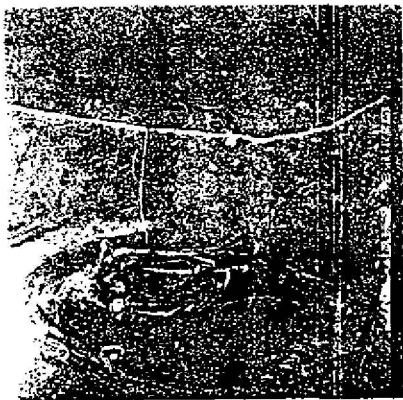
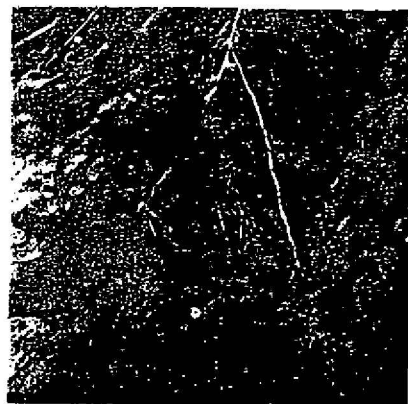
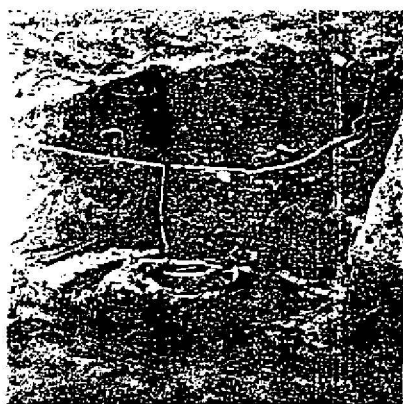


Profile of burial pit
Check against
stick



Adult saw
child's skull - note
child's teeth misplaced
to upper left right
corner.





THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET
NEW YORK 24, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

H. L. SHAPIRO, Ph.D., Chairman, Curator of Physical Anthropology
MARGARET MEAD, Ph.D., D.Sc., Associate Curator of Ethnology
BELLA WEITZNER, Associate Curator of Ethnology
JUNIUS B. BIRD, Associate Curator of Archaeology
GORDON F. EKHOLOM, Ph.D., Associate Curator of Archaeology
JAMES A. FORD, Ph.D., Assistant Curator of North American Archaeology
HARRY TSCHOPIK, JR., M.A., Assistant Curator of Ethnology

N. C. NELSON, M.L., Curator Emeritus of Prehistoric Archaeology
CLARENCE L. HAY, A.M., Research Associate
ROBERT VON HEINE-GELDERN, Ph.D., Research Associate
RALPH UNTON, Ph.D., Research Associate
WILLIAM DUNCAN STRONG, Ph.D., Research Associate
FREDERICK H. OSBORN, LL.D., Sc.D., LL.D., Honorary Associate
ANTOINETTE K. GORDON, Associate

Air Mail

May 1, 1950

Dear Carlyle: -

Your paper is now at the printers and is due back in about a month or six weeks. Yesterday a friend of yours, Herb Pretzat, 140-24 14th Avenue, Whitestone, called me to report that in some building excavations near his home two skeletons have been uncovered. He asked me to come out and help dig them out.

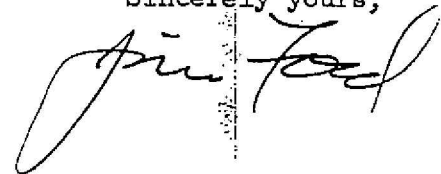
I went out Friday morning and helped him remove the burials, which he had already uncovered in a very neat fashion. They were an adult female, a child, closely flexed, both on the left side, with the child placed on top of the female, in a pit that was cut down about four feet from the former surface. The female was about 30 to 35 years old and the child six or eight. There were no accompanying artifacts. The pit fill was black earth, shell and stones.

I imagine you will want to include a description of this burial in your paper when you receive the galley proofs. If there is any more information you want, write either to me or Herb Pretzat. He has the skeletons and is planning to repair the skulls, both of which are badly broken.

With best regards -

Sincerely yours,

JAF:k



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

May 3, 1950

Mr. Herbert Pretzat
1140-24 114th Avenue
Whitestone, New York.

Dear Herbert:

Dr. Ford of the American Museum writes that you found the burial of a female and a child near your home. I would like to know whether the find was made in the area we dug back in 1940. If not, where were they found? I want to include a reference to them in my forthcoming monograph entitled, "The Archaeology of Coastal New York", if they are part of the Wilkins site. You will receive a free copy of this when it is published late this year.

I have wondered what you have been doing since I saw you in 1946. I have been here since September, 1947. Ralph is with the Smithsonian Institution working for River Basin Surveys, a temporary division which is salvaging archeological material from areas which will be flooded by dams. This summer I will be working in South Dakota with a crew of thirteen students from this university and from Columbia, Yale, Harvard, Amherst, Brooklyn, and Western Michigan College.

A letter from you will be most welcome.

Sincerely yours,



Carlyle S. Smith.

CSS:shw

*P.S. I am sending you a publication
containing an article by me on
my work at the Kanopolis Reservoir in 1948.
C.*

140-24 14 Ave.
Whitestone, N.Y.

5/24/50

Dear Carlyle,

If dam construction is making life busy for our friend Ralph, dam construction is likewise promoting work around the Wilkins site. Small houses are being built over the whole area. The excavations for the foundations cut through about 8 more pits in the general area you worked at, plus 2 immediately behind our garage (about 100--150 ft. ~~away~~ *WNW* of the main concentration). One of these 2 contained the burials. The adult skull was sort of nudged by the steam shovel, hence some delay for reconstruction of that noble cranium. As it appears now it will reconstruct sufficiently for measurement and I will contact Dr. Ford re. this. The child and other material will have to wait. A copy of my notes on the burials is enclosed, but from what I can see of the pottery I would say it definitely belongs to the site.

As for the other pits, I was able to tear through what remained of about 3, and found the material not significantly different (to my uneducated eye), from what was already found except for one each kernel of charred corn and a sherd which I can not visualize as pot.

We were both exceptionally fortunate that, starting on so cold a trail, I happened to contact Ford and not someone else on this matter, since he was familiar with your work and I needed and got and competent help.

The day following that on which Dr. Ford removed the skeleton, I ~~was~~ went down to Washington visiting and among other things tried to contact Ralph but was unsuccessful it being a Saturday.

Many thanks for the ^{to} copy of your article on your work in the Kanopolis Reservoir area. The abundance of pertinent detail it contains makes my reading of it seem almost cursory. It makes me wish I had a better background, so that I could fit them into some kind of pattern. I realise that it was *of that area* written for people who do.

In connection with your monograph on Coastal New York, I recall a newspaper article of about 2 years ago in which you indicated that you were getting at least some worthwhile information on pre-ceramic cultures here and since I can recall only some material that was considered as being such, I am highly interested in looking over what you have to say

on that aspect of the matter. Or was I misled only as one can be by a news paper article?

As for myself, there is nothing startling -- I finished the course in printing management at Carnegie Tech which I started before the war and have since been working in a medium sized printing plant in New York at a number of jobs-- interesting but frequently hectic work.

Sincerest regards,

Herb

(H. PRETZAT)

who lived "next
door" to Wilkins Site

WILLKINS
Site

5/24/50

Carlyle,

Dr. Ford suggested that I might write this burial up for American Antiquities' "Facts + Comments." If you think it worthwhile, I might. Hence, could you look over the notes with that in mind as their ultimate use and edit and suggest what might correct weaknesses accordingly? I'm sending separately the artifacts mentioned in the table and the two items I spoke of in the letter. Would you look them over and return them when convenient, so that I can keep the material together?

Thanks,
Herb

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
LAWRENCE, KANSAS

January 2, 1951

Mr. Herbert Pretzat
140-24 14th Avenue
Whitestone, New York.

Dear Herbert:

I must apologize to you for not giving the letter you wrote some time ago the attention it deserved. It arrived when I was in the throes of entertaining my in-laws in preparation for the marriage of my wife's brother to a local girl. Aside from this I was reading proof for my dissertation, grading exam papers and getting ready to leave for the field with thirteen students. I took your letter with me into the field in the hope that I would get to it there. I did not. Then we went to Mexico for a month. After returning from there we negotiated for a house for two months while up to my ears in research and preparations for an archaeological conference in which I was chairman of the program committee. I at least got as far as citing your letter in a footnote on page 177 of my monograph. Oh, yes. Your letter indicated that you were sending some of the pottery. This did not arrive. Did you send it? I recall that the initial delay in replying was caused by my desire to see the specimens.

The revision of your description of the find must await a study of the specimens. Please let me know about them and we shall see what can be done about composing a brief note for AMERICAN ANTIQUITY. I am retaining your notes and manuscript until I hear from you.

Sincerely,



Carlyle S. Smith

CSS/jb

Appendix D

Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations

- **Recent Correspondence**

PRETZAT

WP

75 CATERSON TERRACE, HARTSDALE, N.Y. 10530

May 9, 1989

Queens Historical Society
143-35 37 Ave.
Flushing, N. Y.

Dear Mr. McGinnis,

It was my intention to write to the Flushing Historical Society, whose interests, I'm told, have been taken over by your organization. I'm writing in hope of finding an appropriate home for some Indian skeletal remains in my possession.

I was brought up in a house at 14th Ave. and 141st St., in White-stone, on a piece of property purchased from the Wilkins family, who lived next door in an 1812 house, and still owned some 16 acres of land behind the two houses. In preparation for the first N. Y. World's Fair, Wilkins sold the topsoil to a contractor to be used at that site. This action disclosed about a dozen roughly circular patches of concentrated broken oyster shells, which were soon identified by a group of Columbia Univ. archaeology students as Indian "garbage pits," and proceeded to excavate them. I was not at home much during those years, but my brother became interested, was invited to join them, and ultimately spent several summers with them at digs along the Hudson and in the Catskills. My clear recollection is that the Wilkins artifacts went to the Flushing Historical Society. They included much simple broken pottery, some simple tools, and many fish and animal bones, including those of wolf, bear, and sturgeon. No human remains were found.

About 1950, the property was sold to a builder whose first action was to even the property, which involved cutting down about 6 feet at our backline, and the night my brother and I came home to find the cut up to our line, we also saw a fragment of thin bone sticking out of the cut about 2½ feet from the ground surface. My brother took several days off, excavated as he had been taught, and recovered substantial portions of two skeletons. Some photos he took at the time are enclosed; they seem to be a bit faded and I will make some new ones if I can find the negatives. The site was perhaps 100 - 150 feet from the earlier pits.

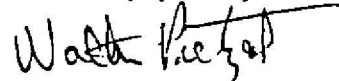
PRETZAT

75 CATERSON TERRACE, HARTSDALE, N.Y. 10530

These he took to the Museum of Natural History (my best recollection), where he was told that they had a basement full of such and no interest in any more, nor did they have manpower to deal with them. Finding my brother knowledgeable, they gave him a gallon of preservative and wished him luck. He applied this properly, and no deterioration has occurred since, as far as I can tell. Museum personnel identified the remains as those of primitive shell-fish eaters who preceeded the Iroquois-connected people who greeted the early settlers, and might go back as far as 1000 A.D. They were also identified as a female of about 40 years, and a child of 4 - 5 years.

They've been in my basement since my brother died some 12 years ago, and as I approach 70 and think of moving to smaller quarters, I would like them removed to a proper home. It seemed to me that to re-associate them with the artifacts with which they spent their lives would be most fitting. I do not know if this is possible, and seek your advice.

Cordially yours,



Walter Pretzat

PRETZAT



75 CATERSON TERRACE, HARTSDALE, N.Y. 10530

Dec. 17, 1990

(914) 949 3526

Cece Kirkorian
37 Sheep Hill Road, #16
Riverside, Conn. 06878

Dear Ms. Kirkorian,

My wife and I enjoyed an evening lecture series this fall with David Moyer, during the course of which I sought his help on a problem as described in the enclosed letter copy. He suggested getting in touch with you since there is some relation to urban archeology, so I'm taking the liberty of seeking your advice.

The enclosed letter was written by me to the Queens Historical Society in May of 1989 and explains my dilemma as well as anything I could write today. It was never answered, from which I assume either lack of interest or lack of ability to cope with New York City red tape, which may be a factor since human remains are involved. Whatever the reason, I need some sort of guidance to help me find a suitable home for them; lacking this, I will probably bury them on my cousin's farm in the Poconos, where the ghosts of the Lenni-Lenape may prove hospitable.

The enclosed photo is the last I have; those accompanying the letter were not returned. It is an elevation showing the bulldozer cut and my brother's careful development of the outline of the remains before he cut down from the top.

Any help or suggestion you might be able to offer would be appreciated. I wish you a fine holiday season!

Sincerely,

Walter Pretzat

Specimen

Memo from Walter Pretzat

Jan.7, 1991

Dear Ms. Kirkorian

Thank you for your timely and encouraging reply to my quest for a home for my Indian remains. I hope you had a fine Christmas vacation since you wrote and are refreshed for the new year. I've come to dread them myself, perhaps because my rapidly advancing birthdays fall so close thereafter.

A search during the holidays produced some additional negatives of the Indian dig, and I've made prints should they be of interest to you. There ought to be some more vertical shots taken at various stages of excavation, but so far they've eluded me.

Cordially,

Walter Pretzat



New York University
A private university in the public service

Faculty of Arts and Science
Department of Anthropology

100 Rufus D. Smith Hall
25 Waverly Place
New York, NY 10003
Telephone: (212) 998-8550
Facsimile: (212) 995-4014

May 21, 1991

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

Dear Cece:

I wanted to follow up on our conversation in New Orleans regarding the analysis of the skeletons and associated aboriginal material which Mr. Pretzat was kind enough to lend for study. I have begun the skeletal analysis with an undergraduate student at New York University and, to date, we have identified a minimum of three, and possibly four individuals. We will complete our analysis in August when we each return from our respective field seasons.

The pottery and lithics are on loan to Dr. Annette Silver for analysis, which she plans to complete this summer. The faunal material will be analyzed early next fall by a graduate student in anthropology at NYU. I have been able to identify fragments of a turtle carapace which exhibit two drilled holes, and, according to Dr. Howard Winters, most probably represent the remains of a turtle-shell rattle.

I will call your office when I return in August and, once the analyses are complete, we can meet to discuss, along with Mr. Pretzat, the most appropriate disposition for these remains.

Sincerely,

Leslie E. Eisenberg, Ph.D.

cc: W. Pretzat

Memo from Walter Pretzat

May 25, 1991



Dear Cece,

Thank you for the continuing follow-up, which is most interesting. The concept of there being parts of more than two remains is startling, since what I saw in situ, and what my brother and Dr. Ford discussed, seemed clearly to be two. It is true, of course, that the original bulldozer cut which disclosed the site might have carried away much more than we thought.

I acquired a copy of Ms Rothschild's book on early New York, which turns out to be far too scholarly for me, and which I would like to pass on to you if you have any interest. This leads me to another offer: during a shopping foray to Norwalk during the winter, we had lunch at what ^{was} once the Conde-Nast printing plant in Riverside, and agreed that we would like you to join us there when the dust of the Wilkins project has settled.

Best regards,

Walter

February 10, 1997

Mr. Walter Pretzat
75 Caterson Terrace
Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

Dear Mr. Pretzat:

I am writing with regard to Native American remains from your former property at 14th Avenue and 141st Street in Queens. Cece Saunders (formerly Kirkorian) of Historical Perspectives provided your address, but I am not sure whether you are still in Hartsdale, as phone calls have been unsuccessful.

I am conducting research on the Wilkins Site for the City of New York, which has plans to widen 141st Street along the side of your former residence. This project would involve grading, with the possibility of exposing additional refuse or burial pits requiring archaeological excavation or *in situ* preservation. I would appreciate the opportunity to speak with you about the collection which you transferred to archaeologists back in 1991. I have already had the chance to review the documentation, the photographs, and the artifacts, thanks to your conscientious treatment of these remains. Cece has transferred the artifacts she had as well as the photographs to me.

I hope to speak with you as part of my research. Please contact me at either (201)898-0300 (days) or (908)291-4106 (evenings) if you receive this letter.

Sincerely,

Jean Howson
Principal Archaeologist



Cece Saunders
Historical Perspectives, Inc.
P.O. Box 3037
Westport, CT 06880

February 10, 1997

Dear Cece:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the following:

Artifacts and photographs from the Pretzat property (Wilkins Site), 14th Avenue and 141st Street, Queens.

- Large mended ceramic pot rim, total 30 sherds (some apparently fresh breaks), cord-marked – this is ceramic item #1 on attached list
- Small box containing
 - 1 charred corn kernel (in separate small box)
 - ceramic sherds numbered 2 through 8 as listed on attached inventory
 - 1 ceramic sherd labelled in pencil with an "x"
- Small paper bag containing
 - black chert point base
 - fragment of net sinker (as identified on attached inventory)
 - 4 worked flakes of grey chert
 - 4 worked flakes of quartz
 - 1 quartz point base
- 6 Black and white prints of 1950 photographs showing Herbert Pretzat's excavations and pits exposed by machinery; also one print which I believe shows the Wilkins house.

The inventory was included with Herbert Pretzat's write-up of his excavation of the burial pit, on file at the Garvies Point Museum. I was very relieved to find these were the artifacts! I appreciate your prompt response to my request for information and your delivery of these items to me as I prepare the documentary report for Landmarks.

Sincerely,

Jean Howson

cc: Dr. Daniel Pagano, Landmarks Preservation Commission

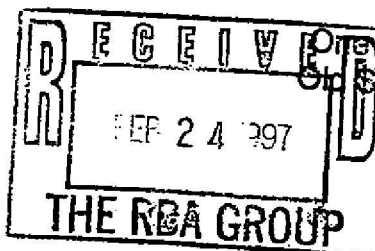
One Evergreen Place, P.O. Box 1927, Morristown, NJ 07960-1927 (201) 898-0300 • FAX (201) 898-9472

Jean Howson

PRETZAT

WP

75 CATERSON TERRACE, HARTSDALE, N.Y. 10530



One Ridge Drive South
Old Saybrook, CT 06475

Feb. 22, 1997

Dear Ms Howson,

I was surprised and pleased to receive your letter of Feb. 20th, forwarded to our new address. We departed a large empty nest in Hartsdale in favor of a smaller and lower-taxed empty nest in Old Saybrook last summer, and are quite happy here. The quiet small-town atmosphere reminds me a good deal of the Whitestone area when I was a youngster, and which disappeared long ago. I'm glad that Cece is now Mrs. Saunders and I wish her well; she was a congenial as well as helpful professional in solving my problem and I hope you will give her my best regards when you have further contact with her.

If you have seen both my letter to Cece and the letter a year or more before that to the Queens Historical Society, there is little more that I can tell you about the site in general. In respect to the segment involved in widening 141st St., there seems to me to be little chance of finding anything, and will be glad to talk to you about it. The number is 860 - 388 - 5032. Being retired, we are home much of the time.

I'm writing instead of calling as you suggested in order to include the rough sketch (nowhere near to scale) enclosed, in the belief that, in this case at least, one picture....etc. is true. I doubt I could explain clearly without the sketch.

Referring to the artifacts, I tried to tell Cece that if she had personal interest in them, she was welcome to them, but if there were no compelling archaeological interest, I would like them returned. My grandchildren would be quite interested. Lets talk about it.

Cordially,

Walter

Walter Pretzat

1928
ENCANTATION

14 AVE

1951

CLASSICAL
SITES

ORIGINAL
HOUSE
SITE

GRANITE
SITE

DRIVEWAY

PRESENT
HOUSE
SITE

GRANITE

GRANITE PIT SITES -
ALL DESTROYED WATER HOUSES
WERE BUILT.



Appendix E

Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations

- **Skeletal Inventory Sheets (produced by Leslie Eisenberg in 1991)**

Site: _____

Burial No. _____

HP- ribs, vert's, scapula

Ratio of head to body = 18.7 (L) = 27.1 (W) - if breadth exceeds length it has reached a developed stage in which it may have been viable
Infant > 1 mm. (given measurements)

R humerus @ 138.0 mm. in length = 1.5-3.5 \bar{x} = 2.5

cl fusion of metacarpals/tarsals? epiphyses fusing.

INVENTORY OF REMAINS COMPLETE _____ PARTIAL _____ SKELETON
SKELETAL REMAINS OF FETUS _____ CHILD ☒ ADOLESCENT _____ ADULT _____ INDETERMINATE _____ NON-HUMAN _____
OTHER MATERIAL _____

HOW PACKAGED AND LABELLED _____

BONES PRESENT [C=complete; Frag=fragment; Fx=fractured; --missing]

BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED	BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED
Skull: frontal	*****	*****		sternum	*****	*****	frag
occipital	*****	*****		scapula	fx	fx	*****
sphenoid	*****	*****		clavicle	C	—	*****
ethmoid	*****	*****		humerus	C	If distal end	*****
vonar	*****	*****		radius	Pres 1/2 missing	distal end	*****
mandible	*****	*****		ulna	Styl 1/2 missing	distal end missing	*****
hyoid	*****	*****		carpus: scaphoid/navicular			*****
parietal			*****	lunate			*****
temporal			*****	triquetral			*****
maxilla			*****	pisiform			*****
nasal			*****	trapezium/g.mult.			*****
zygomatic			*****	trapezoid/l.mult.			*****
lacrimal			*****	capitate			*****
palate			*****	hamate			*****
inf. nasal concha			*****	metacarpus: I	C	C	*****
malleus			*****	II	—	C	*****
incus			*****	III	C	C	*****
stapes			*****	IV	fx	C	*****
*****				V	—	C	*****

meta-
no carpus/tarsals w/ fused epiphyses

BONES PRESENT CONT.

BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED	BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED
Carpal phalanges:				Innominate <i>Ilium</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>fract</i>	####
I proximal			####	Femur	<i>distal end</i>	—	####
I distal			####	Patella	<i>missing</i>		####
II proximal			####	Tibia	<i>distal end</i>	—	####
II middle			####	Fibula	<i>fx</i>	<i>fx</i>	####
II distal			####	Vertebrae: C1	####	####	C
III proximal			####	C2	####	####	C
III middle			####	C3	####	####	C
III distal			####	C4	####	####	C
IV proximal			####	C5	####	####	C
IV middle			####	C6	####	####	C
IV distal			####	C7	####	####	C
V proximal			####	T1	####	####	C
V middle			####	T2	####	####	<i>fx</i>
V distal			####	T3	####	####	<i>fx</i>
Tarsus: talus	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	####	T4	####	####	<i>fx</i>
calcaneus			####	T5	####	####	—
1st cuneiform			####	T6	####	####	—
2nd cuneiform			####	T7	####	####	—
3rd cuneiform			####	T8	####	####	—
cuboid			####	T9	####	####	—
navicular			####	T10	####	####	—
Metatarsus: I		<i>fx</i>	####	T11	####	####	—
II			####	T12	####	####	—
III			####	L1	####	####	C
IV			####	L2	####	####	C
V			####	L3	####	####	C
Tarsal phalanges:			####	L4	####	####	C
I proximal			####	L5	####	####	—
I distal		<i>C</i>	####	Sacrum	####	####	C
II proximal	<i>C</i>	<i>fx</i>	####	Coccyx	####	####	####
II middle			####	Ribs:			
II distal		<i>C</i>	####	1			####
III proximal	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>	####	2			####
III middle			####	3			####
III distal	—	<i>fx</i>	####	4			####
IV proximal		<i>C</i>	####	5			####
IV middle			####	6			####
IV distal		<i>C</i>	####	7			####
V proximal			####	8			####
V middle			####	9			####
V distal			####	10			####
				11			####
				12			####
				Extra ribs or vertebrae			

9L
2R

Adult II

Revis - C2 process

synovial

Indiv elements light

Artic. "facet" has developed on L side of inf. body surface which artic. w/ raised R uncinate process of C3 ^{of C2} on L side

inf. surface of C3 exhibits expansion in area of R inf. art. process w/ slight porosity + abutment

^{superior} Ant. body margin of C4 exhibits mild ^{slight compression} flaring + porosity of that area

Thoracic

T1-6 NP/light in weight

T9 R inf art. proc. enlarged (almost double) - except for size bone is normal

T9 Corresp R sup. art. process is enlarged in ^{small} vicinity w/ porosity area of art. surface

Lumbar

L2 w/ moderate flaring along entire inf. body rim w/ bony bridging inferiorly on L side of body

L3 " " " on sup. body rim (R side) + mod. severe marginal flaring along entire inf. body rim (partic. R side)

L4 mod. severe marginal flaring of superior body rim (partic. R side)

mild flaring of inf. body rim

mild body collapse of R 1/2 of body

L5 mild marginal flaring sup + inf. body

healed (transp?) lesion on inf. surface of R transv. proc.

Pictateles

L3 w/ ^{active} transp. lesion + remodelling of prox. art. surface (inf. end)

- vestus notch^{if} L + R petellae

Site: _____

Burial No. _____

 INVENTORY OF REMAINS COMPLETE _____ PARTIAL _____ SKELETON
 SKELETAL REMAINS OF FETUS _____ CHILD _____ ADOLESCENT _____ ADULT ☒ INDETERMINATE _____ NON-HUMAN _____
 OTHER MATERIAL _____

HOW PACKAGED AND LABELLED _____

 BONES PRESENT [C=complete; Frag=fragment; Fx=fractured; --missing]

BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED	BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED
Skull: frontal	*****	*****		sternum	*****	*****	
occipital	*****	*****		scapula			*****
sphenoid	*****	*****		clavicle			*****
ethmoid	*****	*****		humerus			*****
vomer	*****	*****		radius			*****
mandible	*****	*****		ulna			*****
hyoid	*****	*****	<i>body, parts</i>	carpus: scaphoid/navicular	C	C	*****
parietal			*****	lunate	C	C	*****
temporal			*****	triquetral	—	—	*****
maxilla			*****	pisiform	C	C	*****
nasal			*****	trapezium/g.mult.	C	C	*****
zygomatic			*****	trapezoid/l.mult.	C	C	*****
lacrimal			*****	capitate	C	C	*****
palate			*****	hamate	C	C	*****
inf. nasal concha			*****	metacarpus: I	<i>frag</i>	C	*****
malleus			*****	II	—	—	*****
incus			*****	III	C	C	*****
stapes			*****	IV	C	C	*****
*****				V	<i>frag</i>	C	*****

BONES PRESENT CONT.

BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED	BONE	RIGHT	LEFT	UNPAIRED
Carpal phalanges:				Innominate			####
I proximal	C	C	####	Femur			####
I distal	—	—	####	Patella	C	C	####
II proximal	C	C	####	Tibia			####
II middle	—	C	####	Fibula			####
II distal	—	—	####	Vertebrae: C1	####	####	C
III proximal	C	C	####	C2	####	####	C
III middle	—	C	####	C3	####	####	C
III distal	—	—	####	C4	####	####	frag
IV proximal	C	C	####	C5	####	####	C
IV middle	—	C	####	C6	####	####	C
IV distal	—	—	####	C7	####	####	—
V proximal	C	C	####	T1	####	####	
V middle	C	C	####	T2	####	####	
V distal	C	C	####	T3	####	####	
Tarsus: talus	C	C	####	T4	####	####	
calcaneus	C	C	####	T5	####	####	
1st cuneiform	—	—	####	T6	####	####	C
2nd cuneiform	frag	C	####	T7	####	####	
3rd cuneiform	—	C	####	T8	####	####	
cuboid	C	frag	####	T9	####	####	
navicular	C	C	####	T10	####	####	
Metatarsus: I	—	frag	####	T11	####	####	
II	C	C	####	T12	####	####	
III	C	C	####	L1	####	####	
IV	frag	frag	####	L2	####	####	
V	C	—	####	L3	####	####	
Metatarsal phalanges:				L4	####	####	
I proximal	frag	C	####	L5	####	####	
I distal	C	C	####	Sacrum	####	####	
II proximal	—	—	####	Coccyx	####	####	
II middle	—	—	####	Ribs:			####
II distal	—	—	####	1			####
III proximal	—	—	####	2			####
III middle	C	—	####	3			####
III distal	C	—	####	4			####
IV proximal	—	—	####	5			####
IV middle	C	—	####	6			####
IV distal	—	—	####	7			####
V proximal	—	—	####	8			####
V middle	—	—	####	9			####
V distal	—	—	####	10			####
				11			####
				12			####
				Extra ribs or vertebrae			

Appendix F

Wilkins Site: 1950 Excavations

- **Pretzat Collection Artifact Inventory**

Artifacts from the Pretzat Collection (from the 1950 excavations) currently in the care of Dr. Annette Silver, Woodmere, Long Island.

The following inventory was compiled box by box in order to preserve any possible provenience groups. It should be noted, however, that the collection had been moved and probably re-boxed at least once before, and it is possible no provenience groupings have been retained. Boxes were numbered arbitrarily and labelled in pencil for this inventory.

Box	Contents	Quantity
1	Cord-marked ceramic sherds wrapped in tissue. One very large sherd, numerous mended groups of sherds.	34
	Charred nut/seed shell fragment	1
	Scallop shell fragment	1
2	Cord-marked ceramic sherds (some tiny)	92
	Stick-stamped ceramic sherd	1
	Charcoal fragment	1
3	Cord-marked ceramic sherds, some mends	57
4	Lithics: worked flakes - black chert	2
	worked flakes - grey chert	3
	worked flakes - quartz	1
	worked flake - sandstone	1
	point fragment - black chert	1
5	Conglomerate hunk of shell fragemnts	1
	Clam shell - hard-shell	1 whole
	Shell fragments- mainly scallop shells	50
	Bone fragment (small)	1
6	Ceramic sherds, mainly cord-marked	13
	Ceramic pipe stem, prehistoric	1
	Bone fragments	2
	Lithics: projectile point - quartz (white)	5
	point fragments - quartz (white)	2
	worked flakes - quartz (white)	4
	biface fragment - black chert	1
	worked flake - black chert	1
	biface fragment - quartz (pink)	1
	worked flakes - grey chert	2
	worked flake - brown chert	1
	worked flake - sandstone (?)	1
	point fragment - sandstone (?)	1
	point base fragment - sandstone (?)	1
	flake (large) - sandstone (?)	1

Box	Contents	Quantity
7	Mica fragments	3
8	Scallop shells	2
	Scallop shell fragments	2
	Bone fragment	1
	Charred fragments (unidentifiable)	2
9	Knobbed whelk shell	1
10	Hematite concretion	1
	Charcoal fragments	2
	Lithics: worked core (?) - quartz (white)	1
	worked flakes - quartz (white)	2
	possible worked flake - quartz (white)	1
	worked flakes (?) - grey chert	9
	flakes - sandstone	3
	fragments - sandstone	2
	worked flake - quartz (pink)	1
	Unidentifiable fragments	5
Bag	Ceramic sherds, cord-marked	21
	Ceramic sherds, cord-stick-marked	2
Env	Historic ceramic sherd, glazed redware	1
	Ceramic sherds, stick-cord stamped - rim, join	3
	Ceramic sherds, cord-marked	5
	Ceramic sherd, cord-marked - rim	1
	Bone fragment - burned	1
	Charcoal fragment	1
	Ceramic pipe, stem fragment	1
	Biface base fragment - quartz	1
	Bone awl	1
	Historic bottles: wine bottle, olive, base fragment, high kick	1
	whole bottle, except finish and neck, gin (?)	1
	whole bottle, with mold seam, aqua	1

Appendix G

Recent Correspondence with Native American Representatives



ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS

March 19, 1997

Ms. Linda Poolaw
Delaware Executive Committee
P.O. Box 986
Anadarko, OK 73005

Dear Ms. Poolaw:

As you requested I am writing to you in your capacity as the official representative of the Delaware Executive Committee to follow up on our telephone conversation regarding a potential Delaware site disturbance in Queens, New York. I was referred to you through the office of Mr. Lawrence F. Snake, whom I contacted on the recommendation of the National Park Service.

The RBA Group has been contracted by the City of New York, Department of Design and Construction, to evaluate the archaeological potential of a parcel of ground which will be impacted by a proposed local street widening. The location, at 14th Avenue and 141st Street in Queens, has moderate potential to contain remains of refuse pits or burial pits associated with a Late Woodland occupation site known as the Wilkins Site. In 1939, archaeologists undertook excavation of 18 refuse pits nearby, and in 1950 the property owner discovered a burial pit, which he and an archaeologist from the American Museum of Natural History recorded and excavated. At the time, the burial was thought to be of a woman and a child. Subsequently, in 1991, the skeletal remains and artifacts were given to anthropologists for further study, and the bones of at least three individuals were identified by Dr. Leslie Eisenberg, then of New York University. The human remains are currently being stored in New York, and their future disposition is not clear.

Although there have been substantial disturbances to the project site already, the potential for additional Native American remains cannot be ruled out. As we discussed, I plan to recommend to the City of New York that archaeological testing be undertaken at the site in order to determine whether any remains such as refuse or burial pits are still present.

I am recommending to the City that archaeologists first undertake hand excavation of test units and clearing and removal of topsoil to determine whether any cultural remains are present at the site. If a prehistoric Native American site is in fact demonstrated to be present -- that is if artifacts and/or pit outlines are uncovered, you will be notified. Normally, we would recommend that the city avoid disturbing the site; however, in this case it is most likely the city will wish to provide for the full recovery of archaeological deposits. However, it is the policy of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission that if human remains are encountered, excavation must cease and the remains stabilized in place. Plans can be made in advance to bring you to the site to perform needed ceremonies if any burials are identified.

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New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Maryland

Georgia

Taiwan

Upon identification of human remains, consultation with you and other appropriate representatives of local Delaware groups will be initiated and a treatment plan will be made. Options may include preservation in place of the burials, removal and immediate reinterment, or reinterment after limited study. I understand from you and from others I have spoken to that the first option is preferred unless the remains will be subject to ongoing desecration if left in place.

I will keep you informed of the status of this project. My report documenting the site and outlining recommendations is shortly to be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for review. Dr. Daniel Pagano, Director of Archaeology, will be handling the project for the Commission.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Chief Curtis Zuniga in Bartlesville, Oklahoma and have also contacted local tribal leaders Chief Osceola Townsend of the Matinecock, Chief Harry Wallace of the Unkechaug, and Fred Bess of the Shinnecock Tribal Council. These individuals may in turn contact other concerned parties at their discretion.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to working closely with you in insuring that this potential site receives the proper treatment. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this matter or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jean Howson
Principal Archaeologist

cc: Chief Curtis Zuniga
Delaware Tribe of Indians
108 South Seneca
Bartlesville, OK 74003



March 19, 1997

Osceola Townsend
Chief of the Matinecock
123-33 83rd Avenue
Kew Gardens, Queens 11415

Dear Chief Osceola:

As you requested I am writing to follow up our telephone conversation regarding a potential Matinecock-related site in Queens, New York.

The RBA Group has been contracted by the City of New York, Department of Design and Construction, to evaluate the archaeological potential of a parcel of ground which will be impacted by a proposed local street widening. The location, at 14th Avenue and 141st Street in Queens, has moderate potential to contain remains of refuse pits or burial pits associated with a Late Woodland occupation site known as the Wilkins Site. In 1939, archaeologists undertook excavation of 18 refuse pits nearby, and in 1950 the property owner discovered a burial pit, which he and an archaeologist from the American Museum of Natural History recorded and excavated. At the time, the burial was thought to be of a woman and a child. Subsequently, in 1991, the skeletal remains and artifacts were given to anthropologists for further study, and the bones of at least three individuals were identified.

Although there have been substantial disturbances to the project site already, the potential for additional Native American remains cannot be ruled out. As we discussed, I plan to recommend to the City of New York that archaeological testing be undertaken at the site in order to determine whether any remains such as refuse or burial pits are still present.

I am recommending to the City that archaeologists first undertake hand excavation of test units and clearing and removal of topsoil to determine whether any cultural remains are present at the site. It will be possible to notify you in advance of any fieldwork of this kind. If a prehistoric Native American site is in fact demonstrated to be present -- that is if artifacts and/or pit outlines are uncovered -- a report will be made to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The city may wish to provide for the full recovery of archaeological deposits. However, it is the policy of the Landmarks Preservation Commission that if human remains are encountered, excavation must cease and the remains stabilized in place. Plans can be made in advance to bring you to the site to perform needed ceremonies if any burials are identified.

Upon identification of human remains, consultation with you and other appropriate representatives of local and national Delaware groups will be initiated and a treatment plan will be made. Options may include preservation in place of the burials, removal and immediate reinterment, or reinterment after limited study. I understand from you and from others I have spoken to that the first option is preferred unless the remains will be subject to on-going desecration if left in place.

I will keep you informed of the status of this project. My report documenting the site and outlining recommendations is shortly to be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for review. Dr. Daniel Pagano, Director of Archaeology, will be handling the project for the Commission. You may contact him at (212)487-6800 or myself if you would like to obtain or examine a copy of the report.

Please pass this information to other concerned parties at your discretion (including Ms. Sue Windancer and Chief Wasaja, whom you mentioned in our telephone conversation). I have also contacted Linda Poolaw in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and Chief Curtis Zuniga in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and I am sending a copy of this letter to Chief Harry Wallace of the Unkechaug and Fred Bess of the Shinnecock Tribal Council.

Thank you for your concern. I look forward to working closely with you in insuring that this potential site receives proper treatment. Please contact me if you wish to discuss this matter or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jean Howson
Principal Archaeologist

cc: Chief Harry Wallace, Unkechaug Tribe
207 Poospatuck Lane
Mastic, New York 11950

Mr. Fred Bess
Shinnecock Tribal Council
Southampton, New York 11968

Appendix H

Scope of Work for Archaeological Services

Wilkins Site

SCOPE OF WORK FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES**WILKINS SITE****VICINITY OF 14TH AVENUE AND 141ST STREET
QUEENS, NEW YORK**

The Wilkins Site was previously excavated by archaeologists in 1939-40 and 1950. It represents an early component of the Late Woodland period that was assigned by Carlyle Smith in his classic study The Archaeology of Coastal New York to the Bowmans Brook focus (phase), which began approximately 900 years ago. The excavated portions of the site contained numerous bowl-shaped pits of varying size filled with refuse, as well as one pit containing human remains. Artifacts from the site included ceramics, mainly Bowmans Brook Incised, Bowmans Brook Stamped, and East River Cord Marked; stemmed and triangular projectile points; a gorget and an atlatl weight of polished stone; chipped stone knives and scrapers; various rough stone implements; bone and antler tools; ceramic pipes; game pieces; and turtle carapace "dishes." Shell and other faunal material was not analyzed, nor were paleobotanical specimens collected. Dating was based solely on seriation techniques.

Any remaining portion of the Wilkins Site would be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by virtue of its potential to yield information important to our understanding of the prehistory of the both the local area and the larger region.

Archaeological resources potentially present within the project area may provide information about the subsistence base, foodways, trade relationships, technology, and other aspects of material culture, along with population size, settlement system, and the symbolic life of Late Woodland peoples of coastal New York.

The early part of the Late Woodland stage, to which this site is attributed, is of particular interest. The transition from Middle to Late Woodland in the Middle Atlantic region has been the focus of recent research addressing questions surrounding the adoption of agriculture, the intensification and collapse of regional exchange networks, and population movements. The Wilkins Site is well-situated geographically and chronologically to provide new data on these issues. A single kernel of charred corn recovered by Herbert Pretzat in 1950 suggests that the site's occupants practiced horticulture, and the site is expected to yield additional evidence on this and other aspects of the subsistence base. Questions regarding sedentism, settlement size and type, and seasonality, as well as specific details of the subsistence base in the area may be addressed through new analyses of site features and faunal/floral remains. Such analyses will have the benefit of new techniques (e.g. flotation and pollen studies) to produce data unobtainable from earlier excavations.

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It is also possible that various cultural-historical questions may be addressed through the archaeological examination of the Wilkins Site. Cultural relationships with other Algonquian groups in New York, New Jersey, and southern New England, as indicated by earlier studies, may be further explored through a continuing analysis of stylistic affinities and evidence of trade. New research on ceramic and lithic types in the region can be brought to bear on the Wilkins data, and the latter, in turn, may enhance the current understanding of sequences of change and diffusion of styles. The relationship of "Bowmans Brook" to "Classons Point" (a later cultural classification) may be clarified.

Previous work at the Wilkins Site was conducted only after bulldozers had exposed pit features. New archaeological excavations may for the first time expose the former ground surface, allowing for an analysis of the spatial distribution of surface scatter or even the identification of post holes or other ephemeral features related to structures and the use of space at the settlement. Even though the "window" of archaeological visibility for such remains would be small, any such evidence would considerably enhance our understanding of the site.

The excavation of refuse pits at the site may also address the question of shell bead production and its relationship to European contact. Thus far no European trade goods have been recovered at the site, and its early placement in the ceramic sequence for the region further points to a fully pre-contact occupation. Evidence of shell-working at a site such as this would contribute to our understanding of the development of pre-contact bead production. Other questions relating to European contact in the region may also be addressed should the site prove to contain a later component.

There is also a potential for the presence of human remains at the Wilkins Site as a burial was found within a single pit during previous excavations. This pit contained flexed skeletons of a woman and a child, as well as additional skeletal elements of one to two more individuals. The burials were located within a few feet of the current project area. The research potential of human burials, however, should be assessed in light of their religious context; the preservation in place of burials and/or the repatriation of such remains to Native Delaware groups belonging to the descendant population shall be considered, and a protocol for full consultation with Native representatives will be in place prior to fieldwork.

TESTING AND PLOW ZONE EXCAVATION

There is a potential for the presence of in-situ burials within the project area. Non-invasive ("remote sensing") techniques for locating such burials are not recommended, since the area contains extensive 20th-century disturbances such as shaft features, foundations, and utility trenches, as well as live utility lines beneath the streets. In order

to avoid the excavation of intact human remains, testing will cease if prehistoric feature outlines are exposed and a letter report will be prepared for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). With LPC concurrence, pits will then be sectioned and excavated in order to determine their contents.

Specific Tasks:

A. Area 1 - elevated strip along east side of 141st Street adjacent to Block 4109, Lot 2

Field testing will focus on sampling the plow zone and exposing remnant former surfaces and archaeological features such as pit outlines. A combination of machine and hand excavation will be used to strip disturbed soils from sensitive areas. It is possible that a shallow layer of fill may be present above the plow zone, especially in the immediate vicinity of the original Pretzat House cellar hole. The plow zone itself, however, may contain substantial numbers of artifacts and flora and fauna associated with Native American occupation. Six 3' x 3' test units will be hand excavated to determine the stratification prior to any machine-aided stripping. The latter will be used when and if disturbed soil or building rubble overlies undisturbed or plow zone soils.

Once all overlying fill has been stripped, additional test units will be excavated into the plow zone in order to increase the sample. Up to ten ten-gallon flotation samples will be taken from the plow zone and transitional layers so that microflora and fauna can be recovered in the lab. Following this sampling, the remaining plow zone will be stripped, with the aid of a machine if feasible. Within approximately six inches of the subsoil (as determined on the basis of the hand-excavated test units), hand techniques will be utilized. The entire area will be cleared to subsoil so that any intrusive features can be clearly seen. These will be carefully delineated and, if possible, their nature will be determined without excavation (e.g., historic cess pools and rodent burrows will be identified).

LPC will then be contacted and a letter report will be prepared describing the program of field work and any archaeological resources identified. Unless historic disturbances have obliterated them, it is anticipated that outlines of refuse pits such as those excavated previously at the Wilkins Site will be identified. Other possible features might include a former surface with artifact deposits or post-holes. Such resources, as well as remains contained in the plow zone which appear to come from an occupation site, shall be considered to be components of the Wilkins Site and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Appropriate Native American representatives will be contacted regarding the identification of a Native American archaeological site.

Upon review of the letter report and a field visit, LPC may authorize data recovery excavations, if appropriate. If, however, no archaeological resources other than plow zone deposits are identified in this area, no further fieldwork will be required and a full report will be prepared for LPC review.

B. Area 2 - strip along west side of 141st Street where sidewalk will be installed

Two test trenches measuring approximately 1.5' by 8' will be excavated within the area currently under pavement. A backhoe will be used to take up the pavement, with hand excavation techniques to be used below the asphalt to clear down to undisturbed soils. Plow zone layers will be sampled in test units to be placed within the trenches. If additional archaeological resources (former surfaces with artifact deposits or features extending into subsoil) are identified, the excavation trenches will be left open and covered with steel plates. Consultation with LPC will proceed as above. Otherwise, the units will be backfilled.

C. Area 3 - north and south sides of 14th Avenue between 141st and 142nd Streets

Test units (measuring approximately 1.5' x 2') will be excavated by hand at 20' intervals along the north side of 14th Avenue between the existing curb line and the row of shrubs and along the south side of 14th Avenue near the corner of 141st Street. Plow zone deposits will be sampled by these units. If former surfaces with artifact deposits or features extending into subsoil are identified, their locations will be recorded and the units will be temporarily backfilled. Consultation with LPC will proceed as above. If no archaeological remains are encountered the units will be backfilled.

D. Catchment basins at corner of 14th Avenue and 141st Street

A backhoe will be used to remove pavement and allow for the testing of the proposed locations of the two catchment basins. Below the asphalt, hand excavation techniques will be used to clear down to undisturbed soils. Plow zone layers will be sampled in test units placed within the trenches. If additional archaeological resources (former surfaces with artifact deposits or features extending into subsoil) are identified, the excavation trenches will be left open and covered with steel plates. Consultation with LPC will proceed as above. Otherwise, the units will be backfilled.

E. Area 4 - sewer trench in 14th Avenue between 141st and 142nd Streets

During the reconstruction and replacement of sewers archaeologists will monitor all below-grade work. The archaeologists shall be authorized to halt the construction to record and/or recover archaeological resources encountered, and to stabilize in place any human burials encountered. If it is not possible to stabilize such remains, recovery will be necessary. LPC and appropriate Native American representatives will be notified immediately upon identification of human burials, and a treatment plan will be developed.

DATA RECOVERY OF PIT FEATURES

With LPC approval, data recovery will proceed on identified archaeological features such as pits, intact former surfaces, post-holes, etc. Pits will be sectioned and tested in order to determine their contents. Excavation will proceed according to visible strata within the pits, or by arbitrary level within thick soil strata. All soils will be screened, and screened soils will be retained for flotation. If at any time human remains are identified, all excavation will cease. The remains will be stabilized and the pit will be backfilled with clean sand. LPC and appropriate Native American representatives will be notified immediately and a treatment plan will be developed.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

All artifacts will be cleaned, labeled according to provenience, and identified and analyzed according to current standards and in light of current knowledge. Flotation samples from plow zone contexts, and all soil from pit contexts, will be floated in the lab. Floral and faunal remains (including shell and gastropods) will be identified and analyzed by specialists. Pollen profiles will be taken in the field and analyzed by a specialist. Carbon 14 or thermoluminescence dates will be obtained for samples from each pit feature excavated. The professional qualifications of all consultants will be provided upon request to LPC.

GENERAL

All fieldwork and laboratory analysis will meet the guidelines set forth by LPC, and all personnel will meet the qualifications specified by LPC. Following the completion of analysis, and within three months of the completion of fieldwork, a final report will be submitted to LPC for review. This report shall include a description of all field and laboratory activities, an analysis of all archaeological remains, and a complete inventory of field proveniences and items found. This report will also indicate how the various research issues discussed above have been addressed. An appropriate institution in New York City that meets the requirements for the curation of federally owned archaeological collections will be identified for the proper disposition of archaeological collections and records.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

Although burial and skeletal data would certainly have the potential to provide new information on the physical and ceremonial aspects of life at the Wilkins Site, the scientific significance of such remains must be viewed in light of the need to respect their religious context. If burials are encountered, consultation will be initiated with members

of appropriate Native American groups. This consultation will result in a treatment plan which may include the following: preservation in place with appropriate safeguards for the future; memorialization; removal of burials; reburial; curation and disposition of associated archaeological collections.

Representatives of Native Delaware groups constituting the descendant community have been identified during the documentary research for this project. Additional individuals and groups may be identified as the project proceeds. Representatives contacted already reiterated a general policy that human remains should not be excavated solely for the purpose of scientific study. However, they also indicated that removal might be preferable if such remains will be subject to on-going or future desecration in their present location. Burials shall not be disinterred during the course of this project unless the consultation process results in a treatment plan requiring their removal from the site.

Human remains may be recovered from disturbed contexts at this site, such as within the plow zone or in cellar fill. In this case, representatives of Native American groups will be consulted regarding treatment, and options such as reburial, scientific study, or curation will be considered.