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**NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTION:
HUNTS POINT
CORRECTIONAL
FACILITY - 1989**

CEQR No. 89-143X

**PHASE IA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

62

**HISTORICAL
PERSPECTIVES INC.**



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PHASE 1A ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

for the

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:

HUNTS POINT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, BRONX, NEW YORK

CEQR No. 89 - 143 X

Prepared

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INTRODUCTION

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) has selected sites for the possible location of correctional facilities. Each of the sites must undergo the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). The first task in the work program was the preparation of Project Data Statements (PDS) to evaluate the impact of new correctional facility construction under the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) procedures. The PDS determine which sites require further documentation of impacts.

A preliminary assessment of potential archaeological resources on each of the sites is one of the studies included in the PDS. Historical Perspectives, Inc. conducted cartographic study, documentary research, and a field inspection to prepare the analysis. Each report includes an overview of prehistoric and historic land use, and a preliminary evaluation of potential archaeological sensitivity. The research was designed to enable the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to determine whether further, indepth archaeological examination (a Phase 1A) is indicated for any of the sites, or to conclude that prior subsurface disturbances destroyed any prehistoric and historic potential and that additional archaeological consideration is not warranted.

Because of the archaeological sensitivity of the areas north and west of the DOC Hunts Point project area, the LPC has recommended the following Phase IA study. CEQR No. 89-143X has been assigned to the Hunts Point site of the DOC project. In addition to further map and document research, soil boring reports, sewer and water pipe location maps, building permits, and Army Corps of Engineers' files have been examined. Although knowledge of the project area has deepened as a result of this study, the conclusions of the original report remain unchanged. Archaeological fieldwork for prehistoric resources at this location would be untenable.

LOCATION AND CURRENT CONDITION

The DOC proposed Hunts Point Site is situated in the Bronx on the west bank of the mouth of the Bronx River. The subject parcel is northeast of the fenced Hunts Point Park and is directly south of the New York Terminal Market Complex. The proposed barge prison would be moored outboard of Block 2781, that fronts on Food Center Drive. (Figures 1-7).

According to tentative plans, the 400-bed barge prison alternative would require the demolition of some of the standing structures, the installation of fire hydrants and flood lights, and the construction of a sally port and a one-story support services facility. The 800-bed barge prison alternative would not require the removal of any of the standing structures or the construction of a support facility but water and light service needs would be the same as would be the need for increased bulkhead frontage, bus routing, and a sally port addition. (Figures 8 and 9). Subsurface impacts on possible archaeological resources would most likely be limited to utility hook-ups, since the construction plans do not include deep foundation work.

Environmental Setting

Geologically, the project site is considered a part of the New England Upland Physiographic Province, which includes the Manhattan Prong and Taconic Mountains. It is an area of complex geology, consisting primarily of metamorphic and igneous rock of Precambrian and early Paleozoic age. A small eastern projection of the New England Upland, which includes the project area, is known as the Manhattan Prong. The bedrock geology of the entire east Bronx is extremely complex and consists of an undifferentiated mixture of gneiss, schists, and amphibolites (Lenik, 1986:7). The rivers and streams of the borough, which were important factors in the settlement pattern of the region, drain to the south and southeast. The southeastern portion of the borough, the DOC project area, is dominated by several bays and estuaries that extend far inland and divide the land into peninsulas and necks (French, 1860:706).

Much of the coastal Bronx has experienced extensive land-filling in the past one hundred years. As can be seen on Figure 10, the Hunts Point area has been a part of this horizontal expansion. As discussed in the following Historic Overview section, the DOC site was "created" between 1916 and 1942, deeply burying the original undulating shoreline. A review of the U.S.G.S. map tracings (Figure 14) and the 1916 Army Corps of

Engineers information (Figure 28) graphically illustrate this land development process.

Currently, the project site is part of a relatively low, uninterrupted, bulkhead riverfront system, supporting vacant, one-story buildings. Dominated by the large neighboring food terminals and sewage disposal structures, the fenced and paved project parcel is bounded in part by abandoned rail tracks.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL

Prehistoric Era

When humans first came to this area some 10,000 to 13,000 years ago, the environment was radically different from what it is today. The Wisconsin glacier had begun its retreat, but its mass of ice had not yet melted enough to cover the ancient shoreline. Any waterfront sites left by these first people, called Paleo-Indians, would now be submerged. The Paleo-Indians were big-game hunters who used finely wrought fluted spear points, called Clovis points, to kill the now extinct large mammals such as mammoths and mastodons that were their prey. In addition to low lying sites near water, they also frequented high places from which they could follow the movement of game over the sparsely vegetated landscape. Early maps show elevations no higher than twenty feet on Hunt's Point, but this does not mean these men did not hunt there.

Following the Paleo Period came the Archaic Period, lasting from about 8,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C. Sea levels continued to rise during the early part of this period, but soon the environment came to be much as it is today, or was before humans began to alter it. Archaic people hunted deer and other small game of the deciduous forest and made seasonal rounds to gather the plants of various areas and to fish. They developed an increasing taste for shellfish, as evidenced by the many heaps of shell they left by the shore. Besides the grinding implements and other stone tools they left behind were soapstone bowls at the end of the period. Certainly the river mouths, swamps and streams near the project area would have provided resources for these people.

The Woodland Period followed the Archaic, lasted from about 1,000 B.C. to the arrival of the Europeans after 1600 A.D. With the beginning of agriculture, Woodland people became more settled and established villages. They began to make vessels from clay and to use smoking pipes and bows and arrows. As we shall see, their sites have been recorded on points and bays that form a wide loop in the region around the project area.

"The prehistory of the Bronx has been researched extensively and the available data provides excellent background material with which to assess the project area. A search of the literature on the project area, which includes Skinner 1909, Cook 1913, Parker 1920, Bolton 1922, and 1934, Smith 1950, and The Coastal Archaeology Reader 1978, has identified prehistoric sites in close proximity to Barretto Point [Hunts Point]. These documented sites, although directly outside our immediate

project zone, gives us a good picture of prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns. Furthermore, additional information was sought through personal contact with local informants and collectors who have extensive knowledge of the general area." (Solecki 1986; Kaeser 1986). (Lenik 1986:11-12) Valerie DeCarlo, archaeologist with Wave Hill, reported that the Museum of Natural History does hold the catalogued Terry Collection that contains artifacts from the Hunts Point area but that the site provenience is not location specific. Noel Gonzales II, an avocational archaeologist that lives on Hunts Point, was contacted and, although very cooperative, was unable to add further site specific information on Hunts Point prehistory.

A site-file search conducted by the New York State Museum Education Department yielded two prehistoric sites on the perimeter of the one-mile search area. Sites #2840 and #713 are both located on Clason's Point, a point of land east of and very similar to Hunts Point. It should be noted that this state agency reviewed (1) the current topographical features of the Hunts Point site, i.e. a shoreline site at the confluence of two major waterways and (2) the proximity of known prehistoric resources before designating the project area as "Higher than average probability of producing prehistoric archaeological data." and "Probability rating is based on the assumed presence of intact original deposits, possibly under fill, in the area. If near water or if deeply buried, materials may occur submerged below the water table." (See Appendix A.) This prediction of sensitivity is based on known prehistoric settlement patterns coupled with a review of the pertinent USGS topographic quad (Figure 1). Without the benefit of the documentation of drastic topographic alterations on the Hunts Point peninsula presented herein, the Museum reviewers acted responsibly in noting the site's potential for sensitivity. The following report does acknowledge the archaeological sensitivity of portions of Hunts Points but presents a valid case for the lack of adverse impact of the proposed DOC activities on these resources.

Inquiries to and research at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the New York State Historic Preservation Office failed to yield any direct knowledge of designated historic and/or prehistoric archaeological sites in the project area.

There is no recorded prehistoric site specifically located in the study block. "However, shell midden sites have been reported in the Bronx along the East River and Long Island Sound by Parker (1920), Bolton (1922, 1934), Kaeser (1964), and Rothschild and Lavin (1977)." (Ibid:13-14) Recent archaeological research on Clason's Point, the neck of land immediately

east of Hunts Point, confirmed Alanson Skinner's earlier findings of prehistoric activities at the mouth of the Bronx River (Kearns and Kirkorian, 1988). With the exception of Bolton's reports, all of these coastal shell middens and village sites are located to the east of the Bronx River and thus outside the project area.

"Bolton (1934) describes the location of several prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area. The first site was at Hunt's Point, where Bolton reported finding "masses of shells" on the shore in the vicinity of the old Hunt Mansion. He describes this area as a fishing camp and indicates that this area was referred to by the Indians as 'Quinnahung'." (Lenik, 1986:14; See Notation #25 on Figure 11.)

1966 soil borings taken at the end of Hunts Point, about 1,000 feet southeast of the project area, indicate the presence of shell. (See Appendix B/1.) Four of these borings are between the high and low water lines. The shell concentration ranges from 10 to 50 percent of the sample, at depths beginning at the surface and going to 10 feet below assumed low water. Another boring, about 300 feet to sea from the approximate low water line, has shell to a depth of 23 feet below assumed low water. This may well be the remains of Bolton's midden. Unfortunately, no waterfront borings closer to the project area have been located.

"Another locus of prehistoric occupation was near the Richardson Homestead, which was formerly located just west of Drake Park [northwest of the DOC project at Longfellow and Oak Point Avenue]. Bolton states that the Richardson Homestead was built close to a spring of fresh water and that many shells were found at this site. In addition, he reports the recovery of six arrowpoints and a chipped stone celt from a gravel pit which was located near the Hunt Burying Ground [Drake Park]. The presence of the chipped stone celt at this site suggests that it was probably occupied during the Woodland Period." (Ibid; See Figure 11, #26.)

Finally, Bolton (1922:222) records the location of two other prehistoric sites on Hunts Point. One site was on the Dickey Estate which was located on Hunts Point at Randall Avenue [northwest of the DOC project]. The second site was situated on a mound that was surrounded by marshland near what is today Bruckner Boulevard." (Ibid; See Figure 12.)

"Another possible prehistoric site, an 'Indian Cave' or rock-shelter, was formerly located a short distance to the east of the Hunt Burying Ground at a point three hundred yards north

of the bridge crossing the creek (Cook, 1913:106). Cook, writing with a flair for historical romanticism, states that this site 'is said to have been the favorite haunt of the redmen, and it is there that many of treaties were made with the whites.'" (Ibid:17)

Grumet's research on Bolton's earlier publication does place an Indian trail leading to the Hunts Point neck and a "planting area" and/or "old field" on the Point. However, Grumet does not place a village site on the peninsula (Grumet, 1981:69; See Figure 13.)

As can be seen on Figure 12, Bolton's Hunts Point shoreline site #25 is in the immediate vicinity of the DOC site. However, what must be remembered is that Bolton recorded his discovery in the early part of the twentieth century before the shoreline was so drastically expanded. The areas where shell appeared in the borings are now inland of the U.S. Bulkhead Line, covered with an overburden of fill. Although Bolton's discovery and similar finds from comparable sites indicate that the southeastern Hunts Point shore was a preferred location for a Native American shellfish extraction station, the depth of the landfill makes the potential resource retrieval process impractical.

Historical Era

According to an 1891 United States Geological Survey (USGS) Map, Hunt's Point was once separated from the mainland and the base of what is now Barretto Point by salt marsh, connected only by the old Hunt's Point Road, probably a causeway (Figure 14). An 1888 map shows "causeway creek" running from that direction and emptying into the East River just south of the mouth of "Sacrahong Creek (Figure 15). Causeway Creek can also be seen in an old photograph of Hunts Point Road (Figure 16) and Sacrahong Creek divides Hunts and Barretto Points in an 1949 map (Figure 17).

The entire Hunts Point peninsula was part of a large 1663 purchase of land from the Indians by Edward Jessup and John Richardson (Jenkins, 1912:42). This point of land between the Bronx River and Bungay Creek (now Intervale Avenue) on the west was spoken of as the Indian's "great planting field" (Ibid:381). The "Planting neck" was eventually divided into twelve farms and, being west of the Village of Westchester, came to be called the West Farms (Figure 18). By 1666 the peninsula was roughly divided in half. Richardson's daughter's portion of the land, the western section of the neck now known as Barretto Point, became part of the Leggett family property in 1679 (Ibid:381). Jessup's daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Hunt and the eastern

half of the point became associated with her descendants. Both Hunt and Richardson erected houses on the point, as referenced in a 1669 deed (Ibid:381).

Several histories of the Bronx mention the Hunt mansion, still standing in a derelict state as late as 1912, giving these various dates and descriptions:

- (1) At the end of the old, rambling Hunts Point Road was the old Hunt mansion built in the early 1700s, of rough stone and lumber (Ultan, et al, 1985:82).
- (2) One of the earliest [estates] was the Grange, owned by Thomas Hunt. Here in 1688 Hunt built a fine stone mansion. The site is now part of the Hunt's Point Park, at Hunt's Point Avenue and the East River (WPA, 1939:543).
- (3) Near the south end of the point, we come across [c.1912] an old, weather-beaten and dilapidated building, the Hunt Mansion, or "Grange." At the end of the building is an octagonal tower which serves as a beacon to the pilots on the East River and has thus gained for the old mansion the name of the "Pilot House" (Jenkins, 1912:385).

John McNamara, a founding member of the Bronx County Historical Society, and author of the weekly column "Bronx in History" for the BRONX PRESS REVIEW and of HISTORY IN ASPHALT, tells of taking some old-time Hunts Point residents down to the point to identify the mansion site. Even though this was many years ago, the landmarks were already so altered that they were unable to do so. All agreed that it was south of Drake Park (personal communication; February 1, 1989).

Photographs and a 1905 illustration of the mansion show a wooden, not stone, two-and-a-half story salt-box with an octagonal tower (Figures 19 and 20). The outbuildings behind it include an English-style barn with the door on the long side, typical of the earliest farm architecture in this country. The shape and placement of the buildings, with the tower facing the river, conform with those at the tip of Spofford's (now Hunts) Point on an 1887 map (Figure 21).

The winding, old road referred to above - the predecessor of Hunts Point Avenue - was probably laid out c. 1729 when the town authorities of Westchester ordered that a road should be laid out from the King's Road leading from Morrisania to "the landing-place below John Hunt's house" (Ibid:219).

The Hunts Point land apparently served as pasturage and crop fields into the nineteenth century. The Point evidently escaped any major battles or landings during the American Revolution (Hufeland 1925:map). Surveys from the mid-1800s only depict a single homestead at the tip of Hunts Point and, although not labeled as such, it is probably the original Hunt Mansion/Grange. (See Figure 17, 22.) During the second half of the nineteenth century Hunts Point was subdivided into several large residential estates, owned by some of the "original families," such as the Caswell, Dickie, Spofford, and Ives families. (See Figures 21-23.) The American poet, Joseph Rodman Drake, occupied the old Hunt Mansion. Drake, the Hunts and the Leggetts were all buried in a family burial plot now preserved as Drake Park. Portions of the Point were rented to non-residents for pasturage (Ultan, 1985:82).

In 1890 the East Bay Land and Improvement Company acquired 314 acres including the Hunts Point area. An ambitious shipping center was designed for the site by Egbert Lodovicus Viele, an army engineer who laid out Central Park after the Olmstead and Vaux plan. It was to feature workmen's homes, recreational centers, work areas and railroad spurs (McNamara 1978:225). New York City brought suit for the water rights along the shoreline but the Company, using Indian deeds, grants and patents, won their case against the City (Jenkins 1912:338). The complex was never built, but Viele is remembered today through the Avenue, two blocks northwest of the project area, that bears his name. East Bay Avenue, in honor of the Company, parallels Viele a block farther north. The land was filled and the Avenues "laid out across what had been a shallow bay in Indian times" (McNamara 1978:92). As late as 1926, the east side of East Bay Avenue appears on a Consolidated Gas Company map that includes the project area as "mapped but not opened" (Figure 24).

For many years "German market gardeners" rented the Hunt homestead and farm from the Company (Ibid:385). "As late as 1906, the Point retained its rural character, with several houses of two generations ago still standing. The most prominent was the Spofford place with its beautifully kept grounds; but most of these old mansions have disappeared or are poorly kept up [c.1912]. A trolley line, inaugurated in the spring of 1911, now runs down Hunts Point Avenue, almost to the end of the neck, which it will reach in time. Beyond Lafayette Avenue [more than six blocks north of the DOC site], the neck still remains a meadow land, though some of the streets are laid out and are being graded (Ibid:381)." The 1905 Bromley atlas (Figure 26) shows some of these neighborhood changes, including new block designations, the creation of a "public place" at the

end of the Point, the beginnings of the current road system, and the Caswell homestead changed into the Caswell Academy.

At the turn of this century many of the open points of Bronx land jutting into the East River were transformed into bathing and picnicing destinations for the growing New York City. The rapidly growing trolley system included many short spurs to the waterfront. Hunts Point was no exception. Ultan and Hermalyn included in their The Bronx in the Innocent Years a photograph, c. 1910, of a "free bath located off the coast of Hunt's Point" (1964:70). Labeled "No. 9, Borough Free Bath, Bronx" on the frame pediment of the off-shore structure, it was designed to be a safe place for residents of the area to enjoy the waters.¹ It is perhaps this dock structure that can be seen at the terminus of trolley tracks on the 1908/1913 East River survey from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Figure 29). This bathing dock structure was most probably west and inland of the current DOC site. This same survey labels the Caswell structure (which is inland of the DOC site) as the Bronx County Yacht Club and includes a "marine railway" as a Club feature (Figure 29).

The Hunt Mansion "beacon" was replaced in 1917 by a Coast Guard light tower built by Lighthouse Service, Inc. According to the chart accompanying the tower construction permit (#546/2, 7/1/16), the DOC project site, northeast of the construction, was owned by the Bronx Terminal Corporation and it was in the process of "Being Filled" in 1916 (Figure 28). Bob Potkay, Chief of Projects and Marine Information for the U.S. Coast Guard in Boston said that the light tower had been disestablished in 1957 (personal communication, 2/3/89). The rip-rap and concrete base can still be seen from low-flying aircraft.

The project area was undergoing fast changes during the new first quarter of this century. In 1900, the outline of Hunts

¹A series of atlases consistently designate the tip of the Point as a "public place." Research efforts at the Municipal Archives and the Olmstead Center were made to locate files on this public/park property. Bill Franz, Bronx Coordinator of Park Lands, stated that this property was not a city park. The Lot 160 "park area" was acquired by the city in 1969 and turned over to the Department of Ports, International Trade and Commerce the same day (Alicia Gill, Bronx Planner in the Division of Real Property, personal communication, 2/10/89).

Point remained as it was in 1891 but the marsh on either side of the road had begun to fill, perhaps because of soil buildup around the causeway and also because of intentional filling of the land (Figure 14). The attached series of atlas tracings clearly depict the proposed expansion of the Hunts Point eastern shoreline (Figures 14, 21-23, 25, 28), which had apparently begun by 1905. The later 1923 Bromley atlas depicts the entire southeastern shoreline of the Point as a vacant Block 2781 with the exception of the Caswell structure. This 1923 atlas does show that the "proposed public place" at the tip of the Point has been bulkheaded but that the site shoreline has only been partly filled out to the U.S. Bulkhead Line.

A slightly different configuration shows on the 1925 USGS map, made after a partial revision of the shoreline in 1924 (Figure 14). Only a small segment of marsh remains in the interior, and the point is solidly connected to the mainland. Its entire eastern side, including the project area, has been extensively filled. This shoreline remains constant on USGS maps through 1944.

By 1942 the site function had experienced a drastic change. Consolidated Edison's mid-century use of Block 2781 involved the construction of "gas producers," at least three "coal bridges," a track house and hopper plus rigging loft, "mixing bins," and "cooling coils." A series of railroad tracks, still visible today, paralleled the riverfront. Piers extending beyond the bulkhead were constructed. Figure 24 shows some of the buildings erected in the 1920s and 1930s on Lot 400, just west of the project area. As shown on Figure 24, a private sewer system extends from a settling basin to the proposed DOC site. Memories of the Consolidated Edison's plant have been published in a Bronx newsletter, "Aviation Volunteer":

Around 1925 Consolidated Edison Co. built a mammoth Gas Works there and the 'Gas Tank' was believed to be the largest in the world. Ocean going coal ships would dock there and gorge out their cargoes for the tremendous 'Coke Furnaces'. In cooling the Coke a three thousand foot column of steam would rise into the air providing an overwhelming sight. Peregrine Falcons nested on the tank and during the War P 40 Thunderbolts used it as a Pylon before landing at Laguardia Airport. ("Aviation Volunteer" 1973:n.p.)

A 1934 Sewer Map (Figure 20) shows city sewer along Hunts Point Avenue and East Bay Avenue, but nothing in between them where the project area is. The City water line runs along the proposed DOC bus route, a loop called Edgewater Road, Hunts Point Avenue or Food Center Drive on various maps. From there it extends out the straight access road that forms the southwest border of the project property and stops 40 or 50 feet short of the bulkhead. Interestingly, Figure 21 shows the project area served by a water line on the northeast property line instead.

Edgewater Road, approximately where Food Center Drive is now, shows as a proposed road in 1882 and 1887, with its edge overlapping the high water line. However, it was apparently laid out officially in 1893-1894 (McNamara 1978:96).

According to the 1942 Bromley atlas, corrected to 1957, Block 2781 had been expanded eastward approximately 525 to 800 feet from the original shoreline out to the U.S. Bulkhead Line. It should be noted that the location of this c.1942 Bulkhead Line corresponds to the position of the 1905 U.S. Pierhead Line. This extensive landfill process created the inboard portion of the DOC site.

Soil borings taken near East Bay Avenue approximately 2750 feet northwest of the project area show a minimum of twelve feet of fill containing cinders, wood, gravel, rock fragments, brick, and glass with some gray sand and a little silt (Appendix B/2). We know from building permits and certificates of occupancy at Blocks and Lots that buildings on the site had foundations that rested on fill. A recent report of a special Task Force on Hunts Point, appointed by the Bronx Borough President, notes about the food center: "poor soil conditions exist and subsurface shifting has cause breaks in water, sewer and other underground utilities" (Lewis 1989). If this is true of the adjacent Hunts Point Market, it may well be a problem in the project area as well.

Dredging permits filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1924 and 1948 document off shore disturbance. In 1924 the Arundel Corporation dredged approximately 2200 cu. yds. outboard of the U.S. Pierhead Line to a depth of 24 feet at mean low water.² The specific location of this activity is southwest

²The U.S. Army records indicate that this dredged material was deposited at Eatons Neck in Long Island Sound. The secondary and tertiary depositions of soil that might contain material culture such as this dredging material, pose a contextual problem for archaeologists.

of the DOC site. However, the 1948 Consolidated Edison dredging permit was for the outboard portion of the DOC site. Completed by 1954, the dredging for an approach channel, down to 35 feet below mean low water, abutted the "physical bulkhead" of the Consolidated Edison Co. Gas Plant located on Hunts Point Avenue (Figure 30).

Another instance of commercial dredging in the immediate vicinity of the DOC site has been documented. This was in the fall and winter of 1974 for a deep water pier that was to have made New York "the port of entry for 65 percent of the country's meat imports" (Hess 1976:37). Bill Hanson, of the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company which did the work, says that dredging had to be stopped at twenty feet below the water surface because of the hardness of the material. Probably this is the same "mica schist, moderately hard" encountered at fifteen to twenty-one feet below mean sea level in borings north of the site near East Bay Avenue, see Appendix B/2. Mr. Hanson, without the benefit of a locational map in his files, can only recall the general area of the dredging activity, but says that the dredging report noted clay and boulders from ten feet below the water surface to the schist bottom (personal communication, 2/10/89). The deep water pier, part of Mayor Lindsay's plan for a major expansion of the Hunts Point Market complex, was never constructed. If it had been, the shoreline would have made another leap into the East River, with landfill reaching to the current Pierhead line at least (Figure 27).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prior to the installation of a proposed prison and the necessary inboard services, DOC must satisfy cultural resource concerns. To satisfy one of these requirements, Historical Perspectives, Inc. has conducted a Phase 1A assessment of the archaeological potential of the DOC Hunts Point site. Of prime importance in an archaeological evaluation is the topographic character of the project site, through time. Our research indicates that the project site, between approximately 3,000 and 85 years ago, was submerged, a part of the Long Island Sound water system. After 1900 the coastline of Hunts Point was expanded by massive amounts of landfill, creating the land form that now supports the inboard portion of the proposed DOC site. Based on pre-fill period charts and current elevations, the depth of this fill mantle is estimated to be no less than 10' and the water table is estimated to be within the fill, at less than 10' below grade. There is documentation of mid-twentieth century dredging activities that severely impacted the outboard portion of the proposed DOC site.

We conclude that, although the pre-1900 Hunts Point shoreline and the more northerly, elevated portions of the Point were utilized during various Native American cultural periods, the once-inundated project site would have possibly hosted Archaic Period extraction stations. Such possible inboard resources, if intact, lie deeply buried under post-1915 landfill. Also, such possible outboard resources would have been destroyed by documented dredging activities along the bulkhead. As the Point's land descends into the East River, considerably more than ten feet of fill would have been required to raise the site grade above mean high water, but borings to document this are not available. For a full discussion of the problems involved in retrieving potential resources from deeply buried, inundated sites on the East River, see Kearns and Kirkorian's 1988 "Phase 1B Report: Shorehaven Site." Because of the depth of the fill and because any potential sites would be well below the water table, archaeological fieldwork for prehistoric resources at this location are not recommended.

Although fieldwork is not recommended for the DOC project site, HPI concludes that the "public place" land approximately 1250' west of the site is potentially sensitive for both prehistoric and historic significance. It is the probable location of the old Hunt mansion and before that was most likely an Indian planting field and shellfish processing area. This former park, in name if never in actuality, is now leased by the city to the Terminal Market (Conn Macaogin, Dept. of Ports, International, Trade, Commerce, personal communication, 2/10/189). However, the proposed DOC activities do not pose primary or secondary threats to this neighboring land.

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MAP RESOURCES

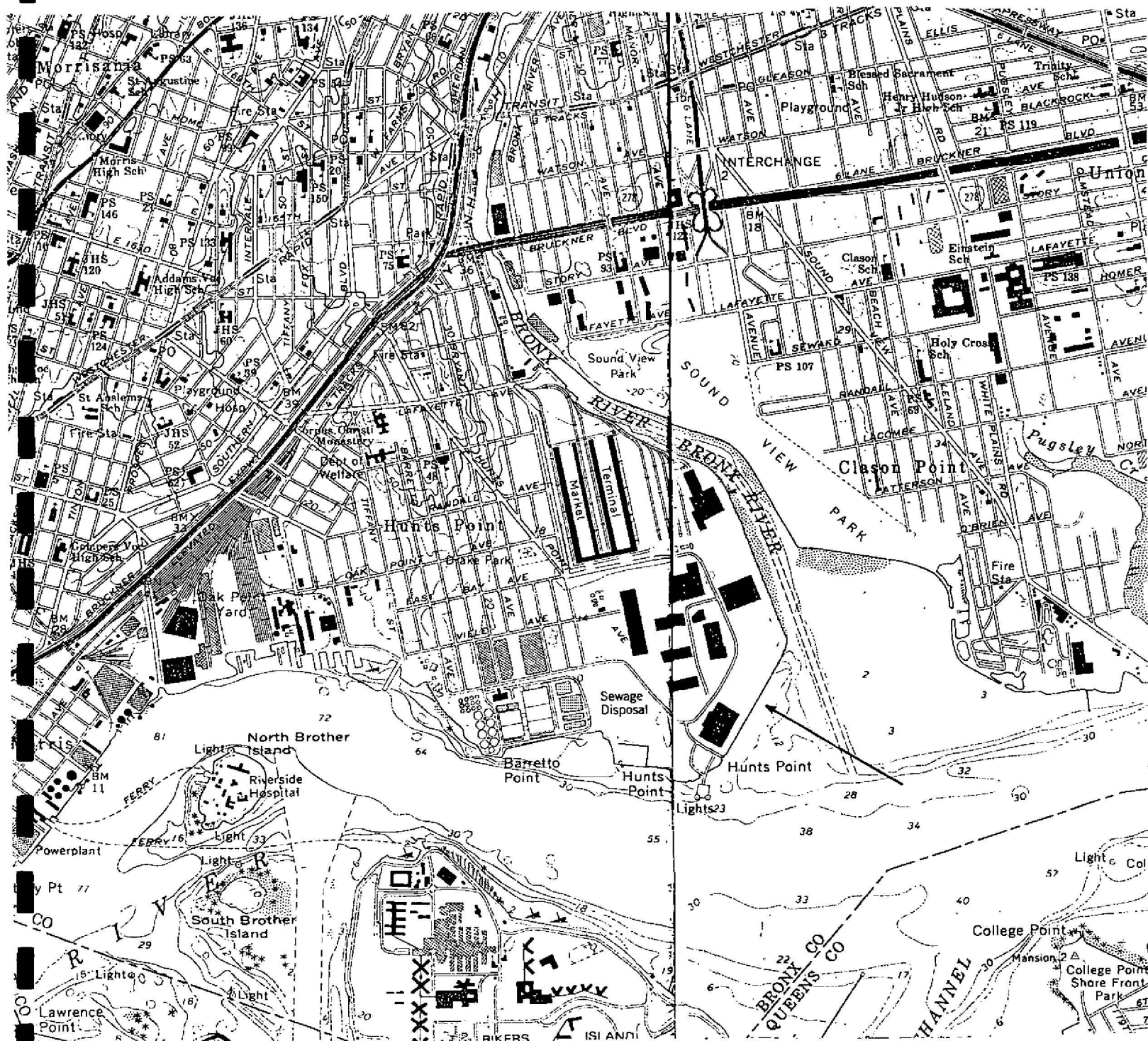
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New and Original Surveys. (NYPL)
- Sydney and Neff Survey
1851 Map of Westchester County.
- United States Geodetic Survey
1891 NYPL
- 1900 NYPL
- 1925 NYPL

Figure 1

U.S.G.S/ Topographic Map, 7.5' Series

Central Park Quad

Flushing Quad



scale: 1:24000

N

Figure 2

Site Map furnished by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.

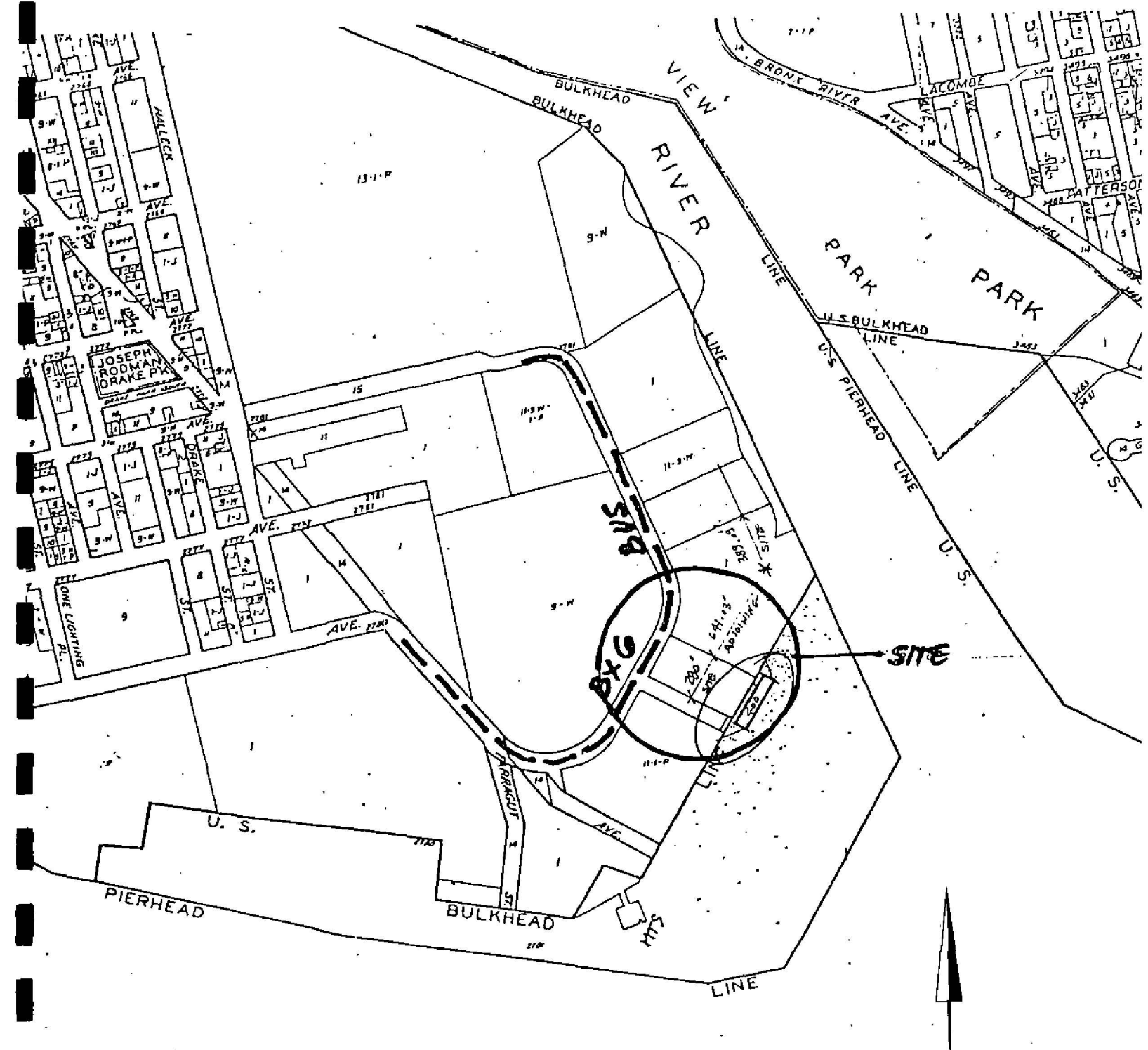


Figure 3

Photograph A

Hunts Point Site

view: northwest to southeast

note: extant structure

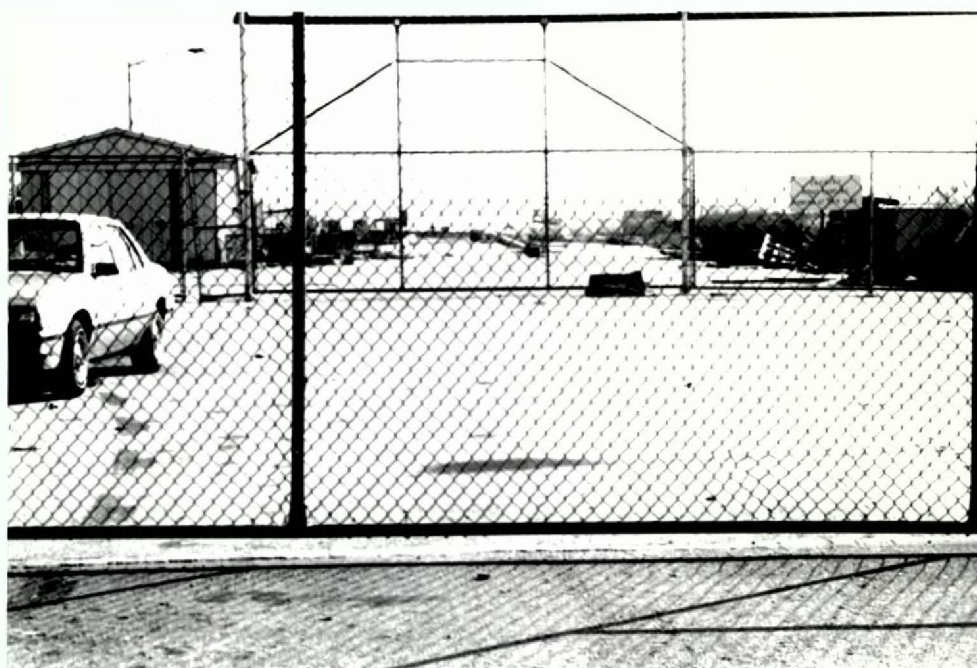


Figure 4

Photograph B

Hunts Point Site

view: north to south

note: rail tracks



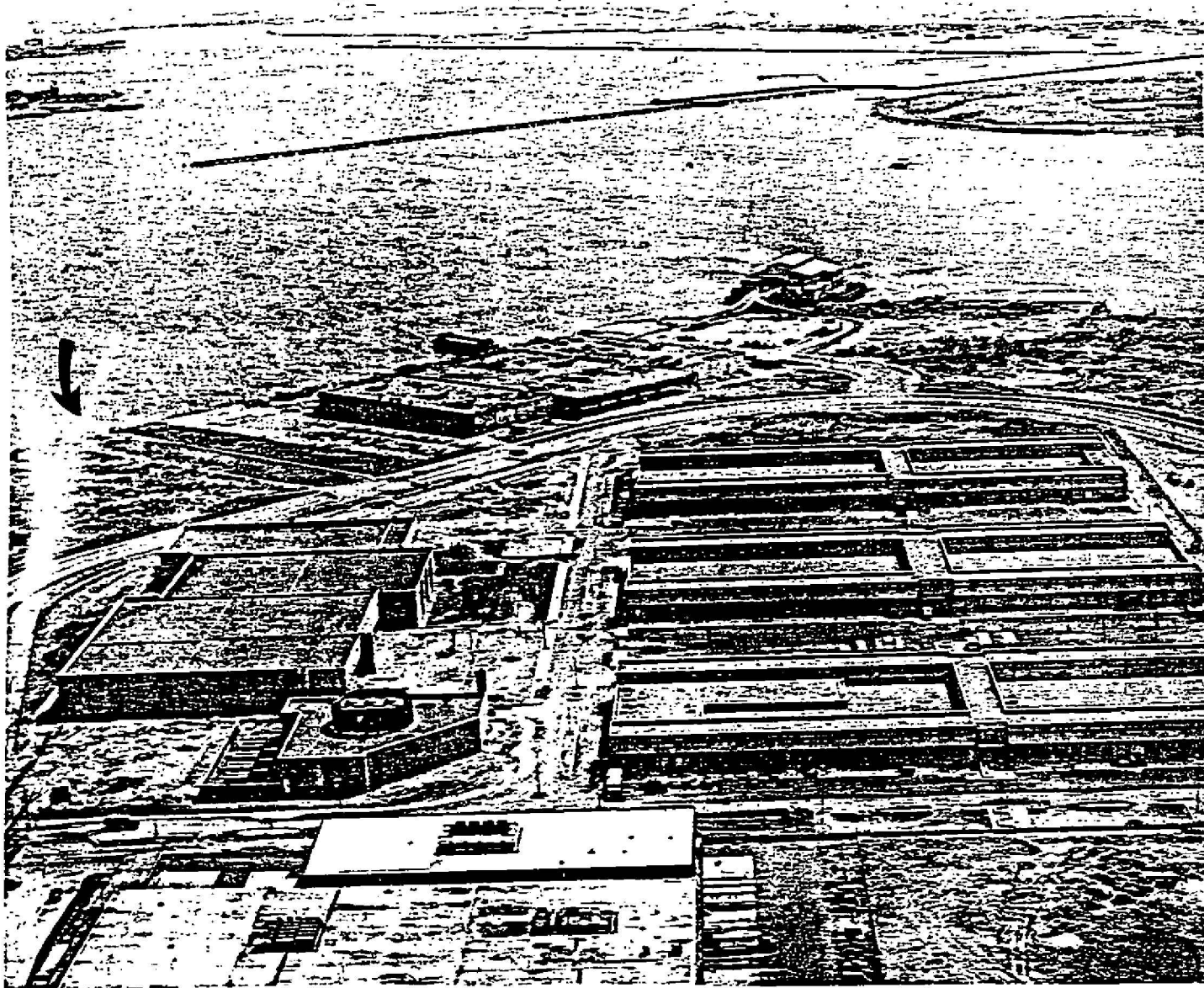
Figure 5

Photograph C

Marine Transfer Station on Hunts Point, southwest of
the DOC correctional facility site.



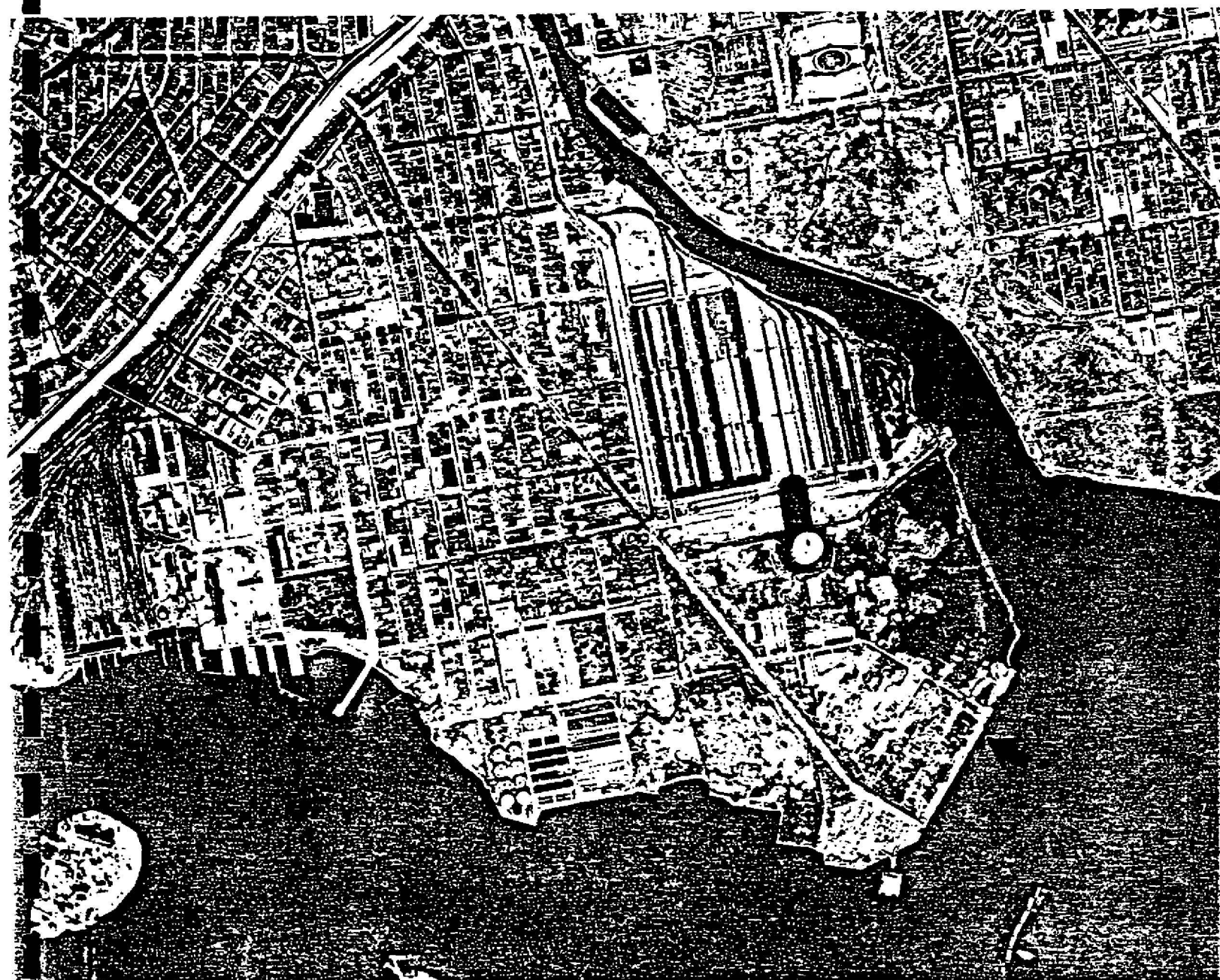
Figure 6



Aerial view looking southeast showing Hunts Point
Cooperative Market.

From the Bronx County Historical Society files.

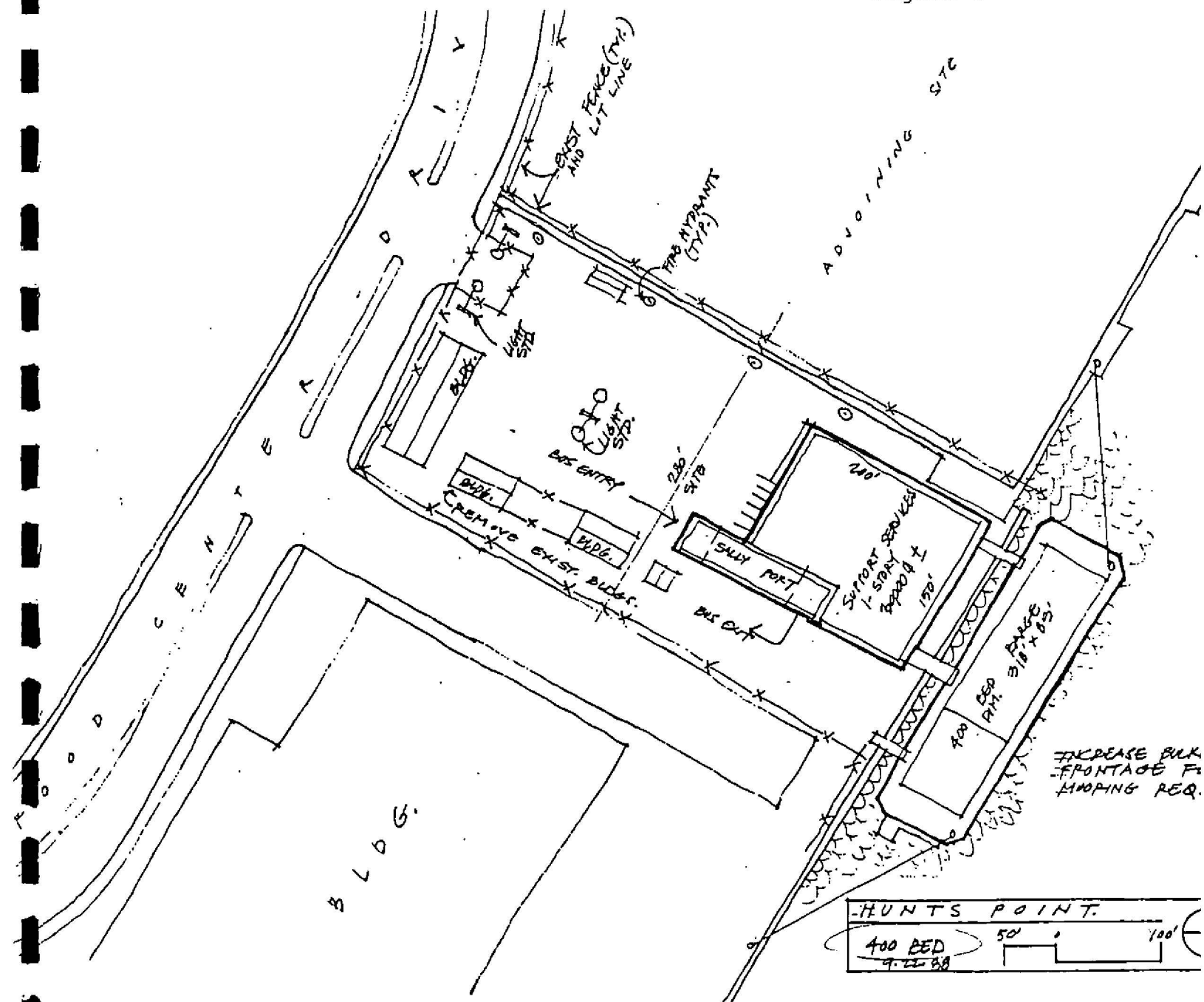
Figure 7



Aerial view of Hunts Point. From "Plan for New York City".
1969 City Planning Commission, 2 Lafayette St., New York
10007

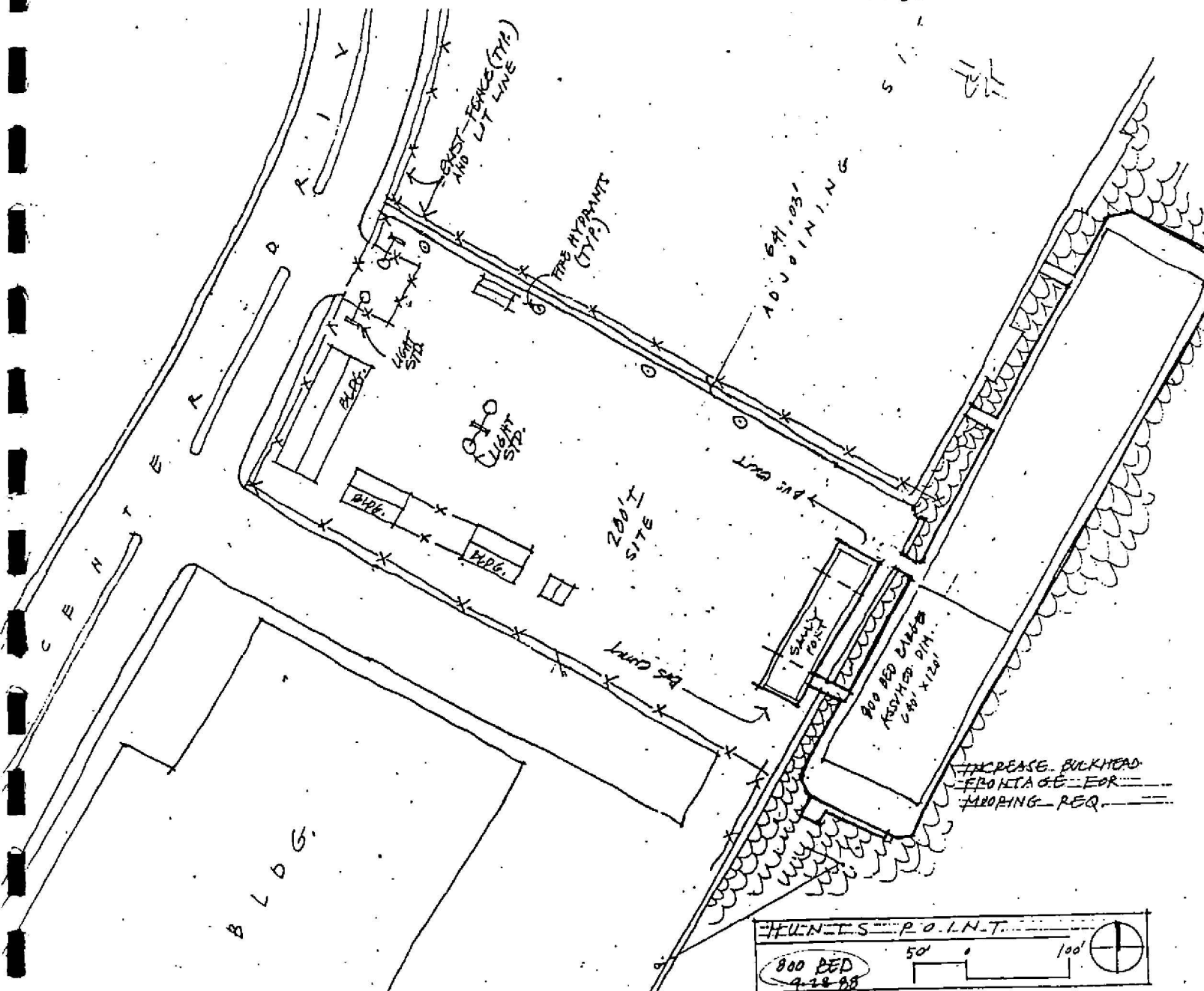
From the Bronx County Historical Society files.

Figure 8



400-bed Barge Plan for DOC Correctional Facility.
 Furnished by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.

Figure 9



800-bed Barge Plan for DOC Correctional Facility.
Furnished by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.

Figure 10

Landfill Map of New York City.
Lenik, 1986:10.

■ Areas of Made-Land

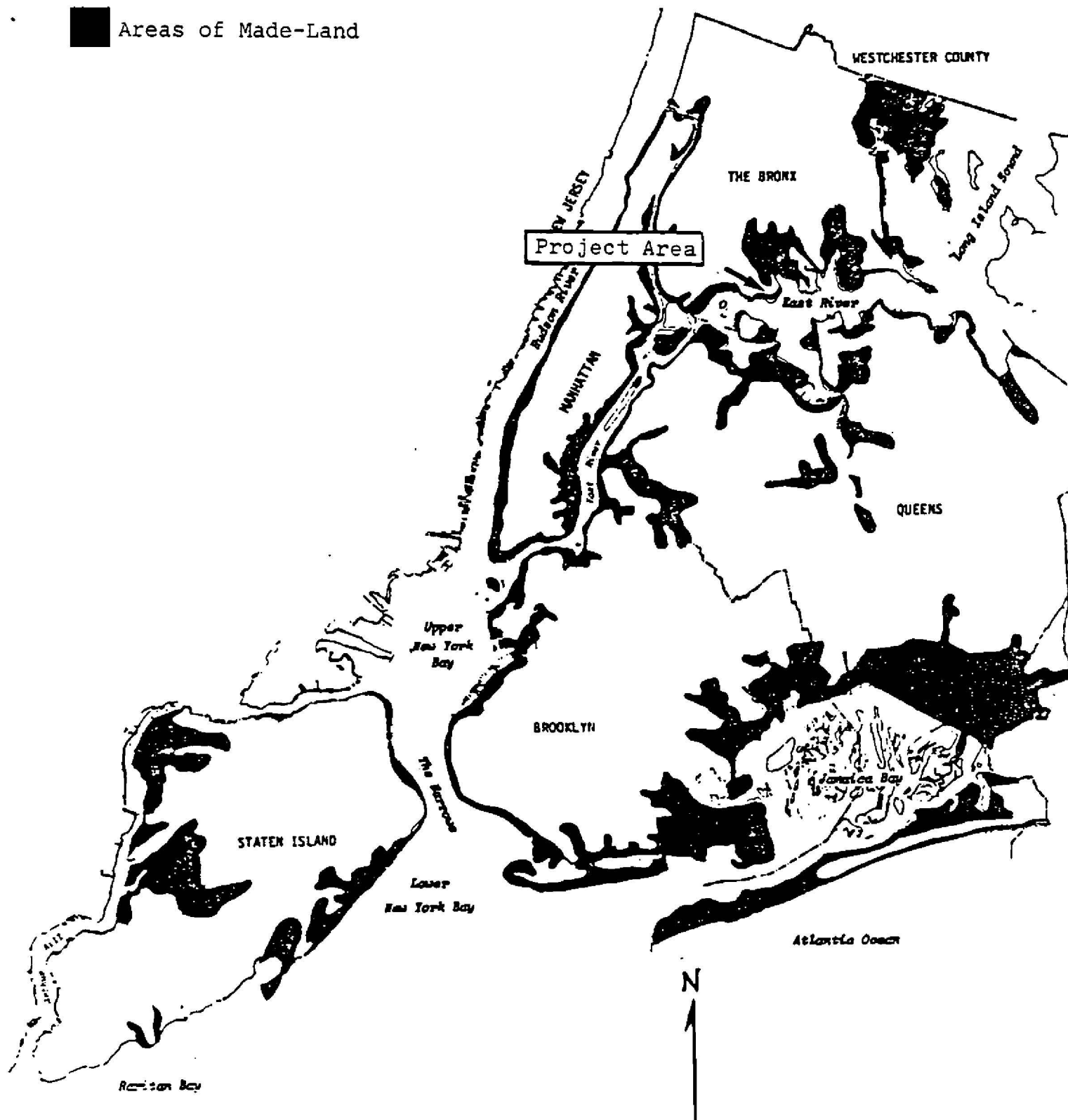


Figure 11

Photocopied from Bolton, 1934:n.p.

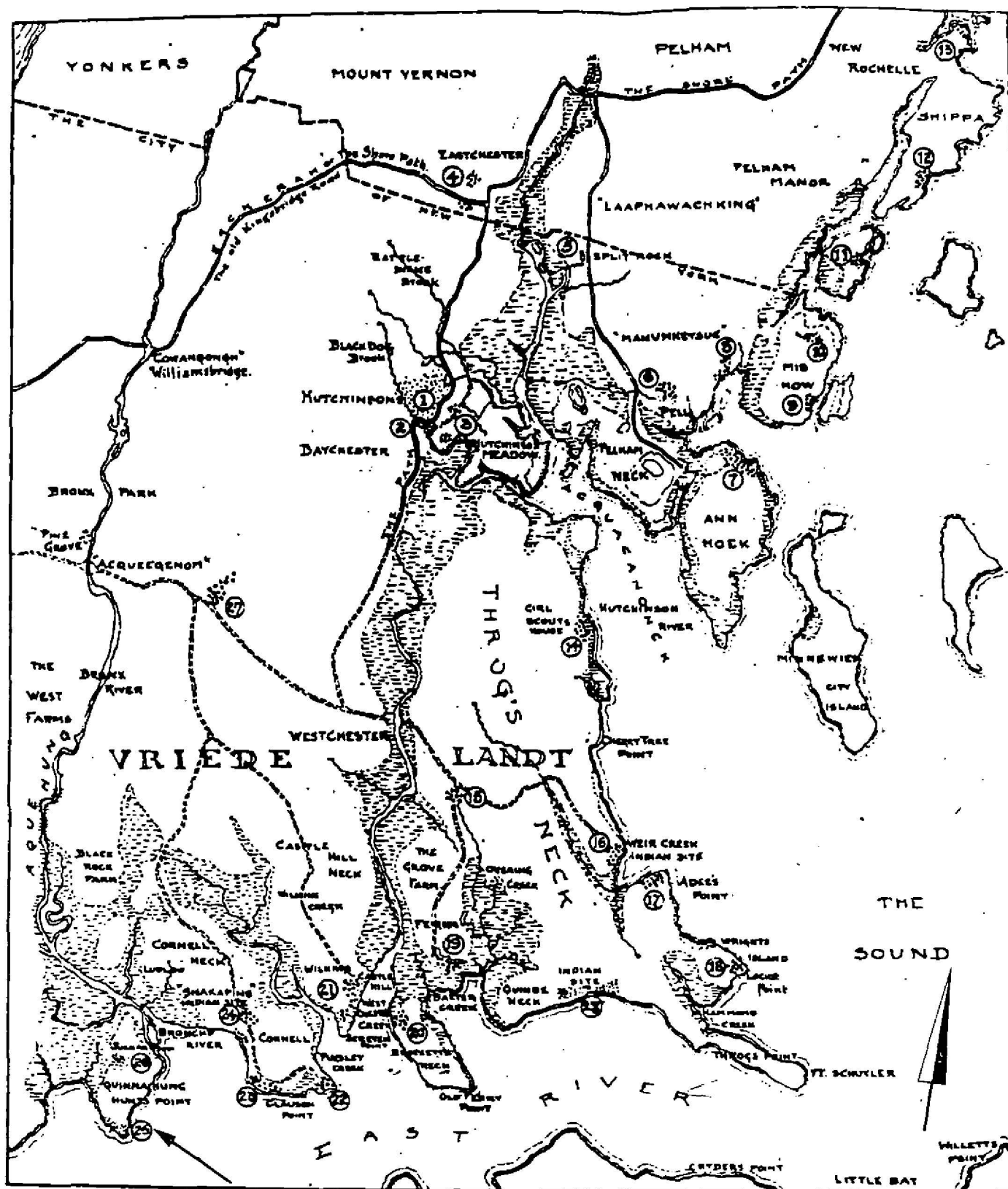


Figure 12

From Bolton, 1922.

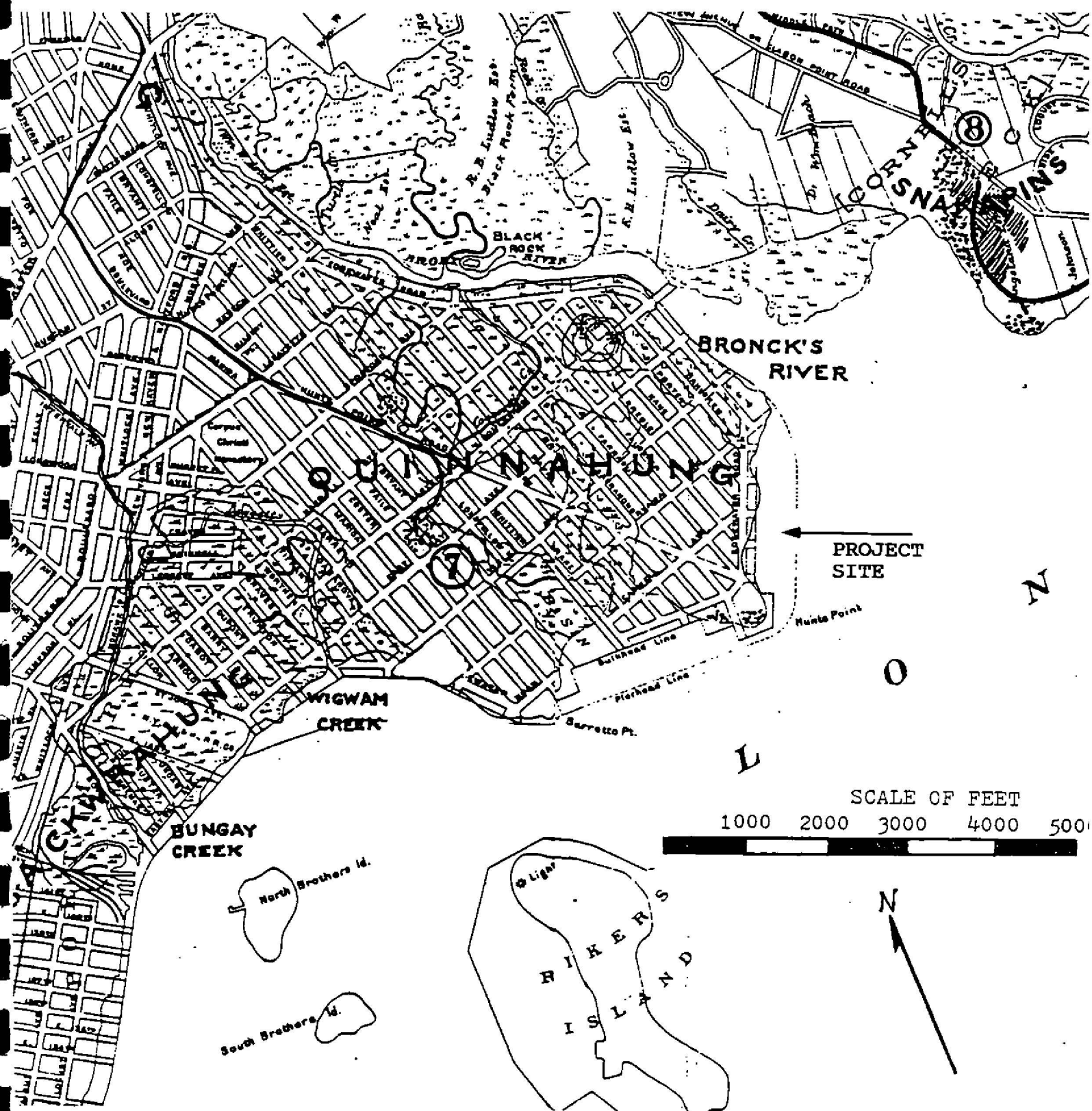
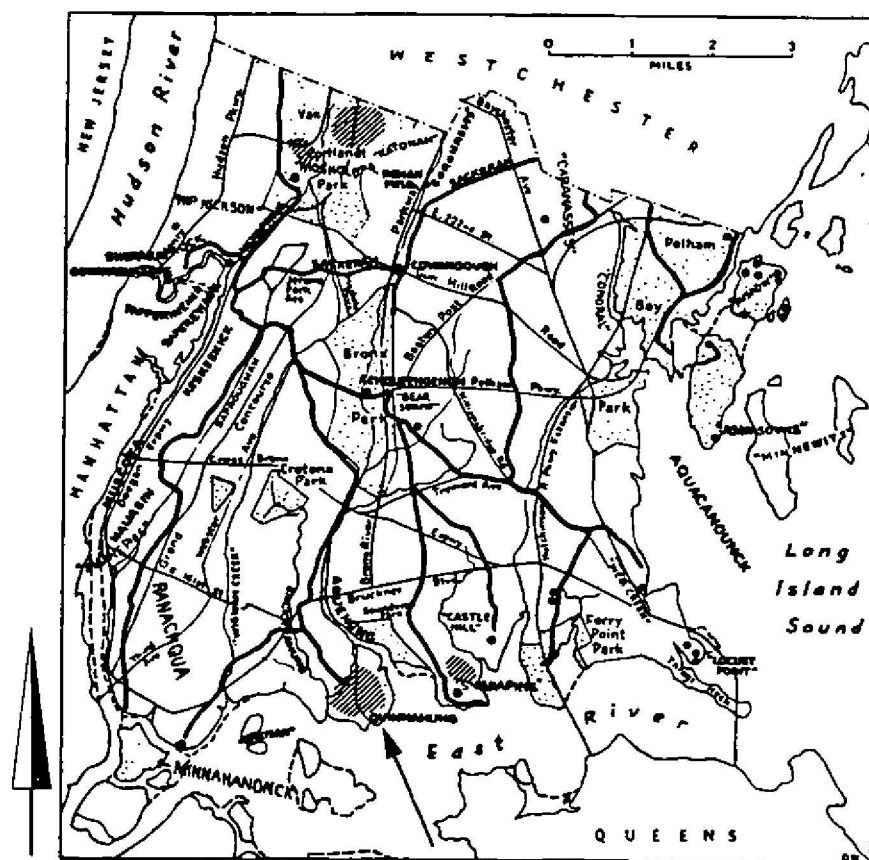


Figure 13

Photocopied from Grumet, 1981: p. 69

—Trail

/// Planting Areas and Old Fields



Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

1891

Hunts Point surrounded by marsh, connected to mainland by a causeway. Note 2 houses, each on 20' knolls, with 3 docks and cut-out slip. Compare Figure 1 knoll east of Hunts Point Avenue as possible mansion location.



1900

Note land build-up around causeway, more houses, fewer docks.



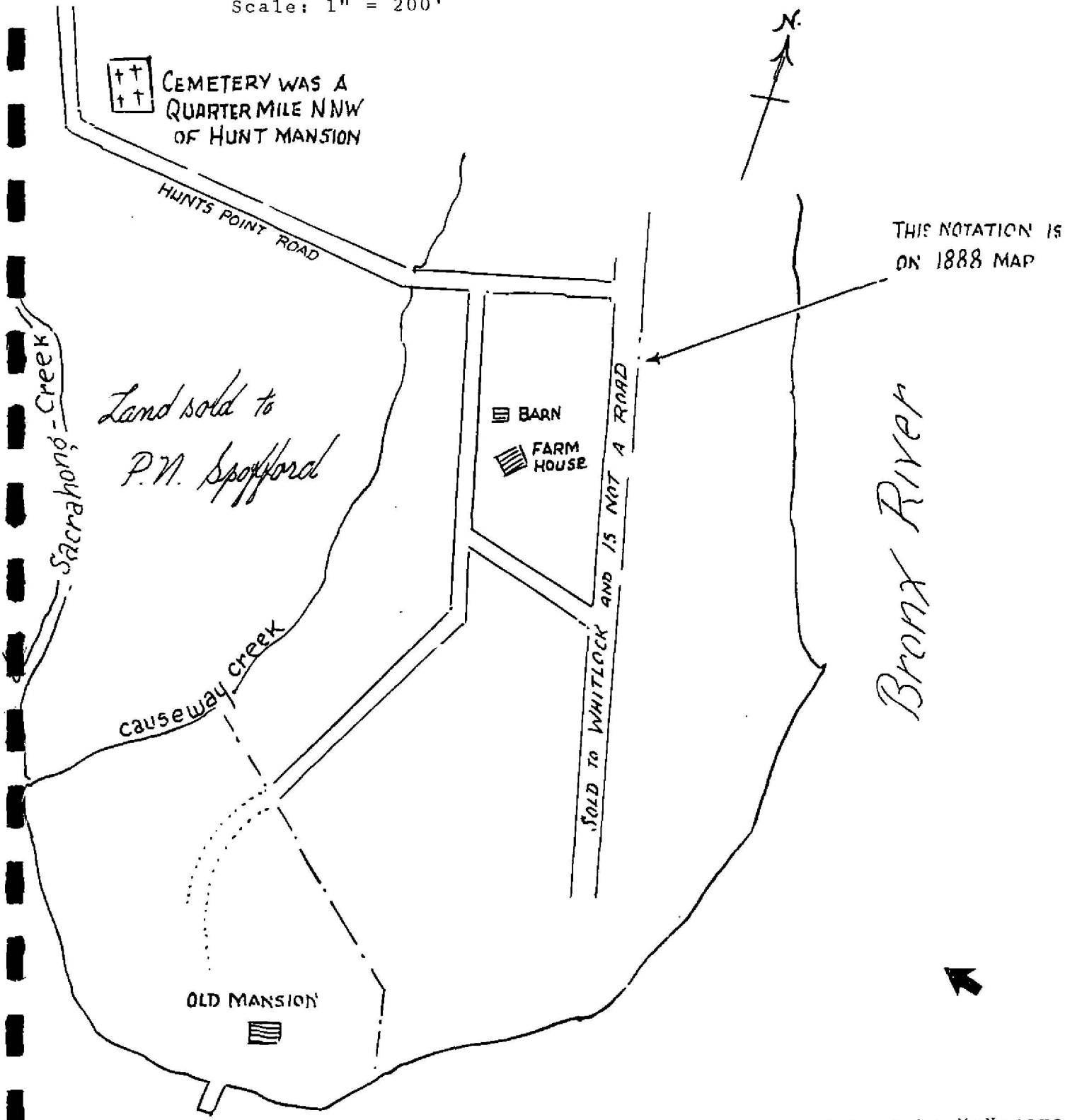
1925

After partial revision of the shoreline in 1924. Note marsh area surrounded by land, and extensive landfill.



Tracing of an 1888 Map of Hunts Point showing Hunt Mansion and dock.

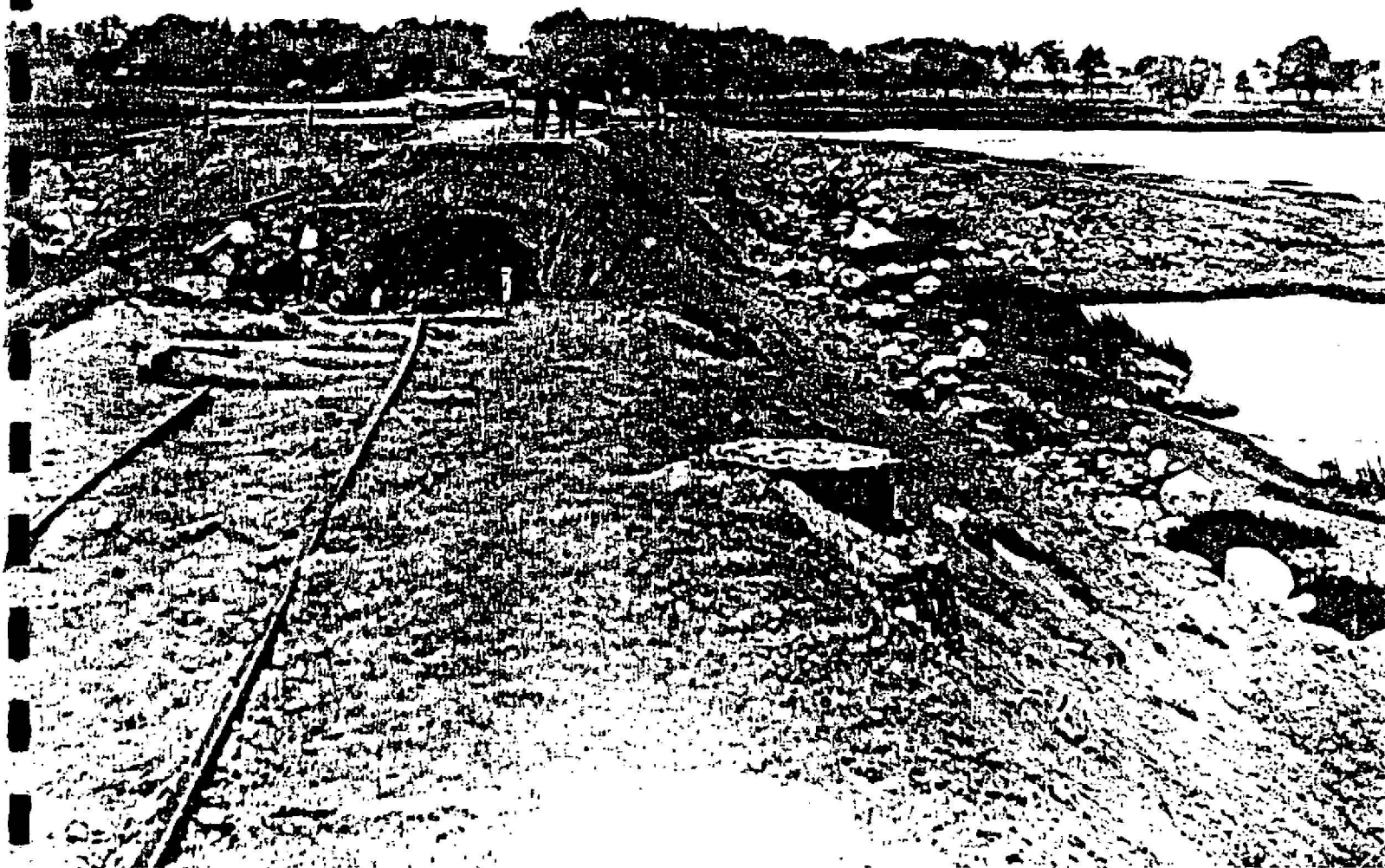
Scale: 1" = 200'



Supplied by John McNamara from the files of the Bronx County Historical Society.

Hunts Point Road looking north from approximately Randall Avenues. Causeway Creek flows (right) into the Bronx River which is seen in far right background, behind trees. September 14, 1908.

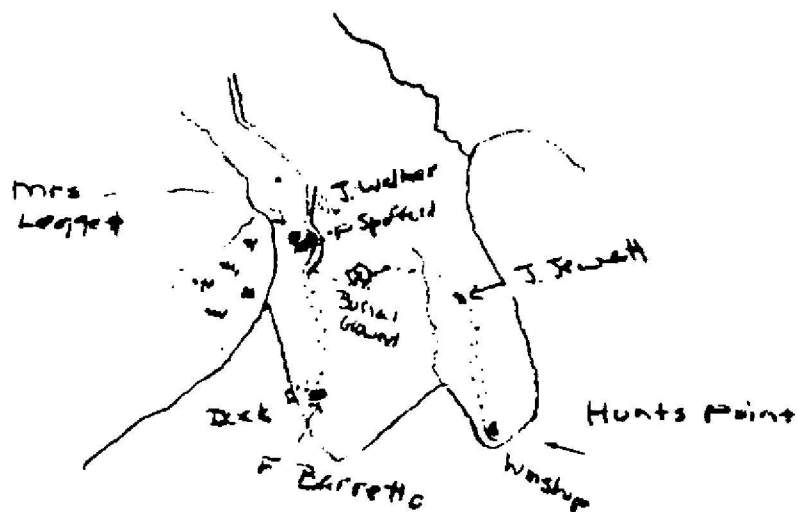
Figure 16



From the files of the Bronx County Historical Society.

Sidney's Map of Twelve Miles
Around New York from entirely new
and original surveys.
Showing Streams.
1849

Figure 17



No scale given.

Tracing from map in New York Public Library Map Room.

Photocopied from Jenkins, 1912:n.p.

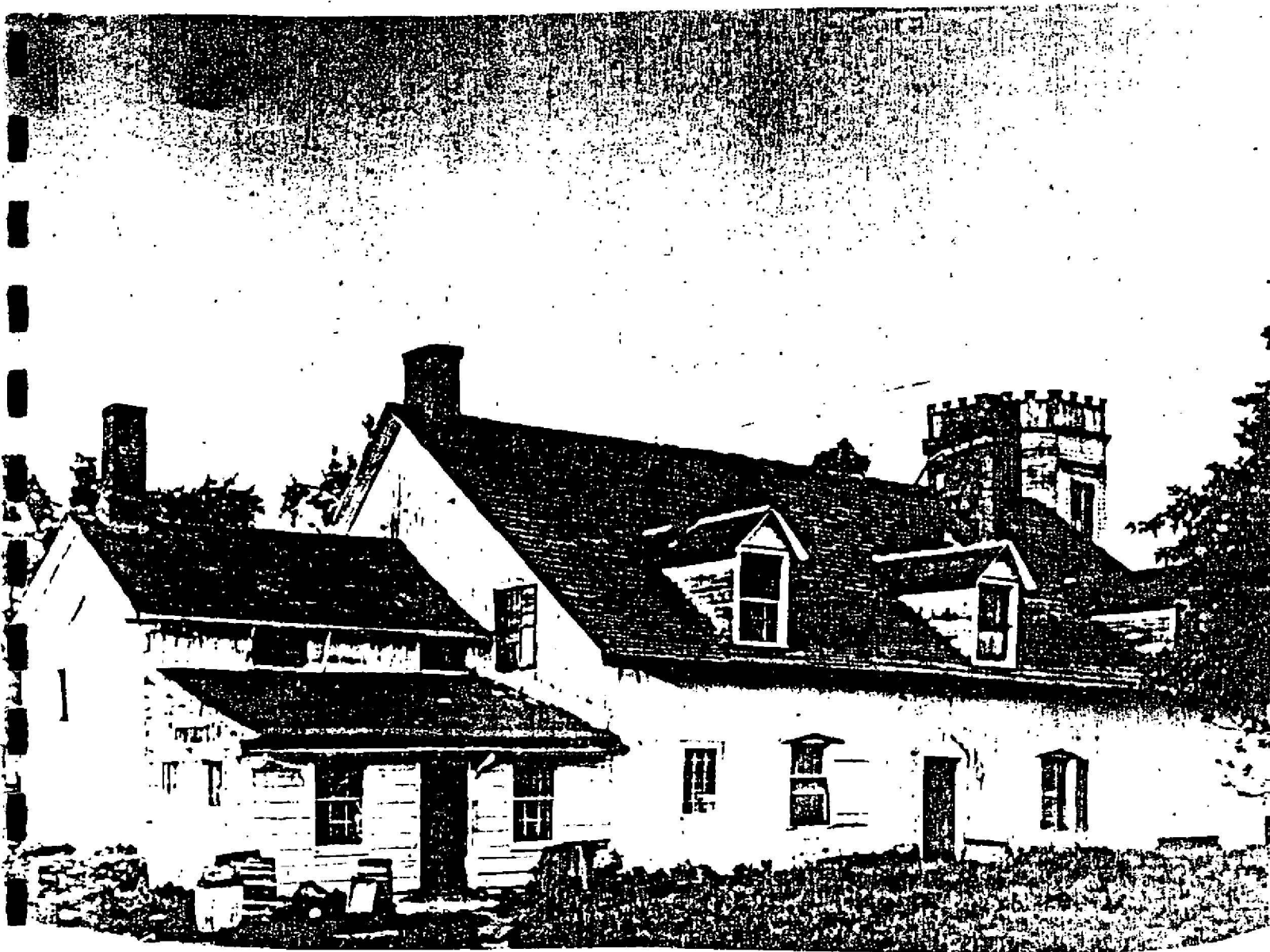


Map of Morrisania and West Farms.

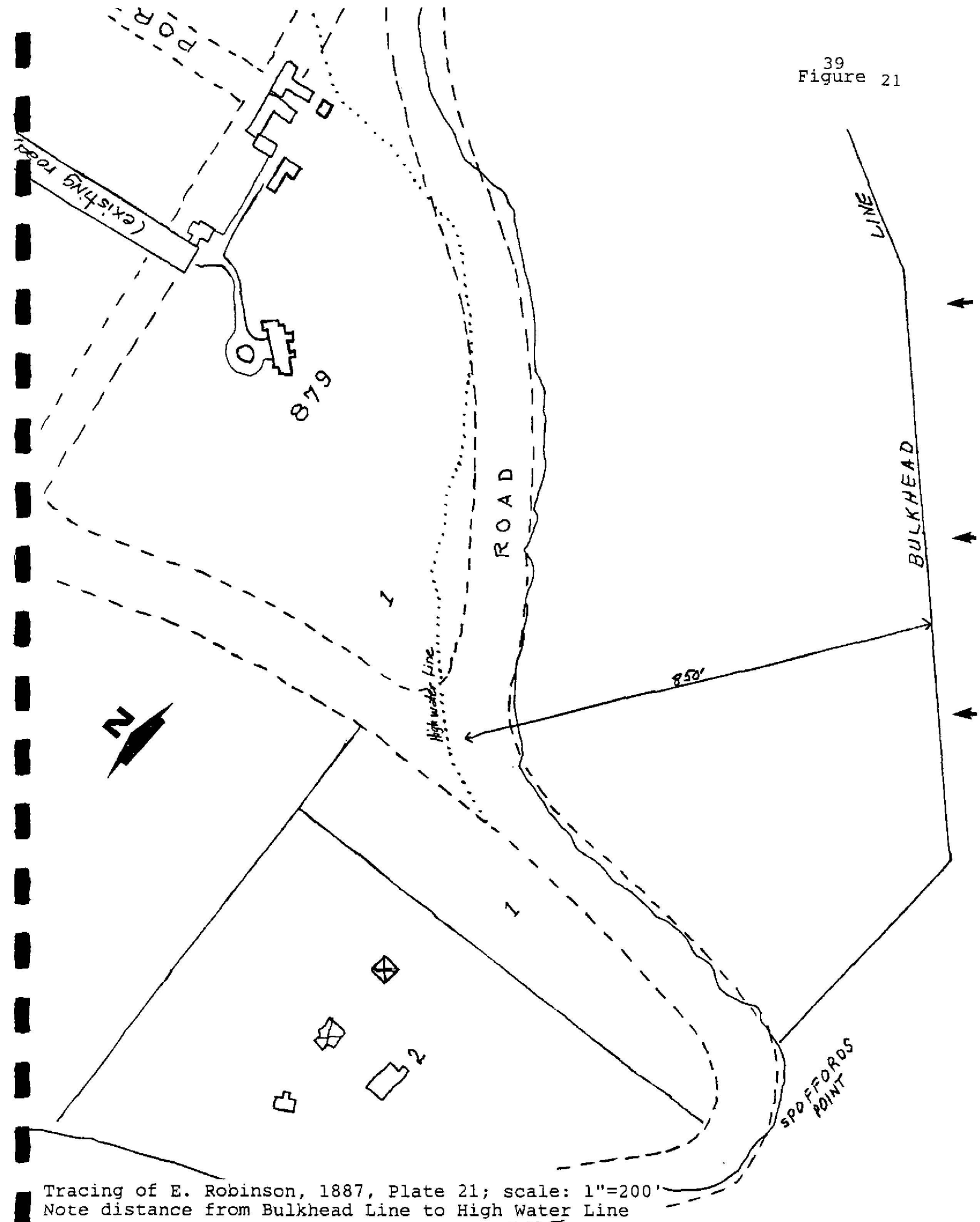


From the files of the Bronx County Historical Society

Old Hunt Mansion at Hunts Point
"Oldest part dating back to 1688 when
Thomas Hunt pioneered the land. Later
known as 'The Grange' when it was residence
of Joseph Rodman Drake in the 1810s-20s.



From the files of the Bronx County Historical Society

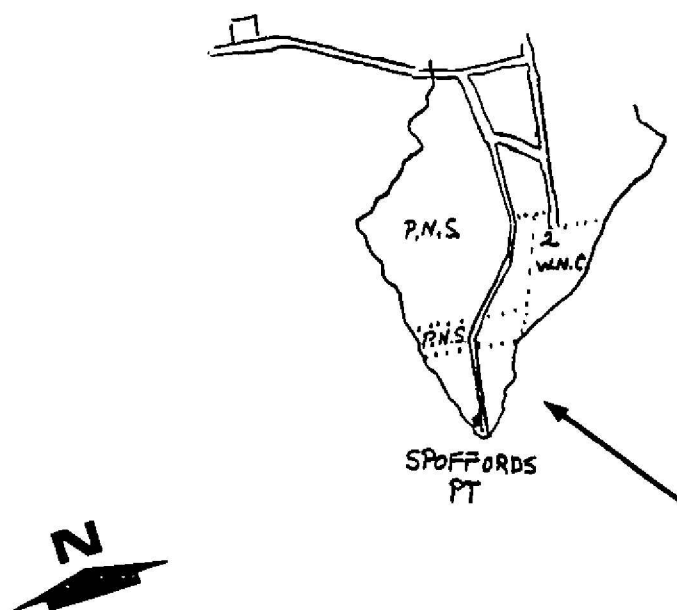


Tracing of E. Robinson, 1887, Plate 21; scale: 1"=200'
Note distance from Bulkhead Line to High Water Line

Figure 22

Tracing of G. W. Beers, 1868, "West Farms and Morrisania"
NYPL

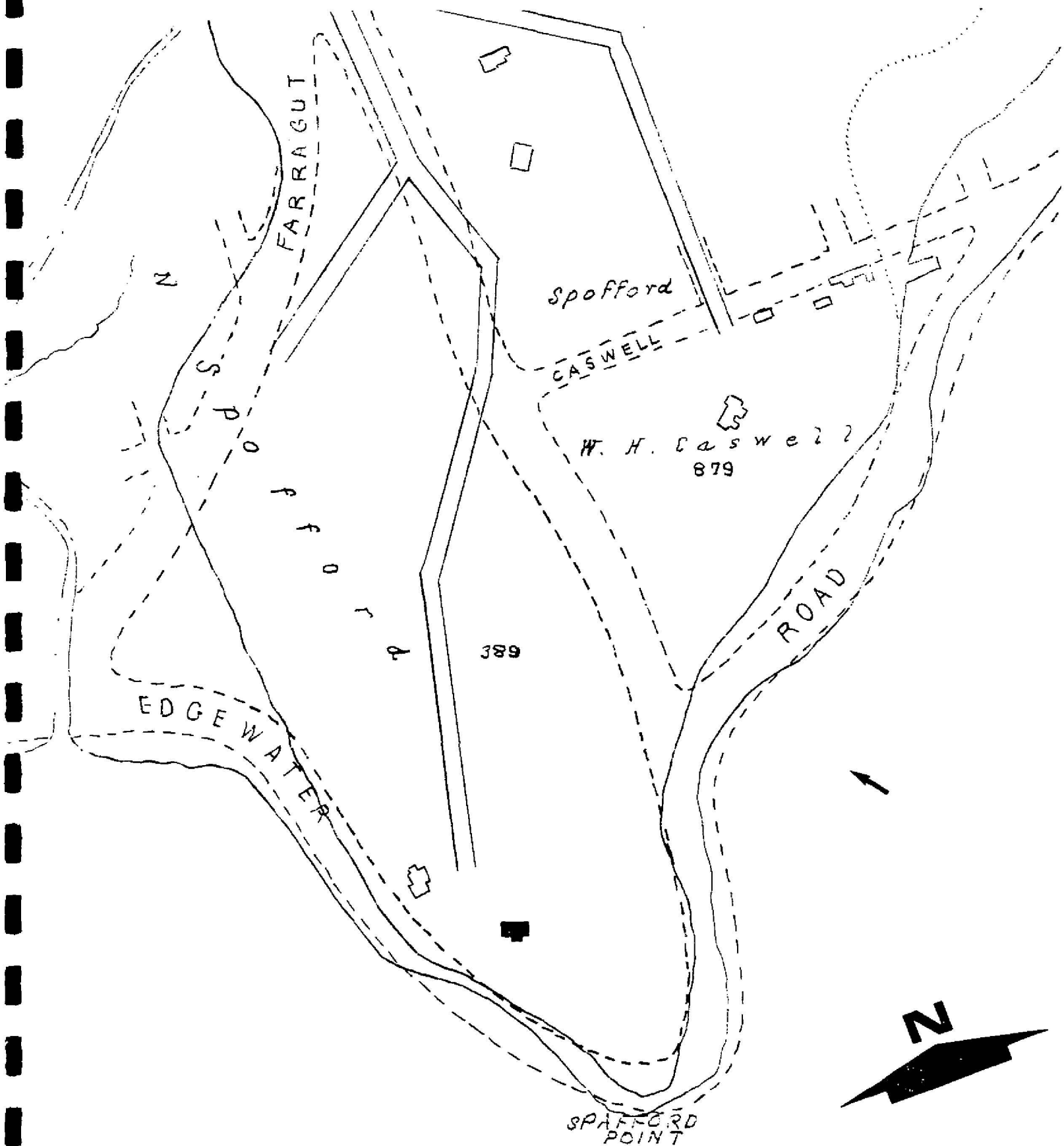
scale: 80 rods = 1 inch



Traced from G. W. Bomley, 1882, Plate T. scale: 1"=300'

----- proposed street _____ open street

Note: no sewers, mains, hydrants or elevations recorded for Site area



Consolidated Gas Co., N.Y.C. Property
Composite tracing of Block 2781, Lot 400

Figure 24

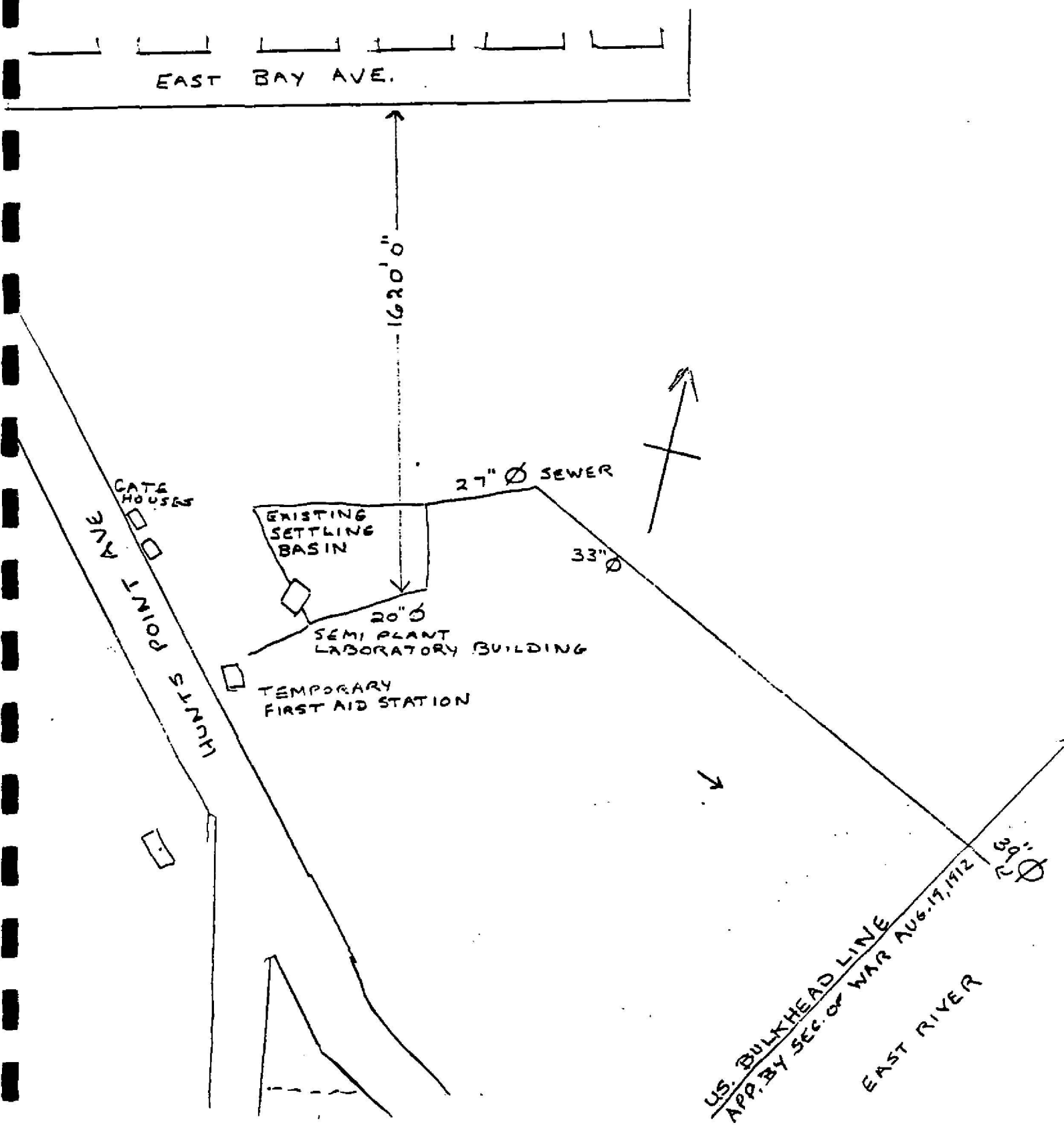
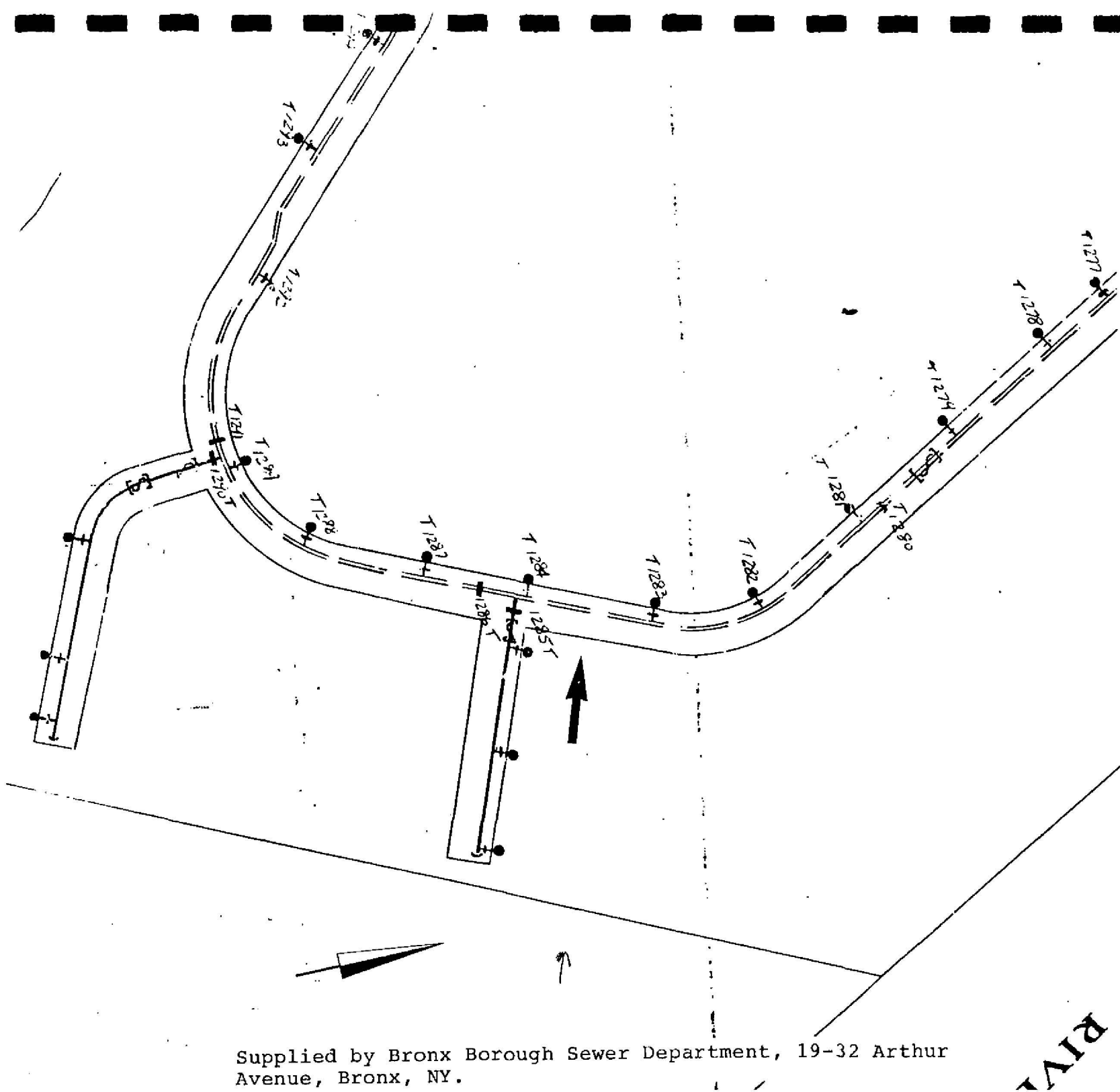


Figure 26



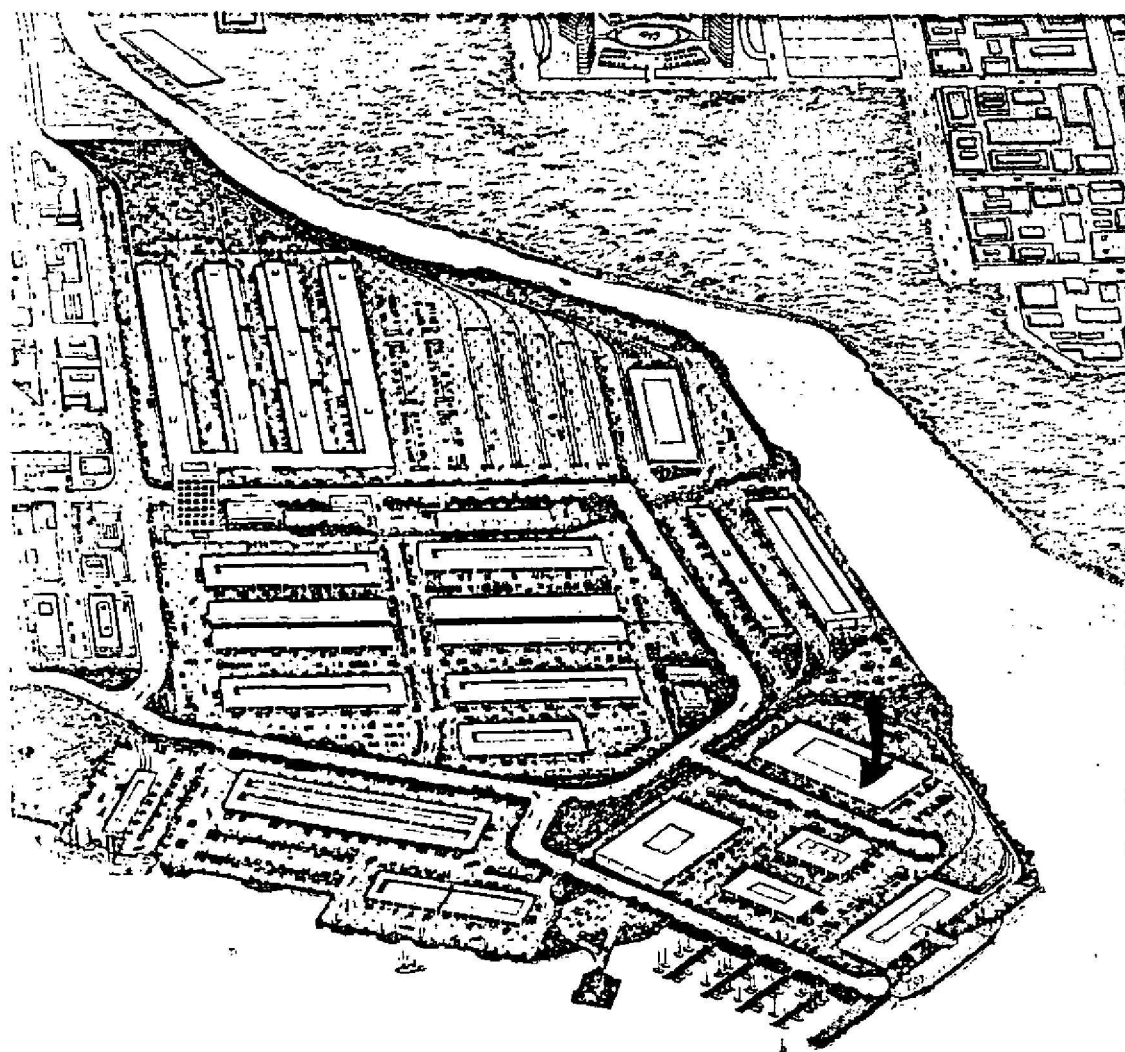
Supplied by Bronx Borough Sewer Department, 19-32 Arthur Avenue, Bronx, NY.

Plan for New York City, 1969.
City Planning Commission

Figure 27

Bronx Community Planning District 2

Scheduled New Construction



approximate
location
of DOC site

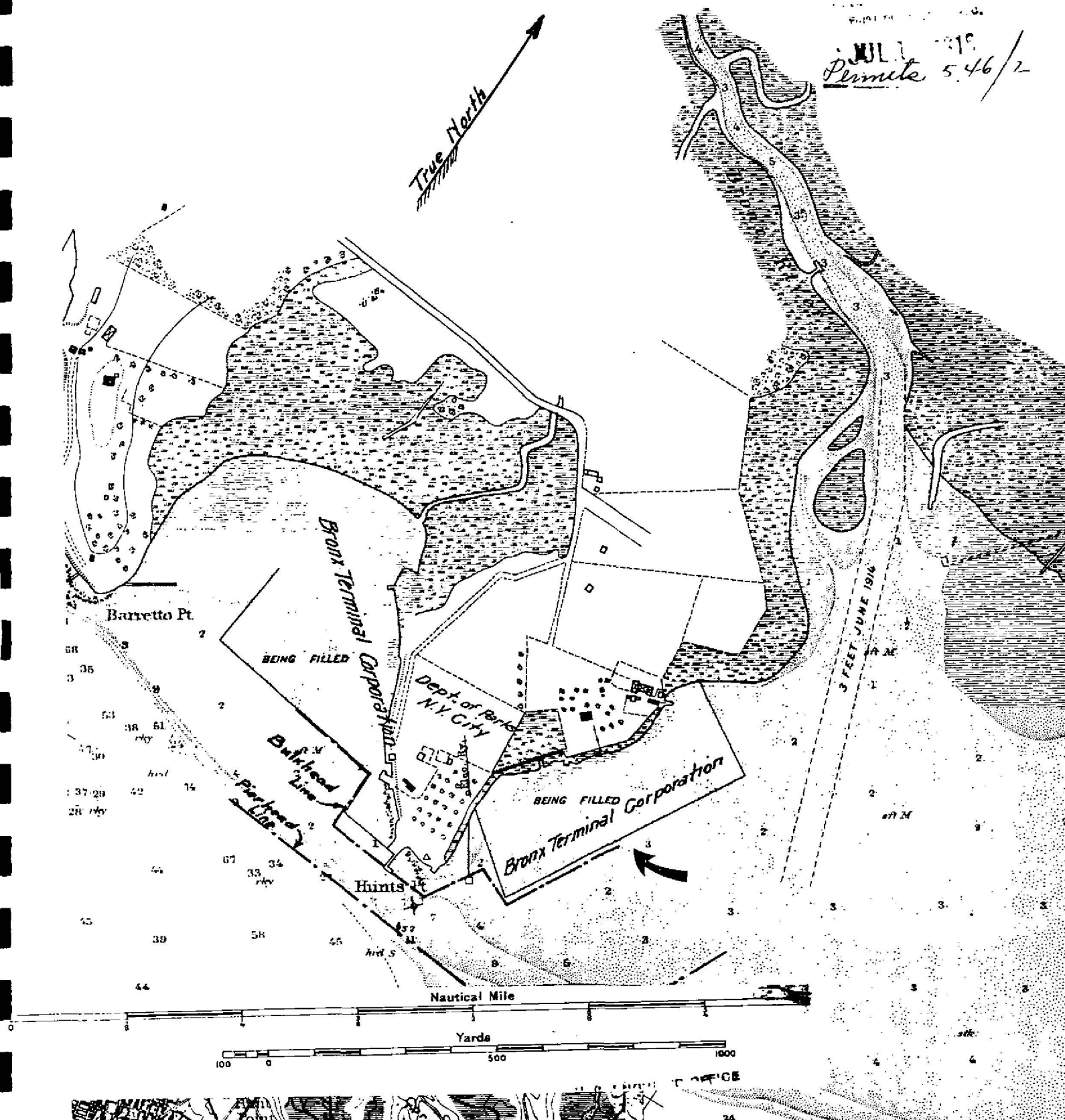
Hunt's Point Food Center (Hunt's Point) D-297

Note that land is completely filled to Pierhead Line (Compare Figure 1). Large ship may indicate area of dredging by Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company.

Permit 546/2 July 1, 1916
 Applicant: Lighthouse Service, Inc.
 From East River Waterway files of
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Figure 28

JUL 1 1916
 Permit 546/2



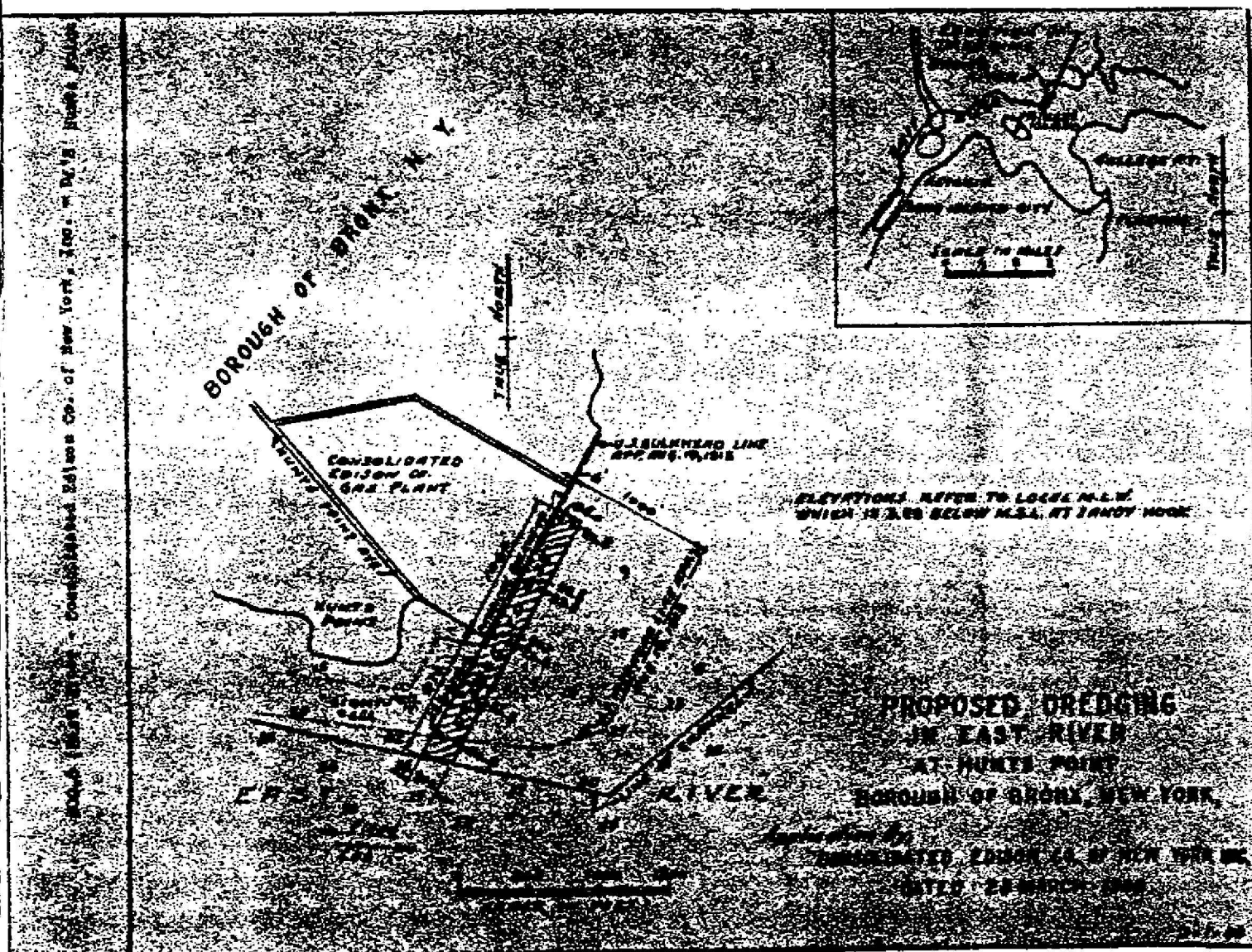
"Bronx River New York: Surveys of 1908
1913, East River to Spofford Ave.
Photocopy from U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers.

Figure 29



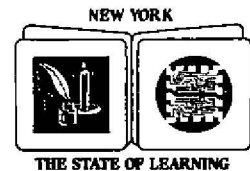
Consolidated Edison Co. of NY, Inc.
Dredging Application #48/387,
File # 1522-15; 3/23/48. Copy of
microfiche from U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers.

Figure 30



Appendix A

Correspondence with the New York
State Museum, Education Department



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, N.Y. 12230

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS

Please direct correspondence to:

**NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
Prehistoric Site File
Cultural Education Center, RM 3122
State Plaza
Albany, N.Y. 12230**

Search Results:

Date: February 6, 1989

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

Area Searched: Flushing, Central Park 7.5', (see attached map).

In response to your request our staff has conducted a search of our data files* for locations and descriptions of prehistoric archaeological sites within the area indicated above.

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

If specific information requested has not been provided by this letter, it is likely that we are not able to provide it at this time, either because of staff limitations or policy regarding disclosure of archaeological site data. Any questions regarding this reply can be directed to Beth Wellman, at (518) 474-5813 or the above address, mark as Atten: Site File.

*[NOTE: Our files normally do not contain historic period sites or architectural properties. Contact: The Survey Registration & Planning Unit, Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza, Albany NY, at (518) 474-0479 to begin the process of collecting data on these types of sites.]

RESULTS OF THE FILE SEARCH:

The following sites are located in or within one mile of the project area:

See attached list.

Code "ACP" = sites reported by Arthur C. Parker in The Archeology Of New York, 1922, as transcribed from his unpublished maps.

SEARCH CONDUCTED BY: B.W. (initials)
Staff, Office of the State Archaeologist

EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY FOR PREHISTORIC (INDIAN) SITES
Examination of the data suggests that the location indicated has the following sensitivity rating:

- ☒ HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA.
- ☐ AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA.
- ☐ LOWER THAN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA.
- ☐ MIXED PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA.

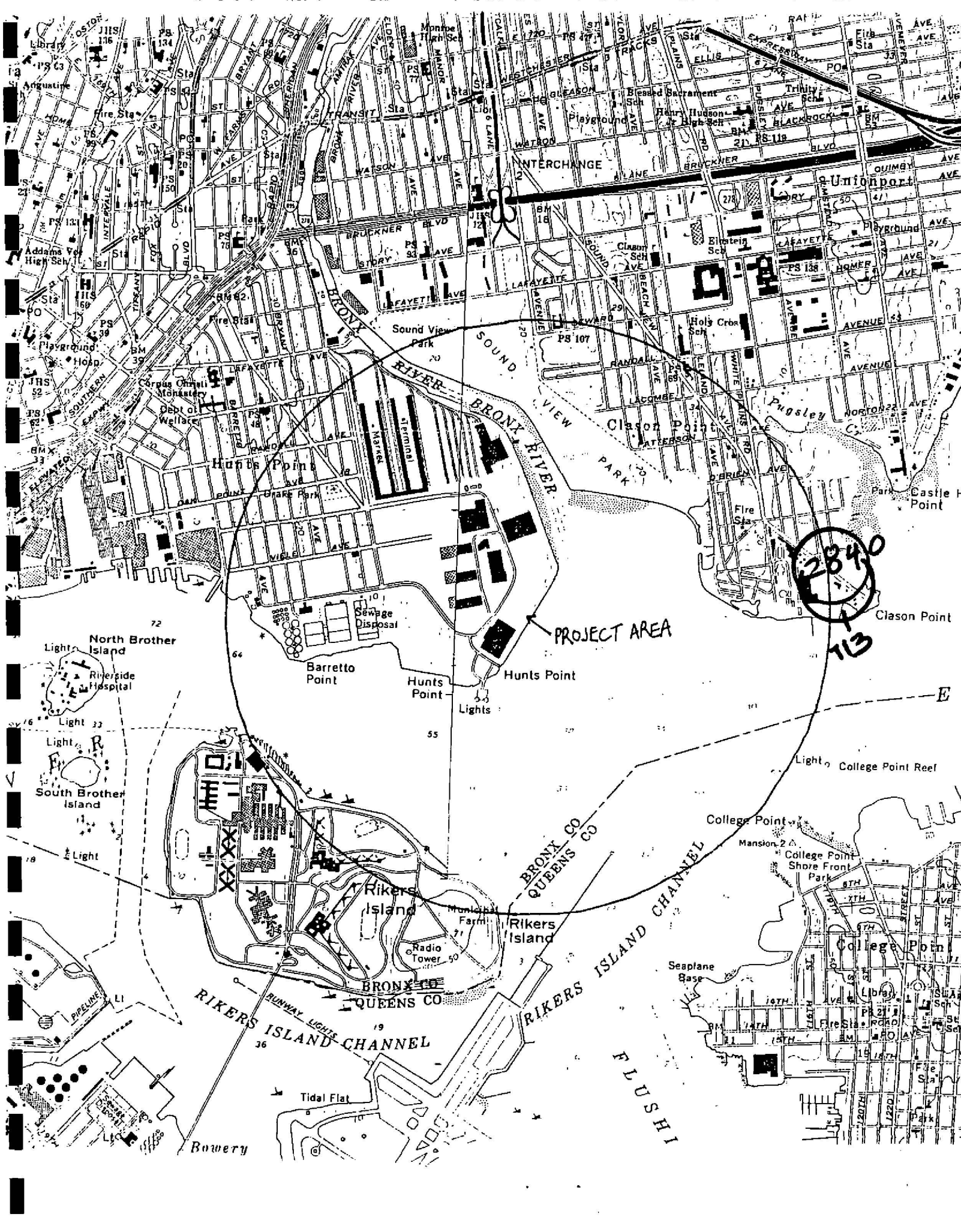
The reasons for this finding are given below:

- ☐ A RECORDED SITE IS INDICATED IN OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE LOCATION AND WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IT COULD BE IMPACTED BY CONSTRUCTION.
- ☐ A RECORDED SITE IS INDICATED SOME DISTANCE AWAY BUT DUE TO THE MARGIN OF ERROR IN THE LOCATION DATA IT IS POSSIBLE THE SITE ACTUALLY EXISTS IN OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE LOCATION.
- ☒ THE TERRAIN IN THE LOCATION IS SIMILAR TO TERRAIN IN THE GENERAL VICINITY WHERE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE INDICATED.
- ☒ THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION SUGGEST A HIGH PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE.
- ☐ THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION SUGGEST A MEDIUM PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE.
- ☐ THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION ARE SUCH AS SUGGEST A LOW PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE.
- ☐ EVIDENCE OF PRIOR DESTRUCTIVE IMPACTS FROM CULTURAL OR NATURAL SOURCES SUGGESTS A LOSS OF ORIGINAL CULTURAL DEPOSITS IN THIS LOCATION.
- ☐ THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION ARE MIXED, A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE IS SUGGESTED FOR AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF STREAMS OR SWAMPS AND FOR ROCK FACES WHICH AFFORD SHELTER. DISTINCTIVE HILLS OR LOW RIDGES HAVE AN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF USE AS A BURYING GROUND. LOW PROBABILITY IS SUGGESTED FOR AREAS OF EROSIONAL STEEP SLOPE.
- ☒ PROBABILITY RATING IS BASED ON THE ASSUMED PRESENCE OF INTACT ORIGINAL DEPOSITS, POSSIBILITY UNDER FILL, IN THE AREA. IF NEAR WATER OR IF DEEPLY BURIED, MATERIALS MAY OCCUR SUBMERGED BELOW THE WATER TABLE.
- ☐ INFORMATION ON SITES NOT RECORDED IN THE N.Y.S. MUSEUM FILES MAY BE AVAILABLE IN A REGIONAL INVENTORY MAINTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION(S). PLEASE CONTACT:

COMMENTS:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FILE SEARCH
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER
ALBANY, NEW YORK

NYSM SITE #	OTHER SITE #'S	SITE NAME	TIME PERIOD	SITE TYPE	SOURCE OF DATA	15' QUAD NAME	7.5' QUAD NAME	REPORTER NAME	PROJECT NAME OR #
713	HAR 5-4	CLASON S POINT	NO INFO	NO INFO	REFER TO OLD 7.5' FLUSHIN G QUAD. ALSO NOTED IN SKETCH MAP IN SITE DATA FILE #715.	HARLEM QUAD	FLUSHING QUAD	NO INFO	NO INFO
2840	ACP BRNX-18	NO INFO	NO INFO	SHEL L MIDD EN		HARLEM QUAD	FLUSHING QUAD	PARKER	NO INFO



PROJECT AREA

2840
113

RIKERS ISLAND CHANNEL

BRONX CO
QUEENS CO

RIKERS ISLAND CHANNEL

FLUSHING

Bowery

Tidal Flat

Seaplane Base

Mansion 2

College Point Shore Front Park

College Point

10TH

11TH

12TH

13TH

14TH

15TH

16TH

17TH

18TH

19TH

20TH

21TH

22TH

23TH

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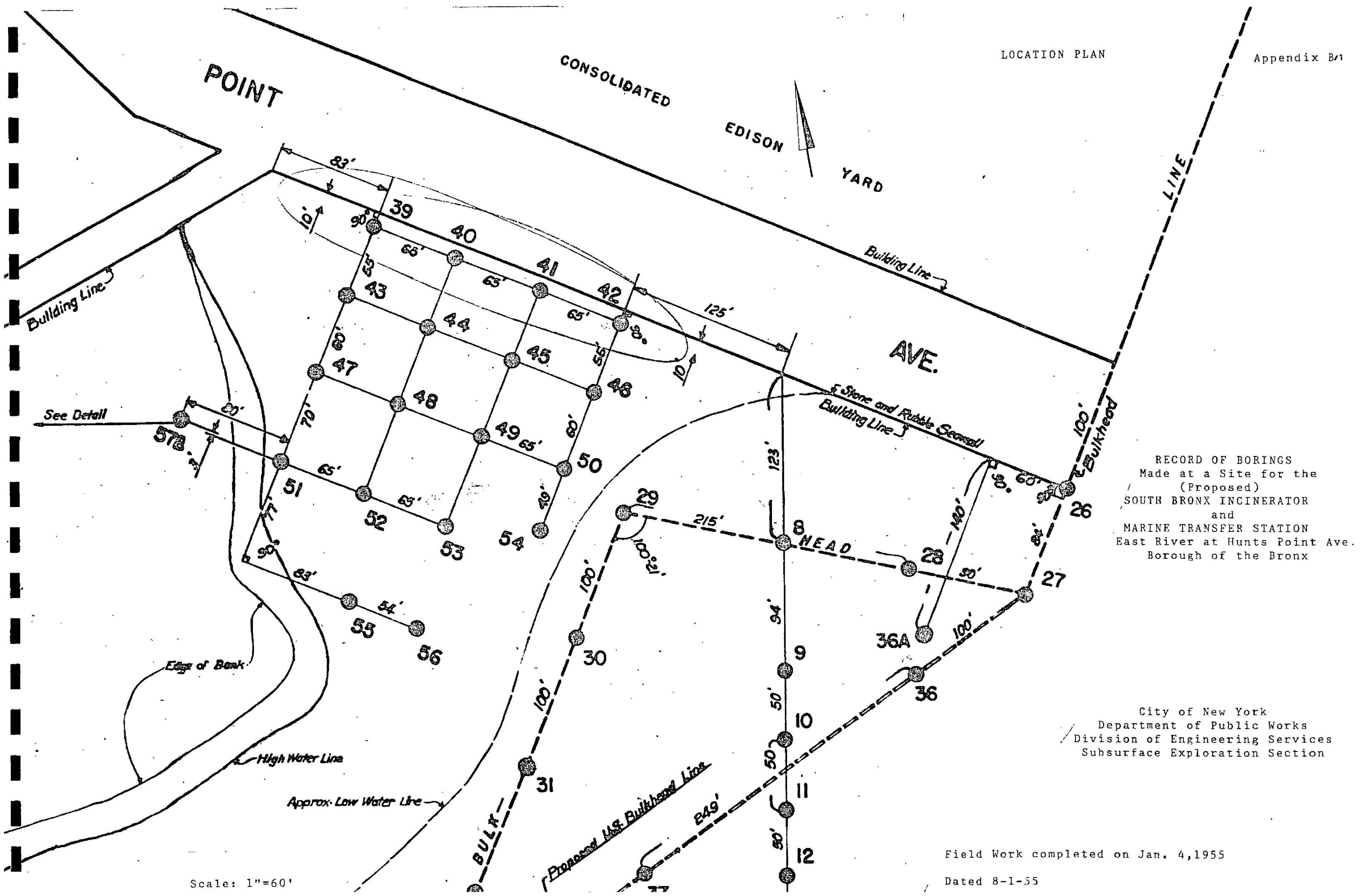
97TH

98TH

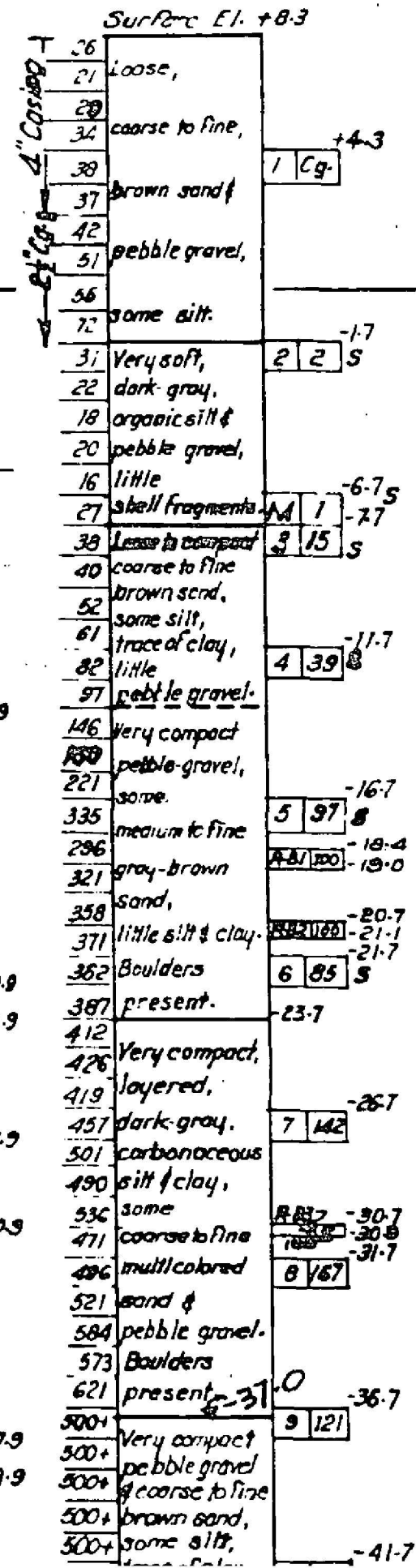
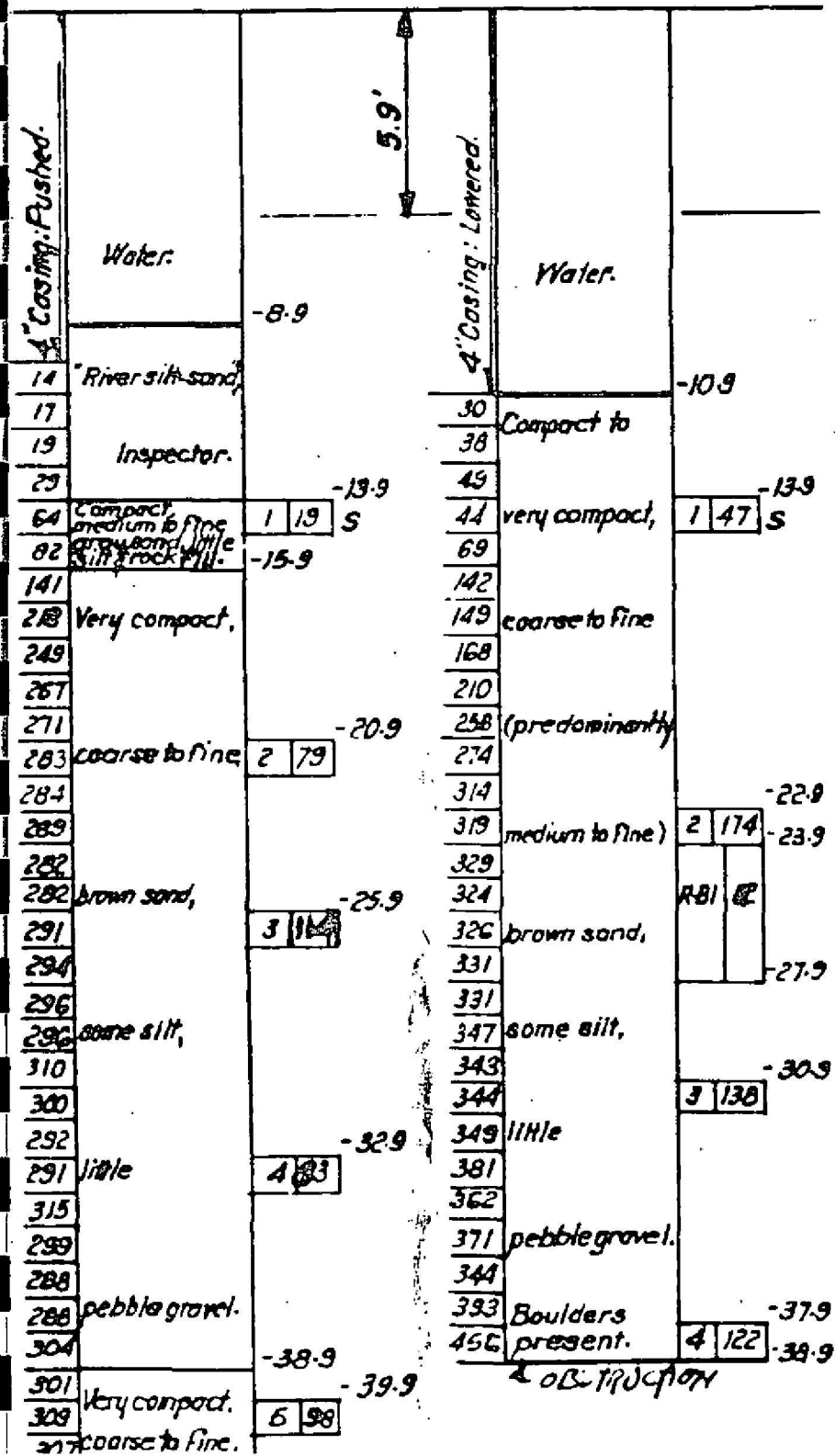
99TH

100TH

Appendix B
Soil Boring Data



38

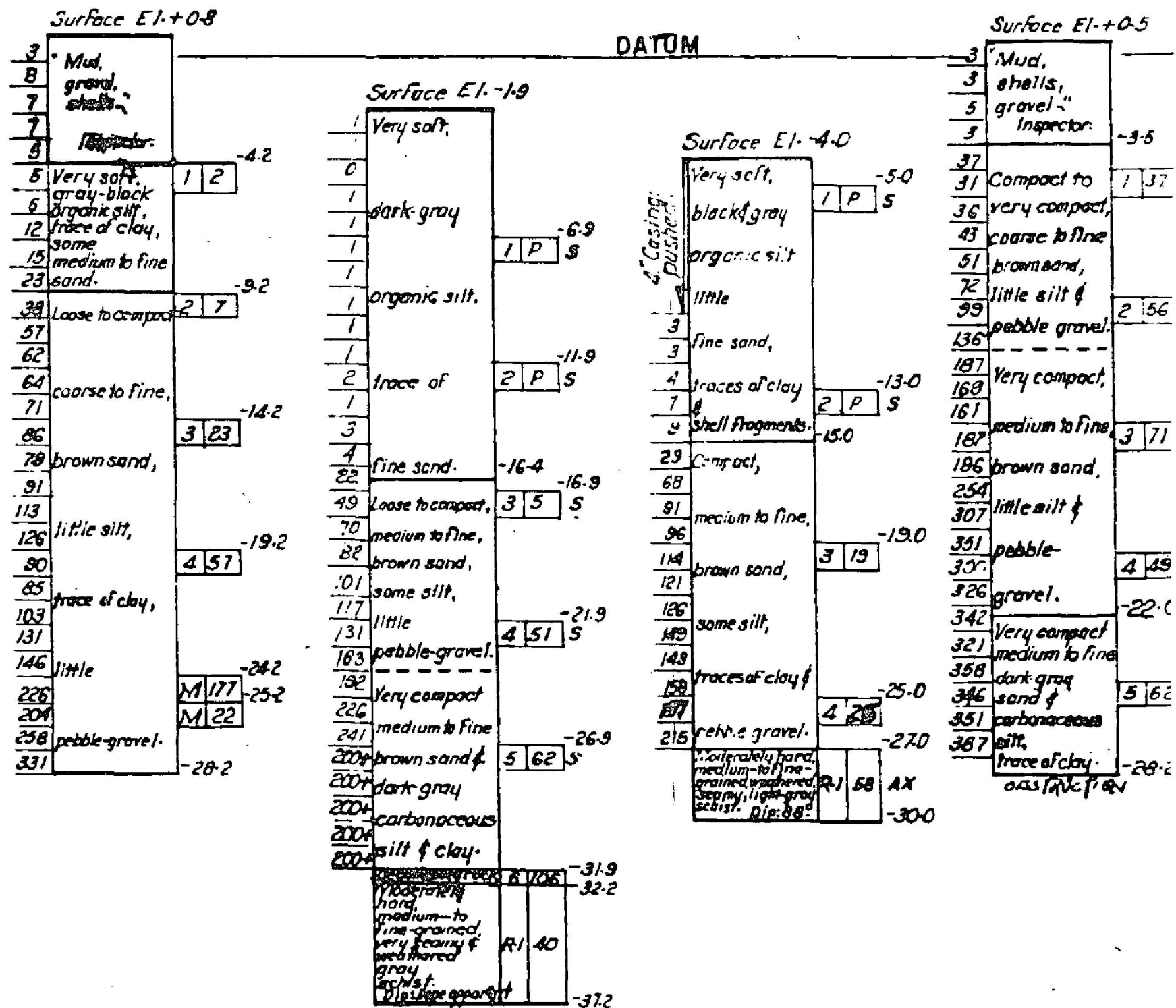


40

41

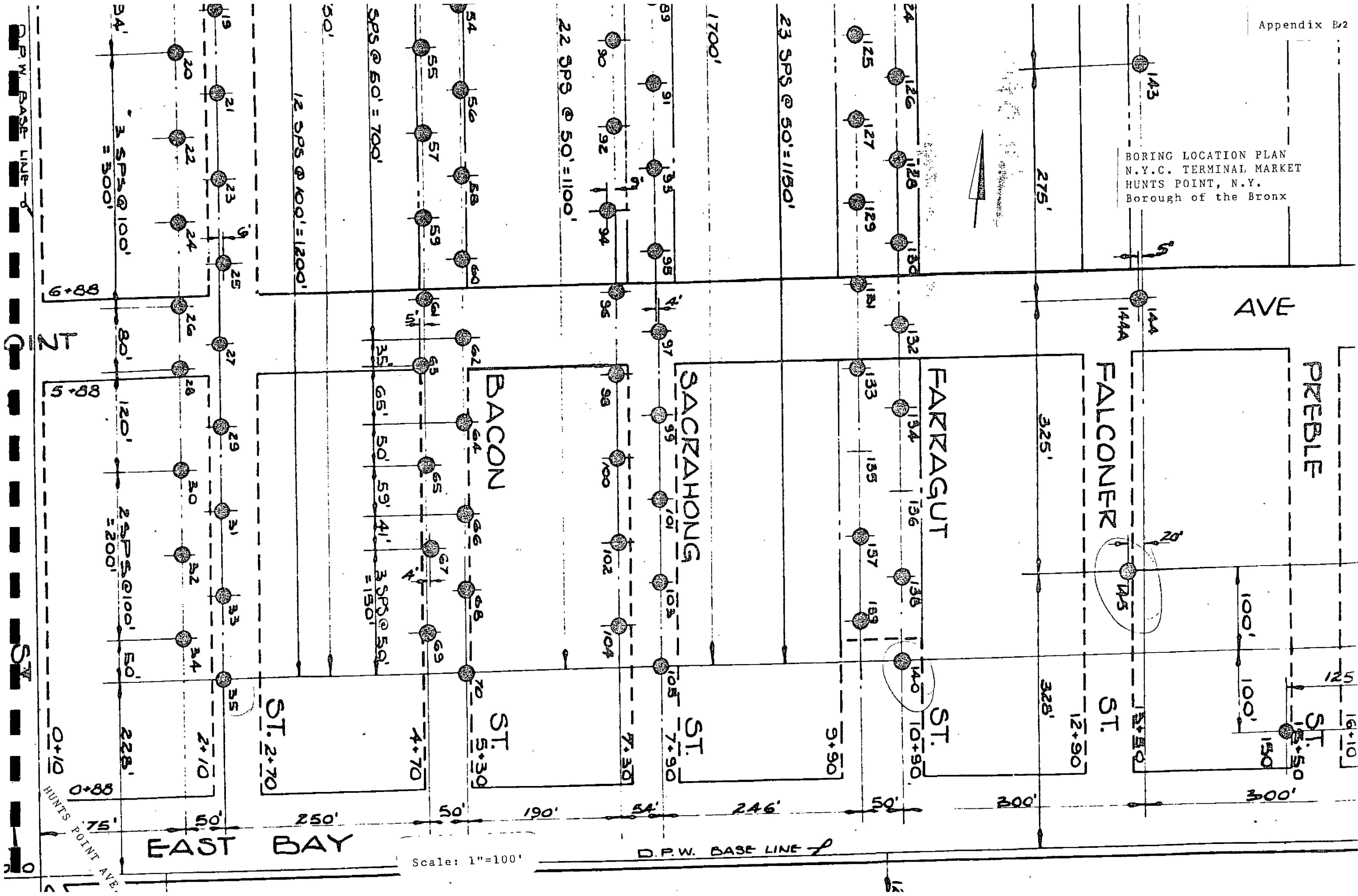
42

43



Datum Note: Elevations refer to Borough of the Bronx Highway Datum, which is 2.608 ft. above Mean Sea Level at Sandy Hook, as established by the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey.

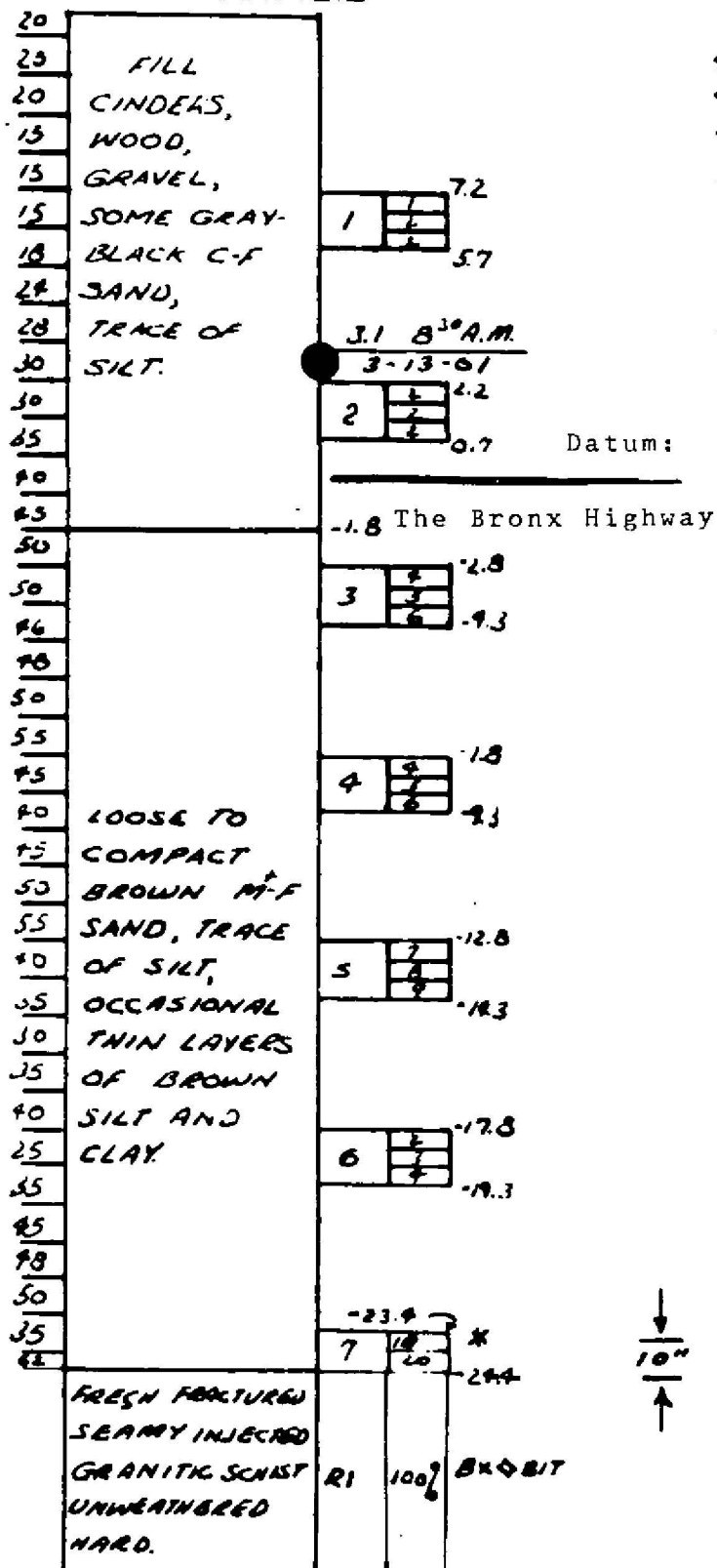
BORING LOCATION PLAN
N.Y.C. TERMINAL MARKET
HUNTS POINT, N.Y.
Borough of the Bronx



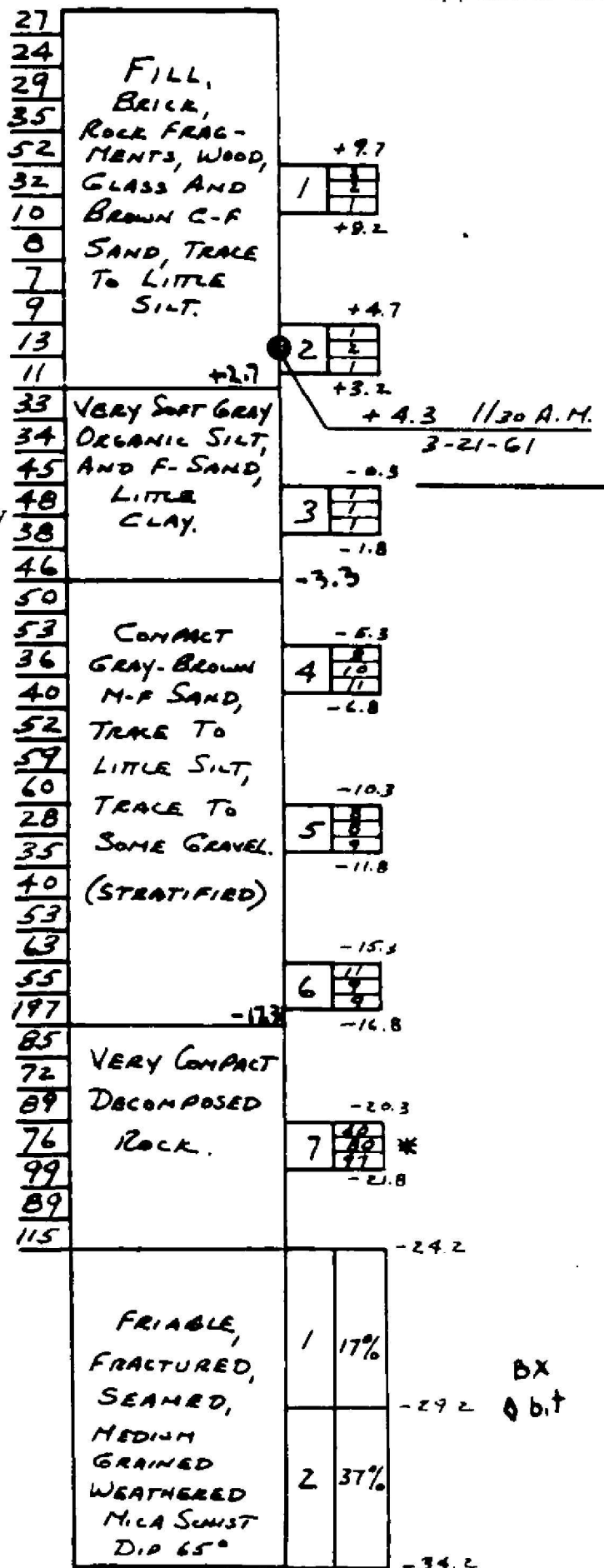
ELEV. +14.7

Appendix B/2

SURF ELEV. 12.2



RECORD OF BORINGS
New York Terminal Market
Hunts Point, New York
Borough of the Bronx

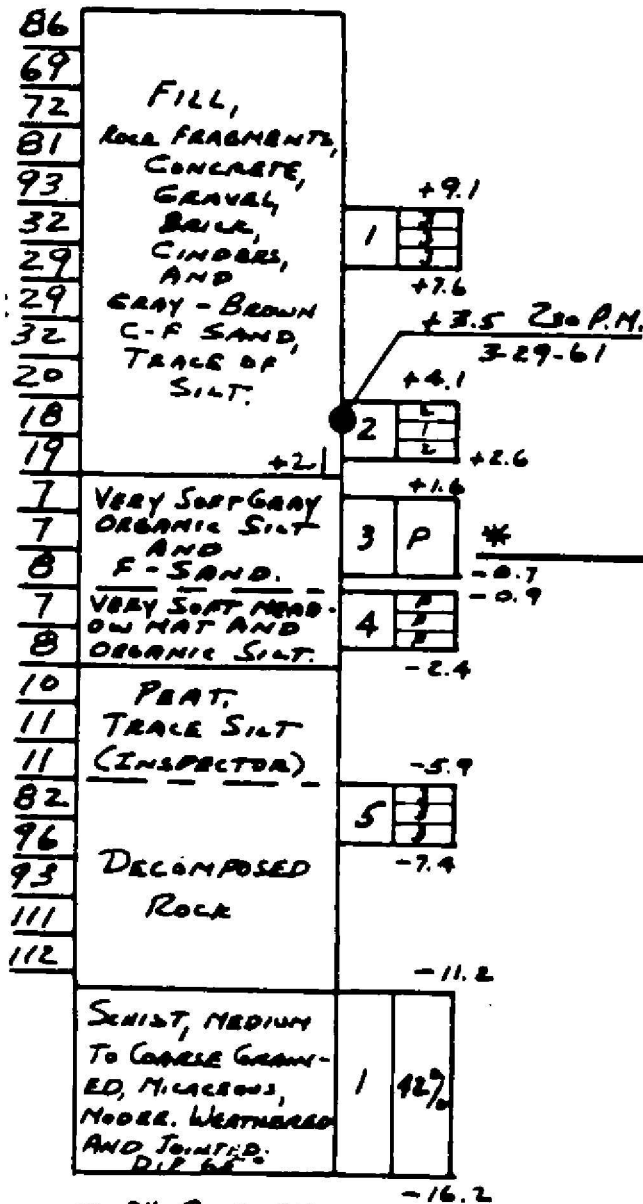


Dated 9/21/61

139 140

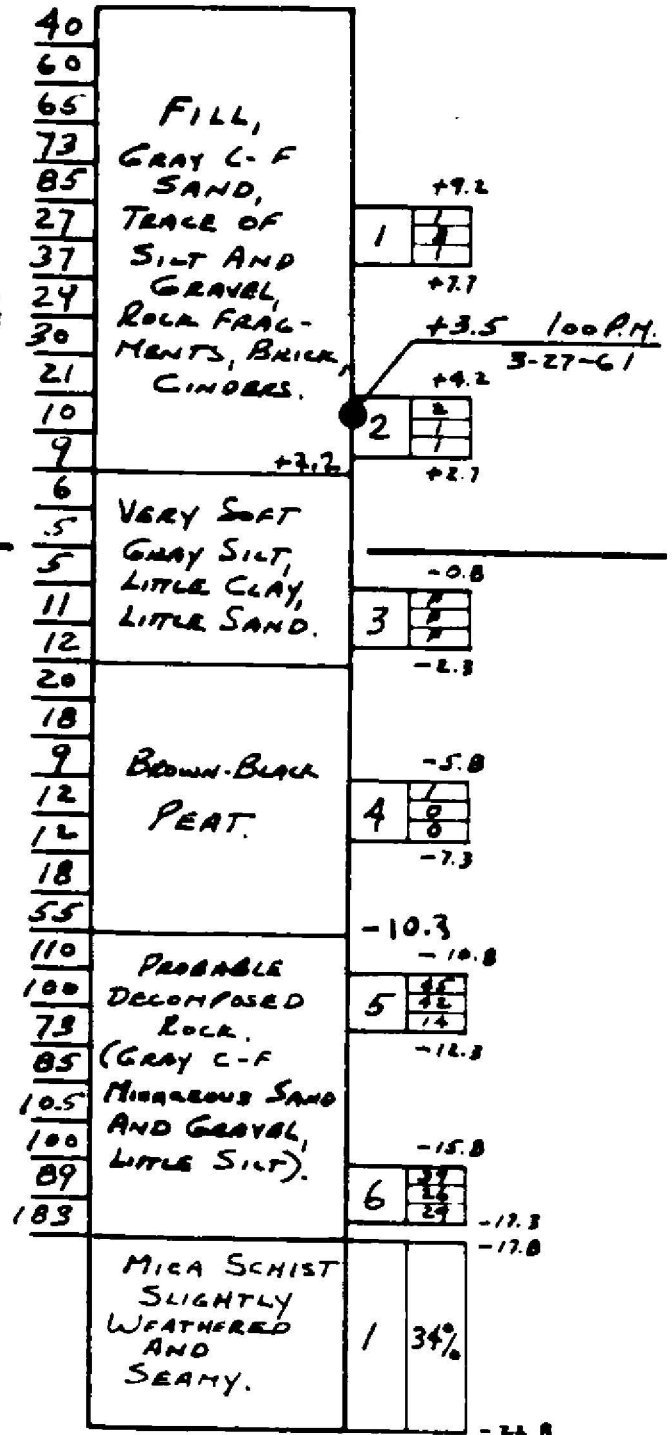
139

ELEV. +14.1



140

ELEV. +14.2



RECORD OF BORINGS
New York Terminal Market
Hunts Point, New York
Borough of the Bronx

Dated 9/21/61