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STAGE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE OAKWOOD BEACH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY RICHMOND COUNTY, NEW YORK

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STAGE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE OAKWOOD BEACH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND RICHMOND COUNTY, NEW YORK

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Stage 1B Archaeological Survey is to document the presence or absence of potential prehistoric archaeological resources within the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion Project Area in Staten Island, New York City, Richmond County, New York, through the use of physical testing techniques.

The project area is approximately 1440 feet northwest to southeast by 890 feet northeast to southwest in size. Our testing was limited to parts of the eastern and southern areas of the present Water Pollution Control Plant property. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

Though the grade of the Water Pollution Control Plant slopes from approximately 4.0 feet above sea level in the north to 17.1 feet towards the south, the surface of the project area was nearly level, ranging from approximately 8.0 feet above sea level in the north to 9.7 feet in the east. The portion of the plant that lies within the project area has been landscaped and consists primarily of grasses, shrubs and occasional trees.

A study of the topography of the project area and its immediate vicinity indicates that this location is probably just to the northeast of a former freshwater source consisting of a pond and a marsh that drained into Raritan Bay. This situation would have provided prehistoric and historic peoples with a source of freshwater nearby and access to the marine resources of the bay (Roberts et al. 1990:28).

METHODOLOGY

The subsurface archaeological testing of the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant Site in Staten Island, New York began on May 9, 1990 and was completed on May 10, 1990. As stated in our proposal for the Phase 1B survey, the technique used to expose buried surfaces and thereby determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources was the mechanical excavation of trenches. Three trenches were excavated by backhoe and closely monitored by archaeologists. This testing strategy was designed by the principal investigator, and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Construction Management, Cultural Resources Section.

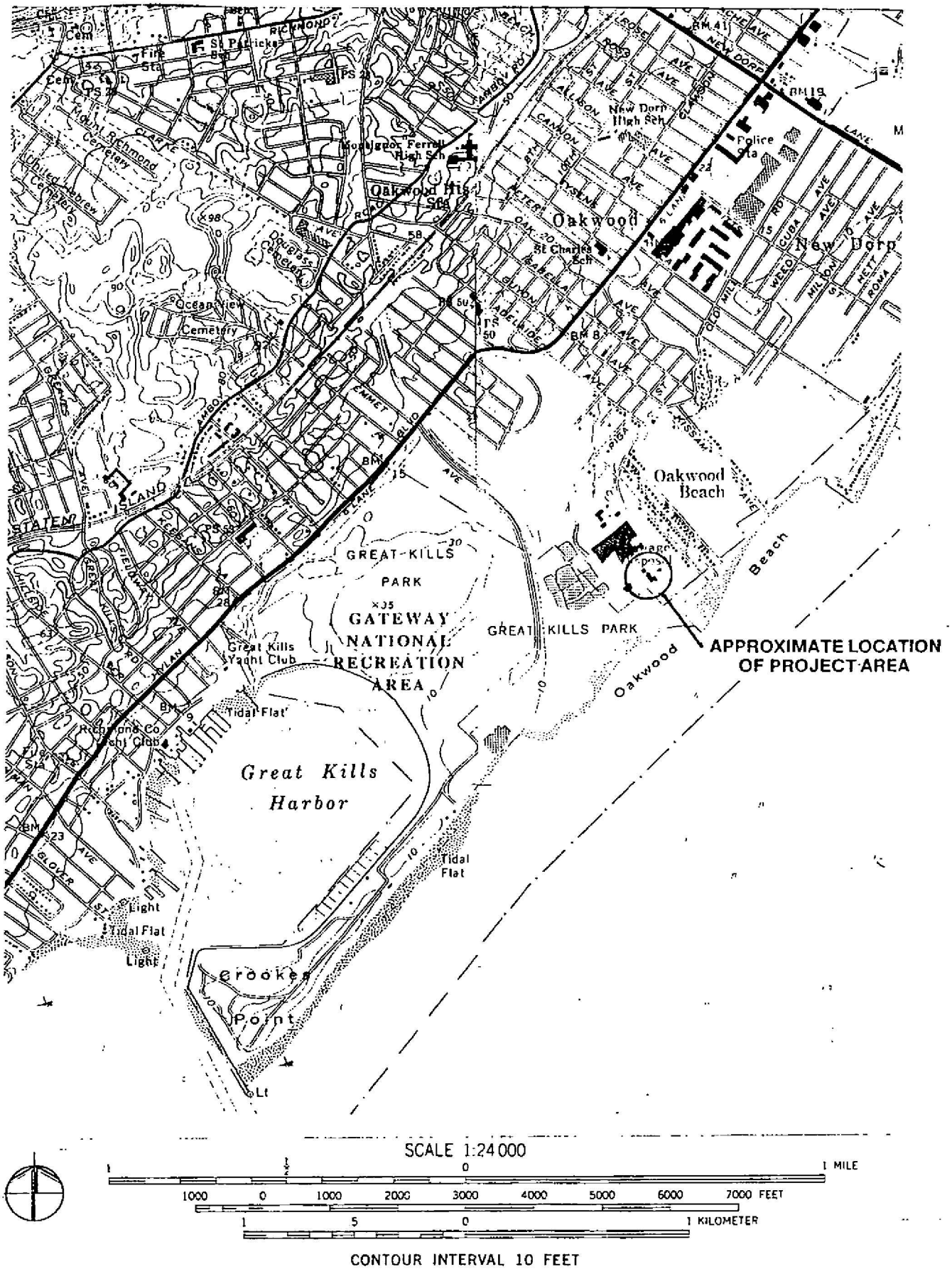

Figure 1: Location of Project Area shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute The Narrows, New York, and Arthur Kill, New York Quadrangles (1966, photorevised 1981).

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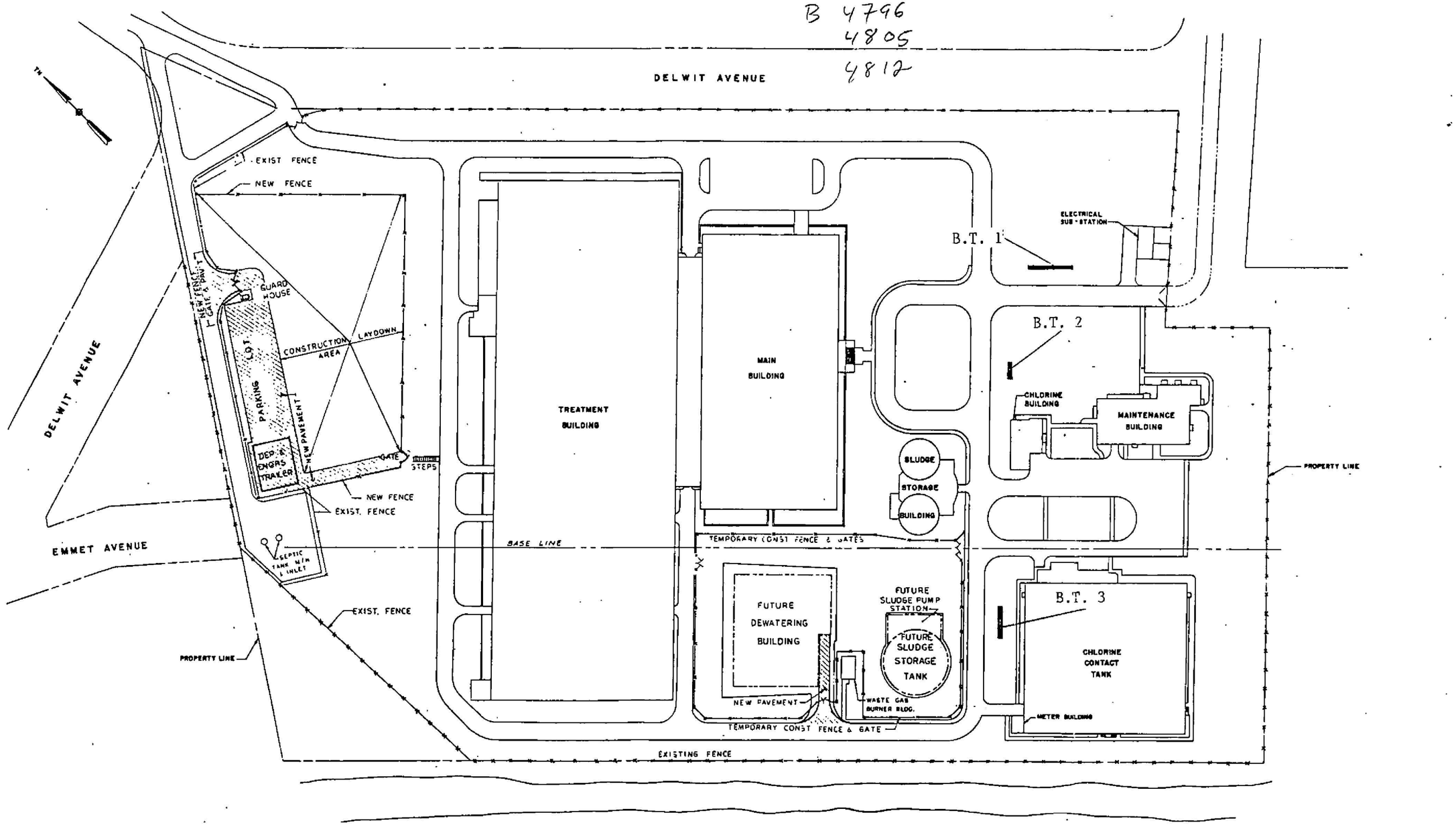

Figure 2 Locations of Test Trenches within Project Area.

50 25 0 50

STONE & WEBSTER ENGINEERING CORPORATION, NEW YORK, NEW YORK	HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C. ENGINEERS, NEW YORK, NEW YORK	APPROVED FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK: PROJECT ENGINEER; CHIEF, DIVISION OF PLANT DESIGN	CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BUREAU OF HEAVY CONSTRUCTION DIVISION OF PLANT DESIGN WP-284 LAND-BASED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN PHASE I DEWATERING FACILITIES	OAKWOOD BEACH - CONTRACT 57F - SITE PREPARATION & PILING CIVIL WORK LIMITS OF WORK AREA	SCALE 1" = 80' DRWG. NO. 08-SC-002

The location of trenches was determined both by where planned construction impacts to potential archaeological resources were expected, and the avoidance of existing obstacles at the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant. Three trenches were planned along the proposed new electrical conduit which is expected to be installed at 8 feet below present grade. Backhoe Trenches 2 and 3 were moved several feet from their original locations to a position parallel and adjacent to the proposed electrical conduit so as to avoid damage to a paved road and parking lot. Backhoe Trench 1 was similarly moved to a position parallel and adjacent to the electrical conduit at the discretion of Stone and Webster engineers to avoid existing services. See Figure 2 for the locations of the backhoe trenches.

The use of mechanical means of excavation expedites the removal of large quantities of fill. A total of 5,300 cubic feet of soil were removed from the trenches, the dimensions of which varied from 20 feet to 60 feet long, by 5 feet wide, and 8 feet to 9 feet deep. Plate 1 illustrates the backhoe in operation.

Soil samples were selectively removed from the trenches where distinct changes were observed. This soil was then screened through 1/4 inch mesh in order to recover artifacts. Artifacts were also recovered when they were observed in the trench by directing the backhoe operator to selectively remove them with the backhoe bucket. Soil strata were measured, described, and recorded for all trenches. All trenches were backfilled immediately following excavation and the recording of data.

STRATIGRAPHY

Three backhoe trenches at the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant Site were excavated in order to uncover various depths of landfill, and thereby expose any evidence of prehistoric occupation in the area. The following summary of the stratigraphy will identify the layers of soil by color (including references to the geologic color standards set forth in the Munsell Soil Color Charts), texture, thickness, and inclusions. A more detailed description of the cultural materials recovered from the various strata will be discussed in the section Artifact Analysis. Copies of the forms used to record data collected in the field are attached to this report as Appendix 2. The recording system used for this project is known as the Context System and is explained in Appendix 3.

All three backhoe trenches were located in landscaped portions of the Water Pollution Control Plant. The topsoil in each case was a layer of silty loam ranging in depth from 0.4 feet to 0.7 feet, and varying in color from dark yellow brown (Munsell color: 10 YR 3/4) to very dark brown (10 YR 2/2). Beneath the topsoil, there were either three of four layers of fill. In backhoe trenches 1 and 3, these layers of fill continued down to the bottom of the unit to depths of 8.0 feet to 9.0

feet. In Backhoe Trench 2, a layer of naturally deposited soil was encountered beneath the fill.

The layers of fill of Backhoe Trench 1 were consisted of a range of soils including clays, silts, and sands. Soil color also exhibited a large degree of variance, and included dark yellow brown (10 4/4), grey brown (2.5 Y 5/2), and dark brown (7.5 YR 3/4). Cultural materials recovered included items representing food consumption activities (such as bottle glass and metal cans) and building materials (including bricks and fragments of ceramic tile). See Plate 2 for a view of Backhoe Trench 1.

The layers of fill in Backhoe Trench 2 varied in thickness from 0.8 feet to 5.1 feet, and ranged in soil type from clayey silt to silty sand. Soil colors included very dark grey brown (10 YR 3/2), strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6), and brown-dark brown (7.5 YR 4/4). The artifacts recovered from these strata were similar to those recovered from the fill layers in Backhoe Trench 1 representing everyday activities and building materials. The bottommost stratum of the trench, encountered at a depth of 7.5 feet below surface, was a layer of dark brown (7.5 YR 3/4) sandy silt with black organic silt (10 YR 2/1) including decomposing reeds. This layer, approximately 1.5 feet thick, represented a layer of natural soil from the marsh, and was devoid of cultural material. See Plate 3 for a view of Backhoe Trench 2 including this stratum.

The layers of fill in Backhoe Trench 3 were all comprised of silty sand, but significantly varied in color and the types and quantities of cultural materials contained therein. The upper layer of fill, approximately 1.4 feet thick, was dark brown (10 YR 3/3) in color, and yielded a small quantity of cultural materials associated with domestic use. The intermediate fill layer was yellow red in color (10 YR 4/6) and exhibited very few finds of cultural material. The bottommost level of fill which was black (10 YR 2/1) in color continued down to the bottom of the trench. This stratum, which varied in thickness from 3.3 feet to 4.3 feet, yielded a number of whole glass containers most of which date to the twentieth century. See Plate 4 for a view of Backhoe Trench 3 including these strata.

ARTIFACT PROCESSING, ANALYSIS AND INVENTORY

Subsequent to all fieldwork, all recovered materials were washed, marked, stabilized, and catalogued in the Greenhouse laboratory. The majority of artifacts were washed in room temperature tap water with added ORVUS paste (modified sodium lauryl sulfate), which is a non-ionic detergent. Harsh detergents leave an alkali residue if not completely rinsed away, which will chemically attack certain artifacts (the overglazed decoration on porcelain, for instance). ORVUS is a mild and free-rinsing surface active agent with a low pH of 6.3. Metal artifacts were systematically dewatered by submersion in acetone immediately after rinsing. The drying procedure was dependent upon the condition and material class of the

artifact. The standard procedure employed was slow air drying on screens in the laboratory processing area.

All recovered materials were then catalogued according to the National Park Service Material Culture Data Base taxonomy for artifacts (see Appendix 1). All historic artifacts were coded as to group, class and material. All diagnostic artifacts such as glass and ceramics were dated based on stylistic and technical criteria according to the TPQ (terminus post quem, or the beginning date of manufacture). The TPQ provided a time frame for establishing the initial date after which the deposit had to have been laid down. During tabulation, the National Park Service code system was applied to the group, class and material level.

Subsequent to cataloging, all artifacts were then computer inventoried as a file in dBase III+, which provided sorted catalogues with totals and numbers for each excavated group of artifacts by units of stratigraphic association. The final inventory is reproduced on paper and appears as Appendix 1.

Artifact Analysis Results

A total of sixty-five objects were recovered from the test trenches excavated at the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant. These items come from three contexts and their decimal subdivisions. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered.

Approximately one-third of the artifacts recovered consist of glass. The largest group of glass artifacts are glass containers such as beer, milk and soda bottles. It is possible to date the bottle glass due to the presence of diagnostic attributes such as the neck and finish. The nine whole bottles and one salt shaker recovered from the lowest stratum in Backhoe Trench 3 were produced on fully automatic bottle machines, and therefore, post date 1903. The date range of two of these bottles can be further narrowed down by a label on one and an embossment on the other. On a Mission Beverages bottle, the year 1912 appears on the label, thus providing its own TPQ. Another bottle is embossed "Federal Law Forbids Sale or Reuse of this bottle", indicating a TPQ following the end of the Prohibition period (Munsey 1970). The remainder of the glass artifacts consist of fragments too small to determine the shape or date of the original container.

Over one-fifth of the artifacts recovered are fragments of ceramics. Two of the ceramic sherds are ironstone which was patented in 1813 in England (Noel Hume 1969:31). Three sherds were identified as whiteware. This was initially produced during the 1820s (South 1972). Some of these sherds may be the thick undecorated whiteware that was introduced in 1858 (Price 1979), but their small size makes such distinctions very difficult. Also represented in this collection are sherds of porcelain and earthenware, both of which were in existence prior to the nineteenth century.

Metal containers are also represented on the site by a carbonated beverage can and a can lining. Both artifacts indicate that they were opened by a removable "pop top", the TPQ of which is 1962 (Busch 1981).

RESULTS

Greenhouse Consultants performed Stage 1B archaeological testing at three locations within the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion specified as having potential prehistoric remains in the "Archaeological Sensitivity Evaluation for Eight Water Pollution Control Plants in New York City" (Roberts et al. 1990:31). Mechanical excavations were carried out in three backhoe trenches in order to expedite the removal of large quantities of landfill indicated by the soil borings performed by Warren George, Inc., during July, August and November 1989.

Analysis of the data obtained from trenches 1 and 3 indicates that proposed construction activities at the specified sites will not adversely affect any archaeological resources that may remain buried in the area. While evidence of cultural activity was recovered from both excavation units, no evidence was obtained indicating prehistoric or early historic activities in these test locations. Backhoe Trench 2 encountered the surface of the original marsh prior to the landfilling, at approximately 7.5 feet below the present surface.

Analysis of Backhoe Trench Units

All three backhoe trenches were located near the proposed new electrical conduit which runs between the existing electrical substation and an area southwest of the main building.

Backhoe Trench 1 was excavated to depths of up to 9.0 feet, well below the depth of proposed impact (approximately 8.0 feet). Four strata of fill were encountered at a depth of 0.4 feet down to the bottom of the trench. Cultural materials recovered from these layers consisted of fragments of glass, and plastic, a metal beverage can, and materials associated with construction activities, including brick, wood and tile. The beverage can had a removable "pop top" which was common during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Backhoe Trench 2 was excavated to depths of 9.0 feet, well below the depth of projected impact (8.0 feet). Three strata of fill were observed. Artifacts recovered from these layers consisted of fragments of glass, plastic, clothing, a metal beverage can with a "pop top" and material associated with construction activities, including brick, wood and tile. A layer of subsoil (sandy silt mixed with organic silt and decomposing reeds) was encountered beneath the fill to the bottom of the trench. This layer represents the original marsh. Although no prehistoric cultural remains were recovered from the samples removed, the

potential for such remains cannot be dismissed. This location is within 200 yards of a prehistoric site reported during the early years of this century (Skinner 1909:17). It appears likely that the fill encountered in both Backhoe Trenches 1 and 2 dates to the construction of the present Water Pollution Control Plant at Oakwood Beach circa 1970, based on the "pop top" beverage cans.

Backhoe Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 8.0 feet to 9.0 feet, below or contiguous with the depth of proposed impact (8.0 feet). Three layers of fill were observed down to the bottom of the trench, yielding ceramics, bathroom porcelain, and glass containers. Several of these bottles have enameled labels, including one with the date 1912. This group of artifacts contains no metal beverage cans which were seen in the fill layers of Backhoe Trenches 1 and 2. It appears quite likely that these artifacts and the fill that contained them pre-date the construction of the earlier Water Pollution Control Plant here circa 1955.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is our conclusion that no potentially significant cultural resources were found within the three mechanically excavated test trenches. Based on this subsurface testing, we further conclude that it is highly unlikely that any significant cultural resources will be impacted by the proposed expansion of the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Plant near Backhoe Trenches 1 and 3. We recommend that no additional archaeological testing or mitigation is necessary at these two locations. Backhoe Trench 2 encountered the original marsh surface at 7.5 feet below grade. A prehistoric site existed within this marsh approximately 200 yards away to the southwest. We recommend that if the impact must be to 8 feet as planned, then additional archaeological testing should be carried out close to this location to further search for prehistoric remains. If the maximum depth of the impact can be raised to 7 feet below grade or higher, then no additional testing would be recommended.

Plate 1: View of backhoe excavation in action in Backhoe Trench 3.

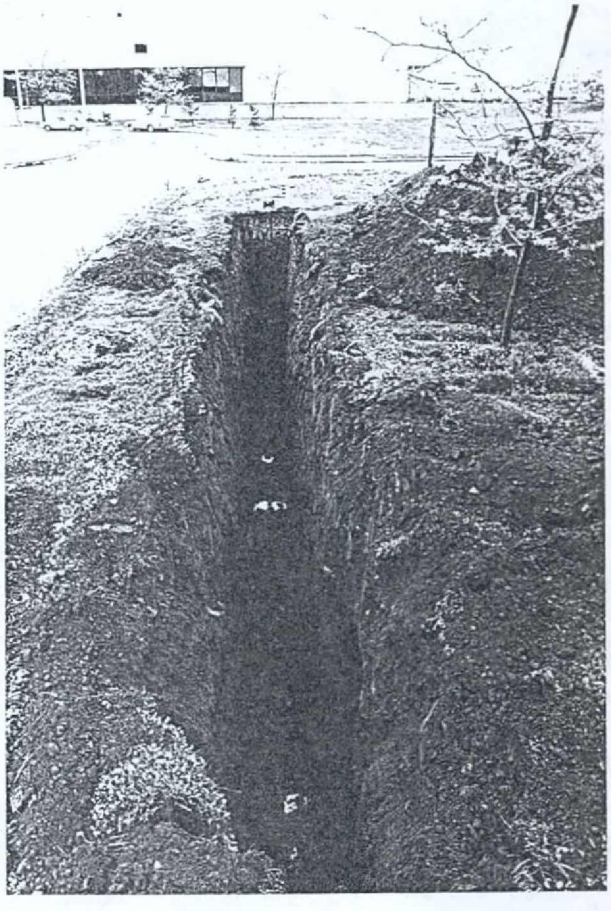

Plate 2: View of Backhoe Trench 1 facing northwest. Scale in tenths of feet.

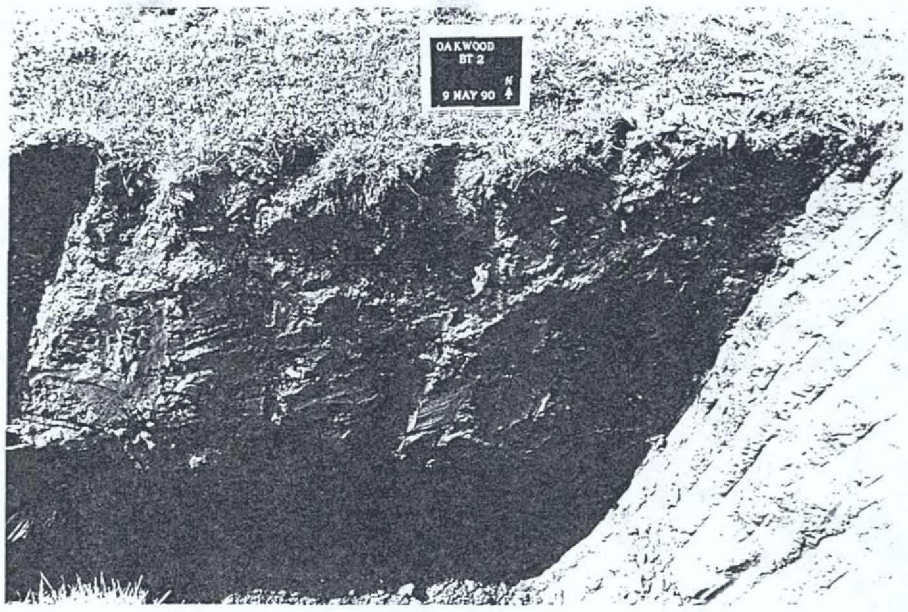

Plate 3: View of Backhoe Trench 2 facing northwest. The dark stratum at the bottom of the trench is an organic silt with decomposing reeds representing the original marsh surface.

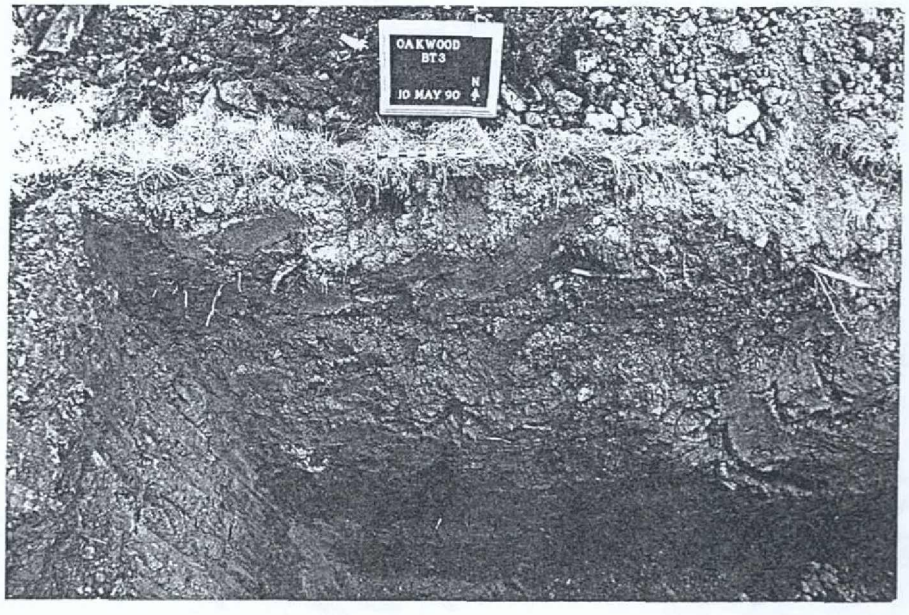

Plate 4: View of Backhoe Trench 3 facing northwest. The dark stratum at the bottom is one of the layers that contained glass bottles and other debris from a former dump.

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APPENDIX I

THE COMPLETE ARTIFACT INVENTORY

including:

Table 1: The National Park Service Material Culture Data Base Coding Chart (partial listing).

Table 2: Coded examples from the Data Base.

Table 3: Data Base Codes for Ambiguous Items.

GROUPS AND CLASSES

01 KITCHEN GROUP
- 01 Dishes
- 02 Containers
- 03 Tableware
- 04 Kitchenware

02 BONE GROUP
- 01 Mammalia
- 02 Aves
- 03 Reptilia
- 04 Amphibia
- 05 Pisces

03 ARCHITECTURAL GROUP
- 01 Window Glass
- 02 Nails
- 03 Spikes
- 04 Door & Window Hardware
- 05 Other Structural Hardware
- 06 Construction Materials

04 FURNITURE GROUP
- 01 Hardware
- 02 Materials
- 03 Lighting Device
- 04 Decorative Furnishings

05 ARMS GROUP
- 01 Projectiles
- 02 Cartridge Case
- 03 Arms Accessories
- 04 Gun Parts

06 CLOTHING GROUP
- 01 Apparel
- 02 Ornamentation
- 03 Making and Repair
- 04 Fasteners

07 PERSONAL GROUP
- 01 Coins
- 02 Keys
- 03 Writing Paraphernalia
- 04 Grooming and Hygiene
- 05 Personal Ornamentation
- 06 Other Personal Items

08 KAOLIN TOBACCO PIPE GROUP
- 01 Kaolin Pipe Class

09 ACTIVITIES GROUP
- 01 Construction Tools
- 02 Farm Tools
- 03 Leisure Activities
- 04 Fishing Gear
- 05 Nonkaolin Pipe
- 06 Smoking Accessories
- 07 Pottery Class
- 08 Storage Items
- 09 Ethnofaunal Zoological
- 10 Stable and Barn
- 11 Miscellaneous Hardware
- 12 Specialized Activities
- 13 Military Objects
- 14 Housekeeping
- 15 Public Services
- 16 Ethnobotanical

10 PREHISTORIC GROUP
- 01 Weapons
- 02 Domestic
- 03 Stone Working
- 04 Wood Working
- 05 Digging Tools
- 06 Other Fabricating or Processing Tools
- 07 Other General Utility Tools
- 08 Ceremonial & Ornamental
- 09 Miscellaneous Artifacts

98 UNSPECIFIED GROUP

MATERIALS - COMMON LIST (classified)

INORGANIC MATERIALS

CERAMIC
- 003 earthenware
- 004 ironstone/granite/whiteware
- 001 porcelain
- 002 stoneware
- 134 undifferentiated ceramic

CLAY
- 047 clay
- 062 kaolin
- 079 red clay

CONSTRUCTION
- 069 brick
- 071 cement
- 070 mortar
- 072 plaster

GLASS
- 078 glass
- 013 glass, milk
- 112 slag and clinker

METALS
- 029 aluminum
- 035 chrome
- 026 cuprous metal
- 028 ferrous alloy
- 021 gold
- 034 lead
- 096 mercury
- 019 silver
- 032 steel
- 005 tin
- 136 undifferentiated metal

STONE
- 129 agate
- 075 asbestos
- 133 chalk
- 052 chert
- 046 gravel
- 109 jet
- 038 limestone
- 041 marble
- 049 mica
- 058 obsidian
- 057 ochre
- 068 precious stone
- 053 quartz
- 054 quartzite
- 039 sandstone
- 044 shale
- 040 slate
- 060 steatite
- 043 schist
- 126 undifferentiated stone
- 042 granite

ORGANIC MATERIALS

CELLULOSIC
- 115 bark
- 108 burlap
- 128 charcoal
- 092 cork
- 087 cotton
- 131 fiberboard/masonite
- 085 hemp
- 011 paper
- 006 wood
- 121 cellulose seeds/seed covering

CONSTRUCTION
- 093 asphalt
- 125 formica
- 101 linoleum
- 102 tar paper

WAX
- 076 wax

GUM/RESIN
- 010 rubber, elastic
- 009 rubber, hard

PETROCHEMICALS
- 073 carbon
- 095 coal
- 048 graphite
- 116 tar

PROTEIN
- 118 chitin (arthropod, exoskeleton)
- 106 felt
- 122 flesh
- 016 hair
- 117 keratin (horns/fingernail/claws)
- 015 leather
- 107 silk
- 090 sponge, natural
- 105 wool

COMBINATION MATERIALS
- 017 bone
- 132 ivory
- 067 pearl
- 089 shell

SYNTHETIC MATERIALS
- 103 celluloid
- 088 nylon
- 008 plastic
- 077 soap
- 091 sponge, synthetic
- 104 synthetic

TEXTILE
- 151 undifferentiated textile

TABLE 1 The National Park Service Material Culture Database Coding Chart (partial listing).

GROUPS AND CLASSES

		SAMPLE ARTIFACTS
01	KITCHEN	
01	Dishes	Historic fragments, plate, cup, salt cellar
02	Containers	Bottle glass fragments
03	Tableware	Eating Utensils
04	Kitchenware	Cooking Utensils, pot, kettle
02	BONE GROUP	
01	Mammalia	Mammal Bones
02	Aves	Bird Bones
03	Reptilia	Reptile Bones
04	Amphibia	Amphibian Bones
05	Pisces	Fish Bones
03	ARCHITECTURAL GROUP	
01	Window Glass	Window pane glass
02	Nails	Copper nails, iron nails
03	Spikes	Railroad spikes
04	Door & Window Hardware	Doorknob, door hinge
05	Other Structural Hardware	Pipe, fireplace tiles
06	Construction Materials	Brick, mortar, metal roofing
04	FURNITURE GROUP	
01	Hardware	Handle, drawer pull, latch
02	Materials	Stove parts, chair part, bed frame
03	Lighting device	Candlestick, lamp base
04	Decorative Furnishings	Flower pot, clock parts, vase
05	ARMS GROUP	
01	Projectiles	Shot, bullets
02	Cartridge Case	Cartridge
03	Arm Accessories	Gun flints, bullet molds, powder horn
04	Gun Parts	Pistol barrel, flint lock assembly
06	CLOTHING GROUP	
01	Apparel	Hat, coat, scarves, glove, shoe
02	Ornamentation	Beads, sequin, hatpin, feather
03	Making & Repair	Thimble, straight pin, straight scissors
04	Fasteners	Buttons, snaps, buckles, cuff links
07	PERSONAL GROUP	
01	Coins	Silver coins, copper coins
02	Keys	Door lock keys, padlock keys
03	Writing Paraphernalia	Quill, fountain pen nib, graphite pencil
04	Grooming & Hygiene	Hair brush, razor, mirror, tweezers
05	Personal Ornamentation	Jewelry, ribbon, ornamental comb
06	Other Personal Items	Pocket watch, key chain, pocket knife
08	KAOLIN PIPE GROUP	
01	Kaolin Pipe Class	Kaolin pipe fragments

GROUPS AND CLASSES (cont'd)

09	ACTIVITIES GROUP	
01	Construction Tools	Axe head, drill bit, saw, paint brush
02	Farm Tools	Hoe, rake, plow blade
03	Leisure Activities	Marbles, jew's harp, doll parts
04	Fishing Gear	Fish hooks, sinkers, crab trap
05	Nonkaolin Pipe	Corncob pipe
06	Smoking Accessories	Snuff tin, tobacco tin, pipe cleaner
07	Pottery Class	(Indian) water jar, effigy pot
08	Storage Item	Crock, barrel staves, sacks
09	Ethnofaunal Zoological	Oyster shells, crab shells
10	Stable and Barn	Stirrup, horse shoe, rein, harness belt
11	Miscellaneous Hardware	Rope, bolts, nuts, washers, chain
12	Specialized Activities	Button blanks, metallurgic debris, saggars
13	Military Objects	Insignia, bayonets
14	Housekeeping	Broom, coat hanger, washboard
15	Public Services	Sewer pipe, water pipe
16	Ethnobotanical	
10	PREHISTORIC GROUP	
01	Weapons	Projectile point, atlatl hook
02	Domestic	Vessel, mortar, pestle
03	Stone Working	Hammerstone, baton, flake, core
04	Wood Working	Celt, grooved axe
05	Digging Tools	Hoe
06	Other Fabricating or Processing Tools	Drill, chisel, needle
07	Other General Utility Tools	Knife, prismatic blade, chopper
08	Ceremonial and Ornamental	Sheet, gorget, bead
09	Miscellaneous Artifacts	Function unknown

TABLE 2 Coded Examples from the Database.

THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW MAY BE AMBIGUOUS OR HARD TO PLACE IN A TAXONOMIC CATEGORY, BUT AS A CONVENTION, FOR INVENTORY PURPOSES, WILL BE CODED AS FOLLOWS:

Unident Wood Frags	98 00 006
Construction Wood, Wooden Pegs, Wood Planks	03 06 006
Twigs, Branches	09 16 006
Burned Wood (Partial)	Code as wood (above) and put "burnt wood" in the comments section.
Charcoal & all small frags of completely burnt wood	Code as charcoal
Coal	98 00 095
Slag, burned coal, vitrified metalworking or manufacturing by-products	98 00 112
Pantiles	03 06 003
Delft fireplace tiles, wall skirting, etc.	04 04 003
Porcelain bathroom tiles, other bathroom furniture (tub, toilet, etc)	03 05 001
Chamber Pot	04 02 ( )
Flower Pot	04 04 003
Teeth	02 ( ) 132
Fish scales	09 09 118
Coral	98 00 119
Eggshell	09 09 119
Seeds, Seed Covering	09 16 121
Schist (construction)	03 06 043
Schist (unident)	98 00 043
Red Brick	03 06 169
Yellow Brick	03 06 155
Linoleum	03 06 101
Metal Hardware (probably construction)	03 06 ( )
Furniture Hardware	04 01 ( )
Misc. hardware (other and unident), screws, car parts	09 11 ( )
Leather Shoe Parts	06 01 015
Unident Leather scraps	98 00 015
Leather Personal Items	07 ( ) 015

TABLE 3 Database Codes for Ambiguous Items.

ARTIFACT INVENTORY
OAKWOOD BEACH
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND
RICHMOND COUNTY, NEW YORK

Context	Sp	Cl	Mat	Identity	Count	Weight	Comment	Reference	Range	TPQ
1.01	01	01	004	Ironstone	1	0.00	Thin	Lofstrom etal 1976:14		1850
1.01	01	01	134	Ceramic	4	0.00	Spalls?			
1.03	01	02	029	Can	3	0.00	Carbonated beverage 'Coffeetime' removable pop top			
1.03	01	02	078	Container	1	0.00	Green glass			
1.03	03	06	006	Wood	2	37.20	Cut			
1.03	03	06	069	Brick	2	140.90				
1.03	09	09	089	Shell	1	2.80				
1.04	03	06	069	Brick	1	160.40				
1.04	03	06	070	Mortar	1	108.30	with marble attachment			
1.05	01	02	009	Plastic lid	1	0.00	Cover to drinking container			
1.05	03	06	069	Brick	1	825.00	'EMP'			
2.02	01	02	104	Can lining	1	0.00	Lining from can lid removable pop top with baked on crud			
2.02	03	05	001	Toilet fixture	1	0.00	Porcelain thick			
2.02	03	06	006	Wood	1	2.90	Cut			
2.03	01	02	013	Container	1	0.00	Milk glass			
2.03	06	01	015	Shoe	1	0.00	Sole heel			
2.04	01	01	001	Porcelain	1	0.00	Thick			
2.04	03	06	003	EW/Brick?	1	0.00				
2.04	09	08	005	Motor oil can	1	0.00	ESSO			
3.02	01	01	004	Ironstone	2	0.00	Cup and handle mend thick undecorated hotelware			
3.02	01	01	004	Whiteware	1	0.00	Saucer fragment? footring transfer print	Lofstrom etal 1976		1820
3.02	01	01	004	Whiteware	1	0.00	Rim molded			
3.02	01	01	004	Ironstone	1	0.00	Rim Hotelware 2 green bands			
3.02	01	02	013	Container	3	0.00	Milk glass			
3.02	01	02	078	Container	1	0.00	Glass lip threaded			
3.02	01	02	078	Container	2	0.00	Glass green			
3.02	03	05	001	Toilet cistern	1	0.00	Porcelain thick			
3.02	03	06	000	Constr material	1	0.00				
3.02	03	07	112	Slag	1	0.00				
3.02	04	04	003	Flowerpot	1	0.00	Burned			
3.02	07	04	013	Cosmetic jar	1	0.00	Milk glass 'POND'S' Base and part of body			
3.02	07	04	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete blue 8-sided 'SQUIBB' Fully automatic	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	01	01	003	Earthenware	1	0.00	Blue			
3.04	01	01	003	Earthenware	1	0.00	Green			
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	'...RBONATED BEVE TRIPLE FIL...ERE THR... RA-VIOLET R OTTLE ST			

ARTIFACT INVENTORY
OAKWOOD BEACH
BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND
RICHMOND COUNTY, NEW YORK

Context	Gp	Cl	Mat	Identity	Count	Weight	Comment	Reference	Range	TPQ
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Fragment of label Mission Beverages			
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete green Fully automatic	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete 'Mission Beverages/Naturally Good' on label '1912' Fully automatic	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	01	02	078	Container	1	0.00	Glass Salt shaker? Complete 3-tiered middle tier plain lower and upper tier are barred Fully automatic	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete Milk/cream bottle Semi-automatic 'SEELIG'	Lorrain 1968:42		1881
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete Milk/cream bottle Semi-automatic 'Soiefer' half pint liquid	Lorrain 1968:42		1881
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete 1 pint Fully automatic	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	01	02	078	Glass bottle	1	0.00	Complete cork inside Non-screw lip Fully automatic 'FEDERAL LAW FORBIDS SALE OR REUSE OF THIS BOTTLE'	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	01	02	104	Screw-on cap	1	0.00				
3.04	04	03	001	Lamp fixture	1	0.00	Unglazed porcelain disc			
3.04	04	03	137	Lamp socket	4	0.00				
3.04	04	03	137	Lamp socket	1	0.00				
3.04	07	04	078	Aspirin bottle	1	0.00	Complete Fully automatic 'THE BAYER CO. DIV.'	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	07	04	078	Glass bottle	2	0.00	Complete with screw on cap Fully automatic 'Sani-Glas'	Lorrain 1968:43		1903
3.04	98	00	137	Handle?	1	0.00	Or insulation wire? Composite of metal core and plastic coating			
*** Total ***					65	1277.50				

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APPENDIX II:

SURVEY RECORD FORMS

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : 8 W.P.C.P.s			COORDINATES :		
SITE : OAKWOOD BEACH	SUPERVISOR : WR	EXCAVATOR : JP	SCREENED ? 1/4" mesh	DATE : 5/9/90	TEST TYPE AND NO. : BT #1

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1.01	0 - 0.4	Turf + Topsoil Silty Loam	10 YR 2/2 V. DK. BN		
1.02	0.4' - 1.2'	Slightly Clayey Silt w. some gravel	10 YR 4/4 DK Yel. BN	plastic	
1.03	1.2' - 7.0'	Slightly Sandy Silt with profuse stone fragments	7.5 YR 3/4 DK. BN	metal can, brick, wood, plastic, bottle glass, shell.	
1.04	7.0' - ?	Coarse sand w. inclusions of silt + clay	7.5 YR 3/2 DK. BN + 2.5 Y 5/2 Gray BN	Ceramic tile, Brick, tile, Plastic	
1.05	8.0 - ?	Silty Clay	2.5 Y 5/2 Gray BN	Brick + plastic	
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)
Max. Depth = 9'
Length and width = 60' x 5'

Cross Refs :	
Plan	Photos general shot - frames 3 + 4; North - 5, 6, 7; East - 8, 9, 10
Section	Notebook

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : 8 W.P.C.P.s			COORDINATES :		
SITE : Oakwood Beach	SUPERVISOR : WR	EXCAVATOR : JP	SCREENED ? 1/4" mesh	DATE : 5/9/90	TEST TYPE AND NO. : BT #2

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1.01	0.' - 0.7'	Turf + Topsoil Silty loam	10 YR 2/2 V. DK. BN		
1.02	0.7 - 4.5' (max) East End; 0.7 - 1.6' (min) Middle of Trench	Slightly Clayey Silt w. gravel	10 YR 3/2 V. DK. Gray BN	metal can, Ceramic tile, brick frags	following artifact discarded: wood, plastic, polyethylene
1.03	1.6/4.5' to 6.7'	Slightly Clayey Silt w. small amt. of gravel	7.5 YR 4/6 Strong BN	shoe heel, Milk glass	
1.04	6.7' - 7.5'	Silty sand w. small amt. of gravel	7.5 YR 4/4 BN/DK BN	metal can (ess), wood, ceramic tile	
5	7.5' - 9.0' (Bottom of trench)	Sandy Silt - (Saturated w. H_2O) Mixed w. organic silt w. decomposing weeds (Natural)	7.5 3/4 DK. BN with 10 YR 2/1 Black		
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)
Length and width = 20' x 5'

Cross Refs :	
Plan	Photos East: frames 11 + 12; North: frames 13 + 14
Section	Notebook

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : S W P C P S			COORDINATES :		
SITE : OAKWOOD BEACH	SUPERVISOR : WR	EXCAVATOR : JP	SCREENED ? 1/4" mesh	DATE : 5/10/90	TEST TYPE AND NO. : BT #3

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
3.01	0-0.6'	Turf & Topsoil Silty loam	10 YR 3/4 Dk. Yel. Bn	—	
3.02	0.6-2.0'	Silty sand	10 YR 3/3 Dk. Bn	Ceramic cup, blue glass bottle Stoneware porcelain(?), etc.	
3.03	2.0-4.7'	Silty Sand	5 YR 4/6 Yel. Red	Ceramic fragment.	
3.04	4.7-8+9'	Silty Sand	10 YR 2/1 Black	16 glass containers, ceramic sherd, bone, etc.	
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface.

General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)

*NOTE - POCKETS OF GRAY COMPACT SILT (7.5 YR 4/0) ARE FOUND w/i Layer 3.04.
length and width = 40x5'

Cross Refs :	
Plan	Photos Frames: North 15, 16, 17. West 18, 19, 20
Section	Notebook East 21 & 22

APPENDIX III
THE CONTEXT SYSTEM

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APPENDIX 3
THE CONTEXT SYSTEM

Complex strata were a possibility within the project area, so a field recording system that could encompass this situation as well as the large number of finds expected, was required. Another requirement of the system was that it be compatible with computerized data management. It was with these requirements in mind that the field recording system used in this project was selected.

The stratigraphic recording system used at the site was derived from recent developments in British archaeological field methodology. In this system, the term Context is used to represent the minimal unit of stratification. On this project, this was the smallest observable natural stratigraphic deposit within a grid unit. A unique 3-digit Context number was used to identify each Context observed and described in the field. Contexts representing parts or all of strata are treated in exactly the same manner as those representing parts of all of the features. Each Context is given its own identifying Context number when initially described. It can then be interpreted as a feature or part of a stratum at any stage during the excavation or post-excavation stratigraphic analysis. In the case of deposits with a series of lenses or layers within a feature, decimal subdivisions of the Context number were employed (i.e. 397.02), to stress the relationship of these deposits as part of the same feature. This system can easily be used on a site where excavation by arbitrary stratigraphic units has been deemed necessary. The context was also used on this project to record the location of surface finds, both in relatively large areas and individually located artifacts.

The primary record of each Context is the Context or Survey Recording Sheet. Most of these forms should be self-explanatory. All the various slots and boxes were filled in immediately with the appropriate information by the excavator. Particular attention was paid to the accurate recording of the soil texture and inclusions, the Munsell color reading, and the various stratigraphic inter-relationships.

There are a number of advantages in the Context recording system. The use of only one number register to identify all varieties of soil deposits eliminates the premature interpretation of deposits that was necessary with many other recording systems. It is often difficult, if not impossible, to classify soil deposits when they are initially uncovered. Using the Context system, deposits are simply assigned Context numbers and excavated. They can be interpreted or re-interpreted at any time during or after their excavation without any need to change their identifying Context number. This leads directly to the Context system's second advantage. There is no possibility of confusing numbers issued from one register with these from any others if there is only one number register used to record and identify soil

deposits. Another advantage is derived from using this single identifying number not only for the soil deposits and its description, but also for all the artifacts from the deposit during all stages of their processing, analysis and curation. One further advantage is the ability to expand the system. The Context numbers are a potentially infinite sequence, so any size site or survey can be encompassed. The final advantage present here is that the Context system is a digital recording system. As such, it is immediately adaptable for computer entry and numerical data sorting.