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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY EVALUATION
OF THE RICHMOND ROAD RETAIL STORES PROJECT AREA
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
CEQR #91-191R

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RICHMOND ROAD RETAIL STORES PROJECT STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Archaeological and Historical Sensitivity Study is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed Richmond Road Retail Stores Project through the review of existing archival, cartographic and published references and then to make recommendations regarding possible further testing. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey will include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric and historic resources in the immediate area surrounding the project area.

The project area is located in eastern Staten Island, New York in the vicinity of Dongan Hills. The property consists of a long narrow parcel approximately 1100 feet by 100 feet in size. It is located along the northwest side of Richmond Road, south of Four Corners Road and northeast of Todt Hill Road. It is within Tax Block 895 and includes Lots 76, 94 and the majority of 51. See Figure 1 for a map illustrating the location of the project area.

This study is organized in the following manner: first, a section describes the geography and physical setting of the project area; second, a section follows on the prehistoric sensitivity of the area; third, a review of the historic sensitivity of the area; and fourth, the conclusions and recommendations.

GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province of New York State. There is only one other location in the state (Long Island) where this province occurs (Van Diver 1985:34). Geographically, Staten Island is part of New Jersey from which it is separated by the Kill Van Kull and the Staten Island Sound (Skinner 1909).

The geomorphology of Staten Island consists of landforms and deposits of glacial origin. The sediments were deposited by the Wisconsin Ice Sheet 55,000-10,000 years ago and generally consist of ground moraine, terminal moraine and outwash sediments (Jacobson 1980:5). The shoreline area in this portion of Staten Island is comprised of sandy embankments of beach and adjacent to and at times overlying the area's geologically earlier glacial deposits of Cretaceous formations of sand and clay (Weingartner 1967:41). Local glacial deposits may

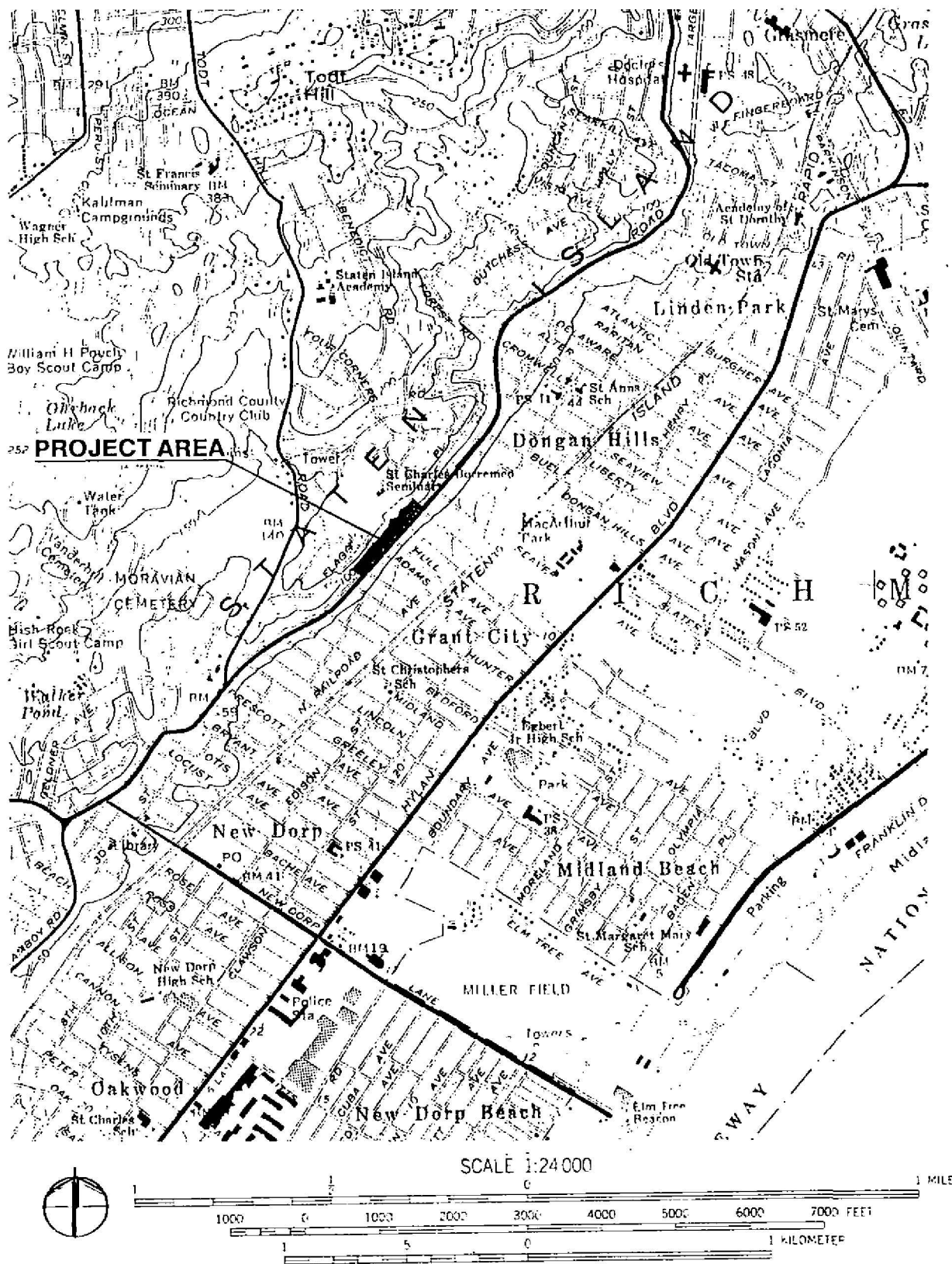


Figure 1 Project area shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series The Narrows quadrangle, 1966 (photorevised 1981).



be overlaid by fill as well as beach, marsh, dune, swamp, and estuarine deposits (Jacobson 1980:5).

During September 1991 the Principal Investigator and one assistant visited the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area. During this visit, a pedestrian survey was used to inspect the project area. The parcel is mostly steeply sloping, although three relatively flat areas exist near to Richmond Road. One old access road exists although part of this has been washed out by storm water runoff. The property is covered by considerable undergrowth including briars, some grasses near Richmond Road, and a fair number of trees. See Plates 1 and 2 for views of the project area. Plate 1 shows the view from across Richmond Road and Plate 2 part of the interior of the parcel.

PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, the sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished resources in the Archives and Library of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (hereinafter S.I.I.A.S.), the library of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (N.Y.S.H.P.O.). Most documented prehistoric archaeological work undertaken by both professional and avocational archaeologists has historically concentrated on the southwestern portion of Staten Island (Baughner 1985 pers. comm.). The problems of inadequate archaeological survey coverage particularly evident in the interior of the island may also be found in this portion of eastern Staten Island.

Table 1 presents the results of our search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area. Included in the table are two sites located two miles or less from the project area. The locations of these sites are presented on Figure 2 with letter code identifiers which correspond to those in Table 1.

Of the two known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, neither was excavated recently under controlled conditions. These data represent either surface finds, or the work of professional archaeologists early in this century.

Alanson Skinner, one of the first professional archaeologists to work extensively on Staten Island, characterized the locations chosen by prehistoric populations on the island as follows:

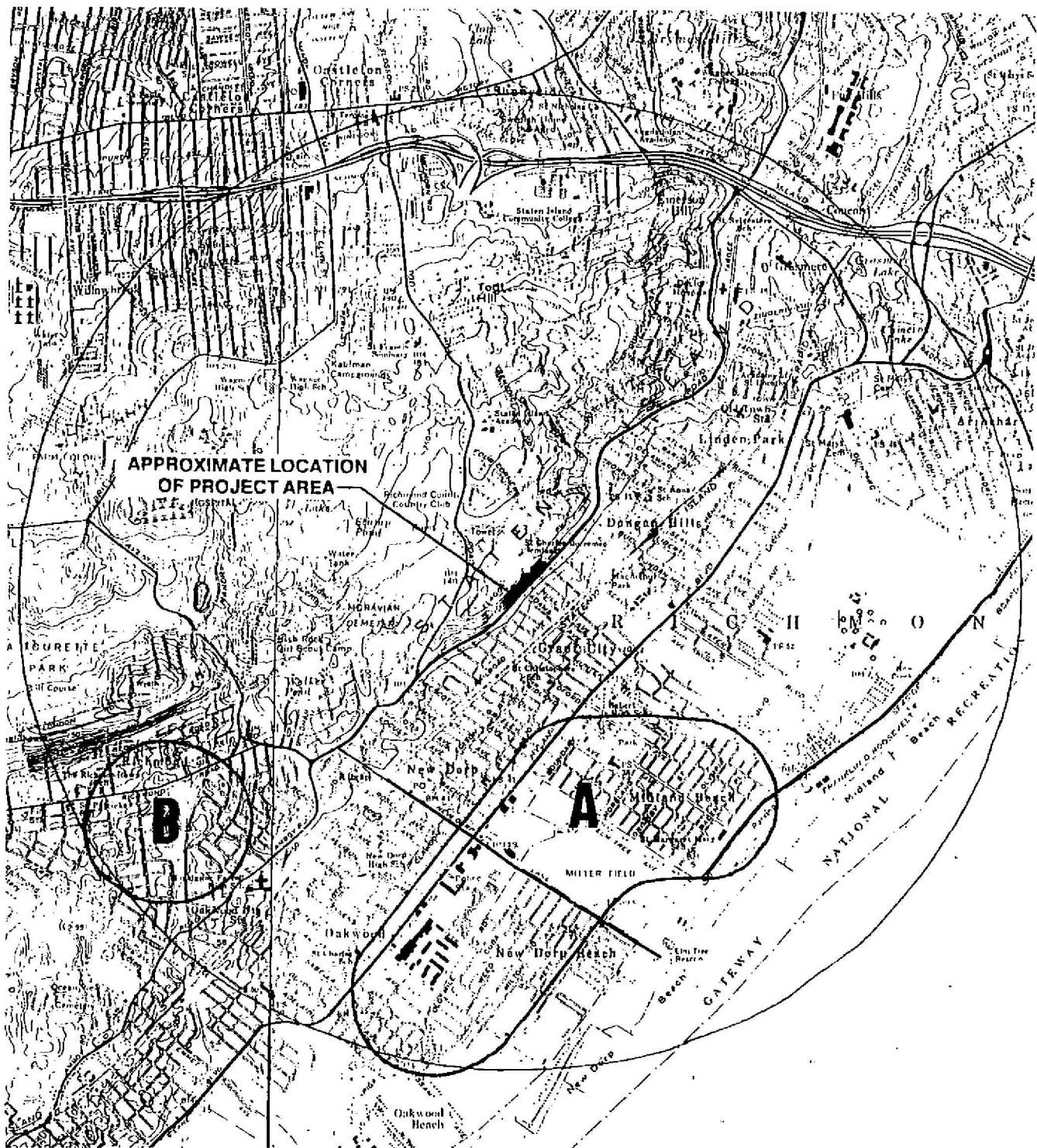


Figure 2 Prehistoric sites located within a two mile radius of the project area.

Table 1 Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Richmond Road Retail Stores

	Site Name	NYSM #	Parker#	Other	Reference	Period(s)	Description
A	---	4628	ACP-RICH	---	Parker 1922	-----	Camp, Traces of Occupation
B	---	4616	ACP-RICH-26	---	Parker 1922	-----	Large camp



Throughout Staten Island, with very few exceptions, aboriginal sites are confined entirely to the sandy spots (1912:90).

The nearest prehistoric site to the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area, designated "A" in Table 1 and Figure 2, is an unnamed site reported by former New York State Archaeologist Arthur C. Parker. This site, which appears on Parker's map of Richmond County but not in his text, is described only as a campsite with traces of occupation. It is located approximately one mile southeast of the project area. Since Parker provides no description of the artifacts recovered, no estimate of date range can be offered (Parker 1922:Plate 211).

The second nearest prehistoric site to the project area, designated "B" in Table 1 and Figure 2, was also reported by Arthur C. Parker as site number 26. This site is described as a large camp. Parker notes the presence of grooved axes and the absence of pottery and shells (Parker 1922). The New York State Museum suggests that the location of this site is questionable. However, the location they supplied is adjacent to a former stream course.

In terms of potential prehistoric sensitivity, the project impact area was evaluated from two points of view:

- 1) the proximity of known prehistoric sites in or near the project area; and
- 2) the presence of fresh water drainage courses in general, and particularly the identification of river or stream confluence situations where two or more drainages come together, providing access to both water and food supplies of both systems.

This survey has documented the recording or published location of two sites within a two mile radius of the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area. Although sites have been identified in the general region of the proposed project impact area, none are known to exist within the project survey area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on previous survey work is available. The project area itself consists of steeply sloping land. The slope varies between 20 and 55 percent, which suggests that the only possibility for prehistoric use of this parcel would have been caves or rockshelters. Inspection of the project area failed to reveal any such features. This location also lacks a reliable fresh water source. No streams or ponds are shown on the maps examined as part of this research, and the only stream course seen during the inspection appeared to be formed by intermittent storm water runoff. This information suggests that the



Richmond Road Retail Stores project area has very little potential for preserving prehistoric archaeological evidence.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

Staten Island was evidently known as Aquehonga Manacknong by the bands of Lenape who inhabited it during the seventeenth century, although the variant Eghquaons is used in the earliest Dutch document (Grumet 1981:2). Other variations exist, but these two are found in seventeenth century documents.

In 1626 the island was bought from the natives by the Director of the Dutch West India Company. Michael Pauw was given a patent of Patroonship in 1630, but he relinquished it to the Dutch West India Company. The company sold the patent to David Peters de Vries who established the first permanent settlement of Europeans on the island in 1638. In 1640 an Indian war broke out which brought destruction to the settlement. The Dutch West India Company granted Cornelius Melyn all of Staten Island in 1641 except for the de Vries farm (Historical Records Survey 1942:XIV). Ten years later, Melyn granted Baron Hendrick van der Capellan a deed for one third of the island (ibid.:xv). Upon the death of Capellan in 1659, Melyn sold his interest to the company thus ending the Patroon system on Staten Island (ibid.:xvi).

The British assumed control of the colony of Nieuw Amsterdam from the Dutch West India Company in 1664. Governor Francis Lovelace made the final purchase of Staten Island from the Indians in 1670. The English made all of Staten Island into a single town with Nicholas Stillwell as the first constable. Lovelace set up two villages on the island, Old Dorp or Town and New Dorp, and granted patents to several people (Historical Records Survey 1942:xviii). Land surveys were initiated under Lovelace and completed under the governorship of Edmund Andros in 1677.

The next governor, Thomas Dongan, divided the colony of New York into counties with Staten Island designated as Richmond County. In March 1688 Richmond County was partitioned into four towns, Castletown, Northfield, Southfield, and Westfield (Bayles 1887:95). The project area lies within the old town of Castletown (ibid.: map facing 1).

There are two maps that have attempted to show the locations of seventeenth century land grants on Staten Island. Both were drawn during the early twentieth century. Frederick Skene's map shows the project area as parts of two grants made to Sarah Scidmore and Mary Britton (or Brittain) during 1687-87 (Skene 1907). Skene's map is known to contain some inaccuracies. At least

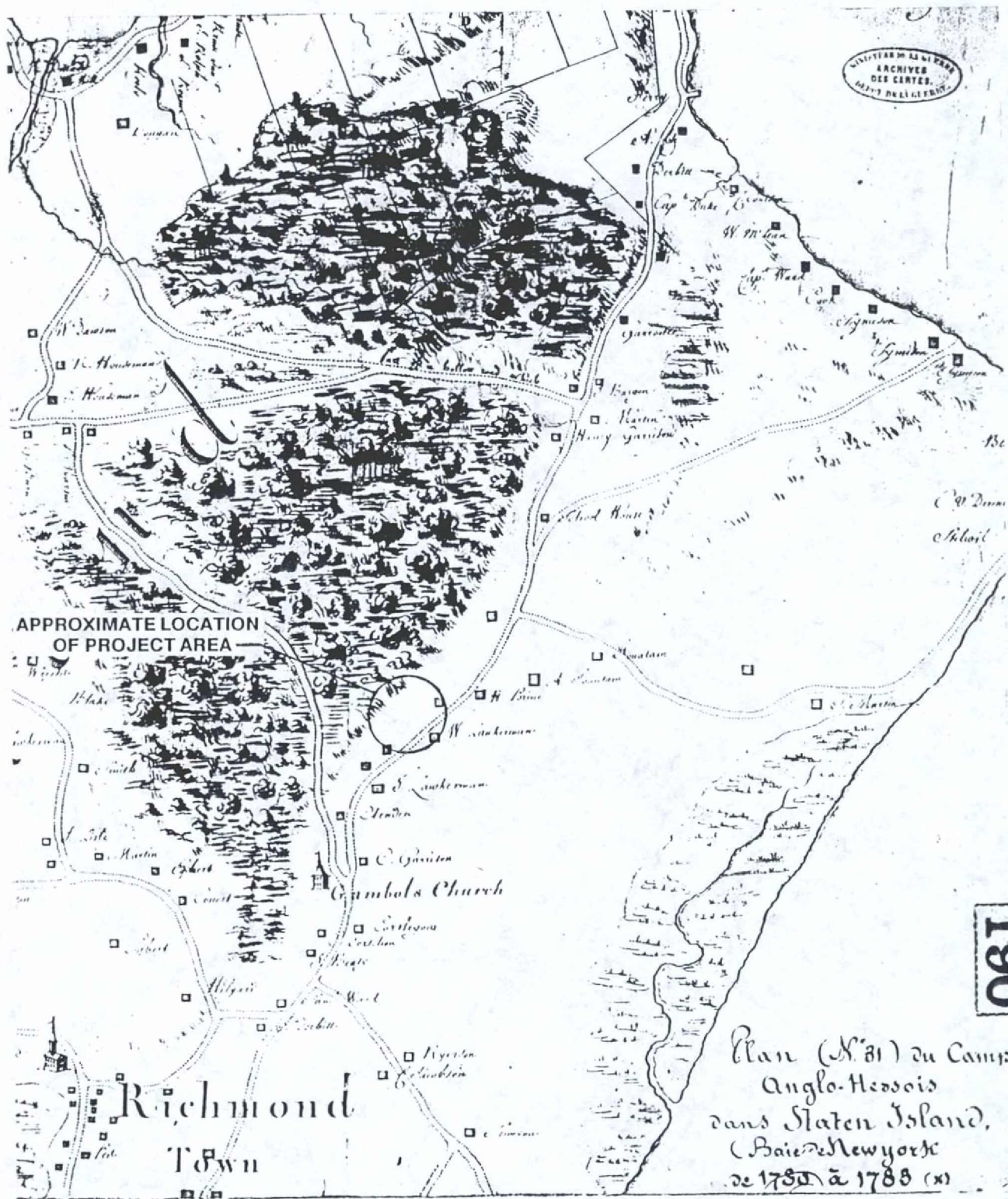


Figure 3 From Plan (No. 31) du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island, 1780-1783.



two sources describe one or both of these grants as being in Old Town, the English name for Oude Dorp, which is located over two miles from the project area (Leng and Davis 1930:Vol. I.:36;Secretary of State of New York n.d.:30-31). The other available map of land grants drawn by G. Root shows no grants in the project area (Root 1902). It appears probable that the project area location was part of a grant of about 5100 acres made to John Palmer. During early 1687 this land was conveyed to Thomas Dongan, the governor of the colony of New York, who named it "the Lordshippe of Cassiltown" (Mitchell 1978:23). The project area lies on the slope of a ridge still known as Dongan Hills.

Staten Island remained under British control throughout the eighteenth century until the end of the Revolutionary War. Approximately 29,000 troops under British command landed on the island during July 1776. Despite this large number of men, there is no evidence that any were stationed within or adjacent to the project area. British officers occupied the Black Horse Tavern at Amboy and Richmond Roads, and Sir William Howe used the Rose and Crown Tavern at New Dorp Lane and Richmond Road as his headquarters (Mitchell 1978:27). Both taverns are some distance from the project area.

Late eighteenth century cartographic sources show that several farmsteads lined the northwest side of Richmond Road by the onset of the Revolutionary War (McMillen 1933; Plan (No. 31) du Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island). Unfortunately, due to a certain degree of inaccuracy inherent in these early maps it is not possible to ascertain the project area's exact location on them. The Richmond Road Retail Stores project area appears to be located between two structures shown on the Plan (No. 31) du Anglo-Hessois and McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island During the Revolution, 1775-1783. The structure to the southwest is labelled "Clendon" on McMillen's map. A portion of Plan (No. 31) is provided here as Figure 3.

Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

The U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, surveyed 1836-1839 and published 1845, is the earliest available nineteenth century cartographic source. This map shows a series of structures adjacent to the northwest side of Richmond Road in the vicinity of the project area. The project area appears to lie between two enclosed lots, including two small structures that lie immediately adjacent to the road. See Figure 4.

The next cartographic source presented here is the Sidney and Dripps Map of 1850. This map shows that the project area is probably within land held by the Barton family. The project area is probably between the two structures labelled S. Barton and J. Barton along the northwest side of Richmond Road. On the southwest side of the road across from the project area is another structure labelled S. Barton. See Figure 5. The 1859 Walling Map was also consulted,

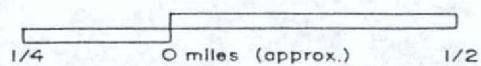
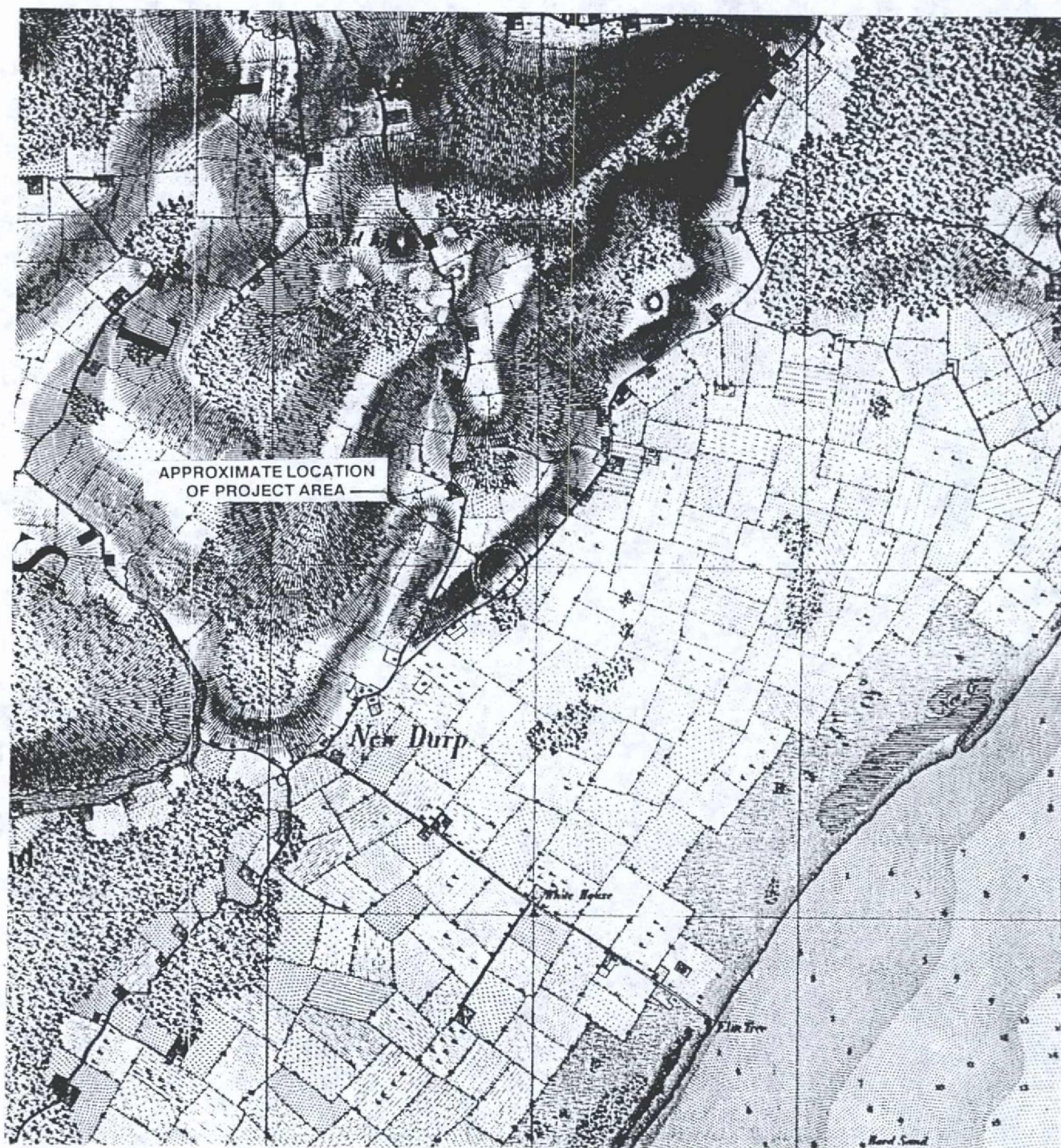


Figure 4 From U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1836-1839, published 1845.

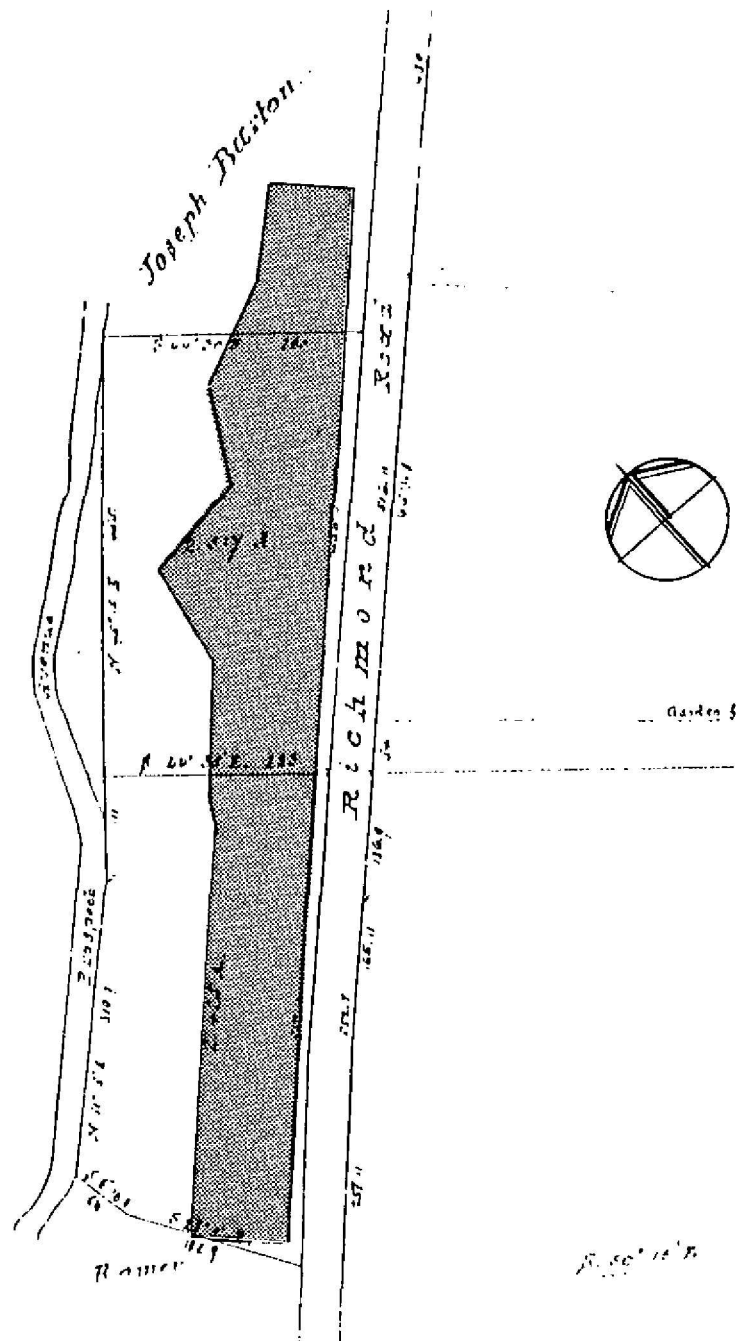


Figure 6 From the Map of the Farm belonging to Sam'l. Barton's Estate, and its subdivisions, Southfield, S.I. Surveyed by Geo. M. Root, March 1860. Scale of this copy 200 feet to one inch. Project area indicated by shading.

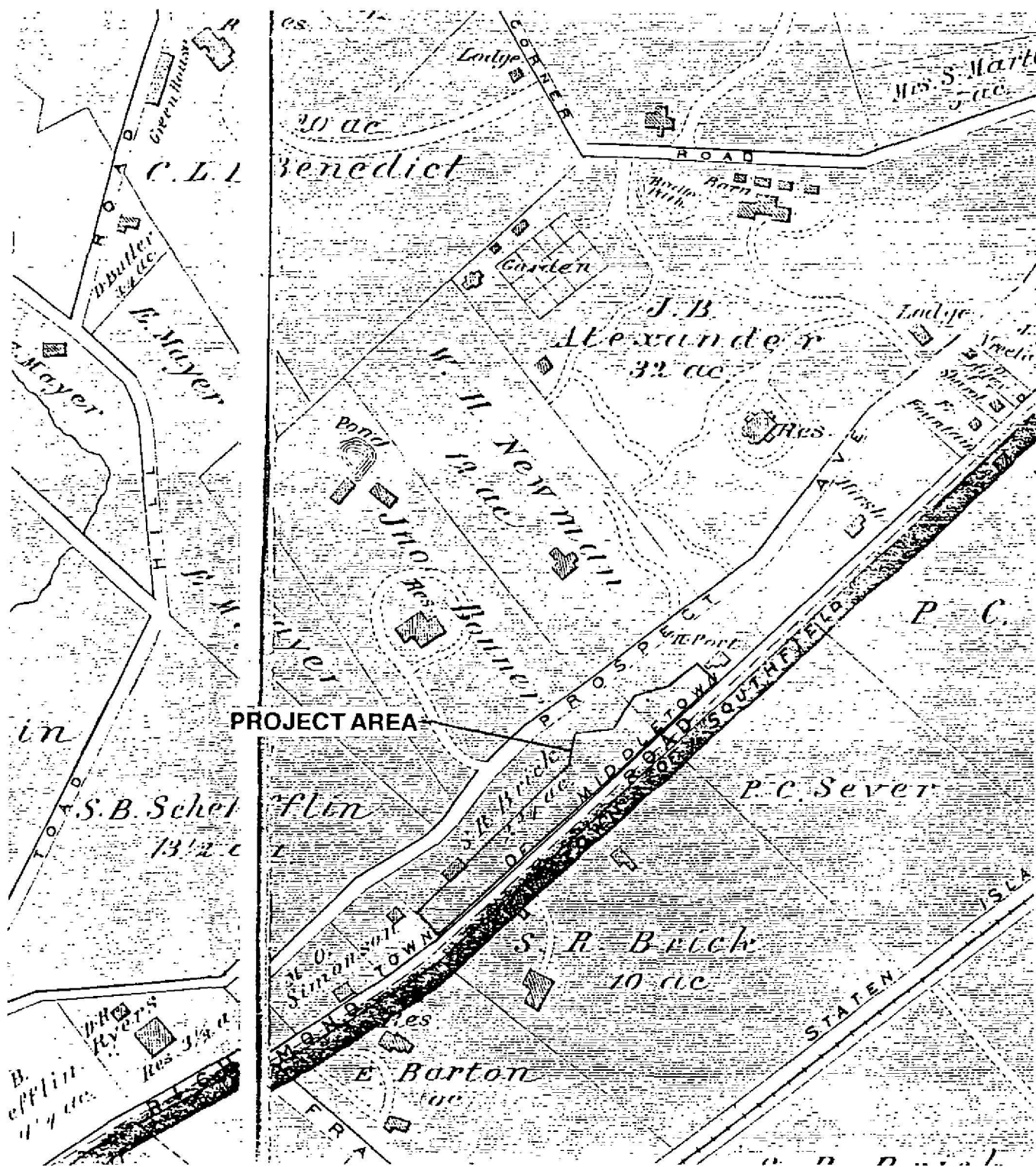


Figure 7 From Beer's 1874 Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. Scale 400 feet to one inch.



but could not be legibly copied due to colored boundary lines obscuring the project area. This map shows that the project area lies to the southwest of a structure labelled J. Barton and to the northeast of one labelled I. Romer. Across Richmond Road is another structure labelled S. Barton's Estate (Walling 1859).

The 1860 map of the farm belonging to Saml. Barton's Estate, presented here as Figure 6, shows that the parcel to the northeast of the project area is still owned by J. Barton, now further identified as Joseph. The Samuel Barton Estate on the northwestern side of Richmond Road has been divided into two parcels. An adjacent portion of this map identifies the new owners as Samuel Barton and Anna Hazard, with Anna owning the piece to the southwest. Copies of this map were found at the Richmond County Clerk's office filed as Map 178. See the discussion of deed evidence below.

The 1874 Beers' Atlas, presented here as Figure 7, is the earliest cartographic source to label property owners and show property lines and structure locations with a fair degree of reliability. The project area consists of parts of two properties. The northeastern end is within the land of H. Port who has evidently taken possession of the former J. Barton house. The southwestern two-thirds of the project area is within a 2.75 acre parcel owned by S.R. Brick. The northwestern boundary of the project area appears to run along the southeastern wall of a structure on Brick's parcel. The 1887 Beers' Atlas shows that the property ownership within the project area did not change over this thirteen year period. The northeastern parcel is still labelled H. Port and the southwestern property, S.R. Brick (Beers 1887).

The next cartographic source presented here is taken from the Verneule and Bien map of 1890. This source is the earliest map to include topographic lines. There appears to be no structures within the steeply sloping project area. One structure exists just northeast of the project area boundary. This is probably the same house identified as H. Post in 1874-1887 and J. Barton in 1850-1859. The structure adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the project area identified as S.R. Brick in 1874-1887 has evidently been demolished. See Figure 9.

The final nineteenth century cartographic source, presented here as Figure 10, is taken from the 1898 Robinson Atlas. The only changes evident since the 1887 Beers' Atlas are the demolition of the former S.R. Brick structure noted above and changes in property ownership. The northeastern parcel is now identified as Michael Gleason. The southeastern two-thirds of the project area is labelled "Oceanview See Plate 16" which is presented here as Figure 11. Plate 16 of Robinson's Atlas shows a subdivision into roughly rectangular lots with their narrow ends adjacent to Richmond Road. These lots are numbered

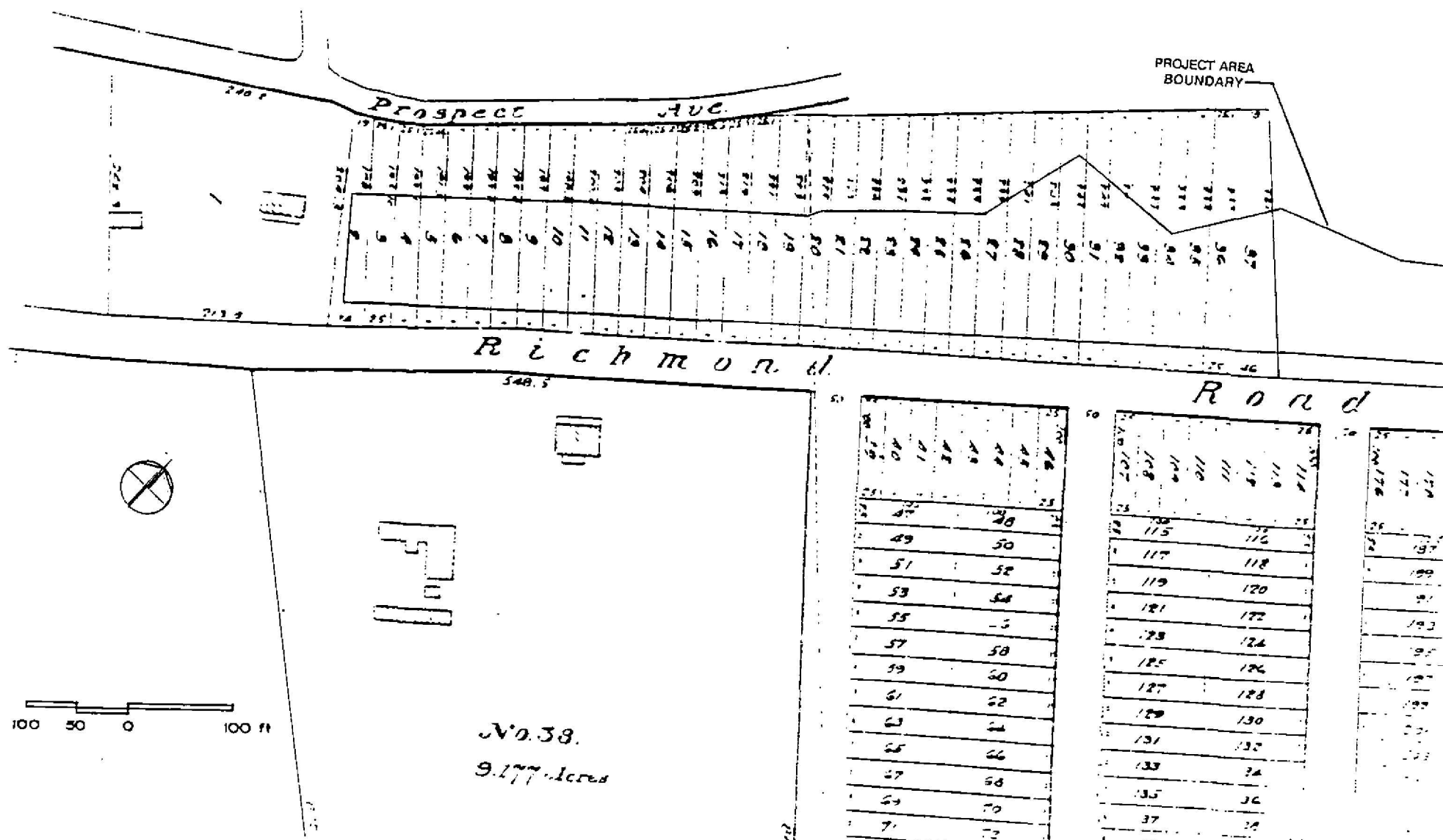
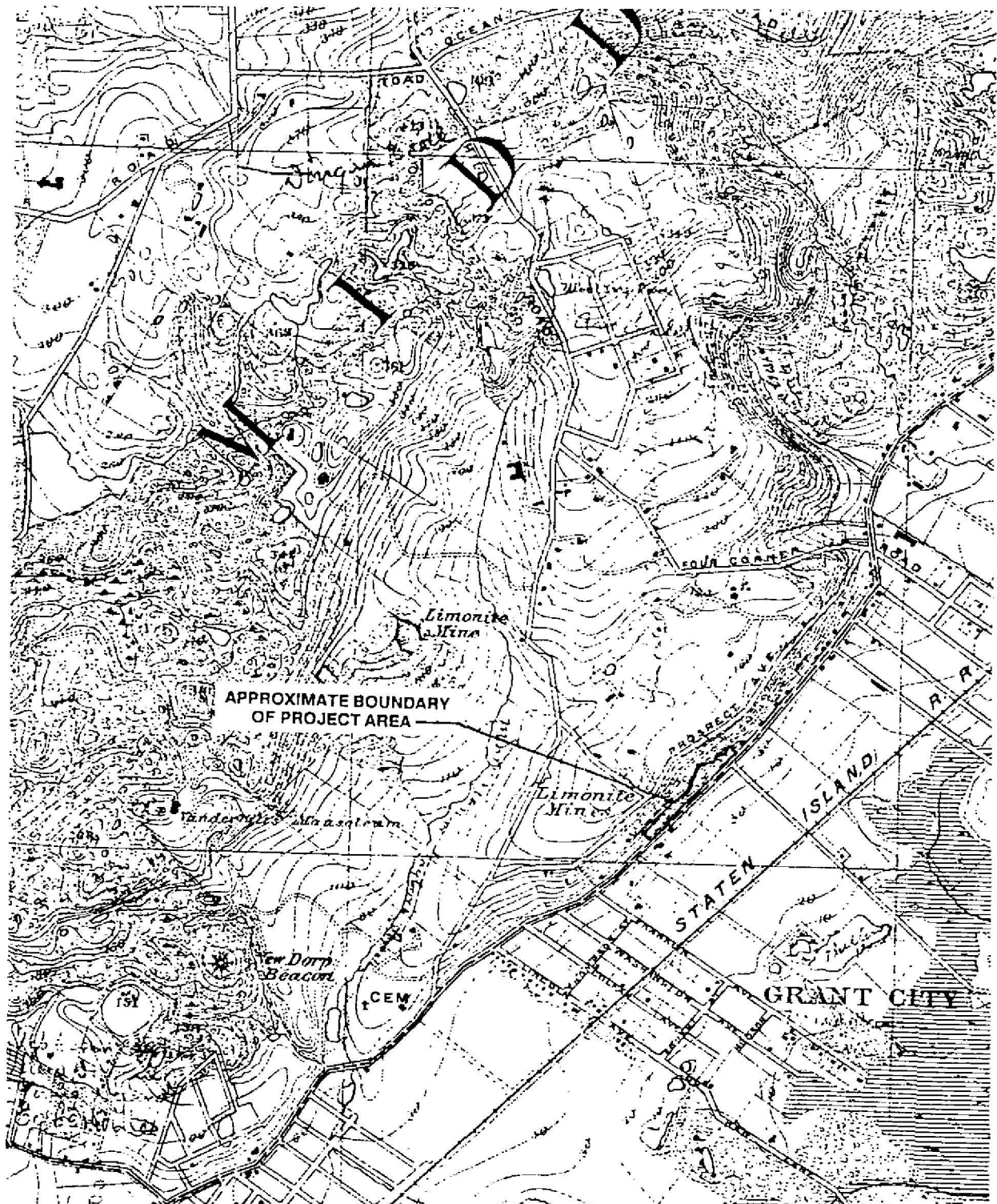


Figure 8 From Richmond County Filed Map #332, Map of Ocean View, Southfield, Staten Island. Surveyed by Geo. M. Root, May 1873.



1/4 0 miles (approx.) 1/2

Figure 9 From Vermeule and Bien's 1890 Topographical Map of Staten Island.

	TITLE.	No.	DATE.
(A)	Grant City.....	251	1880
(B)	Grant City.....	587	1890
(C)	J. P. Collet.....	519	1880
(D)	New Dorp.....	507	1880
(E)	Ocean View.....	882	1870

APPROXIMATE BOUNDARY
OF PROJECT AREA

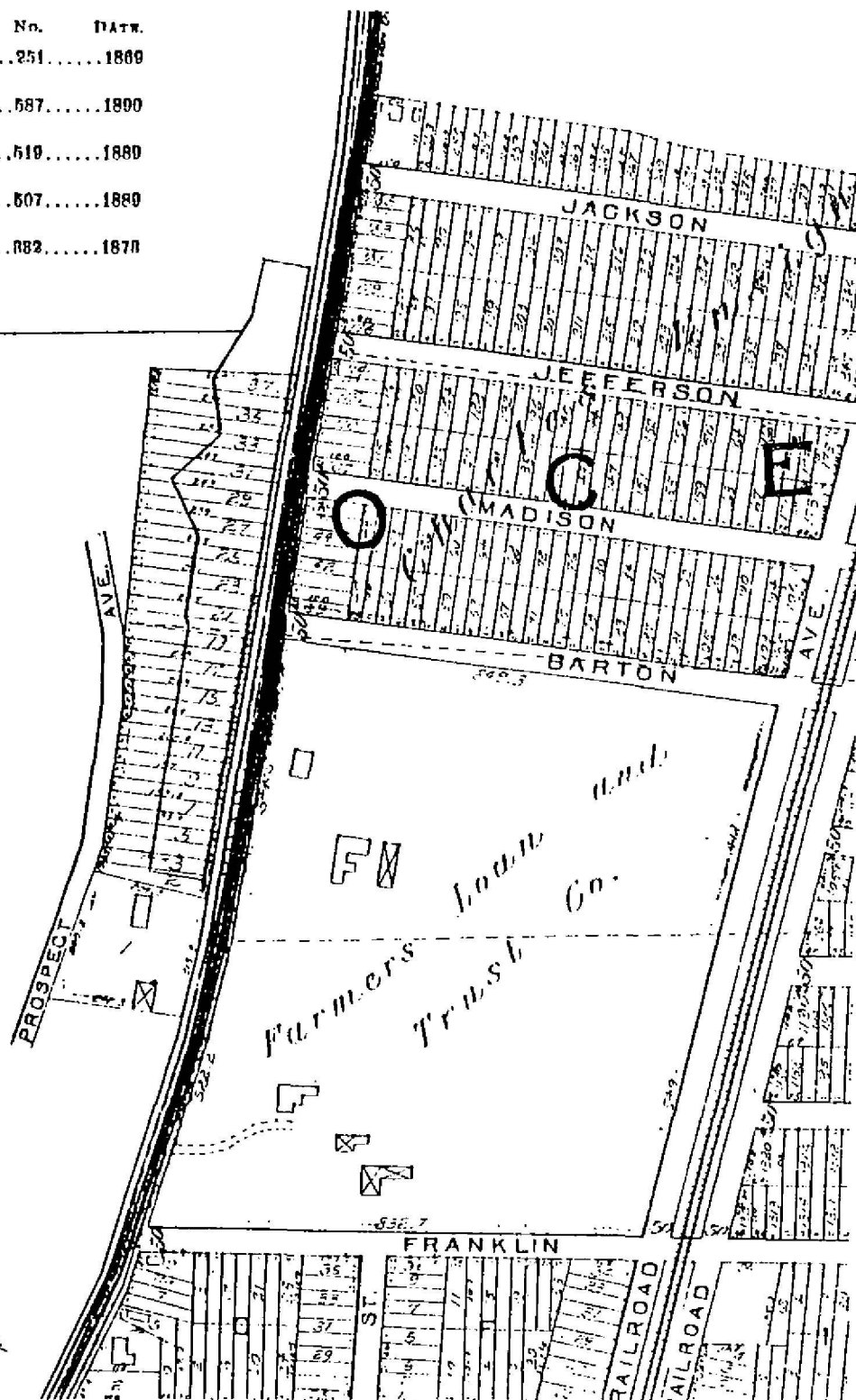
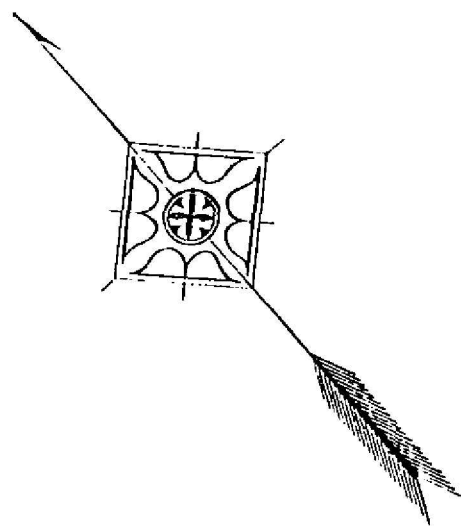


Figure 11 From Plate 16 of Robinson's 1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, New York. Scale approximately 300 feet to 1 inch.



2 through 37. This subdivision is the same as that shown on filed Map 332 at the Richmond County Clerk's office. This "Map of Ocean View" was drawn by Geo. M. Root, surveyor in May 1873 (see Figure 8).

Examination of the nineteenth century maps used in this report raised an issue regarding a structure formerly owned by S.R. Brick. In the 1874 Beers Atlas (Figure 7) that house is shown adjacent to the project area boundary. When that map is compared with Filed Map 332 of May 1873 (Figure 8) it is clear that no building is shown adjacent to the boundary. Filed Map 332 does show a rectangular structure with a porch facing Richmond Road just to the southwest of the project area. This map was drawn by Geo. M. Root, a licensed land surveyor in the County of Richmond, for the purposes of property subdivision. It appears very unlikely that Mr. Root would have placed a structure in the wrong location since he stood to lose his license and probably his livelihood from such an error. J.B. Beers and Company were publishers of insurance maps, evidently with offices in New York City. If they made a mistake locating a building only a few of their customers would be likely to notice, and it would probably not have ruined the sales of this particular atlas. It seems far more likely that the 1874 Beers Atlas is in error. Figure 11 which is taken from the 1898 Robinson Atlas is offered as supporting evidence. Robinson clearly shows the same two buildings on the northwest side of Richmond Road as Filed Map 332. Both maps show these structures to the southwest of the farm complex on the opposite side of Richmond Road. The structure in question formerly owned by S.R. Brick faced Richmond Road. Its side wall was approximately 50 feet southwest of the project area boundary.

The earliest twentieth century cartographic source presented here is taken from Sheet No. 48 of the Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey, dating to August 1909. The project area is shown as steeply sloping and devoid of any structures. The northeastern boundary is adjacent to the wall of an outbuilding associated with the former Joseph Barton house which is about 100 feet further to the northeast. This outbuilding is labelled "Hen House." See Figure 12.

The next cartographic source is Figure 13, taken from the 1917 Bromley Atlas. This map shows that the northeastern parcel owned by Gleason in 1898 is now owned by Ernest Flagg. The old Prospect Avenue has been renamed Flagg Place. The southwestern parcel has been broken up into six smaller parts. To the southwest of Flagg is J.H. Messman, and southwest of Messman is Chas. Picker. The remaining four sections are unlabelled.

In order to provide better evidence of property ownership than that provided by the cartographic sources, deeds were consulted. This proved to be a very tedious process since Richmond County did not institute a Block and Lot referencing system until 1923. Prior to this time the only references are

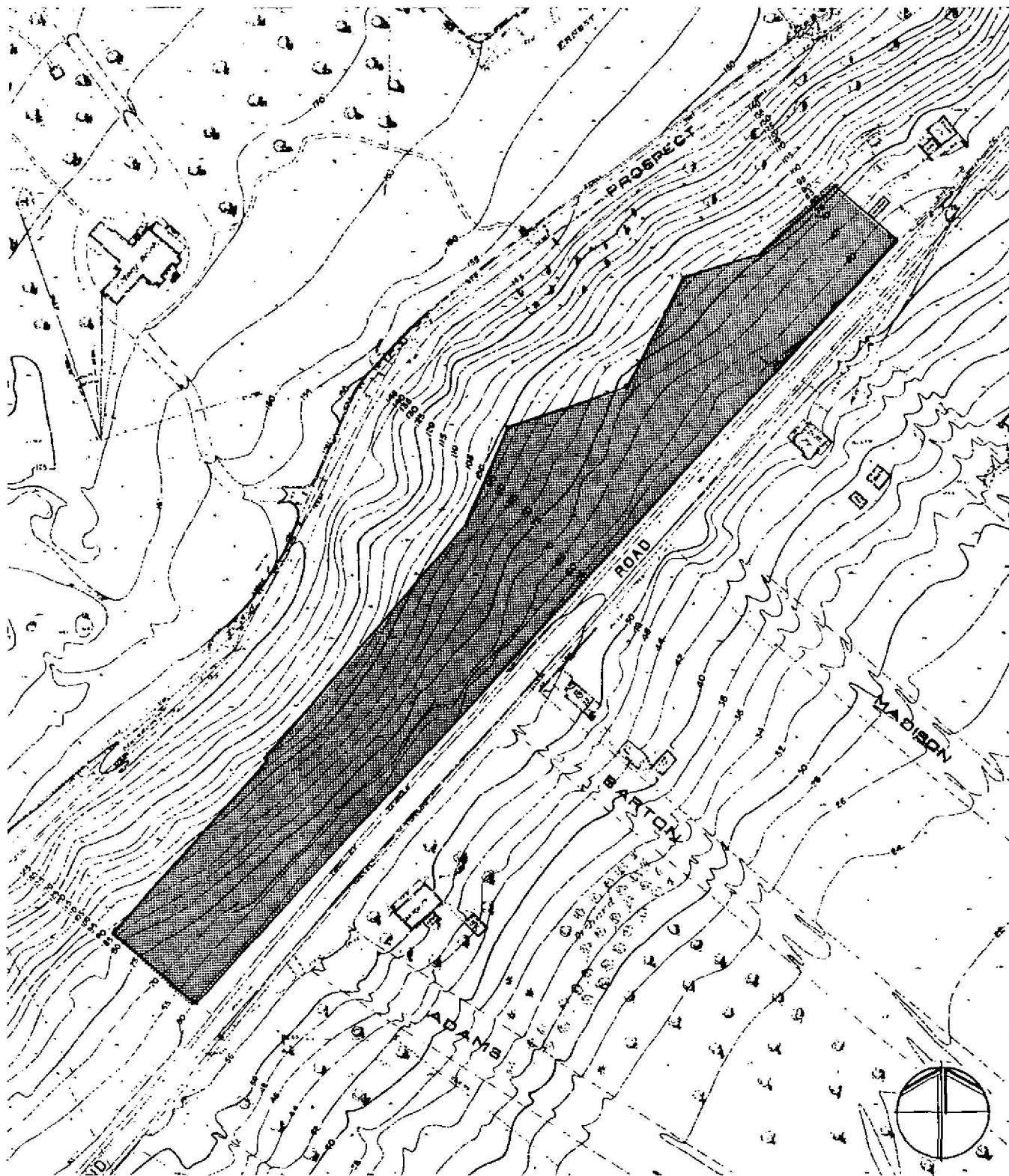


Figure 12 From the 1909 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey Sheet 48. Scale: 150 feet to one inch. Project area indicated by shading.



alphabetical by grantor and grantee, usually with no mention of where the property lies within the county. It did not prove possible to completely trace the chain of title, although evidence of some of the nineteenth century transactions were found. The project area currently consists of Tax Block 895 Lots 76, 94 and most of 51. Lot 51 makes up over 90 percent of the project area. The present owners are Jacob Friedland and his wife, Lucille B. Friedland. They obtained the property as twelve parcels from Flagg Place Estates Inc. See Tables 2, 3, and 4.

The most important transactions are those towards the end of Table 2. The Barton family already owned land including the project area by 1836. They continued to own this until they lost it in a court case during 1873, to Samuel R. Brick. The earliest owner was likely Joseph Barton who probably died during 1779. Joseph and his wife Sarah had three sons named Isaac, Joseph and Samuel. It appears that prior to 1836 the younger Joseph Barton owned the farm including the project area. During 1836 he transferred it to his brother Isaac, and during 1845 it passed to the third brother, Samuel. Samuel Barton was born in 1785 and lived until 1858. He served in the United States Congress from March 1833 through March 1837, as a Jackson Democrat. He has been called a pioneer of the Democratic Party on Staten Island. Samuel married three times and had one child by each wife. Samuel Barton and Sarah Perine had a son, Edward P. Barton. Samuel then married a Miss Duffy and they had a daughter, Anna who later married Robert M. Hazzard. Samuel then married a Mrs. Jane (Vanderbilt) DeForest and they had one son, Samuel. It is these latter two children, Anna Hazzard and Samuel Barton, who became owners of most of the project area in 1860 (Leng and Davis 1930:Vol. III, 316-317). Ownership of most of the project area passed from the Bartons to S.R. Brick as a result of a court case during 1873. Samuel Reeve Brick, 2nd was born in Philadelphia during 1834. He became the first manager of the first gas works on Staten Island during the 1850s. This gas works had been built by his father. S.R. Brick, 2nd moved to Clifton during 1857. He served as supervisor and later chairman of the board of Middletown, a later name for the Town of Castletown. He represented Richmond County in the New York State Legislature during 1876. He died in Bayonne, New Jersey in 1913 (ibid:320). Very few nineteenth century directories for Richmond County or Borough exist. During 1897 Samuel R. Brick, Jr. is listed as an architect living at 12 Central Avenue in Tompkinsville (Libby 1897:39).

The twentieth century history of the project area is apparently uneventful. A second attempt at subdivision was made in 1907 when the southwestern third of the project area was designated Block 23 of Grant Terrace. Lots 24 through 45 on this block occupied this portion of the property (Richmond County Clerk Filed Map 332). Some of these lots were sold but there is no evidence that any buildings were constructed. Sanborn Insurance Maps for 1917, 1926 and 1935

Table 2
Chain of Title for Block 895 Lot 51

	Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
Parcel IV	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Jacob Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:328
Parcels II-IV	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Lucille B. Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:332
Parcels II, III	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Lucille B. Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:336
part	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Jacob Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:340
Parcels I-III	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Lucille B. Friedland (wife) Jacob Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:344
part	Andrew Brown	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	15 Oct. 1958	1437:229
part	Opportunity Sales Co. Inc. by Receiver	Andrew Brown	16 Oct. 1958	1437:188
part	Grace Steuernagel	Andrew Brown	11 Jan. 1955	1300:315
part	Certified Construction Corp.	Grace Steuernagel	22 Dec. 1954	1299:63
part	Boyd E. Wilson and Betsy Melcher executors for Ernest Flagg (dec'd)	Certified Construction Corp. President: Andrew Brown	15 Oct. 1954	1292:352
Grant Terrace Bl. 23, Lots 26-30, 34-37	Clara Eitner	Ernest Flagg	8 Dec. 1930	711:526
Grant Terrace Bl. 23 Lots 38 & 39	James A. Vreeland	Ernest Flagg	14 Jan. 1925	591:503
Grant Terrace Bl. 23 Lots 40 & 41	George McDonough Avent Addee E. Avent	Ernest Flagg	17 May 1924	582:362
Grant Terrace Bl. 23 Lots 31-33	James Schudtz	Ernest Flagg	27 March 1924	580:236
Grant Terrace Bl. 23 Lots 40 & 41	Opportunity Sales Co. by Receiver	George McDonough Avent Addee E. Avent	21 May 1924	580:564
Grant Terrace Bl. 23 Lots 31-33	Arthur E. Post Elizabeth H. Post	James Schudtz	11 Jan. 1924	574:168

Table 2: Block 895 Lot 51 continued

	Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
Grant Terrace Bl. 23 Lots 26-30, 34-37	Apel J. Grout Grace E. Grout	Clara Eitner	15 Oct. 1923	569:277
Parcel 11	Ambrose Higgins	W.M. Ostrander, Inc.	13 May 1909	357:320
Parcel 2	Benjamin C. Small	Ambrose Higgins	24 June 1907	328:320
Parcel 2	James V.S. Wooley Emma J. Wooley (wife)	Benjamin C. Small	24 June 1907	327:278
Parcel 3	Nina Ward Edward C. Center Henry Livingston Center	James V.S. Wooley	9 May 1906	316:135
Parcel 3	Farmers Loan and Trust Co. trustee for Edward C. Center (dec'd)	Nina Ward Henry Livingston Center Edward C. Center	16 June 1904	302:173
	Sidney F. Rawson (referee)	Samuel R. Brick	21 Oct. 1873	104:186
part	Edward P. Barton Louisa Barton (wife) Samuel Barton	Anna Louisa Hazard	2 May 1860	45:714
part	Anna L. Hazard Robert M. Hazard (husband) Edward P. Barton Louisa Barton (wife)	Samuel Barton	2 May 1860	45:718
part	Isaac Barton et al.	Samuel Barton	27 June 1845	12:463
part	Joseph Barton	Isaac Barton	6 Feb. 1836	Y:416

Table 3
Chain of Title for Block 895 Lot 76
(formerly Grant Terrace Block 23 Lots 42 and 43)

	Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
Parcel II (part)	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Lucille B. Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:336
(part)	Andrew Brown	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	15 Oct. 1958	1437:229
	Edward H. Midgeley Clara B. Midgeley (wife)	Andrew Brown	19 Aug. 1954	1287:259
	Udo W. Bock Bertha A. Bock (wife)	Edward H. Midgeley	6 July 1939	817:432
	Aquehonga Real Estate Corp.	Udo W. Bock Bertha A. Bock (wife)	16 Oct. 1925	606:410

Table 4
Chain of Title for Block 895 Lot 94
(formerly Grant Terrace Block 23 Lots 24 & 25)

	Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
Parcel III (part)	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	Lucille B. Friedland	28 July 1978	2256:336
(part)	Andrew Brown	Flagg Place Estates Inc.	15 Oct. 1958	1437:229
(part)	Boyd E. Wilson and Betsy Melcher executors for Ernest Flagg (dec'd)	Certified Construction Corp. President: Andrew Brown	15 Oct. 1954	1292:352 (by will)
	Eleanor G. Decker	Ernest Flagg	23 March 1931	716:434
	Mabel Loucks Bertha L. Hatch Jessie L. Parsons	Eleanor G. Decker	23 March 1931	716:431



were consulted and all show the project area as vacant. The only changes seen between the 1909 Topographic Survey and the present conditions are the removal of the trolley line from Richmond Road and the widening of the road. Water mains became available under most of Richmond Road near the project area in 1909 (Bureau of Water Supply n.d.:D.D.M. #397). Sewer lines became available under Richmond Road in 1958 (Borough of Richmond Sewer Department 1991:Sewer Atlas D14).

In summary, it can now be seen that there is little potential for the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area to preserve historical archaeological evidence. The property was probably used for nothing other than a source of wood during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. No Revolutionary War activities took place there. During most of the nineteenth century it was part of a farm owned by the Barton family, but there is no firm evidence that they ever constructed any buildings there. During 1873 S.R. Brick, 2nd became owner of part of this land. He evidently built a structure on the slope just outside the southwestern boundary of the project area. The parcel outside the project area to the northeast was also owned by the Barton family who built a house there, perhaps as early as the 1780s. This house still stands but is about 100 feet from the project area boundary. The closest outbuilding associated with this house was a henhouse adjacent to the present boundary.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above text has documented that the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area has little chance of preserving archaeological evidence from the prehistoric period. Since this steeply sloping land had no caves, rockshelters, or natural fresh water source, it was probably not utilized by prehistoric peoples.

The above text has also documented that this location has very low potential for preserving archaeological evidence from the historic period. There is no solid evidence that any buildings were constructed on the project area. Although Staten Island was occupied by British forces throughout the Revolutionary War, no evidence was found to suggest that they utilized the project area. The Barton family owned this land for most of the nineteenth century, but never built on the project area. They did construct a house to the northeast, perhaps as early as the late eighteenth century, but this is about 100 feet beyond the project area boundary.

It is our recommendation that archaeological testing of the Richmond Road Retail Stores project area is not necessary.



Plate 1 View of a portion of the project area taken from across Richmond Road.



Plate 2 View of a portion of the interior of the project area looking southwest.



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