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STAGE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OF THE NATHAN COURT DEVELOPMENT  
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

CEQR# 95-DEP-215R

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

William I. Roberts IV, SOPA	-	Principal Investigator Author
Kenneth Richter	-	Field Technician
Paula M. Crowley	-	Word Processor Artifact Analyst Editor Laboratory Director



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Stage 1B archaeological survey is to provide positive or negative evidence regarding the existence of archaeological sites within the project area through archaeological testing. The archaeological/historical sensitivity study completed for this property recommended Stage 1B archaeological testing here prior to construction (Greenhouse Consultants 1995:17).

The Nathan Court Development project area is located in southwestern Staten Island. The project area consists of approximately 1.1 acres which is located to the northwest of the Prince's Bay Station. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

This study is organized in the following manner: first, a section describes the the field methodology; next, stratigraphy; and finally, the conclusions and recommendations.



Figure 1 Project area location shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Arthur Kill N.Y.-N.J. Quadrangle, 1966, photorevised 1981.



## FIELD TESTING

The Stage 1B testing of the Nathan Court project area took place on May 23, 1995. This parcel of approximately 1.1 acres was investigated by excavating shovel tests located on a 50 foot grid pattern or as close as possible to the grid intersections. During the Stage 1B testing of the project area, fourteen shovel tests were excavated. Obstacles encountered were piles of rubble and/or fill, occasionally boulders, trees, and extremely marshy conditions in low areas to the west and south. Brambles and other dense undergrowth were encountered especially in the south center of the project area, but these conditions did not require the abandonment of any tests. See Figure 2 for the location of the shovel tests.

The methodology employed for the shovel tests was straight forward. Roughly square tests approximately 1.5 feet across were excavated until 0.5 feet of the subsoil was explored, or until the test was impeded by excessive ground water or impeded by other obstacles. All soils from the shovel tests were screened through  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch mesh for the recovery of artifacts. Soils were excavated and recorded by natural stratigraphic deposits. For all of the shovel tests, the strata encountered were measured, described, and recorded utilizing the context system. See Appendix 1 for the original survey record forms.

Surface inspection was used in areas of good surface visibility to supplement the shovel testing. No artifacts were recovered from the Nathan Court surface collecting, although this did confirm the disturbed nature of the central portion of the project area.



Key:

⊕ Shovel Test

UNCAS AVENUE

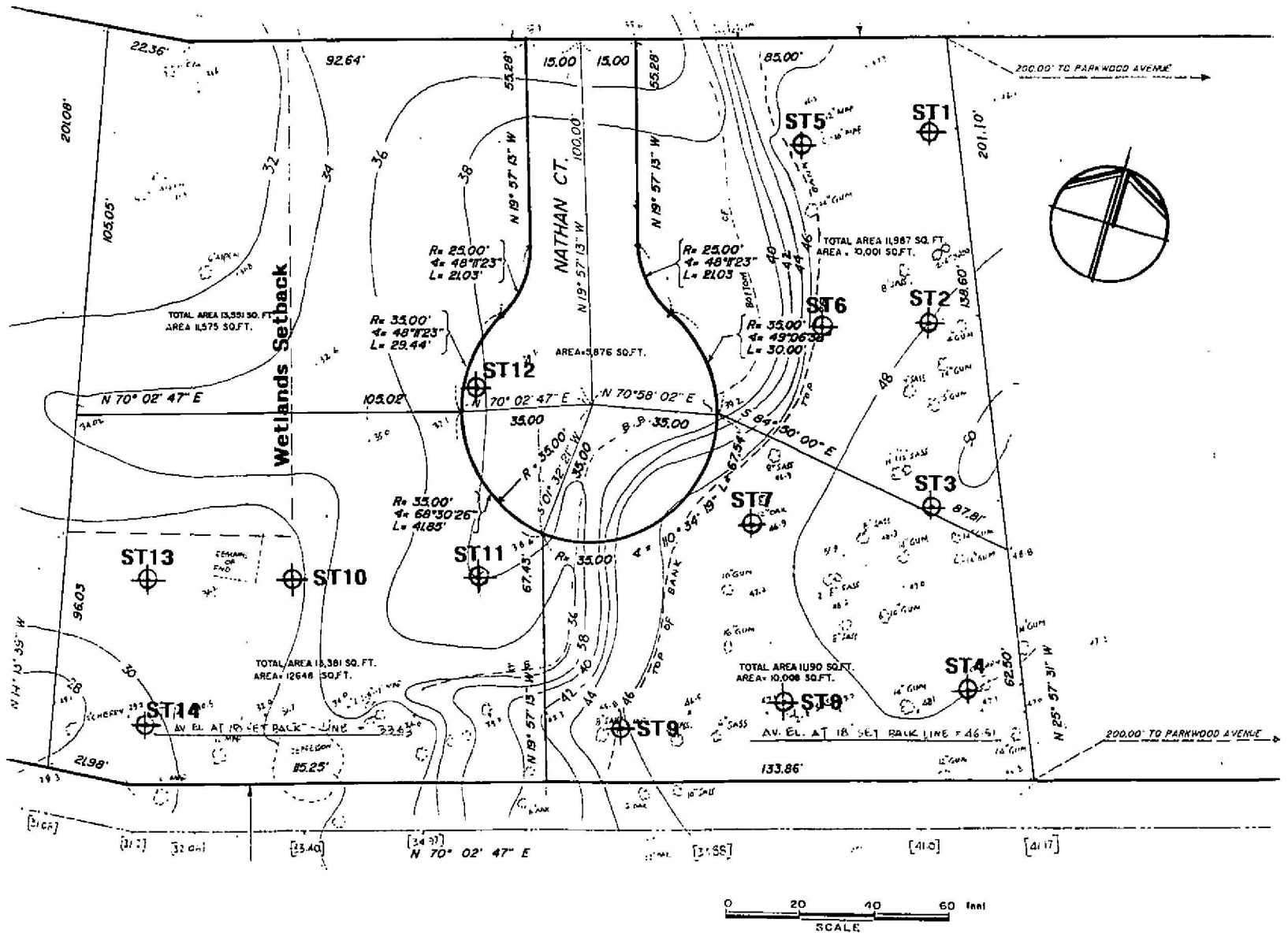


Figure 2 Shovel Test locations shown on 1988 survey of the project area by Anthony A. Lo Bianco.



## STRATIGRAPHY SUMMARY

Two to four layers were identified in the fourteen shovel tests excavated within the Nathan Court project area. Nine of the tests had two layers, three had three layers, and two tests had four layers. The deepest layer was tentatively identified as subsoil in thirteen tests. This subsoil ranged in texture from silt to silty clay with silt most common. There were usually no inclusions. Cobbles were present in three tests and pebbles in one. Color ranged from strong brown through brown, dark brown and yellowish brown to dark yellowish brown. Strong brown was most common. The subsoil was found from 0.1 to 1.9 feet below grade, with the average depth below grade being 0.7 feet.

Topsoil was identified in ten shovel tests. Its texture ranged from sandy loam to slightly clayey silty loam with silty loam most common. There were no inclusions noted, except roots. Color ranged from very dark brown through dark brown and brown to dark yellowish brown. Very dark brown was most common. Thickness ranged from 0.5 to 0.6 feet and averaged 0.5 feet.

A possible plow zone was tentatively identified in only three shovel tests. Texture was consistently silt. Inclusions were rare. Color ranged from strong brown to dark yellowish brown. Strong brown was most common. Thickness ranged from 0.5 to 0.6 feet, and averaged 0.5 feet.

All of the remaining layers have been identified as fill. Recent deposits of fill were quite evident within the central and southern portions of the property. Debris such as concrete and plastic was visible as were many rocks. Fill was left in mounds after being deposited by bulldozers and dump trucks presumably. Some of these mounds were over six feet high. Texture of the fill was generally silty. Rocks were noted as inclusions in many cases.

Shovel Tests 10 and 13, located east and west of the brick foundation, both contained fill. The fill layer in Shovel Test 10 was over subsoil, while Shovel Test 13 included two layers of fill or a layer of fill over disturbed subsoil.



Plate 1      General view of the central portion of the project area looking south from Uncas Avenue.



Plate 2      View of piles of fill and evidence of earth moving east of Shovel Test 11 looking east.



Plate 3 View of the central portion of the project area including Shovel Test 10 looking north towards Uncas Avenue. Note brick foundation to left of screen.



Plate 4      Detail of brick foundation looking north. Scale in tenths of feet.



Plate 5 View of eastern portion of the project area looking south, showing road just east of Shovel Test 6.



Plate 6 View of piles of fill looking southwest towards Shovel Test 9.



## RESULTS

No prehistoric artifacts were recovered from the fourteen shovel tests completed within the Nathan Court project area. Despite the existence of 30 known prehistoric sites within two miles of the location, only negative evidence regarding prehistoric use of the project area was obtained.

Two historic period artifacts, a porcelain saucer fragment from Shovel Test 4 and a yellowware fragment from Shovel Test 7 were recovered. The project area was used as a farm field as seen in the 1910 map (Greenhouse Consultants 1995:Figure 4).

Evidence of disturbances was seen during the testing: piles of rubble, soil often with large numbers of rocks and occasionally other debris, and little evidence of natural soil profiles. It appears that the center of the project area may have been largely stripped of topsoil, and subsequently covered with fill over much of its area. Any potential for preserving possible archaeological evidence from the prehistoric period appears to have been destroyed here. Plates 1 through 3 provide good views of this central portion of the project area. All of the property west of the embankment shown in Figure 2 appears to have been disturbed excepting the northwestern and southwestern corners. Shovel Tests 10 through 13 all show evidence of disturbance in their soil profiles. Plate 4 provides a detail of the brick foundation located between Shovel Tests 10 and 13. This is almost certainly from the ice house seen in Figure 4 of our Stage 1A report. This foundation has been impacted by bulldozer, as confirmed by the presence of fill deposits in Shovel Tests 10 and 13. The eastern portion of the project area east of the embankment is evidently less disturbed. Plate 5 shows that some of this area remains forest, although a road and clearing have been created by bulldozers. This activity has left some pile of fill near the clearing as seen in Plate 6. The eastern zone was thoroughly investigated with Shovel Tests 1 through 9 but no significant deposits were found. The southwestern corner of the project area was investigated with Shovel Test 14, and no significant deposits were found. No testing of the northwestern corner of the project area was necessary as this location is within the wetlands setback and will not be impacted.



## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This final report documents the procedures and results of the Stage 1B testing of the Nathan Court Development project, Staten Island, New York. Based on this objective ground testing, it can now be concluded that no potentially significant prehistoric or historic archaeological resources were present within the boundaries of the project area. We can now confidently state that additional testing is not necessary and no further work is recommended.





## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated

- 1995 Stage 1A Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Study of the Nathan Court Development, Staten Island, New York. CEQR# 95-DEP-215R. William I. Roberts IV and Paula M. Crowley. Prepared for Mr. N.L. Spells, New York, New York. Prepared by Greenhouse Consultants, New York, New York.

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APPENDIX 1

FIELD RECORD SHEETS

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Parkwood ave.			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	WR	KR	1/4"	5/23/95	ST 1
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0.0' - 0.3'	compact silty loam w/ root mat & pebbles	7.5 yr 4/4 brown	plastic (disc)	
2	- 1.3'	sandy silt w/ cobbles	7.5 yr 4/4 brown	NCM	
3	- 1.9'	silt	7.5 yr 5/6 brown	NCM	
4	- 2.3'	silt	10 yr 4/6 dark brown	NCM	
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Parkwood ave.			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	WR	KR	1/4"	5/23/95	ST 2
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0.0' - 0.5'	silt w/ peatase roots	10 yr 2/2 very dark brown	NCM	
2	- 1.1'	silt w/ roots	10 yr 5/4 yellowish brown	NCM	stopped due to roots
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) * stopped due to roots					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkway Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/95</u>	<u>ST 3</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.4'</u>	<u>Sandy loam</u>	<u>1042 4/4 Dumy yellow Brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
2	<u>- 1.8'</u>	<u>Compact silt</u>	<u>7.54m 4/6 Stony Brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>* Stopped at 1.8'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkway Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/95</u>	<u>ST 4</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.15'</u>	<u>Silty loam w/loam MAT</u>	<u>1042 2/2 Dumy dark Brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
2	<u>- 0.7</u>	<u>silt</u>	<u>7.54m 4/6 Stony Brown</u>	<u>LOCAL (disc.) Cementation w/stone frags (disc.) Pancake</u>	
3	<u>- 2.8</u>	<u>compacted silt w/ pebbles</u>	<u>7.54m 5/6 Stony, black</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>* Stopped at 1.3'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/2/95</u>	<u>ST 5</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.9'</u>	<u>silty loam</u>	<u>7.5 ym - 4/41</u> <u>base wash</u>	<u>NEM</u>	<u>fill</u>
2	<u>- 1.4'</u>	<u>silty loam w/ root mat</u>	<u>10 ym 2/2</u> <u>very dark</u>	<u>NEM</u>	<u>probably buried topsoil</u>
3	<u>- ?</u>	<u>silt</u>	<u>10 ym 4/4</u> <u>dark yellow</u> <u>granular</u>	<u>cul (disc.)</u>	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>* stopped at 2.1'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/2/95</u>	<u>ST 6</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.6'</u>	<u>silty loam w/ROOTS</u>	<u>10 ym 2/2</u> <u>very dark</u> <u>granular</u>	<u>Plastic (disc.)</u>	
2	<u>- ?</u>	<u>compacted silt w/ROOTS</u>	<u>10 ym 5/4</u> <u>yellowish</u> <u>granular</u>	<u>NEM</u>	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>* stopped at 1.2' due to ROOTS</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/95</u>	<u>ST 7</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.2'</u>	<u>Silty loam</u>	<u>1042 2/2 Very dark Brown</u>	<u>(cont. Conc.)</u>	
2	<u>- 0.3'</u>	<u>Compacted silt w/loam</u>	<u>1042 5/6 yellowish brown</u>	<u>organic</u>	
3	<u>- 0.4'</u>	<u>Compacted silt</u>	<u>7.542 S/L strong brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>* stopped at 1.5'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/95</u>	<u>ST 8</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.1'</u>	<u>Slightly clayey silty loam</u>	<u>1042 4/4 dark yellowish brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
2	<u>- 0.2'</u>	<u>Compacted silt</u>	<u>1042 4/6 dark yellowish brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>* stopped at 1.6'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Parkwood Ave			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	WR	KR	1/4"	5/13/95	ST 9
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0.0' - 0.7'	Slightly clayey loamy silt	10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown	Coal (disc.)	
2	- 1.6'	compacted silt	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown	NCM	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Parkwood Ave			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	WR	KR	1/4"	5/13/95	ST 10
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0.0' - 0.45'	compacted silt	10YR 6/6 brownish yellow	Shell (disc.) brown white glass (disc.) safety glass (disc.)	
2	- ?'	compacted silt w/ cobble	7.5YR 5/6 strong brown	NCM	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)					
* Stopped at 1.1' due to rocks FOUNDATION below, hand mention (located 10' west of ST 10) 4 inches wide (15")					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/95</u>	<u>ST 11</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.6'</u>	<u>Sandy silt w/ Rotten</u>	<u>7.5 ym 4/4 Brown/blk pink</u>	<u>coal (misc.) brown bottle caps (disc)</u>	
2	<u>- ?</u>	<u>Silt w/ organic concretes</u>	<u>7.5 ym 4/4 brown</u>	<u>NCM black brown</u>	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>Stopped at 1.6'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/95</u>	<u>ST 12</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.5'</u>	<u>Sandy silt w/ Rotten</u>	<u>7.5 ym 4/4 Brown/blk brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
2	<u>- ?</u>	<u>Silt w/ organic concretes</u>	<u>7.5 ym 4/4 brown/blk brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.) <u>Stopped at 1.4'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		



SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/45</u>	<u>ST 13</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.5'</u>	<u>Silty loam</u>	<u>10yr 4/3</u> <u>brown/blk fine</u>	<u>Metal (disc.)</u> <u>coal (disc.)</u> <u>bottle glass (disc.)</u>	
2	<u>- ?'</u>	<u>Silty clay</u>	<u>10yr 5/6</u> <u>yellowish-brown</u>	<u>Metal (disc.)</u> <u>bone (disc.)</u>	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)					
<u>* stopped at 1.5'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>Parkwood Ave</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>5/23/45</u>	<u>ST 14</u>
STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.1'</u>	<u>Silt w/ turf</u>	<u>7.5 yr</u> <u>4/6</u>	<u>None</u>	
2	<u>- 0.6'</u>	<u>silt</u>	<u>7.5 yr</u> <u>5/6</u> <u>Strongly brown</u>	<u>bone frags (disc.)</u> <u>bone frags (disc.)</u> <u>bone frags (disc.)</u>	
3	<u>- 1.1'</u>	<u>compacted silt</u>	<u>10yr 6/4</u> <u>light brown</u> <u>Brown</u>	<u>None</u>	
4	<u>- ?'</u>	<u>compacted slightly</u> <u>clayey silt</u>	<u>10yr 6/2</u> <u>light brown</u> <u>gray</u>	<u>None</u>	
5					
6					
7					
8					
* Give depths relative to ground surface					
General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)					
<u>* stopped at 1.4'</u>					
Cross Refs :					
Plan			Photos		
Section			Notebook		