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STAGE 1A ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL
SENSITIVITY EVALUATION OF THE
MANEE AVENUE PROJECT
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

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95 DEP 214R

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LIST OF PERSONNEL

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
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| Paula M. Crowley | - | Editor Word Processor |

Materials on file at Greenhouse Consultants, compiled for other projects conducted in the Borough of Richmond were used in preparing this report. Credit is extended to the document research completed by Anna V. Farkas for previous projects.



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Phase 1A Sensitivity Study is to document potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed Manee Avenue Project through the review of existing archival, cartographic and published references and then to make recommendations regarding possible archaeological testing. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey shall include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric resources in the immediate area surrounding the project area and a summary of the history of this location.

The Manee Avenue Development project area is located in southwestern Staten Island. The project area consists of approximately 3.5 acres which is located to the southeast of the Pleasant Plains Station. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

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

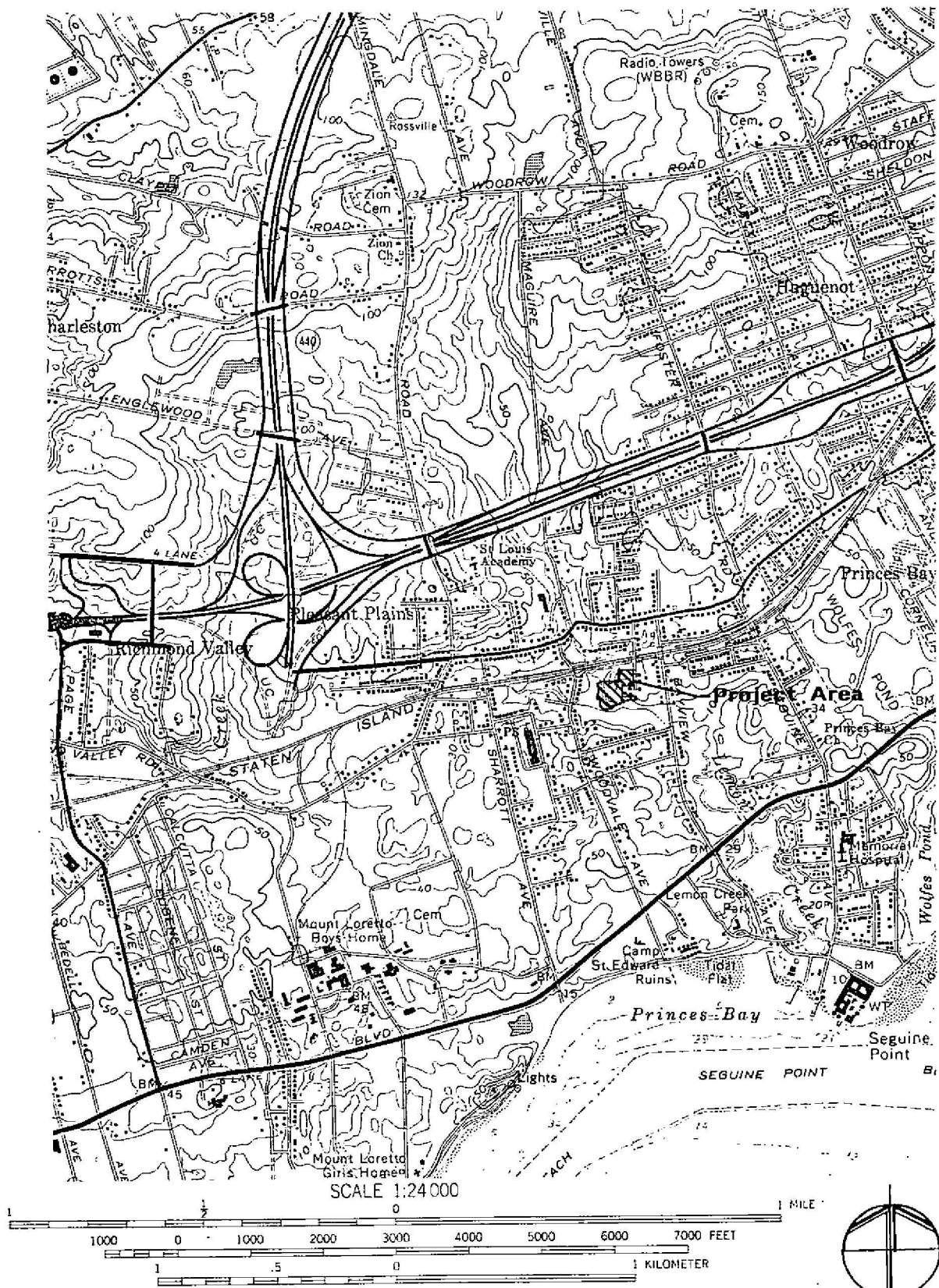


Figure 1 Project area location shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Arthur Kill quadrangle, 1966, photorevised 1981.



GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

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

The surficial geology 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 (Jacobsen 1980:5). The shoreline area in this portion of Staten Island is comprised of sandy embankments of beach sand 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 be overlaid by fill as well as beach, marsh, dune, swamp, and estuarine deposits (Jacobsen 1980:5).

During April 1995 the Principal Investigator visited the Manee Avenue project area in Staten Island. During this visit, a pedestrian survey was conducted to inspect the project area. The majority of the project area is presently covered with a moderate growth of grasses, shrubs and trees on the higher ground, and reeds on areas of lower elevation. The project area contains three standing structures. A relatively modern wood frame stable with a concrete foundation exists in the western portion of the project area. It appears to be less than 40 years old. In the east central portion of the project area adjacent to Manee Avenue, a twentieth century house of two storeys and a small garage exist in the northernmost of the three lots. The southern two lots are an outparcel. Much of the central portion of the project area appears to be disturbed. Several piles of spoil or fill are evident, and the portion just behind the outparcels facing Manee Avenue appears to have had approximately two feet of soil cut away. See Plate 1 for a view of this disturbed area. This is not the case for the top of the bluffs along the western and southern portions of the project area. Here the land overlooking Lemon Creek appears undisturbed with a number of trees growing on this relatively flat expanse at the top of the slope. See Plate 2 for a view of the bluff along the southern portion of the project area.



PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished resources in the archives and library of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, 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 Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. Materials collected by the Principal Investigator over the last nine years were also utilized during this research effort. Most prehistoric archaeological work undertaken by both professional and avocational archaeologists has historically been concentrated on this southwestern portion of Staten Island (Baughner 1985: personal communication). This work should eliminate the problems of inadequate archaeological survey coverage particularly evident in the interior of the island.

Table 1 presents the results of our search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the Manee Avenue project area. Included in the table are 28 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 28 known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, a few, including New Sites 1 and 2, were excavated under controlled conditions. The rest represent either surface finds, less well documented excavated finds by local amateur archaeologists, or the usually completely undocumented finds of pothunters.

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

A number of these 28 prehistoric sites are known primarily through the work of Arthur Parker, an early twentieth century New York State Archaeologist, during the first quarter of this century. Included are five sites designated "A", "G", "J", "S", and "T" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. These are described as varying in size and importance from traces of occupation through campsites to villages. Occasionally other features such as burials or shell middens are mentioned in the brief descriptions.



We have supplied the name Kreischerville for site "S" due to its location near the old settlement now known as Charleston, and Lemon Creek for site "A" due to its proximity to this stream. Unfortunately no detailed descriptions of artifacts recovered from these sites are supplied, so no assessments of date ranges can be made (Parker 1922). Lemon Creek is the nearest site to the Manee Avenue project area.

A series of prehistoric sites have been reported along the south shore of the island in the vicinity of Prince's Bay. The earliest mention of these is by Skinner who shows three locations, all referenced as Huguenot (Skinner 1909:16). All three locations are currently listed in the files of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences as the Red Bank Site, the Sharrott Avenue Site, and the Wolfe's Pond Site. All of these sites lie within two miles of the Manee Avenue project area. The Red Bank site is also noted by Parker (1922: Plate 211) as a campsite location on his distribution map of prehistoric sites in Richmond County. The site registration form on file with the S.I.I.A.S. described the Red Bank Site as being on the property of the Mount Loretto Girls Home on the shorefront approximately 500 feet east of the former location of Jack's Creek (Salwen 1957). A description of artifacts recovered includes pottery, so the period of occupation includes the Woodland Period (Pickman 1978: II/27). The Red Bank Site is approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the project area and is designated "J" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. The Sharrott Avenue Site is located approximately 0.6 miles northeast of the Red Bank Site or about 0.9 miles south of the project area. Forms on file with the S.I.I.A.S. describe its location as the shore end of Sharrott Avenue but describe the artifacts found there in such general terms as to preclude identification of the period of occupation (Salwen 1957, 1967). The Sharrott Avenue Site is designated "B" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. The Wolfe's Pond Site is located approximately 1.0 miles southeast of the project area and is described only as a shell midden. The Wolfe's Pond Site is designated "D" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. Just to the north of the Wolfe's Pond site is the Holton Avenue site, designated "C" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. This site is listed in the files of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, but they supplied no additional data regarding it.

The fifth nearest prehistoric site is the Mount Loretto Site, designated "E" on Figure 2 and Table 1. The Mount Loretto site is located approximately 1.2 miles to the southwest of the project area. This site was discovered during the survey undertaken in advance of the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project, and reported by Pickman and Yamin to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. Arnold Pickman described the Mount Loretto site as a small lithic scatter (Pickman 1989: personal communication).



Also located approximately 1.2 miles from the project area is the Huguenot Avenue Site, designated "F" in Table 1 and Figure 2. The Huguenot Avenue Site is situated east of the project area near to the intersection with Hylan Boulevard. It was reported to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as a result of work on the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project.

The next site found during our research into prehistoric resources near the Manee Avenue project is Canada Hill which is approximately 1.4 miles northwest of the project area. This site was initially located during a field survey by L. Williams, then of New York University, and presently curator of collections at the New Jersey State Museum. Although never formally published, a brief site registration form with site map was placed on file at the S.I.I.A.S. Williams described Canada Hill as a sector of high ground "... bounded by Drumgoole Blvd., Arthur Kill Road, Englewood Avenue and the West Shore Expressway" (Williams n.d.). In her limited survey of the site, Williams collected both prehistoric and historic artifacts including tobacco pipe fragments, a whelk column, chert and quartz debitage, historic ceramics, and fire-cracked rock (Williams n.d.). Unfortunately, this description is not sufficient to assign the site to a period of occupation. Canada Hill is designated "H" in Table 1 and on Figure 2.

Another site found during our research into the prehistory of this region is the Sandy Ground Site, designated "I" in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site, approximately 1.4 miles west of the project area is primarily an historic site known for its association with early black settlers. The N.Y.S.O.P.R.H.P. indicates that some prehistoric artifacts were also recovered there.

The Arbutus Avenue site is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the Manee Avenue project area. This site, designated "K" in Table 1 and Figure 2, is described as a scatter of lithic flakes found during work on the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project.

An additional two sites were discovered by Alanson Skinner, an early twentieth century archaeologist associated with the American Museum of Natural History. These sites are designated "L" and "X" in Table 1 and Figure 2. Although the descriptions of these sites are very brief, some of the artifacts recovered are mentioned. Site "L", Wort Farm, evidently contained burials, and probably dates to the Late Archaic through Late Woodland Periods and possibly into the Contact period. Site "X", the Rossville Shell Heap site, obviously included shell middens and probably dwellings. It dates to the Woodland Period based on the description of the ceramics recovered there (Skinner 1909:10-22).



Another prehistoric site northwest of the Manee Avenue project area is the Clay Pit Road Site located approximately 1.7 miles distant. The Clay Pit Road Site is designated "N" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. This site is assigned to the Middle and Late Woodland periods based on the recovery of pottery (including Vinette Modified) and projectile points (Pickman 1978:II-8). The Clay Pit Road site was located during a recent survey by professional archaeologists.

Approximately 1.5 miles west of the project area, a prehistoric site was reported in the Richmond Valley which included a shell midden and artifacts from the Woodland Period.

Joseph Bodnar and his sons have been working on a shell heap in Richmond Valley which was a dumping ground of prehistoric Indians. They have brought to light many decorated shards of pottery, several broken awls, triangular arrowheads and carbon for dating (*The New Bulletin* 1961).

This site was probably located at Boiling Spring in Richmond Valley, based on Leng and Davis' statement that "... at Richmond Valley, paths led through to the red sandstone lighthouse on the bluff overlooking Prince's Bay (see above); another went past the one time Indian camping place at the spring ..." (Leng and Davis 1930:726). The Richmond Valley site is designated "O" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. It dates to the Woodland period based on the presence of pottery and triangular projectile points.

Two prehistoric sites exist to the southwest of the Manee Avenue development, known by the name Page Avenue, which we have designated Page Avenue North and South. The larger prehistoric site is the Page Avenue North Site, designated "P" in Table 1 and on Figure 2, approximately 1.6 miles southwest of the project area. This site is situated along both sides of Page Avenue about 0.2 miles north of Hylan Boulevard and over 0.3 miles south of Amboy Road (Anderson 1965). Thought to be a possible campsite, artifacts recovered included projectile points, flakes, a two-holed gorget, large blades, a decorated shaft-weight, prehistoric ceramic sherds, pestles, graver, drills, knives and scrapers, a grooved ax and decorated pendants. A mortar was uncovered at 22 inches below grade which was the lowest depth at which artifacts were found. Anderson further states that "... countless fires and shifting winds have altered this sandy site considerably ..." (Anderson 1965:64), which again indicates a preference of prehistoric inhabitants for occupying areas of sandy soil. An area of the Page Avenue North Site to the east of that described above also produced a burial pit containing the secondary burial of a child and a dog.



The oval shaped pit, measuring about three feet in any given direction, was possibly no more than two feet in depth originally. A rise, or knoll nearby has been eroded by the elements to such an extent that it has deposited about twelve inches of fill over the site of interment (Anderson 1966:87).

Radiocarbon dates applied elsewhere to this focus offered dates "... between 700 and 905 A.D." (Anderson 1966:87). Associated with the burial were sherds of fabric-impressed pottery, a netsinker and a quartz projectile point. Anderson further stated that "... the site had been occupied on at least four different occasions" (Anderson 1966:90); the lowest level dating to the Early Archaic. Shell pits in the area near the burial pit produced pendants and a pebble celt. A large concentration of projectile points, scrapers and a grooved ax were found 25 feet from the burial. It was also reported that "... historic material including a cannonball, two George II coins (ca. 1700 [sic]) a Spanish Real of the same period, and colonial dishware fragments" (Pickman 1978:II-23) as well as prehistoric artifacts were recovered. If the identifications of the British coins is accurate, then they date between 1727 and 1760.

A second area of prehistoric finds approximately 0.4 miles to the south of the above Page Avenue site is also known by the same name. This second site is referred to here as the Page Avenue South Site, and is designated "Q" in Table 1 and Figure 2. This site is also apparently known as Tottenville Campsite 4, and the Hollowell Site in the files of the New York State Museum. This site is situated along both sides of Page Avenue south of Hylan Boulevard, approximately 1.7 miles southwest of the project area. These finds were first reported to the S.I.I.A.S. in 1966 (Kaesar 1966). The area of prehistoric remains was reported to be approximately 200 yards in length beginning 50 feet south of Hylan Boulevard. A description of the remains includes Middle to Late Woodland type pottery, the basal portion of a side-notched projectile point which had been reworked to make a drill, a hammerstone, chert debitage, burned oyster and clam shells, a 'small conch and columella of conch,' and 'split deer bone fragments' (ibid.). A series of letters by avocational archaeologist Donald R. Sainz to Gail K. Schneider, then with the Staten Island Museum, indicate that earlier Archaic Period remains were also recovered at this site (Sainz 1968). A visit to this site in April 1985 by Greenhouse Consultants' staff confirmed its existence on reasonably elevated sandy soil. Greenhouse Consultants undertook Phase 1B archaeological testing at this site during 1987 but no intact prehistoric deposits were found.

The eighteenth nearest prehistoric site to the Manee Avenue project area is the Bedell Avenue Site. This site was found during survey work for the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project. It was reported to the New York State

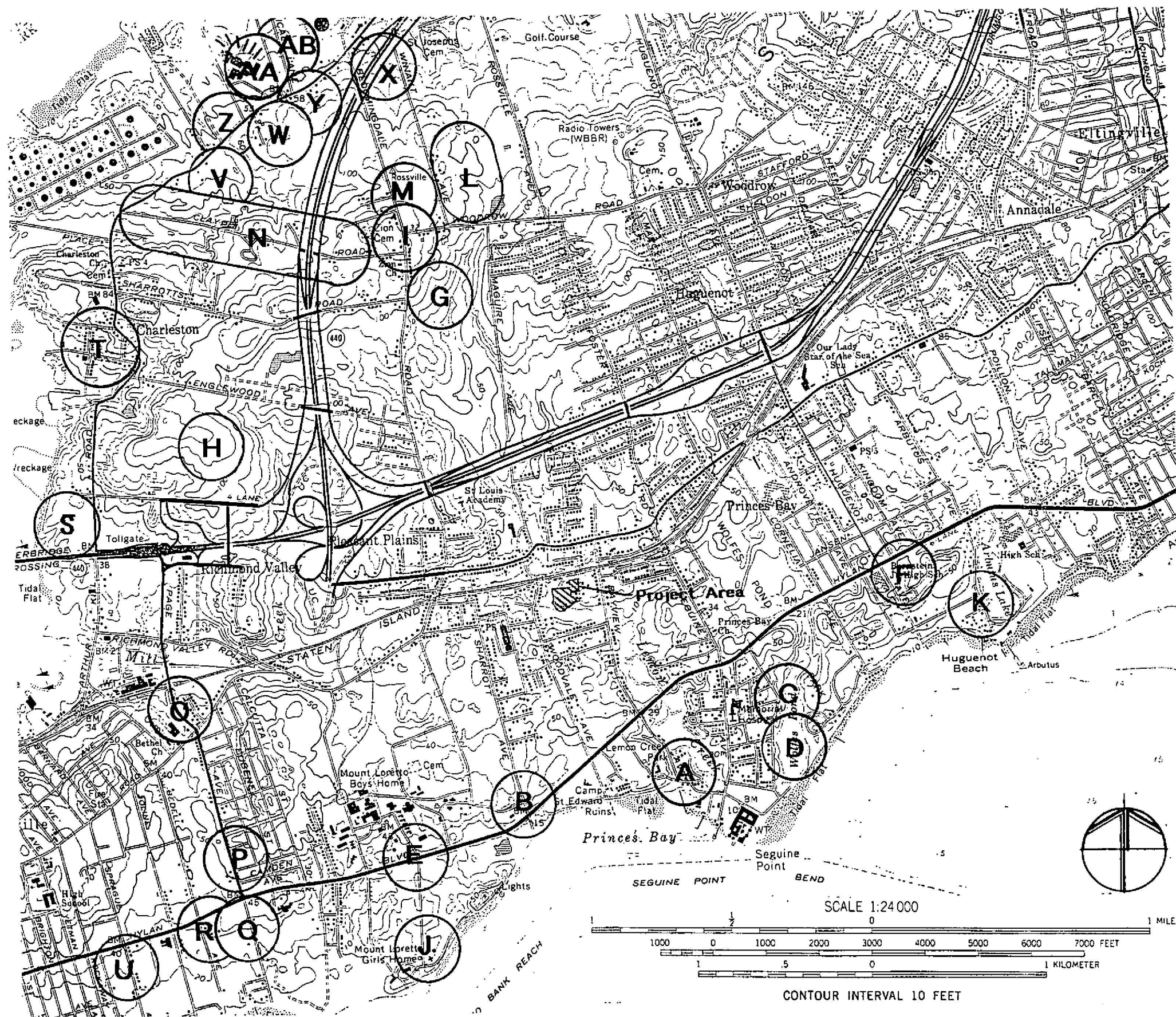


Figure 2 Prehistoric sites located within a two mile radius of the project area.



Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by archaeologists Arnold Pickman and Rebecca Yamin. This site is described as lithic scatter (Pickman 1989: personal communication) and is designated "R" on Figure 2 and Table 1.

Yet another site found during the search for prehistoric resources near the development is known as the Kreischerville "Indian Fields" site, which is located approximately 1.9 miles northwest of the project area. This site was originally reported by the former New York State Archaeologist, A.C. Parker, who described it as a series of "Indian Fields" from Sandy Brook to Kreischerville (Parker 1922:682). The New York State Museum lists this site as numbers 771 and 4603, and describes it as "traces of occupation." The site was again identified during a 1977 archaeological survey. Rebecca Yamin, an archaeologist on that survey described it as a surface scatter (Yamin 1987: personal communication). The Kreischerville "Indian Fields" site is designated "T" in Table 1 and Figure 2.

The twentieth nearest prehistoric site to the Manee Avenue project area is the Surfside Village site. This site, designated "U" in Table 1 and on Figure 2, was located by Greenhouse Consultants during subsurface survey work. This small site was probably a temporary camp, but it was disturbed by a nineteenth century farmstead which was built at the same location. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the prehistoric site, so no estimate of period or date range could be made (Roberts and Stehling 1987:8-9).

The area to the northwest of the Manee Avenue project area is the location of a number of prehistoric sites, designated "W", "X", "Y", "Z", "AA" and "AB" in Table 1 and Figure 2. Where enough information exists to estimate date ranges, these sites range from the Archaic through Late Woodland periods. Since the reports of these sites appeared over a 71 year time span, they may well represent different reports of a large site complex used at least intermittently over many centuries.

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 recorded or published location of 28 sites within a two mile radius of the Manee Avenue 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 area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on previous survey work is available. It would be inappropriate, however, to characterize the Manee Avenue project area as without prehistoric sensitivity, especially since the project area is adjacent to part of Lemon Creek, a stream that drains into Raritan Bay. The project area would have had reasonably good access to both fresh water and animals attracted to Lemon Creek and its associated marshes. Temporary or seasonal hunting camps would be the type of occupation mostly likely to exist here, particularly on the bluffs overlooking the stream.

TABLE 1: Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Manee Avenue

| | Site Name | SIILAS# | Parker# | NYSM# | Reference | Period(s) | Description |
|----|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|---|-------------------|--|
| A. | (Lemon Creek) | ---- | ACP-RICH | 4621 | Parker 1922: Pl. 211 | ----- | Traces of occupation |
| B. | Sharrot Avenue | STD-PB | ---- | 740 | Salwen 1957, 1967 | ---- | ---- |
| C. | Holton Avenue | ---- | ---- | ---- | NYSOPRHP Site A085-01-0015 | ---- | ---- |
| D. | Wolfe's Pond | STD 12-3 STD-PB | ---- | 736 | Salwen 1957 | ---- | Shell midden |
| E. | Mount Loretto | ---- | ---- | ---- | Oakwood Beach P.C.P. 1984 | ---- | Lithic flakes |
| F. | Huguenot Avenue | ---- | ---- | ---- | NYSOPRHP Site A085-01-0014 Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984 | ---- | ---- |
| G. | Sandy Brook | ---- | ACP-RICH-14 | 4604 | Parker 1922:682 | Mid-Late Woodland | Burials Traces of occupation |
| H. | Canada Hill | ---- | ---- | 770 | Williams n.d. | ---- | ---- |
| I. | Sandy Ground | STD 24-3 | ---- | 747 | ---- | ---- | Placed on National Register Sept. 23, 1982 |



| | Site Name | SIAS# | Parker# | NYSM# | Reference | Period(s) | Description |
|----|--|-----------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| J. | Red Bank (Jack's Creek) | STD-PB | ACP-RICH | 741 4620 | Skinner 1909 Salwen 1957 Pickman 1978 Parker 1922: Pl. 211 | Woodland | ----- |
| K. | Arbutus Avenue | ----- | ----- | ----- | NYSOPRHP Site A085-01-0012 Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984 | ----- | Lithic flakes |
| L. | Wort Farm | STD 2-3 | ----- | 735 | Skinner 1909:10 | Late Archaic Late Woodland | ----- |
| M. | Rossville Campsite | STD R-3 | ----- | ----- | Kaesar 1966 | Woodland | Campsite |
| N. | Clay Pit Road | ----- | ----- | ----- | Pickman 1978 | Mid-Late Woodland | ----- |
| O. | Richmond Valley (Boiling Spring) | STD-RV | ----- | ----- | The New Bulletin 1961 | Woodland | ----- |
| P. | Page Avenue North | 30RIC7AJA | ----- | 768 | Anderson 1965 Anderson 1966 | Archaic & Woodland | Burial Campsite |
| Q. | Page Avenue South | 30RIC7AJA | ----- | 767 (748?) | Kaesar 1966 | Archaic & Woodland | ----- |
| R. | Bedell Avenue | ----- | ----- | ----- | Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984 | ----- | Lithic Scatter |
| S. | (Kreischerville) | ----- | ACP-RICH-16 | 4606 | Parker 1922:683 | ----- | Campsite |



| | Site Name | SILAS# | Parker# | NYSM# | Reference | Period(s) | Description |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| T. | Kreischerville "Indian Fields" | ---- | ACP-RICH-13 | 771 4603 | Parker 1922:682 Yamin 1987: pers. comm. | ---- | Traces of occupation |
| U. | Surfside Village | ---- | ---- | ---- | Roberts & Stehling 1987 | ---- | Campsite |
| V. | New Site #2 | ---- | ---- | 5702 | Regensburg in Jacobsen 1980 | Early Woodland | ---- |
| W. | Gerike Farm | ---- | ---- | ---- | Pickman 1978 | Archaic/Mid- Late Woodland | ---- |
| X. | Rossville Shell Heap | ---- | ---- | 772 | Skinner 1909:11 | Woodland | Shell Midden |
| Y. | Distrigas Area 1 | ---- | ---- | 2320 | Rubertone 1974 | ---- | ---- |
| Z. | New Site #1 | ---- | ---- | 5701 | Regensburg in Jacobsen 1980 | Mid-Woodland | Flint knapping, limited function |
| AA. | Chemical Lane | STD 22-3 | ---- | 739 | Rubertone 1974 | ---- | ----- |
| AB. | Pottery Farm | STD 23-3 | ---- | 738 | Rubertone 1974 | Late Archaic Middle & Late Woodland | ---- |





HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

Staten Island was called Eghqaous, Montanucke, Monockong, or Aquehonga by the bands of Unami Delaware who inhabited the territory. The island was purchased from the Indians by the Dutch Director General in 1626. By 1630 a patent of the island was granted to Michael Pauw. Two years later, the directors in Holland ordered Cornelius Melyn to establish a colony. In turn, Melyn conveyed his right to title to land on Staten Island to the Dutch West Indian Company, which in turn, granted land to "... several French Waldenses and to a greater number of Huguenots" (Pickman 1978).

In 1664 Nieuw Amsterdam was ceded to the English. The final purchase of Staten Island from its aboriginal inhabitants was accomplished by the English Governor Francis Lovelace on April 13, 1670. By this time, however, there were a number of Dutch, French and English settlers on the Island who had obtained first Dutch and then English permission to settle. No surveys had been made, however, "... and the boundaries of their lands, as well as their title to them, were quite indefinite" (Leng and Davis 1930:741). Governor Lovelace ordered land surveys to be undertaken and this task was completed under Governor Andros by 1677 (see Figure 3).

Frederick Skene's 1907 map of Staten Island, tentatively delineating colonial land patents between 1668-1712, places the project area within land not granted (see Figure 3). The Manee Avenue project area was evidently originally part of a 140 acre parcel patented to Paulus Regrinet in 1670. The boundaries of this tract were Lemon Creek, Wolfe's Pond, Amboy Road and the shoreline of Prince's Bay. This property was patented a second time during 1694 to Paulus Richards, a merchant in New York City and the owner of much property on Staten Island. By the early eighteenth century this land was the property of Abraham Manee (Zavin and Gilbertson 1984:1). The Manee family, after whom the street forming the eastern boundary of the project area is named, were French Huguenots. They were descended from Pierre Mannet who came to Staten Island shortly before 1700 (Leng and Davis 1930:924, 1012).

During the Revolutionary War encampments and redoubts lined the southern shore of Staten Island (Pickman 1978:vi). Just beyond the Tottenville ferry to the south was "... a strong battery erected to cover the retreat of the British Army from Perth Amboy in case of attack by American forces" (Tancredi *et al.* 1977). During the Revolution Staten Island was used primarily as a way station and access route

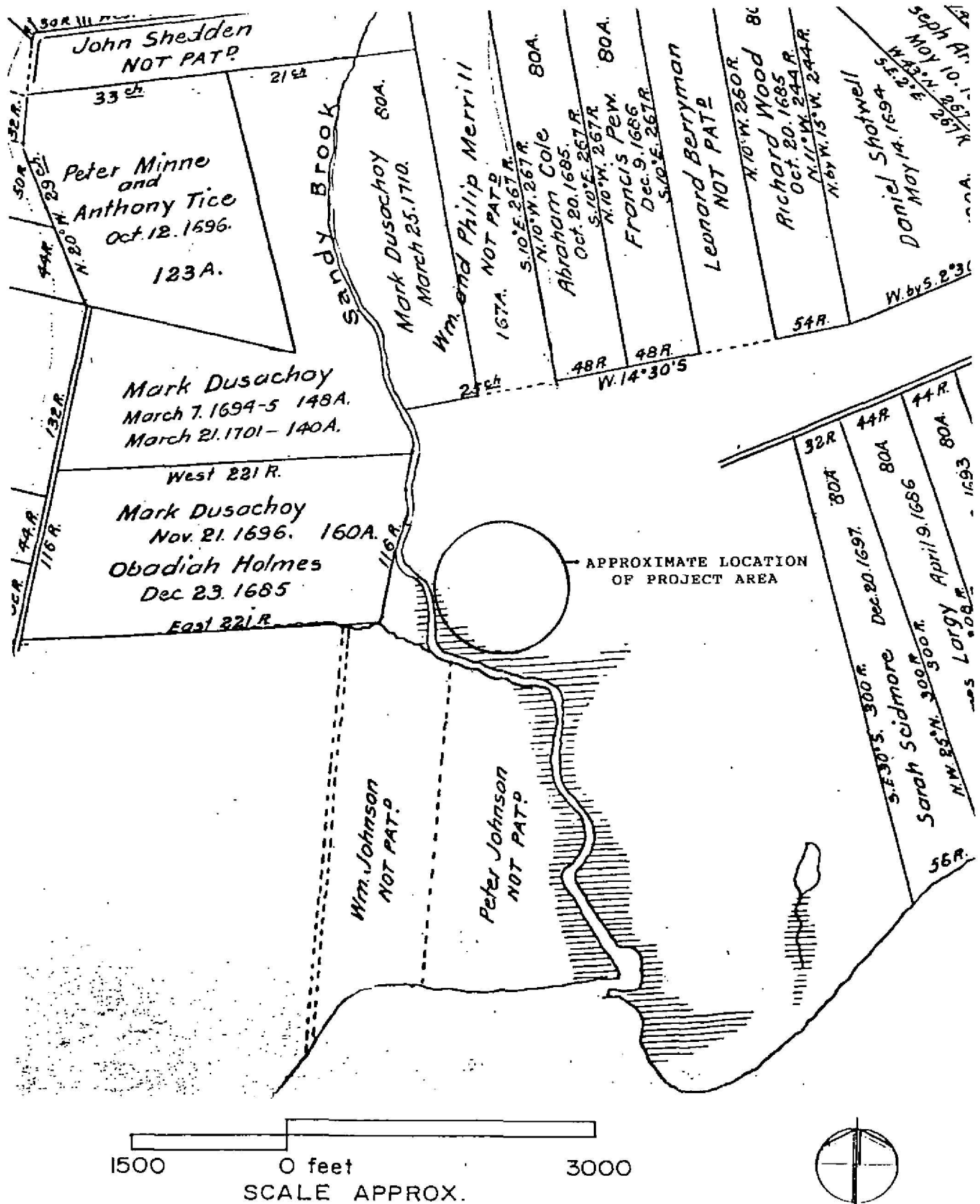


Figure 3 From Skene's 1907 Map of Staten Island, showing colonial land patents 1668-1717.

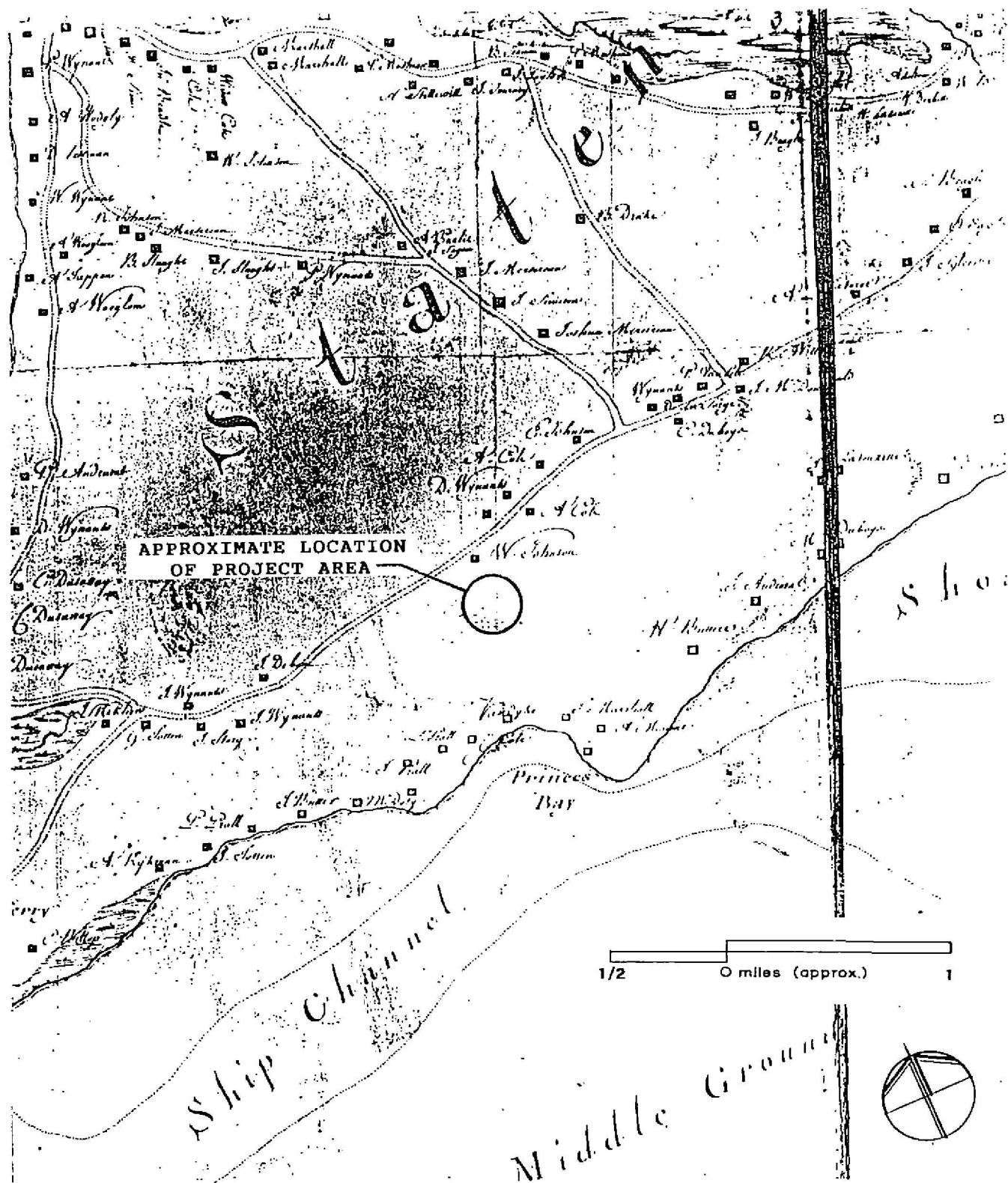


Figure 4 From Plan No. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island, 1780-1783.



by British and Hessian troops. Prince's Bay to the project area's southeast, was used by the British as a point from which to launch raids on New Jersey. Most incidents in this area appear to have taken the form of skirmishes on the water (Powell 1976:8-9). The Hessian Map (ca. 1777, Plan No. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island), presented here as Figure 4, shows a Colonel Van Wurumb and two companies of Hessians stationed at Billop's or the Amboy ferry. The Billops had ties to the loyalists. McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island during the Revolution (1775-1783 [compiled from several maps dating to the Revolutionary War Period and other sources]) does not reveal any encampments or other forms of military activities within or adjacent to the project area. Both maps show a house labeled W. Johnson but this was evidently along the south side of Amboy Road to the north of the project area.

In 1688 the settlements comprising Richmond County were divided into four towns. The project area became part of Westfield, which by the beginning of the eighteenth century was considered the wealthiest of the four towns (Clute 1887:206; Morris 1898:41). A 1797 Map of the County of Richmond is the earliest available cartographic source to show the areas covered by these four towns and their new designations.



The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

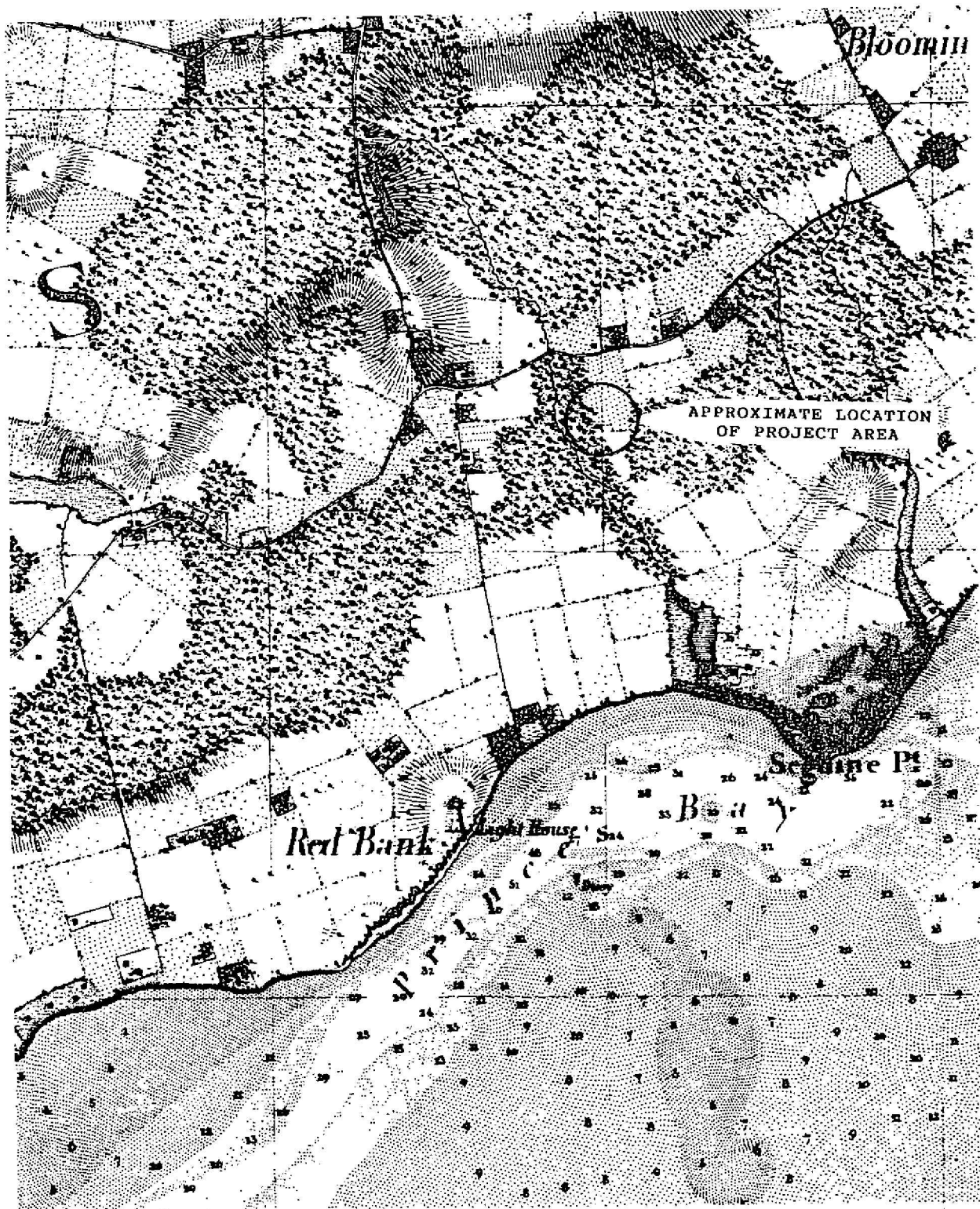
A number of maps and atlases depicting the Manee Avenue project area during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were examined to search for evidence of possible structures and names associated with the property. Several representative examples are presented here as Figures 5 through 7.

The United States Coast Survey of New York Harbor, conducted from 1836 to 1839 and published in 1845, shows the project area as lying within a forest and a cultivated field (see Figure 5). Manee Avenue, which bounds the project area's eastern side, apparently postdates this map. As all structures depicted on this map appear as unchartable dots which are not in all instances distinguishable from the marks used to describe wooded areas, one can not conclusively exclude the possibility that the project area may have contained a structure at this time, but it appears quite unlikely.

Both the Bacon and Barnes' Map of 1852 and the Butler Map of 1853 show no structures within the project area. These maps were published to show the proposed line of the Staten Island Railway which is adjacent to the north side of the project area. Although no name appears within the project area, this land may well have been part of the Seguire estate since the house of Jos. Seguire II is shown a short distance to the southeast. The Seguire family came into possession of the former Manee land prior to 1786 (Zavin and Gilbertson 1984:2).

By the time of the compilation of the 1887 Beers' Atlas, the project area is part of a five acre parcel owned by a Mrs. LaTourette. Two structures are shown adjacent to the Staten Island Railway. See Figure 6. The LaTourette family were engaged in the oyster business in the Prince's Bay vicinity (Powell 1976:20-22).

Sheet 90 of the Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey completed during 1910 shows what appears to be the same situation as the 1887 Beers' Atlas. As shown in Figure 7, with one minor exception, the project area is devoid of structures. The outparcel to the north contains three structures while a fourth is situated near the boundary between the outparcel and the project area. The two larger structures within the outparcel have the same relationship to one another and the railway as those on the 1887 Beers' Atlas. The eastern one is a 2-½ frame house, while the western one is labeled "Ice House." The other structure in the outparcel and the one adjacent to the boundary with the project area are probably barns or sheds. No other structures are shown on the west side of Manee Avenue, and the second outparcel is empty.



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

Figure 5 From U.S. Coastal Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1845.

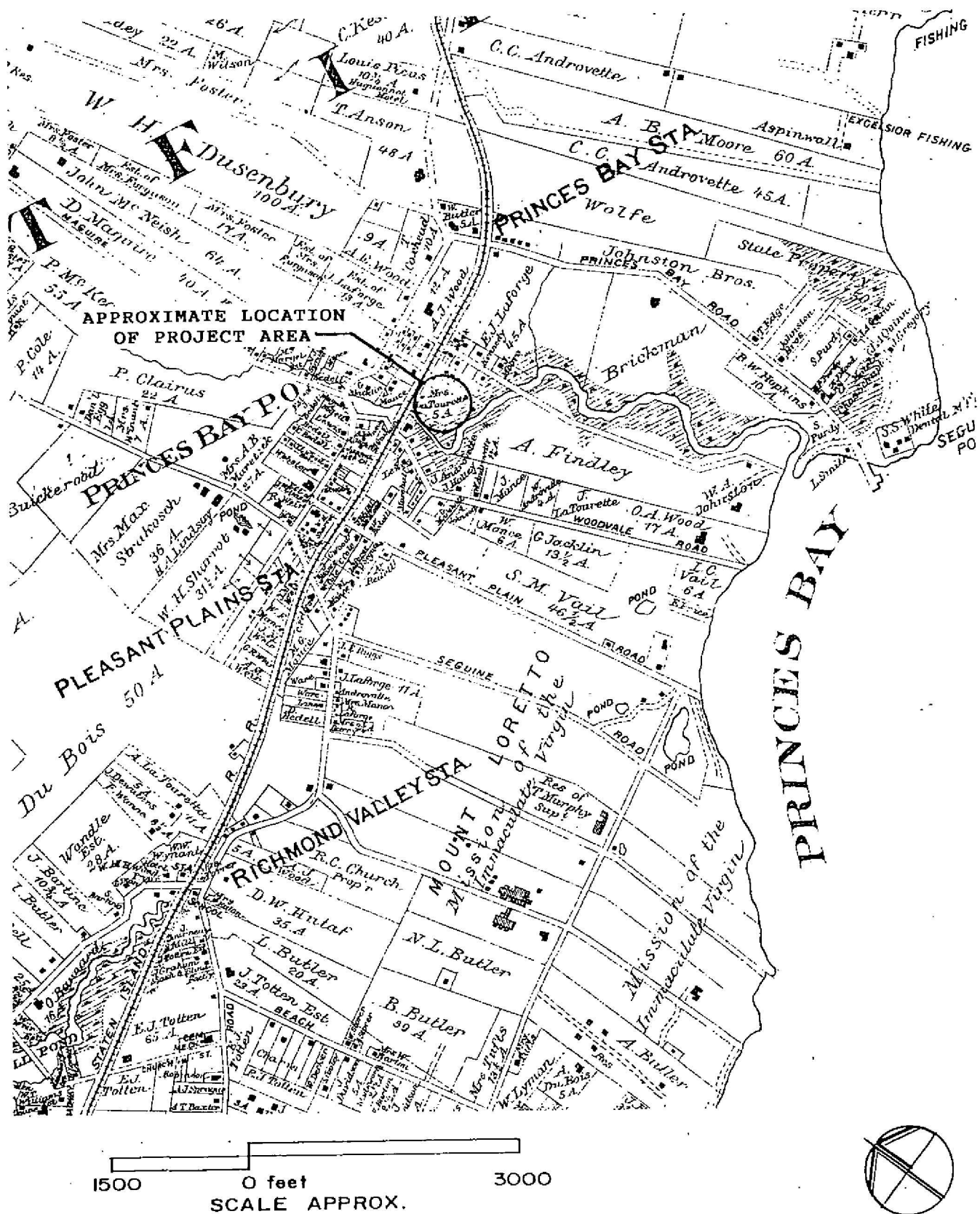


Figure 6 From the 1887 Beers' Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York.

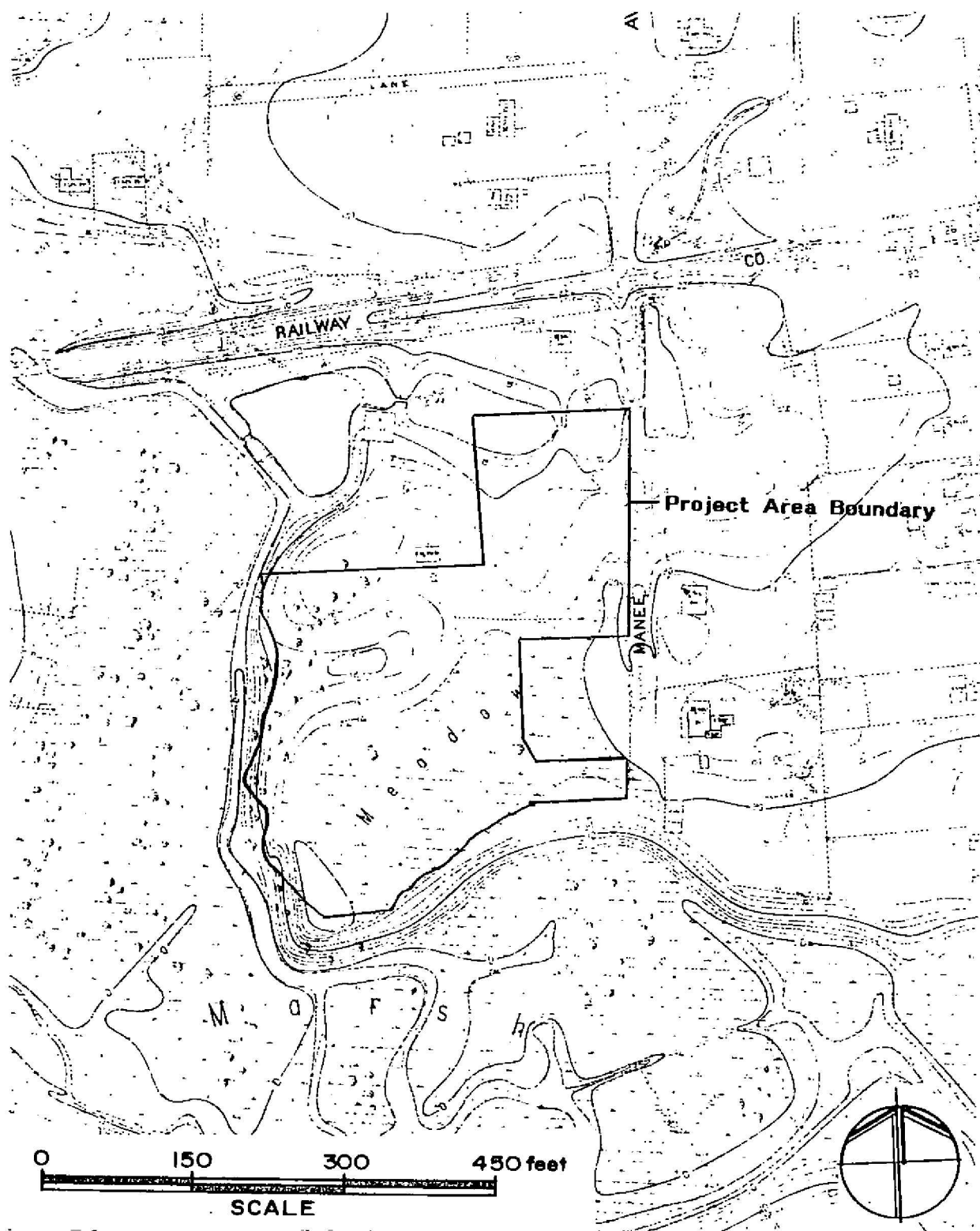


Figure 7 Project area shown on portion of the 1910
Borough of richmond Topographical Survey,
Sheet 90.



A comparison of the 1910 Topographical map with the current U.S.G.S. quadrangle, Figures 7 and 1, shows a few changes. The project area is shown as devoid of structures with the exception of one house on the west side of Manee Avenue just north of the southern outparcel. The southern outparcel contains two houses and one outbuilding. Inspection of the property revealed a small outbuilding in the northern outparcel west of the house. These two structures are not in the locations of the structures on the 1910 map, so they evidently date to after 1910. The property inspection also revealed a small stable within the project area. This one-story frame structure sits on a concrete ring foundation and has a dirt floor. It appears to be of recent vintage.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above text has documented that the Manee Avenue project area may preserve archaeological evidence from the prehistoric period. The project area is located within two miles of 28 known prehistoric sites. Fresh water would have been easily available from the stream just west and south of the project area. The meadow adjacent to the stream and the project area would probably have attracted game, making this a possible location for a temporary or seasonal hunting camp.

The section on historic sensitivity provides evidence that this location remained meadow and woodlot from as early as the mid-seventeenth century until the middle of the current century. There is no evidence that any permanent structures were ever built within the project area, with the exception of a house, garage and stable all built during the twentieth century.

It is our recommendation that a program of archaeological testing take place prior to the beginning of construction activities. This testing will search for evidence of prehistoric use of this land. This testing will be located along the top of the bluffs forming the southern and western portions of the project area. As shown in Plate 2, this location remains undisturbed. No testing is recommended for the northeastern portion since this includes the locations of a twentieth century house and garage as well as part of the now filled ice pond. The central and west central portions of the project area show evidence of cutting and filling as shown in Plate 1 and contain the stable, so no testing is recommended there.



Plate 1 View of central portion of the project area looking northeast, showing evidence of cutting behind structures facing Manee Avenue and piles of fill.

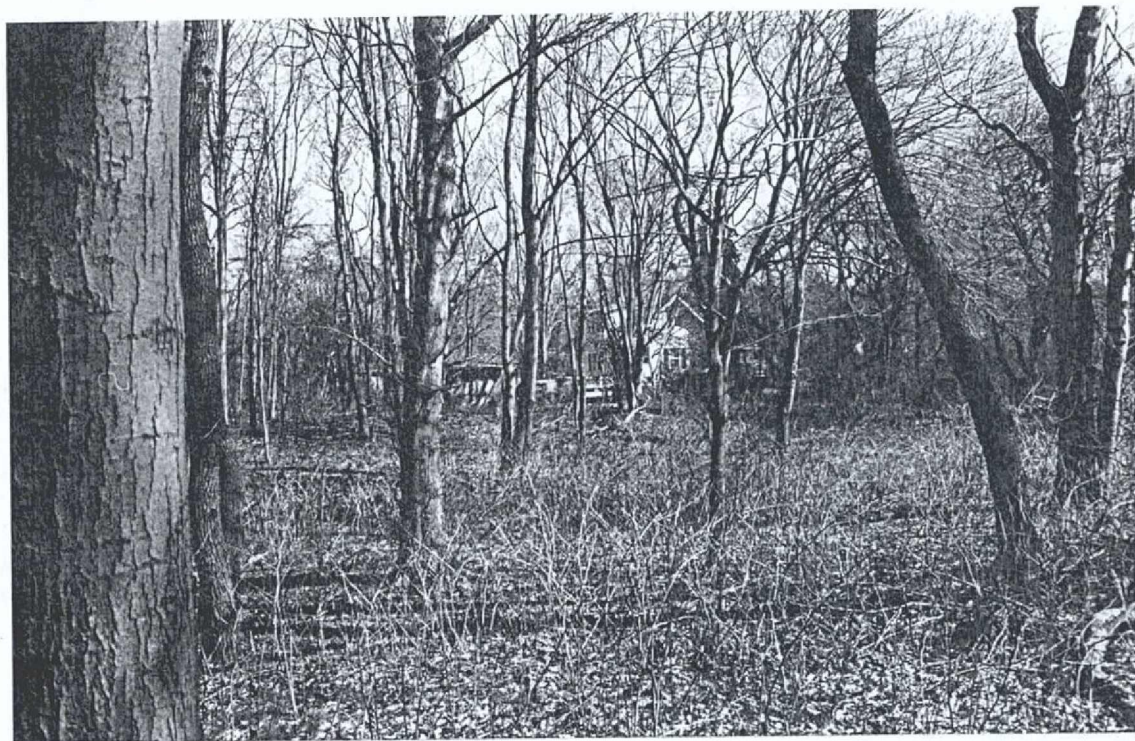


Plate 2 View of the bluff in western portion of the project area looking north, showing undisturbed land.



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