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PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY
EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED
RESIDENCE AT 792 TODT HILL ROAD
RICHMOND COUNTY, NEW YORK

95 DEP 222R

B 905

L 51

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650



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Table of Contents	ii
List of Figures	iii
List of Personnel	iv
Introduction	1
Prehistoric Sensitivity	1
Historic Sensitivity	2
Summary of Field Work	3
Conclusions and Recommendations	3
Bibliography	4
Appendix: Field Sheets	



LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1 Project area as shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series, The Narrows, N.Y.-N.J. Quadrangle, 1966, photorevised 1981.
- Figure 2 Known prehistoric sites within a 2 mile radius of the project area shown on U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series, Arthur Kill N.Y./N.J.; The Narrows, N.Y./N.J.; Elizabeth, N.J./N.Y. and Jersey City, N.J./N.Y. quadrangles.
- Figure 3 Illustration of project area during the late eighteenth century, from McMillen's *Map of Staten Island during the Revolution 1776-1783; compiled from the following maps and from other sources: The Taylor and Skinner Map 1781; The Hessian Map ca. 1777; Plan No. 31 due Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island de 1780 a 1783.*
- Figure 4 From portion of Higginson, 1860 *Map of Staten Island.*
- Figure 5 From portion of Beers' 1887 *Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, N.Y. Compiled from Actual Surveys and Records.*
- Figure 6 From section of the Borough of Richmond's 1908 *Topographic Survey*, Sheet 39. Scale: 1 inch = 150 feet.
- Figure 7 Location of shovel tests at 792 Todt Hill Road, Block 905, Lot 51. From Site Plan of Land Planning and Engineering Consultants, P.C., January 20, 1995. Scale of original plan: 1 inch = 15 feet.



LIST OF PERSONNEL

William I. Roberts IV, SOPA	-	Principal Investigator
William Sandy, SOPA	-	Field Director Co-Author
Paula M. Crowley	-	Documentary Researcher Co-Author
Kenneth Richter	-	Field Technician Documentary Researcher



INTRODUCTION

The Todt Hill, Staten Island project area is located at 792 Todt Hill Road, Block 905, Lot 51. The project area consists of an approximately 10,000 square foot parcel on the Block. Two residences already stand on the Block, one at 796 Todt Hill road at 20,876 square feet and the second at #788 at 10,514 square feet. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

A search for prehistoric archaeological sites within two miles of the project area was conducted in the site files of the New York State Museum and Greenhouse Consultants files. The search resulted in the identification of five sites. The locations are shown in Figure 2.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Site A: | New York State Museum #8480
Listed as on top of moraine, no information. |
| Site B: | Todt Hill Site, Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences file
Identified as traces of occupation |
| Site C: | NYSM #4616
Parker #ACP-RICH-26
Identified as a large camp |
| Site D | NYSM #4628
Parker #ACP-RICH
Identified as a camp |
| Site E | NYSM #4613
SIIAS #STD-SL
Parker #ACP-RICH-23
Silver Lake - 3 loci
Identified as Woodland period campsites |

Most documented prehistoric archaeological work undertaken by both professional and avocational archaeologists has historically concentrated on the southwestern portion of Staten Island (Baugher 1985, personal communication). 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.

The Borough of Richmond October 1908 Topographical Survey illustrates the project area in open fields with a drainage, ponds and a marsh, all within 1,000 feet of the site. Such



a topographical situation would have supplied fresh water to humans and game animals in the past. The elevated location of the project area would lend itself as an excellent overlook station for approaching animals.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

Depictions of the project area were sought in the following historic maps from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries:

1. McMillen (1930) compilation of late eighteenth century maps, 1775-1783, shows the project area on Todt Hill as a blank, structures at base and lower portion of Todt Hill Road. See Figure 3.
2. The *Plan (No. 31) Du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island (Baie de New York de 1780-1783)* shows the area as wooded.
3. In the New and Accurate Map of 1797 the property is blank, listed as "a ridge of mountains."
4. The United States Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, Map #35, 1836-1839, published in 1845 shows this area of Todt Hill as wooded/field.
5. Higginson's 1860 map illustrates the project area as a blank. "McAndrews" listed to the south while structures are on opposite side of road. See Figure 4.
6. The map of Colton and Colton, 1884, shows the project area as a blank, "McAndrews" still listed to the south.
7. The 1887 Beers Atlas depicts the property as part of a parcel belonging to "Wm. Whitlock Jr. 56 3/4 acres." See Figure 5.
8. Vermeule and Bien's 1890 map shows the property area as blank.
9. The map of Leng and Davis, 1896, has a blank area with a pond where the project area is located.
10. The 1908 Bureau of Richmond Topographical Survey shows the area as steeply sloping with open fields and ponds to the north and a marsh to the west. See Figure 6.

In summary, it seems very unlikely that the project area will preserve archaeological evidence of the historic period. No houses, barns or other buildings were constructed prior to the twentieth century.



SUMMARY OF FIELD WORK

The 792 Todt Hill Road residence will be built on the steep west slope of a hill. The eastern (uphill) two-thirds of the property has been heavily impacted by the recent construction of houses and a pool at 788 and 796 Todt Hill Road. Cutting was needed for the foundations, and filling has been used to start to flatten out this hillside. The drive between the existing houses has also been built. The plan (1 inch = 15 feet) has been marked to indicate the extent of the cutting and the deep fill. See Figure 7. The west (downslope) portion of the property was the only part of this tract suitable for shovel testing. All four tests did have some fill, probably slopewash from the fill upslope (0.4 to 0.9 feet thick (Context 3001.01). With the exception of the topsoil from Shovel Test 3 (Context 3003.02), very little material was found, mostly coal. Shovel Test 3 had a thick (0.9 feet) topsoil that held ceramics, milk glass, milk bottle glass, rubber and brick. It might represent dumping from a house on Todt Hill Road.

No prehistoric materials were found in this testing. Because the project area has a steeply sloping hillside and has been impacted by previous construction at 788 and 792 Todt Hill Road, it is unlikely to hold significant prehistoric remains. The historic deposit found in Shovel Test 3 is the only historic resource found. The deposit contained twentieth century ceramics, glass, plastic and rubber.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The map research conducted for the historic background led to the conclusion that there does not appear to be any reason to believe that the Todt Hill project area may preserve archaeological evidence of the historic period. However, since no construction occurred prior to the twentieth century there was the possibility that it could preserve prehistoric archaeological evidence below the surface. We recommended completing the Phase 1 with limited testing. The testing was designed to a similar depth as the proposed impacts. The purpose of this testing would serve to provide positive or negative evidence of the prehistoric use or occupation of this property.

Limited shovel testing was conducted on March 28, 1995. None of the four shovel tests provided evidence of prehistoric activities, either by way of artifacts or features. The historic materials found all appear to be twentieth century debris, glass, ceramics, rubber, plastic and coal.

No further archaeological work needs to be conducted at this location.



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Borough of Richmond

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Higginson, J.H.

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Leng, Charles W. and William T. Davis

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McMillen, Loring

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Plan (No. 31) Du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island (Baie de New York de 1780-1783).

United States Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1836-1839

- 1845 Map #35.



United States Geological Survey

1966 *Arthur Kill N.Y./N.J. quadrangle. 7.5 minute series. Photorevised 1981.*

1967 *Elizabeth, N.J./N.Y. quadrangle. 7.5 minute series. Photorevised 1981.*

1967 *Jersey City, N.J./N.Y. quadrangle. 7.5 minute series. Photorevised 1981.*

1966 *The Narrows, N.Y./N.J. quadrangle. 7.5 minute series. Photorevised 1981.*

Vermeule and Bien

1890 *A Topographical Map of Staten Island, Richmond County, N.Y.*



Figure 2

Known prehistoric sites within a 2 mile radius of the project area shown on U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series, Arthur Kill N.Y./N.J.; The Narrows, N.Y./N.J.; Elizabeth, N.J./N.Y. and Jersey City, N.J./N.Y. quadrangles

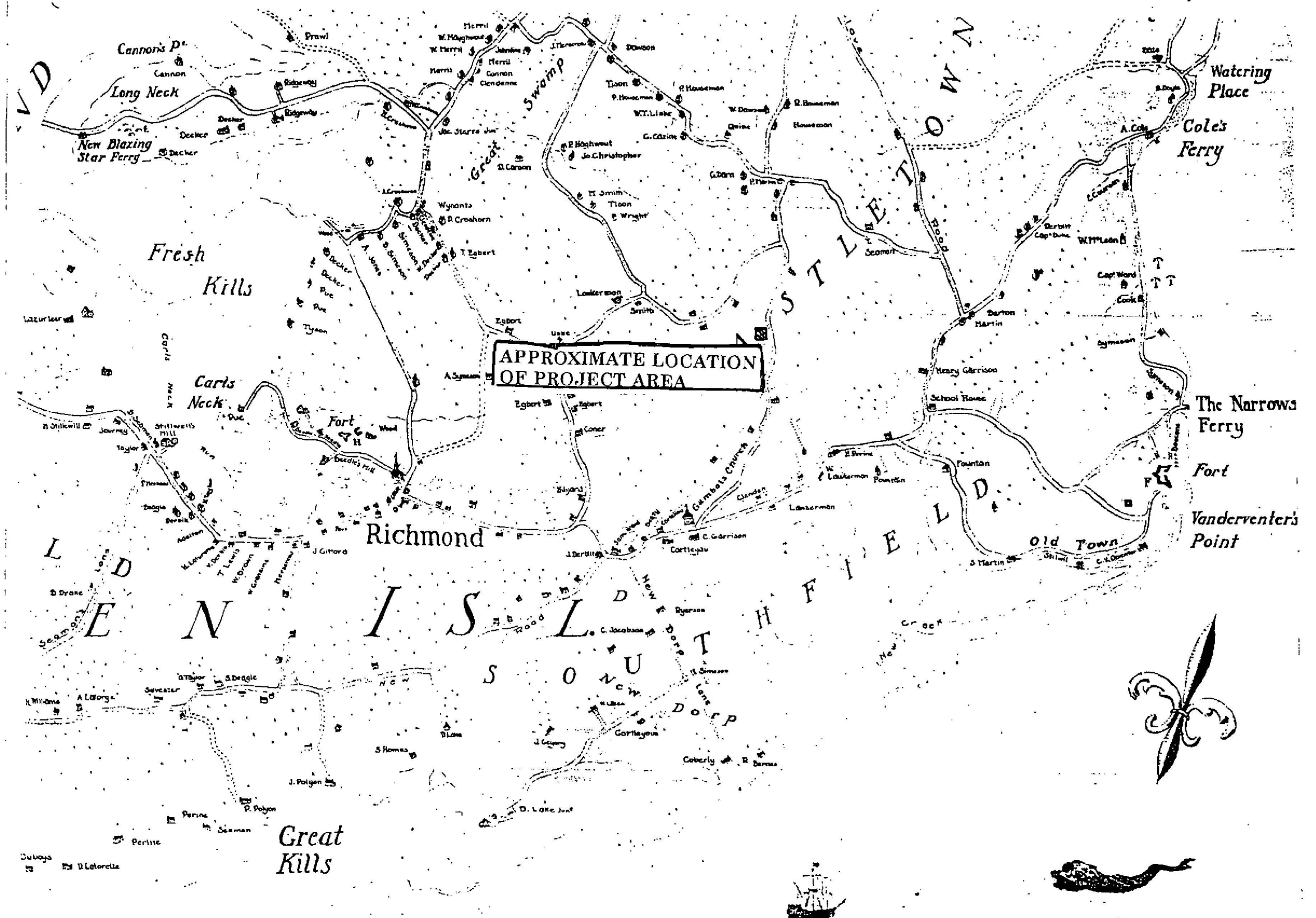


Figure 3

Illustration of project area during the late eighteenth century, from McMillen's *Map of Staten Island during the Revolution 1776-1783*; compiled from the following maps and from other sources: *The Taylor and Skinner Map 1781*; *The Hessian Map ca. 1777*; *Plan No. 31 due Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island de 1780 a 1783*.

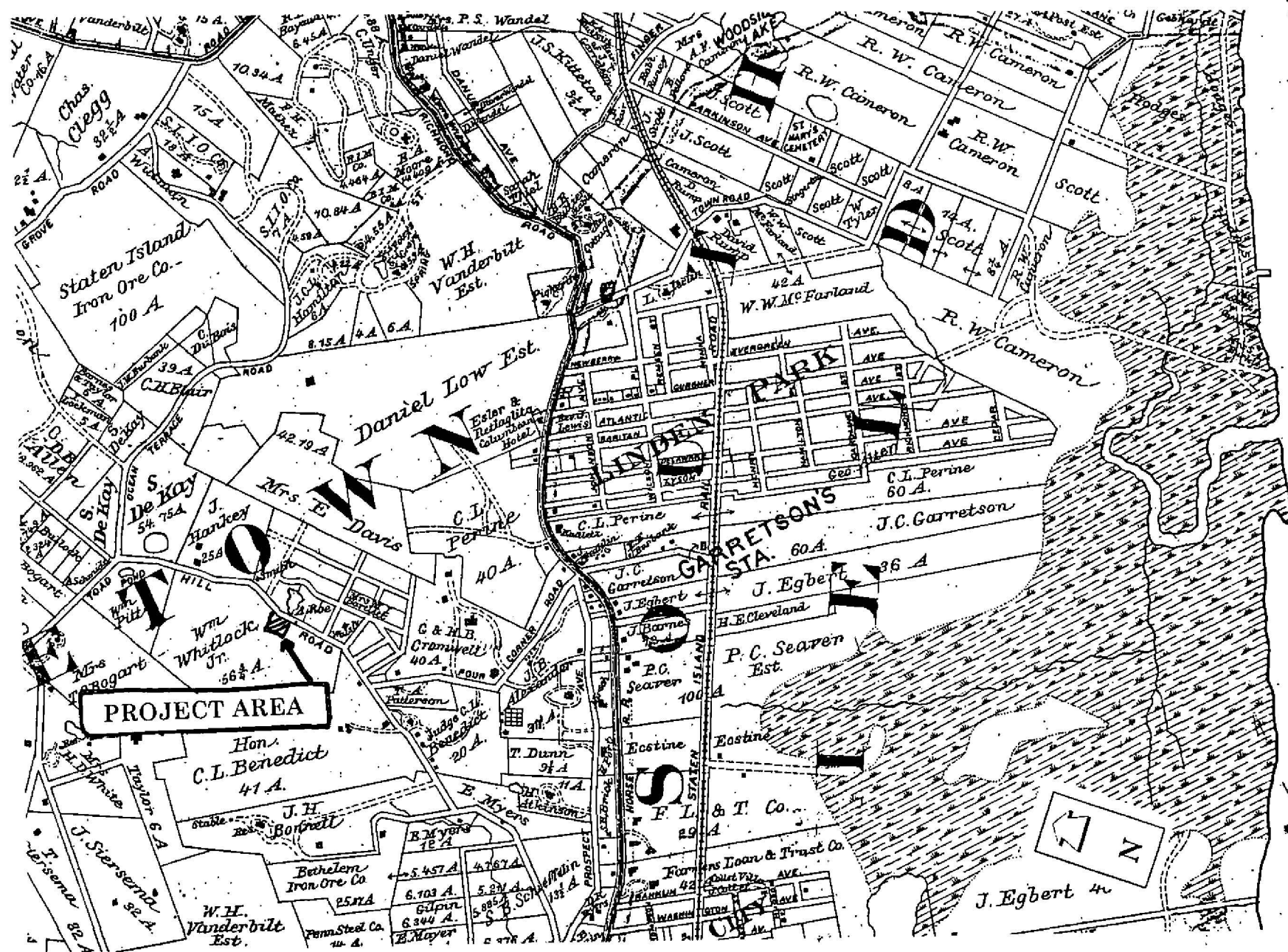
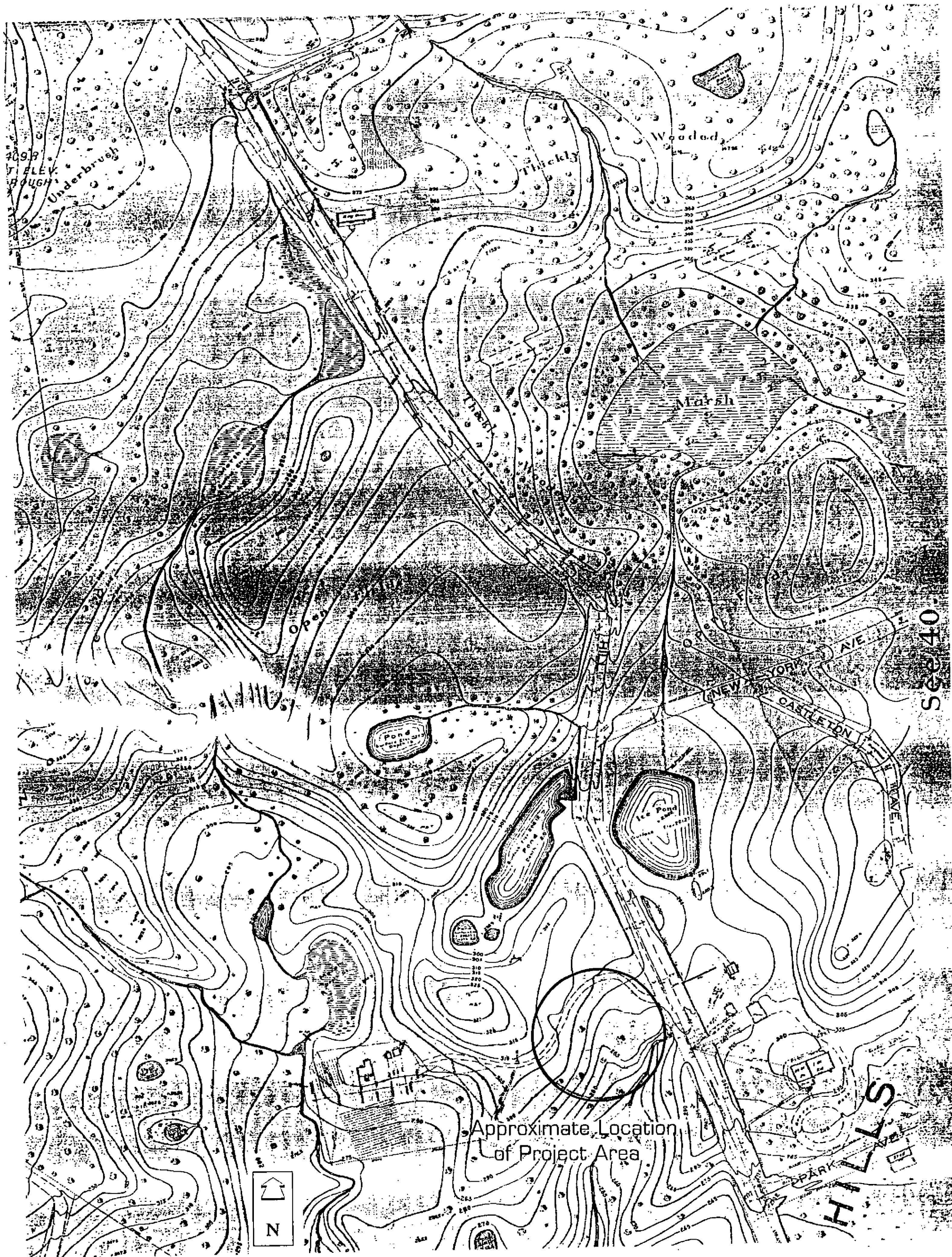


Figure 5

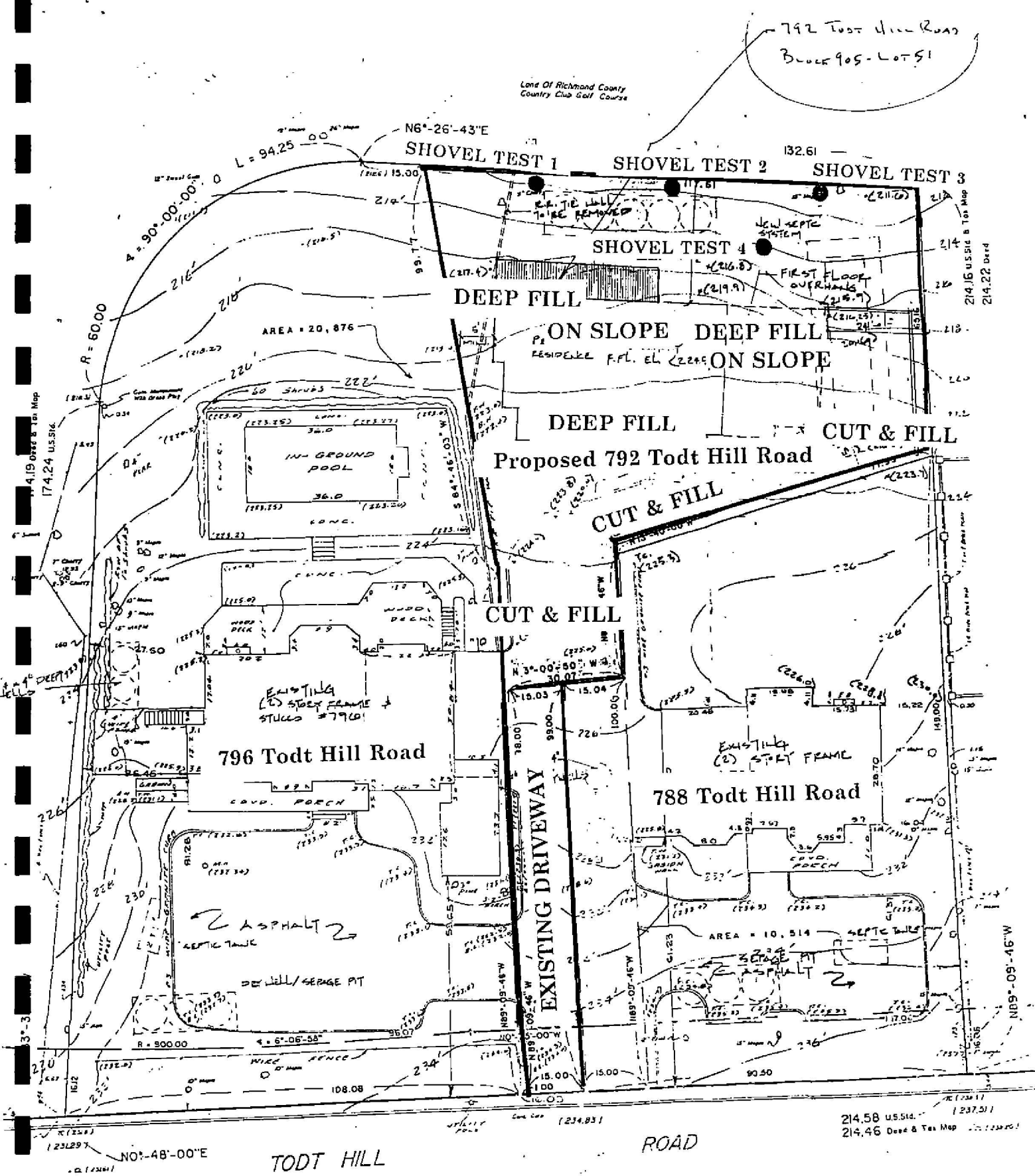
From portion of Beers' 1887 Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, N.Y. Compiled from Actual Surveys and Records.



See 40

Figure 6

From section of the Borough of Richmond's 1908 Topographic Survey, Sheet 39. Scale: 1 inch = 150 feet.



Location of shovel tests at 792 Todt Hill Road, Block 905, Lot 51. From Site Plan of Land Planning and Engineering Consultants, P.C., January 20, 1995. Scale of original plan: 1 inch = 15 feet.

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : 792 Todd Hill Rd (THR)			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR : WS	EXCAVATOR : KR	SCREENED ? 1/4"	DATE : 3-27-95	TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 1

STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1 3001.01	0.0' - 0.4'	loam	10yr 4/4 Dark yellowish Brown	broken glass, shell, coal (discarded)	fill
2 .02	- 0.8'	SANDY loam	10yr 3/2 Dark yellowish Brown	Coal (sampled)	A Horizon
3 .03	- 1.4'	loam	10yr 4/4 Dark yellowish Brown	Coal	Stopped by Rock B Horizon
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)
At toe of first slope in SW corner of property

Cross Refs :

Plan

Photos

Notebook.

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <i>TedT Hill Road.</i>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<i>WS</i>	<i>KR/WS</i>	<i>1/4"</i>	<i>3/26/95</i>	<i>ST 2</i>

STRATIGRAPHY :					
LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<i>0.0' - 0.2'</i>	<i>loam w/wood chips</i>	<i>loam 4/4 Dk. yellowish Brown</i>	<i>bottle glass</i>	<i>Fill</i>
2	<i>- 1.5'</i>	<i>Sandy loam</i>	<i>loam 3/2 Dk. greyish Brown</i>	<i>ceramic (white ware?)</i>	<i>A Horizon</i>
3	<i>- 2.2'</i>	<i>loam</i>	<i>loam 4/4 Dk. yellowish Brown</i>	<i>NCM</i>	<i>B Horizon</i>
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

- 30' ~~ST~~ ^N of ST 1 at toe of first slope

Cross Refs :

Plan

Section

Photos

Notebook

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <i>Tad Hill Road</i>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<i>WS</i>	<i>KK/W</i>	<i>1/4"</i>	<i>3/28/95</i>	<i>ST 3</i>

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<i>0.0 - 0.9</i>	<i>WOOD CHIPS & LOAM</i>	<i>10YR 4/4 DKY BROWN</i>	—	<i>Fill</i>
2	<i>-1.8</i>	<i>SANDY LOAM</i>	<i>10YR 3/2 DKY BR</i>	<i>LOTS OF CERAMICS MILK GLASS, BOTTLE GLASS BRICK</i>	<i>A</i>
3	<i>2.3</i>	<i>LOAM</i>	<i>10YR 4/4 DKY BR</i>	—	<i>B SUBSOIL</i>
4		<i>STOPPED BY</i>	<i>ROCK</i>		
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

- 30' ^N of ST 2 at toe of first slope

Cross Refs :

Plan

Section

LOOK N FROM ST 2 #0-4
LOOK E (UPSLOPE) #5-7

Photos

Notebook

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : <u>TODT Mill Road</u>			COORDINATES :		
SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED ?	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	<u>WS</u>	<u>KR / WS</u>	<u>1/4"</u>	<u>3/28/95</u>	<u>ST 4</u>

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	<u>0.0' - 0.4'</u>	<u>loam</u>	<u>10yr 4/4</u> <u>Dark yellowish brown</u>	<u>NCM</u>	<u>fill</u>
2	<u>- 0.6'</u>	<u>Sandy loam</u>	<u>10yr 3/2</u> <u>Dark gray greenish brown</u>	<u>COAL (discarded)</u>	<u>A Horizon</u>
3	<u>- 2.1'</u>	<u>Clayey loam</u>	<u>10yr 4/4</u> <u>Dark yellowish brown</u>	<u>COAL (discarded)</u>	<u>B Horizon</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.)

- 20' ~~SE~~ of ST 3 (upslope)
~~SE~~

Cross Refs :

Plan

Section

15-17 LOOK ~~SE~~ FROM ST 3
Photos (UPHILL)

Notebook