

2985R

50 Trinity Place  
New York, New York  
10006/212 514-9520

THE NEW YORK CITY FARM COLONY  
HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

85-327R

1986

Prepared For:  
Ms. Georgy Lacey  
AKRF, Inc.  
114 East 32nd Street  
New York, NY 10016

Prepared By:  
Joel W. Grossman, PhD.  
William I. Roberts IV et al  
Greenhouse Consultants Inc.  
50 Trinity Place  
New York, NY 10006

Submitted  
September 1985

Revised  
April 1986

688

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Joel W. Grossman, PhD.	Principal Investigator
William I. Roberts IV	Co-Author/Editor
Diane Dallal	Documentary Researcher/ Co-Author
Michael W. Davenport	Cartographer
Nancy A. Stehling	Editor
Mindy H. Washington	Word Processor

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	page 1
Physical Setting of the Project Area .....	2
Visual Inspection of the Project Area.....	3
Prehistoric Sensitivity .....	3
17th and 18th Century: Cartographic, Archival and Documentary Evidence .....	5
The 19th Century: Documentary and Archival History ....	7
20th Century History.....	10
The Potter's Field .....	13
Findings .....	14
Recommendations.....	14
References Cited .....	17

## LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1      Topographic Map, Arthur Kill Quandrangle
- Figure 2      Colonial Land Patents 1668-1712
- Figure 3      Map of Staten Island During the Revolution 1775-1783
- Figure 4      Plan (No. 31) Du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten  
Island de 1780-1783
- Figure 5      1797 Map of County of Richmond
- Figure 6      U.S. Coast Survey Charter of N.Y. Harbor 1836-1839
- Figure 7      Butler's 1853 Map of Staten Island
- Figure 8      Beer's 1874 Atlas
- Figure 9      Beer's 1887 Atlas
- Figure 10     Robinson's 1898 Atlas
- Figure 11     Topographical Survey 1911
- Figure 12     Bromley's 1917 Atlas
- Figure 13     1911 Topo Map w/1926 Overlay



# THE NEW YORK CITY FARM COLONY

## INTRODUCTION

This report was prepared at the request of AKRF Inc. to supplement the 1985 New York City Farm Colony - Seaview Hospital Historic Designation Report by Shirley Zavin for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The Landmarks' study presented an excellent in-depth architectural and social history of the New York City Farm Colony with a primary focus on the post-1829 occupational history of the complex. Given the indicated existence of earlier 18th and 19th Century farmsteads on the property, this sensitivity study has been aimed at addressing the archival and cartographic evidence pertaining to possible earlier historic and/or prehistoric sites which may once have been present.

In particular, the focus of this historic survey has been conducted to address several issues:

- 1) documentary and cartographic evidence for 17th, 18th and early 19th century historic events and occupations on the N.Y.C. Farm Colony land; and
- 2) the evaluation through a combination of historic accounts, land conveyances and the report prepared by Shirley Zavin for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to identify the potential for surviving early historic surfaces or structural remains of archaeological or historic significance either beneath the surface of the most recent building phase or elsewhere on the site.

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study surveyed published and unpublished sources on known prehistoric site locations within the vicinity of the proposed N.Y.C. Farm Colony development project. The purpose of this regional survey, including only this central area of Staten Island, was to provide background data as a basis for evaluating the potential archaeological sensitivity of the project parcel.

Given the fact that the early deeds for this parcel prior to 1793 are no longer available, 17th and 18th century evidence for the project parcel is limited in scope to the often generalized historic accounts, as well as available evidence from surviving historic maps.

In addition to the general summary of land-use history for the 17th through early 19th Centuries, this Phase IA documentary survey identified three localities with potential historic or architectural significance within the proposed impact area:

- 1) The historic cemetery area which also incorporated the functional and historic presence of an early Morgue dating to the early 19th Century. (See Figure 11, A)
- 2) A complex of early farm buildings dating to the initial period of the Poor House Farm and possibly earlier, which were not incorporated into the late 19th Century architectural history identified by Landmarks. (See Figure 11, B)
- 3) The identification of the former presence of a pre-Revolutionary farmstead, owned by "Woke", identified as (C) which was later connected by a roadway as indicated in the 19th Century maps, to another Pre-Revolutionary War farmstead in the Greenbelt area, identified as (D), but which appear to have been distinct occupational localities in the 18th Century. (See Figure 11, C & D)

#### PHYSICAL SETTING OF THE PROJECT AREA

The NYC Farm Colony consists of a 98 acre parcel in the Borough of Staten Island, officially known as Block 1955, Lot 1. The site previously functioned as a municipally operated care facility for the indigent aged. The Farm Colony has been designated an Historic District by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, and may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The area to be developed is approximately 73 acres. The remaining 25 acres is swampland which will be conveyed to the Greenbelt Trust. A history of various building episodes within the entire project area is included in this report.

The 73 acre impact area contains 14 buildings which are considered historically significant by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Of these, 12 structures, located in the center of the property, are considered appropriate for rehabilitation.

The New York City Farm Colony is located slightly north of the center of Staten Island and southeast of the Willowbrook State School (see Figure 1). The proposed area to be developed is bounded easterly by Brielle Avenue, southerly by Eastman Avenue, westerly by Colonial Avenue and Forest Hill Road, and northerly by Walcott Avenue. The project area ranges in elevation from 175 feet to 250 feet above sea level and once included two (2) ponds which are no longer in existence, and a third pond in the Greenbelt area. The smallest pond near the mapped but unbuilt Eastman Avenue, drained into a swamp in the Greenbelt while the larger pond to the north drained into the Long Neck River. The largest pond, located near the central portion of the project parcel drained into Main Creek and then into Fresh Kills. The project site is situated on the western slope of Todt Hill which is 368' above sea level; the highest land in the greater N.Y. area. The site itself slopes downward in all directions from the 250' elevation along Brielle Avenue.

## VISUAL INSPECTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

On Friday, September 13, 1985, members of the Greenhouse Consultants Inc. staff visited the New York City Farm Colony site in Staten Island. During this visit the exteriors of nearly all the standing structures were closely inspected, exceptions being the three dormitory buildings in the northeast corner of the site which were inspected only from our vehicle while driving around that portion of the site. Two "ponds" were visually inspected, a large one near the central area of the site and a smaller one near the southeastern corner. Both were evident as topographic features but neither currently holds any water. The cemetery area near the northwestern corner of the site was also inspected. It is at present heavily overgrown. Some concrete rubble was seen on the surface. This may be demolition rubble from the former morgue building or it may be evidence of recent dumping in the area. An attempt was made to locate the site of the buildings labeled "T. McCormack, Supt." on the 1874 Beers' Atlas (Figure 8), but no evidence could be seen on the surface. It appears likely that their location corresponds with that of two rows of dormitory structures set at an oblique angle to one another in the west central area of the site. These buildings have been demolished and the area is now heavily overgrown. Remains of the 18th century farm shown on Figure 3 with the label "Woke", in Figure 4 with the label "I. Lite", and in Figure 8 with the label "F. Garlich" were located in the southeastern portion of the site. They consist of a depression partially filled with stone rubble. This area is also presently heavily overgrown.

## PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study surveyed published and unpublished resources in the archives and library of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. Most prehistoric work undertaken by professional and avocational archaeologists has historically concentrated upon the southwestern portion of Staten Island (personal communication Baugher 9/12/85). Published site reports as well as conversations with Bruce Fullem of the State Historic Preservation Office and Sherene Baugher, archaeologist with the Landmarks Preservation Commission have confirmed that no prehistoric sites have been reported within the project area. This does not imply that Indians did not inhabit central Staten Island but rather reflects instead the relative lack of systematic archaeological survey work having been undertaken on Farm Colony Land or its immediate vicinity.

Although sites have been identified in the general region of the project area, none are as yet known for the Farm Colony project

area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on actual survey work is available. Although none have been identified for the actual parcel, it would be inappropriate to characterize the interior upland region of Staten Island as without prehistoric sensitivity. Given this lack of systematic surveys, it is pertinent to point out that at least two sites have been identified for this interior zone of Staten Island.

The discovery of an unpublished "Site List" (1970) compiled by Gale Schneider, one time archivist of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences locates one site within 1 1/4 miles of the project area. This closest prehistoric site, approximately 1 1/4 miles from the impact area, is called "Todt Hill" (Schneider:1970). The exact location is unknown, however, and "only one or two stone artifacts" of unknown period, are mentioned.

A second site was previously reported by Alanson Skinner (1909) an early 20th Century archaeologist associated with the American Museum of Natural History in NYC. He describes this site located approximately 1 1/3 miles from the project area on Corson's Brook at New Springville. He reports that shells, graves, and iron projectile points were found. "Many people have said that they have found Indian implements there ... and at one time a skull, said to be Indian, was found in the bed of Corson's Brook after a freshet had eaten away the banks." (Skinner 1909:10)

Further information states that "The New Springville site in the Davis Refuge has never been opened up, at least in the last 20 years or so. The Refuge is too full of mosquitoes in the summer months to be used for guided tours." (Letter from G. K. Schneider to Dr. Bert Salwen 1967) Schneider further states that there is "no rush" to dig since the site "is protected and safe." (ibid)

Late 19th and early 20th Century atlases establish the existence of three ponds within the project area; two within the impact area, and one within the Greenbelt section. Two of these ponds do not appear prior to Beer's 1874 Atlas and lie within the land of F. Garlich. One pond appeared to drain into the Long Neck River and the other into the swampy Greenbelt. (see Figure 8) The northernmost of these two ponds as indicated on the 1911 topographic map (see Figure 11) is only 1.8 feet deep, while the southernmost is of an undesignated depth.

The third and largest pond, located at the center of the NYC Farm Colony property, first appears on the 1911 topographic map (see Figure 11) and is only 3 feet deep, draining into Main Creek and then into Fresh Kills. All of the above water sources appear to be relatively shallow with little likelihood of Indian occupation (Baugher pers comm. 9/12/85). These ponds are no longer in existence, however, they do appear as topographic features in the landscape.

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 the water and food supplies of both systems.

In addition to the fact that no known sites have been yet identified within 1/14 miles of the project area, the drainage patterns evident from historic maps and modern topographic surveys suggest the lack of a confluence situation. As indicated on Figure 11, the property is bisected by an old drainage or stream course which is now dry and may have been seasonal. Given the topographic layout of the terrain, it also appears that this small drainage represents a headwater of the stream system which, at best, would have supplied a seasonal flow during heavy rains vs. a year-round source of water. The drainage is dry today. Within the impact area itself and associated with the head of this drainage, the 1911 topographic survey indicated the presence of the two ponds. However, given the lack of a water course leading into them and their proximity to late 19th or early 20th Century buildings, it appears probable that these only represent 19th Century or later artifacts related to farm activity or landscaping.

#### 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY: CARTOGRAPHIC, ARCHIVAL AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Staten Island was called Eghquaous by its Indian inhabitants and was purchased from them by the Dutch Director General in 1626. In 1630 a Patent of the Island was granted to Michael Pauw. Ten years later, the Dutch merchant, Cornelis Melyn, obtained an order to erect a Colony from the Directors in Holland. Melyn conveyed his right and title to land on Staten Island to the Dutch West India Company. However, the following year the Directors in Amsterdam proceeded to demolish the remaining claims on the Island.

The final purchase of Staten Island from its aboriginal inhabitants was accomplished by the English Governor Lovelace on April 13, 1670. At this time, there were a number of Dutch, French and English settlers on the Island who already had obtained first Dutch and then English permission to settle. "No surveys have been made 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.

Following these surveys, land grants were distributed for only the cost of small quantities of produce. Since "all ... grants were delimited by natural features, creeks, trees, etc., which no longer exist," it is difficult if not impossible today to determine the boundaries of individual land grants. (Bayles 1887:47) Certain influential individuals received larger parcels than the rest. Governor Thomas Dongan used Judge John Palmer to obtain 5100 acres for himself.

Frederick Skene's (1907) map of Staten Island, tentatively delineating Colonial Land Patents between 1668 and 1712, fixes the project area within lands granted to Palmer in 1687. (see Figure 2) The New York Land Papers (1864) cite a survey for Palmer undertaken by Phillip Wells dating 1687 for 5100 acres of land "lying upon Staten Island on the Kill Van Kull, together with the great island of Salt Meadow near the Fish Kill and opposite Long Neck." (ibid)

"The Lordshippe or mannor of Cassiltowne", as the Palmer-Dongan grant was called in 1687 was established by the aforementioned survey of 5100 acres on January 17, 1687 by Governor Dongan to Judge John Palmer, all of which Palmer conveyed to the Governor on April 16, 1687. The 17th Century Manor of Castletown (Cassiltowne) was named after the Dongan family residence in County Kildare, Ireland and was Dongan's county seat on Staten Island. Present day Manor Road (Brielle Avenue) winds through a portion of the old Manor possessions. (Davis 1896)

"The Dongan Manor extended on the north shore from the cove at the foot of Bement Avenue to the Mill Pond at Jewett Avenue and inland over the Iron Hill (Todt Hill) widening so as to include the Great Swamp which then existed to a greater extent than now at New Springville." (Leng & Davis 1930:742) Much of the present day Castleton, Middletown and even part of Northfield were included in the possessions of the Governor.

This Manor was not, however, held intact. Governor Dongan and his nephew and heir, Walter Dongan, both made a number of sales. By Revolutionary War times, the Dongan possessions were much reduced, although " ..the Manor remained for many years as a geographical designation." (ibid)

McMillen's 1933 composite map of Staten Island during the Revolution (1775-1783) compiled from the Taylor and Skinner map of 1781, the Hessian Map ca. 1777 and Plan No. 31 du Camp de Hessois dans Staten Island 1780-1783 as well as other sources, illustrates two structures located within the project area (see Figure 3). One structure on this map which is within the impact area itself is labeled "Woke". The proprietor of the structure at the southeastern boundary of the Greenbelt area is unknown. A structure near the northeastern site boundary and labeled "Lockerman" appears to be immediately outside of the project area.

Although these identical structures are depicted on Plan 31 Du



Camp Anglo Hessois dan Staten Island 1780 a' 1783, this map edition labels the "Woke" structure as owned by "I. Lite". The proprietor of the structure located in the Greenbelt area at the southeastern project area boundary remains a mystery. (See Figure 4)

The 1797 map of the County of Richmond places the site between the old Northfield and Castletown sections of Staten Island. Although the aforementioned structures are identical to those on previous maps, no family names are given (see Figure 5).

#### THE 19TH CENTURY: DOCUMENTARY AND ARCHIVAL HISTORY

The history of the Richmond County Poor Farm began early in the 19th Century following an Act of Legislaturé authorizing a tax not exceeding \$4,000 to provide for the establishment of a County Poor House.

"In January, 1829, the Supervisor of Richmond County called a public meeting of the taxpayers of the County, to devise some cheaper methods of supporting the poor 'as the taxes were becoming burdensome.'" (Bayles 1887:646) A proposition to purchase a farm large enough to enable the poor to earn their living by their own labor was adopted. Representatives were appointed to determine what farms were available for purchase. On April 8, 1829, the Legislature passed an Act authorizing the Supervisors of Richmond County to raise a tax sufficient to meet the expense of such a purchase.

The approximately 100 acre farm of Stephen Martino was purchased for \$3,000. The Supervisors additionally purchased 14 8/10 acres of salt meadow from John Egbert and in 1842 purchased 5 acres of woodland from William Decker which adjoined the County Farm on the west (ibid). These parcels later became part of the Seaview Hospital (Bayles 1887).

Little information is available concerning Stephen Martino. It is known that in 1676, 90 acres of land were laid out for a Francois Martineau. Soon afterward "he married Hester Dominees, widow of Walraven Luten. Their son Stephen was baptized May 25, 1679." (Leng & Davis 1930:926) Francois' will in 1707 names his wife Hester and his grandson Stephen, son of his son Stephen, who was deceased at that time. (ibid)

An intensive search of the Grantor-Grantee Indices at the Staten Island County Clerk's Office revealed that a Stephen Martino Sr. (perhaps the great grandson of Francois) and his wife, Anna, conveyed the property to Stephen Martino, Jr. on May 5, 1793 (Liber E p.235). Sometime after Stephen Martino, Jr.'s demise, his wife or daughter, Maria, sold the property which was to become the Richmond County Poor Farm to the Supervisors of the County of Richmond. (Liber R p.385)\* See Note, at the end of this report.

The Martino Farm was located on Old Manor Road (Brielle Avenue) and "included several outbuildings and a farmhouse." (Zavin 1985) In October of that year (1829), an addition to the house was built: "26' in length x 8 1/2 'in width." (ibid) A Superintendent, Isaac Britton, was appointed on January 1, 1830 and the new Richmond County Poor Farm opened soon after.

In 1832, a cholera hospital was established on the site. Housing for the insane was established in 1837. The first new institutional building was constructed sometime during the 1830s.

Located on the north side of the main entry road leading in from present day Brielle Avenue (Manor Road), this 2-story "Main Building" was constructed of field stone and covered with a gambrel roof. Its dimensions were approximately 37'x75' (Zavin 1985). This structure, in addition to later extensions, apartments for the insane (1837), a "pest house", a school house, and various wooden outbuildings, served the Poor Farm until the end of the 19th century.

The U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1836-1839, and published in 1845 was utilized to illustrate the period before the Beer's 1853 Atlas. Although this charter map illustrated none of the known structures within the impact area, it did show that the land itself was divided into agricultural fields at this time (see Figure 6).

Butler's 1853 Atlas (see Figure 7) showing what may be the main building of the Poor Farm abutting Brielle Avenue (Manor Road) which is labeled "poorhouse" may have been impacted by Dormitory D, but its exact location cannot be accurately determined (see Figure 7). A structure owned by an individual named Wood lies south of the "Poor House". The Wood family is well-represented in the early records of Staten Island going back to Daniel Wood who received a grant of land near Rossville in 1680 (Leng and Davis 1930). Another structure was owned by the Rose family. In addition, Butler's Atlas of 1853 shows a building owned by E. Unkiel. Again, the exact location of these structures cannot be accurately determined because of Butlers lack of scale when illustrating structures and his occasional practice of inserting the names of property owners in large letters, unrelated to a specific point or defined position.

Beer's Atlas of 1874 registers greater detail than previous maps and atlases. It also fixes the project area within the Middletown section of Staten Island (see Figure 8). A road leading in from Brielle Avenue (Manor Road) roughly bisects the northern sector of the Poor Farm property which at this time consists of "113 acres." (Beers, 1874) A cluster of two large structures and four smaller ones, and labeled "McCormack Supt" (Superintendent) is located south of the bisecting road, along the western site boundary in the vicinity of a linear group of dormitory buildings.



At this period of time (see Figure 8), F. Garlich owned a 30 acre piece of real estate along Manor Road ( Brielle Avenue). A residence, barn/stable and a large pond with two entrance roads leading in from Brielle Avenue (Manor Road) eventually became part of the N.Y.C. Farm Colony property. Garlich's residence may be one of the original pre-Revolutionary War structures depicted on early maps and atlases. (see Figure 3) It was torn down sometime between 1917 and 1926. (see Figure 13) South of Garlich's residence and out of the impact area itself, but in the Greenbelt are two large buildings and two smaller structures. These may relate to another pre-Revolutionary War structure depicted in Figures 3 & 4.

A small portion of the northwestern site boundary of the Farm Colony property lay within land owned by N. Thurston. In addition, Butler shows the Central Rail Road of Staten Island running along the western site boundary before swinging south and east through Poor House Farm Land and onto the property owned by F. Garlich. It is interesting to note that this railroad does not appear on either previous or later maps and atlases. None of the structures owned by Garlich are in existence today, although building foundations were identified during a visual inspection of the project area. Additionally in 1874, Poor Farm property boundaries impact small pieces of land owned by J. Hatfield, W.D. Martin and W. MacKellar.

Beer's 1887 Atlas differs from his 1874 edition only in that there are transfers of property ownership from N. Thurston to A. Steers and from W.D. Martin to Mr. Field (see Figure 9).

In 1895, the Department of Public Charities assumed responsibility for all charitable institutions administered by the once unified Department of Public Charities and Correction. At this time there was a concerted effort to reform social services. This came at the same time as the consolidation of Manhattan's outer boroughs. The former Richmond County Poor Farm was designated an institution for the "able bodied indigent" (Zavin 1985:7). The ailing residents of the Poor Farm were transferred to other facilities while "able bodied paupers" as well as a number of epileptics were transferred to Staten Island from Blackwell's Island and the Brooklyn Almshouse (ibid). Davis' (1896) Map of Ye Olde Place Names on Staten Island offers the information that Brielle Avenue, the eastern boundary of the site, was called either Manor Road, Rosewood or Poorhouse Road. Forest Avenue, at the western site boundary, was called Pismire or Ant Lane, because of the number of ant nests found there (Davis 1896).

By 1898 (Robinson), J. Hatfield's land at the northwest boundary of the site is owned by Ella H. Post (see Figure 10). East of the Post property is land owned by Elias J. Field. The road leading in from Manor Road (Brielle Avenue today) is named the County House Road. By this time, the Poor Farm property has been purchased by the Supervisors of Richmond County and is called an "Almshouse" on the 1898 Atlas. Nine structures appear south of

County House Road, none of which are in existence today. Mrs. Garlish's (spelled Garlich in 1887) large dwelling house is still standing but a smaller building which appeared on the 1887 Atlas (Beers, see Figure 9) to the northwest of the main structure and which was probably a barn or carriage house is no longer in existence in 1898 (see Figure 10). South of Mrs. Garlish's residence and outside of the immediate impact area in the Greenbelt are two dwellings and three barns or stables showing the addition of a single structure since 1887. (see Figure 10)

## 20TH CENTURY HISTORY

The Richmond County Poor Farm was renamed the New York City Farm Colony ca. 1902. The annual report of the Department of Public Charities (1902) describes the less than adequate facilities as being 16 scattered buildings dating back to 1829 "when they were farmhouses, additions to which have been made without any pretensions to architecture or comfort" (Zavin 1985:8).

An ambitious building program was initiated at this time and Dormitory 1 and 2 was erected sometime after 1902, opening in 1904. (See Figure 13) It was built for male residents and is the earliest surviving building on the project area. (Zavin 1985) The building design for Dormitory 1 and 2 was prepared by the architectural firm of Renwick, Aspinwall and Owen. This firm served as the official architects for the Department of Public Charity. This building, constructed of fieldstone found on the property, served as the prototype for subsequent dormitories on the Farm Colony's property prior to the 1930's.

Dormitory 3 and 4, east of Dormitory 1 and 2, was designed by William Flanagan who was then the official architect of the Department of Public Charities. Larger than the aforementioned dormitory, it is similar in style. A smaller dormitory built 1908-09 to the west of Dormitory 3 and 4 may have been designed by Raymond F. Almirall and revised by William Flanagan. Further west is the multi-storied kitchen and dining hall building designed by Frank H. Quinby and completed in 1914. A laundry building, completed in 1914 and shortly thereafter used for workshops is the westernmost structure in this early group (ibid).

Dormitory 5 and 6, lying north of the main entry road and designed by Almirall in 1907, nearly duplicates the design of Flanagan's Dormitory 3 and 4. This dormitory was one of a pair built 1910-1912 (see Dormitory 7 & 8 on Figure 13). All of the above buildings are still standing, but Dormitory 7 & 8, located north and 75' east of 5 & 6, no longer exists (Zavin 1985). "Near Dormitory 5 & 6 is Almirall's stylistically similar insane pavillion" completed in 1910 (Zavin 1985:9). Today this building is encapsulated within "a 1930's addition which incorporated it within a nurse's residence" (ibid).

These buildings, together with a 1914 garage and morgue located

on the southern portion of the property as well as several stables, barns and animal pens "served the Farm Colony until the 1930's when additional dorms were constructed" (Zavin 1985:10).

The 1911 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey shows the existence of 20 buildings or structures belonging to the N.Y.C. Farm Colony (see Figure 11). In addition, there is a 3-story frame dwelling on what had been Mrs. Garlich's property in 1898 (Robinson) as well as a shed and fountain. A long dirt road leads southward from the northern Garlich residence to a cluster of buildings within the Greenbelt which includes a barn with two outbuildings; a 2-story porched frame dwelling with a stone barn and small shed; a frame barn and shed to the west of the dwelling. An additional stone barn south of the frame one is also depicted. The 1911 topographical map shows this parcel as being separate and apart from Farm Colony land and privately owned, although it later appears to have been incorporated.

In 1911, a small morgue lies in the southeastern corner of a cemetery located in the northern sector of the project area. To the southwest of the small morgue is a 3-story building called Dormitory 7 & 8 which is no longer in existence. Southwest of this structure the 1911 topographic map shows Dormitory 5 and 6 under construction and lying directly north of and abutting Country House Road. South of Dormitory 5 and 6, is a 1 1/2 story stone building which was built to house the insane. South again of this structure is a 2-part frame house, one section of which is 2 1/2 stories tall and the other section 2 stories. Today, this may be the wooden garage depicted on a map provided by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (Zavin 1985). Another 2 1/2 story frame dwelling is southeast of the above structure and may still be in existence today.

Southwest of the aforementioned structures is a 2 1/2 story stone house which is no longer standing. However, west of this house and yet connected to it, is a 1 1/2 story frame house which may occupy the site of an electrical equipment building erected in 1941.

Two frame "shops" of 1 and 1 1/2 story frame construction consecutively occupied the site north of the present day laundry and industrial buildings erected in 1914 and still in existence today.

A 2 1/2 story brick dwelling lies south of the shops at a 190' elevation, but is no longer in existence. West of this brick building are two adjoining structures: one, a frame shed abutting a 1-story brick building and the other a shed of indeterminate use. A three foot deep pond, not in use today but still evident as a topographic feature, lies west of the 2 1/2 story stone Dormitory for Male Help built in 1908-09. East of this dormitory is the 3-story Dormitory 1 and 2 erected in 1902-1904. Southeast of Dormitory 1 and 2 is the 3-story stone Dormitory 3 and 4 built in 1908-1909 (Zavin 1985:38). A cluster of 3 structures (a 2 1/2

story frame barn; a 1-story frame shed and a 2-story brick stable) lies south of Dormitory 1 and 2. These buildings occupy the site of the present-day soccer field. A tennis court, no longer in existence, lay between the 215'-210' elevation west of the cluster of stable/shed/barns. South of the tennis court was a pigsty and southeast of the pigsty was a 1-story brick disinfecting plant.

The Garlich property along the eastern project site boundary adjacent to Manor Road (Brielle Avenue) wraps around to the south and west and contains two ponds and several structures. A 3-story frame dwelling once belonging to Mrs. F. Garlich (Beers Atlases 1874 and 1887; Robinson Atlas 1898) has a fountain to the south and a pond to the west of the house.

Bromley's 1917 Atlas is nearly identical to the topographical map of 1911 (see Figure 12). Only several small sheds or outbuildings are missing from the Bromley atlas and may indeed represent the destruction of those structures between 1911 and 1917 or may only suggest their insignificance and, therefore, the reason for their being omitted.

The 1917 Sanborn Atlas (updated to 1926; see Figure 13) was one of the most detailed of all published references surveyed and showed the addition of several structures. These include a new greenhouse located east of Dormitory 5 and 6 as well as a 1-story smaller structure and shed southeast of the greenhouse. A "trades building" (for plumbing, a tin shop and paint shop) was added west of a 2-story frame dwelling that had been demolished sometime between 1917 and 1926. This 2-story dwelling was located southwest of the insane pavillion. Part of a large structure south of the 2-story dwelling was also demolished by 1926. In addition, a cluster of 2 barns and a 1-story frame shed south of Dormitory 1 and 2 are no longer in existence. The tennis court west of this cluster is not depicted on the Sanborn Atlas (1917 updated to 1926).

North of the pond located at the center of the site, a large service building with dining facilities on the first floor and a kitchen on the third has been built on the site of a previous 2 1/2 story brick dwelling. North of this service building a 1-story frame "shop" has been demolished and a small structure added immediately to the north. West of the pond a large building known as a Laundry (but "not so used"), had been erected (see Fig. 13). In 1926 the map showed that this building held facilities for a tailor shop, carpet shop, print shop, mat/broom making and a carpenter shop and so labeled them. South of the Laundry, 6 pigstys which are not shown on Bromley's 1917 map had apparently been built and demolished sometime before 1926.

Southwest again of the "Laundry", a wagon shed, pumphouse and stable or barn have been erected. South of this cluster is a small 1-story structure of unknown purpose.

In the southern portion of the site a number of buildings and

structures have been added since 1917. (see Figure 13) However, this may only represent the lack of detail in Bromley's 1917 Atlas. (see Figure 12) A large pigsty adjacent to the southern access road has been replaced by a 1-story "pork dressing" facility. West of this facility is a 1-story storage facility with a basement. Directly south of the "pork dressing" structure are facilities for large "kettles". South of these kettles are 9 pigstys. According to Sanborn's map of 1917, updated to 1926, the 1-story old disinfecting plant seems to have been heightened to 1 1/2 stories. At this time, it is not clear whether the building was being utilized as a disinfecting plant or for storage. North of this old building a new morgue/garage of stone and frame had been built in 1914 (Zavin 1985), although it does not appear on Bromley's 1917 atlas.

It should be noted that the buildings associated with Garlich's residence east of Brielle Avenue are no longer extant. It is apparent by comparing the 1926 Sanborn map with today's renderings of the project area, that sometime after 1926 the Farm Colony absorbed Garlich's property.

The red brick 2-story Dormitories A-D, located on the north side of the main entry road were built in 1931. They were the last major buildings constructed at the Farm Colony although the complex was used for another 40 years (Zavin 1985).

#### THE POTTER'S FIELD

The "Acre of Mystery" is the "home for the burying ground on the Poor House Farm. A great many unknown persons are buried there" (Davis 1903:86). This cemetery or potter's field is located on the west side of Brielle Avenue, at the northwest corner of the N.Y.C. Farm Colony site. Approximately 450'x450' in size, the cemetery is bounded on the north by Walcott Avenue, and on the west by the rear of those houses which face Walcott Avenue.

The foundations of a small 1-story morgue remain in the southeastern corner of the cemetery (see Figure 11). Scattered gravestones still exist. Although the cemetery was a Potter's Field, probably first associated with the Richmond County Poor Farm, it might have been used by the N.Y.C. Farm Colony as well. Seventy-nine burials were recorded for the year 1905 in the Annual report of the Department of Public Charities of the City of New York for 1905 (Zavin 1985).

The only other recorded reference to the cemetery is the 1911 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey which defines the cemetery as a "wooded" area, between 185'-215' above sea level, with a morgue still in existence at its southeastern boundary.

## FINDINGS

The purpose of this Phase IA cultural resource evaluation was to augment the historical and architectural study of the Farm Colony project site which focused on the late 19th and early 20th century remains. As we understood it, the initial concern expressed by Landmarks was that the structural and architectural analysis originally presented by the Landmarks Preservation Commission did not address the presence or significance of early historic or possibly prehistoric remains which may be present in this minimal study area of Staten Island. As detailed above in our review of both prehistoric resources in the area as well as through our cartographic and primary and secondary documentary evidence of early historic manifestations, we have identified three historic localities within the project impact area which warrant additional site-specific investigation in order to establish either potential National Register eligibility or significance relevant to potential Landmarks Preservation status. One other historic structure, situated in the Greenbelt area and which is not scheduled for development, was also located. The three (3) entities of potential significance which have been identified are:

- 1) The historic cemetery area which also incorporated the functional and historic presence of an early Morgue dating to the early 19th century (see Figure 11, A);
- 2) A complex of early farm buildings dating to the initial period of the Poor House Farm and possibly earlier, which were not incorporated into the late 19th century architectural history identified by Landmarks (see Figure 11, B); and
- 3) The identification of the former presence of a pre-Revolutionary farmstead, owned by "Woke", identified as (C) which was later connected by a roadway as indicated in the 19th century maps, to another pre-Revolutionary War farmstead in the Greenbelt area, identified as (D), but which appear to have been distinct occupational localities in the 18th century (see Figure 11, C & D).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

With the exception of the cemetery, each of these items pre-dates the coverage of the architectural/historical study performed by Landmarks. This being the case, it is recommended that further documentary research be initiated in order to establish the research potential of these early historic resources in Staten Island. This research would include further work on historic maps and atlases, local history, and a complete deed search for both potentially sensitive areas (identified as #2 and #3, above).

For the area of the cemetery and morgue (identified as #1, above) we recommend that field testing be initiated if there is any possibility that the planned development will impact this area. These procedures would be limited to presence/absence testing and boundary definition with a strong recommendation that avoidance be the primary planning goal, considering the potential cost and curatorial burden that removal and analysis would entail. For the cemetery, it is recommended that a combined approach of on-site testing together with one of several remote sensing techniques be utilized to define the extent and boundaries of the burial area.

Although prehistoric resources were identified within 1 1/3 miles of the project site, no indications of potential prehistoric resources were encountered and no specific recommendations are being presented.



\*NOTE

Early Grantor-Grantee indices are organized by date of deed as well as by first letter of the surname. The date of the original conveyance to Stephen Martino, Sr. was unknown, as was the name of the individual who sold him the land. Since the only two Martino property transactions in the indices were those mentioned above, a search through every conveyance prior to 1793 would have to have been performed in order to trace the project area backward through time. This was deemed an excessive expenditure of time and effort. The deed from Martino, Sr. to Martino, Jr. was reviewed in its entirety. (Early conveyances often summarize the earlier history of a piece of property). Unfortunately, this deed offered little additional historical information. Utilizing approximate dates and names gleaned from 18th and early 19th Century maps and atlases, an in-depth search of those individuals in the indices in an attempt to trace the parcel backward through time, was also undertaken. No additional useful information was encountered.



## REFERENCES CITED

- Bayles, Richard M.  
1887 History of Richmond County (Staten Island) N.Y. from its Discovery to the Present Time. L.L. Preston Co., N.Y.
- Calendar of Council Minutes 1668-1783  
1902 University State of New York; N.Y. State Library, Bulletin 58, History 6.
- Clute, J.J  
1887 Annals of Staten Island From its Discovery to the Present Time. Chas. Vogt, N.Y.
- Davis, Wm. T.  
1896 Staten Island Names. Natural Science Association, Staten Island. The Standard Press, New Brighton, N.Y.  
1903 Supplement to Staten Island Names (Ye Olde Names and Nicknames). Natural Science Association. New Brighton, S.I., N.Y.
- Grantor-Grantee Indices/County Clerk's Office  
1793 S. Martino to S. Martinoe, Jr. Liber E, p. 253.  
1829 M. Martino to Supervisor of the County of Richmond. Liber R. p. 385.
- Land Papers 1643-1803  
1864 Calendar of N.Y. Colonial Manuscripts. Weed, Parsons and Co., Printers and Publishers, Albany, N.Y.
- Leng, Charles and Wm. T. Davis  
1930 Staten Island and Its People: A History 1606-1929. Volume I and II, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc. N.Y.
- Ritchie, Wm. A.  
1980 The Archaeology of New York State, Revised Edition. Harbor Hills Books, Harrison, N.Y.
- Schneider, Gale K.  
1967 Letter to Dr. Bert Salwen, May 10, 1967.  
1970 Archaeological Site List in Archives of Staten Island ✓  
Institute of Arts and Sciences (SIIAS).
- Skinner, Alanson and others  
1909 "The Indians of Greater N.Y. and the Lower Hudson". Anthropological Papers, American Museum of Natural History, Vol. 3, Hudson-Fulton Publication.

Zavin, Shirley for the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1985 New York City Farm Colony - Seaview Hospital Historic  
District Designation Report.

#### MAPS AND ATLASES

A New and Correct Map of the County of Richmond made in the year  
1797 agreeable to an act passed by the Legislature of the State  
of New York.

1797 Reproduced by Historical Records Survey, City of N.Y.

Beers, F.W.

1874 Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, N.Y. J.B.  
Beers and Co., N.Y.

Beers, J.B.

1887 Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, N.Y. J.B.  
Beers and Co., N.Y.

Bolton, R.P.

n.d. Map #1, Indian Paths in the Great Metropolis. In  
Archives of the SIIAS.

Bromley, George W. and Walter S.

1917 Atlas of the City of New York, Borough of Richmond,  
Staten Island. Vol. I. Published by G.W. Bromley and  
Co. Philadelphia.

Butler, James

1853 Map of Staten Island or Richmond County, N.Y.

Dripps, Matthew

1850 Map of Staten Island.

McMillen, Loring

1933 A Map of Staten Island During the Revolution 1775-1783,  
compiled from the following maps and from other  
sources: The Taylor and Skinner Map 1781; The Hessian  
Map ca. 1777; Plan No. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans  
Staten Island de 1780 a 1783.

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

Robinson, E.

1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, City of New York. E.  
Robinson and Co., N.Y.

Sanborn

1917 (Updated to 1926). Insurance Maps of Staten Island.  
Vol. 2, plate 195, Sanborn Map Co., N.Y.

Skene, Frederick  
1907 Map of Staten Island, Richmond County, N.Y. showing the  
Colonial Land Patents from 1668-1712.

Skinner, A.B.  
ca. 1909 Archaeological Map of Staten Island. Anthropological  
Papers, American Museum of Natural History, Vol. III.

Taylor, George and A. Skinner  
1781 Staten Island in 1781 as Shown on a Map of New York and  
Staten Island, and Part of Long Island. Surveyed and  
drawn 1781 by Taylor and Skinner, Surveyors to the  
British Army.

U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1836-1839.  
Published 1845. Map #35.

#### PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Baughner, Dr. Sherene, Archaeologist, New York City Landmarks  
Preservation Commission, Sept. 12, 1985.

Fullem, Bruce, State Historic Preservation Office, Sept. 4, 1985.

ARTHUR KILL QUADRANGLE  
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

8165 II  
JERSEY

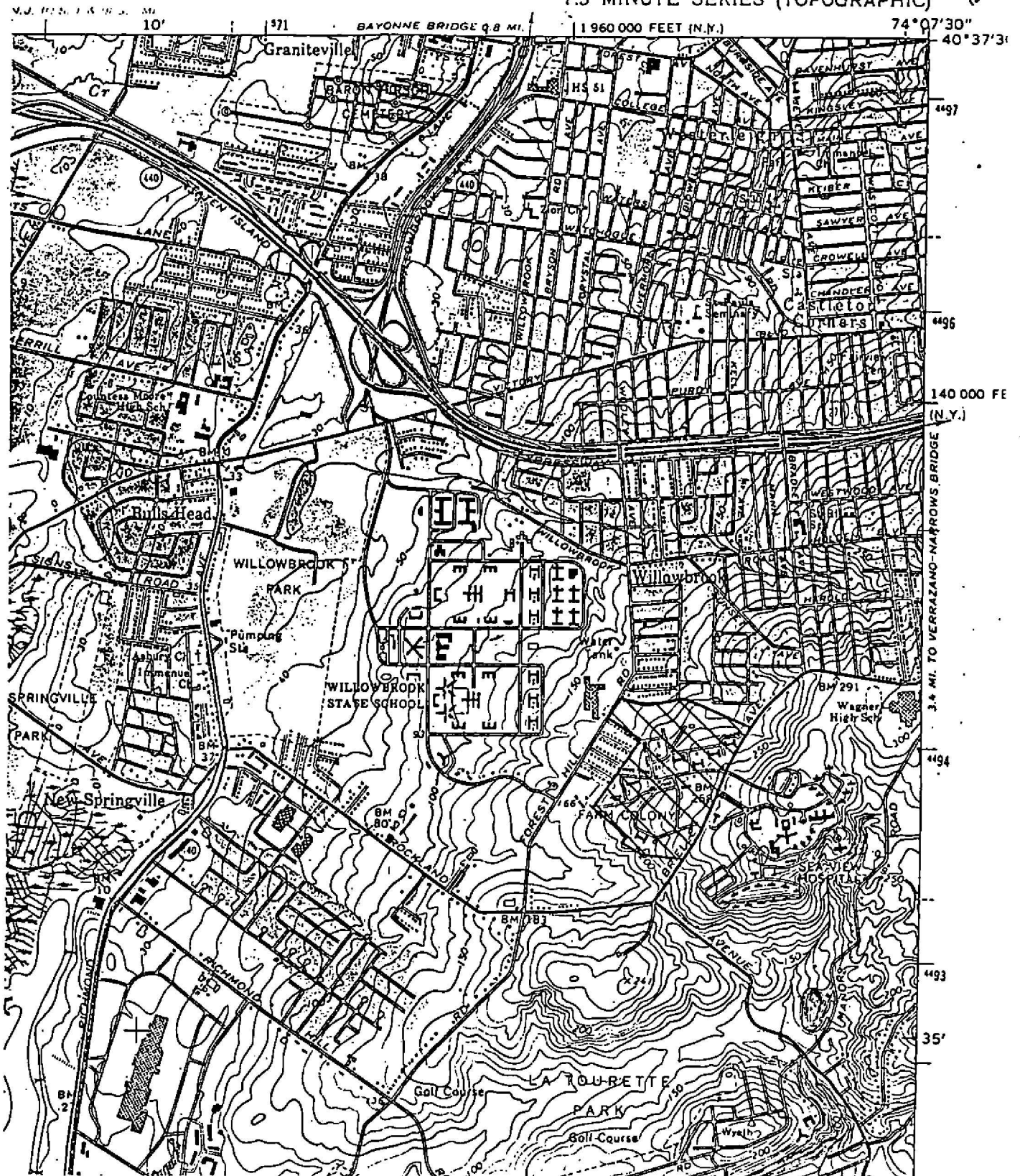


Figure 1 - Topographic Map, Arthur Kill Quadrangle. 7.5 minute. USGS Map.





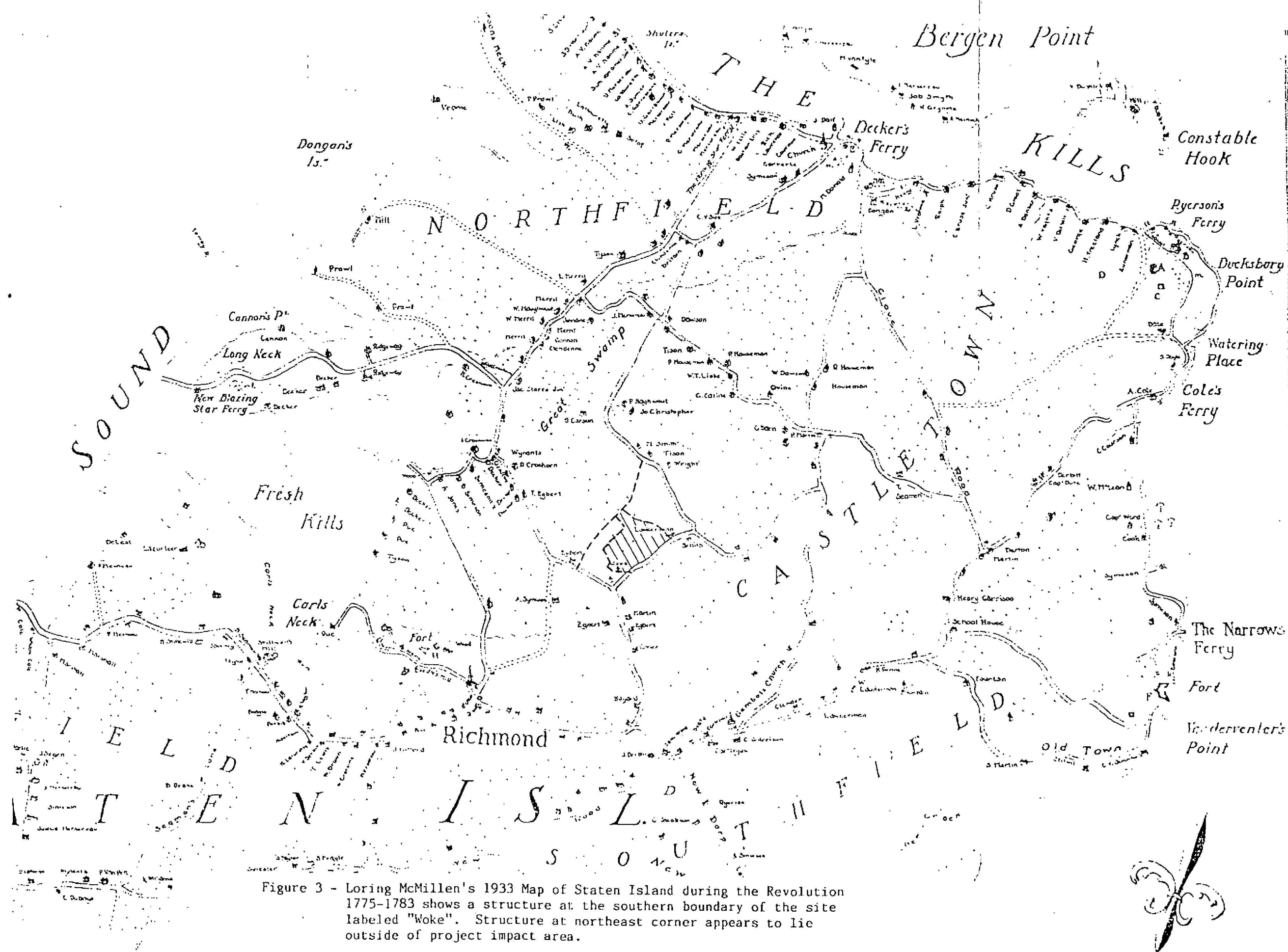


Figure 3 - Loring McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island during the Revolution 1775-1783 shows a structure at the southern boundary of the site labeled "Woke". Structure at northeast corner appears to lie outside of project impact area.

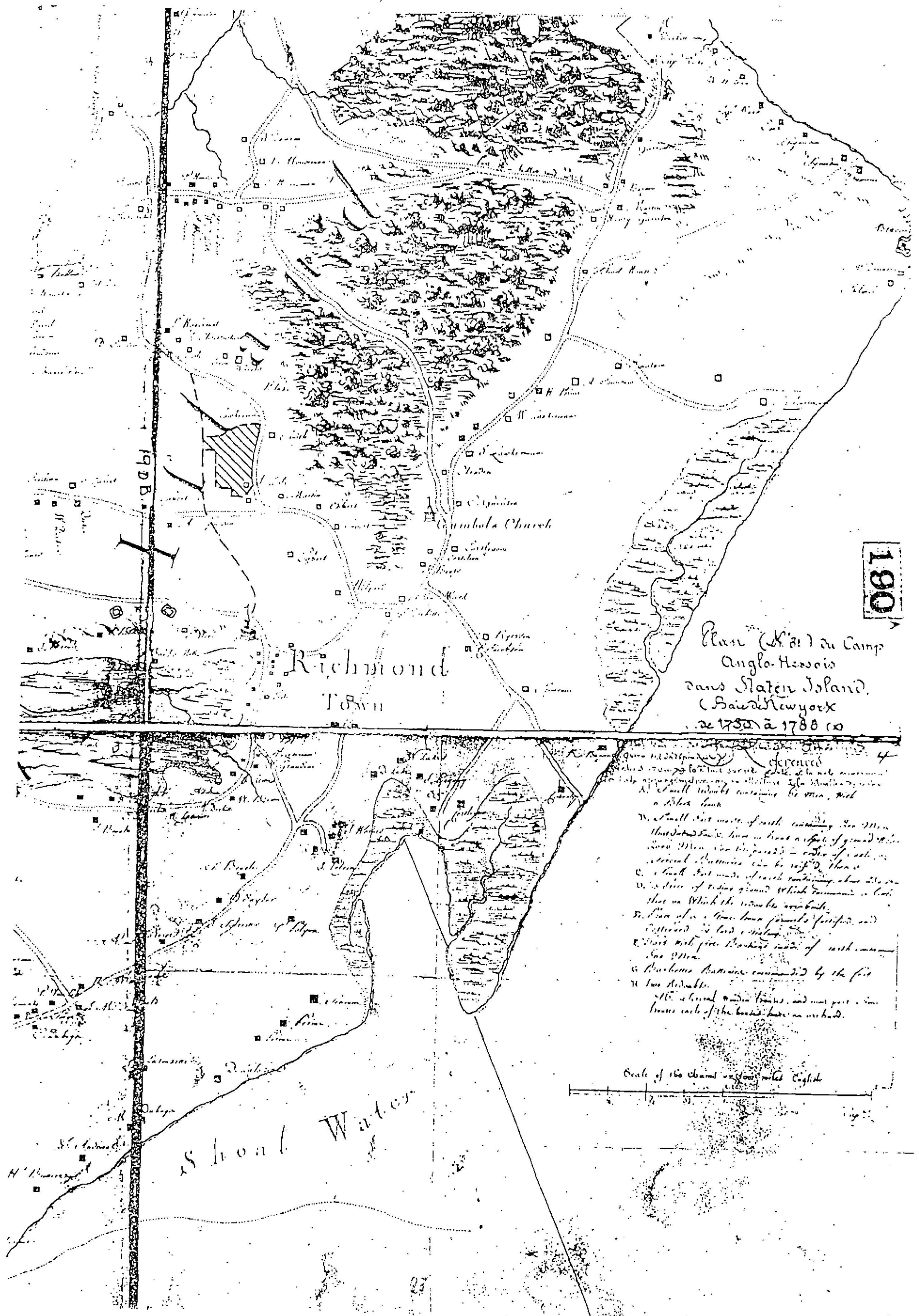


Figure 4 - Plan (No. 31) Du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island de 1780-1783. Structure at southeastern boundary of the project area owned by "I. Lite".

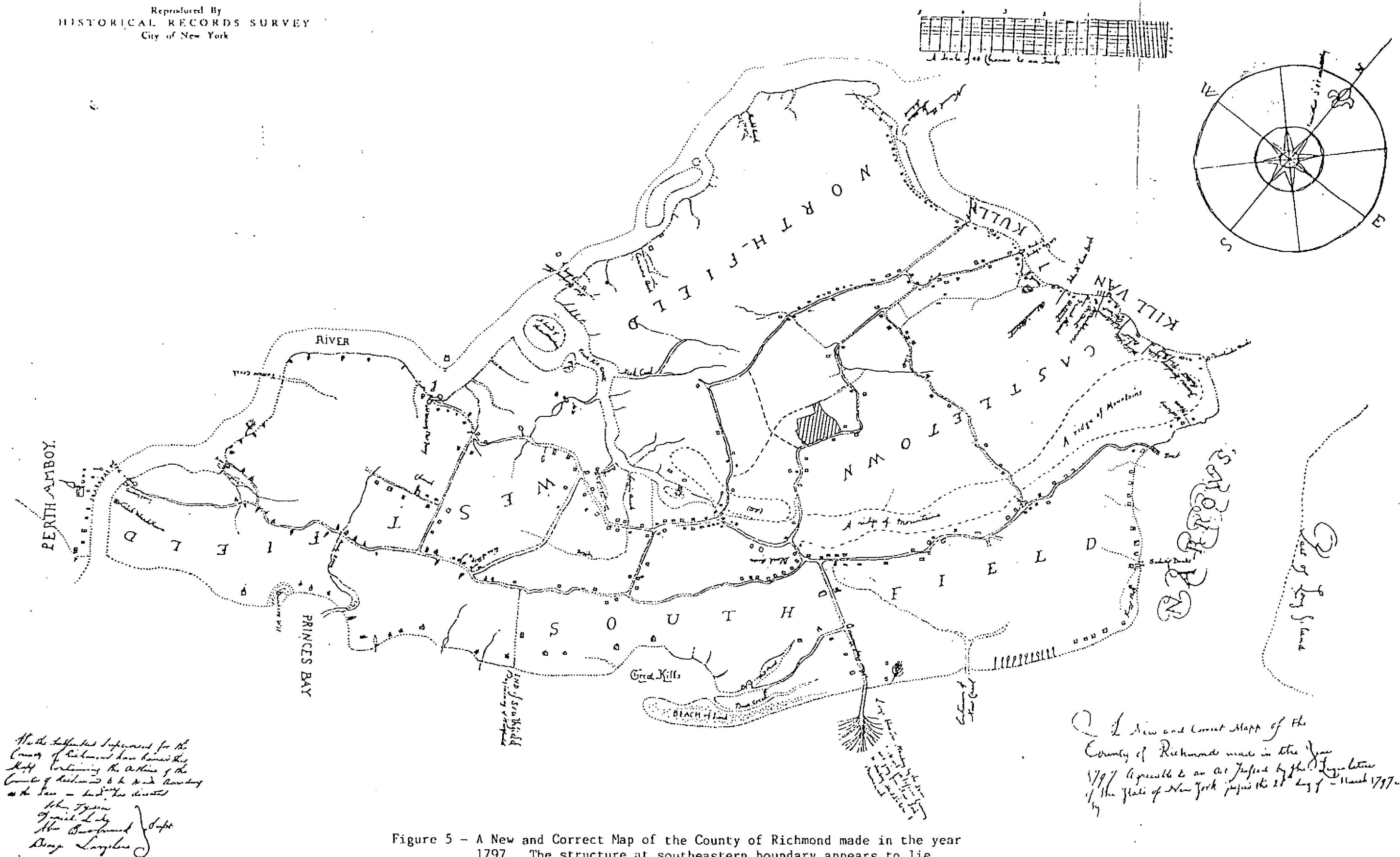


Figure 5 - A New and Correct Map of the County of Richmond made in the year 1797. The structure at southeastern boundary appears to lie partially within project impact area. The map is probably in error due to the large scale of the structures depicted in relation to geographical area.



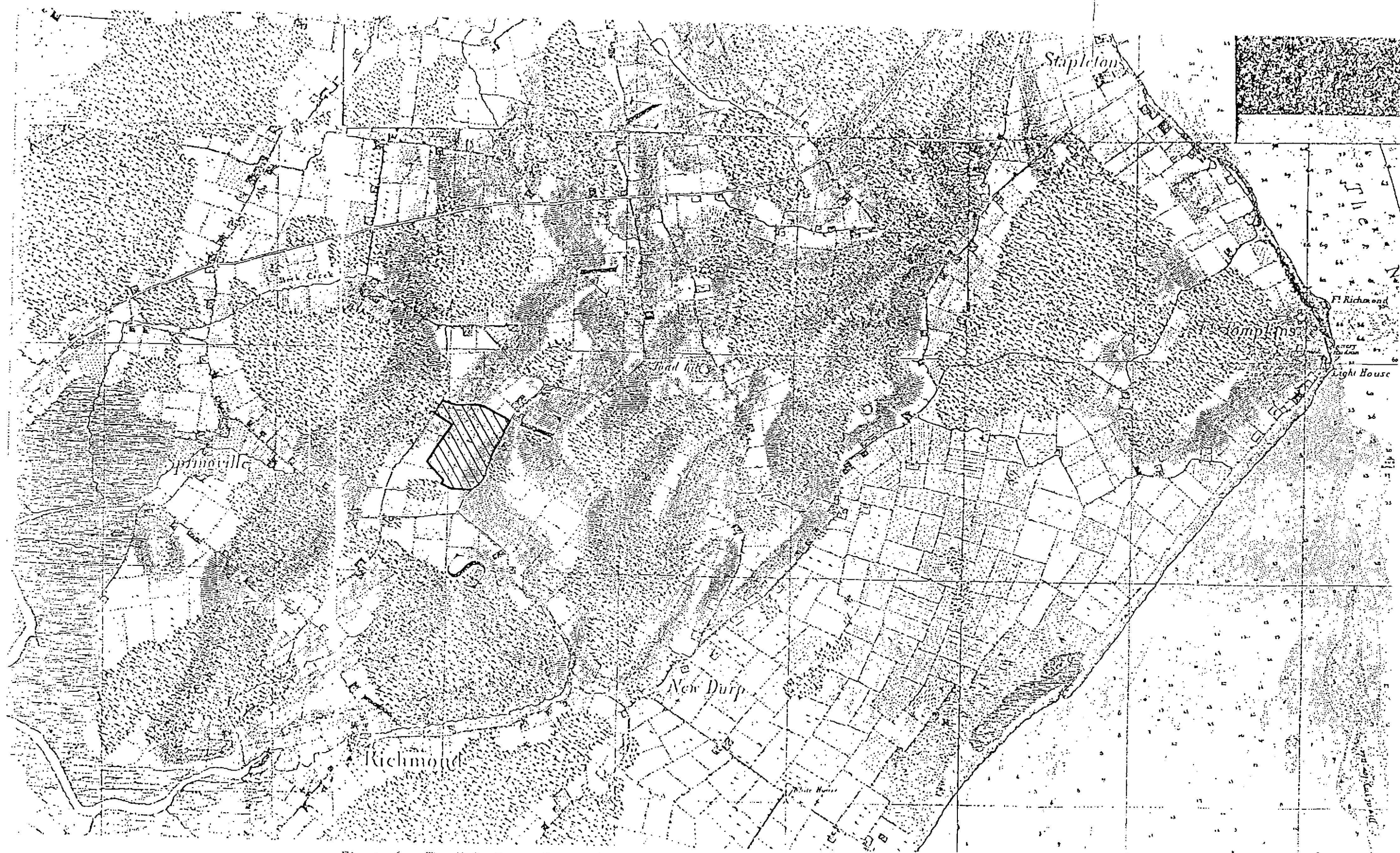


Figure 6 - The U.S. Coast Survey Charter of N.Y. Harbor, 1836-1839. No structures illustrated.



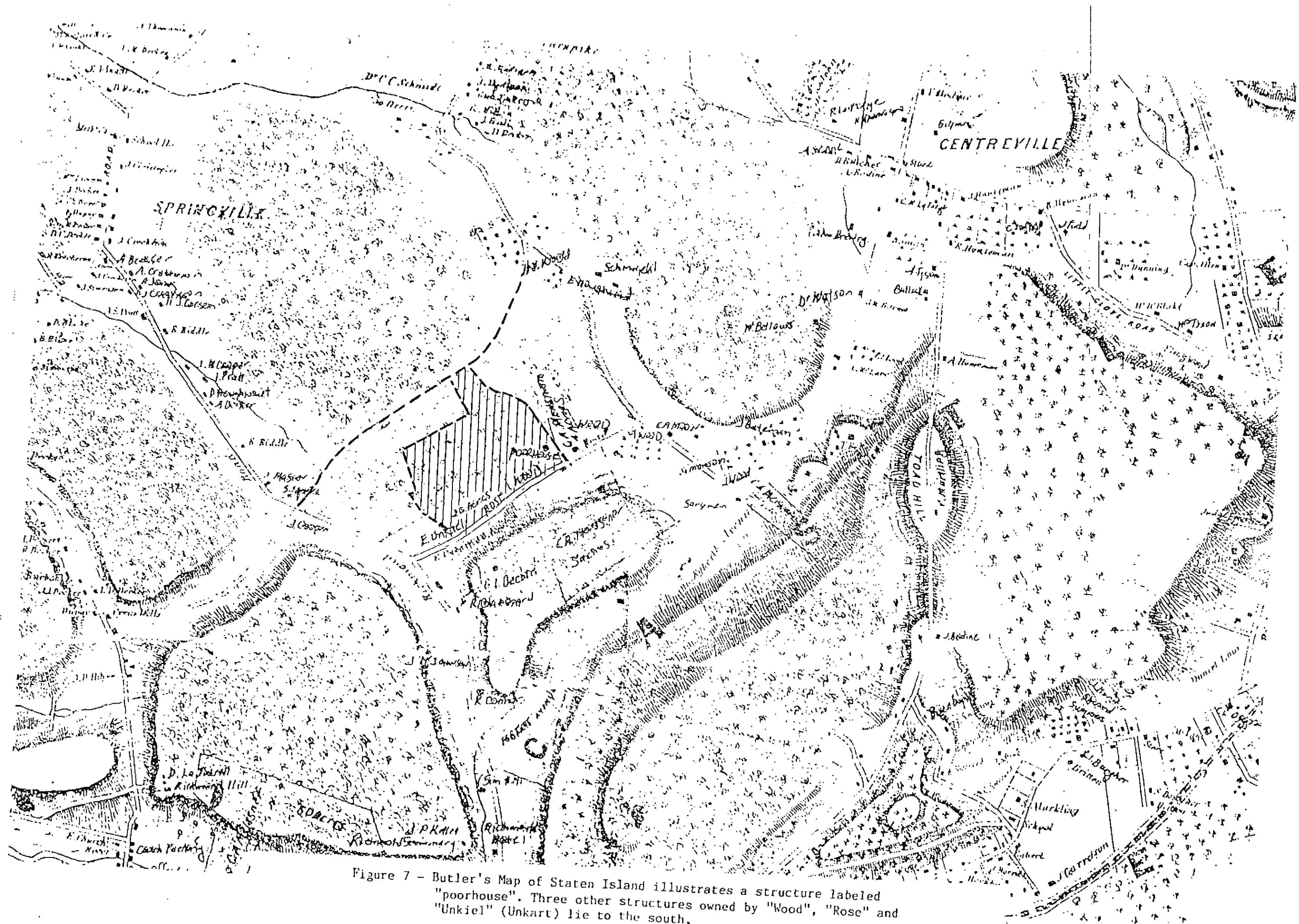


Figure 7 - Butler's Map of Staten Island illustrates a structure labeled "poorhouse". Three other structures owned by "Wood", "Rose" and "Unkiel" (Unkart) lie to the south.

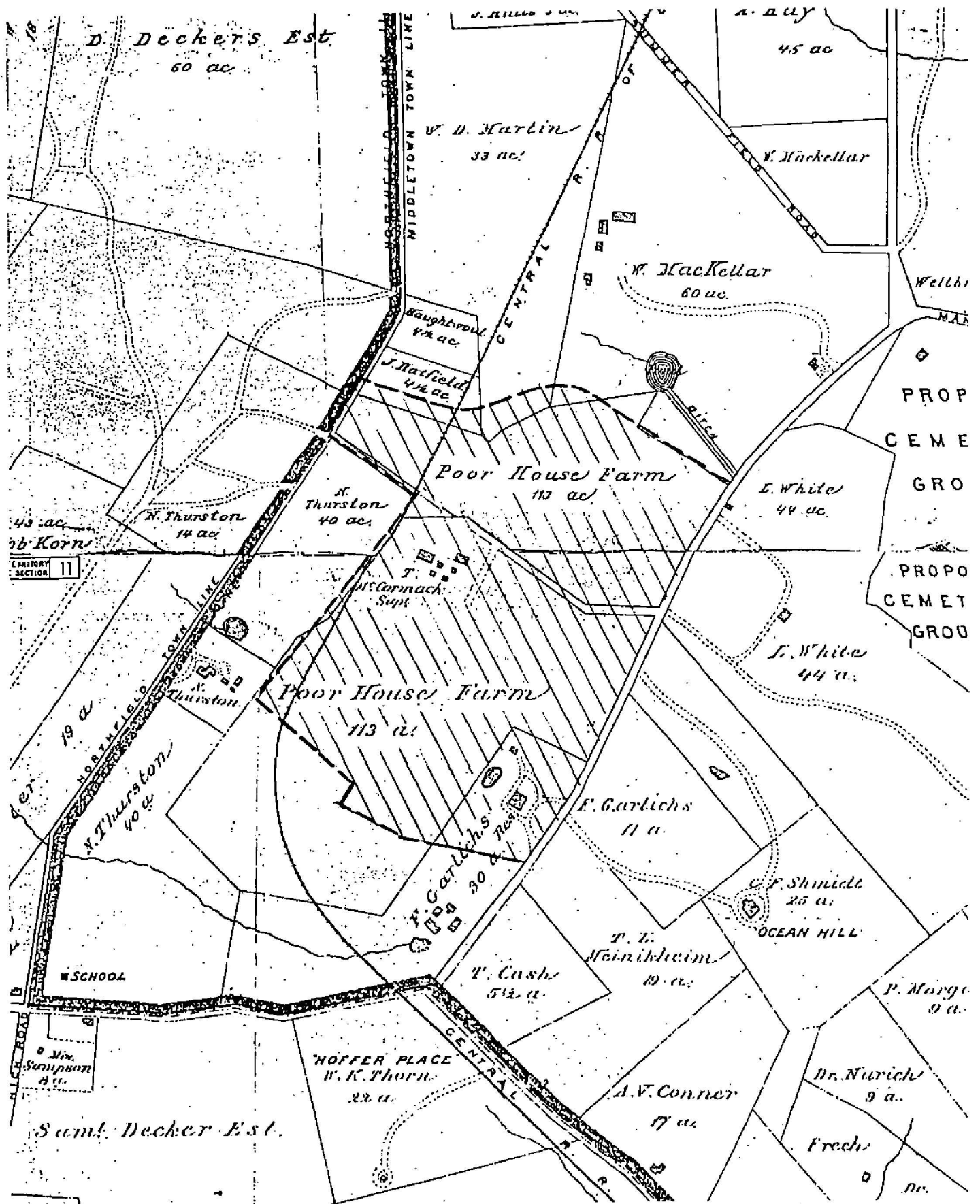


Figure 8 - Beer's 1874 Atlas showing cluster of buildings labeled "McCormack Supt". at northwest corner of project impact area. F. Garlich's residence, pond and stable/barn lies at southeast corner of cite.







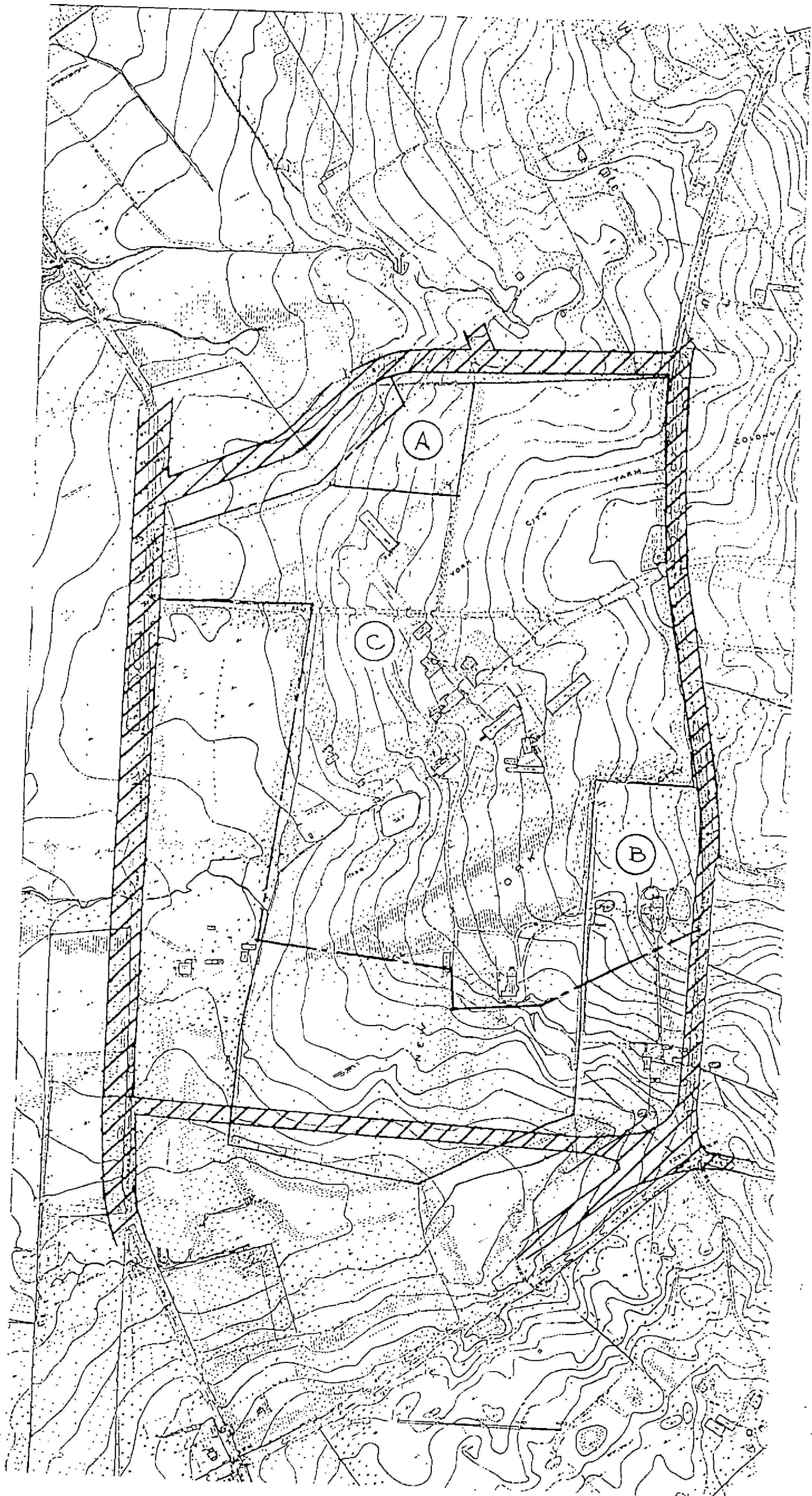


Figure 11 - Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey (1911) with:  
 A) The Potter's Field; B) Garlich's residence (possible  
 structure dating to the Revolutionary War); and C) Area of  
 early buildings relating to the Poor Farm.

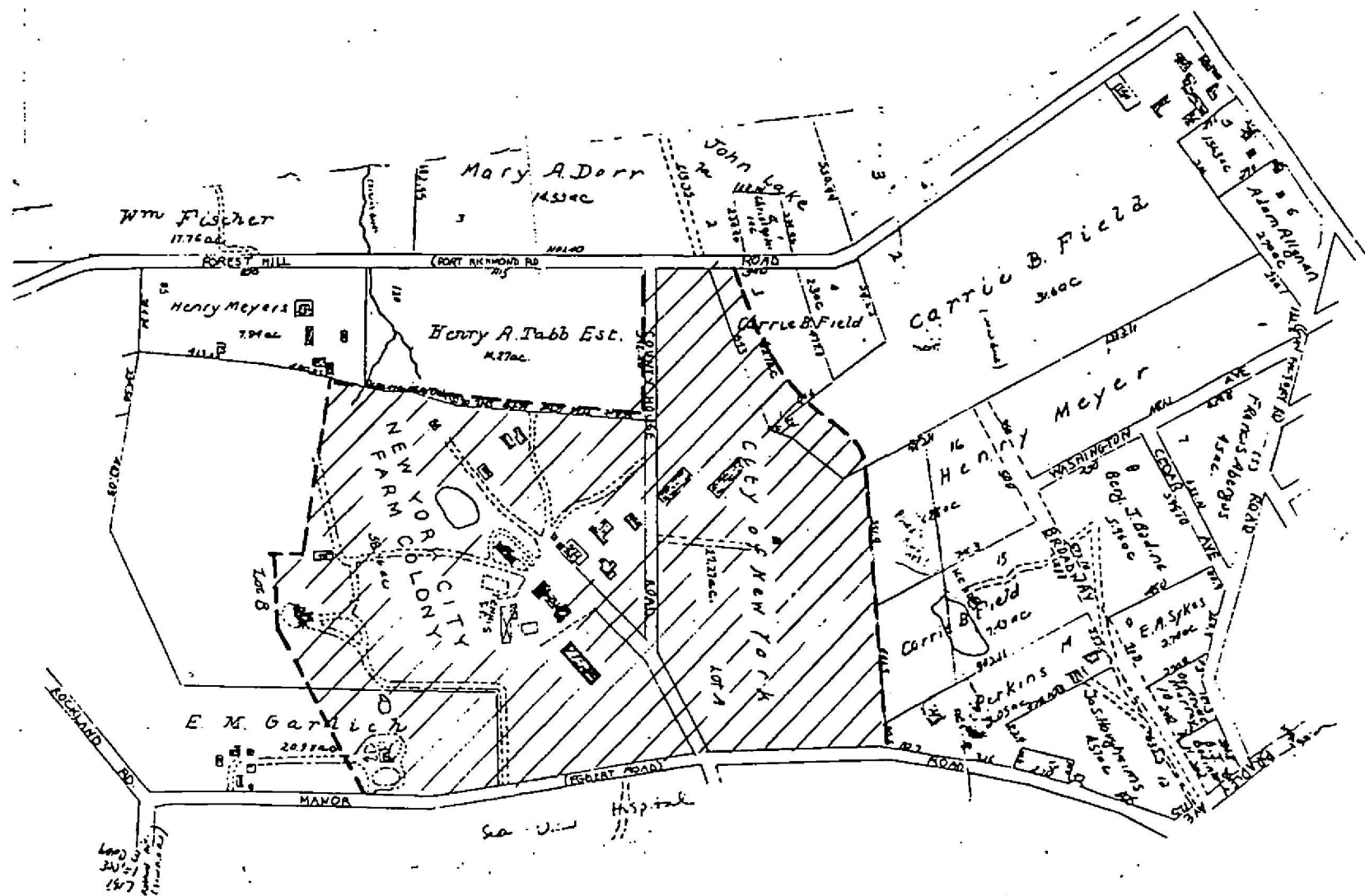


Figure 12 - Bromley's 1917 Atlas of the City of New York, Borough of Richmond, Staten Island.