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PHASE IA HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SENSITIVITY EVALUATION OF THE
MAGUIRE ESTATES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

CEQR #88-151R

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MAGUIRE ESTATES
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

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for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey will include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric and historic resources in the immediate area surrounding the project area.

The project area is located in western Staten Island, south of Woodrow Road and north of Richmond Parkway, and is bounded on the east by Maguire Avenue and on the west by Sandy Brook. The project area dimensions measure approximately 1,600 feet north-south by 850 feet east-west. 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 of the project area; second, a section follows on the prehistoric sensitivity of the area; third, a review of the historic sensitivity of the area; and fourth, the conclusions and recommendations.

GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

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

The 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 (Jacobson 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 (Jacobson 1980:5).

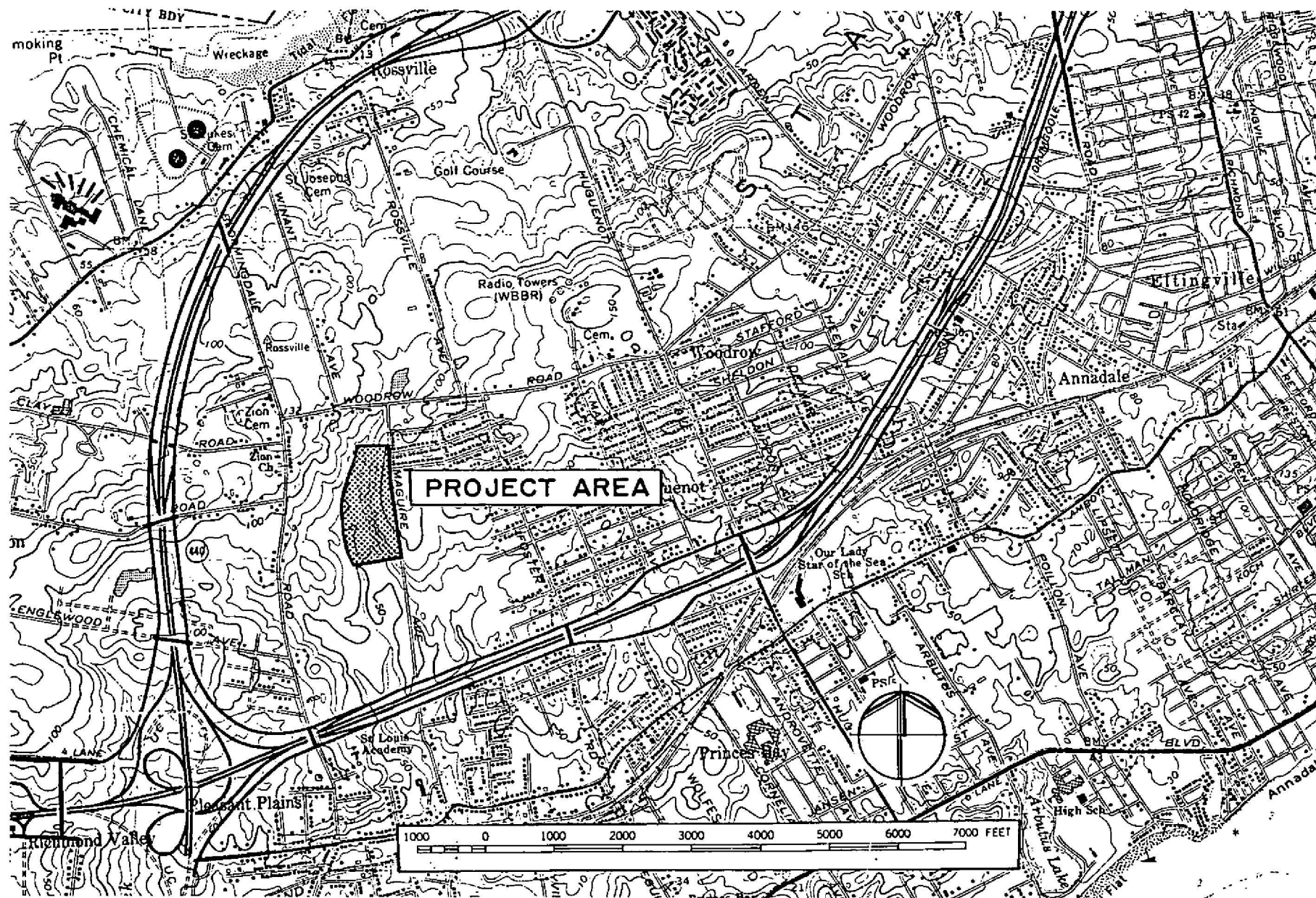


Figure 1: Location of the project area on USGS 7.5 minute series, Arthur Kill N.Y.- N.J. Quadrangle.

During March 1988, the principal investigator visited the Maguire Estates project area in Staten Island. During this visit, a pedestrian survey was utilized to inspect the project area. The project area is presently covered with a combination of trees and grasses. There is extensive undergrowth in some locations especially towards the southern end. The western boundary is marked by Sandy Brook which appears to be in a natural condition. A fairly large number of wrecked automobiles were apparent in the northern and central portions of the project area. See Plates 1, 2 and 3 for views 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 (hereinafter S.I.I.A.S.), the library of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (N.Y.S.H.P.O.). Most prehistoric archaeological work undertaken by both professional and avocational archaeologists has historically been concentrated on this southwestern portion of Staten Island (Baugher 1985 pers. comm.). This should eliminate the problems of inadequate archaeological survey coverage which is particularly a problem in the interior of the island.

Table 1 presents the results of our search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the Maguire Estates project area. Included in the table are 29 sites located 2 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 29 known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within 2 miles of the proposed project area, very few including the Cutting Farm site were excavated under controlled conditions. The rest represent either surface finds or poorly documented finds by local amateur archaeologists and/or pothunters. The Cutting Farm site (designated "R" in Table 1 and on Figure 2), located along the shore north of Rossville Avenue at the Arthur Kill Road intersection, lies approximately 1.4 miles north of the project impact area. Archaeologists have recently verified Cutting as a Paleo-Indian (early man) site, although chronologically later components of Archaic and Woodland materials were also recovered (Jacobson 1980). This locale yielded the first evidence of Paleo-Indian occupation on Staten Island (Silver 1984) when it was originally reported early this century.

TABLE 1: PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE VICINITY OF MAGUIRE ESTATES

Site Name	SIAS #	Parker #	NYSM #	Reference	Period(s)	Description
A Sandy Brook		ACP-RICH-14	4604	Parker 1922:682	Mid-Late Woodland	Burials, traces of occupation.
B Wort Farm	STD 2-3		735	Skinner 1909:10	Late Archaic/Late Woodland	
C Sandy Ground	STD 24-3		747			Placed on Nat. Reg. Sept. 23, 1982.
D Rossville Campsite	STD R-3			Kaeser 1966	Woodland	Campsite.
E Clay Pit Road				Pickman 1978	Mid-Late Woodland	
F Canada Hill			770	Williams n.d.		
G Rossville Shell Heap			772	Skinner 1909:11	Woodland	Shell Midden.
H Distrigas Area I			2320	Rubertone 1974		
I Gerike Farm				Pickman 1978	Archaic/Mid-Late Woodland	
J New Site #2			5702	Regensburg in Jacobsen 1980	Early Woodland	
K New Site #1			5701	Regensburg in Jacobsen 1980	Mid-Woodland	Flint knapping, limited function.
L		ACP-RICH-19	4609	Parker 1922:683		Shell Midden.
M Kreischerville "Indian Fields"		ACP-RICH-13	771 4603	Parker 1922:682 Yamin 1987:pers.comm.		Traces of occupation.
N St. Luke's Cemetery				Pickman 1978	Archaic/Late Woodland	
O Pottery Farm	STD 23-3		738	Rubertone 1974	Late Archaic/ Mid & Late Woodland	
P		ACP-RICH	4624	Parker 1922:Pl. 211 Pickman 1978	Archaic/Late Woodland	Campsite.
Q Chemical Lane	STD 22-3		739	Rubertone 1974		
R Cutting Farm				Sainz 1962	Paleo/Archaic/Woodland	
S		ACP-RICH-18	4608	Parker 1922:683		Village.
T Huguenot				Anderson 1964 Geismar 1985	Mid-Woodland	
U Smoking Point	STD 14-3		737	Silver 1984	Paleo/Late Archaic/ Transitional	
V Distrigas Area II			2319	Rubertone 1974		
W Port Socony No.	STD 18-3		742			
X		ACP-RICH	4623	Parker 1922:Pl.211		Camp.
Y Kreischerville		ACP-RICH-16	4606	Parker 1922:683		Campsite.
Z Wolfe's Pond	STD 12-3 STD-PB		736	Salwen 1957		Shell Midden.
AA Richmond Valley (Boiling Spring)	STD-RV			The New Bulletin 1961	Woodland	
AB Sharrot Avenue	STD-PB		740	Salwen 1957, 1967		
AC (Lemon Creek)		ACP-RICH	4621	Parker 1922:Pl. 211		Traces of occupation.

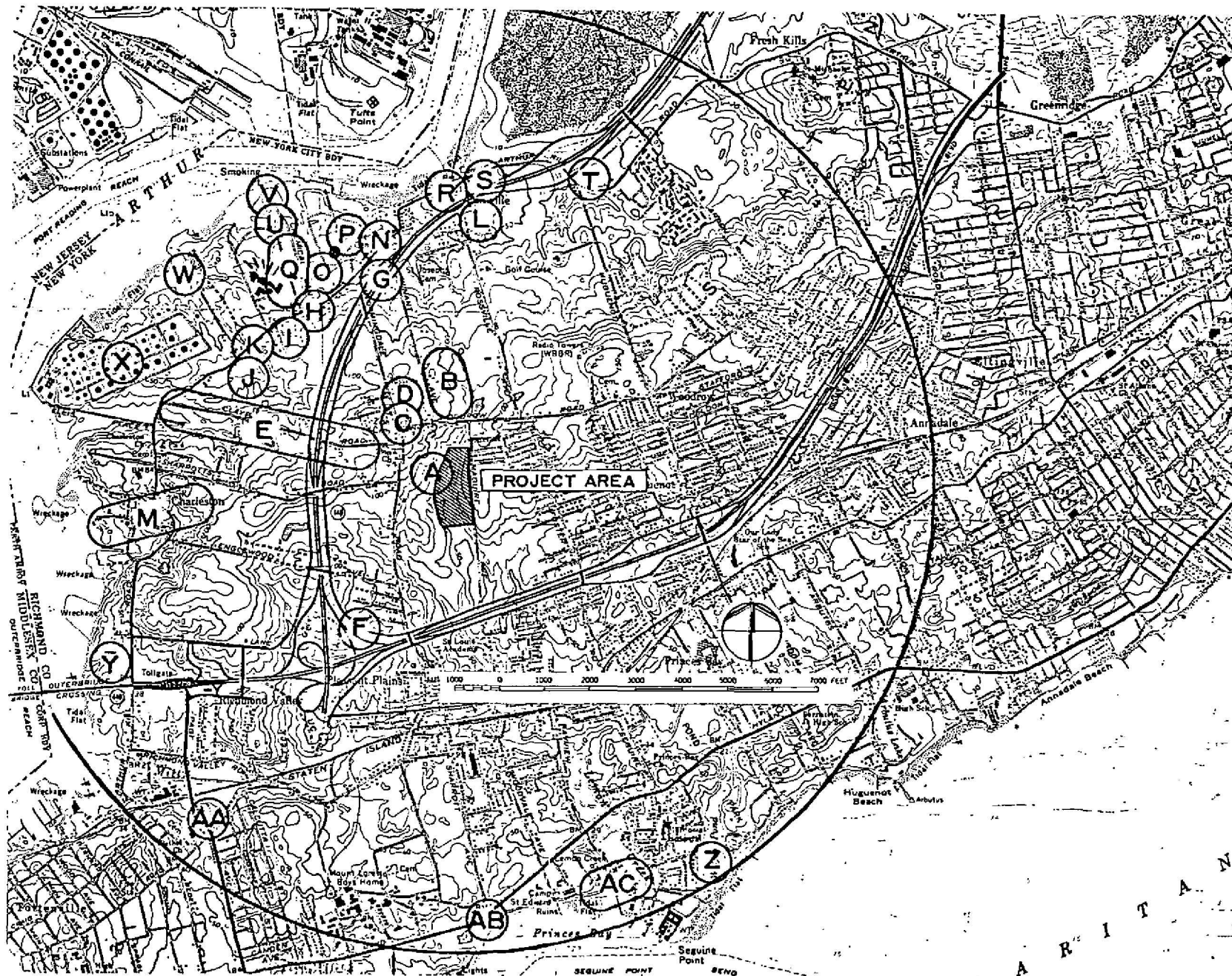


Figure 2: Prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area.



Another prehistoric site close to the Maguire Estates project area is the Clay Pit Road Site located approximately 0.3 miles to the northwest. The Clay Pit Road Site is designated "E" 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). Like the Cutting Farm Site, the Clay Pit Road Site was located during a recent survey by professional archaeologists.

A number of these 29 prehistoric sites are known primarily through the work of Arthur C. Parker, the former New York State Archaeologist, during the first quarter of this century. Included are eight sites designated "A," "L," "M," "P," "S," "X," "Y" and "AC" 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 these brief descriptions. With the exception of site "M" which is discussed in more detail below, these sites do not have names associated with them. We have supplied the name Kreischerville for site "Y" due to its location near this old settlement now known as Charleston, and Sandy Brook and Lemon Creek, respectively for sites "A" and "AC" due to their proximity to these streams. Unfortunately no detailed descriptions of artifacts recovered from these sites are supplied, so no assessments of date ranges can be made (Parker 1922). Site "A," now called Sandy Brook, is located on the west bank of this stream immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the project area. The circle showing its location in Figure 2 encroaches into the project area boundaries, but evidence of prehistoric remains has been confirmed only in the property across Sandy Brook from the project area.

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 "B" and "G" in Table 1 and Figure 2. Although the descriptions of these sites are very brief, some of the artifacts recovered are mentioned. Site "B," Wort Farm, evidently contained burials, and probably dates to the Late Archaic through Late Woodland Periods and possibly into the Contact period. Site "G," 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). Skinner characterized the location 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." (Skinner 1912:90).

The sixth nearest site to the Maguire Estates development is Canada Hill which is nearly 0.6 miles southwest 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 N.J. 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 "F" in Table 1 and on Figure 2.

Approximately 1.6 miles southwest 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 Bodner 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 upon 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 "AA" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. It dates to the Woodland period based on the presence of pottery and triangular projectile points.

Another prehistoric site dating to the Woodland period is the Huguenot Site, designated "T" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. This site has been located near the Arthur Kill Road underpass approximately 1.2 miles northeast of the project area based on recent information supplied by local archaeologist Albert Anderson (Geismar 1985:28). Geismar feels that this may represent the western edge of the Lake's Island site. If so, then that site would be nearly 1 1/2 miles across.

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 1.0 miles west 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, pers. comm.). The Kreischerville "Indian Fields" site is designated "M" in Table 1 and Fig. 2.

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 S.I.I.A.S. as the Red Bank Site, the Sharrott Avenue Site, and the Wolfe's Pond Site. The latter two of these sites lie within two miles of the Maguire Estates project area. The Red Bank Site is also noted by Parker as a campsite location on his distribution map of prehistoric sites in Richmond County (Parker 1922:Plate 211). The Sharrott Avenue Site is located approximately 1.8 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 Wolfe's Pond Site is located approximately 1.9 southeast of the project area and is described only as a shell midden. The Sharrott Avenue Site is designated "AB" in Table 1 and on Figure 2 and the Wolfe's Pond Site is designated "Z."

Figure 2 illustrates that the locations of known prehistoric sites to the west of the Maguire Estates project area are rather densely packed. It is possible that several of these locations, although reported separately, may represent parts of larger occupation sites. This has been suggested by Geismar for the Lake's Island and Huguenot Sites, and appears even more likely for such sites as Gerike Farm ("I"), Pottery Farm ("O"), and Chemical Lane ("Q"). Regardless of how many sites these 29 reported locations actually represent, it is evident that all periods of prehistoric occupation are present. Paleo-Indian period and Archaic period finds are known in one mile proximity to the project area, and Woodland period finds have been reported within 1/10 of a mile.

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 twenty-nine sites within a 2 mile radius of the Maguire Estates 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 Maguire Estates project area as without prehistoric sensitivity, especially since one of the sites lies immediately adjacent to the project area, across a small stream.

One present-day source of fresh water is evident and may have been utilized by prehistoric inhabitants of this region. The stream known as Sandy Brook forms the western boundary of the project area. The project area contains some relatively well-drained soils situated from 50 to 110 feet above mean sea level within 900 feet of the stream. The existence of this well-drained and somewhat elevated land with easy access to fresh water within the project area, combined with the knowledge of the 29 prehistoric sites in the vicinity, indicates that at least part of the Maguire Estates project area may preserve evidence of prehistoric occupation.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

17th and 18th Century Cartographic Evidence:

Staten Island was called Eghquaous, Motanucke, 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 India 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 and 1712, places the project area within lands granted to Mark Dusachoy, 80 acres patented March 25, 1710 (See Figure 3). When Richmond County was established by the English in 1683, 200 families were living there. 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 nineteenth century, was considered the wealthiest of the four towns (Clute 1887:206; Morris 1898:41).

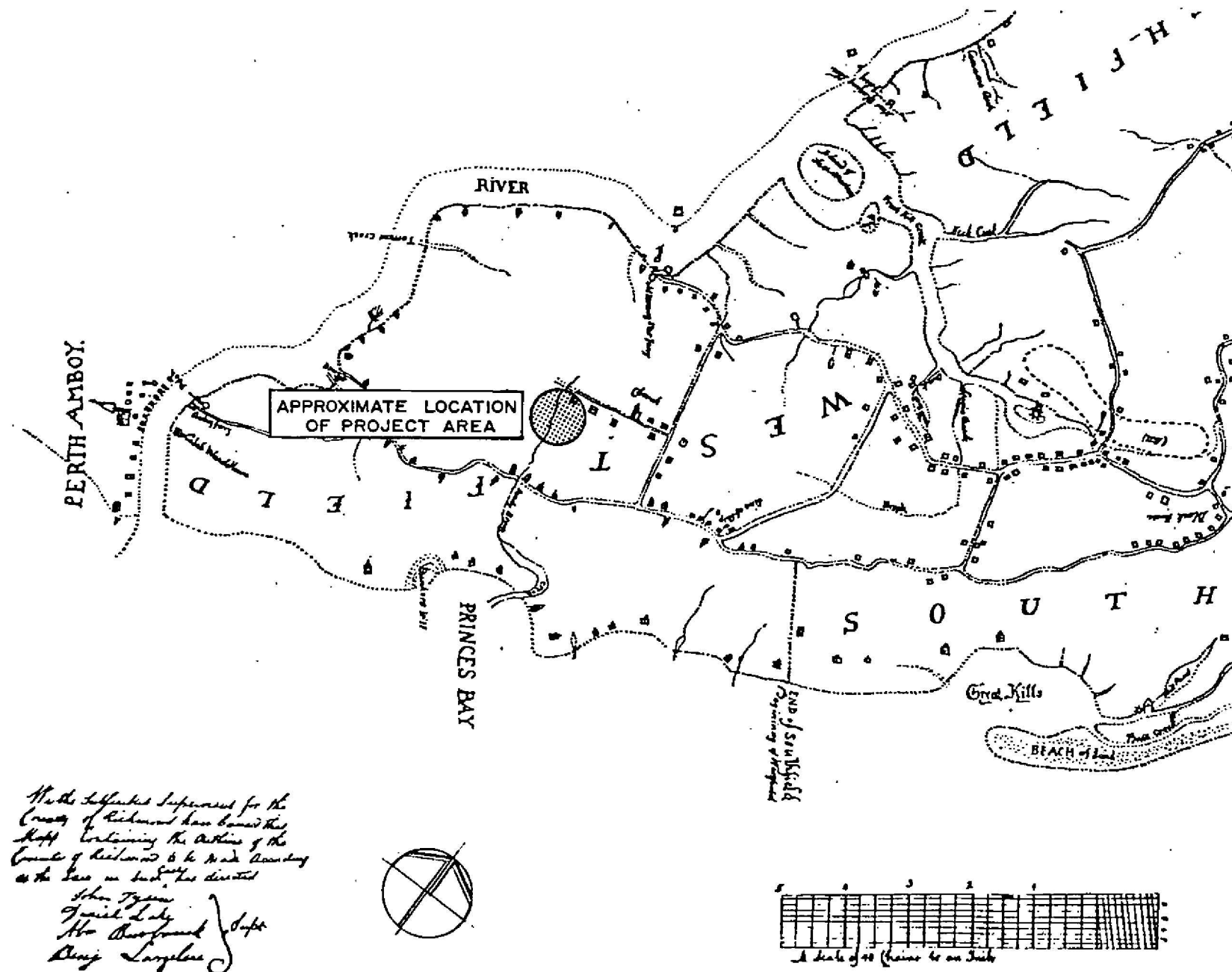


Figure 4: A 1797 New and Correct Map of the County of Richmond (author unknown).

Maguire Avenue, the project area's eastern boundary, was laid out by the middle of the nineteenth century (Bacon and Barnes 1852). The route of present day Bloomingdale Road, to the project area's west, is depicted as a trail on McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island During the Revolution (1775-1783). It was laid out by circa 1830, as it is shown on the 1845 U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor (See Figure 5). The portion of Woodrow Road which runs just north of the project area between Huguenot Avenue and Bloomingdale Road was laid out prior to 1797 (See Figure 4). This 1797 map depicts Sandy Brook, which flows along the project area's western boundary.

The late eighteenth century cartographic evidence does not show any structures within the Maguire Estates development project area (See Figure 4). Eighteenth century cartographic sources examined include McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island During the Revolution 1775-1783, Bew's 1785 Chart and Plan of the Harbor of New York, and the 1797 New and Correct Map of the County of Richmond. The 1797 map of Richmond notes the location of the Old Blazing Star Ferry at present day Rossville (Figure 4). Established decades before the Revolution, this ferry crossed between Staten Island and the New Jersey mainland. During the Revolutionary War, the ferry and its access roads undoubtedly increased the strategic importance of the project area's general locale.

McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island during the Revolution (compiled from the Taylor-Skinner of Map of 1781, the Hessian Map ca. 1777, Plan No. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessian dans Staten Island de 1780 a 1783, as well as other sources) shows the then recently formed town of Westfield and the routes of Staten Island's earliest roads. This map does not show any structures or evidence of military activities within the project area. It does, however, note two Hessian companies at Old Blazing Star (Rossville), approximately 1 mile north of the Maguire Estates project site. During the Revolution, some five companies of Hessian troops in the service of King George were stationed in Rossville and adjacent Sandy Ground (McMillen 1933). It is possible that other undocumented camps could have been located nearer to the project area.

As noted above, the late eighteenth century cartographic sources examined depict a section of Woodrow Road to the project area's north. These maps show two structures along the south side of this road, apparently just north of the Maguire Estates project area. These two structures are designated M. Johnson and L. Mersereau on the Plan no. 31 Du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island (1780-1783) and McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island During the Revolutions (1775-1783). The two structures are also shown on the 1797 New and Correct Map of the County of Richmond (See Figure 4). On this map, the more westerly of the two, here undesignated, structures is shown to lie just east of Sandy Brook. Due to the degree of inaccuracy characterizing these late eighteenth century cartographic sources, it is not possible to determine the exact location of these early structures in relation to the project area. It

is therefore possible that one of these two structures was actually either wholly or partially located within the project area's northern boundary.

The 19th and 20th Centuries:

The cartographic evidence examined indicates the Maguire Estates project area fits into the principally agrarian economy which flourished in the area throughout the nineteenth century and into the early part of the twentieth century. The nineteenth and early twentieth century maps and atlases discussed below indicate that most of the lands covered by the project area remained undeveloped. One structure, built during the 1840's, is shown within the project area's northwestern portion on these cartographic sources (See Figures 6-10). This house was demolished sometime after 1913 (See Figure 1 and 10).

The earliest reliable nineteenth century map showing the Maguire Estates project area is the U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, conducted 1836-39 and published in 1845 (Figure 5). This map does not show any structures within the project area. The project area is shown here to consist of a wooded area, portions of cultivated fields and pasture. The project area's general topography as shown on this map contradicts that provided on later maps, suggesting that the 1845 map's depiction of the project area is somewhat inaccurate (See Figures 5, 8 and 10). The 1845 U.S. Coast Survey shows the nearby localities of Woodrow and Rossville. Woodrow, approximately 1/2 mile northeast of the project area, was described in 1930 as "a sparsely inhabited region of which Woodrow M.E. Church is the center" (Leng and Davis 1930:353). Woodrow's Church was apparently the second Methodist Episcopal Church erected in America (Morris 1898 II:443). The mid-nineteenth century cartographic sources examined suggest that Woodrow was actually one of the area's more populated centers, showing numerous structures along both sides of Woodrow Road between Bloomingdale Road and Huguenot Avenue (See Bacon and Barnes 1852; Figures 5 and 6).

During the relatively tranquil period following the Revolution the site of the Old Blazing Star Ferry became that of a growing village, largely as a result of its use as a shipping point for farm produce. Up until the late nineteenth century and the introduction of the Staten Island railway line, Rossville had been one of the most important steamboat landings on the island's western shore (Morris as cited in Jacobson 1980:31). Old Blazing Star was renamed Rossville in 1837, in honor of Colonel William E. Ross, who settled there some time before the mid 1830's (Morris 1898:394; Jacobson 1980:30). Rossville enjoyed a steady growth up until the end of the nineteenth century. This village's commercial decline was undoubtedly related to the late 19th century



Figure 5: From U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1836-1839 (published 1845).

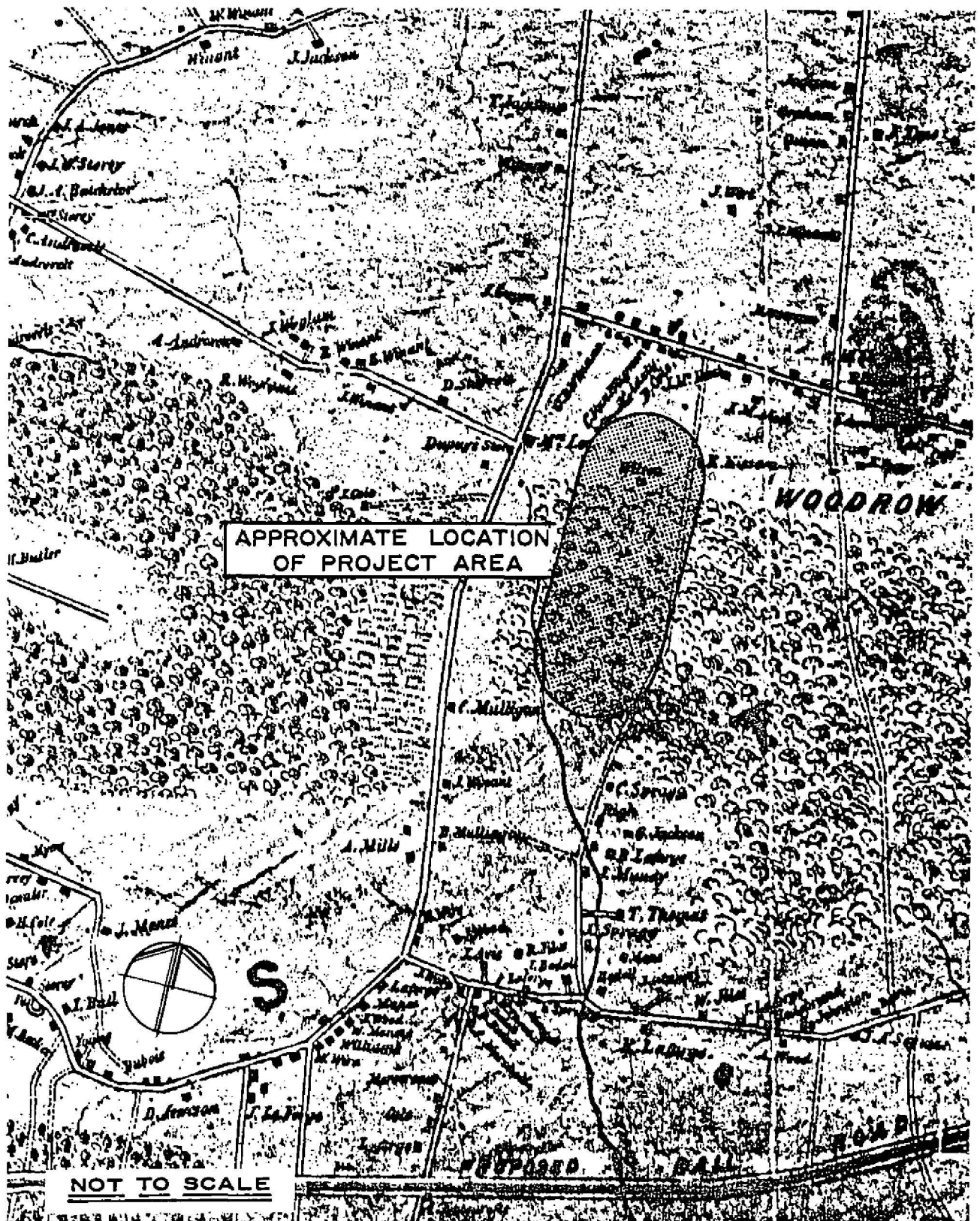


Figure 6: From Butler's 1853 Map of Staten Island.

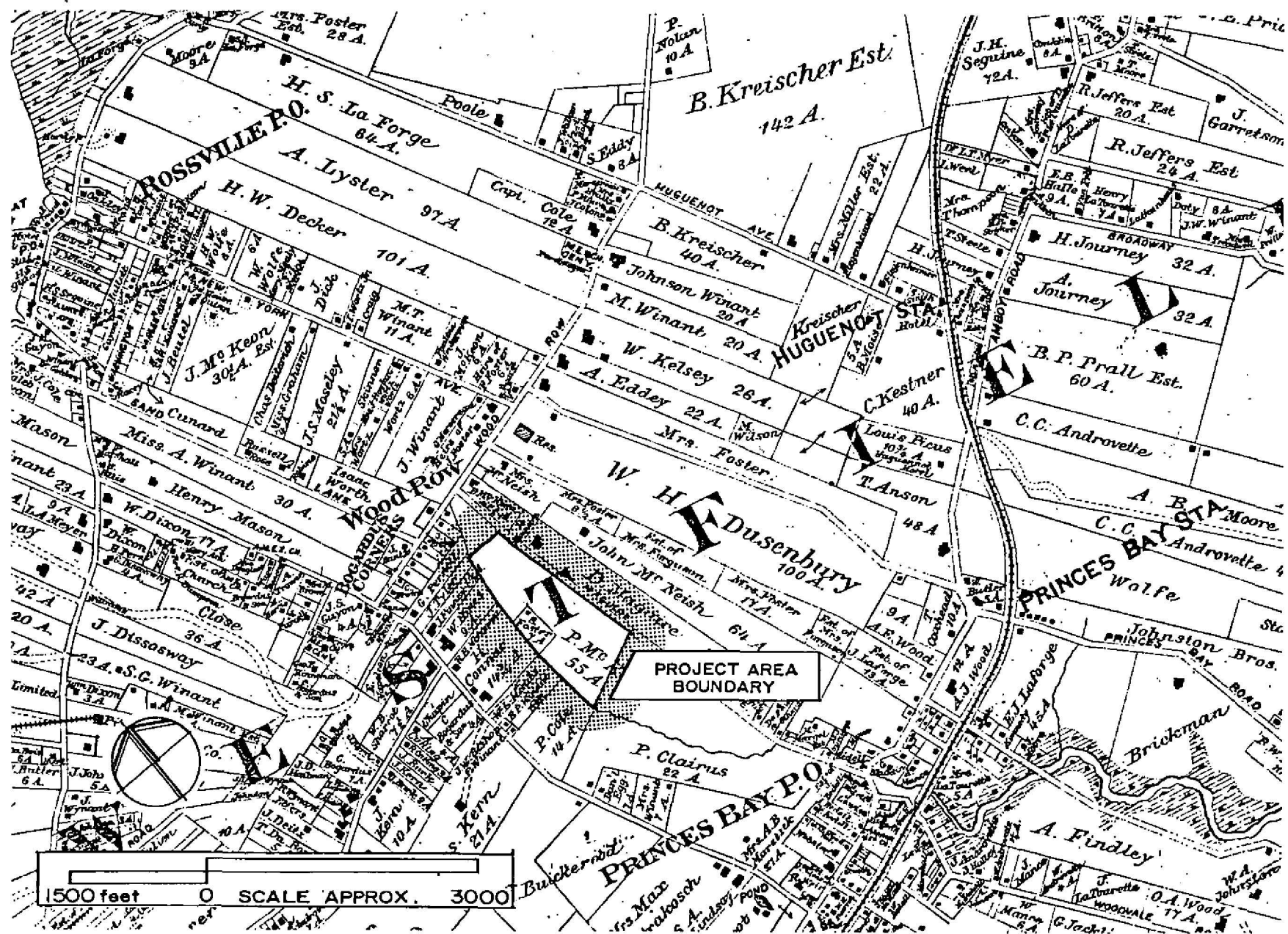


Figure 7: From Beers' 1887 Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York.



Figure 8: From Vermeule & Bien's 1890 Topographical Map of Staten Island.

PART OF WARD 5

Borough of Richmond
City of New York.

(25)

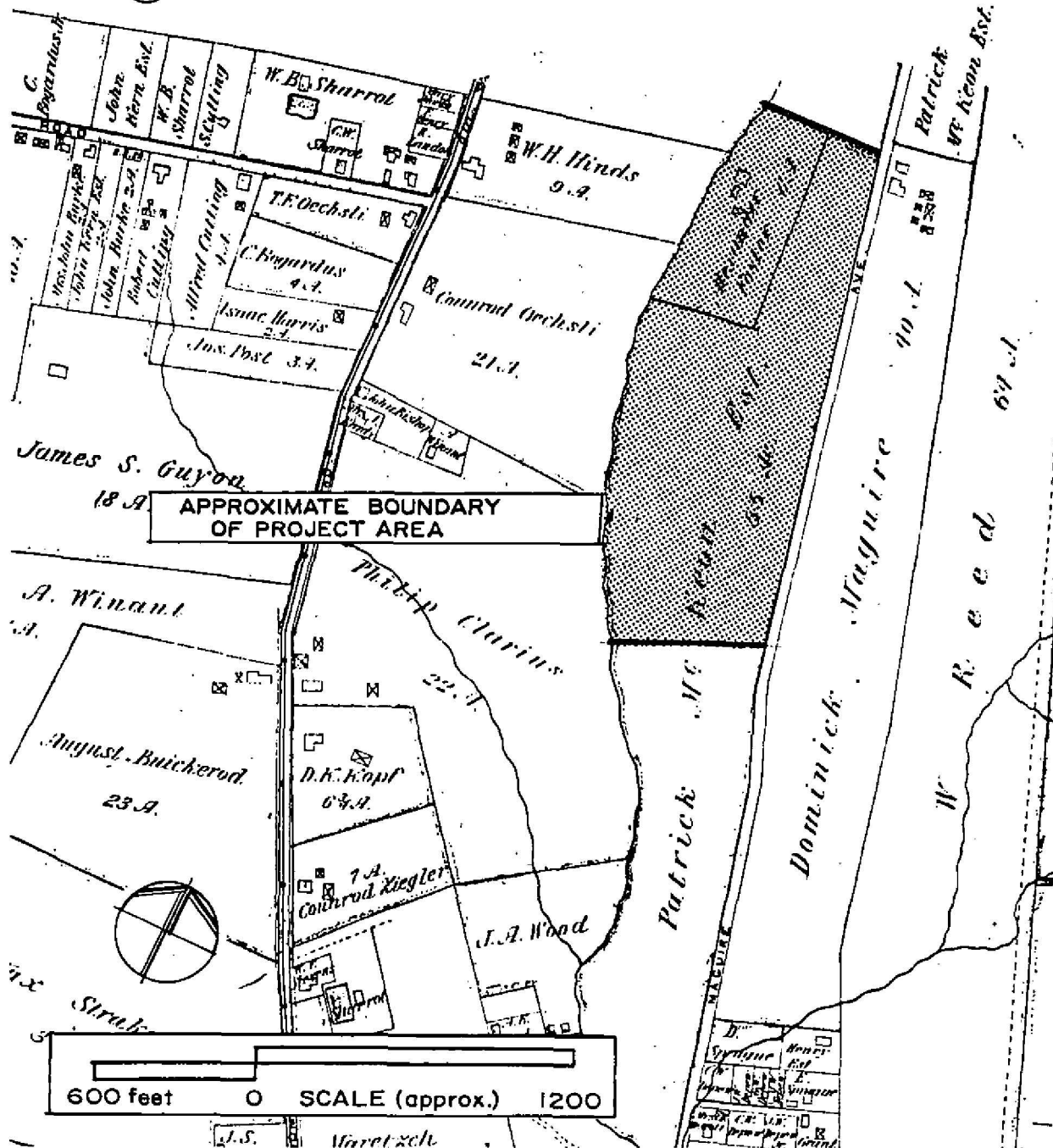


Figure 9: From Robinson's 1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, New York.

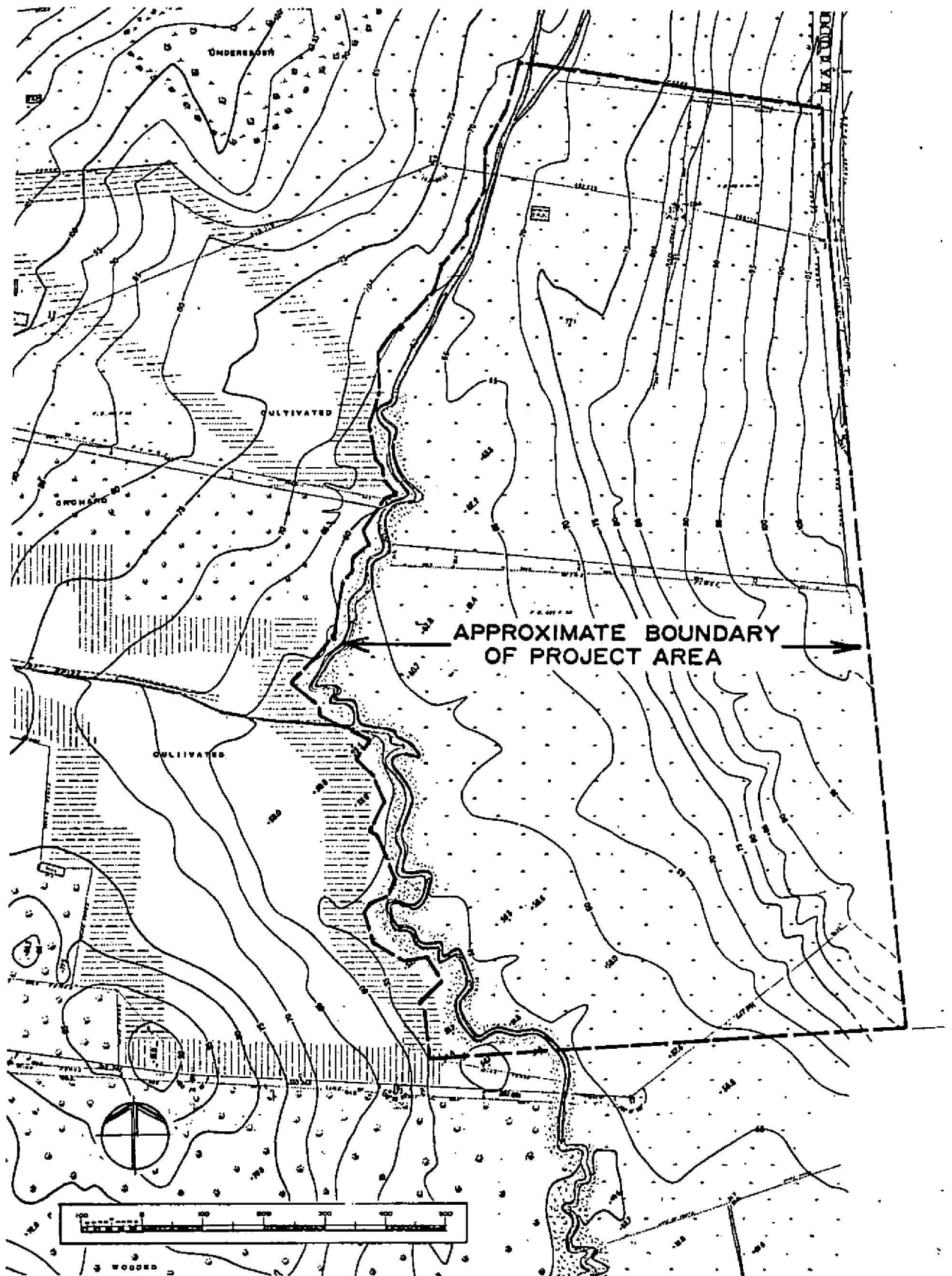


Figure 10: From Borough of Richmond 1913 Topographical Survey.

introduction of the railway line, mentioned above (for a more detailed account of Rossville's history, see Zavin in Jacobson 1980:28-33).

In contrast to Rossville's decline, the area's agricultural economy continued to function into the 20th century (Geismar 1985:28). The cartographic evidence presented in this report shows that the proposed site of the Maguire Estates project, and its immediate setting, were involved in the agricultural activity that characterized the area during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The earliest map to show a structure within the project area is Dripps' 1850 Map of Staten Island. The structure shown here within the project area's northwestern portion is designated "Mrs. Wilson." Part of the project area, along the east side of Sandy Brook and to the south, is shown to be wooded. A structure at this location is depicted on all the later nineteenth century and early twentieth century cartographic sources examined (See Figures 6-10).

Bacon and Barnes' 1852 Map of the Proposed Line of the Staten Island Railway shows an undesignated farmhouse at this location. Butler's 1853 map of Staten Island also designates the structure "Wilson" and depicts most of the project area south of the structure as part of a thickly wooded area extending to the project area's east and south. A comparison of Butler's depiction of the project area with those provided by other nineteenth cartographic sources would suggest that the project area was actually far less densely wooded. Both the Bacon and Barnes 1852 map and Butler's 1853 map show the route of Maguire Avenue, which was laid out sometime between circa 1840 and 1850. On the later, 1853 map the portion of this road that forms the project area's eastern boundary is depicted as a trail (See Figure 6). Walling's 1859 Map of Staten Island indicates that the structure shown within the project area on maps dating to the early 1850's was owned by the same family throughout that decade, for it is designated "Mrs. A. Wilson" in the 1859 map.

By 1874 ownership of the area covered by the Maguire Estates project area had changed hands. Both Beers atlases, 1874 and 1887, show the project area to consist of a large portion of a 55 acre property designated P. McKeon, bounded by Sandy Brook, Maguire Avenue and Woodrow Road, and a 7 acre lot designated S. Foster, within the project area's northern portion and bounded by Sandy Brook (Figure 7). The one structure shown within the project area on the atlases is located within Foster's lot. This would appear to be the same structure noted above on earlier maps and formerly owned by a Mrs. Wilson (See Figures 6 and 7).

Vermeule and Bien's 1890 Topographical Map of Staten Island also shows the structure noted above within Foster's lot on the Beers atlases (See Figure 8). The 1890 map provides a more detailed and accurate representation of the project area's late nineteenth century topography

and property divisions. Aside from a small wooded area along Sandy Brook within its southwestern portion, the project area is depicted as an area of cleared land sloping down toward Sandy Brook (Figure 8). Several fence or hedge lines are shown on the 1890 map subdividing the project area into six distinct parcels. As Robinson's 1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond reiterates the property information noted above on the Beers 1874 and 1887 atlases it is likely that the divisions shown within the project area on the 1890 map do not represent property lines, but served other purposes related to land use (See Figures 7, 8 and 9).

Robinson's 1898 atlas shows that at the end of the nineteenth century a large part of the lands covered by the Maguire Estates project area was still the property of Patrick McKeon (55 acres) (Figure 9). The parcel designated S. Foster on the Beers 1874 and 1887 atlases noted above is here designated Alexander Foster, probably the son of the former owner. The 1898 atlas indicates that the size of this lot decreased somewhat between 1887 and 1898, comprising 6 acres by the latter date (See Figure 9). Robinson's 1898 atlas depicts three frame structures within Foster's lot. The larger of these structures corresponds in location to that noted on earlier nineteenth century maps and atlases and discussed above (See Figures 6 - 9). The other two are probably barns or other outbuildings. Unfortunately, neither the Staten Island histories and biographies nor directories consulted provide any information on the individuals shown to have inhabited and/or owned the lands within the project area during the nineteenth century.

The above noted farmhouse also appears on the 1913 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey, where it is described as a two story frame structure (See Figure 10). The two other farm related structures shown on the 1898 atlas were apparently demolished by 1913 as they do not appear on the survey of that later date. The 1913 survey depicts approximately the same divisions within the project area that were noted on Vermeule and Bien's 1890 map and shows that they represent hedges, lines of posts, and wire fences. The lands covered by the Maguire Estates project area are portrayed on the 1913 survey as open fields, used presumably for pasture, with trees only along Sandy Brook, its western boundary (Figure 10). The structure shown on nineteenth and early twentieth century cartographic sources within the project area's northwestern portion is no longer standing

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above text has documented that the Maguire Estates Development project area potentially may preserve archaeological evidence from both the prehistoric and historic periods. This location is considered sensitive to the preservation of prehistoric archaeological remains because it is topographically similar to several locations of documented



prehistoric sites. Twenty-nine such sites exist within a two mile radius of the project area, including one site just across Sandy Brook from the project area, and many are on relatively elevated sandy soils, a description which characterizes the central portion of the Maguire Estates development site. Although no prehistoric artifacts have been reported from this location, it is our opinion that its physical condition would have been conducive to its use and/or occupation during prehistory, particularly in the Woodland and Archaic periods.

It is also our conclusion that the north-western portion of the project area may be sensitive to the preservation of historic archaeological evidence dating to the middle and late 19th century. As noted above in the historic sensitivity section, a house located here was constructed prior to 1850.

We recommend that a Phase IB archaeological survey be undertaken within the project area to determine the presence or absence of this mid-nineteenth century farmstead, as well as to search for any prehistoric site(s) that may be at this location. We recommend that testing is necessary for all of the Maguire Estates development project that may be impacted by the planned construction and related activities, where such testing is possible. This would be done primarily to test the entire tract for the presence of aboriginal occupation, due to the presence of twenty-nine prehistoric sites within two miles of the project.



Plate 1: View of Sandy Brook along the western boundary of the project area, looking north.



Plate 2: View of the central portion of the project area, looking northeast.



Plate 3: View of the north-central portion of the project area, looking northeast.



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