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STAGE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE EGER HARBOR HOUSE PROJECT BOROUGH OF RICHMOND, NEW YORK CITY NEW YORK

Prepared for:
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140 Meisner Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10306

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

William I. Roberts IV	-	Principal Investigator Co-Author
Paula M. Crowley	-	Laboratory Director Artifact Analyst Word/Data Processor Co-Author
William Goldsmith	-	Field Supervisor
Richard Clark	-	Field Technician

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this archaeological survey is to document the presence or absence of prehistoric and/or historic archaeological resources within the Eger Harbor House project area in south-central Staten Island through the use of physical testing techniques.

The project area is located in south-central Staten Island, New York, in the vicinity of the village of Richmond. The property consists of an irregularly shaped parcel located along the east side of Meisner Avenue. It is within Tax Block 2250 and consists of Lot 3. See Figure 1 for a map illustrating the location of the project area.

The Stage 1A archaeological/historical sensitivity evaluation report on this development concluded that this parcel could preserve evidence from the prehistoric period. Nine prehistoric sites are known within two miles of this location. The project area includes elevated land overlooking a stream, making this a possible location for a hunting camp (Greenhouse Consultants 1998:12). An archaeological survey consisting of shovel tests on a 50 foot grid pattern, augmented by additional tests should a potential site be discovered, was recommended for all parts of the project area not seriously disturbed.

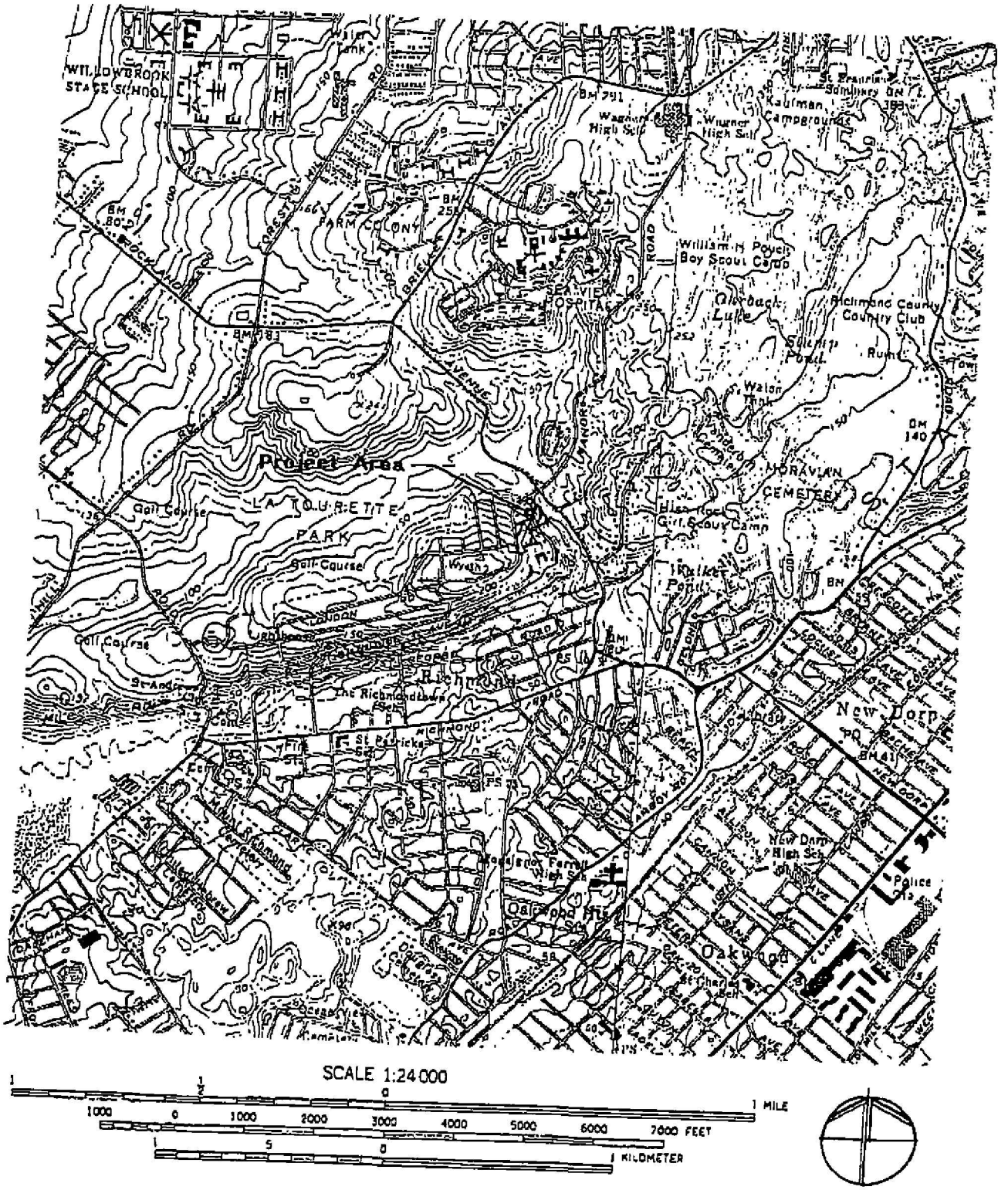

Figure 1 Location of the Eger Harbor House project area shown on portions of the U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Arthur Kill and The Narrows, New York Quadrangle, 1967, photorevised 1981.

FIELD METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this Stage 1B archaeological survey is to document the presence or absence of potential prehistoric archaeological resources within the Eger Harbor House project area in Staten Island, New York through the use of physical testing techniques.

The Stage 1B testing of the project area took place on June 4, 1998. This parcel was investigated by excavating shovel tests along the established grid at fifty foot intervals or as close as possible to these locations. Testing was limited to the proposed development plans. A total of 14 shovel tests were planned. During Stage 1B testing of the project area, fourteen shovel tests were excavated. Obstacles encountered were rocks and roots. Shovel tests 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 were stopped by rocks and/or roots at 0.6 to 1.8 feet below grade. See Figure 7 for shovel test locations.

The methodology employed for the shovel tests was straightforward. Roughly square tests approximately 1.5 feet across were excavated until 0.5 feet of the subsoil was explored, or until the test was impeded by obstacles. All soils from the shovel tests were screened through ¼-inch mesh for the recovery of artifacts. Soils were excavated and recorded by natural stratigraphic deposits. For all of the shovel tests, the strata encountered were measured, described, and recorded in terms of texture, inclusions and Munsell colors. See Appendix 1 for the original survey record forms.

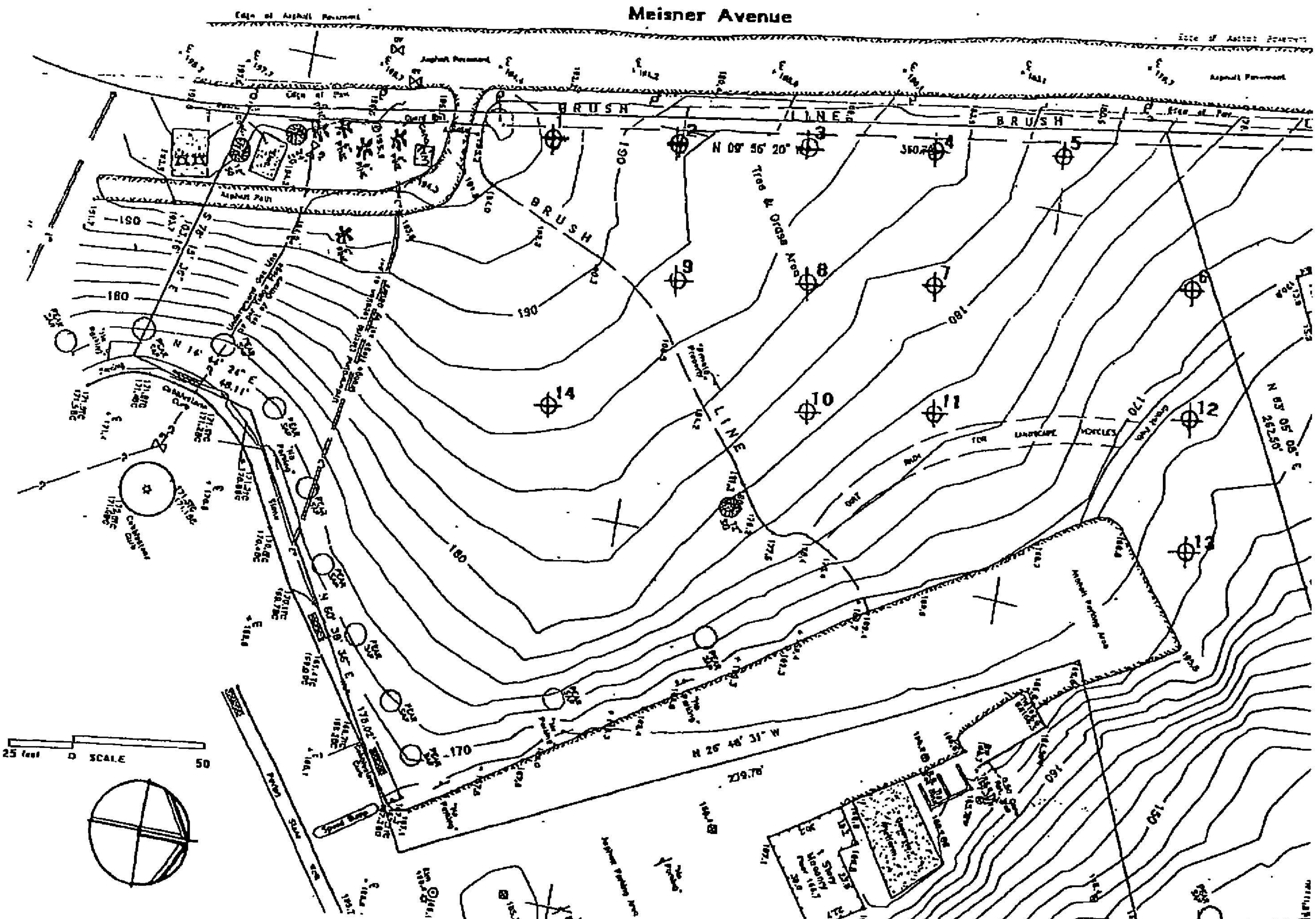

Figure 2 Locations of shovel tests within the project area.

STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

The typical profile of the fourteen completed shovel tests at the Eger Harbor House project area had three layers: topsoil composed of humus, silt, sandy silt, loam or sod; followed with an A horizon of silt, silty loam, or sandy silt, and a third layer or B horizon of silty sand, slightly sandy silt or silt. The overburden in layer one was humus. The overburden or fill in layer two was sandy silt.

Table 2
Shovel Test Profile

Layer #	Description	#	%
1) Topsoil (N=9) excludes overburden	loam	1	11.1%
	sod	1	11.1%
	sandy silt	1	11.1%
	silt	3	33.3%
	humus	3	33.3%
Layer 2 A horizon (N=9), excludes fill/overburden	Sandy silt	2	22.2%
	Silt	3	33.3%
	Silty loam	3	33.3%
Layer 3 B horizon (N=8), includes B horizon from Layer 2 of ST 13	Silt	1	12.5%
	Slightly sandy silt	2	25.0%
	Silty sand	5	62.5%

Shovel Tests 1 and 10 were stopped by roots. Shovel Tests 4, 5 and 11 were stopped by rocks. Shovel Tests 2 and 9 were stopped by a combination of roots and rock. Shovel Test 8 had roots throughout the test. Shovel Test 9 was at the edge of a man-made knoll and Shovel Test 14 was in a grassy man-made knoll. Shovel Test 7 was conducted in a two-track. The vicinity of Shovel Test 3 had a large amount of modern garbage.

Table 3
Description of Soil Layers

Description	Munsell	Color	#	%
Loam	10YR2/2	Very dark brown	1	11.1%
Sod	10YR4/3	Dark brown	1	11.1%
Sandy silt	10YR4/4	Dark brown	1	11.1%
Humus	10YR2/2	Very dark brown	3	33.3%
Silt	10YR3/3	Dark brown	1	11.1%
	10YR2/2	Very dark brown	2	22.2%
Sandy silt	10YR4/3	Dark brown	2	25.0%
Silt	10YR4/3	Dark brown	1	12.5%
	10YR4/4	Dark yellowish brown	1	12.5%
	10YR3/3	Dark brown	1	12.5%
Silty loam	10YR2/2	Very dark brown	3	37.5%
Silt	10YR4/6	Dark yellowish brown	1	12.5%
Slightly sandy silt	10YR4/6	Dark yellowish brown	2	25.0%
Silty sand	10YR4/6	Dark yellowish brown	3	37.5%
	10YR5/6	Yellowish brown	2	25.0%

The thickness of the first layer ranged to 0.9 feet in depth with an average of 0.314 feet thickness. In shovel tests 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14, the first layer was the topsoil. In shovel tests 1, 3, and 4 it was described as overburden. In shovel test 10, the first layer was the B horizon, or subsoil. The depth of the second layer ranged from 0.1 to 1.4 feet with an average of 0.493 feet in thickness. The second layer was the A horizon in most shovel tests except for tests 3, 9, 10, 13 and 14. Layer 2 of shovel test 3 was described as overburden. Layer 2 in shovel tests 9 and 10 was described as A/fill. The second layer in shovel test 13 was the B horizon. In test 14, the second layer was labeled B/fill. The depth of the third layer ran from 0.4 feet to 1.8 feet with an average thickness of 0.457 feet. A third layer was present in seven shovel tests, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 as the B horizon

ARTIFACT PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

Modern garbage inundated the area of Shovel Test 3. Shovel Test 14 had a microscopic piece of clear container glass in its second layer. Since this shovel test was placed on a slope that was graded and landscaped within the last 25 years, it is considered modern garbage.

No prehistoric remains were encountered.

RESULTS

No prehistoric artifacts or features were discovered in any of the fourteen shovel tests completed within the Eger Harbor House project area.

The only historic period artifact returned to the laboratory was a very small fragment of modern container glass. This is to be expected on a slope recently landscaped, and does not represent an archaeological site.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated
1998 Stage 1A Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation of the Eger Harbor House Project, Borough of Richmond, New York. William I. Roberts and Paula M. Crowley. Prepared for Eger Health Care Center. Prepared by Greenhouse Consultants Inc., New York, New York.

MAPS AND ATLASES

Rogers Surveying
1997 *Eger Health Care Center, Meisner Avenue, Staten Island, Topographic Survey.* Staten Island, New York: Rogers Surveying.

United States Geological Survey
1967 *Arthur Kill, New York-New Jersey Quadrangle.* 7.5 minutes series topographic map. Photorevised 1981.
1967 *The Narrows, New York Quadrangle.* 7.5 minute series topographic map. Photorevised 1981.

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APPENDIX 1
FIELD RECORD FORMS
CONTEXT NUMBERING AND PROVENIENCE LABELING

APPENDIX 1
CONTEXT NUMBERING AND PROVENIENCE LABELING

A field recording system which encompasses a variety of conditions and situations is optimal for any archaeological project. Among these situations are the size of the project, the number of different field techniques and the number of expected artifacts. The field recording system used was developed by Greenhouse Consultants and was based on modifications of other accepted systems.

All contexts are numbered in the field and these numbers are applied to the artifacts. The format for numbering is XX-9999.99 where X is alphanumeric and 9 is numeric. The alphanumeric characters to the left of the hyphen are the prefix. The two digits to the right of the decimal point are used only when it is necessary to refer to strata within a context. The four digits between the prefix and decimal subdivision may be called the base code.

The prefix is a two character designation of the project parcel. The four digit numeric base code can be divided into two parts; the first digit being seperate from the last three. The first numeric digit indicates the type of field technique used. The codes are as follows:

1000: unprovenienced surface collection
2000: provenienced surface collection
3000: shovel testing
4000: trenching
5000: excavation units
6000: feature excavation
7000: borings
8000:
9000: transects

The three digits following the technique code are unique for each location and are assigned sequentially. Decimal subdivisions may be used for techniques three through six to indicate specific strata. For example, 01-3001.02 refers to Area 1 (01), shovel test (3), number 1 (001), at the second layer (.02).

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : EGER HARBOR HOUSE
COORDINATES : 30' N + EAST 15' E of MOUNT AVE

SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED :	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	BC	RC	1/4	6/4	ST 1

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0-.9	HUMUS	10YR 2.2 [illegible]	NCM	OVERBURDEN
2	.9-1.3	SILTY LOAM	10YR 2.2 [illegible]	"	A
3	1.3-1.8	SILTY SAND	10YR 4/6 [illegible]	"	B
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

STOPPED BY ROOTS

OVERBURDEN - MULCH LEAVES ETC DUMPED IN AREA 1-5 NEAR RD DISTURBED

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : EGER HARBOR HOUSE
COORDINATES : 50' N of ST 1

SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED :	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	BG	RC	1/4	6/4	ST 2

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0-.2	LOAM	10YR 3.2 V DK BR	—	TOPSOIL
2	.2-.8	SILT	10YR 4-3 DK BR	MOTTLED [illegible]	A
3	.8-1.2	[illegible] SILT	10YR 4.6 DK Y BR	—	B
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

STOPPED BY ROCK & ROOT

Cross Refs :

Plan

Section

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Notebook

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Eger Harbor House | COORDINATES : 50' N of ST 2

SITE : | SUPERVISOR : BG | EXCAVATOR : RC | SCREENED : N | DATE : 6/4 | TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 3

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 - .8	Humus	10YR2/2 V DK BR	Ceramic	Overburden
2	.8 - 1.	Sandy Silt	10YR3/6 DK YEL BR	Garbage	
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

Humus + Overburden
Mixed - Lots of modern garbage

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Eger Harbor House | COORDINATES : 50' N of ST 2.

SITE : | SUPERVISOR : BG | EXCAVATOR : BG | SCREENED : ¼ | DATE : 6/4 | TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 4

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 - .5	Humus	10YR2/2 V DK BR	NCM	Overburden
2	.5 - 1.4	Silty Loam	10YR2/2 V DK BR		A
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

Stopped by [illegible]

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : East Harbor House

COORDINATES : 50'N ST 4.

SITE : 1

SUPERVISOR : BG

EXCAVATOR : RC

SCREENED : ¼"

DATE : 6/[illegible]

TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 5

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0-.4	Humus [illegible]	10 YR 2/2 V DK BR	NCM	Overburden
2	.4-.7	Silty Loam	10 YR 2/2 V DK BR	"	A
3	.7-1.1	Sandy Sand	10 YR 4/6 DK Y BR	"	[illegible] Sandy Gravel
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

IMPACTED by Rock

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Cove Harbor House

COORDINATES : 75' NE [illegible]

SITE :

SUPERVISOR : BG

EXCAVATOR : RC

SCREENED : ¼"

DATE : 6/[illegible]

TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 6

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1 0-.2		Humus	10 YR 2/2 V DK BN	NCM	Topsoil
2 .2-.6		[illegible] Loam	10 YR 3/2 DK BR	"	A
3 .6-1.0		Silty Sand	10 YR 4/6 DK Y BR	"	B
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : C&ER Harbor Hous[e]
COORDINATES : 100' S 6

SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED :	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
1	BG	RC	1/4"	6/4	ST 7

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 - .2	Silt	10YR 3/3 DK BR	NCM	Topsoil
2	.2 - .6	Sandy Silt	10YR 4/3 DK BN	"	
3	.6 - 1.1	Silty Sand	10YR 5/6 YEL BN	"	A
4					B
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

General Notes : (Note if cult. material retained, and if soil samples are taken.)
SHOVEL IS IN C TERACE

Cross Refs :
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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : C&ER Harbor Hous[e]
COORDINATES : 50' S P 7

SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	SCREENED :	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	BG	RC	1/4"	6/4	ST 8

STRATIGRAPHY. :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1 0-.2		Silt	10YR 2/2 V DK BR	NCM	Topsoil
2 .2-.9		Sandy Silt	10YR 4/3 DK BN	"	
3 .9-1.4		Silty Sand	10YR 5/6 YEL BN	"	A
4					B
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

Cross Refs :
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'99 15:08

SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Egel Harbor House

SITE : 1

SUPERVISOR : BC

EXCAVATOR : R.C.

COORDINATES : 50' S of Y

SCREENED :

DATE : 6.4

TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 9

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0-.1	Sandy Silt	10 YR 4/4 DKYBr	NCM	Topsoil
2	.1-.7	Sandy Silt	2.5YR 7.5 Reddish Br	"	A/Fill
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

STOPPED by Rocks Roots
Edge of Knoll (Manmade)

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : Egel Harbor House

SITE :

SUPERVISOR : BG

EXCAVATOR : RC

COORDINATES : 50' E of Y

SCREENED : ¼

DATE : 6.14

TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 10

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0-.1	Sandy Silt	10YR 4/4 DKYB	NCM	B (Subsoil)
2	.1-.6	Sandy Silt	2.5YR 7.5 Re Br.		A/Fill
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

IMPACTED by Roots
2x' Fill Along Lot (Bermed up Area)
Subsoil at Top

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : EGER HAISLA HOUSE

SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	COORDINATES : 50' N of 10 .	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	BG	RC	SCREENED ? 1/4	6/4	ST 11

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 - .2	SILT	10YR 2.2 V DK BR	N CM	Topsoil
2	.2 - .9	SILT	10YR 4.4 DK YBR	"	A
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

STopped by Rock

Cross Refs :

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : EGER HAISLA HOUSE

SITE :	SUPERVISOR :	EXCAVATOR :	COORDINATES : 10c' N of ST 11	DATE :	TEST TYPE AND NO. :
	BG	RC	SCREENED ? 1/4	6/4	ST 12

STRATIGRAPHY :

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 .2	HUMUS	10YR 2.2 V DK BR	N CM	Topsoil
2	.2 - .4	SILT	10YR 3.3 DK BR	"	A
3	.4 - .9	SILT	10YR 4.6 DK YBR	"	B
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : EGER HARBOR HOUSE

SITE :	SUPERVISOR : BG	EXCAVATOR : RC	COORDINATES : 50' E of ST 12		
STRATIGRAPHY :			SCREENED ? 1/4	DATE : 6/4	TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 17

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 - .3	Humus	10YR2/2 V D BR	NCM	Topsoil
2	.3 - .8	Slightly sandy silt	10YR4/6 DK Y BR		B
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

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SURVEY RECORD SHEET : Postholes, Auger holes, Shovel tests

PROJECT : EGER HARBOR HOUSE

SITE :	SUPERVISOR : BG	EXCAVATOR : RC	COORDINATES : [illegible]		
STRATIGRAPHY :			SCREENED ? 1/4	DATE : 6/4	TEST TYPE AND NO. : ST 14

LAYER	DEPTH *	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	CULT. MAT.	NOTES
1	0 - .10	SOD	10YR 4/3 DK BR	NCM	Topsoil
2	.10 - .6	Sandy Silt	2.5YR 7/5 L BR	1 glass, 1 [illegible]	B/Fill
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

* Give depths relative to ground surface

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

BRASSY KNOLL
MANMADE SLOPE

Cross Refs :

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