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FIELD SURVEY ADDENDUM

TO

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT of the POILLION-SEGUINE-BRITTON-HOUSE

FOR

HARBOR VIEW HEALTH & BEAUTY SPA-

by HISTORIC SITES RESEARH PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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## I. Description of Field Tests

The archaeological testing described in this addendum report was requested by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission on the basis of findings of visual reconnaissance described in the Archaeological Assessment report of February 1985, where it was recommended that "one day of manual archaeological subsurface testing be conducted around the periphery of the fill to try to establish whether a historic late 17th or 18th century living surface can be found, and to determine if such a surface extends under the fill" (page 3). On 18 April 1985 Historic Sites Research performed this testing with a crew of four. \* Five test excavations were dug, and three hand auger tests. The excavations were each 2 feet square, dug to sterile clay subsoil where possible, as shown in the profiles. The hand auger tests were about 8 inches in diameter. Augers were also used in the bottom of the squares, to confirm that there were no underlying archaeological deposits. All excavated soil was passed through a double screening system. First it went through a screen of 1/2 inch mesh, to remove all large rocks and obvious artifacts. That soil fell into an underlying. 1/4 inch mesh screen, where the finely broken loam was examined for small artifacts. At the end of excavation and recording, each test was backfilled, and surface sod was replaced.

Test 1 was dug 42 to 44 feet north of the northeast corner of the house, and set from 7 to 9 feet west of that line. It was

\* S. Kardas, E. Larrabee, M. Bomgardner, and J. Goudsward.

on the grass covered northward sloping bank which fell away from the raised gravelled pad which led to the former garage-carriage house location. Test 2 was placed immediately adjacent to the concrete slab which was the floor of that garage, at its northeast corner. Here it was necessary to remove about 1 foot of rubble from demolition. Test 3 was approximately midway between 1 and 2, and was placed 6 feet north of the concrete slab, to avoid heavy rubble. The last two tests were further toward the north property line in the northeast corner of the lot. Test 4 was 7 feet north of Test 1, and Test 5 was 10 feet north of Test 3. Both of these were at noticably lower elevation, as the ground surface continued to slope down to the north and northeast, away from the house and the driveway behind it. All five of these tests were in the general area where proposed construction of a swimming pool will require deep excavation.

Stratigraphy from tests 1 through 5 is shown in profile drawings, and interpreted in terms of artifact content in Section II of this addendum report. Three auger tests were dug in the area which will be disturbed only by the construction of a new building that is proposed to rest on a slab at grade level. Consequently, soil will be disturbed less than 1 foot deep, except for bearing walls around the periphery. These auger tests penetrated from 18 to 25 inches deep, and showed that cultural strata do not exist here. No artifacts were found in the auger tests.



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II. Artifact and Stratigraphic Analysis

Artifacts were recovered in each of the five test pits excavated and are listed in the catalog at the end of the section.

Test 1 yielded artifacts which were associated with three discrete shell layers. The first two were between 6 and 9 inches below the present surface, separated by an inch of brown loam. This separation was not visible during excavation and the artifacts are cataloged as Lot 1. Among the shells were broken ceramic sherds, kaolin pipe fragments, animal bone and a few nails and pieces of glass. The soil underlying the shell to a depth of 28 inches was primarily rocky loam with several large boulders. At 28 inches a thin band (1 layer thick) of clam shell was encountered, which contained the base of an oriental bowl. In the same layer were sherds of 19th century whiteware, indicating that the soil was probably deposited as fill and was not temporally stratified.

Test 2 was placed against the north edge of the concrete foundation that is to be removed in an area not completely buried under rubble too heavy to be moved. A shell strata containing artifacts in Lot 4 indicate it as of modern origin. Artifacts were also present 12 to 17 inches below the surface. This layer (Lot 5) contained a combination of 19th century ceramic wares and some food debris. No cultural material was present below 17 inches.

Test 3 consisted of three recognizable upper soil strata: (1) an upper layer of dark brown loam, (2) a band of clinker and

ash, and (3) another layer of dark brown loam. Below that was sterile yellow brown clay loam subsoil. The artifacts listed in Lot 6 were recovered from below the clinker (14 to 28 inches). Tests 4 and 5 contained only a scattering of late 19th to early 20th century material.

Our interpretation of this data is that the north side of the property has been artificially raised to form the present driveway. This filling may have occurred as early as the 1820's, as the ceramic types present were all available by that date, and slipware is still present in the sample. The earliest ceramic present is one sherd of tin glaze earthenware (delft) recovered in Test 3 along with many later types. Test 3 was dug into culturally sterile subsoil.

Based on the distribution of artifacts and the soil profiles, Tests 1,2, and 3 mark the northern edge of the 19th century deposits and resources do not extend to the northern edge of the property. Table 1 presents the ceramic distribution compiled from all tests. It shows 19th century whiteware as the most common type of ceramic sherds. The other types represented are typical of the late 18th and early 19th century. In no instance could these types be found stratigraphically separated. Table 2 shows the overall types of material present at the site, and Table 3 demonstrates the statistical difference in presence of structural artifacts (nails and window glass) from domestic artifacts (ceramics, food debris, smoking pipes, and bottle glass). The low proportion of structural material (10% of the entire sample) suggests that the tests were not in proximity to previous structures.

In conclusion, Tests 1, 2, and 3 indicate that the area to be developed was raised to its present level during the early 19th century and that the stratified fill contains mostly domestic artifacts from that time period. Tests 4 and 5 indicate that the northeast corner of the area to be developed does not contain significant artifact or structural deposits. Manual testing has not demonstrated that 17th or 18th century levels are present in the construction area.

## TEST PIT PROFILES





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## ARTIFACT CATALOG

LOT	TEST	DEPTH	MATERIAL.	QUANTITY
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	ANIMAL TEETH	3
	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	CERAMICS, PEARLWARE, BLUE TRANSFER PRINT	2
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, BLUE EDGED	9
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, BLUE TRANSFER PRINT	1
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, UNDECORATED	10
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	GLASS, MODERN BOTTLE	3
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	GLASS, WINDOW	1
	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	NATI CIT	2
LOT 1	TEST 1	0-9 INCHES	NAIL, COT	1
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LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	ANIMAL BUNE, CUI CERAMICS ORIENTAL BLUE/WHITE PORCELAIN	2
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	CERAMICS, PEARLWARE, BLUE TRANSFER PRINT	1
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	CERAMICS, PORCELAIN, GILT EDGED	1
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	CERAMICS, SJIPWARE	1
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, RED TRANSFER PRINT	1
101 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	CLASS BOTTLE CLEAR	4
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	GLASS, BOTTLE, GREEN	ž
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	GLASS, CLEAR, BOTTLE	1
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	GLASS, CLEAR, MOLDED	1
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	GLASS, WINDOW, HAND BLOWN	4
101 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	KAOLIN PIPE STEM	i
LOT 2	TEST 1	9-33 INCHES	NAIL, CUT	i
LOT 3	TEST 1	25 INCHES	CERAMICS, BLUE/WHITE PORCELAIN BOWL BASE	1
10T 4	TEST 2	0-12 INCHES	ANTMAL TOOTH	1
LOT 4	TEST 2	0-12 INCHES	GLASS, WINDOW	1
LOT 4	TEST 2	0-12 INCHES	LINOLEUM	1
LOT 5	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	ANIMAL BONE, CUT	3
LOT 5	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	CERAMICS, PEARLWARE, BLUE TRANSFER PRINT	4
LOT 5	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	CERAMICS, REDWARE	á
	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	CERAMICS, SELFWARE, INTERIOR SLIPPED	1
LOT 5	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, BLUE EDGED	9
LOT 5	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, UNDECORATED	9
LOT 5	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES	GLASS, BOTTLE GREEN	1
	TEST 2	12-17 INCHES 12-17 INCHES	GLASS, WINDOW TRON STRAP	1
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LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	ANIMAL BONES, SAWED	9
	TEST 3	0=28 INCHES	CERAMICS. REDWARE	5
LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	CERAMICS, STONEWARE, SLIPPED INTERIOR	1
LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	CERAMICS, TIN GLAZED	1
LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	CERAMICS, VITRIFIED CHINA	1
	TEST 2	0-20 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE, BLUE TRANSPER FRINT	5
	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	CONCH SHELL	í
LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	GLASS, BOTTLE, CLEAR	6
LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	GLASS, BOTTLE, DARK GREEN	2
LOT 6	TEST 3	0-28 INCHES	KAOLIN PIPE STEM	1
LOT 6	TEST 3 TEST 3	0-28 INCHES 0-28 INCHES	METAL TUBE NAIL, CUT	1
	TCOT D	0_00 THOUSE	ANTMAL DONE SAVED	7
	TEST 4	0-20 INCHES	CERAMICS. REDWARE	2
LOT 7	TEST 4	0-20 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE	1
LOT 7	TEST 4	0-20 INCHES	METAL STRAP	1
LOT 7	TEST 4	0-20 INCHES	NAILS, CUT	3
LOT 8	TEST 5	0-28 INCHES	CERAMICS, WHITEWARE	1
	TEST 5	0-20 INCHES	NAILS, UII	2
LOT 8	TEST 5	0-28 INCHES	ANIMAL BONE	3







A	<b>4 KAOLIN PIPES</b>
B	7 WINDOW GLASS
С	11 CUT NAILS
D	20 BOTTLE GLASS
E.	41 ANIMAL BONE
£	90 CERAMICS

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B. Domestic artifacts

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III. Conclusion

The land at the east end of the existing house, where demolition rubble is now piled, and extending immediately north of the rubble pile does not contain cultural strata, to the tested depth of between 1 and 1/2 and 2 feet. Construction of a new building on grade in this area will not affect archaeological deposits.

North of that area, under the present raised gravelled drive, and extending under the concrete slab where the former garage stood, there was landfilling in the early 19th century. As many as three strata of shell were detected, possibly used to provide a surface for a walk or drive. A few artifacts were found attributable to the end of the 18th century, but they were in layers containing predominantly 19th century whiteware. Therefore, this landscaping must have occurred after about 1820, but included a minority of earlier artifacts. This landfill extends only about five feet north of the drive and concrete slab, and apparently does not extend east of the slab.

Further north, where the ground slopes down to the corner of the lot, no cultural deposits were found. Thus most of the area proposed for construction of the swimming pool is on land where there are not cultural deposits. The south end of the swimming pool excavation may cut into the edge of the 19th century deposits. No evidence could be found of any 17th century material, and the few ceramic sherds possibly attributable to the late 18th century were found in a context of mostly 19th century objects. We conclude that the archaeological deposits found in this test-

ing are exclusively of 19th century deposition. Deposits associated with the early history of the house (circa 1690 to 1800) may be closer to the rear of the earlier central portion, but are not in the area we tested.







