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**PHASE 1A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

P.S. 189 - X

**Steenwick Avenue and Reeds Mill Lane
Bronx, New York**

**New York City
School Construction Authority**

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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**Steenwick Avenue and Reeds Mill Lane
Bronx, New York**

New York City School Construction Authority

Prepared for:
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY	1
II.	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	2
III.	PREHISTORIC OVERVIEW	4
IV.	HISTORICAL OVERVIEW	10
V.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	16
VI.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	17

FIGURES

PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX

- A. Boesch Sensitivity Map, Bronx, New York
- B. Historical Use Summary reproduced from
Camp Dresser & McKee, 11/21/00

LIST OF FIGURES

- 1 Current U.S.G.S. Topographic Map, Mount Vernon Quadrangle
- 2 Proposed P.S. 189 Site Location Map showing lots and outlines of former roadbed, amusement park boundaries, and pond
- 3 Project Site Plan
- 4 Project Site Conditions, 2001
- 5 Project Site Construction Specifics
- 6 Map of Indian Trails, Planting Fields and Habitation Sites
- 7 The Bronx at the End of the Dutch Period, c.1664
- 8 The Bronx at the End of the English Period, 1776
- 9 Beers, Atlas of New York and Vicinity, Town of Eastchester, 1867
- 10 Beers, Atlas of New York City, Town of Eastchester, 1872
- 11 Sanborn, Insurance Map of New York City, Borough of the Bronx, 1897
- 12 Sanborn, 1918
- 13 Sanborn, 1935
- 14 Sanborn, 1950
- 15 Sanborn, 1981
- 16 Archaeological Sensitivity Map

I. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The New York City School Construction Authority (NYSCA) proposes to construct a 1,200-seat primary/intermediate school on Block 5263, Lots 112, 115, 116, 190, 191, and a portion of Lot 70. The site is located in the northeastern section of the Bronx (Community School District 11), near the Westchester County border (see Fig. 1). The 80,000 square-foot site is bounded by Steenwick Avenue to the east and Reeds Mill Lane to the south (see Fig. 2). The project plans call for the construction of a four-story school (with basement), consisting of approximately 120,000 square feet, covering approximately 40,000 square-foot of the site. The school is to be placed 40' back from the street front along Steenwick Avenue, in accordance with zoning regulations. In addition, plans call for two playground areas, a 3,000 square foot area for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students to be located in the front of the school, and a 15,000 square foot area for the older students to be located at the rear of the building (see Fig. 3) (STV 2000: 3, 4).

This Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment has been conducted as part of the mandated environmental review process to identify the potential presence of significant archaeological and historic resources in or around the immediate vicinity of the proposed school site. Any potential impacts caused by the proposed construction are addressed in this study, and where significant adverse impacts are identified, appropriate mitigation measures are delineated. The Conclusions do note the potential sensitivity for a portion of the P.S. 189 site to host prehistoric and historic-era archaeological resources. A Phase IB field investigation is recommended in order to establish the presence/absence of cultural resources and determine possible project impacts.

Primary source material has been used to determine the project site's original topography and to compile a disturbance record, which includes information describing the site's possible uses over time, building history, and filling episodes. Historical maps and descriptions of the study area were examined at the New York Public Library's Municipal Reference Library, Map Division and Local History Room. Additional maps and historical data were studied at the Bronx Municipal Building and the Westchester County Historical Society. Unfortunately, few files for the project lots were available at the Bronx Department of Buildings. Additional information concerning subsurface disturbance, and the pre-fill topography of the project area collected for recent projects in the vicinity of the site, were gathered from the New York City Topographic Office and the offices of Lawler, Matusky, and Skelly Engineers (1995). Site information was also gathered from the November 2000 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. (CDM) for the SCA.

Local and regional histories were examined for relevant data to help place the site within a historical context. These include such well-known works as Stephen Jenkins' *The Story of the Bronx*, Robert Bolton's *The History of the Several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the County of Westchester*, J. Thomas Scharf's *History of Westchester County, New York, Including Morrisania, Kings Bridge, and West Farms*, and Shonnard and Spooner's *History of Westchester County*, as well as some more recent works such as John McNamara's *History in Asphalt*, and articles published in the Bronx Historical Society Journal. For the prehistoric period, William Ritchie's *The Archaeology of New York State* provided an overview of the lifeways of the Native

inhabitants of New York up to the contact period. In addition, Robert Steven Grumet's *Native American Place Names in New York City*, and Reginald Bolton's *Indian Life of Long Ago in the City of New York* furnished valuable information on Native American settlements. Available site reports and journal publications relating to archaeological sites were researched for data specific to the northern and eastern Bronx.¹

A site visit was conducted on June 16, 2001. Site conditions were examined and recorded via notes and photographs.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Over the last one million years, three known glacial periods were responsible for the creation of the present topography of the New York City area. The retreating continental glaciers resulted in the buildup of glacial debris, forming hills or moraines running north-south through the Bronx, and the irregular erosion of valleys and hills. Geologically, the borough of the Bronx lies within the Hudson Valley Region and is considered part of the New England Upland Physiographic Province, which is a northern extension of the Great Appalachian Valley (Schubert 1968: 10, 74). The substratum is made up of "gneiss and mica schist with heavy, intercalated beds of coarse-grained, dolomitic marble and thinner layers of serpentine" identical to what underlies Manhattan Island (Scharf 1886:6-7).

Many rivers and creeks in the New York area were created from the melted ice floes and the subsequent water courses (e.g., the Hutchinson River, which flows to the east of the project area) were directed along the moraines. These watercourses have further eroded limestone belts still exposed between the glacial deposits, creating a varied landscape of hills and valleys. In low-lying areas lakes and ponds were formed and in the locations with poor drainage, swamps and marshy areas dotted the landscape. The present topography of the general project area consists of low hills sloping toward tidal marshland adjacent to the Hutchinson River.

The topography of the project parcel is that of rolling land with trees, rocks, scrub bushes, and some grass cover (see Fig. 4 for environmental information supplied by CDM in their Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Nov., 2000 and Photo A). There is an approximate 10 foot rise above street grade from the southwest to the northern portion of the project site (STV 2000: 4). Some bedrock is visible in the northeast area. The highest ground on the project site, supporting a stand of trees, is located west of the exposed bedrock. A large, cleanly scraped area is located on the eastern boundary of the site, along Steenwick Avenue (Photo H). The entire southern portion of the project site along Reeds Mill Lane has been graded and the area is thinly covered with high grasses (Photo D). Site inspection also revealed evidence of debris throughout the project area, particularly in the northern portion (Photos H, I, and J).

The project site, formerly used for residential homes, has been vacant and undeveloped for over 25 years. However, a portion was once part of an amusement park

¹ This text also relies on prior reports completed Historical Perspectives, Inc. See reference section of this report for full citations.

(discussed below). In addition, a sidewalk now abuts the property on Reeds Mill Lane and fencing abuts the property on both Reeds Mill Lane and Steenwick Avenue (Photos B and E). According to historic maps, Reed's Mill Lane once traversed the project site, from the northeast to the southwest corner. The old road bed is still visible on the project site (Photo I).

Located near the north side of the New England Thruway, the project site is zoned R4 and the adjacent area is zoned for commercial and light industrial uses. A commercial shopping center containing several small businesses and a medical facility is adjacent to the northwest side of the project site (see Fig. 2 and Photo E). A few single family homes, auto muffler shop, auto repair facility with junkyard and auto parts store, and an abandoned industrial facility are located along Steenwick Avenue, northeast of the project site (Photos B and G). The 14-story Boston Secor apartment complex is located southwest of the project site (fronting on Bivona Street) on a filled area that was formerly a 15 acre pond (see Fig. 2 and Photo C).² P.S. 803, an adult skill's training center, is located between the project site and the Boston Secor apartment complex (see Fig. 3 and Photo A). An undeveloped lot is located on Reeds Mill Lane, southeast of the project site (Photo F) and other areas of undeveloped land are also located between the project site and the adjacent properties on Boston Post Road and Bivona Street (STV 2000: 4, 5 and CDM 2000: 1).

Mid-nineteenth-century maps of Eastchester identify the project area as farmland and many property boundaries are delineated. The historical development of the project site will be discussed briefly below. The most likely site for the possible recovery of below-ground cultural resources, however, is the former location of a homestead and associated buildings, which is visible on an 1867 Beers map and last appears on a 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance map.

² Hollers' Pond was named after the family who created it by the damming of Rattlesnake Creek. The creek flowed from Seton Falls Park, northwest to southeast, adjacent to the southwest portion of the project site. The pond existed until approximately 1951 (McNamara 1984: 135).

III. PREHISTORIC OVERVIEW

Following the final retreat of glacial ice, the area now known as the Bronx flourished with plants suited to arctic and tundra conditions. Eventually, the locale became a forest composed of deciduous trees and conifers. The fluctuating floral and faunal communities eventually stabilized over the last 12,000 years, resulting in an environment often characterized as a climax forest, comprised of oak, hemlock, beech and chestnut trees. The shrinking ice caps were accompanied by a rise in sea levels, which led to the flooding of water courses and their outlets, and the creation of salt marshes in adjacent low-lying areas. One such water course was the Hutchinson River which was surrounded by tidal marshes, such as those found to the south and southeast of the project area, until filling episodes during the twentieth century.

Prehistoric sites are often characterized by their close proximity to a water source, fresh game, and exploitable natural resources (i.e., plants, raw materials for tools, etc.). These sites are often placed into three categories, primary (campsites or villages) secondary (tool manufacturing, food processing), and isolated finds (a single or very few artifacts lost or disposed). Primary sites are often situated in locales that are easily defended against both nature (weather) and enemies.

Scholars generally agree that the prehistoric era in North America can be divided into three main periods, the Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Woodland. Table 1 shows the periods, subperiods (if applicable), and the date range generally agreed upon by archaeologists. In order to complete the prehistoric overview for the present project and to fully evaluate the potential of recovering prehistoric cultural remains, each period will be examined separately with regard to; 1) the characteristics illustrative of the phase, 2) the environment during the time period, and 3) any recovered archaeological sites within the region. This examination was completed in order to assess the potential that indigenous groups would have had for exploiting the project area in general and the actual project site.

TABLE 1

Period	SubPeriod	Approximate Date Range
Paleo-Indian		10,000-7,000 (BC)
Archaic	Early	7,000-5,000 (BC)
	Middle	5,000-3,000 (BC)
	Late	3,000-2,000 (BC)
	Terminal	2,000-1,000 (BC)
Woodland	Early	1,000-300 (BC)
	Middle	300 (BC)-1,000 (AD)
	Late	1,000-1,600 (AD)

Paleo-Indian Period

The Paleo-Indian Period is described as the era when small bands of large-game hunters ventured across a narrow land bridge linking the New World to the Old. These bands were scattered over large areas of territory and were probably moving seasonally, following the big-game animals that made up the major portion of their diet (e.g., mastodon, bison, caribou). Although the population was small, these hunters soon spread over the wide expanse of virgin territory now known as North America. The diagnostic artifact of these nomadic hunters was the fluted point. One of the reasons the stone tools of the prehistoric periods are used by archaeologists for examination is that the preservation of this type of artifact is extremely good. In many cases, the stone tools recovered at archaeological sites are the only evidence of the existence of past peoples.

During the early Paleo-Indian Period, the northeastern portion of North America was not a hospitable environment. The area had not yet developed into the more favorable deciduous forest of the later prehistoric periods. According to William Ritchie, pollen profiles show that the climate was cold and bleak until the late Paleo-Indian Period (1980). Paleo-Indian sites, like most other prehistoric sites, have been recovered in well-elevated fertile areas situated close to a water source. Although some of the Paleo-Indian camp or "type sites" are located in the Northeast, most are found far to the north of the New York City area. However, the remains of big-game animals, have been recorded in New York, including a Mastodon bone found at Hunters Point (Seyfried 1984: 92). While this verifies that the New York City area provided a food source for the Paleo-Indian hunters, no "kill sites" have been recovered. Perhaps this is due to the inhospitable environment during the early Paleo-Indian period, or it may be the result of the flooding of coastal sites as the glaciers continued their retreat and a corresponding rise in sea level occurred. A small Paleo-Indian campsite, however, was found in Staten Island. This site, referred to as the Port Mobil Site, is the closest recorded Paleo-Indian site to the present project area (Ritchie 1980: 1, 3, 7).

By the late Paleo-Indian Period, small leaf shaped or bifacial knives, scrapers, and borers had become part of the hunter's tool kit. At this time the environment in the Northeast had become more advantageous to prehistoric peoples as the climate became warmer and game more abundant. The megafauna, so prevalent throughout most of the Paleo-Indian Period, were becoming extinct and being replaced by smaller game more suited to the temperate environment of the Archaic and Woodland Periods. Very few Paleo-Indian sites have been recovered archaeologically. Perhaps the transitory nature of these nomadic hunters left little impact upon the landscape. In addition, the small Paleo-Indian population, mentioned above, and the changing prehistoric environment with the accompanying rise in sea level, may also be a factor in the scarcity of sites from this time period.

Archaic Period

This period is characterized by an overall shift in the environment, an expansion of the tool kit, and the exploitation of defined territorial boundaries. The environmental

transformation to a deciduous woodland forest was complete by the Early Archaic. Throughout this period the climate continued to warm and the sea levels to rise. Subsistence was based upon the hunting of smaller game animals (deer, rabbit, beaver, and wild turkey), the gathering of wild plants, and the exploitation of the marine environment (fishing and shellfish gathering). At this time, the narrow bladed projectile point, grooved axe, and beveled adz were added to the tool kit of the Archaic hunter. Fishing implements, grinders, and the mortar and pestle have been found at archaeological sites dating to this period. The recovery of these objects attests to the expanded subsistence economy. Although still mobile, the Archaic hunters were now exploiting a well-defined territory, often reoccupying favorable sites.

The size and quantity of recorded archaeological sites from the Archaic period is much larger than the modest number dating to the Paleo-Indian Period. This change suggests that there was a significant increase in the population of native peoples and that these groups had a greater impact upon the landscape. River valleys and coastal locations were the preferred locale for primary camp sites. This setting supported the game, plants, and marine resources desired by Archaic peoples. The repeated occupation of sites and the seasonal rounds made within specific territories have enabled archaeologists to recognize several identifiable cultural phases in New York State (e.g., Lamoka, Brewerton) (Ritchie 1980).

While no large Archaic settlement has been recovered in the New York City area, several small multicomponent sites have been identified. To the north, in Westchester County, a series of rockshelters, camp sites, and shell middens have been investigated by local archaeologists during the twentieth century. In the Bronx, however, only a few isolated finds dating to the Archaic Period have been recorded. At the Clason's Point Site on the East River, two Archaic projectile points were recovered, and an archaic workshop was excavated in the 1970s along Pugsley's Creek near the Shorehaven neighborhood (Cohn, personal communication to Cece Saunders, 10/20/94).

Woodland Period

The Woodland Period is often identified with the introduction of pottery. While this is one of the most distinguishing characteristics of the period, there were other equally important changes taking place. These changes include the introduction of horticulture, the appearance of large semi-permanent or permanent villages, and the establishment of clearly defined trade networks. As in the previous periods, archaeological evidence suggests a marked preference for large-scale habitation sites within close proximity to a fresh water source (e.g., rivers, lakes, streams, and ponds). In most cases, areas where specific activities occurred (e.g., shellfish collecting and/or processing, butchering locations, and stone tool-making), were usually situated near the site of the resource.

Besides the debut of pottery, which can be traced to the Early Woodland in New York State (ca. 1000 B.C.), pipe-smoking, mortuary ceremonialism, and the bow and arrow were introduced during the Woodland Period. In many cases these new innovations reflected different cultural styles that archaeologists have been able to identify with specific groups. The introduction of horticulture in the New York City area is linked with the commencement of larger and more permanent settlements. These villages, many of which were fortified, were

usually situated on "high ground." By the Late Woodland Period, Native pathways were established connecting the many permanent villages to each other and allowing for the distribution of trade goods.

Much of what is known about the Late Woodland Period has been acquired from both documentary and archaeological sources. Historians and archaeologists have carefully examined the documentary record in order to understand the native cultures that were living in the New York City area when Europeans first arrived. Legal documents and ethnohistorical accounts have provided valuable evidence about the past lifeways of these people. Often, information about the settlements, appearance, and behavior of ancient peoples cannot be reconstructed from the recovery of a few artifacts. Documentary sources have enabled historical archaeologists to assemble more complete information about the cultures under examination.

By the seventeenth century, the Native American groups living in the New York City area had developed complex group dynamics. Many of the early ethnohistorical accounts describe the diverse groups contacted. In 1625, Johannes de Laet wrote that the natives he encountered were "divided into many nations and languages" (Bolton 1972: 16). Unfortunately, many of these groups were decimated by local hostilities and European-introduced diseases by the mid- to late-seventeenth century. Many of the surviving Native peoples sold their land or moved further north into Westchester County (Grumet 1981: 60-62).

Grumet's map of Indian Trails indicates that a Native American pathway was located within close proximity to the project area, following along present-day Boston Post Road (see Fig. 6). The trail turned directly south just before the location of Gun Hill Road and continued southward to where it joined a second pathway at Tremont Avenue. In addition, the project site is located, according to the map, in an area with the Native American placename, "Caranasses." Grumet suggests that Caranasses could have been "another name for the Bronx River or the name of a tract of land between the streams" (Ibid.: 7). An area called "Conoral" is identified just southeast of the project location. Conoral was probably another name for Eastchester Bay or the land on the western shore of the river. According to Grumet, both of these placenames first appeared in R. Bolton's 1881, Vol. I Map of Westchester County under the Mohegans, ca. 1609 (Ibid.: 7 & 9).

Along the southern shoreline of the Bronx, several large native villages have been identified including Castle Hill, where historical records indicate a large Native American settlement was located. The village, or "stockade," on Castle Hill was documented in historical records but has not been recovered archaeologically. Grumet attributes this to the rapid urbanization of this area of the Bronx during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In contrast, the native village of Snakapins was found and investigated by Alanson Skinner in 1918. The information gathered at this site, approximately 1/2 mile north of Clason's Point, and just over six miles south of the project area, provided much that is now known about the coastal inhabitants during the Late Woodland and Contact periods (Skinner 1919).

Examination of the site files at the State Historic Preservation Office and the New York State Museum indicates that there are over 20 recorded prehistoric sites within one and one-half miles of the project area. All, but a part of one possible site, are located on the east side of the Hutchinson River within the confines of Pelham Bay Park. This locale provided access to

the Hutchinson River, Eastchester Bay, a large lagoon, and the Long Island Sound (see Fig. 1). The landscape is covered with rich grassy meadows, forests of oak and pine, acres of fresh-water wetlands, and several small hills. One of these hills is a small oval knoll, approximately 50 feet above sea level, overlooking Eastchester Bay. The presence of this knoll and the other attributes listed above provided an environment capable of supporting the game animals and plants needed to sustain a small village. In fact, the Siwonoy Village Site (OPRHP# A005-01-0032) was identified to the south of the knoll.

The overwhelming majority of the recorded sites are located in the southern and eastern portions of Pelham Bay Park. Records show that most of these sites are shell middens. As was the case with the sites to the north, no date range for these middens was provided. The review of historical documents, local histories, and research completed on prehistoric New York, suggests that most, if not all, of these sites date to the Woodland Period. In fact, Bolton states that during the early Contact Period

“At Pelham Neck there was another settlement, and scattered stations along the shore, such as on Hunter’s Island.” These sites “were favorite fishing places, visited in the summer by the Weckquaesgeek” (Bolton 1975: 31).

Parker and Bolton reported the following prehistoric sites within a one-mile radius of the project site, though information is minimal and sketchy.

- Bolton (1922: 240 and Map VII, A) lists Site #108 as the location of a small campsite with earthen embankments and a cave site... near a bend of Rattlesnake Creek on the former W. E. Seton Estate (in Boesch 1996, Appendix C). The site is within the present location of Seton Falls Park (discussed below).
- Site #81 is an “Unnamed Village and Camp Site” of the Woodland-Contact Periods reported by Parker and Bolton. Parker (1922: 490) reported that “a camp site and “castle” were situated astride the Bronx-Westchester County border in the old Village of Eastchester,” where the Siwanoy sachem, “Simanon” lived. According to Bolton (1922: 120 and Map VII, A), the site was located “along a hill top southwest of the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Provost Avenue in Westchester County to the current locations of Mulvey Avenue and Merritt Avenue in the Bronx.” (in Boesch 1996, Appendix C).
- Site #94 is an “Unnamed Camp Site,” according to Parker (1922: 490), where “many stone relics have been found” was reported to be located along the Hutchinson River, south of the Pelham Railroad Station (in Boesch 1996, Appendix C).
- Site #82 is a camp site with possible Woodland or Contact Period components, located on Split Rock Road near the Split Rock. An interesting account is associated with Split Rock, which is located “...approximately 300 feet east and 200 feet south of the remaining portion of Split Rock Road...within the Town of Pelham” (in Boesch 1996, Appendix C). The dwelling of Anne Hutchinson, an Antinomian refugee murdered with five of her children by a group of Siwanoy in 1643, was said to have been located in the vicinity of Split Rock (also briefly discussed below) (Ibid.: Appendix C).

Prehistoric Potential

The extensive amount of construction and demolition occurring within the boundaries of New York City have provided opportunities for the recovery of prehistoric cultural material. In some cases, however, prehistoric sites have been lost to the rapid urbanization during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Any potential prehistoric site must be examined carefully in order to assist in the elucidation of New York's prehistoric past. The research conducted here clearly indicates that there is a strong prehistoric presence in the East Bronx. The present project area of potential effect was examined for archaeological sensitivity.

Boesch's *Archaeological Evaluation and Sensitivity Assessment of the Bronx, New York* was examined with regard to the present site location (1996). While areas northwest of the project site, as well as the east side of the Hutchinson River had a high sensitivity rating, the west side of the river and the area in which the project site is located, was given a moderate sensitivity rating (see Appendix A).

The present project area, however, once possessed many of the attributes that may have appealed to prehistoric peoples. Comfort notes that the ancient forests of Eastchester (general project area) teemed with wildlife and "the great quantity of arrow heads and spear heads that are found on all sides in this sparsely settled district prove that it was literally a hunting paradise for the dusky population, centuries ago" (1906: 16). As mentioned above, the preferred location for prehistoric sites was on high ground close to a water source. The present project locale has a graduated topography and lies within close proximity to the Hutchinson River and marsh resources. Rattlesnake Creek also once flowed through the general project area. The creek is depicted on Boesch Sensitivity Map 3 as a now-filled former watercourse that flowed in a southeast direction from above Seton Falls Park through the southwest portion of Block 5263, adjacent to the project site (see Appendix A). Rattlesnake Brook is visible on early historic maps (see Figs. 7 and 8), and a Sanborn 1897 map shows the creek as it looked after it was dammed by the Hollers family, as well as its proximity to the project site (see Fig. 11). The elevation of the area, the abundance of wildlife and plant resources, and the close proximity to water sources may have made the project parcel attractive to Native Americans, as a possible campsite or processing area. Certainly, the area was hunted at minimum. In addition and as discussed above, a native pathway was located adjacent to the project site (see Fig. 6), and four prehistoric sites are reported within a one-mile radius of the project site.

IV. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The historical development of the Bronx began with the seventeenth-century European settlers. The current project area is in a section of the Bronx that was colonized following the 1640 purchase of a large tract of land by the Dutch West India Company from the native inhabitants. This land, located to the south of the project area was called "vredelandt," or "land of peace" by the Dutch (Fig. 7; Jenkins 1912: 26, 30). Many adjacent tracts of land were granted as manors or patents to wealthy and influential Dutch and English men (e.g., Fordham Manor, Morrisania, and Pelham Manor). In a few cases land was purchased directly from the native inhabitants. The present study area in the East Bronx was once a portion of the land purchased by Thomas Pell in 1654 from Chief Wampage (see Fig. 7; Beyer Blinder & Belle 1985: 5). In addition to the large parcel he purchased, Pell claimed a large portion of the land originally purchased by the Dutch. Pell, an Englishman, was able to maintain his control over his land by swearing allegiance to the Dutch until his native country established control over the colony. Thus, in 1666 he was granted the Manor of Pelham by the first English Governor of New York Richard Nichols. The "manor" was comprised of all of the land east of the Hutchinson River up to present day Mamaroneck (including the coastal islands) and a large tract of land on the west of the River including, Eastchester, portions of Mount Vernon, and the northeast section of the Bronx.

Many of the early immigrants moved to this area after attempting to settle in Puritan New England. These people, well-documented in historical accounts, decided to venture down to New Amsterdam in the area called "vredelandt", for it was here that the Dutch West India Company encouraged settlement by many of the displaced settlers driven out of New England by religious intolerance. In 1643, Thomas Cornell, one of the New England "refugees," was granted property on what is now called Clason's Point. After being driven off this land during an Indian raid and later by the British, Cornell continued to attempt to reclaim his land. Finally, his grandson was officially awarded the land by patent in 1667 (Jenkins 1912: 402).

One of the more recognizable early settlers of the East Bronx was Mrs. Anne Hutchinson. Hutchinson, an outcast from the strict New England Puritan society, fled Massachusetts and later Rhode Island in her bid for religious freedom. She, along with her children and grandchildren, settled in the East Bronx in 1643. Hutchinson's dwelling was located on the eastern side of the Hutchinson River in what is now known as Pelham Bay Park. Unfortunately, not long after their arrival, most of the family was killed in an Indian raid (Beyer, Blinder and Belle 1985: 5; Bolton 1975: 31-32). Bolton suggests that because the Hutchinson's were squatters, the natives living in the area resented their presence (1975: 31-32). After attempting to peacefully evict the Hutchinson's, Chief Wampage is said to have led the attack against the settlement (Bolton 1975: 32). The Hutchinson River was named after her for being the "earliest" settler in this region. Ten years after Pell's purchase of the land on both sides of the river, he granted tracts on the east side of the river "to the number of ten families, to settle down at Hutchinsons" (Jenkins 1912: 50-51). This settlement became known as "Ten Farms," later named Eastchester (1665), for its location to the east of the village of Westchester. The two settlements of Westchester and Eastchester were closely affiliated until their official separation in 1667 (Jenkins 1912: 424).

Thomas Pell constructed a large manor house on the tip of Pelham Point. Its exact location and date of demolition is unknown. Following Pell's death in 1669, his nephew, Sir John Pell, inherited his vast estate. Sir John came to New York in 1670, immediately following his uncle's death and built a larger manor house. He married Rachel Pinkney, the daughter of one of the men granted land by Thomas Pell at "Ten Farms" (Beyer Blinder Belle 1985: 5). Sir John and his wife had five children. The oldest, named Thomas in honor of the first Lord of Pelham Manor, inherited the Manor when his father drowned off City Island around 1720. The second Thomas to be named Lord of the Manor left a will dated 1739 that divided his estate equally among his ten children and the title of Lord was passed on to his grandson Joseph. Once the estate was divided, the Pell family ceased to dominate their neighbors, both financially and politically. The division of the estate broke up the "Manor" and a great deal of the land was sold outside of the family.

During the American Revolution, Pelham Manor, now reduced to the area presently known as Pelham Bay Park, became a vital location for the defense of the colonies (Fig. 8). The Pell family members, however, were firm Loyalists and moved to New York City for the duration of the War. It was on their land that one of the most important early battles of the War was fought. The Battle of Pell's Point was fought during October of 1776 (see Fig. 8). The force of the resistance put up by a small group of patriots against the combined invasion by British and Hessian troops protected the main body of the army located inland. One mile to the south of the project area was another important Revolutionary War site. The Gun Hill battle site was another testimony in endurance and strength for the colonial army. Gun Hill Road was named for the hill to which the road led in the late eighteenth century. All along the road, the colonists were able to hold off the British forces advancing from east to west.

Following the war, in 1788, the Bronx was formally divided into five townships including Pelham, Westchester, and Eastchester. The townships of Pelham and Eastchester were divided along the old manor boundary lines. The Town of Westchester prospered more than its northern neighbors before their annexation by New York City in 1895 (McNamara 1967: 511). During the nineteenth century, the western section of the Bronx, perhaps because of its close proximity to Manhattan, developed at a faster rate than the eastern shore. Although there were scattered farms and villages, most of the northeast section remained undeveloped swampland. In fact, a large undeveloped portion of the former Pelham Manor was acquired by the State of New York in 1883 for use as public park land.

As mentioned above, most of the northeastern Bronx was part of the town of Eastchester. At the start of the eighteenth century, Rev. John Bartow purchased large tracts of land along the western shore of the Hutchinson River from Thomas Pell. The present project site was within the boundaries of this land purchase. The land remained under the control of the Bartow family throughout much of the eighteenth century. Perhaps the family was profiting from the salt marshes along the river. In most coastal communities, parcels of salt marsh were highly valued for their steady supply of livestock fodder. In fact, the Westchester Town charter included provisions for the equal use of the "Commons," approximately 400 acres of marshland along the shores of Westchester Creek.

The Bronx remained divided into various estates and settlements throughout the eighteenth century. Most of the East Bronx remained undeveloped swampland that had few roadways. However, farming was the mainstay for many inhabitants of the upland areas (Jenkins 1912: 103). Manufacturing began only at the onset of the American Revolution, a result of the Non-Importation agreement. Colonists now had to make items previously imported from England. Several saw and grist mills opened on local waterways (Jenkins 1912: 103, 104). Reid's Mill was the first mill to operate on Eastchester Creek (Hutchinson River) (McNamara 1984: 480). Originally known as Sanders' Landing, the mill dates to the 17th century, operated first by Thomas Shute, followed by Joseph Stanton and later by John Bartow (Ibid.: 208). John Reid (also spelled Reed) acquired the mill in 1739 and passed it to his son, Robert, in 1790, who operated the mill until the 1850's. Abandoned after the Civil War, the old mill blew down during a storm in 1900. Reid's Mill would have been located near the center of the present Co-Op City to the south of the project site (Ibid.: 480). Reed's Mill Lane, which ran from Boston Post Road to the mill, once traversed the southeast corner of the project site.

The examination of historical maps indicates that the section of the Bronx to the south of the project area developed at a brisk rate following the introduction of the railroad (The Harlem River and Port Chester Railroad, now Conrail) in 1872 (see Fig. 10). Railroad lines made the East Bronx accessible to its neighbors from the north, south, and west. Perhaps because of this new accessibility, a referendum for annexation to the City of New York was put before the inhabitants of Eastchester, Westchester, Pelham, and Mount Vernon in the election of 1894 (Jenkins 1912: 7). A large majority of the people in Eastchester and Pelham voted for annexation, while those in Westchester and the City of Mount Vernon voted against the referendum. Because there was only a one-vote margin in the Westchester election, the vote was dismissed and the entire East Bronx was annexed by the City of New York in 1895. Three years later the whole of the Bronx was officially designated a borough (Jenkins 1912: 7).

Rattlesnake Creek and Holler's Pond

Rattlesnake Creek, which crossed Boston Post Road and flowed to the west of the project site, through Block 5263, was dammed to form a body of water known as Holler's Pond by the late 19th century. (See Figs. 7-11 for location of Rattlesnake Creek prior to and after the creek was dammed.) A mill once operated on Rattlesnake Creek in the 17th century, approximately where Holler's Pond was later located (Jenkins 1912: 424). According to Jenkins, the pond was located near a portion of the "ancient village of Eastchester" (1912: 423). The pond was utilized by skaters during the winter months, but more importantly, was the source of the ice supply for the neighborhood (Ibid.: 423). Ice houses are clearly visible on historic maps just west of the project site (see Fig. 11). By 1935, the ice houses are no longer in existence and a structure called "Holler's Ice Manufacturing Company, Inc.," is visible south of the project site on Reed's Mill Lane (see Fig. 13). Holler's Pond was filled in sometime in 1951 (McNamara 1984: 135) and the area is now home to the Boston Secor apartments (see Fig. 15). Hollers Ave., though illustrated on Sanborn maps as being planned to run through the south-central portion of the project site, has never traversed the property. The road ends at Steenwick Avenue on the eastern edge of the property (see Figs. 2, 13, and 14 and Photo H). Note that Reeds Mill Lane now runs south of the project site, from Steenwick Ave.

The Evolution of "Odell's Tavern"

An inn called "Odell's Tavern" operated to the north of the project site near Dyre Avenue, along Boston Post Road during the 1830s (see Figs. 9 and 10 for location of "hotel"). It is believed that the inn was built over a Revolutionary inn. A Sanborn map indicates that Odell's Tavern was called the "Eastchester Hotel" by 1897 (see Fig. 11). By 1918, the hotel was expanded and called "Old Point Comfort Hotel." The Old Point Comfort Hotel became part of an amusement park operated by Henry Dickert from 1920-1926, known as "Dickerts Old Point Comfort Park." The park was situated on four acres of land and could accommodate up to 5,000 visitors. Besides the hotel, it contained four bowling alleys, a rifle range, and a dance pavilion. Dickert sold the property in 1926, and the park became "Breinlinger's Old Point Comfort Park" (see Figs. 13 and 14). The Breinlinger family operated the resort and picnic park, which was a popular spot for clambakes, dances, weddings, and athletic events, until 1957 (McNamara 1984: 320, 354, and 458). A portion of the park was located within the western section of the project site (see Figs. 13 and 14).

Twentieth Century Development of the General Project Area

The project area (now designated Block 5263) and the surrounding lots, had remained undeveloped throughout most of the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. Now, at the start of the twentieth century, they were on the brink of development, along with most of the undeveloped land in the Bronx. The massive growth and development of the East Bronx was emphasized by the construction large roadways including, the Hutchinson River Parkway, the Cross Bronx Expressway, and the New York State Thruway. The 1936-1938 construction of the Hutchinson River Parkway, established the first large roadway through the East Bronx. Designed to connect with the new Bronx-Whitestone Bridge in time for the World's Fair of 1939, the parkway plans incorporated several smaller roadways. The parkway became a major artery connecting the Bronx with Westchester County to the north and the borough of Queens to the south. The Expressway, constructed during the 1950s, became an immensely expensive project as much of the road was depressed requiring the blasting of a great deal of bedrock.

Although attempts were made to utilize the former swampland to the south of the project area in the early twentieth century, it was not until the latter part of the twentieth century that the marshland was completely filled for the construction of Co-Op City (1966-1970). However, prior to the construction of Co-Op City, "Freedomland, a 205-acre amusement park opened on the available dry land in July, 1960. Constructed in the shape of the United States, it was billed as "the world's largest outdoor entertainment center..." and contained theme attractions, American city representations, a monorail system, a paddle-wheel boat, and skyrides (Jackson 1995: 438). The park closed in 1964, unable to compete with the World's Fair, which had opened in Queens that year.

Seton Falls Park

Seton Falls Park is located approximately one-half mile northwest of the project site. Historically, the park was called "Edenwald." It is said that a crevice in the rocks beneath the falls could conceal several men at once, and was known as the "Indian Hiding Place." Also in the vicinity were "Indian Fortifications," rock formations, of semi-circular shape that were believed to be half natural and half man-made. It was thought that these fortifications were lookouts for encroaching enemies. In addition, a large cave was located in the vicinity, in which many picnickers took refuge or enjoyed their luncheons (Comfort 1906: 51 & 52). The old Seton Mansion and later Seton Hall stood on the grounds near the cave.³

Map Review of the Project Site

The present project site is an upland area within the parcel of land granted to Thomas Pell in 1654 (see Fig. 7). By 1776, not much about the project site had changed except that it was now within the confines of the Town of Eastchester (see Fig. 8). The Bronx remained divided into various estates and settlements throughout the eighteenth century. During the Revolutionary War, the Town of Eastchester was protected by soldiers at Pelham Manor (see Fig. 8). Most of the East Bronx remained undeveloped swampland that had few roadways. It was during the nineteenth century that the project area was divided into a number of estates or farm lots.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate that, historically, one dwelling (and later, another associated one-story building) existed on the project site, fronting Reed's Mill Lane (see Figs. 11-15). This house also appears on earlier Beers maps (see Figs. 9 and 10). The property belonged to A. D. and S. B. Odell in 1867, and may have been associated with a hotel located to the north of the house along Old Boston Post Road (outside the project area). An 1881 Bromley map indicates that the house on the project site and the hotel north of the project site were owned by Mrs. S. Odell, and that the lot size was 6.3 acres. The house remained the property of S. B. O'dell in 1893, according to a Bien map.

Sometime during the early 20th century, two, two-story buildings and an associated one-story structure were built across Reeds Mill Lane at the southern portion of the project site, below the proposed Hollers Avenue (see Fig. 13). These buildings, located in the southern portion of the project site, were likely demolished when Reeds Mill Lane was rerouted, to abut the southernmost boundary of the project site. The southern portion of the project site, in support of this, appears to have been graded (see Photo E). According to McNamara, Reed's Mill Lane was "asphalted in 1967 and incorporated into the Boston-Secor Houses" (1984: 208). Steenwick Avenue now cuts across the former mill lane, abutting the easternmost portion of the project site and Reeds Mill Lane now continues southwest at Bivona Street (see Fig. 2 for the outline of old roadbed and present street layout).

A search of land title records for properties within the project site revealed that Lots 70 and 112 were acquired by the Westchester and Boston Railway Company before 1940, and

³ See Figures 9 and 10 for location of former "W. Setor Estate." The word, Setor, may be a corruption of the original name.

Lots 115, and 116 were acquired by Albert P. Joseph prior to 1931 (CDM 2000: 8 and 9). No records were available prior to 1974 for Lots 190 and 191. All of the buildings discussed above, including structures related to Breinlingers Old Point Comfort Park, last appear on a 1950 Sanborn map.

A 1981 Sanborn map indicates that Block 5263, on which the project site is located, has undergone much change. Existing conditions reveal that the southern portion of the project site has been graded and parts of the eastern side have been scraped. Piles of debris and fill material are also scattered throughout the site (see Photos D, H, I, and J). Besides the demolition of all structures once located on the project site, a shopping plaza now borders the site to the north, a public building (PS 803) is adjacent to the west, and the Boston Secor Apartments are a short distance beyond the public building. According to 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, and 1996 Sanborn maps, the general project area and project site remain much the same at present, as depicted in 1981. A complete summary of Sanborn Fire Insurance map information, as presented in CDM's Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (November, 2000) for the project site, can be found in Appendix B of this report.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

The area along the Hutchinson River is clearly one that was exploited by the prehistoric inhabitants of the New York City area. Almost all of the prehistoric sites identified for this report are located along the river's eastern shore making it conceivable that there may have been cultural activity on the western shore as well. In addition, the general project area has been designated as an area of moderate prehistoric sensitivity. Native American cultural groups preferred sites that were located in elevated areas near a water source; it is quite possible that the current project site provided a favorable locale for a possible campsite or resource procurement.

As discussed previously, the project site is located in an upland area, within a short distance of the Hutchinson River and the former Rattlesnake Creek (now filled in). The topography of the site increases in elevation from south to north. Historically, an amusement park overlapped the northwest portion of the project site and a dancing pavilion may have disturbed the soils of the west-central section. Cartographic review indicates, however, that no structures stood in the northwest portion of the project site. This area may possibly hold prehistoric remains and features. Figure 16 depicts areas of potential prehistoric sensitivity.

Historical Perspectives recommends subsurface archaeological testing in the area deemed potentially sensitive for prehistoric resources.

Historic Archaeological Resources

Site inspection has revealed the presence of miscellaneous debris and piles of fill material on the project site, especially in the northern portion (see Fig. 4 and Photos H, I, and J). However, the surface area of this part of the site appears relatively undisturbed. Cartographic review of the project site indicates that a house was present on the eastern half of the project site as early as 1867. The soils of this former residence area of the project site may contain truncated historic features associated with the dwelling. Figure 16 depicts this area of potential historic archaeological sensitivity. The southern end of the project site has been severely disturbed due to the construction of Reeds Mill Lane and the demolition of the early 20th century buildings that once existed in the southeast corner of the project site. The entire southern portion of the site has been graded (see Fig. 4 and Photo D).

Privies, wells and cisterns of mid-19th century homes, no longer required, would be quickly filled with refuse and abandoned, providing time capsules of stratified deposits for the modern archaeologist. These truncated shaft features frequently provide the best domestic remains recovered on sites, including animal bone, seeds, ceramics, and sometimes leather and wood. By analyzing such artifacts, archaeologists can learn much about the diet, activities and customs of the former inhabitants and patrons, and attempt to combine this "consumer choice" data with what the documents tell us about their ethnicity, gender, environment, etc. It is possible that remains associated with the Odell homestead yard features can add to the historic knowledge base of Eastchester and the Bronx. Historical Perspectives recommends Phase 1B subsurface testing in areas deemed potentially sensitive for historic-era resources.

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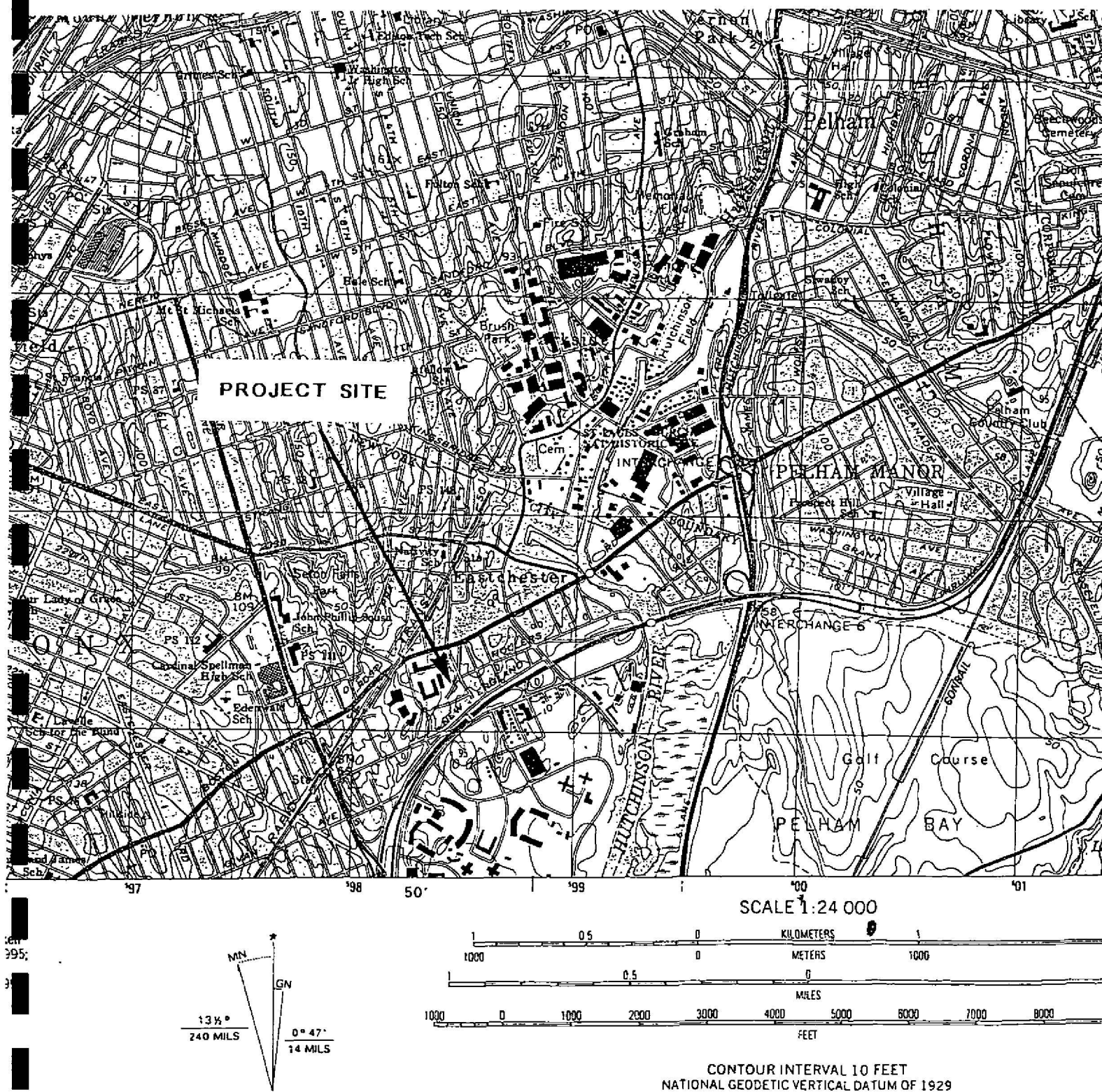


Figure 1. Current U.S.G.S. Topographic Map, Mount Vernon Quadrangle.

Sanborn Map

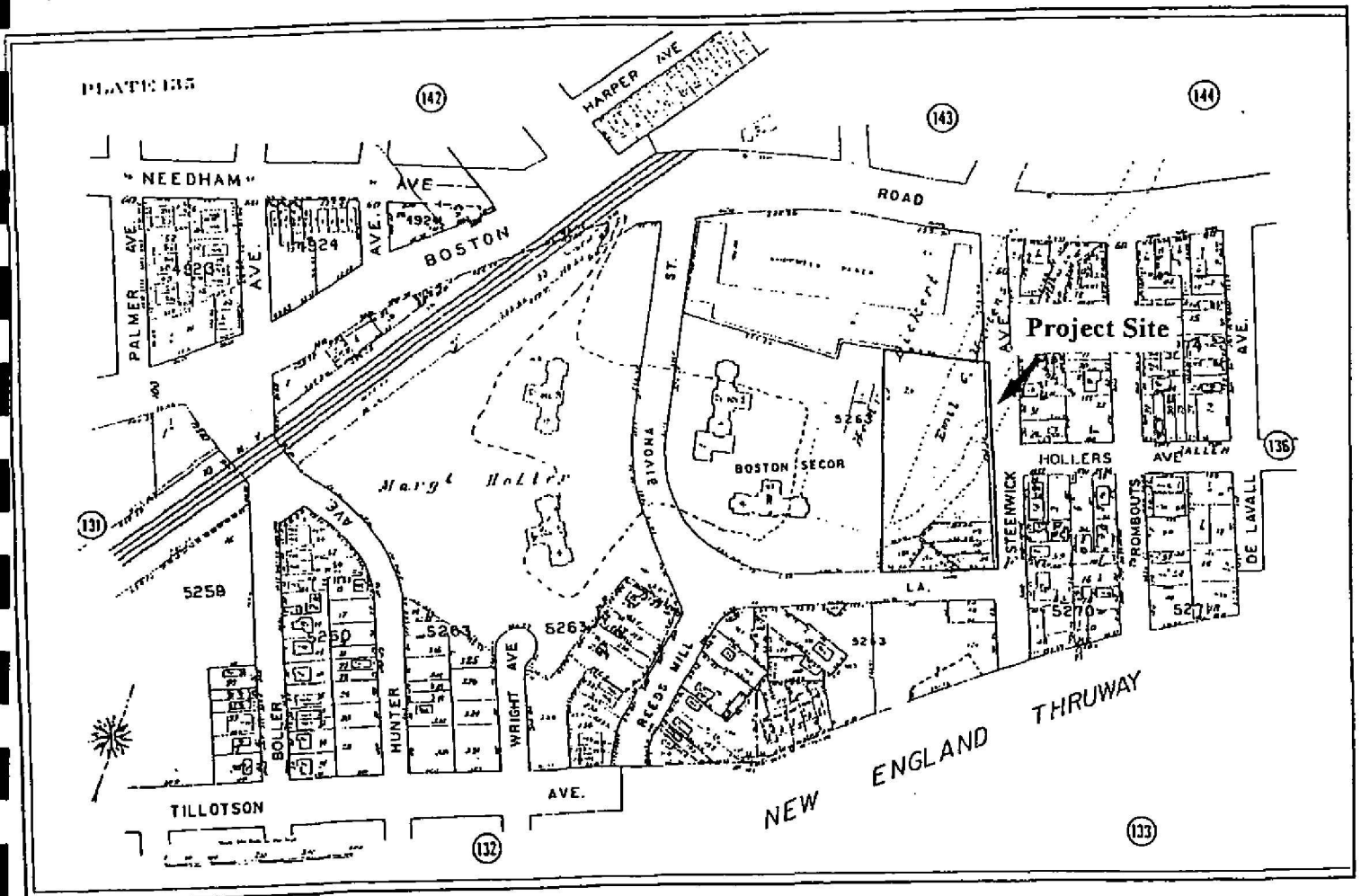


Figure 2. Proposed P.S. 189 Site Location Map showing lots and outlines of former roadbed, amusement park boundaries, and pond.
Source: STV Incorporated, 11/22/00

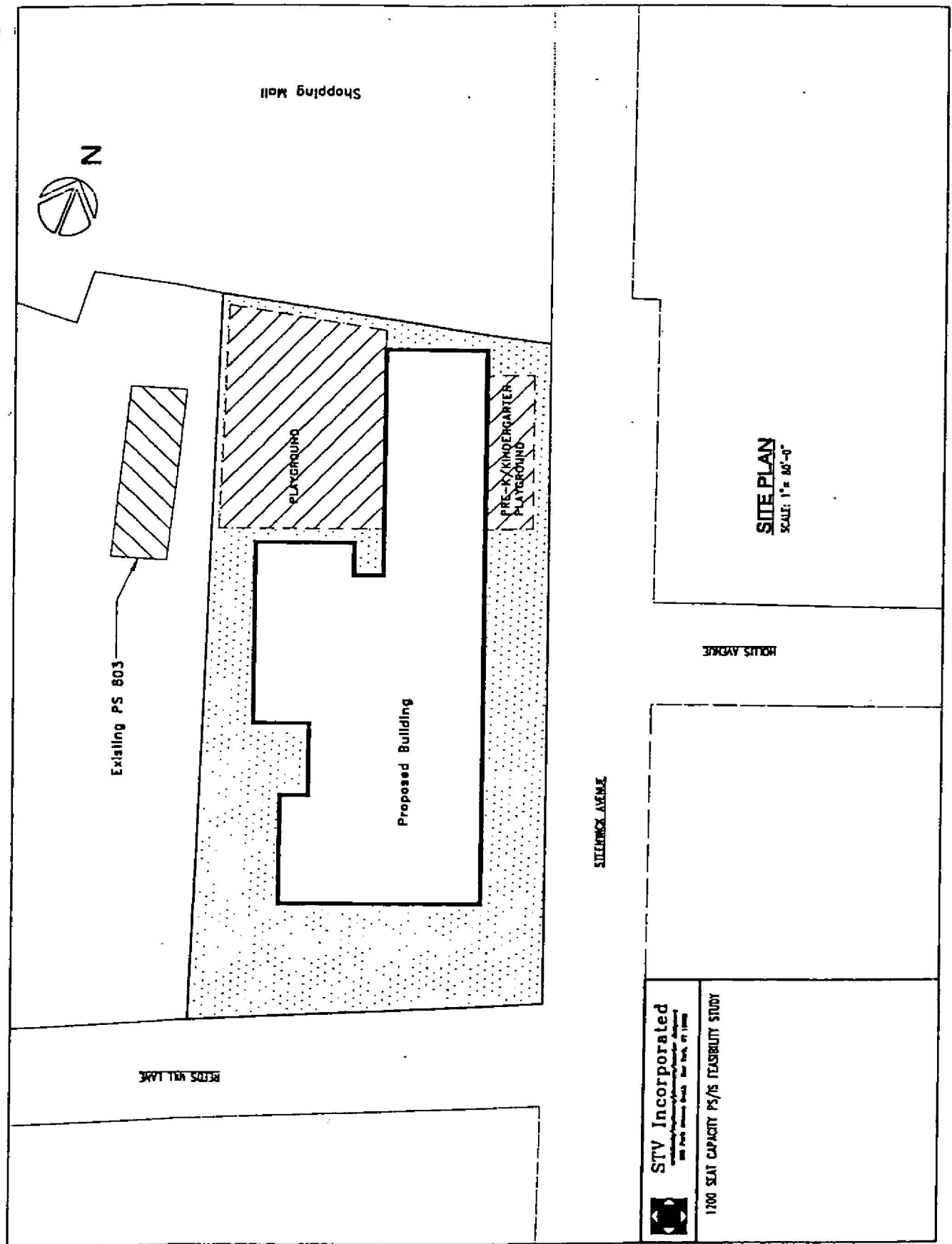


Figure 3. Project Site Plan. Source: STV Incorporated, 11/22/00

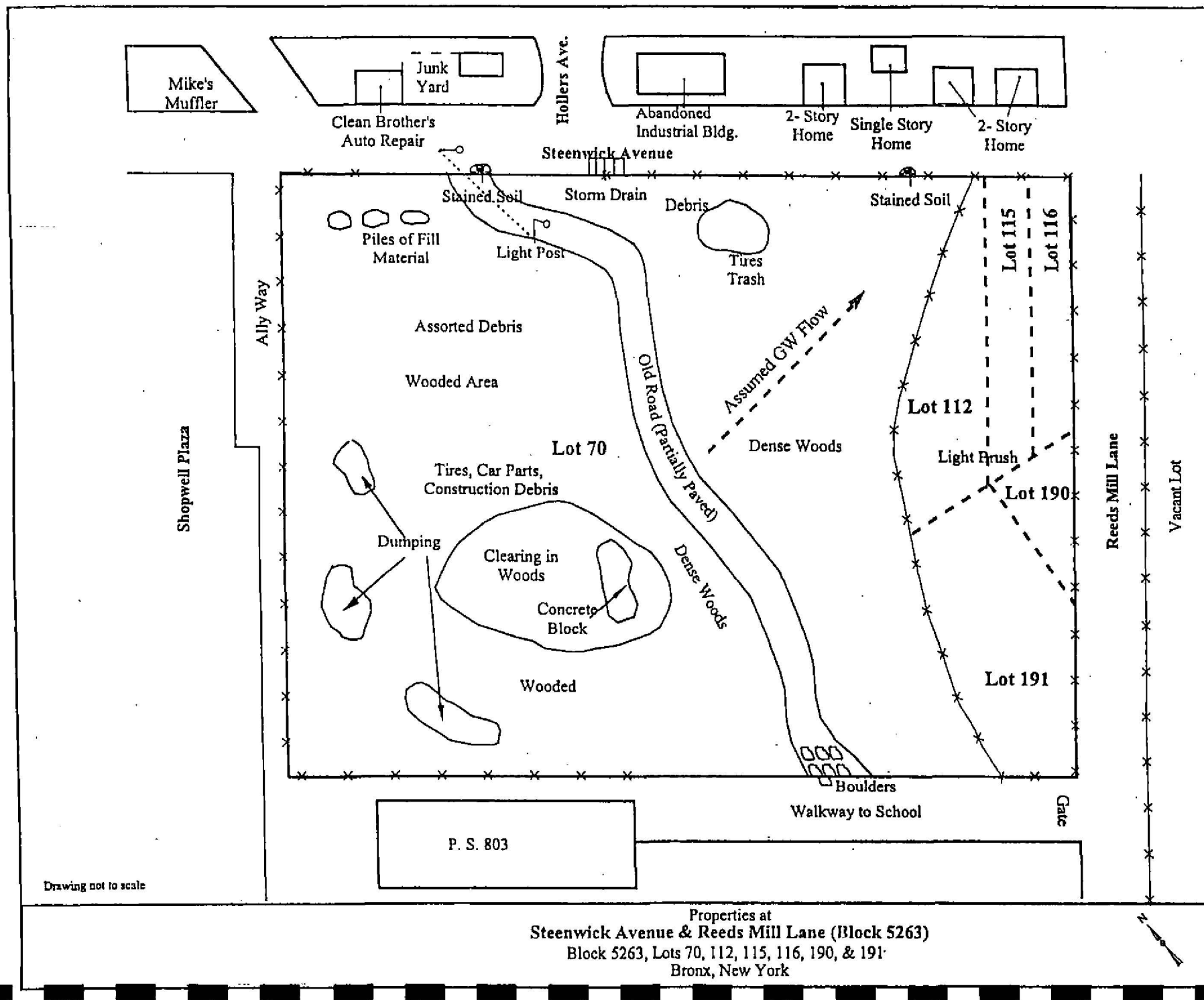


Figure 4. Project site conditions
Source: Camp Dresser & McKee Incorporated, 11/21/00

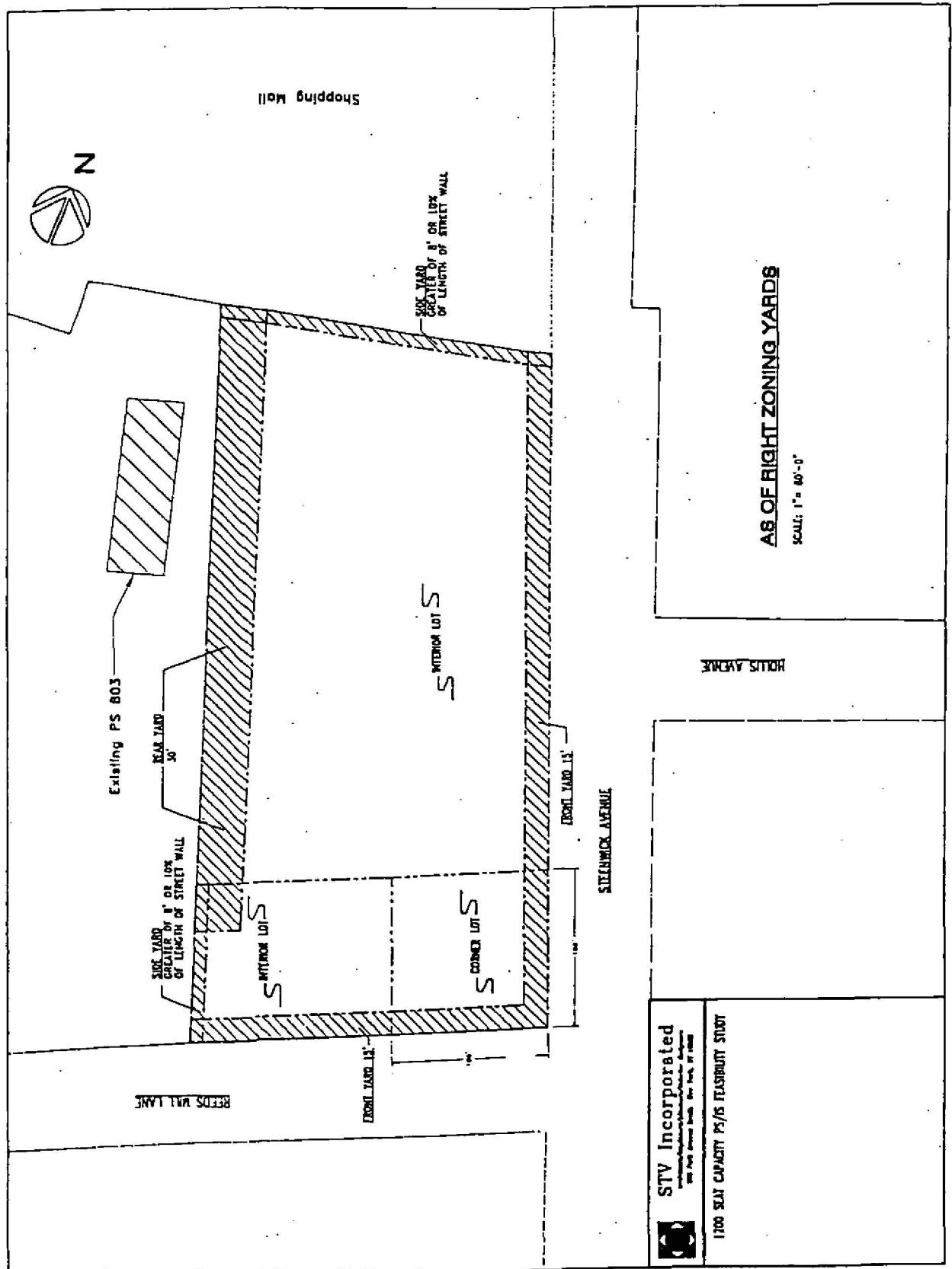


Figure 5. Project site specifics
Source: STV Incorporated, 11/22/00

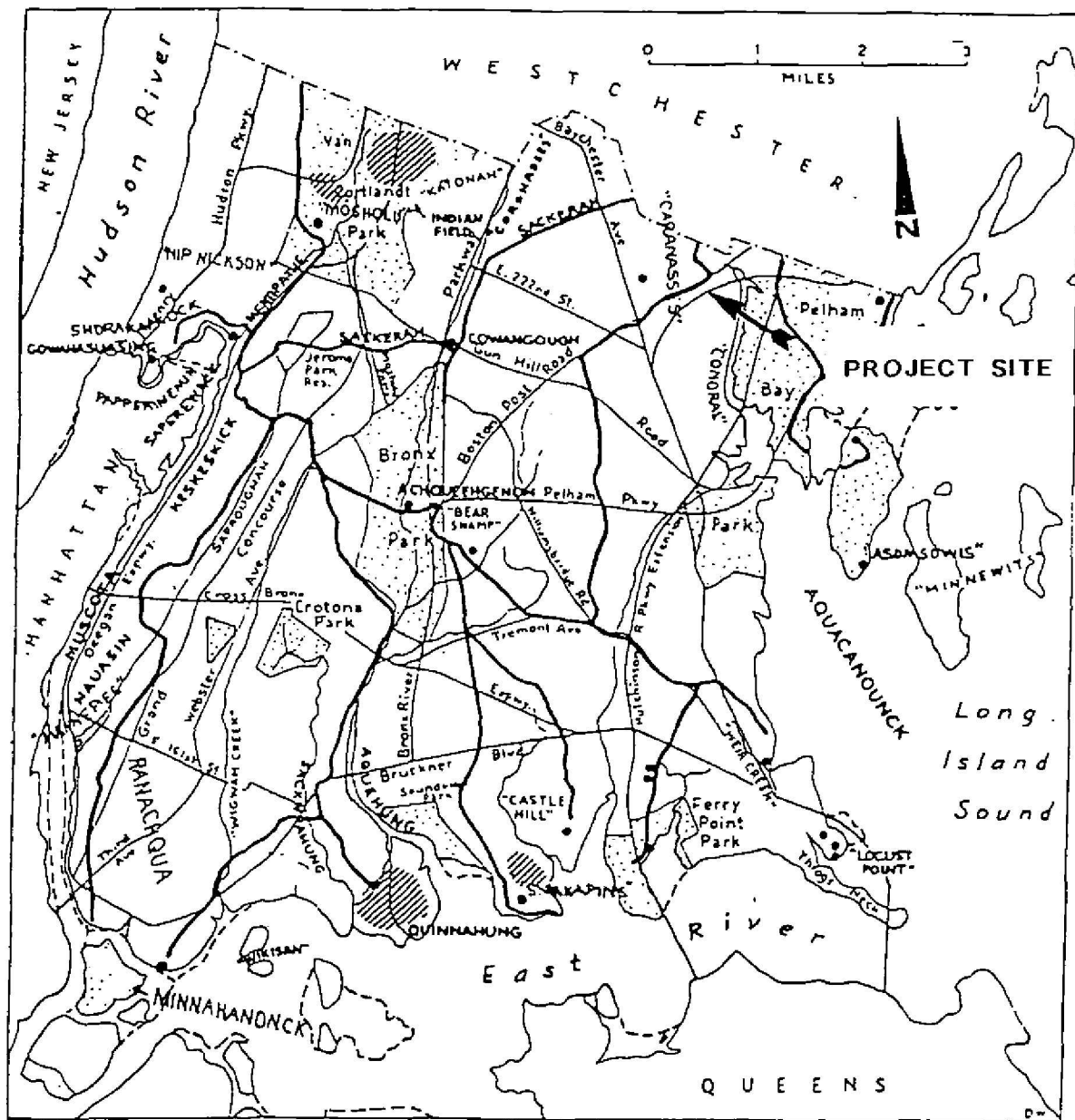


Figure 6. Map of Indian Trails, Planting Fields and Habitation Sites (Grumet 1981: 69)

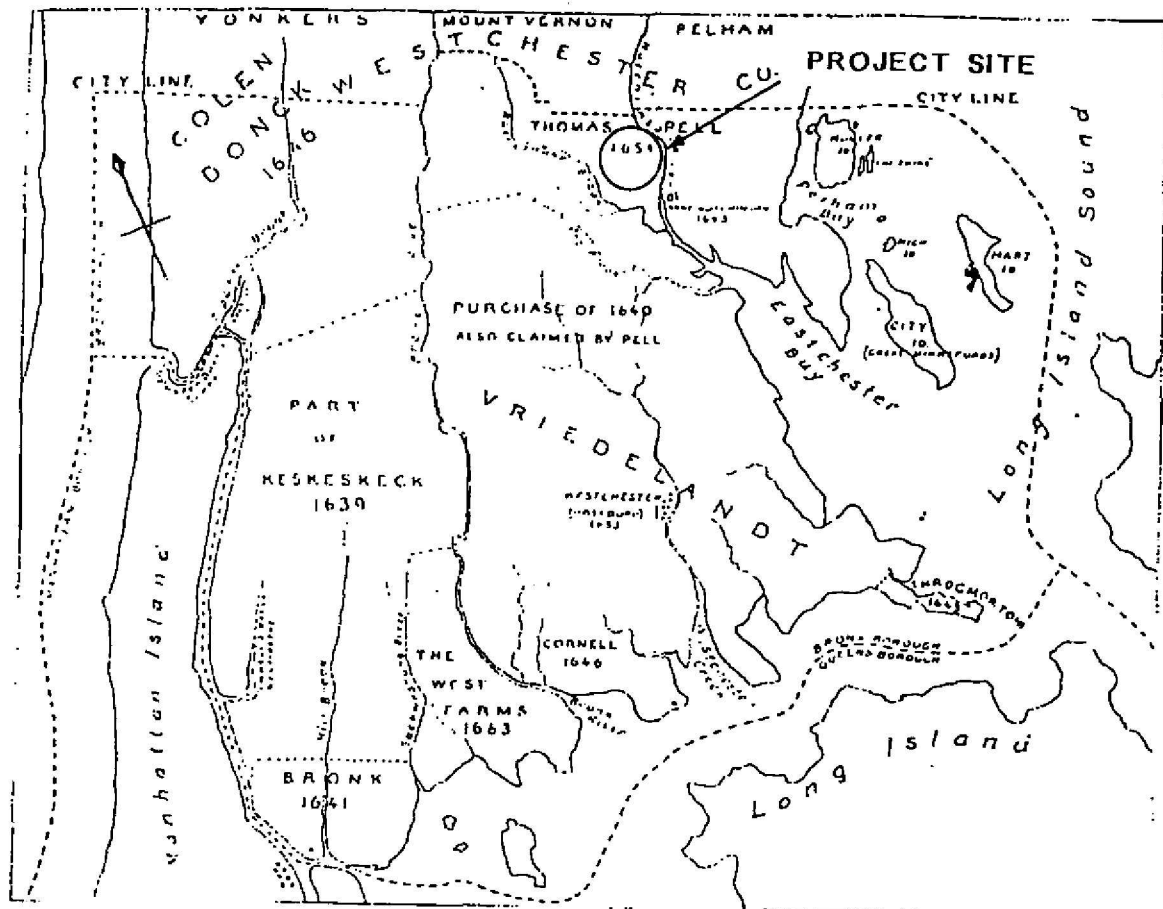
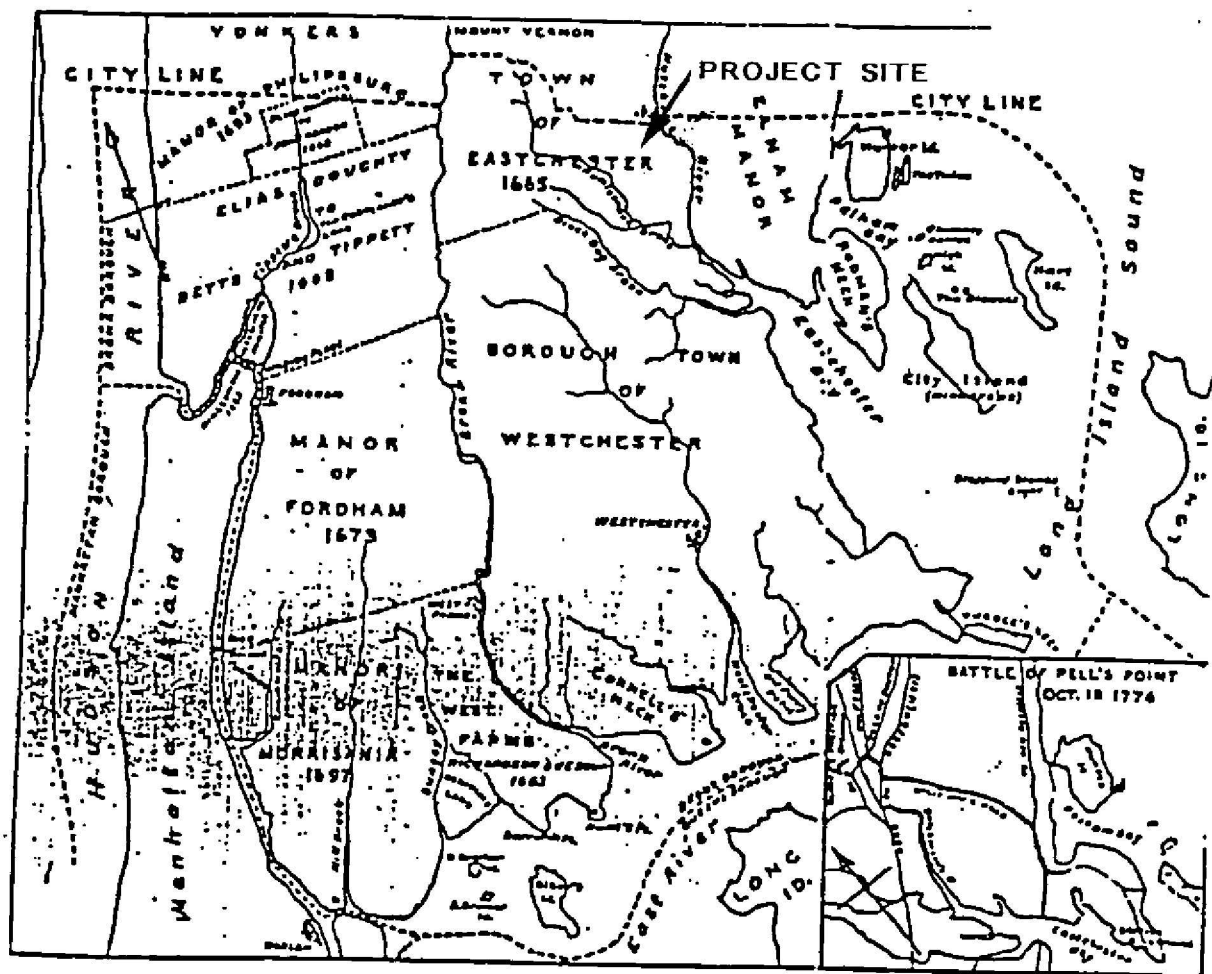


Figure 7. The Bronx at the End of the Dutch Period, c.1664
(Jenkins 1912: opp. 44)



At the End of the English Period. [Insert:] Battle-field of Pell's Point, Oct. 18, 1776.

Figure 8. The Bronx at the End of the English Period, 1776
(Jenkins 1912: opp. 44)



Figure 10. Beers, Atlas of New York City, Town of Eastchester, 1872

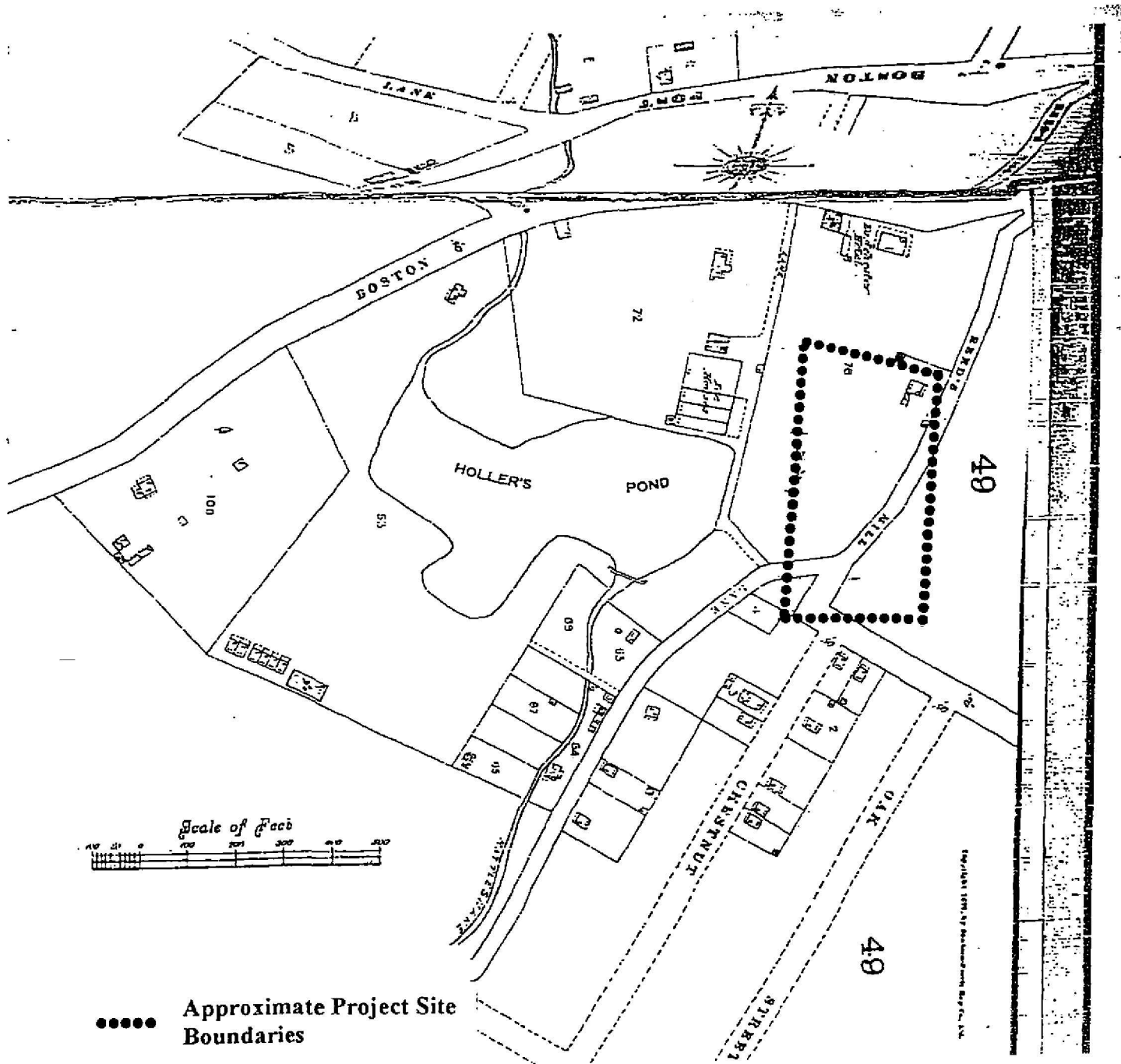


Figure 11. Sanborn, Insurance Map of the City of New York, Borough of the Bronx, 1897
Source: Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., 11/21/00

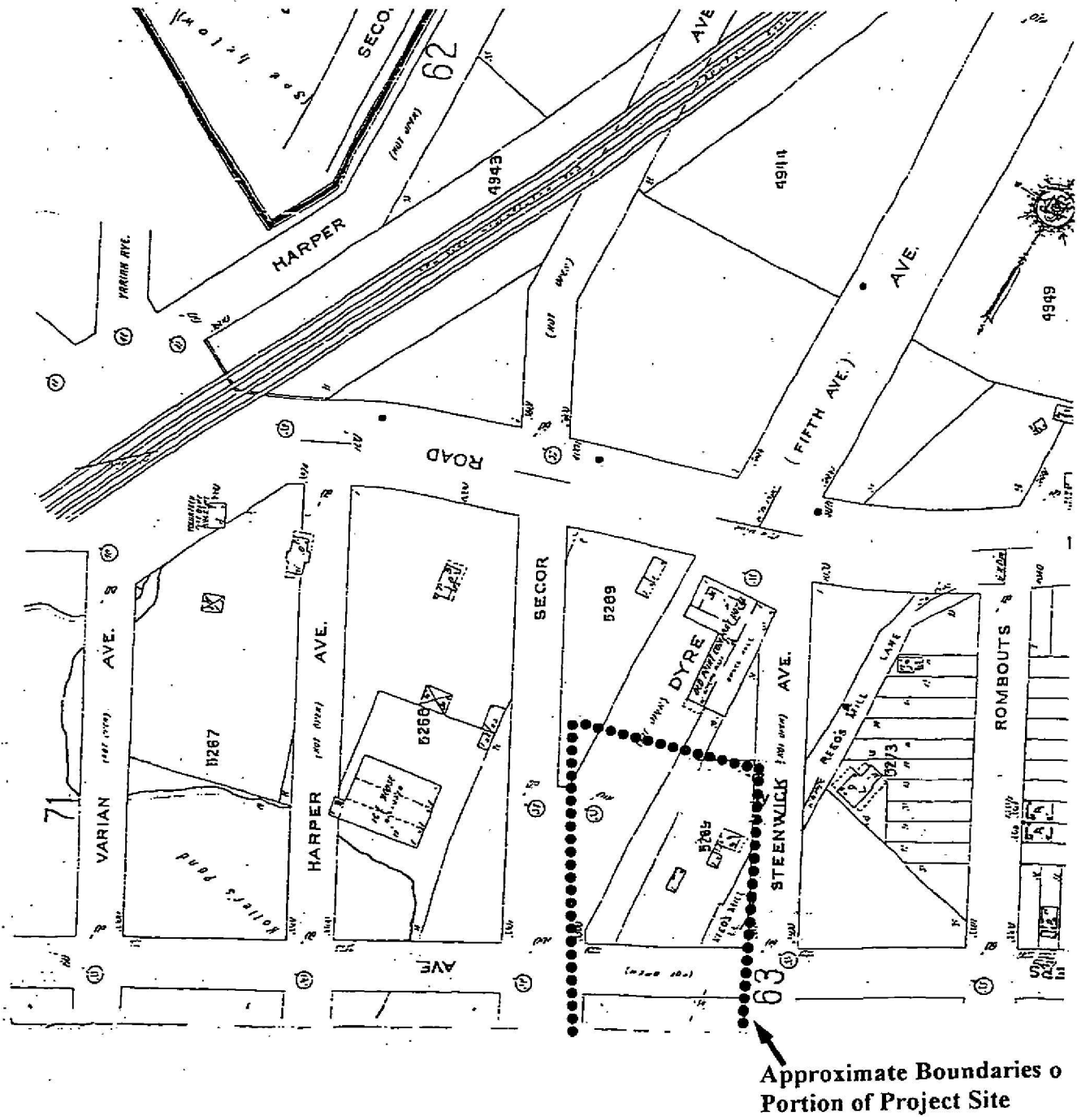


Figure 12. Sanborn, Insurance Map of the City of New York, Borough of the Bronx, 1918
 Source: Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., 11/21/00

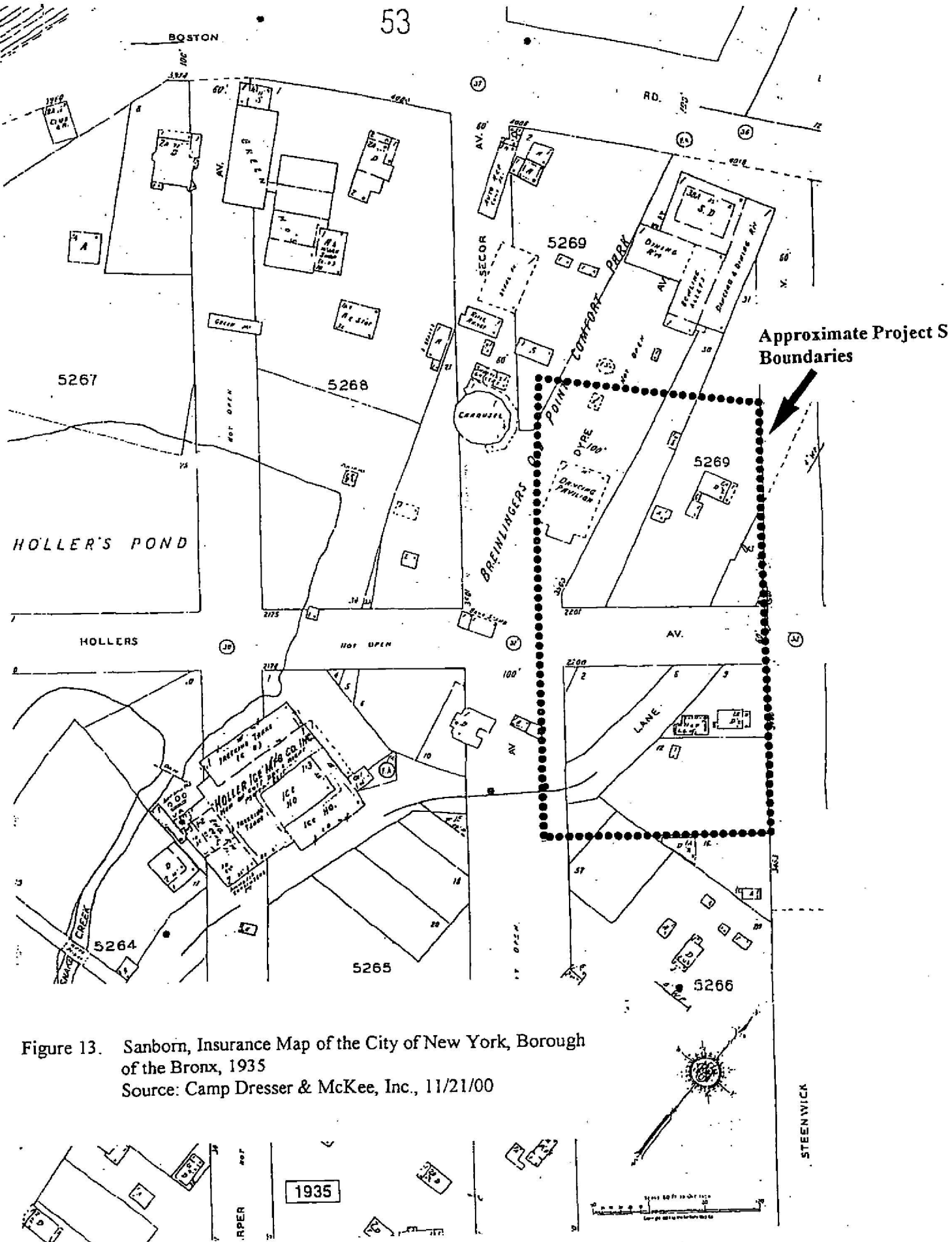
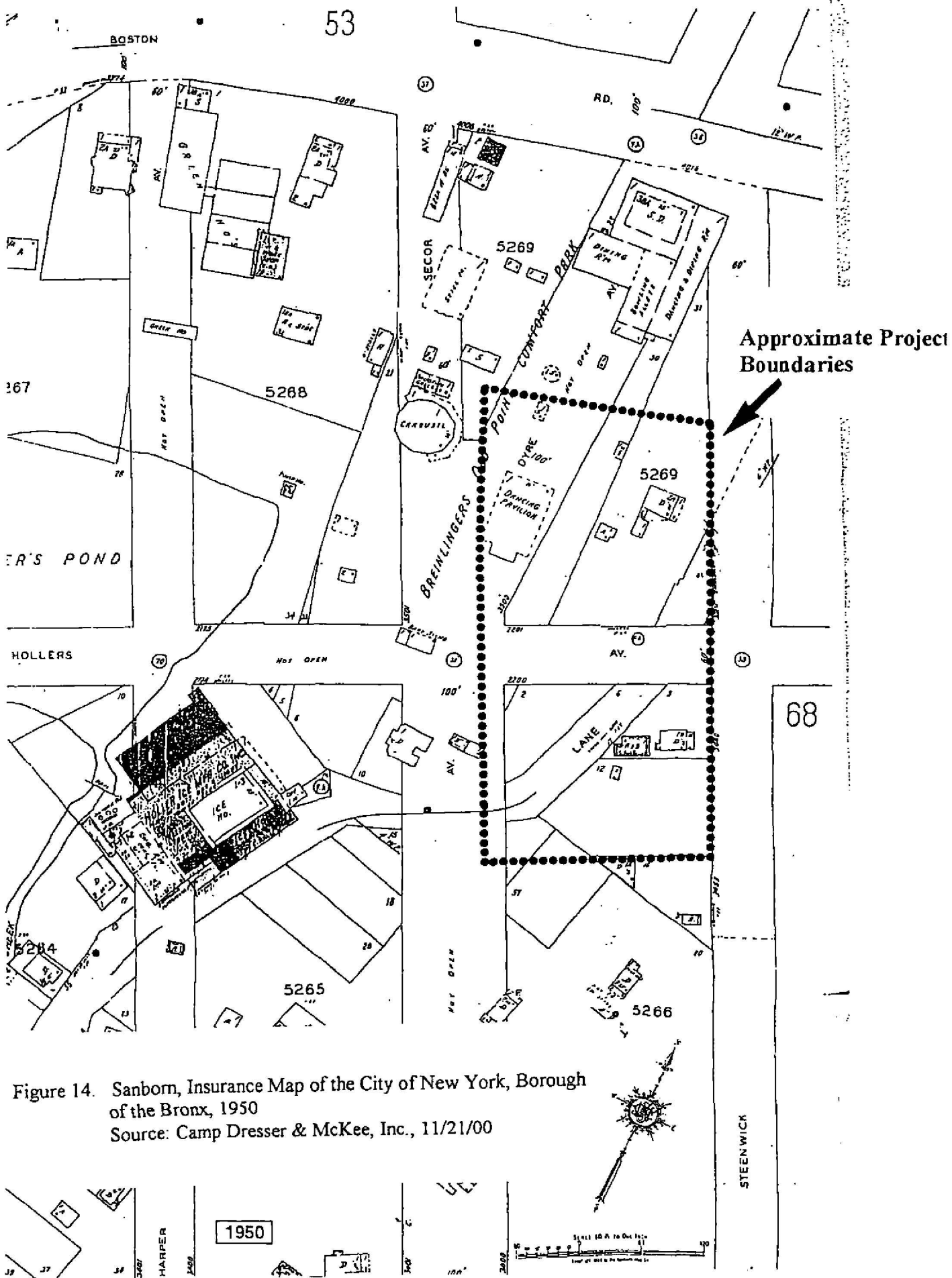


Figure 13. Sanborn, Insurance Map of the City of New York, Borough of the Bronx, 1935
Source: Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., 11/21/00



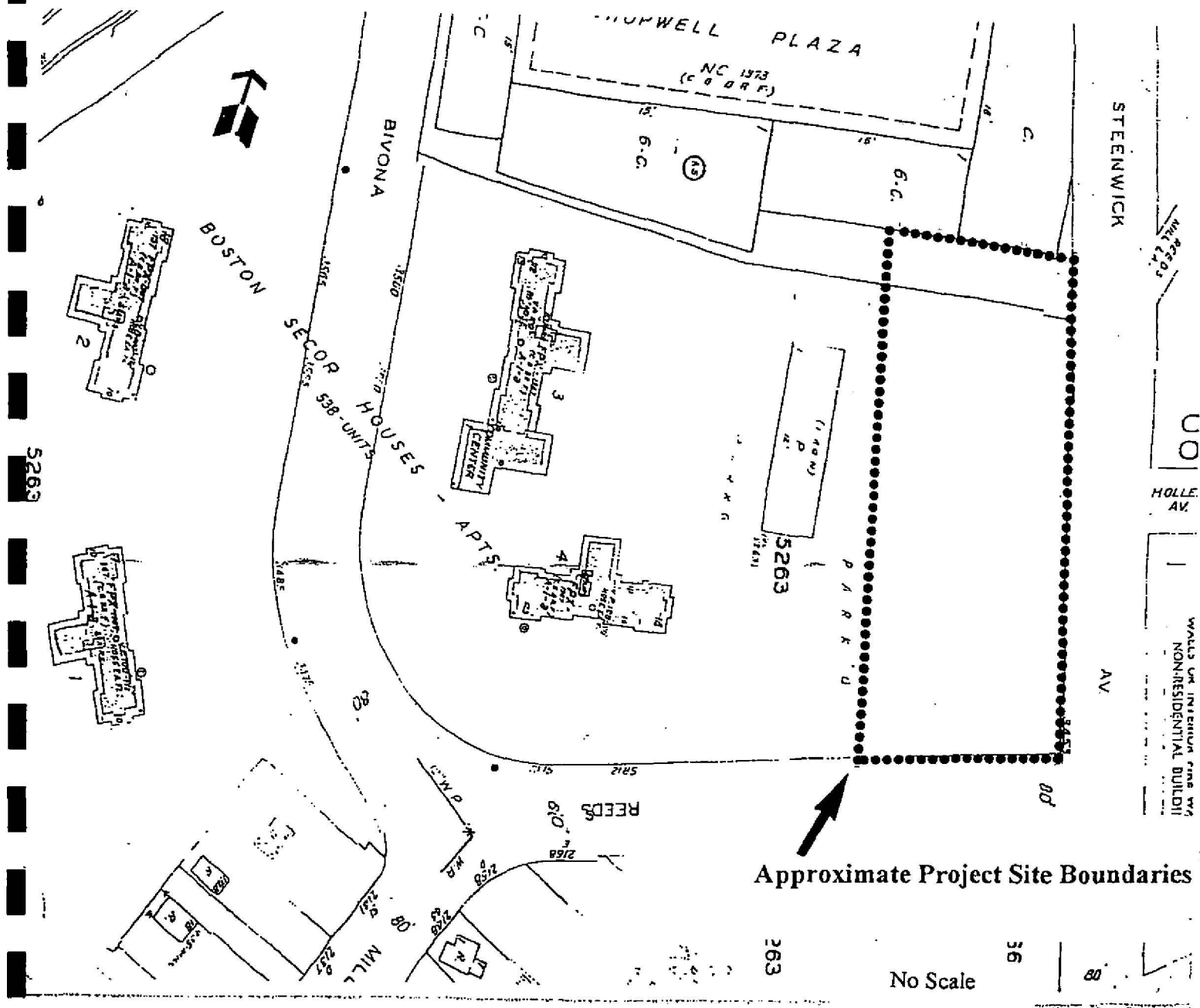


Figure 15. Sanborn, Insurance Map of the City of New York, Borough of the Bronx, 1981
Source: Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., 11/21/00

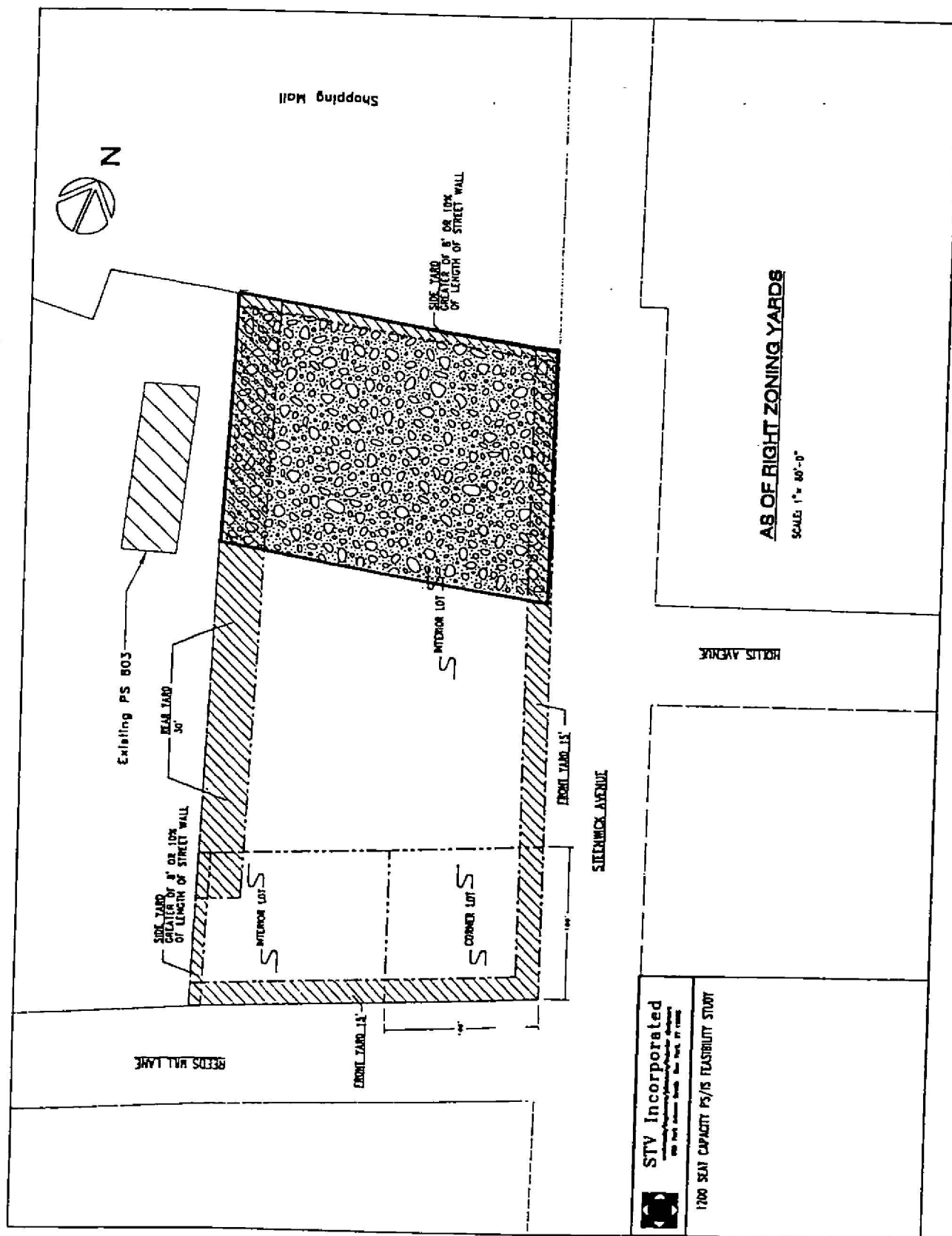
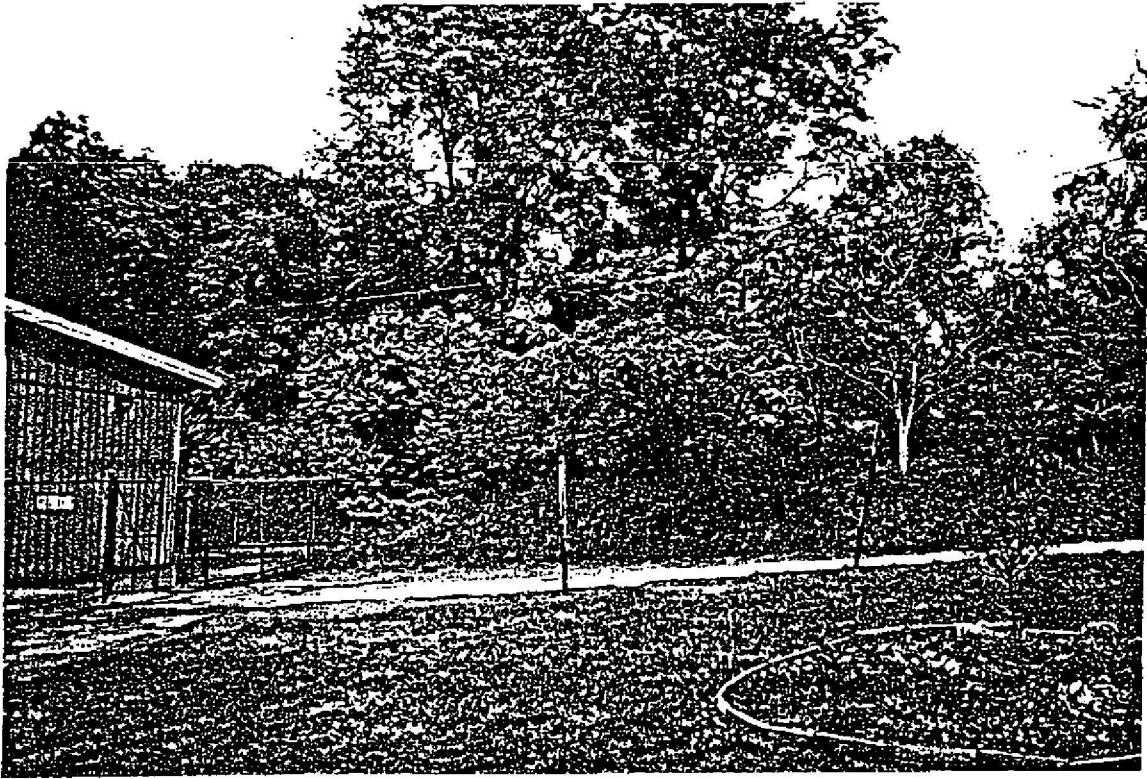


Figure 16.



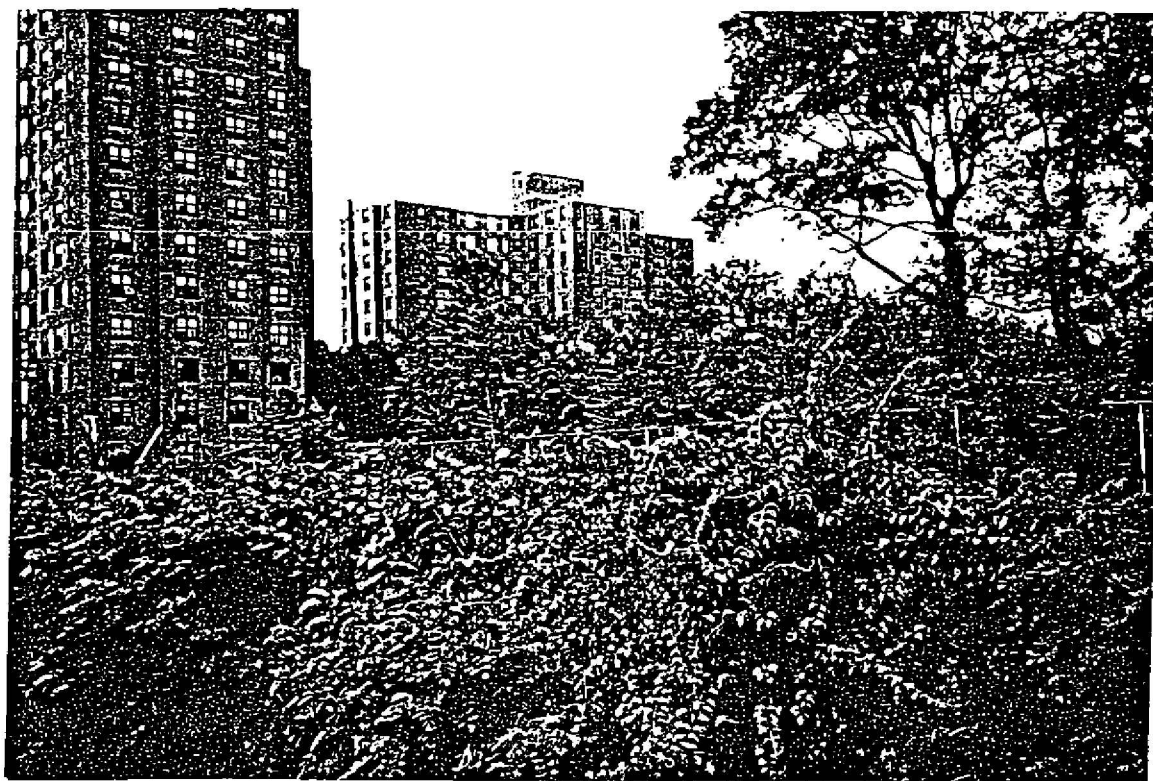
Archaeological Sensitivity, Historic and Prehistoric



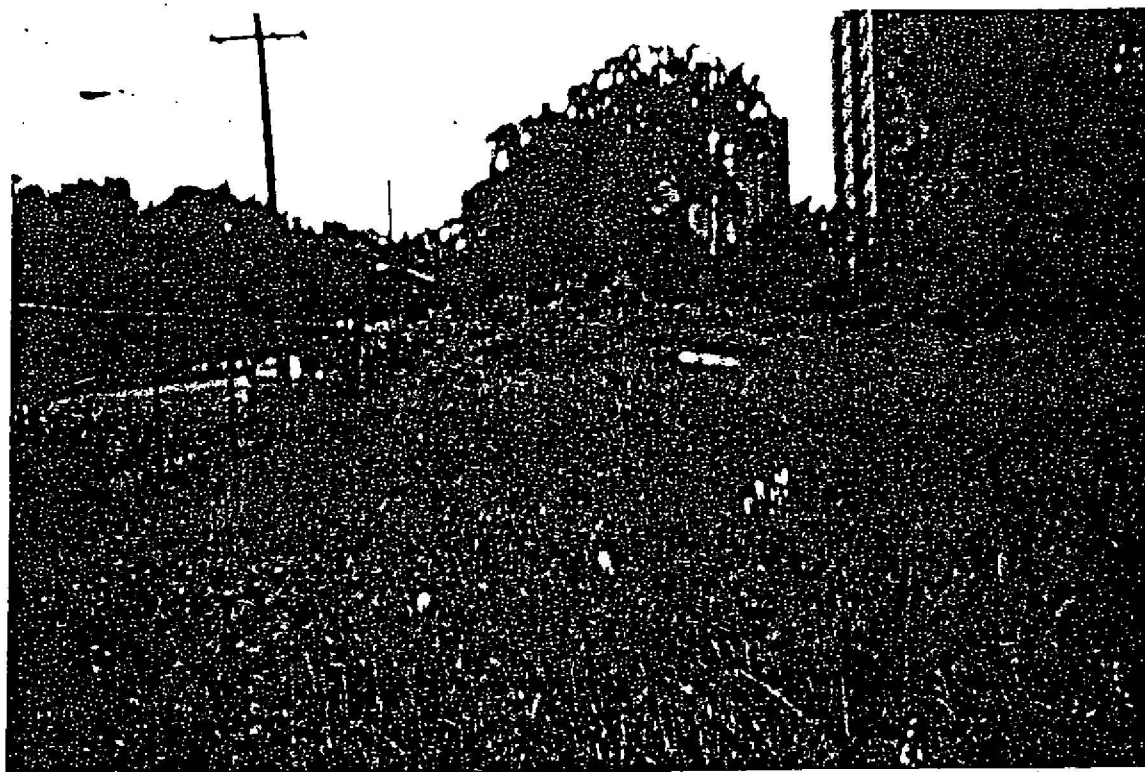
Photograph A. West side of project site, PS 803 building on left. Facing east.



Photograph B. Southeast border of project site along Reeds Mill Lane, Steenwick Avenue in background. Facing east.



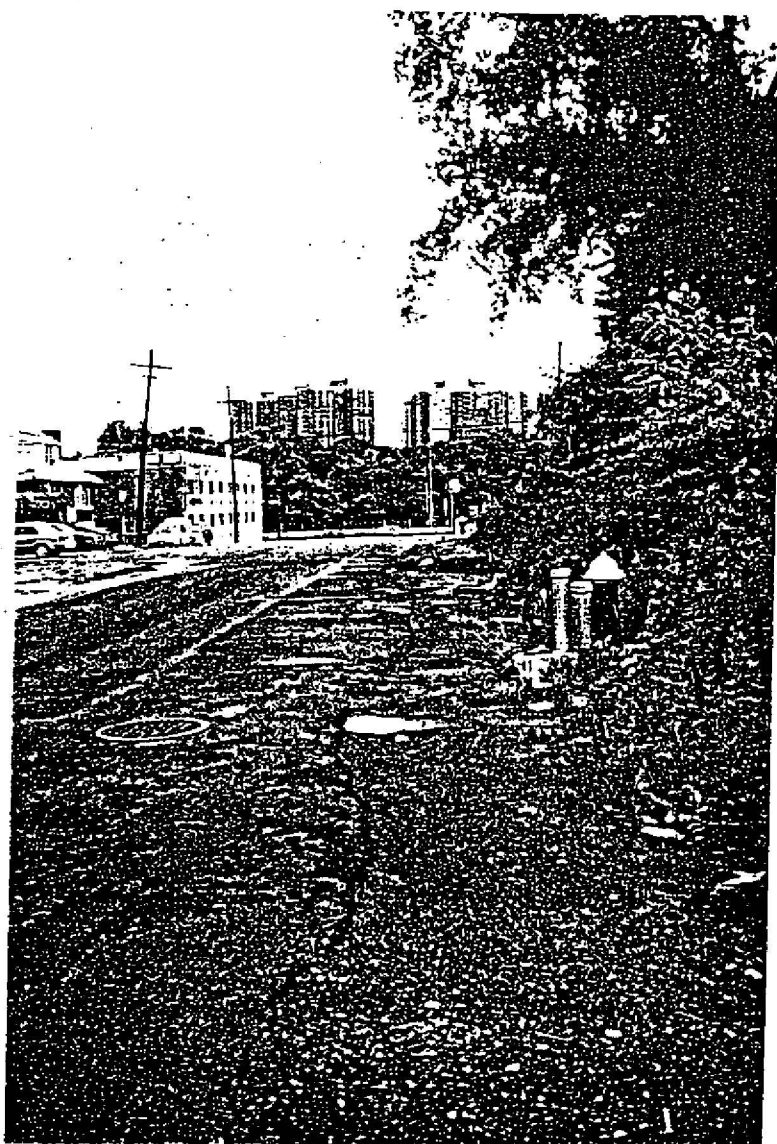
Photograph C. Southwest section of project site, Boston Secor Apartments in background. Facing northwest from Reeds Mill Lane.



Photograph D. Southern section of project site, Reeds Mill Lane on left and Boston Secor Apartments in background. Facing southwest from Steenwick Avenue. Note evidence of grading.



Photograph E. Northeast section of project site, shopping plaza in background adjacent to north side of site. Facing northwest from Steenwick Avenue.



Photograph F. Eastern border of site. Facing south on Steenwick Avenue. Note vacant lot across Reeds Mill Lane in background.



Photograph G. Abandoned buildings adjacent to east side of project site, across Steenwick Avenue. Facing north.



Photograph H. Eastern portion of site, debris visible. Facing west on Steenwick Avenue. Note that area appears to have been scraped.



Photograph I. Northeast section of site, old roadbed visible. Facing southwest from Steenwick Avenue. Note pile of fill material in foreground.




Photograph J. Northeast section of site. Facing northwest from Steenwick Avenue.


Appendix A


Boesch, 1996: Sensitivity Map #3

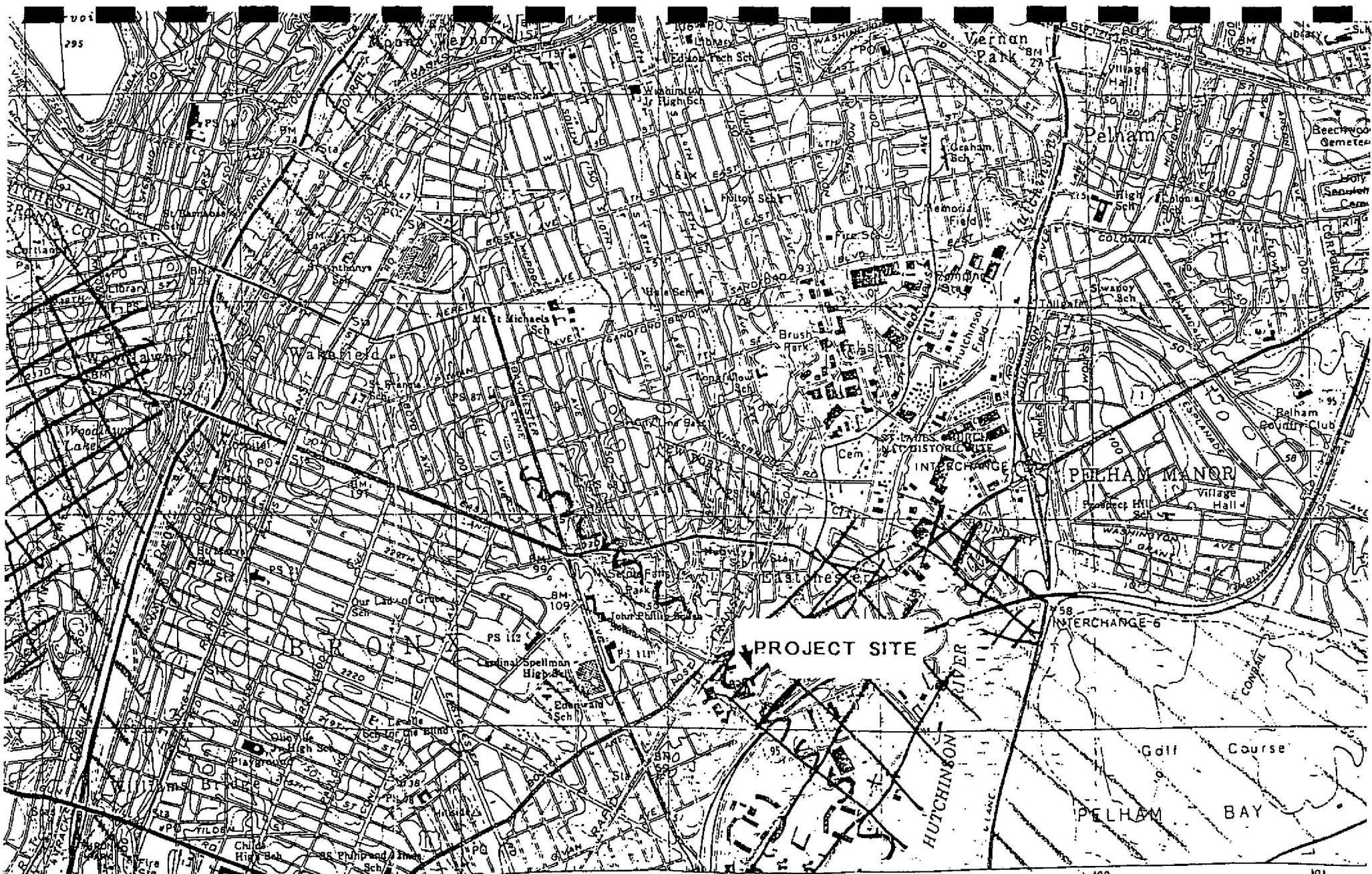
Key:

[unmarked] Low Sensitivity

 Moderate Sensitivity

 High Sensitivity

 Probably Former Locations of Water Courses (Now Filled) from Maps



1:30 '95 1 630 000 FEET (EAST) 197 198 50' 199 100 101

SCALE 1:24 000

0.5 0 KILOMETERS 1

Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Appendix B

Camp, Dresser & McKee, 2000
Site History: Sanborn Insurance Maps

PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT
Steenwick Avenue & Reeds Mill Lane
Bronx, New York

YEARS	HISTORICAL USES		SOURCE(S)	COMMENTS
	Site	Surrounding Property		
1897	Mostly undeveloped One small dwelling is on site.	Commercial, small industrial use and little residential. Eastchester Hotel to the north. Ice Houses to the west.	Sanborn Maps	
1918	Small additions to existing dwelling.	The hotel to the north is expanded and is called Old Point Comfort Hotel. Ice Houses still exists. Dwellings exist across Reeds Mill Lane to the east of the Site.	Sanborn Maps	No coverage to the south. Southern portion of the site is cut off.
1935	Small dwelling does not change. The dancing pavilion and band stand of the Breinlinger's Old Point Comfort Park occupies the south west portion of the Site. Two dwellings are now across Reeds Mill Lane at the south east portion of the Site.	The hotel to the north is now a part of the amusement park, which includes a carousel, shooting galleries, bowling allies and dining rooms. To the northwest of the park is an auto repair shop. The Ice Houses building no longer exist. To the west of the Site is the Holler Ice Manufacturing Company Inc. Small dwelling are present to the south of the Site.	Sanborn Maps	No coverage to the east of the Site.
1950	The Site appears similar to 1935.	The surrounding property appears similar to 1935	Sanborn Maps	No coverage to the east of the Site.
1966	The Site is mostly undeveloped. The small structures that appeared on the southeastern corner of the Site are no longer present.	The area to the north appears less developed than the previous year. The other areas around the Site appear similar to the previous year.	Aerial Photograph	
1975	The Site is undeveloped and similar to the previous year. The road around the Site has been developed.	A shopping plaza is present to the north of the Site and the apartment complex and school building is present to the west.	Aerial Photograph	

PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT
Steenwick Avenue & Reeds Mill Lane
Bronx, New York

YEARS	HISTORICAL USES		SOURCES	COMMENTS
	Site	Surrounding Property		
1981	Reeds Mill Lane no longer runs through the Site. The site is undeveloped.	Shopwell Plaza borders the Site to the north, and a public building is directly to the west. Boston Secor Apartment Complex is to the west of the public building. A vacant lot exists to the south of the site across Reeds Mill Lane.	Sanborn Maps	No coverage to the east of the Site.
1991-1996	The Site appears similar to 1981.	The surrounding property appears similar to 1981.	Sanborn Maps & Aerial Photograph	No coverage to the east of the Site.
2000	There are no structures on the Site. Debris is found scattered throughout the Site, mostly concentrated in the northern portion of the Site. Most of the Site is wooded with a few cleared areas.	Auto repair shops are situated to the northeast of the Site, opposite Steenwick Ave., along with several homes. Shopwell Plaza is situated to the northwest of the Site; P.S. 803 lies to the southwest, and a vacant lot lies to the east of the Site, across from Reeds Mill Lane.	Site Visit	