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**Phase IA Cultural Resources Survey
The Centre at West Shore Development
Staten Island, Richmond County,
New York**

November 1995

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Cultural Resources Consultants**

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**Phase IA Cultural Resources Survey
The Centre at West Shore Development
Staten Island, Richmond County,
New York**

By

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CEQR Review Number: 95-DCP-061-R

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Date: November 27, 1995

SECTION 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From September through November of 1995, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. of Cranbury, New Jersey, conducted a Phase IA cultural resources survey for the proposed Centre at West Shore development project in Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. The proposed development covers a parcel approximately 21 acres in size lying between Arthur Kill Road and the West Shore Expressway (U.S. Route 440), south of Bloomingdale Road and north of the Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve.

The project area was visually inspected and background map and literature research was carried out. No known prehistoric resources were located within the project area although a moderate to high potential for most of the project area is indicated. No longer extant historical structures dating to the late nineteenth century were located in the project area indicating that the potential for historic period resources is high. One standing historic structure in the project area will not be physically impacted by the proposed development.

Map research and visual inspection indicate only low to moderate levels of disturbance across the site with the highest levels adjacent to Arthur Kill Road and the West Shore Expressway. However, extensive areas of surficial dumping exist in all sections of the project area.

Extensive areal testing is recommended for the project area with closer interval testing in the areas of the former locations of the historic structures.

Copies of this report and field and research notes, photographs and project maps are on file at the offices of Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.

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SECTION 4.0 INTRODUCTION

The following report presents the results of a Phase IA cultural resources survey of The Centre at West Shore property, southwest of Rossville, Staten Island, Richmond County, New York (Figure 1). The proposed commercial development by Yassky Properties, includes store and office construction with associated landscaping and parking lot construction.

The proposed development covers a trapezoid-shaped parcel approximately 21 acres in size lying between Arthur Kill Road and the West Shore Expressway (U.S. Route 440), south of Bloomingdale Road and north of the Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve (Figure 2). The parcel consists of four lots of varying sizes (Block 7100, Lots 21 and 28, and Block 7105, Lots 506 and 526) (Figure 3).

The Phase IA cultural resources survey was conducted by Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc. of Cranbury, New Jersey for Yassky Properties, c/o Rampulla Associates Architects of Staten Island, New York. The survey was required as part of the Targeted Environmental Impact Statement in connection with zoning change application filed with the New York City Department of City Planning.

The Phase IA cultural resources survey was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. The survey consisted of background and historical research, a site visit, and the assessment of archaeological potential.

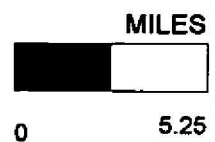


Figure 1:

1988 American Automobile Association, New York road map. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

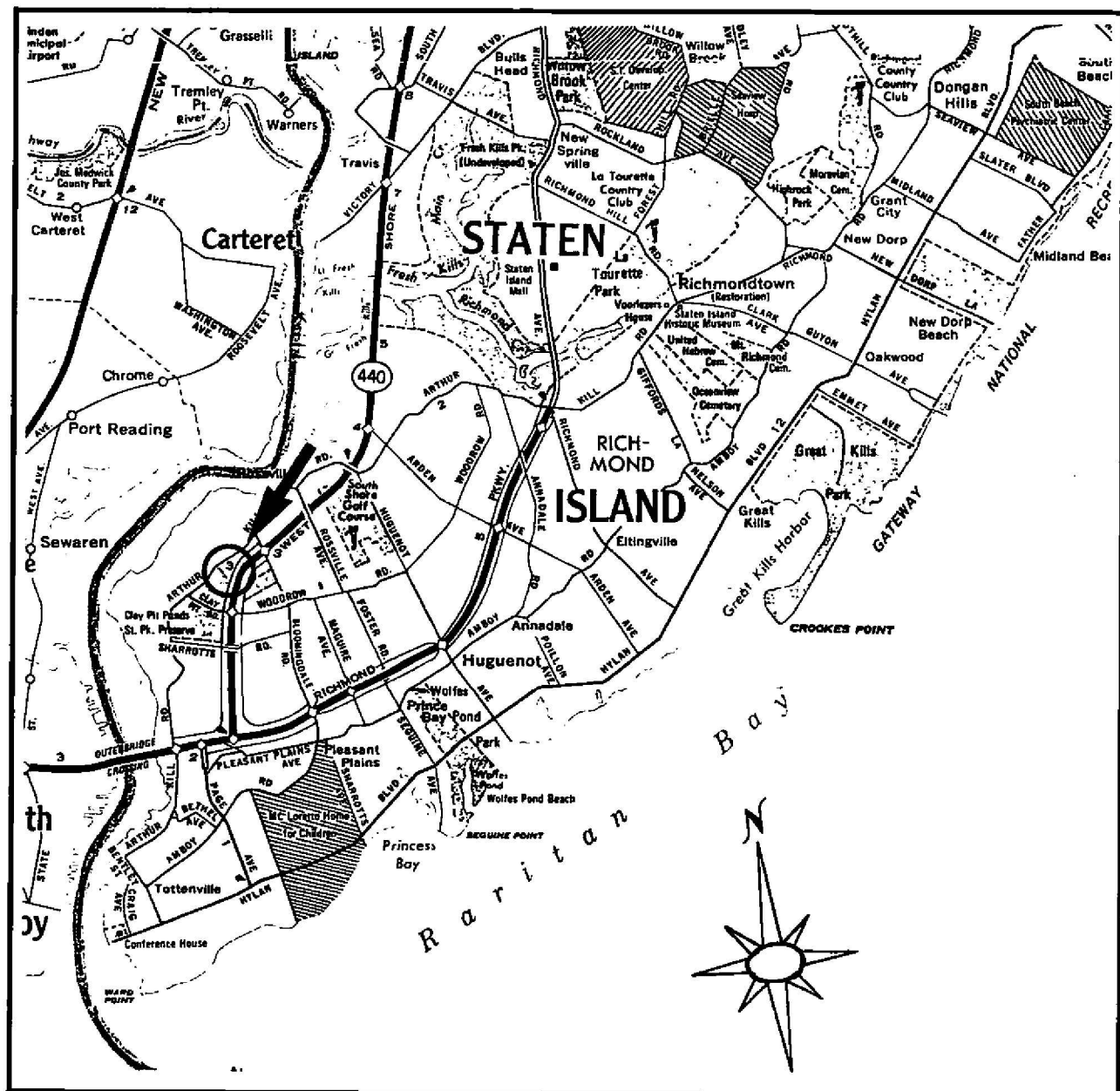


Figure 2:

1988 American Automobile Association, New York City and Vicinity road map. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

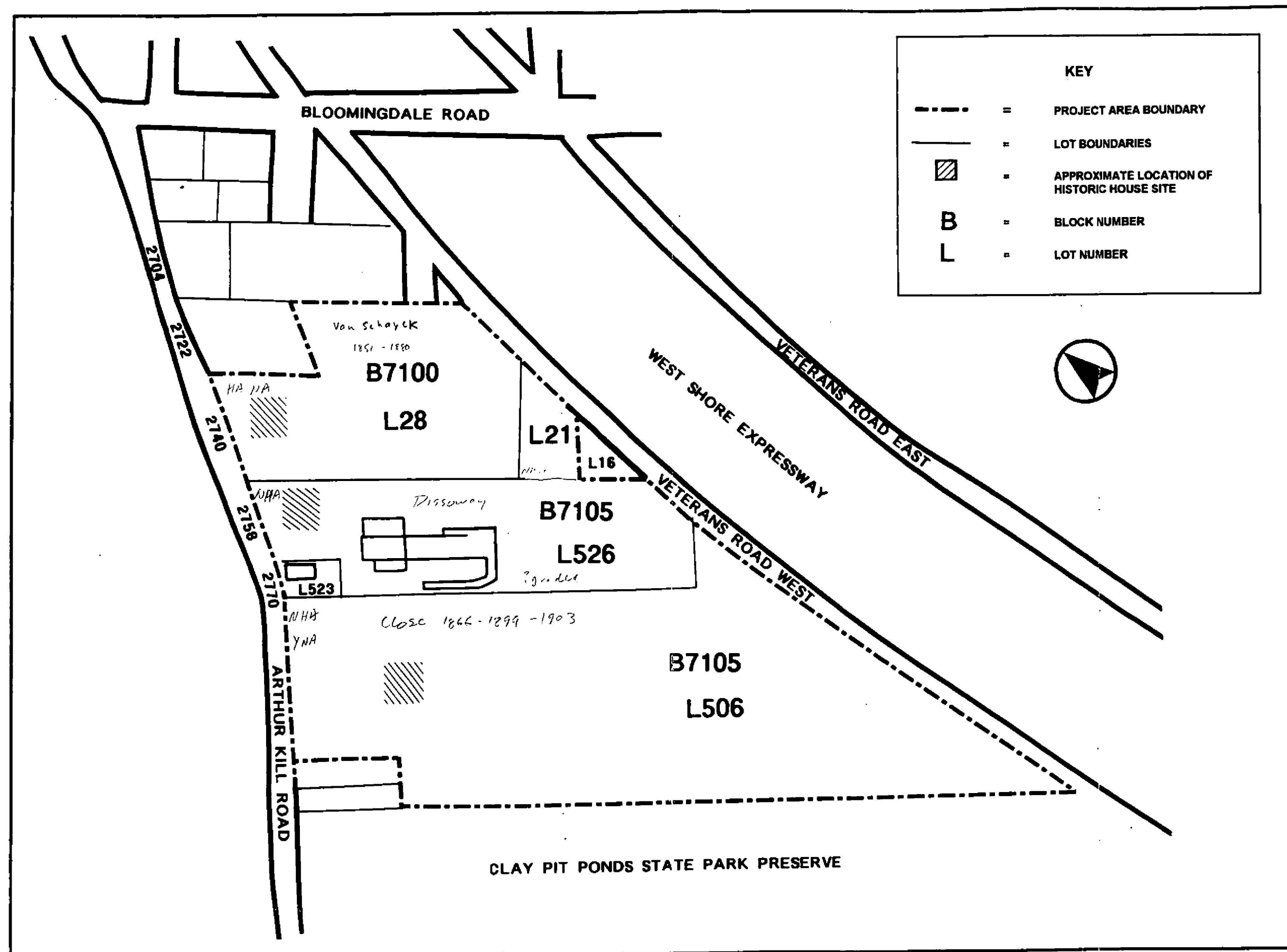


Figure 3: Project base map.

SECTION 5.0 PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The project area lies in southwestern Staten Island, between the villages of Rossville and Charleston (Figure 4). It consists of four lightly developed, mostly wooded lots lying on a north-northwesterly facing slope of less than 5% at the northwestern end of a long glacial ridge that runs northeast-southwest across the island from Stapleton to Tottenville marking the farthest glacial advance (Geismar 1985:12-13) (Photo Plate 1). Staten Island lies at the boundary of the Northern Piedmont lowland, lying to the northwest, and the coastal plain, lying to the southeast with the dividing line running across the island in a northeast-southwest direction (Ritchie 1980) (Figure 5).

The underlying bedrock of Staten Island consists of Lower Paleozoic (Cambrian) schists, gneisses, and serpentinite overlain by Triassic red shales and sandstone with diabase intrusions. In the east and south, the Cretaceous Raritan formation consists of sands, silts and clay, all covered by Wisconsin drift (Geismar 1985:12-13; Broughton 1962 in Ritchie and Funk 1971:53). The clays of the Raritan formation were the focus of mining activity at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve south of the project area (Okulewicz 1990:49-53).

The soils are derived from glacio-fluvial deposits. There is an overlying humus and leaf litter layer generally considered to be recent in origin (Behm 1980 8-9). Tree theft pits, from which small trees (probably dogwoods and oaks) have been removed on a regular basis, are found in the southeastern corner of project area and provide a view of local soil stratigraphy. The pits, often over one meter in diameter and almost a meter deep, show a continuous range of weathering. The soil profile from the wall of one these tree theft pits was recorded. The pit, approximately 2 feet deep by 3.5 feet wide, showed three inches of black (7.5YR 2.5/1) sandy humus (organic soil and leaf mold) over a shallow (7.5 inches) developing A-horizon of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) loamy sand lying directly on a C-horizon of Pleistocene glacio-fluvial sands, strong brown (7.5YR 4/6) in color.

The undeveloped lots in and adjacent to the project area are covered by second growth woodlands, consisting of scrub and mixed, primarily oak, deciduous forest vegetation (Geismar 1985:73). Two oak forest associations are present in southwestern Staten Island: Oak Woodland with beech and hickory in mesic environments, and an Oak Barrens (also called little Pine barrens) in xeric uplands with Pine Barrens type vegetation on well-drained sands (Buegler and Parisio 1982:11, 14; Behm 1980:12; Yamin and Pickman 1986a). Both forest associations can be seen in the project area. The southern section of the project area consists of sandy uplands with Oak Barrens vegetation and the

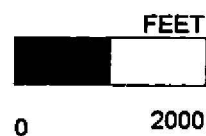
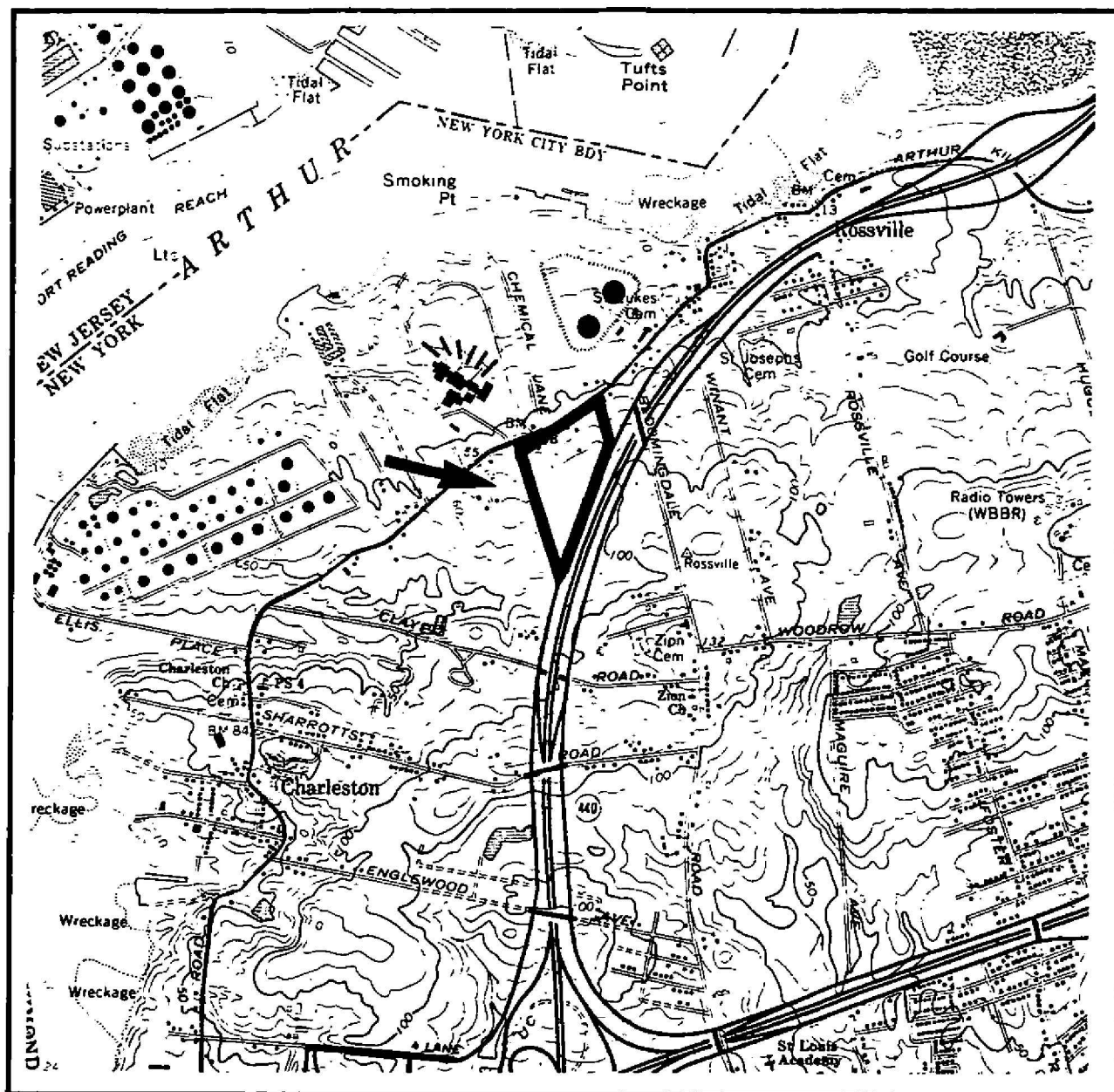


Figure 4:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle: Arthur Kill, N.Y.-N.J. 1966 (photorevised 1981). Arrow indicates the location of the project area.



Photo Plate 1:

View looking northeast at #2722 Arthur Kill Road showing typical slope of ground on west side of project area.

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Charles Pennington

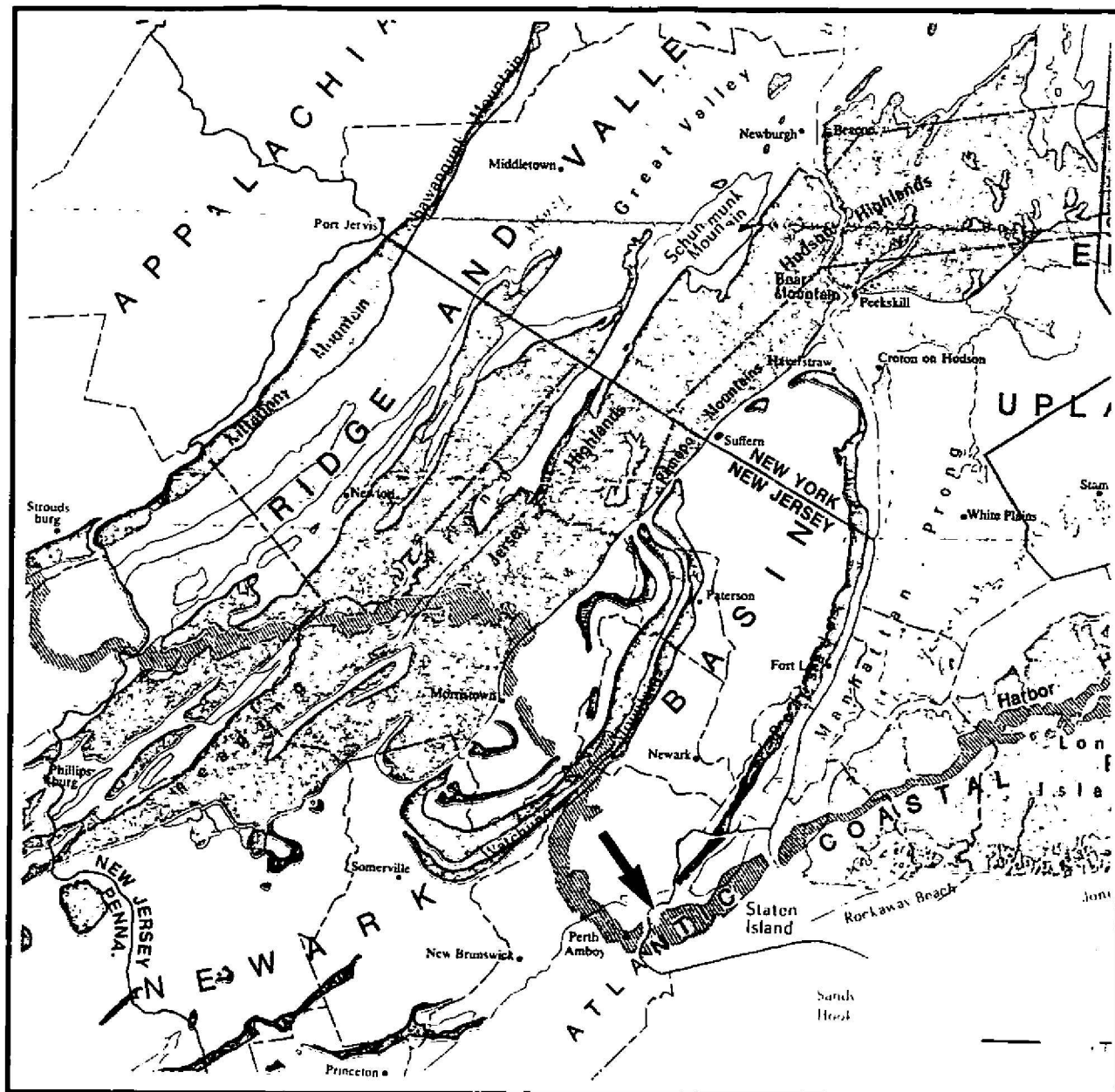


Figure 5:

Physiographic Provinces of New York (taken from The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference 1984). Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

northern and western section consists of shallow, north-facing slopes containing a mature mesic oak forest.

This once rural area, originally occupied for timber and marsh resources, has been undergoing much modern change and development (Geismar 1985:12-13). The area shows mixed residential and light industrial usage. The undeveloped portions of the property contain dense scrub and forest vegetation providing poor visibility across the project area. Stands of phragmites along the eastern edge of the project area are indicative of ephemeral or former catch basins.

There are no visible indications of former structures on the property and the only markers of former land usage are old fence lines. Current usage of the unoccupied portions of the project area are indicated by the tree removal pits, sand roads, spoil piles and extensive areas of dumping. The latter exist in all portions of the project area (Photo Plates 2 and 3). The northern end of Veterans Road has remains of asphalt paving extending into the project area. Stabilization and extension of Veterans Road included the filling of wetlands, and spoil piles associated with U.S. Route 440 highway construction in the adjacent Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve (Yamin and Pickman 1986a and 1986b).

Aerial photos from the mid-1970's in the Smoking Point File at Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences show similar site conditions, a mostly wooded parcel with sand roads and a formerly cleared patch with low scrub along the western boundary adjacent to Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve. Scrub vegetation is also seen in the northeast section of the parcel. The 1913 topographic map of the Borough of Richmond (Sheet 74) also shows the parcel as predominantly wooded and crossed by unimproved roads. The scale of the sheets allows several streams and small drainages in the southern and western portions of the project area to be seen including one stream flowing from the parcel into the area of Chemical Lane where it is bordered by three known prehistoric sites.



Photo Plate 2:

View looking northwest at dirt access road near southern boundary of project area.

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Mary Dieter



Photo Plate 3:

View looking northeast along Veteran's Road West.

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Mary Dieter

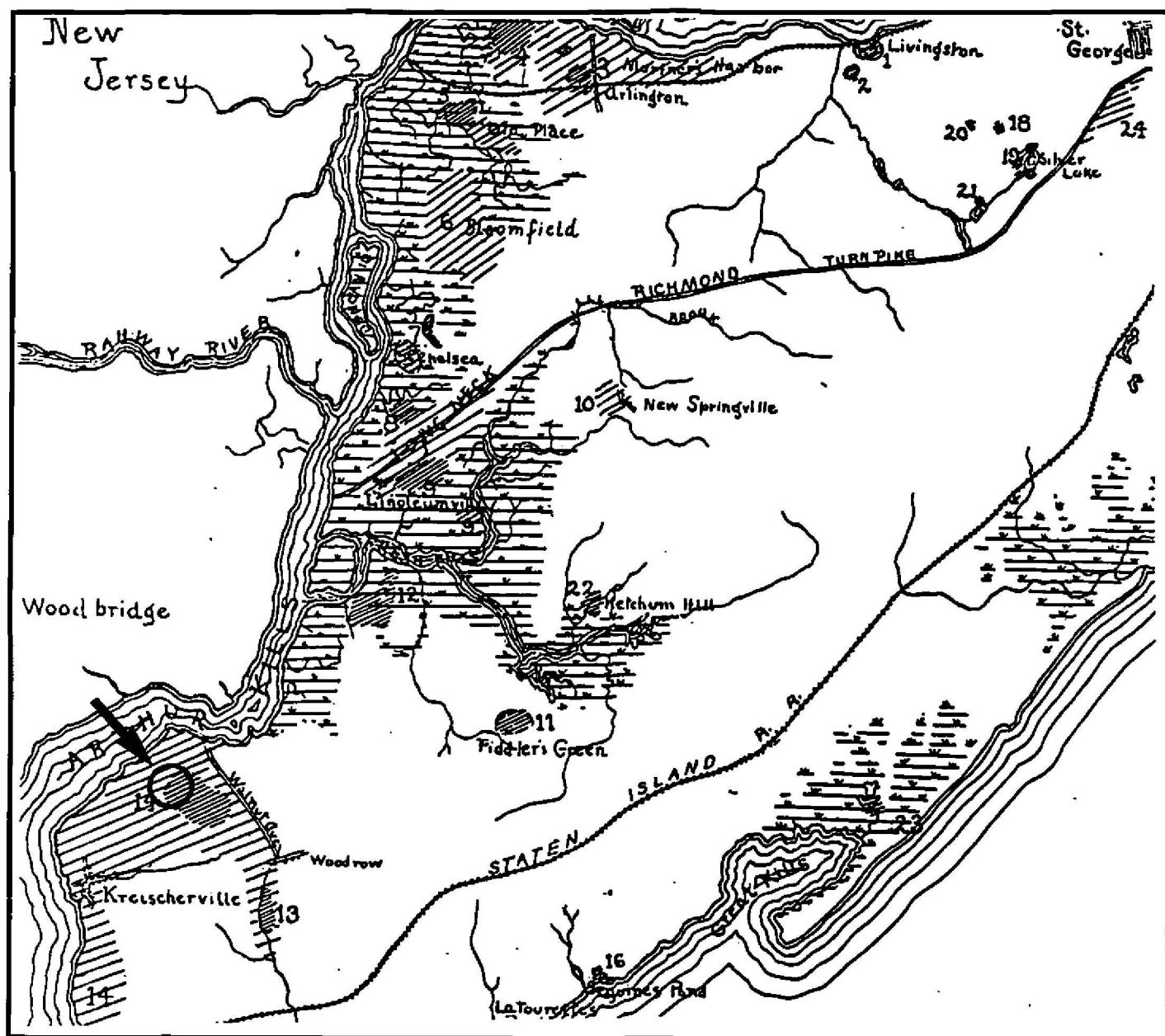
SECTION 6.0 BACKGROUND RESEARCH

General background research for this project was carried out at the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (SIAS), New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), New York Public Library, and Rutgers University. The existing record of archaeological research on Staten Island provides a great deal of background information on which to assess the potential sensitivity of the project area. Reports on cultural resource survey projects undertaken on Staten Island were examined at the LPC office and the SIAS. From their site files it was clear that prehistoric and historic artifacts had been collected for many years in the area. The project area is surrounded on all sides by sites and individual finds.

The specific documentary review included maps, histories of Staten Island, Borough Hall records, and a literature search among available cultural resource reports. This review was conducted at the Richmond County Borough Hall and County Clerk offices, the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences Archives, the New York State Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau, the New York Public Library, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission offices in New York. Site visits and windshield surveys were conducted in late September, October, and November of 1995.

6.1 Staten Island Prehistory

Prehistoric sites on Staten Island range from Paleoindian to Contact periods. Significant aboriginal occupation from Archaic into Colonial times in the vicinity of Rossville has been long recognized by researchers (Skinner 1909:10-11; Pickman and Yamin 1978) (Figure 6). The project area is surrounded by known prehistoric sites of various periods including some of the most important to Staten Island and North American prehistory. Smoking Point, Port Mobil, Wort Farm and a series of smaller Late Archaic and Woodland sites are all present within a one mile radius of the project area (Figure 7 and Table 1). These sites occupy both coastal and upland environments representing the remains of temporary or seasonal camps focussed on the exploitation of local resources. Large permanent or semi-permanent base camps seem to be lacking from the immediate vicinity of the project area which has been seen as a transit area between Prince's Bay to the south and Arthur Kill (Yamin and Pickman 1986a). SIAS site files indicated that surveys had been done over much of the area by 1963. Even by 1909 the area between Rossville, Woodrow and Kreisherville (Charleston) was considered rich in prehistoric sites (Skinner 1909:10-11) (see Figure 6, #13 and #14).



Listed Sites

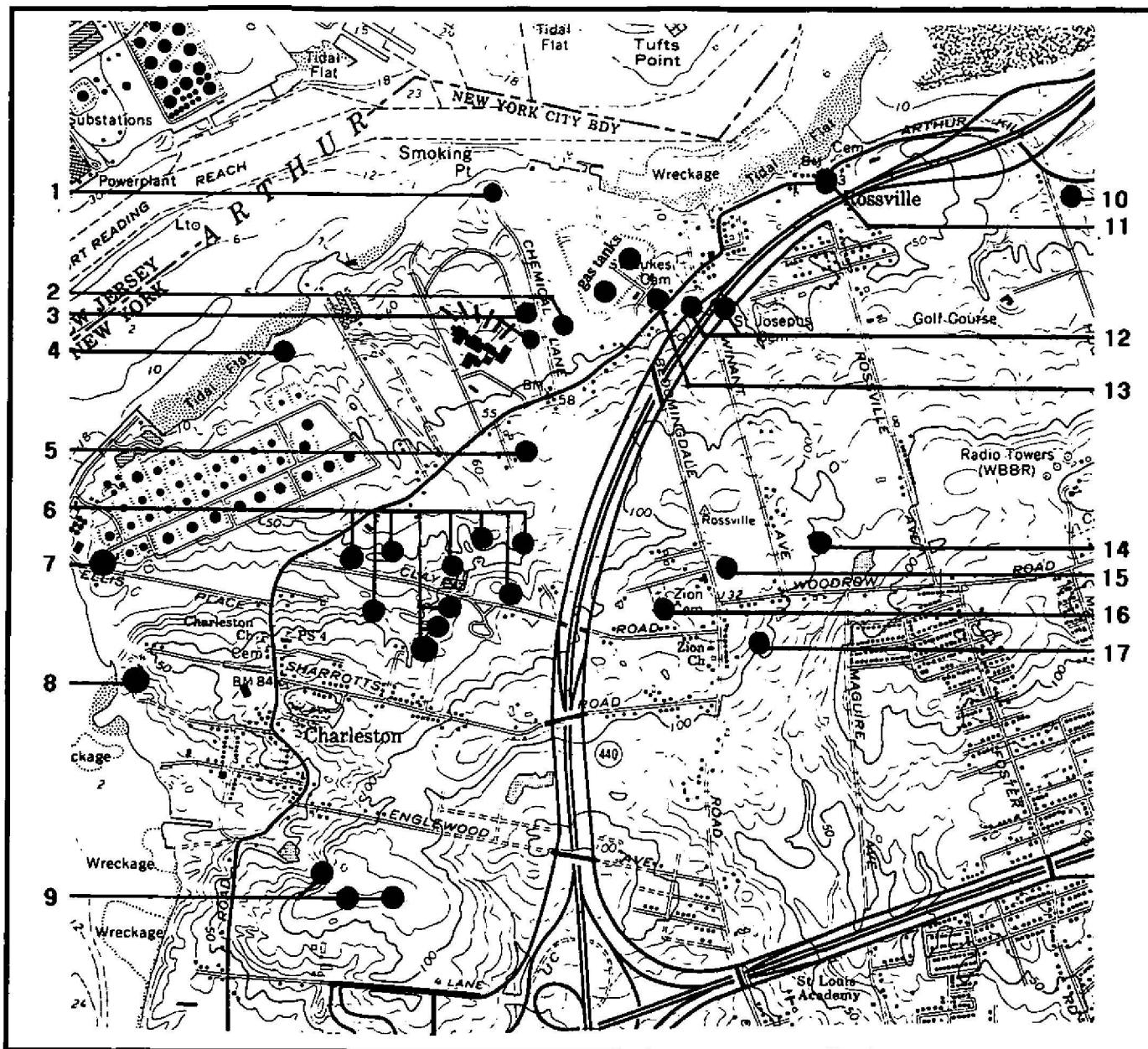
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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. West New Brighton, Upper or Pelton's Cove | 12. Green Ridge, Lake's Island |
| 2. West New Brighton, Ascension Church | 13. Woodrow |
| 3. Mariner's Harbor, Arlington | 14. Rossville |
| 4. Mariner's Harbor, Bowman's Brook | 16. Huguenot |
| 5. Mariner's Harbor, Old Place | 18. New Brighton, Harbor Hill Links |
| 6. Bloomfield (Watchogue) | 19. New Brighton, Silver Lake, etc. |
| 7. Chelsea | 20. New Brighton, Harbor Hill |
| 8. Long Neck (Linoleumville), north side | 21. New Brighton, Nannyberry Hill |
| 9. Long Neck (Linoleumville), south side | 22. Richmond |
| 10. New Springville, Corson's Brook | 23. Oakwood |
| 11. Green Ridge, near Richmond Plank Road | 24. Tompkinsville |

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Figure 6: Prehistoric sensitivity on Staten Island (taken from Skinner 1909). Arrow indicates the location of the project area.



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Figure 7:

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle: Arthur Kill, N.Y.-N.J. 1966 (photorevised 1981) showing prehistoric site locations. Numbers indicate prehistoric site locations.

Table 1: Prehistoric Sites near Rossville and Charleston, Staten Island, New York

Number	Name	Periods	Reference
1	Smoking Point	Paleoindian, Late Archaic, Transitional	Rubertone 1974, Silver 1984
2	Pottery Farm	Archaic, Middle to Late Woodland	Rubertone 1974
3	Chemical Lane	Archaic, Woodland	Rubertone 1974
4	North Beach	Paleoindian	Kraft 1977
5	Gericke Farm	Archaic, Middle to Late Woodland	Yamin and Pickman 1986b
6	Clay Pit Road Sites Winant House Clay Pit Pond East Junkyard Site T & J Site Clay Pit Road Abraham's Pond Locus A Abraham's Pond Locus B Abraham's Pond Locus C Park Headquarters Clay Pit Rd. Bluff North	Middle to Late Woodland	Yamin and Pickman 1986b
7	Port Mobil Hill & Charleston Beach	Paleoindian, Late Woodland	Salwen 1968, Ritchie 1968, Kraft 1977
8	Kreisherville	Paleoindian, Transitional, Late Woodland	Anderson 1967
9	Canada Hill	Woodland	Pickman 1992
10	Huguenot	Middle Woodland	Anderson 1964, Geismar 1985
11	Cutting Farm	Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland	Sainz 1962
12	Rossville Sites Rossville Shell Mound Hammerstone Hill Harik's Sandy Ground	Woodland Unknown Late Archaic	Skinner 1909:11 Skinner 1909:11 Lavin 1980
13	St. Luke's Cemetary, SICF Area C-1	Archaic, Late Woodland	Pickman 1992
14	Wort Farm	Late Archaic, Woodland	Williams 1968
15	Rossville Campsite	Woodland	Geismar 1985
16	Sharrott Estates	Late Woodland	Cotz et al. 1985, Lenik 1987
17	Sandy Brook	Woodland	Yamin and Pickman 1986a, Lenik 1987

Table from Landmarks Commission Documents, Geismar 1986: fig. 11, Pickman 1995: fig. 2.

The sites in the vicinity of the project area represent the remains of settlement and resource exploitation systems that developed over 12,000 years. Archaeologists have divided this time into periods based on hypothesized social and economic changes. These changes are evidenced by observed changes in the artifacts recovered from the sites. Summary prehistories for Staten Island from prior cultural resource surveys were consulted as were prehistories of New York State (Ritchie 1980) and neighboring areas (Kraft 1986; Kinsey 1972).

The prehistory of eastern North America is traditionally divided into three broad periods: Paleoindian (8000 B.C.+), Archaic (8000 B.C.-1000 B.C.), and Woodland (1000 B.C.-A.D.1500). Originally devised for classificatory and descriptive purposes (Willey and Sabloff 1980:108), this periodization has evolutionary connotations. Beginning with Witthoft (1949) and continuing to the present (Custer 1989), this general scheme has been modified to reflect changing understandings of the evolutionary trajectory of prehistoric society in the mid-Atlantic region (Lawrence 1994:17).

The earliest evidence of human occupation of the northeast dates to the Paleoindian Period. The precise dates for initial settlement are in doubt but early dates from elsewhere in the Americas (Dillehay 1984) underscore the possibility of finding sites in peri-glacial and non-glaciated regions of the northeast.

Paleoindian occupation was coeval with retreating glacial conditions and the emergence of a Holocene environment. The emergent environment is characterized as a mosaic of deciduous, boreal and grassland biomes with a uniformly cold, alternately wet and dry climate. Human adaptation to these changing environmental conditions involved small, mobile bands of hunter-gatherers with movements related to the exploitation of different localized environments and resources. Site patterning seems to indicate a preference for riverine environments with sites located on high terraces overlooking river or stream valleys (Leslie 1973; Marshall 1982). It has been hypothesized that the mobile lifestyle with its emphasis on hunting would leave its mark on the landscape in the form of base camps, hunting sites and quarry locations (Roberts et al. 1985:27-33).

On Staten Island, the Port Mobil sites (North Beach, Port Mobil Hill, Charleston Beach) southwest of the project area have provided a significant contribution to knowledge of the Paleoindian Period. The Cutting Farm site in Rossville, north of the project area produced the first fluted point (Sainz 1962). Smoking Point and the shoreline by Kreisherville (now Charleston) have provided additional evidence of earliest occupation of northeast Staten Island along the Arthur Kill shoreline (Pickman

and Yamin 1978), although at the time, the Arthur Kill was probably a stream feeding into the Hudson channel to the ocean shore 50 miles to the east (Kraft 1986:fig. 10). In general, these sites are characterized as small temporary hunter-gatherer camps, and often produce high quality lithic material (Baugher and Lenik 1991).

The Archaic Period is marked by the emergence of a fully Holocene environment. Warmer and moister climactic conditions prevailed with the disappearance of grasslands and the expansion of mesic forests. Changes in the environment to more moderate conditions occurred simultaneously with a broadening of the subsistence base. Archaic peoples shifted from hunting large mammals to smaller game and began to utilize a wide variety of plant resources resulting in a wide range of subsistence activities and associated toolkits (Baugher and Lenik 1991; Raber 1985:11-13). Increasing sedentism is also indicated in the settlement pattern which included base camps located along major drainage systems supplemented by small procurement camps found in upland areas. A fission-fusion model of social organization drives site identifications of macro-, micro-, and procurement camps (Roberts et al. 1985:33-36). The period has been described as one of innovation and adjustment (Kraft 1986:52).

The Archaic Period is well represented at shore and inland sites including Pottery Farm, Chemical Lane and Smoking Point and Gericke Farm, all in the vicinity of the project area (Ritchie 1980:145-149; Pickman and Yamin 1978). Across the northeast a gap between Paleoindian and Early Archaic periods that may be attributed to the changing environment is recognized. Staten Island, lying at the boundary of the Canadian and Carolinian Biotic zones each with different average temperatures and Floral-Faunal associations, may provide evidence to fill this gap (Ritchie and Funk 1971). Early Archaic sites seem to date to the period of the gap and show cultural influences from the south (Ritchie and Funk 1971). Late Archaic cultural influence also seems to be from the south with the Poplar Island and Bare Island complexes including local rough chopper tools. These materials are related to the Narrow Stemmed Projectile Point tradition (Ritchie 1969:143) also defined as Lackawaxen for the Upper Delaware River Valley (Kinsey 1972; Lavin 1980). In the vicinity of the project area, the small sites of this period seem to be identified by artifacts alone. These sites may represent the remains of temporary hunting camps where features and general living floors were undeveloped and thus absent from the archaeological record (Lavin 1980).

The transition from the Archaic to the Woodland period is marked by the intensification of the subsistence and resource exploitation processes including the greater use of aquatic resources (Raber

1985:13). The population was settling in and focussing on specific resources. The Woodland Period is marked by increased sedentism and a gradual shift to the exploitation of domesticated cultigens and continued extensive and ephemeral use of a variety of environments for the procurement of other resources (Roberts et al. 1985:36-38). The settlement pattern indicates continued seasonal population shifts through the Middle Woodland Period (Kraft 1986:101).

The Woodland Period had an even dryer environment characterized by xeric Oak-Hickory forests. Several changes in the material culture of this period have been recognized including the advent of bow and arrow replacing spear technology, pottery, and the greater size and permanence of camps (Baughner and Lenik 1991). The Late Woodland Period is marked in general by a change in subsistence from horticulture to cultivation and associated changes in artifact types and settlement patterns with the introduction of cultigens, but a continuity with earlier periods is also seen in the evidence (Roberts et al. 1985:38-40). The Late Woodland settlement patterns include the presence of small, dispersed, unfortified farmsteads as well as fully sedentary villages (Kraft 1986:122).

6.2 Staten Island History

The following historical background section contains a brief summary of Staten Island's early settlement by the Dutch and English, and a more detailed history of the project area and its immediate vicinity.

Giovanni de Verrazzano sailed his ship into the bays surrounding Staten Island and Manhattan in 1524. This was the first recorded sighting of Staten Island by a European, but it was only later after Henry Hudson's voyage aboard the Half Moon in 1609 that the tempestuous period of contact between the Native Americans and the European settlers and traders began. The Dutch governors and patroons apparently could not maintain peaceful relations with the first inhabitants of the island. The 1641 Pig War, the 1643 Whiskey War, the 1655 Peach War, and other unnamed clashes, were the result of fighting against the Native Americans and their consequent retaliation against the Dutch Staten Island plantations.

Records from Verrazzano's and Hudson's voyages described Staten Island as a place rich in natural beauty and resources. The fresh water springs on the island and its location at the entrance to the bays and rivers to the north made it a convenient stop for ships on their way to and from the expanding trading settlements of New Amsterdam. From early accounts it was also clear that Native

Americans were living on Staten Island for at least part of the year. One of the stories behind the name Smoking Point attributed it to the presence of smoke from the fires of the Native American settlements there.

Land grants and sometimes conflicting petitions for ownership were recorded for Staten Island in the early 1600's, but no permanent settlement was attempted until 1639 (Leng and Davis 1930). A group of settlers from Holland were sent to the island to set up a plantation for the latest in a frequently changing line of Dutch patroons. Unfortunately for the colonists the current governor, Kieft, could not peacefully handle relations with his Native American neighbors. The colony was wiped out two years after it was founded by an attack by a branch of the Lenape out of New Jersey. The next patroon, who owned Staten Island at the same time as the last grantee, was Cornelius Melyn (Leng and Davis 1930). Over the next 15 years Melyn set up two plantations only to have them attacked and destroyed in the Whiskey War and the Peach War.

The first successful permanent settlements began in 1661-2 with 19 Dutch and French emigres. After the English took over in 1664 more patents and grants were issued and the island was divided among offshore landowners. The English apparently had more success in their dealings with the Native Americans, and no more plantations were burned. Richmond County was formed in 1683 with 200 families on the island. Settlement by Europeans proceeded slowly through the 1700's and the Revolutionary War. Thousands of British troops occupied the island during the war, using it as a staging point for campaigns in New York and New Jersey. The troops far outnumbered the island's residents. Prior to 1700 the resident population was about 1000; in 1756 it was 2132, and in 1790 it had climbed to 3838. Into the nineteenth century the population grew by approximately 1000 every ten years until there was a leap from 7082 in 1830 to 10965 in 1840 (Campbell 1990). Population continued to grow at an accelerated pace through the 1800's.

The project area lies between Rossville to the north and Charleston to the south. Both settlements have histories going back to the early years of European settlement on the island. Rossville was first called Smoaking Point and went through two more name changes before settling on the present one, from one of its more flamboyant nineteenth century residents. Charleston is perhaps best known for its previous name of Kreischerville (Figure 8). Balthazar Kreischer, a builder from Bavaria, purchased the land and clay pits in what is now Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve. He and his family went on to build a firebrick business that was a major employer in the area for many years. Existing

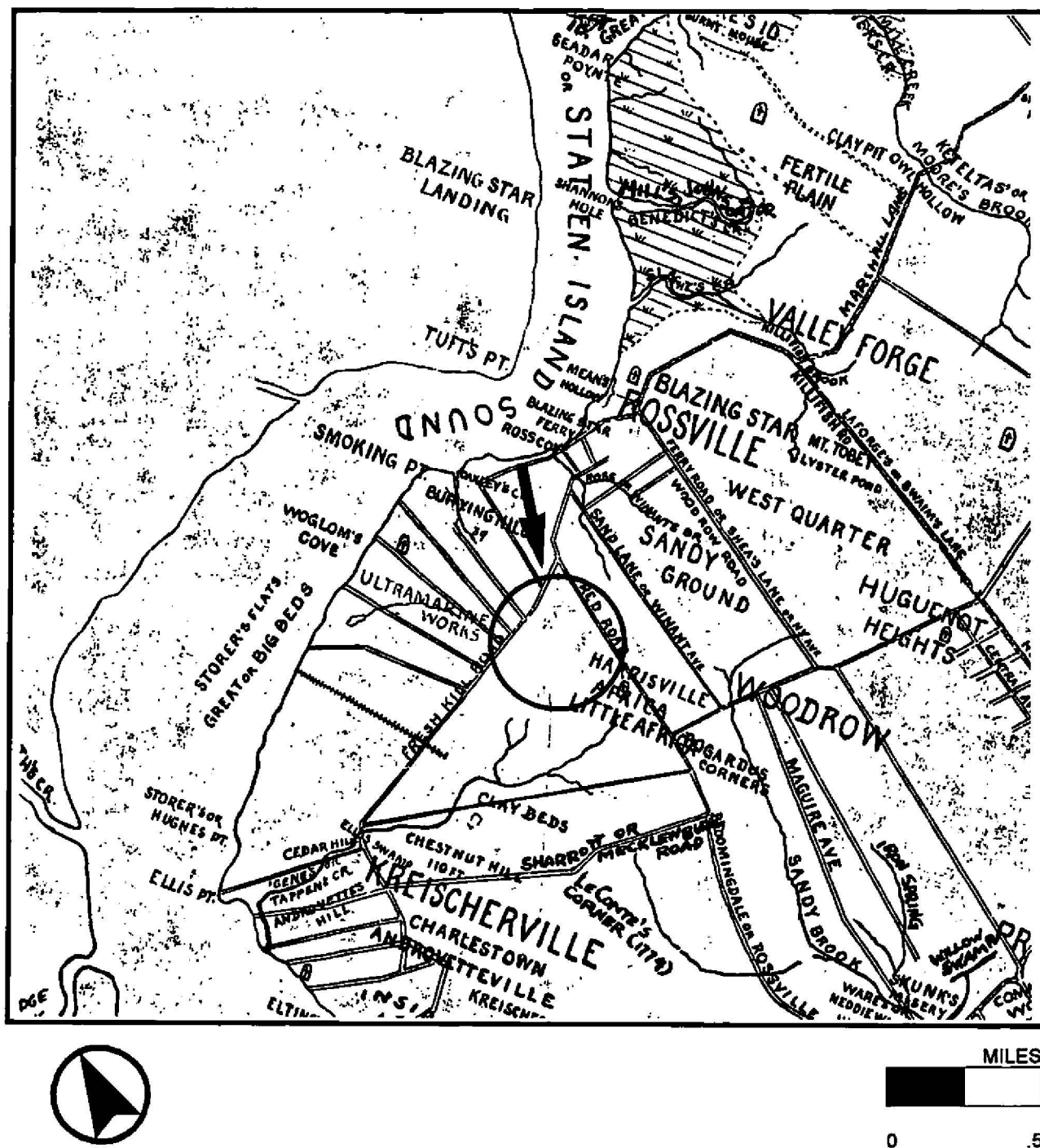


Figure 8:

1896 William T. Davis, Map of Staten Island with Ye Olde Names and Nicknames (1968 reprint, Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, New York). Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

buildings on the island and in New York were made from Kreischer brick, including P. S. 4 on Arthur Kill Road, one of Columbia University's Libraries, and St. Luke's Hospital (Jackson and Kihn 1986).

On Staten Island, as in many parts of the rest of the country, the mid-nineteenth century was a period of industrial and agricultural development, and centralization of a growing population. Kreischer began buying land and setting up his firebrick factory complexes. Dye works and other "heavy" industries became major employers on the island for the first time, and people gathered around their places of employment creating town centers. The International Ultramarine Works, Ltd. was built south of Rossville on the shore of the Arthur Kill. The factory location was across Arthur Kill Road southwest of the project area near the present Staten Island Correctional Institute. Agriculture also underwent changes across the island. Grain cultivation was becoming less profitable due to competition from mainland farmers with larger fields and access to the same markets as the smaller scale Staten Island farmers (Sachs 1988). Salt hay harvesting, an old industry on the island, began to give way to other cash crops as markets for fruits and berries developed in the growing settlements on the island and across the kills and bays.

Settlement in the project area appears to have proceeded slowly. People were gathering around the population centers to the north, south and east. The salt marshes on the western shore were settled earlier than the upland project area, probably due to exploitation of the salt hay harvest. Oystering was a thriving business that drew together the community of free African Americans at Sandy Ground to the east. Over-harvesting threatened this industry in the 1810's, but it managed to save itself with the method of reseeded the oyster beds (Sachs 1988). Shipbuilding was also a major employer for this part of the island. Several ship builders existed on the western side of the island with three in Tottenville to the south. There were 17 shipbuilding establishments on the island by 1880 (Sachs 1988).

There was little to attract the population to the areas between the settlements. The character of the project area and many parts of Staten Island remained rural and undeveloped well into the third quarter of the 1800's. Most of the project area may not have been suitable for cultivation of grain or vegetable crops. The more fertile areas appear to have been in the northern corner and along the western boundary on Arthur Kill Road. A 1913 topographic survey map shows orchards in this area, with cultivated fields being present across the road and south of the project area. Three out of the four houses within the project area boundaries were owned by chicken farmers, with the rest of their property left undeveloped or wooded.

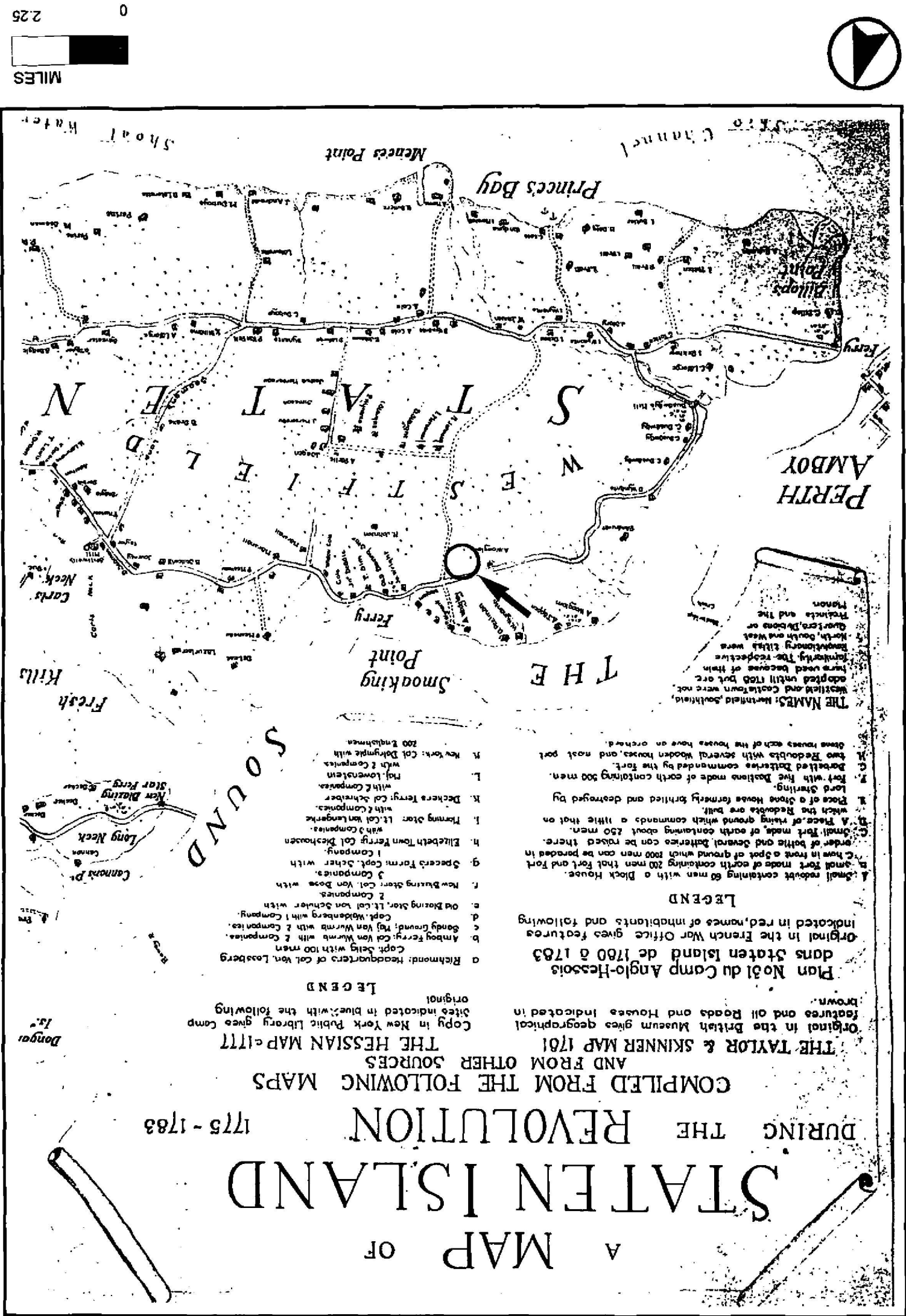
The earliest house near the project area appears to have been the "A. Wooglom" house shown on the McMillen composite map of the late eighteenth century (Figure 9). Copies of the 1781 Taylor and Skinner Map and 1780-1783 Plan No. 31 were consulted for this report. The composite map was used for clarity of reproduction. The Wogloms owned several houses in the area and the early maps move them to various locations as knowledge of and positions of the roads improved. Wherever the maps placed the houses, it was evident that settlement concentrated along the easiest access routes. At the time these were the waterways on the west shore and the major road and coast line on the east. The eighteenth century "Wooglom" house is not shown on the 1853 Butler Map, but a Woglom house is shown at the intersection of Arthur Kill Road and Bloomingdale Road on the 1860 Walling map (Figures 10 and 11). "Mrs. Woglom's" house is outside the project area boundaries and was demolished by 1898 (Figures 12-14; Photo Plates 4-6).

By 1910 the oyster industry was being ruined by the pollution created from the nineteenth century industrial growth. Many residents of the Sandy Ground community moved away to find other work. However, Staten Island had been incorporated into New York City in 1898 and "homeseekers" discovered it still retained much open land and a rural character (Sachs 1988). Improvements in the island's utilities, public services and infrastructure accelerated with its connection to the city. Arthur Kill Road was widened from 15 feet in 1913 to 40 feet by 1917 (Richmond County Deeds 607/562) and then to its current width by 1988 (Richmond County Deeds, Reel 1621/36). A trolley was proposed for the length of Arthur Kill Road between Tottenville and Rossville, but it was never built. An eight inch water pipe with hydrants was in Arthur Kill and Bloomingdale Roads by 1898, and a 12 inch pipe is shown on the Sanborn map for 1917-1926 (Figures 14-16). The sewer records at Borough Hall show pipes and interceptors going in Arthur Kill Road in 1981 (Karen Unlig and David Laniah, Staten Island Sewer Department, personal communications, 1995).

Construction of the West Shore Expressway began in the early 1970's and was essentially complete by 1976. Aerial photographs from the SIIAS Smoking Point files show the Expressway on its sloped berm with the access road, Veterans Road West and East, on either side of it. This access road forms the eastern boundary of the project area.

1775-1783 Loring McMillen, Map of Staten Island During the Revolution. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

Figure 9:



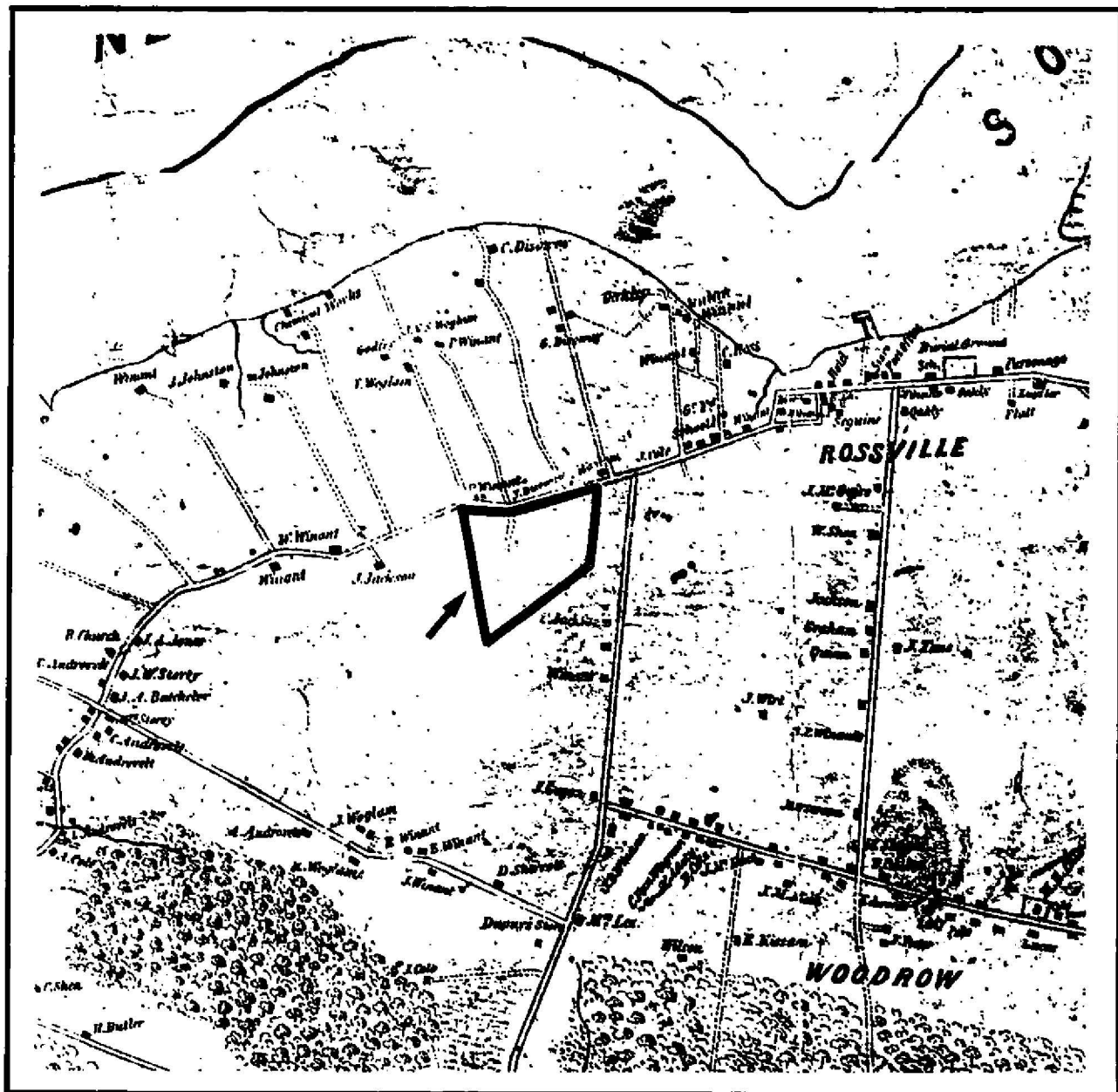


Figure 10:

1853 James Butler, Map of Staten Island or Richmond County, New York. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

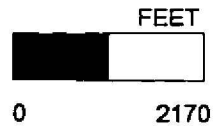
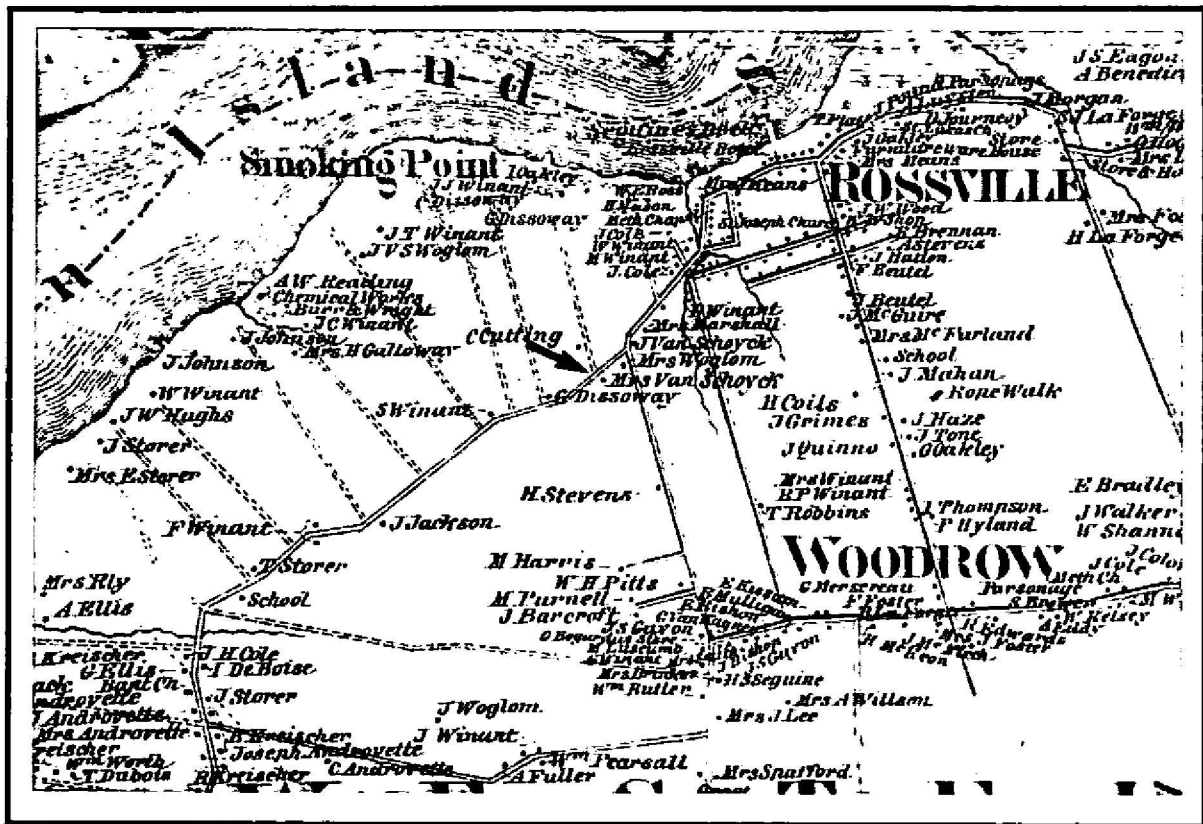


Figure 11:

1860 H. F. Walling, Map of the City of New York & its Environs. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

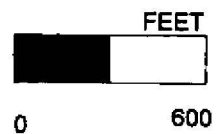
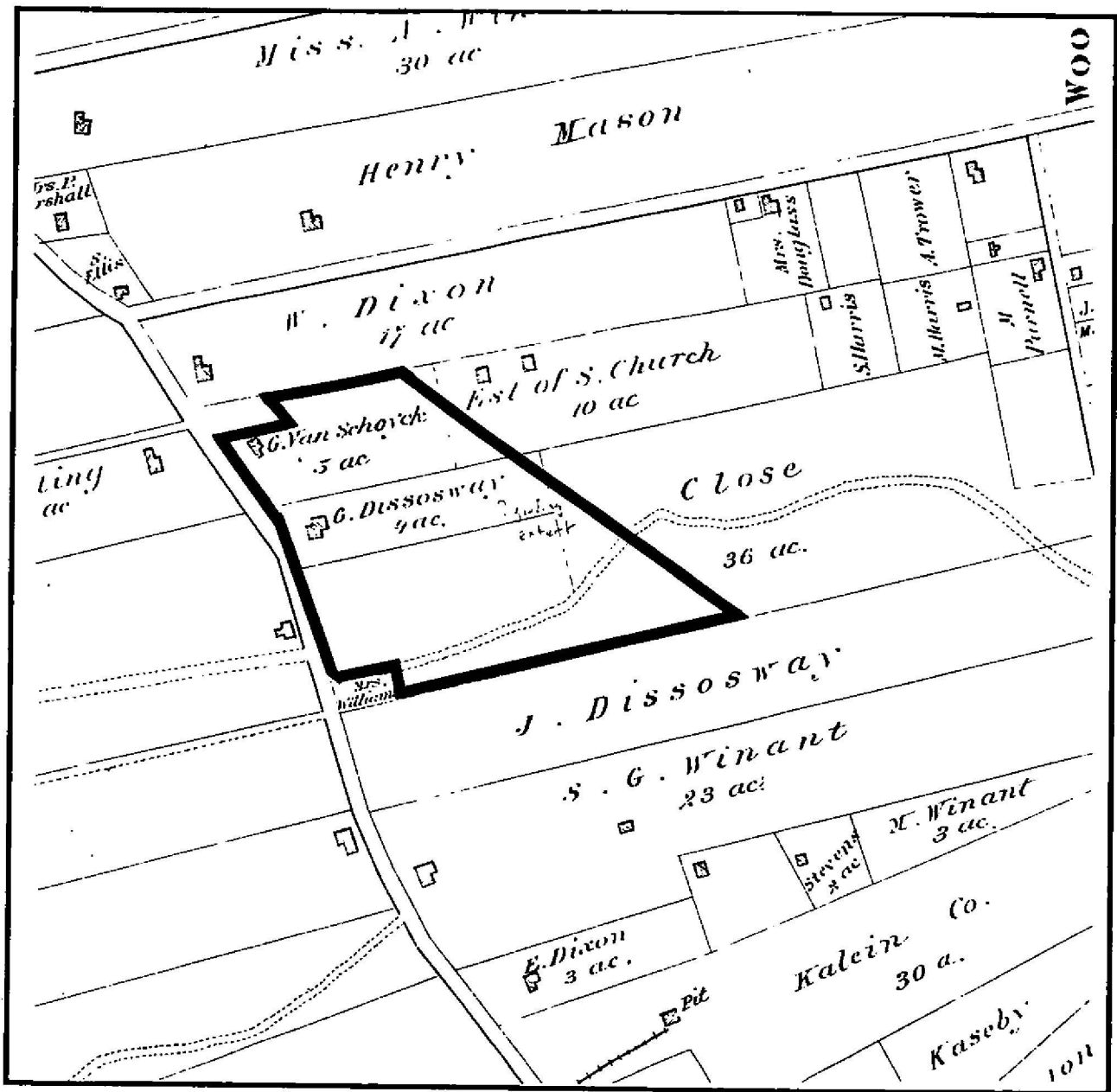


Figure 12:

1874 J. B. Beers, Atlas of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. Bold line indicates the boundary of the project area.

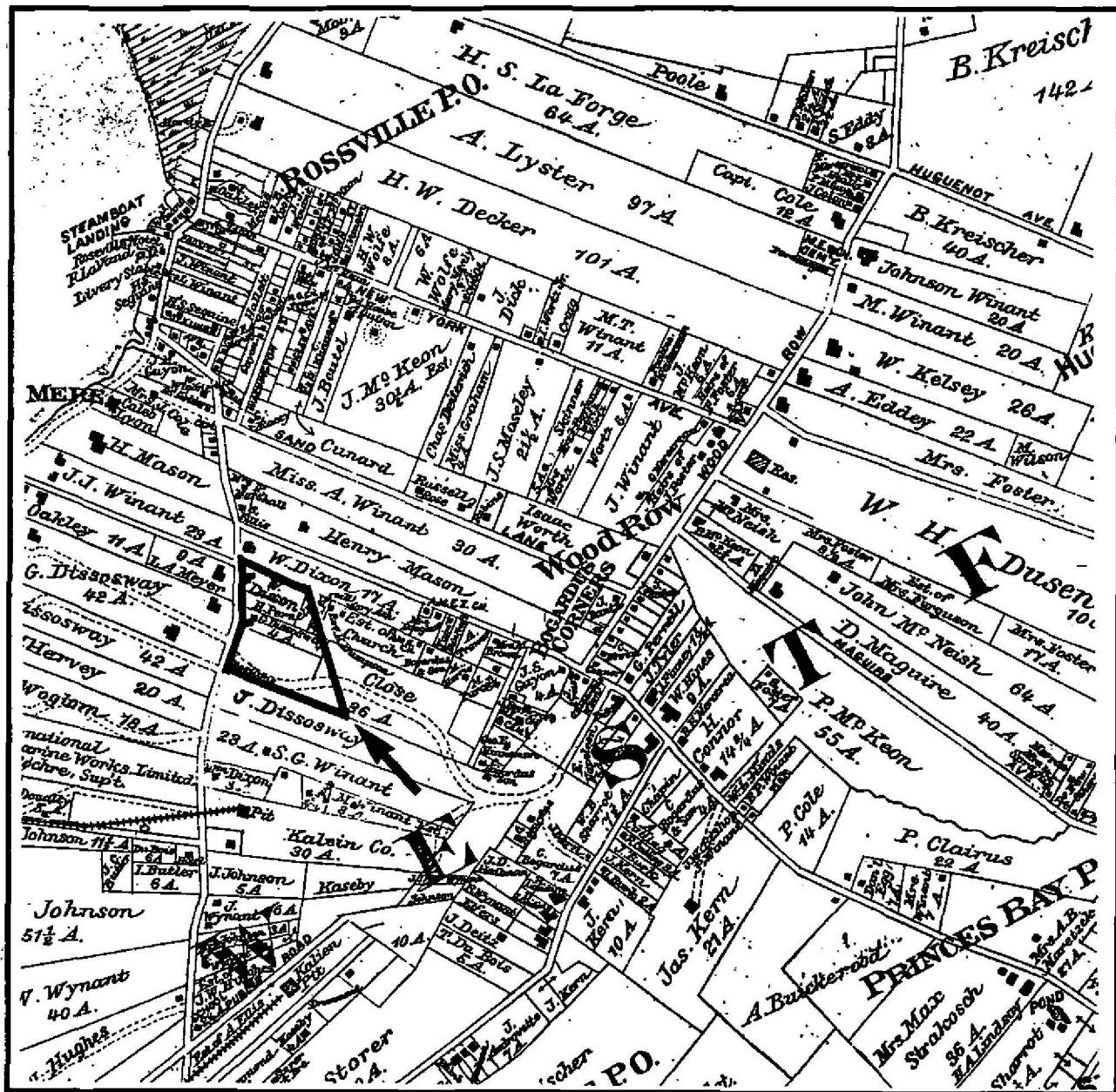


Figure 13:

1887 J. B. Beers, Map of Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

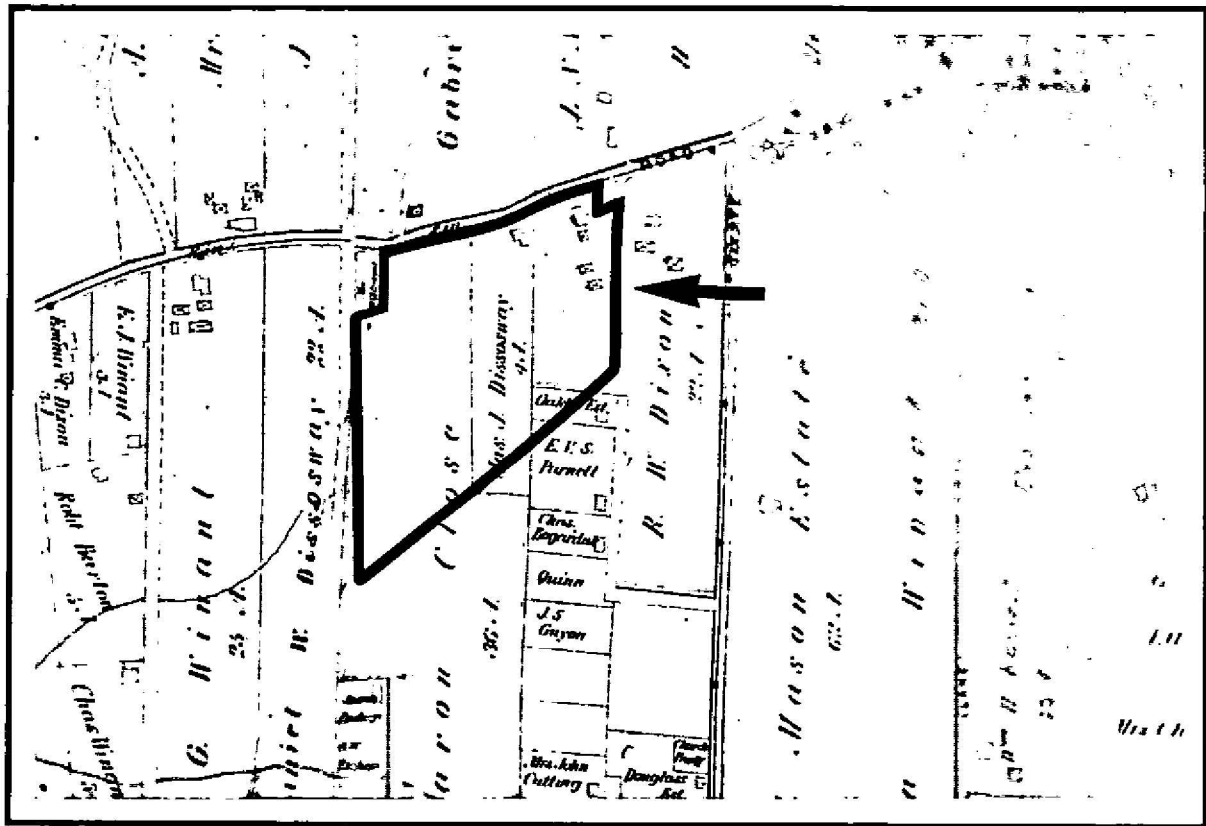


Figure 14:

1898 E. Robinson, Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, City of New York. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

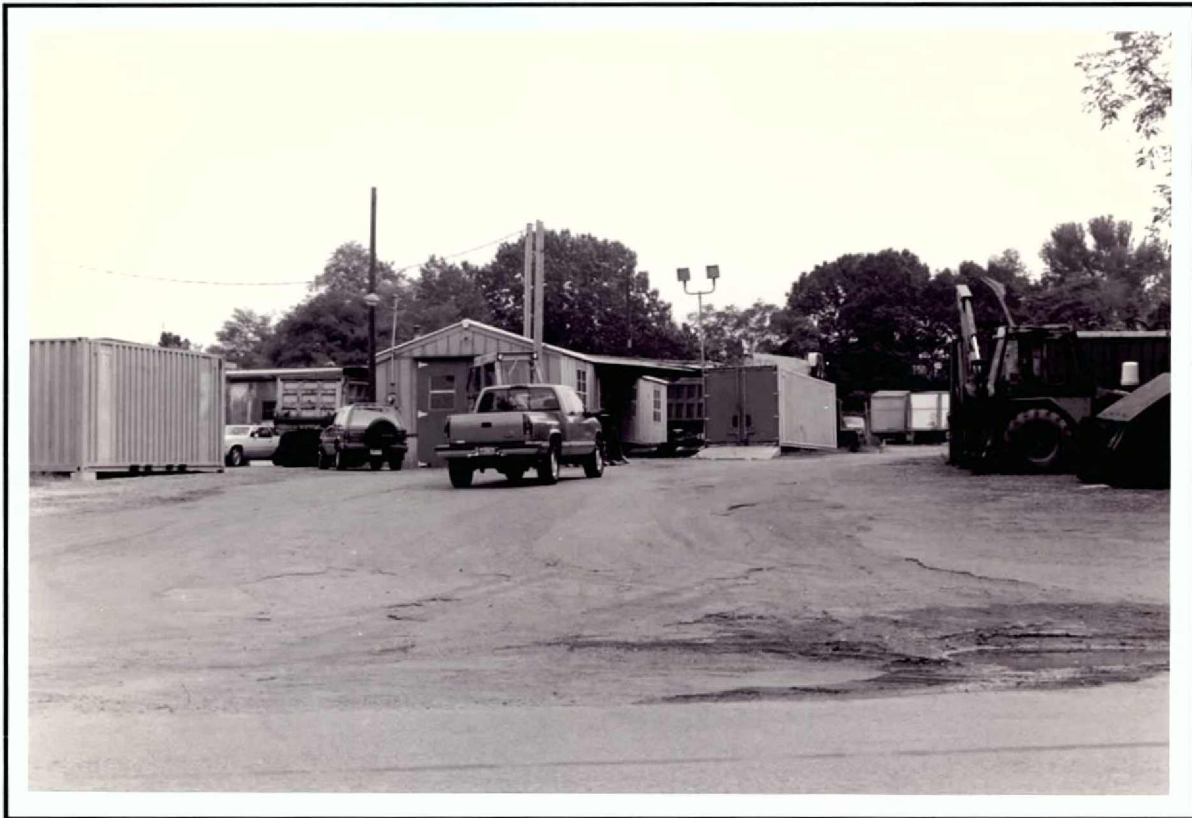


Photo Plate 4:

View looking east at #2704 Arthur Kill Road

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Mary Dieter



Photo Plate 5:

View looking southeast at Bloomingdale Road north of the project area showing upward slope to the east.

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Mary Dieter



Photo Plate 6:

View looking southwest at the corner of Bloomingdale Road and Arthur Kill Road

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Mary Dieter

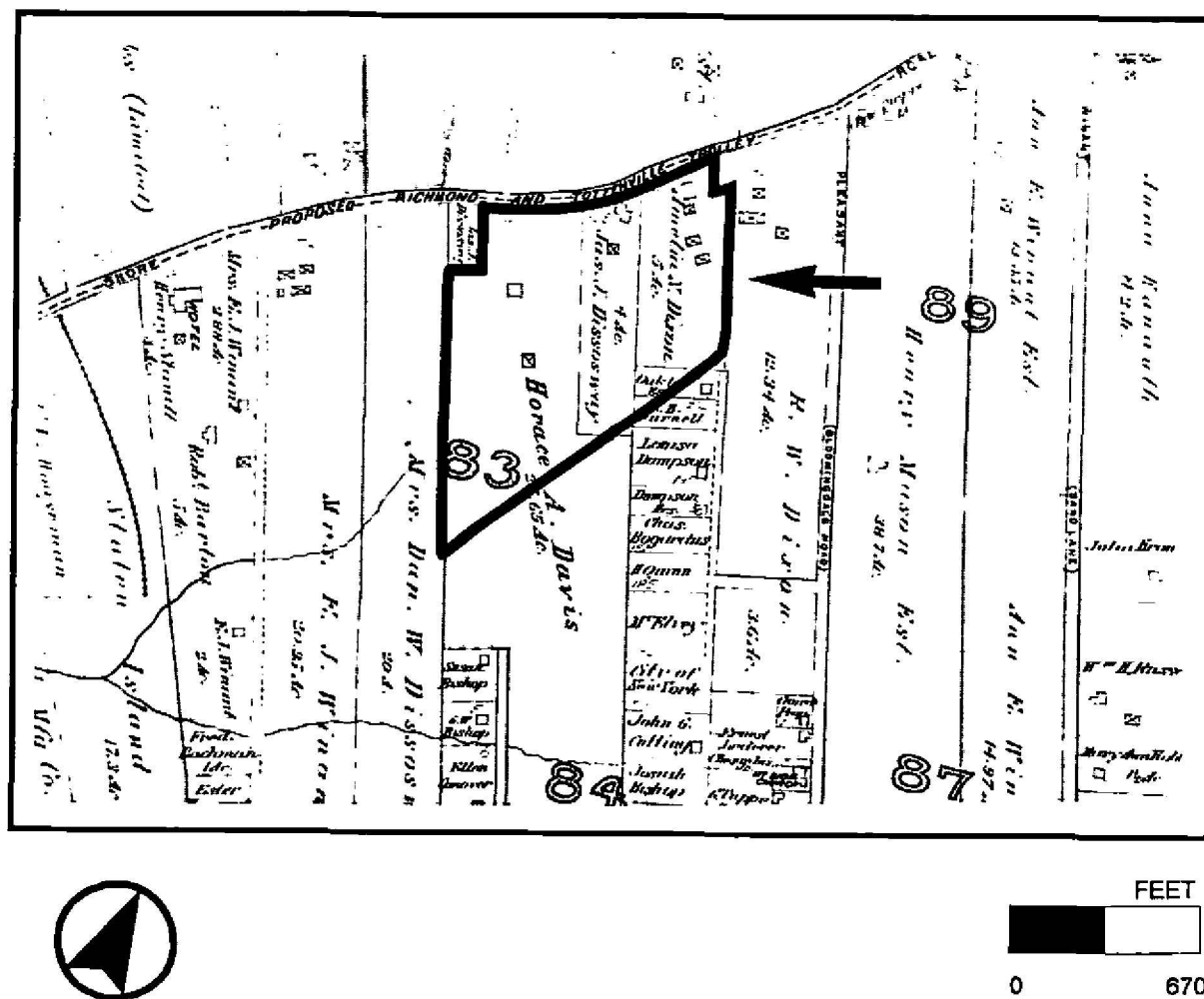


Figure 15:

1907 E. Robinson and R. Pidgeon, **Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, City of New York**. Arrow indicates the location of the project area.

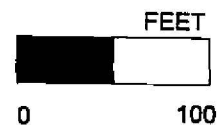
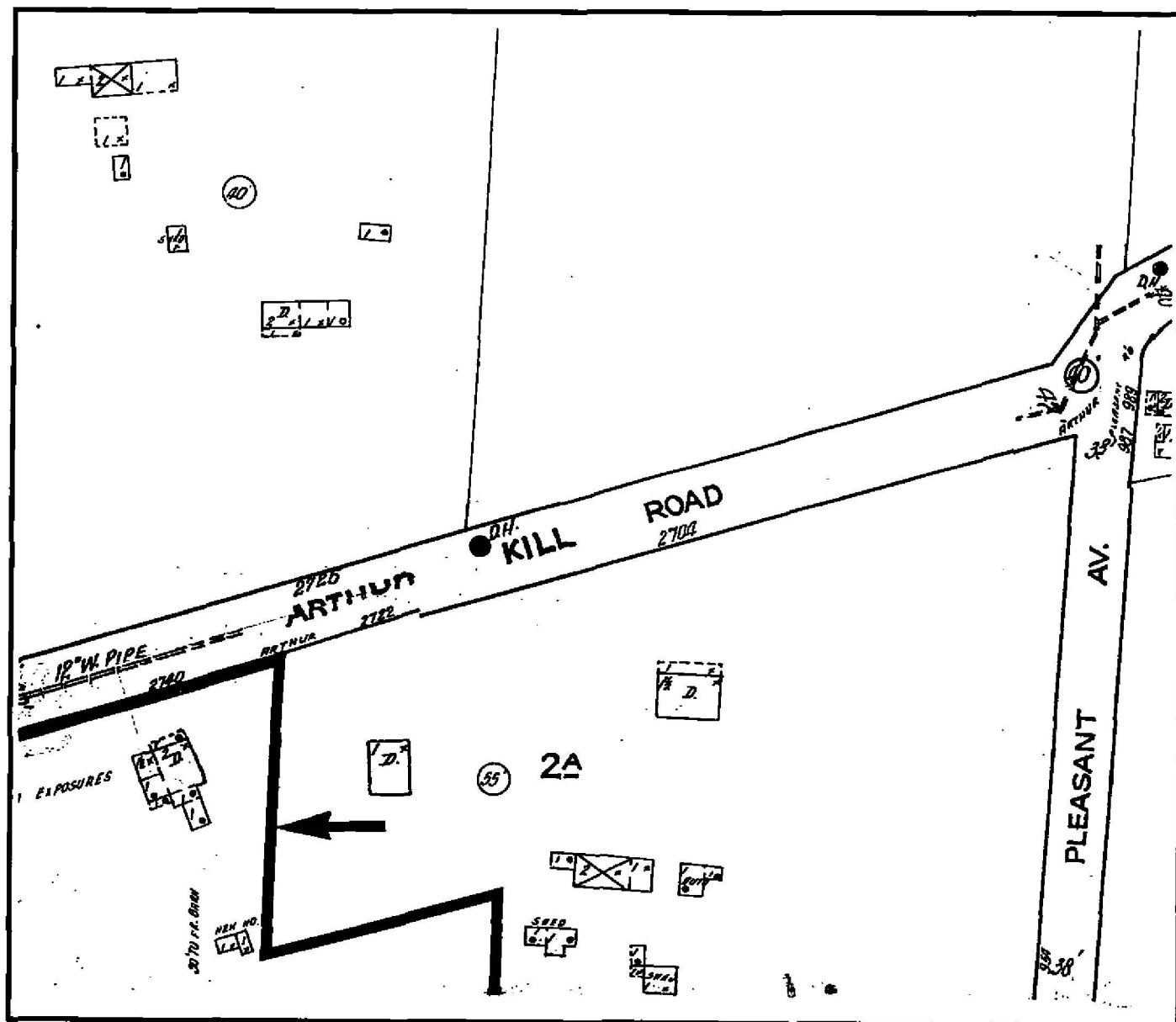


Figure 16:

1917-1926 Sanborn Insurance Co., Insurance Map of Richmond County, Staten Island, New York.
 Arrow indicates the northern portion of the project area.

Block 7100

Lot 28/2740 Arthur Kill Road

The Van Schayck house was located in Block 7100, Lot 28 (Borough Tax Maps 1995). Its street address was 2740 Arthur Kill Road (Figure 3). According to the documentary and map review a house was present on the lot by 1860 (Figure 11). On this map it is located southwest of the corner of Arthur Kill and Bloomingdale Roads and labeled "Mrs. Van Schoyck", next to "Mrs. Woglom's". The spelling of her family name in the deeds and in her signature all occurred as Van Schayck. This "Mrs. Van Schoyck" was Thirza Van Schayck (Thersia, Teresa), widow of Koert Van Schayck, a mariner (Richmond County Deeds P/173). Koert had purchased the property in 1827 from the group of heirs and executors of Bornt Parlee. Two of this group were members of the Winant family, Abraham and Mary (Parlee) Winant. The Winants or Wynants are documented as being a prominent family in the area and in the early history of this part of Staten Island (Bayles 1887:615-617).

There is no record of a mortgage on the property and the 1853 Butler map shows structures around the project area, although none are present on the Van Schayck lot (Figure 10). This suggests Koert Van Schayck built the house. The Sanborn maps consulted for this project did not record the project area after 1926. Figure 16 shows the only section that was mapped by the Sanborn Insurance Company surveyors. Two demolition permits were issued for the property in 1951 and 1969 for the outbuildings and house, respectively (Building Department, Richmond County Borough Hall), and no structures appear on aerial photographs from the mid-1970's (SIAS files). Ornamental vegetation and an asphalt driveway are present at the location of the house. ✓

There were several instances mentioned in the deed records of marriages between the Winant and Parlee families. Both families have deed records going back into the 1700's although none directly connected with this property. Just as Winant has several spellings on the maps and in the records from the eighteenth century, Parlee appears to be a derivation of Perlieau, perhaps of French Huguenot origin.

In the deeds recording the transactions between Thirza and Leanah Twaddle both women are listed as widows, with Thirza residing at a New York City address and Leanah in Westfield, Richmond County. This suggests that although Koert Van Schayck may have built the house, his wife either rented it after his death until the sale to Leanah or the Van Schayck family did not live there until after

1851 (Richmond County Deeds 15/347, 24/382). The house may have been used by Thirza as a source of income from renting it to tenants. Outbuildings adjacent to and in back of the house are shown on the majority of the historic maps. The 1913 topographic maps show some land use data as well as the topography of the landscape. A barn and a 10 feet by 30 feet hen house with a large fenced "Chicken Yard" was present behind the house. Block 7100 and the blocks to the north and south of it also contain "Orchards" and sheds and barns.

The following is an abbreviated list of deed transactions for the Van Schayck lot. The date refers to the dates found on the deeds which are not necessarily when the transaction was recorded.

BLOCK 7100 LOT 28			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>LIBER/PAGE</u>
1826	Abraham Winant & Henry Laforge Excrs. of B. Parlee	Rachel Parlee (quit claim) Widow of Bornt Parlee	O/317
1826	A. Winant & H. Laforge	Estate of Bornt Parlee	O/319
1827	Koert Van Schayck	A. Winant & H. Laforge	P/173
1847	Leanah Twaddle	Thersia Van Schayck	15/347
1851	Thersia Van Schayck	Leanah Twaddle	24/382
1880	Amelia N. Dixon	Mallie & George Van Schayck	132/330
1922	Frank Eckenberger	R. Dixon, Excr. of A. Dixon	547/441
1924	Grace Yetman	Frank & Bertha Eckenberger	585/171
1924	Frank & Bertha Eckenberger	Grace Yetman (quit claim)	585/173
1926	Peter & Augusta Hansen	Frank & Bertha Eckenberger	613/511
1939	Home Owners Loan Corp.	Augusta Hansen	814/437
1943	Ezra & Helen Friedman	Home Owners Loan Corp.	865/138
1953	Ezra Friedman	Helen E. Friedman	1264/396
1967	First Royal Corp.	Ezra Friedman	1785/345
1967	Dorothy Agar & Rhea Slade	First Royal Corp.	1785/349
1973	Max Berman	Dorothy Agar & Rhea Slade	2052/141
1987	Sydney Berman	Max Berman	Reel 614/118

Lot 21

The Sandy Ground Historic Archaeological District is located south of the project area on the opposite side of the West Shore Expressway. The nineteenth century Sandy Ground community's center was located to the southeast of the project area near the intersection of Woodrow Road and Bloomingdale Road under the name of Bogardus Corners (Schuyler 1980) (Figure 8). Although most of the families associated with the community were located in or close to this center, there were members who settled closer to Arthur Kill Road and Rossville (Yamin and Pickman 1986a). Figure 8 indicates the general location with the names Harrisville and Little Africa. The map review showed a number of small lots running parallel to Bloomingdale Road that appear to have been associated with the nearby churches and the neighborhood of free African Americans at Sandy Ground. Several of the lots bear names associated with families who moved to Sandy Ground, such as Purnell, Bishop, Harris and Henman (Jackson and Kihn 1986). The lots begin adjacent to the southeastern edges of the Dixon properties (Figures 13-15). A corner of one of these lots is within the project area boundaries. Block 7100, Lot 21 was part of the strip of small lots that were formed sometime between 1774 and 1887 (Figure 3, Figures 12 and 13). This was a period of commercial and financial success for the residents of Sandy Ground, when the oyster fishing market was at its height and the demand for shellfish on the mainland was strong (Jackson and Kihn 1986; Schuyler 1980). Lots near the project area may have been purchased by growing families or those moving into the area. Construction of the West Shore Expressway in the 1970's obliterated many of these lots and most of Lot 21.

The nineteenth and early twentieth century maps that depict structures on lots do not show any houses or outbuildings in the corner of Lot 21 that remains within the project area boundaries. Lot 21 was labeled "Oakley Est." on the maps. The 1913 topographic survey map depicts the surrounding area with houses, outbuildings, fence lines, stakes, etc. , and provides measurements on fence lines. One fence line defining the eastern edge of the "Oakley Est. ", Lot 21, runs 327. 6 feet from the rear of the property to the dirt road that gave access to these properties from Bloomingdale Road (Figures 12 and 13). A house on Lot 21 fronted on the dirt road and is now underneath the West Shore Expressway. The southern edge or rear of Lot 21 backed on to wooded land and orchard fields probably belonging to the addresses on Arthur Kill Road.

Veterans Road West provides clear access to the east side of the project area. No foundations or other structural remains of any kind were seen on site visits in September and November. Fence lines

run through the wooded areas of the project area which may have defined the lot lines at one time. As mentioned above, the map review showed no structures depicted on the portion of Lot 21 within the project area. The corner that remains within the project area was the back end of the lot apparently opening onto wooded land or orchard fields belonging to the property owners on Arthur Kill Road. According to the 1913 topographic survey map this section of the Oakley property would have been 150 feet away at its closest point to the Oakley house and over 300 feet at its farthest.

Block 7105

Lot 526/2758 Arthur Kill Road

This lot is occupied by the James H. Merritt Co. , Piping Contractor building (Photo Plate 7). The building is a 1 1/2 to 2 story light industrial brick structure that extends northeast 200 feet into the center of the lot (Figure 3). An asphalt parking lot extends east/west across the front of the building down to the entrance on Arthur Kill Road. This parking lot covers most of the property in front of the building and is incorporated into the landscaping around the building. A chain link fence surrounds the property, and a high, ornamental hedge screens it from Arthur Kill Road. The fence appears to follow the lot lines as shown on the project base map and as shown on the Borough tax maps. The lot lines for these properties have remained remarkably stable for at least the past 121 years according to deed research and the late nineteenth century maps.

The first map to show a house on this lot is the 1874 Beers Atlas (Figure 12). The lot is labeled G. Dissosway, probably Gabriel Dissosway who owned the Smoking Point property across the street as well as other lots in the neighborhood. The Dissosway (Dissosway, Du Sauchoy) family has a long history on Staten Island, being part of the French Huguenot group that came over with the first waves of settlers in the late 1600's (Silver 1984). The lot and house was passed to Jas. J. Dissosway by 1898 and then sold out of the family by his heirs in the early 1900's. According to the 1913 topographic survey map the house was a 2 1/2 story frame structure fronted by porches, with two small additions off the back. A small hen house with fenced yard was present close to the east side of the house, probably for the family's use. In the center of the lot behind the house were a barn, shed and a much larger hen house with a 100 feet by 150 feet fenced area attached to it and the barn. The owners in 1913 were probably involved in chicken farming as were their next door neighbors at No. 2740.



Photo Plate 7:

View looking east at #2758 Arthur Kill Road (James H. Merritt & Co.).

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Mary Dieter

The 1913 topographic survey map depicts two houses in place on the lot, a larger house in the northeast corner and a smaller house below it to the southwest. A comparison with the 1898 and 1907 Robinson atlases shows that it is the larger structure in the northeast that is the Dissosway house (Figures 14 and 15). The smaller house on the 1913 topographic survey map still exists as No. 2770 Arthur Kill Road. The Dissosway house and its outbuildings were demolished in the early 1970's and the modern industrial structure was built directly over the sites of the outbuildings (Building Department, Richmond County Borough Hall). The Merritt building parking lot now covers the house site.

Lot 523/2770 Arthur Kill Road

The house at 2770 Arthur Kill Road, Block 7105 Lot 523, is a landscaping service/office (Photo Plate 8). It is shown for the first time on the 1913 topographic survey map. The details on the house, with the scallop gable shingles and spindle turning on the porch, reflects late nineteenth-early twentieth century construction. Construction plans for the Centre at West Shore do not include this house or house lot.

Lot 506

At present this part of Block 7105 is lightly wooded, unoccupied land. The 1907 Robinson Atlas shows a structure, set back from Arthur Kill Road down a narrow driveway (Figure 14). A wooden outbuilding was behind the house set further back towards the center of the lot. On the 1913 map this house was a one story frame structure with a porch and a small addition off the rear east corner. The outbuilding is not present on the 1913 map, but two "1 Sty. Fr. " structures are shown behind the house, with large fenced yards attached to each. These structures were long and narrow, one being approximately 15 feet by 80 feet, and the other 15 feet by 110 feet. Unlike most of the other buildings shown on this map these are not labeled, but their size and shape suggest use as either stables or hen houses for commercial chicken farming albeit on a larger scale than their neighbors to the north. The Building Department in Richmond County Borough Hall has no record of demolition permits issued for the address or block and lot number at this location.

The following is an abbreviated list of deed transactions for Lot 506. The date refers to the dates found on the deeds which are not necessarily when the transaction was recorded:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>LIBER/PAGE</u>
1866	Aaron Close	John Cole & Israel Oakley Excrs. of Mary Cole	63/422
1895	Frank Close	Aaron Close	241/221
1899	Walter Close	Frank & Eloise Close	272/250
1903	Norm Cooper	Walter Close	294/374
1903	Frederick Edwards	Norm & Lucilia Cooper	296/78
1904	Edward & George Vreeland Excrs. of Joseph Dean	Frederick & Violette Edwards	304/251
1904	Excrs. of Joseph Dean	Estate of Joseph Dean	304/547
1905	Charles Dean	Excrs. of Joseph Dean	306/436
1905	Anna Vreeland	Charles & Carrie Dean	306/434
1907	Jane D. Kane	Anna Vreeland	323/263
1907	Horace & Anna Davis	Jane D. Kane	341/337
1925	May Arnovitt	Horace & Anna Davis	607/562
1925	Danberth Realty Co.	May Arnovitt	607/556
1926	Leo Rifkin	Danberth Realty Co.	615/251
1926	Theodore Newhouse	Leo & Ruth Rifkin	624/104
1949	Samuel I. Newhouse	Theodore Newhouse	1691/170
1958	Madas Realty Corp.	Samuel I. Newhouse	1445/252
1963	Samuel & Donald Newhouse	Madas Realty Corp.	1622/356
1965	7105 Realty Corp.	Samuel & Donald Newhouse	1708/332
1988	Block 7105 Lot 506 Assoc.	7105 Realty Corp.	Reel 1621/35
1995	Yassky Properties	Block 7105 Lot 506 Assoc.	Reel 6176/186



Photo Plate 8:

View looking southeast at #2770 Arthur Kill Road.

Date: September 21, 1995

Photographer: Charles Pennington

SECTION 7.0 ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The principal goal of the Phase IA cultural resources survey was to locate any undocumented historic or prehistoric remains within the area to be impacted by the planned Centre at West Shore commercial development. All sites were to be assessed for their potential significance and recommendations made for further research, if warranted.

7.1 Prehistoric Resources

Background research indicated different levels of probability for locating prehistoric remains within different portions of the project area. This evaluation was based on soil drainage and landforms, the presence of permanent water, and proximity of known prehistoric sites.

Although no prehistoric sites were recorded in the State, SIAS and LPC files within the project area, there is a documented prehistoric presence in the area from the Paleoindian through Contact periods. This presence raises the potential for prehistoric sites to be located in the project area.

The well-drained soils in the project parcel heightens the potential for prehistoric utilization of specific locales within the project area. Settlement pattern studies for the region (Custer 1985; Evans and Rosentel 1993; Kinsey 1977; Ward 1992; Cavallo and Mounier 1980; Custer and Wallace 1982; Neumann 1992; Perazio et al. 1992; Ranere and Hansell 1987) have all defined areas of well-drained soils in close proximity to water as prime loci for prehistoric sites. A distance within 300 feet (91.4 m.) of all wetlands is considered the zone of highest sensitivity for the location of prehistoric archaeological resources. Although the proximity of water has been identified as a primary factor in predicting site location, other factors also have been identified. Level terrain, good drainage and a combination of factors are all considered important predictors of site location (Walwer and Pagoulatos 1990; Neumann 1992).

Prior cultural resource surveys have found that a majority of known sites are located along bluffs overlooking Arthur Kill or near inland streams. Further, for the inland areas, there is a consistent correlation of sites with elevated, well-drained, sandy ground near streams and marshy areas (Pickman 1995:3, 9; Yamin and Pickman 1986a). The project area lies in an upland area and the same stream that connects the Smoking point, Chemical Lane, and Pottery Farm sites flows from the project area. Additionally, on an 1898 map, a branch of Tappens Creek is indicated flowing south

past Gericke Farm from the vicinity of the project area (Yamin and Pickman 1986a) and other streams and drainages are seen in or near the project area on a 1913 topographic map of Richmond Borough. Finally, incomplete notes in the SIILAS files may indicate a possible prehistoric site in the area opposite Chemical Lane.

Almost two-thirds of the project area lies inside the zone of highest sensitivity. Areas within 300 feet (91.4 m.) of the several streams in and near the project parcel are considered to have a high potential for evidence of prehistoric occupation. Areas greater than 300 feet (91.4 m.) from these streams or drainages are considered to have low to moderate probabilities for containing prehistoric sites.

This portion of Staten Island is a highly sensitive area, with much potential already destroyed because of development and the shallow nature and low artifact density of inland sites (Geismar 1985:28-29; Pickman 1992:54). Given the size of the project area, the sensitivity of portions of the project area may be lessened by varying degrees of disturbance. These disturbances may be characterized as the result of agricultural activities, road and building construction, rubbish dumping and tree removal.

Every attempt should be made to recover any data from these "fragile resources" before development removes their ability to contribute potentially significant information to Staten Island prehistory.

7.2 Historic Resources

Van Schayck House

During the site visit to the project area ornamental flowers, shrubs and trees were found near the remnants of an asphalt driveway in the location of the Van Schayck house. It appears that no structures have been built on this property since the house was demolished in 1969. The 1917-1926 Sanborn does not show the house as having a basement. It was a two story frame structure with one and 1 ½ story additions on the east and south sides. Outbuildings were present on the property since at least 1898 and their locations are recorded in detail on four of the maps used in the background research.

This site has the potential of containing stratified deposits and outbuildings dating back to at least 1860. During the literature review, the lack of reports on investigations of nineteenth century residential structures was noticeable. Nineteenth century structures have been recorded and investigated only when they were associated with seventeenth and eighteenth century sites such as

the Dutch house sites on the north and east shores of Staten Island. The Van Shayck house site may provide information on what was going on outside the town centers and how tenants or landowners were making a living on marginal farmland. Further investigation into the identities of the Van Schayck and Dixon families may provide more data on relationships between the white and free African American families living east and south of the project area.

Dissosway House

To date there is no information on the extent of the subsurface disturbance to the property. Demolition permits were issued separately for the outbuildings and house in 1971 and 1972 respectively (Building Department, Richmond County Borough Hall). Access to the property was limited, but visual inspection from outside the chain link fence did not discern any subsidence in the landscaped areas around the parking lot to indicate the presence of a basement or other subsurface structure from the house. Comparison of the most recent U. S. G. S. quadrangle for the area with the 1913 topographic survey map shows that there has not been a significant change in topography over this property from the landscaping or from the widening of the road. The final stage of the landscaping around the present building appears to have involved grading down to Arthur Kill Road for the creation of the lawn, and the installation of the parking lot and the ornamental hedge. The potential for the presence of intact foundations or undisturbed subsurface features of the Dissosway house is suspected to be low. The site of the outbuildings that were present on the property in 1913 is in the footprint of the Merritt building, and remains of the buildings are likely to have been negatively impacted by its construction. The potential for significant cultural resources in the area of the outbuildings is low.] ✓

Block 7105, Lot 506

As mentioned in Section 6.2, water pipes were in Arthur Kill Road by 1898, before the house on this lot was built. This suggests that wells and privies may not be present as significant archaeological resources on the property. Sewer lines apparently went in quite late in this area, but information on septic systems is not available and privies and other small outbuildings were not depicted on the available maps. The Richmond County Building Department has no demolition information for this address or block and lot number. However, structures were not present in the aerial photographs from the SIHAS indicating that demolition took place sometime prior to 1975. No other structures appear to have been built over the footprint of the house or on the location of the outbuildings.]

Archaeological testing may provide more information on the use of the property and the relationship it had to the local economy and tri-state marketing network.

Block 7100, Lot 21

The installation of Veterans Road West as the access road for the West Shore Expressway was a major source of disturbance to any cultural resources which may have remained on the property. Privies and wells have historically been located close to dwellings, or at least close enough to ensure easy access. Given the distance from the house of the remnant portion of the lot and the disturbance from the construction of the Expressway and Veterans Road West, the potential for significant historic archaeological resources is considered to be low.]

Further investigation into the neighboring families or landholders contemporaneous with the Sandy Ground settlement may provide more information on the interaction of white and free African American families in the nineteenth century. Further documentary research into the identities of the Van Schayck and Dixon families, combined with archaeological investigation of the lot within the project area may provide more specific information on local social status and economic background.

7.3 Recommendations

Given the potential for both historic and prehistoric archaeological resources on the Centre at West Shore Property, Phase IB level testing is recommended. Testing should consist of shovel test pits at 15 meter intervals along transects across the property where possible, and at closer intervals in specific areas to document the extent of historic remains, if any, and prehistoric remains, if any, especially in Block 7105, Lot 506. Testing is also recommended in Block 7100, Lot 28, and Block 7105, Lot 526 around the edge of the parking lot, to assess the presence or absence of any subsurface remains from the Van Shayck and Djissosway houses and to determine the extent of disturbance at the sites. ✓

SECTION 8.0 SOURCES

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