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**PHASE 1A
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION
OF THE
SLEEPY HOLLOW VILLAGE STORES
DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
CEQR NO. 90-193R..**

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Documentary research, informant interviews and field reconnaissance were carried out within the proposed Sleepy Hollow Village Stores property located at 514 Bloomingdale Road, Staten Island, New York. No prehistoric cultural resources were found within the study area. The landscape within the property has been extensively altered and disturbed, therefore its potential for containing evidence of prehistoric occupation is extremely low.

Several historic period structures are present within the study area: the Sleepy Hollow Inn (c.1892–1898), a small frame dwelling (post 1913), a garage, catering/dance hall, refreshment stand, public restrooms, and a picnic shelter. These structures are not architecturally or historically significant and do not meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The development property lacks physical integrity and research potential. The construction of the proposed Sleepy Hollow Village Stores upon this site will have no impact upon the cultural resource base of the area.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Description

This report presents the results of a Phase 1A cultural resources investigation conducted within the Sleepy Hollow Village Stores development property located at 514 Bloomingdale Road, Staten Island, New York. This development will occur within Block 7317, Lot 23 and will face Bloomingdale Road. There are several standing structures within the property including a two and one-half story frame building with an attached one-story frame addition known as the Sleepy Hollow Inn, a one and one-half story frame dwelling with an attached masonry garage, a one-story frame garage with restrooms, a one and one-half story frame catering/dance hall with an attached one-story frame refreshment stand and a frame open picnic shelter. These structures will be demolished by the proposed development.

The 514 Bloomingdale Road Associates propose to construct a retail stores strip within the property. This structure, measuring 240 feet by 50 feet will be located within the western half of the property and a walkway, ten feet in width, will be constructed along its easterly side (Raia 1988). The project will also include the construction of parking areas, curbs and the planting of trees.

This Phase 1A study was conducted in accordance with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission guidelines for archaeology and the CEQR regulations. This project is CEQR No. 90-193R. The objectives of this investigation were to conduct documentary research and surface reconnaissance in order to record the history, development, and use of the property and evaluate its archaeological potential.

B. Study Area Location

The Sleepy Hollow Village Stores property is located at 514 Bloomingdale Road, Staten Island, New York. It is listed on the Borough tax map as Block 7317, Lot 23 and contains 42,583 square feet (Wohl & O'Mara 1988; Raia 1988). The

study area is bounded on the north by Sharrotts Road, on the east by Bloomingdale Road, on the south by private land presently under development and on the west by an open baseball field.

The property is situated within the Sandy Ground National Register District. The location of the development site is indicated on the Arthur Kill New York-New Jersey quadrangle, United States Geological Survey map, 7.5' series photorevised in 1981 (FIGURE 1).

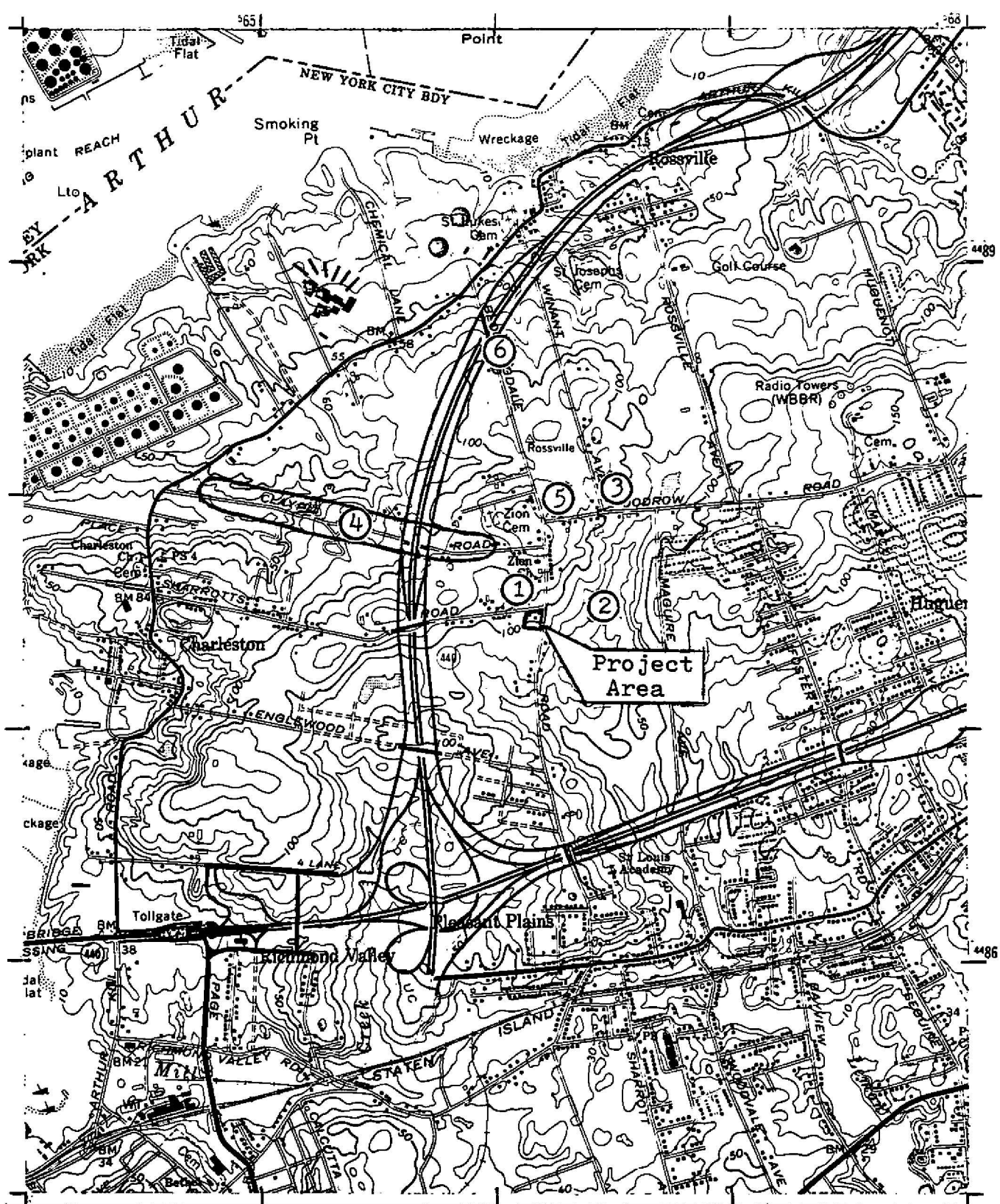


FIGURE 1: Portion of U.S.G.S. map Arthur Kill, N.Y.-N.J. quadrangle showing location of project area & nearby prehistoric sites.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The environmental history and current setting of the Sleepy Hollow Village Stores project area is described below and reflects information obtained from published studies, maps, informants and our own observations made in the field. The environmental variables considered here are important because they significantly influence the nature, distribution, use and preservation of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.

A. Topography and Water Supply

The present topography of the study area can be characterized as flat with a gentle and almost imperceptible slope from north to south. The local elevations range from 106 feet above mean sea level at the northwestern corner of the property to 100 feet at its southern end.

At the present time, there are no ponds, streams, or springs within the property. However, a post glacial pond was formerly located adjacent to the southwest corner of the property (FIGURE 2). This pond is no longer extant having been filled in 1982 in advance of a proposed housing development. According to previous reports, this pond was formerly one to three feet in depth and its banks were littered with construction debris and discarded appliances prior to being filled (Cotz and Lenik 1982:87).

The glacial pond was filled with soils brought in from elsewhere, and large earthmoving equipment was used in this process. Extensive landscape disturbance was observed in this area during archaeological investigations conducted on this property in 1982 (Cotz and Lenik 1982:87-88).

Two other post-glacial ponds are located about 400 feet northwest of the project area and the small stream which drains these ponds lies some 600 feet to the west. Sandy Brook is located approximately 1000 feet to the east of Sleepy Hollow Village Stores development property.

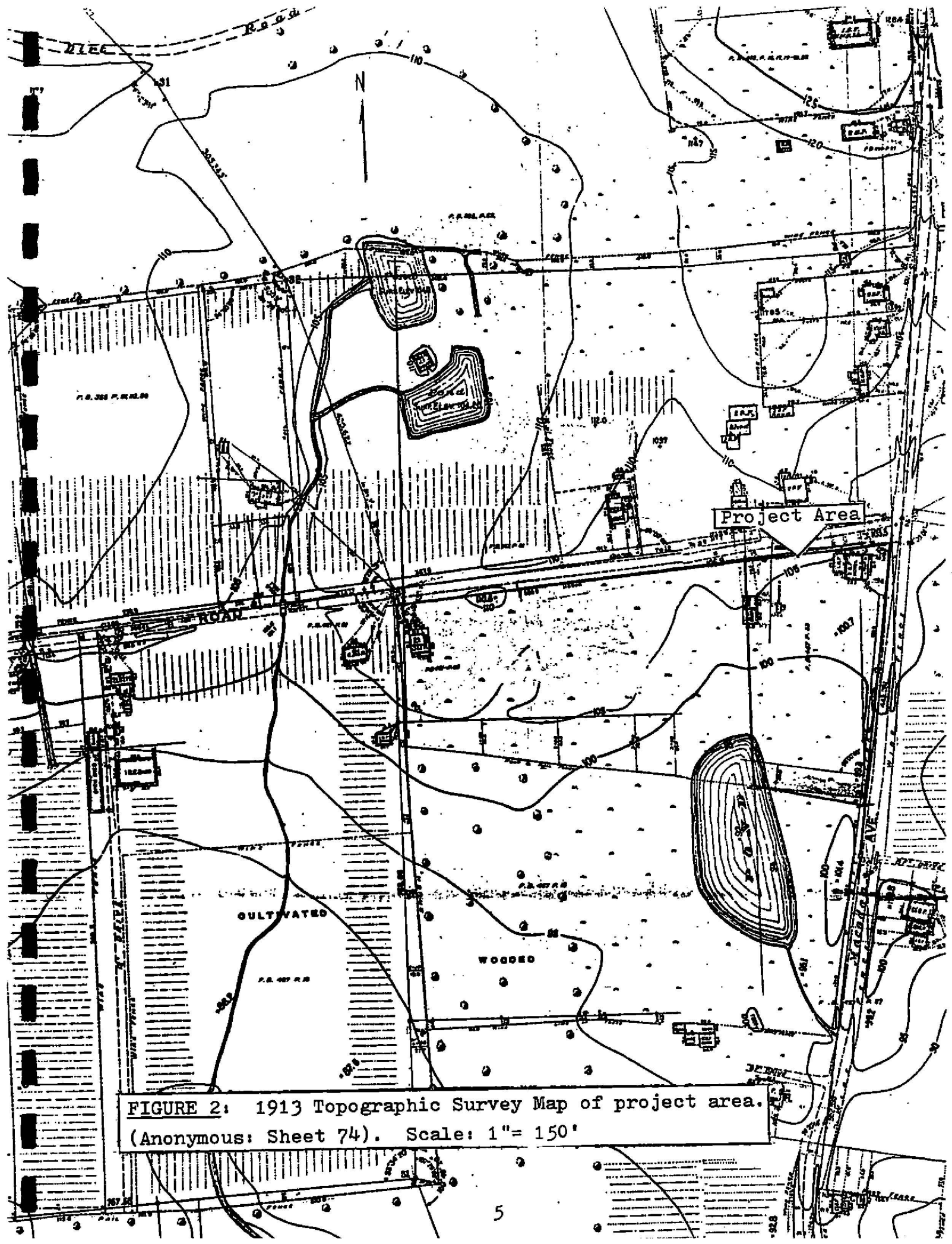


FIGURE 2: 1913 Topographic Survey Map of project area.
(Anonymous: Sheet 74). Scale: 1" = 150'

B. Geology and Soils

The project area lies within the Coastal Plain physiographic province (Schuberth 1968). The underlying deposits in the region, laid down during the Cretaceous period some seventy million years ago (Gratacap 1909:175-176), consists of sands and clays called the Raritan-Magothy formation (FIGURE 3). The Raritan formation is the older of the two and is composed of loose gray sands and gravels with layers of silt (Schneider 1977). The more recent Magothy formation, lying on top of the Raritan formation, consists of loose sand mixed with silt and clay with some layers of coarse sand and gravel. Glacial deposits, in turn, overlie those of the Cretaceous period and date to about 14,000 years ago.

Continental glaciation affected the surficial geology of Staten Island as a glacier advanced and receded over the landscape at least three times during the last million years. The last, or Wisconsin episode, ended in the area about 14,000 years ago. During this period, the advancing and retreating ice sheet combined with the action of lowered sea levels to cause the cutting and erosion of sediments of the coastal plain. The southern limit of the ice sheet is indicated by the terminal moraine, which extends along the shore of Raritan Bay and Arthur Kill south of the project area (Distrigas 1973:2-13). As the ice melted and finally retreated it left behind glacial till sediments consisting of sands, silts, and gravels. Therefore, the region's surface features and deposits are of post glacial origin, that is, they began forming approximately 14,000 years ago (Kraft and Chacko 1978:41).

General soil profiles delineated from previous archaeological tests in undisturbed areas on adjacent properties indicate the presence of an upper layer of a brown sandy loam containing some rocks. Underlying stratum I was a red-orange or tan-orange silty clay (Cotz and Lenik 1982:88-91).

C. Flora and Fauna

The Sleepy Hollow Village Stores development property is in a region that is undergoing extensive change and development. Once a rural area, the property today is surrounded by paved roads and residential structures. In general, this fully

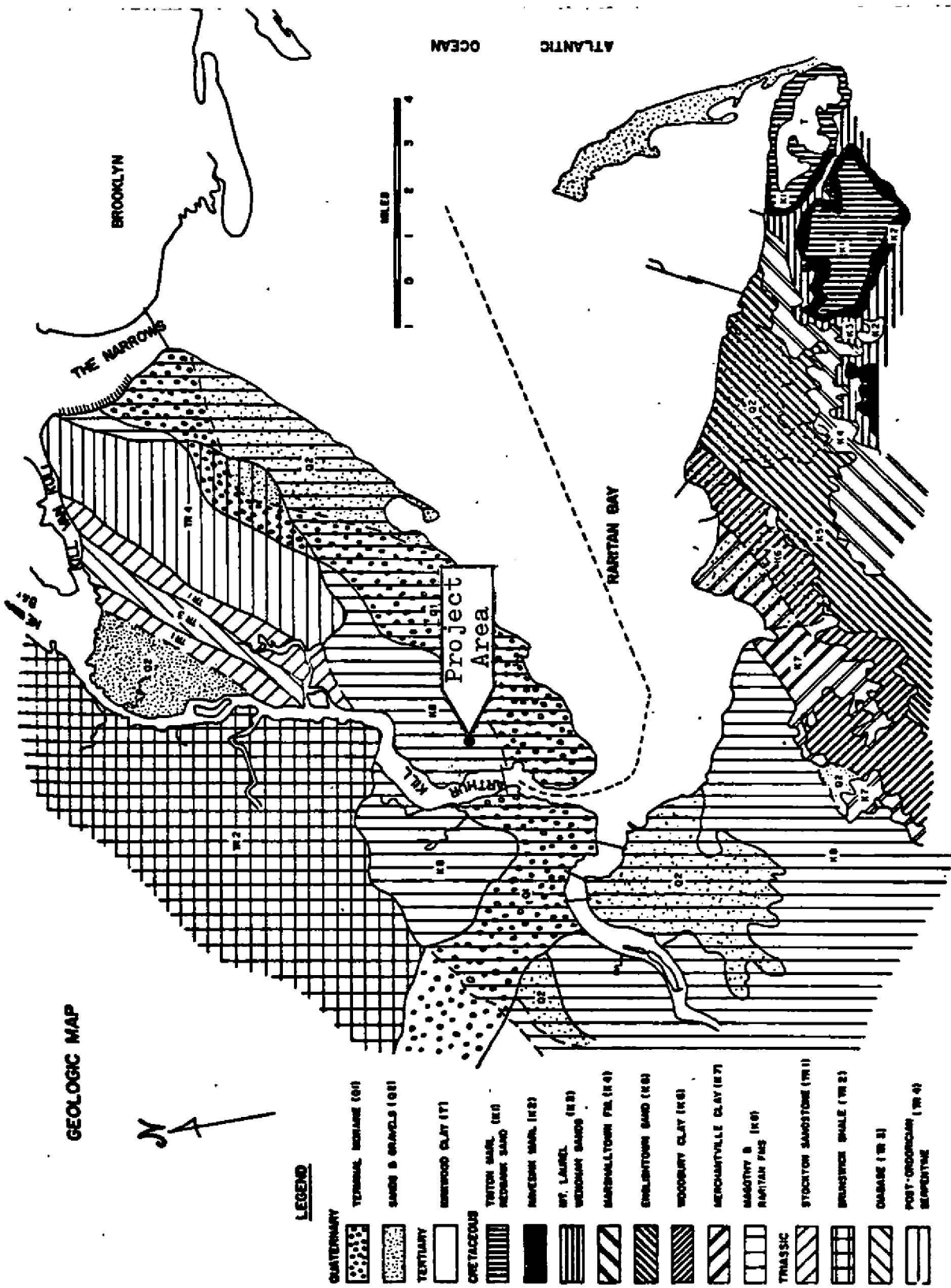


FIGURE 3: Geologic Map of Staten Island showing location of project area. Adapted from Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Staten Island Project, Distrigas of New York Corp. 1973.

developed property contains little vegetation; a few maple and sycamore trees are scattered throughout the east-central section, an elm tree is located within the northwest corner, and grass and weeds are present along the western and southern borders. No fauna was observed within the property.

D. Historic Land Use

Environmental conditions within the study area have undergone several changes during the historic period due to environmental and human processes. These changes have had a direct effect on the preservation of any prehistoric or historic resources that may have existed within the property.

Since the first settlers arrived in the area, human impact upon the land has been continuous. The land was first cleared of its timber resources and then extensively utilized for agricultural purposes. The development of the property began in the late nineteenth century and is described in detail in the historical background section of this report.

Several major landscape disturbances have taken place within the property as well. These disturbances are discussed in the field survey section of this report.

III. BACKGROUND RESEARCH: NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCES

A. Introduction

The following discussion of Native American lifeways provides a basis on which to anticipate the kinds of cultural remains or sites that may be found in the study area. A brief description of the four periods of culture history prior to and immediately following European contact is presented first. This information summarizes the ways in which Native American people lived in the northeastern United States in general and in coastal New York in particular. These cultural sequences describe the particular technologies, lifestyles, and environmental contexts of the four time periods.

The American Indian history of Staten Island has been researched extensively, and the available data provides excellent background material with which to assess the project area. A search of the literature on this area, which includes Skinner 1909, Bolton 1920, Parker 1922, Smith 1950, Ritchie 1980, and the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences Indian Sites Records, has identified several American Indian sites in close proximity to the study area. These documented sites, although directly outside the immediate project zone, give us a good picture of American Indian settlement and subsistence patterns. Additional information was obtained through personal contact with local informants and collectors who have extensive knowledge of the general area. Our survey and analysis evaluated the probable attractiveness of the study area for Native American peoples and the areas where they were likely to have lived and worked. We considered the archaeological potential of the area by correlating environmental and cultural history in the region.

B. Regional Prehistory: The Native American Cultural Periods

The Paleo-Indian Period

The first Native Americans arrived in the New World about 20,000 years ago. These early Americans, whom we call Paleo Indians, migrated from Siberia across the Bering Strait Land Bridge to Alaska during the Late Pleistocene or Ice Age. They entered the New World either by way of an ice-free corridor between two massive glaciers that covered Canada or along the western coast of North America. The distinctive feature of the Paleo-Indian period was the adaptability of these people to the alternating cold, wet and dry conditions which occurred at the end of the Pleistocene and the beginning of the Holocene. During this time, the Indians were hunters and gatherers, a nomadic people who roamed widely in search of food, and their settlement pattern consisted of small temporary camps. A variety of deciduous, boreal, and grassland environments would have provided a large number of productive habitats for game animals on Staten Island, and watering areas would have been particularly good hunting sites. The diagnostic artifact of the Paleo Indian is the fluted projectile point. These people made other sophisticated tools, however, including graters, steep-edge scrapers, knives, drills, and other unifacial tools. They preferred high quality lithic material, and carefully resharpened and maintained their stone tools.

There is significant evidence to indicate that Paleo Indian people lived on Staten Island. A single fluted point was found on the Cutting Site in Rossville and more than 144 Paleo Indian artifacts have been found in the Port Mobil area in Kreischerville (Kraft 1977:6).

The Archaic Period (c. 8000 to 1000 B.C.)

The Archaic Period produced a major shift in the settlement and subsistence patterns of early people. Hunting and gathering were still the basic way of life during this period, but the emphasis in subsistence shifted from the large Pleistocene herbivores, which were rapidly becoming extinct, to smaller game and plants of the deciduous forest. The environment differed from that of the earlier period, and was dominated by mesic (temperate) habitats consisting of forests of oak and hemlock.

The open grasslands began to disappear, and the sea level rose, inundating the land along the continental shelf. A major effect of the rise in sea level was a higher local water table which created a large number of swamps. The settlement pattern of the Archaic people indicates larger, more permanent habitation sites. These people were increasingly more efficient in the exploration of their environment, and plant food resources, along with fish and shellfish, played a more important role in their diet. The hallmarks of this period are bifurcated (basal notched) projectile points during the Early Archaic, grinding implements, ground stone tools and toward the end of this period, or Terminal Archaic, the use of stone bowls and new radically different broad bladed projectile points. A large number of Archaic Period sites have been found on Staten Island, including Richmond Hill, Lakes Island, Bloomfield, Old Place, Goodrich, Page Avenue, Burial Ridge, Harik's Sandy Ground, Wort Farm, Smoking Point, and Conference House Park.

The Woodland Period (c. 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1600)

Environmental changes continued to occur during this period including sea level rise and the replacement of some mesic forests by xeric (dry) forests of oak and hickory. In general, hunting and gathering persisted in this period, but several important changes took place. Horticulture began during this period and later became well established with the cultivation of maize (corn), beans, and squash. Clay pottery vessels replaced soapstone bowls, and tobacco pipes and smoking were adopted. Also, the bow and arrow replaced the spear and javelin during this period. The habitation sites of the Woodland Indians increased in size and permanence as these people continued to extract food more efficiently from their environment. A large number of Woodland Period archaeological sites have been found on Staten Island. Some of these are Bowman's Brook Site at Mariners Harbor, Burial Ridge at Tottenville, Lakes Island at Fresh Kills, Bloomfield, Old Place, Harbor Hill at New Brighton, Silver Lake, Peltons Cove at West New Brighton, Richmond Valley, Sharrot Estates at Sandy Ground, Clay Pit, Sandy Brook, Wort Farm and Smoking Point near Rossville.

The Contact Period (c. 1600 A.D. to c. 1750 A.D.)

The settlement of New Amsterdam (New York) by the Dutch in the early 1600s initiated the Contact Period between the Indians of Staten Island and the Europeans. Following this settlement, a regular pattern of Indian-European trade developed, and the Indians began to acquire European-made tools and ornaments. As this trade increased and continued, items of European origin should presumably occur with greater frequency at Indian sites. Evidence of European-Indian trade on Staten Island is sparse, but several items of European manufacture have been found in good archaeological contexts at the Burial Ridge Site in Tottenville (Jacobson 1980:23, 24, 31, 64).

C. Native American Archaeological Sites in the Project Area

In prehistoric times, Staten Island was intensely occupied and used by Native American peoples. This fact was amply demonstrated in the early twentieth century by archaeologist Alanson B. Skinner of the American Museum of Natural History who located and surveyed more than twenty-five "important" prehistoric sites on Staten Island (Skinner 1909:43-45). Skinner also observed that prehistoric campsites were present along the entire shore from Rossville to Tottenville and that scattered relics were found in nearly every field (Skinner and Schrabisch 1913:44).

There are no recorded prehistoric archaeological sites located within the Sleepy Hollow Village Stores development property. However, a number of prehistoric sites have been found in close proximity to the project area and are listed in Table 1 below, and their locations are shown in FIGURE 1.

TABLE 1: PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE VICINITY OF THE PROJECT AREA

SITE NAME	LOCATION	TYPE	CULTURAL PERIOD	REFERENCE
1. Sharrott Estates	West of Bloomingdale Rd. between Sharrott and Claypit Rds.	campsite	Late Woodland	Lenik 1987; Cotz, Lenik, and Githens 1985
2. Sandy Brook	East of Bloomingdale Rd. and project area	campsite	Late Archaic/ Mid-Late Woodland	Skinner 1909; Parker 1922; Cotz and Lenik 1982
3. Wort Farm	Rossville-Woodrow	campsite	Late Archaic to Late Woodland	Skinner 1909; Williams 1968; Horwitz 1971
4. Clay Pit (3)	Clay Pit Road	campsites	Middle-Late Woodland	Skinner 1909; Askins 1982; LBA 1987
5. Rossville	Rossville-Woodrow	campsite	Woodland	Kaeser 1966
6. Harik's Sandy Ground	Rossville	campsite	Late Archaic	Lavin 1980

The artifacts recovered from the sites listed above were numerous and varied. They include such stone tools as projectile points, knives, scrapers, drills, mortars, hammerstones, axes, and utilized flakes. Abundant lithic debitage was also found at all of the sites while several hundred fragments of pottery were recovered from the Wort Farm and Sandy Brook Sites. In summary, there is significant evidence to indicate that prehistoric people lived in the vicinity of the Sleepy Hollow Village Stores project area.

IV. BACKGROUND RESEARCH: HISTORICAL RESOURCES

A. Introduction

The primary goal of this land evaluation was to gather historical and archaeological data for the purpose of adequately evaluating cultural resources present within the project area and to provide recommendations as to its archaeological sensitivity. From the outset, the researchers were aware of the property's setting in the Sandy Ground Historic District. In order to identify known potential historic cultural resources, an intensive search of the literature was carried out at the following institutions:

- New York Public Library
- Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences
- City Clerks Office, Borough of Richmond
- Staten Island Topographic Bureau

Sandy Ground is one of the oldest black communities in New York State (Fanciullo 1978:22). It is a "unique community founded primarily by free black oystermen in the mid-19th century" (Askins 1980:139). "So important is the legacy of Sandy Ground...that the state Division of Historic Preservation recommended it be designated a national historic site" (Fanciullo 1978:22).

However, the uniqueness of Sandy Ground is not that free black oystermen settled here in the mid-19th century (there were white farmers and grocers in the area before then and Indians before that), but that black men and women and white men and women lived cordially together at a time when separateness and/or enslavement was the norm. As volatile as race relations were elsewhere in this country, they were uniquely cordial at Sandy Ground, at least to the extent that the area was well-known for this trait. It was an integrated community in the truest sense of the word. People were considered "neighbors," attended the same schools, played

on the same ball teams, attended many of the same social gatherings. The study area, which contained the road house or tavern known as "The Neighbors" — with its ballfield, picnic ground and dance pavilion, served an important function as a gathering place for this integrated community.

However, to fully understand this phenomenon, it is important to know something about the history of Sandy Ground which was founded in part by free black oystermen in the mid-19th century. Although intensive studies of the community were done in the 1970's and 80's, emphasis has been on the Afro-American families of Sandy Ground (Schuyler 1974; Askins 1980, Cotz and Lenik 1982, Cotz, Lenik, Githens and Askins 1985). (An exception is Cotz and Lenik et al 1985 in their discussion of the Sharrott and Cutting families). But white families were also an important component of Sandy Ground, and cannot be ignored if the community is to be completely understood (Askins 1980:1-17). Sandy Ground has been described as "a racially and ethnically diverse neighborhood composed of free blacks from New York City, Orange, N.J. and the eastern shore of Maryland" (Ibid). Along with these blacks were European-Americans from Germany, France, Ireland, Switzerland and Norway, "all of whom interacted at various levels with each other in the community" (Ibid).

Staten Island in the Seventeenth Century

The Unami Delaware had several names for Staten Island, "Eghquaons", "Motnucke", "Monocknong", or "Aquehonga Manacknong". These names have been translated as "high sandy banks" or "dark bad wood", depending upon the area under discussion (Clute 1877; Grumet 1981). In 1626 the Dutch West India Company purchased "Staten Eylandt" from the Native Americans and Michael Pauw obtained a patent in 1630. Pauw, one of the directors of the Company, attempted settlement in the area overlooking the Narrows, naming it "Oude Dorp" or "Old Town".

In 1636, David Pieterszen de Vries "requested Wouter van Twiller to put Staten Island down to his name, intending (to) go form a colony" at Tompkinsville (Collections 1841:259-60; Bayles 1887). De Vries' colony was already at the "watering place" when Cornelius Melyn arrived in 1641, (evidence of Dutch West India Com-

pany mismanagement). An angry de Vries noted in his journal that Melyn claimed ownership of the Island saying it had been "given him by the Directors of the (Dutch West India) Company" (Collections 1841:264). Melyn obtained the grant when Pauw abandoned it, establishing an independent government in a stone blockhouse at Oude Dorp. In this way, he controlled the Narrows and "intercepted the trade of port" (Bacon 1964:page number lost). Eleven days later the Indians attacked Staten Island and de Vries wrote that his colonists had been "murdered on Staten Island by the Indians of the Raritan" (Leng and Davis 1930; Collections 1841:264). This massacre was a retaliatory episode for an earlier punitive expedition against the Indians known as the "Peach War", which was undertaken by the Secretary of New Netherlands, Cornelius Van Tienhoven, and in which many Native Americans were killed. Melyn's colony was also destroyed with the result that he sold his patent back to the Dutch West India Company (Bayles 1887). DeVries went back to the Netherlands in 1643 (Dubois and Smith 1961:20).

The Dutch ceded Staten Island to the English in 1664. Acknowledging that many of the boundaries were in dispute, Governor Lovelace ordered a series of land surveys which were completed in 1677 by his successor, Governor Andros (Leng and Davis 1930:741). The area surrounding and including the study area and the community called Sandy Ground off the western shore of Staten Island, was divided into patents and reflected great ethnic diversity (Cotz and Lenik, et al 1985:31). These early patents have been reconstructed by Frederick Skene (1907) and his "Map of Staten Island" places the project area within the 123 acre patent to Peter Minne and Anthony Tice, dated October 12, 1696 (FIGURE 4). Anthony Tice may be Anthony Tyson who served in various capacities as "Supervisor" of the West Division in 1699, as "collector" for the West Precinct in 1709 and as "assessor" in 1713. (WPA 1942:99-116). Peter Minne was probably Peter Manee or Mann, Surveyor of the highway of the west division in 1699 (Leng and Davis 1930:924). His family was listed on the 1706 census (Ibid). Peter Minne may have been a possible descendant of Gerrit Mannaat, one of the nineteen petitioners for land on Staten Island in 1661 (Ibid).

When Richmond County was formed in 1683 there were already two hundred families living there.

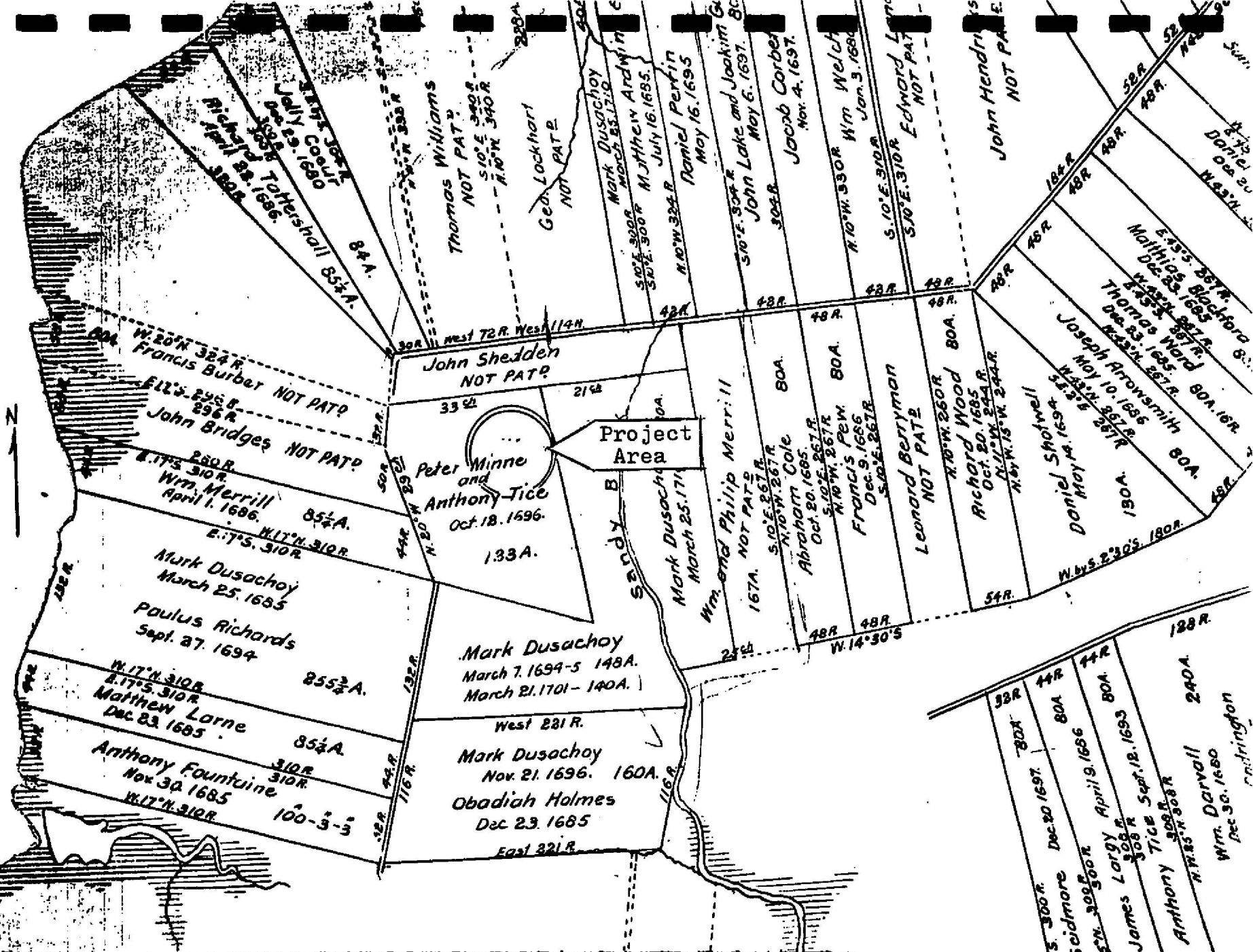


FIGURE 4: Skene's 1907 Map of Staten Island, Richmond Co., N.Y. Showing the Colonial Land Patents. The project area is located within the Patent to Peter Minne & Anthony Tice. (No scale)

The Eighteenth Century

Staten Island was a British stronghold during the Revolutionary War. The earliest maps recording settlement in the area were drawn by English, French and German cartographers during the war of rebellion. McMillen's (1933) map of Staten Island During the Revolution, 1775-1783 which is a compilation of several 18th century maps, indicates that although the area was sparsely populated, it was already known as "Sandy Ground." It was here that the Hessian mercenaries encamped: "Major Von Wurmb with two companies" and "Captain Waldenberg with 2 companies" (McMillen 1933). The entire western side of Staten Island was heavily fortified with up to 40,000 troops under the command of General Howe. (Clute 1877; Schneider 1977:8-9; Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:35).

McMillen's composite map also indicates the existence of what is today Bloomingdale Road as well as today's Woodrow Road to the northeast.

Staten Island was divided into four townships in 1788 and the southwestern section which included the study area, was called Westfield. A New and Correct Map" depicting Staten Island in 1797 indicated that the area along the north side of Woodrow Road near the Sandy Brook had been developed by that time.

It is surmised that the earliest inhabitants in the vicinity of Sandy Ground "followed one of the two major occupations on the island -- agriculture or fishing" (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:37). "Oystering associated with Prince's Bay just south of Sandy Ground, dates from the earliest Dutch occupation circa 1670 and was also tied to early settlement along Lemon Creek and perhaps the Sandy Brook" which is east of the project area (taken from Powell 1976:1-3 in Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:37). The first legislation passed to control the large scale decimation of natural oyster beds was instituted in the 18th century (Powell 1976:4; Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:37-39). By the end of the 18th century, the oyster beds were exhausted and it was imperative that the planting of seed oysters begin. "A few years after the first beds were planted an extent of coast of from five to ten miles was covered with oysters taken from the 'rocks of Virginia'" (Leng and Davis 1930:632). This transplanting of seed oysters from Chesapeake Bay had a great impact on the history of the Sandy Ground area.

The Nineteenth Century

The Gazeteer of the State of New York published in 1813 by Horatio Gates Spafford noted that the population of Westfield was 1444. The population of the entire Island was 5,347 in 1813 (In Leng and Davis 1930). The description of Westfield reveals that it included areas such as "Indian Hill, Fresh Kills, Giffords Lane, Prince's Bay, noted for its oysters, meadows, one church, and a ferry to Amboy" (Leng and Davis 1930:645). Also noted were "three distilleries, two tanneries, two carding machines and fifty-nine looms" perhaps suggestive of a cottage industry in cloth production (Ibid).

Many of the ancestors of today's Afro-American inhabitants of Sandy Ground worked the waters between Maryland, New York and New Jersey as captains of their own ships and as crew members. In 1835 a "statute requiring that a white male be chief navigator on any vessel in Maryland waters" as well as further restrictive legislation led to a migration of black oystermen, primarily from Snow Hill, Maryland, for the western shore of Staten Island (Fanciullo 1978:25; Schuyler 1974). These Marylanders may have had economic if not family ties with the Staten Island oystermen.

By 1830, Prince's Bay along the south shore was the center of this industry (Leng and Davis 1930:632). There may have been an "established oystering community" on Woodrow Road by the 1830's. Westfield Oysterman and their "friends" signed a petition in 1831 whereby "the petitioners relate that oyster fishing and trade is their principal support, (that) they are debarred from laying down for refreshment their oysters, which privilege is accorded in Northfield and Castleton, but prohibited in Southfield and Westfield by a law passed in 1813, and pray that they may be placed on an equal footing with their fellow citizens" (Leng and Davis 1930:232). The names on this document were local people such as Winant, Mesereau, Disoway, Slight and La Forge, familiar to us from the documents (Powell 1976:13; Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:39).

In 1830, the area was described as composed of "one of the most peculiar classes of independent yeomanry to be found in the United States. Their farms are of small extent, but are highly cultivated and enriched with a prodigality of fruit

trees, and their neat white cottages...are held by the descendants of the original owners to this day" (as quoted in Schneider 1977:9; Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:37). The well-drained sandy soil of the area produced wheat, barley, corn, potatoes, apples, rye, barley, oats and specialty crops such as strawberries and watercress, raspberries and mint (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:40).

"The immigration from northern Europe...commenced before 1843" (Leng and Davis 1930:249). The project area, beginning with its sale in 1892 to the Swiss Oeschli and the Germans Peidl and Reinhardt, directly reflected this influx of northern Europeans. So, too did the establishment of breweries in 1851. Although agriculture and oystering supported the local economy in the Post-Civil War Period, there was increasing evidence of industrialization (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985). Balthasar Kreisler's New York Fire-Brick and Staten Island Clay Retort Works, established in New York City in 1845 and removed to Kreischerville in 1854, continued to expand to include a chemical works and an ultramarine-blue factory which reached its peak in the late 19th century (Leng and Davis 1930:257; Bayles 1887). Industrial pollution from New Jersey in the vicinity of Elizabeth and Newark in the late 19th century, contaminated the oyster beds but the New York Department of Health did not condemn the Staten Island oyster beds until 1916 (Board of Education 1964:181).

Although the western shore of Staten Island was linked to New Jersey by a railroad bridge in 1885 and although Westfield "encompassed one third the area of Staten Island", in 1888 it was still underpopulated when compared with the expanding populations of the north and south shores (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:40-41).

"At the time of consolidation as part of New York City in 1898, Westfield was divided into the hamlets of Tottenville, Pleasant Plains, Prince's Bay, Annapolis, Huguenot, Eltingville, Kreischerville, Rossville and Greenridge. Sandy Ground, had no political boundaries but existed at and around the intersection of Bloomingdale and Woodrow Roads. Sandy Grounders became identified with communities on its periphery — Rossville to the north, Woodrow to the east, Kreischerville to the west and Pleasant Plains to the south" (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:41).

B. The Project Area in the 19th Century

The center of the community of Sandy Ground (also known as Harrisville, Little Africa and Bogardus Corners) was the intersection of Woodrow and Bloomingdale Roads, also known as Bogardus' Corner (Leng and Davis 1930:353). By the 1870's, it was the location of several commercial enterprises, almost all run by Bogardus. "These included a general store, an undertaker and an ice cream manufactory (Business Directory 1879:5, in Cotz and Lenik et al 1985). This was the extent of the neighborhood commercial network. Larger and additional services, a butcher for example, were at the nearby communities north and south of Sandy Ground." (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:42).

The corner of Sharrotts Road and Bloomingdale Road has historically been associated with the site of a store, beginning with its first appearance on the 1850 Dripps Map and then as "Dupuy's Store" in 1853 (Dripps 1850; Butler 1853; FIGURE 5). It was unnamed in 1859 and 1864 (Walling 1859, 1864). Leng and Davis (1930) placed Dupuy at "Bogardus Corners" in 1853 and C. Bogardus' store at the same location in "Woodrow" in 1859 (Leng and Davis 1930:64). It is not clear if Leng and Davis were discussing the location of Bogardus' Corners (intersection of Bloomingdale and Woodrow Roads), or calling the whole area, "Bogardus Corners" (Ibid).

Charles Bogardus, Jr., the grocer, was born in 1849, the son of Charles Bogardus and Jane Androvette Guyon (Leng and Davis 1930:866). The Dupuys descended from Nicolas Du Pui of Artois, who came to New Netherland in 1662 and obtained a ground brief for a plantation in 1663 (Leng and Davis 1930:124). The family name is sometimes spelled Depew or Dupue (Leng and Davis 1930:888). The land just south of the project area was owned by "C. Bogardus & Son" before 1874, at the latest, and it is possible that the store (owned by Dupuy) was located on Bogardus' land, and that this is the source of all the confusion about Dupuy's store at Bogardus Corners (Beers 1874).

As stated above, the first suggestion of any activity within the project area is Dripp's 1850 map which indicates "M. Dupuy('s) Store". Dripp's maps are often wildly inaccurate but the Butler 1853 Map, places "Dupuy's Store" immediately

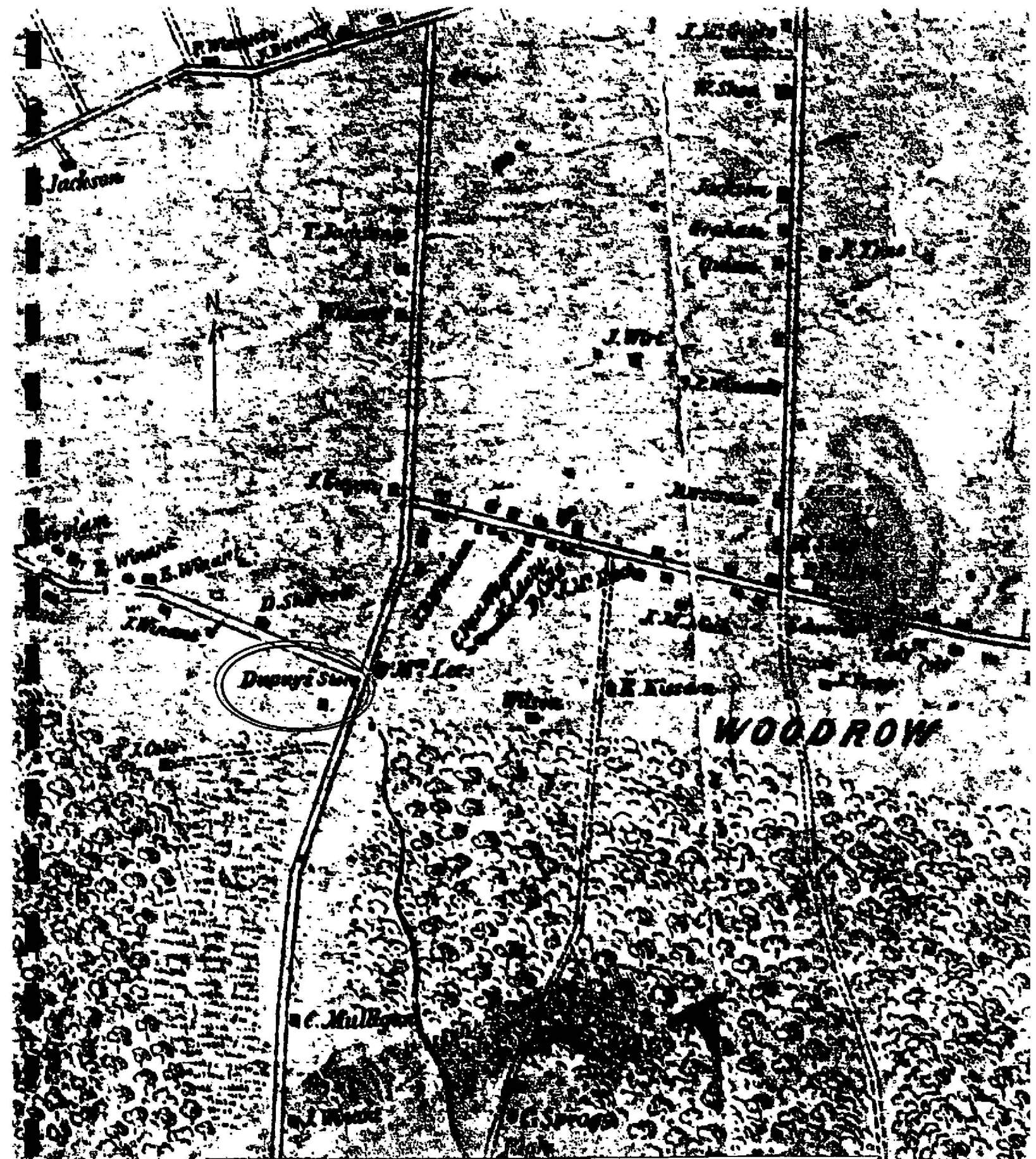


FIGURE 5: Butler's 1853 Map of Staten Island showing "Dupuy's Store." (No scale)

southwest of the intersection of Sharrotts Road and Bloomingdale Road where it appears to be either within or just south of the project area (FIGURE 5). No property conveyances to or from Dupuy and the Winants and Sharrotts who owned most, if not all, of the real estate in the vicinity of the project area by 1854 at the latest, could be located (Richmond County Deeds).

A John Depew, a 42-year-old white, "boatman" with his wife and son was listed in the 1850 census, but no address was noted nor was there a reference to a store.

According to Butler's Map, (1853) Dupuy's neighbors along Bloomingdale Road were the Winants, Mulligans, Lees and Coles. To the north and northwest, along Sharrotts Road (the road to Kreischerville), were several Winants (J.R. & E.), Woglams, and Sharrotts who began buying tracts of land in the vicinity (of which the project area was part) in 1854 (Richmond County Deeds). The Sharrotts gave their name to the street which is the northern boundary of the project site.

The Sharrott family descended from Richard Skerret, a French Huguenot who came to Staten Island during the Revolutionary War Period (Clute 1877:421; Morris 1900:113). He died at the Quarantine in Tompkinsville in 1830, at the age of 81. He was a shoemaker (Leng and Davis 1930 Vol. 2:951). His grandson, Daniel Sharrott is noted on mid-19th century maps as the owner of property and a house on the north side of Sharrott Road immediately north of the project area. Daniel lived there throughout his entire life. He was recorded on the Westfield Assessment Roll for 1856 and located on "Sharrott Road". He was assessed for a house, 16 acres of land and real estate valued at \$1200 (Westfield Assessment Roll 1856:n.p.). Daniel Sharrott established the family butchering business in Woodrow and Kreischerville and it was continued by his sons in Pleasant Plains (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985). In 1869, Daniel and his wife Gertrude subdivided their land, "passing 1/2 acre to their son Winant B. Sharrott for \$100 (Richmond County Deeds Liber B211:273). Winant B. established a comfortable homestead on the northwest corner of Bloomingdale and Sharrott Road," directly opposite the study area, to the north (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:67-68). When Sharrott died, his sons William H. and John served as executors of his will. Most of the property was inherited by Winant B. and William H. Sharrott (Ibid).

Beer's Atlas indicated that the project area was owned by "D. Sharrott" by 1874, (FIGURE 6). There was no "store" or any other structure on the property at this time. As stated above, Sharrott also had a farmhouse and 15 1/2 acres to the northwest of the study area, on the opposite side of Sharrott Road. Winant B. Sharrott owned a house and half-acre of land north of the project area. Inhabiting the study area during the 1870's were Alfred Cutting on the west and Charles Bogardus & Son, who owned four acres and a large pond to the south and almost fifteen acres and a house, east of the project area. Although there were many black families in the neighborhood, the project area itself as well as all of the real estate immediately north, south, east and west, were owned by European-Americans.

William H. and Mary Jane Sharrott sold the property which included the parcel which later became the project area, to Henry H. Chapin in 1887, for one dollar (Richmond County Deeds Liber 182, p. 379). This was undoubtedly part of the land William H. inherited from his father Daniel Sharrott. The 1887 Beers Atlas showed that the project area belonged to Chapin but that the land was undeveloped (FIGURE 7). Henry H. Chapin was listed in Trow's 1898 Directory as an "agent" with a house on Broadway in Tottenville (Trow 1898:17). This suggests that Chapin purchased the study area for the purpose of reselling it quickly at a profit.

On July 23, 1892, Henry H. and Ellen A. Chapin sold the 3.61 acre parcel which contained the project area to Thomas F. and Aurelia Oschli for \$3500 (Richmond County Deeds Liber 222, p.596). No buildings were mentioned in the deed; it was simply described as a "certain lot piece or parcel of land" (Ibid). Information about the Oschlis (also spelled Oeschli), was pieced together from city directories and U.S. census records. The 1893 Directory of Richmond County listed a Franz Oeschli, "confectioner", at Bloomingdale Road in Rossville and in the same volume listed him as the owner of a "confectionery" (Libby 1893:246,301). Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (1983), explains that a confectionery is a place where candy and other confections, such as ice-cream are sold (Webster 1983:381). It is not clear if "Franz Oeschli" the confectioner is the same individual as "T.F. Oschli" of the 1892 real estate conveyance but it is a likely supposition. Evidence to support this hypothesis comes from the same city directory which lists an obvious relative — given the same unusual surname — Conrad (Konrad, Counrad)

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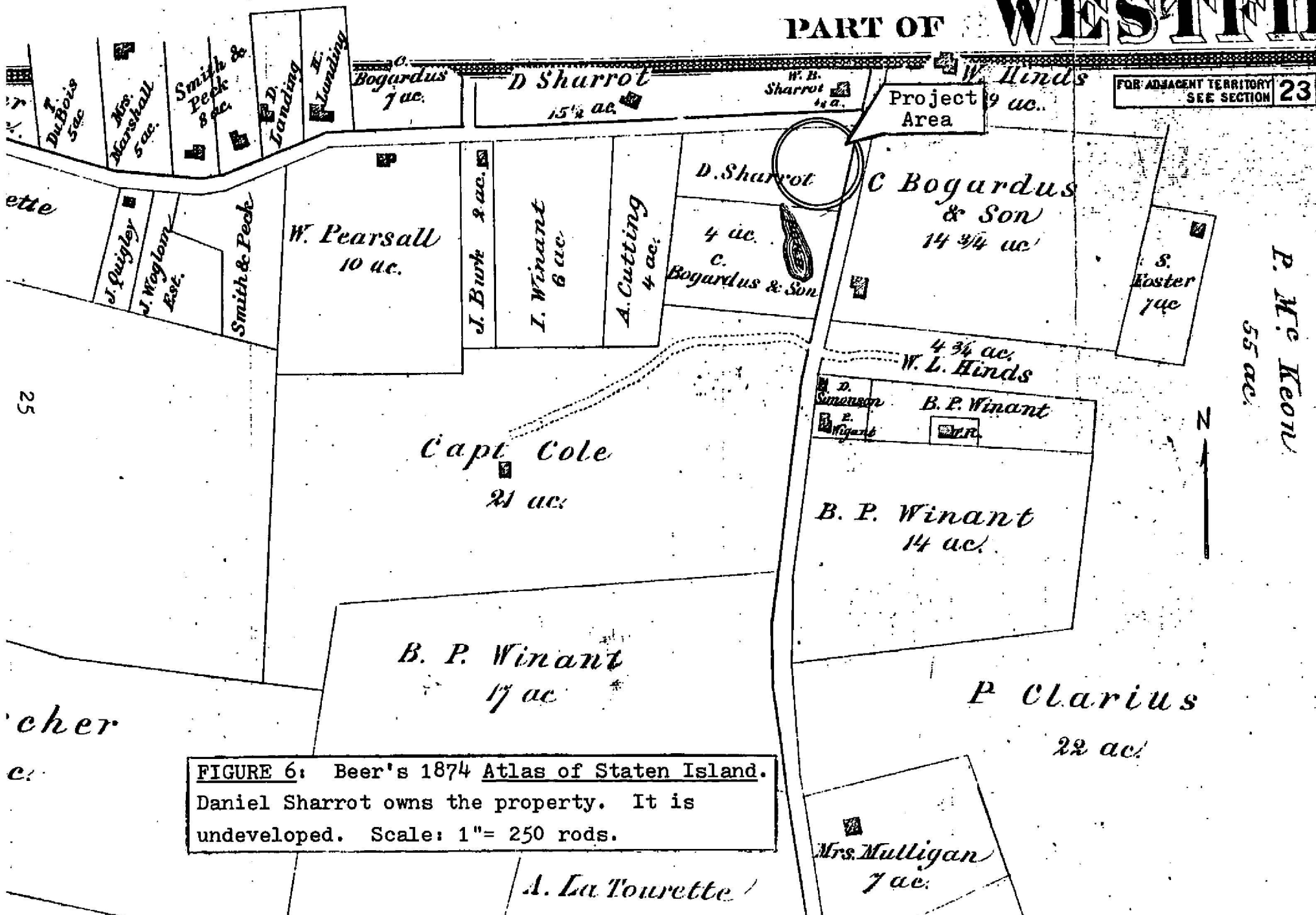


FIGURE 6: Beer's 1874 Atlas of Staten Island. Daniel Sharrot owns the property. It is undeveloped. Scale: 1" = 250 rods.

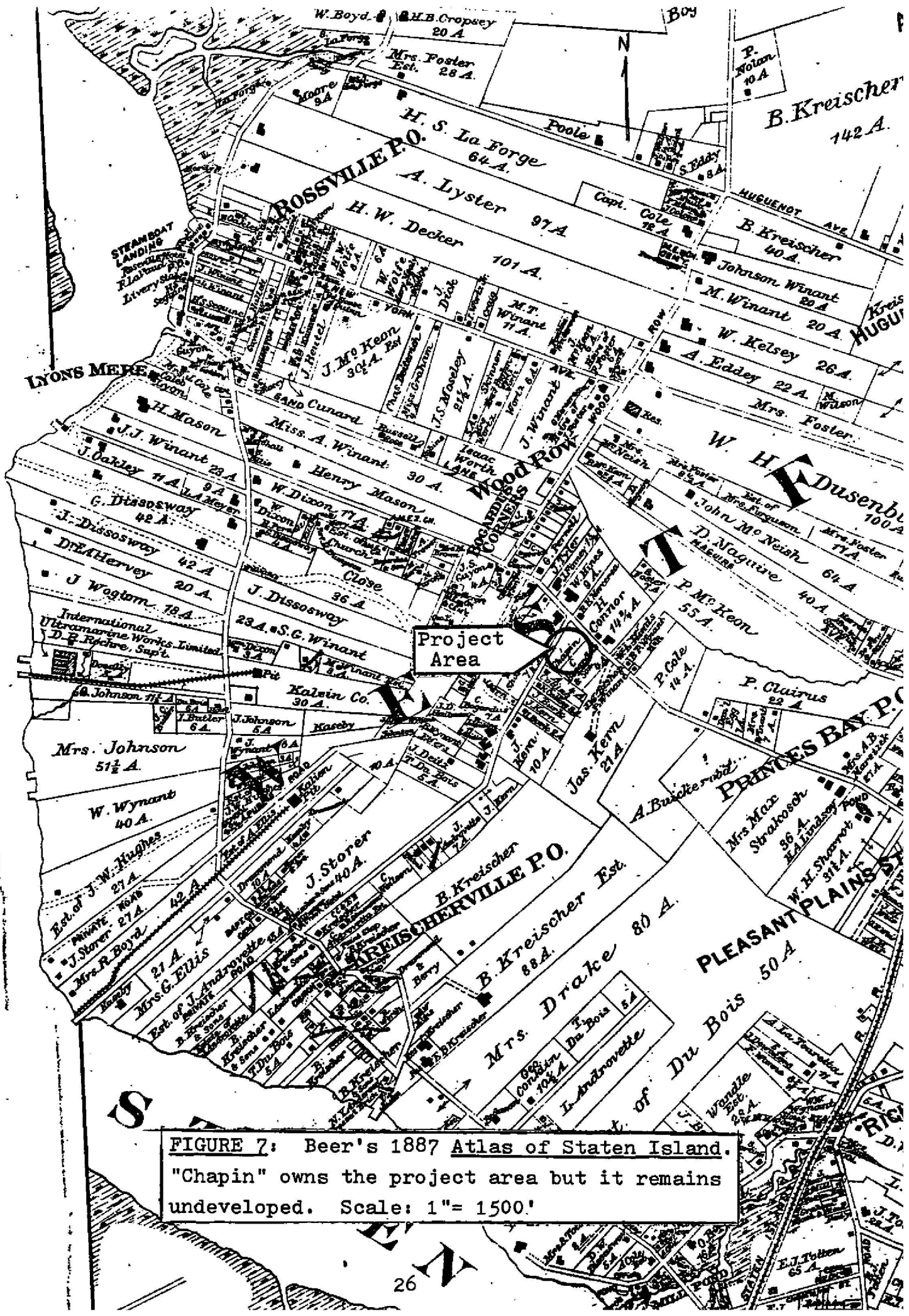


FIGURE 7: Beer's 1887 Atlas of Staten Island. "Chapin" owns the project area but it remains undeveloped. Scale: 1" = 1500'

Oeschli, "farmer," opposite Franz Oeschli, along Bloomingdale Road (Libby 1893:270). Conrad Oeschli was listed in the census records as a "farmer" who immigrated from Switzerland and became a naturalized citizen in 1892. After purchasing the property from Charles Bogardus Sr. on April 15, 1890, he lived on Bloomingdale Road with his wife and son Herman's family (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 1991, p. 121). Herman Oeschli became Deputy City clerk in 1925.

Sometime between 1892 and 1898, T.F. Oeschli built two buildings within the project area – a house and a barn/stable (FIGURE 8; Robinson and Pidgeon 1898). The 1898 map illustrates "Counrod Oeschli" on the 21 acre parcel on the east side of Bloomingdale Road, just opposite T.F. Oeschli's place. The 1897 Directory lists T.F. Oeschli as a "hotel-keeper" at this time (Libby 1897:219).

Franz Oeschli (or T.F. Oeschli), was born in Switzerland in 1846. He came to the United States in 1864, when he was twenty years old. Another piece of evidence that Franz and T.F. Oeschli are one and the same person, is the 1900 census which lists Franz as a "hotel-keeper." He and his wife, (unnamed in the census), had three living children in 1900. At this time, his immediate neighbors on "Sharrotts Lane" are Winant Sharrott, Charles Sharrott and Alfred Cutting. Other neighbors on Bloomingdale road were the Pedros.

"Will Pedro, whose great-grandfather was a Spanish seaman," was 96 years old in 1978. He recalled "the turn-of-the-century heyday of Sandy Ground" when he, as a boy, "followed the men as they walked down Bloomingdale Road toward their 40-foot sloops lying at anchor in the Prince's Bay channel two miles away. Taking long, eager strides, voices raised in spirituals and sea chanteys in the pre-dawn hours, they signaled to the rest of the town that a new day was before them. 'They leave here sometimes 'round 2 o'clock in the morning if they had to catch the tide'" (Fanciullo:1978:30).

C. The Twentieth Century

"Staten Island in 1900 was somewhat archaic in that it was totally dependent on water transportation" (Schuyler 1974:53). In addition, poor railroad service especially hampered the development of the west shore (Hogden 1962:15). "At the turn

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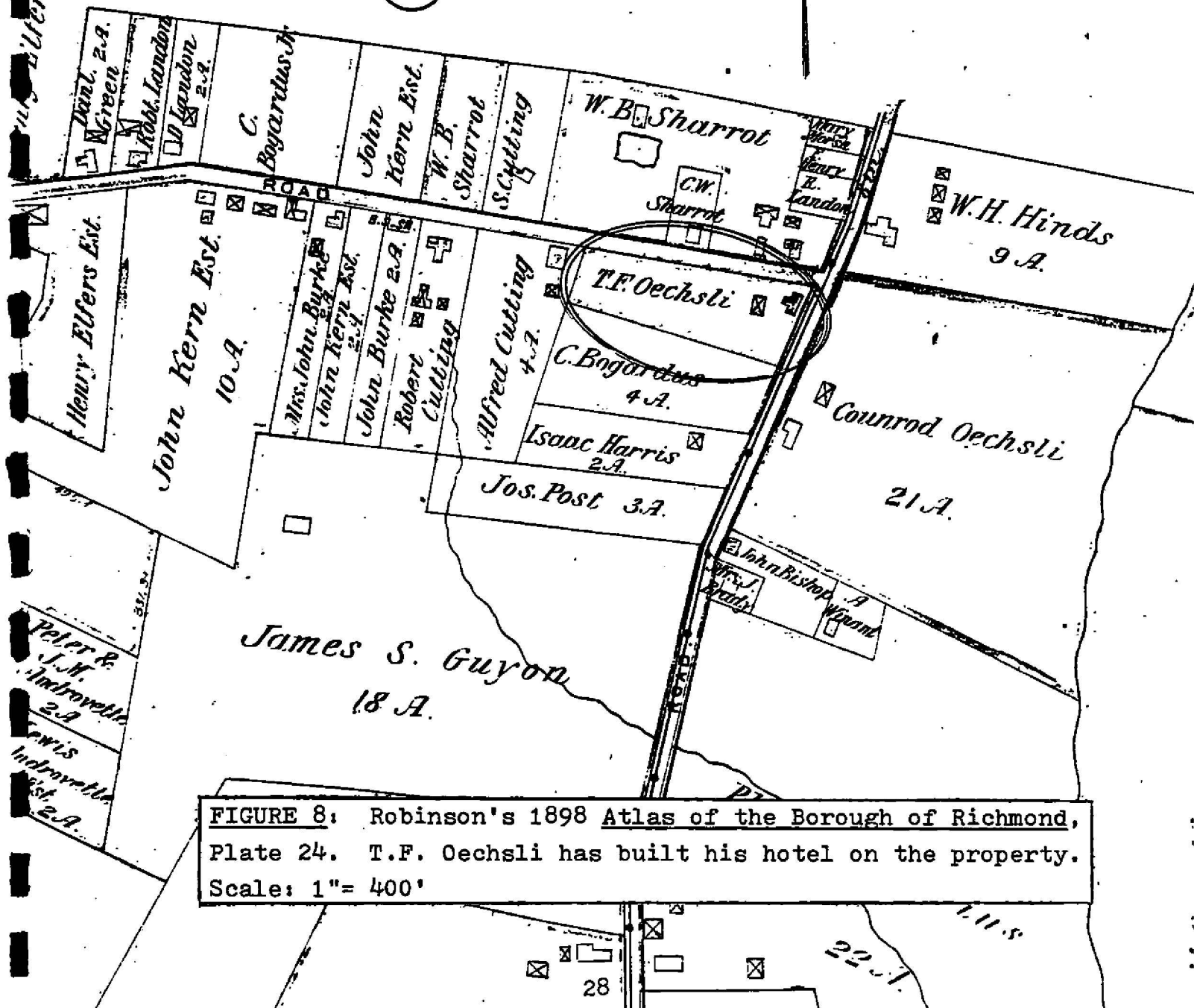


FIGURE 8: Robinson's 1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, Plate 24. T.F. Oechsli has built his hotel on the property. Scale: 1" = 400'

of the century the economic viability of oystering became tenuous because of pollution;" the oyster beds were closed by the Board of Health in 1916 (Powell 1976). Signs went up on shore: "Polluted waters. Closed to oyster fishing by order of the Board of Health" (Fanciullo 1978:30). A typhoid epidemic broke out as a result of industries pumping waste into the bays and creeks of Staten Island (Fanciullo 1978:30). Several of the oystermen of Sandy Ground began to work the Long Island boats in order to make a living (Ibid). Others, found alternate occupations. "Farming continued to be an important subsistence alternative after the turn of the century" but refrigeration and improved transportation networks "caused Staten Island to loose its edge in the marketplace as producers of delicate sandy crops. This led to its eventual decline in importance in the Sandy Ground community" (Cotz and Lenik et al 1985:43).

The Project Area in the 20th Century

The 1907 Atlas illustrated what the 1897 city directory first revealed, that the large frame structure constructed within the boundaries of the project area sometime after 1892, was a "hotel" (FIGURE 9). We learned from city directories that it was called the "Woodrow" (Trow 1898:27). In 1906, Oeschli mysteriously disappeared from the city directory (Libby 1906). He may have been ill or deceased; in 1908, his wife Aurelia sold the 3.61 acre parcel, including the hotel, to Joseph Peidl for \$4500 (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 349, p. 513). Mrs. Oechsli signed the deed in German.

The 1910 census listed Joseph Peidl, "proprietor, saloon" on Bloomingdale Road. It noted that Peidl was born in that part of Europe known as the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and that he emigrated in 1892, at the age of seventeen. His wife, Anna, was born in Germany. They had no children.

Sometime after 1908 Joseph Peidl subdivided the property, keeping 2.41 acres and maintaining a residence at 62 Sharrott Road. This structure as well as his barn/stable is illustrated on the 1917 Bromley Atlas (FIGURE 10). The 1913 topographical survey of Staten Island, (the most accurate survey of Staten Island ever undertaken), gives exact renderings of the dimensions and types of buildings within the project area at that time (FIGURE 11). There is a two-story frame hotel with a

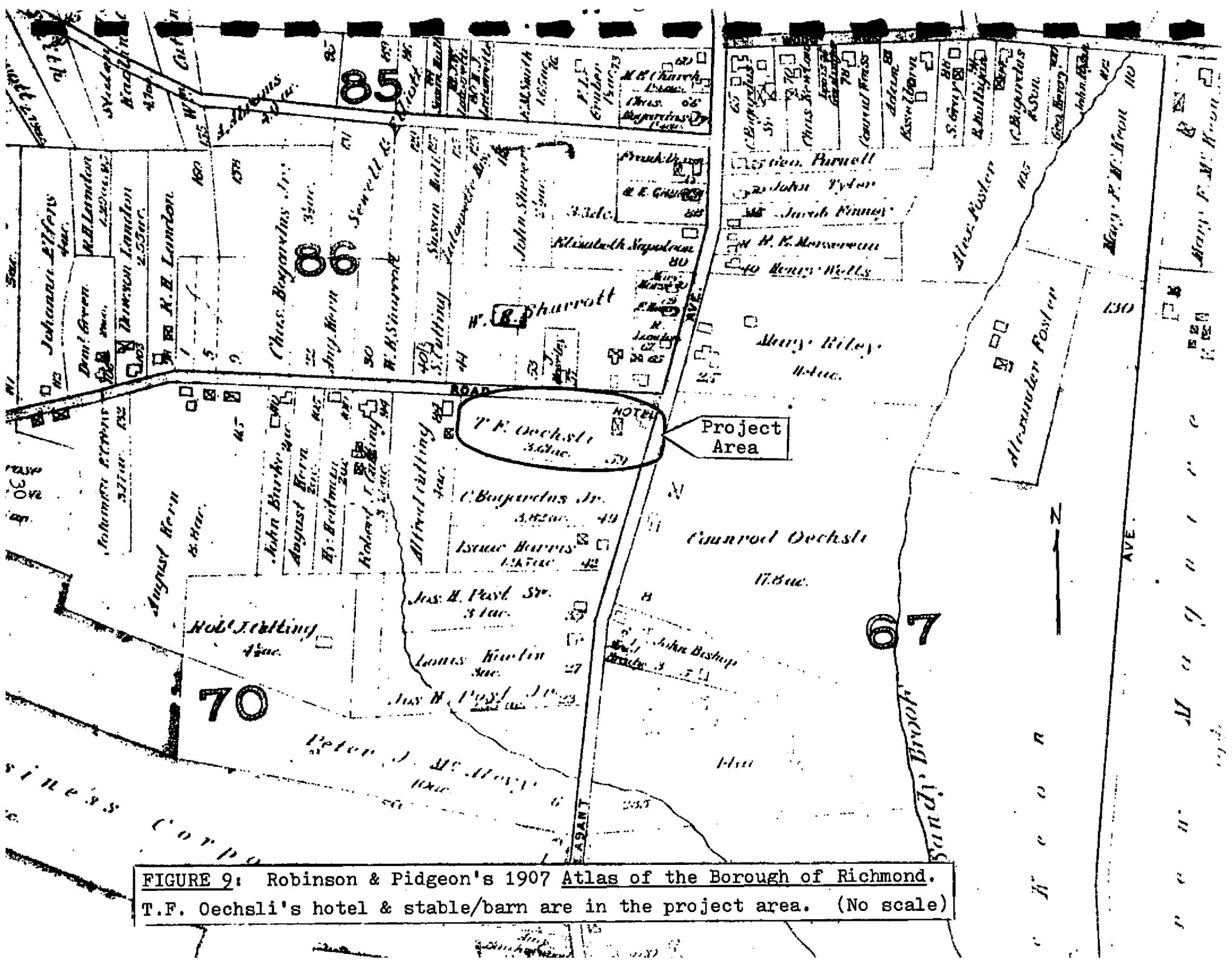


FIGURE 9: Robinson & Pidgeon's 1907 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond. T.F. Oechsli's hotel & stable/barn are in the project area. (No scale)

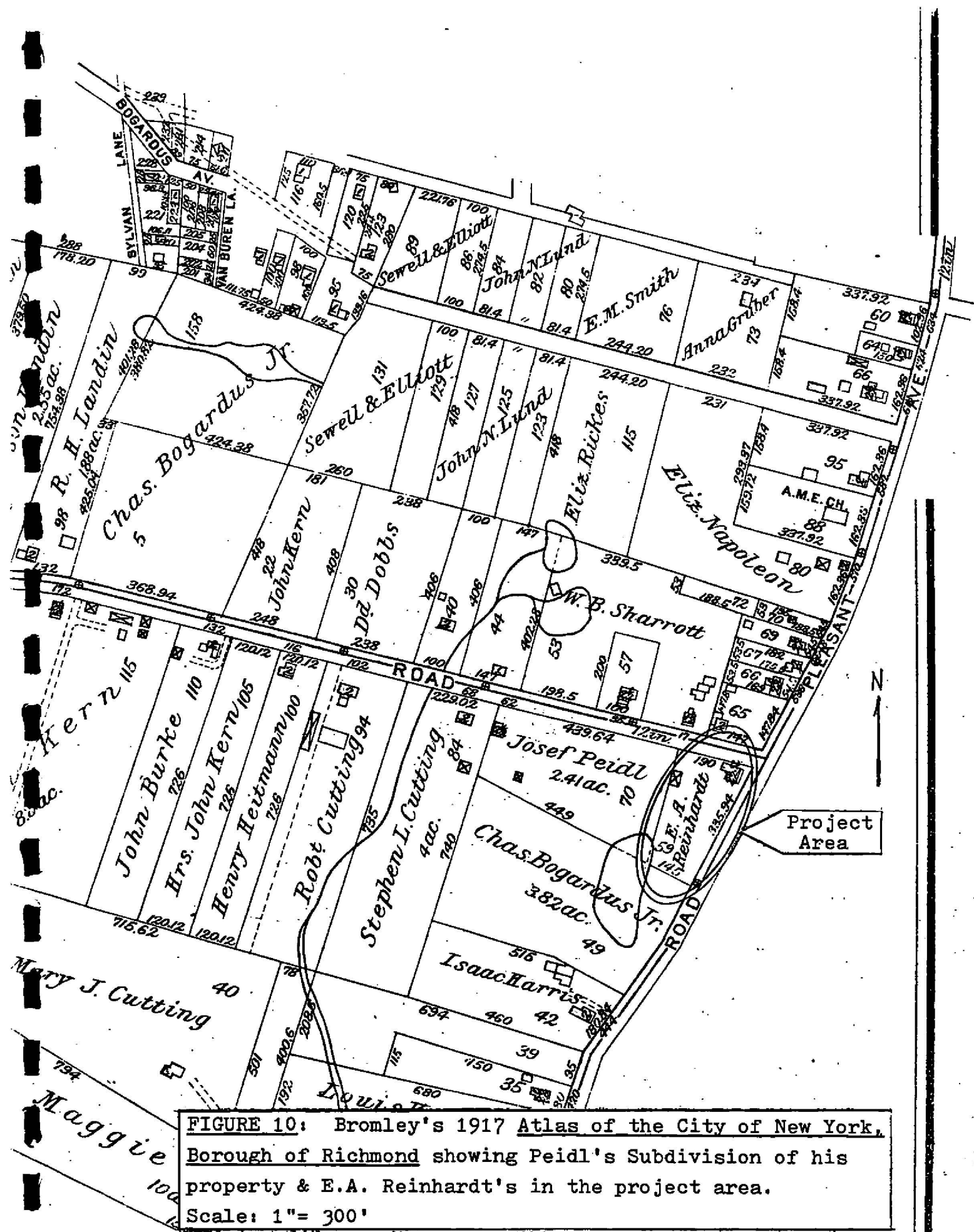


FIGURE 10: Bromley's 1917 Atlas of the City of New York, Borough of Richmond showing Peidl's Subdivision of his property & E.A. Reinhardt's in the project area. Scale: 1" = 300'

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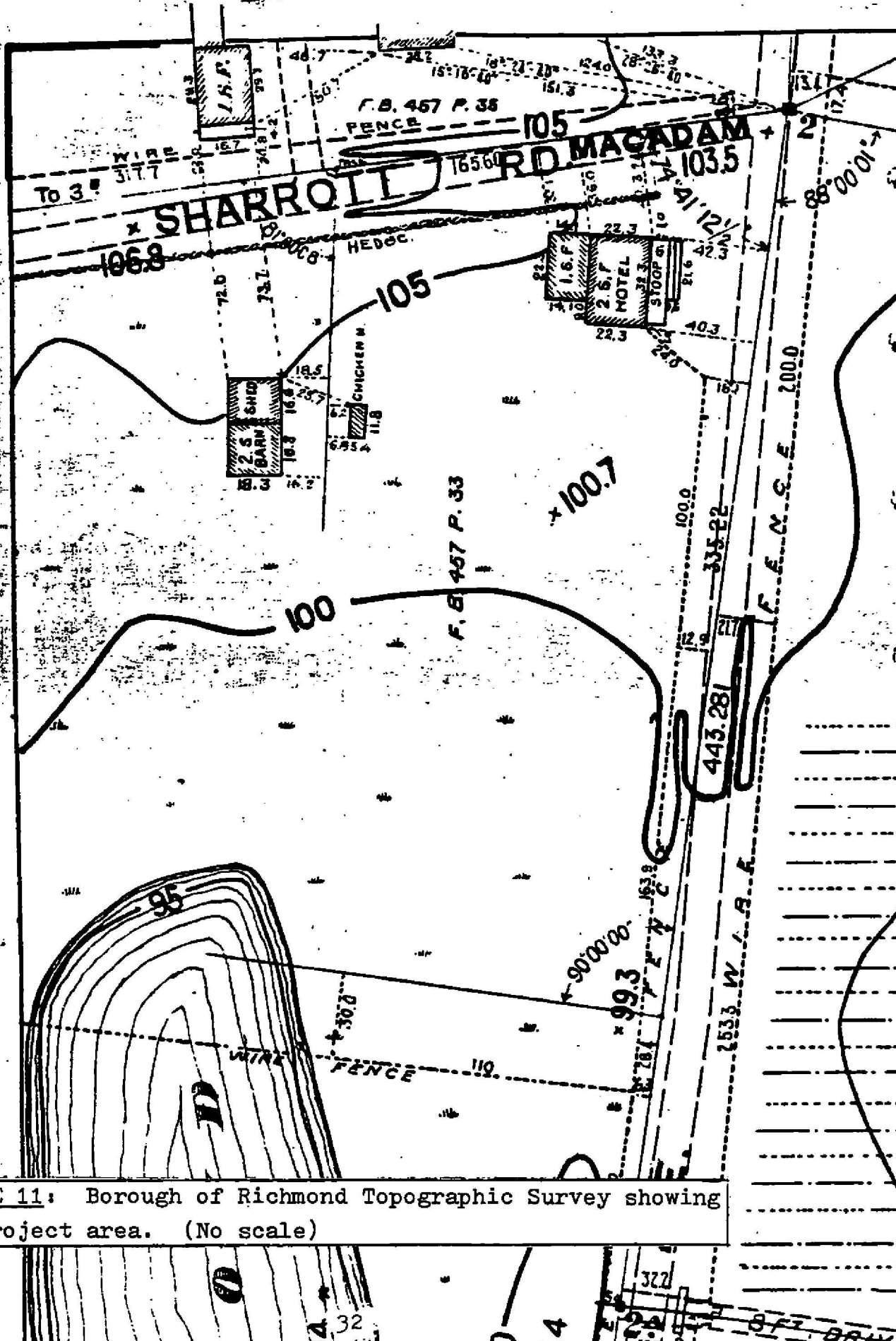


FIGURE 11: Borough of Richmond Topographic Survey showing the project area. (No scale)

"stoop" facing Bloomingdale Road and a single-story addition to the rear. There is also a chicken house. The barn with its attached shed, shown on the 1913 topographic survey map is not within the project area.

In 1914, Joseph and Anna C. Peidl gave or sold the property at the southwest corner of Sharrott Road and Bloomingdale Road to Emil A. Reinhardt for \$1.00 (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 434, p.267). The deed noted that Reinhardt was already living at 514 Bloomingdale Road prior to the sale (Ibid). When interviewed in 1955, Reinhardt's widow, Johanna, recalled that she and her husband "came to Sandy Ground in February, 1911" coming to Staten Island "straight from Germany" (Mitchell 1973).

After selling his saloon to Reinhardt, Joseph Peidl became a butcher. According to the 1915 census, he and his wife continued to live nearby at the Sharrott Road address, along with Jesse D. Moseley, a machinist, and his family. In 1925, a George Reinhardt, age 47 and also born in Germany, was living at 60 Sharrott Road. It is not known if he was related to Emil Reinhardt but it seems likely.

Reinhardt named his place "The Neighbors" and it was mentioned repeatedly in the Staten Island Transcript, a local newspaper, during the 1930's. For example, on May 24, 1932 a brief description of the Sandy Ground area was provided by one anonymous reporter: "Sandy Ground variously called Bogardus Corners, Harrisville and Little Africa...noted for the friendly feeling existing between its white and colored residents...intensely proud of its baseball team (the Pirates)...most distinguished citizen, Herman Oechsli...most likable character, Mine Host Emil Reinhardt" (Staten Island Transcript 1932). There were baseball games at "Reinhardt's oval" and the favorite local team of the Sandy Grounders was the Pirates, a team composed of local boys, both black and white. The Pirates roster included names such as Oechsli, Reinhardt, Moody, and Landin. Often they played against the "colored Yanks" one of the superb teams of the Negro League (Ibid).

The entire community of Sandy Ground used Reinhardt's facilities. Everything from the A.M.E. Zion Church annual field day to charity events and carnivals for the benefit of Richmond Memorial Hospital were held at Reinhardt's picnic grounds. Baseball games between the Pirates and the local Police, pig-races, foot races and games of all kinds — all were held at Reinhardt's. The Sanborn 1937 Insurance Atlas

(updated to 1990), illustrates "The Neighbors" as well as a building to the rear, the dance pavilion and picnic grounds within the project area (FIGURE 12). The baseball field was located to the west on the parcel that once belonged to Joseph Peidl.

In 1979, local resident "Pops" Pedro (mentioned above) was living at 587 Bloomingdale Road. During an interview connected with the Sandy Ground Archaeological Survey (1980), he recalled the project area saying, "before it became Sleepy Hollow Inn...it used to be called Rhinehart's (sic)" (Askins 1980 Vol 2:46). Mr. Pedro affirmed that the present standing structure was the original building – "they just put shingles on it and stuff," he said (Ibid).

Building records from the 1930's describe in some detail alterations and additions to the property. For example, a 1936 Certificate of Occupancy recorded that "The Neighbors" had a cellar ("on ground") which was used for storage, that the first floor was a restaurant, bar and cabaret and that the structure was a two-story frame building. The second floor contained the living quarters (Department of Housing and Buildings 1943). In 1938 Reinhardt built a "Dance Pavilion" which could hold up to fifty people (Department of Housing and Buildings 1938.)

"Herbert 'Bubbie' Reinhardt,...has the distinction of being perhaps the only bartender still working in the place where he was born, the town's only tavern, then called The Neighbors. In the century-old building, now the Sleepy Hollow Restaurant and Picnic Grounds, Bubbie worked side by side with his father Emil, called the King by his patrons" (Fanciullo 1978:30). His mother, Johanna recalled "at one time we had three pool tables in here" in addition to the "picnic grove, baseball diamond, dance hall, (and) juke box" (Mitchell 1973).

During the late 1940's, New York Times' syndicated columnist, Meyer Berger, visited the study area. In an evocative paragraph he wrote, "we got down at The Neighbor, a ramshackle inn in Sandy Ground. Vine skeletons shivered on the sagging porch and wind whistled softly in the unpainted trellises as we had a mug of ale with mine (sic) host, Emil Reinhardt. 'I could not tell you the story of Sandy Ground, my good neighbor,' he said. 'You must go to the old ones for that. Emil Reinhardt is living here only twenty-nine years" (Berger c. 1949:n.p.). Reinhardt died in 1949, approximately ten years after the interview.

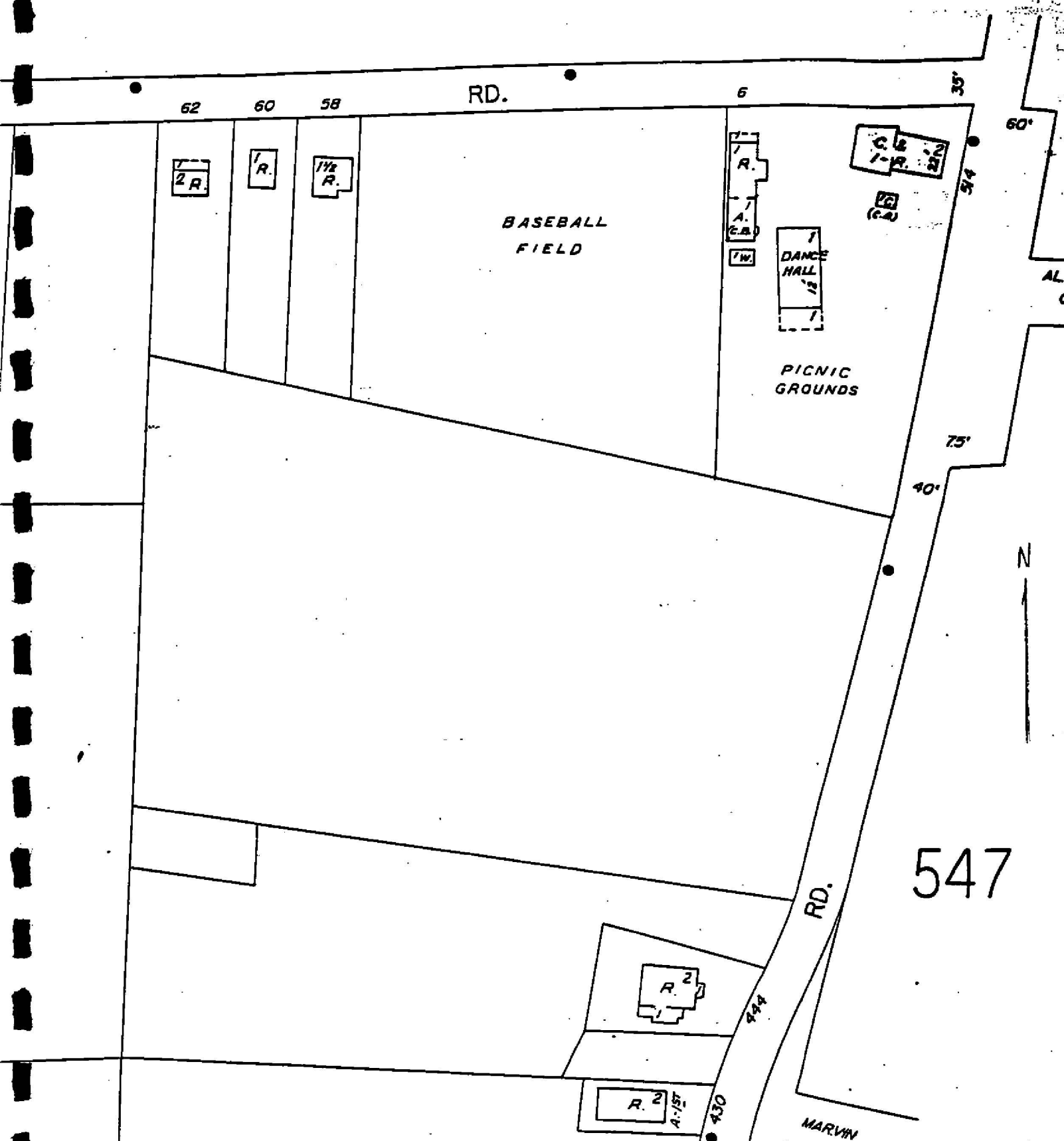


FIGURE 12: Sanborn Atlas, 1937 updated to 1990. Here you can see the relationship of the baseball field with the hotel, dance pavilion & picnic grounds so popular in the 1930's. (No scale)

Berger crossed to the other side of Bloomingdale Road (No. 535) and visited Oscar Prasse's farmhouse. Prasse, a German immigrant noted for his goat milk, told Berger that "this is the only certified goat dairy in New York City" (Ibid; Carl Hemple 1991 personal communication; U.S.Census 1925:1)).

The latter day history of the project area is less than clear. In 1967 Johanna Reinhardt sold the property to Michael Bilotto (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 1779, p. 376). This conveyance mentions Block 7317, Lot 23. It also refers to another deed from J. Reinhardt to M. Bilotto noting that these were "the same premises that were conveyed in Deed dated June 28, 1944 in Liber 872 of Deeds Pg. 73. However, an examination of this deed revealed that this transaction did not include Lot 23.

Tax Maps on file at the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, as well as conversations, revealed that M. or "Peggy" Sklenar owned the property from 1972-1988, when it was purchased by William Haas, who is the present owner.

D. Conclusions

In 1979, building structures within the (then) proposed Sandy Ground National Register Archaeological Area were inventoried by the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (Askins and Shepard 1979). "The Sleepy Hollow Inn" at 514 Bloomingdale Road was described as a "greatly altered Greek Revival structure" built in the "first half of the 19th century" (Ibid). Although the chroniclers' believed the structure to "represent the pre-Sandy Ground settlement of the area," the structure itself was found to have "no architectural significance" (In Askins 1980:139).

The Sleepy Hollow Inn could not have been built during the first half of the 19th century. All documentary and cartographic evidence points to a post 1892 date for the structure. If Dupuy's store was within the study area prior to 1850 (see the Butler 1853 Map, FIGURE 5), it was already gone by 1874 (see Beers 1874 Atlas, FIGURE 6). T.F. Oeschli built his "hotel" sometime after he purchased the property from Henry Chapin in 1892 and prior to 1898, when it is illustrated on the Robinson and Pidgeon Atlas (FIGURE 8).

V. FIELD SURVEY

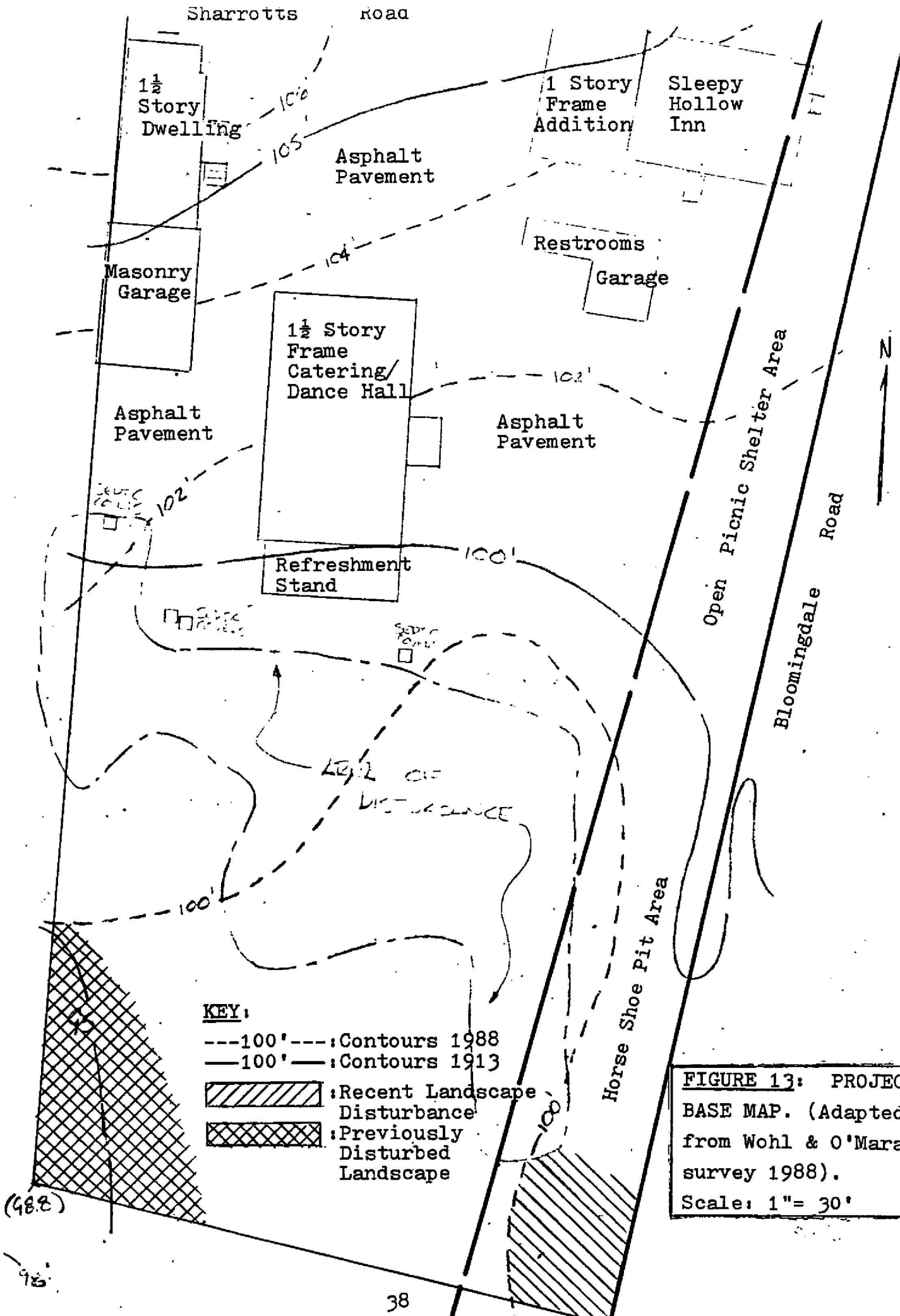
The field work on this project was conducted on April 26 and 28, 1991 and consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey of the property including the recording and analysis of landscape features. The locations of structures and landscape features are indicated on the project base map FIGURE 13. Ground surface visibility during this survey was excellent.

The standing structures within the property were examined to determine their potential architectural or historical significance. The Sleepy Hollow Inn has been altered and modernized to a large extent. Major structural changes are evident particularly on the east and west sides of the original main building where additions have been constructed. Other modifications are visible in the building's siding, roof, windows, cellar entry and other elements. The one and one-half story frame dwelling, garage, public restrooms, picnic shelter, catering hall and refreshment stand are undistinguished post 1913 structures in generally fair condition. The landscape around all of the structures has also been extensively modified; the ground surface is paved with asphalt.

The land surface in the southern half of the property has been highly disturbed as well. The present land elevations within the property, as shown on the Wohl & O'Mara (1988) survey, were compared with those existing and indicated on the 1913 Borough of Richmond Topographic survey. This comparison shows that the land contours and elevations have changed considerably between 1913 and 1988.

The southern end of the property contains below ground septic systems including connecting leaching fields. The locations of the septic covers are shown on the project base map. An area of recent and extensive ground disturbance including grading and filling was observed and recorded as well. Horse-shoe pits are located along the southeast side of the property and an access-entrance has recently been cut through at the southeast corner of the property.

During the course of this survey, several contacts were made with individuals knowledgeable in the history and use of the property and adjacent area. These individuals indicated that no prehistoric or historic artifacts or features have been found



within the property. No prehistoric artifacts or features were found during our reconnaissance investigation. However, a few historic era artifacts, most of very recent date, were observed scattered throughout the study area including pieces of coal, slag, plastic, fragments of sewer pipe, bottle caps, and bottle glass.

VI. ANALYSIS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The documentary research, informant interviews and field reconnaissance of the proposed Sleepy Hollow Village Stores property have failed to locate any evidence of prehistoric occupation within or immediately adjacent to the study area. Our field reconnaissance and research have clearly established that the landscape within the project site has been extensively disturbed by construction activity, excavation, grading, filling, paving, and recreational use. Therefore, we conclude that the project site has extremely low potential for containing evidence of prehistoric occupation.

The historic period structures located within the study area were examined and analyzed. The present Sleepy Hollow Inn was built at some time between 1892 and 1898 by European-Americans. This structure has been extensively altered and modernized over time. It lacks architectural integrity and does not meet the criteria of eligibility for the National Register. The other buildings on the property are associated with the recreational use of the property and are not architecturally or historically significant.

In summary, this cultural resources investigation has determined that the proposed Sleepy Hollow Village Stores project will have no impact upon the cultural resource base of the area. The archaeological sensitivity of the property is extremely low. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation is necessary.

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VIII. APPENDIX

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Key Project Personnel

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