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# REPORT ON PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TESTING IN ADVANCE OF SANITARY AND STORM SEWER CONSTRUCTION WILSON AVENUE PROJECT AREA, ELTINGVILLE STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

Capital Project Numbers SE-604A-1 and SE-728



Sylvia Street

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Phase 1B testing for the presence or absence of archaeological resources was done in advance of sewer construction in the Eltingville section of Staten Island, as part of the Wilson Avenue sewer project. The project area includes parts of 6 street beds previously determined to have the potential for the preservation of prehistoric archaeological resources. Impacts to the streets from the planned project include a combination of five and eight foot wide sewer trenches to be excavated to a depth of between eight and twenty-nine feet.

This Phase 1B report is being conducted to comply with environmental review regulations and to meet the standards of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Testing was done by the mechanical removal of paving and fill deposits in small, three by nine foot trenches followed by the placement of a shovel test in each. This report presents the methodology and results of the 63 tests conducted within this project area. It addresses stratigraphy, artifacts and informant information. No prehistoric artifacts were recovered and very few tests contained possible prehistoric land surfaces. Informant information supported the conclusion that what would have been buried topsoil was removed throughout most of the project area before the roads were paved.

The report concluded it is extremely unlikely that this project area contains any preserved prehistoric archaeological deposits. No further archaeological work is recommended for this project.

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### INTRODUCTION

A program to implement sewer construction to replace outdated and overloaded septic systems and alleviate flooding has begun in the Eltingville section of Staten Island. Two Phase 1A archaeological documentary studies were previously completed for different parts of the Wilson Avenue Sewer Project, as part of the environmental review process (Stone 1994a, 1994b). One of these reports identified areas of potential prehistoric archaeological sensitivity in portions of the project area. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission reviewed and concurred with both reports' recommendations. They also approved of a field testing plan. The scope of work for the plan is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Figure 1 depicts the entire Wilson Avenue sewer project. The areas to be tested for the presence or absence of archaeological resources are within parts of six streets. Table 1 lists the portions of the streets to be targeted and whether one or two sewer trenches ar planned.

Table 1 Locations of Phase 1B Testing in the Wilson Avenue Sewer Project

STREET	# TRENCHES	PORTIONS TO BE TESTED
Bayard Street	2	Southern half
Ray Street	11_	Entire length
Sylvia Street	2	Eastern 80%
Van Brunt Street	1	North of Wilson Avenue
Wainwright Avenue	1	From Sylvia Street north 100 feet
Wilson Avenue	1 2	Between Van Brunt Street and Stuyvesant Avenue Between Chesebrough and Bayard Streets

Assessment for the potential of the Wilson Avenue sewer project to adversely impact archaeological resources was made in the Phase 1A archaeological documentary research reports. A moderate potential for the preservation of prehistoric resources was found to exist in parts of the Wilson Avenue West project area. Prehistoric archaeological sites are known in the vicinity, the closest less than one-quarter mile away from the project area. Additionally, likely fresh water sources during prehistory were located

within the project area. The 1912 topographic survey depicts small ponds adjacent to Ray and Van Brunt Streets. A stream was shown crossing Wilson Avenue flowing southward across Sylvia Street to a marshy area (see Figure 2). However, there is a possibility the water sources were seasonal. Therefore the potential for finding archaeological deposits is somewhat reduced because prehistoric occupation would have been more transient in these circumstances, unless evidence of recurrent use exists. Nevertheless, should such a site(s) exist within the project area, it could contribute data on prehistoric site use and seasonal activities. The Phase 1A report concluded that an extremely limited amount of information is currently available on these subjects for the project area vicinity. Therefore, should these resources exist, they could provide important new data. Archaeological testing was recommended in parts of the Wilson Avenue West project area which would be most conducive to prehistoric use, those within two hundred feet from former water sources on raised ground, where most sites are found in terrain similar to the project area (Robertson and Robertson 1978:30). This includes most of Ray and Sylvia Streets, the northern part of Van Brunt Street, Wilson Avenue between Chesebrough and Bayard Streets, and the southern part of both Bayard Street and Wainwright Avenue (as presented in Table 1).

Soil borings were also reviewed in the previous reports and a shovel testing strategy was recommended as the most efficient way to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources. Should such resources be identified, their significance would be evaluated in conjunction with Landmarks Preservation Commission Review.

This report was prepared for Bedford Construction Corporation by Linda Stone with the assistance of Patience Freeman. The archaeological work described in this report was conducted by Linda Stone, Principal Investigator; Patience Freeman, Field Supervisor; Elizabeth Romancyzk, Field Technician; and Kenneth Richter, Field Technician. The machinery and crew was provided by Bedford Construction Corporation. It included John Chiusano, Compressor Engineer; Abib Dzemouski, Laborer, Jackhammer; Mark Nova, Operator Engineer, Backhoe; and Jeff Walsh, Laborer, Jackhammer. Fieldwork was conducted on March 23 and 27 - 31. All days had fair weather, except for March 30 when it drizzled most of the day.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Prior to fieldwork, planned test locations were drawn on copies of the sewer plans scaled to fifty feet per inch (DEP 1993). Tests were drawn at fifty foot intervals along the proposed sewer lines which had been previously recommended for testing because of their archaeological sensitivity (see Appendix A). A total of seventy-one (71) test locations were drawn and sequentially numbered on the plans (see Figures 3 - 6). It may be noted this number is two less than were drawn on the generalized plan submitted with the scope of work. This difference may be attributed to the change in scale of the specific plans used. The area of the proposed sewers recommended for testing actually contained the linear footage comprising 71- fifty foot interval tests. The tests were numbered in ascending order from west to east and south to north, except on Van Brunt Street which was numbered north to south. Numbers were assigned in the expected order of excavation; Sylvia Street, Wainwright Avenue, Ray Street, Van Brunt Street, Wilson Avenue, then Bayard Street.

Once the fieldwork had been scheduled, these planned test locations were actually marked on the streets with green fluorescent spray paint. This provided an opportunity to further evaluate specific test locations. Many tests had to be moved in order to avoid existing water and gas lines. In most cases this was easily accommodated. However, in certain locations tests had to be eliminated because the previous disturbance was so great and it was clear no undisturbed prehistoric land surface could possibly exist. One planned test at the eastern end of Sylvia Street (Shovel Test 19) at its intersection with Richmond Avenue was eliminated for this reason. Recent work within Richmond Avenue created subsurface disturbances into the intersection of Sylvia Street.

A greater number of tests were eliminated along Wilson Avenue and Bayard Street in the area shown under construction on the 1993 plans (see Figure 6). This work, the construction of town houses, has since been completed, along with its necessary utility hook-ups. Although a water main is shown along Wilson Avenue in the vicinity of the planned sanitary sewer on Wilson Avenue on Figure 6, sewer placement will be 2 - 4 feet to the south (personal communication, Adam Alweiss, DEP engineer). However upon inspection of the road surface, the existing water main trench was observed extending about four feet to the south. Therefore the sanitary sewer trench will be at least partially, if not entirely, dug into disturbed soil. A similar situation exists on Bayard Street in the area of the storm sewer. While

a total of four tests each were eliminated from Wilson Avenue and Bayard Streets (Shovel Tests 51 -54 and 63 - 66), testing would still be conducted closer to the centers of these streets along the lines of the other planned sewers. Although shovel tests were eliminated, the right to place additional tests, should they be deemed necessary, was reserved. This option was exercised on Bayard Street and Shovel Test 66 was later placed.

### Field Testing

Immediately prior to testing, the street was marked for opening in three foot by nine foot areas centered on the marked shovel test locations. The paving on the perimeter of these rectangles was then jack-hammered. Finally the surface of these mini-trenches was removed by backhoe. The backhoe was monitored by the archaeologists to determine the appropriate depth of each trench. The backhoe operator would scoop out a small amount of soil at a time and was frequently asked to stop while one of the archaeologists got into the trench and evaluated the soil. This task was conducted exclusively by the Principal Investigator and/or the Field Supervisor. Particularly detailed attention was paid to fill deposits at this stage because soil borings were not clear on the nature of these deposits and some were suspected of being original surfaces disturbed only by cultivation (Stone 1994b:6-7). Backhoe excavation was stopped before the bottom of fill deposits, in most cases. At this point shovel test excavation began in each trench. A few exceptions were noted and will be discussed in the following section. These activities can be seen in Plate 1. A freshly opened trench is shown in the foreground (Test 10). Archaeological work is shown underway to the left of the photograph (Shovel Test 29) and jackhammering is taking place behind that (Test 30).

All shovel tests were dug in trenches within the street, except for Shovel Test 22 on Sylvia Street. This test was relocated onto the grassy area at the side of the road in order to avoid two gas main trenches. Standard excavation, recording, artifact collection and processing practices were applied. All measurements were taken in feet and tenths of feet to conform with the DEP plans. Shovel tests were an average of 1.4 feet in diameter. All shovel test soils were screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth for the recovery of artifacts. Changes in soil color or texture were recorded as separate levels. Depths were to culturally sterile strata. Elevations were measured as depths below the surface and later tied to the elevations recorded on the plans. Each archaeologist marked the actual location of tests they dug on copies of the sewer plans. They recorded soils, stratigraphy, inclusions and comments on forms. Soil color descriptions were made using the Munsell Soil Color Charts. A summary of the depths, soil colors,

textures and artifact inclusions is attached as Appendix B. In preparing Appendix B, the depth of the asphalt and paving base were combined and reported as one level. Photographs were taken to document the process. Individual tests are discussed in the next section.

At the completion of certain shovel test excavations, the backhoe operator was asked by the archaeologists to scoop out additional deposits in order to reveal deeper stratigraphy. This technique was used in five tests, four along Sylvia Street and one on Ray Street (Tests 3, 10, 12, 14, and 43). The stratigraphy for these has also been incorporated into that of the shovel tests and is included in Appendix B.

Upon completion of excavation and recording, tests were filled by the backhoe and resurfaced. No open tests were left unattended by either the archaeologists or the excavation crew. No tests were left open over night.

### **Artifact Processing**

Artifacts known in the field to be non-diagnostic modern materials or to be associated with modern fill deposits were noted in the field records but not retained. Retained artifacts were also marked on these forms. All artifacts listed on the field records are included in the stratigraphy summary (see Appendix B). Recovery of artifacts was in plastic sandwich bags placed in paper bags for later processing. Bags were marked with the project name, street name, shovel test number, stratum, excavator's initials, and date.

All retained artifacts were washed and brushed clean twice in tepid tap water. The artifacts were then air dried. Once dried, the artifacts were inventoried then rebagged by context. Each bag was marked with the project name, street location, test number, and level. A mylar strip labelled with the site name, test number, and level was also placed in each processed artifact bag. Potentially diagnostic artifacts were individually labelled with india ink on clear nail polish and then coated with the polish to seal. These labels contain a project name abbreviation (WA for Wilson Avenue), the test number, and the level from which the artifact came. The test and level numbers are separated by a decimal point. This decimal number may also be referred to as the context from which an artifact came.

The inventory of retained artifacts is attached as Appendix C. Artifacts were inventoried by context number and street location. All artifacts were categorized by "material" and "count" was recorded. If

pieces were not whole, they were recorded as fragmented under the heading "frag". If more detailed identification could be made from the artifact collected, it was catalogued as "identity". "Color" was recorded for ceramic, brick and glass fragments. "Form" was listed for glass fragments as either curved or flat when more detailed identification could not be made. This category was left blank when pieces of either unknown form or identity were inventoried. A "motif" category was created for decorated pieces of ceramic or glass. "Marks" included glazing or maker's marks on ceramics and embossed or raised decoration on glass. Categories for "dates" and "references" for them were also created.

### RESULTS

A total of sixty-three (63) tests were excavated throughout the Wilson Avenue project area. The actual locations of tests are depicted in Figures 7 - 10. Table 2 lists the number of tests placed in each street. Seven of these tests were trenches opened by backhoe, with no shovel tests excavated. The reasons shovel tests were determined unnecessary in these trenches varies. Tests 5 and 24 on Sylvia Street and Test 68 on Bayard Street contained a thick clay deposit in the base of each trench, presumed to be related to an early stream course. Tests 23 on Sylvia Street and 46 on Van Brunt Street had water seepage in the base of the trenches. Test 61 on Wilson Avenue was inadvertently placed within a water main trench. Test 37 on Ray Street appeared to be in fill, possibly from an unmarked utility trench, although evidence of this was never found. Regardless, stratigraphy was recorded and the results of these trenches have been incorporated with the shovel testing results (see Appendix B). This data was used as the basis for the following section.

Table 2 Wilson Avenue Phase 1B Test Location Counts by Street

STREET	# TESTS	TEST NUMBER RANGES
Bayard Street	6	66 - 71
Ray Street	10	35 - 44
Sylvia Street	31	1 - 32
Van Brunt Street	5	45 - 49
Wainwright Street	2	33 - 34
Wilson Avenue	9	50 - 62

### Stratigraphy

Shovel tests, where excavated, were placed in the base of the trenches (see Plate 1). The average total depth of each test was  $3.38 \pm 0.91$  feet below ground surface. All tests were excavated to culturally sterile subsoil. Nine shovel tests were stopped by impediments. Shovel Test 48 on Van Brunt Street was stopped due to water seepage, as were Shovel Tests 16, 17, and 31 on Sylvia Street. Shovel Test 47 on Van Brunt Street was stopped due to identification of a cable television line. Four tests were stopped for

other reasons, all within Sylvia Street. Shovel Test 2 hit an unmarked gas main. Shovel Test 30 was stopped by fill. This may also have been an unmarked utility trench, but the line was not located. Shovel Tests 22 and 29 were stopped by excessive roots and rocks, respectively. The majority of tests were recorded as containing between three to six levels (76%).

In most locations the fill was described as a brown compact sandy silt. It occasionally contained small brick fragments, however this was unusual. Table 3 shows the depths of combined paving and fill found in the tests within the streets which comprise the project area. A substantially greater amount of fill was found in the eastern part of Wilson Avenue, between Chesebrough and Bayard Streets. The reason for this is the presence of a buried layer of asphalt and fill beneath the surface, almost doubling the depth of these levels when compared with other tests.

Table 3 Depths Below Surface of Paving and Fill Deposits

STREET	FEET BELOW SURFACE OF PAVING AND FILL DEPOSITS	
Bayard Street	1.7	
Ray Street	1.8	
Sylvia Street	1.7	
Van Brunt Street	1.4	
Wainwright Avenue	1.1	
Wilson Avenue (western)	1.8	
Wilson Avenue (eastern)	3.2	
TOTAL	1.8	

Subsoil was generally a mixed sand with a red or yellow cast, except in areas where deep clay deposits were found. However the stratigraphy was notably non-uniform. This fact is easily seen in Figures 11 - 17 which summarize the stratigraphy by soil textures. These generalized shovel test stratigraphy profiles provide a very rough picture. Tests which were placed in areas later determined to be disturbed are omitted from these profiles. Therefore the spacing between each test is not uniform, as is depicted. One

may cross reference actual test locations with Figures 7 - 10.

Several points regarding the stratigraphy may be made, particularly associated with loam and clay deposits. There was very little loamy soil identified. This soil type would most likely have been associated with buried land surfaces. It may be speculated that this soil was removed prior to road construction. Topsoil may have been removed and sold.

Heavy clay deposits were identified in several places throughout the project area. These types of deposits may have been associated with former water courses. Such clay deposits were found in the tests placed in the eastern part of Wilson Avenue, the northern end of Van Brunt Street, the center of Ray Street, and within tests 5 and 24 in Sylvia Street. These areas correspond to places where known water sources were located in 1912 (see Figure 2). It may also be noted that the soil textures in these areas descended in depth as silt, sand, and then clay. While in the remainder of the project area, the order was generally silt, clay, and then sand. The order of the sand and clay being reversed.

Tests along Bayard Street seemed somewhat different in the northern versus southern parts of the street. The southern part of Bayard Street was underlain by clayey soils and the north part contained sand (see Figure 16). Therefore, the decision to place one of the eliminated tests was made. Shovel Test 66 was excavated. Its stratigraphy was similar to tests at the northern part of Bayard Street, up the hill, where water run-off would historically be the greatest.

Other observations may be made based on the Munsell Colors. Soils generally became lighter as tests became deeper. However the majority of values remained in the mid-range, as did most of the chroma. More than half of all Munsell colors fell within the 10YR hue. About one-third fell within the 7.5YR hue. The remainder fell into the redder hues of 5YR and 2.5YR.

The relationship of the shovel test stratigraphy to the soil borings discussed in the Phase 1A report was also evaluated, both during and after fieldwork. Two very obvious differences stand out. First, varying amounts of fill were found in nearly every shovel test while fill was only identified in a handful of borings. This may be accounted for by the differences in sampling strategies. One would expect the shovel testing methodology to identify finer changes in soil types. However this cannot explain the fact that nearly every boring contained substantial amounts of till, generally described as sandy soils, when

shovel tests showed silts and clays to be the predominant soil types. Adding credibility to the shovel test soil evaluations is the fact that much of the project area is so saturated that wet pavement and puddles are commonplace, even in dry weather. One would expect better drainage in sandy soils, even in an area in need of storm sewers.

### **Artifacts**

Artifacts were identified in only 19 of the 63 tests (30%) or 26 or the 294 levels (9%). This includes artifacts that were both retained and those discarded in the field. Appendix B provides information on artifacts from field data and Appendix C contains an inventory of retained artifacts. No artifacts of prehistoric origin were found.

Retained artifacts came from six tests (10%) or eight levels (3%). A total of 42 artifacts were retain from all Wilson Avenue Phase 1B tests. The majority of these came from Shovel Test 22 on Sylvia Street, the test placed on the side of the road (n = 32). It is not uncommon to find a larger amount of cultural material in roadside tests. All of the material in Shovel Test 22 appeared to be modern. In fact, the top two levels also contained plastic, which was not retained. The third level, which contained undistinguishable brick and clear glass fragments, also contained a piece of ceramic tile, similar to that found in the level above.

Only one other test in Sylvia Street produced an inventoried artifact. A piece of ironstone was retained from the third level on Shovel Test 28. While ironstone's manufacture began in the early nineteenth century, it continues to be made to this day. This piece is likely more modern. It was found in a blackened soil lens beneath a fill deposit which contained a 1967 quarter.

Two artifacts were retained from tests within Van Brunt Street. A piece of lightbulb glass was found in the fourth level of Shovel Test 45 where it was associated with slag and wooden planking. This was most likely a mid-twentieth century deposit. The same may be said of the refrigerator glass found in Shovel Test 48. However, this glass was associated with a loamy soil which had the potential to contain earlier material, but did not.

The remainder of retained artifacts came from two tests in Bayard Street. The majority of these were pieces of modern bottle glass found in the sixth level of Shovel Test 70. These were found in the level

above culturally sterile subsoil and were not associated with any other cultural material. The other artifact retained was a piece of white earthenware form the sixth level of Shovel Test 66. Although this piece has the potential to date from the early nineteenth century, it is likely related to a more modern deposit because of its association with soil containing decaying vegetation.

### Informant Information

As with most archaeological work conducted in residential areas, neighbors approached with curiosity. There were three neighbors who provided information of use to the interpretation of the Wilson Avenue Phase 1B testing. These were the people residing at 51 Rye Avenue and at 585 and 577 Wilson Avenue.

The owner of 51 Rye Avenue, located at the end of Van Brunt Street, was in residence prior to the laying of either of these streets. He remembers the pond at the northern end of Van Brunt Street. He confirmed that it became more of a swamp in the drier seasons. In order for automotive traffic to pass through the swampy area here, and elsewhere in the neighborhood, he recalls the roads being "corduroy". This was described as spaced wooden planking. Archaeological evidence of wooden planks buried beneath the current paving and fill deposits was found in both Van Brunt Street and Sylvia Street (Tests 4, 5, 27, 45, and 46). These would have been two of the wettest areas in the neighborhood at that time and likely during prehistory as well. This resident also spoke of attempts to fill the swamp. He said that neighbors used whatever was available. He specifically recalled coal furnace debris being used as fill. In fact coal and slag were recorded in tests 45 and 47 on Van Brunt Street.

The owner of 585 Wilson Avenue, located at the northeast corner of Van Brunt Street, built his house about 45 years ago. He showed the archaeologists photographs of the construction. Some of the photos provided a picture of the area at that time. It was generally wooded. Unfortunately, the pictures did not provide a good look at Van Brunt Street itself. The property owner talked of bringing in a lot of fill, about three to four feet, to fill in the "swamp". If this were the case, perhaps the fill has compacted somewhat over the years since the average depth of fill was found to be only 1.4 feet below ground surface.

The resident of 577 Wilson Avenue, located east of the intersection with Van Brunt Street, reported hearsay that all the topsoil in the area had been carted away. While no additional details were provided, this seems like the most plausible explanation for the lack of a buried land surface. The project area

contained surprisingly few loamy soil deposits and was virtually devoid of this type of artifact bearing soil.

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has provided a presentation of the Phase 1B testing conducted within the Wilson Avenue project area. The field testing focus was toward the prehistoric period. Results were presented in three areas; stratigraphy, artifacts, and informant information.

No artifacts dating to the prehistoric period were identified. Buried land surfaces were tentatively identified in only a few tests. Speculation that topsoil was removed, and any possible evidence of prehistoric deposits along with it, was lent credibility by a local resident who reported neighborhood topsoil was removed.

It is extremely unlikely that this project area contains any preserved prehistoric archaeological deposits. No further archaeological work is recommended for this project.



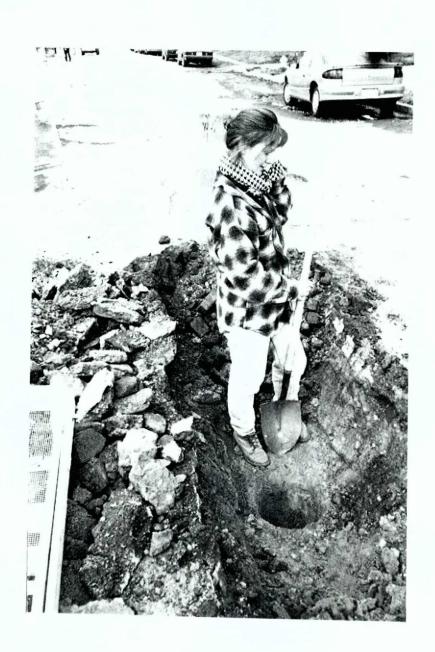


Plate 2 Shovel Test 3 on Sylvia Street in progress, facing west.



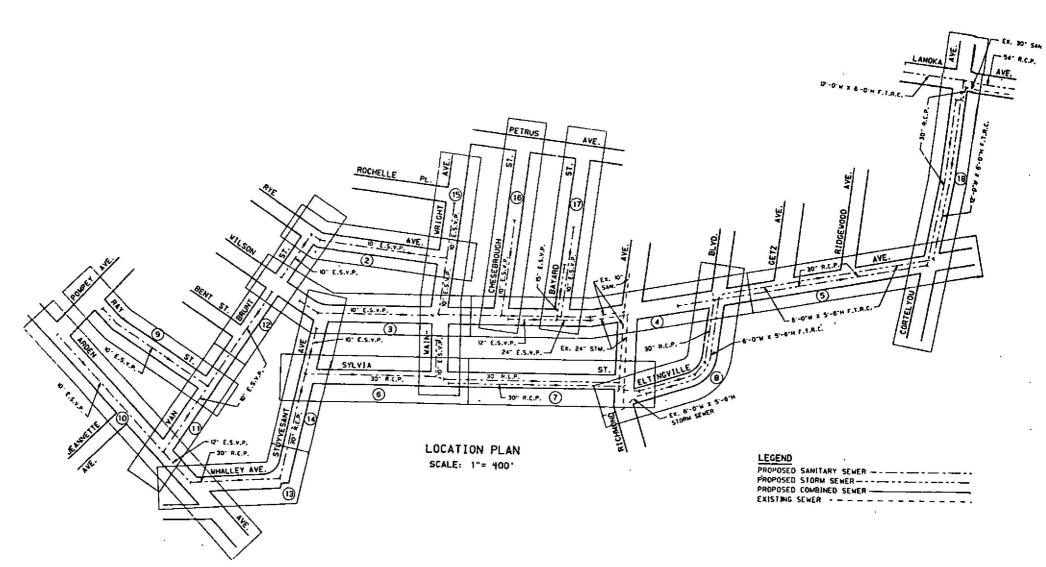


Figure 1 The Wilson Avenue Sewer Project.

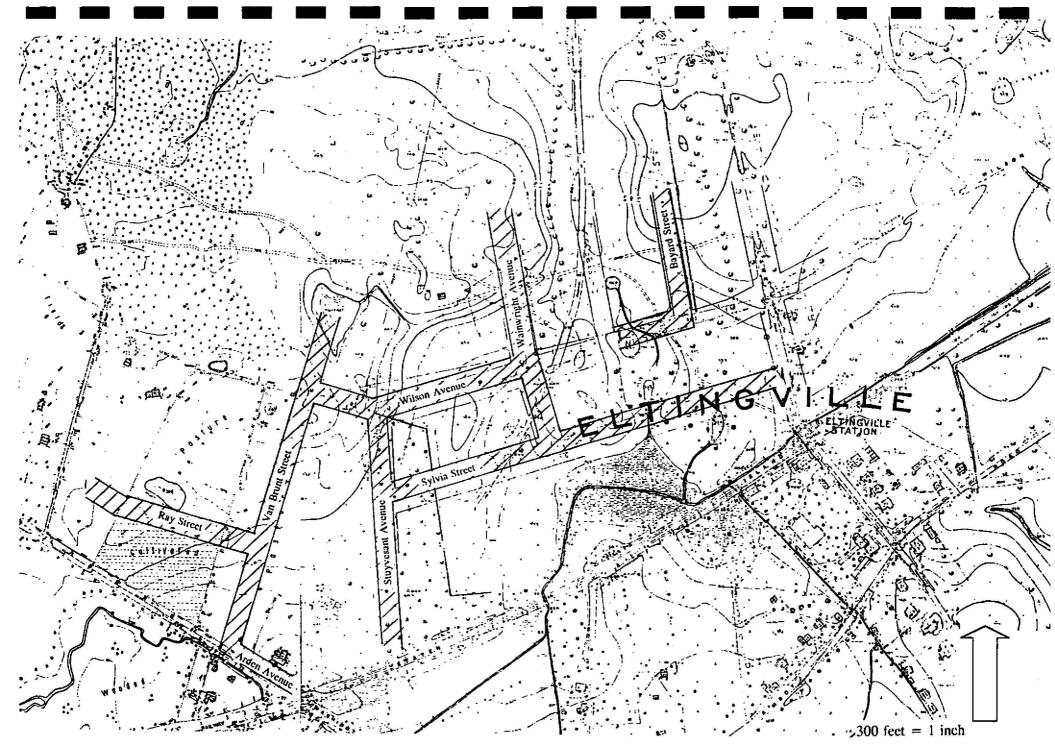


Figure 2 From Borough of Richmond 1912 Topographical Survey Sheet 77 with Wilson Avenue West project area hatched.

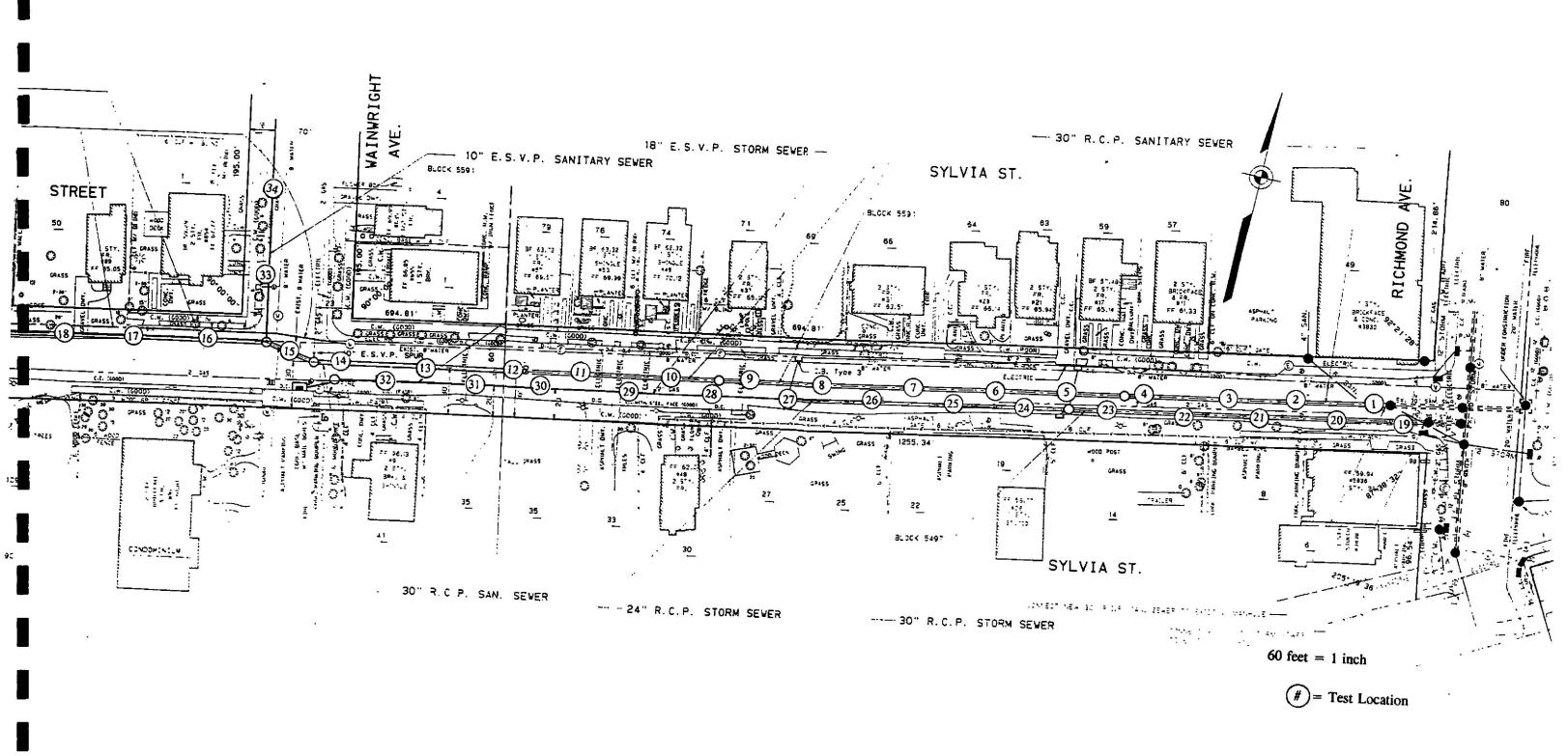
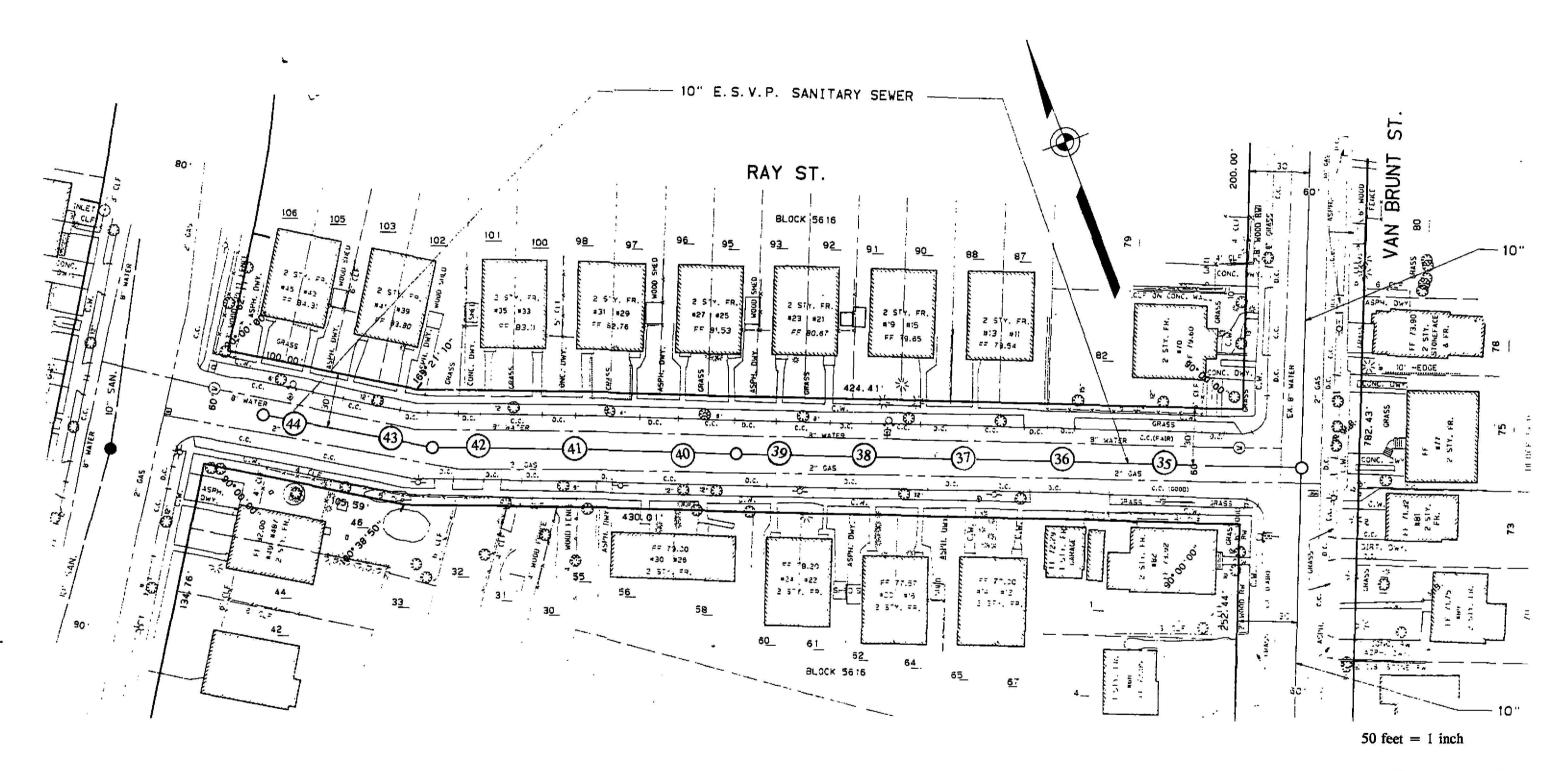


Figure 3 Planned Phase 1B shovel test locations on Sylvia Street and Wainwright Avenue.



(#) = Test Location

Figure 4 Planned Phase 1B shovel test locations on Ray Street.

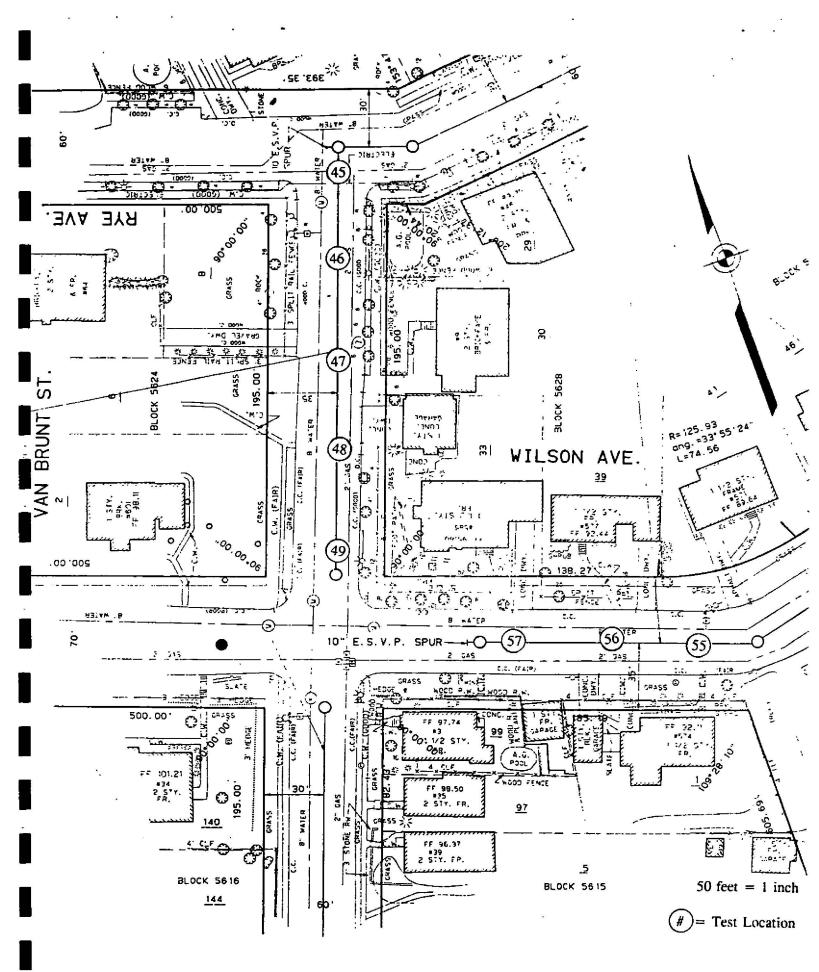


Figure 5 Planned Phase 1B shovel test locations on Van Brunt Street and Wilson Avenue.

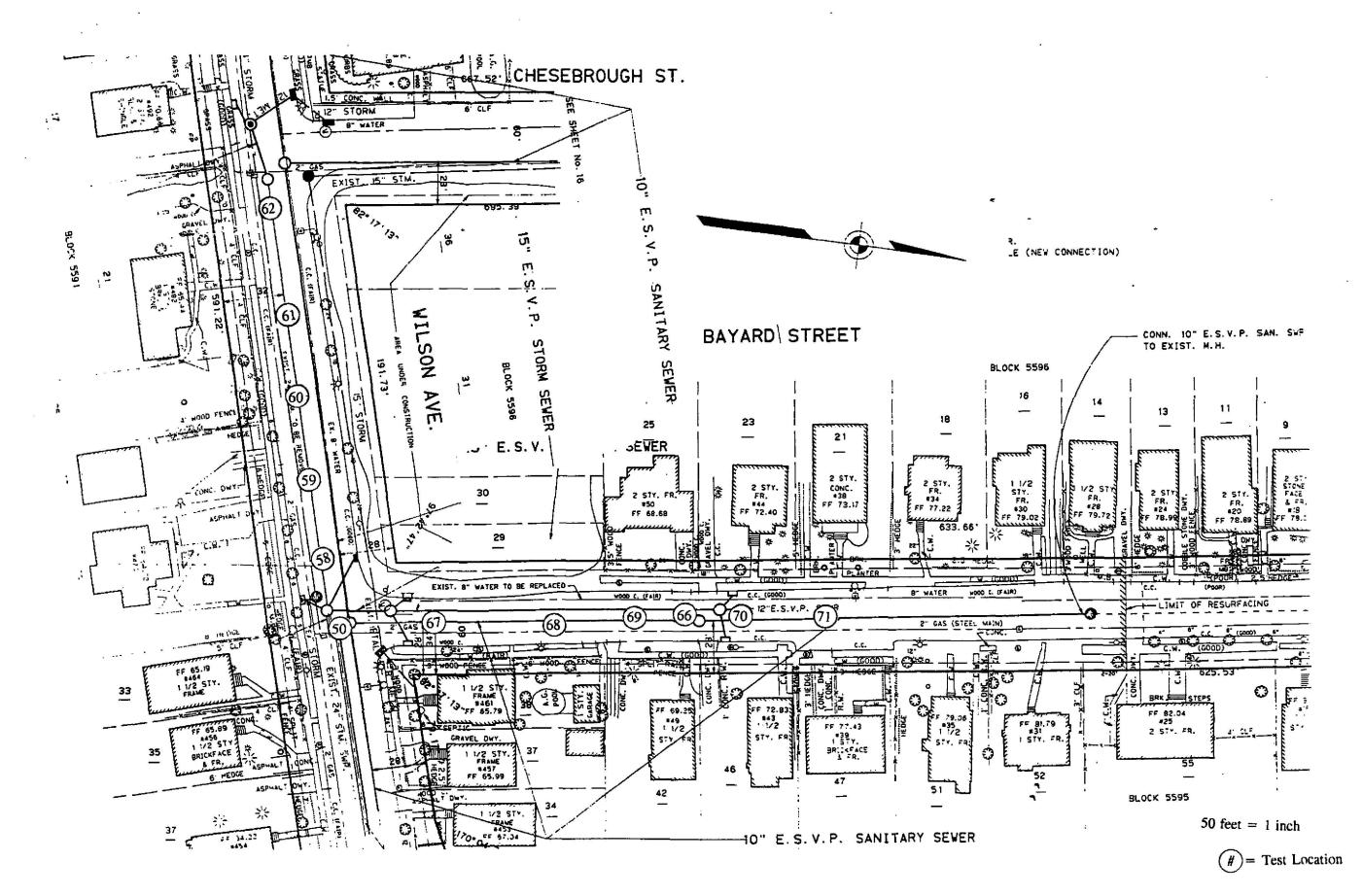


Figure 7 Actual Phase 1B shovel test locations on Sylvia Street and Wainwright Avenue.

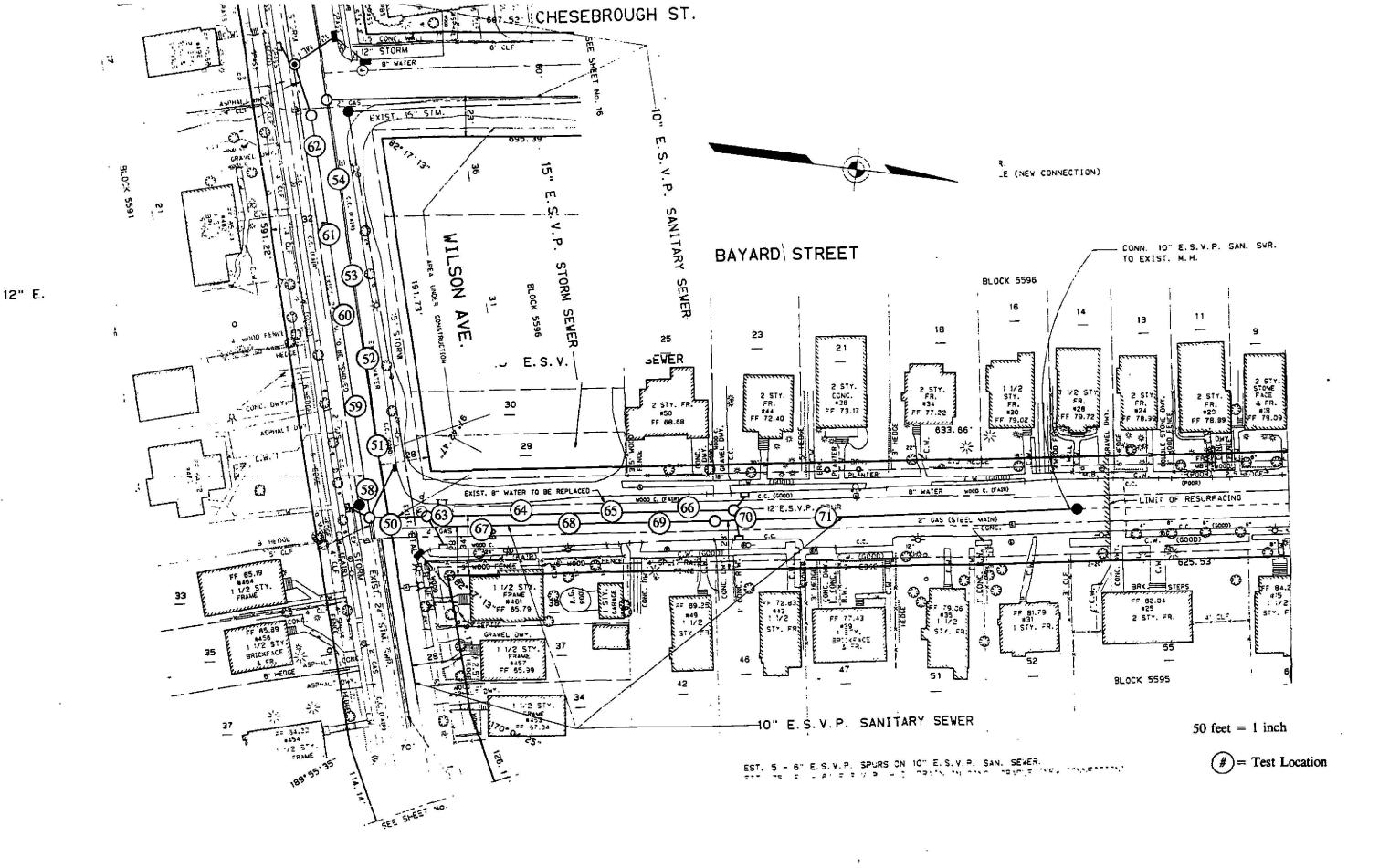


Figure 6 Planned Phase 1B shovel test locations on Wilson Avenue and Bayard Street.

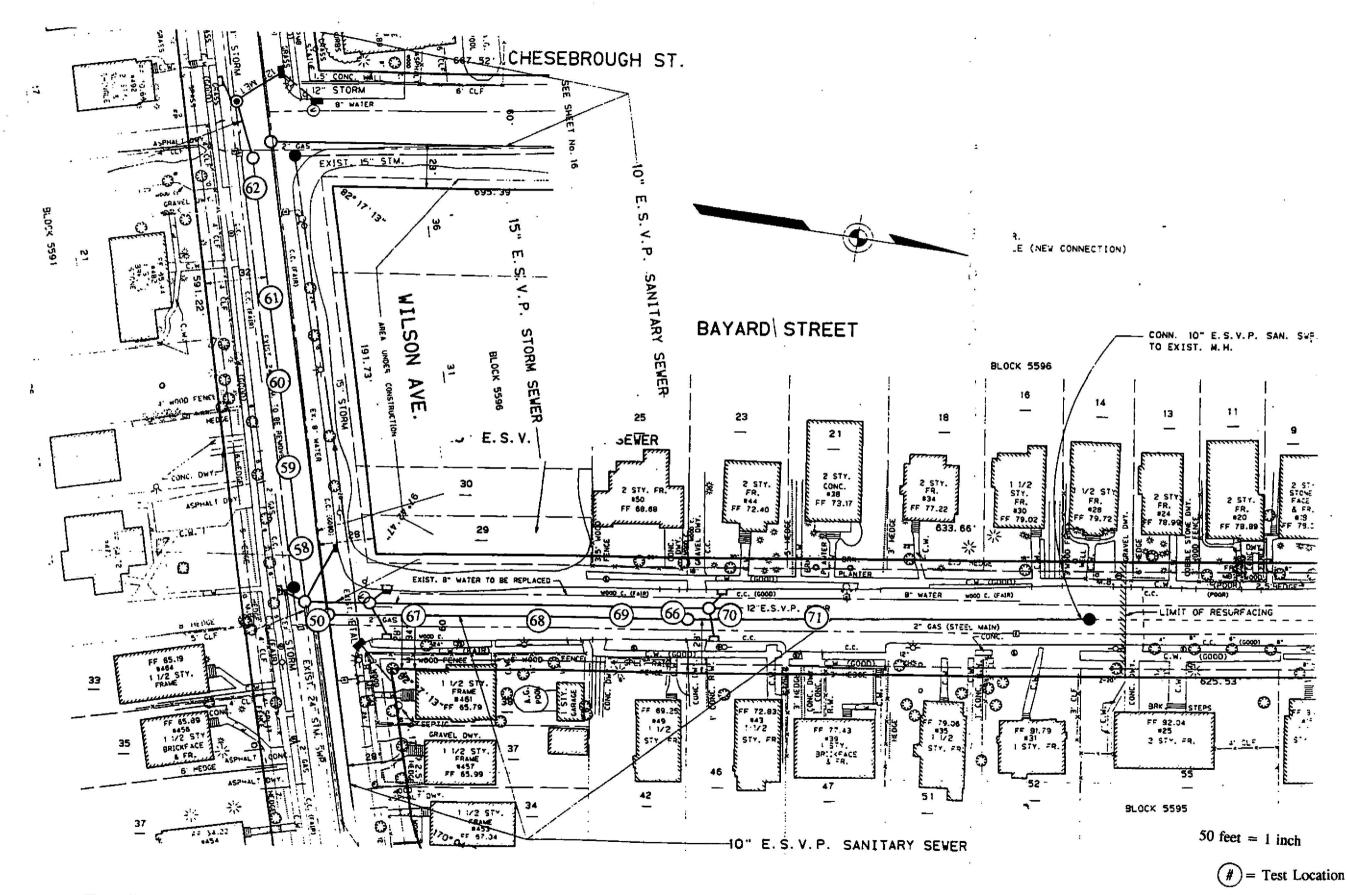


Figure 7 Actual Phase 1B shovel test locations on Wilson Avenue and Bayard Street.

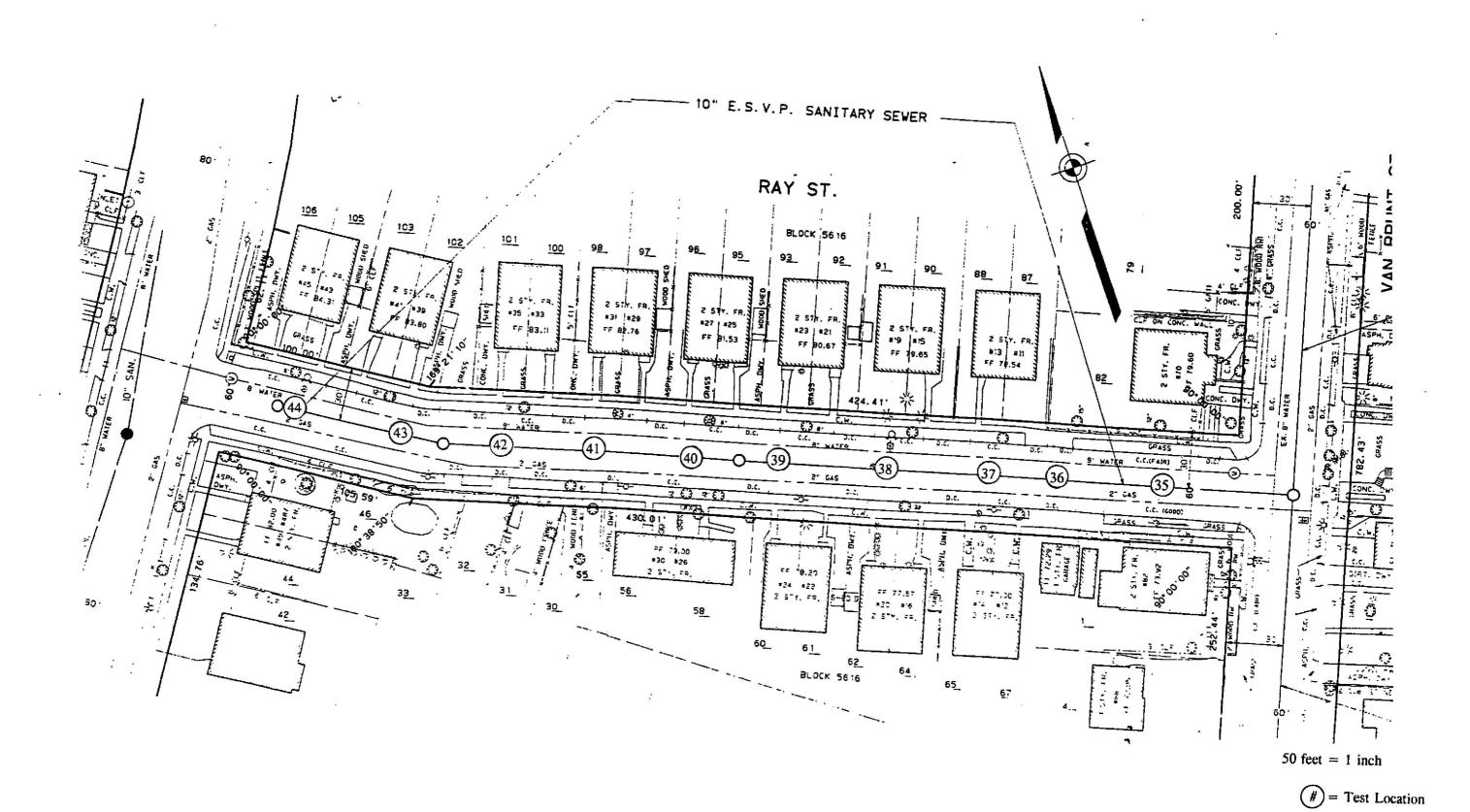


Figure 8 Actual Phase 1B shovel test locations on Ray Street.

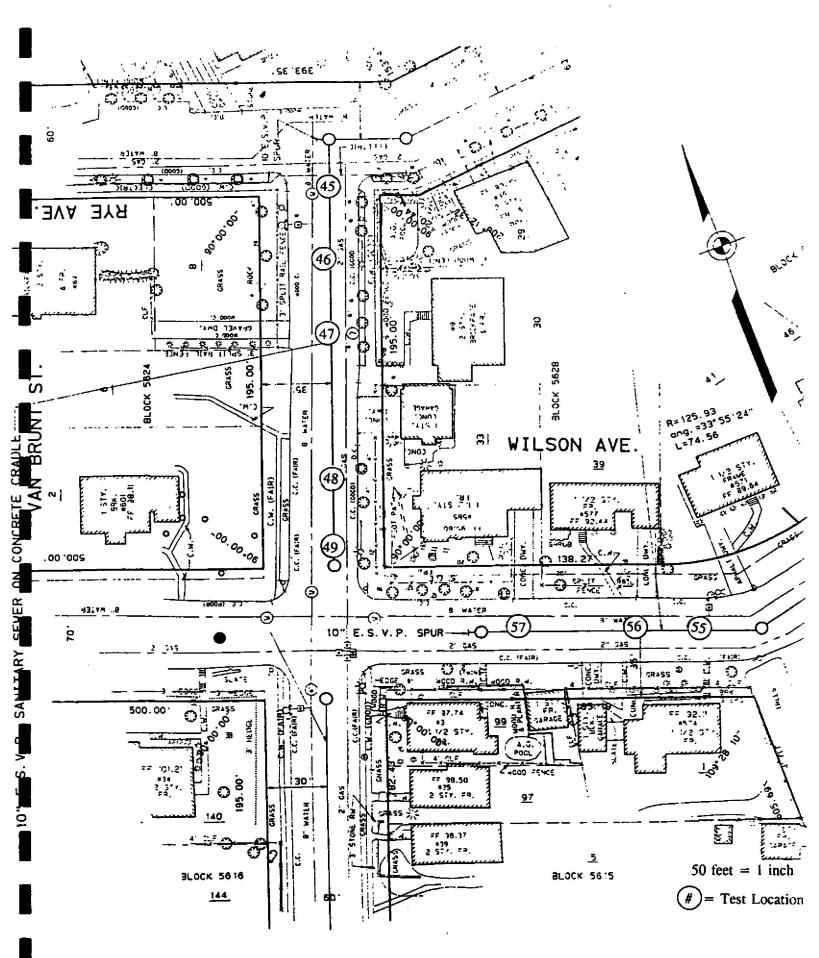


Figure 9 Actual Phase 1B shovel test locations on Van Brunt Street and Wilson Avenue.

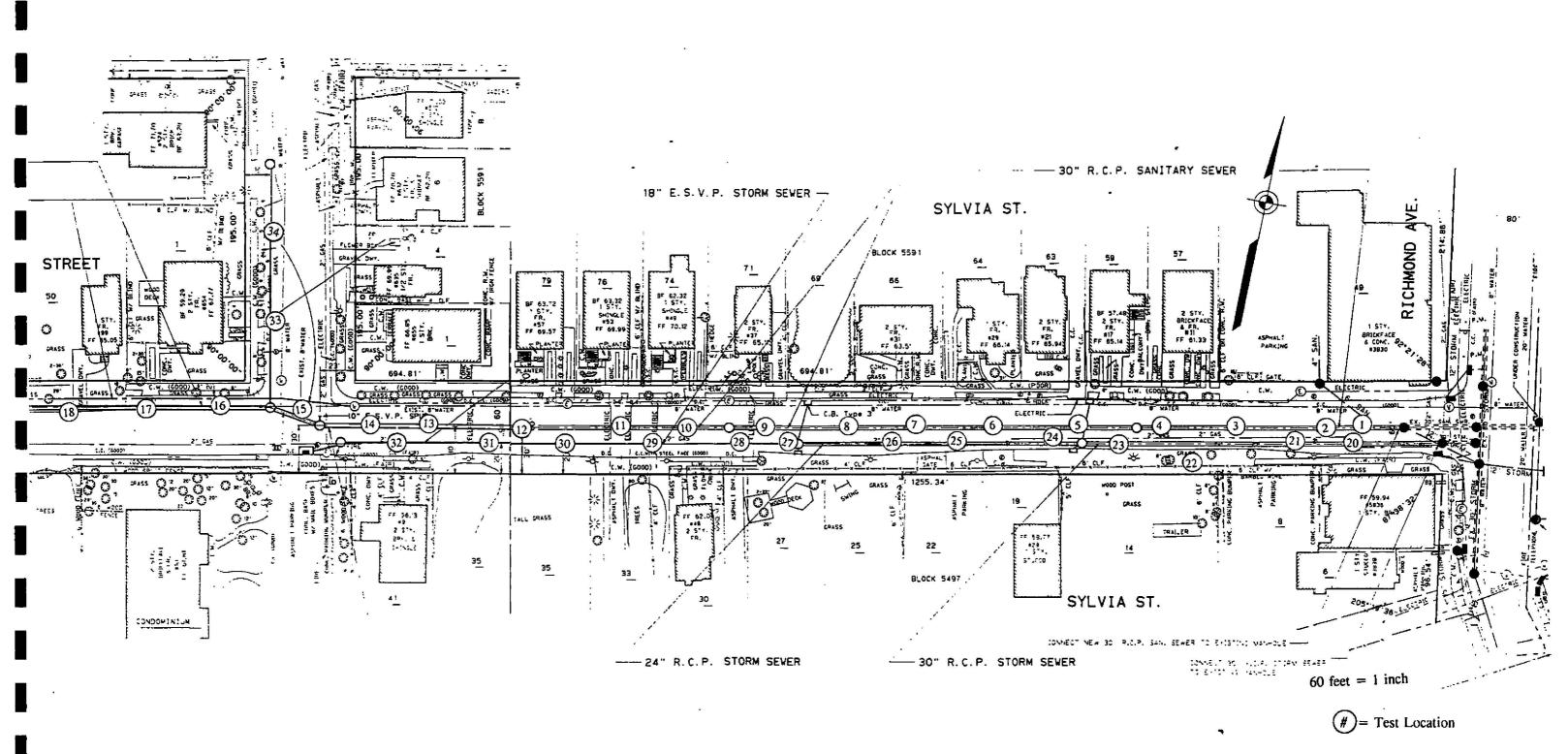


Figure 10 Actual Phase 1B shovel test locations on Sylvia Street and Wainwright Avenue.

# SYLVIA STREET SHOVEL TEST STRATIGRAPHY

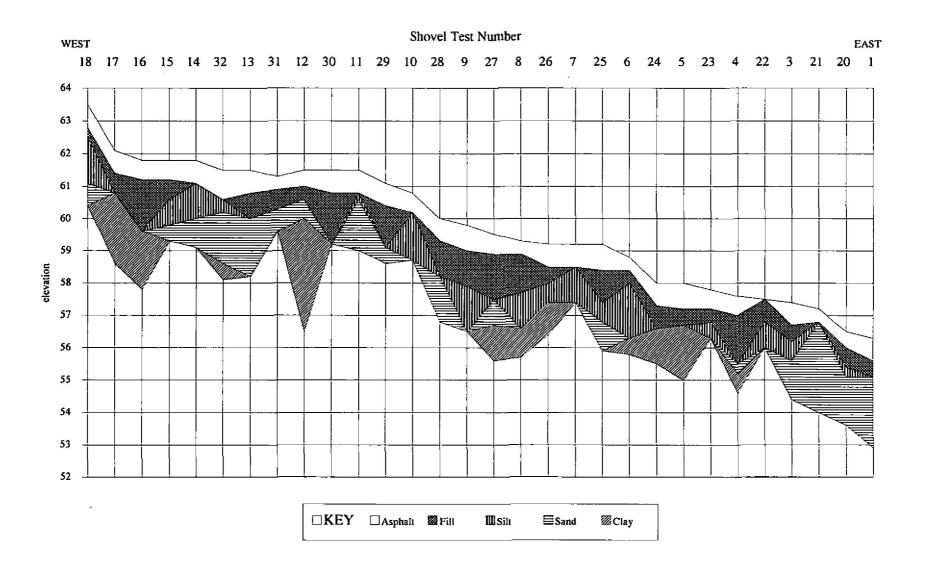


Figure 11 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Sylvia Street.

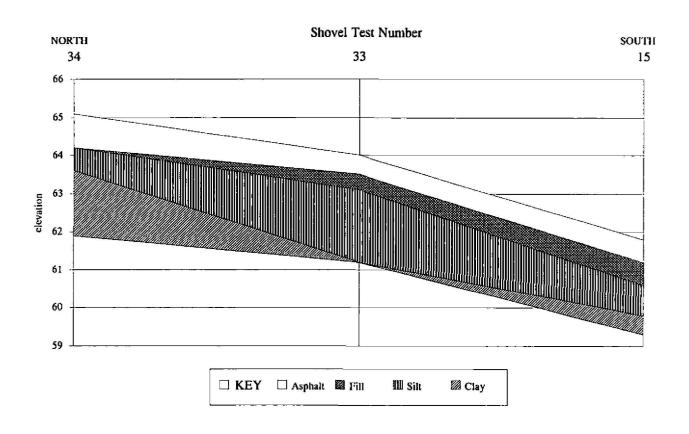


Figure 12 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Wainwright Avenue.

# RAY STREET SHOVEL TEST STRATIGRAPHY

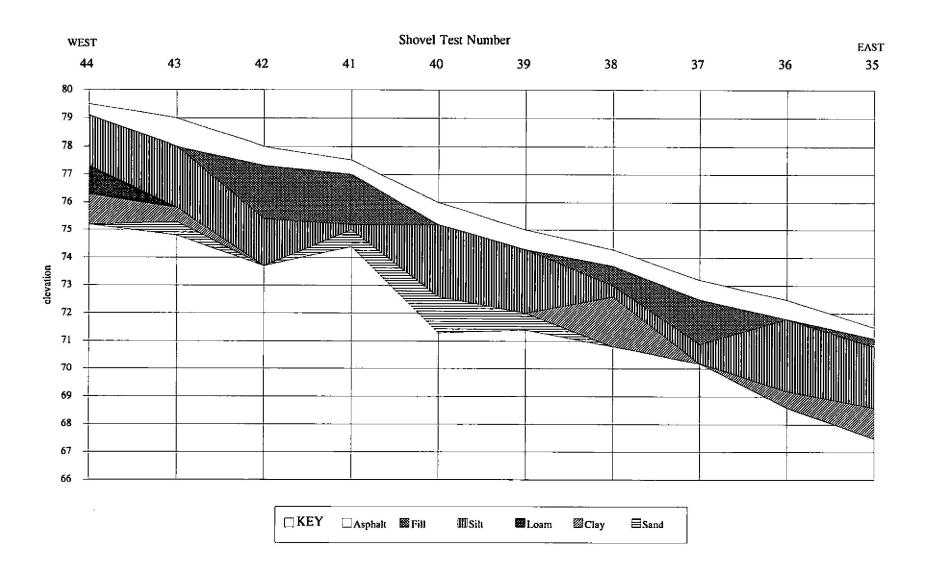


Figure 13 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Ray Stregs

# VAN BRUNT STREET SHOVEL TEST STRATIGRAPHY

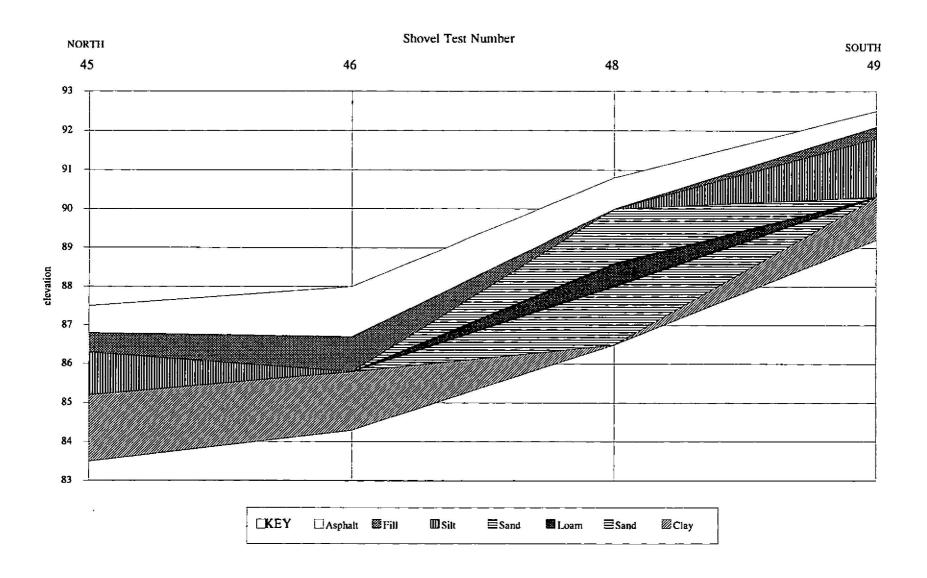


Figure 14 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Van Brunt Street.

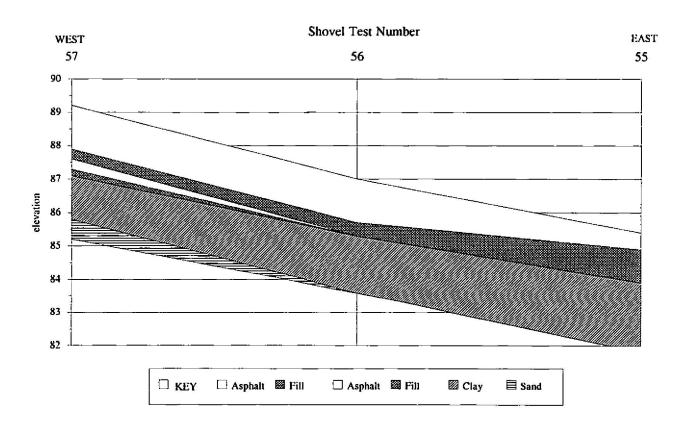


Figure 15 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Wilson Avenue between Van Brunt Street and Stuyvesant Avenue.

## BAYARD STREET SHOVEL TEST STRATIGRAPHY

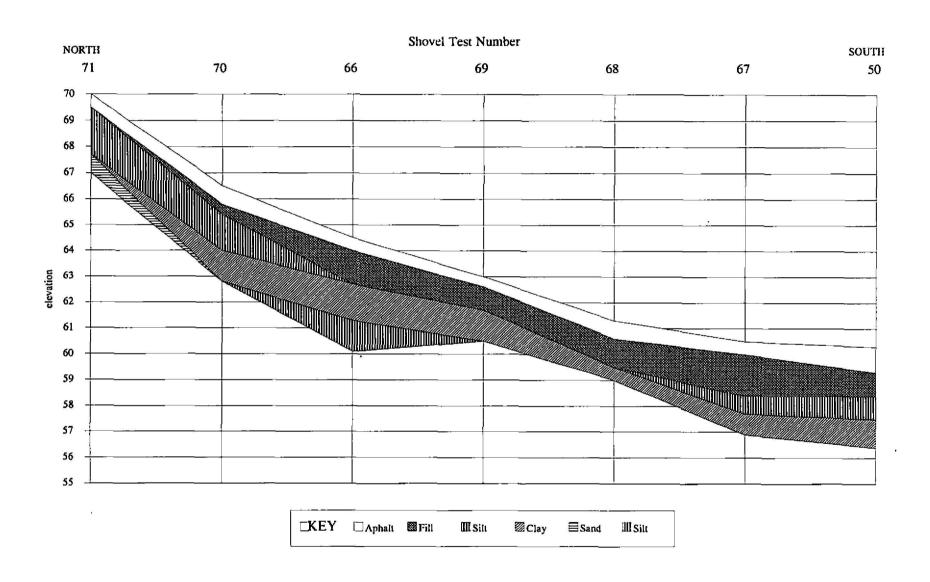


Figure 16 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Bayard Street.

#### WILSON AVENUE SHOVEL TEST STRATIGRAPHY

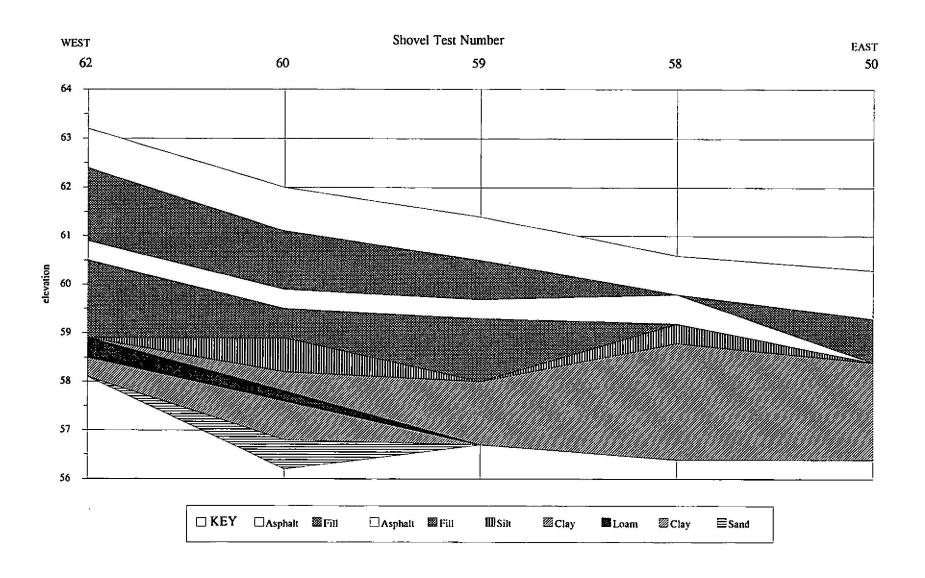


Figure 17 Generalized shovel test stratigraphy in Wilson Avenue between Chesebrough and Bayard Streets.

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Scope of Work for Phase 1B Archaeological Testing in the Wilson Avenue West Project Area in Advance of Sewer Placement, Eltingville, Staten Island. Submitted to Bedford Construction Corporation.

#### Appendix A

Scope of Work for Phase 1B Archaeological Testing

# SCOPE OF WORK FOR PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING IN THE WILSON AVENUE WEST PROJECT AREA IN ADVANCE OF SEWER PLACEMENT, ELTINGVILLE, STATEN ISLAND February 6, 1995

Assessment for the potential of the Wilson Avenue sewer project to adversely impact archaeological resources was made in the Phase 1A archaeological documentary research reports covering the eastern and western portions of the Wilson Avenue sewer project. A moderate potential for the preservation of prehistoric resources was found to exist in parts of the Wilson Avenue West project area. These locations are described in the table below and depicted on the attached figure. It was recommended that the archaeological testing should take the form of shovel testing and analysis. Further, it was suggested during the review process that some portion of the areas recommended for testing could be eliminated in lieu of archaeological monitoring where scientifically appropriate and cost efficient. After reanalysis of the degrees of archaeological sensitivity throughout the portions of the project area recommended for testing, consideration of the nature of the archaeological materials which may be found and discussion of relative costs with Bedford Construction Corporation, it was concluded that the shovel testing methodology would be the most cost efficient. Although this means roads will have to be opened twice, the automobile traffic is relatively low. None of the streets where testing is recommended are major roadways. Additionally, the use of temporary asphalt reduces costs. These costs were weighed against those of potential delays to the construction schedule, should archaeological material be found.

Shovel testing methodology is recommended in the trenches of the planned locations of the sewers, measuring about thirty six hundred ten feet in total. One row of shovel tests spaced at fifty foot intervals is recommended for each trench segment falling within the areas determined to have archaeological potential in the Phase 1A report. These locations are depicted on the attached figure and described in the table below.

The asphalt and related deposits will be mechanically removed prior to commencement of archaeological testing. The shovel tests will be about one to one and a half feet in diameter and excavated to the depth of non-artifact bearing subsoil to evaluate the nature of the soils and the presence or absence of prehistoric archaeological remains. All soils excavated from the shovel tests will be screened through 1/4 inch mesh for the recovery of artifacts. Soils, stratigraphy and artifact inclusions will be recorded on forms. Shovel test locations will be mapped on the construction excavation base plans. Photodocumentation and drawings will be done as appropriate. Standard methods of artifact processing, labeling, identification, evaluation and documentation will be done on the recovered materials.

<u>.</u>

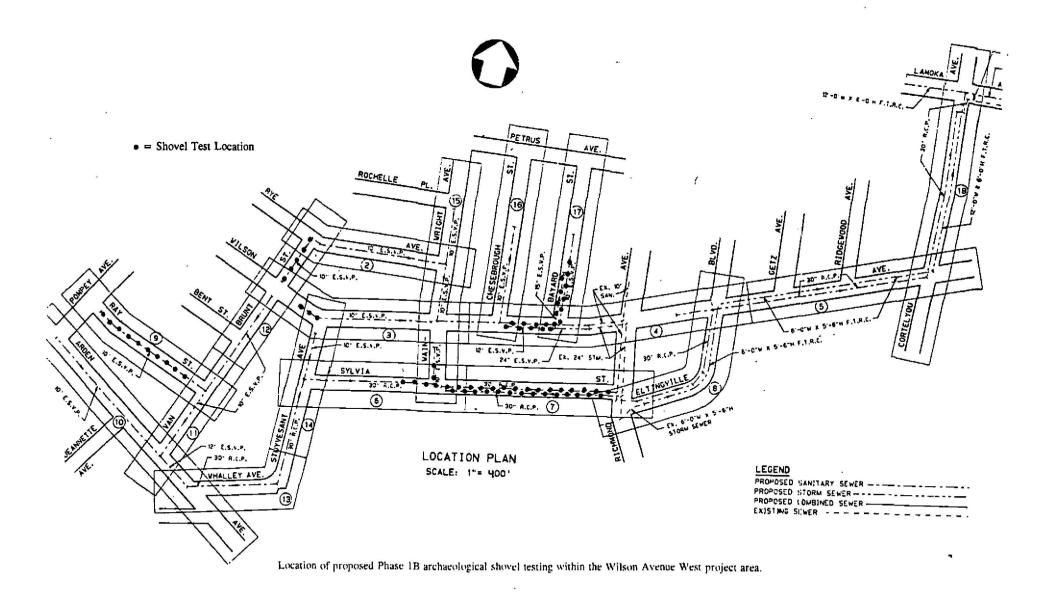
The Phase 1A research has demonstrated that areas of proposed testing have been disturbed or filled. It seems possible that shovel testing may prove areas of disturbed contexts or fill extend to depths inaccessible through shovel testing methodology. In these cases, the mechanical excavation equipment on site to remove asphalt related deposits will be used to remove additional fill or disturbed soils, should this be deemed necessary by the archaeologist. Once these soils are removed, shovel testing methodology will continue as described above. Because of this possibility of disturbed or filled contexts, the attached table lists a minimum number of shovel tests to be performed.

Upon completion of Phase 1B archaeological testing of the Wilson Avenue sewer project, a report of the findings will be prepared for New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission review. The report will include a presentation of the field work with depiction of the actual location of tests, stratigraphy within the shovel tests, an artifact inventory and archaeological interpretation of the testing results with findings of the existence or non-existence of prehistoric cultural materials. As with the earlier report, review comments will be incorporated into the final report, as necessary.

Should any archaeological resources or any soils with the potential to contain archaeological resources be identified. Phase II archaeological excavations or monitoring may be recommended at that time. This additional evaluation of prehistoric archaeological resources would define their significance and extent. Should resources warranting Phase II level archaeological sampling be identified, the archaeologist will notify the appropriate Landmarks Preservation Commission personnel to request a site visit prior to proceeding with any further archaeological work.

ESTIMATE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SHOVEL TESTS NEEDED FOR THE WILSON AVENUE SEWER PROJECT

STREET	SEWER TYPE	LENGTH	# SHOVEL TESTS
Bayard Street	sanitary and storm	300 + 240 feet	11
Ray Street	sanitary	480 feet	10
Sylvia Street	sanitary and storm	950 + 700 feet	33
Van Brunt Street	sanitary	240 feet	5
Wainwright Avenue	sanitary	100 feet	2
Wilson Avenue	sanitary and storm	350 + 250 feet	12
то	TAL	3,610 feet	. 73





Wilson Avenue Sewer Project Phase 1B Shovel Test Stratigraphy

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
1	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.5 1.6 1.8 2.8 3.4	7.5YR3/2 10YR4/2 10YR5/3 10YR5/4	dark brown dark grayish brown brown yellowish brown	asphalt/paving fill silty snad sand fine sand very fine sand	
2	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7			asphalt/paving fill	
3	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.2 1.8 2.8 3.0 4.2	7.5YR4/6 7.5YR4/4 7.5YR4/4 5YR4/6	strong brown brown/light gray brown yellowish red	asphalt/paving fill compact silty clay sandy silt with clay sandy silt sandy silt	
4	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.6 1.3 1.4 2.1 2.4 3.0	10YR3/2 10YR3/3 7.5YR4/3 2.5Y4/1	very dark gray brown dark brown brown dark gray	asphalt/paving fill asphalt fill silty sand clay	brick, pipe wood planks
5	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0.8 1.1 1.3 2.6 3.0	2.4Y5/1 2.5Y6/8	dark brown gray olive yellow	asphalt/paving oily fill gravel clay clay	

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
6	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 0.8 1.1 1.6 2.5 3.0	10YR3/1 10YR5/3 10YR5/4 7.5YR5/6 5YR5/6	very dark gray brown yellowish brown strong brown yellowish red	asphalt/paving rocky snad compact silt clayey silt compact clay rocky sandy clay	
7	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.3 1.8	7 .5YR4/6 5YR4/4	strong brown reddish brown	asphalt/paving compact clayey silt sandy clayey silt	
8	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 0.6 0.8 1.6 2.7 3.6	10YR3/1 10YR4/3 10YR4/2 10YR3/2 10YR5/4	very dark gray brown dark grayish brown very dark gray brown yellowish brown	asphalt/paving sandy silt sandy silt sandy silt compact silt clay	brick
9	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.9 1.9 2.8 3.3	10YR4/4 7.5YR4/3	brown brown	asphalt/paving fill wet clayey silt wet clayey silt	
10	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.6 1.5 2.1	7.5YR5/6 5YR4/4	strong brown reddish brown	asphalt/paving compact clayey silt compact clayey silt	

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
11	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 0.9 1.6 1.9 2.5	10YR3/2 7.5YR4/6 10YR7/6 7.5YR4/6	very dark gray brown strong brown yellow strong brown	asphalt/paving sandy silt sandy clay compact silt sandy silt	
12	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.9 1.5 2.8 3.3 5.0 6.0	10YR4/2 10YR3/2 10YR5/4 10YR4/4 5YR3/4	dark grayish brown very dark gray brown yellowish brown dark yellowish brown dark reddish brown	asphalt/paving compact sandy silt clayey loam clay clay	coal
13	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0.7 1.5 3.1 3.3	10YR3/3 7.5YR4/4 7.5YR4/6	dark brown brown strong brown	asphalt/paving fill rocky sandy silt mottled sandy silt	
14	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.8 2.7	7.5YR4/6 5YR4/6	strong brown yellowish red	asphalt/paving compact silty sand compact sandy silt	
15	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.6 0.9 1.0 1.2 2.0 2.5	7.5YR4/4 7.5YR4/4 10YR3/2 7.5YR4/4	brown brown dark brown brown	asphalt/paving compact sandy silt asphalt compact fill clayey silt rocky sandy clay	Ÿ

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
16	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	2.2 2.7 4.0	10YR3/3 10YR4/2	dark brown dark grayish brown	asphalt/paving moist clay wet sandy clay	glass
17	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.3 3.5	7.5YR4/6 10YR5/3	strong brown brown	asphalt/paving sand fill wet clay	
18	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.0 1.6 2.4 3.i	10YR4/3 10YR4/6 10YR4/6	black brown strong brown strong brown	asphalt/paving oily fill silty clay compact silty clay silty sand	
20	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.5 0.7 0.8 1.1 1.4 1.8 2.0 2.9	10YR3/3 10YR3/1 7.5YR3/3 5YR4/6 10YR4/2 10YR5/4 10YR4/4	dark brown very dark gray dark brown yellowish red dark grayish brown yellowish brown dark yellowish brown	asphalt/paving silty sand fill oily silty fill silty sand moist silty sand sandy clay silty sand wet clayey sand	
21	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 2.7 3.2	5YR4/6 7.5YR4/6	yellow red strong brown	asphalt/paving coarse sand fine sand	·

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
22	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 0.7 1.5	10YR4/2 10YR4/3 7.5YR4/4	dark grayish brown brown brown	top soil rocky silty loam wet silty clay	glass, brick, plastic, plaster glass, ceramic, plastic ceramic, brick
23	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.6 1.0 1.5	7.5YR4/3	brown	asphalt/paving fill wet silty clay	
24	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.4 2.5	10YR3/2 10YR5/4	very dark gray brown yellowish brown	asphalt/paving mottled clayey loam mottled clay	wood. brick
25	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.8 1.8 2.4 3.3	7.5YR4/4 7.5YR4/4	brown brown	asphalt/paving fill compact silty clay rocky silty sand	
26	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.2 1.8 2.8	10YR3/1 10YR4/4	very dark gray dark yellowish brown	asphalt/paving silty clay clay	

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
27	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.6 1.2 2.8 3.9	7.5YR4/3 10YR4/2	black brown dark grayish brown	asphalt/paving oily fill sandy clay fill? sandy clay fill?	
28	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0.7 1.8 2.0 3.2	10YR4/4 10YR2/1 7.5YR5/6	brown black strong brown	asphalt/paving compact fill moist sandy silt	1967 coin ceramic
29	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 2.0 2.5	7.5YR4/4 7.5YR4/6	brown strong brown	asphalt/paving sandy silt fill rocky clayey sand	
30	Sylvía	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 2.3			asphalt/paving fill	
31	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.0	10YR3/2	very dark gray brown	asphalt/paving wet sandy silt	,

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
32	Sylvia	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.9 1.3 2.0 2.9 3.4	5YR4/6 10YR3/2 10YR4/3 7.5YR5/4	yellowish red very dark gray brown brown brown	asphalt/paving compact silt sandy silt rocky sandy clay clay	
33	Wainwright	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.5 0.9 2.8	10YR5/3 10YR4/2	brown dark grayîsh brown	asphalt/paving fill wet silty clay	
34	Wainwright	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.9 1.5 2.0 3.2	10YR3/2 10YR4/3 10YR4/4	very dark gray brown brown dark yellowish brown	sandy clay	
35	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 0.7 1.3 2.3 2.7 2.9 3.4 4.0	10YR6/2 10YR4/4 10YR4/3 10YR6/1 10YR4/6 10YR6/1 10YR4/3	light brownish gray dark yellowish brown brown gray dark yellowish brown gray brown	asphalt/paving sand compact silt silt compact silt silt clay moist clayey silt	
36	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.3 2.0 2.2 3.3 3.6 3.9	10YR4/4 10YR4/3 10YR6/1 10YR4/6 10YR6/1 10YR4/3	dark yellowish brown brown gray dark yellowish brown gray brown	asphalt/paving compact silt silt compact silt silt clay moist clayey silt	,

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
37	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 2.3 3.0	10YR4/3 7.5YR4/6	brown strong brown	asphalt/paving rocky dry fill hard rocky sand silt	
38	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.6 1.1 1.3 1.7 3.5	10YR4/3 10YR4/3 5YR4/6	brown brown yellowish red	asphalt/paving compact sandy silt concrete compact silt fill compact sandy clay	copper wire
39	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.6 3.0 3.6	10YR3/4 7.5YR3/4 10YR3/4	dark yellowish brown dark brown dark yellowish brown	compact clayey silt	
40	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.8 1.6 3.4 4.1 4.7	7.5YR4/3 5YR4/6 5YR4/4 7.5YR4/6	brown yellowish red reddish brown strong brown	asphalt/paving sandy silt compact rocky silt clay sandy clay	
41	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.5 1.2 1.8 2.0 2.3 2.5 3.1	10YR4/3 5YR4/6 10YR7/3 7.5YR4/6 10YR7/3 5YR4/6	brown yellowish red very pale brown strong brown very pale brown yellowish red	asphalt/paving sandy silt rocky sandy silt compact clayey silt sand compact clayey silt compact sand	

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE .	ARTIFACTS
42	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 2.0 2.6 3.1 4.3	2.5YR4/3 7.5YR4/6 5YR4/4 5YR4/6	reddish brown strong brown reddish brown reddish brown	asphalt/paving clayey fill sand rocky silty sand compact sandy silt	
43	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.0 1.5 3.2 3.7 4.2	7.5YR4/6 7.5YR3/4 5YR4/4 5YR3/3	strong brown dark brown reddish brown dark reddish brown	asphalt/paving compact silt compact clayey silt compact mottled clay silty sand	
44	Ray	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 0.8 1.7 2.2 2.9 3.2 3.9 4.3	7.5YR3/2 10YR4/3 10YR4/4 10YR5/3 10YR4/2 10YR3/2 10YR5/1	dark brown brown dark yellowish brown brown dark grayish brown very dark gray brown gray	asphalt/paving rocky silt fill sandy silt fill compact silt fill clayey loam loamy silt silty clay clay	paving block
45	Van Brunt	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.2 2.3 3.4 4.0	7.5YR5/6 10YR4/2 10YR3/2 7.5YR5/4	strong brown dark grayish brown very dark gray brown brown	asphalt/paving compact clayey silt compact silt silty clay clay	glass,slag, cut wood
46	Van Brunt	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.3 2.2 3.0 3.7	10YR3/2 10YR3/2 10YR4/3	very dark gray brown very dark gray brown brown	asphalt/paving fill fill clay	cut wood

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
47	Van Brunt	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 2.3 4.0	10YR3/1 7.5YR4/3	very dark gray brown	asphalt/paving fill mottled fill	glass coal
48	Van Brunt	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.8 1.5 2.2 2.8 3.6 4.3	5YR4/6 10YR4/4 10YR2/2 10YR4/2 7.5YR4/3	yellowish red dark yellowish brown very dark brown dark grayish brown brown	asphalt/paving sand sandy silty loam silty sand wet silty sand	glass
49	Van Brunt	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0.4 0.7 1.2 1.6 2.2 2.5 3.3	10YR4/4 10YR3/3 10YR4/6 7.5YR6/6 10YR7/3 7.5YR4/4	dark yellowish brown dark brown dark yellowish brown reddish yellow very pale brown brown	asphalt/paving compact sandy silt rocky silt clayey silt clayey silt sandy clay sandy clay	
50	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	1.0 1.9 2.8 3.9	10YR4/3 5Y4/1	brown dark gray	asphalt/paving oily silty fill compact clayey silt mottled clay	
55	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.5 1.5 3.6	5YR4/6	yellowish red	asphalt/paving fill sandy clay	,

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
56	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.3 1.7 3.4	10YR3/4	dark yellowish brown	asphalt/paving fill compact clayey silt	
57	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.3 1.6 1.9 2.1 2.3 3.4 4.0	10YR4//2 5YR4/6 10YR6/2 5YR4/6	dark grayish brown yellowish red light brownish gray yellowish red	asphalt/paving fill asphalt sandy silt sandy clay clay silty sand	
58	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1.4 1.8 2.5 3.4 4.2	7.5YR4/4 10YR4/3 7.5YR4/4 5YR4/4	brown brown brown reddish brown	asphalt/paving compact sandy silt compact clayey silt rocky silty clay rocky sandy clay	
59	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.9 1.7 2.1 3.4 4.2 4.7	7.5YR4/3 7.5YR4/4 10YR5/2	brown brown grayish brown	asphalt/paving fill asphalt compact silt fill compact silty clay sandy clay	
60	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.9 2.1 2.5 3.1 3.8 4.2 4.4 5.2 5.8	7.5YR4/4 10YR3/2 10YR4/4 10YR4/2 7.5YR2.5/1 10YR4/3 10YR4/4	brown  very dark gray brown dark yellowish brown dark grayish brown black brown dark yellowish brown	asphalt/paving compact sandy clay asphalt sand comapct sandy silt silty clay loamy clay silty clay clayey sand	

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFACTS
61	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0.6 2.1			asphalt/paving fill	thin wood planks
62	Wilson	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.8 2.3 2.7 3.3 4.3 4.7 5.1	5YR4/6 10YR4/3 10YR4/4 7.5YR2.5/1 5Y5/1	yellowish red brown dark yellowish brown black gray	asphalt/paving sandy silt asphalt sandy silt compact sandy clay loamy clay	cut wood
66	Bayard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	0.5 0.8 1.5 1.8 2.4 3.2 3.8 4.4	7.5YR4/3 10YR3/1 10YR3/1 10YR4/3 19YR5/3 10YR6/1 10YR4/2	brown very dark gray very dark gray brown brown gray dark grayish brown	asphalt/paving compact sandy silt sandy silt compact silty clay clay clay compact sandy silt sandy silt	building debris ceramic
67	Bayard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.5 1.4 2.1 2.5 2.8 3.6	10YR3/1 10YR3/2 5YR4/6 10YR3/2 10YR5/3	very dark gray very dark gray brown yellowish red very dark gray brown brown	asphalt/paving silty sand rocky silt silt silty clay clay	brick, mortar
68	Bayard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 1.4 1.8 2.3		black black gray	asphalt/paving oily fill oily sand fill? mottled clay	brick

TEST	STREET	LEVEL	DEPTH	MUNSELL	COLOR	TEXTURE	ARTIFAÇTS
69	Bayard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.4 1.3 2.5	2.5Y5/1	black gray	asphalt/paving fill clay	
70	Bayard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.7 0.9 1.1 1.3 2.0 2.5 3.7	10YR4/4 7.5YR4/4 10YR4/2 7.5YR4/4 5YR5/6	dark yellowish brown brown dark grayish brown brown yellowish red	asphalt/paving sandy silt asphalt sandy silt silt clayey silt sandy clay	ceramic bottle glass
71	Bayard	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	0.5 2.3 3.0	10YR4/3 7.5YR4/6	brown strong brown	asphalt/paving compact silty clay sand	

Appendix C

Wilson Avenue Phase 1B Testing Artifact Inventory

#### WILSON AVENUE PHASE 1B TESTING ARTIFACT INVENTORY

	CONTEXT	STREET	MATERIAL	IDENTITY	COLOR	COUNT	FRAG	FORM	MOTIF	MARKS	DATES	REFERENCE
	22.1	Sylvia	glass		clear	1	Υ	curved				
	22.1	Sylvia	glass	milk glass	white	1	Υ					
	22.2	Sylvia	brick		red	1	Υ					
	22.2	Sylvia	ceramic	tile	white	5	Y					
		Sylvia	glass		amber	2	Y	curved				
	22.2	Sylvia	glass		clear	12	Υ	curved				
		Sylvia	glass		clear	1	Y	curved		embossed		
	22.2	Sylvia	glass		green	4	Y	curved				
		Sylvia	metal/wood	modern nail	-	1		1 5/8 inch				
	22.3	Sylvia	brick		red	1	Y					
	22.3	Sylvia	ceramic	tile	white	1	Υ					
		Şylvia	glass		clear	2	Υ	flat				
	28.3	Sylvia	ceramic	ironstone	white	1	Υ			glazed 1 side	1813 - present	Godden 1992:xxiii
TOTAL	Sylvia					33					1	
	45.4	Van Brunt	glass	lightbulb	clear	1	Υ					
	48.4	Van Brunt	glass	refrigerator	clear	1	Υ			ridged 1 side		
TOTAL	Van Brun	t				2						
			<b>8</b> 23	*•								
		Bayard	ceramic	earthenware	white	1				glazed 2 sides	c. 1820 - 1920+	South 1978:72
		Bayard	glass		clear	3		curved				
		100	glass	bottle	clear	1		base				
		Bayard	glass	bottle	clear	1				raised "ERMAN"		
		Bayard	glass	bottle	clear	1	Υ			raised "EW"		
TOTAL	Bayard					7						
TOTAL	ODA ICCT	*				40						
TOTAL	PROJECT					42						