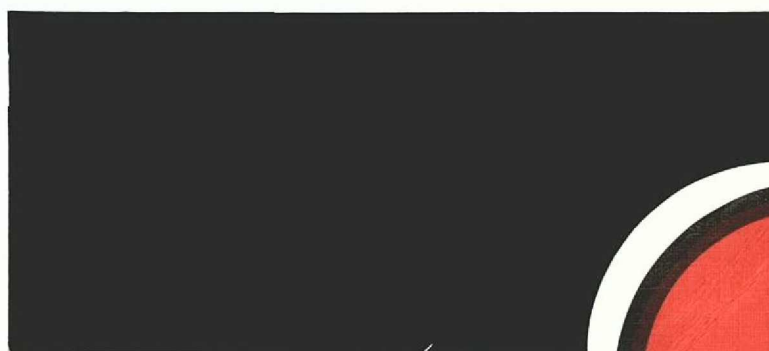


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LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

100 Halsted Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07019

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL
FOR A STAGE IB SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER
AND 40TH PRECINCT STATION HOUSE
BRONX, NEW YORK

88-012X

1990

Prepared for:

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Prepared by:

THE CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP
LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY

89

JUNE 1990

NONDISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The data contained in this proposal shall not be used or disclosed--in whole or in part--for any purpose except evaluation. If, however, a contract is awarded to this submitter as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, the contracting agency shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose these data to the extent provided in the resulting contract.

I. INTRODUCTION

This technical proposal has been prepared for the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice by the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA). A program is presented for conducting a Stage IB archaeological survey of approximately 20,000 square feet within the planned site for the Juvenile Detention Facilities and 40th Precinct Station House in the Bronx, New York (Figure 1). LBA has completed a Stage IA study of the project area, including preliminary background research and walkover (Louis Berger & Associates 1989a). The study determined that locations within the project area that experienced little or no historic or modern development had a potential to contain intact prehistoric archaeological remains. This assessment was based on, a) the occurrence of seven prehistoric sites within a two-mile radius of the project tract, and b) the presence of a stream (no longer extant) to the west of the parcel. In addition, historical research indicated that the project area had the potential to contain intact historic period archaeological remains associated with domestic occupations. As a result of these findings, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, in compliance with the City of New York Executive Order No. 91 of August 24, 1977 (City Environmental Quality Review), requested that a secondary historical study be done on the locations that may contain historic, domestic resources.

The secondary cultural resource study focused on two areas of study (Figure 2). The research indicated that the highest potential for the discovery of historic deposits lies within the rear lot lines of Lots 33, 34, 36, 39, and 41 in Area 1. The potential for retrieving domestic deposits in Area 2 was low due to subsequent construction activities. Locations with the potential for prehistoric resources (see Figure 2) were also noted. The secondary study recommended that a field testing program be conducted within these locations to determine if intact archaeological remains are indeed present, and whether or not these resources are potentially significant (Louis Berger & Associates 1989b).

The proposed work will be conducted in compliance with Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800) and Procedures for Determining Site Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 60 and 63), and will conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48FR44716). In addition, guidelines established by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and City regulations governing the protection of the cultural environment (CEQRA) will be followed for all aspects of the proposed investigation. The archaeologist supervising the investigation will meet the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA) standards.

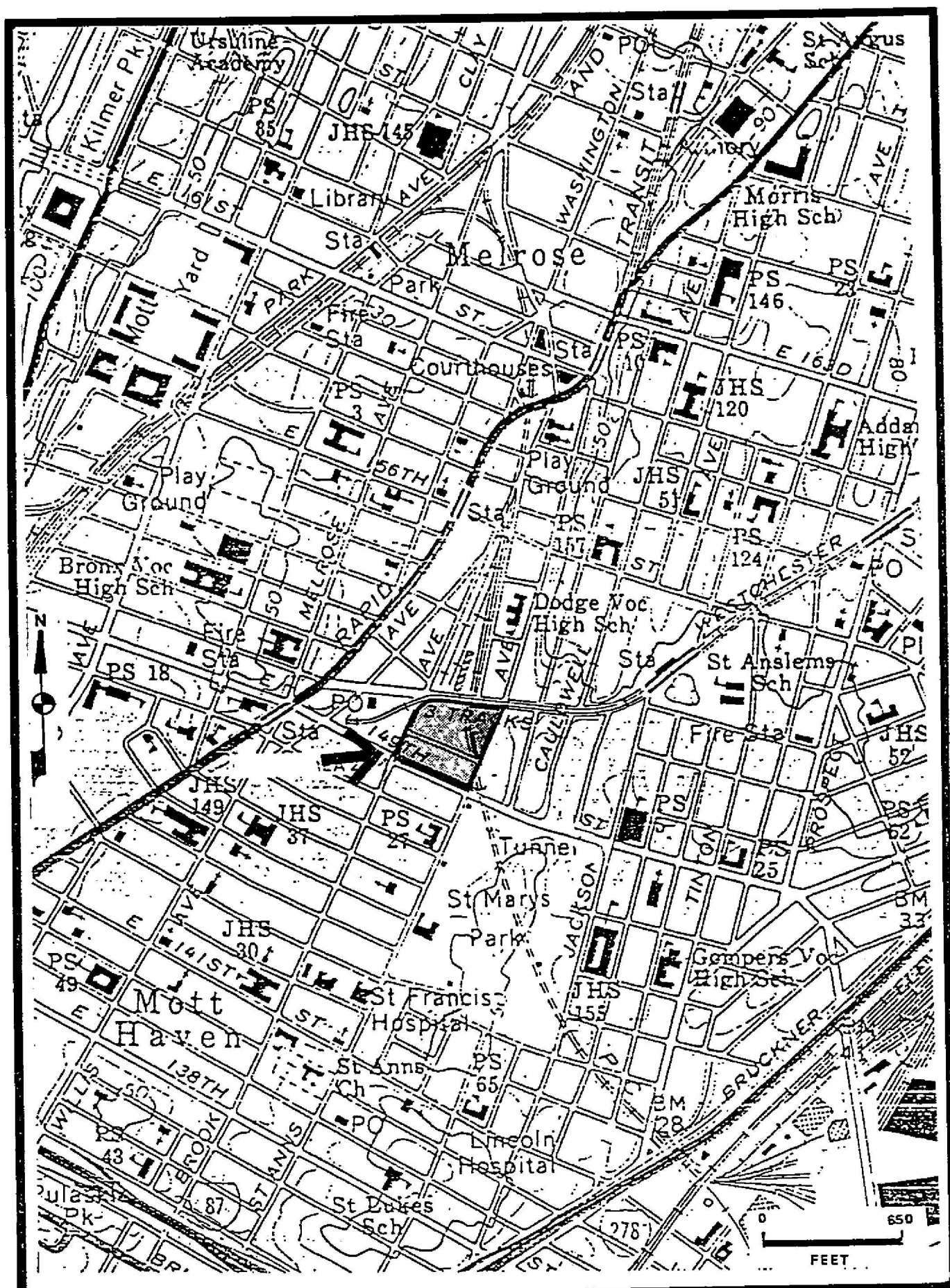


FIGURE 1 Phase 1A Project Area. Detail from US Geological Survey's (1979) Central Park, NY-NJ Quadrangle.

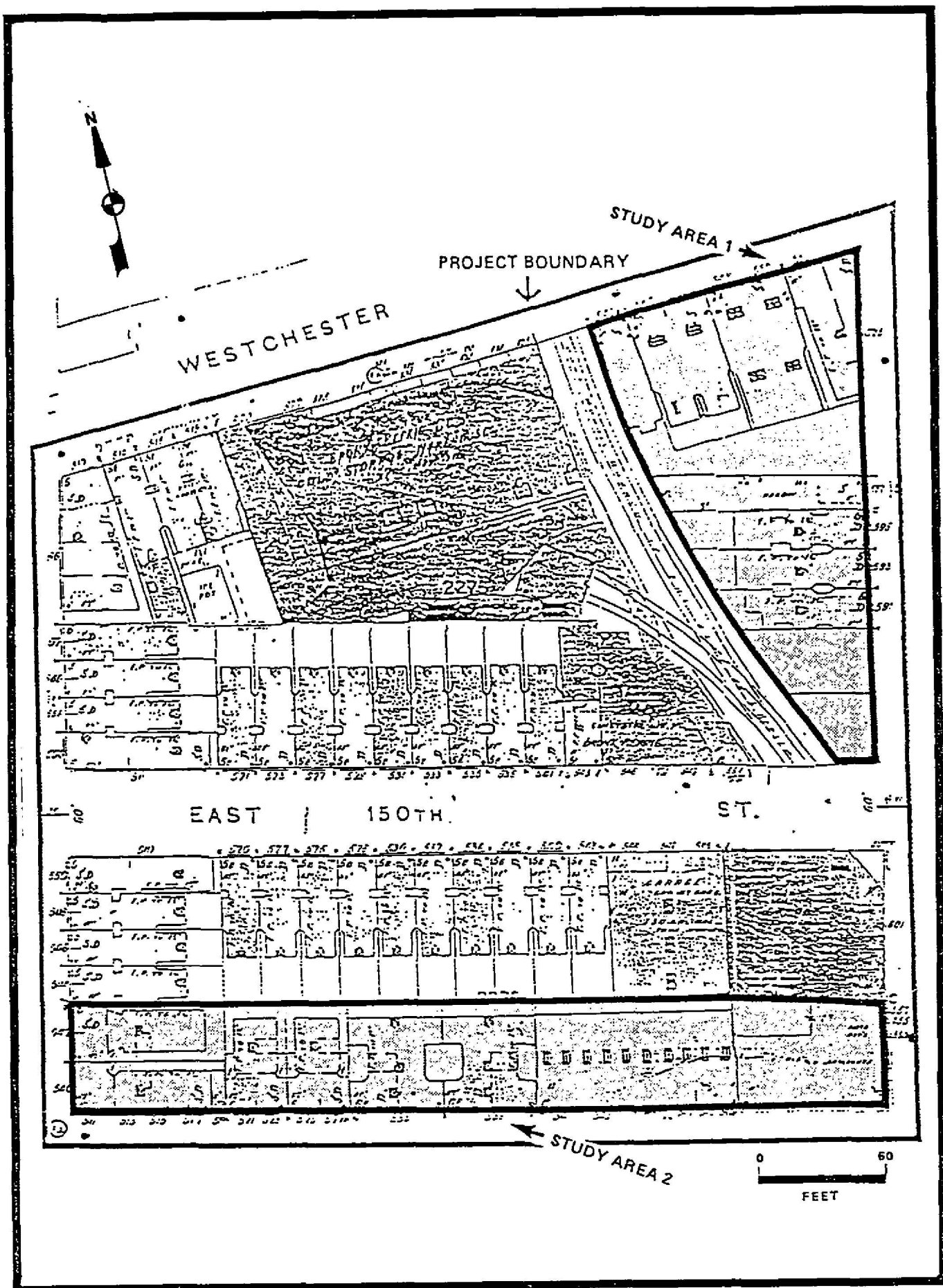


FIGURE 2 Location of Study Areas.

SOURCE Sanborn (1908, Revised in 1947)

LBA will coordinate its efforts throughout the proposed work with the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

II. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH DESIGN

A. SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND PROBLEM ORIENTATION

As noted, LBA has completed a Stage IA survey and a secondary cultural resource study of the project area. Background research conducted as part of the Stage IA study consisted of a review of archaeological site files, published and unpublished reports, and other archival materials. Repositories visited for these documents included the New York State Library and Museum; the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission; the Department of Buildings in the Bronx; and the New York Public Library. Research for the secondary study involved deed research and consultation of primary document groups, such as: probate records; tax assessments; census records; city directories; building records; and land surveys.

Background research on prehistoric occupations in the area of the project site revealed seven prehistoric sites within a two-mile radius of the Bronx project area (Table 1). None are listed in the National Register of Historic Places or are found within the project tract itself. Most of the documented sites are generically prehistoric and cannot be further classified as to cultural period. (A general discussion of the Paleoindian (12,000 to 10,000 B.P.), Archaic (10,000 to 3000 B.P.), and Woodland [3000 B.P. to A.D. 1600s] periods is found in Historic Conservation and Interpretation, Inc. (1983), and Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (1986).

Site 4539, however, is apparently the Ranachqua Site, listed by the NYSOPRH as belonging to the Late Woodland period. Reginald Bolton and William Calver investigated this locality in the early 1920s. Their excavations uncovered fire-pits, shell-pits, pottery, and Native American interments (Bolton 1920:303; 1922:106). Traces of historic aboriginal artifacts were also in evidence. The nearby Quinnahung Site is an additional historic Native American settlement (Bolton 1922:222). Goddard (1978: 214-215) indicates that the Munsee-speaking Rechgawawanks inhabited the Bronx in the early historical period.

Of the three remaining prehistoric sites, the New York State files record that Brucker and Jefferson Park represent possible villages, while Conykeest is a shell midden yielding stone projectile points. As far as site location is concerned, both the Conykeest and Jefferson Park Sites are adjacent to the present day lower Harlem River. On the other hand, the Bruckner Site and the Late Woodland Ranachqua Site each are currently 500 feet from Bronx Kill and 2,000 feet from the East River. Recent cultural resource management projects in the project vicinity have been strictly background studies, discovering no additional prehistoric sites

TABLE 1

DOCUMENTED PREHISTORIC SITES WITHIN
TWO MILES OF THE BRONX PROJECT AREA

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM	
<u>SITE NUMBER/NAME</u>	<u>SITE CLASS</u>
2831	Shell midden
4063	Village
4064	Campsite
4065	Village
4539	Shell heaps
5474/Port Morris	--
5475/Bruckner	Village

(Boesch and Pickman 1986; DeLeuw, Cather/Parsons 1979; Johannemann and Schroeder 1981, 1982).

In terms of prehistoric archaeological potential, the project area contains no previously-recorded sites. Those sites documented near the area, however, are adjacent to or near streams (see above discussion and Historical Perspectives 1987:10); the study parcel formerly bordered Mill Brook. Johanneman and Schroeder (1981) note that such a location would have been very attractive for Native American settlement. A letter from the New York State Museum indicates their opinion of a higher than average probability of finding prehistoric (Indian) artifacts in this area.

Completed background research on the historic period for the project area concluded that although land ownership in the project area and vicinity dates to the Colonial period, the pattern of land partitioning, expressed in both cartographic and deed sources, indicates that initial residential occupation of the study area dates to the mid-nineteenth century (Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. 1989a,b). Intact rear yard areas of Jarvis Archer's property at 788 Westchester Avenue (Study Area 1) are believed to have potential to contain significant historic archaeological resources dating to the second half of the nineteenth century and assignable to the Archer household (Figure 3). The remainder of Study Area 1 and all of Study Area 2 appear to have a very low potential for intact and significant historic domestic-related archaeological deposits or features (see Figure 3). This assessment was based on 1) the depth of disturbances within these locations, and 2) the failure to establish consistent assignable occupations, dating prior to 1891, by either individual households or groups defined by ethnic or socioeconomic criteria. The 1891 date is a milestone, given that water and sewer systems were in place within the project area by that time (Johannemann and Schroeder 1982:27; Sanborn Map Company 1891:209; 1908:70). Therefore, artifact-bearing features such as wells, privies, and cisterns, if they are extant within the project area, would most likely date prior to 1891.

At the level of reconnaissance and intensive archaeological survey, the types of data collected are most appropriate for addressing site locational models and the implications that such models have for addressing other aspects of prehistoric and historic adaptations. In the context of the project area, major goals of the proposed Stage IB archaeological survey will be to (1) locate and identify any prehistoric and historic archaeological deposits that may be present within the two study areas and (2) provide some preliminary assessment of the nature of any such deposits in terms of their density and integrity.

B. FIELD STRATEGY AND METHODS

The proposed approach to a Stage IB survey discussed here is based in part on the present condition of land surfaces within the project area and the potential of these areas for containing

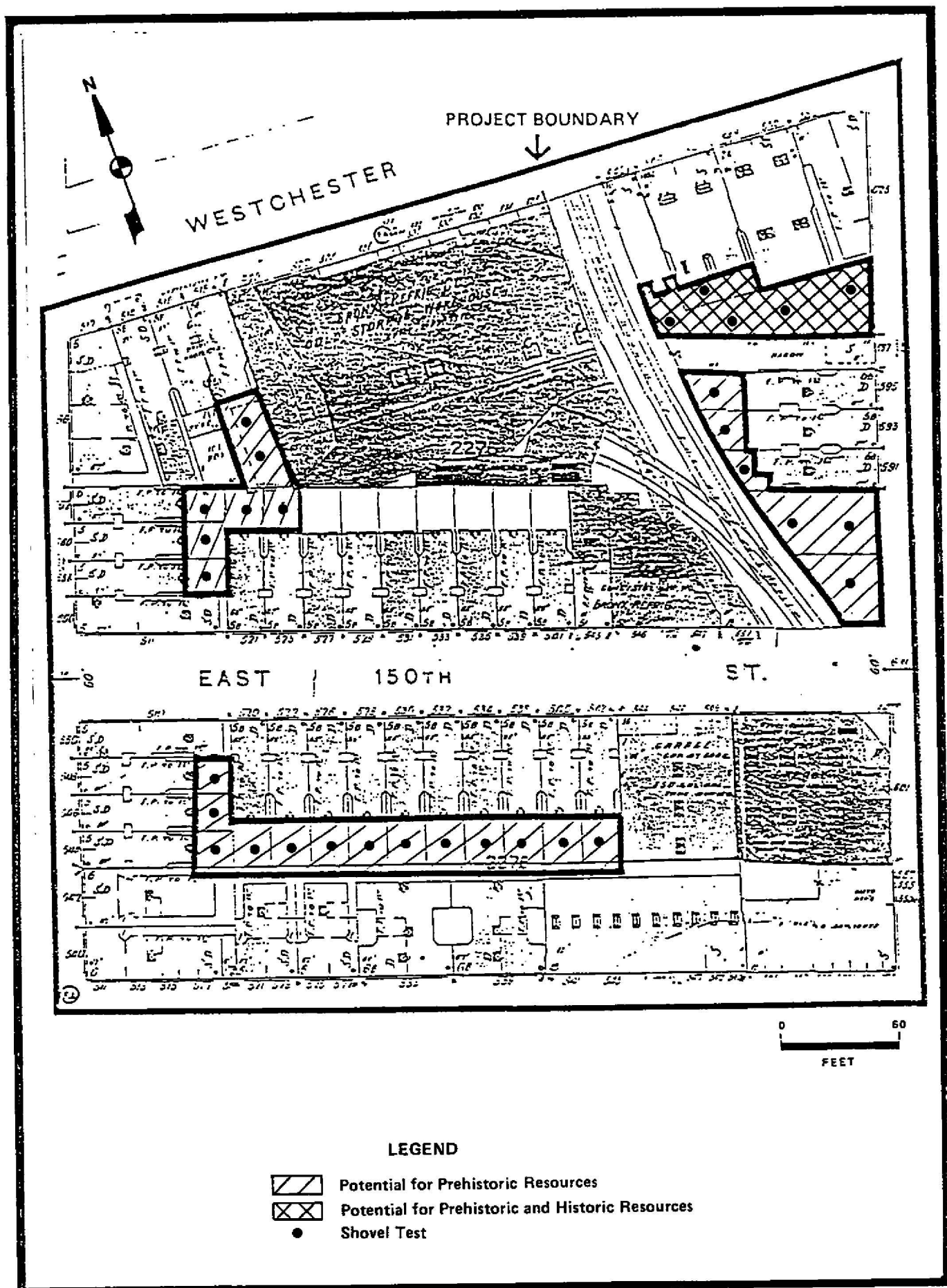


FIGURE 3 Locations of Shovel Tests within Areas that have Potential to Contain Archaeological Resources.

SOURCE Sanborn (1908, Revised in 1946)

prehistoric and historic cultural resources. The archaeological survey will involve subsurface testing of approximately 20,000 square feet in areas likely to contain soils undisturbed by historic period construction activities. These former backyard and open areas are located both north and south of 150th Street, which intersects the project block (see Figure 3).

Approximately 30 shovel test pits (ca. 15 inches in diameter) will be excavated to sterile soil or depths of at least 3 feet - the general extent of prehistoric deposits in similar topographical zones of New York City. Figure 3 identifies the locations of the proposed shovel tests within those areas that have a potential to contain intact prehistoric and historic period archaeological resources. Shovel testing will proceed by natural and/or culturally defined strata. All soils from the shovel tests will be screened through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. Measurements will be taken to document changes in soil texture, color, and content. Cultural material recovered from the excavated soils will be properly provenienced. At the completion of each test, all screened soil will be redeposited into the hole.

Data on individual tests will be recorded on a shovel test form. These data will include soil stratum color, texture, and beginning and ending depths below the surface. All tests will be mapped with reference to existing landmarks within and adjacent to the project area.

C. DATA ANALYSIS

After fieldwork has been completed, laboratory treatment of recovered materials and analysis of data will commence. All artifacts will be cleaned, cataloged, and prepared for long-term curation. These activities will take place at LBA's laboratory facilities in East Orange, New Jersey. Specific laboratory tasks for treatment of prehistoric cultural materials will include the following:

1. All recovered materials including floral and faunal remains will be cleaned and conserved to assure their stability. Prehistoric bifaces, flake tools, utilized flakes, and other artifacts which would be analyzed for edge damage will receive considerable care pending appropriate analysis.
2. All materials will be fully provenienced and labeled.
3. To the extent possible, all recovered artifacts will be identified as to cultural and temporal affiliation, raw material type, and formal and functional categories. Analysis will be sufficient to produce preliminary interpretation of site function and provide a basis to determine the need for additional cultural resource investigations.

4. Data on recovered artifacts will be entered into a computerized data base to yield a master catalog of cultural materials recovered during the proposed investigation.

Analysis of historic archaeological material will parallel many of these procedures. All artifacts will be catalogued according to both the class-type-variety method for basic analytical purposes, and according to group-class methods for detailed analysis of artifact patterning. Utilizing chronologically diagnostic materials, all proveniences will be assigned dates. The dates will represent the terminus post quem for each context, suggesting the earliest possible date for each context. Where sufficient data have been recovered, formula dating methods will be employed to provide a mean date for the assemblage.

D. REPORT PREPARATION

Upon completion of the analysis of data, a comprehensive report will be prepared following the guidelines of professional archaeological standards. This document will present the results of the Stage IB survey of the project area and will include, but not be limited to, the following: abstract, introduction, description of the project, environmental setting, field methodology, results of fieldwork, analytical methods, results of analysis, recommendations, and bibliography. An inventory of all observed and collected artifacts will be presented. This report will include all appropriate maps, figures, and plates.

Results of the proposed field investigations, combined with analysis of the recovered materials, will provide a sufficient basis for making recommendations as to the need for further work in the project area.

A draft report, conforming to professional archaeological standards and guidelines, will be submitted to New York City Department of Juvenile Justice and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission for review. LBA will make revisions to the report based on comments received from the reviewers.

III. WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

LBA is prepared to commence Stage IB archaeological survey of the planned site for the Juvenile Detention Facilities and 40th Precinct Station House within 5 (five) working days following receipt of notice-to-proceed from the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice. Field studies will be completed within seven days of their inception. Subsequent analysis and report preparation will be completed within four weeks of the conclusion of field studies, with submission of a draft report at this time. A final, revised report will be submitted within two weeks of receipt of comments on the draft report from the Juvenile Detention Facilities and 40th Precinct Station House and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYCLPC). Upon receipt of comments on the draft report, LBA will make revisions as needed, and will submit a final report within two calendar weeks of receipt of such comments.

IV. PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

The LBA Cultural Resource Group staff conducting this study will be under the supervision of Dr. John Hotopp, Director and Principal Archaeologist, who will serve as the Project Manager. Dr. Hotopp has been directing and coordinating archaeological and cultural resource management projects for the past 18 years. As Project Manager, Dr. Hotopp will keep the Department of Juvenile Justice advised of any problems or significant developments during the course of the project. In addition, he will be responsible for coordination activities with the NYCLPC.

Mr. Edward M. Morin, LBA Senior Archaeologist, will serve as the Principal Investigator. In this capacity, Mr. Morin will supervise all field investigations and laboratory analyses, and will be the senior author on the final report. Mr. Morin has over 10 years of field and analytical experience in supervising inventory surveys, site evaluations, and data recovery projects in urban settings. He is a member of the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA).

Additional staff will include a field supervisor, crew members, a laboratory supervisor and laboratory analysts. All these individuals have had extensive experience in prehistoric and historic archaeology.

V. CORPORATE QUALIFICATIONS

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., is widely recognized for its cultural resource management services. These services are provided either in conjunction with the full range of environmental impact studies or as a separate specialty study. The Berger staff of professionals has considerable experience in such areas as prehistoric and historic archaeology, urban archaeology and urban history, historic architecture, and preservation planning. The Cultural Resource Group has conducted numerous studies in New York City; Jersey City, New Jersey; Wilmington, Delaware; and Washington, D.C. A partial listing of projects follows:

- ° 97 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York

Phase I cultural resource investigation of the Margaret Hotel Site in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District. The study concluded that the depth of the disturbance (20 feet below grade) obviated the need for further investigations at this location. Client: H-M Associates, Inc. Contact: Andrea Kremen, (212) 223-7575.

- ° Fort Hamilton and Fort Totten, New York, New York

Development of a cultural resource overview and management plan for the two facilities. Conducted prehistoric and historic archaeological studies and historic architectural inventory. Client: National Park Service, Mid-Atlantic Office, Philadelphia; U.S. Coast Guard, Third District. Contact: Lloyd Chapman, (215) 597-2336.

- ° Yorkville, New York, New York

Phase I cultural resource study for environmental impact statement covering a proposed zoning change in the Yorkville neighborhood. Scope of work included historical, historic architectural, and archaeological resource assessment in addition to an impact analysis. Client: Urbitran Associates. Contact: Bob Michel, (212) 267-6310.

- ° 14 Street Rezoning Area, New York, New York

Phase I cultural resource study for environmental impact statement covering proposed zoning changes within 14 Street Rezoning Corridor. Project included assessment of archaeological and architectural resources. Client: Urbitran Associates. Contact: Bob Michel, (212) 267-6310.

- ° Harlem-on-Hudson, New York, New York

Phase I cultural resource study for environmental impact statement covering a proposed zoning change. Scope of work included

historical research as well as review of the pertinent prehistoric and historic archaeological literature as well as an impact analysis. Client: Urbitran Associates. Contact: Bob Michel, (212) 267-6310.

° Washington Street Urban Renewal Area, New York, New York

Phase II historical and archaeological testing program for a nineteenth-century foundry site on the west side of lower Manhattan. Client: Shearson-Lehman/American Express and New York City Public Development Corporation. Contact: James Schmidt, New York City Public Development Corporation, (212) 619-5000.

° Governors Island, New York, New York

Historic study of site of proposed guest house within a National Register Historic District, followed by a program of archaeological testing. Client: U.S. Coast Guard, Third District. Contact: Mr. Lewis Wunderlich, (212) 668-7147/7001.

° Assay Site, New York, New York

Laboratory analysis and interpretation of historic archaeological materials recovered from the Assay Site in lower Manhattan. Client: HRO International, Inc. Contact: Larry J. Wyman, (212) 371-8550.

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