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**New York City
Department of Environmental Protection
South Richmond Drainage
Storm Water and Sanitary Drainage Plan**

South Shore Golf Course Drainage Area

**Phase 1B Archaeological Field
Testing of BMP-SG-1 Pond Street
Staten Island, New York**

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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**New York City
Department of Environmental Protection
South Richmond Drainage
Storm Water and Sanitary Drainage Plan**

South Shore Golf Course Drainage Area

**Phase 1B Archaeological Field
Testing of BMP-SG-1 Pond Street
Staten Island, New York**

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INTRODUCTION

In 2001 an Environmental Impact Statement was completed for the proposed Storm Water and Sanitary Drainage Plan by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the South Richmond Drainage, Staten Island (CEQR No. 01DEP004R). A number of distinct drainages were evaluated for archaeological sensitivity for the EIS, including the South Shore Golf Course drainage area.

The documentary assessment of the South Shore Golf Course concluded that potential precontact cultural materials may be present within a limited portion of the project Area of Potential Effect (APE). Specifically, the then unpaved portion of Alverson Avenue north of Grafe Street and extending to Pond Street was flagged for precontact sensitivity. The 2001 field inspection by Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) *determined that the area in and around this unpaved portion of Alverson Avenue had remained largely intact with no previous below-grade construction.* See Figures 1 and 2 for the South Shore Golf Course project site location.

Since 2001, the DEP has proceeded with installation plans for the various watersheds, including piping in streetbeds and water-management features adjacent to streetbeds. The South Shore Golf Course (SG) drainage area is slated for storm and sanitary installations in the immediate future. The final SG design plans include a Best Management Plan installation at Pond Street (BMP-SG-1 Pond Street). This BMP is a part of the Alverson Avenue sensitivity zone.

During a July, 2005 field inspection of that portion of the Alverson Avenue corridor north of Grafe Street, and extending to Pond Street, it was noted that Alverson Avenue has been paved since 2001 and presently terminates as a dead end at the edge of a residential property north of Pond Street. Project engineers surveyed the wooded area east of Alverson Avenue from Pond Street north to Morris Street, bounded by South Shore Golf Course to the north and east, as the corridor to be impacted during the installation of the BMP-SG-1 Pond Street.

Stage IB archaeological testing of the surveyed, wooded area was conducted on July 18, 2005 by James Cox and David Gubkin. Testing was not conducted in areas of standing water. The appropriate field notations, drawings and photographs were made during fieldwork. The following report details the testing procedures at BMP-SG-1 Pond Street, the results of the fieldwork, and recommendations.

AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as "...the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist" (36 CFR 800.16).

The archaeological APE is the project's potential area of ground disturbance (i.e., the footprint of construction and any associated site work). The current study seeks to address the impact of the construction related activities within the South Shore Golf Course Drainage Area associated with the construction of storm water and sanitary sewer lines and management features in archaeologically sensitive areas. The project APE is located to the east of Alverson Avenue extending from Pond Street north to Morris Street and bounded to the east by South Shore Golf Course. The South Shore Golf Course was evaluated during the 2001 EIS effort and was found not sensitive for cultural materials due to successive grading and alterations (CEQR No. 01DEP004R).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Located in the Rossville section of Staten Island, the APE is bounded by a wooded area to the south, residential development to the west and South Shore Golf Course to the north and east (Figure 1 and 2). A small stream runs through the project area and forms part of the boundary with the South Shore Golf Course. Running along the southeastern edge of the project area is a dirt pathway elevated approximately 1-2 feet above the project area (Plate 1). The western boundary within the southern section of the project area (from Pond Street north to the mid point between Pond and Knesel Street) is also elevated approximately 1-2 feet above the interior portion of the project area (Plate 2). The increased elevation in both areas is the result of filling and dumping. The project area appears to have been utilized as an informal dump by the area residents and/or developers for the past several years. The

already wet conditions of the area, resulting from the presence of the stream, has been exaggerated by the berms produced by the dirt pathway and residential development. The southern interior section of the project area (from Pond Street north to just south of Knesel Street) is extremely wet in places because of these berms. Phragmites a plant normally associated with wetlands and human disturbance is found within the southern interior section of the project area. The northern section of the project area (from just south of Knesel Street to Morris Street) is much drier than the southern section, though a portion of this area has clearly been manicured and manipulated as an impromptu yard-addition for the eastern most home fronting onto Knesel Street. The extreme northern section of the project area east of Morris Street appears to be relatively less disturbed, but is presently being impacted by the development to extend Alverson Avenue north of Morris Street. Poison Ivy another plant associated with human disturbance is found in great abundance in the extreme northern section of the project area.

METHODOLOGY/RESULTS OF IB FIELD INSPECTION

A total of 15 shovel test pits (STPs) were placed within the project site at 15-meter intervals (Figure 2, Table 1). In some instances the STPs were offset to circumvent roots, rocks or other features not easily penetrated with a spade shovel. Each of the approximately 50 x 50 centimeter STPs were excavated by hand and soils were screened through 1/4-inch mesh. The STPs were numbered sequentially (1, 2, 3, etc.).

Of the 15 STPs, STPs 6-8 were unexcavated due to the presence of standing water. Attempts were made to excavate these STPs, but the wet, silty soils under more than 12 inches of water made excavation impossible. STPs 1-4 were laid along the southern boundary of the project area to gain some understanding of the stratigraphy of the site prior to laying a north-south transect. From these initial tests it was determined that the eastern (STP 1) and western (STP 4) boundary of the site is composed of fill as a result of dumping, filling and building the dirt pathway. The central portion of the site retains the most integrity (STP 2 and 3) but the southern end is relatively wet. Based on these findings, a transect was laid from STP 2 approximately north midway between Alverson Avenue and the small creek.

The southern portion of the project area was extremely wet (STPs 5-8). A portion of the northern section of the project area appeared to be composed of fill (STP 9-13) with some historic artifacts coming from buried horizons representing dumping episodes. STP 11 yielded historic materials from a buried yard deposit overlaid by 47 centimeters of fill. The yard deposit from STP 11 (Plate 3) produced non-diagnostic historic materials. STP 12 did not appear to contain a buried A Horizon, but was instead composed of fill (0-12 cm) overlaying two layers of historic yard deposits/dumping episodes (Layer 2, 20-23 cm; Layer 3, 23-44 cm). These dumping episodes/cultural processes are still evident today from the amount of loose modern trash scattered across the site. The historic dumping episodes are likely the result of similar actions. Area residents appear to have utilized the project area as an informal dump for the past several years and can be used as an analog for historic period processes.

The extreme northern section of the project area (STPs 14-15) appears to be relatively undisturbed, but is currently undergoing alteration, notably STP 15 was terminated by tar and gravel perhaps deposited from recent building. STP 14 contained two shallowly buried burned layers, likely evidence of backyard camping activities or leaf burning.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

Historic artifacts were gathered from STPs 3, 10, 11, 12 and 14; modern trash was found in STPs 1, 5 and 10 (Table 1 and 2). STP 3 contained historic materials found in the second horizon. STP 10 Level 1 contained a plastic wrapper mixed in with historic whiteware (1820-1900) and yellowware (1820-1900) ceramics and other materials. STP 10 Level 1 likely represents modern deposition because of the presence of the plastic wrapper and is therefore not an intact historic horizon. STPs 11 and 12 yielded historic 19th century artifacts from buried yard deposits/horizons (STP 11 and 12). STPs 11 and 12 likely represent historic late-19th to early-20th century dumping episodes similar to those evident today. STP 14 Level 2 yielded one piece of undecorated curved glass.

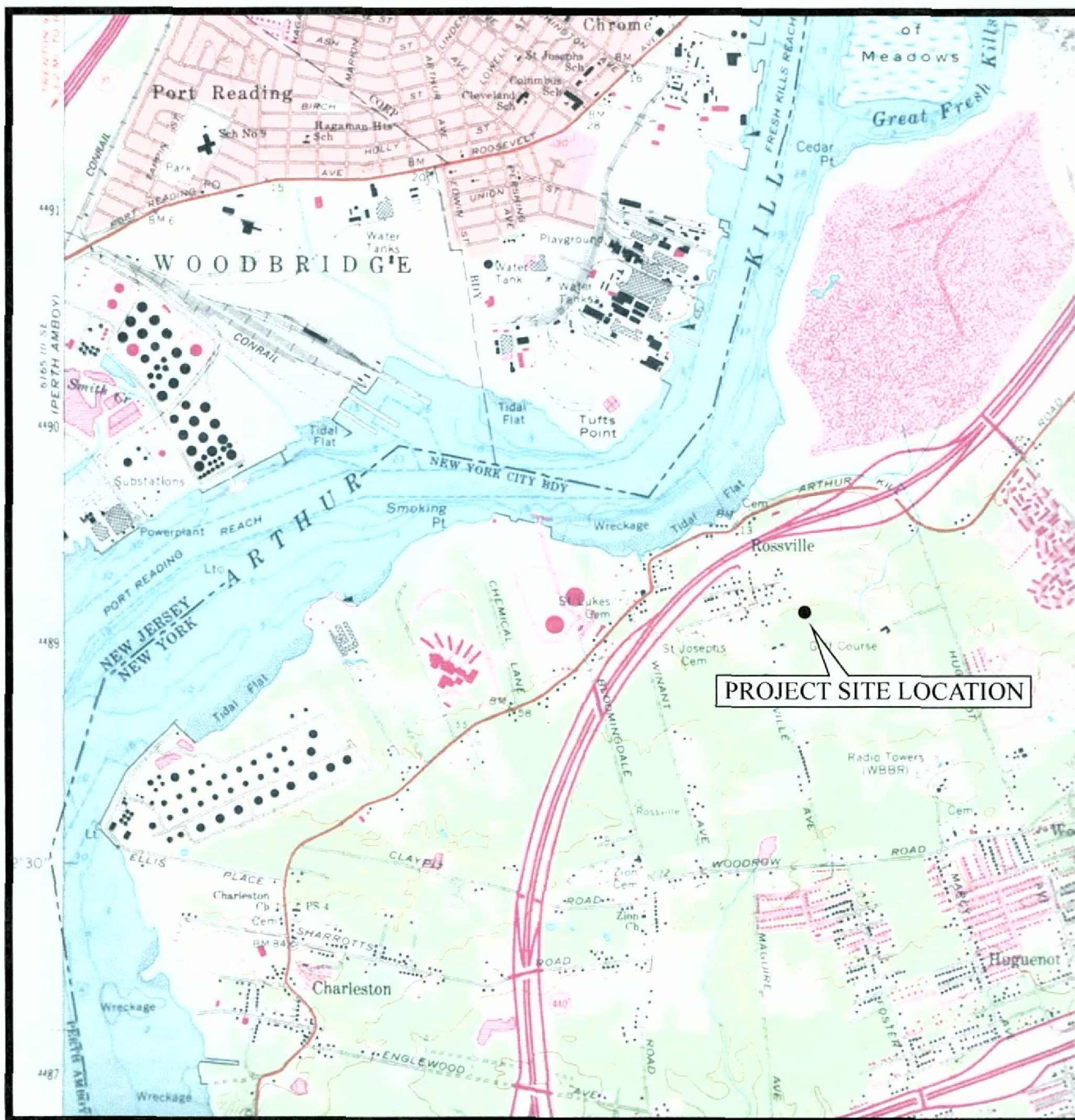
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings: Precontact

No evidence of a prehistoric site was identified during archaeological field testing. Because no precontact artifacts or features were found during testing, no additional consideration is recommended for precontact sites.

Summary of Findings: Historic

Previous documentary research did not reveal any evidence of significant historic occupation or development of the site. While historic stratigraphic layers were encountered during this survey, none appear to be associated with a historic occupation and are not significant enough to warrant additional study. Instead, the materials represent a general historic scatter located along a backwater or isolated area, out of site of the area owners. Similar processes are evident today as dumping still occurs along the creek. Because no significant historic features were identified no additional archaeology is recommended in this area.

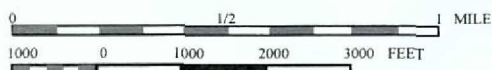


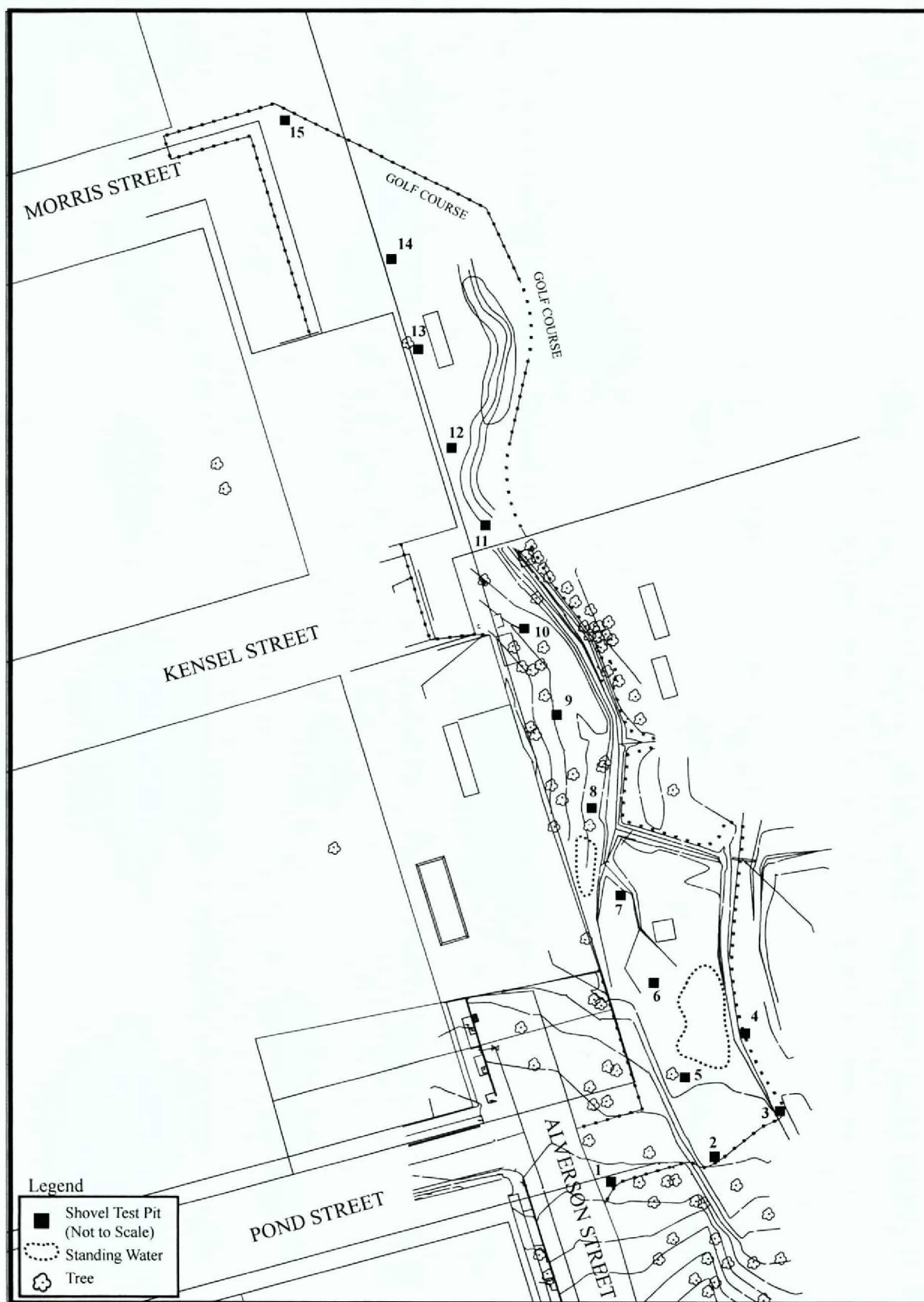
SOURCE: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE, 7.5 MINUTE SERIES, ARTHUR KILL, NY-NJ, 1966, PHOTOREVISED 1981

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SOUTH RICHMOND DRAINAGE STORM WATER AND SANITARY DRAINAGE PLAN
SOUTH SHORE GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE AREA

PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TESTING OF BMP-SG-1 POND STREET
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

FIGURE 1. PROJECT SITE LOCATION





SOURCE: CLEARING/EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN, SHEETS 1 AND 2, HAZEN AND SAWYER, NEW YORK, NY, JANUARY 2005

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
 SOUTH RICHMOND DRAINAGE STORM WATER AND SANITARY DRAINAGE PLAN
 SOUTH SHORE GOLF COURSE DRAINAGE AREA
 PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TESTING OF BMP-SG-1 POND STREET
 STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
 FIGURE 2. LOCATION OF SHOVEL TEST PITS

0 10 20 30 40 50 100 FEET





Plate 1. Southeastern Boundary of Project Area Looking Northeast, Dirt Road, July 18, 2005. Photographer: James Cox.



Plate 2. Southwestern Boundary of Project Area, July 18, 2005. Photographer: James Cox.



Plate 3. Shovel Test Pit 11 looking north. Photographer: James Cox.

Table 1 Pond Street Staten Island

Shovel Test Pits				
STP#	Layer	Depth (cm)	Soil Description	Artifact Summary (Quantity)/Notes
1	1	0-40	2.5YR 5/8 (red) Compact Silty Sand with trap rock (fill)	modern trash (not collected)
2	1	0-8	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) Fine Sandy Silt	
	2	8-19	7.5YR 4/2 (brown) Clayey fine sandy silt	
	3	19-35	7.5YR 4/4 (brown) Wet Sandy Silt with gravel	
3	1	0-7	10YR 4/4 (dark yellowish brown) Wet Silty Clay	
	2	7-50	7.5YR 5/8 Silty Sand	Undecorated Whiteware Fragments (2), Clear Curved Glass (1)
	3	50-64	10YR 5/4 (yellowish brown) Wet Silty Sand with gravel	
	4	64-90	10YR 3/1 (very dark gray) Wet Clay	ground water @ 85cm
4	1	0-3	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) Silty Loam	
	2	3-4	7.5YR 5/6 (strong brown) Clay	
	3	4-23	7.5YR 5/4 brown) Fine Clayey Sandy Loam	
	4	23-42	7.5YR 4/6 (strong brown) Clayey Sand	
	5	42-52	7.5YR 5/3 (brown) Clay	
5	1	0-4	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown)sand	modern trash piled on surface
	2	4-10	5YR 4/4 (reddish brown)clay	ground water @ 8cm
6	N/A	N/A	Standing Water	N/A
7	N/A	N/A	Standing Water	N/A
8	N/A	N/A	Standing Water	N/A
9	1	0-8	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) Silt	

STP#	Layer	Depth (cm)	Soil Description	Artifact Summary (Quantity)/Notes
	2	8-14	7.5YR 4/3 (brown) Fine Sandy Silt	
	3	14-21	7.5YR 3/4 (dark brown) Fine Sand Clay	
	4	21-36	7.5YR 4/6 (strong brown) Fine Sandy Clay	
	5	36-45	7.5YR 4/6 (strong brown) with 7.5YR 6/4 (light brown) Mottled Clayey Sand	
10	1	0-15	10YR 4/2 (dark grayish brown) Silty Clay Loam (Fill)	Plastic Wrapper (1), Undecorated Whiteware Fragment (1), Blue Transfer Printed Whiteware Fragment (1), Decorated Yellowware (1)
	2	15-53	5YR 4/4 reddish brown) with 5YR 7/1 (light gray) Mottled Compact Silty Clay (Fill)	
11	1	0-7	7.5YR 2.5/2 (very dark brown) Silt (Fill)	
	2	7-20	5YR 3/3 (dark reddish brown) Dense Compact Sandy Clay with gravel (Fill)	
	3	20-47	5YR 4/4 (reddish brown) Clay (Fill)	
	4	47-59	10YR 3/3 (dark brown) Medium Coarse Sand	Ivory Handled Utensil (1), Clear Curved Glass Neck (1), Clear Curved Glass Fragments (2), Clear Flat Glass (1)
	5	59-75	5YR 3/3 (dark reddish brown) Clay	
12	1	0-20	10YR 4/4 (dark yellowish brown) Silty Loam (Fill)	

STP#	Layer	Depth (cm)	Soil Description	Artifact Summary (Quantity)/Notes
	2	20-23	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) Silty Loam	Green Curved Glass (2), Unspecified Shell Fragment (1), Burned Wood (1), Slag (2), Yellowware Fragment (1), Blue Transfer Printed Whiteware (2), Light Blue Curved Glass (3), Embossed Whiteware Fragment (1) and Stippled Whiteware Fragment (1) (mend)
	3	23-44	5YR 4/6 (yellowish red) Compact Silty Sand	Undecorated Whiteware Fragment (1), Undecorated Whiteware Footring (3), Flat Amber Glass Fragments (2), Clear Curved Glass (2), Clear Flat Glass (4), Pink Tinted Curved Glass (4), Slag (1), Decorated Yellowware (1), Coal (1)
	4	44-62	5YR 5/6 (yellowish red) Compact Silty Sand with gravel	
	5	62	Rock Impasse	
13	1	0-5	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) Silt	
	2	5-5.5	10YR 2/1 (black) Sandy Silt	burned layer

STP#	Layer	Depth (cm)	Soil Description	Artifact Summary (Quantity)/Notes
	3	5.5-7	5YR 3/4 (dark reddish brown) Fine Sand	
	4	7-7.5	10YR 2/1 (black) Sandy Silt	burned layer
	5	7.5-33	5YR 4/3 (reddish brown) Fine Sandy Silt	
	6	33	Rock/Root Impasse	
14	1	0-17	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) Silty Sandy Loam	
	2	17-35	10YR 4/3 (brown) Silty Loam	Clear Curved Glass (1)
	3	35-50	10YR 5/6 (yellowish brown) Silty Loam	
15	1	0-7	10YR 2/2 (very dark brown) silt	
	2	7-22	7.5YR 5/4 (brown) silt	
	3	22	Tar and Rock Impasse	

Table 2 Pond Street Staten Island

Artifact Inventory								
STP	Level	Quantity	Class	Material	Type	Object	Part	Description
3	2	2	Ceramic	Whiteware	Unidentified	Unidentified	Fragment	1820-1900
	2	1	Glass	Clear	Curved	Unidentified	Fragment	
10	1	1	Plastic	Plastic	Wrapper	Unidentified	Fragment	Modern
	1	1	Ceramic	Earthenware	Whiteware	Unidentified	Fragment	1820-1900
	1	1	Ceramic	Earthenware	Whiteware	Unidentified	Fragment	Blue Transfer Printed 1820- 1900
	1	1	Ceramic	Earthenware	Yellowware	Curved Vessel	Rim	Mocha <i>Circa</i> 1840
11	4	1	Utensil	Ivory	Unidentified	Utensil	Handle	
	4	1	Glass	Clear	Curved	Bottle	Neck	
	4	2	Glass	Clear	Curved	Unidentified	Fragment	
	4	1	Glass	Clear	Flat	Unidentified	Fragment	
12	2	2	Glass	Clear	Curved	Unidentified	Fragment	Discarded
	2	1	Organic	Shell	Unidentified	Unidentified	Fragment	
	2	1	Organic	Wood	Unidentified	Utensil	Fragment	Burned
	2	2	Other	Slag	Unidentified	Unidentified	Fragment	
	2	1	Ceramic	Earthenware	Yellowware	Unidentified	Fragment	Glass Largely Removed 1820-1900
	2	2	Ceramic	Earthenware	Whiteware	Curved Vessel	Fragment	Blue Transfer Printed Flower Motif 1820-1900
	2	3	Glass	Light Blue	Curved	Unidentified	Fragment	

STP	Level	Quantity	Class	Material	Type	Object	Part	Description
	2	2	Ceramic	Earthenware	Whiteware	Unidentified/ Decorative or Flatware	Fragment	Embossed/St ipled with light blue shading 1820-1900
12	3	1	Ceramic	Earthenware	Whiteware	Flat Ware	Fragment	Undecorated 1820-1900
	3	3	Ceramic	Earthenware	Whiteware	Unidentified	Foot Ring	Undecorated 1820-1900
	3	2	Glass	Amber	Flat	Unidentified	Fragment	
	3	2	Glass	Clear	Curved	Unidentified	Fragment	
	3	4	Glass	Clear	Flat	Unidentified	Fragment	
	3	4	Glass	Pink	Curved	Unidentified	Fragment	
	3	1	Other	Slag		Unidentified	Fragment	
	3	1	Ceramic	Earthenware	Yellowware	Unidentified	Fragment	Mocha Circa 1840
	3	1	Other	Coal	Anthracite		Fragment	
14	2	1	Glass	Clear		Unidentified	Fragment	