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Bergoffen  
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**NEW YORK DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL  
BLOCK 100, LOT 1  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN, NEW YORK  
PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TESTING REPORT**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

According to the Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Report prepared for the New York University Downtown Hospital site, Block 100, lot 1, and including the area of William Street, the site was first developed for residential use early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a few houses built along Beekman and George (now Spruce) Streets.<sup>1</sup> By the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were also houses along William Street. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, these buildings were replaced by five-story, brick stores that nearly completely covered the area presently occupied by the parking lot.<sup>2</sup> But the former rear yards of the stores at numbers 8 to 12/14 Spruce Street and 20 to 22 Beekman Street, had remained vacant, and were therefore considered potentially archaeologically sensitive for 19<sup>th</sup> century privies possibly associated with the stores themselves, or with their smaller predecessors, known only from the tax assessments. A second area judged to be potentially archaeologically sensitive was the north side of William Street (Fig. 2).<sup>3</sup> The street is presently thirty feet in width but was forty feet wide until at least the late 1960s, when the brick buildings erected in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century were still standing on the lot (Bromley 1967). After these were demolished, the western ten feet of the street bed were incorporated into the parking lot. The original width of the street, prior to its widening to forty feet in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, is estimated to have been approximately thirty feet, judging by the 1834 Lawrence map. According to the City aldermanic records, the widening to forty feet was done on the west side of the street. Thus, although we have no way of determining the exact line of the curb in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, we do know that it must have run east of the line of buildings erected after the street widening in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century,

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<sup>1</sup> Bergoffen, Celia J. *New York Downtown Hospital, Block 100, Lot 1, Borough of Manhattan, New York, Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Report*, May 27, 2004 and Addendum, October 20, 2005; Fig. 5, 1730 Lyne map.

<sup>2</sup> These building were erected after 1836, probably, and before 1857, Bergoffen, Op. Cit., pp. 17-18.

<sup>3</sup> The orientation of William Street is approximately northeast-southwest, but this has been simplified in the text to north / south, with the trenches in the parking lot therefore said to run west / east, and those along William Street, to run north / south.

and probably by about ten feet east. In that case, the present-day metal curb on the west side of William Street would roughly mark the edge of the 18<sup>th</sup> century street bed, and an approximately ten-foot wide strip running the width of lot 100, between Beekman and Spruce Streets, would have been originally occupied either by front yards or by the front of the houses that existed on the lot prior to the street widening. The recovery of either a portion of the original 18<sup>th</sup> century street bed or foundations of 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, rarely found in Manhattan, would be of great historical interest.

Celia J. Bergoffen Ph.D., R.P.A. developed a scope for field testing of Block 1, lot 100 in consultation with the Landmarks Preservation Commission. It was proposed to open two trenches in the area of the parking lot and a series of five, eight-foot wide trenches, (approximately fifteen to twenty feet each in length), along the north side of William Street, half in the present street bed and half in the parking lot. The excavations in the parking lot were undertaken and completed on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> (Fig. 3). The utilities mark-out of William Street, however, indicated the presence of electrical lines (marked by ECS) directly in the path of the proposed archaeological trenches. Forest City Ratner, owner and developer of the property, was interested in any case in determining the exact location and depth of utilities in the street prior to beginning its own excavations and therefore agreed, in consultation with Celia Bergoffen, and with the approval of the LPC, to open three test trenches in the street. The work was performed by Intricate Construction Inc. with archaeological monitoring. The report on our observations of the excavation of the Utility Test Trenches (UTT 1, 2 and 3) are presented in Appendix A below.

Having determined that the area of disturbance caused by the laying of the utility conduits ran roughly up to the present-day curb-line, the scope was revised, with the LPC approval (April 20, 2006), to relocate the test trenches approximately four feet further north, out of the street bed, but up to the north side of the curb line. The second phase of archaeological testing, based on the revised scope, was conducted from April 21 to April 26, 2006.

## 2. EXCAVATION OF TRENCHES 1 AND 2

### A. FIELD REPORT

Excavation was begun in trenches 1 and 2 at the western end of the parking lot on block 100 on February 22, 2006. It was conducted using a backhoe. As it was necessary to excavate up to twenty-three feet in depth in order to complete the profile of the architectural remains, no hand excavation was undertaken, it being unsafe to enter a steep-walled trench of greater than six feet in depth.

We began opening trench 1 at a distance of ten feet from the east face of 150 Nassau Street and excavated to a depth of ca. six feet below grade (Fig. 4) before reaching the top of a brick wall that we took to be the west wall of 8 Spruce Street (and later confirmed). The trench up to that point was filled with building detritus consisting of bricks and mortar, parts of concrete beams, and even the foot of a cast-iron column, dislodged finally at approximately seven feet below grade (Fig. 5). The shaftway between the houses here was too narrow and too clogged with debris to excavate successfully with the backhoe. The back wall (north) of the former building at 18 Beekman Street was found, as anticipated from the insurance maps, running 100 feet south of Spruce Street. We continued east for a distance of approximately 15 feet until we reached the east corner of the back wall of 18 Beekman Street (Fig. 6). The back wall of this building and the one opposite it fronting on Spruce Street were still continuing down, so we decided to excavate trenches 1 and 2 together south of the corner of 18 Beekman Street, taking in both the yards of 20 Beekman Street and 10 Spruce Street together (Fig. 7). This wider exposure between what were obviously the basement (and sub-basement) walls of the structures would yield an easier-to-read and more comprehensive result than leaving a baulk or unexcavated, four-foot strip between trenches 1 and 2, as originally planned. The ten foot wide backyard area of 8 Spruce Street was excavated approximately fifteen feet east / west to a depth of approximately seven feet (Fig. 8).

In the backyard area between 20 Beekman and 10 Spruce Street we continued to excavate building detritus to a depth of approximately twenty-one feet below grade, exposing the north, back wall of the basement and sub-basement of 20 Beekman Street

(Fig. 9). The cellar level had barred windows and a door to the shaftway between the buildings (Fig. 10). The basement and sub-basement wall of 10 Spruce Street opposite was also exposed. At approximately twenty-one feet below grade we encountered the concrete pavement of the yard of 20 Beekman Street and an adjoining slate pavement behind 10 Spruce Street (Fig. 11). We continued to excavate two to three feet below the pavement. In the last buckets, the clean, coarse, medium-brown sand brought up was found to be devoid of cultural remains. The ending depth in the trench was approximately twenty-two feet below grade (Fig. 12). According to the backhoe operator and Angelo Leone, who has worked in the area, this sandy material is a natural deposit, i.e. virgin soil. In consultation with both Amanda Sutphin and Arthur Bankoff of the LPC, it was decided that this section of the trench did not warrant further investigation, but that the next section of trenches 1 and 2 further south should be excavated the next day to check if the deposit below the shaftway's pavement(s) was the same as in the section already excavated or whether any significant cultural remains might be present.

By the end of the first day of excavation, approximately thirty feet of trench 1 and ten feet of trench two had been excavated. The trench was backfilled at the end of the day.

On the second day of excavation, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we began opening a trench approximately thirty feet south of the south wall of 150 Nassau Street at the point where we finished yesterday. The remaining portion of the south wall of 10 Spruce Street was excavated, but collapsed into the trench. On the opposite side of the trench, we exposed the remaining portion of the north cellar wall of 20 Beekman Street. At a distance of approximately forty-six feet east of the east wall of 150 Nassau Street we reached a jog in the wall that turned out to be the northwest corner of 22 Beekman Street. This wall projected beyond the line of its neighbor and was made of rough-dressed stone, although the remaining rear (north) wall of 22 Beekman Street was found to be made of brick, as were 20 Beekman and 8 Spruce Streets. We speculated that as these walls were well below grade, they may have originally formed part of the foundations of the building that preceded but were re-used for the five-story store erected in the 1840s at 22 Beekman Street, whose basement and cellar wall we were now exposing. On the opposite wall, of 12 Spruce Street, there was still a metal cellar door hanging on its hinges. The alleyway

behind the 22 Beekman building was found to be paved with concrete like its neighbor to the west, while the shaftway behind 12-14 Spruce Street had a slate paving, also like its neighbor to the west. We removed the concrete paving behind 20 and 22 Beekman Street and excavated in this area to a total depth of twenty-six feet below grade. A few objects such as 20<sup>th</sup> century soda pop bottles were brought up in the first three buckets, but after that, there were no further cultural remains in the coarse, medium-brown sand that we encountered, the same deposit as we had excavated the day before at the same level.

At sixty-nine feet east of the east wall of 150 Nassau Street we encountered, on the south side of the trench, the west, brick wall of 24 Beekman Street projecting north of the line of 22 Beekman Street. There was a brick column standing in the shaftway in front of the northwest corner of 24 Beekman Street (Fig. 13). We excavated approximately ten feet of the shaftway area further east, beyond this pillar (Fig. 14).

Excavations were concluded in this area by 1:00 p.m. on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and the trench was backfilled (Fig. 15).

### 3. EXCAVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST TRENCHES (ATT) A, B, C, D AND E.

#### A. FIELD REPORT

Excavations were resumed on April 21, 2006, and continued for four days, ending on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Archaeological test trenches A, B, C, D and E, were located immediately adjoining the west side of William Street, along its steel curb, between Beekman and Spruce Streets inside the parking lot (Fig. 1). A chain-link fence, which was removed prior to excavation, ran along the curb line up to approximately one foot west of it. Essentially the excavated area was a sidewalk from the 1840's until the 1960's, when the buildings were razed and the parking lot was created. All the trenches were eight feet wide and twenty feet long except ATT / D, which was seven feet in width, and ATT / E, which was fifteen feet long. ATT / E begins six feet south of Spruce Street. ATT / E and D were eighteen feet apart; ATT / D and C, twenty-five feet apart and ATT / C and B, and ATT / B and A, each fifteen feet apart.

William Street between Beekman and Spruce Streets is closed to through traffic but is used to access the hospital's parking lot, and by ambulances and other vehicles dropping off patients at the hospital's entrance. Part of the street therefore had to remain open at all times. Although the excavation was within the parking lot area, for logistical and safety reasons it was necessary to close the street adjacent to the excavation. Consequently, we excavated trenches A and B on the first day; then C, on the second day; then E, and finally D and the cistern in trench A, on the last day of excavation. The work was done using a backhoe followed by hand excavation of all walls and features.

#### **Trench A** (Figs. 16 – 20)

Trench A was excavated to a depth of six feet in some areas and to virgin soil (at about three feet six inches) in others. Five inches of blacktop and seven inches of cinder fill were laid over a pavement of large slate, which extended over the whole trench at a

depth of one foot. Below the pavers was a layer of clean sandy fill between six and eight inches thick, which covered the architectural remains of wall 1, wall 2, and the cistern.

Wall 1 measured eight feet long (north / south) and turned westward at both ends. Built of brick laid header-stretcher, Wall 1 was three courses thick and partly cut by an old gas pipe which crossed the trench at a depth of two feet. The base of wall 1 is at four feet nine inches below grade and rests on a socle of neatly cut rectangular stones six inches high by over one foot long each. Below wall 1 was clean sand.

Wall 2 was not bonded with wall 1. It was built in identical fashion, three brick courses thick and resting on a stone-built socle, this one at a depth of three feet six inches. Wall 2 forms a three-sided enclosure with the open end facing north. A brick floor was laid in this enclosure at a depth of three feet but it was not found to be connected with the wall. The floor and wall 2 were laid on clean, coarse sand that was judged to be a natural deposit. A dense layer of black soil and artifacts covered the floor, including: kaolin pipe stems (likely post-1800); white ware and blue-on-white transfer ware (post-1800); some thin window glass and rusted nails; glazed earthenware jar fragments; various large and small animal bones; a wooden object, possibly a tooth-brush head; one blue shell-edged ware plate rim (late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> c.), and a range of glass bottle fragments, including very small clear and blue bottles, and a large dark-green square bottle base, heavily patinated (late 18<sup>th</sup> c.?).

Between the cistern, wall 1, and wall 2 was a dense layer of domestic debris and artifacts from a depth of one foot six inches to about two feet six inches. Below this layer was clean sand. Artifacts included: white ware and blue-on-white transfer ware (post-1800); kaolin pipe stems (probably post-1800); glass fragments (20<sup>th</sup> c.), and a reddish earthenware jar handle with a matte black surface. The west end of the trench revealed only clean sand beginning one foot below grade. An area of clean sand fill and a slate paving stone interrupted the domestic debris layer between the cistern and wall 2 along the south edge of the trench.

The cistern consists of a circular brick wall, two courses thick, laid header-stretcher in places. The exterior diameter was approximately eight feet. The northern half of the Cistern is in Trench A, while the southern half was located under the road. The gas pipe mentioned above also bisects the cistern, and was removed in the course of the

excavation. The inner wall of the cistern was thickly plastered with cement. The deposit inside the cistern was sectioned, with the southern quarter excavated first. We proceeded in one-foot increments, as a control for the collection of the artifacts. No change in the character of the fill was noted through five feet of depth. The remaining, northern quarter of the cistern was then excavated as a single locus. The artifacts are as follows (from the top):

Level 1 - window glass, oyster shell, rusted iron nails or wire, white ware sherds, one piece of green shell-edged ware (late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> c.); wall plaster, blue-on-white porcelain (possibly Chinese?), and one sherd of a yellow-glazed ceramic.

Level 2 - oyster shell, rusty iron nail, one blue-on-white transfer ware sherd (post-1800), one blue-on-white porcelain sherd (Chinese?), two pieces of white porcelain (probably 20<sup>th</sup> century.), one glazed earthenware jar bottom, and a selection of small glass fragments from small green and blue bottles.

Level 3 - fourteen fragments of rusty iron nails or wire, one large vertebra, one piece of window glass, one oyster shell, one kaolin pipe fragment, one hand-painted blue-on-white teacup rim (19<sup>th</sup> c.), one green and one clear glass fragment from small bottles, two white ware sherds, and a brown-glazed stoneware sherd.

Level 4: three iron nail fragments, one stoneware sherd, and one piece of slate with tic-tac-toe scratched on it.

Level 5: one oyster shell, one large bottle base of dark green glass, heavily patinated (19<sup>th</sup> c.).

In sum, excavation to a depth of six feet below grade revealed only packed fill of clay, plaster, sand, and sparse artifacts, consisting largely of very rusted fragments of iron nails or wire. Steam from the leak under William Street made excavation extremely difficult, and in view of the paucity of finds, and the lack of stratigraphy, the excavation of this feature was terminated. The bottom was not reached.

### **Trench B** (Figs. 21-23)

Trench B was excavated to a maximum depth of six feet. Five inches of blacktop were followed by seven inches of dense cinders, slag or coke, and gravel. At one foot



below grade was an even layer of thick slate flagstones, one and a half to two inches thick, which extended over the whole trench. Below this layer were disturbed areas of sand fill and compacted domestic trash consisting of plaster, bone, and sherds.

Two architectural features, walls 3 and 5, were encountered at one foot six inches below grade, both built of brick and mortar. Wall 3 was a thick block of bricks measuring seven feet long and twenty-two inches wide, located one foot eight inches south of, and running parallel to, the north wall of the trench. There may have been a spur wall running east, perpendicular to wall 3, which the bulldozer destroyed. Wall 3 had several building phases visible and appeared to have originally been only four feet three inches in length. The base of the southern part of the wall, showing the multiple phases, is three feet seven inches below grade and rests partly on piled stones from an earlier structure, wall 4.

Wall 4 follows a different orientation from wall 3 and is preserved to a height of four feet ten inches. The bottom of the wall was not found. Wall 4 was built of large irregular local fieldstones (granite/gneiss/feldspar/schist) set in mortar, with a corner built of bricks where the wall turned west. The north and south ends of wall 3 both rested on a pile of stones and bricks associated with, or salvaged from, wall 4. A cavity about one foot three inches high beneath the center of wall 3, filled with sand, had weakened the wall 3.

Wall 5 was exposed on the east wall of the trench, near the southern corner. One foot five inches was preserved running westward, after which it disappeared, either because it collapsed or was dismantled. The area between walls 5 and 3, from a depth of one foot three inches to five feet six inches consisted of partly burnt residential debris (plaster, many sherds and other artifacts) that was very compacted and difficult to excavate. There was a dense deposit of artifacts in the fill including: many large sherds of plain white as well as blue-on-white transfer ware (post-1800), some joining, with some patterns the same as those noted on sherds from ATT / C (below); several pieces of a large hand-painted, square platter of white ware (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> c.); some brown on white transfer ware (post-1800); several pieces of a very small blue glass bottle (19<sup>th</sup> c.); assorted glazed earthenware and stoneware sherds, and one large round green glass bottle base, highly patinated (early 19<sup>th</sup> or even 18<sup>th</sup> c.). There was also a small piece of a hand-painted teacup, red on white, overglaze painted (19<sup>th</sup> c?).

The north and south ends of the trench yielded only disturbed sand fill with small pieces of brick and oyster shell. The west side of walls 3 and 5, next to the baulk, was not excavated due to safety issues and the potential collapse of the trench.

### **Trench C** (Figs. 24 to 26)

Trench C was excavated to a depth of six feet nine inches. Beneath five inches of blacktop was a six-inch layer of sandy soil which in turn overlaid about seven inches of cinder deposit. Very few slate pavement stones were observed in this trench. The center and southeast portions of Trench C revealed intact natural sand deposits with seasonal layers or varves visible on an angle sloping down to the southwest, and containing occasional pieces of oyster shell. The west and southwest areas of the trench contained packed brick rubble and domestic debris (plaster, sherds, and bone).

At a depth of three feet three inches the remains of a wall 6 were encountered running north-south about one foot six inches east of the trench's west edge. The uppermost preserved course was rectangular cut blocks of a sedimentary stone measuring approximately one foot to one foot five inches. Beneath these the wall was poorly made of jumbled medium and small river stones and broken bricks, apparently without any mortar. Wall 6 ran six feet south from the north baulk before dissolving into a tumble of stones. It is not clear whether this was a corner where the wall turned westward. Only clean sand was recovered on the west side of wall 6.

On the east side, the domestic debris continued to a depth of six feet. Artifacts included: a one-inch hexagonal white ceramic floor tile (20<sup>th</sup> c.?); large fragments of plain white and blue-on-white transfer ware (post-1800), some of which have the same pattern as pieces in Trench B; a glass base of a large bottle stamped or molded with a 'B' (early 20<sup>th</sup> c. milk bottle?); three pieces of unknown red earthenware with varying glazes, and two pieces of unknown stoneware with glazes swirled with blue. Several artifacts possibly from the 18<sup>th</sup> c. included: a hand-etched clear glass cup with a fish motif and fluted sides; a crudely formed ceramic plate with white glaze, and a hand-painted ceramic cup with blue, gold, green, and orange festoon designs on a white ground. Also noted were cut bone and a kaolin pipe stem.

The base of wall 6 was traced at six feet below grade. It contained some larger fieldstones laid directly on clean sand. A gap in this foundation course contained a six inch deep deposit of domestic debris, which was sampled. Artifacts included four sherds of unidentifiable white ware (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> c.), one blue-on-white early transfer ware (early 19<sup>th</sup> c.), and one piece of unidentified stoneware, brown glazed with a blue swirl. The partial collapse of the west baulk revealed the intact face of a brick wall, wall 7, running north-south approximately one foot six inches west of the west baulk. This must be the facade of one of the stores from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The wall continued past six feet below grade, where the excavation of this trench was terminated.

#### **Trench D** (Figs. 27-33)

Trench D was sited to overlap with UTT / 1, where subterranean architectural remains had been observed in the form of a brick archway or barrel vault. Beneath five inches of blacktop was a mix of soil, sand, and domestic debris (plaster, bone, sherds), and broken brick. A few fragments of slate pavement stones occurred at one foot below grade, mostly on the east side of the trench. In the southwest corner, large rectangular stone blocks in a jumble of debris were observed from approximately five inches to four feet below grade, below which was clean sand.

The top of a brick wall, wall 9, appeared one foot five inches below grade. It ran along the west baulk line eleven feet six inches beginning at the northwest corner of the trench. Three brick courses of wall 9 were within the trench, the rest lay outside the trench to the west. The bottom of wall 9 was not excavated, but was observed within the barrel vaulted structures (below) to continue to a depth of at least nine feet.

The arched brick feature observed in UTT / 1 was found to belong to a pair of barrel vaulted basement rooms whose interiors had remained largely free of debris (Figs. 31-33). The arches were built of four courses of bricks laid header-stretcher in parts, and the upper and lower surfaces were covered in cement plaster. These rooms apparently had no superstructure attached to them except for wall 9 on the west. It is suggested that they may have been built as extensions to a basement, and ran beneath the former sidewalk. The rooms had an interior area of approximately eight by eight feet and a ceiling height

of about seven feet. The northern vault was badly destroyed and the end wall partly cut by utilities, allowing the room to fill about halfway up with soil.

The southern room was quite well preserved. An opening about two by two feet had been broken into the top of this vault and closed with a large stone block. It was possible to observe and photograph the basement room through this opening. A doorway on the west side was blocked with soil, but presumably once led into the basement of the adjoining building. The brick wall closing the east side of the chamber was segmented into three facets. A pipe one foot in diameter ran west-east along the ceiling at the highest point of the vault.

South of the vaulted basement rooms, residential debris was documented to a maximum depth of four feet six inches after which only clean sand was encountered. Artifacts from this deposit included fragments of blue-on-white transfer ware (post-1800), and two kinds of hand-painted ware (probably 20<sup>th</sup> c.). Two fragments of a heavily patinated green glass jar with fluted sides were also recovered (probably 20<sup>th</sup> c.). A two-inch pipe, likely a defunct gas line, crossed the south part of the trench running west-east at one foot six inches below grade.

#### **Trench E** (Figs. 34-36)

Trench E was excavated to a total depth of nearly eight feet. On its north side, it overlapped a pit that was about five feet deep and had been filled with a clean sand and soil. Below five inches of blacktop was seven inches of sand and soil fill. At one foot below grade we encountered large slate flagstones laid over a dense brick rubble containing marble architectural elements. Between two and three feet below grade the brick rubble gave way to a mixed debris of plaster, refuse, and sand. Artifacts in this deposit included: clear glass from a flask-shaped bottle (20<sup>th</sup> c.); glazed stoneware (probably 20<sup>th</sup> c. drain pipes); blue-on-white transfer ware (post-1800); white ceramic from an installation such as a toilet (20<sup>th</sup> c.); a kaolin pipe stem (post-1800), and a dark-green glass bottle neck with a hand-cut rim (possibly 18<sup>th</sup> c.).

At a depth of four feet, a deposit of dense black soil (water-seeped tar or burnt material?) occurred, which overlay the remains of a fieldstone wall, wall 8. Wall 8 runs

about five inches east of, and roughly parallel to, the west baulk. Its preserved height was about three feet six inches, from three feet seven inches below grade to about seven feet three inches below grade at its base, along approximately its southern, deeper portion. The wall is approximately one foot seven inches wide and built of large irregular granite/gneiss/feldspar stones and smaller oval-shaped river stones of a similar composition. No mortar was evident.

Towards the north end of the trench, the wall was laid on a rising slope of compacted sand and residential debris (ceramic sherds, bone, and plaster) so that the base of the wall rose from seven feet three inches on the south to five feet eight inches below grade on the north. The fill was sampled and yielded two pieces of shell-edged ware (late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> c.), small bones, some unidentifiable white ceramics, and another dark green bottle neck (probably late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> c.). Steam had created cavities under the wall and destabilized the entire trench. In the eastern half of the trench, from one foot six inches below grade to the bottom of the trench there was only sand.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In consultation with Amanda Sutphin of the LPC, who returned to the site on the second day of excavations in the parking lot, it was concluded that the backyard areas in the shaftway between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century brick stores did not contain archaeological remains of historical significance. Virgin soil had been reached on the first day a few feet below the shaftway pavement, at approximately twenty-one feet below grade. Given the difference in level between the shaftway pavement and the parking lot, it was clear that the sinking of the basement and cellar walls of the stores would have destroyed the ground surfaces and potential backyard features associated with the period of occupation preceding the stores in the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. As for still earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century remains, the 1755 Maerschallck map shows only one house standing at the western end of block 100, on Spruce Street, and the undisturbed backyard area at the center of the lot would have been sixty or seventy feet south of it, a rather inconvenient distance for a privy. In any case, the point is moot, as the construction of the stores would have destroyed earlier ground surfaces and virgin soil was reached immediately below the surviving pavement level, as noted. According to soil borings ordered by the client, the water table in the parking lot was between 30 and 35 feet below grade.

The archaeological test trenches in William Street were sited under what would have largely been the former sidewalk of the forty-foot wide street prior to the construction of the parking lot and the street's narrowing to its current thirty-foot width. The line of what was undoubtedly the facade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick stores was traced in ATT / C, wall 7, where it appeared in the collapse of the west baulk approximately eight inches west of the west baulk line, or a total of eight feet eight inches west of the present day curb line, almost forty feet west of the east side of present day William Street. In ATT / D, it is likely that the brick wall running parallel to the west baulk, wall 9, and which continued into the baulk, was contemporary with the brick wall in ATT / C, as were the two brick vaults bonded to it. Wall 9 runs east of the line of wall 7, but may have been built out from the facade of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century building, and should probably be understood as part of a subterranean structure connecting the vaults – which straddle

the old lot line -- to the basements of the two adjoining houses at 181 and 179 William Street.

The brickwork of walls 1 and 2 in ATT / A is similar to walls 7 and 9 and the tops of all these walls were at the same level, beginning approximately one and a half feet below grade. Walls 1 and 2, however, do not extend as far in depth as walls 7 and 9, and they did not survive through the final building phase as they were covered by a slate pavement, lying one foot below grade and which extended over the trench. They may therefore belong to an earlier building phase of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century stores, or to an earlier period that preceded the stores. Walls 1 and 2 were founded on stone socles, the first at a depth of about four feet nine inches below grade, the second at approximately three and a half feet below grade. These walls, which would have occupied the width of the later curb shown on the 1955 and 1967 Bromley maps, are not indicated there or on the 1857-62 Perris map.<sup>4</sup> Their location and construction suggests that they were not house walls but rather, wall 1 may be a footing for a stoop or outdoor staircase, with the pavement -- densely strewn with artifacts and black soil -- and wall 2, representing perhaps a slightly below grade, enclosed patio, as found on the front of many brownstones, although it should be noted that the building adjacent to these features, as first shown on the 1857-1862 Perris map, fronted on Beekman Street. In ATT / B, wall 5 and the east-west spur wall abutting wall 3 may similarly represent the remains of a slightly below street level patio or other addition on the front of the house that stood at this address. The burnt cultural debris in this part of the trench as well as the relatively high concentration of artifacts may be associated with this feature although no surfaces were detected.

As for the so-called cistern in ATT / A, which is situated half in the former curb area and half in the street bed, as noted in the addendum to Bergoffen 2004 (Op. Cit.), the Common Council of the City of New York did allocate funds, in 1814, for the installation of a well and pump near the intersection of Beekman and William Streets. Quite possibly what has been designated as the cistern in the present report is that early 19<sup>th</sup> well. At that time, however, it would have been half in someone's front yard. Unfortunately, the well or cistern contained very few artifacts and the fill was homogenous throughout the five

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<sup>4</sup> Bergoffen 2004, Op. Cit., Figs. 7, 8 and 9.

feet of deposit excavated. But there was no clearly 20<sup>th</sup> century material which indicates at least that it was sealed and paved over long before the adjacent building was demolished. It too was covered by the slate pavement.

Stone wall 4 in in ATT / B certainly belong to an earlier building period, as indicated by its relationship with brick wall 3. Wall 3 rests partly on a column of stones on top of stone wall 4, which has a different orientation from the brick wall and begins about five feet below grade. The southern end of brick wall 3, which shows three distinct segments representing different building episodes, overlaps the southern end of stone wall 4. No foundation trench for either wall 3 or 4 could be discerned. Instead, the eastern half of the trench was composed of the usual stratigraphically undifferentiated brown sandy fill. Although there were no associated floors or deposits that could be associated with the earlier building phase evidenced by wall 4, it is very likely that this wall, the only one excavated that did not run parallel to the present-day curb, belongs to the period of occupation that preceded the erection of the five-story stores, and dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, if not earlier. At its south end, it is approximately three feet west of the thirty-foot street curb line; at its northern end, two feet from the curb. If this wall traces the line of the pre-mid-19<sup>th</sup> century facades, then the street front was either quite irregular at that time, or it narrowed towards the north, something that is not indicated on the 1755 Maerschallck map however for this block.<sup>5</sup>

The stone wall in ATT / C, which begins about three and a half feet below grade and whose base is at six feet below grade, is not connected to brick wall 7 of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, which runs parallel to it, two feet to the west, and whose base lay below the six-foot deep bottom of the trench. The base of wall 6 is six feet below grade. It was probably a foundation wall for a brick building which had only a shallow basement, not the deep basement and cellar levels noted in the excavation of trenches 1 and 2 and surmised for the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century stores on William Street as well, judging by wall 7 and the existence of basements noted on the insurance maps. Wall 6 in ATT / C clearly belongs to a different and no doubt earlier building period than the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century store represented by wall 7. It lies on the same line as brick wall 3 in ATT / B – the only two walls in the

---

<sup>5</sup> Bergoffen 2004, Op. Cit., Fig. 6. But on the 1755 Maerschallck map, William Street does narrow quite markedly in the block north of Spruce Street.



five trenches that did line up -- raising the possibility that walls 3 and 6 were contemporary and belong chronologically between wall 4 and the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century stores. Note that the northern section of wall 3, which is founded at three and a half feet below grade is a probably a later addition to the wall it abuts immediately to its south, which is founded at between five and half and six feet below grade and partly overlaps wall 4. The southern part of wall 3 has a spur running off it towards the east which was probably originally connected with wall 5.

The most substantial stone wall, wall 8 in ATT / E, does not follow the orientation of any of the other walls and was also founded at a greater depth of approximately seven feet below grade. The uppermost course of this best preserved of the three stone walls was composed of rectangular cut blocks, another feature distinguishing it. By its location and depth it would not to be related to a building period preceding the stores, but the lack of associated surfaces or connection with the stores makes it particularly difficult to phase.

The phasing of the various walls proposed may be summarized as follows:

Building period 4

Parking lot

.....

Building period 3

Stores: Phase 2

Walls 7, 9, vaults

Flagstone pavement

.....

Building period 2 or an early phase of period 3

Walls 1, 2

Cistern (defunct)

.....

Building period 2

Buildings with shallow basements,

substantial stone foundation walls

Walls 6, 3, (8?)

Walls 1 and 2? Cistern built

.....  
Building period 1

wall 4

In sum, there were at building periods, but there may have been thwo phases in the second three. The first houses on William Street were erected after ca. 1730 but before 1755. The tax records, which begin in 1808, confirm the existence of buildings at addresses on William Street but do not provide any information about dimensions or construction. A marked increase in property values in 1836 may indicate the erection of the five-story stores shown for the first time on the 1857-1862 Perris map.

## APPENDIX A

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF THE EXCAVATION OF UTILITY TEST TRENCHES UTT 1, 2 AND 3

The Utility Test trenches were excavated over a period of six days on April 12th and 13th and April 17<sup>th</sup> through April 20<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the excavation was twofold: for the archaeologist to determine the western line of the utilities and the disturbance caused by their installation, in order to site the archaeological test trenches appropriately, and for the property owner, to measure the depth of the pipes and conduits so that future development work in the street could avoid damage to these utilities.

#### UTT / 1

UTT / 1 measured fourteen feet west-east by four feet six inches north-south and was located forty-seven feet south of the corner of Spruce and William Streets. It extended two feet into the parking lot and twelve feet into William street. The twelve-foot section was excavated to a depth of six feet. Low tension electrical utilities crossed the trench at a depth of two to four feet in a cluster of five pipes running parallel to the curb and about two feet into the street on the southwest side. At a depth of five feet three inches, a three-foot wide concrete utility structure was found which may be high tension electricity, also parallel to William Street. An abandoned and broken one-foot sewer pipe was noted at a depth of five to six feet. The bottom of the disturbance created by the laying of utilities was not reached by the final depth of six feet. A steam line in the street, known to exist but not located, emits clouds of steam throughout the roadbed (as we later learned) and the steam has saturated the ground, causing voids and decaying pipes and concrete.

The fill in the utilities trench was mostly sand with some soil and gravel. Fragments of corroded two-inc pipes in lengths of two to three feet were found in both the west and east ends of the trench. At a depth of five and a half to six feet, eight

potsherds of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century were collected from the disturbed fill, at the base of a brick wall (see below).

An area of archaeological interest exists in the western three feet of the trench. About two feet six inches below the surface of the parking lot, an arched brick surface was revealed which sloped down towards the southeast. A brick wall at least three courses thick is preserved beginning two feet four inches below grade and extending to a depth of at least six feet on the east side of the arched structure. The section of the test trench that lay within the parking lot was not refilled, but simply covered over with a plate, in order to be further explored during the archaeological field testing. (UTT / 1 was re-excavated with adjoining structures in trench ATT / D, described in Section 3 of this report).

#### UTT/ 2

UTT/ 2 was excavated on April 19 and refilled the same day. Its position in the middle of the block made it an obstacle to vehicle traffic in and out of the parking lot. UTT/ 2 measured four feet six inches wide and a total of sixteen in length. Two feet of the trench extended on the west side the curb into the parking lot. Rectangular stone street cobbles were encountered four inches below grade in the southeast end of the trench. The rest of the trench was covered with up to one foot of concrete, which was removed by jackhammer. Below the concrete, a mixed fill of clean sand and soil was present throughout. A low-tension electric utility, beginning at about two feet six inches below grade and continuing to a depth of about five feet six inches, ran parallel to the curb at the north end of the trench. A wooden bracing for another utility trench came to light in the south end of the trench. At six feet below grade, where the excavation was terminated, steam (from the leak) was rising steadily from the ground. A large defunct sewer pipe was revealed that ran along the same line as the one found in UTT / 1.

The two foot by four foot six inch portion of the trench within the parking lot had seven inches of blacktop over five inches of cinder fill followed by a mixed fill of residential trash (bone, soil, plaster, sherds) that continued to about two feet six inches below grade. In the northeast corner, there was a fragmented brick pavement in a

herringbone pattern laid on pure sand. In the southwest corner, a pipe was found at a depth of two feet six inches. It lay in a trench that continued to a depth of three feet six inches and was filled with coarse sand. Below these disturbances, virgin sand deposits were observed in natural varves, sloping down towards the southwest.

#### UTT / 3

UTT / 3 was excavated on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. It was not extended past the line of the chain-link bordering the parking lot, but ended at the steel curb. Below about one foot of concrete, removed by jackhammer, was a mixed fill of soil, sand, and rubble (pieces of blacktop, concrete). Low tension electric utilities partly encased in concrete appeared at about two feet six inches below grade and continued to over five feet below grade. These were on a line with those in UTT / 1 and 2. In the south end of the trench was a wooden bracing running parallel to the street. At a depth of four feet, a wood or creosote beam smoldering with steam was revealed in the center of the trench also running parallel to the street. Steam from the leak permeated all the soils. No virgin soil was observed within the trench. The excavation was terminated at six feet below grade.

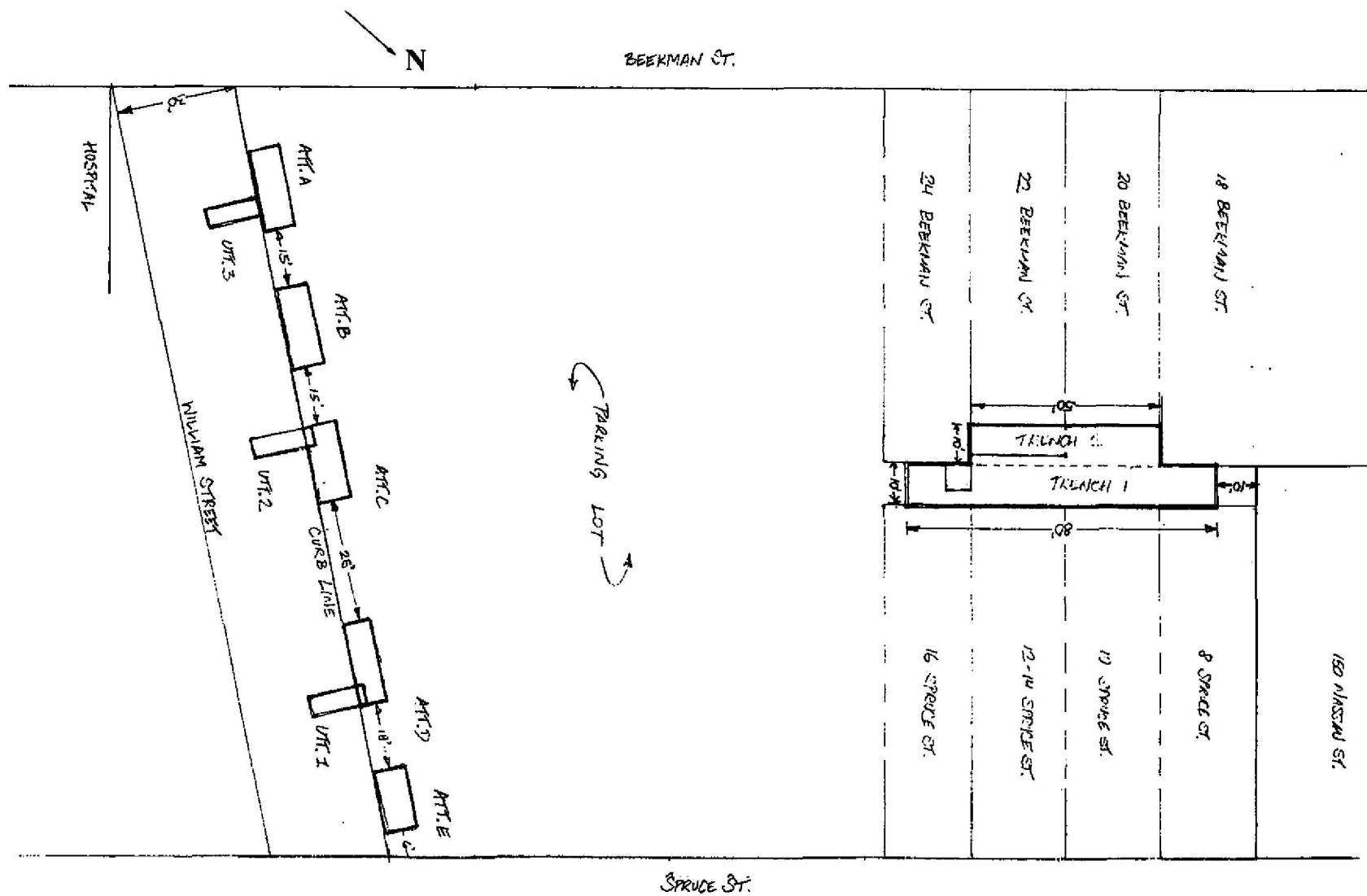


Fig. 1. Plan of block 100 showing the location of the Utility and Archaeological Test Trenches.



**Fig. 2. View of the parking lot on Block 100 looking north**

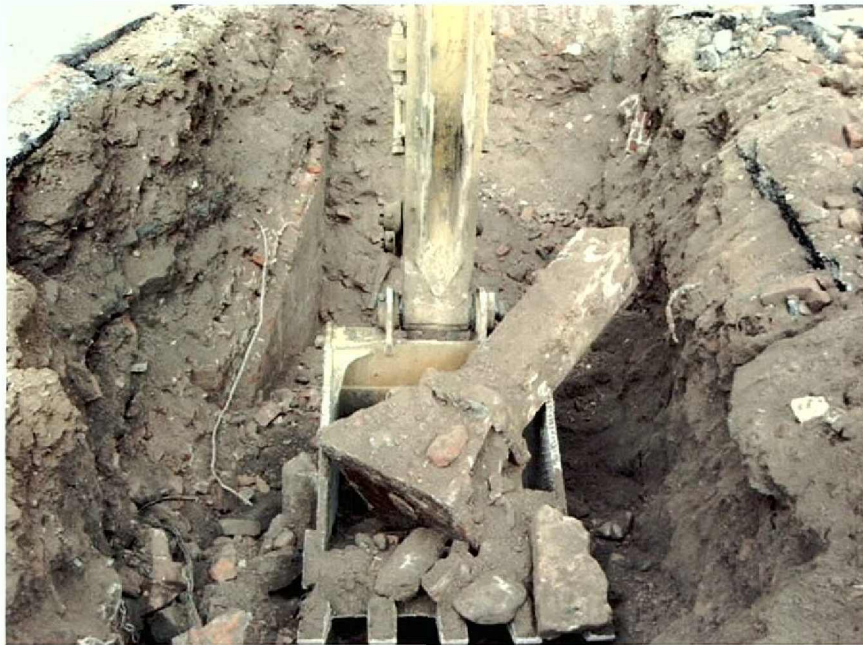


**Fig. 3. View of the outline of trench 1 in the parking lot, Block 100, February 21, looking north.**





**Fig. 4. View of trench 1 at ca. 6 feet depth looking west.**



**Fig. 5. Cast iron column base in trench 1, looking west.**





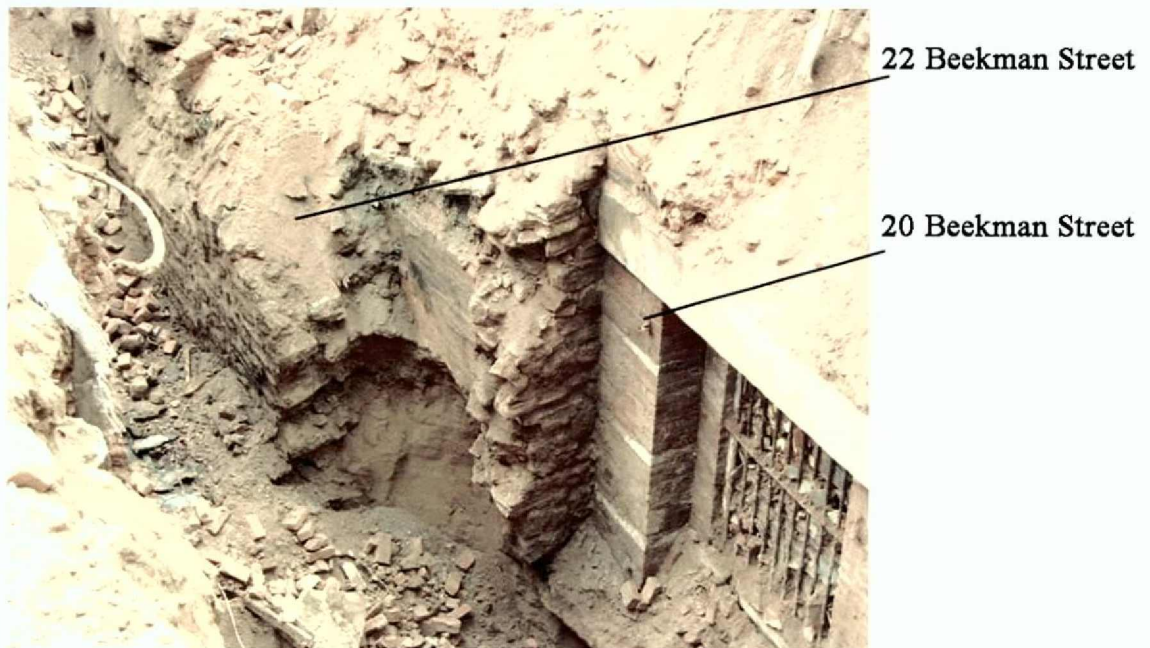
Fig. 6. View of trenches 1 and 2, back walls of 18 and 20 Beekman Street, looking southwest.



Fig. 7. View of the deep pit in trench 2 in the shaftway behind 20 Beekman Street, looking west.



**Fig. 8.** View of trenches 1 and 2, looking at the northeast corner of 18 Beekman Street and the shaftway between it and 8 Spruce Street; the back wall of 20 Beekman Street is on the lower left.



**Fig. 9.** View of the back walls of 20 and 22 Beekman Street, looking southwest.





**Fig. 10. View of the cellar door of 12 Spruce Street, looking east.**



**Fig. 11. Part of the paving from the shaftway behind 20-22 Beekman Street.**



**Fig. 12. View of the bottom of the trench behind 20-22 Beekman Street looking northwest.**

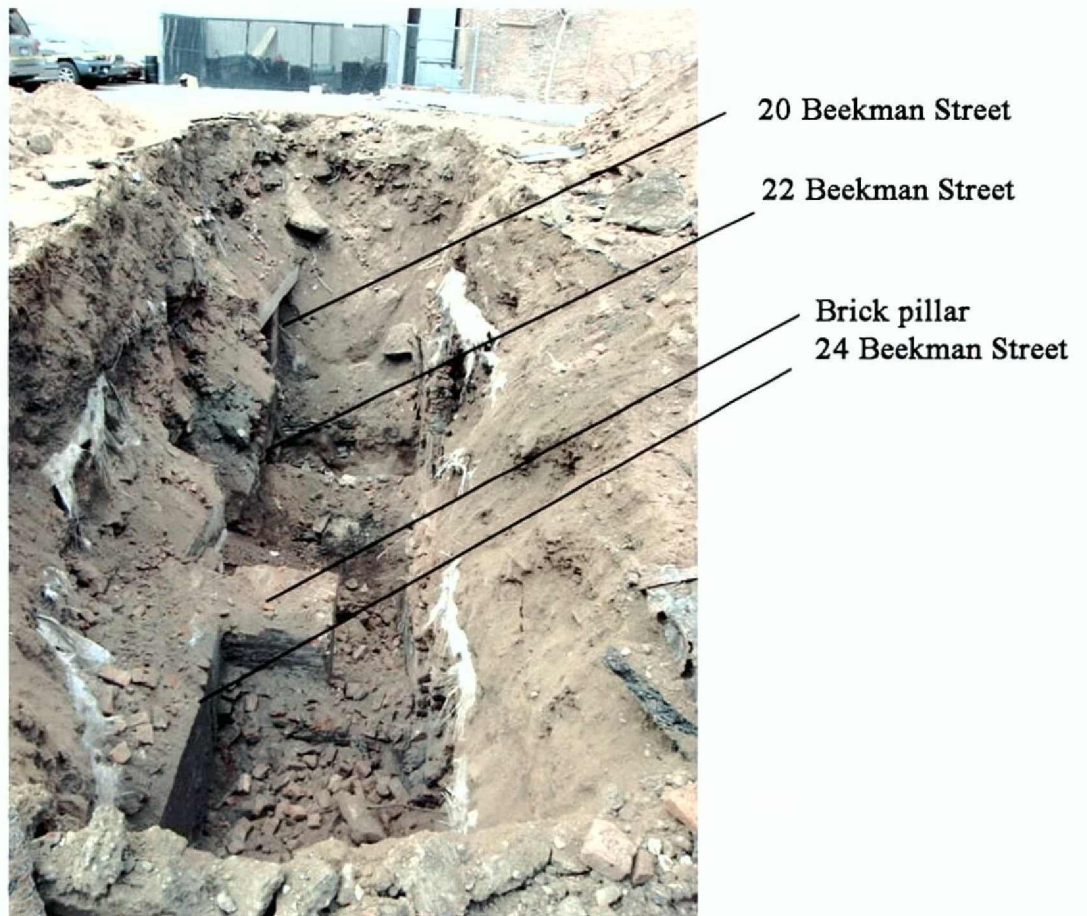


**Fig. 13. View of the brick pillar at the northwest corner of 24 Beekman Street, looking east.**





**Fig. 14. View of the brick pillar at the north corner of 24 Beekman Street, looking west (the back wall of 22 Beekman Street adjoining has collapsed).**



**Fig 15. Trenches 1 and 2, end of excavation, looking northwest.**

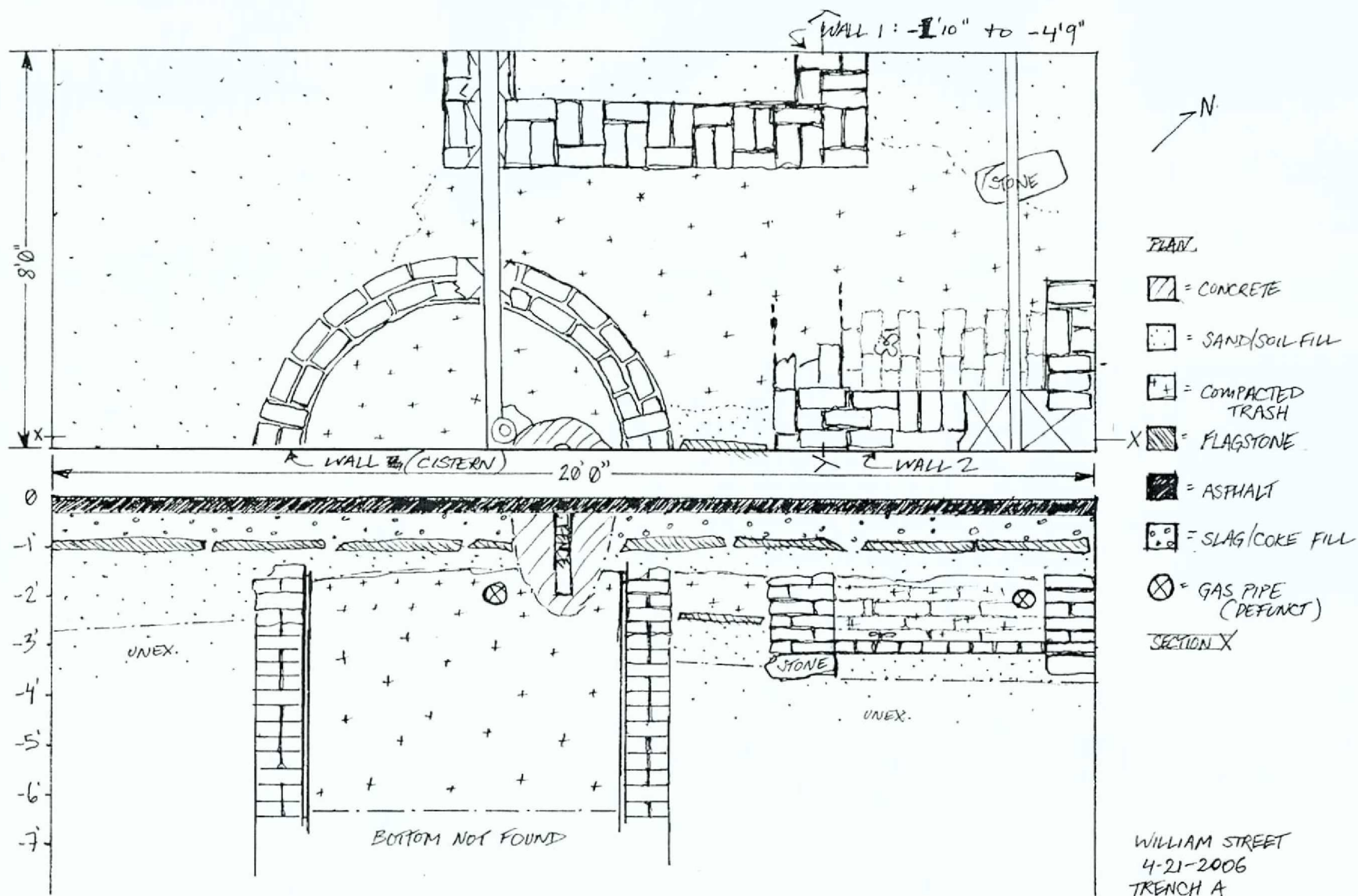


Fig. 16. Plan and section of ATT / A.





**Fig. 17. View of ATT / A from Beekman Street at the start of excavation.**



**Fig. 18. View of ATT / A looking north, at the end of excavation.**

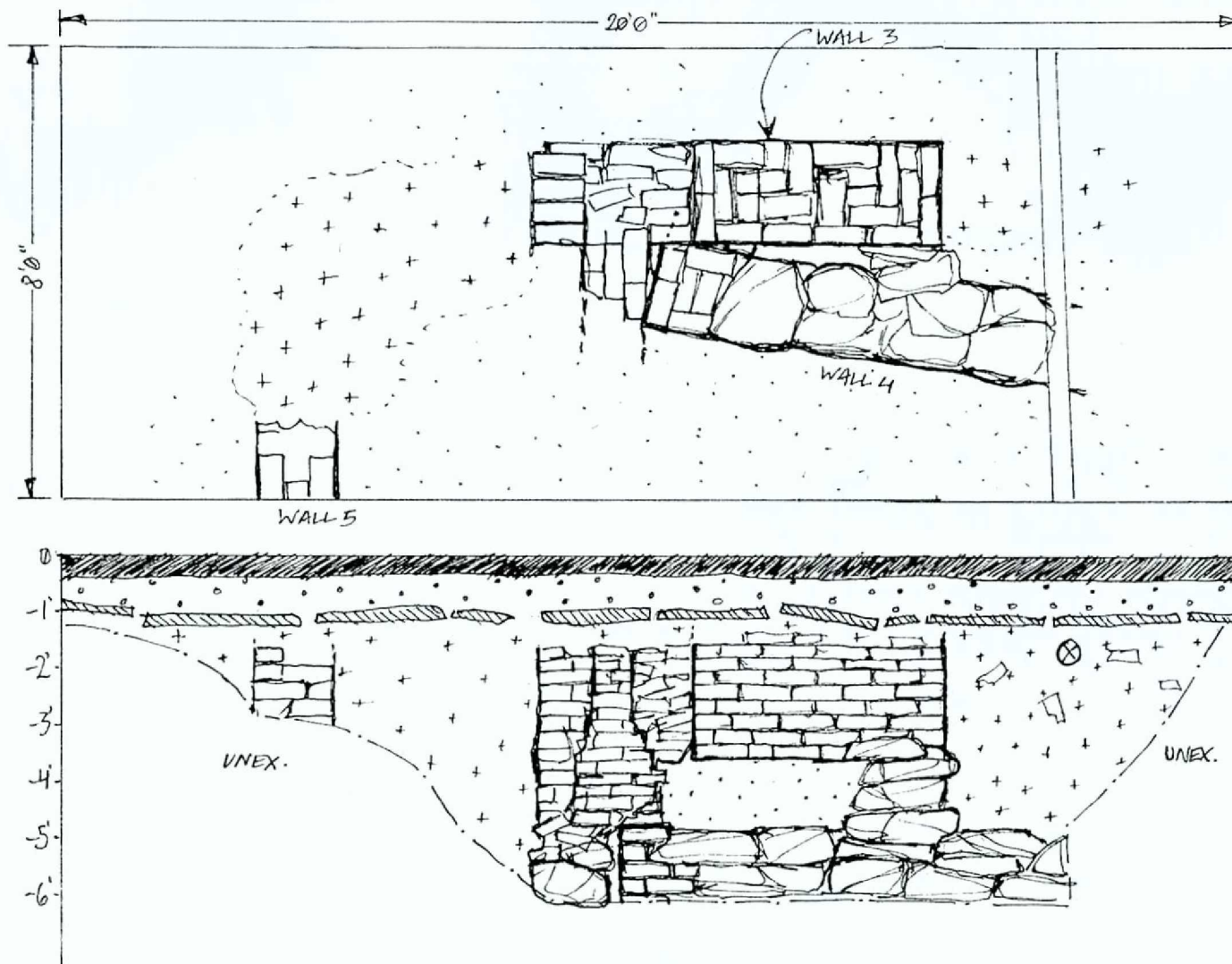


**Fig. 19. View of ATT / A looking south, at the end of excavation.**



**Fig. 20. View of the cistern in ATT / A, looking east, at the end of excavation.**

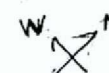




# PLAN

- = SAND/SOIL
- = ASPHALT
- = SLAG/COKE FILL
- = FLAGSTONE
- = COMPACTED TRASH

# CENTER ELEV.



WILLIAM STREET  
4-21-2006  
TRENCH B  
M. HOROWITZ

Fig. 21. Plan and section of ATT / B.



Fig. 22. View of ATT / B looking south.



Fig. 23. View of walls 3 and 4 in ATT / B looking west



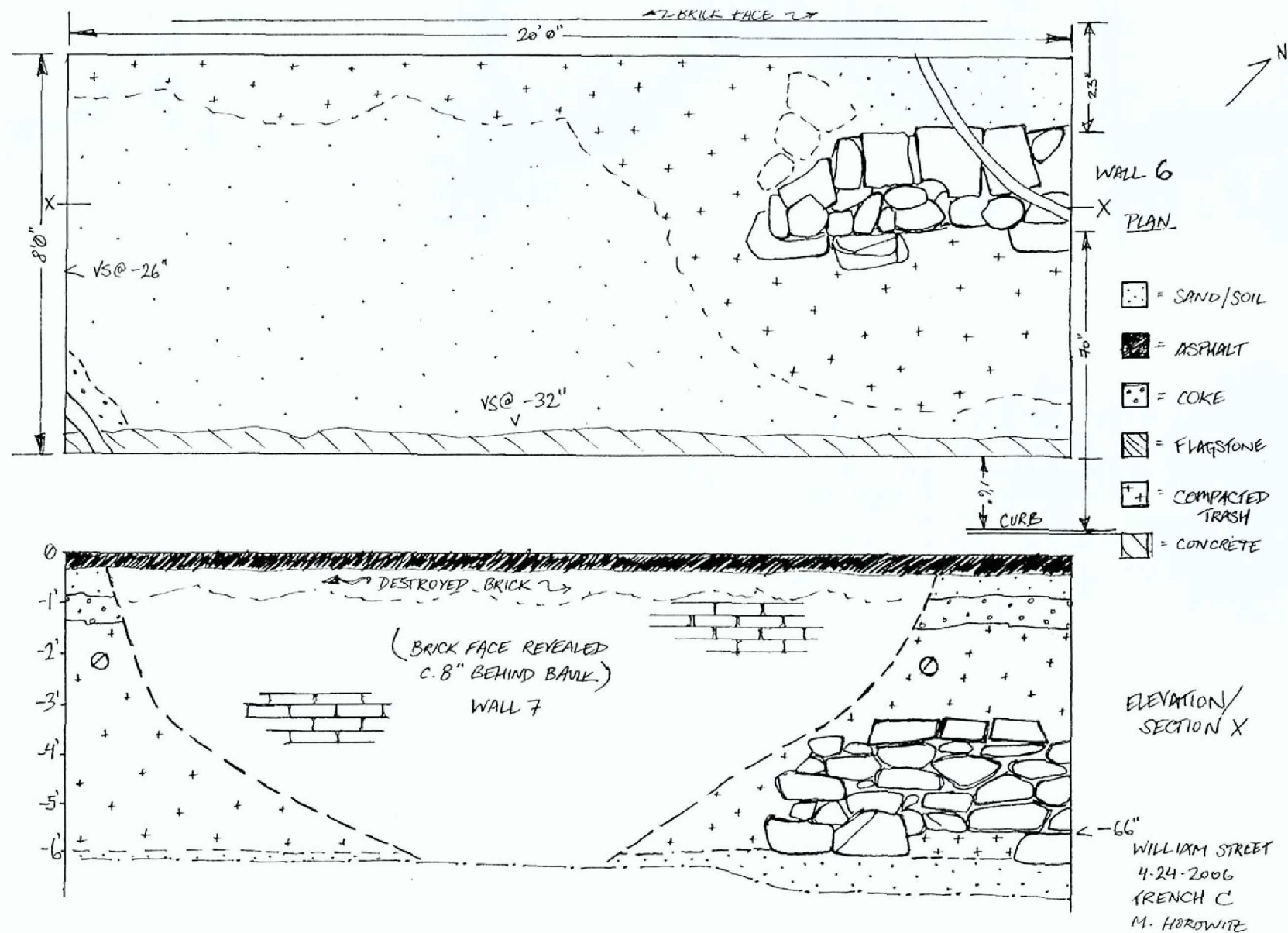


Fig. 24. Plan and section of ATT/ C.



Fig. 25. View of walls 6 and 7 ATT / C, looking south.



Fig. 26. View of wall 6, ATT / C, looking northwest.

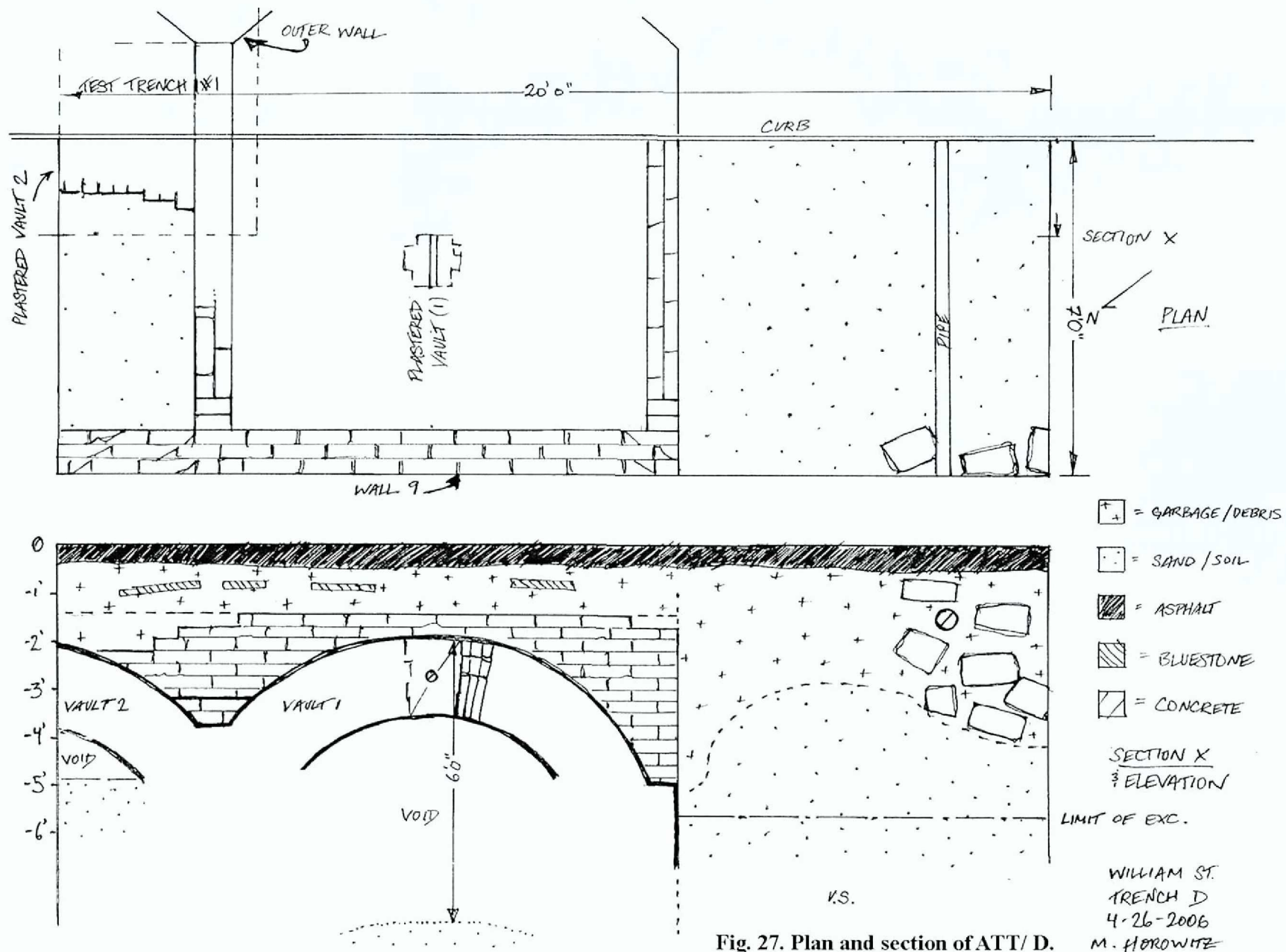


Fig. 27. Plan and section of ATT/ D.





Fig. 28. View of wall 9 and vault 1 looking north.



Fig. 29. View of the remains of vault 2 (left) and vault 1 (right), looking east



**Fig. 30.** View of vault 1 (left), and the remains of vault 2 (right), looking west.



**Fig. 31.** View of the interior of vault 1, looking west.



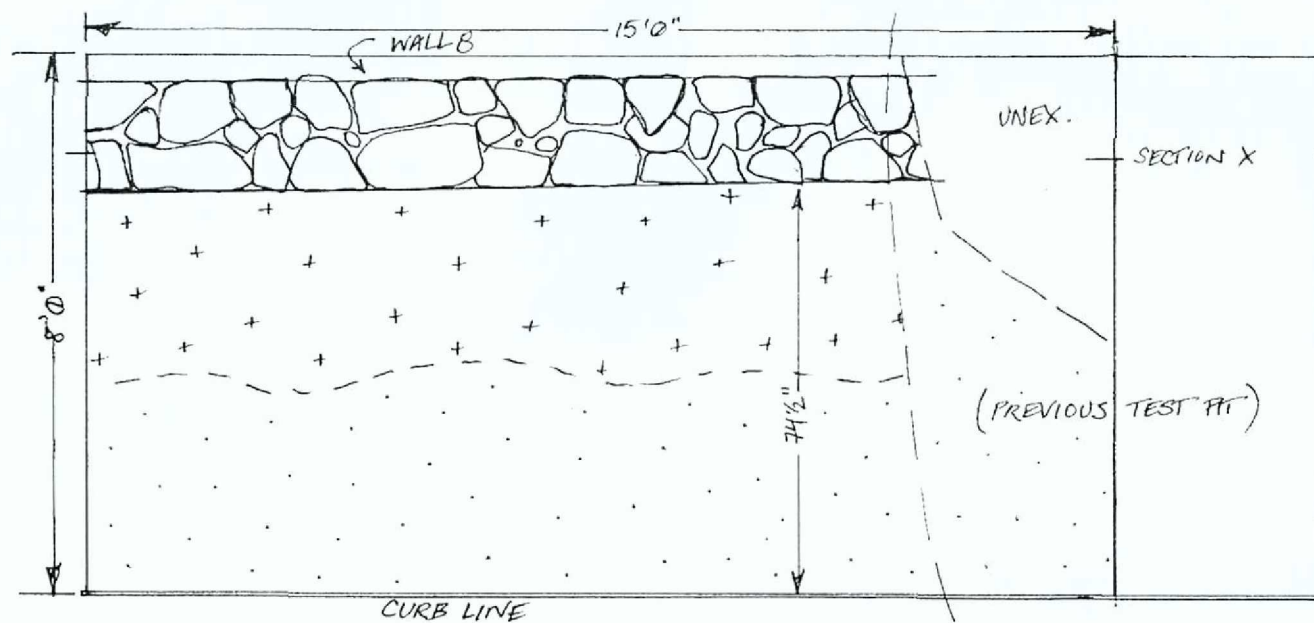


Fig. 32. View of the interior of vault 1, looking west.



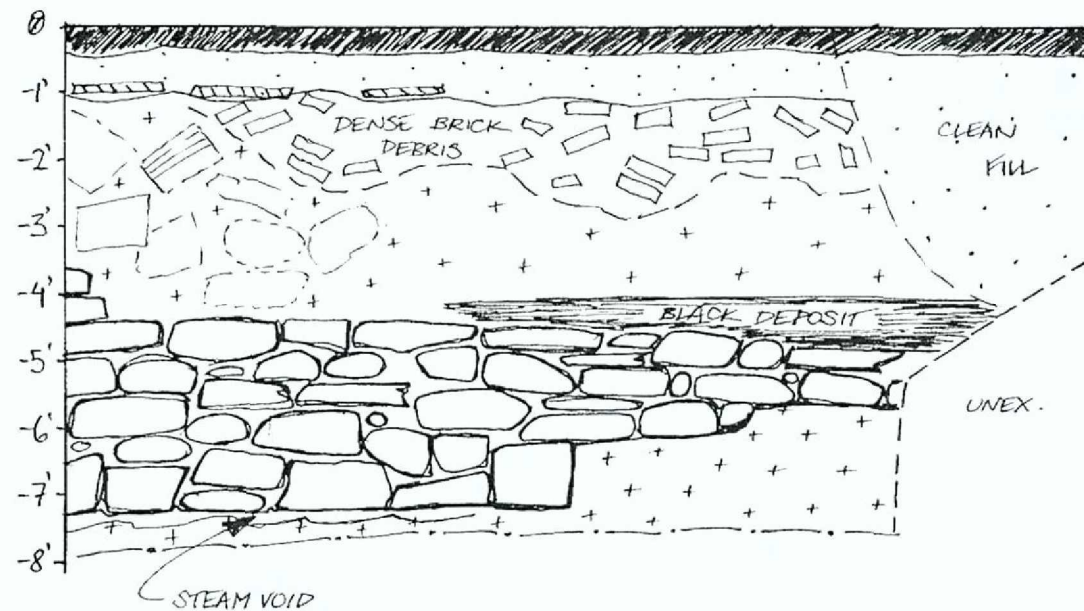
Fig. 33. View of the interior of vault 1, looking east.





N  
PLAN

BAG 6 = GENERAL FILL  
BAG 13 = LOWER LEVEL



SECTION X

- + = GARBAGE
- . = SAND/FILL
- [diagonal hatching] = ASPHALT
- [diagonal hatching] = BLUESTONE
- [grid pattern] = CONCRETE

WILLIAM STREET  
TRENCH E  
4-25-2006  
MARA HOROWITZ

Fig. 34. Plan and section of ATT/ E.



Fig. 35. View of wall 8 in ATT / E, looking south.



Fig. 36. View of wall 8 in ATT / E, looking south.





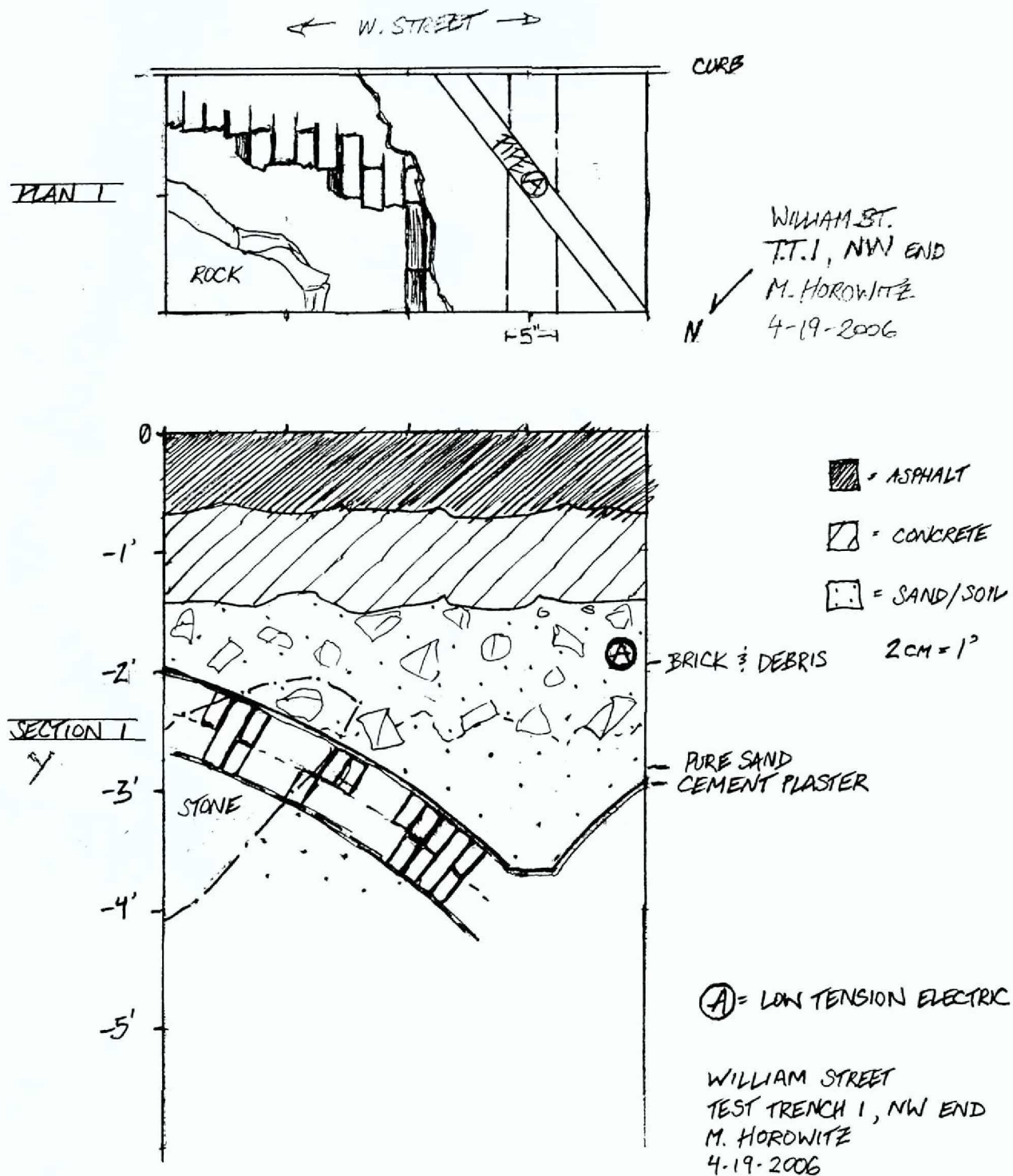


Fig. 38. Plan and section of UTT / 1, northern end, looking south



Fig. 39. View of UTT / 1, looking east.



Fig. 40. View of UTT / 1, looking north.



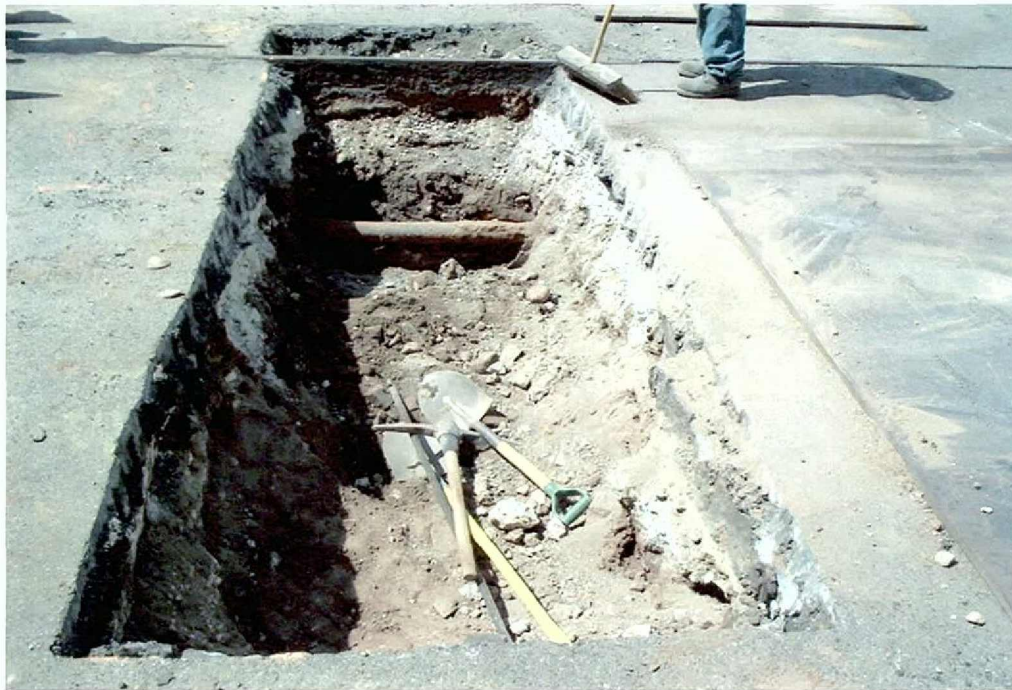


Fig. 41. View of UTT / 2, looking west.



Fig. 42. View of UTT / 3, looking west.