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**PHASE 1A  
CULTURAL RESOURCES SENSITIVITY EVALUATION**

**SOUTH RICHMOND DRAINAGE PLANS:  
CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK WATERSHED**

**STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK**



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**SOUTH RICHMOND DRAINAGE PLANS:  
CONFERENCE HOUSE PARK WATERSHED**

**SOUTH RICHMOND, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK**

**Historical Perspectives, Inc.  
P. O. Box 3037  
Westport, CT 06880**

**Principal Investigators:  
Betsy W. Kearns  
Cece Saunders**

**Primary Authors:  
Edward J. Lenik, R.P.A.  
Nancy L. Gibbs**

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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A Phase 1A cultural resources sensitivity survey was conducted within the Conference House Park Watershed located in South Richmond, Staten Island, New York. This survey was in response to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's drainage management plan for the watershed that includes the construction of in-street sanitary wastewater collection lines and two Best Management Practice (BMP) features within park land.

The Conference or Billopp House, adjacent grounds and 33.5 acres of Conference House Park called Ward's Point Conservation Area are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1992, the Ward's Point Conservation Area was designated as a National Historic Landmark and re-named the Ward's Point Archaeological Site. Background research indicates that Native American people intensively occupied and utilized the land within these areas.

Two BMP features are proposed within an undeveloped section of Conference House Park situated between Clermont Avenue and Billopp Street. The proposed construction of BMPs CHP-1 and CHP-2 will impact an area within and along a stream and marsh. Two potential shell midden deposits are present in these areas. It is our understanding that no sewer lines or additional subsurface work will be undertaken within the Park. In addition, storm and sanitary sewer installations are proposed for a number of Watershed streets that have not previously been impacted by the introduction of this type of municipal services.

The proposed installation area has been determined to have high archaeological sensitivity or potential for containing evidence of prehistoric occupation. Therefore, a Phase 1B investigation involving intensive archaeological testing, according to a testing plan developed in consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office, is recommended for specific areas:

- BMP CHP-1;
- BMP CHP-2;
- Park areas that might be impacted during associated construction and landscaping activities; and,
- previously-undisturbed street corridors in the Watershed that are in proximity to the northern, southern, and eastern bounds of the Conference House Park.

The proposed construction of in-street sanitary sewer lines will have no adverse impact upon any historic-period archaeological resources.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY .....	I
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1
II. ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW .....	2
III. BACKGROUND RESEARCH: PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES .....	3
IV. BACKGROUND RESEARCH: HISTORICAL RESOURCES .....	5
V. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS .....	10
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	12
VII. REFERENCES .....	14
VIII. FIGURES	
APPENDICES:	
A: Correspondence on the Location of the Proposed Installation in Relation to the Boundaries of the National Indian Burial Ground.	
B: Letter from the New York Institute of Anthropology	

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

- FIGURE 1: Portion of U.S.G.S. map Arthur Kill NY-NJ quadrangle showing location of project area
- FIGURE 2: Map showing Conference House Park Watershed boundaries and proposed BMP sites
- FIGURE 3: 1687 survey map of Christopher Billopp land
- FIGURE 4: 1771 map of the Bay of New York
- FIGURE 5: Portion of the 1933 map of Staten Island by L. McMillen
- FIGURE 6: Portion of 1797 Sprong & Connor map of Staten Island
- FIGURE 7: Portion of 1853 Butler Map of Staten Island
- FIGURE 8: 1890 Topographic Map of Staten Island
- FIGURE 9: Photograph of north end of BMP CHP-1
- FIGURE 10: Photograph of elevated ground within BMP CHP-1
- FIGURE 11: Photograph of south end of BMP CHP-2
- FIGURE 12: Photograph of elevated ground above BMP CHP-2
- FIGURE 13: Archaeological Sensitivity

# **I. INTRODUCTION**

## **A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) proposes to install sanitary wastewater collection lines and a storm water management system within the Conference House Park Watershed located in South Richmond, Staten Island, New York. This project will include the construction of in-street sewer lines and storm water controls termed Best Management Practices (BMPs). Two BMP features, CHP-1 and CHP-2, are planned for this watershed consisting of a stream restoration and an extended detention basin.

This report presents the results of a Phase 1A cultural resources sensitivity survey conducted within the watershed, referred to as the project area. This study was conducted in accordance with the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) regulations. The objective of this cultural resources investigation was to evaluate the historic-period and prehistoric archaeological sensitivity of the watershed project area. A complete environmental analysis of the watershed is being undertaken as part of an environmental impact statement being prepared by DEP.

## **B. STUDY AREA LOCATION**

The Conference House Watershed is bounded by Summit Road on the north, Swinnerton Street on the east, Raritan Bay on the south, and the Arthur Kill on the west (FIGURES 1 and 2).

The proposed action, BMPs and in-street installations, are in proximity to the Ward's Point National Historic Landmark, a recognized Native American Burial Ground. The locations of the proposed actions in relation to the Landmark boundaries is included in APPENDIX A.

Based on CEQR guidelines, the area of concern for archaeological resources in this investigation was limited to that land which may experience direct, subsurface construction-related impacts.

## II. ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

The Conference House Park Watershed is located at the extreme southern end of Staten Island. This watershed is situated within the Coastal Plain physiographic province (Schuberth 1968). The underlying geological deposits in the region were laid down during the Cretaceous period some seventy million years ago and are called the Raritan-Magothy formation (Gratacap 1909:175-176). The Raritan formation is composed of gray sands and gravels and silt. The Magothy formation lies on top of the Raritan and consists of a mixture of sand, silt and clay, and layers of coarse sand and gravel. Glacial deposits in turn overlie those of the Cretaceous period and date to about 14,000 years ago. Glacial till and outwash sediments consisting of sands, silts and gravels, deposited by the retreating Wisconsin glacier, form the region's surface features and deposits and are of post-glacial origin (Kraft and Chacko 1978:41). Soil conditions within the watershed are variable depending on topographic location; they may be sandy and dry or wet, and well-drained or poorly drained.

The topography of the watershed can be characterized as low and flat to gently sloping. The local elevations range from approximately sixty feet above mean sea level near the northeast corner of the watershed to around five feet near Raritan Bay. A small stream enters park land at the intersection of Finlay Street and Clermont Avenue, flows south-southeast and enters a marsh area adjoining the north side of Billopp Avenue. In 1898, this stream was known as "Kingsbury's or Uncle Ed Ward's Brook" (Leng and Davis 1898; Morris 1898I:362-3).

Park lands, which extend along the Arthur Kill and Raritan Bay, make up nearly one-half of the watershed drainage area. Most of the parkland is wooded and undeveloped, the exception being the land immediately surrounding the Billopp or Conference House and wetland and coast-side areas. "Paper" streets extend through portions of the park as indicated by the presence of former sidewalks and curbs.

Surrounding Conference House Park are residential structures, roads and utility lines. Hylan Boulevard is the major transportation corridor that passes through the watershed.

### **III. BACKGROUND RESEARCH: PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Conference House Park is unquestionably one of the most important Native American archaeological sites in New York City. This land, situated near the confluence of two major river drainage systems, the Hudson and Raritan Rivers, was occupied by Native American peoples for thousands of years prior to the arrival of European settlers. Abundant evidence of their occupation has been found on the Conference House grounds, at the end of Hylan Boulevard, on Billopp Ridge and on Burial Ridge (Jacobson 1980; Florance 1982; Baugher et al 1991). Indians camped, hunted, fished, and gathered plant food and raw material resources in the area. This land was of great importance to these people who buried their dead in significant numbers within the property.

The Conference House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated New York City Landmark. In 1982, approximately 33.5 acres of the park was listed on the National Register as the Ward's Point Conservation Area. On April 19, 1992, the Ward's Point Archaeological Site was designated a National Historic Landmark (Grumet 1995:223). The Boundary Justification of the Ward's Point National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (page 19) states:

The Ward's Point site encompasses archeological resources on and immediately adjacent to a bluff locally known as Burial Ridge investigated by archeologists George H. Pepper between 1893 and 1895, Robert D. Wainwright in 1897, Mark Raymond Harrington in 1920, and Jerome Jacobson in 1960.

Inaccessible or unsurveyed known or potential associated resources may exist beyond current nominated property boundaries. Such resources should be considered for inclusion within Ward's Point site boundaries pending changes in survey or accessibility status. (NYCDEP; See Appendix A.)

Conference House Park and the surrounding area have long been recognized by both professional and avocational archaeologists as rich in evidence of Native American occupations. From the late nineteenth century through the third quarter of the twentieth century, some fifty reported investigations have taken place in the area (Florance 1982: Table 3). Numerous artifacts have been recovered from the site such as projectile points, stone tools, lithic debitage, ceramic fragments, faunal material, and European-made trade material such as white clay tobacco pipes, and projectile points made of copper, brass, and iron. Cultural features have also been found including hearths, pits, and burials. Some seventy-two Native American burials have been discovered within the park since the mid-nineteenth century. These dates indicate that the Conference House Park property was occupied by Indian peoples from the Early Archaic period to the early Historic Contact period, i.e. c. 6000 B.C. to 1600s A.D.

Evidence of prehistoric occupation has been found in areas adjacent to Conference House Park within privately developed lands within the Watershed. Ed Platt, the organizer and director of the Staten Island-based New York Institute of Anthropology firmly believes that there are archaeologically extremely sensitive zones within the Conference House Park Watershed area that are not necessarily inventoried with the official repositories, such as LPC and OPRHP. He initially communicated this concern to the Executive Board of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City in late 2000 (PANYC 2001). Mr. Platt responded to HPI's inquiries (letter dated 2/26/01) concerning archaeological sites in the Conference House Watershed and this correspondence is included as APPENDIX B. Mr. Platt specifically notes Native American sensitivity in lands north of the Billop Manor House. "Occupation sites are known south of Amboy Road and west of Craig Avenue. Extensive evidence extends into the backyards of private homes to the east of Satterlee Street" (Ibid.). This is problematic because substantiating evidence and precise locations have not been received from Mr. Platt.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission's prehistoric sites records indicate that artifacts of prehistoric origin were recovered from a site at Hylan Boulevard and Satterlee Street and a site located between Massachusetts and Connecticut Streets to the south of Hylan Boulevard (Boesch 1994:110-111). These artifact finds consisted of lithic debitage recovered during archaeological shovel testing in the areas indicated.

In summary, the Conference House Park Watershed area has been characterized as highly sensitive for the presence of prehistoric resources by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (Boesch 1994:22; U.S.G.S. site and sensitivity maps).

## **IV. HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

### **A. THE MANOR OF BENTLEY**

Captain Christopher Billopp, legend says, saved Staten Island from becoming part of New Jersey. A dispute arose between the Duke of York, Billopp's patron, and the East Jersey proprietors Carteret and Berkeley over the ownership of the islands in New York Bay. To settle the question the Duke of York declared that New York would claim all of the islands around which a ship could sail in a twenty-four hour trip. There was much concern that Staten Island could not be included, but Billopp proved equal to the task and succeeded in the circumnavigation. This tale was told by Judge Dissosway in 1873 (Davis 1926:51). None have proved it so, but many have related the tale.

For his accomplishment, the tale goes, Billopp received a very large grant of land at the southwestern end of the Island. This part of the tale is true, for Captain Christopher Billopp was the major and one of the earliest landholders in this part of the Island.

A patent dated March 25, 1676, describes a "certaine parcell or Tract of Land within a Neck upon Staten Island . . . being and lying on the southwest side of the Island . . . containing the quantity of nine hundred thirty two acres . . . plus 30 acres of salt marsh" (Davis 1926: 50). Upon this land Billopp built a house. The survey map for the patent shows the house already extant.

By 1687 Billopp's holdings were expanded to total 1600 acres. Governor Thomas Dongan reconfirmed his patent and granted permission to call the land "one Lordship and Mannor of Bentley" and to permit "one Court Leet and one Court Barron." The Duke of York ascended to the British throne in 1685 and, thus, New York became a royal domain where manorial titles could be granted (Zavin 1980: 20).

A draught of a survey that year by Philip Welles shows the house and an outbuilding surrounded by a fence (FIGURE 3). It sits near the shore on the edge of a vast piece of land. The property includes the entire neck plus the mouth of Mill Creek and a strip of land on the other side of the creek. Several lots to the west of the property are marked off and belong to Anthony Fountaine, Matthew Larew, and (M---) Dussosway. To the north are the lands of William Johnson. The project area for this report is completely within Billopp's Manor of Bentley.

## **B. THE BILLOPP FAMILY AND HISTORY OF LAND OWNERSHIP**

Captain Billopp was the son of a wealthy London merchant and was appointed a lieutenant in the King's Navy in 1671. He was appointed to serve with Governor Andros in 1674 and may have been in New York prior to this. In 1677 Andros named him "Commander in Delaware River and Bay." Billopp moved between Staten Island, Newcastle, Delaware and London with some frequency. Correspondence shows that his wife was often in residence and dealing with domestic issues such as where tenants might locate a lime kiln (Zavin 1980: 4-6).

Captain Christopher Billopp turned over control of his Staten Island property to his brother Joseph in 1698 by power of attorney and to his daughters Mary and Ann in 1702. He died in Fleet Prison in London in 1725. In his will, written in 1724, he left the Plantation at Bentley to his daughters with the instruction that it pass to his daughter Ann's son, Thomas Farmar, and that he take the surname Billopp. Thomas Farmar Billopp came of age in 1732, taking possession of the Manor of Bentley, settling with the Crown the 1,445 bushels of wheat, a quit-rent long unpaid. Thomas also began to sell off some of the estate, advertising in 1744 a 300 acre parcel with a good dwelling house and a new barn and a fine, young orchard. Thomas Billopp died at the age of thirty-nine leaving his wife as head of household until their son Christopher came of age in 1760 (Zavin 1980:7-10).

Christopher Billopp continued to sell off parcels of the Manor. He also had four houses that were rented out. Billopp remained loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolution. Faced with the forfeiture of his estate at the end of the war, he divided it into nine farms totaling 850 acres and sold them one by one in 1780 and 1781. A 373 acre parcel containing the Manor House was sold to Caleb Ward. The project area was part of that parcel.

## **C. THE CONFERENCE HOUSE**

The Billopp House is on the National Register because of its age and its survival through the years, but one day in its history made it a significant monument of the American Revolution. We have observed that Christopher Billopp was a British Loyalist and note here that for most of the years of the Revolution Staten Island was occupied by the British. Early in the War, however, on September 11, 1776 a delegation from the Continental Congress met here with Lord Richard Howe, the King's representative, to consider peace. John Adams, Edward Rutledge and Benjamin Franklin declared that they could negotiate only for independence, nothing less. Howe could not offer this and the chance for reconciliation passed. From this meeting the house took the name The Conference House and because of this meeting efforts were made to save the house and property as an historic site. Early efforts failed, but in 1926 Harmon Real Estate deeded the house and eleven building lots to the City of New York on the condition that it would be used for park, recreational or museum purposes (Zavin 1980:33).

## **D. THE WARD FAMILY**

Samuel Ward purchased the core 373 acres of the Billopp estate in 1781, excluding the family burials site and in 1790 deeded it to his son Caleb Ward. Both Samuel and Caleb occupied the house and farmed the land. Caleb was also a

carpenter. Samuel died in 1813 and Caleb in 1834. In 1835 the estate passed to Caleb Ward's children and grandchildren. Most of the family had moved to Michigan and the estate, now 226 acres, was sold in 1835 to Mary Grim, "a single woman of New York" (Zavin 1980 26-27).

Over the fifty-five years that the property was in the Ward family the southwestern tip of Staten Island took on the name Ward's Point.

## **E. ABSENTEE LANDLORDS**

After Caleb Ward's death no subsequent owners of the Billopp House property lived on the property. These owners acquired the land for investment or development. Mary Grim sold the property to Leonard Parkinson, a farmer of Southfield, and Richard B. Simonson of Castleton. Parkinson and Simonson were partners in various business dealings. Simonson appears to have conveyed his interest in the property to Parkinson and Parkinson's heir sold it to William H. Aspinwall in 1859 (Zavin 1980: 29-30).

Aspinwall was well established in Staten Island by 1859. His own home was a spectacular Gothic cottage with a stone tower overlooking the Narrows at the northern end of the Island. His interest in the property was for development. He owned more land in this portion of Staten Island and envisioned vast development. At his death in 1875 a street grid had been laid out and several lots had been sold.

Henry Eldridge purchased the property and sold it to the Bentley Manor Company. The Bentley Manor Company retained the street grid, renamed a couple of streets and ran out of money. Mortgage holder Charles Leland foreclosed in 1895. Leland continued to promote the development. At his death in 1925 Harmon Real Estate purchased the development (Zavin 1980: 32).

## **E. THE FERRY LANDING AND SHIPYARD**

West of the manor farm purchased by the Ward family was what became the ferry landing for a ferry to Perth Amboy. Just to the east of the landing a shipyard later developed. Both of these enterprises were at the end of Amboy Road, an early road traveling the length of Staten Island. A village grew up in this area in the 19th century and was called Tottenville. The ferry was referred to as Billopp's Ferry on early maps, but was most likely run for the Billopp family by tenants or leaseholders. The area of the old ferry, the village and Amboy Road are just outside the watershed for the project area.

## **F. THE PROJECT AREA**

We have found no indication that the construction zones in the project area were ever developed with structures. Historic maps studied show the Billopp House as the earliest structure on the Billopp property. A French 1771 map of the Bay of New York (FIGURE 4) shows the Billopp house as the only house on the Billopp property, although documents show that there were tenant houses there as well as parcels sold to others. The Loring McMillen 1933 Map of Staten Island During the Revolution 1775-1783, compiled from Maps and other sources shows the Billopp House as the only house at this point of the island (FIGURE 5). The McMillen map illustrates the development of the original Billopp property, but shows no

development along the stream within the project area. A structure is shown near the ferry, outside the project area.

In 1781 Christopher Billopp sold that portion of this property containing his house to Caleb Ward as Billopp, a Tory, knew his lands would be forfeited. The 1797 Sprong & Connor map of Staten Island reflects this change of ownership (FIGURE 6). The ferry, Amboy Road and the Ward House are the only features shown at this end of the island.

The 1853 Butler Map of Staten Island adds new information. The Ward family sold the estate in 1835. In 1853 Parkinson is shown as the owner of the Billopp House and two dwellings have been added to the east of this house. The closer consists of two buildings labeled Capt Spraen and the farther two buildings belonging to D. Robbins (FIGURE 7). To the west of the Parkinson house we find a developing village called Unionville. Four houses, two with the names S. Wood and J. Merserau, appear near the shipyard within the project area watershed. More house are found along Amboy Road. The Biddle House stands where Amboy Road meets the shore and eight more houses are along the road outside the watershed. This map also shows a proposed railroad that would have crossed the watershed had it been built.

The Capt. Spraen buildings are missing on the Walling 1859 map but reappear on the M. Dripps 1872 Map of Staten Island. The Robbins house is now the Hoboken Yacht Clubhouse. Very near the beach east of the yacht club are two buildings and a dock owned by Butler. The village along Amboy Road has grown.

Section 31A of the 1874 Beer's Atlas of Staten Island shows all of the buildings discussed this far. William Aspinwall now owns the Billopp House, 224 acres and the former Hoboken Yacht Clubhouse. J. Cole is at the Capt Spraen property. DC Butler still has his dock and buildings at the point. The stream called Uncle Ed Ward's Brook, along which the project area construction is found, is indicated on this map with no structures or features anywhere along its length. No structures are shown between those described and Garretson Avenue well north of the stream. Here, on Garretson is one house, but the area along Amboy Road is thriving.

The 1887 Beers Atlas, Section C shows the former Yacht clubhouse is now owned by Appleby. The cluster of houses just west of the Aspinwall house still exist and J. Rutan had added several outbuildings. C.C. Ellis is now in the Biddle House and owns twenty five acres with a pond just across Satterlee Street. The streets of Tottenville are dotted with houses.

On the 1890 Vermeule and Bien Topographical Map of Staten Island, it is apparent that a street, Raritan Avenue, has been put through from Satterlee to Aspinwall, crossing the Uncle Ed Ward's Brook in the project area (FIGURE 8). No structures are shown on this street.

On Plate 22 of the 1898 Robinson's Atlas of Staten Island, the subdivision, Bentley Manor, has had its street grid laid out. Uncle Ed Ward's Brook will be running between streets named Ridledge and Bentley. No houses have been built on these streets.

The 1912 Topographic survey of Staten Island shows this area similarly undisturbed.

## **F. EVALUATION OF HISTORIC-PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN AND NEAR THE PROJECT AREA**

Just east of the Conference House within Conference House Park, is the Cole-Decker house site. This property is also the location the Capt. Spraan house noted above. The Cole-Decker house dates to 1858. Its construction date is known as the first recorded discovery of the Native American burial was made during excavations for these buildings (New York Sun 1895). All that remains today of the Cole-Decker House are foundations and cistern (Florance 1982:2). As the Capt. Spraan house designation of 1853 predates this construction, we assume it was an earlier structure, long gone from this site.

## **G. CONCLUSIONS**

In summary, there are no historic-period archaeological resources in that portion of the project area to be impacted by construction. Foundations of the Cole-Decker House survive, but the structures are gone. These structures and foundations will not be impacted by the in-street sewer lines.

## V. FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Intensive field inspections were carried out within the Conference House Park Watershed. This included a pedestrian survey of two "Best Management Practices" sites, referred to as BMPs, which are being planned to control and cleanse storm water runoff. The fieldwork also included a vehicular survey of the roads within the project area, and pedestrian inspections of streets and environmental zones adjacent to BMP locations. The objectives of the field investigation included a search for and assessment of potential prehistoric and historic-period archaeological resources.

A proposed storm water and sanitary sewer network will be constructed within existing paved roadways that border the nationally recognized park (NYC DEP 2000). Although the streets are currently paved, there are no extant storm/sewer conduits in the roadbeds and these roadbeds are considered "relatively undisturbed" (Nolan Lau, personal communication, 5/18/01). The installation of the sanitary lines will extend to a depth of approximately 10 - 15 feet below grade but the exact location of the installations, approximately 4 - 5 feet wide, within each section of a street corridor is not known at this time. However, such installations often straddle the centerline (Ibid.). We conclude that the previously undisturbed street corridors in proximity to Conference House Park have MEDIUM potential for containing evidence of prehistoric occupation.

The two proposed BMPs were examined and are described and assessed. The archaeological sensitivity, i.e., the potential for containing evidence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources within these areas is presented.

### **BMP-CHP-1:**

This BMP is located on the south side of Clermont Avenue at its juncture with Finlay Street (FIGURE 9). A forebay and stream restoration extending for 600 feet south to BMP-CHP-2 is planned within this undeveloped section of Conference House Park. The proposed stream restoration corridor will be fifty feet wide.

This project site is wooded, low and flat with dense brush and briars on each side of the stream. Gravel piles and modern trash have been deposited in the area immediately adjacent to Clermont Avenue. A section of concrete sidewalk was observed adjacent to the stream, which was part of the proposed extension of Finlay Street to the south.

We observed the presence of oyster shell fragments on the east side of the stream in an area of elevated ground about 100 feet south of Clermont Avenue (FIGURE 10). In a previous survey of this area of Conference House Park, Pickman and Yamin (1988:7) examined the 1909 Borough of Richmond Topographic sheet and concluded "the brook appears to have run within relatively steep banks in this area with the land to either side sloping gently downward toward the south."

We conclude that this BMP site has HIGH potential for containing evidence of prehistoric occupation.

## **BMP-CHP-2**

BMP-CHP-2 is located on the north side of Billopp Avenue between Swinnerton Street on the east and Surf Avenue on the west (FIGURE 11). The proposed construction will include an extended detention pool, wetland enhancement and fringe planting surrounding the pool, and a micropool, vegetated berm and weir adjacent to Billopp Street.

This BMP is a low marsh or wetland area covered with phragmites surrounded by trees and brush. An unimproved dirt path extends north-south along the easterly side of the marsh. A section of concrete curbing is present nearby which indicates this was once a planned extension of Carteret Street between Clermont Street on the north and Billopp Street on the south. There is an old abandoned car, several tires and other modern trash in the vicinity of the marsh.

We observed the presence of oyster and clam shell fragments along the edge of a flat elevated area that borders the northeast side of the marsh (FIGURE 12). These fragments are eroding from the edge of the bank which suggests additional material may be present on the flat terrace in this location.

We conclude that BMP-CHP-2 has HIGH potential for containing evidence of prehistoric occupation.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Documentary research and field reconnaissance provided ample evidence of prehistoric occupation sites within Conference House Park and adjacent areas of the watershed which make up the project area. The entire watershed area has been identified by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission as highly sensitive for prehistoric resources. Historic and current land use, however, has rendered a significant portion of the watershed area, including highly developed and landscaped residential areas, extremely low in archaeological potential or sensitivity.

The street corridors within the Conference House Park Watershed that directly border the Park are considered highly sensitive for Native American materials.<sup>1</sup> This conclusion is due to the significance and sensitivity of the National Landmark, the relatively undisturbed roadbeds that surround the Landmark boundaries, and the informant data of a continuation of Native American materials recovered east of the bordering streets. Therefore, we recommend that archaeological testing be conducted in the following street beds prior to the installation of the storm and sanitary sewer network:

- Shore Road, west of Satterlee Street
- Satterlee Street, south of Shore Road
- Hylan Boulevard, west of Craig Avenue
- Massachusetts Street, south of Hylan Boulevard
- Clermont Avenue, between Massachusetts and Main Street
- Swinerton Avenue, south of Clermont Street
- Billop Street, west of Main Street

An appropriate research design for archaeological testing of these street corridors, in conjunction with a professional monitoring plan of adjoining street corridors, should be developed with the State Historic Preservation Office and implemented prior to and in conjunction with installation. See Figure 13 for the location of these streets.

In the course of our pedestrian reconnaissance of proposed BMPs CHP-1 and CHP-2 within the park, we located two zones having deposits of clam and oyster shells which suggest the presence or prehistoric middens at these loci. It is highly likely that other evidence of prehistoric occupation may be present at other locations within the proposed construction areas associated with the BMPs. Therefore, we recommend that intensive archaeological testing be conducted throughout the entire area of potential effect lying between Clermont Avenue and Billopp Street prior to the start of any construction activity.

We further recommend that (1) a topographic survey of the proposed impact area be conducted in order that the precise area of potential effect may be

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<sup>1</sup> There is an existing 25 foot sewer easement extending west of the western terminus of Hylan Boulevard but it apparently has not been previously impacted and there are no plans to utilize the easement at this time (Nolan Lau, personal communication, 6/4/01). There is an existing 42 inch intercepting sewer within the Hylan Boulevard corridor.

delineated and (2) vegetation removal in this potentially highly sensitive area be monitored by a professional archaeologist.

It is our understanding that no additional sewer lines or road construction is to be undertaken for this project within the Park. If this is not the case, archaeological investigations would need to be scheduled for those efforts, also.

## **B. HISTORIC-PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

The foundations of the Cole-Decker House are well outside the areas of proposed construction work. No historic period archaeological resources were found within the areas of potential effect. We conclude that this project will have no adverse impact upon any historic-period archaeological resources.

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2001 Lau & Shabunia, Consulting Engineers, P. C. Personal communication to Cece Saunders, 5/18/01 and 6/4/01.

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**New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)**

Files: Conference House Park. Provided by Dana Gumb, Director, Staten Island Bluebelt, NYCDEP.

**New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP)**

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**Platt, Edward**

2001        Personal correspondence to Cece Saunders, May 1, 2001. New York  
Institute of Anthropology, 17 Slosson Terrace, St. George, NY.

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1898        *Atlas of the Borough of Richmond*. New York.

**Schuberth, Christopher**

1968        *The Geology of New York and Environs*. The Natural History Press,  
Garden City, N.Y.

**Sprong and Conner**

1797        *A New and Correct Map of the County of Richmond*.

**Vermeule, C.C. and Julius R. Bien**

1890        *Richmond County (Staten Island), Atlas of the Metropolitan District and  
Adjacent Country*. On file Staten Island Historical Society Archives.

**Welles, Phillip**

1687        "Description of a survey of 1600 acres of land lying upon ye west end of  
Staten Island beginning upon the north side opposite to the land of  
Gabriel Minvielle laid out for Christopher Billop by Phillip Welles,  
Survey (with draught)." Photocopy of map on Zavin Conference House  
report, page 13.

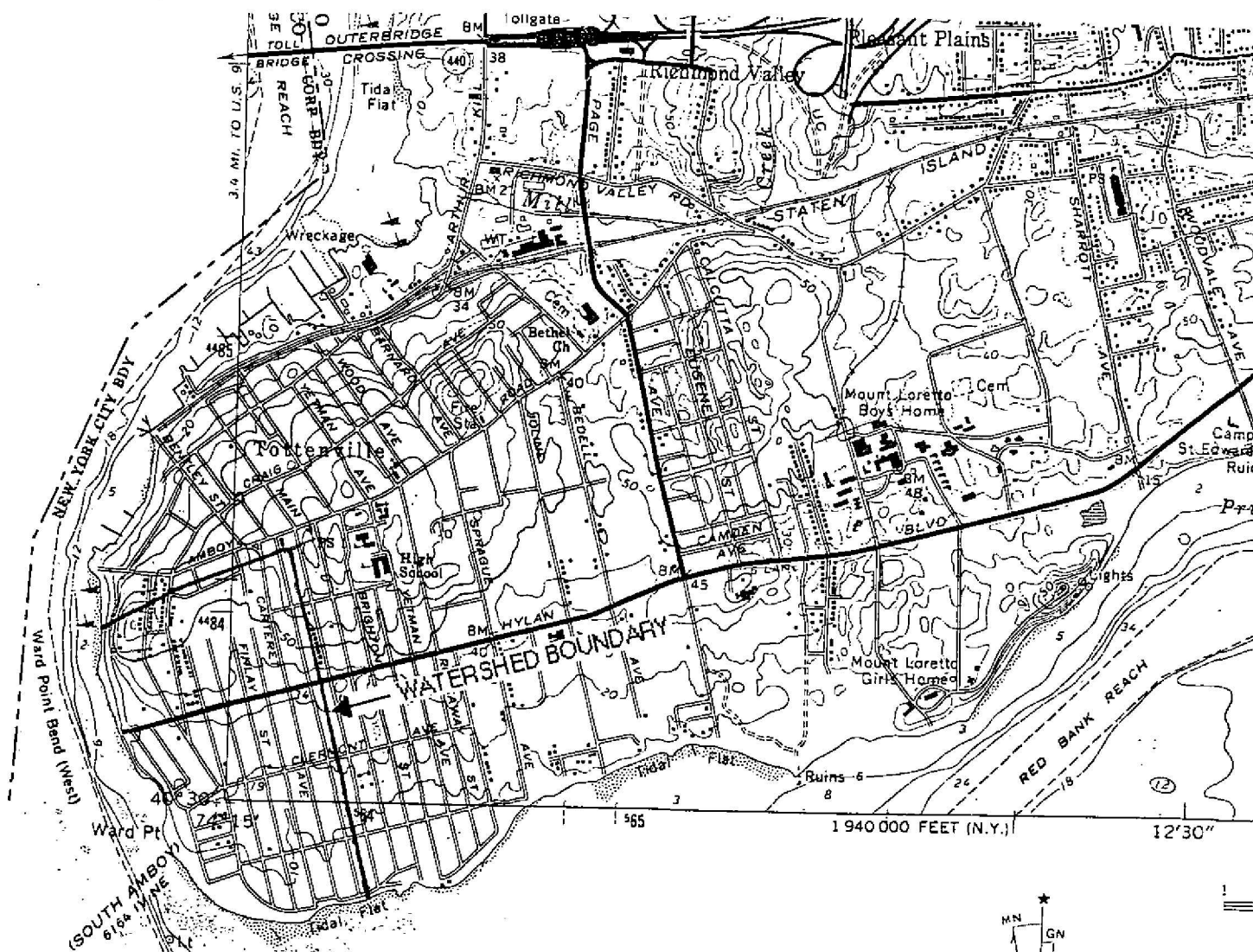
**Willensky, Eliot and Norval White**

1988        *AIA Guide to New York City*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers,  
New York, N.Y.

**Zavin, Shirley (compiler)**

1980        *The Conference House, Staten Island*. The NYC Landmarks  
Commission.

## VIII. FIGURES



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York Department  
of Transportation

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs and from NOS  
charts T-5105, T-5106, T-5107, T-5108, T-5109, T-5110 and T-8540

Topography in New York by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
1954. Field checked 1955. Topography in New Jersey by planetable surveys 1955  
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 285 (1966), 286 (1966),  
and 369 (1967). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

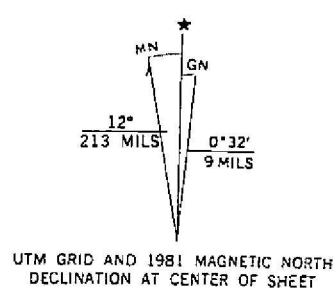


FIGURE 1: Portion of U.S.G.S. map Arthur Kill NY - NJ quadrangle showing location of project area.

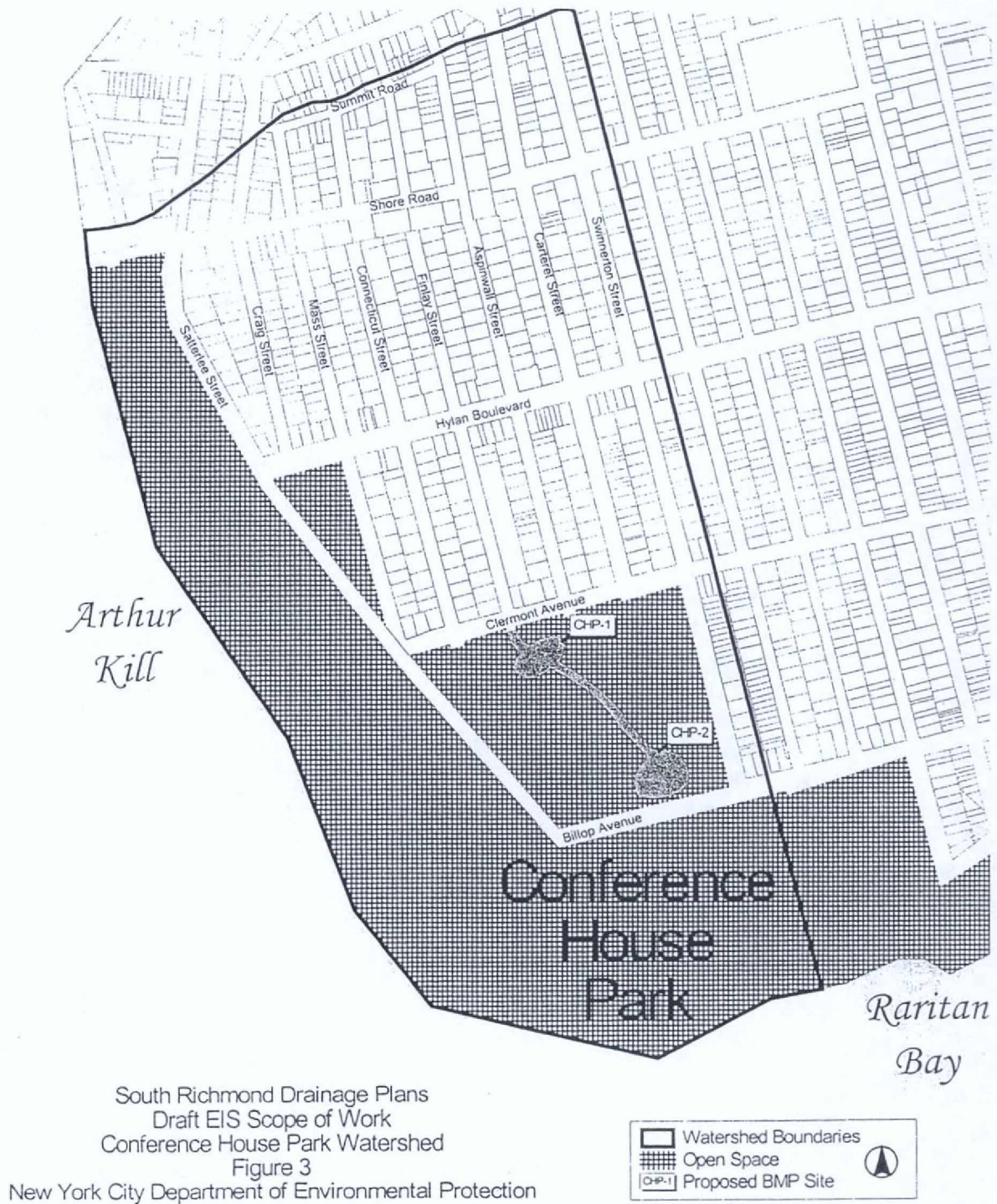


FIGURE 2: The Conference House Park Watershed Boundaries and BMP locations.

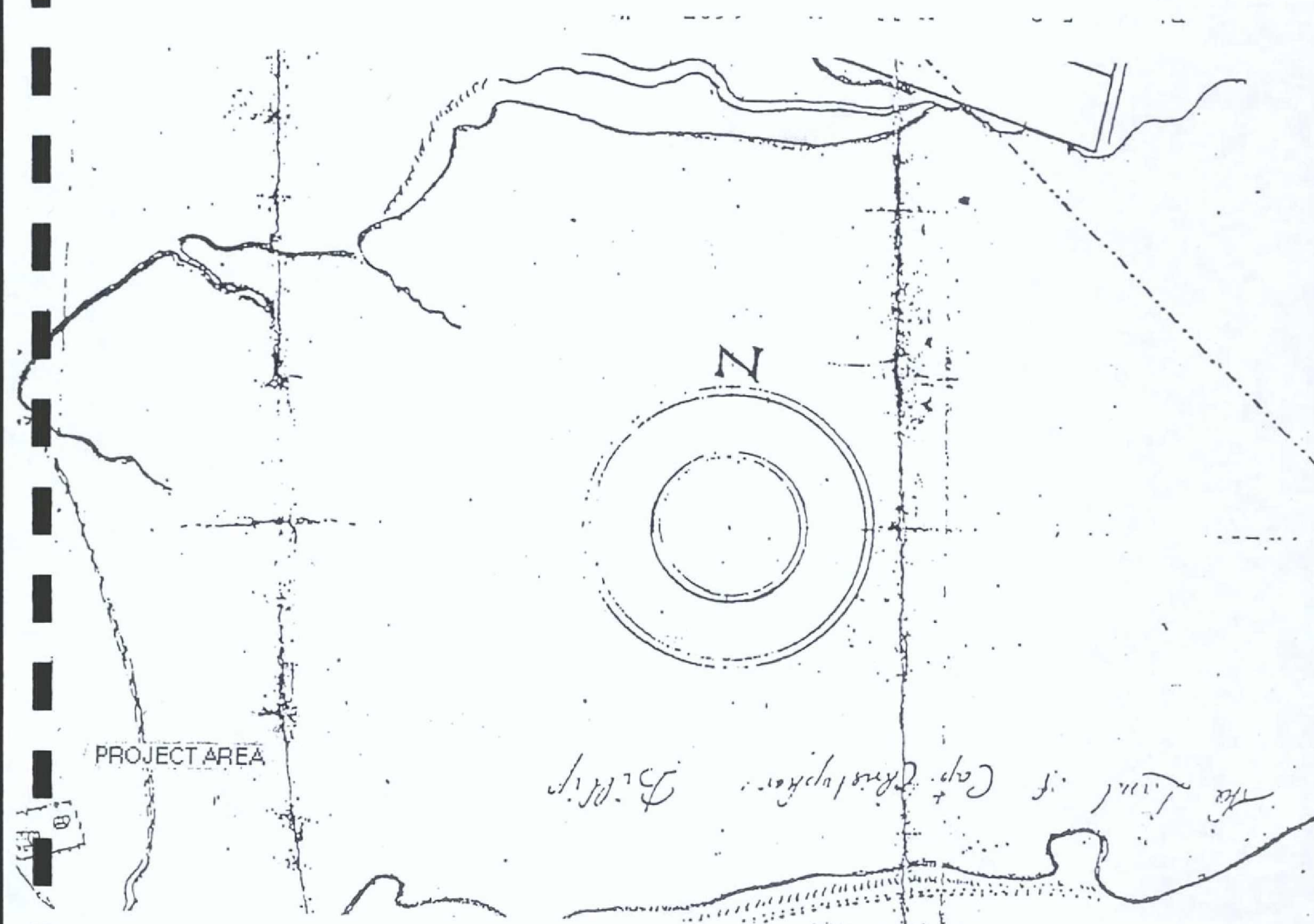


FIGURE 3: 1687 "Description of a survey of 1600 acres of land lying upon ye west end of Staten Island beginning upon the north side opposite to the land of Gabriel Minvielle laid out for Christopher Billop by Phillip Welles, Survey (with draught)." Photocopy of map reproduced in Zavin Conference House report (Zavin 1980:13).

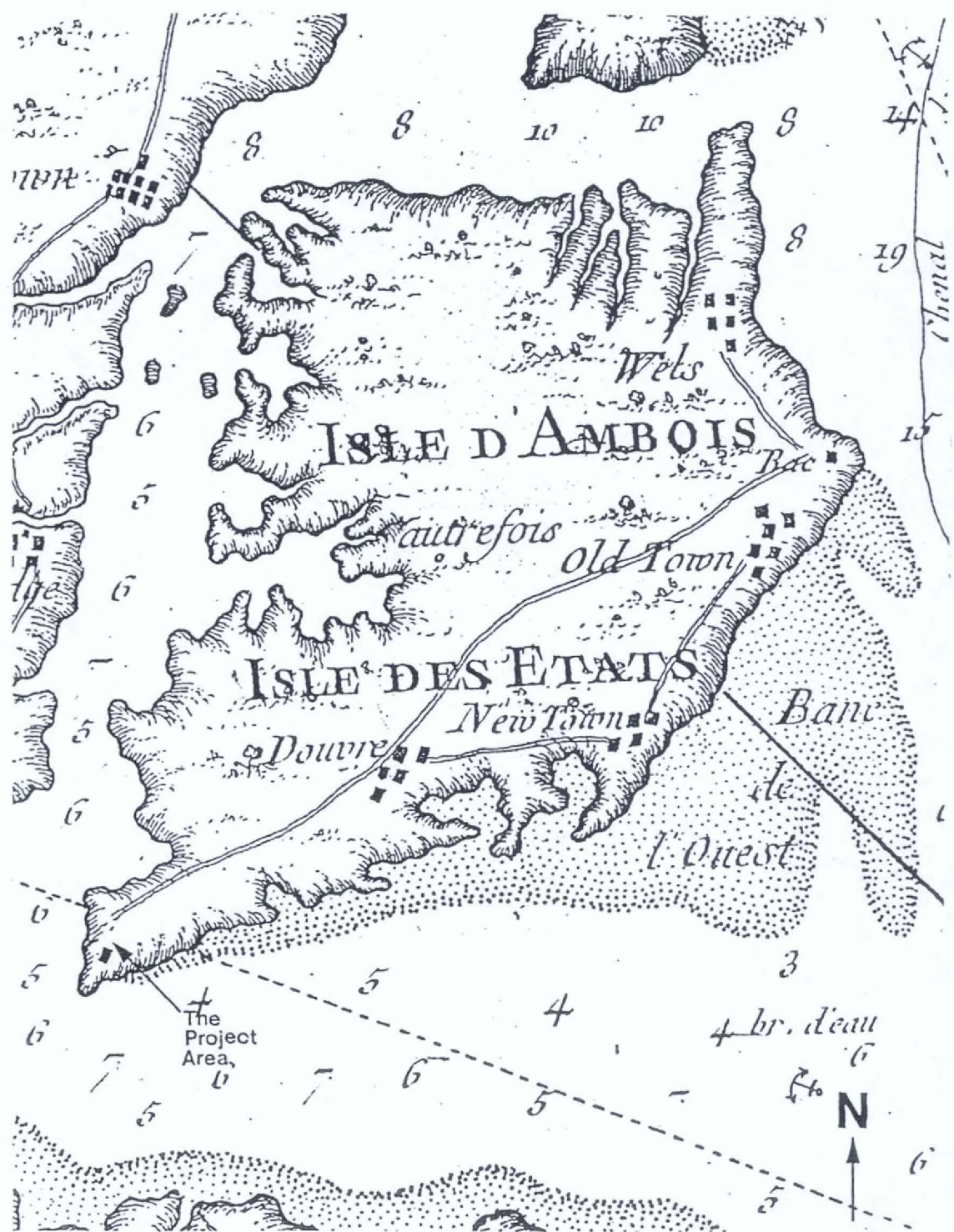


FIGURE 4: 1771 Baye et Port D'Yorc. On file Staten Island Historical Society Archives.

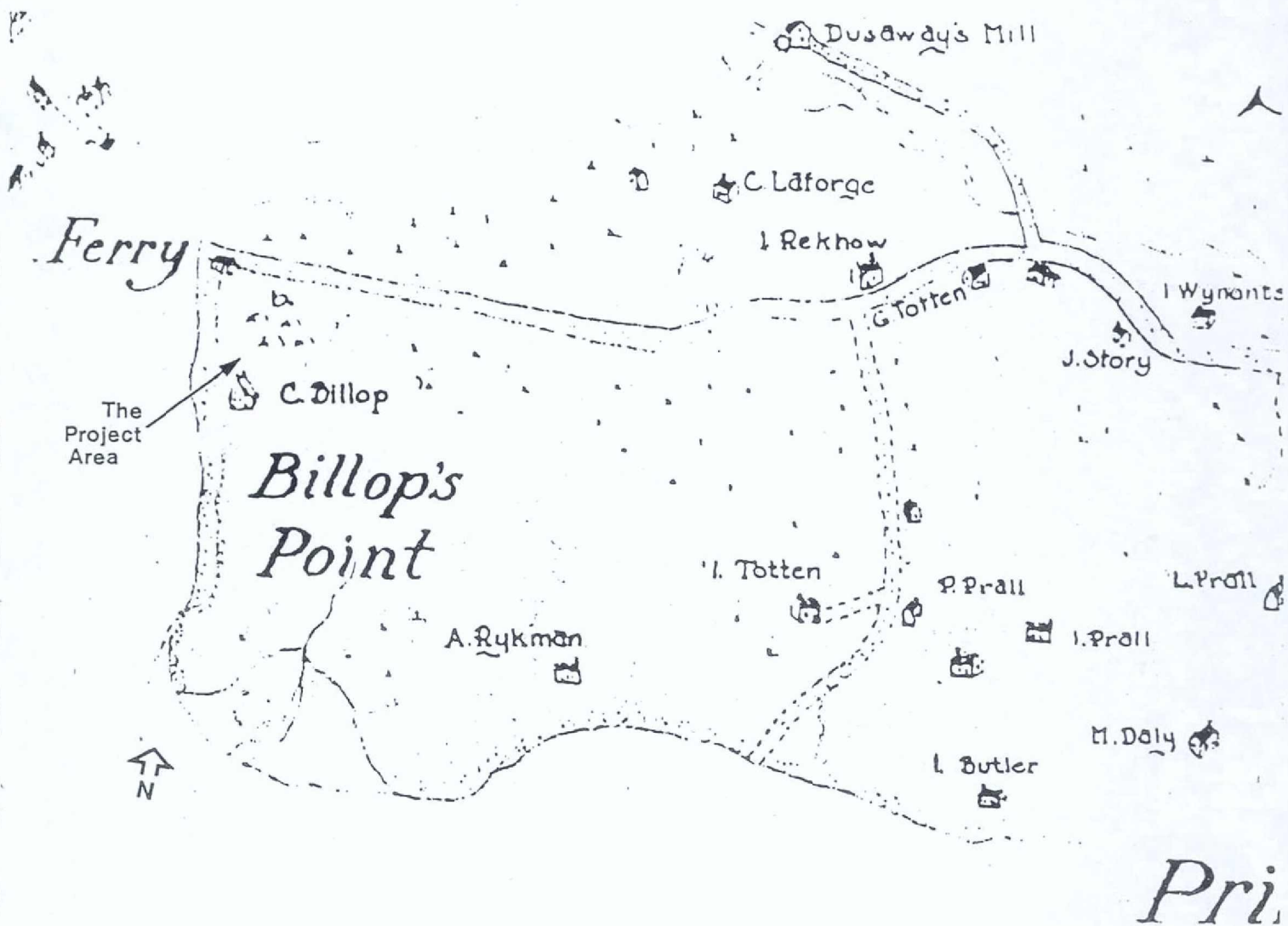


FIGURE 5: Portion of the 1933 Loring McMullen map of Staten Island during the Revolution, a map compiled from map of that era.

PERTH AMBOY.

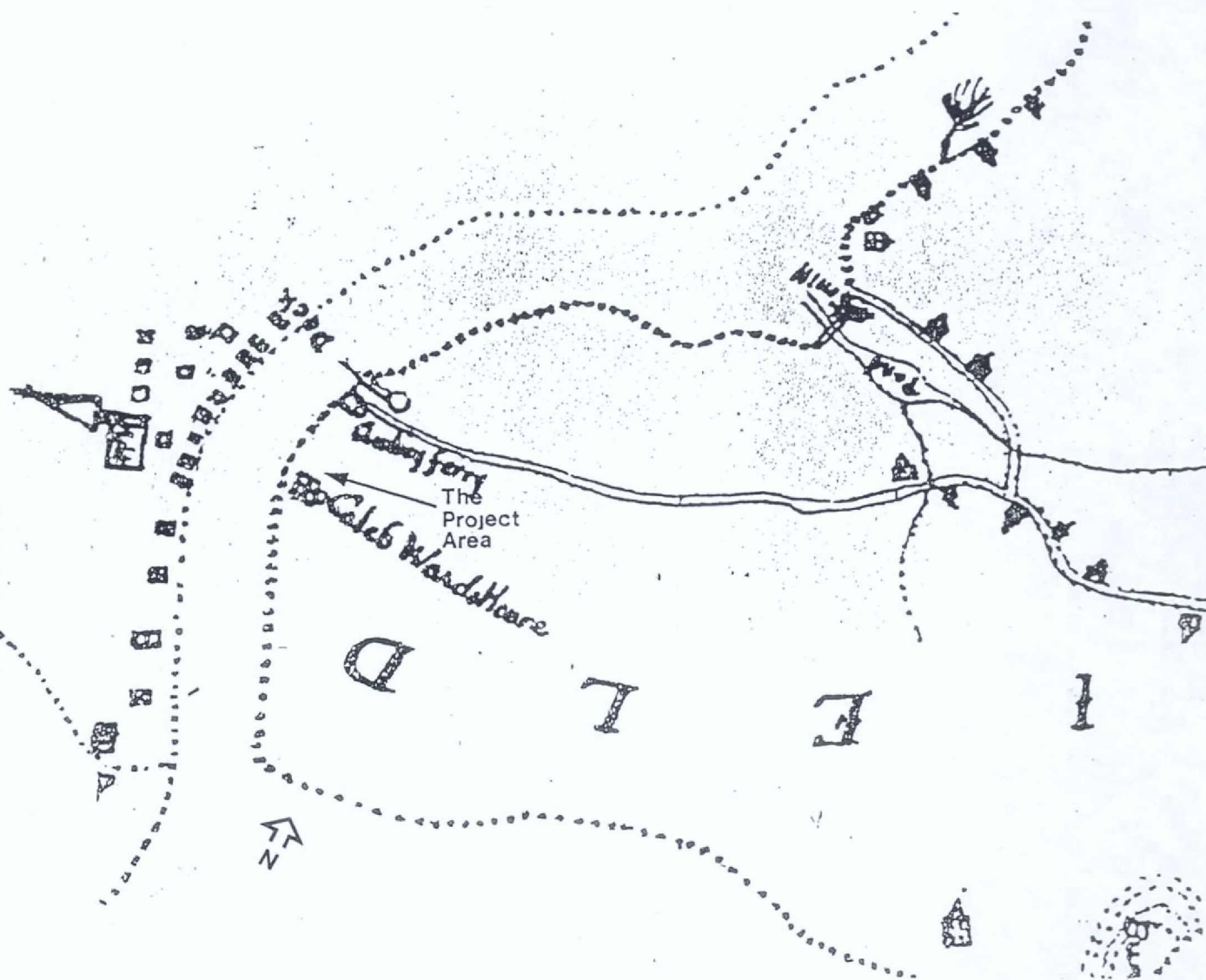


FIGURE 6: Portion of the 1797 Sprong & Connor map of Staten Island on which the Billopp House has become Caleb Ward's House.

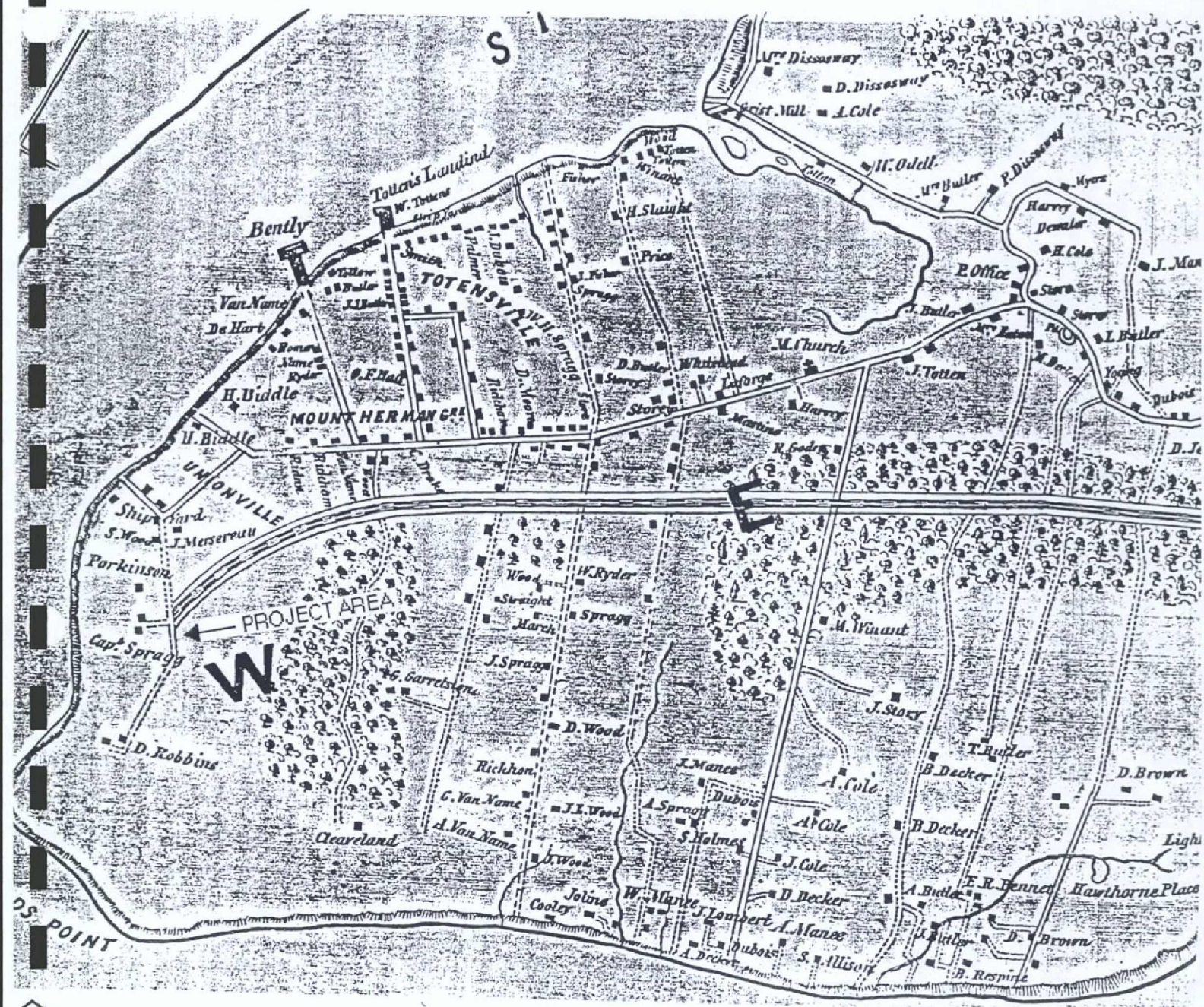


FIGURE 7: Portion of the 1853 Butler Map of Staten Island showing the project area.

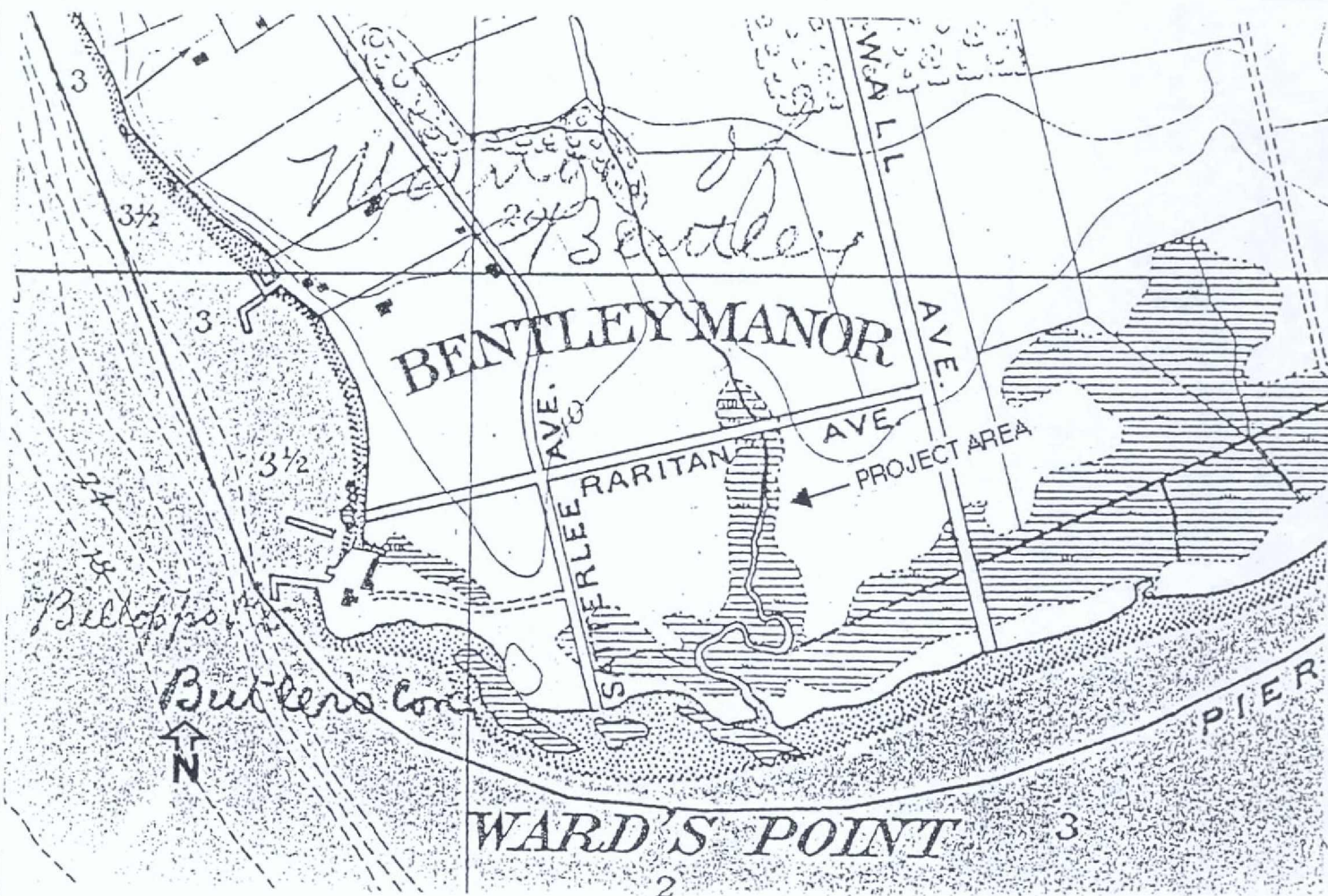


FIGURE 8: Portion of the 1890 Vermeule and Bien Topographic Survey of Staten Island.



FIGURE 9: Northern end of BMP CHP-1 at Clermont Avenue. View looking south.  
Photo by E.J. Lenik, February 2001.



FIGURE 10: Elevated ground within BMP CHP-1 containing oyster shells on surface. View looking north. Photo by E.J. Lenik, February 2001.



FIGURE 11: South end of BMP CHP-2 marsh at Billopp Avenue. View looking north. Photo by E.J. Lenik, February 2001.



FIGURE 12: High ground on northeast side of marsh, BMP CHP-2, containing surface deposit of shell. View looking northwest. Photo by E.J. Lenik, February 2001.

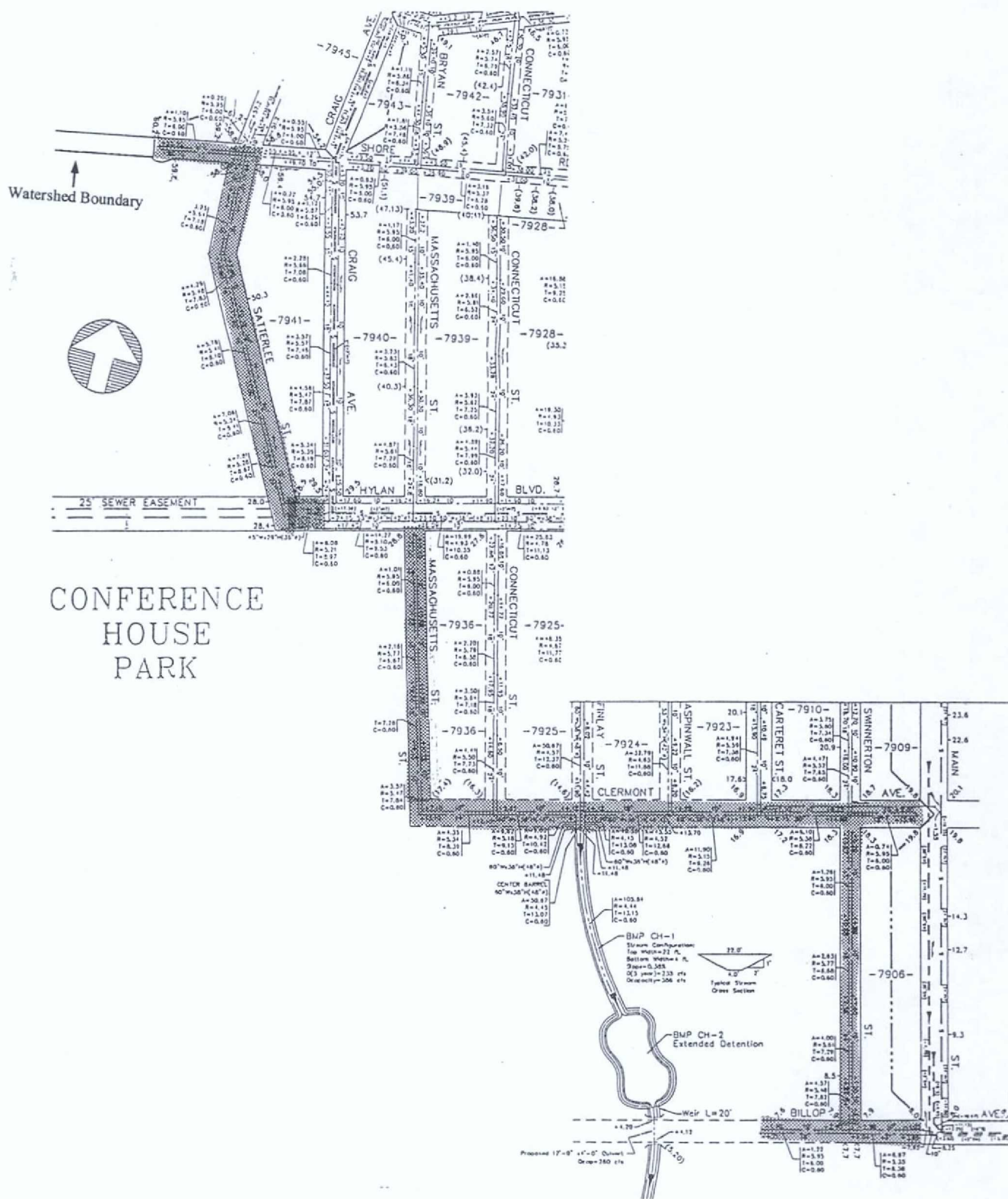


FIGURE 13: Archaeological Sensitivity for In-Street Storm/Sewer Installations

**APPENDIX A**

**Correspondence on the Location of the Proposed Installation in  
Relation to the Boundaries of the National Indian Burial Ground.**



Department of  
Environmental  
Protection

59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Corona, New York  
11368-5107

Joel A. Miele Sr., P.E.  
Commissioner

Douglas S. Greeley, P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner

Bureau of Water and  
Sewer Operations

Tel (718) 595-5330

Fax (718) 595-5342

dgreeley@nysnet.net



August 17, 2000

Ms. Jane P. Cleaver  
Chief of Parklands  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
New York, New York 10021

RE: SE-763/SE-764, Conference House Park - Borough of Staten Island

Dear Ms. Cleaver:

Thank you for your recent transmittal of the "Wards Point Archeological Site Report on Conference House Park [CHP], SI". On Figure 3 of that report, I have noted the location of the proposed storm water outlet into CHP, and the proposed BMP's. In addition, I have enclosed a copy of the scope of the proposed storm and sanitary sewer work. On this sketch is superimposed the boundary of the "National Indian Burial Ground" (NIBG) designation.

It is noted that the NIBG territory is two and-one-half blocks from location of the proposed storm water outlet and the proposed BMP's. Accordingly, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will continue with the design of this portion of the work, and DEP staff will continue to work closely with DPR's Natural Resources Group regarding natural resources matters, and the Environmental Assessment portion of the design study. However, as you noted, for any individual storm sewers, sanitary sewers, or water main work proposed in or abutting the NIBG area, these will be discussed with the State Office of Historic Preservation.

encl:

Sincerely,

John Vokral, P.E., Chief,  
Division of Capital Program Development and Planning

encl:

- c: T. Paulo, Borough Commissioner/Staten Island - DPR  
S. Mehrotra - Hazen and Sawyer  
M. Farag, F. Geier, N. Chaudhary, D. Gumb, E. Weiss, P. Chiang - DEP/BWSO  
A. Licata - DEP/OEP



City of New York  
Parks & Recreation

*Files - Conference House Park / Paul Chang*  
*cc: Dana [unclear]*

The Arsenal  
Central Park  
New York, New York 10021

Henry J. Stern  
Commissioner

Jane P. Cleaver  
Chief of Parklands

(212) 360-3401  
seeker@parklan.ci.nyc.ny.us

August 18, 2000

Ms. Deeya Deb  
Hazen and Sawyer  
Environmental Engineers and Scientists  
498 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10018

Re: Bluebelt at Ward's Point,  
Conference House Park

Dear Ms. Deb:

We received the attached documents from the National Park Service on the Ward's Point National Historic Landmark. Because of the language on page 19 of the registration form, "resources may exist beyond current nominated boundaries", your firm, acting as consultant for DEP, will need to coordinate with the State Office of Historic Preservation 212-694-3600 and the National Park Service 202-343-8166. Parklands and the Parks SI Borough Office should also be copied on any correspondence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need any further assistance please contact Ira Steinberg at 212-360-3411.

Sincerely,

*Jane P. Cleaver*  
Jane P. Cleaver  
Chief of Parklands

cc: T. Paulo  
I. Steinberg  
Jack Vokral - DEP  
John Sprinkle - NPS  
Richard Kerns - OPRHP  
File

**RECEIVED**  
AUG 21 2000

# Fax

Name: Ira SteinBerg  
Organization: City of New York, Parks & Recreation  
Fax: [212-360-3461Fax]  
Phone: 212-260-3411  
From: John Sprinkle *JAS*  
Date: 8-17-00  
Subject: Information on Wards Point NHL  
Pages:

Comments: [Thank you for your fax of 8-16-00. Attached is the information contained in our files regarding the location of the subject property. For further information you may wish to contact Mr. Bob Grumet in a Philadelphia office at 215-766-9187 as he prepared the property's nomination.]

**WARD'S POINT ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 19

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: 20 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing

A	18	563150	4483540
B	18	563360	4483600
C	18	563600	4483240
D	18	563340	4483210

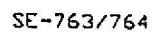
**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Situated within a section of the Conference House Park managed as a conservation area, the site is bordered on the east by the paved rights-of-way of Satterlee Street (deviating to follow the western property line of 298 Satterlee Street and the western and southern property lines of 300 Satterlee Street so as to exclude those properties), Massachusetts Street, and Surf Avenue (deviating to follow the northern property line of 780 Surf Avenue so as to exclude that property), on the south by paved and unpaved portions of McDonald Court (deviating to follow the northern property line of 10 McDonald Court and the northern and western property lines of 18 McDonald Court, so as to exclude those properties), and on the west by Raritan Bay. The site's northern border runs along the southern edge of the Conference House National Historic Landmark lawn covering the former terminus of Hylan Boulevard from Raritan Bay east to the present southeastern corner of Hylan Boulevard and Satterlee Street.

**Boundary Justification:**

The Ward's Point site encompasses archeological resources on and immediately adjacent to a bluff locally known as Burial Ridge investigated by archeologists George H. Pepper between 1893 and 1895, Robert D. Wainwright in 1897, Mark Raymond Harrington in 1920, and Jerome Jacobson in 1960.

Inaccessible or unsurveyed known or potential associated resources may exist beyond current nominated property boundaries. Such resources should be considered for inclusion within Ward's Point site boundaries pending changes in survey or accessibility status.



PDSR-2509

borough:  
Staten Island  
sewer in  
tween Main St.

**APPENDIX B**

**Letter from the New York Institute of Anthropology**



NYIA

Phone: [718] 815-6302

# New York Institute of Anthropology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH, FINE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

17 Slosson Terrace, Suite 2-F

St. George, N.Y. 10301-2506.

[CONFERENCE BY APPOINTMENT]

1 May 2001

Dr. Cece Saunders  
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3037  
Westport, Connecticut 06880-9998

Dear Cece,

The preliminary maps received of watersheds related to the proposed sewer installations in south Richmond County require far more detail information. What is needed are the actual maps of sewer lines. Based on that information we can become far more specific to archaeological impact concerns.

We are concerned with projects involving Clay Pit Ponds State Park. In particular areas to be disturbed going west toward the Arthur Kill shoreline. As you know there are Paleo-Amerindian sites in this area. A number of occupation sites in this area are presently under study by this agency. Additional information will follow under separate cover.

The situation in the Conference House watershed area is an extremely sensitive archaeological zone. While "Burial Ridge" to the south of the Billop Manor House is well known, there are also numerous known burial sites located to the north. Occupations sites are known south of Amboy Road and west of Craig Avenue. Extensive evidence extends into the backyards of private homes to the east of Satterlee Street.

My personal concern is going beyond the preliminary archaeological impact studies. When the construction backhoes commence excavations will there be on hand archaeologists to record and rescue cultural resources? Can work be interrupted in the event of exposed significant evidence? And burials? Contractors are notoriously known to be indifferent to such matters which delay their schedule. There should be in place reasonable control for rescue procedures.

Finally, what is to become of the cultural evidence assembled from this project? We believe the material should remain in a responsible agency here in Richmond County, for exhibit and future study. The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Science should be considered. More information will follow. Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

THE HERITAGE WE SAVE TODAY IS OUR LEGACY TO THE FUTURE