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PHASE 1A
7310/7316AMBOY ROAD RETAIL
BLOCK 7868 LOTS 19 AND 23
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK
DCP/05DCP073R

Rec'd UC
1/26/07

Prepared for:
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LIST OF PERSONNEL

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Phase 1A sensitivity evaluation is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed location of the Amboy Road Retail development in Tottenville, Staten Island, City of New York, Richmond County, New York. The evaluation will be done through the review of existing archival, cartographic and published references. Should the project area be judged to be sensitive to the preservation of archaeological remains from either period, then recommendations will be made for archaeological testing.

The project area is located in Tottenville along the southern side of Amboy Road, just west of the intersection with Sprague Avenue. The project area comprises approximately 3.1 acres and is made up of two adjacent lots: Block 7868 Lots 19 and 23. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

The nearest registered New York City landmark to the project area is Tottenville branch of the New York Public Library, which was designated during 1995. This building is located at 7340 Amboy Road, approximately 0.2 miles southwest of the project area. The library was built during 1903-1904 to a design by architects Carrere and Hastings. It was financed by Andrew Carnegie (Dolkart and Postal 2004: 363).

This study is organized in the following manner: first a section describes the geography and physical setting of the project area, second a section on the prehistoric sensitivity, third a review of the historic sensitivity, and finally the conclusions and recommendations

GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The Principal Investigator inspected the project area on foot during October 2006. The project area consists of two lots. There are no standing structures within the project area. The eastern lot is virtually level and nearly free of debris and overgrowth. It is covered only with low grasses. The western lot is also nearly level, but is heavily overgrown with trees and shrubs. It is also strewn with modern debris. Plate 1 shows the project area looking southwest from across Amboy Road. Plate 2 shows the project area looking southeast, also from the north side of Amboy Road. Plate 3 shows the eastern project area lot looking south southeast. The trees in the western lot can be seen overhanging the fence on the right side of the photograph. Plate 4 shows the western lot as seen from the eastern one. The overgrowth is clearly visible behind the fence.

There is only a reconnaissance soil survey of Richmond County available. That survey indicates that the project area contains only one variety of soil: Pavement & Buildings-Windsor-Verrazano Complex, 0 to 8% slopes. This very deep, well to excessively drained soil developed in outwash plains and is derived from loamy fill over sandy outwash sediments (New York City Soil Survey Staff 2005). See Figure 2.

PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished sources in the archives and library of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, and information collected by the Principal Investigator over the last 18 years. Some information in this last category is from the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Table 1 presents the results of search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area. Included are 19 sites or site complexes located within two miles of the project area.

Of the nineteen known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, a few, including Bedell Avenue, Surfside Village and Mount Loretto were excavated under controlled conditions. Most of the other sites were surface finds, less well documented excavated finds by local amateur archaeologists, or the usually completely undocumented finds of pothunters.

Alanson Skinner, one of the first professional archaeologists to work on Staten Island, characterized the locations chosen by prehistoric populations on the island as follows: "Throughout Staten Island, with very few exceptions, aboriginal sites are confined entirely to the sandy spots" (Skinner 1912: 90).

A number of these nineteen sites are known through the work of Arthur C. Parker, an early twentieth century New York State Archaeologist. Included are sites designated **L**, **M**, **Q** and **S** in Table 1. These sites were described as campsites or traces of occupation. We have supplied the names Kreischerville and Lemon Creek for sites L and S due to their locations near these localities. Unfortunately, no detailed descriptions of the artifacts recovered from these sites are supplied, so no estimates of date ranges can be made (Parker 1922).

The nearest site to the Amboy Road Retail project area is designated **A** in Table 1. This unnamed site is numbered 28 by Pickman. It dates to the Woodland period. Ceramics

and lithic tools were found on the surface here and reported by Jacobsen during 1980 (Pickman 1994). Site **A** lies approximately 0.4 miles to the northwest of the project area.

The second nearest site to the project area is Bedell Church, which lies approximately 0.4 miles to the northeast. A campsite dating to the Woodland period was found here according to the files of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (Pickman 1994: site 101). See **B** in Table 1.

A complex of five sites lies along Hylan Boulevard approximately 0.5 miles south southeast of the project area. These sites are Page Avenue North, Page Avenue South, Bedell Avenue, Joline Avenue Pool and Surfside Village. The Page Avenue sites have been assigned to the Archaic and Woodland periods. Page Avenue North included a burial. These sites probably represent a nearly continuous occupation extending across more than six blocks. The Page Avenue North site is thought to be a campsite. Artifacts recovered there include projectile points, flakes, a two-holed gorget, large blades, a decorated shaft weight, ceramic sherds, pestles, a graver, drills, knives, scrapers, a grooved ax, and decorated pendants. The deepest deposit found was at 22 inches below grade, where a mortar was uncovered. Anderson, the initial reporter, states that "...countless fires and shifting winds have altered this sandy site considerably..." (Anderson 1965: 64). A location to the east of that described above also produced a secondary burial of a child and dog. Fabric impressed pottery, a netsinker and a quartz projectile point were found associated with the burial. Radiocarbon dates from the Page Avenue North site ranged from 700 to 905 A.D. Historic period remains dating to the eighteenth century were also recovered here (Anderson 1966: 87-90; Pickman 1978: II: 23). See **C** through **G** in Table 1.

Another extensive complex of sites in this area is the Ward's Point/Burial Ridge complex, designated **K** in Table 1. Extensive shell mounds and a grooved ax were recovered here (Skinner 1909). Local lore states that "...the last known Indians to reside on Staten Island as a group, camped on the Billopp house property" (Anderson 1965: 62). The Burial Ridge portion of the complex contained more than 100 graves (Ibid.). Jacobson's report confirms the sandy nature of the soil. Artifacts recovered here indicate intermittent or continuous occupation from the Early Archaic through to the Late Woodland and Contact periods. This complex has been called the largest prehistoric cemetery in New York City (Jacobson 1980: 65-66).

The Kreischerville site is designated L in Table 1. This is also Parker's site ACP-Rich-16, characterized as a campsite. It lies approximately 1.1 miles north of the project area. The Kreischerville site has produced artifacts dating to the Paleo-Indian through Late Woodland periods (Pickman 1994: site 16).

Table 1: Prehistoric Sites

Site Name	SIAS #	Other #	Reference	Period(s)	Description
A. ---	STD-RJ		Jacobson 1980	W	Surface scatter
B .Bethel Church	STD-BC		SIAS files	W	Campsite
C. Joline Ave. Pool			Pickman 1994		?
D. Surfside Village			Roberts & Stehling 1987		Campsite
E .Bedell Ave			Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984		Lithic scatter
F. Page Ave. S.	30RIC7AJA	NYSM767	Kaesar 1966	A, W	?
G. Page Ave. N.	30RIC7AJA	NYSMN768	Anderson 1965	A, W	Burial, Campsite
H. Richmond Valley	STD-RV		New Bulletin 1961	W	?
I. Amboy/Hopping			Pickman 1988	W	Ceramics, debitage
J. Pittsville Ave.			Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984		Lithic scatter Proj. Point

Site Name	SIAS #	Other #	Reference	Period(s)	Description
K. Burial Ridge Ward's Point	STD-1-3	ACP-Rich NYSM4619?	Jacobson 1980 Skinner 1909	A, W, C	Burials, campsite, Poss. Village
L (Kreischerville)		ACP-Rich-16	Parker 1922:683		Campsite
M. Red Bank (Jack's Creek)	STD-PB	ACP-Rich NYSM741	Parker 1922: Pl.211 Skinner 1909 Salwen 1957	W	?
N. Mt. Loretto			Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984		Lithic scatter
O. Canada Hill		NYSM770	Williams n.d.		?
P. Sharrott Ave	STD-PB	NYSM740	Salwen 1957, 1967		?
Q. Kreischerville "Indian Fields"		ACP-Rich-13 NYSM771	Parker 1922:682 Yamin 1987 pers.comm		Traces of Occupation
R. ---			NSASI 1896		Lithics
S. (Lemon Creek)		ACP-Rich	Parker 1922:pl.211		Traces of Occupation

In terms of potential prehistoric sensitivity, the project area was evaluated from two points of view:

1. the proximity of known prehistoric sites, and
2. the presence of fresh water sources in general, and particularly the identification of river or stream confluence situations where two or more drainages come together, providing access to water and food supplies of both systems.

This survey has documented the recorded locations of nineteen prehistoric sites within two miles of the Amboy Road Retail project area. These sites are from all periods of prehistory. Although sites have been identified in the general region of the project area, none have been identified on or adjacent to the project area. The nearest source of fresh water was a stream approximately 0.5 miles to the southeast. This lack of readily available fresh water makes it less likely that the project area was occupied during prehistory, particularly as a permanent settlement. The presence of sandy soil within the project area indicates that occupation was possible, most likely as a temporary or seasonal hunting camp. However, this location has evidently been developed since the 1830s, so the chance of finding any undisturbed prehistoric remains here is slim.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

The first European documented to have set foot on Staten Island was Henry Hudson, who anchored at Sandy Hook on September 3, 1609. Ten days later he sailed up the Hudson river, taking two Staten Island natives with him. They escaped by jumping overboard at West Point (Bayles 1887: 44-45). The natives of Staten Island were members of the Delaware nation. They called their island Aquehonga Manacknong or Eghquaons. The last natives to sell land rights on Staten Island were the Hackensack, who sold to the English on April 13, 1670 (Grumet 1981: 2, 54). Hudson named the island "Staaten Eylandt" after the States General of Holland. He claimed all the land between the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers where furs were plentiful, and named it new Netherlands (Clute 1877: 8; Kolff 1926: 16).

The Dutch West India Company was chartered during 1621, and was given authority over all matters related to New Netherlands (Clute 1877: 12-13). The authority granted to the Dutch West India Company included the issuing of land grants.

The first grant of land on Staten Island was made in 1630 to Michael Pauw. Pauw failed to establish a permanent settlement or even to build any roads. A second grant was then made to David Pietersen de Vries on August 13, 1636. He established a settlement in or near Oude Dorp (Bayles 1887: 63-64). A large grant was issued to Cornelius Melyn during 1641. He also established a settlement, but it was virtually destroyed after trouble with the natives. Melyn also had difficulties with the governor. Melyn sold his interests back to the Dutch West India Company during 1659 (Ibid.: 66-71). None of these events took place in southwestern Staten Island.

The Dutch surrendered New Netherlands to the British during 1664, and the colony was renamed New York. Francis Lovelace, the British governor, made the final purchase of Staten Island from the natives during 1670 (Kolff 1926: 22).

During the period from 1665 through 1668, it was disputed whether Staten Island was a part of New Jersey or New York. The Duke of York decreed that all islands lying in the harbor of New York that could be circumnavigated within 24 hours were parts of New York. Captain Christopher Billopp successfully undertook this task in his vessel the Bentley. The island was claimed for New York, and the Duke bestowed upon Billopp

the grant of a large piece of land, which Billopp named the Manor of Bentley (Clute 1877: 48; Morris 1898: I: 136-137).

Frederick Skene's 1907 map shows the colonial land patents. The project area lies within an area labeled *Christopher Billopp*. Two grants are listed: *March 25, 1676 922 ac.* and *May 6, 1687 1600 ac.* See Figure 3. There are various figures offered for the acreage of the initial grant. Clute state that it was for 1163 acres (1877: 48).

The first assembly of the colony of New York, held during 1683, adopted a bill of rights. This bill included the establishment of counties, and Staten Island became Richmond County. There were approximately 200 families residing in the county at this time. Five years later Richmond County was divided into four towns (Bayles 1887: 90). The project area became a part of Westfield at this time. It appears that the Amboy Road was officially laid out during 1694. As part of an order to lay out roads issued on September 9, 1694, a "highway between Mr. John Lecont and Capten Bilope of six rod" was created (Morris 1898: II: 445-446).

Staten Island was poorly defended just prior to the Revolutionary War. The people were fairly evenly split. Those of British descent were mostly Tories, while those of Dutch descent were mostly patriots. The French were split between the two camps (Bayles 1887: 157-8). The island was regarded as militarily important due to its location, and the British had some troops there by May 1776. The British General Howe landed on the eastern end of Staten Island with 9000 troops on July 2, 1776. Shortly after this, his brother Lord Admiral Howe, arrived with a naval force and anchored off Staten Island. Lord Howe brought an additional 20,000 troops to the island (Bayles 1887: 168-172; Clute 1877: 84-5). The British built fortifications at Richmond, Fort Hill near New Brighton, and the Narrows (Bayles 1887: 174-5).

British troops were taken from Staten Island for the Battle of Long Island. After the capture of New York City, more troops were taken. The Hessians under Knyphausen remained. Several hundred Staten Island Tories served as militia for Howe under the command of Major-General Tryon (Bayles 1887: 180-5). Many rebels fled to New Jersey. Raids were made back and forth between the island and New Jersey (Clute 1877: 86; Bayles 1887: 183). The action nearest to the project area was probably the capture of Colonel Christopher Billopp on November 6, 1779. Colonel Billopp was a loyal Tory who had received a commission in the Royal Army. He commanded a

regiment of native loyalists, mostly Staten Islanders. The Patriots of adjacent New Jersey were particularly hostile towards him. They observed him entering his house along the shore that evening from a church steeple in Perth Amboy by means of a telescope. They manned boats and immediately went across the Arthur Kill to Staten Island where they captured Colonel Billopp. He was taken back to New Jersey and imprisoned (Clute 1877: 50-51). Colonel Billopp sold off parts of his estate during the war. He sold two tracts of 20 and 3.5 acres to Joseph Totten during May 1780 for 235 Pounds Sterling. Later that month Billopp sold 60 acres to Benjamin Drake. One year later he sold the 373 acre tract opposite Perth Amboy to Samuel Ward for 3730 Pounds. The remainders of Billopp's holdings were sold by the Commissioners of Forfeiture for Southern District of New York (Morris 1898: 142-143).

The settlement now known as Tottenville had several prior names. It was first known as part of the Manor of Bentley, the name for the Billopp estate. For many years the settlement was called *West Quarter*. Later it became *Bentley* and finally Tottenville (Morris 1898: II: 441). The 1850 and 1853 maps use the name Unionville, but by 1859 the area is clearly labeled Tottenville. Arentsville was another name used during the nineteenth century. The post office was changed from Bentley to Tottenville during 1862. An attempt was made to incorporate Tottenville as a village during 1869, but the charter was flawed and the effort failed. Tottenville was finally incorporated as a village during 1894, a status which lasted until the 1898 amalgamation of the island into New York City. The local water works opened during 1897. The post office was briefly known as Bentley manor during 1910 (Morris 1898: II: 441; Leng & Davis 1930: I: 329-330, 351).

Cartographic Evidence:

A series of maps depicting the project area and vicinity during the late eighteenth through early twentieth centuries were examined as part of this research. The earliest of these is Plan No. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island de 1780-1783. See Figure 4. This map shows the Amboy Road, but there is nothing shown along the road between the ferry and a group of structures at the present Richmond Valley.

The next available depiction is taken from the U. S. Coast Survey, published in 1845 but surveyed during 1836 through 1839. This map shows the project area lying within a developed location along the south side of the present Amboy Road. This is the only part of Amboy Road with development along both sides. The scale of this map

precludes locating the project area with certainty, so we cannot state whether it includes a structure, but it is within a developed section. See Figure 5.

Figure 6 is taken from J. C. Sidney's 1850 Map of Staten Island or Richmond County. The project area appears to include one house. The label *Unionville* is shown to the southwest of the project area.

The 1853 Butler map is the source of Figure 7. This map shows the project area including one of the four structures on the south side of the block. This settlement has at least two names. Northwest of the project area is the label *Totensville* and southwest is *Unionville*. *Totensville* is a corruption of Tottenville.

Figure 8 presents the entire detail of Tottenville from the 1859 Walling map. The project area includes one structure labeled *E. P. Wood*. Tottenville extends from the landing at the western end of Amboy Road northeast to Central Avenue, now Joline Avenue. The project area lies in the east-central part of the settlement.

Figure 9 is taken from the 1874 Beers Atlas. The project area is now shown as two lots, with one structure near the northern end of each lot. The eastern lot is labeled *J. Van Pelt*. The western lot remains labeled *E. P. Wood*.

The 1887 Beers Atlas continues to show the same situation seen in 1874. See Figure 10.

Figure 11 is taken from the 1898 Robinson Atlas. Ownership of both lots has changed. The eastern lot is now labeled *Z. Graham*. The western lot is labeled *E. Peterson* and now has a barn or stable shown near its southeastern corner.

The 1907 Robinson and Pidgeon Atlas shows only one change since 1898. The three structures seen within the project area remain. The eastern lot is still labeled *Z. Graham*, but the western one now reads *N. Neender*. See Figure 12.

Figure 13 is taken from the 1911 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey. This is the most accurate map of Staten Island ever created. The eastern project area lot still includes the house near the northern end, but now also has a small outbuilding near the center of the eastern side. Changes have been made to the house in the western lot.

This house which appeared to have an extension on the southwestern corner in the 1907 map now has a larger extension along the entire western side. The barn or shed near the southeastern corner remains. A new outbuilding has been added to the center of the lot.

The 1917 Bromley Atlas is the source of Figure 14. This map shows changes to both project area lots. The eastern lot has lost the outbuilding along the eastern boundary and now has another outbuilding near the center of the rear yard. The house and the barn remain in the western lot, but the central outbuilding is no longer shown.

The most recent depiction presented here is taken from the 1917 Sanborn map updated to 1936. No major changes are seen in the two lots. This map provides details of the structures. The house in the eastern lot is a rectangular two story dwelling with a one story porch on the front and a small one story extension on the rear, probably the kitchen. The outbuilding is a one story garage. The western lot includes a large two story structure in two sections. The eastern end is labeled "S" for a store, and the western part is a dwelling with a porch on the northern and western sides. There is also a two story barn or stable near the southeastern corner of the lot.

Chains of title were established for both project area lots. This was done at the Richmond County Clerk's Office by working back from the present ownership. It was possible to take Lot 23, the eastern lot, back to a sale in 1875, but the chain for western Lot 19 was lost since it went back to sale by the City of New York after foreclosure for unpaid taxes during 1963. The chain was picked up again from the name Wood on the 1874 Atlas.

Chain of Title for Block 7868 Lot 19

Grantor	Grantee	Registered	Liber:Page
Horowitz, Helen	Deborah Turgeman	Jan. 14, 2000	9811:0024
Zylberberg, Abram	Ignatz Horowitz	Nov. 30, 1977	2226:0159
City of New York	Abram Zylberberg	Mar. 24, 1964	1641:0065
Gap			
Peterson, Nils P. E.	Nicholas Neander	Sept. 24, 1903	298:251
Wood, Mary (exec.of)	Frederick C.E. Peterson	Feb. 18, 1890	198:92

Chain of Title for Block 7868 Lot 23

Grantor	Grantee	Registered	Liber:Page
Bougades, Robert	Z & F Enterprises, LLC	July 14, 2005	????:????
Lotvin, Bernard	Robert Bougades	June 25, 1971	1948:0047
Macan, Harry C.	Leon Lotvin	July 12, 1929	687:101
Graham, Eliz. C.	Harry C. Macan	May 9, 1922	549:60
Van Pelt, Gertrude E.S. Van Pelt, John M.	Zachariah J. Graham	Jan. 18, 1883	145:521
Van Pelt, John M	Gertrude Eliz. Selover	July 7, 1875	111:586

In summary, the deed evidence confirms the ownership information taken from the cartographic evidence. The name Neander was corrupted on the 1907 Atlas. Gertrude Elizabeth Selover married John M. Van Pelt sometime after he sold her this eastern lot. They then sold the lot to Graham during 1883.

Information was then sought on the family names listed on Figures 8 through 14, or in the chains of title as landowners. The earliest two names are Wood and Van Pelt. The Wood family owned the western project area lot prior to February 1890. The cartographic evidence shows that they owned it by 1859, and that they had built a house

there. The Wood family has been on Staten Island since 1685 or earlier. A Richard Wood received a patent for 80 acres in the vicinity of Woodrow on October 20, 1685, as seen on the 1907 Skene map of Colonial land Patents. Their names appear in church records from 1727 until the end of the eighteenth century (Morris 1898: II; 128). The Van Pelts owned the eastern lot from before July 1875 until January 1883. They probably built the house which first appears on the 1874 Beers Atlas. The Van Pelt family has been on the island since 1680, when Jan Theunissen Van Pelt received a grant of land. The Van Pelt homestead was at Woodrow. There are many mentions of them in eighteenth century church records, and there many Van Pelts on the island by the end of the nineteenth century (Morris 1898: II: 123-124; Leng & Davis 1930: II: 969).

Lot 19, the western project area lot, was owned by the Peterson family during 1897 when the public water supply became available, but was sold to the Neander family during 1903. Either family could have been responsible for hooking up this house to the public water. Nothing could be found on either of these families. The eastern lot, number 23, was owned by the Graham family from 1883 through 1922, so there is little doubt that they were the owners when the house first had public water supplied. The purchaser of the lot, Zachariah J. Graham, was baptized on December 11, 1861 at Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church, according to records on file at the Staten Island Historical Society.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above text has documented that the Amboy Road Retail project area may preserve evidence of its use during the prehistoric period. The project area is located within two miles of nineteen known prehistoric sites. Sandy soil exists within the project area which is relatively level. It appears that freshwater was only available at a distance of 0.5 miles. This makes it unlikely that the project area was ever the location of a permanent prehistoric occupation, but could have been used as a temporary hunting camp. However, the fact that this area has been developed since the 1830s makes it unlikely that any prehistoric remains could survive here undisturbed.

The second section on historic sensitivity provides evidence that both project area lots had structures on them prior to the introduction of the public water supply. Although no information was found for the introduction of sewers in Tottenville, this event must have taken place during the twentieth century. Both properties would have had both wells or cisterns, as well as privies. These shaft features would have been filled after they went out of use. There is reasonable certainty that the eastern project area lot (number 23), was owned by the Graham family during the time of water hookup, and possibly also the sewer hookup. This lot appears only to have been used for a dwelling. The western lot (number 19) could have been owned by the Peterson or Neander families during the time of the water hookup. This lot was also used for a store as well as a dwelling, thus complicating the issue who may have filled the shaft features.

It is our recommendation that although historical archaeological resources may be present at Block 7868, Lots 19 and 23, a Phase 1B archaeological testing is not recommended. Lot 19 has a critical gap in the chain of title, thereby rendering the exact identity of the occupants as unknown when the sewer and water hookups occurred. Although the Graham family was identified as occupants at Lot 23, when hookups occurred, nothing else is known about the family except for the baptism of Zachariah J. Graham in 1861 at the Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church. The socioeconomic status of these families and their place in local Staten Island history is unknown. Due to the lack of knowledge about greater details of these families, further archaeological testing is unwarranted at this project area.

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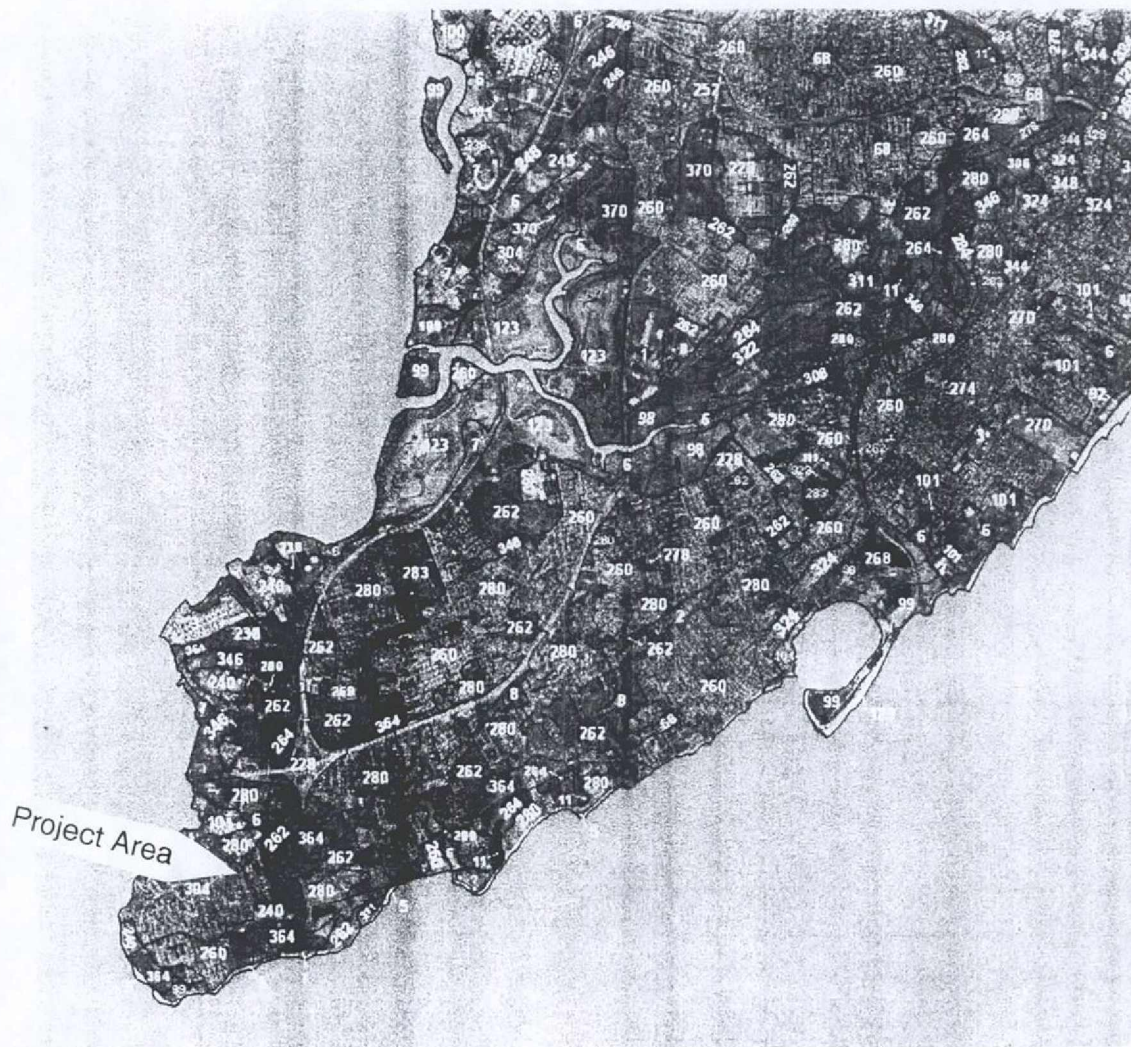
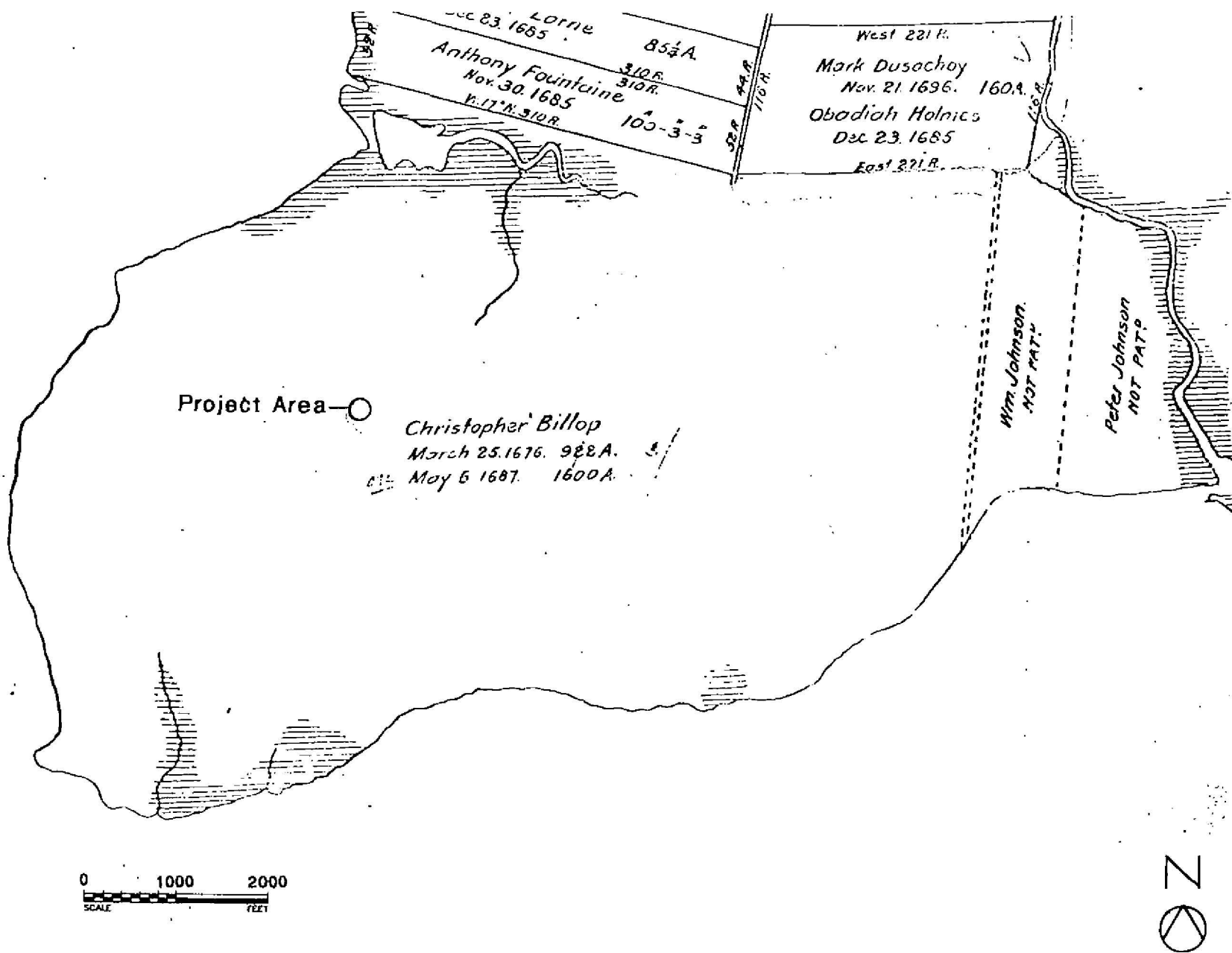


Figure 2 From the 2005 New York City Reconnaissance Soil Survey map.

Figure 3 From Skene's 1907 Map of Staten Island, Showing Colonial Land Patents 1668-1712.



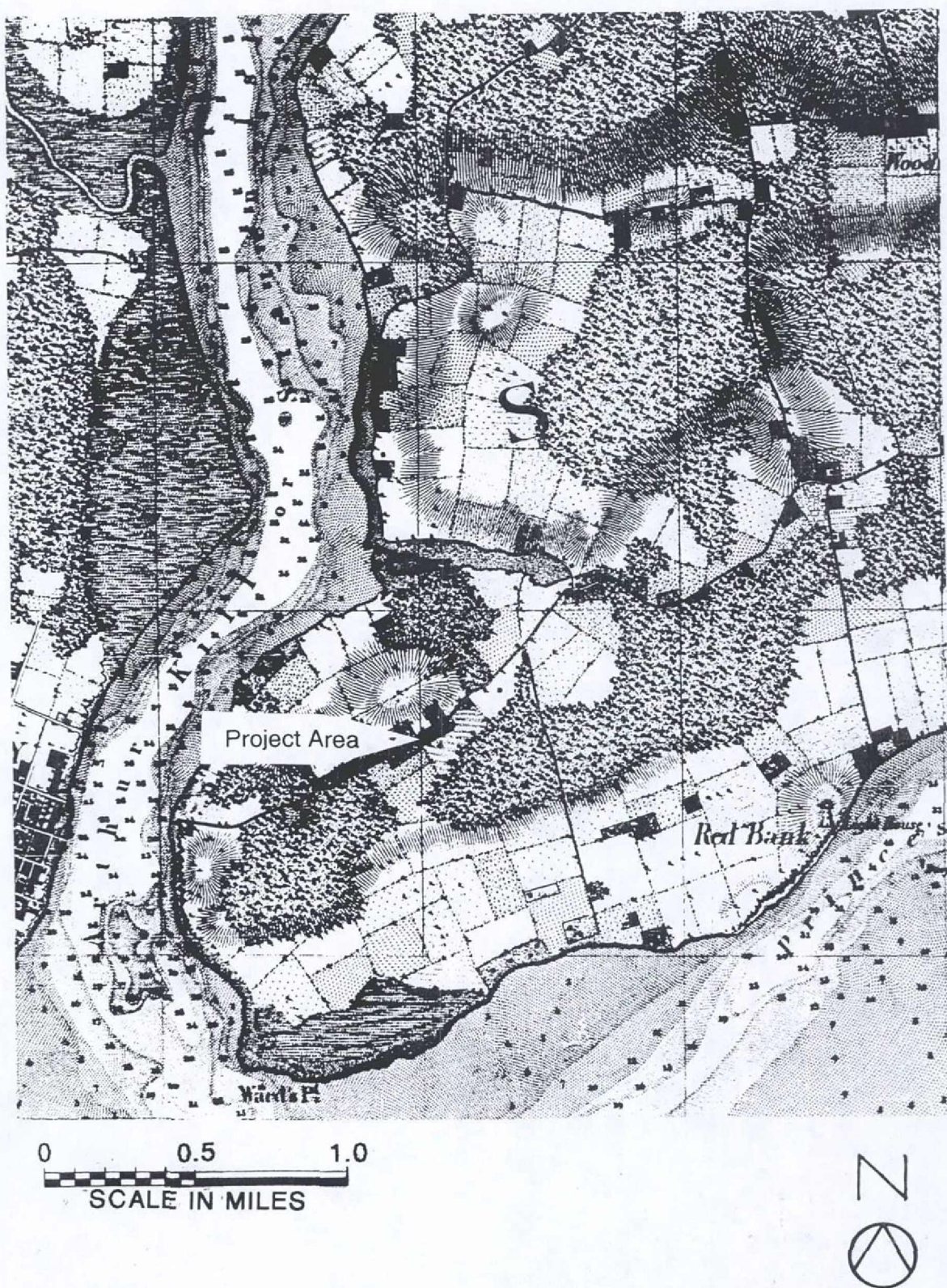


Figure 5 From the U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor 1836-1839 (published 1845).

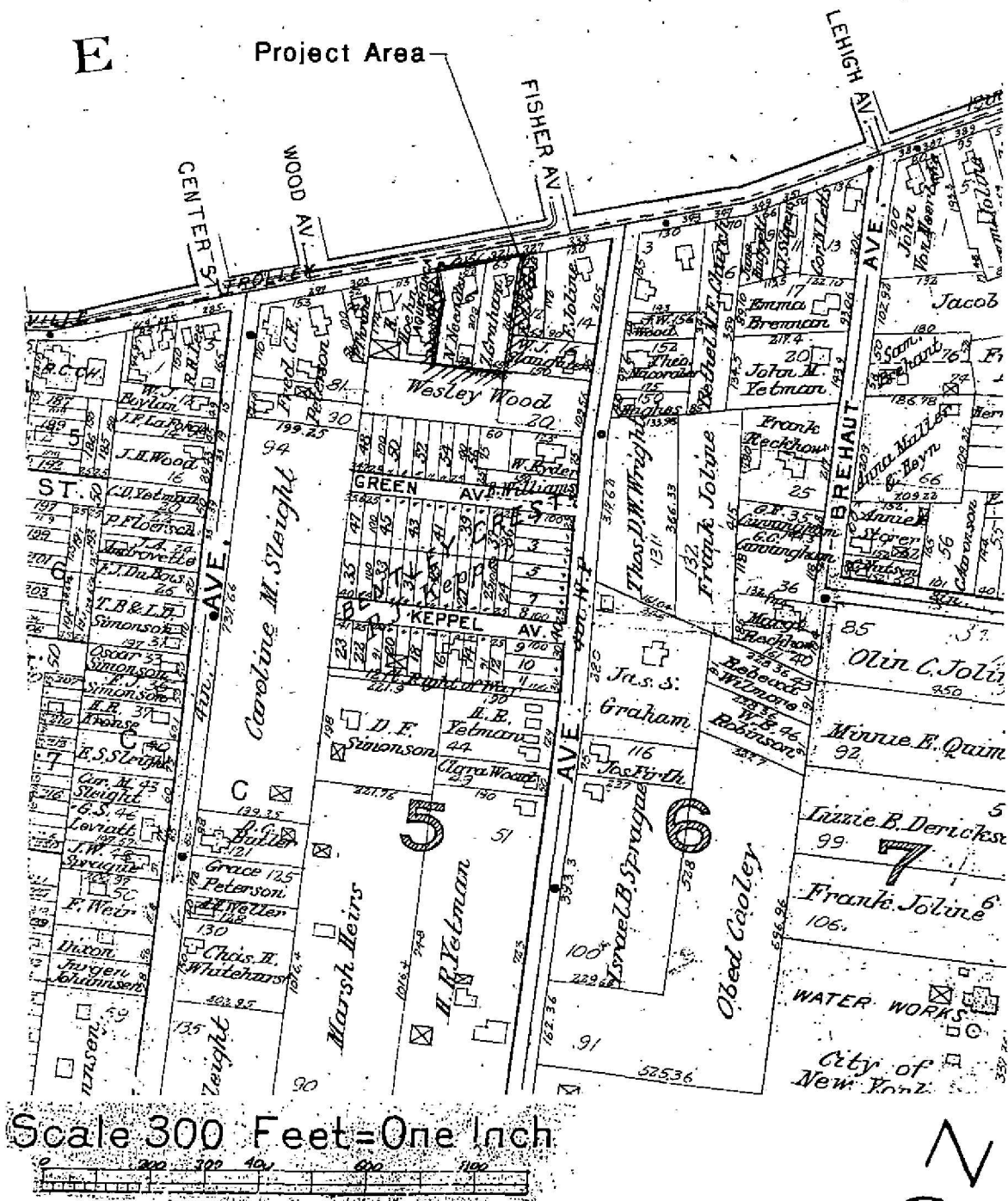


Figure 12 From the 1907 Robinson & Pidgeon Atlas.



Figure 13 From the 1911 Borough of Richmond Topographic Survey.

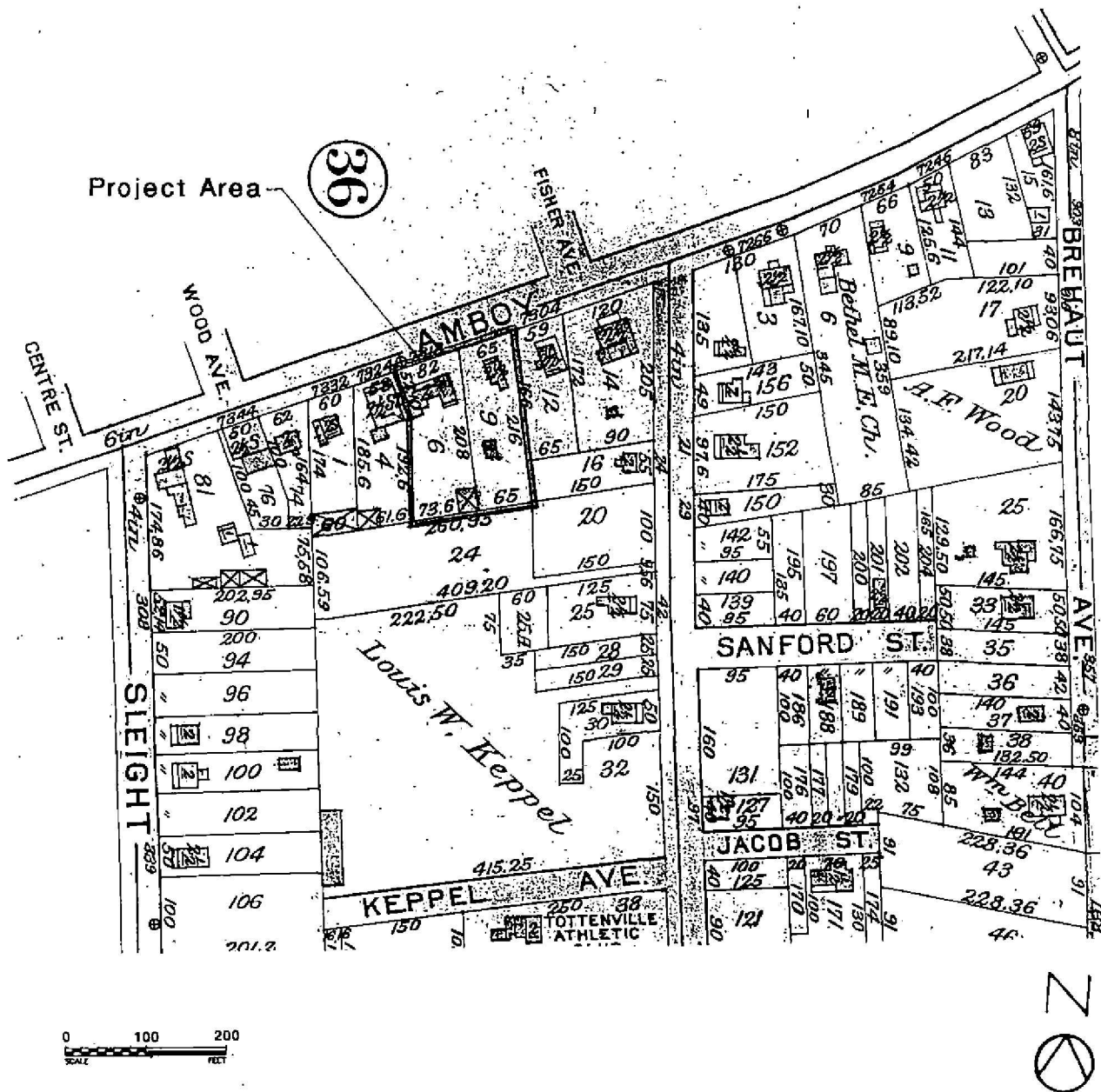


Figure 14 From the 1917 Bromley Atlas.



Plate 1 View of the project area looking southwest from the north side of Amboy Road.



Plate 2 View of the project area looking southeast from the north side of Amboy Road.



Plate 3 View of the eastern project area lot (Block 7868 Lot 23) looking south.



Plate 4

View of the western project area lot (Block 7868 Lot 19) looking west from the eastern lot.