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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
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# **CARIBE VILLAGE SITE**

**65, 67, 69 & 71 SOUTH FOURTH STREET  
WILLIAMSBURGH. KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**CEQR 88-083K**

## **PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY**

Prepared For:

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## 1B.1 INTRODUCTION

On April 24 and 29 and May 1 and 2, 1994 City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants completed a field reconnaissance level archaeological survey of the *Caribe Village Site*, located within Block 2429 in the Williamsburgh section of the Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York.

Archaeological field work was carried out by Stephanie Roberg-Lopez, Gail T. Guillet, Luis A. Lopez and Bolivar Lopez. Preparation of the final report and the Field Reconnaissance Map was completed by Stephanie Roberg-Lopez, Principal Investigator. Laboratory analysis was performed by Gail T. Guillet and Stephanie Roberg-Lopez. Preparation of shovel test excavation records, the artifact catalogue and photographs was completed by Gail T. Guillet.

## 1B.2 PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The project area is located within the larger *Caribe Village Site*, all of which falls within the bounds of Block 2429 in the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. (Map 1) The *Caribe Village Site* is made up of two parcels currently identified as Tax Lots 1 and 12, although these parcels were historically divided into 20 smaller lots. (Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.: Archaeological & Historical Sensitivity Evaluation for Caribe Village) The project area consists of four of these historic lots: 65, 67, 69, and 71 South Fourth Street. The lots are contiguous yielding a rectangular parcel 83 feet east-west by 72 feet north-south. The southern boundary of the site is South Fourth Street, the western boundary is lot 63 South Fourth Street, the northern boundary is lot 343 Wythe Avenue and the eastern boundary is lot 73 South Fourth Street. (Map 2)

At the present time the parcel associated with lots 65, 67, 69, and 71 South Fourth Street are vacant. It is closed off by a heavy chain link fence and securely locked. There is virtually no vegetation growing on this parcel for two reasons, first the sterile nature of the gravelly hardpan that covers the site and second because the lot is heavily used as a dog run, with substantial traffic discouraging plant growth. The lot is very nearly clean of litter -- the only structures on the surface are an improvised stone bench, a large tire and a garbage can.

Of particular note, upon examining the site, is the uniform raised elevation of the project area. By comparison to the lots bordering it to the east and west, where original 19th century structures still exist, the project area is fully four feet higher in altitude than the surrounding lots. The surface rises immediately from the street level entrance (42.86 feet above sea level), reaching its greatest elevation at the back of the project area (44.7 feet above sea level).

The Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Evaluation prepared by Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. documented that four historic houses (all dating to c. 1851) had once

stood on these four lots. (See Map 2) In addition, the 19th century occupants of these houses were identified and are as follows:

Address	Occupant	Occupation	Dates
65 South 4th Street	William Mead	sailmaker	1855 - 1868
67 South 4th Street;	Winant Cole	shipmaster	1856 - 1868
69 South 4th Street	Frederick W. Bampton	storage merchant	1855 - 1865
71 South 4th Street	Luther Lobdell	tinsmith	1855 - 1866

(Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. 1991: 14)

An evaluation of known destruction episodes at the *Caribe Village Site* strongly indicated that although these four row houses had been destroyed, the backyard areas extending from the rear of the houses northward had not been profoundly disturbed. The presence of historic sub-surface features such as privies and cisterns was judged to be highly probable, warranting an archaeological field reconnaissance level survey..

### 1B.3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

The project area lies within the larger prehistoric archaeological zone identified as Prehistoric New England. (Map 3) The area is routinely divided for study into major river drainages, as these waterways and their associated lands comprised the geophysical and political boundaries recognized by the indigenous groups themselves. Along with distinct waterways such as the Hudson, the Connecticut and the Housatonic, large inland and peninsular areas such as Long Island and Cape Cod are treated as discrete environmental units (Snow 1980:5). The majority of prehistoric New England (as defined by Map 3) is generally treated as a single physiographic unit. Only Long Island, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod are identified as being northern expressions of the coastal plain that broadens and dominates the landscape to the south (Snow 1980:6).

The entire New England land surface was covered by the Wisconsin glaciation that receded only 12 to 10,000 years ago. The soils of Long Island are a direct result of this glacial episode, and are dominated by deep, strongly acid soils that have developed in unconsolidated sand and clay (Snow 1980:6). The soils of the *Caribe Village Site* are classic glacial deposits, associated with the Harbor Hill terminal moraine just to the south that is the maximum line of advance of the second glaciation episode on Long Island. (Map 4) The prehistoric forests of Long Island, unlike those of the mainland, were dominated by yellow pine and hardwood forests.

### 1B.4 PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND

New England, particularly Southern New England including the Hudson, Thames



and Connecticut drainages, has emerged as one of the richest archaeological zones in the northeastern United States. The reasons for this are several, the most important being the cluster of prime waterways that enrich the landscape and the fertile seacoast that marks its southern border. The prehistoric inhabitants of this region had ready access to very high quality raw materials for tool making, and the moderating influence of the ocean maintained a climate significantly milder than those regions to the north.

As the first native Americans, indeed the first humans, entered the area during the Paleo Indian period some 12,000 years ago, their logical route would be along the open seacoast and the mighty river systems that were the "super highways" of the times. Not only humans, but the post-Pleistocene mega fauna, the mammoth, the mastodon and the caribou that inhabited this tundra-like area would be logically drawn to these corridors. Mammoth and mastodon finds are densely clustered just south of Long Island with one find just south of the project area. (Map 4) As the great ice sheet began to retreat from southern New England both the hunter, the Paleo Indian, and the hunted began to move into this region.

Research indicates that the post glacial landscape was tundra-like, the colonizing grasses, sedges and herbs supporting a variety of large and small game animals. Among the fauna were giant beaver, giant ground sloth and horse, all of which became extinct, as well as the caribou, musk-ox and bison that persist to modern times.

Paleo-Indians, as these small bands of nomadic hunter-gatherers are called by archaeologists, appear to have entered the previously uninhabited northeast from the south and west. Their sites, identified primarily by characteristically fluted points, are found all over North America. It has traditionally been assumed that these nomadic peoples were strictly "big game" hunters, however that assumption has been called into question by the discovery of fish, bird, small mammal bones and some plant remains found in association with Paleo-Indian sites. It now seems that in addition to the large animals that comprised their principal food source, the Paleo-Indians also hunted small game and gathered a wide variety of plants to support their diet. Paleo-Indian sites are quite rare in the archaeological record, and have been found in association with major waterways such as the Hudson, quarry zones such as the Wallkill Valley, and most notably for our present investigation, at the Port Mobil site on Staten Island. (Map 5)

The Archaic period in New England is better represented than the Paleo-Indian. It is divided into four stages: the Early Archaic, the Middle Archaic, the Late Archaic and the Terminal Archaic. In many important respects, the nature of life in the Archaic period was little different from the nomadic lives lived by the Paleo-Indians, however, during the time span of the Archaic significant changes in the environment occurred. The tundra-like landscape began to give way, first to spruce forest and then to a forest composed of various conifers, hemlocks and hardwoods. As the hardwood forests advanced northward, a new ecosystem became available, an ecosystem that provided a range of nuts (in particular the acorn), grasses and tubers that supported both the smaller game of the

Archaic period and the human population as well.

Like the Paleo-Indian culture, Archaic occupations are found throughout New England. In eastern New York this period is divided into a series of phases, Vergennes, Vosburg, Sylvan Lake, Wading River and Snook Kill. There are indications that Archaic man was by this time exploiting shellfish, a fact of particular importance on Long Island. The Archaic period, however, is still dominated by the hunting and gathering lifestyle.

The Archaic period on Long Island is followed by the Transitional Stage. Chief among the general characteristics that separate the Transitional Stage from the earlier periods is the use of stone vessels. With soapstone as the most common raw material, these vessels were extremely heavy and were later replaced by pottery vessels of various types.

Long Island takes front stage during the Transitional Period as the locus of the highly distinct Orient Culture. This Transitional phase is identified by the diagnostic Orient Fishtail projectile point, by the use of soapstone vessels whose raw materials were most likely quarried in Rhode Island and in Bristol Connecticut, by distinctive burials and by the intense exploitation of shellfish. It is possible that the supply of large game was being exhausted on Long Island as early as 900 BC, making exploitation of these alternate food sources a necessity for survival (Ritchie 1980:166). We must take particular note of the fact that contact with mainland New England was clearly an easy and frequent occurrence at this time, with passage across the narrows between Long Island, Staten Island, Manhattan Island, the lower Hudson drainage and southern New England a common occurrence. Important sites in close proximity to the project area include Muskeeta Cove, Wilkins, Grantville B and Clason's Point.

The Woodland Stage, like the Archaic is divided into several substages, including the early Woodland Stage, the Middle Woodland Stage and the Late Woodland Stage. Sites used by Woodland groups tend to be away from the major waterways and are frequently located on inland streams. In later periods there is some indication of the presence of palisaded villages. Around these sites, on the alluvial plains of nearby streams, the Indian fields were located. Horticulture, although practiced in other parts of North America at an earlier date, does not appear in this area until c. 1000 AD. The changeover to cultivation of a variety of domesticates, among them maize, beans, gourds, sumpweed and sunflower, created a marked change in the pattern of land use and settlement. With the advent of sedentary of occupations the character of sites changed.

On Long Island the Transitional, particularly the later period, is hallmarked by the Sebonac Phase. The Sebonac sites are large occupations located on well-drained sites on bays and tidal streams close to available sources of marine shellfish. Typical of these sites are deep shellfish middens, abundant pit structures and elaborate burials. This implies stable communities with people living in circular rush wigwams up to twenty feet in diameter made of grass or rush harvested from the tidal marshes and wetlands that were abundant on prehistoric Long Island.

The Sebonac Phase is followed on western Long Island by the Bowman's Brook phase of the East River tradition. Bowman's Brook sites are located on tidal streams or coves, and typically contain large village occupations with associated shell middens and pit structures. Unlike the Sebonac peoples, the Bowman's Brook culture did not focus on highly ritualized mortuary practices, although dog burials have been noted (Ritchie 1980:271).

By the time the Europeans arrived, the dominant indigenous groups on Long Island were the Montauk speakers of the eastern tip of the island, the Quiripi-Unquachog speakers of central Long Island (closely associated with Connecticut groups) and Munsee speakers on the western tip of Long Island, who were referred to by Johan de Laet as Nawaas (Snow 1980:87). (Map 7) Population figures are difficult to calculate due to the lightning speed with which European diseases wiped out the indigenous population. Snow states that "There is almost no data on which to base a population estimate for the middle and lower Connecticut and central Long Island populations". With the coming of first the Dutch, then the British settler, the indigenous population of Long Island decreased to its current negligible size.

In terms of the greater archaeological context, the *Caribe Village Site* rests in the center of a substantial distribution of prehistoric activity. With the exception of Paleo-Indian sites, virtually all prehistoric phases up to the contact period are represented, however most recorded sites are noted at a distance of one to two miles from the project area.

The Archaeological and Historical Sensitivity Evaluation of the site assigned a low probability for prehistoric occupation for the *Caribe Village Site* based on the distance from recorded prehistoric sites in the area and on the site's distance from fresh water. However, our review of the historic maps reveals that the project area is located only several hundred feet north of a path or roadway leading to the shore of the East River opposite Corlaer's Hook on Manhattan. This roadway leads to the narrowest crossing point along this portion of the river and may have followed the route of an Indian path (see Ratzer's 1766/67 Plan of the City of New York). (Map 8) The site was, therefore, at a point of very close proximity between Brooklyn and Manhattan making it a favorable location in terms of use by Native Americans traveling between the two islands. This fact later determined the placement of the Williamsburgh Bridge, which is less than 1000 feet from the site. In addition, the site's location within one-half mile of Wallabout Bay and its associated fresh water streams and less than a mile from Bushwick Inlet indicates access to significant marine and wetland resources. On the basis of the data outlined above, City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants believes that the *Caribe Village Site* should be reassessed from low probability to moderate to high probability to yield prehistoric cultural resources.

## 1B.5 TESTING STRATEGY

The testing strategy for the *Caribe Village Site* was in part dictated by the

conclusions and recommendations of the Archaeological & Historical Sensitivity Evaluation for the *Caribe Village Site*. In consequence, the Stage 1B archaeological survey of the site focused on the four-lot project area (65, 67, 69 & 71 South 4th Street) described above. In addition, the historic house foundations that make up fully 45% of the site were ruled out as profoundly disturbed. This left the 55% rear portion of the lot available for testing. Recommendations focused on testing for the presence of privies and cisterns dating back to the 19th century occupation of the row houses. Since privies are most commonly found at the far rear of these house lots and cisterns most commonly found directly behind the house structures themselves, it was recommended that two five foot wide trenches be mechanically excavated in an effort to expose these features should they continue to exist on the site. This testing strategy formed the basis of the research design employed by City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants to test for historic cultural remains.

Additionally, since City/Scape had reassessed the prehistoric potential of the site as moderate to high, a strategy was developed for testing for these cultural resources as well. Once the deep overburden in the rear trench was removed to sufficient depth, a series of shovel test pits was excavated to sterile soil along a transect located along the bottom of the trench at five foot intervals.

A major concern on urban sites such as the Caribe Village project area is the depth of the non-stratified overburden. Events such as destruction episodes, burning episodes, deliberate introduction of non-local fill for grading and sealing potentially hazardous surfaces littered with destruction debris are the rule rather than the exception in these areas. As there was no documentary evidence for the chain of events on the lot subsequent to the leveling of the houses, it was necessary to hand-test in a series of stratigraphic controls (shovel testing and trenching) in order to establish a history of the site. Serendipitously, a passerby who has lived in the neighborhood for many years volunteered the information that the four historic row houses had burned "around 15 or 20 years ago". Despite the lack of precise dating, the information at least characterized the nature of the destruction of the structures.

In addition to concerns about the site, specifically changes in the elevation of the site, another concern was determining if the site had been subjected to a major grading episode involving a much larger landscape and untraceable in the documentation specific to the site. To assess this possibility, all available historic maps showing elevation intervals were assembled and examined. This research indicated that the elevation of the site had remained constant and that the added complication of testing through additional non site-specific overburden would not arise. Once underneath the disturbed strata on the surface of the site, the stratigraphy would be natural and undisturbed.

## **1B.6 FIELD METHODOLOGY**

Field methodology for the *Caribe Village Site* consisted of several stages of investigation. These included:

1. A walkover and visual inspection of the area to assess the probable depth of the non-stratified overburden and to determine if the surface exhibited the presence of artifacts related to the historic houses. In addition to examining the site itself, extant houses from the period under study (c. 1851) that still remain on block 2429, specifically those flanking the site, were very carefully examined. The purpose of this visual assessment was to extrapolate 1851 elevations for the front and back of the houses, to identify any remaining traces in these undisturbed lots of features similar to those we were looking for, and to confirm the location of the rear house foundations, since all of them would have been the same distance from the street in this type of row house construction.
2. The excavation of a stratigraphic control test to establish the stratigraphy of the site and to identify the depth and composition of the sterile glacially deposited sub soils.
3. The controlled mechanical excavation of two trenches, one directly behind the house foundations and the other at the rear of the lots intended to rapidly remove non-stratified overburden to a depth determined by the stratigraphic control tests.
4. Shovel testing along the bottom of the trench once stratified deposits were encountered, testing for both historic and prehistoric cultural remains.
5. Cleaning, measuring, photographing and drawing all features exposed through the combination of mechanical and hand excavation employed in testing.
6. Photographic documentation of the overall site.

Because of the readily available information on the historic location of structures on this small site, it was not difficult to focus the testing on areas of highest potential. Testing for prehistoric cultural materials was accomplished by excavating shovel tests at five foot intervals at the base of the trench located along the back of the site, once the four feet of unstratified overburden had been removed. Soils were passed through a 0.25 inch steel mesh screen and the materials remaining in the screens were carefully examined for historic and prehistoric artifacts. Items recovered were assigned to the stratum from which they were obtained. The stratigraphy of each test was recorded, including the depth and the soil description of each stratum. A total of five shovel tests was excavated. (Appendix B: Shovel Test Records and Appendix C: Artifact Catalogue)

## **1B.7 FIELD RESULTS**

Despite the volume of historic data available on the project area, a number of archaeological questions remained to be answered before introducing mechanical equipment to the excavation. The first day of the excavation was devoted to assessing the condition of the site and establishing a stratigraphic control. By extrapolating from the ground level of the extant row houses, it seemed clear that approximately 4 feet of



overburden covered the historic elevation of the site.

A site datum was established at the northeastern corner of the extant c. 1851 house that stands as the western boundary of the project area (note that a later addition extends northward from this point, placing the datum roughly midway along the base of the modern wall of 63 South 4th Street). (Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Map). Datum was set at ground level at an altitude of 44 feet above seal level.

In this first phase of investigation, three shovel tests were excavated at different points on the site. Shovel test one (ST 1) was located just north and east of datum immediately outside the northwestern corner of the foundation of lot 65 South Fourth Street (see Field Reconnaissance Map). The first stratum (0-5") consisted of an extremely dry hard-pan soil mixed with rocks, brick fragments, bits of plastic, broken glass, metal, pebbles and sand. Although it seemed highly unlikely that this layer was a natural stratigraphic deposit, it did produce an 1828 copper penny in very good condition. (Photo 1) Stratum 2 (5"-15") consisted of a lens of dark yellowish brown sandy silt. This soil lens, rather surprisingly, was virtually sterile of cultural material, and clearly glacial in nature. Since there was no doubt that we were far from reaching the natural glacial sub-soil underlying the site, it became clear that this soil lens was a deposit of deliberately trucked in soil, perhaps used as fill or to seal in a layer of destruction rubble. Consistent with this theory, the underlying stratum 3 (15"-35") was made up of a dark brownish gray soil containing substantial amounts of brick fragments and clear, green and brown colored broken glass. This dark gray soil lens exhibited the characteristics of a burning episode. Stratum 4 consisted of dark yellowish-brown sandy silt containing a small amount of debris such as glass fragments and pieces of metal. Shovel test one (ST 1) terminated at a metal obstruction encountered 39" below surface. The test was then expanded to a trench two feet by three feet in an attempt to continue the stratigraphic control all the way to sterile soil, however the edges of the metal obstruction were not encountered, and the test terminated at 39 inches. Shovel test two (ST 2) was placed at the northeast corner of the project area, diagonal to shovel test one (ST 1). The strata were consistent with those encountered in shovel test one (ST 1), yielding a 0-5" layer of hard pan soil mixed with debris of cobbles, pebbles, brick fragments and small pieces of glass and a stratum of dark yellowish brown sandy soil with just a few pieces of debris mixed in, including a fragment of clay drain pipe, small fragments of mica sheet and a roofing nail. Shovel test two (ST 2) terminated in a rock impasse at 17". Shovel test three (ST 3), located ten feet to the west of shovel test two (ST 2) along the back of the lot further confirmed the consistency of the stratigraphic profile emerging from the test. The upper 0-4" stratum was hard pan soil mixed with pebbles and brick fragments. Stratum two was a 4"-17" layer of dark yellowish brown sandy soil with a number of inclusions, ceramic pipe metal, bottle fragments, and nails. Stratum three, 17"-24", consisted of a layer of very dark grayish brown sandy soil with substantial cultural material ranging from a metal plate for a light switch to plastic wire to a plastic button. (See Appendix C: Artifact Catalogue for complete record of cultural materials noted and recovered) This stratum exhibited evidence of a burning and destruction episode. Like shovel test two (ST 2), shovel test

three (ST 3) terminated in a rock obstruction.

None of the hand-excavated tests succeeded in reaching glacial sub-soil, and since all three tests confirmed a deep layer of non-stratified overburden, it became clear that removing this very deep debris layer should precede further manual excavation.

It should be noted here that even in the destruction lens that was found to extend over the entire site, only bits and fragments of destruction debris were recovered. The volume of these artifacts in no way came close to representing the kind of debris normally left by the destruction of four entire three story structures. It would be hard to believe that all of the debris would fit into the cellar holes of the houses, even if bulldozing could be done so cleanly. The lack of destruction debris in the tests, and later on in the trenches, leads investigators to believe that the rubble was either deliberately carted off the site, or cannibalized for other construction.

In preparation for the mechanical portion of trench excavation, a trench datum was set at the northwest corner of Trench A, which ran along the northern boundary of the site and made up the edge of the historic back yards of the four lots. (Photo 2) Datum was set at 43' 11.5" above sea level, just one half inch below site datum. A five foot by eighty-three foot trench was laid out and flagged as a guide to the backhoe operator, a machine operator with experience in backhoe archaeology. Before beginning the excavation, time was taken to thoroughly explain to the backhoe operator the nature of the excavation, the type of features believed to be present, and the anticipated level and character of the features. In this way the chance of losing data through errors such as removing too deep an arbitrary level would be minimized.

Preliminary investigation had indicated that the unstratified overburden covered the site to a depth of at least four feet. On the basis of this data, it was decided to remove a uniform three feet of overburden from the trench, and then proceed by removing arbitrary layers of six inches until an undisturbed deposit was encountered. A four foot section of wall in the center of the trench was carefully maintained as a stratigraphic control. (Figure 1 & Photo 3) At approximately three feet of depth, a dark soil lens began to emerge across the entire length of the trench. Machine excavation was interrupted, and a transect of five shovel tests (ST 1-5) five feet apart was excavated across the western one-half of the trench. (See Photo 2 & 4) These tests were excavated at surface levels ranging from 26" to 32 1/2 " below site datum, reflecting the removal of the deep layer of overburden by the backhoe. All five shovel tests yielded a similar stratigraphy: the end of the stratum of sterile fill brought in from off site, changing over to a layer of dark brown gray sandy soil with inclusions of cultural material such as glass, china, brick fragments, bottles, plastic, asphalt and metal. This stratum clearly represents the burning and destruction episode that destroyed the houses. This stratum was then underlain by a layer of yellowish brown sandy soil increasing in gravel content the further down it went. This layer was determined to be the glacial sub-soil underlying the historic occupation of the site. No features of any kind, nor indications of features were encountered in Trench A. To rule



out the presence of features excavated into the glacial sub-soil, the eastern half of the trench was excavated to sterile sub-soil, a depth from surface of approximately 46". In the center of the trench, a final stratigraphic control test was excavated to a total depth of 82" below surface, to glacial gravel and sand. The privy features potentially on the site were not encountered in Trench A, nor were any other features of any kind.

Trench B was located immediately to the rear of the row houses, with the intention of maximizing the chance of encountering cisterns, which are known to be commonly located directly behind the historic houses. As with Trench A, a 5' by 83' trench was laid out and flagged as a guide for the backhoe operator, and work was begun removing the first three feet of overburden. The stratigraphy was consistent with that of Trench A with the exception that the concentration of destruction debris in the dark gray lens was greater than at the back of the lot. Upon reaching a depth of three feet below datum, a masonry structure was encountered at the northwest corner of the house foundation associated with 65 South 4th Street. The feature was cleared by hand, revealing a "J" shaped construction with a smooth finished top measuring 6' by 5.9'. (Figure 2 & Photo 5) The squared off and smoothed surface reaches to a depth of 10 1/2 inches, at which point the concrete becomes rough, as if poured into a hand dug trench. Without further excavation it was not possible to determine the function of this masonry structure. At the time the feature was cleared, a concentration of jumbled brick debris was noted in the northern wall of the trench directly across from the concrete feature. Once other features became exposed further along the trench it seemed likely that the brick represented debris left from the destruction of a cistern, probably during the construction of the concrete feature. To fully expose the features, the trench was widened to eight feet in diameter for its entire length.

Attempts to excavate a shovel test into the center of the feature were unsuccessful due to a dense obstruction created by 20th century debris ranging from pieces of rusted metal to plastic bread bags and a Wise potato chip bag. (See Appendix B: Shovel Test Records & Appendix C: Artifact Catalogue)

As the trench progressed eastward, substantial construction debris began to occur in the soils removed by the backhoe. The operator was asked to excavate to a shallower depth, allowing manual excavation at the three foot level. These efforts were rewarded by the uncovering of a series of brick and masonry features located along the northern edge of Trench A in lots 65 and 67. (See Figure 2) Results of this excavation are discussed below.

As the carefully excavated trench moved eastward to lots 69 and 71, the presence of building debris abruptly ceased. Once lot 69 began, an entirely different stratigraphic profile emerged, and the friable brick pieces and glass fragments recovered in the excavated soils of lots 65 and 67 disappeared entirely. Instead, the backhoe began to encounter massive (2' x 3') boulders in the trench, intermixed with cobbles, large rocks and extremely large (up to a square yard in size) broken chunks of asphalt. (Photo 6) In the

absence of cultural materials, the trench along lots 69 and 71 was excavated in arbitrary levels of one foot to the depth of sterile sub-soil approximately five feet below site datum. The entire deposit was profoundly disturbed, with the dense concentration of boulder and asphalt debris clearly introduced to the site and buried in a disposal episode. All traces of sub surface features, if they existed on these lots, were completely eradicated during the time that the lots were used as dumps.

Once the mechanical excavation phase of testing had been completed and lots 69 and 71 eliminated from further investigation, attention turned to the brick and mortar features encountered in lots 65 and 67.

Using shovels, trowels and brushes, the team began to expose the brick features uncovered by the back hoe. Twenty two feet from the western boundary of lot 65, and at a depth of 34" below datum, a brick and masonry wall was uncovered. (Photo 7) This wall then intersected, at a depth of 48" below datum, with another brick and mortar wall at right angles. Historic maps, including the 1887 Sanborn Insurance map, indicate that this is the general area of a small addition protruding from the back of the house, however the angle of orientation is distinctly different from the orientation of the house foundation. (Map 9) From 22' to 28' east of the western boundary, the semicircular wall of a brick structure protrudes from the northern wall of the trench. (Photo 8) The feature, probably a brick cistern, is estimated to be six feet in diameter. After clearing the side of the structure, an attempt was made to expose the bottom edge, however despite digging to a depth of 7' below datum, the bottom was not reached. After clearing the loose dirt from the trench, a short expanse of the brick and mortar house foundation was exposed along the southern wall of the trench directly across from the cistern. (Photo 9)

Thirty four feet from the western boundary of the lot, an identical brick feature in the form of a brick cylinder was encountered. This cylinder is in substantially poorer condition, with the friable bricks having disintegrated to a point where the contents of the feature are exposed like a mold. Like the first feature, it is estimated to be six feet in diameter. Interestingly, at a depth of 43" below datum a repair has been made with modern bricks, and the circular feature ties into a square brick feature which underlies it at a depth of 69" (See Figure 2 & Photo 10). After clearing the surface of this flat square brick structure excavators encountered a 6" metal pipe running from the square box toward the back foundation of the house. (See Figure 2)

There is little doubt, judging from the form of these brick features and the presence of substantial fragments of clay water pipe, that they are 19th century cisterns. (Photo 11) The added evidence of the iron water pipe running from the masonry feature toward the back of the historic house is further confirmation of this conclusion.

The identified features were cleaned, measured and photographed. A tarpaulin was placed over the exposed side of the westernmost cistern where the friable brick had disintegrated, exposing the molded interior of the structure. Soft sand was packed against the tarpaulin, and the backhoe operator carefully backfilled the trench.

No prehistoric artifacts of any kind were encountered in the course of the excavations. As noted, the artifacts recovered during the Stage 1B Archaeological Field Survey were catalogued and a selection of the material was photographed. (Photo 12-14)

## 1B.8 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A walkover reconnaissance was completed on the *Caribe Village Site* located in Williamsburgh, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. After reviewing the Archaeological and Historical Sensitivity Evaluation completed for the project area, a testing strategy was created for the site focusing on the possible presence of historic cisterns and privies associated with the now destroyed historic houses. After a reassessment of the potential for prehistoric cultural remains on the site, a strategy was developed to test for these remains concurrently with the testing for historic remains.

A 5' by 83' trench was excavated along the northern boundary of the project area using a combination of mechanical excavation and manual excavation. No features from the historic occupation period were identified, nor were prehistoric artifacts of any kind encountered.

An 8' by 83' trench was excavated at the location of the rear of the historic houses using a combination of mechanical excavation and manual excavation. Of the four lots making up the project area, the two western lots were found to be profoundly disturbed and unsuitable for further testing.

Lot 65 produced two features, a concrete construction of unknown use and a subterranean wall complex with an unusual compass orientation. In addition, a tumble of brick encountered in the northwest corner of Trench B may be the remains of another brick cistern destroyed during the construction of the concrete feature noted above. Lot 67 produced two large cylindrical cisterns, one of which rests atop a square masonry structure containing an intact 6" water pipe running toward the historic house foundation.

Because cisterns no longer in active use were frequently used as garbage receptacles in both urban and rural homes, it is likely that at least two, and very possibly three features identified on lots 65 and 67 contain stratified deposits. Because these stratified deposits would likely yield information that will contribute to our knowledge of the lifeways of the residents of 19th century Williamsburgh, it is the recommendation of City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants that a Stage 2 Data Recovery Excavation focusing on these features be undertaken at the *Caribe Village Site*.

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# **APPENDICES**

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**APPENDIX A**

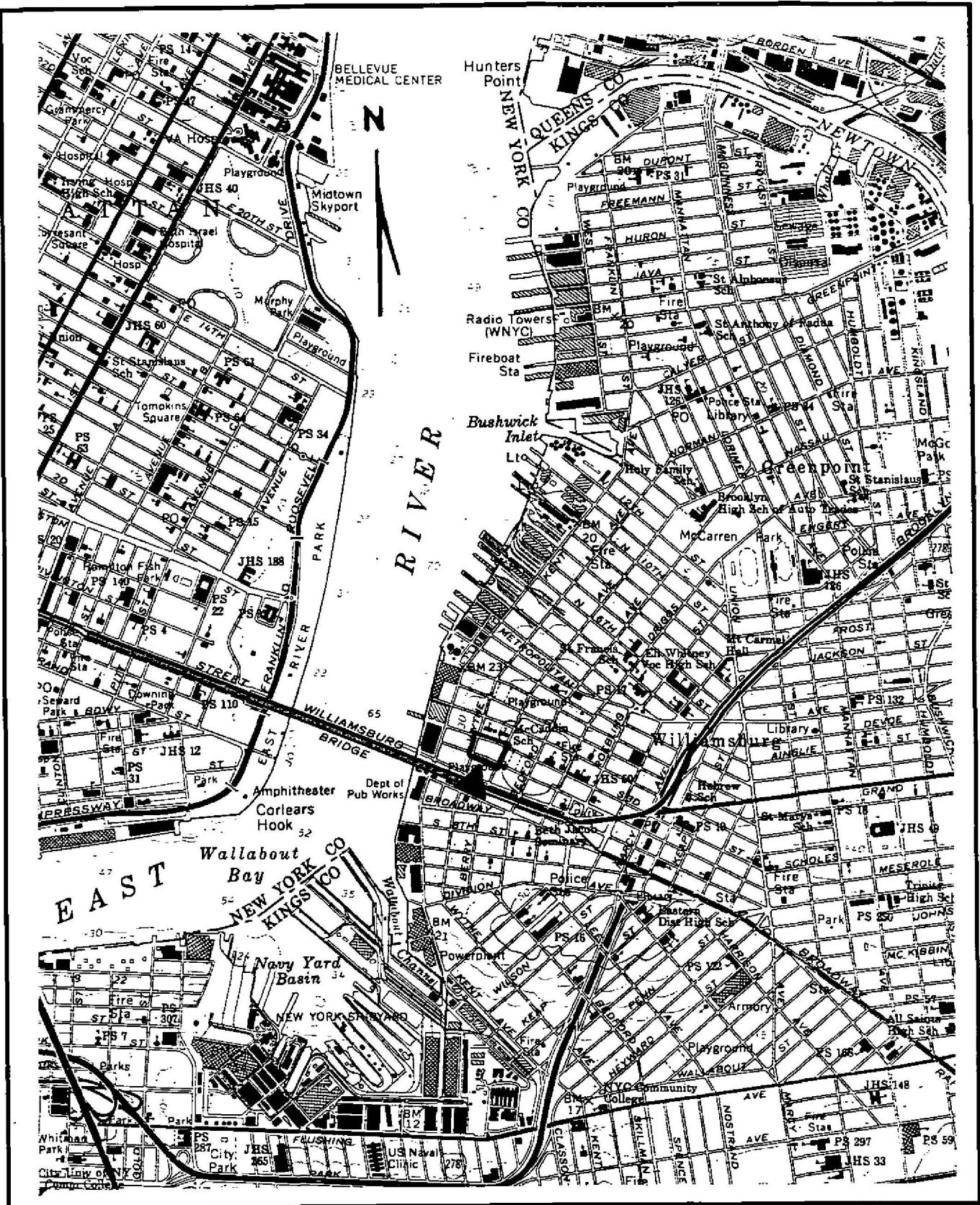
**MAPS AND FIGURES**

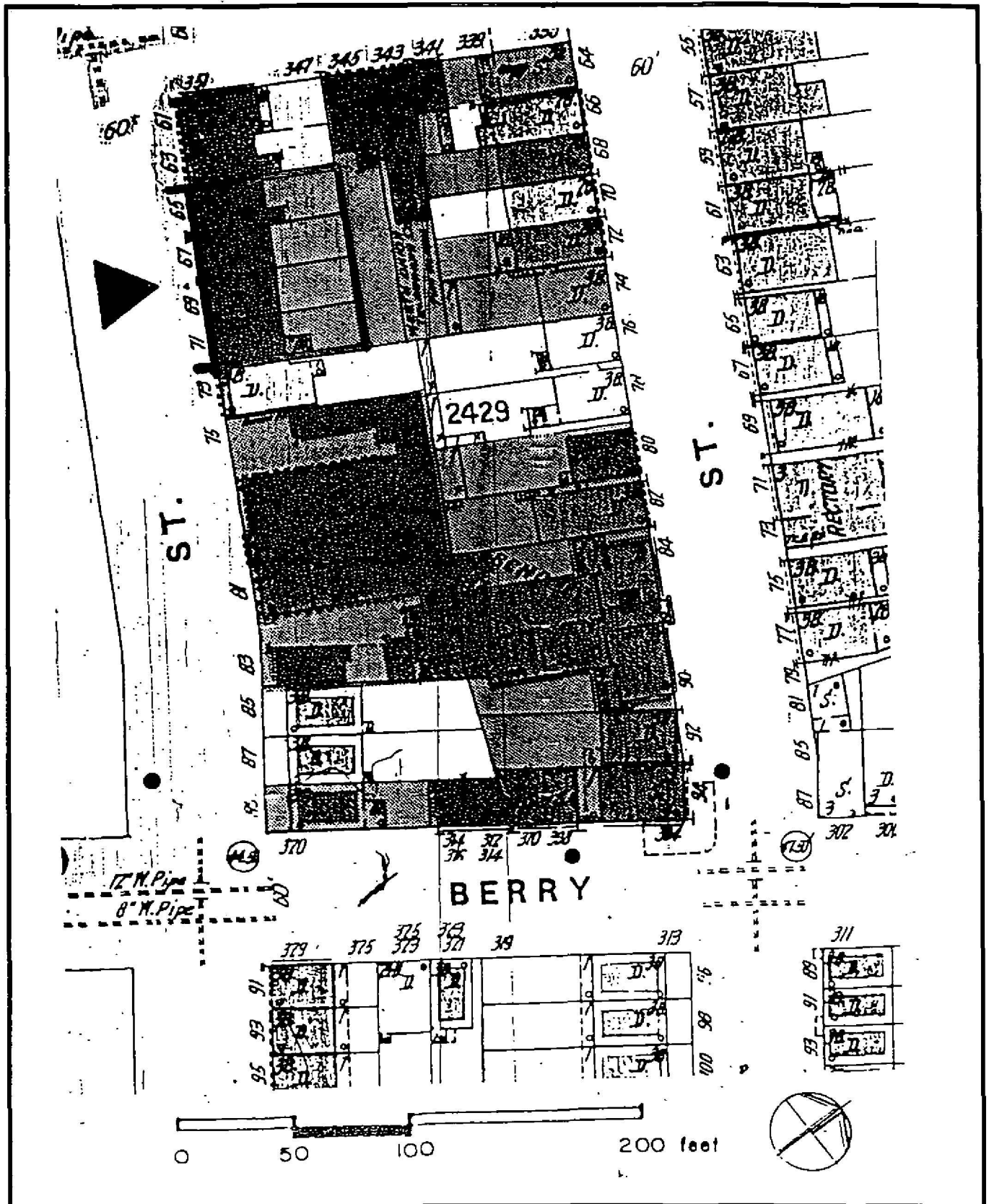
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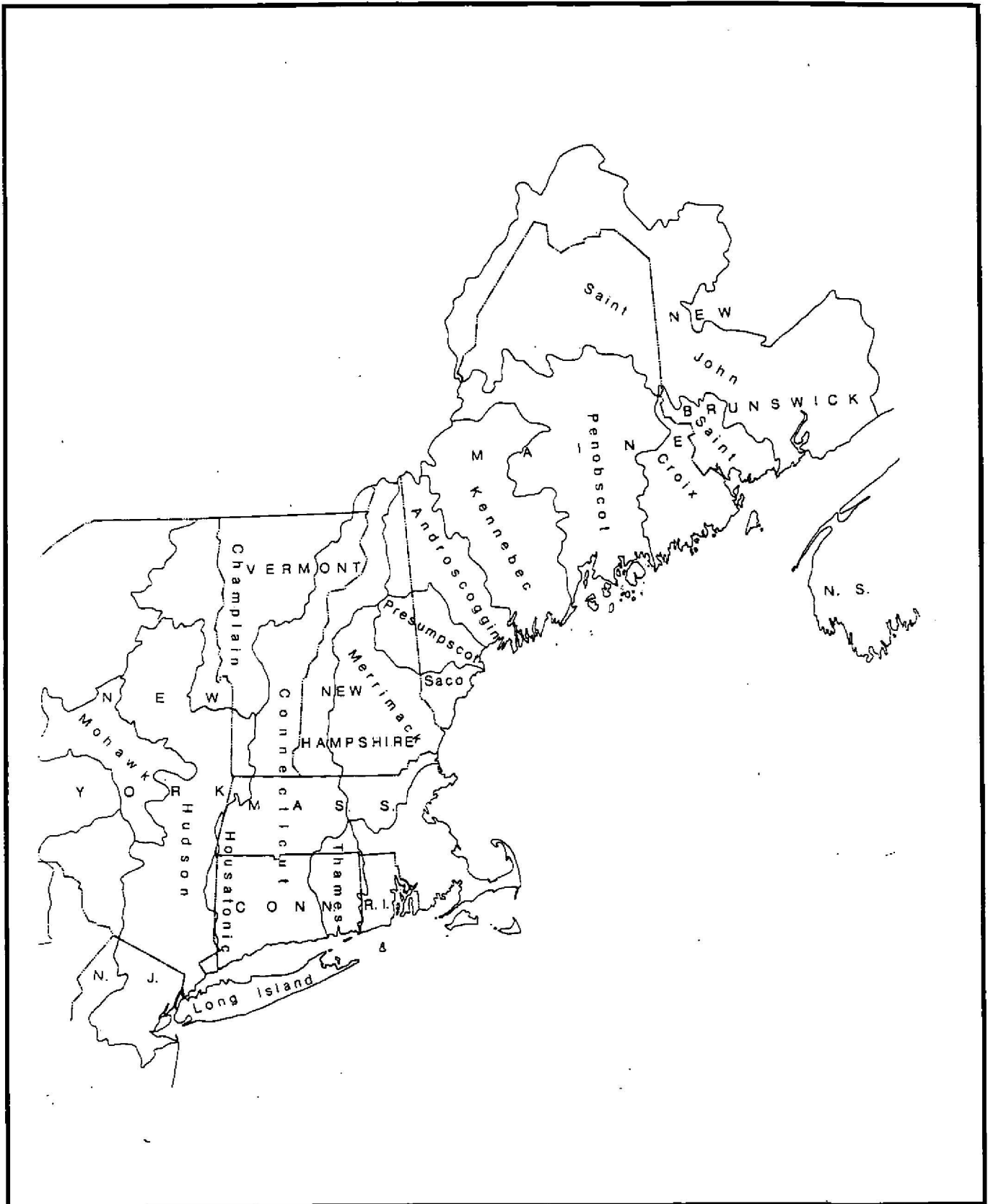
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# Appendix A: Maps and Figures

Map 1: Project Area located on USGS 7.5 Minute Series Brooklyn Quadrangle (Scale 1:24,000)







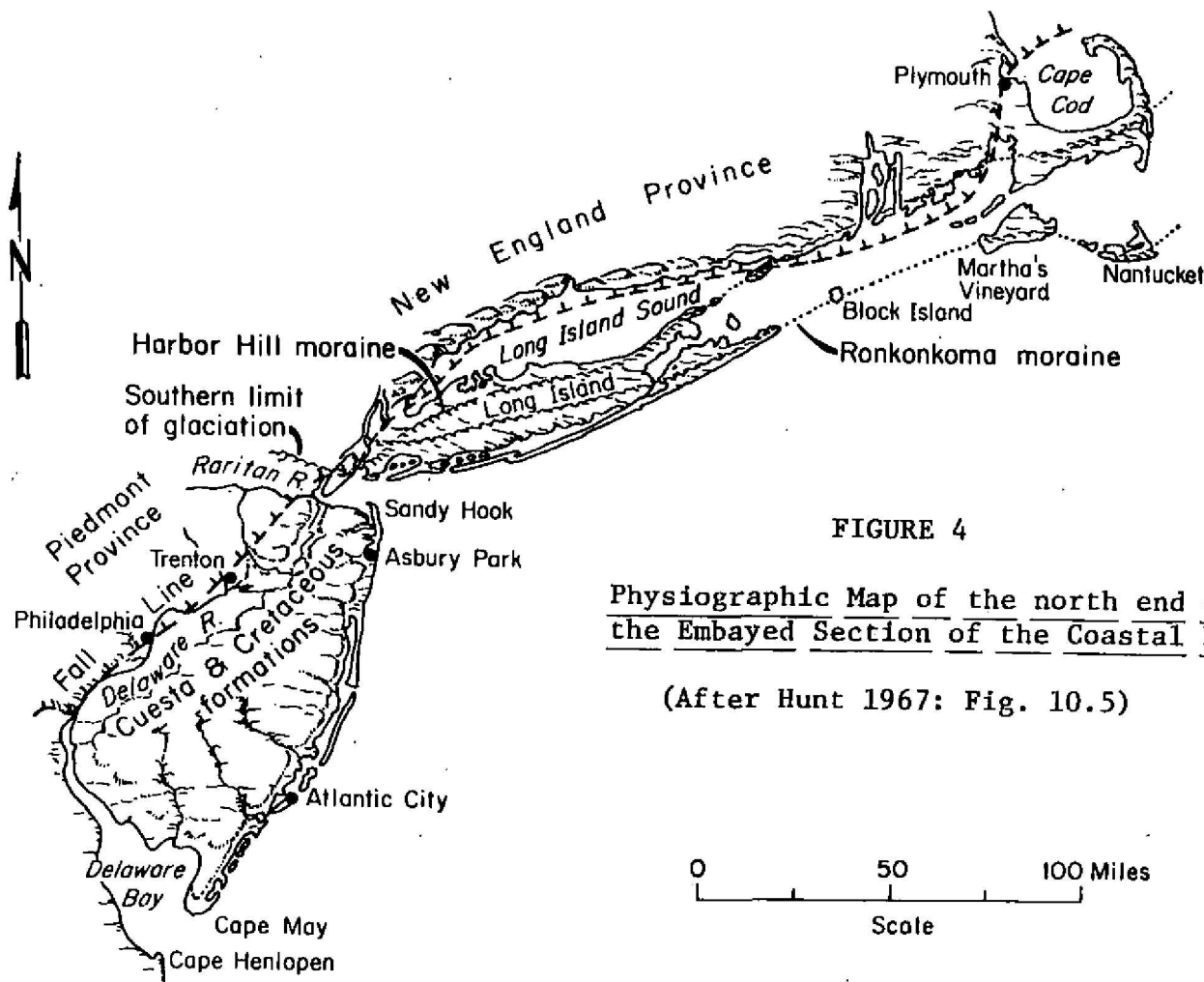
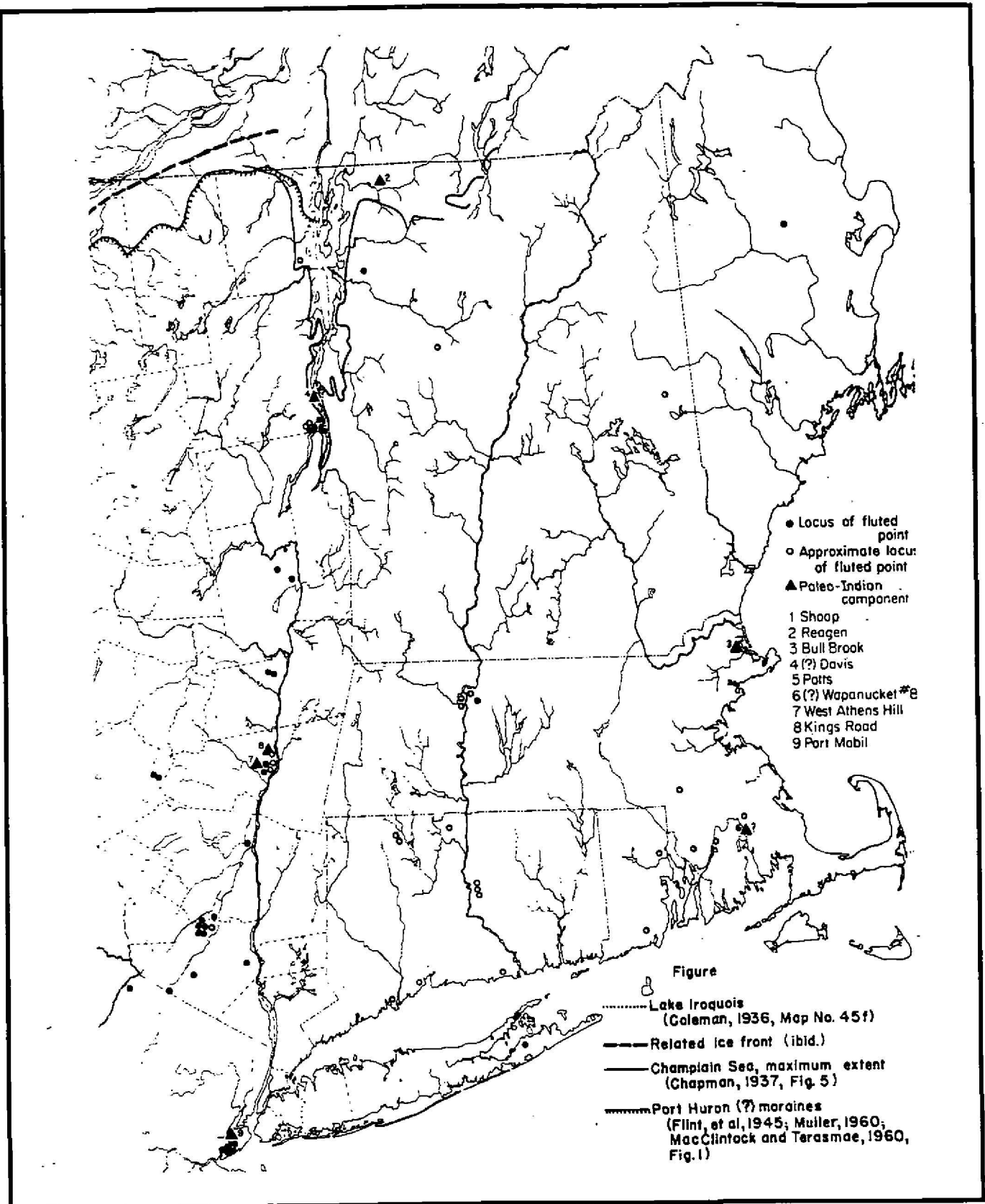


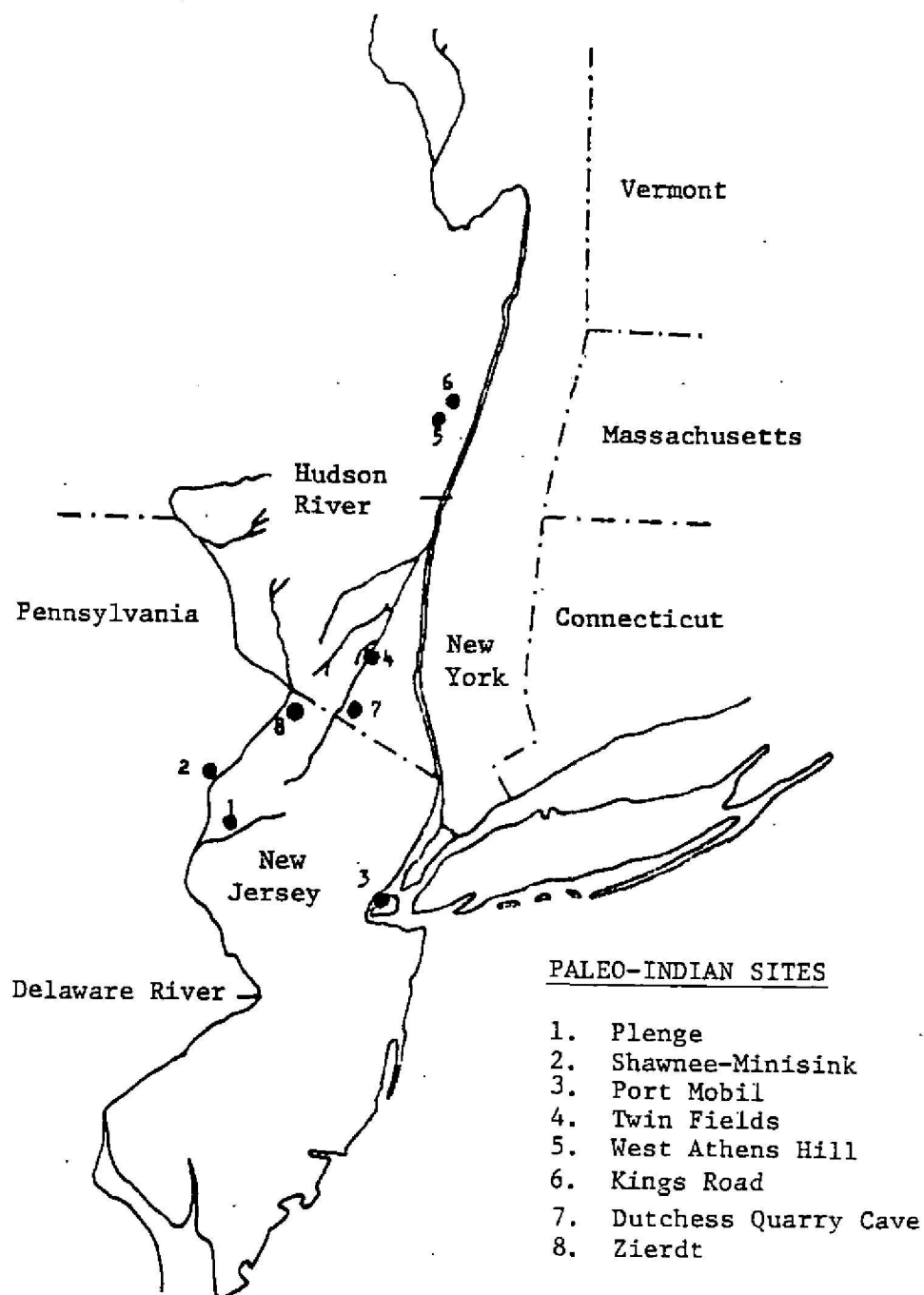
FIGURE 4

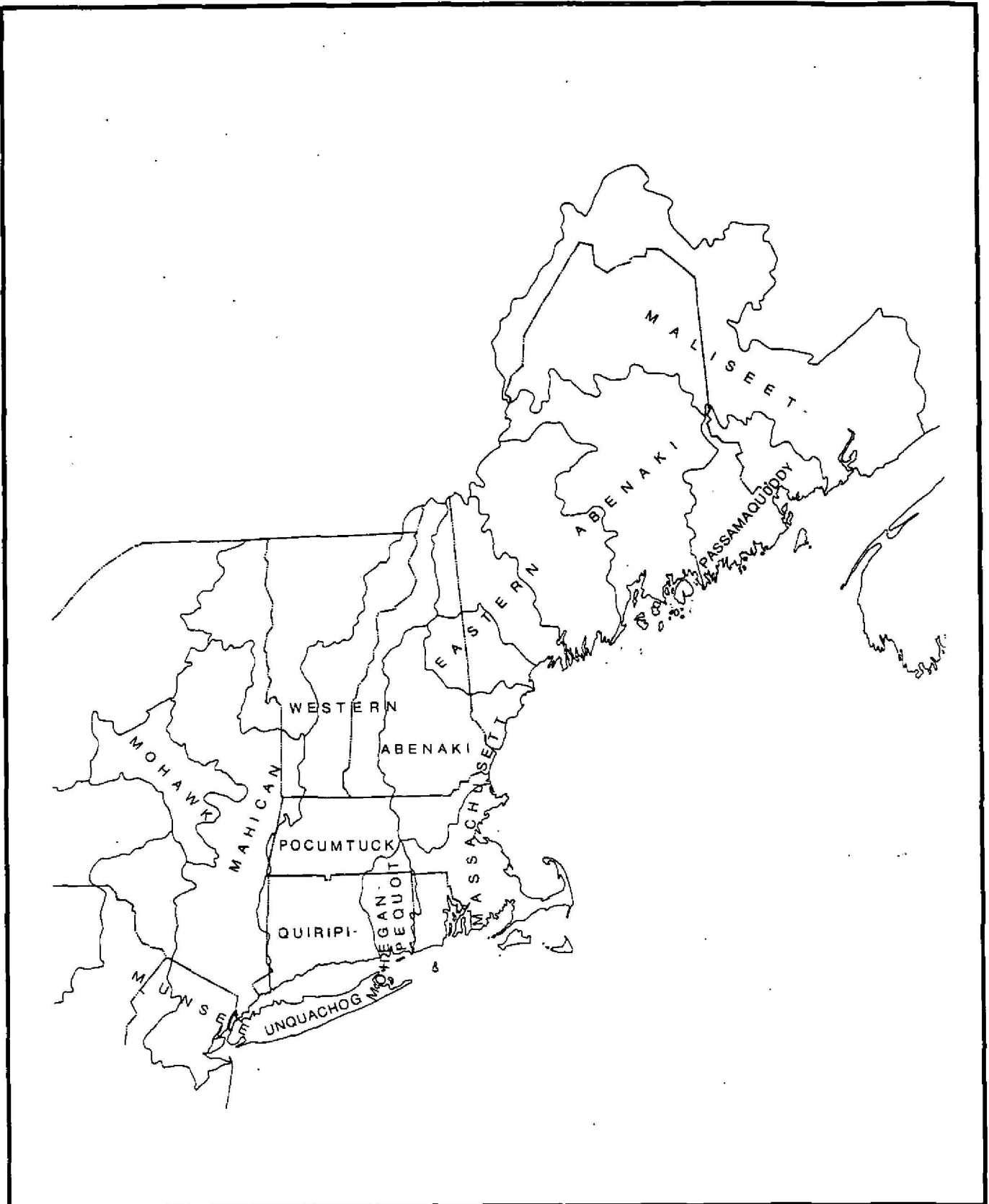
Physiographic Map of the north end of  
the Embayed Section of the Coastal Plain

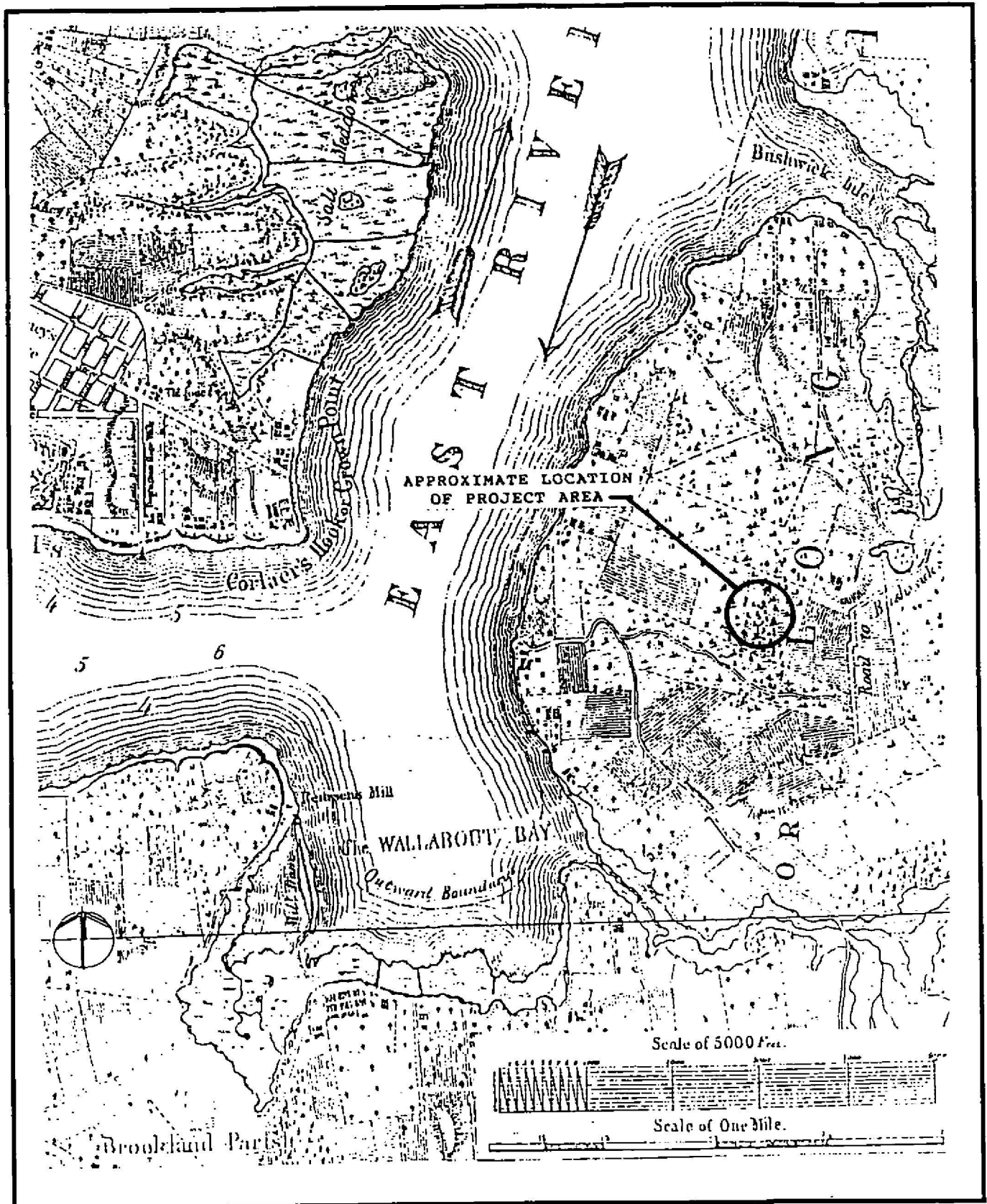
(After Hunt 1967: Fig. 10.5)

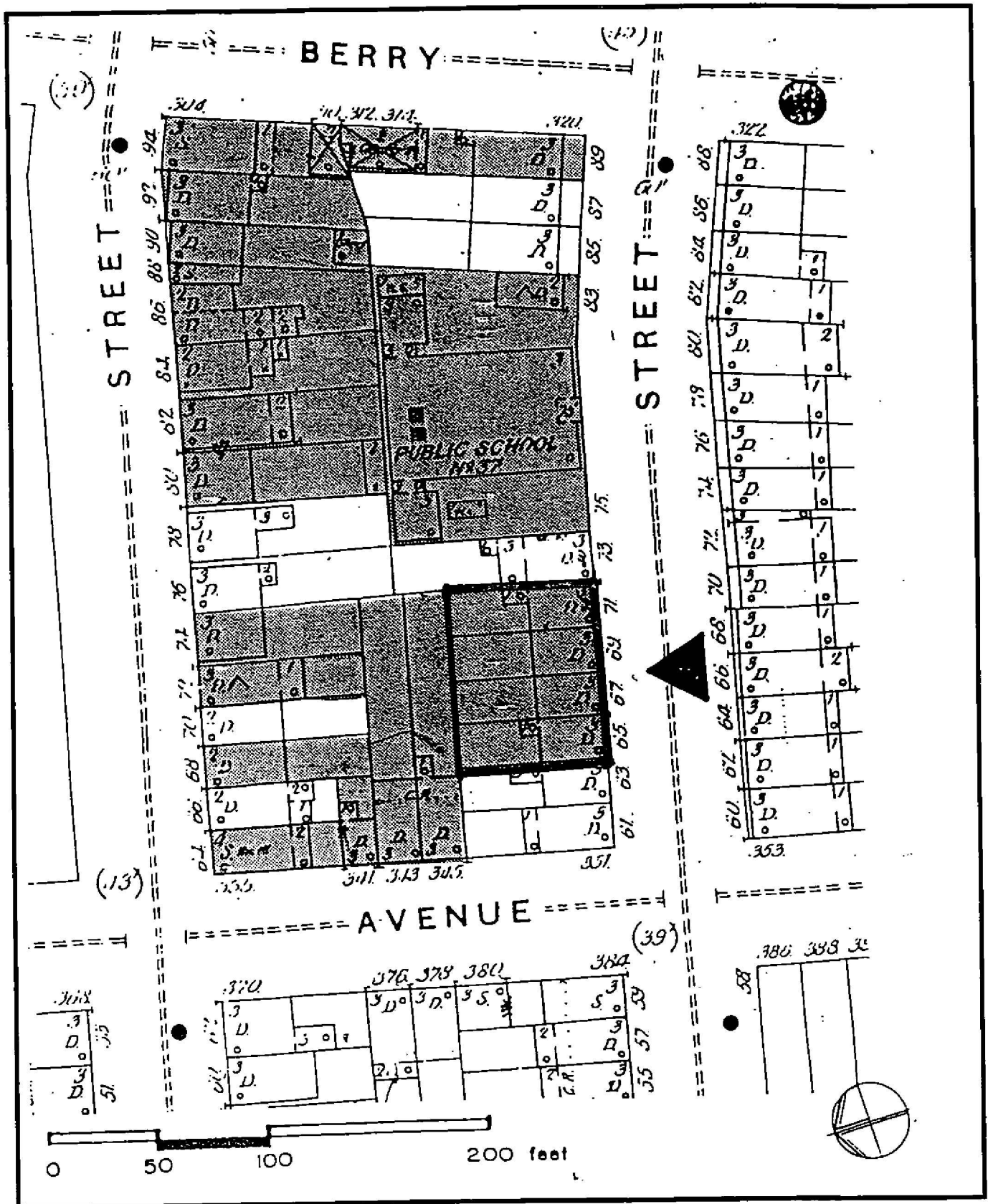


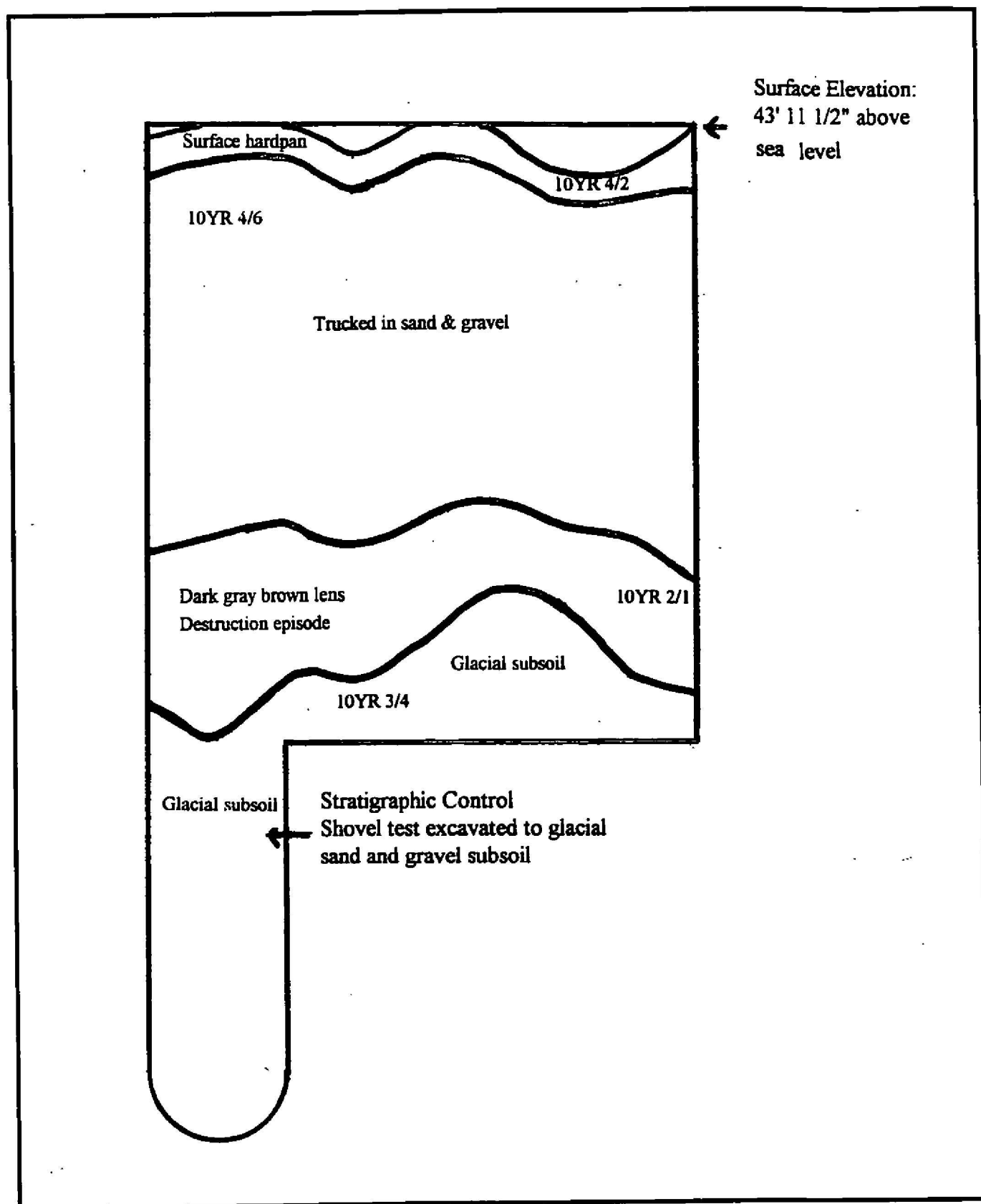


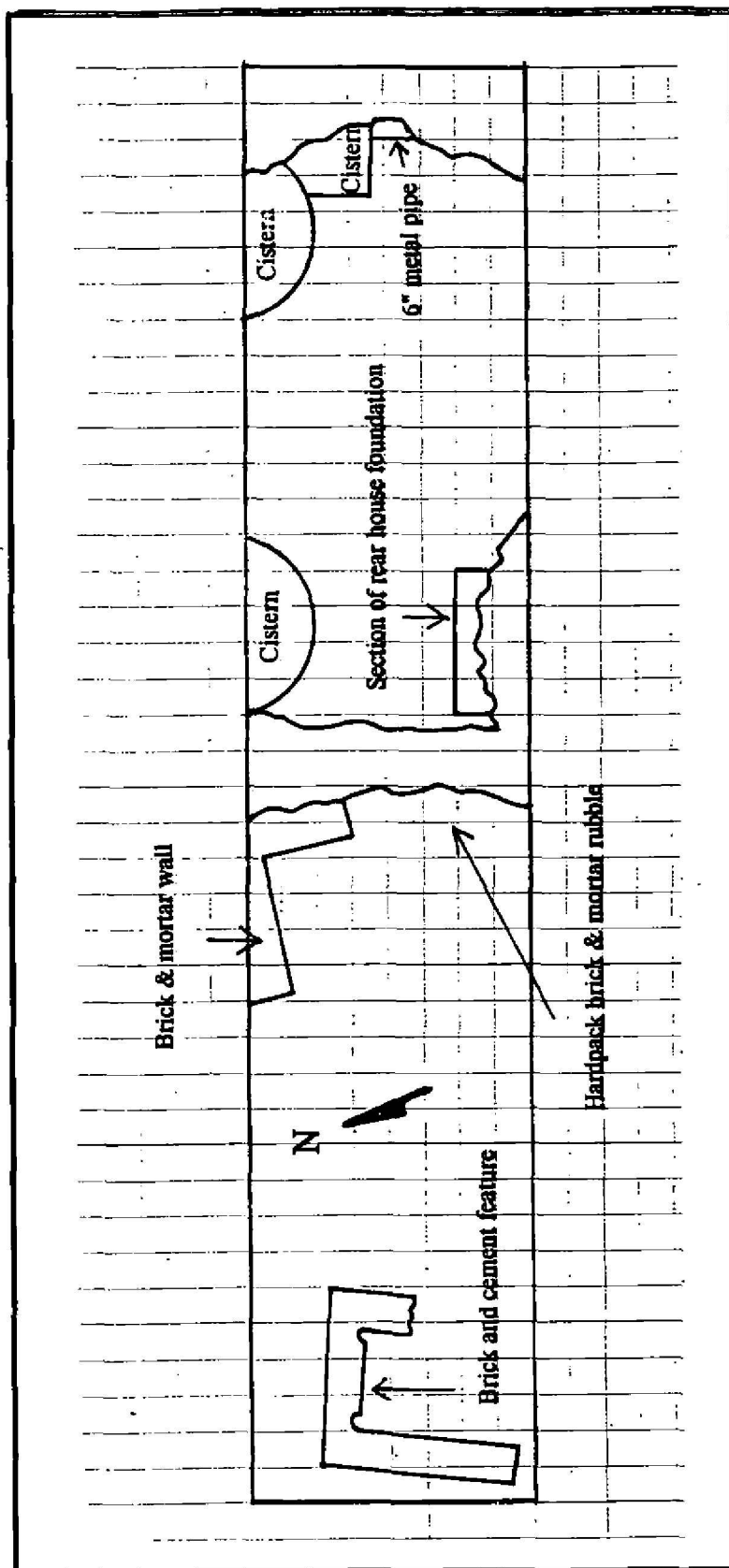












**APPENDIX B**

**SHOVEL TEST RECORD**



CARIBE VILLAGE, BROOKLYN, KINGS COUNTY, NY				
Site Examination - Shovel Test Record - April 24, 1994				
		Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material Recovered & Comments
ST 1	0-5"	10YR 4/3	hard pan/soil mixed with debris	Note: ST 1 expanded into 3' x 3' trench to depth of 3';
	-		of rock/brick/pebbles/sandy soil	sharp demarcation of levels noted.
	-----	10YR 3/4		1828 copper penny, construction & demolition debris
	..			including glass, pottery, cement & mortar, bone fragment,
				glass w. star pattern, hip flask-type bottles, etc.
	5-15"		dark yellowish brown sandy silt	Note: @ interface with level 3 block of flat concrete aggregate
	--		(red hue)	(perhaps portion of floor), almost devoid of cultural material
ST 2	---		close to sterile fill	construction & demolition debris
	15-35"	10YR 3/3	dark brownish gray sandy soil	substantial amounts of brick rubble
	----		(burning episode)	
	35-39"	10YR 3/4	dark yellowish brown sandy silt	Note: at interface with bottom of level 3 - tin - perhaps cap
ST 3	-----			to cistern or cover for some other ground depression
	0-5"	10YR 4/3	hard pan/soil mixed with debris	small fragments green/brown glass/brick fragments
	-		of cobbles, pebbles, brick	mixed with crushed stone & small cobbles & pebbles
	*		fragments/sandy soil	
	5-17"	10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	clay drain pipe fragment; small fragments of
	****		(reddish hue)	mica sheet, roofing nail
ST 3	**			Fill - close to sterile sandy soil
	***			rock impasse - 3 large cobbles
	0-4"	10YR 4/3	hard pan/soil mixed with debris	pebbles, brick fragments, burned coal, construction debris
	..		of cobbles, pebbles, brick	
			fragments/sandy soil	
	4-17"	10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	ceramic pipe, "U" shaped metal strap, chicken rib bone,
	...		(reddish hue)	brown "beer" bottle frag., 3 pc. corroded nails, round metal
	....			pc. w. hole in center
ST 3	17-24"	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown sandy	1 metal plate for light switch, plastic wire tied in knot, pink
	.....		soil (burning episode)	rubber band (used to hold body of doll together), 1 red
	.....			plastic cap (hole in center), opaque plastic, clear window
	.....			glass, brown "beer" bottle glass, clear ribbed glass, white
	.....			plastic button with 4 holes & ribbed, see artifact catalogue
	.....			for complete listing.

		CARIBE VILLAGE, BROOKLYN, KINGS COUNTY, NY		
		Shovel Test Record - April 29, 1994		
		Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material Recovered & Comments
REAR/ST 1	..			<b>NOTE: STPs initiated 32 1/2 " below trench datum</b>
	0-13"			corroded metal hook w. back plate, corroded nails,
	-	10YR 4/2	dark grayish brown sandy soil	ovoid crescent shaped metal frag., 2 pc. of a knife, window
	-----	10YR 3/4		glass, see artifact catalogue for additional pieces
	13-15"	10YR 3/2	dark gray brown soil mixed with	Lens of burned debris; linoleum; wood, metal knife frag.,
	--		ash	TV aerial wire, burned plastic, greenish & clear glass, pc. white
	---			china, corroded wire & nails; see artifact catalogue for additional
REAR/ST2				pieces.
	15-31"	10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM
	0-4"	10YR 4/2	dark grayish brown sandy soil	<b>NOTE: 29" below datum</b>
	..			plastic top to "take out" coffee, red glass frag., light blue
	4-6"	10YR 5/6	discontinuous lens of yellowish	green glass frag., white china frag w. black design; see artifact
	"			catalogue for additional pieces.
	....		brown sandy soil	Noxema" blue glass frag. green glass frag., glazed drain
REAR/ST 3	6-12"	10YR 3/2	very dark gray sandy soil	pipe frag., demolition debris with brick, marble & slate; see artifact
	.....		(burning episode)	catalogue for additional pieces
	12-25"	10YR 5/4	yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM
	25-31"	10 YR	grayish yellow galcial sand	NCM
REAR/ST 4	0-5"	10YR 5/6	yellowish brown sandy soil	<b>NOTE: 26 " below trench datum</b>
	5-13"	10YR 4/4	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	3 pc. green bottle glass
	13-15"	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown sandy	asphalt slab, fallen brick wall
	"		soil (burning episode)	Imapasse
REAR/ST 5	0-6"	10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	<b>NOTE: 30" below datum</b>
	6-21"	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown sandy	linoleum, yellow plastic, white ceramic
	...		(burning episode)	tile, white china frag., see artifact catalogue for additional items
	21-33"	10YR 5/8	yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM
REAR/ST 5	0-1"	10YR 3/2	very dark grayish brown sandy	<b>NOTE" 46" below datum</b>
	....		(burning episode)	clear bottle glass, brown "beer bottle frag., coiled spring
	.....			blue china farg., glass embossed w. star pattern,-
	.....			see artifact catalogue for additional items
	1-15"	19YR 5/8	yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM
	15-27"	10YR 5/4	yellowish brown sandy soil	NCM

		CARIBE VILLAGE, BROOKLYN, KINGS COUNTY, NY		
		Front Trench Examination - May 1, 1994		
		Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material Recovered & Comments
FDTN/ST 1	0-12"	10YR 3/3	very dark gray sandy soil mixed	NOTE: xx" below datum. STP located in center of
	-		with ash, coal slag, & evidence	poured concrete foundation that destroyed outer edge
	-----		of burning	of brick cistern; non-stratified deposit.
	-			2 pc. opalescent peach glass, frag. brown & green bottle
	---		STP located behind 65 4th Street	glass, window glass frag., cream colored pottery, glazed
	---		house foundation	brown pottery, building debris (marble, brick, mortar)
	..			45 vinyl record frag., burned & corroded metal; see artifact
	-----			catalogue for additional pieces
HOUSE B		10YR 4/6	dark yellowish brown sandy soil	Materials noted immediately outside brick features
	-			associated with eastern edge of House A (65 4th St.)
	*			and House B (76 4th St.); non-stratified deposit.
	"			metal hanger for gutter or downspout, blue plastic glass
	**			or straight sided jar, window glass frag., building debris
	***			(bathroom tile & commode or sink frag., ceramic drain pipe)
	-----			1 pc. ironstone square/rectangular plate or platter; see
	---			artifact catalogue for additional pieces.

**APPENDIX C**

**ARTIFACT CATALOGUE**

Date	Shovel Test/Trench	Artifacts Recovered
4-24-94		
	STP 1	<p>Fragments of demolition debris - noted but not collected</p> <p>7 pcs. clear bottle glass (represents +/- 6 bottles: 4 round &amp; 2 "hip flask" types)</p> <p>2 pc. embossed clear glass - refit (6.8 FL OZ &amp; Crown with "roses")</p> <p>1 clear glass bottle fragment (neck &amp; shoulders)</p> <p>1 pc. clear glass bottle top</p> <p>1 brown bottle fragment (screw off top)</p> <p>1 clear glass fragment with raised pattern</p> <p>1 pc. light blue china - curved fragment</p> <p>1 pc. unglazed ceramic with black speckle interior</p> <p>1 pc. unidentified bone</p> <p>1 pc. white vitreous china - commode or sink fragment</p> <p>1 pc. cement/mortar with reddened interior</p> <p>1 pc. clear glass fragment. embossed with star pattern</p>
	STP 2	<p>Fragments of demolition debris - not collected</p> <p>numerous pc. green &amp; brown bottle glass</p> <p>brick fragments mixed with crushed stone, pebbles &amp; cobbles</p> <p>demolition debris (nails, asphalt, small pc. wood) - noted/not collected</p> <p>clay drain pipe, small fragments of mica sheet, roofing nail</p>
	STP 3	<p>Fragments of demolition debris - not collected</p> <p>1 metal plate for light switch</p> <p>plastic wire tied in knot</p> <p>1 "U" shaped rod with threaded ends</p> <p>2 pc. corroded nails</p> <p>1 round metal knob</p> <p>1 brown glazed fragment - drain pipe</p> <p>1 pc. chicken bone</p> <p>pink rubber band to hold doll's body together</p> <p>red plastic cap with hole in center</p> <p>opaque plastic (lamp shade ?)</p> <p>clear ribbed glass</p> <p>white ribbed plastic button with 4 holes</p>

Date	Shovel Test/ Trench	Artifacts Recovered
4-29-94	Rear Trench	
	STP 1: Level 1	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 1 corroded metal hook with back plate 1 corroded metal nail 1 corroded nail fused to 2nd pc. metal 1 pc. crescent shaped metal fragment. - ovoid in x-section 2 pc. thin metal - pieces of a kitchen knife (?) 2 pc. window glass 1 ham steak bone
	STP 1: Level 2	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 1 pc. thin metal - piece of kitchen knife from Level 1 1 pc. corroded wire 1 pc. clear glass w. traces of silver (mirror) 1 pc. plastic TV antenna 1 nail fragment. 1 pc. vitrified material (burned plastic) 1 thick pc. greenish glass 1 pc. clear glass bottle/jar 1 pc. thin white china 1 pc. red tile w. traces of tar.
4-29-94	STP 2: Level 1	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 1 pc. wood grained plastic wall covering 1 pc. plastic "take-out" coffee lid 5 pcs. window glass with bluish tinge 7 pcs. clear glass (parts of bottle/bottles) 1 deep red glass fragment 1 pc. thin clear glass tube/vial snapped at top & bottom 1 pc. light blue/green glass fragment 1 pc. "Noxema" blue glass fragment 1 pc. white china with black design 1 pc. cream colored china - slightly curved 1 pc. white pottery fragment - curved 1 pc. red clay flower pot fragment 1 corroded metal screw 1 "L" shaped metal bracket

Date	Shovel Test/Trench	Artifacts Recovered
4-29-94	Rear Trench	
	STP 2: Level 2	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 1 pc. "Noxema" blue glass fragment 1 pc. green glass fragment 1 roofing nail 3 pc. soft brick fragments 2 pc. glazed drain pipe fragments 1 pc. reddish brown sandstone fragment
	STP 3	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 3 pcs. green bottle glass fragments
	STP 4	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 1 pc. linoleum (cream/yellow/orange pattern) 1 pc. yellow plastic 1 white ceramic tile fragment 1 pc. red clay flower pot fragment - traces of red paint 1 pc. white china 1 pc. white china - curved 1 white china "button" cap 1 white china bottle stopper with holes at top 1 pc. brown glazed tile (resembles tiles around cook stove) 1 pc. deep red glass 1 pc. dark green/blue glass - curved 2 pc. window glass 3 pc. clear glass bottle fragments 1 pc. clear glass - chicken wire embedded in glass & stippled on one side 1 pc. brown glass bottle shard 1 sq. cut nail 1 copper "I" shaped strap with holes 1 "T" shaped metal strap 1 pc. asphalt/tar fragment



Date	Shovel Test/Trench	Artifacts Recovered
4-29-94	Rear Trench	
	STP 5	Fragments of demolition debris - not collected 1 pc. metal coiled spring 1 pc. unburned coal 1 pc. clear glass embossed with star pattern (similar to pattern noted in STP 1 on 4-24-94) 2 pc. think clear glass 1 pc. asphalt/tar 3 pcs. white china fragments 1 pc. thin white opaque glass

Date	Shovel Test/Trench	Artifacts Recovered
5-1-94	Front Trench	
65 4th Street	STP in center of poured concrete foundation (See Photo 8)	<p>Fragments of demolition debris - not collected</p> <p>2 pc. opalescent peach colored glass</p> <p>5 pc. brown bottle glass (1 embossed "POSIT")</p> <p>1 pc. green bottle glass</p> <p>1 pc. light green glass fragment</p> <p>7 pc. clear glass bottle (1 with embossed Irish harp)</p> <p>3 pc. clear glass bottle fragments (1 pc. with embossed "2-" &amp; "82" &amp; serrated anti-skid bottom) (2 pc. with small dots - anti-skid pattern on bottom)</p> <p>3 pc. window glass</p> <p>2 pc. cream colored pottery (2 refit) (1 with painted pink flower on interior)</p> <p>1 pc. glazed brown pottery</p> <p>2 pc. 45 RPM vinyl record</p> <p>1 white screw cap to condiment jar or bottle (moveable top)</p> <p>plastic &amp; wire hair curler</p> <p>2 pc. white plastic</p> <p>1 red plastic cup shaped fragment</p> <p>1 pc. "take-out" coffee top</p> <p>1 pc. Styrofoam fragment - pink/white with blue scanning marks</p> <p>1 corroded/burned rubber ring</p> <p>1 pc. grooved gray plastic</p> <p>1 pc. asphalt/tar</p> <p>1 pc. hexagonal bathroom tile set in cement</p> <p>1 pc. white plastic embossed with scroll work</p> <p>1 pc. white marble</p> <p>1 pc. red tile drain pipe</p> <p>1 pc. brick/mortar</p> <p>1 pc. white plaster</p> <p>2 pc. thin metal sheet - burned &amp; corroded</p>

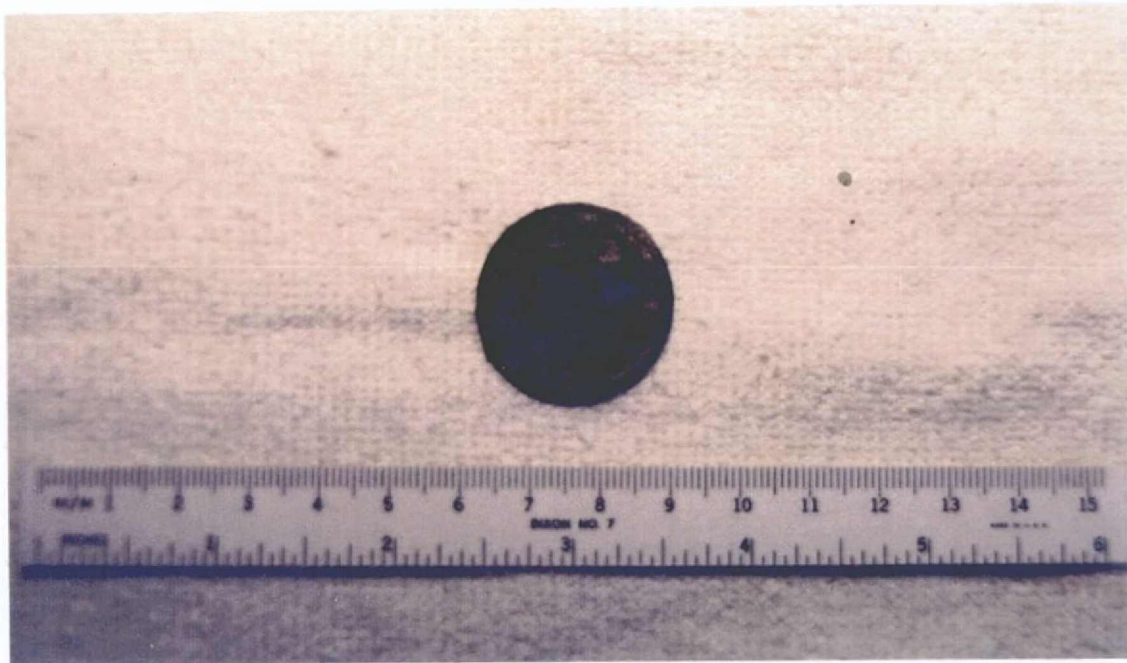
Date	Shovel Test/Trench	Artifacts Recovered
5-1-94	Front Trench	
67 4th Street	Exterior of brick cistern (See Photo 15)	1 round decorative element with fleur de lis pattern 1 pc. white granite ware square/rectangular plate/platter 2 pc. white vitreous commode or sink 1 pc. white ceramic tile 1 pc. white plastic 1 pc. cobalt blue glass/jar with straight sides 1 pc. leather shoe (heel area) 6 pc. window glass 1 pc. clear glass bottle 1 round metal "foot" (perhaps for refrigerator)

Material recovered represented non-stratified deposit. Information received indicates that the buildings on the site burned approximately 15-20 years ago. Shovel tests indicate that the site was bulldozed after the fire (lens of burned debris) and that clean fill was spread over the site (lens of sterile yellow brown sand). The top layer is also fill, but filled with cinders and small pieces of glass and debris to create a hard-pan surface over the site.

Of the cultural material recovered, the vast majority was of recent date. Undoubtedly this material was deposited on the site when the burned buildings were cleared or bulldozed. The only material recovered that appears associated with the 19th century inhabitants of the houses is the fleur de lis decorative element found near the cistern at the rear of 67 South 4th Street (Photo 19), the piece of granite ware recovered in the same area (Photo 20), and materials, such as the downspout or gutter bracket, cut nails, and wall bracket, that are potentially original to the houses (Photo 21). The 1828 copper penny (Photo 19) may also be part of that association, but its recovery in the first 6" of ST 1 on 4-24-94 may also suggest that it was brought there in fill rather than lost by previous inhabitants.

**APPENDIX D**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

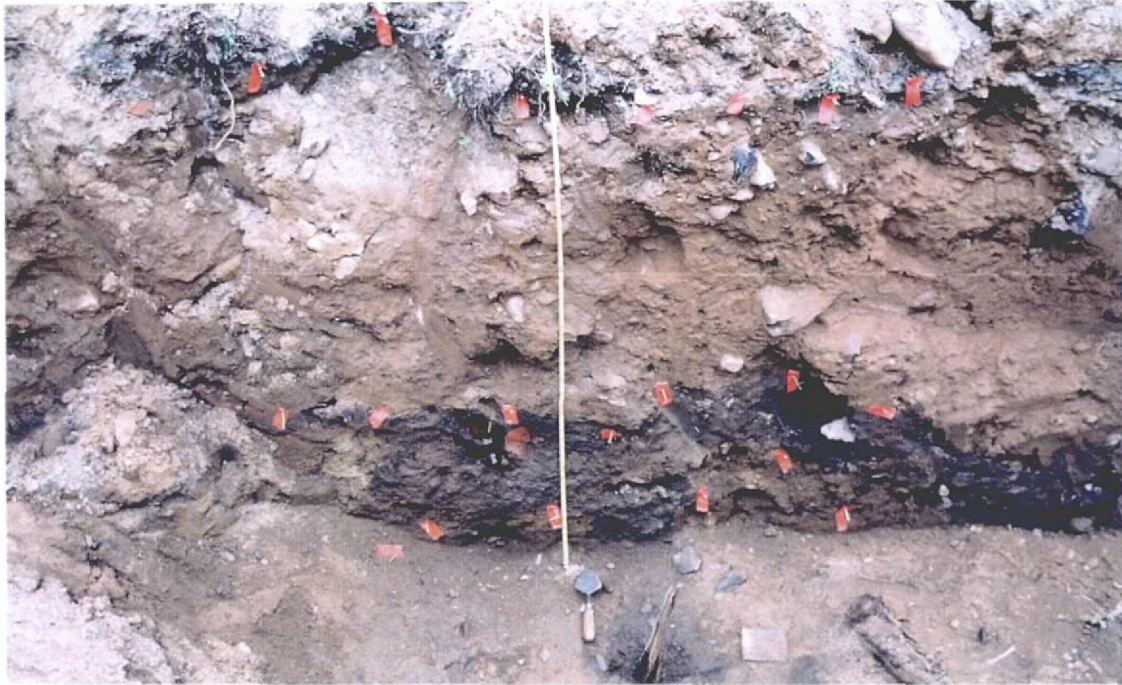


**Photo 1:** 1828 copper penny excavated from ST 1 on 4-24-94. Crowned Liberty with 13 stars around outside of coin.



**Photo 2:** Shovel tests being dug in rear trench. Note datum flag at rear.





**Photo 3:** Profile in rear trench. See Figure 1: Section Profile, Northern Wall, Trench A.



**Photo 4:** Shovel test in rear trench. Flat stones noted. No cultural material or other evidence of privy feature.





**Photo 5:** Poured concrete feature located in west end of Trench B. See Figure 2: Scale Plan of Features Identified in Trench B.



**Photo 6:** Large pieces of concrete and asphalt excavated from eastern end of Trench B.





**Photo 7:** Brick and stone foundation wall associated with eastern edge of 65 S. 4th Street lot.



**Photo 8:** Brick cistern located immediately east of brick and stone foundation wall seen in Photo 7.



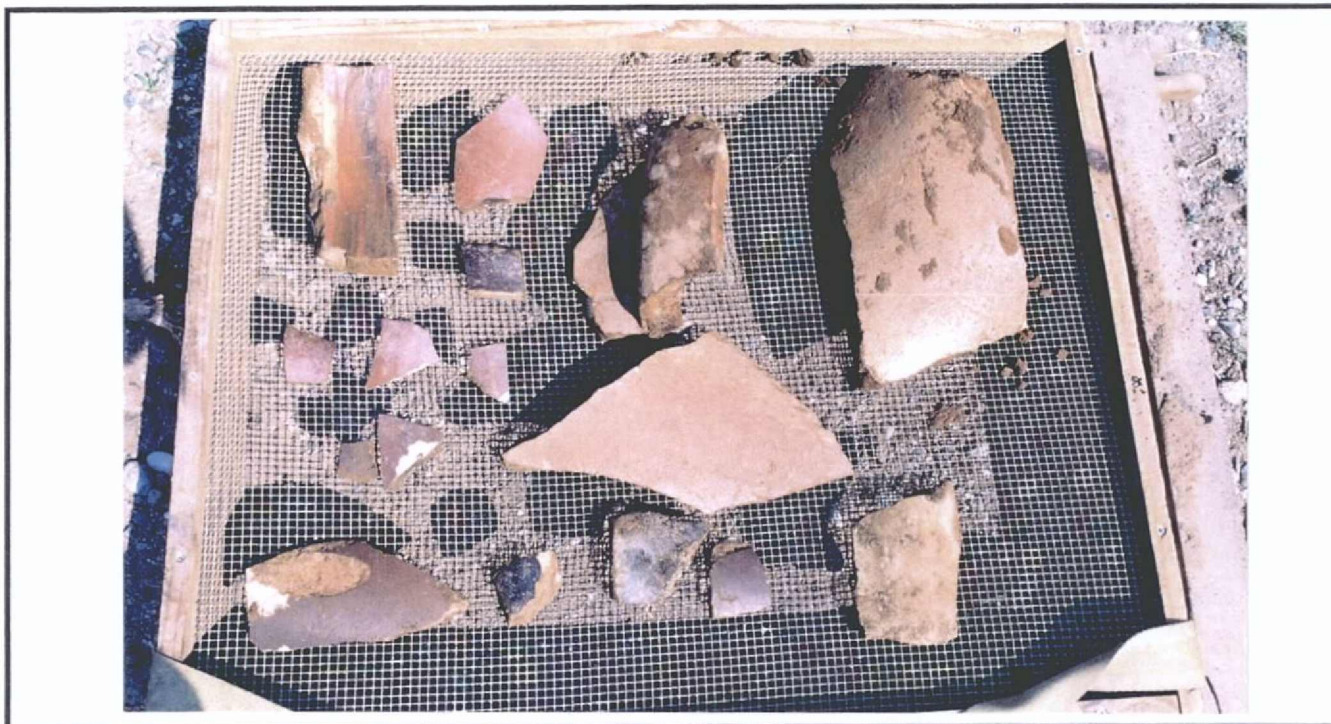


**Photo 9:** Brick foundation wall associated with house on 67 South 4th Street lot.



**Photo 10:** Deteriorated brick cistern set on square brick feature with 6" metal pipe entering from south associated with house at 67 South 4th Street.





**Photo 11:** Selection of clay drain pipe excavated from rear of 65 & 67 South 4th Street lots.



**Photo 12:** Decorative metal ring excavated from rear of 67 South 4th Street house (5-1-94) and 1828 copper penny excavated at rear of 65 South 4th Street (4-24-94).





**Photo 13:** Selection of glass, ceramics, and bone excavated from Caribe Village site.

Left to right: "hip flask" type bottle cross-mended, fragments of red, green, cobalt and lt. blue glass, ham steak bone, neck & mouth of bottle, glass vial, glazed brown ceramic, blue pottery fragment, unidentified bone, small glass bottle with screw cap, glass with star pattern, ceramic bottle stopper, mica flakes, stippled glass embedded with chicken site, 19th century granite ware square or rectangular platter/plate, white glazed pottery with painted pink flower.



**Photo 14:** Selection of metal objects from Caribe Village site.

Left to right: hanger for gutter/downspout, 3 fragments of kitchen knife, copper "I" shaped strap with perforations, corroded nail, corroded metal wall hook, ovoid crescent shaped metal fragment.

**APPENDIX E**

**FIELD RECONNAISSANCE MAP**

