

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTARY STUDY  
RECONSTRUCTION OF NEWTOWN PLAYGROUND  
56TH AVENUE AND 92ND STREET  
ELMHURST, QUEENS**

**by  
ARNOLD PICKMAN**

**Submitted To  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation**

**October 1995**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
	A. Background	1
	B. Procedures	1
	C. Site Description	1
II.	NEWTOWN BURIAL GROUND - HISTORY	3
	A. Summary of Early History of the Town of Newtown	3
	B. History of Newtown Burial Ground	5
	1. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries	5
	2. Nineteenth Century	6
	3. Early Twentieth Century	10
	4. Construction of Playground	12
	5. 1935 Playground Reconstruction	13
III.	KNOWN NEWTOWN BURIAL GROUND INTERMENTS	16
	A. Tombstone Inscriptions	16
	B. Other Burials	17
	C. Burials Removed from the Town Cemetery	18
	D. Chronological Analysis of Known Tombstone Inscriptions	19
IV.	SUMMARY OF FAMILY INTERMENTS	20
	A. Moore Family	20
	1. Samuel Moore	21
	2. John and Hannah Moore	21
	a. Mary Moore Stewart and Richard Lawrence	22
	b. Other Children of John and Hannah Moore	22
	c. Hannah Moore	22
	d. Christopher Billop and Elizabeth Billop	22
	3. Samuel and Sarah Moore	23
	a. Jacob and Elizabeth Moore	23
	1. John Moore	23
	b. William Moore	23
	c. Sarah Moore's Barrow and Thomas Barrow	23
	4. Patience Moore Lawrence, Joseph Lawrence, and John and Richard Lawrence	24
	B. Fish Family	24
	1. Nathan Fish	24
	a. Nathaniel Fish and Jane Berrien Fish	24
	1. Mary Fish	24
	2. Cornelius Berrien	25
	3. Johnathan Fish and Elizabeth Sackett Fish	25
	C. Waldron/Rapalje Family	25
	1. Samuel Waldron	25
	a. Samuel Waldron	26
	b. Ann Waldron Rapalje and Richard Rapalje	26
	1. Mary Waldron	26
	2. Agnes Nicoll Bloom	26
	a. Mary Bloom Rapelye	26
	D. Sackett Family	26
	1. William Sackett	27
	a. Patience and Mary Sackett	27

E. Coe Family	27
1. Benjamin Coe	27
2. Clarissa Lewis Howard	27
F. Titus Family	27
1. Content Titus	28
2. David and Elenor Titus	28
G. Field Family	28
H. Other Families	28
V. ANALYSIS OF SITE TOPOGRAPHY, GRADE CHANGES, AND DISTURBANCE	30
A. Original Topography	30
B. Effects of 1927 - 1928 Playground Construction	31
C. Effects of 1935 Playground Reconstruction	32
1. Discussion of Disturbance of Burials	34
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	36
A. Summary	36
B. Significance	36
C. Impacts of Proposed Construction	38
D. Mitigation Options	40
REFERENCES CITED	42

#### FIGURES AND PLATES - FOLLOWING TEXT:

##### Figures:

Figure 1	- Project Location Map
Figure 2	- 1849 Sidney Map
Figure 3	- 1852 Riker Map
Figure 4a	- 1888 Hyatt Map and Section
Figure 4b	- 1888 Hyatt Map Detail
Figure 5	- 1902 Sanborn Map
Figure 6	- 1913 Beekman Survey
Figure 7	- 1919 Topographic Bureau Survey and Plan of Graves
Figure 8	- 1931 Sanborn Map
Figure 9	- 1934 Newtown Playground Survey
Figure 10	- 1982 Newtown Playground Survey
Figure 11	- 1993 Newtown Playground Site Plan
Figure 12	- Photograph of Newtown Cemetery (Late 19th Century)
Figure 13	- Photograph of Newtown Cemetery (Early 20th Century)
Figure 14	- Photograph of Newtown Playground Construction
Figure 15	- Chronological Analysis of Dated Tombstone Inscriptions
Figure 16	- Annotated 1919 Plan Showing Family Plots
Figure 17	- 1910 Topographic Map
Figure 18	- Annotated 1934 Survey Showing 1904 and 1934 Contours
Figure 19	- Annotated 1982 Survey Showing 1904 Contours and Section Locations
Figure 20a	- Section A-A' Showing 1904, 1934 and 1982 Surfaces
Figure 20b	- Section B-B' Showing 1904, 1934 and 1982 Surfaces
Figure 20c	- Section C-C' Showing 1904, 1934 and 1982 Surfaces
Figure 20d	- Section D-D' Showing 1904, 1934 and 1982 Surfaces
Figure 20e	- Section E-E' Showing 1904, 1934 and 1982 Surfaces
Figure 20f	- Section F-F' Showing 1904, 1934 and 1982 Surfaces

Figure 21 - Annotated 1982 Survey Showing Location of Burials  
From 1919 Survey

Figure 22 - Annotated 1993 Site Plan Showing Depths of Existing Fill

**Plates:**

- Plate 1 - View East Along 56th Avenue Sidewalk
- Plate 2 - View of Fences And Area Along North Side of Playground
- Plate 3 - Northwest Corner of Playground and 92nd Street Frontage
- Plate 4 - West Side of Recreation Building
- Plate 5 - Southwestern Corner of Playground
- Plate 6 - Wading Pool and Surrounding Iron Fence
- Plate 7 - East Side Recreation Building
- Plate 8 - Belgian Block Wall Along Southern Boundary of Playground
- Plate 9 - Detail of Belgian Block Wall
- Plate 10 - Northeastern Corner of Playground
- Plate 11 - Eastern Portion of Playground

**APPENDICES:**

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Appendix A - Alphabetical List of Known Tombstone<br>Inscriptions        | A-1 - A-3 |
| Appendix B - Chronological List of Known Dated Tombstone<br>Inscriptions | B-1 - B-3 |
| Appendix C - List of Pauper Deaths 1829 - 1844                           | C-1 - C-2 |

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Background

The Newtown Playground is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of 56th Avenue and 92nd Street, in what is now the Elmhurst section of the Borough of Queens (see Figure 1). Prior to the incorporation of Queens County into the City of New York in 1898, this location was within the Town of Newtown. The Playground site was originally part of the Newtown Town Burial Ground. Parks Department records indicate that the site was converted into a Playground in the 1920's, and that human remains were unearthed during the first reconstruction of the playground in 1935. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is currently planning to undertake another reconstruction of the Newtown Playground.

This archaeological research study has several objectives: a) to review the history of the cemetery, b) identify families and individuals interred there, c) assess the original topography of the site and the effects of Playground construction and associated grade changes, d) assess the likelihood that undisturbed burials remain on the site, e) assess the archaeological sensitivity and significance of the site, f) consider the likely impacts of the proposed reconstruction and, g) consider alternative actions to mitigate adverse impacts on remaining burials.

### B. Procedures

Research for this project has been conducted at the Queens Borough Public Library; the New York Public Library, Research Division; the New York City Municipal Archives; the Borough of Queens Topographic Bureau; the Borough of Queens Office of the City Register; and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Map Archives. The records reviewed include local histories, maps, 19th and early 20th century newspapers, the Newtown town records, Queens County deeds, Department of Parks correspondence files and Newtown playground plans. The analysis of data includes a reconstruction of the original cemetery topography and review of subsequent grade changes. These data have been compared with the existing schematic plans for the playground reconstruction and other data provided by NYCDPR.

A pedestrian reconnaissance of the site was conducted by the Principal Investigator on August 31, 1995 in order to assess existing conditions.

### C. Site Description

The Newtown Playground site is bounded on the north by 56th

Avenue and the adjacent concrete sidewalk. There is a narrow strip of grass, approximately four feet wide, bordering the sidewalk (see Plate 1) with an iron picket fence marking the edge of the site. South of this fence there is a similar grassy strip (Plate 2) which slopes downward some 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 feet to a chain link fence marking the northern edge of the asphalt playground surface.

On the west the playground is bordered by 92nd Street. On the north and south portions of the 92nd Street frontage, there is a concrete sidewalk, adjacent grassy strip, iron picket fence, second grassy strip and chain link fence similar to those on the northern side of the playground (see Plate 3). The central portion of this western frontage is occupied by a brick recreation and "comfort station" building (Plate 4). North of the building the playground surface is at the approximate sidewalk grade, while to the south it is some 1 1/2 feet below grade (Plate 5).

The existing grade within the playground enclosure slopes downward slightly from the northwest corner to both the south and east, approximately one foot in each direction. The southern boundary of the asphalt playground surface and its curving eastern boundary are also bordered by the chain link fence noted above. The central portion of the playground enclosure is occupied by a shallow (ca. 1 - 1 1/2 foot deep) concrete wading pool and surrounding iron picket fence (Plate 6). Play equipment within the enclosure includes swings, see-saws and a basketball backboard. A set of benches are situated around the interior of the curving eastern portion of the chain link fence. A drinking fountain is located immediately east of the northeast corner of the recreation building (Plate 7).

South of the chain link fence there is a ca. four foot wide grass strip at the approximate grade of the playground surface. This grass strip is bounded by a low stone ("Belgian") block and concrete wall which extends some 110 feet east of the 92nd Street sidewalk. South of this wall is the driveway and parking area adjacent to the Cathedral Preparatory Seminary (see Plates 8 and 9).

East of the curving chain link fence, there is another grassy area which extends eastward to a low concrete "curb" which in turn is separated by a narrow earthen strip from a stucco-coated retaining wall (Plates 10 and 11). The property east of this wall is occupied by a six story apartment building and adjacent garden area. The ground elevation of this property is some 5 - 6 feet above the playground surface.

## II. NEWTOWN BURIAL GROUND - HISTORY

### A. Summary of Early History of the Town of Newtown

Prior to 1642 there was only scattered settlement in the area which later became Newtown. Isolated plantations had been established near Mespat Kill, later known as Newtown Creek. However, in 1642 the Reverend Francis Doughty and a band of settlers from New England obtained a patent from the Dutch governor of New Amsterdam, Willem Kieft, for a tract of 13,332 acres which extended from Flushing Creek westward to what is now Long Island City, and from the south side of Newtown Creek and what is now Forest Hills northward to Long Island Sound.

Doughty and his followers established a small settlement at the most easterly branch of Mespat Kill. However, in 1643 Governor Kieft precipitated a war with the local Native Americans, and in a retaliatory raid the latter destroyed the Mespat settlement, with the settlers fleeing to the safety of the fort at New Amsterdam (Riker 1852, Munsell 1882, Historical Records Survey 1940).

Peaceful relations with the Native Americans were eventually restored, and by 1645 the Mespat settlement had been rebuilt. However, a subsequent dispute arose between Doughty and the other settlers and there was apparently no further development or expansion of the Mespat settlement.

The next settlement in the area occurred in 1652 when a group of 54 English Calvinists arrived from New England. Although the Dutch were still in control in New Amsterdam at this time, the English settlers obtained permission from Governor Peter Stuyvesant to settle in a location approximately mid-way between Newtown Creek and the Dutch settlement of Vlissingen (later known as Flushing). The settlement was centered in the vicinity of the present intersection of Queens Boulevard and Grand Avenue. The privileges accorded under the 1642 Dutch patent were extended to the new English settlement, which was named Middleburg (Munsell 1882, Historical Records Survey 1940). Among the Middleburg settlers were Jonathan Fish and Robert Coe. Members of the Fish and Coe families are among those interred in the Newtown Burial Ground (see Chapter III).

Since the Middleburg settlement had not succeeded in obtaining a town patent from the Dutch authorities, the settlers obtained a deed to the land from the local Native American chiefs in order to strengthen their claim to the land.

By the early 1660's relations between the English settlers and the Dutch authorities had deteriorated and the Middleburg settlers, proclaiming their allegiance to the English King, Charles II, changed the name of their settlement from "Middleburg," to "Hastings" (Munsell 1882, Historical Records

Survey 1940).

In 1664, the English acquired the New Amsterdam colony from the Dutch, and changed its name to New York. Subsequently, in 1665, at a convention of the various towns, the former town of Hastings was enlarged by inclusion within its boundaries of a number of "out-plantations," and its name was changed to "New Towne." However, this name was apparently already in common use (Munsell 1882, Historical Records Survey 1940).

In 1666, with approval of the English Governor, Richard Nicolls, the town obtained another deed from the local Native American chiefs, most likely of the Canarsie group. Among the freeholders of the Town at this time (as listed by Munsell 1882:332) were John Coe, John Furman, Josias Furman, Thomas Lawrence, Gershom Moore, John Moore, Samuel Moore, Thomas Moore, Thomas Morrell, and Lambert Woodward. These family names are among those recorded on tombstones in the Town Burial Ground (see Chapter III).

In 1667, subsequent to obtaining this Indian deed, the settlers succeeded in obtaining a patent for the Town lands from Governor Nicoll. The patent was granted to

Capt. Richard Betts, Justice of the Peace, Capt. Thomas Lawrence, Capt. John Coe, John Burroughes, Ralph Hunt, Daniel Whitehead and Burger Joost, as patentees for and on behalf of themselves and their associates the freeholders and inhabitants of said town ... all that tract of land ... bounded east by Flushing Creek; north by the Sound; south by Jamaica line, which runs on the south side of the hills; and west by Mespat Creek or Kills ... and that the place of their present habitation shall continue and retain the name of New Towne (Riker 1852:74-75).

Under the patent there was a large amount of land held in common by the patentees. Grants of land were made periodically to individual applicants and there were also allotments of common land among the freeholders (Riker 1852:99).

In 1686, in order to fix the amount of annual quit-rents to be paid to the government and also due to boundary disputes with neighboring towns, a confirmatory patent was drawn up and signed by Governor Thomas Dongan. This patent includes a list of the "present freeholders and inhabitants of the said town of Newtown." These include Gershom Moore, Samuel Moore, Josias Furman, Sen., Nathan Fish, John Coe, Samuel Fish, Thomas Morrell, Thomas Lawrence, William Lawrence, John Lawrence, John Furman, Josias Furman, Jun., Content Titus, Lambert Woodward, Nathaniel Woodward, John Fish, John Moore and Thomas Morrell, Jun. Some of these individuals were also included in the earlier freeholders list. As noted above, members of these families are among those interred in the Newtown burial ground. This 1686 patent reserves to forty-six of these freeholders, who were original purchasers, control of the still unappropriated common land within the town (Riker 1852:108-113).



## B. History of Newtown Town Cemetery

### 1. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

The major published histories (Riker 1852, Munsell 1882, Hazelton 1925, Historical Records Survey 1940) do not discuss the Town Cemetery or its early history. Neither the Town records nor the deed indices located in the office of the New York City Register indicate the existence of any documents specifically setting aside land for use as the Town Burial Ground. Similarly there are apparently no recorded deeds for individual burial plots within the cemetery

Some of the principal families of the town seem to have had plots set aside for their particular use, though as far as known no deeds were ever given and the entire yard belonged to the town until consolidation with New York City, when it became city property (Newtown Register 1914)

The earliest mention of the Newtown burial ground which could be located in the primary documents is as part of a boundary description in a deed dated February 22, 1730 by which

Robert Titus, yeoman, conveys to Samuel Fish, Junr., inn holder, a piece of upland and meadow and swamp, three acres bounded northwardly by the Highway, Eastwardly by the Burying Ground and James Renne, south by the Creek and westerly by the vacant swamp and bog between ye same and ye passage over the Horse Brook (Newtown Records Liber 6:1 - emphasis added).

The "highway" noted in the above deed apparently ran along the course of the present 56th Avenue, known in the 19th century as Justice or Court Street.

A committee appointed by the Town Board of Health to examine the Burial Ground in 1888 noted that "we have no doubt but that the cemetery is coeval with the settlement of Newtown village, in the year 1652" (Newtown Register 1888). A subsequent article (Newtown Register 1901) also notes that "the old cemetery on Court St. was set aside by the Town for burial purposes soon after the settlement of Newtown in 1652 and for over 150 years it was the only public cemetery in the Town, all other places of interment being owned by private families".

It is likely that the Newtown Town Burial Ground was part of the land granted to the town patentees in the 17th century and never allotted to any of the individual settlers. Records of inscriptions on tombstones in the Burial Ground made during the late 19th and early 20th century period indicated the presence of only one fragmentary inscription dating to the 17th century. This consists merely of the partial date "167?" (Frost 1914).

The 1888 Board of Health committee report noted above indicates that "the cemetery is studded with boulder head stones designed to mark graves, at a time preceding the use or custom of inscribed slabs" (Newtown Register 1888). These boulder head stones were apparently never inscribed or had shallow inscriptions on the surface which were subsequently removed by erosion or fragmentation of the stone. In 1913 it was noted that

many of the grave stones are broken while other are entirely destroyed .... many of the graves are unmarked and no record of these can now be obtained (Newtown Register 1913a)

Thus, many of the earliest burials in the Town Burial Ground most likely remain unrecorded. It is commonly supposed that many of the original settlers of Newtown were, in fact, interred in the Town Burial Ground (Kelley 1908:25, Queens Borough Public Library 1938 II:174)

It has been noted (see above) that during the early history of Newtown a burial ground was needed for the interment of those inhabitants of the town who had no access to family cemeteries. In addition, O'Gorman (1884-1887:142) states that

the old ground has evidently in olden time been used chiefly if not exclusively by the Presbyterian church, who then had no cemetery attached to their Church. The editor [i.e. O'Gorman] is of the opinion that the old tombstones in the old town ground would shew that the cemetery was used for many years exclusively by Presbyterians.

Examination of the lists of tombstone inscriptions (see Chapter III) indicates that twenty of the burials which can be identified date prior to the Revolution (see Appendix B). The names of sixteen of these individuals appear in the records of deaths maintained by the First Presbyterian Church of Newtown (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society 1928). Two other individuals interred prior to the Revolution, Simon Horton and Philip Duviveer, are known to have been Presbyterians (see Chapter III). This suggests that O'Gorman's observation may be accurate. Published histories of the Newtown Presbyterian church (Hendricksen 1902, Northacker 1927) do not indicate when the church cemetery was first established. However, the church was reportedly destroyed by the British during the Revolution and subsequently rebuilt, and the church cemetery may date to the period of this post-Revolutionary reconstruction.

## 2. Nineteenth Century

Through the first half of the 19th century, the Town cemetery was used for the interment of "some of the most prominent people in the Town" (Newtown Register 1901). These persons will be noted further in the following chapters. Although this source (Newtown Register 1901), notes that "after 1818 other cemeteries were opened and burials ceased there [i.e. in the Town burial ground]

for a time," a study of tombstone inscriptions indicates that this was not the case and that interments continued through the middle of the 19th century (see Chapter III).

During at least a portion of the 19th century, the Newtown Town Burial Ground was also used for the interment of paupers. Various sources provide conflicting information as to the period during which this occurred.

The 1901 article cited above (Newtown Register 1901) notes that after the post-1818 period the burial ground was used as a pauper cemetery until it was closed later in the 19th century.

The 1888 Board of Health report noted above (Newtown Register 1888) indicates that

the interments of persons whose relatives cared to erect monuments did cease about the years 1830 to 1840, from which period the ground has been used as a Potter's Field

As noted above, the tombstone inscriptions indicate that monuments for burials of members of prominent Newtown families in fact continued to be erected in the Town cemetery through this period.

A 1914 article suggests that burials of paupers in the Town Cemetery occurred only after other interments ceased in the 1860's.

No interments have been made for the past fifty years except for a brief period when the pauper dead of the town were interred there. This practice only lasted for a few years, it being discontinued on account of the objections made to it by the townspeople" (Newtown Register 1914).

However, the other secondary sources noted above as well as an examination of primary sources suggest that the utilization of the Town cemetery for pauper burials began at an earlier date and was much more extensive than noted in this 1914 account.

Records of the Town of Newtown Overseers of the Poor are available for the period 1829 - 1873. These records indicate that paupers being cared for by the Town were buried at Town expense during this period. Examination of these records indicate that between 1829 and 1844 a total of sixty paupers died while being supported by the Town. The records do not specifically indicate where these paupers were interred. However, at this time there does not appear to have been any other location under control of the Town authorities where such burials could have occurred.

In 1886, a committee of the Town Board of Health (Town Records Book 253:61) visited a section of Calvary cemetery where paupers were buried. However, the 1888 report noted above suggests that the Newtown Town officials continued to use the Court Street cemetery for pauper burials. In any event Calvary cemetery was

not opened until after 1840, during which year the land was acquired for use as a cemetery (Queens Borough Public Library 1938 III:39).

Thus, it would appear that the use of the Newtown Town burial ground for burial of Town paupers dates to the early portion of the nineteenth century. The duration of the period in which the Town cemetery was used for this purpose is uncertain. However, this practice apparently continued for some time.

In 1888, the Board of Health committee which examined the Town cemetery noted

the constant exhumation and the constant burying of the friendless poor ... [and that] ... to the best of our knowledge there remains not portion of the old ground that does not contain human remains (Newtown Register 1888).

This implies that the Town cemetery was used for the interment of paupers for a period of time sufficient so that excavation for later burials encountered earlier interments.

The records of the Overseers of the Poor indicate that the paupers buried by the Town included African-Americans as well as those of European descent. A list of 60 paupers interred between 1829 - 1844 (see Appendix C) includes 23 persons indicated as being African-Americans.

It is uncertain whether African-American and European-American paupers would have been buried together in the Town burial ground. A supplement to the 1932 compilation of private and family cemetery inscriptions (Borough of Queens Topographical Bureau 1975) indicates the presence of a "Colored Cemetery" used after ca. 1828 which was associated with the St. Marks African M.E. church (then located in Elmhurst). This church was apparently affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and is referenced by Northacker (1927) as "the 2nd Presbyterian Church of Newtown." However, an indication that African-American paupers were, in fact, interred in the Town burial ground is provided by an entry in the index to O'Gorman's transcription of selected Town Records: "Negro Burying Ground - see Town Cemetery" (O'Gorman 1884-1887). This implies that there was no separate public burying place for indigent African-Americans.

As early as 1860, the deterioration of the physical condition of the Town cemetery was noted. At a meeting of the Town officers on May 12 of that year, it was noted that the "fence or fences around the burying grounds blonging (sic) to said Town is broken down and is insufficient to keep cattle and other animals from entering therein" (Town Records 1851-1883:143). The repair of the fences was authorized at that time.

By 1880 another new fence surrounding the burial ground had apparently been erected. Shortly thereafter it was noted that

some thoughtless individuals have established a series of sandpits dug close under the posts [of the burial ground fence] with the no-distant prospect of the new front falling in altogether. There is danger of some of the adjacent tombs to share the same fate or to have the ashes of the town's ancestors exposed. The apathy of the constables, as well as other Town officers, but especially the apathy of the Overseers of Poor and Road Commissioners is deserving of stigma (Long Island Star 1880).

The reference to the Overseers of the Poor in the above article suggests that in 1880 paupers were still being interred in the Town cemetery. It is assumed that the reference to "ashes of the town's ancestors" is rhetorical rather than an indication that cremated remains were buried.

In 1885 the same problem, that of contractors "digging ... to get sand for highway improvements" and thus undermining the front fence of the cemetery, was again noted (Newtown Register 1885; Long Island Star 1885).

The Town Clerk recommends that a side walk, well guarded by large boulders, be made on the road side and the bank sloped and sodded from the fence to the edge of the walk, and that the pits [resulting from the sand mining noted above] be filled up with heavy stone. The back abutment wall is also caving in, owing to the trees that have taken root there, which now threaten to disintegrate the whole mass of cobble stones with which the back and side walls are built (Newtown Register 1885).

The Town Clerk's recommendations specified that "the bank ... [should be] ... be filled in so as to slope the same one foot at the top and 6 feet at the bottom (Town Records 1883-1897:100).

The above descriptions indicate that in 1885 the "front" of the cemetery, which apparently refers to the portion along Court Street (the present 56th Avenue) was bounded by a wooden fence with the back and side walls constructed of stone.

The references to sand pits undermining the fence and the suggested slope of the reconstructed embankment between the street and the fence suggest that the cemetery was elevated above Court Street, with a rather steep bank which was being dug into by the contractors.

As noted above, in 1888 a committee of the Town Board of Health inspected the cemetery grounds. They reported that

according to our instructions, we have caused the cemetery to be thoroughly cleared of weeds, brambles and small trees, have repaired the fences all around, and have induced the Highway Commissioners to give an order for the filling-in of a large sand pit in front of the ground (Newtown Register 1888).

Despite these improvements, the committed concluded that since

there remains no portion of the old ground that does not contain human remains ... we must without hesitation condemn the old cemetery as totally unfit for further use as a cemetery ... the old cemetery has fallen into the condition of a 'nuisance', which is to be abated only by closing up the place altogether (Newtown Register 1888).

However, the following year the Board of Health passed a resolution that "all persons interring bodies in the town burying ground are required to notify the Town Clerk...and have him inspect the graves and ascertain if said bodies are buried according to the rules of this Board" (Newtown Register 1889). This implies that burials were still being made in the Town cemetery. The absence of tombstone inscriptions from this period would imply that any such burials were of indigent persons.

It appears that by the end of the 1880's interments in the Town cemetery did, in fact, cease and the site fell into disuse. In 1892, the Town Clerk, William O'Gorman, inspected the

Old Town Burying Ground and had found the fences broken down; and had found One Cow and Several Pigs in the sacred enclosure engaged in rooting up the graves and in knocking down the tombstones of the founders of this town ... [the clerk was authorized by the Board of Health to] repair and have the old cemetery kept in order. (Town Records Book 254:93).

If the cemetery ground was "repaired" in 1892, by 1897 its condition had once again deteriorated. At that time it was noted that the "old Town burial ground on Court street is said to be in a bad condition" (Newtown Register 1897). In 1901 it was again noted that

the place for years has been sadly neglected ... and now it presents a sorry spectacle, covered with brambles and a luxurious growth of underbrush, besides being the resort of stray cattle, dogs and chickens. Its few remaining headstones are rapidly being destroyed and all signs of its being a place of burial rapidly obliterated (Newtown Register 1901).

In 1913 it was similarly noted that the cemetery was overgrown with trees, underbrush, weeds and briars (Newtown Register 1913a; 1913b).

### 3. Early Twentieth Century

While the cemetery was indicated on several maps dating to the mid-19th century (see Figures 2 and 3), detailed surveys were apparently not made until the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The dimensions of the cemetery as they existed during the latter period were noted in the 1888 Board of Health Committee report, and are also shown on property maps dating to 1888 and 1913 (see Figures 4b and 6) as well as the 1919 Topographic Bureau survey (Figure 7). The 1888 report indicates the irregularly shaped cemetery property as having "a depth" of 161 feet (Newtown Register 1888). The surveys indicate this as the approximate distance from Court Street (56th Avenue) to the southern wall of the enclosure in the eastern portion of the cemetery. At the location of present 92nd Avenue, the distance was somewhat less, approximately 157 feet.

All of the sources noted above indicate that the east-west extent of the cemetery along Court Street was approximately 216 feet. Until the early 20th century the present 92nd Street did not exist and the cemetery extended some 55 feet west of the present playground to include the area now occupied by the Street.

In 1915 plans were made to extend 92nd Street, then known as Toledo Avenue, south of Court Street to Hoffman Boulevard (now Queens Boulevard), and a sewer was also to be constructed within the bed of this street (Newtown Register (1915a). However, the Topographic Bureau survey of the cemetery, dated 1919, indicates that Toledo Street was not actually extended until after this date, although the sewer was apparently installed in the western portion of the Street location in 1915 (Newtown Register 1915g). The eventual extension of Toledo Street affected the location of approximately 20 of the known interments in the cemetery (see Figure 7).

While there was discussion of the possible removal of burials from the location of the sewer and the Toledo Street extension (Newtown Register 1915a; 1915b), it is uncertain whether these removals actually occurred. However, one later source (White 1935) maintains that the burials from this portion of the cemetery were exhumed and "reintered in one common grave in Mt. Olivet [cemetery] and ... the Presbyterian Church paid all expenses."

At the time of the Toledo Street extension, the burial ground was under the control of the New York City Department of Public Charities. Local civic groups began at this time to discuss the possibility of converting the remainder of the burial ground into a park or playground and city officials agreed to transfer the property to the Parks Department (Newtown Register 1915h, 1915i). In 1916, Parks Department employees reportedly cleared the cemetery enclosure of brush and cut down a number of small trees. The plan at this time was to eventually lay the headstones flat above the graves, covering them with earth, and then to place sod within the enclosure and construct paths, flower beds and benches (Newtown Register 1916a). However, apart from the clearing of brush, no further work was done at this time.

The actual transfer of the burial ground site to the Parks Department did not actually occur until March 1917 (Commissioners

of the Sinking Fund 1917). The report recommending transfer of the property notes that the cemetery parcel was probably "part of the lands granted to the Town of Newtown by the Colonial Government." During the same period that the official property transfer occurred the Parks Department reportedly again "cleared the rubbish from the old Newtown Burying Ground" (Newtown Register 1917).

#### 4. Construction of Playground

Despite the transfer of the site to the Department of Parks, further work on the site apparently did not occur until the 1927-1928 period. The annual report of the Department of Parks for the latter period indicates that the cemetery grounds were "considerably improved by leveling the grounds and erecting playground apparatus and drinking fountains. All the old headstones, which stuck up like eyesores, were laid flat and covered with soil".

This Parks Department description of the work suggests that the ca. 1927 reconstruction followed the 1916 plans for the preservation of the tombstones as noted above. However, a 1935 newspaper article indicates that after the Parks Department took over the property, "the gravestones which were not claimed were broken to pieces and mixed with the crushed stone and cement that forms the first coating over the cemetery. The fill was dumped in on top of that. The retaining wall was built" (Wilford 1935). This description conflicts with the statement in the 1927 Parks Department annual report (see above) which would indicate that the tombstones remain intact beneath the fill which was deposited to level the site.

The topography and layout of the playground as created in 1927-28 would apparently have been essentially the same as shown on the 1934 survey included here as Figure 9. This survey shows the retaining wall, constructed of "paving blocks," which was built around the enclosure to hold the fill deposited to raise and level the grade. The low "Belgian block" wall which now exists along the southern edge of the enclosure (see Chapter I and Plates 8 and 9) and is also shown on the current site plan (see Figure 11) apparently represents the upper portion of the ca. 1927 retaining wall. A photograph included with a 1935 article (Wilford 1935 - see Figure 14) appears to show this ca. 1927 retaining wall. It is uncertain whether the construction depicted in this photograph is that associated with the ca. 1927 playground construction or the reconstruction which took place in 1935. It is possible also that this retaining wall actually represents a portion of the original cemetery enclosure wall which was apparently present in the late 19th century except on the northern side of the cemetery. As noted above, in 1885 this wall was indicated as being constructed of "cobble stones."

The 1934 survey indicates the location of the various pieces of play equipment which were installed, as well as a tool house in



the southeastern corner of the enclosure. It also indicates the presence of a drinking fountain in the northeastern portion of the playground with a 12" tile drain extending to the southeast. There were also more than 30 trees within the playground enclosure. The 1934 survey does not indicate the nature of the playground surface at that time. However one source describes it as a "gravel floor that was the source of many childish scrapes and bruises" (Wilford 1935).

#### 5. 1935 Playground Reconstruction

In 1935, a major renovation of the Newtown Playground was undertaken which resulted in the construction of the playground essentially as it presently exists.

A series of Parks Department internal memoranda in the collection of the New York City Municipal Archives provide information pertaining to the effects of the 1935 reconstruction on the burials and attempts on the part of some Parks Department employees to mitigate these adverse impacts.

Work on the reconstruction apparently started after March 5, 1935, on which date a letter was sent to Robert Moses by a lawyer representing local residents to request that the planned improvements not result in the removal of trees from the site. The letter indicates that work had not started at this time. On April 6, 1935, an internal Department of Parks memorandum written by Edward P. King, Borough Director, indicates that "some time ago we started work on the construction of a playground at the Old Newtown Cemetery located at Justice and Toledo Streets". This indicates that work began during March 1935.

Attached to the April 6, 1935 King memorandum is a copy of the 1919 tombstone plan (Meigs 1932) with the proposed playground layout superimposed. This layout is essentially the same as that which now exists. In this memorandum King noted that

apparently there are many more bodies in the area than are indicated on the map, because no matter where we dig we find remains, and many of these fairly close to the surface of the ground ... [King goes on to note that] ... it might be advisable to restrict construction to such improvements as could be placed within this area without going far below the surface and disturbing the remains placed within its boundaries.

The fact that burials were encountered "fairly close to the surface" suggests that these may have been graves of the paupers buried here in the 19th century. Since fill had been previously deposited in the southern portion of the cemetery at the time of the 1927 playground construction, it is also probable that the remains encountered near the surface as referenced in the above memorandum were located in the northern portion of the site (see further discussion in Chapter V).

It is uncertain what actually happened to the human remains encountered by the Parks Department during the 1935 reconstruction. In a newspaper article written some six weeks after the reopening of the playground, White (1935) first states that "the workmen were horrified when the shovel and spade threw out human bones. Work was quickly stopped; word was sent to headquarters and orders were given to reinter the bones which was done as soon as possible." However, later in this same article White states merely that "in excavating for the [wading] pool quantities of human bones were thrown out." It is probable that any "reinterment" of remains which occurred during the 1935 construction consisted in the re-deposition of bones in the contractor's backfill.

Other memoranda contained in the correspondence files indicate that some Parks Department personnel recommended design changes to avoid further impacts on burials. Specific recommended changes included placement of the recreation building boiler on the first floor rather than the basement. A memorandum dated May 21, 1935, written by Allyn R. Jennings, Landscape Architect in Charge of Operations recommended additional design changes since

A condition has arisen in the construction of the Playground on the site of the old Newtown Cemetery .... the problem at hand is the ghoulish practice of running plumbing and drainage lines through old graves which honeycomb the property. Two alternatives have been suggested. First to raise the grade of the entire playground with brick retaining walls so that the drainage need not be so deep as to disturb the graves, and secondly, to provide surface drainage, only, for the plot. We are placing this job in active construction again on the first of June.

Another memorandum written the following day by P. B. Schumm, the Chief Landscape Inspector, recommended that the planned downcutting of the northwestern portion of the property, which was above street grade, be eliminated to avoid disturbance of graves in this area, as well as the removal of trees which had been protested by local residents as noted above.

A memorandum dated May 24, 1935 indicates that the excavations for the wading pool and drainage lines had been completed and recommended that no further changes be made, except grade adjustments at the northwestern corner of the site. However, examination of the existing grades indicate that these adjustments were never made and the northwestern corner of the site was, in fact, cut down in accordance with the original plans.

Examination of the actual plans of the playground reconstruction and comparison of these plans with the recent surveys of the site indicate that despite the concerns indicated by various Parks Department officials, and official assurances that changes would be made, the Playground was built essentially as initially

planned, with the consequent disturbance to burials.

The memoranda indicate that the reconstructed playground was opened on August 14, 1935.

### III. KNOWN NEWTOWN BURIAL GROUND INTERMENTS

#### A. Tombstone Inscriptions

Identification of interments in the Newtown Burial Ground is based primarily on compilations of tombstone inscriptions. The first of these, made in 1881, was reproduced by White (1935). This list includes four names not present in the later compilations. The 1888 report of the Board of Health committee indicated that there were a total of 105 tombstones in the cemetery enclosure. This apparently included stones without inscriptions.

In the latter part of 1914, prior to the Toledo Street extension and associated sewer excavation, Josephine Frost (1914) visited the cemetery and copied the visible tombstone inscriptions. Frost compared these with an undated list in the possession of the New York Genealogical Society (NYGS). Some of the names which Frost copied did not appear in the NYGS list. Conversely, some of the tombstones in the NYGS list were not noted by Frost upon her visit to the cemetery. Frost (1914) explained the latter discrepancies by noting that "many stones have fallen, many were broken with parts missing and some had been riddled by having been used as a target."

During the same approximate period that the Frost list was compiled the observation was made that "there are at least two hundred graves in the yard and probably many more, as the stones that marked the larger part of them are now destroyed and all distinguishing signs of a grave obliterated" (Newtown Register 1914).

Subsequent to the compilation of the Frost list, and apparently prior to the opening of Toledo Street (92nd Street), the Queens Borough Topographic Bureau mapped and recorded the extant tombstones. Although in 1916 a map and list of burials had reportedly already been "made by the city" (Newtown Register 1916a) the date on the survey is June 16, 1919 (see Figure 7) and it was not published until 1932 (Meigs 1932). The Topographic Bureau compilation of tombstone inscriptions identified 65 persons who were buried in the Town cemetery. Twelve additional stones included only initials and 15 other stones were noted which had no legible inscriptions.

Appendix A presents a list of all reported tombstones in the old Newtown Burial Ground, based on the three published compilations noted above, organized alphabetically by surname. It includes the names of 105 persons known to have been interred in the Newtown Town cemetery. A total of 31 additional stones were noted which only had initials, and 16 additional stones without legible inscriptions. Thus, these data increase the total of known burials in the cemetery to 155 from the 92 burials indicated by the 1919 survey. As noted above, however, it is likely that many

boulder headstones which apparently marked the earlier graves had been removed, buried or obscured by underbrush at the time the early 20th century compilations were made.

Each entry on the tombstone list presented in Appendix A is preceded by an identifying number. Numbers without an alphabetical prefix are those assigned by the Bureau of Topography which appear on the cemetery plan included here as Figure 7. The numbers in Appendix A preceded by the letter "F" indicate those tombstones recorded in 1914 by Frost but not included in the Meigs list. The numbers designated by the letter "G" indicate those tombstones in the NYGS list which were included by Frost in her publication, but which were neither directly observed by Frost or included on the Meigs list. The letter "L" designates four burials which were included in the 1881 list but none of the later compilations. Finally, one burial, designated by the letter "R", was noted by Riker (1852) and others (e.g. Newtown Register 1901) as having been located in the Town cemetery, but this tombstone was not included in any of the three compilations.

Appendix A also includes the date of death and age for each person interred where known. In cases where there were discrepancies among the various sources the most reasonable dates have been used, considering the known data.

Those entries in Appendix A which represent burials which are known to have been subsequently removed from the Town Burial Ground (see discussion below) are indicated by the letter "R" in the second column of the Appendix. Those marked with the letter "T" in the second column designate burials located in the bed of Toledo Street (92nd Street) west of the present limits of the site as noted on Figure 7.

## **B. Other Burials**

In addition to the tombstones listed in Appendix D, many additional unmarked graves of paupers buried in the 19th century were apparently present in the cemetery. The available records of the Overseers of the Poor cover the period 1829 - 1873. The names of paupers who died while being supported by the Town between 1829 and 1844 have been extracted from these records and are listed in Appendix C. Additional names of paupers who died after this period are listed in the records but have not been tabulated here. For some of these persons listed in Appendix C the records indicate expenditures by the Town for coffins, grave digging and/or other burial expenses. The records indicate that the Town apparently continued to bury paupers through the late 19th century.

None of the names of the paupers buried during the 1829 - 1844 period appear on the lists of tombstone inscriptions. It is interesting to note, however, that at least one name noted in the Overseers of the Poor records also appears on one of the

tombstones. A list of paupers supported by the Town as of March 1, 1831 includes Charity Hardenburg and her daughter. Although there is no record of Charity Hardenburg dying while being supported by the Town, her name does appear in the NYGS list of tombstone inscriptions (Frost 1914) with possible date of death given as March 23, 1833 (a question mark appears after the year in this compilation).

If it is assumed that all of the persons included in Appendix C were interred in the Town cemetery, the total of known burials in the cemetery is increased to 215. Furthermore, the apparent continued burial of paupers through the 1880's in addition to the likely presence of unrecorded 17th and early 18th century burials could increase the estimated number of persons interred in the Town Burial Ground to well over 300.

### C. Burials Removed from the Cemetery

The list of known interments in the Newtown Burial Ground provided in Appendix A includes the names of 15 persons whose remains were reported to have been subsequently removed from the cemetery. The first removals occurred in 1901 when the remains of five persons were removed from the Town Burial Ground by the Presbyterian Church Society of Elmhurst and re-interred in the Presbyterian Church cemetery on Hoffman Boulevard (now Queens Boulevard). The burials removed were those of three of the early ministers of this church: the Rev. Samuel Pumroy, who established a separate Presbyterian church in Newtown in 1715; the Rev. Simon Horton, who became minister of the Newtown Presbyterian church in 1746, and the Rev. Peter Fish, pastor of the Church between 1785 and 1789. The remains of two other Presbyterians were removed to the church cemetery in 1901: Content Titus, a prominent resident of the town from 1672 until his death in 1730 and one of the first three elders of the Presbyterian Church (appointed in 1724); and Phillip Duviveer who left 200 pounds to the Church upon his death in 1745 (Newtown Register 1901). As noted in Chapter II, at the time of the deaths of these individuals in the 18th century, the Presbyterian Church apparently did not have its own graveyard, accounting for the interment of these individuals in the Town cemetery.

Observations recorded at the time of the 1901 removal of these burials suggests that the condition of burials remaining in the cemetery varies. The skeletal remains of the Reverend Peter Fish and Rev. Samuel Pumroy were reportedly in excellent condition and the outlines of the casket of the latter were reportedly observed in the ground. On the contrary, "little" remains of Rev. Horton and "scarcely any" remains of Content Titus were found. The excavation of the latter grave encountered water at a depth of seven feet (Newtown Register 1901). It is known that the Titus grave was located in the lower-lying southern portion of the cemetery. Although constant wet conditions would have preserved the body, seasonal fluctuations in the ground water level, associated with the proximity of a nearby brook (see Chapter V),

could have caused decomposition of the remains. The location of the Horton and Pumroy burials are uncertain. However, the Fish family plot was located in the higher ground in the northwestern portion of the cemetery.

The second set of known removals was associated with the plans made in the second decade of the 20th century to convert the cemetery site into a park. The remains of Thomas and Sarah Barrow (#F3 and #F4), whose graves were located within the Moore plot, were removed to the St. James churchyard in 1915 (Newtown Register 1915c; Frost 1914). Two additional burials, those of Samuel and Sarah Moore (#F22 and #F23) were removed from the Moore plot in 1916 and re-interred in Mount Olivet Cemetery (Newtown Register 1916b). Annotations in the copy of the Frost compilation (Frost 1914) in the collection of the Queens Borough Public Library suggests the possibility that the bodies of John and Hanna Moore (#16 and #17) may also have been removed to Mount Olivet cemetery. The remains of all of those buried in the Field family plot (six names listed by Frost 1914; some stones with initials only may also be Field Family burials) were also reportedly removed from the Town burial ground and re-buried in Mount Olivet cemetery (Newtown Register 1916b; White 1935; Frost 1914). These removals were made prior to the creation of the Topographic Bureau's plan of graves and the location of the Field plot within the cemetery is uncertain.

As noted in Chapter I, additional removals of burials from the portion of the cemetery west of the Newtown Playground site may have occurred prior to the opening of 92nd Street.

#### D. Chronological Analysis of Known Tombstone Inscriptions

Appendix B lists the dated tombstone inscriptions in chronological order. As noted previously the earliest is a fragmentary inscription which dates to the 1670's. Another, which includes only the initials "G.M." dates to 1729. The earliest identified burial, dating to 1730, is that of Content Titus (subsequently removed from the cemetery - see above). The latest burial is the 1883 interment of Adam Busse, "Co. H., 15th N. Y. Eng." It is possible that this burial, which dates 21 years after the previous interment in 1862, was made by the military and/or Town authorities.

Figure 15 shows the number of interments known to have been made during each decade. Of the total of 116 dated burials, 50 (43%) were made prior to 1800. However, for the reasons noted previously, the number of actual early burials is probably underrepresented in this sample. The most intensive use of the cemetery (exclusive of its use for the burial of paupers) occurred between 1800 and 1830; 37% of the tombstone inscriptions date to this period. Only 14 dated interments (12%) were made after 1840, and with the exception of Adam Busse, none date after 1862.

#### IV. SUMMARY OF FAMILY INTERMENTS

The lists of tombstone inscriptions discussed in the previous chapter indicate that members of several prominent Newtown families were interred in the Town burial ground. The 1919 Topographic Bureau map and the list of inscriptions keyed to it enables reconstruction of the location of the various family plots. However, these plots were in some cases apparently more extensive than suggested by the 1919 plan, as the tombstones of additional family members not listed in the latter source are included in the earlier compilations.

The copy of the Topographic Bureau map shown as Figure 16 has been annotated to indicate the portions of the cemetery in which the various family plots were located.

The following presents limited biographical and genealogical information pertaining to 45 persons interred in some of the known family plots within the Newtown cemetery. Each of the names noted below is identified according to the number assigned to the burial as shown in Appendix A. The year of death is also indicated. Much of the data was taken from Riker (1852) and other sources as noted. Data was not available in these sources for all persons known to have been interred in the cemetery. While such data may be contained in other sources, a review of additional biographical and genealogical material is beyond the scope of the present study.

It is possible that other members of these families, in addition to those mentioned in the tombstone inscription lists, were interred in the Town cemetery, especially during the early portion of the Town's history. These persons may be represented by some of the tombstones which had only initials inscribed thereon, or by stones with no legible inscriptions. Others may lie in graves from which the stones had been removed.

##### A. Moore Family

The largest family plot in the old Newtown cemetery belonged to the Moore family. This plot ran diagonally from northwest to southeast across the eastern portion of the cemetery. The first member of this family in Newtown was the Reverend John Moore, who came to the town from New England in 1652 and served as the Town's first minister until his death in 1657. Thirty years after his death, the town granted 80 acres of land to his children. Most sources (Hendricksen 1902; Northacker 1927; Newtown Register 1913a, 1915a, 1915e) indicate that the Rev. John Moore was interred in the Town cemetery and that as of the late 19th century, at least, the grave was unmarked. Consequently his name does not appear in any of the tombstone compilations.

It should be noted that one source (Newtown Register 1901)



indicates that the Rev. John Moore was interred in a private family cemetery. However, the name of Rev. Moore does not appear in the list of burials in Queens private and family cemeteries compiled in 1932 (Meigs 1932). It is likely that his unmarked grave, like those of other early settlers is, in fact, located in the Town cemetery.

Many of the Moore descendants were farmers, and Riker (1852:78) notes that one member of the family (not further specified) was the first to cultivate the "Newtown Pippin" apple.

The Rev. John Moore had five children, John, Gershom, Samuel, Joseph and Elizabeth, none of whom are among those recorded as having been interred in the Newtown cemetery.

Three great-grandsons of the Rev. John Moore; Samuel Moore (#7), John Moore (#16) and Samuel Moore (#F22), and a great-granddaughter, Patience Moore Lawrence (#9) are known to have been interred in the Newtown burial ground, together with some of their children and spouses.

#### 1. Samuel Moore (#7, d. 1767)

One great-grandson was Samuel Moore (#7), whose father and grandfather were also named Samuel, the latter being one of the sons of Rev. John Moore, as noted above. The father of Samuel Moore (#7) was known as "Captain Samuel Moore". The latter appears to be the Samuel Moore whose tombstone was recorded in the Moore family cemetery in Woodside, Queens (Meigs 1932). Samuel Moore (#7) married his cousin Sarah, (she was the sister of #16, John Moore). Sarah Moore died in 1750 and Samuel Moore subsequently married his second wife, Anna Bates. He had total of nine children by both marriages. The name of neither wife appears among the cemetery inscriptions. Samuel Moore has been noted as having been "some years in the commission of the peace" (Riker 1852:329).

#### 2. John and Hannah Moore (#16, d. 1827 and #17, d. 1772)

John Moore (#16), was another great-grandson of the Reverend John Moore. He was the son of Benjamin Moore, the brother of Captain Samuel Moore. The father of Benjamin and Capt Samuel Moore was the Rev. John Moore's son, Samuel, as noted above. John Moore (#16) owned the family property near Newtown, formerly owned by his grandfather (Samuel Moore). He remained on the homestead property and in 1752 married Hannah Whitehead (#17). John and Hannah Moore had nine children (Riker 1852:332). Five of these, as well as a daughter-in-law and two grand-children, are interred in the Newtown Burial Ground.

- a. Mary Moore Stewart (#8, d. 1816) and Richard Lawrence (#G43, d. 1804).

Mary Moore (#8) was a daughter of John and Hannah Moore (#16 and #17). Her first husband was her cousin, Dr. Richard Lawrence (#G43), son of Patience Moore Lawrence and Joseph Lawrence (Riker 1852:286) who are also interred in the Town cemetery (see below). After the death of Richard Lawrence in 1804, Mary Moore married William Stewart. Upon her death in 1816, her second husband erected her tombstone.

- b. Other Children of John and Hannah Moore (#2, #8a, #1, #12)

Four other children of John and Hannah Moore (#16 and #17) are also interred in the Town burial ground. These are Elizabeth Moore (#2), who died unmarried in 1827; Daniel Moore (#8a) who died at the age of 6 in 1761; Patience Moore (#1), who married John Charleton Dongan; and James Moore (#12) who married Elizabeth Hallett, daughter of Capt. Samuel Hallett (Riker 1852:333).

- c. Hannah Moore (#15, d. 1802) - Daughter-in-Law of John and Hannah Moore

Hannah Moore (#15) was the wife of Daniel Sackett Moore, who was another son of John and Hannah Moore (#16 and #17). Daniel Sackett Moore came into the ownership of his father's residence near Newton village. He was a sea Captain who died in 1828. He does not appear on the Newtown Burial Ground tombstone lists. He married successively Hannah Titus (daughter of David Titus - #L04, see below) and Hannah Moore, daughter of Jacob Moore, with whom he had eight children (Riker 1852:333). Since the Hannah Moore buried in the Newtown cemetery died at the age of 20 it is assumed that this individual was Hannah Titus Moore, Daniel Sackett Moore's first wife.

- d. Christopher Billop (#06, d. 1820) and Elizabeth Billop (#70, d. 1805) - Grand-children of John and Hannah Moore

Abigail Moore was the youngest daughter of John and Hanna Moore (#16 and #17). She married Thomas Billop, a "New York merchant who afterwards perished in the Miranda expedition" (Riker 1852:333). Abigail Billop's name does not appear in any of the tombstone inscription compilations. However, two of their children, Elizabeth Billop (#70) who died at the age of five, and Christopher Billop (#06) age 21, were interred in the Town cemetery. The 1919 tombstone plan (see Figure 16) indicates that Christopher Billop's grave was located within the Moore family plot. However, the plan indicates that Elizabeth Billop was interred in the western (Toledo Street) portion of the burial ground.

3. Samuel and Sarah Moore (#F22, d. 1788 and #F23, d. 1796)  
(Burials Removed)

Samuel Moore (#F22) was the third great-grandson of Rev. John Moore buried in the Town Cemetery. He was another son of Benjamin Moore (grandson of Rev. John Moore) and a brother of John Moore (#16). Samuel Moore (#F22) was referred to as "Lieut. Samuel Moore." He was a farmer, and built a house near Newtown village. He married Sarah Fish (#F23). The couple had six children, three of whom are buried in the Newtown burial ground, together with their spouses. (Riker 1852:333).

a. Jacob and Elizabeth Moore (#G20, d. 1825 and #11, d. 1817)

Jacob Moore (#G20) was the second son of Samuel and Sarah Moore (#F22 and F23). His second wife Elizabeth Waters (#11) is also buried in the Newtown Burial Ground. They had three children, one of whom is buried in the Newtown Burial Ground (Riker 1852:333).

i. John Moore (#10, d. 1808)

John Moore (#10) was a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Moore (#G20 and #11). He died at the age of 21 (Riker 1852:333).

b. William Moore (#4, d. 1824)

William Moore (#4) was the brother of Jacob Moore (#G20) and the second son of Samuel and Sarah Moore (#F22 and F23) buried in the Town Burial Ground. William Moore was a physician, president of the New York Medical Society and trustee of the college of Physicians and Surgeons. He married Jane Fish, daughter of Nathaniel Fish of Newtown. Benjamin Moore, another son of Samuel and Sarah Moore (#F22 and #F23) and brother to William (#4) and Jacob Moore (#G20), was bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the state of New York. His son was the writer Clement Moore. Neither Benjamin nor Clement Moore was interred in Newtown (Riker 1852:334).

c. Sarah Moore Barrow (#F03, d. 1805) and Thomas Barrow (#F04, d. 1824) (burials removed)

Sarah Moore (#F03) was one of two daughters of Samuel and Sarah Moore (#F22 and #F23). She married Thomas Barrow (#F04) (Riker 1852:333). As noted in Chapter III, these burials were reportedly removed from the Town cemetery in 1915.

4. Patience Moore Lawrence (#9, d. 1800), Joseph Lawrence (#G44, d. 1793), and John and Richard Lawrence (#8b and #8c, d. 1761)

Patience Moore (#9) was a sister of Samuel Moore (#F22) and John Moore (#16). She married Joseph Lawrence (#G44), a son of John Lawrence, a wealthy farmer and county magistrate. Their son, Dr. Richard Lawrence (#G43) married Mary Moore (#8) as discussed above (Riker 1852:286). The two young children, John and Richard Lawrence (#8b and #8c) buried near the grave of Patience Lawrence may be her children. They both died in 1761, prior to the birth of Richard Lawrence in 1764.

## B. Fish Family

The second largest plot in the Newtown Town Burial Ground was that of the Fish Family, located in the north-central portion of the cemetery. The first member of this family to settle in Newtown was Jonathan Fish, who arrived as early as 1659 in what was then known as Middleburg. He subsequently served as a town magistrate. He died in 1663, but his burial place is not known. His tombstone was not noted in any of the Queens family cemeteries included in the Meigs (1932) compilations. It is possible that his unmarked grave is located in the Town cemetery. Jonathan Fish had three sons, John, Samuel and Nathan, all of whom were among the patentees of the town in 1686. John Fish apparently left the Newtown. Nathan Fish is interred in the Town Burial Ground.

### 1. Nathan Fish (#L3, d. 1732)

As noted above, Nathan Fish (#L3) was one of the 1686 Newtown patentees and a son of Jonathan Fish, one of the early settlers. Nathan Fish remained in Newtown and "devoted himself to Husbandry." He had 14 children, one of whom was also interred in the Town cemetery (Riker 1852:366).

#### a. Nathaniel Fish and Jane Berrien Fish (#47, d. 1769 and #48, d. 1789)

Nathaniel Fish (#47) was a son of Nathan Fish (#L3) and grandson of one of the early Newtown settlers, Jonathan Fish. Nathaniel Fish was a farmer. In 1738 he married Jane Berrien (#48), daughter of Peter Berrien, and in the same year bought the farm of Nicholas Berrien. The couple had eight children, one of whom is interred in the Town cemetery (Riker 1852:367).

#### i. Mary Fish (#45, d. 1757)

Mary Fish (#45) was one of the children of Nathaniel and Jane Berrien Fish (#47 and #48). She was the couple's second child,

born in 1745 (Riker 1852:367).

## 2. Cornelius Berrien (#49, d. 1758)

Cornelius Berrien (#49) was the son of Peter Berrien and brother of Jane Berrien Fish (#48), wife of Nathaniel Fish (#47). Peter Berrien, father of Jane and Cornelius Berrien, was a surveyor and became a large landholder. He donated the ground on which the first Dutch Church in Newtown was erected. Cornelius Berrien remained in Newtown and bought his father's farm in 1740. He served as a civil magistrate and was an elder of the Presbyterian Church. He married Amy Smith who died in 1793. The couple had eight children (Riker 1852:342). The location of his grave indicates that Cornelius Berrien was buried in the Fish family plot.

## 3. Jonathan Fish (#F17, d. 1779) and Elizabeth Sackett Fish (#F16, d. 1778)

Jonathan Fish (#F17) was a great-great-grandson of Jonathan Fish, one of the 17th century settlers of Newtown. His grandfather (also named Jonathan) was the brother of Nathaniel Fish (#47). Jonathan Fish (#F17) owned a house in Newtown village. For a time he was a merchant in New York City. His first wife Elizabeth (#F16) was the daughter of Joseph Sackett. His second wife Elizabeth Whitehead, who does not appear on the tombstone lists, was the daughter of Thomas Whitehead and was thus a sister of (#17) Hannah (Whitehead) Moore, wife of John Moore (#16) (Riker 1852:369). Nicholas Fish, the son of Jonathan Fish (#F17) was a prominent officer in the Revolution and a close friend of President Washington. Nicholas' son, Hamilton Fish, was Governor of New York State and a United States Senator (Newtown Register 1915e).

## C. Waldron/Rapalje Family

The graves of the Waldron and Rapalje families are located in the northern portion of the cemetery, west of the Moore plot.

### 1. Samuel Waldron (#26, d. 1771)

Samuel Waldron (#26) was a grandson of Resolved Waldron, who came to America in 1652 and resided in Harlem. Samuel Waldron (#26) moved to Newtown village in the early 18th century and was the first member of the family in the Town. Samuel Waldron and his wife, the former Anna Delamater, had eight children, two of whom are also buried in the Town cemetery (Riker 1852:381). Although Riker (1852:381) states that Samuel Waldron "served some years as a deacon of the Dutch Church," his name appears in the death records of the First Presbyterian Church of Newtown (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society 1928).

a. Samuel Waldron (#31, d. 1799)

Samuel Waldron (#31) was the oldest child of Samuel Waldron (#26). He was born in 1738 and married Anna Van Alst. Like his father, Samuel Waldron (#31) was a blacksmith. He also served as a justice of the peace after the Revolution. He had five children, one of whom was also named Samuel (Riker 1852:381).

b. Ann Waldron Rapalje (#29, d. 1803) and Richard Rapalje (#28, d. 1789)

Ann Waldron (#29) was a daughter of Samuel Waldron (#26). She married Richard Rapalje (#28), son of Jeromus Rapalje of Flushing (Riker 1852:271). Both are interred in the Newtown Burial Ground.

1. Mary Waldron (G35, died 18??)

The tombstone of Mary Waldron (#G35) indicates that she was the wife of Samuel Waldron. Since neither wives nor children of Samuel Waldron of the the first two generations of the family in Newtown (#26 and #31) were named Mary, she may be the wife of the third generation Samuel Waldron (son of #31). The date of death on her tombstone was partially obliterated.

2. Agnes Nicoll Bloom (#F05, d. 1818)

The tombstone inscriptions indicate that Agnes Nicoll Bloom was the wife of Col. Bernardus Bloom, and thus apparently the mother of Mary Bloom Rapelye (see below). Her husband's name does not appear in the tombstone inscription compilations.

a. Mary Bloom Rapelye (#G25, d. 1819)

Mary Bloom Rapelye (#G25) was the daughter of Bernard Bloom of Newtown and the wife of George Rapelye. Her husband was a leader in the Revolution. He settled at Communipau after the Revolution, drowned in 1791, and was buried in Communipau (Riker 1852:277; O'Gorman 1884-1887:238).

D. Sackett Family

Graves of the Sackett family were located along the western edge of the present Playground enclosure. The first member of the family in Newtown, Joseph Sackett, is known to have resided in the Town by 1674 and may have come to Newtown with his grandfather, William Bloomfield, in 1662. Joseph Sackett had eight children, one of whom is interred in the Town cemetery (Riker 1852:345).

1. William Sackett (#66, d. 1761)

William Sackett (#66) was a son of Joseph Sackett, noted above. William Sackett remained in Newtown, served as a Town magistrate, and in 1727 was appointed by the Town the "general whipper." In 1729 he married a widow, Mary Janes, they had no children (Riker 1852:345).

a. Patience and Mary Sackett (#64, d. 1752 and #65, date uncertain)

Patience and Mary Sackett (#64 and #65) were two minor grand nieces of William Sackett (#66). They died at the ages of two and seven, respectively. Their father, born in 1727 and also named William, was the son of John Sackett, the brother of William Sackett (#66) (Riker 1852:345).

E. Coe Family

The name of only one member of this family (Benjamin Coe) appears in the tombstone lists. However, the Topographic Bureau grave plan shows several two other stones with the initials E. C. and B. C. in the same portion of the cemetery (north of the Sackett plot). These may represent other members of the Coe family.

1. Benjamin Coe (#63, d. 1824)

Benjamin Coe (#63) was born in 1741, His first wife Phebe Horton, was daughter of Rev. Simon Horton (G46), an early minister of the Presbyterian Church, whose remains were removed from the Newtown Cemetery in 1901 (see Chapter III). Benjamin Coe was a judge, a member of the State Senate and an elder of the Newtown Presbyterian Church from 1767 until his death. He participated in the early revolutionary movements on Long Island (Riker 1852:401).

2. Clarissa Lewis Howard (#G42, d. 1801)

Clarissa Lewis Howard (#G42) was married to Benjamin Howard, a nephew of Benjamin Coe (#63). Her husband was the son of Mary Coe, Benjamin Coe's sister, and William Howard. The latter was the son of Edward Howard, who was born in 1698 and subsequently settled on a farm near Newtown. Clarissa Lewis Howard was the daughter of the Rev. Amzi Lewis (Riker 1852:399-400).

F. Titus Family

Content Titus was the first member of the Titus family to reside

in Newtown. He had four brothers who apparently resided elsewhere on Long Island. Four other members of the Titus family (two of whom are noted below) appear in the tombstone inscription compilations, but their relationship to each other has not been determined.

1. Content Titus (RO1, d. 1730 - burial removed)

Content Titus, son of Robert Titus "a respectable husbandman," was born at Weymouth, Massachusetts in 1643. Content Titus came to Newtown in 1672. He owned the property which later became the Episcopal parsonage and was an elder of the Presbyterian church. He married Elizbeth Moore, daughter of Reverend John Moore, the first minister of Newtown, as discussed above. "In the southwest corner of the ancient public burial ground at Newtown, stands a rude stone that marks his grave, bearing the simple inscription 'Content Titus.'" (Riker 1852:327 - see also Titus 1881:95). As noted above, the remains of Content Titus were exhumed and removed to the Presbyterian Church cemetery in 1901. The name of Elizabeth Moore Titus was not among those included in the tombstone compilations.

2. David Titus (#L04, d. 1799) and Elenor Titus (#19, d. 1799)

David Titus (#L04) is noted as having owned the mill at the mouth of the Horse Brook (Newtown Register 1915e). His wife Elenor (#19) was also interred in the Town cemetery. As indicated on Figure 7, the tombstone of Elenor Titus (#19) was located at the end of the row of stones which constitute the Moore plot. David Titus' tombstone is not indicated on the Topographic Bureau plan.

G. Field Family

As noted in Chapter III at least six members of the Field family were interred in the Town Burial Ground, but these burials were removed in the early 20th century. The location of the Field plot is uncertain. The Field family acquired land in the Town in 1670. Jacob Field (#F14, d. 1847) owned a farm on what is now Grand Street (Newtown Register 1914).

H. Other Families

The compilations of tombstone inscriptions indicate that individuals belonging to families other than those noted above are interred in the cemetery. Family names appearing on tombstones in the portion of the cemetery now within the boundaries of the Playground include Furman, Hicks, Holly, Manwaring, and White. The location of the known graves of these families are indicated on Figure 16. It is possible that some of these individuals were connected by marriage with the families discussed above, and/or with each other. The data on the families



previously discussed in this chapter indicates that there was, in fact, a substantial amount of intermarriage among Newtown families.

The family names appearing on tombstones located in the portion of the cemetery which is now west of the playground boundary have not been indicated on Figure 16, but are listed in Appendix A.

## V. ANALYSIS OF SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND DISTURBANCE

### A. Original Topography

The site of the Newtown Burial Ground is some 400 - 600 feet north of the former location of a stream known as Horse Brook. The location of the Brook and the cemetery are shown on several nineteenth century maps (see Figures 2 - 4). An 1888 map and profile in the collection of the Borough of Queens Topographic Bureau (Figure 4a), indicates that the land along the Brook south of the cemetery was very low-lying (elevation ca. 1-2 feet).

The Borough of Queens topographic map (see Figure 17), although reflecting modifications in street layouts made through 1931, shows the topography in the vicinity of the cemetery as of 1904. The contour intervals shown on this map indicate that the ground surface sloped downward to the south, toward the former location of Horse Brook and the adjacent low-lying ground. The fifteen foot contour extended diagonally across the northwestern portion of the cemetery site. The ten foot contour extended across the southwestern and south-central portions of the site, curving further to the north in the eastern portion. The 1904 five foot contour was located approximately 65 feet south of the cemetery site. It should be noted that the 1904 contours as shown on the map appear to have been altered to reflect the the opening of 92nd Street. The actual fifteen, ten, and five foot contours in 1904 would probably have extended across the later location of 92nd Street, rather than parallelling the roadway as shown on Figure 17.

The 1904 topography as shown on Figure 17 is reflected in two photographs of the cemetery taken prior to its conversion into a playground and the resulting grade modifications. One of these photographs, which shows the tombstone of Content Titus (see Figure 12), accompanies the compilation of cemetery inscriptions published in 1932 (Meigs 1932). This photograph appears in the latter portion of this compilation and does not accompany the section of the text concerned with the Newtown Town Cemetery. However, Content Titus is known to have been interred in this cemetery, and the photograph is similar in other respects to the photograph of the Town Burial Ground discussed below. Since the burial of Content Titus was removed from the Town cemetery in 1901, the photograph must have been taken prior to this date. The absence of underbrush in this photograph suggests that it may have been taken in the late 19th century after one of the "clean-ups" authorized by Town officials in 1888 and 1892 (see Chapter II).

As noted in Chapter IV, Content Titus' tombstone was reportedly located in the southwestern portion of the cemetery. Comparison of the orientation of the tombstones as shown on the photograph (Figure 12) and the 1919 plan indicates that if the tombstone was, in fact, in the southwestern corner of the cemetery, the

photograph was taken looking northward. The upward slope of the land to the north as shown in the photograph is consistent with the contours as indicated on the topographic map. The 1919 cemetery plan (Figure 16) suggests that the tombstones shown in the background of Figure 12 may be those of the Sackett family.

The second photograph showing the cemetery (Figure 13), which is in the collection of the Queens Borough Topographic Bureau, appears to be the same one published in the Queens Ledger in 1942. It may be contemporary with the survey of the cemetery site made by the Topographic Bureau during the second decade of the 20th century. As can be seen in this photograph, the cemetery grounds are covered with trees and underbrush, consistent with a 1913 description of the site (see Chapter II). As noted in the discussion of the earlier photograph, the upward slope of the land is consistent with the 1904 topography, and the view shown in Figure 13 appears also to be toward the north. The building shown in the background to the right on this photograph may be the same one shown in the photograph discussed above. If this is so, this later photograph would have been taken somewhat further to the east than the one shown in Figure 12. The orientation of the tombstones suggests that those shown may have been located in the Moore plot in the eastern portion of the cemetery. On the print of this photograph located in the collection of the Topographic Bureau, an inscription is visible on the tombstone seen in the foreground. However, it is not readily legible.

#### B. Effects of 1927 - 1928 Playground Construction

A 1934 survey (Figure 9) reflects the conditions existing after the 1927 - 1928 construction of the playground but prior to the 1935 reconstruction. The northern, eastern and southern walls of the playground enclosure as shown on this survey follow the previous cemetery boundaries. It should be noted, however, that the northern wall was located several feet north of the mapped property boundary of the playground.

The 1934 survey shows the ground elevations within the playground enclosure, which reflect the deposition of fill behind retaining walls during the ca. 1927 construction. Elevations to the south and east of the playground enclosure are also shown.

Figure 18 shows the 1934 survey with contour lines interpolated according to the elevations shown and also with the 1904 contours added. The grade of the playground surface sloped downward to the southeast from an elevation of 19.4 feet in the northwest corner of the playground to elevations of ca. 14.5 - 14.9 feet in the southeast corner.

The 1934 survey shows a concrete foundation wall located immediately south of the Playground retaining wall. This apparently represents the foundation wall of the greenhouse structure shown at this location on maps dating to 1902 and 1913 (see Figures 5 and 6). The 1931 Sanborn map (Figure 9) indicates

that the concrete slab for this greenhouse was still intact and visible. The 1934 survey shows elevations of 9.6 - 11.2 feet at the base of the south side of the concrete foundation, but it is possible that the greenhouse construction affected the original grade in this area. The survey also shows elevations of 8.3 - 9.3 feet some 30 - 35 feet south of the playground retaining wall. If these elevations are assumed to represent the original cemetery grade, a gentle downward slope is suggested from the location of the 1904 ten foot contour to the latter location, with a steeper slope downward from this area to the five foot contour.

Comparison of the elevations shown on the 1934 survey with the 1904 contours indicate that creation of the playground in 1927-1928 resulted in the deposition of approximately 6 - 7 feet of fill along the southern boundary of the site, with less fill further to the north.

As indicated on Figure 18, in 1934 the northwestern portion of the site was some 1 - 3 feet above the then existing grade of the adjacent streets. Estimation of the amount of fill deposited in this area during the 1927 construction of the playground would depend on the original grade of the land northwest of the 1904 fifteen foot contour. The elevation in this area in 1934 ranged from 16.5 feet to 19.4 feet. These grades are not only above the then existing street grades but also above the planned grades as indicated on the 1934 survey. It does not appear that there would have been a reason to raise this corner of the enclosure above the street grades. It is more likely that the original grades in this area of the cemetery were close to those shown on the 1934 survey. This inference is supported by the 1885 description of the cemetery enclosure noted in Chapter II, which indicates that its northern portion was then above the grade of Court Street. This northwestern corner of the cemetery enclosure may have originally formed a small knoll. This knoll may be visible in the background of the photograph included here as Figure 12 between the tombstones shown in the foreground. Thus, it is possible that the 1927 playground construction involved the deposition of little or no fill in the northwestern portion of the site. In any event, the grades shown on Figure 18 indicate that the maximum depth of fill in the portion of the site northwest of the location of the 1904 fifteen foot contour would have been less than three feet.

The 1927 playground construction does not appear to have involved extensive excavations. The only features of the playground which would appear to have had the potential for the possible disturbance of burials would have been construction of the retaining wall around its periphery and the installation of the drainage line in the eastern portion of the site as shown on the 1934 survey.

### C. Effects of 1935 Playground Reconstruction

A 1982 survey of the Newtown Playground (Figure 10) reflects the

results of the 1935 renovations discussed above. The elevations indicated on the 1993 site plan (Figure 11) differ only slightly from those shown 1982.

Figure 19 shows the 1904 contours superimposed on the 1982 survey and Figures 20a - 20f show three east-west and three north-south sections through the site. These sections show the 1904 surface, the 1934 surface, and the existing surface, as well as the approximate estimated depths of disturbance caused by the 1935 construction of the comfort station, wading pool and utilities lines. The elevations shown are based on the data contained in the sources discussed above, and should be considered approximate. The starting point for the sections is the inner edge of the concrete sidewalks adjacent to the western and northern sides of the site.

As noted above, prior to the 1935 reconstruction, the playground surface sloped downward to the southeast. The reconstruction of the playground involved a levelling of the grade. Comparison of the elevations shown on the 1934 and 1982 surveys indicate that the grading involved a downcutting of 1 - 2 feet in most of the northwestern and north-central portion of the site, with as much as three feet being removed in the extreme northwestern corner of the enclosure.

This downcutting would have removed any fill deposited in this area during the ca. 1927 construction of the playground and at some locations may have extended below the grade of the original cemetery surface. The results of a soil boring conducted in the northwestern corner of the playground in 1990 are consistent with the absence of fill in this portion of the site.

In addition to the downcutting of the northwestern portion of the site, major disturbance below the pre-1935 surface would have been caused by excavations for the crawl space and foundation of the recreation building, excavation for the wading pool, and installation of water, drainage and sewer lines. Plans for the recreation building in the files of the Department of Parks and Recreation indicate that excavations for this building's crawl space would have extended approximately to the 14.5 foot elevation with the base of the footings for the structure at 12.2 feet.

Plans for the wading pool do not show the depth of excavation. However, a sketch accompanying an April 6, 1935 Parks Department memorandum indicates that the wading pool excavation extended some 3.5 feet below the then-existing surface.

The April 1935 sketch noted above indicates excavation for the drainage lines on the eastern and southern sides of the playground enclosure to a depth of four feet. The elevation of these lines at the manhole locations as indicated on the 1935 drainage and irrigation plan (drawing QE41-100W5) suggests that four feet is an accurate estimate of the average depth of disturbance. At the manhole located in the southwestern portion

of the playground (see Figure 19) the elevation of the drainage pipe indicated on the 1935 plans was 9.4 feet, which is the estimated approximate elevation of the original cemetery surface at this location (see Figure 20a). From the location of this manhole, the drain would have sloped downward to connect with the combined sewer in 92nd Street. The invert elevation of this combined sewer, as shown on the 1982 survey is 7.25 feet. (see Figure 19). This suggests that some disturbance beneath the fill would have occurred in the extreme southwestern corner of the site.

The 1935 reconstruction resulted in modifications to the boundaries of the playground enclosure. The major change was the adjustment of the northern boundary to follow the mapped property line. As a result of this modification, the extent of the playground along 92nd Avenue was reduced by approximately 3 - 4 feet from that of the cemetery and the ca. 1927 playground enclosure. Thus a portion of the present northern boundary of the playground, as marked by the iron picket fence, is actually south of the boundary of the original cemetery enclosure. The western portion of the grassy strip lying between this fence and the 56th Avenue sidewalk was within the cemetery boundaries.

The 1935 plans (sheet QL41-100) indicate that the old retaining walls on the northern and western sides of the playground enclosure were to be demolished. It would appear that the wall on the southern side of the playground was to remain intact. The upper portion of the retaining wall on the eastern side of the enclosure was to be demolished with a new concrete coping added to the remaining lower portion. The existing stucco coated retaining wall which marks the eastern boundary of the playground was apparently constructed after the 1935 renovations, probably at the time the apartment house on the adjacent property was built. The concrete "curb" noted immediately west of the stucco wall during the reconnaissance (see Chapter I) probably actually represents the top portion of the ca. 1927 playground retaining wall.

### 1. Discussion of Disturbance of Burials

The depth of the graves dug in the Town burial ground is uncertain. We were unable to find any reference to regulations concerning burials within the Town prior to the 1880's. However, since many of the documented burials are of members of prominent Newtown families it is reasonable to assume that most of these burials would have been in graves dug to the traditional six foot depth.

Town ordinances dealing with depths of burials date to the period subsequent to the formation of the Town Board of Health in 1885. Board of Health regulations dating to 1886 (Town Records, Book 253) indicate that "all graves shall be at least six feet in depth..[with] at least four feet of solid clean earth between any body and the surface of the ground". However, regulations adopted

in 1894 (Town Records, Book 252) appear to have modified these regulations: "all bodies interred in cemeteries of the town shall be at least four feet below the surface of the ground ... and covered with earth to the surface." However, by the time these regulations were adopted, the Town burial ground was apparently no longer in use.

Figure 21 shows the 1919 Bureau of Topography grave plan superimposed on the 1982 survey. This indicates that the sites of some nine burials shown on the 1919 plan would have been at the location of the wading pool excavations and five at the location of the comfort station excavations. The sites of one or two additional burials would have been intersected by the route of the excavations for drainage and water lines. The sites of three other graves would have been at the approximate location of the concrete wall (now buried) which underlies the iron fence along the northern boundary of the present playground. As discussed above it is likely that additional unrecorded burials dating to the early period of the Town's history, not shown on the Topographic Bureau plan, were located in the various family plots.

However, the above discussions and the cross-sections shown in Figures 20a - 20f indicate that most of the 1935 excavations which can be documented, even in the northwestern portion of the site, penetrated less than 3 - 4 feet below the original cemetery surface. As noted above, it is assumed that the burials of members of the Town's prominent families, which are shown on the Topographic Bureau plan, were made at a depth of some six feet below the surface. Therefore, the data suggest that relatively few of these burials would have been encountered by the 1935 excavations.

However, the documentary record indicates that extensive human remains were, in fact, encountered during the 1935 reconstruction, with burials specifically noted close to the surface. It is likely that most of these represented the remains of the paupers interred here during the 19th century. These paupers are more likely to have been placed in shallow graves, with interments in some locations made above the depths reached by the 1935 excavations.

The presence of more than five feet of fill in the southernmost portion of the site prior to the 1935 reconstruction indicates that even shallow burials in this area would probably not have been disturbed by the 1935 excavations, with the possible exceptions of those at the location of the drainage line in the southwestern corner of the site. However, the shallower but more extensive excavations associated with the wading pool and comfort station, as well as the utilities line excavations, would have impacted shallow graves located in the northwestern and north-central portions of the site.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. Summary

Research conducted for this project indicates that the Newtown Town Burial Ground dates to the early period of the Town's history. Tombstone inscriptions confirm the presence of at least one 17th century burial and it is likely that other burials from this period, including those of early settlers of the Town, are present with the headstone inscriptions having been subsequently obliterated or the stones themselves removed. The known burials include members of families descended from the early settlers of Newtown and others prominent in the life of the Town. Such burials continued until 1862, with only one known interment being made after this date. In addition to these burials, the Newtown Town Burial Ground was also used during the 19th century for the burial of paupers who died while being supported by the Town. These paupers included both European-Americans and African-Americans.

After the 1880's the burial ground was no longer used for interments, and fell into disuse. In the second decade of the 20th century, the former burial ground was formally designated as Park land, but the Newtown Playground was apparently not constructed until ca. 1927. At this time the grade of the cemetery, which had sloped downward to the south, was levelled by the deposition of up to seven feet of fill. In 1935, the Playground was reconstructed, creating the existing configuration. At the time of the reconstruction, human remains were encountered, some of which were reportedly close to the surface which existed at that time. The grade reconstructions suggest that most of the burials encountered by the 1935 excavations would have been located in the northwestern and north-central portions of the site. The data indicate that extensive human remains should remain intact beneath the present surface of the Newtown Playground.

### B. Significance

According to the National Register of Historic Places eligibility criteria as set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.4

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects of State and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and .... (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or .... (d) that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory, or history.



Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures...shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they fall within the following categories: .... (d) a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events.

It is our opinion that the Newtown cemetery site can be considered as a National Register eligible site under criteria b) and d). As a site of local importance it is the last resting place of many families and known individuals significant in the history of Newtown including at least one of the 17th century Town patentees. Other prominent individuals who died early in the Town's history and whose tombstones have not been recorded may be interred here. Such interments could include that of the Rev. John Moore, the first minister of the Town. The association of the cemetery with these persons, when properly interpreted and reported, could form a link between the current residents of Elmhurst and their historic antecedents in the Town of Newtown.

The site could also qualify as eligible for the National Register under criterion d). Archaeological excavation, including the uncovering of previously buried headstones and/or unmarked graves of early residents of the Town, as well as scientific studies of human remains (e.g. DNA and other anthropological studies and/or dating by radiocarbon or other methods) could permit identification of otherwise unrecorded early burials. Furthermore, there is another historic dimension to the cemetery which could be investigated by means of archaeological investigations. This derives from the burial in the same cemetery of paupers who were at the base of the social hierarchy, as well as members of families prominent in the history of the Town. The likelihood is that the former group of burials includes poor African-American as well as European-American 19th century residents of the Town. Physical anthropological studies of skeletal material, together with additional historical/documentary research, could permit comparisons of a number of variables between the two intra-site burial populations (i.e. remains of members of prominent families and paupers). Research areas which could be investigated through such studies include similarities and differences in physical variables (e.g. height, stature) as well as dietary/nutritional factors and diseases which affected these populations. In addition to the intra-site comparisons, comparisons of the two burial populations could be made with burial populations from other sites which have been studied. In particular, the data on the pauper burials could be compared with results of studies of the burials from the African Burial Ground, recently excavated in Manhattan. It should be noted that the latter site was considered eligible for the National Register under criterion (d).

Archaeological excavations could also possibly answer other questions pertaining to the history of the cemetery and construction of the playground. These would include the

relationship of the existing enclosure walls to those which existed prior to the early 20th century, as well as a determination of whether tombstones do, in fact, remain intact immediately beneath the 1927 fill deposits.

The site appears to fall under the exceptions to the National Register eligibility exclusions of cemetery sites noted above. The primary significance of the cemetery could be considered to derive from age (exception d), including burials from the early 18th century and at least one from the 17th century, with other unrecorded 17th century burials probably also present.

The Newtown cemetery would appear to also be eligible for designation as a New York City Landmark.

A property eligible for designation as a Landmark is as follows: any improvement (building, structure, place, work of art, and/or object) any part of that is 30 years old or older, that has a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, State, or nation" (City of New York 1993:3F-5)

The Newtown cemetery reflects the development of the Town of Newtown, which later became an integral part of New York City and part of its heritage. It should be noted also that the cemetery exclusion noted under the National Register eligibility criteria does not apply to the Landmarks designation criteria.

Both as a National Register eligible property and one eligible for designation as a New York City Landmark the Newtown Burial Ground site is subject to New York City Environmental Quality Review (City of New York 1993).

### C. Impacts of Proposed Construction

At the time that the present report was prepared, detailed plans for the proposed reconstruction of the Newtown Playground were not available. However the schematic design of the proposed playground reconstruction indicates the types of improvements planned and the Parks Department standard detail drawings indicate the approximate depths of expected disturbance for some of the improvements as follows:

<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Approximate Depth of Disturbance</u>
Tree Planting	4 feet
New Flagpole	5-6 feet
New Drinking Fountain	2 feet
Posts for Basketball Court Backboard	4 feet
Posts for Installation of Swings	2 feet
Concrete Piers for Benches	3 1/2 feet
Steel Fence Posts	1 foot
Base for Park I.D. Plaque	1 1/2 feet
New Curbing	2 1/2 feet

There are several additional major sources of disturbance which would result from the planned reconstruction, including the installation of new utilities lines and resurfacing of the playground. The installation of new drainage and other utilities lines, not shown on the schematic drawing, would require trenching which would presumably reach depths comparable to those of the existing utilities lines. Disturbance resulting from resurfacing would affect only the uppermost ca. 1/2 - one foot.

As noted above, the data indicate that fill, most of which was apparently deposited at the time of the 1927 playground construction, overlies the former cemetery ground surface in a large portion of the site. If it is assumed that burials of prominent persons within the town were made at a depth of ca. six feet below the original surface, such burials would probably lie beneath the planned depth of disturbance in these portions of the site. In the northwestern and north-central portions of the site, however, the 1935 grading would have removed all or most of the earlier fill and at some locations may have resulted in the removal of up to 2-3 feet of the original cemetery surface. In this area some burials originally at depths of six feet could be only some 3-4 feet below the present surface, where they could be impacted by some of the planned improvements noted above.

Other, shallower burials were apparently also made in the Newtown cemetery as indicated by the reported encountering of burials, possibly those of paupers buried during the 19th century, near the surface during the 1935 renovations. Therefore, in order to avoid the disturbance of human remains the assumption should be made that any excavation below the overlying fill has the potential of encountering such remains. In addition to the shallow burials, tombstones which are of historic significance may also be encountered immediately beneath the fill. Although there are contrary reports, the tombstones were supposed to have been placed horizontally above the graves prior to the deposition of the overlying fill in 1927. These stones are, in themselves, an integral part of the cemetery's history, and would serve to identify the underlying remains.

The Newtown playground site has been divided into three zones, based on the analysis of site topography discussed in Chapter V (see Figure 22). In some portions of the first zone, the original cemetery surface would be immediately below the present surface and in other portions may have been downcut up to three feet. In the second zone, 1 - 5 feet of fill are probably present. The analysis indicates that at least five feet of fill overlies the original surface in the third zone.

Adverse impacts on human remains and other associated significant archaeological resources could occur where renovations of the Newtown Playground would involve excavations beneath the depths of existing fill. In zone I, this could result from any excavations beneath the present surface. In zone III, adverse impacts could result from excavations in excess of five feet.

Excavations to a depth in excess of one foot could cause adverse impacts in portions of zone II, where between one and five feet of fill are present.

#### D. Mitigation Options

In general, mitigation of adverse impacts to National Register eligible resources take the form of either preservation of the resources in place, and/or of archaeological "data recovery" excavations prior to construction. In the case of the Newtown Playground site, avoidance of adverse impacts could take the form of the adoption of the "no build" alternative, and or design of the playground renovations to preclude impacts on burials. The most certain method for assuring that human remains are not disturbed is the adoption of the no-build alternative. If adoption of this alternative is not feasible, a playground design should be implemented which eliminates all excavations which could extend below the depths of overlying fill.

Since there is apparently little or no existing fill in the northwestern and north-central portions of the playground (zone I), the maintenance of a level surface throughout the playground while avoiding adverse impacts on burials would involve raising the overall grade of the playground by depositing additional fill above the existing surface. The existing retaining walls should be built up above their present heights to permit this to occur. As a result, the playground surface elevation would be above that of the adjacent sidewalks. Considerations of the depths of disturbance to be caused by planned improvements, as noted above, suggest that raising of the grade by approximately 3 - 4 feet should accomplish the objective of preventing disturbance to burials. In addition, the site of the new flagpole, which would involve disturbance to depths of 5 - 6 feet, should be moved to the southern part of the enclosure (zone III) where the existing depths of fill, in addition to that to be added to the site, would prevent disturbance. In addition, new tree plantings, which could reach depths of up to four feet, should be made only in zones II and III. The drainage system should be designed to prevent disturbance beneath the fill. Any necessary excavations beneath the fill necessary to permit connections with existing sewers should take place outside the cemetery boundaries. The possibility of cleaning out the existing drain pipes and utilizing these connections to the storm sewers in 92nd Street and/or 56th Avenue should also be explored.

As part of the redesign of the playground, appropriate commemorative signage pertaining to the history of the cemetery and those interred therein should be prepared and installed in the playground.

If it is not feasible to reconstruct the playground in such a way as to avoid impacts to human remains or other significant archaeological resources, archaeological data recovery excavations would need to be conducted prior to construction at

any locations where excavations could penetrate beneath the existing fill deposits. It is apparent from the documentary research that burials could be encountered anywhere within the boundaries of the present playground. Therefore, data recovery for this project would be likely to involve extensive archaeological excavations, followed by scientific study of remains and appropriate reburial. Additional genealogical research on those buried in the cemetery would also need to be conducted in conjunction with the excavations. Such procedures, while likely to produce significant data as discussed above, would be costly. Prior to their execution consideration should also be given to the possibility that there are existing descendants of at least some of those known to have been interred in the Town Burial ground.

Although the documentary research indicates the presence of the depths of existing fill as noted, the possibility exists that at least some of the data are in error. Therefore, even if the design of the playground is such that excavation would not occur beneath the depths of fill as indicated, excavations should be monitored as necessary to insure that human remains are not disturbed.

## REFERENCES CITED

- Bartlett, Homer L.  
1913 Map made "In persuance of the terms of the last will and testament of Catherine Beckman, Late of Elmhurst, New York." Filed Map #1071 in office of the New York City Register, Jamaica, New York.
- Borough of Queens, Topographical Bureau  
1910 Map Showing Street System for the Territory Designated as Section 26 of the Final Maps of the Borough of Queens. (includes modifications adopted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment prior to Nov. 1st 1931, data for contours obtained in 1904)
- 1975 Description of Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens. A Supplement. (Supplement included in copy on file in the Long Island Collection, Queens Borough Public Library - compiled by Bureau of Topography.
- City of New York  
1993 "City Environmental Quality Review Technical Manual." Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination. December 1993.
- Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, City of New York  
1917 Report of Albert E. Hadlock, Deputy and Acting Comptroller to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, March 8, 1917. (document in files of New York City Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Department of Parks, New York City  
1927-28 Annual Report, Borough of Queens
- 1934 Topographical Survey, Newtown - Elmhurst Playground, 92nd St. & 56th Ave. Boro. of Queens (My 31. 1934).
- 1935 Correspondence concerning reconstruction of Newtown Playground. in Department of Parks and Recreation, General Files 1933 - 1962, Collection of the New York City Municipal Archives, File #102396.
- Department of Parks and Recreation, New York City  
1993 Newtown Playground Site Plan, (Preliminary), November 5, 1993.
- Frost, Josephine, comp.  
1914 "Inscriptions from Oldtown Cemetery at Newtown, Long Island, New York", in Long Island Cemetery Inscriptions Vol. XII. Queens Borough Public Library, Long Island Collection (Later annotations included in copy in collection of Queens Borough Public Library).

Hagstrom Map Company, Inc.

1992 Hagstrom Map of Queens, City of New York. Maspeth, New York.

Hazelton, Henry Isham

1925 The Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, Counties of Nassau and Suffolk, Long Island, New York 1609 - 1924, Vols. 1-3. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company.

Hendricksen, Rev. William H.

1902 A Brief History of the First Presbyterian Church of Newtown, Long Island.

Historical Records Survey

1940 Transcription of Early Town Records of New York, Town Minutes of Newtown. 2 Vols.

Hyatt, Cornelius

1888 Map and Profile showing the land proposed to be drained and the location and direction of the ditch through the same &c. (surveyed and drawn 1887 & 1888). Map in collection of the Borough of Queens Bureau of Topography.

Kelley, Frank Bergen

1908 Excursion Planned for the City History Club of New York. No. XI Historic Queens. The City History Club.

Long Island Star

1880 "Newtown's Ancient Cemetery." August 6, 2:5, in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Long Island Star 1880-1885".

1885 "Newtown Town Cemetery." February 20, 1:5. Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Long Island Star 1880-1885".

Meigs, Alice H.

1932 Description of Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens. Compiled by Borough of Queens Topographical Bureau. Jamaica, New York. Queens Borough Public Library.

Munsell, W.W. and Co.

1882 History of Queens County, New York. New York.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

1928 "The Presbyterian Church Records, Newtown, Long Island, New York." in NYGBS Collections. Vol. VIII, pp. 2 - 83.

Newtown Register

1885a "The Town Burial Ground." February 5, 5:4

1888 "The Old Town Cemetery." June 21, 5:6.

- 1889 "Board of Health." September 12, 5:4.
- 1901 "Over a Century Buried." November 14, 4:4. in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Newtown Register 1901-1905".
- 1913a "Old Newtown Cemetery," May 22, 5:3.
- 1913b "Old Newtown Cemetery Going," May 22, 4:2.
- 1914 "Court Street Cemetery," October 8, 1:3.
- 1915a "In Potter's Field," March 11, 1:5.
- 1915b "Court St. Cemetery," March 18, 5:4. in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Newtown Register 1911-1915".
- 1915c "Barrow Re-Interment," March 18, 5:2. in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Newtown Register 1911-1915".
- 1915d "Hamilton Fish in Elmhurst," April 1, 8:4.
- 1915e "Unique Court St. Cemetery," April 8, 1:5.
- 1915f "Court Street Cemetery," April 15, 1:5.
- 1915g "Work on Sever to Begin," May 20, 4:5.
- 1915h "The Court Street Cemetery," July 22, 1:7.
- 1915i "Court Street Cemetery," August 26, 5:6.
- 1916a "Newtown Cemetery Being Converted into Park." April 6, 5:5 in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Newtown Register 1916-1920".
- 1916b "Several Bodies Removed from old Town Cemetery." April 20, 5:4 in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Newtown Register 1916-1920".
- 1917 "Town Cemetery," March 29 5:3 in Vincent Seyfried, trans., "Transcriptions of News Articles from the Newtown Register 1916-1920".

**Newtown Town Records**

1829-1873 Records of Overseers of the Poor, Microfilm Reel, Collection of the Queens Borough Public Library, Long Island Collection.

1840-1886 Index to Town Records, Town Records Book 274, Collection of the New York City Municipal Archives.



1851-1883 Town Records, Microfilm Reel, Collection of the Queens Borough Public Library, Long Island Collection.

1883-1897 Town Records, Microfilm Reel, Collection of the Queens Borough Public Library, Long Island Collection.

1885-1890 Board of Health Minutes, Town Records Book 253, Collection of the New York City Municipal Archives.

1891-1895 Board of Health Minutes, Town Records Book 254, Collection of the New York City Municipal Archives.

1892-1896 Board of Health Minutes, Town Records Book 252, Collection of the New York City Municipal Archives.

Northacker, Howard A.

1927 History of the First Presbyterian Church of Newtown at Elmhurst, New York.

O'Gorman, William, ed.

1884-1887 Newtown Records. Queens Borough Public Library, Long Island Collection. [1934].

Queens Borough Public Library

1938 "Historical Collections of the Borough of Queens." Vol. 2. Copied from original reports in the Borough of Queens Topographic Bureau. WPA Project 465-97-3-70. Jamaica.

Queens Ledger

1942 "Before and After," April 3, p. 2. (photographs of Newtown Burial Ground).

Reid, Stephen J. Surveying Company

1982 Topographic Survey of Newtown Playground at 56th Avenue and 92nd Street, Borough of Queens.

Sanborn Map Company

1902 Insurance Maps of the Borough of Queens, New York City.  
1931 Collection of the New York Public Library.

Sidney, J.

1849 Sidney's Map of Twelve Miles Around New York.  
Collection of the New York Public Library.

Riker, James Jr.

1852 The Annals of Newtown. New York: D. Fanshaw.

Riker, James Jr.

1852a Map of Newtown, Long Island. Collection of the New York Public Library.

Titus, Rev. Aaron Jr.

1881 "The Titus Family in America, Three Generations." New York Genealogical and Biographical Record. Vol. XII:92-99.

White, Arthur

1935 "In Soil Under New Elmhurst Playground Lie Bones of Many Famous In New York's History; Hamilton Fish Ancestors There," Long Island Daily Star October 4, 1935.

Wilford, Sarah

1935 "Modern Playground Built Over Old Graves," Long Island Daily Press, July 25, 1935.

## FIGURES



Figure 1  
Location of Newtown Playground  
Base Map: Hagstrom 1992  
Scale: 1" = ca. 2300'

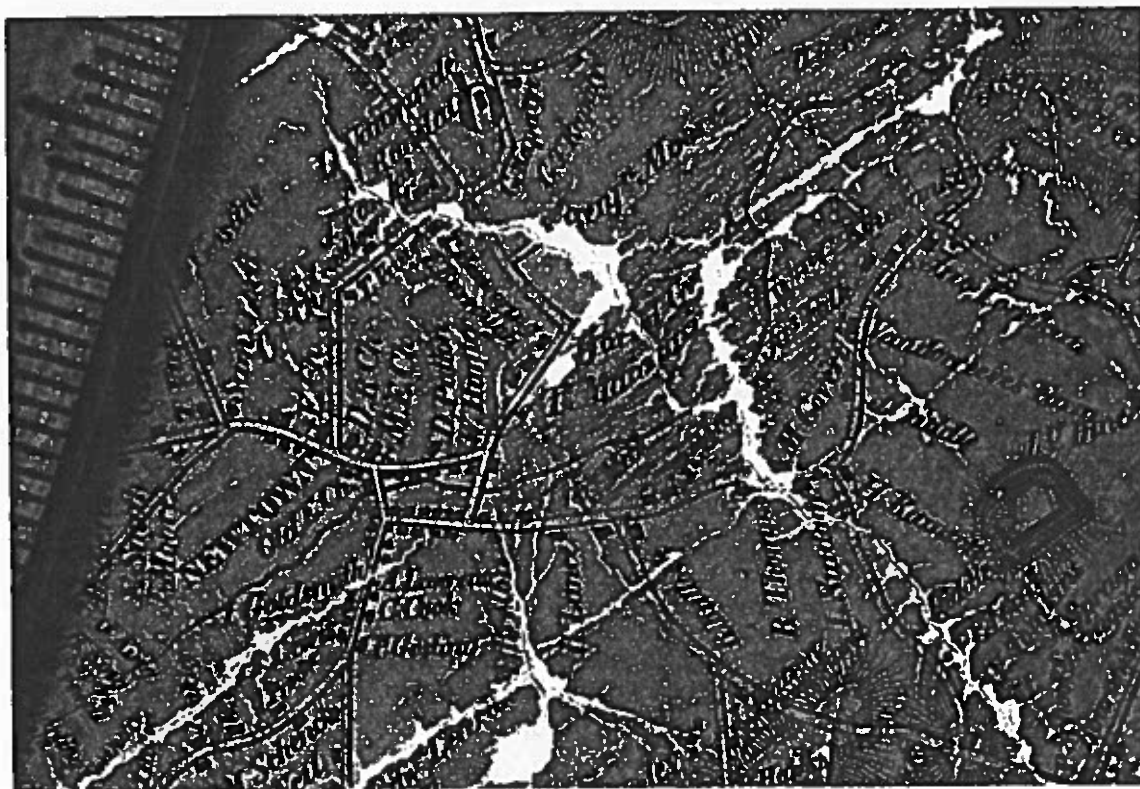


Figure 2  
Map Showing Location of Newtown Burial Ground  
Source: Sidney 1849  
Scale of Original: 1" = ca. 3775'



Figure 3  
Map Showing Location of Newtown Burial Ground  
Source: Riker 1852  
Scale of Original: 1" = ca. 3775'

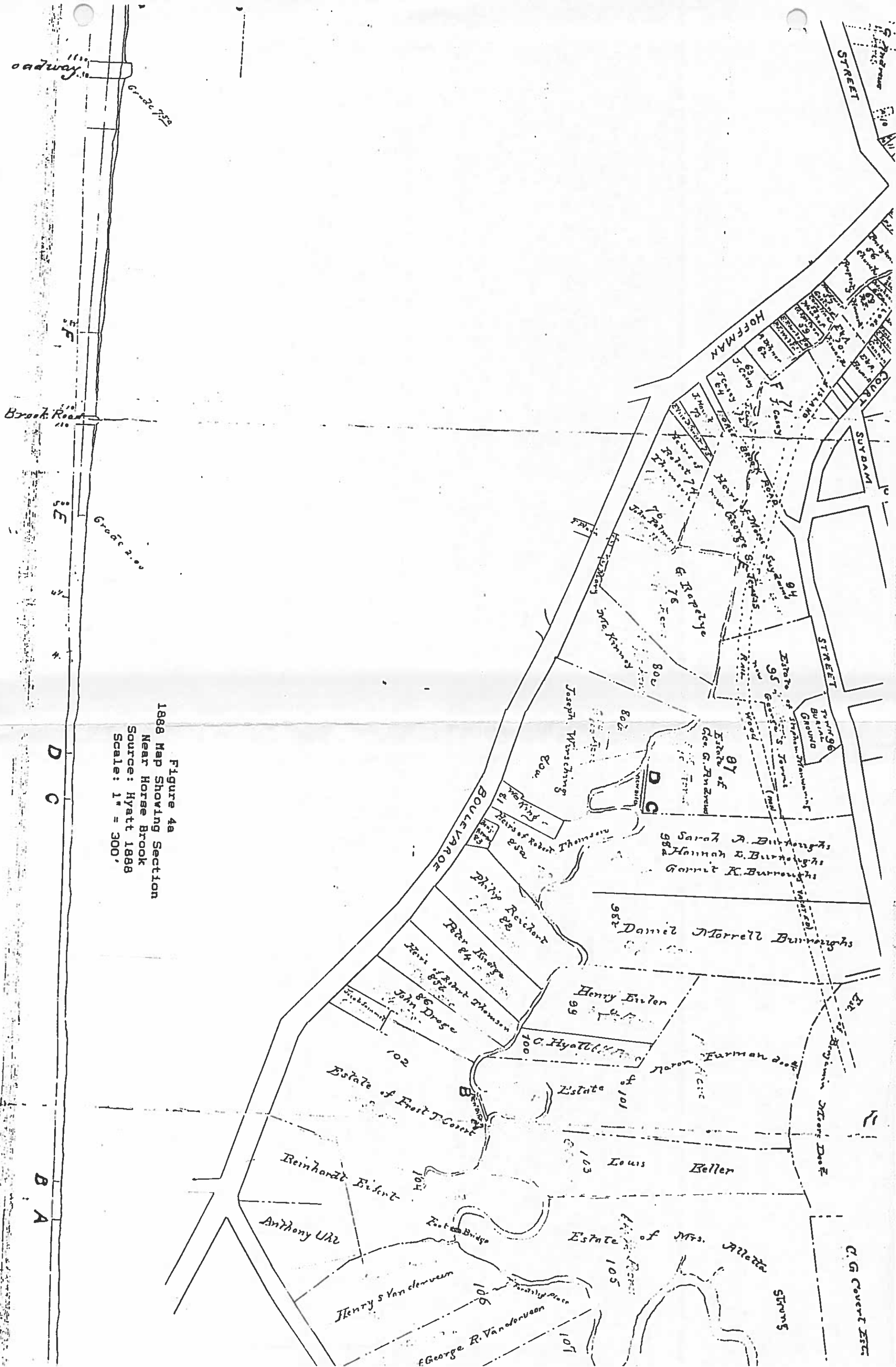


Figure 4a  
 1888 Map Showing Section  
 Near Horse Brook  
 Source: Hyatt 1888  
 Scale: 1" = 300'



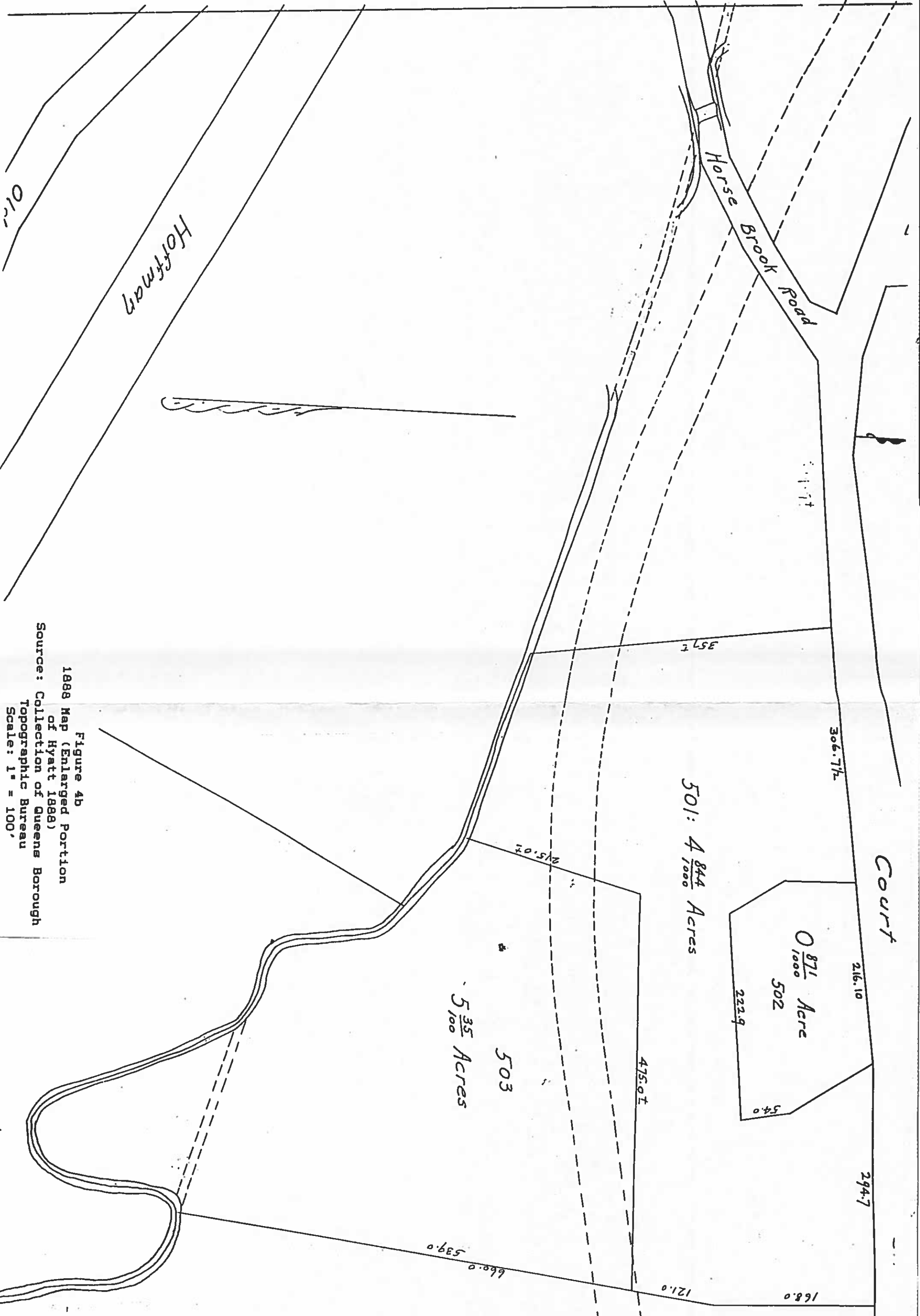


Figure 4b  
 1888 Map (Enlarged Portion  
 of Hyatt 1888)  
 Source: Collection of Queens Borough  
 Topographic Bureau  
 Scale: 1" = 100'



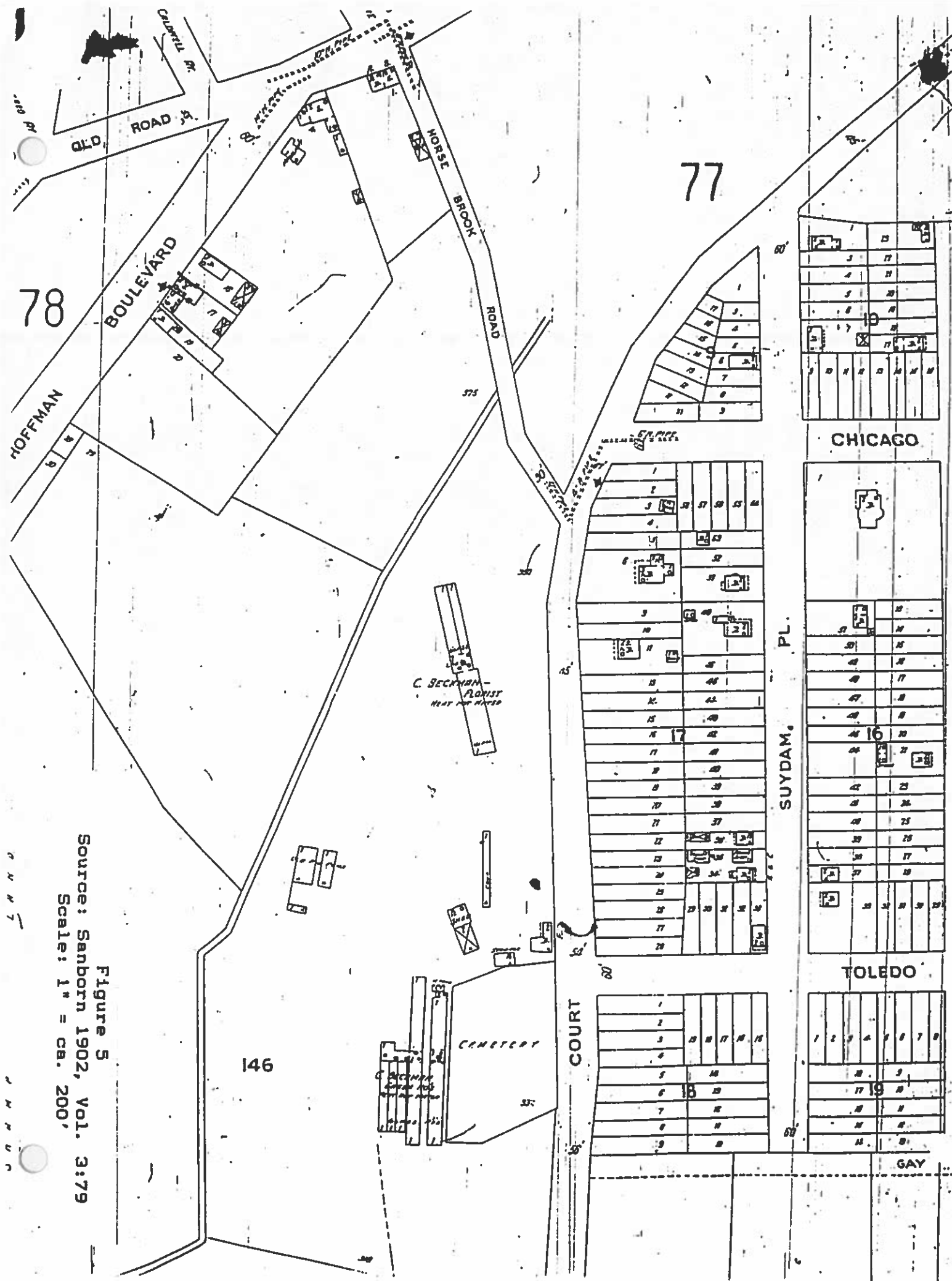


Figure 5  
 Source: Sanborn 1902, Vol. 3:79  
 Scale: 1" = ca. 200'

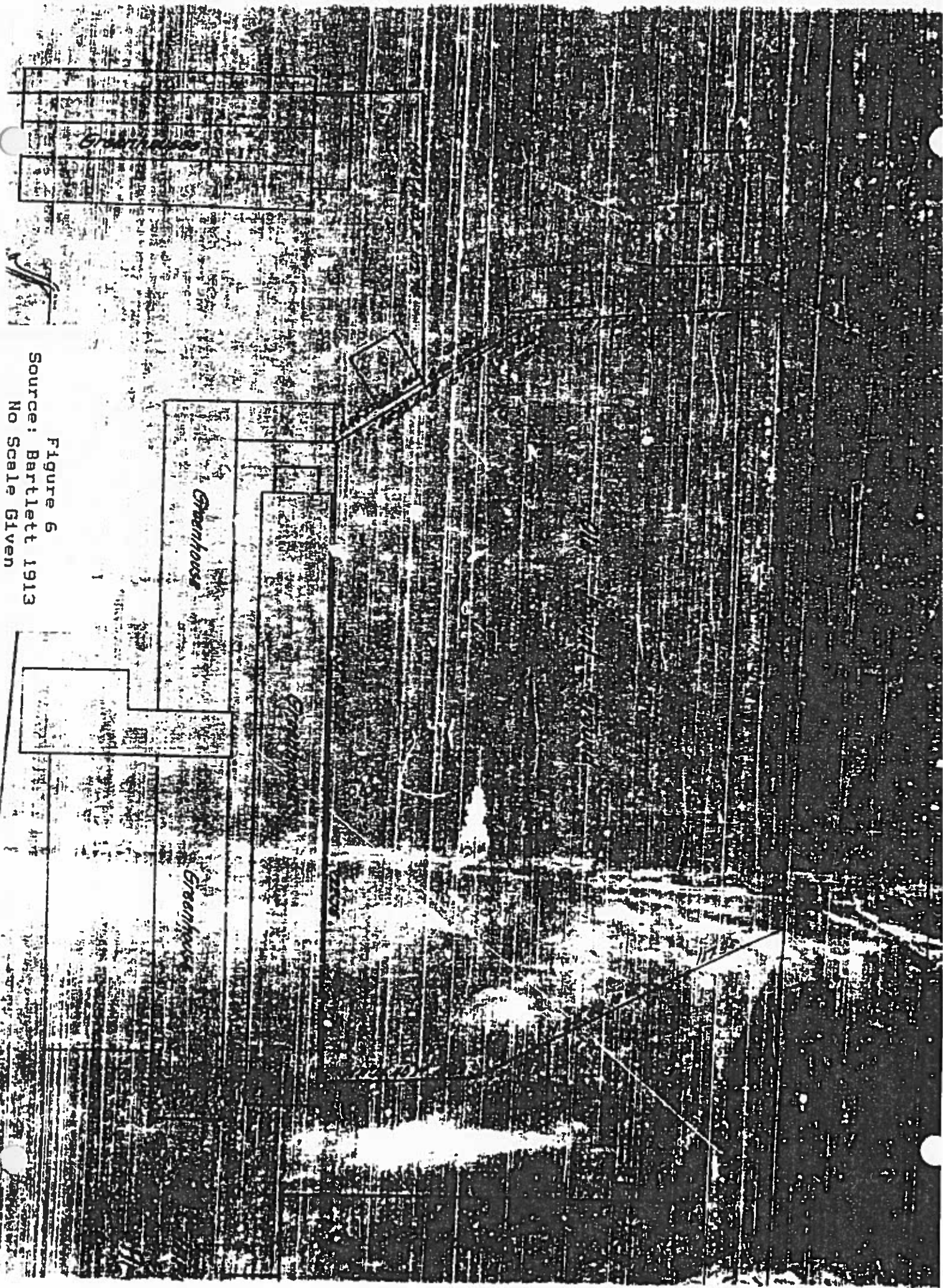


Figure 6  
Source: Bartlett 1913  
No Scale Given

Figure 7  
1919 Topographic Bureau Survey  
Source: Melgs 1932:8

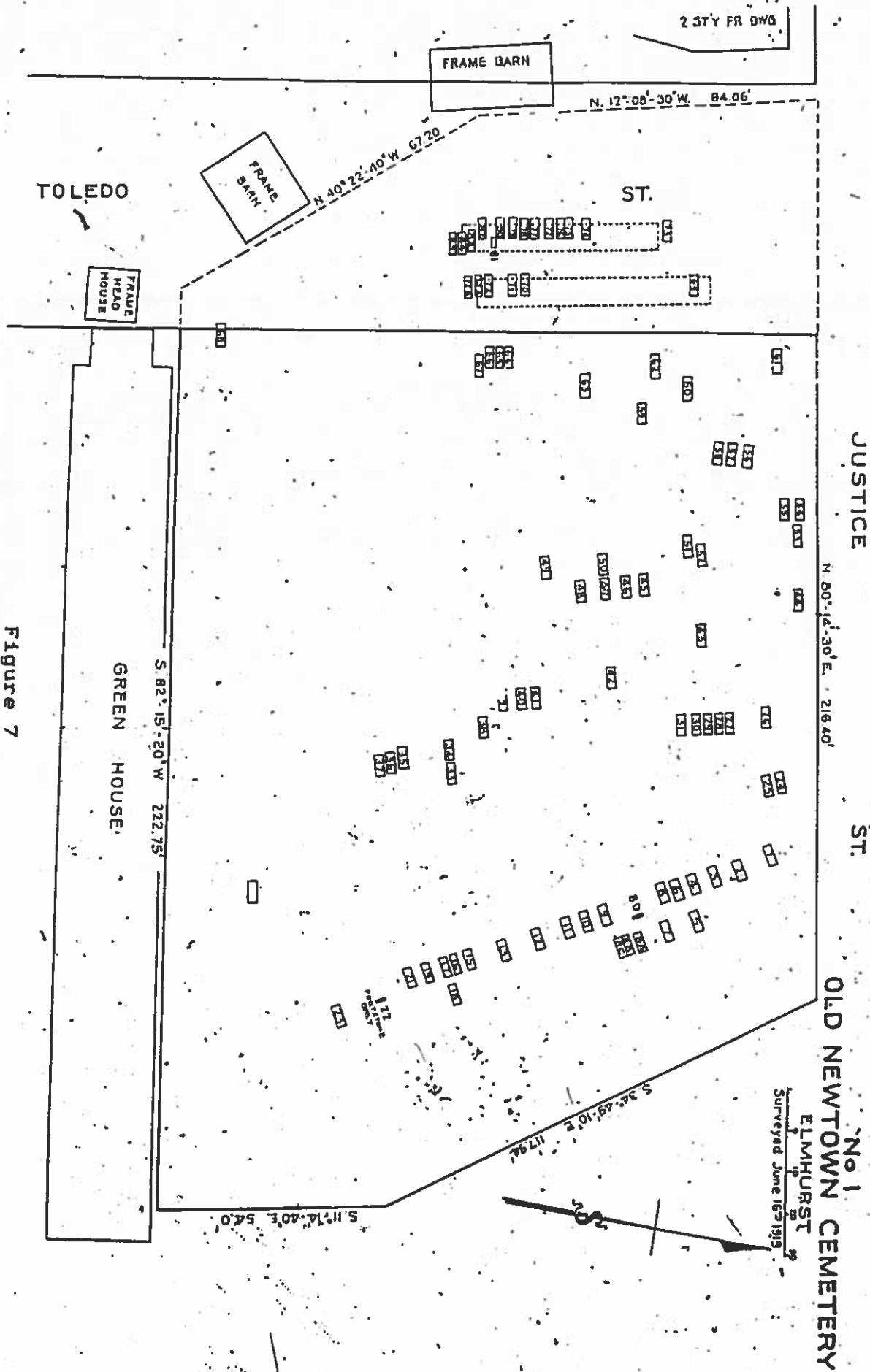
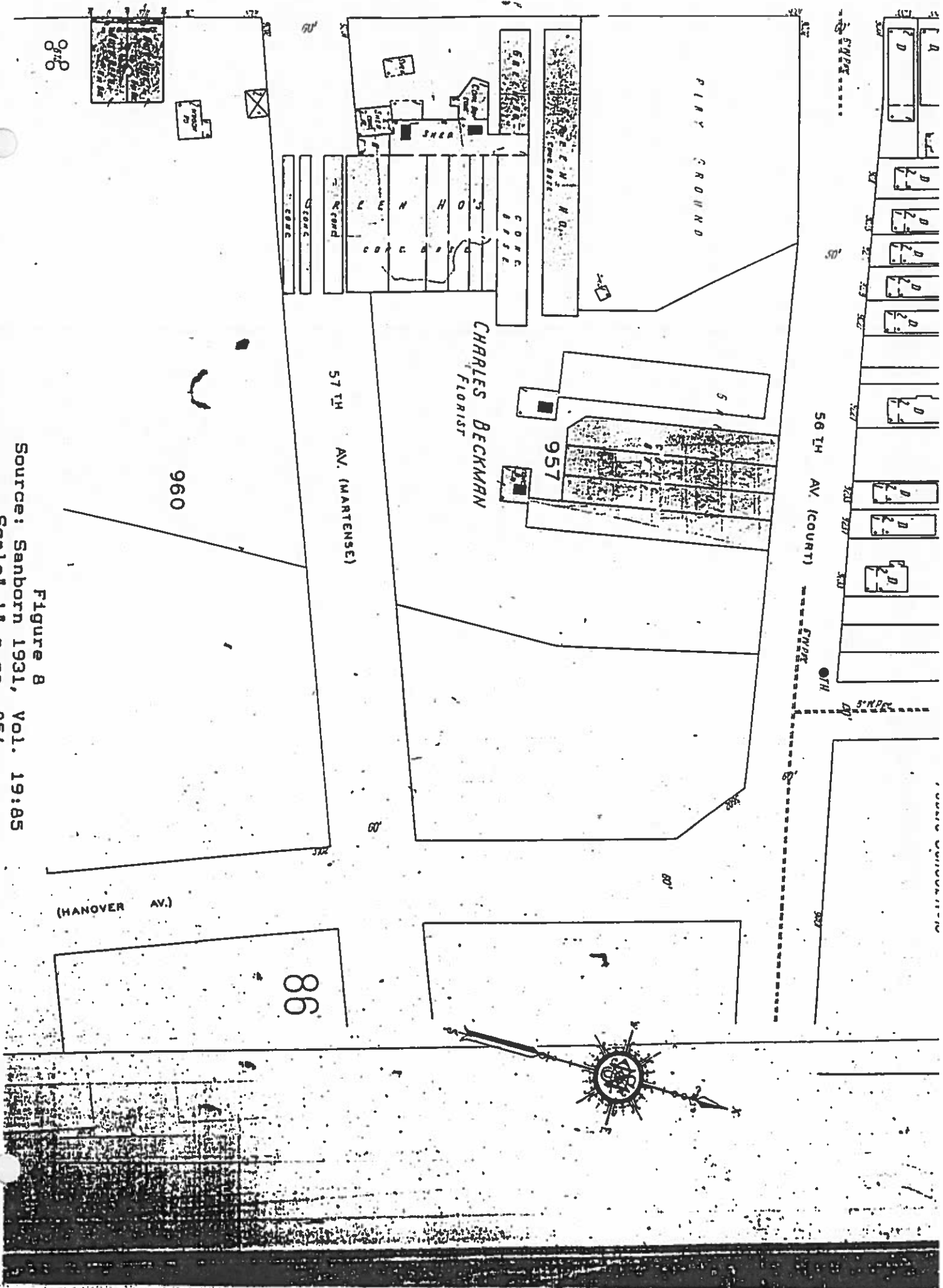


Figure 8  
 Source: Sanborn 1931, Vol. 19:85  
 Scale: 1" = ca. 85'





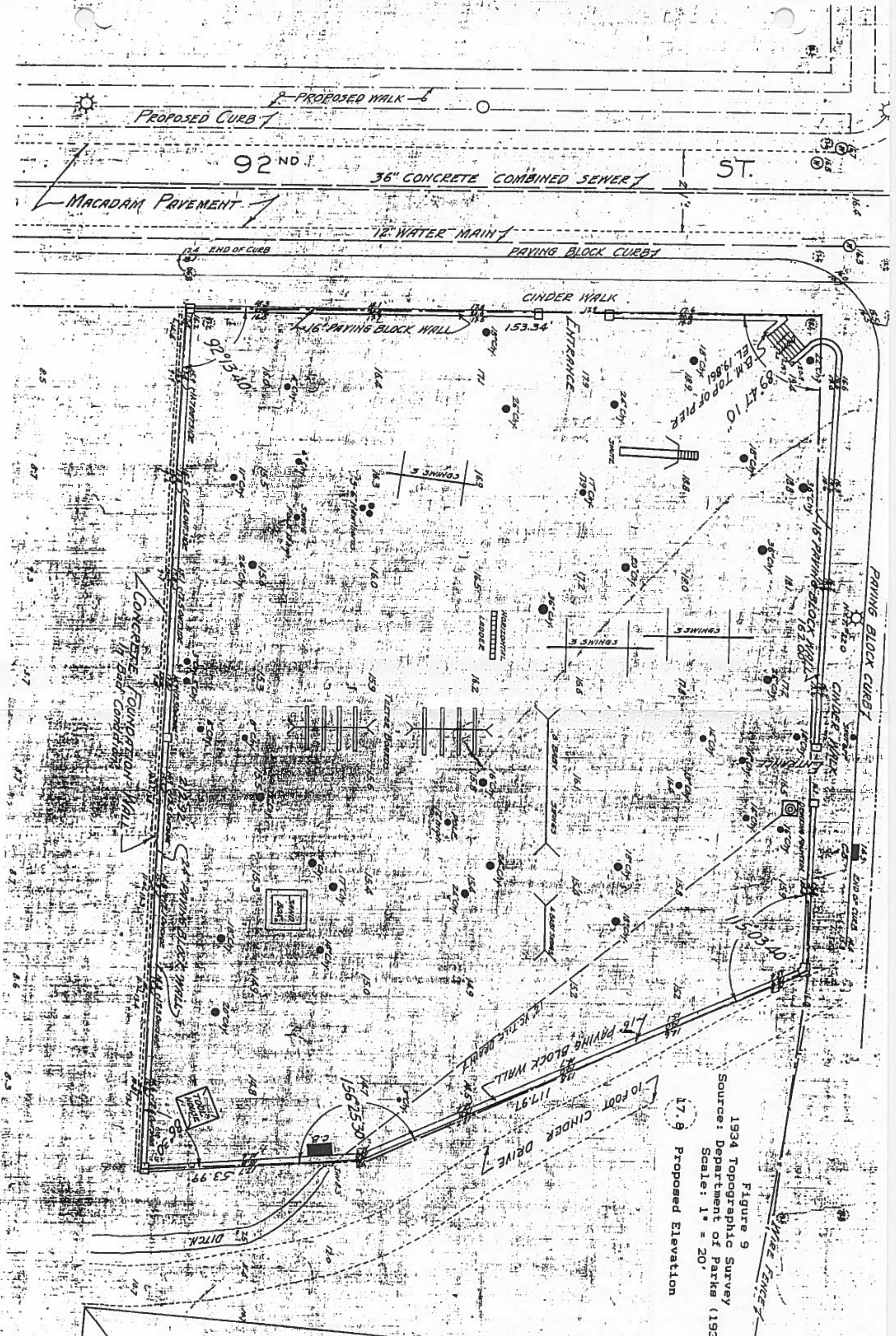
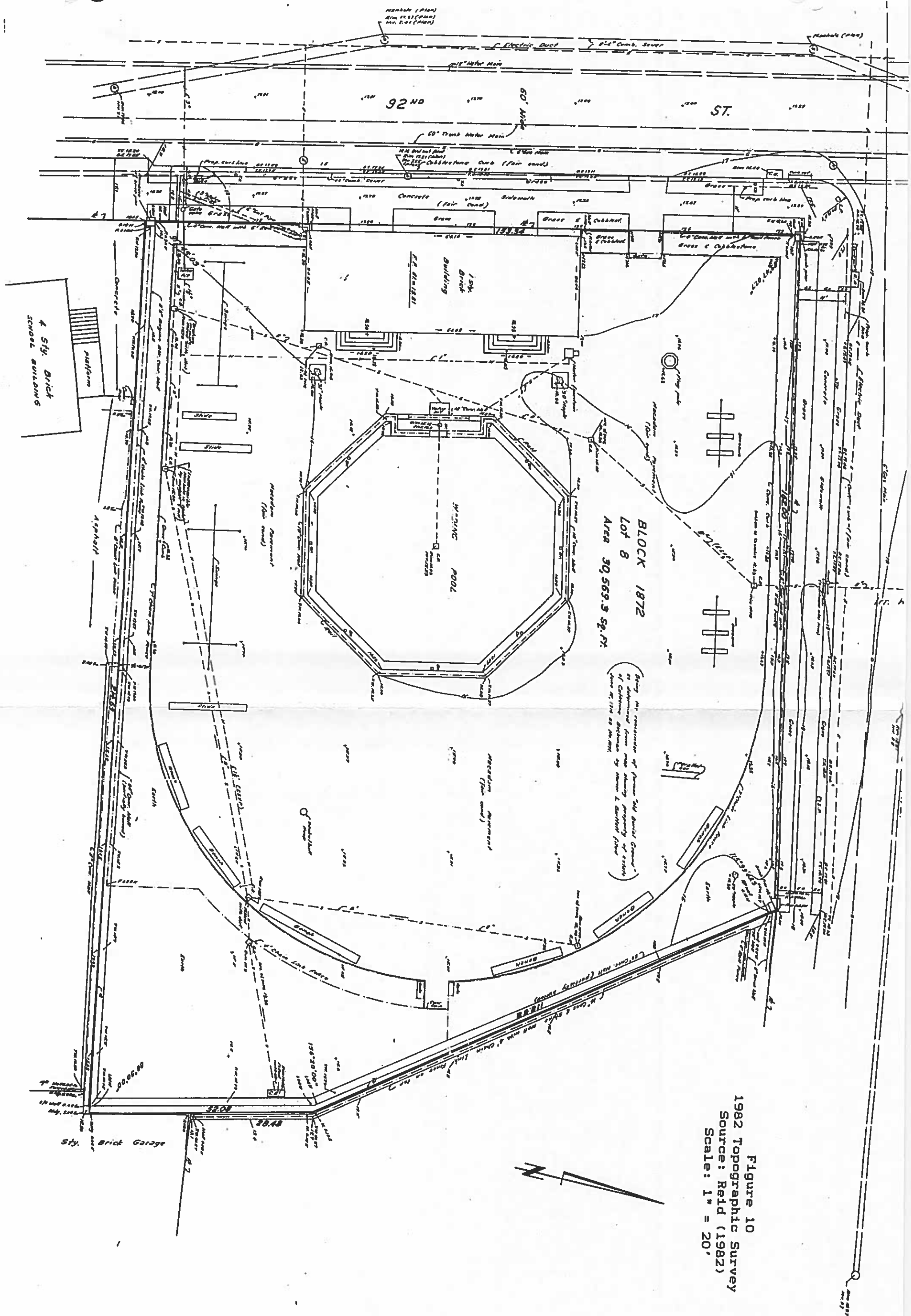
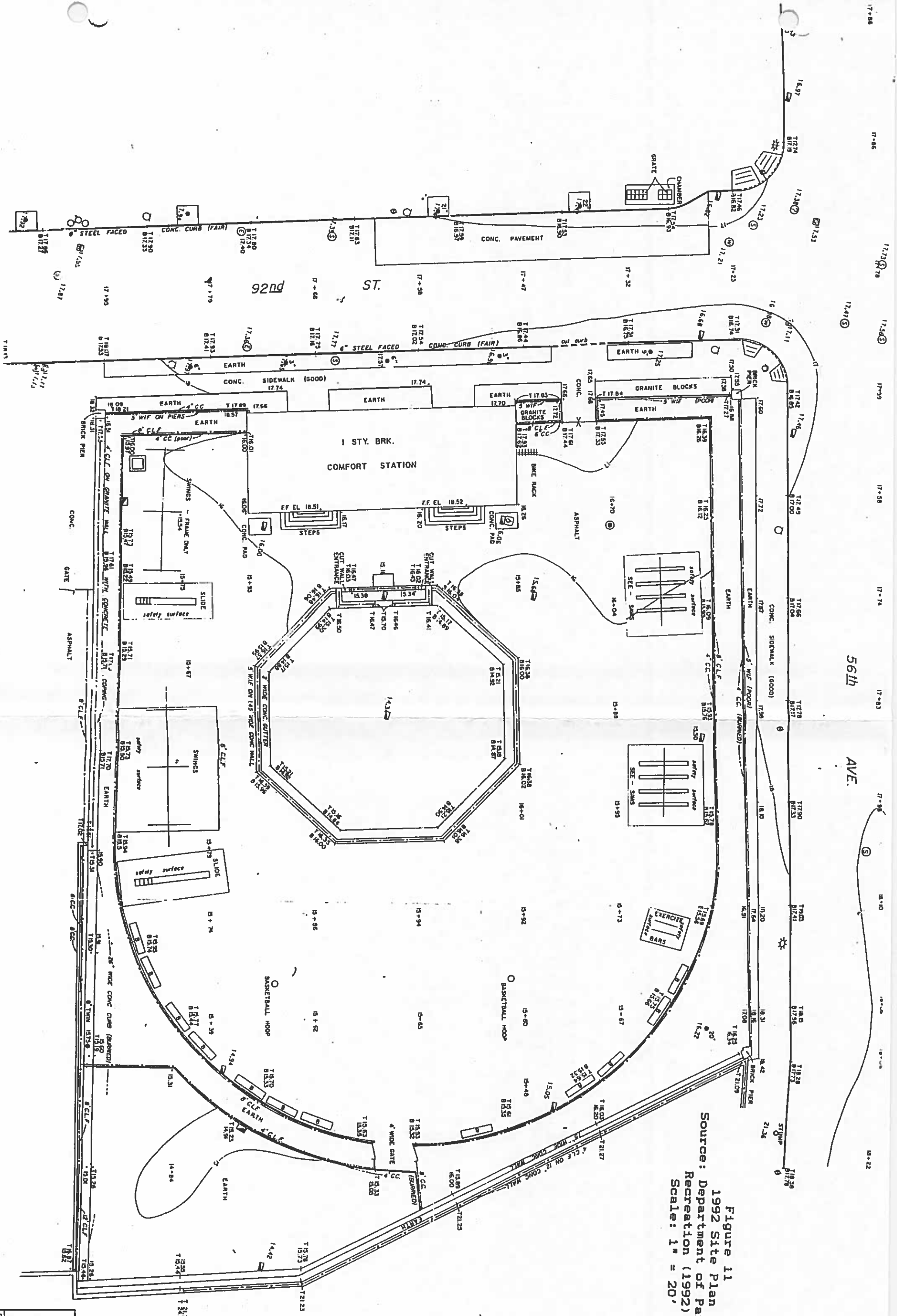


Figure 9  
1934 Topographic Survey  
Source: Department of Parks (193  
Scale: 1" = 20'

17.9 Proposed Elevation







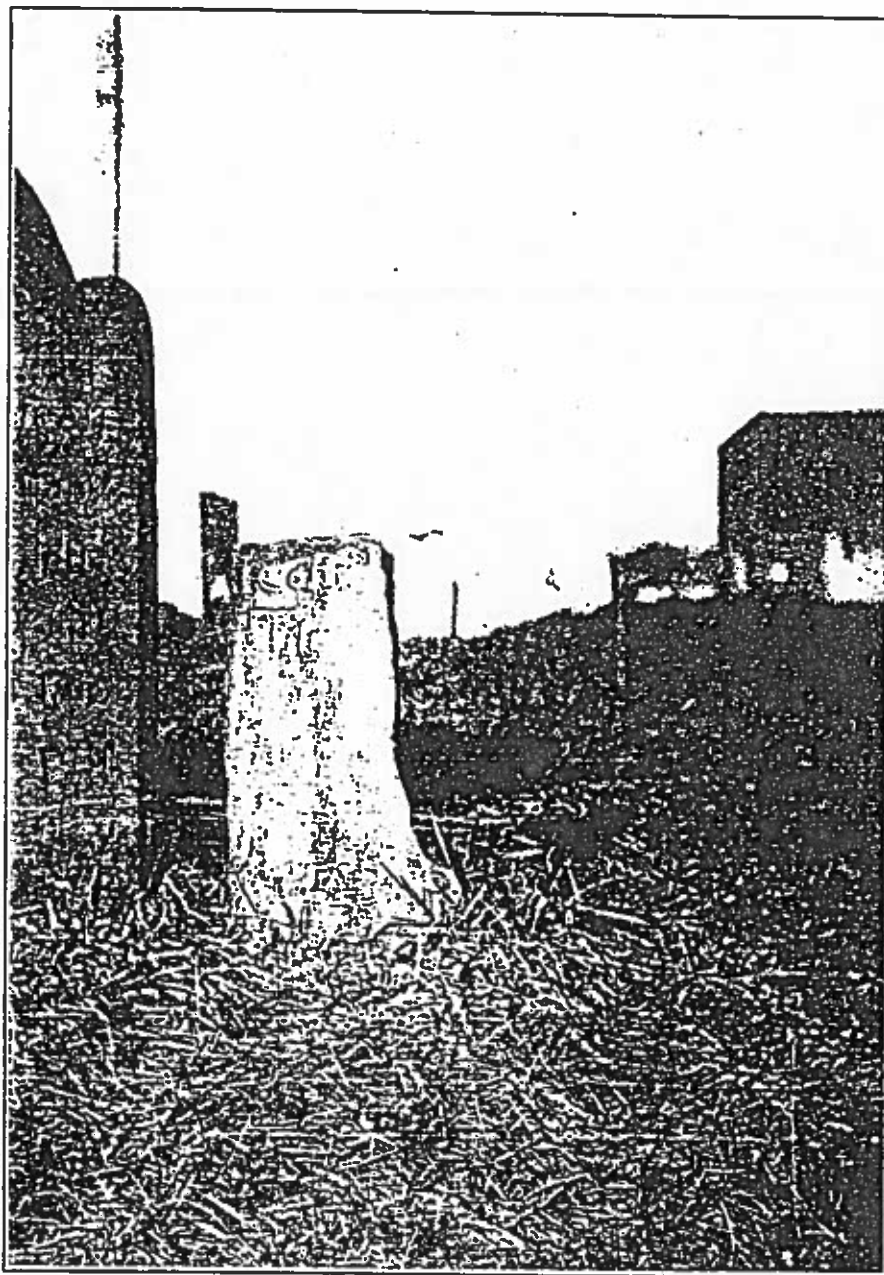


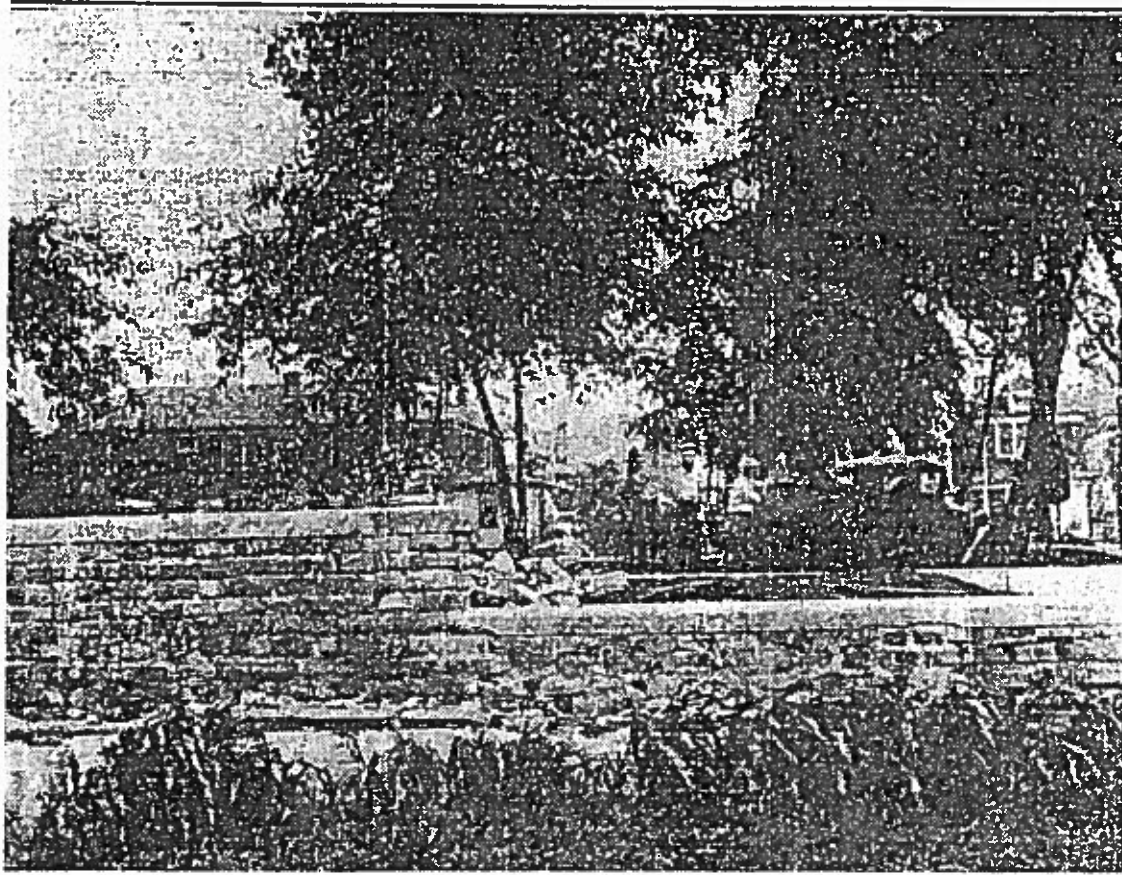
Figure 12  
Photograph Showing Burial Ground and Stone of Content Titus  
Source: Meigs 1932:69  
No Date Given (Probably Late 19th Century)





Figure 13  
Photograph of Newtown Burial Ground  
Source: Queens Borough Topographic Bureau  
No Date (Probably 2nd Decade of 20th Century)

## A WALL WHICH COVERS TOMBSTONES



Site of the Old Newtown Cemetery

Figure 14  
Photograph Showing Retaining Wall  
During Construction or Reconstruction of Playground  
Source: Long Island Daily Press 1935

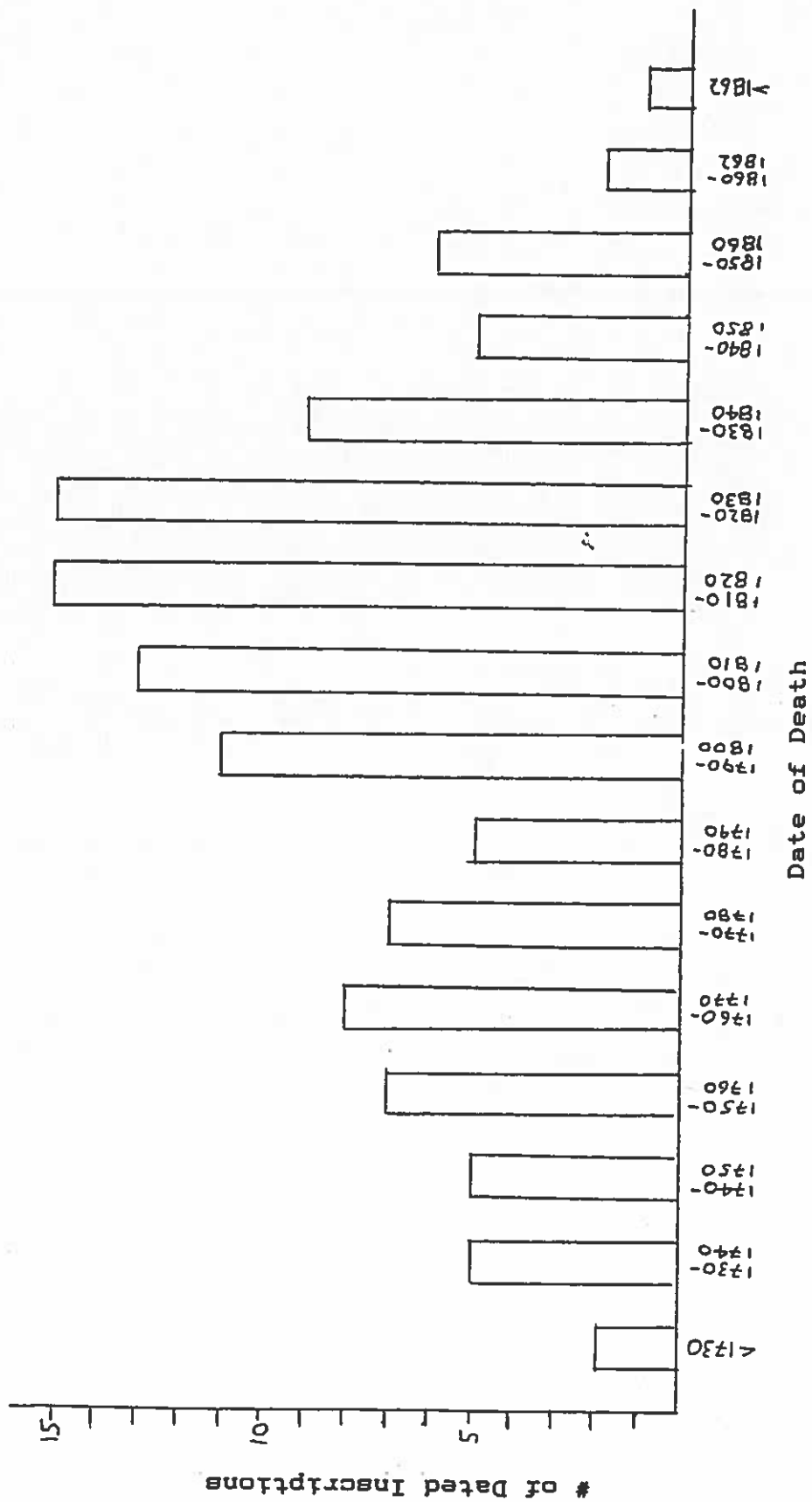


Figure 15  
Chronological Analysis  
of Newtown Cemetery Tombstone  
Inscriptions

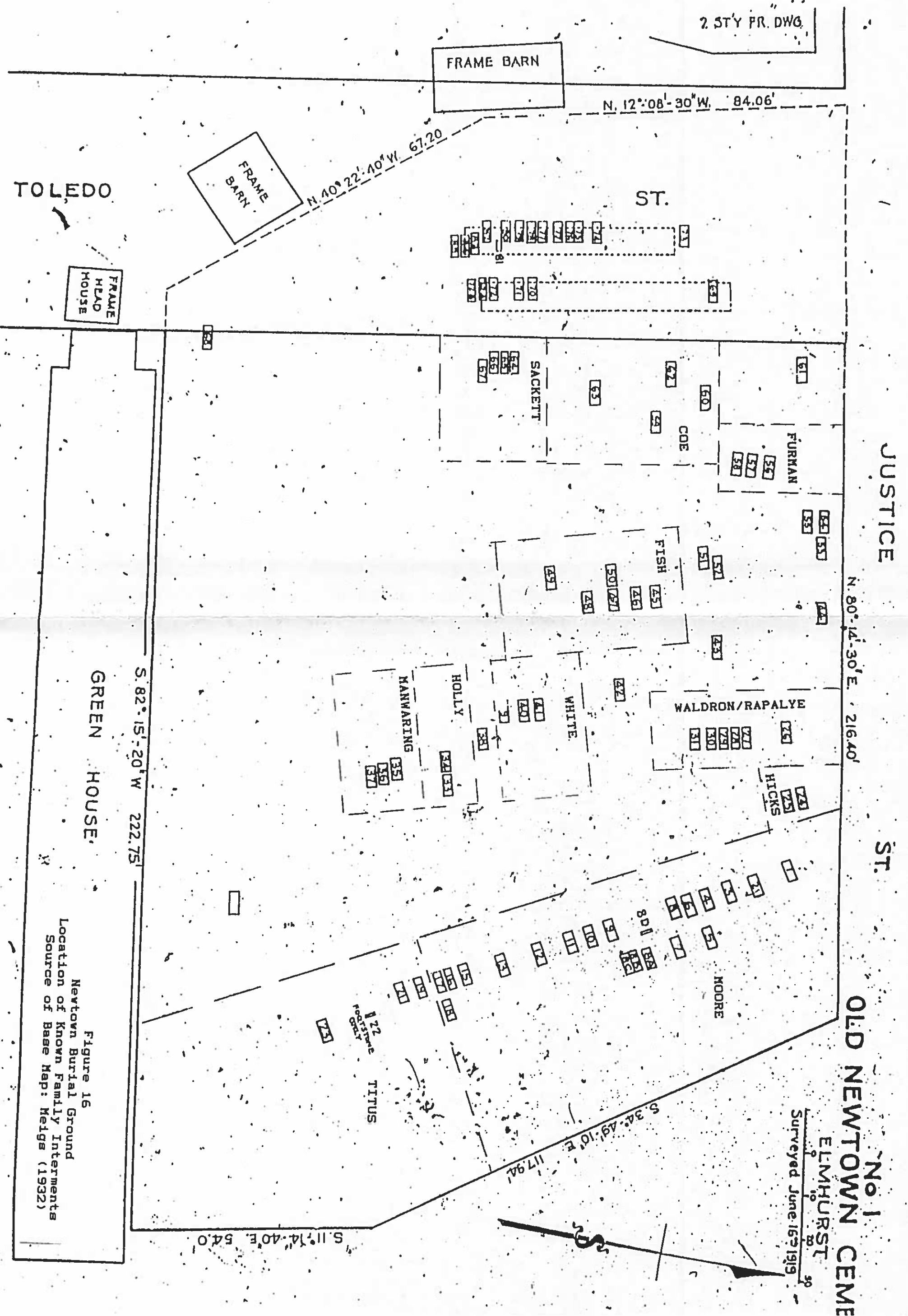


Figure 16  
 Newtown Burial Ground  
 Location of Known Family Interments  
 Source of Base Map: Melgs (1932)

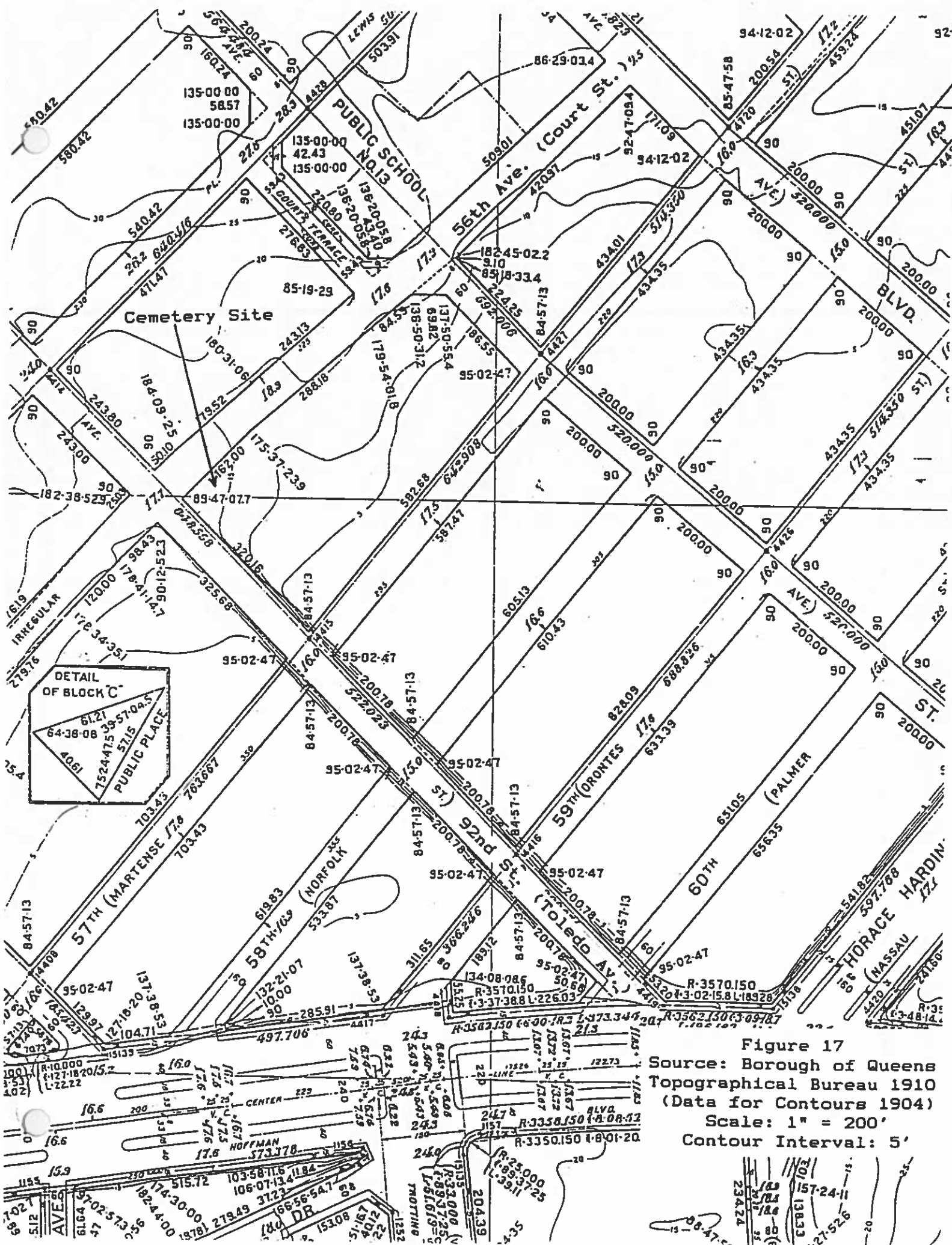


Figure 17  
Source: Borough of Queens  
Topographical Bureau 1910  
(Data for Contours 1904)  
Scale: 1" = 200'  
Contour Interval: 5'



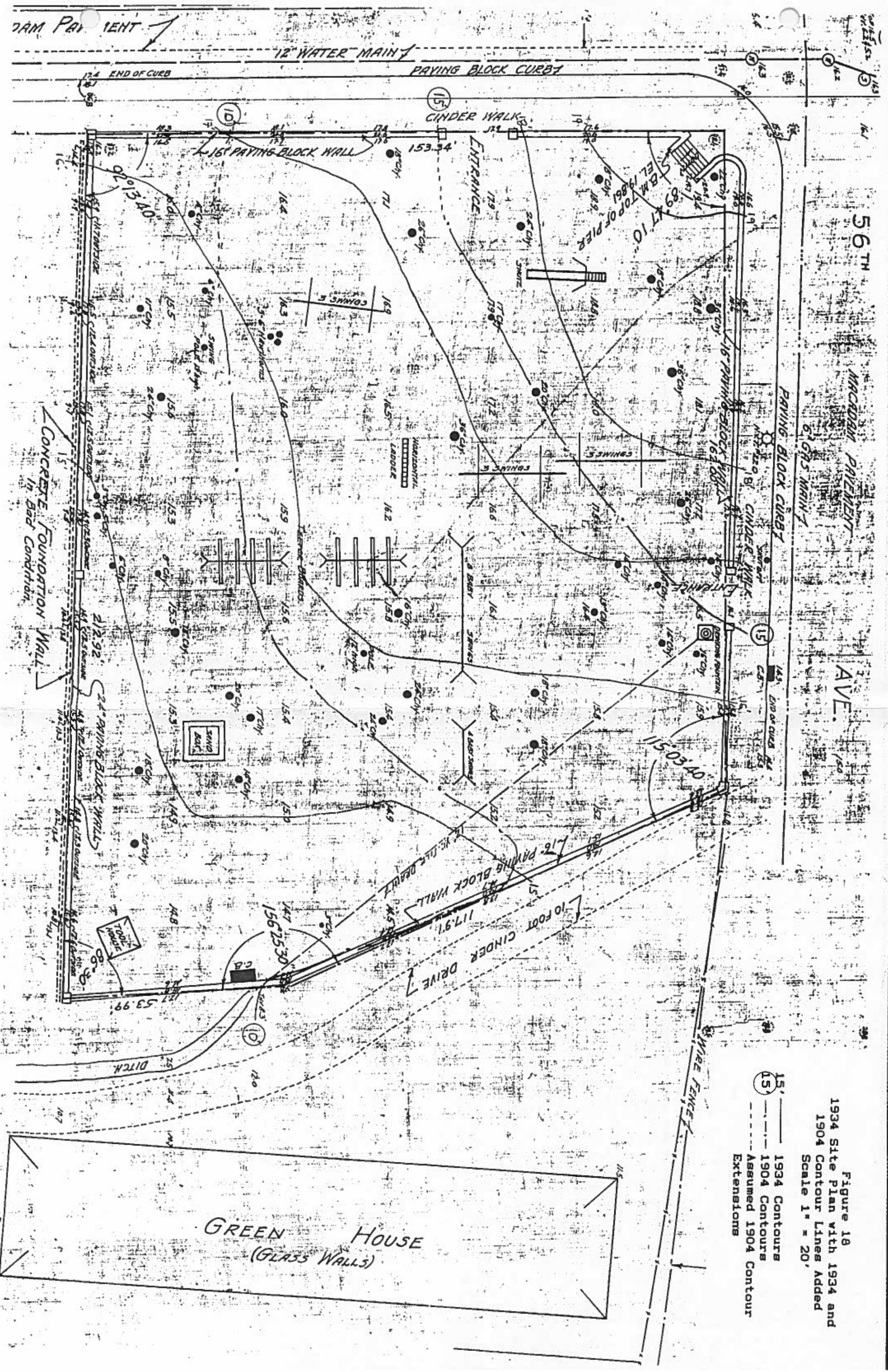
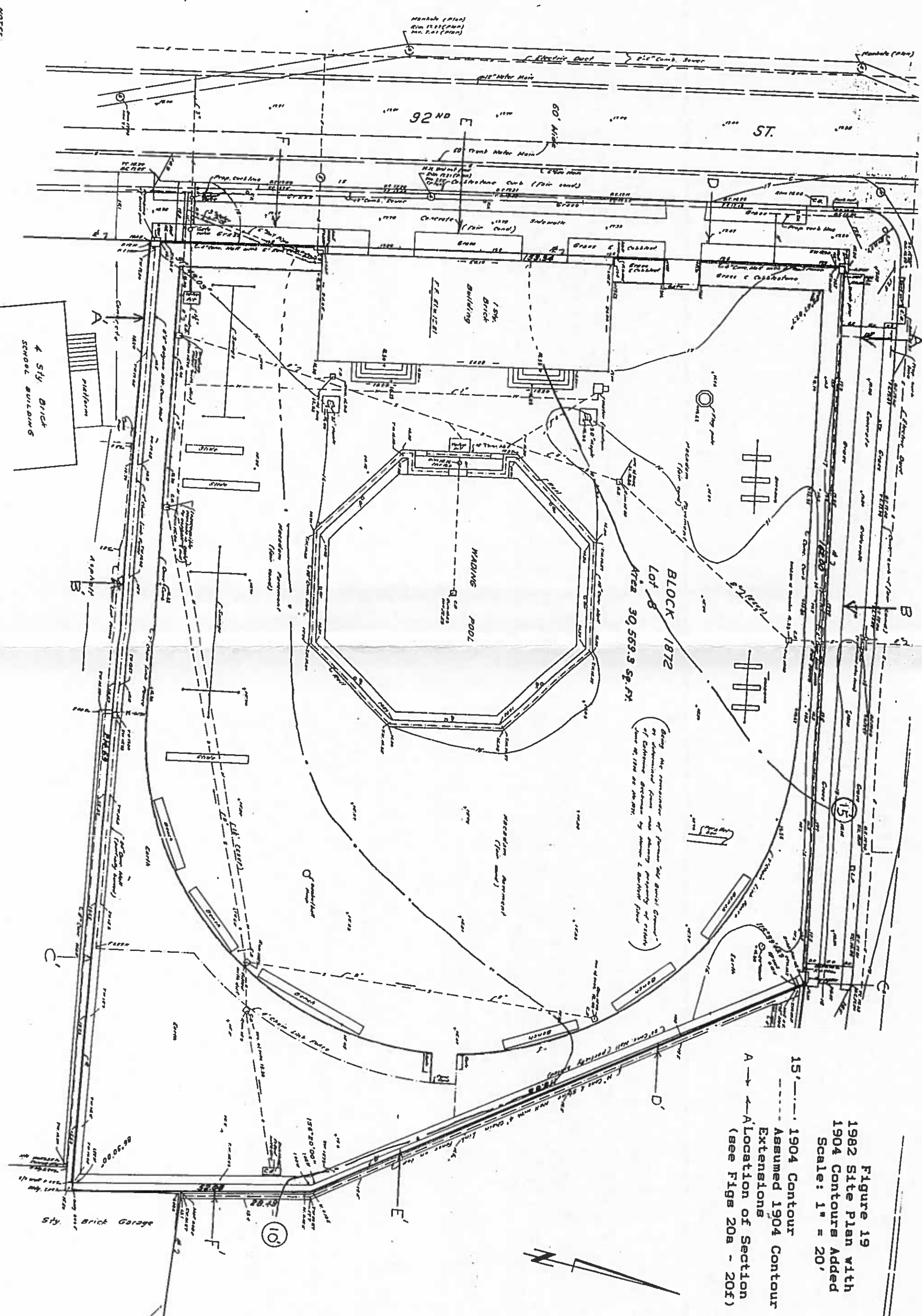


Figure 18  
1934 Site Plan with 1934 and  
1904 Contour Lines Added  
Scale 1" = 20'



Figure 19  
1982 Site Plan with  
1904 Contours Added  
Scale: 1" = 20'

15'---1904 Contour  
--- Assumed 1904 Contour  
Extensions  
A → ← Location of Section  
(see Figs 20a - 20f)



NOTES

Elevations refer to datum which is 8728 feet above the USCGC Datum at Sandy Hook.

First faculty building and school building are indicated by dashed lines and were from 1904.

LEGEND

--- Contour

--- Boundary of area

--- Top of area

Figure 20a  
North-South Section A-A'

— 1982 Surface  
 --- 1934 Surface  
 ..... Original  
 Surface

Vertical Scale: 1" = 4'  
 Horizontal Scale: 1" = 40'

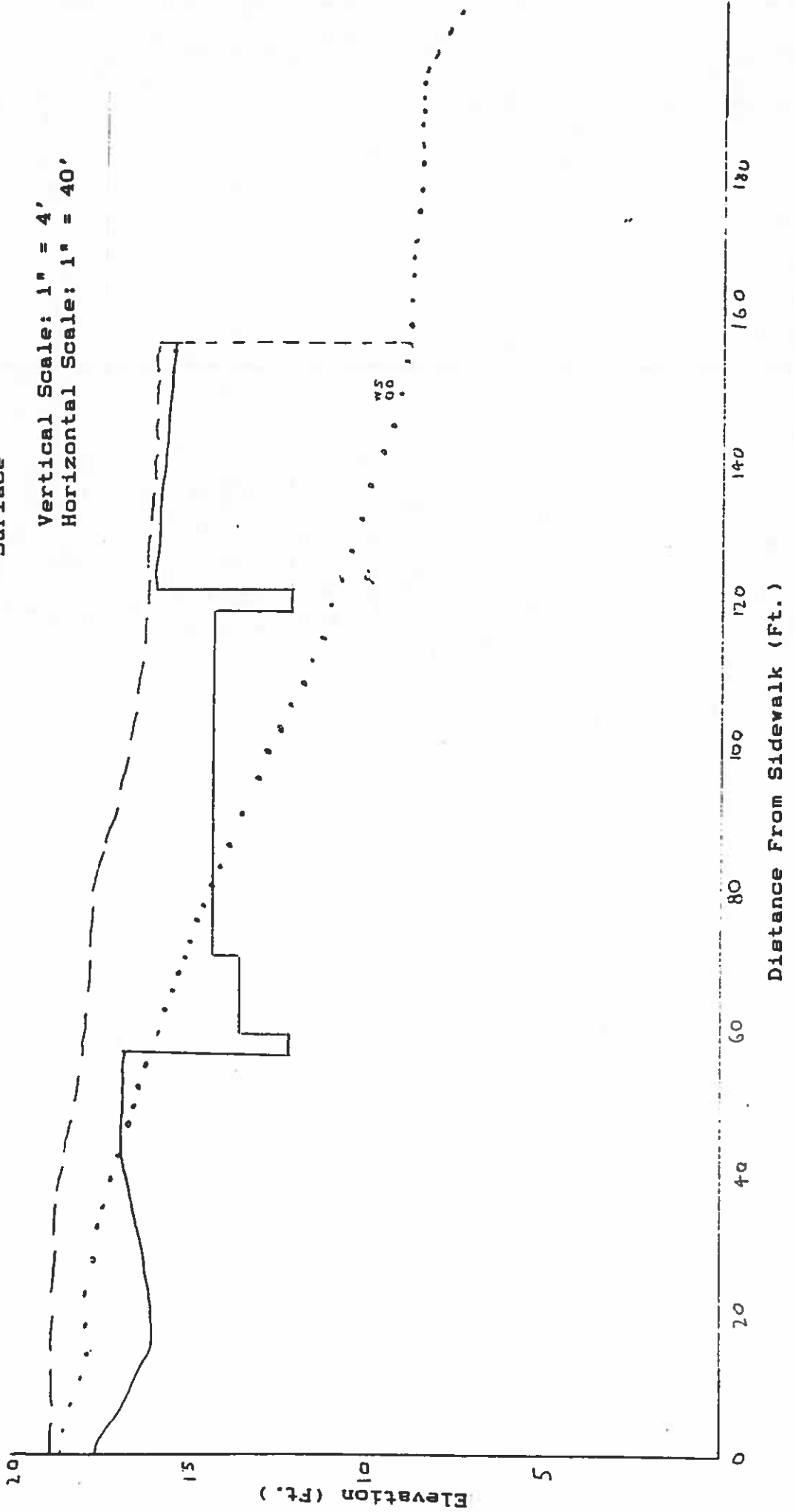
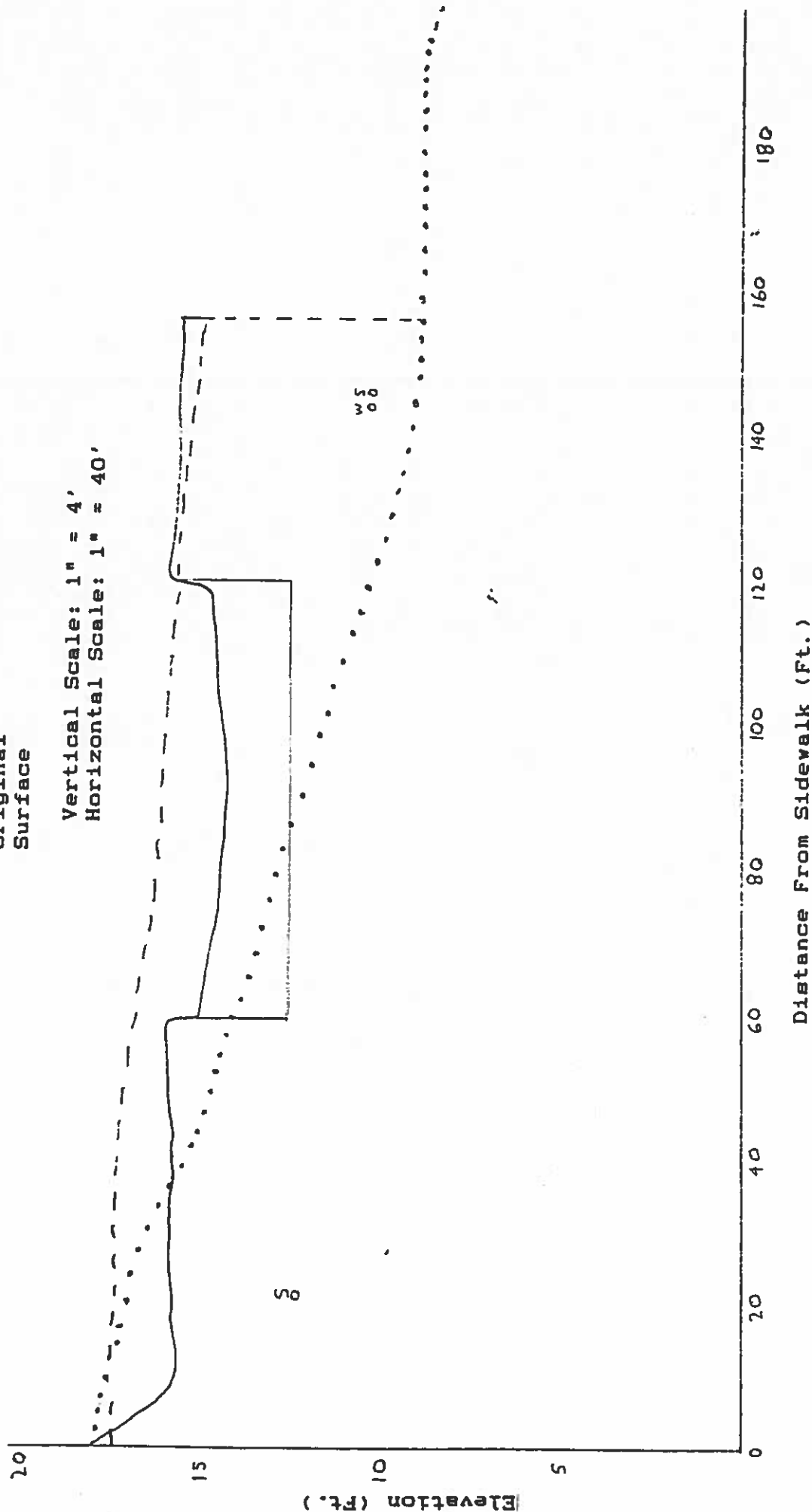




Figure 20b  
North-South Section B-B'

- 1982 Surface
- - - 1934 Surface
- ..... Original Surface

Vertical Scale: 1" = 4'  
Horizontal Scale: 1" = 40'





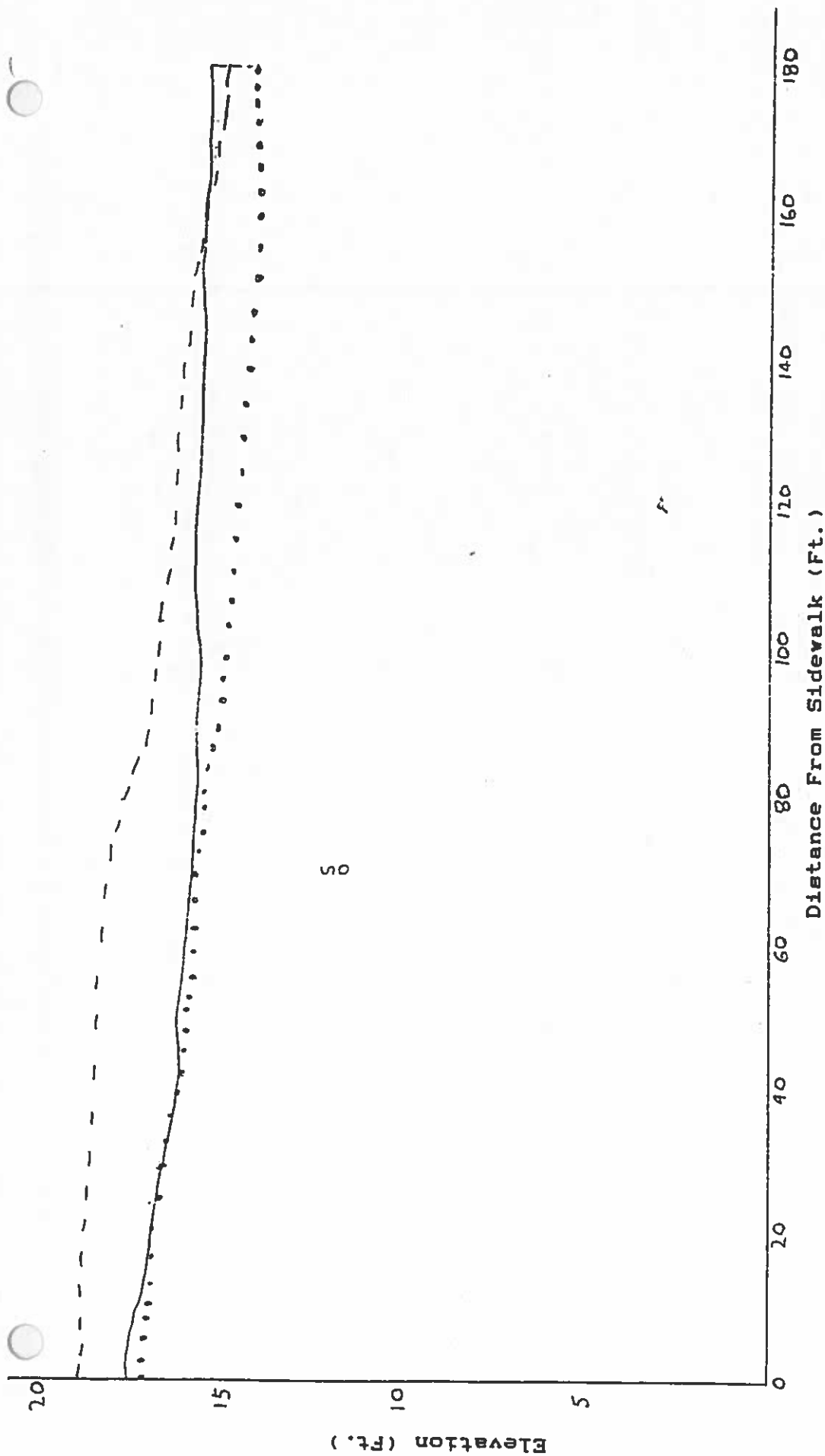


Figure 20d  
East-West Section D-D'

— 1982 Surface      W Water Line  
 - - - 1934 Surface      S Sewer/Drainage  
 ..... Original  
                     Surface

Vertical Scale: 1" = 4'  
 Horizontal Scale: 1" = 40'

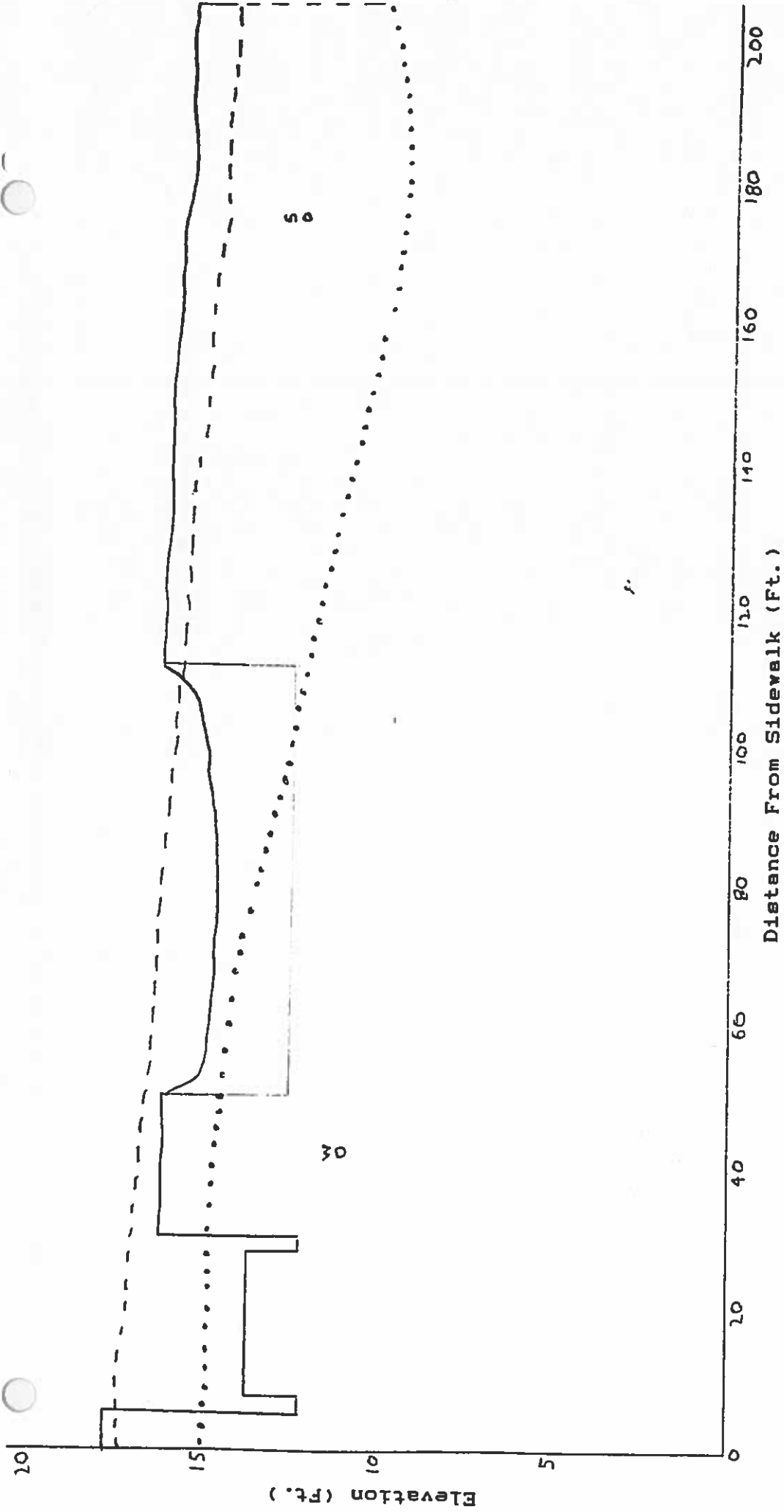


Figure 20e  
East-West Section E-E'

— 1982 Surface W Water Line  
 - - - 1934 Surface S Sewer/Drainage  
 ..... Original Surface

Vertical Scale: 1" = 4'  
 Horizontal Scale: 1" = 40'

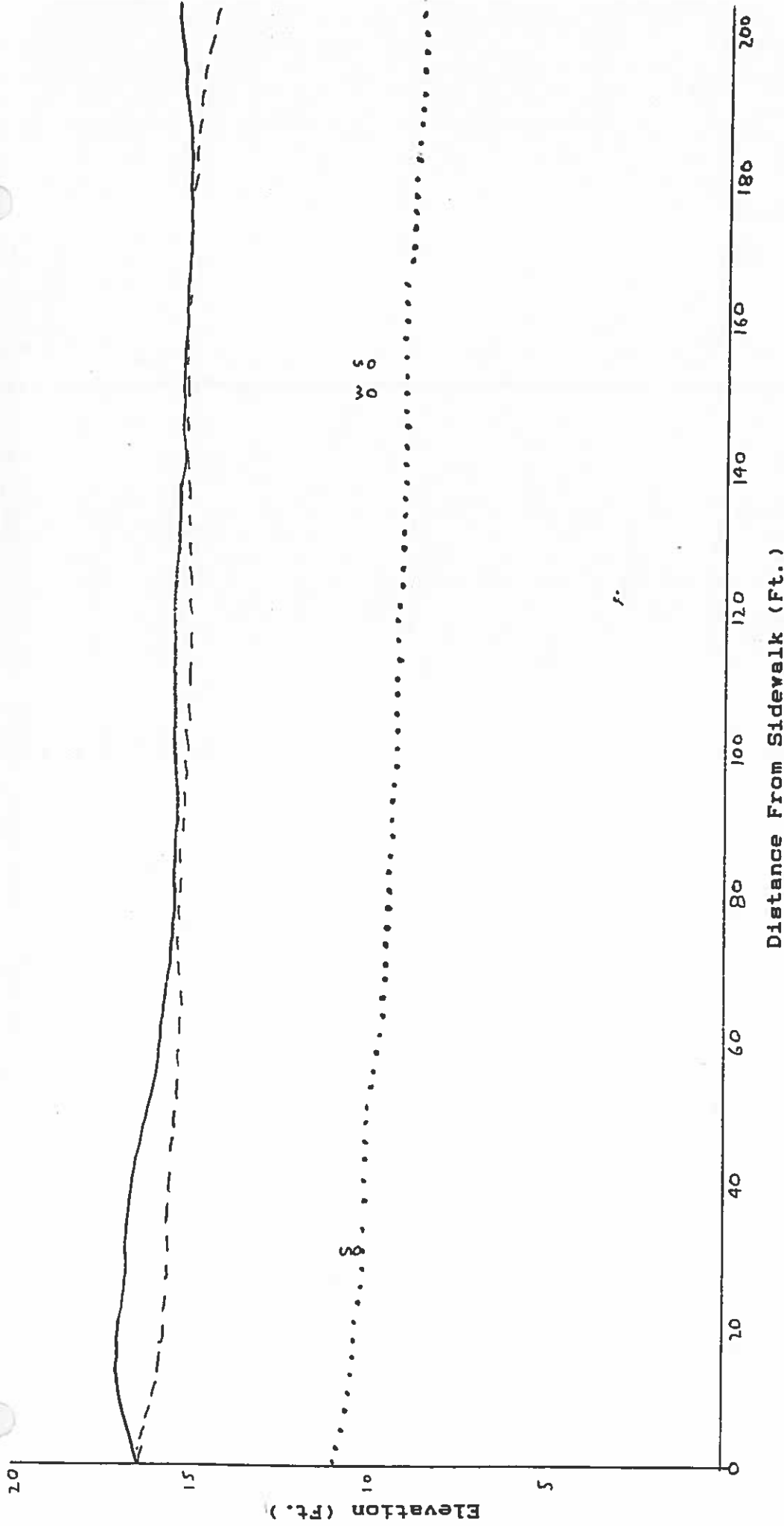


Figure 20f  
East-West Section F-F'

— 1982 Surface	W Water Line
- - - 1934 Surface	S Sewer/Drainage
.....Original Surface	

Vertical Scale: 1" = 4'  
Horizontal Scale: 1" = 40'

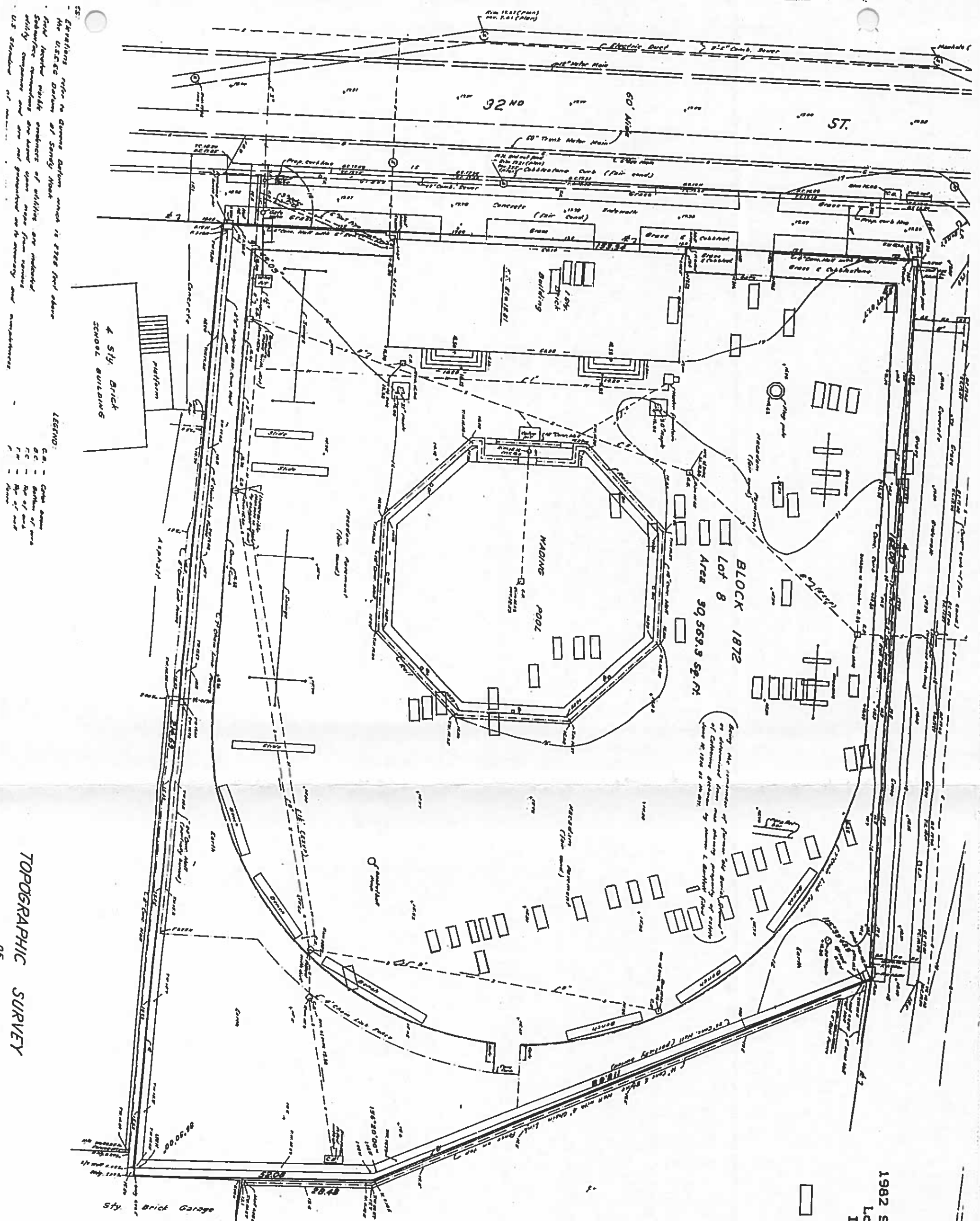


Figure 21  
1982 Survey Showing Approximate  
Locations of Burials as  
Indicated on 1919 Plan  
Scale: 1" = 20'

TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY



## PLATES





Plate 1  
View East Along 56th Avenue Sidewalk  
Newtown Playground Fence at Right



Plate 2  
Iron Picket Fence and Chain Link Fence Along North Side of Playground  
56th Avenue at Left  
View East From 92nd Street



**Plate 3**  
**Northwest Corner of Playground and 92nd Street Frontage**  
**View South from North Side of 56th Avenue**

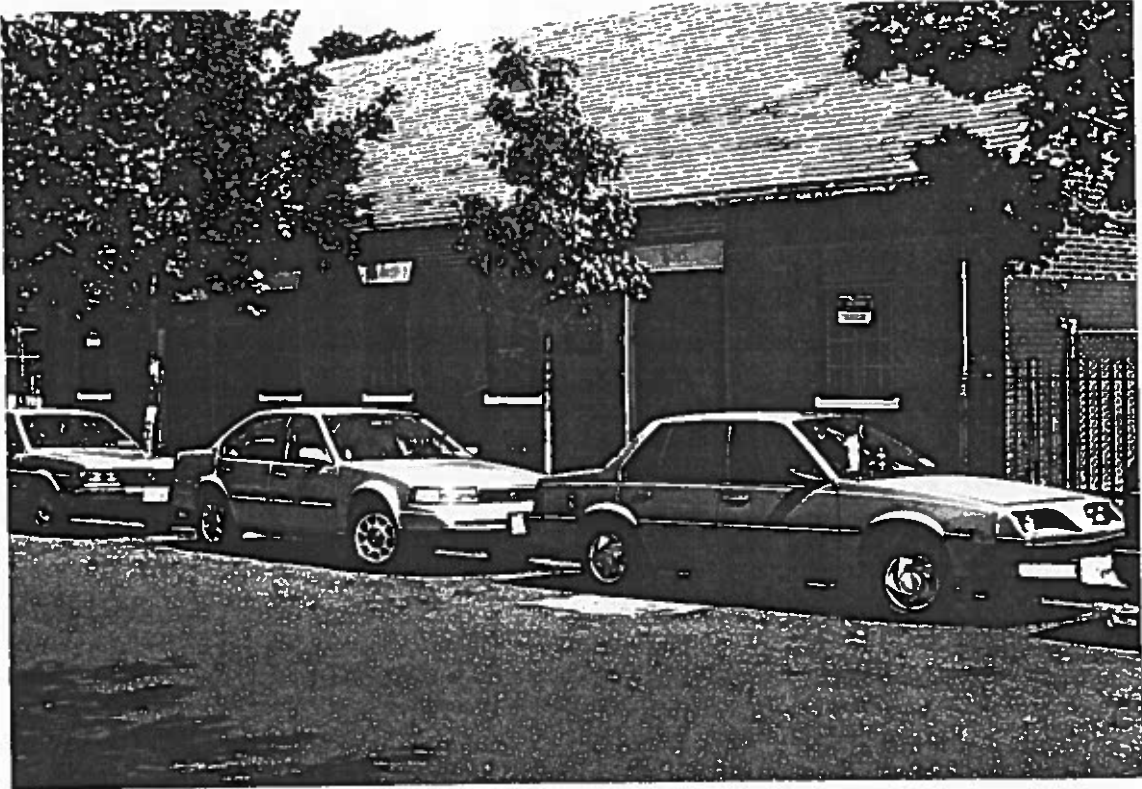


Plate 4  
West Side of Recreation Building  
View Northeast from West Side of 92nd Street

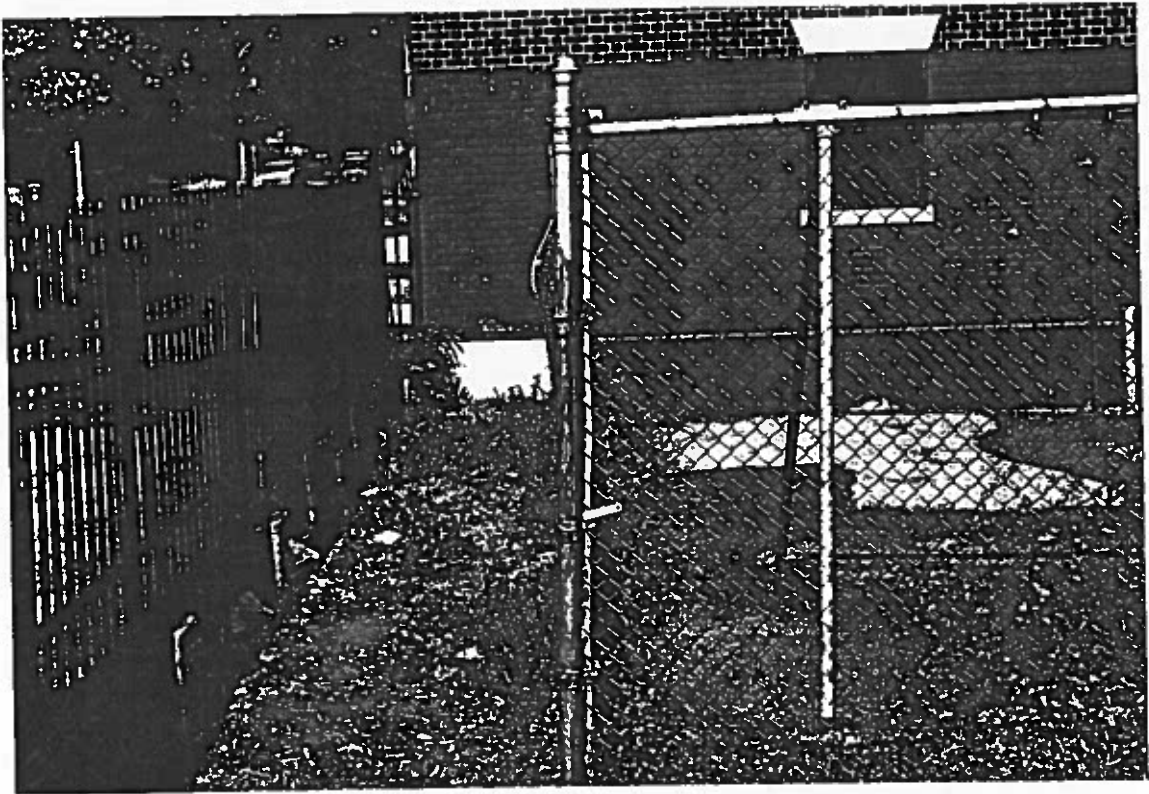


Plate 5  
Southwestern Corner of Playground  
Playground Surface Below Sidewalk Grade  
West Side Recreation Building in Background  
View North

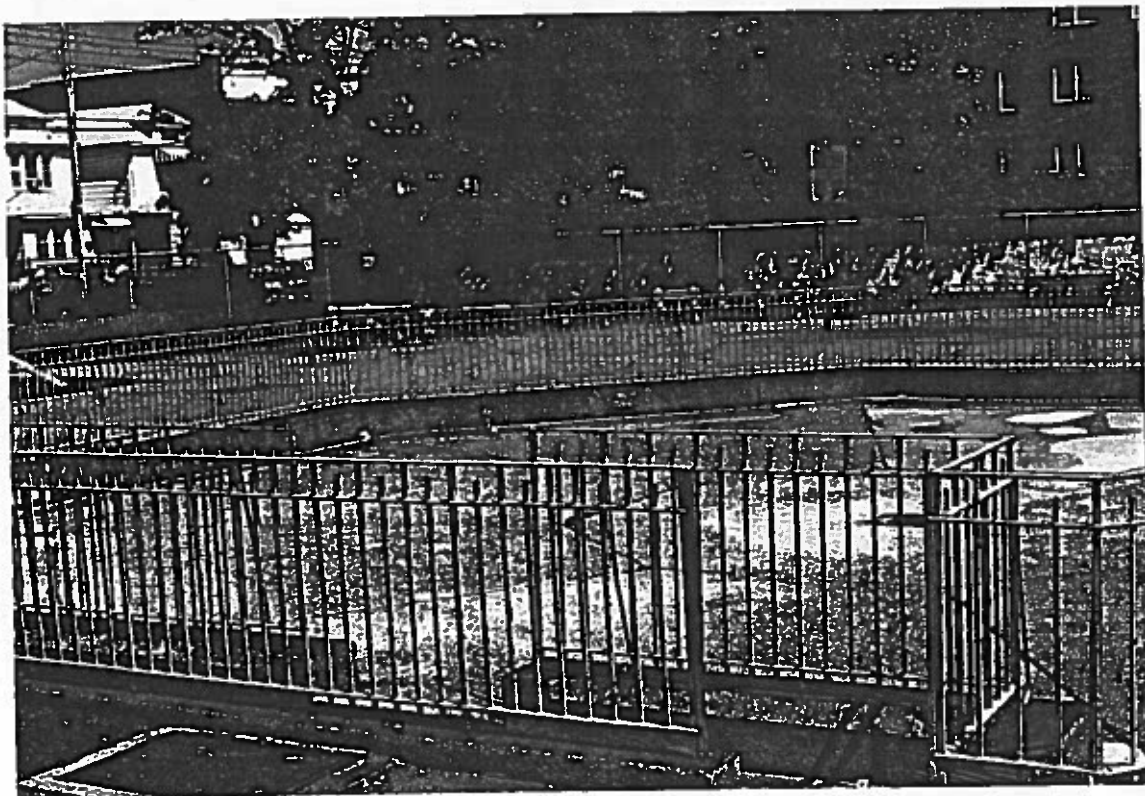


Plate 6  
Wading Pool and Surrounding Iron Fence  
West Side of Pool in Foreground  
View Northeast

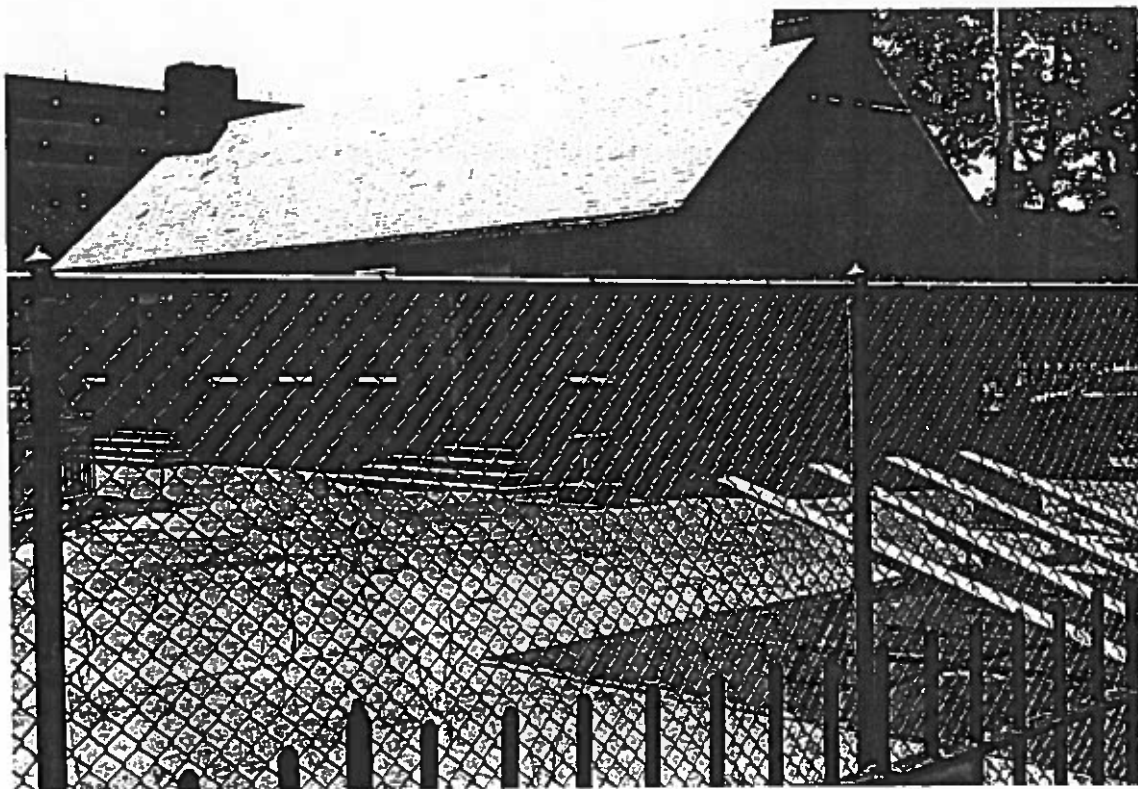


Plate 7  
East Side Recreation Building Showing Drinking  
Fountain and Flagpole Base  
View Southwest From 56th Avenue Sidewalk



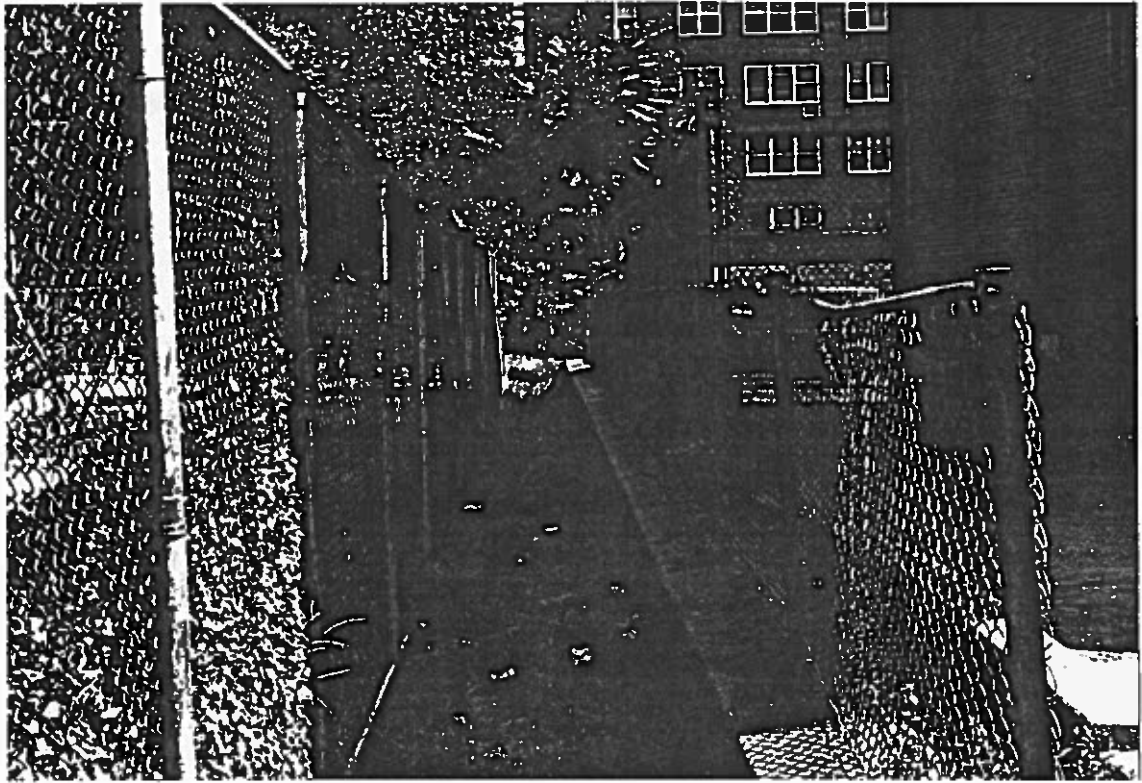


Plate 8  
Southern Boundary of Playground  
Belgian Block Wall in Central Portion of Photograph  
Cathedral School Property at Right  
View East



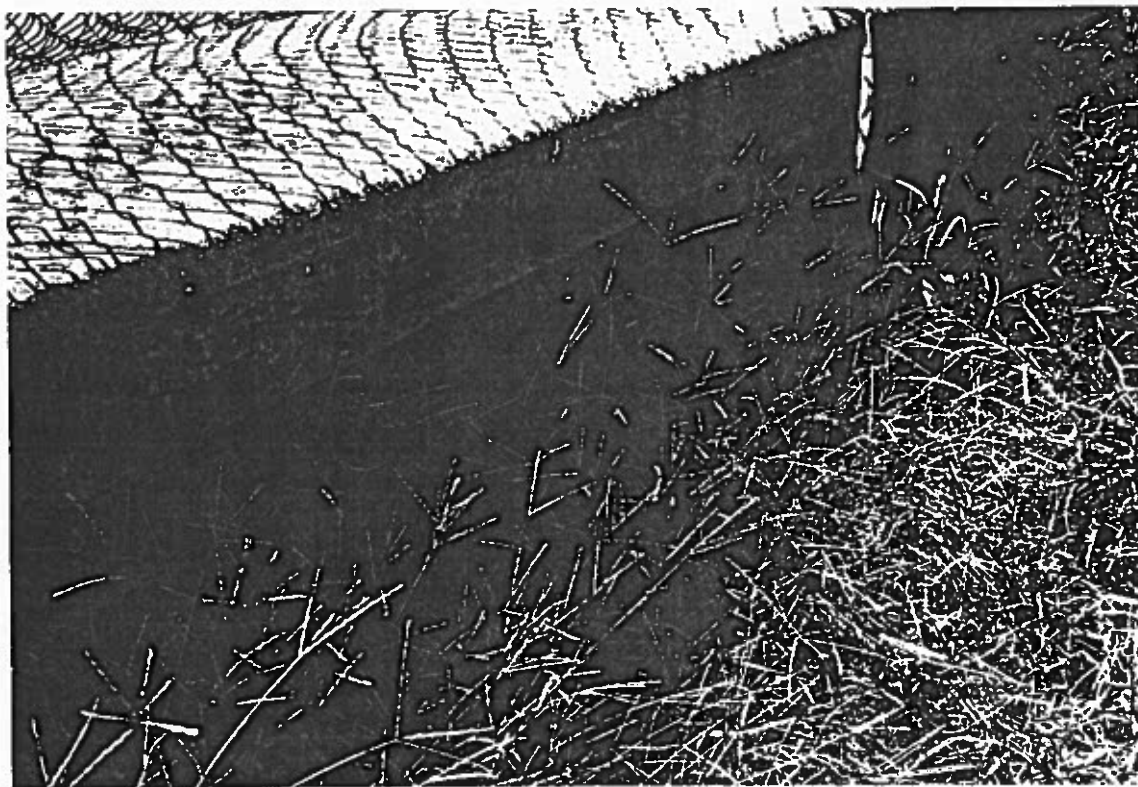


Plate 9  
Detail of Belgian Block Wall - Southern Boundary of Playground  
View Southwest

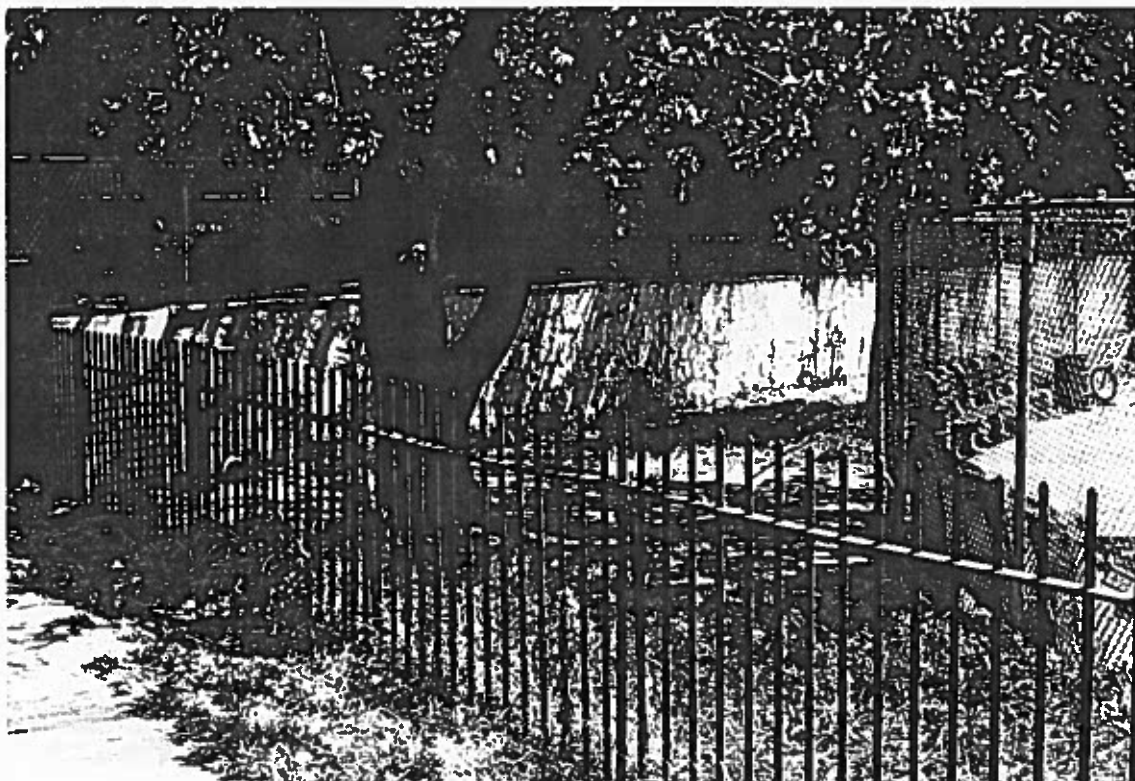


Plate 10  
Northeast Corner of Playground  
View Southeast

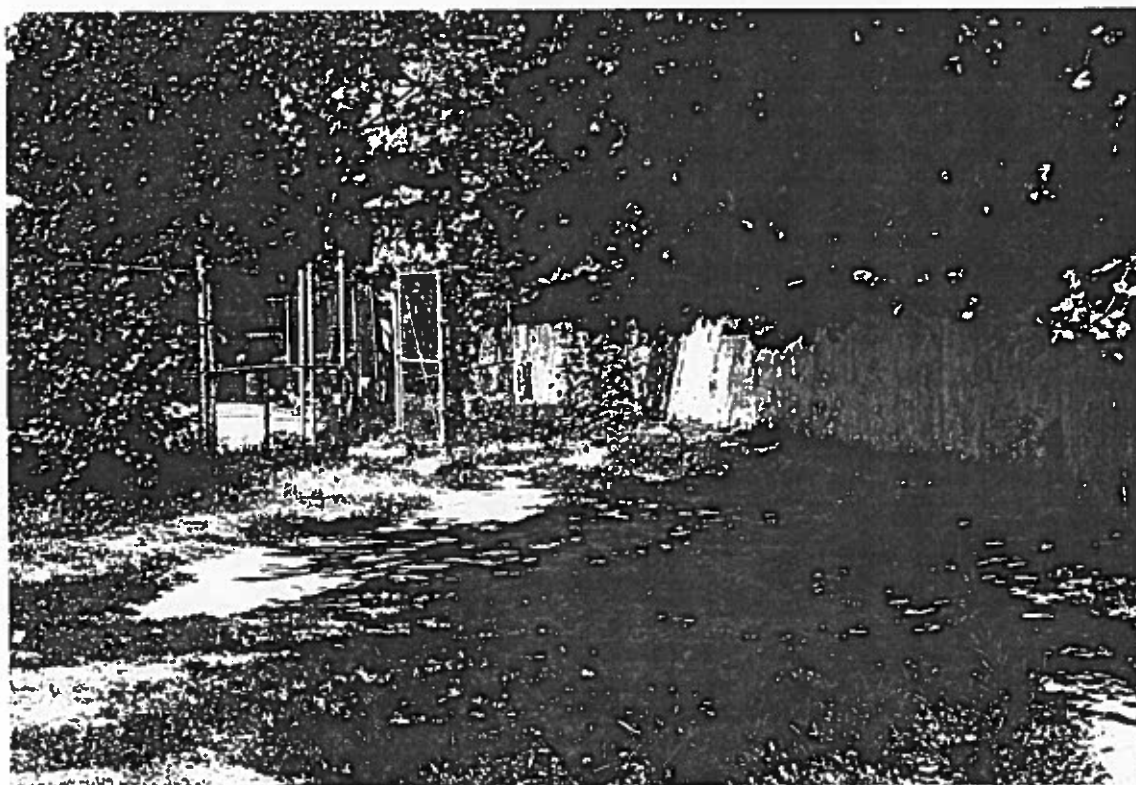


Plate 11  
Eastern Portion of Playground  
View North From Southeastern Corner of Playground

**APPENDIX A**

**LIST OF KNOWN NEWTOWN BURIAL GROUND TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS  
IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER**

#	R/ T	First Name/Init.	Last/Middle Name/Initial	Date of Death	Age	Comments
67						broken off 6 in above ground
55						broken off at 2 1/2 ft
03						inscription obliterated
51						no inscription
52						no inscription
53						no inscription
59						no inscription
20						no inscription on stone
23						no inscription on stone
44						no inscription rough stone
43						stone broken flush with ground
46						stone broken half foot above ground
69	T					stone broken off
73	T					stone broken off
54					33	fragmentary inscription
649				167?		fragmentary inscription
650			M.			only first initial given
F55	A.	C.				initials only
82	T	armstrong	cornelia	06 13 1826	35	
80	T	B.	A.N.			initials only A.N.B.
F01	B.	F./P.				initials only F.B or P.B.
602		bagley	daniel	08/20 1742	44	brother of Capt. Thomas Bagley
86		baily	john	05 14 1735		old field stone
67a		ballback	george			co. B 15th N Y inf/white marble
F03		barrow	sara moore	10 05 1805	64	d. of Samuel and Sarah Moore/w. of F04
F04		barrow	thomas	1825		
49		berrien	cornelius	01 14 1758	51	son of peter and elizabeth berrian
06		billop	christopher	02 26 1820	21	son of Thomas & Abigail billop
70	T	billop	elizabeth	09 21 1805	5	d. of thomas & abigail billop/1881 list gives middle name moore
F05		bloom	agnes nicoll	1818		wife of Col. Bernardus Bloom
42		busse	adam H.	04 27 1883	27	Co. H., 15th N.Y. Eng.
62		C.	B.	1735		only initials B. C. and date
606		C.	B.	1776		initials only B.C.
60		C.	E.			initials only E. C.
63		coe	benjamin	03 09 1824	79	
01		dongan	patience moore	05 29 1833	60	wife of John Dongan/d. john & hannah moore
645	R	duviveer	phillip	01 09 1745	81	died 1745/6
F07		ebbets		1800	11	infant
74	T	ebbets	john J.A.	11 17 1861	49	
75	T	ebbets	sarah	09 15 1851	75	
21		evers	henry	11 07 1805	12	
F08	F.	C.				initials only C.F.
638	F.	F.				two with same initials listed
609	F.	F.				initials only F.F.
F51	F.	J.				initials only J.F.
50	F.	M.		1731		M.F son of S.F and D.S.F, died 1731/2
F10	R	field	charity whitehd	12 21 1820	77	wife Jacob Field
F11	R	field	hannah	06 21 1854	81	wife Jacob Field
F12	R	field	hellena	1798	54	
F13	R	field	henry	07 19 1830	59	
F14	R	field	jacob	04 15 1847	74	
F15	R	field	jacob	04 26 1815	82	
L01		fish	ann eliza	1815		

#	R/ T	First Name/Init.	Last/Middle Name/Initial	Date of Death	Age	Comments
F16		fish	elizabeth sackt	04 09 1778	49	d. of Joseph Sackett Esq./w. of F17
48		fish	jane berrian	03 24 1789	73	wife of #47
L02		fish	jane maria	1819		
F17		fish	johnathan	12 26 1779		
45		fish	mary	11 13 1757	14	daughter of #47
L03		fish	nathan	1732		
47		fish	nathaniel	03 04 1769	69	
639 R		fish	peter	11 12 1810	58	
32		fox	william L	07 18 1823	50	
68		fry	eliza	04 02 1862	42	wife of thomas fry
56		furman	john	11 05 1800	45	erected by son
58		furman	rachel maria	12 05 1825	7	d of john and Ann Maria Furman
57		furman	rachel titus	10 31 1819	54	erected by son?
F54		H.	E.			initials only E.H.
640		hardenbergh	charity	04 23 1833		? after year
85 T		hawxhurst	eliza	07 18 1839	61	widow of daniel hawxhurst
24		hicks	hannah	04 16 1854	92	wife of #25
25		hicks	thomas	07 06 1834	73	
33		holly	catherine	04 16 1823	69	wife of #34
34		holly	jesse	09 17 1823	70	
646 R		horton	simon	1786		
642		howard	clarissa lewis	01 31 1801	26	w. benj. howard/d. Rev Amzi & Sarah Lewis
F58		J.	W.			initials only W.J.
72 T		jones	ellen	01 01 1849	30	
71 T		jones	william	03 04 1851	30	
76 T		L.	B.A.			initials B.A.L./D.E./W.B.
F57		L.	J.			initials only J.L.
08d		L.	R.			only initials R.L.
08c		lawrence	john	08 10 1761	3	son of #09/joined with 8b
644		lawrence	joseph	01 29 1793	69	
09		lawrence	patience	10 06 1800	72	widow Joseph Lawrence
643		lawrence	richard	07 26 1804	40	
08b		lawrence	richard	08 31 1761	7	son of #09/joined with 8c
81 T		M.	G.	1729		S.M. 14.11
618		M.	I.	1756		initials only I.M. or J.M.
F19		M.	I.	1757		initials only I.M. or J.M.
18		M.	S.			only initials S.M. on lg fieldstone
627		M.	T.	01 09 1768		initials only (Meigs give "M.T.")
35		manwaring	mary	02 15 1853	60	wife of Thomas Manwaring, Seignior
36		manwaring	S.	04 25 1841	3	d. of #35 only initials S.M. (partially illegible)
37		manwaring	william M.	11 15 1836	2	s. of #35/frost gives dates as b. 11/14/1831 d. 11/15/1856
F48		moore	benjamin	01 22 1811	70	L. gives d. 1814
08a		moore	daniel	09 25 1761	6	son of #16
02		moore	elizabeth	08 25 1827	74	daughter of #16
11		moore	elizabeth	09 08 1817	73	wife of Jacob Moore
17		moore	hannah	08 04 1772	44	wife of #16
15		moore	hannah	10 01 1802	20	wife of Capt. Daniel S. Moore
620		moore	jacob	07 22 1825	74	
12		moore	james	02 25 1799	44	
10		moore	john	03 07 1808	21	
16		moore	john	10 18 1827	98	son of Benjamin and Anna Moore
F21		moore	margaret	10 28 1811	70	wife of Benjamin
F22 R		moore	samuel	04 07 1788	77	

#	R/ T	First Name/Init.	Last/Middle Name/Initial	Date of Death	Age	Comments
07		moore	samuel	12 11 1767		
F23		moore	sarah	06 17 1796	79	
05		moore	thomas	01 09 1768		
04		moore	william	04 02 1824	71	(M.D.)
624		morrell	elizabeth	11 13 1743	13	d. of robert and rebecca
84	T	morrell	thomas	05 15 1771	72	stone not in situ
647	R	pumroy	samuel	06 30 1744	57	
29		rapalje	anna	03 25 1803	68	wife of #28
28		rapalje	richard	09 08 1789	58	
625		rapelye	mary bloom	06 14 1819	86	widow of George Rapalje
72a	T	reed	ellen jones	05 06 1849	1	d of joseph and catherine reed?
72b	T	reed	jennot	03 05 1851	1	d of joseph and catherine reed
61		remsen	george W.	08 04 1815	29	son of Capt. Luke Remsen
38		rutgers	robert Sr.	09 12 1796	64	
65		sackett	mary		7	d of william and anna sackett
64		sackett	patience	03 15 1752	2	d of william and anna sackett
66		sackett	william	08 29 1761	64	
626		skinner	phillip	08 01 1796	25	
08		stewart	mary moore	06 15 1816	52	wife of william stewart
22		T.	S.			only initials S.T. on footstone
F28		tilton	william	11 30 1843	55	
R01	R	titus	content	01 17 1730	87	
L04		titus	david		1799	
19		titus	elenor	09 24 1799	54	wife of David Titus
13		titus	patience	09 01 1790	44	
629		titus	samuel	04 16 1806	33	
F30		vanderburgh	richard	05 15 1825	50	
631		W.	A.		1756	initials only A.W.
39		W.	C.D.			only initials C.D.W.
F52		W.	E. N.			initials only E.N.W.
78	T	W.	J.			initials only J.W.
F53		W.	R.			initials only R.W.
F56		W.	R.			initials only R.W.
F32		W.	S.		1740	Initials only S.W.
27		W.	W.		1751	only initials W.W. and date
633		waldron	anna emans	06 01 1814	34	
634		waldron	Isaac	01 06 1812	5	
30		waldron	john	02 28 1795	53	
635		waldron	mary	04 09 18??	35	wife of Samuel Waldron
31		waldron	samuel		1799 61	of Newtown
26		waldron	samuel	08 23 1771	61	initials only
F36		white			1801 19	no first name/? after date
40		white	charles	10 22 1811	48	
41		white	jane Mrs.	08 26 1827	61	probably wife of #40P.
77	T	woodward	edward nicoll	02 16 1779	17	date from frost/meigs gives 1791
F37		woodward	joseph		1789 46	
641		Woodward	Joseph	09 18 1832	82	
83	T	woodward	ruth	02 09 1839	39	age from frost/meigs gives 69
79	T	woodward	ruth	09 18 1832	82	relict of late Joseph Woodward

R - Burial Known to Have Been Removed from Town Cemetery

T - Burial Known to Have Been Located West of Playground Boundary



**APPENDIX B**

**LIST OF KNOWN DATED NEWTOWN BURIAL GROUND TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS  
IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**

#	R/ T	First Name/Init.	Last/Middle Name/Initial	Date of Death	Age	Comments
649				167?		fragmentary inscription
81	T	M.	G.	1729		G.M. 14.11
R01	R	titus	content	01 17 1730	87	
50		F.	M.	1731		M.F son of S.F and D.S.F, died 1731/2
L03		fish	nathan	1732		
86		baily	john	05 14 1735		old field stone
62		C.	B.	1735		only initials B. C. and date
F32		W.	S.	1740		initials only S.W.
624		morrell	elizabeth	11 13 1743	13	d. of robert and rebecca
647	R	pumroy	samuel	06 30 1744	57	
645	R	duviveer	phillip	01 09 1745	81	died 1745/6
602		bagley	daniel	08/20 1742	44	brother of Capt. Thomas Bagley
27		W.	W.	1751		only initials W.W. and date
64		sackett	patience	03 15 1752	2	d of william and anna sackett
631		W.	A.	1756		initials only A.W.
618		M.	I.	1756		initials only I.M. or J.M.
F19		M.	I.	1757		initials only I.M. or J.M.
45		fish	mary	11 13 1757	14	daughter of #47
49		berrien	cornelius	01 14 1758	51	son of peter and elizabeth berrian
08c		lawrence	john	08 10 1761	3	son of #09/joined with 8b
08a		moore	daniel	09 25 1761	6	son of #16
08b		lawrence	richard	08 31 1761	7	son of #09/joined with 8c
66		sackett	william	08 29 1761	64	
05		moore	thomas	01 09 1768		
627		M.	T.	01 09 1768		initials only (Meigs give "M.T.")
47		fish	nathaniel	03 04 1769	69	
26		waldron	samuel	08 23 1771	61	initials only
84	T	morrell	thomas	05 15 1771	72	stone not in situ
17		moore	hannah	08 04 1772	44	wife of #16
606		C.	B.	1776		initials only B.C.
F16		fish	elizabeth sackett	04 09 1778	49	d. of Joseph Sackett Esq./w. of F17
F17		fish	johnathan	12 26 1779		
77	T	woodward	edward nicoll	02 16 1779	17	date from frost/meigs gives 1791
646	R	horton	simon	1786		?
F22	R	moore	samuel	04 07 1788	77	
07		moore	samuel	12 11 1767		
F37		woodward	joseph	1789	46	
28		rapalje	richard	09 08 1789	58	
48		fish	jane berrian	03 24 1789	73	wife of #47
13		titus	patience	09 01 1790	44	
644		lawrence	joseph	01 29 1793	69	
30		waldron	john	02 28 1795	53	
626		skinner	phillip	08 01 1796	25	
38		rutgers	robert Sr.	09 12 1796	64	
F23		moore	sarah	06 17 1796	79	
F12	R	field	hellena	1798	54	
L04		titus	david	1799		
12		moore	james	02 25 1799	44	
19		titus	elenor	09 24 1799	54	wife of David Titus
31		waldron	samuel	1799	61	of Newtown
56		furman	john	11 05 1800	45	erected by son
09		lawrence	patience	10 06 1800	72	widow Joseph Lawrence

#	R/ T	First Name/Init.	Last/Middle Name/Initial	Date of Death	Age	Comments
F07		ebbets		1800	11	infant
F36		white		1801	19	no first name/? after date
642		howard	clarissa lewis	01 31 1801	26	w. benj. howard/d. Rev Amzi & Sarah Lewis
15		moore	hannah	10 01 1802	20	wife of Capt. Daniel S. Moore
29		rapalje	anna	03 25 1803	68	wife of #28
643		lawrence	richard	07 26 1804	40	
70	T	billop	elizabeth	09 21 1805	5	d. of thomas & abigail billop/1881 list gives middle name moore
21		evers	henry	11 07 1805	12	
F03		barrow	sara moore	10 05 1805	64	d. of Samuel and Sarah Moore/w. of F04
629		titus	samuel	04 16 1806	33	
10		moore	john	03 07 1808	21	
639	R	fish	peter	11 12 1810	58	
40		white	charles	10 22 1811	48	
F48		moore	benjamin	01 22 1811	70	L. gives d. 1814
F21		moore	margaret	10 28 1811	70	wife of Benjamin
634		waldron	isaac	01 06 1812	5	
633		waldron	anna emans	06 01 1814	34	
L01		fish	ann eliza	1815		
61		remsen	george W.	08 04 1815	29	son of Capt. Luke Remsen
08		stewart	mary moore	06 15 1816	52	wife of william stewart
11		moore	elizabeth	09 08 1817	73	wife of Jacob Moore
F05		bloom	agnes nicoll	1818		wife of Col. Bernardus Bloom
L02		fish	jane maria	1819		
57		furman	rachel titus	10 31 1819	54	erected by son?
625		rapelye	mary bloom	06 14 1819	86	widow of George Rapalje
06		billop	christopher	02 26 1820	21	son of Thomas & Abigail billop
F10	R	field	charity whitehd	12 21 1820	77	wife Jacob Field
32		fox	william L	07 18 1823	50	
33		holly	catherine	04 16 1823	69	wife of #34
34		holly	jesse	09 17 1823	70	
04		moore	william	04 02 1824	71	(M.D.)
63		coe	benjamin	03 09 1824	79	
F04		barrow	thomas	1825		
58		furman	rachel maria	12 05 1825	7	d of john and Ann Maria Furman
F30		vanderburgh	richard	05 15 1825	50	
620		moore	jacob	07 22 1825	74	
82	T	armstrong	cornelia	06 13 1826	35	
41		white	jane Mrs.	08 26 1827	61	probably wife of #40P.
02		moore	elizabeth	08 25 1827	74	daughter of #16
16		moore	john	10 18 1827	98	son of Benjamin and Anna Moore
F13	R	field	henry	07 19 1830	59	
641		Woodward	Joseph	09 18 1832	82	
79	T	woodward	ruth	09 18 1832	82	relict of late Joseph Woodward
640		hardenbergh	charity	04 23 1833		? after year
01		dongan	patience moore	05 29 1833	60	wife of John Dongan/d. john & hannah moore
25		hicks	thomas	07 06 1834	73	
37		manwaring	william M.	11 15 1836	2	s. of #35/frost gives dates as b. 11/14/1831 d. 11/15/1856
83	T	woodward	ruth	02 09 1839	39	age from frost/meigs gives 69
85	T	hawxhurst	eliza	07 18 1839	61	widow of daniel hawxhurst
36		manwaring	S.	04 25 1841	3	d. of #35 only initials S.M. (partially illegible)
F28		tilton	william	11 30 1843	55	
F14	R	field	jacob	04 15 1847	74	

#	R/ T	First Name/Init.	Last/Middle Name/Initial	Date of Death	Age	Comments
F15	R	field	jacob	04 26 1815	82	
72a	T	reed	ellen jones	05 06 1849	1	d of joseph and catherine reed?
72	T	jones	ellen	01 01 1849	30	
72b	T	reed	jennot	03 05 1851	1	d of joseph and catherine reed
71	T	jones	william	03 04 1851	30	
75	T	ebbets	sarah	09 15 1851	75	
35		manwaring	mary	02 15 1853	60	wife of Thomas Manwaring, Seignior
F11	R	field	hannah	06 21 1854	81	wife Jacob Field
24		hicks	hannah	04 16 1854	92	wife of #25
74	T	ebbets	john J.A.	11 17 1861	49	
68		fry	eliza	04 02 1862	42	wife of thomas fry
42		busse	adam H.	04 27 1883	27	Co. H., 15th N.Y. Eng.
635		waldron	mary	04 09 18??	35	wife of Samuel Waldron

R - Burial Known to Have Been Removed from Town Cemetery

T - Burial Known to Have Been Located West of Playground Boundary

**APPENDIX C**

**LIST OF PAUPER DEATHS 1829 - 1844**

Last Name	First/Middle Name	B	Year	Comments
Lane	Thomas		1829	
Bailey	John		1830	
Morrison	Titus		1830	
Eaves?			1831	one of Eaves children
Bounty	Matthew	B	1831	
Bounty	William	B	1831	first name may be James
	Thomas	B	1831	
Denton			1831	Jane Denton's child
			1831	a child
Mitchell	James	B	1830	
Farrington	William		1830	
		B	1830	woman
Farrington			1832	William Farrington's daughter
Gorslin	John		1832	
Johnson	Simon		1832	
Baldwin	Joseph		1832	
Stilwell	Mary		1832	
Stilwell	Phillop		1832	son of Mary Stilwell
Truax	Samuel		1832	son of Joseph Truax
Truax	Thomas		1832	
Truax	Joseph		1832	
Truax			1832	wife of Joseph Truax
Truax	Sarahan		1832	daughter of Joseph Truax
Morrell	Jacob		1832	
Truax	Phillop		1832	
Lane	Thomas		1832	
Oneil	Charles		1832	
	Thomas	B	1832	
Murray	Michael		1832	
Ball	John		1832	
Murray	Sarah		1832	
Farrington	Mary Elizabeth		1832	
Sises	Elizabeth		1833	
Coorshaw	Jacob		1844	
Watson	Thomas		1839	
Vandine	Edward	B	1840	
	Francis	B	1840	
	Jacob	B	1840	
Goylett	Amy		1840	
Hart	Thomas		1840	
Cisco	James	B	1840	
Hallett	Joseph	B	1840	
	Pompy	B	1840	
Thompson	Robert	B	1841	
Jarvis	Willet		1841	
	Clary	B	1841	female
Remson	Henry	B	1842	
	Lev	B	1842	
	Richard	B	1842	
Everton	Thomas		1842	
			1842	two children
	Jacob	B	1843	

Last Name	First/Middle Name	B	Year	Comments
Remson	Hannah	B	1843	
	Henry	B	1843	
	Stephen	B	1843	
	Nancy	B	1843	
Williams	Benjamin		1843	
	John	B		
Hallett	James		1844	

B - Indicated in records as "Black" or "Colored"