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June 20, 2003

Ms. Amanda Sutphen  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
The Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Report of Archaeological excavations conducted for Goldman Sachs  
Pearl Street and Coenties Slip

Dear Ms. Sutphen:

This letter reports on the above-referenced excavation, conducted on June 16th and 17th, 2003.

Goldman Sachs is erecting bollards on the Coenties Slip side of the building that require the excavation of a four-foot deep foundation trench. The LPC determined that a portion of the area to be excavated might contain a section of a historic wall found in 1980 and left *in situ*, and which could have been reburied in the fill deposited during the construction for Goldman Sachs in 1980. Accordingly, the areas flagged by the LPC for potential archaeological sensitivity were excavated to a depth of four feet. They consisted of two five by five foot squares located in the pavement on Pearl Street at Coenties Slip fronting Goldman Sachs, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3. In this report, the western square is designated area A, the eastern one, as area B.

No trace of a historic wall, of either stone or brick, was found in either area A or B. Consequently, no further archaeological investigation is recommended.

The general contractor prepared areas A and B by having the brick paving removed by hand and the concrete beneath it broken by jackhammer and lifted out by hand. Dr. Bergoffen was present on the morning of June 14th, when this phase of the work was begun.

Area A (Figs. 4, 8-10)

The opening heights below grade after the removal of the pavement and the concrete were: 0.85 ft. NW, 0.8 SW, 1.0 ft. NE, 0.9 SE. The northern side of the trench was enclosed by a modern concrete footing that extended the entire depth of the trench.

The trench was excavated to a depth of 4 ft. below grade. It contained recent fill material, as evidenced by the presence of styrofoam throughout. There was a small amount of fragmentary earlier, cultural remains.

Layer 1 was composed of loosely packed, coarse brown sandy soil with small pebbles. There were a few finds, including pipe stems, Delft ware and porcelain sherds, a shoe heel, the base of a hand-blown glass bottle, red as well as yellow brick fragments, wood planks, and large oyster shells.

Cutting into layer 1 in the northeastern corner of the square was a deep pocket (or pit) of soft, loose greyish-brown silt that extended the entire depth of the trench.

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Layer 2 began between 2.0 and 2.5 ft. below grade and extended over approximately the southern 2 ft. of the square, sloping down towards the north. It was cut by, and ran partly below, the pit, and slightly overlapped layer 1 (Fig. 8). It was composed of a yellow, silty clay. This layer also contained a few small fragments of cultural material and oyster shells.

#### Area B (Figs. 5-7, 11)

The opening heights below grade, after the removal of the pavement and the concrete were: 0.7 ft. NW, 1.0 SW, 0.6 ft. NE, 0.5 SE. The difference in height between the two sides of the trench was due to the presence of a row of metal plates which, we were advised, covered electrical wiring. The width of this strip was 0.85 ft. We did not excavate under this strip. Accordingly, the area excavated in area B measured 4.15 ft. E/W and 5 ft. N/S.

The trench was excavated to a depth of 4 ft. below grade. It contained recent fill material, as evidenced by the presence of plastic, styrofoam and fragments of wires throughout. There was a small amount of fragmentary earlier cultural remains

Layer 1 was composed of coarse brown sandy soil with many pebbles and a few cobbles. Except for a shallow pocket of looser, sandy soil in the NW corner of the square (possibly a pit), encountered at 1.1 ft. below grade, layer 1 covered the entire square and extended to a depth of 1.3 ft. NW, 1.5 ft. NE and 1.5 ft. on the south side of the square, below grade. Cultural remains found in this layer included some

Layer 2 was composed of harder packed, coarse, reddish-brown soil, many small pebbles and cobbles. Most of the cultural remains were found in this layer, including part of a clay pipe bowl and fragments of stems; Pearl ware, salt-glazed stone ware, hand-blown bottle glass, transfer ware and hand-painted porcelain.

The base of the pipe's heel is stamped with the maker's mark "EB" enclosed in a beaded circle. According to Diane Dallal, Director of the South Street Seaport Museum and an expert on Dutch pipes, the initials stand for Edward Bird. Bird's pipes are very common on sites with Dutch cultural remains. He was an English pipe manufacturer who lived in Holland and produced his pipes in Amsterdam between 1638 and 1665. His son probably continued making "EB" pipes for some years after this.

At a depth of 3.5 ft. below grade we encountered gravel on the northern half of the square, which continued until our stopping point at 4.0 ft. below grade.

In the southwest corner of the square there was a pocket of dark grey, finer and greasy soil. In the southeast corner, the dark reddish-brown deposit continued to 4.0 ft. below grade.

Sincerely yours,



Celia J. Bergoffen

cc. John Croce, Goldman Sachs

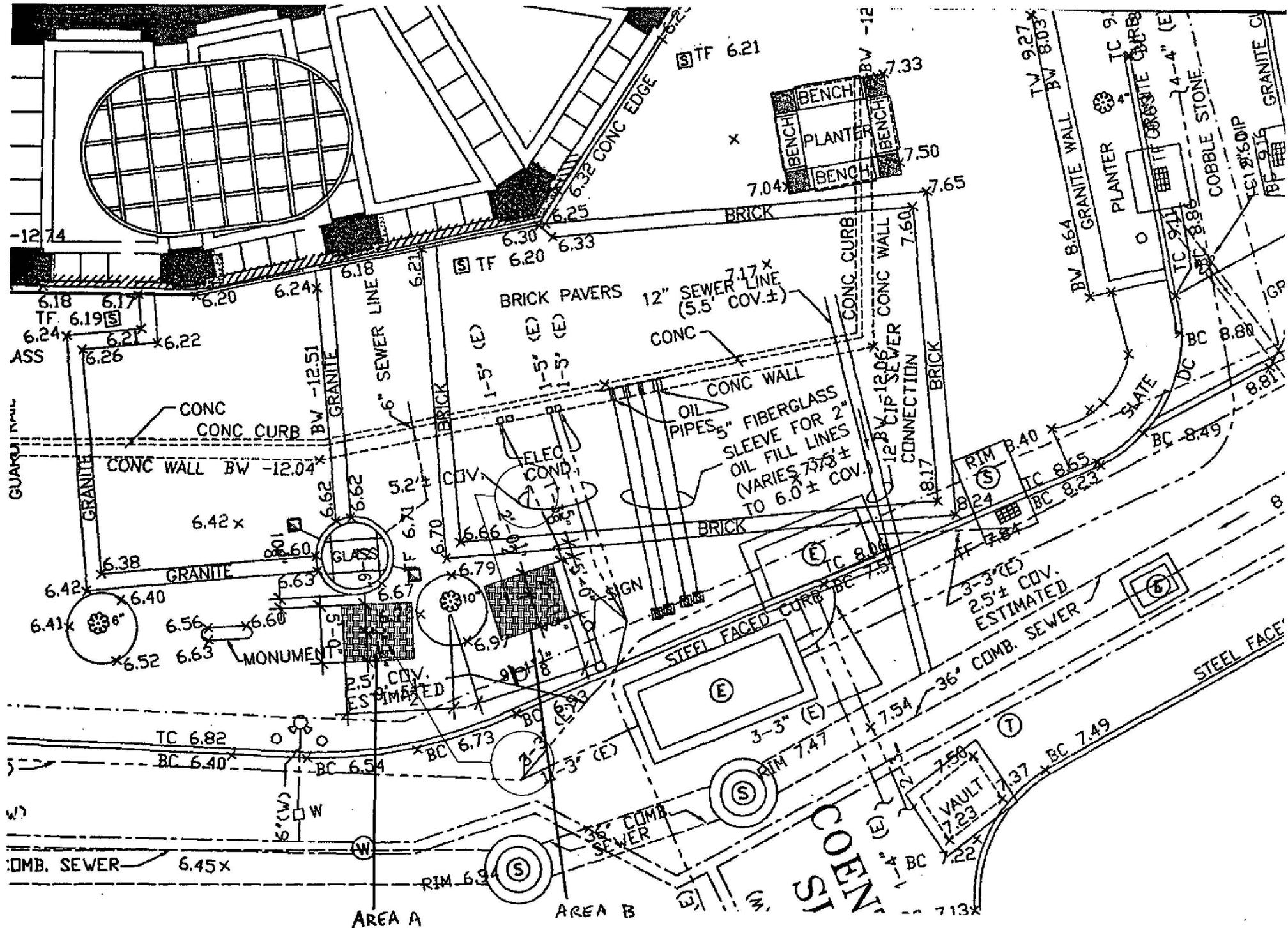


Fig. 1. Plan of the area south of Goldman Sachs showing the location of areas A and B courtesy of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, LLP



Fig. 2 Looking west towards area A,  
removal of concrete (6/14/2003)



Fig. 3. (Left) Looking east towards area A,  
area B is behind the tree, removal of  
concrete (6/14/2003)



Fig. 4. Area A after the removal of the brick pavement and concrete (6/16/2003)



Fig. 5. Area B after the removal of the brick pavement and concrete (6/16/2003)



Fig. 6. Termination of excavation in Area B, west baulk (6/17/2003)



Fig. 7. 17th to 19th century artifacts from Area B: pipe bowl and stems, pearl ware, chinese porcelain, bottle and pane glass, transfer ware and hand-painted porcelain



Fig. 8 Termination of excavation in Area A south and east baulks (6/17/2003)



Fig. 9. Termination of excavation in Area A, north and west baulks (6/17/2003)



Fig. 10. 17th to 19th century artifacts and remains from area A including a shoe heel; pipe bowl stems, Delft ware, base of a glass bottle, glass plate with Chinese design; oyster shell (left)



Fig. 11. Remains from area B: clam and oyster shells, beef bone and tooth; yellow brick fragment