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PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
THE 641 WEST 59TH STREET SITE
TV CITY PROJECT
MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

Prepared For:
McKeown & Franz, Inc.
630 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Prepared By:
William I. Roberts IV
Nancy A. Stehling
Greenhouse Consultants Inc.
54 Stone Street, 7th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10004

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

William I. Roberts IV	-	Principal Investigator/Primary Author
Nancy A. Stehling	-	Laboratory Director/Co-Author
Michael W. Davenport	-	Field Supervisor/Cartographer
Brian Ludwig	-	Field Technician
Anna V. Farkas	-	Laboratory Technician
Joshua Nefsky	-	Artifact Photographer
George Myers Jr.	-	Data Processor
Mindy H. Washington	-	Word Processor/Editor



PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE
641 WEST 59TH STREET SITE
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MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Phase IB Archaeological Survey is to provide evidence regarding the presence or absence of archaeological resources on the 641 West 59th Street project area. It was concluded in our Phase IA Sensitivity Study on this project (Roberts & Zakalak 1987), that this location potentially preserved remains of mid-19th century industrial buildings associated with the Hamersley Forge and later bone black manufactory. After operations ceased at the bone black manufactory, a larger structure was built for the Union Stock Yards and Market, sometime between 1871 and 1882. This structure covered over half of the block and remained intact until sometime in the 20th century, when its eastern end was demolished and the upper floors of its central portion rebuilt. This structure now occupies the central portion of the block while paved parking areas cover the remainder to the east and west (ibid).

The project parcel is located within the block bounded by 59th and 60th Streets and 11th and 12th Avenues, in Manhattan, New York. The site includes the standing structure at 641 West 59th Street and the present parking lot to the east. See Figure 1 for the location plan.

This report is organized in the following manner: first, this introductory section describing the purpose of the survey and the location of the project area; second, a section describing the subsurface testing conducted; third, a section describing the stratigraphy observed; fourth, a section on the processing and analysis of the artifacts recovered; fifth, a section describing the results of this survey; and finally, the conclusions and recommendations. A quantified inventory of all artifacts recovered during this survey is included here as Appendix 1.

FIELD TESTING

The subsurface testing of the 641 West 59th Street project parcel began on May 19, 1987 and was concluded on May 28, 1987. The subsurface testing included mechanically excavated trenches, as this was deemed to be the most efficient method of investigating the deposits potentially buried beneath the basement floor of the former stockyards structure. This Phase IB testing was limited to the parking lot east of the

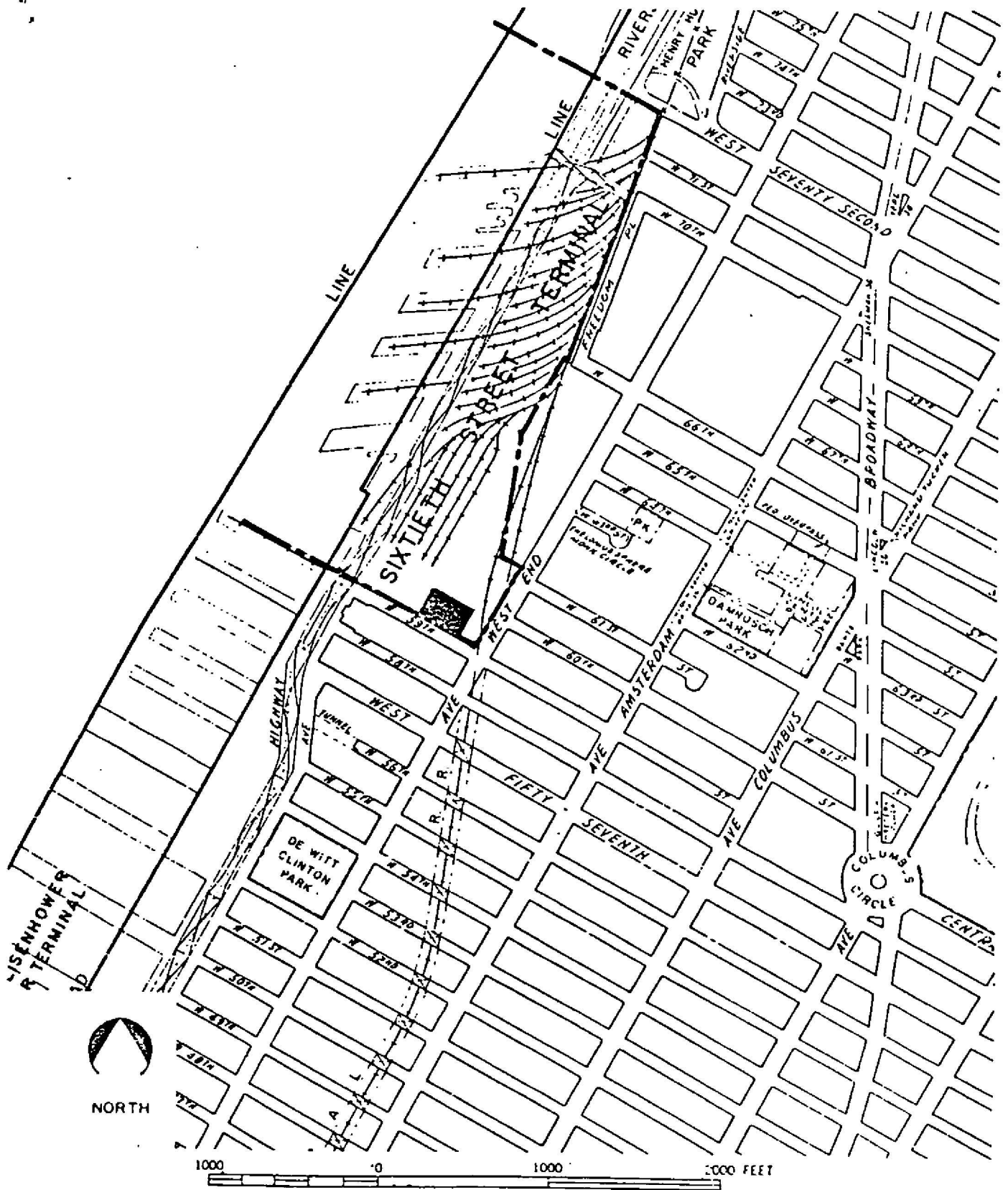


Figure 1 TV City property (indicated by bold line) shown on 1982 New York City Mapped Streets: Section 8. Black rectangle in southeast corner indicates the location of the study area.

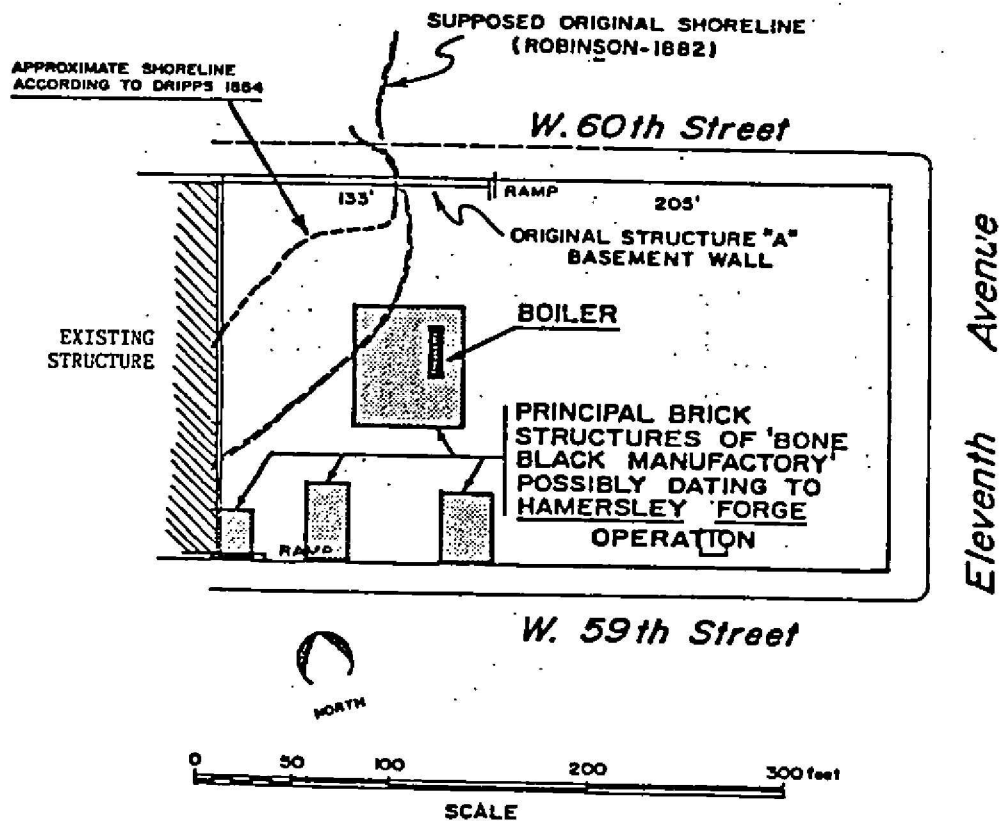


Figure 2: Parking lot east of standing structure showing existing conditions with locations of principal brick structures taken from Dripps 1854 and Perris 1862 maps.

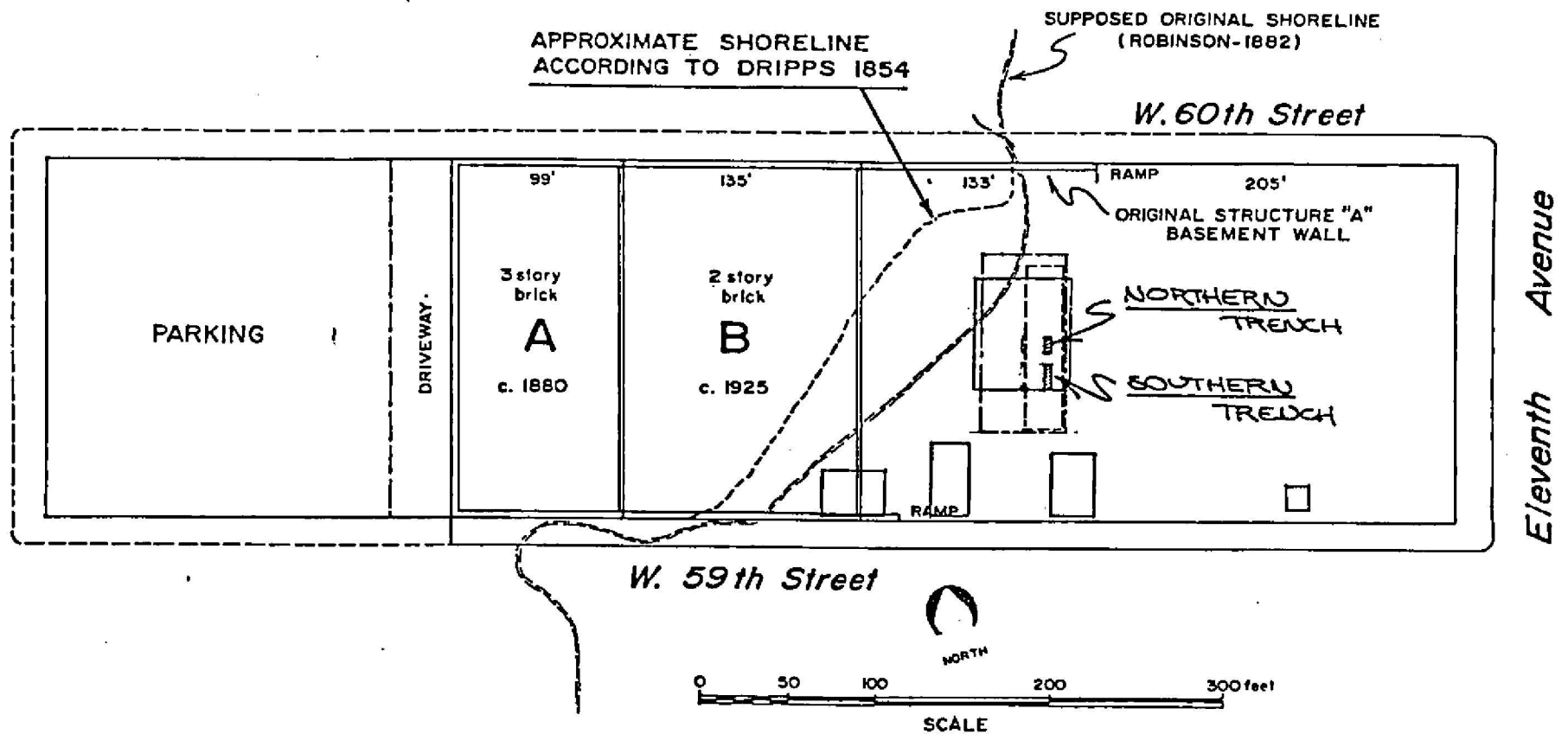


Figure 3 Map of existing conditions showing location of Northern and Southern trenches.

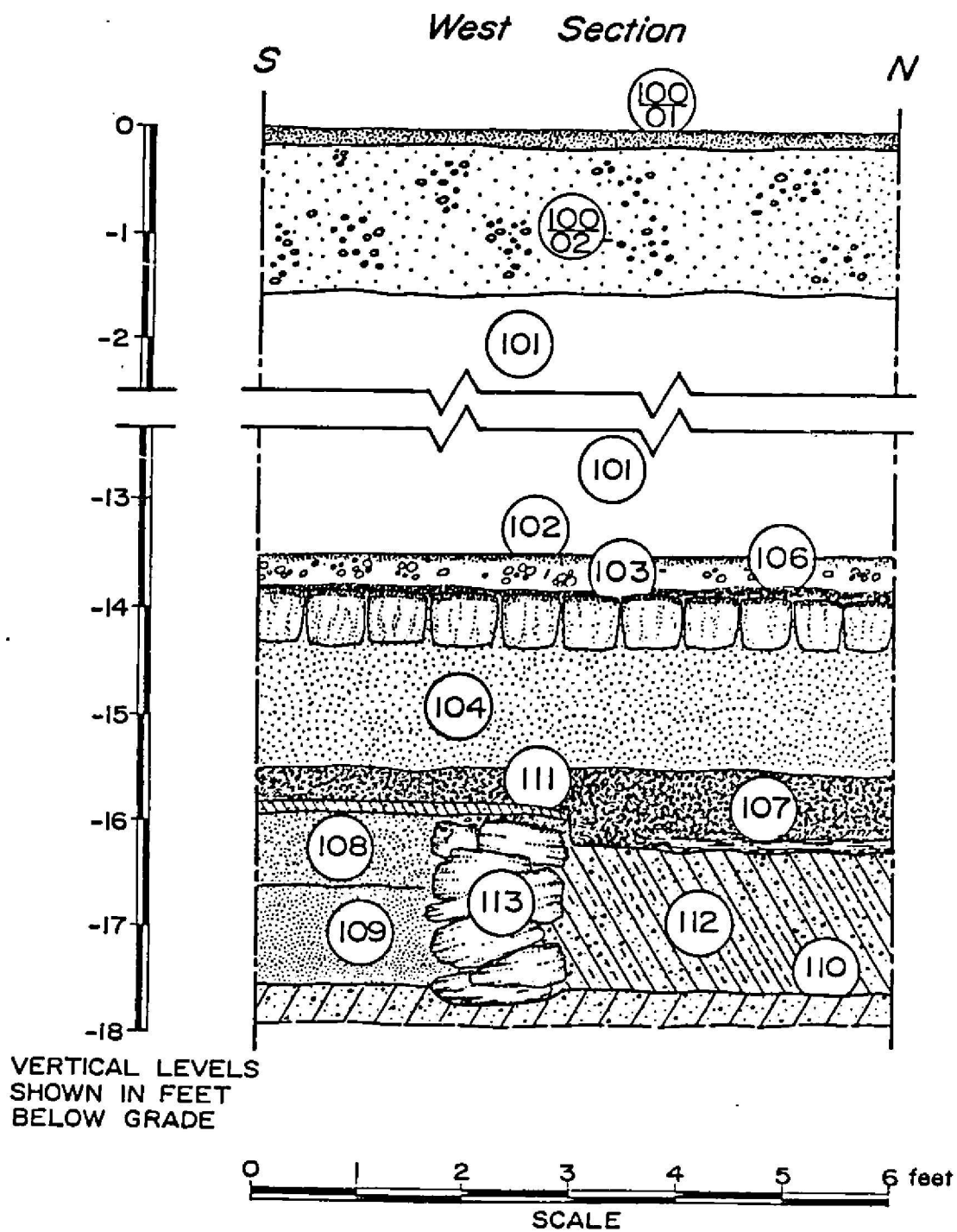


Figure 4 West section drawing of northern trench.



standing structure at 641 West 59 Street, so that a minimum of disturbance would be caused to its tenants. As demonstrated in the Phase IA report (Roberts & Zakalak 1987:9-10) and as presented here in Figure 2, the majority of the principal structures associated with the Hamersley Forge are located under the parking lot which replaced the now demolished east end of the stockyards structure.

The actual subsurface testing performed included two backhoe trenches. As a preliminary effort to provide access to the buried deposits that required examination, an area of 25 feet by 100 feet was opened and mechanically excavated to the depth of the basement floor of the former stockyard building, providing for slopes on the sides to alleviate potential subsidence. At this point, test trenches were begun in order to examine the deposits below the floor. Two trenches were excavated along a line running north to south. The southern trench was approximately 3'x12' and the northern trench was approximately 4'x8'. The latest basement floor located (prior to the demolition of the east end of the structure) was found to be of concrete (Cx. 102). When this floor was broken and removed, a second, earlier floor, constructed of Belgian block paving stones (Cx. 103) was revealed. This stone floor was set into a layer of clean sand (Cx. 104) and probably represents the original cellar floor of the late-19th century stockyard structure.

The macadam surface of the parking lot (Cx. 100) and the rubble fill of the cellar (Cx. 101) were found in both test trenches, as were Cx. #'s 102-104. Below Cx. 104 was an obviously burnt rubble deposit which was designated Cx. 105 and Cx. 107 in the south and north trenches. Below Cx. 107 in the northern test trench were a series of deposits. A thin clay lens, Cx. 111, was found to seal a deposit of relatively clean silty sand, Cx. 108, and north of Cx. 108 was an unmortared schist wall, Cx. 113. To the north of the wall and directly beneath Cx. 111 was Cx. 112, a loose sandy silt with gravel and clay inclusions which extended down to the base of Cx. 113. Below Cx. 108 and also extended to as deep as Cx. 112 and 113 was Cx. 109, a silt sand which had no inclusions. Below Cx. 109, 112 and 113 was Cx. 110. This silty sand with inclusions of gravel, pebbles, schist and brick fragments was exposed at the bottom of the northern test trench but not extensively excavated as damp conditions were encountered about 0.2 feet below the surface of this context.

STRATIGRAPHIC SUMMARY

All soils encountered throughout the Phase IB testing were recorded on pre-printed forms. The descriptions included soil texture and inclusions, and color. All specific references used are taken from the Munsell Soil Color Charts. Soil samples were taken from each soil variety excavated for examination in the laboratory. The recording



system was used throughout both stages of the archaeological testing is known as the Context System. It is described in Appendix 3. Each individual deposit was assigned a Context number (Cx.). Decimal subdivisions of these numbers were used to represent horizontal subdivisions within a given context. The 16 decimal contexts were analyzed and assigned to 4 components.

The term Component has been used here as the next higher order of stratigraphic analysis above the context, which is the minimal unit of stratigraphic recording. All contexts of similar nature have been grouped together as a component, which therefore represents a unit of relative contemporaneity. Since both the test trenches were located within a reasonable distance from one another, they were analyzed using components common to both test trenches if they included appropriate contexts.

Component 1: 2 contexts, Cx. 100, 101.

Interpretation: Deposits post-dating the demolition of the eastern end of the former stockyards structure.

Description: Macadam parking lot surface and rubble fill of cellar.

Color Range: Brown to 7.5 YR 2/0 Black.

Component 2: 4 contexts, Cx. 102-104, 106.

Interpretation: Deposits associated with the stockyards structure.

Description: Concrete floors, Belgian block (stone) floor, sand make-up for stone floor, and lens of burnt debris between floors.

Color Range: Black through very dark grey, grey to grey-brown to 10 YR 5/4 yellow brown.

Component 3: 9 contexts, Cx. 105.01-105.03, 107-109, 111-113.

Interpretation: Deposits associated with the Hamersley Forge and/or bone black manufactory.

Description: Ranges from clay and sandy silt with no inclusions to silty sand with few inclusions to silt dense with slag, charcoal and burnt wood rubble. Also includes unmortared schist wall.

Color Range: 5 YR 5/6 yellowish red through 10 YR 5/4 yellow brown, 10 YR 5/3 brown, 10 YR 3/3 dark brown and 10 YR 3/2 very dark grey brown to 10 YR 2/1 black.

Component 4: 1 context, Cx. 110

Interpretation: Deposit(s) pre-dating the Hamersley Forge.

Description: Silty sand with some pebbles, gravel and schist fragments.

Color Range: 10 YR 5/2 grey brown.



ARTIFACT PROCESSING, ANALYSIS AND INVENTORY

Subsequent to all fieldwork, all recovered materials were washed, marked, stabilized, and catalogued in the Greenhouse laboratory. The majority of artifacts were washed in room temperature tap water with added ORVUS paste (modified sodium lauryl sulfate), which is a non-ionic detergent. Harsh detergents leave an alkali residue if not completely rinsed away, and will chemically-attack certain artifacts (the overglazed decoration on porcelain, for instance). ORVUS is a mild and free-rinsing surface active agent with a low pH of 6.3. Metal artifacts were systematically dewatered by submersion in acetone immediately after rinsing. Bones recovered were usually dry brushed, unless they were recovered from a damp context. The drying procedure was dependent upon the condition and material class of the artifact. The standard procedure employed was slow air drying on screens in the laboratory processing area.

All recovered materials were then catalogued according to the National Park Service Cultural Material Data Base taxonomy for artifacts (see Appendix 1). All historic artifacts were coded as to group, class, and material. All diagnostic historic artifacts such as glass and ceramics were dated based on the stylistic and technical criteria according to their TPQ (terminus post quem, or beginning date of manufacture). The TPQ provided a time frame for establishing the initial date after which the deposit had to have been laid down.

Subsequent to cataloging, all artifacts were then computer inventoried on the micro-computer data base system. The final inventory is reproduced on paper and appears as Appendix 1, as well as stored as an ASCII file readable on IBM compatible hardware and other software programs.

Artifact Analysis:

Component 1, the macadam parking lot surface and rubble fill of the cellar did not yield any historic artifacts. The cellar fill, which was as deep as 13 feet at the eastern end of the block, was mixed rubble and 20th century debris. This was noted, but not collected.

Component 2, the deposits associated with the stockyards structure. These cellar floor deposits did not yield any diagnostic artifacts. The only artifacts noted were the stone paving blocks.

Component 3, the deposits associated with either the Forge or bone black manufactory, produced all the artifacts recovered during the testing. Of the nine Contexts identified as Component 3, only three, Contexts 105.01, .02 and .03 contained artifacts. A total of 44 finds were recovered; 10 from 105.01; 27 from 105.02; and 7 from 105.03. The historic artifacts recovered from these three contexts represent one

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deposit separated by horizontal divisions within the test trench, according to the imposed site grid. The finds consist of construction/destruction debris, probably industrial refuse and associated occupation related material. Construction debris finds included brick fragments, mortar, window glass, plate glass and tar paper. Industrial refuse finds included slag, cinders and coal. The slag may represent refuse from the operation of the Hamersley Forge. Calcined bone was also found in this deposit, which may represent the refuse from the operations of the later bone black manufactory. The cinders and coal recovered could be associated with either industrial process once in operation on the block. Occupation related finds included ceramic sherds and shell fragments, which may also be associated with either industry mentioned above.

The historic ceramics recovered included hand-painted pearlware, TPQ 1780 (South 1972; Noel Hume 1976); undecorated whiteware, TPQ 1820 (ibid.); and transfer printed whiteware, TPQ 1830 (Price 1979). The TPQ for the deposit is 1835, based on the presence of press molded plate glass from Context 105.02.

In general, the artifacts were quite fragmentary and no horizontal or vertical patterns were noted in their distribution.

Component 4, the deposit which pre-dates the Hamersley Forge did not contain any cultural material. The only possible cultural related finds were brick and schist fragments, which were noted but not collected.

RESULTS

Based on the evidence obtained from the subsurface testing, it is now possible to make several statements regarding the former industrial uses of the 641 West 59th Street site, as the Union Stockyards, a bone black manufactory and the Hamersley Forge. Clear evidence was obtained from the northern test trench that two industrial structures existed on the site prior to its conversion to a parking lot. The more recent of these two structures was represented by the two cellar floors and associated deposits (analyzed as Component 2). The horizontal and vertical placement of the floors as well as the general similarities to the cellar of the standing structure immediately west of the parking lot indicate that these remains are from the demolished eastern end of that structure. This building, prior to its partial demolition and reconstruction, was the Union Stockyards and Market, constructed 1871-1882 (Roberts & Zakalak 1987:8, Fig.'s 5 and 6).

Below the Component 2 deposits were a second group of deposits analyzed as Component 3. Since all the Component 3 deposits were sealed beneath Component 2, and no cut lines were observed in the Component 2 deposits, Component 3 must pre-date Component 2. The uppermost deposit of

Component 3 was characterized as destruction debris. This debris contained both calcined bone fragments and ferrous slag, as well as building destruction rubble, glass and ceramics. The slag and bone are both evidence of industrial processes relating to the Forge and bone black maker, respectively. Both the glass and ceramic sherds could be dated, yielding a Terminus Post Quem for the deposit of 1835. In the northern test trench, this debris sealed a thin clay layer which in turn overlay a dry-laid schist wall running east to west. To the south of this wall were two deposits of relatively clean sand. To the north was a deposit of mottled silt with gravel and clay inclusions. The bottom of this deposit to the north of the schist wall may be somewhat deeper than that of the lower sand deposit to the south or the base of the wall itself. From this evidence it would appear that the schist wall was intended as part of a retaining structure. Based on the cartographic evidence, it clearly lies within the central brick building of the Hamersley Forge, and appears to correspond to the southern end of the furnace. See Figures 2 and 3. It is our opinion that it probably served as a retaining wall for a shallow pit just west of the furnace. This pit could have served to provide access to the base of the furnace for the removal of ash and cinder, or as an area for placing molds to make castings. From the evidence derived from the retaining wall and the overlying destruction debris, Component 3 represents a phase of industrial activity on this block prior to the construction of the Union Stockyards. The TPQ of 1835 from Component 3 indicates that the date range is correct for these deposits to represent the remains of the Hamersley Forge and the subsequent bone black manufactory.

Underneath Component 3, another deposit identified as Component 4 was exposed. Unfortunately, this deposit could not be excavated due to the proximity of ground water, so no data is available to provide a means of interpreting Component 4. We have described it as pre-dating the Hamersley Forge solely on the basis of stratigraphic evidence derived from the section drawing (Figure 4) and the context descriptions.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is now possible to conclude that this Phase IB Archaeological Survey revealed the presence of deposits sealed beneath the floors of the demolished eastern end of the Union Stockyards building. Based on an analysis of the archaeological evidence from the test trenching and cartographic evidence from previous research, it is highly probable that these remains represent the central structure that housed both the Hamersley Forge and the subsequent bone black manufactory. These remains were found to lie at least one foot beneath the bottom of the lower floor of the former stockyard building and no service trenches or other intrusions were observed cutting into them, so they appear to be relatively undisturbed. The Architectural/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation established that the Hamersley Forge is of potential

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importance to both national and regional history through its association with particular persons and events of significance to industrial and technological developments during the 19th century (Roberts & Zakalak 1987:4-6), and that the subsequent use of the Forge structures as a bone black manufactory is of potential importance to the economic history of the region (ibid:6-7). It is therefore our recommendation that a Phase II Archaeological Survey be undertaken to determine the boundaries and research potential of this 19th century industrial archaeological site.

Upon completion of this Phase II archaeological survey, the results of the analysis would be submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). If it is determined that the forge structure remains are too disturbed to be of value, construction excavation could begin in this area without further archaeological investigation. If this analysis indicates that the structure which housed the forge and bone black manufactory and/or other related artifacts remain relatively undisturbed and have significant archaeological value, we as project archaeologists would work with the LPC to develop a Phase III mitigation plan which would include further archaeological excavation and laboratory analysis to the extent deemed necessary to safeguard such resources.

The Phase II survey does not need to commence immediately. As we estimate that the survey and any required mitigation may take six (6) months to complete, the Phase II survey field work can begin as late as six (6) months prior to the commencement of construction excavation on the site.

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Plates 1 - 10.

Artifact scale in mm.

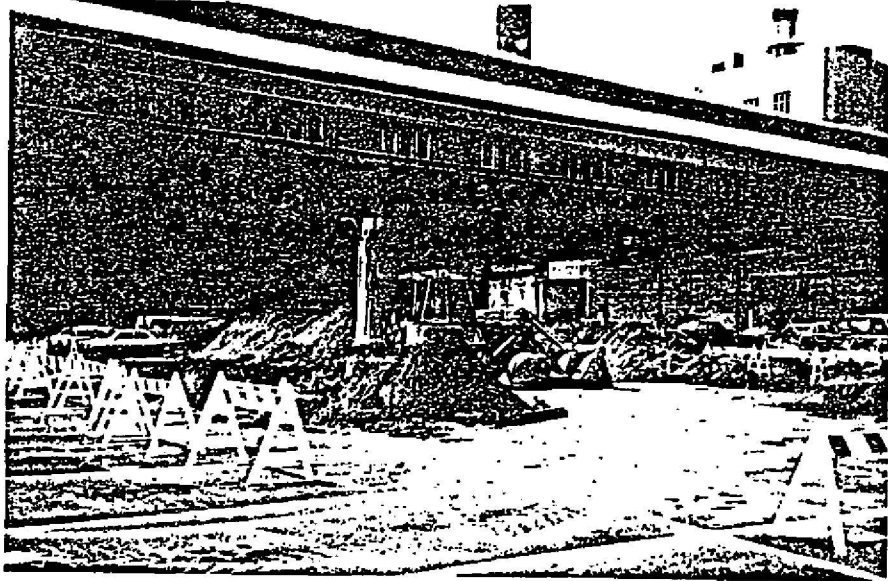


Plate 1: View of the project area looking southwest, showing backhoe beginning excavation of basement fill.

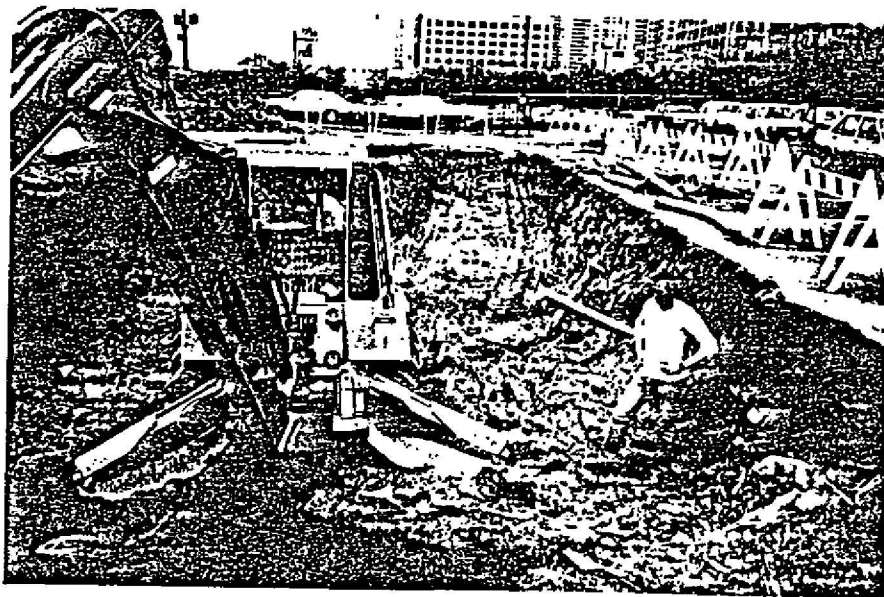


Plate 2: View of basement area looking north, after the removal of the majority of the fill.

Plate 3: View of the northern
test trench, looking
south.



Plate 4: View of south section of
northern trench showing
Belgian block floor (Cx
103) with drain in fore-
ground and other contexts
below.





Plate 5: Oblique view of northern trench looking southwest and showing portions of west and south sections. Note schist wall (Cx 113) below menu board.



Plate 6: View of west section of northern test trench. Menu board rests on concrete floor (Cx 102).

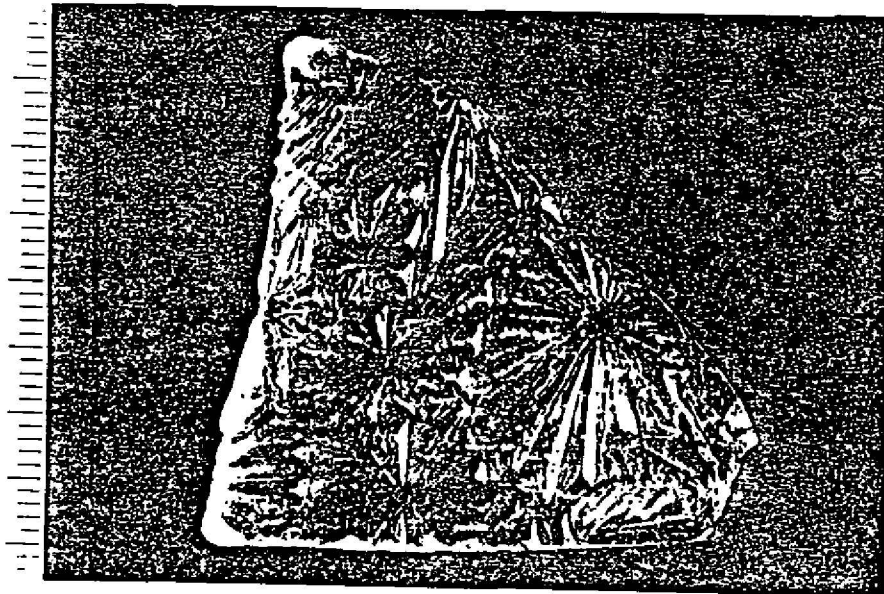


Plate 7: Fragment of press-molded plate window glass with starburst pattern, from CMP3, Cx 105.02, TPQ 1835.

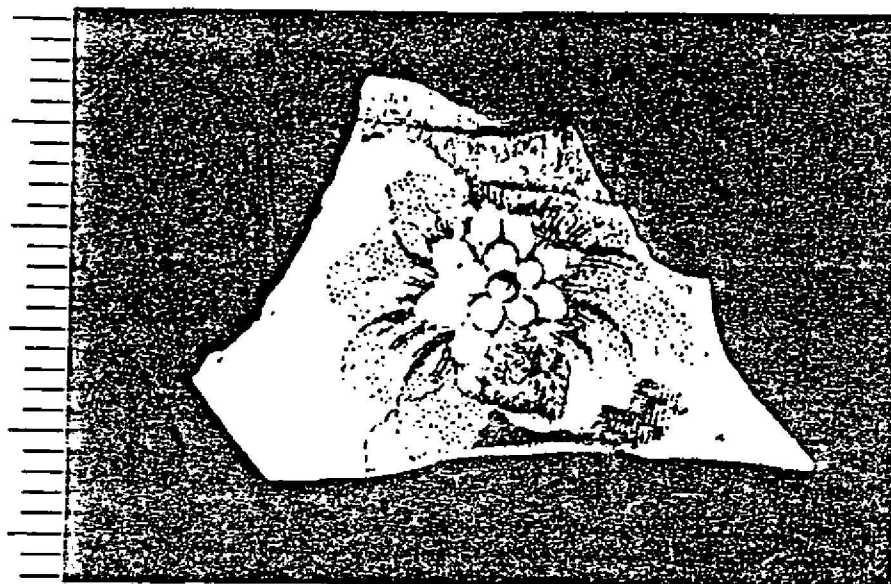


Plate 8: Body sherd of transfer printed whiteware with black floral design, from CMP3, Cx 105.02, TPQ 1830.

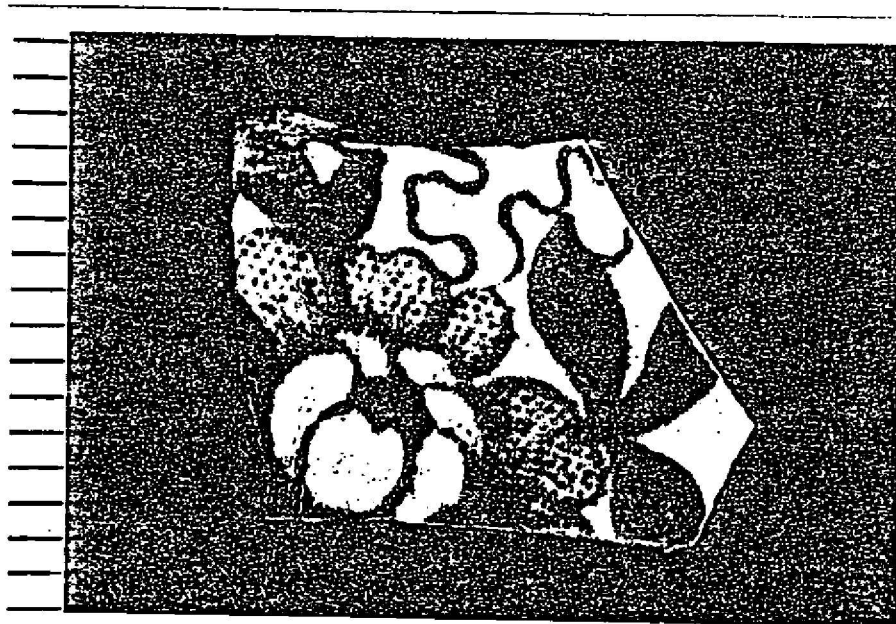


Plate 9: Body sherd of transfer printed whiteware with blue floral design, from CMP3, Cx 105.02, TPQ 1830.

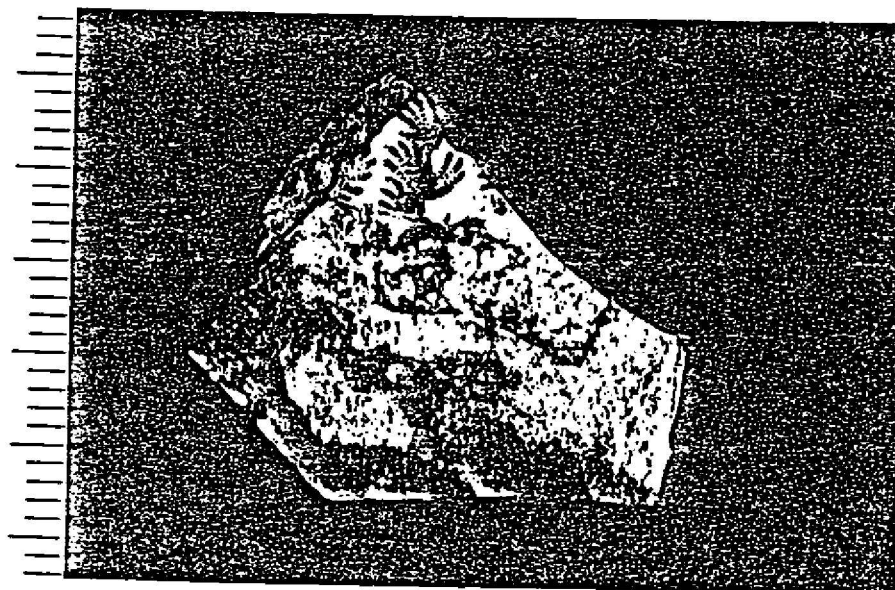


Plate 10: Body sherd of transfer printed whiteware with black floral design, CMP3, Cx 105.03, TPQ 1830.



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APPENDIX 1:
THE COMPLETE ARTIFACT INVENTORY

including:

TABLE 1: The National Park Service Material Culture
Data Base Coding Chart

TABLE 2: Coded Examples from the Data Base

TABLE 3: Data Base Codes for Ambiguous Items

APPENDIX 1

GROUPS AND CLASSES

MATERIALS - COMMON LIST (classified)

- 01 KITCHEN GROUP
 - 01 Dishes
 - 02 Containers
 - 03 Tableware
 - 04 Kitchenware
- 02 BONE GROUP
 - 01 Mammalia
 - 02 Aves
 - 03 Reptilia
 - 04 Amphibia
 - 05 Pisces
- 03 ARCHITECTURAL GROUP
 - 01 Window Glass
 - 02 Nails
 - 03 Spikes
 - 04 Door & Window Hardware
 - 05 Other Structural Hardware
 - 06 Construction Materials
- 04 FURNITURE GROUP
 - 01 Hardware
 - 02 Materials
 - 03 Lighting Device
 - 04 Decorative Furnishings
- 05 ARMS GROUP
 - 01 Projectiles
 - 02 Cartridge Case
 - 03 Arm Accessories
 - 04 Gun Parts
- 06 CLOTHING GROUP
 - 01 Apparel
 - 02 Ornamentation
 - 03 Making and Repair
 - 04 Fasteners
- 07 PERSONAL GROUP
 - 01 Coins
 - 02 Keys
 - 03 Writing Paraphernalia
 - 04 Grooming and Hygiene
 - 05 Personal Ornamentation
 - 06 Other Personal Items
- 08 KAOLIN TOBACCO PIPE GROUP
 - 01 Kaolin Pipe Class

- 09 ACTIVITIES GROUP
 - 01 Construction Tools
 - 02 Farm Tools
 - 03 Leisure Activities
 - 04 Fishing Gear
 - 05 Nonbaolin Pipe
 - 06 Smoking Accessories
 - 07 Pottery Class
 - 08 Storage Items
 - 09 Ethnafaunal Zoological
 - 10 Stable and Barn
 - 11 Miscellaneous Hardware
 - 12 Specialized Activities
 - 13 Military Objects
 - 14 Housekeeping
 - 15 Public Services
 - 16 Ethnobotanical
- 10 PREHISTORIC GROUP
 - 01 Weapons
 - 02 Domestic
 - 03 Stone Working
 - 04 Wood Working
 - 05 Digging Tools
 - 06 Other Fabricating or Processing Tools
 - 07 Other General Utility Tools
 - 08 Ceremonial & Ornamental
 - 09 Miscellaneous Artifacts
- 98 UNSPECIFIED GROUP

INORGANIC MATERIALS

CERAMIC

- 003 earthenware
- 004 ironstone/granite/whiteware
- 001 porcelain
- 002 stoneware
- 134 undifferentiated ceramic

CLAY

- 047 clay
- 062 kaolin
- 079 red clay

CONSTRUCTION

- 069 brick
- 071 cement
- 070 mortar
- 072 plaster

GLASS

- 078 glass
- 013 glass, milk
- 112 slag and clinker

METALS

- 029 aluminum
- 035 chrome
- 026 cuprous metal
- 028 ferrous alloy
- 071 gold
- 034 lead
- 095 mercury
- 019 silver
- 032 steel
- 005 tin
- 136 undifferentiated metal

STONE

- 129 agate
- 075 asbestos
- 133 chalk
- 032 chert
- 046 gravel
- 109 jet
- 038 limestone
- 041 marble
- 049 mica
- 058 obsidian
- 057 ochre
- 068 precious stone
- 053 quartz
- 054 quartzite
- 039 sandstone
- 044 shale
- 040 slate
- 060 steatite
- 043 schist
- 126 undifferentiated stone
- 047 granite

ORGANIC MATERIALS

CYLLARLOSIC

- 115 bark
- 108 burlap
- 128 charcoal
- 092 cork
- 047 cotton
- 131 fiberboard/maconite
- 045 hemp
- 011 paper
- 006 wood
- 121 cellulose seeds/seed covering

CONSTRUCTION

- 093 asphalt
- 125 formica
- 101 linoleum
- 102 tar paper

VAX

- 076 wax

GUM/RESIN

- 010 rubber, elastic
- 009 rubber, hard

PETROCHEMICALS

- 073 carbon
- 095 coal
- 048 graphite
- 116 tar

PROTEIN

- 118 chitin (arthropod, exoskeleton)
- 106 felt
- 122 flesh
- 016 hair
- 117 keratin (horns/fingernail/claws)
- 015 leather
- 107 milk
- 090 sponge, natural
- 105 wool

COMBINATION MATERIALS

- 017 bone
- 132 ivory
- 067 pearl
- 069 shell

SYNTHETIC MATERIALS

- 103 celluloid
- 068 nylon
- 008 plastic
- 077 soap
- 091 sponge, synthetic
- 104 synthetic

TEXTILE

- 151 undifferentiated textile

Table 1: Coding Chart with Group, Class and Material Common List (National Park Service Material Culture Data Base).

APPENDIX 1

GROUPS AND CLASSES

01	KITCHEN	SAMPLE ARTIFACTS
01	Dishes	Historic fragments, plate, cup, salt cellar
02	Containers	Bottle glass fragments
03	Tableware	Eating Utensils
04	Kitchenware	Cooking Utensils, pot, kettle
02	BONE GROUP	
01	Mammalia	Mammal Bones
02	Aves	Bird Bones
03	Reptilia	Reptile Bones
04	Amphibia	Amphibian Bones
05	Pisces	Fish Bones
03	ARCHITECTURAL GROUP	
01	Window Glass	Window pane glass
02	Nails	Copper nails, iron nails
03	Spikes	Railroad spikes
04	Door & Window Hardware	Doorknob, door hinge
05	Other Structural Hardware	Pipe, fireplace tiles
06	Construction Materials	Brick, mortar, metal roofing
04	FURNITURE GROUP	
01	Hardware	Handle, drawer pull, latch
02	Materials	Stove parts, chair part, bed frame
03	Lighting device	Candlestick, lamp base
04	Decorative Furnishings	Flower pot, clock parts, vase
05	ARMS GROUP	
01	Projectiles	Shot, bullets
02	Cartridge Case	Cartridge
03	Arm Accessories	Gun flints, bullet molds, powder horn
04	Gun Parts	Pistol barrel, flint lock assembly
06	CLOTHING GROUP	
01	Apparel	Hat, coat, scarves, glove, shoe
02	Ornamentation	Beads, sequin, hatpin, leather
03	Making & Repair	Thimble, straight pin, straight scissors
04	Fasteners	Buttons, snaps, buckles, cuff links
07	PERSONAL GROUP	
01	Coin	Silver coins, copper coins
02	Keys	Door lock keys, padlock keys
03	Writing Paraphernalia	Quill, fountain pen nib, graphite pencil
04	Grooming & Hygiene	Hair brush, razor, mirror, tweezers
05	Personal Ornamentation	Jewelry, ribbon, ornamental comb
06	Other Personal Items	Pocket watch, key chain, pocket knife
08	KAO LIN PIPE GROUP	
01	Kao Lin Pipe Class	Kao lin pipe fragments

GROUPS AND CLASSES (cont'd)

09	ACTIVITIES GROUP	
01	Construction Tools	Axe head, drill bit, saw, paint brush
02	Farm Tools	Hoe, rake, plow blade
03	Leisure Activities	Marbles, jew's harp, doll parts
04	Fishing Gear	Fish hooks, sinkers, crab trap
05	Hooked Pipe	Corn cob pipe
06	Smoking Accessories	Snuff tin, tobacco tin, pipe cleaner
07	Pottery Class	(Indian) water jar, effigy pot
08	Storage Item	Crock, barrel staves, sacks
09	Ethnofaunal Zoological	Oyster shells, crab shells
10	Stable and Barn	Stirrup, horse shoe, rein, harness belt
11	Miscellaneous Hardware	Rope, bolts, nuts, washers, chain
12	Specialized Activities	Button blanks, metallurgic debris, unggers
13	Military Objects	Insignia, bayonets
14	Housekeeping	Broom, coat hanger, washboard
15	Public Services	Sewer pipe, water pipe
16	Ethnobotanical	
10	PREHISTORIC GROUP	
01	Weapons	Projectile point, atlatl hook
02	Domestic	Vessel, mortar, pestle
03	Stone Working	Hammerstone, baton, flake, core
04	Wood Working	Celt, grooved axe
05	Digging Tools	Hoe
06	Other Fabricating or Processing Tools	Drill, chisel, needle
07	Other General Utility Tools	Knife, prismatic blade, chopper
08	Ceremonial and Ornamental	Sheet, gorget, bead
09	Miscellaneous Artifacts	Function unknown

Table 2: Coded Examples (National Park Service Material Culture Data Base).

APPENDIX 1.

THE ITEMS LISTED BELOW MAY BE AMBIGUOUS OR HARD TO PLACE IN A TAXONOMIC CATEGORY, BUT AS A CONVENTION, FOR INVENTORY PURPOSES, WILL BE CODED AS FOLLOWS:

Unident Wood Frags	98 00 006
Construction Wood, Wooden	
Pegs, Wood Planks	03 06 006
Twigs, Branches	09 16 006
Burned Wood (Partial)	Code as wood (above) and put "burnt wood" in the comments section.
Charcoal & all small frags of completely burnt wood	Code as charcoal
Coal	98 00 095
Slag, burned coal, vitrified metalworking or manufacturing by-products	98 00 112
Pantiles	03 06 003
Drift fireplace tiles, wall shirting, etc.	04 04 003
Porcelain bathroom tiles, other bathroom furniture (tub, toilet, etc)	03 05 001
Chamber Pot	04 02 ()
Flower Pot	04 04 003
Teeth	02 () 132
Fish scales	09 09 118
Coral	98 00 119
Eggshell	09 09 119
Seeds, Seed Covering	09 16 121
Schist (construction)	03 06 043
Schist (unident)	98 00 043
Red Brick	03 06 169
Yellow Brick	03 06 155
Linoleum	03 06 101
Metal Hardware (probably construction)	03 06 ()
Furniture Hardware	04 01 ()
Misc. hardware (other and unident), screws, car parts	09 11 ()
Leather Shoe Parts	06 01 015
Unident Leather scraps	98 00 015
Leather Personal Items	07 () 015

Table 3: National Park Service
Material Culture Data Base Codes for Ambiguous Items

APPENDIX 1: Artifact Inventory

CXNO	LOC	GR	CL	MAT.	COUNT	WEIGHT	TPQ	REFERENCE	IDENTITY	COMMENTS
105.01	N25E35	01	01	003	1	0.0	1780	South 1972;N. Hume 1976	Hand-painted pearl w.	Blue dec.
105.01	N25E35	98	00	112	2	6.5	0		Cinders	
105.01	N25E35	03	06	070	1	30.5	0		Mortar	
105.01	N25E35	98	00	112	2	277.0	0		Ferrous slag	1 Lg. slightly magnetic
105.01	N25E35	02	01	017	3	0.0	0		Calcined mammal bone	
105.01	N25E35	02	01	017	1	0.0	0		Calcined bone	Possibly bird
105.02	N30E35	01	01	004	1	0.0	1830	Price 1979	Trans. prnt. whitew.	Blue floral dec.
105.02	N30E35	01	01	004	1	0.0	1820	South 1972;N. Hume 1976	Undec. whiteware	Rim sherds
105.02	N30E35	01	01	004	1	0.0	1830	South 1972;N. Hume 1976	Trans. prnt. whitew.	Black floral decoration
105.02	N30E35	01	01	004	1	0.0	1820	South 1972;N. Hume 1976	Undec. whiteware	Tiny sherd
105.02	N30E35	02	01	017	3	0.0	0		Calcined mammal bone	
105.02	N30E35	02	01	017	1	0.0	0		Mammal tooth	
105.02	N30E35	98	00	112	6	80.0	0		Ferrous slag	
105.02	N30E35	09	09	089	1	0.0	0		Shell fragment	
105.02	N30E35	98	00	112	1	2.0	0		Cinder/Slag	
105.02	N30E35	98	00	078	1	0.0	0		Burned glass	
105.02	N30E35	98	00	049	1	0.0	0		Mica frg.	
105.02	N30E35	03	06	003	2	9.8	0		Poss. Box tile	
105.02	N30E35	03	06	069	1	5.0	0		Red brick frg.	
105.02	N30E35	03	01	078	4	0.0	0		Window glass	
105.02	N30E35	03	01	078	1	0.0	1835	Peterson 1976	Window glass	Starburst pattern
105.02	N30E35	03	06	102	1	0.0	0		Tar paper	
105.03	N35E35	01	01	004	1	0.0	1830	Price 1979	Trans prnt. whitew.	Black floral dec.
105.03	N35E35	09	09	089	1	0.1	0		Clam shell frg.	tiny
105.03	N35E35	98	00	112	1	30.0	0		Slag	
105.03	N35E35	98	00	112	3	10.4	0		Cinders	
105.03	N35E35	98	00	095	1	1.6	0		Coal	

APPENDIX 2:
CONTEXT RECORD FORMS

Cx. 100-113

CONTEXT NUMBER

100

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 25

E 35

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5/22/87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Dynamore 190

Bill Moran operator

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color

Black 7.5 YR 2/0

of Parking Lot 1" - 2"
(See schematic section - over)

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx #

Overlies Cx # 101

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx #

Eqv'lent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

1	0	1		
---	---	---	--	--

SITE CODE

--	--

--	--	--

GRID UNIT

N 2 S

E 3 S

CREW CHIEF

WD

RECORDER

WD

DATE

5/22/87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

--	--	--	--	--

Y

--	--	--	--	--

Z

--	--	--	--	--

DIGGING TOOLS

Dynamac 120

Bill Moran operator

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color

Fill of basement
of Penn Central Stock Bldg - whatever
later uses

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by

Cx #

100

Overlies

Cx #

103

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqv lent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Fill
at low corner of parking
lot is approx. 13' deep

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

Mixed 20th century
debris

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

102

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 25

E 35

CREW CHIEF

MD

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5/22/87

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Dynamometer

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color Grey

4" Concrete

aggregate principally rounded (natural)
quartz pebbles - i.e. - not crushed stone

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx #

104

Overlies

Cx #

104 3

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqv. lent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Basement Floor

probably assoc. with final
building phase on lot. post-
Stockyard - perhaps © 1920

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

103

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 25 E 35

CREW CHIEF MD

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

RECORDER MD

DATE 5/22/87

X Y Z

DIGGING TOOLS Dynahoe

Context Description

Munsell Color grey brown

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Granite Blocks

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # 102

Overlies Cx # 109

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx #

Eqv'lent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

~~Basement Floor~~
 Basement Floor probable
~~original floor~~ original floor of
 New York Central Stock yard
 building

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

Granite rough cut block
 approx. 4 x 6 x 8

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

DRAWINGS:

	B&W	COLOR
VERTICAL		
SECTION		
OBLIQUE	✓	
GENERAL		

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

104

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 25

E 305

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 22 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Dynamhoe

Bill Moran - operator

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color 10 YR 5/4 Yellow Brown

ranges from Fine to Medium, mostly fine sand
6" to 1.5' thick

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx #

103

Overlies

Cx #

105

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqivalent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

apparent base material for
"cobble" floor of N.Y.C
Stock yard building

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

105

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 2 S

E 3 S

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 22 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Dynamometer

Bill Moran - operator

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color 10 YR 3/2 Very Dark Grey Brown

Burned Layer - slag
charcoal - burned wood - rubble including
cinder in matrix of silt.

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by

Cx # 104

Overlies

Cx #

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqivalent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

probable spread of material
demolition refuse from Bone
Black and earlier Forge assoc.
structures

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

106

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 50

E 30

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 28 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Dynamometer + Manual

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color

Very Dk. Grey to Black

Thin (.2") browned layer
under concrete floor and overlying
cobbles. local area of demolition material

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by

Cx #

102

Overlies

Cx #

103

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqivalent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Demolition layer associated
with demise of N.Y.C
stock yards

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

✓

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

✓

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

107

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 50

E 30

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 28 / 57

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Manual shovel / Trowel

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color 10 YR 2/1 Black

(See schematic section - over)

Oily sooty layer

Silt w/ much charcoal, wood frags, cinders, soot etc.

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx #

104

Overlies

Cx #

111 + 103

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqivalent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Possibly comparable to (105)
 but seems to contain no
 slag or rubble. may be
 associated with demolition of
 specific area or object i.e.
 furnace or chimney soot

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

some bone

hence bone black

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

108

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 50

E 30

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5/28/87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

hand trowel

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color 10 YR 3/3 Dark Brown

w/ very few inclusions

Dark Brown silty sand (fine sand)

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by

Cx #

111

Overlies

Cx #

109

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

113

Eqv'lent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Fill Layer associated
w/ dirt wall possibly
contemporary w/ Forge or
Bone Black Maw.

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken/
Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

1	0	9		
---	---	---	--	--

SITE CODE

--	--

--	--

GRID UNIT

N	5	0
---	---	---

E	3	0
---	---	---

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 28 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

--	--	--	--	--

Y

--	--	--	--	--

Z

--	--	--	--	--

DIGGING TOOLS

Manual Travel Shovel

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color 10 YR 5/4 yellow brown

Very fine yellow / sand / silt

Sandy Silt w/ no inclusions

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by

Cx #

108

Overlies

Cx #

110

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

113

Eqv'lent to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Like 108. Fill layer associated w/ shist wall, ⁽¹¹³⁾ possibly contemporaneous w/ Forge or Bone Black Mound. Have considered that this layer could be molder's sand and shist wall retainer for large casting bed.

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

1110

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 50

E 30

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 28 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS Manually Trowel

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color 10 YR 5/2 Gray Brown

Bottom most layer

Dark/Med Brown silty sand w/ some

pebble - gravel inclusions, ^{about} Exposed about

2' to bottom of excavation - ground

became very wet at this point - found

standing water at this level at beginning of

following day. some small pockets of yellow/red

sand. high concentration of mica flecks.

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # 109 - 113

Overlies Cx #

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx #

Eqv'lent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

May be original natural surface
strata. ~~at surface~~

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

at surface
some brick frags! very few
small flecks of charcoal

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:/

Flotation

Soil L Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--

SITE CODE

--	--

--	--	--	--

GRID UNIT

N 50

E 30

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 28 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X					
---	--	--	--	--	--

Y					
---	--	--	--	--	--

Z					
---	--	--	--	--	--

DIGGING TOOLS

troweled

Context Description

Munsell Color 5 YR 5/6 Yellowish Red

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Very densely compacted pinkish-red/brown clay lens - runs about 3 feet in the west section and ends immediately above schist rock wall (113) on north end of unit - In south section layer extends only about 1.5' easterly from corner w/ west section

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by

Cx # 107

- Overlies

Cx # 108-113

Cuts

Cx #

Cut by

Cx #

Abuts

Cx #

Eqv. to

Cx #

INTERPRETATION

This lens may be earliest demolition layer - post Bone Black Manufactory. alternatively could be associated with (a cap) on earthen structure 108, 109, 113

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

a few tiny brick frags.

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

1112

SITE CODE

GRID UNIT

N 50

E 30

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5/29/87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

Y

Z

DIGGING TOOLS

Troweled

Context Description

Munsell Color 10 YR 5/3 Brown

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Mottled loosely compacted yellow/brown mixed sand/silt/clay.

Sandy silt w/ clay and gravel inclusions

Because of water level in is not clear

were. The bottom limit of this layer is -

but it probably ends on 110 at a slightly

lower level than 109 - 113

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # 107

Overlies Cx # 110 (possibly)

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx # ~~107~~ + 113

Eqivalent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

CONTEXT NUMBER

	1	1	3		

SITE CODE

--	--

--	--	--	--

GRID UNIT

N				
---	--	--	--	--

E				
---	--	--	--	--

CREW CHIEF

MD

RECORDER

MD

DATE

5 / 29 / 87

CENTER POINT COORDINATES

X

--	--	--	--	--

Y

--	--	--	--	--

Z

--	--	--	--	--

DIGGING TOOLS

Context Description

(Composition, texture, inclusions)

Munsell Color

unmattered stone alignment (wall)

(Addressed against boulders)

STRATIGRAPHY

Overlaid by Cx # 107 / 111

Overlies Cx # 110

Cuts Cx #

Cut by Cx #

Abuts Cx #

Eqivalent to Cx #

INTERPRETATION

Not a footing and not the wall of a major brick building

Appears to be a simply constructed dry laid retaining wall of fill struct.

or lining of pit structure

GENERAL ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACTS IN SITU

PHOTOGRAPHS (Roll #.):

B&W

COLOR

VERTICAL

SECTION

OBLIQUE

GENERAL

DRAWINGS:

SECTION #:

PLAN #:

Samples Taken:

Flotation

Soil

Other

APPENDIX 3:
THE CONTEXT SYSTEM



APPENDIX 3 THE CONTEXT SYSTEM

Complex strata were a possibility at the 641 West 59th Street Site, so a field recording system that could encompass this situation as well as the large number of finds expected, was required. Another requirement of the system was that it be compatible with computerized data management. It was with these requirements in mind that the field recording system used in this project was selected.

The stratigraphic recording system used at the site was derived from recent developments in British archaeological field methodology. In this system, the term Context is used to represent the minimal unit of stratification. On this project, this was the smallest observable natural stratigraphic deposit within a grid unit. A unique 3-digit Context number was used to identify each Context observed and described in the field. Contexts representing parts or all of strata are treated in exactly the same manner as those representing parts of all of the features. Each Context is given its own identifying Context number when initially described. It can then be interpreted as a feature or part of a stratum at any stage during the excavation or post-excavation stratigraphic analysis. In the case of deposits with a series of lenses or layers within a feature, decimal subdivisions of the Context number were employed (i.e. 397.02), to stress the relationship of these deposits as part of the same feature. This system can easily be used on a site where excavation by arbitrary stratigraphic units has been deemed necessary. The context was also used on other projects to record the location of surface finds.

The primary record of each Context is the Context Recording Sheet. Most of the form should be self-explanatory. All the various slots and boxes were filled in immediately with the appropriate information by the excavator. Particular attention was paid to the accurate recording of the soil texture and inclusions, the Munsell color reading, and the various stratigraphic inter-relationships.

There are a number of advantages in the Context recording system. The use of only one number register to identify all varieties of soil deposits eliminates the premature interpretation of deposits that was necessary with many other recording systems. It is often difficult, if not impossible, to classify soil deposits when they are initially uncovered. Using the Context system, deposits are simply assigned Context numbers and excavated. They can be interpreted or re-interpreted at any time during or after their excavation without any need to change their identifying Context number. This leads directly to the Context system's second advantage. There is no possibility of confusing numbers issued from one register with these from any others if there is only one number register used to record and identify soil deposits. Another advantage is derived from using this single

G

deposits. Another advantage is derived from using this single identifying number not only for the soil deposits and its description, but also for all the artifacts from the deposit during all stages of their processing, analysis and curation. One further advantage is the ability to expand the system. The Context numbers are a potentially infinite sequence, so any size site or survey can be encompassed. The final advantage present here is that the Context system is a digital recording system. As such, it is immediately adaptable for computer entry and numerical data sorting.