TECHNICAL PROPOSAL
TO PERFORM SUPPLEMENTAL PHASE 1B INVESTIGATIONS AT REGO PARK MALL, QUEENS, NEW YORK
CEQRA NO. 86013-Q

B 2084

Prepared For:

THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION

Prepared By:

THE CULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP
LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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NONDISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The data contained in this proposal shall not be used or disclosed -in whole or in part- for any purpose except evaluation. If, however, a contract is awarded to this submitter as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, the contracting agency shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose this data to the extent provided in the resulting contract.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Phase IA report, prepared by Historical Perspectives Incorporated, found records of a circa 1812 farmstead within the southernmost portion of the Rego Park Mall project area in Queens, New York. In addition, the study also indicated that known prehistoric archaeological sites were located in the vicinity of the project area in a very similar environmental setting. The southern portion of the project area, based on the Phase IA study, was therefore determined by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYCLPC) to be potentially sensitive to both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. On December 1 and 2, 1987, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (LBA) under contract with the Trump Organization, monitored the excavation of four geotechnical soil borings within this sensitive area (Figure 1). The purpose of the monitoring (which was a Phase IB study) was to ascertain if the borings would provide adequate subsurface data to determine whether any archaeological remains were extant within the project tract.

The four monitored test borings indicated that between 12 and 15 feet of loose to dense fill (Stratum A) overlay a possible ground surface in this area (Figure 2). The majority of this fill consisted of sand, gravel and silt mixed with coal, ash, cinder, and building rubble (i.e., brick, mortar, window glass, etc.). This was followed by what may be the original ground surface, Stratum B. Very little artifactual (i.e., extremely small fragments of brick, window glass, ceramics, etc.) material was recovered from the three inch diameter borings taken within this deposit. However, this material may not be associated with Stratum B, but could have been worked down into this deposit from the above fill layer by the action of the core. Stratum C was directly below the possible ground surface (Stratum B) and consisted of coarse to fine red glacial sands with gravel. No material was recovered from this deposit.

The borings did not provide the type of subsurface data that is needed to determine the actual presence or absence of archaeological remains. As a result, LBA recommends that a supplemental Phase 1B be conducted within the project tract. This supplemental work would consist of backhoe trenching, focusing on the areas of high archaeological sensitivity. The goal of this supplemental study is to identify the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the proposed construction site. The results of this investigation will determine whether any locations within the project area require Phase II archaeological testing to determine the significance of any identified archaeological remains. This proposal does not provide a scope of work for Phase II testing, given that the need for a testing phase cannot be determined at this time, and, in fact, that it may not be required.

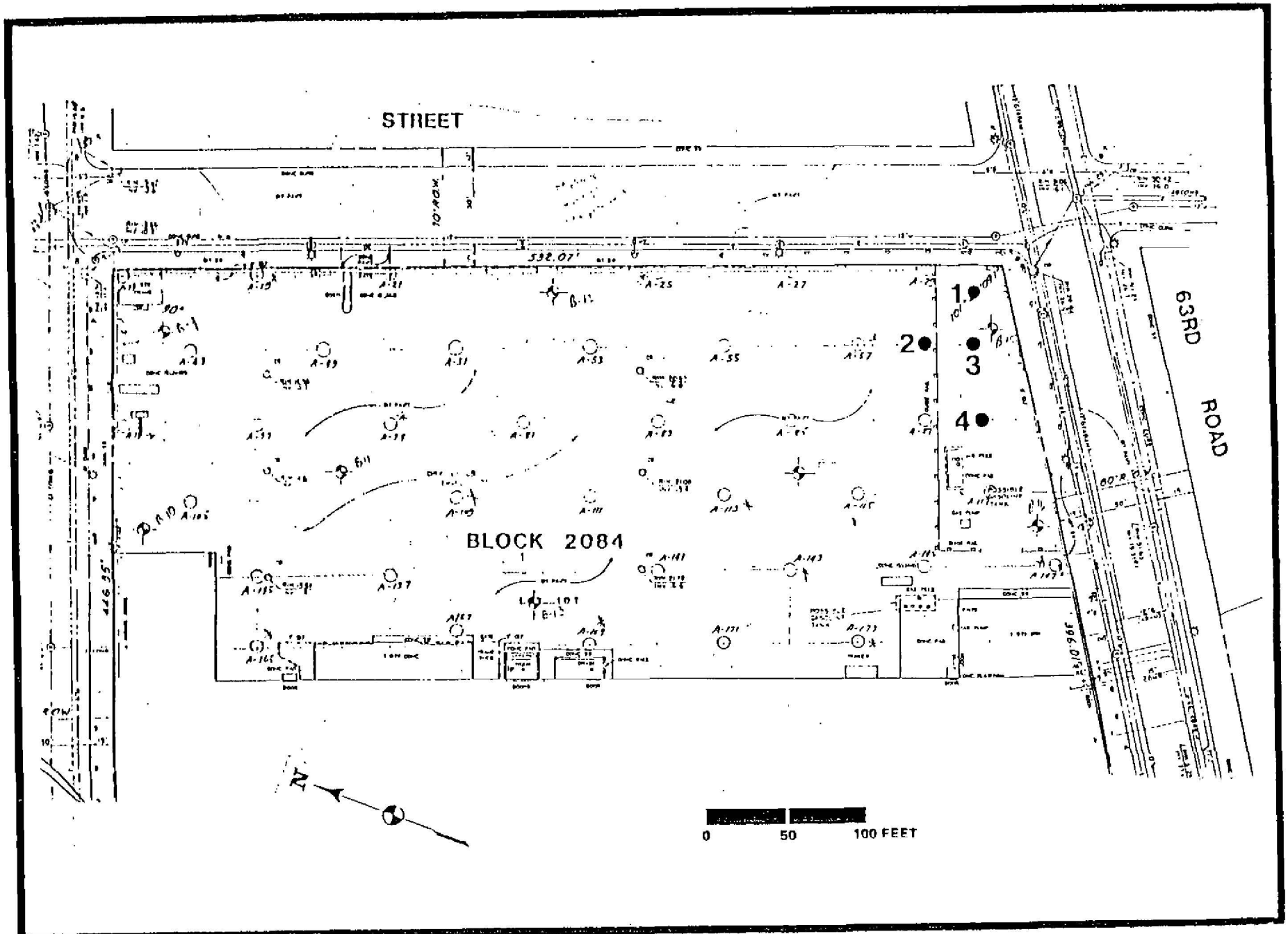

FIGURE 1: Borings for Archaeological Study

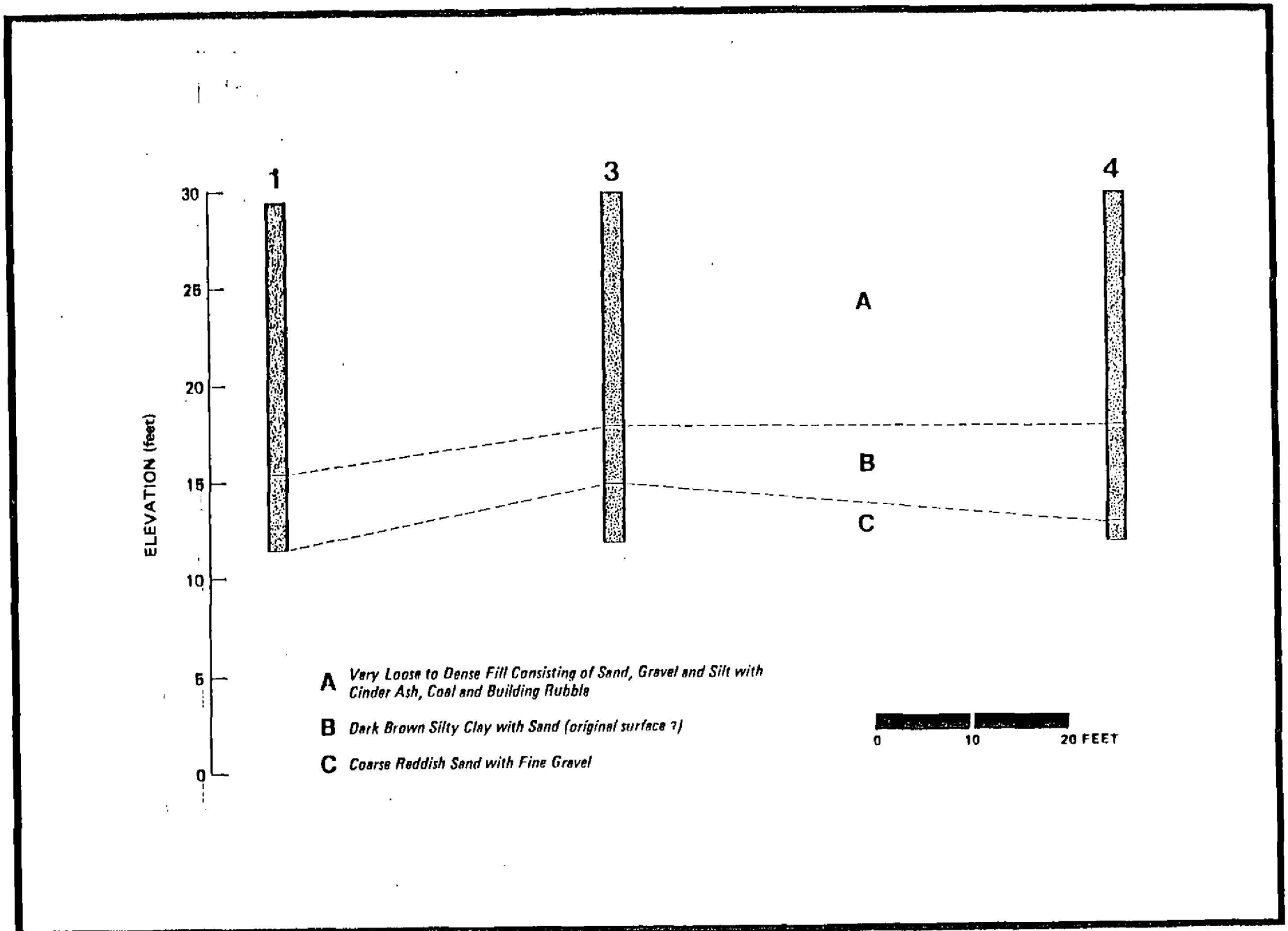

FIGURE 2: Archaeological Test Borings and Inferred Subsurface Profile, Rego Park Mall Project, Queens, New York

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYCLPC) has concerns about both the historic and prehistoric potential of the site. As noted above, the concern for prehistoric potential is based on known archaeological sites located in the immediate vicinity of the Rego Park Mall area in a very similar environmental setting. Historically, the Phase IA study found records of a farmstead at this location around 1812. Because of these results, the Phase IB study will be sensitive to both prehistoric and historic archaeological resources.

LBA proposes that the emphasis of the study be on the historic resources. This proposed focus is recommended primarily because of the geotechnical data generated by Woodward-Clyde for the project. The composite profile presented in their study (see attached profile and planview) indicated that between 14 and 18 feet of fill overlie sediment native to this location. The immediate question is whether that natural sediment is, in fact, the original ground surface. If so, then the potential for prehistoric occupation is present and needs to be addressed. The northern portion of the site contains substantial deposits of organic clay and peat (labeled Strata 2 and 3 in the Woodward-Clyde profile). This suggests a swampy environment which would not normally be heavily used during the prehistoric period. Because of this, it does not appear that prehistoric sites would exist at this location. Stratum 4 in the Woodward-Clyde profile (located in the southern half of the project area), may represent the original ground surface and may have some potential for a prehistoric site. This potential is supported by LBA's monitoring of the four geotechnical soil borings.

Based on the soils and background data, we propose that the most effective means of determining the presence or absence of cultural resources is to focus the majority of testing on the southern half of the project tract. By concentrating in this area we will be able to address the location which has the greatest prehistoric and historic potential within the same subsurface investigation. As detailed below, the use of backhoe trenches will give us the necessary data on the historic potential and at the same time provide us with sufficient depth to explore the possibility for prehistoric artifactual remains.

II. FIELD INVESTIGATION

Fieldwork within the project area will involve excavation of six judgmentally placed backhoe trenches, measuring approximately 5 feet by 20 feet. Five trenches will be placed in the southern half of the project area, as generally indicated in the attached photocopy of the Woodward-Clyde base map. We anticipate placing one trench in the northern portion of the site. This distribution allows for a full exploration of the sensitive areas of the site and a brief inspection of the area where the potential appears low but is presently unknown.

Each trench will be dug by natural and/or culturally defined strata. A sample of soil from all strata from each trench will be screened (minimally 5 gal. per strata), through 1/4-inch mesh hardware cloth. Measurements will be taken to document changes in soil texture, color, and content. Cultural material recovered will be properly provenienced. The backhoe trenches will be excavated to at least two feet below the "very loose to dense fill, consisting of sand, gravel, silt, wood cinders, trash, and rubble," into the "dense to very dense brown and gray silty coarse to fine sands, trace of gravel" (Woodward-Clyde 1987). If historic resources are present, they will most likely be contained within the uppermost fill deposits. If prehistoric resources are present and Stratum 4 is an original surface they will be within the upper few feet of this stratum. At the completion of each excavation, all soils will be redeposited into the trench.

Information on each backhoe trench will be recorded on data sheets developed by LBA for this type of work. Data will include soil stratum color, texture, and beginning and ending depths below surface. If required, two walls of each backhoe trench will be profiled. All tests will be tied into existing landmarks within and adjacent to the project area.

III. LABORATORY ANALYSES AND REPORTING

Diagnostic artifacts recovered from the tests will be analyzed in LBA's laboratory. All recovered materials, including floral and faunal remains, will be cleaned, and all diagnostic materials will be fully provenienced and labeled. Recovered artifacts will be identified, as far as possible, to cultural and temporal affiliation, material, style, function, form, etc. If a potentially significant site is defined, analysis will be sufficient to provide a preliminary site type definition.

Upon completion of the artifact analysis, a report will be prepared, consisting of the results of the field reconnaissance and artifact analysis. The report will include, but not be limited to, the following sections: introduction, description of the project, environmental setting, overview of background research, survey expectations, field methodology, results of fieldwork, recommendations, and bibliography. The report will provide recommendations for any additional work, if necessary, and will explain how this work might be conducted. We will submit this report to your office for review and eventual transmittal to City Planning and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

IV. STAFFING AND SCHEDULE

Staff archaeologists will be available to begin this work within one week of notice to proceed. The archaeologist supervising

this study will be Edward Morin, who is certified by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA), as per the requirements of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Mr. Morin's resume is enclosed. Once initiated, fieldwork will run five days and report preparation is anticipated to require three weeks.

Table 1 details the hours budgeted for the various tasks required for this supplemental Phase 1B work. We have included time for a backhoe (with operator) in order to quickly identify archaeological resources. Urban data retrieval programs previously undertaken by LBA have found this method to be the most cost-efficient. From the Stage IA report supplied to us by your office, it appears that the historic fill (upper 15+ feet) will be the primary concern. This can easily be reached by a backhoe.

TABLE 1

PERSONNEL HOURS

TITLE	HOURS
TASK: Fieldwork	
Principal Investigator	40
Field Crew (4)	160
TASK: Report Preparation and Production	
Principal Investigator	40
Material Specialist	8
Laboratory Technician	80
Report Coordinator	8
Word Processor Operator	16
Draftsperson	16
Photographer	8