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STAGE 1A ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL
SENSITIVITY STUDY OF THE
NATHAN COURT DEVELOPMENT
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

CEQR# 95-DEP-215R

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Stage 1A archaeological/historical sensitivity study is to document potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed Nathan Court Development project through the review of existing archival, cartographic and published references. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey shall include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric resources in the immediate area surrounding the project area and a summary of the history of this location.

The Nathan Court Development project area is located in southwestern Staten Island. The project area consists of approximately 1.1 acres which is located to the northwest of the Prince's Bay Station. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

This study is organized in the following manner: first, a section describes the geography and physical setting; second, a section on the prehistoric sensitivity of the area; third, a review of the historic sensitivity of the area; fourth, the sensitivity study results and recommendations for testing.



Figure 1 Project area location shown on portion of U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Arthur Kill N.Y.-N.J. Quadrangle, 1966, photorevised 1981.



GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province of New York State. Long Island is the only other location in the state where this province occurs (Van Diver 1985:34). Geographically, Staten Island is part of New Jersey from which it is separated by the Kill Van Kull and the Staten Island Sound (Skinner 1909).

The geomorphology of Staten Island consists of landforms and deposits of glacial origin. The sediments were deposited by the Wisconsin Ice Sheet 55,000 - 10,000 years ago and generally consist of ground moraine, terminal moraine and outwash sediments (Jacobsen 1980:5). The shoreline area in this portion of Staten Island is comprised of sandy embankments of beach sand adjacent to and at times overlying the area's geologically earlier glacial deposits of Cretaceous formations of sand and clay (Weingartner 1967:41). Local glacial deposits may be overlaid by fill as well as beach, marsh, dune, swamp, and estuarine deposits (Jacobsen 1980:5).

During May 1995 the Principal Investigator visited the Nathan Court project area in Staten Island. During this visit a pedestrian survey was conducted to inspect the project area. The majority of the project area was covered with a moderate growth of grasses, shrubs and trees on the higher ground, and reeds on areas of lower elevation. The project area contained no standing structures. It did contain one brick and hard mortar foundation. Much of the central portion of the project area appeared to be disturbed. Several piles of spoil or fill were evident. This was not the case for the southwestern and eastern portions of the project area. Here the land appeared relatively undisturbed with a number of trees growing on a relatively flat expanse at the top of the slope.



PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished resources in the archives and library of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, the library of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. Materials collected by the Principal Investigator over the last nine years were also utilized during this research effort. Most prehistoric archaeological work undertaken by both professional and avocational archaeologists historically has been concentrated on this southwestern portion of Staten Island (Baugher 1985:personal communication). This work should eliminate the problems of inadequate archaeological survey coverage particularly evident in the interior of the island.

Table 1 presents the results of our search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the Nathan Court project area. Included in the table are 30 sites located two miles or less from the project area. The locations of these sites are presented on Figure 2 with letter code identifiers which correspond to those in Table 1.

Of the 30 known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, a few, including New Sites 1 and 2, were excavated under controlled conditions. The rest represent either surface finds, less well documented excavated finds by local amateur archaeologists, or the usually completely undocumented finds of pothunters.

Alanson Skinner, one of the first professional archaeologists to work extensively on Staten Island, characterized the locations chosen by prehistoric populations on the island as follows: "Throughout Staten Island, with very few exceptions, aboriginal sites are confined entirely to the sandy spots" (1912:90).

A number of these 30 sites are known primarily through the work of Arthur Parker, an early twentieth century New York State Archaeologist, during the first quarter of this century. Included are seven sites designated "A", "B", "N", "S", "T", "X", and "AD" in Table 1 and Figure 2. These are described as varying in size and importance from traces of occupation through campsites to villages. Occasionally other features such as burials or shell middens are mentioned in the brief descriptions.



We have supplied the name Kreischerville for site "S" due to its location near the old settlement now known as Charleston, and Lemon Creek for site "A" due to its proximity to this stream. Unfortunately, no detailed descriptions of artifacts recovered from these sites are supplied, so no assessments of date ranges can be made (Parker 1922). Lemon Creek is the nearest site to the Nathan Court project area.

A series of prehistoric sites have been reported along the south shore of the island in the vicinity of Prince's Bay. The earliest mention of these is by Skinner who shows three locations, all referenced as Huguenot (Skinner 1909:16). All three locations are currently listed in the files of Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences as the Red Bank Site, the Sharrott Avenue Site, and the Wolfe's Pond Site. All of these sites lie within two miles of the Nathan Court project area. The Red Bank site is also noted by Parker (1922: Plate 211) as a campsite location on his distribution map of prehistoric sites in Richmond County. The site registration form on file with the S.I.I.A.S. described the Red Bank Site as being on the property of the Mount Loretto Girls Home on the shorefront approximately 500 feet east of the former location of Jack's Creek (Salwen 1957). A description of artifacts recovered includes pottery, so the period of occupation includes the Woodland Period (Pickman 1978:II/27). The Red Bank Site is approximately 1.7 miles southwest of the project area and is designated "N" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. The Sharrott Avenue Site is located approximately 0.6 miles northeast of the Red Bank Site or about 1.2 miles southwest of the project area. Forms on file with the S.I.I.A.S. describe its location as the shore end of Sharrott Avenue but describe the artifacts found there in such general terms as to preclude identification of the period of occupation (Salwen 1957, 1967). The Sharrott Avenue Site is designated "E" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. The Wolfe's Pond Site is located approximately 1.2 miles southeast of the project area and is described only as a shell midden. The Wolfe's Pond Site is designated "D" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. Just to the north of the Wolfe's Pond site is the Holton Avenue site, designated "C" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. This site is listed in the files of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, but they supplied no additional data regarding it.

The twelfth nearest prehistoric site is the Mount Loretto Site, designated "L" on Figure 2 and Table 1. The Mount Loretto site is located approximately 1.5 miles to the southwest of the project area. This site was discovered during the survey undertaken in advance of the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project, and reported by Pickman and Yamin to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation. Arnold Pickman described the Mount Loretto site as a small lithic scatter (Pickman 1989:personal communication).



Also located approximately 1.1 miles from the project area is the Huguenot Avenue Site, designated "F" in Table 1 and Figure 2. The Huguenot Avenue Site is situated east of the project area near to the intersection with Hylan Boulevard. It was reported to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as a result of work on the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project.

The next site found during our search into prehistoric resources near the Nathan Court project is Canada Hill which is approximately 1.4 miles west of the project area. This site was initially located during a field survey by L. Williams, then of New York University, and presently curator of collections at the New Jersey State Museum. Although never formally published, a brief site registration form with a site map was placed on file at the S.I.I.A.S. Williams described Canada Hill as a sector of high ground "... bounded by Drumgoole Blvd., Arthur Kill Road, Englewood Avenue and the West Shore Expressway" (Williams n.d.). In her limited survey of the site, Williams collected both prehistoric and historic artifacts including tobacco pipe fragments, a whelk column, chert and quartz debitage, historic ceramics, and fire-cracked rock (Williams n.d.). Unfortunately, this description is not sufficient to assign the site to a period of occupation. Canada Hill is designated "M" in Table 1 and on Figure 2.

Another site found during our research into the prehistory of this region is the Sandy Ground Site, designated "G" in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site, approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the project area is primarily an historic site known for its association with early black settlers. The N.Y.S.O.P.R.H.P. indicates that some prehistoric artifacts were also recovered there.

The Arbutus Avenue site is located approximately 1.4 miles east of the Nathan Court project area. This site, designated "K" in Table 1 and Figure 2, is described as a scatter of lithic flakes found during work on the Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project.

An additional two sites were discovered by Alanson Skinner, an early twentieth century archaeologist associated with the American Museum of Natural History. These sites are designated "I" and "U" in Table 1 and Figure 2. Although the descriptions of these sites are very brief, some of the artifacts recovered are mentioned. Site "I", Wort Farm, evidently contained burials, and probably dates to the Late Archaic through Late Woodland Periods and possibly into the Contact period. Site "U", the Rossville Shell Heap site, obviously included shell middens and probably dwellings. It dates to the Woodland Period based on the description of the ceramics recovered (Skinner 1909:10-22).



Another prehistoric site northwest of the Nathan Court project area is the Clay Pit Road Site located approximately 1.6 miles distant. The Clay Pit Road Site is designated "J" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. This site is assigned to the Middle and Late Woodland periods based on the recovery of pottery (including Vinette Modified) and projectile points (Pickman 1978:II-8). The Clay Pit Road site was located during a recent survey by professional archaeologists.

Approximately 1.5 miles west of the project area, a prehistoric site was reported in the Richmond Valley which included a shell midden and artifacts from the Woodland Period.

Joseph Bodnar and his sons have been working on a shell heap in Richmond Valley which was a dumping ground of prehistoric Indians. They have brought to light many decorated shards of pottery, several broken awls, triangular arrowheads and carbon for dating (*The New Bulletin* 1961).

This site was probably located at Boiling Spring in Richmond Valley, based on Leng and Davis' statement that "... at Richmond Valley, paths led through to the red sandstone lighthouse on the bluff overlooking Prince's Bay (see above); another went past the one time Indian camping place at the spring ..." (Leng and Davis 1930:726). The Richmond Valley site is designated "O" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. It dates to the Woodland period based on the presence of pottery and triangular projectile points.

Two prehistoric sites exist to the southwest of the Nathan Court development, known by the name Page Avenue, which we have designated Page Avenue North and South. The larger prehistoric site is the Page Avenue North Site, designated "P" in Table 1 and on Figure 2, approximately 1.8 miles southwest of the project area. This site is situated along both sides of Page Avenue about 0.2 miles north of Hylan Boulevard and over 0.3 miles south of Amboy Road (Anderson 1965). Though to be a possible campsite, artifacts recovered included projectile points, flakes, a two-holed gorget, large blades, a decorated shaft-weight, prehistoric ceramic sherds, pestles, graver, drills, knives and scrapers, a grooved ax and decorated pendants. A mortar was uncovered at 22 inches below grade which was the lowest depth at which artifacts were found. Anderson further states that "... countless fires and shifting winds have altered this sandy site considerably ..." (Anderson 1965:64), which again indicates a preference of prehistoric inhabitants for occupying areas of sandy soil. An area of the Page Avenue North Site to the east of that described above also produced a burial pit containing the secondary burial of a child and a dog.



The oval shaped pit, measuring about three feet in any given direction, was possibly no more than two feet in depth originally. A rise, or knoll nearby has been eroded by the elements to such an extent that it has deposited about twelve inches of fill over the site of interment (Anderson 1966:87).

Radiocarbon dates applied elsewhere to this focus offered dates "... between 700 and 905 A.D." (Anderson 1966:87). Associated with the burial were sherds of fabric-impressed pottery, a netsinker and a quartz projectile point. Anderson further stated that "... the site had been occupied on at least four different occasions" (Anderson 1966:90); the lowest level dating to the Early Archaic. Shell pits in the area near the burial pit produced pendants and a pebble celt. A large concentration of projectile points, scrapers and a grooved ax were found 25 feet from the burial. It was also reported that "... historic material including a cannonball, two George II coins (ca. 1700 [sic]) a Spanish Real of the same period, and colonial dishware fragments" (Pickman 1978:II-23) as well as prehistoric artifacts were recovered. If the identifications of the British coins is accurate, then they date between 1727 and 1760.

A second area of prehistoric finds approximately 0.4 miles to the south of the above Page Avenue site is also known by the same name. This second site is referred to here as the Page Avenue South Site, and is designated "Q" in Table 1 and Figure 2. This site is also apparently known as Tottenville Campsite 4, and the Hollowell Site in the files of the New York State Museum. This site is situated along both sides of Page Avenue south of Hylan Boulevard, approximately 1.7 miles southwest of the project area. These finds were first reported to the S.I.I.A.S. in 1966 (Kaesar 1966). The area of prehistoric remains was reported to be approximately 200 yards in length beginning 50 feet south of Hylan Boulevard. A description of the remains includes Middle to Late Woodland type pottery, the basal portion of a side-notched projectile point which had been reworked to make a drill, a hammerstone, chert debitage, burned oyster and clam shells, a 'small conch and columella of conch,' and 'split deer bone fragments' (ibid.). A series of letters by avocational archaeologist Donald R. Sainz to Gail K. Schneider, then with the Staten Island Museum, indicate that earlier Archaic Period remains were also recovered at this site (Sainz 1968). A visit to this site in April 1985 by Greenhouse Consultants' staff confirmed its existence on reasonably elevated sandy soil. Greenhouse Consultants undertook Phase 1B archaeological testing at this site during 1987 but no intact prehistoric deposits were found.

The eighteenth nearest prehistoric site to the Nathan Court project area is the Bedell Avenue Site. This site was found during survey work for the Oakwood Beach



Water Pollution Control Project. It was reported to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by archaeologists Arnold Pickman and Rebecca Yamin. This site is described as lithic scatter (Pickman 1989: personal communication) and is designated "R" on Figure 2 and Table 1.

Yet another site found during the search for prehistoric resources near the development is known as the Kreischerville "Indian Fields" site, which is located approximately 1.9 miles northwest of the project area. This site was originally reported by Parker, who described it as a series of "Indian Fields" from Sandy Brook to Kreischerville (Parker 1922:682). The New York State Museum lists this site as numbers 771 and 4603, and describes it as "traces of occupation." The site was again identified during a 1977 archaeological survey. Rebecca Yamin, an archaeologist on that survey described it as a surface scatter (Yamin 1987: personal communication). The Kreischerville "Indian Fields" site is designated "T" in Table 1 and Figure 2.

The area to the northwest of the Nathan Court project area is the location of a number of prehistoric sites, designated "U", "W", "Y", "Z", "AA", "AB", "AC", and "AD" in Table 1 and Figure 2. Where enough information exists to estimate date ranges, these sites range from the Archaic through Late Woodland periods. Since the reports of these sites appeared over a 71 year time span, they may well represent different reports of a large site complex used at least intermittently over many centuries.

In terms of potential prehistoric sensitivity, the project impact area was evaluated from two points of view:

1. the proximity of known prehistoric sites in or near the project area; and
2. the presence of fresh water drainage courses in general, and particularly the identification of river or stream confluence situations where two or more drainages come together, providing access to both water and food supplies of both systems.

This survey has documented the recorded or published location of 30 sites within a two mile radius of the Nathan Court project area. Although sites have been identified in the general region of the proposed project impact area, none are known to exist within the project area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on previous survey work is available. It would be inappropriate, however, to characterize the Nathan Court project area as without prehistoric sensitivity, especially since the project area is adjacent to a stream that drains into Lemon

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Creek and then into Raritan Bay. The project area would have had reasonably good access to both fresh water and animals attracted to associated marshes. Temporary or seasonal hunting camps would be the type of occupation most likely to exist here, particularly on the higher ground overlooking the stream



Figure 2 Prehistoric sites located within a two mile radius of the project area.

TABLE 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Nathan Court

	Site Name	SIAS#	Parker#	NYSM#	Reference	Period(s)	Description
A.	Sandy Brook	-----	ACP-RICH-14	4604	Parker 1922:682	Mid-Late Wood- land	Burials Traces of occupa- tion
B.	(Lemon Creek)	-----	ACP-RICH	4621	Parker 1922:Pl. 211	-----	Traces of occupa- tion
C.	Holton Avenue	-----	-----	-----	NYSOPRHP Site A085- 01-0015	-----	-----
D.	Wolfe's Pond	STD 12-3 STD-PB	-----	736	Salwen 1957	-----	Shell midden
E.	Sharrott Avenue	STD-PB	-----	740	Salwen 1957, 1967	-----	-----
F.	Huguenot Avenue	-----	-----	-----	NYSOPRHP Site A085- 01-0014 Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984	-----	-----
G.	Sandy Ground	STD 24-3	-----	747	-----	-----	Placed on Na- tional Register Sept. 23, 1982
H.	Rossville Camp- site	STD R-3	-----	-----	Kaeser 1966	Woodland	Campsite



TABLE 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Nathan Court

	Site Name	SIIAS#	Parker#	NYSM#	Reference	Period(s)	Description
I.	Wort Farm	STD 2-3	-----	735	Skinner 1909:10	Late Archaic Late Woodland	-----
J.	Clay Pit Road	-----	-----	-----	Pickman 1978	Mid-Late Wood- land	-----
K.	Arbutus Avenue	-----	-----	-----	NYSOPRHP Site A085- 01-0012 Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984	-----	Lithic flakes
L.	Mount Loretto	-----	-----	-----	Oakwood Beach P.C.P. 1984	-----	Lithic flakes
M.	Canada Hill	-----	-----	770	Williams n.d.	-----	-----
N.	Red Bank (Jack's Creek)	STD-PB	ACP-RICH	741 4620	Skinner 1909 Salwen 1957 Pickman 1978 Parker 1922:Pl. 211	Woodland	-----
O.	Richmond Valley (Boiling Spring)	STD-RV	-----	-----	<i>The New Bulletin</i> 1961	Woodland	-----
P.	Page Avenue North	30RIC7AJA	-----	768	Anderson 1965 Anderson 1966	Archaic & Wood- land	Burial Campsite



TABLE 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Nathan Court

	Site Name	SIAS#	Parker#	NYSM#	Reference	Period(s)	Description
Q.	Page Avenue South	30RIC7AJA	-----	767 (748?)	Kaesar 1966	Archaic & Woodland	-----
R.	Bedell Avenue	-----	-----	-----	Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P. 1984	-----	Lithic scatter
S.	(Kreischerville)	-----	ACP-RICH-16	4606	Parker 1922:683	-----	Campsite
T.	Kreischerville "Indian Fields"	-----	ACP-RICH-13	771 4603	Parker 1922:682 Yamin 1987:pers. comm.	-----	Traces of occupation
U.	Rossville Shell Heap	-----	-----	772	Skinner 1909:11	Woodland	Shell midden
V.	New Site #2	-----	-----	5702	Regensburg in Jacob- sen 1980	Early Woodland	-----
W.	Gerike Farm	-----	-----	-----	Pickman 1978	Archaic/Mid- Late Woodland	-----
X.	-----	-----	ACP-RICH-19	4609	Parker 1922:683	-----	Shell midden
Y.	Distrigas Area 1	-----	-----	2320	Rubertone 1974	-----	-----



TABLE 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Nathan Court

	Site Name	SIIAS#	Parker#	NYSM#	Reference	Period(s)	Description
Z.	New Site #1	-----	-----	5701	Regensburg in Jacob- sen 1980	Middle Woodland	Flint knapping, limited function
AA	Chemical Lane	STD 22-3	-----	739	Rubertone 1974	-----	-----
AB	Pottery Farm	STD 23-3	-----	738	Rubertone 1974	Late Archaic Middle & Late Woodland	-----
AC	St. Luke's Cemetery	-----	-----	-----	Pickman 1978	Archaic Late Woodland	-----
AD	-----	-----	ACP-RICH	4624	Parker 1922:P1.211 Pickman 1978	Archaic Late Woodland	Campsite





HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

Staten Island was called Eghqaous, Montanucke, Monockong, or Aquehonga by the bands of Unami Delaware who inhabited the territory. The island was purchased from the Indians by the Dutch Director General in 1626. By 1630 a patent of the island was granted by Michael Pauw. Two years later, the directors in Holland ordered Cornelius Melyn to establish a colony. In turn, Melyn conveyed his right to title to land on Staten Island to the Dutch West India Company, which in turn, granted land to "... several French Waldenses and to a greater number of Huguenots" (Pickman 1978).

In 1664 Nieuw Amsterdam was ceded to the English. The final purchase of Staten Island from its aboriginal inhabitants was accomplished by the English Governor Francis Lovelace on April 13, 1670. By this time, however, there were a number of Dutch, French and English settlers on the Island who had obtained first Dutch and then English permission to settle. No surveys had been made, however, "... and the boundaries of their lands, as well as their title to them, were quite indefinite" (Leng and Davis 1930:741). Governor Lovelace ordered land surveys to be undertaken and this task was completed under Governor Andros by 1677.

Frederick Skene's 1907 map of Staten Island, tentatively delineating colonial land patents between 1668-1712, places the project area within land not granted. During the Revolutionary War encampments and redoubts lined the southern shore of Staten Island (Pickman 1978:vi). Just beyond the Tottenville ferry to the south was "... a strong battery erected to cover the retreat of the British Army from Perth Amboy in case of attack by American forces" (Tancredi *et al.* 1977). During the Revolution Staten Island was used primarily as a way station and access route by British and Hessian troops. Prince's Bay to the project area's southeast, was used by the British as a point from which to launch raids on New Jersey. Most incidents in this area appear to have taken the form of skirmishes on the water (Powell 1976:8-9). The Hessian Map (ca. 1777, Plan no. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island), shows a Colonel Van Wurumb and two companies of Hessians stationed at Billop's or the Amboy ferry. The Billops had ties to the loyalists. McMillen's 1933 Map of Staten Island during the Revolution (1775-1783 [compiled from several maps dating to the Revolutionary War Period and other sources]) does not reveal any encampments or other forms of military activities within or adjacent to the project area. Both maps show houses along the north side of Amboy Road to the south of the project area.



In 1688 the settlements comprising Richmond County were divided into four towns. The project area became part of Westfield, which by the beginning of the eighteenth century was considered the wealthiest of the four towns (Clute 1887:206; Morris 1898:41). A 1797 Map of the County of Richmond is the earliest available cartographic source to show the areas covered by these four towns and their new designations.

The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

A number of maps and atlases depicting the Nathan Court project area during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were examined to search for evidence of possible structures and names associated with the property. Two representative examples are presented here as Figures 3 and 4.

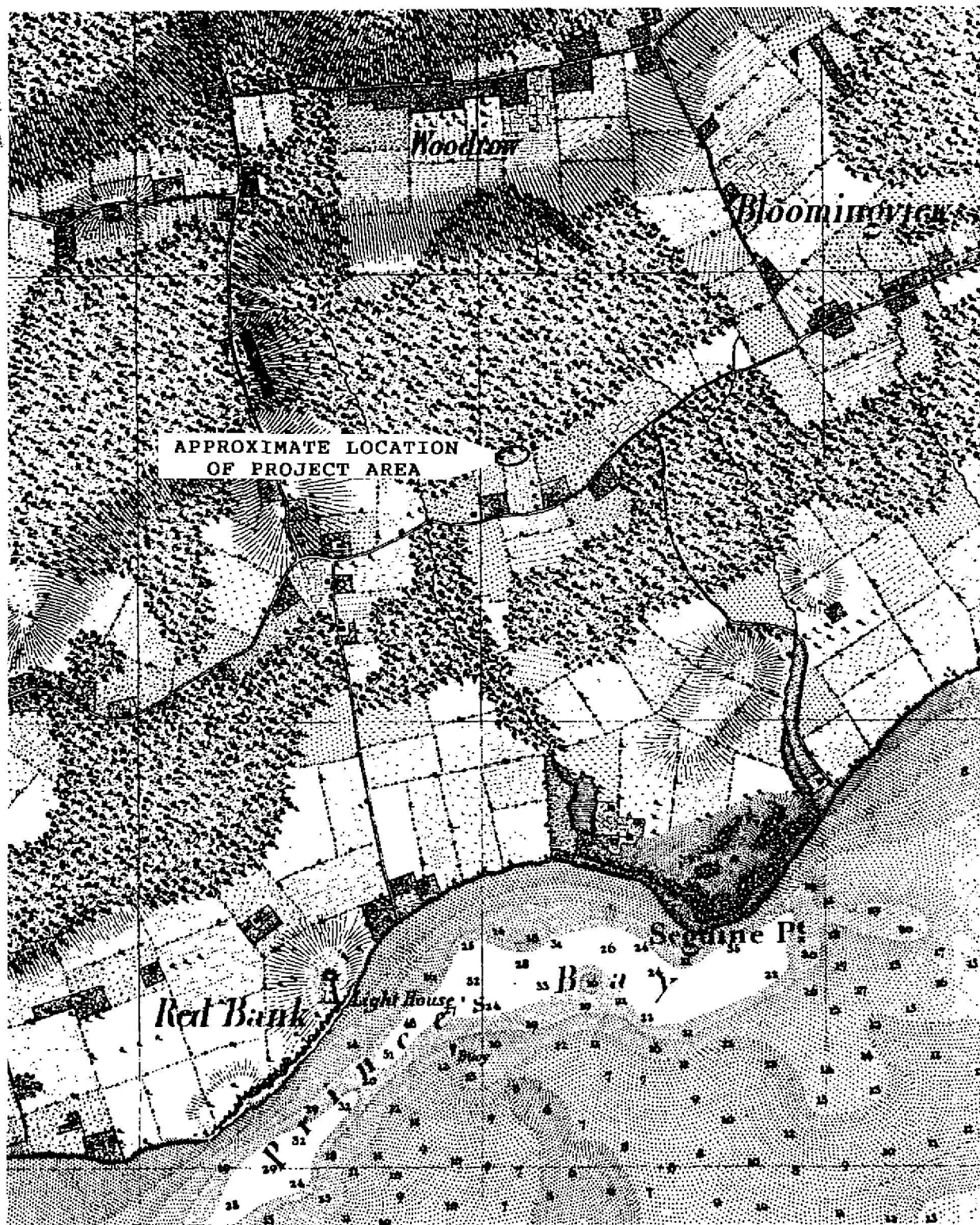
The United States Coast Survey of New York Harbor, conducted from 1836 to 1839 and published in 1845, shows the project area as lying within a forest and a cultivated field (see Figure 3). Scudder Avenue, which leads to the project area's southern side, apparently postdates this map. As all structures depicted on this map appear as unchartable dots which are not in all instances distinguishable from the marks used to describe wooded areas, one can not conclusively exclude the possibility that the project area may have contained a structure at this time, but appears quite unlikely.

Both the Bacon and Barnes' Map of 1852 and the Butler Map of 1853 show no structures within the project area. These maps were published to show the proposed line of the Staten Island Railway which is adjacent to the south of the project area.

By the time of the compilation of the 1887 Beers' Atlas, the project area is probably part of a thirteen acre parcel owned by the estate of J. LaForge. No structures are shown within the project area.

Sheet 90 of the Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey completed during 1910 shows a change from the 1887 Beers' Atlas. As shown in Figure 4, the project area now includes one structure. This structure is an icehouse of frame construction. To the west is the former ice pond. Scudder Avenue now exists, labeled Peterson Street on this map.

A detailed comparison was made of this 1910 Topographical map with the 1988 topographical survey of the project area. See Figures 4 and 5. This evidence indicates that the brick foundation visible in the southwestern portion of the



1/4 0 miles (approx.) 1/2

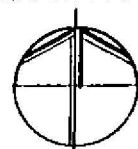


Figure 3 From the U.S. Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor, 1845.

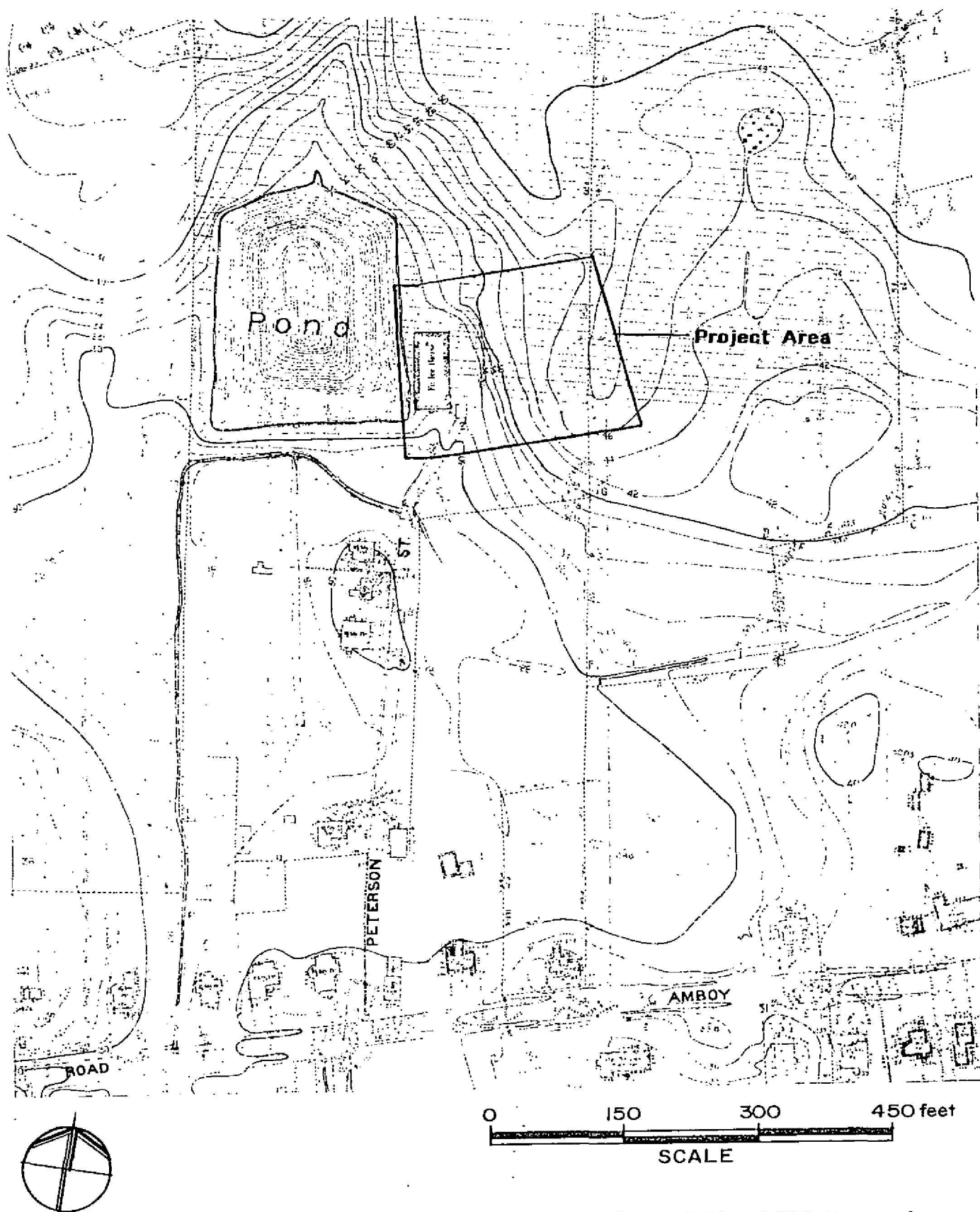


Figure 4 Project area shown on portion of the 1910 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey, Sheet 90.

Key:

⊕ Shovel Test

UNCAS AVENUE

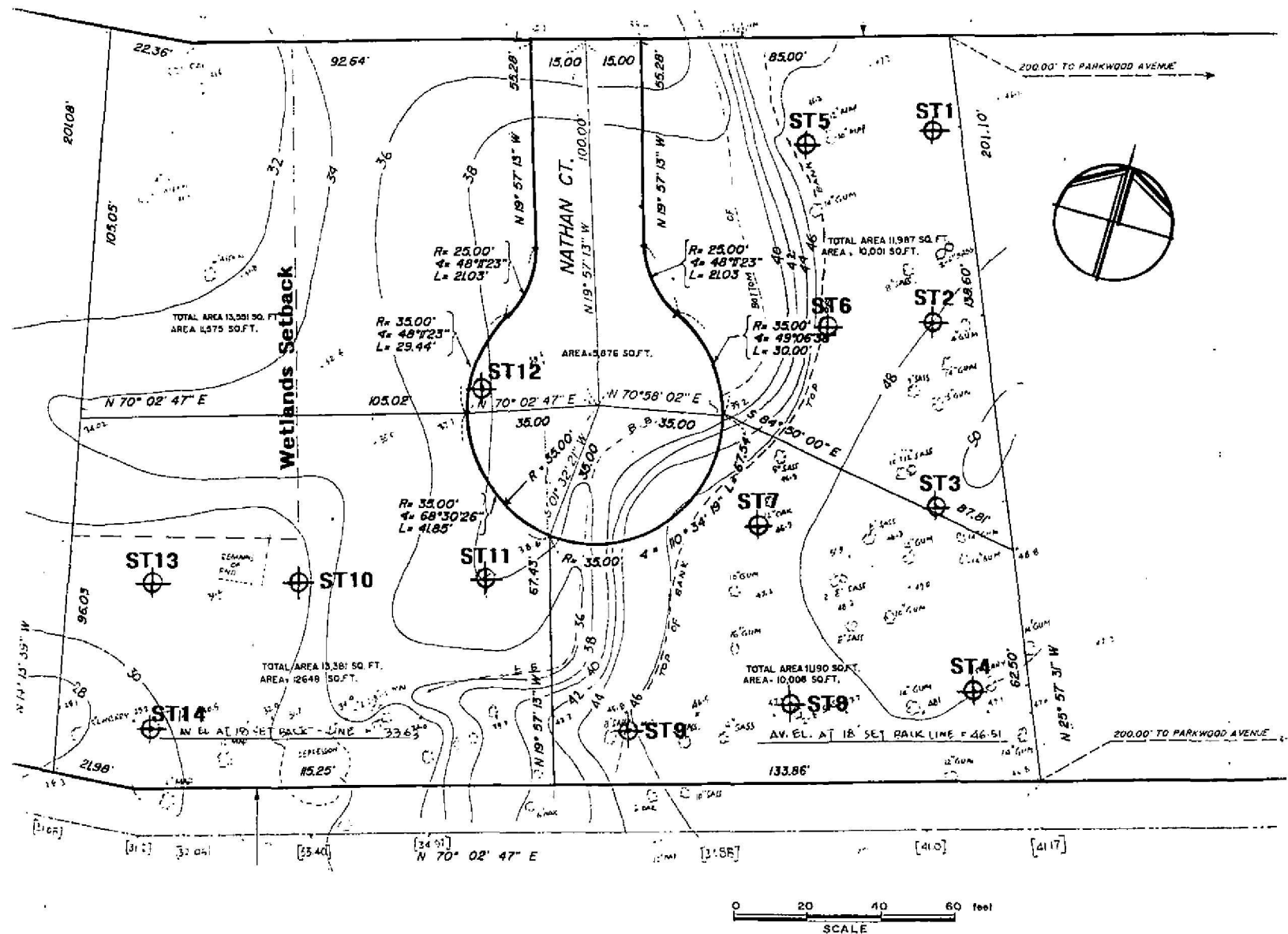


Figure 5 1988 survey of the project area by Anthony A. LoBianco.

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project area is from the icehouse shown on the 1910 map. The elevations in the eastern portion of the property east of the present embankment are within one foot of those shown in 1910, however the central third of the property shows evidence of soil removal. The elevations here are generally two to six feet below those shown in 1910, and a fairly steep embankment is shown on the 1988 map. This data indicates that soil has been cut away at this location. The northwestern and southwestern portions of the project area are presently close in elevation to the 1910 readings, but the west central portion appears to have had about two feet of soil deposited.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above text has documented that the Nathan Court project area may preserve archaeological evidence from the prehistoric period. The project area is located within two miles of 30 known prehistoric sites. Fresh water would have been easily available from the stream just west and south of the project area. The marsh near the stream and the project area would probably have attracted game, making this a possible location for a temporary or seasonal hunting camp.

The section on historic sensitivity shows that this location was the site of an ice-house adjacent to an ice-pond during the early twentieth century. No evidence was found indicating any other use of the project area during the historic period, except as part of a farm field and woodlot. Comparison of the topography in 1910 with that of 1988 shows evidence of the removal of between two and six feet of soil within the central third of the project area. Some of the western portion of the project area evidently had approximately two feet of fill deposited over it.

It is our recommendation that a program of archaeological testing take place prior to the beginning of construction activities. This testing will search for evidence of prehistoric use of this land, as well as investigating the brick foundation remaining from the icehouse. No testing will be required for the northwestern portion of the property since this will be within a wetlands setback and will not be impacted. The central third of the project area has already been disturbed, so no testing is recommended there. The testing should concentrate on the eastern third of the property, and the vicinity of the former icehouse.



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