

CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVITY STUDY
SHARROTT ESTATES ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECT
SANDY GROUND NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT
(Staten Island)

by

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for

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INTRODUCTION

The Sharrott Estates Archeological Project is a cultural resource sensitivity survey conducted for Woodrose Associates, Yonkers, New York, in September and October of 1982. Sharrott Estates, a housing development proposed by Woodrose Associates, includes an approximately 35-acre parcel of the area known as Sandy Ground. It is located west of Woodrow, and east of Charleston, a part of Richmond County, Staten Island, New York. In October of 1982 Sandy Ground was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The study area is bounded by Clay Pit Road on the north, Bloomingdale Road on the east, Ramona Drive (currently a "paper" street) on the south, and the service road (Veterans Road) of the West Shore Expressway on the west. Several properties within this circumscribed area remain in private ownership and are not part of the development plans (see Base Map).

Intensive pedestrian survey of this area was supplemented by shovel testing and probing. The strategy for both surveying and shovel testing was based on known historical data, as well as trash deposit patterns noted in previous archaeological work (Schuyler 1974, 1977, 1980; Askins 1980). This included testing around known structures in intensive use areas, testing in possible outbuilding locations and intense survey at the rear property lines for trash deposits.

A number of historic features and trash deposits associated with the farm units was encountered. Three areas were designated as being sensitive to the proposed construction: the Alfred Cutting farm at 68 Sharrot Road, the Sharrot (later Sharrott, Sharrots) ice house (c.1898) north of Sharrot Road, and a prehistoric site west of Bloomingdale Road.

This project was undertaken by Archeological Research Consultants, Inc. of Midland Park, New Jersey. Jo Ann E. Cotz and Edward J. Lenik were

Frank Miller



New York Harbour and Vicinity. 1860
J. Bartholomew Plate LX

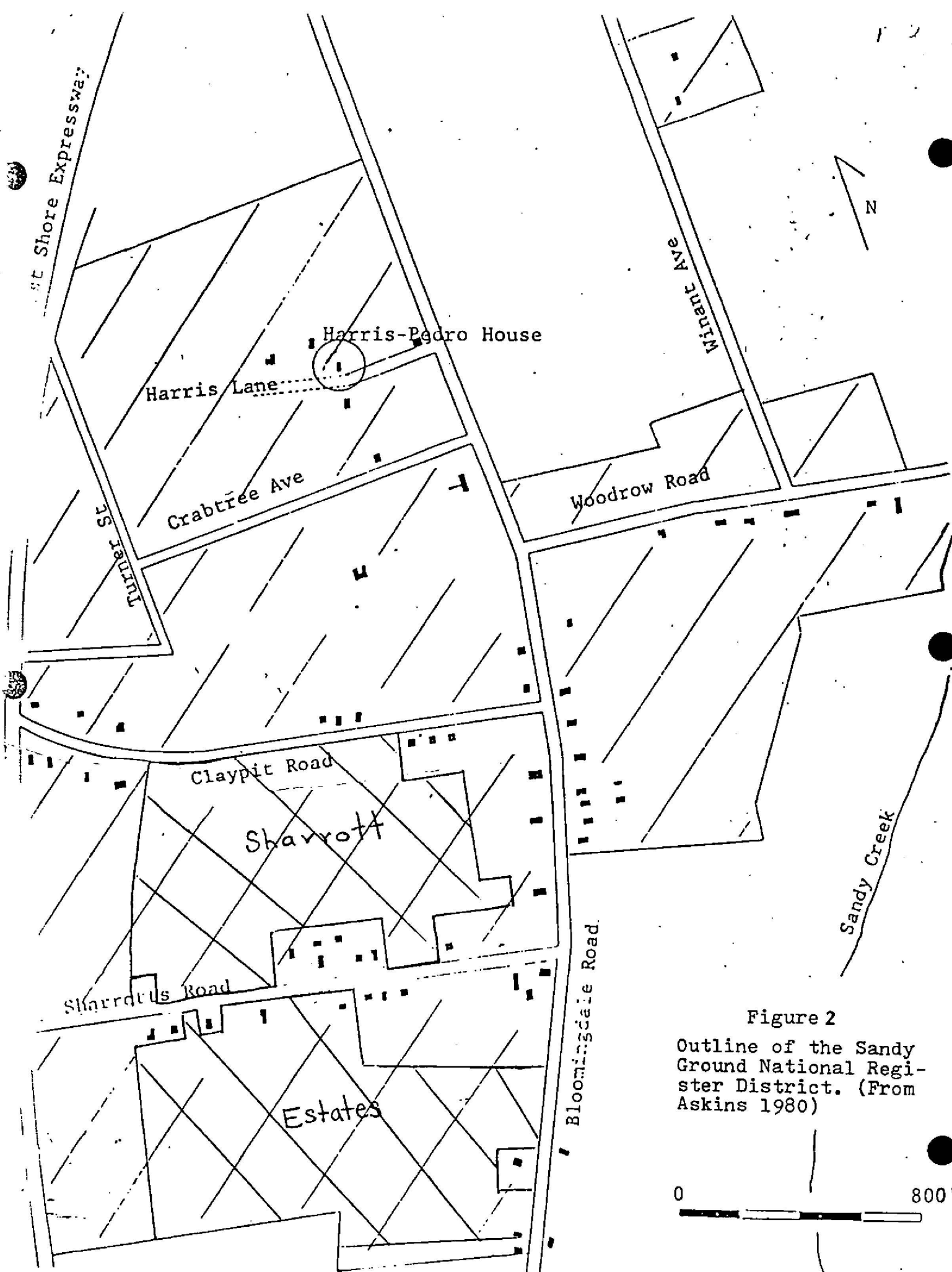


Figure 2
Outline of the Sandy
Ground National Register District. (From
Askins 1980)

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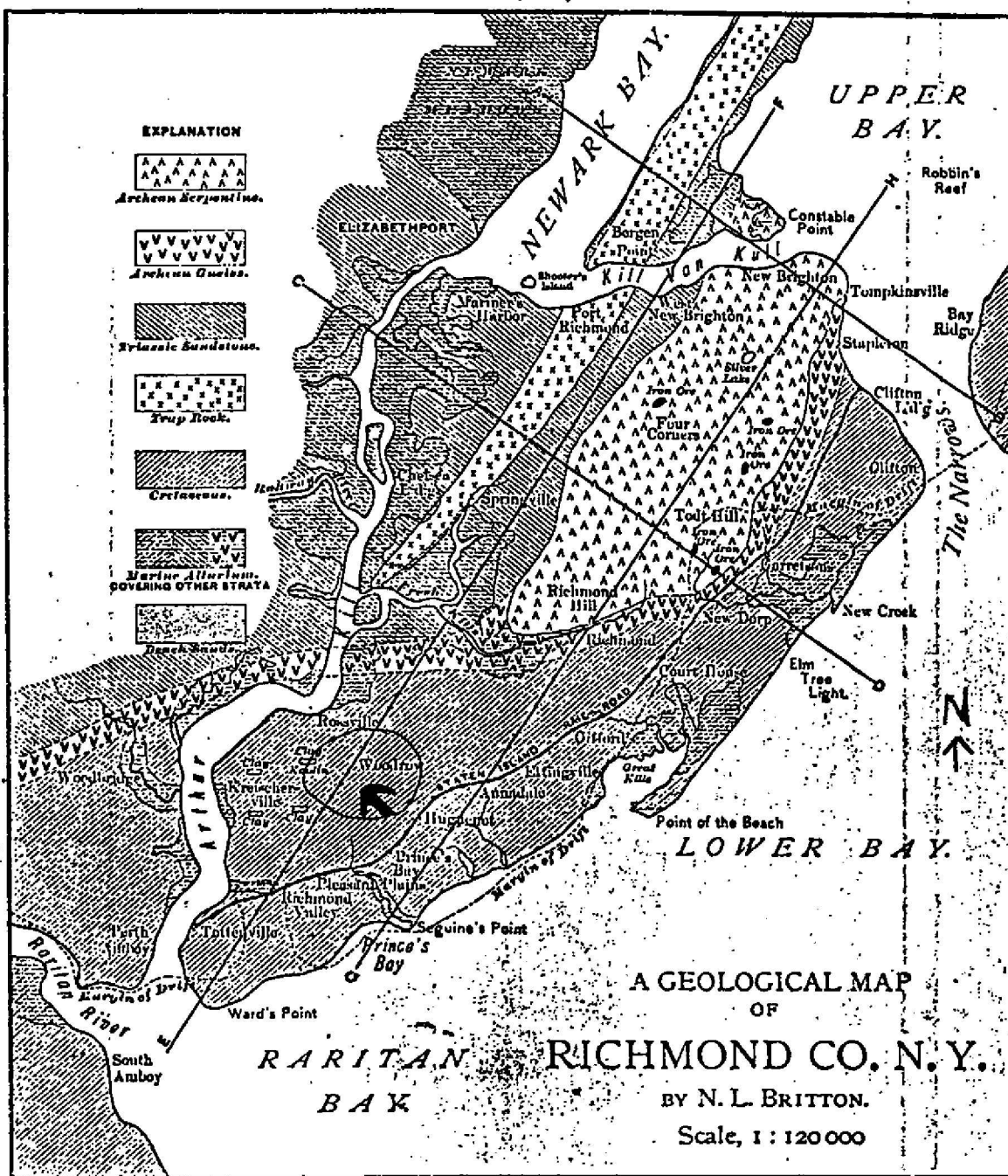


Figure 3

(from Leng and Davis 1930)

the principal investigators.

Physical Setting

Geologically, the Sandy Ground area, located in the southwestern section of Staten Island, is representative of the mid-Cretaceous Period (about 100,000 years ago) and the Raritan and Magothy formations (Leng and Davis 1930:14a; Schneider 1977:1-2). Loose gray sand and gravels, interspersed with layers of red, white and gray silt and clay, are characteristic of these formations. The Cretaceous clay beds to the west of the site have been utilized historically for, among other things, the making of fire brick at Kreischerville (Beers 1887). A variety of Pleistocene tills lie over these deposits, composed of unsorted glacial sediment, rocks and boulders (Schneider 1977:2). Reflective of these factors, the soils encountered in testing were "composed of a mixture of recent loams and organic mucks (depending on location), Pleistocene tills and Cretaceous clay and sand" (Carpenter 1982:2-18).

The topography of the site is generally flat, but the terrain slopes gently from higher ground in the northeast corner of the project area to lower ground in the southwest. Two post-glacial ponds exist in the section between Sharrot Road and Clay Pit Road, with another located just outside the western edge of the development area (Ponds 2, 3, 4). Another post-glacial pond (Pond 1) existed until recently just to the west of Bloomingdale Road, between Sharrot Road and Ramona Drive, but has been recently filled in. These ponds, together with adjacent swampy areas and small feeder streams, drain into the Sandy Brook to the east which would have provided an excellent supply of potable water for nearby inhabitants, as well as a potential source of food supply in the form of water fowl, turtles and perhaps fish.

Sampling Strategy

The survey was carried out in two parts: documentary research and

infield survey. Documentary research included a review of the impressive body of data compiled by William Askins in preparation for the National Register Nomination of the Sandy Ground Historic Archaeological District (Askins 1980). Additional primary data was sought including archeological site reports, personal papers, diaries, historic photographs, and maps. Secondary sources were utilized to gain a clearer understanding of Sandy Ground within its greater context (Schneider 1977; Leng and Davis 1930; Leng and Delavan 1924; and Morris 1898). Published and primary documentation, including special collections, was made available through the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (SIIAS), St. George; the Staten Island Historical Society (SIHS), Richmondtown; the New York Historical Society, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Preservation (NYOPR&P).

Special acknowledgment and thanks is made to the individuals who contributed their personal skill or knowledge, adding another dimension to this project: William Askins (CCNY and the Graduate Center), Steven Bartow and Charles Sachs (SIHS), Sherene Baugher-Perlin (New York City Preservation Commission), Eloise Beil (SIIAS), Charles Florence (NYOPR&P), and Yvonne Taylor (Sandy Ground Historical Society). Oral history data was recorded from many individuals living or working in the Sandy Ground community which has added greatly to our interpretation of the project area. These included: Joseph Bishop, William Haas, William Hagaman, Alvin Hartje, John Schlehner, Sr., Nick Siviligia, and William Pedro, who provided the researchers with a true human link to the past community.

Subsurface testing of the Sharrott Estate property was accomplished through a series of shovel tests, measuring about 18" square and taken to maximum depth of 36" with a posthole digger. The soil from each test was trowelled carefully to recover any cultural remains.

Sampling strategy was based upon the very substantial documentary evidence available. Using the large collection of 18th, 19th and 20th

century maps available, it has been possible to reconstruct use of the properties during the historic period. Utilizing a summary of site specific data, a sampling strategy was devised which, based on known uses, i.e., farm dwellings, outbuildings, roads, the ice house, was employed. Patterns of refuse disposal discovered in earlier survey and excavation within the Sandy Ground historic district were also taken into consideration (Schuyler 1974; Askins 1980). Based on prior archeological finds, careful survey was made of the rear property lines as well as edges of cultivated fields. Previous survey finds have, for the most part, consisted of surface material in a non-stratified context (Askins 1980). This pattern continued to hold throughout our testing as well.

All material culture recovered will become part of the Sandy Ground collection already well established at the Staten Island Museum of Arts and Sciences, St. George, Staten Island.

All tests, surface and subsurface, are indicated on the Base Map (Scale 50'=1"). The Base Map was taken from the 1979 Ettlinger Topographic Map and shows existing structures in a solid line. The 1913 Topographic Map (Anonymous), also scaled at 50' to the inch, was superimposed on the modern map. Structures dating to 1913 are so indicated; if no longer extant, they are shown in a broken line.

PREHISTORIC SUMMARY

Introduction

The prehistory of southwestern Staten Island has been researched and documented to a large extent and the published data has provided excellent background material with which to assess the project area. A search of the literature on the project area, which includes Skinner 1909, Skinner and Schrabisch 1913, Williams 1968, Horwitz 1969, Rubertone 1974, Kraft 1977, Lavin 1980, Jacobsen 1980, and the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences' Sandy Ground and Indian Sites Records, has identified several prehistoric sites in close proximity to the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates project area. Furthermore, additional information was obtained through personal contact with William Askins of the City College of New York, who has extensive knowledge of the project area, as well as several local residents. These documented sites, although directly outside our immediate project area, give us a good picture of aboriginal settlement and subsistence patterns. The prehistoric sites in southwestern Staten Island have yielded a variety of cultural material from the Paleo Indian period through the Woodland period. A brief summary of the cultures of these prehistoric periods is as follows:

The Paleo Indian Period

(c.10,000 B.C. to 8,000 B.C.)

Early man arrived in the new world sometime before 12,000 years ago. These early Americans, whom we call Paleo Indians, migrated from Siberia across the Bering Land Bridge to Alaska during the Late Pleistocene or Ice Age. They undoubtedly came down from Alaska during the Two Creeks Interstadial around 10,000 B.C. when an ice-free corridor opened up between two massive glaciers that covered Canada (Carlson 1978). During this period, the Indians relied heavily on large pleistocene herbivores for food, such as mammoth, mastodon, caribou, and musk ox. These Indians

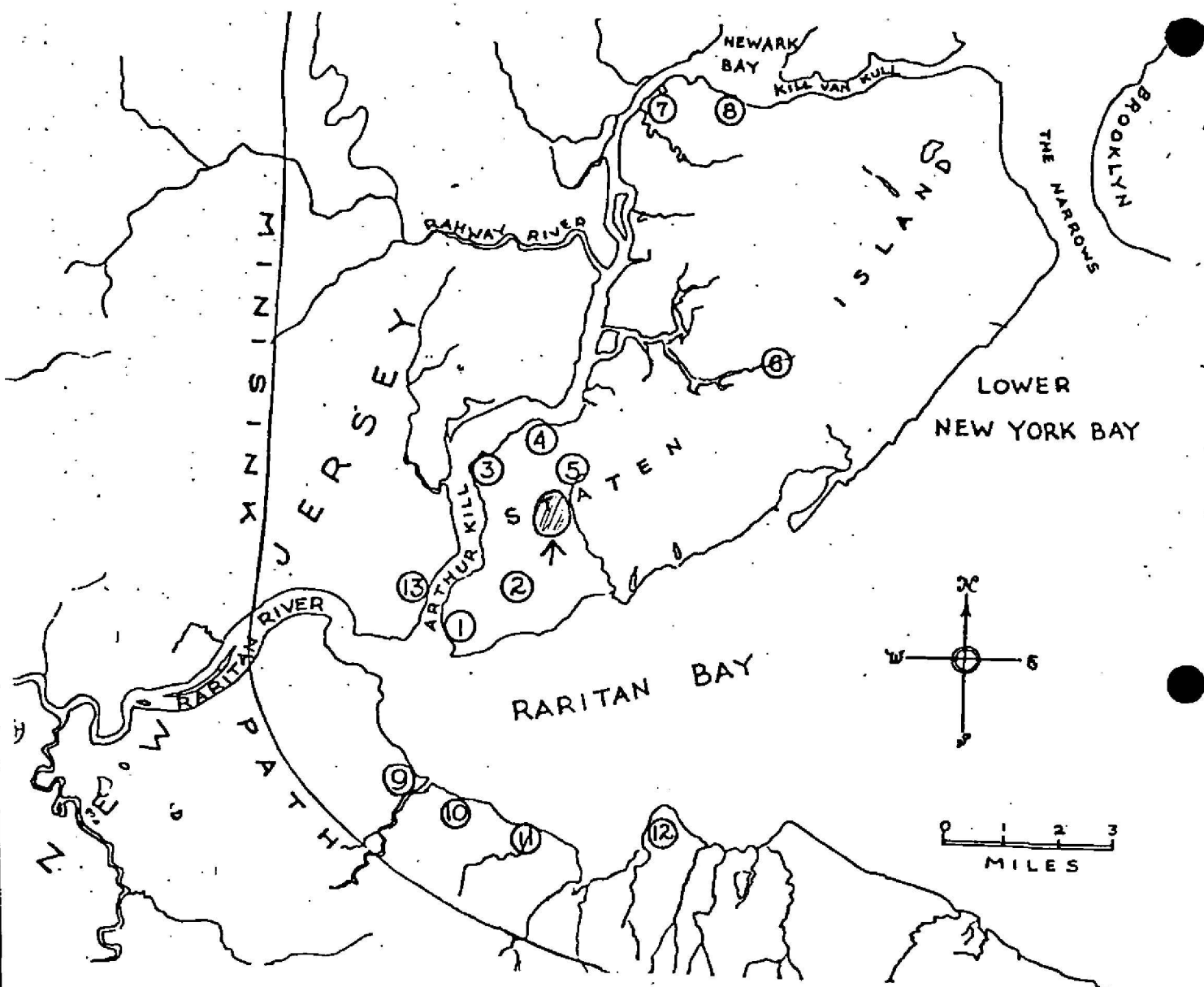


Figure 4 (From Jacobson 1980:3)

MAP I - Staten Island and Adjacent Areas, Showing Some Principal Streams and Location of Some Archaeological Sites Mentioned in the Text.

Scale: one inch equals approximately 3 miles.

Sites or Multi-Site Complexes:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ward's Point | 5. Wort Farm | 10. Laurence Harbor |
| 2. Page Avenue | 6. Richmond Hill | 11. Cliffwood Beach |
| 3. Port Mobil | 7. Old Place | 12. Union Beach |
| 4. Smoking Point,
Pottery Farm | 8. Goodrich | 13. Perth Amboy |
| | 9. Morgan | 14. Island Farm |

Route of Minisink Path approximated after Bolton 1922: Maps X, XI.

were hunters and gatherers, a nomadic people who roamed widely in search of food, and their settlement pattern consisted of small temporary camps. The diagnostic artifact of the Paleo Indian period is the fluted projectile point. However, these people made other sophisticated tools as well, such as gravers, steep edge scrapers, knives, drills, and other unifacial tools.

The Archaic Period (c.8,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.)

The Archaic Period produced a major shift in the settlement and subsistence patterns of early man. Hunting and gathering was still the basic way of life during this period, but the emphasis in subsistence shifted from the large pleistocene herbivores, who were rapidly becoming extinct, to smaller game and plants of the deciduous forest. The settlement pattern of the Archaic people indicates larger, more permanent habitation sites. These people were increasingly more efficient in the exploitation of their environment. The hallmarks of this period are grinding implements, ground stone tools, and, toward the end of this period, or Terminal Archaic, the use of stone bowls.

The Woodland Period (c.1,000 B.C. to 1,600 A.D.)

In general, the hunting and gathering way of life persisted in this period, but several important changes took place. Horticulture began during this period and later became well established with the cultivation of maize (corn), beans, and squash. Clay pottery vessels replaced soapstone bowls, and tobacco pipes and smoking were adopted. Also, the bow and arrow replaced the spear and javelin during this period. The habitation sites of the Woodland Indians increased in size and permanence as these people continued to extract food more efficiently from their environment.

Documentary Research

In prehistoric times, the general area surrounding the Sandy

Ground/Sharrot Estates Site was apparently one of intense occupation and use. In 1913, Alanson B. Skinner, of the American Museum of Natural History, observed that "continuous (prehistoric) camps occur along the shore from Rossville to Tottenville with scattered relics in nearly every field" (Skinner and Schrabisch 1913:44). Skinner conducted extensive archaeological investigations throughout Staten Island in the early 1900's, and recorded more than twenty-five "important" sites throughout the entire Borough of Richmond (Skinner and Schrabisch 1913: 43-45).

Skinner located a number of prehistoric sites in Woodrow, very close to the project area. He stated that relics were found in the area around Sandy Brook, and at Sandy Ground on the farm of Isaac Wort, Sr. (Skinner 1909:10). Apparently, a number of stone mortars was found at these sites, pointing to prehistoric occupation during the Woodland period with agriculture being an important subsistence activity. In addition, Skinner reported that several skeletons were found on the property of Samuel Wort. These skeletons were found in a "stone-walled chamber," together with grave goods, such as projectile points and a stone bowl (Skinner 1909:10). The Sandy Brook and Wort Farm Sites are located a short distance to the north and east of the present area of study.

Indian relics were also reportedly found "near one of the clay pits in the woods" (Skinner 1909:10). This report probably refers to the Clay Pit Pond area which is presently a park located to the west of the project area. A number of campsites and shellheaps was found by Skinner in Rossville, together with projectile points and pitted hammerstones (Skinner 1909:11). In 1980, Alvin Hartje, an outdoor specialist at a nearby school in Pleasant Plains, surface-collected with his students in the open field created by the development of this land for Concord Estates (Hartje, Taylor:personal communication). Located below Woodrow Road on the east side of Bloomingdale Road, this housing development bordered the Sandy Brook (Faludi 1980:1). Hartje collected over 400 pieces of Woodland pottery, reflecting six different styles and three construction methods:

fiber, shell grit and fine shell grit tempering. The pottery is said to date from the terminal archaic to the late Woodland period (Faludi 1980:1, 4); however, the collection has not been evaluated by a professional to date (Hartje:personal communication).

The Wort Farm Site is located in Rossville on a block of land that is bounded by Barry Street on the north, Rossville Avenue on the east, Woodrow Road on the south, and Winant Avenue on the west. The southern boundary is the next road north of the project area; Winant is the next road east of Bloomingdale. As mentioned previously, the area was surveyed by Alanson Skinner in the early 1900's and has also been the scene of numerous excavations ever since. In the decade of the 1960's in particular, several groups excavated at the site such as students from the Brooklyn Childrens Museum, Columbia University and members of the New York State Archaeological Association.

Williams (1968) in a report on her excavations at Wort Farm indicates that numerous finds were made at the site. Twenty-three projectile points were recovered from the site, most of which were of a type known as Bare Island which generally date to the Late or Terminal Archaic period. Five triangular points, known as Madison or Levanna types, were found as well, which can be ascribed to the Middle or Late Woodland period, plus other stone tools such as knives, scrapers, and drills (Williams 1968:42-44). A total of 435 pottery sherds was reportedly found at the site and these have been assigned to the Early Woodland period (Williams 1968:51).

In summary, the Wort Farm Site was probably a hunting camp that was occupied intermittently by small groups of people over a long span of time. This conclusion is reinforced by additional archaeological work which was conducted at the site in 1969 and reported by Jonathan Horwitz (1971). Horwitz reports similar artifact finds such as Madison, Levanna and Bare Island projectile points, and utilized flake tools of the Late

Archaic and Woodland periods. Thus, it can be inferred that some of these people probably hunted from time to time in the Sharrot Estates area to the south.

Another prehistoric site was located about one block northeast of number 987 Bloomingdale Road in Rossville, located just northeast of the project area. This site, known as Harik's Sandy Ground, was destroyed by construction work on the West Shore Expressway in the late 1960's. However, salvage excavations were conducted at the site in 1967 which yielded an abundance of prehistoric and historic material. Lavin (1980: 20) reports that 59 aboriginal artifacts were recovered from Harik's Sandy Ground Site. These finds include Bare Island-Poplar Island type projectile points, chipped stone knives, scrapers, a spokeshave, a hammerstone, a graphite paint stone and numerous flakes. The projectile points seem to indicate a small component of Late Archaic people at the site.

Three prehistoric sites are located in the vicinity of Chemical Lane north of Arthur Kill Road. These sites are known as the Smoking Point Site (STD 14-3), the Chemical Lane Site (STD 22-3), and the Pottery Farm Site (STD 23-3). An archaeological survey of these sites was undertaken in 1974 by Patricia E. Rubertone of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. Rubertone (1974) reports that these sites have yielded a variety of prehistoric artifacts dating from the Late Archaic through Woodland periods. Projectile points, known as the Orient Fishtail Type and used by Archaic period hunters, as well as pottery sherds used by the Later Woodland people, were found at the Pottery Farm Site. Orient Fishtail and Poplar Island points of the Late Archaic period were also found at Smoking Point (Staten Island LNG Project, Environmental Impact Statement:1981).

There is significant evidence to indicate that the Paleo Indian lived on Staten Island in the vicinity of the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates project area. One of the first reported archaeological finds

dating to the Paleo Indian period was a single fluted point found on the Cutting site in Rossville some time between 1914 and 1917 (Kraft 1977a:1). However, the major Paleo Indian sites on Staten Island are known as the Port Mobil Sites and are located in Kreischerville, west of the project area. More than 160 Paleo Indian artifacts have been reported from the Port Mobil Site, 18 of which are fluted projectile points, the diagnostic artifact of this period (Kraft 1977b:275). Clearly then, early man was undoubtedly traveling in the vicinity of the project area some 10 to 12 thousand years ago.

The largest prehistoric site in southwestern Staten Island is known as Burial Ridge located in Tottenville. Skinner, in reporting this site, noted that Tottenville "is the most important single site in a wide area" (Skinner and Schrabisch 1913:44). For over a hundred years, this extensive site has been the scene of numerous excavations by relic collectors as well as amateur and professional archaeologists. Literally thousands of prehistoric artifacts have been recovered from the Burial Ridge Site. Numerous burials and other cultural features were also uncovered. This site experienced human occupation in prehistoric times for approximately 8,000 years spanning the Archaic through Woodland periods. Jacobson (1980) has characterized Burial Ridge as the largest known cemetery in prehistoric coastal New York. Although Burial Ridge is located a considerable distance south of the Sharrot Estates area, it nevertheless gives us important insights into prehistoric populations in southwestern Staten Island.

Finally, documentary research indicates that Staten Island furnished a wide range of raw materials (rocks and minerals) from which the prehistoric inhabitants were able to fashion their stone tools. Crypto-crystalline materials such as chert and jasper were favorite materials of the aboriginal toolmakers, and were readily available throughout Staten Island in the form of pebbles or nodules in gravel deposits. Sandstone, quartz, and quartzite were also commonly used by

Indians. However, the Late Archaic inhabitants of the Wort Farm, Harik's Sandy Ground, and Smoking Point Sites seemed to have a distinct preference for argillite, particularly in the manufacture of projectile points and knives (Lavin 1980:27). Ed Rutsch's (1968:78) analysis of 828 projectile points found on Staten Island indicates that Archaic period people utilized argillite much more than their successors, the Woodland people. It must also be noted that the nearest sources of argillite are the Lockatong deposits in northeastern New Jersey (Didier 1975:94). In summary, the prehistoric peoples of southwestern Staten Island left behind a variety of stone tools on their habitation sites as well as stone debitage; the waste material of their manufacturing processes such as flakes, cores and rejects. Presumably, such artifacts/raw materials might be found on the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates.

Field Survey

The search for evidence of prehistoric occupation at the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates Site included a number of methods and procedures. First, a thorough pedestrian survey of the area was conducted. This involved a careful walk-over and observation of the landscape, usually in parties of two persons. In this reconnaissance procedure, eroded and previously excavated areas were checked, as were stream banks and ponds, trails, wooded and open areas, higher ground and swampy areas. The search for surface evidence of prehistoric occupation was intensive.

Secondly, an attempt was made to learn as much as possible about the area by consulting local residents and informants. For example, several people had vague recollections that "arrowheads" were found many years ago in the area between Sharrot and Clay Pit Roads (Hagaman and Siviglia 1982:personal communication). However, these informants could not specifically identify the location of these finds, nor were we able to examine any artifacts allegedly recovered from this site. Another local informant told us that "Indian arrowheads" were found on a knoll near the

small pond, just outside the western edge of our project area. A thorough search of this area also failed to turn up any evidence of this site.

Finally, we excavated a number of shovel test pits throughout the project area. Our subsurface sampling design included random testing as well as site specific testing. The latter involved digging test pits in the areas dictated by the documentary-historical research or the topography of the site.

The results of our field survey have revealed one area of prehistoric occupation in the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates project zone. The reconnaissance survey turned up surface and subsurface evidence along the eastern edge of the site property between Sharrot Road and Clay Pit Road. Aboriginal chert flakes were found on the surface in two locations approximately 50 feet apart. Two test pits were excavated immediately adjacent to these prehistoric artifact clusters. Test pit number 102 produced two additional worked flakes in soil stratum B, a tan-orange subsoil. Test pit number 167, however, failed to produce any additional prehistoric artifacts. The evidence indicates a clustering of prehistoric flakes in this location which is strongly suggestive of prehistoric occupation. Therefore, additional subsurface testing in this specific area is recommended.

HISTORIC SUMMARY

Staten Island's earliest historic settlement was by Dutch farmers in the 17th century. Later, French and English settlers were included. Colonial land grants of 123 acres to Peter Minne and Anthony Tice in October of 1696 and 148 acres to Mark Dusachoy in March of 1694, reconfirmed in 1701, were the first in the Sandy Ground/Sharrott Estates project vicinity (Leng and Delavan 1924:1-10; Skine 1907). There is no evidence that these patent landowners lived there during the 17th century (Schneider 1977:6). A composite Revolutionary War period map of Staten Island also shows that there was no settlement in the project area during the eighteenth century (McMillan 1933). The north/south route of what is now Bloomingdale Road, formerly known as Pleasant Avenue, is indicated as existing at this time, however. Woodrow Road is indicated as a settled road at this time. (McMillan 1933).

In 1788, the island was divided into four townships; the southwest section, including the study area, was called Westfield. After the Revolution, Westfield, already known as a community of small farms, became an increasingly wealthy township, especially north around "Smoaking Point," later Blazing Star (Schneider 1977:7). Farms were enlarged and crops such as grain, corn and flax were produced for off-island trade (Schneider 1977:7). Oystering in New York harbor, which had been a lucrative business throughout the 18th century, became an especially important industry for southwestern Staten Island in the 19th century. The development of this trade was directly tied to the Sandy Ground settlement. Dr. Robert Schuyler (University of Pennsylvania), a Sandy Ground scholar since the early 1970's, summarizes the growth of the community (1980:48-50):

[a]fter the colonial period overexploitation forced a reestablishment of the shell beds by the transplantation of seed oysters from the Chesapeake Bay. Free Blacks, an important segment of the oystering community in Maryland and Virginia, also travelled on the schooners and sloops that carried seed oysters to New York.

11. Two Redoubts with 200 men. The houses of the houses have an orchard.
 12. New town. Col. 1. Temple with 200 men.

THE NAMES: Northfield, Southfield, Westfield and CastleTown were not adopted until 1788 but are here used because of their familiarity. The respective Revolutionary titles were North, South and West Quarters, Divisions or Precincts and The Manor.

PERTH
AMBOY

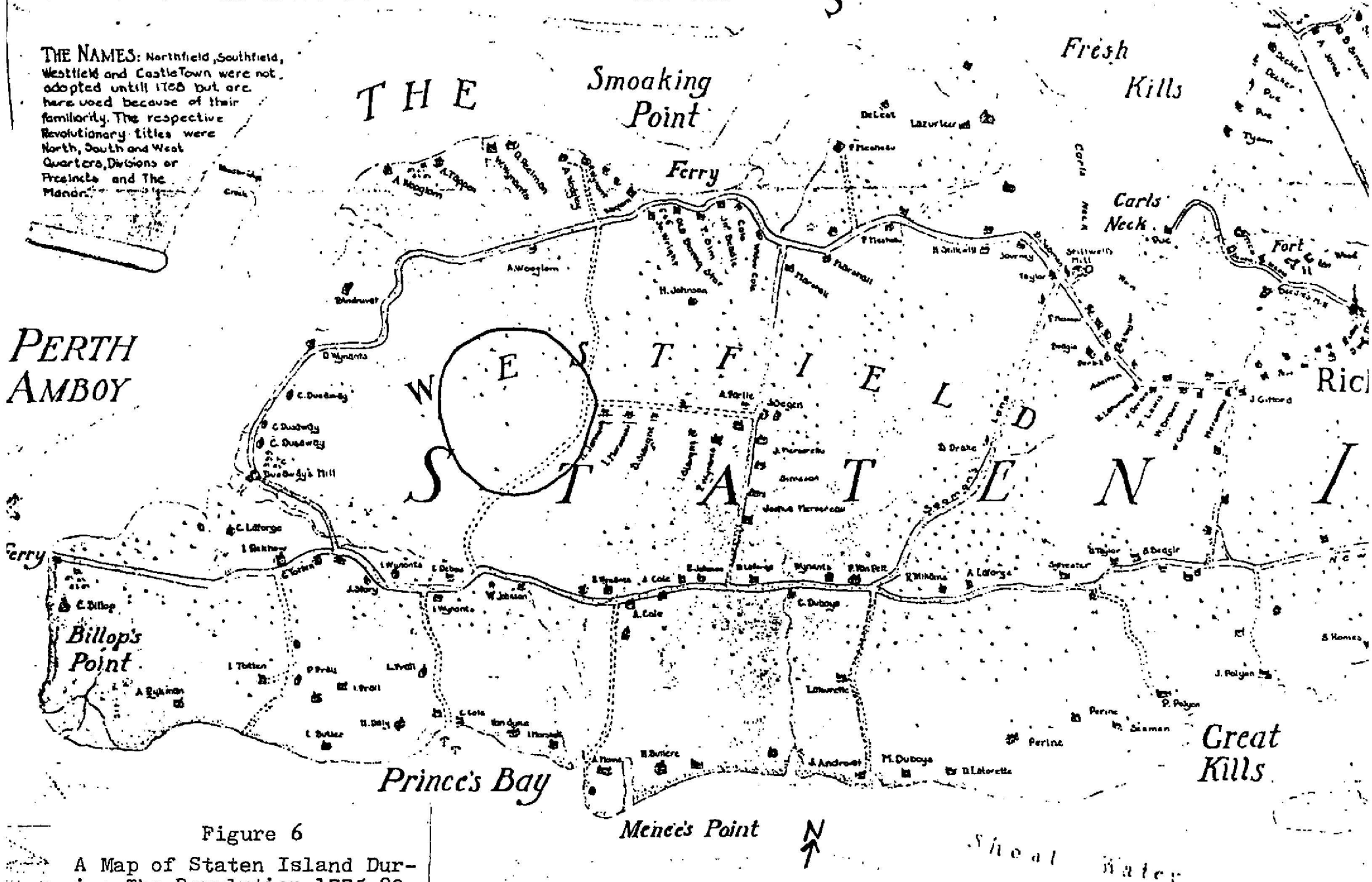


Figure 6

A Map of Staten Island During The Revolution 1775-83.
 Composite by L. McMillan
 1933 Scale: 2" = 1 mi.

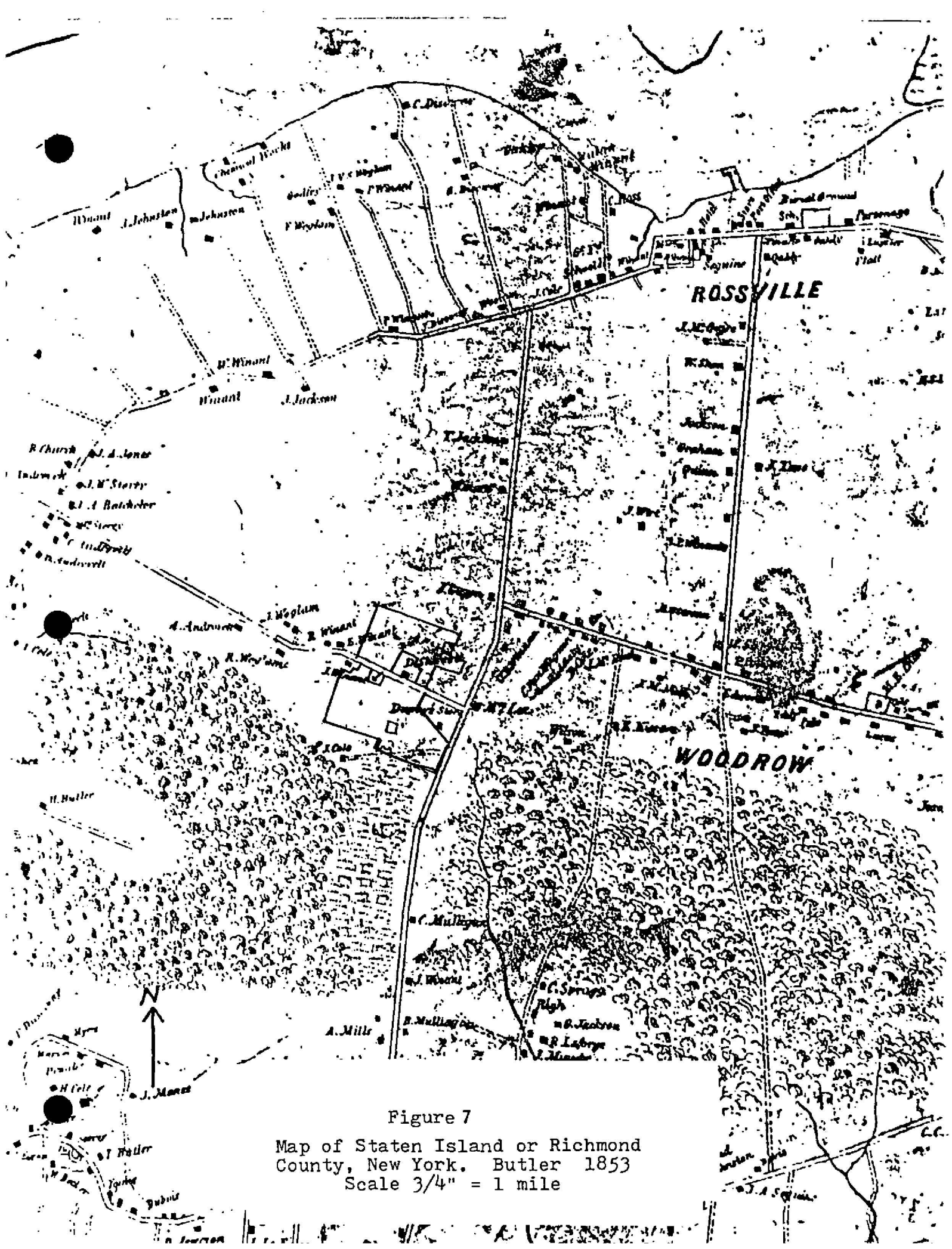
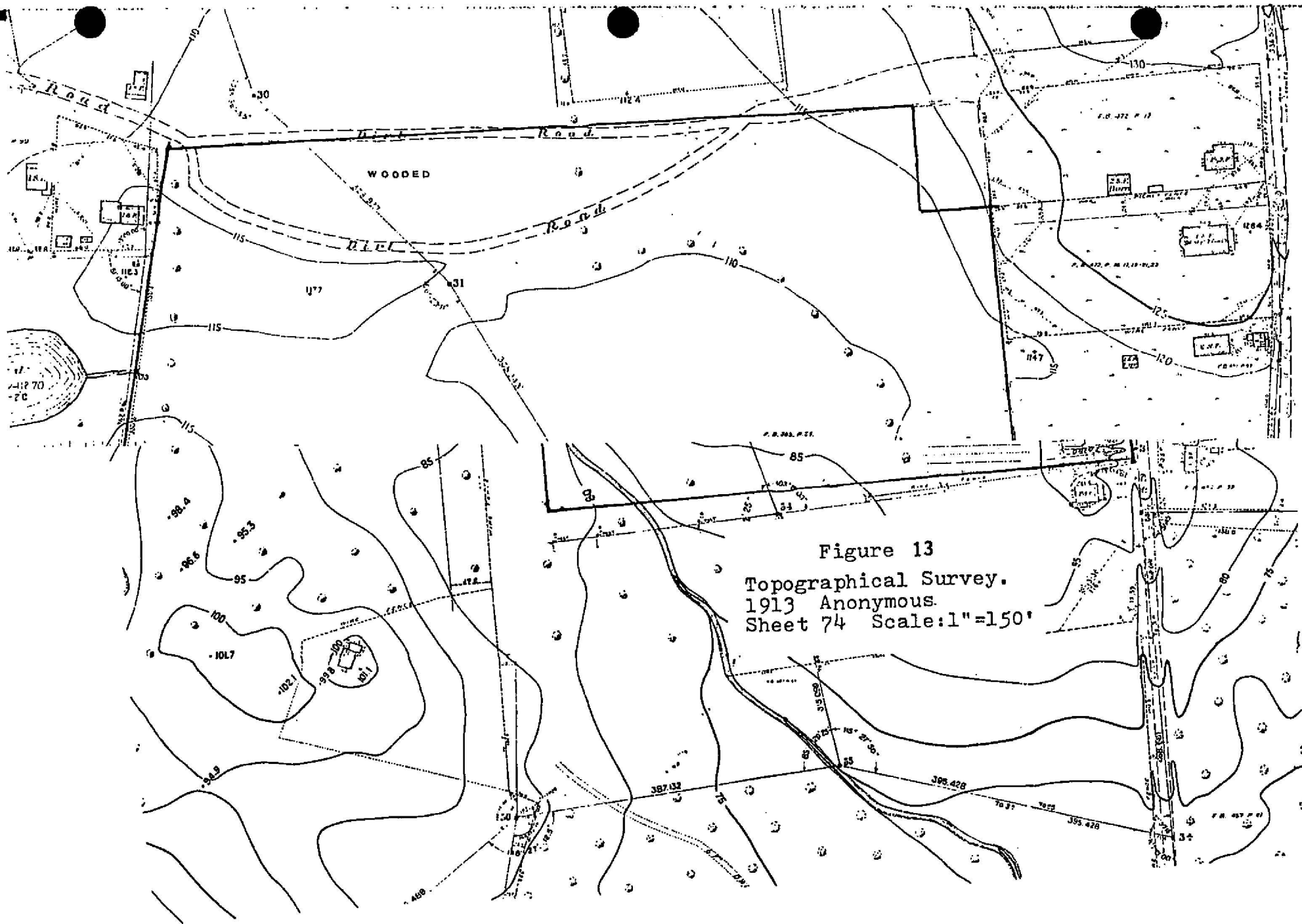


Figure 7

Map of Staten Island or Richmond
County, New York. Butler 1853
Scale $3/4" = 1 \text{ mile}$





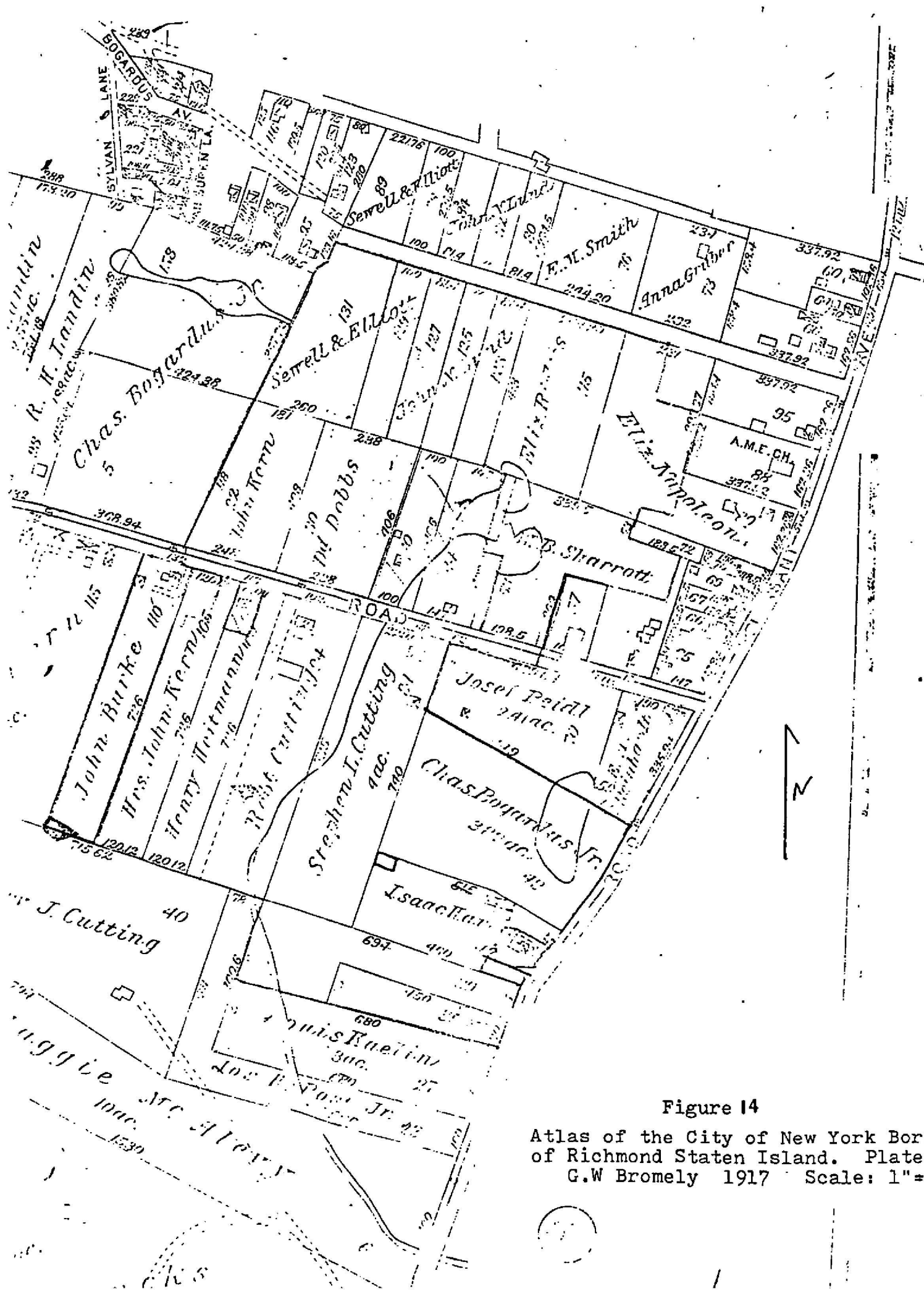


Figure 14

Atlas of the City of New York Borough
of Richmond Staten Island. Plate
G.W Bromely 1917 Scale: 1"= 300'

Because of intensifying persecution in their home states a number of Black families, primarily from Snowhill, Maryland, migrated to Staten Island where they joined with local residents to establish the Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. By the early 1850's this church had become the center for a small settlement.

Sandy Ground, as this community came to be informally called, was situated on a high, sandy section of Staten Island that was within easy reach of the estuary of Lemon Creek at Princes Bay [reference omitted]. This bay was an important center for oyster-boats. Although the community experienced some early hard years, it soon became a prosperous little oystering village (Wilkins, 1943a,b). By the time of the 1880 Federal Census about 140 Blacks in Sandy Ground clustered into thirty-eight residential units, intermixed with white families, that ranged from single old men or widows to large extended families. Twenty-two of these families had one or more members working on oyster boats, and some men owned their own sloops. The Landin brothers, for example, owned the Fannie Fern and employed a crew of ten. Other occupations such as blacksmithing also provided income and Sandy Ground was well known for its backyard horticulture, especially strawberries. Some families built and owned their own houses and, although they were not wealthy like some of the leading White oystermen who built mansions on the north end of the island, the village was economically stable and successful.

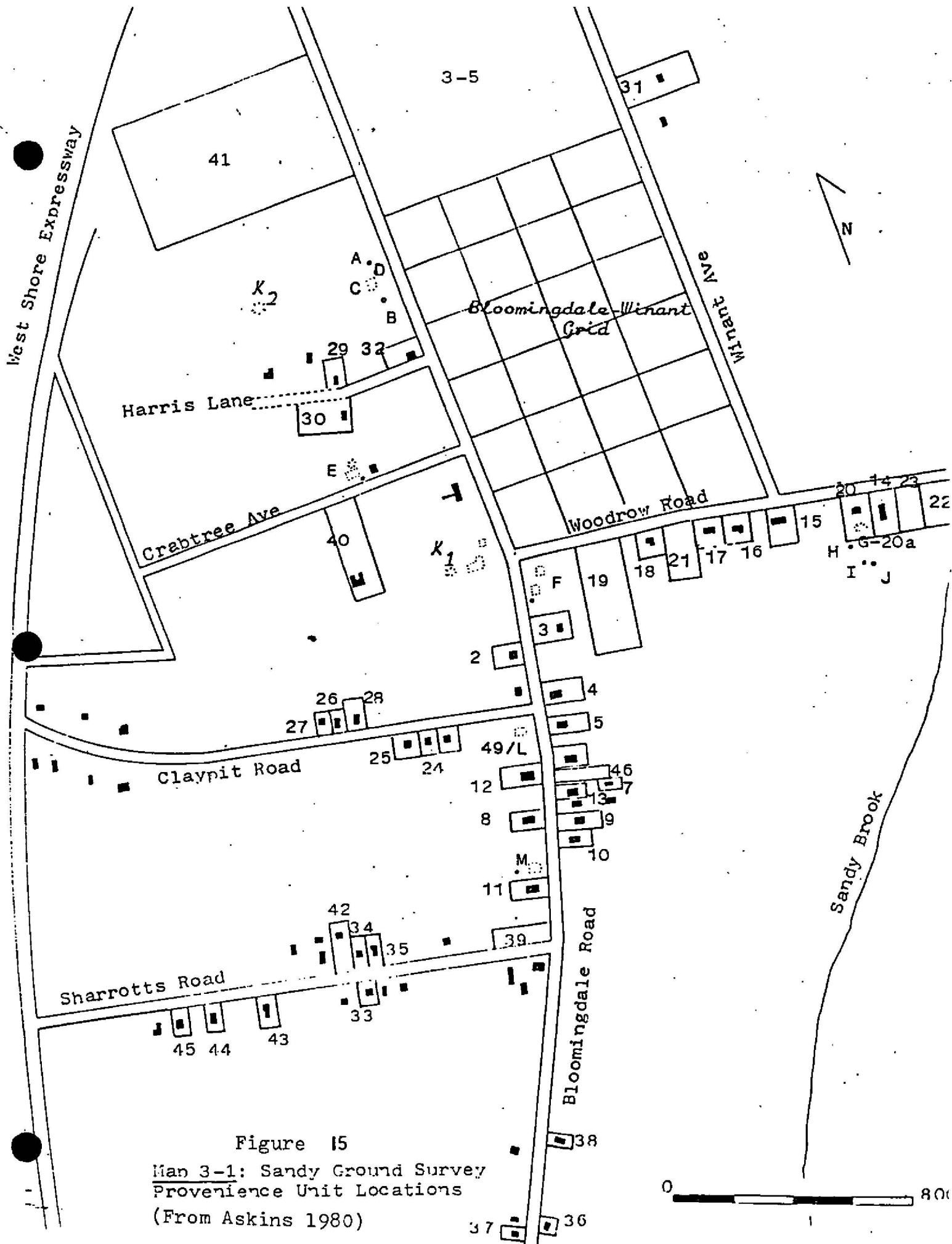
Sandy Ground's history, including the era of prosperity that lasted until after the turn of the century, is part of the history of New York City. Staten Island was and to some degree still is an isolated, rural section of the metropolitan zone. Nevertheless, Sandy Ground was always intimately tied into Manhattan. Its formation depended on the city and its history is one of a gradual intensification of this relationship. Initially the village was a specialized settlement that was rural in some aspects and urban-oriented in others. As the second half of the 19th century progressed an ironic dual relationship between Sandy Ground and New York emerged. The city established and strengthened the economic base of the community but simultaneously eroded that base. Industrial and human pollution began to effect the oyster beds in the late 19th century. Abruptly in 1916 the entire economic structure of Sandy Ground was broken when, following a series of typhoid cases, the Department of Health outlawed all oystering in the harbor. Sandy Ground went into decline and its residents were forced into the general labor market. Urbanization continued; air pollution from New Jersey industry eventually destroyed the possibility of local horticulture. In 1896 Staten Island was formally annexed by New York City and this suburbanization was greatly accelerated after 1964 when the Verrazano-Narrows

Bridge opened the southern end of the island for development. The Westside Highway, constructed on Staten Island in the early 1970's, destroyed some of the remaining houses in Sandy Ground and recent housing projects have advanced so close that they are within view of the other side of Lemon Creek. Sandy Ground, although it is under extreme pressure in the late 1970's, is still a vital if small community centered around the AME Church.

Archeological Investigation at Sandy Ground

Historical archeological investigations of the multi-component Sandy Ground community began in 1970 when Robert Schuyler first explored the site with summer field school students from CCNY. Schuyler advocated a wholistic approach to the study of the community, i.e., documentary, archeological and ethnographic (including oral history) and hoped to recover data which would range through all the periods of Sandy Ground's history. Among the areas explored were the J. S. Guyon house site (c.1853-1963) at the northwest intersection of Bloomingdale and Woodrow Roads (shown as K1, Appendix A), and the Winant-Bloomingdale Grid, an intensive survey which located over 100 surface dumps (Schuyler 1974:13-51). The Winant grid collection is representative of Sandy Ground trash dating from the late 19th to early 20th centuries; many of these dumps had been looted.

Three other features explored by Schuyler are indicated as L, M, and N, and are directly adjacent to the project area (Appendix A). Feature L was a brick and cinder block foundation located at the southwest corner of Clay Pit and Bloomingdale Road (Askins 1980:2-104). A structure is indicated on the historic maps as early as 1874 (Beers 1874). The structure was cleared but not explored. Feature M was the identification of the brick and cinder block foundation remains of the c.1907 Francis Henry house, burned in the 1963 fire (see Section A, Tests 95, 96, 97). Francis Henry was a very successful oysterman, owning his own sloop (Schuyler 1974, 1980; Askins 1980). Feature N is a privy located 10' west and 15' south of Feature M. The vault is woodlined and rubble-filled (Askins 1980:2-109). The remains of this collapsed privy shed structure were located in our survey as well; this structure is not within the project area.



The Sandy Ground Survey Project was conducted in 1979 directed by William Askins, a Ph.D. student at The City College (Askins 1980:Section 2). This archeological survey was "to establish the presence of archaeologically recoverable materials representing the full chronological and social range of variation within the community," and also to establish boundaries for a Sandy Ground Historic Archaeological National Register District. During this survey, a surface sample of artifacts within a half mile radius was collected and features associated with structures were located. The results of this survey for the areas included in this study appear as Appendix A at the end of this report.

SECTION A

(Tax Lot 42 and part of Tax Lot 200)

Historical Background

This is a "dog leg" shaped section of the project area, all of which was originally part of the Sharrot farm/slaughterhouse/butcher shop complex. Tax Lot 42 fronts on the north side of Sharrot Road, and extends north to the southern edge of Lot 200. Lot 200 is a rectangular piece with no road frontage. The parcel is in the southeast corner of the Clay Pit Road-Bloomingtondale Road-Sharrot Road block.

This area was a part of the larger holdings of D. Sharrot from at least 1853 through 1874 (Butler 1853; Walling 1859 and 1864; Beers 1874). By 1874, W. B. Sharrot apparently owned the eastern portion of the area along the north side of Sharrot Road, but no boundary line is shown. By 1887, the entire area was owned by W. B. Sharrot (Beers 1887).

Between 1887 and 1898, the configuration of the Sharrot estate changed dramatically (Beers 1887; Pidgeon 1898). During this time, a lot measuring about 100' x 200' was conveyed to "C. W. Sharrot," and a house was erected there, which is still extant today. Two other houses, with barns to the rear, both fronting on Sharrot Road, were erected east of this during that period as well. Three other lots, each about 100' x 150', were also created during this period, facing Bloomingtondale. These were owned by R. Landon, a wealthy black oysterman who owned the sloop Pacific, F. Henry, a member of one of the original NY/NJ families to settle at Sandy Ground, and Mary Morse (Askins 1980:2-1). Only the Morse lot contained a dwelling (Pidgeon 1898). By 1907, the C. W. Sharrot house was owned by J. Moseley, and houses had been erected on the Landon and Henry lots. By 1913, the Morse household had acquired a large frame shed at the rear property line. Subsequent to 1917, all of these houses, barns and sheds, except the C. W. Sharrot/J. Moseley house at Sharrot Road, were demolished, and this area is now a parking lot for the Sleepy Hollow Restaurant.

This portion of the project area always remained a part of the W. B. Sharrot estate, and never was developed with any structures. (There are two modern sheds on Tax Lot 42 now.) However, this part of the study area was the rear and/or side yard of six house sites, and we expected to encounter evidence of peripheral dumping along its borders.

Survey and Testing

Topographically, the area slopes gently but steadily upwards from west to east. Along the western edge of this section, there is a low point of 107'; the high point of 118' is found at the eastern end of Lot 200. The central portion of Lot 200 has been bulldozed recently, and the topography and stratigraphy disturbed.

We observed an overgrown path leading north from Sharrot Road, along the eastern edge of Tax Lot 42, which was connected to the network of old roadways around the ice house and ponds at the western end of Tax Lot 200. This was not shown in any of the historic maps.

Tests 88, 89, 95, 96, 97 and 98 were made in Section A.

Test 88

This test was located 60' north of Sharrot Road, on Lot 42, between the old trail and a fence line following the easterly lot line. This is an area of dense, fairly recent, undergrowth and low trees. The area is littered with recent trash, such as lumber, a metal barrel, plastic bottles, concrete slabs, oil cans, and asphalt siding. Level A was a black topsoil, 4" thick. It was followed by a brown loam, extending to a depth of 14". Under this was an orange-tan hardpacked subsoil, followed to the bottom of the test at 20". This test was sterile.

Test 89

This test was 200' north of Sharrot Road, behind the C. W. Sharrot/J. Moseley house, just at the rear lot line. This area, too, is

littered with recent debris, and is thickly overgrown. Along with more recent garbage and a number of wooden crates, a 10-gallon stoneware crock with an Albany slip glaze on the interior was found. Layer A was 4" of black, organic forest duff. A single stoneware sherd was recovered here. Beneath this was a sterile layer of brown loam, to a depth of 16". An orange-tan, hardpacked sandy subsoil extended below this to a closing depth of 38".

Tests 95, 96, 97 were placed at the rear property line of the three c.1890-1907 houses fronting on Bloomingdale Road. These tests somewhat support the hypothesis of a concentrated trash disposal pattern at the rear property lines, but it is also characterized by a wide scatter of artifactual debris.

Test 95

This test was placed at the southeast corner of Lot 200, about 175' west of Bloomingdale Road and 210' north of Sharrot Road, in a high, grassy area. The surface of the area around the test yielded a variety of late 19th and 20th century debris, including auto headlight glass, bottle glass and two whiteware fragments. Level A, a fine brown sand, extended to a depth of 15". It yielded coal, brick and mortar fragments, a machine-cut nail (post-1790), whiteware (2), ironstone (1), and a variety of embossed bottle fragments. Level B was a fine, yellow-brown sand, extending to a depth of 24". This level contained seven whiteware fragments (c.1820-1900+), coal, brick, and a variety of bottle (25) and other glass (2) fragments dating between 1880 and 1910. Beneath this was Layer C, a fine yellow sand, followed to the closing depth of 38". This stratum contained cement chips and a single piece of whiteware.

This test did indicate the existence of a stratified dump in this area. The deposits reflect the late 19th century development of the lots on Bloomingdale and Sharrot. The earliest deposit dates to c.1880-1910. Because of its proximity to at least three homes, it would be difficult to

ascribe this collection to any one household--Wm. Sharrot, white businessman, or the Henrys or Landons, black families.

Test 96

This test was 75' northwest of Test 95. This area, too, was heavily littered with modern debris, including abandoned cars. There was evidence of past surface disturbance here. Layer A was a brown topsoil, 8" deep. We recovered window glass (2), coal, fragments of an auto headlight (19), and a piece of concrete. Layer B, orange-tan sand, was sterile, and continued to a depth of 39".

Test 97

This test was placed at the northeast corner of Tax Lot 200, 175' west of Bloomingdale Road. The surface of the test revealed an iron-stone chamber pot rim and body sherd, with blue floral transfer print decoration (c.1813-1900). Layer A was a brown topsoil, 4" deep. It yielded coal, a clay tobacco pipestem fragment, and a machine-cut nail. Level B, a tan-orange sand, was followed to a depth of 34". Except for a possible fire-cracked cobble, it contained no cultural material.

Test 98

This was placed near the northerly lot line of Lot 200, 300' north of Sharrot Road and 300' west of Bloomingdale. Layer A was fine, sandy brown soil, containing many roots and humus. It extended to a depth of 20". It contained a clam shell, coal, and a single whiteware sherd c.1820-1900. Level B, a yellow-brown sand, extended to a depth of 28". It contained coal and brick fragments. Level C, orange sand, which followed to a depth of 38", was sterile.

Summary

Although most of this entire section was peripheral to six different home sites, the tests failed to confirm the existence of a

concentrated pattern of peripheral dumping except in Test 95. While a stratified sample, with a component dating between 1880 and 1910, was made at the rear of lots on Bloomingdale and Sharrot, it is impossible to ascribe the collection to any one household. This, coupled with the apparent land movement in a large area of Section A, causes us to consider it a non-sensitive area.

SECTION B

Location and Historical Background

Section B of the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates survey is located in the northeast portion of the project area, west of Bloomingdale Road and south of Clay Pit Road. A review of the documentary sources indicates that this area was not developed in historic times.

However, this property was located adjacent to development on Bloomingdale and Clay Pit Roads and was thus evaluated for activity that might have originated there. "Wm. Butler" is shown occupying what is now the lot of the A.M.E. Church as early as 1859 and through 1864 (Walling 1859, 1864). By that date (1864), a "Mrs. Drinker" occupied the lot facing Bloomingdale at the corner of Clay Pit (Walling 1864). These two occupations were part of the earliest cluster of houses forming the Woodrow settlement. By 1874, the Drinker's had moved three lots north and "Cromwell" occupied the corner; Butler and the structure at his location were gone by 1874 and "W. Hines" is listed on their lot location with no structure shown. "E. Napoleon" occupied a 2-acre lot with a house above the corner of Sharrot and Bloomingdale. The rear portion of this property is included in the study area (Beers 1874). By 1887, "E. Napoleon" also owned the 5 acres of land behind the Bloomingdale settlement north to Clay Pit Road, replacing "J. W. Winant" who had owned "2 acres" in that location, c.1874 (Beers 1874, 1887). This 5-acre parcel includes the study area in Section B and was not developed.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, having suffered a split in 1875, relocated on the Hines (1874) lot as the American Methodist Church between 1887 and 1898 (Robinson 1898). Also, Frank Dixon had a house and barn on the corner of Clay Pit and Bloomingdale in 1898, replacing Dixon, and John Sherer (2-1/2 acres) owned the western portion of Section B (Robinson 1898). The property remained basically the same through 1917 (Robinson and Pidgeon 1907; Bromley 1917).

Survey and testing in Section B took the form of intensive exploration for dumps at the eastern edge of the study area behind the house lots on Bloomingdale. We were not successful in this attempt, but did note outbuildings and some debris further east within the Bloomingdale lots. The project area, located 45 feet west of these lot boundaries, seemed to just miss being a dumping area.

The area behind and adjacent to the A.M.E. Church was particularly scoured. The Church has historically been the site of large social gatherings, and in historic accounts references are made to ox roasts having been regularly held here (Askins 1980). The garbage from such large social gatherings should have left considerable evidence in the form of trash middens unless the trash was carted away. Our efforts to document trash disposal patterns through oral history were not definitive. When questioned on what was done with garbage, Mr. Pedro responded that one dug a hole away from the house in any accessible spot and buried it (Pedro 1982:personal communication). Mr. Pedro had no recollection, however, of how the garbage from church social events was disposed of. Nor did he feel there was any set pattern to trash deposition, i.e., distance from house, direction, etc.

Survey and Testing

In general, Section B is an area that is heavily wooded with dense ground cover, particularly along the perimeter of the property, i.e., along Clay Pit Road and along the easternmost edge. The trees are of recent growth, ranging in size from 2" to 10" in diameter, and from 7' to 25' in height. Several species of deciduous trees were noted during the survey, namely, white birch, willow, oak, gum, and maple. The ground cover consists of high grass in open areas, cat briars and other dense ground cover.

The topography of Section B slopes gently from east to west, from an elevation of 116' to 106' near the eastern edge of the ponds. The

western portion of Section B is somewhat wet and swampy, and ferns are the most common ground cover in the area. Survey revealed that a portion of Section B has been disturbed by excavation and clearing (bulldozing?) in the recent past. In the center of this section, there are several excavated pits and dirt piles and the slight traces of a recent road.

A great deal of 20th century garbage and debris is scattered throughout the area. For example, we found a number of junked cars, car parts, and a considerable quantity of building material such as piles of wood, stone and cement, asbestos shingles and window glass. The entire area was also littered with soda cans, plastic bottles, and a variety of other items.

Ten shovel tests were made within the area designated as Section B; these included Tests 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 164, 166, 167, and 171. A description of these tests and their results is as follows:

Test 99

Test 99 is located along the eastern edge of the project area, directly behind or west of the A.M.E. Church property. The area of this test is densely wooded and overgrown. Level A was a black loamy topsoil containing much organic material which went to a depth of six inches. No cultural material was located in Level A. Level B consisted of gray-brown colored sand or silt which extended from 6" to 24" in depth. Three artifacts were recovered from Level B: a piece of charred wood, a piece of coal slag, and a brick fragment. Layer C, the bottom-most stratum of this test, was an orange-tan colored sand and was excavated to a maximum depth of 36". No artifacts were recovered from Level C.

Test 100

Test 100 is located in the extreme northeast corner of Section B, south of the private homes which border on Clay Pit Road. Several dump piles were noted in the project area behind these homes, consisting of

coal, wood, and other debris. Two soil layers were tested. Level A was dug through the surface of a dump. This soil level was a soft brown sandy soil with numerous artifacts recovered from Level A such as a metal bottle cap, tin collar, an iron nut fragment, bone fragments, burned wood, leather, (discarded), coal and coal ash, a milk bottle, window glass, and milk glass fragments. Ceramics fragment of unglazed redware, terracotta drain, an ironstone fragment dates to the period from c.1813 to the present.

Level B was a yellow-to-brown sandy soil to a depth of 36". This soil level produced a number of artifacts, namely, numerous pieces of coal which were discarded, "Albanite" spark plug, window glass, bottle glass, fragment of a lamp, and a quart milk bottle.

Test 101

Another recent dump was located directly adjacent to a swimming pool which is located in the northeastern corner of the area. Test 101 was excavated into this dump. Soil Level 1 was black-brown soil mixed with coal and ash, which was to a depth of 15". A large quantity of cultural material was recovered from this test such as fragments of asphalt shingles (discarded), asbestos shingles (also discarded), charred wood, fragment of a knife blade, and an 8" long piece of corroded iron. Numerous other artifacts were recovered as well, e.g., window glass, amber and glass, and the neck of a milk bottle. Excavations were limited to a depth of 15" because a large root was encountered at the bottom.

Test 102

Test 102 is located along the eastern edge of Section B (west of Bloomingdale Road). Our field reconnaissance of this area resulted in the discovery of two prehistoric chert flakes on the surface of the ground. Test 102 was excavated at the point of these surface finds. The area of this test is generally open-field, with grass or scrub brush nearby, and a large tree to the east. This area has been stripped of its topsoil cover.

Level A consists of a thin layer of gray-colored sand that was one inch in thickness. This gray sand contained several pieces of coal and burned coal which were discarded. A clam shell fragment, the burned head of a nail, a small piece of melted glass, and two fragments of an amber bottle were also recovered from Level A, all of which may reflect evidence of the fire of 1963.

Level B of Test 102 was an orange-tan colored sand that was excavated to a total depth of 39". This soil level augmented our surface finds of prehistoric flakes: two prehistoric chert flakes were found within Level B, one of which was brown in color and the other a tan-green color. A fragment of an amber bottle plus four pieces of coal (discarded) were also recovered from this soil level.

The discovery of four prehistoric chert flakes in Test 102 strongly suggests prehistoric use and/or occupation in this area of the site. A similar and additional find was made a short distance to the northeast of this test (See Test 167).

Test 103

Test 103 is located in the southeast corner of Section B, approximately 80 feet due south of Test 102. Level A consisted of a gray-to-black colored sand, with a thin cover of moss on the surface. Level A was 6" deep, and contained one artifact, a fragment of a badly

oxidized nail. Level B was an orange-tan colored sand that extended from 6" to 24" and was devoid of any cultural material. Excavation of this test was halted at 24" because large roots were encountered in the hole.

Test 104

Test 104 was excavated into the westerly edge of a pile of soil which is located to the west of the portable swimming pool in the north-east corner of Section B. This soil pile was littered with coal, ash, and glass on its surface and the test was intended to profile this feature. Level A is a brown colored, soft, fine, sandy soil that measured in depth from 0 to 20". Artifacts recovered from Level A were pieces of coal (discarded), fragments of a glass mirror, a milk glass top to a mason jar, and a piece of clear, curved glass. One rimsherd of porcelain with a green and gray hand-painted linear design was also found in Level A.

Level B is a mottled orange-brown sandy soil that was excavated to a depth of 30 inches. Several pieces of burned coal were encountered in this soil level and were discarded. Other artifacts recovered were two unidentifiable fragments of iron, a bone, a fragment of milk glass, and a piece of clear, thick glass. Level C was a yellow-to-orange sand and was excavated to a total depth of 37 inches. No artifacts were recovered from Level C.

Test 164

The area surrounding Test 164 is generally open with some grass and low-growing plants nearby. This test is located in the southern half of Section B, about 100 feet west of Test 102. The area has been stripped of its topsoil cover.

Level A consists of a gray colored sand that is 7 inches deep. No artifacts were found within this soil level. Level B was an orange-tan colored sand that was excavated to a total depth of 36". This sandy subsoil level was also devoid of cultural material.

Test 166

Test 166 is located in a low-lying swampy area in approximately the center of Section B. The area of this test is heavily wooded and the ground cover consists of ferns. Level A was a thin layer of brown humus, 3" thick, containing decaying leaves but no cultural material. Level B was a black, sandy soil with pieces of decaying wood and bark. Level B extended from 3" to 12" in depth and was also without any artifacts. Level C was a gray-to-tan colored sand. This soil level was wet or damp and was excavated to a depth of 26". No artifacts were recovered from Level C. Excavation of this test was halted when water was encountered at a depth of 26".

Test 167

Test 167 is located along the easterly portion of Section B. It lies approximately 60' northwest of Test 102. Our field survey of this area resulted in the recovery of several interesting and important artifacts from the surface of the ground, two prehistoric chert flakes, one Hutchinson bottle stopper (c.1880-1915), and a fragment of a whiteware bowl with a bright blue transfer print floral decoration and molded design. This fragment of whiteware dates to post-1870 (Miller 1982:personal communication). Test 167 was excavated at the exact location of these surface finds.

Level A was a gray-tan sand that extended to a depth of 8". No artifacts were recovered from this soil layer. Level B was an orange-tan sandy subsoil excavated to a depth of 32"; no cultural material was recovered.

Test 171

This test consists of a surface collection of artifacts which were found along the easterly edge of Section B, at a point 25' north of Test 102. The artifacts in this surface collection were dateable to the

19th and early 20th centuries. The ceramic artifacts recovered were a fragment of gray saltglazed stoneware with an Albany Slip interior, one fragment of undecorated ironstone, and one fragment of ironstone with a maker's mark, "ROYAL IRONSTONE CHINA" and "ANCHOR POTTERY." One piece of amethyst chimney glass was also recovered. This fragment has a crimped and scalloped rim.

Summary

Section B was most significant for the concentration of prehistoric material found in the 50 foot area of Tests 102 and 167. The concentration of prehistoric material found in this area points to some purposeful activity at this locus. For this reason, this has been designated a sensitive area and is recommended as a place where more intensive testing be done.

While some dumps were encountered behind recent houses on Clay Pit (Tests 100, 101, 104) at the rear of the properties, the search made behind the lots settled earlier in the mid-19th century on Bloomingdale were not fruitful. This probably stems from the location of the study area boundary which is 45 feet behind these lots.

SECTION C

Physical Description

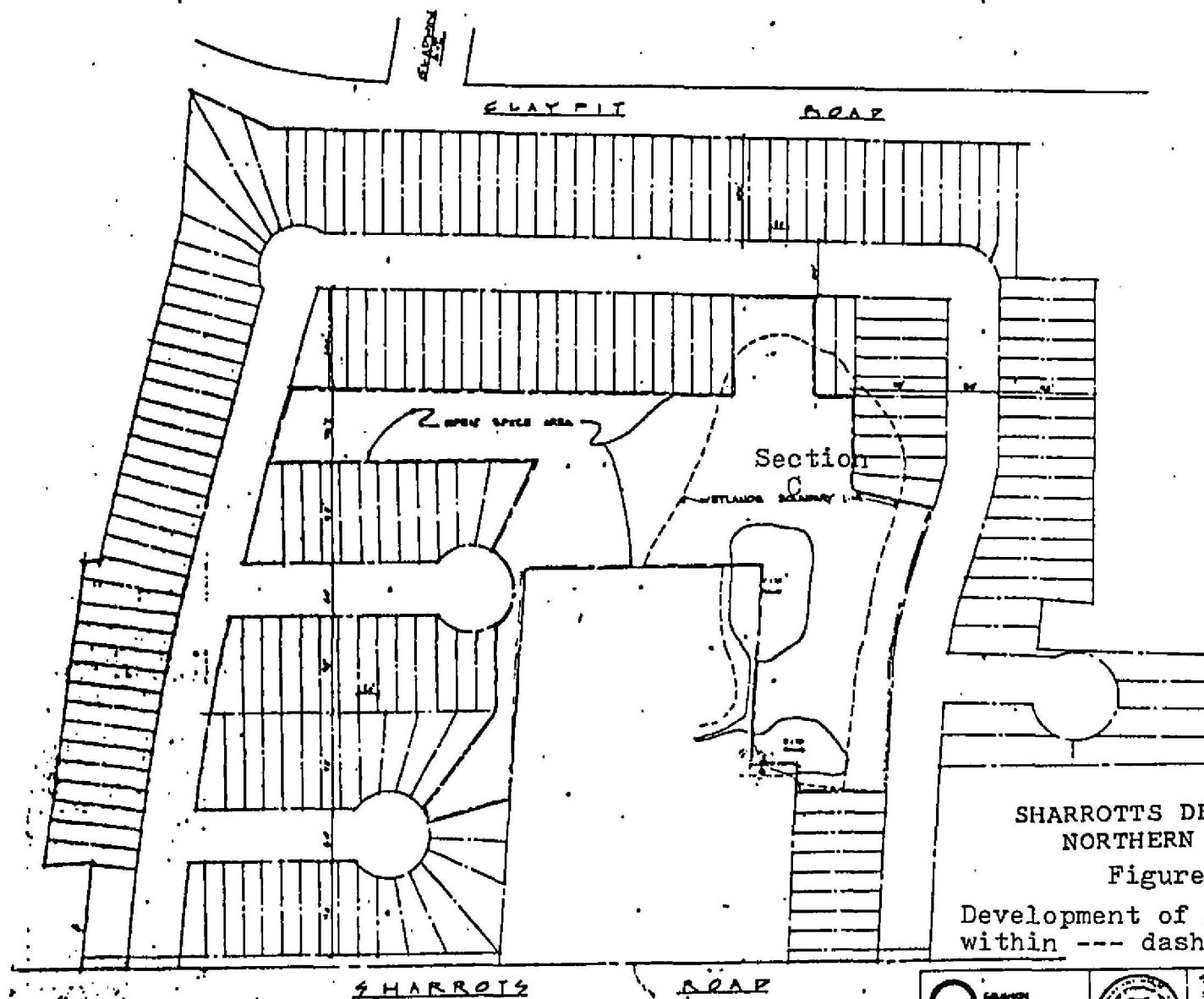
Section C, in the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates project, is located north of Sharrot Road within the approximate center of Tax Block 7267. Two Cretaceous ponds exist in the southern portion of Section C. They are designated as Pond #3 and Pond #4, respectively, in the environmental impact report prepared by Carpenter Environmental Associates, Inc. (1982).

Pond #3 is the northernmost and larger of the two ponds. It is approximately 120 feet in diameter, and at the time of our survey its shore line was littered with modern trash such as wood and bottles. Pond #4 is located close to the back of the homes on Sharrot Road and has also been used as a dump for modern trash. A drainage channel exists on the western side of Pond #3 and it runs southward and connects with a similar one emanating from the westerly side of Pond #4. These drainage channels form a small stream which flows southward and crosses Sharrot Road. The area to the north and west of these ponds is flat and densely wooded.

Ten subsurface tests were made within the area designated as Section C. The results of these tests are described in detail below. In addition, an intensive pedestrian survey was conducted in this section in an attempt to locate above-ground features and cultural material. The location of an ice house was discerned in this manner.

Historical Background

The historical maps of this area indicate that D. Sharrot had a home on the north side of present-day Sharrot Road as early as 1853 (Butler 1853). The record is not clear as to how many acres were owned by this individual at that time. However, by 1874, "D. Sharrot" is shown as owning 15-1/2 acres on the north side of the road. Also, the map shows a "W. B. Sharrot" with 1/2 acre and a house on the corner of Sharrot and

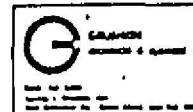


SHARROTS DEVELOPMENT
NORTHERN TRACT

Figure 16

Development of Area C is shown
within --- dashed line area.

(Taken from Carpenter, 1982: 1-5)



SHARROTS ESTATES
150 UNIT, 20000 ACRES
NORTH



Figure 17

Sharrot's ice pond(#4) looking north
toward the location of no longer ex-
tant ice house.

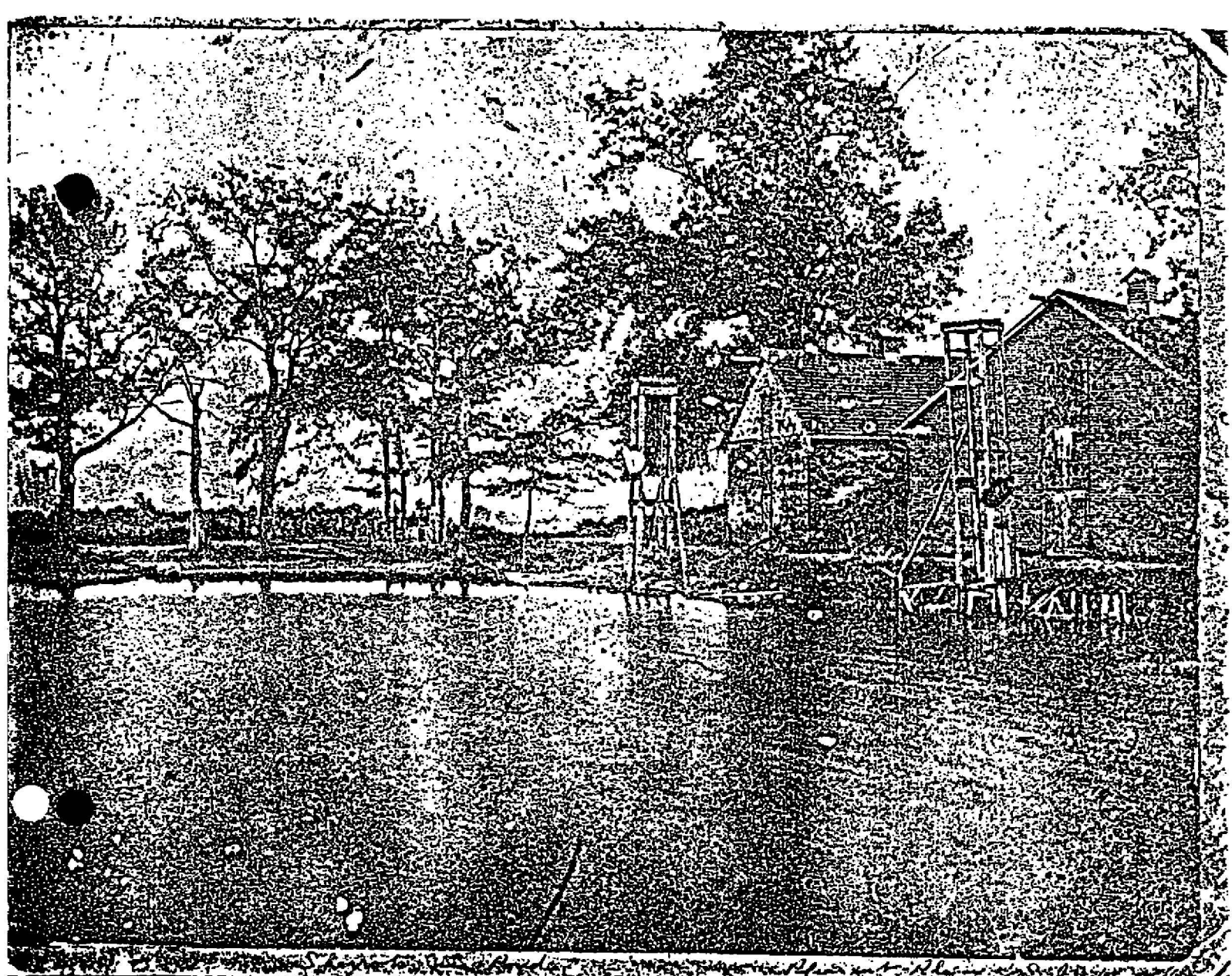


Figure 18

Sharrot's Ice Pond, Pleasant Plains,
Staten Island. Ice pond and ice house
are identified on this c. 1900 photo
as being located on Bloomingdale Road
at the southwest corner of Woodrow Road.
(Courtesy of the Staten Island Histori-
cal Society; Acc. 1039).

Bloomingtondale Roads (Beers 1874). By 1898, this area appears to be entirely the property of "W. B. Sharrot" (Robinson 1898).

The 1898 Robinson map depicts a small rectangular structure in the general area of the ponds. A structure of some kind is also shown on the 1907 Robinson and Pidgeon map. On the 1913 topographical survey map of this area, a small structure is shown on the north side of Pond #4, and is labeled as a "brick ice house" (Anonymous 1913). This structure also appears on the later 1917 atlas (Bromley 1917).

According to Mr. William Pedro, a long-time resident of Sandy Ground, the structure on the north side of Pond #4 was formerly an ice house (Pedro 1982:personal communication). Mr. Pedro, who is presently 101 years old, remembers the ice house in his youth. Mr. Pedro states that William (Bill) Sharrot was a butcher whose place of business was located on Sharrot Road. Bill Sharrot had a slaughter house on the north side of Sharrot Road and this structure was later moved across the street near the present Sleepy Hollow Inn. Presumably, Bill Sharrot harvested ice from the ponds to supply his needs in the slaughter house. In addition, Mr. Pedro stated that "Bill Sharrot had an ice route in Richmond Valley and Great Fields."

Survey and Testing

Test 31

Test 31 was located along the edge of the dirt road, 40 feet northeast of Pond #4. The test was placed in this location because it appeared to be a dumping area and was earlier the edge of the pond (Anonymous 1913). The uppermost soil layer, Level A, was a dark orange sand that went to a depth of 10 inches. This level contained a considerable amount of cultural material such as window and bottle glass fragments, an iron car spring, a clamp with screws, pieces of leather, and several whiteware cup fragments plus an ironstone china rimsherd which can be dated to the 19th century. Level B was a thin layer of soil, 1-1/2" thick

of similar color and texture that also contained window and bottle glass fragments and an unidentified piece of metal. One fragment of a green bottle base and paneled side could be dated to post-1920.

Level C extended from 11-1/2" to 15" in depth and was a black clay muck. One piece of iron and an iron strap (1" x 6" x 1/4") were found in this soil level. Level D was a tan-gray sand that was excavated to a depth of 25" at which point water was encountered. Three badly rusted and unidentifiable iron fragments were found in Level D.

Test 32

Test 32 was placed in the middle of the brick ice house site at the northern end of Pond #4. Our pedestrian survey of this area revealed the remains of a structure that consisted of a rectangular or four-sided mound of earth that was open in its center. This feature was overgrown with small trees, brush and poison ivy. A surface collection of artifacts was found in the center of the brick ice house. These artifacts were bottle glass fragments and three pieces of ironstone china dating to the 19th and possibly the 20th centuries.

Soil Level A was a brown sandy silt that went to a depth of 7-1/2". One fragment of brick was found in this soil layer. Level B was a tan-orange colored sand that was excavated to a depth of 21-1/2". No artifacts were found in this soil which was very hardpacked. One of the purposes of this test was to determine whether this structure had a brick or stone floor of some kind. None was found in this test.

Test 33

In our surface reconnaissance around Pond #4 we discovered the remains of a brick wall at its western outlet. This brick wall measured 10 feet long, beginning at the north side of the pond outlet and running east along the edge of the pond toward the ice house. This brick wall was 8 inches (two bricks) in height and was apparently a part of the ice house

complex. Test 33 was placed at the east end of the brick wall.

Level A was a one inch thick black layer of organic material and soil, and was sterile. Level B was a brown sand or silt that was excavated to a depth of 10 inches when work was halted because water was encountered. No artifacts were found.

Test 34

This test was placed in the presumed southerly edge of the brick ice house. The test successfully located the south foundation wall which was constructed of brick and measured 22 inches thick. The outside of this foundation wall was packed with clay, which was excavated to a depth of 18 inches when water was encountered. The top of the wall was covered by a 3 inch thick layer (Level A) of brown colored humus which contained two pieces of bottle glass.

Test 35

Test 35 was located about 10 feet south of the brick ice house within Pond #4. Soil Level A was a black silt that went from surface to 6 inches. Several artifacts were recovered from Level A, namely a ceramic insulator (post-1900), and a glass bottle that dates to after 1903. Level B was a gray-to-black silt that was excavated to a depth of 12 inches when water was encountered. One fragment of bottle glass was found in this level.

Test 36

Test 36 was placed in the southwest corner of the brick ice house. Soil Level A consisted of a brown sand that extended to a depth of 32 inches. Several fragments of brick and cement were found in Level A as well as a piece of coal and several bottle glass fragments. One bottle base sherd can be dated to post-1903. Level B was a tan colored sand that

was dug to a depth of 36 inches and was devoid of cultural material.

Test 45

This test is located in the dirt road some 65 feet west of Pond #3. Level A was a gray colored sand that was 18 inches in depth and contained some small stones but no cultural material. Soil Level B was a tan to light gray colored sand that was excavated to 31 inches in depth. This soil layer was also sterile.

Test 90

The remains of a small wood structure were located to the east of Pond #3 in the course of our field survey. This wooden feature was framed with iron hardware and may represent the remains of a wagon. Test 90 was placed near this feature and is located 20 feet east of Pond #3 and 60 feet north of the dirt road.

Soil Level A was a thin one-inch layer of black topsoil that was sterile. Level B was a brown loam that extended from 1" to 5" in depth. This level was also sterile. Level C was a gray colored clay that went from 5 inches to 11 inches. A small fragment of brick was found in this level and was discarded. Level D was a black sandy silt that went to a depth of 26 inches and was also sterile. Finally, Level E was a gray colored clay that was dug to 30 inches and was devoid of cultural material.

Test 165

Test 165 is located approximately 100 feet northeast of Pond #3. The area surrounding this test is flat, low-lying and wet with a ground cover of ferns. Level A consisted of black-to-brown humus that was 12 inches thick. No artifacts were found within this level. Soil Level B was a gray colored clay that was dug to a depth of 24 inches. Work was halted as water was encountered. This level was also sterile.

Test 168

The area to the north of Pond #3 is flat, also low lying, and probably soggy in wet seasons. The trees in this area are of recent growth and average about 8 inches in diameter. The ground cover is minimal with some brush throughout the area. The northern edge of Pond #3 is the most densely wooded and brush-covered area. Test 168 is located 100 feet north of Pond #3.

Level A was a black-brown layer of decaying organic matter that was 3 inches deep. Level B was a black sandy soil with some organic material that extended from 3 inches to 14 inches. Level C is a gray colored clay that was dug to a depth of 26 inches. Excavation of this test was halted when water was encountered. All soil levels of this test were devoid of cultural material.

Summary

Survey and testing in the area of Section C was notable in the identification of a sensitive area of a brick ice house foundation known to have been associated with the Sharrot family. The Sharrots were one of several white families operating businesses as part of the Sandy Ground community during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Documentation shows William Sharrot occupying this property from 1874 on, and oral history records his operating a butcher shop both on Sharrot Road and in Rossville (Pedro, Siviglia 1982:personal communication). The ice house is especially notable, then, as part of a local industry (butchering) being carried out on Sharrot Road to service the community.

Section C is an area designated by the developer as not being built upon in response to environmental determination about the Cretaceous ponds. Building plans call for the Sharrot Estates to skirt this area, leaving it natural and unchanged. We would recommend that there be an evaluation made of the impact of increased population on this heretofore isolated area, however, despite the fact that it will not be built upon.

SECTION D

Physical Description and Historical Background

The northwest segment of the Sandy Ground/Sharrot Estates Project is a flat low-lying area with topographic elevations which vary slightly from 114 feet to 117 feet above the U.S.C. & G.S. Richmond Datum. This area has been designated as Section D in the archaeological survey. In general, this entire section is heavily covered by scrub woods, grass and weeds, and in some places, cat briars that form impenetrable thickets. A low area or temporary pond is located in the southwest quadrant of Section D. This low area or temporary pond is 1,200 feet west of Bloomingdale Road and 500 feet north of Sharrot Road. It is a Cretaceous Pond (approximately 65 million years old) and one member of the chain of ponds between Sharrot and Clay Pit Roads (Carpenter 1982). The pond was nearly dry at the time of our archaeological survey, and littered with modern debris.

Many small and narrow dirt roads cross through the area of Section D. These roads are used as bridle paths and foot paths by local residents. According to Mr. William Pedro, a long-time Sandy Ground resident, no wagons were previously used on these roads. Instead, they functioned as short-cuts for children going to school and as dog paths (Pedro 1982:personal communication). No historic structures are known to have existed in Section D, and indeed none was found in the course of our survey.

Two distinct pathways were identified on the series of historic maps available and are so indicated on the Base Map. One path is a loop road first indicated on the 1913 Topographic Map (Anonymous 1913). Its northern portion was located approximately in the road bed of Clay Pit Road with a divergent branch following parallel to the other, some 25' south. The two ends meet at Bogardus Road and then again 600' east. At the time of the survey, the path was visible only as depressions at the

easternmost intersection in the vicinity of Tests 106, 107, and 108. No structures are shown related to this roadway. It would be difficult to ascribe material culture found here to any but the general Sandy Ground population.

A second, well-defined triangular path network which is still utilized was evident on the 1979 Topographic Map (Ettlinger 1979). The material culture found along this path reflects its recent usage, as it is the depository for numerous abandoned cars and trucks, as well as building debris and other oversize garbage. The path must have recently accommodated a small front loader as well, as evidenced by earth movement in one area between the roads (Tax Lots 167 and 163).

A third path was indicated along the western border of this section, first appearing on the Beers 1874 Atlas Map (Beers 1874). Shown as a dotted line roadway from Clay Pit Road (north) to Sharrot Road (south), the road ran between the property of C. Bogardus to the west and D. Sharrot (c.1874), then later, J. Kern (c.1887), to the east (Beers 1874, 1887). The road or pathway either had fallen into disuse by 1898 or was so unimproved that it was not indicated on maps afterward.

Survey and Testing

In surveying this portion of Section D, about 300' of a narrow (2' wide) foot path was found which was probably this earlier road. The road was obliterated by a large truckbed and extensive building debris at the southern boundary of Tax Lot 175. There was no remnant of the rest of the road found south of this point in Tax Lot 4 (Section E).

The tests made in Section D included: 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 91, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, and 115.

Test 37

Test 37 is located in the southeasterly corner of Section D, along a bank between the dirt road and the fence line. A small foot path parallels the fence line (east to west) in this location. Four soil layers were encountered in digging this test.

Level A was a brown sandy soil that extended from 0 to 4" in depth. Several glass bottle fragments were found within Level A and these were of 20th century origin. Level B was a yellow sandy soil and went to a depth of 12". No artifacts were found in this soil level. Level C was a brown colored sand containing some roots which went down to a depth of 18"; no artifacts were found. Level D, the lowest or deepest soil stratum, was a fine-grained yellow colored sand that was excavated to a depth of 3'6". No artifacts were found in this soil layer.

Test 38

Test 38 is also located in the southeasterly corner of Section D. This test was placed at the intersection of the northwest-southeast dirt road, and the north-south dirt road. The uppermost soil layer in this test, designated Level A, was a thin 2" layer of black forest duff which was culturally sterile. Level B was a tan-orange colored sand that was excavated to a depth of 3 feet. This soil layer was also completely sterile.

Test 39

Test 39 is located approximately in the center of Section D between the upper east-west dirt road and the lower northwest-southeast dirt road. This area was selected for testing because the surface of the ground was littered with glass and ceramic fragments. The glass fragments collected from this test area include fragments of a Coca Cola bottle, a milk bottle marked "WEISS," a bottle base with an embossed wolf's head, and plate and window glass. The ceramic fragments found at the site were

whiteware plate pieces decorated with a platinum band and green-beige decal, an ironstone plate basal piece with an orange-yellow floral decal, and a granite china rim and basal sherd. These ceramic fragments date to the 19th century.

Soil Level A of this test was a brown sandy soil that extended to a depth of 5". No artifacts were recovered from within this layer. Level B was a yellow colored sand that was excavated to a depth of 36", and one fragment of undecorated whiteware was found at the top of this level.

Test 40

Test 40 was placed at the northwesterly end of the northwest-southeast dirt road, at its intersection with the western end of the upper east-west road. Level A consisted of a brown-black topsoil layer that was 1" thick. No artifacts were found within this thin soil layer. Level B was a tan-orange colored subsoil that was excavated to a depth of 30". One small piece of clam shell was found in this level and was recorded and discarded.

Test 41

Test 41 is located in the northwesterly portion of Section D at the intersection of Bogardus Road and the extreme westerly end of the northwest-southeast dirt road. Bogardus Road is a small dirt road that runs north-south connecting present-day Clay Pit Road and the northwest-southeast dirt road. It lies a short distance east of the present home (Logan) located at #134 Clay Pit Road.

Level A was a brown sandy soil that went to a depth of 3". Numerous artifacts were recovered from this soil layer such as whiteware, redware, yellowware and gray saltglaze stoneware fragments. These ceramics date from 1820. Several glass fragments were found as well, such as a variety of bottle glass and pieces of window glass. These glass fragments

can be generally dated to the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. Level B was an orange-yellow sand that was excavated to a depth of 2'6". No artifacts were found in Level B.

Test 42

Test 42 is located at the upper end of Section D along the east-west dirt road. The surface area of this test was littered with coal and domestic trash. The artifacts collected from the surface were bottle glass fragments, whiteware fragments, one of which contains a maker's mark, and the rim of a flowerpot. In general, the artifacts date to the late 19th to early 20th centuries.

Level A was a brown sandy soil that extended to a depth of 3-1/2 inches. No artifacts were found within this soil layer. Level B was an orange colored sand that we dug to a depth of 42 inches. This soil layer was also culturally sterile.

Test 43

This test is located in the eastern end of the east-west upper dirt road. The test was placed in the roadbed itself, where it makes a bend and joins the north-south connecting road. Level A was a brown sandy soil layer that was 3-1/2 inches thick. One undecorated fragment of whiteware was recovered from this level. Level B was orange colored sterile sand that was excavated to a depth of 37 inches.

Test 44

This test was excavated along the north-south connecting dirt road at the eastern end of Section D. Soil level A was a thin brown colored sand that measured 1-1/2 inches in depth. Level B was an orange colored sand that was dug to a depth of 37 inches. Both of these soil layers were devoid of cultural material.

Test 46

This test is located in the southwest quadrant of Section D, 25 feet south of the low area or pond. The general area to the south of this test has been greatly disturbed; that is, the ground surface appears to have been scraped or excavated to some degree. The southwest corner of this section is covered with heavy brush and there is a modern dump on the perimeter of the open-disturbed area. This dump contains a truck body, discarded tires, wood and other debris.

Level A of Test 46 was an 8 inch thick layer of black humus and leaf mold. Below the humus, we encountered a gray colored clay which we excavated to a depth of 32 inches. No artifacts were recovered from these soil layers.

Test 47

Test 47 was placed just outside the eastern edge of the "low area" or pond. Soil Level A was 3-1/2 inches in depth and consisted of dark brown humus. Several pieces of bottle glass plus one fragment of milk glass were found in this upper layer. Level B was a gray-tan clay-like subsoil that was dug to a depth of 15 inches. This level was sterile, and excavation was halted when we encountered water.

Test 48

Test 48 was placed at a point 20 feet north of the "low area" or pond. The area of this test was wooded as was the entire area surrounding the pond. Level A was a light brown sandy soil that was 2 inches thick and sterile. Level B was orange colored sandy soil which we excavated to a depth of 36". No artifacts were recovered from Level B.

Test 91

Test 91 was located in the northwest corner of Section D, between Bogardus Road and the house at #134 Clay Pit Road. Two soil

layers were encountered in this test. Level A was a black-to-brown colored topsoil that was 8 inches thick. No artifacts were found in this level. Soil Level B was a tan colored sand that was dug to a depth of 28 inches. This level was also sterile.

Test 106

Test 106 is located in the northeast corner of Section D, just below the southern edge of Clay Pit Road. This northern area of the site is heavily wooded with many segments overgrown with cat briars. Three soil layers were encountered in this test. Level A was brown topsoil and humus that was 8 inches thick. A quantity of building material (cement, macadam, bluestone) and coal was found in this test and was recorded and discarded. We also found a fragment of window glass, clear curved glass and the base of a bottle with an embossed letter "B."

Soil Level B was black sandy soil that extended from 8 inches to 20 inches in depth. This layer also contained pieces of coal and concrete which were recorded and discarded. Level C was a tan colored sand that was excavated to a depth of 30" and was sterile.

Test 107

Test 107 was dug in the center of a depression located 78 feet south of Clay Pit Road. This ground depression measured 18 feet by 15 feet. Four soil layers were found in this test; probing produced no evidence of a foundation.

Level A was dark brown humus and leaf mulch that was 8 inches deep. This level contained a considerable amount of cultural material. The ceramic fragments in this soil layer were unglazed redware flowerpot pieces and an undecorated whiteware rim and body sherd. Glass was the most prevalent artifact found in Level A. Several pieces of bottle glass were found, three of which had some embossed lettering. These bottle fragments could be dated to the period of post-1860. Clear chimney glass

and window fragments were also found. Other artifacts in Level A were leather fragments, brass pencil-eraser fragment, a brass shotgun shell, tin can fragments, a wire nail, two 3" hinges, and pieces of coal.

Level B went from 8" to 12" in depth and was a brown-yellow sand. This level contained clear chimney glass pieces, white milk glass, bottle glass with some embossed lettering, a piece of pressed glass and window glass. Ceramic finds included undecorated whiteware plate fragments, one blue transfer print decorated (floral design) rimsherd, and one brown transfer print (leaf design) body sherd. These ceramics date to the period 1820 to 1900. Metal artifacts were found as well in this level such as tin can fragments, a wrench, iron handle, and a tent peg. Pieces of leather, brick fragments, and clam shell were also found.

Level C was a bright yellow soil with orange patches that extended downward from 12 inches to 28 inches. Artifacts were found in this level as well, namely, a black rubber button with white decoration on top, the leather sole from a shoe, a fragment of the shoe upper, and pieces of charcoal.

Soil Level D was orange sandy soil that was excavated to a depth of 38 inches. Several 19th century ceramic fragments were found in this level, such as gray saltglazed stoneware, and undecorated whiteware fragments. Glass fragments were also found in this level such as a mason jar lid, a bottle fragment, and a clear chimney body sherd. While the strata changed in this test, artifacts found were contemporaneous, i.e., portions of the same vessel were found in several strata. Therefore, this did not represent a stratified dump.

Test 108

Test 108 is located 25 feet south of Clay Pit Road, and south of the house at #7 Clay Pit Road. This test was placed in the center of a small depression in the ground which could have been caused by a tree

fall.

Level A was a black humus with a leafy overburden that was 18 inches deep. This level contained a piece of iron slag, macadam, and an amber bottle base that dates to 1940 or thereafter. Level B was a fine orange colored sand that extended from 18 inches to 23 inches. No artifacts were recovered from this level. Level C was a tan-orange sand that was excavated to a depth of 38 inches. This soil layer was also sterile.

Test 109

This test is located at the upper end of Section D, 50 feet south of Clay Pit Road. There was a scatter of 20th century material on the surface of the ground in the area of this test. This surface trash included coal, a beer bottle, a clay flower pot, a fragment of rusted iron, a threaded bolt and washer, a scissor jack, and a metal bucket.

Soil Level A consisted of a gray-to-brown colored sandy loam that was 6 inches deep. One piece of clam shell was found in this level. Level B was the orange-tan colored subsoil that was dug to a depth of 37 inches and found to be culturally sterile.

Test 110

Test 110 is located in the northwest portion of Section D, 50 feet south of Clay Pit Road. There was some modern surface trash in the area of this test such as paper and beer bottles.

Level A was a thin layer of black topsoil that was 2 inches thick. Level B was gray colored sand that extended from 2 inches to 16 inches. Level C was an orange-tan sandy subsoil that was dug to a depth of 33 inches. No artifacts were found in any of these three levels.

Test 111

This test was placed in the northwest segment of Section D. It

is located 30 feet south of Clay Pit Road and utility pole #12. Soil Level A was a brown loam and humus level that was 6 inches deep. Level B was the orange-tan subsoil that was excavated to a depth of 30 inches. No cultural material was found in these two levels.

Test 112

Test 112 is also located in the northwest segment of Section D. This test was placed in a ground depression that may be a trace of Old Clay Pit Road. Level A was a brown-to-gray colored sandy soil with roots, leaf mulch and some charcoal flakes. This level extended from 0 to 6 inches and was sterile. Level B was a tan-to-brown colored sandy soil that went to a depth of 12 inches and was also sterile. Level C consisted of tan-orange subsoil that was excavated to a depth of 36 inches. No artifacts were found in this soil stratum.

Test 113

Test 113 was placed along the east side of Bogardus Road at its juncture with what appeared to be the western end of Old Clay Pit Road. Soil Level A was a 6-inch thick layer of brown topsoil and humus; Level B was a tan-orange colored sand that was dug to a depth of 27 inches. No cultural material was recovered from these two soil layers.

Test 114

This test was located southwest of the "low area" or pond. A small dirt road runs north to south between the pond of our project area and another pond to the west which is outside our project area. Test 114 is located 25 feet east of this road.

One surface artifact was found and recorded in the area of this test, namely a fragment of brick and cement. Soil Level A was 4 inches thick and consisted of black-to-brown colored topsoil and humus. Level B was a hardpacked orange-tan subsoil with a few pebbles that was excavated

to a depth of 19 inches. No cultural material was found in these two levels.

Test 115

Test 115 is located in the extreme southwesterly corner of Section D, on the east side of the roadbed described in Test 114 above. Only one soil layer was encountered in this test. Level A was 12 inches deep and consisted of a tan-to-red colored sand. Two bottle fragments were recovered from this level. One piece had a molded design of a forearm and hand holding a bottle, and the other had a molded "loop" design. The excavation of Test 115 was halted at 12 inches because we encountered hardpacked clay and sandstone.

Summary

Survey and testing of the several pathway networks in Section D produced two particularly interesting areas: (1) the area located between the latest triangular path network in the vicinity of Test 37, and (2) the dump at the location of Test 107 just north of the earlier pathway along Clay Pit Road. Both areas yielded collections and concentrations of late 19th century-early 20th century remains, (1) as a scattered surface collection, and (2) as a dump. Neither group of artifacts, however, is attributable to any one household and so is only of the most general use as a collection of artifacts of the area and later period.

SECTION E
(Tax Lots 4 and 14)

Historical Background

This area is in the southwest corner of the block formed by Clay Pit Road, Bloomingdale Avenue, and Sharrot Road. Fronting on Sharrot Road for about 450 feet, it extends north halfway to Clay Pit, some 400 feet. Not included is the extreme southwest corner of this area, now a contractor's storage yard.

The land slopes from a high point of 119 feet above the Richmond datum in the northwest corner, to a low point of 104 feet in the southeast corner. Shown as a cultivated field on the 1913 map (Anonymous 1913), most of this area is still covered by plow furrows. The area is covered with a low, dense undergrowth, which was even thicker and higher around the borders of this parcel. The front of this tract, along Sharrot Road, is rather steeply banked to a height of about 6' and extending north about 20'-25'. One explanation for this phenomenon was that it was created as a fire line during the fire of 1963 (Hagaman 1982:personal communication).

The property appears as an undivided part of the "D. Sharrot" farm on the 1874 map (Beers 1874). By 1887, a 50 foot wide lot on the western end had been conveyed to "J. Kern," who had erected a house there; the remainder of the parcel belonging to "W. B. Sharrot" (Beers 1887). At least by 1898, "John Kern" had expanded his holding to all of present Tax Lot 4, plus the 50' x 110' house site at the southwest corner, and Sharrot still owned the remainder, i.e., Tax Lot 14 (Robinson 1898). Also, the maps reveal that the Kern house that first appeared on the 1887 map had disappeared by 1898. No other development ever appeared on this portion of the site.

A path or drive paralleled the western edge of this parcel from at least 1874 to 1887, connecting Sharrot Road and Clay Pit Road

(Beers 1874 and 1887). No remnant of this path was observed during our 1982 survey. The northern extension of this path, however, was found in the field survey as discussed in Section D.

Another feature observed was a ditch running nearly the length of the tract, from its northeast corner, crossing over into the adjoining lot, and running down to and under Sharrot Road. Much of the area east of this ditch had obviously been used as a garden until recently, apparently associated with the house at 81 Sharrot Road, and the remains of a small wooden shed were observed. This area was lower than the land to the west, and the east side of the ditch was supported by planking. The western edge of the ditch was littered with 20th century trash, such as tires, paint cans, gutters, bottles, etc.

At the southwest corner of this area, around the perimeter of the contractor's store yard, we observed bulldozed piles of earth 4' high. These were surrounded by fairly recent debris including concrete slabs, brick, fencing, a water heater, bottles, window glass, etc.

Survey and Testing

Eight tests (Tests 92, 93, 94, 116, 117, 118, 119, and 120) were placed in this section, all around the perimeter, as the majority of the site had obviously never been developed.

Test 92

This test was sited on Lot 14, 50 feet north of Sharrot Road and about 10 feet west of the lot line. Level A was a brown topsoil, 11" in depth. Level B was a hardpacked tan-orange sandy subsoil, followed to the bottom of the test at 35". No artifacts were recovered.

Test 93

This test was 50' north of Sharrot Road, in Lot 4, some 60' west of Test 92. Level A was a brown topsoil extending to a depth of 10".

Level B, followed to a depth of 24", was a hardpacked tan-orange sandy soil. No artifacts were recovered.

Test 94

This test was 175 feet from Sharrot Road, and 45 feet west of the ditch, in Lot 14. The immediate vicinity had a tree cover of some 20 years' growth, and showed no recent signs of cultivation. Layer A was a 3" deep topsoil. Layer B, extending to a depth of 12", was a brown loam. Layer C, followed to the bottom of the excavation at 32", was a hard-packed, orange-tan subsoil. No artifacts were recovered here.

Test 116

This was placed just north of the road running along the northern edge of Lots 4 and 14, in about the center of the lot line. This was an area of dense woods and brush. Level A, 7" deep, was a black topsoil, rich in humus. Level B, followed to a depth of 24", was a hardpacked tan sand. No artifacts were recovered here.

Test 117

This test was placed in the northeast corner of Lot 14, at the junction of the road running along the north edge of this lot and the fence running northerly along its eastern border. Level A was an 8" thick layer of humic material. Level B was a yellow-brown sand, containing a large brick fragment, extending a further 5". Level C was a tan, sandy soil, with a lens of decaying wood, extending 7" for a total depth of 20". Below this was another 8" of yellow sand, followed by a hardpacked subsoil followed for 8" to the bottom of the excavation at a depth of 36". This test proved sterile except for the brick fragments in Level B.

Test 118

This test was placed some 110 feet northwest of 81 Sharrot Road, just to the north of the former garden area. No topsoil cover was present

in this area. Level A, 17" deep, was an orange-tan sand, from which a single piece of glass was recovered. Level B, extending to the bottom of the excavation at 33", was a sterile, hardpacked, gray-brown clay.

Test 119

This test was placed 30 feet south of the right angle bend in the ditch running along the east side of Lot 14. The ditch was bordered by piles of earth and recent trash in this area. Layer A, 8" deep, was a brown topsoil. It contained a single piece of coal. Layer B, followed to the bottom of the excavation at 28", was a sterile, hardpacked tan soil.

Test 120

This test was placed in the southwest corner of Lot 4, to the rear of the contractor's yard, about 120 feet north of Sharrot Road. This area was inundated with large recent trash items. Level A was a sandy, light brown loam, 3" deep. It yielded several artifacts, primarily milk bottle fragments. At least some were from the B. R. Waldron & Sons Co., Inc., dairy, and were manufactured on Staten Island, circa 1927. Level B, sterile, was an orange sandy loam extending to a depth of 15". Level C, a sterile hardpacked, yellow-orange soil, followed to a depth of 18".

Summary

This portion of the project area has no historical evidence of development or use other than as farmland, as confirmed by the field survey and testing. Nor did testing reveal any evidence of prehistoric occupation. In our opinion, this portion of the project area is not culturally significant or sensitive.

68 SHARROT ROAD

Historical Background

The parcel at 68 Sharrot Road was undeveloped until the third quarter of the 19th century. In 1873, Alfred Cutting purchased 4 acres of land as shown on the 1874 Atlas map (Beers 1874). A somewhat complete documentary history is available for this individual through a number of original diaries which have survived and are available at the Staten Island Historical Society (SIHS:Acc-2006).

This information includes Alfred Cutting's diary and account book from 1867 to 1888, as well as a second diary and account book recording the years 1888-1889-1890.

An account book kept by Cutting's son, Stephen, from 1874 through 1889 records transactions between commissioned merchants in New York City and the Cuttings during this period for berries and vegetables sold on consignment (SIHS:Acc-2006).

These documents record the daily activities of Cutting while renting from Peter Edwards on Woodrow Road (Rossville area) in 1862, while renting from Isaac Winant at an undetermined location in 1869, and the purchase and move into the house now standing at 68 Sharrot Road in December of 1873. (SIHS:Acc-2006).

A chronology of the Cutting family has been compiled by Charles Sachs, curator of the Staten Island Historical Society, which traces Alfred from his birth in England in 1820, through emigration to New York (Brooklyn) in 1823, to Staten Island (Rossville) in 1840 (SIHS:Acc-2006). Alfred Cutting first appeared in Woodrow about 1869, married with five children and renting from Isaac Winant. At that time (1870's), Isaac Winant owned the property (now 102 Sharrot Road) adjacent to Alfred's soon to be purchased 4 acres. Winant may have owned this property as well (Beers 1874). It is unclear whether Cutting purchased from Winant in

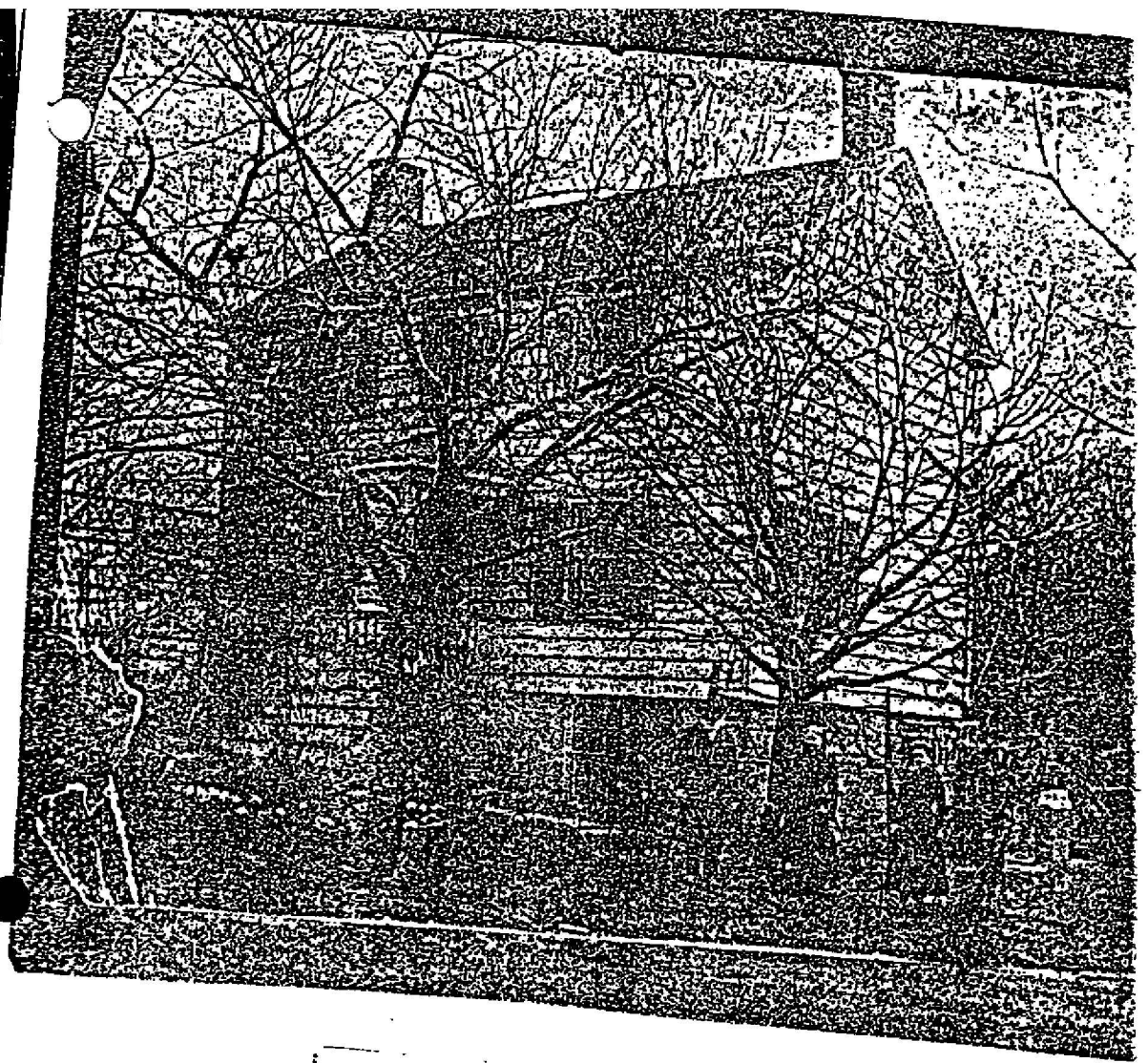


Figure 19

Photo of the Alfred Cutting farm,
Sharrot Road, Woodrow, c. 1900.
Original photo in the collection
of the Staten Island Historical
Society, Richmondtown, Staten Island.

Salmon
Hind Seal
Isle sites
Get Seals
Salt mounds

Wynned St. Get Fan cut (am) 13
St. Joh & Georg (1st) a good me
Will Clam 1/2 k Rich R. L. (1st) an
Hans Smoke Boys all Home ge
2 new Rich Boys Home Joh M. (1st) a
m. (1st) a Will: Home (1st) a B. (1st) a
1/2 k R. (1st) a (1st) a

Alfred Cutting Diary, December 1880
January 1881 (Staten Island Historical
Society; Acc. 2006).

1873, and whether he lived on the adjacent (102) lot until that time. No structure is shown at either 102 or 68 Sharrot Road in 1874; Cutting's diary records that he slept in the "New House" on December 5, 1873, however (SIHS:Acc-2006). The house must have been put up after the survey for the map was made.

Alfred Cutting occupied the site at 68 Sharrot Road between 1873 and 1910, the year of his death. During that period, he supported his wife and five children by participating in a number of seasonal activities. These included: growing cash crops such as strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, cherries, currants, water cress, mint, peaches and pears, as well as weaving baskets to box them; carpentry, lath and plastering work; clamming; day laboring as a farm hand; and cutting ice. Alfred's son, Stephen L., succeeded him as head of the farmstead and occupied the site through most of this century.

Structural Analysis

Two structures are recorded as having stood on the Cutting property through the 19th and 20th centuries, the house and a small barn directly behind it. The house first appears on the 1887 Atlas Map, but the Cutting diary proves that a new house existed in December of 1873 (Beers 1887). The barn was begun on April 7, 1877 according to the Alfred Cutting diary, and was worked on throughout the spring. (SIHS:Acc-2006). The barn is not recorded on the 1887 Atlas Map but does appear on the 1898 Atlas Map (Beers 1887 and Robinson 1898).

Other outbuildings are referred to in the Cutting diary, although they are never shown on atlas maps. An entry made in January of 1883 refers to cleaning out the "smoak" house (Cutting Diary entry: January 20, 1883). There are several references to making cider (October 8, 1874) and hoops for cider-making barrels; no actual building is mentioned, however, for these processes. Oral history documents several other structures and features on the property in the early 20th century.



Figure 22

Recent view of 68 Sharrot Road, giving some evidence of the structure's clapboard over brick construction.



Figure 23

South view of 68 Sharrot Road, showing dense undergrowth and trash deposits. Bottom: brick cistern located south of the house.

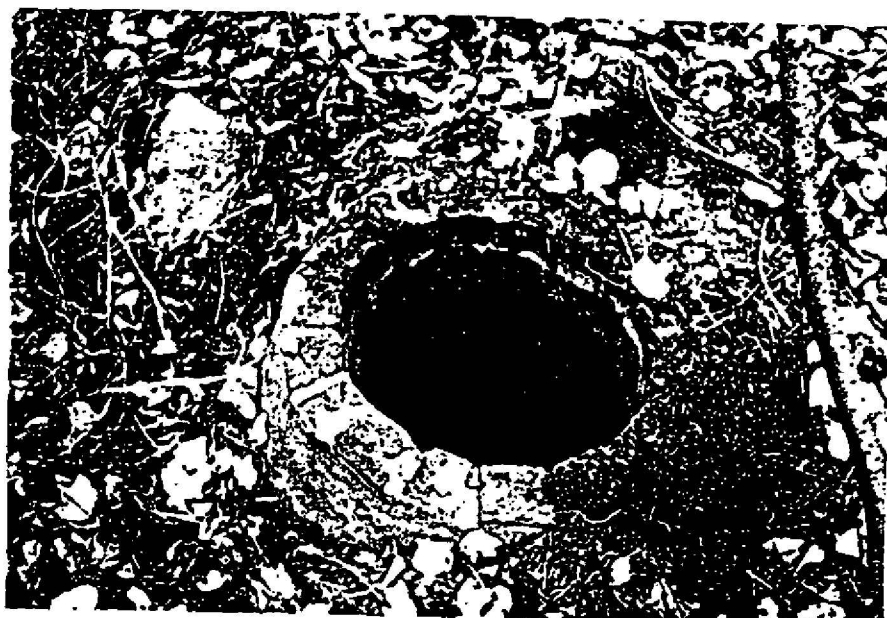




Figure 24

Features at 68 Sharrot Road: top, brick walkway found north of the house; bottom, brick cistern located on the west side of the house.

John Schlehner, Sr., who has lived next door at 66 Sharrot Road since c.1913, remembered Reverend Stephen Cutting (Alfred's third son born 1860) occupying the property. Wine-making was an activity at the farm during Schlehner's youth and he recalled a 20' x 20' shed located about 75 feet from the southwest corner of the house utilized for making elderberry wine. Remnants of this building were found in the survey process. The barn, it was recalled, was a two-story building with a wine cellar. Mr. Schlehner also recalled the location of the outhouse as being near the grape arbor about 25 feet southeast of the basement door. This corresponds to the location of a circular brick feature found in the survey approximately in that vicinity, although this feature's slightly bulbous shape at the top and the intrusion of a terracotta drain pipe about 1 foot below the surface point more toward its use as a cistern. Mr. Schlehner recalled a deep well on the north side of the house. Still extant, this feature also seems to have functioned as a cistern. When questioned about the brick walkway leading from the front porch steps, Mr. Schlehner recalled the bricks had come from the Kreischerville Brick Company, located west of Woodrow, and that the walkway had been constructed some thirty years ago.

Survey and Testing

The structure at 68 Sharrot Road is abandoned, boarded and gutted. The perimeter of the structure is inundated by household objects and demolished portions of the structure; in some places, this debris is over four feet high. When testing commenced in early September, there were twelve automobiles abandoned in the front, side and back yards. The recent debris, coupled with dense briar and small tree underbrush, created a less than accessible opportunity for testing and almost impossible conditions for surveying.

Tests 14, 15, 16, 17, 30, 63, 64, 65, 138, 139 and 140 were made on the A. Cutting farm property. Test descriptions are as follows:

Test 14

Test 14 was made in the front of 68 Sharrot Road, 9-1/2' west of the northeast corner of the house and 2 feet north of the house foundation. The ground was littered with car parts, i.e., doors and headlights and pine needles. Level A was a red-brown mottled loam which continued to a 5-inch depth. Several 19th century ceramics, window glass, coal and recent bottle glass were recovered. In the B level, a fine sandy reddish-orange soil, no artifacts were recovered to its depth at 2'6". Level C consisted of the same sandy soil that was a brighter red-orange color; it was also sterile. Some stones were encountered in this level to the maximum depth excavated, 3 feet. No evidence of a builder's trench was encountered.

Test 15

Test 15 was located 3 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the house near the bulbous brick cistern. Level A consisted of a dark brown silty soil which had numerous roots and small rocks/pebbles to a depth of 4 inches. Several larger rocks were also present. A heavy, thick plate glass fragment, green window glass, and interior plaster fragment painted yellow were recovered from this level. Level B was an orange-brown silty loam which continued to a 36-inch depth. No stones or pebbles were encountered; only one whiteware sherd was found, located at the top of the level.

Test 16

Test 16 was made beneath the slate and stone patio contiguous to the southwest corner of the house. The test was located 1'9" east of the southwest corner of the house and 5' south of that point; the area of the test was overgrown with briars. Level A contained a large flat square stone (4" deep) surrounded by a soft brown soil to a depth of 5". One light green window glass fragment was recovered. The stone patio was set above a second level which consisted of a brown-orange mottled sandy soil

containing building and domestic artifacts: window glass, wire nails, coal, whiteware, redware and bricks (total: 12 artifacts). At 6" depth, a 1/2" iron pipe was encountered running perpendicular from the house along the eastern wall of the test. Level B ran to a depth of 11"; at this depth, an orange hardpacked loam was encountered and continued to 36-1/2" total depth of excavation. This was a very clean soil with few stones; one coal fragment was found at 11" and discarded.

Test 17

Test 17 was placed in the rear of the house, 9' west of the southwest corner and 2" south of the rear stairway. The area of the test is overlain by several feet of domestic trash, apparently thrown out the windows of the house (John Schlehner, Jr. 1982:personal communication). The first soil level encountered was a red-brown sandy soil that extended to an 8" depth. From Level A, coal, ash, window glass, nails, a hard rubber smoking pipe mouthpiece, and a ceramic sherd were recovered. A 1/8" lens of coal ash (Level B) was intrusive in the red-brown sandy soil, running downslope from 6 to 6-1/8" at the east side of the test to 8" to 8-1/8" at the west. Within this fine lens, coal and glass fragments were found. Beneath the ash was an orange-red clayey loam, which continued to the depth of the excavation at 36". Several fragments of coal were found at the top portion of the level and discarded.

Test 30

Test 30 was made approximately 25' west and 150' south of the southwest corner of the house in the vicinity of a number of rotting berry vines and loose concrete. This area was that identified by oral history as a wine-making shed (Schlenher, Sr. 1982:personal communication). Loose pieces of concrete were on the surface as well as a cut stone. Level A was a dark brown fine sandy soil which went to a depth of 2". This was underlain by a tan sandy soil which became extremely hard packed at 14". Excavation ceased at 22"; both levels were sterile.

Test 63

Test 63 was made in front of the house, 5-1/2' north of the porch and west along the brick chevron-patterned walkway. The brick walk was 3'-11-1/4" wide and was laid straight to the street. The path through the front yard was littered with cars and car parts, as well as a thick covering of leaf mulch. The soil beneath the leaves (Level A) was tan-orange and sandy and reached a depth of 9". Glass, ceramics and coal were found. A brick walkway was encountered at the east profile and measured 7"/9" deep, being two courses of brick, covered with concrete with a brick footing. Level B, a lens of coal ash, underlay this, providing a base for the walk. Running on a slope, it measured 2" in the north and south profile, 1" on the east profile, and was a thin 1/4" lens to the west. The ash contained window and bottle glass and wire nails. The third level (C) was a red-orange sand which went from 10"/11" depth to 36". The artifacts encountered were at a 24" depth and included coal, burned coal and clear window glass.

Test 64

Test 64 was made on the east side of the brick walkway in front of the house. The test was located 22' south of Sharrot Road and 3' east of the walk. The ground cover was the same as Test 63 with a large number of pine needles mixed in the leaf mulch. The first level (A) was a tan-orange sandy soil reaching a depth of 10" on the western profile and 14" on the east. A coal ash lens (B) was encountered at these depths and extended throughout the test. The level extended to 11-1/2" on the western profile and sloped to 14-1/2" to the east; only coal and coal ash were recovered. A sterile red-orange sandy soil comprised Level C, which was excavated to a depth of 33".

Test 65

Test 65 was located in dense underbrush and small tree growth, 92' south of the southeast corner of the house and about 20' west of the

east property line. This was the location of the 19th century barn as indicated on historical maps. The test area was littered with many large objects which obstructed easy survey; i.e., windows, doors, a hay wagon frame, car tires, car hood. No structural remains of the barn were evident. The first soil level (A) was a grey-brown silty loam which was composed of coal ash and brick reaching a depth of 12". This stratum contained brick fragments, coal ash, wire and machine-cut nails. An orange-tan sandy loam underlay this (Level B) extending from 12" to 18" and containing brick and coal. A third or "C" level was composed of a red-orange sandy loam. The soil included brick and coal fragments but no other cultural material. Total excavation depth was 35".

Test 138

Test 138 was placed at the rear of the house about 25' from the porch stairs, north of a circular brick subsurface feature. The several surface artifacts recovered included large fragments of small (8") yellow-are bowls. Level A was a brown loamy topsoil which yielded several brick and coal fragments. At a depth of 8", a second (B) level consisting of sterile tan sandy soil began, reaching a depth of 20". This became a red-tan hardpacked subsoil (Level C), also sterile and excavated to 30".

Test 139

Test 139 was located 50' south and downslope of the rear porch of the house in line with Test 138. The surface in the vicinity of the test was littered with beer bottles and recent domestic trash. Level A was a brown, loamy topsoil with some flakes of coal ash. It extended to a depth of 12" and one whiteware rim sherd was recovered. Level B, a tan hardpacked sandy soil, was sterile and continued to a depth of 25". The sterile hardpacked soil became reddish in Level C and was excavated to a depth of 30".

Test 140

Test 140 was located 80' south of the southeast corner of the house and should have been about 10' northwest of the barn. This was the same overburden described in Test 65. Level A was a black humic topsoil containing burned coal, machine-cut nails, and a ceramic and glass fragment. At 7", a tan-orange sterile subsoil began (Level B), becoming very hardpacked at 20" to the maximum depth of the excavation at 30".

Description of End of Property at the First Fence Line

The boundary of the first fence line is 280' south of Sharrot Road. The area is heavily wooded (trees 6"/8" diameter and 20'/25' high) with thick thorny underbrush. There were several wooden utility poles in the vicinity, as well as scattered 20th century glass jars and tin cans. No true dumps were encountered as at 420 Bloomingdale. The southernmost boundary of the property, some 725' south of the street, will be discussed in conjunction with the small creek bordering 68 and 102 Sharrot.

Summary

The Cutting farm at 68 Sharrot represents the intensive use of a property for a 75-year period by a single Anglo-American family located within what was primarily a black community. Study of the exceptional documentary evidence available for this family, coupled with an examination of the archeological remains found, should provide an excellent opportunity to reconstruct the lifeways of a rural Staten Island farmer. When this data is compared to data gathered from sites occupied by black oystering families in the same community, questions of ethnicity and indigency may be answered.

Further investigation of this site is recommended because of its unique archeological potential.

STREAM BETWEEN 68 AND 102 SHARROT ROAD

An ephemeral stream running north/south intersects the study area south of Sharrot Road. Historically, the stream has been located on property owned by I. Winant (c.1874-c.1887), Alfred Cutting (c.1887-c.1917), Robert Cutting (c.1887-c.1917), and Stephen Cutting (c.1917) (Beers 1874; Robinson 1898; Robinson-Pidgeon 1907; Bromley 1917). The stream meanders through both of the Cutting properties from 1874 to 1917, so it would be difficult to ascribe trash deposited in this area to any one of the two households.

The topography of the south side of Sharrot Road in the vicinity of the stream reflects a general downslope characteristic of the study area. The property drops from 104' at about the location of the house at 68 Sharrot Road to 101' several feet west of the stream bed. The downslope occurs in a southerly direction, dropping from 104' at the street to 85' at the rear property line (Ettlinger 1979). In the area of the stream 350' south of the street there is an intermittent low area described as a wet meadow (Carpenter Environmental Associates, Inc. 1982:2-3). This low area would have provided a perfect location for refuse dumping and was archaeologically explored with this factor in mind.

An intense survey of the then dry stream bed was made from Sharrot Road to the rear of the property at 420 Bloomingdale Road. Testing was done sporadically in areas that gave surface indication or had some potential for possible dumping. The size of the stream changed as its route was traced, being discernible most at the south side of Sharrot Road between 68 and 102, and at the rear property line. The stream is very well defined in the rear of 420 Bloomingdale Road, where the velocity of the flood water has carved a 2' deep river bed. Artifactual remains were confined almost exclusively to the area where the stream bends eastward, where artifacts were lodged in between fallen branches and uprooted trees. It is possible that these articles were carried down-

slope, then downstream by the velocity of flood water. Although this stream is fed by the two Cretaceous ponds above it, north of Sharrot Road, it seems unlikely that much cultural material would have been carried under the street. Purposeful deposition of domestic debris in the low lying area of the farm may also have been a factor in its deposition, especially in Tests 160, 161 and 162 at the rear property line, an established dumping pattern.

Tests made in the stream include numbers 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, and 169.

Test 159

Test 159 was made on the high ground 25' east of the stream just at the bend, before the ground sloped down into the stream. This would have been a perfect place to record downslope action of artifactual materials. The first level was a black-brown loamy soil extending 2" and including a network of roots. A tan sandy soil was then encountered extending to 8"; no artifacts were found in either level. Level C was a hardpacked yellow sandy soil, sterile to the depth of excavation at 36". The evidence of artifacts being collected in the stream through downslope action was negative in this area.

Test 160

Test 160 was a surface collection made in a 25' area, about 35' from the southern property boundary. Artifacts were collected 25' south of a large uprooted tree in a sandy mottled brown-orange soil on the surface of the stream bed. No artifacts were observed in surveying above the stream bed area, as reflected in Test 159. Artifacts recovered from the stream included stoneware and whiteware, early 20th century bottle glass and a "Ford" radiator cap.

Test 161

Test 161 was a surface collection made 25' south of Test 160 at the southern property boundary. As in the previous test, artifacts lay in the sandy orange soil in the stream bed. Artifacts recovered included early 20th century domestic bottle glass and ironstone cup and plate fragments.

Test 162

Test 162 was a surface collection 15' north of a tree fall in the stream bed, located about 75'-90' north of the southern property boundary. Artifacts were found in a more humic soil, some caught by decomposing branches and roots. The collection included one fragment each of whiteware, brick, cloth and iron, as well as bottles and bottle fragments dating from very late 19th to early 20th century.

Test 163

Test 163 was made 20' south of Sharrot Road in the dry stream bed. At this point, the stream impression has practically disappeared. The area is heavily overgrown with low bushes and dense briars and the stream was overlain with a thick leaf mulch. Level A was a heavy, wet, black mucky silt extending to a depth of 8"; two fragments of bottle glass were recovered. A heavy wet brown clayey material composed Level B. An oyster shell, leather strap fragment and screw top bottle were recovered. This level continued to a depth of 30" when the wet dark humic soil became mottled with a bright yellow-orange sand. No artifacts were recovered to the depth of excavation at 38".

Test 169

Test 169 was made 25' west of the stream, 450' south of Sharrot Road. The test was made in the wet meadow area that would have been subject to flooding in heavy rain (Carpenter 1982:2-3), and, therefore, would have had higher possibility of collecting material culture. Ground

cover was high grass and small tree growth; the stream bed was barely visible, being very shallow and 18" wide. There was no cultural material evident between Test 163 and 169.

Level A of Test 169 was a sterile black humic topsoil extending 3". A sterile brown sandy soil was beneath this, continuing to a depth of 18". A wet gray clay, also sterile, was excavated to 35".

102 SHARROT ROAD

Historical Background

Much like the parcel at 68 Sharrot Road, there was little development of 102 Sharrot Road until the third quarter of the 19th century. On the 1874 Atlas map, the farm consisted of 6 acres belonging to "I. Winant"; no structures are shown existing on the property at this date (Beers 1874). By 1887, Winant's 6 acres had been subdivided to include two parcels: the one at 102 Sharrot Road, labeled "R. Cutting 3 acres"; and the one next to it (about the same area) labeled "J. Burk" (Beers 1887). Robert Cutting, eldest son of Alfred (born 1855), was thus occupying the farm west of his father some time between 1874 and 1887. The farm remained in the Robert J. Cutting family through the first quarter of the 20th century (Robinson 1898; Robinson-Pidgeon 1907; Bromley 1917).

Structural Analysis

A house first appears on the 102 Sharrot Road property on the 1887 map; however, no outbuildings are indicated (Beers 1887). By 1898, three outbuildings were indicated southwest of the main structure (Robinson 1898). After 1907, a reworking of the outbuildings was reflected on the 1913 and 1917 maps (Anonymous 1913; Bromley 1917). One long narrow open shed (75' x 17') and one covered shed (25' x 30') occupied the west side of the property in the location of the two earlier buildings. Some time between 1907 and 1913, a 12' wide driveway was constructed, running the entire length of the property, about 725'. East of and abutting the driveway was a one-story frame barn measuring 50' x 35'. A small (15' x 7-1/2') structure was located 35' north of the northwest corner of the barn, also abutting the east side of the driveway. A 15' x 15' structure appears on the 1913 map about 2' from the west side of the drive, set back 50' from the street (Anonymous 1913).



Figure 26

Top: West view of 102 Sharrot Road, showing rear extension (c.1898), a one room two story frame house, supported by concrete blocks.

Center: East view of the rear of 102 Sharrot Road.



Bottom: Enclosure between main house and two story frame addition.

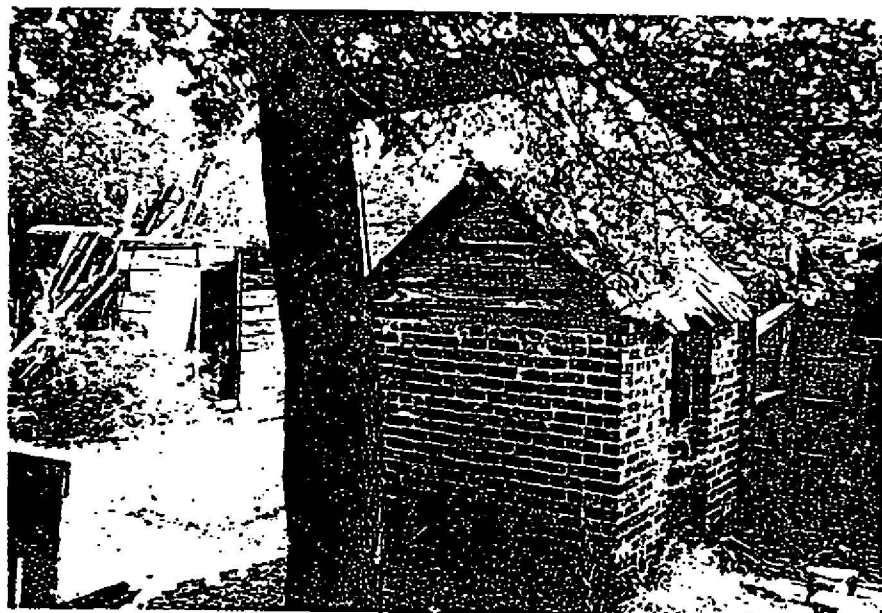
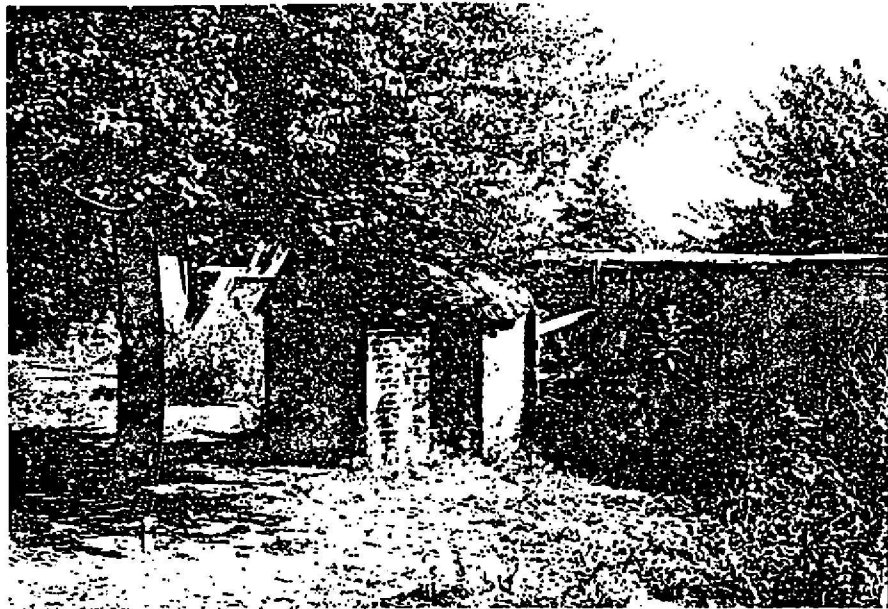


Figure 28

Smokehouse, rear of
102 Sharrot Road.

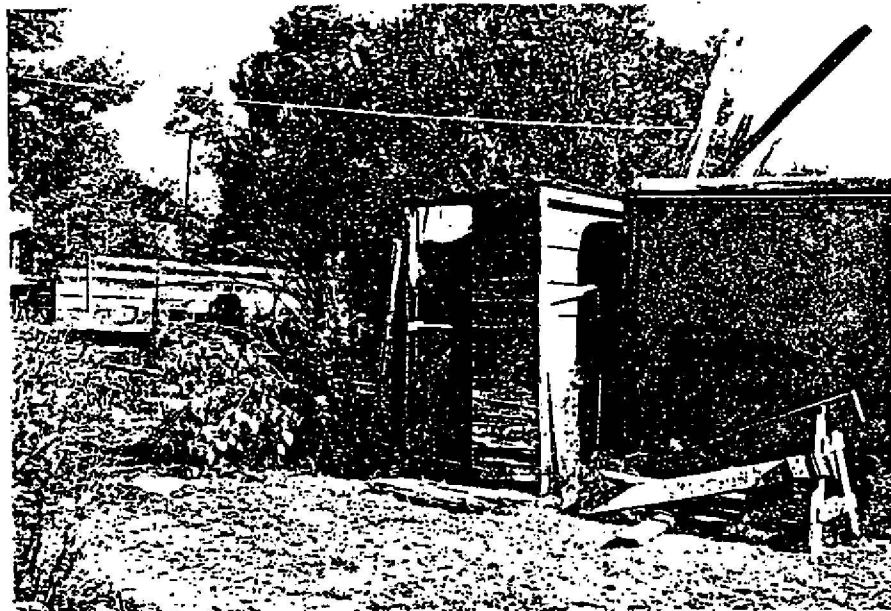


Figure 29

Top: Active privy, rear of 102 Sharrot Road.

Bottom: Foreground is the location of a recently(1971) demolished frame structure at 102 Sharrot Road. The privy is standing directly south.

Of these early 20th century outbuildings, only the last described 15' x 15' structure and the covered shed west of the driveway are still extant. The site of the open shed is occupied by a trailer truck bed. The 15' x 7-1/2' structure was taken down in 1972 (Haas:personal communication). The barn was demolished some time before 1971; Bill Haas who has rented the farm since that date dug out the barn area and used it as a duck pond until recently (Haas:personal communication).

Two structures are extant today that are not documented on the historic maps: a "smokehouse" and an outhouse. The "smokehouse" is a small brick structure with frame gable ends and a roof measuring 5'7" x 7'. It is located 22' south of the long addition or extension of the house.

Beneath the frame roof on the interior are indications of burning. Mr. Haas never utilized this structure or knew of its previous use. Extending 6' east along the north wall of the smokehouse and abutting its east wall, there are concrete foundation blocks and large stones set apart. This was apparently part of a separate building east of the smokehouse used as a storage shed (Haas:personal communication).

A frame privy is also presently existing on the property, located about 50' southeast of the southeast corner of the east shed. This facility, measuring 4'2" x 4'4", was still in active use during the 1970's, even when Mr. Haas rented the property since there was no water inside the house. Mr. Haas reported having cleaned out the privy several times, but could not recall having reached the bottom of the structure.

Subsurface Features

Several subsurface features were identified as part of the 102 Sharrot Road complex. A circular brick cistern was located 3-1/2' west of the smokehouse front entrance. Mr. Haas reported having dug out and filled in the cistern recently with about 2' of fill. A brick patio and a

well are located outside the eastern doorway between the main house and first shed addition. The well is brick-capped with a concrete slab at ground level measuring 3-1/2' x 4' and it still contains water. The patio measures 6-1/2' x 13-1/2' wide.

A third feature was located north of the active privy about 35' southeast of the southeast corner of the house. The area was covered with collapsed lumber and so was somewhat inaccessible. The depression of the structure measures 16-1/2' x 15-1/2' and was described by Mr. Haas as a two-story frame structure used as tenement living quarters. Mr. Haas tore down this structure in 1971 (Haas:personal communication). There was no indication of this building on even the most recent Sanborn map (1937-1964).

Survey and Testing

The farm at 102 Sharrot Road is presently rented to Bill Haas who uses the property to board his horses and donkey. Mr. Haas has rented the property since 1971 at which time he sub-rented the house, making several of the structural changes already mentioned (i.e., tearing down the barn, shed and tenement structures). Throughout his occupation, Haas has brought in about a dozen truck beds and utilized them on the property as storage and horse sheds. The property is open and accessible around the house and outbuildings, including an area about 300' south of the road. A wire fence restrains an exceptionally dense overgrown area and a utility pole rail fence with barbed wire borders the western edge of this dense growth.

The area east of the house (350' deep) was cultivated fields through 1913. This area remains open and utilized by the animals for grazing. The entire accessible surface of the property is littered with manure.

Tests 1-12, 67, 68, 70-75, 121-130 were made at 102 Sharrot

Road.

Test 1

Test 1 was dug 1-1/2' east of a yellow brick walkway leading from the front door at 102 Sharrot Road. It was 20-1/2' from the northeast corner of the house to the northeast corner of the test. Ground cover was grassy with large fragments of plate glass and wood planking on the surface. Level A was a soft brown sandy soil and measured to a depth of 11"; cultural material included fragments of glass, coal and ash. Level B consisted of an orange-brown sandy loam and extended to a depth of 21". A single brick fragment and two coal fragments were found. The two soil strata below were both sterile: Level C, an orange clayey soil which reached a depth of 33", and Level D, a reddish brown hardpacked subsoil excavated to a total depth of 36".

Test 2

The second test was made on the east side of the house just east of the doorway between the main house and the first shed addition, 7' south of the main house. This area had a brick and slate patio and was adjacent to a cement covered well. The test was made beneath the brick patio in the doorway, revealing an orange-red sandy soil (Level A) which contained numerous small pebbles. The soil became hardpacked at 20" (Level B) and was excavated to a total depth of 32-1/2". No artifacts were recovered.

Test 3

Test 3 was located 10'3" north of the northwest corner of the house at 102 Sharrot Road, just east of the driveway. Ground cover consisted of grassy sod. Level A was a thick stratum of brown topsoil measuring to a depth of 12". Some coal, coal ash and an unidentified iron fragment were found. Level B, an orange-tan fine hardpacked loam, was encountered at 12", extending to 24". This level was devoid of artifacts

or stones. A sterile reddish brown hardpacked clay underlay this (Level C) and was excavated to a total depth of 30".

Test 4

Test 4 was located 24' east and 4' south of the house in a small orchard area. Ground cover was a grassy sod. Level A consisted of a brown silty topsoil, extending 6". One clear window glass and one coal fragment were found. Level B, a red-orange sandy soil underlay this layer, extending to 15". One sherd of burned gray stoneware was found. A hardpacked sterile red sandy loam was reached at 15" and continued to the maximum depth excavated, 38".

Test 5

Test 5 was placed in the rear of 102 Sharrot Road located 1-1/2' west of the doorway of the "smokehouse." The test was 26' south and 2' east of the southwest corner of the house. The first level was a black humic soil (decomposed manure) containing clam shells, window glass, redware, wire nail door lock keeper, and screw. At 8", Level B began, composed of a tan-orange sandy soil. This sterile level became increasingly hardpacked to the limit of excavation, 32".

Test 6

Test 6 was located 69' from the northeast corner of the smokehouse to just inside the northeast corner of the former barn, where remnants of the barn foundation were exposed. Within the brick, stone and cement corner, there was a brown sandy soil with sparse grass ground cover. This first level (A) extended 12" and yielded yellow and red brick fragments, charcoal, styrofoam, a machine-cut spike, and drill chuck. Beneath this lay an orange-yellow sandy soil which was sterile and extended to 36".

Test 7

Test 7 was made in the interior of the cistern located 3-1/2' from the front door of the "smokehouse" and approximately 24-1/2' south of the southwest corner of the house. The cistern was round at the top and constructed of one course of brick, with an inner diameter of 2'2". At a depth of 7" and 10" there were two terracotta drains (3" inner diameter) on the north side of the cistern. There was one terracotta drain (3-3/4" inner diameter) at a 9-1/2" depth on the south wall of the cistern. Shortly below ground level the cistern became bulbous in shape. This feature was filled in to an approximate depth of 2' by Bill Haas several years ago to prevent accident to his horses. Level A consisted of black humic soil, modern trash and building debris, and was taken to a depth of 20".

Level A included recent garbage as well as bottle glass, ceramics, bone and shell. A second level B was begun at 24". This soil was also black humic fill which included clam shell, thick redware fragments, bottle glass, an iron wedge, ring and wire nail. The cistern was taken to a depth of 44"; but the fill in the feature continued to an undetermined depth.

Test 8

Test 8 was located just behind the house 3' east of the southwest corner of the main house structure and 3-1/2' south of the brick house foundation. This was 1-1/2' west of the basement stairs. Ground cover was sparse grass over a yellow brick path or walkway. The yellow brick, like that found in Test 1, was unmarked and measured 4" x 8" x 2-1/8". The first level included one course of yellow brick and the powdery brown soil above and directly below it. Measuring 2-1/4", this level contained window glass and a small red brick fragment. The powdery brown soil mixed with a white coal ash level, Level B, continued in the western and southern portion of the test to a depth of 6" in the west

profile and an 8-1/2" depth in the southern profile. The second level included window glass, brick, clam shell, a wire nail, screw and machine-cut spike. A red-orange sandy soil with some slight coal ash began under the brown powdery soil in the north and east portions of the test. This Level C continued below the ash throughout the entire test; window glass, burned coal and brick were found as well as one fragment of styrofoam. Level D, a sterile hardpacked reddish sandy soil, began at 26" and continued to 35".

Test 9

Test 9 was located 2' south of the main house structure and 4' west of the doorway between the first shed and main house. The ground cover was grassy topsoil. Level A was a silty brown sandy topsoil (0-3-1/2") containing coal, flip can lid, clam shell, window glass and a nail fragment. Beneath this was red-orange sandy soil. This second level contained only a small clam shell fragment at the top of the level; it continued to a 32" depth.

Test 10

Test 10 was located 20' south of the southwest corner of the main house and 10' west, located in the center of the 12' drive. The driveway had a hardpacked dirt and cinder surface well, consolidated from usage, and sloped down about 1' lower than the rest of the property. This would have been an excellent dumping area. Level A was a brown powdery sandy soil packed with domestic refuse. These included clam shell fragments, coal, ash, glass, ceramics and nails (66 total), extending to a depth of 5". The brown sandy soil contained numerous small stones and coal and coal ash in Level B. The ash extended throughout the test but was not a concentrated white ash as found in Level B of Test 8. This stratum was also filled with domestic debris: brick, shell, glass, ceramics and iron (total 29). At 9", a tan-orange sandy soil began. This, Level C, included shell (21), brick, plaster, glass and a ceramic sherd

(total 28). A hardpacked orange sandy soil underlay this and was excavated to a depth of 36". It included 4 clam shells and 2 fragments of coal ash found at the top of the level.

Test 11

Test 11 was located in the center of the non-extant 12' x 7' outbuilding located on the 1913 topographic map, 45' south of the southwest corner of the main house structure. This outbuilding was abutting the east side of the drive, set about 1' above the gullied drive. Broken concrete and brick fragments were on the surface of the test. The first level (A) was a brown-black powdery stratum, very shallow (1"). Window glass, shell, screws and concrete were recovered. A second stratum began at 1" at a tan, hardpacked sandy level and extended to a 13" depth. It included coal, brick, plaster, shell, burned coal, ceramics (2). A tan-orange hardpacked sandy soil extended from 13" to 30"; this stratum included rounded pebbles but no cultural material.

Test 12

Test 12 was located 25' southeast of the southeast corner of the east shed on the house, just north of the outhouse. The structure, no longer extant, is covered with piles of recent lumber. Its foundation of rounded cobbles and concrete is partially exposed on the north and west sides. The test was made at the corner on the west side between the building and a slate path which led from the east side of the house in this direction. The topsoil was a fine brown powdery soil. Extending to 6", this Level A included coal, ash, brick, ceramics, iron, window glass (total 23).

A second level consisting of a tan-orange silty sand began at 6" and extended to 36". Coal ash, brick, a wire nail, ceramics and slag were recovered. No builder's trench was evidenced.

Test 67

Test 67 was located 7-1/2' north of the southeast corner of the house, north of the corralled area, in what seemed to be a slight path depression. Ground cover was sod, and Level A was a brown loamy topsoil extending to a 12" depth. One coal fragment was found and discarded. A reddish-brown clayey sand underlay this stratum and was excavated to 26" at which point a large root was encountered impeding further testing. Level B was a sterile stratum to the limit of the excavation.

Test 68

Test 68 was located in the 12' driveway, 110' south of the southwest corner of the main house. This test was made in the driveway adjacent to the west wall of the no longer extant one-story frame barn. Level A was hardpacked, consisting of a black-brown humic soil (manure) with gravel mixed in. It extended to a 9" depth and included coal ash, styrofoam, black plastic, copper wire, brick, iron, machine-cut nails, clam shell, terracotta drain, porcelain, and window glass (total 19). A brown loamy soil underlay this from 9" to 23", containing 4 burned coal and 1 coal fragment. Level C was a yellow-brown sterile loam extending to the limit of excavation at 36".

Test 70

Test 70 was located 135' east of the last shed addition on the house, in an open field that had been cultivated at least through 1917 (Figure 18). The area is open and unobstructed, used by the horses for grazing. Ground cover was sparse grass and manure. Level A of Test 70 was a loamy brown topsoil, extending to a 7" depth; one piece of coal and coal ash was recovered and discarded. A second level occurred at 7" as a tan-orange sandy strata. This extended to 30" with no artifacts recovered. Level C was begun upon reaching a gray-tan clay which was sterile and excavated to 37".

Test 71

Test 71 was located 50' south of Test 70 in the open field, 135' east of the house. Level A was a brown loamy topsoil extending to a depth of 9". It included one fragment each of coal, coal ash, brick, shell and glass. At 9", the stratum became a reddish tan sandy soil. No artifacts were recovered within the stratum excavated to a depth of 26". A sterile, fine-grained, clay-tan clay was encountered at 26" and continued to the limit of the test at 36".

Test 72

Test 72 was located 75' east of the southeast corner of the main section of the house and 35' south. It was located 50' west of Test 70 in the open formerly cultivated field. Level A was a brown loamy topsoil under sparse grass ground cover extending to a depth of 7". One piece of coal and 2 shell fragments were found. A second level began at 7" consisting of a tan-orange sterile sandy soil and continued to 31". At this depth, a sterile gray-tan clay was encountered and excavated to the limit of test at 36".

Test 73

Test 73 was located 50' south of Test 72 in the open field east of the house. The first level, extending deeper than those in the vicinity, was a brown loamy topsoil measuring to a depth of 17". It included a fragment of window glass, yellowware sherd, coal and brick fragment. The same sterile tan-orange sandy soil found in Tests 70, 71 and 72 composed the B level here as well, reaching a depth of 30". Level C was the gray clay encountered before, also sterile to the limit of its excavation at 36".

Test 74

Test 74 was located 215' south and 25' east of the southeast corner of the main house structure. This area was part of the open field

used by the horses for grazing, having been cultivated through 1917 (Bromley 1917). The first level (A) was a brown loamy topsoil extending to 10". It contained numerous pieces of coal and a piece of styrofoam. Beneath this was a tan-orange sandy level, sterile to its limit at 24". The C level was a gray-tan clay, also sterile to the limit of the test excavation at 34".

Test 75

Test 75 was located 215' south and 25' west of the southeast corner of the main house structure. This was 50' west of Test 74. The first level was a grainy brown-black topsoil, extending 8" deep. Coal and charcoal, strap iron, a machine-cut nail and window glass fragment were found. The topographic change in the property from 102' at the road to 92' at the wire fence area may explain the large quantities of coal located 200' south of the house at this and surrounding tests. Coal accumulation was probably part of this downslope action. The second level was a sterile tan-orange sandy soil. Beneath this was a red-gray mottled clay, sterile to the limit of the test excavation at 36".

Test 121

Test 121 was located on the west side of the main house structure, 5' north of the southwest corner of the house, abutting the brick foundation wall. The ground cover was grassy and several 2" x 4" boards were lying over the area. The first soil level (A) was a brown loamy topsoil reaching a depth of 5". Artifacts recovered include a machine-cut nail, coal and paint chip. Level B began at 5" and continued as sterile orange-tan sand to a depth of 22". A red hardpacked clayey soil underlay this, continuing as a sterile subsoil to 36", the limit of the test excavation.

Test 122

Test 122 was located at the east border of the 12' drive in the

grass above it, 20' south and west of the southwest corner of the house. The test was located between Test 8 and Test 10 to try to determine more about the relationship of the deposition of ash found in both tests. Beneath a grassy sod, Level A was a brown sandy topsoil with small pebbles, reaching a depth of 6". Artifacts included glass, building material, coal, wire nails and a drill. Beneath this at 6" was a tan-brown sand, sterile except for 2 pieces of coal. A third level was encountered at 22". This consisted of a sterile, orange-tan hardpacked clay. The test extended to 35", the limit of the excavation. The white ash found in Test 8 was probably related to the brick path laid around the house dumped in a hot concentrated mass from a very hot fire, while the coal ash in the drive represents a more scattered deposition of less completely burned coal.

Test 123

Test 123 was located directly behind the last shed extension on the house at 102 Sharrot Road, 7-1/2' from each of the south wall corners. It was north of cages probably used as rabbit hutches. Layer A was a dark black humic topsoil containing an iron buckle, machine-cut nails, iron spike, building materials, shell, glass, coal, and slag. It extended to a depth of 6", when an orange-tan sterile sand (Level B) began, continuing to a depth of 30". At 30", the soil became a red-tan hardpacked clay. This level was sterile to the limit of the excavation at 36".

Test 124

Test 124 was located at what would have been the southeast corner of the no longer extant barn, behind soil piles created by Mr. Haas when digging out the barn for the duck pond. This is approximately 125' south of the main house. Level A was a brown loam with pebbles, extending to a depth of 10". A machine-cut and an unidentifiable nail fragment were recovered. Level B was an orange-tan sandy soil, sterile to the depth excavated, 36".

Test 125

Test 125 was located in the northwest corner of the no longer existing barn, approximately 90' south of the southwest corner of the main house. The test was made outside the fenced area of the pond. The first level was composed of a black humic soil, extending 4" deep. Artifacts recovered included machine-cut and wire nails, a threaded bolt, strap iron and plastic. A sandy mottled orange-brown mixed with coal ash level was encountered at 4". This extended to 7" when brick fragments in an irregular arrangement were encountered in the northern half of the test. No artifacts were found in association with this feature, which reflect remnants of a brick floor in the barn. A tan-orange sandy silt was encountered at 10" and continued as a sterile level to 36".

Test 126

Test 126 was located just south of the southwest corner of the existing privy. Ground cover was sparse grass. The first level (A) was a black topsoil extending 3". One wire and one unidentifiable nail were recovered. A tan-orange sandy soil extended from 3" to 34". This B level was devoid of cultural materials and included some small stones.

Test 127

Test 127 was placed in the right-of-way between the 12' drive and the area north of the barn, at the southwest corner of a truck body being utilized as a shed. The top stratum (A) was a sterile black topsoil extending to a depth of 4". A sterile brown sandy loam (B) lay beneath this to a depth of 16". Level A, an orange-tan sand, began at 16" and extended as a sterile layer to 36", the limit of the test excavation.

Test 128

Test 128 was located in a modern dump behind the fence at the edge of the property, 310' south of Sharrot Road. The dump contained stacks of wood, chairs, garden hose, metal play gym, tires, refrigerator,

couch, car bumper, rags, cans, 50 gallon drum, recent milk and beer bottles, and milk box. A tire iron was located 25' south of the dump measuring 3" wide, 5/16" thick and an undeterminable diameter.

The test was made in the dump in an area with leaf mulch overburden. The first level was a sterile black-brown topsoil which reached a depth of 14". Beneath this layer was an orange-tan sand, also sterile to a depth of 28". A third level was encountered at this depth consisting of a hardpacked tan-gray clay. Taken to a depth of 36", this level was also sterile.

Test 129

Test 129 was located west of the house and drive, 5' north of the first extant shed, 50' south of the street. The 15' x 15' frame one-story shed had a cinder block foundation, exposed on the south end by the sloping terrain. Level A was a black humic topsoil with pieces of decaying wood, styrofoam cup and a horseshoe fragment. It continued to a depth of 6". A sterile orange-tan sand was beneath this, continuing to a depth of 26". Level C, encountered at 26", was a reddish tan hardpacked clay, sterile to the depth excavated, 38".

Test 130

Test 130 was located north of the horse barn and frame shed on the west side of the property, 107' south of Sharrot Road. The frame shed just south of the test was collapsed and the site littered with wood. This shed has a brick foundation measuring 10'4" square. The first level of the test consisted of black soil containing a considerable amount of coal ash, some slag, and one unidentifiable oxidized nail. At 6", a tan sandy soil was encountered, and continued as a sterile level to 36".

Summary

The Robert Cutting farm at 102 Sharrot Road is exceptional

within the study area for its diverse array of outbuilding structures (barn, smokehouse, tenant house and sheds) and subsurface features (including well, cistern, privy). The archeological record reflects the late 19th century (c.1874-1887) date of the house' construction, and appears in some stratified contexts.

In evaluating the sensitivity of this farm in relation to that of the Alfred/Stephen Cutting farm next door at 68 Sharrot, it was determined that the study of the latter would make more complete contribution to knowledge about the white cash crop farmer in rural late 19th century Staten Island.

REAR OF 116 SHARROT ROAD
(Tax Lot 89)

Historical Background

Tax Lot 89, along the south side of Sharrot Road, is included in the project area except for the house and yard at 116 Sharrot Road. The entire parcel appears vacant on the 1874 and 1887 maps (Beers 1874, 1887). By 1898, there was a house at what is now 116 Sharrot Road, shown as the property of "John Burke" (Robinson 1898). The property changed hands by 1907, being taken over by "H. or Henry Heitman," continuing in his name until after 1917 (Robinson-Pidgeon 1907, Bromley 1917). None of the historic maps indicates the presence of any outbuildings.

The 1898 map notes on the building "B S S," presumably indicating a blacksmith shop. This building is shown then as abutting the road. By 1907, it appears to be a 2-story frame structure set further back from the road, and is no longer indicated as anything other than a house. Oral history confirms that a blacksmith shop was located here during the early 20th century (Pedro 1982:personal communication).

Survey and Testing

Topographically, the area slopes gradually from northwest (100') to southeast (87'). The property is completely open, utilized for horse pasture. Three recent frame sheds and one masonry shed are located to the rear of the house along the western property boundary. A cement and brick-lined ditch is located perpendicular to Sharrot Road and runs 150' south. Tests 13, 18, 19, 69, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 131, 132, 133, and 173 were made at the rear of 116 Sharrot Road.

Test 13

This test was 160' south of Sharrot Road, 23' from the southwest corner of the barn behind 102 Sharrot Road and 12' west of the back wall

of the shed behind that barn. Level A was a brown loam, 19" in depth. It contained coal and coal ash, and a fragment of bottle glass. Layer B was a tan sandy soil, sterile, extending to a depth of 35". Level C was a fine, sandy, tan-yellow subsoil extending to the bottom of the excavation at 37".

Test 18

This test was placed 150' south of 116 Sharrot Road, 5' southwest of a horse stable. It is actually in Tax Lot 95. Layer A was a light brown, sandy soil, 6" deep. It yielded brick fragments, coal, and several sherds of amber bottle glass. Level B, extending to the bottom of the excavation at 36", was a sterile, orange sand.

Test 19

This test was 95' south of 116 Sharrot Road, in front of the doorway to a recent wooden shed used as a children's clubhouse. Level A was a powdery, brown soil 3-1/2" deep, with a pocket of coal ash in the southwest corner of the test. Over 130 pieces of window glass were recovered from this stratum. Level B, an orange-brown sand, extended to a depth of 25". It too contained coal, coal ash, and window glass. Level C, continuing to a depth of 36" at the bottom of the excavation, was a fine, orange soil. It contained a piece of melted black plastic.

Test 69

This test was 40' behind 116 Sharrot Road, in the floor of a no longer existing modern shed. Layer A, 8" deep, was a red clay soil, containing coal and flowerpot fragments. Level B was red shale, which extended to the bottom of the excavation at 32". No artifacts were recovered in this layer.

Test 76

This test was along the south end of the lot, 700' south of the

road. Level A was a brown topsoil, 12" deep, containing a single piece of light green window glass. Level B, continuing to the bottom of the excavation at 36", was a hardpacked, sterile, gray clay.

Test 77

Test 77 was placed 75' west of Test 76. Level A was a brown topsoil, 9" deep. It contained a fragment of bottle glass, and coal. Level B was a tan-orange sand, extending to a depth of 28". Layer C was a sterile, hardpacked orange clay, followed to a depth of 32".

Test 78

This test was 100' north of Test 76. The top soil layer, 1" thick, was a brown topsoil. Level B, a tan, hardpacked sand, extended to the bottom of the excavation at 14". No artifacts were recovered there.

Test 79

This test was 100' north of Test 77, and 75' west of Test 78. Level A was a brown topsoil, 9" deep, containing coal. Level B was a tan-orange sandy soil, sterile, extending to a depth of 24". Layer C was a hardpacked red clay, extending to the bottom of the test at 35".

Test 80

This test was 25' south of Sharrot Road, and 65' east of 116 Sharrot Road, in a wooded area. Layer A was a brown, loamy soil, 10" deep; it was followed by a sandy tan-orange soil, extending to a depth of 16". Level C was a hardpacked, fine-grained soil extending to the bottom of the excavation at 36". No artifacts were recovered from this test.

Test 81

This test was 30' south of Test 80, about 55' south of Sharrot Road. The top layer of brown topsoil was only 1" in depth; it contained coal ash. Level B extended to a depth of 9". It was a tan sandy loam.

Layer C was a hardpacked, tan-orange subsoil extending to the depth of the excavation at 34". This test was sterile.

Test 131

This test was placed 10' west of the barn behind 102 Sharrot Road. Layer A was a 10" thick strata of brown loam. Layer B, to a depth of 30", was a tan-brown sandy soil. Level C, extending to the bottom of the excavation at 32", was a tan, hardpacked sand. This test was sterile.

Test 132

Test 132 was 200' south of Sharrot Road, and 35' west of the southwest corner of the long open shed at 102 Sharrot Road. Layer A, 19" in depth, was a brown, hardpacked loamy soil. It revealed a nail, piece of a door knob, and plastic.

Test 133

This test was placed 20' south of Sharrot Road and 25' east of 116 Sharrot Road, along the edge of a brick-lined ditch. Layer A was a brown loam, extending to a depth of 7". It contained coal, ironstone, whiteware, bottle glass, and bone. Layer B, continuing to a depth of 20", was a brown sandy soil, containing a single piece of glass and coal ash. Level C was a hardpacked, tan-orange subsoil, which continued to the bottom of the excavation at 34". This level was sterile.

Test 173

Test 173 was a trash deposit located in the western border of 102 and eastern border of 116 Sharrot Road, in an extensively overgrown area, 75' north of the rear property line. The deposit was 15' along the rail fence and consisted of wood for the most part, but also sections of laid-up brick (chimney fragments), slabs of concrete and an iron rod. Clearing to ground level provided no indication of a subsurface deposit and no subsurface test was made.

Summary

The farm behind 116 Sharrot road was cultivated fields in 1913 and is presently utilized as pastureland. There is no indication on any historic maps of outbuildings associated with the house between the time it appeared c.1898 as the blacksmith shop of J. Burke and its later farm usage (1907-1917). There are no subsurface indications of the blacksmith shop other than sporadic fragments of slag. Intensive survey of the perimeter of the property revealed only one surface dump containing construction/building debris (Test 173). No further testing is recommended in this area.

REAR OF 128 AND 132 SHARROT ROAD
(Tax Lots 95 and 103)

Historical Background

This is an irregularly shaped area at the southwest corner of the project area, lying to the west and rear of 128 and 132 Sharrot Road.

It appears, from a review of the historic maps, that this portion of the project area never contained any structures. The house now at 132 Sharrot Road and Tax Lot 103 first appears in the 1874 Atlas (Beers 1874), where it is shown as the "J. Burke" house and land. In 1898, it appears as the property of "Mrs. John Burke" (Robinson 1898). In that 24-year interval, the house acquired an ell to the rear, and a small barn. The house is still extant today.

Tax Lot 95 was shown as the property of "I. Winant" on the 1874 Map (Beers 1874). By 1887, it belonged to "J. Kern" (Beers 1887), and continued in that family through at least 1917 (Robinson 1898; Robinson & Pidgeon 1907; Anonymous 1913; Bromley 1917). The house at 128 Sharrot Road was erected some time after that year.

Survey and Testing

The topography of these two lots reflects the same gentle sloping characteristic of the south side of Sharrot Road, sloping from 100' at the road to about 95'/90' at the southern limit of the property (Ettlinger 1979). A large portion of Tax Lots 103 and 95 is covered with heavy brush and trees. There is no indication that these parcels were cultivated (Anonymous 1913).

Tests 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 135, 136, and 137 were made in this area.

Test 82

This test was placed 30' south of Sharrot Road, 25' west of 116 Sharrot Road, and 65' east of 128 Sharrot Road. The topsoil layer, a rich brown loam, was 6" deep and sterile. Layer B, extending to a depth of 18", was a tan loam. It contained a single small bone fragment. Layer C continued to the bottom of the test at 35". It was a hardpacked, fine-grained, tan-orange subsoil. It, too, was sterile.

Test 83

This test was placed in an open field, about 110' southwest of 116 Sharrot Road, and 25' from the west edge of Tax Lot 89. Level A, a brown loamy topsoil, extended to a depth of 10", and contained several pieces of coal and coal ash. Layer B, a culturally sterile, tan soil, continued to a depth of 24". The final level, C, was the same sterile, hardpacked subsoil encountered in Test 82 and continued to the bottom of the test at 38".

Test 84

This test was 185' southwest of 116 Sharrot Road. It was made at a point 210' south of the road, 75' west of the western edge of Tax Lot 89. Level A was a black topsoil, 2" in depth. It was succeeded by a layer of brown loam, extending to a depth of 11". Level C was a tan-orange sandy soil that extended to a depth of 25". The final layer, D, was a red-gray clay that continued to the bottom of the test at 37". The only artifacts recovered from this test were a ceramic fragment with a blue transfer print decoration and a piece of melted glass, both found in Level B.

Test 85

This test was 300' from Sharrot Road, and 250' south of 128 Sharrot Road. The area is now covered by high grass and brush. Layer A was a brown topsoil, 8" in depth. It contained coal, coal ash, wire

nails, window glass, whiteware and redware. Layer B, extending to a depth of 24", was a sterile, tan-orange sand. Layer C, extending to the bottom of the test at 38", was the same red-gray clay observed in Test 84.

Test 86

This test was placed 100' south of Test 85, in what appeared to be an old roadbed. The general area showed no evidence of cultivation, i.e., plow furrows. Layer A was a loamy topsoil 6" deep. Layer B was a tan-gray subsoil, extending to 12". Layer C was a red-gray clay extending to a depth of 30". No artifacts were recovered from this test.

Test 87

Test 87 was 125' south of Test 86, at the apparent end of the roadbed observed at the site of Test 86. To the east of the test, in high brush, we observed bulldozer tracks, disturbed ground, and piles of soil. This test revealed a 4" level of brown topsoil, succeeded by a tan-orange subsoil extending to 16". The final layer was a hardpacked tan-gray clay extending to the bottom of the test at 30". No artifacts were recovered.

Test 135

This test was 100' south of Sharrot Road, and about 40' southeast of 128 Sharrot Road at the corner of its lot. Layer A was a brown topsoil, 15" deep, containing coal and coal ash. Layer B, a tan-orange subsoil, extended to a depth of 30". No artifacts were recovered other than the coal.

Test 136

This test was placed 110' south of Sharrot Road, 65' southwest of 128 Sharrot Road. It revealed a layer of black topsoil, 6" thick, succeeded by a brown, sandy layer to a depth of 24". Layer C was hard-packed tan-orange sand, extending to the bottom of the excavation at 30". No artifacts were recovered.

Test 137

This test was placed 75' south of 132 Sharrot Road, in a heavily overgrown area littered with building debris. Layer A was a brown sandy loam, 12" deep. It yielded glass, an iron hook, and a whiteware sherd. Layer B, extending to the bottom of the excavation, was a sterile, hard-packed tan-orange subsoil. It was dug to a depth of 20" at which point further digging with hand tools was impossible.

Summary

The tests made on Tax Lots 95 and 103 behind 128 and 132 Sharrot Road reflected no unusual subsurface deposits. One feature was discovered, that being a possible roadbed in the location of Tests 85, 86 and 87. This could have been a drive (15' wide) somewhat like that still extant at 102 Sharrot, although no indication is made of this on any of the historic maps. The area of the drive extends for some 200' and ends in an area of soil piles and bulldozer tracks leading to the conclusion that the drive is a relatively recent product of earth-moving. Test 85 at the edge of this feature yielded some late 19th century to 20th century remains, while the other two tests were sterile.

Very little other cultural material was found here. No additional work is recommended in this area.

TAX LOT 8

Physical Description

Tax Lot 8 is located west of Bloomingdale Road and approximately 300' south of Sharrot Road. Basically a rectangular parcel, the area measures 300' x 600' x 350' x 525'. It has a gently sloping terrain from 98' above the Richmond datum at Bloomingdale Road to 91' in the southwest portion of the property. A Cretaceous pond, one of a series (designated Pond #1 in Carpenter 1982:2-3) was located on the northeast corner of Tax Lot 8. Pond 1 was recently filled in by Woodrose Associates (Perna 1982:personal communication). The ecological report estimated the pond's depth just prior to that occurrence to be one to three feet (Carpenter 1982:2-24). This corresponds to elevations on the 1913 topographic map (Anonymous 1913) although the pond size was much reduced by the time the most recent topographic map was made (Ettlinger 1979). The Carpenter report recorded that the banks of the pond were littered with "construction wastes and discarded appliance parts" (1982:2-24). Today, the filled-in pond and area directly around is an open grassy field. The area along the western and southern edges of Tax Lot 8 are wooded, and, in some areas, dense with low briars and brush.

According to Mr. Perna, fill was brought onto the site from the construction site across the street east of Bloomingdale Road to fill in the Pond #1 area. In his recollection, large earth-moving activity was restricted to the pond and filling was the only activity that occurred. Survey of the property reflected extensive earth movement in the central area of the lot at some previous time, however. Along the southern boundary of the parcel was a ditch with large piles of dirt north of it and a bulldozed road. The area above the pond (about 200' west of the filled pond area) was tire-rutted and devoid of topsoil as if it had been scraped completely off. This area had a scatter of 19th and 20th century artifacts on the surface.

Historical Background

Tax Lot 8 is located adjacent to the southwest corner of Sharrot Road and Bloomingdale Road where the Sleepy Hollow Restaurant is located today, but does not seem to have been tied to its development. This corner has historically been the site of a store or inn, first appearing on the 1852 map (Barnes), as Duprey's Store in 1853 (Butler) and unrecorded in 1859 and 1864 (Walling).

By 1874, the 4-acre lot surrounding the pond was divided from the corner lot and owned by "C. Bogardus & Son" (Beers 1874). It remained an undeveloped parcel owned by C. Bogardus through 1917 (Beers 1887; Robinson 1898; Robinson and Pidgeon 1907; and Bromley 1917).

An intense walkover survey was made of this section and a scattering of 19th century ceramics and glass was observed in the gradually sloping area from the northwest to mid-area of the lot. Since it was unclear whether this was a disturbed or natural phenomenon, Tests 27, 28, 29, 51, 52, 58, 66, 151, and 152 were made on Tax Lot 8, especially in the area of this scatter. Tests 49 and 50 were made to determine the extent of fill in the pond.

Test 27

Test 27 was made 230' west of Bloomingdale Road and 80' south of the northern boundary. Scattered ceramics and glass were observed on the surface of the test, including clam shell fragments, one whiteware body sherd, one ironstone rimsherd, and an aqua blown-in-mold bottle base. No other artifacts were encountered in the entire test.

Level A was a brown-pinkish loam extending to a depth of 6". Level B was a pink-brown hardpacked loam reaching a depth of 24". This was succeeded by a subsoil level of pink-tan hardpacked clay excavated to 38".

Test 28

Test 28 was located 182' west of Bloomingdale Road and 95' south of the northern boundary of the lot. Several pieces of coal were found on the surface; no other artifacts were found in this test. Level A was a pinkish brown sandy loam measuring to a depth of 18". A hardpacked pinkish clay underlay this and continued to 30", the limit of excavation.

Test 29

Test 29 was located 270 feet west of Bloomingdale Road and 180 feet south of the northern lot boundary. Ground cover was sparse grass. A worked chert flake was found on the surface of this test along with six pieces of coal. The first subsurface level was a sterile orange sand extending to 14". A tan-orange hardpacked sterile subsoil succeeded this, continuing to 28" where the clay became impenetrable.

Test 49

Test 49 was located 70 feet west of Bloomingdale Road and 140 feet south of the north lot boundary, at what would have been the east bank of the pond. The first level was a dark orange sandy gravel with many rocks. This fill material extended to 15" when a dark gray silty soil (B) was encountered. This extended to a depth of 23"; no artifacts were recovered from either level. A sterile dark brown sandy soil began at 23" and continued to the limit of the excavation at 35".

Test 50

Test 50 was located 130 feet west of Bloomingdale Road and 130 feet south of the north lot boundary inside the now-filled pond. The first level was an orange-brown sandy fill with gravel and rocks. It extended 15" below ground level and included three clear glass fragments, one pressed and two bottle fragments. Level B was a dark gray silt, containing no artifacts and reaching a depth of 29". The last stratum encountered was a sterile brown sandy soil excavated to 36".

Test 51

Test 51 was located 280 feet west of Bloomingdale Road and 175 feet south of the north lot boundary, in an area of sparse grass. The first subsurface level was a brown sandy soil with some pebbles. This level continued to 12" and contained no artifacts. A red-orange hard-packed silt lay beneath Level A. Level B had some pebbles, no artifacts, and extended the limit of excavation at 34".

Test 52

Test 52 was located 390 feet south of Bloomingdale Road and 175 feet south of the north boundary of the lot. The ground cover was a sparse grass over a brown topsoil (Level A). Some stones were present in the stratum, but no cultural material was found. At 7", the soil (Level B) became a red-orange silty clay. A few rocks were present and the soil was extracted in clumps of clay. No artifacts were encountered to the limit of excavation at 32".

Test 58

Test 58 was located 80 feet east of the west lot boundary and 75 feet south of the north lot boundary. The test was made at the edge of the open field area adjacent to the scrub woods to the west. Level A was a brown sandy topsoil with some few rocks. No artifacts were recovered to its 8" depth. A red-orange silty clay lay beneath the topsoil. The bottommost 12" of this level was hardpacked and the soil was removed in lumps. No artifacts were recovered to the limit of the excavation at 36".

Test 66

Test 66 was located 150 feet east of the Cutting farm property (the west boundary of the lot) and 25 feet south of the north lot boundary. This was in an area that was alternately wet and swampy meadow (being cesspool leach fields), with some higher grass spots. Test 66 was

made in the latter area during intensive survey behind the lots on Sharrot Road. A dump area containing a recent car and car parts and wooden window frames was located between Tests 58 and 66 adjacent to the rear of property lot of John Schlehner (64 Sharrot Road).

Test 66 was made in an area with high grassy ground cover. Level A was an orange loam which included two pieces of coal. A gray-orange sand was encountered at 15" and continued as a sterile subsoil to a depth of 37".

Test 151

Test 151 consisted of a transect 10' wide by 170' long in which all surface artifacts were collected in order to gain a sample of the surface scatter in the vicinity of Tests 27 and 28. Altogether, 30 artifacts were recovered including ceramics (whiteware and porcelain), bone, shell, bottle and window glass and a modern aluminum can seal.

Test 152

Test 152 was a general area surface collection made 50' south of Test 52. Artifacts consisted of bottle fragments (4), window and milk glass, and a variety of ceramics. These included brown glazed earthenware, stoneware, porcelain and whiteware.

Summary

Tax Lot 8 has not been associated with any structure during the historic period although the property was owned as an individual 4-acre parcel from 1874 on. This non-occupation is reflected in the lack of material culture recovered in the ten tests made in this area. The northwestern section (the vicinity of Tests 27, 28 and 151) appears to have had some earth movement reflected in an area devoid of topsoil and with a surface artifact scatter uncharacteristic of the rest of the lot. There is no oral or documentary evidence of a structure or activity center

ever having occupied this area. It is, however, contiguous to the pond-filling activity and may represent front loader maneuvering while in the filling process. If the fill for the pond came from the east side of Bloomingdale where the earliest Woodrow settlement began and where there has been documented prehistoric activity, this may be what is reflected in the surface scatter on Tax Lot 8.

Other earth movement is evident on this site as noted along the southern lot boundary where a large ditch running east/west and soil piles exist. The soil mounding extends to Bloomingdale Avenue and abuts the area of the drive at 444 Bloomingdale Road as well.

No further work is recommended in this area.

TAX LOT 2

(Property Adjacent to 444 Bloomingdale Road)

Historical Background

Tax Lot 2 includes the property adjacent to 430 and 444 Bloomingdale Road, but not the house structures (See Base Map). The first utilization of the property seems to have been as a drive leading from the house of "Capt. Cole" out to Bloomingdale Road (Butler 1853, Beers 1874). A house at Cole's location appears as early as 1852 (Barnes). By 1887, "Jas. Kern" is shown owning 21 acres and the house set back from Bloomingdale Road (Beers 1887).

The drive into this property utilized Tax Lot 2 until c.1898 when the property was divided into parcels of several acres each (Robinson 1898). The northernmost lot contained 2 acres, designated "Isaac Harris." A barn is indicated, set back from the road, but no house is shown. According to oral history, Harris lived upstairs in the barn until his house was built (Pedro 1982:personal communication). The southernmost parcel (Tax Lot 40) had been subdivided into a 3-acre plot designated "Jos. Post"; no structures are shown existing here in 1898 (Robinson 1898).

Isaac Harris and his son-in-law, Joseph Post, were among those black families not involved in the oystering trade but rather were employed by rich white families (Askins 1980:2-1). In the case of Harris, there was an association with the architect, Stanford White, who, oral history records, had some influence in building Harris' house at 444 Bloomingdale Road at the turn of the century (Taylor, Askins 1982:personal communication). As an Episcopalian, Harris also reflected a religious difference from that of his Sandy Ground contemporaries who were staunch Methodist-Episcopalians (Askins 1982:personal communication).

By 1907, houses appeared on both the Isaac Harris and Joseph H.

Post lots (Robinson and Pidgeon 1907). By 1917, Harris had added to his house and barn (Bromley 1917). While Post had added a small shed northwest of the house, his property appears greatly reduced from the original 3-acre tract (Bromley 1917).

Mr. Pedro rented from Post in the early part of the century while Post lived on Woodrow. A Mr. Toupe also lived there (Pedro 1982: personal communication).

Survey and Testing

The area behind 444 Bloomingdale Road appears to have been historically and still remains today a gently rolling wooded area with a drop in elevation of about 5' from the northeast to the southwest. The northern lot boundary adjacent to the drive and at the street was victim to the large soil movement noted in the description of Tax Lot 8; otherwise, the property seemed undisturbed. The complex barn structure identified on the early 20th century maps was no longer extant, but there were some significant above-ground indications of the one-time structure. Tests made on Tax Lot 2 included 56, 57, 61, 62, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, and 152.

Test 56

Test 56 was located 130 feet west of Bloomingdale Road, 50 feet from the northwest and southwest corners of the Harris house (444 Bloomingdale Road). There were surface indications that there had been a structure in this area at one time. These included depressions in the ground, scattered building debris and the outline of a cement foundation measuring 25' x 16-1/2'. This test was made at the northeast corner of this structure. Since the foundation was no longer intact, the exact location of the test (inside or outside) in relation to the structure was questionable. Ground cover included a car jack and other recent household garbage over a heavy leaf mulch.

Level A was composed of this leaf mulch and the yellow-brown soil beneath it. The first level extended 12"; no artifacts were recovered. A burned 1" deep deposit was found at this point, extending through the entire test. At 13", two distinct strata were encountered; a gray-brown soft powdery sand, 5" deep (Level B), and a yellow sandy loam (Level C). Level B was located throughout the western half of the test, stopping abruptly 8" to the east and at a depth of 18". Green plastic plate fragments, tar paper, a drawer pull, bolt and iron rim fragment were recovered. Level C began at 13" in the northeast portion of the test and then continued below the gray-brown sand at 18". The yellow sandy loam was excavated to the limit of the test at 36". Artifacts recovered included a painted leather fragment, a bent iron rod and oxidized nail.

Test 57

Test 57 was made 80 feet west of the northwest corner of the house just east of the concrete foundation, 25 feet south of Test 56. This area was heavily overgrown with poison ivy and briar thickets; Level A consisted of an overburden of leaf mulch and roots were encountered measuring from 3" (east profile) to 1" deep (west profile). A red clay was located under this, being a thin 1/4" lens at the western profile gradually expanding downslope to 7" in the east profile. A fine light brown soil (1") was located beneath the red clay in the western 6" of the test; this was over a gray mortar/coal ash level. The coal ash and mortar (Level C) continued across the entire test to a depth of 14" at the east profile. A concrete and stone footing (Level D) was encountered in the west third of the test at a 3-1/4" depth and continued to 9". Below the ash/mortar and concrete-stone footing was a light yellow fine sandy loam (Level E). This soil became increasingly hardpacked as we reached the excavation limit of 32". No artifacts were found in association with any level in this test. The cement foundation evident in Tests 56 and 57 is adjacent to the barn/shed structures indicated on the historic maps and may represent the most recent addition made to it. It did not, however,

appear to be tied to this structure, and perhaps functioned as a recent garage.

Test 61

Test 61 was placed 80 feet from the northwest corner of the house in the location of the no longer extant earliest barn (1-1/2 story frame). The barn is first documented in 1898 (Robinson 1898). The ground cover is small trees and grass as well as various building debris including cement, brick, tar paper and lime. No evidence of a foundation was apparent. The first subsurface level was a sandy gray topsoil extending to 6". One ceramic sherd was found, but not recovered. An orange silty clay was encountered at 6"; it contained a few rocks, becoming hardpacked at the lower level. No artifacts were found to the depth of excavation at 29".

Test 62

Test 62 was made 25 feet west of the property lot boundary between 430 and 444 Bloomingdale Road, 150 feet west of the road. The test was made 2 feet east of a collapsed frame shed measuring 17' x 17'. The base of this structure was a stone and cement slab with collapsed wood still over it. The area of the test was littered with artifacts on the surface; these included 13 fragments of a whiteware vegetable dish with a blue decal decoration, glass (3), bone, an asbestos tile, a rubber foot (chair), a brass washer and a plastic playing chip.

Level A was a dark brown sandy topsoil with some root activity. Extending to an 8" depth, Level A included much of the rest of the whiteware with blue decal decoration, ceramic dish (30 fragments), as well as window glass (5), clear bottle glass (3), and a gold molded plastic disc, 6" in diameter. A hard tan silty soil was encountered at 8" containing a few stones and no artifacts. This soil continued to the limit of the excavation at 35". This site and the vicinity south of it was filled with modern day garbage, i.e., television, refrigerator, children's toys, and

building material. The deposit at Test 62 was singular in its reflection of small domestic refuse.

Test 141

Test 141 was located 75 feet north of the northeast corner of the Harris house and 50 feet from the road in an area of low brush and small trees. This was located west of soil piles along the road. The ground was covered with leaf mulch to a depth of 2". Level B was a brown-red loamy soil extending to 14". A third level was encountered at 14", a red-orange loam, which continued to the limit of excavation at 34". All levels were devoid of material culture.

Test 142

Test 142 was located 25 feet north of the driveway, approximately 55 feet north and 20 feet west of the northwest corner of the house. The test was placed at the entrance to a foot path that led in the direction of the barn. Ground cover and topsoil were absent. Level A was a red-orange loam extending 16"; one cigarette filter was found on the surface. A sterile, hardpacked red loam was located beneath this, continuing to the limit of excavation at 28".

Test 143

Test 143 was located 100 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the house. This test was placed inside of the no longer extant barn complex (circa 1917). The area consisted of slightly elevated, flat ground. There were surface indications of cultural activity. The surface collection of artifacts (40) included bottle glass, building material, nuts, bolts, screws, nails, and brass screws. Level A was a humic black topsoil which included numerous pebbles and gravel. This soil level included artifacts (36) such as screws, bolts, nails, bottle glass, recent plastic toy, a toothbrush, an electronic tube, brick and an asphalt shingle. Level B was a tan-brown sandy soil which included one large

brick fragment (no corner) and 16 small brick fragments along with one piece of plaster and coal. A hardpacked reddish clay was encountered, yielding a fragment of insulated copper wire, a clear glass fragment and an iron fastener.

Also adjacent to this test was assorted debris, including a paving block, railroad tie section and brick (see Tests 147 and 148 also made in this area).

Test 144

Test 144 was made 225 feet west of Bloomingdale Road and 150 feet west and 50 feet south of the southwest corner of the house. This test was in the center of a large dug-out depression (2' deep) measuring 4' x 4'. The depression was covered with a leafy overburden. One fragment each of glass and whiteware were found on the surface. Level A, begun at 2', was a bright brown loamy soil which extended 13". Trash recovered included a shoe, radio, screw lid bottle and bottle fragments and a wire nail. Beneath this was a sterile yellow hardpan with areas of oxidized soil (orange), extending to the limit of the excavation, 25".

Tests 145 and 146

Tests 145 and 146 were made 50 feet apart in the wooded area in the center of Tax Lot 2, about 300 feet west of Bloomingdale Road. These tests consisted of surface collections of milk bottle fragments (72) from the "OK" Dairy in West Brighton, Staten Island, found as a part of the walkover survey. These artifacts were found on the duff surface of the wooded area. The deposit did not continue below the surface.

Test 147

Test 147 was made in a 1' depression located just north of the concrete foundation located in Tests 56 and 57 and 25 feet southwest of Test 143 within the no longer extant barn complex. The ground was

covered with leaf mulch below which a light brown loamy soil with a concentrated root network was encountered. At 12", the soil became a red-orange clayey loam which became increasingly impenetrable and was excavated to 28". No cultural material was recovered from either level.

Test 148

Test 148 was located 25 feet east of the concrete foundation in a shallow depression. The surface was covered by a car radiator, and underneath this was 2" of decomposing leaves with concrete fragments and a piece of 1/2" wood molding. Four inches of brown loamy soil were beneath this, and a hardpan yellow clay was encountered at 6". Both lower levels were sterile to the limit of the excavation at 25".

Test 152

Test 152 was located 25' west of Bloomingdale Road, in an undisturbed area north of the driveway at 444 Bloomingdale Road. The direct vicinity to the east and north of Test 152 was disturbed, consisting of large soil piles that may have been a part of the recent process of filling in Pond 1 on the next lot. The area was wooded with some briar underbrush. Level A was a black-brown humic stratum, consisting of decomposing leaves and tree branches extending two inches. A cigarette filter and aluminum flip lid were noted and discarded. A brown powdery sand was encountered then, with some root disturbance at the top of the level (B). Level B continued to a depth of 7"; several pieces of coal were found. An orange-yellow sandy subsoil, becoming yellower and hard-packed, underlay the B Level. This was a sterile subsoil that was excavated to a depth of 37".

Rear of Tax Lot 2

An intense walkover survey was made of the entire area of Tax Lot 2 at 444 and 430 Bloomingdale Road. Twentieth century debris was scattered in piles throughout the back of the lot. This consisted of

large items of domestic trash such as an ironing board, washing machine, television sets, and a scissor jack with a numbered beam nailed to it. Numerous recent beer bottles (Budweiser) were also part of this deposit.

Summary

Survey and testing of the Isaac Harris house located remnants of the c.1898-1917 barn complex on this site. Artifacts recovered reflect this turn of the century usage (*i.e.*, nails, nuts, bolts, screws). There is no cultural evidence of the short occupation of the barn as a house as indicated by oral history (Pedro:personal communication). Several depressions found within the foundation of the barn complex are thought to be in association with the structure. Test 62 was made adjacent to a 4' x 4' concrete and stone foundation of a collapsed frame building, the purpose of which is undetermined. A large number of fragments of a single vessel dating from the early 20th century (a covered vegetable dish) was found in association with the structure. Since the structure is not shown on the fairly accurate 1913 topographic map, it probably postdates it.

No other features or extensive deposits were encountered. Deep features such as cisterns and wells were located well within the 35' perimeter that will remain around the house; no location of the privy was made. No further testing is recommended for Tax Lot 2.

420 BLOOMINGDALE ROAD

(Tax Lots 40 and 62)

Survey and Testing

See historical description under 444 Bloomingdale Road for details about the development of this property. At the time of the survey, Tax Lot 40 included a 2-1/2 story frame structure with a 1-story frame addition to the rear, and a 1-story frame shed to the northwest with an attached frame addition; about 50' west, a frame shed, frame garage, and frame summer house. These three outbuildings post-date 1917 (Bromley 1917). The property slopes from 92' above the Richmond datum at the location of the house to about 81' at the extreme southwestern corner. The small stream running south from Ponds 3 and 4 under Sharrot Road through the Cutting property, makes a bend east across the southeastern corner of Tax Lot 62 and is at an elevation of about 75'. Lot 62 is a 225' x 200' lot located to the rear of Lot 40 and part of Joseph A. Post Sr.'s plot of land through 1917 (Bromley 1917).

The area of the property around the house and outbuildings was open and accessible. Directly behind the sheds the property became densely overgrown and wooded and was literally covered with garbage. Two dumps were located in this vicinity (Tests 149 and 55); a third dump (150) was located near the first at the western boundary of the property (440' from Bloomingdale Road). The western half of the lot was densely wooded with thick briar undergrowth. Remnants of the southern and western fence line were still apparent at the end of the property. (Lot 62).

An intense survey of the lot was made looking for any surface indications of cultural activity. As in the other lots, areas at the edges of the property line were very carefully examined for trash deposits according to the pattern identified by Schuyler (1974) and Askins (1980). Specific tests were concentrated in dumps and around the house and earliest shed. The location of a small auxiliary outbuilding and a

subsurface feature was immediately identified. A concrete capped well or cistern was located south of the first addition on the main house. The outhouse, according to oral history, had been located inside the early 20th century shed presently converted to an apartment, just northeast of the house (Pedro 1982:personal communication).

Based on the deposits found at 68 Sharrot Road, the dry stream-bed was also carefully surveyed, probed, and tested for trash.

Tests 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 53, 54, 55, 59, 60, 149, 150, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158 and 172 were made in this area.

Test 20

Test 20 was located 10' east and 10-1/2' north of the southeast corner of the house. This was just south of the front porch steps in a grassy area under the bay window. Level A was a light brown fine sandy topsoil extending 8" deep. Coal, coal ash, shell, ceramics, glass and nails were recovered (total: 15). A fine red-brown sandy soil was encountered at 8" and continued to a depth of 15". Small stones were part of this level; a plastic clip and two glass fragments were recovered. Level C was a sterile red loamy soil with small stones and pebbles; it reached a depth of 35".

Test 21

Test 21 was located 7' east of the main house and 2' south of the back section, near the cement-capped well. The ground cover was grassy and the first level was a red loamy topsoil. This soil was very uniform in appearance to its depth of 12", and included twelve fragments of coal and one styrofoam cup fragment. A red-brown loam succeeded this level, continuing as a sterile stratum to 36".

Test 22

Test 22 was made 5' south of the house at the southeast corner.

Ground cover was sod and Level A was a sandy brown loam with sporadic coal found. At 6", the soil became a reddish orange color and sandier in texture; no artifacts were recovered to a 24" depth. Level C was a reddish sandy sterile subsoil which became very hardpacked at about 29"; small water-polished stones were found in this stratum.

Test 23

Test 23 was placed at the end of the front walk where it intersected the driveway, about 10' east of the southeast corner of the house. The test was made in the brown gravelly soil of the drive and was sterile to its limit at 12". A second level was then encountered but it was a red-orange hardpan so impenetrable by shovel and post hole digger that excavation ceased at 18". No artifacts were recovered.

Test 24

Test 24 was also located in the drive south of the house about 30' south of the southwest corner of the house. The first level was composed of a red-brown, hardpacked, gravel that was sterile to its depth at 8". A sterile orange sandy soil succeeded this, having some small polished pebbles, and continuing to the limit of excavation at 38".

Test 25

Test 25 was located 7-1/2' north and 18' east of the northeast corner of the house. Under a grassy overburden was a brown sandy loam reaching a depth of 7". There was some reddish soil mottling this stratum and sporadic coal and small fragments of burned coal were encountered. A sterile, mottled brown-orange sandy loam succeeded this, reaching a depth of 28". An orange hardpacked sandy soil continued to the limit of the excavation at 36".

Test 26

Test 26 was located 15' west of the southwest corner of the

house in a slightly depressed area behind the house. Sparse grass was the ground cover, and a large lilac bush was just east of the area. Level A was composed of a brown sandy soil mixed with coal and coal ash, extending to a depth of 10". Metal pail fragments (8), two machine-cut nails, a metal bottle cap, copper wire, and plastic fragment were recovered. A second level was encountered at 10", being a red-orange sterile loam. It continued to the limit of the excavation at 35".

Test 53

Test 53 was located 2' east of the southeast corner of the first shed. This shed is in the location of one indicated on the 1917 map (Bromley 1917). The test was made just outside the entrance. The first level was a brown sandy soil extending to 8" in the north profile of the test and 5" in the southerly half. Six window glass fragments, coal and coal ash were recovered. Level B was a red-orange sandy soil which became increasingly hardpacked. It extended to the limit of the excavation at 28". Three window glass fragments were recovered at the top of this level.

Test 54

Test 54 was placed 5' south and 2-1/2' north of the northeast corner of the frame shed (now an apartment) just west of the main house. The ground cover is a sparse grass here; it is adjacent to a recent gravel driveway. Level A was a reflection of this, identified as an orange sandy soil with many small gravelly stones. Level A extended to 3-1/2" and no artifacts were found. A sterile brown sandy soil lay beneath this, reaching a depth of 7-1/2". An orange-tan loam was encountered here, extending to 20". One piece of coal, four small brick fragments, and a fragment of clear bottle glass were recovered. An orange sandy soil composed the lowest level excavated; it was sterile to its maximum depth of 37".

Test 55

Test 55 was located in a sloping low-lying area 50' behind the recent shed located northwest of the main house complex. The surface of the area above the test was littered with tin pails, a burned cut beam, a large metal hinge and mason jars. The area of the test represents a seasonally wet swampy area and broad fern ground cover. The area was dry at the time of the test, covered with a 7" deep stratum of humic leaf mulch mixed with roots. A collection (14) of 20th century bottle fragments was recovered from this stratum, as well as two whiteware and three ironstone ceramic sherds. The bottle fragments would date this level to at least the 1930's.

Level B followed as a brown humic soil reaching a 12" depth. Bottle (milk, jars, alcoholic) glass was again the main artifact recovered, dating from at least the 1930's (33 glass fragments). Also recovered was a copper bracket, brass rouge compact, and three ironstone sherds. A third (C) level was begun at 12" when a gray-black organic soil was found. Bottle glass (light green coke, wide-mouth screw top jars) was again the most numerous artifact (12), but one whiteware and two ironstone ceramic sherds, one bone fragment, a rubber handle, a 4" punch, a suspender clasp, and some four unidentifiable iron fragments, were also found. It is difficult to give any precise date to this stratum, but it seemed contemporaneous with the two above it.

A sterile gray clay was encountered at 26" and excavated to the test limit at 36".

Test 59

Test 59 was located 30' west and 10' south of the attached shed north of the main house structure. This was an area that had been utilized as a pig yard earlier in the century according to oral history (Pedro 1982:personal communication). There was no ground cover. The test was adjacent to an open area enclosed in a semi-circle of 90' high beech

trees. Level A was a brown-orange loam extending 8", containing some small stones, but no cultural material. Level B, an orange-yellow mottled hardpacked sand, was sterile to the limit of the excavation at 33".

Test 60

Test 60 was made 13' south of the second attached shed and one' east of its southwest corner, north of the house at 420 Bloomingdale. The ground had a sparse grass cover and Level A consisted of a red-brown loam, reaching 4". A fragment of aluminum foil, acorns, coal and coal ash were encountered at this location. An ash layer, about 3" thick, succeeded Level A. One wire nail and one brick fragment were recovered. A "C" level began at 7" as a brown sandy soil with flecks of coal ash; no artifacts were found. A yellow sand (Level D), also with coal flecks, began at 12" where a whiteware, clear bottle glass, and coal fragment were located. The yellow sand continued to a depth of 36-1/2".

Test 149

Test 149 was located 20' south of the summer house and 10' north of the south property boundary. The area is very overgrown and wooded. The test was made in the middle of a 3' x 3' dump which included a large mirror, plastic train, plastic bag, plastic eating utensile, and a yellow brick marked "P&M." Level A was brown humus and leaf mulch extending to a 3" depth. Artifacts found included whiteware (3), flower pot sherd (1), a white tile sherd, a crucifix, a plastic faceted bead, cellophane, glass bottle fragments, glass lamp shade fragments, coal, slag and burned wood. A second level was encountered at 3", being a black-brown humic topsoil. This continued to 8", and included a glass marble, bottle fragment, plastic, and a rubber thermos stopper. A third yellow sandy "C" level was found beneath this. It included several small stones but was devoid of cultural remains to the 35" depth excavated.

Test 150

Test 150 was located 60' east and 60' north of the southwest corner of Tax Lot 40 within a 15' area littered with large scattered debris such as a meat grinder, car parts and enamel pots. The test was located in an area where the surface was littered with glass. From the surface and top 3" of decomposing leaf mulch, one window glass, and nine bottle (whiskey) fragments (1932+) and one clear glass lamp base (?kerosene) were recovered. A black-brown humic soil (Level B) extended from 3" to 8" and included a 10" black felt hat, tin can fragments, terracotta drain pipe (1), one decal-decorated and one undecorated whiteware dish, a metal bottle cap, iron rim, iron corner with rivets, and a light green window glass fragment. Level C, a powdery gray-tan soil, was encountered at 8" and contained roots at this depth. Artifacts recovered were at the top of the stratum, contiguous with those in Level B. These included a sherd of the same decal-decorated whiteware, undecorated whiteware, six metal bottle caps, a wire nail and fragments, wire, window glass (2), a tile shingle, coal (2), and iron fragments. The sandy gray-tan soil was excavated to 39".

Test 153

Test 153 is located 10' west of the stream at the rear of the property at 420 Bloomingdale Road, 100' east of the southwest corner of the property. The test was made on the bank above the stream. Level A, overlain with leaf mulch, was a brown sandy soil with a concentrated root network. At 3" a tan sandy soil began and was excavated to 39". No cultural material was recovered from this test.

Test 154

Test 154 was located 25' east and 65' north of the southwest corner of the property in the wooded area west of the stream. Level A was a black-brown stratum of decomposing leaves extending to 5". Following this was a tan sandy 6" level with large stones. The bottom stratum was a

yellow-tan sandy soil containing small river-washed pebbles. This level was hardpacked to the limit of its excavation at 30". All levels were devoid of cultural material.

Test 155

Test 155 was made 25' east of the stream, located 175' east of the west boundary and 100' north of the south boundary. This was in a wooded area gently sloping down to the southwest corner of the lot. Level A was a black-brown decomposing leaf mulch with a small root network. At 2", Level B began, a red-tan sandy soil containing some small pebbles, extending to a depth of 32". No cultural material was recovered.

Test 156

Test 156 was located in a small ditch perpendicular to the brook, 10' east of the northwest corner of the property line. Level A was a sterile black-brown humic soil with a small root system at the surface. At 1-1/2", a tannish sterile sandy soil extended to 8". A yellow tannish sandy soil with small stones was found beneath this and extended to a depth of 36", the limit of the test.

Test 157

Test 157 was a surface collection made 60' east of the northwest corner of the lot, along the property boundary. Four clear bottle fragments (screw cap, stippled body) were found lying on the surface. Probing produced no evidence of any additional debris.

Test 158

Test 158 was also a surface collection. It was made on the surface of the streambed, 15' east of the western property limit. One fragment of a quart milk bottle and one amber liquor bottle (1920+) were recovered. There was no evidence of additional cultural debris in the location of the stream in this lot.

Test 172

Test 172 was located 30' north of the surface dump at Test 150, part of the trashing along the rear boundary of the property. The collection of surface debris at the Test 172 location included enamel pots, recent bottles and part of a gray saltglazed Albany slip interior 2-gallon stoneware (?butter) crock. The latter item was recovered; no subsurface test was made.

Summary

Survey and testing at 420 Bloomingdale Road reflect the circa 1900 development of this property. The several dumps tested have yielded a good sample of glass utilized by the inhabitants during the first half of the 20th century. Testing has not yielded any stratified area that might further add to an understanding of the inhabitants.

No further work is recommended on Tax Lots 40 or 62.

CONCLUSION

The Sandy Ground Historic District has been included on the National Register of Historic Places for its potential archeological significance. It is hoped that careful study of settlements within the area will define economic relationships within a 19th century free-black oystering community. When viewed within a broader national context, Sandy Ground, a continuously black community since 1850, stands out unique in its survival as "a tiny racial island" (Wilkins 1943a,b).

Sandy Ground settlement patterns within the Sharrott Estates Project Area reflect the complex community structure that is characteristic of the district as a whole. Within the 35-acre parcel to be developed, we have a glimpse of the multi-component social and economic scheme of this community. The rich prehistoric potential of the Sandy Brook/Lemon Creek flood plain and Cretaceous Ponds as a village or work site has been reviewed. Testing west of Bloomingdale Road in the location of Tests 102 and 171 has revealed a concentration of waste flakes that reflect the prehistoric use of this site. Further testing is recommended to define the limit and nature of this deposit within a 25' radius.

The Anglo-American element of this multi-component site was characterized by the Cutting farm complex at 68 and 102 Sharrot Road. This English family, which migrated to Staten Island via Brooklyn, occupied the same property at Sandy Ground from 1873 through the 20th century. Deposits found here will clearly reflect use by one family. Excellent documentary resources, in the form of daily accounts and a personal diary, exist for the Alfred Cutting farm (68 Sharrot Road (SIHS:Acc.2006). Reconstruction of both social and economic relationships between the Cuttings and the greater community should be possible and shed some light on how choices for procuring material culture were made. Further study and testing of the Alfred Cutting property is recommended. It is also recommended that the area of the trash deposit in the streambed between 68

and 102 Sharrot Road be further cleared and completely recovered. It is likely that this material can be associated with the Cutting family as well.

The project area peripherally touches upon several parcels developed by black families circa 1874-1907. This component can be further subdivided into those black families who were involved in the oystering trade (R. Landin or Landon and J. Henry north of Sharrot Road and west of Bloomingdale Road) and blacks who worked for rich white people on other parts of Staten Island (Isaac Harris at 420 Bloomingdale Road and his son-in-law, Joseph Post, Sr., at 444 Bloomingdale Road). Only the Post parcel included the entire Post property including the house and outbuilding structures; Post himself was not occupying the property in the 20th century (Pedro 1982:personal communication). Deposits recovered from the Post property reflect c.1930+ refuse that would be attributable only to a general Sandy Ground population. Deposits in the Harris barn area were representative of generalized hardware and perhaps reflect Harris' position as general handyman for architect Stanford White. Very little domestic debris was found here, however.

Deposits west of Bloomingdale Road (Tax Lot 200) in the vicinity of the Landin and Henry houses were composed of scattered surface remains or in an ambiguous context of ownership.

No further testing is recommended in these areas.

The last component recognized was the road network south of Clay Pit Road and the butcher/slaughter/ice house complex of one of the original white families--Sharrot. Three roads or paths were discerned, all connecting Clay Pit Road with Sharrot. None reflected the extensive dumping recognized in Schuyler's Winant-Bloomingdale grid. Some surface scatters were identified and collected; no further reconnaissance is recommended in these areas.

The only component of the butcher/slaughter/ice house still existing within the project area is the remains of the brick ice house (c.1898). Located just north of Pond #4 in an isolated wooded area at the end of the Clay Pit Road network, the brick foundation of the ice house was located during this survey. Several tests within the structure still leave many questions about its construction and use unanswered, however. Additional data concerning the local butchering business carried on by William Sharrot in the late 19th and early 20th centuries within Sandy Ground would add another dimension to our understanding of the economic mechanisms of the community. The area west of the ice house along the north bank of Pond #4 is littered with material culture dating to the ice house' construction and may be associated with its function.

The ice house is located within an area that will not be built upon (Section C) by the Sharrott Estates development. An evaluation should be made, however, of the stability of such a fragile archeological feature when set in the middle of the housing development and the increased human traffic the site will undergo.

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