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1991

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CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION
NEWARK BAY SITE

Staten Island, NY

THOMAS R. FLAGG

Historical Documentation Services

*Citywide Sludge
5 Boroughs*

June 1991

675

NEWARK BAY SITE
STATEN ISLAND, NY

Located in the Port Ivory section of Staten Island, the site is roughly square shaped and is bounded by Richmond Terrace to the south, the U.S. Pier-head line of the Kill van Kull to the north, and vacant land to the east and west.

On this site in 1902 Milliken Bros. (formerly located in Brooklyn) began conducting a business that included iron and steel fabricating and building contracting. In 1905 they expanded into steel manufacture by building five open hearth furnaces but this business failed in 1907. The furnaces were entirely shut down but the fabricating plant remained in operation as of 1912. At this time iron and steel were brought in by rail, fabricated, and shipped by barge from the site. About 45,000 tons were fabricated annually in 1910 and in 1911 (Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co., Operating Dept., 1912: *Report on the Baltimore and New York Railway Co. and the Staten Island Rapid Transit Ry. Co., Arthur Kill to Clifton & South Beach*. Issued by the Office of Third Vice President, Baltimore, Md., April 25th, 1912, p. 17).

This plant was shown on Sanborn Insurance Atlas of Richmond, NYC, Richmond Supplement of 1910 (Plates 114 and 115), with the notation that the steel making plant had shut down.

During World War I the fabricating plant was apparently converted to a Downey Shipbuilding Yard and built a number of oceangoing cargo ships (*Smith's Port of New York Annual* for 1919, p. 165).

By 1932 the site was labeled "vacant, former shipyard" (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers *Port Series*, 1932). No subsequent use of the site appears on later maps.

North of Richmond Terrace, on the site in question, there remain numerous concrete pedestals with protruding iron structural members, presumably cut off during scrapping operations. Some of these pedestals are quite massive. South of the road there are a variety of foundations, some of which may have potential historic significance, especially any remnants of furnace foundations, as remnants of what was probably the only modern steel making site within New York City boundaries.

However the remaining structures north of Richmond Terrace are unlikely to be of any historic significance. They are relatively common forms of foundation for many large industrial structures.