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1999

# Historic Richmond Town

Archaeological Field Testing May 1999 — Letter Report



Test area prior to excavation 4/5

Prepared for the Staten Island Historical Society  
Prepared by Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.  
June 1999

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June 14, 1999

Mr. Barnett Shepherd  
Executive Director  
Staten Island Historical Society  
441 Clarke Avenue  
Staten Island, New York 10306-6057

Dear Barnett:

This illustrated letter report presents the methods and findings of field testing carried out at Historic Richmond Town in May 1999 at your request. It also includes recommendations for further field work based on these findings. The figures and appended items cited in the text follow the bibliography.

The area of concern lies within and between Blocks 2278 and 4444N, Staten Island, New York (Figure 1). The goal of testing was to explore the archaeological potential of this core area of Historic Richmond Town, alongside Richmond Creek, where a large storm sewer will be installed by the City of New York in the Fall of 1999. Figure 2 illustrates the impact area prior to testing and Figure 3 shows the western face of Town Bridge, an historic feature located just north of the impact area. Built at Richmond Creek and Arthur Kill Road in 1828 to replace what was probably an earlier wooden span, this historical bridge is the only one of its kind remaining on Staten Island.<sup>1</sup>

The history of Historic Richmond Town and, more specifically, of the area of potential impact, has been presented in published articles, in unpublished reports, and in the well-researched archaeological planning document that you kindly provided for this evaluation.<sup>2</sup> The potential archaeological sensitivity of the impact area was verified by these documents, by additional research undertaken for this study, and through discussions with William (Bill) McMillen, Director of Restoration at Historic Richmond Town. Bill made his notes and archives available and shared invaluable information gleaned from a long personal and professional association with the town and its history.

The proposed storm sewer will run directly through the aforementioned core area of Historic Richmond Town where land ownership<sup>3</sup> and settlement can be traced to the late seventeenth century. The only original above-ground evidence of this early development in the study area is a restored structure located on the west side of Arthur Kill Road at its intersection with Richmond Road. The oldest section of this building was erected by 1700. It has been known as the "Treasure House" since the mid-nineteenth century when a cache of gold coins was found in the building's walls by Patrick Highland, then its owner.

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<sup>1</sup>See McMillen, W. 1997 for the history and a description of this historic feature and Figure 4 this report for its location in relation to the test area and area of potential impact.

<sup>2</sup>Baughner et al. 1989. Block and lot-specific information is presented in this document.

<sup>3</sup>e.g., Skene 1907.

The original owner and presumed builder of the Treasure House was Samuel Grasset (Graset, Groset, Grossett, Grassor, Grassort), a tanner, who acquired the unimproved land from James Frichett (also various spellings), a local blacksmith, in 1699. Grasset's ownership and residency are documented for at least the three years between 1700 and 1703, but there is speculation that he may have resumed occupancy for an unknown period of time.<sup>4</sup> Grasset's "houses mill tanyardes (sic) and tanvats hids (sic) leather and improvements" are cited in a mortgage dated November 3, 1703.<sup>5</sup> A later occupant was Stephen Wood, a cordwainer, or shoe maker, who enlarged the house, followed by his son, also Stephen and also a cordwainer. The Woods owned the one-acre property and occupied the house for several decades beginning in 1751; after this, ownership is quite well documented. However, the half-century between Grasset and Wood remains speculative despite intensive research carried out by others and for this evaluation.<sup>6</sup> Ownership and use histories of the Treasure House property compiled for the 1989 archaeological planning document, and others for the Hennessy House later built on part of the Treasure House lot, are appended to this report.<sup>7</sup>

Note should be made that the British encamped nearby during the Revolutionary War, and that skirmishes took place at Richmond Creek. One of them occurred at St. Andrews Church just north of the area of potential impact.<sup>8</sup> It is also of historical significance that the first County Court House was erected in 1728 just south of the impact area, partially in the bed of modern Arthur Kill Road where it meets Richmond Road. Perhaps a year later, but possibly as late as 1741, the second County Jail adjoined it; the municipal complex expanded in 1752 when the County Office was built next to the jail. Another early building in the immediate area of impact was John Dunn's original saw and grist mill built on Richmond Creek after 1795<sup>9</sup> and possibly by 1800. The mill building was reconstructed in the 1960s.

While additional research was undertaken for this assessment, particularly about the tanning and cordwaining trades in anticipation of finding archaeological evidence of these occupations near the Treasure House<sup>10</sup> (for example, see Figures 11,12, and 13), it is mainly the field work and its

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<sup>4</sup>McMillen, H. Part VI 1962:2. Other segments of this 6-part history of Richmond Town are not directly cited in the text but were used for information and will be found in the bibliography.

<sup>5</sup>Liber of Mortgages B:462-463 reproduced in Gilbertson n.d. and 1981.

<sup>6</sup>The gap between The Grasset and Wood ownership/occupation is one unanswered question. Another is just when the younger Wood, who apparently acquired the property at his father's death in 1763, sold the property, although it seems to have been before the Revolutionary War.

<sup>7</sup>e.g., Baugher et al., 1989; Liber of Deeds (Misc); McMillen, H., 1960; McMillen and Paul 1969; Gilbertson n.d., 1981; Safford, Misc notes.

<sup>8</sup>Sainz 1946:20; Davis 1892:75.

<sup>9</sup>Baugher et al. (1989:382) gives 1741 as the construction date for the Second County Jail and after 1795 for Dunn's saw and grist mill (Baugher et al. 1989:376). Safford, in his notes, documents a 1729 date for the erection of the jail.

<sup>10</sup>Diderot (1763:Plates 390-395) illustrates and describes tanning in mid-eighteenth-century France (see Figures 11 to 13 this report). Also see Anonymous 1930; Dussauce 1865; Morfit 1852.

findings that are reported on here.

### Field Work (see Figure 4 for Locations of Trenches, Features, and Drawn Profiles)<sup>11</sup>

Field work began on Tuesday, May 11, 1999,<sup>12</sup> when a CAT 426B rubber-tired backhoe with a 30-inch (2.5-foot) bucket was used to excavate an east-west test trench (TT 1) east of Arthur Kill Road on the center line of the proposed storm sewer. This was followed by similar trenching (TT2) west of Arthur Kill Road on May 12, 1999. While shovel testing was among the methods that might have been used to explore the potential archaeological sensitivity of the project area, it was more efficacious to employ a backhoe. Doing so offered information more efficiently and comprehensively, in an area that was going to be deeply disturbed by installation of the proposed storm sewer.

Both test trenches ran adjacent and parallel to Richmond Creek, but in the vicinity of TT1, the creek had long ago been expanded into a mill pond. Its creation probably dates to the construction of Dunn's mill that, as noted above, occurred sometime between 1795 and 1800. TT1 was located east of Arthur Kill Road and north of Richmond Road, TT2 west of Arthur Kill Road between the Treasure House and Richmond Creek just east of where it becomes the head of the Fresh Kills. Because traffic on Arthur Kill Road could not be disrupted, there are approximately 47.5 feet between the two trenches that have not been tested. The center line of the trenches, which followed the proposed path of the storm sewer, had been laid out by Bill McMillen prior to the field investigation. TT1 began east of a proposed manhole for the storm sewer that will lead from a culvert at the mill pond to an outflow west of Arthur Kill Road; TT2 ended just short of the outflow site.

A total of 360.7 feet were excavated in the two backhoe trenches during two days of field work: TT1 was 201.2 feet long and TT2 159.5 feet long (see Figures 5 and 6 that document the two trenches after excavation). Excavation was generally taken into a silty sand that ranged from dark brown to gray and was often plastic enough to be described as "clayey" in the field. Although excavation extended as much as 7.5 feet below the ground surface (BGS) in some places, this deep silty sand was found to contain at least some artifacts. Artifactual material found throughout the trenches was generally fragmentary and suggestive of redeposited fill. Exceptions included seven whole bottles, an ointment jar, and a ceramic mug collected from the upper levels of both test trenches for dating purposes.<sup>13</sup>

All of the artifacts recovered from the trenches were a "grab" sample. In other words, none were collected systematically nor were they from screened soils. Only four 5-gallon soil samples retrieved from the deep silty sand level of a backhoe-excavated test pit (TP) were water screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh. The test pit, located west of the reconstructed saw mill (see Figure 4 for location), was terminated when excavation reached coarse red-brown sterile glacial soil at 7.5 feet

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<sup>11</sup>Soils described in the profiles were also identified using the Munsell color chart (Munsell 1992).

<sup>12</sup>Testing was carried out under the direction of the writer assisted by archaeologists Shelly Spritzer and Linda Stone. Bill McMillen participated assisted by Historic Richmond Town staff members, Jim Donnelly and Tom McKeon.

<sup>13</sup>Artifact collection (data recovery) was not originally part of the field plan.

BGS. One hundred and thirty-seven fragmentary artifacts recovered from the deepest levels of the silty sand (approximately 4 to 7.5 feet BGS) indicated that it was actually a deep fill introduced adjacent to Richmond Creek. This fill also included clam and oyster shells and small brick fragments that were noted and discarded in the field. While TT1 east of Arthur Kill Road was initially dry, water seeped in overnight. West of Arthur Kill Road, the western limit of TT2 was inundated soon after excavation ended.

It should be noted that archaeological excavation carried out in the 1960s south of TT2, closer to the Treasure House, encountered water at 14-16 inches BGS. Other excavations apparently uncovered a stone-lined tan pit in the dirt floor of the building's back room.<sup>14</sup> Although no similar features have been located through subsequent excavations outside the structure, the yard of the Treasure House, with the exception of the site of the later Hennessy House, is considered potentially archaeologically sensitive.<sup>15</sup> In addition to features related to the Grossett occupation, archaeological evidence might remain of an antecedent to what is now Arthur Kill Road. The bed of this earlier road was located in part where the Hennessy House was later built; in addition, Arthur Kill Road as it ran through Richmond Town in the nineteenth century was for a time a plank road.<sup>16</sup>

Testing in TT1 uncovered a shallow brick "floor" and a shell "cache" in ash in its eastern part (see Figure 4 and Profile 1; Figure 7) as well as seven stone constructions that appear to be remnants of foundation walls, and two other brick features. One of these brick features appeared to be a one-brick-wide, north-south running wall of undetermined length in association with what may be a stone wall or footing; the other was approximately a 5-foot expanse of laid brick that may also be a wall. What appears to be an additional stone wall was encountered in TT2 (see Figure 4 for locations).

Further backhoe excavation was considered to explore the brick walls and the associated stone foundation or footing located south of the reconstructed mill. These may be the remains of a tinsmith shop built in 1878, although they were not located exactly where this structure is depicted on maps.<sup>17</sup> However further testing would have destroyed a ramp leading to the reconstructed mill building. As a result, these features were merely documented in a profile (see Profile 2; Figure 8).

As mentioned previously, all excavation above the sterile coarse glacial sand contained fragmentary artifacts. These included building debris, oyster and clam shell, food bone, corroded metal, some leather—often identifiable shoe parts—and a range of ceramics and some glass. Dates derived from the ceramics recovered from the test pit soils indicated that filling in this area occurred after 1765 and possibly around 1800 (see Table 1).<sup>18</sup> This suggests filling by John Dunn, the miller.

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<sup>14</sup>Baughner et al. 1989:86; McMillen and Paul 1969.

<sup>15</sup>e.g., Baughner et al. 1989:609-610.

<sup>16</sup>Stafford reconstructed the road's late-eighteenth century route in manuscript and Leng and Davis (1896) document the nineteenth-century plank road as the Richmond Plank Road; see also Davis 1896:57-58.

<sup>17</sup>Baughner et al. 1989:374, item I.

<sup>18</sup>Glass, which often raises a feature date, was lacking in the test pit samples with the exception of two unidentifiable and undatable fragments (see appended Artifact Catalogue).

West of Arthur Kill Road, TT2 cut through what appeared to be the rear foundation wall of the Hennessy House constructed in 1861-62 and destroyed by fire in 1899.<sup>19</sup> Built by Patrick Highland, then the owner of the adjacent Treasure House, the Hennessy House was located close to modern Arthur Kill Road and, as noted above, directly in its eighteenth-century route. It appears that the eastern end of the former house structure was located east of TT2, closer to Arthur Kill Road. Under the sod within the assumed footprint of the house, a plaster and ash level was found with three thin strata indicating burning, only one of them fairly continuous. Debris was documented above and below the burned levels and above the ubiquitous silty sand that also contained some artifactual material (Profile 3; Figure 9). At least one of the burned strata and the building debris found in TT2 extended beyond the presumed rear foundation wall, suggesting the fire-damaged structure had collapsed and fallen in a westerly direction. Shoe leather, and even a badly worn high top shoe, were noted or collected.<sup>20</sup>

In general, the deep silty sand layer of various hues, often with clay, documented throughout both test trenches was found closer to the surface as TT2 extended west. At its western end, 2 feet of red sand were exposed over the upper 2 feet of what has been described as dark grey muck, and artifactual material became noticeably sparser as the trench extended westward. No evidence of the former bed of Arthur Kill Road was encountered in the trench.

While it had been the intent to profile the extreme western end of the trench, as noted earlier, it was inundated with water shortly after excavation ended, making it impossible to draw a profile. A fourth profile was drawn where Bill McMillen hand excavated the dark brown "clay muck" at the bottom of the trench (Profile 4; Figure 9). A gun shell casing was noted nearby 4.2 to 4.8 feet BGS. Just beyond the hand excavation, also at about 4 feet BGS, a coke can, apparently from a former excavation, was noted, but, surprisingly, evidence of the excavation itself was not apparent in the trench walls. General photos were taken of both trenches prior to backfilling on May 13, 1999 (see Figures 5 and 6).

A total of 267 artifacts, most of them very fragmentary, were processed at the writer's archaeology lab in Manhattan. Of these, 137, or 51%, were from the water-screened samples from the four test pit levels. All artifacts were washed, numbered, and catalogued (see the Artifact Summary table and Artifact Catalogue appended to this report). Dr. Meta Janowitz identified and dated the ceramic fragments. As discussed with Maxine Friedman, Chief Curator of the Staten Island Historical Society, the society will become the repository for this artifactual material.

## Findings

Two days of archaeologically monitored backhoe testing resulted in 360.7 feet of excavation in two test trenches (TT1 and TT2). This revealed twelve stone, brick, or brick and stone features, only some of them anticipated. These features included the following:

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<sup>19</sup>The Staten Islander-Republican, January 11, 1899.

<sup>20</sup>The high top shoe and other shoe parts are in the possession of Bill McMillen.

#### TT1

- Brick floor, at shallow depth, on Unknown Property, 10-15 feet west of east end of TT1, possible remnant of patio (modern?)
- Stone wall, on Unknown Property; unidentified
- Stone wall, on Unknown Property, 5 feet west of previous wall; unidentified
- Stone wall on property line between Unknown Property and Smith Property
- Stone wall, on Smith Property; unidentified
- Brick wall?, 1-brick wide, on Smith Property, possibly in association with stone wall or footing; \* unidentified, but possibly related to a tinsmith shop built c. 1878.
- Stone wall or footing, on Smith Property, mentioned above; \* possibly same as above.
- Brick wall (?), on Smith Property, thickness unknown, approximately a 5-foot section; unidentified, \* but possibly same as above.
- Stone wall, on property line between Smith Property and Johnson Property
- Stone wall, on Johnson Property, possibly east foundation wall of barn built c. 1878 and destroyed by fire in 1895 <sup>21</sup>
- Stone wall, on Johnson Property, possibly interior foundation wall for barn destroyed by fire in 1895

#### TT2

- Possible stone wall, probably rear foundation wall of Hennessey House built between 1861 and 1862 and destroyed by fire in 1899

Anticipated features included the most westerly stone walls in TT1 that are possibly the foundation walls of a barn built c. 1878 that burned in April 1895, evidence of the tinsmith shop possibly represented by brick and stone features, and what appears to be a stone wall in TT2 that may be the rear foundation wall of the Hennessy House destroyed by fire early in January 1899. The other features are remnants of unidentified structures or constructions that require further investigation. However, all the constructions revealed during testing warrant additional exploration on some level..

While many of the features documented during testing were unanticipated, this core area of Historic Richmond Town had been identified as being potentially sensitive in the 1989 archaeological planning model based solely on a literature search. The findings of the recent field testing verify and expand the earlier assessment of potential archaeological sensitivity.

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<sup>21</sup> Baugher et al. 1989:372; *The Staten Islander-Republican* 1895.

\*These two brick walls and the stone wall or footing are represented as an X in a circle in Figure 4.

It should be noted that the silty clayey sand with at least some artifactual material found throughout the lower levels of the test area, particularly a dense deposit encountered west of the reconstructed gristmill, documents deep fill levels and suggests that the filling that created the modern landscape occurred well in the past. The sandy silt and "muck" found throughout both trenches suggests material from a swamp; the combination of swamp material and artifacts indicates that the seemingly-natural deep deposits in the test area are actually fill that may include pond or stream dredge or marsh material.

It is also noteworthy that ceramic fragments from the silty sandy soil from the test pit in TT1 mended to fragments from a grab sample from similar levels in the trench. Also of note is the fact that artifacts from the test pit's screened levels were found in greatest profusion in the deepest sample (compare two artifacts in the upper sample from the test pit [TP-L1] with 128 from the deepest level [TP-L4]; see appended artifact catalogue). All of the whole bottles and the ceramic mug collected from the upper levels of the trenches proved to be of late nineteenth or early twentieth century manufacture (see appended Artifact Catalogue).

### **Recommendations**

Further archaeological exploration of the stone and brick walls documented during field testing is recommended. The aim of more intensive archaeological investigation would be to document the function, age, and significance of these features prior to construction of the storm sewer. If they are found to represent significant historical features, an attempt should be made to avoid their destruction if at all possible. The recommended archaeological investigation should precede the proposed installation of the storm sewer not only to allow for proper management of significant features, but also to avoid delays in construction schedules.

It is also recommended that archaeological monitoring be a component of any excavation across and in Arthur Kill Road. It is possible that evidence of the eighteenth-century route of this road may be found west of the modern road as might remnants of a nineteenth-century plank road that ran along the modern route. If any of these features remain, they should be documented prior to destruction. Archaeological monitoring during construction excavation on the Treasure House lot is also recommended since it is possible that features related to Samuel Grassett's early-eighteenth-century tannery may yet be undiscovered.

And finally, it is recommended that all care be taken to preserve and maintain the historic Town Bridge that is not expected to be impacted by the proposed construction but that may be slated for replacement in the future. Without question this would be an irreparable historical, visual, and contextual loss to Historic Richmond Town, but it would also constitute a loss to Staten Island and to the New York-Metropolitan area in general.

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,

  
Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.

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FIGURES



Base Map USGS Arthur Kill Quadrangle 1966/1981

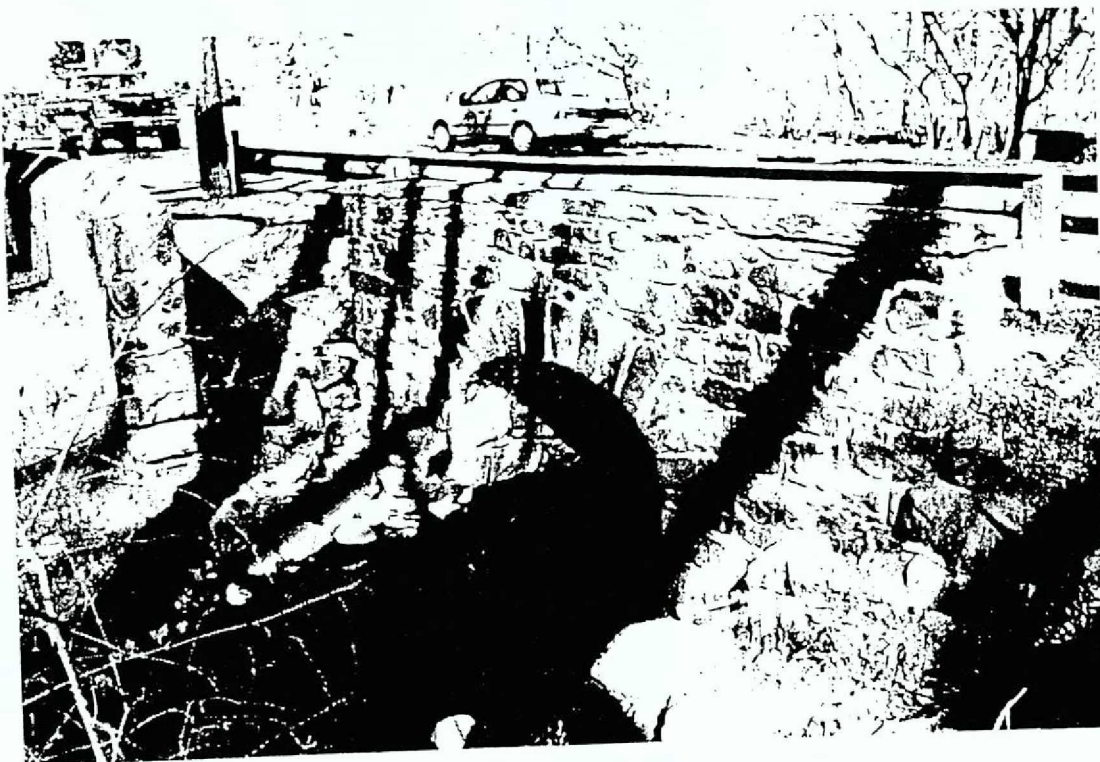


project area (approx.)

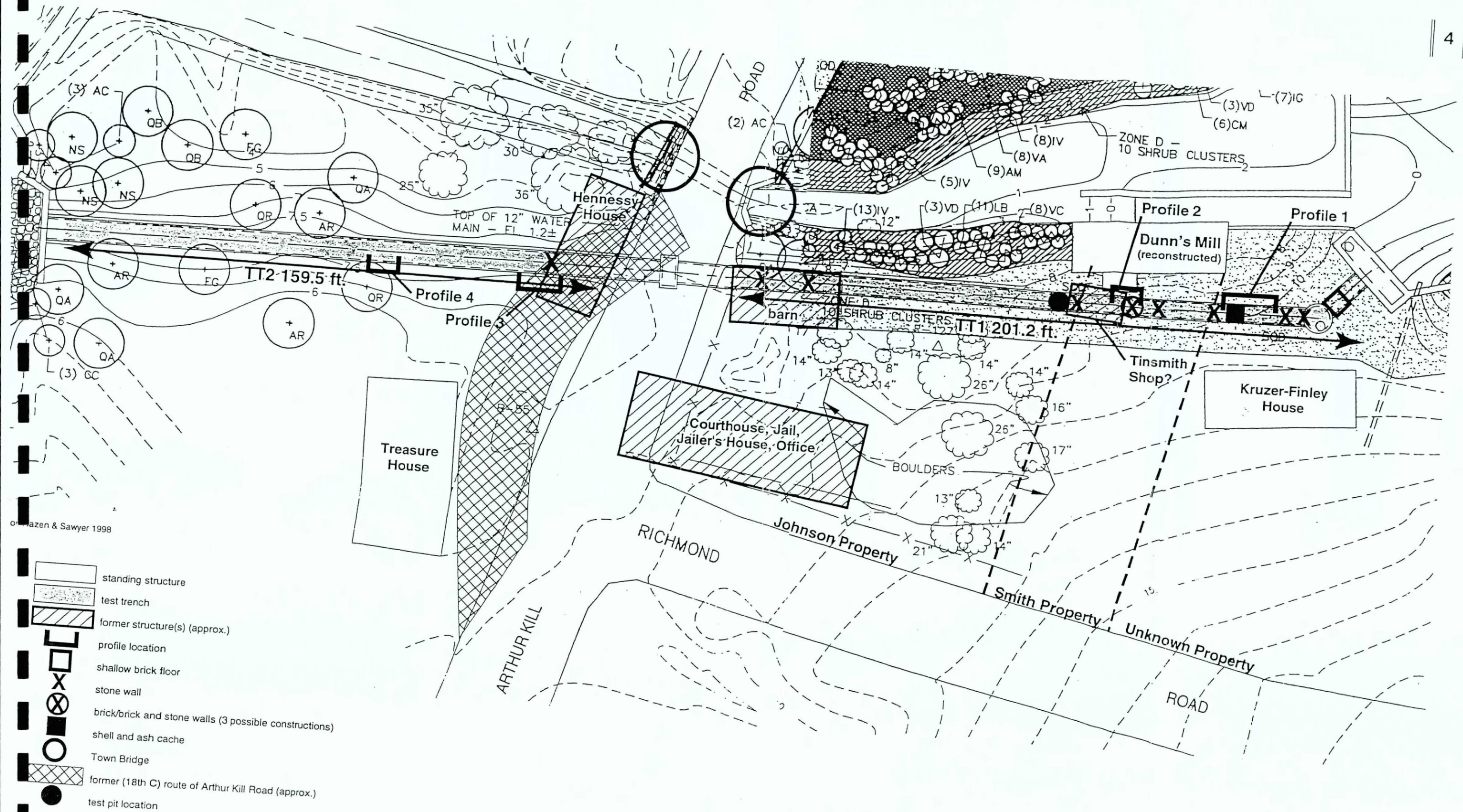




**2** View west in proposed test area prior to excavation. Richmond Creek and the mill pond are to the right. The "Treasure House" is visible (arrow) across Arthur Kill Road. (Geismar 4/5/99)



**3** Town Bridge at Historic Richmond Town, the only 19th C stone bridge remaining on Staten Island. View is of its western face. Built in 1828, it replaced an 18th C span probably of wood. This historic bridge is located just north of the area of impact related to the proposed storm sewer installation. (Geismar 4/5/99)



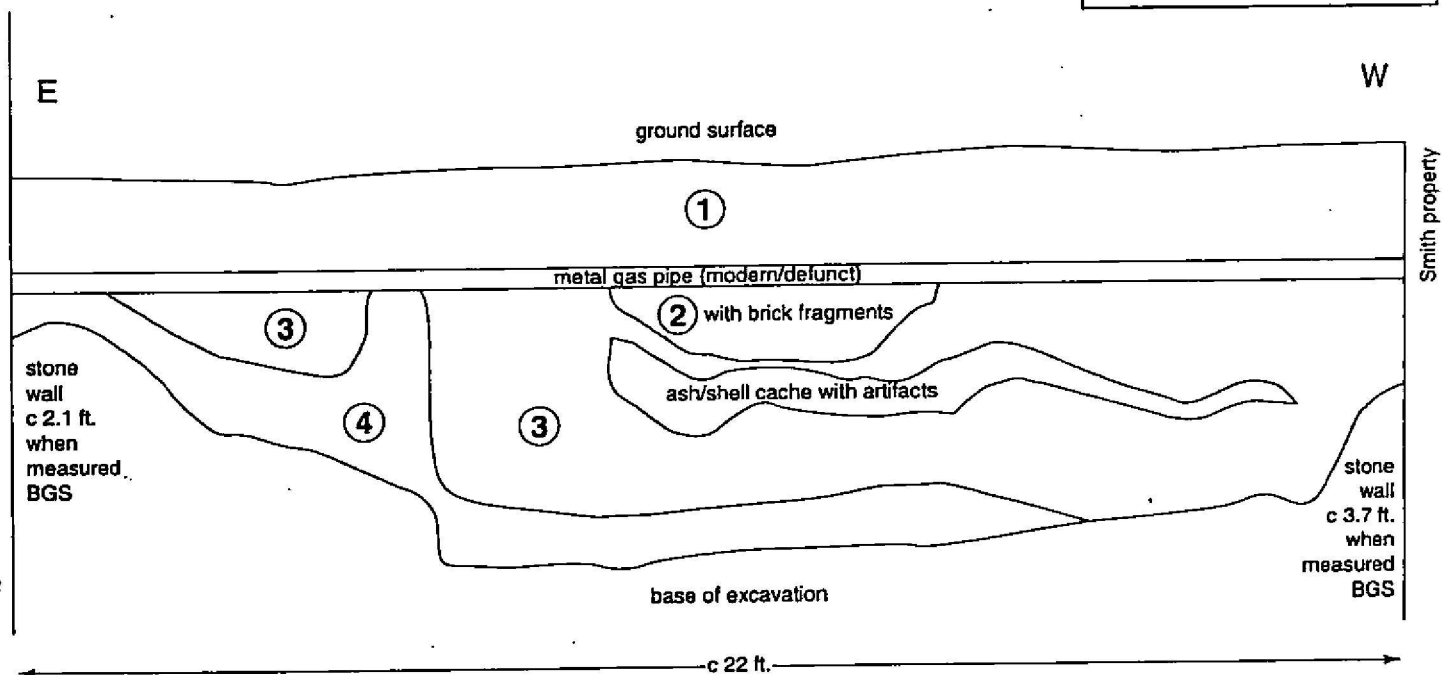


**5** Test Trench 1 (TT1) after first day of backhoe excavation (May 11, 1999). Structure to the right is Dunn's Mill reconstructed in the 1960s. A stone wall (arrow) has been exposed as has the defunct metal gas pipe beyond it in the south trench wall. Total trench length after further excavation was 201.2 feet. (Geismar 5/11/99)



**6** Test Trench 2 (TT2) after backhoe excavation on May 12, 1999. View is west. Total trench length was 159.5 feet. (Geismar 5/12/99)

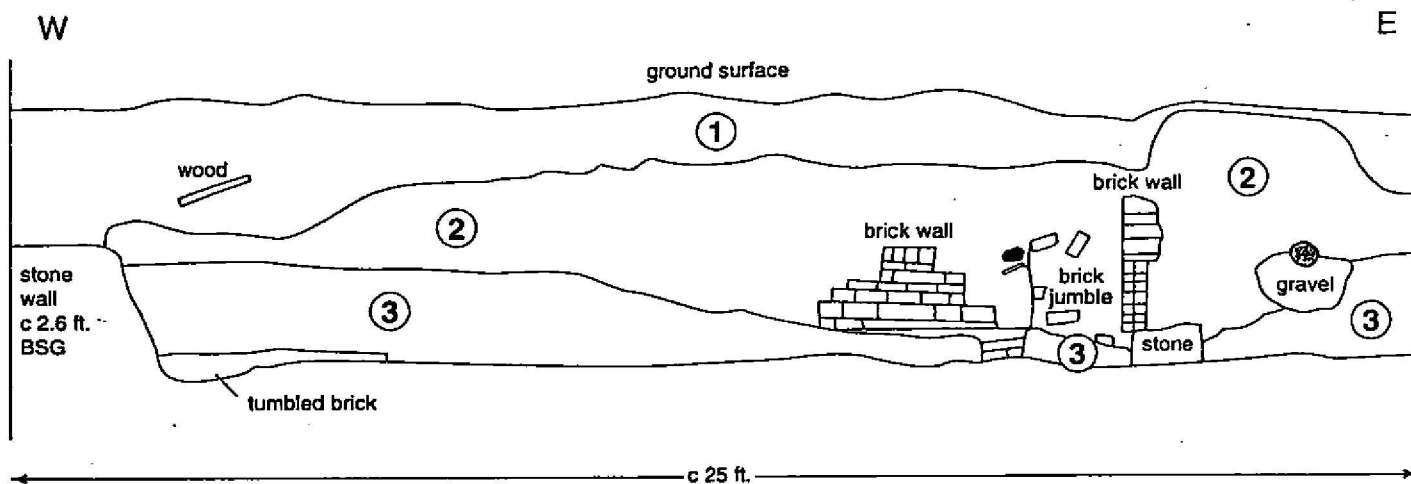
HRT 5/11/99  
TTI  
South Profile  
29.7 to 51.7 ft. W\*  
Profile measurements  
taken from the pipe  
\*west of eastern end of trench



- ① topsoil — brown sandy loam (7.5 YR 4/3)
- ② reddish brown clayey silt (5 YR 4/4)
- ③ dark brown sandy silt (7.5 YR 3/3)
- ④ yellowish red silty clay — subsoil (5 YR 4/6)



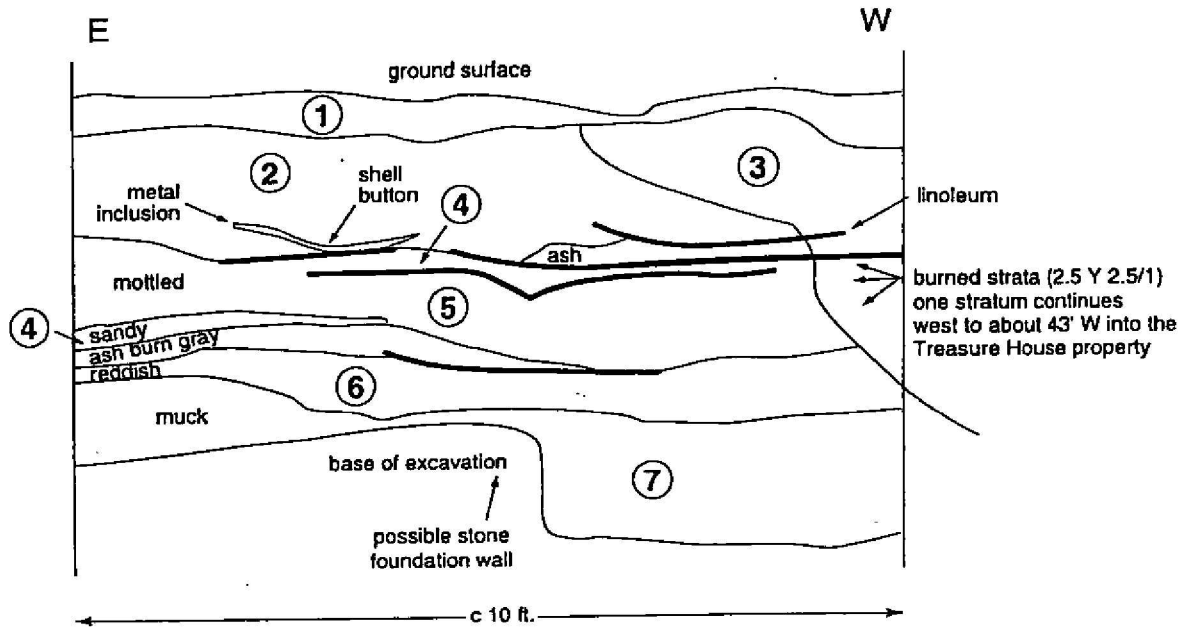
HRT 5/12/99  
 TT1  
 North Profile  
 72.7 to 97.7 ft. W\*  
 Measurements taken from tape  
 No line level used  
 \*west of eastern end of trench



- ① dark reddish brown sandy loam (7.5 YR 3/3)
- ② dark brown and yellowish red mottled sandy silt (7.5 YR 3/2 and 5 YR 4/4)
- ③ yellowish red silty clay (5 YR 4/6)
- styrofoam cup with pull tab inside
- ⊗ 0.4 ft. diameter pipe, fired composite material



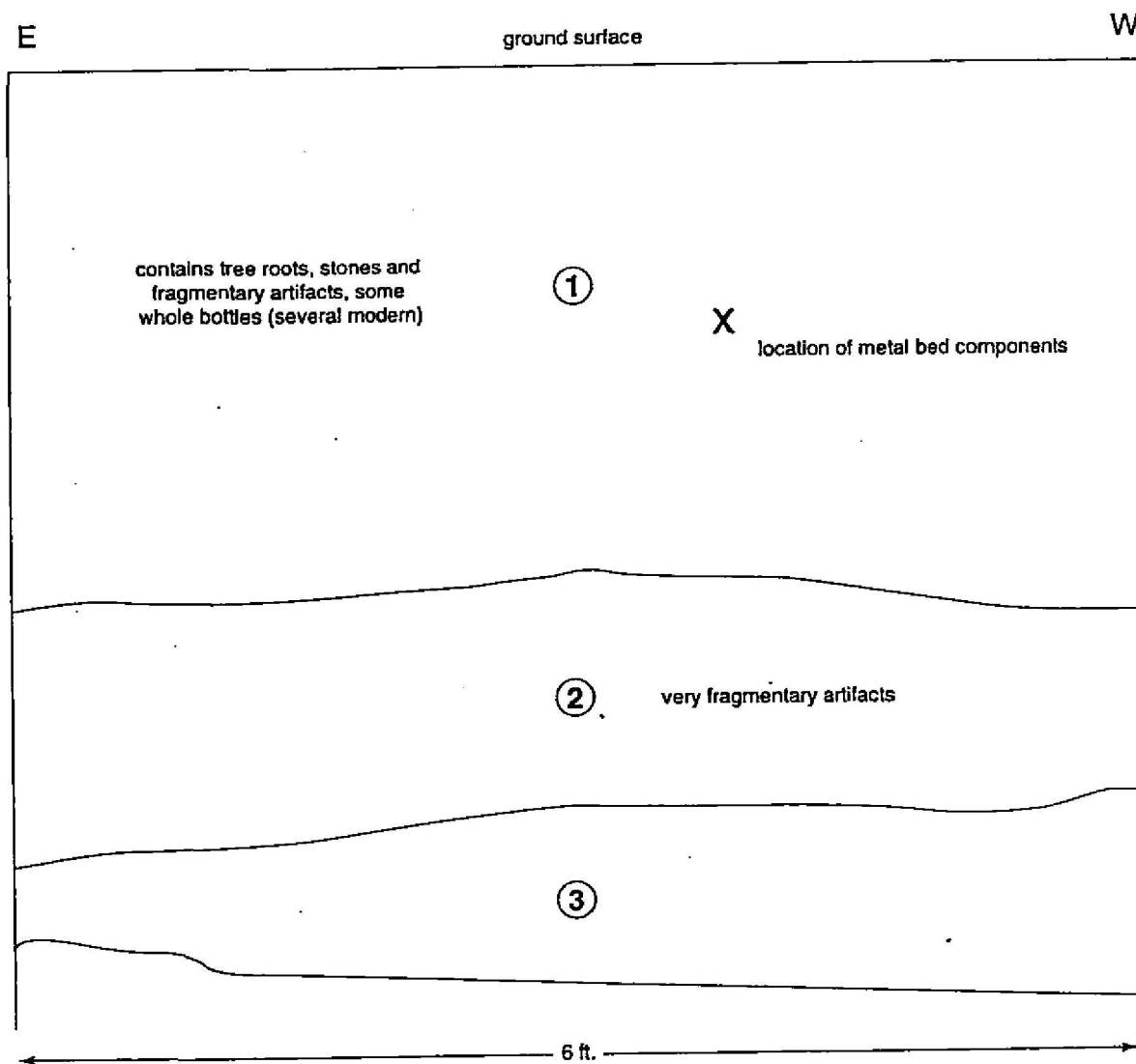
HRT 5/12/99  
TT2  
South Profile  
14.2 to 24.2 ft. W\*  
Stadia rod used as level line  
\*west of eastern end of trench



- ① brown topsoil (7.5 YR 4/2)
- ② mortar and building rubble in fill
- ③ pocket of reinforced concrete debris
- ④ yellowish brown sandy silt (10 YR 5/4)
- ⑤ mottled dark reddish and strong brown sandy silt (7.5 YR 3/3 & 7.5 YR 3/3 & 7.5 YR 4/6)
- ⑥ dark reddish brown sandy clayey silt (5 YR 3/2)
- ⑦ dark brown water saturated clayey material (7.5 YR 3/2)

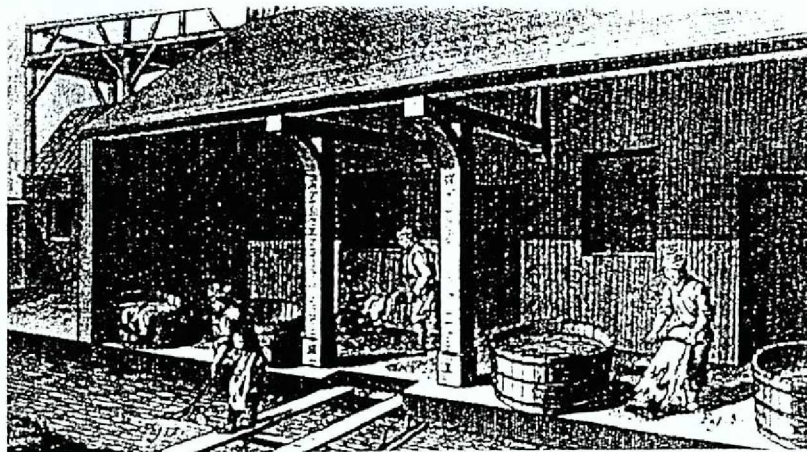


HRT 5/12/99  
TT2  
South Profile  
58 to 64 ft. W\*  
Tape used as ground surface  
\*west of eastern end of trench

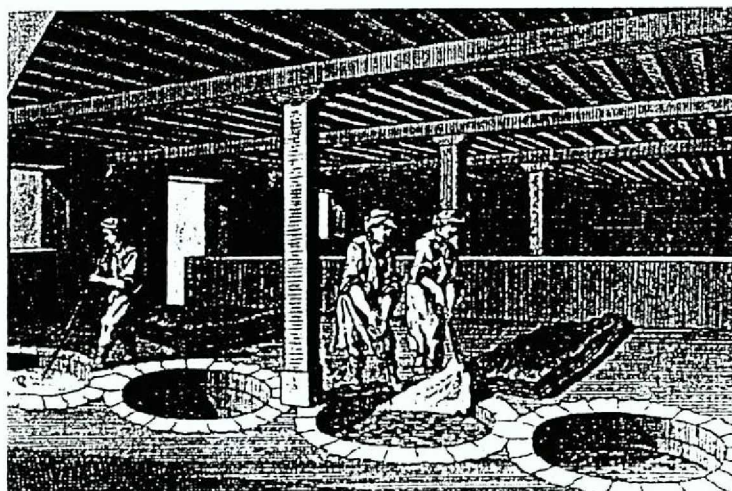


- ① dark brown silty sandy loam (7.5 YR 3/2)
- ② brown sandy clayey silt (7.5 YR 4/4)
- ③ very dark gray slightly sandy silty clay (muck) (7.5 3/1)

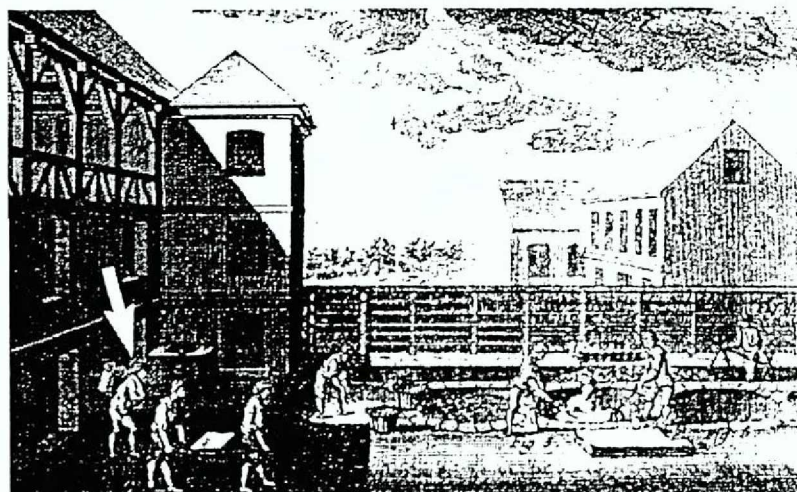
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11 Washing and cleaning the hides. (Diderot 1763: Plate 390)



12 Liming the hides. (Diderot 1763: Plate 391)



13 Courtyard with a well and tanning pits. Note one worker standing in the center pit and another with a basket of tanbark on his back (arrow). (Diderot 1763: Plate 393)

ARTIFACT CATALOGUE

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
<b>Test Trench 1 (TT 1)</b>							
UP	1	Ceramic	Saucer rim frag	P	1	c. 10 ft W; 5.3 ft BGS above silt	Chinese porcelain; dark blue line near edge with gold at edge; scalloped edge; sm frag. (1785-1821)
"	2	"	Plate rim frag; runs of dots and feathers	Early WW	1	"	Sm frag; blue edging over stippled embossed design on ext; blue line at ed; on int; scalloped edge (1815-1841)
"	3	Metal	Nail; corroded	-	1	"	Square nail; not numbered
"	4	Ceramic	Plate rim and base frags, imprinted and embossed marks; undec	WW/ G	3	c. 20 ft W	(M) Printed on base above and below coat of arms "[IRON STON]E CHINA/ [THOMA]S HUGHES" in shield "...MALYPENSE" ribbon under unicorn "...ET MON DROIT"; impressed "...THOMAS HUGHE[S]/BURSLEM..." (1860-1891)
"	5	"	Plate rim and base frag; undec	WW	1	"	(Post 1811)
"	6	"	Saucer rim and body frag; shallow; flower design embossed on inner rim	G	1	"	Grape clusters, vine and leaves; badly spalled (1870s-1880s)
"	7	"	Saucer rim and body frag; shallow; spalled; flower design embossed inner rim	G	2	"	(M) Badly spalled
"	8	"	Unid tableware base frag; printed mark	WW	1	"	Sm frag; part of maker's mark on base?
"	9	"	Pitcher body frag; tr of base (broken); annular ware	WW	1	"	Thick blue stripe near base under 3 thinner brown stripes; green stripe above brown stripes (1815-1891)
"	10	"	Bowl or pitcher body frags; annular ware	WW	2	"	(M) Thin brown and white stripes, on blue/green
"	11	"	Saucer body and base frag; Blue TP	Pe	1	"	Dark blue floral design int (1815-1831)
"	12	"	Saucer body frag; tr of base; Blue TP	Pe	1	"	Dark blue floral design int (1815-1831)
"	13	"	Chamber pot frag; undec	C	1	"	-
"	14	"	Beverage bottle body frag (shoulder)	S	1	"	Salt glaze ext; unglazed int
"	15	"	Unid body frag	R	1	"	Clear glazed on int/ext; w/dark brown c
"	16	Ceramic & metal	Doorknob; whole; marbled	R	1	"	2 1/4 in diam; metal badly corroded
"	17	Glass	Tumbler base frag (c. 1/3); undec	C	2	"	(M) c. 2 1/2 in diam; thick at base; heavy wear on base;

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
UP (cont)	18	"	Chimney frag? near shoulder/bottom rim; undec	C	1	c. 20 ft W (cont)	Thin glass
"	19	Ceramic	Saucer rim, body and base frags; well; undec	WW	6	34.8 W; c. 4ft BGS	(M) Tr of markers mark printed on base "....OP" in ribbon; all frags mend; heavy wear around well/footring (Post 1840)
"	20	"	Plate rim frag; sm; floral decal on rim	WW	1	"	Sm frag; yellow, green and red floral design (Post 1880)
"	21	"	Saucer base frag; well; undec	P	1	"	(Post 1840, but prob lat)
"	22	Wood	Unid worked frags	-	2	"	(M) Poss chair spool; not numbered
"	23	Faunal	Toothbrush, handle	Bone	1	c. 39.2-49.7 ft W, Shell Cache, W side of retaining wall; 2.7-4.6ft BGS	Prob same as UP24; no mend
"	24	"	Toothbrush, bristle end	Bone	2	"	(M) Prob same as UP23; no mend
"	25	Ceramic	Plate body and rim frag; tr of base	WW/ G	1	40.7 ft W; 3.9-4.7 ft BGS; interface of cache in ash	--
"	26	"	Saucer rim, body and base frag; undec	G	1	"	Badly spalled
"	27	"	Plate base and side frag; tr of printed marker's mark	WW	1	"	Blue TP, floral design on inside; part of printed marker's mark on base "Flower in ribbon"
"	28	"	Toy tea pot lid; whole; undec	P	1	"	--
"	29	"	Flower pot base and body frag	R	1	"	--
"	30	Glass	Sauce bottle; whole	G	1	"	Embossed "NORTH OF ENGLAND SAUCE" around shoulder, "JOSHUA LONGFIELD" on side; seam to lip; neck thick (1880-1900)
"	31	"	Medicine bottle; whole; aqua	A	1	"	Embossed "ROBINSON & SON" on front panel, "DRUGGISTS" on side panel, "NEW YORK" on other side panel; seam to half way up neck; French Square; sloping shoulders (1870-1907)
"	32	"	Medicine bottle; whole; cork stopper	C	1	"	Some liquid inside; slopping shoulders

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
UP (cont)	33	"	Beverage bottle base and lower body; round	G	1	40.7 ft W; 3.9-4.7 ft BGS; inter- face of cache in ash	Embossed "...DY & SONS/ 64/... Y ST/ ...ITY" on sides; seams on sides; thick glass; heavy wear on base
"	34	"	Beverage bottle base and sides; w/kick up	DG	3	"	(M) Embossed "I I o K" in kick up; kick up shallow; no wear on base; poss wine bottle
"	35	"	Beverage bottle neck frags	DG	2	"	(M) Poss same as UP34
"	36	"	Beverage bottle body frag	DG	1	"	Poss same as UP34, 35
"	37	"	Unid bottle base frag	A	1	"	Very thick
"	38	"	Unid bottle body frag	A	1	"	—
"	39	Glass	Buttons, whole	M/F	2	"	One Festival? button 2 holes; One whit- shirt button, sm, 4 holes; not numbered
"	40	Faunal	Spiral snail shell frag	—	1	"	—
"	41	Glass	Medicine bottle; whole	C	1	40.7 ft W; Top of fill; 5.4 ft BGS;	Round; 3-part mold; tooled rim; no we-
"	42	"	Medicine bottle; whole	C	1	50 ft W; W of cache	Embossed "E. WEISS/ CHEMIST/ AND DRUGGIST/ 2369-3RD AVE/N.Y." on side panel, "T(centered)/ W.T. & CO/ s design" on base; French Square; no we- (1877-1880
"	43	Metal	Screw, corroded	—	1	"	Not numbered
SP	1	Glass	Medicine bottle; whole	C	1	78.7 ft W of start, 4 ft BGS; assoc w/ brick and Styrofoam	Embossed "PURITY/ S/ B/ C/ C/ O/ EXCELLENCE" on side panel; "504" c base; applied lip; no wear
JP	1	Ceramic	Saucer/ sm plate body frag; Blue TP, floral design	Pe	1	Artifact scat-ter; Johnson Prop; 5.2 ft BGS; 102.7 ft W	Similar to UP 11 and 12 (see above) bu no mend; old blue (1815-183
"	2	"	Slipware pie dish rim frag; pie-crust edge; clear slip design near rim	R	1	"	Int glaze (some spillover to obverse) (Pre 18

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
JP (cont)	3	"	Bowl/dish base frags	R	2	Artifact scatter; Johnson Prop; 5.2 ft BGS; 102.7 ft W (cont)	(M) Clear glaze int/ext; base unglazed; iron or manganese; Philadelphia style; prob same as JP-4  (1760-1800)
"	4	"	Bowl/dish body frag	R	1	"	Clear glaze int/ext; prob same as JP-3
"	5	"	Bowl rim and body frag; annular, engine turned; embossed and painted checker-board ext rim above grey- splattered body; undec int	Pe	1	Black muck at bottom of trench 130.7 ft W	Poss early vessel frag; "Taxi cab" check board design  (1790-1830)
"	6	"	Unid storage vessel body frag; debased; serrated; blue	S	1	"	Ext blue painted and incised design; int undec
"	7	"	Unid storage vessel body frag w/part of handle; cobalt blue design on ext	S	1	"	Salt glazed ext; int unglazed; poss Croli and Remy; NY/NJ (18th C)
"	8	"	Jar rim frag; cobalt blue floral design painted and incised on ext, reeding c. 1/2 in below rim	S	1	"	Salt glazed ext; int light brown slip; NY style; prob same as JP-9 (thru 18th/19th C)
"	9	"	Jar rim frag; undec	S	1	"	Salt glazed ext; int light brown slip; NY style; prob same as JP-8
"	10	"	Unid storage vessel body frags; undec	S	2	"	(M) Salt glazed; prob same as JP-11
"	11	"	Unid storage vessel body frag; undec	S	1	"	Salt; glaze; prob same as JP-10
"	12	"	Unid storage vessel body frag; undec	S	2	"	(M) Salt glaze; prob same as JP-13, 14, 15
"	13	"	Unid storage vessel body frag; undec	S	1	"	Salt glaze; prob same as JP-12, 14, 15
"	14	"	Unid storage vessel body frag; undec	S	1	"	Salt glaze ext; int clear glaze; prob sam as JP-12, JP-13, JP-15
"	15	"	Unid storage vessel body frag; undec	S	1	"	Salt glaze; prob same as JP-12, JP-13, 14, 15
"	16	Ceramic	Slipware dish rim frag; clear slip near rim; pie-crust edge	R	1	"	Unglazed obverse
"	17	"	Pan rim frag; undec	R	1	"	(CM) Clear glaze int; ext unglazed; cro mends to TP-L4-3 poss same as TP-L4- 4, 8, 9, 10 and JP 17, 18, 21, but no mends
"	18	"	Pan body frag; tr slip	R	1	"	(CM) Clear glaze int; tr slip design; ext unglazed; crossmends to TP-L4-4; poss same as TP-L4-3, 8, 9, 10; JP 17, 18, 21 but no mends
"	19	"	Unid hollowware frag; undec	R	1	"	Brown lead glaze int

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
JP (cont)	20	"	Pan body frag; tr slip	R	1	Black muck at bottom of trench 130.7 ft W (cont)	Spalled except for tr slip
"	21	"	Pan body frag; shall; tr slip	R	1	"	Poss same as JP-17,18; TP-L 4-3,4, 8,9,10, but no mend
"	22	"	Bowl/dish body frags; clear glaze; undec	R	2	"	(M) Glazed int/ext; prob same as JP 23, 24 but no mend
"	23	"	Bowl/dish body frag; clear glaze; undec	R	1	"	Glazed int/ext; prob same as JP 3,4,22,24; TP-L- 5, 6, 7 but no mend
"	24	"	Bowl/dish body frag; clear glaze; undec	R	1	"	Glazed int/ext; prob same as JP 3,4,22,23; TP-L- 5, 6, 7 but no mend
"	25	"	Unid body frag; undec	R	1	"	Dark clear glaze int/ext
"	26	"	Unid frag; shall	R	1	"	Yellow clear glaze
"	27	Glass	Bottle base; square; rough pontil	?	1	"	Highly patinated; badly exfoliated "sick glass"; undetermined wear
"	28	"	Unid flat frag; poss window glass	-	1	"	Patinated
"	29	"	Unid frags; flat glass	-	3	"	Badly exfoliated "sick glass"; no mends
"	30	Ceramic	Pipe stem frag; undec	K	1	"	Stem, no ends
"	31	Faunal	Bone; food	-	1	"	Possibly butchered
JHL	1	Ceramic	Plate, sm body frag; hand painted blue floral design	P	1	W part of TT1; in muck E of stone wall; Jailhouse lot	Oriental porcelain; nicely painted
"	2	"	Cup/bowl/mug rim; sm frag; blue painted design; spalled	D	1	"	Decorated ext/int (Pre 180
"	3	"	Unid rim, sm frag; dec on one surface	P	1	"	Oriental porcelain; dot (stylized floral?) design; red and blue stripes near edge (1785-180
"	4	"	Pipe bowl undec	K	1	"	Unused
"	5	"	Pipe stem frag	K	1	"	Unused
"	6	Wood	Unid wood shaving	-	1	"	One side shows signs of planing; c 3 1/ in (7 1/2 cm) long x 1 in (2 1/2 cm) wide
"	-	?	BEADS/SHANK BUTTONS, SM, LOST DURING PROCESSING	?	3	"	Black, c. 3/8-in (4 cm) diam. Lost in fl during preliminary washing; no other information

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
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## Test Trench 2 (TT2)

HH	1	Lino- leum	Frag; triangular design; red, yellow, brown	—	3	Inside former structure; 1.8 ft BGS	Sample from 3ft span, floor, 21-24 ft n numbered
"	2	Ceramic	Unid frag, sm; undec	R	1	c 22 ft W, 4.5 ft BGS	Glazed on one side
"	3	"	Pipe bowl; fluted/ribbed lower half	K	1	"	Unused
"	4	Glass/ metal	Ointment/medicine jar, whole; screw top; w/2 corroded metal screw top frags	M	1 2	Upper fill, 32 ft W of trench	Embossed on base "WHITEHALL PHARMACAL CO." "2"; dried matter (1920-1925)
"	5	Glass	Alcoholic beverage bottle base w/kick up	DG	1	"	Ground pontil; wear on base; 2 1/4 in (6 cm) base diam
"	6	Ceramic	Bowl base frag; blue floral design int; brown glaze ext	P	1	c 4.8 ft BGS; 35 ft W of trench	Oriental porcelain; Batavian style (chocolate brown ext) (1740-178
"	7	"	Unid body frag; flat	R	1	"	Glaze dark brown on one surface, other surface spalled
"	8	Leather	Unid strip, end frag?	—	1	"	Machine stitched; 3/8 in (.8 cm) wide; (Post 185
"	9	Glass	Medicine bottle, whole; w/kick up, round; paper label missing	CB	1	above burn level; c 43 ft W of trench	Embossed on base "T"; one seam to lip the other to base of neck; broken in lab during washing
"	10	Ceramic	Crock? body and rim frag; undec	S	1	4.2-4.8BGS; 57.8 ft W	Bristol slip (buff - colored); clear glaze int/ext (Post 183
"	11	"	Unid tableware; sm frag, annular ware int spalled	WW	1	"	Engine turned annular; glazed int/ext brown stripes ext (19th
"	12	Glass	Unid bottle glass (base?); sm frag	C	1	"	If base, no wear
"	13	Metal	Cartridge case	—	1	"	Casing bottom; "REM/ UMC/ NO 16/ NITRO CLUB"
"	14	Ceramic	Saucer rim and body frag; design at rim (formerly gold?)	WW	2	top of muck; c 95 ft W	(M) Encre de Chine (1785-182
"	15	"	Bowl? frag; green and black floral painted int (under glaze)	WW	1	"	Thick frag; large scale floral design (1820-18
TH	1	Ceramic	Cup/saucer, rim frag; int, black stripe at rim w/painted design below	P	1	62 ft W of trench; below sand, above clay	Oriental export; porcelain; very sm frag (1785-180

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
TH (cont)	2	"	Saucer, 3/4; floral band painted over glaze, silver/luster stripe w/black stripe at rim, well	P	2	Interface at top of muck; 3.2 ft BGS, 1.10 ft W	(M) Stamped "MADE IN JAPAN" on base, fluted (Post 1921-194
"	3	"	Cup/mug; whole; ext green flower motif just under top rim and on handle	WW	1	Interface at 2.8 BGS; N 125 ft W of trench	Printed "SHENANGO/NEW CASTLE, PA/CHINA/SECONDS" on base in gre "hotel" ware (1920-193)

## Test Pit\* (TP) in TT1

TP-L1	1	Ceramic	Pan? body frag	R	1	TP Level 1	Clear glaze on one side w/ tr of yellow slip; poss same as TP-L4-3,4,8,9,10; JP17,18,20,21 but no mend
"	2	Glass	Unid body frag	C	1	"	Poss lamp or light fixture
TP-L2	1	Ceramic	Unid body frag	C	1	TP Level 2	-- (18th C
TP-L3	1-3	Ceramic	Unid body frags; no glaze	D	3	TP Level 3	Poss from same vessel; no mends (18th
"	4	"	Pipe stem frag	K	1	"	No ends; unused
"	5	Leather	Unid frag	--	1	"	Poss shoe part
"	6	Unid	Unid frag, poss a burnt ceramic frag	--	1	"	--
TP-L4	1	Ceramic	Cup frags; blue painted design	Pe	21	TP Level 4	(M) 19 pieces mend; 2 no mend; design poss Impressionistic House and Tree (1715-180
"	2	"	Plate rim and body; prob undec	C	42	"	(M) 11 pieces mend; 32 no mends; "Bat rim (Poss 18th
"	3	"	Pan rim frags, slip dec	R	10	"	(CM) Clear glaze int; thin slip stripe; e unglazed; cooking vessel ? crossmends JP- 17; poss same as JP 21; TP L4-4,, 10, but no mend (1750-180
"	4	"	Pan body frags; slip dec	R	8	"	(CM) Clear glaze, slip stripe or design int; ext unglazed; crossmends to JP-18
"	5	"	Jug/pitcher handle frags	R	3	"	(M) Clear glaze; poss same as TP-L4- and JP-3,4 but no mend
"	6	"	Jug/pitcher body frags	R	3	"	(M) Clear glaze int/ext: poss same as 1 L4-5,7 and JP 3,4 but no mend
"	7	"	Jug/pitcher, rim or handle frags	R	2	"	(M) Clear glaze; poss same as TP-L4- and JP but no mend

# Historic Richmond Town (RT) Test Trenches (TT1 and TT2) May 11 and May 12, 1999 (RT99)

PRO- VENI- ENCE	ART NO.	MATE- RIAL	DESCRIPTION	W/C	CT	LOCATION	REMARKS/DATE
TP- L4 (cont)	8	"	Pan body frags	R	3	TP-4 (cont)	Clear glaze w/unid slip design; poss same as TP-L4-3,4, ,9,10; JP 17,18,21, but no mend
"	9	"	Pan body frags	R	2	"	Clear glaze w/ unid slip design; poss same as TP-L4-3,4,8,10; TP-L1-1; JP 17,18,21, but no mend
"	10	"	Pan body frags	R	8	"	Clear glaze w/ unid slip design; poss same as TP-L4-3,4, 8, 9; TP-L1-1; JP 17,18,21, but no mend
"	11	"	Crock frag; gray w/cobalt blue painted design; cordoning under rim	S	1	"	Salt glaze ext; unglazed int; poss NJ sty (Pre-1800)
"	12	"	Unid storage vessel frag; undec	S	1	"	Salt glaze ext; dark brown slip int (Pre-1800)
"	13, 14	"	Jar frags; undec	S	7	"	Salt glaze ext; poss porringer
"	15	"	Unid frags; undec	R	9	"	No mends
"	16	"	Unid body frags	C	2	"	Unrelated frags
"	17	Glass	Unid bottle body frags	C	2	"	Unrelated frags
"	18	Glass	Flat glass	A	1	"	Poss window glass
"	19	Leather	Unid frags	--	3	"	Unrelated frags; poss shoe parts

Note: alternated shading separates collection areas; Dr. Meta Janowitz assisted in ceramic identifications

\* Test Pit material comprises one 5-gal bucket of soil from each of four levels; all material in the sample was screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh

HH = Hennessy House; JHL = Jail House Lot; JP = Johnson Property; SP = Smith property; TH = Treasure House; TP=Test pit; UP = Unknown pro (M)=mend (mend in one collection area); (CM)=crossmend (mend between two collection areas)

A=aqua; ART NO=artifact number; C=color; CB=cobalt blue; CT=count; D=Delft; DG=dark green; G=graniteware; ext=exterior; frag=fragment; int=interior; K=kaolin; LG=light green; MG=milk glass; P=porcelain; Pe=pearlware; prob=probably; poss= possibly; R=redware; S=stoneware; tr=t; undec=undecorated; unid=unidentified; W/C=ware if ceramic, color if glass; WW=whiteware

1. Godden 1964:339
2. Wetherbee 1981:111;
3. Zumwalt 1980:283;
4. NYC Directories 1870-1907;
5. NYC Directories 1875-1886;
6. NYC Directories 1918-1933

ARTIFACT SUMMARY TABLE

**Table 1. HISTORIC RICHMOND TOWN Artifact Summary**

Provenience	Material	Count	Date Range	Remarks
Test Trench 1*	Ceramic	67	1760-1894	3 Kaolin pipe frags incl
	Glass	25	1870-1907	
	Metal	2	--	
	Wood	3	--	
	Ceramic/metal	1	--	
	Faunal	5	--	
	Unid	3	--	
<b>Subtotal TT1</b>		<b>106</b>		
Test Trench 2*	Ceramic	13	1740-1941	1 Kaolin pipe frag included
	Glass	3	1920-1925	
	Glass/metal	1 2	--	1 whole ointment jar w/ 2 metal frags from screw top
	Leather	1	--	
	Metal	1	--	
	Linoleum	3	mid-late 19 <sup>th</sup> C	
<b>Subtotal TT2</b>		<b>24</b>		
Test Pit**	Ceramics	128	1715-1800	1 Kaolin pipe frag included
	Glass	4	--	
	Leather	4	--	
	Unid	1	--	
<b>Subtotal TP</b>		<b>137</b>		
<b>TT11, TT2, TP</b>	<b>Total Artifacts</b>	<b>267</b>		

Note: count refers to fragments, partly whole, or whole objects

\* grab sample, no screening

\*\* one 5-gallon sample from each of four levels, screened through 1/4-inch wire mesh; shell and brick noted but not collected

TREASURE HOUSE  
OWNERSHIP  
AND  
BUILDING USE  
HISTORIES  
(Baugher et al. 1989)

CHART 7B7:13 CHAIN OF TITLE

Block: 4444  
 Lot: part of Lot 10  
 Address: 37 Arthur Kill Road  
 The Treasure House

DATE	DEED/ MORTGAGE	LIBER/ PAGE	GRANTOR/ MORTGAGOR	GRANTEE/ MORTGAGEE	PARCEL DESCRIPTION	PRICE
12/28/1680	Patent	Patent Book # 5/18	Sir Edmund Andros	Capt. James Hubbard	160 acres 16 acres meadow	
12/9/1699	D	B/369	Elias Hubbard	James Fitchett	120 acres 12 acres meadow	
2/15/1699 <sup>1</sup>	D	B/511	James & Sarah Fitchett	Samuel Grasset	244' in length	
5/22/1700	M	Not recorded <sup>2</sup>	Samuel & Martha Grasset	Andrew Cannon		70 pounds
11/18/1703	D	B/462	Samuel & Martha Grasset	Andrew Cannon <sup>3</sup>		80 pounds
5/25/1751	D	Not recorded <sup>4</sup>	John & Frances Corle	Stephen Wood		
5/1/1774	M	(M) B/114	Abraham & Pheby Decker <sup>5</sup>	John Andrivet	1 acre	60 pounds
	D	Not recorded <sup>6</sup>	Abraham & Pheby Decker	William Douglass		
7/22/1793	M	(M) B/416	William Douglass	Andrew Inderwicke		218 pounds
1/31/1798	D	E/404	Andrew Inderwicke <sup>7</sup>	James Stoutenburgh		60 pounds
4/22/1803	D	F/287	James & Elizabeth Stoutenburgh	Abraham Auten	1 acre	\$682.50
6/1/1803	M	(M) D/6	Abraham & Jane Auten <sup>8</sup>	Peter Cortelyou	1 acre	\$250
proved 2/22/1854	W	File P-667	Abraham Auten	his six children		
9/26/1857	D	41/505	Isaac N. & John G. Auten	Patrick Highland	Less than 1 acre	\$1000
3/17/1858	M	(M) 28/436	Patrick & Eliza Highland	Hiram Corson (Richmond Co. Treasurer)	Less than 1 acre	\$500

5/12/1868	D	75/372	Patrick Highland	Mary Homan	Less than 1 acre	subject to mtg.
4/30/1877	D	120/171	Isaac & Adeline Marsh	John Homan	Less than 1 acre <sup>9</sup>	
3/6/1931	D	715/553	John Homan	Willett & Bertha Conner	same as 75/372 and 120/171	\$1
4/12/1951	D	1178/481	Bertha Conner	Staten Island Historical Society	same as 120/171	\$10.
11/26/1951	D		Bertha Conner	Staten Island Historical Society	same as 715/553	\$100.

1. There is a discrepancy between the date of this deed (February 15, 1699) and that of the deed from Hubbard to Fitchett (December 9, 1699). Fitchett could not have sold this property before he bought it. For this reason, and the fact that the February 1699 deed is in the 12th year of his majesty's reign, while the December 1699 deed is in the 11th year, it seems clear that the date of the Fitchett-Grasset deed should be February 15, 1699/1700, meaning February 1700.

2. This mortgage is not recorded. The original is at the New York Historical Society (see Kenneth Scott 1963:1-3).

3. It is not known who owned this land after Cannon. He wrote at least two wills, the earlier one (made December 15, 1710) leaving his house and land at Ockolds Town (Richmondtown) to his children. His later will (made March 12, 1711) was proved on March 27, 1711. He gave his Long Neck plantation to his son and the rest of his estate to his wife Anne. This will makes no specific reference to land in Richmond. Scott (1963) notes that on May 21, 1723, Anne leased her farm at the Fresh Kills to William Paterson, merchant. This may or may not be the Grasset lot.

4. This deed is referred to in Liber of Mortgages B:114 and subsequent deeds. The Corles do not seem to appear in any other Staten Island records, so who they are and from whom they bought the property is not known.

5. It is not known how the Deckers got this property. A Phebe Wood married Abraham Decker on June 27, 1766. Phebe might be the daughter of Stephen Wood, who left her 10 pounds in his will (proven February 4, 1764). This will makes no specific mention of his property in Richmond. If these two Phebes are the same, perhaps the Deckers got this property through her father.

6. This transaction is referred to in Liber of Mortgages B:416 (May 1, 1789), but no date is given.

7. Since there is no recorded deed between Douglass and Inderwicke, it appears that Douglass could not pay off his mortgage.

8. Cancelled May 10, 1825.

9. This land, west of the Treasure House, is part of the Betts deed to Marsh Liber of Deeds 50:109, the Frost/2nd County Court House property. It extended the Treasure House property further along Richmond Creek on a line with the Frost/2nd County Court House property.

Prepared by: S. Barto

CHART 7B7:14 BUILDING USE

Block: 4444  
 Lot: part of Lot 10  
 Address: 37 Arthur Kill Road  
 The Treasure House (built c. 1700)

DATE	NAME	OCCUPATION	POSSIBLE USE	SOURCE/ REFERENCE
1700-1703	Samuel Grasset Martha (Poupain) Grasset	Tanner	Residence Tannery w/ tanning mills on property	Deed, Liber B/462, made 11/18/1703
1704-?	tenants? Matthew Decker?		Residence? <sup>1</sup>	See footnote 3 in Chain of Title
1723	William Paterson <sup>2</sup>		Tavern? Store?	Edsal Survey McMillen, 1963a:12
1751-1764?	Stephen Wood, Sr. <sup>3</sup> Sarah Wood & Family	Cordwainer	Residence/ Shop	Road Record in Stillwell, v.1, p. 38 (road in 1754) NYHS Wills, v.6, p. 301(proved 2/4/1762) <i>if correction</i>
?-after 1774?	Stephen Wood, Jr. & family (see footnote 3 below)	Cordwainer	Residence/ Shop	Deed E/56, made 1/25/1774 (a Road Record-house of Wood) NYHS Wills, v.10, p. 250 (proved 5/22/1782)
?1774-?	Abraham Decker <sup>4</sup> Phoebe (Wood) Decker	Yeoman	Residence?	Mtg. (M) B/114, 5/1/1774
1780s-1790s	tenants? <sup>5</sup>		Residence? Bakery?	<u>Royal Gazette</u> , 2/2/1780
1798-1803	James Stoutenburgh Elizabeth Stoutenburgh & family	Ironkeeper	Residence/ Inn? <sup>6</sup>	Deed F/287, 4/22/1803 1800 Census, Southfield L of A, File A-99, issued 3/17 1808 for J.S. Guardianship Papers, File #2, 4/13/1809
1803-1853	Abraham Auten (1776-1853)  Jane Dorcas (Winant) Auten (1781-1838)	Saddler Sheriff	Residence/ <sup>7</sup> Boarding House?	Deed F/287, made 4/22/1803 Mtg. (M) D/6, made 6/1/1803 1810, 1820, 1830, 1835, 1840 censuses, Southfield <u>National Advocate</u> , 2/26/1819 (nominated for sheriff)
by 1850	Eliza A. Lord, dau. Mary A. Smith, dau. John M. Smith,	Coachtrimmer		1850 Census, Southfield, dwelling #, fam. # Leng & Davis, vol. 2, p. 854

	gr. son			McMillen, 1962c:2
1854-1857	tenants or unoccupied?			See footnote 7 below <u>Staten Islander</u> , 4/4/1857, p. 4
1857-1858	???			
1859?-c.1862	Patrick Highland Eliza Highland (c. 1826-by 1865) Alice Highland (second wife)	Stone Mason	Residence	1860 Jurors List, Southfield, in "Poll Lists, 1815-1859, S. field," in Box 337, Uncat. Mat 1860 Census, Southfield, dwell. #173, fam. #193
c.1862-c.1868	Thomas Robinson Rachael Robinson	Baker	Residence/ Bakery	1865 Census, Southfield, p. 14 dwell. #89, fam. #89
c. 1868-1928	Garret Homan (1817-1890) Mary Homan (1828-1901) John Homan, son Phebe Ann Homan (1849-1877); dau.	Baker  Huckster (in 1870) Baker (by 1875)	Residence/ Bakery	Deed 75/372 made 5/12/1868 1870 Census, Southfield, p. 14 dwell. #105, fam. #103 1875 Census, Southfield, p. 18, dwell. #148, fam. #150 1880 Census, Southfield, ED 1, dwell. #72, fam. #72
1879-1882	Claus Holterman (boarder)	Baker		1880 Census, Southfield, ED 1, dwell. #72, fam. #72 Leng & Davis, vol. 4, p. 558
1890-1928	John Homan	Baker	Residence/ Bakery	1892-93 <u>Webb's Directory</u> 1893-94, 1895-96 <u>Standard Dir.</u> 1899 <u>Trow's Directory</u> 1900 <u>Trow's Directory</u> 1900 Census,
1910	Unident. Lithuanian Female, 47 yrs. old	Sexton  Janitor Janitor-Public School Matron-Public School  Farmer Veteran		1906 <u>Standard Directory</u> 1910 Census, "  1912 <u>Richmond Borough Direct.</u> 1925 Census,
1928-c. 1933	John Homan		Residence <sup>9</sup>	L. McMillen, Pers. Comm. to S. Barto, 3/16/83 <sup>10</sup>
c.1924-c.1936?	Willet Conner (1877-1932) Bertha Conner	Telegrapher, Game Warden, Real Estate & Insurance Agent	Ins. Agency/ Real Estate Agency	1924 <u>Oleck's Classified Phone Directory</u> Summer 1927 <u>SI Phone Directory</u> Winter 1931-32 <u>SI Phone Dir.</u> Winter 1932-33 <u>SI Phone Dir.</u> Summer 1933 <u>SI Phone Directory</u> Summer 1934 <u>SI Phone Directory</u> 1936 <u>SI Classified Phone Dir.</u> Newsclippings, Stephens House, <u>Doc. Hist.</u>

c.1926-c.1933	Willet Corner <sup>11</sup> Bertha Corner <sup>12</sup>	Post Master Post Mistress	Post Office	
c.1924-c.1928			Gas Station	5/1/26 Photo by Sperr (Sperr neg. R91) <sup>13</sup> in <u>Ph.-His</u> Davis photo, 1924, in Leng & Davis, v. 1, p. 544.
1926			Hardware Store?	5/1/26 Photo by Sperr (Sperr neg. R91), (see footnote 13 below)
c. 1928	W.L. Woelfle	Painter	Office for Painting & Paper Hanging Business	c. 1928 Photo in <u>Photo-Historic</u> (see footnote 13 below)
c.1936-c.1965 <sup>14</sup>	Jay Writter (c.1900?-c.1972?)	Antique Dealer/ Furniture Restorer/ Care- taker for SIHS	Residence/ Antique Shop	<u>SI Advance</u> , 12/26/1936, in <u>Documents-Historic</u> <u>SI Advance</u> , 12/30/1955, in <u>Clippings &amp; Ephemera</u> <u>NY Herald Tribune</u> , 9/15/1963 in <u>Documents-Historic</u>
c.1933? -c.1940?	Bertha Corner	Post Mistress	Post Office	c. 1940 Photo by L. McMillen in <u>Photos-Hist.</u>
c. 1940	"Tree Club of SI"		Headquarters	c. 1940 Photo by McMillen (see footnote 13 below)
before 1947			Roadside Refreshment Stand (in sep. building)	Photo, 3/24/1947 of refreshment stand to the north of Treasure House -- front view <sup>15</sup>

1. It has been suggested by L. McMillen that Matthew Decker, a cooper, may have lived in and/or owned this house. He seems to be in this area in a 1704/5 Road Record. See "Possibility of Matthew Decker Living in the Structure," in Current Research Notes.

2. The Edsal Survey of 1723 gives the co-ordinates of the chimney of a tavern in Richmondtown. It has been thought that this might be the Treasure House (see also Chart 7B7:12 regarding William Paterson).

3. There were several men by the name of Stephen Wood living in Southfield at this time. Wood probably moved here when he bought the property in 1751 (see Chart 7B7:12, footnote 5). The 1754 Road Record in Stillwell refers to the house of Stephen Wood as does the 1774 Road Record (Liber of Deeds E:56). Since Stephen Wood, Sr. died by 1764, the 1774 Road Record may refer to his son. Stephen Wood, Jr. died c. 1782; both were cordwainers. The records are not clear, so it is difficult to determine who was living in the house from the time the Grassetts sold the property to Cannon through the Revolutionary War.

4. No records have come to light which might document who lived in the house around this time. The Deckers may have lived here for a while. In 1780, Abraham Decker living at Whitehall Stairs, New York, advertised "a house and lot of ground, in the Town of Richmond, Staten Island, to be let or

sold." This may or may not refer to the Treasure House.

5. It seems that neither William Douglass nor Andrew Inderwicke, the next two owners of the house, may have ever lived in it. In the mortgage (B:416), Douglass to Inderwicke, Douglass is listed as a baker in New York. In the deed (E:404), Inderwicke to Soutenburgh, Inderwicke is listed as a baker of New York. Both these owners may have leased the property during this time. William McMillen (p.c. 1988) has suggested that the bake oven at street level in the building may date from the late eighteenth century, and relate to the Douglass-Inderwicke ownership or tenancy.

6. Stoutenburgh is called an innkeeper in the deed of this land to him by Inderwicke. Is it possible that he had been running a tavern in the house before he bought the property? Or was his inn located elsewhere?

7. Auten died in 1853. It is not known if his daughters continued to live in the house until it was sold to Highland in 1857. Auten's executors had advertised the property for sale in the Staten Islander from December 1, 1856 to May 1, 1857 (see transcript of advertisement on April 4, 1857, p. 4, col. 6, in Documents-Historic). In the advertisement the house was described as "commodious, well situated, having a Well of good water at the door, and is well calculated for a summer residence. The lot contains half an acre of ground, has on it a good garden, fruit trees, grape vines, a small barn, &c &c."

8. Highland bought this house in 1857, but he did not move in until 1859 or 1860. In the mortgage, made March 17, 1858, he is listed as a resident of Northfield. His name does not appear on an 1859 Southfield List of Voters ("Poll Lists, 1815-1859, Southfield," in Box 337, Uncat. Material), but it is on an 1860 Jurors List (same folder). Between 1861 and 1862 (Southfield Tax Assessments), he built the house immediately to the north of the Treasure House, seen on the 1874 Beers Atlas, ("The Hennessy House") and moved there by the time of the 1865 Census.

9. J. Homan does not appear in any telephone directories of Staten Island from 1927-1934.

10. Loring McMillen has said that the Corners agreed to take care of Homan in his old age and allowed him to live in the house after they bought it in 1928 (L. McMillen, Oral Account to S. Barto, March 16, 1983, in Stephens Black House & Store, Bldg. Use, Block 4441). Homan sold the house to the Corners for "1 and more dollars with love and affection" (Deed 715/553, March 16, 1931, in Documents-Historic). Mr. Corner had his real estate office in the house from as early as 1924 (1924 Oleck's Classified Phone Directory), so perhaps the Corners were taking care of him before 1931. Homan may have lived in the house until the time of his death. He may have died before 1933 as his name does not appear in the 1933-34 Polk's SI Directory. Homan probably lived in the center and north sections of the house. See also footnotes 11, 12, and 13.

11. Willet Corner was in the real estate and insurance business, with an office on Huguenot Avenue, from as early as 1914 (1914 Richmond Borough Business Directory). The first year that there is evidence for his office being in the Treasure House is 1924. It is not known precisely when he opened the office in Richmondtown. It was probably c. 1924. The Corners bought the Stephens-Black House and Store in 1926 (see Stephens-Black House and Store Historic Structure Fact Sheets). They lived in the Harriet Wheatley House (Block 4444, Southern Portion, the new parking field) from c. 1916 until they moved to the Stephens-Black House in 1926. Although Willet Corner died on July 14, 1932 (newsclippings on the Corners in Stephens-Black House and Store, Documents-Historic) the office is listed in telephone directories under "Real Estate" as late as 1936. Someone else, perhaps a family member, may have continued the business. Photographs cited in footnote 13 show that the office was in the south section of the Treasure House.

12. Shortly after Willet Corner's death, the Advance published an article entitled "Postmaster's Widow gets Husband's Job." This, and Corner's obituary, note Willet and Bertha as Post Master and Post Mistress but do not specify where the post office was located or how long they held these

positions. There is no post box or sign on the Treasure House in the May 1, 1926 photograph by Sperr (Sperr Neg. R91). In a c. 1928 photograph of four people in front of the house there is a small post box sitting on top of a tool box in front of the southern section of the house. The ground floor bay window in that section has lettering on it to show that this is the Richmond Post Office. Burton Woodruff recounted to S. Barto (Oral Accounts, October 29, 1982 and May 19, 1983 in Reports on Bldg. & Occupants) that he used to go to the Treasure House to get the mail in 1926 or 1927 (his earliest memory of the post office). With this information it seems that the post office was in this building c. 1926. Conner, who was listed as a Post Master of New Dorp in the 1912 Richmond Borough Directory, opened his real estate office in the Treasure House c. 1924. A c. 1940 photograph by L. McMillen shows a large post box in front of the north section of the house, but the lettering on the bay window is gone (see below). Both B. Woodruff and W. McMillen (Pers. Comm. to S. Barto, December, 1982) believe that the post office was removed from the Treasure House to the Stephens House (where Mrs. Conner, the Post Mistress, lived) some time between 1933 and 1940. In 1941-1942, the post office was transferred to the Bennett House with the Hollenders as post masters. The Legislative Manual for the State of New York for 1932 and other years do not show who held the contracts for the village post offices.

13. The May 1, 1926 photograph shows that this building and the property were used for many purposes. There is a gasoline pump in front of the center section of the house. The tank for the gas storage is still in the ground (W. McMillen, Pers. Comm. to S. Barto, April 1983). This pump also appears in a 1924 photograph by Davis. A sign, "Hardware," leans against the southeast corner of the building in the 1926 photograph. In the bay window of the southern section are some small objects. Was Conner running a hardware store of this part of the house before he set up the post office?

The gas pump and the "Hardware" sign are not in the c. 1928 photograph of the house, and neither are listed in the 1924 Oleck's Directory (see also note 11). This photograph does show a sign reading "W.L. Woelfle Painting and Paper Hanging" in the window above the door of the southern section. No W.L. Woelfle is listed in the SI Phone Directories of the late 1920s and early 1930s. Lena Woelfle, widow of Wm. Woelfle, is listed in West New Brighton in the 1933-1934 Polk's Directory.

The May 1, 1926 and the c. 1928 photographs both have signs on the main floor of the southern section of the house for Conner's real estate and insurance office. These signs are gone in the c. 1940 photograph of the house by McMillen (this is evidence that the photograph dates after 1936--see footnote 11). In the bay window is a hand-lettered sign reading "Tree Club of Richmond." There is no other evidence available for the existence of this club. Jay Writter probably lived in the house at this time.

John Homan may have helped the Conners with some of these enterprises, but this has not been documented. Homan might be one of the four people in the front of the house in the c. 1928 photograph (Homan on the far left? Willet Conner second from left? Bertha Conner second from right?).

14. Jay Writter may have moved to the house at least as early as 1936 (when the Conner family still owned it). Jean Woodruff states that at some point his antique shop may have been in the ground floor of the north section of the house (Oral Account to S. Barto, January 1983, in Reports on Bldg. & Occupants). Majorie Kerr describes his operations as rather small (Pers. Comm. to S. Barto, May 18, 1983). His name does not appear in any SI telephone directories and Kerr does not remember that he ever had a telephone. A man named Don Carew occasionally stayed with Ritter in the 1940s and 1950s (W. McMillen, Personal Communication to S. Barto, May 23, 1983). In a 1963 NY Herald Tribune article, Ritter is identified as a SIHS volunteer doing furniture restoration. B. Woodruff (Oral Account to S. Barto, May 19, 1983) and W. McMillen confirm this. It is not known exactly when Writter moved from the house. He was a caretaker of the building for the SIHS from 1951 on. He probably had to move when restoration work began. McMillen, Kerr, and B. Woodruff all suggest that he moved c. 1965. He moved to a house near Hitchcock Street in Egbertville. W. McMillen says that after living in Egbertville he tried running an antique shop in Rossville. At some point he lived in the Basketmaker's House. He died when he was about 70, c. 1972.

15. In the photograph this refreshment stand (with a sign painted "Refreshments" on it) looks like it had not been used for a number of years. So far there is no further documentation for the stand and when it may have been used.

Prepared by: S. Barto  
E. Gilbertson

CHART 7B7:16 CHAIN OF TITLE

Block: 4444  
 Lot: part of Lot 10  
 Address: The Hennessy House

DATE	DEED/ MORTGAGE	LIBER/ PAGE	GRANTOR/ MORTGAGOR	GRANTEE/ MORTGAGEE	PARCEL DESCRIPTION	PRICE
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This lot history is the same as for the Treasure House up to Highland to Corson (M)28/436 1858,  
 Chart 7B7:12 followed by:

3/17/1858	M.	(M) 28/436	Patrick & Eliza Highland	Hiram Corson (Richmond Co. Treasurer)	Less than 1 acre	\$500
4/22/1872	L of A	File 1235	Patrick Highland	Estate of Patrick Highland		
12/9/1871	W	95/388	Estate of Patrick Highland (Referee John H. Van Clief)	Arn Hennessy	Less than 1 acre	\$600
4/2/1881	W	File 1547	Arn Hennessy	Thomas Hennessy	Less than 1 acre	
10/1/1881	W	File 1576	Thomas Hennessy	Julia Arn Hennessy	Less than 1 acre	
3/26/1884	D	151/589	Julia A. Hennessy	Mary Homan	Less than 1 acre	\$200
3/6/1931	D	715/553	John Homan	Willett & Bertha Conner	same as 75/372 and 120/171	\$1

\*Lot history is same as Treasure House to the present\*

1. The property was bought at a County Auction, after the foreclosure of the mortgage held by Richmond County Treasurer Abraham Winant. It was sold before Highland's estate was formally settled. There are two dates of death for Patrick Highland noted in his Letters of Administration, 1869 and 1870. The precise date has not yet been established or confirmed.

Prepared by S. Barto

**HENNESSEY HOUSE  
OWNERSHIP  
AND  
BUILDING USE  
HISTORIES  
(Baugher et al. 1989)**

CHART 7B7:17 BUILDING USE

Block: 4444

Lot: part of Lot 10

Address: The Hennessy House (built 1861-62,  
destroyed by fire, 1899)

DATE	NAME	OCCUPATION	POSSIBLE USE	SOURCE/ REFERENCE
c. 1862- c. 1869	Patrick Highland Eliza Highland (c. 1826-d. by 1865) Alice Highland (second wife)	Stone Mason	Residence	See footnote 8, Chart 7B7:13  1861 So. field Tax Assessment 1862 Assessment 1865 Census  1869 Assessment 1873 Assessment 1878 Sanborn Atlas <sup>1</sup>
c. 1869- c. 1871	Ann Hennessy? (c. 1810-1881)  Ann Hennessy	No Occupation  Dressmaker	Residence	1870 Census <sup>2</sup>
c. 1871-1880	Ann Hennessy		Residence	Deed 95/388, 12/18/1871
c. 1875	w/ Edward McCaffrey	Wheelwright	Residence Shop?	1875 Census <sup>3</sup>
c. 1880	w/ George W. Schureman? w/ Edward McCaffrey?	Harness Maker  Wheelwright	Residence Shop?	1880 Census Will File 1547 Rec.
1881-1884	Hennessy Family?			Deed 151/589 1884 <sup>4</sup>
1884-1889	Unknown		Residence?	<u>Staten Islander</u> <sup>5</sup> , 1/11/1899

1. This building was constructed between 1861 and 1862 according to the assessments of those years and occupied by Patrick Highland who had previously lived in the Treasure House, which he also owned. This frame structure may have been built originally as a two-family attached house (having two separate dwelling units) as indicated on the 1878 Sanborn Atlas. The building is not assessed as such until the 1873 tax assessment under Hennessy's ownership when it is listed as two houses. The assessment lists the house as two structures for only one year and then reverts to listing it as a single unit. (The Frost House is similarly listed in 1873 as two "houses" (a two-family attached house) and appears as such on the 1878 Sanborn. The two wings of the Frost House are believed to date from c. 1760 and c. 1800.) It is not evident from the 1865 Census if Highland had a tenant in the building. Highland is still listed as owner and resident in the 1869 assessment which may have been the year of his death. His Letters of Administration (filed in 1872) give 1869 and 1870 as possible years of death. Neither he nor his widow and family can be located on the 1870 Staten Island Census.

2. If the Highlands had moved from the house at the time of (or before) Patrick's death, as the 1870 Census indicates, Ann Hennessy is listed in a position in the census in Richmondtown suggesting she was living in the house. In other words, she may have rented the house prior to her purchase of it in December 1871. The two young Hennessy women in the house were probably Ann's daughters. Ann Hennessy, the mother, was married to James Hennessy, who died c. 1864.

3. The 1875 Census suggests that two families were occupying the house: Edward McCaffrey and family are listed as living in the same dwelling with Hennessy (in one of the building's two sections). It cannot be determined who lived in which section of the house. Although the census does not list the building consistently with the 1873 assessment (i.e., the census lists the building as one house with two families while the assessment lists it as two houses), it is almost certain that the two families were living in the respective sections of the house. The census is consistent with the evidence of the 1878 Sanborn Atlas. George Schureman may have lived in one of the parts as seen in the 1880 Census. He is a single man, household of one, listed in dwelling 74, after Hennessy in dwelling 73 (presumably in the house) which follows Homan in house #72 (the Treasure House). Marsh follows Schureman in #75, the Second County Court House. Schureman's position and the numbering of the buildings suggest that the building was then being considered as two dwellings. Schureman's position must also be considered in relation to the close proximity of Ed McCaffrey, the 1875 tenant of the Hennessy House, who is listed in dwelling 71 in the 1880 Census. (Dwelling 71 could be the other section of the Hennessy House or could be the Frost House listed after #70 -- Rosenberg in the Voorlezer's House.) There is no direct evidence to suggest that McCaffrey or Schureman practiced their crafts in the house. Ann Hennessy's date of death is given in her probated will as December 31, 1880; it is presumed she lived in the house until then.

4. A member of the Hennessy family may have continued to occupy the house until its sale by Julia Ann, Ann's daughter-in-law and wife of her son Thomas, in 1884. There is no evidence of who lived in the house in this period.

5. After 1884 no evidence of tenants of this building has been found. It was probably rented by the Homans for a period. The building (owned by "Mary E. Hohmann") was unoccupied when destroyed by fire in January 1899. Sometime in the early 1890s, as a photograph of the house shows (in Geographic Photo Files), advertising placards were placed on the sides of the building including one for W.W. Hooper, who operated the blacksmith shop across from St. Andrew's Church on Richmond Hill Road.

Prepared by: S. Barto