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PHASE IA HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SENSITIVITY EVALUATION OF THE
SURFSIDE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

(CEQR # 87-231R)

Prepared For:
Mr. Richard F. Brody
Raritan Bay Development Corp.
P.O. Box 128
Prince's Bay Station
Staten Island, N.Y. 10309

Prepared By:
William I. Roberts et al.
Greenhouse Consultants Inc.
54 Stone Street, 7th Fl.
New York N.Y. 10004

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

William I. Roberts IV	-	Principal Investigator/Co-Author
Anna V. Farkas	-	Documentary Researcher/Co-Author
Nancy A. Stehling	-	Laboratory Director/Contributing Author
Michael W. Davenport	-	Cartographer
Mindy H. Washington George Myers	-	Word Processors
Allen M. Drost	-	Lithic Artifact Analysis



SURFSIDE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The purpose of this Phase I Sensitivity Study is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed Surfside Village Development Project through the review of existing archival, cartographic and published references and then to make recommendations regarding possible further testing. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey shall include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric and historic resources in the immediate area surrounding the project area.

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

GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

Geographically, Staten Island is part of New Jersey from which it is separated by the Kill Van Kull and the Staten Island Sound (Skinner 1909).

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

The project area parcel is located in the southwestern portion of Staten Island, bounded to the north by Hylan Boulevard, to the east by Sprague Avenue and to the west by Loretto Street. This rectangular shaped parcel extends 905 feet south from Hylan Boulevard and its width is 405 feet between Sprague Avenue and Loretto Street, and contains two out parcels not included in the development plans.

On Thursday, February 5, 1987, the Principal Investigator visited the Surfside Village development in Staten Island. During this visit, a combination of pedestrian and windshield surveys was utilized to inspect the project area. Nearly all of the area is

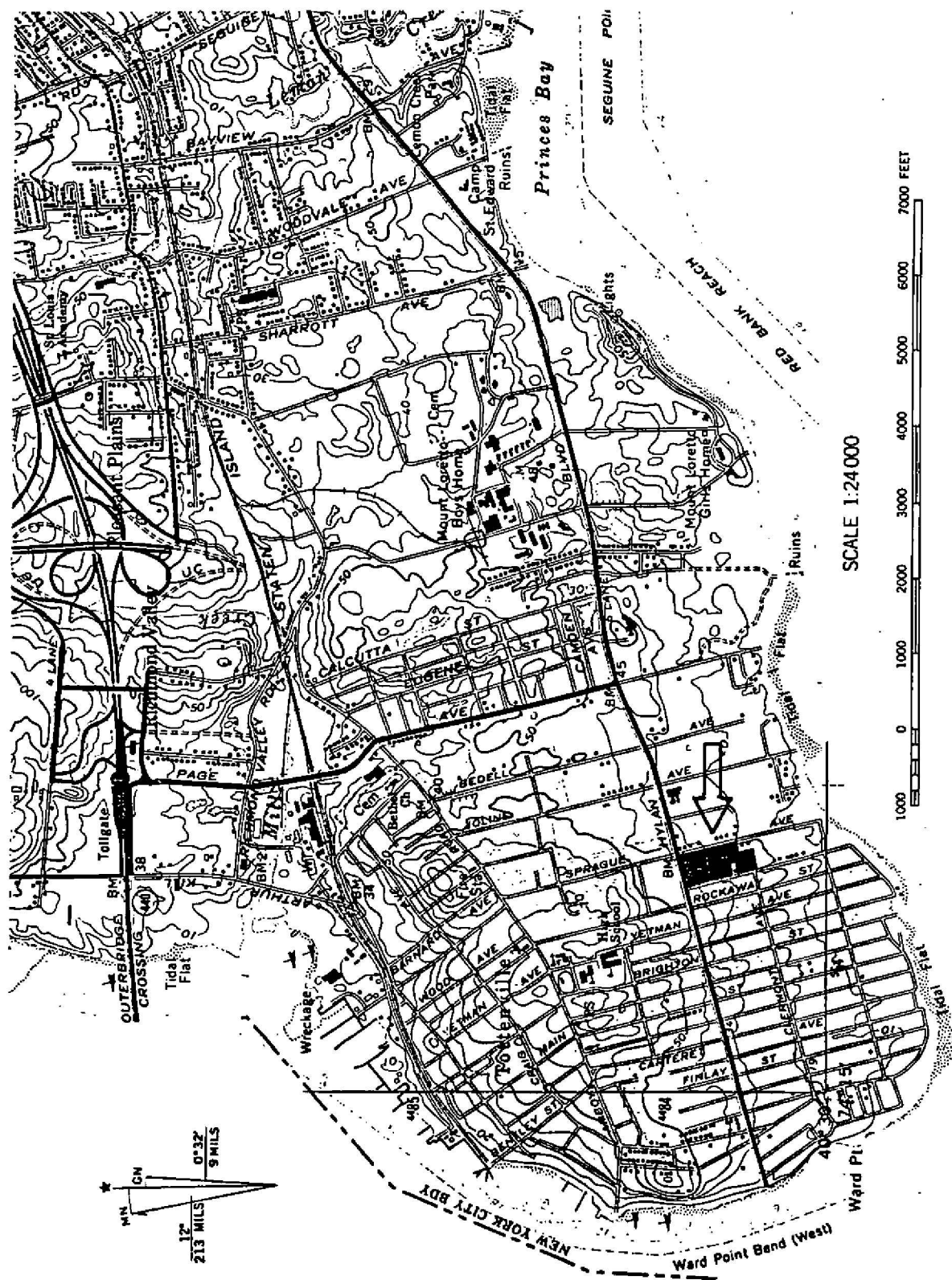


Figure 1 Portion of USGS 7.5 minute series Arthur Kill Quadrangle showing location of Project Area.



presently forested, with trees of trunk diameters of one foot or less predominating. The ground surface was only visible intermittently as snow covered the majority of the location proposed for the expansion of the present development. Some construction activity for the installation of storm drains was evident along Loretto Street, the western boundary of the parcel. This work had exposed a cross-section of soil strata just north of the out-parcel fronting Loretto Street which clearly showed two layers. The upper stratum consisted of a very dark brown silty humus which ranged in thickness from approximately 1' to 1.5'. Below this a second stratum consisting of red brown silty clay with inclusions of pebbles and cobbles extended down to the bottom of the section. No artifacts were observed in situ along this section. The only finds observed along Loretto Street were on the surface at the edge of the road or in piles of road gravel, leaves and other debris found dumped on the edge of the parcel north of the exposed section. These consisted of relatively modern sherds of glass and ceramics which were not collected. An attempt was made to locate the "old well" marked on the survey map about 110 feet off Sprague Avenue. A roughly circular depression in the ground was found at this location, measuring approximately 6 feet across that exposed nearly 1.5 feet of strata on its east side. The dark brown humus seen along Loretto Street was also present here, although only about 0.5' thick. It overlay a stratum of light brown sand. A few artifacts were exposed and a small surface collection was made. These are discussed in the conclusions section below. A second, smaller depression was also observed about 50 feet from Sprague Avenue. Building debris such as window glass, mortar and concrete blocks were evident on the surface here, but were not collected.

PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished resources in the Archives and Library of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (hereinafter SIIAS), the library of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO). Most prehistoric archaeological work undertaken by both professional and avocational archaeologists has historically been concentrated on this southwestern portion of Staten Island (Baugher 1985 pers. comm.). This should eliminate the problems of inadequate archaeological survey coverage particularly evident in the interior of the island.

Table 1 presents the results of our search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the Surfside Village project area. Included



in the table are eight sites located two miles or less from the project area. The locations of these sites are presented on Figure 2 with letter code identifiers which correspond to those in Table 1.

Of the eight known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, a few, including portions of the Wards Point/Burial Ridge complex, were excavated under controlled conditions. The rest represent either surface finds, less well documented excavated finds by local amateur archaeologists, or the usually completely undocumented finds of pothunters.

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

Two prehistoric sites exist in the vicinity of Surfside Village known by the name Page Avenue, which we have designated Page Avenue North and South. The closest prehistoric site to the project area is the Page Avenue South Site, designated "A" in Table 1 and on Figure 2, approximately 0.5 miles east of the project area. This site is also apparently known as Tottenville Campsite 4, and the Hollowell Site in the files of the New York State Museum. This site is situated along both sides of Page Avenue south of Hylan Boulevard. These finds were first reported to the SIIAS in 1966 (Kaeser 1966). The area of prehistoric remains was reported to be approximately 200 yards in length beginning 50' south of Hylan Boulevard. A description of the remains includes Middle-Late Woodland type pottery, the basal portion of a side-notched projectile point which had been reworked to make a drill, a hammerstone, chert debitage, burned oyster and clam shells, a 'small conch and columella of conch', and 'split deer bone fragments' (ibid). A series of letters by avocational archaeologist Donald R. Sainz to Gail K. Schneider, then with the State Island Museum, indicate that earlier Archaic Period remains were also recovered at this site (Sainz 1968). A visit to this site in April 1985 by Greenhouse Consultants staff confirmed its existence on reasonably elevated sandy soil.

A second area of prehistoric finds approximately 0.3 miles to the north of the above Page Avenue site is also known by the same name. This Page Avenue North Site, designated "B" in Table 1 and Figure 2, is situated along both sides of Page Avenue about 0.2 miles north of Hylan Boulevard and over 0.3 miles south of Amboy Road (Anderson 1965). This site is situated 0.7 miles northeast of the project area. Thought to be a possible "campsite",

TABLE # 1: PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE VICINITY OF SURESIDE VILLAGE

SITE NAME	SITAS #	PARKER #	NYSM #	REFERENCE	PERIOD(S)	DESCRIPTION
A Page Ave. South	30-RIC-7-AJA		767 (7487)	Kaeser 1966	Archaic and Woodland	
B Page Ave. North	30-RIC-7-AJA		768	Anderson 1965 Anderson 1966	Archaic and Woodland	Burial Campsite
C Burial Ridge/ Ward's Point	STD-J-3 STD-BH	ACP-RICH		Jacobson 1980 Skinner 1909	Archaic, Woodland & Contact	Many Burials Hunting/Fishing Camp, Poss. Village
D Richmond Valley (Boiling Spring)	STD-RV			The New Bulletin 1961	Woodland	
E Red Bank (Jack's Creek)	STD-PB	ACP-RICH	741	Skinner 1909 Selwen 1957 Parker 1922 Pl. 211		
F Sharrot Ave.	STD-PB		740	Selwen 1957 Selwen 1967		
G Canada Hill			770	Williams n.d.		
H Kreischerville		ACP-RICH-16	4606	Parker 1922:683		Campsite



artifacts recovered included projectile points, flakes, a two-holed gorget, large blades, a decorated shaft-weight, prehistoric ceramic sherds, pestles, graver, drills, knives, and scrapers, a grooved axe and decorated pendants. A mortar was uncovered at 22" below grade which was the lowest depth at which artifacts were found. Anderson further states that "...countless fires and shifting winds have altered this sandy site considerably..." (Anderson 1965:64), which again indicates a preference of the prehistoric inhabitants for occupying areas of sandy soil. An area of the Page Avenue North Site to the east of that described above also produced a burial pit containing the secondary burial of a child and a dog. "The oval shaped pit, measuring approximately 3' in each direction was possibly no more than 2' in depth. Originally, a knoll nearby had been eroded by the elements to such an extent that it has deposited about 12" of fill over the site" (Anderson 1966:87). Carbon dates applied elsewhere to this focus offered dates of "sometime between 700 and 905 A.D." (Anderson 1966). Associated with the burial were sherds of fabric-impressed pottery, a net-sinker and a quartz projectile point. Anderson further stated that "the site had been occupied on at least 4 different occasions" (Anderson 1966:90); the lowest level dating to the Early Archaic. Shell pits in the area near the burial pit produced pendants and a pebble celt. A large concentration of projectile points, scrapers and a grooved axe were found 25' from the burial. It was also reported that "historic material including a cannonball, two George II coins (ca. 1700-sic) a Spanish real of the same period, and colonial dishware fragments" (Pickman 1978:II-23) as well as prehistoric artifacts were recovered. If the identification of the British coins is accurate, then they date between 1727 and 1760.

The extensive Wards Point/Burial Ridge complex of prehistoric sites is located approximately 0.8 miles west of the project area. This complex is designated "C" on Table 1 and on Figure 2. "Extensive shell mounds may still be seen near the Billop house. Shells occur all over the point, and as far north as Richmond Valley. A grooved axe weighing 12 pounds was found here" (Skinner 1909). Local lore states that "the last known Indians to reside in Staten Island as a group, camped on the Billop house property" (Anderson 1965). Burial Ridge immediately next to the Billop House, contained more than 100 Indian graves (ibid). Jacobson's stratigraphic reconstruction of Burial Ridge is described as:

1. A surface of sand, humus or black topsoil, 2-12" thick with historic materials;
2. a second layer consisting of oyster shells from 6-20" in thickness, often well mixed with earth containing shell and



- grit-tempered pottery including collared and incipient collared types and no European goods;
3. a third layer of "stained soil" a few inches thick bearing no artifacts and only existing on the eastern edge of the ridge;
 4. a fourth layer of sandy subsoil of unknown thickness in which "Algonkian" sherds were found and from which stemmed projectile points were retrieved, as well as uncollared grit-tempered ceramics (Jacobson 1980:19-20).

Jacobson's description of strata encountered indicates the sandy nature of the soil and makes no mention of clay. Artifacts recovered from this complex of sites indicate intermittent or continuous occupations from the Early Archaic Period through to the Late Woodland and Contact Periods (Jacobson 1980:65-66). The Ward's Point/Burial Ridge Complex has been called the largest prehistoric cemetery in New York City (Jacobson 1980). One further location in this region has been recorded by the State Museum as site number 4619. This was based on Parker's map of sites in Richmond County (Parker 1922:pl.211), where he shows a campsite less than 1/2 mile east of Ward's Point. It is our opinion that this is probably another reference to the Ward's Point/Burial Ridge complex and not a separate site, hence its exclusion from Table 1 and Figure 2.

Nearly one mile northeast of the project area, a prehistoric site was reported in the Richmond Valley which included a shell midden and artifacts from the Woodland Period. "Joseph Bodner and his sons have been working on a shell heap in Richmond Valley which was a dumping ground of prehistoric Indians. They have brought to light many decorated shards of pottery, several broken awls, triangular arrowheads and carbon for dating" (The New Bulletin 1961). This site was probably located at Boiling Spring in Richmond Valley, based upon Leng and Davis' statement that "at Richmond Valley, paths led through to the red sandstone lighthouse on the bluff overlooking Prince's Bay (see above); another went past the one time Indian camping place at the spring..." (Leng & Davis 1930:726). The Richmond Valley Site is designated "D" in Table 1 and on Figure 2.

A series of prehistoric sites have been reported along the south shore of the island in the vicinity of Prince's Bay. The earliest mention of these is by Skinner who shows three locations, all referenced as Huguenot (Skinner 1909:16). All three locations are currently listed in the files of the SIIAS as the Red Bank Site, the Sharrott Avenue Site, and the Wolfe's Pond Site. The first two of these sites lie within two miles of the Surfside Village project area. The Red Bank Site is also noted by Arthur C. Parker, the former New York State Archaeologist, as a campsite location on his distribution map of prehistoric sites

in Richmond County (Parker 1922:Plate 211). The site registration form on file with the SIIAS described the Red Bank Site as being on the property of Mount Loretto Girls Home on the shorefront approximately 500 feet east of the former location of Jack's Creek (Salwen 1957). No description of artifacts recovered is given, so the period of occupation cannot be ascertained. The Red Bank Site is approximately one mile east of the project area and is designated "E" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. The Sharrott Avenue Site is located approximately 0.6 miles east of the Red Bank Site or about 1.6 miles east of the project area. Forms on file with the SIIAS describe its location as the shore end of Sharrott Avenue but describe the artifacts found there in such general terms as to preclude identification of the period of occupation (Salwen 1957; 1967). The Sharrott Avenue Site is designated "F" in Table 1 and on Figure 2.

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

The eighth and final prehistoric site located by our research is a campsite initially reported by Parker on what appears to be a bluff overlooking a beach north of the Outerbridge Crossing. This site is designated as "H" in Table 1 and on Figure 2. Since Parker only described this location as his site 16 in Richmond County, we have decided to call it Kreischerville Flats after the name given this place in the 1968 edition of Leng and Davis' Map, showing old place names. No description is given by Parker or others of any artifacts recovered from Kreischerville Flats so the site cannot be assigned to a period of occupation (Parker 1922:683, pl. 211).



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

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

This survey has documented the recorded or published location of no less than eight (8) sites within a 2 mile radius of the Surfside Village Development project area. Although sites have been identified in the general region of the proposed project impact area, none are known to exist within the project area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on previous survey work is available. It would be inappropriate, however, to characterize this region as without prehistoric sensitivity. However, it must be noted that according to Skinner, nearly all such sites are located on sandy areas.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES: CARTOGRAPHIC & DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

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

In 1664, Nieuw Amsterdam was ceded to the English. The final purchase of Staten Island from its aboriginal inhabitants was accomplished by the English Governor Francis Lovelace on April 13, 1670. By this time, however, there were a number of Dutch, French and English settlers on the Island who had obtained first Dutch and then English permission to settle. No surveys had been made, however, "and the boundaries of their lands, as well as their title to them, were quite indefinite" (Leng & Davis 1930:741). Governor Lovelace ordered land surveys to be undertaken and this task was completed under Governor Andros by 1677 (see Figure 3).



Frederick Skene's 1907 map of Staten Island, tentatively delineating Colonial land patents between 1668-1712, places the project area within land granted to Christopher Billop, comprising 922 acres patented March 25, 1676, and 1600 acres patented May 6, 1687 (see Figure 3). According to one late 19th century source, the Duke of York presented Captain Billop with "a tract comprising 1163 acres" in consideration of his service (Morris 1898:137). Captain Billop began building his house shortly after he gained possession of the land, but he apparently did not receive his deed for the property until 1687 (op. cit.). This would probably account for the two dates of patent issued to Billop as shown on the Skene 1907 map.

Christopher Billop came to America in 1674, and during the following year settled on Staten Island in the locality now known as Tottenville. By 1709, he had established a ferry, located about one mile northwest of the project area, which served "from a point where the Amboy Road meets the Arthur Kill to a location directly opposite on the Perth Amboy shore" (Reed 1965:34). Records indicate that this ferry remained in the Billop family until 1781, at which time it was deeded to Samuel Ward. Isaac Butler operated the ferry from 1788 until his death in 1828 (op. cit.). This ferry was known by several different names during the historic period, appearing on maps and in sources as Billop's, Doty's, Butler's, or the Amboy Ferry. (See Leng & Davis' 1896 Map of Staten Island with Ye Old Names and Nicknames). On Bew's 1781 Chart and Plan of the Harbor of New York, Amboy Ferry is shown.

Billop's house, called the Manor of Bentley by Billop, was later known as the Conference House and lies about 3/4 miles from the Surfside Village project area. It became historically important when it was chosen as the meeting place at which Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Edward Rutledge gathered with Admiral Lord Richard Howe in an unsuccessful attempt to negotiate a settlement of the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolutionary War, encampments and redoubts lined the southern shore of Staten Island (Pickman 1978:vi). Just beyond the ferry to the south was "a strong battery erected to cover the retreat of the British Army from Perth Amboy in case of attack by American forces" (Tancredi:1977). The Hessian Map (ca. 1777, Plan No. 31 du Camp Anglo-Hessois dans Staten Island) shows a Colonel Van Wurumb and two companies of Hessians stationed at Billop's or the Amboy ferry. The Billops had ties to the loyalists. After the Revolutionary War, Billop sold 23.5 acres to Joseph Totten.



Figure 4 Southwestern area of Staten Island from the US Coast Survey Charter of New York Harbor 1836 - 1839 showing Project Area as hatched rectangle.

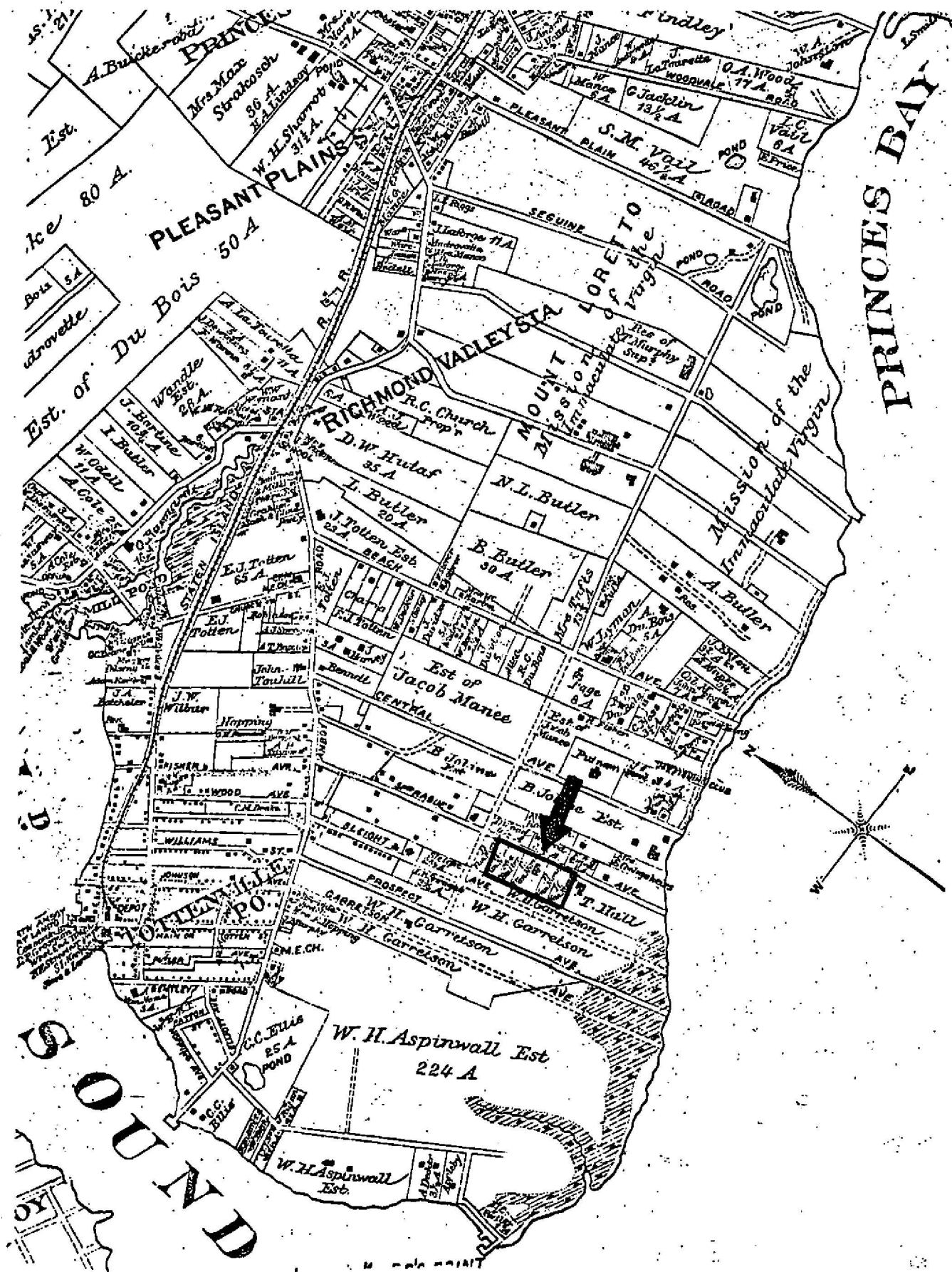


Figure 7 Portion of Beers' 1887 Atlas of Staten Island, New York with bold outline indicating boundary of Project Area.

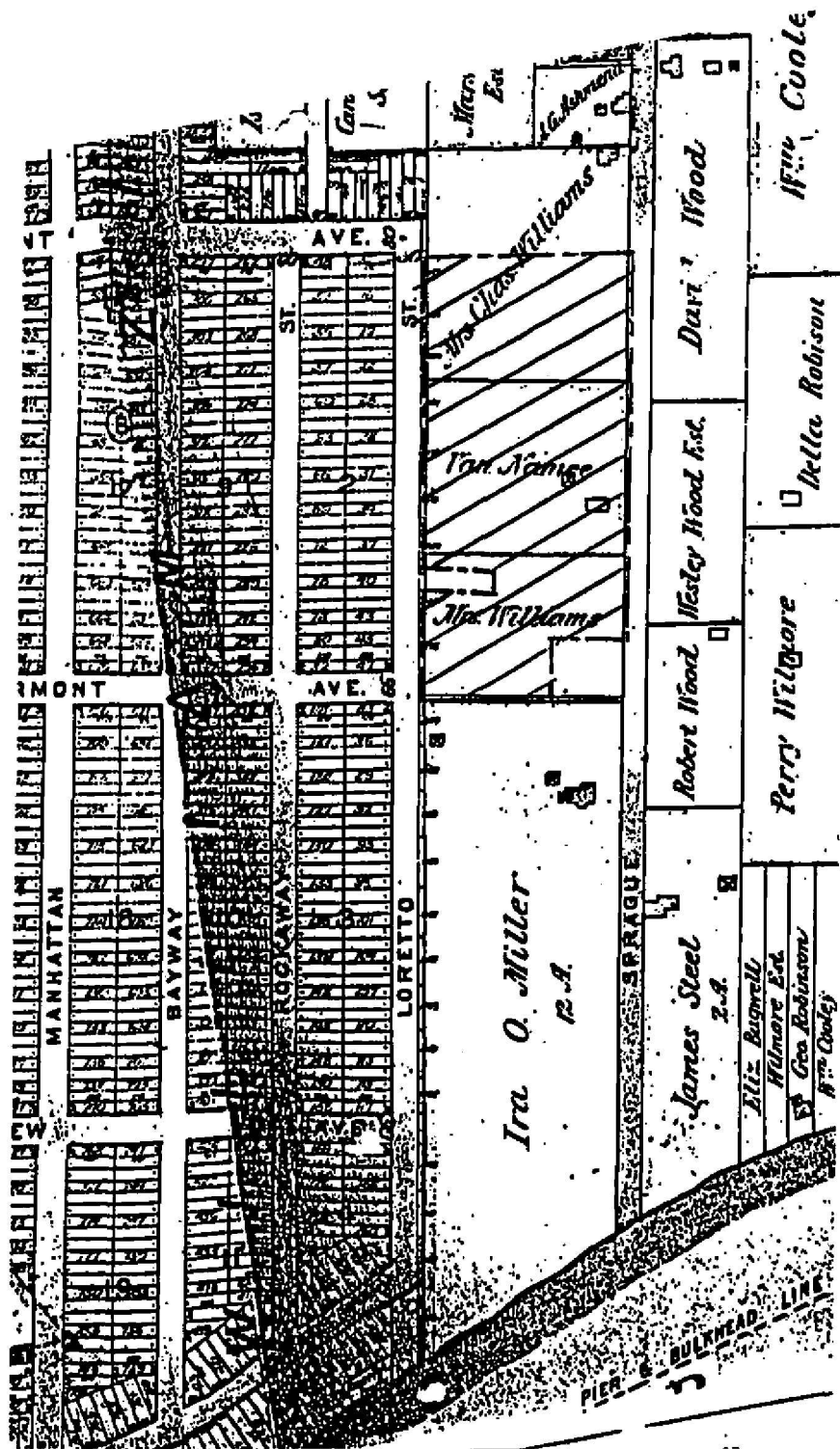


Figure 8 Project Area shown in hatchure on a portion of Robinson's 1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond, New York.

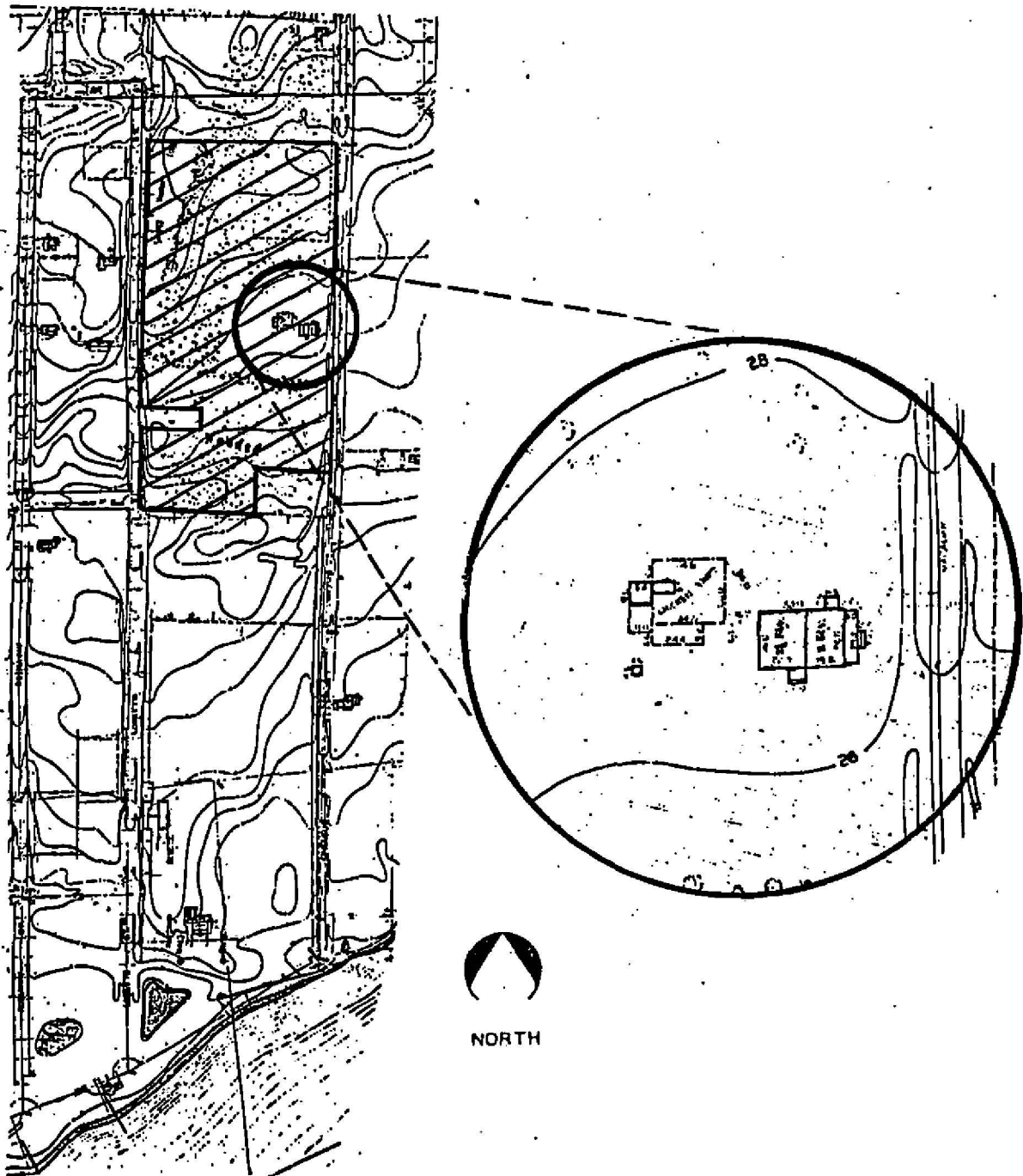


Figure 9 Project Area shown in hatchure on portion of Sheet # 98, 1911 Topographic Survey of New York, Borough of Richmond. Enlargement (on right) of circled area shows details of residential structure and outbuildings. According to map sources, structures are shown at this location consistently from 1852 forward in time to at least 1917.



In 1688, the settlements comprising Richmond County were divided into four towns. The project area became part of Westfield, which by the beginning of the 18th century was considered the wealthiest of the four towns (Clute 1887:206; Morris 1898:41). The site of the Surfside Village project lies within the locality of Tottenville. Before 1862, the area's name changed several times:

After the Revolution, "The Neck" seems to have been a common name for this region which was then inhabited by many Tottens. Totten's Landing appears on maps as well as Bentley Dock, and for a time the name of the place was unsettled. (Leng & Davis 1930:351)

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE FOR THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES

The cartographic evidence examined has indicated the presence of a structure (with related structures at times) within the project area, which dates back to 1852 (Bacon & Barnes 1852). See Fig. 5. It appears consistently on later 19th and early 20th century maps and atlases, but appears to have been demolished sometime after 1917. The only structural feature related to this structure which according to the map evidence appears to be extant, a well, is visible on a 1909 map and on the present development survey and can be assumed to date to the 19th century. See Figure 9, inset.

The evidence also shows changes in property ownership involving the proposed site of Surfside Village. The project area apparently fits into the principally agrarian economy which flourished in the area well into the early part of the 20th century. The area developed gradually, and somewhat peripherally to the larger center at Tottenville to its northwest. The 19th and 20th century cartographic evidence shows settlement growth in this area was steady but not particularly intense, and supports an evaluation of the area's economy as primarily agrarian. Oystering and fishing were also doubtlessly a part of the local economy, as in other south shore communities (Morris 1898:469).

The U.S. Coast Survey of New York Harbor, conducted 1836-1839, shows the project area as lying within the boundaries of a large tract of farmland (See Figure 4). The eastern boundary of this parcel may correspond to the present route of Sprague Avenue.

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Bacon and Barnes' 1852 Map of the Proposed Line of the Staten Island Railway shows the road that was later called Sprague Avenue running from Amboy Road to the south shore (Figure 5). Although this map does not designate the majority of the structures it shows, the configuration of structures shown within, and in the vicinity of, the project area is consistent with all later 19th century cartographic evidence (Butler 1853; Walling 1859; Beers 1874 & 1887; Robinson 1898); see Figures 6, 7 and 8. The 1852 Bacon and Barnes map shows three structures in the vicinity of what is now Sprague Avenue at its southern portion, and two structures designated G. Garretson to the northwest (See Figure 5).

Of the three structures shown near to Sprague Avenue, the northernmost is located near the west side of Sprague Avenue and would appear, on the basis of a correlation of all the 19th century cartographic evidence, to lie within the project area. The two other structures, which lie outside the project area, are located to the south and southeast: one just west of Sprague Avenue, the other set back somewhat from that Avenue's east side (Figure 5).

Butler's 1853 Map of Staten Island shows the same configuration of structures noted above in the Bacon and Barne 1852 Map. The two structures situated to the project area's northwest, are depicted and designated G. Garretson. The three structures shown on the lower part of Sprague Avenue on the 1852 map are shown here and designated. The northernmost structure is designated C. Van Name, a designation that further supports the assumption that this early structure is located within the project area and the same as that shown on later maps and atlases. The structure designated above as set back from Sprague Avenue's east side is shown here and designated J.I. Wood. The third structure, to the project area's south is designated A. Van Name.

Walling's Map of Staten Island (1859) reiterates most of the information given on the other two 1850's maps discussed above. A structure designated G. Garretson is shown, as well as two structures on the west side of Sprague Avenue with the same designations as those noted on Butler's 1853 map: C. Van Name and A. Van Name. A structure designated T. Wood is shown on the Avenue's east side to the south of the abovementioned structures. The location of this structure corresponds to that of a J.I. Wood as shown on the 1853 Butler Map.

The Beers 1874 Atlas of Staten Island is the first to designate the project area's eastern boundary as Sprague Avenue (see Figure 6). The project area is shown to be divided into five lots, bounded on the east by Sprague Avenue, on the west by a



large lot designated W.H. Garretson, on the north by a lot designated D. Van Name, and on the south by a large lot designated J. Richardson (see Figure 6). The latter lot, which extends to the south shore, contains a structure which corresponds in location to that shown on maps dating to the 1850's and designated A. Van Name (Bacon 1852; Butler 1853; Walling 1859). See Figure 5. The Beers 1874 Atlas also shows another structure which appeared on earlier maps, to the east of Sprague Avenue, and noted above. This structure is here designated Mrs. Wood. Earlier maps show the same family name in association with this structure (Butler 1853; Walling 1859).

The Beers 1874 Atlas shows one structure within the Surfside Village project area, located within the largest central lot and designated C. Van Name (3 acres). The northernmost lot is designated H. Van Name (1.5 acres). The northern boundary of this lot would appear to form, at a later date, the portion of Hylan Boulevard that now delimits this end of the project area. Following southward, the second lot shown is designated Mrs. Butler. To the south of the aforementioned central 3 acre lot, are shown two lots designated D. Van Name and H. Van Name (1.5 acres) (see Figure 6).

The size and configuration of lots, their designations, and the structural evidence shown within the project area on Beers 1874 Atlas appears unchanged on the Beers 1887 Atlas (Figures 6 and 7). The lots described above as lying adjacent to the project area's west and south are shown on the Beers 1887 Atlas, and are unchanged with the exception of the designation of the lot to the south of the project area. It would appear that this property changed hands sometime between 1874 and 1887, from J. Richardson to T. Hall (See Figure 7).

Robinson's 1898 Atlas of the Borough of Richmond shows some intensification of settlement in the project area's vicinity, as well as the proposed division of what had been shown on earlier maps and atlases as Garretson's land to the west of the project area, into relatively small, equally sized lots (see Figure 8). Several new roads are shown here to the project area's west, including Clermont Avenue (the impact area's southern boundary), and Belmont Avenue, which, when later extended, became Hylan Boulevard (Figure 8). A new road is shown running along the project area's western boundary, and designated as Loretto Street. The project area is shown here to comprise two lots and the better part of a third. The northernmost lot, designated Mrs. Charles Williams, extends beyond the project area's northern boundary and does not contain any structures. The central lot, designated "Van Namee" corresponds to that described above as being designated C. Van Name. The single



structure shown here, set back somewhat from Sprague Avenue, appears at the same location given for the structure already noted on earlier maps and atlases (Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8). Robinson's 1898 Atlas shows the addition of a shed, near to the northwest corner of the main structure or house. To the south, the land which had been divided into two lots on earlier maps and atlases now appears as one and is designated Mrs. Williams. No structures appear within this lot (Figure 8). South of the project area, the large lot is now designated Ira O. Miller (12 acres).

The 1911 Borough of Richmond Topographical Survey does not show lot divisions. It characterizes most of the project area as thickly wooded and shows the structures noted on earlier maps and atlases in some detail (See Figure 9 and inset). The farmhouse previously designated Van Name is depicted as a two storey structure, approximately 40 feet by 27 feet in dimension. Behind the house, to its northwest is shown a fairly large "chicken yard", and near to the yard's southwest corner, a small structure which may be assumed to mark a well (Figure 9, inset). The structure which had been noted on earlier maps and atlases as lying outside the project area near to its southeast corner, was apparently demolished sometime between 1898 and 1911, as it does not appear on this 1911 map (Figure 9).

Bromley's 1917 atlas shows the project area as divided into four lots. The northernmost lot, extending beyond what became the route of Hylan Boulevard, is designated as Bentley Realty Co. (see Figure 10). Adjacent to the south side of this lot is a lot designated Margaret Robbins. This lot, now somewhat changed in shape, contains the structure noted above on earlier maps and atlases. The main structure, the "chicken yard", and an additional small structure located near the lot's southeast corner, are depicted. The land comprising the rest of the project area's southern portion is here shown divided into two lots, designated Caroline Dorsey and Henry Van Name. The southernmost lot, owned by Van Name, contains a structure near its southeast corner. This structure, however, is excluded from the project's impact area (see Figure 10).

The 19th and early 20th century evidence clearly indicates the existence of a house and related structures within the project area which can be reliably dated back to the early 1850's, and through to 1917. Sometime after 1917 the structure was demolished, as it does not appear on the 1966 U.S.G.S. Topographic Map (Arthur Kill) nor on the Surfside Village project plan obtained from the developer (see Figure 1). The abovementioned project plan does, however, note the presence of an "old well" which appears to correspond to a structure



(presumed to be a well) shown on the 1911 Topographic Survey (Figure 9, inset).

The Sprague and Van Name Families

Two family names associated with the project area during the historic period, Sprague and Van Name, merit some mention.

Although there is no evidence to suggest that any members of the Sprague family inhabited the area delimited by the Surfside Village project area, its eastern boundary is delimited by an Avenue presumably named in honor of this old Staten Island family. Traditionally believed to be of English origin, Joseph Spragg took up residence in Staten Island in the early eighteenth century and is mentioned in records dating to 1729 (Bayles 1887:581). William, whose name is found in county records in 1767, and Joseph in 1772, were undoubtedly grandsons of the original Joseph (op. cit.). The Sprague families were apparently confined mostly to the town of Westfield, and historic maps show many areas of land designated Spragg or Sprague in the project area's vicinity, mainly to its north and northeast.

The Van Name family, of Dutch origin, apparently settled mostly on the north shore in the district of Mariners Harbor during the eighteenth century (Leng and Davis 1930:440). Later, branches of this prominent family established homes in different parts of the island, including Westfield (op. cit.). The Van Names that settled the land covered by the Surfside Village project during the mid nineteenth century, were most probably related to the Van Names listed as early as 1706 on the census (op. cit:182).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

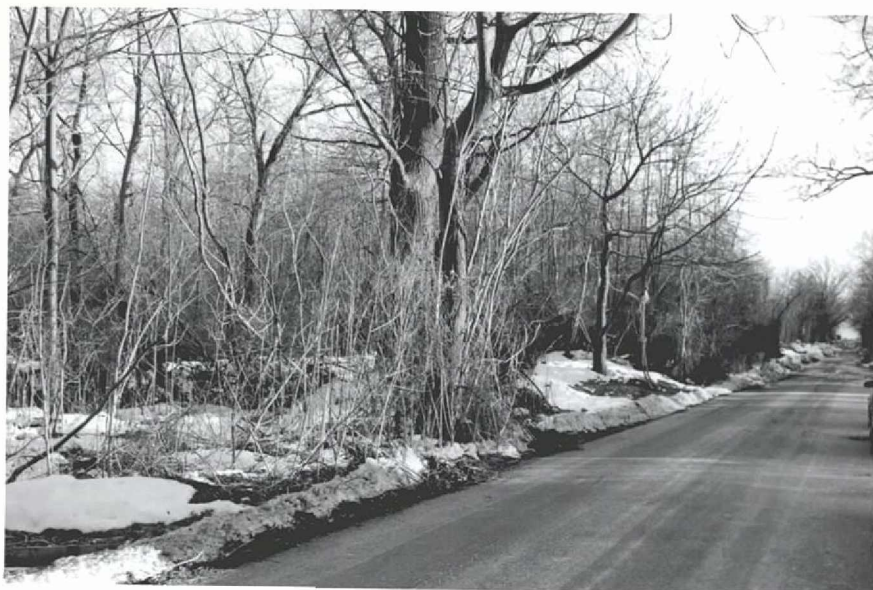
The above text has documented that the Surfside Village Development Project area may potentially preserve archaeological evidence from both the historic and prehistoric periods. The section on historic sensitivity has clearly documented the presence of an historic farmstead dating at least as early as 1852, located on the west side of Sprague Avenue. This farmhouse and its associated outbuildings have been shown to be the former property of the Van Names, a family of Dutch settlers known to have been on Staten Island as early as 1706. The inspection of the project area carried out by the Principal Investigator served to locate two depressions in the ground that most probably represent remains of this 19th century farmstead. Three



artifacts were collected on the surface at the location of the depression which is shown on the present development survey as an "old well". Two of these artifacts represent the historic period: a rim sherd of plain whiteware with a Terminus Post Quem (TPQ) of 1820 (South 1972; Noel hume 1976); and a piece of coal. The third artifact, a prehistoric stone tool, probably came from the sandy stratum noted in the section exposed at this depression. Analysis of this stone tool has determined it to be a secondary flake of brown jasper with crystal quartz inclusions that was utilized probably as a cutting tool or possibly as a scaper. The sandy soil at this particular location within the project area indicates that it may be sensitive to preserving prehistoric archaeological evidence (Skinner 1909:3; 1912:90), a situation which is largely confirmed by the presence of the lithic tool described above.

It is our conclusion that only one small area of the project area is sensitive to preserving historic archaeological evidence. This area, shown on Figure 9 (inset), corresponds to the location of the former Van Name farmstead which shows as a clearing on this 1911 map. This zone includes the only area of sandy subsoil that could be documented within the project area. It is also our conclusion that this area of sandy soil is potentially sensitive to the preservation of prehistoric archaeological evidence. Since it is possible that other small areas of sandy soil exist within this parcel, other areas may also exhibit similar sensitivity.

We recommend that a Phase IB/II archaeological survey be carried out within this former clearing to determine the boundaries and stratigraphic integrity of this mid-19th century farmstead, as well as to search for the possible prehistoric site that may also have been at this location. We also are recommending that testing is necessary for the remainder of the project area, representing nearly 90% of the proposed extension to the Surfside Village Development. This is being recommended to test the entire extension to the Surfside Village Development for the possible presence of aboriginal occupation, especially burials, given the presence of the Burial Ridge complex 0.8 miles to the west.



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Plate 1: View of the western edge of the Project Area looking south along Loretto Street showing its forested condition.



Plate 2: View of section of exposed strata along Loretto Street looking east. Note the stratum of dark brown humus above a stratum of clayey subsoil.



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