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ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT REPORT
HUGUENOT VILLAGE SECTION 5, BLOCK 6025, LOT 1, BLOCK 6026, LOT 1
(OLD BLOCK 6050, 6055)

Submitted by
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723

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This report describes the archaeological and historical resources of a specific section of Staten Island, Block 6025. Its primary purpose is to provide data that will help to determine whether there are cultural resources that may be adversely affected by the proposed housing development.

The present report is based as much as possible upon recorded reference material available to the researcher that contributes to an overall evaluation. There was an intensive review made of the literature and conclusions reached were based on that review. There was no attempt to plan or execute sub-surface testing. Whether this is considered necessary or not will depend on evaluation of this report.

The present Huguenot Village site is bounded by Arthur Kill Road on the north, Huguenot Avenue on the west and Block 6017 on the south and east. It covers an area of approximately 25 acres. At present there are no structures on the property.

GEOLOGY

The geological core of Staten Island is "rather difficult to interpret" (Schuberth, p.98). Categorized as igneous rock or serpentine it is occasionally metamorphic. The largest and most extensive exposures of serpentine rock in the New York City region occupy about thirty-five square miles of Staten Island. This rock may actually be composed of secondarily derived products of primary material found in pyroxenites and peridotites. The area just north of Rossville covering approximately the site is marked by a band of Archean gneiss (see Exhibit I, Geological Map). The surface geology of Staten Island is basically composed of landforms and deposits of glacial origin. Sediments were left by the Wisconsin ice sheet of 55,000 to 10,000 years ago and generally consist of ground moraine, terminal moraine, and outwash sediment (Jerome Jacobson, Report of Stage 1B, Archaeological Survey, 1980, hereafter "Report of Stage 1B, p. 5).

VEGETATION

The site area is essentially characterized by three features. There is undergrowth of various trees common to scrub forest vegetation; there are stands of trees in more or

less large clumps, as well as many individual trees scattered about. These include maple, elm, willow, oak, and sassafrass. A small stream, Killfish Creek, threads its way through part of the property; scrub vegetation and various trees line its banks at intermittent intervals (See Builder's tree map, Exhibit II).

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

This area seems to have been granted by the Crown to Jacob Corbitt on November 4, 1697. It was sold to Cornelius Johnson on November 15, 1716 and was a twenty one acre upland site plus ten acres of meadow. Johnson's executors deeded the property to Cornelius Winant on August 7, 1760 (Con Lib. D, cp 257). By 1856, the site had been sold to Mrs. Frances Foster as a 28 acre section (Con. Lib. 39, cp. 247) In the Beers Atlas of 1874 (See Exhibit III) a single structure is in the site area. By 1898, the Foster property has been divided between Foster (18 acres) and Charles E. Heald (39 1/4 acres). One small house is shown on the Foster property in 1874 and two in 1898 (Robinson Atlas, 1898).

By 1907 there is a new owner. Charles E. Miller has the Foster property (23.8 acres) with one house on it (Robinson, 1907). Miller sold his holding to Albert Stein on November 2, 1925 (Con. Lib. 608, cp. 161). Over the next

years the site passes through many hands including New York City in 1953 (Con. Lib. 1228, cp. 214). The Fifth Avenue Realty sold its claim to Arden Sano Corp. in 1970 (Con Lib 1901, cp. 416). The present owners Avon Green purchased the property in 1980 (Con. Lib. 2360, cp. 483).

The site has had little evidence of occupational use. The French Map of 1783, possibly the earliest made of the area (See Exhibit "IV") shows a J. Winant house close to or on the site, but this seems to have disappeared in subsequent maps.

Huguenot Village is adjacent to Rossville, Staten Island, a name which dates from about 1837. It was earlier known as "New Blazing Star" (See French Map, Exhibit "IV"), then "Old Blazing Star" (Leng and Davis, Vol 1, p.349) The name was derived from a tavern of that name standing on what was called "Sandy Ground" or "West Quarter." A Revolutionary War encounter occurred at a place called "Valley Forge" named after the La Forge Family, just to the west of Hugenot Village (Leng & Davis Map of Staten Island, Exhibit V). In 1886 Rossville was described as a "lively village", one of the most important in the town of Westfield. By the turn of the 20th century much of the village site had been eroded (Leng and Davis, p. 349).

INDIAN OCCUPATION

Staten Island was known to the Indians as Aquehonga-Monacknong and was a favorite place for native residence, (Bolton, p 187). At the time of Dutch settlement in about 1630 the Island was also called "Eqhguanos." It is not clear as to what Indian language was predominant. It was either Unamid Delaware or Munsee, with the first named possibly being in the Rossville area. (Jacobson, p. 11). Bolton concluded that as far as Indian settlement was concerned, the eastern and western shore lines were deeply indented with marshy tracts (see French Map Exhibit IV- the Village site is just off of marsh land) areas poor for settlement. Space available for cultivation was reduced further by mountains, marsh mud, sand dunes and the best site for Indian settlements would be along non-marshy shores and "only in a few places were small stations located inland." (Bolton, p. 188). Alanson Skinner found little evidence of Indian settlement near the southern end of the Island excepting at Rossville and Woodrow, "where the sandy soil extends inland and along one or two brooks and lakes in the interior." The majority of Indian sites however were along the shores of the Island (Skinner, p. 10). The area of Block 6025 is not shown among the archaeological sites listed by Jacobson. (Exhibit IVA - Jacobson Map)

At Rossville, sites have been found along the shore where sandy fields yielded relics. At Burial Point (Smoking Point), just south of Rossville, and directly on the Arthur Kill, graves are said to have been found. Other shore sites have revealed arrow points, hammerstones and other artifacts. (*Ibid*, p. 112). It should be said here that neither Skinner nor Bolton or any other subsequent archaeologist have found or suggested Indian settlement directly on the Village site area. Skinner did note that, in addition to Indian artifacts found at Sandy Beach and Woodrow, several burial chambers were found at Wort Farm along with many artifacts, but "unfortunately none have survived the years" (*Ibid*; Jacobson p. 3; Skinner Map Exhibit VI - testimony to the fragile nature of Staten Island archeology.)

Recently, several archaeological digs especially those at Wort Farm and the Distrigas property have uncovered further evidence of Indian occupation. Individual finds have also been reported. During World War I members of the Cutting family found chipped implements of the Archaic and Woodland periods on their property fronting the Arthur Kill in Rossville (*The New Bulletin*, 1962, p.3). A number of students in 1964 working on a salvage project to recover artifacts in an area off Huguenot Avenue and Arthur Kill Road, west of the site area being bulldozed for fill, found

Middle Woodland period remains. (The New Bulletin 1964, p.9). Nothing was said about Block 6025 just across the avenue.

Two major digs during the 1960's involved a 30 acre parcel belonging to the Distrigas Corporation in Rossville, northeast of Arthur Kill Road and along Chemical Lane. They located three sites - Smoking Point, Pottery Farm and Chemical Lane. This project produced an important group of archaeological finds relating to coastal settlement (Distrigas Project Report, Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences). Excavations at the Wort Farm on city-owned land at Woodrow Road and Rossville Avenue also conducted in the 1960's found a considerable amount of information with regards to Indian settlement.

Basically, in this series of excavations that began in 1963 and finished in 1971, archaeological finds uncovered included a large number of chipped implement pottery sherds from the early through late Woodland periods. The excavation of pottery fragments was hindered since "extensive disturbance of this depth zone by plowing (below 14) "makes their differentiation impossible" (Proceedings, 1964, p. 46). Reports of Wort Farm activity were also published in 1968. (Proceedings, 1968, pp. 58-60); in 1969 (Proceedings 1969, pp. 35-44); and in 1971 (Proceedings 1971, pp. 3-17). It was

concluded in these reports that stratification was minimal and with regard to artifacts on Wort Farm, that artifacts near the surface, "because of continued disturbances to the soil since colonial times are unreliably positioned" (Ibid, p. 13). Again, testimonial as to the fragile nature of Island archaeology.

HUGUENOT VILLAGE SITE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

While specific historic evidence regarding Indian occupation is lacking to support the need for any archaeological excavation directly relative to the site, Huguenot Village property is in a "sensitive" archaeological area. There is no evidence of previous Indian settlement or archaeological findings specific to the site, but there were as mentioned, several archaeological digs that have been conducted in the vicinity, the Wort Farm and the Distrigas Chemical Lane sites, for example, as well as finds at Valley Forge or Woodrow etc. Nothing as noted, however, has been reported relating to the present site.

There are a number of adjoining extensive housing developments which have recently been built in and around Huguenot Avenue including the two hundred home Avon Green, the one hundred home Wilshire, the Concord and King's Walk. During their construction no reported findings of artifacts are known, while as stated the 1964 construction on Huguenot

Avenue, opposite the present site, received immediate attention when historic material was uncovered. It would seem likely that if anything were found on these sites they would also have been reported.

An extensive conversation with Arnold Pickman, an archaeologist, who has written an Environmental Impact Study Background Document Phase III, Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project (1978) and who is well associated with the site area, confirmed that the Huguenot Village has not provided any report or material in regard to pre-historic or colonial habitation. He also stated, however, that though records say little, if anything, it does not follow that pre-historic or post Indian artifacts might not exist. Field testing might turn up such finds. Jerome Jacobson's Report of Stage 1B relative to the Oakwood Beach sewer project did not impact on the Village site (See Map of Prehistoric Sites, Report of Stage 1B, p.7, Exhibit VII). However, shovel tests in various areas along Arthur Kill Road uncovered nothing in regard to Indian artifacts. It generally noted considerable disturbance of the ground on either side of the road, and an occasional find of eighteenth or nineteenth century ceramics and/or glass which could be part of backfill (Jacobson, Report of Stage 1B, pp. 47-62). As stated, however, this report does not effect or concern the Village site.

There exists a post-historic potential particularly related to the below ground existence of what was the foundation of the Winant house. The French Map of 1783 (Exhibit IV) seems to locate that building within or near the Huguenot Village. It is possible that the structure seen on the Beers Map of 1874 (Exhibit III) can be identified as the Winant house or one built upon an earlier location. As mentioned there is no structure on the property as of now. While the eighteenth century Winant house no longer exists, the foundation and/or basement are extant, as well as such structures as privies, cisterns, barns etc. In my work as consultant on various archaeological sites, the first question usually asked is whether I can provide a map showing the location of privies and cisterns. I have never been able to do so, and to my knowledge such maps do not exist. Yet though the record is silent, sometimes such structures are, indeed, recovered.

Whether these structures are to be found or not can be only ascertained by field testing. There are, however, some factors which would mitigate against such finding. First, it should be pointed out that the Village site has had, at least, some disturbance. By 1912, a fairly large portion of the site was under cultivation and there are two rather small one story frame buildings on the site, both of

which appear on an earlier 1898 map. (See Robinson Atlas, 1898; Topographical Map of 1912, Exhibit VIII). In 1967 the city widened Arthur Kill Road by 92'. (See Exhibit II). In 1970 plans were approved for an extensive sewage and drainage system through the site property. (See Exhibit IX).

It should be noted that plans for the development of Huguenot Village are to leave the existing water-course, Killfish Creek, largely undisturbed. Only a small portion of the creek bed is to be affected. The area in and around the creek bed is to be undisturbed or moderately improved. Much of the open space on the Village site is to remain in situ.

Thus, in the event, that an area of Indian settlement or contact debris exists here, the ground most likely to contain artifacts would be largely undisturbed, even after the project is completed. Two acres out of twenty located in a sensitive area around the creek bed will be available for future archaeology.

CONCLUSION

The Huguenot Village site does not seem to have any specific importance in regard to Indian contact or post contact settlement. There is no historic evidence linking it to some known occurrence, event, well known person or family. The site has been lived on and used, though not intensively, since the mid-18th century, but its importance has not been

recorded or has it made an impact in history. It is not specifically related to an ethnic group or religion that would require any further examination. The site has not been reported on as having archaeological significance, even though a number of sites around the nearby Rossville area have been excavated thus mitigating against possible discovery of an important archaeological or important stratigraphical find. There is evidence of considerable topographical disturbance which would further lessen possible archaeological discovery. Finally, a large portion of the site will largely be left undisturbed for any future investigation by the coming housing project which would again lessen the need for further archaeological or historical research at this time.

There seems little cause, therefore, after examining existing documentary evidence to mandate additional research.

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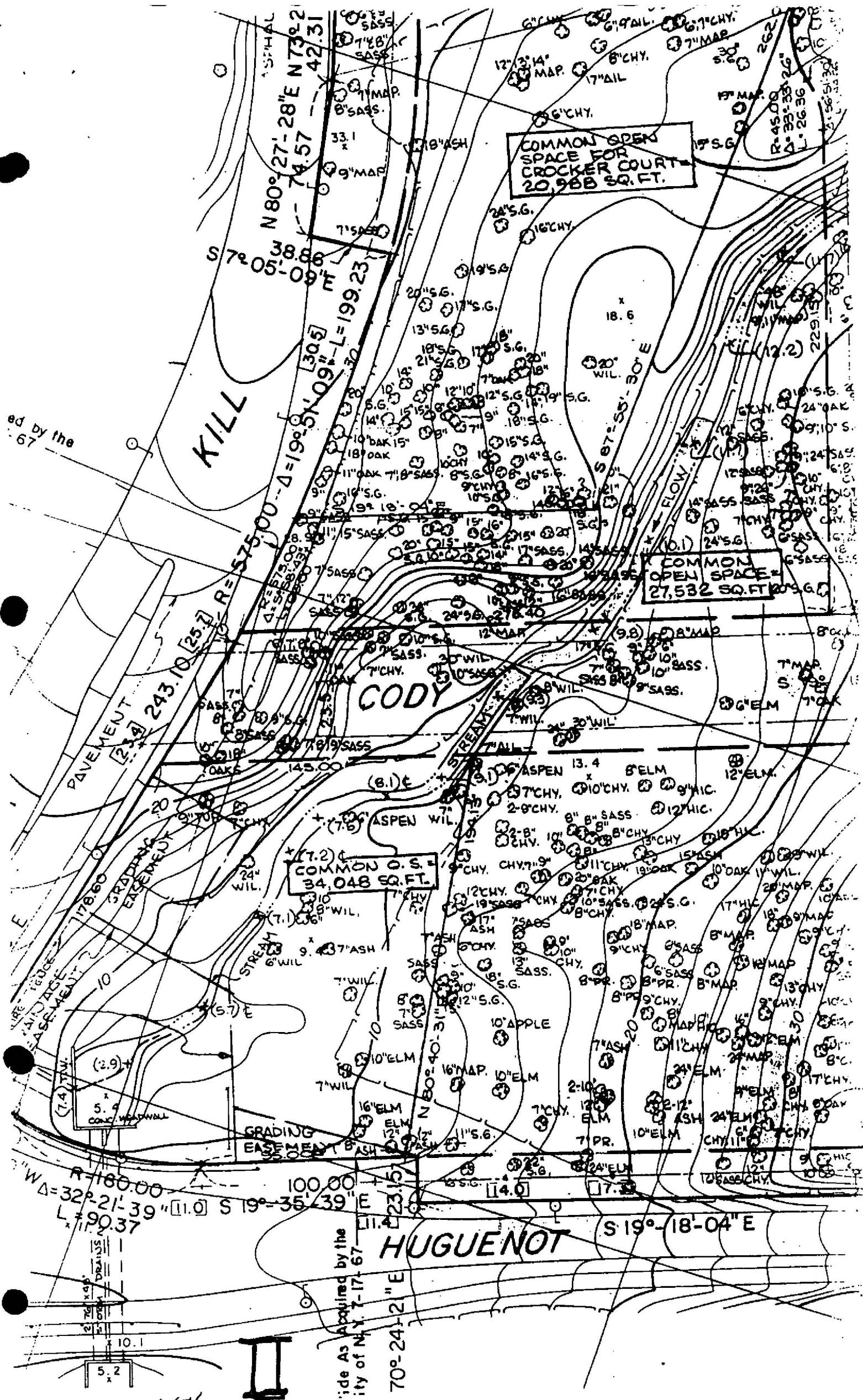
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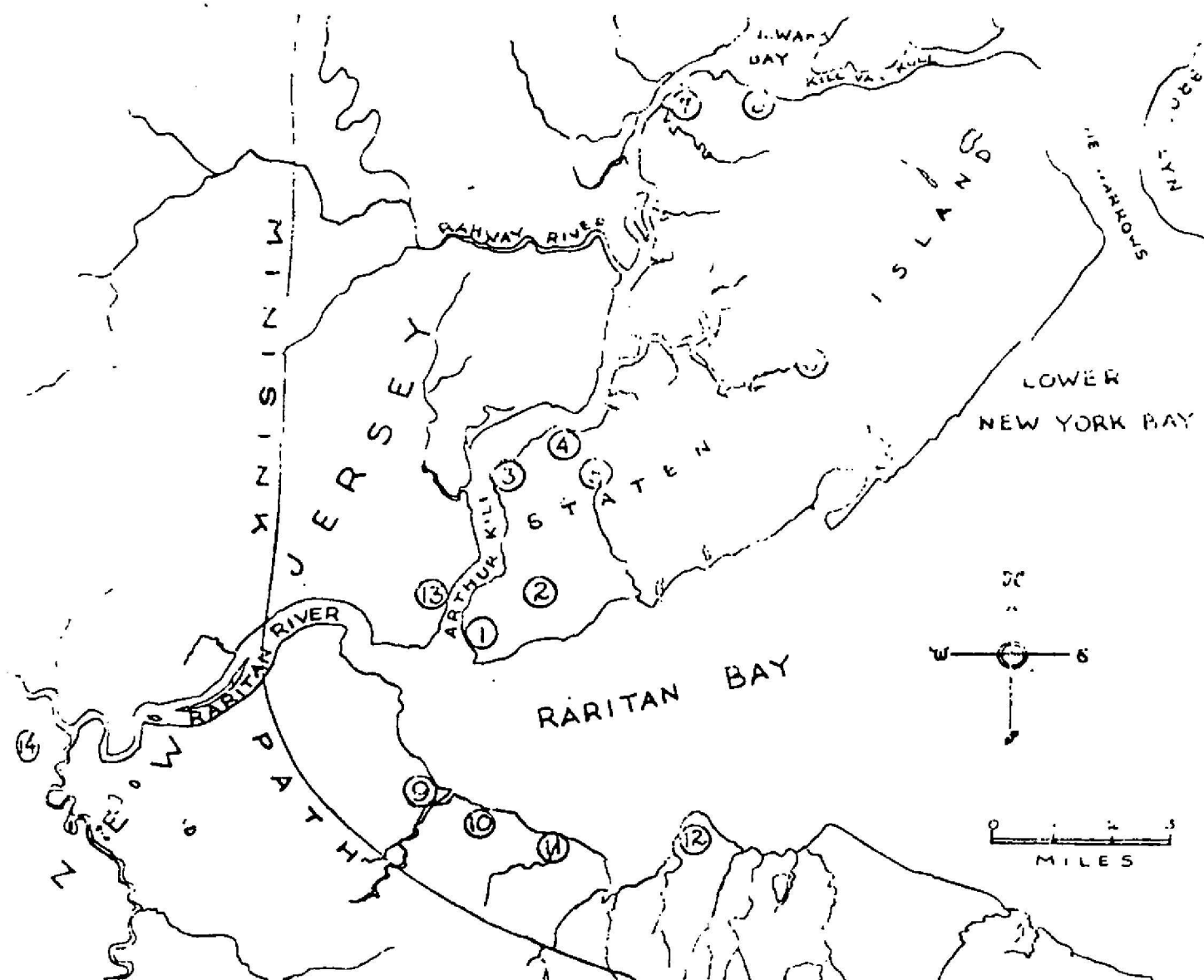
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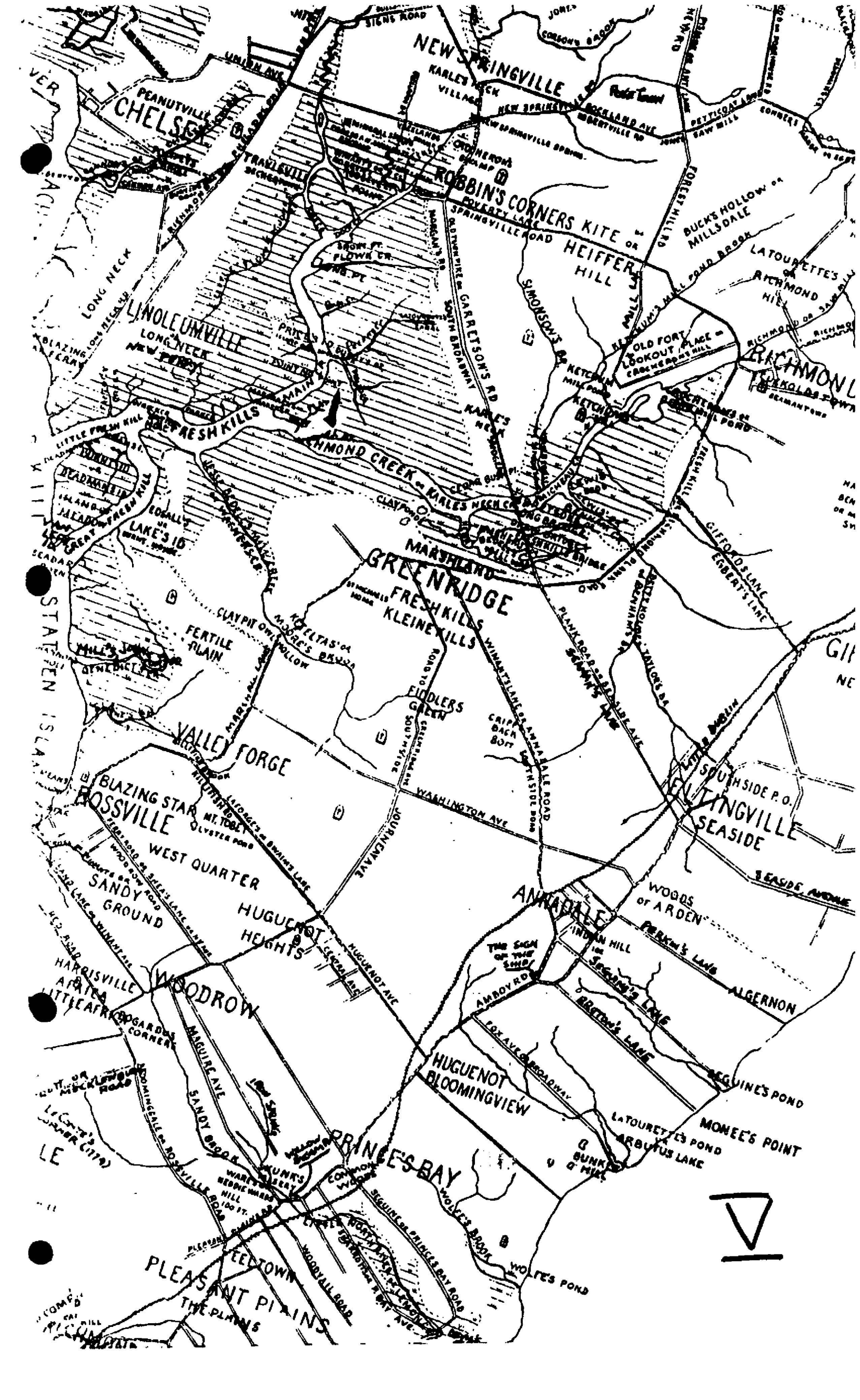
MAP I - Staten Island and Adjacent Areas, Showing Some Principal Streams and Location of Some Archaeological Sites Mentioned in the Text.

Scale: one inch equals approximately 1 mile.

Sites or Multi-Site Complexes:

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

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





ARCHAEOLOGICAL MAP OF STATEN ISLAND.

PREHISTORIC SITES ALONG FK-24,25

KNOWN PRIOR TO STAGE 1B SURVEY

(Table 1)

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Wicke Farm | 3. Pottery Farm | 6. Cutter |
| 2. Chemical Lane | 4. Rossville Shell Heap | 7. Greenridge |
| 5. St. Luke's Cemetery | | |



MAP 1. Routes of Contracts
FK-24 (west) and FK-25
(right) marked in
yellow on USGS quad.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

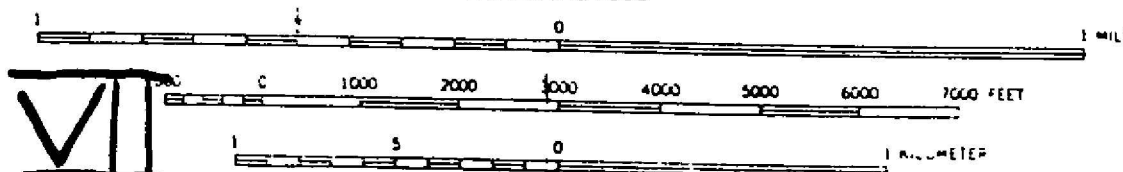
Heavy-duty Light-duty
Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

□ U. S. Route ○ State Route

Note: West Shore Expressway not shown.

ARTHUR KILL, N. Y.—N. J.
SW/4 STATEN ISLAND 15' QUADRANGLE
N4030—W7407 5/7 5

SCALE 1:24000



VII

CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

DIVISION OF SEWER DESIGN

DRAINAGE PLAN

SHOWING LOCATION, SIZES AND GRADES OF
SANITARY AND STORM SEWERS

IN THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND
IN THE AREA BOUND BY

ARDEN AVE., WOODROW RD., BELFIELD AVE.,
ROSEDALE AVE., HUGUENOT AVE. AND
ARTHUR KILL RD.

DATE

SCALE 1" = 80 FT.

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT WATER RESOURCES

P.E. _____
DATE

P.E. _____
DATE

P.E. _____
DATE

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[Signature] P.E. 12-1-1970
DATE

APPROVED FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CITY PLANNING

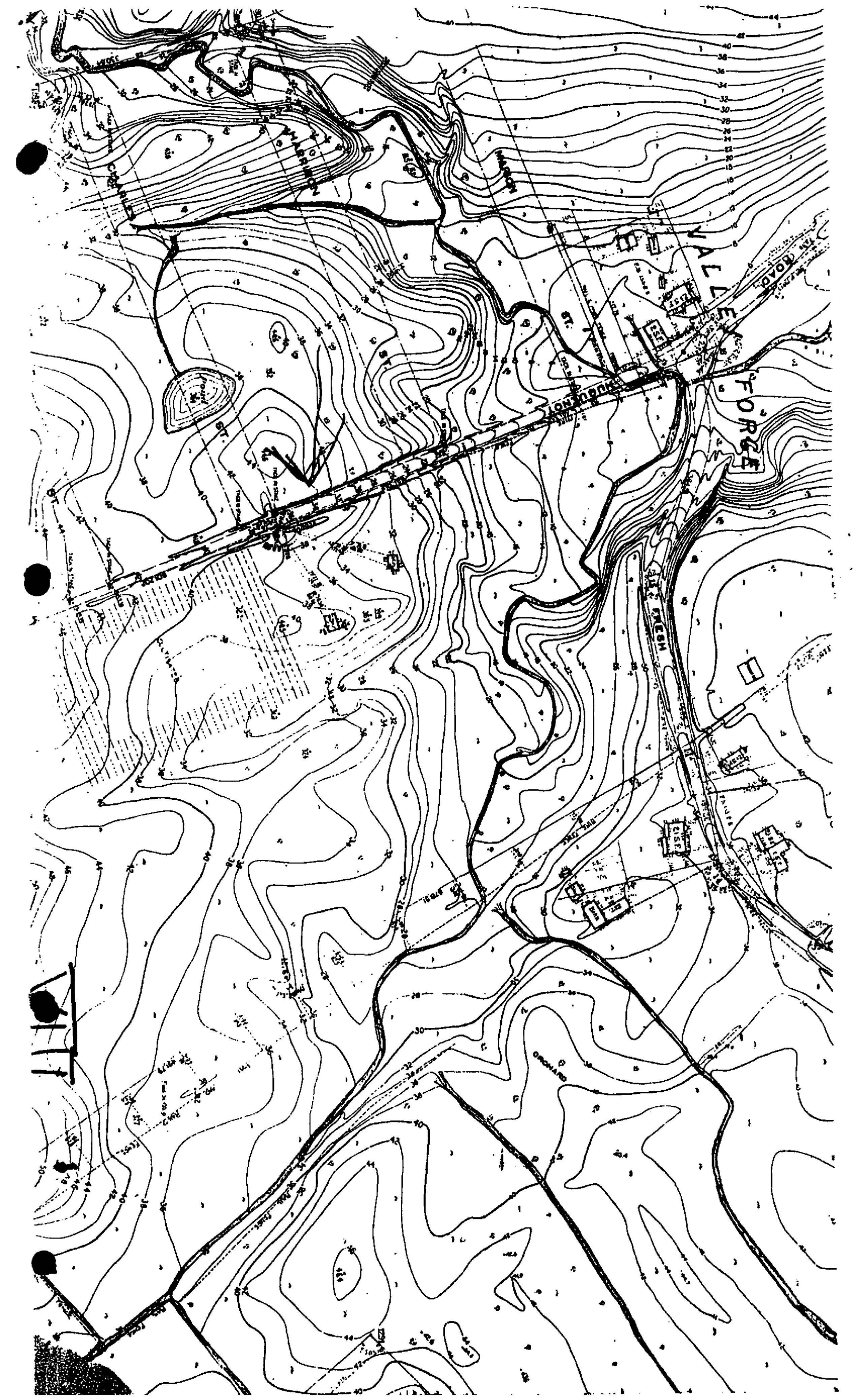
[Signature: Donald H. Elliott] *[Signature]*
DATE

THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY CARMINE R. PROCASSINI, P.E., CONSULTING ENGINEER

CERTIFIED *[Signature]* 9/2/70
DATE

EXPLANATORY REMARKS

IX



DATE

SCALE 1" = 80 FT.

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT WATER RESOURCES

W. J. P. R. P.E. 12-1-70
 CHIEF, DRAINAGE SECTION DATE
W. J. P. R. P.E. 12-1-70
 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER DATE
 DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
W. J. P. R. P.E. 12-1-70
 COMMISSIONER DATE

APPROVED FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

John De Zure P.E. 12-1-70
 DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF SANITARY ENGINEERING DATE
 FOR COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

APPROVED FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CITY PLANNING

Donald H. Elliot P.E. 12-1-70
 DIRECTOR OF CITY PLANNING DATE

THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED AND CERTIFIED BY "CARMINE R. PROCAZZO"

CERTIFIED *Carmine R. Procazzo* 12/1/70
 DATE



EXPLANATORY REMARKS

1. BOUNDARY OF DRAINAGE AREA
 2. LINES HERewith ESTABLISHED
 3. SLOPES HERewith ESTABLISHED
 4. INSIDE TOP SEWERS HERewith ESTABLISHED
 5. ELEVATION GRADES
 6.
 7. DRAIN GRADIENT
 8. FINALLY MAPPED
 9. FINALLY MAPPED
 10. SANITARY SEWERS TO BE CONSTRUCTED
 11. INSIDE TOP OF TEMPORARY SANITARY SEWERS
 12. ELEVATION GRADE ALONG EASEMENT
 13.

SEWERS SHOWN ON THIS DRAINAGE PLAN ARE INTENDED TO HAVE A CAPACITY
 TO MEET THE REASONABLE NEEDS OF THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT FOR A LIMITED PERIOD AND
 ARE NOT TO BE OF SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO IMMEDIATELY REMOVE STORM WATER
 WHEN THE RATE OF PRECIPITATION EXCEEDS AN INTENSITY OF "R" INCHES PER HOUR
 THROUGH "T" MINUTES "C" OR "CW" PER CENT OF WHICH WILL REACH THE
 DISTRICT AT THAT TIME

IX