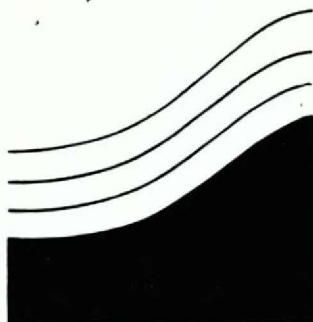


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CULTURAL RESOURCE  
SECTION

CITY OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF SEWERS  
40 WORTH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013

(212) 566-2104/5

JOSEPH T. McGOUGH, JR.  
Commissioner

JOHN L. DiMARTINO, P.E., Director  
Assistant Commissioner

November 14, 1984

Mr. Edward Curtin  
Cultural Resource Section  
New York State Department  
of Environmental Conservation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, N.Y. 12233

Re: WP-136  
Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P.  
Contract 6B-1  
C36-0392-10-0  
Borough of Staten Island

Dear Mr. Curtin:

Enclosed please find two (2) copies of the Stage 1B Cultural Resources Survey for the above-referenced project.

I would appreciate your review of this material and any comments you may have in relation to it.

Should you require any further information please call me at (212) 566-3525/26.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL P. RENARD, P.E.  
Chief,  
Design and Review Section

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**NOV21 1984**

**CULTURAL RESOURCE  
SECTION**

**STAGE IB CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
OF THE PROPOSED INTERCEPTING SEWER  
IN THE PROPOSED TENNYSON DRIVE  
BETWEEN (AND INCLUDING)  
ROBINSON STREET AND PROPOSED POINT STREET  
OAKWOOD BEACH, BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.**

**WP-136 Oakwood Beach W.P.C.P.  
Contract No. 6B-1**

**by**

**Edward S. Rutsch, S.O.P.A.**

**of**

**HISTORIC CONSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION, INC.  
Box 111, RD 3, Newton, New Jersey 07860**

**for**

**Paterno & Sons, Inc.  
162 Schofield Street  
Bronx, New York 10464**

**NOVEMBER 1984**

**OB 6B-1 (35)**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The following report is of the Stage IB Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Intercepting Sewer in the Proposed Tennyson Drive in Oakwood Beach, Borough of Staten Island, New York performed by Historic Conservation and Interpretation, Inc. of Newton, New Jersey (hereafter also "HCI") for the firm of Paterno & Sons, Inc. of New York City in the fall of 1984. Included herein are a description of the work performed and an evaluation of the potential of the study area to contain significant cultural resources. ("Significance" is evaluated by the criteria of significance for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.)

The 1978 Stage IA (documentary) cultural resources survey for the proposed Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project (WPCP) evaluated the area along the proposed extension of Tennyson Drive between existing Robinson Street and the proposed Point Street as having a potential for containing cultural resources of a prehistoric nature (WAPORA 1978). Test borings made for engineering purposes had revealed a buried stratum of organic muck and clay, which was considered to be possibly indicative of a midden or another deposit made by past cultures. The potential

importance of the original pre-marsh surfaces below this organic deposit was also mentioned in the 1978 report. The project area, then, was defined as the proposed sewer's right-of-way between the west side of extant Robinson Street and the eastern edge of the proposed Point Street (see Figures 1 and 2).

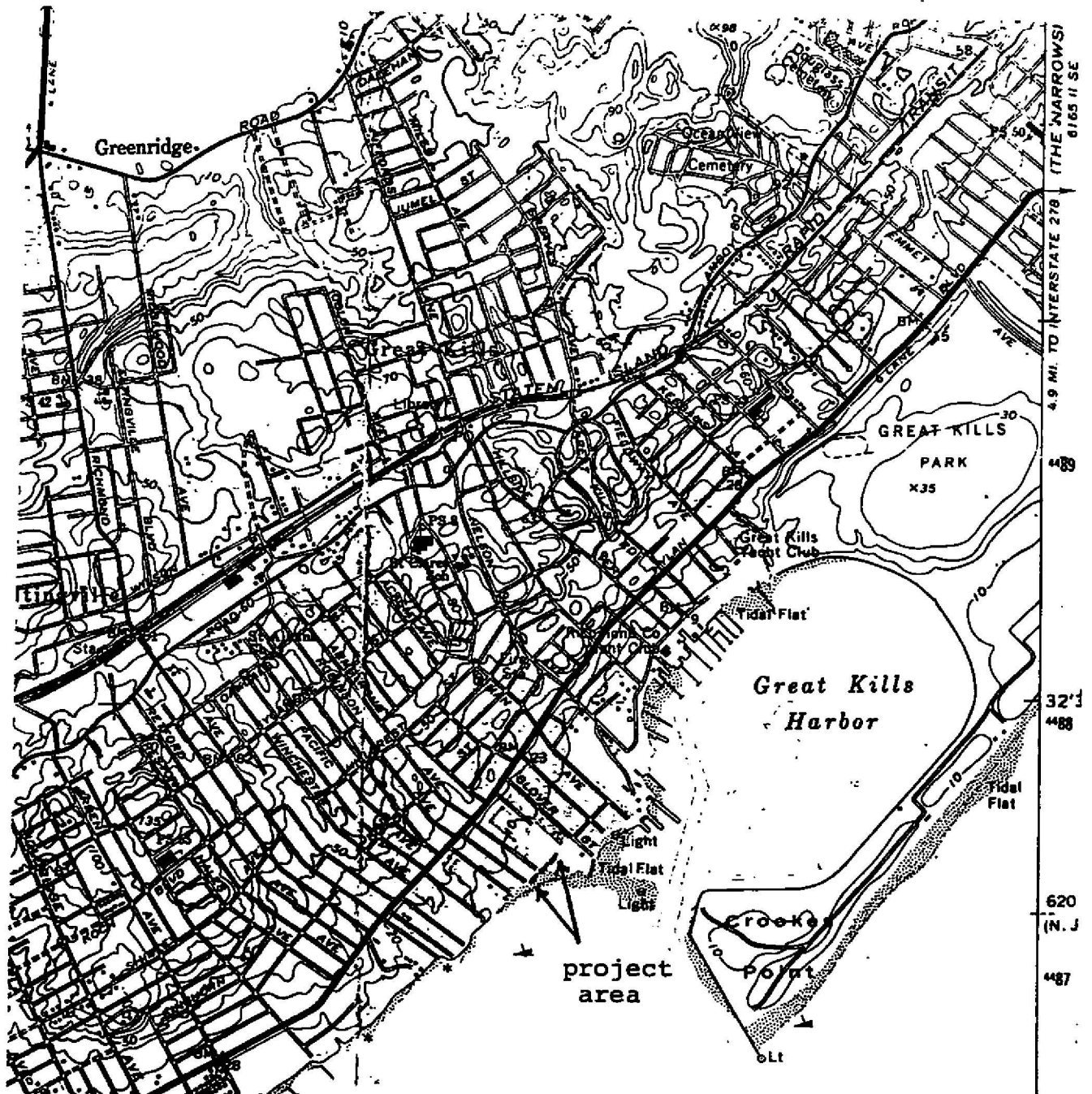


FIGURE 1. Portion of U.S.G.S. map on which approximate location of the project area has been indicated (dashed line between arrows; Arthur Kill N.Y.-N.J. SW/4 Staten Island 15' Quadrangle, 1955; 1:24,000').

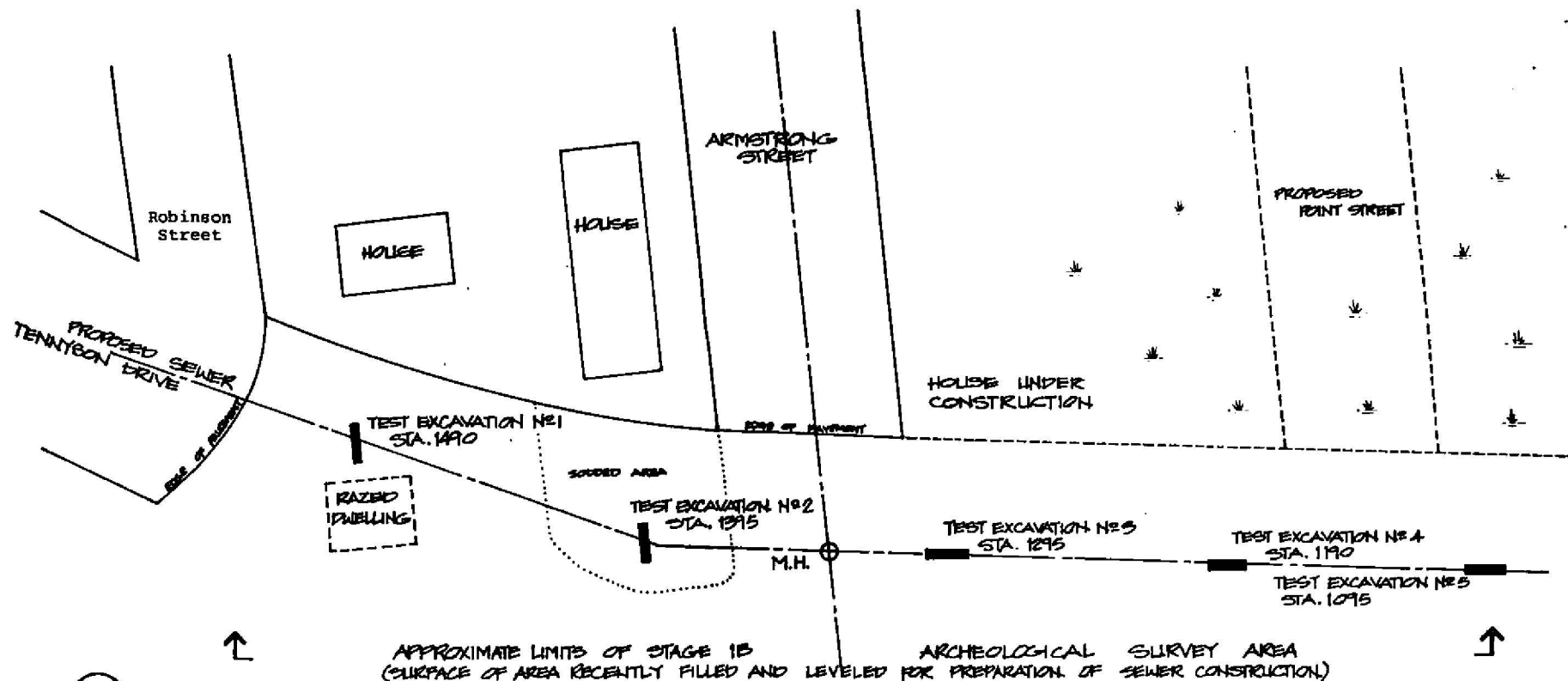


FIGURE 2 PLAN OF STAGE 1B  
 ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY AREA  
 SHOWING LOCATIONS OF TEST EXCAVATIONS

SCALE 1"=40'-0"

HISTORIC CONSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION, INC.  
 NEWTON, NEW JERSEY OCT. 1984 EDC

FIGURE 2. Source: Adapted from Plan and Profile, WP-136 Oakwood Beach WBCP Contract No. 6B-1, West Branch Intercepting Sewer, Borough of Staten Island, June 1982, prepared by NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, City Bureau of Sewers, Division of Sewer Design, Design and Review Section.



## II. INFIELD INVESTIGATIONS

On October 16, 1984, HCI's 4-person field crew, directed by Primary Investigator Edward S. Rutsch, began the Stage IB work at the request of Mr. Vincent Saggese of Paterno & Sons, Inc., the firm which was constructing the sewer. At this time, construction had progressed from north to south to the vicinity of Glover Street, just north and outside of the study area (see Figures 3 and 4). In the field, the archeologists were joined by Mr. Fred Forte of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), Sewer Construction Bureau, who kindly supplied them with a set of the engineer's plans and profiles for the proposed sewer construction. The sensitive area, approximately 500 feet along the sewer's right-of-way, was plainly marked on these project maps (sheet 3 of which was the basis for Figure 2 in this report).

The testing program employed a 190 Dynahoe backhoe, supplied and operated by the contractor, which proceeded to make tests under the direction of the archeologists in the following manner. Tests were made starting at the southern end of the sensitive zone at 100-foot intervals (see Figures



FIGURE 3. View southward at the study area (Ed Rutsch, photographer, October 1984). The archeologists are visible in the background (center, left) observing the backhoe excavation of test 1 (see Figure 2 for map location). New York Bay is visible at the left in the background.





FIGURE 4. View westward in the project area at the vicinity of the relict estuary, near proposed Point Street (Ed Rutsch, photographer, October 1984).

2 and 5). A total of five tests, each 3 feet wide and 15 feet long, were excavated with the following results.

Test 1 was made at the test area's highest elevation--i.e., 6 feet above sea level. The test was placed in an area from which a house had recently been razed (see Figures 2 and 5). Here was encountered the dark mucky layer which had been the main cause for concern (see Figure 6). It was 1 foot thick and lay 3 and 4 feet below grade. It consisted of a dark dry clay mixed with some sand. Few traces of organic material were found in the test 1 sample. Below this stratum was found culturally sterile subsoil.

Tests 2 through 5 were made in sites having lower elevations--i.e., approximately 3 and 2 feet above mean high water level. Test 2 was made in the grassy area east of a dwelling (see Figure 2). Here the dark layer in question consisted of mottled gray and brown clay in which traces of organic material were more common. These were in the form of "meadow mat," the residue of salt marsh plants which grew over a long time period (see Figure 5). The layer below the dark organic stratum consisted of culturally sterile sand and gravel.

Tests 3 through 5 were made at sites having elevations of 2 feet above sea level. All had upper surfaces which had recently been filled with red sand and leveled. This fill material covering the former ground's surface contained twentieth-century building debris and sand. The dark organic stratum, approximately 4 feet thick, was located

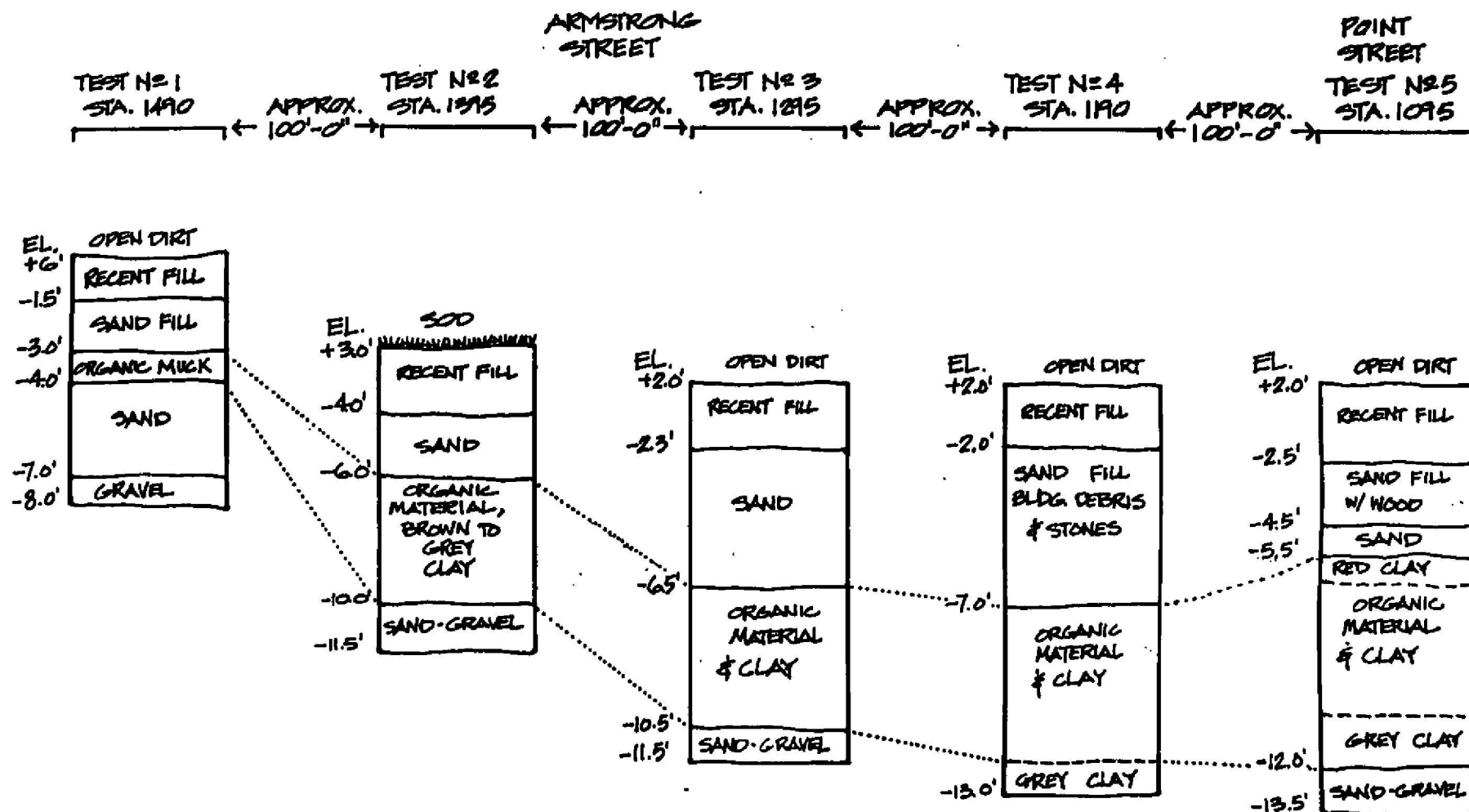


FIGURE 5 PROFILES OF  
TEST EXCAVATIONS, STAGE 1B  
VERTICAL SCALE 1"=5'-0"  
NO HORIZONTAL SCALE

FIGURE 5. Test excavations measured 3 X 15 feet and were located approximately 100 feet apart. For specific test locations, see Figure 2.





FIGURE 6. Excavated material from the dark organic stratum under investigation. (Edward S. Rutsch, photographer, 1984.)

from 6 to 7 feet below the surface. In tests 3, 4, and 5 it contained considerable amounts of organic material in wetter clay, ranging in color from dark to dull red. Under the organic muck layer in every test but 4 was found a layer of sand and gravel. In test 4, a homogeneous gray clay occurred below the muck layer. In every case, the layers beneath the dark organic muck were culturally sterile.

In each of the 5 tests, the field crew followed the same general procedures. The backhoe work was guided by either the primary investigator or a crew chief, while two archeologists processed the excavated material searching for artifacts. Once the dark organic stratum of interest was reached, the backhoe operator was directed to place his sample of this material on a separate pile where muck and clay was broken up and sorted for artifacts (see Figure 6). The next stratum was also kept separate and examined for cultural material.

In no test were any artifacts or cultural material found below the recent fill deposits. Artifacts consisting of building debris were found in the upper fill strata, but these finds were random and the material was fairly modern and culturally insignificant.

### III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The dark stratum located in the Stage IA survey and evaluated to be potentially culturally significant was located in the present Stage IB survey and archeologically sampled. Devoid of artifacts, it does not represent cultural activity but, as the WAPORA report suggested, is most likely the result of deposits made in a relict estuary which has been filled in fairly recently. Strata below this old marsh were culturally sterile--i.e., no artifacts were observed. Inasmuch as no cultural resources were present in the test excavations, the study area is hereby evaluated as an insignificant site for cultural resources. Therefore, inasmuch as the proposed construction will not impact (negatively or otherwise) any significant cultural resources, no further cultural resource survey work is necessary and the proposed sewer construction can proceed as planned.



#### IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### WAPORA

- 1978 EIS Background Document. Preliminary Cultural Resources Assessment: Literature Search and Windshield Survey, Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control Project, Phase III and Future Phases, Contract #68-01-4616, DOW #1. Report prepared for U.S.E.P.A. Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10007 by WAPORA, Inc., 211 E. 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. February.