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STAGE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AMBOY/BEDELL SHOPPING PLAZA PLEASANT PLAINS, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK CEQR #90-175R

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188

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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I. INTRODUCTION	1
A. Procedures	1
B. Project Area Description	2
II. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF SENSITIVITY: PREHISTORIC PERIOD	4
A. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western	4
Staten Island	
1. Shoreline Sites	4
2. Inland Sites B. Prehistoric Period - Analysis of Sensitivity	6 9
b. Tremiscoric Terrod - Anarysis of Sensitivity	
III. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF SENSITIVITY:	10
HISTORIC PERIOD	١
A. 17th - 18th Centuries	10
B. 19th Century - Princes Bay, Pleasant Plains and the Oyster Industry	10
C. Project Area History: 19th - 20th Centuries	11
D. Historic Period - Analysis of Sensitivity	17
	- · ·
IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
REFERENCES CITED	22
Table 1 - Probable Construction Dates for Project Area Structure	es 18
FIGURES AND PLATES - FOLLOWING TEXT:	
Figures:	
Figure 1 - Project Location Map	
Figure 2 - Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western Staten	Ísland
Figure 3 - Bolton Site Location Map	
Figure 4 - Skene Map of Staten Island Patents	
Figure 5 - 1781 Taylor and Skinner Map Figure 6 - 1780-83 "French Map"	
Figure 7 - 1797 Map	
Figure 8 - 1844-45 Coastal Survey Map	
Figure 9 - 1850 Dripps Map	
Figure 10 - 1853 Butler Map	
Figure 11 - 1859 Walling Map	
Figure 12 - 1874 Beers Map	
Figure 13 - 1898 Robinson Map	
Figure 14 - 1898 Sanborn Map	
Figure 15 - 1907 Robinson Map	
Figure 16 – 1910 Sanborn Map Figure 17 – 1911 Borough of Richmond Topographic Map	
Figure 17 - 1917 Borough of Richmond Topographic Map Figure 18 - 1917 Bromley Map	
Figure 19 - 1917 Sanborn Map	
Figure 20 - 1937 Sanborn Map	
Figure 21 - 1951 Sanborn Map	

Plates:

Plate 1	-	Stream Channel and Slope Up to Amboy Road
Plate 2	-	Area of Demolition East of Amboy Road
Plate 3	-	Northern End of Demolition Area East of Amboy Road
Plate 4	-	#45 Bedell Street - Demolition Debris and
		Undisturbed Area to Rear of Structure
Plate 5	-	#45 Bedell Street - View Upslope to Top of Knoll
Plate 6	_	Area West of #45 Bedell Street Disturbed by
		Demolition of Outbuilding
Plate 7	-	Area of East of #45 Bedell Street Disturbed by
		Demolition of #37 and #31 Bedell Street
Plate 8	-	Area of East of #45 Bedell Street Showing
		Mound of Earth Deposited by Demolition
Plate 9	-	Area of Structural Demolition South of Penton Place
Plate 10	-	Depression Near Corner of Amboy Road and Bedell Street
Plate 11	-	Northeast Corner of Foundation or Feature Wall
		East of #45 Bedell Street

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Stage Ia archaeological survey of the area to be affected by construction of the Amboy/Bedell Shopping Plaza (CEQR #90-175R) in Pleasant Plains, Staten Island (Borough of Richmond), New York. The survey is being conducted to to meet the requirements of the New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process.

The project area includes a major portion of block 7702 as designated on the Borough of Richmond tax map. This block is bounded on the west by Amboy Road, on the north by Pelton Street, on the east by Gilbert Place and on the south by Bedell Street (see Figure 1). The project's Amboy Road frontage extends some 405 feet north of Bedell Street, and its frontage on the latter street extends some 730 feet east of Amboy Road. Five lots (#21-25) in the southwestern corner of this block, extending a total of approximately 95 feet south of Pelton Street and 100 feet east of Amboy Road, are excluded from the project area.

The objective of this Stage Ia survey is to assess the sensitivity of the project area for the presence of possibly significant archaeological deposits dating either to the prehistoric or the historic period and to determine the need for subsurface testing. Significant deposits are considered to be those which meet the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

A. Procedures

The approaches taken to the assessment of sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric and historic period archaeological resources necessarily differ. For prehistoric resources, we have first identified previously reported archaeological sites in western Staten Island. These sites have been reported by both professional and avocational archaeologists. Most of the major sites were reported prior to the major land modifications which have occurred in this portion of Staten Island in recent years and many of the sites no longer exist. However, some smaller sites, some of them disturbed, have been reported in recent years as a result of cultural resources investigations which have been required under the provisions of Federal, State and City legislation.

Since the reported locations of known archaeological sites are not the result of a comprehensive, systematic survey of western Staten Island, the fact that sites have not been reported from a particular location does not necessarily mean that such sites are not present. Thus, to assess the sensitivity of the project area for prehistoric deposits we have also considered the topographic and physiographic characteristics of the locations of the reported sites and compared these characteristics with those of the project area.

To determine the sensitivity of the project area for historic period deposits we have examined maps of the area dating from the 18th through the early 20th century. Many of these maps show both the locations of structures and the names of property owners. The data derived from these maps and from secondary sources have been supplemented by a review of street directories as well as deeds on file in the Richmond County Clerk's Office.

A pedestrian reconnaissance of the project area was conducted by the principal investigator on August 22, 1990.

B. Project Area Description

A topographic survey of the project area dated December, 1988 indicates that 17 residential structures were present within the project area in addition to garages and other outbuildings. Four of the residential structures fronted on Amboy Road, six on Bedell Street, three on Gilbert Place and four on Penton Street. The configuration, with some minor changes, is similar to that shown on the 1951 Sanborn Map (Figure 21). The project area topography shown on the 1988 map is similar to that shown on the 1911 Borough of Richmond topographic map (see Figure 17).

A stream channel crosses Bedell Street approximately 380 feet east of Amboy Road. In the southern portion of the project area there is an area of lower-lying wet ground with grass cover adjacent to the stream. In the northern portion the stream banks rise more steeply although visual examination suggests that at least some fill has been deposited along the banks in this area.

West of the stream, the ground slopes upward approximately six to seven feet to Amboy Road from an elevation of ca. 19 - 20 feet at the stream (Plate 1). East of the stream the ground slopes upward to a ridge whose high point within the project area, just north of Bedell Street, is at approximately the 36 foot elevation. Prior to recent disturbance this height-of-land extended east along Bedell Street to the present location of Gilbert Place, forming a small knoll. The ridge slopes downward to the north within the project area, with the 30 foot elevation extending some 250 feet north of Bedell Street.

Between December 1988 and the date of this archaeological survey, all of the structures in the project area with the exception of the three houses fronting on Gilbert Place were demolished. The process of demolition has resulted in varying degrees of surface disturbance to portions of the project area.

Demolition of the structures fronting on Amboy Road has resulted in soil and debris being deposited over an area extending some 150 - 200 feet east of the road. In some areas new growth of weeds and scrub has developed on the surface of the soil (Plates 2 and 3). The area to the east, which slopes downward to the stream is covered with trees and brush.

The most recent demolition in the project area has apparently occurred at the site of #45 Bedell Street, which is located on top of the knoll mentioned above. This has affected an area beginning some 10-15 north of Bedell Street and extending some 100 feet to the north (Plates 4 and 5). A portion of the lowerlying area west of the knoll has also been affected by the demolition of outbuildings associated with #45 Bedell Street (Plate 6).

The top of the knoll east of #45 Bedell Street was the site of two additional structures (#37 and #31 Bedell Street). Comparison of the topography shown on the maps with visual observation of the area suggests that demolition of these two structures has involved substantial modification of the terrain (Plate 7). It appears that the soil which formed the knoll in this area has been excavated and much of it has been deposited in a mound of soil immediately east of #45 Bedell Street (Plate 8). A strip of land at the northern end of these properties appears to have remained relatively undisturbed, however.

Observation of the ground at the rear of #16 Gilbert Place indicates that it is at a slightly lower elevation than the adjacent ground at the rear of #45 Bedell Street, suggesting that construction of this structure resulted in a lowering of the grade. The property west of #24 Gilbert Place as well as that immediately south of #36 Gilbert Place is apparently being used for storage of equipment and has undergone substantial disturbance.

Demolition of the houses fronting on Gilbert Place has resulted in the deposition of soil and debris similar to that noted east of Amboy Road (Plate 9).



II. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF SENSITIVITY: PREHISTORIC PERIOD

A. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western Staten Island

1. Shoreline Sites

The majority of known prehistoric sites in western Staten Island are located either along the bluff tops overlooking the Arthur Kill and Princes Bay or in the vicinity of inland streams (see Figure 2). The largest of these sites is located north of Ward's Point, at the southwestern tip of the island. With the exception of the Smoking Point site, (discussed below) this is the only site in western Staten Island which appears to represent a permanent or semi-permanent village.

Jacobson's (1980) publication summarizes the information known about the site at Wards Point. Prehistoric burials of at least 72 individuals have been excavated in the Ward's Point area since the mid-nineteenth century. In addition to the burials, the Ward's Point site includes an extensive shell midden deposit and at least 127 features (e.g. trash pits, hearths) have also been reported (Jacobson 1980). One area of the site has produced material dating to the early Archaic period from a stratum of orange/yellow sand underlying the midden layer. The Ward's Point prehistoric site is located within the boundaries of the Ward's Point Conservation Area (Florance 1982) which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 29, 1982 (Figure 2, #1).

In addition to the deposits reported in the above sources, shovel testing for the Dakwood Beach Water Pollution Control project (Pickman and Yamin 1984) recovered (non-diagnostic) prehistoric material from either side of the Conference House driveway and from the Billop's Ridge area, north of the Conference House. Much of the lithic debitage recovered from these tests was encountered in the yellow/orange sand which underlay buried topsoil and shell layers. Testing adjacent to the Conference House conducted by Baugher-Perlin also recovered prehistoric material from the orange/yellow sand stratum (personal communication cited in Pickman and Yamin 1984; Florance 1982).

The prehistoric occupation in the Ward's Point area appears to be confined to the area atop the bluffs overlooking the Arthur Kill. Shovel testing conducted in the slightly lower-lying area situated east of the bluffs (the tested area is bounded by Hylan Boulevard, Claremont Avenue and Massachusetts and Carteret Streets) encountered only a few lithic flakes and some shell. The latter material was recovered from an area immediately east of the Ward's Point site (Winter 1985 - see Figure 2, #4).

Recent evidence indicates that the prehistoric occupation in the

southwestern portion of Staten Island extends along the bluffs north of the Ward's Point site. The Oakwood Beach project shovel tests encountered prehistoric material on the lawn of the 19th century "Bedell" House, located west of Satterlee Street and just north of Pittsville Avenue. Lithic flakes, a corner notched projectile point, and fire cracked rock were recovered from a buried topsoil layer and from the underlying yellow/orange sand (Pickman and Yamin 1984 - see Figure 2, #2). During the course of the Oakwood Beach project and a more recent survey (Pickman 1988a), local residents mentioned additional finds of prehistoric material on the bluffs south of Amboy Road.

Two areas of lithic scatter have been reported along the bluffs immediately north of Amboy Road (Pickman 1988a - Figure 2, #3). More recent investigations indicate that this area was probably the locus of prehistoric camp sites which have been disturbed to varying degrees during the historic period (Pickman 1988b).

Two additional loci of prehistoric utilization were noted during the Oakwood Beach survey along the bluffs immediately west of Hopping Avenue. Lithic debitage was recovered from a buried topsoil layer on the lawn of #99 Hopping Avenue and additional flakes and a ceramic sherd were recovered from disturbed contexts in the immediate vicinity (Figure 2, #2). Projectile points and other artifacts had previously been reported by a local resident somewhat further to the north in the vicinity of #36 Hopping Avenue (Pickman and Yamin 1978:66).

The pattern of the finds discussed above suggests the possibility that the entire Tottenville bluff-top area may have been the locus of prehistoric camp sites and/or scattered dwellings, with a larger, more permanent occupation at Ward's Point.

The bluffs along the Arthur Kill continue north of Tottenville, with some gaps. A Paleoindian site, known as Port Mobil South (or Port Mobil Hill) was formerly located on the bluffs just north of Ellis Place (Kraft 1977 - see Figure 2, #7). The site, known from collections, was destroyed by the construction of the Mobil tank farm. A second Paleoindian site, Port Mobil North, also known from collections, was apparently located further to the northeast (Kraft 1977). Artifacts, including Paleoindian projectile points, were also recovered along the beach in Charleston (Kraft 1977; Salwen 1968) and excavations recovered artifacts from below beach margin peat deposits (Figure 2, #7). It is not certain whether these artifacts were deposited <u>in situ</u> or whether they washed down from a Paleoindian site atop the bluffs prior to the formation of the marsh.

There have been no specific sites reported along the bluffs between Tottenville and the Port Mobil South site. However, the files of the Metropolitan Area Archaeological Survey and the Archaeological Survey of Staten Island (both compiled in the 1960's) include a listing under "Kreisherville" which describes surface finds of Paleoindian projectile points and other prehistoric artifacts along the beach between Port Mobil and the Outerbridge Crossing (Anderson 1967 - see Figure 2, #6). It is possible that this material washed down from sites on top of the bluffs.

The Smoking Point site is located at the bluff edge near the mouth of a small stream (Figure 2, #8). This site included a shell midden layer and burials have been reported from the area. Material from the site dates to the Archaic and transitional Archaic/Woodland period. (Rubertone 1974, Silver 1984).

The location of the sites noted above along the bluffs overlooking the Arthur Kill suggests that a major orientation of the prehistoric occupation of western Staten Island was toward the exploitation of the marine resources of the Arthur Kill.

Sites have also been reported along the bluffs overlooking Prince's Bay on the south shore of Staten Island. Skinner (1909) noted the presence of small shell heaps near the Bay. These sites are listed in the files of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences as the Red Bank Site (Figure 2, #18), located on the bluffs on the Mount Loretto property, the Sharrott Avenue Site (Figure 2, #19) and the Wolfe's Pond Site (southeast of the area shown on Figure 2). These may be the same sites as those shown on Bolton's (1922) site map as #92 and #93 (see Figure 3). Bolton (1922) refers to the latter site as Seguine Point. One of the two sites which he indicates as #92 was located at Princes Bay and another "on the shore halfway to the lighthouse." These sites have been described by Skinner (1909) and Bolton (1922) as "fishing camps."

2. Inland Sites

A number of sites in western Staten Island were apparently located so as to exploit resources associated with inland streams. Two of these sites, Chemical Lane and Pottery Farm, have been reported between Smoking Point and Arthur Kill Road (Figure 2, #9). The sites are located along the same stream which adjoins the Smoking Point site, but these sites are approximately 0.7 -1.2 miles south of the latter site and the Arthur Kill shoreline. These sites have been less thoroughly described than the Smoking Point site but appear to have yielded Archaic, Transitional and Woodland material (Rubertone 1974).

Bolton (1922:184) mentions the presence of scattered sites along Sandy Brook (which empties into Lemon Creek and eventually into Princes Bay on the southern shore of Staten Island) in the area of Sandy Ground and Woodrow and "extending over the fields to Rossville and Kreischerville". More recent excavations have provided additional information about the Sandy Brook sites. A large area known as the Wort farm (Figure 2, #11) was excavated by several archaeologists in the 1960's. The site was near the head of Sandy Brook. Early through Late Woodland period ceramics were recovered from the plow zone and Late Archaic material from the underlying sand. The vertical distribution of projectile points suggests the presence of a distinct occupational level within the sand (Williams 1968:46 and figure 3). According to Williams (1968:46-47) "the Wort Farm site, on the evidence of the predominance of weapons, knives, and scrapers, along with traces of hearths, would seem to have served as a hunting camp site, probably recurrently occupied by small numbers of people for relatively short spans of time."

The Harik's Sandy Ground site was located somewhat north of Wort Farm, along the route of the West Shore Expressway (Figure 2, #10). Artifacts from this site were recovered from the yellow/orange sand as well as from what was apparently an overlying plow zone (Lavin 1980). This may be the same site as the one recorded as the Rossville Shell Heap in the files of the Metropolitan Area Archaeological Survey.

The Sandy Brook site (Figure 2, #13) was located further to the south along the west bank of the brook. The site was surface collected by a local avocational archaeologist, Al Hartje (Cotz <u>et al</u>). The site was characterized by Lenik (1987:33) as "a large prehistoric base camp...occupied from late Archaic through Woodland times". A less intensively occupied site, the Sharrott Estates site (Figure 2, #12), approximately 1/4 mile west of the Sandy Brook site has been excavated (Cotz <u>et al</u>. 1985; Lenik 1987). This site was characterized by Lenik as a sporadically occupied, occasional hunting camp which perhaps functioned as a "satellite" camp for the occupants of the Sandy Brook site. The prehistoric material from the site, primarily lithic debitage, was recovered from the topmost 12 inches of the orange sand. The topsoil at this site had been removed prior to the time of the archaeological excavation.

Another stream, Tappan's Brook, originates in the general area of the Wort farm site and flows westward to the Arthur Kill. In the area which is now included within Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve the brook flows through a fairly deep "valley". A survey of archaeological resources within the Park (Yamin and Pickman 1986a; 1986b) identified a series of what are most likely small, temporary camp sites. Most of these were located on knolls along the bluff tops bordering Tappan's Brook (Figure 2, #14).

The Canada Hill site (Figure 2, #15), was reported by Lorraine Williams (1967) and is included in the files of the Metropolitan Area Archaeological Survey. The site apparently consisted of a surface scatter of shell fragments, quartz and chert chips and historic period artifacts. The 1913 Borough of Richmond topographic map shows a small pond and stream in the vicinity of the reported finds.

A site (see Figure 2, #20) has been reported in Richmond Valley, south of the Canada Hill site (The New Bulletin, 1961). The site was excavated by Joseph Bodnar, an avocational archaeologist, and his sons. Prehistoric pottery and "triangular arrowheads" were among the artifacts recovered. Grossman (1985) notes that this is probably the same site as the prehistoric campsite mentioned by Leng and Davis (1930) at Boiling Spring in Richmond Valley. This site, as well as the Sharrott Avenue and Red Bank sites along the Princes Bay shore, are the closest known sites to the project area. The latter are approximately 3/4 - one mile to the south and the Richmond Valley site some 3500 feet west of the project area.

The area west of what is now Page Avenue was known locally as "Decker's Swamp" and "Sand Ridges" (Leng and Davis 1896, 1930; Morris 1900 I). Morris (1900 I:378) notes that "these ridges were occupied by the Indians in old times". The 1911 Borough of Richmond topographic map shows that the area contained a series of what are apparently spring-fed streams surrounded by marshy ground. Anderson (1965) noted that there were "a series of sites scattered throughout the Woodlands for some distance", in the vicinity of Page Avenue and Hylan Boulevard. Anderson (1965;1966) excavated sites on both sides of Page Avenue north of Hylan Boulevard, including a burial of a child and dog located east of Page Avenue. Anderson dated most of the material from these sites to the Early and Middle Woodland periods. Prehistoric material was also recovered from shovel tests in the area northeast of the Page Avenue/Hylan Boulevard intersection during the Oakwood Beach survey (Pickman and Yamin 1984). Prehistoric sites have also been noted south of Hylan Boulevard on both sides of Page Avenue (Kaeser 1966 - see Figure 2, #5). A surface reconnaissance of a ridge located west of Page Avenue (Grossman 1985) indicated the presence of lithic flakes, a ceramic sherd, a mano, and a hammerstone.

Shovel tests for the Oakwood Beach survey encountered a thin scatter of lithic debitage on the south side of Hylan Boulevard between Bedell and Joline Avenues (see Figure 2, #17). The debitage was recovered from the topsoil and underlying yellow/orange sand strata. Subsequent testing of the area by Louis Berger and Associates yielded additional prehistoric material (Jay Cohen, personal communication, 1989). During the Oakwood Beach survey, a local resident reported previous finds of artifacts from a somewhat higher area north of Hylan Boulevard and north of the Oakwood Beach find spots. Surface examination of this area indicated the presence of marine shell, as well as apparent excavation by "pot hunters". However two shovel tests in this area failed to yield prehistoric artifacts (Pickman and Yamin 1984). The 1911 topographic map shows a small stream several hundred feet east of the find spots and a pond and adjacent marsh several hundred feet to the south.

A recent survey (Roberts and Stehling 1987) encountered what were probably the remains of a prehistoric campsite located on the west side of Sprague Avenue, some 500 feet south of Hylan Boulevard (see Figure 2, #16). More than 100 pieces of lithic debitage in addition to pieces of fire cracked rock were recovered from a five by five foot square. The 1911 topographic map shows small streams and marshy areas approximately 300 feet east and 300 feet northwest of this site. Seven of the Oakwood Beach shovel tests were placed between Joline and Sprague Avenues. However, all of these tests were located north of Hylan Boulevard. None of these tests yielded indications of prehistoric occupations. However, local residents were in possession of prehistoric artifacts which may have been found between Joline and Sprague Avenues but further north of Hylan Boulevard than the shovel test locations (Pickman and Yamin 1984).

Shovel testing south of Hylan Boulevard and west of Joline Avenue (Figure 2, #21) yielded a prehistoric ceramic sherd, lithic flakes and fire cracked rock, probably associated with a prehistoric campsite. The finds were made on higher ground adjacent to the former location of a small stream and marshy area (Pickman 1988c).

B. Analysis of Archaeological Sensitivity - Prehistoric Period

The data summarized above indicate that inland sites in western Staten Island are typically located on high ground near streams and marshy areas. These most likely represent camp sites, possibly associated with larger sites located along the shore. The camp sites were most likely situated to take advantage of the resources of the nearby water sources and marshes. These would have attracted game and waterfowl, and the nearby higher areas would have been advantageous locations for hunting camps.

Maps dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries show a small stream originating immediately south of the project area, crossing Bedell Street and continuing northward through the project area. The stream then turned eastward near the present location of the railroad tracks and eventually entered Sandy Brook some 2500 feet east of the project area. As noted previously, the latter stream flowed into Lemon Creek which, in turn, emptied into Princes Bay. The 1911 topographic map (Figure 17) indicates that the stream originated in a marshy area, a portion of which was located within the project area. As mentioned in Chapter I, the stream and adjacent low-lying wet ground are still present in the project area.

Thus the project area contains a water source and marsh similar to those in the vicinity of known inland sites. The most likely location for prehistoric sites would be the higher ground on either side of the stream, particularly the knoll located some 150 feet east of the marshy area (see Figure 17). Much of this higher ground, however, has been disturbed by 19th and 20th century construction as well as the recent demolition of these structures. It is possible however, that relatively undisturbed ground surfaces could be present in some areas beneath soil deposited during the process of structural demolition. In addition, a portion of the ridge east of the stream and north of the former location of #45 Bedell Street appears to be relatively undisturbed.

9

III. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF SENSITIVITY: HISTORIC PERIOD

A. 17th and 18th Centuries

The initial settlements on Staten Island were established during the 17th century, mostly on the portion of the island closest to New York City. However, grants of land in the southwestern portion of Staten Island were made to various individuals during this period. The largest of these, encompassing the entire southwestern tip of Staten Island, was granted to Christopher Billop in 1676 and 1687. The Billop house, also known as the Conference House, is located just north of Hylan Boulevard in Tottenville. The Skene map, published in 1907 (see Figure 4) shows the boundaries of the various patents. The project area would appear to be located in the extreme northeastern portion of the Billop patent, just south of the boundary of the patents obtained by by Obediah Holmes in 1685 and Mark Dusachoy in 1696.

The first maps of Staten Island which show the location of structures with any degree of accuracy date to the latter part of the 18th century (see Figures 5-7). These maps show what is now Amboy Road, which had been laid out prior to 1774 (Morris 1900 II:449). The project area can be located on these maps with regard to Princes Bay and to the southward dip in the course of Amboy Road which is still present (compare Figure 1 and Figures 5-7). The maps indicate that no structures were located in or near the project area at this time.

B. 19th Century - Princes Bay, Pleasant Plains and the Oyster Industry

In the early - mid 19th century the chief industries in Staten Island were farming and oyster planting (Morris 1900 II:468) and Prince's Bay played a leading role in the latter industry.

When the first settlers arrived in New York, the floor of New York Bay was reportedly covered with oysters. However, over~ harvesting depleted these beds and by the early 19th century they had virtually disappeared. This created an opportunity for cystermen on Staten Island. Seed cysters were brought from other areas, including Long Island and Chesapeake Bay and planted in Prince's Bay. By 1813 Prince's Bay cysters were well known and the business reached its height in the 1850's. Most families in southwestern Staten Island were involved in the oyster industry during this period and the population of the area grew as oystermen from other locations, mainly the Chesapeake, moved into the area. Among the immigrants were free black oystermen, mainly from the Chesapeake Bay area, who settled at Sandy Ground, near Rossville, beginning in the late 1830's and early 1840's. The oyster industry began to decline in the 1880's and 1890's, chiefly due to to pollution stemming from the dumping of

10

industrial and domestic waste. The industry came to an end in 1916, when the Board of Health condemned the Prince's Bay oyster beds (Powell 1976 - cited in Pickman and Yamin 1978 and Geismar 1985).

Comparison of maps dating to 1844-45 and 1850 (see Figures 8 and 9) suggests that the Pleasant Plains community developed during this period, most likely as a result of the growth of the oyster industry. During the 19th century Pleasant Plains was actually considered part of Prince's Bay. "Prince's Bay consists of two neighborhoods - one along the shore, known as Seguine's point and the other along the railroad and the Amboy road...the Prince's Bay post office is located at Pleasant Plains. To a stranger the two villages appear as one. They are divided by a small stream called Lemon Creek" (Morris 1900 II:443).

C. Project Area History: 19th - 20th Centuries

The first house built in the project area was apparently constructed ca. 1828. In that year, William Manee moved from Woodrow to Pleasant plains with his family (Bayles 1887:533). A deed dated May 17, 1828 (Richmond County Deeds, Liber P:432) transferred several pieces of property from Peter, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Ann Manee and Deborah Weir to William Manee. One of these properties was a tract of four and one quarter acres on the east side of the main public road (i.e. the present Amboy Road) which includes the present project area. The grantors of the property to William Manee were his brothers and sisters (Bayles 1887: 553). Their father, Abraham Manee, was the great grandson of Pierre Monnet, a Huguenot who settled on Staten Island prior to 1712 (Leng and Davis III:99). William Manee, a farmer, was born in 1788 and married Elizabeth Pryor in April 1808. He died on August 10, 1828, shortly after purchasing the Pleasant Plains property (Leng and Davis 1930:III:99).

William Manee had ten children, including two sons. The eldest son, William Manee, the second, was born in 1815. In 1839, the executors of the elder William Manee's estate (his brother Peter and his wife Elizabeth) deeded the ca. four acre property in Pleasant Plains to William Manee, the second. The property extended along the east side of Amboy Road for a distance of six chains and 54 links (approximately 431 feet). The land was bounded on the North by land of Nicholas Laforge, on the south by lands of William Weir and John Seguine and on the east by land of Israel LaForge. (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 5:502). William Manee, the second, was married to Elizabeth Bedell and made his living as an oysterman. He died in 1889 (Leng and Davis 1930 III:99).

James Manee, born in 1819, was the second son of the elder William Manee. In 1840, William Manee, the second, and his wife Elizabeth deeded the northern portion of the Pleasant Plains property to his brother James. As noted previously, the property was bounded on the north by Nicholas Laforge's property. The portion sold to James encompassed 2 acres and extended southward along Amboy Road three chains and forty links (approximately 224 feet) from Nicholas Laforge's property (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 11:152). At the time of the sale, the tract acquired by James Manee was bounded on the east by lands of Cornelius Cole, who was the brother-in-law of William and James Manee, having married their sister, Mary (Leng and Davis 1930 III:99). In 1839 James Manee married Catherine, the daughter of Nicholas Laforge (who owned the adjacent property). He apparently engaged in farming until 1844 when he became an oyster planter (Bayles 1887:554) like his brother, William.

In 1842, James Manee and his wife, Catherine sold the southern portion of his property to Jacobson Wood. The Wood property extended along Amboy Road one chain and 60 links (approximately 105 feet). As noted above, it was bounded on the east by Cornelius Cole's property.

A U. S. Coastal Survey map dated 1844-45 (Figure 8) shows one house located on the East Side of Amboy Road in the vicinity of the project area. This is most likely the house which was built by the elder William Manee prior to his death in 1828. Although the deeds noted above indicate that part of the Manee property had been sold prior to the 1844, the 1844-45 map indicates that no additional construction had occurred. The map shows the land surrounding the house as being under cultivation.

The 1850 Dripps map (Figure 9) shows several houses along the east side of Amboy Road in the vicinity of the project area. The map indicates that what is now Bedell Street had not yet been laid out. The map shows a house labeled "N. Laforge" which was located on the property north of the Manee tract as noted above. It also shows a house labeled "W. Weir" which apparently was constructed on property south of the Manee tract.

The 1850 map shows the houses of William and James Manee and of Jacobson Wood, which are located on the properties noted in the above referenced deeds. It is likely that the house built by the elder William Manee in 1828 eventually became the residence of William Manee the second, the eldest son, with a later house built by the younger son, James in the 1840's after he purchased the land from his older brother. However, it should be noted that the position of the house shown on the 1844-1845 map is closer to the location of the J. Manee house than the W. Manee house as shown on the 1850 map. This may reflect innaccuracies, however, in the 1844-45 map.

The Dripps map indicates five structures north of the eventual location of Bedell Street. The southernmost house is labeled "W. Williams." We were unable to locate deeds transferring ownership of this tract. It is possible that William Manee, the second, sold this property to Williams. However, comparison of the measurements of the tracts fronting Amboy Road as shown on various maps with the description of the Manee property as given in the deeds suggests that the Williams house may have been located south of the land originally purchased by the elder William Manee (see also below). The tract therefore would have been previously owned by William Weir and/or John Seguine, as noted in the boundary description.

The three houses shown north of the Williams house are those of William Manee, the second, Jacobson Wood and James Manee as noted above. Map measurements and deed boundaries indicate that the James Manee property was located north of the present project area. Thus, there were three structures (W. Williams, William Manee, and Jacobson Wood) present within the project area prior to 1850.

The 1853 Butler map (Figure 10) shows a similar configuration of structures as the earlier Dripps map except that Butler shows the W. Wire (sic) house north of the location shown on the Dripps map.

The 1859 Walling map (Figure 11) indicates that between 1853 and 1859 the road now named Bedell Street had been laid out between Amboy Road and Sharrott Avenue. However, no structures are shown fronting on this road. Along Amboy Road, the structure formerly labeled "W. Williams" is now labeled "W. Forrester." The William and James Manee houses are still shown. Jacobson Wood had probably died by 1859 as the Wood house is now labeled "Mrs. M. Wood." The house north of the Manee property formerly owned by Nicholas Laforge is now labeled "Mrs. Doty."

In the 1860's the former Jacobson Wood house underwent several changes in ownership. In 1866, Abraham J. Decker purchased the Jacobson Wood property from the latter's heirs (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 66:12), and in 1869, Ann Decker, the wife of Abraham J. Decker, sold the property to Cornelius B. Cole, the brotherin-law of William and James Manee, who also owned the property to the east (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 78:464).

The 1874 Beers map (Figure 12) indicates that W. Forrester, who owned the house at the corner of Amboy Road and Bedell Street in 1859 was deceased, as the house is now labeled "Forrester Est." The W. Manee and C. Cole houses, as well as the J. Manee and Doty houses north of the project area, are still shown fronting on Amboy Road. The 1874 map also shows two structures fronting on Bedell Street, which was then called Seguine Road. The westernmost structure is unlabeled and the easternmost is labeled "Mrs. Totten". Mrs. Totten may have been the former Lany Manee, a sister of the William Manee, the second, and of James Manee, who was married to James Totten (Bayles 1887:553).

No roads are shown on the 1874 map at the present locations of Penton Street or Gilbert Place, which were not laid out until after 1911 (see below). The present location of Gilbert place is some 60 feet east of the property labeled "Mrs. Totten" on this map.

The 1874 map shows three structures fronting on Sharrott Avenue,

13

which was then called Pleasant Plains Road. These houses are east of the project area. However, the project area includes the westernmost portions of the tracts of land on which two of these houses were built. The northernmost of these two tracts was owned by Cornelius Cole, who also owned the former Jacobson Wood House. As noted previously, Cole was married to Mary Manee, a sister of William and James Manee. The other property is labeled "I. Laforge." If this is the Israel Laforge mentioned in the 1839 Manee deed as owning the property to the east of the Manee tract. it would suggest that the southern border of the latter tract was located north of the location of Bedell Street, and that the Williams/Forrester house was not located on the Manee tract. It should be noted that Israel Laforge, like Cornelius Cole, was a brother-in-law of James Manee and William Manee, the second, having married their sister Catherine (Leng and Davis 1930 III:99).

Two maps dating to 1898 (see Figures 13 and 14) show six structures on the east side of Amboy Road between Bedell Street (Sequine Road) and the railroad tracks, compared with the five structures shown on the 1874 and earlier maps. Four of these were within the project area, rather than the three shown on the earlier maps. Maps dating to 1907 - 1911 (Figures 15 - 17) show generally the same configuration of structures. However, the 1907 Robinson map (Figure 15) shows that the former Forrester house, at the corner of Amboy Road and Bedell Street was then the residence of I. W. Decker. An 1895-1896 directory lists Irving W. Decker, an "inspector"; George E. Forrester, an oysterman; and Joseph A. Forrester, a machinist, all residing on Amboy Road in Pleasant Plains. Decker and the Forresters are also listed in a 1906 directory, with the former individual now listed as a "foreman". The Forresters are noted in the latter directory as resident on Amboy Road, corner of Sequine Avenue. It is possible that both Decker and the Forresters, presumably sons of the mid-19th century resident of this structure, resided in the house during this period.

The house which formerly was owned by Cornelius Cole is labeled "Peter Cole" on the 1907 map. However, the 1906 directory lists Mrs. Cornelius Cole (the former Mary Manee) as resident on Amboy Road, Pleasant Plains, presumably in this house. Cornelius Cole was apparently deceased by this year.

Two houses are shown on these maps between the Decker/Forrester and Cole structures. These were the residences of Charles C. and George H. Manee, who were two of the eight children of William Manee, the second and his wife Elizabeth (Bedell), who both died in the 1880's. George Henry Manee, born in 1855, was the second son of William Manee, the second. He was associated with his father in the oyster business, but eventually became the inspector for the Borough of Richmond for the building of macadam roads. In 1902, he became a foreman in the offices of the Borough of Richmond. He married Georgianna Cole in 1878 and had one daughter (Leng and Davis 1930 IV:364). Charles Coit Manee, born in 1858, was the youngest of the three sons of William Manee, the second. He too first followed his father in the oyster business, but later entered the grocery and coal business. He was one of the partners in the firm of Wilbur and Manee, which continued in business until 1925 (Leng and Davis 1930 III:99).

In an 1893 deed (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 222:94), the executors of the estate of William Manee, the second, George H. Manee and William Manee Jr., sold the northern portion of the remainder of the original Manee tract to Charles C. Manee. It is likely that this portion contained the house of William Manee, the second, which is also most likely the house constructed by William Manee. A new house was apparently constructed by George H. Manee prior to 1898 between the Decker/Forrester House and the Charles C. Manee house. This conclusion is supported by the fact that a complex of outbuildings, including a barn, is shown on the late 19th and early 20th century maps behind the northernmost of the two structures (the Charles C. Manee house), suggesting that it was the original Manee farmhouse.

The maps dating to 1898 - 1911 (Figures 13 - 17) show three structures in the project area fronting on Bedell Street (Seguine Road). The westernmost of these was the residence of Mrs. Ann Graff (see Figures 13 and 15). This house appears to be in the same location as the westernmost of the two structures shown on the 1874 Beers map. This property was sold to Christina W. Allen by the executors of William Manee, the second shortly prior to April 29, 1893 (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 222:94). In a deed dated November 26 of the following year Christina W. Allen transferred the property to Ann Graff (Richmond County Deeds, Liber 238:316). The 1895-1896 directory lists Mrs Annie Graff and her husband William Graff, a conductor.

The house shown on the late 19th and early 20th century maps (Figures 13 - 17) immediately east of the Graff house is apparently the same structure occupied by Mrs. Totten in 1874 (see Figure 12). The third, and easternmost of the three houses within the project area on Bedell Street was apparently constructed between 1874 and 1898. No names are associated with the latter two structures on the late 19th - early 20th century maps.

The maps dating to 1898 - 1911 show various outbuildings associated with the domestic structures. Among the larger outbuildings is what appears to be a large barn located well to the rear of the Cole house, near the stream. It was apparently demolished ca. 1911, as it is not shown on the Borough of Richmond topographic map of that year (Figure 17). As noted above, a complex of outbuildings, including a barn, are shown to the rear of the Charles C. Manee house. An outbuilding shown northwest of #45 Bedell Street is marked "Hennery" on the 1911 map. This latter map also shows a number of smaller outbuildings to the rear of several of the houses. It is possible that some of these small structures mark the locations of privies.

Two 1917 maps (Figures 18 and 19) show the same configuration of

15

residential structures as the maps discussed above. Charles C. Manee, George Manee and I. W. Decker are indicated as still residing in three of the houses fronting Amboy Road and three structures continue to be shown on Bedell Street. The maps indicate that between 1910 and 1917, Gilbert Place had been laid out immediately east of the third structure (#31) fronting on Bedell Street. Two houses, #24 and #38, had been constructed on the west side of Gilbert Place. Penton Street still did not exist in 1917.

Charles C. Manee married Wilhelmina Springstead in 1883. The couple had three children; Leland Stanford Manee, Chauncey Brooks Manee and Edna Manee. Leland Stanford Manee was born in 1892 and operated an insurance business in New York City. Chauncy Brooks Manee was born in 1890 and also was in the insurance business. In 1930, both brothers remained unmarried and resided at the home of their parents at #6398 Amboy Road (Leng and Davis 1930 III:97-100).

A 1933-1934 directory lists Leland S. Manee, insurance broker, and Charles C. Manee, a salesman, as still resident at #6398 Amboy Road. George H. Manee, a foreman in the office of the President of the Borough of Richmond is listed at #6408 Amboy Road. This directory also indicates that William Graff, then described as a factory worker, was still in residence at #45 Bedell Street.

The 1937 Sanborn map (Figure 20) shows that the residential structures present in the project area in 1917 were still standing. However, the James Manee house, which would have stood at the corner of Amboy Road and Penton Street, on the lots excluded from the project area, had apparently been demolished between 1917 and 1937 and replaced by four brick buildings. By 1937 most of the outbuildings shown on the earlier maps had been demolished and automobile garages constructed on most of the properties.

Most of the additional houses which stood in the project area prior to the recent demolition were apparently constructed between 1917 and 1937. These include the structures at #85, #83 and #81 Bedell Street; #16 Gilbert Place and an adjacent greenhouse; #14, #15, #17 Penton Street (which had been laid out during this period); and #6414-16 Amboy Road. An extension had apparently been added to the south side of the Cole House (#6388 Amboy Road) during this period. This extension (#6390 Amboy Road) apparently contained a store.

The 1951 Sanborn Map (Figure 21) indicates that only one major structure, at 25 Penton Avenue, was built within the project area between 1937 and that year. A one story extension had also been added to the rear of #45 Bedell Street during this period.

The structure at #6414~16 Amboy Road, built between 1917 and 1937 is not shown on the 1988 project area topographic map and it may have been demolished between 1951 and the latter year. D. Analysis of Archaeological Sensitivity - Historic Period

The documentary research indicates that occupation of the project area began in the second quarter of the 19th century. This occupation was part of the initial development of the Pleasant Plains community which was stimulated by the growth of the Princes Bay oyster industry.

Table 1 summarizes the probable construction dates of the various structures which stood in the project area as indicated by the research. One of the structures may have been built as early as 1828 and was occupied by several generations of Manee family oystermen. At the beginning of its history, this building may have served as a farmhouse. This structure could have been located at #6398, #6408 or #6378 Amboy Road (the latter location being north of the project area). The data indicate that its most likely location was at #6398 Amboy Road.

Two other structures (#6388 and #6420 Amboy Road) were built during the 1840's. It is possible that the occupants of these latter structures were also involved in the oyster industry.

Two additional structures (#45 and #37 Bedell Street) were probably built between 1859 and 1874, and two others (#6408 Amboy Road and #31 Bedell Street), between 1874 and 1898.

Archaeological deposits associated with these structures could provide information on the way of life of the early inhabitants of the Princes Bay community, including dietary data, and on economic relationships with New Jersey and New York City.

In addition, it should be noted that the project area residents included members of the Manee family and others affiliated with this family by marriage. The Manee family were farmers and oystermen of Huguenot descent. It is interesting to note that one of the major archaeological projects undertaken in the western portion of Staten Island was concerned with the Black oystermen's community in Sandy Ground (Askins 1980, 1982; Schuyler 1974). Archaeological material from the project area could provide interesting comparative data indicating similarities and differences in the material culture of the Black oystermen and the native white Staten Island oystermen.

The above considerations indicate that the most sensitive portions of the project areas would be those in the vicinity of the structures which stood at #6420, #6408, #6398, and #6388 Amboy Road and at #45 and #37 and #31 Bedell Street, especially the areas to the rear of these structures. The other structures which stood within the project area were constructed during the first half of the 20th century. Significant archaeological deposits probably would not be associated with these structural sites.

It should be noted that the project area includes land now

Table 1

Probable Construction Dates for Project Area Structures

(See Figure 21)	Owners/Occupants	Probable Date Constructed
6388 Amboy Road	Wood/Cole	1840's
6398 Amboy Road	W. Manee/W. Manee II/C. Manee	ca. 1828
6408 Amboy Road	G. Manee	1874-1898
6414-6416 Amboy Road		1937-1951
6420 Amboy Road	Williams/Forrester/Decker	1840's
85 Bedell Street		1917-1937
83 Bedell Street		1917-1937
81 Bedell Street		1917-1937
45 Bedell Street	Graff (after 1894)	1859-1874
37 Bedell Street	Totten (ca. 1874)	1859-1874
31 Bedell Street	·	1874-1898
16 Gilbert Place		1917-1837
24 Gilbert Place		1910-1917
38 Gilbert Place		1910-1917
25 Penton Street		1937-1951
17 Penton Street		1917-1937
15 Penton Street		1917-1937
14 Penton Street		1917-1937

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located immediately west of Gilbert Place which was formerly included in properties fronting on Sharrott Avenue. Maps indicate that structures were present on these properties as early as the 1850's (see Figures 11 and 12). However, the portion of these properties within the project area is located some 200 feet to the rear of the structural sites. Any archaeological deposits associated with the structures would almost certainly be situated east of the project area. Therefore, these portions of the project area are not considered sensitive for historic period archaeological deposits.

Archaeological deposits associated with the 19th century house sites noted above could be in the form of surface middens, representing refuse discarded prior to the institution of garbage collection. Deposits could also be found in "features" such as privies, cisterns and or wells associated with residential structures. Such features could contain artifacts lost during their period of use. In addition, they were often used to dispose of domestic refuse after their period of primary use ended. In general, this occurred after public water supply lines became available or after old features were abandoned and new ones dug. The 1898 Sanborn map (Figure 14) indicates "no water facilities" in the project area. However, the Robinson atlas dating to the same year (Figure 13) shows water pipes in Amboy Road, Bedell Street and Sharrott Avenue. This suggests that the public water supply was installed during the late 1890's. Features would typically be located to the rear of the houses.

Due to structural demolition, soil and debris have been spread over much of the sensitive portions of the project area. It was not possible to assess the extent to which former ground surfaces which may contain midden deposits may exist beneath this debris, or to detect the location of possible archaeological "features."

Observation suggests that much of the former ground surface in the area to the rear of the former structures fronting on Amboy Road, where midden deposits and features would most likely be located, probably has not been removed, but rather covered over by soil and debris. Approximately 100 feet south of Amboy Road and 75 feet north of Bedell Street, we noted the presence of a depression, with standing water visible (Plate 10). The sequence of soil strata appears to include approximately a foot of soil deposited during demolition and a thin layer of darker soil, followed by concrete and other rubble, with water underlying the concrete. The maps examined do not indicate the presence of a structure at this location, and the depression could indicate the presence of a feature, such as a cistern, at this location which has prevented the drainage of water.

It is not certain where the "features" associated with the 19th century occupation #45 Bedell Street would have been located. It is possible that these were at the location of the one story 20th century addition to the rear of this structure. It is not known whether this addition had a basement, which would have lead to the truncation or complete removal of the features. Remains of such features could be present beneath the structural demolition debris. The area to the rear of the structure appears to be relatively undisturbed.

Observation of the properties at #37 and #31 Bedell Street suggests that demolition has probably removed much of the former ground surface on large portions of these lots. However, northeast of the former location of #45 Bedell Street, we noted the presence of what appears to be a portion of the foundation of a small outbuilding, or other type of feature. The walls appear to be constructed of cut and uncut fieldstone set in mortar (Plate 11). Disturbance of this wall may have occurred due to the construction of a later, concrete block wall, on its interior. This feature appears to be at the approximate location of a small structure shown on the 1911 topographic map (Figure 17). Its location places it in the northwest corner of the property associated with #37 Bedell Street and just east of the #45 Bedell Street property.

Examination of the surface in the vicinity of the demolished structure at #45 Bedell Street indicated the presence of shell and a kaolin smoking pipe stem fragment. Shell and cinder was also noted at one location east of the area covered by soil and demolition debris which adjoins Amboy Road. While this material may not be $\underline{in} \underline{situ}$ it suggests that deposits of artifacts associated with the occupation of the structures may be present in these areas and could be relatively undisturbed beneath soil deposited during the structural demolition.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this Stage Ia archaeological survey indicate that portions of the Amboy/Bedell Shopping Plaza project area may contain possibly significant archaeological resources. Such resources would be associated with occupations of the area dating to the second quarter through the end of the 19th century and could provide information concerning the development and growth of the Pleasant Plains community. As discussed in Chapter III such deposits could also provide information which could be analyzed in conjuction with that obtained from other Staten Island archaeological investigations. Archaeological resources could be contained within midden deposits and/or subsurface archaeological "features" which could remain intact beneath soil and debris deposited during recent demolition activities on the property.

Portions of the property may also have been suitable locations for prehistoric campsites. Much, but not all, of this area would have been disturbed by residential construction during the 19th and 20th centuries.

We recommend that a program of subsurface testing be undertaken to determine whether or not possibly significant deposits are present on the property. The portions of the property to be examined are those in the vicinity of structures which formerly stood at #6388, #6398, #6408 and #6420 Amboy Road and #45 Bedell Street, as well as the rear portion of the lot associated with #37 Bedell Street. Such testing should utilize power equipment (i.e. backhoe) in conjunction with manual testing. The first step would be to place shovel tests in portions of these areas, principally at the rear of the structural sites, where midden deposits could be located. Where necessary, the backhoe would be used to clear demolition debris and overburden which may cover former ground surfaces in areas to be tested. Shovel testing, particularly in the ridge area at the rear of #45 Bedell Street, would also detect any prehistoric deposits which may remain intact.

Where the above testing does not detect midden deposits, the backhoe should be used to completely remove the debris, overburden and any underlying topsoil to expose remains of any 19th century subsurface features which may be present. Excavation of any such features during the recommended testing should be undertaken only so far as necessary to determine that artifact deposits are, in fact, present within the features. Further evaluation of such deposits would be undertaken during future phases of work.

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FIGURES

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Base Map: Hagstrom 1984 Scale: 1" = 2000'

Figure 2 - Key

Prehistoric Sites and Finds - Western Staten Island

1 - Wards Point Conservation Zone (Jacobson 1980; Florance 1982)
2 - Shovel Test Finds (Pickman and Yamin 1984)
3 - Shovel Test Finds (Pickman 1988)
4 - Shovel Tests (Winters 1985)
5 - Page Avenue Sites (Anderson 1965, 1966; Kaeser 1966)
6 - Finds along Kreisherville Beach (Anderson 1967)
7 - Port Mobil/Charleston Beach (Kraft 1977; Salwen 1968)
8 - Smoking Point (Rubertone 1974; Silver 1984)
9 - Chemical Lane/Pottery Farm (Rubertone 1974)
10 - Harik's Sandy Ground (Lavin 1980)
11 - Wort Farm (Williams 1968)
12 - Sharrott Estates (Cotz <u>et</u> <u>al</u> . 1985; Lenik 1987)
13 - Sandy Brook (Lenik 1987; Yamin and Pickman 1986a)
14 - Sites in Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve (Yamin and Pickman 1986b)
15 - Canada Hill (Williams 1967)
16 - "Surfside Village" Survey Finds (Roberts and Stehling 1987)
17 - Shovel Test Finds (Pickman and Yamin 1984)
18 - Red Bank (Skinner 1909)
19 - Sharrott Avenue (Skinner 1909)
20 - Richmond Valley/Boiling Spring (The New Bulletin 1961; Leng and Davis (1930).
21 - Shovel Test Finds (Pickman 1988c)

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Figure 3 Source: Bolton 1922, Map # 1

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Figure 9 Source: Dripps 1850 Scale: 1" = ca. 1000'



Figure 10 Source: Butler 1853 Scale of Original: 1" = ca. 1450'



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Figure 11 Source: Walling 1859 Scale: 1" = ca. 660'

/ 🖾 Sharrot K Bed 23/4 ac. INS STATION Mr Marsh Z Mrs. Mrs. Doty J.Be PL J.Manee C.Cole -& c.cole **FNA** Manee 5 Z, Laforge W. Manee 1000 Touren J. Seguine ForresterEst 1223 0 P C. and the second second Contraction of the second

Figure 12 Source: Beers 1874:28 Scale of Original: 1" = ca. 400'





Figure 13 Source: Robinson 1898:21 Scale of Original: 1" = 400'







Figure 15 Source: Robinson 1907:21 Scale of Original: 1" = 400'



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Figure 17 Source: Borough of Richmond 1911:Sheet 89 Scale: 1" = 150'

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Figure 18 Source: Bromley 1917:33 Scale of Original: 1" = 200'









PLATES

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Plate 2 Area of Demolition East of Amboy Road View North from Bedell Street



Plate 3 Northern End of Demolition Area East of Amboy Road Showing Recent Vegetation View North



Plate 4 #45 Bedell Street - Demolition Debris Undisturbed Area to Rear of Structure in Background View North



Plate 5 #45 Bedell Street - View Upslope to Top of Knoll Showing Soil Deposited Over Undisturbed Ground Surface View East



Plate 6 Lower Area West of #45 Bedell Street Disturbed by Demolition of Outbuilding View West



Plate 7 Area of East of #45 Bedell Street Disturbed by Demolition of #37 and #31 Bedell Street View Southeast



Plate 8 Area of East of #45 Bedell Street Disturbed by Demolition of #37 and #31 Bedell Street Mound of Earth Deposited by Demolition in Background View West from Gilbert Place



Plate 9 Area of Structural Demolition South of Penton Place View Northeast



Plate 10 Depression in Demolition Area Near Corner of Amboy Road and Bedell Street View West



Plate 11 Southeast Corner of Foundation or Feature Wall East of #45 Bedell Street View Southeast

