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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTARY STUDY  
BLOCK 6539, LOTS 8 AND 64  
BOROUGH OF RICHMOND  
CEQR #93-009R

by  
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Submitted To  
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793

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
	A. Procedures	1
	B. Study Area Description	2
II.	DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH - PREHISTORIC PERIOD	3
	A. Prehistoric Sites and Finds in the Wolf's Pond/Arbutus Lake Area	3
	B. Other Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western Staten Island	5
III.	DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH - HISTORIC PERIOD	11
	A. Historical Overview - Huguenot Area	11
	B. Site History	13
	3. Early - Mid 20th Century	17
IV.	ANALYSIS OF SENSITIVITY AND CONCLUSIONS	19
	A. Prehistoric Period	19
	B. Historic Period	19
	C. Conclusions and Recommendations	20
	REFERENCES CITED	20

### FIGURES AND PLATES - FOLLOWING TEXT:

#### Figures:

Figure 1a	-	Project Location Map
Figure 2	-	Block/Lot Map
Figure 3	-	Davis' "Ye Olde Names and Nicknames" Map
Figure 4	-	Skinner Site Location Map
Figure 5	-	Bolton Site Location Map
Figure 6	-	Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western Staten Island - Key
Figure 6	-	Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western Staten Island
Figure 7	-	Skene Map of Staten Island Patents
Figure 8	-	1781 Taylor and Skinner Map
Figure 9	-	1780-83 "French Map"
Figure 10	-	1797 Sprong and Connor Map
Figure 11	-	1850 Dripps Map
Figure 12	-	1853 Butler Map
Figure 13	-	1859 Walling Map
Figure 14	-	1860 Higginson Map
Figure 15	-	1874 Beers Map
Figure 16	-	1887 Beers Map
Figure 17	-	1894 Subdivision Map
Figure 18	-	1898 Robinson Map
Figure 19	-	1907 Robinson and Pidgeon Map
Figure 20	-	1910 Sanborn Map
Figure 21	-	1911 Borough of Richmond Topographic Map



Figure 22 - 1917 Bromley Map  
Figure 23 - 1917 Sanborn Map  
Figure 24 - 1937 Sanborn Map

Plates:

Plate 1 - Project Site Lot 64 - View Northwest  
Plate 2 - Lot 64 - View North  
Plate 3 - Lot 64 - Ground Surface Detail  
Plate 4 - Lot 64 - Western Boundary  
Plate 5 - Lot 64 Cut Banks  
Plate 6 - Lot 64 Cut Banks Detail  
Plate 7 - Lot 64 Cut Banks Detail  
Plate 8 - Lot 64 and East Portion Lot 8 - View South  
Plate 9 - Lot 8 Swale Area - View West  
Plate 10 - Lot 8 Swale Area - View East  
Plate 11 - Fill Adjacent to Huguenot Avenue

## I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological documentary study of a proposed construction site in the Huguenot Beach section of Staten Island (see Figures 1 and 2). The site is designated as block 6539, lots 8 and 64 on the present Borough of Richmond tax map. This block is bounded by Chester, Huguenot, Edith and Swaim Avenues and is located one block north of the Raritan Bay shore. The proposed project will involve the construction of two single family homes with septic tanks.

The site consists of an "L-shaped" tract consisting of approximately 0.65 acres. The shore arm of the "L" (lot 64) has a frontage of some 46 feet along Chester Avenue and 154 feet along the line of Swaim Avenue, which has not yet been opened at this location. The longer arm of the "L" has an approximately 60 foot frontage on Huguenot Avenue and extends eastward from the latter street for some 286 feet to the line of Swaim Avenue (see Figure 2).

The objective of this study 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 and possible locations for subsurface testing.

### 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 known 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 substantial land modifications which have occurred in this portion of Staten Island in recent years, and many of the sites no longer exist. However, a number of 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 laws and regulations.

Since the identification of known archaeological sites has not resulted from 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 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 relevant deeds on file in the Richmond County Clerk's office as well as the records of the United States census.

A pedestrian reconnaissance of the project area was conducted by the principal investigator on January 21, 1993.

#### B. Study Area Description

The project site is located one block north of the Raritan Bay shoreline. The shoreline and adjacent beach zone is bordered by a bluff the top of which is some 15-20 feet above the high water. Arbutus Lake and Wolfe's Pond are located, respectively, ca. 1200 feet east and 2600 feet west of the project site. These are former tidal coves, now separated from the Bay, which were also formerly fed by fresh water streams.

The general grade of the land rises only slightly from the bluff-top to a point immediately north of the project site. At this point a hill rises steeply to an elevation some 45 feet above the grade of lot 8. Several houses are presently under construction on this hill, which is shown on several 19th and early 20th century maps including the 1911 Borough of Richmond topographic sheet (see Figures 11, 12 and 21 as well as Plates 1, 2, 4 and 8). The topographic map also shows a large pond, which is still in existence, immediately northeast of this hill as well as a second and somewhat larger hill northeast of this pond.

The land at the base of the hill comprises the east-west portion of the project site (lot 8). This consists of a low-lying swale area, which apparently traps water during the wet season. Standing water was present at the time of the pedestrian reconnaissance (see Plates 9 and 10), and an 1894 map (Figure 17) also shows standing water at this location. The 1911 topographic map (Figure 21) shows a depression at this location several feet below the grade adjacent on the east and south. Visual inspection indicates that this low-lying area continues west of Huguenot Avenue, which is apparently built on ca. 4-6 of fill as indicated on the 1911 topographic map (see also Plate 11).

The southernmost portion of the L-shaped project site (lot 64) is at a somewhat higher elevation than the swale area. However, pedestrian reconnaissance indicates that extensive ground disturbance has occurred in this portion of the site. Examination of a "bank" adjacent to the house standing on lot 66, which adjoins the west side of lot 64, as well as the area at the base of two trees located some 150 feet north of Chester Avenue indicates that ca. 2-3 feet of downcutting have occurred in this

area (see Plates 4-7). Examination of the ground surface in this area also suggests that the topsoil in this area has been stripped (see Plates 1-8).

Only some of the streets in the vicinity of the site which are indicated on recent maps and atlases have actually been opened. Shore Avenue, which is shown bordering the edge of the blufftop does not actually exist. Of the streets bounding block 6539, Huguenot and Chester Avenues exist as shown. Edith Avenue, which bounds the block on the north exists only as a single lane paved roadway which curves to the south. This southern extension is at the location of Swaim Avenue as shown on the maps. Swaim Avenue exists as a paved street south of Chester Avenue. It has not been opened between Chester Avenue and the hill north of the project site.

## II. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH - PREHISTORIC PERIOD

### A. Prehistoric Sites and Finds in the Wolfe's Pond/Arbutus Lake Area

The earliest report of evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the project site is provided by Davis' 1896 "Ye Olde Names and Nicknames" map. This map (see Figure 3) bears the notation "Indian Implements" in the area west of Arbutus Lake then known as "Bunker Hill" and the ponds located in the vicinity. Davis (1896:42) describes Bunker Hill as "a rather high conical hill at Huguenot west of Arbutus Lake." The description would appear to fit the hill located immediately north of the project site, although it could also refer to the larger hill to the northeast.

Skinner's (1909) map of sites (see Figure 4) shows sites at Wolfe's Pond and Seguine's Pond (located west of the present Lipsett Avenue (ca. one-half mile east of Arbutus Lake), as well as at Red Bank, now located on the Mount Loretto property. Skinner (1909:16) describes these sites, labeled #16 his map, as follows

16. Huguenot. A small shell-heap is located on the bluff overlooking the Bay, near Seguine's point. This is only a small shell-heap at a point where the Indians probably camped while fishing. A few tiny fragments of pottery and deer bones were found. A few small isolated heaps are near Prince's Bay.

Skinner's map does not show the site near Arbutus Lake which was indicated on the Davis map. Skinner states (1909:16) that

A site has been recorded on Bunker Hill, Huguenot, near Arbutus Lake, but this is an error. An arrow point or two have been found but there are no traces of occupation.

Bolton's (1922) site map (see Figure 5) shows two sites (#92 and #93) along the Prince's Bay/Raritan Bay shoreline west of the project area. Bolton's description of these sites states

At Princes Bay (92) there are cultivable grounds, a fine water supply, high banks and good fishing facilities and along the banks several deposits have been noted that determine the presence of the red man. At Seguine Point (93) there was a fishing camp.

Bolton's map shows another site (#94) along the shoreline east of the study area and south of the Woods of Arden.

In addition to the above referenced site maps there are other indications of prehistoric activity in the general vicinity of



the project site. A review of the catalog of the Museum of the American Indian conducted for a previous cultural resources study (Pickman and Yamin 1978) indicated "five arrowpoints and fragments" labelled "Huegunot Park." The Museum's catalog also includes "a grooved axe from Wolfe's Pond and a number of other artifacts labelled Prince's Bay; one arrowpoint..., five arrowpoint fragments.. and a steatite object with two circular notches" (Pickman and Yamin 1978:71).

In 1985 shovel testing was conducted along the western shore of Arbutus Lake in connection with the Oakwood Beach Sewer project (Pickman and Yamin 1984). Indications of prehistoric materials were recovered from two areas between Arbutus Avenue and the Lake shore (see Figure 6, #26 and #27). One of these areas was located on a small promontory south of the line of Edith Avenue. Three shovel tests at this location yielded a total of five chert lithic flakes. The second area was located on another promontory located between the lines of Chester and Yeomalt Avenues. A total of three lithic flakes were recovered from two of the three shovel tests placed in this area.

Testing for the Oakwood Beach project also detected indications of prehistoric activity at two other locations in the general vicinity of the project site. One of these was ca. two blocks north of the site, on the south side of Hylan Boulevard between Huguenot and Swaim Avenues (Figure 6, #28). A total of three flakes and a core fragment were recovered from three shovel tests placed within a fifteen foot radius approximately 100 feet east of Huguenot Avenue (Pickman and Yamin 1984). Another possible activity locus was located on a bluff overlooking the west side of Wolfe's Pond, near its head (Figure 6, #29). Three tests placed within a seven foot radius in this area yielded flakes.

Four other shovel tests along the west shore of Wolfe's Pond, placed further to the south and more widely separated than those discussed above also yielded flakes (Pickman and Yamin 1984).

#### B. Other Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Western Staten Island

The reported finds of prehistoric material noted above reflect the intensive utilization of the southwestern part of Staten Island by Native Americans during ca. 10,000 years of prehistory. Reported major sites and finds are noted on Figure 6 and briefly discussed below. The patterning of sites reflects the occupation and utilization of the shoreline areas of both Raritan/Prince's Bay and the Arthur Kill. Sites have been found along the bluffs overlooking the water, particularly where the shore is intersected by streams and tidal coves. In addition to the shoreline sites a number of inland sites have been reported. Most of these were located near the banks of former streams, ponds and/or marshes as indicated on historic period maps. The finds in the Huguenot Beach area fit this overall pattern. As noted previously Arbutus Lake and Wolfe's Pond were tidal coves prior

to the late 19th century. Examination of 19th and early 20th century maps indicates that the finds near Hylan Boulevard north of the project site were in the vicinity of several ponds which were formerly present in this area.

The largest of the known prehistoric sites on Staten Island 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 Oakwood Beach Water Pollution Control project (Pickman and Yamin 1984) led to the recovery of (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 6, #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 6, #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 6, #3). Subsequent 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 in this same area during the Oakwood Beach survey. (Figure 6, #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 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 6, #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 resulted in the recovery of artifacts from below beach margin peat deposits (Figure 6, #7). It is not certain whether these artifacts were deposited in situ 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 6, #6). It is possible that this material washed down from sites on top of the bluffs.

Further to the northeast, at Smoking Point, a site has been reported at the bluff edge near the mouth of a small stream and marshy tidal cove (Figure 6, #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).

Two inland sites, Chemical Lane and Pottery Farm, have been reported between Smoking Point and Arthur Kill Road (Figure 6, #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).

Another inland site has recently been detected in the Rossville area. The site, which appears to have been disturbed by historic period activity, is located some 1000 feet from the Arthur Kill, near the banks of a stream which formerly flowed into it (Pickman 1992). Material from the site, currently being analyzed, indicates a probable late Woodland affiliation.

Another reported site at Rossville, at the intersection of Huguenot Avenue and Arthur Kill road has yielded Middle Woodland artifacts (Anderson 1964). This site location is adjacent to another stream which empties into the Arthur Kill (see Figure 6, #24).

Bolton (1922:184) mentions the presence of scattered sites along Sandy Brook (which empties into Lemon Creek and eventually into Prince's 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 6, #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. Williams (1968:46-47) notes that the Wort Farm site probably served as a hunting camp "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 (Lavin 1980 - see Figure 6, #10). 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 6, #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 *et al.*). 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 6, #12), approximately 1/4 mile west of the Sandy Brook site has been excavated (Cotz *et al.* 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.

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 are located on knolls along the bluff tops bordering Tappan's Brook (Figure 6, #14).

The Canada Hill site (Figure 6, #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 6, #20) has been reported in Richmond Valley, south of the Canada Hill site (The New Bulletin, 1961). 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.

The area west of what is now Page Avenue was known locally as "Decker's Swamp" and "Sand Ridges" (Davis 1896, Leng and Davis 1930; Morris 1900 I). Morris (1900 I:378) notes that "these ridges were occupied by the Indians in old times". A 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 6, #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 6, #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).

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 6, #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.

Shovel testing south of Hylan Boulevard and west of Joline Avenue (Figure 6, #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).

### III. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH - HISTORIC PERIOD

#### A. Historical Overview - Huguenot Area

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.

In 1688, Richmond County, which had been established in 1683, was divided into four towns: Northfield, Southfield, Westfield, and Castleton (Historical Records Survey 1942). The study area lies within the boundaries of Westfield.

Maps dating to the late 18th century (see Figures 8-10) show that the area maintained a rural character, with widely spaced farmsteads along the shore as well along as the road which ran eastward from the Amboy Ferry (the present Amboy Road). However, a comparison of the two ca. 1780's maps (Figures 8-9) with one drawn in 1797 (Figure 10) shows an increase in the number of structures along Amboy Road between what are now Huguenot Road and Annadale Road. Leng and Davis (1930 VI:344) note that an inn called the "Sign of the Ship" was located at the corner of Amboy Road and Annadale Road. The inn is shown on the 1797 map (Figure 9). These structures represent the beginning of the small community which became known as Bloomingview and later as Huguenot.

Maps dating to the 1850's (Figures 11-13) show a continued increase in settlement in the area bounded by Huguenot Avenue, Amboy Road and Annadale Road. These maps indicate that by the mid-19th century community institutions had also been developed. A school house is shown on the north side of Amboy Road east of Huguenot Avenue. Further to the east, north of the intersection of Amboy Road and Arbutus Avenue, a structure labelled "Bloomingview House" is shown on the 1850 and 1853 maps (Figures 11 and 12). By 1859 the name of this structure had apparently been changed to the "Huguenot Institute" (see Figure 13). Leng and Davis (1930 II:652) indicate that this building functioned as a "store."

In 1850 "the Church of the Huguenots, a plain, but substantial church building was erected upon land donated by the Hon. Benjamin P. Prall" Clute (1877:261). The 1859 map shows the church located on the north side of Amboy Road, west of Huguenot Avenue. The establishment of the church led to the change in the name of this community from "Bloomingview" to "Huguenot" (Morris

1900 II:443).

During the early-mid 19th century, oyster planting joined agriculture as one of the chief Staten Island industries (Morris 1900 II:468) with Prince's Bay as a major oystering center.

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 oystermen on Staten Island. Seed oysters were brought from other areas, including Long Island and Chesapeake Bay and planted in Prince's Bay. By 1813 Prince's Bay oysters 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 pollution stemming from the dumping of 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). Due to its proximity to Prince's Bay, it can be assumed that the development of the oyster industry played a part in the growth of the Bloomingview/Huguenot community during this period.

Another stimulus to growth, starting in the 1850's, would have been the establishment of industrial activity at Seguine's Point, approximately one mile west of the project site. The first industrial operation, started in 1854, was a factory which processed palm oil and later manufactured candles. By the 1870's the Johnston Brothers had opened a dental supply manufacturing plant on this same Prince's Bay site. This operation merged with the S.S. White Company in 1881. At this time the plant employed approximately 100 persons. It continued in business until after World War II (Bayles 1887:739; Geismar 1985).

A further stimulus to growth was the opening of the Staten Island Steam Railroad from St. George to Tottenville in 1860, with Huguenot being one of the stations on the railroad (Leng and Davis 1930 I:267).

The mid-19th century maps indicate that the shoreline area continued to be sparsely occupied. However, the increased accessibility of the Huguenot shoreline area after the opening of the railroad apparently led to its development as a resort area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. By the turn-of-the-century period, Huguenot Beach attracted bathers from Manhattan, New Jersey and other portions of Staten Island. A 71 acre tract known as Richmond Beach, located east of Arbutus Avenue, had a 20-foot wide boardwalk and a miniature steam railroad (D'Angelo 1989). Morris (1900 II: 443) describes

Huguenot as a "station on the Staten Island Railroad... it is a travel-centre for Woodrow, Rossville and Richmond Beach."

The development of the shore in the Huguenot Beach area is shown on several maps dating to the late 19th and early 20th century period. The 1887 Beers map (Figure 16) shows several "fishing clubs" as well as Beasely's Hotel near the shore on the west side of Arbutus Avenue. The Excelsior Fishing Club property was leased to this organization by Lawrence Kerr (Richmond County Deeds Liber 202:311), who also owned the land within the project site (see below).

A major attraction in the area in the early 20th century was the "swanky" Terra Marine Hotel, a 100 room resort hotel which fronted Huguenot Beach (D'Angelo 1989). The hotel building is shown on maps beginning in 1894 (see Figure 17; also Figures 18-20). It was located on the shore immediately west of Huguenot Avenue, some 1 1/2 blocks south of the project site. These maps also show other hotels along the shoreline. Hotels near the Huguenot railroad station, approximately a mile from the shoreline, also provided lodging for tourists and borders attracted to the area by the beach attractions. It is assumed that these lodgings were less expensive than the shoreline facilities such as the Terra Marine Hotel. An 1886 advertisement (Judson 1886:158) for example, announces the reopening of the Huguenot Summer Resort and Hotel. It states that the hotel, which was located on the north side of Amboy Road west of Huguenot Avenue (see Figure 15), had "excellent accomodations for private parties and summer boarders" and that it was located "within three minutes walk of the station."

It should be noted that none of the facilities associated with the development of the area as a resort were located in or immediately adjacent to the project site.

## B. Site History

The Skene map, published in 1907 (see Figure 6) shows the boundaries of the various 17th and early 18th century land grants in the Prince's Bay/Arbutus Lake area. If this map is accurate, the study area would most likely be located within the boundaries of the land granted to Anthony Tice in 1693. A list of persons petitioning the colonial government in New York for land grants includes Anthony Tyce under the heading "south side" (Leng and Davis 1930 I:124). The early Staten Island records indicate that Anthony Tice had established residence on Staten Island as early as 1699. Tice was chosen as a supervisor for the West Division in that year and in 1703. He was chosen as a collector for the west precinct and in 1709 and as an assessor in 1713 (Historical Records Survey 1942).

can you pinpoint?

The first maps of southwestern Staten Island which show structures date to the last decades of the 18th century (see Figures 8-10). It should be noted that the major east-west road

shown on these maps north of the Prince's Bay shore is the Amboy Road. Two of the maps also show the tidal coves now known as Wolfe's Pond and Arbutus Lake. The road extending northward from Amboy Road east of Prince's Bay and between the lines of Wolfe's Pond and Arbutus Lake corresponds with the present Huguenot Avenue. The latter roadway was not extended south of Amboy Road until the late 19th century.

All three of these late 18th century maps show a house located near the shore west of Arbutus Lake. While the maps are not sufficiently accurate to permit the precise location of these structures, the two maps dating ca. 1780 (Figures 8 and 9) show the structure in the general vicinity of the project site, while the 1797 map (Figure 10) shows it somewhat closer to Arbutus Lake. *don't see on map*

*wt on fig. 9*

The ca. 1780 "French" map (Figure 9) which indicates the names of the property owners labels the structure "J. Androvat." Leng and Davis (1930 I:158) discuss a tax levied in 1766-1768 to "defray damages done by dogs in the County of Richmond". The appraisers of the damage for purposes of collecting the tax were "Lewis Duboye, Peter Housman, and John Andervat." In addition a cattle and sheep mark was recorded for a "Mr. John P. Andrivet" in 1761 (Historical Records Survey 1942:98). These data indicate that John Androvette (Andervat) had established residence on Staten Island as early as 1766. It is interesting to note that the ca. 1780s map (Figure 9) indicates that "M. Duboyd" was resident in the house immediately east of John Androvette.

The name of John Androvette is listed among Westfield heads of household in the Federal census of Richmond County for 1790. His household at that time consisted of only two persons, presumably Androvette and his wife.

The Androvette family continued to own land in the vicinity of the project site through the nineteenth century. However, the project site itself was part of a tract of 60 acres which Androvette sold to John Cole in 1799. We were not able to locate the deed recording this transfer, However it is referenced in a subsequent deed by which the executors of John Cole's estate sold the property to Abraham Cottrell on April 2, 1827 (Richmond County Deeds Liber P:40). The property is described as

all that certain farm or piece of land adjoining on the Bay about one mile easterly of Seguines Point described as follows Beginning at a stake in the southwest corner of Henry Parlees land thence running north 24 degrees west along the last mentioned land 39 chain and 80 links [2626.8 feet] to the line of land belonging to the estate of Philip Laforge deceased. Thence along said line south 78 degrees west 16 chain and 84 links [1111.44 feet] to land belonging to the estate of John Androvette deceased thence south 24 degrees east along the last mentioned land 40 chain and 40 links [2666.4 feet] to the bank and thence along the bank to the place of beginning containing sixty acres of land be the



[same] more or less being the same premises conveyed to the said testator by John Androvette and Charity his [wifel] by their deed dated May first 1799.

It should be noted that the distance from Seguines Point to the house of "J. Androvat" as indicated on the ca. 1780 map (Figure 9) is approximately one mile.

The census records suggest that John Cole resided on this property until his death in the 1820's. His name appears in the census for Westfield for 1800, 1810 and 1820 on the same page as Henry Parlee, John Androvette, and John and Jesse Wood, and his name adjoins Parlee's in the 1800 and 1810 census. Since the various deeds indicate that Parlee owned the adjoining property and that the other persons mentioned in the census records owned property in the immediate vicinity of the sixty acre tract, the census listings support the inference that Cole's residence was located on this tract.

Cole's household consisted of himself and his wife, with two children in 1800, three in 1810 and one in 1820. Cole had three slaves in 1800 and one in 1810 and 1820. The census for the latter year indicated that one member of the household engaged in agriculture, suggesting that the land was actively being farmed at this time.

The census index for 1830 does not include the name of Abraham Cottrell, who purchased the property from Cole's executors, which suggests that he did not reside on the property.

In 1835 the former Cole tract was transferred first by Abraham Cottrell to Henry Kneeland (Richmond County Deeds Liber X:259) and shortly thereafter by Kneeland to Luke Fay (Deeds Liber Y:321).

On May 1 1837, Luke Fay purchased a second 60 acre tract which adjoined the east side of the former Cole property on the east. Fay's estate thus totalled 120 acres after this transaction. This second piece of property was purchased from Eleanor Wood (Deed Liber 4:474). Fay is described in this deed as a "tallow chandler". The deed describes this second tract as "formerly the property of Henry Parlee, deceased. As noted above, Parlee's tract was cited as the eastern boundary of the former Cole tract.

This second 60 acre tract purchased by Fay was bounded on its east side partly by land of Jesse Wood and partly by a "pond" [Arbutus Lake]. The tract was bounded on the south by the beach and on the north by land belonging to Benjamin P. Prall (formerly owned by Phillip Laforge) and and by Israel and Henderson Journeay (formerly owned by Daniel Van Cleef).

Luke Fay apparently resided on and farmed his property. The 1840 census lists nine persons in the Fay household, apparently Fay, his wife and seven children. The census record indicates that two persons in the household were engaged in agriculture.

Luke Fay apparently died prior to 1850. The census for the latter year lists only Martha Fay, his widow, and two daughters as resident on the property.

Four maps published between 1850 and 1860 (see Figures 11-14) show structures in the vicinity of the project site. The property is labelled "Fay" or "Mrs. Fay" on these maps. The 1850 and 1853 maps show what appears to be the main structure located south of the smaller of two hills located in the area, with two other structures located to the east. The 1911 topographic map (Figure 21) as well as the pedestrian reconnaissance indicate that this hill is located immediately north of the project site.

The 1859 map (Figure 13) shows only one structure somewhat closer to Arbutus Lake than the main house as shown on the other maps. However, the configuration of the three structures as shown on the 1860 map (Figure 14) is approximately the same as that shown on 1850 and 1853 maps (Figures 11 and 12).

Although the latest of the four maps showing the property in the possession of Mrs. Fay is dated 1860, a deed dated December 1, 1859 (Deed Liber 45:108) indicates that Martha Fay, Luke Fay's widow, conveyed both of these tracts to William Fellows on that date.

It is uncertain if William Fellows ever resided on the property. The 1860 census lists William and Amelia Fellows as residing in a household with John and Deborah Egan. The other households listed by the census taker near the Fellows' residence suggest that he was not resident on the 60 acre tract at this time.

In 1863 Fellows sold the property to the estate of Alexander B. Barret (Deeds Liber 52:467) and on April 30, 1867 Virginia Barret sold the property to William H. Aspinwall (Liber 70:275).

The property boundaries as described in the 1859 and 1867 deeds as well as the maps and surveys of the property described below confirm indicate that the project site was, in fact, located within the bounds of the westernmost of the two 60 acre tracts comprising the Fay/Aspinwall property. ✓

The Beers map of 1874 (Figure 15) shows the William Aspinwall property in some detail, including the locations of several structures. The 120 acre tract described in deeds noted above corresponds with the portion of the Aspinwall property shown on the map between Broadway (the present Arbutus Avenue) on the east and the line of the tract labelled C.L. Androvette on the west. The small tract and structure between the Androvette tract and the Bay was not part of this tract and was separately acquired by Aspinwall. The three structures shown at the end of the Lane extending westward from Broadway appear to correspond with those shown on the maps dating 1850, 1853 and 1860. These structures would appear to be located ca. 100-250 feet east of the present line of Huguenot Avenue which ended at Amboy Road in 1874. These

structures appear to be located in the immediate vicinity of the project site. A more precise location with respect to the site can be determined with reference to the later maps discussed below.

It is uncertain if William H. Aspinwall resided on this property. Leng and Davis (1930 II:854) mention an individual by this name who was "a leader in developing trade with California...[and was included] "in the 'New York Sun's' 1846 list of wealthy citizens...his home near Fort Wadsworth was one of the sights of Staten Island even when only the picturesque, ivy covered tower remained." It is possible that Aspinwall acquired the Huguenot Beach property as a "second home," or possibly for real estate speculation purposes.

William H. Aspinwall died prior to May 5, 1881, since on this date the executors of his estate sold the 120 acre property previously acquired from Virginia Barret to Lawrence R. Kerr. (Deeds Liber 137:473). A new survey was apparently made prior to the date of conveyance. The western boundary of the tract was described in the deed as running north 20 degrees west 2604 feet along lands also owned by Aspinwall but "formerly of John Androvette, deceased." The northern boundary extended east for 2220 feet along lands owned by James Eddy, Benjamin P. Prall, Israel Journeay and Henderson Journeay to Broadway (now Arbutus Avenue). The tract's eastern boundary ran 3088 feet along Broadway to the Bay at the high water mark, with a frontage of 1830 feet along the Bay.

The 1887 Beers map (Figure 16) shows the property still in the possession of Lawrence Kerr with the same configuration of structures as shown on the 1874 map.

During the 1890's Lawrence Kerr subdivided most of the 120 acre tract discussed above. The subdivision, known as Lawrence Park, with the structures existing on the property at the time, is shown on a detailed subdivision map drawn in 1894 (see Figure 17). A similar configuration, with some minor differences is shown on the 1898 Robinson map (Figure 18). The block shown as #19 on these maps corresponds to the present block #6539. The streets shown as Fourth and Third Streets on these maps correspond with the present Chester and Edith Avenues, respectively. The street shown as Maple Avenue corresponds with the street shown as Swaim Avenue on current maps.

The subdivision map shows three structures on the southern portion of block #6539 and a single structure to the south, on the northeastern portion of block #24 (the present block #6532). The configuration and location of these structures suggest that they are the same ones shown on the maps dating between 1850 and 1887 discussed above. These maps as well as the subdivision map suggests that the structure located south of block #6539 was the dwelling house. The site of this structure as shown is partly within the route of Swaim Avenue and partly within the bounds of the lot on the northeastern corner of block #6532. The location

how  
so?

of the structure as shown would place it ca. 20-25 feet south of Chester Avenue and ca. 75 feet south of the project site. The front of the house would have almost certainly faced the Bay.

It should be noted that there is at present no visual evidence of a foundation at the house site. The portion of the site west of Swaim Avenue remains undeveloped (see Plate 3). However, ~~ground~~ the surface in this area is obscured by vegetation and also by soil which appears to have been dumped on this lot.

The three structures shown on the subdivision map on the southern portion of the block #19 (the present block #6539) would have been at the rear of the dwelling house and most likely represent barns or other outbuildings. The two lots labeled #25 and #26 on block #19 correspond with the present block 6539, lot #64 which forms a portion of the project site. The easternmost of the three outbuildings is largely located on this lot, extending slightly to the east into the line of Swaim Avenue. This structure would have been located ca. 50 feet north of Chester Avenue.

It should be noted that the 1898 map shows a fourth outbuilding located west of the three shown on the subdivision map.

A map dating to 1907 (Figure 19) indicates that the house and outbuildings noted above had been demolished. The former Lawrence Park subdivision was known in 1907 as Terra Marine Park and was owned by the Terra Marine Company which apparently also operated the Terra Marine Inn located southwest of the project site. Two structures had been constructed on the southern portion of block #6539 between 1898 and 1907. Neither of these were located within the project site. The easternmost structure, which is still standing, is located immediately adjacent to the western boundary of lot 64.

Maps dating to 1910 and 1917 (Figures 19-23) show that in addition to the two structures shown on the 1907 map, a third house, which is also still standing had been constructed immediately north of the project site. The 1937 Sanborn map (Figure 24) shows that a a third house had been constructed south of lot 8, but that no construction had occurred within the project site. The 1951 updated version of the 1937 map as well as the current site plan (see Figure 2) also indicate that no structures were built within the project site.

#### IV. ANALYSIS OF SENSITIVITY AND CONCLUSIONS

##### A. Prehistoric Period

The project site is located in a portion of Staten Island which should be considered sensitive for prehistoric activity. Although no major occupation sites have been reported in this area, the fish and shellfish resources of Raritan Bay, as well as the tidal coves located east and west of the study area would have attracted prehistoric inhabitants to this area for food procurement activities. The ponds located northeast and northwest of the project site would have attracted game and the adjacent high ground would probably have represented advantageous hunting camp sites.

Small shell heaps, which probably represent procurement stations, have been reported at several points along the bluff tops adjoining the Bay. The apparent flake concentrations reported in the vicinity of Arbutus Lake, Wolfe's Pond and other inland water sources may represent hunting camp loci. The lower-lying northern portion of the project site (lot 8) would probably not have been an attractive locus for such a camp. The most attractive hunting camp site in the immediate area would probably been the hill located just north of the project site. It is possible that the slightly higher ground located on lot 64 could have been the location of such camps. However, the downcutting of the surface which has apparently taken place would preclude the presence of intact prehistoric deposits.

##### B. Historic Period

Documentary research indicates that the project site was located within a tract of some 60 acres which was occupied during the nineteenth century and most likely also during the latter portion of the eighteenth century. The location of what appears to be a residential structure is indicated on the 1894 subdivision map approximately 20 feet south of Chester Avenue, partly within the present route of Swaim Avenue and partly within the bounds of block 6532. This location would place a portion of the house site some 75 feet south of the project site. This is most likely the same structure shown on maps dating from 1850 through 1887 and may be the structure shown on late 18th century maps.

An 1894 map shows a series of outbuildings north of Chester Avenue, one of which would have been located some 50 feet north of Chester Avenue, partly within the line of Swaim Avenue and partly on the easterly portion of block 6539, lot 64. It is likely that this building did not have a basement or deep foundation, as an examination of the disturbed ground surface in this area yielded no indications of this structure.



Artifact deposits associated with the historic period occupation would most likely be located in the immediate vicinity of the residential structure. They would be present in the form of surficial refuse middens and/or in deposits present in subsurface "features" such as cisterns, privies and wells. Such features are most often found at the rear of residential structures. If it is assumed that the structure shown on the 1894 map fronted on the Bay, the southern boundary of block 6539, lot 64 would have been located ca. 75 feet to the rear of the western portion of the dwelling. As noted above, the apparent downcutting of the surface of lot 64 which has occurred would have removed any surficial deposits. It is possible that features associated with the house could have been located within the project site. However, it is more likely that such features would have been located closer to the house which would place them south of the project site, either within the boundaries of block #6532 or beneath the Chester Avenue pavement. Examination of the stripped surface of block #6539, lot 64 did not indicate any evidence of sub-surface features.

### C. Conclusions and Recommendations

The research and analysis discussed above indicate that the low-lying portion of the project site (block 6539, lot 8) should be considered to have a low degree of sensitivity for the presence of possibly significant prehistoric and historic period resources. Prior to modern ground disturbance block 6539, lot 64 would have been considered moderately sensitive for the presence of such deposits. However, due to the downcutting of the ground surface of this lot as indicated by the pedestrian reconnaissance, now also has a low degree of archaeological sensitivity.

It is unlikely that there are any intact possibly significant archaeological remains within the project site. Therefore, it is unlikely that commitment of resources to archaeological field testing would result in the acquisition of significant information pertaining to the history or prehistory of the area and such testing is not recommended.

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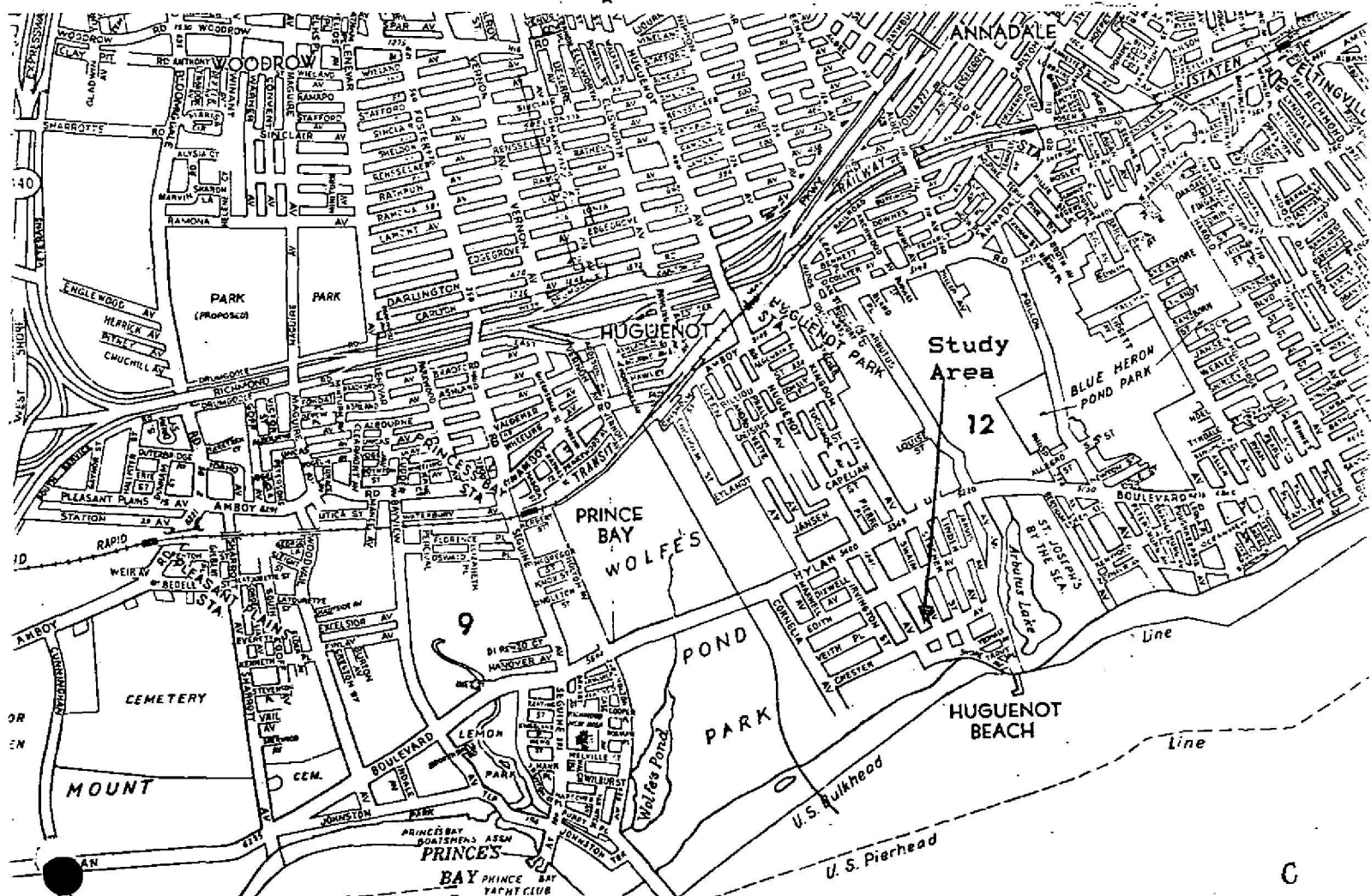
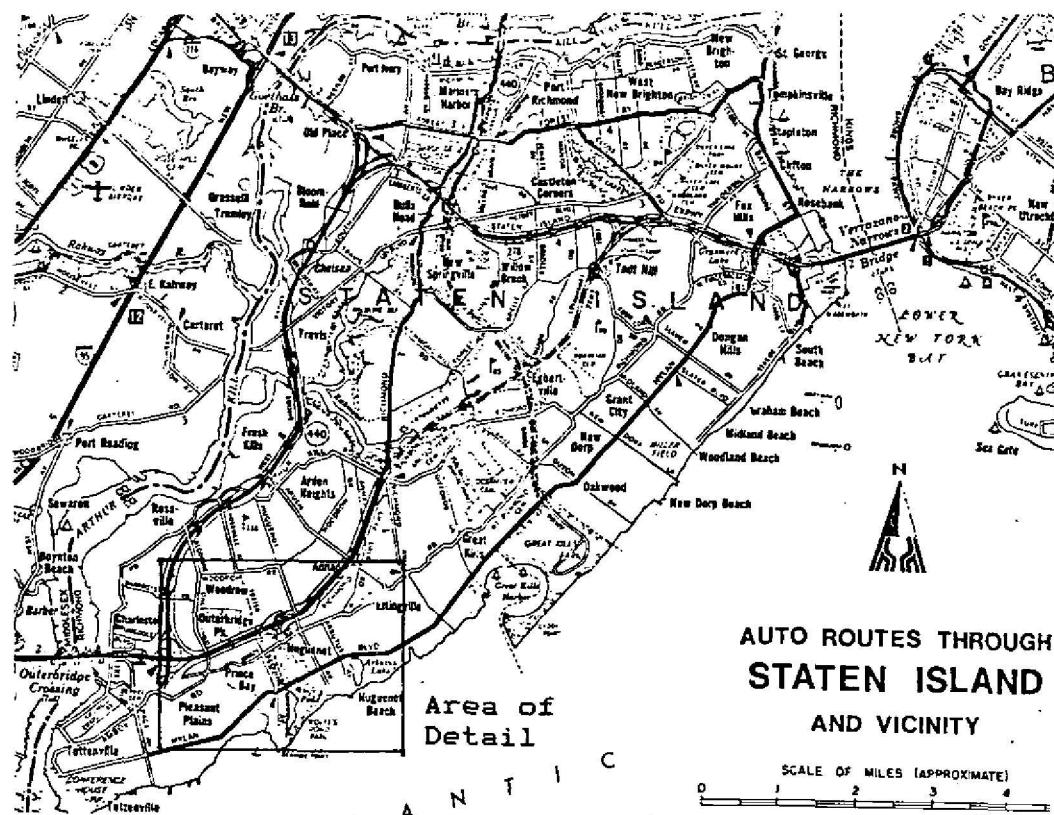
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Historic Preservation.



## FIGURES



**Figure 1.**  
**Project Location**  
 Base Map: Hagstrom 1984  
 Scale: 1" = 2000'



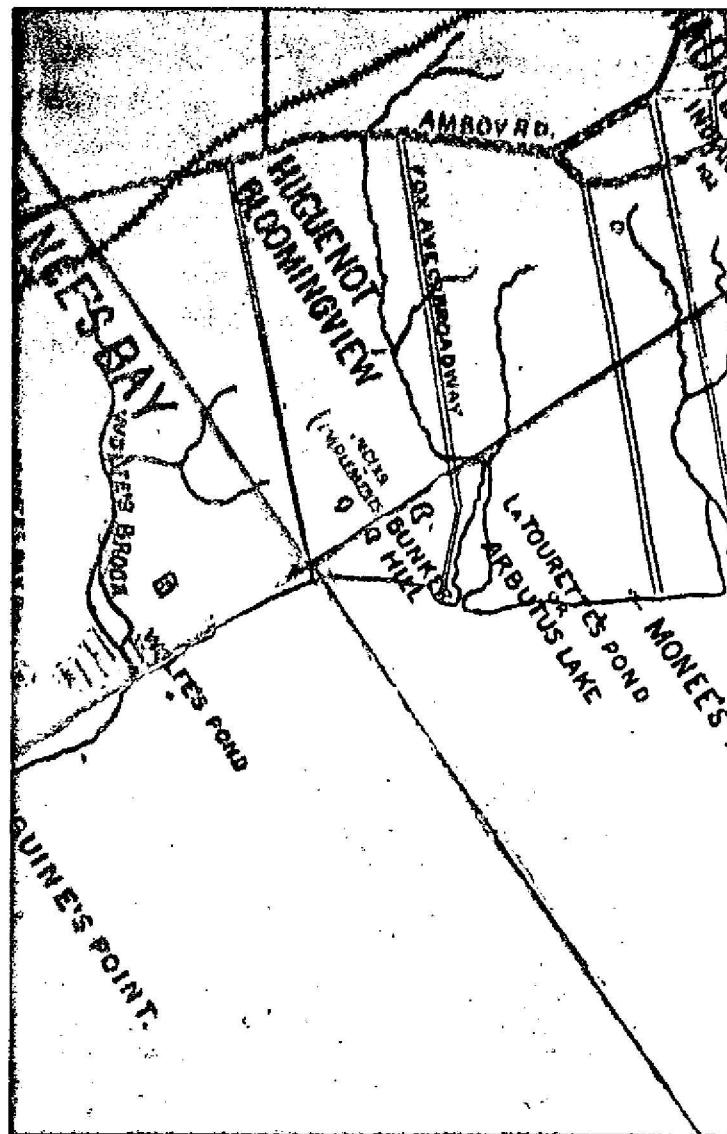


Figure 3  
Source: Davis 1896



Figure 4  
 Staten Island Prehistoric Sites  
 Source: Skinner 1909, following p. 62



Figure 5  
Source: Bolton 1922, Map # 1

Figure 6 - 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; Salven 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 et al. 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)
- 22 - Wolfe's Pond (Skinner 1909, Bolton 1922)
- 23 - Arbutus Lake (Davis 1896)
- 24 - Huguenot Avenue (Anderson 1964)
- 25 - Disturbed Late Woodland Site (Pickman 1992)
- 26 - Shovel Test Finds - Arbutus Lake Locus #1 (Pickman and Yamin 1984)
- 27 - Shovel Test Finds - Arbutus Lake Locus #2 (Pickman and Yamin 1984)
- 28 - Shovel Test Finds - Hylan/Huguenot Locus (Pickman and Yamin 1984)
- 29 - Shovel Test Finds - Wolfe's Pond Locus (Pickman and Yamin 1984)







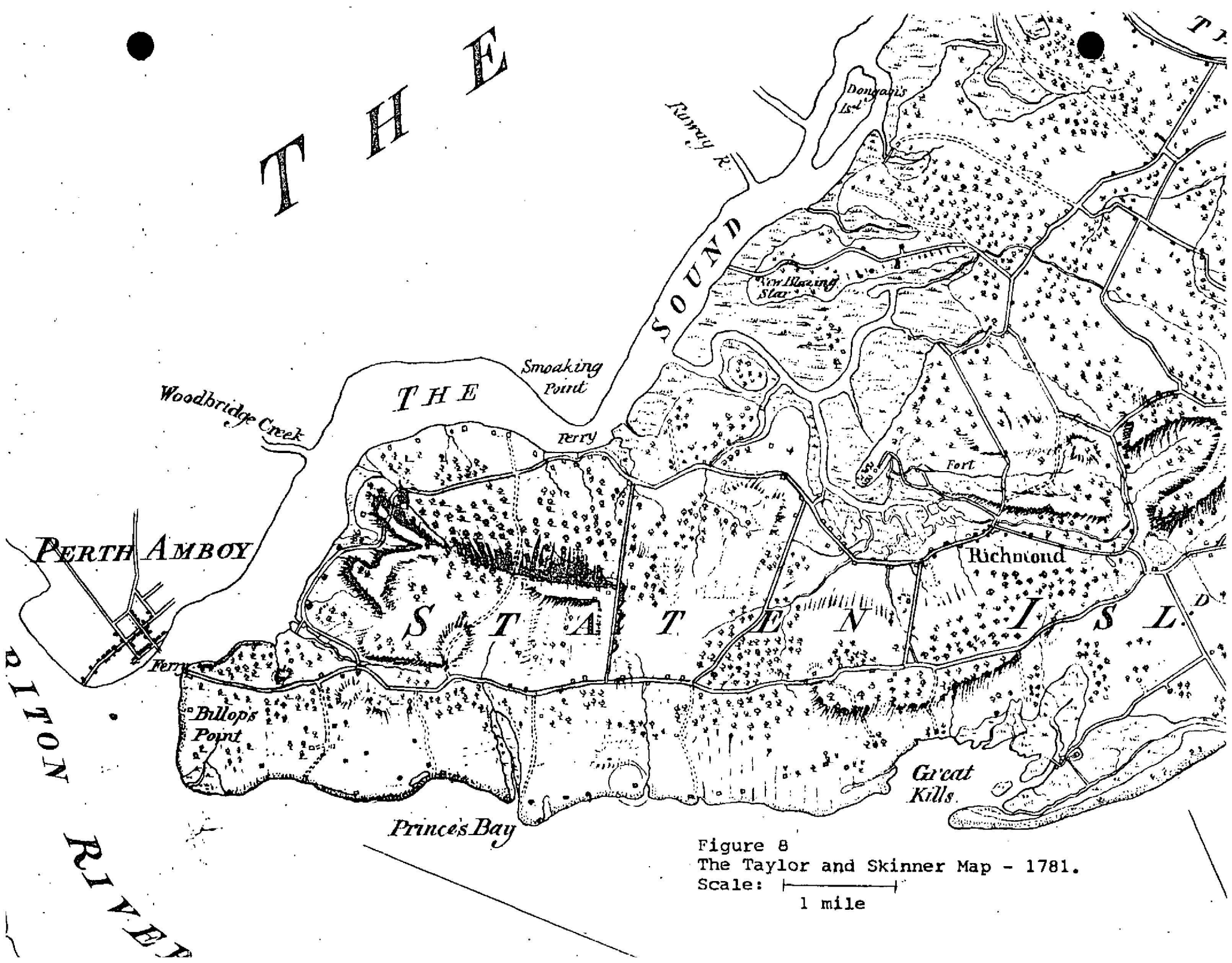


Figure 8  
The Taylor and Skinner Map - 1781.  
Scale: 1 mile



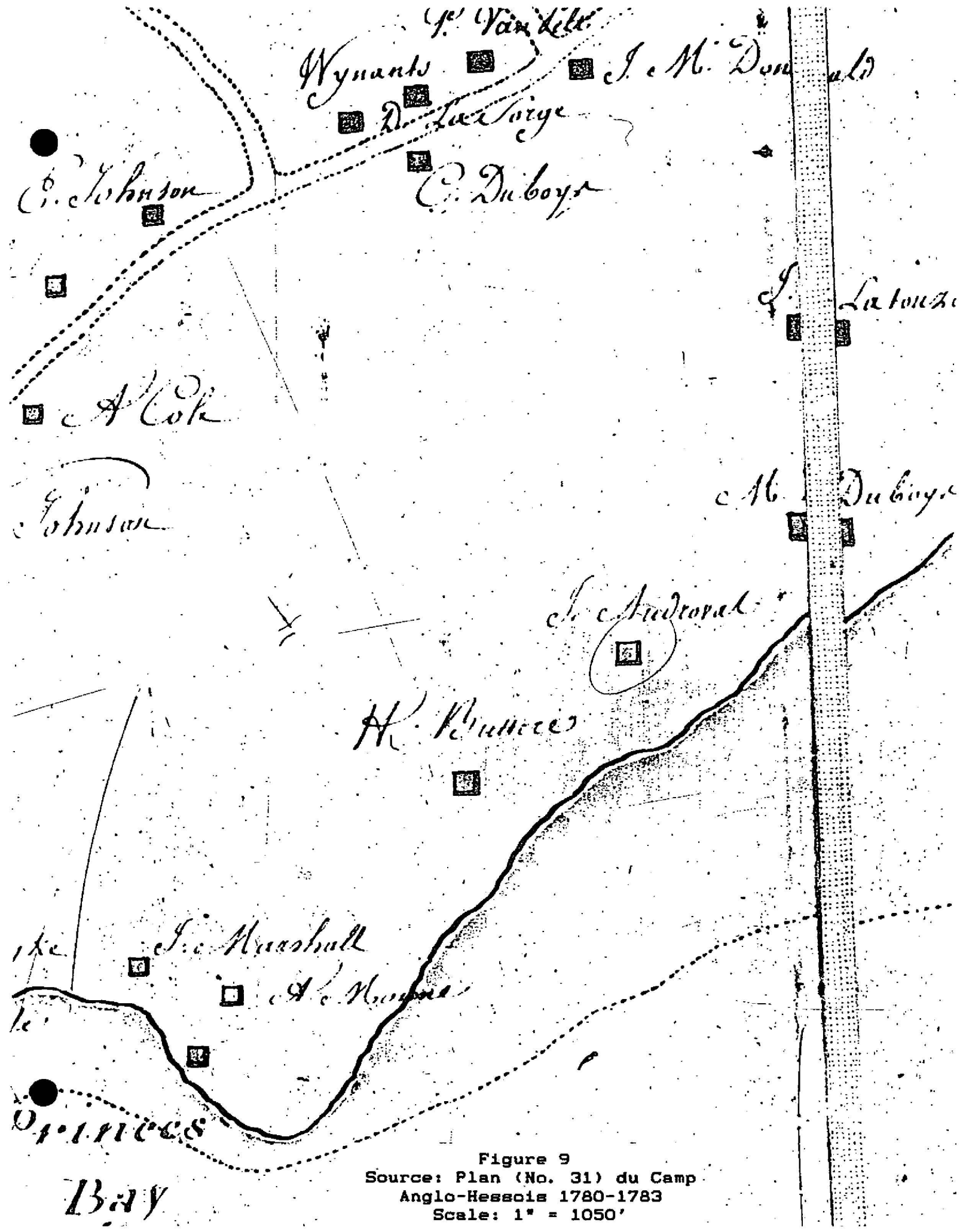


Figure 9  
Source: Plan (No. 31) du Camp  
Anglo-Hessois 1780-1783  
Scale: 1" = 1050'



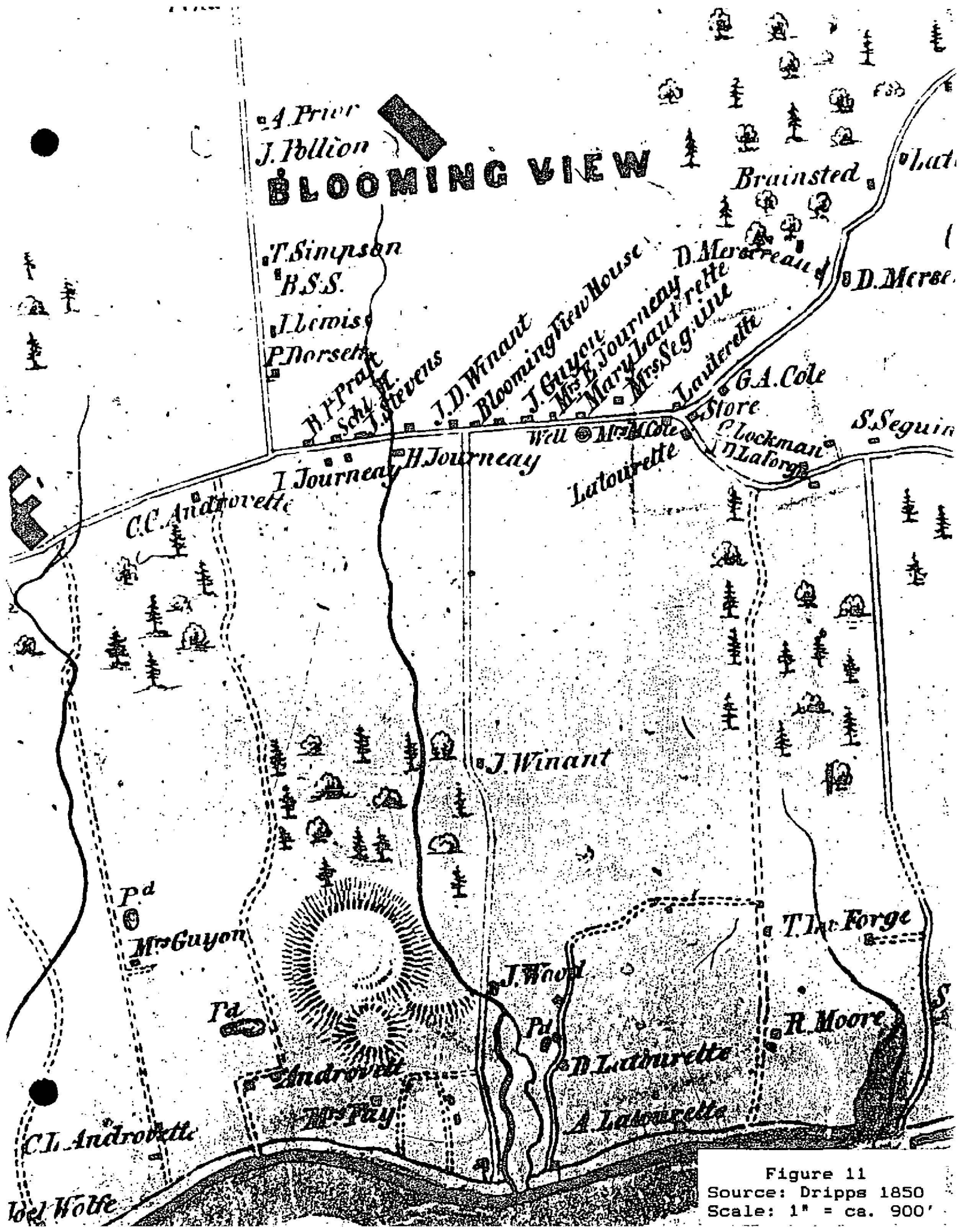


Figure 11  
Source: Dripps 1850  
Scale: 1" = ca. 900'





Figure 12  
Source: Butler 1853  
Scale of Original: 1" = ca. 1450'



Figure 12a  
Source: Butler 1853 - Detail





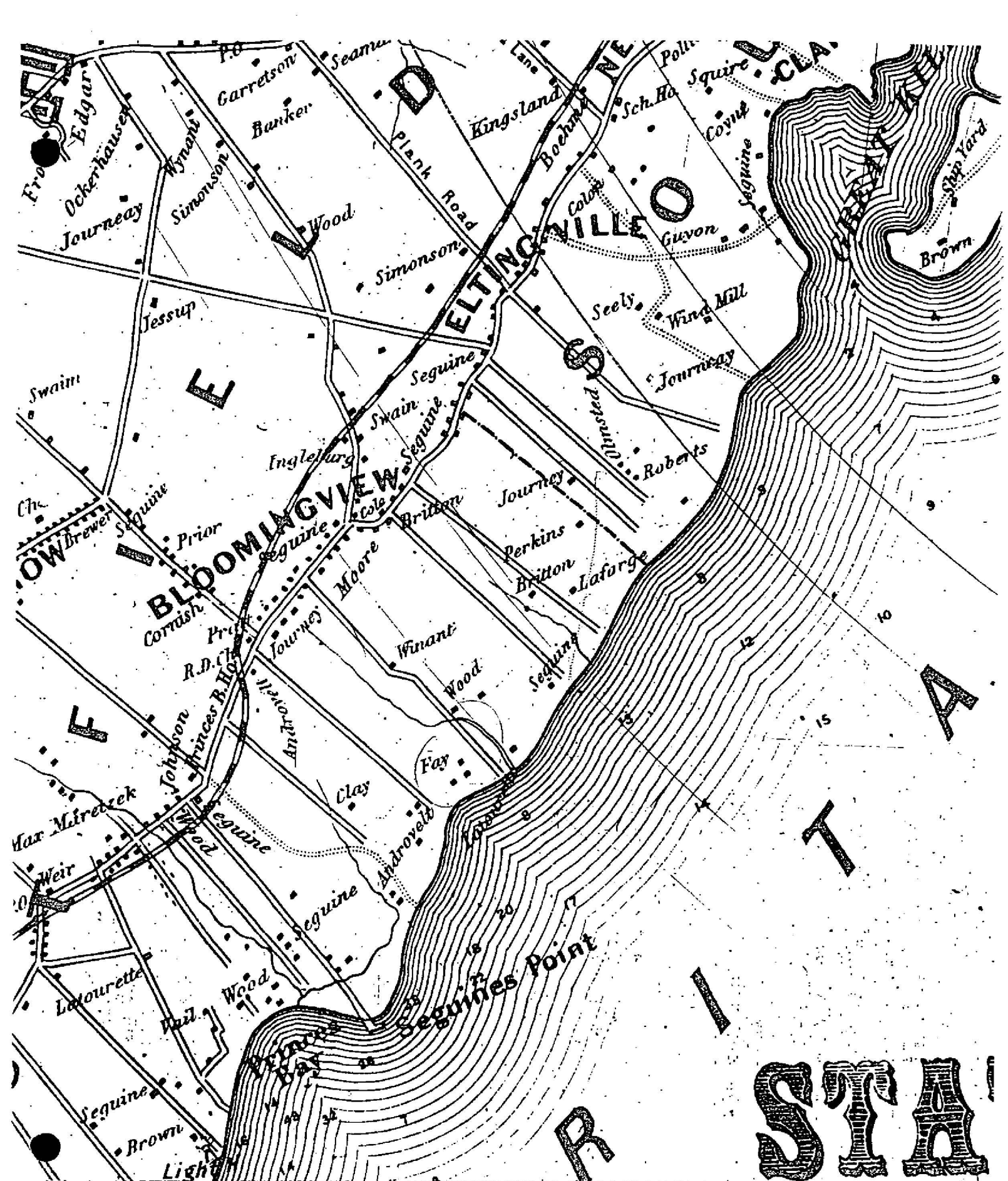


Figure 14  
Source: Higginson 1860  
Original Scale: 1" = 1 mile

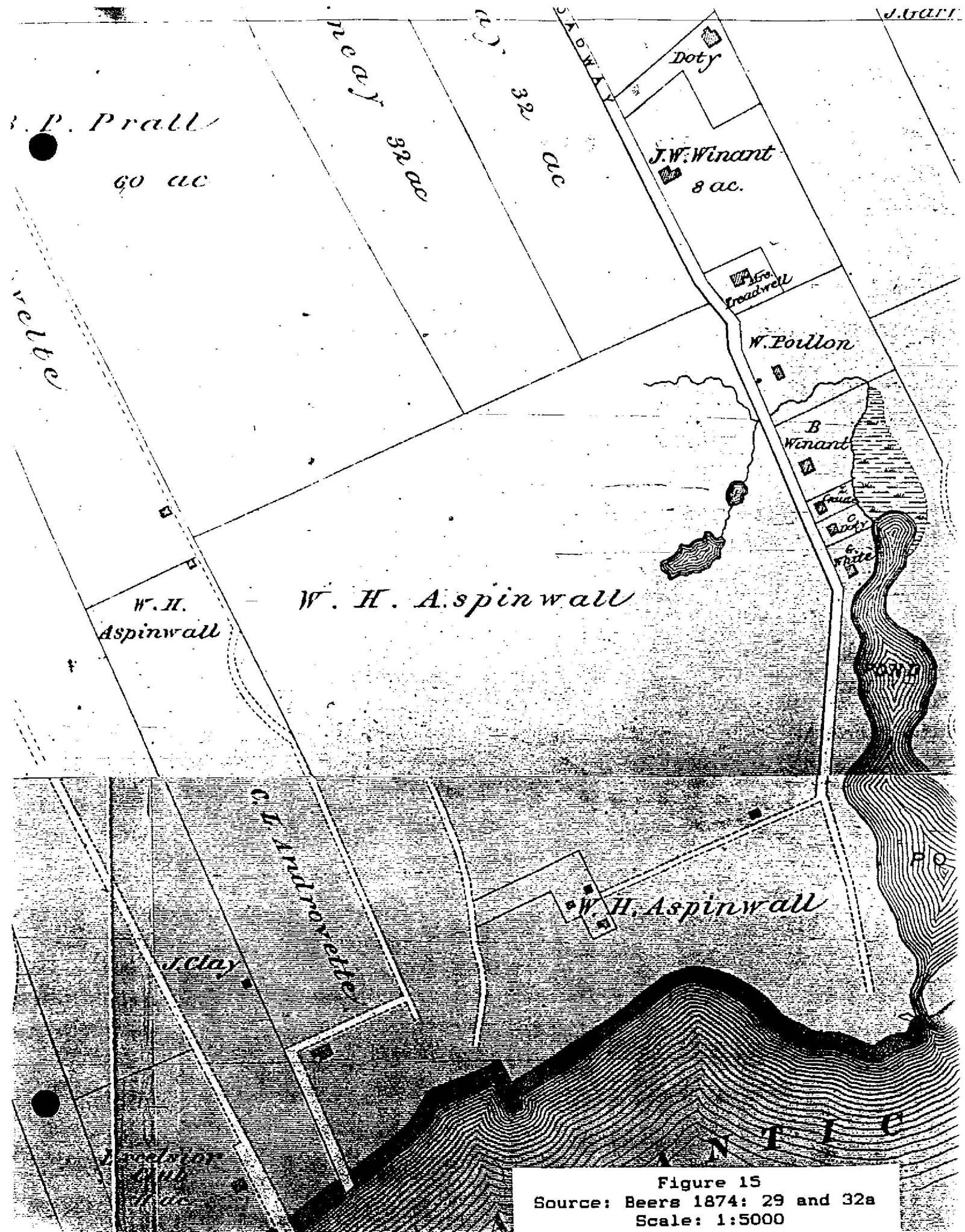


Figure 15  
Source: Beers 1874: 29 and 32a  
Scale: 1:5000





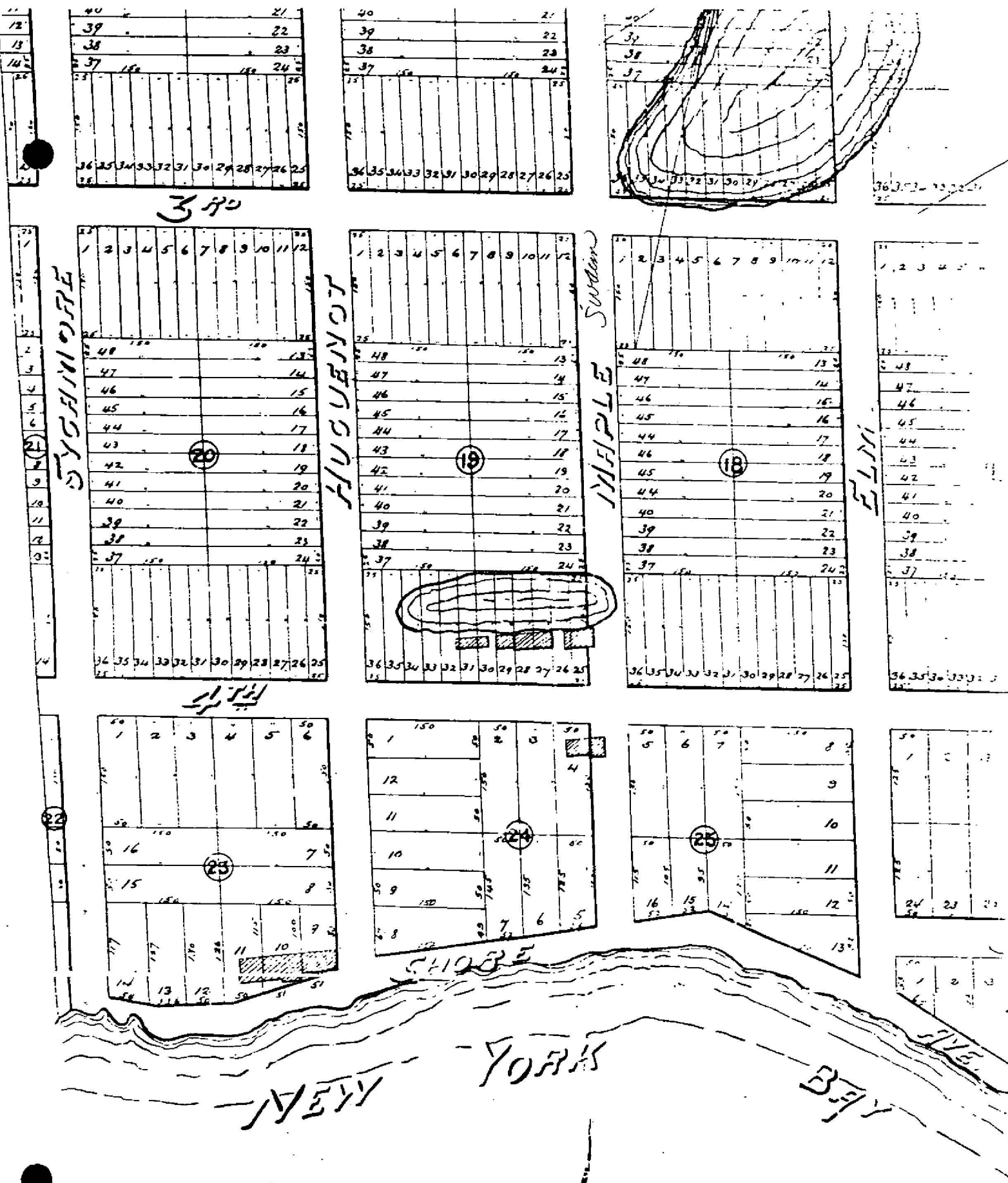


Figure 17  
 Lawrence Park Subdivision Map  
 Hastings 1894  
 Scale 1" = ca. 165'







Figure 19  
Source: Robinson and Pidgeon 1907:20  
Scale of Original: 1" = 400'

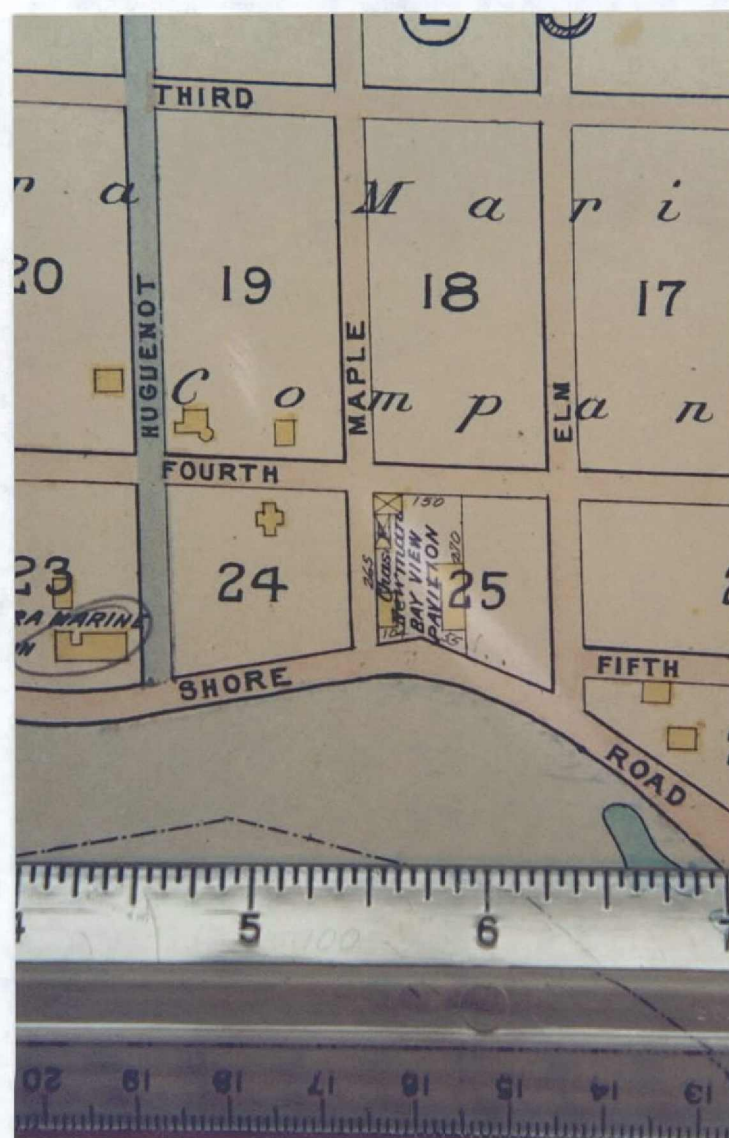


Figure 19a  
Source: Robinson and Pidgeon 1907:20 - Detail



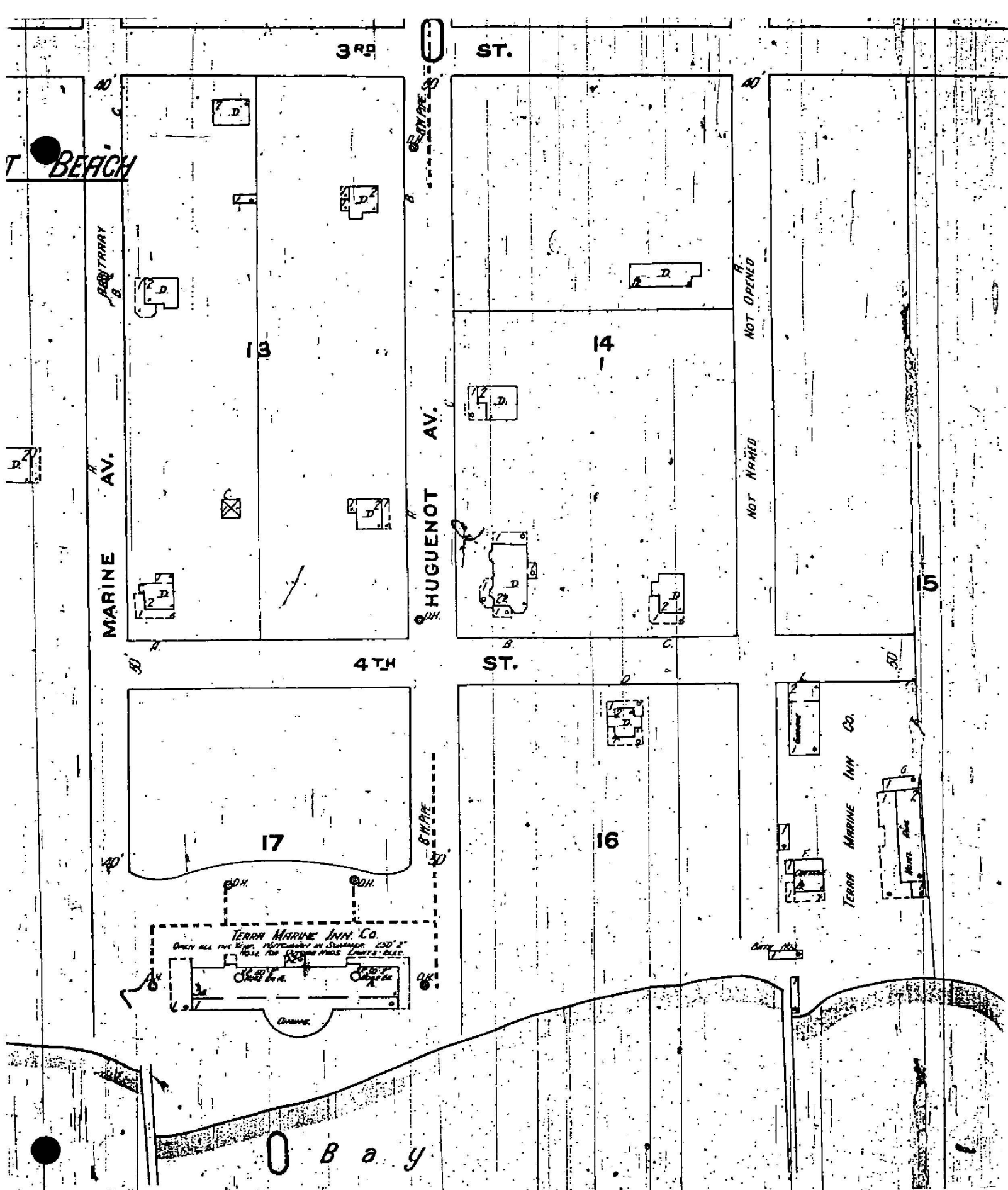


Figure 20  
Source: Sanborn 1910  
Scale: 1" = 125'

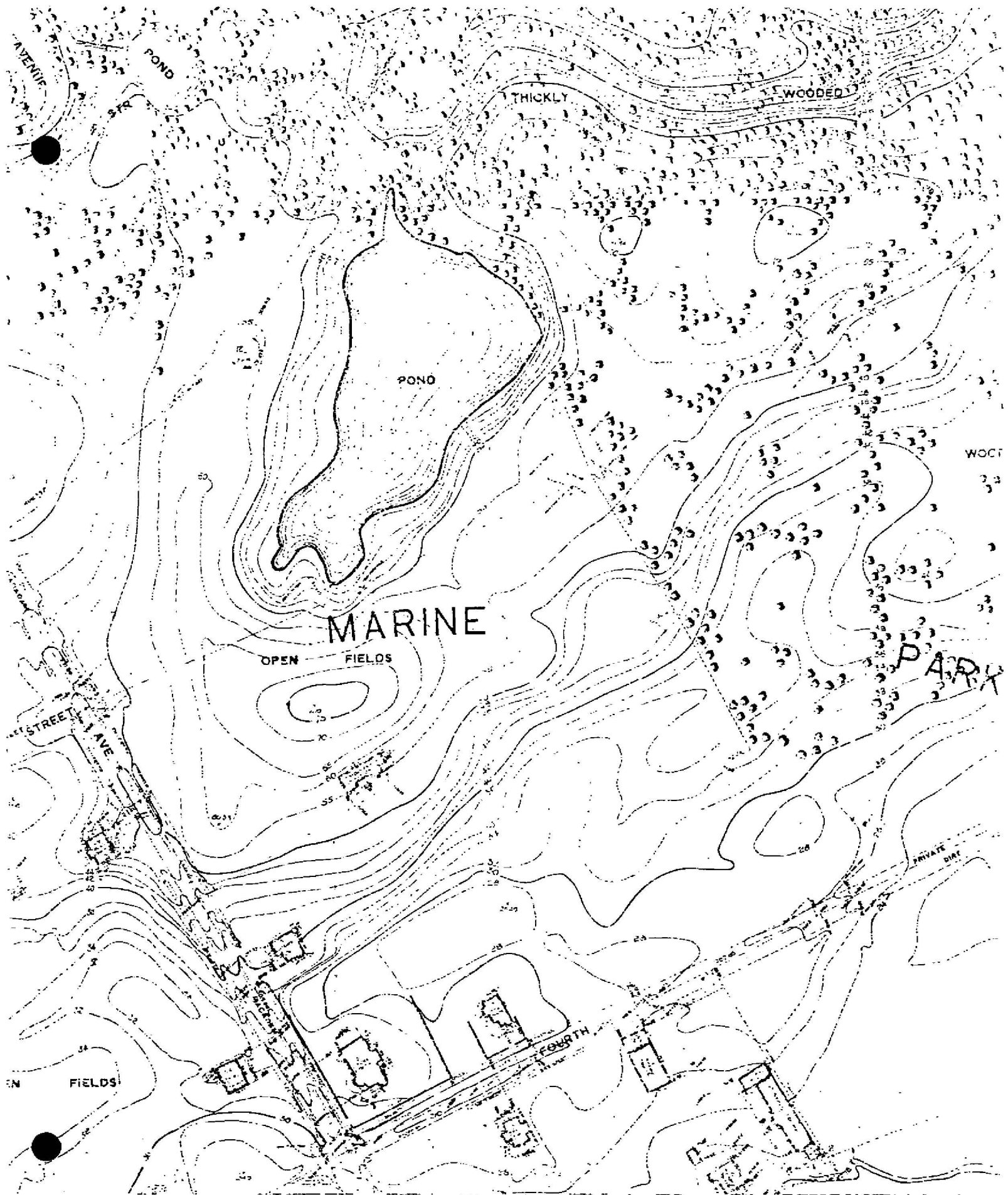
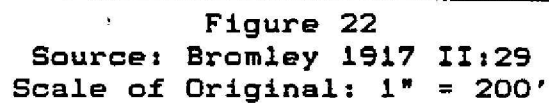
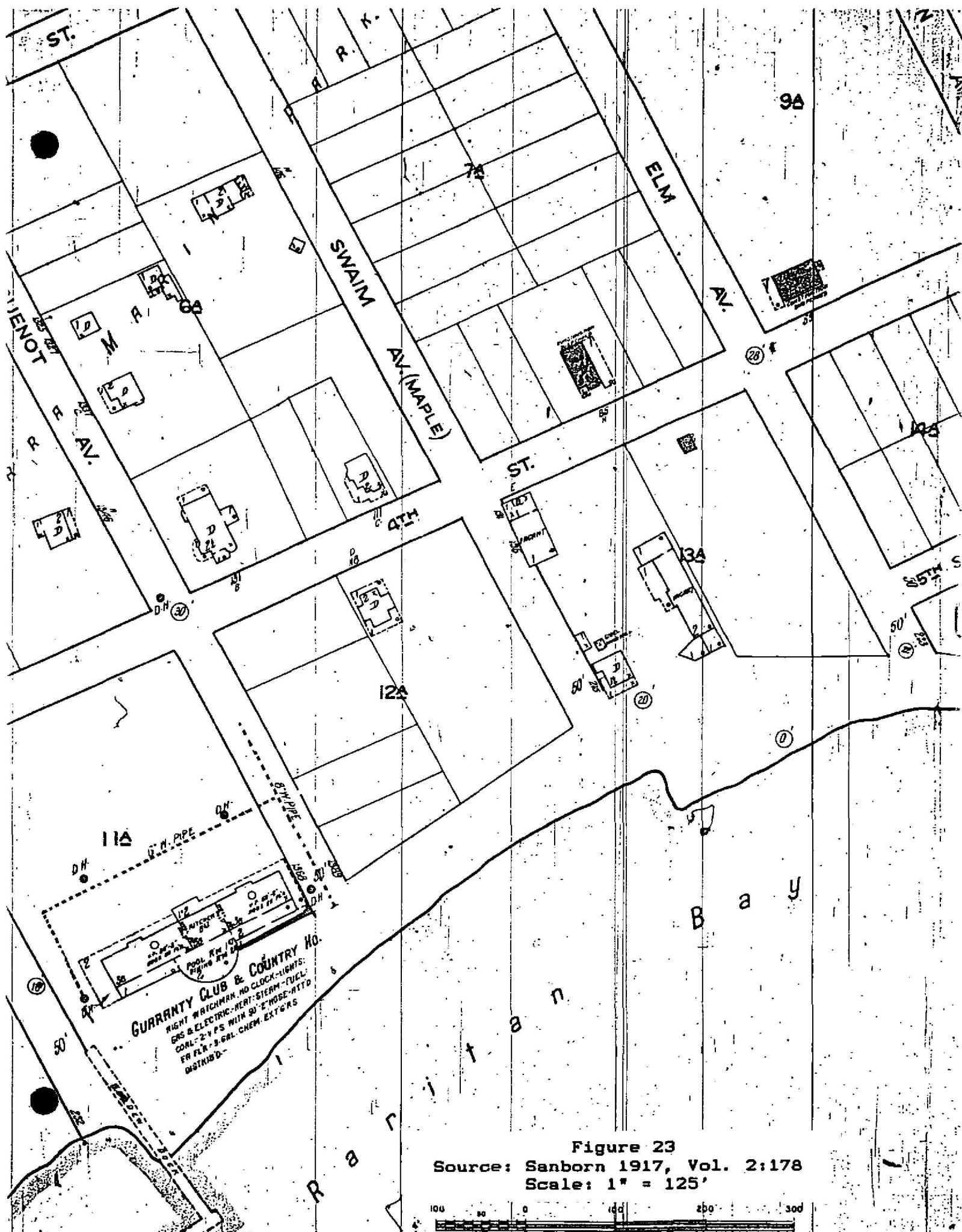


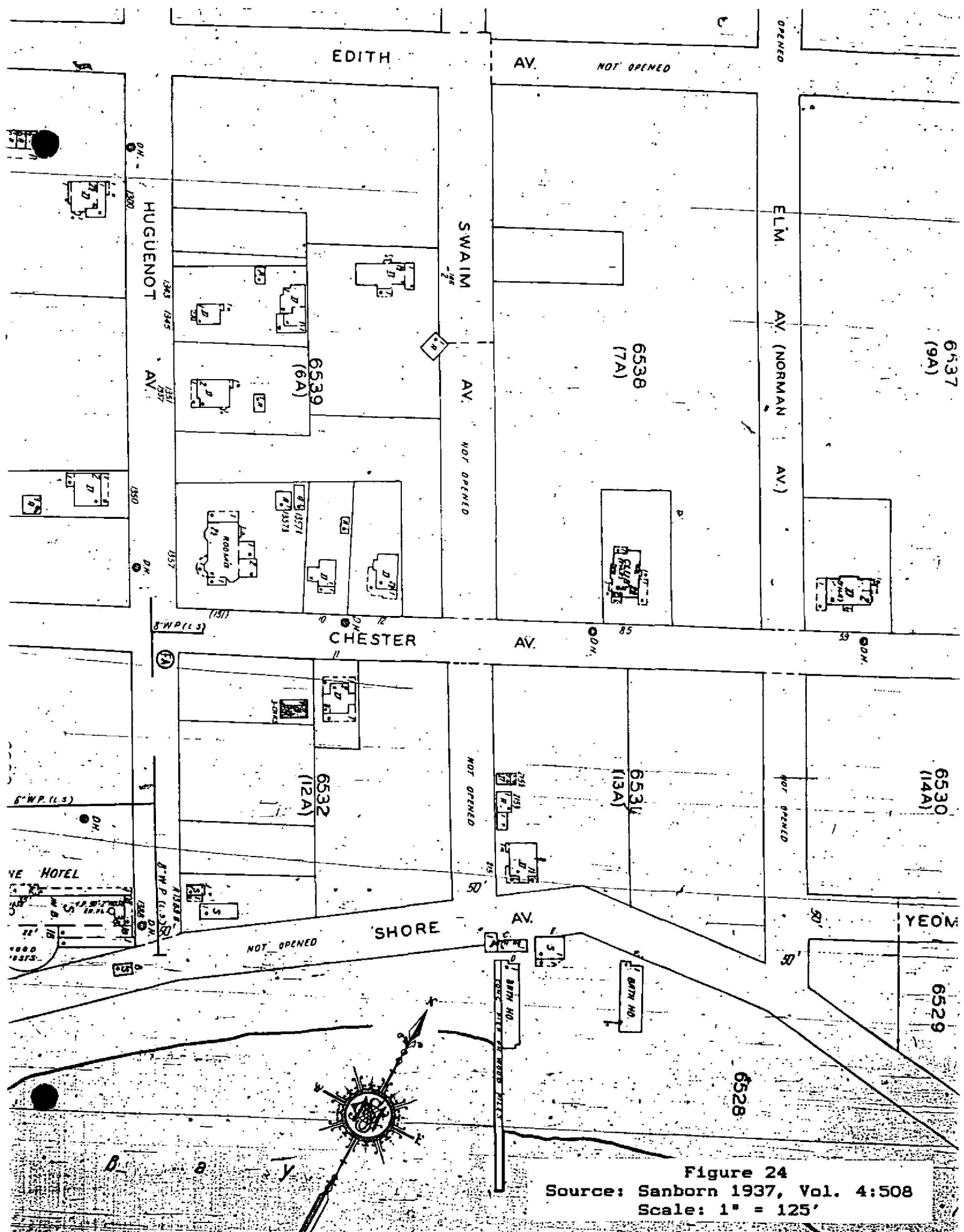
Figure 21  
Source: Borough of Richmond 1911, Sheet 91  
Scale: 1" = 150'



Source: Bromley 1917 II:29

Scale of Original: 1" = 200'





PLATES





Plate 1  
Project Site Lot 64 - View Northwest from Southwest Corner  
of Chester and Swaim Avenues



Plate 2  
Lot 64 - View North from Chester Avenue  
Showing Concrete Foundation and Houses Under Construction North of Site





**Plate 3**  
**Ground Surface Detail - Southeast Portion of Lot 64 - View South**  
**Chester Avenue and Northeast Portion Block 6532 in Background**





Plate 4  
Western Boundary of Lot 64  
View North Showing Cut Bank Along Property Boundary



Plate 5  
Northern Portion Lot 64 View West Showing Cut Banks  
Along Property Line and Adjoining Trees





Plate 6  
 Northern Portion Lot 64  
 Detail of Cut Bank Along Property Line



Plate 7  
 Northern Portion Lot 64  
 Detail Showing Cut Banks Adjoining Trees





Plate 8  
Eastern Portion Lot 8 and Lot 64  
View South from Eastern Portion Lot 8





Plate 9  
 Lot 8 - Swale Area with Standing Water  
 View West from Northeast Eastern Portion of Lot 8  
 Houses along Huguenot Avenue in Background



Plate 10  
 Lot 8 Swale Area  
 View East from Base of Huguenot Avenue Fill Deposit





Plate 11  
Western Portion Lot 8 Showing Fill Adjacent to Huguenot Avenue  
View West from Swale Area