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**Police Service Area No. 8**  
**Borough of the Bronx, New York**

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**Phase IA Cultural Resource Assessment**

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Prepared for:



**New York City Housing Authority**  
New York, New York

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
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Prepared by:



**The Louis Berger Group, Inc.**  
New York, New York

May 2002

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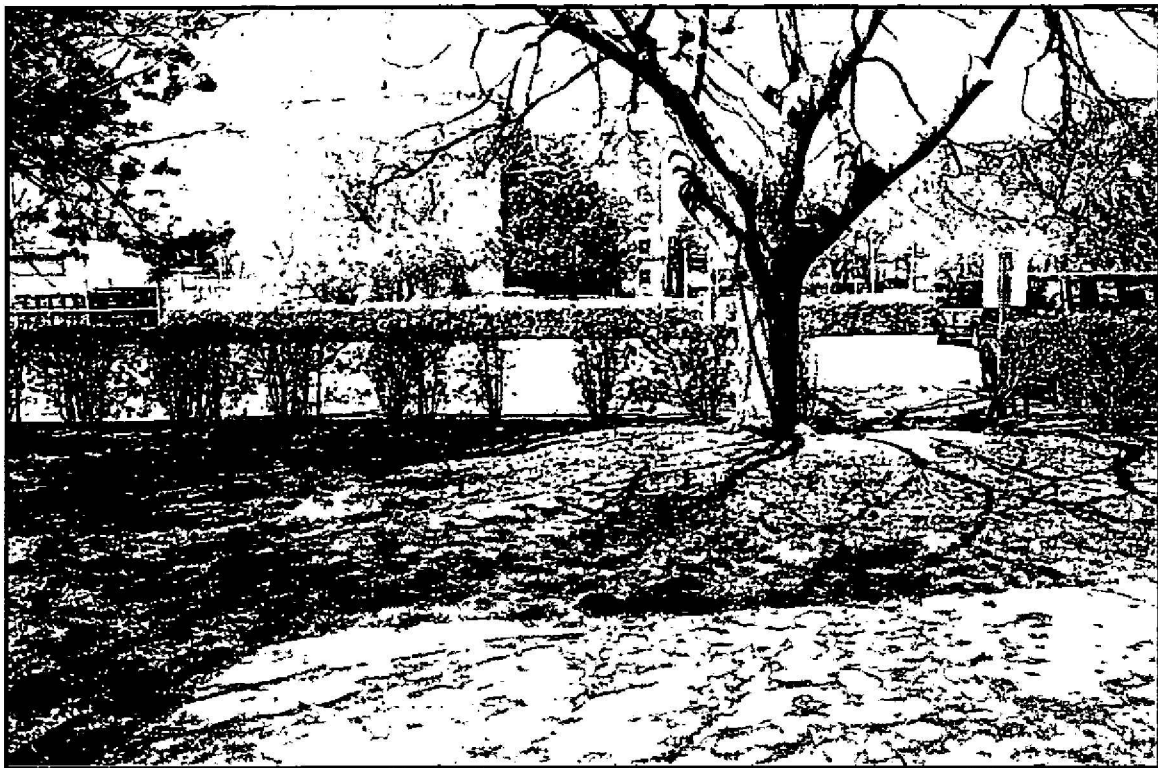
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## I. INTRODUCTION

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The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is planning to develop a new police service area (PSA), which is a building that serves as an office for the New York City Police Department-Housing Bureau, in the Throgs Neck section of the Borough of the Bronx, New York. The project area is bounded on the southeast by Schley Avenue, on the southwest by Buttrick Avenue, on the northwest by Randall Avenue, and on the northeast by Balcolm Avenue, and is located east of Ferry Point Park and a proposed golf course. The project area currently consists of asphalt-covered parking areas, interspersed with exposed grass-covered surfaces and a residential garden (Plates 1 and 2). Three existing multi-unit residential buildings, built in 1978, are located adjacent to the project area on the north and east. The surrounding paved parking areas are associated with the existing six-story apartment buildings (Plates 3 and 4).

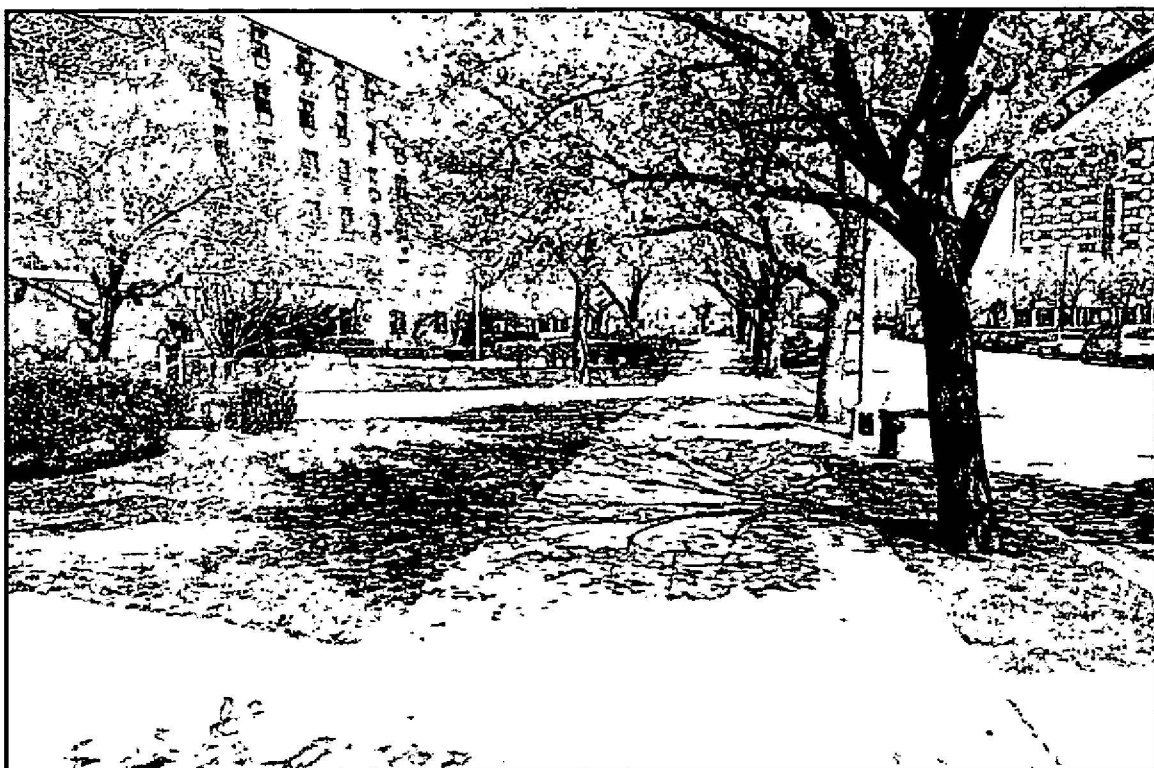
The purpose of the Phase IA cultural resource assessment conducted by The Louis Berger Group, Inc., was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the project area and to determine whether there are any historic structures on or near the project area that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The investigation consisted of background research on the natural environment, prehistory, and historical development of the project area, as well as a field reconnaissance. Background research was conducted between April 1 and 26, 2002, and included examination of historical maps, secondary histories, relevant cultural resource studies, and the county soil survey. Archaeological site files were reviewed at the New York State Museum and the New York State Historic Preservation Office (NYSHPO), both in Albany. The field reconnaissance was conducted on April 11, 2002.



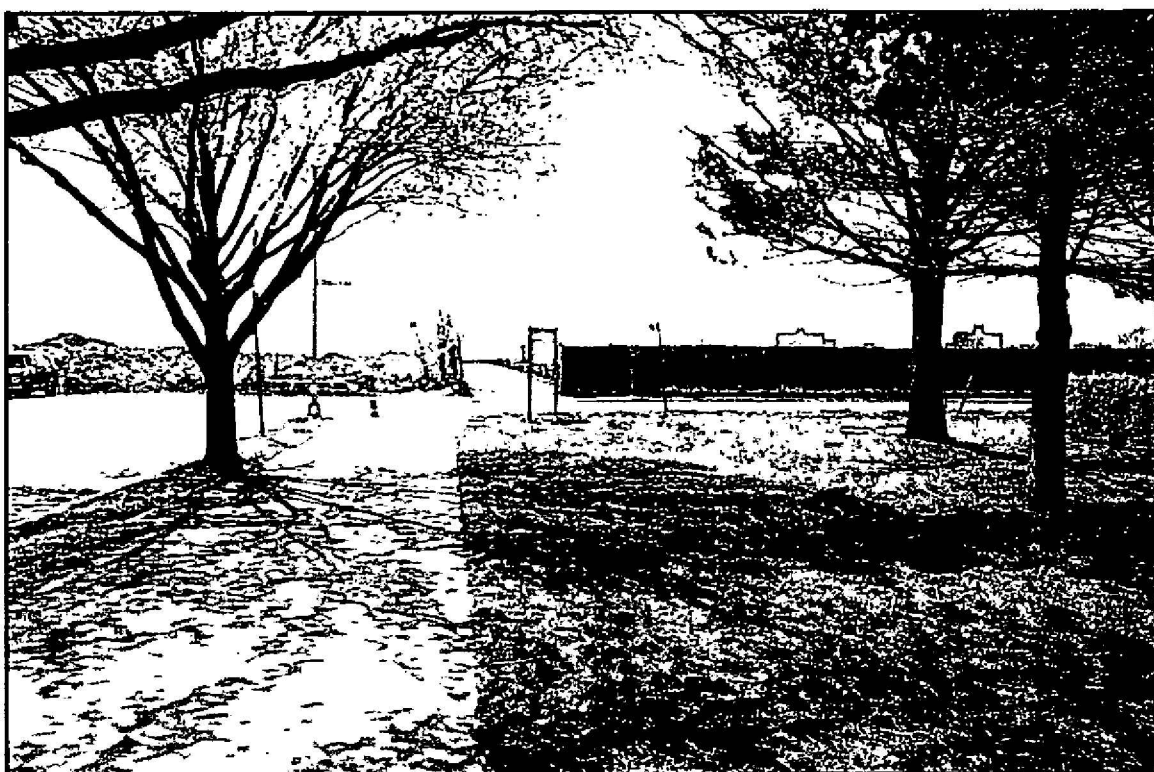
**PLATE 1: View of Project Area Facing Northwest**



**PLATE 2: View of Project Area Facing Southeast. Garden Is in Far Background**



**PLATE 3: View of Project Area Facing Northeast. Existing Apartment Buildings Are in Background, to the Left**



**PLATE 4: View of Project Area Facing Southwest. Ferry Point Park Located Beyond Fence**

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## **II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

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### **A. PROJECT SETTING**

The project area is located in the Throgs Neck section of the Borough of the Bronx, at the southeastern end of the borough, in New York (Figure 1). This location is at the confluence of the East River, to the south, and the Long Island Sound, to the east. The Cross Bronx Expressway is approximately 1,800 feet north of the project area. St. Raymond's Cemetery is located northwest and southwest of the project area, Ferry Point Park lies to the southwest, and the Throgs Neck Houses are to the northeast.

### **B. PHYSIOGRAPHY**

The project area lies in the Coastal Plain physiographic province of the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Landform. The location is geographically part of the Ronkonkoma and Harbor Hill morainal ridges (Schuberth 1968). The Borough of the Bronx is a part of the Manhattan Prong, with underlying parent material within the morainal ridges consisting of schist, granite, "inwood marble," and several other layers of metamorphosed shales, limestones, and several crustaceous sediments (Barlow 1971; Goodwin 2000:10, Kieran 1971). The soils of the area are alluvial, situated in valley bottoms (Thompson 1977), and have excellent production potential in terms of agriculture.

### **C. DRAINAGE**

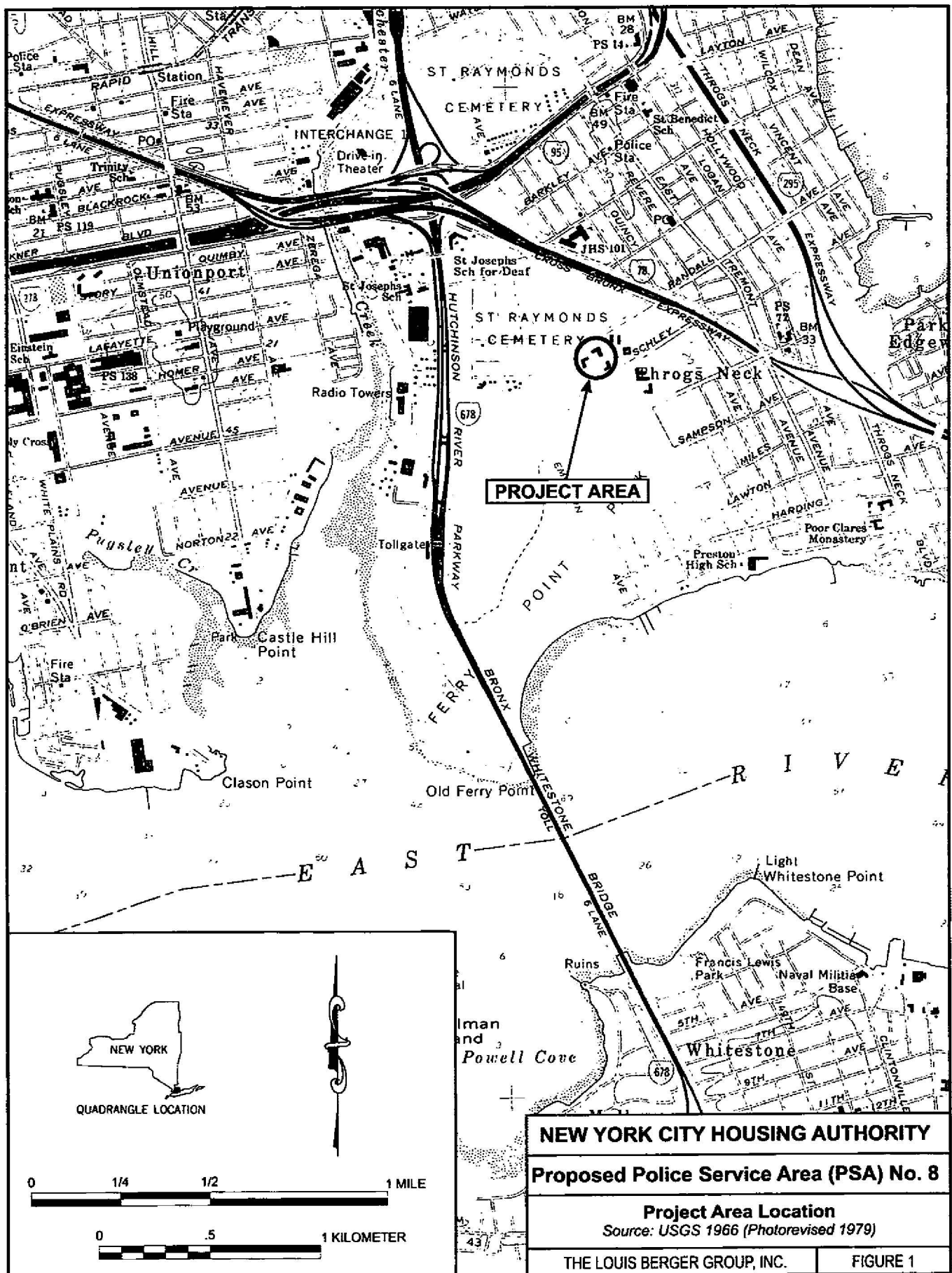
The project area is situated on well-drained, low-relief terrain, with the Westchester Creek approximately 4,000 feet to the west, the Hammond Creek approximately 6,000 feet to the southeast, Eastchester Bay approximately 6,000 feet to the north, Long Island Sound approximately 1.8 miles to the east, and the East River approximately 4,200 feet to the south.

### **D. MODERN CLIMATE**

The normal annual precipitation, including melted snow, is about 40.38 inches. The annual mean temperature is 53.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature extremes include a sweltering 102.3 degrees Fahrenheit in late August and -14 degrees Fahrenheit in February (Kieran 1971). The average temperature range is 32.7 degrees Fahrenheit to 76.1 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **E. PLANT AND ANIMAL RESOURCES**

Prior to European contact, the Native Americans in the area of the project area subsisted by hunting small game, fishing, collecting shellfish, and gathering local plants. The cultivation of corn, local wild grasses, and tubers may have occurred prior to European contact, but this point is currently under debate. The first European explorers, Henry Hudson and Giovanni Verrazano, among others, took note (in some detail) of the surrounding environment: they remarked on the great quantities of fish, small game, oysters (larger than they had ever seen), and waterfowl (Kieran 1971). The early European settlements of the seventeenth century imported many of the initial foodstuffs they needed, including domestic animals (sheep, cattle, horses, swine, and fowl), seeds, grains, and root plants. These new agricultural species suffered very few adaptive problems when transplanted to local soils. Along with these importations, however, came an unwanted invasion of foreign insects and fungi that later proved detrimental to native species (Barlow 1971; Kieran 1971).



Early shipping settlements remained fairly self-contained, relying little on native resources. By the turn of the eighteenth century, as more towns were established, reliance on such resources increased. Local salt-marsh grasses proved to be ideal feed hay for cows. Virgin stands of oak were cut and used in shipbuilding, house construction, and as raw material export (Barlow 1971; Booth 1859; Kieran 1971).

From 1700 to 1850 more townships were established and grew. The forest area diminished; all the local large game animals, such as deer and bear, were killed off and their habitat replaced by agricultural fields. The Revolutionary War destroyed much of the virgin forest in the New York City area, as most of the trees were used as firewood by Tory and Hessian forces. The remaining stands of trees were often used as official landmarks for township divisions (Thompson 1918).

During the period of increased industrialization in the mid-nineteenth century, land use gradually shifted from agriculture to manufacturing and raw material processing. The tidal marshes, previously exploited for grasses, were used for garbage and waste disposal and much of what is landfill today was at one time tidal marsh and small rivulets.

## F. PALEOENVIRONMENT

Based on data from fossil pollen remains and associated radiocarbon dates, the local environment during the earliest human habitation of the area can be generally characterized as periglacial. The remnants of the Wisconsin glacial advance stretched in an irregular belt almost one mile wide from Perth Amboy at the mouth of Raritan Bay in New Jersey across New York State in a northwesterly direction. Between 12,000 and 13,000 years before present (BP) the sea level may have been 300 feet lower than the present level, and the shoreline extended out approximately 60 to 90 miles from its present position (Kraft 1977). Consequently, river and stream systems and their plant and animal communities exhibited different configurations (Edwards and Merrill 1977). Peat borings from the continental shelf indicate that the fairly level plain supported an open spruce parkland or spruce woodland environment, including pine, fir, and other vegetation (Sirkin 1976, 1977). The geomorphology of the area in combination with the effects of glaciation and subsequent sea level rise indicates that marine environments were probably not stable at this early date and could not have served as a primary focus of human subsistence activities (Custer and Stewart 1983; Edwards and Merrill 1977; Newman 1977).

At times during the Pleistocene, the continental ice sheet covered the entire borough and extended as far south as Long Island. The Late Wisconsin glaciation of southeastern New York reached its maximum southern extent on Long Island approximately 21,750 years BP. Northward recession of ice up the Hudson River valley began within 500 years after this date. As the glaciers gradually melted during the climatic warming trend that began approximately 14,000 BP, moraines were left in its path. Unconsolidated glacial deposits in this region include till, sands, and gravel, and glaciolacustrine deposits. Stratified deposits of sand and gravel were laid down in stream valleys as a result of glacial outwash. Lacustrine deposits are restricted to areas that were covered by glacial lakes, notably along the Hudson River (Simmons et al. 1961:23-24).

Palynological data suggest that during the glacial period (before circa 15,000 BP) a tundra environment covered much of the Northeast. From approximately 13,000 BP onward, a general warming trend and rise in the world's sea level precipitated the gradual spread of deciduous-coniferous forest species northward. Gradually the closed boreal forest dominated by spruce and fir was replaced by hemlock and oak by circa 7000 BP (Sirkin 1977; Watts 1979). By 5000 BP a relatively stable primary forest was established in the project vicinity. Nut- and acorn-producing hardwoods such as oak and hickory would have been an important food resource for prehistoric hunter-gatherers in the area.

The glaciers began to retreat between 17,000 and 15,000 BP. Glacial scarring created a variety of developing habitats, including estuaries, salt and freshwater marshes, bogs, upland, and midslope communities. Glacial soils contained a wide diversity of particle size, which allowed good drainage and adequate water supplies for the developing plant and animal communities.

After the retreat of the glaciers, the coastal region of New York was favored by a set of ecological factors that probably contributed to its attractiveness to early human populations. These factors included a relatively long frost-free period, a greater annual reception of sunlight, and the tempering effects of a coastal environment. Brennan (1979:34) suggests that during post-glacial recovery deciduous forests penetrated the coastal region of New York and New England more rapidly than in the cooler and higher inland regions. Many of the cold-adapted animals probably followed the retreating glaciers northward and, in the case of mammoth and mastodon, became extinct. These creatures were replaced by deer, elk, moose, bear, and smaller mammals.

Pollen data show that the regional environment continued to change after glaciation. By 2000 BP environmental and meteorological conditions had approached those of the present, but southern tree species continued to migrate into the area (Barlow 1971).

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### III. PREHISTORIC CONTEXT

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There is limited evidence in New York City of the Native Americans who occupied the area for thousands of years. When Native Americans first inhabited the New York City area, sea level may have been 300 feet lower than the present level and the Atlantic shoreline extended out approximately 60 to 90 miles from its present position (Kraft 1977) (see Chapter II). Area that would have been dry land available for habitation by early Native American populations are therefore now under water. Sea levels reached their approximate levels between 5000 and 2000 BP.

Native American occupation of southeastern New York State is conceptualized as a continuum of four general periods: (1) Paleoindian, (2) Archaic, (3) Woodland, and (4) Post-Contact/Historic. Each of these cultural horizons is distinguished by technological implements, subsistence strategies, and patterns of land use that enabled the Native American inhabitants of the area to adapt successfully to subtle or marked changes in their natural and social environment. Each of the periods and subperiods is briefly summarized below, with an emphasis on archaeological evidence from the project vicinity and the Hudson River valley.

Human occupation of the Hudson Valley began at the end of the Pleistocene with the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier. The first human populations in the valley, known as Paleoindians, occupied a tundra environment to the south of the receding glacial margin from circa 12,500 BP to circa 10,000 BP (Funk 1977; Funk et al. 1969). Recognized by their distinctive fluted projectile points, Paleoindians were highly mobile hunter-gatherers, who appear to have specialized in large game, including caribou and the now-extinct mastodon (Funk 1976). Paleoindian subsistence patterns also included hunting a variety of smaller game, as well as fishing and gathering of available plant foods (McNett 1985).

Paleoindian tools are typically made from cryptocrystalline stone materials. It has been suggested that sources of suitable stone were an important variable that determined Paleoindian settlement location (Gardner 1974; Goodyear 1979). Owing to the small group size and high mobility of Paleoindian populations, their sites tend to be small and the preserved toolkits rather simple. Known sites are mostly on level, elevated landforms overlooking lakes and swamps (Funk 1976; Funk et al. 1969; Ritchie 1980).

Environmental changes associated with the end of the Pleistocene (ca. 10,000 BP) included climatic warming, an increase in vegetational density, faunal migrations and extinctions, and a rise in sea levels (Sirkin 1977). The Archaic period is defined by the changes in subsistence and technology that occurred in response to these environmental changes. The transition from Paleoindian to Archaic lifeways included the greater reliance on small game and plant foods (Cleland 1976). These changes were accompanied by improved technologies and tool types.

The Early Archaic period (ca. 10,000 BP to 8000 BP) is represented by several diagnostic point types, including Palmer, Kirk, and bifurcated-base or LeCroy types (Broyles 1971; Coe 1964). Evidence of occupation during the Early Archaic is limited throughout the Northeast. This may be due to a marked reduction in the density of game that accompanied the shift from a spruce park or tundra environment to a mixed deciduous-coniferous forest (Funk 1977; Ritchie and Funk 1973).

The limited data available on Middle Archaic occupation of the Northeast suggest the continued development of a diffuse adaptive strategy, although seasonal movement may have been more regularized than during the Early Archaic (Snow 1980). Site types recognized during this time suggest a settlement pattern with "increased specialization of task locations, increasing complexity of communication networks, and increasing interdependence and diversification of social units" (Dincauze 1976:139). Two point types that are diagnostic of the Middle Archaic in the Northeast are the Stanly Stemmed types (Coe 1964) and

the Neville types (Dincauze 1971, 1976). Although few Middle Archaic components have been accurately dated, the conventional span of this cultural period is circa 8000 BP to 6000 BP.

The Sylvan Lake Rockshelter in Dutchess County contained stratified Archaic deposits with the deepest levels radiocarbon-dated circa 6700 BP to 5650 BP (Funk 1978). These deposits contained a variety of points resembling the broad side-notched Otter Creek types, broad-stemmed Neville and Stark types, and triangular forms. Faunal deposits associated with these lithic materials included freshwater fishbones and mussel shells, representing exploitation of inland aquatic environments (Funk 1978:27).

Additional qualitative changes in settlement and subsistence patterns occurred during the Late Archaic period (ca. 6000 BP to 3000 BP). Site locations and artifact assemblages of this period reflect an increased utilization of coastal and riverine resources, possibly in response to environmental stabilization. Ground stone food processing tools are more common, reflecting a more intense utilization of plant resources. Projectile points commonly found in Late Archaic sites include narrow-stemmed, broad-stemmed, and side-notched types such as Lamoka, Brewerton, Normanskill, Lackawaxen, Bare Island, and Poplar Island. Some of these different forms may represent distinct populations or adaptive patterns. The middle levels of the Sylvan Lake Rockshelter yielded numerous points, mostly of Bare Island and Lamoka types, as well as a broad side-notched type that was given the name Sylvan Lake after this site (Funk 1976:247). The majority of points were made of quartz and quartzite, which contrasts with the predominance of flint from both earlier and later occupations (Funk 1976:247). Two radiocarbon dates from the Late Archaic occupations at Sylvan Lake are 4050 BP and 4210 BP (Funk 1976:248).

The Terminal Archaic is defined as a technologically transitional period. The introduction of steatite bowls and distinctive broadspear points, including Susquehanna, Koens-Crispin, Perkiomen, and Orient types, characterize the period (Withoft 1953). Radiocarbon dates from sites of this period range from circa 3500 BP to 2700 BP (Kinsey 1972). At some sites, there is evidence of burial ceremonialism, possibly signaling increased social complexity among Transitional groups in terms of formal leadership and social ranking (Funk 1976:264-267; Ritchie 1959, 1980:150-178).

The Woodland period (3000 BP to 400 BP [AD 1600]) is distinguished from the Archaic by the use of ceramics. The earliest ceramic types found in New York State are Marcey Creek steatite-tempered and Vinette sand-tempered wares. Cord-marked ceramics become common during the Middle Woodland period. Collared vessels, many with incised decoration, are representative of Late Woodland cultures (Stewart 1985). Both Middle and Late Woodland occupations of the Sylvan Lake Rockshelter were indicated by ceramic types that included Jack's Reef Corded, Vinette Dentate, and Cayadutta Incised (Funk 1976:155).

Projectile points, in addition to ceramic wares, continue to be useful as chronological indicators. Meadowood points, dated circa 3000 BP to 2500 BP (Ritchie and Funk 1973), are diagnostic of the Early Woodland. Jack's Reef points are diagnostic of the Early/Middle Woodland and Fox Creek points of the Middle/Late Woodland. Triangular points become more common toward the end of the Woodland period. Relatively large triangular forms, referred to as Levanna points, have been dated circa AD 900-1350. Smaller triangular points of the Madison type appear to be more recent (Kinsey 1972).

Woodland base camp sites are often located in expansive floodplains, which provided suitable environments for plant cultivation as well as access to anadromous fish resources. Late Woodland sites excavated in upstate New York have produced clusters of longhouses and storage pits (Ritchie 1980). The remains of numerous cultivated plants, including maize, beans, and squash, have been recovered from these sites. Although plant cultivation was introduced during the Woodland, hunting and gathering continued to provide a large part of the diet. The presence of storage facilities at Woodland sites is

indicative of greater sedentism. These settlement changes are accompanied by intensified exchange networks and ceremonialism.

At the time of European contact (ca. AD 1600), the Native American groups who inhabited this portion of the Hudson valley were Lenape or Delaware. The Lenape consisted of two related groups, the Munsee and the Unami, characterized by distinct Algonkian dialects. The Munsee occupied the territory that became New Jersey and southern New York. The Wappinger, who occupied an area that covers most of Dutchess and Putnam counties, were the most northern Munsee group east of the Hudson River (Goddard 1978:214). "Even as late as 1755 AD the banks of the Hudson River were thickly populated by Native Americans, particularly south of Tarrytown" (Bolton 1905:260).

An examination of the New York State Museum site files uncovered a number of prehistoric sites within a 1.5-mile radius of the project area. While information is limited on most of these sites, several descriptions provide valuable information on the types and density of sites that may be encountered within the project area, and the range of activities that occurred in the region. One site, known as the Throg's Neck Site, was described by Alanson Skinner in 1918 as a seventeenth-century Indian village, with an earlier Orient phase component. An ossuary dating from the Late Woodland period was also discovered. Reginald Bolton observed that bone implements were found in deeper strata without any accompanying lithic material, suggesting an exclusive reliance on bone as a raw material for tool production (Bolton 1934: 139). Other notable finds from this site include numerous metal arrowheads, an indication of contact with European groups. Pig and cattle bones found at the site are also evidence of the European influence on native diets. This site is located approximately 0.8 miles northeast of the project area along Weir's Creek (Cantwell and Wall 2001:63, 100, 129, 145).

Another site, known as the Morris Schurz Site, is located approximately 0.6 miles southeast of the project area. The site was excavated in the 1950s by avocational archaeologist Edward Kaeser, who concluded that the site dated to the Middle Woodland period. Among the artifacts recovered were stone spear points, knives, and pottery storage and cooking vessels. One of the more interesting finds from the Morris Schurz Site was a huge cache of sheet mica. Sheet mica is not native to the region, and the cache indicates access to distant sources of raw materials (Cantwell and Wall 2001:78-79). Other nonlocal materials found at the site include projectile points made from a distinct reddish-purple argillite, and zoned pottery sherds. Both are believed to have originated near the present-day city of Trenton, New Jersey (Cantwell and Wall 2001:79). Bolton noted that the site contained a significant number of food-pits, along with several "fireplaces" and human burials. It is located in an area once controlled by the Siwanoy tribe, but also occupied by the Weckquaesgeek (Bolton 1934:138).

Other prehistoric sites identified in the vicinity of the project area illustrate the richness of marine life and the reliance on coastal resources by native populations. The Castle Point, or Castle Hill, Site, located approximately 0.7 miles southwest of the project area, is described by Bolton as a "planting-field" with stone implements and a large shell midden with some shells bored for wampum (Bolton 1934:138). The Locust Point Site, located southeast of the project area, was interpreted as a "fishing village with slight indications of occupancy" (Bolton 1934:139). Bolton also concluded that the Old Ferry Point Site, located approximately 0.5 miles south of the project area, was probably a fishing camp, as evidenced by a scatter of shell, pottery, and numerous other "Indian objects" found beside a small spring near the shore (Bolton 1934:137).

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## IV. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

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### A. REGIONAL HISTORY

In 1639, the Dutch West India Company purchased a large tract of land on the Hudson River, north of Manhattan Island, from local Native American peoples. The earliest record of occupation in the Bronx dates from this time period, when Jonas Bronck, a Danish Lutheran, purchased a 500-acre tract between the Harlem River and the Bronx River for a reported two kettles, two guns, two cows, two adzes, two shirts, one barrel of cider, and six pieces of silver (Goldstone and Dalrymple 1976:340). Bronck laid out a farm and erected a dwelling north of the Harlem River on part of this tract. Bronck's house supposedly once stood near the depot of the Harlem River Branch of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad at Morrisania (Shonnard and Sponner 1900:73, 88).

The original farm of Jonas Bronck, located in what was then the southeastern portion of Westchester County, came into the possession of Captain Richard Morris and his brother, Lewis Morris, in 1670. Richard Morris, a merchant from Barbados, died in 1672, leaving his portion of the property to his sole heir and son, Lewis. Lewis came into full possession of the property in 1691, when his uncle Lewis died. The manor grant of Morrisania was formally conveyed to Lewis Morris in 1697, subject to a yearly rent of four bushels of good winter wheat. The Morris family, who maintained their country seat at Morrisania, achieved fame in the eighteenth century as jurists, soldiers, and agriculturalists, and included General Lewis Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence (French 1925:57; Scharf 1886:826-828).

The County of Westchester, created in 1683, contained the manors of Fordham, Pelham, Philipsborough, Cortlandt, and Scarsdale, in addition to Morrisania (French 1925:48). Approximately 100 years later, in 1788, the county was subdivided into townships. The 21 towns included the following: Westchester, Morrisania, Yonkers, Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Eastchester, Pelham, New Rochelle, Scarsdale, Mamaroneck, White Plains, Harrison, Rye, North Castle, Bedford, Poundridge, Salem, North Salem, Cortlandt, Yorktown, and Stephentown. Morrisania was annexed to the town of Westchester in 1791, which also included the Manor of Fordham (Shonnard and Sponner 1900:531). West Farms Township was formed from Westchester Township in 1846 and was subsequently divided to form Morrisania Township in 1855.

The branch line of the New York and Harlem Railroad was extended through the project area and was in use by October 1841 (Scharf 1886:178). Morrisania remained undeveloped until 1848 when an association purchased 200 acres of its northern section and created the village of Morrisania, which was incorporated in 1864. That same year, Gouverneur Morris also attempted to establish a village by offering the sale of one-acre lots. His efforts proved unsuccessful (Comfort 1906:34-35).

Morrisania was annexed to New York City in 1873 along with the other Westchester towns of West Farms and Kingbridge. The town of Morrisania at that time encompassed the villages of Morrisania, Mott Haven, Port Morris, Wilton, East Melrose, Woodstock, Claremont, and Eltonia. By 1886, the expansion of the villages into one another had blurred their boundaries, and the term "Annexed District" was replaced by the designation "Borough of the Bronx" (Scharf 1886:822). Its territory was organized into the 23rd and 24th Wards of New York City. The Bronx was administered by the Department of Public Works until 1891, at which time the Department of Public Works for the 23rd and 24th Wards was created.

The North Side Board of Trade was incorporated in 1894 for the purposes of "diffusing information as to the many advantages of the section [i.e., the Bronx] as a business and commercial center, as well as a district of homes; of attracting capital, manufacturing interests and desirable residents. . ." (Shonnard and Sponner 1900:624-625). Public improvements, such as the submergence of the New York and Harlem Railroad tracks from the Harlem River up to Bedford Park, the opening of the Harlem Ship Canal in 1895, and the introduction of trolley lines to the suburbs ushered in an era of steady population growth and prosperity for the borough.

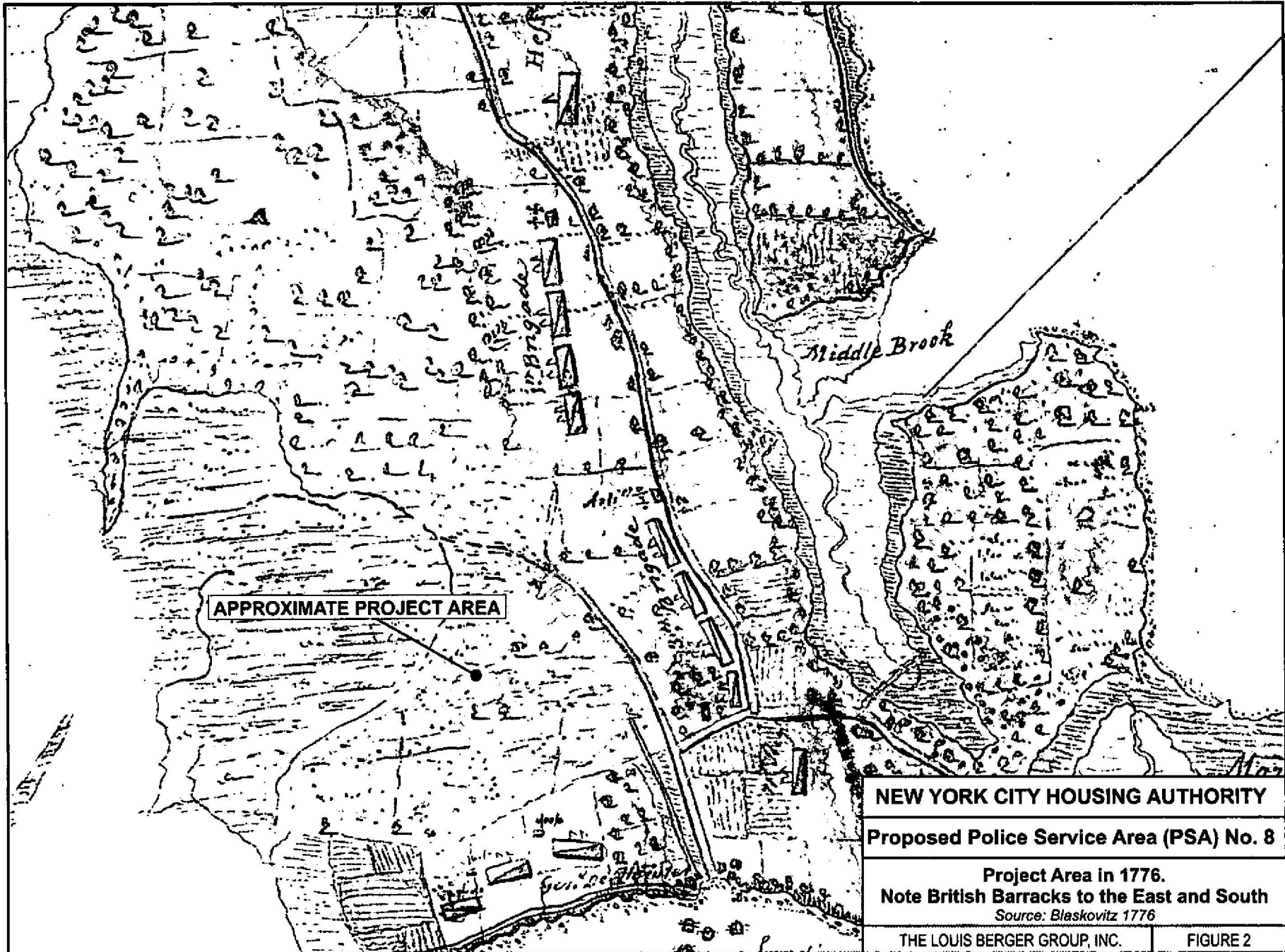
## B. SITE HISTORY

In 1643, Anabaptist John Throckmorton secured a grant from local Dutch officials for land that included the Throgs Neck section of the Bronx. Throckmorton and 35 Quaker families from Connecticut established a small settlement in Throgs Neck. This settlement would prove to be short-lived, however, as disputes over land ownership between Europeans and local Indians would escalate with deadly results. The hostilities that developed during the administration of William Kieft eventually spilled over into the Throgs Neck area, forcing many in the settlement to flee to Fort Amsterdam for safety (Goldstone and Dalrymple 1976:341). Throgs Neck as well as the Bronx as a whole, remained unstable until the British wrested permanent control of the region in 1664. In 1667, New York Governor Nicolls granted fellow Englishman Roger Townsend, "a certain parcel of land at ye South east end of Throgmorton's Neck, commonly called New Found Passage, containing fifteen acres, and a small neck thereto adjoining called Horse Neck" (quoted in Goodwin 2000:18). Two years later, in 1669, Michael Spicer was granted the land adjacent west of the Townsend tract between the Westchester and Baxter Creeks (Goodwin 2000:18). It is the former parcel owned by Roger Townsend that encompassed the project area.

By the close of the seventeenth century, three distinct communities had developed along the southern and western shoreline of the Bronx: New Rochelle, East Chester, and Westchester Township. The latter included the entire Throgs Neck peninsula. During the early eighteenth century, the population of Throgs Neck grew steadily, with residences clustered mainly around the agricultural community of Scuyterville, just north of the project area. It was around this time that a loosely constructed network of roads was created, several of which still exist to the present day. Among these is an eighteenth-century road leading to Throgs Neck which became East Tremont Avenue.

The area of Throgs Neck was the scene of numerous skirmishes and troop activity during the American Revolution. Sentiments among the local citizenry were divided between loyalty to the crown and adherence to the patriot cause. Local landowners frequently fell victim to British and Tory raids. Military activity in the vicinity of Throgs Neck reached its height in October of 1776, when a large contingent of British and Hessian troops and Loyalist rangers landed near the present-day community of Silver Beach (Goodwin 2000:22). The Blaskovitz map of 1776 (Figure 2) depicts this occupation with a series of barracks straddling present-day East Tremont Avenue just east of the project area (Blaskovitz 1776).

The nineteenth century saw continued growth in the area, particularly along the established roadways (Figure 3). Additional settlement occurred along the shoreline. By mid-century, a number of new communities were created north of Throgs Neck, including West Farms, New Rochelle (1847), Pelhamville (1860), Prospect Hill (1851), and Mount Vernon (1851). It was during this time that Throgs Neck and vicinity became a summer getaway for wealthy merchants. The influx of affluent residents resulted in upgrades to the existing infrastructure and the introduction of the New York and Harlem Railroad to the western part of the Bronx in 1838. The nineteenth century, however, was not a period characterized solely by unfettered growth and prosperity. During the War of 1812, the British fleet confronted American forces on numerous occasions in the waters off Throgs Neck. The government

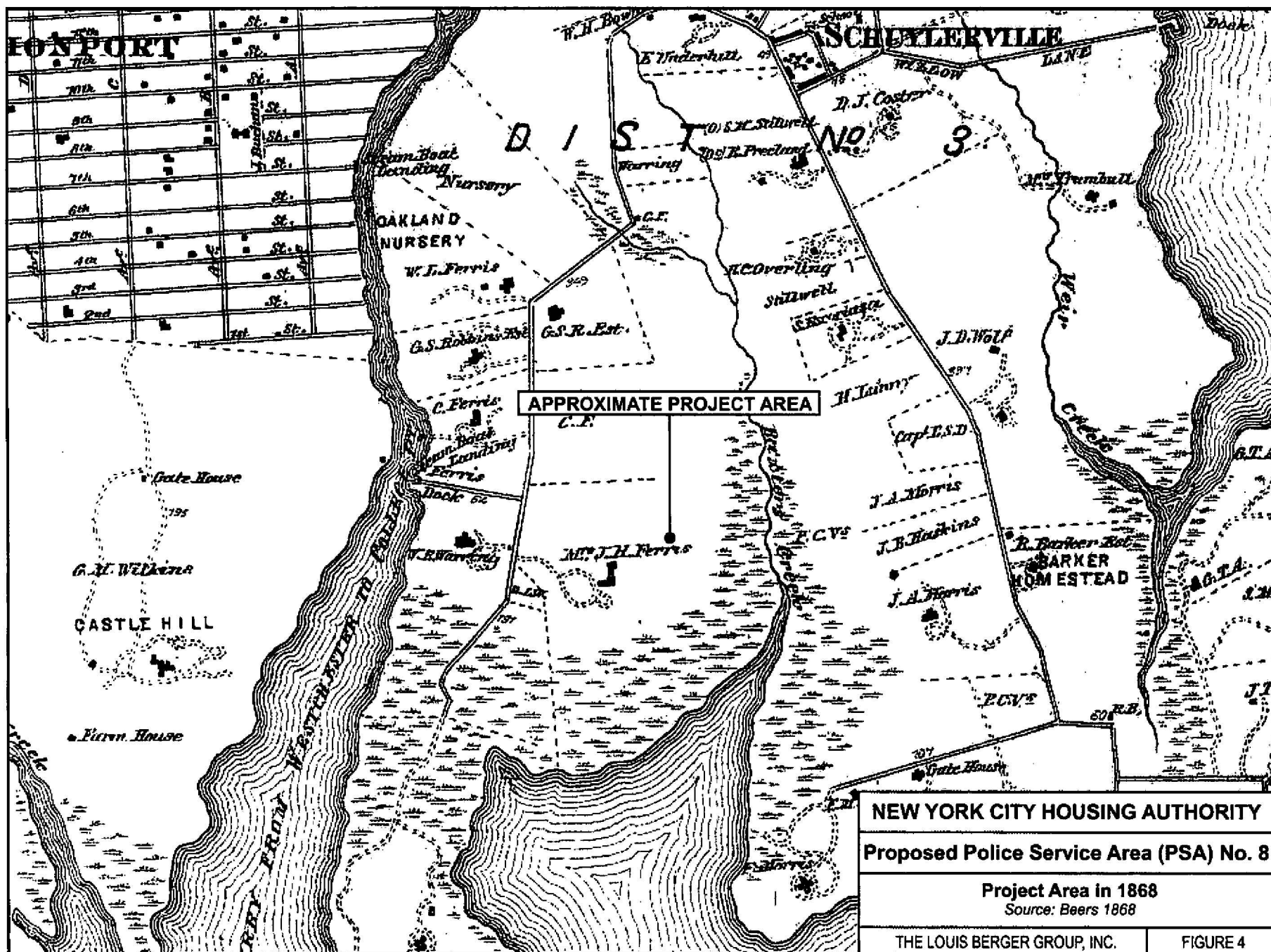


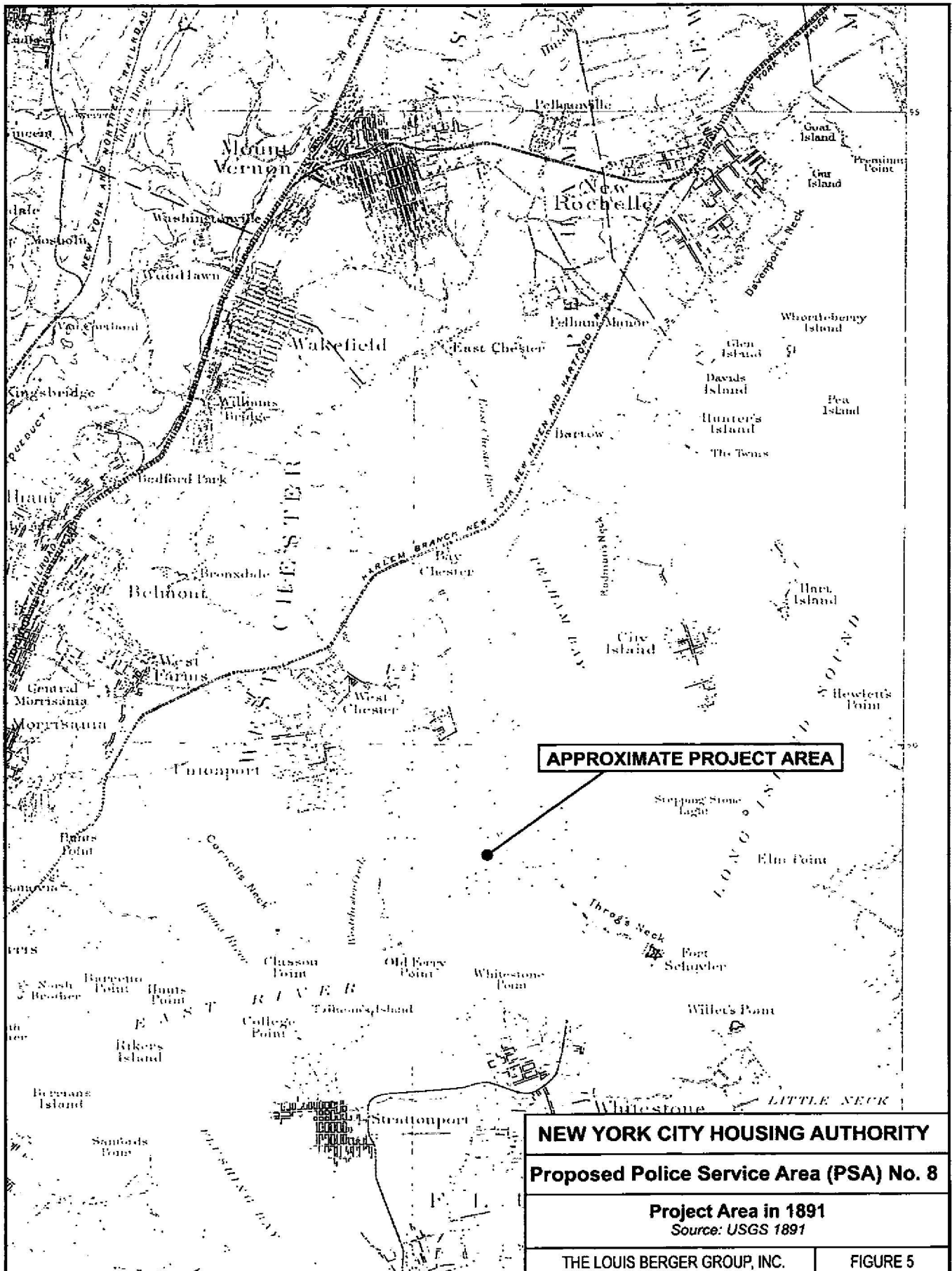


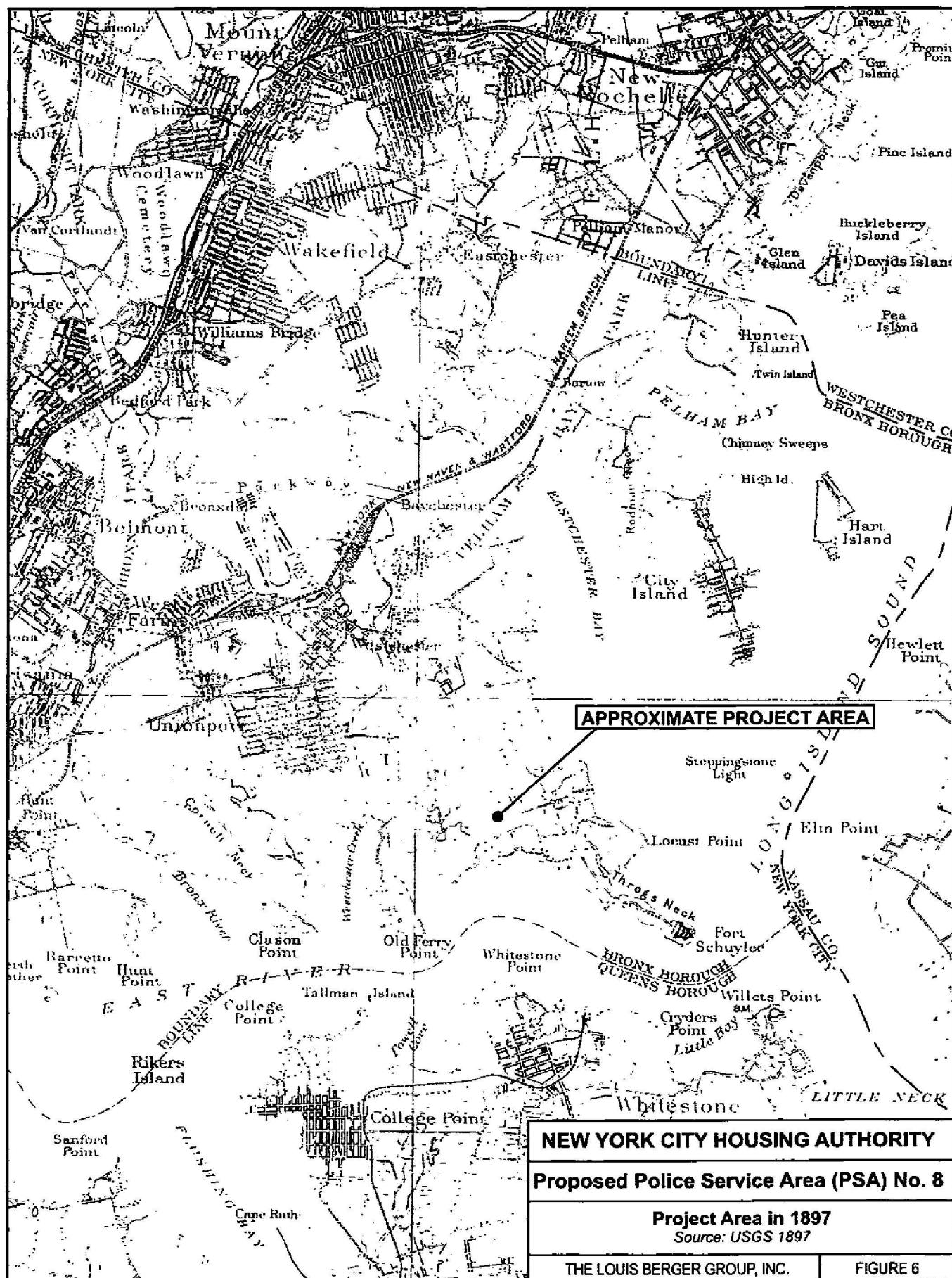
constructed Fort Schuyler at the southernmost tip of Throgs Neck as a means of providing coastal fortification and defense for the area (Goodwin 2000:23-24).

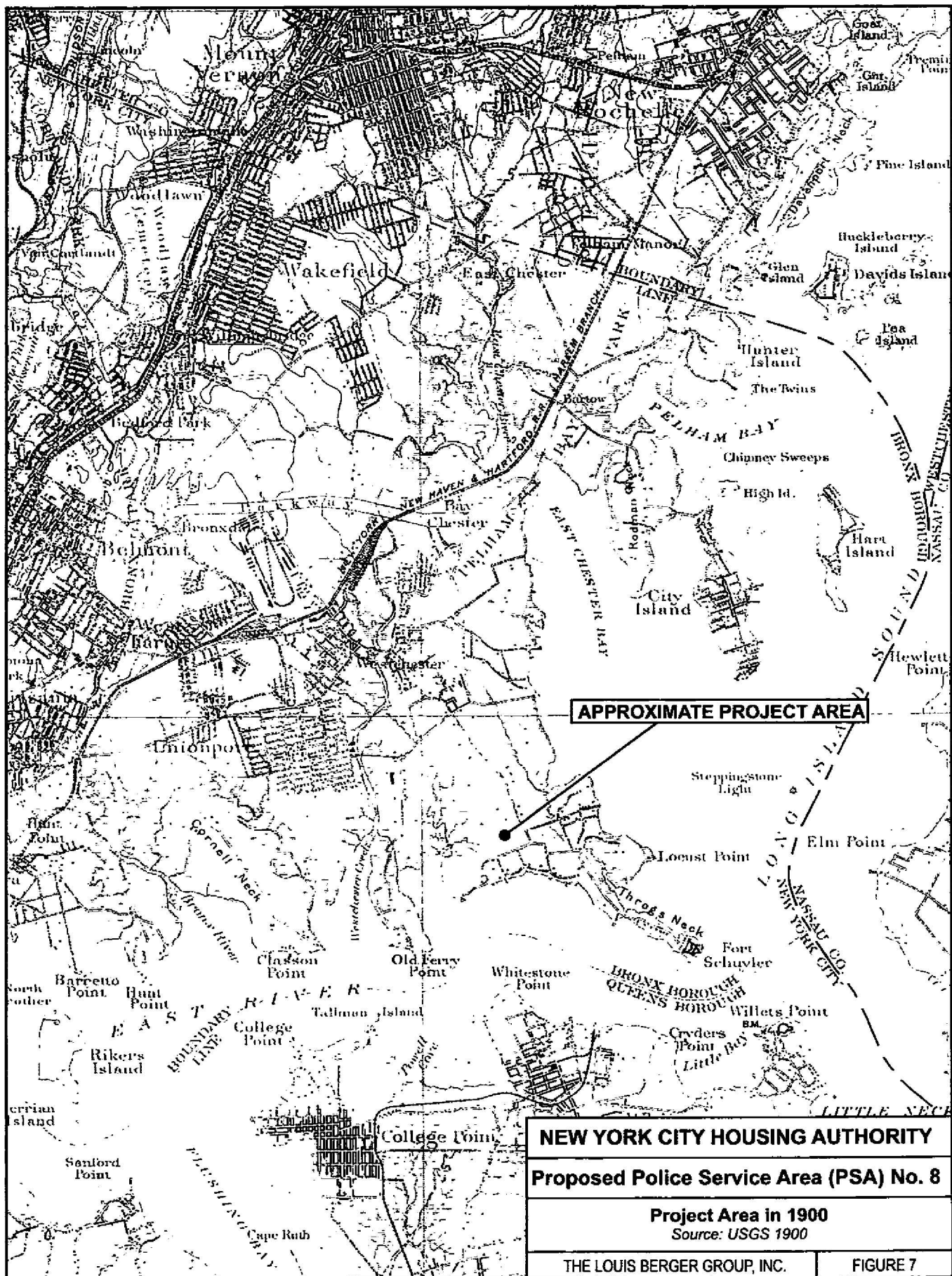
The late nineteenth century/early twentieth century saw Throgs Neck continue to grow as the burgeoning population of New York City pushed northward to the surrounding suburbs as a way to escape the increasing congestion of the city (Figure 4). Large homes, known as "country estates" dotted the landscape. Wealthy magnates, including sugar baron Henry Osborne Havemeyer, railroad magnate Collis P. Huntington, and former New York mayor William F. Havemeyer, were among the residents (Figures 5 and 6). Other notable developments included the creation in 1878 of St. Raymond's Cemetery adjacent to the project area on the west and south and the establishment of the "Pennyfields" around 1900 (Figure 7); Pennyfields was a bungalow community at Locust Point, east of the project area (Goodwin 2000:24-25).

The Throgs Neck section of the Bronx remained semi-rural well into the twentieth century. Development occurred mainly to the north, with truck farming remaining an important pursuit as late as 1950. Even the expansion of the urban transportation infrastructure failed to reach Throgs Neck until major roadways, such as the Cross-Bronx and New England thruways (after 1945), and bridges, such as the Whitestone (1939) and the Throgs Neck (1961), were constructed. Nevertheless, Throgs Neck continued to be utilized predominantly as a recreation/resort area throughout the twentieth century. The present-day Ferry Point Park, located adjacent to and southwest of the project area was created from wetlands filled in between 1951 and 1962. This filling began sporadically in the early part of the century, and included the infilling of Baxter Creek in 1940. Prior to this time, farmers utilized a deep hole known as "Eel Hole" to dispose of dead livestock. The same farmers augmented their income by catching the live eels that fed on the decaying carcasses (Goodwin 2000:27-29).









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## **V. CULTURAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL**

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Research on the project area and vicinity included background studies at appropriate repositories to collect information on recorded cultural resources for the project area and vicinity and the possible presence of unrecorded cultural resources, as well as field reconnaissance of the project area. The purpose of the research was to determine on a preliminary basis whether proposed construction activities in the project area would disturb any significant or potentially significant archaeological resources or historic structures. Sources for background research included the New York State Museum and NYSHPO files, for information on previously recorded archaeological sites in the project area and vicinity; the Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City (LPC), for information on recorded historic properties in the project area and vicinity; and the Library of Congress, for map data and historical documentation on historic use of the project area and vicinity.

### **A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN PROJECT AREA AND VICINITY**

A site file search of New York State Museum and NYSHPO files uncovered 16 known archaeological sites within a 1.5-mile radius of the project area (Table 1). No properties that are listed in or considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places have been identified within or adjacent to the project area.

### **B. PROJECT AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

An inspection of the project area indicated that portions of the project area have been disturbed by the construction of the existing structures and associated parking areas (Plate 5). However, historic documentation and past cultural resource studies indicate that the project area was occupied throughout the prehistoric period and from the earliest period of European settlement. Therefore, given the close proximity to a potable source of water, the documented presence of both prehistoric and historic groups in the vicinity of the project area and the substantial number of identified archaeological sites within a one and one-half-mile radius, the project area is considered to possess a high potential to contain intact archaeological deposits in subsurface areas below those affected by modern development. Grading may not have been undertaken, or may have occurred only minimally in areas not supporting a structure, or paved for use as parking areas. In addition, the section of the project area covered with asphalt (Plate 6) may overlie undisturbed soils and deposits sealed by the paved surface covering. Although many archaeological resources in the city have been destroyed through the construction of buildings, utilities, and transportation developments, under certain conditions, it is possible for cultural deposits to have survived intact. Excavations at several sites in lower Manhattan, including those for the new Federal Building which encountered extensive remains of the African Burial Ground, and the Mid 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Cistern Complex, which encountered a Civil War-era cistern, have demonstrated that intact and significant archaeological remains have been preserved, in some cases under deep fill. Much of the project area was characterized by swamp land and small tributaries at the time of European settlement, which would have necessitated substantial filling in certain areas to create usable land for development.



**PLATE 5: View of Project Area Facing North**



**PLATE 6: View of Amenity Grassland and Paved Parking Lot Facing Northwest**

TABLE 1

KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN 1-MILE RADIUS OF PROJECT AREA		
SITE NUMBER	NAME	DESCRIPTION
713	Classons Point	No information
714	Weir Creek: Schley: Throgs Neck	No information
715	Schurz: Throgs Neck	Site report description: Extensive midden, multicomponent. Cemetery nearby. Trade items and colonial foundation also found.
716	Old Ferry Point: Ferry Point	No information
717	Adee Point	No information
718	Locust Point	No information
2825	N/A	According to A.C. Parker, the site is an "extensive shell heap among the oldest along the Sound."
2840	N/A	Shell heap
5325	N/A	Traces of occupation
5326	N/A	Traces of occupation
5327	N/A	Traces of occupation
7146	N/A	Village
7768	Schurz Cemetery	Described by Julius Lopez as "Burial area mapped separately from Schurz site. . . Trade items and foundation also found at this site."
7769	N/A	Shell midden
7770	N/A	Shell midden
8288	New St. Raymond's Cemetery	Debitage, tools, and shell from below fill.

## C. HISTORIC STRUCTURES IN PROJECT AREA AND VICINITY

Consultation with the LPC indicated that no recorded historic structures are located in the immediate vicinity of the project area.

The three apartment buildings presently located adjacent to the project area were constructed circa 1978 (see Plate 3). Based on the inspection conducted for this project, it does not appear that these structures are eligible for inclusion in the State or National Register of Historic Places. Generally, buildings must be 30 years old or older to be considered eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places and 50 years old or older for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. These buildings therefore do not meet the age requirement for inclusion in the State or National Register of Historic Places. The structures are composed of brick set upon a concrete foundation. They have no ornamental or structural features that would qualify them for inclusion in the State or National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, which refers to structures of distinctive design or construction.

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## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Louis Berger Group, Inc., has completed a Phase IA cultural resource assessment of the proposed 31,000-square-foot site in the Throgs Neck section of the Borough of the Bronx, New York, where the New York City Housing Authority is planning to develop a new police service area (PSA). The planned building will serve as an office for the New York City Police Department-Housing Bureau. The purpose of the investigation was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the project area and to determine whether there are any historic structures on or near the proposed site that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The project area contains several areas that may present significant cultural resource constraints on the proposed project: the paved parking areas, exposed amenity grassland areas, and residential garden south and west of the existing structures (Plates 7 and 8).

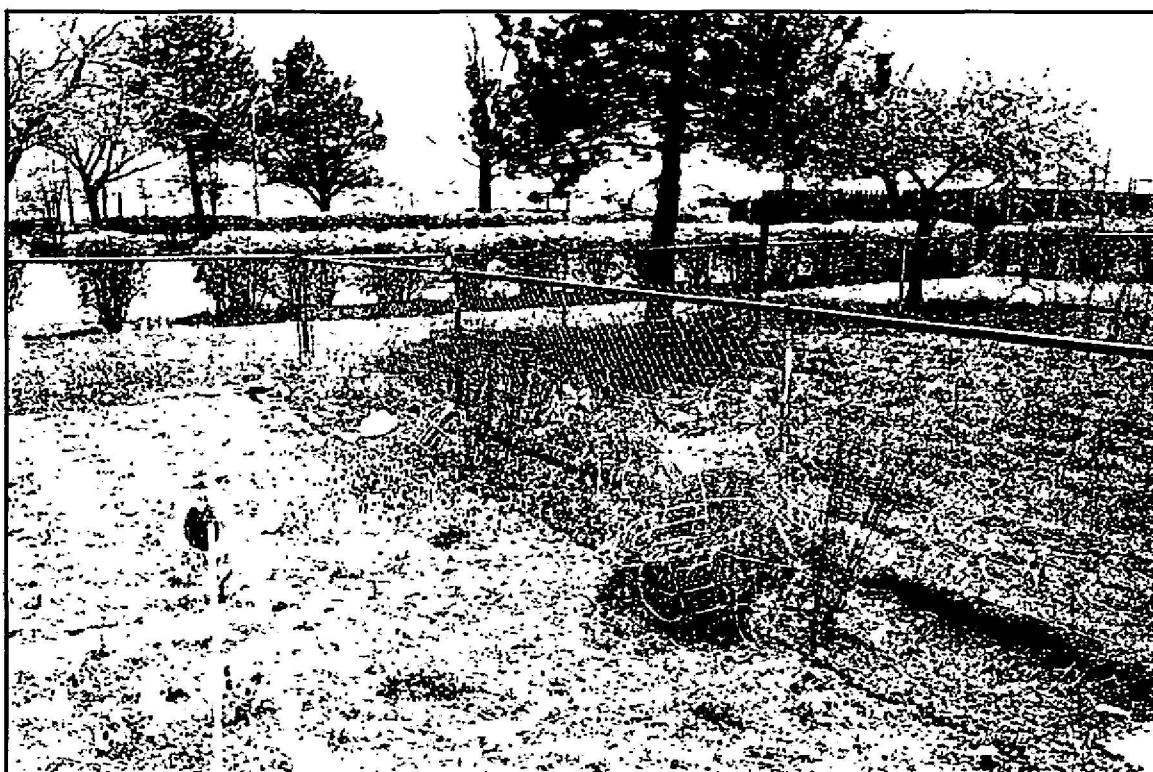
If project alternatives are developed that include the use of the paved parking lots, exposed amenity grassland areas, and residential garden, then a limited Phase I investigation of the soils below the paved surfaces and shovel testing of any exposed areas may be required to determine the depth of fill and the presence or absence of any intact archaeological deposits and/or features. The NYSHPO recommends a Phase I survey if a proposed project could result in significant changes in the character of archaeological properties and if such properties may be located in the area of potential effect. Project activities that could result in such changes usually involve earth-moving, but may also include the use of construction staging areas and areas from which fill is to be borrowed.

Limited subsurface archaeological testing of the project area may be performed in conjunction with other project activities such as utility placement or geotechnical boring, where sections of the paved surface would be removed and a determination could be made regarding the depth of fill, existence of any historic ground surfaces, and presence or absence of archaeological deposits. In the event that no subsurface excavations occur prior to the construction of the proposed facility, then judgmentally placed trenches are recommended to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area.

The only structures in the vicinity of the project area, the 1978 apartment buildings, lack any of the necessary attributes to be considered eligible for listing in the State or National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further work is recommended regarding the eligibility of potential historic architectural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area.



**PLATE 7: View of Amenity Grassland Facing Northwest**



**PLATE 8: View of Residential Garden Facing South**

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