

**CSX REALTY
PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AT AREA A
ALEXANDRIA BUSINESS CENTER
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

by
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I. INTRODUCTION

A Phase I archaeological survey was conducted by Engineering-Science in August 1989 at the future site of the Alexandria Business Center in Alexandria, Virginia. The survey was conducted at the request of CSX Realty. The testing program was designed in conjunction with Alexandria Archaeology. The purpose of the Phase I survey was to locate and identify archaeological resources within the area to be impacted by the construction in Area A. The Preliminary Archaeological Assessment of the study area prepared by Engineering-Science in July 1989 had determined that this section of the study area has a low to medium potential to contain significant archaeological resources related to prehistoric activity as well as the late eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century historic periods (Pfanstiehl et, al. 1989).

The goals of Phase I survey were to:

- a. determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources in Area A
- b. interpret any resources for cultural affiliation to determine significance
- c. determine if the Bloxham family cemetery was in the Phase A development area and if preserving is necessary
- d. to determine the depth of any prehistoric or historic surfaces and assess the nature of fill deposits,
- e. assess the project's impact on significant resources (direct and indirect),
- f. determine the need for further work in Area A.

Since Area A had a low to medium potential for significant resources which would be adversely affected by construction, a minimum number of subsurface tests were conducted to confirm or deny predictions of low site potential. It was anticipated that the testing would also provide data on site disturbance from previous construction and to general soil stratigraphy which could be used in an assessment of archaeological site potential for the rest of the project area, which is to be developed later.

II. METHODOLOGY

Archaeological fieldwork consisted of the excavation of eight trenches by backhoe which was monitored by the archaeological team. In addition, one shovel test pit was excavated in Trench 4 to further explore a soil stratum. The backhoe was used to remove any fill which overlaid intact archaeological resources or natural soil horizons. The trenches were exploratory in nature and were selectively placed in order to provide an overall sample of the project area. Some areas of the site previously had been designated as work roads and other areas were covered with standing water and/or utility pipes and poles. These obstructions made the placement of trenches at regular intervals impossible. A datum point was established at the northern boundary of the site and measurements were taken from this point using a hand held compass. Trenches were placed at 50, 100 or 200 foot intervals. Trench locations were determined in part by site obstructions; however, the main goal was to assure adequate coverage of the site. Six of the trenches were placed in an east-west orientation, so that any evidence of north-south running streams or filled ravines could be observed. Two trenches were placed in a north-south orientation to locate natural slope beneath the fill. The location of all trenches was recorded on a site map.

Trenches ranged from 15 to 20 feet in length and 5 to 10 feet in width. Trenches were excavated to a depth where either intact archaeological surfaces or undisturbed natural soils were encountered. Trench 4 was the largest trench excavated, measuring 20 feet in length and 10 feet in width. The walls needed to be sloped for safety purposes after it was determined that more intense examination of the trench was necessary. To further explore the soil conditions within Trench 4, Shovel Test Pit (STP) 1 was excavated. The STP measured 19 inches in diameter and was excavated to a depth of 9 inches until sterile subsoil was reached.

The shovel test pit was excavated according to natural strata until sterile subsoil was encountered. Soil samples were taken from both strata. The soils from STP 1 were bagged in polyethelene bags and labeled with provenience information.

For all trenches and the shovel test pit, profile drawings of one wall were made and photographs were taken. Profiles of each trench which include complete soil descriptions can be found in the appendix of this report. Descriptions of fill by stratum are also included in the profiles.

Soils from STP 1 were water screened through 1/16 inch mesh hardware cloth. Small fragments of brick, coal and a single sherd of grey salt-glazed stoneware were recovered.

III. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Prior to the Phase I survey, two to three feet of contaminated topsoil and fill was removed from Area A. In most areas the post-grading elevation of Area A ranged from 39 to 41 feet. If present, archaeological resources may have been disturbed as a result of this process, particularly in the northern portion of the site. Since the original ground surface sloped from north to south, there was a higher likelihood of archaeological resources closer to the surface in the northern part of the site.

Excavation of eight trenches in Area A revealed that the site contains largely varying amounts of fill. The types of fill include both fill from the post-1920 use of the site for railroad activities and fill probably placed during site preparation for the Fruit Growers Yard ca. 1920. The exact composition of the fill is described in the profiles (see Appendix). Trenches in the southern sections of the site generally contained the largest amounts of fill and the northern sections closer to Duke Street contained the least. The depth to natural subsoil under the earlier fill corresponded with the north to south slope of the site. No historic surfaces were identified under the fill.

Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 measured 17 feet in length by 6 feet in length was excavated to a depth of seven feet. The two upper strata were fill deposits, both containing cobbles and pebbles. The lower strata was a strong brown stiff silty clay mottled with light grey sandy clay, probably natural to the site with no gravels or other inclusions.

Trench 2 measured 16 feet in length by 6 feet in width. The trench was excavated to a depth of 9 feet. The three upper strata contained fill deposits similar to Trench 1 with inclusions of large cobbles and pebbles. The lower strata was a mottled grey and orange brown sandy clay.

Trench 3 measured 18 feet in length and 6 feet in width and was excavated to a depth of 9 feet. Stratum B of this trench produced fill containing cobbles, unrecognizable iron fragments, window glass and charred wood, all typical deposits of railroad yard waste. Strata C, D, and E contained general fill with pebble and cobble inclusions. Strata F and G were probably natural soils, with no inclusions nor artifactual material.

Trench 4 measured 17 feet in length and 6 feet in width and excavated to depth of 10 feet 9 inches. Strata A and B yielded railroad yard containing charred wood planks, unrecognizable iron and cobbles and pebbles. Stratum C also contained historic materials such as very small brick fragments and wood, probably also related to the use of the site as a railyard. STP 1 was excavated into Strata E and F in this trench and yielded a small fragment of stoneware when fine screened through 1/16 inch hardware mesh and additional very small brick fragments in Stratum E. Historic artifacts were not recovered from Stratum F, the subsoil.

Trench 5 measured 15 feet in length and 6 feet in width and was excavated to a depth of 5 feet. The water table was encountered approximately two feet below the current surface level, at the C Stratum, or natural subsoil.

Trench 6 measured 15 feet by 6 feet and was excavated to a depth of 4 feet. However natural subsoil occurred at about 2 feet. The fill consisted of redeposited natural soils and contained rubble, large cobbles, and some pebbles.

Trench 7 measured 12 feet in length by 7 feet in width and was excavated to a depth of 10 feet and 7 inches. Stratum B of this trench yielded fill which consisted of loam, cinders, slag, charred wood and iron. Strata C, D and E were redeposited natural soils containing gravel.

Trench 8 measured 19 feet in length and 6 feet in width and was excavated to a depth of 7 feet and 6 inches. Strata B of Trench 8 was yielded fill consisting redeposited natural soils, primarily very large quartz cobbles which were very closely packed. They appeared as if they were laid to facilitate drainage. Gravels and pebbles were present in Stratum C and in much lesser amounts in Stratum D. Water seeped into the trench quickly during excavation

Generally, certain patterns can be noted throughout Area A. In Trenches 5 and 6, located in the northeastern section of the Area A site, graded subsoil was reached after one or two feet below the surface. There was not much fill remaining and it appeared to be natural redeposited soils with pebble and cobble inclusions. This fill may have been deposited ca. 1920 during site preparation.

In Trenches 2 and 8, located in the northwestern section of Area A, subsoil was reached at a depth of 7 to 9 feet. This fill consisted of redeposited natural soils, gravels and cobbles and contained no artifacts. This fill probably was deposited in Area A immediately prior to the construction of the Fruit Growers Express structures.

Trenches 3, 4, and 7 were the deepest trenches. All were located in the southern section of the project area, and subsoil ranged in depth from 9 feet to 10 feet, 9 inches below present ground surface. The fill in these trenches consisted of five to six strata of clays with pebble and cobble inclusions. Sediments in these trenches were less consolidated than those in the northern sections of Area A.

Immediately below the surface in Trenches 3, 4 and 7 was a distinctive black stratum containing large amounts of charred wood, slag and unrecognizable iron which was probably waste associated with the railroad. A stratum of yellowish red silty clay immediately below the railroad waste in Trench 4 contained a small quantity of brick, window glass and wooden planks. This fill could be modern or related to nineteenth century railroad dumping. Most of the fill consisted of burnt wood, slag and iron debris that was dumped in a location near the railroad tracks.

STP 1 was excavated in Trench 4 because a stratum of olive clay, which appeared to have been deposited by water, was encountered. Further examination of the stratum indicated that the sediments and lithics were not stream related. Water screening of the soil taken from this STP recovered extremely small fragments of brick and coal and one minute fragment of grey bodied, salt glazed stoneware.

The original Alexandria and Orange Railroad tracks were south of the project area. The tracks were laid in the 1850s and were expanded during the nineteenth century to include the Virginia Midland Railroad and eventually the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroads. Area A of the Fruit Growers Yard was not part of the railroad activities until the second decade of the twentieth

century (Pfanstiehl et al 1989). With the construction of Fruit Growers Express after 1920, tracks and structures were laid throughout all of Area A. Examination of Civil War maps and the 1894 Hopkins map (see Appendix) indicates that the streams which ran through the through the project area do not fall into Area A. The excavation did confirm that much of the southern area of Area A was low lying, probably swampy land surfaces, and therefore was not conducive to intensive historic activity prior to filling and use by the railroad and Fruit Growers in the twentieth century.

TABLE 1. DEPTH AT WHICH NATURAL STRATA WERE REACHED

Trench 1	7 feet
Trench 2	9 feet
Trench 3	9 feet
Trench 4	10 feet 9 inches
Trench 5	2 feet
Trench 6	2 feet
Trench 7	10 feet 7 inches
Trench 8	7 feet 6 inches

IV. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Analysis, Area A

No significant historic or prehistoric resources were identified within Area A. Two to three feet of soil had been removed from Area A prior to the Phase I study except for a strip designated as access road for trucks removing debris from the site. This area was not excavated in order not to impede traffic. Excavation of the graded area revealed that the northeastern section of the project area contained two feet of fill, the northwestern section contained 7 to 8 feet of fill and the southern section contained 9 to 10 feet and 9 inches of fill. Presumably, the depth of fill is dependent on the original contours of the land. The fill in the northern section of the project area which appears to be redeposited natural soils containing a high percentage of cobbles, which may have been deposited prior to the construction of Fruit Growers Express in order to facilitate drainage. An upper stratum in Trenches 3, 4 and 7, in the southern section of the project area, contained a large quantity of charred wood and iron which is probably waste related to the operation of the railroad. STP 1 excavated at the bottom of Trench 7 yielded a few very small fragments of brick, coal and stoneware. None of the fill or artifacts recovered could be dated, and are not considered to contribute to the historical significance of the property.

B. Recommendations, Area A

No further archaeological excavations in Area A are recommended. While artifacts were identified in the southern area of the site, they were minimal and not within a datable context and are therefore not significant. Alexandria Business Center construction will not impact any archaeological resources. A sufficient archaeological sample of the area has been taken.

C. Recommendations, Area X

The Bloxham Family Cemetery is not located within the Area A project. It has been located and indicated by stakes in Area X, east of Area A, by the City of Alexandria. It is recommended that a complete archival study be conducted prior to excavations in Area X. This study would examine tax records, deeds, wills, probate records and other primary documents including the history of railroading activities within the area. This would further clarify the location of structures and the topographical history of the area. The study would also include research on the Bloxham family and the cemetery, and finally, a complete history of Fruit Growers Express which would indicate how the company used the land. Such a study would pinpoint areas of greatest archaeological potential in Area X. Additional Phase I subsurface testing could then be conducted, if appropriate, in those areas most likely to contain archaeological remains.

APPENDIX A
List of Personnel

Project Manager: Cynthia Pfanstiehl

Cynthia Pfanstiehl has worked as an archaeologist in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. She is a graduate of Butler University in Indiana and received her M.A. in Anthropology from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Her responsibilities include field excavation, field supervision, laboratory assistance and report writing. She has conducted archaeological studies in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia, including the DC Correctional Treatment Facility, Riversdale, Chestnut Hill, Cabot Park and Greenspring.

Field Crew: Holly Heston

Holly Heston has 5 years experience as an archaeologist. She received her B.A. from the University of Colorado and her M.A. in Classical Archaeology from the University of Michigan. She has excavated in Tunisia and Israel as well as in Virginia and Maryland. Her responsibilities include field supervisor, historical research and report writing. Most recently she has conducted studies at Dulles International Airport in Fairfax County, Virginia and at Hazelwood and Marietta in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

Technical Advisor: Elizabeth A. Crowell, Ph.D.

Dr. Crowell has over eleven years experience in all phases of prehistoric and historic archaeological projects in the eastern United States. Responsibilities have included the design, direction, organization, and implementation of large scale archaeological and archival projects; design and direction of programs for the photographic recordation of standing structures, archaeological features, gravestones, and artifacts; field and laboratory supervision, artifact analysis, the development and implementation of an artifact cataloging program using DBase III, site interpretation and report writing.

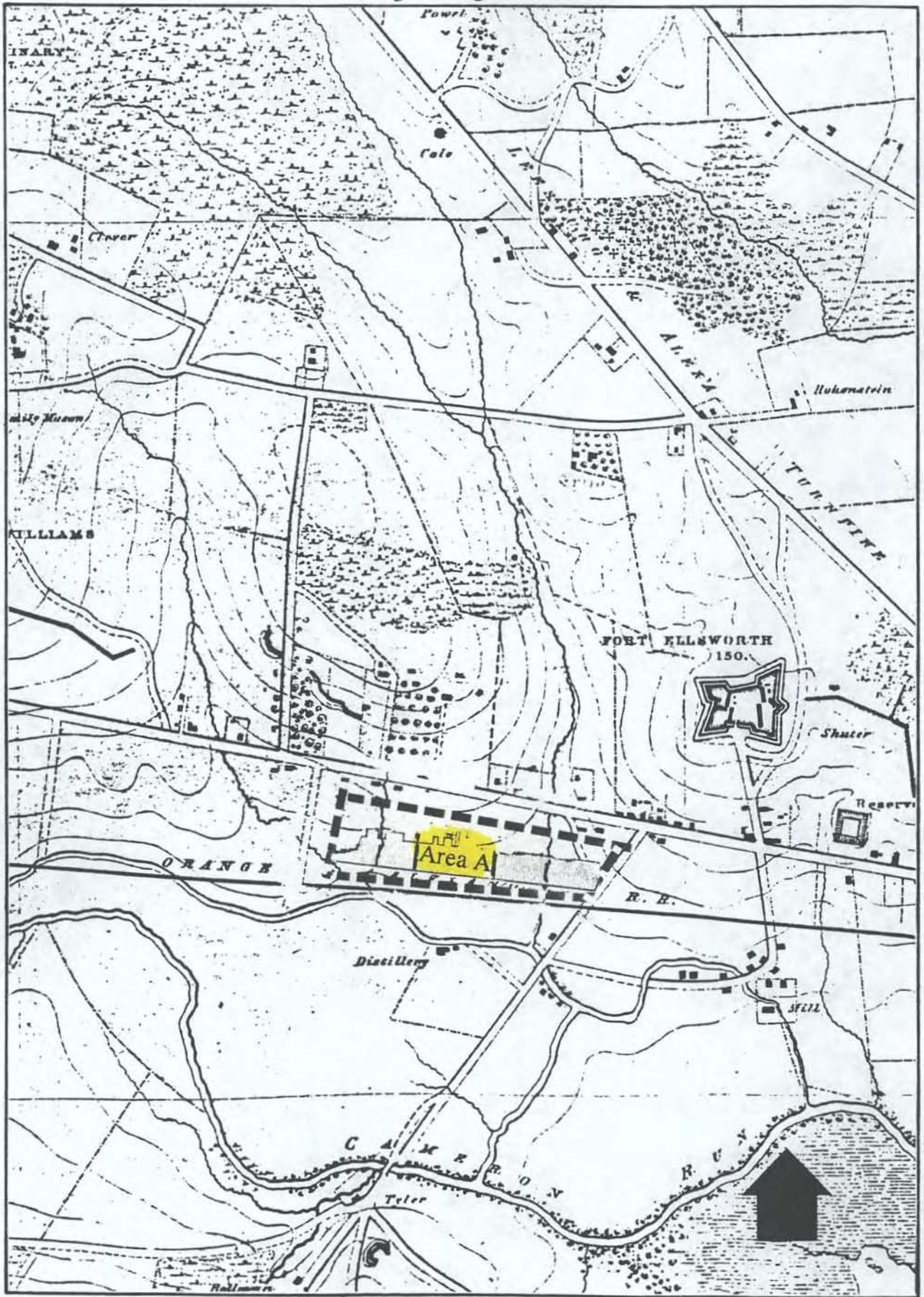


Source: General John Barnard, 1865

CSX Realty

Figure 4
Map of the Environs of
Washington in 1865

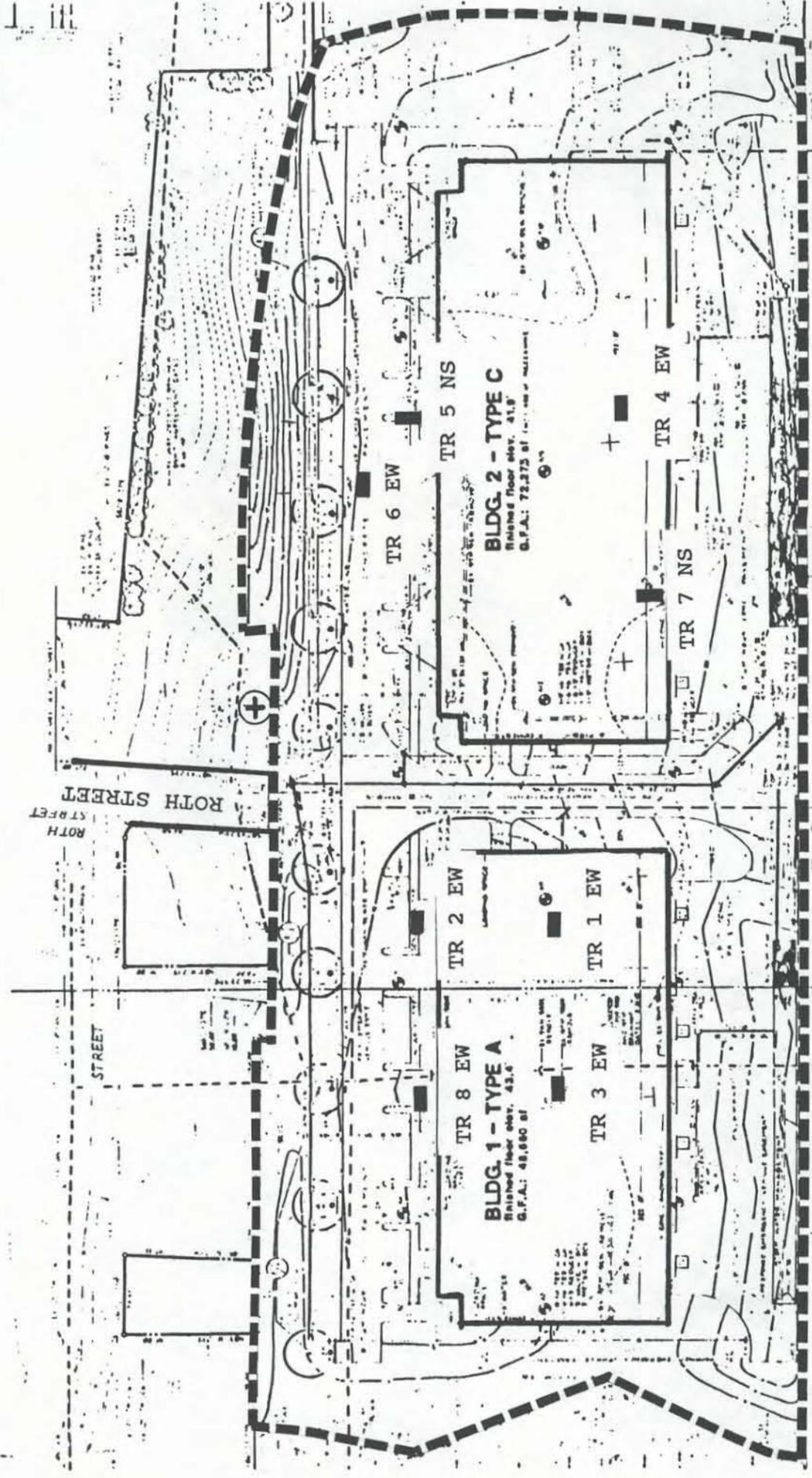
Scale: 1.5 " = 1 mile



Civil War Map

Alexandria Business Center
CSX Realty

SITE PLAN



CSX REALTY PHASE 1

SITE MAP

SCALE 1 INCH=100 FEET

AREA A BOUNDARY

TRENCH

CSX REALTY PHASE I, I

L W
17 x 6

8/18/89

W L
5 x 19 ft.

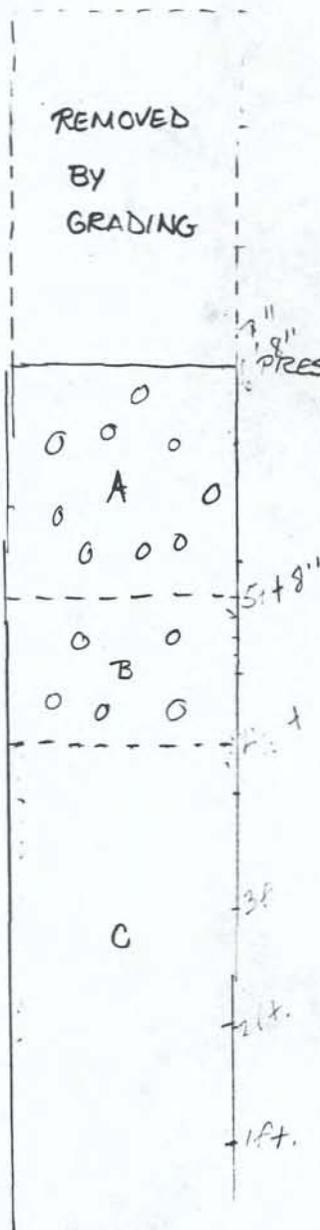
TRENCH I PROFILE

NORTH WALL

Present Surface Elev. 30

A. 10YR 7/1 LIGHT GREY SILTY SAND WHICH BECOMES MORE SANDY WITH DEPTH CONTAINS COBBLES & PEBBLES

B. 10YR 6/6 brownish yellow clayey sand contains pebbles & cobbles



C. 7.5 YR 5/6 STRONG BROWN STIFF SILTY CLAY MOTTLED WITH 10YR 7/1 LIGHT GREY SANDY CLAY (NATURAL) NO GRAVELS OR OTHER INCLUSIONS

1 sq. = 2 inches
north wall

LIMITS OF EXCAVATION
SUBSOIL

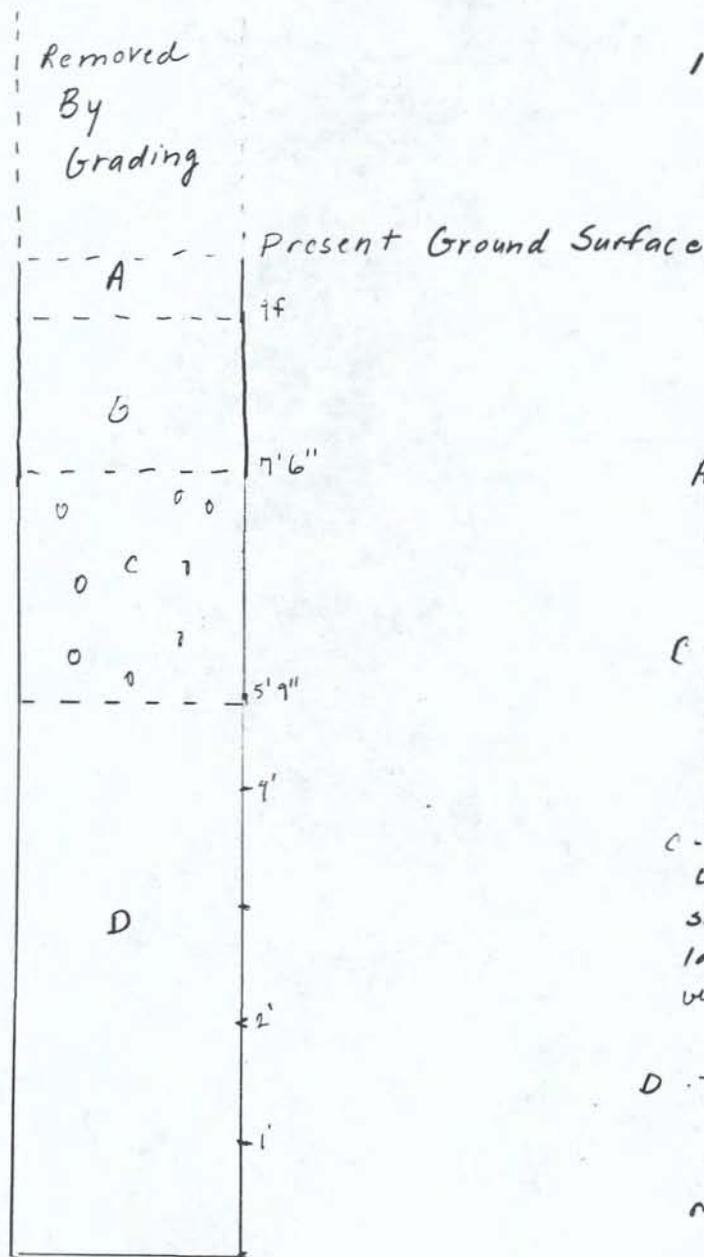
CSX Realty
Phase 1
Trench 2

8/8/89

Trench 2

Present Surface. Elev. 39'

L x W
16' x 6'



10YR 6/2 light brownish gray
A silty clay w/ small to medium pebbles & cobbles - remainder of fill that was previously removed

C - 10YR 5/6 yellowish brown clay mottled slightly with gray. few inclusions

C - 7.5YR 5/6 strong brown clay sand ~~is~~ mottled with some gray. Many inclusions - large cobbles (up to 1.5" in dia) very friable.

D - mottled gray + orange brown sandy clay. Few inclusions.
gray - 2.5Y 7/2 light gray
orange brown - 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown

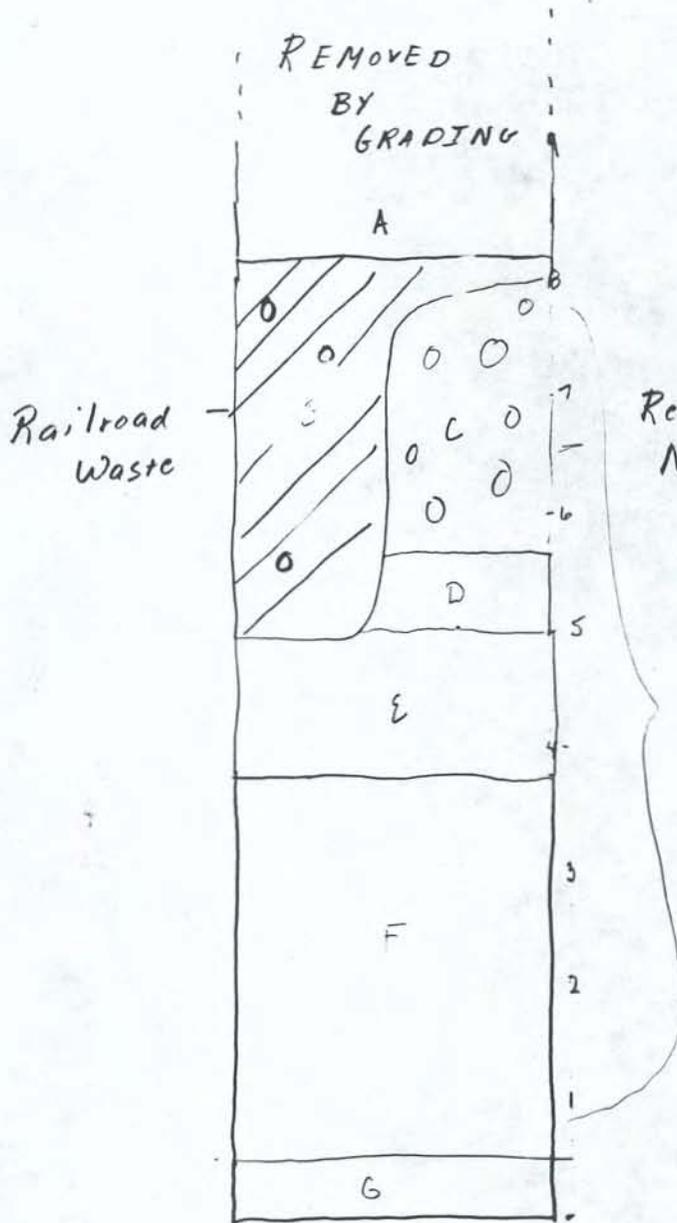
north wall

log = 2 mch

CSX REALTY
 PHASE I
 8/8/89
 TRENCH 3

Present Surface Elev.
 39'

L x W
 18' x 6'



Redeposited
 Natural Soils

Railroad
 Waste

south wall

A - 10GR 314 dark yellowish brown,
 loose silty loam -
 remainder of fill that
 was removed previously

B 10GR 13H ^{pockets clay}
 gravelly loam with cobbles,
 & pieces of iron, window glass,
 burnt wood,

C - 10GR 51B yellowish brown clay
 some medium size cobbles
 on west end

D 10GR 1513 brown
 silty clay with medium size
 pebble inclusions

E 10GR 514 yellowish brown
 clay, a few medium sized
 pebbles

F - gray + orange mottled
 sandy clay
 gray - 2.5Y 6/2 light brownish gray
 orange - 7.5YR 5/8 strong brown
 small to medium sized pebbles
 & cobbles friable clay

G gray + orange mottled clay
 few inclusions colors same as
 stratum F

CsX Phase I, 1

Trench 4 - Post Construction elevation 39 ft.

8/8/89

C.P.

* Note - Unconsolidated

Very loosely packed fill

Total Depth 10' 9"

Trench 17' x 6'

scale 1sq. = 2inch.

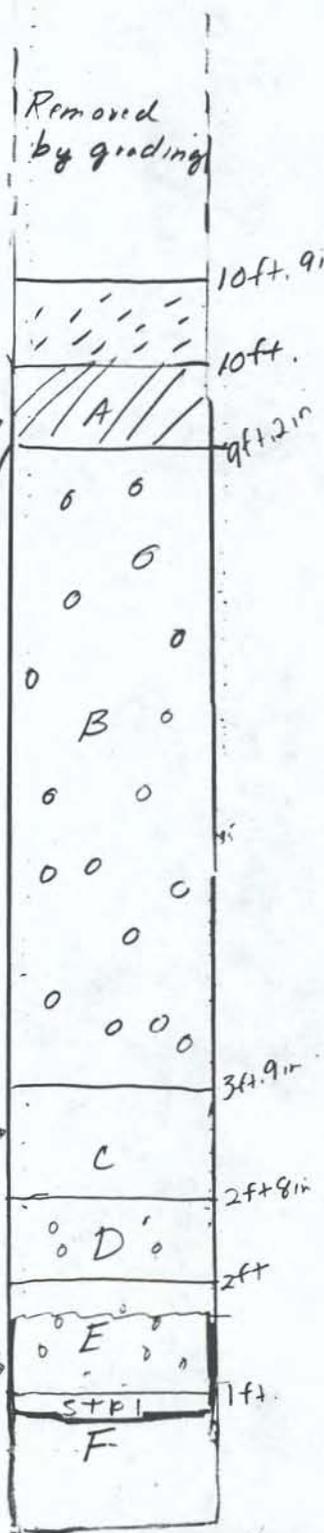
3 photos

Redeposited Natural Mix with some historic

Brick Wood

STP 1
For Profile
See sheet #9

South wall



10.9 (A) Topsoil silty loam
10yr. 4/2 dark greyish brown

10. (A) 10yr 2/2 very dark brown sandy loam with fill wood planks, gravel metal hardware

9.2 (B) 10yr 5/3 brown clay lower parts mottled w/ orange & brown (cobb. inclusions)

(C) 5yr 4/6 yellowish red silty clay very hard dense mottled with with fill 10yr 5/1 grey (cobbles, brick wood)

(D) 5y 4/1 dark grey pebble inclusions

(E) Mottled sandy clay - 2.5y 4/4 olive brown pebble inclusions

(F) Mottled grey and orange clay 2.5y 6/8 olive yellow 2.5y 6/4 light brownish grey
Subsoil

CSX Realty, Phase I, 1
8/19/89

Present Surface Elev. 39'

STP 1, Trench 4

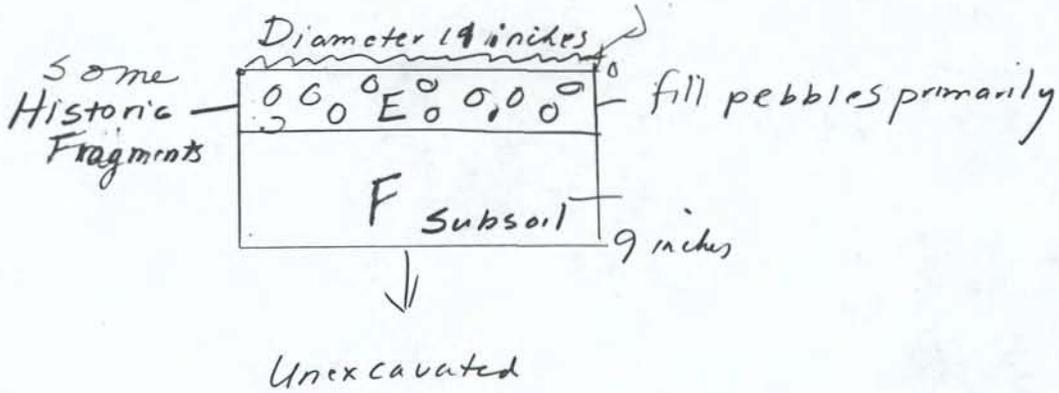
Maximum Excavated Depth 9"

Historic

Stratum E: Fill greenish grey sandy to silty clay
surface pebbles some historic

0-3 inch - yellow-orange silty clay
some pebble inclusions

Stratum F: 3-9 inch. yellow brown silty clay some
sand, some transitional
inclusions - subsoil beneath
beginning at 9"



1 sq = 1 inch

J. V. Kealty
Phase 1
8989

Present Surface Elev. 391

Trench 5

north-south trench
-hit old water line ~ 2' down - in st.c

L x W
15' x 6'

4 pictures

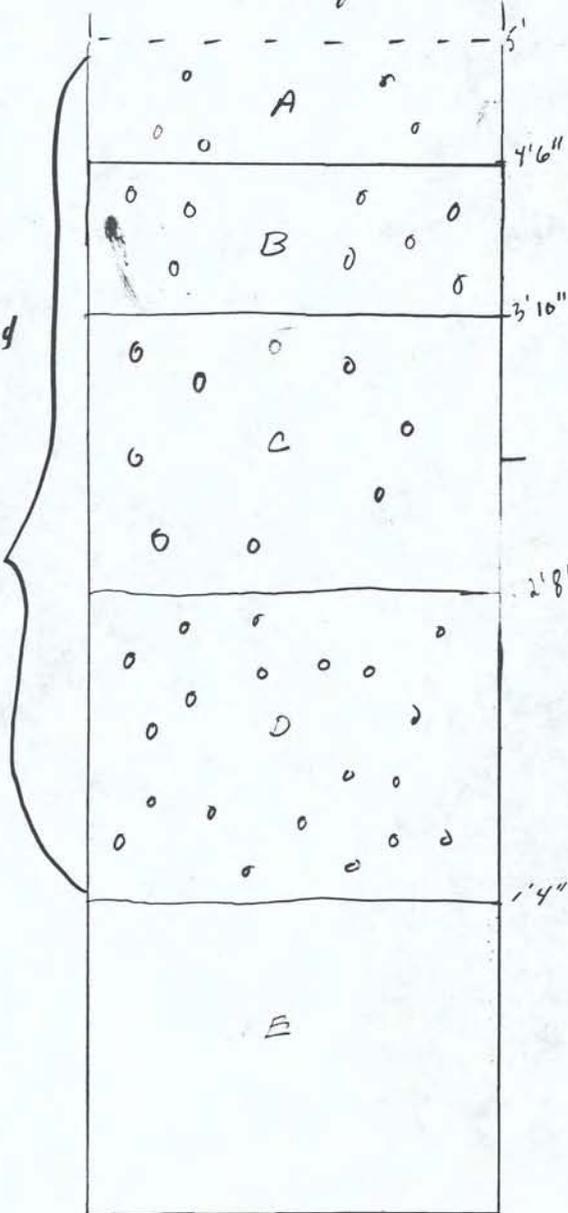
15' x 6'

water filled in quite rapidly (from below)
Water Table High

west wall

Previously Graded

Redeposited
Natural
Soils



A 2.5Y 6/4 light yellowish brown silty clay. Some medium sized pebble inclusions part had already been graded

B 2.5Y 4/2 dark grayish brown denser silty clay a few pebble inclusions

C 2.5Y 5/4 light olive brown silty clay, few inclusions

TRANSITIONAL-SUBSOIL

D mottled gray & orange sandy clay with small gravel inclusions. Same color as below
SUBSOIL ↓

E 10YR 6/8 brownish yellow
10YR 7/1 light gray
- mottled clay, very compact, no inclusions

SUBSOIL

1/8" = 1 inch

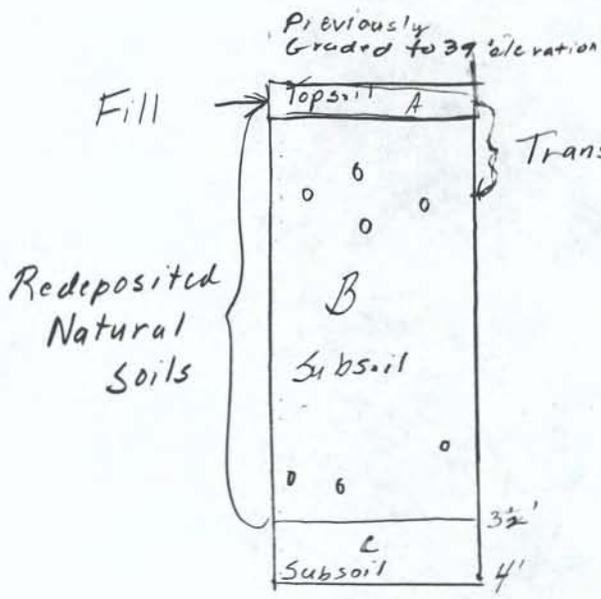
CSX vally
Phase 1
8-9-89
TA 6

Maximum Exc. Depth
4 feet

Trench U:

L x W
15' x 6'

3 photos L W
measure 15 x 6
south wall



(A) 10YR 6/4
light yellowish brown
silty sand with modern
grains, rubble, drainpipe
(modern)

(B) 10YR 6/6
Brownish yellow silty
clay with mottling
of
10YR 7/2 light grey
Sandy clay some
rust staining
large smooth pebbles
some pebbles
Subsoil

(C) 10YR 6/6
brownish yellow
dense silty clay
Subsoil

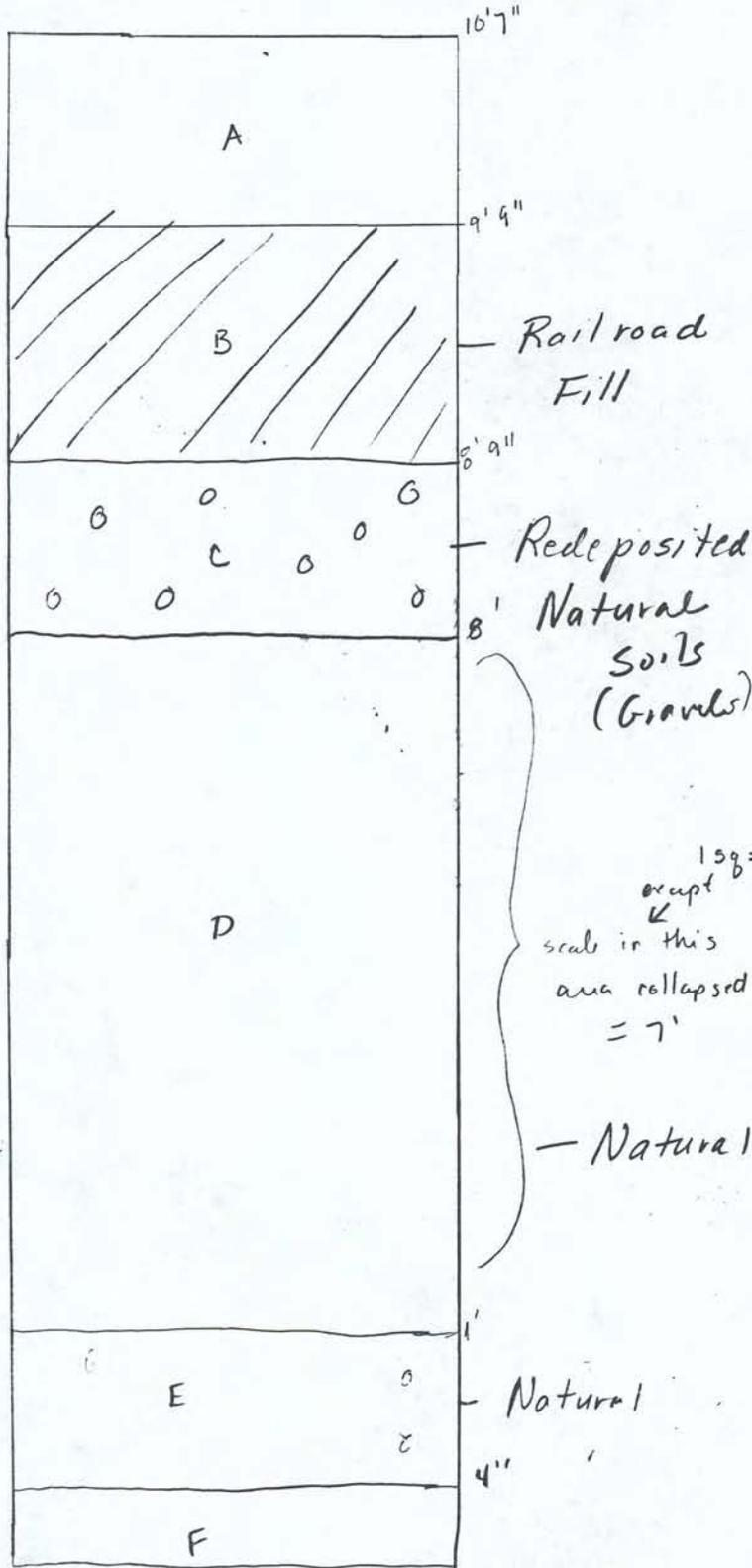
CSX REALTY PHASE I, I
 7/19/89
 Trench 7

L x W
 12' x 7'

Max Exc. Depth 10 feet 7 in
 west face

7x12'

Stratigraphy



A 109R 414 dark yellowish brown
 loamy silt. ~~some~~ has
 already been graded

B 109R 212 very dark brown
 loam - cinders, burnt wood, non.

C 59R 518 yellowish red clay
 very compact, few inclusions

D 59R 518 yellowish red sandy
 clay, gravel inclusions,
 loosely packed. Some green +
 darker red mottling

E 59 412 olive gray
 loosely packed clay a few
 gravel inclusions

F 59 413 olive clay
 dense, no inclusions

Redeposited
 Natural
 Soils
 (Gravels)

1 sq = 1 in
 except
 scale in this
 area collapsed
 = 7'

Natural

Natural

1 sq = 1 inch

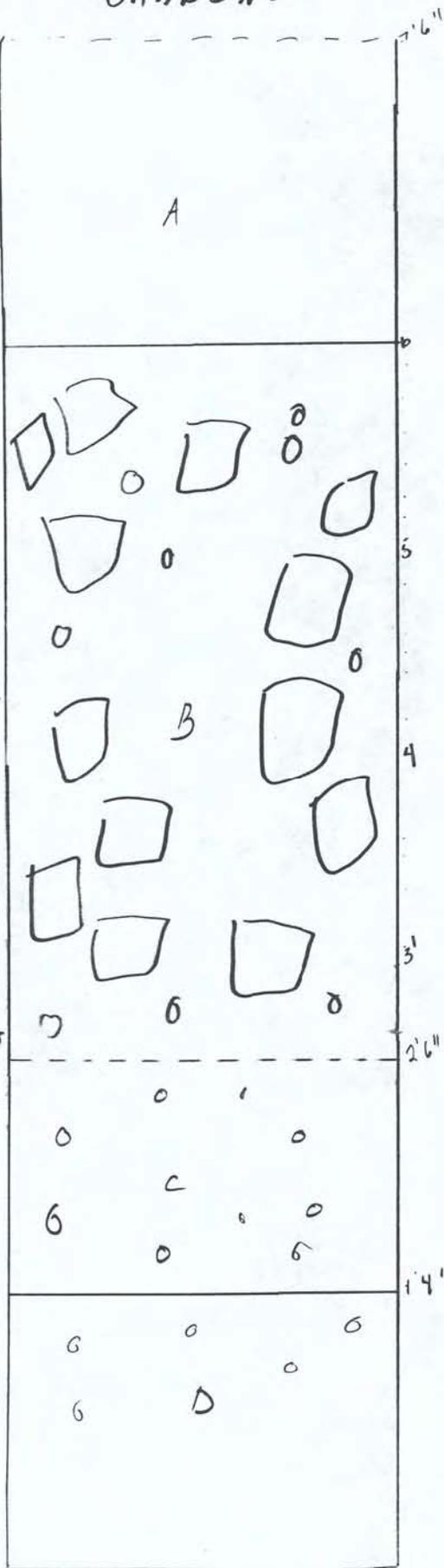
CSX Realty
 Phase 1
 8/8/89
 Trench 8
 E-W
 North wall
 6' x 19'
 3 photos

REMOVED BY
 GRADING

SURFACE EL.
 39'

L x W
 19' x 6'

- whole trench gives off obvious petroleum odor
 - trench fills w/ water rapidly
 - an unusual squarish boulder recovered from B. No markings observed after scraping w/ trowel
- 10" x 9" x 9" notch on 1 side



Redeposited
 Natural Fill
 Large range
 cobbles
 sizes -
 From quite
 large to pebbles

A 7.5 GR 314 dark brown
 sandy clay - gravel + pebble
 inclusions

an area of closely
 packed cobbles
 at east end -
 for drainage?
 trench fills w/
 water quickly

B 10 GR 518 yellowish brown
 clay sand. Inclusions
 vary from gravel to a few
 boulders. 10% x 70%
 gravel inclusions. Some
 pockets of gray

C 10 GR 518 yellowish brown
 sandy clay
 small to medium pebble
 inclusions. Some pockets
 of gray very similar to B
 but fewer inclusions

D 7.5 GR 516 strong brown
 silty clay, a little
 gray mottling
 few inclusions, closely
 packed
 SUBSOIL

Scale 1 sq. = 1 inch