

ARCHAEOLOGY PAPERS

A Special Collection in

The Archives and Library of the

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and Described by

Gail Schneider

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

Grant Number 79-124

PROVENANCE:

Since 1961, Gail Schneider, Editor for the S.I. Institute of Arts & Sciences, was involved through the publication of the Institute's bulletin and *Proceedings* in the search for material regarding archaeological investigations on Staten Island. This developed into an aspect of coordination of these activities on Staten Island, even though the majority of activities were initiated through universities and colleges and professional archaeologists and anthropologists not connected with the Institute.

Through the encouragement of Dr. Bert Salwen of New York University, who, at the end of the 1960's was director of archaeological salvage for the Atlantic seaboard, Mrs. Schneider developed a survey program which was issued from the office of the Institute.

This material, then, is related to the activities of the Institute, but cannot be considered to be a part of the Institute's archives because it was an informal and not official program. All letters, official notices, survey materials, and site surveys are the property of the Institute through the coordinated activity of one of its Staff members.

SCOPE & CONTENT:

The span of years covered are 1962 to 1979. The collection begins with the Bibliography of Staten Island Archaeology which was developed as a project between New York University and the Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences.

The letters of archaeologists, anthropologists, and lay archaeologists, most of them to Mrs. Schneider, are organized alphabetically by name of individuals and include letters from lay archaeologists William Guether, Albert J. Anderson, and Donald Sainz. The letters of the last-named individual are important for their clues to sites on Staten Island. Professional archaeologists and anthropologists include Dr. Junius Bird, Dr. Dorothy Cross, Dr. Shirley Gorenstein, Dr. Jerome Jacobson, Dr. Herbert C. Kraft, Dr. Sonia Ragir, Dr. Ritchie and Dr. Funk (NYS archaeologists), Dr. Ed Rutsch, Dr. Bert Salwen, Dr. Ralph Solecki, Dr. Lorraine Williams, NJ state archaeologist. A file of letters from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers relating to salvage on Staten Island is maintained.

The survey of sites on Staten Island begins with the chart of Staten Island sites and is followed by folders of surveys and site reports on these sites. A few of these documents are restricted from copying because they have not been published.

The collection also contains the catalog of specimens in the collections of the Staten Island Museum, a copy of which is with the collections. This catalog is useful to researchers utilizing the collection for an understanding as to what has been done archaeologically on Staten Island and also in order to relate the position of archaeology and anthropology on Staten Island to coastal archaeology for the east coast.

Ephemera is filed with this collection which supports the manuscript and typescript material.

The collection fills nine one-cubic-foot boxes and is stored at the present time in the History Library—core stack.

The collection as a whole is of interest to students and professionals in coastal archaeology and anthropology because it provides a record of most of the work accomplished during two decades of intensive professional as well as amateur investigation on Staten Island. It is also of interest to official environmental impact investigation which today includes archaeological investigation among its cultural record for impact statements.

ARCHAEOLOGY PAPERS COLLECTION

Box Inventories:

Box 1/9 B.1-.25	Bibliography and Letters: Anderson, Albert J. through Dr. Bert Salwen	1962-78
Box 2/9 B.26-.42A	Bibliography and Letters: Alanson Buck Skinner through Professional Archaeologists' of New York City Correspondence	1898-1980
Box 3/9 S.43-.60	Sites: Chart of Staten Island Site (ms) through Distrigas correspondence (Smoking Point Site)	1967-74
Box 4/9 S.61-.73	Sites: Distrigas through Goodrich Site	1969-74
Box 5/9 S.74-.97	Sites: Goodrich Site through Ward's Point Site	1960-70
Box 6/9 S.98-.112	Sites: Burial Ridge Site through Richmond Hill	1961-80
Box 7/9 C.1-.10	Collection Lists: Burgher Collection through Skeletal inventory	1958-68
E.1-.14	Ephemera: Lenni Lenape through Cultural Inference from faunal remains by Salwen	1961-73
Box 8/9 E.15-.20	Ephemera: "The Chesiopean"	1958-75
Box 9/9 E.21-.24	Ephemera: Feature Data Sheets & Provenance Records	1968