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Michelle D. Novak

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## **Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Proposed Right of Way for the Sanitary and Interceptor Sewer Lines, Borough of Oakland, Bergen County, New Jersey**

Prepared by:

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Submitted to:

Elam and Popoff Engineering Associates  
Glen Rock, New Jersey

April 12, 1976

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED  
RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE SANITARY AND INTERCEPTOR SEWER LINES,  
BOROUGH OF OAKLAND, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

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SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY 07079

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APRIL 12, 1976



# Archaeological Research Center

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY MUSEUM  
SOUTH ORANGE, NEW JERSEY 07079

April 12, 1976

Elam and Popoff Engineering Associates  
175 Rock Road  
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Gentlemen:

The proposed loci for the sanitary sewers and interceptor sewer lines for the Borough of Oakland, Bergen County, New Jersey have been thoroughly investigated by the undersigned prehistoric archaeologist and his colleagues, and by Edward J. Lanik, historic archaeologist.

We have conducted a physical examination of the right of way and easements (consisting of a pedestrian surface examination, random test borings and limited excavations), and we have undertaken an investigation and research of existing literature and an evaluation of local Indian relic collections. We also interviewed knowledgeable local avocational archaeologists and historians.

Based upon the evidence presented in the ensuring report, it is our judgement that the areas selected for sewer and interceptor sewer pipe line construction will not be adversely affected by the proposed construction; if proper cautions are observed in the areas of the known historic sites.

The Van Allen House is listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, but it is a moot question whether any of the other structures detailed herein ought to be considered for these Registers.

The requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act for the Preservation of Historical and Cultural Properties having been satisfied, it is our recommendation that the proposed construction of the sewerage system in Oakland need not be further delayed for archaeological or historical reasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert C. Kraft  
Prof. of Anthropology/Archaeology  
Director

HCK:jk

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## Location, Geography and General Environment

The Borough of Oakland is located in the extreme southwestern corner of Bergen County. On the New Jersey Geological Survey maps traditionally used to plot archaeological sites, the coordinates are 23-31-6,9; 32-4,7 (Schrabisch 1917:70-72). It has an area of about 10 square miles and is contained within the map coordinates of 41° 01' 40" and 41° 03' 15" north latitude and 74° 13' 00" and 74° 16' 00" west longitude. The Ramapo River flows from northeast to southwest and empties into Pompton Lake. This river nearly divides the Borough in half. The least developed western half ascends the Ramapo Mountain--an eroded upland of crystalline rocks. The more populous portion of the city lies in the lowlands consisting of Triassic sedimentary formations. The topography here consists of valleys and occasional hills rising from floodplains to elevations of up to 500 feet above sea level. (Maps 1,2).

Except for minor transgressions of the interceptor sewer, the area under study is almost entirely east of the Ramapo River. The sanitary sewers, to be located in more populous areas of the city, measure about 235,000 linear feet of which 42,300 linear feet are in easements (Map 1). The interceptor sewer measures approximately 27,000 feet in length and parallels the Ramapo River from north to south, and east from Crystal Lake along New Jersey State Highway, Route 208 to the border of Franklin Lakes Borough.

Oakland is fairly modern and built up. Roads are paved, storm sewers and curbs have been installed, and houses or front yards extend back from the sidewalks. Because of these conditions the majority of the proposed collector sewer pipes will be located beneath existing streets. Eighty-one easements are scheduled to cross public or private property. However, nearly all of the interceptor sewers are designed for construction in the low lying flood hazard zones, close to the Ramapo River or Rotten Pond Brook (Map 1).

## Method of Investigation

### Library and archival research:

The documents provided by the engineering firm of Elam and Popoff Engineering Associates were of great value in gaining an overview of the entire project and in defining specific areas of interest.

The information concerning the historic sites was researched and prepared by Edward J. Lenik, an historical archaeologist. Together with his colleagues at the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society he has researched and written a great deal about early historic sites and structures in the Passaic, Bergen, and Morris county areas.

The prehistory of Oakland was gleaned primarily from the works of such early investigators as Max Schrabisch, the Archaeological Sites Surveys of the State of New Jersey (Cross 1941), and through personal

contacts with private collectors who live in this area. I am particularly indebted to such informants as Edward "Ted" Proski proprietor of the Ponds Sport Shop in Oakland and a long time collector of Indian relics in the Oakland area; Mr. Gustav Grotz of Paterson, Mr. Gordon White of Butler, and Dr. Lewis M. Haggerty of Hackensack, New Jersey. Each of these individuals knows the prehistory of the area quite thoroughly. Additional information was solicited from Lewis A. Dumont of Monroe, New York and members of the North Jersey Archaeological Association. Their open and helpful cooperation enabled us to locate a number of archaeological sites and rock shelters which were hitherto unreported (Map 2). Regrettably, almost all of these prehistoric sites have been destroyed as a result of urban expansion; although a few are still extant, but outside of the area of our interest. Nonetheless, these sites will be reported to the New Jersey Museum and the Archaeological Society of New Jersey for inclusion on the New Jersey Indian Sites Index.

### The "Pedestrian" and Stage I Subsurface Inspection

Five experienced archaeological investigators spent more than 200 manhours in a careful visual inspection of all areas to be affected by the sewer pipes and the interceptor sewers (Map 1). Exposed fields, eroded gullies, embankments and construction cuts were carefully examined both by visual scanning and by selective test excavations and screening of all dug soils. A  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hp., gasoline driven, 8" auger was extensively used to probe the subsoils for evidence of possible buried sites in the areas where we could obtain permission, or on easements which did not appear to be on private property. This device proved to be especially useful in testing the area scheduled for construction of the interceptor sewers. The open lowlands on both sides of the Ramapo River and on the Rotten Pond Brook leading to Caille Lake were also subjected to numerous 3' x 3' test squares varying in depth from 1 to 3 feet. As a result of this intensive subsurface investigation and visual inspection, it can be safely stated that no undisturbed prehistoric sites exist in the areas scheduled for the collector sewers and the interceptor sewer system.

These archaeological sites which were reported to us, and which were investigated by us, are located on Map 2, and the areas by area determinations are detailed herein under the heading "Archaeological Investigation" and "Conclusions".

### Archaeological Investigation

#### Prehistory:

Speaking generally about this area of Bergen County, Max Schrabisch (1913:73) said, *a few sites have been discovered in the interior of the Ramapo Mountains, and we may assume that the aborigines occupied them only on hunting trips. At all other times land of this character was, as a rule, not invaded by human beings.* Schrabisch lists but a single site, a

rock shelter about 3 miles north of Oakland. The Indian site survey, conducted under the auspices of the Division of Professional and Service Projects of the Works Projects Administration, and sponsored by the New Jersey State Museum (Cross 1941:222), lists two sites in the Ramapo Valley, both of them in Oakland. One site measuring 150' x 300' is said to be located 200' south of Pond Brook along the southern part of the railroad and 50' west of a spring and stream. Surface finds are said to have included a bannerstone, points, and chips. The second site, 150' x 250' was located along the north side of Pond Brook, approximately 600' north of Belmont Avenue and 100' west of the pond. Surface finds here included points, scrapers, and chips. Except for these sites indication on the New Jersey Indian Sites Survey map (Map 3), no additional information is presented in the Archaeology of New Jersey, Vol. 1 (Cross 1941). Unfortunately, both of these prehistoric sites have now been destroyed by housing construction and road building. The obliteration of these sites was verified by Ted Proski and Gus Grotz.

1. A well known site, visited over many years by local collectors, was located on a ridge extending from the westernmost tip of Mirror Lake and extending southeast nearly to the end of Line Crest Drive. Archaic period projectile points and food processing tools were derived from the once plowed surface of this site. The site is now totally destroyed and developed.
2. A small rock shelter was formerly located between Academy Court and Demarest Avenue. The contents of the rock shelter had been rifled at some time in the past, and the rock shelter itself was dynamited and totally destroyed in the process of housing construction. Nothing is known about the cultural contents of the shelter.
3. A cache of Early Woodland projectile points, estimated to have numbered between 30 and 50 items, was discovered many years ago at the corner of Page Drive and Dogwood Drive. The artifacts were encountered while digging a house foundation. It is said that, as the projectile points tumbled out of the wall, the workmen employed in the digging of the foundation scrambled for them, took them home, and distributed them to the neighborhood children. Ted Proski managed to acquire four of the blades; all that now survive of this once important cache. Two of the points are large, side-notched points and appear to be made of white-weathered Normanskill flint. The remaining two points are unidentified broadspears and appeared to be made from Flint Ridge, Ohio flint. They may have been part of a mortuary complex. The house that now occupies this site, and the surrounding lawns and gardens have completely destroyed this site.
4. South of the PIME Missionary establishment and grounds near Hemlock Street, there was another prehistoric site that had been known to local collectors. Numerous Archaic artifacts: projectile points, hammerstones, grooved axes, and other artifacts, were recovered from this sandy knoll. Unfortunately, the sand was of construction quality and the knoll was mined and is now totally destroyed.
5. Another well known, and frequently surface collected site, was located in the flood plain on the south side of the Ramapo River, near the



bridge crossing of the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad. This is in one of the easements to be affected by the interceptor sewer. We were informed by Mr. Ted Proski that major soil disturbances had taken place here. Sizeable gas pipes had been buried and subsequently removed again. Later a ball field and parking lot were created on this area and surface soil had been bulldozed and rearranged. Piles of earth along the edge of the ball field are still examined by local collectors following heavy rains, and projectile points are occasionally encountered.

6,7 A number of sites are known to be located on the western side of the Ramapo River, but these are completely outside the area of our investigation. One of the sites is situated about 500' west of the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad near Pool Hollow Road. Another rather prolific site was once located on the western side of the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad near Iron Horse Road. This Archaic period site is now completely obliterated as a result of the construction of the Raymond International Concrete Pipe factory. A small site is also located on Rotten Pond Brook (Ramapo Lake Brook) near West Oakland Avenue (Map 2).

8. A number of rock shelters are located in the steep and rocky outcroppings of the Ramapo Mountains south of Poets Way. These rock shelters have a southeastern exposure and overlook the Ramapo River in the vicinity of Concord Lane. Most of these shelters were dug into on a number of occasions in the past with consequent destruction and removal of their archaeological and cultural contents. The largest of the rock shelters (Fig. 6 ) was reexcavated in 1972 by a Mr. Bizup and a group of Oakland High School students. The artifacts removed by this group are said to have included projectile points as well as pottery. Apparently no records were kept of this excavation, and Mr. Bizup suffered a fatal heart attack on one of his excursions to the rock shelter. All efforts to secure information concerning the contents of this shelter were unavailing.

The artifacts and sites investigated in the course of this study and described to us by the various collectors, seem to bear out Max Schrabisch's contention that most of these Indian sites were small and seasonally or intermittently occupied.

9. The most significant prehistoric discovery was that of a presumed fish weir located in the Ramapo River below the rock shelter previously described. The fish weir consisted of two L-shaped masses of boulders and cobblestones extending from the western bank of the Ramapo River to an island situated near the eastern bank of the river. The central opening of the weir measured about 10 feet in width, and the retaining walls or wings projected downriver for another 20 feet (Fig. 7, 8). It is assumed that the corridore or construction on the lower side of the weir once had a grill or fence across the opening to permit the water to flow through while retaining the larger fish. Using a weighted net, a few Indians could harry the fish from upstream and gradually force them into the grilled or barred mouth of the fish weir. Once confined in this enclosure they could be easily speared or netted for on-the-spot consumption, or for processing, drying and subsequent storage.

## The Post Aboriginal History of Oakland\*

Oakland has a rich and varied history spanning some 280 years from the early Dutch settlement, through the Revolutionary War, to modern times. The Borough today is fortunate in having many surviving examples of the architecture of past generations. These old houses are scattered throughout the community and are an important record of human society as well as a link to the Borough's past.

The Ramapo River, including the many brooks that flow into it, was a vital natural resource. Farming developed rapidly throughout the area in the 18th and 19th centuries and the various streams were harnessed to power several early mills. The valley also became a vital transportation corridor with the development of the Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) and other connecting roads. This highway would see a great deal of activity particularly during the Revolutionary War when armies marched back and forth between West Point and Suffern, New York on the north, and Pompton and Morristown, New Jersey on the south.

### The Borough's History:

In 1695, Major Anthony Brockholst and Captain Arent Schuyler bought from the Indians some 5,500 acres of land in the Pompton Valley. Although the exact boundaries of this purchase do not exist, it is believed that parts of Oakland were included in this deed. Also, parts of Oakland were included in The Ryerson and Westervelt purchase of 1709, and the Willocks and Johnson Patent in the early 1700's. The Ryerson and Westervelt purchase consisted of a tract of land *on the north side of the Ramapo River between Pompton and the Ponds*. The Willocks and Johnson Patent included a tract extending from *The Big Rock at Small Lots* (presently Glen Rock) *to a short distance beyond Ponds Church*.

By the early 1700's permanent settlers began to move into the valley and the lower part of present-day Oakland, including parts of Pompton Lakes and Franklin Lakes, became known as The Ponds, taken from the Dutch word "De Panne" or "Pannen" referring to small bodies of water in the vicinity. The northern part of the Oakland valley known as Yaupough or Yawpo was presumably named after the local Indians.

In the year 1710 there were about 10 families living in or near The Ponds, and a church was founded in the area. This "Church of the Ponds" was a log structure built to accommodate about 50 people, and was the first Dutch Reformed Church to be built north of Hackensack and the eighth established in New Jersey.

In 1740 the original log church was replaced by a hexagonal stone structure in order to accommodate more people. This second church structure continued in use up to the Revolutionary War and for many years

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\* Prepared by Edward J. Lenik, Historic Archaeologist

thereafter. The location of "Ponds Church" is shown on a map of the area drawn in 1779 by Robert Erskine, Surveyor General of the Continental Army. Two grist mills, and several houses are also located and identified on this Erskine map.

In 1829 the hexagonal church was replaced by a rectangular structure and some of the stones of the old church were incorporated in the new building. By 1880 however, this building was remodeled to include gothic windows and a single centered arched doorway. This rectangular church continued in operation until 1922 when it was declared "unfit for use." This third church building was finally torn down in 1936.

With the coming of the Revolutionary War, there were about 100 families living in the area known as the Ponds. Throughout the War, these settlers lived in constant fear of British raids. Ramapo Valley Road, or Route 202, ran parallel to the east bank of the Ramapo River and was a very important route of communication between the colonies. It was also used for the strategic movement of troops and supplies between New England and the South.

The Cannon Ball Road was another vital route in moving supplies and equipment for the Continental Army. This road ran along the ridge of the Ramapo, west of the river from Pompton to Suffern, New York. Traces of this old road can still be found today.

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington passed through the Ramapo Valley several times. The Henry Van Allen House, located at the corner of present-day Route 202 and Franklin Avenue, served as Washington's Headquarters on July 14 and 15, 1777. A letter written here by Washington describes the situation at the time:

*Van Aulens  
8 miles from  
Pompton Plains  
July 14, 1777*

*To the President of Congress*

*Sir:*

*I arrived here this afternoon with the army after a very fatiguing march, owing to the roads, which have become extremely deep and miry from the late rains. I intend to proceed in the morning toward the North River (Hudson) if the weather permits. At present it is cloudy and heavy and there is the appearance of more rain.*

*By the express, who will deliver this, I just now received a letter from General Schuyler, advising for the first time, that General St. Clair is not in the hands of the enemy. As the express has a large packet for Congress from General Schuyler, I presume they will be informed of all the intelligence he was possessed of respecting our affairs in his department, and therefore I shall not trouble them with a copy of his letter to myself upon the subject. I should be happy if they had a more agreeable aspect than they seem to have.*

*I am, your most obedient servant,*

*George Washington*

General Washington, together with his army of 4,500 men, spent about 24 hours at Van Allen's house. As stated above, he arrived in the late afternoon of the 14th, read the latest dispatches, wrote two letters of his own, and made plans to leave immediately on the morning of the 15th. His second letter written from the Van Allen House is a general order to his officers giving instructions for the next day's march. This letter is headed "Headquarters At Van Aulens, July 14, 1777".

Another distinguished visitor, the Marquis de Chastellux, a major general in the French Army under General Rochambeau passed through the Ramapo Valley and The Ponds Church on November 23, 1780, on his way to inspect the Continental Army near Preakness. Later, in August 1781, Rochambeau's army marched south along Ramapo Valley Road on its way to Yorktown, Virginia. The route of the French Army through New Jersey was depicted by Louis Alexandre Berthier in a series of maps. One of the Berthier maps, "From Suffern (New York) to Pompton 12 miles" shows the Ramapo Valley Road and the location of Ponds Church.

On March 22, 1780 the British burned the courthouse in Hackensack, New Jersey. As a result of this, the court records were moved to the Ponds for safekeeping and were kept for a time in the hexagonal Ponds Church. Later in 1780 a two-story log courthouse was built on the hill just south of the Van Allen House. It had a jail on the first floor and the courtroom on the second floor. The site is now occupied by a Texaco gas station located on Ramapo Valley Road just south of Franklin Avenue. The Ponds served as the seat of Bergen County for about 3 years.

During the late 18th century and early 19th century farming, wood-cutting, and gristmills prospered in the area. The forests were cut many times for lumber, firewood and for producing charcoal which was used in smelting iron ore at nearby blast furnaces.

The year 1869 saw the coming of the railroad to The Ponds. The New Jersey Midland Railroad reached the town and soon brought with it more industrialization. Cider and woolen mills sprang up in addition to the saw and grist mills, and in the 1890's a powder works and brush works were established. This phase of Oakland's industrial era continued until the 1920's.

The small streams, and the Ramapo River, in addition to being a source of power for industry, provided pleasure to vacationers. The railroad brought a steady stream of vacationers who constructed many summer homes nearby and utilized the area for swimming, fishing, boating and hunting.

In 1902 the area known as The Ponds became an independent Borough and has been henceforth known as Oakland.

## The Old Homes:

1. The Henry Van Allen House. This historic landmark served as Washington's Headquarters on July 14-15, 1777. The exact date of its construction is not known. However, Hendrik Van Aulen (later anglicized to Henry Van Allen) moved into the area known as The Ponds in 1748. He built a sturdy Dutch-style house at the important junction of the road to Paramus (presently Franklin Avenue) and Ramapo Valley Road. The house and grist mill of Henry Van Allen are shown on Robert Erskine's Revolutionary War map, 1779. The structure is presently the headquarters of the Oakland Historical Society.

2. Site of "old" Ponds Church and Cemetery. A historical marker indicates the site of the Church of the Ponds at the northwest corner of Ramapo Valley Road (Route 202) and Long Hill Road. The Bronze tablet imbedded in stone reads, "Within this area in 1710 the original Ponds Church was built of logs by ten Dutch families as a place to worship for their Dutch Reformed Congregation." This building then known as "De Panne" also served as the center of politics, education and recreation. Rebuilt of stone in 1740, it served as the county seat for several years in the 1780's. The Erskine and Berthier maps of the Revolutionary War confirm this site as the location of the Ponds Church.

The site of the old Ponds Church is presently a restaurant and parking lot known as Molly's Fishmarket.

The church cemetery is located a short distance north of the site of Ponds Church along Ramapo Valley Road. Many of the burials date from the early to mid 19th century and represent old families of The Ponds area such as the Demarests, Hoppers, Van Houtens, Garrisons and Bertholfs, etc. One headstone of Cornelius Vanderhoof indicates a date of burial as 1788.

3. The Peter Samuel Demarest House, located at 213 Ramapo Valley Road, along its west side, was originally built in 1760. This house was rebuilt in 1801 and generally represents the Federal style of architecture. It is a two-story structure with a brick-faced front and a gambrel-style roof. The original cemetery of the Demarest family is located about 500 feet to the northeast between Hemlock Street and Bailey Avenue and about 100 feet back from Ramapo Valley Road.

4. The Ryerson House is located along the east side of Ramapo Valley Road, number 296, at the south corner of Walnut Street. It was built in 1825 and has a sweeping Dutch-style gambrel roof. As with most Dutch-style houses, the front of this structure faces south.

5. A three-story mansard-roof house stands at 384 Ramapo Valley Road. This structure was probably built in the 3rd quarter of the 19th century. In the 1890's it was known as the Lloyd and Mc Nomes Store. This same building is today "The Ponds Sporting Goods" store and the front has been considerably altered.

6. The Jacob A. Terhume House, located at 393 Ramapo Valley Road was probably built in the 3rd quarter of the 19th century. It is a two-story



frame structure built in the Italianate-style of architecture. This building has been considerably altered with an addition on its front which presently functions as a TV repair store and luncheonette.

7. The First Public School in Oakland was built prior to 1900 and is still standing today. The school has been extensively remodeled and made into a private residence. It is located at 172 Route 208 at the junction of the northbound exit leading to Ramapo Valley Road or Route 202.

8. Annie Meyers House, a 3-story mansard-roofed structure is located at 410 Ramapo Valley Road along its west side. It was probably built in the late 19th century and was used for a time as the Oakland Post Office. This structure has been beautifully restored and presently serves as a professional office building.

9. The Ackerman House is located at 726 Ramapo Valley Road and was reportedly built in 1747. It is a typical Dutch-style house that faces south. It has been altered considerably. Dormers have been added, the roof is modern, and the exterior is covered with a cement stucco. The deed to this house was transferred from one Ackerman to another in 1795 and the structure has been in the same family at least until 1861.

10. The J. Mandigo House is located at 266 Ramapo Valley Road along its east side. The house is shown on the 1861 map of Oakland together with a blacksmith's shop. This house was probably built in the early 19th century. It is a 1-½ story frame structure with eyebrow windows and the front of the house faces south. It is in excellent condition.

11. The Fox House is located at 252 Ramapo Valley Road also along its east side. The house is a one story frame and stone building with its front facing south. The stone section of this house is reportedly the original part, and was built in 1809 by a James Demaris. On the 1861 map of Oakland it is labeled as a "Demarest" house, but it is known today as the Fox House since several generations of this family have lived here.

12. A two-story frame structure that resembles the Italianate style of architecture is located at number 191 Ramapo Valley Road along its west side. The date this house was built is not known. However, the Italianate style of architecture was a common and popular form of building and remodeling in the period 1845-1880. The house today is known as the Aspenwood Tourist Home.

13. A Queen Anne or Neo-Jacobean style house stands at the southwest corner of Spruce Street and Ramapo Valley Road. The date when this house was built is not known; however, the Queen Anne style of architecture was popular in the period 1875-1900. The structure is occupied today by the Oakland Music Center and the Oakland Nursery School and Kindergarten.

14. The Ryerson-Hopper House, located at 21 Breakneck Road, is a typical Dutch-style farmhouse built of stone. Tradition states it was built in 1740. Martin Ryerson lived in this house for a time. Later in the early 1800's he became the ironmaster of the Famous Ringwood Ironworks. In 1861

this house was owned by a "Demarest", later it came into the Hopper family.

15. The Abraham Van Houten House, a three-story mansard/roofed structure is located at 29 Ramapo Valley Road, close to the Wayne Township line. This house was probably built in the late 19th century and is presently abandoned and in poor repair.

16. The Alman House located at 35 Franklin Avenue was probably built in the early 19th century. It is a 1½ story frame structure with 3 eyebrow windows and a central doorway or entrance. A wing was added at each end of the house in the 20th century.

17. The S.J. Fox House is on the west bank of the Ramapo River, off Glen Gray Road near the north boundary of Oakland. The present owner, Mrs. Sidney Kingsley, claims this house was built in 1760, but this is doubtful. The house is a two-story frame building and is identified on the 1861 map of Oakland as the S.J. Fox House.

18. The S.D. Bartholf House is located along the west side of Ramapo Valley Road at number 855. It is a two-story frame structure that has been considerably altered. The location and identity of this house is shown on the 1861 map. It is presently used as a private residence and real estate office.

19. Located along the east side of Ramapo Valley Road, at number 826, is the A.J. Hopper House. It is a 1½ story frame structure that was probably built in the early 19th century.

20. The Jacob Fox House is shown on the 1861 map but was probably built many years before. It is located at 669 Ramapo Valley Road. The original stone section of the house is intact but several later additions have been put on. The building is in excellent condition.

21. A much altered house with a stone foundation and Gambrel-roof stands at 647 Ramapo Valley Road along its west side. The 1861 map identifies this structure as the P.C. Bogart House.

22. The Ramsey-Mc Nomes House is located at 637 Ramapo Valley Road (west side). It is a 2-story frame house with 4 gabled ends. It was probably built in the mid-19th century and is identified as a Ramsey House on the 1861 map. Much later it became the Mc Nomes homestead and farm. It is in excellent condition.

23. The H. Cummins House is also shown on the 1861 map on the north side of Long Hill Road. Its present address is number 181 Long Hill Road. The structure is a 1½ story frame building that has been changed considerably. It was probably built in the early 19th century.

## Early Industries:

1. Gristmills: Robert Erskine's map "Road From Suffrans to Pompton Plains" dates 1779 shows the location of two gristmills south of the Van Allen House. There are two small streams that pass in front of the Van Allen House and they were undoubtedly harnessed to provide water-power. According to Ryerson Vervaet, the Vander Hoff family operated the first gristmill in the area which later became known as Pages Hill.

A gristmill was also located, in the 18th century, on Long Hill Brook, near the present day Long Hill Road. Dr. Peter Edward Demarest, writing his "Recollections" in 1935, stated that there was a gristmill in this area belonging to John Post and that it had an overshot water-wheel. The Post gristmill is shown on the 1861 map of this area of Oakland. No surface evidence of this structure can be found today.

2. Sawmills: A sawmill was built by Henry Spear at some time during the Civil War on Long Hill Brook located north of present-day Long Hill Road. The location of the Spear Sawmill is shown on the Oakland Section of the 1861 map of Bergen and Passaic Counties. The Spear sawmill was later turned into a private dwelling. It reportedly burned down about nine years ago.

The 1861 map of Bergen and Passaic Counties shows another sawmill on Long Hill Brook near the Ramapo River. This sawmill is named as "S.P. Demarest."

The 1861 map shows still another sawmill on the small stream which flows south of Franklin Avenue opposite the Van Allen House. This mill was apparently on the site or near the earlier 18th century gristmill.

3. In 1861, a Blacksmith Shop and Wheelrights Shop was located along the east side of Ramapo Valley Road about three-fourths of a mile south of the Mahwah Township line. No evidence of this operation exists today.

4. The Powder Works. In 1890, an English company established the American E.C. Powder Company, which later became the American E.C. and Schultze Company. This powder works was located at the end of present-day Powder Mill Lane in the approximate area of Lake Shore Drive.

The site of the Powder Works is presently a residential area. Occasional scattered bricks from the mill structure can still be found in the area. Also, a small brick structure with a slate roof, undoubtedly from the Powder Works, still stands in the rear of the property at #6 Lakeshore Drive.

5. Brush Fractory. In the old Sandy Beach area of Oakland at the end of spruce Street, a brush factory was opened in 1894 by Ludo W. Wilkens. The building used by the Brush factory was previously used by the A. D. Bogert Wood-Type Manufacturing Company. The Wilkens Brush Factory produced hair and bristles for all kinds of brushes and was closed in 1928.

This structure is wrongly identified as the "Kindling Wood Factory" on "General Plan & Environmentally sensitive areas map for the Borough of Oakland (Map 3)."

One of the structures from the Wilkens Brush Factory is still standing today. It is a large brick building approximately 85 feet long by 42 feet wide with a metal roof. In recent years, it was used as a recreation hall for Sandy Beach but it is now abandoned and in disrepair.

Lying to the west of the remaining Brush Factory Building are foundations of other structures. The Ramapo River was dammed at a point 600 feet north of the Brush Factory and the water was diverted through a sluiceway to generate electricity for the factory. The dam and sluiceway can still be seen today.

6. The Vernam Spring was located north of Long Hill Road and off Nielson Avenue near the site of the Spear Sawmill. Through the years, this spring water had various commercial uses including one as a bed for watercress which was sold to florists. For a time it even served as a source of potable water for Oakland.

The Vernam Spring and Watercress area can still be seen today. It is enclosed in a circular concrete foundation, which at one time had a wooden structure over it, which is now collapsed and in ruins.

7. Kanouse Water Company. In 1904, Mrs. Remington Vernam opened up a small bottling plant which utilized water from the Vernam Spring. In 1906, she sold the bottling plant to the Kanouse Water Company. The plant was a two-story building located near the Susquehanna Railroad on West Oakland Avenue. Kanouse Water was bottled here as well as "Bloodwine," an early soft drink. Today the Kanouse building houses a company called Engineering Laboratories, Inc. Hidden behind the modern additions, the early bottling plant is a cement stucco structure with a tile roof that has been adapted to modern industrial use.

8. Vervaet Woven Label Company: This company stood on the south corner of Franklin Avenue and Ramapo Valley Road. The building was originally used as a sawmill and was purchased in 1921 by Arthur Vervaet, Sr. It was used to manufacture hat, shirt and clothing labels and was in operation until fairly recent times. The building today houses the Faber Brothers Rug Company.

9. James Post's Woolen Mill was located on Long Hill Brook. This was a Spinning Mill operated by water power generated by a little pond located west of the former site of Ponds Church. The date of its construction and period of operation is not known. The mill is no longer in existence.

## Conclusion

Prehistoric sites had been recognized in the Oakland area for more than a half century, but they were not numerous, and they were of limited size. The flood plains were insufficiently elevated to assure adequate drainage and safety during spring or flash floods. Most Indian camp sites appear to have been located on the terraces or knolls. Regrettably, all are now destroyed due to urban and industrial expansion.

The fish wier is the most significant prehistoric feature discovered during the course of this investigation. It is one of the very few known to be extant in New Jersey. The rock shelters overlooking the fish wier appear to have been completely dug out and destroyed.

The proposed sewer and interceptor lines will completely avoid the fish wier and rock shelters. The other aboriginal sites have already been damaged beyond recovery.

Most of the historic structures described in this report are presently in use and in good condition. Several of the old homes have been altered, remodeled and added to, and have been adapted to serve a commercial function. The proposed sewer lines, force main, and sewage pumping station do not present a direct threat to these historic buildings.

All of the 18th century mill structures have long since disappeared. Several of the later industrial sites are still standing such as Vervaet's Woven Label Company, The Brush Factory, and the Kanouse Water Company building, and have been adapted to other uses. The proposed sewer construction does not directly threaten these industrial sites.

During sewer construction work, particular care must be exercised in the area near the Van Allen House (corner Franklin Avenue and Ramapo Valley Road) and the site of Ponds Church and Cemetery. These historic sites are extremely important to our local and national heritage and any risk of adverse "secondary" impact must be avoided.



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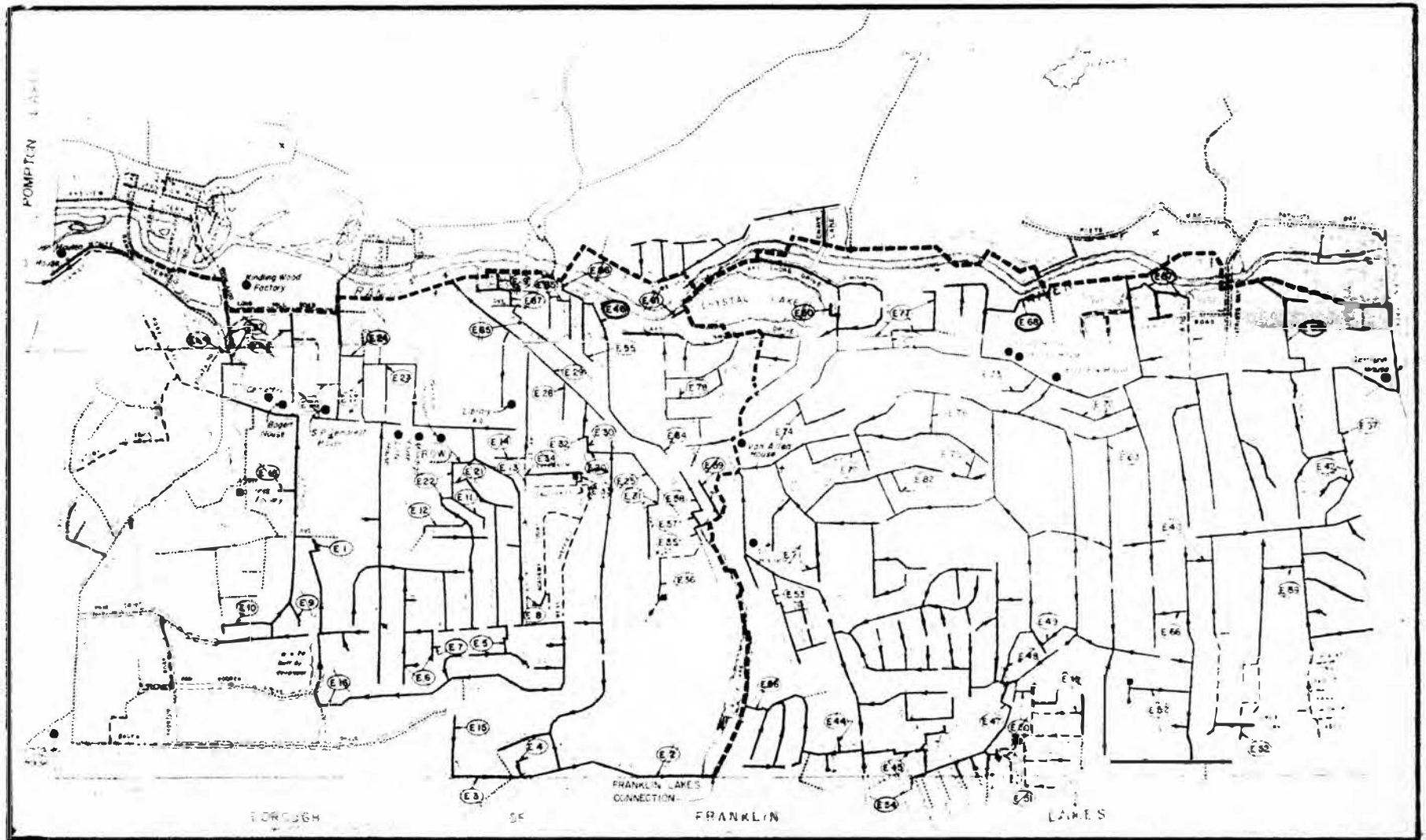
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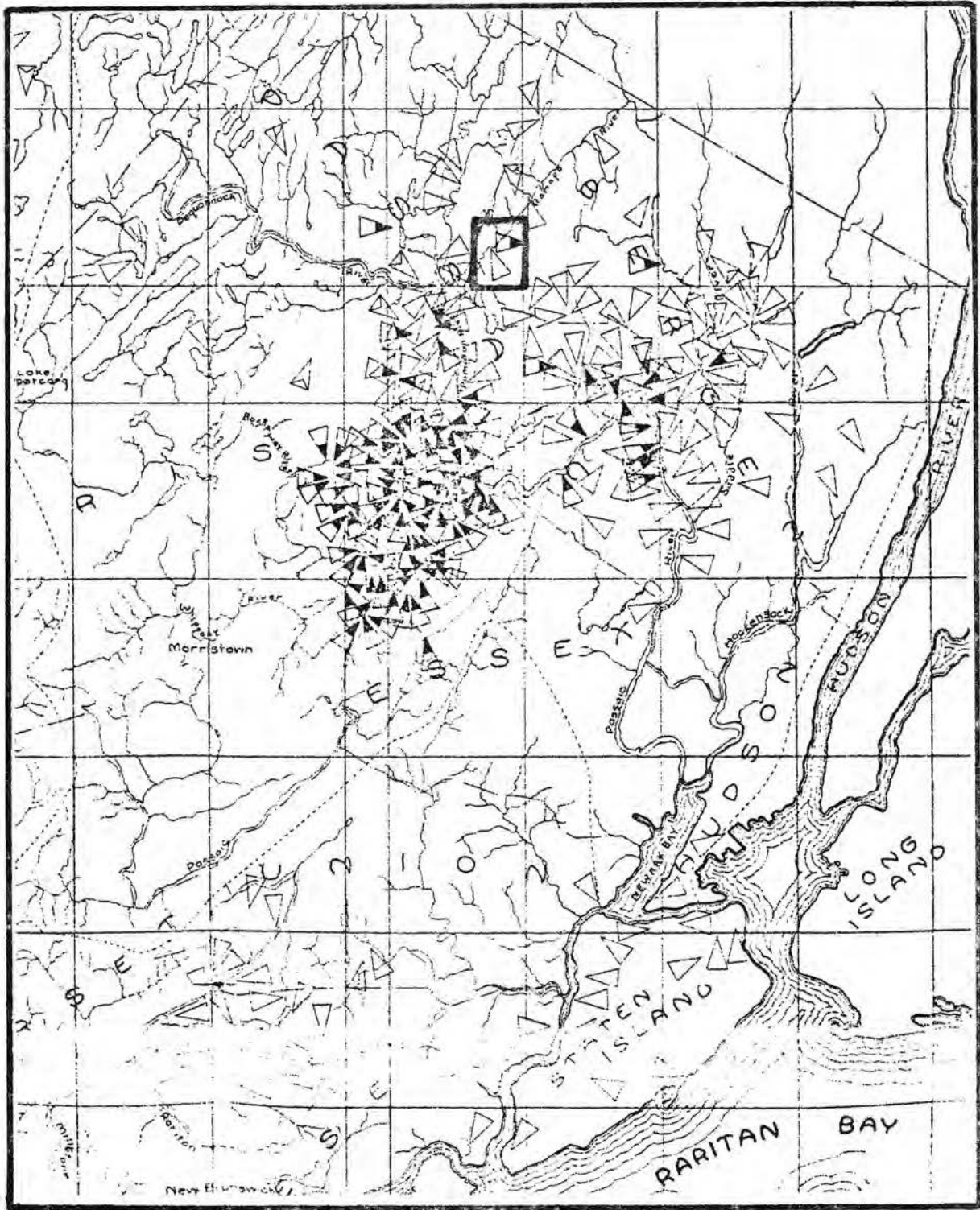
Appendix

Maps, Photographs (Figures) and  
Vita of Principal Investigator



Map 1 Borough of Oakland showing the proposed sewer lines —> and interceptor sewer lines - - - - . Some of the historic sites are indicated •





Map 3. Detail of the "Indian Sites Survey Map" (Cross 1941) showing the area in and around Oakland. There is a notable paucity of prehistoric sites in Oakland itself.





Fig. 1 View of area near Long Hill Road.



Fig. 2. Area near River Road and the Ramapo River.

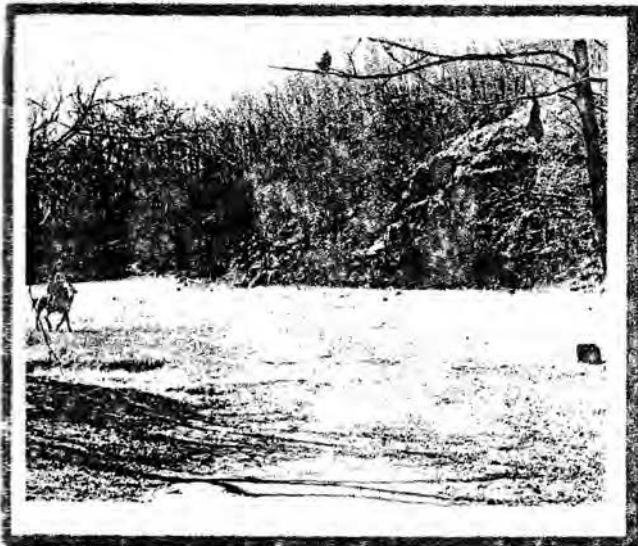


Fig. 3. Sector near Roosevelt Blvd., in Oakland, N.J.



Fig. 4. Wooded area on Kingsley Estate.



Fig. 5. Bridge across Ramapo River to Kingsley property.

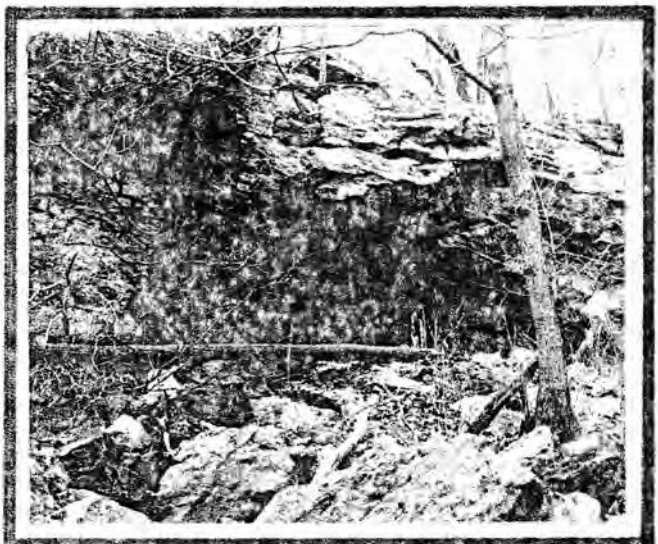


Fig. 6. Rockshelter on the Kingsley property.

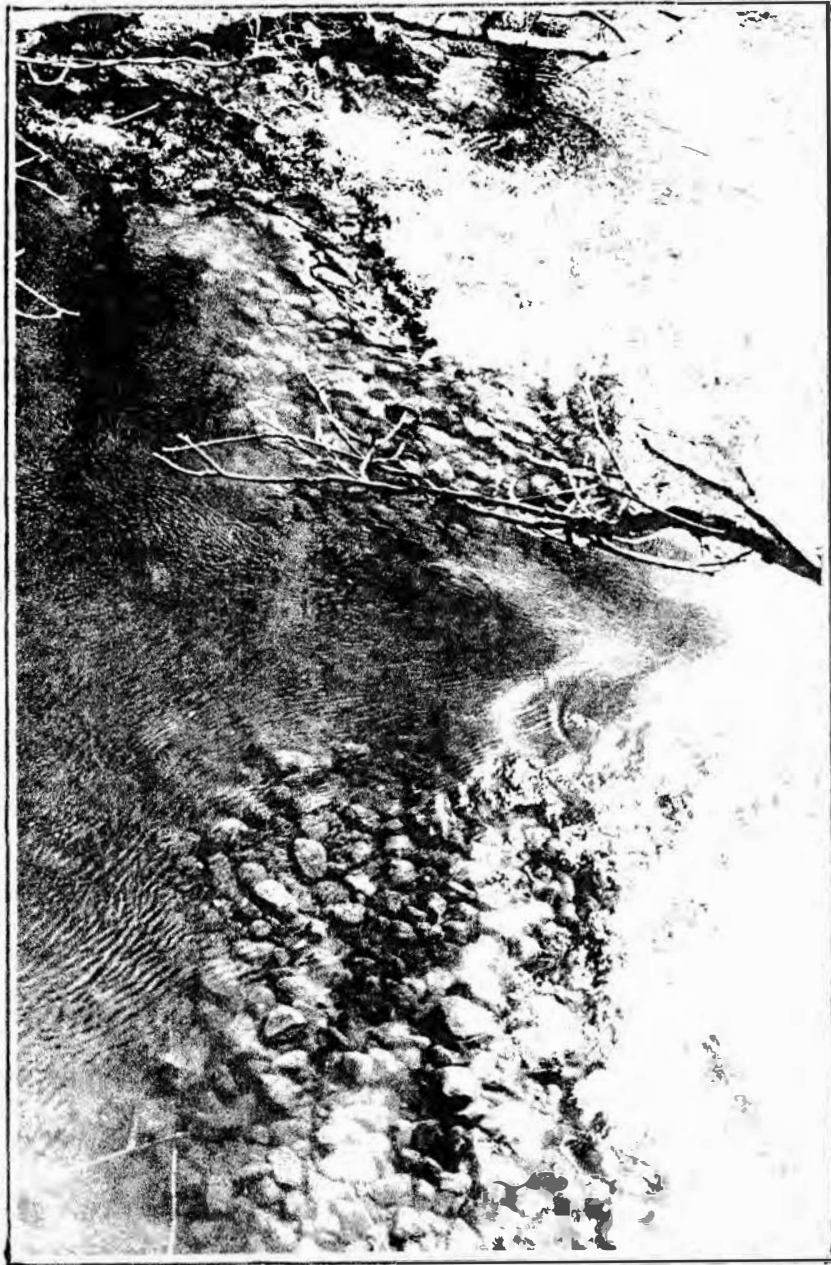


Fig. 7. Remains of a prehistoric fish weir in the Ramapo River, Oakland, N. J. (see p. 7 #9).

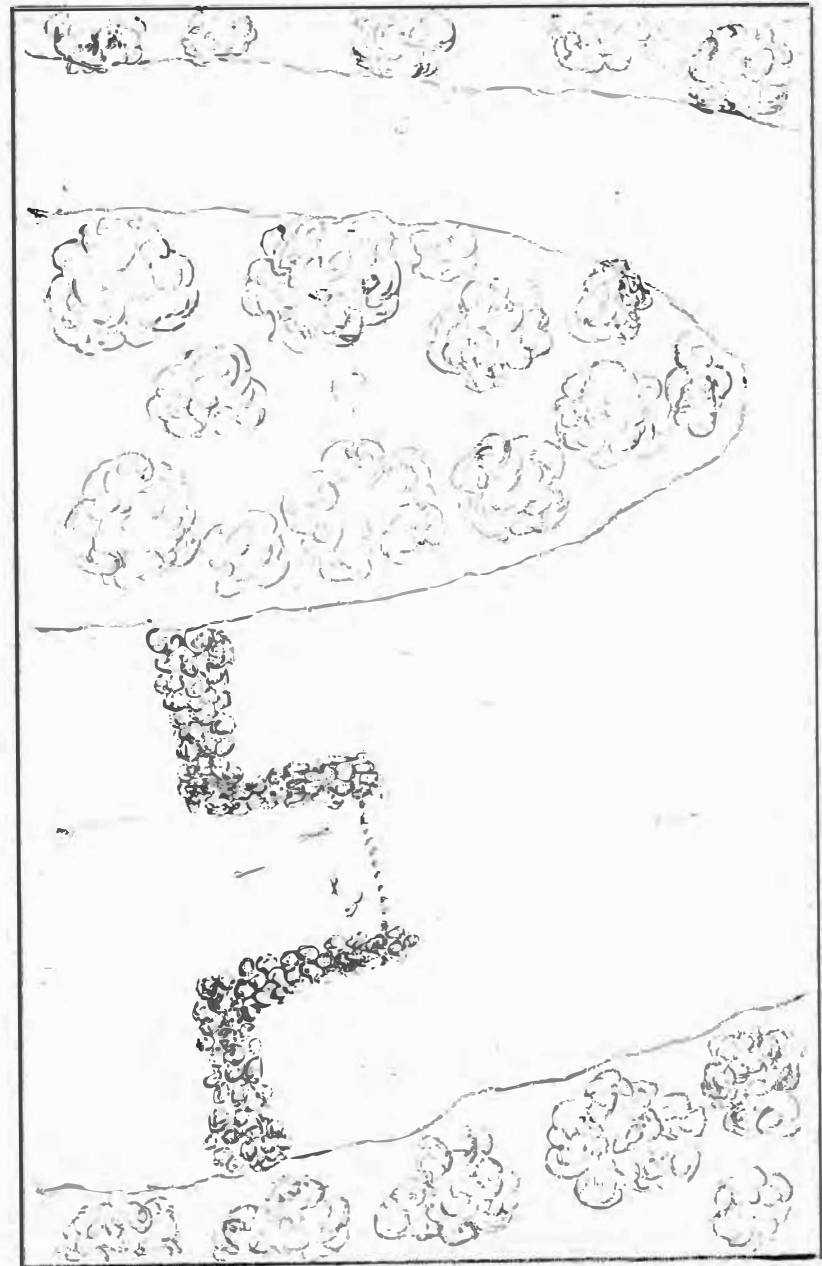


Fig. 8. Suggested reconstruction of the prehistoric Indian fish weir shown at left.

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