

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 17 1981

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jacob Riis Park Historic District (Gateway NRA)

AND/OR COMMON

Jacob Riis Park

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Rockaway Beach Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rockaway Point vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

New York

VICINITY OF

11

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New York

36

Queens

81

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, North Atlantic Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Boston

VICINITY OF

Mass.

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queens County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

45th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

New York

New York

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Tony W. Wrenn, "General History of the Jamaica Bay, Breezy Point, and  
Staten Island Units," GATE

DATE

9/31/75

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

NAR

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jacob Riis Park Historic District comprises three significant recreational buildings constructed between 1932-1937. These buildings are the core structures of Jacob Riis Park, now a unit of Gateway National Recreation Area, Queens County, New York. Jacob Riis Park (220 acres) occupies a mile-long section of the Rockaway Peninsula. Aside from swimming and sunbathing, the park provides other recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, boating, limited biking, and playing fields.

The Bathing Pavilion (HS 606), a massive structure commonly known as the Bathhouse, is a roughly T-shaped brick masonry building which consists of a rectangular, single-story unit built in 1932 and enlarged by a long, two-story addition on the south built in 1936-37. The earlier section is composed of a rectangular open court enclosed by high brick walls on the north, east, and west, and by the two-story addition on the south. In the center of the north wall there is a single-story projection which provides the entrance to the bathhouse and also houses bathhouse facilities. Its front is faced with a long arcade supported by corinthian pillars and topped with two octagonal turrets. Within the arcade there are pairs of double doors topped with fanlight transoms and separated by booths which provide entry into the vestibule of the locker area. This projection is covered with an asphalt shingled gable roof. The locker area, which is not covered, is divided into a women's area on the west and a men's area on the east. There are 10,000 simple wooden cabanas in this inner court. Passageways lead from each of these areas out onto the promenade through the southern addition. There are two identical single-story, rectangular brick buildings located on the southeast and southwest corners of this inner court. The eastern building houses a garage; and the western contains office space. The architects for this portion of the bathhouse were Stoughton and Plonck. In 1936 and 1937 the bathhouse was enlarged by the New York City Department of Parks. Clinton Lloyd was the chief of architectural design and Aymar Embury, II, was the architectural consultant for the Marine Parkway projects. The ocean side of the bathhouse is a long, two-story brick structure with concrete trim dominated by two octagonal four-story towers. The central area, projecting between the two towers, consists of an arcade supported by round concrete columns. Above the arcade is a rectangular concrete bay with rounded corners, a flat roof, and glass block windows, which contains a restaurant. On either side of this central projection, there are four rectangular, single-story projecting bays. The inner bays provide access to the locker courts; the outer bays contain the umbrella and deck chair concessions. There are symmetrical stairways on either side of these projections which lead up to a sun deck. Extending to the east and west of the central area, there are symmetrical two-story wings with gable roofs which terminate in square wings with hip roofs. The end wings contain refreshment bars on the ground level. The windows at the second story level are all glass block. The concession booths and the refreshment bars are indicated by steel-lettered signs mounted above the windows.

The two Central Mall Buildings (HS603 and 604), constructed in 1936-37, are twin brick and tile masonry buildings with concrete trim which face each other across the southern end of the mall. Both buildings consist of a square, two-story block (flanked by one-story wings) connected to a rectangular, single story wing to the south by a single

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

**PERIOD**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

- |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |   |   |   |

Urban Planning  
Recreation

SPECIFIC DATES      1932-1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Julius Burgevin, Stoughton & Plonck  
New York City, Department of Parks

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The buildings which comprise the Historic District--especially the Bathhouse--are excellent examples of recreational architecture of the early 1930's. They are the central structures in a fine example of public park design and community planning during the 1920's and 1930's. Also, Jacob Riis Park was completed through the Work Progress Administration, a Federal relief program of the Roosevelt Administration during the Depression. Therefore, it is associated with this important social and government program.

The Main Bathhouse is a good example of Art Deco design adapted to architecture. The Art Deco style, characterized by streamlined geometric shapes and occasional polychrome patterns, was particularly concentrated in New York City. The grounds at Jacob Riis were extensively landscaped to include ample recreational facilities among a setting of about 20,000 trees and 50,000 shrubs. Julius Burgevin, the landscape architect, included plantings of Japanese black pines, sea holly, bayberry, beach plum, as well as beach grass in his landscaping. The buildings and grounds, which have survived relatively unaltered since 1937, remain good examples of prevalent aesthetic design during the 1930's.

Although the development of the District as a city planned park begins in the early 1920's, the historical significance of the District derives from the implementation and construction of the park during the 1930's. Labor costs were funded through the Works Progress Administration. WPA projects in New York, including the nation's largest project, LaGuardia Airport, provided temporary relief for the city's unemployed.

As well as the district's association with a major innovation in public policy, the district is also associated with Robert Moses, the influential New York City Commissioner of Parks. In 1936, under Moses's direction, the bathhouse was enlarged, a mall was constructed, two semicircular buildings housing concessions and other facilities were erected, and new recreational facilities were added. A sixty-two acre parking lot located north of the bathhouse, was completed. With a 14,000 car capacity, it was the largest in the world at the time. Nearby the new Marine Parkway Bridge, another Moses project, was finished giving a new access route to the seashore park.

Jacob Riis Park officially opened on July 3, 1937. It was maintained by the City of New York until 1972 when the park was acquired by the National Park Service with the creation of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series: New York City Guide (New York, Random House, 1939)

Wrenn, Tony: General History of the Jamaica Bay, Breezy Point and Staten Island Units. Gateway National Recreation Area, New York, NY (n.p., 1975).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre 88 acres see phone report

UTM REFERENCES  V

See continuation sheet received 10/16/1980 6/9/3/80

A	1,8	59,500,00	4,49,08,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see scale map rec'd 1/30/80

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ricardo Torres-Reyes, NARO

ORGANIZATION

North Atlantic Region

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

2/15/77

TELEPHONE

617 223-3778

STATE

Mass.

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

*See SHPO signature on Xeroxed copy of nomination 10/13/79*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources

DATE

10/3/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Ann A. Deeb - for Keeper of NR

DATE

6/17/1981

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE two

story, semicircular wing. The northern sections have full, recessed porticoes supported by concrete columns. The semicircular wings have seven doorways with sliding steel doors separated by brick piers. Both buildings have flat concrete roofs, concrete cornices and concrete floors. The eastern building houses a cafeteria and the western building contains offices, restrooms and a small bathhouse.

Although the other small buildings in the park--maintenance shops, refreshment stands, boiler room, golf course concession stand and electrical hut--are part of the Jacob Riis Park, they do not add significance to the Historic District.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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OCT 16 1980
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CONTINUATION SHEET Jacob Riis ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

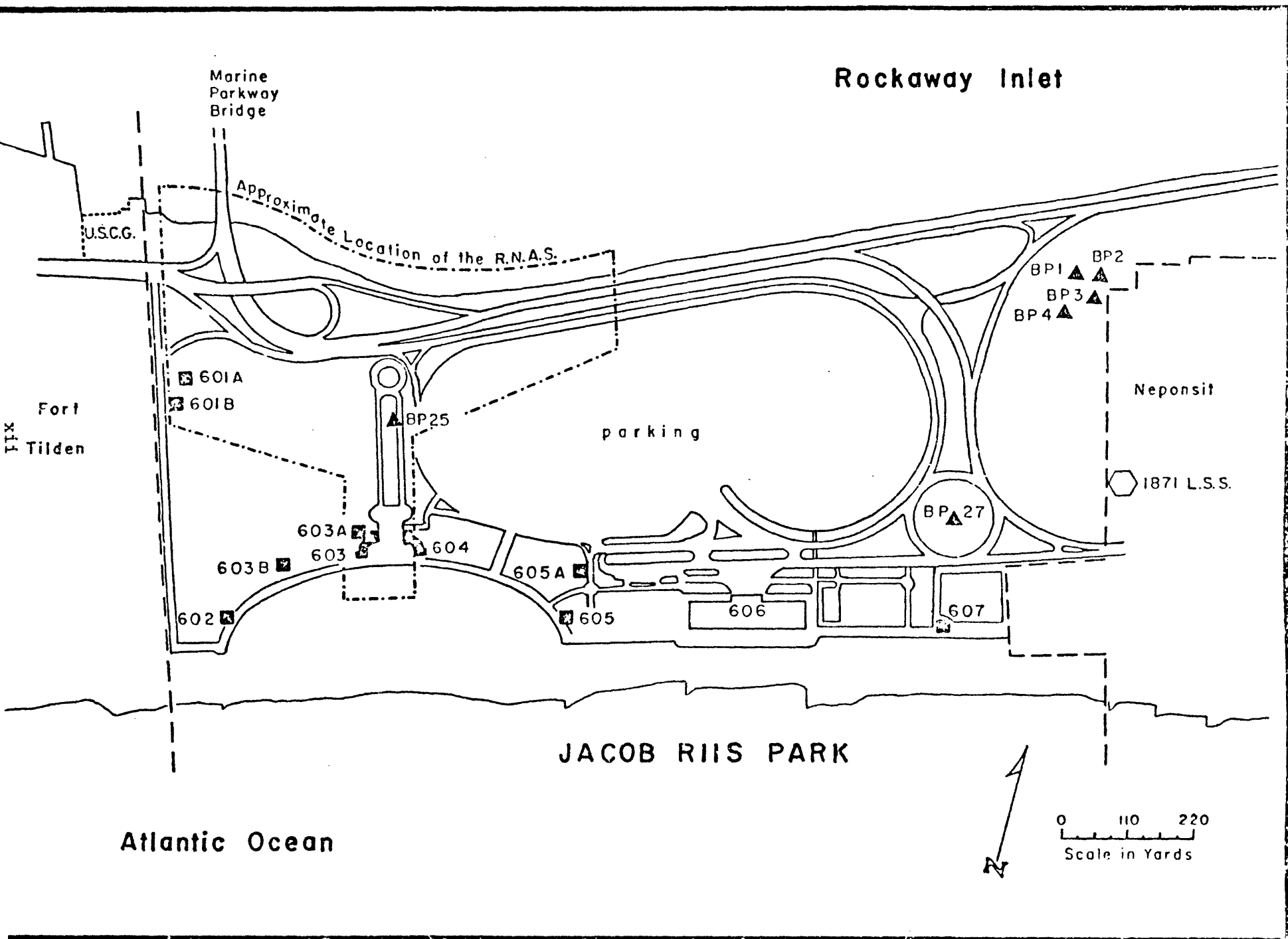
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*For revisions see USGS map  
(returned to NR 6/11/1981)*

UTM REFERENCES

A	18 595 655	44 91 880
B	18 596 055	44 90 980
C	18 594 880	44 90 380
D	18 594 500	44 91 250

STRUCTURES OFFICIALLY NOMINATED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES FOR JACOB RIIS PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT



Rockaway Inlet

Marine Parkway Bridge

Approximate Location of the R.N.A.S.

U.S.C.G.

BP1  
BP2  
BP3  
BP4

Neponsit

1871 L.S.S.

parking

Fort Tilden

601A  
601B

BP25

BP27

603A  
603B  
603

604

605A

605

606

607

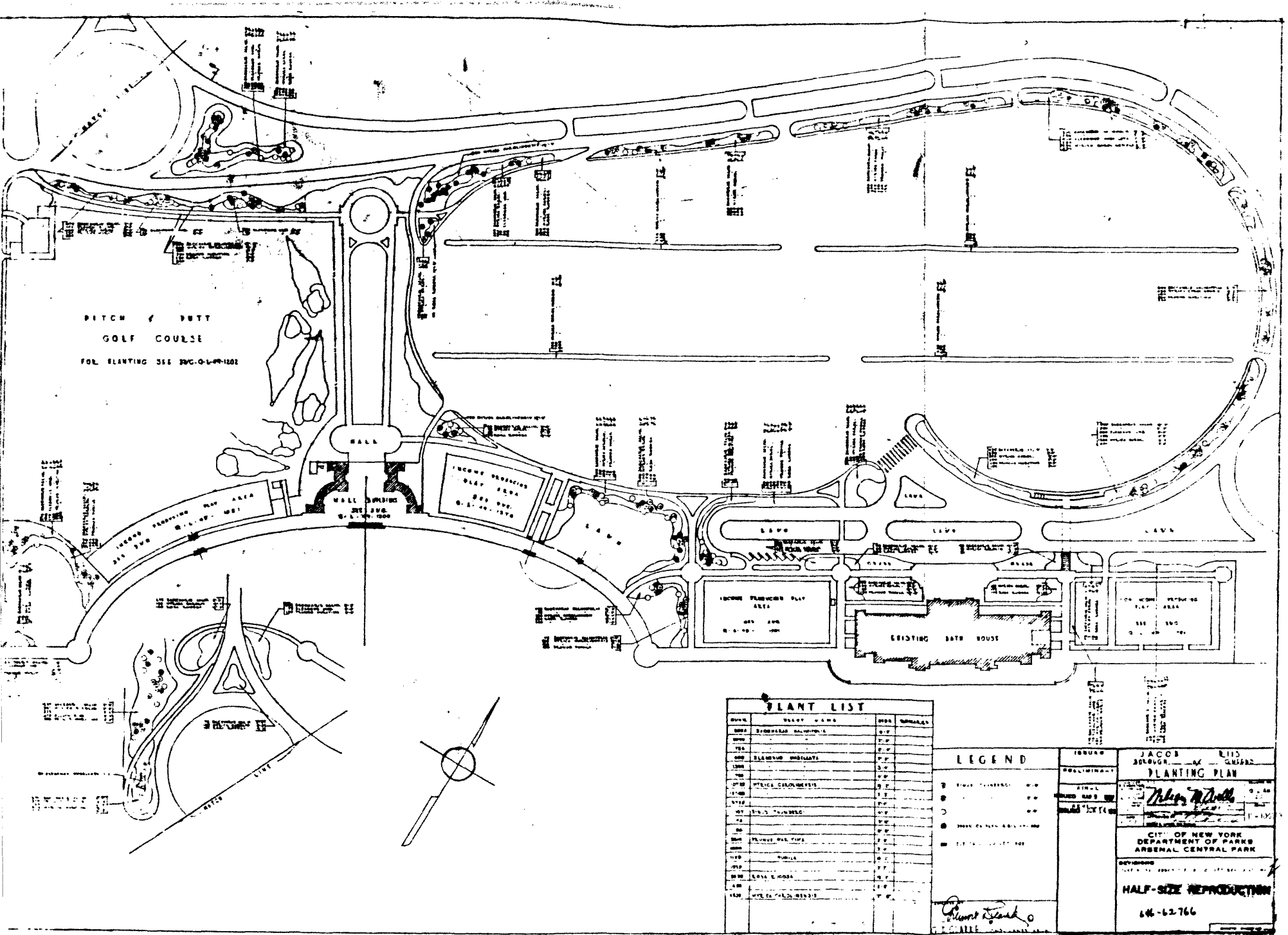
602

JACOB RIIS PARK

Atlantic Ocean

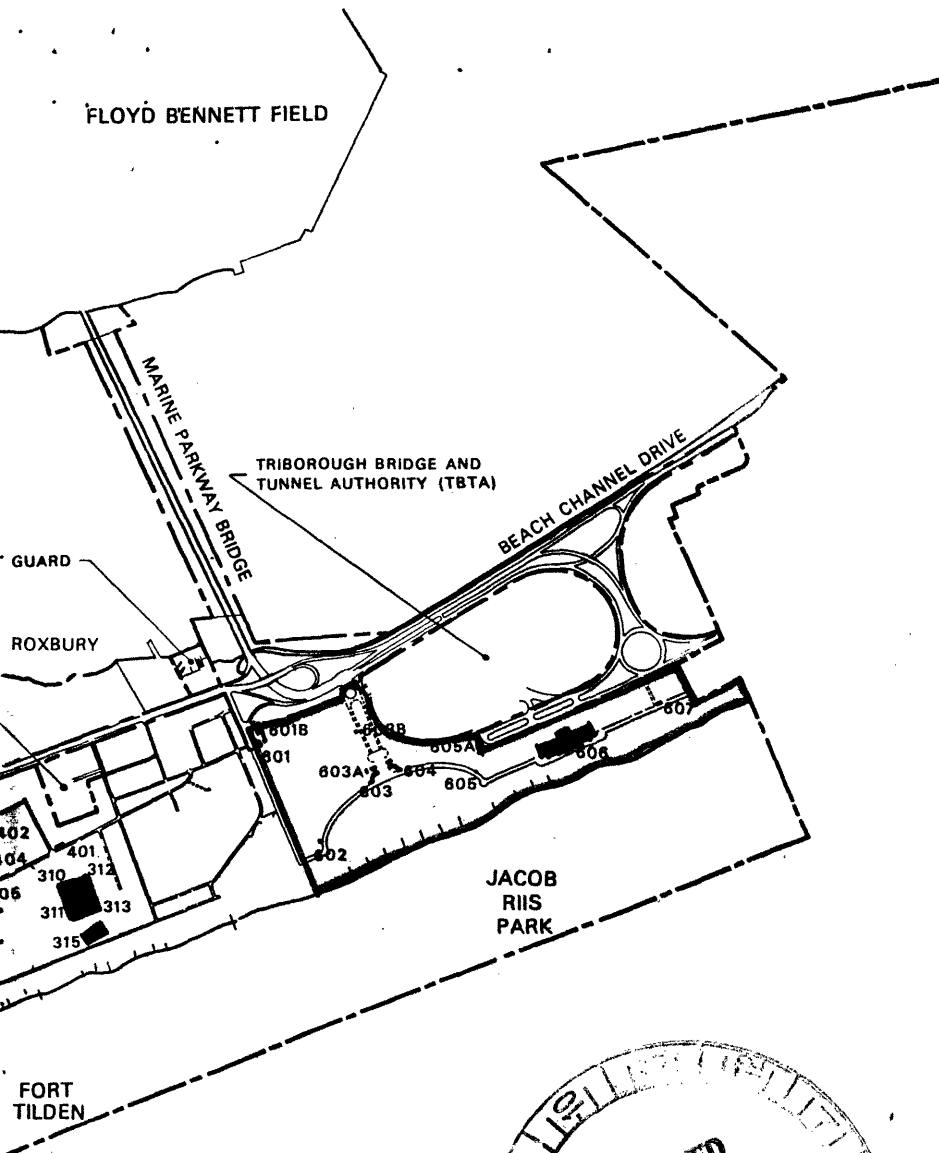
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Scale in Yards





1937 DESIGN OF RIIS PARK PARKING LOT

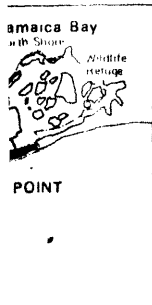
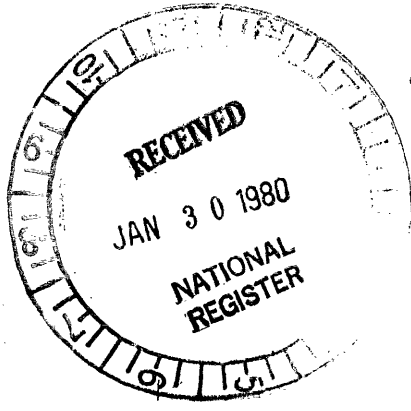
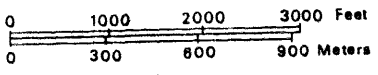




- PRIMARY ROAD
- LIGHT-DUTY ROAD
- PARK BOUNDARY
- EXACT BOUNDARY TO BE DETERMINED UPON ACQUISITION OF BEACH BY NPS

- HISTORIC DISTRICT
- HISTORIC BUILDING

- 310-313 NIKE SILOS
- 315 & 321 CONSTRUCTION 220
- 322 MAGAZINE
- 401 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 402 MAGAZINE
- 403 & 404 IGLOO MAGAZINES
- 405 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 406 BATTERY HARRIS
- 409 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 410 BATTERY HARRIS
- 413 BUNKER
- 414 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 500 & 524 NIKE TRACKING STATIONS
- 508 & 508 NIKE TRACKING STATIONS
- 511 OPERATIONS BUNKER
- 525 NIKE TRACKING STATION
- 601 & 601B MAINTENANCE SHOPS
- 602 REFRESHMENT STAND
- 603 & 604 CENTRAL MALL BUILDINGS
- 603A BOILER ROOM
- 603B GOLF COURSE CONCESSION STAND
- 605 REFRESHMENT STAND
- 605A ELECTRICAL HUT
- 606 BATHING PAVILION
- 607 REFRESHMENT STAND



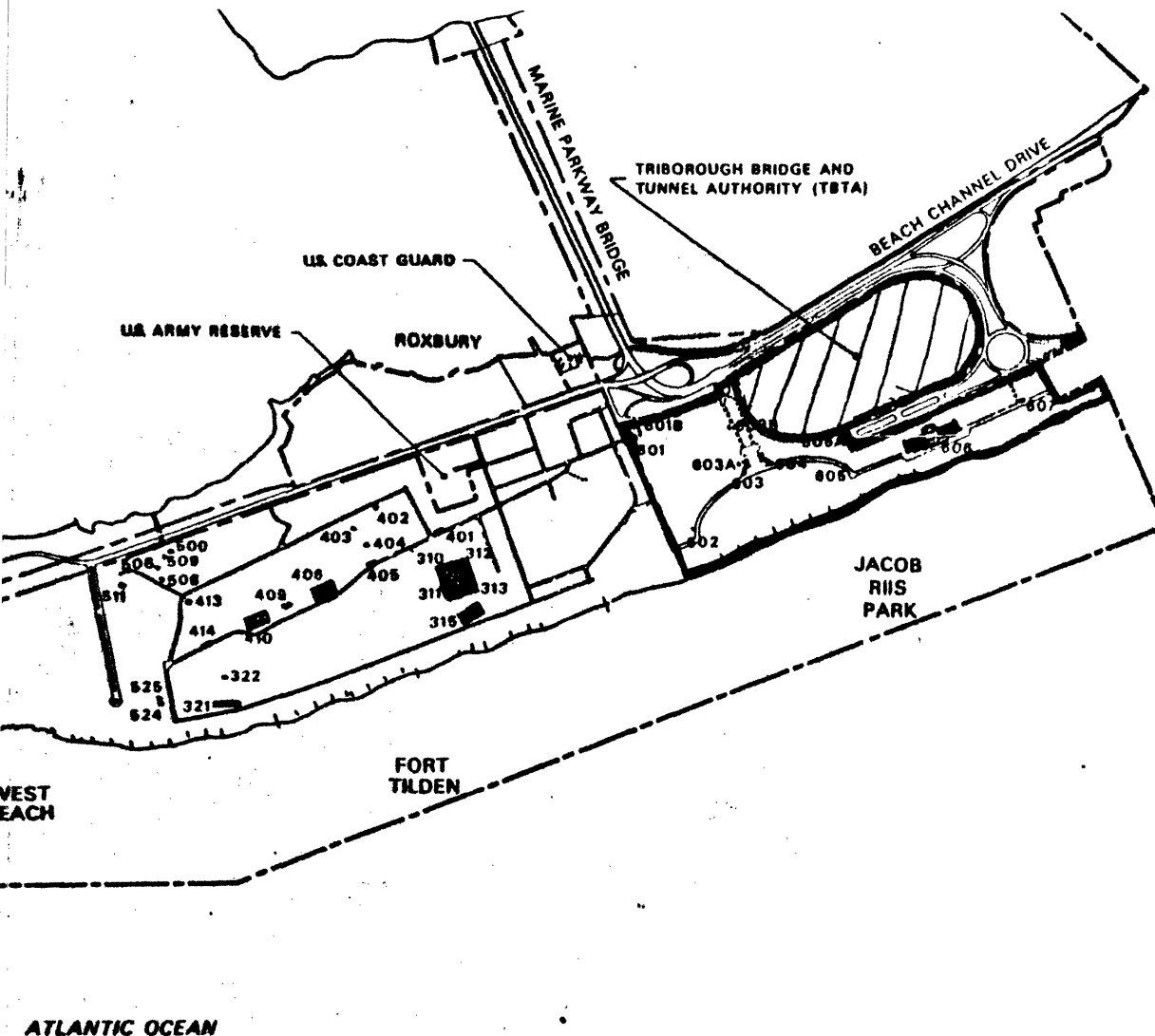
JUN 17 1981





# CULTURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS




## BREEZY POINT

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY

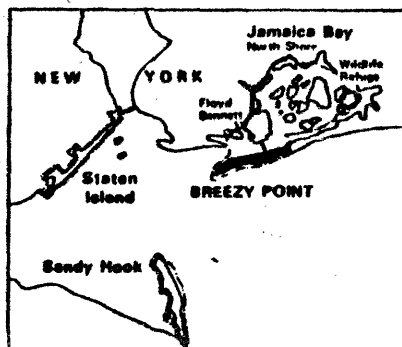
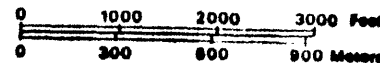
8/31/84



-  PRIMARY ROAD
-  LIGHT-DUTY ROAD
-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  EXACT BOUNDARY TO BE DETERMINED UPON ACQUISITION OF BEACH BY NPS

-  EXISTING HISTORIC DISTRICT
-  ADDED HISTORIC DISTRICT
-  HISTORIC BUILDING

- 310-313 NIKE SILOS
- 315 & 321 CONSTRUCTION 220
- 322 MAGAZINE
- 401 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 402 MAGAZINE
- 403 & 404 IGLOO MAGAZINES
- 405 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 406 BATTERY HARRIS
- 409 SHELL STORAGE MAGAZINE
- 410 BATTERY HARRIS
- 413 BUNKER
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- 500 & 524 NIKE TRACKING STATIONS
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- 602 REFRESHMENT STAND
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- 603A BOILER ROOM
- 603B GOLF COURSE CONCESSION STAND
- 606 REFRESHMENT STAND
- 605A ELECTRICAL HUT
- 608 BATHING PAVILION
- 607 REFRESHMENT STAND



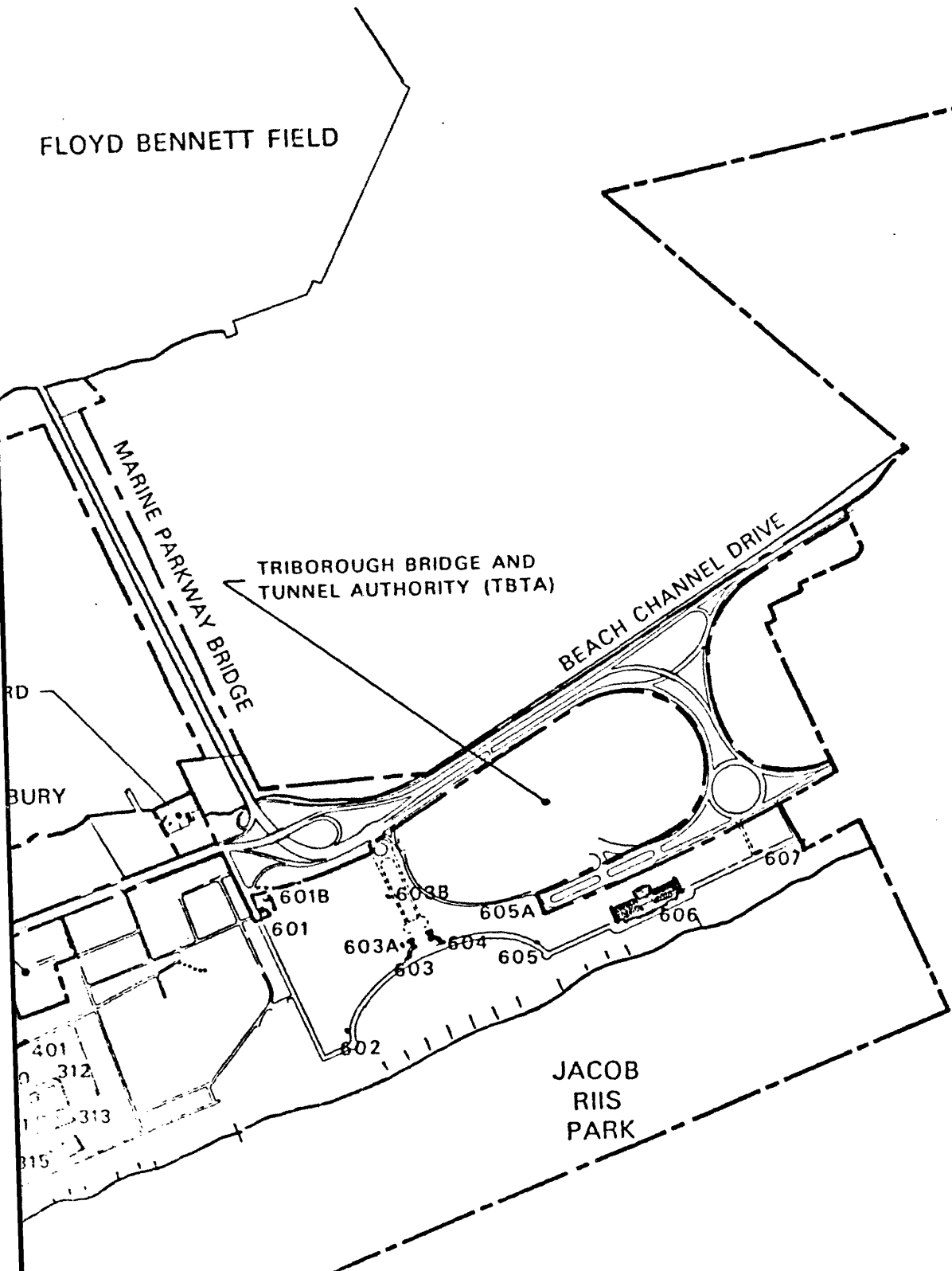
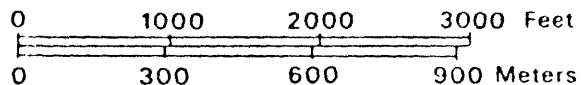
# CULTURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

## BREEZY POINT

GATEWAY NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY

10/18/84

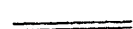
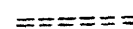


FLOYD BENNETT FIELD



TRIBOROUGH BRIDGE AND TUNNEL AUTHORITY (TBTA)

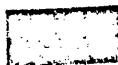
MARINE PARKWAY BRIDGE

BEACH CHANNEL DRIVE

-  PRIMARY ROAD
-  LIGHT-DUTY ROAD
-  PARK BOUNDARY
-  EXACT BOUNDARY TO UPON ACQUISITION

JACOB RIIS PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(from 1979 General Management Plan)

HISTORIC DISTRICT



HISTORIC BUILDING

310-313  
315 & 321  
322  
323

NINE SIX SIX  
CONDOMINIUM  
MAY 1980  
...



*Riis Jacob, Park Hist. Dist.*

1. Bathing Pavilion (HS 606) Jacob Riis Historic District

2. Breezy Point, New York, NY

3. Brooks Vaughan, Gateway NRA

4. May 1978

5. Gateway NRA

6. Front lateral view

7. 1A

*Queens  
County*

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JUN 17 1981



*Riis, Jacob, Park Hist, Dist,*  
1. Bathing Pavilion (HS606) Jacob Riis Historic

District

2. Breezy Point, New York, NY
3. Brooks Vaughn, Gateway NRA
4. May 1978
5. Gateway NRA
6. Front view
7. 6A

*Queens  
County*

OCT 10 1979

JUN 17 1981





*Riis, Jacob, Park Hist. Dist.*

1. Bathing Pavilion (HS606) Jacob Riis Historic District

2. Breezy Point, New York, NY

3. Brooks Vaughn, Gateway NRA

4. May 1978

5. Gateway NRA

6. Front View Section

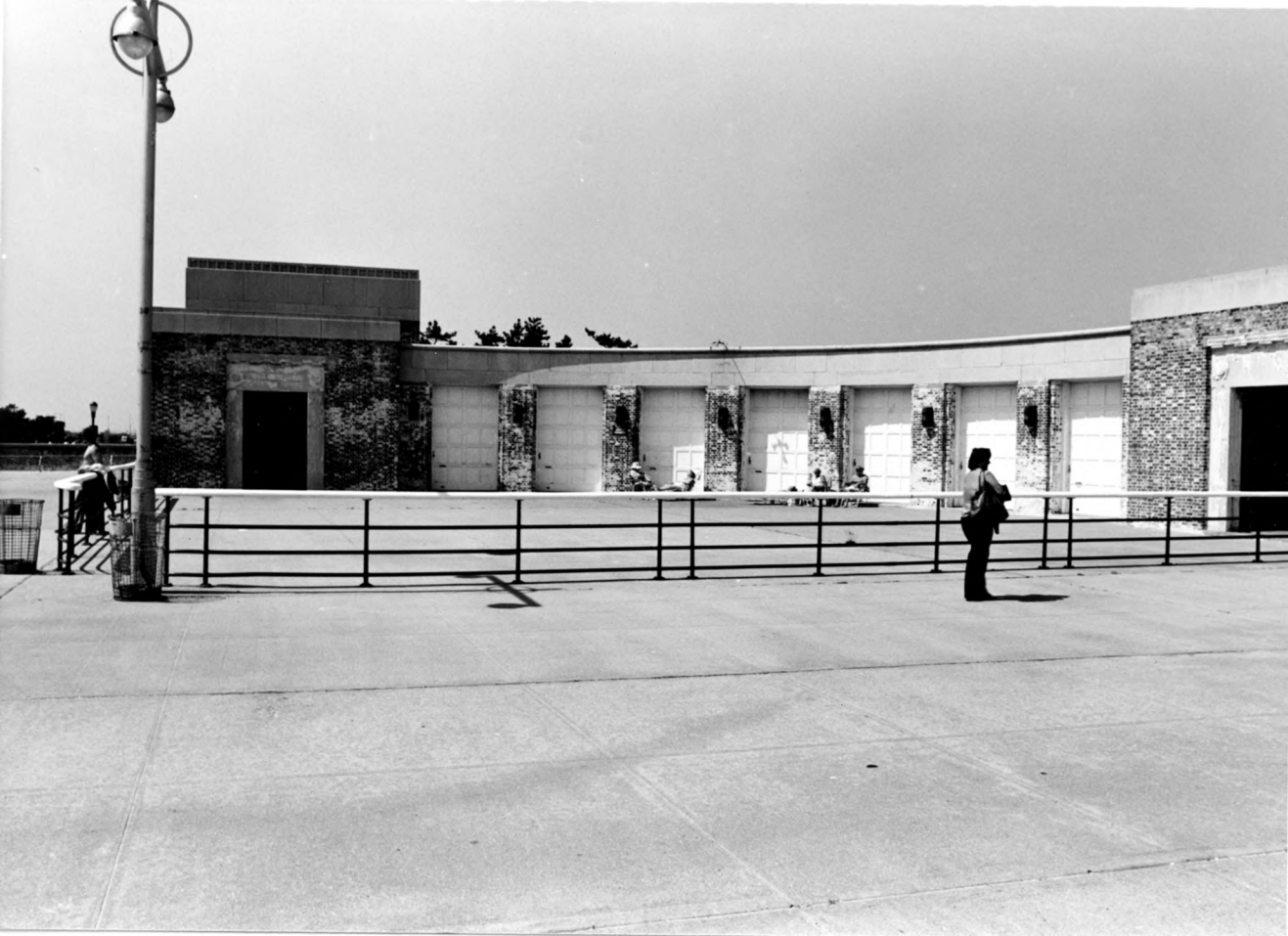
7. 8A

*Queens*

*County*

OCT 10 1979

JUN 17 1981



- Riis, Jacob Park Hist. Dist.*
1. Central Mall Building (HS 603)  
Jacob Riis Historic District
  2. Breezy Point, New York, NY
  3. Brooks VAughn, Gateway NRA
  4. May 1978
  5. Gateway NRA
  6. Front view
  7. 9A

*Queens  
County*

OCT 10 1979

JUN 17 1981



- Riis, Jacob, Park Hist. Dist.*
1. Central Mall Building (HS603) Jacob Riis  
Historic District
  2. Breezy Point, New York, NY
  3. Brooks Vaughn, Gateway NRA
  4. May 1978
  5. Gateway NRA
  6. Front lateral view
  7. 10A

*Queens  
County*

OCT 10 1979

JUN 17 1981



*200*  
*Riis Jacob, Park Hist. Dist.*

1. Central Mall Building (HS 605)  
Jacob Riis Historic District
2. Breezy Point, New York, NY
3. Brooks Vaughn, Gateway NRA
4. May 1978
5. Gateway NRA
6. Front view
7. 23A

*Queens*  
*County*  
OCT 10 1979

JUN 17 1981





*Riis, Jacob Park Hist. Dist.*  
1. Beach area

2. Jacob Riis Historic District  
Breezy Point, New York, NY

3. Brooks Vaughn, Gateway NRA

4. May 1978

5. Gateway NRA

6. Railing between Bathing Pavilion & Beach

7. 34A

*Queens*  
OCT 10 1979 *County*

JUN 17 1981