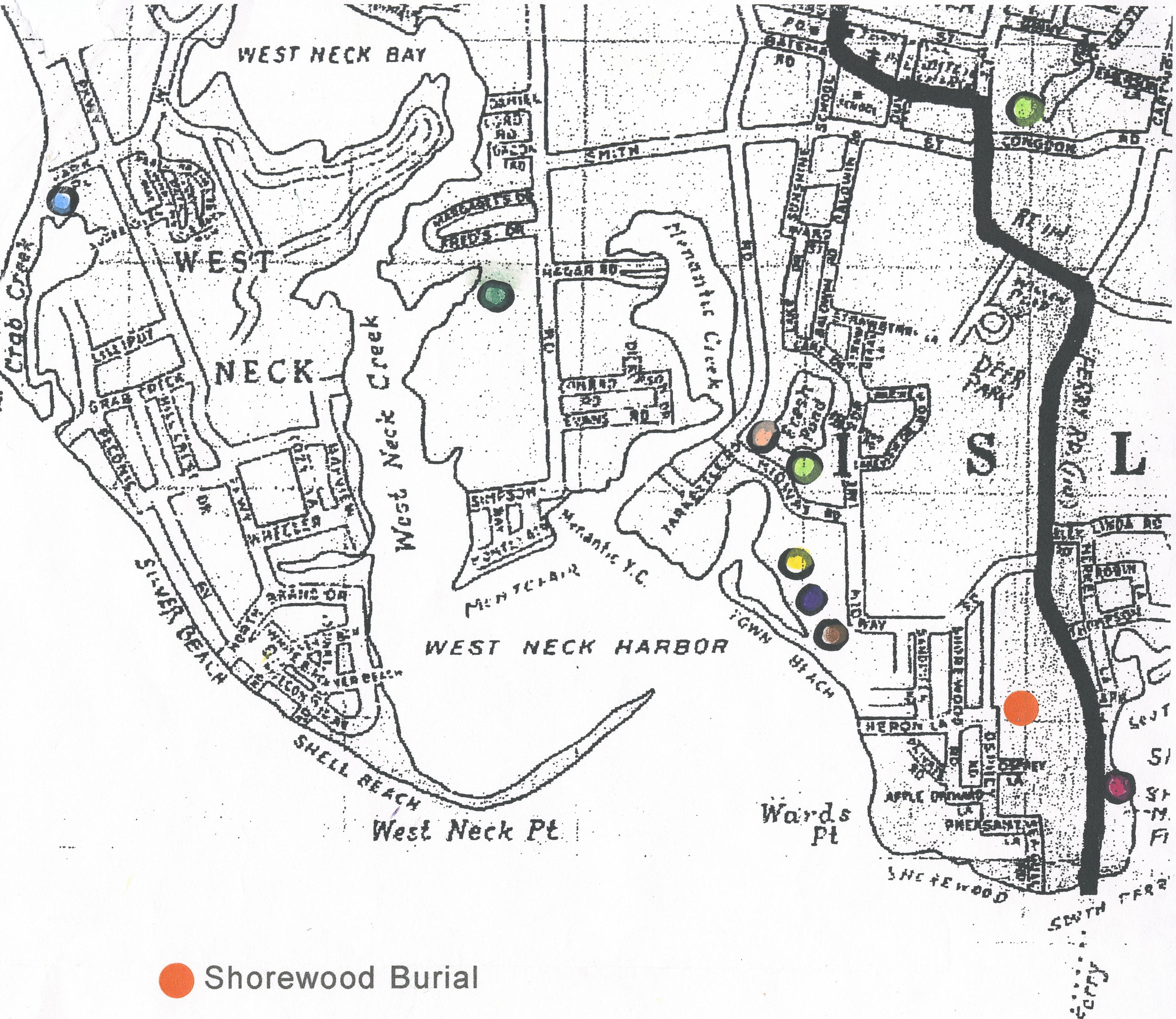
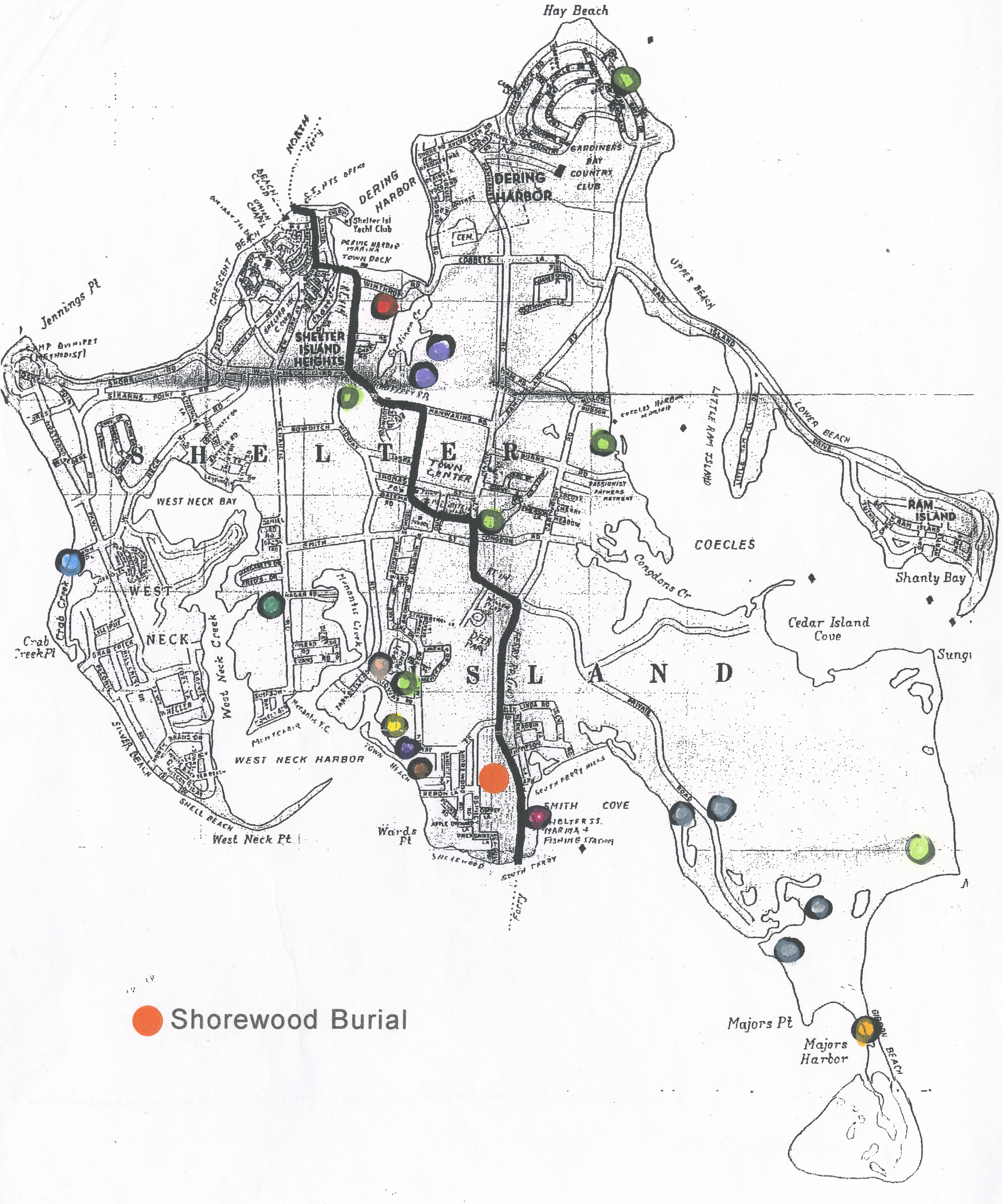


● Shorewood Burial



● Shorewood Burial

Key to Map

● "Indian graves were found on the Loper site on the west side of Coecles Harbor, on the Lily Pond site, sites near Fresh Pond, along the bluff facing Gardiner's Bay, Nichol's Point, and several other locations on the Island. They are more certain to be found on or near village sites."
Roy Latham, 1974

● "There were many villages and camp sites on Shelter Island. One of the main village sites was on the Smith Site on the F. M. Smith estate near South Ferry. Mr. Smith, of the 20-mule team tradition, constructed his house there (1920s addition). At that time he uncovered 28 Indian graves. Mr. Smith was to place the graves' contents in a California Museum to which he was connected. Apparently the material from the graves was lost."
Roy Latham, Orient

● "I excavated the Smith site in 1940 and found five additional graves. My work there was from 1938 to 1941. An older culture called the Bare Island, much older than the Sebonac, was found in the old floor under the Smith site. In the surface I also found records of the very old Orient Focus fishtail-type arrow point dating to 3,000 years old or 1,000 B. C. in time. These old cultures cremated most of their dead, so little is found in the graves except bits of bone, but their graves were rich with goods - tools. The Sebonac gave little in goods to the graves."
Roy Latham, 1974

● "The south part of the island called the hot house near the sea shore between fresh and salt water for what purpose tradishon has only the name but no doubt for medical purposes. Near this place is a large burying ground." ***Lodowick Havens Journal 1840-1854***

● "They used to fight hafhamoncies indians upon the south part of the island. The indian name is Mentice. Upon this point their settlement must be verry great by oyster shells."
Lodowick Havens, ca. 1850

● "I can point to many habitations to the right hand as you go to the ferry. Near the creek is the Cellar whare stood and indian hut. I remember of an old indian that lived thare who had a large family." ***Lodowick Havens Journal 1840-1854***

● "Thare is one large burying place on sachems neck in what is called Thicket. Some of their names I remember very well. Peter indian with both feet frose off. Mol Daniel old and she drownded her child in the mill pond. Sam Gonnac, Geffery Keziah, his wife and two children, Old Jack and his wife, Jubin and his children, Joe Poteg, Old Sip, Sarah and Betty Toby with children, Bet Stephen, Govenor Will and his wife, Cuffy Cuff and Sarah his wife and two children, Old Stephen." ***Lodowick Havens, b. January 17, 1774***

● In November 1985, archaeologist John C. Witek discovered a cache of twenty Susquehanna Tradition basalt blades on low-lying land bordering tidal wetlands on the southwestern shore of Shelter Island.
"The cache blades were recovered from a subsoil of sandy clay and were heavily encrusted with a tough, non-soluble tan patina." ***John C. Witek, 1988***

● Archaeological evidence of a large Late Prehistoric/Historic Period Native American settlement on the Northern Peninsula (Sylvester Manor) suggests continuous occupation between A D 1200 and the time of European contact (circa 1640). A hard-packed occupation area where Native Americans worked for the Sylvesters and probably had daily contact with them and with the Africans, has been discovered within 100 yards of the midden site in front of the 1735 manor house. ***Mac Griswold, Director, Archival Research, Sylvester Manor Project***

● When the first meeting house was built in 1743, there still lived a large number of Indians on the island. "The huts and wigwams formed quite a village on Sachem's Neck. In 1790, more than half of these were destroyed by fire, which broke out in one of them one morning, and spread to the rest, as they were pitched so near together. ***Reverend Jacob Mallman 1899***

● Tradition has it that Turkem's Neck, the peninsula on the south side of Shelter Island where the Hot House, Cellar, and Indian canal are located, was named after Turkyman, a Manhanset Indian medicine man. Turkeyman is referred to in ***Giles Sylvester's*** *account book of* ***1680***.

● ...the long ridge looking across the mouth of Dering water toward Greenport was the site of the stockade village of Youghco, the Chief of the Manhansetts, at the time of Capt. Sylvester's purchase, and the neighboring landlocked cove the sheltered yard of his fleet of war canoes and fishing craft. The depth to which the trail leading to the spring was worn, points to the occupation of the village site for centuries. ***Eben N. Horsford, ca. 1880***

● Archaeologist ***Kent Lightfoot*** and his survey team detected 18 prehistoric sites on 23 hectares of Mashomack land during the summer of **1983**. Four lithic workshops demonstrated various stages of tool manufacture and contained flakes, hammer stones, and several broken projectile points of milky quartz.

● "There are two Indian canals still in good condition, one across West Neck and another from Tuthill's Creek to Fresh Pond, where the Red men kept their canoes."
Amie Tuthill Wallace, 1924