

Mr. A. Toys

Bridge Engineer

Mr. A. Rutka

December 24th, 1935

Re: Foundation Investigation  
222 E. 22nd Street, St.  
Catharines, N.Y. 52-55, Project 145-16

Attached herewith is the foundation report for the above mentioned structure and work project which was requested recently. We will be glad to discuss this report with you should any queries arise.

F.L. Brownbridge  
Materials & Research Eng.

Per:

A.R.

(A.R. Rutka)

Att: W  
Att.

C.C. Mr. A. Toys,  
Mr. J. Walter,  
Mr. H. Fruganek,  
Mr. E.L. Richardson,  
Mr. C. Farantano.



**REPORT ON FOUNDATION INVESTIGATION**

**FOR**

**The Canova Street Overpass Bridge**

**on**

**J. E. W. Highway in St. Catharines**

**Site Plan No. C-3496-A**

**Copies to:**

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## INTRODUCTION

A bridge has been proposed for the intersection of Q.E.W. and Geneva Street in St. Catharines. This bridge will be an overpassing structure over the street.

Subsoil investigation was therefore required on the proposed site to determine the most suitable method of foundation for the bridge footings.

Investigation was also extended to the approach sections on both sides of the bridge to determine the soil condition there for the retaining wall foundation and to check the stability of the earth fill.

## PROCEDURE

The exploration on the above site was done with the aid of a corodrill machine mounted on truck. Undisturbed soil samples were secured by Shelby tubes on clayey soils except where standard penetration tests were necessary, as determined by the field engineer.

Altogether eighteen test holes were made. Nine are bore holes, the rest being penetration holes only. The time occupied for the whole operation in the field was from September 8 to October 15, 1935.

The location of all the test holes together with appropriate sectional profiles of the subsoil are shown in Drawing F-35-164. The logs of the boreholes together with the different test results are found under Appendix I.

## SOIL CONDITIONS

The general soil profile of the foundation site is a thin layer of hard clay overlying medium to soft clay.

The topmost layer of hard clay is desiccated soil as a result of oxidation and loss of moisture. The composition of the soil is quite uniform throughout the area, except in the vicinities of S.E. 4 and S.E. 12 where this clay is slightly sandy in texture.

- 2 -

Laboratory unconfined compressive tests indicated that the clay has shearing strength averaging about 2.0 tons/sq.ft.

The underlying layer of softer clay varies from about 50 ft. to 60 ft. in thickness. It has shearing strength which averages about 1,000 lbs./sq.ft. varying but very slightly with depth to about 800 lbs./sq.ft.

#### WATER CONDITION

The clay has water content about 10% to 15% in the top stratum varying to about 20% in the lower stratum. The soil material in both clay regions has a low void ratio of about 0.50, pores being saturated.

No water table was actually observed in the clay layers, except for the water which was left there from boring operations.

#### ANALYSIS OF TEST RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

##### Bridge Foundation

Four bore holes were made at the location of the footings; two on each side. These borings showed that the topmost layer of soil is hard clay with medium to soft clay underlying it.

The shearing strength of the hard clay varies from about 1.5 tons/sq.ft. to as high as 2.5 tons/sq.ft. signifying that the soil in the topmost layer can provide a bearing capacity of atleast 3 tons/sq.ft.

However, since this relatively thin layer of hard clay just overlies softer clay, the pressures applying at the footing level would spread out with depth, and thus the induced pressures reaching the poorer material must not be larger than the safe bearing capacity there. These have been investigated according to the boring data as obtained from the four bore holes. In such case the lower layer of softer clay controls in the determination of the permissible magnitude of loading. The most unfavourable stresses in the



buried stratum of softer clay are at its surface.

The bottom of the footings have been proposed to place at El. 321.5. Assuming long footings with width 7 ft., it has been estimated by Dr. Meyerhof's formula for bearing capacity of cohesive soil that the allowable bearing capacity for the west footing is 2.5 tons/sq.ft. whilst for the east footing is only 1.6 tons/sq.ft. and no more. These estimations are based on cohesion of 1,000 lbs/sq.ft. for the buried stratum of softer clay. The safety factor provided is 3.

According to the geological condition of the foundation site, it has been observed that the clay material is highly impermeable, also there is no apparent draining strata in either clay layers through which the pore water can escape once load is applied. It is therefore very doubtful if any settlement at all would occur under the footings. However, taking into consideration the soft clay only, the degree of ultimate settlement from both footings will be more or less the same, being between 2.5 inches and 3.5 inches approximately. If single-drainage is assumed the time required to reach 90% consolidation is as long as 15 to 20 years. The largest settlement will be on the East footing, but the greatest differential settlement is not expected to be larger than 1.0 inch. With these factors in view, if a uniform load of 1.6 tons/sq.ft. is used for design for all the footings the differential settlement is expected to be even much less than 1.0 inch. Under such condition a rigid framed structure can be built on the site.

If higher load should be used the width of the east footing must be increased accordingly.

### Retaining Wall Foundation

The founding elevation of the retaining wall footing has been proposed at 301.0. If the width of the footing is 11 ft. the bearing pressure allowed on the soil at this elevation should not exceed 1.2 tons/sq.ft.

Due to eccentric loading of these footing it is difficult to evaluate the settlement. If uniform load of 1.2 tons/sq.ft. is assumed the footings are expected to settle about 4.0 inches ultimately. With increasing distance away from the bridge abutments, both the height of the fill and retaining wall diminishes. Consequently settlement becomes less as the pressure on the footings decreases. Due to such varying loads on the footings, construction joints should be provided for the retaining walls to take care of any possible differential settlement.

### Stability of the Back-Fill

The stability of the fill on the approaches has been examined with respect to failure by sliding. It has been found that the most dangerous case of failure lies within the layer of softer clay. Different cases of failure have been tried out, according to the data from 3.2. 4 from which the strength of the clay has been found to be weakest. Figures 1, 2 and 3 are presented here under Appendix II. It appears that the most critical slip surface would extend to the soft clay and cut the top of the fill at the furthest edge of the roadway. Assuming that the soft clay has only cohesion of 600 lbs/sq.ft. the factor of safety is about 1.26. There should, however, be no danger of sliding.

The settlement due to the soft clay under a fill of 21 ft. is expected to be about 10.0 inches ultimately. Also assuming single-drainage, the time required to reach 60% consolidation is about 25 years and a much longer time to get to 90%. This settlement is much greater than that under the footings of the bridge. For this reason, it is advisable that the fills be brought up to the required height before the construction of the bridge structure itself. It is equally important that the fills be brought up simultaneously on the two approaches. This procedure will counter-balance the fills onto each other, thus eliminating the possibility of sliding under the abutments in a lateral direction.

#### CONCLUSIONS

##### Bridge Foundation

The EL. 321.5 for founding the footings of the bridge is suitable. If the width of both the footings is to be maintained at 7 ft. the permissible bearing capacity of the soil at the founding elevation is 1.6 tons/sq. ft.

Both the footings are expected to settle between 2.5 inches to 3.5 inches ultimately. The largest differential settlement will not be greater than 1.0 inches. It will therefore be safe to adopt a rigid framed structure on the site.

##### Retaining Wall Foundation

The allowable bearing capacity of the soil at elevation 322.0 for the retaining wall footings should not exceed 1.2 tons/sq. ft.



Retaining Wall Foundation (continued)

For uniform loading of 1.2 tons/sq. ft. the footings are expected to settle about 4.0 inches ultimately, becoming less as both the height of the fill and the retaining walls decreases. Construction joints should be provided for the retaining walls to take care of any possible differential settlements.

The retaining walls should be first built to hold the fill to the required height before the construction of the bridge structures.

Stability of the Back-Fill

There should be no danger of sliding under a fill of 21 ft. held by the retaining wall. Ultimate settlement under the fill is expected to be about 10.0 inches.

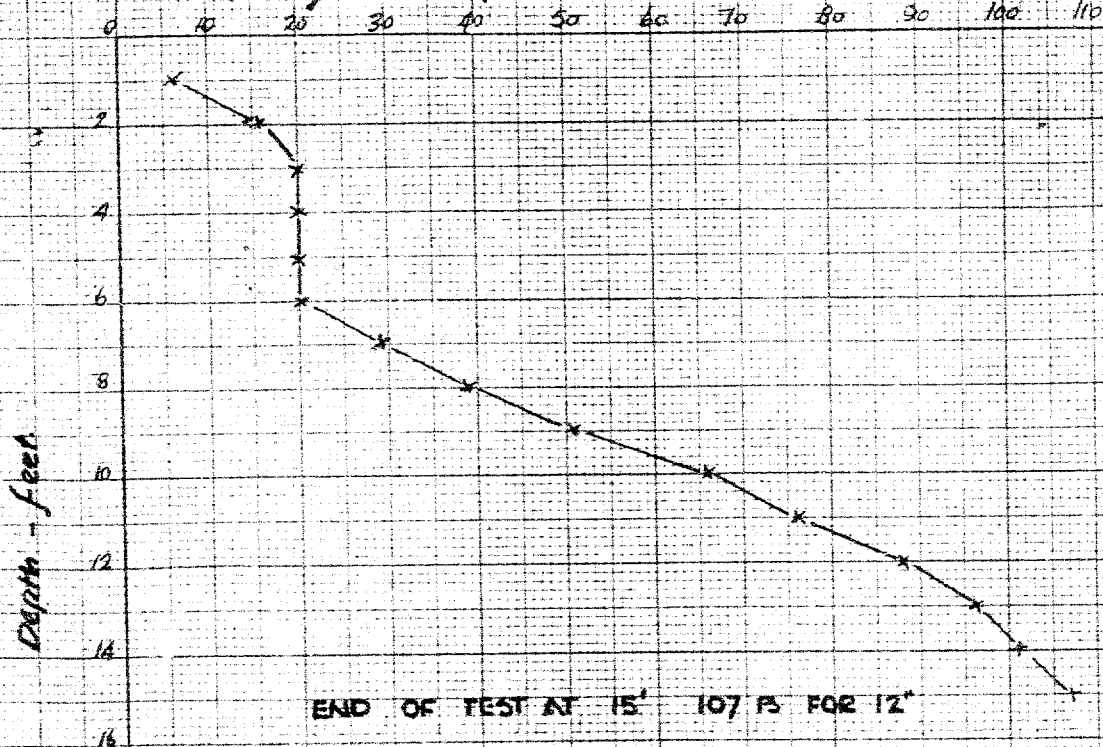
It is advisable to bring the fills up simultaneously on both the approaches to eliminate the possibility of sliding under the abutments in the direction of the highway.

G. N. Farantatos  
Foundation Engineer.

APPENDIX I

## CONE PENETRATION TEST

No of Blows / ft at Std. En = 4200 lb-in

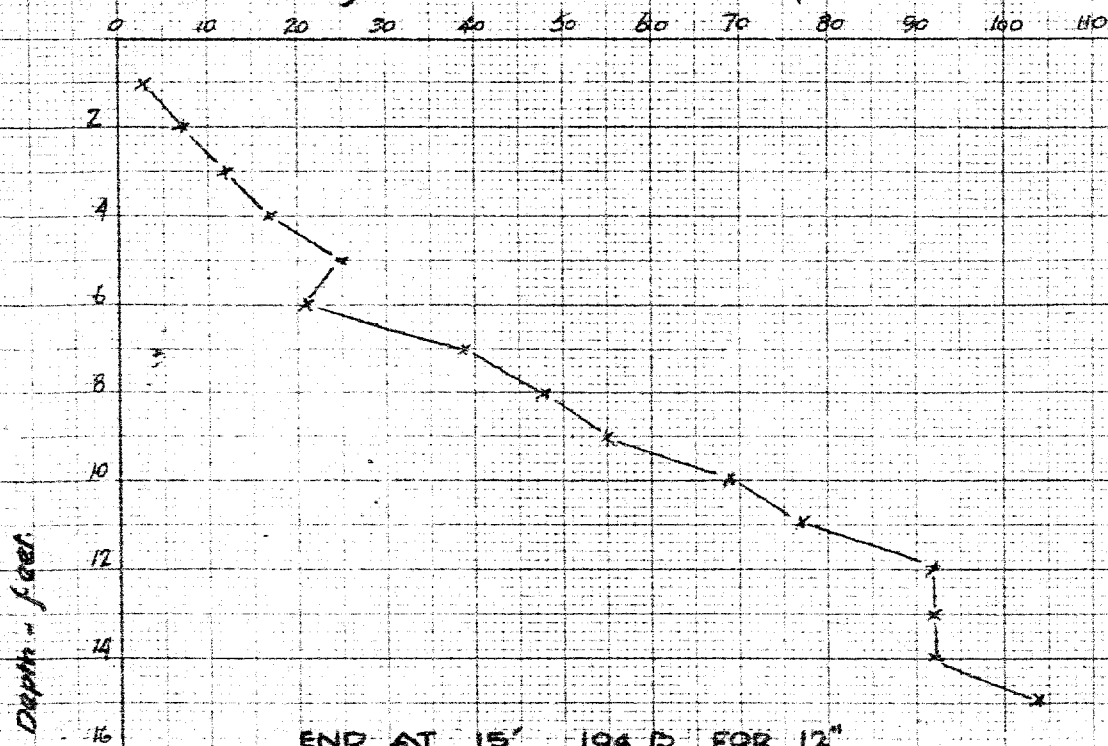


END OF TEST AT 15' 107 IS FOR 12"

STN 95+17 62.5' L

## CONE PENETRATION TEST

No. of Blows at STD. EM = 4200 lb-in

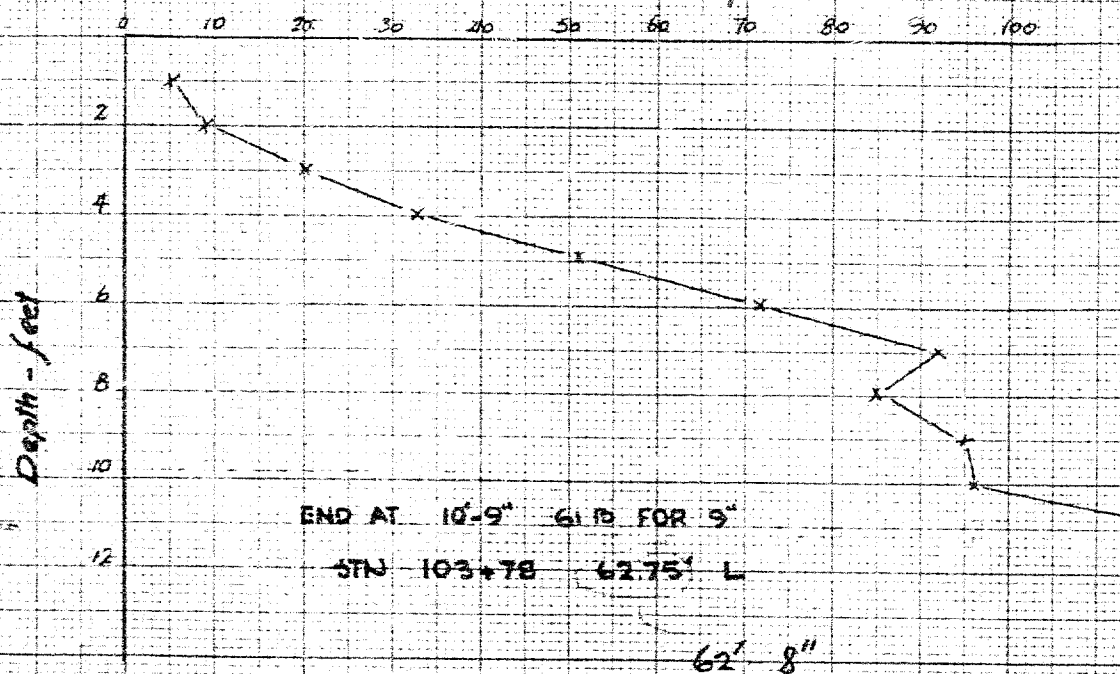


END AT 15' 104 B FOR 12"

STN 97-07 650' L

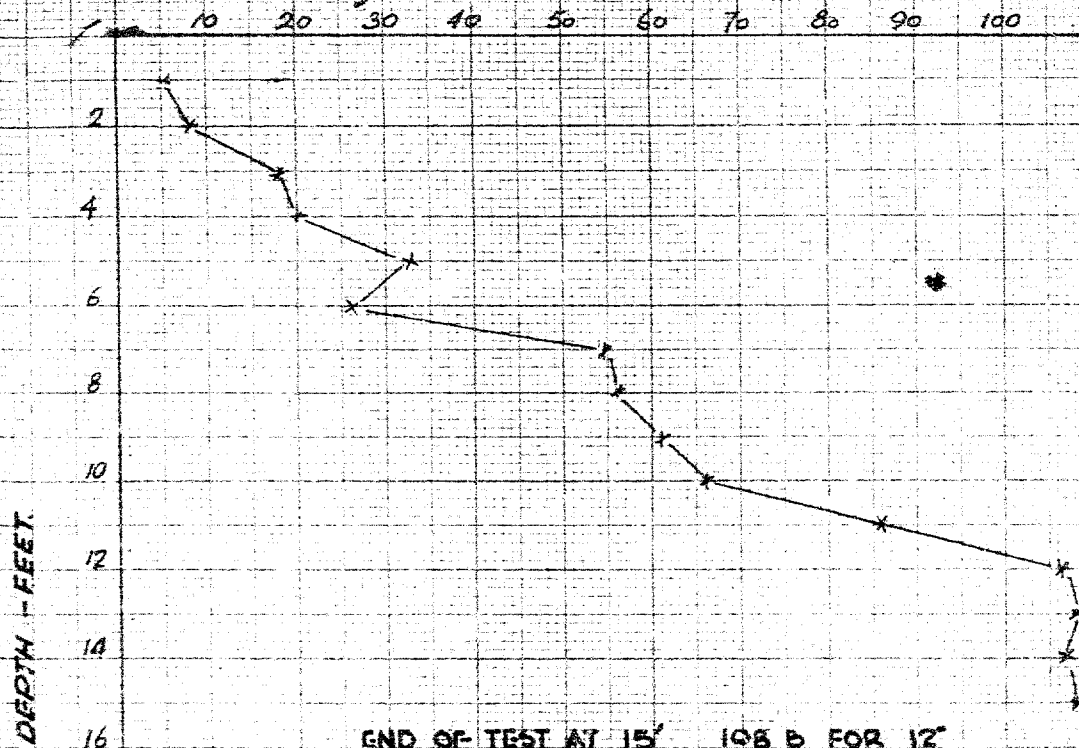
## CONG. PENETRATION TEST

No Blows at Std. En. = 4200 lb-in.



## CONE PENETRATION TEST

No. of Blows at Std. En. = 4200 lb-in



END OF TEST AT 15' 108 B FOR 12'

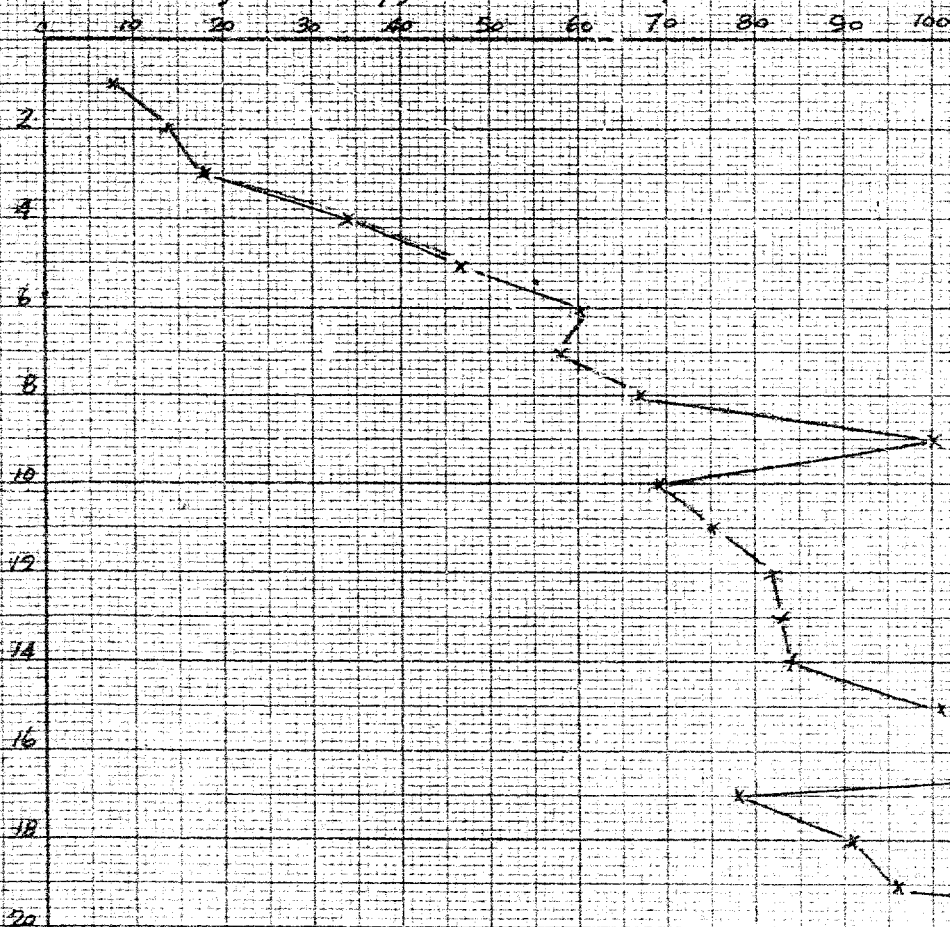
STN 107+89 65'-5" L



## GRAPH OF CONE PENETRATION TEST

No. of Blows / ft at 58d in = 4200 lb-in

DEPTH - FEET

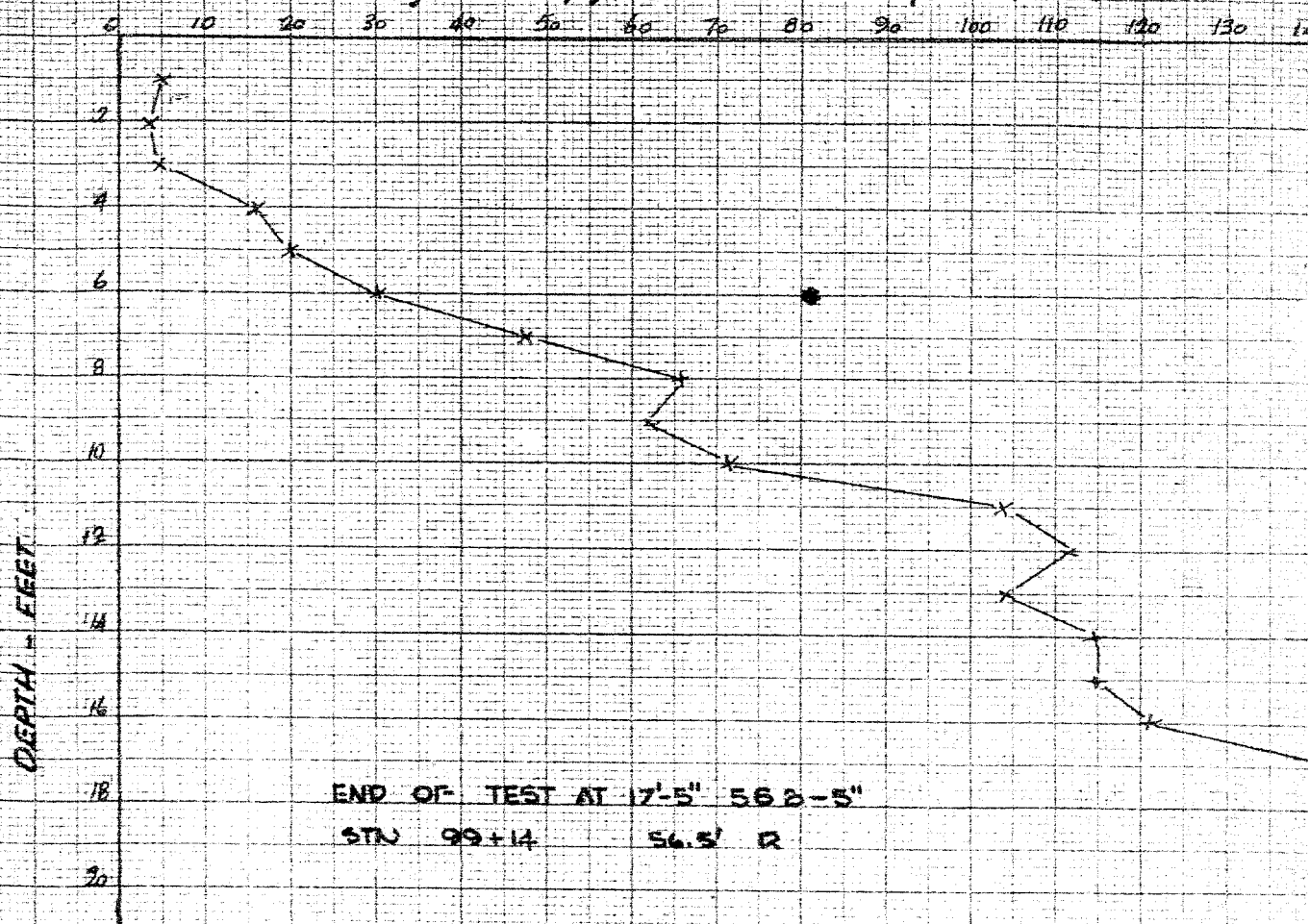


END OF TEST AT 20' 167B FOR 12"

STN 95+06 64.0' R.

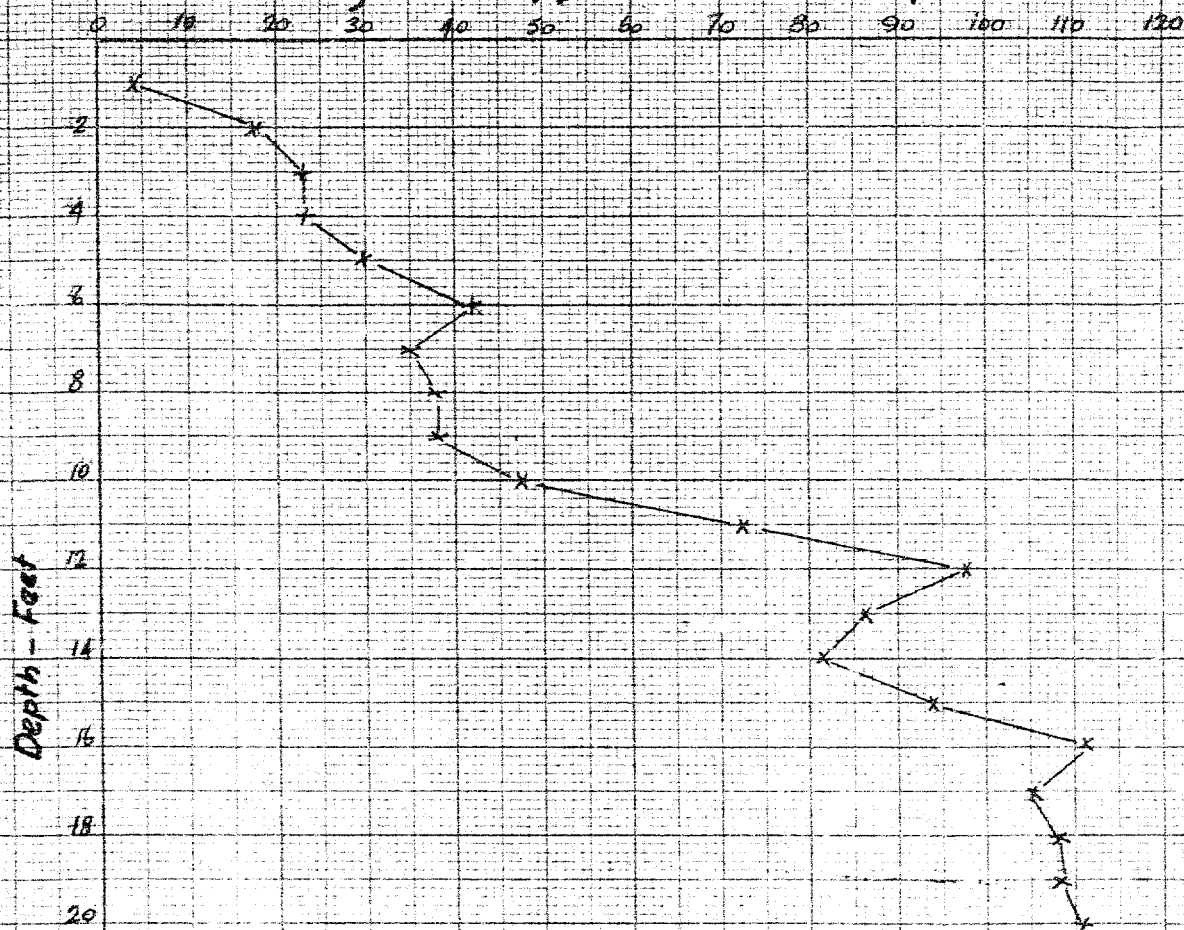
## CONE PENETRATION TEST

No. of Blows/ft of Std. En. = 4200 lb.-in.



## CONE PENETRATION TEST

No. of Blows/ft at Std En. = 4200 lb-in.

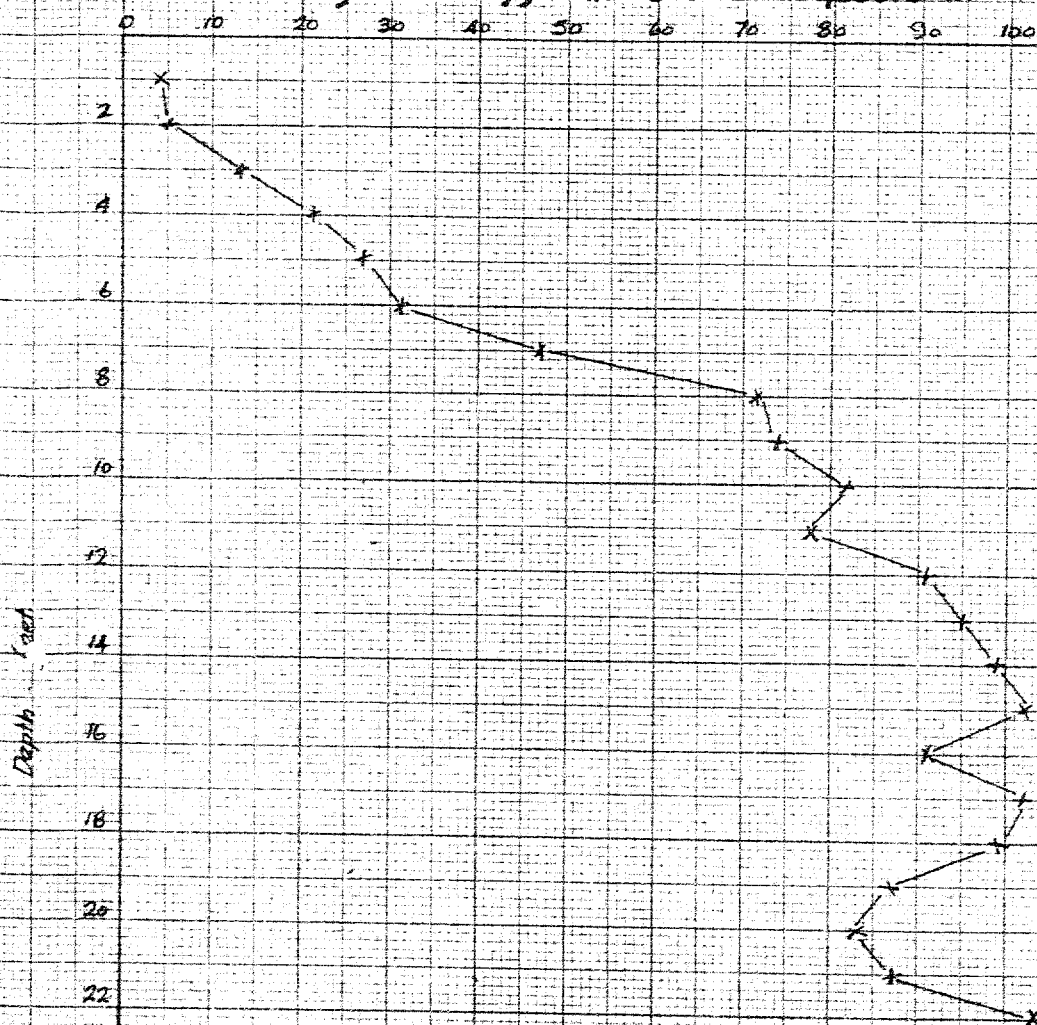


END AT 20'-0"

STN 103+76 56.5' R.

## CONE PENETRATION TEST

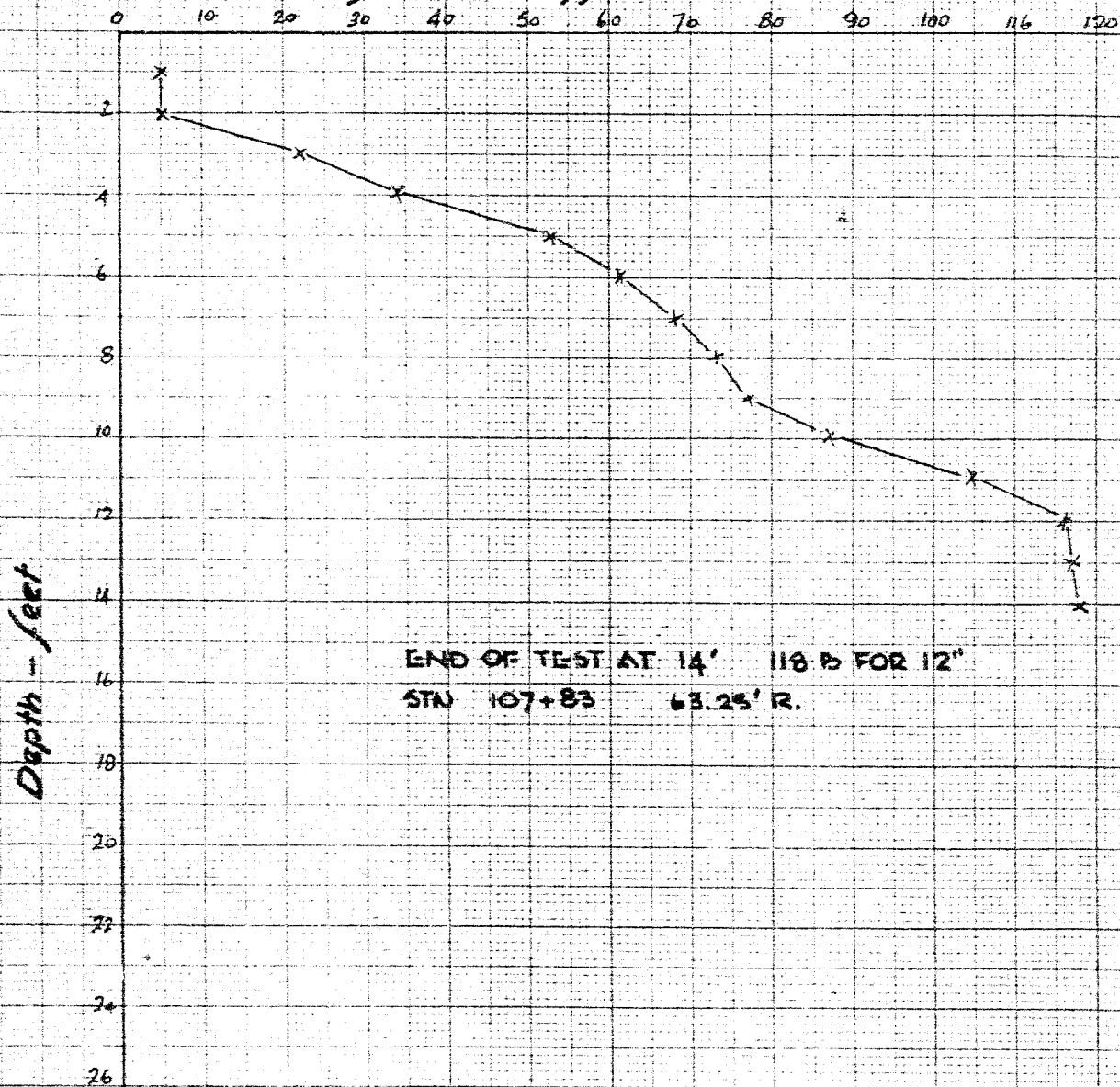
No. of blows / ft at Std. En = 4200 lb-in.



END OF TEST AT 22'  
 STN 105+77 60.75' R

## CONE PENETRATION TEST

No. of Blows /ft at Std En = 4200 lb-in



**APPENDIX II**



# SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS (ASSUME $\phi = 0$ FOR ALL SOILS.) BASED ON BH#4 DATA

CASE I THE SLIP SURFACE EXTENDS TO SOFT CLAY AND CUTS THE TOP OF FILL AT THE FARTHEST EDGE

CALCULATIONS -- LENGTH  $\frac{3}{2} \pi RC = \frac{\pi R}{180} \theta = 2164.9$

$$L = 22.7 \quad L_1 = 12600$$

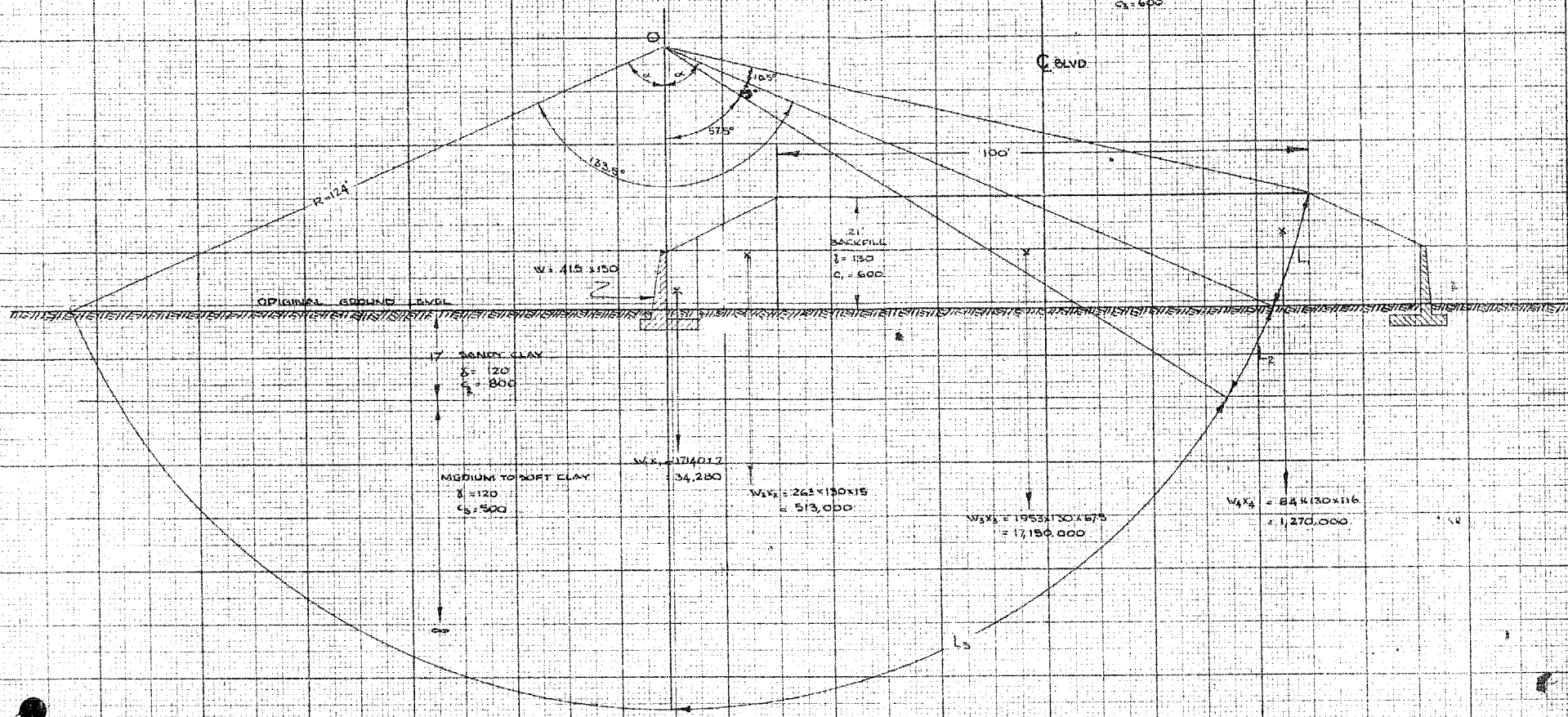
$$L_2 = 19.5 \quad 2L_2C_2 = 31,200$$

$$L_3 = 124.5 \quad 2L_3C_3 = 124,500$$

$$ZLC = 169300$$

$$F_s = \frac{ZLC}{\sum W} = \frac{124 \times 169300}{18,967,280} = 1.10$$

$$F_s = 1.26$$



CHECKED *W. H. H.*

# **SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS**

(ASSUME  $\phi = 0$  FOR ALL SOILS)

**BASED ON B.H.#4 DATAS**

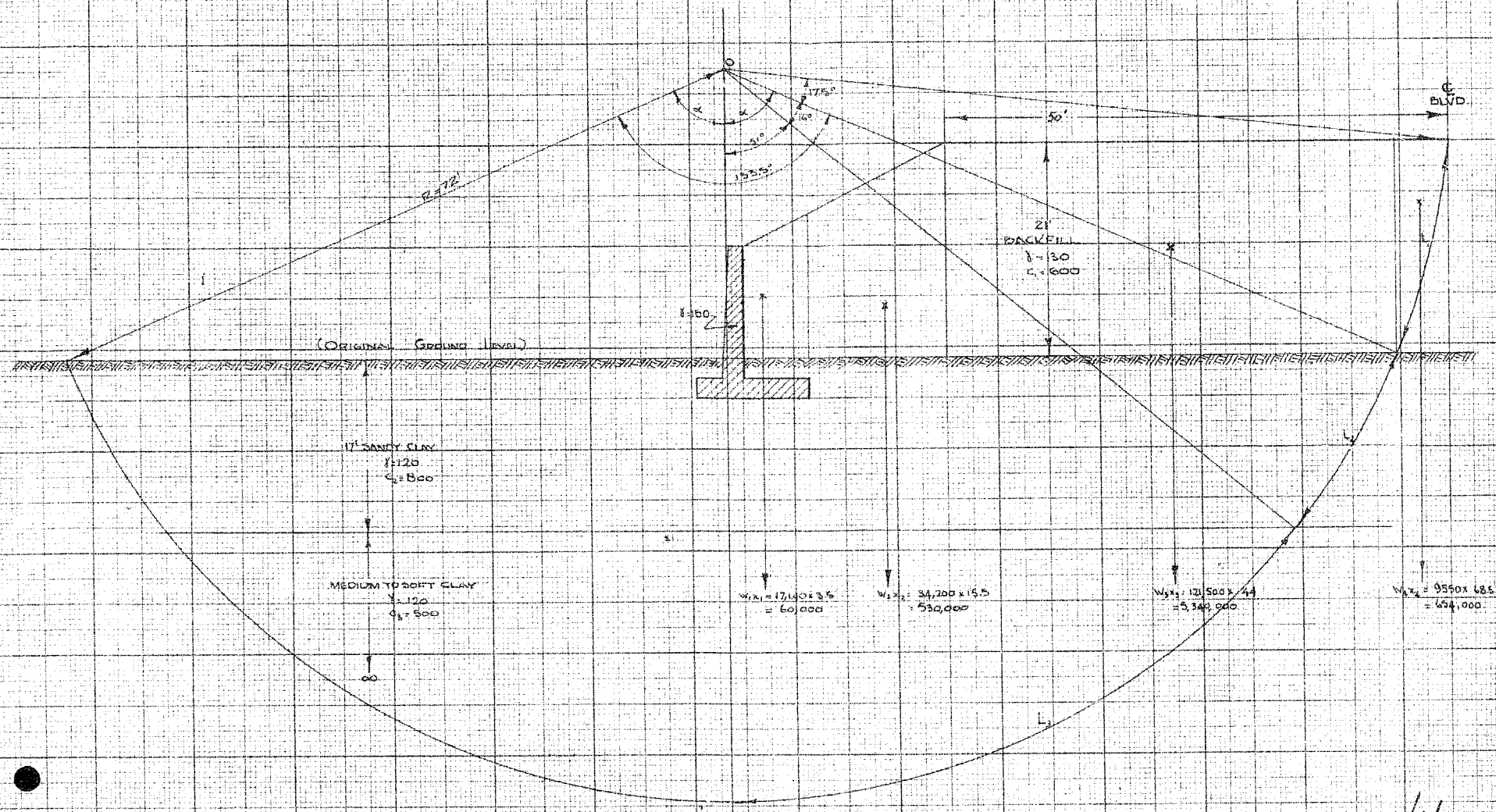
**CASE II THE SLIP SURFACE EXTENDS TO SOFT CLAY AND CUTS THE TOP OF FILL AT C OF BLVD.**

**CALCULATIONS:**

$\text{LENGTH OF ARC} = \frac{\pi R \theta}{180}$   
 $L = 221' \quad \theta = 125.8^\circ$   
 $L_1 = 221' \quad L_1 C_1 = 13,200$   
 $L_2 = 201' \quad 2L_2 C_2 = 32,100$   
 $L_3 = 64' \quad 2L_3 C_3 = 64,000$   
 $\text{ELC} = 109,300$

$$\frac{F_0}{C_1 + 500} = \frac{22 \text{ ELC}}{\text{ELC}} = \frac{72 \times 109,300}{6584,000} = 1.20$$

$$\frac{F_0}{C_1 + 600} = 1.33$$



CHECKED *W. King*

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

11-11-68

$$\text{LENGTH OF ARC} = \frac{\pi R}{2} \theta = 0.728 \theta$$

$$L_1 = 25.2$$

~~L.C. = 15,500~~

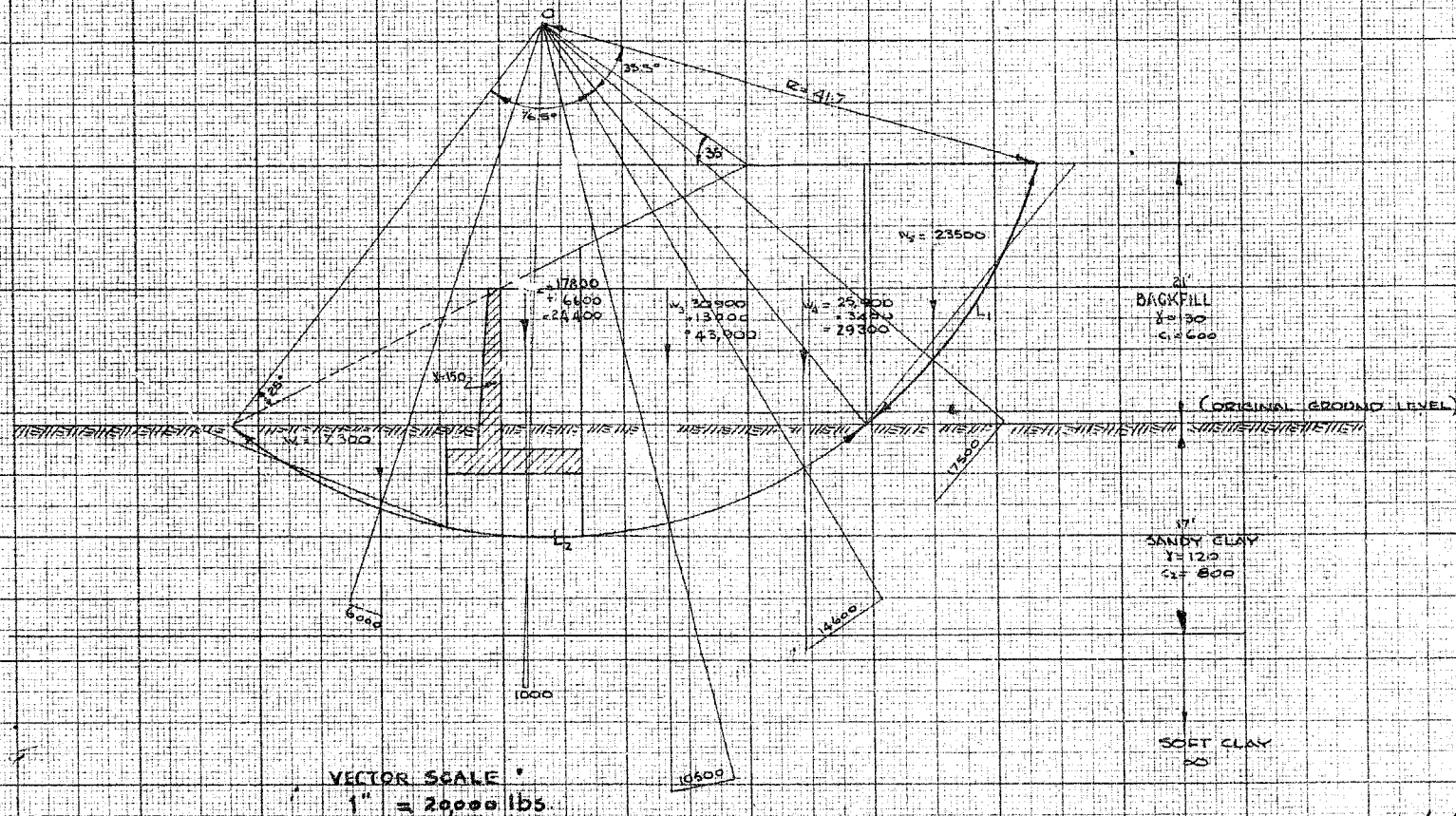
1. 2. 3. 4.

L<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub> = 44.500

$$M_{TC} = 60,000$$

$F_p =$	$\frac{ZELC}{ZET}$	$\frac{60,000}{35,100}$
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1.70



CHECK: Heung

#55-A-16

Q.E.W. HWY.

IN ST. CATHERINES



## MATERIALS LABORATORY-DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS - ONT. 10

DRILL RIG CORE DRILL #4 JOB 55-F-16 BORING NO. 5  
CASING 4" PIPE (STANDARD SAMPLERS TO FIT UNLESS NOTED) DATUM STN 90+34 66.5' L DATE REPORT SEPT 16, 1955  
SAMPLER HAMMER VT 250 \* DROP INCHES COMPILED BY BH CHECKED BY W. Jones BORING DATE SEPT 14-16, 1955

SAMPLE CONDITION

## SAMPLE TYPES

## ABBREVIATIONS



DISTURBED  
GOOD  
LOST

C.B - CHUCK  
D.O - DRIVE OPEN  
D.F - DRIVE FOOT VALVE  
T.O - THIN WALLED OPEN

WS - WASHED SAMPLE  
RC - ROCK CORE

V - INSITU VANE SHEAR TEST	γ - UNIT WEIGHT
M - MECHANICAL ANALYSIS	K - PERMEABILITY
U - UNCONFINED COMPRESSION	C - CONSOLIDATION
Q <sub>c</sub> - TRIAXIAL CONSOLIDATED QUICK	CA - CASING
Q - TRIAXIAL QUICK	WL - WATER LEVEL IN CASING
S - TRIAXIAL SLOW	WT - WATER TABLE IN SOIL

## SOIL PROFILE

### ■ SHEAR STRENGTH

### ④ WATER CONTENT

## SAMPLES

[illegible]

MATERIALS LABORATORY-DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS-ONTARIO  
OFFICE REPORT ON SOIL EXPLORATION

DRILL RIG COPY DRILL #4 JOB 55-F-16 BORING NO. 4  
CASING ØX (STANDARD SAMPLERS TO FIT UNLESS NOTED) DATUM STN 1000 TO 61.2' L DATE REPORT SEPT 10, 1955  
SAMPLER HAMMER WT 250 # DROP 1 INCHES COMPILED BY B.H. CHECKED BY M. VANDER  
BORING DATE SEPT 8 & 9, 1955

### SAMPLE CONDITION



DISTURBED  
GOOD  
LOST

C.S. - CHUNK  
D.O. - DRIVE OPEN  
D.F. - DRIVE FOOT VALVE  
T.O. - THIN WALLED OPEN

## SAMPLE TYPES

WS - WASHED SAMPLE  
RC - ROCK CORE

## ABBREVIATIONS

V-INSITU VANE SHEAR TEST	> UNIT WEIGHT
M-MECHANICAL ANALYSIS	K - PERMEABILITY
U-UNCONFINED COMPRESSION	C - CONSOLIDATION
Q <sub>e</sub> -TRIAxIAL CONSOLIDATED QUICK	CA - CASING
Q - TRIAXIAL QUICK	WL - WATER LEVEL IN CASING
S - TRIAXIAL SLOW	WT - WATER TABLE IN SOIL

## SCIL PROFILE

ELEVATION DEPTH	WATER CONDITIONS	DESCRIPTION
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STRAT PLOT	ELEVATION	SCALE
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### ④ SHEAR STRENGTH

TONS/SQ. FT. OR Q<sub>u</sub>/2

0.5 1.0 1.5

X CONE PENETRATION TEST

RESISTANCE BLOWS PER FOOT

50 100 150

© WATER CONTENT

20 30  
□ PW Δ LW  
20 30

## SAMPLES

OTHER TESTS	CONDITION	TYPE	No	ESTIMATION DISTANCE	ELEV. RECOV.
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