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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

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LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION

**BLOCK 3070. LOT 10-14.**

**140 JOHNSON AVENUE.  
WILLIAMSBURGH. BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN.  
KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK.**

96 HPD 003K

**STAGE 1A LITERATURE REVIEW AND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC  
SENSITIVITY EVALUATION**

Prepared For:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pratt Planning & Architectural Collaborative**  
379 DeKalb Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Prepared By:

\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants**  
726 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

September 1995

139

# **BLOCK 3070. LOT 10-14.**

**140 JOHNSON AVENUE.  
WILLIAMSBURGH. BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN  
KINGS COUNTY, NEW YORK**

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# PART 1A: LITERATURE SEARCH AND REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

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726 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11215  
718-965-3860

**Date:** September 18, 1995

## A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Permit Application:

Permit Number:

Permit Type:

NYC LPC Project Number:

**Prepared by:** Gail T. Guillet  
City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants  
726 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

### Location of Proposed Action:

The project area is located in Block 3070, Lot 10-14 in Williamsburgh, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. (Map 1) The block is a standard city block bounded on the north by north by Johnson Avenue, on the west by Manhattan Avenue (formerly Ewen Street) on the south by Boerum Street, and on the east by Graham Avenue. (Map 2) Lot 10-14 are 25' x 100' lots. The official address of the project area is 140 Johnson Avenue, but Lot 10-14 were formerly identified as 140-148 Johnson Avenue. The project area is currently vacant. (Photo 1)

### Description of Undertaking:

The applicant (St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation) proposes to construct housing on the site.

### Estimated Size of Impact Area:

The project will impact the entire area -- approximately 12,500 square feet.

### **Description of Impact:**

A vacant lot will be replaced by housing and open space. It is proposed to construct 24 low-to-moderate income dwelling units.

## **B: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION**

### **Topography:**

The project area is located north of the Harbor Hill Moraine, which forms the spine of Long Island. In terms of the present-day topography, the site is a level area located in an urban setting consisting of commercial and residential structures, repair shops and open parking areas. According to information provided on the Sanborn Insurance Map of Block 2208 the northwest corner of the block is located at 28 feet above mean high tide.

### **Geology:**

In geological terms, the project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province. This province is limited in New York State to Long Island and Staten Island, the only other location in where the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province occurs within the State. (Thompson 1966:34-35). It is presumed that between 1.5 and 65 million years ago the Long Island land mass was formed. Glaciers helped create much of Long Island's distinctive terrain, which consists of the Harbor Hill Moraine and the Ronkonkoma Moraine. The precise underlying geology of the project area has not been identified, but would be consistent with the types of materials associated with the glacial terminal moraines running east and west along the spine of Long Island. These include unconsolidated gravel, sand and clay deposits.

Information concerning the depth to bedrock is located at the Subsurface Exploration Section of the New York City Department of General Services. Portions of the maps for the Borough of Brooklyn associated with the project area indicate that the entire project area is located on fast land and that bedrock in the general vicinity of the project area is approximately 175 feet below grade.

### **Soils:**

As with the geology, the underlying soils would be consistent with the types of materials associated with the glacial terminal moraines running east and west along the spine of Long Island. These include unconsolidated gravel, sand and clay deposits.

At street level the soils would today be classified as urban soils, in the sense that the entire site has been disturbed, first by construction of the dwellings that formerly stood on the site and of their associated outbuildings, by industrial activities associated with portions of the site, and by the subsequent demolition of the buildings that formerly stood Lot 10-14. Based on observations made during a site visit and experience in other areas in Williamsburgh, it is assumed that much of the subsurface soil would be mixed with substantial amounts of rubble from the demolition.

**Drainage:**

Examination of historic maps and atlases indicates that the property was not crossed by any streams or associated with any swamp or wetland areas.

**Vegetation:**

The project area consists of a vacant lot (140 Johnson Avenue). No vegetation of significance was observed within the project area.

**Forest Zone:**

The project area lies within the Northern Hardwood Forest zone. Sugar maple, birch, beech and hemlock are the predominant trees in this type of forest. However, as noted above, no trees of significance exist on the property which is located in an urban setting.

**Man-Made Features and Alterations:**

The site would have experienced a variety of disturbances:

- 1) those that may have been associated with farming activities during the 17th through the early 19th centuries;
- 2) disturbances associated with the construction of the 19th century dwellings and any associated outbuilding;
- 3) disturbances associated with the industrial activities that took place at the rear of several of the dwellings (144-146 Johnson Avenue);
- 4) disturbances associated with the demolition of the buildings and the construction of a fence to enclose the vacant lot.

## **C: DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH**

### **1. Site Files**

#### **a. New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)**

The project area is located within the Borough of Brooklyn in New York City. Information concerning prehistoric and/or historic sites located on or in the vicinity of the project area was obtained from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission rather than from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

#### **b. New York State Museum Archaeological Site Files**

The project area is located within New York City. Information concerning prehistoric sites located in the vicinity of the project area was obtained from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission rather than from the New York State Museum Archaeological Site Files.

#### **c. New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission**

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has indicated that the project area (140-148 Johnson Avenue) has the potential for the recovery of remains from 19th century occupations. Correspondence dated March 7, 1995 attached. (Appendix E)

##### **State Register**

At the present time, no structures identified as eligible for the State Register are located in the vicinity of the project. A visual inspection of the area does not suggest that such buildings exist in the immediate vicinity of the project.

##### **National Register**

At the present time, no structures identified as eligible for the National Register are located in the vicinity of the project. A visual inspection of the area does not suggest that such buildings exist in the immediate vicinity of the project.

##### **National Register eligible listing**

At the present time, no structures identified as eligible for the National Register are located in the vicinity of the project. A visual inspection of the area does not suggest that such buildings exist in the immediate vicinity of the project.

### State/National Register proposed

At the present time, no structures proposed for listing on the National Register are located in the vicinity of the project. A visual inspection of the area does not suggest that such buildings exist in the immediate vicinity of the project.

## 2. References

### a. General Texts

(For complete bibliography see end of Part 1A of report)

- X Beauchamp, William  
1900 *Aboriginal Occupation of New York*. New York State Museum Bulletin No. 32. Albany, NY.
- X Funk, Robert E.  
1976 *Recent Contributions to Hudson Valley Prehistory*. New York State Museum Memoir 22. Albany, NY.
- X Parker, Arthur  
1920 *The Archaeological History of New York*. New York State Museum Bulletin. No. 237 and 238. Albany, NY.
- X Ritchie, William A.  
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- X New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1979 *A Guide to New York City Landmarks*. Browne & Co.: New York, NY
- X Other (Bibliography located at end of Part 1A of document)
- b. Maps**  
Map examined are included in list. Those marked with "X" are included in report.
- X Ratzel, Benjamin  
1766 *Plan for the City of New York in North America*. Prepared for British Army. Reproduced in Valentine's Manual. Scale: included on map.
- ..... Vieth, Issac  
1845 *A Map of the Village of Williamsburgh, Kings County, N. Y.* Scale: No shown.

- ..... Butt, Richard  
1846 *Map of the City of Brooklyn and the Village of Williamsburgh*. Scale: 800 Feet to the Inch.
- ..... Dripp, M.  
[185-] *Map of the City of Brooklyn, being the former Cities of Brooklyn and Williamsburgh and the Town of Bushwick*. M. Dripp: Brooklyn, NY. Scale: 1800 Feet to the Inch.
- ..... Field, Thomas W.  
1852 *Map of the Cities of Williamsburgh & Town of Bushwick, including Greenpoint with part of Brooklyn, Kings County, N.Y.* Scale: None shown.
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- ..... Hopkins, G. M.  
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- ..... Bromley, Geo. W. & E. Robinson.  
1880 *Atlas of the Entire City of Brooklyn*. G. W. Bromley & Co.: New York, NY. Plate 28. Scale: 200 Feet to the Inch.
- ..X Sanborn Map Company  
1887 *Sanborn Insurance Map of the City of Brooklyn, New York*. Sanborn Map Company: New York, NY. vol. 3. Plate 65. Scale: 160 feet to the Inch.
- ..... Bromley, George W. & Walter S.  
1893 *Atlas of the City of Brooklyn, N. Y.* G. W. Bromley & Co.: Philadelphia, PA. Plate 9. Scale: 200 Feet to the Inch.
- ..... Ullitz, Hugo  
1904 *Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn City of New York*. E. Belcher Hyde: Brooklyn, NY. vol. 3. Plate 4. Scale: 100 feet to the Inch.
- ..X Sanborn Map Company  
1918 *Atlas of Borough of Brooklyn City of New York*. E. Belcher Hyde: Brooklyn, NY. vol. 3. Plate 40. Scale: 160 Feet to the Inch.
- ..X Hyde, E. Belcher  
1929 *Desk Atlas Borough of Brooklyn City of New York*. E. Belcher Hyde: New York, NY. vol. 2. Scale: 150 Feet to the Inch.



..... Sanborn Map Company  
1995 *Insurance Map. Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York.* Sanborn Map Company: New York, NY. vol. 3. Scale: 60 Feet to the Inch.

X United States Geological Survey  
1967 *Brooklyn, New York Quadrangle.* 7.5 Minute Series. Photorevised 1979. Scale: 24,000: 1.

c. **Site Specific Texts**

Smith, Carlyle S.  
1950 *The Archaeology of Coastal New York.* American Museum of Natural History: Anthropological Papers. v. 43. pt. 2.

Stiles, Henry R.  
1867. *History of the City of Brooklyn.* W. W. Munsell and Company: Brooklyn, NY.

3. **Previous Surveys**

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.  
1991 *Archaeological and Historical Sensitivity Evaluation of Caribe Village Development Project. Williamsburgh, Brooklyn, New York.* CEQR 88-083K.

Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.  
1992 *Williamsburgh Street West. Block 2203. Lot 10. Borough of Brooklyn. New York, New York.* CEQR 91-228K.

CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants  
1995 *Stage 1A Literature Review and Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Evaluation. Block 2208. Lot 2 & 16. Williamsburgh. Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York.* NLA/PRE-CEQR-K.

4. **Sensitivity Assessment/Site Prediction**

Prehistoric Sensitivity

Regional prehistory dates to the first human entry into the area approximately 12,000 years ago. This coincides with the retreat of the Wisconsin glacial advance. At this same time sea levels began to rise along the Atlantic coast inundating the continental shelf off Long Island and the Lower New York Bay. The precise timing of the retreat of the glacial ice and the rise in sea level is a matter of debate.

The earliest occupants of the northeastern United States, called Paleo-Indians by archaeologists, are identified by their distinctive lithic tradition of fluted projectile points. Later cultures occupying the area are broadly termed Archaic (9000 to 3000 BP) and Woodland (3000 BP to 1600 AD). Reliance on cultigens became an

increasingly important part of cultural adaptations during the Woodland Period. A Transitional Phase between the Late Archaic and Woodland has been treated by some scholars as a separate cultural period. The Transitional Phase is characterized by the use of soapstone utensils, whereas the Woodland Period is identified in part by the use of pottery. Various Native American peoples populated Long Island, and specifically the western end of Long Island, at the time of Contact. Parker asserts that there can be little doubt that their occupation of the land that became the Borough of Brooklyn was ubiquitous.

Although prehistoric peoples would without doubt have ranged over all of Long Island, archaeological investigations indicate that habitation sites were situated in proximity to water sources such as tidal creeks, substantial streams, and wetland areas. Upland areas, away from water, would have been used for hunting. (Smith 1950: 101) Because of the sporadic use of woodland areas by prehistoric peoples and subsequent alteration to the land, including substantial grading and the construction of dwellings on Block 3070, Lot 10-14 in the mid-19th century, it is not considered likely that any prehistoric cultural material would be associated with the project area.

### Historic Sensitivity

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission communication (dated March 7, 1995) indicates that the site has the potential to yield historic resources associated with the 19th century. Based on the materials examined for this report, the project area (Lot 10-14) contains the potential to yield historic information that would increase our knowledge of living conditions in a densely populated, culturally homogenous area of Brooklyn. Furthermore, Lot 12 and Lot 14 have the potential to yield industrial archaeological information that would contribute to our understanding of 19th century industrial and commercial development in this area.

Each of the lots in the project area is assessed below:

#### Lot 10 (140 Johnson Avenue)

Based on land conveyance records available at the Brooklyn Historical Society for Block 3070 it is believed that 140 Johnson Avenue was constructed by Francis Monnot prior to or in the year 1866. Subsequent sales of this property took place in 1870 and 1873, when it was purchased by Henry Walters, who continued to occupy the building until at least 1880 when his name appears on the United States Federal Census at this address. No information was available at the Borough of Brooklyn Sewer Department concerning the date at which this building was connected to the municipal sewers; however, the other buildings located within the project area were connected between 1869 and 1873. No structures are shown in the rear of this lot. It appears that a dwelling stood on this lot prior to the connection of the premises to the municipal sewer system, and that 140 Johnson Avenue has the potential to

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JCB

B Block  
3070

contain privies and/or cisterns in the rear yard. Further investigation of this lot would be required to determine whether such features are present and intact.

**Lot 11 (142 Johnson Avenue):**

Based on land conveyance records available at the Brooklyn Historical Society for Block 3070 it appears that 142 Johnson Avenue was constructed by Francis Monnot prior to or in the year 1866. Subsequent sales of this property took place in 1869, when it was purchased by Christian Straub, who leased it to tenants. Information obtained at the Borough of Brooklyn Sewer Department indicate that this building was connected to the municipal sewers in 1869. No structures are shown in the rear of this lot. It appears that a dwelling stood on this lot prior to the connection of the premises to the municipal sewer system, and that 142 Johnson Avenue has the potential to contain privies and/or cisterns in the rear yard. Further investigation of this lot would be required to determine whether such features are present and intact.

**Lot 12 (144 Johnson Avenue):**

Based on the land conveyance records available at the Brooklyn Historical Society for Block 3070 it is believed that 144 Johnson Avenue was constructed by Ebenezer Jennings on or about the year 1873. He sold the property to John Levy (who may actually have been John Lenz) in that year. In 1878-79 John Lenz & Son (blacksmith and wheelwright) was located at this address. John Lenz owned this land in 1892, when he leased it to F. William Arndt. At that date, a blacksmith shop was still operating on the property. Information obtained at the Borough of Brooklyn Sewer Department indicates that this building was connected to the municipal sewers in 1873, but information concerning the owner of the building was not available. A 1 story structure, identified as the wheelwright, is shown in the rear of this yard. Although it appears that Lot 12 was developed at the time that the building was connected to the municipal sewer, thereby reducing the likelihood of privies or cisterns associated with the site, 144 Johnson Avenue has the potential to provide valuable insight into the industrial development of this area. Further investigation of this lot would be required to determine whether such features are present and intact.

**Lot 13 (146 Johnson Avenue):**

Based on the land conveyance records available at the Brooklyn Historical Society for Block 3070 it is believed that 146 Johnson Avenue was constructed by Ebenezer Jennings prior to the year 1864, the year that John Lenz purchased the property. John Lenz lived at 144 Johnson Avenue, but still owned 146 Johnson Avenue in 1892 when he signed a lease for 4 years with Andrew "Kohoor." Information obtained at the Borough of Brooklyn Sewer Department indicates that the lot was connected to the municipal sewers in 1869, with additional work being performed in 1873. It is possible that 1873 represents the date of construction of the 2 story dwelling that stood at the rear of this yard. It appears that a dwelling stood on this

lot prior to the connection of the premises to the municipal sewer system, and that 146 Johnson Avenue has the potential to contain privies and/or cisterns in the rear yard. Further investigation of this lot would be required to determine whether such features are present and intact.

**Lot 14 (148 Johnson Avenue):**

Based on the land conveyance records available at the Brooklyn Historical Society for Block 3070 it is believed that 148 Johnson Avenue was constructed Ebenezer Jennings in the year 1864. He sold the property to John Lenz in that year. Subsequent sales brought it into the ownership of Charles (or Carl) Julius, who lived at this address until the 1880's. Information obtained at the Borough of Brooklyn Sewer Department indicates that this building was connected to the municipal sewers in 1872, but information concerning the owner of the building was not available. A small 1 story structure is shown in the rear of this yard in 1887. In the early years of the 20th century, an iron works and smithy was operated at this address. It appears that a dwelling stood on this lot prior to the connection of the premises to the municipal sewer system, and that 148 Johnson Avenue has the potential to contain privies and/or cisterns in the rear yard. Further investigation of this lot would be required to determine whether such features are present and intact.

**5. Recommendations**

**Prehistoric Sensitivity**

Based on the environmental models promulgated by the New York State Museum Archaeological Site File and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and documentary research, the project area is not considered to contain the potential to yield prehistoric cultural material.

**Historic Sensitivity**

Based on the materials examined for this report, the project area (Lot 10-14) contains the potential to yield historic information that would increase our knowledge of living conditions in a densely populated, culturally homogenous area of Brooklyn. Furthermore, Lot 12 and Lot 14 have the potential to yield industrial archaeological information that would contribute to our understanding of 19th century industrial and commercial development in this area.

**6. Attachments**

- Environmental Assessment Form
- Topographic map (Appendix C: Map 1)

- X Appendix A:  
Discussion of Historic Information concerning project area (Block 3070. Lot 10-14) Williamsburgh, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York.
- X Appendix B:  
United States Federal Census Data for 1880 for Project Areas
- X Appendix C:  
Maps (Map 1 -7)
- X Appendix D:  
Photographs
- X Appendix E:  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission Correspondence (dated March 7, 1995)

**End of Part 1A**

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1900 *Aboriginal Occupation of New York*. New York State Museum Bulletin No. 32. Albany, NY.
- Bolton, Reginald Pelham  
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# APPENDICES

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Discussion of Prehistoric and Historic Component**

**Appendix B: Census Data**

**Appendix C: Maps**

**Appendix D: Photographs**

**Appendix E: Correspondence**

**APPENDIX A**

**DISCUSSION OF PREHISTORIC AND  
HISTORIC COMPONENT**

# DISCUSSION OF PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC COMPONENTS

## INTRODUCTION

The address of the proposed project site is 140 Johnson Avenue (Block 3070, Lot 10-14) in the Williamsburgh section of the Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. (see Map 1 & 2) According to information obtained from the Sanborn Map Company, the current elevation of the northwest corner of Block 3070 is 28 feet above mean high tide. At the present time the project area is a vacant lot enclosed by a chain link fence. The project area was formerly occupied by a variety of buildings including dwelling houses containing a number of apartments and shops and commercial structures. The applicant proposes to construct 24 low-to-moderate housing units.

Correspondence from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (dated March 7, 1995) indicated that the proposed project area had the potential to yield historic materials related to the 19th century occupation of the site. (Appendix E: Correspondence) The purpose of the material provided is to answer the following questions:

1. Does the project area have the potential to yield information relating to the prehistoric occupation of the area?
2. Does the project area contain the potential to yield information concerning the 19th century domestic occupation of the site in the form of privies or cisterns associated with the dwelling houses formerly located on the site?
3. Does the project area contain the potential to yield industrial archaeological evidence of the John Lenz and Sons Iron Works (a blacksmith and wheelwright business) or of the occupations of the shop owners associated with the buildings that formerly stood on the project area?

## PREHISTORY OF THE AREA

Among the tasks required in the Stage 1A Literature Review is an assessment of the potential of the project area to yield significant prehistoric cultural resources. In making the assessment there are a number of factors to be considered, the first of which is the presence on or in the immediate vicinity of the project area of streams or springs that could have served as a source of fresh water for Native American peoples, secondly, is the presence of nearby resources such as wetlands, tidal marshes, streams, and forested areas where deer and other species could have been hunted or open areas that could have been used as cropland, and, finally, the presence on or in the vicinity of the project area of known prehistoric sites.

An examination of the 1766-7 Ratzler map indicates that no streams or other sources of fresh water were available within the project area. Although there were ample fresh water streams flowing through Williamsburgh in prehistoric times, the project area appears to have been located some distance from a useful source of potable water. The same is true of the riverine and tidal resources: the East River, Wallabout Bay and the substantial streams that flowed into it were less than a mile from the project area, but locations nearer to these resources would probably have been selected for habitation or longer term camp sites. Based on these considerations, the only probable use that Native American peoples might have made of the project area would have been as a temporary or still hunting site while pursuing the white-tailed deer or gathering other forest resources such as nuts.

With the criteria outlined above in mind, information concerning known prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area was examined. According to information obtained from surveys covering the general area and from published resources such as Parker's 1922 *Archeological History of New York*, there are several prehistoric sites located within the general vicinity of the project area. All are more than two miles away on or near the banks of substantial water bodies (the East River and Newtown Creek). (Map 3) None of these sites, all of which were recorded early in the century, were professionally excavated (Greenhouse, 1991 & 1992).

One of these sites is the village of Mareyckawick, said by Bolton to have been located at Galletin and Elm Place (Bolton, 1924 in Greenhouse, 1992). Another resource, writing in 1977, indicated that this village, occupied by a group of Indians identified as Mareyckawick (a branch of the Canarsie), was located "just north of Old Fulton Street (now called Cadman Plaza West)" (Greenhouse, 1992). Still another possible location is suggested by Grumet, who quotes an earlier resource, is the site of present day Brooklyn Borough Hall (Grumet, 1981:27 in Greenhouse, 1992). Since each of these sites are sufficiently distant from the others that no firm determination can be made concerning the actual location of this village site, it must be considered anecdotal and is not included on the map of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project area.

The second site, identified by Gabriel Furman in the mid-19th century, was located "... at Bridge Street, between Front and York and between Jay and Bridge Street." According to Furman, the material was located on the top of a hill approximately 70 feet high shown on Bernard Ratzler's 1766-7 *Plan of the City of New York in North America*. The hill has since been razed, but Furman states that "... the material was found *in situ* (down to a depth of 3 to 4 feet)." Evidence of Indian occupation included pottery, projectile points and clay tobacco pipes (Greenhouse, 1991:2).

The third site noted by Arthur C. Parker as "traces of occupation" along the south side of Newtown Creek is to the north of the project area (Parker, 1922: Plate 179). This site is identified as New York State Museum Site #3613.

Parker also identified the location of a village on the Manhattan side of the East River. It was located southwest of Corlaer's Hook, a place that provided one of the

narrowest crossing points along the East River south of present day Roosevelt Island (Parker, 1922: Plate 192). This is identified as New York State Museum Site #4060.

Based on the information presented above and an examination of the historic maps which include the project area, it appears that, although prehistoric peoples would have ranged over all of Long Island, archaeological investigations indicate that habitation sites were situated in proximity to water sources such as tidal creeks, substantial streams, and wetland areas. Upland areas, away from water, would have been used for hunting. (Smith 1950: 101) Because of the sporadic use of woodland areas by prehistoric peoples and subsequent alteration to the land, including grading and the construction of dwellings on Lot 2 and Lot 16 in the mid-19th century, it is not considered probable that any prehistoric cultural material would be associated with the project area.

## HISTORY OF THE AREA

To our knowledge, the first European to visit Brooklyn was Giovanni da Verrazano in 1527 and 1529 when he is said to have landed on Coney Island. This was followed in 1609 by more extensive explorations undertaken by Henry Hudson. Hudson also landed at Coney Island where he was met by the Canarsie Indians, the tribe inhabiting the western portion of Long Island. Hudson's first mate, Juet, described waters teeming with various species of fish and a land of abundant fruit trees and grape vines. Similar descriptions are available from the late 17th century, when Daniel Danton and Jasper Dankers visited Kings County. During the 17th century, the Canarsie Indians sold land to the Dutch inhabitants of Kings County, of which Williamsburgh was a part. The process of land transfers continued under the English when they took over the colony from the Dutch in 1664.

Although Manhattan was the area first occupied by the Dutch following their arrival, the settlement of Kings County followed almost immediately. The historical record is not clear concerning the first settlement; some contend that the first person to purchase land in Brooklyn was George Jansen de Rapalié who is said to have settled near Wallabout Bay (present site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard) in the 1620's, other authorities indicate that the earliest settlement took place at Gowanus, where William Bennet and Jacques Bentyn are said to have purchased land from the Indians and built a house in 1636. Stiles confirms Rapalié's settlement at Wallabout, but states that it did not take place until the middle of the 17th century (Greenhouse 1991:3)

Whatever the case, Brooklyn in the 17th century became an area of farms linked together by roads running between the various small hamlets and villages. The primary village was Breucklyn, located along Fulton Street in the area of present day Brooklyn Heights. It was from here that the earliest boats and ferries crossed the East River, permitting the farmers to carry their produce to Manhattan for sale. That the settlement of Kings County took place rapidly can be seen from descriptions published in 1670, in which Daniel Denton reports that:

*Long Island . . . is inhabited from one end to the other. On the West end is four or five Dutch Towns; the rest being English to the number of twelve, besides Villages and Farm houses. The Island is most of it of very good soil, and very natural for all sorts of English Grain; which they sow and have very good increase of, besides all other Fruits and Herbs common in England, as also Tobac, Hemp, Flax, Pumpkins, Melons, etc. . . . The greatest part of the Island is very full of Timber, as Oaks white and red, Walnut-trees, Chestnut-trees, which yield store of Mast for Swine . . . also Maples, Cedars, Saxifrage, Beech, Birch, Holly, Hazel, with many sorts more. . . . The Island is plentifully stored with all sorts of English Cattle, Horses, Hogs, Sheep, Goats, etc.; no place in the North of America better, which they can both raise and maintain, by reason of the large and spacious Meadows or Marches, wherewith it is furnished, the Island likewise producing excellent English grass, the seed of which was brought out from England, which they sometime mow twice a year. For wilde Beast, there is Deer, Bear, Wolves, Foxes, Raccoons, Otters, Muskrats and Skunks, Wild Fowl, there is great store of, as Turkeys, Heath-Hens, Quails, Partridges, Pidgeons, Cranes, Geese, of several sorts, Brants, Ducks, Widgeons, Teal and divers others . . . (Denton 1966:3-6)*

Denton described the streams and rivers which entered the oceans off Long Island, all abounding in fish, and the salt water areas where shellfish were harvested by the Indians to be taken to Manhattan to market. Denton also described in some detail the lives of the Indians whom he found living on Long Island. Denton further identified the types of crops grown on Long Island during the last quarter of the 17th century, along with the types of animals raised by the farmers of the island, and the game animals and birds hunted by both the Indians and the European inhabitants. He identified the importance of the meadows and marshes that were mown for fodder, and the woods that provided timber for building, wood for the kitchens and homes of the farmers, and mast (acorns, walnuts and chestnuts) for the swine that ran free in them.

During these years, the pattern of occupation for communities in Kings County and for the rest of Long Island followed the pattern of individually owned farmsteads on which each man built his house, barns, and outbuilding, and on which he planted his orchards and crops. These were the plantations. In addition to their own farms, each member of the community also was entitled to the use of the common land on which were pastured the cattle and from which the farmers cut hay for fodder. Woodlots were the third division of land, providing timber for building and firewood for the kitchen and fireplaces, as well as mast for the swine. The woodlots were initially held in common, but in time were divided among the villages. Later these woodlots were further divided, with specific lots being allocated to each family. Finally, in communities in proximity to the ocean, salt meadows were purchased in common and subsequently divided into lots which assigned to individuals in the community.

In Brooklyn the earliest farmsteads were located along the shore of the East River which served as a highway linking the farmers with Manhattan (their primary market) and one another. By the late 1640's the entire shoreline from Gowanus to the south and Newtown Creek to the north had been settled by persons engaged in agriculture (Stiles 1867:45). Although today the project area is considered part of Williamsburgh, in the 17th

century is was part of Wallabout, and in the 19th century was referred to as East Brooklyn. Division Avenue marked the boundary line between the Village of Williamsburgh (then part of the Town of Bushwick) and East Brooklyn in the Town of Brooklyn. No maps from this date are available, but, based on the land conveyances for Block 3070, it appears that the Town of Bushwick granted a large tract of land to Peter Proa in the year 1713 (Brooklyn Historical Society Land Conveyances for Block 3070). Details of other transactions involving this tract are not available until in 1801 Jonathan Williams sold or otherwise granted part of a large tract of land that included some of the land now associated with Block 3070 to Jacob Boerum. In 1812 Jacob Boerum purchased other land associated with Block 3070 from Tunis Kishow. The boundary lines of the original Boerum farm appear on a number of 19th century maps. From these farm maps, it appears that the pattern of land use established in the 17th and 18th centuries continued into the early years of the 19th century: dwellings and farm buildings were sited along the East River with the fields and pastureland extending into the interior.

### 1766-67 Bernard Ratzer's *Plan of the City of New York in North America*

Bernard Ratzer prepared a survey map for the British Army in 1766 and 1767 identified as the *Plan of the City of New York in North America* on which the project area appears. (Map 4) The map identifies the "Road to Bushwick", which ran generally north and south through the interior of present day Williamsburgh from the Town of Brooklyn to Bushwick. From this road a path ran west to the East River, with a branch extending south to a substantial stream that flowed into Wallabout Bay. This east-west path provided access to a narrow part of the river where an early ferry was established. The project area is located in an area west of the "Road to Bushwick" and north of the path to the East River. Ratzer's map indicates that this area was farm fields and pastureland. No structures appear in the vicinity of the project area.

The Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn was not the scene of any engagements during the years of the American Revolution and no fortifications or other military encampments were located in the vicinity. Indeed, the only important engagement of the war that took place in Brooklyn was the Battle of Brooklyn, which took place at the end of August in 1776. This battle cleared the American forces from Long Island with the result that no further depredations took place as the result of warfare. However, we can assume that during this period of occupation, despite being protected from the ravages of further battles, the inhabitants of Brooklyn suffered great deprivations. In particular, Brooklyn was is said to have been striped of its trees to provide firewood for the British forces. The woodland was subsequently replaced by gardens and orchards (Armbruster, 1912:34). Earlier description provided by Stiles matches in many details descriptions of Manhattan and the Bronx, which were also held by the British, and southern Westchester:

*Brooklyn, which, during the war, had been wholly military ground, presented a sadder scene of desolation than any other town in Kings County. In 1786, after the occupation of the British, free range had been given to the pillaging propensities of the soldiery. Farms had been laid waste . . . woodlands were*



*ruthlessly cut down for fuel, buildings were injured, fences removed, and boundaries effaced. Farmers were despoiled of their cattle, horses, swine, poultry, vegetables, and of almost every necessary article of subsistence, except their grain, which fortunately had been housed before the invasion. Their houses were also plundered . . . and much furniture was wantonly destroyed . . . stock became very scarce and dear, and the farmer of Brooklyn who owned a pair of horses and two or three cows was 'well off.' The scarcity prevailing in the markets, however, soon rendered it necessary for the British commanders to restrain this system of indiscriminate marauding, and to encourage agriculture . . . (Stiles 1884:100)*

With the end of the war, Kings County began to recover. Homes were rebuilt. Boundaries were redrawn, and fences reestablished. On March 7, 1788 Brooklyn became a town under the laws of the New York Stage Legislature. The Town of Brooklyn contained seven hamlets: The Ferry, Red Hook, Brooklyn, Bedford, Gowanus, Cripplebush, and Wallabout. Although today the project area is considered part of Williamsburgh, in the 18th and early years of the 19th century it was part of the Town of Bushwick, which had been laid out by Peter Stuyvesant in the 17th century (Armbruster, 1912: 34).

As a point of information, in the early 19th century Williamsburgh (considered part of the Town of Bushwick) was described in Spafford's *Gazetteer of the State of New York* as a "pleasant little village" containing 2 tidal grist mills on Wallabout Bay, 3 schoolhouses, 2 taverns, and the terminus of the ferry that ran from Corlaer's Hook in Manhattan to the foot of 6th Street (later Broadway) in the village. Spafford further states that in 1820 the village contained 119 farmers, 60 merchants, 5 traders, 19 foreigners, 42 free blacks, and 120 slaves. In that year, in addition to the grist mills the village contained a distillery. There were 2535 acres of improved land, 184 horses, 57 sheep, and 487 cattle.

Land conveyances from 1836 indicate that in 1835 John S. McKibben and Thomas Nichols had Block 3070 surveyed by Alexander Martin prior to the sale of lots within the block to them by Jacob Boerum. Various transactions are recorded during the subsequent two years, but in 1843 the land reverted to Jacob Boerum. The records do not indicate that any structures were then located within the boundaries of Block 3070.

In 1840 the Village of Williamsburgh had been set off from the Town of Bushwick, with Union Avenue being the dividing line between the village and the Town of Bushwick. Since the project area fell on the east side of Union Avenue, it continued to be considered part of the Town of Bushwick until 1855 when Williamsburgh, Brooklyn and the Town of Bushwick were consolidated and incorporated. It was also during this time period that Johnson Street was renamed Johnson Avenue, for that is how it is identified in 1844 when Jacob Boerum sold a lot on Johnson Avenue to Walter Hilaire.

Issac Vieth's 1845 *A Map of the Village of Williamsburgh* is detailed and provides much information about the organization of the village. Despite the fact that technically the project area lay in the Town of Bushwick, outside the limits of the village, the land included within Block 3070 appears on the map. At that time the boundaries of Block 3070 were

Johnson Avenue (formerly Johnson Street) on the north, Ewen Avenue (later Manhattan Avenue) on the west, Boerum Street on the south and Graham Avenue on the east. Today the lots along Manhattan Avenue (then Ewen Street) are 100 feet deep and oriented east-west, but in 1845 the arrangement of the lots was oriented north-south along Johnson Street and Boerum Street east of Ewen Avenue. There is no indication that Block 3070 contained any buildings.

Development of the area was clearly in the offing by the mid-1840's when a series of land transactions took place between Jacob Boerum and a variety of men, including Hilaire Walter (who purchased Lot 10 and 11 in 1848) and Ebenezer Jennings (who purchased Lot 12-14 in 1852).

In 1846, the year after the Vieth map, Richard Butt published the *Map of the Cities of Brooklyn and the Village of Williamsburgh*. This map includes, as do a number of others, the early farm lines. According to this map the project area fell within land belonging to the heirs of Jacob Boerum. No structures are shown within the project area.

In M. Dripp's *Map of the Cities of Brooklyn, Williamsburgh and the Town of Bushwick* (dating from the 1850's) the project area is included. Johnson Avenue is shown as Johnson Street which becomes Cypress Hills Plank Road east of Bushwick Avenue. No structures are shown within the project area.

In 1860 J. H. French reported in his *Gazetteer of the State of New York* that Williamsburgh was the "thickly settled portions north of Wallabout Bay," that the waterfront was devoted to commercial pursuits, with sail and boat building being extensively carried out at Wallabout (site of present day Brooklyn Navy Yard) and Greenpoint (north of Williamsburgh). French states that the city was "well supplied with pure, soft water, derived from Hempstead Hook, Valley and Springfield creeks. This water was carried through a 72/3 mile canal to a 4 3/4 mile brick conduit to a reservoir at Cypress Hill, then through iron pipes throughout the city. Although the village proper may have had water by 1860, records at the Brooklyn Department of Water Supply indicate that water mains were not installed in the vicinity of the project area until sometime after 1875.

By 1863 Block 3070 had experienced some development. In 1858 Ebenezer Jennings leased a house to Theobold Reis, while on April 16, 1863, Carl August Schock leased to Karl Unselt for the term of 8 years a two story dwelling house "now erected." That house was located east of the project area, but indicates that at least two house had been built on the south side of Johnson Avenue by late 1850-early 1860. It is believed that Ebenezer Jennings was the developer of these early houses.

In 1863 the heirs of Jacob Boerum sold Lot 27-32 in Block 57 (later Block 3070) to Ebenezer Jennings. One of these lots corresponds with 148 Johnson Avenue (present day Lot 14). In 1864 Jennings sold 146 and 148 Johnson Avenue to John Lenz. During subsequent years, John Lenz sold 148 Johnson Avenue to George Hoth, who in turn sold it to Carl Julius. John Lenz and Carl Julius become fixtures on Johnson Avenue between the 1860's and the 1880 Federal Census, where John Lenz, who operated a blacksmith and

wheelwright business, is identified as occupying 144 Johnson Avenue, while Carl Julius (described in the 1880 Federal Census as a Wine Merchant) continued to live at 148 Johnson Avenue. Also during the mid-1860's Francis Monnot sold 140 and 142 Johnson Avenue to George Dahlbender, who in 1868 sold 142 Johnson Avenue to George Wetzel, who in 1869 sold 142 Johnson Avenue to Christian Straub. That same year according to the land conveyances Christian Straub leased 144 Johnson Avenue to Jacob Abt, a name that continued to be associated with that address in the 1880 Federal Census. In 1870 Geroge Dahlbender sold 140 Johnson Avenue to Adam Dolger, who sold it to Henry Walters in 1873. According to information derived from the Federal Census Henry Walters (Volters), described as a wheelwright, still lived at this address in 1880. The transactions that returned 144 Johnson Avenue to Ebenezer Jennings are not recorded, but in 1873 sold or leased the property to John Levy. This is the address at which John Lenz lived in 1880, and it is believed possible, though not proved, that John Levy should read John Lenz.

The 1880 map of the City of Brooklyn produced by Hyde & Co. indicates that present day Block 3070 was then Block 57. Present day Lot 10-14 was then Lot 25-29. Structures were present on all the lots: 140 Johnson Avenue was a brick and frame building, as was 142 Johnson Avenue. The buildings at 144-148 Johnson Avenue were, according to this map, frame structures. The elevation of the northwest corner of Ewen Avenue (now Manhattan Avenue) and Johnson Avenue was given as 29 feet above mean tide.

In 1880 the United States Federal Census includes listings for 140-148 Johnson Avenue. (Appendix B) The information from the census was combined with information gathered from Lain's Business Directory for 1880-81 and the Sanborn Insurance Map for 1887 (Map 6) to reach a variety of conclusions concerning the inhabitants of 140-148 Johnson Avenue:

- With the exception Jacob Weinman who was born in Austria, all the heads of households had been born in Germany.
- With the exception of Josephine Abt, all the adult woman identified as wives of heads of households were also born in Germany.
- Unless there were older children in the household, virtually all the children had been born in the United States.
- With the exception of Adolph and Leopold Kern, who were born in New Jersey, all the children born in the United States were born in New York.
- All of the heads of households were employed in trades.
- All the wives of heads of households were at home, identified as housekeeping.
- By the age of 13 to 14 years of age the children had left school and were employed either in a trade (tailoress, baker, etc.) or as errand boys.

In a number of cases, several of which are noted above, the heads of households for the buildings within the project area had lived at the addresses for many years.

#### **140 Johnson Avenue**

Henry Walters (Volters) had purchased 140 Johnson Avenue from Adam Dolger in 1873. In the 1880 Census he is listed as a wheelwright. He lived with his wife. They did not have any children. Also living in the house were four other families. Henry Senft was a salesman. Frederick Kern was a shoefitter. Valentine Schaeffen was a laborer. Robert Heineman was a butcher, whose shop was located at this address in 1880-81 (Lain's Business Directory, 1880-81). Twenty-three people lived at 140 Johnson Street, ranging in age from 48 years of age to 9 months.

#### **142 Johnson Avenue**

Based on an examination of the land conveyances, it seems that 142 Johnson Avenue was not occupied by its owner. Like 140 Johnson Avenue this was a 3-story structure with shops on the ground floor. Also like 140 Johnson Avenue, no structures were identified in the rear yard. Seven families (a total of 27 people) lived in the building, including John Haas, a baker whose shop was located at this address (Lain's Business Directory, 1880-81), and Michael Daurenaurin and Jacob Apt, two tailors whose shop or shops, according to Lain's Business Directory, were also in the building. Also, according to Lain's Business Directory, Adam Zulch had a hairdressing shop located at 142 Johnson Avenue. In addition, there was another hair dresser who lived in the building and, it may be conjectured, worked for Adam Zulch, a glass cutter, two brothers listed as painters, and a tinsmith. One 14 year old son of John Haas, the baker, was also identified as a baker, while a 19 year old son of Jacob Apt, the tailor, was identified as a tailor, a 14 year old daughter of Michael Daurenaurin was listed as a tailoress, and a 12 year old son of Christopher Bock was identified as an errand boy.

#### **144 Johnson Avenue**

Although this has not been proven, as suggested above, it seems probable that John Lenz not John Levy purchased or leased 144 Johnson Avenue from Ebenezer Jennings in 1873. Whatever the case, John Lenz is listed as living at that address in the 1880 Federal Census. He was a blacksmith whose shop (John Lenz & Son) was listed in the 1878-9 Lain's Business Directory at that address. John Lenz & Son was also listed as a wheelwright. His business was not listed in the 1880-81 Lain's, but a blacksmith and wheelwright shop occupied the premises in 1886. In addition to Lenz, his wife and three sons, one of whom was listed as a clerk, three other families (with a total of 6 people) occupied the building, which was described as a 3 story structure with a blacksmith in front and a wheelwright in the rear. One of those listed was Frank Haas, a bartender, who lived with his wife, a young daughter, and Susan Gillig, identified as his mother. It is not known if Frank Haas was related to John Haas, the baker at 142 Johnson Avenue, but it is a possibility. Josephine Abt, aged 26, whose occupation is listed as housekeeping, lived at 144 Johnson Street. As noted above, Jacob Abt purchased or leased 144 Johnson Street from Christian Straub in 1869.

### **146 Johnson Avenue**

It appears that 146 Johnson Avenue, like 142 Johnson Avenue was not occupied by the owner, who may have been John Lenz. This was a densely populated lot with a 3 story structure at the front of the lot with a shop on the ground floor, and a 2 story dwelling in the rear of the lot containing at least one tailor shop. Seven families (a total of 26 people) lived in the building at the front of the lot. The heads of households included two carpenters, a tailor, a sugar baker, a varnisher, and Mary Scherbeck, a 28 year old dressmaker with a 3 month old daughter. Although a shop is identified on the 1887 Sanborn map, no listing for the shop appears in Lain's Business Directory. However, in the rear building two tailors are listed in the 1880 Federal Census and the 1880-81 Lain's Business Directory -- Conrad Bengel and Nicholas Wiskow. These men lived with their families (a total of 13 people) in the 2 story structure.

### **148 Johnson Avenue**

Land conveyance records indicate that Louis Julius purchased this building from George Hoth, who had purchased it from John Lenz, who had purchased it from Ebenezer Jennings in 1864. At the time of the 1880 Federal Census, Louis Julius (listed as a wine dealer) lived with his wife and, perhaps, his mother-in-law or an aunt and 5 children at this address, along with two other families -- Henry Schneider, a tailor, and Alma Frenwald, a dressmaker and her 3 year old son. The 1886 Sanborn map shows a shop at this address, but the 1880-81 Lain's Business Directory does not identify the type of shop or its proprietor.

### **1887 Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Maps of City of Brooklyn.***

The 1887 Sanborn Insurance Map of the City of Brooklyn have been referred to above, but is included here with a detailed map of Block 3070. (Map 5) Clearly, this area was a combination of dwelling spaces and commercial and industrial businesses. At the rear of 140-148 Johnson Avenue, facing Boerum Street, were dwelling spaces with shops on the ground floor, an extensive livery and stable for boarding horses, and a lumber operation with a carpenter shop at the rear of the lot. There was another blacksmith shop on Graham Avenue, at least two more tailors on Boerum Street, along with a baker, as well as shops all along Ewen Avenue (now Manhattan Avenue).

In 1892, John Lenz, the owner of 144 Johnson Avenue, entered into a 5 year lease on the entire first floor and the shop in the rear of the floor, "now occupied as a blacksmith shop, with F. William Arndt. He also signed a lease on 146 Johnson Avenue with Andrew "Kohoor" for 4 years.

### **1918 Sanborn Map Company's *Insurance Map of Borough of Brooklyn City of New York***

The 1918 Sanborn *Insurance Map of the Borough of Brooklyn* indicated that while the buildings have remained the same as those shown on the earlier maps, the use of at least

one of the buildings had changed. (Map 6) 140 Johnson Avenue now had a button hole maker located in one of the shops. At 142 Johnson Avenue, a carpenter occupied a ground floor shop, with a tailor located in the front building at 144 Johnson Avenue. At the rear of the lot, where the wheelwright operation of John Lenz & Son had been located, the 1 story structure was now used as a dwelling. The configuration of 146 Johnson Avenue remained the same as in 1886. 148 Johnson Avenue, which had been a dwelling space with a shop on the ground floor was now identified as an iron works with a smithy in the rear yard.

**1929 E. Belcher Hyde. *Map of the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York.***

The *Desk Atlas/ Borough of Brooklyn/City of New York*, dated 1929, indicates that the structures located within the project area had not changed. (Map 7)

**1995 Sanborn Map Company. *Insurance Map. Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York. Block 3070.***

At the present time, 140 Johnson Avenue (containing Lot 10-14 of Block 3070) is a vacant lot surrounded with cyclone fencing. (Map 8)

## **Summary and Conclusions**

### **Prehistoric Sensitivity**

Based on the information presented above and an examination of the historic maps which include the project area, it appears that, although prehistoric peoples would have ranged over all of Long Island, archaeological investigations indicate that habitation sites were situated in proximity to water sources such as tidal creeks, substantial streams, and wetland areas. Upland areas, away from water, would have been used for hunting. (Smith 1950: 101) Because of the sporadic use of woodland areas by prehistoric peoples and subsequent substantial alterations to the land, including grading and the construction of dwellings on Lot 2 and Lot 16 in the second half of the 19th century, it is not considered probable that any prehistoric cultural material would be associated with the project area.

### **Historic Sensitivity**

A review of pertinent historic maps and documents indicates that substantial development began to take place within the boundaries of Block 3070 in the mid-1860's and early 1870's. Prior to 1880 the project area was completely built, although details of the structures in the rear yards changed over time. 140 Johnson Avenue (Lot 10) and 142 Johnson Avenue (Lot 11) contained 3 story structures that combined living space with first floor shops. 144 Johnson Avenue had a blacksmith shop and wheelwright operation (John Lenz & Son) located at the rear of the front building and in the structure at the rear of the lot, with living space above the shop area in the front building. 146 Johnson Avenue was a 3 story building owned by John Lenz that also combined living space and shops on the ground floor in the front building. There was a 2 story building at the rear of the lot that

contained living space and a tailor shop. 148 Johnson Avenue followed the same pattern as the other buildings within the project area of combining living space and commercial or industrial activity. In this case, an iron works was established on this lot in the early years of the 20th century.

Based on the materials examined for this report, the project area (Lot 10-14) contains the potential to yield historic information that would increase our knowledge of living conditions in a densely populated, culturally homogenous area of Brooklyn. Furthermore, Lot 12 and Lot 14 have the potential to yield industrial archaeological information that would contribute to our understanding of 19th century industrial and commercial development in this area.

It is the recommendation of the consultant that, based on the above findings, a Stage 1B Archaeological Field Investigation be undertaken on Lot 10-14 (140 Johnson Avenue) to determine whether subsurface features such as privies, cisterns, or archaeological evidence of the John Lenz & Son blacksmith and wheelwright shops and/or iron works and smithy are present. Prior to the initiation of the Stage 1B Archaeological Field Investigation consultation with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission will be undertaken to determine that the work performed is in accordance with their requirements.

**APPENDIX B**  
**CENSUS DATA**



140 Johnson	(3 story divided bldg. with shops)					
	Last Name	Name	Age	Relation-ship	Occupation	Place of Birth
	Volters	Henry	46		Wheelwright	Germany
		Adeline	33	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
	Senft	Henry	35		Salesman	Germany
		Elizabeth	32	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		David	7	Son	at school	New York
		Bertha	5	Daughter	-	New York
		Louis	3	Son	-	New York
		Ruby	1	Daughter	-	New York
	Kern	Frederick	48		Shoefitter	Germany
		Regina	36	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Adolph	16	Son	Shoefitter	New Jersey
		Leoplod	14	Son	Shoefitter	New Jersey
		Frederick	10	Son	at school	New York
		John	9 mo	Son	-	New York
	Schaeffen	Valentine	32		Laborer	Germany
		Kertrude	28	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany

		Maria	3	Daughter	-	New York
		Casper	1	Son	-	New York
Lain's 1880-81	Heineman	Robert	29		Butcher	Germany
		Barbara	32	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Louis	9	Son	at school	New York
		Jennie	3	Daughter	-	New York
		Rosa	1	Daughter	-	New York

142 Johnson	(3 story divided bldg. with shops)					
	Last Name	Name	Age	Relation-ship	Occupation	Place of Birth
Lain's 1880-81	Haas	John	40		Baker	Germany
		Maria	34	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Hermann	14	Son	Baker	New York
		John	12	Son	at school	New York
		Fanny	9	Daughter	at school	New York
		Katerine	6	Daughter	at school	New York
	Zelich	Henrick	24		Hairdresser	Germany
		Catherine	50	Mother	Housekeeping	Germany
	Stebee	George	30		Glass cutter	Germany
		Maria	32	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Madgeline	3	Daughter	-	New York
	Peters	Rosa	54		Housekeeping	Germany
		George	17	Son	Painter	Germany
		Peter	22	Son	Painter	Germany
Lain's 1880-81	Apt	Jacob	66		Tailor	Germany
		Jacob, Jr.	19	Son	Tailor	New York

	Bock	Christopher	50		Varnisher	Germany
		Henrietta	46	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Charlie	12	Son	Errand boy	New York
		Theodore	11	Son	at school	New York
		Emma	9	Daughter	at school	New York
		Jacob	6	Son	at school	New York
		Frederick	4	Son	-	New York
Lain's 1880-81	Daurenhaurin	Michael	60		Tailor	Germany
		Elizabeth	25	Daughter	Housekeeping	New York
		Valentine	22	Son	Tinsmith	New York
		Julia	14	Daughter	Tailoress	New York

144 Johnson -	(3 story bldg. with blacksmith in front and wheelwright in rear)					
	Last Name	Name	Age	Relation-ship	Occupation	Place of Birth
Lain's 1878-79	Lenz	John	52		Blacksmith/ wheelwright	Germany
		Phipipina	46	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Charles	18	Son	Clerk	New York
		Julius	14	Son	at school	New York
		Frederick	7	Son	at school	New York
	Frankhaft	(Male)	27		Butcher	Germany
	Abt	Josephine	26	Wife	Housekeeping	New York
	Haas	Frank	32		Bartender	New York
		Emma	30	Wife	Housekeeping	New York
		Barbara	4	Daughter	-	New York
	Gillig	Susan	71	Mother	Housekeeping	Germany

146 Johnson	(3 story bldg. with shop in front & 2 story dwelling in rear)					
	Last Name	Name	Age	Relation-ship	Occupation	Place of Birth
	Pahles	Frank	36		Carpenter	Germany
		Christina	29	Wife	Housekeeping	New York
		Joseph	8	Son	at school	New York
		Emma	6	Daughter	at school	New York
		Andrew	1	Son	-	New York
	Krisor	Theresa	10	sister-in-law	at school	New York
	Pahles	Bernard	20		Tailor	Germany
		Louia	20	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Joseph	1	Son	-	New York
	Weinman	Jacob	41		Carpenter	Austria
		Louisa	45	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Mary	15	Daughter	at school	New York
	Goetz	Ferdinand	42		Sugar baker	Germany
		Catherine	38	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany

		Michael	10	Son	at school	New York
		Maria	9	Daughter	at school	New York
		Frank	6	Son	at school	New York
		Charles	4	Son	-	New York
		Andrew	3	Son	-	New York
		Jacob	3 mo	Son	-	New York
	Horner	John	41		Varnisher	Germany
		Mary	40	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Henry	12	Son	at school	New York
		Helena	7	Daughter	at school	New York
	Scherbech	Mary	28		Dressmaker	New York
		Ann	3 mo	Daughter	-	New York
In rear: Lain's 1880-81	Bengel	Conrad	30		Tailor	Germany
		Catherine	34	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Catherine	10	Daughter	at school	Germany
		Maria	8	Daughter	at school	New York
		Othelia	6	Daughter	at school	New York
		George	5	Son	-	New York
		John	4	Son	-	New York

		Elizabeth	2	Daughter	-	New York
In rear: Lain's 1880-81	Wiskow	Nicholas	40		Tailor	Germany
		Elizabeth	42	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Nicholas	16	Son	at school	New York
		William	7	Son	at school	New York
		Joseph	5	Son	-	New York



148 Johnson	(3 story bldg. with shop)					
	Last Name	Name	Age	Relation-ship	Occupation	Place of Birth
	Schneider	Henry	43		Tailor	Germany
		Mary	43	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Louis	20	Son	Barber	New York
		Annie	18	Daughter	Tailoress	New York
		Henry	15	Son	Tailor	New York
		Otto	7	Son	at school	New York
	Julius	Louis	50		Wine dealer	Germany
		Madgaline	44	Wife	Housekeeping	Germany
		Ferdinand	19	Son	Druggist	New York
		William	18	Son	Clerk	New York
		Louisa	16	Daughter	at home	New York
		Herman	14	Son	Errand boy	New York
		Emma	10	Daughter	at school	New York
	Hinkel	Augusta	58		Housekeeping	Germany
	Frenwald	Alma	22		Dressmaker	New York
		Edwin	3	Son	-	New York

Stage 1A Literature Review.. 140 John Street. Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, NY.

1880 Federal Census Information for 140-148 Johnson Avenue. Block 3070. Lot 10-14.

10

APPENDIX C

MAPS

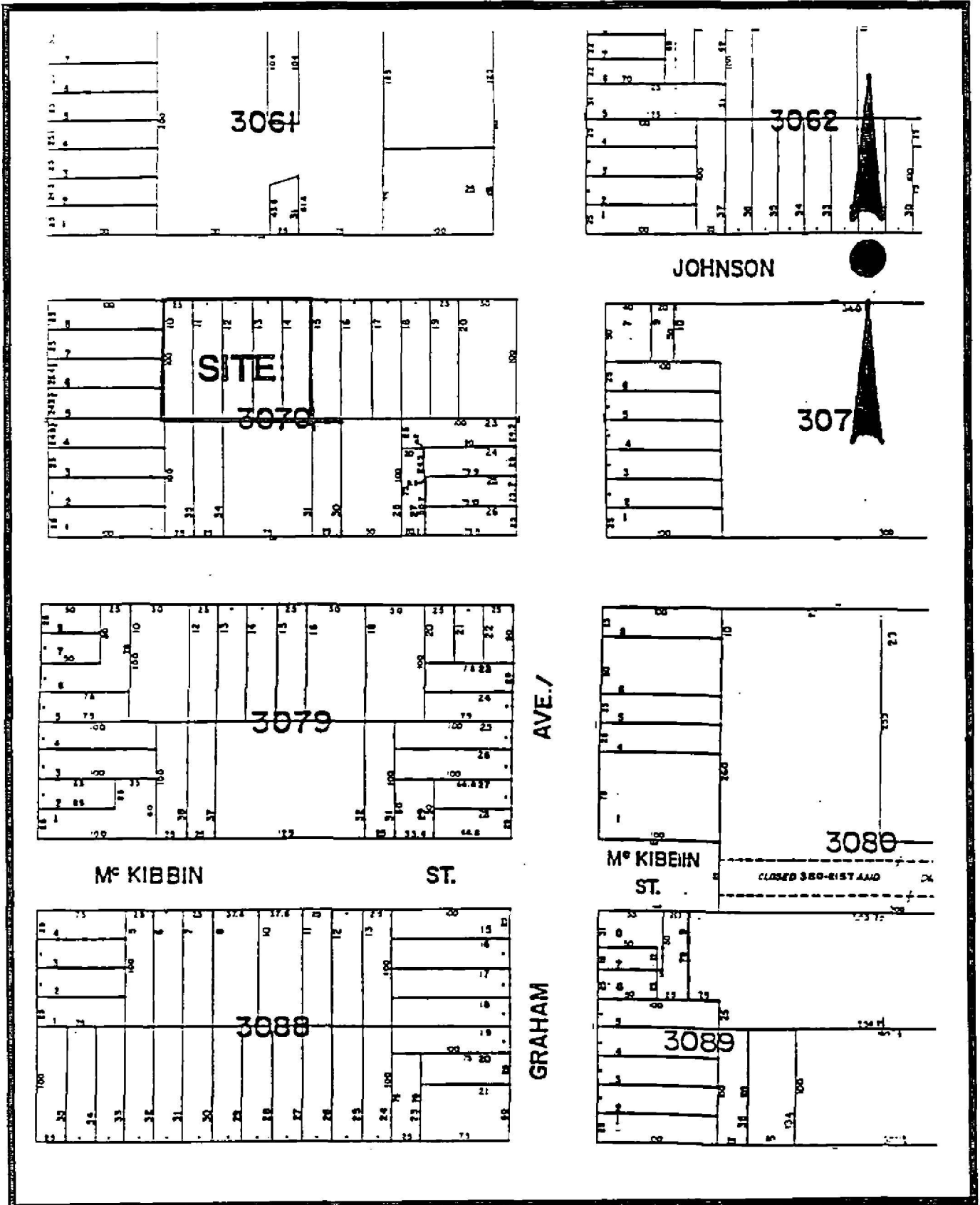
## STAGE 1A LITERATURE REVIEW

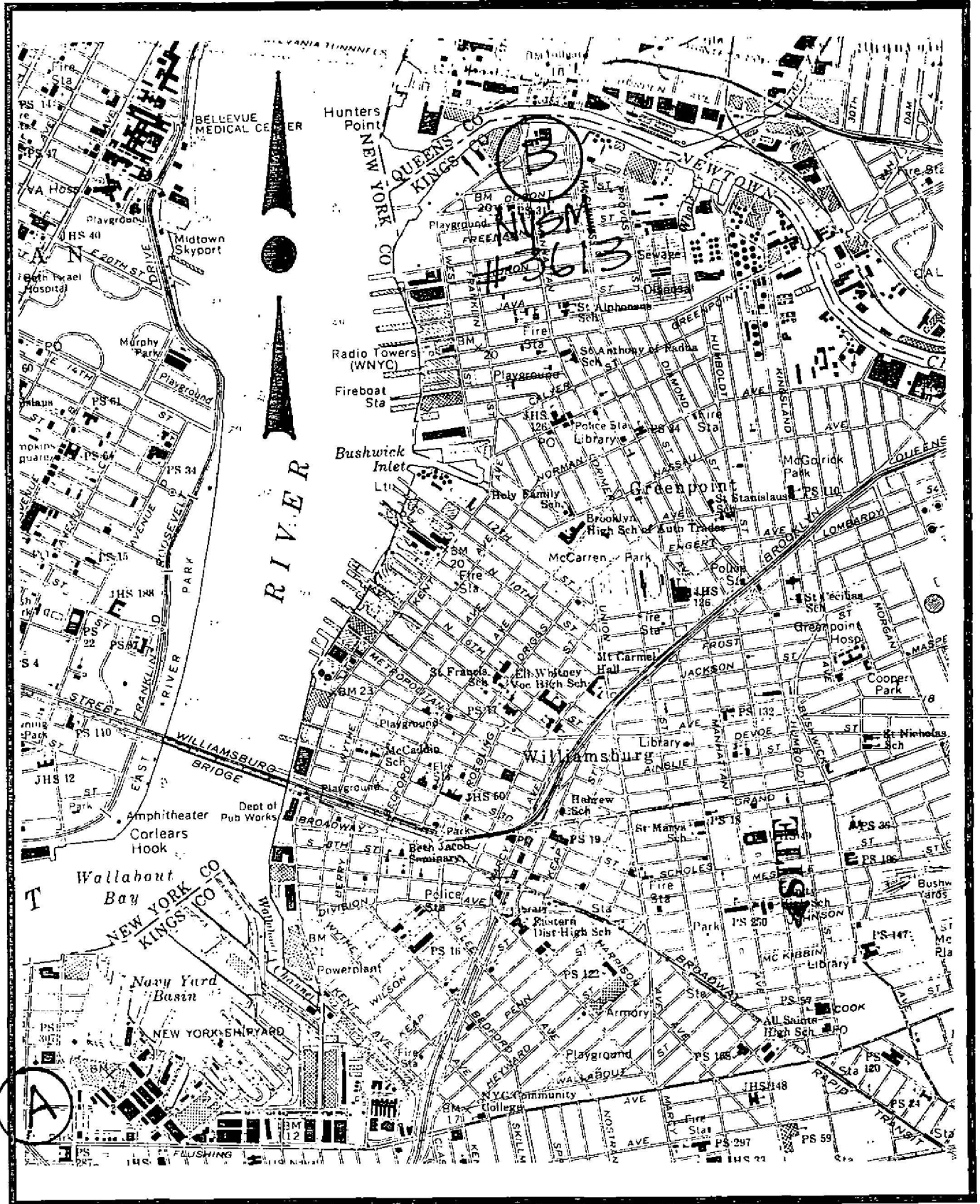
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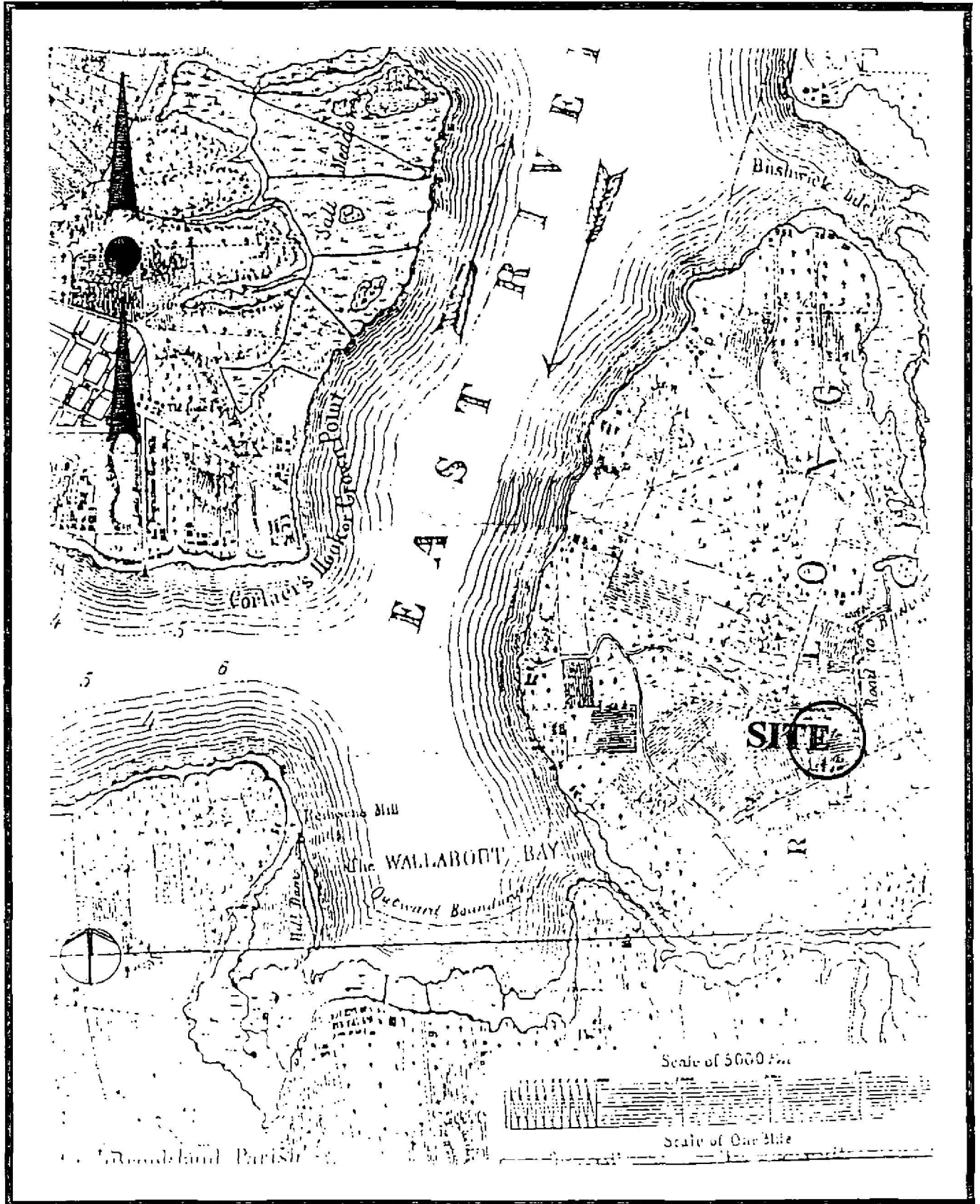
#### MAPS

- Map 1            Location Map. USGS Brooklyn Quadrangle. Taken 1967. Revised 1979.
- Map 2            Site Map. (derived from Brooklyn Tax Map).
- Map 3            Archaeological Sites Map (USGS Brooklyn Quadrangle. Taken 1967. Revised 1979.
- Map 4            Detail from Bernard Ratzer's *Plan of the City of New York in North American - 1766-67*
- Map 5            Detail from Sanborn Map Company 1887 *Insurance Map of the City of Brooklyn.*
- Map 6            Detail from Sanborn Map Company 1918 *Insurance Map of the Borough of Brooklyn in the City of New York.*
- Map 7            E. Belcher Hyde. 1929 *Desk Atlas/ Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York.*
- Map 8            Sanborn Map Company's 1995 *Sanborn Insurance Map. Borough of Brooklyn. City of New York.*

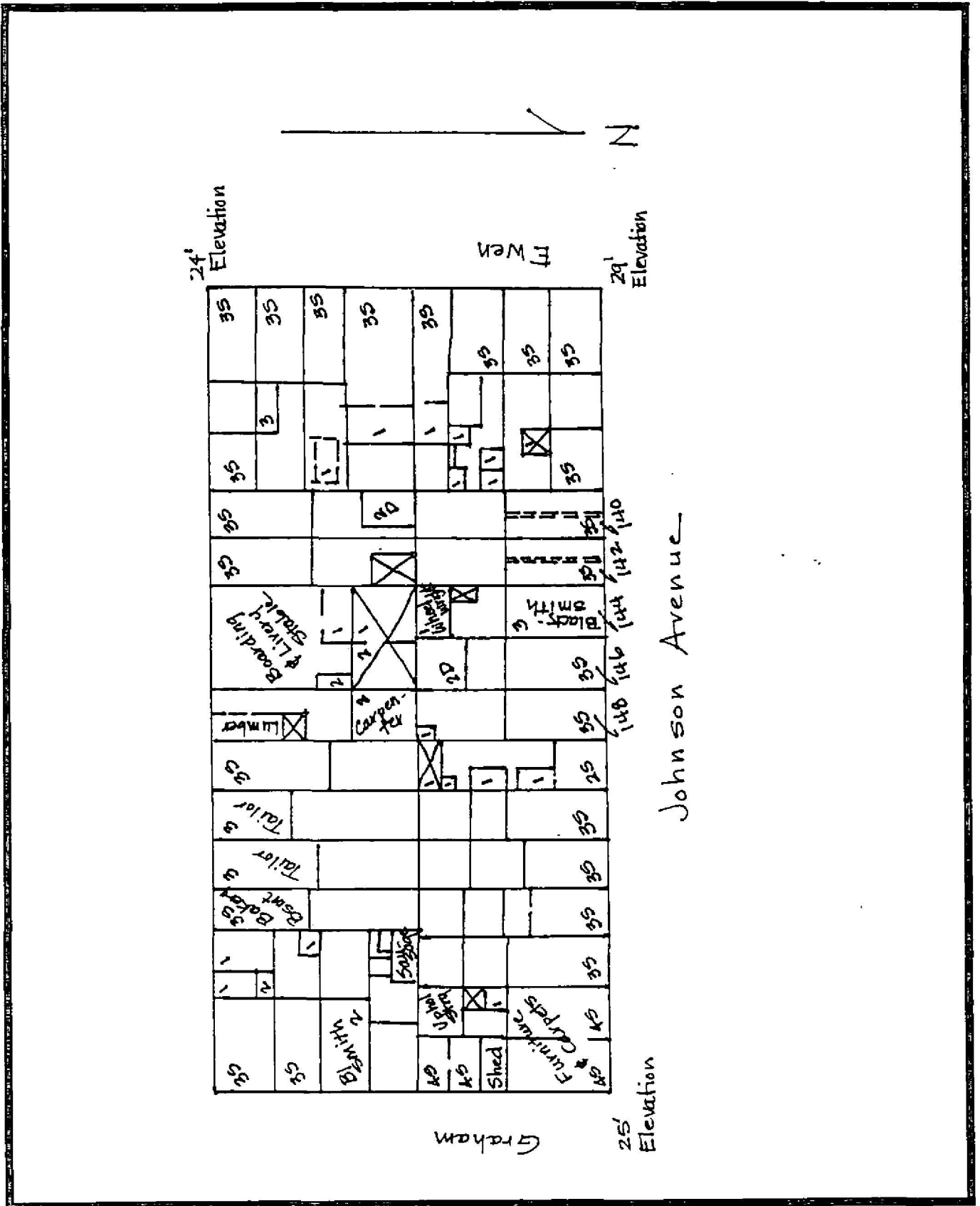


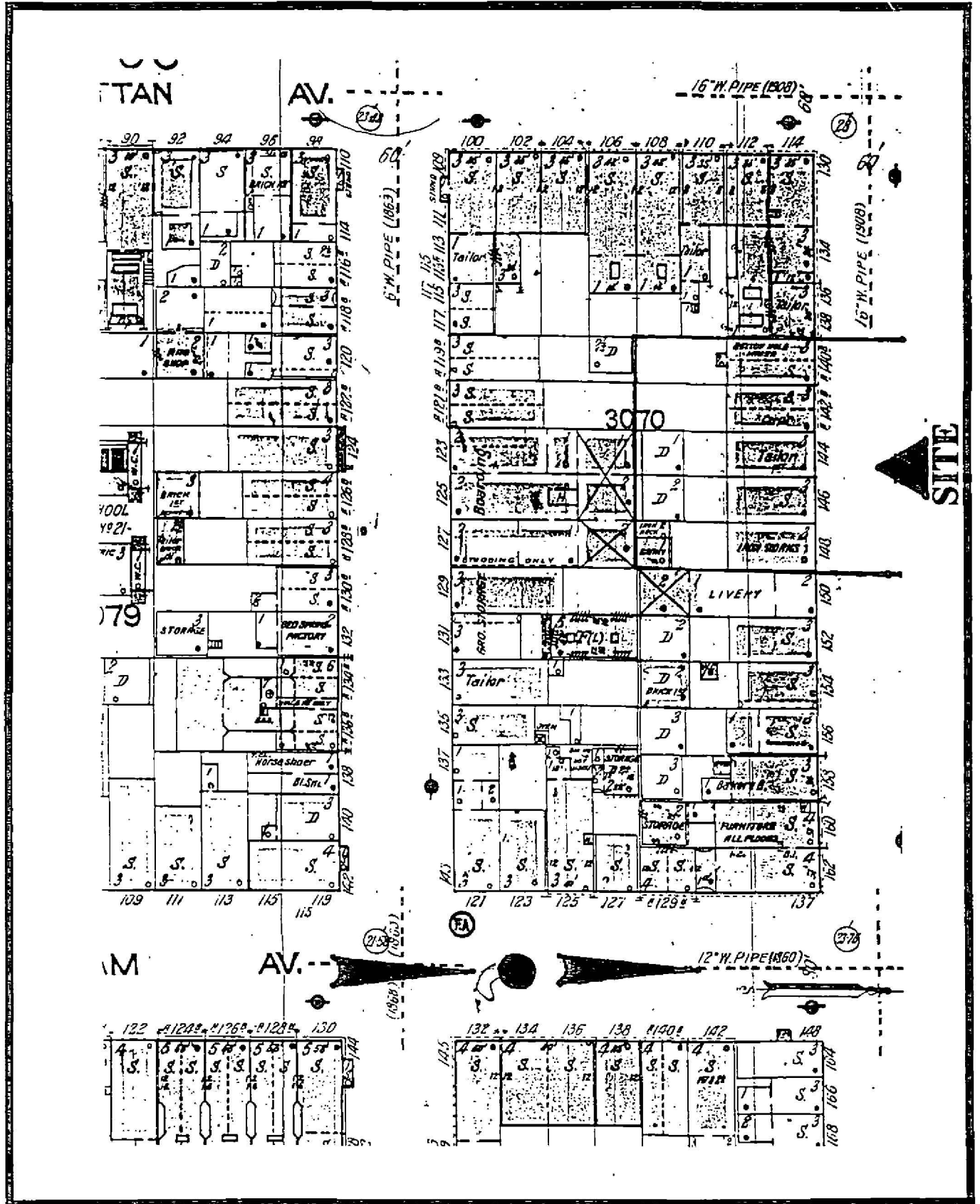


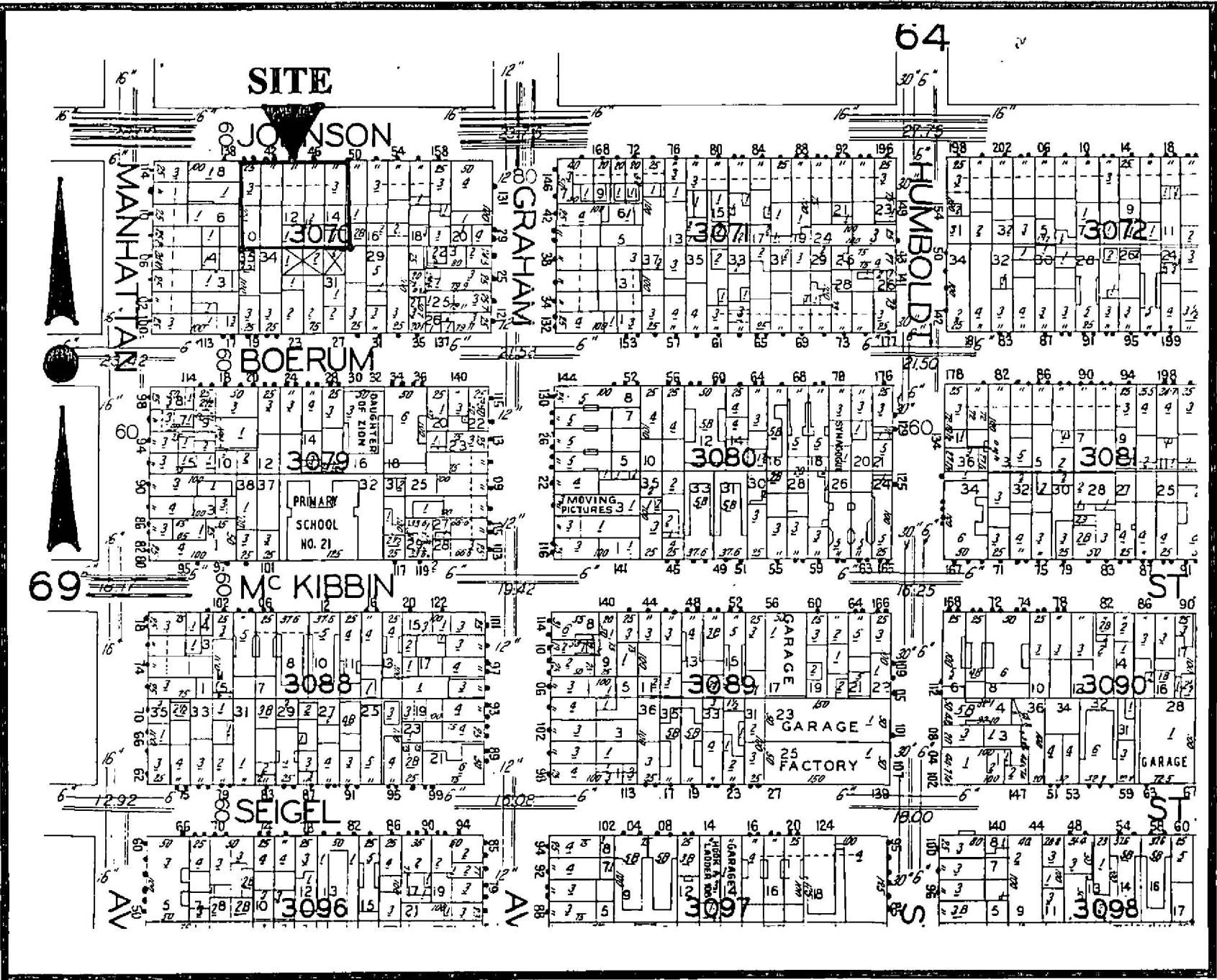


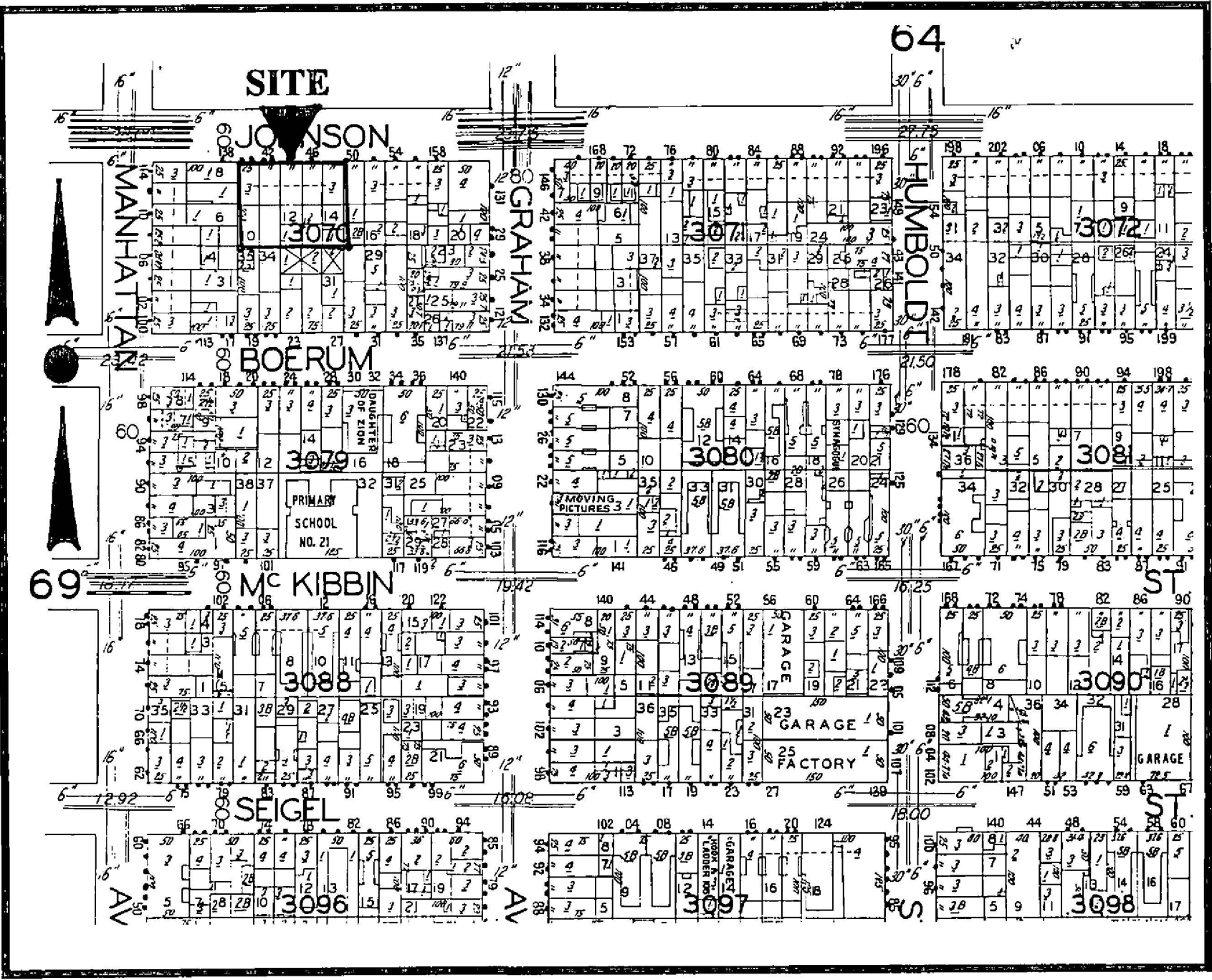


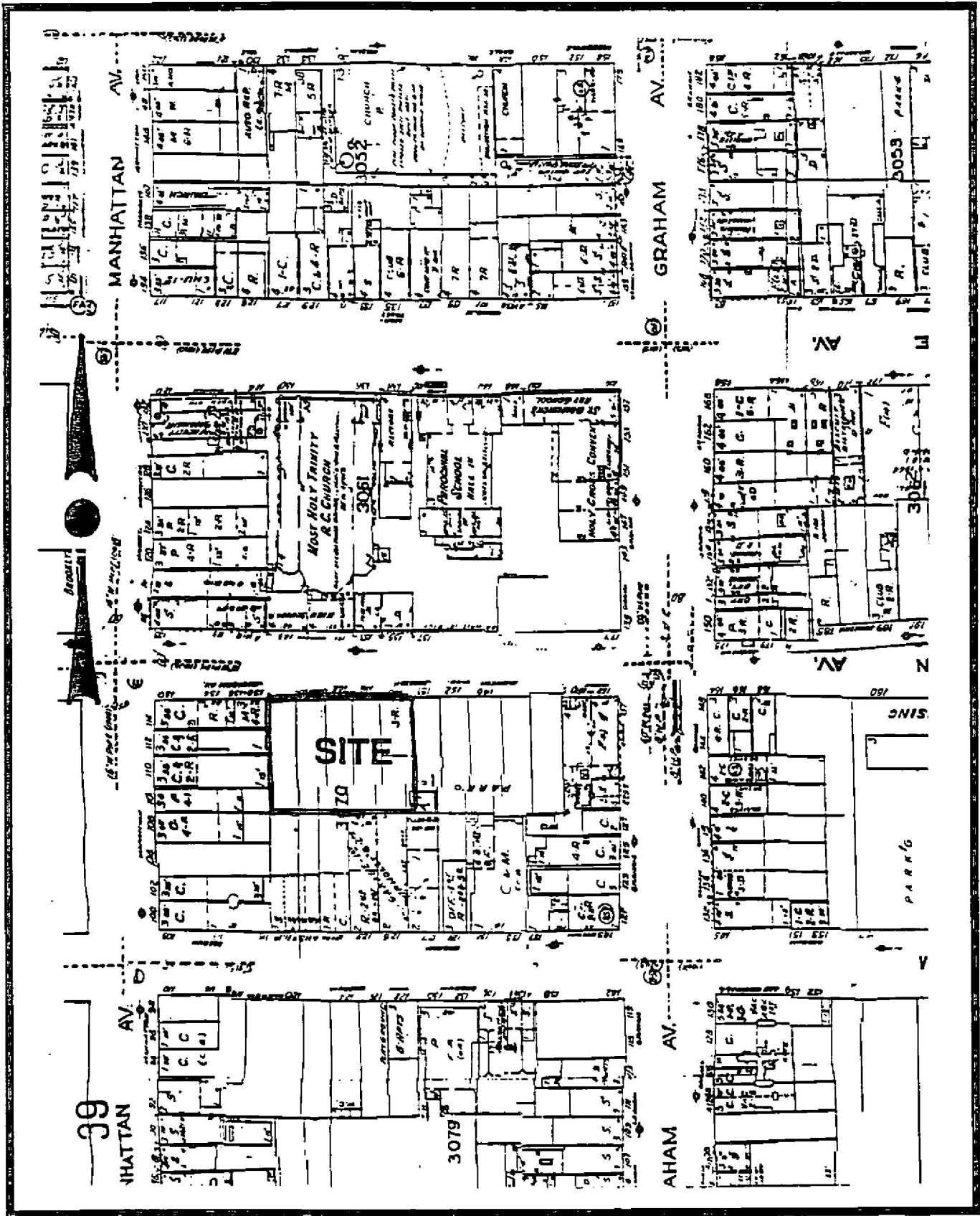






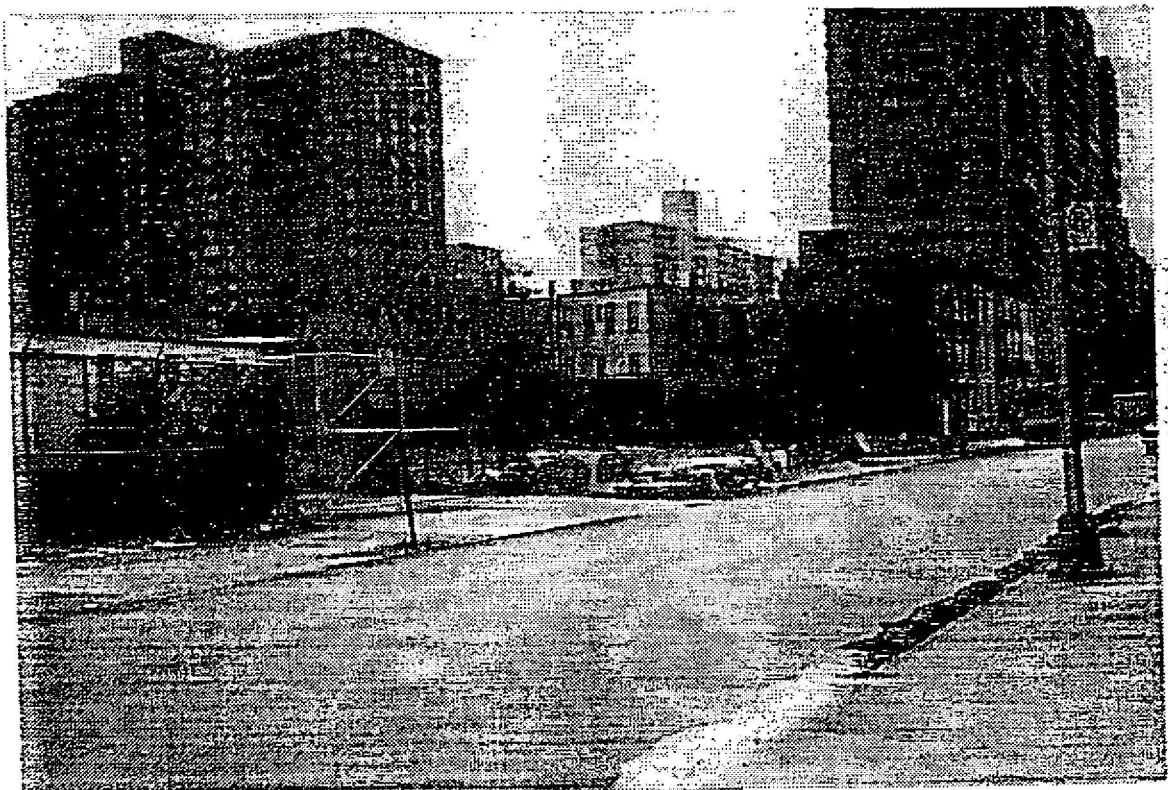






**APPENDIX D**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



1 and 2 View of Site

**APPENDIX E**

**CORRESPONDENCE**



THE CITY OF NEW YORK LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
100 Old Slip, New York, NY 10005 (212) 487-6800

# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

HPD/NYSHT-K  
PROJECT NUMBER

03/07/95  
DATE RECEIVED

*The Following Properties Possess ~~Architectural~~ or Archaeological Significance:*

140 JOHNSON AVE

COMMENTS: An archaeological documentary study is required as there is potential for the recovery of remains from 19th c occupation.

142 JOHNSON ST

COMMENTS: An archaeological documentary study is required as there is the potential for the recovery of remains from 19th c occupation.

144 JOHNSON AVE

COMMENTS: An archaeological documentary study is required as there is potential for the recovery of remains from 19th c occupation.

146 JOHNSON AVE

COMMENTS: An archaeological documentary study is required as there is potential for the recovery of remains from 19th c occupation.

148 JOHNSON AVE

COMMENTS: An archaeological documentary study is required as there is potential for the recovery of remains from 19th c occupation.

*Maria Santucci*

SIGNATURE

03/20/95  
DATE

# **ADDENDUM**

**Stage 1A Literature Review and Archaeological and Historic  
Sensitivity Potential  
for  
Block 3070. Lot 10-14..**

**140 Johnson Avenue. Williamsburgh.  
Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, New York.**

Prepared For:

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**Pratt Planning & Architectural Collaborative**  
379 DeKalb Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Prepared By:

---

**CITY/SCAPE: Cultural Resource Consultants**  
726 Carroll Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

January 1996

## **ADDENDUM**

### **Stage 1A Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Potential Block 3070. Lot 10-14.**

#### **140 Johnson Avenue. Lot 10-14. Williamsburgh. Borough of Brooklyn. Kings County, NY.**

The information presented contains material in support of the Stage 1A Archaeological and Historic Sensitivity Evaluation submitted to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in October 1995. At the request of the NYC LPC tax assessment records located at the New York City Municipal Archives were examined to determine whether they supported the conclusions of the Stage 1A document that all of the lots within the project area possessed the potential to yield historic archaeological remains consisting primarily of privies and cisterns associated with the dwellings formerly located on the lots.

The information gathered and the conclusions reached are outlined in the table entitled: Analysis of Potential to Yield Historic Archaeological Materials from Privies and/or Cisterns.

As part of the original investigation, historic maps and atlases including the project area were examined. The earliest map located that clearly indicates the buildings located on Block 3070 is dated 1880. That map indicates that in that year, structures had been built on all the lots located within the project area. Census information for 1880 was also collected, indicating that several of the structures within the project area contained shops as well as dwelling units and that in some cases a second building containing dwelling units had been constructed on the rear of the lot. All of these buildings were densely populated.

The tax assessment records for the buildings within the project area begin in 1866. At that time, 140 Johnson Avenue (Lot 10) and 142 Johnson Avenue (Lot 11) were vacant. Houses were not constructed on these two lots until 1869, at which time 142 Johnson Avenue (Lot 11) was connected to the sewer. Information for 140 Johnson Avenue (Lot 10) was not available at the Sewer Department, but one may assume that it was also connected at the time that construction was completed. John Lentz (or Lenz) owned 144 Johnson Avenue (Lot 12) and 146 Johnson Avenue (Lot 13). By 1866 both lots contained structures with a combined assessed valuation of \$1300.00. 144 Johnson Avenue was connected to the sewer in 1873, while one connection to the sewer was made from 146 Johnson Avenue (Lot 13) in 1869 and a second in 1873. From the tax assessment records it would appear that the second connection from 146 Johnson Avenue was to provide service to the building that had been constructed on the rear lot in that year. 148 Johnson

Avenue (Lot 14) also contained a structure by 1866 (described as a 3 story building) valued at \$2000.00. 148 Johnson Avenue Avenue was connected to the sewer in 1872.

This information suggests that the sewer line may have been installed in the area just prior to 1869. That being the case, 144 Johnson Avenue, 146 Johnson Avenue and 148 Johnson Avenue (which pre-date the sewer line) have the potential to contain both privies and cisterns, while 140 and 142 Johnson Avenue would most probably not have used either privies or cisterns. However, while acknowledging that 140 Johnson Avenue and 142 Johnson Avenue appear to have less potential to yield archaeological information, tax assessment records indicate that by 1870 additional structures had been built on these two lots. An archaeological investigation might identify (at the very least) the nature of these structures. In addition, census data and business directories indicate that 144 Johnson Avenue (owned by John Lentz/Lenz) has the potential to yield industrial archaeological remains.

In conclusion, the information gathered indicates that, with the exception of Lot 10 and Lot 11, all of the lots within the project area contained buildings 1866 -- several years prior to the time that sewer connections were made in the area. The records at the Brooklyn Sewer Department indicate that the earliest connections to buildings located within the project area were made in 1869. 140 Johnson Avenue (Lot 10) and 142 Johnson Avenue (Lot 11) may not contain privies and/or cisterns, but they did contain rear yard structures the purpose of which may be revealed if an archaeological investigation is undertaken. In addition, 140 Johnson Avenue (Lot 10) contained a butcher shop, some evidence of which might be found in the rear yard area. John Lentz (described in the business directories and census data as a blacksmith/wheelwright) had his smithy at 144 Johnson Avenue (Lot 12). An archaeological investigation might reveal evidence of this industrial activity. Of additional interest is the fact that virtually all of the structures in the project area were occupied in part by tailors or tailor shops. The production of clothes for retail sale in Manhattan was an important industry in the Williamsburgh section of Brooklyn, as it was in other areas -- including East New York. An archaeological investigation of the lots within the project area may reveal evidence of this important 19th century industry. In short, in varying degrees the entire project area contains a high potential to yield historic archaeological evidence of the mid to late 19th century occupants of these properties in the form of debris that may have been deposited in privies and/or cisterns or refuse areas that may have been located on the lots. In view of this conclusion, a Stage 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance of the entire project area is recommended.

**ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL TO YIELD  
HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL  
FROM PRIVIES AND/OR CISTERNS**

Owner	House Number	Lot Number	Ward Map Number	Date Built	Description 1866 & Assessment	Description 1869 & Assessment	Connect to Sewer	Remarks: potential for archaeological remains
George Dahlbender	140 Johnson	Lot 10	Block 57 Lot 25	new in 1869	none	3 story 2 bldgs on lot \$1200 new 1869	information not available	appears built at same general time as house on block connected to sewer; probably low potential for privies and/or cisterns
Christian Staub	142 Johnson	Lot 11	Block 57 Lot 26	new in 1869	none	3 story \$1200	1869	connected to sewer at time of construction; low potential for privies and/or cisterns
John Lentz	144 Johnson	Lot 12	Block 57 Lot 27	unknown	\$1300 Assessment combined with Lot 28	2 story \$1000	1873	building on lot by 1866 potential to yield privy and/or cistern deposits additional industrial archaeological potential
John Lentz	146 Johnson	Lot 13	Block 57 Lot 28	by 1866	Shop Assessment combined with Lot 27	no description \$1000	1869 & 1873	building on lot by 1866 potential to yield privy and/or cistern deposits additional industrial archaeological potential
B. Stoeffler	148 Johnson	Lot 14	Block 57 Lot 29	by 1866	x 50 3 story \$2000	\$2300	1872	building on lot by 1866 potential to yield privy and/or cistern deposits

House Number not established until 1872. Numbers given here to aid in identification.

16th Ward Tax Assessment Records

**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1866-1869**

Owner	Street Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1866	1867	1868	1869	Remarks
George Dahlbender	140	3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 25	none	800	800	1200	1500 nu 69
Christian Staub	142	3 story	Lot 26	none	1100	1100	1200	1500 nu 69
John Lentz	144	2 story	Lot 27	1300 **	1300 **	1000	1000	1250
John Lentz	146	Shop	Lot 28			1000	1000	1250
B. Stoeffler	148	x 50 3 story	Lot 29	2000	2000	2000	2300	2900 Oct 68

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Notes:

House number not established. Given here to aid identification.

\*\* : Assessment on Lot 27 & 28 (both owned by John Lentz/Lenz) is combined.

**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29)  
1869-1872**

Owner	Address	Details	Ward Map Number	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	Remarks
George Dahlbender	140	3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 25	1500	3500	3500	3500	none	1870
Jacob Apt	142	3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 26	1500	3500	3500	3500	none	nu 1870 rbg
John Lentz	144	2 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 27	1250	1300	1300	1300	none	
John Lentz	146	Shop	Lot 28	1250	1300	1300	1300	none	
B. Hoeffler *	148	3 story	Lot 29	2900	2900	2900	2900	none	

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\*: Name of owner of Lot 29 appears to change from Stoeffler to Hoeffler, but it is likely that this is a misunderstanding.

**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1872-1876**

Owner	House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	Remarks
Henry Wolters	140 Johnson	3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 25	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	1870
Jacob Apt	142 Johnson	3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 26	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	nu 1870 rbg
John Lentz	144 Johnson	3 story (replaced 2 story building)	Lot 27	1300	<del>1300</del>	2400	2400	2400	new 1874
John Lentz	146 Johnson	Shop 3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 28	1250	<del>1300</del>	3000	3000	3000	new 1874
B. Stoeffler	148 Johnson	3 story	Lot 29	2900	2900	2700	2700	2700	

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House numbers established by 1872.

\*: Yet another spelling of this owner's name, but believe Stoeffler/Hoeffler/Stoefler are all same person.



**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1876-1880**

Owner	House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	Remarks
Henry Wolters	140	Frame 25 x 52 3 story	Lot 25	3500	3500	3500	3500	none	
Jacob Apt	142	Frame 25 x 52 3 story	Lot 26	3500	3500	3500	3500	none	
John Lentz	144	Frame 25 x 54	Lot 27	2400	2400	2400	2400	none	
John Lentz	146	Shop 3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 28	3000	3000	3000	3000	none	
B. Stoeffler *	148	3 story	Lot 29	2700	2700	2700	2700	none	

Printed page 153 in Assessment Book

**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1879-1883**

Owner	House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	Remarks
Henry Wolters	140	Frame 25 x 52 3 story	Lot 25	3500	3500	4000	4000	4000	
Jacob Apt	142	Frame 25 x 52 3 story	Lot 26	3500	3500	4000	4000	4000	
John Lentz	144	Frame 25 x 54	Lot 27	2400	2400	2600	2600	3500	
John Lentz	146	Frame - 25 x 54 3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 28	3000	3000	3500	3500	3800	Lease May 1, 82 - 3 yrs; Store, rear rooms, 1st floor - Rent \$360
B. Stoeffler *	148	Frame 25 x 50 3 story	Lot 29	2700	2700	2700	2700	assessment not given	

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**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1887-1891**

Owner	House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	Remarks
Henry Wolters	140	25 x 52 3 story	Lot 25	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
Jacob Apt	142	25 x 52 3 story	Lot 26	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
John Lentz	144	3 story 25 x 54	Lot 27	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	
John Lentz	146	25 x 54 3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 28	3800	3800	3800	3800	3800	
July 25/85 Jeannette Newman S5525	148	25 x 50 3 story	Lot 29	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	

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**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1891-1895**

Owner	House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	Remarks
Henry Wolters	140	25 x 52 3 story	Lot 25	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
Jacob Apt	142	25 x 52 3 story	Lot 26	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
John Lentz	144	3 story 25 x 54	Lot 27	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	
ditto	146	25 x 54 3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 28	3800	3800	3800	3800	3800	
7.65.92 John Kasper Strubel \$5600	148	25 x 50 3 story	Lot 29	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	

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**ANNUAL RECORD OF ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL ESTATE  
16TH WARD - BLOCK 57. LOT 25-29  
1895-1899**

Owner	House Number	Details	Ward Map Number	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	Remarks
Henry Wolters	140	25 x 52 3 story	Lot 25	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
Jacob Apt	142	25 x 52 3 story	Lot 26	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	
John Lentz	144	3 story 25 x 54	Lot 27	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	
John Lentz	146	25 x 54 3 story 2 buildings on lot	Lot 28	3800	3800	3800	3800	3800	
7.65.92 John Kasper Strubel \$5600	148	25 x 50 3 story	Lot 29	3500	3500	3500	3500	3500	

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