



**HARTGEN**

archeological associates inc

## **PHASE IA ARCHEOLOGICAL LITERATURE REVIEW AND FIELDWORK PLAN**

**Schenck Playground, African Burial Ground Square  
Block 4090, Lot 6  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation**

816 Livonia Avenue, Schenck Avenue and Barbey Street  
Brooklyn (New Lots)  
Kings County, New York

HAA # 5003-11

**Submitted to:**

Management Services, Karen General  
City of New York Parks and Recreation  
Olmsted Center Annex, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park  
Flushing, New York 11368

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## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

SHPO Project Review Number: *N/A*

Involved State and Federal Agencies: *None, New York City Parks and Recreation*

Phase of Survey: *IA Literature Review and Fieldwork Plan*

## **LOCATION INFORMATION**

Municipality: *Brooklyn (New Lots)*

County: *Kings*

Block and Lot: *4090 (6)*

## **SURVEY AREA**

Length: *200 feet*

Width: *217 feet*

Acres: *37,736 square feet (0.86 acres)*

## **RESULTS OF RESEARCH**

Archeological sites within one mile: *One*

Surveys in or adjacent: *One*

NR/NRE sites in or adjacent: *One*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The current study suggests that there is high probability that elements of the old New Lots Cemetery (1670s-1880s) likely remain intact under the Schenck Playground. A non-destructive survey of a focus area within the playground has been developed utilizing Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) with limited archeological hand excavations proposed to ground-truth or field verify the results. A detailed work plan is included in the current study. A project-specific protocol for the discovery of human remains during fieldwork has also been developed. The work plan will be reviewed by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.*

Report Authors: *Matthew Kirk*

Date of Report: *October 2016*

## **ABSTRACT**

A Phase IA Literature Review and Sensitivity Assessment was completed for Schenck Playground in the New Lots section of Brooklyn, NY. The playground was set aside in the 17<sup>th</sup> century for use by the Dutch Reformed Church and its associated school. In time, the lot was used both for a school house and a cemetery lot (originally associated with the main church in Flatbush). In 1824, a New Lots Dutch Reformed Church was built on the south side of New Lots Avenue. By about 1840, the church purchased the surrounding property and organized a more formal cemetery. Within the next twenty years or so, the old New Lots cemetery fell into disuse and was eventually abandoned. A number of the local families removed some of the burials from the old lot and re-interred them into the new cemetery. The shift from one cemetery to the next was likely a complex process and undertaken for a variety of reasons. One reason proposed by long-time residents of the area in the 1890s (mostly of Dutch heritage) was the growing number of blacks interred in the cemetery. There is also some suggestion that the northern portion of the cemetery may have been separately developed by the local African-American community, beginning during their time of enslavement in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, through the process of gradual freedom in the early and middle 19<sup>th</sup> century, and even after the Civil War. . No records or plans of the interments are known to exist today.

The western portion of the lot remained utilized as a school until c. 1956 when Public School 72 was demolished and a branch of the Brooklyn Public Library was erected on the southern portion of the lot along New Lots Avenue. The rear of the lot was developed into a city playground, as it remains today.

As part of the Capital Improvement Project, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation has commissioned an archeological study to investigate the historic development of the lot and the archeological potential of the lot as it relates to the cemetery.

This report provides environmental information including a description of mapped soils, bedrock geology, physiography and hydrology in the vicinity of the Study Area. It documents the existing conditions within the Study Area including present land use and evidence of prior disturbance.. The report also reviews previously reported archeological and historical resources in the vicinity and provides a historical context for the development of the lot, as evidenced in historical maps, aerial photographs, and street-level photographs. Finally, a work plan for the non-destructive survey of a focus area within the playground has been developed utilizing Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) with limited archeological hand excavations proposed to ground-truth or field verify the results. A project-specific protocol for the discovery of human remains during fieldwork has also been developed. The work plan will be reviewed by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

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## PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

### 1 Introduction

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. (Hartgen) conducted a Phase IA Literature Review and Fieldwork Plan for the Schenck Playground located in the East New York (New Lots) section of Brooklyn (Kings County), New York on behalf of New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The playground is situated on a 0.8 acre parcel, known as Block 4090, Lot 6 fronting on 816 Livonia Avenue and bounded by Schenck Avenue, Barbey Street and an adjacent parcel owned by the Brooklyn Public Library that fronts on New Lots Avenue (Maps 1 and 2, Figure 1).

The investigation was conducted according to the New York Archaeological Council's *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections* (1994), which are endorsed by OPRHP. This report has been prepared according to OPRHP's *State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Phase I Archeological Report Format Requirements* (2005). The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) will review the project as part of the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) process.

### 2 Project Information

New York City Parks and Recreation is undertaking plans for capital improvements to Schenck Playground. Recently, a number of historical and archeological studies determined that the former site of the playground was part of a cemetery dating back to the 1680s. Some have speculated that this portion of the cemetery, removed from the frontage along New Lots Avenue, may have been utilized by the enslaved peoples of New Lots during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century and subsequently by the freed black community.

This study explores the historical record through primary sources such as maps and documents, secondary historical sources, newspaper accounts, and other archeological studies to better understand the development of the old New Lots Cemetery. In addition, past and current environmental conditions are investigated such as bedrock and soils to evaluate the potential of various archeological techniques for further investigation of the area. Finally, historical and modern disturbance to the site are considered (among other factors) in assessing the potential of the Study Area to contain intact archeological features and deposits.

A non-destructive, remote sensing study in the form of Ground Penetrating Radar is proposed within the southeast corner of the capital project area of the playground. A detailed work plan is proposed, along with limited ground-truthing excavations in areas determined to be likely to contain archeological features of interest. Finally, a protocol is presented in the event that human remains are encountered during any phase of the proposed archeological study.

#### 2.1 Project Location

Schenck Playground is located within the New Lots section of East New York, a neighborhood of Brooklyn at the eastern portion of the borough. A historical plaque within the park describes the origins of the park's name:

The Schencks, for whom this playground and Schenck Avenue are named, first lived in Brooklyn in colonial times, and members of the family served in political office over several generations. The Schencks descended from Johannes Schenk (1656-1748), who was born in Holland, married Maria Magdalena de Hes (1660-1729), and immigrated to America in 1683. A year after their arrival, the Schenks affiliated themselves with the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church in New York. In 1685, they moved upstate to Esopus (now Kingston), where Johannes taught at the Reformed Dutch Church for five years. The couple moved back to Brooklyn, and Johannes took a new teaching post and became the town clerk of Flatbush. This was not surprising, for it was common at the time for schoolmasters to serve as town clerks as well. Johannes held both posts until 1712, when he and his family moved to

Bushwick. In 1719, Johannes Schenk was elected to represent the town in the Board of Supervisors of Kings County (NYCPR 2016).

The playground is situated within Block 4090, Lot 6 and was formally developed in a city park around 1956, although between 1922 and 1955 the parcel was part of a school playground. Previously, the lot was part of the old New Lots, Dutch Reformed Church cemetery.

The playground is bounded by Livonia Avenue, Barbey Street, and Schenck Avenue. To the south, the parcel is bounded by a branch of the Brooklyn Public Library that fronts on New Lots Avenue (Maps 1 and 2, Figure 1).

## 2.2 Description of the Study Area

Schenck Playground is principally a covered city lot with a number of recreational facilities and appurtenances (Figures 1 and 2, Photos 1-8). These include:

- Park benches, seating, and gaming tables (Photo 1);
- A comfort station (one-story brick and concrete) (Photos 2 and 3);
- A handball court (Photos 4 and 5);
- Basketball court;
- Child's play area with climbing apparatuses and slides (Photo 6);
- A drinking fountain;
- A flag pole (Photo 2);
- Mature tree plantings (decorative pear, silver linden, and regent scholar trees) (Photo 6);
- Various fencing (chain link, concrete and iron rail).

The intended area of the capital improvement project is focused on the western and southern portions of the park, and includes all portions but the handball and basketball courts (Figure 1). The playground is covered with a variety of surface treatments including asphalt, concrete pavers, brick, concrete, a rubberized safety surface, and various granite and hard stone curbing (Photo 7). Street lampposts are located on the sidewalks surrounding the playground, as are several fire hydrants, and drainage structures.

A second plaque commemorating the African-American community of New Lots and its associated cemetery was installed on a nearby building in 2010 (Photo 8).

### 2.2.1 Utilities and disturbances

The playground is serviced by a number of utilities (Figure 2). These include a gas line to the comfort station, water lines, sanitary sewer lines, and storm water drainage lines (Photo 7). In addition a number of dry wells are located throughout the park.

## 2.3 Description of the Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The area of potential effects (APE) includes all portions of the property that will be directly altered by the proposed undertaking. The APE encompasses the western and southern portions of the existing playground; the handball and basketball courts are excluded. The capital project will create a space within the park to recognize and honor the cultural history of the site. Detailed plans are not currently available, however a "focus area" for the archeological fieldwork has been identified by New York City Parks in the southeast portion of the park (Figures 1 and 2).

At present, it is anticipated that the project's impacts will typically be 18 inches deep. Adjacent to the existing comfort station, the depth of impacts will be roughly equal to the depth of the building's foundation.

## **2.4 Research Methodology**

Tess Collwell from the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) was contacted to assist in the research of this project. Also, members of the Brooklyn Public Library were contacted to assist with locating historical documents, photographs, and maps. Various online sources were consulted including digitized versions of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. The New York State Library and archives were also visited and consulted as part of the research. Finally, New York City's Landmarks Preservation commission website and staff, as well as the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation staff and electronic databases were consulted.

## **3 Environmental Background**

The environment of an area is significant for determining the sensitivity of the Project Area for archeological resources. Precontact and historic groups often favored level, well-drained areas near wetlands and waterways. Therefore, topography, proximity to wetlands, and soils are examined to determine if there are landforms in the Project that are more likely to contain archeological resources. In addition, bedrock formations may contain chert or other resources that may have been quarried by precontact groups. Soil conditions can provide a clue to past climatic conditions, as well as changes in local hydrology.

### **3.1 Present Land Use and Current Conditions**

The present conditions of the site were documented with a site visit conducted by Justin Divirgilio on June 1, 2016. The Study Area includes the entire playground/park, but particular attention was paid to the APE or capital improvement project area and more specifically to area of proposed archeological fieldwork in the southeast portion of the park.

In general, the playground is relatively level and covered with a variety of impervious surfaces such as concrete, asphalt, and asphalt pavers. A portion of the area (400 sq ft) is covered with a small comfort station built about 1956. The park features a number of services including water lines, sewer lines, gas lines, and buried electrical lines. In addition, storm water is managed through a series of dry wells and basins connected to the sewer system. As discussed below, there does not appear to have been any significant changes to the park since its construction in 1956 with the exception of the installation of several playground features in 1992.

Minor grading or cutting, relative to the modern street surfaces, are noted on the northeast side of the park. This suggests the original topography sloped upwards from the south to the north. Historical evidence (discussed below) suggests the topography formerly struck to the east where a small creek (now covered) once flowed.

With the exception of the comfort station and the various utility line and buried services, there does not appear to be major disturbances to the underlying archeological deposits from the initial surface reconnaissance. The proposed Ground Penetrating Radar study will help to confirm this assessment and may also help to identify potential areas of intact archeological deposits or features.

### **3.2 Bedrock Geology, Surficial Geology, and Soils**

According to Fisher et al (1970) the underlying geology of this portion of Brooklyn was deposited during the Upper Cretaceous Period and consist of amalgams of coastal plain deposits of silt, sand, clay and gravel. These includes the Monmouth Group and Raritan Formation.

Soil surveys provide a general characterization of the types and depths of soils that are found in an area. This information is an important factor in determining the appropriate methodology if and when a field study is recommended. The soil type also informs the degree of artifact visibility and likely recovery rates. For example, artifacts are more visible and more easily recovered in sand than in stiff glacial clay, which will not pass through a screen easily.

Table 1. Soils in the Study Area

Symbol	Name	Depth	Textures	Slope	Drainage	Landform
UFA	Urban land-Flatbush complex	0 to 6 inches 6 to 20 inches 20 to 60 inches, C horizon of gravelly sand	variable	0-3%	variable	Urban settings

## 4 Documentary Research

Hartgen conducted research using the New York State Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), which is maintained by the New York SHPO and the Division for Historic Preservation DHP within OPRHP. CRIS contains a comprehensive inventory of archeological sites, State and National Register (NR) properties, properties determined eligible for the NR (NRE), and previous cultural resource surveys. In addition, the website for the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for New York City was also searched for designated Landmarks and archeological reports.

### 4.1 Archeological Sites

An examination of CRIS identified one reported archeological sites within one mile (1.6 km) of the Project (Table 2). Previously reported archeological sites provide an overview of both the types of sites that may be present in the Study Area and relation of sites throughout the surrounding region. The presence of few reported sites, however, may result from a lack of previous systematic survey and does not necessarily indicate a decreased archeological sensitivity within the Study Area.

Table 2. Archeological sites within one mile (1.6 km) of the Project

OPRHP Site No.	NYSM Site No.	Site Identifier	Description	Proximity to Project
	3607	ACP Kings No #	Precontact shell midden	3,400 feet southeast

### 4.2 Historic Properties

An examination of CRIS and the LPC databases identified one NR property and LPC-designated property, no NRE properties, no properties previously determined to be ineligible, and two properties of undetermined status within the Study Area (Table 3).

Table 3. Inventoried properties within the vicinity of the Project

USN	Property Name	Status	Description	Location and Proximity to Project
90NR01280	New Lots Reformed Church and Cemetery	NRL	<b>Also a designated Landmark;</b> 630 New Lots Avenue; wooden church constructed in 1823-24; cemetery established in 1841	150 feet south
04701.013874	Jerome-Livonia Signal Tower	Undetermined	Two-story, two-bay by three-bay, steel-framed wood and cement-board paneled structure; demolished?	100 feet northeast
04701.017371	New Lots Branch, Brooklyn Public Library	Undetermined	665 New Lots Avenue; built in 1957	adjacent

### 4.3 Previous Surveys

A review of CRIS identified no previous surveys within the immediate vicinity of the Study Area. A review of the LPC website identified two previous surveys within the immediate vicinity of the Project (Table 4). The New Lots Plaza Project included a Phase IA and Phase IB survey of the block immediately to the east of the

Study Area in advance of a seven-story mixed use building and associated parking lots (Greenhouse Consultants 2008a, b).

The Greenhouse study provides important information on the general soil stratigraphy of the area, as discussed above. The lot was more heavily developed in the historical period than the current Study Area. Despite the likelihood of locating archeological evidence associated with the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Duryea house, formerly located on the north side of New Lots Road along Barbey Street, there was no associated finds in the fieldwork consisting of backhoe trenches (Figure 3). The mid-century house was eventually moved in 1886 to open the street grid for development. It was relocated to 563 Jerome Street but was destroyed by fire in 1989 and no longer extant (Dunlap 1989).

The stratigraphy in the area appears to have been truncated (cut), with areas of more recent fill to the east, nearer the former stream. All of the cultural material encountered in the tests appears to have been 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

The Greenhouse study also searched for evidence of burials or the cemetery within the project. Excavations included exploratory units (1 meter square) across the western portion of the APE. In all, 12 tests were excavated, but due to the extensive disturbance of the site in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the former topsoil was removed and only sterile subsoil remained under modern debris (Figure 3). The stratigraphy in this area generally sloped to the north, towards the location of a former swamp.

In 1986, a detailed Phase IA was conducted for the Christopher Duryea site (Technical Preservation Services Center 1986). The report suggested that the house may not have been moved, or moved much earlier than previously thought. This may explain the lack of associated archeological data on the New Lots Plaza site. Although archeological fieldwork at the site along Jerome Street was proposed, it does not appear that any investigations were conducted.

Table 4. Relevant previous surveys within or adjacent to the Project

<b>Project/Phase</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Citation</b>
The Christian Duryea House, Brooklyn, New York: A Historical and Archeological Investigation	Detailed Phase IA report of the Duryea House site both near Barbey Street and its relocated site on Jerome Street. No fieldwork conducted	[Technical Preservation Services Center 1986]
New Lots Plaza Rezoning, Phase IA and IB	Phase IA and Phase IB testing for a lot bounded by Barbey Street and New Lots Avenue, just east of the current Study Area. Focused on locating the Duryea house and associated deposits and features, and the New Lots cemetery. No evidence of materials from before the late 19 <sup>th</sup> century were located. No evidence of the cemetery encountered.	[Greenhouse 2008a, b]

## 5 Historical Background

In addition to the sources cited in this section, several additional sources were consulted in an effort to obtain a more detailed understanding of the cemetery and the property’s subsequent use. Hartgen and DPR were unsuccessful in attempts to make contact with the New Lots Reformed Church for any records relevant to the burials within the project area. Neither the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church nor Rutgers University, which is the repository for the Dutch Reformed Church’s National Archives, possess relevant records. The DPR consulted its archives for records relating to the park’s construction; none were located. The Municipal Archives were consulted for records pertaining to any actions taken by the City after the report of its intent to disinter the graves in 1924. No records pertaining to the park were located in the Municipal Archives.

### 5.1 Introduction

The Borough of Brooklyn (coterminous with Kings County), and since 1898 part of the consolidated city of greater New York as one of its five boroughs, is located on the western end of Long Island, a terminal moraine

formed by the receding Wisconsin glacier, approximately 17,000 years ago. At the western end, occupied by Brooklyn, a string of hills and kettles typify the central portions of the island, while low-lying outwash plains are located to the south. Battle Hill (elev. 220 ft above sea level) is the highest natural point. The entire borough covers an area of 69.5 square miles (Manbeck 2005).

## 5.2 Native American Occupation and Euro-American Settlement to the Revolution

Previous to 1636, members of the Canarsie tribe of Native Americans occupied lands now comprising Kings and parts of Queens counties. In that year, Euro-Americans began purchasing tracts within today's Kings County. The initial push of European settlement into Native American territory provoked conflict. Between 1640 and 1676 hundreds were killed in outbreaks of violence (Grumet 1995: 218). The first general conflict occurred between 1640 and 1645 (known as Governor Kieft's War) and was initially centered on New Amsterdam and Raritan. But soon, fighting fanned out in all directions including western Long Island. The Peach War (1655), and later the Esopus Wars (1658-64) mostly centered in the Hudson Valley, helped to keep Dutch settlement nucleated in small villages close to New Amsterdam (Manhattan) (Grumet 1995:219).

The first settlement, Breuckelen (Brooklyn) was established in the 1640s at the head of the Gowanus Bay. Five towns were established by Dutch settlers within the county during the course of the next 30 years: Brooklyn, New Amersfoort (Flatlands), Midwout or Vlacke Bosche (Flatbush), New Utrecht, and Boswick (Bushwick). Gravesend was established by English settlers in 1643. In 1683, once relative peace had been assured, the six towns were united within the administrative jurisdiction of Kings County. The last of Native American-owned lands were sold in 1684, the lands of New Lots appear to have been sold in 1670 by a group of Rockaway Indians (Landesman 1977:12). By the 1680s, this portion of Brooklyn was referred to as Oostwoud (Dutch for east woods) to distinguish it from the larger towns to the west.

By the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the population of Kings County was just over 2,000 people, approximately 15 percent of whom were enslaved Africans, or of African descent. Kings County was primarily a farming district, and benefitted from a close proximity to New York City. The profitability of farming dissuaded owners from selling, and so agricultural pursuits predominated in Kings County into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (Manbeck 2005). As a result, a significant number of New World Dutch farmhouses remained until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a pattern that was particularly evident in New Lots.

"New Lots" was established as part of a patent to a consortium of residents from Flatbush in 1677 granted by Governor Andros. The new lots were found east of Flatbush, where many of the "old lots" had already been set out and settled (Landesman 1977:3; Stiles 1884:306). The lots were formally laid out into 47 "plantations" in 1680. The plantations included provisions for the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church and educational purposes. The "school lot" in the center (No. 25), is now part of the Study Area, and was jointly administered by the church and the school. Other common lands includes pastures along the salt meadows between the First Kill and Spring Creek. The "woodlands" south of what is today New Lots Avenue were also held in common for a period of time (Landesman 1977). New Lots Avenue, was likely a well-travelled Native American pathway that likely followed a ridge of high ground above the salt meadows.

To the east of the School Lot, Lot 24 was purchased by Peter Gillasme (Cornells) and to the west by Rem Remse (No. 24) (Landesman 1977:17). Rem Remse is noted as a schoolmaster, and may have been awarded his lot in compensation for his services (Landesman 1977:46). By 1680, there were likely just over 10 families living in the "New Lots" (Landesman 1977:19). Between 1680 and 1750, the lots were slowly sold and developed into profitable farmlands. Many of the families that emigrated to New Lots were from the Flatbush area, and most were of Dutch decent.

The strategic importance of Kings County in controlling Manhattan Island and the port resulted in its becoming an arena of action during the Revolutionary War and even the War of 1812 (Armbruster 1912:57). The largely Dutch-descended farming population was widely thought to be sympathetic to the British cause (correctly or not) and many of their farms in Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend and New Utrecht were burned before the arrival of the British. In August 1777 Americans and British met in the first major engagement of the Revolution, at Gowanus Creek (Hodges 2005).

The principal American position at Gowanus was out-flanked by General Clinton and Lord Howe. After landing in southern Brooklyn from Staten Island. Upon landing, the British engaged the main American position with a small force. The remainder of the troops, nearly 10,000 strong, marched eastward through New Lots and to the lightly defended Jamaica Pass (Armbruster 1912:61-62). From there, the British turned north to Bedford and encircled the left flank of the Americans stationed between Flatbush and Bedford. The Americans under the command of General Washington on Brooklyn Heights were surrounded and eventually were forced to flee under the cover of darkness to save the army. The American retreated to Manhattan and eventually northward into the Hudson Valley. The British took control of Manhattan and Brooklyn which they occupied until late 1783 (Hodges 2005).

### 5.3 Development of Study Area in New Lots

Lot 26 was eventually settled by Christian Duryea, a French Huguenot (Figure 4). Duryea was a scion of a rural farming family from Long Island and New Paltz, centers of French Protestant settlement. The Duryea family arrived in New Lots by the 1750s. He may have come to the property through his wife's family connections to the Lott family, one of the original patentees of New Lots. The family land covered nearly 100 acres in 1869 although it was by three family members (Technical Preservation Services Center 1986). The Duryea house was situated to the northeast of the Study Area, between today's Jerome (formerly John) and Barbey Streets. The 18<sup>th</sup>-century house was situated in the later street grid, as a result, sometime around 1886/7 the house was relocated to the platted lots of Jerome Street (Landesman 1977).

The Van Sicken family occupied old lot No. 23 (originally the Cornell lot) between about 1730 and 1890 (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1891). Their farmhouse fronted on 596 New Lots Avenue (Figure 5), and included part of today's Schenck Avenue, Hendrix Street, and Van Sicken Avenue. John Van Sicken served in the War of 1812 as a postal carrier (Armbruster 1942:351).

While the park and adjacent street have been named for the Schenck family, their family farmstead was actually located to the north along Jamaica Avenue (Figure 6). The house was extant from 1760 to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Although a prominent family in the early town, the Study Area was affected more by the families, church, and businesses that developed along New Lots Avenue. Schenck Avenue was laid out about 1854 by Charles Miller, a speculative investor in the area (Armbruster 1942:355). However, development along New Lots Avenue does not appear to have occurred until the 1890s and early 1900s (see Map 4).

Three major events helped to shape the Study Area as it now appears:

- the development of the school lot in 1680 and later incarnations of a community schoolhouse;
- the establishment of a community graveyard, along with a second, more formal cemetery south of New Lots Avenue;
- and finally, the development of it first as a school playground and then a city playground.

The context for these events are also explored in evolution of the area from a Dutch enclave of farmers to the 26<sup>th</sup> Ward of the City of New York. Focus is also placed on the African-American community of the area, from its period of enslavement in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries to gradual freedom in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 5.3.1 School

It is unclear when a school was first erected in New Lots, however, in 1680 the Flatbush Dutch Church records indicate that Dirck Storm, a schoolmaster, was living in New Lots (Landesman 1977:26 and 46). He served the church as teacher until 1685. No complete list of the schoolmasters exists, but Landesman provides the following speculation:

- Jores Van Speyck (1685-1689)
- Mr. Davit (1689-1690)
- Daniel Martineau (1692-1700)

- Jan Langstreet (1701-1706)
- Rem Remse (1701-1712?)
- Jan Suydam (1718-1719)
- Peter Neefus (1806-1810)
- Mr. Seeba (1810-?)
- Mr. Hall (?)
- Jacob Bergen (?)
- William Laurence (1835-1838)
- John Woodman (1838-1844)
- H.J. Hamilton (1844-1853)
- Georgis North (1853-1856)
- C.W. Hamilton (1856-1857)
- William Vradenburgh (1857-1860)
- J. Kelly (1860-1862)
- Abraham Van Keuren and Dr. Kimberly (1862-1863) (Landesman 1977).

The historical references to schoolmasters gathered by Landesman, especially in the Dutch Church Records, suggest that that New Lots community had a long standing tradition of childhood education, and it appears there was a near continuous presence of a community school adjacent to the Study Area from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the 1950s (and if we include the modern Brooklyn Public Library branch, an educational building may have stood on the parcel for over 330 years) (Figures 7 and 8).

There is compelling evidence that a schoolhouse was placed on the lot no later than the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This first incarnation of a schoolhouse was subsequently updated in 1736, according to church records. Exactly where this building stood (or its predecessor) is not clear. A second schoolhouse, built on the lot was constructed about 1740. This too was replaced in 1806 (Armbruster 1912:56) or 1810 with a more substantial structure (Landesman 1977:52). Its location is more precisely known as it appears on later 19<sup>th</sup> century maps (Maps 3 and 4).

In 1835, the school was partially converted to a residence for the schoolmaster. This practice was short-lived as the school needed the room for the growing student population. Around the 1850s, the schoolmaster “boarded around from house to house, taking turn about with all the pupils, generally staying a week with each one” (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1891). Jacob T. Van Siclen remembered “the school room well. ABC’s to geometry right in that one room. The little boys and girls sat on little wooden benches, and the big boys and girls on big ones...” (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1891).

The school was remodeled again in 1873, perhaps in response to the burgeoning community population (Landesman 1977:53). The school provided for a fairly sizable rural population. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, there were approximately 50 to 100 students attending the school (Landesman 1977:53). By 1874, the average attendance was 140 students, despite a population of nearly 890 school-aged children (Hamilton 1874:46). In 1884, the structure was described as a “two-story frame school house” by Warren Hamilton (Stiles 1884:306). With the construction of a new, larger brick school the former structure appears to have been salvaged and moved to 639 Barbey Street, about one block to the northeast (Figure 9). The building has since been demolished for townhouses.

#### 5.3.1.1 Public School 72

In 1886, Public School No. 72 replaced the much smaller wood-framed school (Armbruster 1912:57). The new school was significantly larger, one-story and constructed of brick (Armbruster 1942:321). The old New Lots cemetery (discussed in more detail below) remained on the eastern side of the school (Figure 10). This caused much consternation to the local community which grew frustrated that the cemetery was seemingly abandoned and left in a dilapidated state. Numerous individuals agitated for the cemetery’s removal and the conversion of

the lot into a playground for the nearby school—a trend seen throughout the City at that time—(Brooks 1905; Leader-Observer 1913; The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1899, 1913; The Daily Standard Union 1902). The School Board in 1899, investigated the ownership of the adjacent cemetery in hopes of disinterring the burials and making a school playground, but the initiative never moved forward. Local residents, such as William Macmillan, wrote to the local newspapers in an effort to raise public support for the idea (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1900).

The school expanded in 1896 (likely adding the second-story and several wings at this time), during a period of class room shortages, by this time the school encompassed nearly the entire western third of the block (Armbruster 1942; The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1896a, b). The school expanded slightly again about 1908, when “water closets” or indoor privies were added to the west and east sides of the building (see Map 5). In 1913, a local newspaper speaks of School Board considering the purchase of a “plot of land” to the east for school expansion (Leader-Observer 1913). This does not appear to have ever occurred, despite efforts from a State Senator to introduce a bill to facilitate the process (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1913). At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the school and cemetery properties were separated by a “high board fence” (The Daily Standard Union 1902). This was replaced with a wire fence sometime around 1920 and by 1922 the city converted the old cemetery into a school playground (Figure 11).

### 5.3.2 Dutch Reformed Church

The residents of New Lots were part of a larger church community centered in Flatbush. Eventually a second church was established in nearby Flatlands, and the New Lots community was largely divided between the two congregations. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the New Lots community had sufficiently grown to warrant their own church building. In 1823, Abraham Van Siclen, the farmer on Lot 24 to the west of the Study Area, deeded over a plot of land  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre in size to the church for a building on the south side of New Lots Avenue (Figures 12 and 13). This was likely necessary as the school occupied the lot (previously set aside for both the church and school) to the north as well as the cemetery (discussed below)(Landesman 1977:46-54).

The first pastor of the church, William Crookshank, also served at the Flatlands Church. He served the churches until 1835, after which time Reverend J. Baldwin was appointed pastor of both parishes (Strong 1842:103-104). Under Rev. Baldwin, the New Lots church created a new cemetery located to the south of the church. In 1852, New Lots appointed its first full time pastor Rev. John Van Buren (Landesman 1977). The church remained a vital part of the community for the next hundred years. A parsonage on the north side of New Lots Avenue was added in 1873 and a later one in the rear of the church, circa 1920s. A substantial Sunday School building, circa 1870s, was constructed to the west of the church, and later a daycare facility that replaced both the parsonage and school buildings (circa 1970s) on the south side of New Lots Avenue (see Maps 3-5). Today, the church is known as the New Lots Community Church.

### 5.3.3 Cemeteries

The current Study Area is the location of the old Dutch Reformed Church cemetery, formerly located on the “School Lot” No. 24 north of current New Lots Avenue. A second cemetery was started in the 1840s located on the south side of New Lots Avenue to the side (northeast) of the church (Landesman 1977:61-64). The reasons for opening a second cemetery are explored below, as is the notion that the old cemetery was primarily utilized for slaves and later free blacks in the New Lots community.

Appendix 1 contains transcriptions of headstones at both the “new” and “old” cemeteries at New Lots, which were made c. 1864 by Teunis Bergen.

#### 5.3.3.1 Old Cemetery

The exact date of the opening of the old cemetery is not clear, but local tradition suggests it began in the 1680s with the creation of the school and church lot. The lot was to be reserved for a community school operated under the auspices of the Flatbush Dutch Church. Almost immediately it appears the church did utilize the lot for a community school. As the community of New Lots did not receive its own church until 1824, it is possible

that the Flatbush church set aside part of the lot for a community cemetery under their control (Figures 9 and 10).

As the original 1680 lots were cut through by the urban street grid and subdivided into smaller urban plots, the size of the extant cemetery was reduced. The 1837 street grid was overlaid onto the old lots forming new property boundaries slightly askew to the old. As a result, it is probable that portions of the old cemetery now lie under Livonia Avenue and Barbey Street, under some developed lots north of Livonia Avenue, and since New Lots Avenue has been straightened and widened over time, it is also probable that a portion of the cemetery lies under that roadway as well. A 1906 newspaper article indicated that graves were exhumed during construction of a fence and sewer along Van Siclen Avenue as well (N. F. Palmer 1906a). An archeological study on the east side of Barbey Street documented modern disturbance and did not locate any evidence of the cemetery (Greenhouse Consultants 2008a, b).

The earliest recorded headstone in the lot dated to 1791. Undoubtedly, however, there are earlier interments that were not marked or marked with less durable materials. N.F. Palmer stated that the cemetery contained “Revolutionary War soldiers, English officers, and negro slaves within its boundaries” (N. F. Palmer 1906a). Most of the headstones still legible in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were from earlier in that same century (Bergen, et al. 1940, 1941a, b).

There does not appear to have been any formal organization of the old cemetery (Figures 14, 16, and 16). Jacob T. Van Siclen, a descendant of one of the early Dutch families, recounted, “I never saw any records of the old cemetery, or heard of any one [sic] who held a title deed to it” (The Daily Standard Union 1902). However, there was apparently some internal organization that was predicated on family lineage and race.

Van Siclen further added: “There seemed to be an understanding that one part of the land, in general, belonged to one family, and another part to another family... but there were no lots laid out and bounded, as in a modern cemetery” (The Daily Standard Union 1902). The haphazard nature of interments was likely the result of a lack of a community church, as oversight of the cemetery fell to the church at Flatbush. The sextons were responsible for burying the dead in the cemetery for a period of time, and as such, maps or written records are unlikely (N. F. Palmer 1906a).

As for race, there is some apparent confusion concerning the nature of the old cemetery. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, some locals began to refer to the old cemetery as “the old Slave Cemetery” (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1900). This notion continues today. “Slaves were apparently buried on the north side of the street [the old cemetery], while their Dutch masters were buried on the south side, near the Reformed Church...” (Inskeep 2000). However, there were some re-interments to the south side due to construction and later development, according to Inskeep.

It is clear, however, that the cemetery originally contained burials from both the white and black community members of New Lots. “One part of the graveyard was set apart for the burials of slaves owned by different families,” as described in a latter-day account of the cemetery (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1899).

According to the reminiscences of a life-long resident and member of the Dutch Reformed Church, Stephen Vanderveer, and the investigation of a local reporter in 1886, the cemetery was described as follows:

On the north side of the road is located the old burying ground. It seems to be the age claimed for it by Farmer Vanderveer, for the undergrowth is of that stubby nature which takes a long time to grow. There is no care taken of the place except in the negro part, which speaks well for them. I ventured in, and after wading through the high grass for a short distance, came across a stone marked “Daniel Rapelje, died October 15, 1822.” There were many other headstones in that vicinity, all covered with woods and vines, but I did not try to decipher them, preferring to get over nearer the road where the old timers are said to sleep. I had not gone far before an open grave received me with hospitality. It was one of those from out of which a body had been taken and transferred to the new cemetery...— J.K. (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1886b)

Stephen Vanderveer further concluded about the racial nature of the cemetery:

In the early days there were as many negroes as whites<sup>1</sup> in the neighborhood. The latter were buried in front by the roadside and the former away back near the swamp...In 1841 we saw the necessity of having a new burying ground, as the black people were overcrowding us in the old one. Therefore, we purchased the ground alongside the Church and removed a great many of the dead from across the road. I have not taken up all my people yet, but I expect to do so ere long. (Landesman 1977:62; The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1886b)

Other local residents at the turn of the last century, also speculated about the apparent racial division within the organization of the cemetery.

One part of the cemetery, it is said, was set apart for the burial of the slaves owned by the old Dutch settlers, but there is little evidence of that to be found, judging by the names on the stones...It is impossible to distinguish the graves of the masters from those of their slaves. It is probable, however, that most of them are the graves of the blacks, for the remains of the masters have been moved in many instances to the cemetery across the street. (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1900)

Since it was unlikely that slaves were marked with headstones, and later free blacks had the economic ability to afford expensive stone markings, it is not surprising that by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century there was no indication of interments from the black community. It is likely however, based on precedent from other nearby church cemeteries that a clearly distinguished portion of the parcel was utilized by the black community.

For instance, the old New Utrecht cemetery in Brooklyn appears to be have been organized similarly but in a more formal manner. Here the northwest corner of the lot was separated out with a fence for the interment of enslaved people and freed blacks. Stone markers within this portion of the lot were few, however the area remained maintained into the 20<sup>th</sup> century despite the lack of interments for nearly 20 years to that point (Brooks 1905).

Stephen Vanderveer's later recollection of a distinct area within the rear of the cemetery, "near the swamp" for the black community is a plausible scenario. The exact location of these interments is more difficult to discern on the modern landscape. As there were still a few headstones within the Study Area in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it may be that the Study Area includes both Dutch family interments and those of the black community, then unmarked. The local reporter who described the "negro part" of the cemetery did not indicate its location (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1886b). By this time (Map 3), Livonia Avenue was in place, however it was not mentioned if this section of the cemetery was north or south of the road. Armbruster speculated that "north of Livonia Avenue, formerly called Linington Avenue, extended one hundred feet northward on sloping ground, was the burial place of the slaves" (1942:352). It remains unclear exactly where the African-American section of the cemetery is to be found, as the accounts are somewhat contradictory and the 1886 descriptions does not provide enough detail.

It was clear by the 1880s, however, that the former boundaries of the cemetery were slowly being encroached upon from the opening of new streets and the allied development associated with forming smaller lots. The situation was not necessarily unique to New Lots, during this time, many of the other Dutch Reformed Church

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<sup>1</sup> Despite the assertion, there is little evidence that the black population of New Lots ever exceeded that of whites in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (see further discussion below).

cemeteries in Brooklyn were removed from their original locations and moved to Greenwood Cemetery, as developmental pressures mounted (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1886a).

According to another early 20<sup>th</sup>-century newspaper article

Some of the graves in the cemetery were disturbed with the widening of New Lots Avenue. According to one story, passers-by could see exposed bones on the side of the road until about 1895. (N. F. Palmer 1906b) --see also (Inskeep 2000)

Other articles decried the effects that development rendered upon the old cemetery:

Where Public School No. 72 now stands was formerly the burial place of the slaves, and concerning what the school covers, little can be learned. On the side opposite the school [Livonia Avenue] there was a street put through some years ago, and it being necessary to cut down some depth, many of the graves with their contents were removed. That is, the graves were removed, but in many cases the bones were left lying on the side of the bank. Some residents of the neighborhood say that the bones might be seen there until within the last five years. If this be true, it shows on the part of the responsible persons a lack of veneration amounting almost to vandalism...

Indeed, with its (sic) broken down fences, overturned tombstones and generally dilapidated appearance. The place has been for a long time an eyesore and a good deal of a nuisance to the residents of that part of East New York. And another bad feature is the fact that directly alongside of it is located the handsome brick structure known as Public School No. 72, with hundreds of young pupils in daily attendance. That the children make use of the graveyard at the present time for a playground is well known, and as most people entertain some respect for the graves and the tombstones of the dead, it is evident that the plot is no place for children to congregate for play, and especially so when tramps and hoodlums are in the habit of making it their stamping ground. If cleared of the tombstones and put in good condition it would make one of the best playgrounds in the city. Not so long ago it was no uncommon thing to pick up on the streets blocks away from the cemetery pieces of tombstones bearing the name of people at one time comprising the aristocracy of Long Island. Even now not only do the hoodlums romp on the graves, but they destroy the few remaining monuments that have stood for a century or more. It is said that some of the descendants of the old families transferred the remains of their former relatives to the New Lots Reformed church yard. As said before, the other graves are allowed to go to ruin. One part of the cemetery, it is said, was set apart for the burial of the slaves owned by the old Dutch settlers, but there is little evidence of that to be found, judging from the names on the stones. (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1900)

Noyes Palmer writes of the dilapidated condition of the cemetery in 1906. He states that the cemetery contained a former schoolmaster and church sexton who was responsible for digging the graves. The two burials had recently been “wantonly dug up” and the bones scattered over the old stones (N. Palmer 1906). After years of community agitation and complaints, in 1922, the City “took over the old burying ground for school purposes and agreed to move the remains of the bodies” (Armbruster 1942). It is unclear if the remains were ever disinterred however. Between 1922 and 1956, the cemetery served as a school playground and afterwards a city park.

A number of transcriptions of the old headstones have been made over the years, the earliest and most notable being Teunis Bergen’s in 1878. His inscriptions were updated and revised in 1913 and eventually published in the early 1940s (Bergen, et al. 1940, 1941a, b). His original notes are presented in Appendix 1, unfortunately he makes no distinction between the old cemetery and new cemetery near the church. According to the records, over 120 of the stones (of about 260) can be clearly dated to before 1841 and the opening of the new cemetery. As such, it is reasonable to assume that old cemetery contained well over 120 burials, even if some of these were relocated between 1841 and 1878. Noyes Palmer was only able to find 58 headstone in the old cemetery lot in 1906 (N. F. Palmer 1906b).

### 5.3.3.2 New Cemetery

About 1845, New Lots Avenue was straightened and slightly re-aligned. About the same time, the new church and burial ground on the present south side of the New Lots Avenue, was established (N. F. Palmer 1906b). In 1848, the state passed a law allowing the establishment of non-denominational rural cemeteries across the state. As a result the Cypress Hill Cemetery and Evergreen cemeteries were established in the northern section of New Lots (Hamilton 1874:59-63).

A number of factors likely contributed to the opening of a new cemetery on the south side of the road. They include:

- The trend towards non-denominational, rural cemeteries (Hodges 2005:295);
- The lack of organization in the former cemetery
- General overcrowding within the old cemetery
- Fear of disturbance from the new street grid (proposed in 1838)(N. Palmer 1906; N. F. Palmer 1906a)
- Efforts of the Dutch Reformed Church to have greater control over the new cemetery, since it lost that control in the old cemetery as it developed into a community cemetery, as opposed to a religious one.
- And finally there may have been racially motivated actions. As stated by Stephen Vanderveer, the belief among the old farming families was that the old cemetery was now turning into a black community burial ground (Hodges 2005; The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1886b).

Regardless of the motivations, after about 1850, it appears that some members of the Dutch Reformed Church disinterred the remains of family members and moved them from the north side of the road to the new cemetery on the south side. The trend seems to have accelerated in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century as it became apparent the old cemetery was in the process of being abandoned altogether. The exact number of removed bodies from the old cemeteries is unknown. Archeologically, the process is important, as it is possible to find GPR anomalies of potential grave shafts, that may have been re-excavated and the remains removed.

By 1874, according to the local business directory, the practice of burials was increasingly commercialized (Hamilton 1874) (Figure 17). The directory lists four undertakers and 10 marble works specializing in headstones in the East New York area. The advent of a more formal burial tradition (especially one outside of the church) also likely contributed to slow abandonment of the old cemetery and preference for burial in the newer, more organized lot. Archeologically, it would be expected that elaborate, formal coffins or funerary practices in the old cemetery are limited. Instead, the burials were likely simple in nature with a wooden coffin with little adornment or grave gifts, and/or simple burial shrouds.

### 5.3.4 New Lots/East New York

The evolution of New Lots from a rural farming district to a ward of the City of New York began slowly but quickly accelerated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Town of New Lots was recognized a separate political entity of Kings County in 1853, once it was set off from Flatbush. By that time efforts had already been underway to transform the area in an emerging urban center. In 1835, John C. Pitkin purchased several of the old adjacent farmlots (including the Study Area) to amass a one mile by two mile square parcel. Within the parcel, Pitkin set out hundreds of smaller urban lots and renamed the area East New York in anticipation of the expansion of the City to the east. With the Financial Panic of 1837, however, and the dramatic drop in real estate, the venture became bankrupt and the lots reverted back the original farm families (Armbruster 1942:322-324; Stiles 1884:306). Many of these families remained on their lands until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The population of New Lots increased from a mere 48 families in 1638, to 2,261 in 1855 to 10,765 in 1875. The town became the first of several in 1886 to vote to annex itself to Brooklyn. In part, the vote was for better schools and access to the city water supply (Landesman 1977:169-170). The neighborhood of New Lots now became the 26th Ward of the City of Brooklyn. Within a decade, Brooklyn would itself be annexed by New York City and thus New Lots consolidated into the larger metropolis.

#### 5.3.4.1 African-American Population of New Lots

African-Americans were a critical part of the development of New Lots since colonial times (Wortis 1974:36). Most of the original farming families of Dutch descent utilized enslaved people to assist with the labor-intensive practice of agriculture. This practice was supported and encouraged first by the colonial Dutch authorities and later the English (Wortis 1974:37). The black population of New Lots during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century is unknown, but census figures for all of Flatbush provide some indication. In 1698, there were 71 enslaved individuals out of a total population of 476 people (15%) (Landesman 1977:18). Over one hundred years later, during the 1790 census, the population jumped to 932 people including 378 enslaved individual or 40% of the total population (Landesman 1977:18). Kings County lagged the rest of Long Island in the process of manumission, as only 3% of the black population was free. In distinction, over 50% of the black population of Suffolk County in 1790 was already freed (Wortis 1974:42).

A clearer picture of the population of New Lots is presented in the 1820 census when the town of New Lots was enumerated separately from Flatbush. At that time, there were 62 farming families, of which more than half owned slaves. In a town of 338 whites, there were 91 slaves and/or freed blacks. Families typically owned one or two slaves, but one family owned as many as eight enslaved individuals (Landesman 1977:195).

Slaves were often quartered on separate floors of the farmhouse or within separate buildings (Landesman 1977:197). Spatial segregation formalized the slave/master relationship and was used to affect the social hierarchy within the larger community. The Abraham Van Siclen farm, described in a later article as an old complex of buildings with many unusual features including “one of the most interesting features...the pen where the slaves were kept” (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1891).

The article went on to describe how:

old Abraham had some n\*\*\*\*rs, and young Abraham, father of Jacob T. Siclen, who lives next door to the old house, had several slaves, and besides had several little blacks bounded to him for life. (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1891)

The racist language of the later reporter notwithstanding, the article presents the complex relationship that emerged in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as uneven emancipation occurred in New York.

Freedom to enslaved people in New York came gradually, first with Gradual Emancipation Act in 1799 that legislated the freedom of persons born into slaves after 1799 by the age of 25 for females and 28 for males. The process of gradual emancipation led to a spate of manumissions by owners who could no longer afford slaves with the loss of a ready market for their sale. The legislation ultimately proved untenable with a large mix of enslaved and free black population. As a result, the state formally abolished slavery in 1827 (Hodges 2005). Despite freedom from slavery, however, newly freed blacks faced legal, political, and economic discrimination under New York laws until well after the Civil War.

Many of the newly freed blacks in New Lots in the 1830s lacked education and labor skills. Also caught in the whirlwind of the 1830s and 1840s depression, many found themselves still tethered to the same farms upon which they were held as slaves, performing the same agricultural tasks they had previously. Although their legal status had changed, the structural inequalities of the free labor market remained stacked against the black community.

Segregation occurred within the slave owning farmsteads, and afterwards with the nucleation of small black settlements within the town, and even within the community cemetery. As for the Stephen Vanderveer’s assessment that the black population of New Lots began to overtake the white population, the census records present a very different story. In 1855, only 50 blacks were resident within the town, and most were single individuals (likely farm hands). Five black families were noted: Samson and Susan Townsend, Michael and Sarah Papon, Henry and Isabella Anderson, Cornelius and Mary Jarvis, and Catherine Brown and daughter. One only individual, Henry Henderson appears to have owned his own farm (Landesman 1977).

The African-American population of New Lots remained relatively small throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The census data indicates 81 black residents in 1865, 129 in 1870, and 173 in 1875 (Landesman 1977:217). In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, despite a dramatic rise in the population of New Lots, only 1% of the population was identified as black (in the 1930 census 2, 224 were enumerated) (Landesman 1977:200). Although other parts of Brooklyn witnessed a rise in African-American populations throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Wortis 1974), New Lots remained mostly white until later in the century.

Despite the perception of a dramatically rising African-American population, as evidenced in the historical newspapers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, there is little evidence that the racial composition of New Lots changed very much during this time.

Landesman was able to correlate a number of individuals (identified as black or of mixed race) in the federal and state censuses with the New Lots Dutch Reformed Church (1977:197-198). This indicated that some members of the free black community were active church members and likely buried in both the old and new cemeteries.

### 5.3.5 Modern playground

In 1924, Public School No 72 had expanded to include the eastern portion of the lot, where the cemetery formally stood. Although the city announced its intentions to dis-inter the remaining burials on the site, there is no historical evidence to date that this occurred before a school playground, little more than an open grassy field, was established. After the school was demolished in 1954, a City playground was built along the rear of the lot and a branch of the library on the southern portion of the lot. The playground has remained virtually unchanged since the 1950s with the exception of several play areas and features. Apart from the grading of the playground and installation of utilities there does not appear to have been much in the way of large scale disturbance to the underlying soils.

### 5.3.6 Brooklyn Branch Library

The Brooklyn Public Library branch building was constructed in 1955 (see Map 4). The building was situated on the south end of the lot fronting along New Lots Avenue. The building does not appear to have a deep foundation or cellar, so impacts to the former cemetery may be limited. There was no indication that any remains or burials were encountered during the construction process.

## 6 Historical Map and Aerial Photograph Review

A number of historical maps (Anonymous 1776a, b, 1838; Beers 1873; Conner 1852; Dripps 1868, 1872; Esri Inc. 2015, 2016a, b; Johnson 1879; Robinson and Pidgeon 1886; Sanborn Map and Publishing Company 1887; Sanborn Map Company 1908, 1928, 1951; Smith 1844; Ullitz 1898, 1916; United States Geological Survey (USGS) 1956, 1979, 1995, 2016) and historical aerial images (1924 and 1951, 1954, 1966 and 1990) were consulted as part of the study. Only the more informative were reproduced for the report (Maps 3, 4, and 5).

In general, the historical maps indicate that the Study Area was predominately utilized as a school lot and cemetery. The earliest depiction of the school house is on the 1838 Johnson map (Map 3). By this time, the church had been built across the street. Interestingly, this map also depicts two smaller structures fronting on New Lots Avenue to the east that are not shown on any other maps. One was occupied by “Nick Blake” and the other “James Morris.” The new street grid had been developed by this time, but only Schenck Avenue appears to have been built. The former 1680s lot lines are still evident on the map.

The 1852 Conner map renders the District School on the western half of the study area and a separate lot (presumably the cemetery) on the eastern half. This is the earliest map to indicate parcel boundaries separating the school and cemetery. The 1868 Dripps map indicates only the school and its parcel, but not the cemetery. The Dutch Reformed Church lot on the south side of the road is shown enlarged to encompass the new cemetery, though the new cemetery is not labeled as such.

The 1872 Dripps map (see Map 4 series) appears to have errors with respect to the street grid and 17<sup>th</sup> century lot lines, especially the school lot. The Beers 1873 map is the first that clearly indicates the Study Area as including a school and cemetery, but with little detail. The Robinson 1886 map provides clear detail of the school and cemetery lot and its skewed relationship to the overlaid street grid of the 1830s. The cemetery is shown extending north of Livonia Avenue and into Barbey Street. The old school building sits nearly in the center of the lot.

The later 1887 Sanborn map rendered the old school house and the “old Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery.” The cemetery boundary however is shown further east than on any of the earlier maps, suggesting an error. Ullitz’s map of 1898 depicts the new Public School 72 building and its relationship to the “old burying ground.” Similarly, the boundary line appears to be more perpendicular to New Lots Avenue, and is likely another error as the 1908 Sanborn map’s rendering is more feasible.

The final map series (Map 5) includes both maps and aerial images. The 1924 aerial is likely about the time that the city took ownership of the cemetery and cleared it for a school playground, as is indicated in the 1928 Sanborn map. The demolished school building is shown on the 1954 aerial, and the new city playground (appearing much as it does today) can be seen on the 1966 aerial image.

In general, development within and immediately around the Study Area appears to be limited to various iterations of a school house, the old church cemetery, and later a school playground and finally a library building and city playground.

## **7 Archeological Assessment**

The New York Archaeological Council provides the following description of archeological sensitivity:

Archaeologically sensitive areas contain one or more variables that make them likely locations for evidence of past human activities. Sensitive areas can include places near known prehistoric sites that share the same valley or that occupy a similar landform (e.g., terrace above a river), areas where historic maps or photographs show that a building once stood but is now gone as well as the areas within the former yards around such structures, an environmental setting similar to settings that tend to contain cultural resources, and locations where Native Americans and published sources note sacred places, such as cemeteries or spots of spiritual importance (NYAC 1994:9).

### **7.1 Archeological Sensitivity**

The historical evidence suggests that the Study Area within New Lots was farmer community that began in the third-quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A school house may have been present in the area even at this early date. Around the same time, on the eastern portion of the same lot, a church cemetery was started. The school lot and cemetery continued to be used as such into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery fell into disuse gradually after 1840, when the church opened a new, more formal cemetery on the south of New Lots Avenue. A school building was present on the block until about 1954. The school took over the cemetery in 1922, and cleared it for a school playground. After the school was demolished, a library building was constructed and a new city playground erected within the Study Area.

Overall, the Study Area has a high sensitivity for encountering archeological deposits associated with the various school buildings and the old Dutch Reformed Church cemetery. No documents associated with the cemetery have been discovered, although late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century accounts suggest the cemetery was loosely organized around family ties and race. Some historical accounts describe that the northern part of the cemetery was utilized by enslaved and later freed African-Americans. This may include the current Study Area.

## **7.2 Archeological Potential**

Archeological potential is the likelihood of locating intact archeological remains within an area. The consideration of archeological potential takes into account subsequent uses of an area and the impact those uses would likely have on archeological remains.

Since the lot was used by a relatively small schoolhouse throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was likely little disturbance to potential archeological deposits. However, the construction of the larger Public School 72, and its various additions and expansions, as well as later demolition likely disturbed or destroyed archeological deposits, including perhaps into the western section of the Study Area. Similarly, the construction of the library branch may have adversely affected the archeology of the Study Area. Within the city playground, since impacts were likely relatively shallow (with the exception of the comfort station and utilities), potential archeological deposits associated with the former cemetery are likely only slightly disturbed.

The edges of the Study Area may have a slightly lower potential due to disturbances, but more central portions likely have higher potential due to the lack of large-scale urban activities likely to impact archeological deposits.

## **8 Recommendations**

Prior to the Capital Improvement Projects with the Schenck Playground, Hartgen recommends that a non-destructive, ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey be conducted first. The GPR survey has the potential to provide data relating to the depth of fill soil on the site, utility trench locations, other areas of deep disturbance, and the locations of grave shafts.

The results of the GPR survey should be used to refine the preliminary field testing work plan presented in this report. The work plan should target any potentially grave-related anomalies within the vertical and horizontal extents of the project's area of potential effects. Effort should be taken to avoid placing tests within utility trenches, where disturbed burials are most likely to be encountered. A preliminary work plan is presented in the next section along with a human remains protocol.

Prior to implementing the field testing work plan, Hartgen recommends that DPR conduct public outreach to solicit the involvement of descendent communities. At present, the sole burial records that have been located are headstone transcriptions made by Teunis Bergen c. 1864 (Appendix 1). These records conflate both the new and old cemeteries at New Lots. By comparison with extant headstones at the new cemetery, an incomplete record of individuals interred at the old cemetery made be obtained.

Lastly, Hartgen recommends archeological monitoring during construction in areas with the potential to contain intact burials.

## **9 Proposed Archeological Survey**

### **9.1 Close Interval Ground Penetrating Radar**

- Establish a survey grid oriented on the local features using a Leica Total Station.
- Survey using a GSSI SIR-3000 GPR with a 400 MHz antenna using a bidirectional survey method with transect lines spaced 12 cm apart. Depending on the soil composition, this configuration will typically provide useful results up to a depth of 1.5 – 2.0 meters. Because the current Focus Area (see Figure 1) is paved with asphalt, some loss of energy due to reflection is anticipated. This will tend to decrease the depth of penetration.
- Process data using GPR-Slice to examine radar profiles and radar time slices for burial identification.
- Dual cesium magnetometers or fluxgate magnetometers may also be used to supplement the GPS data, as well as conductivity and resistivity meters.
- The GPR will be conducted by Michael Rogers, Ph.D., Ithaca College.
- The GRP fieldwork will be staged separately from the ground-truthing excavations. The data will be analyzed and an ordered list of potential targets will be generated. A map of target excavation areas will be provided to the DPR and LPC in advance of excavations.
- If no viable targets are identified, limited testing may still be warranted to search for disinterred remains.

### **9.2 Ground-Truthing Investigation**

The purpose of the ground-truthing excavations is to confirm the presence of cemetery-related within the area of potential effects. No burial will be removed from there in situ locations. Should coffin remains be located, they too will be left in situ and not disturbed. No human remains will be intentionally removed from the site.

- The Phase IB may entail the excavation of 0.50 by 0.50 meter shovel tests to investigate anomalies identified in the GPR results.
- Shovel tests will be terminated upon (1) the identification of the source of the GPR anomaly as a grave shaft, (2) the discovery of human remains, (3) at the maximum depth of proposed impacts, or (4) a maximum depth of 1.5 m (5 feet), whichever is shallower. A grave shaft is an area, often rectangular, containing soils that contrast in color, texture, or compaction from the surrounding natural soil profile, and which result from the excavation of a deep pit for the purpose of human burial.
- Any tests that reach a depth of 1 meter, will be reduced in size to 40 cm (which exceeds the minimum size requirements indicated in the RFP) in diameter. This will permit the excavator to stand at a depth of 1 meter and continue excavation up to 1.5 meters.
- Excavation of the shovel tests may be assisted by mechanical excavation equipment to remove asphalt, building rubble, compact soils, or other fill materials overlying the strata potentially containing human burials.
- In the event that human remains are encountered, work will be suspended and DPR will be notified. Hartgen will then implement the protocol for the discovery of human remains.
- Prior to initiating field testing, the New York City Medical Examiner's office will be notified.

### **9.3 Shovel Testing Methodology**

Excavated soil from in situ soil strata will be passed through 0.25-inch hardware mesh when feasible and will be examined for bones or artifacts potentially associated with human burials, precontact (Native American), and historic potentially significant artifacts. Fill soils will not be screened. The stratigraphy of each test will be recorded including the depth, soil description, and artifact content. The location of each shovel test will be plotted on the project map. Test excavations will be photographed.

#### 9.4 Mechanical Stripping Methodology

Mechanical excavation equipment may be used to remove asphalt or other overburden. An archeologist will direct the excavator to carefully remove the overlying stratum and expose the boundary with in situ subsoil. Archeologists will then hand scrape the uppermost portion of the subsoil stratum while inspecting for the presence of archeological features. The limits of the stripped area will be mapped with a GPS unit and plotted on the project map.

- Hartgen will notify Dig Safe New York to mark all areas where mechanical excavation is proposed.

#### 9.5 Surface Restoration

The asphalt surface will be restored following completion of the Phase IB testing. The restoration will be completed using concrete or hot asphalt.

#### 9.6 Laboratory Processing

Artifacts will be collected from *in situ* soil strata. No artifacts will be collected from fill soils.

All burial related artifacts will be retained, as will historic artifacts such as glass, ceramics, food remains, hardware, and miscellaneous items will be collected. All precontact (Native American) cultural material identified during the fieldwork will be collected. Items post-dating the abandonment of the cemetery will be noted, but not collected. Coal, ash, cinder, brick, and modern materials will be noted. Artifacts collected will be placed in paper or plastic bags labeled by provenience and inventoried in a bag list. Artifacts will be cleaned and entered into a Microsoft Access database that will be included in tabular format in the report.

- It is estimated that 10 artifacts will be collected per shovel test.

#### 9.7 Curation

Any artifacts collected during execution of this work will be transferred to the DPR at the conclusion of the study.

#### 9.8 Human Remains Protocol

In the event that human remains are identified during the ground-truthing excavations, all work within the excavation will cease. The remains will be confirmed to be human by a bioarcheologist. All remains will be treated with respect and protected to the greatest extent possible. Human remains are most likely to found while excavating or sifting the overburden to identify potential burial shafts.

Once the remains are identified as human. The following protocol will be observed.

1. Representatives from DPR, LPC and SHPO will be immediately notified:
  - a. Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Amanda Sutphin  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission,  
Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street, 9th Floor, North  
New York, NY 10007  
212-669-7818
  - b. New York City Parks and Recreation  
Michele Greaves White,  
Landscape Architect  
Brooklyn Capital Projects  
NYC Parks and Recreation  
Olmsted Center

Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
Flushing, NY 11368  
718-760-6808

- c. State Historic Preservation Office  
Philip Perazio  
Peebles Island State Park  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189  
518-268-2175
2. New York City Police Department and the Medical Examiner's Office will be consulted in advance of the excavations. If they request to be notified, they will be contacted upon confirmation of human remains.
    - a. New York City Police Department  
75th Precinct  
1000 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208  
718-827-3511
    - b. New York City Medical Examiner  
520 First Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
212-447-2030
  3. If descendant communities are identified by the consulting parties, they will be notified as well.
  4. A formal plan of action will be developed in consultation with the various groups. In general, it is anticipated that the bioarcheologist will document and record the remains in the field. No human remains will be removed from the site. Upon the examination of the remains, it is anticipated they will be re-interred into the excavations from which they were removed. Articulated human remains may be uncovered but will not be removed from the ground. The bioarcheologist will examine the remains to the best of their ability in situ.
  5. Should it not be possible to re-inter the remains due to fear of future disturbance a Memorandum of Agreement will be drafted between the consulting parties, and appropriate skeletal analysis and re-burial off-site will be negotiated.
  6. Depending on the results of the fieldwork, other long-term preservation and protection measures within the park may be contemplated.

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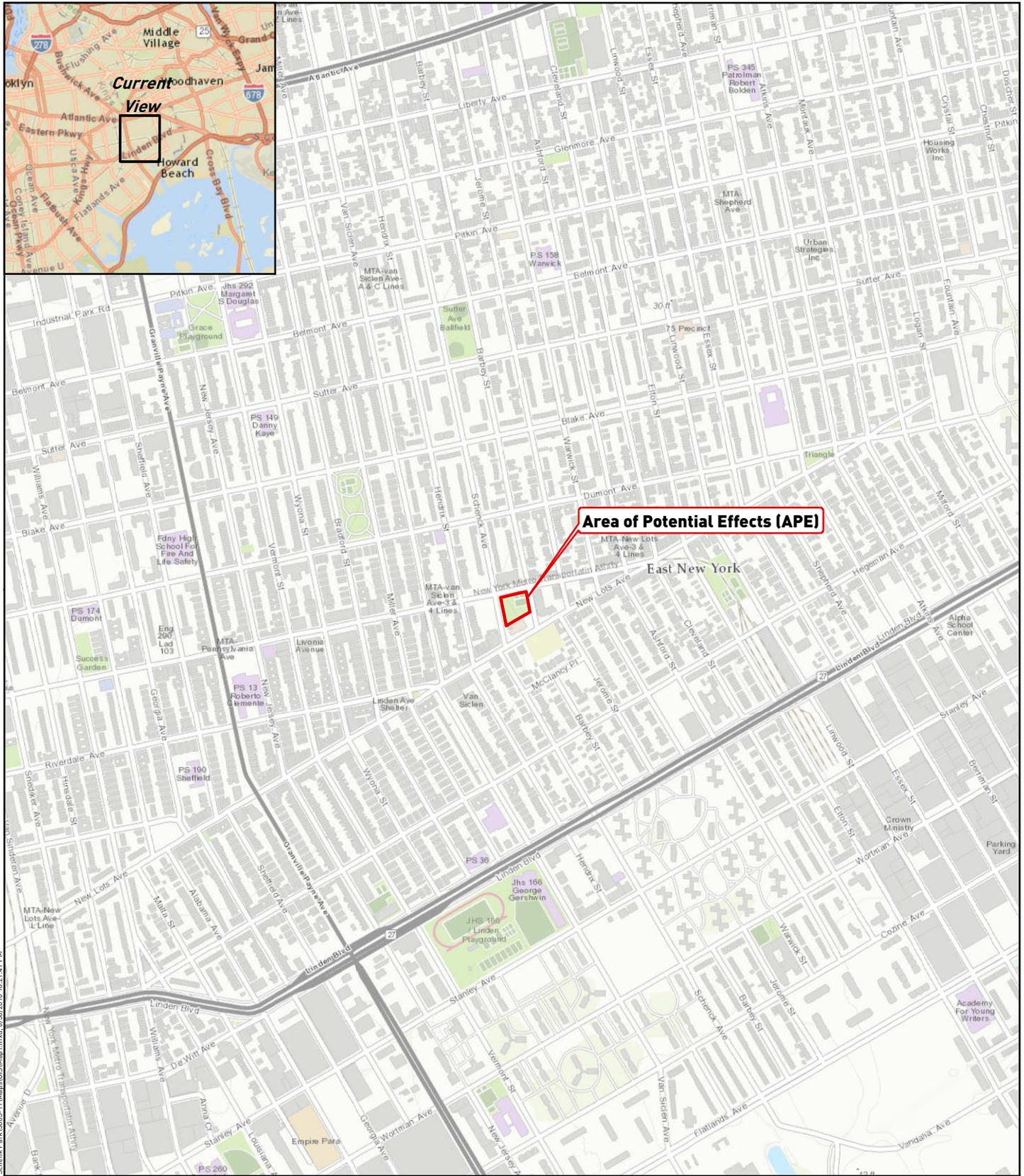
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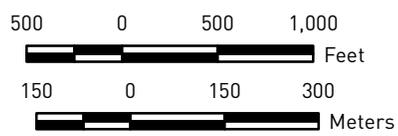
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## **Maps**

Schenck Playground, Brooklyn New York City Parks  
Phase IA Archeological Literature Review and Fieldwork Plan



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Project Location  
(Esri Inc. 2016)

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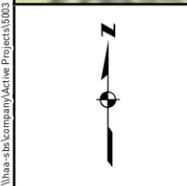
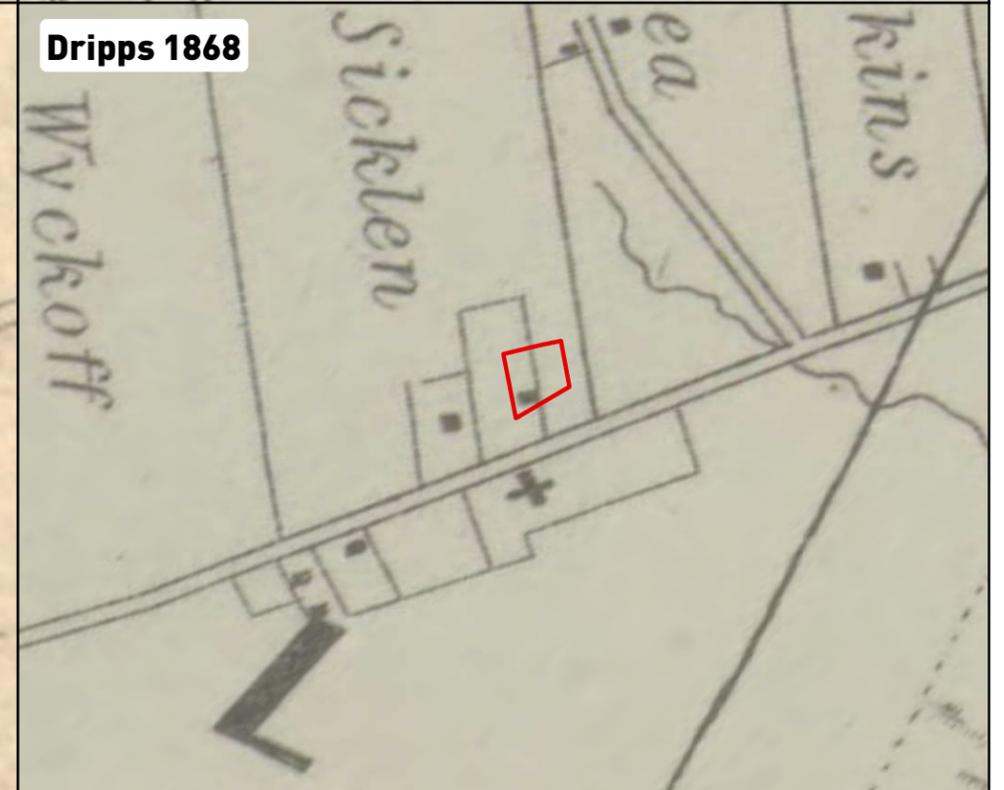
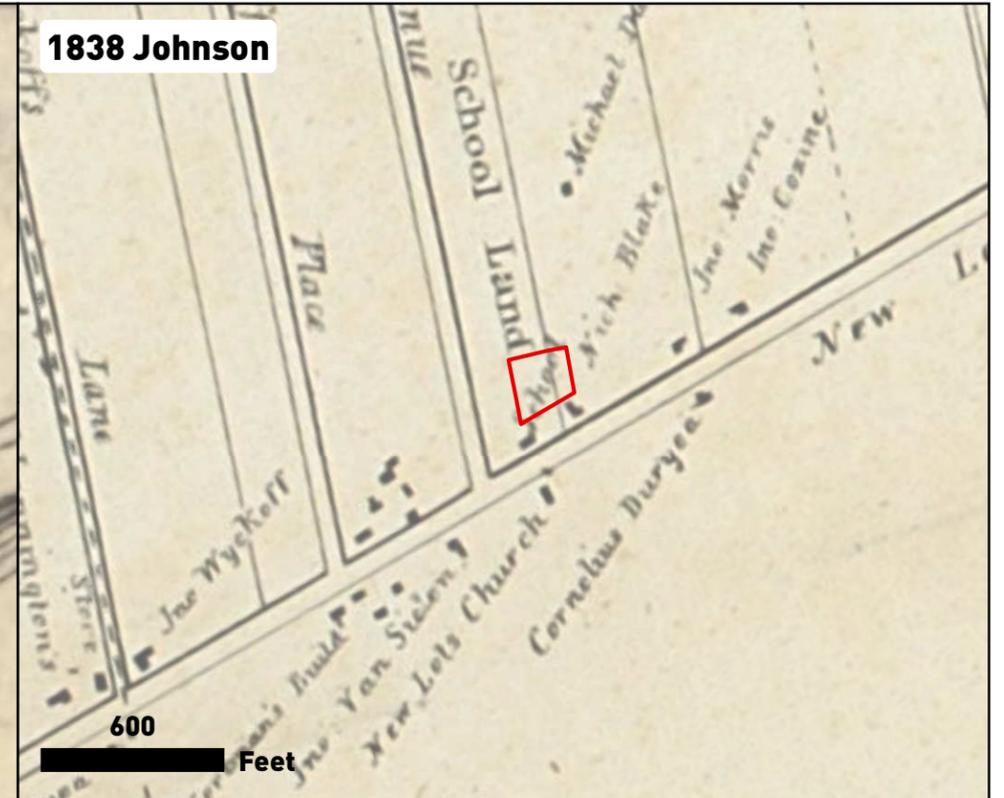
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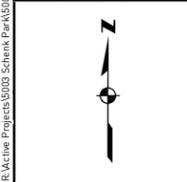
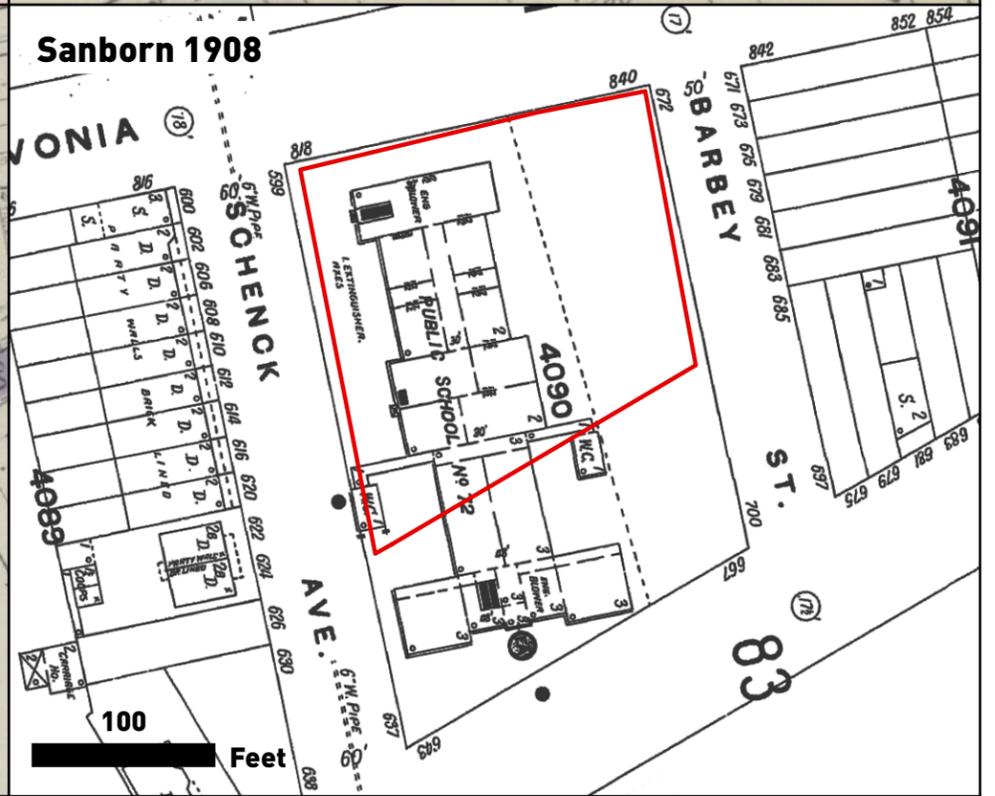
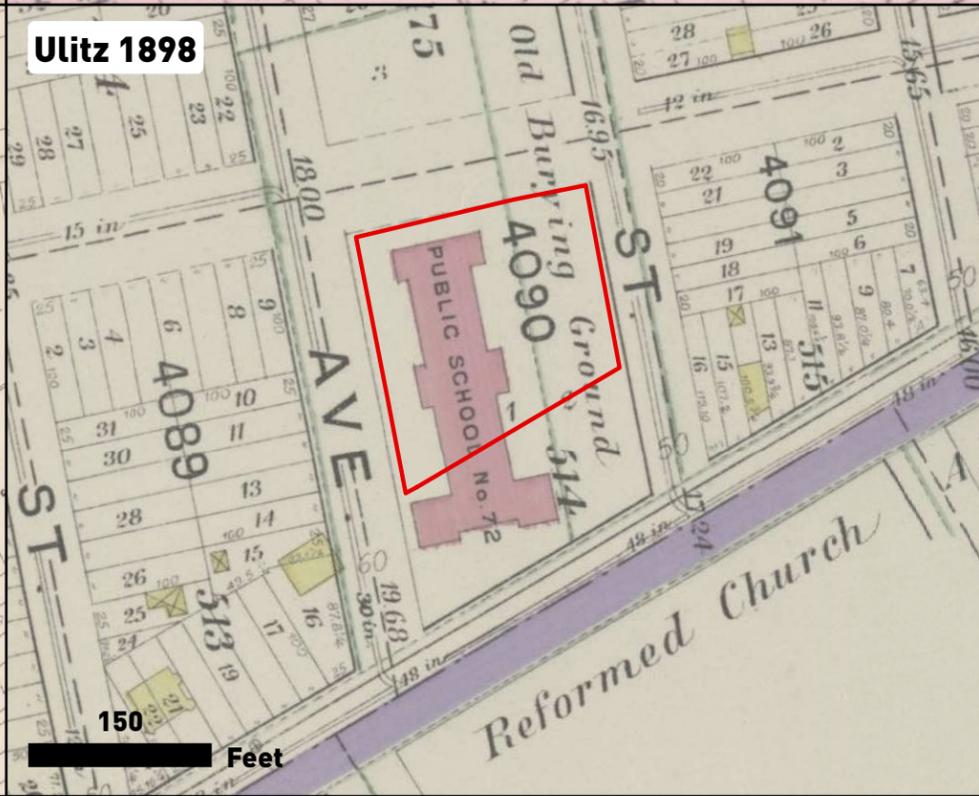
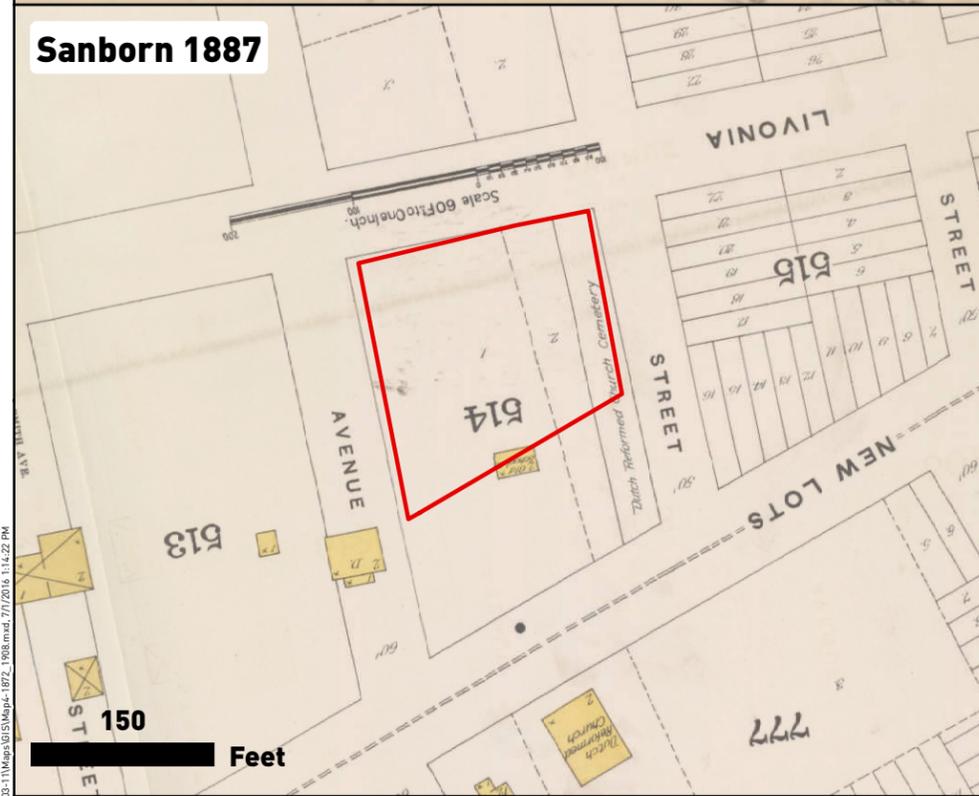
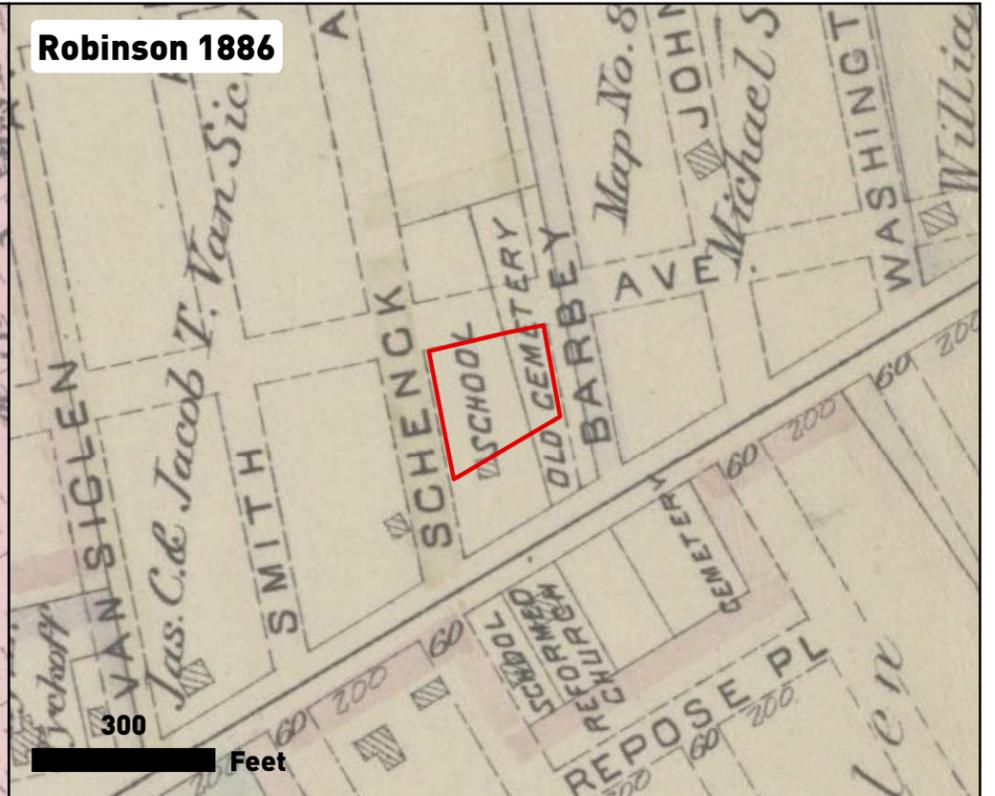
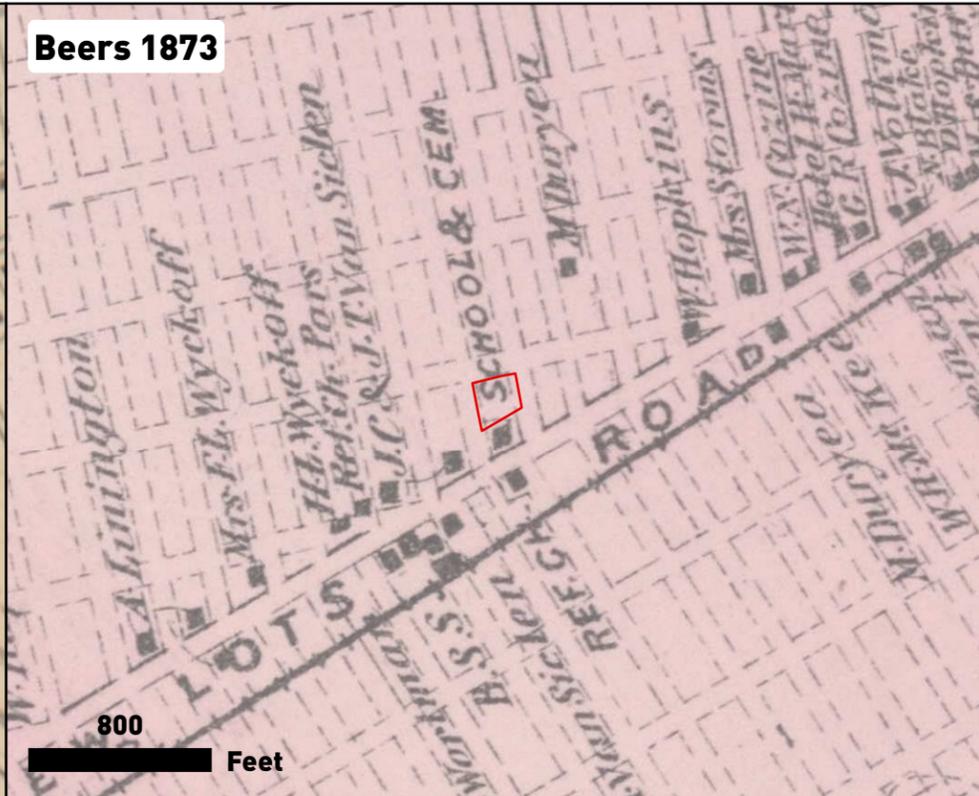
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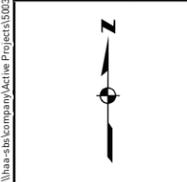
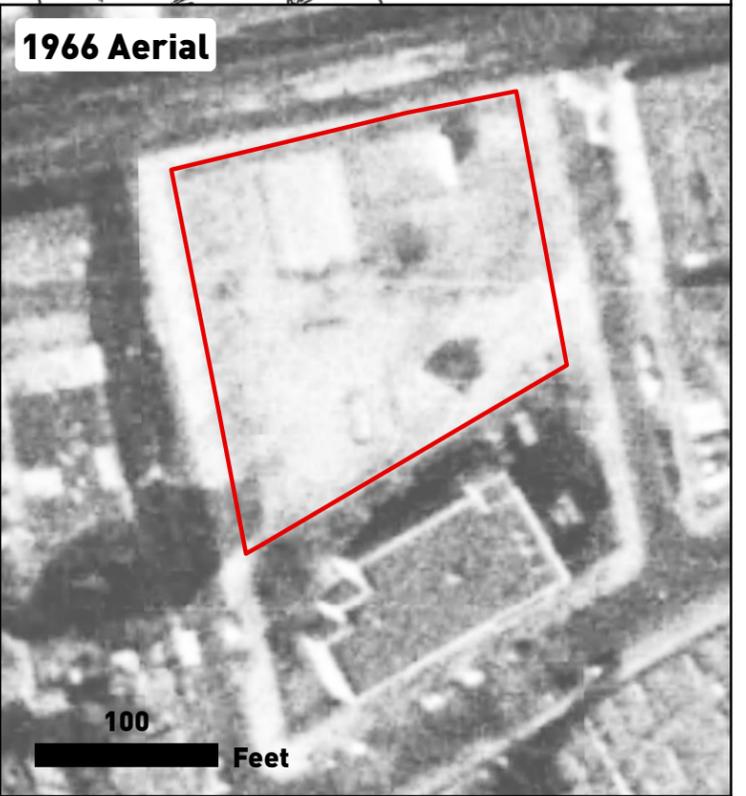
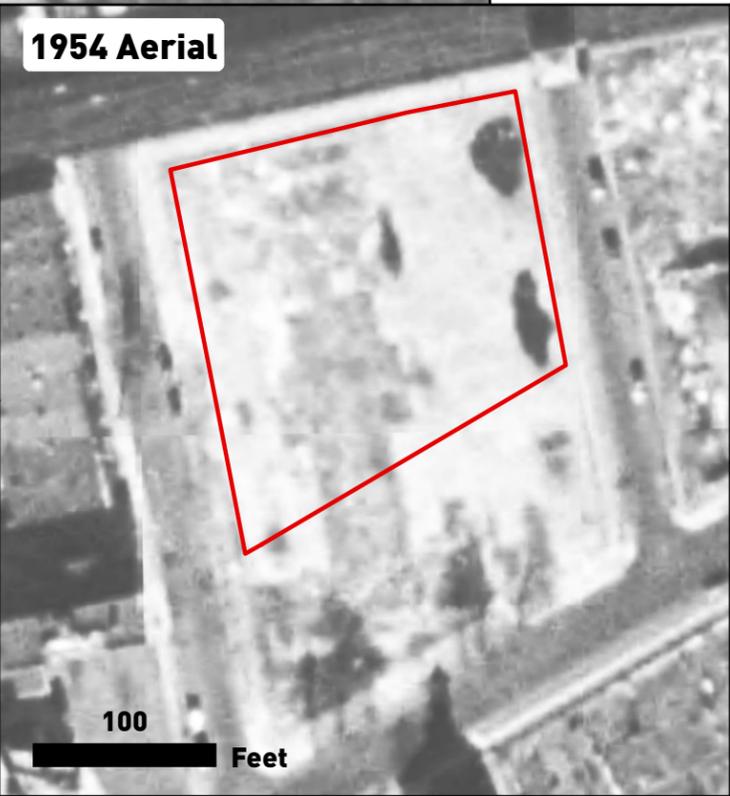
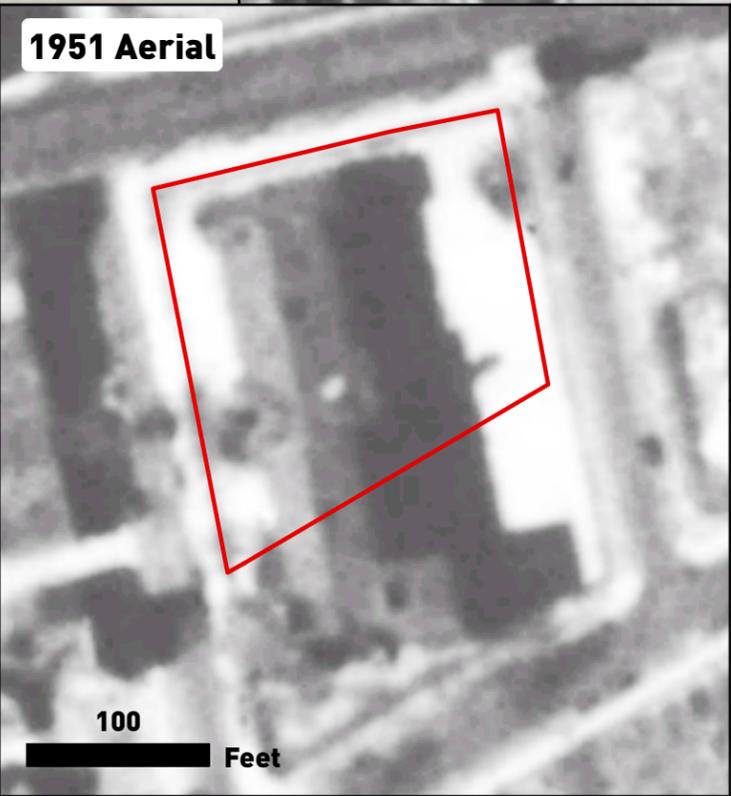
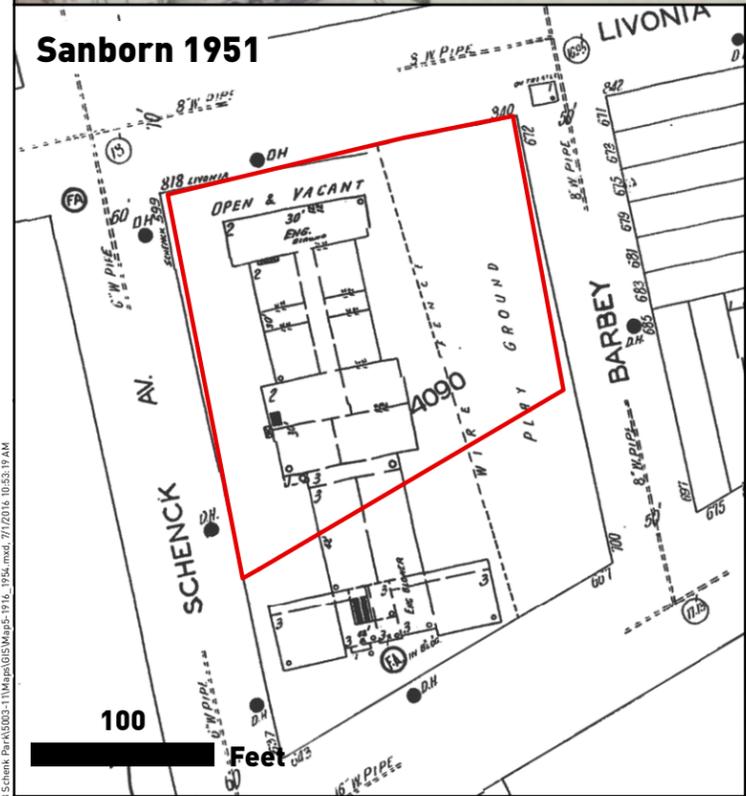
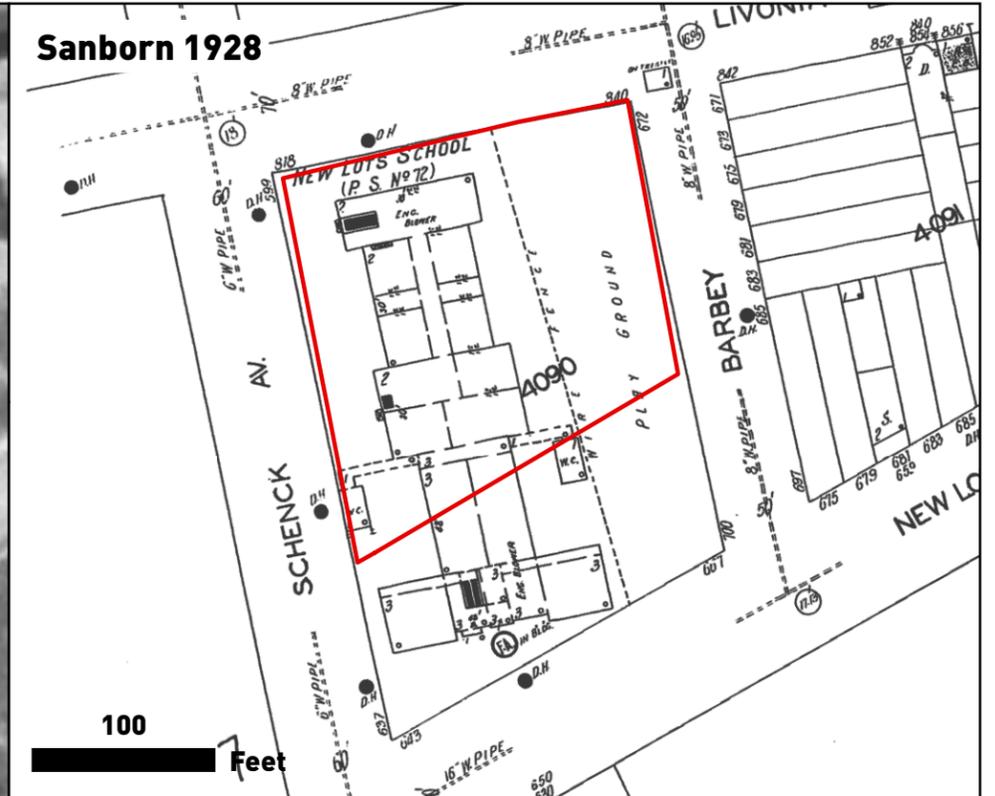
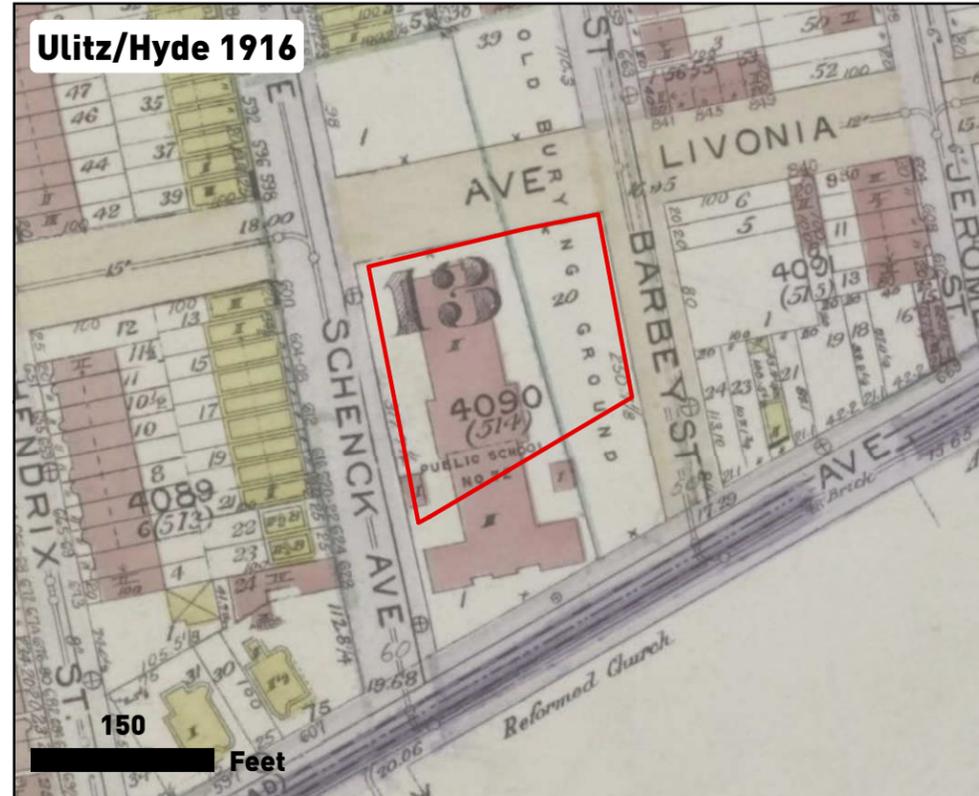
 Area of Potential Effects (APE)



**Legend**  
 Area of Potential Effects (APE)



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**Legend**

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

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## **Photographs**



Photo 1. View south along the Barbey Street entrance to the playground. With the exception of small areas around each tree, the entire ground surface within the Project Area is hardscape. The terrain in the Project Area is level at an elevation equivalent to the surrounding streets. The New Lots Branch Library is visible in the background.



Photo 2. View southwest of the Project Area showing park furniture, a flag pole, and the comfort station. In the foreground is a storm drain manhole cover. The Schenk Avenue playground entrance is at far right. The New Lots Branch Library, at far left, is outside of the Project Area.



Photo 3. View northwest of the comfort station which is connected to buried gas and water lines.



Photo 4. View north of the basketball and handball courts. The small utility cover in the foreground is associated with a buried water line.



Photo 5. View west across the Project Area toward Schenk Avenue.



Photo 6. View east across the Project Area toward Barbey Street.



Photo 7. View south along the Barbey Street fence line showing a storm drain in the basketball court.

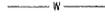
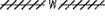
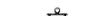
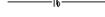
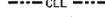


Photo 8. Plaque mounted at 683 Barbey Street.

## **Figures**



## Legend

	REMOVE REINFORCED CONCRETE PAVEMENT
	REMOVE CEMENT CONCRETE PAVEMENT
	EXISTING CONCRETE CURB
	EXISTING CURB TO BE REMOVED
	EXISTING WATER LINE
	EXISTING DRAINAGE STRUCTURE
	EXISTING STORM DRAINAGE LINE
	PIPE TO BE ABANDONED (TYPE OF SERVICE)
	EXISTING GAS SERVICE
	STREET LAMPOST WITH EXISTING FLOODLIGHT TO REMAIN
	FIRE HYDRANT
	EXISTING TREE
	TEMPORARY WOODEN TREE GUARD
	EXISTING WOOD & STEEL BENCH ON PIERS
	EXISTING CONCRETE GAME TABLE
	EXISTING CANTILEVERED BASKETBALL BACKBOARD ON CHAIN LINK FENCE
	EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE ON PIERS (NUMBER DENOTES HEIGHT)
	EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE ON CURB (NUMBER DENOTES HEIGHT)
	EXISTING 5'-6" PICKET FENCE ON CURB
	REMOVE EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE ON CURB (NUMBER DENOTES HEIGHT)
	REMOVE EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE ON PIERS (NUMBER DENOTES HEIGHT)
	CONTRACT LIMIT LINE
	ITEM TO BE REMOVED
	N.P.I.P. PROJECT SIGN
	DPR STANDARD DETAIL REFERENCE SYMBOL
	TREE TO BE REMOVED
	PROPOSED TREE
	PROPOSED TYPE 'K' WATER LINE (SIZE & DIRECTION OF PITCH)
	PROPOSED STORM DRAINAGE LINE (SIZE & MATERIAL)
	PROPOSED TYPE A DRINKING FOUNTAIN
	PROPOSED QUICK COUPLER & VACUUM BREAKER CHAMBER
	PROPOSED REMOVABLE SPRAY SHOWER
	PROPOSED GATE VALVE & SIZE
	PROPOSED GLOBE VALVE & SIZE
	EXISTING CURB WATER VALVE & BOX
	PROPOSED DRY WELL (3'X3'X3')

## Utilities Plan

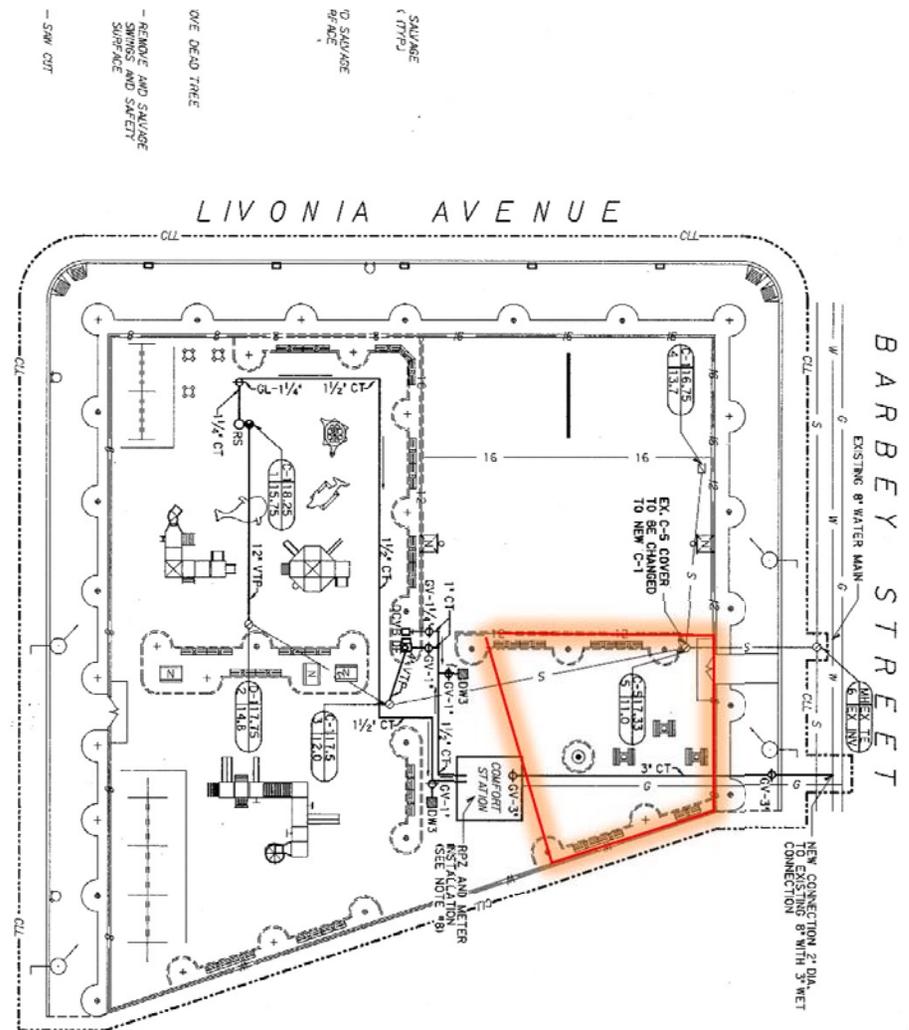


Figure 2. The utilities within the playground and the proposed area of archeological survey.

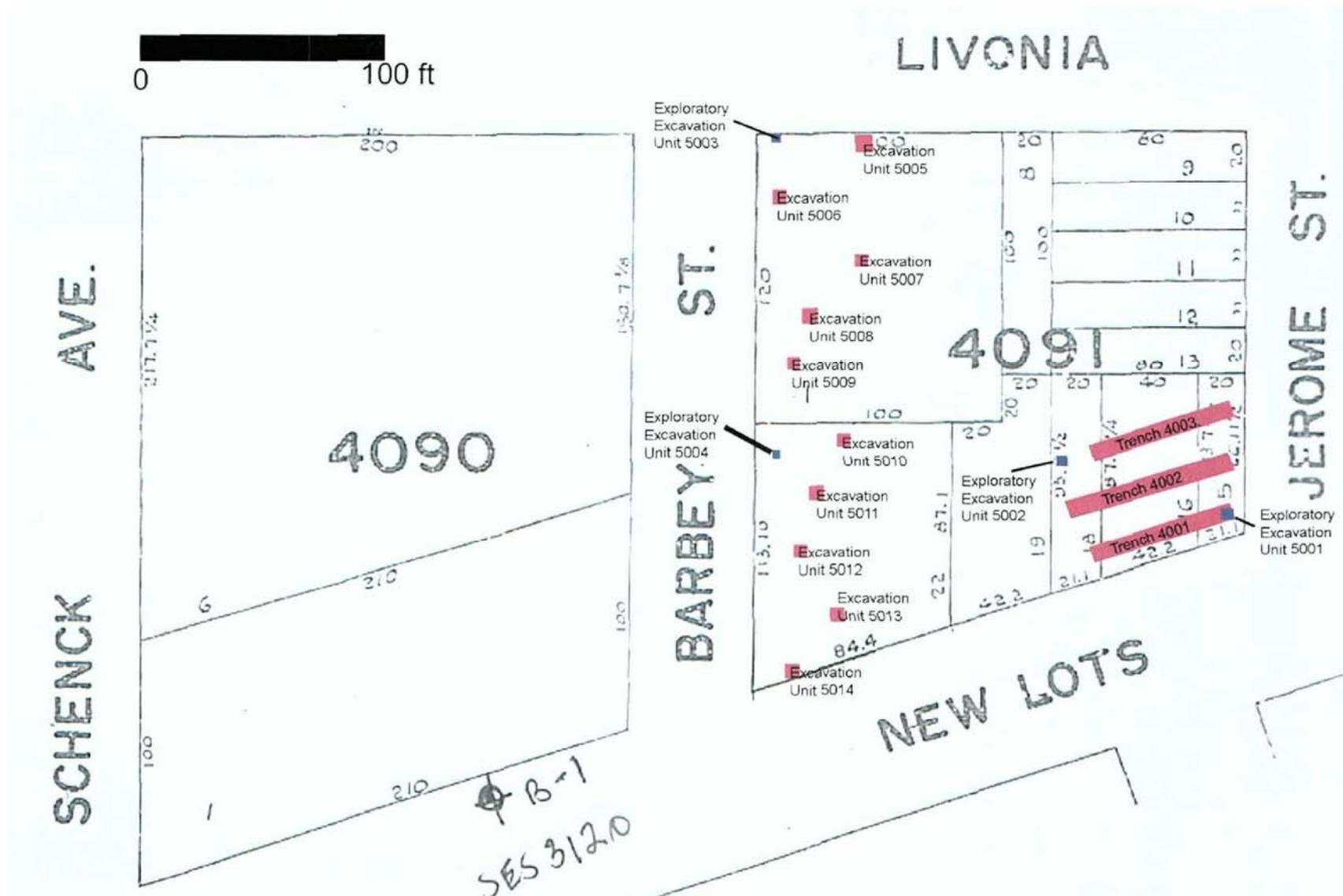


Figure 3. A sketch of the previous archeological work conducted on the east side of Barbey Street, across from Schenck Playground in 2008. (Greenhouse 2008: Fig. 2)



Figure 4. The Duryea House circa 1913 at its relocated site along Jerome Street. Originally the house stood just east of the Schenck Playground. <http://www.tapeshare.com/NewLotsW.html>



Figure 5. The Van Siclen House, New Lots Road [Avenue] and Van Sicklen Avenue, 1905 ca, v1981.15.130; Ralph Irving Lloyd lantern slides, v1981.15; Brooklyn Historical Society. The house was built about 1730 and was likely one of the oldest in the area until its demolition in the 1940s.



Figure 6. Colonel Isaac Schenck house along Jamaica Avenue about 1900, Brooklyn Museum/Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection, 1996.164.1-14.

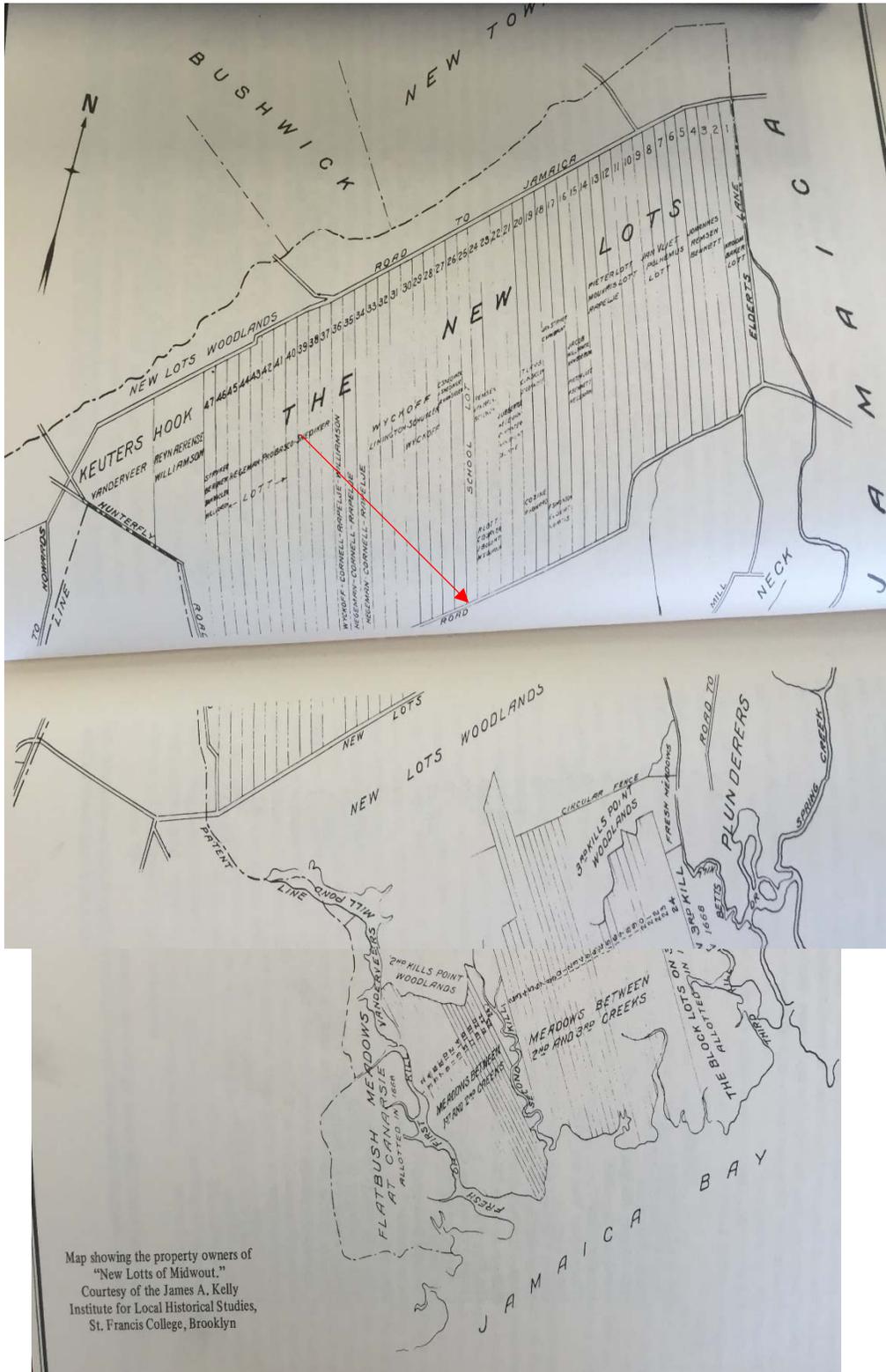


Figure 7. An overview of the early land partitions within New Lots during the late 17<sup>th</sup> century (Landesman 1977).

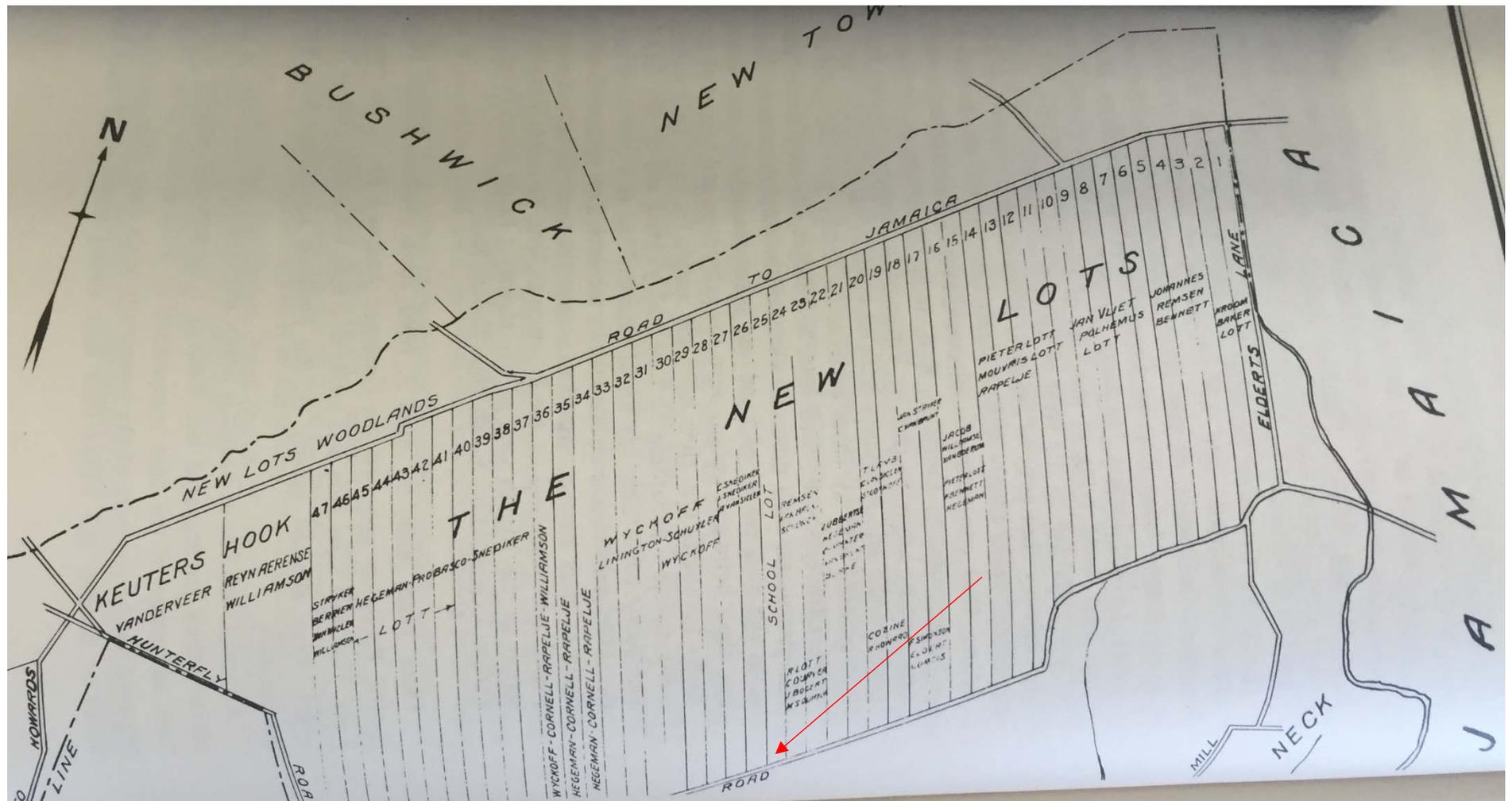


Figure 8. Detail of the early land partitions of New Lots, the arrow indicates the Dutch Reformed Church and school lot. The partitions suggest that New Lots Avenue was an important travel-way in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and perhaps earlier.



Figure 9. The relocated New Lots District School, circa 1913. The school house was purportedly moved to 639 Barbey Street about 1888 after the construction of the new, larger brick structure known as Public School 72 (Peter Rapelje collection, <http://www.tapeshare.com/NewLotsW.html>).

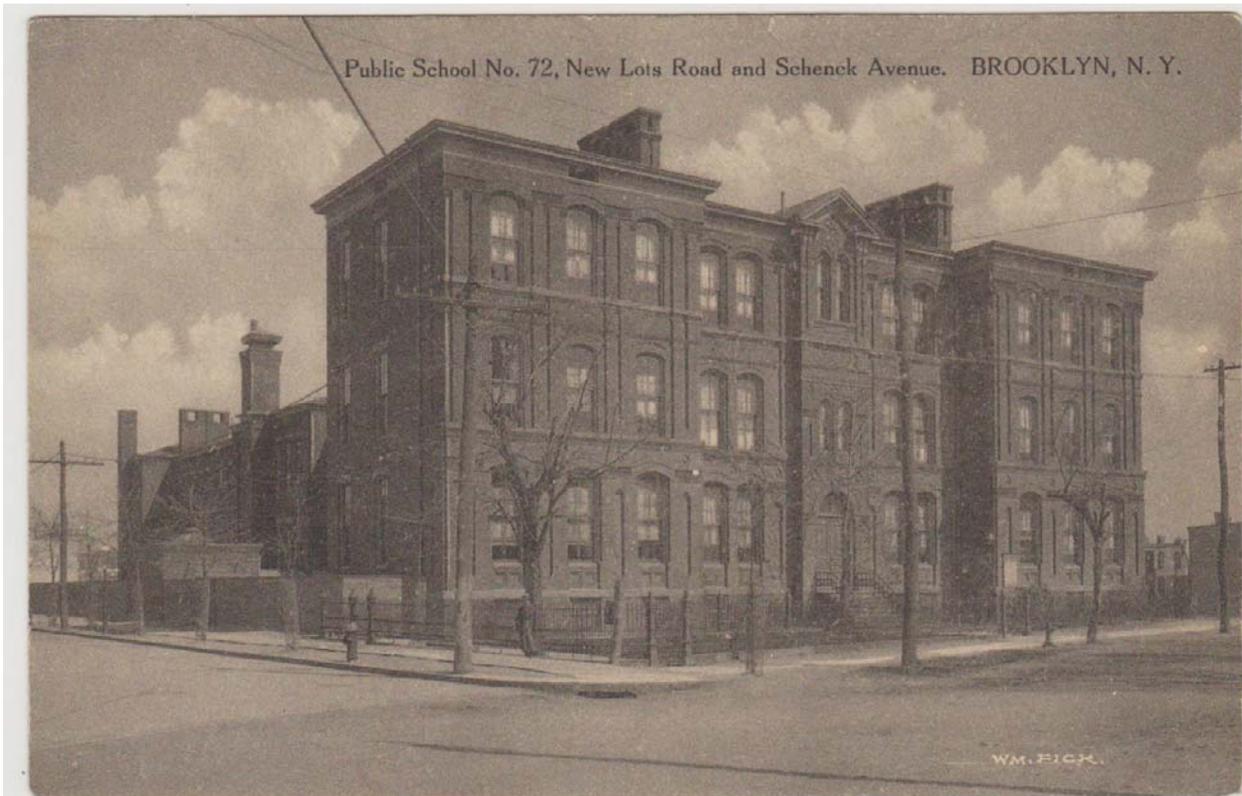


Figure 10. A circa 1900s postcard, that depicts Public School 72 looking northeast. The old New Lots cemetery is not visible in this view.



Figure 11. Public School 72 circa 1931. By this time the city had taken control of the cemetery to the east and converted the lot into a playground. The new playground is just out of view to the right.  
<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47dc-dc04-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>



Figure 12. An undated photo of New Lots Dutch Reformed Church and its associated Sunday School building (likely 1910s). The view is to the southeast, <http://dcmny.org/islandora/object/photosnycbeyond%3A23471>



Figure 13. Circa 1929 view of the New Lots Dutch Reformed Church and cemetery as viewed to the northwest, <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47dc-dc08-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>.



Figure 14. Eugene Armbruster's circa 1922 view of the old New Lots Cemetery looking northwest towards Livonia Avenue and the IRT Line (elevated tracks) that were completed about that year. Towards the left is the rear of Public School 72 and its associated wooden high-board fence, (New-York Historical Society, <http://dcmny.org/islandora/object/photosnycbeyond%3A20397>).

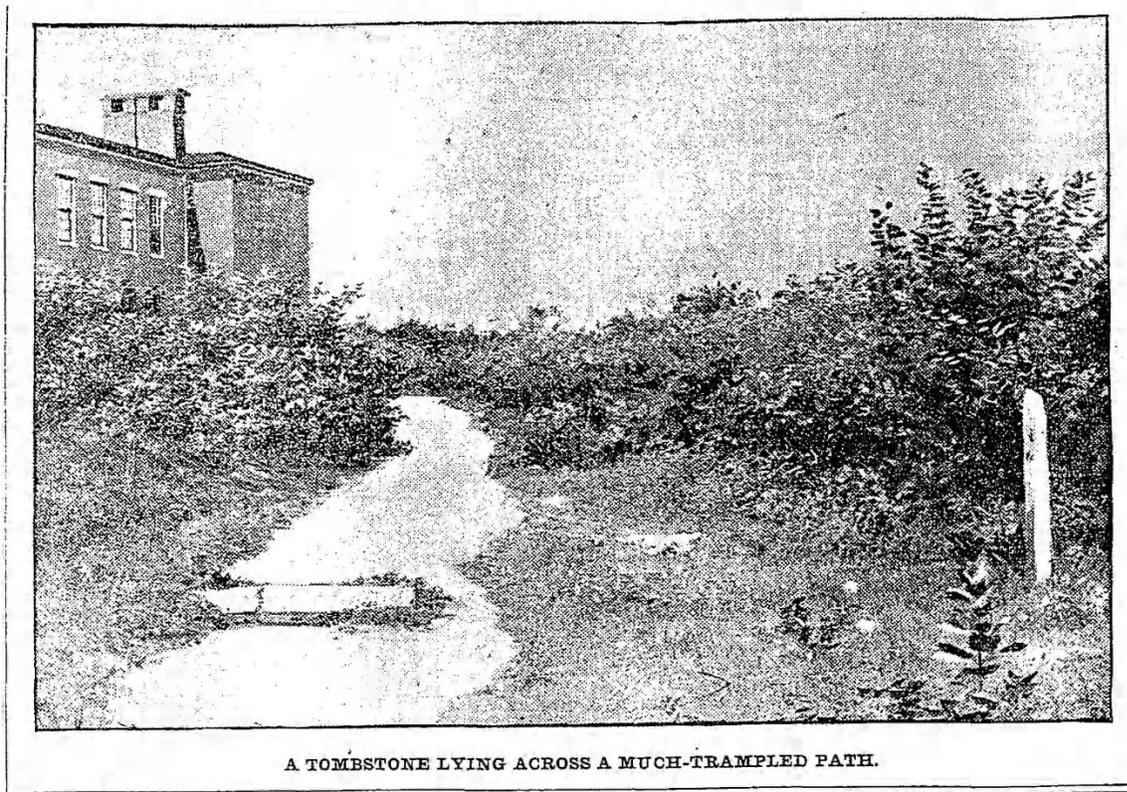


Figure 15. A newspaper account of the old New Lots cemetery provided this view towards the northwest of the cemetery with the northeast corner of Public School 72 visible. Although there is some distortion in the photograph, the ground appears to slope upwards towards the north and west. (The Brooklyn Daily Eagle 1900)

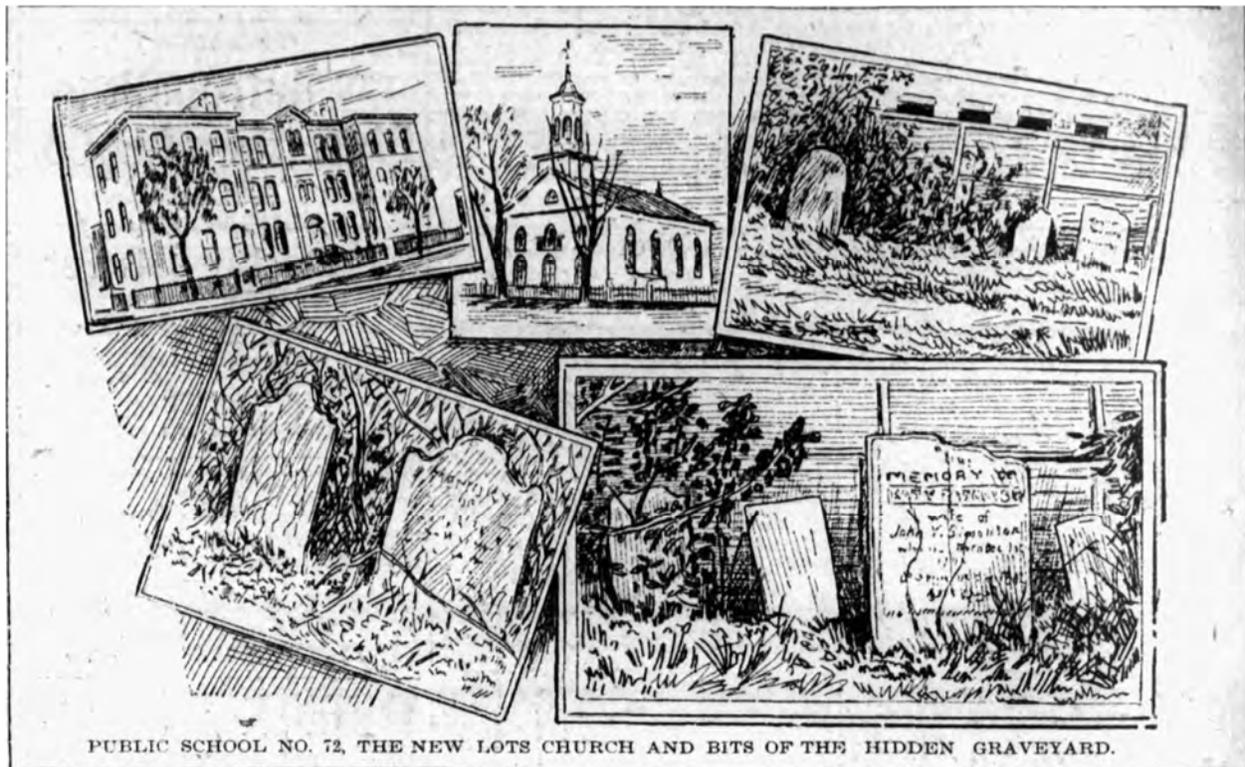


Figure 16. These renderings of the cemetery in 1902 appear to confirm the present of the wooden high-board fence between the school and the cemetery, as well as the generally dilapidated state of the cemetery at the time. (The Daily Standard Union 1902)

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ing Neatly Done.

Figure 17. A business directory advertisement in Brooklyn that suggests the growing concern with formal burials and funerals, that included more ornate coffins and burial rituals in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Hamilton 1874).

**Appendix 1: Teunis Bergen New Lots Cemetery Transcription Notes  
(Brooklyn Historical Society)**

BobCat &gt;

**BobCat**

brooklyn cemetery inscriptions by teun

Limit to All items

that contain my query words

Anywhere in the record

Search

[Advanced Search](#) | [New Search](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Back to results list](#)Displaying result **1** of **2****Brooklyn headstone inscriptions, circa 1864.**

cover

Teunis G. Bergen 1806-1881 transcriber

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Available: Brooklyn Historical Society Archives - Manuscripts (1973.125 )

**Author/Creator:** Teunis G. Bergen 1806-1881 transcriber**Subjects:** Cemeteries -- New York (State) -- Kings County; Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.); Bushwick (New York, N.Y.); Flatbush (New York, N.Y.); Flatlands (New York, N.Y.); Gravesend (New York, N.Y.); New Utrecht (New York, N.Y.)**Restrictions/Permissions:** Open to researchers without restriction.**Notes: Summary:** The Brooklyn headstone inscriptions consist of a single bound volume containing handwritten transcriptions of headstone inscriptions from cemeteries in the Brooklyn area, recorded by Teunis G. Bergen, circa 1864. Included in the volume are inscriptions from the Vechte Burying Ground and the Schenk Burying Ground; cemeteries in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bushwick and Bedford-Stuyvesant; and cemeteries in the towns of New Utrecht, Flatlands, New Lots, Gravesend, and Flatbush, which were all annexed by the City of Brooklyn in the 1880s and 1890s. The

transcriptions are organized according to cemetery and list the name of the deceased, the date of death, and in some instances, the date of birth and/or age of the deceased at the time of death. The inscriptions date from the 17th century through the mid-19th century.

**Related Titles: Indexes:** Finding Aid Available Online:

**Language:** English

**Publication Date:** 1854

**Description:** 0.08 linear feet (in 1 folder)

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Inscriptions from Tomb Stones in the old & new burying grounds of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Lots.

A.

- B. Boorum Magdalena, w. of Dominicus Vanderwee  
d. May 1. 1824 ag. 65y. 10 m. 5 d.
- ✓ Bergen Sarah, w. of Hendrick Emans, d. Sept. 15. 1814  
ag. 60y. 5 m. 19 d.
- Blake John, s. of John & Notchie, d. Sept. 15. 1821 ag. 29y. 6 m.
- " Peter G S, d. Apr. 5. 1852 ag. 34y. 6 m.
- " Sarah da. of John & Mary Theresa Blake, d. Nov. 3. 1833 ag. 34y.
- " John, d. Aug. 7. 1828 ag. 82y. 1 m. 4 d.
- " Courtland, s. of John & Notchie Blake, d. Oct. 14. 1809 ag. 20y 2 m. 9 d.  
(4y. 7 m. 10 d.)
- " William Alexander, s. of John & Mary Blake, b. Feb. 10. 1807, d. Sep. 28. 1811 ag.
- " John, s. of Nicholas & Elizabeth Blake, d. Aug. 31. 1847 ag. 14. 8 m.
- Bennet Phoebe, w. of Winant Bennet, d. Oct. 27. 1813 ag. 24y. 8 m. 10 d.
- ✓ " Ferdinand, d. Apr. 12. 1843 ag. 33y. 2 m. 4 d.

Boorum Magdalena, w. of Dominicus Vanderwee, d. May 1. 1824 ag. 65-10-5

C

- Cornell Isaac, d. Nov. 30. 1807 ag. 55y. 8 m.
- " Ann, d. Jan. 19. 1835 ag. 81y. 4 m. 14 d.
- " Johannes, s. of Isaac & Ann Cornell, d. Oct. 19. 1803 ag. 21y. 25 d.
- " Cornelia da. of Johannes & Maria Cornell, d. Aug. 29. 1822 ag. 66y. 3 m. 12 d.
- " Maria, w. of Johannes Cornell, d. Mar. 23. 1810 ag. 75y. 6 m. 23 d.
- " Isaac, b. July 13. 1791, d. May 14. 1836 ag. 44y. 9 m. 29 d.

- Cochran John Jay, s. of Hugh & Sarah Cochran, d. May 4. 1850, ag. 8 m. 19 d.
- " Hugh Whitney " " " d. May 16. 1854, ag. 5 m. 24 d.
- " Johanna " " " d. Apr. 1. 1859, ag. 39. 11 m. 14 d.
- Chaffee Sarah Jane, w. of Dr. H. T. Chaffee, d. Feb. 14. 1853 ag. 24y. 1 m. 11 d.

NL 085

- Cozine Garret t, d. Aug. 21: 1840 in 76: 4. (af. 9 m.
- " Edmund Vanderwee, s. of Jacob & Jane Kabelle Cozine, d. Feb. 11: 1836
- " Jeronimus K, s. of John & Sarah Cozine, d. Nov. 26: 1846 of. 40 y. 10 m. 9 d.
- " John, d. Sep. 11: 1852 of. 82 y. 5 m. 2 d.
- " John V, d. Aug. 11: 1853 of. 55 y. 4 d.
- " Elizabeth, w. of John V Cozine, d. Sep. 25: 1832 of. 28 y. 9 m. 25 d.
- " James T Sproull, s. of Jacob & Jane Cozine, d. June 24: 1841 of. 18 y. 4 m.
- " Elizabeth Van Brunt, w. of Garret Cozine, d. Feb. 7: 1853, in her 65: 4.
- " Sarah Jane, w. of Joseph Knop & eldest da. of Jacob & Kabelle Cozine, d. Feb. 24: 1862 of. 43 y. 7 m. 24 d.

- Conover Johann Eldert, d. Aug. 28: 1842 of. 19. 3 m. 4 d.
- " Garret, d. Sept. 13: 1854 of. 15 y. 5 m.

- D. Duryea Cornelius, s. of Christian & Hannah Duryea, d. Aug. 5: 1839, of. 44 y. (3 m. 4 d.
- " Sarah Matilda, da. of Michael & Lucretia Duryea, d. Jan. 14: 1833 of. 5 m.
- " Christian, d. July 28: 1830 of. 79 y.
- " Hannah Striker, w. of Christian Duryea, d. Nov. 5: 1841 of. 70 y. 6 m. 5 d.
- " Harry, s. of Garret & Eve Duryea, d. Mar. 2: 1846 of. 22 y. 8 m. 22 d.
- " Helen, da. " " " " d. Nov. 7: 1826 of. 104. 10 m. 13 d.
- " Abraham, s. " " " " d. Sept. 1: 1837 of. 14. 9 m. 7 d.
- " Christina Todd, w. of Garret Duryea, a native of Australher, Tife shire, Scotland, d. July 22: 1856 of. 49 y. (114. 5 m.
- " Hannah Matilda, da. of Michael & Lucretia Duryea, d. July 30: 1852 of.

- Drew Mychoff, s. of John & Maria Drew, d. May 24: 1851 of. 28 y. 8 m. 24 d.
- " Gitty Ann, w. of John Drew, d. Oct. 28: 1852, of. 32 y. 2 m. 22 d.
- " Catharine w. of Martin Van Sickle, d. Jan. 20: 1822 of. 27-7-7

X Decker Hannah, w. of Stephen L, d. Mar. 5: 1849 of. 40 y. 11 m. 9 d.

- E. J. Eldert Hendrick, d. Apr. 27: 1793 of. 444. 2 m. 11 d.
- " Ann, de. of Hendrick Eldert, d. July 27: 1813, of. 14. 9 m. 15 d.
- ✓ " Abraham Schenk, s. of Hendrick & Sarah Eldert, d. Aug. 25: 1811 of. 10 m. 22 d.
- ✓ " Margaret Kyder, w. of Cornelius Eldert, d. June 30: 1817 of. 334. 6 m. 2 d.
- ✓ " John, s. of Cornelius & Margaret Eldert, d. Oct. 24: 1817, of. 74. 8 m. 7 d.
- ✓ " Maria, de. of Johannes H. & Susan Eldert, d. May 3: 1839, of. 254. 9 m. 12 d.
- " Eliza, d. Nov. 12: 1834 of. 254
- ✓ " Johannes H., d. Mar. 24: 1834 of. 534.
- ✓ " Hendrick, d. Feb. 27: 1829, of. 454. 8 m. 25 d. (27 d.)
- ✓ " Maria widow of Isaac Eldert, b. Oct. 4: 1758, d. July 31: 1858 of. 904. 3 m.
- ✓ " Johannes, b. Sep. 4: 1778, d. Dec. 8: 1857 of. 794. 3 m. 4 d. (2 m. 23 d.)
- ✓ " Sarah widow of Johannes Eldert, b. Feb. 11: 1782, d. May 5: 1860 of. 784.
- ✓ " Wyckoff, b. July 1: 1812, d. Mar. 10: 1858 of. 454. 10 m. 9 d.
- ✓ " Isaac, d. Dec. 15: 1841, of. 374. 1 m. 29 d.
- ✓ " Gilliam, d. June 6: 1857, of. 654. 6 m. 14 d.
- ✓ " Cornelia C., de. of Abm. & Phoebe Van Sicklein & w. of Gilliam Eldert,  
d. May 23: 1857 of. 284. 25 d.

- Emmans Hendrick, d. Jan. 4: 1822 of. 744. 1 m. 15 d.
- " Sarah Kruger, w. of Hendrick Emmans, d. Sep. 15: 1814 of. 604. 5 m. 19 d.
- " Luke, d. Nov. 24: 1850 of. 674. 10 m. 20 d.
- " Martha, w. of Luke Emmans, d. Aug. 8: 1857 of. 684. 4 m. 20 d.
- " Sarah, de. of Luke & Martha Emmans, d. Oct. 11: 1825, of. 64. 8 m. 23 d.
- " Caroline " " " " d. May 6: 1825, of. 44. 4 m. 2 d.

- Edwards Thomas H., s. of Lewis & Catharine Edwards, d. Apr. 3: 1843, of. 14. 6 m. 17 d.
- " Nathaniel " " " " d. May 26: 1857 of. 24. 7 m. 4 d.

- Edmond Elizabeth, d. of Robert & Mary R. Edmond, d. Aug. 15: 1843, of. 9 m. 19 d.

F

G

- H Howard Jane w. of Joseph Howard, d. Nov. 27. 1823 of. 569. 5 m. 26 d.
- " Joseph, d. Aug. 2. 1812 of. 524. 3 m. 7 d. (4 m. 10 d.)
- " Mary Louisa, d. of Whithead & Carissa Howard, d. Aug. 27. 1820, of.
- " Whithead, s. of " " " " d. May 11. 1827, of. 14. 7 m. 10 d.
- " William Niblo " " " " d. May 17. 1826, of. 4 m. 8 d.
- " Joseph W " " " " d. May 31. 1832 of. 20 d. (224. 4 m. 27 d.)
- " Christopher, s. of William & Jane Howard, b. July 12. 1802, d. Dec. 9. 1824, of. (8 m. 20 d.)
- " Joseph, s. of " " " b. Oct. 25. 1804, d. July 14. 1829, of. 249.

- Hulst John, d. May 16. 1840 of. 629.
- " Catharine, w. of John Hulst, d. Sep. 16. 1840 of. 609.
- " Anthony, d. Feb. 6. 1817 of 909. 30 d.
- " Altea, w. of Anthony Hulst, d. May 30. 1808, of. 789. 7 m. 8 d.
- " Peter, d. Aug. 31. 1846, of. 599. 1 m. 9 d.
- " Garret, d. July 5. 1791, of. 269. 8 m. 27 d.

- Hegeman Emma Jane, d. of W<sup>m</sup> & Emma Hegeman, d. Mar. 9. 1856 of. 44. 1 m. 17 d.
- " Anna B, adipsa d. of " " " d. July 21. 1860 of. 44. 9 m. 19 d.
- " Martha, d. June 12. 1859 of. 739. 4 m.
- " George H, s. of John & Jane E Hegeman, d. July 23. 1860, 5 m. 27 d.
- " Wyncent B, s. of Joseph & Gitty Ann Hegeman, d. Feb. 15. 1847, of. 169. 5 m. 14 d.

Howell John Anderson, s. of Oliver & Ada Howell, d. July 21: 1829, ag. 34. 11 m.

" Elizabeth, d. " " " d. Feb. 7: 1861, ag. 27 y. 8 d.

11

K Knox Sarah Jane, w. of Joseph Knox & eldest da. of Jacob & Jane Trubille  
Cazine, d. Feb. 24: 1862, ag. 43 y. 7 m. 26 d. (11 m. 13 d.)  
" Ellen Lucretia, da. of Joseph & Sarah Jane Knox, d. Jan. 16: 1851, ag.

Kiefer Francis G. s. of Michael & Marie Kiefer, d. Oct. 12: 1822, ag. 17. 11 m. (12 d.)

L Lott Fannette, widow of Johannes Lott, d. Oct. 28: 1802, ag. 74 y. 9 m. 5 d.

✓ " Jurian, s. of Christopher Lott, d. Sep. 19: 1819, ag. 19 y. 2 m. 20 d.

✓ " Harriet, da. of Thomas & Jane Lott, d. Apr. 8: 1824, ag. 9 y. 7 m. 3 d.

✓ " Christopher, d. Feb. 3: 1803, ag. 45 y. 6 d.

✓ " Johannes F., d. Mar. 2: 1807, ag. 54 y. 3 m. 15 d.

✓ " Elizabeth Campbell, da. of Christopher Lott, d. Apr. 15: 1827, ag. 33 y. 10 m. 12 d.

✓ " Jane, d. Oct. 28: 1832, in 69<sup>th</sup> y.

✓ " Marie, d. Jan. 22: 1804, ag. 80 y. 10 m. 15 d.

✓ " John C., d. Aug. 27: 1846, ag. 57 y. 6 m. 23 d. (9 m. 23 d.)

✓ " Fannetta Van Sinderen, da. of Christopher & Lydie Lott, d. Aug. 4: 1840, ag.

✓ " Maria, da. of John & Ada Lott, d. Nov. 27: 1850, ag. 37 y. 1 m. 21 d.

✓ " Jurrien, d. Nov. 27: 1800, ag. 50 y. 8 m. 17 d.

Livingston Henry, d. July 13<sup>th</sup> 1864, cf. 754. 5 m. 8 d.

" Nicholas, d. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1837, cf. 654

(54. 5 d.

" John Henry, s. of John & Marie Livingston, d. Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> 1855, cf.

Lawrence Gideon Tooker, s. of James & Abraham, d. Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> 1825, cf. 13 m. 11 d.

" Patience Wyckoff, w. of W<sup>m</sup> G. Lawrence, d. Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> 1862, cf. 73-6-2

" Cornelia C. M., d. of W<sup>m</sup> & Patience Lawrence, d. Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> 1829, cf. 0-5-25

M Millsbaugh William E., s. of John & Ann Maria, d. Sep. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867, cf. 14. 5 m. 27 d.

" Alice Ann, d. of Ira & Maria, d. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 1853, cf. 10 m. 1 d.

" Jane Ann " " " d. Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> 1852, cf. 14.

" Anne Maria, w. of Ira Millsbaugh, d. Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 1853, cf. 284. 7 m. 3 d.

N

O

P Pettit Johannah, w. of Thomas Pettit, d. Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> 1837, cf. 444. 11 m. 4 d.

Q

R Ryder Margaret w. of Amos Ryder, d. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 1839, cf. 80-4.

✓ " " w. of Cor<sup>d</sup> Eldred, d. June 30<sup>th</sup> 1817, cf. 334. 6 m. 2 d.

" Amos, d. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1832, cf. 914.

Reuser Gertrude Cornelia, w. of Jerome Vanderveer, d. Sep. 4<sup>th</sup> 1860, cf. 25-4-2

- ✓ Kapelye Daniel, d. Oct 15. 1822 of. 46y. 20d.
- ✓ " Peter, d. Apr. 24. 1802 of. 51y. 3 m. 26d.
- ✓ " Simon, d. Jan. 10. 1829 of. 73y. 11 m. 12d.
- ✓ " Heiltie, w. of Simon, d. Jan. 26. 1820 of. 54y. 3 m. 16d.
- ✓ " Daniel, s. of Simon & Heiltie, d. July 26. 1835 of. 29y. 5 m. 8d.
- ✓ " Zida V. D. V. da. of William & Ann, d. Nov. 16. 1822 of. 44. 1 m. 27d.
- ✓ " John V. D. s. of William & Ann, d. Oct. 9. 1833 of. 6 m. 5 d.
- ✓ " Simon " " " d. May 9. 1827 of. 34. 3 m. 9 d.
- ✓ " John " " " d. June 14. 1828 of. 14. 2 m. 28d.
- ✓ " Zida V. D. " " " d. July 31. 1852 of. 44. 1 m. 9 d.
- ✓ " Johannes, b. Dec. 24. 1770, d. Apr. 19. 1810 of. 39y. 0 m. 5 d.
- ✓ " Johannes, s. of Johannes & Charity, b. Sep. 20. 1810, d. Sep. 29. 1810 of. 9 d.
- ✓ " Charity, Ven. Sichelin, w. of John Kapelye, d. Jan. 8. 1825, of. 41y. 9 m. 25 d.
- ✓ " Wrakea, b. May 12. 1769, d. Aug. 20. 1859
- ✓ " Jacob, b. July 17. 1794, d. Dec. 10. 1859

- Rumph John, d. Nov. 17. 1830 of. 21y. 2 m.
- " William, s. of Peter & Phibe, d. Aug. 5. 1829 of. 18y. 4 m. 14 d.
- " Adelta Ann, da. of David & Rebecca, d. June 18. 1825, of. 54. 0 m. 22 d.
- " David, d. Aug. 13. 1829, of. 50y. 9 m. 29 d.

- Person Liffert, d. Feb. 3. 1821 of. 53y. 4 m. 14 d.
- " Phibe, w. of Liffert, d. Sep. 18. 1813 of. 56 - 0 - 14
- " Martin, s. of John & Margaret, d. Nov. 27. 1821 of. 24 - 4 - 0
- " John, d. Oct. 5. 1824, of. 64 - 7 - 9
- " Eleanor Van Cott, w. of John, d. Oct. 6. 1823 of. 25 - 9 - 12
- " John, d. Feb. 16. 1832, of. 45y. 2 m. 10 d.
- " George, s. of John & Margaret, d. June 18. 1828 of. 23 - 8 - 29
- " William T. " " d. Nov. 26. 1829, of. 21 - 4 - 22
- " Margaret, w. of John, d. May 19. 1850 of. 52 - 9 - 23
- " Martin, s. of John & Maria, d. July 19. 1851, of. 0 - 3 - 23
- " Martin, d. Feb. 3. 1821, of. 53 - 4 - 14
- " Anne, w. of Martin, d. Sep. 17. 1797, of. 28 - 4 - 12

- S. Simonsen Ann Notchie, w. of John V., d. Dec. 31: 1847 of. 44-8-0  
 " Adrianna, d. Mar. 30: 1859 of. 81-4-0  
 " Sarah Theresa, d. of John V & Ann, d. Mar. 17: 1837 of. 0-6-11

- S. Suediker Isaac, d. Apr. 2<sup>d</sup>: 1837 of. 429. 6 m. 8 d.  
 " Agnes w. of Isaac, d. May 16: 1817, of. 80-10-18  
 " Isaac, d. Mar. 21: 1804 of. 40-9-5  
 " Isaac T., d. Feb. 1: 1804 of. 44-6-15  
 " Agnes, d. of Isaac & Anna, d. July 7: 1828 of. 23-6-15  
 " Agnes S., d. " " d. Mar. 1: 1801 of. 13-1-12  
 " Abraham, s. " " d. July 6: 1796 of. 28-11-6  
 " Catharine T., d. Sept. 9: 1796 of. 24-7-22  
 " Althea, d. of Luke & Anna, d. Oct. 22<sup>d</sup>: 1805, of. 3-4-27  
 " Margaret, w. of E. V. W., d. Mar. 26: 1848, of. 31-3-29  
 " Catharine, d. of " & Margaret, d. Dec. 10: 1846, of. 3-8-24  
 " Mary " " d. Jan. 12: 1846 of. 5-11-15  
 " Henry E. s. of Isaac & Cornelia, d. Oct. 3<sup>d</sup>: 1847 of. 0-8-21  
 " Anna, w. of Isaac, d. Nov. 8: 1841 of. 84-1-26  
 " Jacob, d. Sep. 20: 1859 of. 44-10-18

- ✓ Schenk Tunis, d. Dec. 29: 1841 of. 74-10-16  
 ✓ " Gitty, d. Nov. 20: 1860 of. 82-8-15  
 " Peter M., d. Nov. 18: 1841 - of. 12-0-0  
 " Alletta Jane, d. Mar. 3<sup>d</sup>: 1847 of. 2-5-0  
 " Walter, d. Apr. 11: 1841 of. 0-11-0

- Smith Phoebe, widow of Joseph, d. June 19: 1851 of. 80-6-22  
 " Jane, d. Oct. 2<sup>d</sup>: 1853 of. 59-4-15  
 " John H., s. of Abner & Deborah, d. Feb. 13: 1825 of. 1-10-2

T. Todd Christina, w. of Garret Duryea, d. July 29: 1856 in 49-4.

- V ✓ Van Sighlen Abraham, d. Mar. 22<sup>d</sup> 1830 of. 68y. 1 m. 24 d. <sup>b. Mar. 27. 1762</sup>
- ✓ " Cornelia, w. of Abm. d. Mar. 6: 1834 of. 78-11-0, <sup>b. Feb. 6. 1765</sup>
- ✓ " Abraham, s. of John & Maria, d. Aug. 18: 1827 of. 18y. 15 m. <sup>b. Aug. 3. 1809</sup>
- ✓ " Cornelia de. of Jacobus & Ida, d. Sep. 9: 1818 of. 0-0-11
- ✓ " John, d. July 8: 1845 of. 50-6-5, <sup>b. Dec. 3. 1786</sup>
- ✓ " Maria, w. of John, d. Sep. 30: 1850 of. 54-11-19 <sup>b. Aug. 11. 1795</sup>
- ✓ " Catharine Drew, w. of Martin K, d. Jan. 20: 1842 of. 27-7-7 <sup>b. June 13. 1814</sup>
- ✓ " Margaret F. de. of Abm & Phoebe, d. May 21: 1849 of. 9-6-14
- ✓ " Abraham, d. Mar. 17: 1854 of. 61-1-13
- ✓ " Charity w. of John Knapely, d. Jan. 8: 1845 of. 61-9-25 <sup>b. May 14. 1783</sup>
- ✓ " Cornelia C de. of Abm & Phoebe, & w. of Gilliam Eldert, d. May 23: 1857 of. <sup>(20-0-25)</sup>
- ✓ " Martin Nyerson, s. of Martin B & Phoebe, d. Nov. 10: 1854 of. 5-9-22 <sup>b. Jan. 18. 1849</sup>

- Vanderweer Johannes, d. Mar. 30: 1833 in 65:4. <sup>b. 1765</sup>
- " Katy, d. Apr. 3<sup>d</sup> 1829 in 50:4. <sup>b. 1779</sup>
- " Gretia, d. Mar. 13: 1825 in 78:4. <sup>b. 1747</sup>
- " Anne, d. Feb. 6: 1818 of. 49-11-2 <sup>b. 1764</sup>
- " John, d. May 2<sup>d</sup> 1817 of. 50-11-13 <sup>b. 1767</sup>
- " John, d. Dec. 7: 1808 in 63<sup>d</sup> 4. <sup>b. 1745</sup>
- ✓ " Magdalena Boerum, w. of Dominicus, d. May 1: 1824 of. 65-10-5 <sup>b. 1774</sup>
- ✓ " Dominicus, d. July 20: 1814 of. 53-6-3 <sup>b. 1761</sup>
- " Cornelia, de. of Jeronius & Phoebe, d. Apr. 13: 1816 of. 19 m. 14 d.
- " John, d. Mar. 6: 1861 of. 68-6-21 <sup>b. 1792</sup>
- " Stephen Lott, d. Nov. 11: 1842 of. 6 weeks
- " Henry, d. Nov. 4: 1857 of. 35-11-10
- " Susan, de. of Stephen L & Jane, d. Apr. 4: 1855 of. 0-9-12

Vanderveer Antreude Cornell Keuseu, w. of Jeronius, d. Ap. 6: 1840 ef. 25-4-2

Van Sinderen Wpian, d. July 22: 1825 ef. 40-0-20

" John D. s. of Holton & Jane Ann, d. Dec. 16: 1827 ef. 0-1-15

" Catalina, w. of Wpianus, d. Apr. 25: 1842 in 87: 4.

✓ Van Kunt Elsie, w. of Garret Cozine, d. Jan. 7: 1853 in 85: 4.

✓ " Mary R. P. de. of William & Catharina, d. Oct. 2: 1824 ef. 9-0-5

✓ " Stephen, d. May 20: 1847, ef. 56

✓ " Letty R. de. of Stephen & Frelove, d. July 16: 1849 ef. 32-4-18

Van Cott Ellan w. of John Ryerson, d. Oct. 6: 1843 ef. 25-9-12

Van Dyke Nelly de. of John & Margaret, d. June 27: 1822 ef. 47-8-3

W. Wyckoff Hendrick, d. Aug. 1: 1814 ef. 01-5-17

✓ " Alta, w. of Hendrick, d. May 28: 1806 ef. 70-6-10

✓ " Nicholas, b. Apr. 26: 1725, d. Jan. 15: 1824

" Maria, b. May 16: 1765, d. Apr. 12: 1824

✓ " Jacob, b. Feb. 19: 1797, d. May 8: 1834

" Patience, w. of Wm. G. Lawrence, d. Apr. 6: 1842 ef. 73-6-2

✓ " James K. B. d. Aug. 13: 1837 ef. 55 ef. 6m. 8d.

✓ " John, d. Ap. 29: 1820, d. June 12: 1850

✓ " Ferdinand Lott, b. Mar. 22: 1799, d. Jan. 24: 1859

✓ " Maria Lott, de. of Ferdinand & Sarah, d. Feb. 22: 1840 ef. 3-4-8

✓ " Peter Lott, s. " " d. Nov. 9: 1841 ef. 0-11-12

✓ " Sarah Suydam, de. " " d. July 12: 1847 ef. 1-1-16

