

**Phase IA Documentary Study and Archaeological  
Assessment for 45 Monroe Place (Block 237, Lot 1),  
Brooklyn Appellate Division Supreme Courthouse – Parking  
Reconstruction and Site Work, Brooklyn, Kings County,  
New York**



*Prepared for*

City of New York – Landmarks Preservation Commission  
City of New York – Department of Design and Construction  
CTA Architects

*Prepared by*

Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A., Principal Investigator and Elissa Rutigliano

*Edited by*

Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A. and Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A.

July 8, 2022

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Chrysalis) was retained by CTA Architects (CTA) to undertake a Phase IA Documentary Study and Archaeological Assessment for the Brooklyn Appellate Division Supreme Courthouse – Parking Reconstruction and Site Work located at 45 Monroe Place (Block 237, Lot 1), in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York (Map 1 and 2).

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NY SHPO) and the City of New York – Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYC LPC) determined the project impact area has potential archaeological significance and required this initial documentation as part of the overall project (NYC LPC 2022). The purpose of this Phase IA is to determine if the project area has the potential to retain significant archaeological cultural resources.

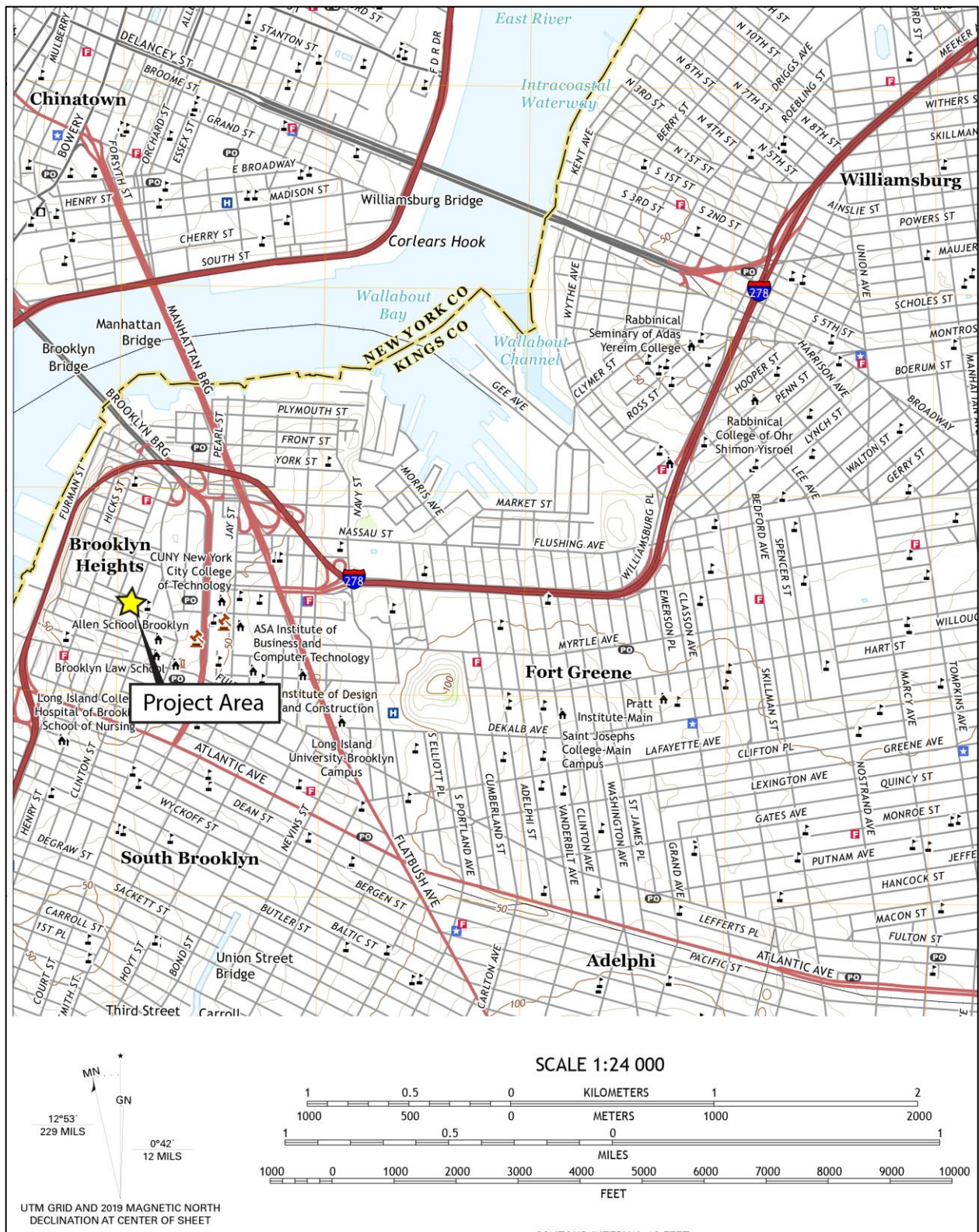
All work for this study was conducted in accordance with the NYC LPC’s Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City (NYC LPC 2018) and the NY SHPO guidelines (New York Archaeological Council [NYAC] 1994; 2000; 2002), which are subsequent to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s “Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties” (36 CFR 800), the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA), the (New York) State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the (New York) City Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQRA).

Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A., and Elissa Rutigliano authored this report. Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A, edited the report.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Block 237, Lot 1 forms the entirety of the project area. Block 237, Lot 1 is an inverted L-shaped lot. Its southwest corner is formed by the junction of Pierrepont Street and Monroe Place; it extends 148’ westerly along the northern side of Pierrepont Street and 240’ northerly along the western side of Monroe Place (Map 2). The project area forms the southeastern corner of Block 237, fronting Pierrepont Street (south) and Monroe Place (east). It is situated between Monroe Place and Henry Street (east-west) and Clark Street and Pierrepont Street (north-south).

The existing parking lot, fronting Pierrepont Street will be renovated. This forms the project’s Area of Potential Effect (APE). At present there are no further details regarding project plans.



Map 1: USGS Brooklyn Quad (United States Geological Survey 2019).



Map 2: OASIS Map (oasisnyc.net 2021).



## PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Brooklyn Appellate Division Supreme Court - Parking Reconstruction and Site Work, 45 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11201
Street Address	45 Monroe Place
Borough/Block/Lot	Brooklyn/237/1
Applicant Name	City of New York – Department of Design and Construction
Lead Agency (Contact Person)	Jerome Allas, NYC DDC
Secondary Agencies (Contact Person)	Daniel Allen, CTA Architects
Principal Investigator	Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A.

## II. SYNTHESIS OF PREVIOUS WORK

A search of reports filed with NYC LPC and the NY SHPO CRIS GIS system shows that there have been seventeen previous archaeological assessments undertaken within a .5-mile radius of the Project Area (Table 1). This section contains a summary of relevant<sup>1</sup> reports.

A Phase IB/II Archaeological project was undertaken in March 1986 by Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. for a proposed office building on the Pierrepont Street Site, Cadman Plaza West (Block 239). Three areas were tested in August 1985, two triangular parcels containing the remaining backyards of two nineteenth century lots fronting Fulton Street (now Cadman Plaza West) and a larger triangular area corresponding to the location of Colonial-era Love Lane. Investigations did not yield archaeological material, no significant cultural resources were identified (Grossman & Roberts, IV. 1986).

In April 2000, a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment was undertaken by Historical Perspectives, Inc. for a rezoning application in the Fulton Landing section of Brooklyn (Block 36, Lots 1, 3, 39, 52, and 53, and for portions of Lots 14 and 16). The purpose of the Phase IA was to determine the likelihood of encountering prehistoric and historic archaeological resources on the site. The assessment concluded that the site was minimally sensitive for prehistoric resources and highly sensitive for historic resources. Lots 1, 3, 4, 49, 52, and 53 were deemed sensitive for historic house lot features and/or historic landfills dating to the late eighteenth through late nineteenth centuries. In addition, Lot 14 was deemed sensitive for historic industrial buildings dating to the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Phase IB investigations were recommended for all lots prior to future subsurface disturbance. It was concluded that Phase IB investigations, in conjunction with more thorough research into the specific house lots, would be necessary to determine whether Phase II fieldwork was required (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 2000).

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<sup>1</sup> Relevancy refers to projects of a similar type/potential (i.e., nineteenth century house lots, immediate vicinity of the project area, or significant discoveries within the radius.

In April 2001, Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) conducted a Preliminary Archaeological Investigation of three blocks in Downtown Brooklyn proposed for development. The study assessed 108 building lots across Blocks 170, 171, and 176 to identify potential archaeological concerns and potential project impacts. Of the 108 lots assessed, 35 were determined to be potentially sensitive for precontact, early historic, and Revolutionary War period resources. Eleven of the 35 identified lots were determined sensitive for nineteenth-century domestic home lot resources. It was recommended that more thorough site-specific documentary research be completed, and that a testing protocol for a refined area of potential impact be established should the project moved forward (Kearns et al. 2001).

Following these recommendations, HPI conducted a Stage IA Archaeological Assessment of 58 building lots on Block 170 and 38 building lots on Block 171 (October 2001). The study determined that most lots lacked the integrity to retain archaeological or culturally significant resources. However, four lots on Block 170 and ten lots on Block 171 were considered to have a greater potential to retain intact undisturbed deposits, as sections of these lots had remained free of historical development. Stage IB fieldwork was recommended for these fourteen lots (Kearns et al. 2001).

Field testing occurred over eleven days in November 2001 on four lots on Block 170, eleven lots on Block 171, and four lots on Block 176. Five archaeologists hand excavated and monitored the backhoe excavation of eleven test trenches. The test trenches on Blocks 170 and 171 revealed considerable disturbance and yielded very little clear evidence of nineteenth-century occupation. It was decided that any historic features once present on these sites were obliterated by twentieth-century construction and demolition activities. Nineteenth century home lot resources – specifically the truncated remains of a privy and cistern – were present in four trenches in Block 176. The features were excavated in their entirety, thus mitigating any potential impact (Mascia 2002).

In 2005, a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment was undertaken by Historical Perspectives, Inc. and Raber Associates at the request of NYC LPC and NY SHPO in anticipation of the development of the proposed Brooklyn Bridge Park Project, which spanned a 70-acre waterfront area in Brooklyn Heights. The study aimed to determine whether 23 lots situated on ten blocks within the project area were sensitive for precontact, landfill, pre-1904 waterfront, residential, industrial, commercial, and/or transportation resources. Only resources that were considered undisturbed and significant were identified. Block 245 was considered sensitive for landfills. Blocks 1/Pearl Street, 7/Washington Street, 16, 25/New Dock Street, 26, 199, 245, 258, and Fulton Street were considered sensitive for pre-1904 waterfront resources. Block 45 and Fulton Street were considered sensitive for residential resources; Blocks 1/Pearl Street, 45, 199, and Fulton Street for industrial resources; Blocks 25/New Dock Street, 26, 45, 199, 245, and Fulton Street for commercial resources; and Blocks 16 and 245 for transportation resources. No blocks were considered sensitive for precontact resources (Abell Horn et al. 2005).

Several subsequent Phase IB and Phase II filed investigations followed as part of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Project. Phase IB archaeological fieldwork undertaken by URS Corporation in 2008 documented the remains of two historic structures on the waterfront immediately west of the Brooklyn Bridge. During Phase II excavations extensive foundation remains of both structures

were exposed. The easternmost structure was remnant of the late nineteenth century Jewell Brothers (Brooklyn City) Flour Mill and DeForrest Storage Warehouses to the west. In tandem, these archaeological resources were determined to be representative of the commercial and industrial nature of the nineteenth century waterfront with potential National Register eligibility (Loorya, 2012).

In August 2016, additional work was conducted by AKRF, Inc. prior to the creation of the Brooklyn Bridge Park – along the Pier 5 Uplands, which spanned a portion of 85 acres in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. The survey consisted of two machine-excavated trenches measuring 15'x15' and hand clearing of structural features to determine the presence or absence of post-1840s landfill-retaining features existing beneath a depth of 5' to 8'. Artifacts observed consisted of mixed structural debris, window glass, and modern refuse, all discovered within disturbed contexts that lacked archaeological research value. Structural features, such as concrete and brick walls, and a single concrete pier, were observed within the trenches; however, there was no evidence of landfill-retaining features. Based on the absence of historic resources and features, the investigation determined that the project would have no effect on archaeological resources, and it concluded that no further testing was required (Pappalardo 2016).

In July 2018, a Phase IB Archaeological Investigation was conducted along the Pier 2 Uplands. The survey consisted of one machine-excavated trench to determine the presence or absence of post-1840s landfill-retaining features existing at depths of up to 6' below the ground surface. No archaeological resources were observed. Based on the absence of historic resources, features, or artifact concentrations, the investigation determined that the project would have no effect on archaeological resources, and it concluded that no further testing was required (Meade & Pappalardo 2018).

AKRF, Inc. undertook a Phase IA Archaeological Documentary Study in April 2010 in anticipation of the construction of a new academic building at the Brooklyn campus of New York City College for Technology in the Downtown Brooklyn neighborhood. The study assessed a portion of Block 131, Lot 1 – which had initially comprised ten historic lots – for potential archaeological resources. The study determined that extensive development and landscape modification, which had occurred during the historic period, would have rendered the site devoid of precontact resources. The rear yards of the ten former historic lots were considered moderately sensitive for historic resources. A Phase IB investigation was recommended for those areas determined to have moderate sensitivity (Meade 2010).

In May 2016, AKRF, Inc. conducted a Phase IA Archaeological Documentary Study (and Limited Archaeological Monitoring) of 22 Chapel Street in the Downtown Brooklyn neighborhood. The study determined that the project site had no sensitivity for precontact resources or human skeletal remains. It further determined that, despite the disturbance rendered by development, the project site retained a moderate sensitivity for nineteenth century residential lot features, as the truncated subsurface remains of such features could still exist beneath the present building. It was concluded that testing the site, in the form of a Phase IB investigation, should occur following the demolition of the existing building (Meade 2016).

Archaeological testing of 22 Chapel Street collected artifacts, and exposed shaft features and a brick party wall. It was concluded that there was no potential to encounter archaeological resources in trenches where shaft features were absent. Additional fieldwork was necessary for trenches where shaft features were present to confirm the presence or absence of a shaft feature (privy, cistern, or midden). It was concluded that this should be done after the demolition of the existing building (Meade 2016).

Table 1: Archaeological investigations within a 1-mile radius of the project area.

YEAR	TITLE/SITE	AUTHOR	CONCLUSIONS
1985	Recommendations for Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, New York – Sensitivity Evaluation and Archaeological Testing	Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.	The evaluation determined that the project area had a strong potential to contain undisturbed 17 <sup>th</sup> -century remains related to the Dutch occupation of Brooklyn. Therefore, a two-phase testing program was recommended involving controlled test units excavated by a backhoe and a line of split-spoon borings.
1986	97 Columbia Heights, Block 219, Lot 1, Brooklyn, New York – Cultural Resource Assessment	Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.	The study determined that there was clear and extensive disturbance throughout the project area to a depth of 20’ below grade. It concluded that no significant cultural resources were present, and no further work was recommended.
1986	The Pierrepont Street Site, Brooklyn, New York – Phase IB/II Investigation	Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.	Three areas were tested throughout Cadman Plaza West. The investigation did not yield archaeological materials, and no potentially significant cultural resources were identified. Therefore, no further work was recommended.
1990	184-188 Duffield Street, Metrotech, Brooklyn, New York – Documentary Research Report	Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.	The study assessed Block 2058, Lot 38, and determined that any potential features would lack archaeological significance. Therefore, no further work was recommended.
2000	Water Street Rezoning, Brooklyn, New York – Phase IA Study	Historical Perspectives, Inc.	The research of seven lots was deemed sensitive for historic resources dating between the late-18 <sup>th</sup> and early-20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Therefore, phase IB investigations were recommended.
2001	Blocks 170 and 171, Hoyt-Schermerhorn Site, Brooklyn, New York – Preliminary Investigation	Historical Perspectives, Inc.	35 of 108 lots were deemed potentially sensitive for precontact, early historic, and Revolutionary War period resources. 11 of those 35 were deemed to be additionally sensitive for 19 <sup>th</sup> -century house lot resources. Further documentary research was recommended.
2001	Blocks 170 and 171, Hoyt-Schermerhorn Site, Brooklyn, New York – Phase IA Study	Historical Perspectives, Inc.	It was determined that 82 of 96 lots assessed lacked potential integrity, while 14 lots had a greater potential to retain intact undisturbed deposits, as sections of these lots had remained free of historical development. Stage IB fieldwork was recommended for the 14 lots.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TITLE/SITE</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
2002	Hoyt-Schermerhorn, Blocks 170, 171, and 176, Brooklyn, New York – Stage IB Investigation	Historical Perspectives, Inc.	Eleven test trenches were excavated across Blocks 170, 171, and 176. Blocks 170 and 171 yielded significant disturbance and little clear evidence of historic occupation. Block 176 yielded the remains of 19 <sup>th</sup> -century house lot features. The features were excavated, and the potential negative impact was mitigated. Therefore, no further consideration was warranted.
2005	Brooklyn Bridge Park Project..., Brooklyn, Kings County, New York – Phase IA Study	Historical Perspectives, Inc. & Raber Associates	Twenty-three lots situated on ten blocks were assessed for their potential to retain precontact, landfill, pre-1904 waterfront, residential, industrial, commercial, and/or transportation resources.
2007	Potential Underground Railroad Associations of the Duffield Street and Gold Street Properties in Downtown Brooklyn – Research Report	AKRF, Inc.	The study assesses whether the buildings on Duffield and Gold Streets had potential connections to the underground railroad. The study determined that underground railroad activity at these properties could not be conclusively proven through documentary research.
2008	Preliminary Results Phase IB Archaeological Testing Test Areas 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Brooklyn Bridge Park Project	URS Corporation	Six area were tested to determine the presence or absence of historic resources, including nineteenth century landfilling methods and warehouse structures. Structural remains were found and documented in 4 areas. Phase II excavation was recommended in two of the areas.
2010	New York City College of Technology Academic Building, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York – Phase IA Study	AKRF, Inc.	The study assessed a portion of Block 131, Lot 1, and determined that it lacked sensitivity for precontact resources; and retained moderate sensitivity for historic resources. Therefore, a Phase IB investigation was recommended.
2012	Construction of Combined Sewer In: Water Street, Brooklyn (Kings County), New York – Phase IB Monitoring	Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Inc.	Excavation of several trenches were monitored and yielded artifacts and several disarticulated features from clearly disturbed contexts. As a result, no further work was recommended for the first 7’ of the overall project area; a further investigation was recommended for excavation occurring below 7.’

YEAR	TITLE/SITE	AUTHOR	CONCLUSIONS
2012	Phase II Archaeological Testing Test Areas 6 and 7 Brooklyn Bridge Park Project, Brooklyn, New York	URS Corporation	The results of the excavation indicated that the foundation remains associated with the DeForrest Storage Warehouses (later the Martin Stores) do not appear eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The recovered material collected from rubble/fill contexts showed no definitive associative link with the warehouses. Testing exposed a large area of foundation remains sufficient to formulate cogent interpretations as to building layout and construction techniques. Foundation remains associated with the Jewell Brothers Brooklyn City Mills was determined NR eligible. Intact foundation remnants were located relatively close to the modern-day surface.
2015	DUMBO/Vinegar Hill Area Reconstruction Project, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York – Phase IA Study	Historical Perspectives, Inc.	The study concluded that the project site had no sensitivity for precontact resources; and identified three potential historic resources. Therefore, archaeological monitoring was recommended in conjunction with project construction for areas identified by the three resources.
2016	22 Chapel Street Redevelopment, Block 119, Lots 55 and 66, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York – Phase IA Study	AKRF, Inc.	The study determined that the project area had no sensitivity for precontact resources or human skeletal remains; and moderate sensitivity for 19 <sup>th</sup> -century house lot features. Therefore, a Phase IB investigation was recommended.
2016	22 Chapel Street Redevelopment, Block 119, Lots 55 and 66, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York – Phase IB Investigation	AKRF, Inc.	Fifteen trenches and two STPs were excavated in the rear of the historic lots associated with the project site. Artifacts were recovered from 9 trenches; shaft features were identified in 4 trenches. Additional testing was deemed necessary in the four trenches where shaft features were identified.
2016	Pier 5 Uplands, Brooklyn Bridge Park Project, Block 245, Lots 1 and 15, Borough of Brooklyn, Kings County, New York – Phase IB Investigation	AKRF, Inc.	The investigation consisted of two 15'x15' machine-excavated trenches. Based on the absence of historic resources and features, the investigation determined that the project would have no impact on resources; and concluded that no further testing was required.
2018	Brooklyn Bridge Park Project: Pier 2 Uplands, Block 199, Lot 3, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York	AKRF, Inc.	The investigation consisted of one 50'x6' machine-excavated trench. Based on the absence of historic resources, features, or artifact concentrations, the investigation determined that the project would have no impact on resources; and concluded that no further testing was required.

### **III. CONTEXT AND RESEARCH DESIGN**

The project area is in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood of Kings County (Brooklyn), New York. Brooklyn Heights is bound northerly and westerly by Columbia Heights and the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, easterly by Court Street and Cadman Plaza West, and southerly by Atlantic Avenue. It is geographically located on western Long Island.

#### **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**

Western Long Island was formed by glacial movement and outwash during the Wisconsin ice age that resulted in a series of creeks and marshland (Schuberth 1968). Long Island comprises two spines of glacial moraine, with a large, sandy outwash plain beyond. These moraines consist of gravel and loose rock left behind during the Wisconsin glaciation's two most recent pulses, 21,000 years ago. The northern moraine, which directly abuts the North Shore of Long Island at points, is known as the Harbor Hill moraine. The more southerly moraine, known as the Ronkonkoma moraine, forms the “backbone” of Long Island; it runs primarily through the center of Long Island. The land to the south of this moraine is the outwash plain of the last glacier (Schuberth 1968; Eisenberg 1978; Campanella 2019).

The project area lies north of the Harbor Hill moraine in the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province. It is located within the bounds of the original seventeenth-century settlement of Brooklyn (*Breuckelen*). The land forming the project area was situated on arable highland and bluffs that had been historically utilized as farmland.

#### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

The project area lies in a distinctly urban setting that has been developed since the early nineteenth century. The United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey defines it as heavily urbanized (Urban land-Greenbelt complex, with 3 to 8 percent slopes).

Currently, the project area is occupied by the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court building and the associated (adjoining) parking lot. The parking lot forms the APE (Map 2). The parking lot is at grade, paved with asphalt (Images 1 and 2). Vehicles enter via an alleyway at the corner of Henry Street and Love Lane.

#### **RESEARCH DESIGN**

This Phase IA documentary study has been designed to determine the history of the project area and its potential to contain potentially significant archaeological resources. This includes Native American (prehistoric) and/or historic resources.

Historic resource potential may include the project area's association with the Revolutionary War-era Fort Brooklyn, erected by the British in 1780; nineteenth century house lots; and the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church on the Heights, which was located within a portion of the APE during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. In addition, research is intended to determine how the landscape changed, when and how Block 237, Lot 1 – which was historically

comprised of eight lots of various sizes – was developed, if it was developed with modern utilities, and to identify the property's inhabitants.



Image 1: The Project Area APE facing Pierrepont Street.



Image 2: The project area APE facing north.



## **IV. PROJECT METHODS**

Standard documentary research methodologies were utilized in gathering information for this study. This included a review of existing cultural resource reports within the repositories of the NYC LPC and NY SHPO. In addition, historical maps, and other documentary information from online, library, and museum repositories were consulted to determine the history and development of the project area. Repositories utilized included the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, New York State Archives, and Brooklyn Historical Society (specifically the Pierrepont Family Papers). A selection of relevant historic maps is presented in Section V.

Both primary and secondary source documents were consulted. Primary source records included historic maps, New York City Real Estate records, United States and New York State census records, and genealogical and biographical information available from online sources (e.g., New York City Register of Births/Deaths). Other sources included historic newspapers, city directories, published histories of the area, and published genealogies of specific families. Pertinent information reviewed as part of this survey is presented in Section V.

Also incorporated is an assessment of the proposed project plans provided by the project developers of the and archaeological monitoring results from recent test pits and soil borings.

## **V. DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH RESULTS**

### **PREHISTORIC CONTEXT**

The prehistoric era began with the first human occupation of North America and terminates with indigenous contact with European settlers. There is evidence of aboriginal presence in the northeastern United States beginning approximately 15,000 B.P. following the Laurentide Ice Sheet retreat, which covered the area during the Late Wisconsin Glaciation (Kraft 1986).

A chronological framework for pre-Contact North America has been constructed from the archaeological record – wherein stages of cultural similarity, bookended by significant shifts in tradition, are classified as a distinct cultural period. The sequence of prehistoric occupation in North America is divided into three significant cultural periods: Paleo-Indian (circa 13,000 – 8,000 B.P.), Archaic (circa 8,000 - 3,000 B.P.), and Woodland (circa 3,000 B.P.-A.D. 1670).

### *THE PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD*

The first people in North America were nomadic tribes that crossed the Bering Strait from Russia to Alaska when the climate was cooler, and sea levels were much lower than in the present. Occupying what was still tundra, these people gradually spread out on the continent, following prey, and subsisting on available seasonal terrestrial or marine life. When meat was not available, early inhabitants supplemented their diet with whatever they could forage from the surrounding vegetation.

The earliest Paleo inhabitants in New York were presumably small bands of organized and highly mobile hunter-gatherers. They did not establish permanent settlements but moved seasonally according to resource availability. Because of the need for mobility, these early inhabitants maximized efficiency by producing practical and portable objects. As a result, Paleo-Indian tools, objects, and other material culture were not overly complicated or extensive (contributing to the ephemeral nature of Paleo sites in the archaeological record).

Paleo-Indian sites reflect temporary occupation camps at elevated locations (optimal for hunting) or alongside streams and rivers. Rivers, lakes, salt marshes, and other coastal environments were utilized for the abundant fish, shellfish, fowl, plant life, and other aquatic resources that could be easily procured there. Lithic assemblages associated with the Paleo-Indian period are Eastern Clovis Tradition, characterized by flaked tools and fluted lanceolate projectile points. Lithic processing sites are often found alongside streams and rivers where food was procured (Ritchie and Funk 1971; Fletcher and Kintz 1979:12; Marshall 1982; Fagan 2005)

Few Paleo-Indian period sites have been excavated and recorded by modern archaeologists. Archaeological evidence of Native American settlement and activity within New York City is ephemeral in nature due to centuries of post-contact land disturbances.

### *THE ARCHAIC PERIOD*

The Archaic period in the mid-Atlantic region is generally characterized by the continual adaptation of Native Americans to the environment through hunting, gathering, and fishing activities. Archaeologists view this period in three consecutive stages: Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, and Late Archaic.

Environmental transformations and rising sea levels marked the close of the Paleo-Indian period and the onset of the Early Archaic period. Settlement patterns remained semi-mobile as the available resources shifted throughout the year, with a trend towards increasingly extended amounts of time spent in one location as water sources stabilized. Groups established base camps and moved periodically throughout a more limited territory. The disappearance of megafauna and migration of large game northwards led to a focus on plants and smaller animals – such as elk, deer, bear, turtles, and fish. The Early Archaic toolkit featured lithic assemblages comprised of hammer and anvil stones, notched pebble net sinkers, and new variations of stemmed and corner-notched projectile points (Kraft and Mounier 1982; McManamon et al. 2009).

Environmental changes transformed the landscape, creating intertidal flats, coastal lagoons and marshes, swamps, lakes, and estuaries. The exploitation of wetland resources reflects the onset of the Middle Archaic period (Kraft and Mounier 1982; Fagan 2005). Human occupation of New York, which continued to evolve from that of a hunter-gatherer economy, is possibly indicative of "specialized adaptations" to the environment. In New York, "Settlement patterns of these hunter-gatherer-fishermen reflect the utilization of the varied resources from shore to the forest" during the Middle Archaic period (Fletcher and Kintz 1979:12). Eventually, this acclimation to specific environments led to the diversity of regional specializations and cultural adaptations. Archaeological evidence for diversity in cultural adaptations is present in more varied and complex tool kits. Tools were more refined. Specialized fishing equipment and implements for food production – such as grinding stones, mortars, and pestles – appeared. Woodworking skills and

new implements appeared, e.g. ground stone axes, celts, and gouges. Areas of occupation within Long Island and New Jersey have also offered evidence of bone and copper use in tool production (Kraft and Mounier 1982; Kraft 1986).

Larger prehistoric populations characterize the Late Archaic period with markedly more complex settlement activity and trade relations. Late Archaic groups fully utilized all environmental niches in upland and lowland settings. Specialized sites for resource procurement were established – hunting and butchering camps, fishing posts, and wild food collection stations – and were occupied on a recurring seasonal basis. The purpose and function of lithic tools adapted to fit the new dynamics of a growing population, and there was a marked increase during the Late Archaic in the manufacture of grinding stones, heavy food processing tools, milling equipment, adzes, and stone axes. The Late Archaic archaeological record reflects a growing complexity in social development and structure – as the population became more sedentary, the foundations for trade and exchange networks emerged (Fletcher and Kintz 1979:12-13).

### *THE WOODLAND PERIOD*

The introduction of agriculture, introduction and advancement of ceramic technology, the prevalence of more elaborate and diverse tools, and the appearance of permanent settlements typically characterize the cultural evolution into the Woodland Period.

Large rivers remained central to indigenous territories, utilized for their rich resources and transportation and communication between scattered peoples. There is evidence that riverine environments could have supported semi-permanent occupations however, these sites represent base camps of small, dispersed groups. Small groups possibly consisted of a few hundred people, with this number being a seasonal aggregate rather than a constant population.

Many adaptive strategies developed during the Archaic period in the northeastern woodlands continued into the Woodland period. Woodland groups inhabiting the area would have followed the same general settlement and subsistence patterns but made intricately decorated ceramic vessels. Cord-marked and collared ceramic vessels appeared during this period. The introduction of clay pottery in the Woodland period allowed for cooking and food storage. Sites evolved through the Woodland period to include various storage and pit features – used for cooking or as refuse receptacles – and specialized work areas (Kraft and Mounier 1982; Kraft 1986).

The advent of horticultural activities and the domestication of plants and animals is critical in enabling groups to settle in one place and develop into more complex societies. Woodland populations in New York centered their agricultural activities around cultivating maize, beans, and squash. Subsistence activities also centered heavily on exploiting marine-based resources (Furman 1875; Bolton 1922; Fletcher and Kintz 1979:12). "It is apparent that Woodland period inhabitants of the coastal regions relied heavily on abundant shellfish resources of the coastal bays. Shell midden sites are ubiquitous in coastal zones of the lower Hudson Valley" (Affleck et al. 2005:4.6).

Stone tool making continued to evolve. In New York, narrow points characterize much of the Woodland period toolkit. Projectile points were made of various locally sourced and non-local traded stone materials. The Meadowood-type projectile point dominated the early Woodland, followed by Jacks Reef, Fox Creek, and Rossville-type projectile points. Triangular projectile points of the Levanna and Madison types dominated the later Woodland era (Fagan 2005).

The end of the Woodland period saw the most advanced prehistoric societies and represent the first peoples that early European settlers would have encountered (Ritchie & Funk 1971).

#### *PREHISTORIC CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT AREA*

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in North America, Algonquin speaking people populated the area along the Atlantic, stretching as far west as the Mississippi River. The Algonquin comprised roughly thirty nations, each speaking a dialect of the same language and sharing similar customs. Among these was the *Leni-Lenape*, meaning "original people" who were divided into three bands – the Munsee, the Unami, and the Unalacthigo. The scope of their territory covered New Jersey, New York Harbor, and the Lower Hudson Valley, extending west into eastern Pennsylvania and east through Long Island (Skinner 1909:30; Leng and Davis 1930:71).

At the time of contact, the Munsee dialect resided on Long Island. The main groups in Kings County were the Nayack, along the eastern shore of the Narrows; the Rockaway, who dwelled in the area that now bears their name; and the Canarsee. The Canarsee were a tribe who had migrated to New York from Delaware and New Jersey. They were dubbed *Souwenos* (meaning "people of the Southwest") by the local tribes and reportedly took control of the western portion of Long Island by force prior to European contact. The Canarsee established their village *Keshkechqueren* (meaning "at the bay") on what is today known as Jamaica Bay. They continued to settle across modern-day Kings County and portions of Queens County.

These Native American groups occupied long-term villages and seasonal camps throughout Brooklyn and western Long Island. Archaeological investigations of Native American sites on western Long Island have thus far revealed a prehistoric settlement pattern organized around fresh-water resources, arranged proximate to tidal creeks, tidal marshes, stream banks, estuaries, and wetland areas. These locations were most likely utilized as hunting areas and collection stations for plant-based and marine-based food resources. Secondary requisites would have included well-elevated areas with good drainage, sandy soil, usable sunlight, and/or places that offered protection from harsher climates and other elements. Native American camps on western Long Island would have been located within proximity to fresh water sources on knolls, terraces, and well-drained slopes near sandy soil or dry, elevated land which could be easily cultivated to raise maize crops. (Schrabisch 1915:10; Bull & Giordano 2007:12).

The *Marechkawieck* band of Canarsee inhabited the City of Brooklyn. The area that would become Brooklyn Heights was known to the Canarsee as *Ihpetonga*, meaning "the high sandy banks" (Beauchamp 1907:99; Tooker 1911:74). The name *Marechkawieck* first appears in the historical record on a Dutch ground brief dated July 16, 1637 for a neck of land that jutted into the East River where it meets Wallabout Bay<sup>2</sup>. The sachems are identified as Seyseys and Neumers (or Nummerus). Early observations of *Marechkawieck* sites noted they were temporary camps established in "favorable situations" near the waters and marshes lining Wallabout and Gowanus, where ample fishing and hunting was available (Bolton 1922:129, 133; Grumet 1981:27).

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<sup>2</sup> This was known as the "Cape of Marechkawieck" during colonial times.

The *Marechkawieck* village was in Brooklyn Heights, reputedly along Fulton Street in the vicinity of Lawrence and Jay Streets. The name *Marechkawieck*, meaning “at his fortified or palisaded house,” suggests the settlement was placed in a strategic position where Native Americans could gather for defensive purposes. Based on the language, Bolton suggested that the most likely place for this village would have been on the elevated tract of Brooklyn Heights between Gallatin Place and Elm Place<sup>3</sup> (Bolton 1922:135, 136). This situates the village close to, but not within, the project area.

The last inference to the *Marechkawieck* as a group in Brooklyn comes from a Dutch ground brief dated August 30, 1645. On September 10, 1645, *Marechkawieck* sachem Seyseys conveyed all Native claims to southwestern Brooklyn, stretching between Gowanus to Jamaica Bay, to the Dutch. The *Marechkawieck* appear to have disbanded shortly thereafter: Seyseys removed to the *Wiechquaesgeck* settlements in Westchester County, while others joined the Nayack and Canarsee elsewhere in Kings County before ultimately moving east to join the Poosepatuck community in Suffolk County or west to New Jersey and Pennsylvania (Grumet 1981:28).

Prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area, and New York City in general, are rare. This is due to the intense development of Brooklyn during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries led to potential sites, if discovered, being destroyed.

Only one prehistoric site has been identified within the vicinity of the project area. New York State Museum site #3606 (ACP-KINGS-2) was recorded by New York State archaeologist Arthur C. Parker in 1920. It is described as a camp site on a barren sand hill in Brooklyn. The site yielded a layer of ash and cinder extending from 1.5’ to 4’ below the ground surface, comingled with broken clay pipes, coarse pottery, and arrowheads (Parker 1920:582). The site was located on the south side of Flatbush Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Avenues (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 2000:6).

In addition to the New York State Museum site, several Native trails have been identified in the vicinity of the Heights. One Native path, which spanned the borough, beginning at the East River at the foot of Fulton Street and following the line of present-day Flatbush Avenue to Flatlands, where it then converged with the Native trail that served as the predecessor to Kings Highway<sup>4</sup>. Another minor trail ran the length of present-day Fifth Avenue linking the village of *Marechkawieck* to the Narrows (Bolton 1922:131, 135, 140).

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<sup>3</sup> Bolton writes: “A village-site alongside the path (of Fulton Street) had no substantial elevation above the contiguous area, nor had it any nearby source of water. Its position, however, was on the elevated tract of Brooklyn Heights, and its importance lay in its situation at the narrowest part of the neck of upland between the marshes of Gowanus and Wallabout, through the center of which the main pathway passed. Between Galatin place and Elm place, where the old path diverged from its course somewhat to the southwest, would appear to have been the most likely position of this station, which bore the name and was doubtless the headquarters of the chieftaincy” (1922:135-136).

<sup>4</sup> Bolton suggested that ancient Native trails all converged at Fulton Ferry in downtown Brooklyn.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

### *CONTACT PERIOD*

Europeans discovered Brooklyn in 1524 when Florentine explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano and a crew of fifty sailed the *La Dauphine* into New York's harbor. Several wealthy investors had commissioned Verrazzano to discover a new passage to Asia (Brevoort 1873:177; Ieradi 2001:10). In 1609 Henry Hudson was commissioned by the Dutch East India Company to chart a new course to Asia via the Arctic Ocean. Hudson's ship, *De Halve Maen*, anchored at Coney Island before continuing north following the river that would one day bear his name. The explorer described the area as having "Magnificent forests with autumnal hues" (Stiles 1867:9). Hudson's brief visit to Brooklyn launched several consequent expeditions to the New World sponsored by the Dutch East India Company and its later iteration, the Dutch West India Company (Winfield 1874:4-5; Ieradi 2001:8-11).

On June 3, 1621, the Dutch West India Company received a charter and clear title to New Netherland – which encompassed the present-day states of New York, New Jersey, and parts of Pennsylvania. The Company initiated settlement of the New Netherland colony in 1623 when thirty families arrived to Manhattan Island on the *New Netherlandt* under Cornelis Jacobsen Mey, the first Director of the colony. They established Fort Amsterdam on the southern tip of Manhattan Island, making New Netherland an official Dutch province in 1624. In 1626, the Company appointed Peter Minuit as Director of the colony. That same year, Minuit purchased Manhattan Island from the Native Americans and named New Amsterdam the capital of New Netherland (Stiles 1867:18; Winfield 1874:11).

Ten years later, Dutch colonists ventured into the greater New Netherland colony and began settling farms outside the city proper. These farmsteads were situated linear to the East River on the westernmost edge of Long Island, today known as Kings County. The earliest records for land granted on western Long Island dates to June 16, 1636. The deeds, or Dutch ground briefs, were for three adjoining 'Flats' of land that, taken together, constituted one large fifteen-thousand-acre tract, known by the Canarsee as *Castateauw* located in the historic town of Flatlands (Thompson 1918:128; Van Wyck 1924:15).

These land acquisitions proved to be a catalyst for the rapid exploration and settlement of western Long Island. The Dutch administration was eager to establish the colony beyond the capital city of New Amsterdam. For years, the administration had strategized ways to attract new settlers to the outlying areas. "Traders and merchants made for a thriving entrepot, but without a stable base of agrarians, New Netherland would never sustain itself or grow" (Campanella 2019:42). To incentivize settlement, the Dutch West India Company instituted a policy in 1638 that offered land to all potential colonists, which they could hold in free "allodial proprietorship" in return for its cultivation (Bailey 1949:36). The policy was put into practice by newly appointed Director Willem Kieft, who was authorized to purchase land from Native American proprietors on behalf of the Company. By 1639, Kieft had ambitiously acquired almost all western Long Island for the Dutch West India Company – their holdings extended from the present city of Brooklyn to Rockaway Bay to the Great South Bay in Nassau County<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Kieft sought to secure all remaining lands on western Long Island from the Native Americans. On September 10, 1645, Kieft purchased, for the Dutch West India Company, a tract of land on the bay of the North River now known

Six townships were settled under Dutch administration of present-day Kings County: *Amersfoort* (Flatlands), *Breuckelen* (Brooklyn), *Boswyck* (Bushwick), *Gravenzande* (Gravesend), *Midwout* (Flatbush), and *New Utrecht* (Stiles 1867:29).

### *REGIONAL HISTORY – BREUCKELEN AND BROOKLYN HEIGHTS*

The project area is in the present-day neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights. The Heights were known as *Ihpetonga* to the Native Americans, meaning “the high sandy bank” (Grumet 1981:14). Following European settlement, Brooklyn Heights was part of *Het Veer* in *Breuckelen*<sup>6</sup>.

Settlement of *Breuckelen* began with a purchase made in 1636 by William Adriaense Bennet and Jacques Bentyn for a 500-acre tract of land in Gowanus<sup>7</sup> (Stiles 1867:23). In 1637 Walloon emigrant John Jansen de Rapalie purchased a 350-acre tract of land in the bend of Wallabout Bay. (Stiles 1867:23-24). These small hamlets known respectively as ‘*The Gujanes*’ and ‘*The Waal-bogt*’ were soon joined by a third, known as ‘*Het Veer*,’ meaning ‘*The Ferry*.’ ‘*The Ferry*’ sprung up in 1642 when a ferry service was established to accommodate regular transportation across the East River to New Amsterdam. A ferry road – known today as Fulton Street – was laid leading southeast from the bay to Flatbush. Between 1645 and 1647, six Dutch colonists established plantations south of *The Ferry* on either side of the road. These plantations formed the village of *Breuckelen*, named after the ancient village in Holland (Stiles 1867:44-45). *Gujanes*, *Waal-bogt*, *The Ferry*, and later the village of *Breuckelen* were the first hamlets to be settled in the greater Town of Breuckelen.

In 1646, the Town of Breuckelen was incorporated under Director Willem Kieft’s administration, intent on ensuring its success as a farming community. The few bouweries on Manhattan Island were not producing enough supply to support the population of New Amsterdam which was concentrated on fur trading. Western Long Island was predominantly an agricultural settlement. The Dutch *boers*, farmers, and their bouweries became responsible for producing and shipping fruits, vegetables, meats, and cheeses to New Amsterdam to sustain the city. *The Ferry* and *Gujanes* served as launch points for delivering the produce (Anderson & Flick 1902:17).

Under Kieft’s successor, Director-General Petrus Stuyvesant, the Town of Breuckelen – which was one of only two concentrated townships in Kings County at the time of Stuyvesant’s arrival – prospered as a municipal power (Stiles 1867:105; New Netherland Institute 2013). In 1654, a superior “district court” was organized in the town, consisting of four Schepens (officers) and a Schout (sheriff). It was vested with the authority to regulate roads, build churches, establish schools, enact local laws, and keep records. Under this court, the Towns of Breuckelen, Midwout, and Amersfoort were entitled to the rights of jurisdiction and representation (Stiles 1867:110).

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as New Utrecht. With this purchase, Kieft completed the Company’s title to the entirety of land within present day Kings and Queens Counties (Stiles 1867:43)

<sup>6</sup> Throughout this refers to the Town of Brooklyn

<sup>7</sup> The tract was described by Stiles as being situated between the present-day 27<sup>th</sup> Street and the New Utrecht town line (1867:23)

In 1660 there were thirty-one families comprised of 134 people residing in the Town of Breuckelen. The first church in Breuckelen was established that same year, and the Town received financing from the New Netherland Council for its first schoolmaster, Carel De Beauvois. In 1661, the Towns of Boswyck and New Utrecht were annexed to the jurisdiction of the schout of Breuckelen, Midwout, and Amersfort (Stiles 1867:118, 128).

In 1664, Stuyvesant surrendered the New Netherland colony to English rule. On March 12, 1664, the British King, Charles II, granted the newly acquired colony to his brother, James, the Duke of York. In an endeavor to restructure the colony according to the Duke's Laws,<sup>8</sup> the First General Assembly implemented a territorial partition of Long Island into three Ridings<sup>9</sup> (Armbruster 1912:27). On October 18, 1667, English Governor Richard Nicolls confirmed the Town of Breuckelen under English rule and patented the township<sup>10</sup> (Stiles 1867:154). Breuckelen was anglicized to Brookland, later Brooklyn, and placed within the West Riding.

Brooklyn's prominent standing within the greater colony sustained the administrative upheaval of the transfer to British authority. During the last quarter of the seventeenth century, Brooklyn's future as a bustling city began to emerge. It was appointed as a 'market town' in 1675, and assessment rolls issued in that year reveal that of the "Five Dutch Towns," Brooklyn was foremost in overall wealth and population (Stiles 1867:197). In 1683 the Provincial Assembly discontinued the Ridings system and restructured Long Island into three counties - Kings, Queens, and Suffolk, with Brooklyn becoming part of Kings County (Armbruster 1914:18).

Eighteenth-century Brooklyn continued to develop as an agricultural community and excelled in both wealth and political influence within the larger colony. In 1706, there were sixty-four freeholders listed in the town. By 1738, the 721 residents within Brooklyn, accounted for 31% of Kings County's total population<sup>11</sup>. Leading up to the Revolutionary War the county consisted of three-to-four thousand inhabitants spread across several hamlets or neighborhoods.

### **The Revolutionary War**

As the Revolutionary War approached, Kings County was in upheaval and the Heights played a pivotal role. American Generals Lee, Stirling, and Greene had organized defenses throughout Brooklyn in preparation for General Washington's arrival. The principal defensive work was Fort Stirling, a half-moon fort consisting of a battery of eight guns, which was erected by the American troops as early as March 24, 1776, on the line of Columbia Street between Orange and Clark Streets. A strong line of fortifications followed and were constructed throughout Brooklyn from the Wallabout to the head of Gowanus Creek (Map 4) (Stiles 1867:244).

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<sup>8</sup> The Duke's Laws were a series of guidelines issued by the new English administration in 1665 outlining the future governance of the province (Stiles 1867:152).

<sup>9</sup> The three Ridings of the early English colonial government were: the East Riding, constituting the present-day Suffolk County; the West Riding, covering present-day Staten Island, Kings County and Newtown; and the North Riding, encompassing the remaining Queens County area (Stiles 1867: 153).

<sup>10</sup> The patent for the township encompassed the village of Breuckelen and the hamlets of Gowanus, Bedford, Wallabout, and The Ferry.

<sup>11</sup> The 1738 census for Kings County listed 387 white adults and 150 white children living in Brooklyn, along with 123 enslaved black adults and 61 enslaved black children



On April 14, 1776, Washington arrived in Brooklyn. He began moving troops from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New England into Kings County in May, bringing the American troops to roughly 27,000 men. Construction began on three more forts along the East River to support Fort Stirling, and additional defensive works were built on Red Hook, Governors Island, and Manhattan. Washington headquartered on the Heights and placed his primary defenses there, believing that the high vantage points could help the American army inflict heavy casualties against British troops (Map 4, Map 5) (Lengel 2005:142).

On August 22, 1776, the British landed on the shores of Gravesend Bay launching their invasion of Kings County and marching toward the Heights to engage the Americans. At the time there were three main passes into the Heights – the westernmost pass via the Gowanus, which was defended by General Stirling and a company of 500 men; and the easternmost passes through Flatbush and Bedford, which were defended by a company of 1000 and 800 men, respectively, under the command of General Sullivan. Meanwhile, General Israel Putnam, who arrived in Brooklyn on August 25, 1776, with six battalions, would direct the defenses from the Heights itself.

The British chose the least traversed easternmost Jamaica Pass which was poorly guarded. They attacked the American flank on August 27, 1776. Attacked from both sides, the American army sustained heavy losses – 300 men were killed, and over 1,000 were captured. The remaining troops retreated behind the fortifications centered on the Heights. Realizing the army was surrounded and outmatched, Washington withdrew the American troops to Manhattan and further north. The British captured Brooklyn, followed by Manhattan on September 15<sup>th</sup><sup>12</sup> (Lengel 2005:141; McCullough 2006:163, 176, 191).

The British occupied Kings County until the end of the war. They quickly utilized the defensive works already established throughout Brooklyn, like Fort Stirling, and constructed their own, such as Fort Brooklyn, erected on the Heights. The British established their Brooklyn headquarters on the Heights at Fort Brooklyn. The ensuing years of British occupation were marked by skirmishes, thefts, and harassment of Patriot sympathizers. British rebels and soldiers pillaged and plundered their Brooklyn neighbors. Farms were laid to waste and farmers stripped of all cattle, horses, and produce; woodlands were cut down for fuel; buildings were destroyed, and homes were ravaged for their possessions (Stiles 1867:314, 325).

The Revolutionary War came to an end when the British surrendered to the American army in 1781. It wasn't until November 1783 that the British Army fully evacuated from the area. The residents of Brooklyn were left to rebuild their homes, recultivate their lands, and reorganize their town (Map 5, Map 6).

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<sup>12</sup> The Battle of Long Island remains the largest battle of the American Revolution and ever fought in North America

## **Fort Brooklyn**

Fort Brooklyn, also known as The Citadel, was built by the British army from March-May of 1780. It was built upon land that once housed several orchards belonging to the prominent families living in the Heights (Figure 1). Based on historic maps the Fort was located on Block 237 encompassing the project area (Lott and Poppleton 1819). This was a high point in the Heights and a natural choice for a commanding fortification. Used as their local headquarters, it was the most elaborate and thoroughly constructed fortification erected by the British during their stay in Kings County (Maps 5 – 7) (Stiles 1867:314; Hazelton 1925:184).

The “star” shaped fort was built by two to three thousand soldiers, who had outsourced wood and timber from other Kings County neighborhoods for the fascines, walls, and four barrack structures. Construction materials were carted into the Heights by local farmers<sup>13</sup>. The gate and drawbridge were made of iron and stone. Forty soldiers dug a stone-lined well in the center of the Fort. This was later used as a public well.

Upon its completion, the Fort measured 450 square feet, with rampart walls rising some forty to fifty feet above the bottom of the surrounding ditch, which was twenty feet in depth. Four bastions – diamond-shaped armed points – with buttonwood or plane trees were situated at the angles of the Fort and protected its corners. A small row of mud huts stood in front of the Fort, facing present-day Fulton Street between Pierrepont and Clark Streets. Love Lane ran through the Fort, providing the “sally port” for the Fort’s inhabitants to the East River and Fulton Street (Figure 2). The Fort was replete with two bomb-proof magazines and eighteen mounted canons, manned by a garrison of 200 Brunswicker Hessians (Stiles 1867:314-320; Hazelton 1925:184)

The Fort was well defended by a line of surrounding redoubts established throughout Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights (Map 5). It is purported that, prior to British occupation, the American army had begun constructing a Hexagon-fort with bastions on the same site but did not have the chance to see it to completion (as noted on Sproule 1781, Map 5).

Several decades after the evacuation of the British army, the families that had originally owned the land sought to reclaim it. They formally obtained permission to demolish the Fort from New York Governor Clinton. By 1825, the Middagh, Bamper, Golden, and DeBevoise families had begun dismantling the fortification. The ramparts were the last vestige of the Fort to be torn down in 1836 (Stiles 1867:314).

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<sup>13</sup> Stiles writes that most farmers were “compelled” by the British army to transport materials for them, stating, “A man with two horses, or oxen, and a wagon, was obliged to labor for a week or ten days in cutting and transporting these fascines, or timber and other material for barracks” (1867:314).

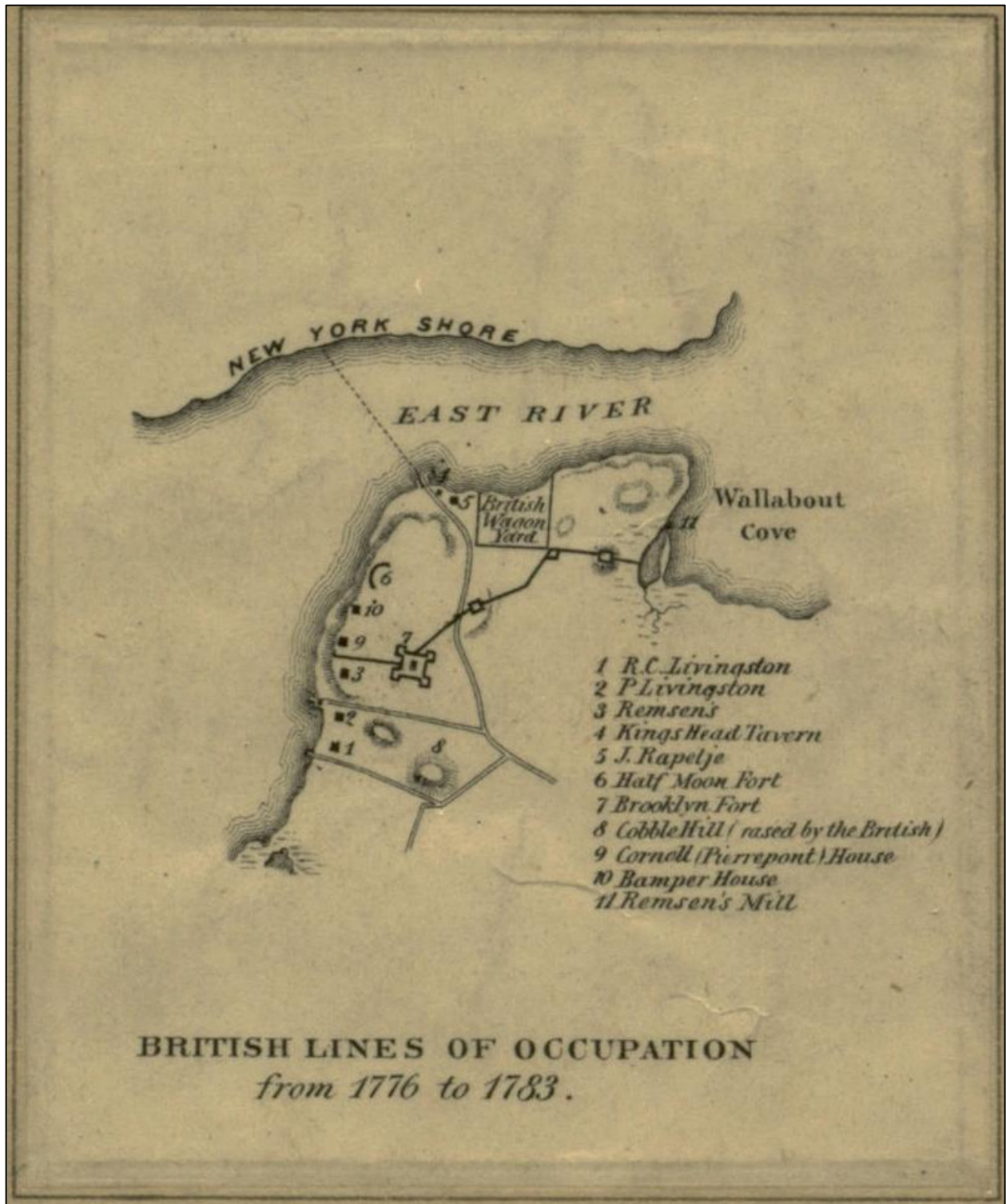


Figure 1: *British lines of occupation from 1776 to 1783* (Brooklyn Historical Society, Map Collection).

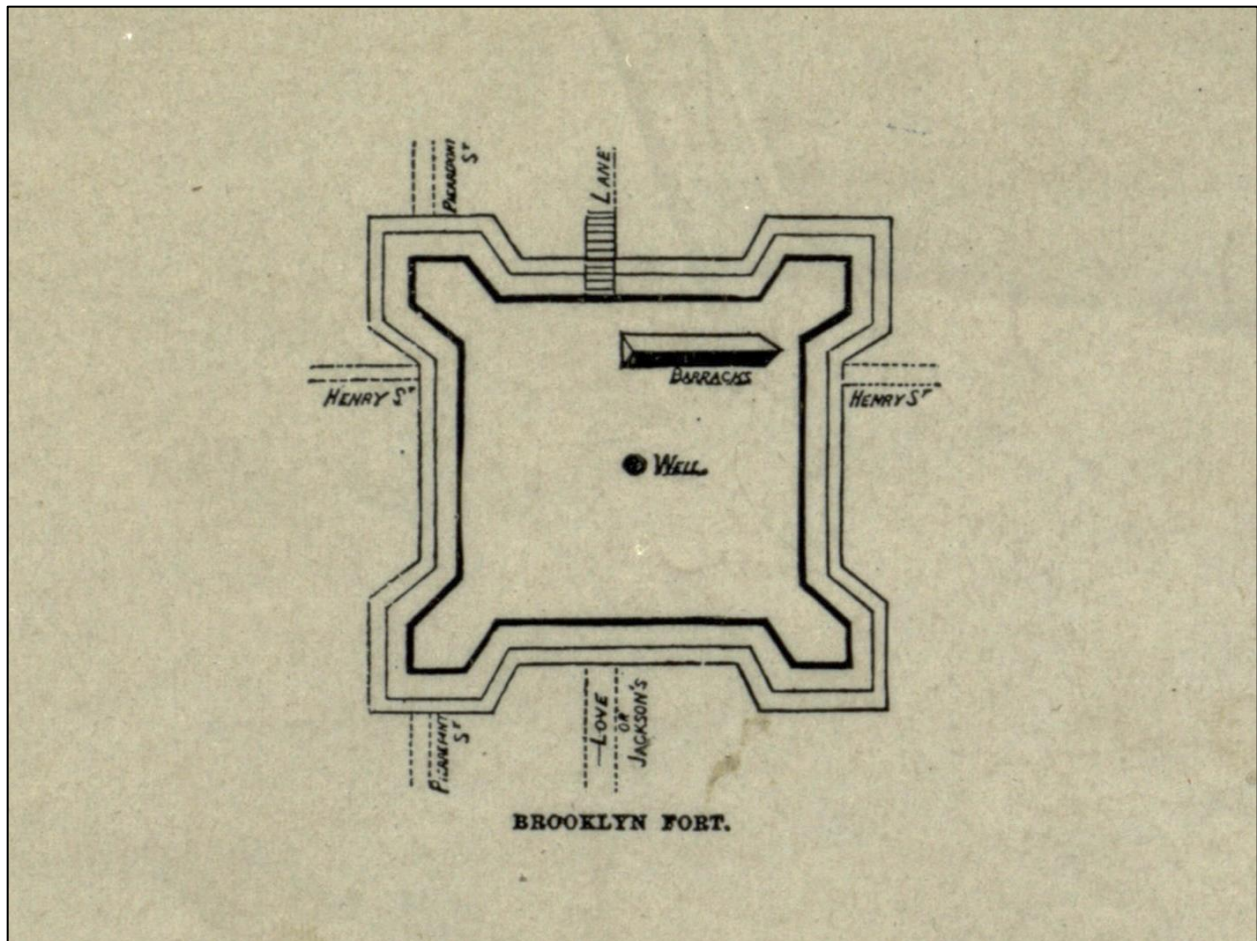


Figure 2: Brooklyn Fort (Brooklyn Historical Society, Map Collection).

### Post-Revolutionary War Era

On March 7, 1788, the Town of Brooklyn was confirmed under the Legislature of the newly established State of New York. The greater town of Brooklyn consisted of seven hamlet districts: Bedford, Brooklyn, Cripplebush, The Ferry, Gowanus, Red Hook, and the Wallabout. The Ferry district encompassed all the lands and dwellings between Wallabout and Joralemon Street and included present-day Brooklyn Heights.

Development of the Heights as a neighborhood began in earnest in 1814 when Robert Fulton and Hezekiah B. Pierrepont converted the Fulton Ferry to a scheduled steam ferry service. The conversion created reliable and consistent transportation between Brooklyn and Manhattan – which served working people and propelled the creation of numerous factories and ropewalks along the waterfront. It led to the development of The Ferry district as a thriving ‘downtown’ and accelerated the growth of Brooklyn Heights as a residential area (Jackson 1995:156).

The Town of Brooklyn was incorporated on April 12, 1816. Afterward, Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, a prominent businessman and developer, employed the New York City surveyor, Thomas Poppleton, to formally survey the Heights. Poppleton surveyed the area south of Clark Street between Fulton and Joralemon Streets and laid out blocks 405’ long, with streets 50’ to 60’ wide (Map 6) (Stiles 1869:55-56; 149). At the time, the area of Brooklyn Heights was occupied by

expansive farmland. Large private residences and cedar groves dotted the bluffs, while the part of the Heights situated between the East River, Joralemon, and Fulton Streets featured fruit orchards, vegetable and market gardens, and acres of green pasture belonging to Brooklyn's social aristocracy (Map 3).

Hezekiah B. Pierrepont is credited with being the principal developer of the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. He was the first landowner in the Heights to partition his sizeable property into salable building lots. Soon, other landowners in the Heights – such as the Hicks, Middagh, Remsen, and Joralemon families – joined Pierrepont and divided their farms into building lots typically measuring 25'x100', which is still the standard unit of property in the neighborhood (Jackson 1995:157). After Poppleton surveyed and plotted the area, newly laid out streets began to open, and the building boom of the 1820s began at the northern end of the Heights in the vicinity of Hicks Street. Pierrepont insisted on a particular aesthetic for the new houses: the 'standard' for the northern Heights were two-and-a-half-story frame and brick buildings designed in a Late Federal style. These would be principally occupied by tradespeople, seamen, and waterfront workers. By the 1830s and 1840s, more substantial detached stone or brick houses with Greek Revival details were built in the southern Heights (Maps 9 and 10). Pierrepont's development resulted in an escalation of land prices up to \$1,000 per acre. To entice potential buyers, Pierrepont placed advertisements in Manhattan newspapers for 'Lots on Brooklyn Heights' that highlighted the Heights' bucolic and exquisite charm (Jackson 1995:157).

The Heights continued to evolve into a unique neighborhood that was part downtown, part residential, and part sophisticated cultural center throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. The nineteenth-century neighborhood had an "unmatched elegance" (Jackson 1995:157). A variety of private academies, such as Packer Collegiate Institute, opened during the first half of the century. In 1823, Snow and Alden Spooner organized the Apprentice's Library on Fulton Street, which later became the meeting place for the Trustees of the Village of Brooklyn and home of the Brooklyn Savings Bank. It served as the Brooklyn City Hall from 1836 to 1848. The Brooklyn Orphans Asylum opened on Hicks Street in 1833 before being moved to its second location in Fort Greene. In 1841, the Youth's Free Library was organized in the Brooklyn Lyceum building, and in 1843 it received a charter as the Brooklyn Institute. It offered reading rooms, art studios, grammar, bookkeeping, drawing, and architecture classes. The organization later changed its name to the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and began construction on its new building, the Brooklyn Museum. The Institute later brought forth the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Brooklyn Children's Museum. In 1846, the first public school in Brooklyn, PS 8, opened. In 1852, the Brooklyn Athenaeum opened as a meeting and concert hall. Five years later the Athenaeum became the Brooklyn Mercantile Library, the predecessor of the Brooklyn Public Library System (Stiles 1869:238-239, 280, 302, 923).

On January 1, 1855, the Towns of Brooklyn, Williamsburg, and Bushwick were consolidated into the City of Brooklyn<sup>14</sup> (Provost 1949:xi). In 1898, the rise of urban New York City led to the incorporation of Kings and Queens Counties into the Greater City of New York (Armbruster 1914:18).

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<sup>14</sup> The remaining former historic towns were incorporated into the City of Brooklyn during the last half of the nineteenth century.

The introduction of the Interborough Rapid Transit subway in 1908 disrupted the seclusion of the Heights that had distinguished it for two centuries. Eighteenth-century vacation-style homes and mansions were demolished, replaced with tenement buildings and boarding houses. The last of the Heights' aristocrats were supplanted by the middle class, who remained in the Heights until the depression of the 1930s. In the subsequent decades, the neighborhood relinquished its entire northwestern corner to the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. Efforts to redevelop the neighborhood took root in the mid-twentieth century. They were led by local civic groups, Robert Moses, and a Community Conservation and Improvement Council, which succeeded in having the neighborhood landmarked as the first historic district in New York City on the National Register of Historic Places (Jackson 1995:157).

### *PROJECT AREA HISTORY*

The earliest identified property owner for the project area is Andries Hudde, an enterprising Dutch resident of New Amsterdam and member of Director Van Twiller's Council in 1633 (Stiles 1867:70). On September 12, 1645, Hudde was granted a tract of land "obliquely opposite the Fort" of 27 morgens 256 rods, or just over 54 acres (Col. Doc. Patents, GG:118).

At the time of, or shortly after, his purchase, Hudde was commissary of Fort Nassau on the South River and engaged in making property purchases for the Dutch West India Company (Stiles 1867:71). Hudde was an investor and never occupied the Brooklyn Heights property. Two years later, on September 30, 1647, Hudde granted Arnoldus van Hardenberg and Pieter Cornelissen power of attorney to sell the land (Col. Doc. Register, 2:170a-b). It was purchased by Lodewyck Jongh for 400 guilders on September 10, 1650. Twenty-nine years later, on February 12, 1679, Jongh's widow, Harmatie, conveyed the property to Dirck Janse Woertman.

Hudde's original patent and the adjoining tracts that belonged to his Dutch neighbors, Jan Manje and Claes Jansen van Naerden, comprised the area and entirety of riverfront extending from Atlantic Street to Clark Street and from Court Street to the East River. By 1690, Woertman acquired Hudde's tract, and those adjacent lands first purchased by Manje and Naerden, making Woertman sole owner of all the land on the Heights (Stiles 1869:72). He held on to the Heights for a little over twenty years, when he sold the entirety of his Brooklyn property for £612 to his son-in-law, Joris Remsen on October 16, 1706.

Joris Remsen was the second son of Rem Jansen Vanderbeeck, the progenitor of the Remsen family in America (Stiles 1867:72). Vanderbeeck hailed from Germany or the Netherlands and was a blacksmith by trade. He served as magistrate of *Breuckelen* during the Dutch administration. Vanderbeeck married Jannetie Jansen de Rapalie in 1642 and they settled in Wallabout. His son Joris married Femmetje (Phoebe), the daughter of Dirck Janse Woertman. Joris and Femmetje had one son, Rem, and four daughters – Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth, and Cataline (Riker, Jr. 1852:386).

Rem Remsen remained on his father's farm, married Aeltie Bergen, and had two sons – John and George. Rem predeceased his father, passing in 1724 (Riker, Jr. 1852:387). Sarah Remsen married Jacobus DeBevoise in 1715, and on August 15, 1734, her father conveyed fourteen acres of his property to his son-in-law. The southern half of the project area is situated within the DeBevoise conveyance. What remained of Joris' property was inherited by his grandsons, John and George, after his death on May 12, 1748.

This splits the ownership of the project area into two tracts, or inherited lands – the southern half of the property lies within the DeBevoise tract/inheritance, and the northern half of the project area is situated within the Remsen tract/inheritance.

### **The Remsen Property (Historic Lots 27, 28, 29, and 30)**

John and George Remsen, the grandsons of Joris Remsen, retained a portion of their grandfather's property following his death on May 12, 1748. The northern half of the project is located within the Remsen inheritance. These would eventually become historic lots 27, 28, 29 and 30, comprising the northern half of the project area. These lots, while in the project area, fall outside the APE.

Prior to 1753, John and George Remsen conveyed six acres of the Remsen estate to Timothy Horsfield who then conveyed the property to John Tallman on October 3, 1753. On August 2, 1770, Tallman secured a mortgage for the property from Alexander Colden for £1,000. Between 1770 and 1795, Tallman conveyed the property and its remaining mortgage to Thomas Hicks. Prior to August of 1795, a bill was filed in the Court of Chancery for New York State for foreclosure of the mortgage. The bill was filed between John Thorne, the administrator for Thomas Hicks, who had since deceased, and the heirs of Alexander Colden. As a result, the Court of Chancery ordered a sale of the mortgaged lands to the highest bidder.

On August 4, 1795, Tredwell Jackson, a Manhattan-based merchant, purchased the six acres at public auction for £2,620. It was released to him by Sheriff Cornelius Bergen and recorded on November 12, 1797. On August 9, 1799, Tredwell Jackson conveyed the six-acre property to Samuel Jackson, a gentleman from Manhattan for \$12,500. On January 21, 1833, an inventory was completed of Samuel Jackson's estate, and his will was probated. In April 1835, Jackson's heirs commissioned Isaac T. Ludlam, City Surveyor for New York, to survey and partition the Jackson farm into salable building lots (Maps 7 and 8). The property was then sold at a public auction at the Merchants Exchange in Manhattan. The lots that make up the northern half of the project area are known historically as Lots 27, 28, 29, and 30 (Map 10).

Lots 27, 28 and 29 were purchased by Hezekiah B. Pierrepont on October 7, 1835, from Benjamin Clark, a Master in Chancery for New York. These three lots came to be owned by Hezekiah B. Pierrepont's daughter, Harriet C., and her husband, Edgar J. Bartow.

In 1840, the property though divided into building lots, remained undeveloped and void of structures (Map 7). By 1855, the building lots had been developed with stone or brick dwelling structures (Map 9). The chain of conveyance for Lot 27 disappears after it enters Bartow's possession on July 1, 1844 (Table 2). Lots 28 and 29 were sold by the Bartows on March 2, 1853, to Roswell S. Benedict and Alexander Studwell, respectively. Lot 28 changed hands nine more times until it came into Uno Hedlund's possession on March 31, 1932, the last identified property owner. Lot 29 came under the ownership of thirteen additional owners before being sold to the City of New York on January 15, 1937 (Table 2).

Lot 30 was purchased from Benjamin Clark by Whitehead J. Cornell and his wife, Juliet, on September 30, 1835. Cornell disposed of his lot three months after his purchase to Frederick Deming on December 26, 1835. In 1840 it had been divided into building lots but remained undeveloped and void of structures (Map 7). By 1855, the building lots had been developed with stone or brick dwelling structures (Map 9). The property changed hands five more times over the following century before being sold to the City of New York on September 16, 1939 (Table 2)

### **The DeBevoise Property (Historic Lots 24, 25, 26, and 50)**

On August 15, 1734, Joris Remsen conveyed fourteen acres to his son-in-law, Jacobus DeBevoise. The fourteen-acre tract extended from the East River to Fulton Street and from the width of Love Lane to Pierrepont Street (Map 6). The southern half of the project area, and the APE is located within this conveyance. These would eventually become historic lots 24, 25, 26 and 50, comprising the northern half of the project area. Only two of these lots form the APE – Lots 24 and 25.

Jacobus DeBevoise was born in March 1686 in the Brooklyn Heights area to Jacobus DeBevoise and Maria Carelszen. He was the grandson of Carel DeBevoise (de Beauvois), a highly respected and well-educated French Protestant who came to the New World from Leyden, Holland, in 1659. By 1661, Carel was engaged as the first schoolmaster for the Town of Breuckelen, though his also included court messenger, bell ringer, grave digger, chorister, and reader for the town. In 1664, Carel was conducting church services in the Town of Breuckelen. By 1669, Carel was town secretary and public clerk (Stiles 1867:116-118, 145).

Carel's grandson Jacobus married Sarah Remsen in 1715. His will left all his property – including the fourteen acres purchased from his father-in-law – to his wife (May 1761) with the provision that it be transferred to their only surviving child, George upon her death or remarriage. George DeBevoise had married Sarah Betts, and together they had three children – Robert, John, and Sarah. George died intestate on May 1, 1783, and the property defaulted to his sons, Robert and John, after the death of his widow in 1786.

The DeBevoise homestead stood on the line of Columbia Street, just north of Pierrepont Street (Map 8). Both Robert and John were perpetual bachelors who occupied themselves with fishing and gardening. Robert, who retained the original fourteen acres, was particularly well-known for the systematic cultivation of strawberries and had a monopoly as the sole provider of the berry in Manhattan (Stiles 1869:143-144).

Robert DeBevoise was alarmed by the impending urbanization of the Heights after Brooklyn's incorporation in 1816. The implementation of streets mapped over old farmland and the division of farms into building lots signaled a modernization that Robert DeBevoise wanted no part of. Consequently, he sought to remove from the Heights to somewhere more remote and sold his property his neighbor, Hezekiah B. Pierrepont on April 27, 1816<sup>15</sup> (Stiles 1869:145).

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<sup>15</sup> Stiles describes the exchange: "Robert DeBevoise... expressed a determination to move out of the reach of the modern improvements. Hearing of this, his next-door neighbor, Mr. Hez. B. Pierrepont, inquired his price, and, \$28,000 being named, immediately accepted the offer, much to old Bob's astonishment, who supposed he had placed it at so high a figure that no one would buy" (1869:145)



“The Pierrepont family is inseparably connected with the history of New York State” (Bergen 1915:340). The extensive Pierrepont lineage can be traced back to Sir Hugh de Pierrepont, Lord of the Castle of Pierrepont, in 980 A.D. and intertwines with English nobility. The first Pierreponts to come to America were London-born brothers John and Robert, who emigrated to Ipswich, Massachusetts, circa 1640. The Honorary John Pierrepont settled in Roxbury and Dorchester and was a representative to the General Court. He married Thankful Stowe, and together they had nine children, one of whom was the Reverend James Pierrepont. James born in Roxbury on January 4, 1659, was a graduate of Harvard College and became an ordained minister of the Congregational Church in 1685. He settled in New Haven, Connecticut where he became one of the founders of Yale University. James married Mary Hooker on July 26, 1698 and had seven children. His youngest, Hezekiah Pierrepont, born in New Haven on May 26, 1712, married Lydia Hemingway on February 9, 1736. They had two sons, the eldest being John, who was born in New Haven on May 21, 1740.

Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, named for his grandfather, was the oldest of nine children born to John Pierrepont and his second wife Sarah Beers. As the eldest, he was carefully educated and “Displayed at an early age an enterprising spirit and fondness for active life” (Stiles 1869:147). He established himself in New York in 1790, where he worked as a clerk in the New York Custom House. In 1793 he co-founded the Leffingwell & Pierrepont commercial house, which engaged in imports-exports to France (Bergen 1915:343). In 1802, he purchased the Livingston Distillery, located on Joralemon Street in Brooklyn Heights, that same year (Map 3). With his attention now drawn towards Brooklyn, Pierrepont used the fortune he acquired distilling gin to purchase land throughout the Heights. By 1816, Pierrepont had acquired much of southern Brooklyn Heights. Including the DeBevoise estate, Pierrepont’s portfolio comprised a sixty-acre tract encompassing all that land between the East River and Fulton Street and between Love Lane and Remsen Street.

Brooklyn consisted mainly of farms owned by market gardeners and country residences during the early nineteenth century (Map 3). Foreseeing the growth potential of Brooklyn, Pierrepont joined the committee that framed and obtained the act for incorporating Brooklyn as a village. After incorporation in 1816, Pierrepont hired city surveyor Thomas Poppleton to formally survey and plot out the Heights south of Clark Street (Map 6). Pierrepont was the first landowner in the Heights to partition his (sizeable) property into salable building lots (Map 7) (Stiles 1869:148).

Hezekiah Pierrepont died on August 11, 1838. His executors conveyed a portion of the property that contains the project area (Lot 25) to John and George Wily on July 1, 1843. Lots 24, 26, 50 were conveyed to Pierrepont’s daughter Harriet C., and her husband, Edgar J. Bartow on September 5, 1839, and May 17, 1844.

Harriet and Edgar sold Lot 24 to William G. Hunt on March 10, 1845. The property came under the ownership of five additional owners before the chain of conveyance disappeared in 1917 (Table 2). Lot 26 was sold by the Bartows to James H. Prentice and John T. Moore on March 2, 1853. Ownership of the property was transferred another eight times over the following eighty years (Table 2). By 1855, the building lots had been developed with stone or brick dwelling structures (Map 9).

Lot 50 was conveyed by Harriet and Edgar to John H. Brower and John T. Moore on December 5, 1850. Two years later, on November 29, 1852, Brower and his wife, Ann, and Moore and his wife, Mary, deeded the property to the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church on the Heights. The congregation had been organized in Brooklyn as early as 1654.

The Church on the Heights began in October of 1836 when the Reverend John Garretson started preaching to a congregation of eleven in the Lyceum Building. His sermons and ministrations were so well attended that the following year, the Classis of Long Island authorized the formal organization of a church on the Heights. The first dedicated church edifice was built in 1839 on Henry Street near Clark Street. Within seven years of its opening, the congregation had grown to 130 families and 230 communicants, necessitating a larger house of worship. On November 24, 1850, the cornerstone of this new building – known as the Church on the Heights – was laid on Pierrepont Street near Monroe Place (Lot 50) (Map 10). The Church on the Heights, designed by Minard Lafever, was built of “Brown stone, in the Roman Corinthian order of architecture, with a depth of one hundred feet, and a front of seventy feet, having a portico supported by Corinthian pillars” (Stiles 1870:639) (Images 3 and 4). Its first pastor, Reverend Dr. George W. Bethune, opened its doors to 200 families and 445 communicants. By 1870, the Church boasted 502 communicants and 478 sabbath school scholars (Stiles 1870:639-640). By 1890, Love Lane, which ran east-west in the rear of the Church lot, had been shortened it was absorbed by Lot 50 (Maps 11 and 12). The building was updated to feature numerous modern improvements – 46 skylights adorned the roof, and both electric and gas lights were in the study room and around the furnaces – by 1904 (Maps 13 and 14). The chain of conveyance disappears with the deed from Moore and Brower. The Church on the Heights was demolished after 1922 for the City of New York.

### **Historic Property Lots 24 and 25**

The present-day parking lot that forms the APE was occupied by historic lots 24 and 25, 101 and 103 Pierrepont Street respectively (house number 69 and 71 in 1850). These lots are situated in the property owned by Hezekiah B. Pierrepont, inherited by his daughter Harriet C. and her husband Edgar J. Bartow. These properties, though divided into building lots remained undeveloped until circa 1850. The earliest map to show structures on the properties is the 1855 Perris map (Map 9)

Lot 24, 101 Pierrepont Street, was purchased by William G. Hunt on March 10, 1845. There would be five additional owners before the chain of conveyance disappears in 1917 (Table 2). This property, 101 Pierrepont Street does not appear in the Census records for 1880<sup>16</sup> or 1900.

The 1910 census lists Ernest C. Pressprich, his wife Lillian, his father-in-law John J. Spowers, and brother-in-law Ralph Spowers. Ernest was born in Liverpool, England in October 1868 and arrived in the United States in 1875. He worked as a corn/sugar merchant along with his father Otto.

After marrying Lillian Spowers in 1904, he moved to her family home at 101 Pierrepont Street. Lillian’s father, John J. Spowers. John Spowers was a wealthy businessman whose family had been in Brooklyn for several generations. His obituary noted he was from “one of the old families on the Heights” (Brooklyn Daily Eagle 8 June 1917). He founded Jersey City Galvanizing Co, an

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<sup>16</sup> This is the first census year to list addresses.

iron works business that had its headquarters at 112 John Street in Manhattan. He purchased the home on Pierrepont Street in 1885.

Following his death, his daughter and son-in-law continued to reside in the house. Lillian passed away in 1927, Ernest continued to live there until sometime after 1930. He is listed at Pierrepont Street in the 1930s census along with his long-time secretary Deborah Cothlin and two servants. By the 1940s census he has moved to East 84<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan.

Lot 25, 103 Pierrepont Street was sold by Hezekiah B. Pierrepont's Executors to John and George Wily on July 1, 1843. In May 1866 it is sold to George A. Thayer.

George A. Thayer, born October 1821 in Massachusetts, was a prominent businessman who co-founder the Linseed oil manufacturing firm of Campbell & Thayer on Maiden Lane in Manhattan. He and his wife Jane raised seven children and lived at 103 Pierrepont until their deaths (May 1895 and May 1911 respectively).

As a widow, Jane lived in the house with her daughters Margaret, Aleta and Jane. They were all active in the local community. The home would ultimately pass to Margaret who never married. Following her death in May 1921, the property was sold to Louise Intall.

The 1930s census shows that 103 Pierrepont has been divided into three rental units representing the shift that was occurring in the area. These were occupied by Belgian immigrant Joseph Wolf and his family, William and Anna Matthews from Missouri, and Forham Page. Joseph Wolf worked as a machinist, while his wife Clementine is listed as an apartment's caretaker. William Matthews was an artist and Forham Page is listed as being retired.

Ultimately, all the lots, including those forming the APE, were consolidated to into present-day Lot 1, upon which the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court has been situated since 1937.



Image 3: "Brooklyn: Reformed Church on the Heights, north side of Pierrepont Street, west of Monroe Place, 1923" (New York Historical Society Museum & Library, *Eugene L. Armbruster Photograph Collection, 1894-1939*)



Image 4: "Brooklyn: Reformed Church on the Heights, near the northwest corner of Pierrepont Street and Monroe Place, 1922. Dedicated 1851. Demolished" (New York Historical Society Museum & Library, *Eugene L. Armbruster Photograph Collection, 1849-1939*)

Table 2: Deed Conveyances – Block 237, Lot 1.

GRANTEES	GRANTOR	DATE OF RECORDING	LIBER, PAGE	NOTES
William Kieft (“Dir. Gen. West Indian Compagne”)	Andries Hudden	September 12, 1645	Deeds: 1, 249	
Andries Hudde	Lodewyck Jongh	January 2, 1651	Deeds: 1, 250	Written July 27, 1650
Andries Hudde	Lodewyck Jongh	January 1651	Deeds: 1, 251	
Harmtie Janse (widow of Lodewyck Jongh)	Dirk Janse Woertman	February 12, 1679	Deeds: 1, 250	
Jan Cortelyou (surveyor)	Survey	April 28, 1679	Deeds: 1, 252	
Dirck Janse Woertman Anntie Ankes (widow) Weynant Pieterse	Ante-Nuptial Agreement	April 9, 1691	Deeds: 1, 265	
Dirck Janse Woertman	Joris Remsen	October 16, 1706	Deeds: 3, 81	
Joris Remsen	Jacobus DeBevoise	August 15, 1734	<i>Referring Document – Stiles, Vol. 2, p. 146</i>	
John Remsen George Remsen	Timothy Horsfield	Prior to 1753	<i>Referring Document – Deeds: 7, 94</i>	
Timothy Horsfield	John Tallman	October 3, 1753	<i>Referring Document – Deeds: 7, 94</i>	
Jacobus DeBevoise (will of)	Sarah DeBevoise George DeBevoise	May 22, 1761	Wills: Vol. 26, 156	Probated January 14, 1768
John Tallman	Thomas Hicks	Between 1770 – 1795	<i>Referring Document – Deeds: 7, 94</i>	
George DeBevoise	Robert DeBevoise John DeBevoise	After May 1, 1783	<i>Referring Document – Stiles, Vol. 2, p. 143</i>	
Cornelius Bergen (Sheriff)	Tredwell Jackson	November 12, 1797	Deeds: 7, 94	Written April 4, 1795
Tredwell Jackson	Samuel Jackson	August 9, 1799	Deeds: 7, 162	Written March 13, 1798
Robert DeBevoise John DeBevoise	Hezekiah B. Pierrepont	April 27, 1816	Deeds: 11, 509	
William C. Pierrepont Henry Evelyn Pierrepont Joseph A. Perry (Heirs, Exr.’s & Trustees of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont)	Edgar J. Bartow	May 17, 1844	Deeds: 119, 409	Historic Lot 24
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	William G. Hunt	March 10, 1845	Deeds: 128, 230	Historic Lot 24
William G. Hunt	Elizabeth G. Sprague	July 6, 1859	Deeds: 504, 527	Historic Lot 24
Joseph A. Sprague Elizabeth G. Sprague	William G. Hunt	February 25, 1868	Deeds: 803, 204	Historic Lot 24
William G. Hunt	Jennie Spowers	September 15, 1885	Deeds: 1626, 337	Historic Lot 24
John J. Spowers	Lillian M. Spowers	March 3, 1908	Deeds: 3061, 335	Historic Lot 24

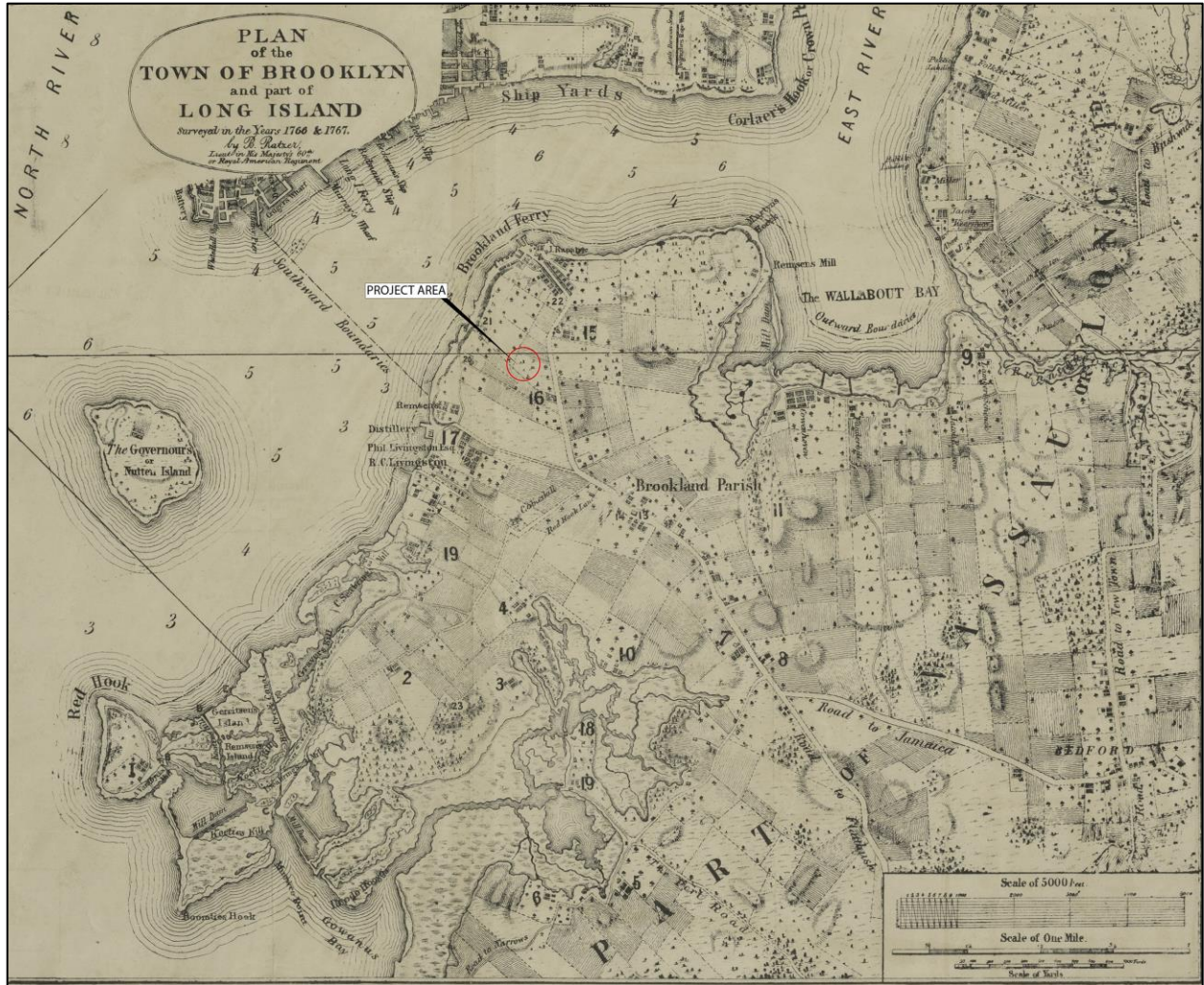
<b>GRANTEES</b>	<b>GRANTOR</b>	<b>DATE OF RECORDING</b>	<b>LIBER, PAGE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
Ralph B. Spowers Vivian W. Spowers	Lillian M. Presspick	August 10, 1917	Deeds: 3682, 470	Historic Lot 24
William C. Pierrepont Henry Evelyn Pierrepont Joseph A. Perry (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont)	John S. Wily George S. Wily	July 1, 1843	Deeds: 111, 257	Historic Lot 25
George J. Murphy (Ref.) Camm Garrett, et al. (Plaintiff)	George A. Thayer	May 17, 1866	Deeds: 708, 502	Historic Lot 25
Arnold Thayer George A. Thayer Henry H. Hoggins (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of George A. Thayer)	Margaret J. Thayer	January 9, 1912	Deeds: 3333, 436	Historic Lot 25
Arnold Thayer George A. Thayer Henry H. Hoggins (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of George A. Thayer)	Margaret J. Thayer	March 3, 1918	Deeds: 3420, 155	Historic Lot 25
Arnold Thayer George A. Thayer Henry H. Hoggins (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of George A. Thayer)	Margaret J. Thayer	October 6, 1918	Deeds: 3452, 106	Historic Lot 25
Margaret J. Thayer (Exr.'s of)	Louise M. Intall	September 16, 1921	Deeds: 4082, 2	Historic Lot 25
Louise M. Intall	Salruh Realty Corp	April 16, 1930	Deeds: 5118, 52	Historic Lot 25
Salruh Realty Corp	Rovinia Realty Corp	March 18, 1932	Deeds: 5260, 229	Historic Lot 25
Leon D. Sachter (Ref.) Rovinia Realty Corp	Archbold Realty Corp, Inc.	September 4, 1934	Deeds: 5405, 17	Historic Lot 25
Archbold Realty Corp, Inc.	New York City	March 22, 1937	Deeds: 5559, 19	Historic Lot 25
William C. Pierrepont Henry Evelyn Pierrepont Joseph A. Perry (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont)	Harriet C. Bartow	September 5, 1839	Deeds: 84, 93	Historic Lot 26
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	George A. Bartow	February 3, 1840	Deeds: 87, 455	Historic Lot 26
George A. Bartow	Edgar J. Bartow	February 3, 1840	Deeds: 87, 457	Historic Lot 26
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	James H. Prentice John T. Moore	March 2, 1853	Deeds: 313, 116	Historic Lot 26
James H. Prentice Eloise W. Prentice	Mary Tracy	April 29, 1864	Deeds: 628, 115	Historic Lot 26
Reformed Protestant Dutch Church on the Heights	Agreement	March 2, 1865	Deeds: 656, 217	Historic Lot 26

GRANTEES	GRANTOR	DATE OF RECORDING	LIBER, PAGE	NOTES
John T. Moore James H. Prentice				
Mary L. Wetmore	Teresa De Yoanna	July 18, 1916	Deeds: 3616, 358	Historic Lot 26
Mary L. Wetmore J. Ludis Wetmore John R. Tracy	Teresa De Yoanna	July 18, 1916	Deeds: 3616, 357	Historic Lot 26
Teresa De Yoanna	Gaetano De Yoanna Saverio De Yoanna Alfredo A. De Yoanna	March 31, 1919	Deeds: 3778, 41	Historic Lot 26
Saverio De Yoanna Adelina De Yoanna	Aurelius De Yoanna	April 17, 1929	Deeds: 5021, 502	Historic Lot 26
Aurelius De Yoanna	Consuelo De Yoanna	October 23, 1933	Deeds: 5342, 534	Historic Lot 26
Benjamin Clark (Master in Chancery)	Hezekiah B. Pierrepont	October 7, 1835	Deeds: 54, 354	Historic Lot 27, 28, 29
Hezekiah B. Pierrepont (Exr.'s of)	Whitehead J. Cornell	January 27, 1844	Deeds: 116, 154	Historic Lot 27
Whitehead J. Cornell Juliet Cornell	Edgar J. Bartow	July 1, 1844	Deeds: 121, 113	Historic Lot 27
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	Roswell S. Benedict	March 2, 1853	Deeds: 313, 124	Historic Lot 28
Roswell S. Benedict Minerva Benedict	Adolphus F. Carter	July 13, 1875	Deeds: 1209, 226	Historic Lot 28
Adolphus F. Carter	Minerva Benedict	July 13, 1875	Deeds: 1209, 229	Historic Lot 28
Minerva Benedict Roswell S. Benedict	William A. Read	June 5, 1889	Deeds: 1893, 167	Historic Lot 28
William A. Read	Roswell S. Benedict	June 5, 1889	Deeds: 1893, 169	Historic Lot 28
Kalil Dalool	Tonune S. Hedlund	October 20, 1930	Deeds: 5154, 219	Historic Lot 28
Kalil Dalool Hussin Dalool	Dalool Realty Corp	November 6, 1930	Deeds: 5161, 190	Historic Lot 28
Samuel Marks (Ref.) Kalil Dalool (Deft.)	Najeeb A. Sahadi	May 4, 1931	Deeds: 5194, 197	Historic Lot 28
Najeeb A. Sahadi	Edwin Thorne	July 2, 1931	Deeds: 5208, 151	Historic Lot 28
Edwin Thorne	Uno Hedlund	March 31, 1932	Deeds: 5265, 324	Historic Lot 28
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	Alexander Studwell	March 2, 1853	Deeds: 313, 119	Historic Lot 29
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	Charles A. Avery	March 2, 1853	Deeds: 313, 122	Historic Lot 29
Charles A. Avery	Clement S. Parsons	March 23, 1854	Deeds: 356, 200	Historic Lot 29
Alexander Studwell	George S. Studwell (as Trustee) Alexander Studwell	October 26, 1891	Deeds: 2074, 142	Historic Lot 29
Clement S. Parsons Julia A. Parsons Sallie H. Parsons	Mary E. P. Todd	April 25, 1895	Deeds: 3001, 320	Historic Lot 29

GRANTEES	GRANTOR	DATE OF RECORDING	LIBER, PAGE	NOTES
Henry C. Parsons Kate L. Parsons Edward Parsons Florence S. Parsons				
Mary E. P. Todd	John Vanderbilt	April 25, 1895	Deeds: 3001, 495	Historic Lot 29
Harriet L. Vanderbilt	Ralph P. Hinchman	July 20, 1906	Deeds: 3027, 451	Historic Lot 29
Harriet L. Vanderbilt John Vanderbilt (Dev. of)	Ralph P. Hinchman	November 13, 1911	Deeds: 3324, 468	Historic Lot 29
Ralph P. Hinchman Emma H. Hinchman	James H. Jourdan	November 15, 1911	Deeds: 3332, 237	Historic Lot 29
James H. Jourdan	Emma B. Jourdan	December 2, 1911	Deeds: 3333, 219	Historic Lot 29
George S. Studwell (as Trustee)	Clara K. Intemann	February 18, 1924	Deeds: 4383, 82	Historic Lot 29
Clara K. Intemann	Louis I. Grimes	March 4, 1925	Deeds: 4518, 522	Historic Lot 29
Louis I. Grimes Eleonor L. Grimes	George C. Roy	May 6, 1925	Deeds: 4539, 11	Historic Lot 29
George C. Roy	I + A Holding Corp	March 15, 1926	Deeds: 4653, 412	Historic Lot 29
James H. Jourdan	New York City	January 15, 1937	Deeds: 5535, 90	Historic Lot 29
Benjamin Clark (Master in Chancery) Hamilton H. Jackson, et al. (Plaintiffs)	Whitehead J. Cornell	September 30, 1835	Deeds: 54, 42	Historic Lot 30
Whitehead J. Cornell Juliet Cornell	Frederick Deming	December 26, 1835	Deeds: 56, 314	Historic Lot 30
Frederick Deming Mary Deming	Mary G. Green	November 21, 1861	Deeds: 563, 537	Historic Lot 30
Frederick Deming (Heirs & Exr.'s of)	Mary G. Green	January 10, 1862	Deeds: 566, 349	Historic Lot 30
Mary G. Green (Exr. of)	Frederick A. Guild	November 4, 1889	Deeds: 1924, 446	Historic Lot 30
Mary A. Guild Frederick A. Guild	Elise M. Redfield	June 2, 1923	Deeds: 4269, 157	Historic Lot 30
Elise M. Redfield	Brooklyn Trust Co.	April 27, 1939	Deeds: 5690, 119	Historic Lot 30
Brooklyn Trust Co.	New York City	September 16, 1939	Deeds: 5752, 209	Historic Lot 30
William C. Pierrepont Henry Evelyn Pierrepont Joseph A. Perry (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont)	Harriet C. Bartow	September 5, 1839	Deeds: 84, 93	Historic Lot 50 (Easternmost 25')
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	George A. Bartow	February 3, 1840	Deeds: 87, 455	Historic Lot 50 (Easternmost 25')



<b>GRANTEES</b>	<b>GRANTOR</b>	<b>DATE OF RECORDING</b>	<b>LIBER, PAGE</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
George A. Bartow	Edgar J. Bartow	February 3, 1840	Deeds: 87, 457	Historic Lot 50 (Easternmost 25')
William C. Pierrepont Henry Evelyn Pierrepont Joseph A. Perry (Heirs, Exr.'s & Trustees of Hezekiah B. Pierrepont)	Edgar J. Bartow	May 17, 1844	Deeds: 119, 409	Historic Lot 50 (Westernmost 25', Central 25')
Edgar J. Bartow Harriet C. Bartow	John H. Brower John T. Moore	December 5, 1850	Deeds: 231, 123	Historic Lot 50
John H. Brower Ann S. Brower John T. Moore Mary E. Moore	Reformed Protestant Dutch Church on the Heights	November 29, 1852	Deeds: 302, 125	Historic Lot 50
Reformed Protestant Dutch Church on the Heights John T. Moore James H. Prentice	Agreement	March 2, 1865	Deeds: 656, 217	Historic Lot 50



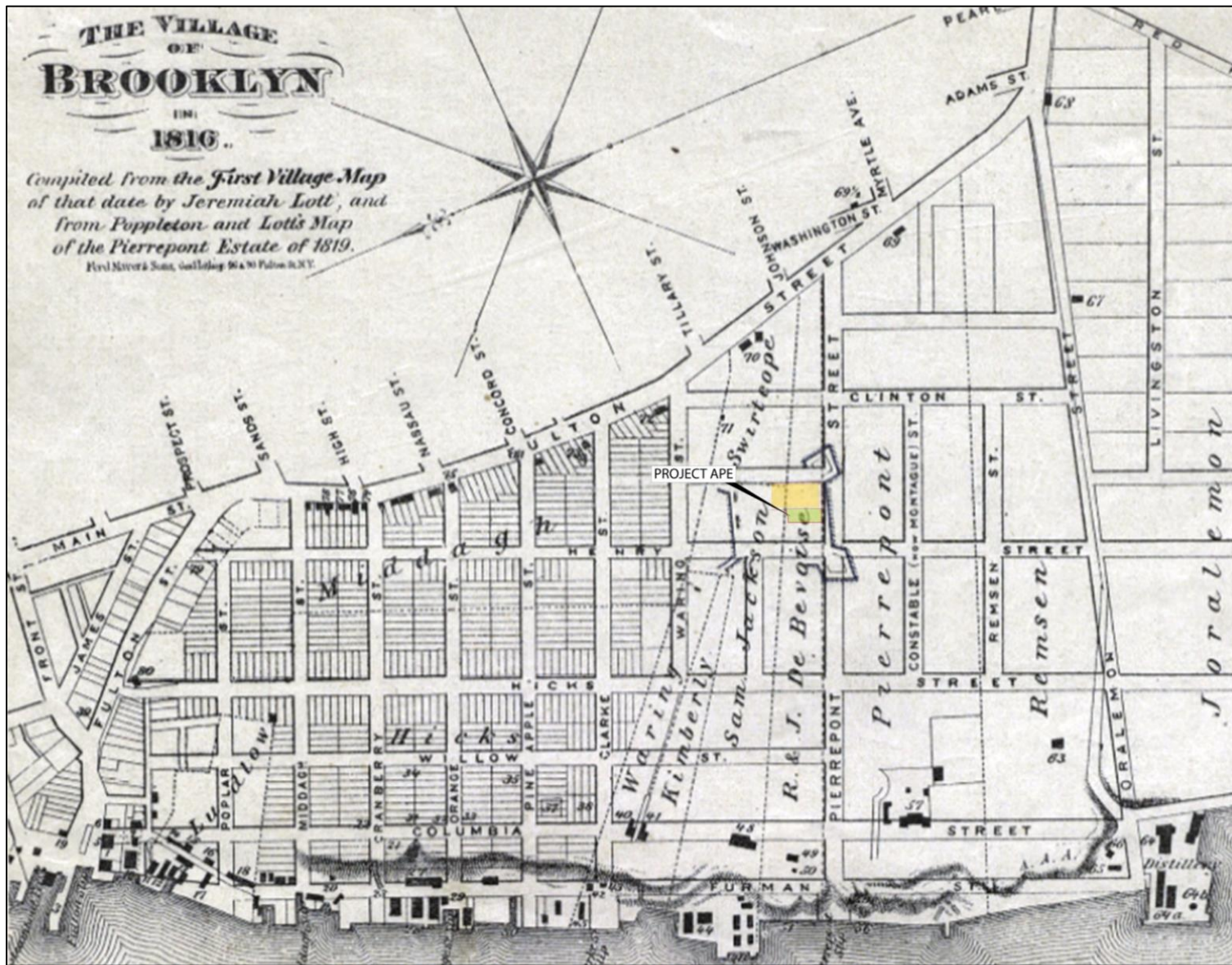
Map 3: Plan of the Town of Brooklyn and part of Long Island (Ratzer 1766)



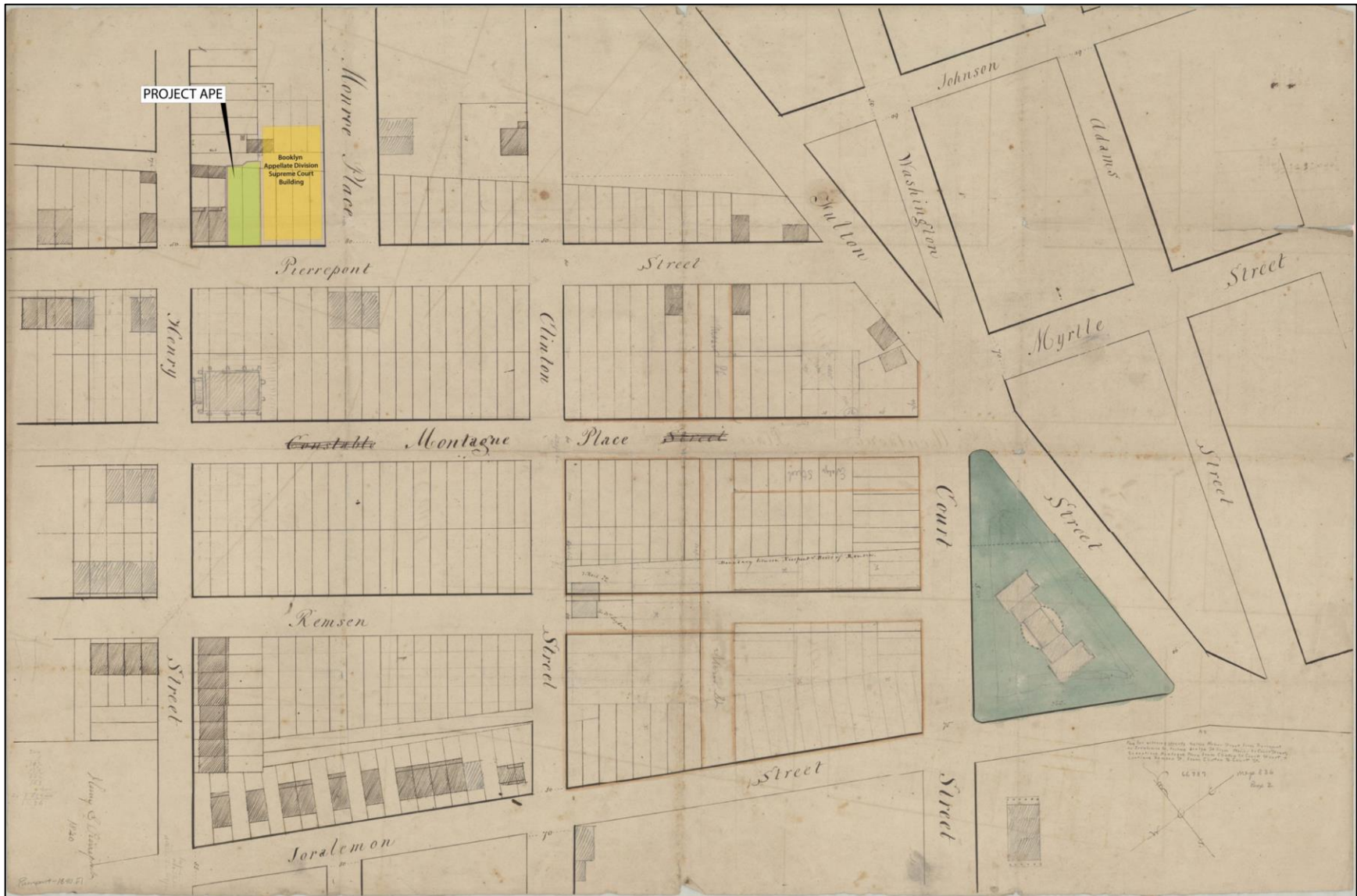
Map 4: A Plan of the Environs of Brooklyn 1776-1782 (Sproule 1781)



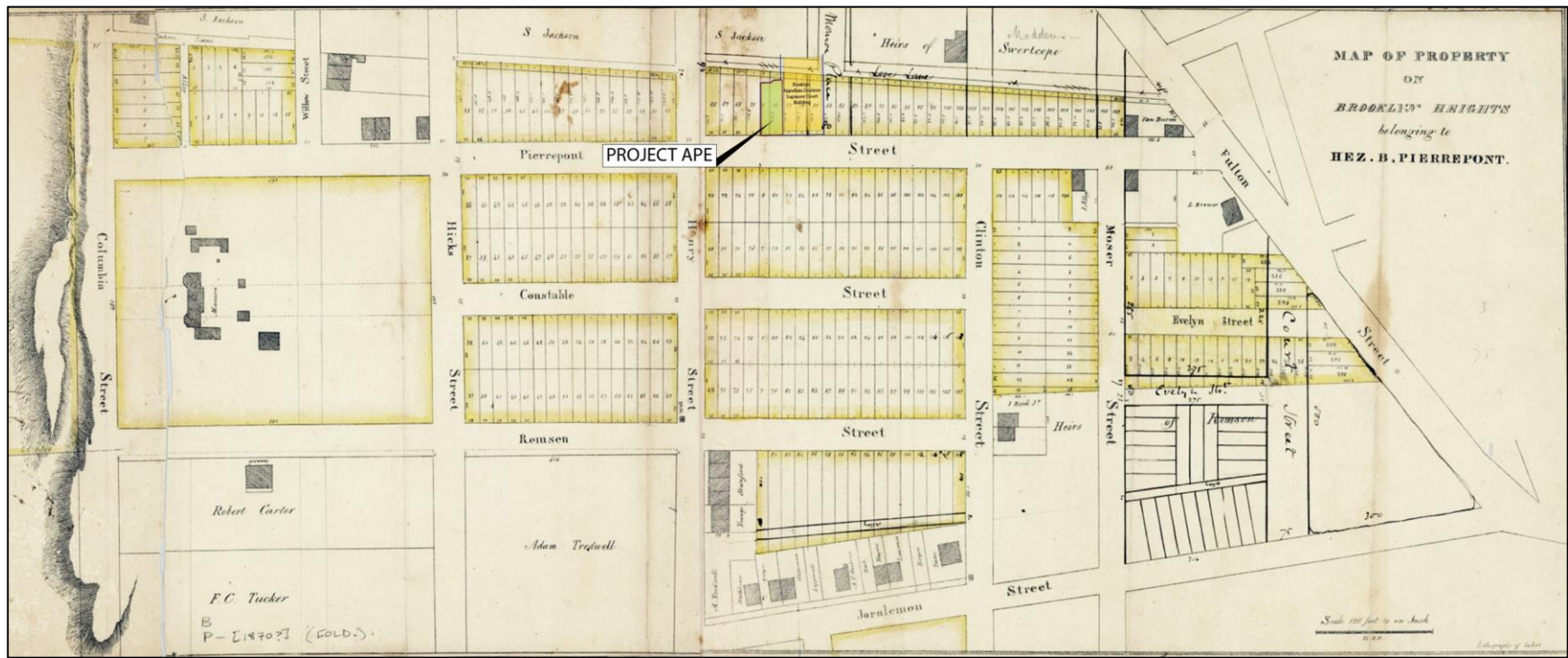
Map 5: Facsimile of the unpublished British headquarters coloured manuscript of New York & environs (Stevens 1900)



Map 6: *The Village of Brooklyn in 1816, completed from the First Village Map of that date by Jeremiah Lott and from Poppleton and Lott's Map of the Pierrepont Estate of 1819 (Lott & Poppleton 1819)*



Map 7: Plan for altering streets (Pierrepont 1840).

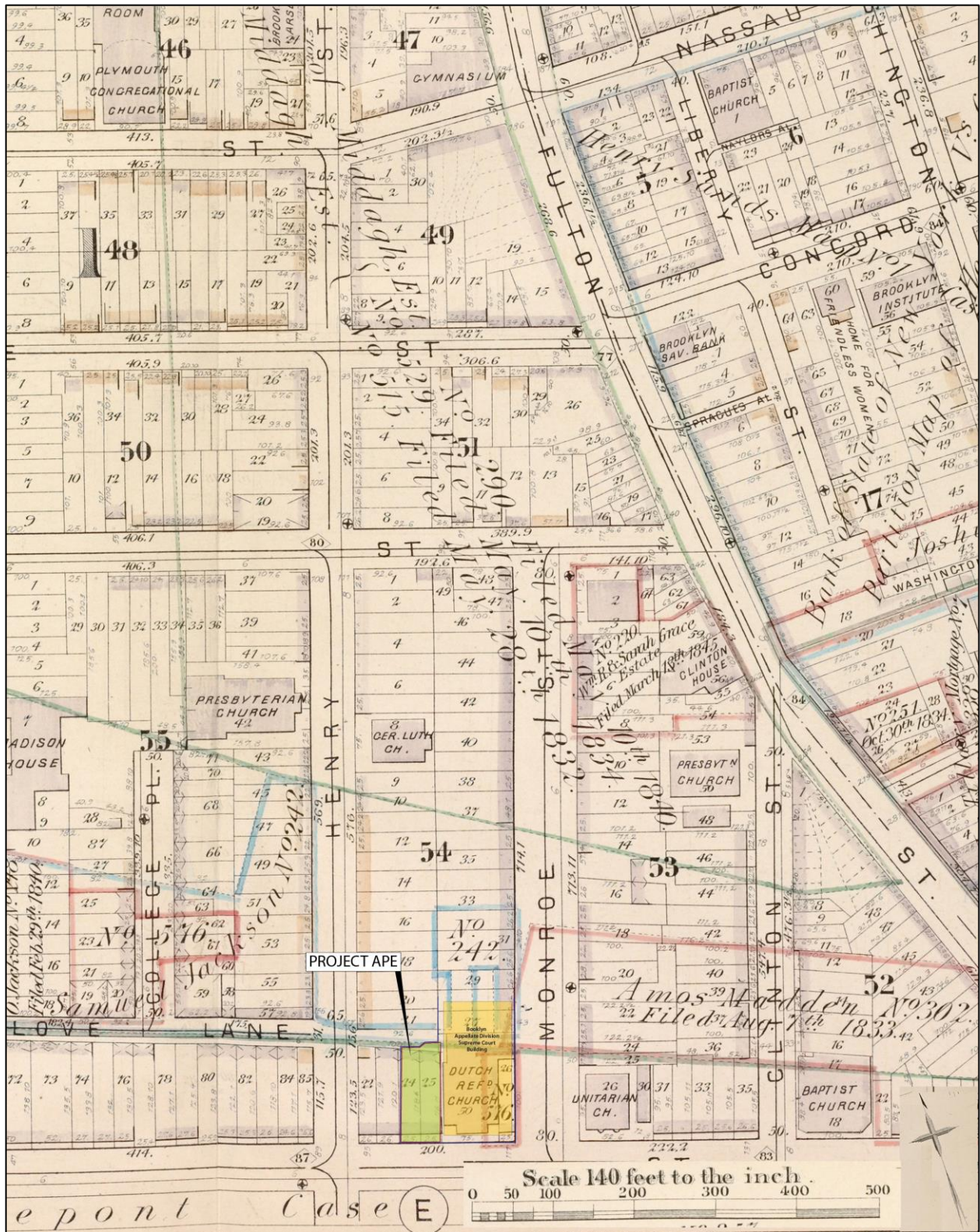


Map 8: Map of property on Brooklyn Heights belonging to Hez. B. Pierrepont (Imbert's Lithographic Office 1870).

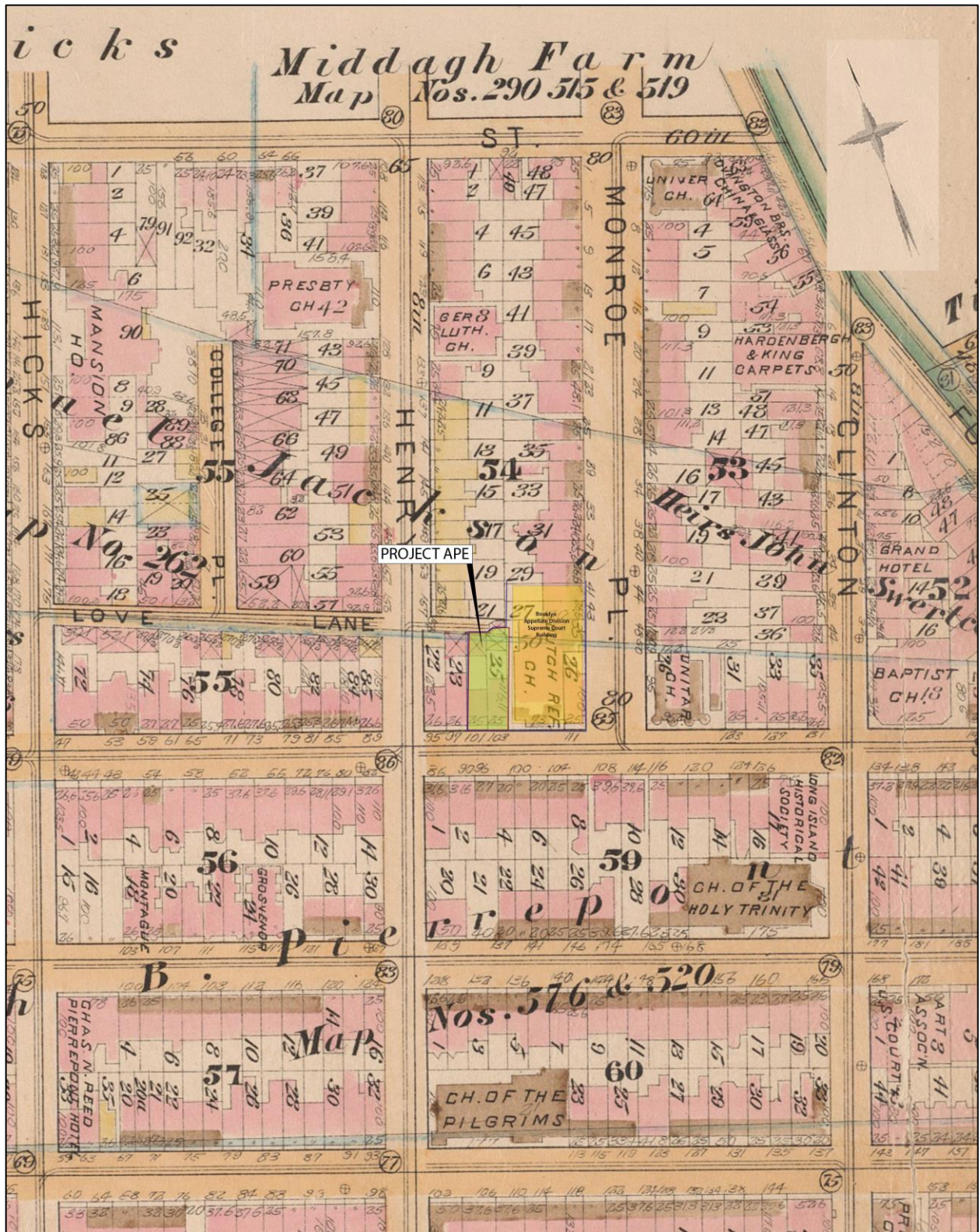


Map 9: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Wards, Plate 15 (Perris 1855).

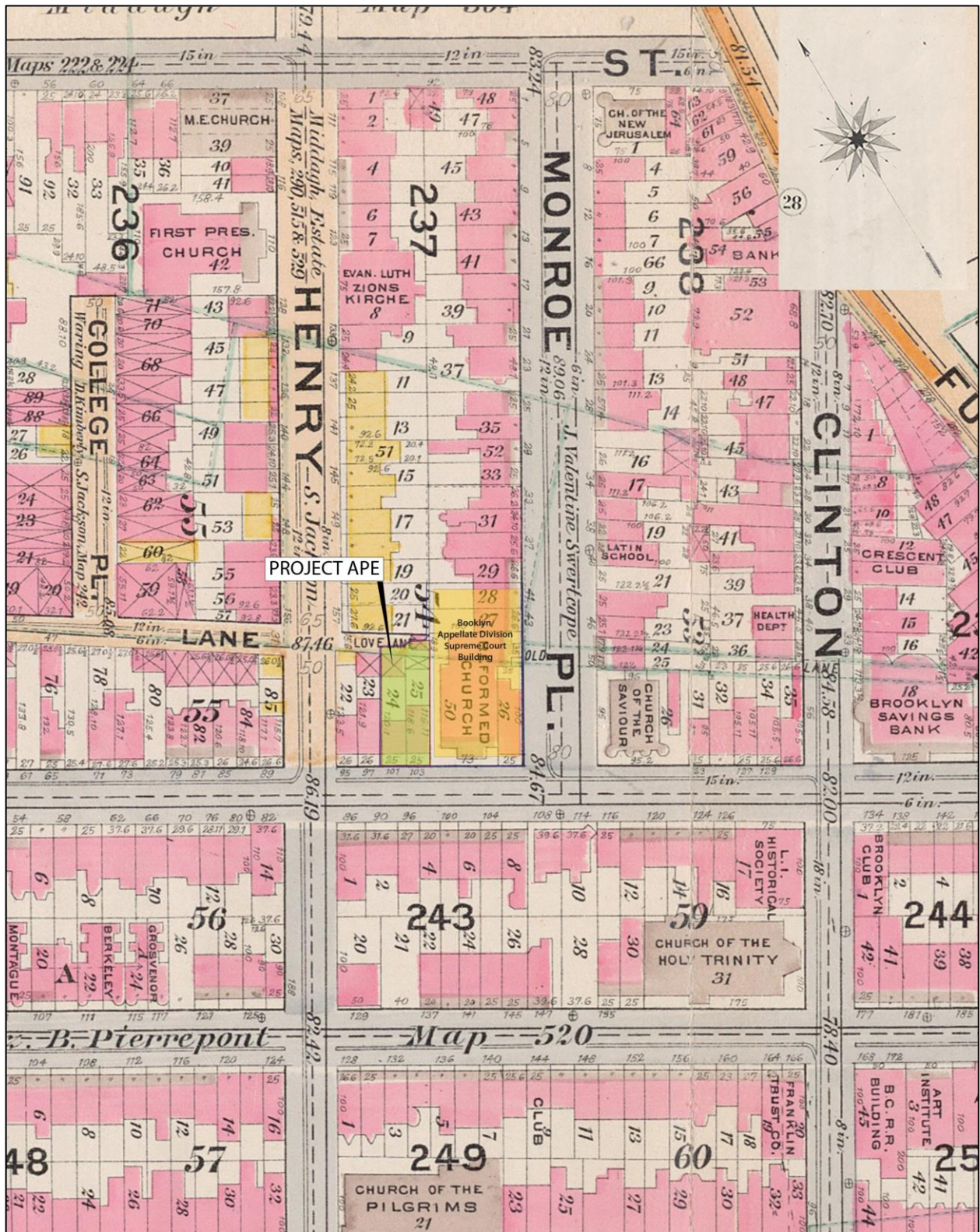




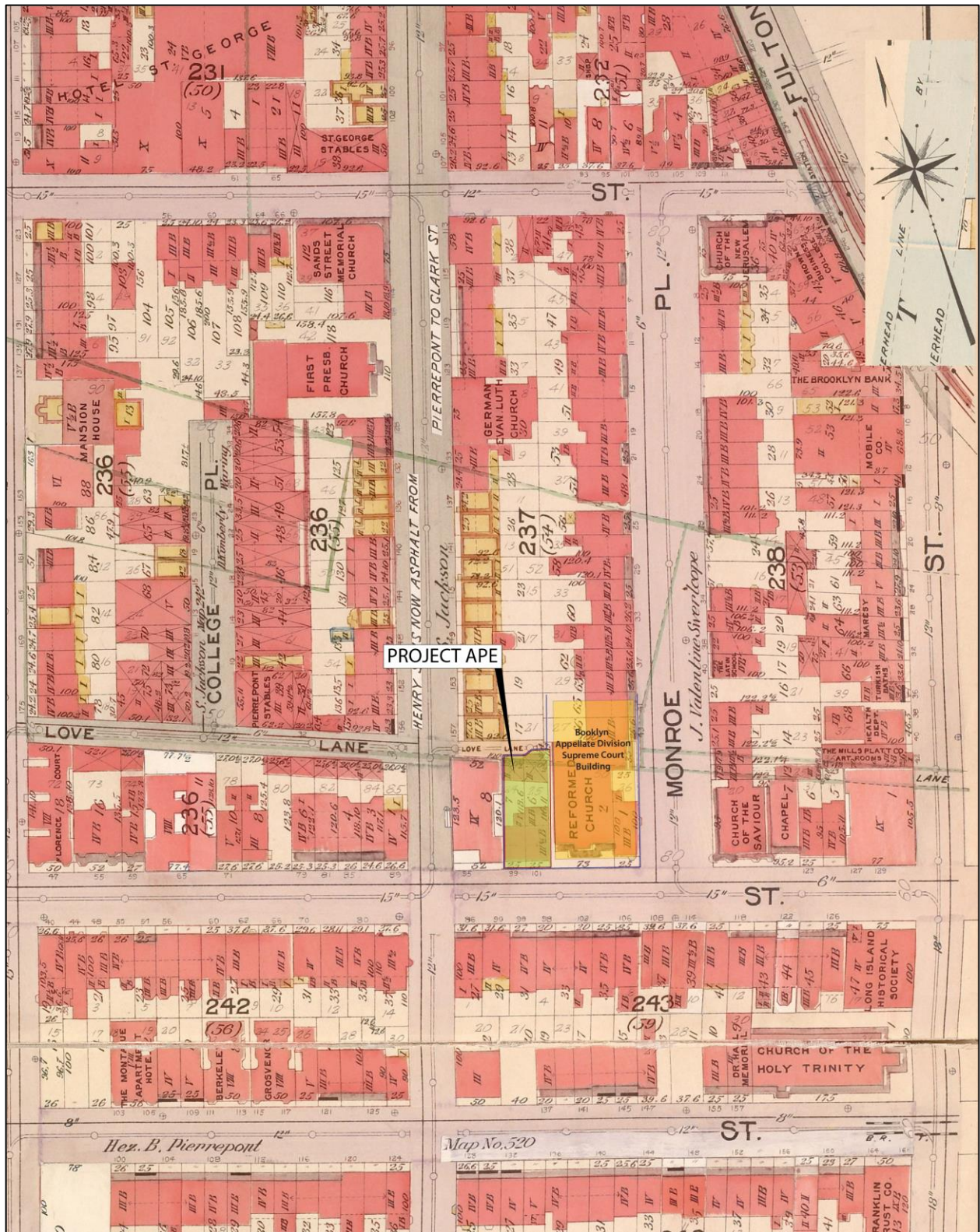
Map 10: Part of Wards 1 & 4. Brooklyn, Vol. 5, Plate C. In *Detailed estate and old farm line atlas of the city of Brooklyn* (Hopkins 1880).



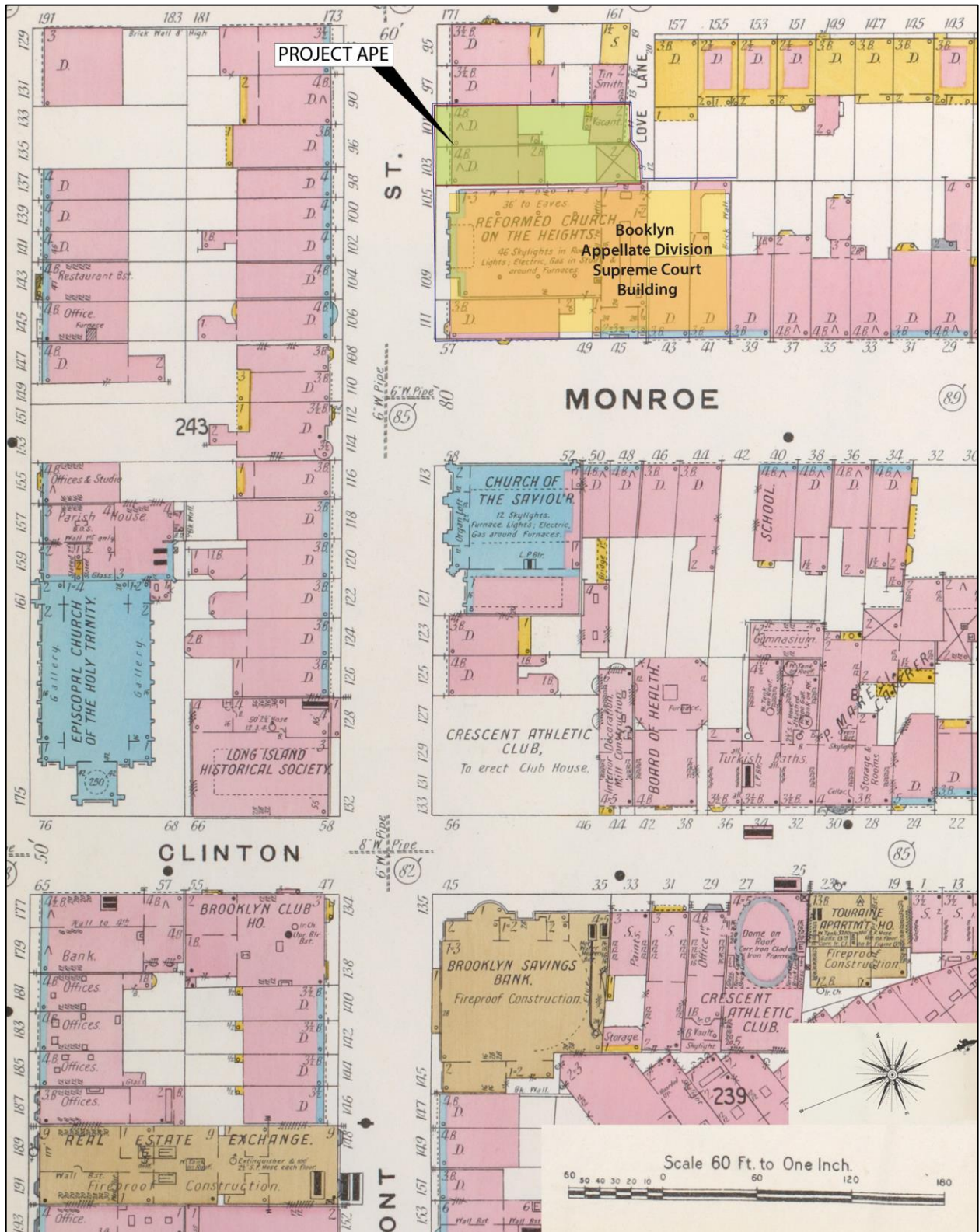
Map 11: Part of Wards 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 11, Brooklyn, N.Y. Plate 2. In *Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn, New York* (Robinson 1886)



Map 12: Part of Wards 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 10. Land Map Sections, No. 1 & 2. Brooklyn, Vol. 1, Double Page Plate No. 2. In *Atlas of the Brooklyn borough of the City of New York* (Ullitz 1898)



Map 13: Part of Wards 1, Section 1. Brooklyn, Vol. 1, Double Page Plate No. 4. In *Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York* (Hyde 1903)



Map 14: Brooklyn, Vol. 2, Plate No. 19. In *Insurance Maps, Borough of Brooklyn, New York* (Sanborn 1904).

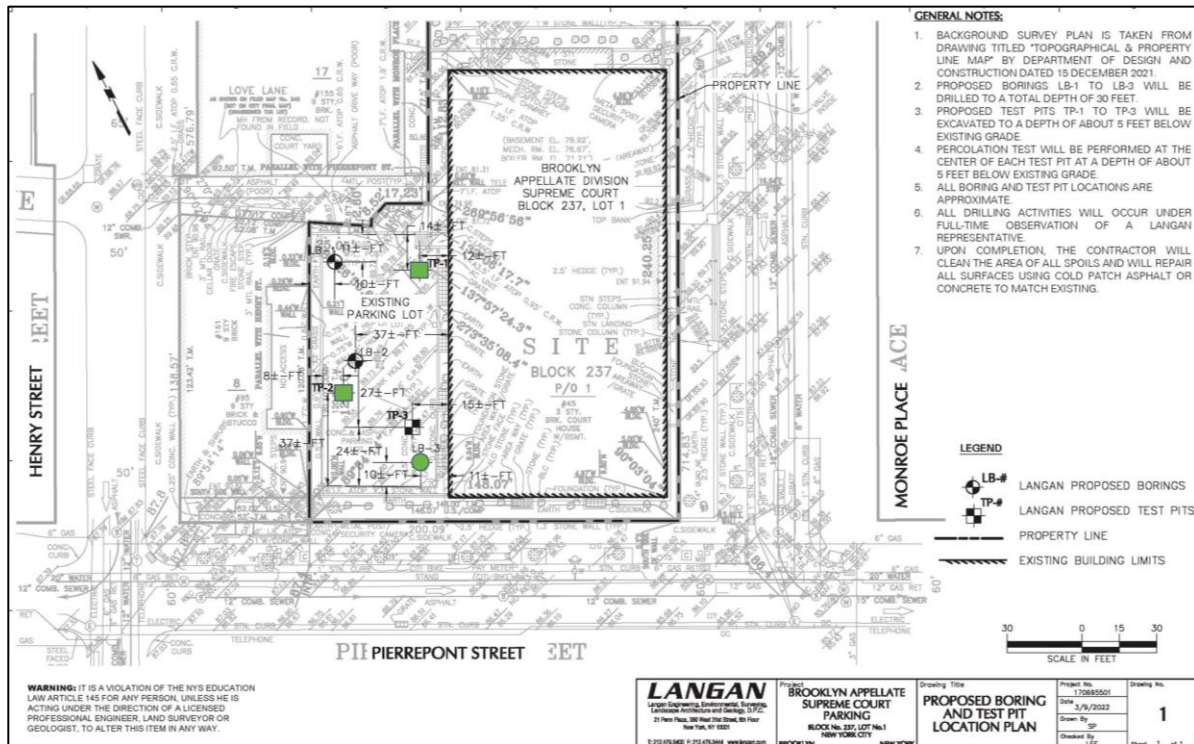


Map 15: Part of Wards 1, 2, 4 & 5, Section 1. Brooklyn, Vol. 1, Double Page Plate No. 1. In *Atlas of the borough of Brooklyn, City of New York* (Hyde 1916)

## VI. SOIL TESTING

In advance of construction planning activities, a series of soil boring and test pits were excavated in May of 2022. Testing was undertaken to determine the subsurface conditions that will inform the engineering of the parking lot redevelopment. The soil borings and test pits were archaeologically monitored, and an End of Field Memorandum was developed and submitted to the Project Team for coordination with the Regulatory Agencies (Chrysalis 2022).

Though not extensive, the borings and test pits indicate that structural remnants of earlier construction periods remain beneath the surface (Map 16). Test Pit 1, located at the northeastern portion of the project area, suggests that remnants of the rear lot structures depicted on the 1855 map also remain beneath the surface. Other test pits indicated the remnant remains of other brick features potentially dating to the nineteenth century. No artifact remains were observed in any of the test pits or borings.



Map 16: Soil Boring and Test Pit locations map (modified), positive tests highlighted.

## **VII. CONCLUSIONS**

Research determined that former house lots 24 and 25 have not been developed since the demolition of the nineteenth century homes post-1937. The area is currently serving as a parking lot for the Appellate Court building.

The two nineteenth century lots were developed before 1855. The 1855 Perris Atlas shows brick structures fronting Pierrepoint Street and rear structures at the northern boundary of the property lots. The surrounding area was substantially developed at this time. The earliest map to note utilities in the area dates to 1880 (Hopkins 1880, Map 10). Attempts to obtain a connection date from DEP were unsuccessful.

The earliest known residents of Lots 24 and 25 are the Spowers and Thayer families. The Thayers purchased Lot 24 in 1866, and the Spowers purchased Lot 25 in 1885. Both families were long-term residents of the properties, which would allow for direct association of any dateable backyard deposits.

Soil testing in the APE has demonstrated that there are remnants of the nineteenth century structures 15” beneath the pavement of the existing parking lot. There is a moderate chance or the recovery of mid-nineteenth century household deposits.

There is also a low – moderate potential to encounter Revolutionary War era resources associated with the construction and occupation of Fort Brooklyn. While construction of the nineteenth century housing likely included basements, the depth of foundation walls for Fort Brooklyn is an unknown factor. Further the entirety of the house lots was not developed leaving open the possibility to counter pre-nineteenth century cultural resources.

## **VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the information gathered for this report, and in conjunction with the evidence uncovered as part of the initial Soil Boring and Test Pits, it is recommended that Phase IB archaeological survey be undertaken if plans call for subsurface impacts in the backyard area of the nineteenth century house lots. Any testing plan should encompass the area of former nineteenth century rear yard structures, and undeveloped portions of the property.



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