

**PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTARY STUDY**

**234 CONSELYEA STREET  
BLOCK 2893, LOTS 1 AND 59  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK  
LA-CEQR-K**

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## ABSTRACT

This IA Documentary Study and Archaeological Assessment for Block 2893, Lots 1 and 59, Brooklyn addresses the historical background and archaeological potential of the subject parcels, where a six-story mixed use, residential and commercial building is planned. PaleoWest Archaeology LLC (PaleoWest) conducted the assessment as a sub-consultant to Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated (GEI) on behalf of Capscar LLC. Research determined that these lots in Block 2893 were part of the *Het Dorp* settlement of the town of Bushwick, founded in 1660 with Peter Stuyvesant setting the survey. The project area and its vicinity on the east side of Bushwick Avenue/Old Woodpoint Road remained primarily rural through the mid-nineteenth century. Nineteenth-century commentators observed that the former village of *Het Dorp* remained largely unchanged for 200 years with many residents inhabiting old structures for generations. Historic maps from the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries reveal the archaeological potential for the unbuilt northern and central portions of Lot 1 and the entirety of the small Lot 59. These locations could yield data pertaining to early Colonial-era life and architecture in what would eventually become eastern Williamsburg. In addition, potential shaft features dating to the nineteenth century such as privies, wells, and cisterns in the same area of these lots could contribute to our understanding of residential and commercial life in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Brooklyn.

Even though the City of Brooklyn disposed of records prior to 1854 when it absorbed Bushwick, a significant amount of information was recoverable dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when historic Bushwick was founded at *Het Dorp*. The most important structure in the *Het Dorp* community, the Dutch Reformed Church, sat on the west side of Bushwick Avenue/Old Woodpoint Road, catty-corner to the project site, until it was demolished around 1913 (Bushwick Savings Bank 1923). In *A History of the Town of Bushwick, Kings County, NY* (1884), Henry Stiles locates an additional unidentified building on the north side of the intersection of Bushwick Avenue and Maspeth Avenue, *within* the project site boundaries. For much of its later history, the area was comprised of single-story residences; however, by the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a combination of structures, including single home residences, an apartment, at least one saloon, a fur factory, and other businesses occupied the project site. Apart from what appears to have been a more substantial building with an elevator at 25 Maspeth Avenue, none of these structures had documented basement or cellar levels that would have disturbed existing archaeological deposits. When Conselyea Street was extended in 1913, Lots 1 and 59 were cut off from the main portion of Block 2893. Little to no development occurred at the project area during the later twentieth century when the buildings were razed, the block was paved, and the location was used to sell automobiles.

## INTRODUCTION

This Phase IA documentary study of the 234 Conselyea Street development project in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York has been requested by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), Project Review Number LA-CEQR-K, to satisfy the requirements of the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) and to comply with the archaeological guidelines of the LPC (LPC 2018; CEQR 2014). The project developers (Capscar LLC) intend to erect a six-story (60 feet tall), 17,376 gross square foot (GSF) mixed-use residential and commercial building. It would cover the entire triangular-shaped lot.

The project site lies on Block 2893, Lots 1 and 59, at 234 Conselyea Street in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn Community District 1 and encompasses the entirety of a triangular island, bounded by Conselyea Street to the north, Maspeth Avenue to the south and east, and (Old) Woodpoint Road to the west. See Figure 1 and Figure 2 for the location of the project site on the United States Geological Survey, Brooklyn NY 7.5 minute quadrangle.

This report has been prepared by Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated of Bayonne, New Jersey for Capscar LLC. The associated research was conducted by PaleoWest Archaeology, LLC of Brooklyn, New York, and the study outlines the documentary record regarding known and potential archaeological resources at the project site and nearby area (i.e., on the present-day tax lot or within the boundaries of the nearest adjacent mapped streets) (CEQR 2014).

As an analysis of archaeological sensitivity and potential at the subject parcel, this document includes: (1) an overview of the study's methodological approach and the specific sources and archives consulted; (2) a presentation of the geography and physical setting of the project site; (3) a description of the current conditions on site; (4) a review of documented prior archaeological and historic properties proximate to the area of potential effect (APE); (5) a discussion of the prehistoric and historic background of the area surrounding the project site; (6) Lot Histories for the two subject parcels; (7) a review of archaeological sensitivity and disturbance; and (8) conclusion, findings, and recommendations. After careful review of the available documentary evidence, the northern portions of Lot 1 and the entirety of Lot 59 have the potential to yield materials related to both Colonial (seventeenth and eighteenth century) and nineteenth century life in *Het Dorp* and Brooklyn.

## METHODS

A systematic review of the following resources was performed to document the known and potential archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the project site:

- Primary and secondary sources concerning the history of Brooklyn, Bushwick, *Het Dorp*. Specific events associated with the project site and vicinity were reviewed at the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Brooklyn Historical Society, along with various online resources.
- Conveyance records from the 17th-20th century were reviewed for Block

2983 at the Brooklyn Historical Society and Library, historic libers at the Brooklyn City Register Office, and online resources from the New York City Register. The City of Brooklyn disposed of records prior to 1854 when it absorbed Bushwick.

- Historic maps and photographs were identified at the New York Public Library, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Brooklyn Historical Society. These maps and photographs provided an overview of the topography and a chronology of land usage for the project site. A selection of these maps and photographs has been reproduced for this report.
- Selected city directories were reviewed.
- Census records and Brooklyn newspaper accounts from sources such as the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* were reviewed.
- A visit to the Department of Buildings yielded no records for Lot 59, Block 2893, and no current building records exist for Lot 1 Block 2983, since no buildings have been present for decades.
- Information about previously recorded archaeological sites and surveys in the area was compiled from data available at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) and the LPC report archive.
- The Phase I Environmental study of the property at Block 2298 [sic], Lots 1 and 59 (Walden Associates 2015) was provided by the developer and examined.

## **GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING**

### **HYDROLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province. This province is characterized by areas of low relief composed of Cretaceous Age Coastal Plain sediments. The sediments are composed of clay, sand, and gravel overlying igneous and metamorphic rocks. The slope of the formation is to the southeast. The elevation of the project area is approximately 36 feet above sea level.

### **SOILS AND HISTORIC FILL**

The NRCS Web Soil Survey shows one mapped soil type for the project site (Figure 6). The Urban land, Till Substratum (UtB), 0-3 percent slopes has three components (Laguardia, Ebbets and Central Park). The Urban Land soil type has a parent material of asphalt over human-transported material. The landform position summit/talf.

**Table 1.** Project Site Soils

<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Horizon Depths</b>	<b>Texture/Inclusions</b>	<b>Slope</b>	<b>Drainage</b>	<b>Landform</b>
Urban land, Till Substratum (UtB)	M: 0-15" 2C: 15-79"	cemented material Gravelly sandy loam	0-3%	high runoff	Summit/Talf

In 2016, Historical Perspectives (HPI) completed a Phase 1A study for the Canarsie L subway line station, located one block west of the current project area. Five borings were completed for the NYC-MTA. Boring 5 is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Bushwick and Maspeth Avenues, directly across Bushwick Avenue from 234 Conselyea Avenue. The boring recorded five layers of fill from beneath the sidewalk to approximately nine feet below grade. The first three layers recorded medium fine sand with some gravel and a trace of silt. The next two layers were mottled gravel with some sand and a trace of silt. The boring terminated at 87 feet, with ground water encountered at 23.5 feet. Ten layers were recorded below fill, the first four containing gravel, some sand and a trace of silt. Silt and silty clay were recorded in the remaining layers. Bedrock was not encountered.

## **WATER AND SEWER INSTALLATION**

Water pipes are first depicted on Maspeth Avenue in the 1888 Sanborn map as 8-inch underground lines with hydrants at 19 and 69 Maspeth (Figure 19). The 1904 Hyde map (Figure 21) shows the presence of both 6 inch and 12-inch pipes, likely water and sewer pipes, respectively. Solecki reminds that until sewer service was established, backyard cesspools would have been the primary recipients of wastewater and that flush toilets were particularly slow to replace outhouses in Brooklyn (Solecki 1981:378). Thus, there is a high likelihood that the buildings on Block 2893 maintained privies until the late nineteenth century and that such shaft features would be preserved in the northern and central, unbuilt portions of Lot 1.

## **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

The project area is a triangular-shaped block bounded by Conselyea Street on the north, Maspeth Avenue on the south and east, and Bushwick Avenue/Woodpoint Road on the west. Lot 1 stretches 79.45 feet along Conselyea Street to the north, 102.6 feet to the south along Maspeth Avenue, and 55.66 feet along Old Woodpoint Road to the west. It shares a 11.35-foot boundary with Lot 59 to the northeast.

Lot 59 spans 26.84 feet along Conselyea Street to the north, 26.19 feet along Maspeth Avenue to the south, and shares the 11.35-foot boundary with Lot 1.

The project site consists of a fenced, flat, asphalt-paved parking lot and has contained no structures since at least 1982.

Photographs 1 through 3 illustrate the project area from the outside. The lot holds vehicles belonging to the owner's company. Construction preparation is underway in the area and construction barriers, trailers, and sheds spill into the Maspeth/Conselyea intersection. Photographs 4 through 7 show the interior of the project area. A tree grows within the project area along its northern/Conselyea boundary, behind the white car in Photograph 5. Photograph 6 shows the temporary shed/office in Lot 59 at the eastern end of the project area. Electricity is supplied through a conduit that runs along the top of the south fence to an electrical meter at a gate on Maspeth Avenue.

## **DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH**

A records review within the CEQR-defined radii conducted through the New York Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) and the LPC reports archive identified two previous archaeological surveys (HPI 2013; HPI 2016). The search found no prehistoric archaeological sites within a half-mile of the project site.

The nearest project (16SR00795) is entitled “Phase IA Archaeological Documentary Study Canarsie L Line New Substation at 5 Maspeth Avenue.” That project area lies within the Maspeth Avenue roadbed and sidewalks from Humboldt Street to Bushwick Avenue and also includes portions within the Bushwick Avenue, Humboldt Street, and Metropolitan Avenue roadbeds (HPI 2016). The substation location is directly southwest of 234 Conselyea Street across Woodpoint Road. Conducted by Historical Perspectives Inc. in 2016, the survey investigated archaeological potential for a proposed substation that would allow for increased service on the L line between Manhattan and the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. The study found a strong likelihood that eighteenth- and nineteenth-century residential and commercial resources could survive within the project site and recommended further archaeological investigation.

The second project (Horn and Saunders 2013) is entitled “Phase IA Archaeological Documentary Study 1 Maspeth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211, Block 2892, Lot 1 (former lots 2,3, and 6).” The study area lies directly west of 234 Conselyea Street. The survey found that there was potential for eighteenth- and nineteenth-century remains in the study area since portions of the APE were never built upon. HPI found that other sections held potential for privies, wells, and cisterns from domestic and commercial buildings.

Neither Phase 1A documentary study has moved to the archaeological field investigation phase.

## **PREHISTORIC BACKGROUND**

The project is located at the intersection several former colonial roads, at least one of which began as a Native American trail (Figure 6). Old Woodpoint Road, which lies just east of the study area was an old Rockaway foot path that meandered toward Mispit Kil (Maspeth Creek) (Armbruster 1912:102). It is likely that the Dutch road Kiekout (Lookout) Lane and the road to Newtown also roughly traced Native American trails. Prior research indicates that Native American settlements in the area were located along local waterways, such as English Kills, Maspeth Creek, and Newtown Creek. However, all of these are some distance from the project site (HPI 2016:14).

## **HISTORIC BACKGROUND**

Documentary research suggests that the project area is situated in the former territory of *Het Dorp* (often translated as “town plot”), the town center of the village of Bushwick. Founded in 1661 by Peter Stuyvesant between Newtown and Bushwick Creeks, the small village sprouted up on either side of the Old Woodpoint Road, an old Rockaway foot path. Settlers constructed the



first house in 1661. By 1662, the settlement numbered less than 25 dwellings on 16 acres of cleared land. Behind each house lot lay extensive garden plots. The settlement was enclosed by a palisade of sharpened logs (Figure 7). A reminiscence, recorded in the *Manual of the Common Council for the City of Brooklyn*, noted that the palisades “enclosed the four corners at the crossing of Kikeout [Lookout] and Woodpoint Roads and the site of the Church” (Bishop 1868: 455). It is possible that a section of the palisade would have extended east to what is now Maspeth Avenue and the project area, or alternatively, along Maspeth Avenue as is depicted Armbruster’s illustration (Figure 8).

After 1711, the old Bushwick Church, octagonal in shape, was built on the west side of Old Woodpoint Road (Figure 9). Across the street and just north of the project site, residents erected a one-story Town House to serve as the civic center of the community (see Figure 9). In later times, it served as a hotel before passing into private ownership. Stiles reported in 1884 that the old Town House still stood. He also placed a “group of one-story Dutch cottages with their long, curved sloping roofs” marking the entrance to Kiekout Lane [Lookout Lane] leading to Lookout point on the East River” (Stiles 1884:15; Figure 10). While the church, the town house, and the one-story cottages that Stiles referenced were all outside the project site, it is likely that some early structures were located within the APE. In a map from his book, Stiles superimposed *Het Dorp* on the 1880s street grid. In addition to the most prominent buildings of the church and town house, Stiles located one original, but unnamed structure inside the bounds of the project site (Figure 11).

Incomplete records make tracking the passage of property difficult. When the city of Brooklyn absorbed Bushwick in 1854, it discarded the town’s records. In addition, it is likely that land in *Het Dorp* was administered in a “corporate” fashion, by shareholders rather than property holders: lots were made available to tenants for their use but reverted back to the community upon their death or emigration from the area. For example, on December 20, 1700, a grant of lands was made by the Overseers and People of Boswyck to Thomas Bodee for life unless Bodee left the area. Rather than be passed down to his descendants, the land reverted to the Overseers and people of Boswyck (Manuscript Records 1935:19). As a result of this land management system, no clear pattern of ownership can be determined in the way it can for estates outside the town center. Overall, the *Manuscript Records of the Town of Bushwick, Kings County* (1935) sheds light only on internal village and town affairs with little reference to the broader Colonial world.

It is clear that a new church replaced the old Bushwick Church around 1829 and Maspeth Avenue opened in 1846 leading east to Newtown and, according to Stiles, “several houses were erected upon it this side of the creek.” (Stiles 1884:15). In 1888, a writer in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* conceded “this immediate locality has been slow to be affected by the boom which has prevailed in other parts of Brooklyn.” The writer also noted that fifty years previous, there were no houses within a half mile radius of the church besides the half dozen he mentioned in the article (*BDE*, 1888). All of these—the church, town house, a school house, and some private residences—existed outside the project area.

Records revealing land ownership and usage in the second half of the nineteenth are more

abundant. The McCanna family (also listed as McKenna) owned Lot 1 and surrounding lots in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century. John McCanna and his family are listed in the 1870 Federal Census. The household consisted of John (age 60), his wife Catherine (40), and likely an older son also named John (25). The two Johns were listed as laborers. The census also stated that all three were born in Ireland, but the remaining children Margaretha (18), Mary (16), Catherine (14), and James (11) were born in New York. The Lain Directory (1869:398) lists John McCanna liquors at Maspeth Avenue, corner of Bushwick Avenue. The 1880 directory lists John's widow Catherine McCanna at home at 25 Maspeth Avenue. A notice in an 1899 newspaper announced Catherine's death at age 85<sup>1</sup> with her funeral to take place at home at 25 Maspeth Avenue (*BDE* 1899).

Starting with McCanna's first association with liquor at Maspeth Avenue in the 1869 Lain's Directory, Lot 1 was associated at least periodically with the sale and/or consumption of alcohol. A news item in an 1887 issue of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reported that Paul Enger at 19 Maspeth Avenue had unlawfully opened a saloon on Sunday (*BDE* 1887). An 1889 directory lists William Murray as selling liquor at 21 Maspeth and his home at 19 Maspeth. Efforts to locate Murray in various censuses were unsuccessful.

By the late nineteenth century, the neighborhood took on a different character with the arrival of immigrants like the McCannas and some increased commercial and (light) industrial activity. The Sanborn map from 1888 highlights mixed use within the study area with a store clearly marked as well as other multi-story buildings. In 1888, A *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* writer noted a house that "forty or fifty years ago" was occupied by a grocer named George Hulst. Within the writer's memory, it had been moved about one hundred feet east on Maspeth Avenue and now "was occupied by a colony of Italian laborers" (*BDE*, 1888). Newspaper evidence corroborates the growing presence of Italian immigrants by listing numerous Italian surnames at 21 Maspeth Avenue (and other residences on Maspeth Avenue outside the project area) between 1898 and the 1910s. In the last decade of the nineteenth century, other newspaper articles and business directories reveal the presence of at least one saloon and a "fur factory" at the project site, the latter likely dedicated to the manufacture of fine fur coats and accessories. According to the 1907 Sanborn map, the central portion of Block 2893 featured a "William Grosbeck and Co, Wire & Plating Works" by that time.

Enormous change came to Lot 59 in the project area when Conselyea Street was extended to Maspeth Avenue taking the majority of the lot and leaving behind only a small parcel. The structures previously associated with 31 and 35 Maspeth Avenue on the main block were likely razed in the process. According to both a tax ledger and notices in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (1913) all evidence points to the extension occurring in 1913

Different businesses emerged on the street in the early twentieth century. Documentary evidence confirms the presence of a kerosene business owned by Joseph Citro in the 1930s. A directory from the time also listed Citro as an undertaker, but no evidence suggest his funeral business was

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<sup>1</sup> There is a discrepancy in the ages for Catherine between the listing in the Census and the death notice in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, but the general information placing the McCanna family on the same block of Maspeth Avenue over a period of thirty years is clear.

also on Lots 1 or 59.

The changing character of the neighborhood again became apparent in the mid-twentieth century. In 1947, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* noted the sale of a one-family brick home at 21 Maspeth Ave. This residential structure was likely razed in the next decade (Figure 26). The publication of the 1961 Sanborn Map shows that this part of Block 2893 became a used car lot, a function it would maintain for the next 4 decades. Periodically (around 1968 and 1981, for instance, Figures 27, 28, 29) maps indicate that the business closed, but within a few years each time a successor emerged. Used car sales remained the only enterprise associated with Block 2893 through at least 2007 (Figures 30, 31).

### **LOT HISTORY OF BLOCK 2893, LOT 1**

**Addresses:** 25-33 (Old) Wood Point Road/Bushwick Avenue; 15-29 Maspeth Avenue; 234 Conselyea

**Dimensions:** 79.45 feet along Conselyea Street to the north, 11.35 feet of a shared boundary with Lot 59 to the northeast, a 102.6 feet boundary to the south along Maspeth Avenue, and 55.66 feet along Old Wood Point Road to the west. The total lot measures 2,070 square feet. Block 2893 was part of a larger Block 2893, north of Conselyea Street until 1913 when the city extended Conselyea Street from Humboldt Street in the west to Maspeth Avenue.

**Current Use:** The entire block consists of an asphalt parking lot. It is fenced in and currently holds vehicles belonging to the owner's company.

**Historic Uses:** Farmland, family dwellings, and some commercial enterprises (saloon, fur factory).

1660: Petitioners appeal to Governor Peter Stuyvesant about laying out a village with 22 house lots. The first house was completed and occupied in 1661. The town center of *Het Dorp* incorporated within town of Bushwick.

Late 16<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> Century:  
Palisades enclose *Het Dorp* and old Bushwick Church (constructed before 1711).

1829: Original *Het Dorp* church is razed and replaced by the second Dutch Reformed Church across Woodpoint Road from the project site.

1846: Stiles notes the opening of Maspeth Road with several houses located on it shortly thereafter.

1868: Higginson Map (Figure 12) depicts frame structures at 17 Maspeth (one story), 19 Maspeth (three story), and 25 Maspeth (2 ½ story). 23 Maspeth is vacant, as is the remainder of the lot to the east, possibly with the exception of a building at the back of the lot.

- 1880: Bromley-Robinson map (Figure 13) depicts one structure on Lot 1, Block 820 likely at 25 Maspeth Avenue, suggesting other buildings were removed. Hopkins Map (also 1880; Figure 17) corroborates this with structure labelled as 25 Maspeth.
- 1886: Robinson Map (Figure 15) locates two new structures in Lot 1 on Maspeth Avenue along with the existing structure at 25 Maspeth Avenue.
- 1887: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (8-22-1887) notes presence of saloon at 19 Maspeth Avenue, Paul Enger, “keeper.”
- 1888: Sanborn Map (Figure 16) shows structures at 17 Maspeth (1 story store), 21 Maspeth (3 story dwelling), 25 Maspeth (2 ½ story dwelling), 27 Maspeth (stable), and 29 Maspeth (1 story non-dwelling, possible out-building).
- 1896 *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (11-15-1896) notes the presence of a “fur factory” at 29 Maspeth Avenue. It is owned by Thomas J. Hand. The building appears to contain at least two floors and a cellar.
- 1898: Ullitz-Hyde Map (Figure 17) depicts structures at 21 and 25 Maspeth Avenue. Structure formerly present at 17 Maspeth Avenue appears razed.
- 1904: Hyde Map (Figure 18) depicts buildings at 19 Maspeth (1 story), 21 Maspeth (3 stories), 25 Maspeth (2 ½ stories); An unnumbered vacant lot (previously 23 Maspeth) lies between 21 and 25 Maspeth. A stable appears to be present at the rear of the lot to the east.
- 1907: Sanborn Map (Figure 19) indicates the presence of a one-story store at 15 or 19 Maspeth, a three-story dwelling at 21 Maspeth, a 2 ½ story dwelling at 25 Maspeth. 23 Maspeth remains vacant. A stable appears present at 29 Maspeth (now at the front of the lot). Two small outbuildings are depicted between 25 and 29 Maspeth at the rear of the lot.
- 1908: Bromley map (Figure 20) suggests a large building at the western end of the lot (no address listed but probably 15/19 Maspeth as indicated on the prior map). A structure is also present at 25 Maspeth. Another structure is located to the east, likely the stable indicated on the previous map.
- 1913: Conselyea Street extension.
- 1916: Ullitz-Hyde (Figure 21) map is the first to illustrate the extension of Conselyea Street to the east. A one-story building is present at 19 Maspeth and a three-story dwelling is noted at 21 Maspeth. The former structure at 25 Maspeth appears to have been removed along with the stable.

- 1933: Sanborn map (Figure 22) depicts a one-story store at 15 or 19 Maspeth Ave. It appears also that for the first time another store in the same building may open onto Old Bushwick/Old Wood Point Road (mislabelled “Wood Post” on the map). It might be labelled as 27 Old Wood Point Road. A three-story building remains at 21 Maspeth. It is annotated as “Apt’s” and “BR filled.”
- 1938: Classified ad in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (1-14-1938) notes a “kerosene business” for sale at 19 Maspeth Avenue. It also says, “Citro”, which would appear to reference Joseph Citro who lived at 21 Maspeth Avenue as per an article in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (8-29-1937).
- 1947: *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (11-5-1947) notes sale of a “one family brick house” at 21 Maspeth Ave.
- 1951: Sanborn map indicates a one-story store toward the eastern end of lot one. No address is marked. Addresses are noted as 21-29 Maspeth to the south, 234 Conselyea to the north, and 215-221 Woodpoint to the west, but there are no structures delineated at those locations.
- 1965: Sanborn (Figure 24) map notes a one-story structure at 234 Conselyea Street, and the lot is labelled “Used Auto Sales.” All remaining Sanborn maps through 2007 (Figure 29) note auto sales at the lot, with the exception of 1968 and 1982.
- 1968: Sanborn map (Figure 25) shows that building remains at 234 Conselyea Street, but there is no notation for auto sales.
- 1977: Sanborn map (Figure 26) notes “used auto sales” on the lot. A building is present at 234 Conselyea Street, but its shape suggests it is different from the one present in 1965 and 1968.
- 1982: Sanborn map (Figure 27) shows that used auto sales are no longer present. Also, the building at 234 Conselyea street has been removed. This would appear to be the last structure associated with the lot through at least 2007 (date of the last Sanborn consulted).
- 1986: Sanborn map (Figure 28) shows used auto sales again at the site. No structures are present.

**Discussion:** Lot 1 has been built over throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. However, the central (23 Maspeth) and rear portions of the lot were never disturbed by construction. According to *Het Dorp* histories, early village structures and/or defenses were likely present on the lot in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

**Conclusion:** Lot 1 is considered archaeologically sensitive in significant part for historic remains.

## LOT HISTORY OF BLOCK 2893, LOT 59

**Addresses:** 31 and 35 Maspeth Avenue (previously numbered as southwest corner of Lots 20 and 56)

1660: Petitioners appeal to Governor Peter Stuyvesant about laying out a village with 22 house lots. The first house was completed and occupied in 1661. The village of *Het Dorp* incorporated within town of Bushwick.

Late 16<sup>th</sup> – early 17<sup>th</sup> Century:  
Palisades enclose *Het Dorp* and old Bushwick Church (constructed before 1711).

1829:  
Original *Het Dorp* church is razed and replaced by the second Dutch Reformed Church across Woodpoint Road from the project site.

1846: Stiles notes the opening of Maspeth Road with several houses located on it shortly thereafter.

1880: Bromley-Robinson map (Figure 13) depicts no structures on (then) Lot 20.

1908: Bromley map (Figure 20) shows Lot 20 has been renumbered as Lot 56. It depicts two or three large structures at the eastern end of the lot, outside the project site. The associated addresses are 31 and 35 Maspeth Avenue. The southwest corner of the lot—the portion within the project site—appears vacant.

1913: Conselyea Street extension.

1916: Ullitz-Hyde (Figure 21) map is the first to illustrate the extension of Conselyea Street to the east. What is left of the former Lot 56 is now referenced as Lot 59, its current designation, and the structures at 31 and 35 Maspeth Avenue are razed. Lot 59 appears to be vacant from this period into the modern era, except for the current shed/office on site.

**Discussion:** Lot 59 contained empty, unbuilt space throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. According to *Het Dorp* histories it is possible that early village structures, garden plots, and/or defenses were present on the lot in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries.

**Conclusion:** Lot 59 is considered archaeologically sensitive in for historic remains in its entirety.

## PRE-CONTACT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

While the project site is located along a route utilized by indigenous inhabitants, no extant evidence suggests that Native Americans engaged in intensive land or resource use in the immediate area (CRIS; HPI 2013, 2016). While Native Americans likely traversed the area regularly, the distance to a natural water source combined with the degree to which the project site and its surroundings have been altered by urban development since the mid-nineteenth century indicate there is only a low level of pre-Contact archaeological sensitivity.

## HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

While Block 2893 Lot 1 has been built upon as early as the late seventeenth century (Stiles 1884; Figure 11), Lot 59 was less intensely developed. The structures present on Lot 1 included dwellings, stables, commercial establishments, and light industry. Lot 59 represents the unbuilt, remaining portion of a larger lot that was largely lost to the 1913 extension of Conselyea Street. Unbuilt areas in the northern and central portions of Lot 1, as well as the southwest corner most proximate to the territory of the former village of *Het Dorp*, retain archaeological sensitivity for seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century remains, as does all of Lot 59.

Some portions of Lot 1 have likely been excavated extensively over time. Maps suggest that the McCanna residence at 25 Maspeth Avenue was a 2 ½ story residence, making the presence of a cellar or basement somewhat likely. A *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* article documenting an accident at the fur factory at 29 Maspeth Avenue mentions that the victim fell through an elevator shaft on the second floor to the cellar (BDE 1896). On the other hand, the portion of the lot frequently referenced as 23 Maspeth Avenue appears never to have been developed. Given that this portion of the lot was located between more developed sectors, it is of medium-to-high probability that it contained outbuildings or infrastructure resulting in archaeological shaft features, such as wells or cisterns. In addition, the northern portion of the lot bordering present-day Conselyea Street would have been the rear yard for both *Het Dorp* village buildings and the buildings of the nineteenth-century block (although somewhat reduced following the 1913 extension of Conselyea). It is therefore a high probability location for seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century privy shaft features.

The southwest corner of Lot 1, the approximate location where Stiles placed a building from *Het Dorp* on his 1884 map, features moderate probability to yield archaeological evidence from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Although this area of the lot was constructed upon fairly frequently over time, it is not clear that any of these buildings included basement levels that would have disturbed deeper layers of occupation. Finally, in light of the *Brooklyn Manual's* placing of the palisade surrounding the town at “the four corners at the crossing of Kikeout [Lookout] and Woodpoint Roads,” this southwestern portion of Lot 1 also holds potential for locating evidence of that seventeenth-century fortification.

Lot 59 is the small, cutoff remnant of a larger lot disturbed by the extension of Conselyea Street in 1913. Maps suggest this portion of the lot contained unbuilt land during the nineteenth century (likely associated with 31 Maspeth Avenue, an area of the lot lost to the extension). Lots 1 and 59 retain a high level of sensitivity for historic archaeology.

## CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

This study has evaluated the prehistoric and historic archaeological sensitivity of Block 2893, Lots 1 and 59 for the 234 Conselyea Street project site. It has also examined the documentary record of disturbance, excavation, and construction at the site dating to the late seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries.

While the potential for prehistoric archaeological resources is low, the project site has a high level of historic archaeological potential in Lot 1, where lack of building activity at the northern (i.e., Conselyea Street) side could have preserved deposits dating from the seventeenth to the late nineteenth centuries. The central portion of the lot fronting Maspeth Avenue, frequently labeled 23 Maspeth Avenue, also represents an area of high archaeological potential due to its lack of historical development. The possible remains at these sites are associated with two historical periods: (1) the early Dutch town center of *Het Dorp* of the seventeenth–eighteenth centuries and (2) the late nineteenth-century era of industrialization, when a diverse community of immigrant, working class Brooklynners were living along an emerging residential-commercial corridor.

Potential Colonial era materials would have been deposited during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries when *Het Dorp* remained an isolated rural community. The western side of the lot fronting Woodpoint Road or the southern side along Maspeth Avenue would seem to harbor the best chance for locating architectural remains as indicated by Stiles, or a section of the palisade that once enclosed the village. Domestic archaeological assemblages (i.e., cooking and table ceramics, personal items, farming implements) dating to the Dutch and English Colonial periods are uncommonly encountered in Brooklyn’s archaeological record.

Archaeological materials associated with residential, commercial, and light industrial life at the project site are likely to be recovered from potential field investigations of shaft features in the rear of 17, 19, and 25 Maspeth Avenue, or the central portion of the lot frequently represented as 23 Maspeth Avenue. With flush toilets not likely arriving before the late nineteenth century, it is probable that abandoned privies would contain refuse providing a wealth of information about historic consumption patterns from both domestic activity and commercial/industrial enterprises. At these locations, a privy would provide an opportunity to recover household assemblages (pottery and bottle remains, hygiene and medicinal items, children’s objects, etc.), food waste, and commercial items such as grocer’s refuse and liquor merchants’ bottles. Side-by-side datasets of residential and commercial activities are particularly powerful in illustrating the changing lifeways that accompanied industrial development, demographic change, and shifts in domestic patterns in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Historical accounts of this transition often emphasize the bewildering rapidity of development, but glimpses of how these changes occurred on a more everyday scale are less plentiful.

The potential for prehistoric archaeological resource recovery at the project site is low, while the unbuilt rear and central portions of Lot 1, as well as the entire Lot 59, are sensitive for historic archaeological resources connected to Colonial life and residential and commercial activity in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Brooklyn. In these lots, the proposed development’s



excavations are likely to exceed previous construction excavations in depth and footprint. Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated recommends archaeological field investigations in Lots 1 and 59 prior to construction for evidence of materials associated with seventeenth- and eighteenth-century settler life and shaft features with assemblages relevant to the study of Brooklyn's nineteenth- and early twentieth-century working-class residents and businesses.

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2015 Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, at 234 Conselyea, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Block 2298, Lots 1 and 59). Oyster Bay, NY.

## **APPENDIX A: PHOTOGRAPHS AND FIGURES**



Photograph 1. Project area, facing north and Lot 1 from the south side of Maspeth Avenue.



Photograph 2. Project area at the Maspeth/Conselyea intersection, facing north toward Lot 59.



Photograph 3. Project area facing southeast (Lot 59) from the north side of Conselyea Street.



Photograph 4. Interior of project area and Lot 1 facing west toward Bushwick Avenue.





Photograph 5. Interior of project area facing north/northeast toward Conselyea Street.



Photograph 6. Interior of project area facing east and Lot 59 with temporary office at eastern end.



Photograph 7. Interior of project area in Lot 1 facing south toward Maspeth Avenue with gate, electrical meter and electrical conduit along top of fence running east to temporary office.

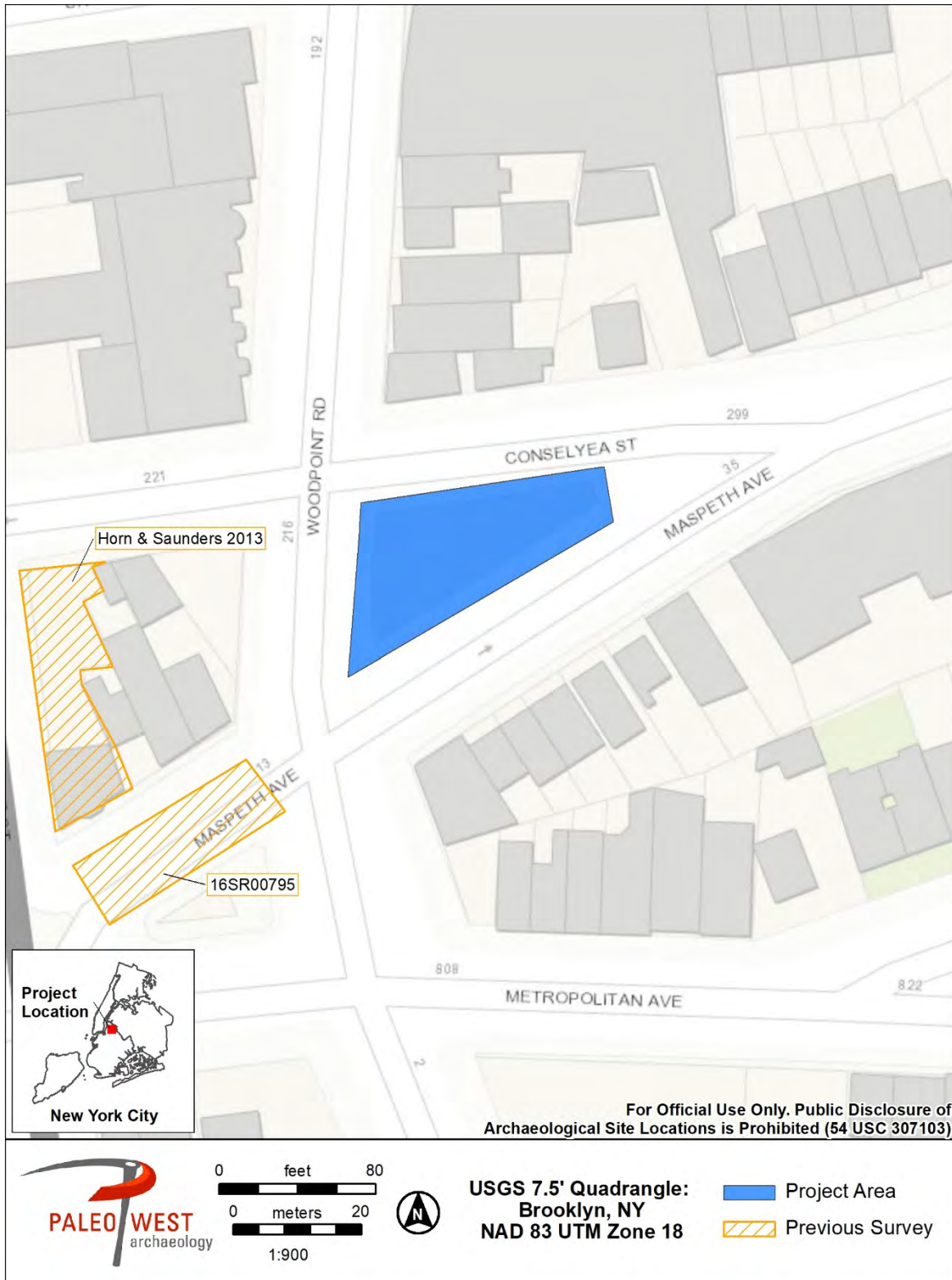


Figure 1. Project site location within Brooklyn, Kings County NY From USGS Quadrangle 1:24000, 1967.

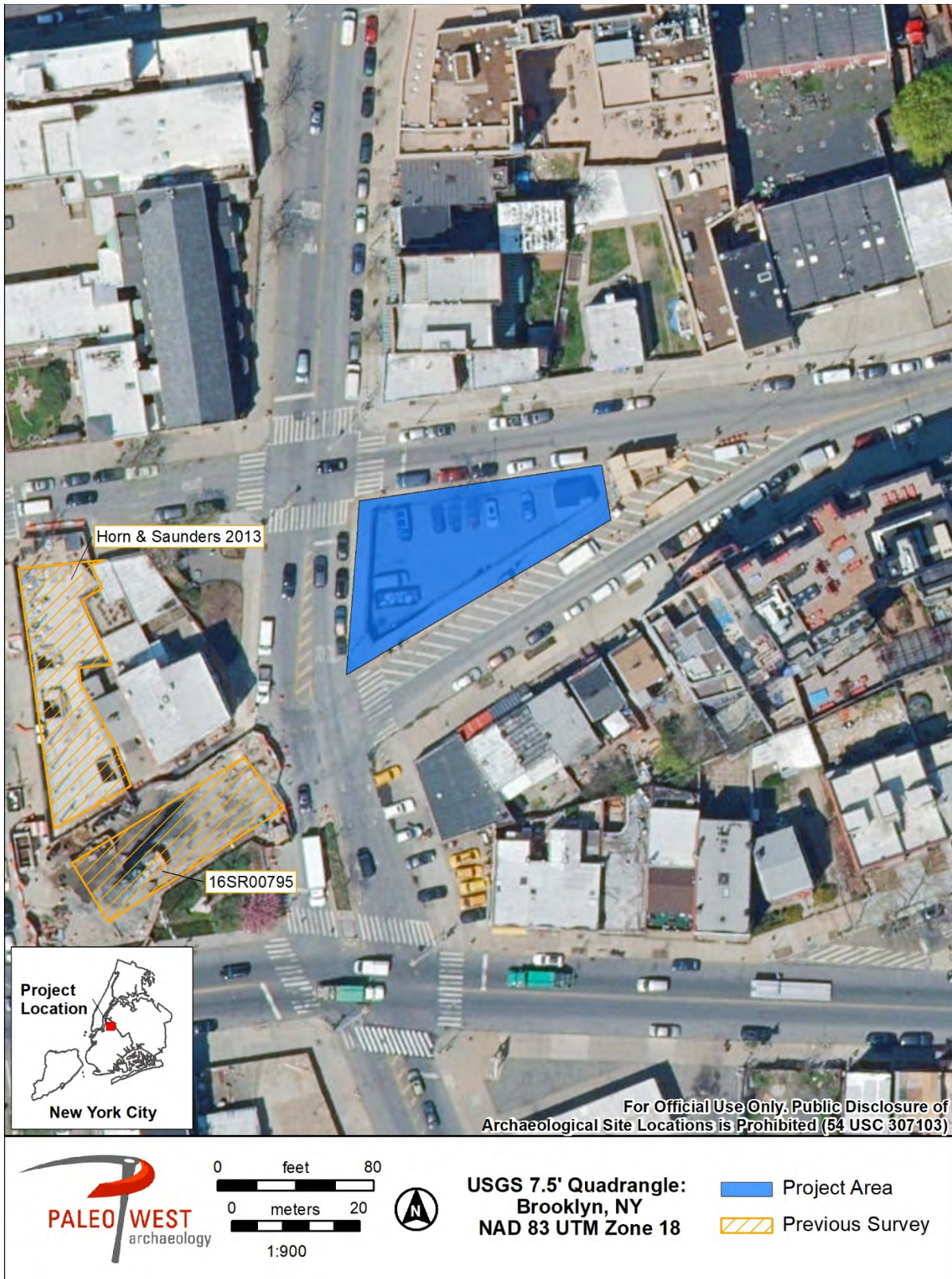


Figure 2. Project site location within Brooklyn, Kings County NY, over aerial.

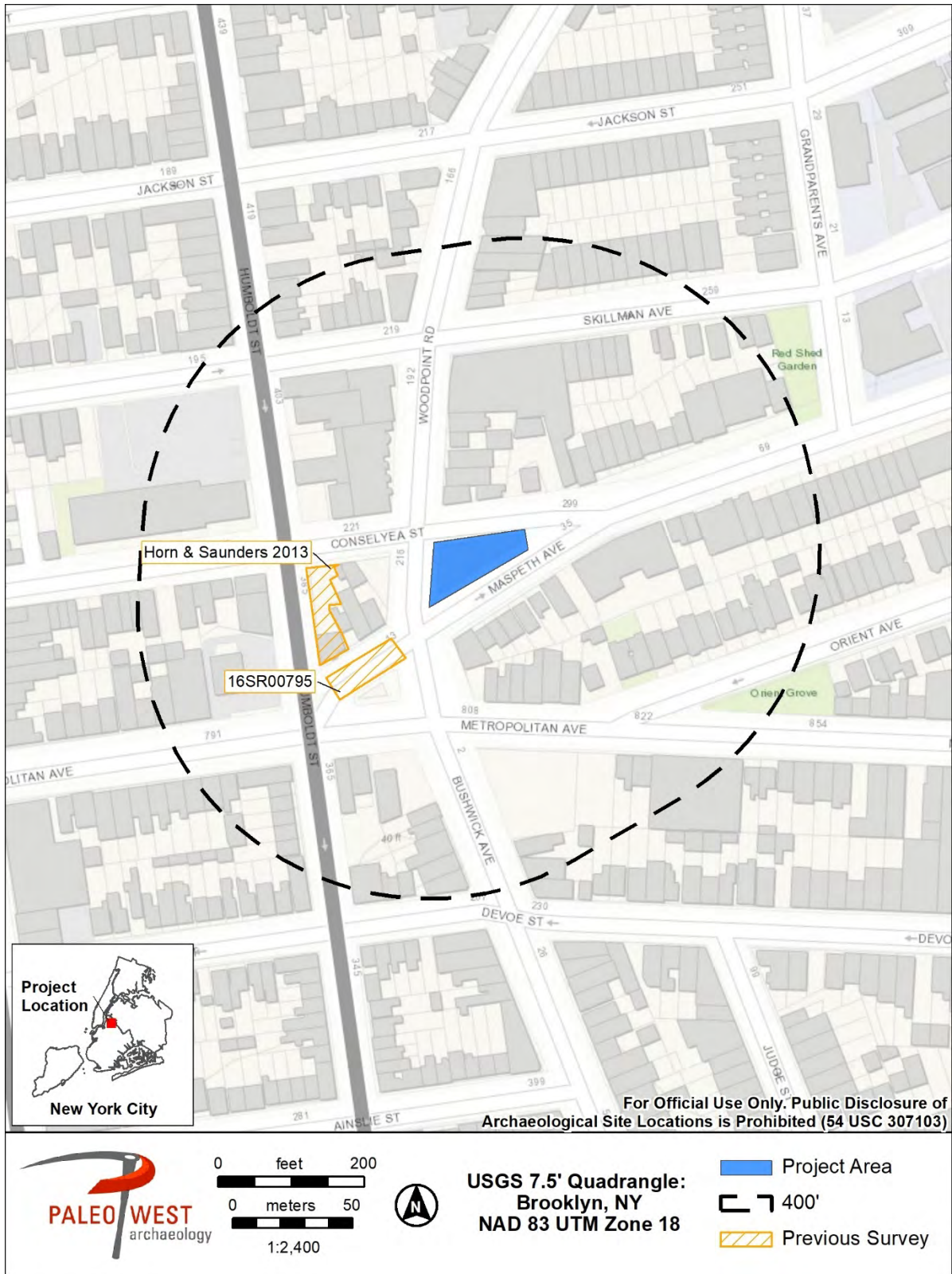


Figure 3. Site file search results for historic buildings, archaeological sites, and previous surveys within the 400-foot CEQR search radius.

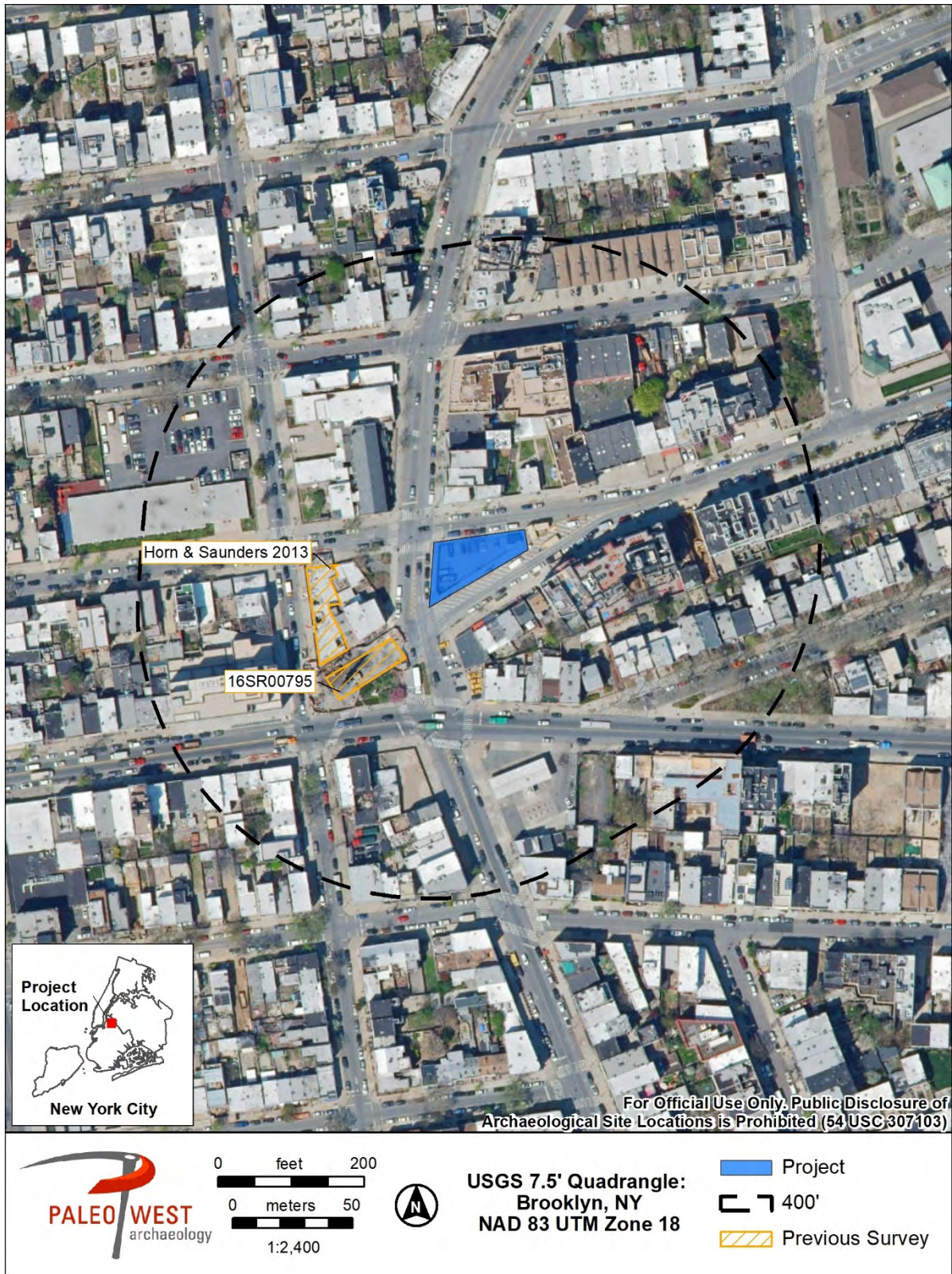


Figure 4. Site file search results within the 400-foot CEQR search radius over aerial imagery of the project site.

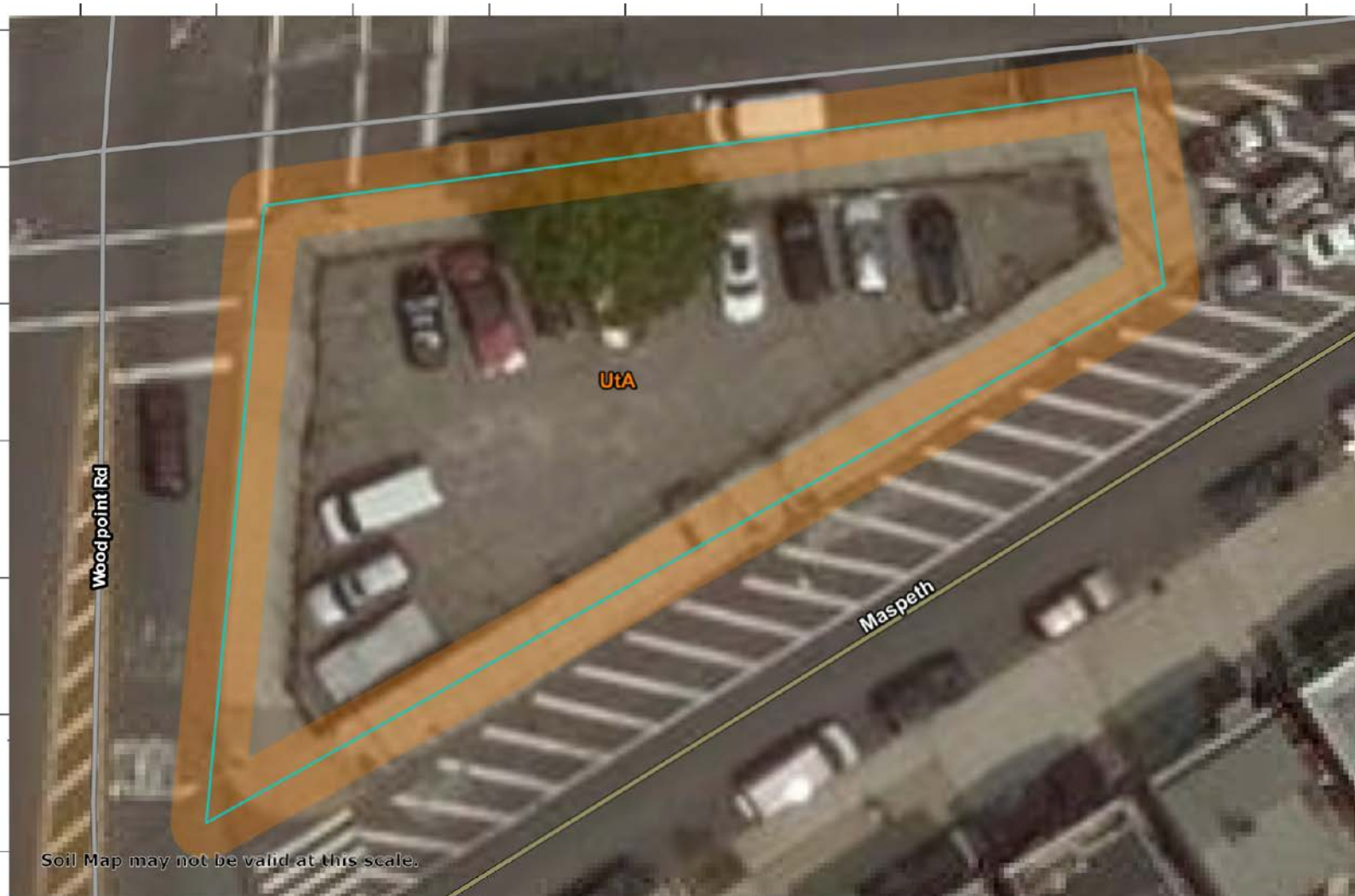


Figure 5. NRCS project site soil(s) map.

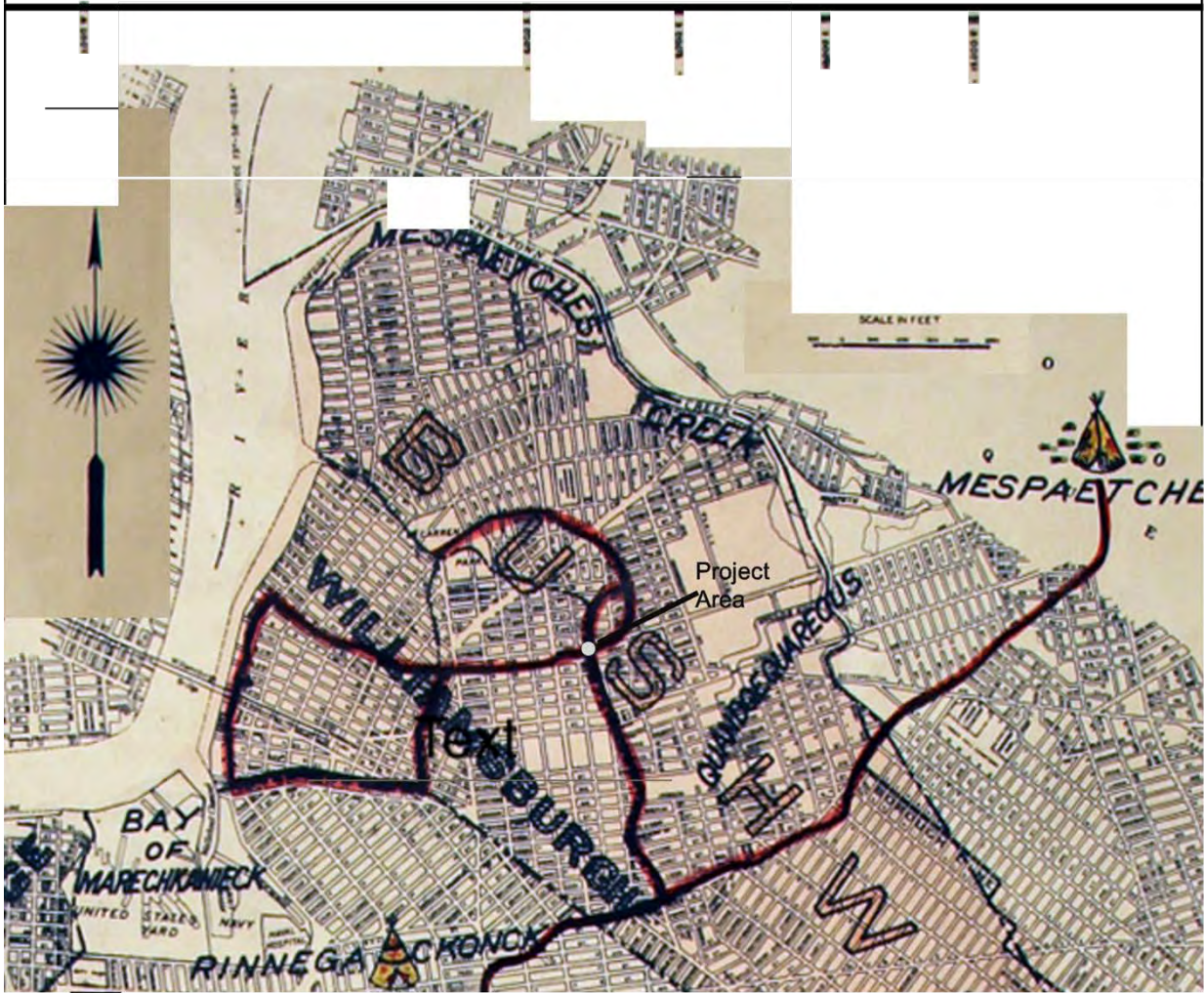


Figure 6. Project Site location on Kelly's Indian Villages, Paths, Ponds and Places in Kings County map (1946)



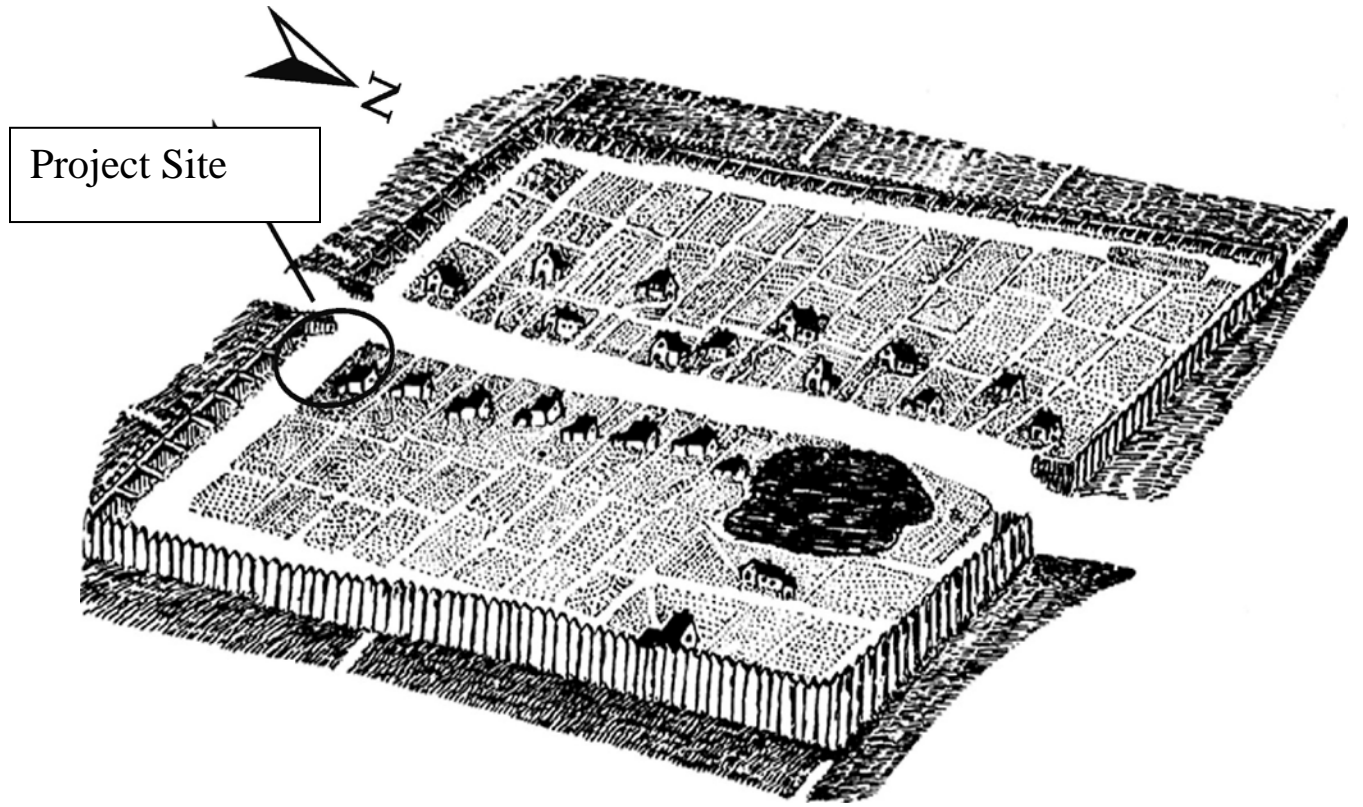


Figure 7. From Armbruster (1912:14) showing Stuyvesant's plan for *Het Dorp*, Bushwick circa 1660.

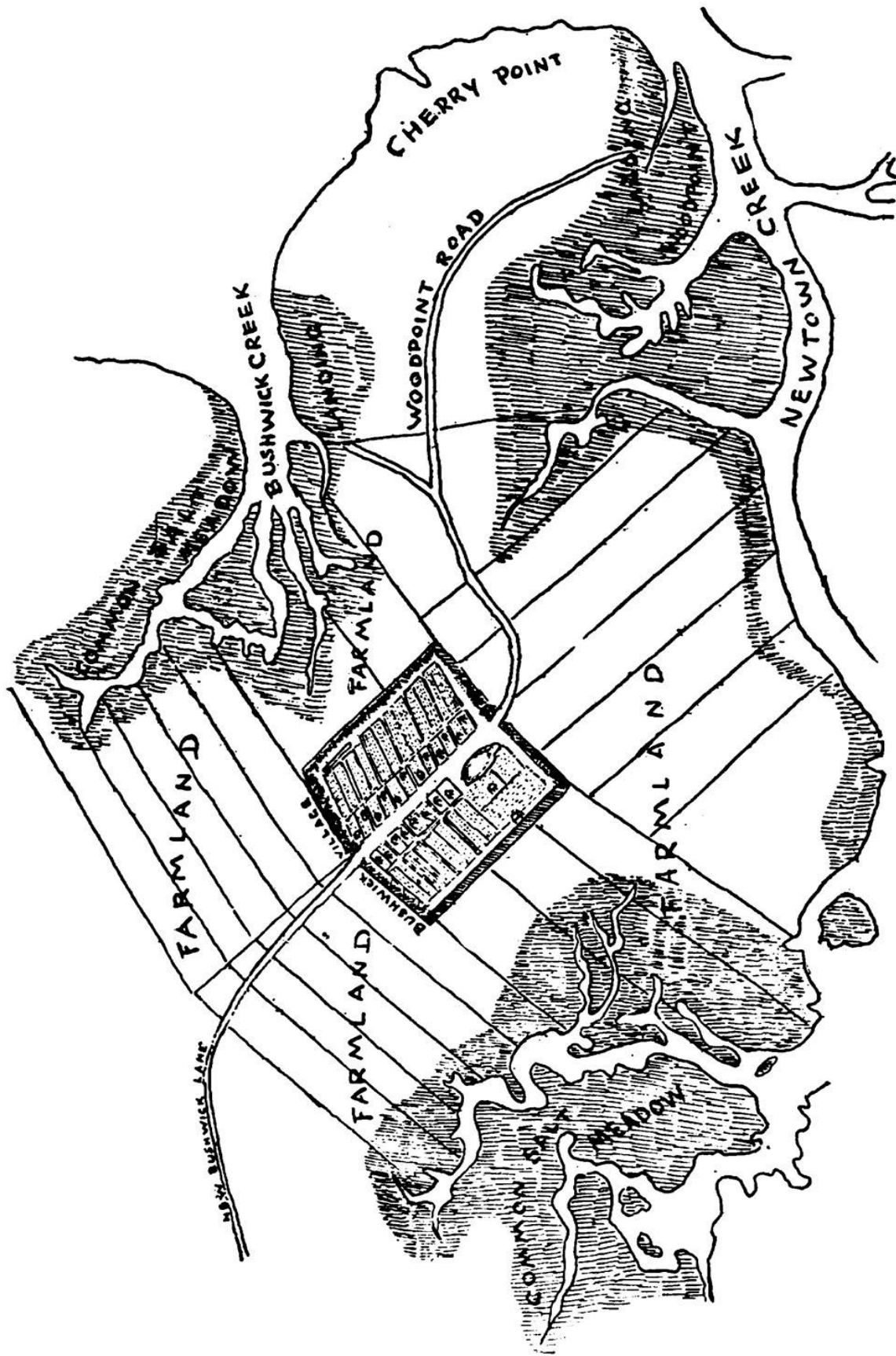


Figure 8. From Armbruster (1912:16) showing the early town of Bushwick Village in the 17th Century.

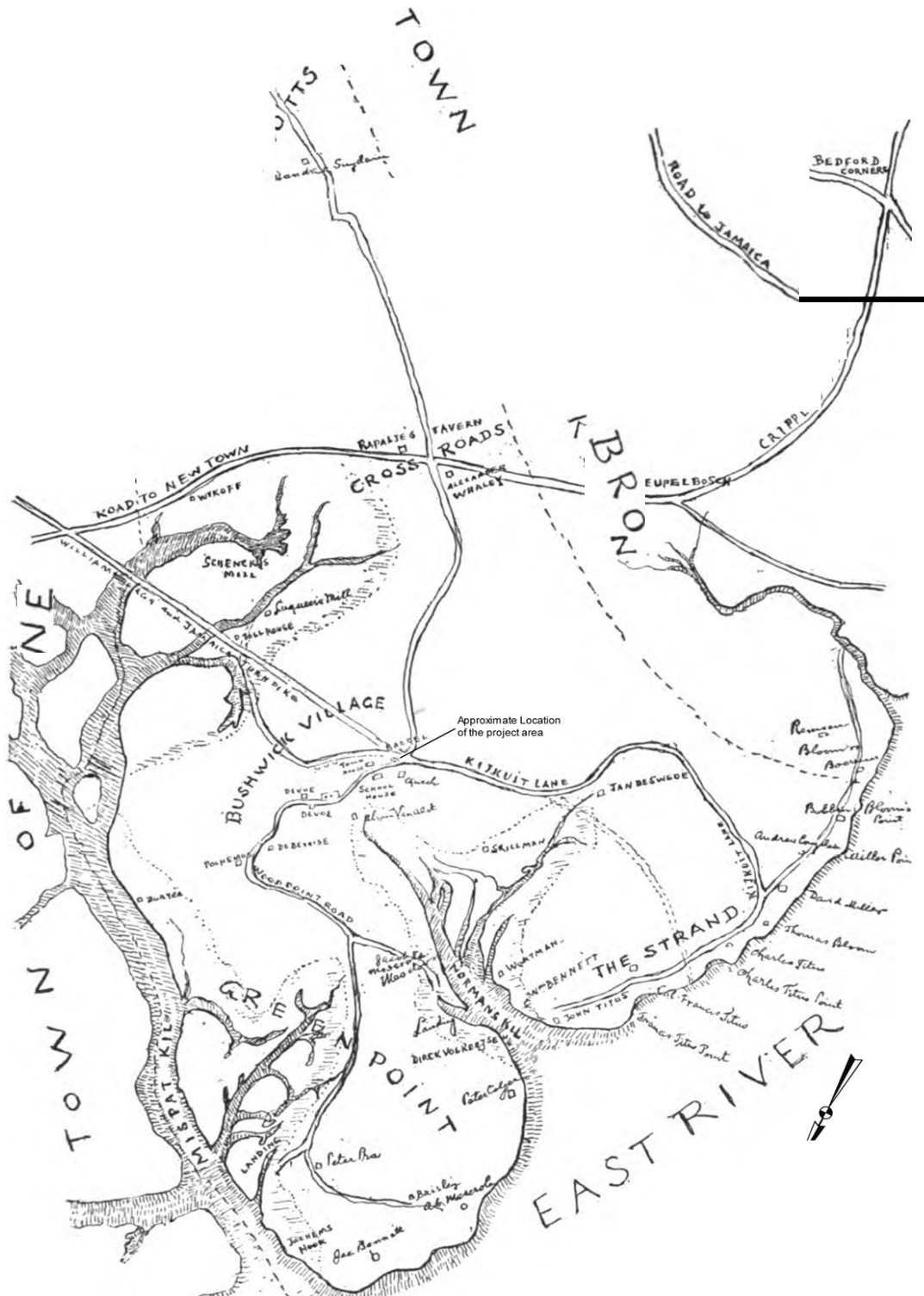


Figure 9. From Armbruster (1912:32) showing village of Bushwick during the 1700s.



Engr. by A. Brown, 9 & 11 Chancery St. N.Y.

For William G. Bishop's Manual for 1848

BUSHWICK TOWN HOUSE AND CHURCH.  
1800

Original from  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Digitized by Google

Figure 10. Bushwick Town House and church circa 1800, reproduced in Gibbon (Common Council of Brooklyn 1868).

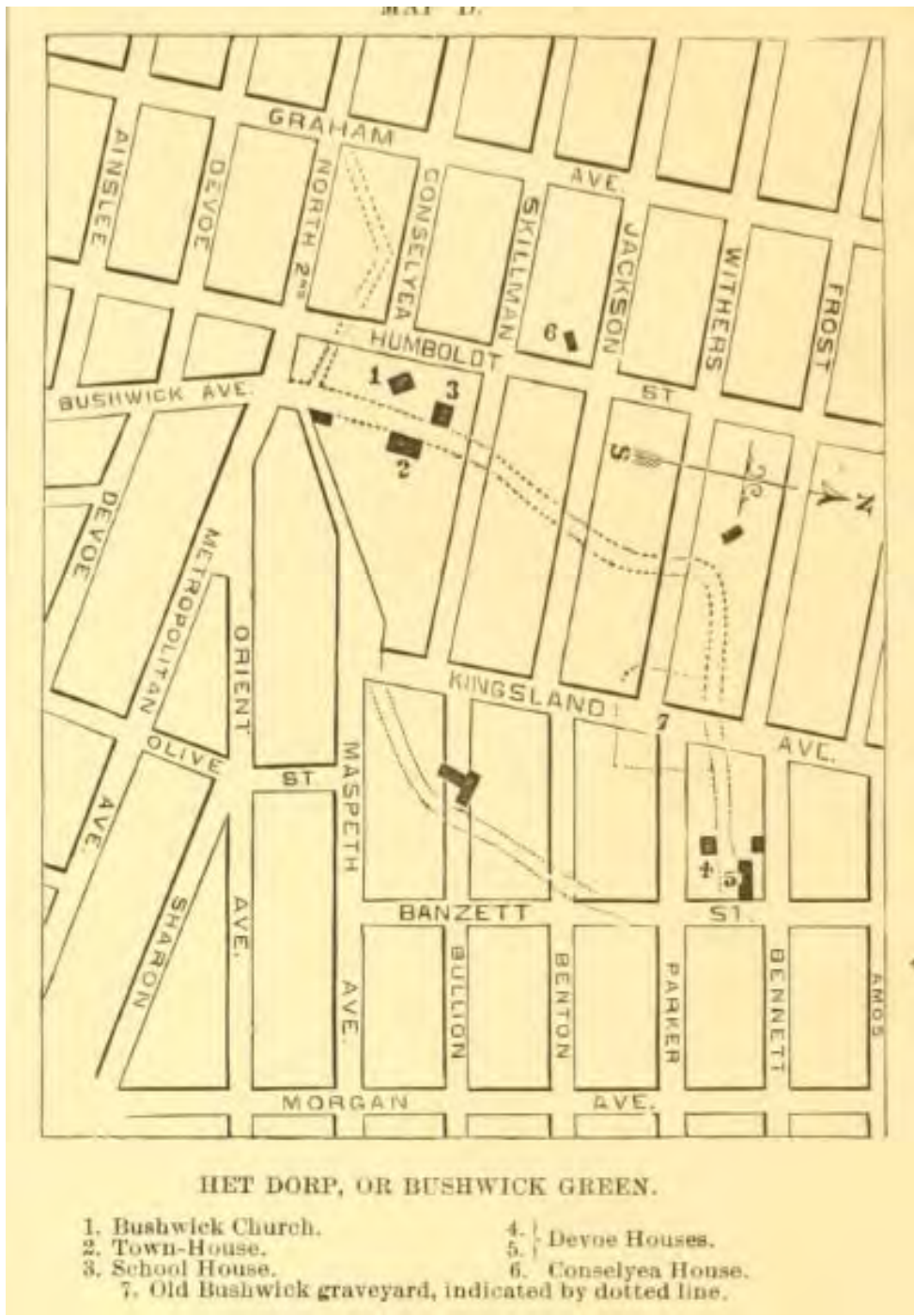


Figure 11. Map from Stiles 1884: *Het Dorp* structures superimposed on 1880s street grid.



Figure 12. From a portion of the map of Bushwick showing project area within “Old Civic Center of Bushwick,” surrounded by farms (Memoirs of Bushwick 1923).





Figure 14. Detail taken from Field's Map of the City of Williamsburg and the Town of Bushwick, inclu. Greenpoint with part of the City of Brooklyn (1852).





Figure 15. Detail taken from Higginson's Insurance Maps of the City of Brooklyn (1868) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.



Figure 16. Detail taken from Bromley Robinson 1880 with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.



Figure 17. Detail taken from Hopkins' Detailed Estate and Old Farm Line Atlas of the City of Brooklyn (1880) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.



Figure 18. Detail taken from Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn, New York (1886) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.

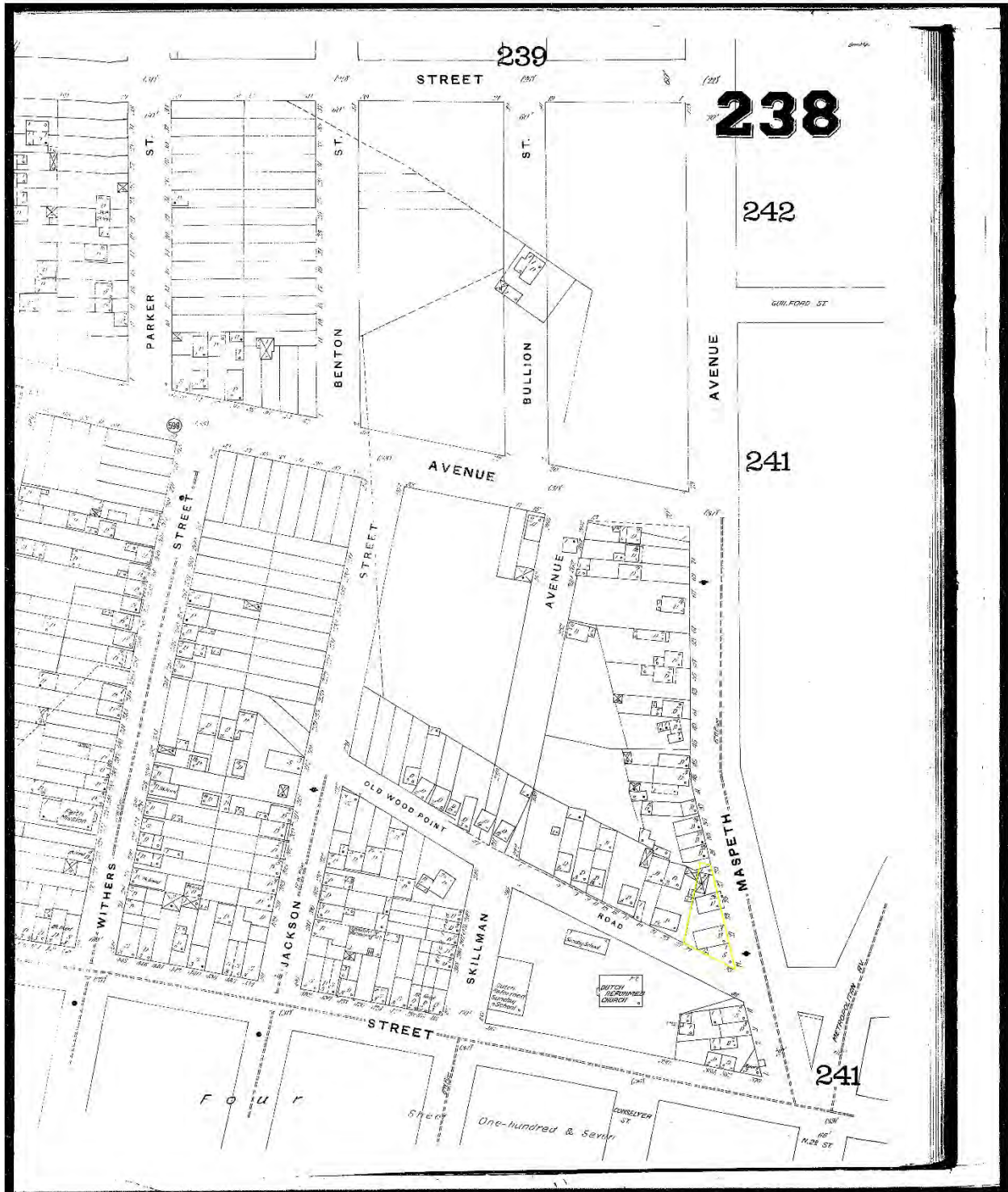


Figure 19. Detail of the 1888 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).



Figure 20. Detail taken from Ullitz-Hyde Atlas of the Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York (1898) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.



Figure 21. Detail taken from Hyde's Atlas of the Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York (1904) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.



Figure 22. Detail of the 1907 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).



Figure 23. Detail taken from Bromley and Co Atlas of the Entire City of Brooklyn, New York (1908) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.



Figure 24. Detail taken from Ullitz-Hyde Atlas of the Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York (1916) with Lots 1 and 59 outlined.

1881  
BROOKLYN, N.Y. VOL. 3  
**23**  
(6)



Figure 25. Detail of the 1933 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).

16201  
BROOKLYN, N. Y. Vol. 9  
**23**  
(61)



Figure 26. Detail of the 1951 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).



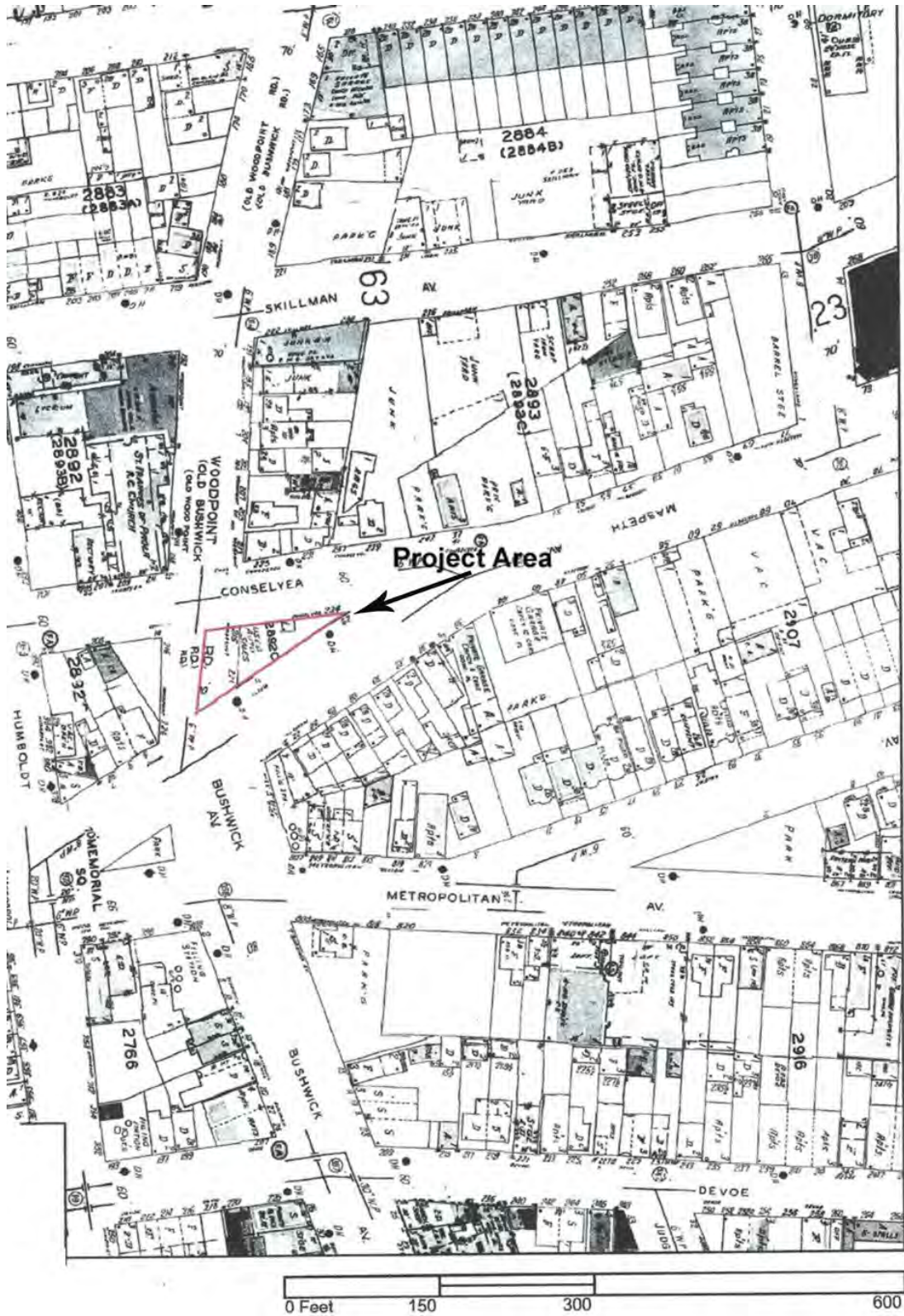


Figure 27. Detail of the 1965 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).



Figure 28. Detail of the 1968 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).

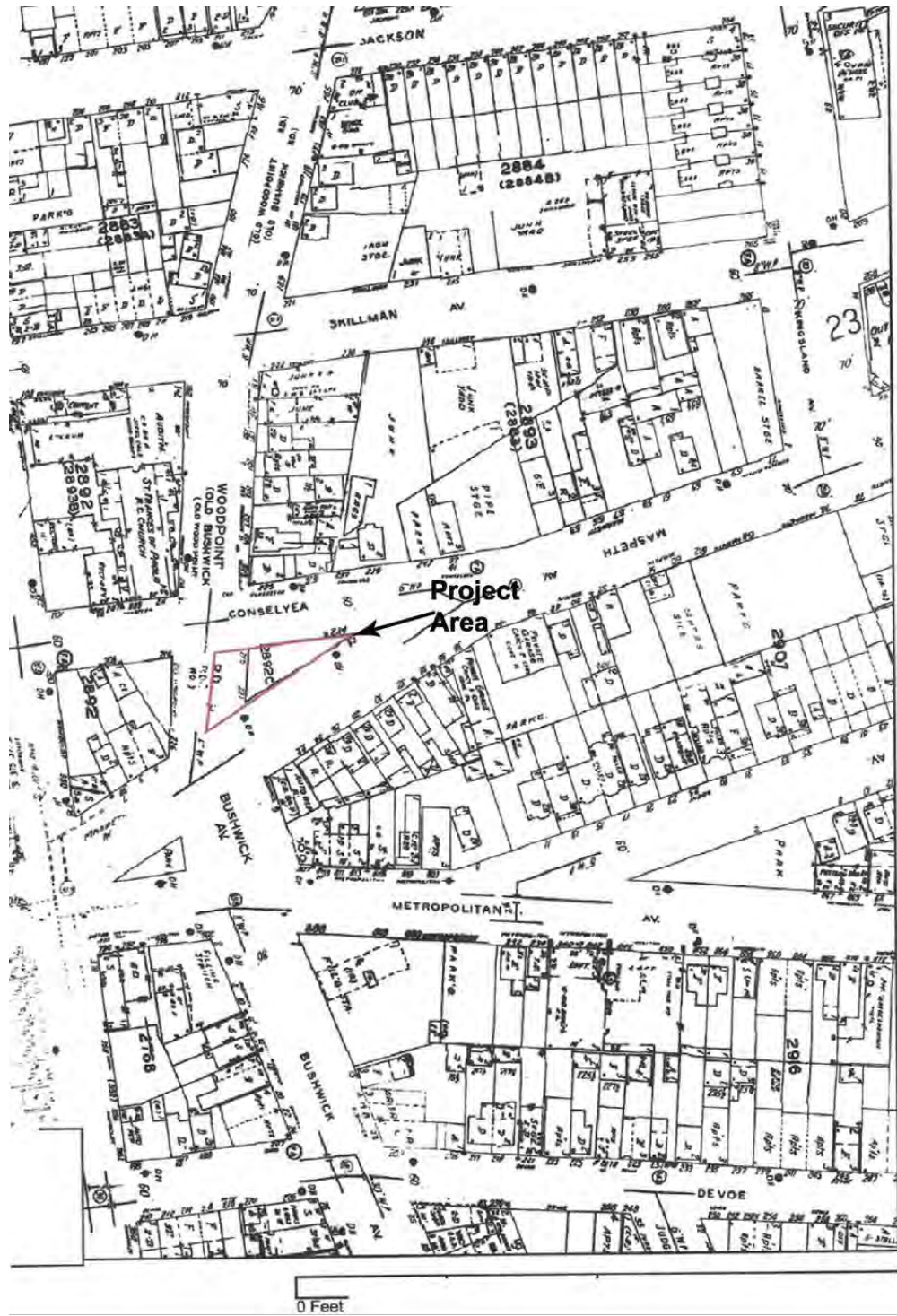


Figure 29. Detail of the 1982 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).

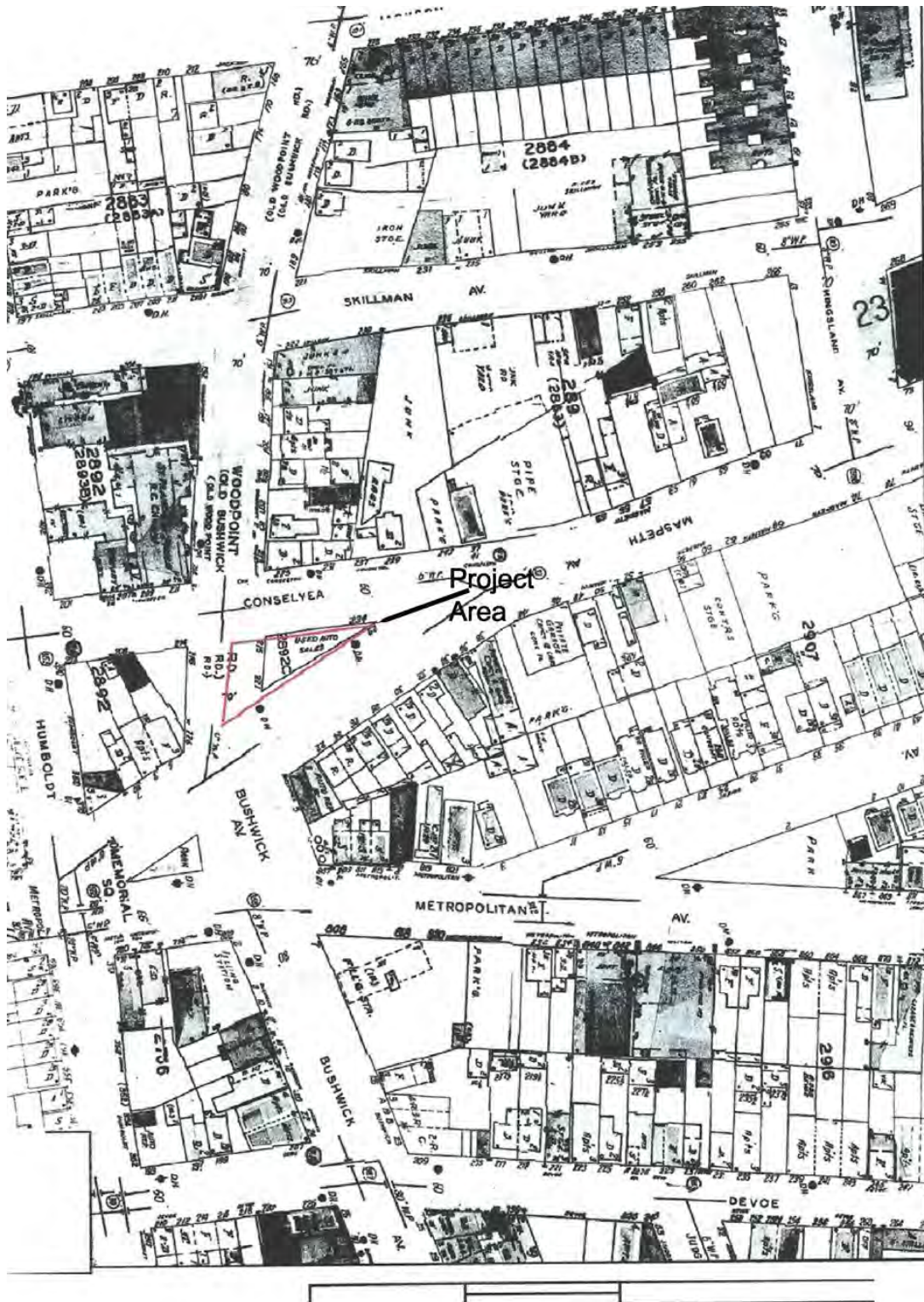


Figure 30. Detail of the 1986 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).



Figure 31. Detail of the 2007 Sanborn map with Lots 1 and 59 outlined (NYPL).

## **APPENDIX B: LAND CONVEYANCE RECORDS**

### Land Conveyance Records for Block 2983

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Liber:Page
McKenna, Catherine	Patrick McKenna	July 29, 1890	1993:107 Block 2893, corner Same as 671:215
McKenna, Catherine (widow)	Patrick McKenna	September 21, 1881	1438:170 (82.5 1/4 x 40 x 48)
Crooke, Frank (single)	Catherine McKenna	April 12, 1871	990:350 Lot 1
Stoothoff, Ditmas & Phebe J. (wife)	John McKenna	July 19, 1865	671:215 Lots 1, 2, 3 - Maspeth Lots 1, 2, 3 - Old Woodpoint Road
McNamee, John, Sheriff	Ditmas Stoothoff	July 17, 1865	671:251 Lots 1, 2, 3, -Maspeth Lots 1, 2, 3, - Old Wood Point Road
Francis S. & William H. Brown	Noah Waterbury	June 30 1847	165:460 part of a large parcel
Phillip Burroughs	Noah Waterbury	June 30, 1847	165:458 part of a large parcel
Approximately 77 transactions follow, to 1690. All transactions state: "part of a large parcel" or "part of a large tract." Approximately 1802, the conveyance is stamped "COM LAND"			

## **APPENDIX C: DIRECTORY RECORDS**



**Lain's Directory, 1858, Cross Streets: Maspeth and Bushwick**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>h.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Page</b>
Harry Bauer	shoemaker		Maspeth av. n. Bushwick av.	16
John J. Debevoise	farmer		Bushwick av n. Maspeth	88
Charles Doer- enbecher	baker		Maspeth av. n. Bushwick av.	96
Mary Edsall	wid	h.	Bushwick av. n. Maspeth	109
William Freestone	pilot	h.	Bushwick av. n. Maspeth	129
Patrick Gafney	gluemaker	h.	Maspeth av. n. Bushwick av.	131
John H. Lott		h.	Bushwick av. n. Maspeth av.	219
John McCanley	milkman	h.	Bushwick av. n. Maspeth av.	235
John McConnell	gluemaker	h.	Maspeth av. n. Bushwick av.	236
Edward McNulty	milkman	h.	Bushwick av. n. Maspeth av.	250
William Meyer	grocer		Bushwick av. c. Maspeth av.	254
John Riese	shoemaker	h.	Maspeth av. n. Bushwick av.	309
David Van Cott		h.	Bushwick av. n. Maspeth av.	375
David Whitford	Grocer		Maspeth av. n. Bushwick av.	395

## **APPENDIX D: PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**