Phase IB Archaeological Field Monitoring at 491 Baltic Street (Block 399, Lot 39), Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11217

Prepared for
City of New York – Landmarks Preservation Commission
Dev-C LLC c/o OzoneDM LLC

Prepared by
Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., RPA, Principal Investigator
Rosita Tirado, B.A., R.P., Field Director

Edited by
Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D. RPA

23 April 2024

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I. INTRODUCTION

Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Inc (Chrysalis) was retained by Dev-C LLC c/o OzoneDM LLC to undertake Phase IB Archaeological Monitoring/Testing at 491 Baltic Street, corner of Nevins Street, (Block 399, Lot 39), Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11217. The property owner/developer proposes to construct a new 14-story residential building, with basement, within the 75' by 100' lot.

This work was initiated upon City of New York – Landmarks Preservation Commission's (NYC LPC) based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Phase IA Historical Documentary and Archaeological Assessment Report, for the general Gowanus Redevelopment Project, in 2017. That report determined that this specific project area was developed by the late nineteenth century and may have contained typical backyard shaft features such as wells, privies and/or cisterns; thus leading to the determination that the site contains a moderate sensitivity for the recovery of late nineteenth century archaeological features and/or materials (AKRF 2019).

The purpose of the Phase IB Archaeological Test was to determine whether the project area contained, *in situ*, significant (i.e. National Register eligible) cultural resources associated with nineteenth century occupation of the site. An Archaeological Work Plan (AWP) was approved by NYC LPC in April of 2024 (Appendix A). The archaeological work was conducted in accordance with NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City (2018). The cultural resources specialists who performed this work satisfy or exceed the qualifications specified in the NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work (2018).

Based on the recommendation of the AWP, following the guidelines set forth in the NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City (2018), a series of four back-hoe excavated trenches were positions in locations within the overall project area to best determine if buried, in situ, significant, material and/or stratigraphic levels remain on site. All mechanical testing was monitored by the archaeologist.

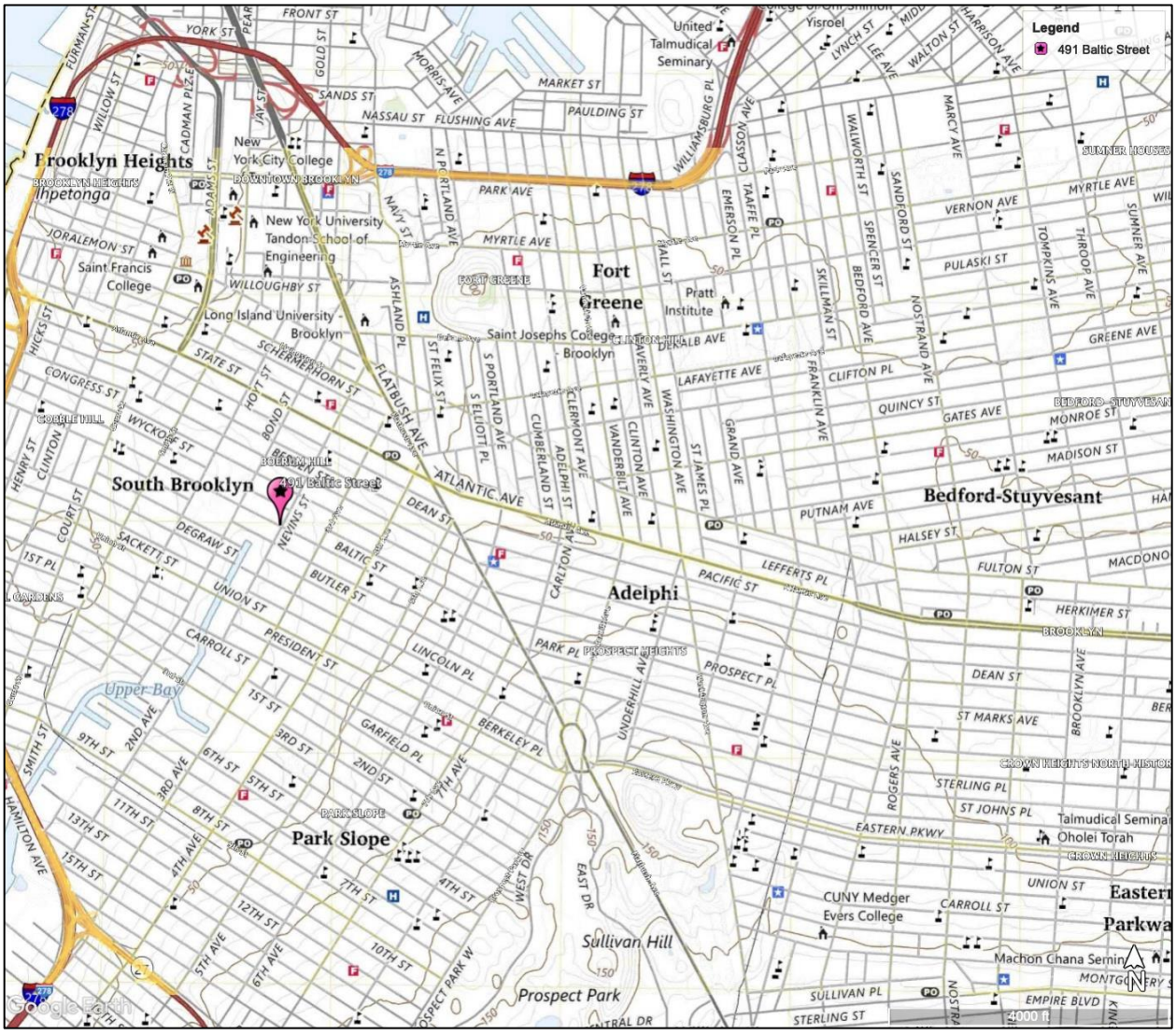
The project area consists of the entirety of present-day Block 399, Lot 39 identified as 491 Baltic Street. The property lot is situated at the northwest corner of Baltic and Nevins Streets and measures 75', east-west, fronting Baltic Street, and 100', north-south along Nevins Street. The present-day lot includes former Lot 41, the original 491 Baltic Street property. The original street address associated with Lot 39 was 196 Nevins Street. Currently the project area is undeveloped and is used as a parking lot.

Project Information

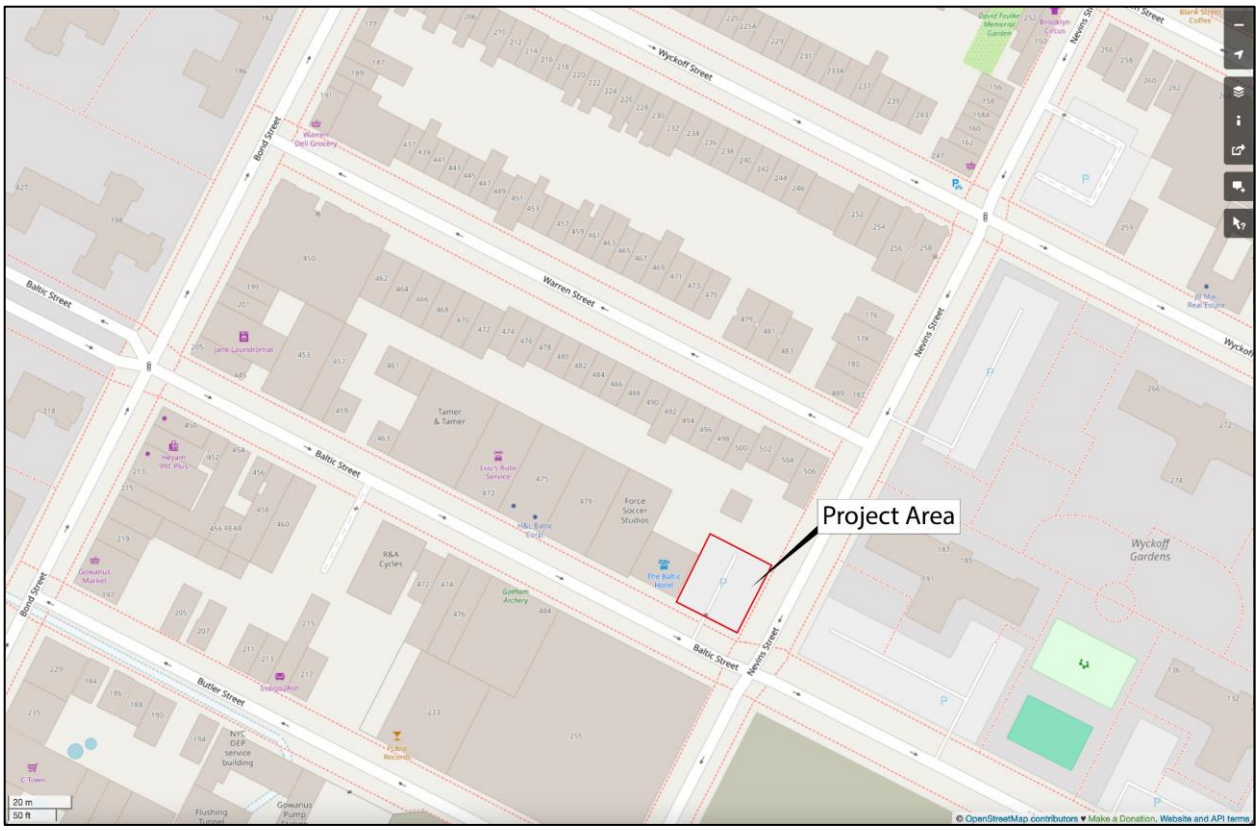
Project Name	491 Baltic Street
Street Address	491 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, New York 11217
Borough/Block/Lot	Brooklyn, Kings County, Block 399, Lot 39
LPC PUID (If Yet Assigned)	n/a
Applicant Name	OzoneDM, LLC c/o Portean Advisors, LLC
Lead Agency (Contact Person)	City of New York – Department of Planning
Principal Investigator	Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A.
Field Director	Rosita Tirado, B.A., R.P.
Proposed Project Schedule	See Section V

CULTURAL RESOURCE REGULATIONS

The proposed work will be conducted in accordance with NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City (2018). In addition, the project will follow the general guidelines of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) define, under 'Section 106 Regulations', that using federal funds must consider the effects of their actions on any properties listed, or determined eligible for listing, on the National Register for Historic Places (NR) (36 CFR 800). The investigation will also be conducted pursuant to the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) guidelines for such projects (NYAC 1994; 2000; 2002).Likewise, the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) and the (New York) City Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQRA) require that agencies must consider the effects of their actions on any properties listed, or determined eligible for listing, on the State and City Register for Historic Places. The cultural resources specialists who will perform this work will satisfy the qualifications specified in the NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work (2018) and in 36 CFR 61, Appendix A.



Map 1: USGS Topographical Map, Brooklyn Quad, United States Geological Survey 2023.



Map 2: Project Area, OpenStreetMap.org March 2024.

II. CONTEXT AND RESEARCH DESIGN

The project area is located in Kings County (Brooklyn) New York, geographically located on western Long Island. Long Island is comprised of two spines of glacial moraine, with a large, sandy outwash plain beyond. The northern moraine, which directly abuts the North Shore of Long Island at points, is known as the Harbor Hill moraine. The southern moraine, known as the Ronkonkoma moraine, forms the "backbone" of Long Island. The land to the south of this moraine is the outwash plain of the last glacier (Schuberth 1968; Campanella 2019). The project area is located immediately north of the Gowanus Canal.

PREVIOUS REPORT SUMMARY

In a letter dated April 2, 2019, the NYC LPC identified fifty potential and projected development sites that possessed potential archaeological significance and required a Phase IA Documentary History and Archaeological Assessment Study be undertaken for the project area. The current project, 491 Baltic Street (Block 399, Lot 39), historically consisting of 196 Nevins Street (Lot 39) and 491 Baltic Street (Lot 41) were among those listed. The ensuing 2019 study was undertaken by AKRF and determined that the project area retained a low sensitivity for Prehistoric and Pre-Contact cultural resources and human skeletal remains. However, the study determined that forty-

six potential and projected development sites were archaeologically sensitive for resources associated with the Gowanus Canal bulkhead, various nineteenth century shaft features, and/or evidence associated with milling or agricultural activities from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, that may have utilized enslaved labor. The report concluded that additional archaeological analysis was warranted and recommended archaeological monitoring for specific development sites, Phase IB Archaeological Testing, a geomorphological assessment of deeply buried landscapes, and the preparation of an Unanticipated Human Remains Discoveries Plan (AKFR 2019: Executive Summary).

The two historic lots that form the present project area were noted for potential shaft features (AKRF 2019:69).

PREHISTORIC PERIOD SENSITIVITY

The area was determined to have a low sensitivity for the recovery of in situ, stratified, Native American cultural remains. The general project area was heavily modified (i.e. landfilled) and nineteenth/twentieth century construction activities greatly impacted the area.

For a more detailed project area description please refer to the Phase IA (AKRF 2019) and the AWP (Chrysalis Archaeology 2024).

HISTORIC PERIOD SENSITIVITY

The Phase IA determined that Lot 39 should be considered archaeologically sensitive for nineteenth century features formerly located in the rear yards of the historic house lots (AKRF 2019).

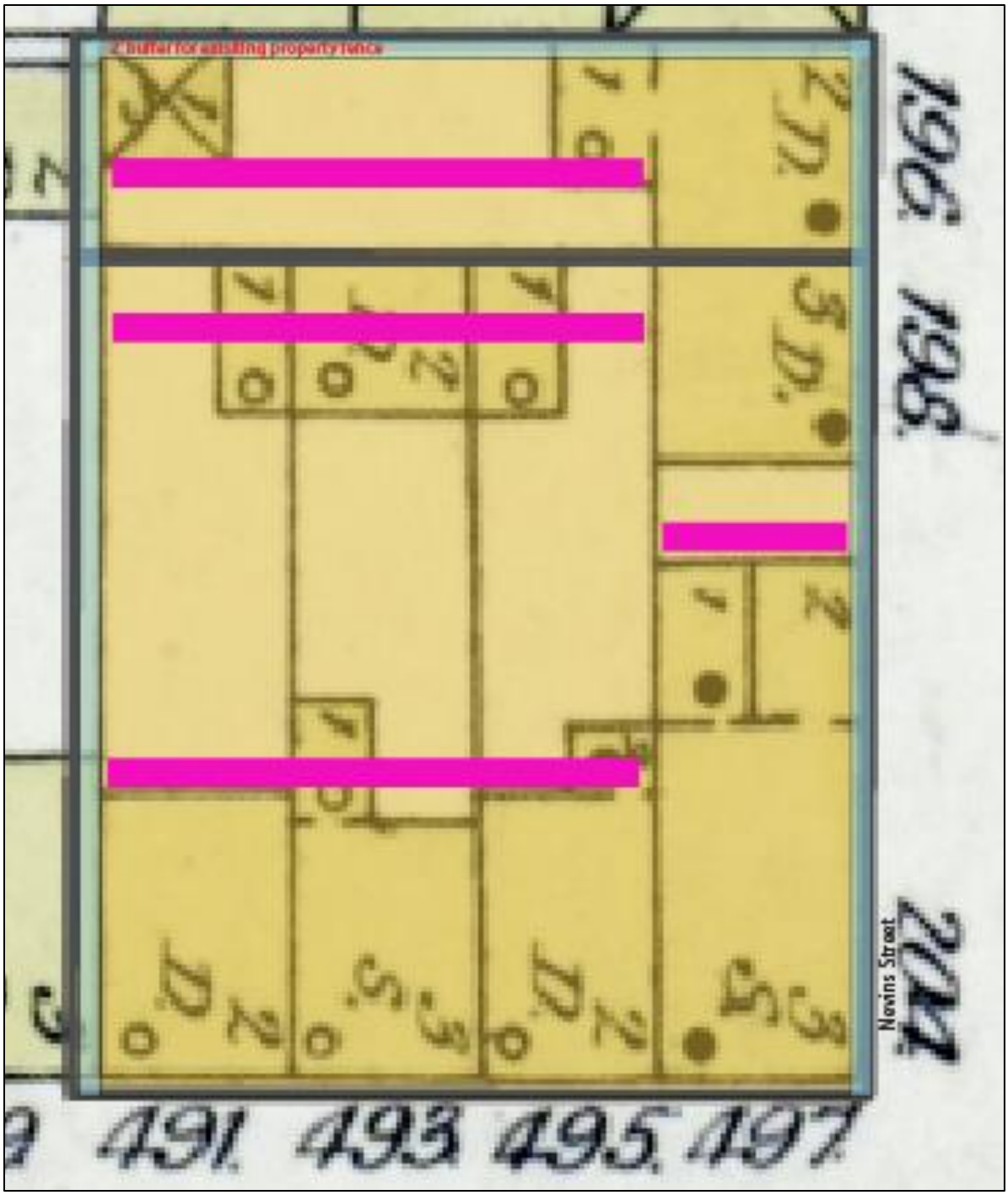
For a more detailed project area description please refer to the Phase IA (AKRF 2019) and the AWP (Chrysalis Archaeology 2024).

III. PROJECT METHODS

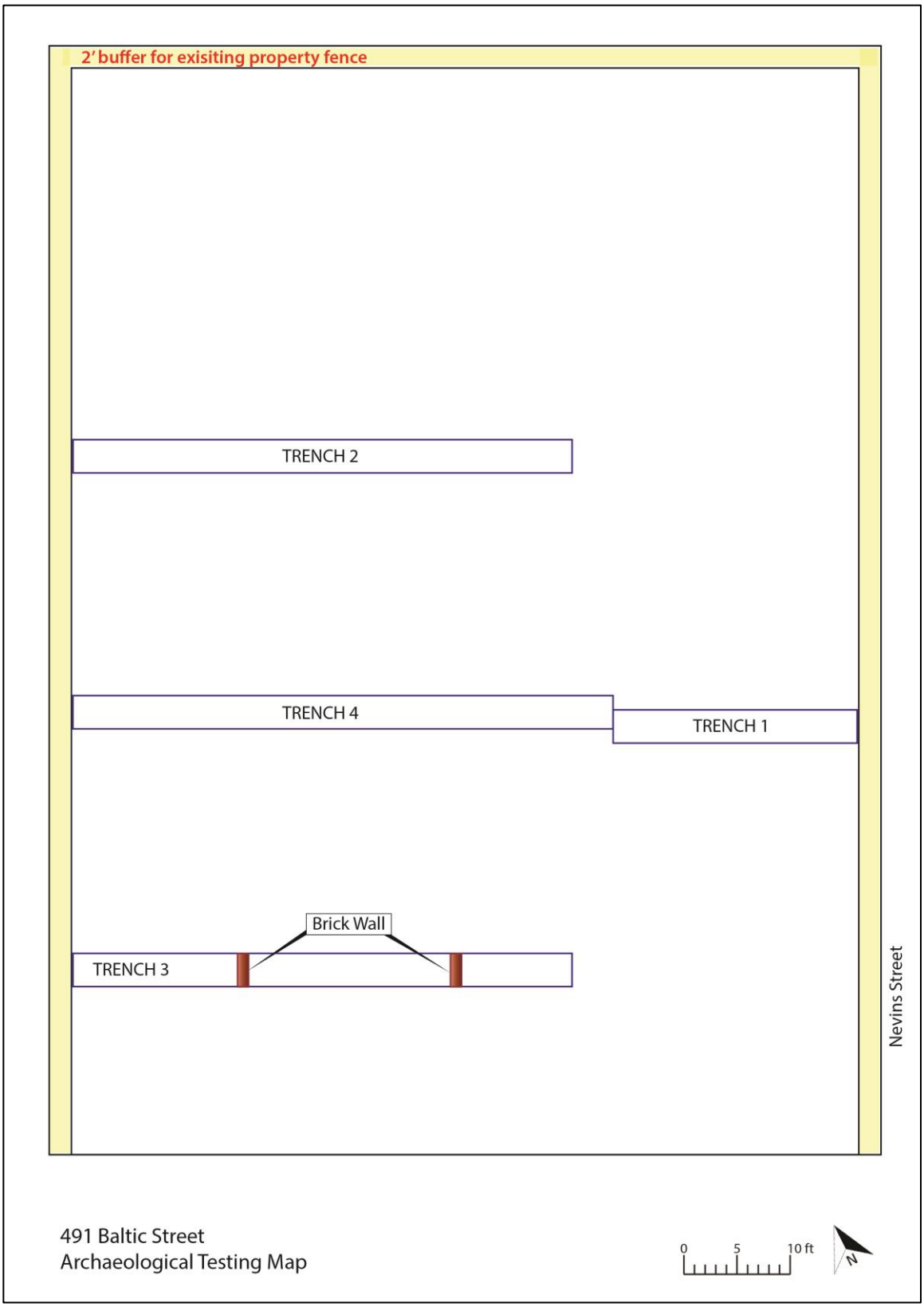
Archaeological testing prior to construction was recommended to assess the presence or absence of cultural resources. The field methodology for archaeological testing was laid out in the approved AWP (Chrysalis 2024). A total of 4 trenches were excavated within the “backyard” areas of the former nineteenth century structures to ascertain if potentially significant cultural resources, feature, or stratigraphic information were present (Map 4).

Testing consisted of mechanical removal of existing pavement and the excavation of four test trenches measuring approximately 3’ wide and excavated to a depth of 6’ below ground surface (bgs). Test trench excavation was performed via incremental passes of the backhoe bucket not exceeding 10” in depth. Soil stratigraphy was recorded and identified according to standard textural classifications and Munsell color system to assess fill episodes.

Due to field conditions, the location of one of the proposed test trenches was relocated. The originally proposed test area, at the rear of the present-day lot, contained a large deposit of modern medical waste, including syringes, littered across the area (Map 3, Images 1 and 2).



Map 3: Proposed Testing Map.



Map 4: Archaeological Testing Map.

Image 1: Medical Waste present in the original location of Test Trench 4.

Image 2: Medical Waste present in the original location of Test Trench 4.

IV. FIELD RESULTS

TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was located approximately 37’ from the Baltic Street fence line. This fence served as the datum for all locational measurements.

Trench 1 measured approximately 22’ feet long by 3’ wide. The first 14” were hand excavated due to mechanical issues.

During hand excavation a concentrations of construction debris including bricks, cement and gravel fill were observed throughout the trench. Household items such as modern white bathroom tile, metal and bottle fragments of machine-made bottles were also observed. As these material remains were clearly from a disturbed context and not considered significant, they were noted and discarded in the field.

Mechanical excavation commenced at approximately 14” bgs. A disarticulated, concrete slab, most likely belonging to the former building, was uncovered excavated approximately 2’ below ground surface, on the east edge of the trench. Layers of ash and concrete, interspersed with large rocks and modern tiles were also exposed. Present in this ash level were metal springs, most likely automobile remains, and light fixtures along with ceramic clay (plumbing) pipes and plastic fabric from a tarp.

Most of the material remains observed throughout the trench were typical construction debris associated with on-site structural demolition. Material remains observed, but not retained, included unmarked brick, bottle fragments, whiteware ceramics and several animal bones. Two post-1875 whiteware ceramic sherds with a gilded design were collected (Image 3).

Two stratigraphic layers were observed. Layer 1 consisted of construction debris (ash, concrete rubble, and brick fragments) extending to a depth of approximately 2’. Layer 2 was a mixed 10YR4/3 sand fill, which extended to approximately 6’ bgs (Images 4 and 5).

Image 3: ceramic sherds with gilded design.

Image 4: Trench 1 - Looking north.

Image 5: Trench 1 – Looking East.

TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was located approximately 9’ from the northern (rear) fence line[1] and 20’ north of Trench 1 (Map 4). The trench measured 45’ long by 3’ wide and excavated to a depth of 6’ bgs.

As with Trench 1, the stratigraphy indicated demolition associated with the removal of the previously extant structure(s) followed by modern refuse deposition. This trench exhibited a significant amount of ash, concrete fragments, unmarked bricks, and other typical construction debris. A fragmented ceramic utility pipe was uncovered approximately 3.6’ bgs, 22’ east of the western trench wall (Images 6 and 7).

Several cut, fragmented, animal bones, broken milk bottle fragments, metal nail and 20th century white ceramic tiles were observed. All non-diagnostic items, these were discarded in the field.

[1] For ease of discussion, the rear property fence line is referred to as north, with Baltic Street being south.

Image 6: Trench 2 – Looing east.

Image 7: Trench 2 – General stratigraphy.

TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was located approximately 15’ north of the Baltic Street fence line (Map 4). The trench measured 45’ long by 3’ wide and was excavated to a depth between 5’ and 6’ 6” bgs.

An *in situ* portion of a 1’ thick brick wall was encountered approximately 17’ east of the western end of the trench at 15” bgs (Images 8 and 9). Large rocks were located adjacent to the wall. A remnant concrete floor was noted at 4’ 6” bgs on the western side of the wall. Excavation extended to 6’ 6” in this area, determining that the brick wall continues beyond this depth. Large metal frames and utility pipes were observed at 18” east of this wall (Image 10)

A second, disarticulated brick wall was exposed in the north trench wall, 18’ east of the previous wall segment. The unmarked brick and concrete material appear to date both wall remnants to the early twentieth century and likely represent the former structures on the property.

Towards the eastern end of the trench an ash deposit spanning approximately 5’ across was noted. Bottle fragments (including milk and wine bottle fragments) and earthenware household fragments were recovered from this ash deposit. Adjacent to this, at the eastern end of trench, a concentration of bathroom floor tiles was exposed at the same relative depth.

Three bottles and three ceramic sherds were collected for further identification. The three bottles are all unmarked and appear to date to the early twentieth century. The ceramic sherds are a light blue transfer-printed whiteware, a beaded rim whiteware and a base sherd with a green tinted glaze. Two coins were also recovered from this area: a 1945-Winged Liberty Head dime (Image 11) and a 1947 dime.

Image 8: Trench 3 – Remains of brick wall

Image 9: Trench 3 – Remains of brick wall

Image 10: Trench 3 – Metal “frames” within the trench.

Image 11: Winged Liberty Head dime, 1945.

TRENCH 4

Originally this trench was to be excavated along the northern border of the property, but the span of dumped medical waste and the presence of a live electrical line necessitated moving the trench south of Trench 2. Trench 4 was relocated to connect with Trench 1, situated approximately 20' equidistant from Trenches 2 and 3 (Map 4). The rationale was to determine additional stratigraphic information regarding the former backyard areas of the former structures. Trench 4 measured 45' long by 3' wide and was excavated to a depth of 5' (Images 12, 13 and 14).

Small pockets of mortar were observed throughout the trench. Two clay utility pipes were observed at 1' and 3' at the eastern end of the trench. A third ceramic utility pipe was present at 4' bgs, extending to 5' bgs. These utility pipes were adjacent to one another and located 5' west of the eastern end of the trench.

As with the other trenches, clearly disturbed layers of ash, mixed with concrete and brick rubble were encountered. Non-diagnostic fragmented glass and whiteware ceramic sherds were observed and discarded in the field. Diagnostic ceramic sherds and one partial pipe bowl were retained (Image 15), though none came from a distinct context or location within the 45' long trench. These materials date to the nineteenth century and include:

- 1 whiteware lid with black transfer-printed oriental pattern
- 1 whiteware plate sherd with partial makers mark reading "___STONE CHINA"
- 3 blue transfer-printed sherds
- 1 blue edgeware sherd
- 1 pearlware sherd with black and yellow design
- 1 partial pipe bowl

Image 12: Trench 4 - South wall profile.

Image 13: Trench 4 -Looking east.

Image 14: Trench 4 - Looking west.

Image 15: Diagnostic artifacts located within Trench 4.

FIELD SUMMARY

Site stratigraphy was uniform throughout the site. It is consistent with building demolition, in which materials were reburied on site. Excavation did not encounter natural sterile soils. Table 1 presents a summary of stratigraphy from each excavation area.

The materials observed, were typical of razed late-nineteenth to early twentieth century house lots that have been further disturbed. Observed materials were highly fragmented. These included broken and fragmented glass bottle and ceramics. The bottles observed were machine made. Ceramics sherds observed were almost exclusively whiteware "utilitarian" ware types such as plates and mugs. Modern materials such as plastic, were observed at depths extending to 4'bgs.

The two coins collected provide the general *terminus post quem* for site. The most recent coin being dated 1947.

Table 1: Summary of Trench excavation data.

TRENCH	STRAT	BGS /NAVD(88)	MUNSELL	SOIL TYPE	COMMENTS
1	I.	0’ – 2’ (14.9 – 12.9)	10YR 5/4	Dense, ash layer with concrete	Cement inclusions, asphalt, ash, typical construction debris, modern garbage.
	II.	2’ – 6’ (12.9 – 6.9)	10YR 4/3	Sand	Large stone inclusions. Minimal construction debris
2	I.	0’ – 2’ (14.9 – 12.9)	10YR 3/4 and 10YR 5/4	Gravel, ash and sand	Twentieth century construction debris associated with the removal of the structure, mixed with twentieth to twenty-first century fragmented material remains
	II.	2’ – 6’ (12.9 – 6.9)	10YR 5/4 and 10YR 5/6	Gravel, ash and sand	Twentieth century construction debris associated with the removal of the structure, mixed with twentieth to twenty-first century fragmented material remains
3	I.	0’ – 2’ (14.9 – 12.9)	10YR 4/5	Gravel, ash, loam	Twentieth century construction debris associated with the removal of the structure, mixed with twentieth to twenty-first century fragmented material remains
	II.	2 – 6’ 6” (12.9 – 6.3)	10YR 5/4 and 10YR 5/6	Gravel, ash and sand	Brick wall fragments, ash dump, modern utility pipes and fragmented material remains observed.
4	I.	0’ – 2’ (14.9 – 12.9)	10YR 3/4 and 10YR 5/4	Gravel, ash and sand	Cement inclusions, asphalt, ash, typical construction debris, modern garbage.
	II.	2’ – 6’ (12.9 – 6.9)	10YR 4/3 and 10YR 5/6	Gravel, ash and sand	Cement inclusions, asphalt, ash, typical construction debris, modern garbage.

V. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The 491 Baltic Street site exhibited a consistent degree of stratigraphy. The site exhibits disturbed materials associated with the demolition of the original nineteenth century buildings and subsequent site formation activities. The site has been used as for illegal refuse deposition including recent medical waste.

Two fragmented, disarticulated, brick wall fragments were located at what would have been the rear of the former nineteenth century buildings. Ceramic utility pipes suggest the properties were connected to water limiting the need for cisterns or privies. No indication of those types of features was found. One concrete floor remnant, located at 4' 6" bgs, suggests at least one structure had a subsurface level.

Modern disturbances were found to a minimum of 4'bgs, as evidenced by the presence of plastic. No undisturbed or sterile stratigraphic layers were observed.

Based on the results of the archaeological field testing, the 491 Baltic Street site retains a low probability for the recovery of *in situ*, significant stratigraphic levels or material remains. Therefore, it is the recommendation of this report that no further archaeological work be undertaken for this site and the project has completed the cultural resource management requirements set forth in the various Federal, State and City guidelines.

VI. REFERENCES

AKRF.

2019 Gowanus Neighborhood Rezoning – Area Bounded by Bond, Hoyt and Smith Streets, 3rd and 4th Avenues; Huntington, 3rd, 7th, and 15th Streets; and Warren, Baltic and Pacific Streets, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York - Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study. Report on file with the City of New York – Landmarks Preservation Commission. New York, New York.

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2018 Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City. Report on file with the City of New York – Landmarks Preservation Commission. New York, New York.

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2023 Brooklyn, NY 7.5” Topographic Quad. United States Department of the Interior.

Appendix A

Approved Archaeological Work Plan

To: City of New York - Landmarks Preservation Commission
Dev-C LLC c/o OzoneDM LLC

From: Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A. Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A. and Elissa Rutigliano, B.A., R.A.

Re: Phase IB Archaeological Work Plan for 491 Baltic Street (Block 399, Lot 39), Brooklyn, New York 11217 (Version 2)

Date: April 4, 2024

I. INTRODUCTION

Dev-C LLC c/o OzoneDM LLC Client) has contracted with Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants, Inc., (Chrysalis) to provide all Cultural Resource Management (Archaeological) services for the 491 Baltic Street, corner of Nevins Street, (Block 399, Lot 39), Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11217 Project. The Client proposes constructing a 14-story residential building, with basement, on the 75' x 100' sized lot. The project area is in the Gowanus neighborhood of Brooklyn (Maps 1 and 2). A Phase IA Historical Documentary and Archaeological Assessment Report, for the general Gowanus Redevelopment Project, in 2017, determined that this project area was developed by the late nineteenth century and may have contained typical backyard shaft features such as wells, privies and/or cisterns; thus leading to the determination that the site contains a moderate sensitivity for the recovery of late nineteenth century archaeological features and/or materials and recommended Phase IB Archaeological Testing (AKRF 2019).

The purpose of this cultural resources project is to determine whether the project area contains significant (i.e. National Register eligible) cultural resources, and to document and determine the extent of any potential significant archaeological resources, should they be encountered. The purpose of this Archaeological Work Plan is to: 1) outline the proposed archaeological tasks; 2) outline the lines of communication that will be employed throughout the project regarding the cultural resources process; 3) detail what steps will be taken in the event that significant archaeological remains are encountered; and 4) outline the laboratory process to be followed, if necessary.

This Archaeological Work Plan (AWP) is provided to the City of New York - Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYC LPC) for review and approval.

PROJECT AREA

The project area consists of the entirety of present-day Block 399, Lot 39 identified as 491 Baltic Street. The property lot is situated at the northwest corner of Baltic and Nevins Streets and measures 75', east-west, fronting Baltic Street, and 100', north-south along Nevins Street. The present-day lot includes former Lot 41, the original 491 Baltic Street property. The original street address associated with Lot 39 was 196 Nevins Street. Currently the project area is undeveloped and is used as a parking lot.

Project Information

Project Name	491 Baltic Street
Street Address	491 Baltic Street, Brooklyn, New York 11217
Borough/Block/Lot	Brooklyn, Kings County, Block 399, Lot 39
LPC PUID (If Yet Assigned)	n/a
Applicant Name	OzoneDM, LLC c/o Portean Advisors, LLC
Lead Agency (Contact Person)	City of New York – Department of Planning
Principal Investigator	Alyssa Loorya, Ph.D., R.P.A.
Field Director	TBD
Proposed Project Schedule	See Section V

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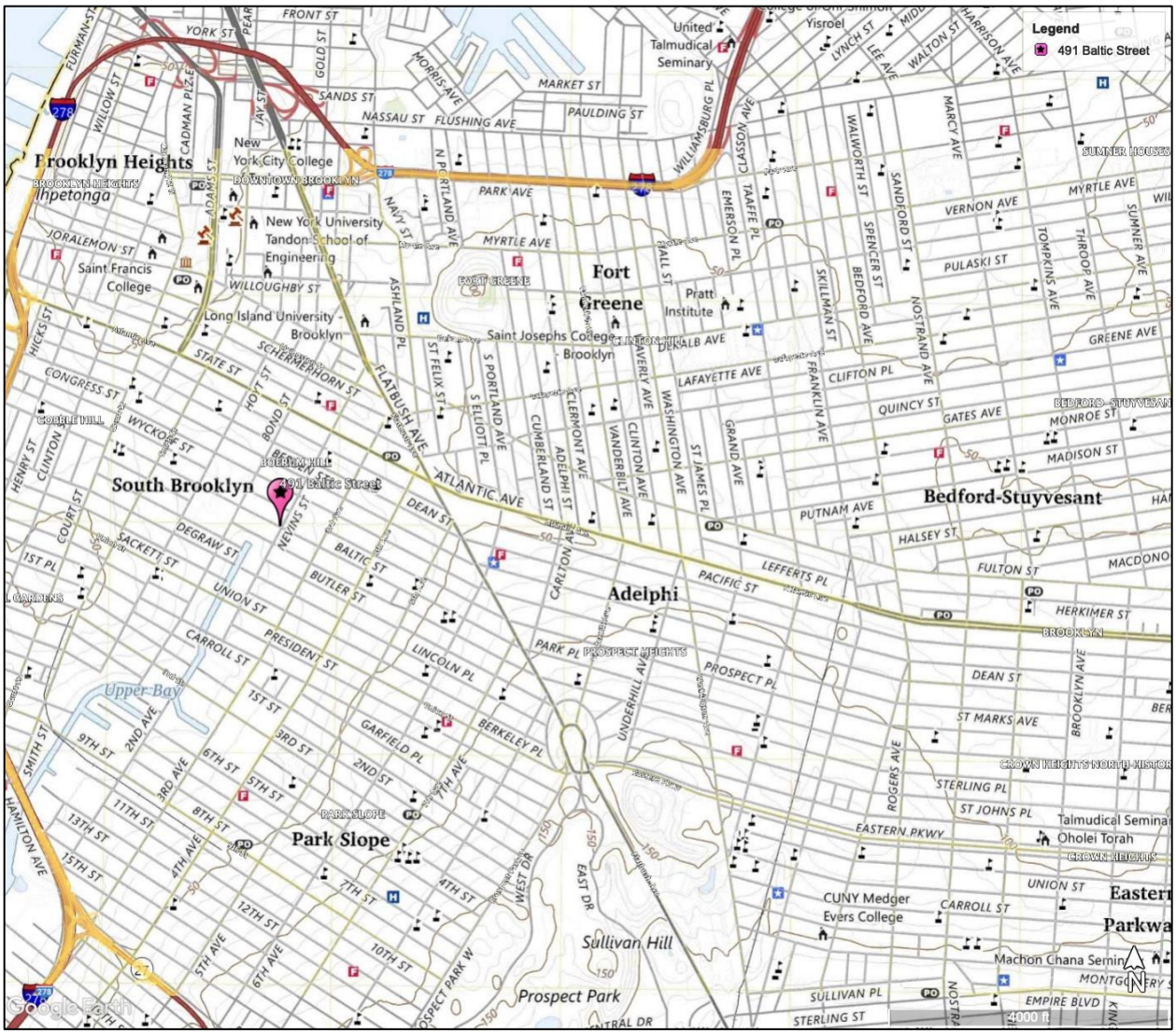
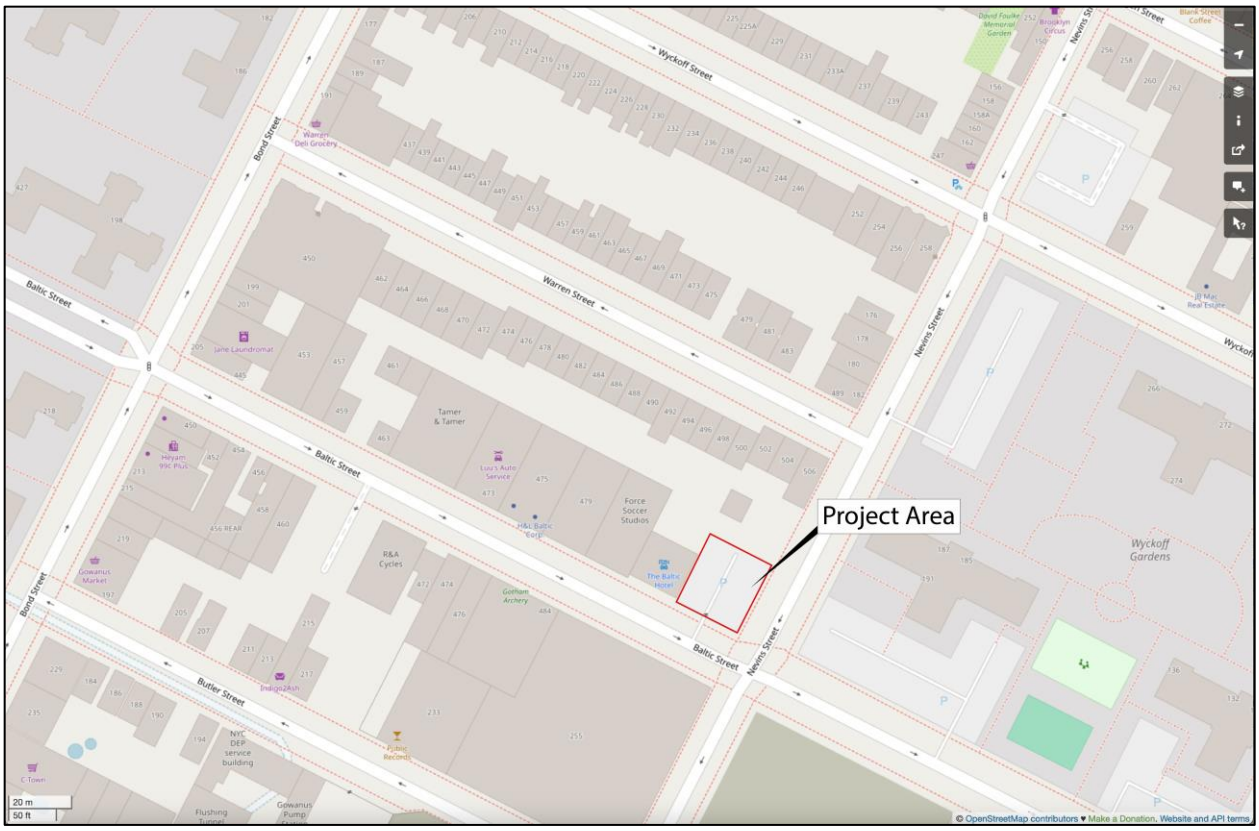
The proposed work will be conducted in accordance with NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City (2018). In addition, the project will follow the general guidelines of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) define, under 'Section 106 Regulations', that using federal funds must consider the effects of their actions on any properties listed, or determined eligible for listing, on the National Register for Historic Places (NR) (36 CFR 800). The investigation will also be conducted pursuant to the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) guidelines for such projects (NYAC 1994; 2000; 2002).Likewise, the State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) and the (New York) City Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQRA) require that agencies must consider the effects of their actions on any properties listed, or determined eligible for listing, on the State and City Register for Historic Places. The cultural resources specialists who will perform this work will satisfy the qualifications specified in the NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeological Work (2018) and in 36 CFR 61, Appendix A.



Map 1: USGS Topographical Map, Brooklyn Quad, United States Geological Survey 2023.



Map 2: Project Area, OpenStreetMap March 2024.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

The project area is located in Kings County (Brooklyn) New York, geographically located on western Long Island. Long Island is comprised of two spines of glacial moraine, with a large, sandy outwash plain beyond. The northern moraine, which directly abuts the North Shore of Long Island at points, is known as the Harbor Hill moraine. The southern moraine, known as the Ronkonkoma moraine, forms the "backbone" of Long Island. The land to the south of this moraine is the outwash plain of the last glacier (Schuberth 1968; Campanella 2019). The project area is located immediately north of the Gowanus Canal.

PREVIOUS REPORT SUMMARY

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evidence associated with milling or agricultural activities from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries, that may have utilized enslaved labor. The report concluded that additional archaeological analysis was warranted and recommended archaeological monitoring for specific development sites, Phase IB Archaeological Testing, a geomorphological assessment of deeply buried landscapes, and the preparation of an Unanticipated Human Remains Discoveries Plan (AKFR 2019: Executive Summary).

The two historic lots that form the present project area were noted for potential shaft features (AKRF 2019:69).

PREHISTORIC PERIOD SENSITIVITY

Before and during the arrival of Europeans in North America, the Algonquin populated the land along the Atlantic. The Algonquin people comprised roughly thirty nations, each speaking a dialect of the same language and sharing similar customs. One Algonquin nation, the *Leni-Lenape*, meaning "original people" 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 & Davis 1930:71).

At the time of contact, Native peoples of the Munsee dialect resided on western Long Island. The main groups in Kings County were the *Nayack,* along the eastern shore of the Narrows; the *Rockaway*, who dwelled in the areas that now bear their name; and the *Canarsee*. These Native American groups occupied long-term villages and seasonal camps throughout Kings County. Archaeological investigations of Native American sites in Kings County 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 in Kings County would have been consistently found 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 largest Native American settlement near the project area was *Werpos*, meaning "a bushy place or thicket," near present-day Hoyt and Baltic Streets. At its closest point, the site was located approximately 750 miles east of the project area, near a stream later converted into the Gowanus Canal. Immediately northwest of *Werpos* was a maize planting field, from which two Native American trails led out of the settlement. The trails ran southwesterly and southeasterly, respectively; the latter later became Gowanus Road, extending along the southeastern side of Gowanus Creek from a point near present-day Atlantic Avenue to the south of the project area. *Werpos*, which persons of the *Manahata* tribe occupied, was abandoned shortly after European settlement (Grumet 1981:58; AKRF 2019:22-23).

In 2004, the City of New York - Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported the skeleton of a male Native American, which had been discovered on private property in the vicinity of the former *Werpos* settlement (OPRHP Site A04701.017322). The burial was found in a context with clam shells, oyster shells, and red ochre (AKRF 2019:23).

HISTORIC PERIOD SENSITIVITY

In 1609, the Dutch East India Company commissioned Henry Hudson, an English explorer, 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. 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, encompassing New York, New Jersey, and parts of Pennsylvania. The Company initiated settlement of the New Netherland colony in the spring of 1623 when thirty families arrived at Manhattan Island. Under the direction of Cornelis Jacobsen Mey, the first Director of the colony, they established Fort Amsterdam on the southern tip of Manhattan. New Netherland was recognized as 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, then called New Amsterdam, from the local Native Americans and named it 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 date to June 16, 1636. The deeds, or Dutch ground briefs, were for three adjoining 'Flats' of land that, when taken together, constituted one large fifteen-thousand-acre tract, known by the Canarsee as Castateauw, located in today's Flatlands (Thompson 1918:128; Van Wyck 1924:15).

These land acquisitions proved to be a catalyst for the rapid Dutch exploration and settlement of western Long Island. This was well received by the Dutch administration, which was eager to establish the colony beyond the capital city of New Amsterdam. For years, the Dutch 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 Americans 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.

Six townships were settled under Dutch administration in present-day Kings County during the seventeenth century: Amersfoort (Flatlands), Breuckelen (Brooklyn), Boswyck (Bushwick), Gravenzande (Gravesend), Midwout (Flatbush), and New Utrecht. The earliest settlement, Amersfoort (Flatlands), began with the purchase of Castateauw in 1636. The remaining townships were established over the next two decades (Stiles 1867:29).

In 1664, Stuyvesant surrendered the New Netherland colony to English rule. At the time, the boundaries of the New Netherland colony encompassed the present-day states of New York and New Jersey and limited portions of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Connecticut.

REGIONAL HISTORY

The project area is in the present-day neighborhood of Gowanus. Beginning in the seventeenth century, incentivized by the Dutch provision for allodial proprietorship, individual farms were established around Gowanus Creek, with the marshes being utilized by salt hay farmers.

By the mid-eighteenth century, the project area remained mostly inundated, with scant portions of dry land incorporated into residents' farms. Four residential and two commercial mills existed around Gowanus Creek (AKRF 2019:25). Milling was one of the first industries established in the area, as settlers found the tidal waters of Gowanus Creek favorable for the task. The earliest known mill in the area was the Old Brouwer Mill, constructed circa 1661. Denton's Mill followed in 1709, and by the end of the eighteenth century, a third mill, Cole's Mill, was established (AKRF 2019:25).

Development of the area surrounding either side of Gowanus Creek maintained a slow pace throughout the remaining eighteenth century. Economic and political conflicts grew between the British colonies and the British government in the mid to late eighteenth century, leading to the outbreak of the American Revolution.

As New York entered the Revolutionary War, Brooklyn was in upheaval. After General Washington arrived in Brooklyn on April 14, 1776, he began moving troops into Kings County, augmenting the American army in Kings County to roughly 27,000 men (Lengel 2005:142). On August 22, 1776, the British landed on the shores of Gravesend Bay, leading to the Battle of Long Island. Over the course of the one week of battle, the American army sustained heavy losses – and the British captured Brooklyn on August 27, 1776. During the battle "soldiers from Maryland are said to have stayed behind to continue the fight, sacrificing themselves to allow the remaining regiments to retreat. There has been speculation that these soldiers were buried in a mass grave in the vicinity of the project area". Chapter 7 of the Phase IA expands on the general history of the project area (AKRF 2019:26).

The British occupied Kings County until the end of the war. They quickly utilized the defensive works already established throughout Brooklyn. Life was difficult for Brooklyn's inhabitants during the British occupation. The years comprising their stay were marked by skirmishes, thefts, and harassment of Patriot sympathizers. The British saw Brooklyn and its residents as resources and planned incursions throughout Kings County. British rebels and soldiers pillaged and plundered their Brooklyn neighbors. Farms were laid to waste, and farmers were stripped of 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 British surrendered to the American army in 1781. After a peace treaty was signed on November 30, 1782, the British evacuated Brooklyn and left its inhabitants to rebuild their homes, recultivate their lands, and reorganize their towns.

As Gowanus and the larger Brooklyn area were rebuilding, slavery once again became an integral component of social and economic life. Brooklyn's black population – both free and enslaved – rose from 18% at the beginning of the eighteenth century to 32% at its close. Although enslaved labor is not well documented in the historical record, enslaved persons formed the backbone of the workforce operating mills and farms from settlement into the nineteenth century. The labor of enslaved persons helped Brooklyn become the heart of the agriculture industry in the region. Slavery was abolished in New York State in 1827, with emancipation truly taking root across Brooklyn by the middle of the nineteenth century (AKRF 2019:27).

By the onset of the nineteenth century, with the advent of the Commissioner's Plan for a grid system in 1811 and the incorporation of the City of Brooklyn in 1834, development was on the rise, and the extensive farmland that once dominated Brooklyn's landscape had been divided into smaller, salable lots.

To accommodate this growth in development, marshland – including those surrounding Gowanus Creek – was filled in to create usable property. Many enterprising individuals purchased tracts along the Creek to be developed and were instrumental in constructing the Gowanus Canal. By the middle of the nineteenth century, plans were in place to fill the Gowanus marshes and lay streets through the newly improved land. Brooklyn's rapid transition towards urbanization and industrialization resulted in the creation of the Gowanus Canal, completed in stages between the 1840s and 1870s (AKRF 2019:28).

HISTORIC CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT AREA

The project area was inundated or undeveloped within the Martense farm until the mid-nineteenth century. By the late 1860s, the property had been developed. Four structures had been constructed on the lot, one in each corner. Through the 1880s, the project area was divided into five historical lots: Lots 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40. Historical Lot 36 measured 20' by 100' and was situated along the northern side of the Modern Lot 36., fronting Nevins Street. Historical Lots 37 through 40 measured 18.4’-20' by 85' and fronted Baltic Street. By 1886, each Historical Lot was developed with a two- or three-story wood frame dwelling or store. In addition, Historical Lots 37 and 39 had rear structures behind the primary dwellings. All the buildings remained in place through the onset of the twentieth century, and additional rear structures had been added to the remaining Historical Lots by 1904. By 1915, the rear structures in each Historical Lot had been demolished. Historical Lots 37 through 40 were vacant by 1939; the house on the northern side of the property of Historical Lot 36 remained. The property experienced no changes through the mid-twentieth century (AKRF 2019:33).

The Phase IA study undertaken by AKRF determined that Modern Lot 39 is considered archaeologically sensitive for nineteenth century features formerly located in the rear yards of the Historic Lots (AKRF 2016:33).

III. RESEARCH DESIGN

Phase IB fieldwork is designed to ascertain the presence/absence of archaeological resources within a site. Its goal is to determine whether significant (i.e. National Register [NR] eligible) resources that could be adversely affected by project construction are extant within the APE.

IV. PROJECT METHODS

The following sets forth the plan for Phase IB archaeological testing for the 491 Baltic Street Project. It describes additional mitigation measures that will be undertaken should archaeological resources be encountered during the archaeological investigations, including protocols should human remains be exposed, artifact analysis such as laboratory work, written reports, and further documentary research, if necessary.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TESTING

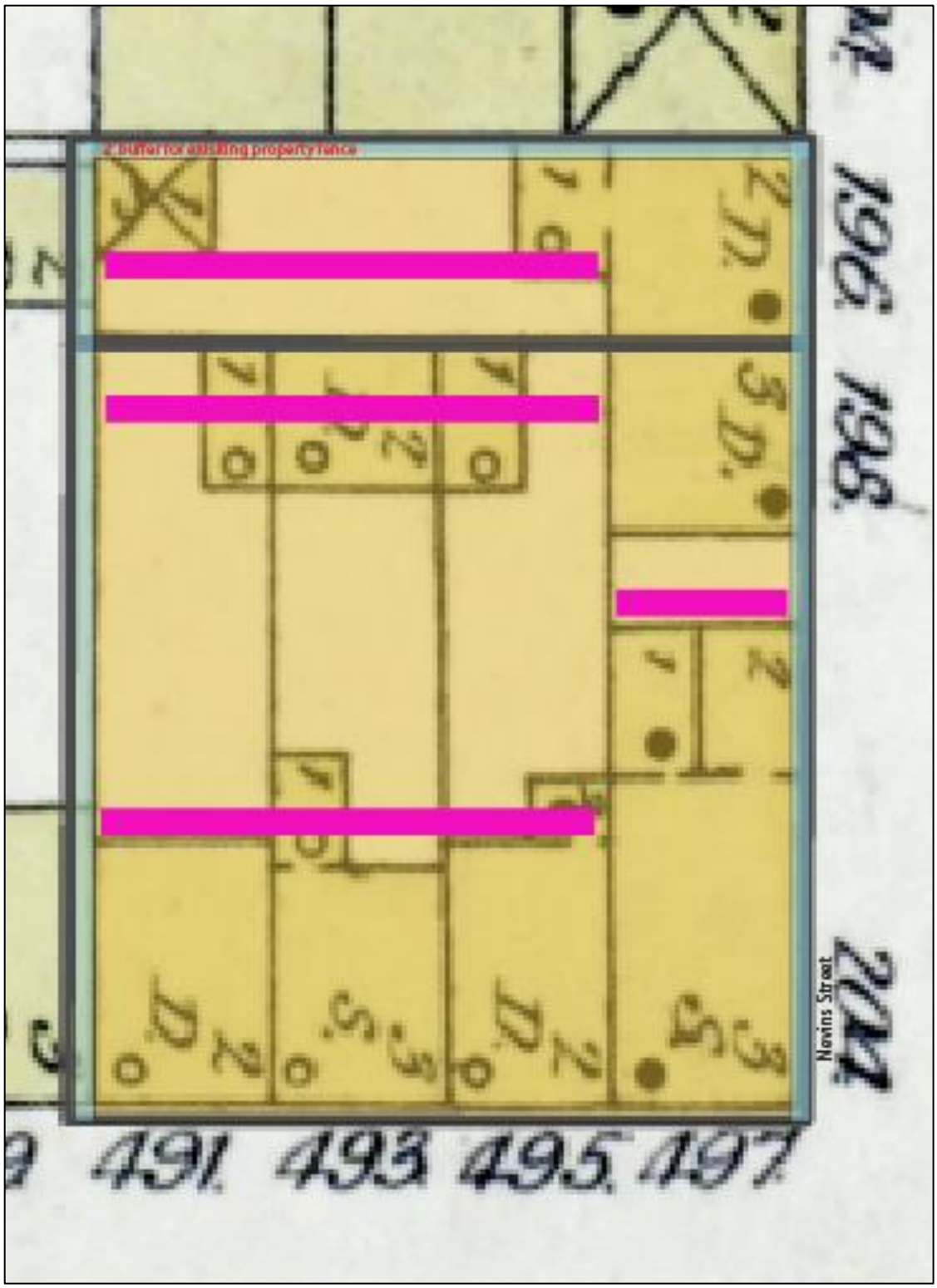
Based on the Phase IA Report (AKRF 2019), testing will focus on the "backyard" area of the property lot. It is in this location that shaft features were most likely to have existed.

Archaeological testing, prior to construction, is recommended to determine the presence or absence of cultural resources. Testing is proposed in the form of archaeological monitored back-hoe trenching. It is anticipated that four trenches will be excavated relative to the nineteenth century buildings that stood on the property. Three of these trenches will measure approximately three feet wide, by sixty-five feet long to a depth between five and seven feet below existing ground surface and one measuring approximately three feet wide, twenty-five feet long to a depth between five and seven feet below existing ground surface (Map 03).

All artifacts, except for bulk materials such as concrete rubble, brick, large unidentified metal objects, ash, coal, cinders, and slag, recovered during excavation and/or screening will be retained. The above-listed bulk materials will be noted and discarded in the field. An approximate number of items for each stratigraphic level will be documented. All other recovered artifacts will be bagged according to their unique provenience and transported to Chrysalis' laboratory in Brooklyn, NY for processing and analysis. An artifact provenience log that records the pertinent data for each recovered artifact will be created.

Soil profiles, cultural features, and all other important field data will be described, photographed in digital format and illustrated via measured drawings in Imperial or Metric scale, in plan and vertical perspective, as appropriate.

Upon completion of archaeological testing, the STPs will be backfilled with the excavated soils. The surface vegetation will not be replaced.



Map 3: Proposed Testing Map.

The project will provide a protected area within the project site or field office to temporarily store equipment and/or material remains recovered from the excavation trenches. Material remains may require temporary storage prior to transportation to Chrysalis' laboratory facility.

If a well, cistern or privy is encountered, additional excavation in the form of test units may be necessary to determine the feature boundaries. Any features encountered will be documented in plan view and quartered, per NYC LPC Guidelines. Disassembly of one quarter will proceed from top to bottom via stratigraphic excavation of any feature fill. Profile drawings will be made of the exposed cross-sections.

If significant archaeological deposits are found

If archaeological resources are encountered that the archaeological Field Director determines to be potentially significant, e.g. appearing to meet eligibility criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR-eligible), Chrysalis will notify the Client in writing, via email, of the discovery. The archaeologists will also notify NYC LPC. All work in the area of the discovery will cease until the next steps are determined in consultation with NYC LPC. The specific time required for the documentation effort will be coordinated with the project team and is based on the nature of the archaeological discovery. A scope of work for potential Phase II and/or III work will be developed in consultation with NYC LPC, if necessary.

In summary, in the event of a significant discovery the following procedures will be followed:

Upon discovery, Chrysalis will halt excavation and notify the Client in writing (via email). The archaeologists will also notify NYC LPC in writing (via email).

No activity will occur in the area of the discovery until clearance is given by NYC LPC.

A meeting may be held to discuss how to best address the discovery. NYC LPC may wish to visit the site.

If NYC LPC determines that further excavation, documentation and/or recovery are required, Chrysalis will create a new AWP for the specific tasks required to include time and budget, within ten business days. The AWP will be provided to the Client for approval. The archaeologists will transmit this new AWP to NYC LPC for approval.

Upon written approval of the new AWP from NYC LPC, the Client will direct the archaeological contractor to proceed with the new AWP.

Human Remains

Though not anticipated, it is possible that excavation might encounter human remains within the project area. Special consideration and care are required if human remains are uncovered. Any action related to the discovery of human remains is subject to the statute law as defined in the Rules of the City of New York, Title 24 - Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, specifically

Title 24, Title V, Article 205 and the 2023 New York State Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act. In addition, the NYC LPC regulations regarding human remains and the New York Archaeological Council's (NYAC) policy on the discovery of human remains and items of cultural patrimony as defined by Section 3001 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) will be taken into consideration – providing they do not conflict with the City of New York statute regulations. The protocols to be implemented if human remains are discovered are more fully detailed in the Human Remains Protocol.

If human remains are discovered, the project will immediately halt excavation. It will be necessary to consult with NYC LPC and begin the coordination process with all relevant entities. A specific Scope of Work to address such a discovery will be developed, in consultation with NYC LPC should the need arise. If intact human remains are found, they may not be disinterred until the consultation process has been completed. The discovery of intact, in situ human remains may require a redesign of portions of the project to ensure the remains are not disturbed.

All requirements set forth in the recently enacted, New York State Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act in May of 2023 will be followed, including the coordination with the New York State Museum throughout the process, determination if the remains are of Native American origin, establishment of cultural affiliated group, if possible, and return of any remains determined to be Native American to the proper authority/group, etc..

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS AND CURATION

All retained artifacts will be cleaned, catalogued, and stored in archival safe materials. Pre-contact and (post-contact) historic artifacts will be analyzed in terms of material type, form, function, and temporal attributes (e.g., Noël Hume 1969, South 1977, Miller 1991). Detailed analysis will include the identification of the Terminus Post Quem (TPQ) of artifacts for each context and generation of mean beginning and end dates for assemblages. This information will be used in the Phase IB report to establish context and to determine whether such assemblages represent primary or secondary deposits.

Any artifact material removed from the project site will be the property of the project site owner, in accordance with NYC LPC guidelines. It is the responsibility of the client to arrange for the long-term curation of the collection in an appropriate facility.

REPORT RESULTS

A report documenting the results of the testing, analysis, any other background and/or documentary research, and field efforts will be prepared according to NYC LPC standards. In addition, the report will include recommendations regarding the potential National Register eligibility of any artifact deposits and/or features and recommendations for additional investigation or mitigation, as necessary. A digital, preliminary draft report will be submitted to the Client for initial review. Upon approval, the formal draft report will be submitted in digital form to NYC LPC. Upon approval of NYC LPC, a printed and digital copy will be provided to NYC LPC for their records. Digital copies will be provided to all other parties unless printed copies are requested.

V. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEDULE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Calendar dates are not provided, as this will be determined based upon the Notice to Proceed. The schedule proposed below contains approximations of time needed to complete the necessary tasks. In the absence of adequate information to provide a time frame for a specific task, To Be Determined (TBD) is listed. Assumptions may be altered based upon field conditions, consultation, or response time from various involved agencies.

It is noted that Chrysalis requires a minimum 72 hours, exclusive of Saturday and Sunday, notice to mobilize for the start of Phase IB archaeological testing. For example, for archaeological work to begin on a Monday, the client must provide Chrysalis Notice to Proceed via email the previous Wednesday. Once work has begun Chrysalis will provide the Client with weekly email update during fieldwork activities.

ACTIVITY	DURATION	NOTES
Field Testing	2 days	May vary if archaeological features are identified and require cleaning and documentation.
Laboratory work/analysis	TBD	To be determined based on number of materials recovered
Report	Approx. 5 days	This will be based on the duration of the field work, the number of material remains recovered, the amount of laboratory analysis required.
Internal Draft Review	TBD	TBD
Regulatory Review	30 days	
Response to comments	5 days	Time needed to respond to comments is dependent upon the nature of the comments and whether additional research is requested. Time to be completed can be determined upon receipt of comments from all regulatory agencies.

VI. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Chrysalis will communicate concerning project planning, potential archaeological discoveries, and final reporting in writing, via email, directly with the client. The archaeologists will notify NYC LPC of any project updates, including discoveries or changes to scheduling.

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ARCHAEOLOGY REVIEW

Project number: 19DCP157K (DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING)
Project: **391 Baltic ST** GOWANUS NEIGHBORHOOD REZONING
Date Received: 4/5/2024

Comments: as indicated below. Properties that are individually LPC designated or in LPC historic districts require permits from the LPC Preservation department. Properties that are S/NR listed or S/NR eligible require consultation with SHPO if there are State or Federal permits or funding required as part of the action.

This document only contains Archaeological review findings. If your request also requires Architecture review, the findings from that review will come in a separate document.

Comments: The LPC is in receipt of the revised, "Phase IB Archaeological Work Plan for 491 Baltic St, Brooklyn, New York," prepared by Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants and dated April 4, 2024. The LPC notes that the requested changes were made and now concurs with the plan. Please alert the LPC when work begins.

4/5/2024

SIGNATURE DATE
Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology

File Name: 34126_FSO_ALS_04052024.docx