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CULTURAL RESOURCE RECONNAISSANCE

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by  
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## SUMMARY ABSTRACT

A historical and archaeological reconnaissance level survey has been performed for the Metropolitan Technology Center Project Tract in downtown Brooklyn in the area bounded by Willoughby, Jay and Tillary Streets, and Flatbush Avenue Extension.

The study tract does not appear to have had topography favorable to prehistoric occupation, and was used only as farmland during the Colonial and Revolutionary War Periods. In the early 19th century the tract was part of two large farms owned by the Johnson and Duffield families. Real estate subdivision and construction of urban housing occurred intensively during the 1840's and by 1855 the tract was densely settled. It was a solidly residential area with up to 400 row houses and 9 churches in or immediately adjacent to it.

Late in the 19th century commercial development began along Myrtle Street. In the first third of the 20th century large office and commercial buildings were erected on Willoughby Street south of the tract and industrial plants covered a portion of the north end of the tract. Educational and public institutions moved into the tract in the mid 20th century. At present 85% of the 19th century structures have been destroyed. Only twelve of the standing historic structures are of historic interest.

Two structures already designated a National Historic Place and a N.Y. City Landmark should be afforded appropriate protection. In addition there are three clusters of historic structures and yards which require further historical/architectural/archaeological study. These are (1) Six houses on Johnson Street at the north end of Block 143, (2) Three structures along



Duffield and two on Myrtle in Block 2047 and (3) the Moravian Church/Parsonage on Jay in Block 147. A subsurface archaeological testing program is recommended for rear yards in the first two of these areas to determine the condition and extent of buried resources associated with the occupancy of these standing structures.

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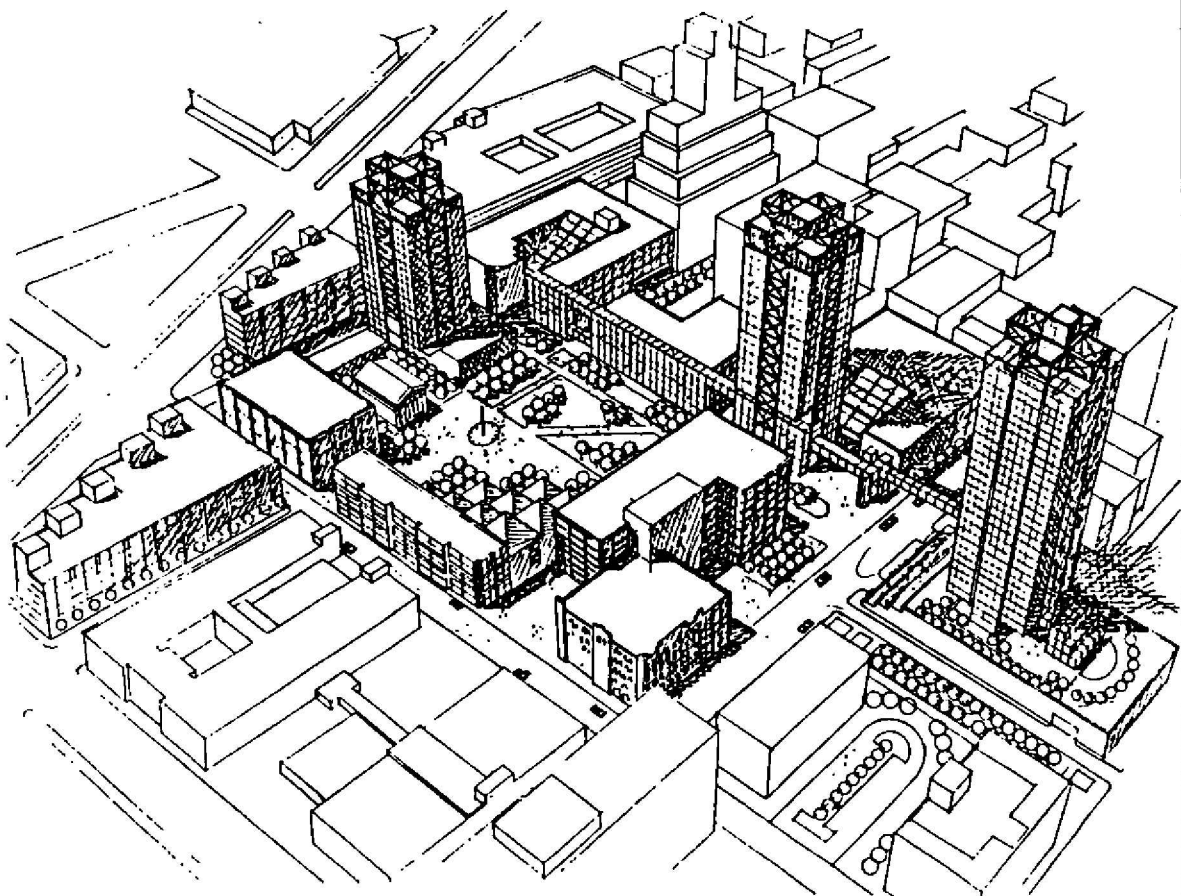
## I. BACKGROUND OF STUDY TRACT

The area under study consists of a 16 acre area to be developed for the Metropolitan Technology Center in the Civic Center - Borough Hall area of Downtown Brooklyn. It is situated immediately east of Manhattan's Financial District across the East River via the Brooklyn Bridge. It is generally bounded by Jay Street on the west, Tillary Street on the north, Flatbush Avenue Extension on the east and Willoughby Street on the south.

The project proposes to clear these blocks and construct " a technology center in an open campus setting within view of the World Trade Center and the Financial District of New York City" (Design Guidelines 1983: 10). A perspective of what this technology center will look like appears in an artist's view.

The buildings now occupying the blocks in question have grown up over the last 100 to 130 years as individual lot holders have developed and redeveloped their properties. At present the standing structures represent a heterogeneous mix of mid to late 19th century brick and frame structures intermixed with vacant lots and twentieth century structures. Many of the older buildings are used for a combination of residential and commercial purposes with the bottom floors of residential buildings having been converted to store fronts. Notable among these are several churches and a fire hall. Almost all of the structures have been altered from their original form. The few notable standing structures are discussed in Chapter IV.

In order to make any judgement regarding the potential archaeological significance of the land under these blocks, it is necessary to recreate what these blocks were in the past, and to assess what might be preserved of the earlier forms and whether or not these may contain unique or significant data for the interpretation and preservation of Brooklyn's past.



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Perspective	
Prepared for Polytechnic Institute of New York	
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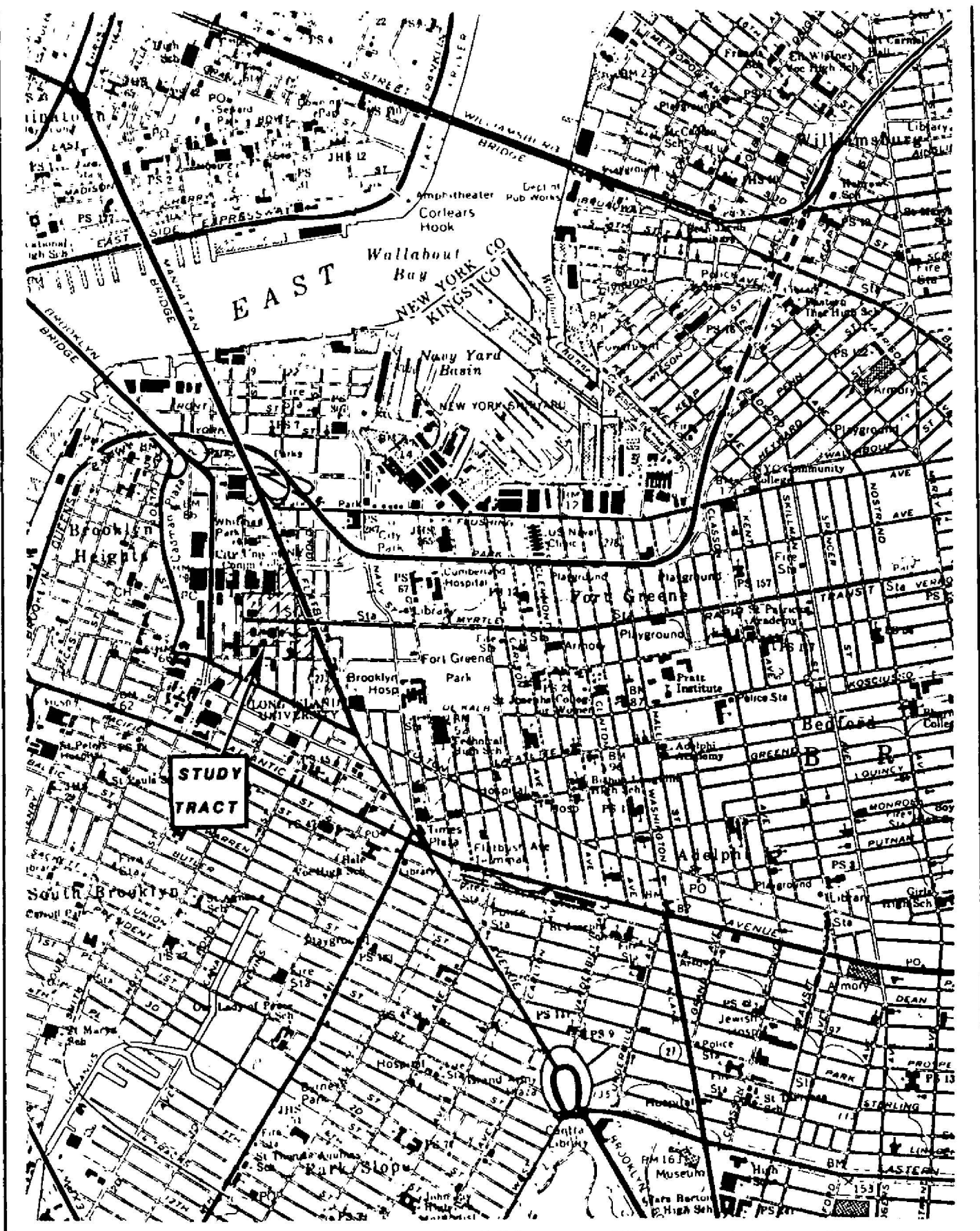
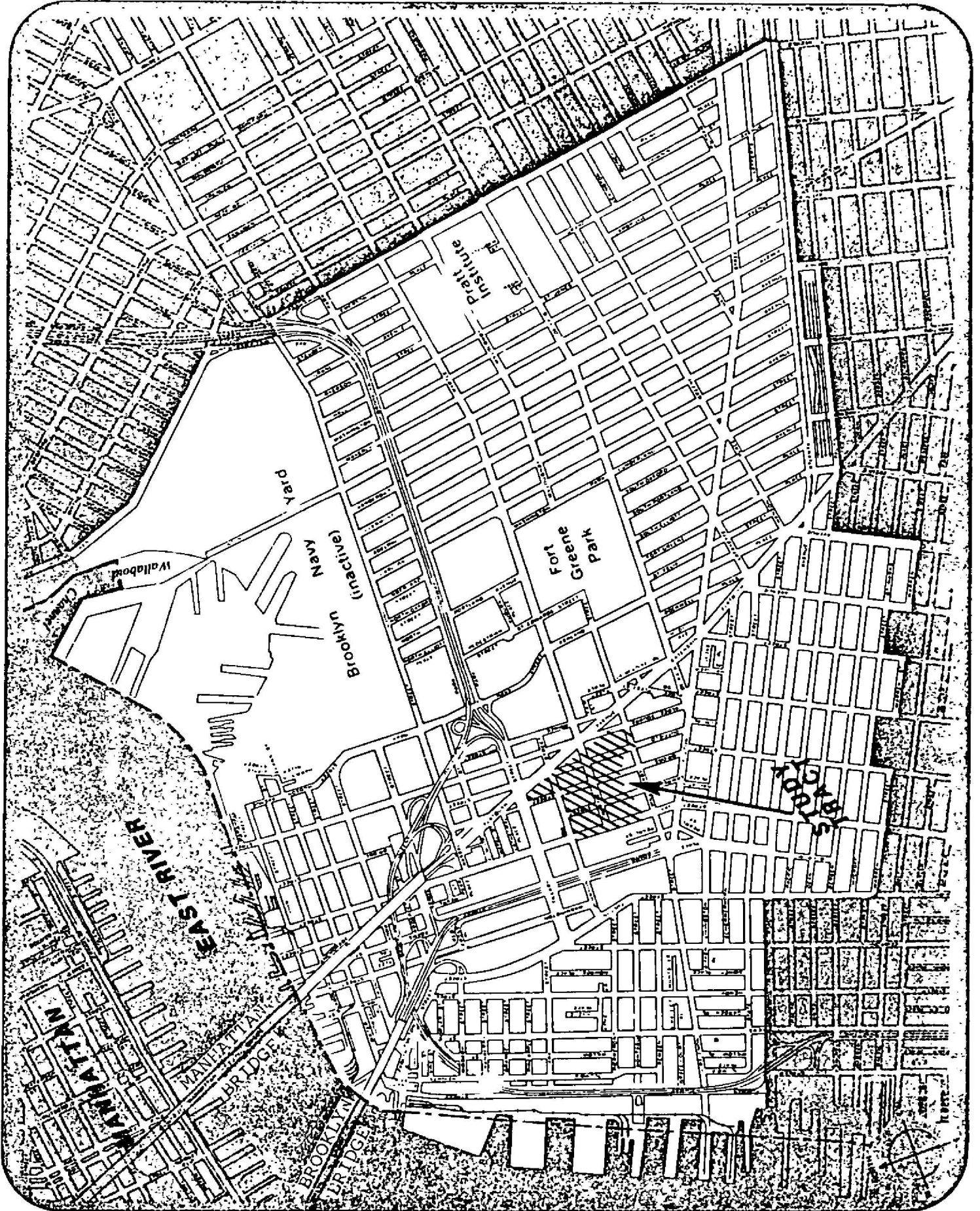


FIGURE 1 PROJECT LOCATION MAP  
(USGS CENTRAL PARK QUAD., 1967)

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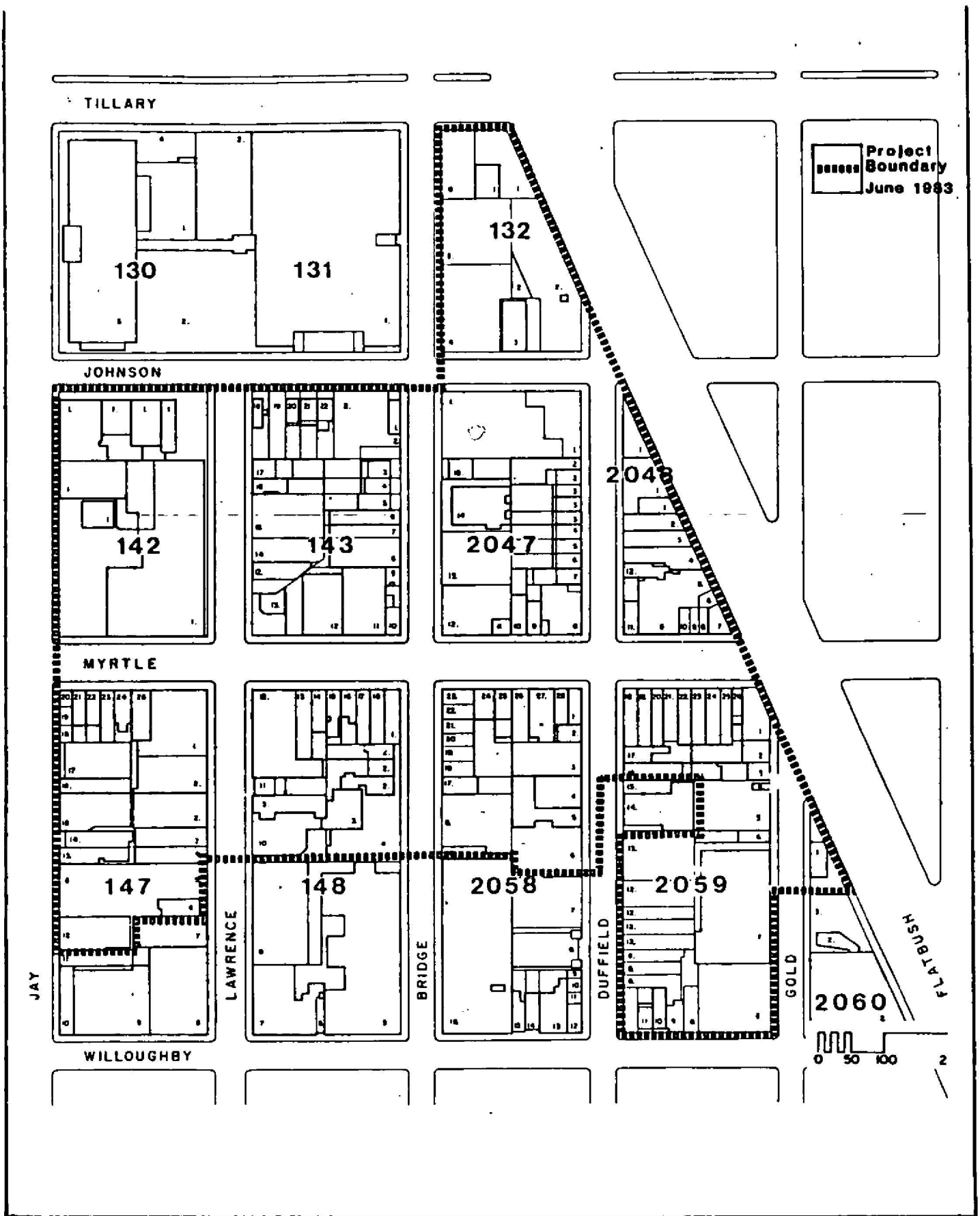


FIGURE 3 STUDY TRACT BOUNDARY  
(FROM DESIGN GUIDELINES, FIG. 6)

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## I. METHOD OF STUDY

The intent of this stage IA level survey is to determine what cultural resources are known to exist within the study tract, what is the probability that other cultural resources may exist, and whether Stage 1B Level Survey (subsurface tests) or Stage II Level (intensive subsurface survey) Archaeological examination or other study is recommended. To do this, Historic Sites Research collected published and archival data concerning the study tract and regional background development (historic and prehistoric) and events, to place the study tract in context. A visual reconnaissance was conducted on 29 February and 12 March 1984 to examine all open surfaces. Research was limited to the study tract.

Standing structures were examined, but detailed comments are made only on those structures which may have historic value. At the commencement of study it was known that there were two structures already registered as historic - the 1892 Brooklyn Fire Headquarters Building at 365-367 Jay Street (on the National Register and a New York City Landmark), and the 1846-'47 First Free Congregational Church or Bridge Street AME Church at 311 Bridge Street (a New York City Landmark). Two other older structures of potential interest had been noted at 106 and 108 Johnson. It is not intended at this level of investigation to perform a detailed description of each individual structure within the study area, but rather to determine the need for further historical, archaeological, and architectural study.

This study addresses the questions:

1) can buried cultural resources reasonably be expected to have existed at various places within the study area, 2) would subsequent construction or demolition have affected the chances for preservation of such archaeological resources (modern or recent construction/demolition may have buried resources rather than removed or destroyed them), and (3) what additional procedures or study is required for standing structures.

Specific subjects examined include:

Aboriginal occupation of Brooklyn  
Early colonial settlement  
The Revolutionary War  
Early expansion of the City of Brooklyn  
Successive uses of various parts of the Study Tract.

The literature used included published histories and map collections. Locations of resources consulted are:

New York City Landmarks Commission  
The Brooklyn Public Library  
Office of the Brooklyn Borough Topographic Engineer  
Brooklyn Borough Buildings Office  
Brooklyn Borough Hall of Records  
Kings County Clerks Office, Records  
The Long Island Historical Society  
Princeton University Library  
New Jersey State Library and Archives.

### III. BACKGROUND OF STUDY TRACT

#### A. PREHISTORIC CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Prehistoric sites in New York are categorized as falling within three major periods of cultural development (Paleo-Indian, Archaic, and Woodland).

##### 1. Paleo-Indian

An early cultural tradition is known as Paleo-Indian. The Paleo-Indian tradition lasted from circa 10,500 B.C. to 8,000 B.C. It was a hunting and gathering adaptation using a specific fluted point technology frequently associated with extinct Pleistocene fauna (Bison antiquus, mammoth, mastodon, and caribou) and other smaller tundra-taiga animals. Sites of this tradition are known in small numbers from much of North America. In the northeast, Paleo-Indian sites have tended to be found on elevated locations and near low swampy ground formerly occupied by lakes (Ritchie 1965: 1-8). A few sites of this period and some isolated finds are known for the Hudson and Delaware River Drainages. Scattered finds of this period have been made on Long Island. In terms of the topographic setting of the study area, sites of this period would be unlikely.

##### 2. The Archaic Period

The Archaic Tradition is associated with post-Pleistocene boreal spruce-pine forest and later with mixed deciduous forest. These newly developed ecozones were inhabited by modern animal species and localized species of fish, shell-fish and wild vegetable foods, all of which were exploited by man during this time.

Expected tool typologies for the Early and Middle Archaic (circa 8,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C.) elsewhere in North America included parallel flaked lanceolate points (Plainview, Angostura, Scottsbluff, Eden in the Western United States), and corner and side notched specimens (Palmer, Kirk, Stanley, circa 6,500 B.C. to 5,000 B.C. in the Carolina Piedmont). A few specimens similar to these styles are known from the Mid-Atlantic States; however, it appears that post-Pleistocene boreal forests supported very sparse populations (Fitting 1968; Kinsey 1972: 332).

Late Archaic (circa 4,000 to 1700 B.C.) is a cultural adaptation associated with oak-hickory forest inhabited by deer, turkey and other small game animals. Tool industries consisted of stemmed side-notched and corner-notched projectile points made of local argillite, shale, quartzite, flint and jasper. Also present in typical assemblages are bannerstones (atlatl weights used on dart throwers), fish spears, netsinkers, milling stones, mullers, mortars and pestles, chipped/pecked adzes, celts, choppers and grooved axes, indicative of hunting, fishing and wild food exploitation (Kinsey 1972: 355-361). Sites of this period are known from Staten Island and the eastern and northern shore of Long Island, but not from the study area.

The Transitional Period is a term used sometimes to describe a Late Archaic to Early Woodland continuum (circa 1700 B.C. to 1000 B.C.). It is characterized by the presence of broadspears and fishtail points of which several regional styles exist, sometimes in association with steatite vessels, drills and knives made on flakes (Kraft 1974: 16-23).

### 3. The Woodland Period

Early Woodland (circa 1000 B.C. to 250 B.C.) is similar in adaptation to the Late Archaic and Transitional Periods, but made distinct from them by the presence of a new complex of traits; clay pottery vessels tempered with steatite, tobacco smoking pipes, horticulture, and possible the introduction of the bow and arrow. Late in this period there is an indication of Adena influence at some sites (Kinsey 1972: 361-364; Kraft 1974: 23-27; Ritchie 1973: 346-349).

Middle Woodland (circa 250 B.C. to 800 A.D.) is a continuation of the horticultural adaptation begun in Early Woodland times. During this period there was refinement and stylistic change in pottery, and the construction of subterreanean storage pits.

The Late Woodland (circa 800 A.D. to 1700 A.D.) is known from material found in storage pits and house structures along the Hudson, the Upper Delaware, and from surface finds elsewhere. The Late Woodland is differentiated from the Middle Woodland primarily on the basis of projectile point types and pottery styles. Coastal sites are characterized by large quantities of shell and bone in middens or pits. Burial sites are also characteristic.

The Indians of western Long Island during the proto-historic/historic period were closely linked to those of the circum Manhattan area. These included the **Nayack**, **Marechkawreck** and **Carnarsee** in Brooklyn. On Long Island it is especially difficult to distinguish between Village names and those of larger

local groups. A sharp linguistic and political division between the western and eastern Long Island Indians is clear and archaeological sites cluster at the two opposite ends of the island (Goddard in Trigger 1978: 213-216).



Fig. 2. 17th-century bands and dialects, interior areas poorly known.

Figure 4. Division of Delaware Speakers in the 17th Century (from Goddard in Trigger 1978: 215)

Bolton's 1922 map shows the location of historic/protohistoric village sites (numbered) and geographical place names. There are no recorded sites associated with the project site. A more detailed discussion of ethnohistoric site locations was made by Bolton in 1934. His schematic map shows three sites in the general vicinity of Wallabout Bay. These are #66 Rinnegokonck, which Bolton describes as an archaeological site containing lithic materials, shell and tools, and being situated at Bridge Street. Grumet (1981) defines Rinnegachonek as the Delaware Place name

for a tract of land and a small swampy stream that ran along the southwestern side of Wallabout Bay in the present Brooklyn Navy Yard. The name first appears in a manuscript dated 1 August 1638 (1981: 46); # 67 **Werpos** at Hoyt and Baltic Streets (Bolton 1934: 145, Grumet 1981: 58); and #117 **Marechawek**, an important village at Galletin Place and Elm Place (Bolton 1934: 145). Grumet defines **Marechkawieck** (sic) as a Munsee Delaware speaking group that lived in the downtown Brooklyn section of New York City. Wallabout Bay was known as the "Bight or Bend of Marechkawieck" (1981: 27).

~~No sites are definitely associated with the study tract~~ although it is clear that Brooklyn must once have supported large aboriginal populations, particularly along its shore and streams. The topography of the study tract places it well inland from these more favorable locations on land that was farmed in early colonial times. This type of location may have been farmed and hunted in aboriginal times but has no notable characteristics which would make it a likely habitation site.

## B. HISTORIC OCCUPATION OF THE STUDY AREA

### 1. Colonial Period

The first Dutch purchases from Canarsee or subgroups of the Delawaran speaking Indians in what is now Brooklyn occurred in 1636, and by 1637 a Walloon named Joris Jansen de Rapelie had purchased the southeastern part of what came to be called Wallabout Bay from Kakapeteyno and Pewichaas, who acted as proprietors or spokesmen for the local band of Amerindians. The tract, and the stream which flowed into it, was called "Rennagaconck" but the farm and the bay on which it was situated was soon referred to by the Dutch as the "Wall-boght", or the land purchased by the Walloon (Stiles 1867: 24, 44-45, 85-87). Rapelie's descendants and heirs were joined by other farmers, and by the 1660's there were six or seven plantations "in or about the Walle-boght", when the residents petitioned for permission to maintain isolated dwellings, rather than remove to the establishment at Brooklyn (Stiles 1867: 114-117). Tracts were also taken up under patents from the Dutch West India Company in about 1645-1647 on either side of the road (now Fulton Street) that lead from Flatbush to "The Ferry". The village that was formed which became Brooklyn, was located on the present Fulton Avenue in the vicinity of Hoyt and Smith Streets southeast of the present Borough Hall and south of the study tract (Stiles 1867, vol. 1: 45).

Maps exist which show the general area south of Wallabout Bay from the latter 17th century, but these show no significant detail. A map of "The Towne of New York" dated to the period 1664 - 1668 includes the western tip of Long Island, and shows a



stream or inlet labelled "Walbout", and to the northeast of that approximately opposite the eastern point of Manhattan referred to on later maps as Corlear's Hook, is an unnamed settlement of some half-dozen structures, which is evidently the predecessor of Williamsburgh.

Mark Tiddeman's map "A Draught of New York from the Hook to New York Town" dated 1755, is very schematic. The bight or inlet which is Wallabout Bay is shown but not named, and the only settlements shown are "Brookland" to the south and "Bushwyk" to the north. It is not until the detailed Ratzer map was made in 1777-1767, and reproduced in several versions by 19th century authors, that any of the detailed features of the study area can be determined (Figure 5). At that time Wallabout Bay was a "U-Shaped" inlet about one thousand yards across from east to west, and extending south from the East River about the same distance. It was fed by a small stream at its southwest corner, and by a larger stream called Wallabout Creek on its east side. South of that, along the "Road to Flatbush", which has become Fulton Street in downtown Brooklyn, was the small settlement of "Brookland Parish". This map shows farms and establishments along both sides of Fulton Street. The study tract falls within farmed fields between the developed street front and marsh surrounding Wallabout Bay. About 2 miles north of Wallabout Bay is Bushwick Inlet.

The Battle of Long Island (or Brooklyn) and associated military actions in August 1776, took place well to the south of the study area. Defensive works in the vicinity were a line of entrenchments with several redoubts and bastions, which ran from

Fort Box near Gowanus Bay on the south to Fort Putnam near Wallabout Bay on the north. This line was designed to defend Brooklyn from potential attack coming from the southeast. Fort Putnam (refortified during the War of 1812 as Fort Greene) was in what is now Fort Greene Park at the foot of 9th and 10th streets. No action took place here, and no defenses were closer than this to the study area (Stiles 1867: 250-252, 400, and see Figure 6).



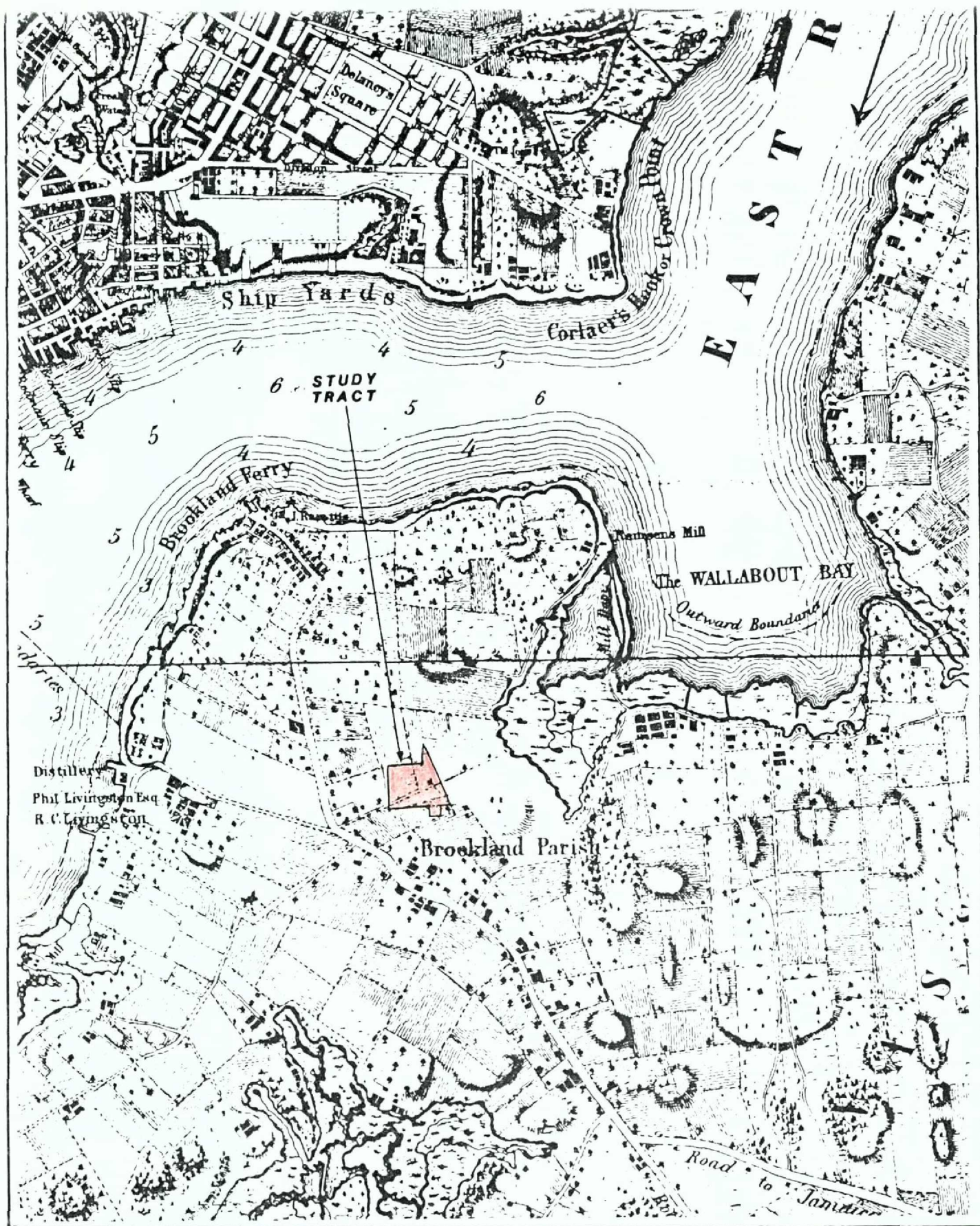
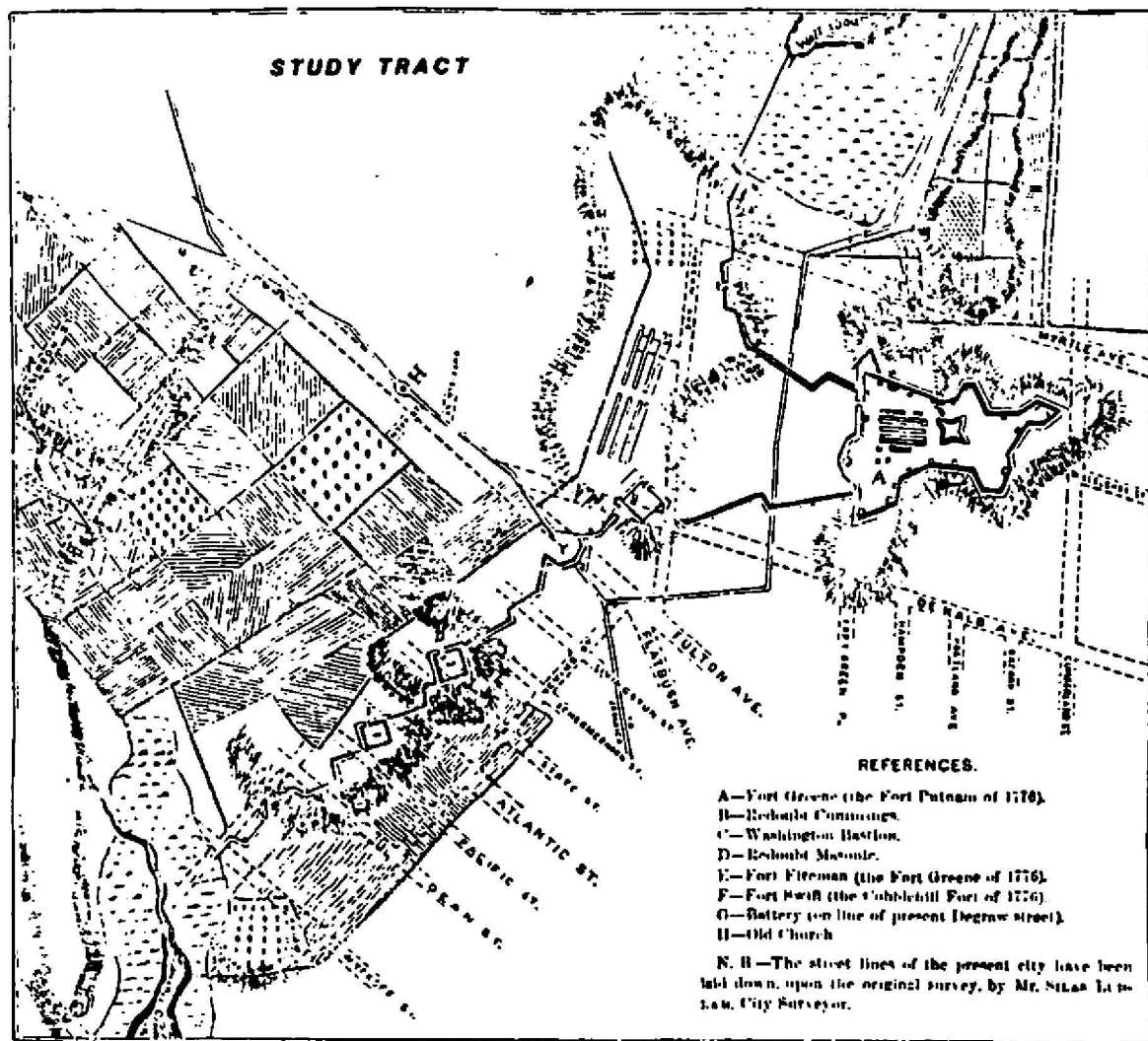


FIGURE 5 1766-1767 RATZER MAP

(Showing undeveloped farm land at Study Tract)

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**PLAN OF FORT GREENE  
and  
LINE OF INTRENCHMENTS**  
From the Wallabout to Gowanus Creek, etc.,  
as laid out by Lieut. James Gadsden, of  
the Engineers, under the orders of  
General Joseph G. Swift, in  
1814.

From Stiles I 1867 (showing the  
distance of these works from the  
Study Tract)

**FIGURE 6 FORT GREENE & ENTRENCHMENTS  
(1776 & 1814)**

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## 2. 19th Century Development

At the end of the 18th century a small shipyard was started by the Jackson brothers near the southwest corner of Wallabout Bay. In 1801 the U.S. Navy bought this at auction, and began the New York or Brooklyn Navy Yard. This facility grew throughout the 19th and first half of the 20th century, reaching peak size during World War II (Church and Rutsch 1982: 20-31). Major periods of expansion were during the 1840's, during the Civil War, the "New Navy of the '90's" era at the end of the 19th century which included the Spanish-American War, World War I, and World War II. The Navy Yard was officially closed and title transferred to a City Corporation in 1966 (New York Times 1966). At the same time that the Wallabout Bay developed, there was considerable growth on the waterfront directly opposite Manhattan. While descendants of original Dutch families still occupied the farms away from the waterfront, the village which grew up at the ferry landing was developed by Anglo-Americans. In 1816, this settlement was formed as the Village of Brooklyn (Wild 1938: 3-19). At that time there was no development east of Fulton Street or south of what is now Atlantic Avenue (Ostrander 1894: Vol. II).

By 1846, both Brooklyn and Williamsburgh existed as towns with modern street grids and all of nearby lower Manhattan was built up (see Figure 7). Around the two towns at this western end of Long Island there were still farms and wooded areas. Very little change had occurred on the east side of Wallabout Bay northeast of the study tract in the two centuries since the first Dutch farms were established, despite the intensive urban buildup already existing to the north and southwest, and across the East

River, and despite the development of the Navy Yard at the west end of the bay. Similarly the land east and southeast of the study tract in 1846 looked very much as it had in 1766.

Extensive construction was underway within the study tract by the time the 1846 map was made. The early Farm Line Map of Brooklyn places the tract almost in the center of the John Duffield property, extending into the central portion of the J.B. Johnson tract. Both properties fronted on Fulton Street (an early Colonial road alignment) and extended in a wedge-shape all the way to the creek at the west end of Wallabout Bay (Figure 8). The Johnson and Duffield families became large-scale real estate developers. Examination of all property transaction abstracts in the Brooklyn Borough Hall of Records for Blocks 143 and 2047 (the Numbers shown on Figure 3) from the 17th century to the 1880's showed a clear pattern. There were no sales, only family inheritance from 1739 to 1824. In that year members of the Johnson Family adjusted their respective interests in the property. In 1829 there were four sales, one in 1833 and 1836, two in 1837, ten in 1840, one in 1841, four in 1842, one in 1843, and three in 1844. After that, transfers became even more frequent, reaching a maximum of fifteen in 1847. The last sale mentioning Samuel R. Johnson, the remaining heir, occurred in 1850. This shows that subdivision began in the 1830's and that sales of lots peaked in the late 1840's.

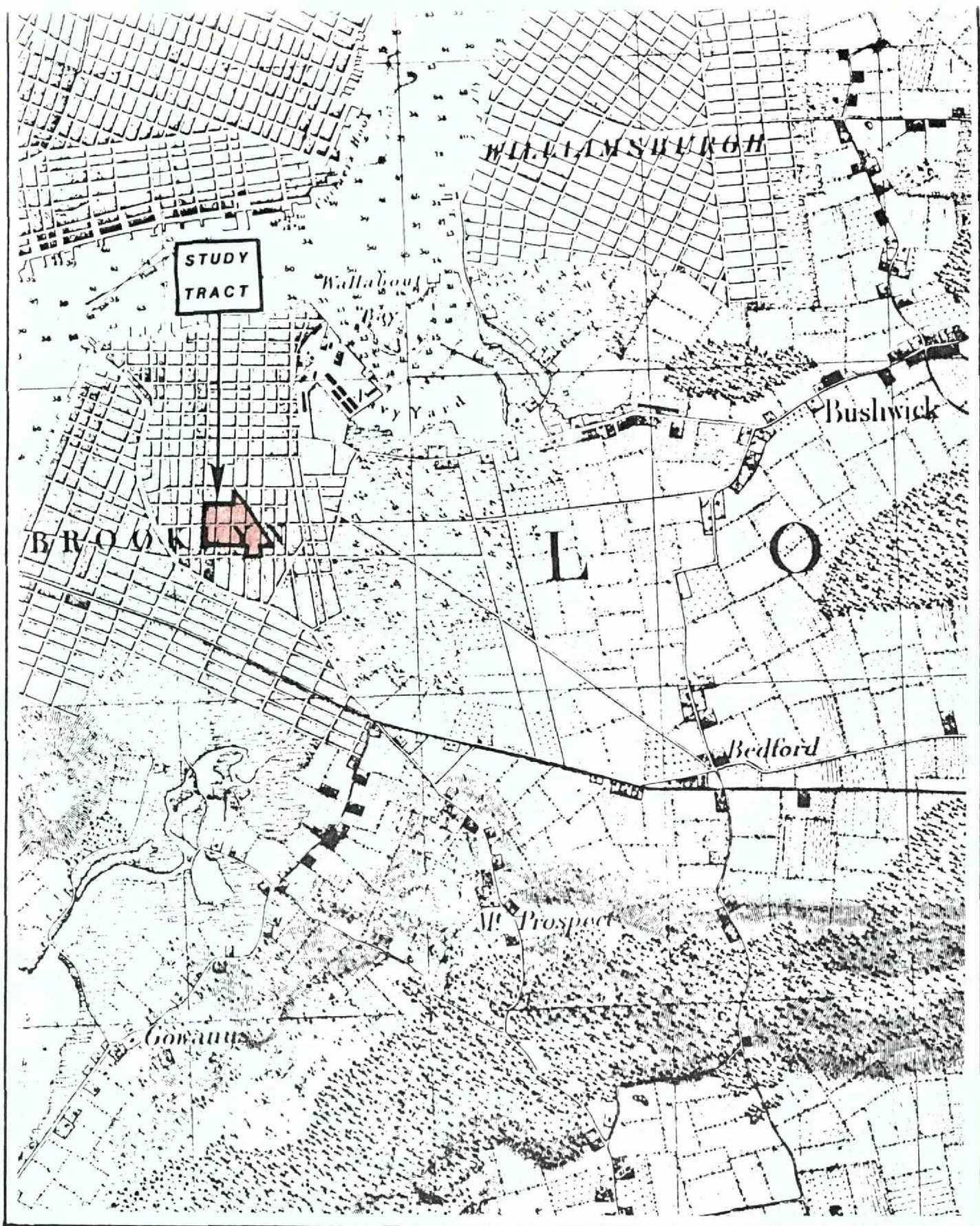
Similar development was occurring in the rest of the study tract. The first structure on Block 142 was built by a contractor named Thomas Gardiner in 1836 (P.I.N.Y. historic sign). The dates

of church construction are 1836, 1839, two in 1847, 1848, 1850, and two about 1880. The first detailed map available, for 1855, shows the study tract nearly full of row houses by the middle of the 19th century.

Shortly after the Civil War, settlement in the study tract would have been about a generation old. At that time the consolidated city of Brooklyn in 1869 extended about 7 and 3/4 miles in length and 5 miles in breadth. The south and east borders were occupied by a broad range of hills which extends into Queens county. A notable topographic feature consisting of an irregular bluff known as Brooklyn Heights was already heavily built upon. A large part of the southern portion of the post-Civil War city was low and level. Within the limits of Brooklyn were several districts known by the names which they bore when they were discrete locations. The study tract falls within that portion known as Brooklyn (post office) which is the older settled part of the city south of Wallabout Bay (Stiles 1870 Vol. 3, 501-502). It had a well developed waterfront, entirely occupied by wharves and warehouses and several large manufacturies near the east river. The 1866 map of New York Harbor graphically shows how Brooklyn had expanded in the two decades since 1846 and illustrates the topography (Figure 8).

A detailed depiction of the study tract as a mature residential area is available in the 1886 atlas of Brooklyn (Figure 10). By that time the earliest church built was gone, the two latest churches had been built, and commercial development had started along Myrtle Street. Other aspects of historic development are discussed in the following section.





**FIGURE 7 1846 MAP OF BROOKLYN AREA**

Survey of the Coast of the United States,  
 "Map of Brooklyn New York Bay & Harbor"  
 (showing initial urban expansion of Brooklyn)

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**FIGURE 8 1866 MAP OF NEW YORK HARBOR**

(C. & G.S. Chart 20)  
 (Showing rapid expansion of Brooklyn,  
 with the Study Tract circled)

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FIGURE 9 1874 FARM LINES

J. B. Beers & Company Farm Line Map of the City of Brooklyn, Plate 2.  
(showing Johnson & Duffield farms, with study tract shaded)

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FIGURE 10 1886 ATLAS SHOWING STUDY TRACT

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn,  
Plate 2.  
Scale 1 inch = 200 feet

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### C. THE CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY TRACT

Data used to characterize the study tract in terms of urban development, the socio-economic status of residents, ethnic affiliation, and other components of cultural nature include: (1) cartographic evidence of the nature of structures, (2) visual examination of remaining examples of structures, and (3) listings of occupations in city directories, (4) indirect evidence.

#### (1) Kinds of Structures shown on Maps

The section on historical evidence for the growth of the area has already discussed the sequence of historic maps, and city atlases. The structures represented in the mid to late 19th century are entirely residences of modest size. None are larger than a single city lot, and most fill only part of a lot. There is an approximately even distribution of brick masonry and wooden frame structures indicated on the earliest atlases examined (1855) About one tenth of the lots were vacant at that time. The lot sizes are very narrow, suggesting modest housing. Most blocks had ten lots at each end ranging from 17 to 30 feet wide, and averaging 22 feet wide and from 80 to 100 feet deep. In a few places there were only eight lots averaging 25 to 27 feet wide at the end. Standard size blocks north of Myrtle were about 360 feet long and had between eight and ten 20 foot wide lots on each side, with between 32 and 40 house lots on each block. South of Myrtle the blocks were longer north south (about 500 feet) encompassing as many as 46 lots on a single block. Thus the roughly eight blocks within the study area would have contained between about 300 and 350 house lots, as originally laid out. A few of these measured 30 feet by 100 feet in size, but typically they

were 20 feet by 100 feet or 107 feet. Many adjustments were made in these property lines so the exact size and number of lots present has varied considerably.

## (2) Visual Examination.

Height of structures is not recorded on early maps or views, but surviving mid- 19th century examples are typically 2 story with a loft under a gable roof which slopes front and rear, sometimes with dormer windows, or three story flat roofed from the latter 19th century. These were three bay structures, with the entrance on one side or centered. This visual examination indicates that the structures were usually simple, with minimal ornamentation at the doorway, over windows, and in brackets at the roofline. These appear, from observation of the exteriors, to have been solidly built but modest urban row houses of the mid-19th century.

## (3) City Directories

The last class of direct evidence used in this reconnaissance survey were city directories for the years 1855, 1867, 1871, 1895, and 1902. These directories are arranged alphabetically, and in most cases it was not possible to find addresses within the study tract short of reading through thousands of entries. In 1902, residents in the general area were characterized as bricklayers, clerks, conductors, detectives, janitors, leatherdressers, police, printers, and widows. All these occupations were likely to find employment in the nearby seat of government and finance around Borough Hall.

(4) Six types of indirect evidence were used to draw inferences about the cultural characteristics of the study area. These are (a) the effect of topography and of the growth pattern of the city; (b) mention or lack of mention of this area in local histories, (c) evidence for long term stability or rapid change, (d) the relative age of structures compared to nearby parts of the city, (e) ethnic groupings suggested by the names present, and (f) examination of foci of community activities.

The study tract lies within an area bounded on the west and south by Fulton Street. The land east and north of that old road alignment, which existed in colonial times, was relatively flat farmland in the latter 18th and early 19th century with no outstanding hills, stream courses or other features (see Figure 5). Thus it did not lend itself to real estate promotion as a highly desirable tract such as Brooklyn Heights did. Since it provided no direct access to waterfront, it did not attract marine commerce and industries, and developed later than many of the more physically or economically attractive surrounding areas. This flat undifferentiated, interior land was best suited to development of low to medium cost housing laid out in standardized grid (see Figures 7 & 8).

Besides the effective boundary formed on two sides by Fulton Street, there was a less definite limit to the east, formed by the heights of land which became City Park and Washington Park. To the north the study tract sloped gradually toward the East River about 12 blocks away. A more definite boundary was formed in the early 20th century when Flatbush Avenue extension was cut diagonally across this part of Brooklyn, to make an approach

route to the 1909 Manhattan Bridge. From that time on the study tract and an area immediately around it became a kind of urban residential island, surrounded on all sides by major arteries of traffic along which grew major commercial and governmental concentrations. This isolated area remained relatively unchanged until major business construction began on Willoughby, and industries finally moved into the northern part of the study tract after World War I.

Various neighborhoods in Brooklyn became well known as places where one or another ethnic group or activity became concentrated. The study tract does not fall within any of the well known or named districts or neighborhoods. From this we can conclude that it was not considered remarkable, but was a typical part of Brooklyn.

Maps and atlases show that this area was laid out as a densely built area of modest middle class or working class houses starting in about the 1840's. Some shops and later some businesses grew along Myrtle Street, the widest east-west avenue through the area. For example, by 1895 the German language **Brooklyner Freie Presse** was published at 35 Myrtle, just a block west of the study tract (Lain & Healy 1895). With these exceptions the residential character stayed stable for about eight decades after development began. In the 1920's the American Safety Razor Company built a plant in the northwest part of the tract, and at about the same time a number of large office buildings were erected on Willoughby just south of the tract. From that time on the residential nature of the tract declined.

Using map data and visual observation, it does not appear that new residence structures were constructed after the 1860's or 1870's. After that, older residences were altered to suit needs and tastes of later owners; or residences were removed for other uses of the land. Perusal of city directories suggests that the tract may have had a moderate percentage of occupants bearing English surnames in the 1850's or 1860's, but that by 1900 the population was heavily Irish. The earlier directories identified Blacks as "colored", but no such designations were seen for persons in or near the study area. Also absent were German names. Remnants of Irish influence can still be seen on faded business signs remaining on some of the older buildings: J.J. Ryan Loans, McEnnery Furniture, Mullins & Sons, Inc. Furniture. A resident who grew up on Johnson Street between Bridge and Lawrence at the beginning of the 20th century there there were "Irish all around the area" (personal communication, Rev. W. Johnson & Rev. J.A. O'Steen). The predominance of Irish Americans here in the early 20th century is typical for many parts of Brooklyn.

One of major foci of this area were its churches. Nine churches or religious institutions are listed in or near the study area (see Figure 11).

(1) St. Bonifaces. This stands at 188 Duffield, just south of the Study Tract. Originally built as the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, it was purchased by a German Catholic congregation in 1853 (Stiles III 1870: 732). The brick church is listed as "St. Bonifacius, (German) R.C." In directories of 1855, 1871, and 1902, and is shown at St. Bonifaces on insurance maps



of 1853, 1886, 1893 and 1916 to present. It is still standing and in use (Plate 4).

(2) Holy Family Chapel/Zion Baptist. This stands at 167 Duffield and is surrounded by the study tract, but is specifically excluded. It first appears on the 1886 Atlas Map, where it is called Holy Family Chapel. It also appears on maps of 1893 and 1916 - present, where it is shown as "Zion Shiloh Baptist Ch". The only directory listing it is 1902 where it is "Concord Baptist". It is standing and in use.

(3) Central Baptist. Formerly this stood at about 345 Bridge Street, inside the study tract near its south boundary. It was initiated in the spring of 1847. The structure has been destroyed and the site is now a paved parking lot.

(4) Bridge Street Methodist. Standing at 311 Bridge Street within the study tract, this is designated as a New York City Landmark. Date of construction is not given in the 1855 Directory or Stiles, but the Index of Conveyences records that the First Free Congregational Church made two purchases from the developers of the Johnson farm on 7 September 1846 (Liber 152: 278-281). It appears on the 1855 map as "2nd Cong. Church", and in the 1855 directory as Wesleyan A.M.E. It is listed in City Landmarks as the First Free Congregational Church and the Bridge Street A.M.E. church, constructed in 1846-1847. The property was transferred from the First Free Congregational Church to the African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church on 29 June 1854 (Liber 351: 50). The building is now used by Polytechnic Institute of N.Y. as a Student Center (Plate 9).

(5) Moravian (United Brethren). The church structure here is hidden behind modern one story store fronts at 347 Jay Street within the study tract. The United Brethren Church purchased two lots of land here from the developers on 6 November 1846 (Liber 155: 152-153). According to Stiles, this was formed in 1853 and met in a frame structure on Jay Street near Myrtle. The wooden building burned on 24 September 1868, and on 16 June 1869 the cornerstone was laid for a replacement structure. This church and parsonage adjoining it were built of brick with Ohio Sandstone trimming, and black mortar pointing on the front. The church is 36 feet by 70 feet with a rear extension 16 by 16 feet and the main church seating 700, was lighted from the roof (Smith 1855: 154, Stiles III 1870:819). The only United Bretheren Church in Brooklyn, this was formed by Moravians mostly of English ancestry, who found commuting to the church in Manhattan too far. It served a broad community, but some of the congregation reportedly lived in the vicinity of the church. It was decommissioned in the late 1930's (personal communication Rev. Henry Williams, Moravian College Library). Consistant with this narrative, the church is shown as frame on the 1855 map, and as brick on maps of 1886 and later. Ministers are known for 1855, 1870-'71, and 1902 (Plates 22 and 23).

(6) Centenary Methodist Episcopal. From 1839 to 1893 this stood at the southeast corner of the intersection of Jay and Johnson Streets, just inside the northwest corner of the study tract. It was formed because of an 1838 schism within the congregation at the Washington Street Church. After a year in temporary quarters, the splinter group and minister formed a new congre-

gation and erected a large church here in 1839-40 (Stiles 1870: 708). The building was of frame construction, 80 feet by 50 feet and is shown on maps from 1855 through 1893. The property was sold and subsequently the building was removed. In 1920 a 20th century industrial factory (now part of the P.I.N.Y. complex) was built on the site.

(7) Female Institution of the Visitation. (Partially based on information supplied by H. Adasko, NYC P.D.C.) This institution is named on the 1886 map. In 1881 it is simply shown as a convent standing at the southeast corner of Johnson and Pearl Streets, one block west of the study tract. This cloistered Order of Nuns occupied the building from 1856 until the late 19th century, when it became a parish school. The structure is better known and was very important in local history because it was an old Johnson family mansion dating from about 1830. In the early Victorian era it was the residence of the Reverend Evan Malbone Johnson, a son-in-law of the Johnson family on whose farmland half of the study tract was developed. He was a famous Episcopalian clergyman and founder of two churches. The old mansion house was the only structure of its kind in this built-up area in the latter part of the century (personal communication Rev. Wayne Johnson and J.A. O'Steen). The Johnson family sold the property to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Brooklyn in 1856. The frame building was torn down in 1906 and the site is now completely destroyed and occupied by the Domestic Relations complex.

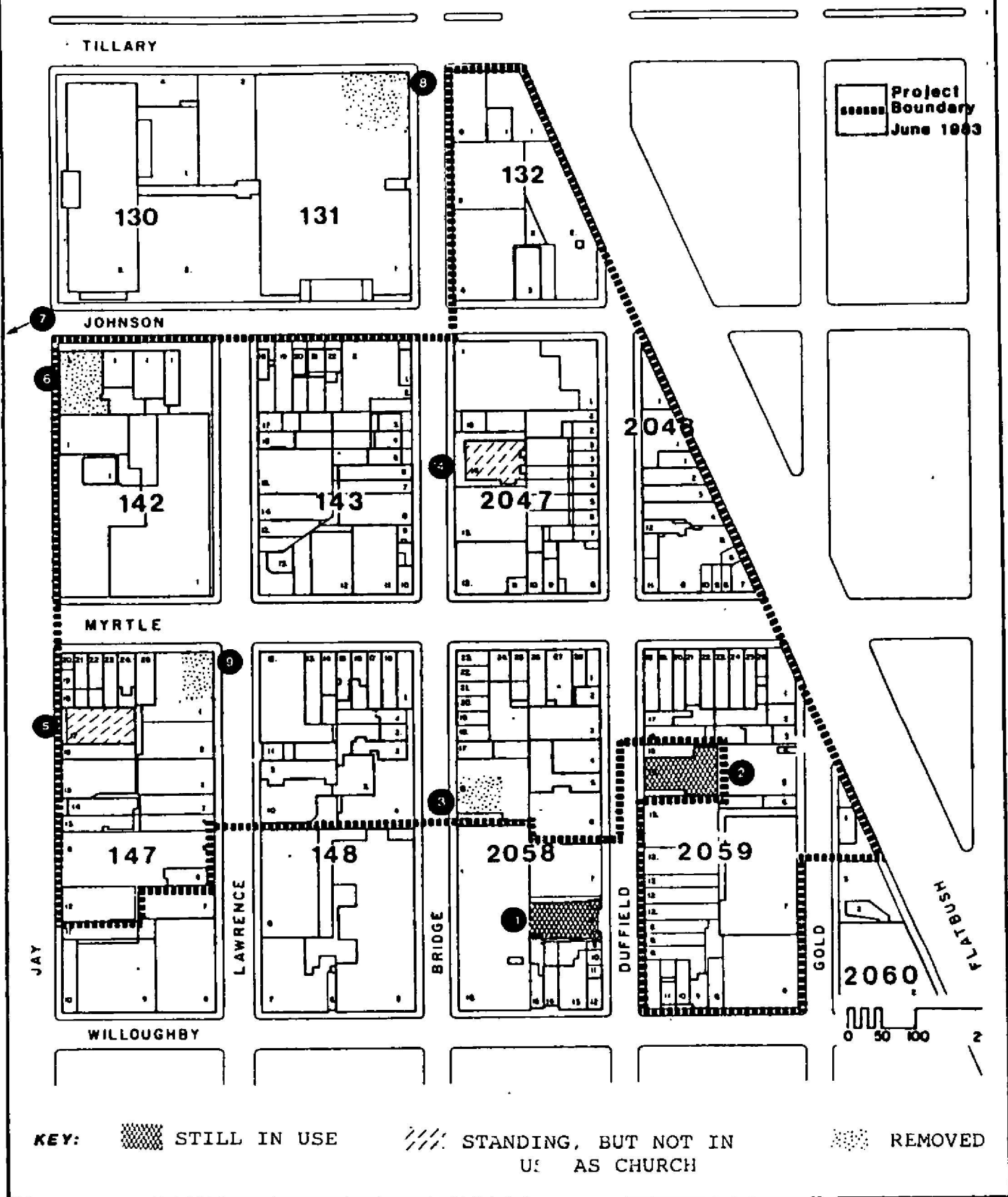
(8) First Primitive Methodist Church. Probably the earliest church in the immediate vicinity, this was formed in 1836 in a

building at the southwest corner of Tillary and Bridge Streets, just outside the north end of the study tract. It is listed in the 1855 directory and shown as a frame structure in 1855 and 1860, but by 1886 it had been replaced by row houses. The site is now part of the technical high school main building.

(9) First Reformed Presbyterian Church. A small brick church stood at the southwest corner of the Myrtle and Lawrence Street intersection within the study tract. It is shown on the 1855 Atlas, but had been replaced with small business buildings by 1886. About 1900 these were replaced in turn by a large structure for Mullins Furniture Company which is still standing. According to the 1855 directory, this church had been formed in 1848. All church information is summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1  
LIST OF HISTORIC CHURCHES

NAME	DENOMINATION	DATE FOUNDED	ADDRESS	IN OR NEAR STUDY TRACT	CURRENT CONDITION
#1 ST. BONIFACES	R.C. (GERMAN)	1854	#188 DUFFIELD	NEAR	STANDING
#2 HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL ZION	RC BAPTIST	UNKNOWN CA. 1880	#167 DUFFIELD	NEAR	STANDING
#3 CENTRAL	BAPTIST	1847	#345 BRIDGE	IN	DESTROYED
#4 BRIDGE ST.	A.M.E.	1846	#311 BRIDGE	IN	NOW PINE
#5 MORAVIAN	MORAVIAN	1846	#347 JAY	IN	STANDING
#6 CENTENARY	M.E.	1839	#84 JOHNSON	IN	DESTROYED
#7 FEMALE INSTIT. OF THE VISITATION	R.C. CONVENT	1856/ 1863	CORN. JOHNSON PEARL	NEAR	DESTROYED
#8 FIRST	PRIMITIVE METHODIST	1836	BRIDGE/TILLARY	NEAR	DESTROYED
#9 FIRST	REFORMED PRESB.	1848	MYRTLE/LAWRENCE	IN	DESTROYED



#### IV. PRESENT CONDITION

##### A. General Comments by Block

The study tract consists of all or portions of 10 city blocks bounded by Tillary, Flatbush Avenue Extension, Willoughby, and Jay Streets. Only a small triangle at the north end of Block 2060, bounded by Gold, Willoughby and Flatbush is included, containing a moderning car wash building and no historic features (Plate 1). There are 4 complete blocks, the northern half of 3 more blocks, and parts of 2 more ~~cor~~ on a bias by the Flatbush Avenue Extension. The map of the study tract , Figure 3, shows the ~~actual boundaries.~~ Throughout this section reference is made to various structures or groups of structures. Figure 12, taken from the Design Guideline, shows existing building height, which is mentioned in the text. Figure 13 shows the degree of historic significance.

West of Bridge Street the blocks are approximately 215 feet wide east-west, and east of Bridge Street they are about 200 feet wide. Lawrence, Bridge and Duffield streets which run through the study tract on a north-south axis are each 60 feet wide. The east west streets are Willoughby (60 feet wide), Myrtle (75 feet wide) and Johnson (56 feet wide). North of Myrtle the blocks are about 360 feet long, and south of Myrtle they are 500 feet long. Each of these blocks is also a property block, and they are described using those numbers going from north to south and east to west. Where street numbers could be read on buildings they are given (see Figures 3 and 13). If no numbers could be seen, the address was figured by using numbers given on the 1886 map (Figure 10).

Block 132 is bounded by Tillary on the north, Johnson on the south, Bridge on the west, and Duffield and Flatbush Avenue Extension on the east. Approximately one fourth of the block was cut off when the extension avenue was cut through for the Manhattan Bridge approach in 1909. At present there are only three structures on this block. Two of these are low mid 20th century garage commercial structures in the interior of the block and the third is a 7 story steel frame masonry building in the center of the south side at 135-137 Johnson. This reads Edward Wecke Co. Inc. on the front. According to the Borough Topographic Engineer's maps this was built in 1907 (see Plate 2). The entire remainder of the street front of this block has been levelled and is paved for parking. There are no structures of historic interest on this block.

Block 2048 is bounded by Duffield on the west, Myrtle on the south, and Flatbush Avenue Extension on the northeast. Slightly more than half of this block was removed in 1909. Most of this is covered with one story mid 20th century commercial structures, and four much altered 19th century buildings. Three of these are at 131, 137, and 139 Duffield, facing west in the middle part of the block, and the fourth is at 137 Myrtle, facing south at the northeast corner of the Duffield-Myrtle intersection. These are two and three story brick structures three bays wide, and all have been so thoroughly modified that they are of little historic interest (see Plate 3).

Block 2059 is bounded by Myrtle and Willoughby on the north and south and Gold and Duffield on the east and west. A fraction of one lot at the northeast corner was removed by Flatbush Avenue



Extension. This is the first of the long blocks south of Myrtle to be examined, and the only such block most of which is within the study tract. At present more than half of this block has been levelled and paved. Three small structures stand along Willoughby near the southeast corner of the block. The easternmost of these is a 20th century building and the other two are deteriorated late 19th century structures. The front (south) portions of these may have existed when the 1886 Atlas was made, but subsequent additions and alterations have modified them extensively. A large modern industrial structure covers the east center of the block. This was built for Peerless Towel Supply in 1919. On the west side, at 167 Duffield, is the Zion Church, which is excluded from the study tract. This structure has a simple gable end facade at its west end, with four applied square columns and a plain pediment. It was built before 1886 probably after the 1870's, as Holy Family Chapel. By 1902 it had become Concord Baptist (col'd), in 1916 it was labelled Concord Baptist Church, and on the updated Borough maps Zion Shiloh Baptist Church (see Plate 4).

The north end of this block contains seven buildings facing onto Myrtle street which are of 19th century construction. These run from 130 through 140 Myrtle, and include 2, 3, and 4 story brick buildings with 3 bays. The ground floors have now been extensively altered for store fronts, but the earlier residential use of the upper floors has been maintained (see Plate 5). On the 1886 map structures existed in six of these locations, but they only ran 40 to 60 feet deep on their lots. At present all of the buildings have been extended to the full length of their lots,

thus disturbing former backyard areas. This process typically has involved construction of a one story shed-like brick or frame addition (see Plate 6). The historic buildings remaining on this block are extensively altered, in poor condition, and of little historic interest.

Block 2047 has Johnson to the north, Duffield on the east, Myrtle on the south and Bridge on the west. The entire north end is occupied by a two and three story 1954 building called Nicol Hall, a part of P.I.N.Y. Along the east side, facing Duffield, is a set of three story 3 bay brick row houses. There were 14 buildings in this row in the 1880's (Figure 10), but subsequent construction at the north and south ends of the block reduced this to 9 buildings by 1980 (Figure 12). Within the last two years one of these at 134 Duffield has been demolished by P.I.N.Y., the owner. The five structures north of that (124 - 132 Duffield) have been altered and are of little historic interest. At the south end of the row, Numbers 136, 138, and 140 Duffield appear to be well preserved (see Plate 7). They were apparently built before the 1855 Atlas was drawn and so are typical representatives of unadorned mid 19th century urban houses, and give some idea of how the street front of the period must have looked. These are of moderate historic interest as well preserved examples of typical housing.

A mid 20th century three story brick institutional structure is at the southeast corner of the block, and a large six story commercial structure occupies the southwest corner. It bears a cornerstone reading "1909 J.M. Murphy Architect," and now houses a Salvation Army Thrift Store on the ground floor. According to

the 1916 Atlas, it was then Masons, a department store (see Plate 8). Sandwiched between these 20th century structures are three smaller 19th century buildings at 125 through 129 Myrtle. The westernmost is a small four story cast iron front commercial building erected after the 1886 Atlas was drawn, but before 1900. In the middle is a brick 3 1/2 story 3 bay town house with gable roof which may be the oldest structure remaining on Myrtle, possibly dating from the 1850's. Its exterior seems sound, but its current condition or degree of alteration is not known. Next to it is a brick 3 story structure of slightly later date. All three of these structures have had ground floors converted to store fronts (see Plate 8).

The west side of the block contains only one significant structure. This is the Bridge Street Methodist Church, also known as the First Free Congregation Church, at 311 Bridge. Built in 1846 or 1847, on land purchased by the Congregational Church, it was sold to the African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church in 1854, and remained an AME church throughout the 19th and into the 20th century. It is of Greek Revival Style, with two three quarter round doric columns and four three quarter square columns dividing a 5 bay front which is surmounted by an unadorned pediment (see Plate 9). This is designated a New York City Landmark and is now used by P.I.N.Y. as a student center. There were 19th century row houses south of this which have been demolished. Their outline is visible on the 1909 building at the southwest corner of the block (see Plate 9). On this block the Bridge Street Methodist Church is of Landmark Status, and the row house

at 136-140 Duffield and the structures at 125, 127 and 129 Myrtle are of moderate historic interest.

Block 2058 is one of the long blocks south of Myrtle but only the north half of it is in the study tract. This has Bridge on the west, Myrtle on the north and Duffield on the east. At the northeast corner of the block is a one story recent commercial structure which replaced earlier buildings. East of that on the south side of Myrtle are several vacant lots where demolition has occurred, one 20th century structure and two smaller buildings at the northeast corner of the block which contain parts of buildings present on the 1886 map but with substantial alterations and additions. There is one older structure at the east side of this block, facing the Zion Church across Duffield Street, but it is altered, and is surrounded by 20th century buildings. South of that the middle part of the block is now vacant. The south end, outside of the study area, contains a tall 1930 Telephone Company Building at the corner of Bridge and Willoughby (visible in Plate 9) and four 19th century structures at the corner of Duffield. North of them at 188 Duffield is St. Bonifaces Roman Catholic Church. This was built, probably in the late 1840's, as St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, purchased for a German Catholic Congregation in 1853, and has been St. Bonifaces ever since. At various times in the 19th century there has been a church school in one of the buildings on Willoughby adjacent to this. Except for this brick church outside the study tract, none of the remaining older buildings in this block are historically interesting.

Block 143, bounded by Johnson (north), Bridge (east), Myrtle (south), and Lawrence (west) contains nine or ten 19th century

residences, several of which are of considerable historic interest. At the northwest corner of the block is a 2 1/2 story 3 bay brick row house at 100 Johnson Street. This is a well maintained example of the mid 19th century structures of the area (Plate 10). Three structures stand together in the middle of the north side at 106, 108 and 110 Johnson. The brick row house at 106 is similar to that at 100 Johnson and the frame structure at 110 is of the same 3 story style. All probably date from the 1850's or 1860's (Plate 11).

Between them is a frame 2 story weather boarded house, with two attic dormers at 108 Johnson. This Federal Style house is the oldest standing structure observed in the study tract. An agreement among members of the Johnson family, which is in possession of the current owners of the house, states that when additional houses are built, they should be set back the same distance from the fence of the road as this structure. This structure may have belonged to the Johnson family and may have been in existence before the real estate development of the late 1830's and 1840's. It has certainly been present since the 1855 map, and is mentioned in a deed of 1850. The current owners report that historic architects who have examined the interior stated that the house must be at least a generation older than the surrounding structures. The exterior is compatible with a date in the first quarter of the 19th century on stylistic grounds. Further study will be needed to assess whether this house meets criteria for eligibility to the National Register (see Plate 11).

At the northeast corner of the block there is a 3 story 2



bay brick structure of later 19th century date (120 Johnson) which was present by 1886. This is not as well preserved as the other Johnson Street structures (see Plates 12 and 13). A similar judgement holds for three 19th century houses at 304, 306, and 308 Bridge Street, which have been extensively modified (shown in Plates 12 and 14) and for one small commercial building at the southeast corner of the block. It is surrounded by larger 20th century structures. The southwest corner recently contained a service station, now removed. That entire area has been levelled. One 19th and one early 20th century structure stand at 59 and 61 Lawrence Street. The 19th century residence is of moderate interest (see Plate 15). Taken as a unit the north end of the block and particularly the three structures with 108 Johnson in the middle constitutes an area of considerable historic significance.

Block 148 is bounded on the north and south by Myrtle and Willoughby and on the east and west by Bridge and Lawrence. Only the north half is included in the project tract. At the northwest corner are 20th century structures. The remainder of the north end of the block contains seven 19th century buildings. All are now extensively altered, extended to their rear lot lines, and no longer are of major historic interest (see Plate 17). Buildings in the central portion of this block have recently been demolished (Plate 17). At the south end out of the study tract there is an 1898 Beaux Art Style commercial structure a 1922 Telephone company building and a low 1963 N.Y. State building. None of the 19th century buildings in this block are considered significant.

Block 142 now has the P.I.N.Y. main buildings, erected for

the American Safety Razor Company in 1920 and 1937. These are large steel reinforced concrete industrial structures. No historic buildings remain on this block (visible in Plates 8 and 22).

The last block examined is Number 147, bounded by Myrtle on the north, Lawrence on the east, and Jay on the west. The south end of this, facing Willoughby, is outside the study area. A row of 3 story 3 bay 19th century brick structures of similar design and detail exists at the northwest corner of the block facing Myrtle. Five of these existed in 1886. Their ground floors have been turned into modern store fronts. Interior or upper floor condition is not known. They are of only moderate historic interest, not requiring further study (see Plate 18). At the northeast corner of the block is a 6 story commercial structure, still Mullins & Sons Furniture, and now partially occupied by the N.Y. City Welfare Department. The Mullins company occupied 4 older buildings on this site in 1893, and probably constructed the existing building about 1900 (see Plate 18). South of that are several recent buildings, also occupied by the Welfare Department. The central portion of the this block has been demolished, like the center of the three blocks east of it (shown in Plates 17 and 21). At the south end, and out of the study tract, are a building put up by Home Title Insurance in 1920, and another office building erected in 1929, both on heavily commercialized Willoughby Street.

The west side of this block contains several historically important structures. At the southwest corner of this tract is the Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters building at 365-367 Jay

Street, now on the National Register of Historic Places, a New York City Landmark, and used by P.I.N.Y. (see Plates 19 and 20).

It is described on a bronze plaque in front:

One of Brooklyn's most creative architects, Frank Freeman, designed this handsome firehouse, a vigorous example of the Romanesque Revival Style. It was built in 1892. Freeman, whose work may be compared with that of the famous H.H. Richardson, used a combination of materials here - granite, brick, sandstone, terra cotta, red tile and copper - to create strong contrasts of texture and color. The tower, used for spotting fires, and the great archway, through which horse-drawn fire engines once dashed are highly expressive of the functions they once served. (Plaque provided by the N.Y. Community Trust 1973).

There is vacant land north of that, (Plate 21) and then two 20th century structures with a 19th century building between them at 357 Jay. It is modified and of only moderate historic interest (see Plate 22). North of this is the Moravian Church and minister's residence at 347-349 Jay. The church and residence are of brick, with sandstone trim, built in 1869 to replace an earlier United Brethern church on the same site which burned. Modern commercial store fronts hide the ground floor of these two buildings and it appears that some modifications have occurred (see Plate 23). Further study will be needed to determine the degree to which the historically and architecturally interesting church has had its integrity compromised, and whether it might be eligible for nomination to the National Register.

## LEGEND

### FIGURE 13 CULTURAL RESOURCE BASE MAP

Showing Degree of Historic Significance of Structures and  
Potential for Archaeological Resources.

#### KEY



National Register or Landmark Status  
(or high potential requiring detailed study)



Possibly Significant  
(requiring additional study)



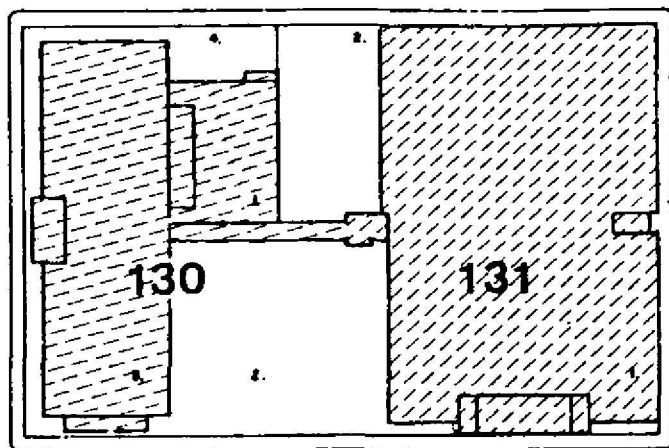
19th Century Structures, no longer significant



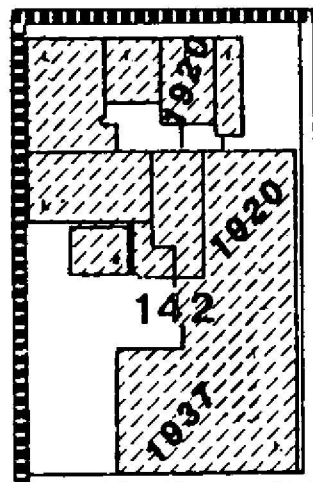
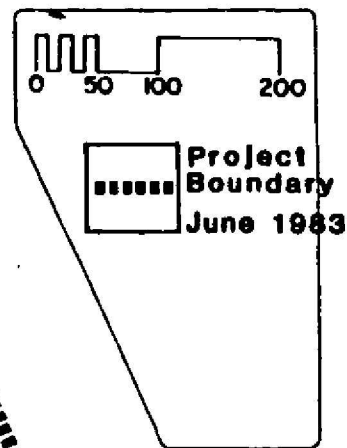
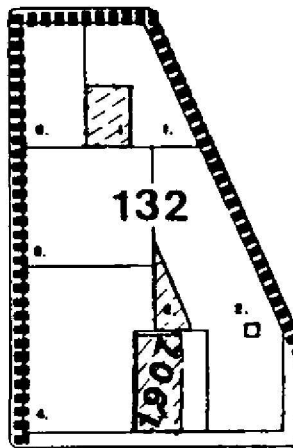
Terminal 19th Century or 20th Century Structures



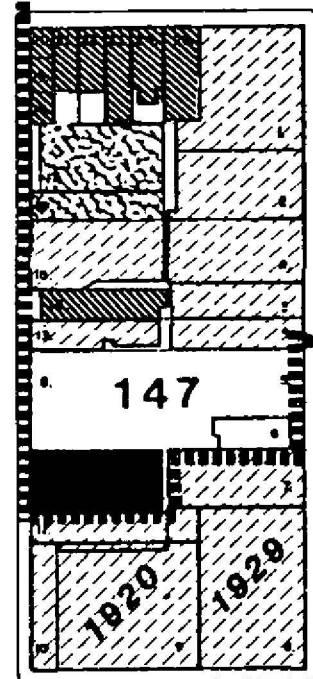
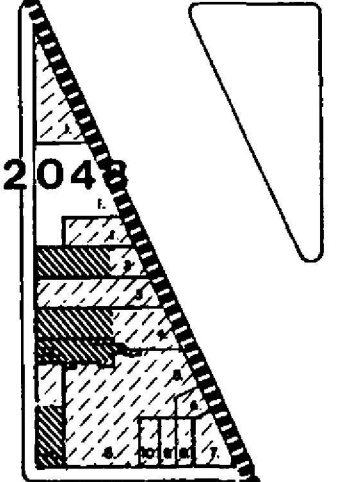
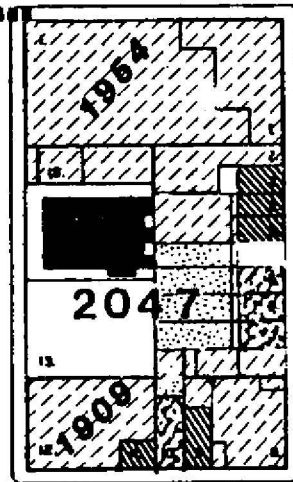
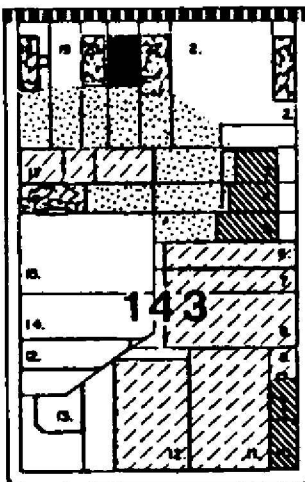
Undisturbed Rear Yards with high Archaeological Potential  
(requiring detailed study)



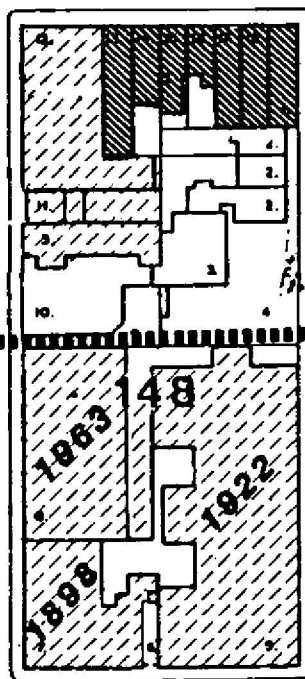
JOHNSON



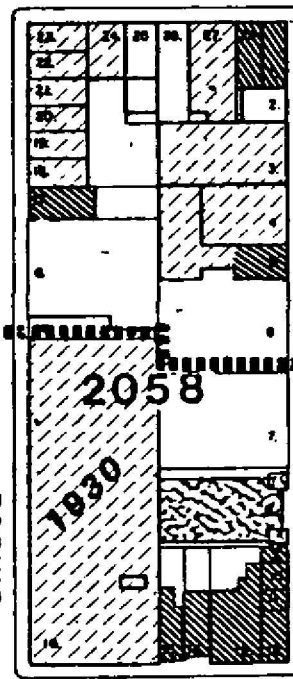
MYRTLE



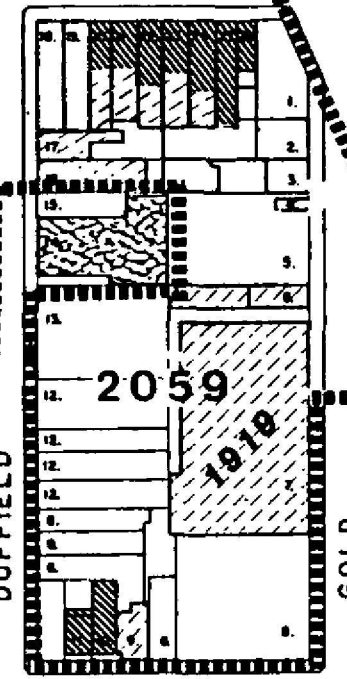
WILLOUGHBY



LAWRENCE



BRIDGE



DUFFIELD

FLATBUSH

GOLD

21919  
206

FIGURE 13 CULTURAL RESOURCE BASE MAP

METROPOLITAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK  
CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY





PLATE 1 Looking southeast, intersection of Flatbush Avenue Extension on left and Gold Street on right, at Block 2060.



135-137 Johnson

PLATE 2 Looking northeast across Johnson Street at Block 132.



PLATE 3 Looking northeast across intersection of Myrtle and Duffield Streets at Block 2048.



Zion Church

PLATE 4 Looking southeast across Duffield Street.





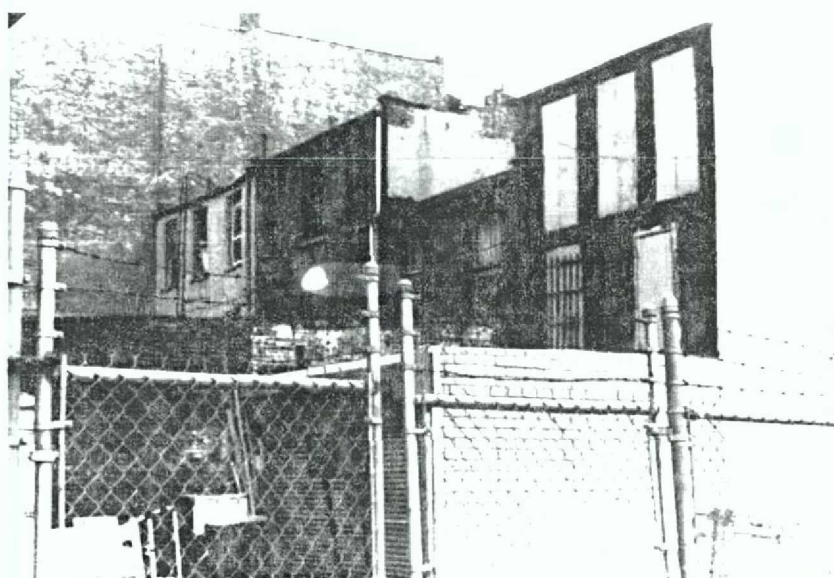
140 Myrtle

138

136

134 Myrtle

PLATE 5 Looking south across Myrtle Street at Block 2059.



142 Myrtle

PLATE 6 Looking northeast from Gold Street at rear of structures in Block 2059.



140

138

136 Duffield

PLATE 7 Looking northeast across Duffield Street at Block 2047.



Block

142

143

Block

2047

125

127

129 Myrtle

PLATE 8 Looking west to northwest along Myrtle Street at Blocks 142, 143 and 2047.



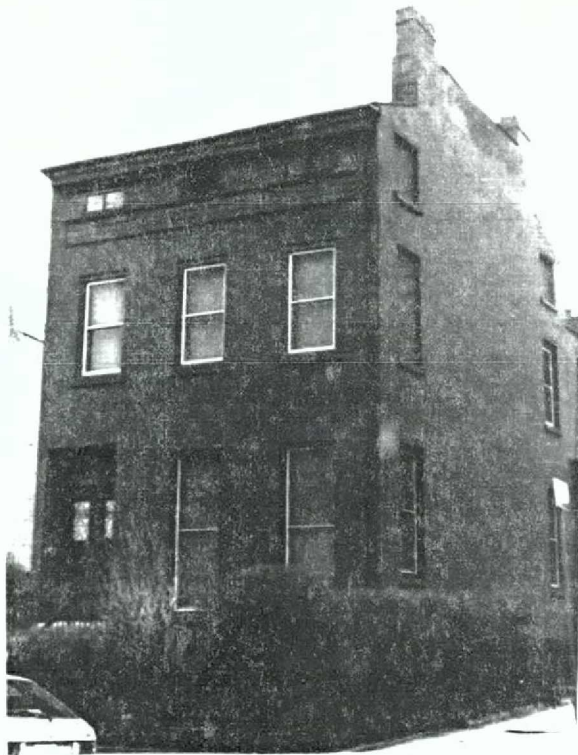


Bridge St. AME Church



PLATE 9 Looking southeast to south along Bridge Street at Blocks  
2047 and 2058.





100 Johnson

PLATE 10 Looking southeast, intersection of Lawrence and Johnson Streets at Block 143.



110 108 106 Johnson

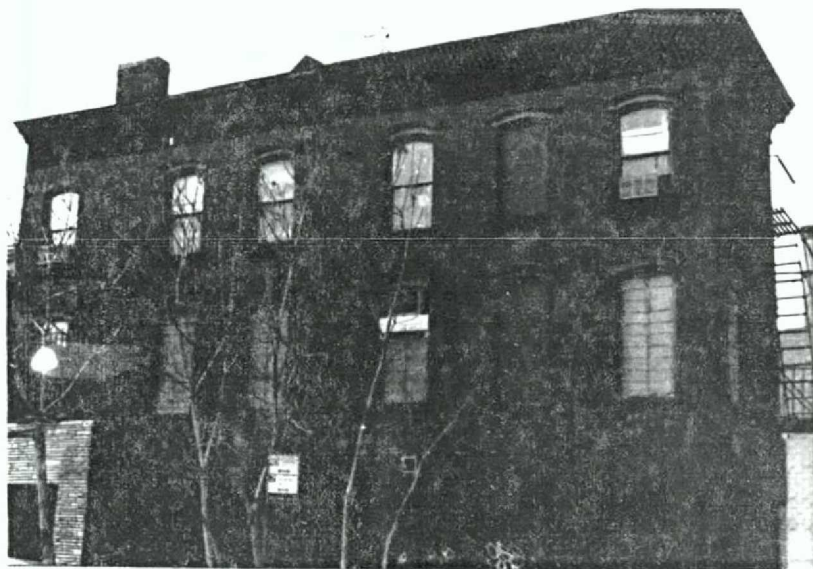
PLATE 11 Looking southeast across Johnson Street at Block 143.



120 Johnson

304 306 308 Bridge

PLATE 12 Looking southeast across Johnson Street at northeast corner of Block 143.



120 Johnson

PLATE 13 Looking west across Bridge Street at northeast corner of Block 143.





308                      306                      304 Bridge

PLATE 14 Looking southwest across Bridge Street at Block 143.



59                                      61 Lawrence

PLATE 15 Looking southeast across Lawrence Street at Block 143.

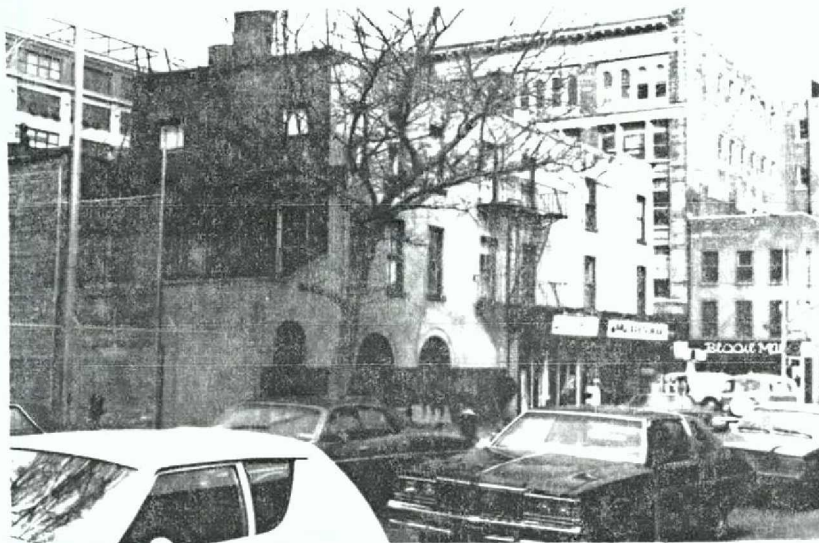


PLATE 16 Looking northwest across Bridge Street at Blocks 148 and 143.

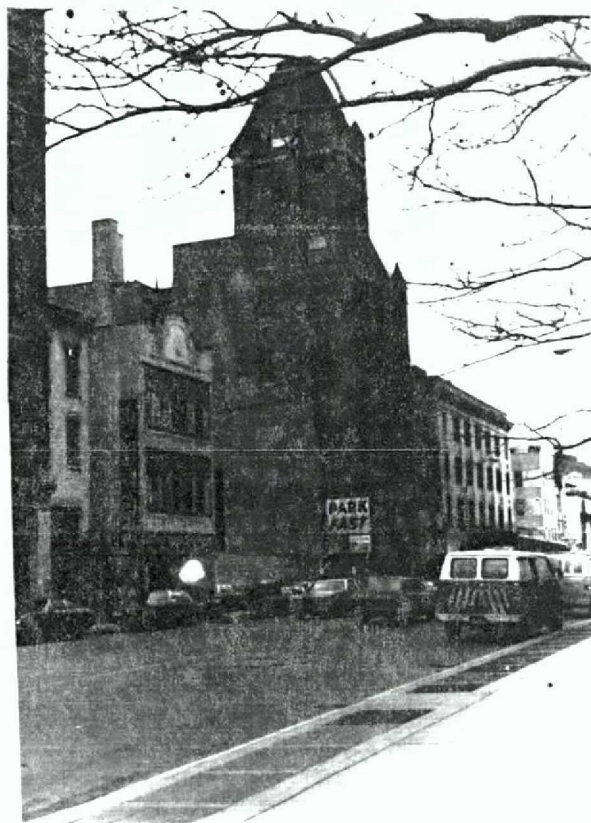


PLATE 17 Looking southwest across Bridge Street and Block 148 toward Block 147.





PLATE 18 Looking southwest, intersection Jay and Myrtle Streets at Block 147.



Old Fire  
Headquarters

PLATE 19 Looking southeast along Jay Street toward Block 147.



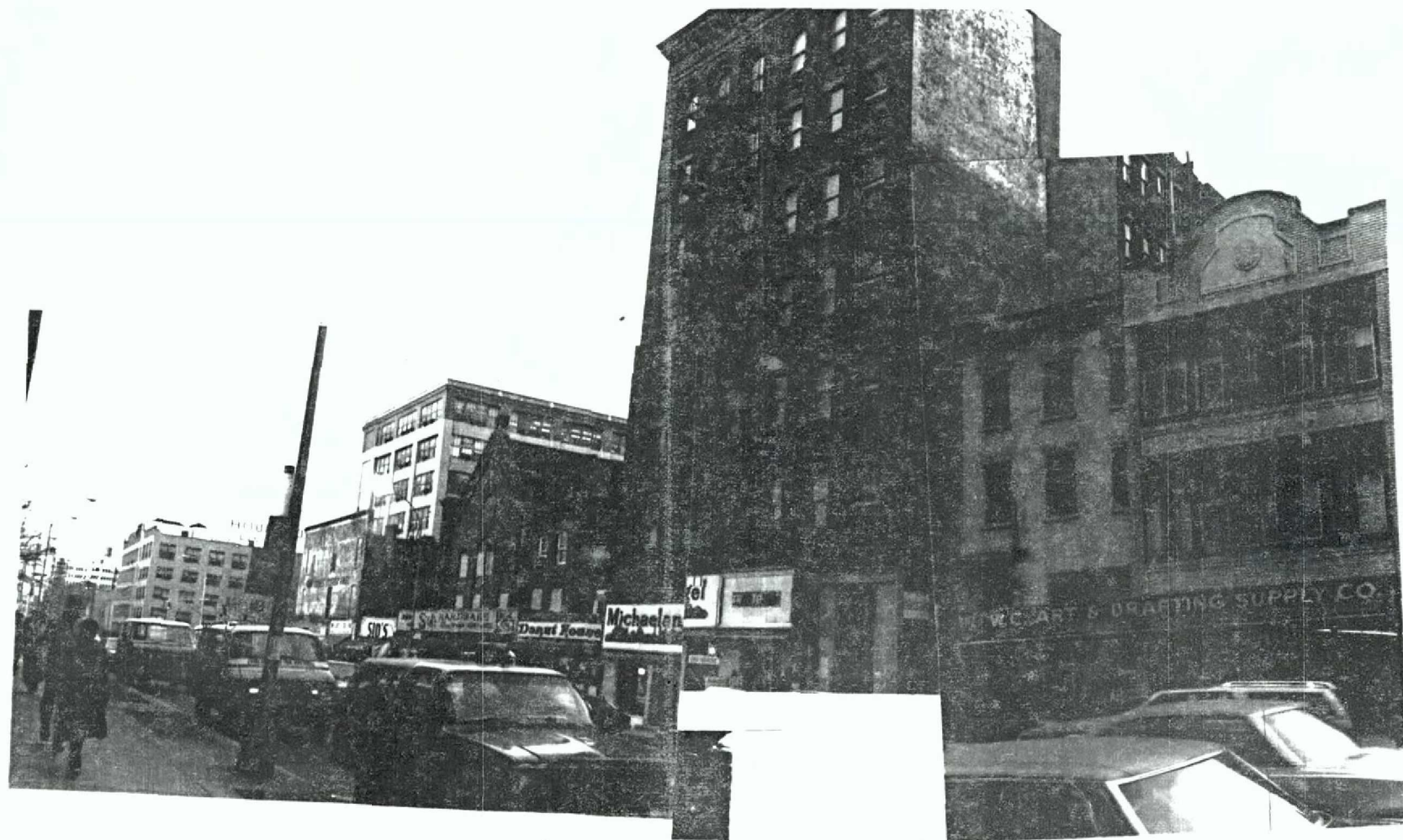
Old Fire  
Headquarters

PLATE 20 Looking southeast across Jay Street at Block 147.



PLATE 21 Looking east across Jay Street and Block 147 toward  
Block 148.





Block  
142

Moravian  
Church

357 Jay

PLATE 22 Looking north to northeast along and across Jay Street  
at Blocks 142 and 147.



Moravian Church

Parsonage

PLATE 23 Looking east across Jay Street at Block 147.

## B. SPECIFIC POINTS OF INTEREST

### 1. Standing Structures

#### a. Structures on Historic Lists

Two structures in the study tract already have been noted as significant by public agencies. They are:

The Bridge Street Methodist Church (First Free Congregational Church) at 311 Bridge Street, Block 2047, Lot 14, built between 1846-1847, designated a City Landmark 22 December 1981.

and

The Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters Building and Tower at 365-367 Jay Street, Block 147, Lot 12, built in 1892, designated a N.Y. City Landmark 19 April 1966, and placed on the National Register 20 January 1972.

b. Structures noted in this survey as possibly meeting National Register Criteria:

(1) Structures # 100, 106, 108, 110, and 120 Johnson Street.

The frame structure at 108 Johnson appears to be an intact Federal Period house, built before real estate subdivision filled the area during the 1840's, and possibly owned by the Johnson family, who developed the area. The other structures were probably built in the mid 19th century, as was # 61 Lawrence Street, around the corner. All are well preserved except for # 120. As a group they represent developed urban housing of the area.

(2) # 136, 138, and 140 Duffield

These three brick row-houses built before 1855 are typical of the standardized modest middle class housing which once covered the area. Although not distinguished historically or architecturally, they are representative of a type which was important in Brooklyn's history and is disappearing from the downtown area.

(3) # 125, 127 and 129 Myrtle

The second and third buildings are similar to those at 136-140 Duffield, but modified at the first floor level for commercial use. At 125 Myrtle is a cast iron front store building. Its condition is not known.

(4) The Moravian Church and Minister's House, 345-347 Jay Street

Built in 1869 to replace a wooden predecessor, the church has potential architectural interest, and is historically important in community development, remaining in use until the 1930's. Its present structural condition and integrity are not known.

## 2. Potential Archaeological Areas

It has already been stated that the probability for prehistoric sites having existed within this flat farmland is low, and that no known Colonial period settlement or Revolutionary War activity occurred within the study tract. The potential for archaeological resources is limited to the historical archaeology of mid 19th century urban Americans. During the maximum development of residences in the study tract there were approximately 250 frame and brick town houses (300, if the excluded southern ends of the blocks extending to Willoughby Street are included). At least half of the area has subsequently been covered and any archaeological resources destroyed by construction of large 20th century buildings with deep foundations. About half of the remaining land is now levelled parking lot or rubble field.



Evidence from this reconnaissance study indicates that in most cases the 19th century structures recently removed from these areas had been extended to cover the entire property so that backyard areas were destroyed or disturbed before recent demolition.

This leaves a few places where rear yards probably have not received massive disturbance. One area is at the north end of Block 143, behind the houses which face Johnson, Lawrence and Bridge Streets; another is behind the brick row houses which extend from 128 to 140 Duffield. Other former rear yards in the area are either covered by later additions to existing 19th century buildings or were probably disturbed before the areas were levelled. There is a high probability that some of these yards contain early to mid 19th century urban domestic archaeological remains, preserved in cisterns, latrines, rubbish pits or simply buried by successive layers of rear yard development. These resources will yield information on the behavior patterns, socio-economic status and material culture of the first generation of residents, possible starting as early as circa 1820 for 108 Johnson, and covering the 1840's to 1860's for the other structures. Only one 19th century row house has been excavated in New York City. The exact degree of preservation of data can only be determined by a scientifically designed test excavation.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on study of the background literature and visual reconnaissance the following recommendations are made:

### A. Structures of National Register and Landmark Status

The Bridge Street Methodist Church and the Old Brooklyn Fire Headquarters on Jay Street are already accorded the protection of public listing as historic resources. Further study is not necessary to determine eligibility, and any development plan should state steps for their preservation, maintenance and continued appropriate use for the administering agency.

### B. Structures of Historic Interest possibly meeting National Register Criteria.

A detailed (Stage 1B level) study should be made of the legal history, association with historic individuals and events, and the architectural fabric and condition of six residences near the north end of Block 143. The street addresses are 100, 106-110 and 120 Johnson, and 61 Lawrence (Block 143, 1 lots 18, 20-22, 1 & 16). The probable order of significance and/or degree of integrity is 108, 100, 106 and 110 Johnson, 61 Lawrence and 120 Johnson. It is probable that # 108 meets National Register Criteria.

Similar 1B level research should be performed for the structures at 136-140 Duffield and 127-129 Myrtle Streets, and the Moravian Church and parsonage at 345-347 Jay Street. These structures appear to be of local significance but will probably not meet National Register Criteria.



### C. Historic Archaeological Resources

Demolition and construction will have an adverse impact on the two areas considered likely to contain preserved historic archaeological deposits of the early to mid 19th century. Therefore a program of limited subsurface testing should be designed and coordinated with property acquisition to determine whether such resources are present, their extent and integrity and to plan for mitigative measures, if merited. These areas include the rear yards at the north end of Block 143, and the rear yards behind the row houses which face Duffield in Block 2047, shown by stippling on Figure 13.

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