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**PSA 4 Addendum to Archaeological Data Recovery Results:  
Economic and Ethnic Land Use History of Lot 58**

**THE HUMAN FACE OF LOT 58**

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**PSA 4 Addendum to Archaeological Data Recovery Results :  
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**THE HUMAN FACE OF LOT 58**

**Archaeological Context:**

This lot-specific, archival evaluation of the occupational and ethnic history was requested by the Landmarks Preservation Commission so as to provide a better and more focused document-based context for the historical evaluation of the archaeological deposits, and ca. 30,000 pre and post Civil War artifacts, which were excavated from the buried and undisturbed stone Cistern complex in the rear of Lot 58, Block 378 on the lower East Side of Manhattan. Specifically, the purpose of the detailed lot-specific analysis of Census, and occupation records for the period between 1850 and 1880 was itemized so as to permit the comparison of the surviving documentary evidence for clues as to the mid-19th century ethnic and socioeconomic status of the block and lot residents relative to the archaeologically dated sequence of deposits and diagnostic artifacts.

The results of the archaeological excavation of the Lot 58 cistern documented that the dry-laid stone cistern complex was built sometime after 1840, possibly as late as the decade of 1850, and was abandoned as a water supply storage cistern and filled shortly after 1867. It was also archaeologically documented that a stone foundation of the small rectangular dry-laid stone building which enclosed the cistern was in fact constructed after the cistern was abandoned as a water supply system. The clear stratigraphic record indicate that the wall cut through and therefore, post-date the brick inlet and outlet drains. Furthermore, the presence of a secondary inlet drain consisting of late Nineteenth

century ceramic pipe, suggests that it was apparently reused as a drain, or sump, presumably sometime after the lot buildings had been connected to the municipal water system.

Given the often exotic and high status nature of the Civil War era ceramic and glass artifacts and children's toys recovered, the focus of this archival addendum was to see if any ethnic or socio-economic correlations could be made between the archaeological and documentary records. The results were positive and rewarding. Comparisons through time of the available Census and land use records between the decades of 1850 and 1880 documented several distinct social patterns or shifts, in the ethnic composition and economic status of the former lot residents over the circa four decade time frame of the cistern's construction, use and abandonment. These diachronic shifts were apparent in the immigration status (national/regional origins) of the recorded adult population, in changes in the recorded occupations of the residents, and in the relative number and economic status of the initially foreign born, and later, first generation children who once lived and played there.

#### **Lot Specific Land Use History:**

As depicted in 18th and early 19th century maps (Ratzer 1867, Viele' 1865), prior to its colonial reclamation, the project area consisted of low-lying coastal tidal estuary meadowlands of salt grass. The decades of late 1840s and early 1850s was a period of rapid growth for this shoreline maritime area of New York. By the mid-nineteenth

century, the city's layout was reconfigured as a grid-based system settlement of North-South avenues and East-West streets, which by the 1840s had extended north to encompass areas north of Union Square, with the initial settlement concentrated along the primary north-south oriented avenues prior to expansion laterally to the east and west.

During the decade before the Civil War, the large groups of farm and estate-based land holdings which had originally been traded in the project area were subdivided into individual lots and developed. After its initial land filling in the first quarter of the 19th century, Block 378 was historically located at the juncture of three colonial farms. The northwest corner of the block was originally a part of the 17th century Bouwerie Farm of Peter Stuyvesant. The southwest corner of the block, probably included Lot 58 that formed part of Leandert's meadow, in the early nineteenth century. The balance of the block formed a portion of the DeLancey farm. The entire block, including much of the area surrounding it, came into the possession of Elias Brevoort, who began conveying city lots out of the tract in May of 1827. This archival evidence suggests in turn that the former tidal marsh area had been filled and raised within three feet of modern grade by the decade of the 1820s. Avenue C, from Houston to Fourteenth Street, was created in 1826 and a portion of it widened in 1835 (Stokes VI, 588; Stokes 3:971). Ward School #21, which adjoined Lot 58 at the northwest corner, was in operation by 1848 (Trow's Directory).

The first documentary evidence of occupation within the project lot was recorded for the beginning of the decade of 1850. In 1851, George F. Talman sold Lots 58 and 62 to James Campbell and Robert J. Low. They built a four-story tenant house which appeared in the tax records of 1852. The tax records of 1852 also recorded the first mention of houses on a number of surrounding lots.

The documentary evidence of a multi-family tenement having been built on the lot by Campbell and Law between 1851-52, is consistent with the ceramic TPQ date of the cistern. Artifacts from builder's trenches related to the cistern yielded a TPQ of post-1840 (Grossman, 1995). Based on the date range of the majority of the artifacts found associated with the contents of the cistern, the assumed TPQ for the period of the cistern's use was post-1850. This estimated date fits nicely with the documented post-1851 time frame for initial construction of the first tenant building on lot 58.

Diagnostic artifacts from the post-abandonment archaeological fill which covered the cistern had a TPQ of post-1867 for the most recent artifacts. In addition to coinciding with the end of the Civil War and the associated economic structures to the regional economy, this date of abandonment was also paralleled by two important economic development which occurred in 1866. The first was the publication of the Report of the Council of Hygiene and Public Health of the Citizens Association of New York Upon Sanitary Condition of the City, which was a detailed report which covered

the city district by district, describing the conditions in particular blocks and buildings. The second event was the passing of New York's first law regulating issues of crowding and public health in tenement houses.

In addition, the demise of the cistern's utility may also have coincided with local environmental changes due to the gradual rise of brackish tidal water within the fill into which the cistern had been constructed. When excavated, the clay base of the cistern was measured to be at elevation "0" or at the Mean High water mark of the Manhattan datum. Given a projected regional rise in coastal waters over the last 500-1000 years of ca. 2m/millennium, this rate implies that when originally constructed, the bottom of the cistern had originally been some four inches above the historic water table. Once contaminated by the rise in brackish ground water, its utility as a clean water cistern may have been neutralized.

The small building excavated in the rear of the property, which was graphically depicted at a lot on Bromley Atlas Map of 1879, was not mentioned in the tax assessment records. No other structures were documented prior to 1903. Only as of 1903 was the rear portion of this lot documented in the 1903 Sanborn Atlas as having been used as a tailor shop.

The date of introduction of sewers and piped water is problematic due to poor coverage provided in early records. While the records indicate that the major streets in the area were sewered prior to 1865, just how early this took place was not recorded. James Ross, M.D., Sanitary Inspector (1865), reported that the avenues and most streets

of the district were sewered. Unfortunately, he also reported that as of the end of the Civil War most houses were not connected to the sewers by this time. (Ross, 1865)

This lack of archival data concerning the actual availability of hookup to city water pipes is understood by the fact that the cistern was not abandoned until 1867. (Grossman et al, 1995)

### **Ethnic and Economic Trends**

By comparing the block's Census data between the 1850s and 1880, several patterns and shifts in ethnicity and economic status are identifiable amongst the residents over this four decade period. Based on the records of Dogett's first mid-nineteenth century New York City Street Directory (1851), with coverage for the immediate area, the first residents appear to have been predominantly skilled craftsmen. When inventoried by occupation, eighty-seven percent of the workers/residents included tailors, carpenters, molders, blacksmiths and, finally two "boatmen", reflecting the predominantly maritime economy of the lower east side for this period. Of the sixty-nine entries recorded for 1851, only nine were unskilled (laborers and porters).

The maritime nature of the early pre-Civil War context was underscored by two documentary sources. The first consisted of the primary archival entries in the 1850 Census which documented the initial presence of the two "boatmen" in the blocks. The second in 1865, included a characterization of the area which documented the importance of the maritime economy to the area.



In addition to mentioning the "excellent habits of industry" of most of the adult population of the district, in an official 1866 report to the Council of Hygiene and Public Health, Mr James Ross characterized the pre-Civil War character of the immediate areas as:

"This district probably has a greater number of artisans, workers in wood and metals, than any other district in the city, and nearly the whole water- front as well as several entire blocks are occupied by the extensive manufactories in which they are employed.

The shipyards, iron, lead, and copper works here, also give employment to many thousand hands to whom a residence near is a great necessity. Hence the excessive overcrowding in this locality." (Ross 1865:174)

By the following decade, the 1860 Census reflected a significant shift from American to foreign-born immigrants in the local population. For seven of thirteen (54%) families listed for Lot 58, both parents were immigrants. Out of a total of 72 individuals, 31 (or 43%) were foreign born. Irish and Germans predominated with representation in 1860 of fourteen and ten individuals, respectively. Most children between 5 and 14 were listed as having attended school.

By the 1870 census, the adult population is primarily foreign born, with the Irish and Germans continuing to be the principle nationalities represented. Their children were virtually all American born, with those 5 to 15 attending school. The occupations

represented continued to be skilled ones. All males over the age of 21, even those who are foreign born, were listed as citizens and eligible to vote.

The 1880 Census indicates that the area continued to be a solid working class neighborhood, but was composed of less skilled trades and service jobs. In terms of national origin, the primary change was a decrease in the number of Irish residents.

Although the available archival data is not comparable between the 1851 inventory and subsequent 1860 through 1880 census data, when contrasted through time and quantified as a series of 3-D cross tabulations and bar charts, several overall trends can be discerned from the documentary sources (Table 1). For the adult population of survey within the block in 1851, and tabulated by country of origin and occupation in the subsequent census data, the influx of immigrants appears to have taken place in the area in the late 1850's and early 1860's. Whereas the earliest residents of the block appeared in 1851 as predominantly American born craftsmen, by the 1860 census, the number and diversity of foreign born German, Irish inhabitants had replaced or significantly outstripped the original native born residents. Subsequently, between the Census of 1860 and 1880, the adult German population stayed fairly constant, while relative proportion of the Irish and "American" born residents dropped significantly by a ratio of 5:1 for the Irish, and by nearly 2:1 for the American born residents of the block (Table 1).

For the children recorded for this same time span, and although comparable data them is not available from the 1851 data set, the 1860 census data showed several sharp shifts in the number and ethnic composition of foreign, versus American born when compared to

the 1870 and 1880 census records. As of 1860, 27% of all children recorded were registered as foreign born, with 12% having been born in Germany, and 2.4% from both Ireland and other European countries. Of the total of 41 children recorded, thirty, or 73% were recorded as American born as of 1860.

However, beginning with the census of 1870, all recorded children were recorded as having been only American born. While the overall number of children dropped from a high of 41 in 1860, by 1880 the number of children had dropped by ca. thirty percent to a total of 19. Thus while the statistics are not ethnically exclusive through time, it appears that while the first inhabitants were initially immigrants from other areas of the United States, by the decade of 1860 the population had shifted to a mixture of German and Irish immigrants with their children having been born in Europe. By 1870, all of the children were listed as American born of mixed, Irish, German, and American parents.

While it is difficult to attribute the large number of often high status toys in the pre-1867 cistern fill as being attributable to any particular ethnic or occupational group, it is clear that the Lot housed a large number of children between the 1850's and 1880's from diverse backgrounds all of who may have had access to well made domestic and imported toys and especially marbles. The predominance of decorated and elaborately made glass marbles in the earliest fill deposits attributable to the decade of 1850, tends to imply that regardless of their place of birth, their owners could have been derived from or heavily influenced by the presence of both large numbers of other European children in the immediate vicinity.

The initially predominant Germans, as well as the presence of a large number of children between the period of 1850 and 1870 the area may have contributed to the relative abundance of toys in the archaeological deposits. The concept of a kindergarten is a German one, and the Germans have long been known as toymakers. In addition, thirty-one children were recorded in the 1860 Census, and eighteen children in the 1870 Census, give good reason to expect some toys to be found. The presence of the school to the northwest of the property also may have made a contribution. These documented shifts in the ethnic make-up of the project area between the mid- and late 19th century, are paralleled in the documentary record by equally visible and contemporary shifts in the recorded material wealth of the residents through time. In the 1860 Census, three households in the building had real or personal estates of record. One family had \$500 as a personal estate, one family had \$2,000 in real estate, and one had real estate valued at \$5,000. By the 1870 Census, no comparable property values were listed. The finding of a number of often finely made toys in the pre-Civil War Era cistern may correlate with documented evidence for the relative wealth and professional status of the earliest inhabitants from 1850-1860.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**LINE OF TITLE**

DATE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	Liber	Page
1827	Elias Brevoort	Ferrist & Adelia Pell N. Scovell Abraham Voorhees William Dilworth		
1829-31 NO INSTRUMENTS OF RECORD				
1835	James & Maria Murray	Thomas E. Davis	337	6
1836	James & Maria Murray Thomas E. Davis	David Codwise	352	398
1839	David & Maria Codwise David D. Field	Hiram Curtiss	398	411
1839	Curtiss, Hiram	AGREEMENT	398	422

Codwise, David

Curtiss, Lewis

Wyckoff, Henry

Davis, Thomas E.

Murray, James B.

Tyler, Daniel E.

Graham, John L.

Strong, George D.

Hall, David P.

Mason, John L.

1841 IN CHANCERY

David Codwise et.al.

Thomas E. Davis

419 124

Defendants

1842 Thomas & Anne Davis

John Duer

422 432

1844 John & Anne Duer

George F. Tallman

451 575

1851 George F. Tallman

James Dampbell

587 247

		Robert J. Law		
1853	James Campbell	Levi A. Leach	642	65
	Robert L. Law			
1856	Levi & Frances Leach	Charles Whitlock	703	181
1861	Charles & Honoria Whitlock	Edward V. Loew	840	105
	Seven Days later:			
	Edward Loew	Mayer Goldsmith	839?	250
1864	Meyer & Mina Goldsmith	Joseph Sonnek	974	92
1877	Joseph & Emelia Sonnek	Peter Bingenheimer	1417	256
1884	Peter Bingenheimer	Joseph Sonnek	1841	340
1902	Joseph & Emelia Sonnek	Ignatz Gluck	99	178



## APPENDIX B

## 1860 Census

## Ward 11 - Enumeration District 8 - House #148

X Under Occupation Indicates in School

HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
1 Atchison, John	30	M	Ships Carpenter	Ireland ✓
Jane A.	24	F		New York
William H.	08	M	X	New York
Sarah	4/12	F		New York
2 Roth, Louis	45	M	Pedlar	Baden Ger.
Rachael	32	F		Wertenberg Ger
Sara	09	F	X	New York
Fannie	06	F	X	New York
Abraham	02	M		New York
Emanuel	4/12	M		New York
Murray, Catharine	13	F		New York

3	Boell, George P.	48	M	Mechanist	France
	Barbara	35	F		Baden, Ger.
	Charles	13	M	X	New York
	George H.	10	M	X	New York
	William	08	M	X	New York
	Harriet	01	F		New York
4	Nevins, Robert H.	28	M	Moulder	New York
	Margaret	30	F		Ireland
	Rebecca	03	F		New York
	Thomas H.	01	M		New York
5	Cole, Joseph	55	M	Pedlar	Bavaria, Ger
	Caroline	48	F		Bavaria, Ger
	Jacob	17	M	Segarmaker	Bavaria, Ger
	Abram	15	M	Segarmaker	Bavaria, Ger
	Fannie	12	F	X	Bavaria, Ger
	Leopold	09	M	X	Bavaria, Ger
	Katerine	06	F		Bavaria, Ger

6 Monds,	James	59	M	Clerk	Ireland	
	Rebecca	58	F		Ireland	
	Rebecca	26	F	Seamstress	Ireland	
	James	21	M	Brass Finisher	Ireland	✓
	Jane	17	F	Embroidery Work	Ireland	
7 Mead,	Norman	50	M	House Carpenter	Ct.	
	Norman	22	M	Boatman	New York	✓
				Real Estate 2,000		
	Virginia	17	F		Virginia	
	James S.	16	M		Virginia	
	John H.	14	M		Virginia	
	Louisa C.	11	F	X	Virginia	
	Charles	07	M	X	New York	
8 Morgan,	Bryan	28	M	Moulder	Ireland	
	Margaret	27	F		Ireland	
	Hugh E. 03	M			New York	
	Ellen	01	F		New York	
	Bridget	26	F	Operator	Ireland	

Ellen	24	F	Operator	Ireland
Dempsey, John	19	M	Wheelwright	Ireland
9 Conger, Nicholas	34	M	Blacksmith	Ct.
			Real Estate 5,000	
Mary	32	F		New Jersey
Thomas	19	M	Clerk	New York
Emma E.	11	F	X	New York
10 Dowden, Peter	28	M	House Carpenter	New York
Elizabeth	22	F		New York
Maria L.	03	F		New York
Mary E.	7/12	F		New York
11 Moore, Thomas	50	M	Marble Cutter	England
Maria	54	F		England
Charles	23	M	Cartman	New York
Elizabeth	20	F		New York
Caroline	17	F		New York

12 Kirk,	Edgar	38	M	Carriage Smith	New York
	Mary E.	32	F		Ct.
	Margaret	12	F	X	New York
	Mary J.	11	F	X	New York
	Edgar E.	05	M	X	New York
13 Glass,	William	33	M	Pattern Maker	England
				Personal Estate \$500	
	Mary A.	32	F		England
	Arthur W.	11	M	X	England
	Mary A.	08	F	X	England
	Agnes A.	05	F	X	New York
Cotter,	Charles	40	M	Laborer	Ireland
	Mary	35	F		Ireland

## APPENDIX C

## 1870 CENSUS

## Ward 11 - Enumeration District 19 - House #32

X Under Occupation Indicates in School

HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
1 Elmer, Hannah	40	F	Keeping House	Paris
John	14	M	X	New York
Willie	12	M	X	New York
2 Morrison, John	40	M	Brass Finisher	Scotland ✓
Eliza	40	F		Ireland
3 Levine, Robert	38	M	Clerk	New York
Margaret	35	F		Ireland
Rebecca	13	F	X	New York
Thomas	11	M	X	New York

	James	10	M	X	New York
	Emma	08	F	X	New York
	Robert	06	M		New York
	Margaret	03	F		New York
4	Wymer, William	39	M	Tailor	Germany
	Sophia	30	F		Germany
	Amelia	07	F	X	St. Louis
	Ida	05	F	X	St. Louis
	Henry	04	M		New York
	Sophia	7/12	F		New York
5	Greenwood, Myer	60	M	Tailor	Germany
	Frances	46	F		Germany
	Benjamin	20	M	Segar Maker	New York
	Abram	17	M	Segar Maker	New York
	Leon	12	M	X	New York
	Simon	06	M	X	New York
Stein,	Hannah	65	F		Germany

6	Sonel,	Joseph	37	M	Tailor	Dressen
		Julia	35	F		Dressen
		Peter	10	M	X	New York
		Julia	07	F	X	New York
		Minnie	05	F		New York
7	West,	John	35	M	Rigger	Newfoundland, Ire ✓
		Mary	32	F		Ireland
		Elizabeth	16	F	Dressmaker	New York
		John	04	M		New York
		Julia	02	F		New York
8	Eagin,	Eliza	60	F		Ireland
		Kernan	35	M	Boiler Maker	Ireland
		Michael	27	M	Boiler Maker	Ireland
		Frank	26	M	Boiler Maker	Ireland
		Annie	22	F	Operator	Ireland
		Maggie	21	F	Operator	New York



## APPENDIX D





## 1880 CENSUS

X Under Occupation Indicates in School

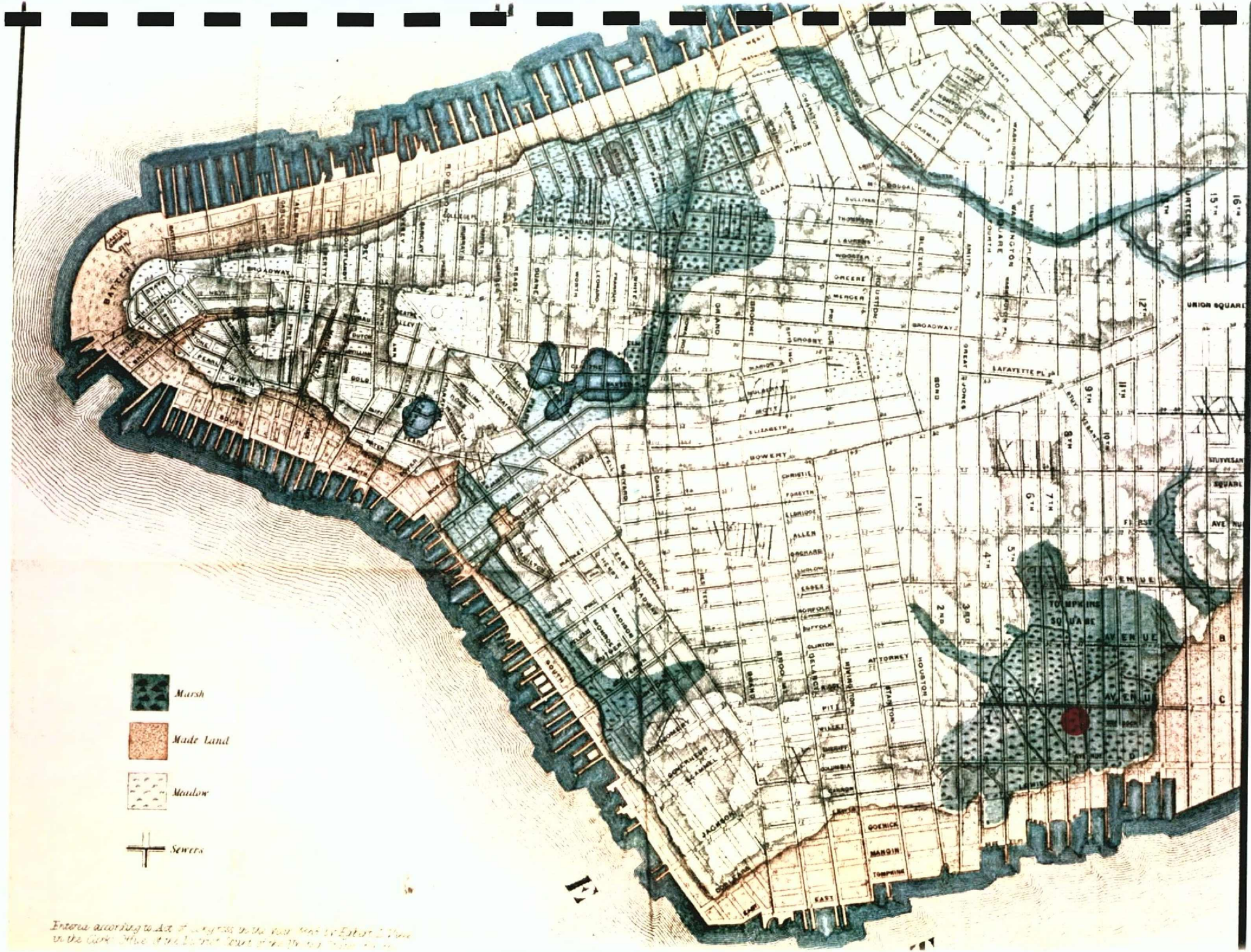
HOUSEHOLD	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
1 McKeon, William	43	M	Machinist	Ireland
Annie	33	F		New York
William	15	M	Works at Whalebone	New York ✓
Joseph	14	M	Clerk in Store	New York
James	12	M	X	New York
Jennie	11	F	X	New York
Katie	08	F	X	New York
George	04	M		New York
Emma	5/12	F		New York
2 Ray, William	24	M	Works at Chandeliers	New York
Mary E.	22	F		New York
3 Metzger, Mary	54	F	Keeping house	Germany

4	Sonnek, Joseph	47	M	Tailor	Germany
	Emily	32	F		New York
	Peter	20	M	Tailor	New York
	Julia	17	F	Tailoress	New York
	Minnie	14	F		New York
	Joseph	08	M	X	New York
	Albert	05	M		New York
	Katie	03	F		New York
5	Soman, Abraham	58	M	Watch Guard Maker	England
	Esther	58	F		England
	Alfred	18	M	Watch Guards	New York
	Esther	16	F		New York
	Daniel	25	M	Cigar Maker	New York
6	Calm, Jacob	50	M	Teacher	Germany
	Rachel	32	F		Germany
	Albert	11	M	X	New York
	Samuel	10	M	X	New York
7	Wolff, Morris	29	M	Tailor	Germany

Rosa	23	F		Germany
David	03	M		New York
Mary	01	F		New York
8 Reckner, Louis	25	M	Carver	France
Ellen	42	F		Ireland
Louis	21	M	Clerk in store	New York

-  Marsh
-  Made Land
-  Meadow
-  Sewers

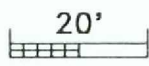
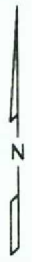
*Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1862 by Robert L. Stone in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of New York.*



EAST 9TH ST.

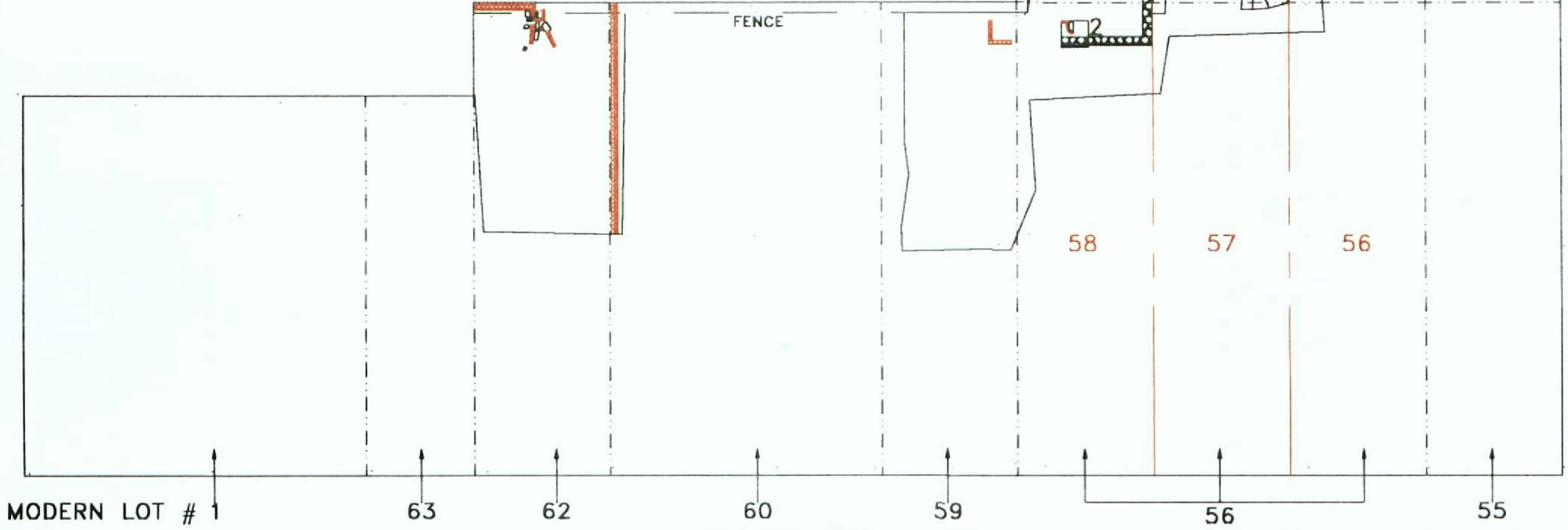
MODERN LOT # 14 15 16 17

# Police Service Area Facility #4 Archaeological Testing



----- HYPOTHETICAL LOT LINE FROM STATED SURVEY ON INSURANCE MAPS

AVENUE C







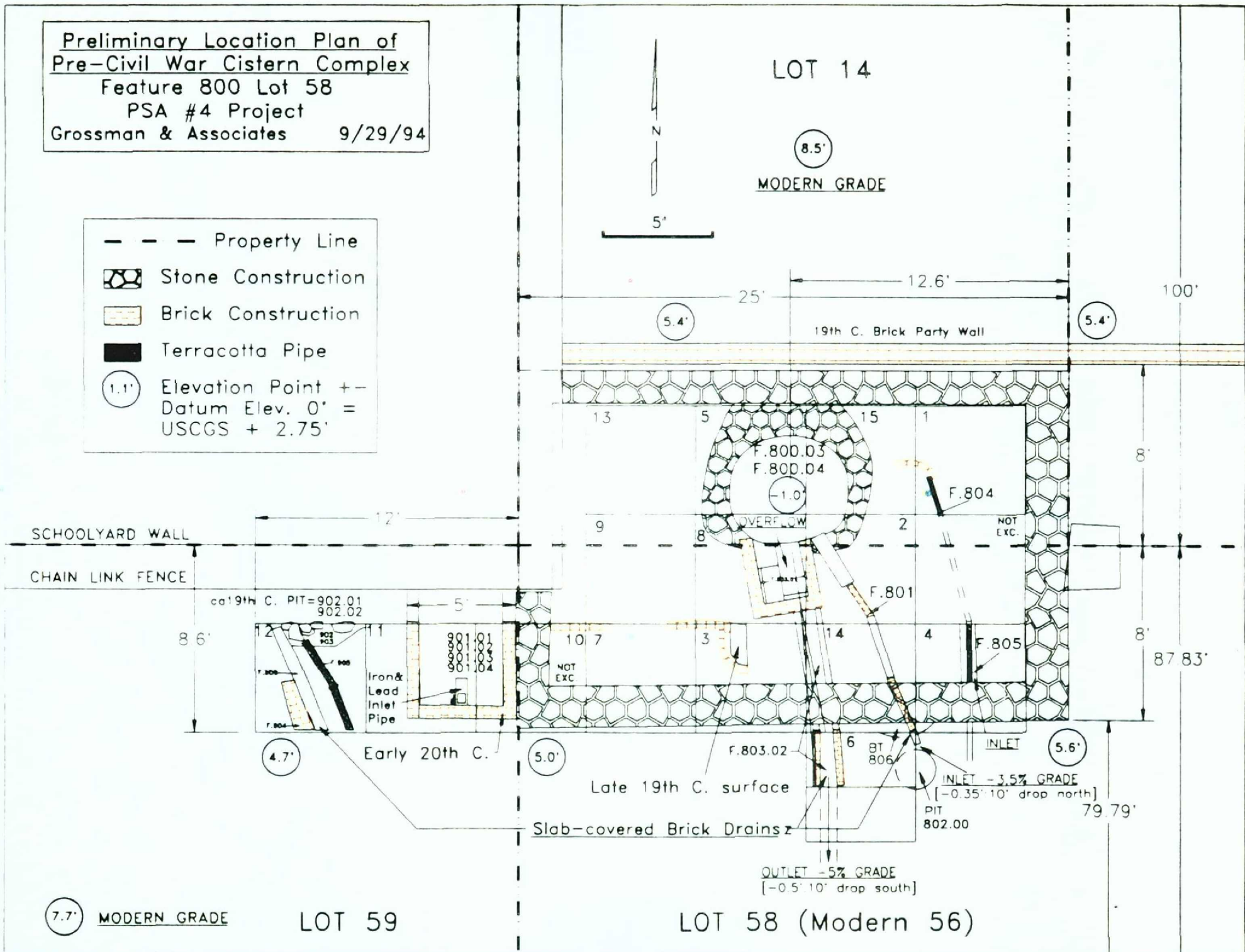
MODERN LOT # 1 63 62 60 59 56 55

EAST 8TH ST.

GROSSMAN & ASSOCIATES  
DRAFT

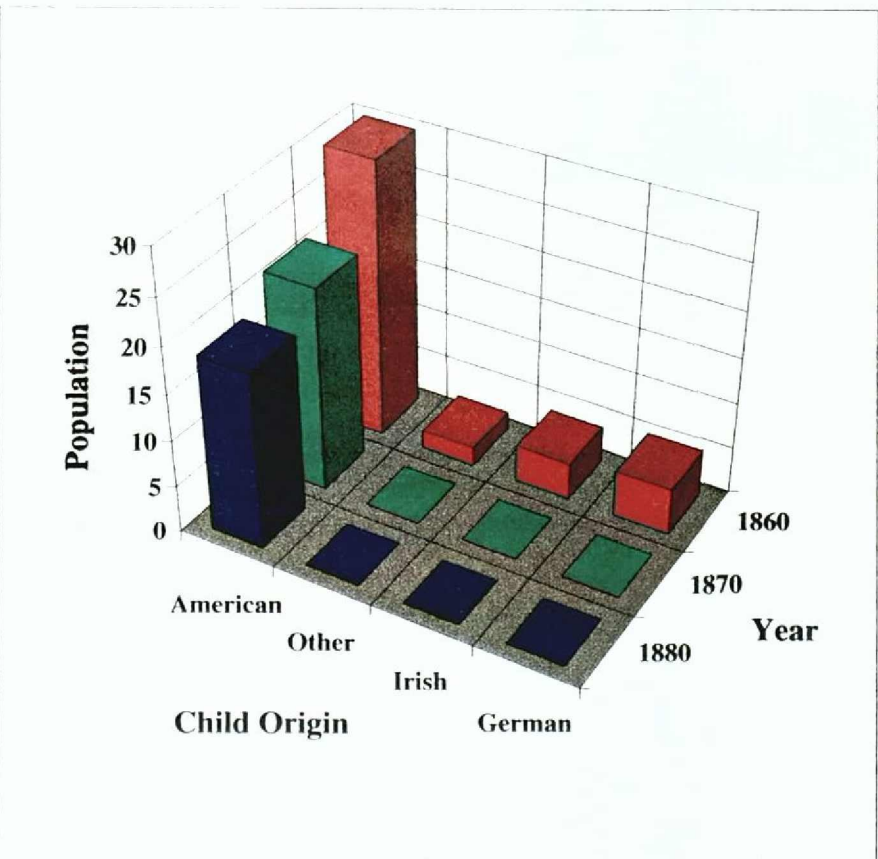
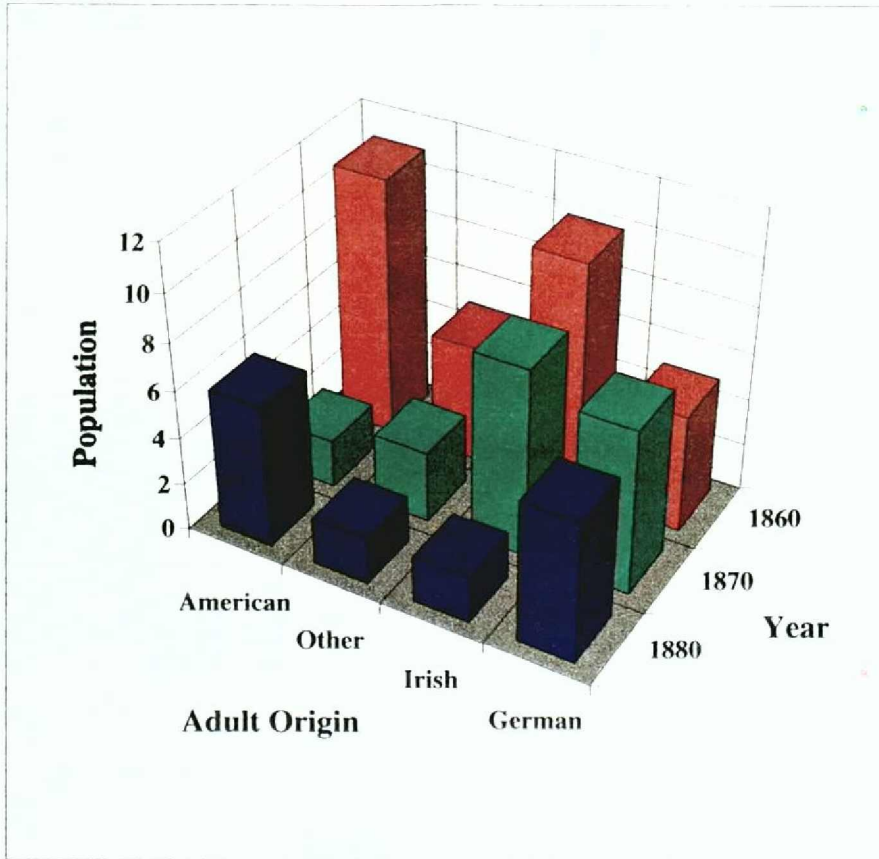
Preliminary Location Plan of  
Pre-Civil War Cistern Complex  
 Feature 800 Lot 58  
 PSA #4 Project  
 Grossman & Associates 9/29/94

- Property Line
-  Stone Construction
-  Brick Construction
-  Terracotta Pipe
-  1.1' Elevation Point +/- Datum Elev. 0' = USCGS + 2.75'



## Population Origins of Lot 58, 1860-1880.

Year	Age Group	Ethnicity			
		German	Irish	Other	American
1860	Adult	5	10	5	11
1870	Adult	7	8	3	2
1880	Adult	6	2	2	6
Year	Age Group	Ethnicity			
		German	Irish	Other	American
1860	Child	5	4	2	30
1870	Child	0	0	0	22
1880	Child	0	0	0	19



## Population of Lot 58 Residents by Age, 1860- 1880.

	Adult (over 21)	15- 21 yrs.	5- 14 yrs.	Under 5 yrs.	Total
1860	32	10	20	10	72
1870	19	4	14	5	42
1880	16	6	9	5	36

