

NCEQR

# R O U T E 9 A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

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## DRAFT CONTEXTUAL STUDY THE MOTT HOUSE

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*Prepared By:*

Hartgen Archeological Associates

*Prepared For:*

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VOLLMER ASSOCIATES *with*

Allee King Rosen & Fleming, Inc. • Edwards and Kelcey Engineers, Inc. • Helen Neuhaus and Associates Inc. • Urbitran Associates

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### A. INTRODUCTION

The Mott House stood near the foot of West 54th Street, on Mott's Point overlooking the Hudson River, c. 1796 to 1895. During that period it was the home of various members of a family whose ancestry included three prominent New York families. The house was razed in order to allow the extension of West 54th Street from 11th Avenue to the river; its location was in what was to become the roadbed of West 54th Street. The location is currently the intersection of West 54th Street and Route 9A or 12th Avenue between Blocks 1101 and 1102.

### B. RESEARCH

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

According to the early twentieth century historian, Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes, Blocks 1098 through 1102 were part of the John Hopper Farm (Vol.6,1906:106). Stokes listed the early landowners:

1668	Jacob Leendersen Van de Grift sold to Isaac Bedlow
1698	Catherine Howarden (daughter of Van de Grift) and Thomas Hall to Jacobs Van Cortlandt
?	Jacobs Van Cortlandt to Aernout Webber
1713	Aernout Webber to John Balme
1714	John Balme to Mathius Hopper

Mathius Hopper, born in 1658, was the son of Andries Hoppe, or Hoppen, who, "with his wife, Geertje Hendricks, came from Holland in 1652" (Mott 1898:5) Mathius Hopper settled in the Bloomingdale area on this property "which stretched from 48th to 55th Streets, both east and west of the Bloomingdale Road, lying diagonally across the city and along the river from 50th to 55th Streets" (Mott 1908:8).

John Hopper inherited the farm from Mathius in 1749 (Stokes 1906:106). The farm "on the upper west side of the island, extended from near Sixth Avenue to the Hudson River. It was acquired by a Dutch grant in 1642, confirmed by the English in 1667. Upon the death of John Hopper, in 1779, the farm was divided by his will among his children, for each of whom he had erected a house" (Mott 1898:5). In 1796 one of his children, John Hopper the younger, built a house on the river's edge for his granddaughter.

This granddaughter, Lavinia Hopper, was related on one side of her family to the Striker family, who were descended from Jacobus Gerritsen Van Strycker who was granted property in New Amsterdam in 1651. (He also painted "what is now the standard history-book portrait of Peter Stuyvesant" (Salwen,1989:198).) The family

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flourished both on Long Island and Manhattan and produced prominent personages such as Major-General Garret Hopper Striker, a captain in the Fifth New York Regiment in the War of 1812. Lavinia Hopper Striker married Jordan Mott in 1801. Jordan Mott was the great-great grandson of Adam Mott of Essex, England who was an important citizen in the New York area after his immigration about 1655. Among his descendants was Anne Mott "who ministered to the American prisoners confined in the military prisons in New York. The family is still in possession of the table cloth given to her in gratitude by those she cared for. She died July 16, 1840, at the age of ninety-two, and was buried from the Mott homestead in Bloomingdale" (Mott 1898:4).

Lavinia Hopper Striker was known as Winifred Mott after her marriage. It was her grandson, Hopper Striker Mott, the last resident of the home on West 54th Street, who compiled the family chronicle. He noted that "other marriages have been made with old Knickerbocker stock by members of this family: so that, besides direct descent from their Quaker forbears, the Motts on the present generation are allied to the Hoppers, Strikers, Schuylers, Van Rensselaers, Dykmans and Milderbergers" (Mott 1898: 5). For example, the internationally famous surgeon, Dr. Valentine Mott, was a contemporary of Hopper Striker Mott. Other cousins included "James and Lucretia Mott, the great Philadelphia abolitionists" (Salwen 1989:43).

Besides their civic and professional accomplishments, the family branches maintained a number of properties, both in the original Hopper farm and elsewhere, such as the Striker mansion on the east side of Manhattan and Mott Haven in the Bronx where Jordan L. Mott "inventor of the coal-burning stove...established the Mott Iron Works" (WPA 1939:518). The Hopper family burial ground was at 50th Street and 9th Avenue, where a small part remained as late as 1883. On West 53rd Street, where the DeWitt Clinton Park now exists, another Striker mansion, named Rosevale, stood between 1764 and 1902 (Stokes Vol. 3, 1918:952). A description of Rosevale states that it was approached by Hoppers Lane and that entrance to the grounds was obtained through two stone posts, which led to the family barns and stables (Mott 1908:392). The estate contained forest gardens on the east, and on the west massive trees grew at the waters edge along the Hudson River (Ibid.).

A block north of Rosevale stood the Mott mansion. Originally it was the family country seat and the site of fishing, bathing, and boating houses (Mott 1908:104). In 1829, Jordan Mott "retired from business and removed permanently to Bloomingdale, where he became largely interested in the charities and the upbuilding of the locality" (Ibid:349).

Photographs, maps, and verbal descriptions of the property are available in books, newspaper articles, and museum and library collections. The house was built on "a rocky promontory jutting into the river, the walls being so near as to be literally washed by its waters" (Mott 1898:9). The Randel Farm Map of 1820 illustrates its position as does a Dripps map of 1851 (Figures 1 and 2). Mr. Mott recalled that the house was so near the river "that fishing could be enjoyed while standing on the piazza" (Ibid:8). Figure 3 is a view from the piazza (no date). The "rocky

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"promontory" is as evident in a photograph (Figure 4) as it is on maps. The bedrock outcrops sloping to the west toward the river are clearly shown. As reported in an undated news article, "the west wall of the cellar was hewn from solid rock and formed the foundation for that part of the house above" (Clippings File, Museum of the City of New York, c.1900).

The house itself was originally on two floors and was later enlarged to three. In fact, "three times were additions made to the house to accommodate the wants of such sons as brought home brides" (Mott 1898:9). A photograph and a painting (Figures 4 and 5) reveal the house to be three stories with the piazza around the first. Part of the ground floor seems to be open, probably to accommodate the carriage or carriages. Three chimneys can be seen. According to an 1859 Perris Atlas, the house was made of wood. Hopper Striker Mott recalled "the low ceilings, the beam which ran across the drawing rooms low enough to be touched by the outstretched hand, the wide surrounding piazzas...[Among the contents of the house were] "numerous family portraits, pictures of the homesteads, the clock presented by Robert Fulton and the ancient deed to the property" (Mott 1898:9). We do not know how many rooms the home contained, but it must have been spacious since for a few years at mid century there were at least seven adults living there, according to city directories from the period.

Nor do we know exactly what the property contained in the way of outbuildings though there is some information. An outbuilding is just visible through the trees in Figure 6, a photograph from an unknown date. There were piers and, certainly for part of the period of occupancy, a boat house on the riverfront. A large wooden outbuilding is shown on various maps, but it appears to be outside the project area to the north. The Motts had tenants on the property and early on kept Negro slaves. There were cottages to house these families, but their whereabouts are unknown. Perhaps the most interesting outbuilding - and one whose location can be determined - is the small structure to the southwest of the main house. It is shown on two maps (Figures 7 and 8) and in a photograph (Figure 4) and in a painting (Figure 5-barely visible on the left) and today appears to be near the intersection of West 54th Street and 12th Avenue. It is octagonal in shape with a stone lower story and a wooden upper floor. There are windows in the upper portion with a door in the lower portion visible in one photograph. Its function is unknown, but one can speculate that it served as a spring house, ice house, or may even have had a use connected with the extensive landscaping of the estate that Winifred Mott and one of her seven sons, Samuel Coles, designed and supervised.

Hopper Striker Mott obviously remembered his grandmother's and uncle's achievements with pleasure, for he described the grounds thus:

Samuel Coles interest was much centered on horticulture and sylviculture...he found time to assist his mother in planting the broad acres around their home and in interesting his neighbors in his hobby. The few remaining trees yet standing on the Hopper farm are examples of the many placed along the sidewalks and in the grounds of cottages by his exertions. In laying out the grounds surrounding the homestead, Mrs. Mott was greatly assisted by the

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thick growth of forest trees which towered above the landscape in all their natural beauty. Lilacs formed a hedge on the water front along the retaining wall, and steps led down to the rocky shore and the bathing house. Advantage was taken of the supply of remarkable plants, shrubs, and trees which Lewis Morris, Minister to France, had imported from Holland, France, and Germany circa 1792, and distributed between Montressor's (Ward's) and Randall's Islands and Morrisania. From the former island Mrs. Mott selected the vegetation which in later years so charmingly embellished her home. The garden was further adorned with the magnolia and the fig and among other trees should be mentioned the persimmon, Madeiranut, and splendid specimens of the Canton mulberry, the latter relics of Samuel's experiments in silk culture. (Mott 1908:349-350)

Like its neighbor, Rosevale, the Mott House was approached by its own road, "a shaded and graveled way," called Motts Lane (Ibid:350). The roads leading to Rosevale and the Mott House are shown on various maps such as those reproduced in Figures 10 and 11 (what is labeled "Hopper's Lane" leading to the foot of West 54th Street was also known as "Mott's Lane"). The termination of Mott's Lane at the house is also shown in a photograph from the period (Figure 6).

The Mott estate was an especially attractive example of the kind of bucolic haven which once dotted Manhattan Island above the teeming port city at its southern tip. The northward expansion was relentless as the city grew, prospered, and became home to many thousands of immigrants. Manufacturing joined with the already established shipping and financial services to create both jobs and the demand for space and transportation lines. Change in the area surrounding the Mott House was inevitable and inexorable. It was to become West 54th Street instead of Bloomingdale. An examination of atlases from the period attests to the change occurring. In 1859, subdivision of the blocks and commercial development was spotty and West 54th Street was a "paper" street only (Figure 9). By 1889 the situation was drastically changed with Motts Lane gone, subdivision of lots complete, and commercial development encroaching on the homestead (Figure 12). Hopper Striker Mott, the last occupant of the house, reported that the family lived there "till 1884 when the character of the neighborhood suggested the desirability of a change. Fifty fourth Street was opened, and the mansion demolished in 1895" (Mott 1989:9).

Research for this project has revealed that there are extant examples of late 18th to early 19th century country houses in Manhattan. One is Hamilton Grange, for a short time the home of Alexander Hamilton, built in 1802, but re-located in northern Manhattan on Convent Avenue. Since that is not its original location, archaeological resources on this site are not a factor. The Morris Jumel Mansion, at West 160th Street, was built in 1765 and then remodeled and occupied by the Jumel family in 1810. Archeological work was conducted there, but a report was not written. On the east side of Manhattan, Gracie Mansion, built in 1799 and now the home of the mayor of New York City, was the site of an archeological project several years ago, but to date, the report has not been finalized (Sherene Baugher,

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New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, personal communication, 11/90).

The Mott home represents a rare example in New York City of a home that was continuously occupied for almost a century by members of the same family. This family's forebears -both Dutch and English - were illustrious citizens in the fledgling community of New Amsterdam/New York, and the descendants were prominent in their own rights. Extensive and unusual landscaping covered the grounds of the estate which occupied a commanding position on a promontory overlooking the Hudson River in mid-Manhattan. Outbuildings and other features were also situated on the property.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL VISIBILITY

If intact remains of the Mott estate exist, they afford an opportunity for important archeological research. Remains of the main house and outbuildings could furnish information about site layout and function, as well as building materials employed. Associated features such as privies, cisterns, and trash pits, which may contain artifacts associated with the Mott family, are another category of resource which might exist. Features of the grounds, such as Motts Lane and indications of landscaping, are yet another category of possible resources.

House sites often have readily visible remains such as building foundations and deep shaft features like privies. Perhaps more difficult to identify, but nevertheless often visible, are indications of paths and landscaping. If a homesite retains its integrity - that is, if it has not been seriously disturbed since its use during the period to be studied - cultural material should be readily visible and of a nature to address archeological research topics about past lifeways such as consumer preferences or landscaping practices.

There is excellent potential for doing comparative research based on material gathered at the Mott house. In addition to the two in situ extant country houses listed above, there are archeological sites further south in Manhattan which could furnish a different context for research which would be based more on contrast than comparison. For example, the Greenwich Mews site investigated tenanted houses occupied by middle or working class residents. The report by Joan Geismar has been completed and is on file at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Nearing completion is a report on the Sullivan Street site which included tenements from the fourth quarter of the 19th century as well as upper middle class single family dwellings from the second and third quarters of the 19th century. A row house on Barrow Street built c.1820 as a single family home was converted to multiple occupancy in the 1860s. A project is slated to begin soon at the Seabury Tredwell residence, a town house on East 4th Street which was built in 1832 and occupied by the same family for many decades (Diana Wall, personal communication, December, 1990).

Aside from comparison of data from the Mott house artifact assemblages and features to other sites with both different and similar occupancy patterns, a study

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of the residents of the Mott house would be valuable in its own right. Such an early and long-term occupancy by a well known and documented family is a rare and valuable resource in New York City. A number of research topics could be addressed. For example, what were the consumer choices of an upper middle class family living outside the downtown hub of a large city? What was the function of the tenants on the estate? In fact, did they really live there or did they commute to tend the house and work the gardens? Did the Mott family keep a number of carriages and horses for travel to the city or did they keep close to the homestead and the Bloomingdale neighborhood? In other words, how did the evolution of the area from rural to suburban to urban affect these people? How was waste management and water supply accomplished, especially in light of the fact that the property was located on such a rocky site and municipal services were not available for the period of the estate's occupancy? What was the purpose of the octagonal building near the main house? Was its use recreational, functional, or both?

If comparative studies are to be undertaken relating to the landscaping of the Mott estate, other sites would have to be considered including the Van Cortland Mansion, a country estate in the nearby southern Bronx which was built in 1748, as well as sites outside the New York City area. Landscaping studies have become important in archeology in recent years with notable projects at Monticello and at the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg (Kelso and Most 1990). For example, in the absence of original designs, these studies can be used to determine what kind of landscaping practices were employed. As noted above, extensive gardening was undertaken on the Mott property. In a photograph (Figure 6) one can see evidence of this in the arrangement of trees and shrubbery.

### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

This category of archeological resource - the Mott House, an 18th century residence - satisfies four criteria for National Register eligibility. a) The Mott House could be associated with broad patterns of history in documenting, through material culture remains which reveal data unavailable in the written record, the lifeways of a family who occupied one homestead for virtually the whole of the nineteenth century during the evolution of New York City into an urban metropolis. b) This family, whose Dutch and English forebears were prominent citizens of the infant city of New York, were distinguished and well-known members of their community. c) The family estate on the Hudson River was representative of a type almost extinct in Manhattan. An understanding of distinctive construction methods for the home and associated outbuildings, as well as its elaborate and possibly unique landscaping, could make a significant contribution to archeological/historical interpretation. d) And finally, data obtained from the research of this site could provide the basis for important studies comparing and contrasting it with other recorded sites from similar geographical settings and time periods.

### INTEGRITY

Extensive and intensive research was undertaken in order to assess the degree of integrity of potential archeological resources from the Mott estate. That is, how

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much, if any, of the original site might still be intact. The site of the Mott estate has undergone severe disturbance since c.1894 when the house was demolished to make way for the extension of West 54th Street to 12th Avenue. Efforts were made to find out exactly how much land manipulation the placement of the street entailed, but available information stopped just short of specific engineering details. Repositories of information investigated included the New York City Department of Transportation (archives and an interview with Joseph De Plasco, Deputy Director, Office of Public Information), New York City Municipal Archives (file research and interview with Director Kenneth Cobb), New York City Public Library (Map Division, Science and Technology Division, Local History Division), New York City Topographic Bureau, the New York Historical Society, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

In the Farm Histories (Vol.1, Map 1) located at the Municipal Archives, the following entry appears: "Fifty-fourth Street was opened sixty feet wide from Tenth Avenue to the East River under proceedings confirmed August 8, 1838 and was extended from Tenth Avenue to the Hudson River November 10, 1894." The Mott House stood directly in the path of 54th Street. In the DOT archives, index cards with the following notations were found, but the corresponding maps could not be located:

"Probably 1833" - Hudson to East River and 54th to 64th: Profile and grades

1832,1851,1852 - 6th Avenue to Hudson River: profile and grades  
1860 - 54th Street, 10th to 11th: regulating and grading  
1888 - 54th Street, 10th to the Hudson: plan and grading  
1894 - 54th Street, 10th to the Hudson: \* regulating and grading  
1895 - 54th Street, 10th to the Hudson: \* change of grade  
1897 - 54th Street, 11th to 12th: \* paving with granite  
1906 - 54th Street, 10th to 11th: paving with asphalt  
1935 - 54th Street, 10th to 12th: \* regulating, widening, and repaving with sheet asphalt and granite block  
(No entries from later periods were found in the archives.)

The starred entries are those which would have had the most subsurface impact. Presumably a "plan" was just that and represented proposed action. For example, a copy of the 1852 map was found in the Topographic Bureau (Figure 13). The title of the map is "Plan of Profile and Grades (Old, New, and Proposed) accompanying a Report of the Committee of Roads of the Board of Assistant Alderman, in the Area generally bounded by 8th Avenue to the Hudson River and from West 36th Street to West 54th Street. James E. Serrell, City Surveyer [sic].". There was no scale on the map, but if the distance between 11th and 12th Avenues is 800 feet which is the length of a crosstown city block, then the depth of material taken off the 54th Street roadbed to achieve the grade as shown would range from about 20 feet to about 120 feet. Whether or not that is an accurate interpretation of the drawing and whether or not it was ever implemented is unknown.

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Unfortunately the time of West 54th Street's construction - the mid 1890s - falls in a time period just before more thorough record keeping began. For example, the Standards and Appeals Board was set up in 1916, the Engineering Record Index was established in 1897, and the first Opening of Highways Annual Reports issued about 1898.

What is clearly documented is that there was a considerable amount of road building activity on West 54th Street in the 1890s. Common Council ordinances corroborate this fact (there were no references to the project block for 1895, 1898, 1899, and 1900):

Common Council of the City of New York  
1894      Ordinances, Resolutions, Etc. Passed by the Common Council of the City of New York and Approved by the Mayor. Vol. LXII. Martin B. Brown, New York.

Resolved, That Fifty-fourth street, from Tenth avenue to the Hudson river be regulated and graded, the curbstones set and sidewalks flagged a space four feet wide through the centre thereof, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works; and that the accompanying ordinance therefore be adopted.

Adopted by the Board of Aldermen, Dec.4,1894  
Approved by the Mayor, Dec.6,1894 (p.200)

Common Council of the City of New York  
1896      Ordinances... Vol.LXIII...

Resolved, That water-mains be laid in Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth and Fifty-sixth streets, between Eleventh and Twelfth avenues, and in Twelfth avenue between Fifty-fourth and Fifty-sixth street, as provided by section 356 of the New York City Consolidation Act of 1882.

Adopted by the Board of Aldermen, Jan.28.1896  
Approved by the Mayor, Feb.1,1896 (p.21)

Common Council of the City of New York  
1897      Ordinances... Vol.LXV...

Resolved, That the roadway of Fifty-fourth street, from Eleventh to Twelfth avenue, be paved with granite-block pavement on concrete foundation, and that crosswalks be laid at the intersecting street and avenues where necessary, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works; and the accompanying ordinance be adopted.

Be it ordained by the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonality of the City of New York, in Common Council convened, That the roadway of Fifty-fourth street, from Eleventh avenue to Twelfth avenue, be paved with granite-block pavement on concrete foundation, and that crosswalks be laid at intersecting streets and avenues where necessary under such

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directions as shall be given by the Commissioner of Public Works, who may appoint an Inspector thereon, and one of the City Surveyors.

And Whereas, The said Mayor, Aldermen and Commonality deem it necessary, for the more speedy execution of the said ordinance, to cause the work necessary for the purpose above specified to be executed and done at their own expense on account of the persons respectively upon whom the same might be assessed;

Therefore, be it further Ordained, That the Board of Assessors be and they are hereby directed to make a just and equitable assessment of the expense of conforming to the provisions of this ordinance among the owners or occupants of all the houses and lots intended to be benefited thereby, in proportion, as nearly as may be, to the advantage which each may deemed to acquire.

Adopted by the Board of Aldermen, Sept.14,1897

Approved by the Mayor Sept.23,1897 (pp.550-551)

In addition to the grading and filling disturbance of road building itself, there was also subsurface impact from utility placement. The first cartographic indication of this is on the 1902 Bromley Atlas where a 6 inch water main running west as far as the old shoreline is shown; there is no sewer. On the 1913 Hyde Atlas, both water and sewer lines are shown. There were probably more than one generation of utility lines. For instance, Vollmer's compiled map notes an abandoned brick sewer - 3'6" x 2'4" - running down the middle of West 54th Street.

The most dramatic episode of disturbance occurred when the Miller Highway was constructed in the 1930s. In contrast to the practice of landfill - that is, making land - which has been the characteristic method the city has used when dealing with its shoreline, the blocks in the area of West 54th Street had land removed. New York City blocks which conform to the grid system are 800 feet in width running east-west. Upon its completion West 54th Street was that width and it intersected with 12th Avenue. Where the Mott House stood in relation to the block boundaries can be seen in Figure 14 which is a composite of two farm line maps of the same scale of 1 inch = 80 feet. The house is approximately 120 feet in from the west corner of the block. To allow for the path of the Miller Highway, approximately 250 feet of Block 1102 was taken. (Figure 15 is a sewer map, but it shows the relative size of the blocks as they exist today.) The Mott House would now be in the southbound lane of Route 9A where a small "x" has been placed. The requirements for the construction of the highway were enumerated in the Stage 1 reports for the Route 9A Realignment and clearly entailed massive disturbance. A soil boring taken approximately where the Mott House would be (see Figure 16 for boring locations) encountered the following strata: 3 inches of asphalt, 6 inches of concrete, 9 inches of fill, and then bed rock (schist) which was drilled with a roller bit for 4 feet. The nine inches of fill contain material culture remains, but from where is unknown. Even if the stratum were associated with the Mott estate, it is a narrow lens whose integrity is very suspect.

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There may well have been a reduction of the original grade during these two construction episodes. The Dripps Map of 1851 (Figure 2) shows that the house stood on the westerly downward slope of a steep and extensive hill. Photographs (Figures 3 and 4) confirm that it was on a very rocky slope above the river. If the uneven rocky surface was leveled for the roadbeds - which it most probably was - then the site would have been seriously disturbed. It is known that a substantial reduction of grade occurred on the DeWitt Clinton Park whose northern boundary is 54th Street (Figure 15). Here the topography at the western end of the park (the crest of the hill shown in 1851 - Figure 2) was lowered 12 to 15 feet to make way for the highway.

The octagonal outbuilding discussed above may have been in the path of West 54th Street like the main house, or it may have been in the block which became the DeWitt Clinton Park, according to maps. A farm map of 1857 (Figure 7) shows it in the street, while an 1892 map (Figure 8) places it slightly south in Block 1101. Likewise, the 1902 Docks and Ferries map shows a "summer house" in Lot 60 of Block 1101, just south of West 54th Street. If it were in the park block, it would have been completely destroyed by the highway construction. If it were in the 54th Street roadbed, it would be near another soil boring (#B35) (See Figure 16). The strata at that locus consisted of fill layers below the street surface down to 10 feet where bedrock was encountered. Remains of the octagonal building may be part of the fill as may other, hitherto unknown, outbuildings which may lie under the portion of West 54th Street within the Route 9A project boundary/study zone. Similarly, it is also possible that shaft features such as privies or cisterns may have been truncated rather than totally destroyed.

Aside from the house itself, the landscaped grounds once present on the Mott estate also suffered damage. There was evidently a period of decline for the grounds caused by the encroachment of urbanization visible on maps even before the road building episodes. The last resident of the house, described as "real estate man and scion of three fine old Bloomingdale families" (Salwen 1989:92), poignantly spoke of the situation in 1898:

Only the lasting memory lingers of the ideal homes which have now passed away. Yet many still survive who can remember the old-fashioned hospitality meted out at "Rosevale" and "Mott's Point." Within the past week this property has been selected by the authorities for a public park. It is a pity; yes, almost a calamity that it was not taken by the city while yet the grand trees and landscape features remained. It is thought that it should be designated "Hopper Park," because of its appropriateness and historical associations, thus continuing the name by which it has been known for over two centuries. (Mott 1898:10)

But the property was named for DeWitt Clinton, another prominent New Yorker whose enthusiasm for the building of the Erie Canal made him an appropriate honoree for a park on the banks of the Hudson River. The park, as mentioned above, which once contained landscaped acreage, was truncated by the construction of the Miller Highway in the 1930s. That project also took a portion of 54th Street

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and the block north, where the Mott gardens may have been if any part had escaped the ravages of urbanization. Therefore, it must be concluded that it would not be feasible to attempt to find remains of 19th century landscaping through subsurface archeological testing.

### C. CONCLUSIONS

This category of resource - an 18th-19th century residence occupied by one family for almost a century - is significant in New York City history and could be used for comparative archeological and historical studies in Manhattan and other locations in the northeast. Its association with the broad pattern of urban evolution and with an important local family took place in a distinctive country estate setting from which archeological data could furnish information important to history. Based on National Register criteria, the Mott House site is certainly worthy of inclusion on the register; however, the integrity of the estate is severely, perhaps completely, compromised. Nevertheless, a definite statement of 100% destruction, however probable, cannot be made concerning the outbuildings and shaft features such as privies and wells. A soil boring, #35, indicates 10 feet of fill in one area of the property. It is not possible to determine, at this time, if these deposits are associated with the residence or the family. If these archeological deposits are associated with the development of the property by the Motts, it would appear that they would be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Mott, Hopper Striker

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The Mott House

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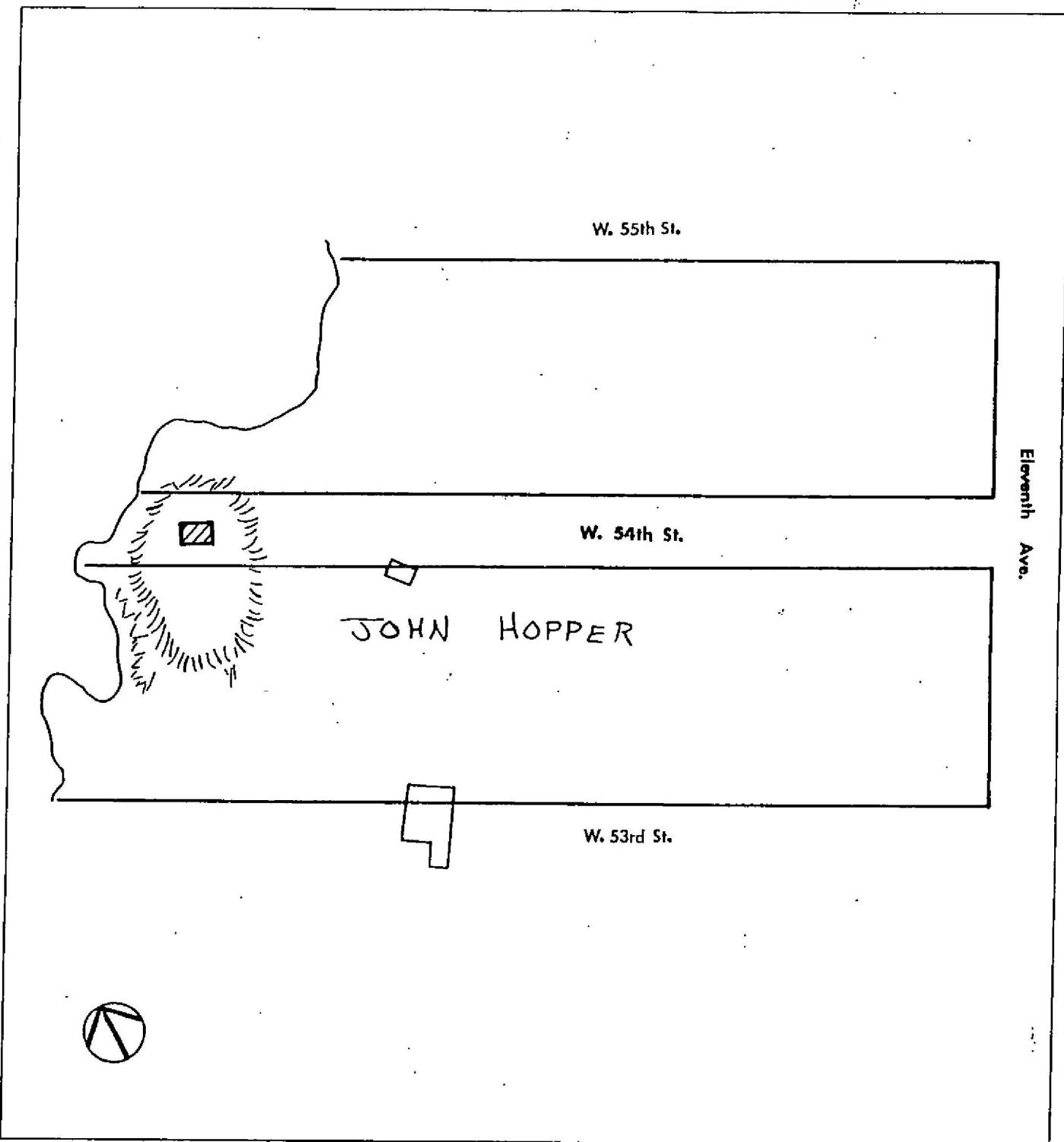
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**FIGURES**

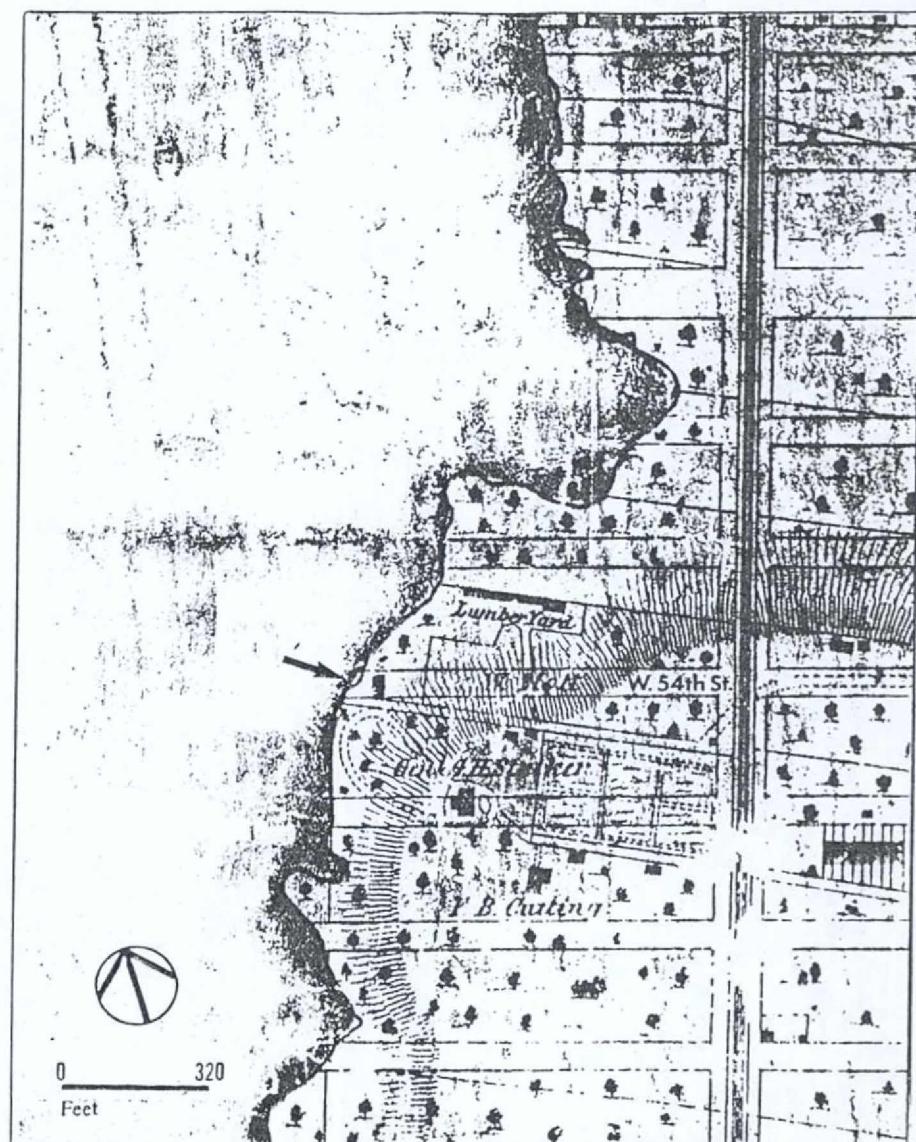


ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Legend

Mott House  
No Scale

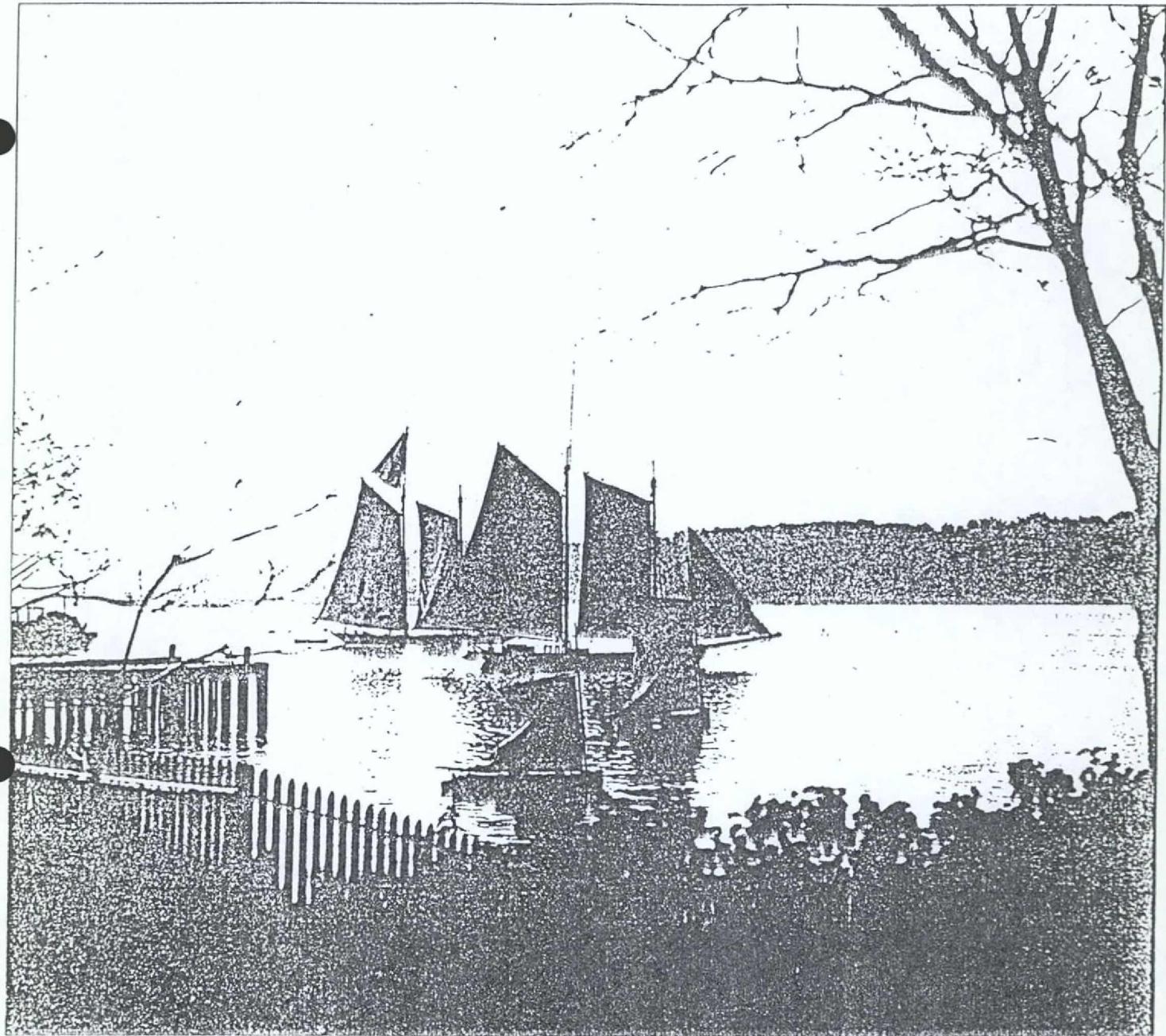
Tracing from Farm Maps, 1820, Volume 4, John Randel, Jr.



**ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

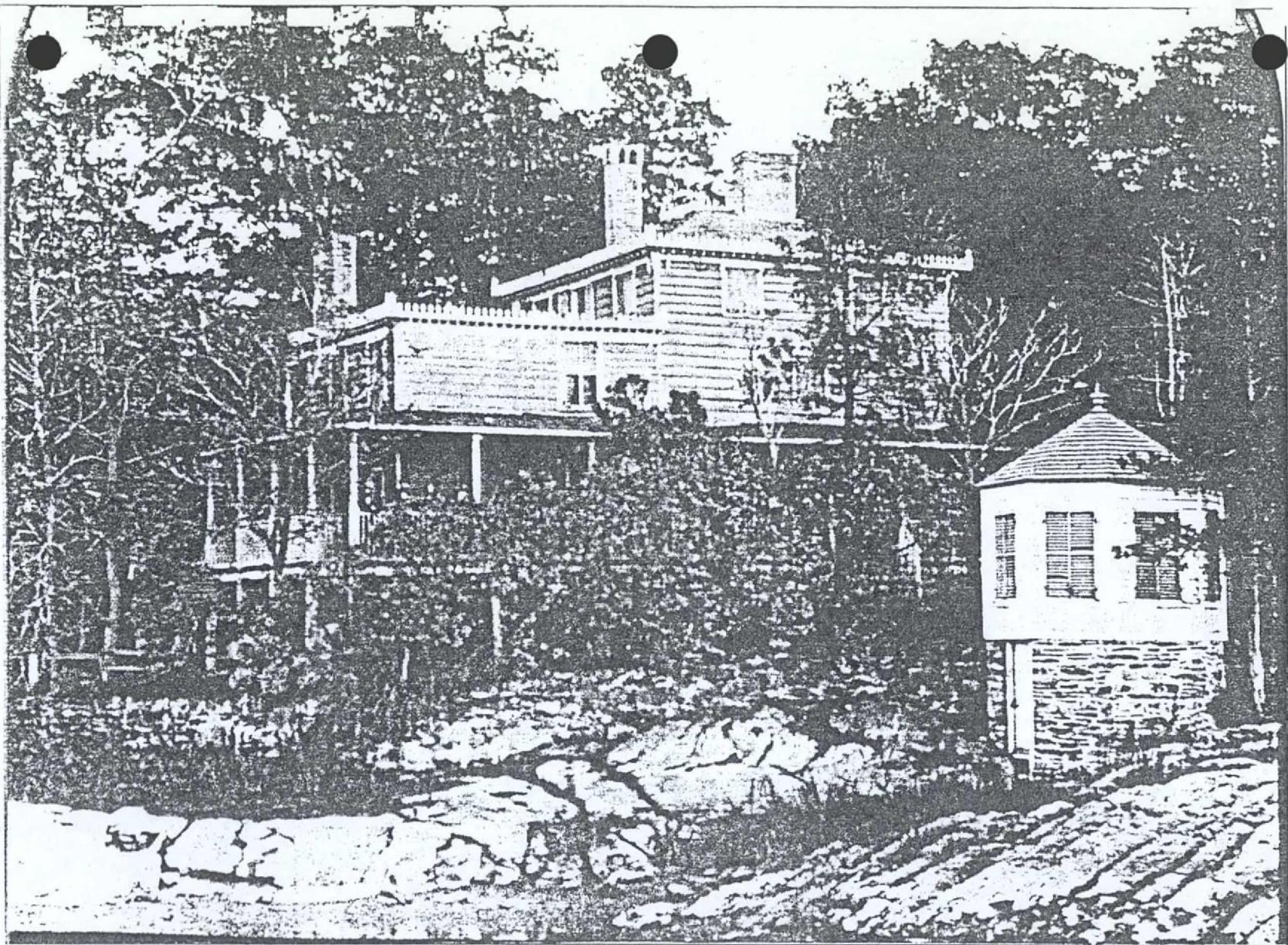
**Legend**      **1851 Dripps Atlas of the City of New York**  
→ *Mott House*

Figure 2



**ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

"View from the piazza at Mott's Point  
showing sloops on the Hudson."  
Courtesy of the New York Historical Society

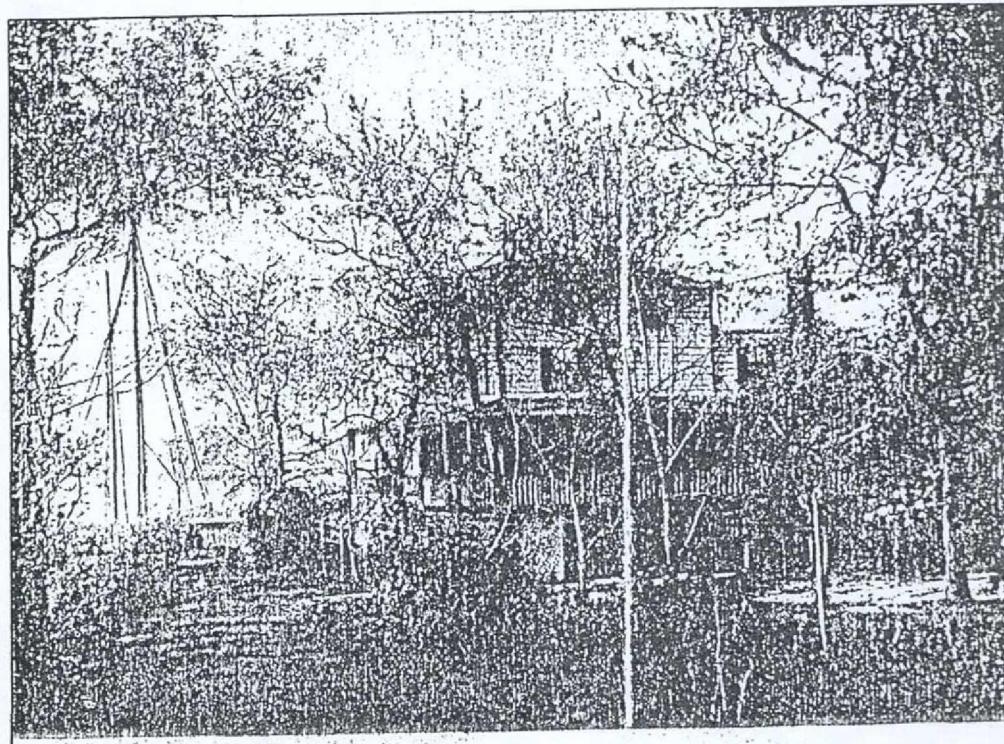


18

**ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

**The Mott Homestead**  
Courtesy of the New York Historical Society

Figure 4

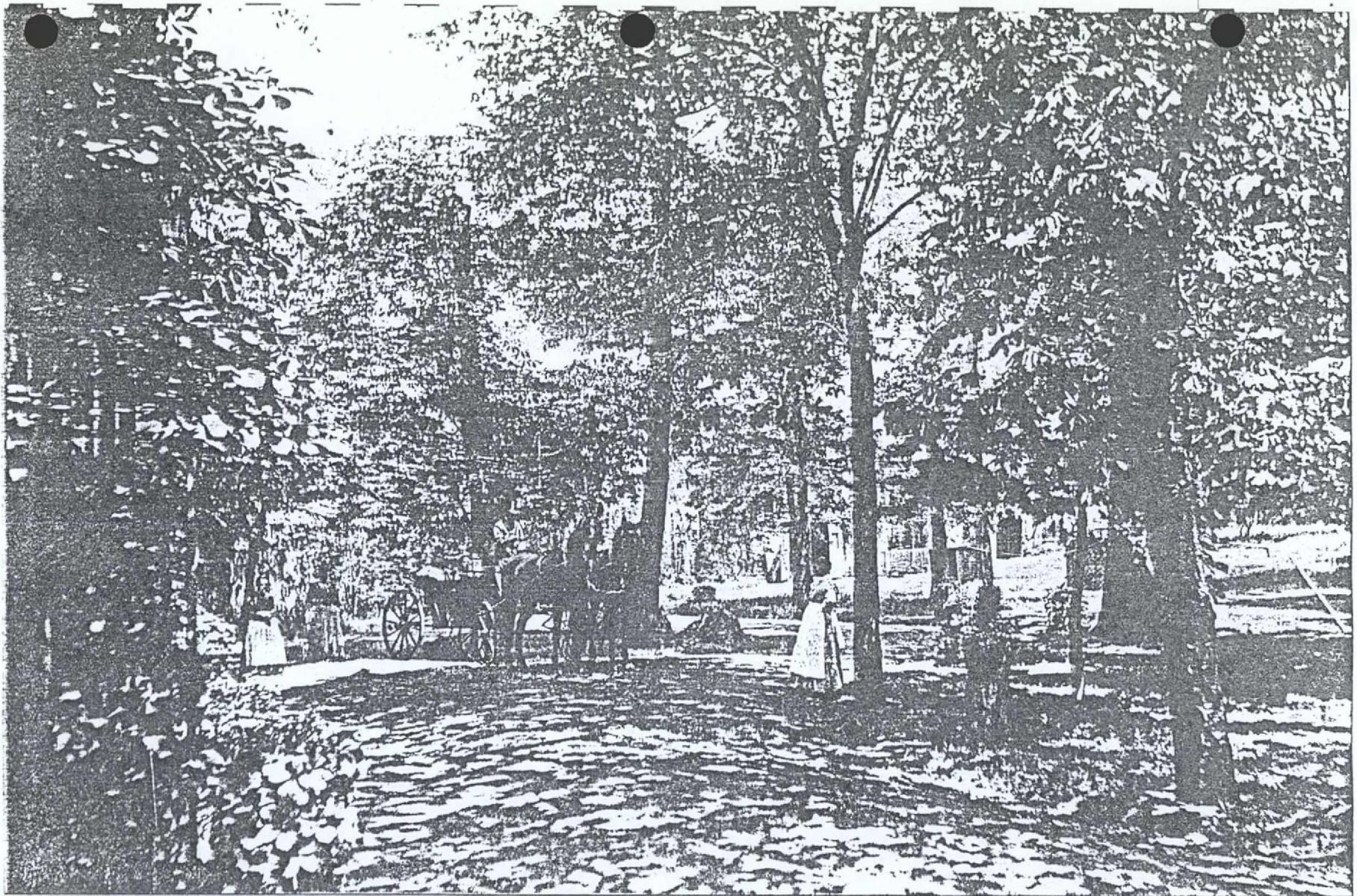


"MOTT'S POINT ON THE HUDSON," 1884  
From an oil painting by W. L. Sonntag, N.A., in possession of the author

ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Painting Reproduced in  
"The New York of Yesterday"  
by Hopper Striker Mott

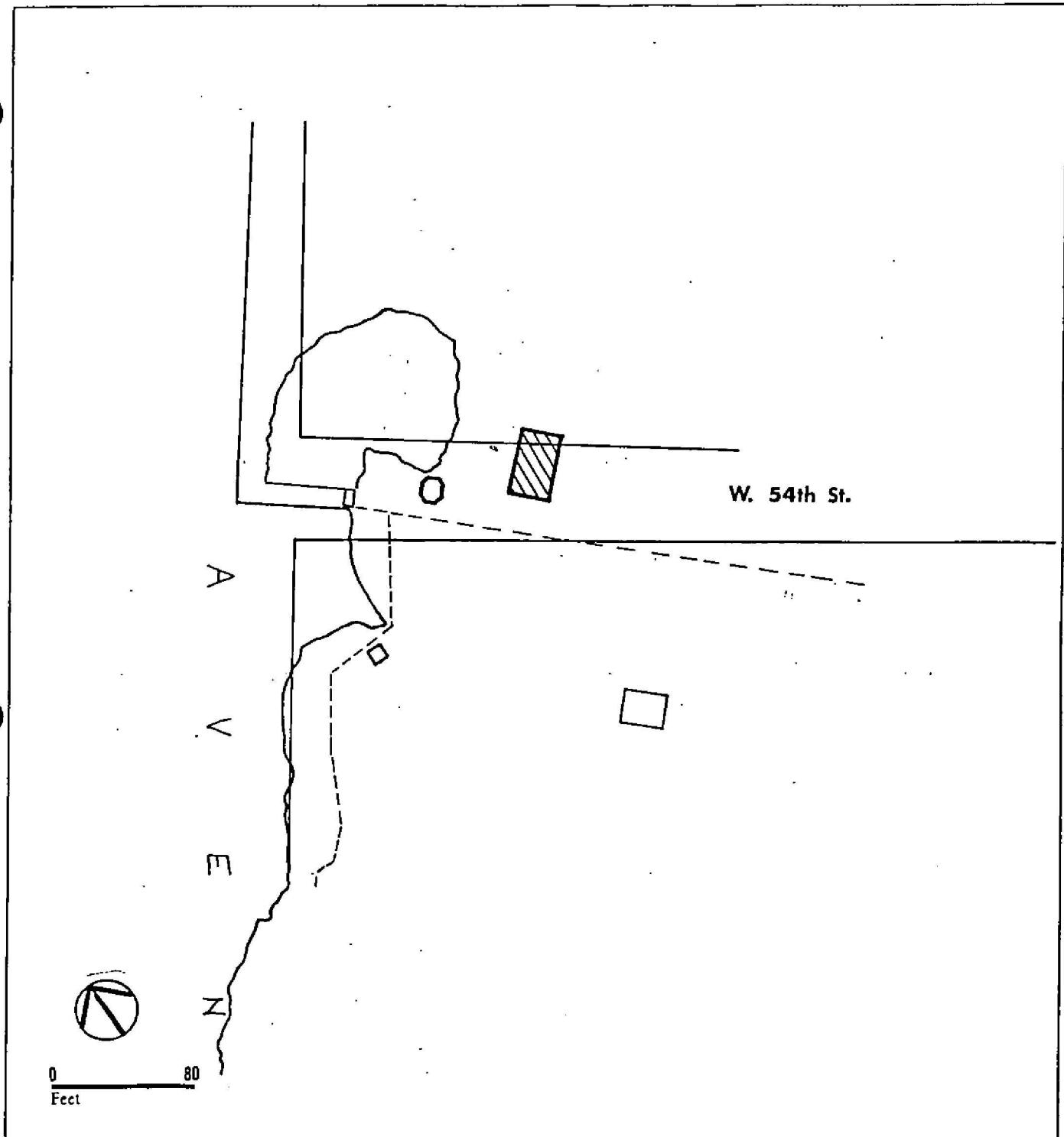
Figure 5



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ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

"Mott Homestead - A View of the Grounds"  
Courtesy of the New York Historical Society

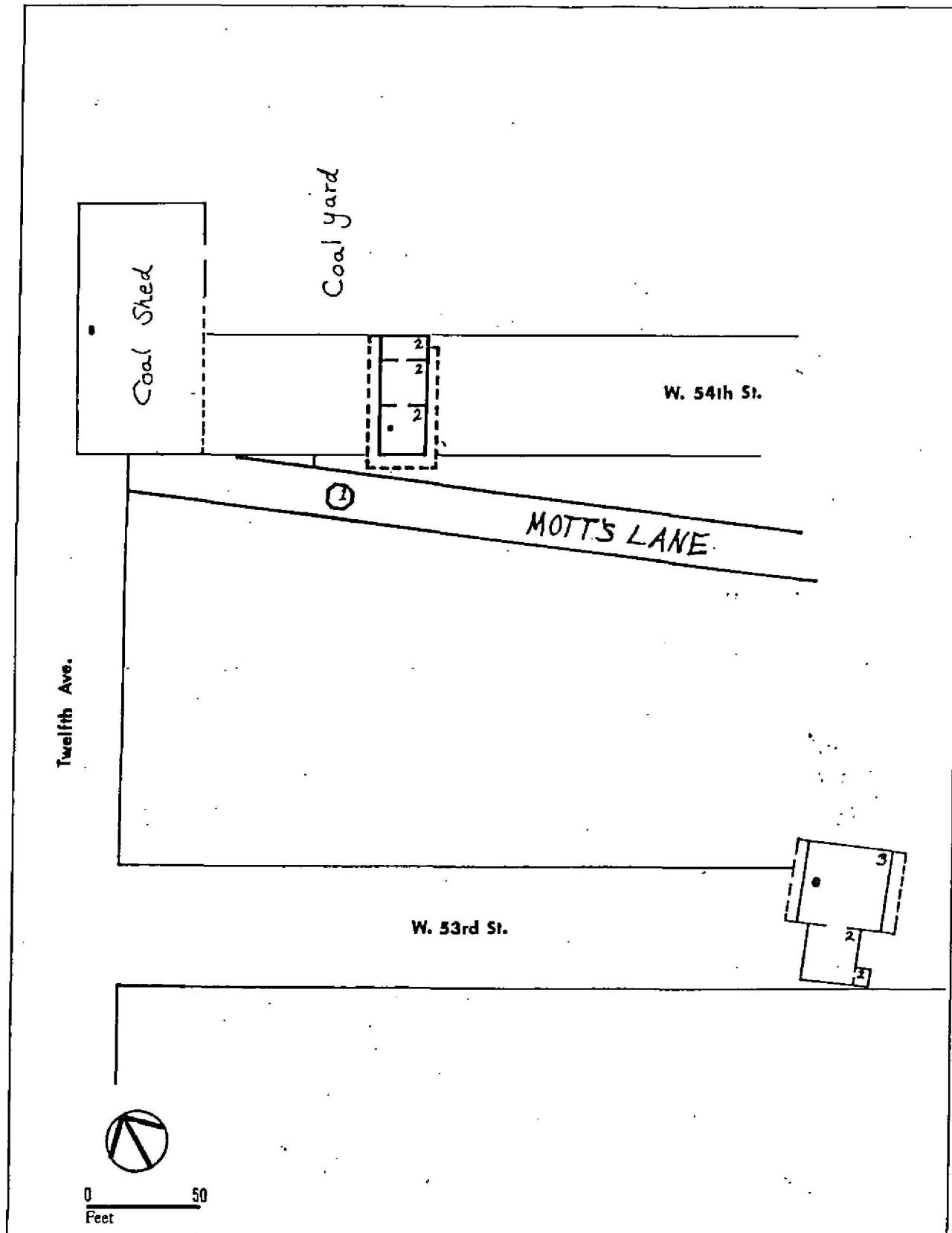


ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Legend

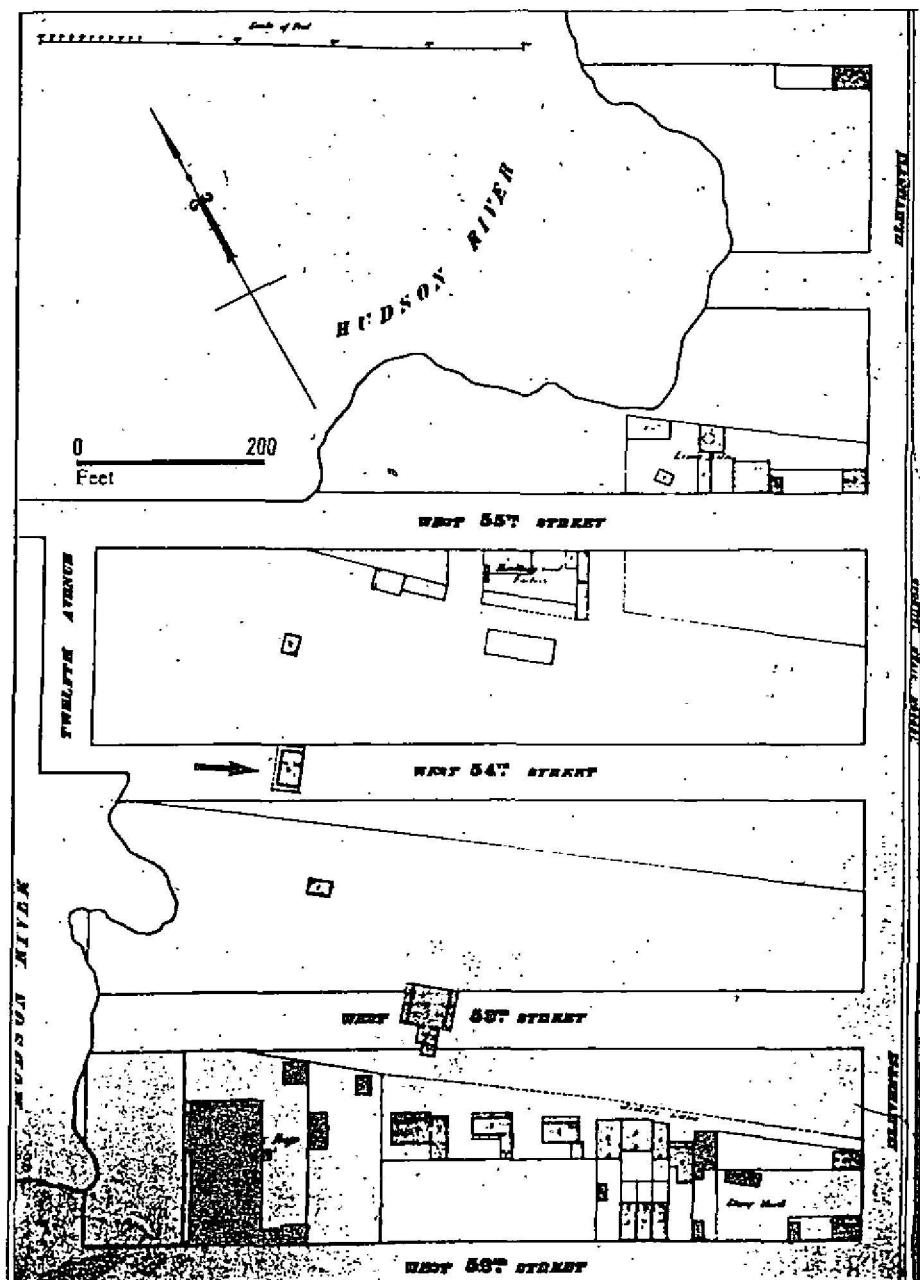
Mott House

Tracing from map titled "Copied from the Atlas of the  
Harbor Commissioners" by Kurth and Rosen,  
1857, Vol. 1, Sheet 7



ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Tracing of 1892 Sanborn Atlas of the City of New York



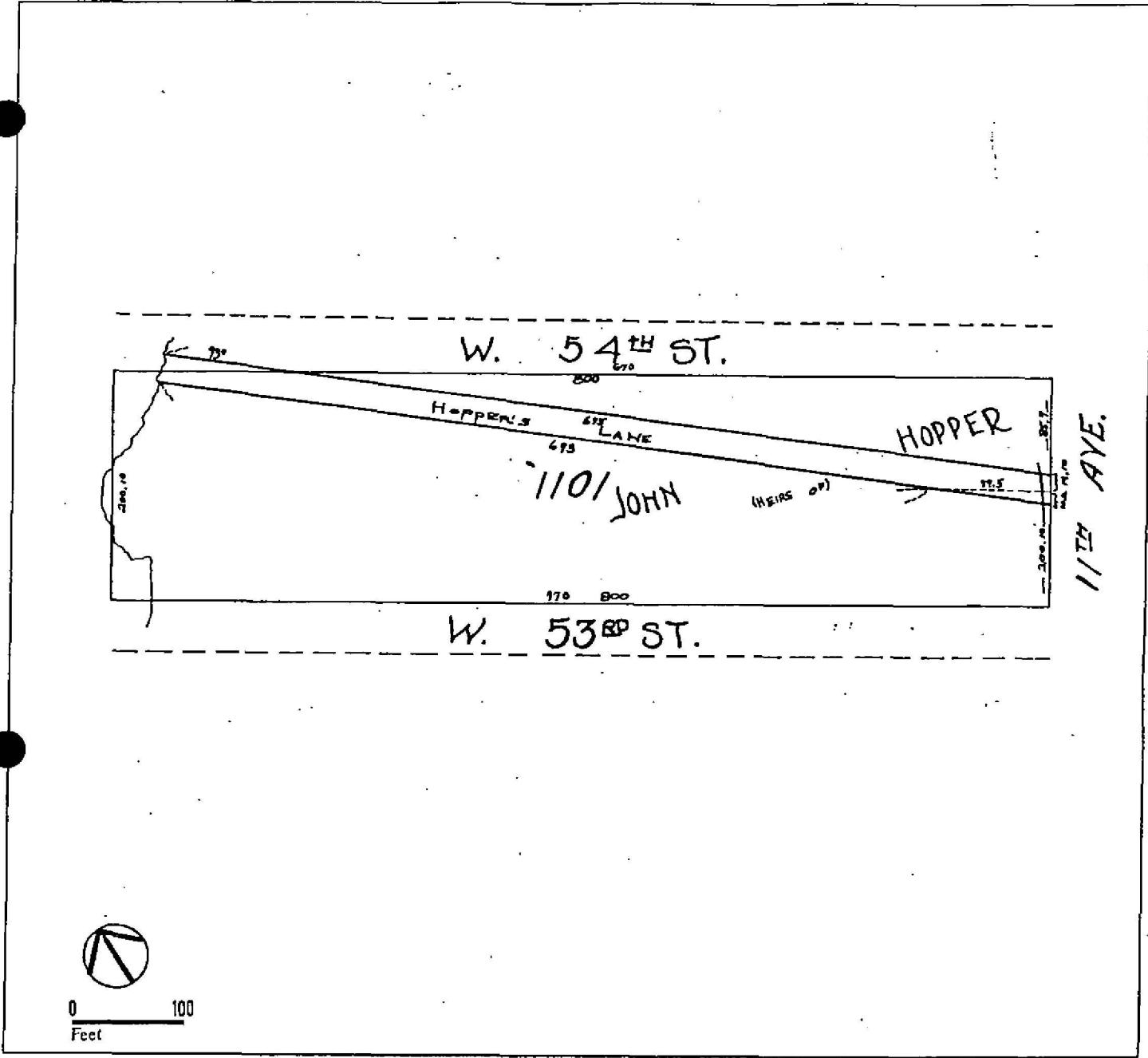
#### ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

**Legend**

**1859 Perris Atlas of the City of New York**

→ *Mott House*

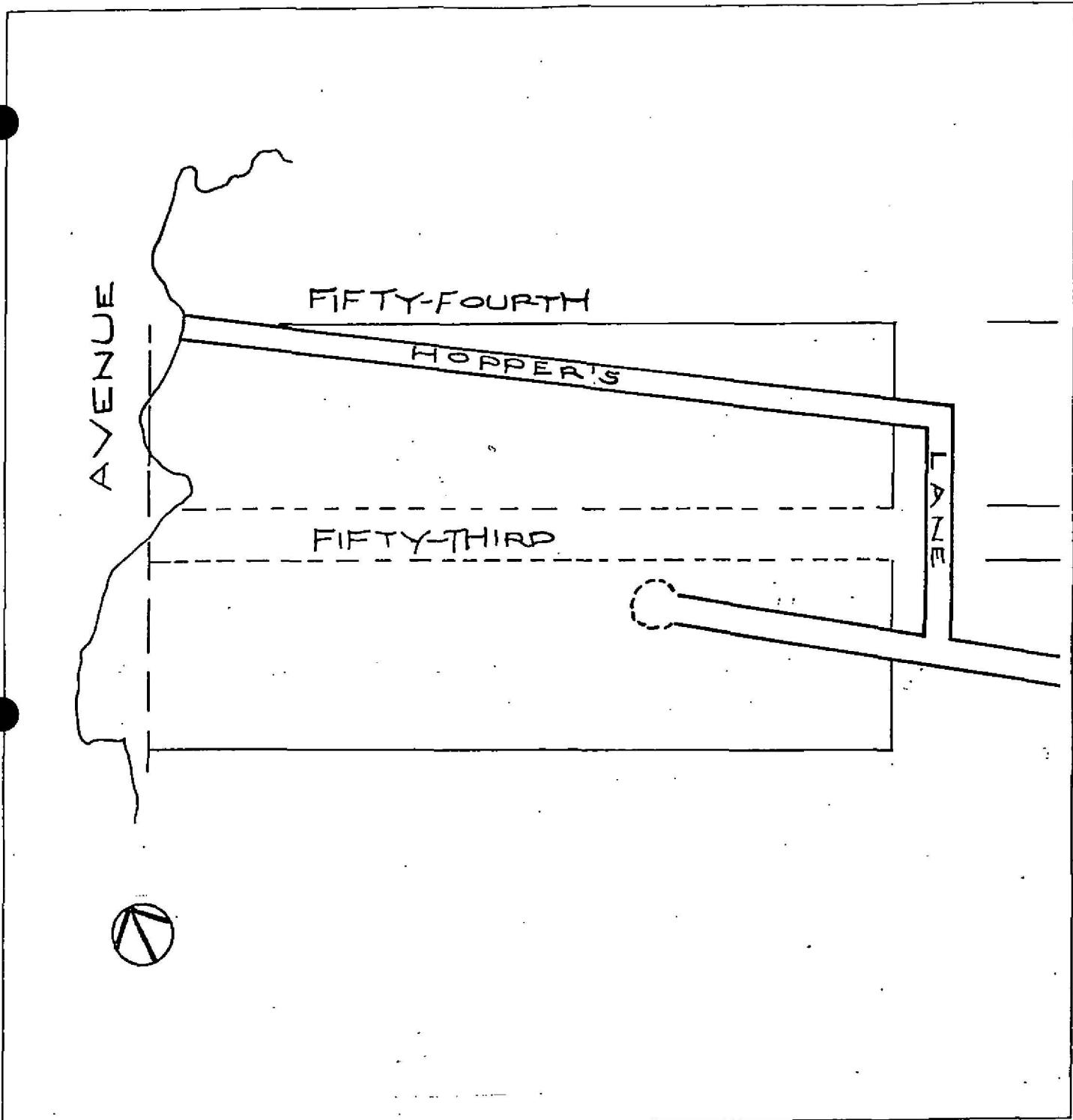
Figure 9



ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

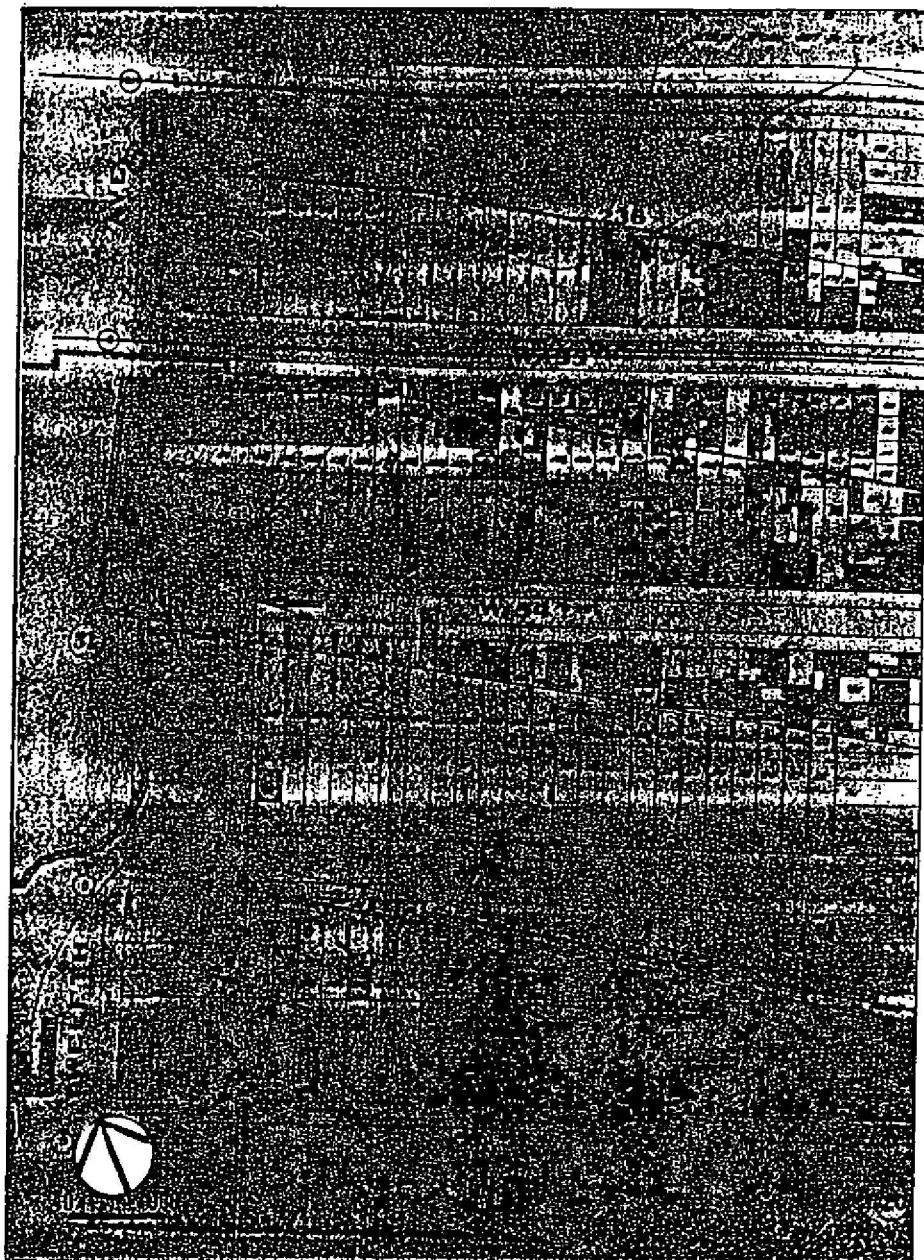
**Tracing of a Tract Report Showing the Estate of  
 John Hopper  
 Block 1101 Conveyance Records**

Figure 10



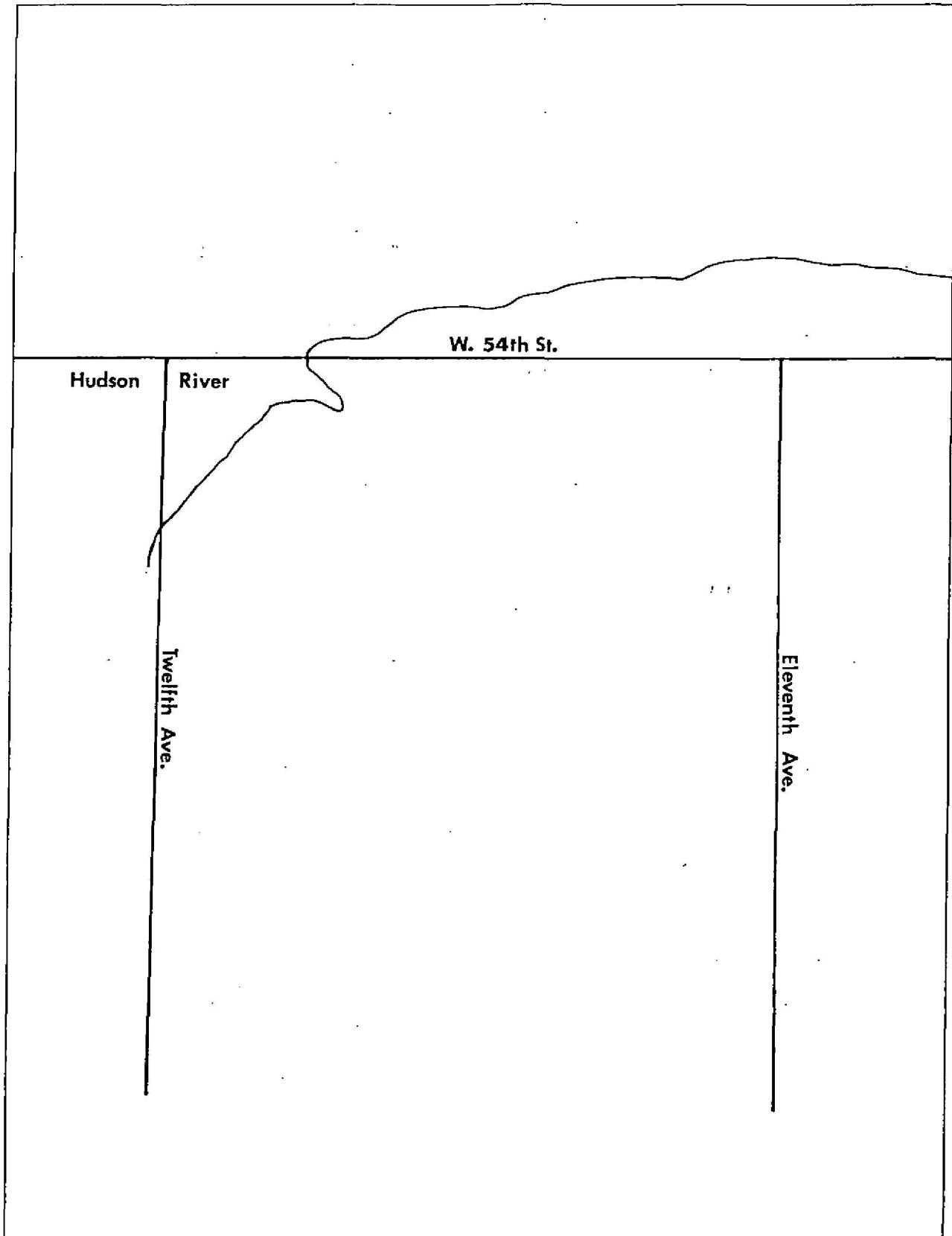
ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Tracing of Plate 17, Map of Tracts and Farms with Street  
Changes, County of New York  
No Scale



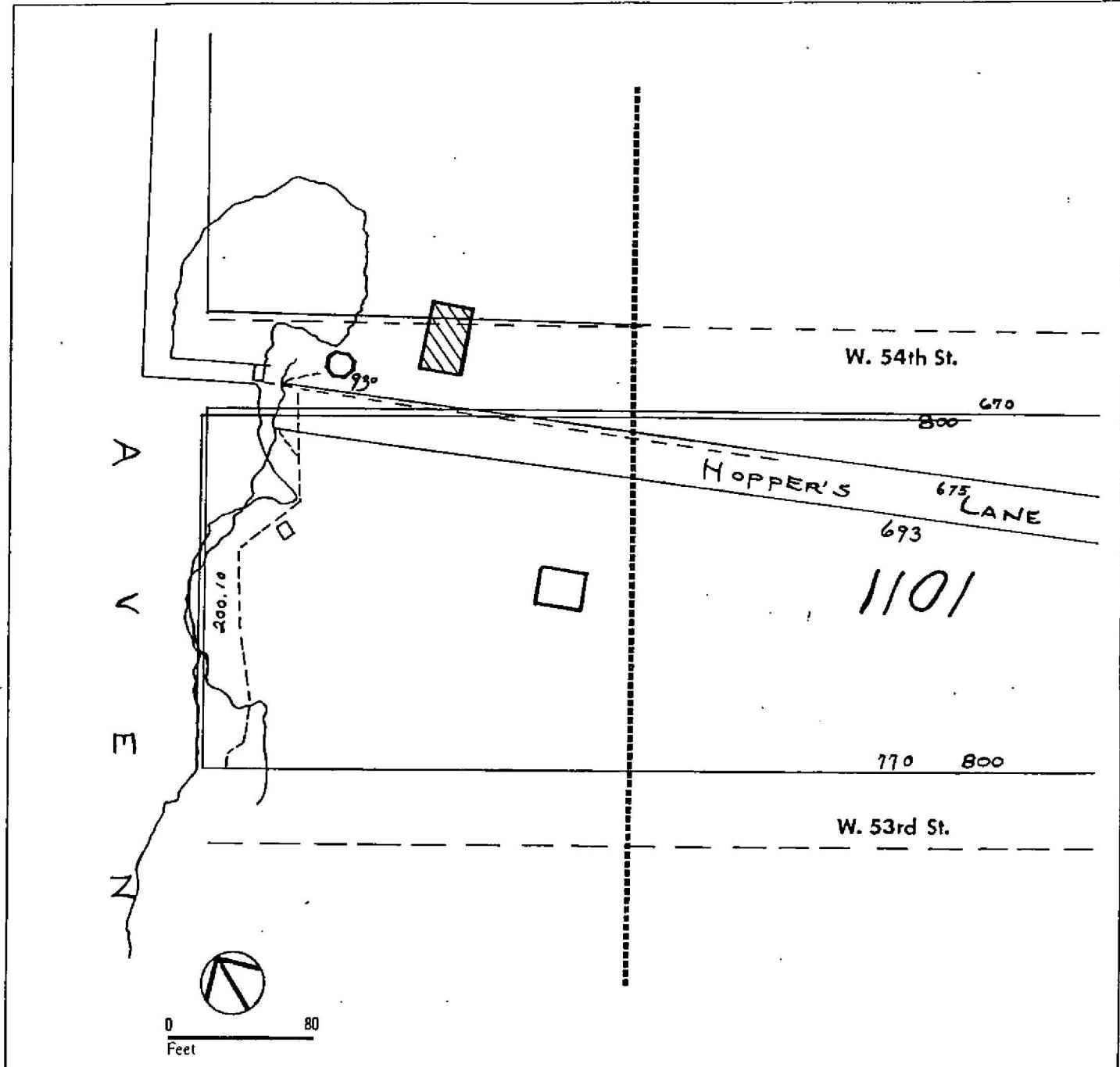
ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
Legend      1889 Robinson Atlas of the City of New York  
→ *Mott House*

Figure 12



No Scale

ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
Tracing of 1852 "Plan of Profile and Grades (Old, New, and Proposed) accompanying a Report of the Committee of Roads of the Board of Assistant Aldermen"

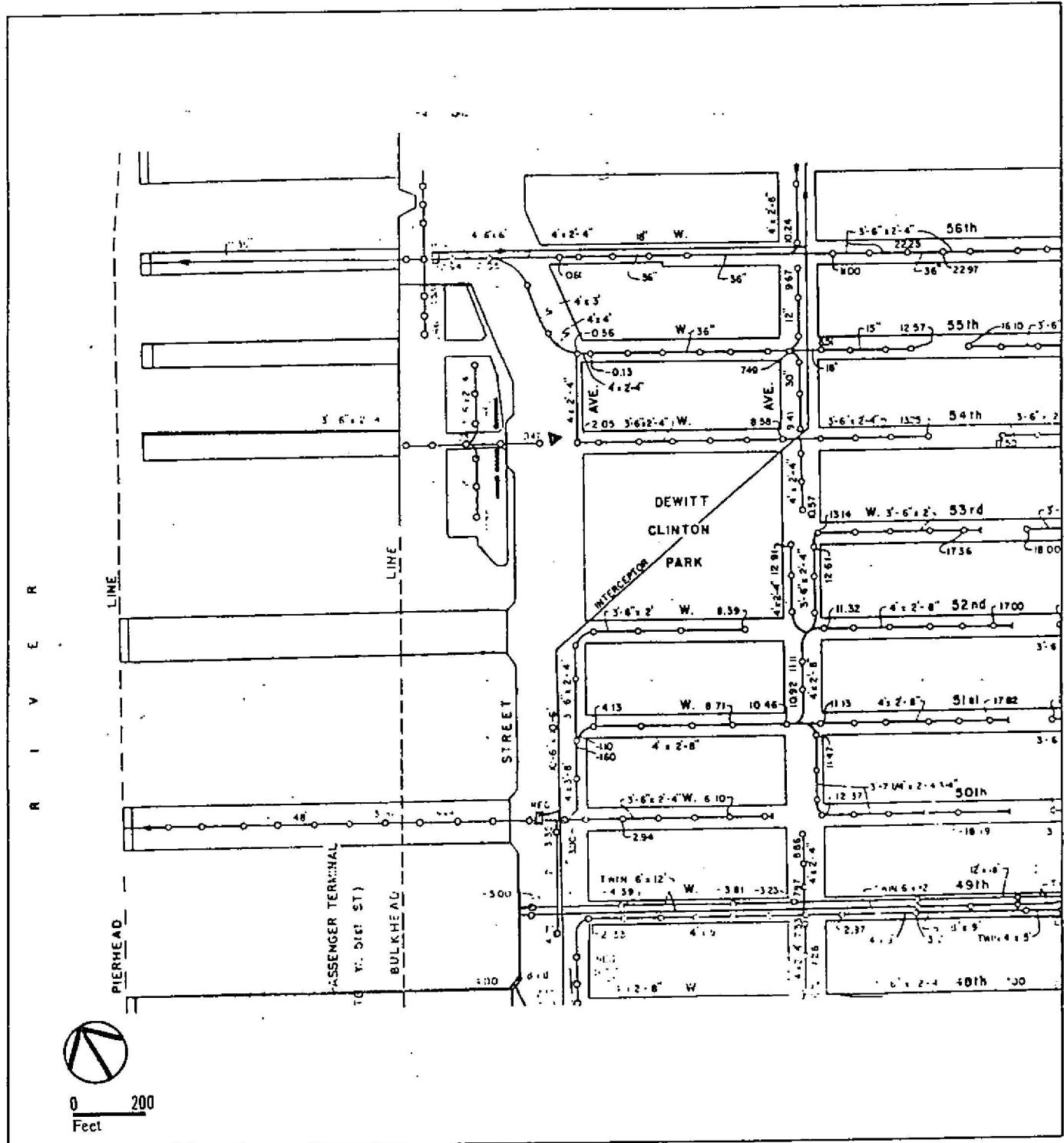


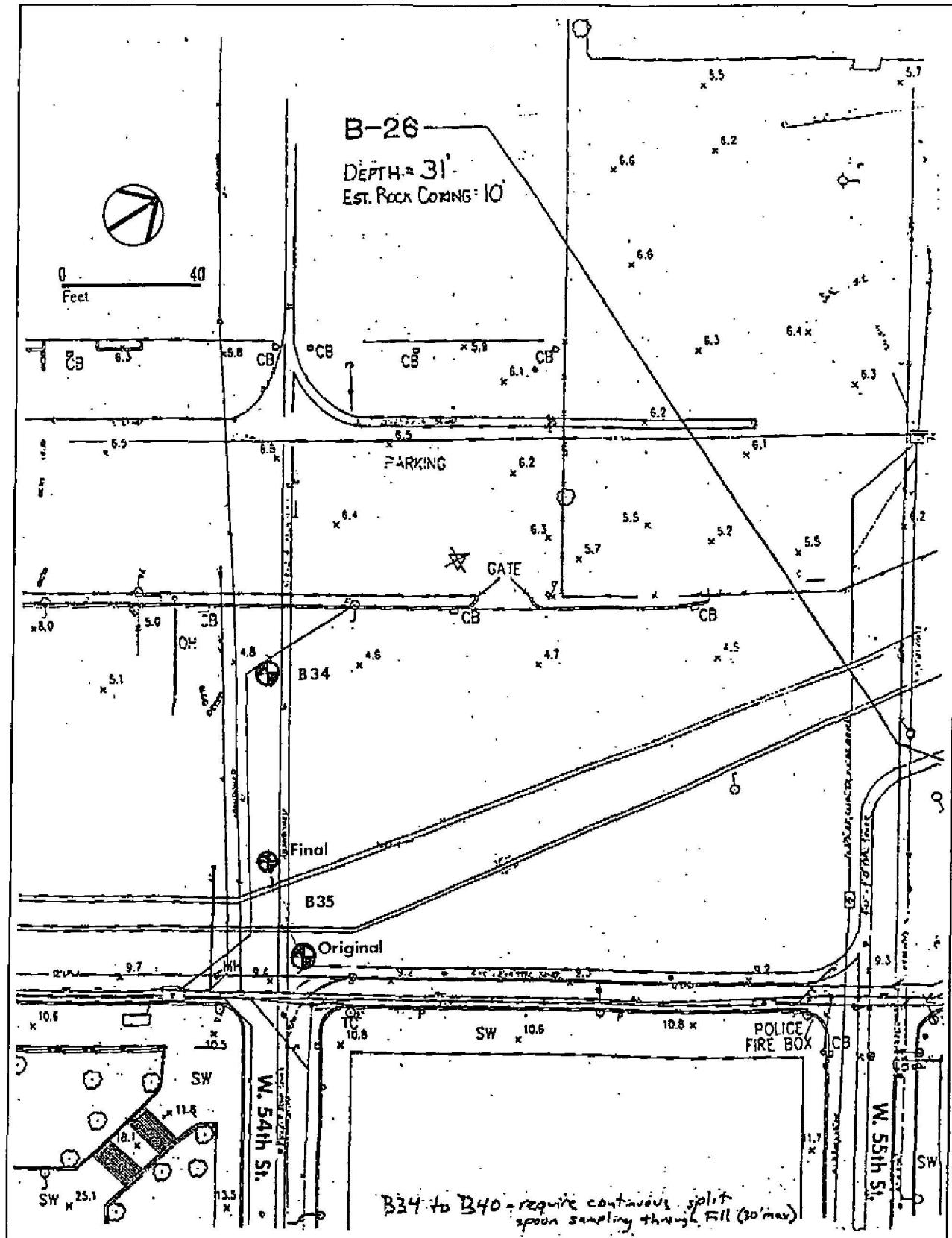
#### ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

##### Legend

- Mott House
- Approximate Eastern Boundary of Study Area

##### Overlay of Two Tracings, Figures 7 and 10





ROUTE 9A RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

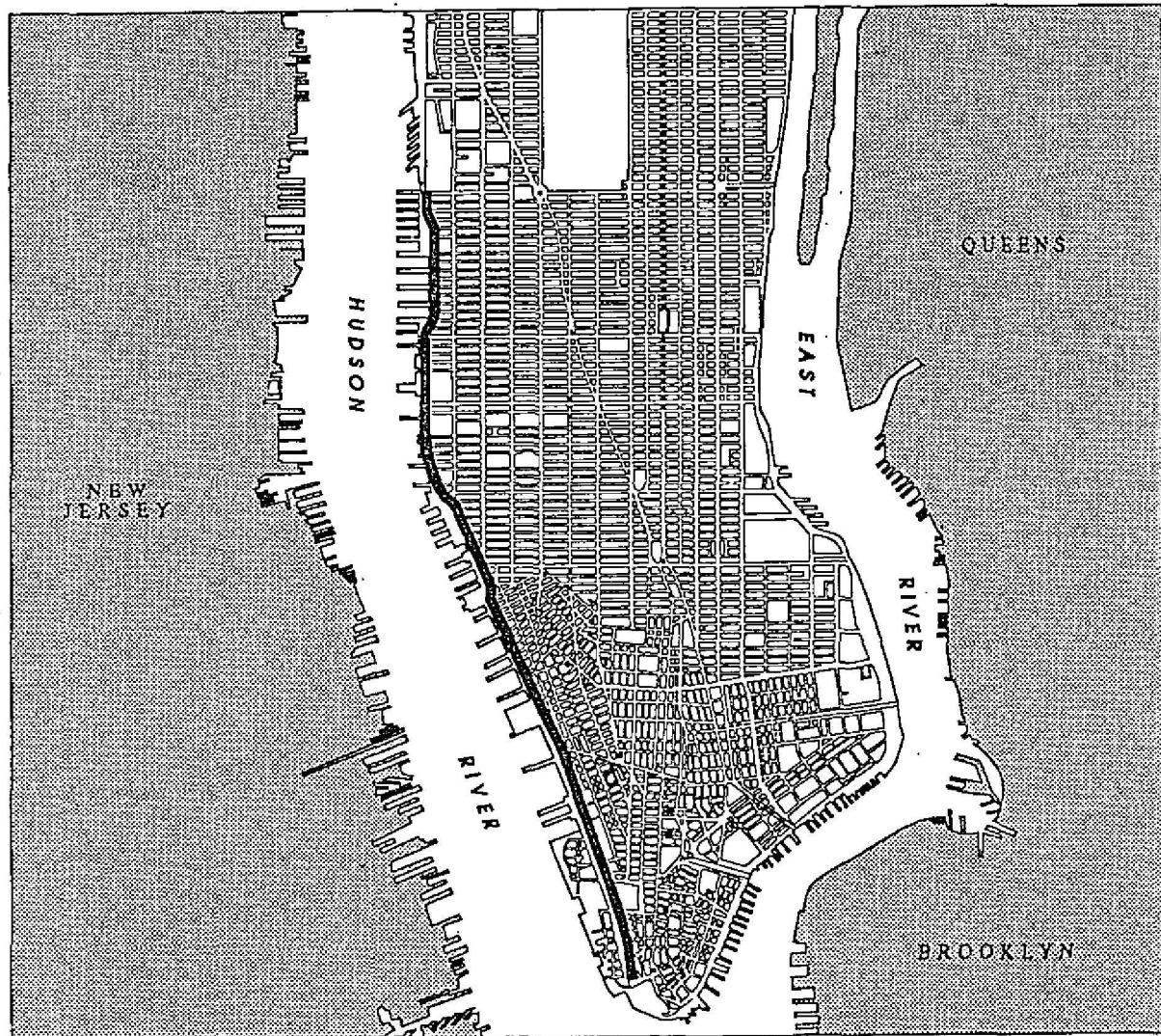
## Legend

## **1990 Soil Borings Location Plan**

**B38** *Boring Number and Location*

ROUTE 9 A

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT



DRAFT  
CONTEXTUAL STUDY

BLOOMINGDALE FLINT GLASS WORKS

*January 1991*