

USF  
289M

HP 1488

CEQR

Copy I

RECEIVED  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

NOV 7 - 1988

LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION

file  
copy

# 34th Street Rezoning Project

CEQR 88-113 M

PHASE 1A  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSESSMENT  
REPORT 1988



393

PHASE 1A ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

34TH STREET REZONING PROJECT

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

CEQR #88-113M

Prepared

---

FOR: AKRF, Inc.  
117 East 29th Street  
New York, NY 10016

BY: Historical Perspectives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 331  
Riverside, CT 06831

DATE: August 15, 1988

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excellent research services of Derryl Lang were instrumental in the timely completion of this study. The primary authors are grateful to contributing author Faline Schneiderman-Fox whose research skills were valuable in assembling the data and in enabling them to make the archaeological assessment and recommendations for this report.

Project Directors and Primary Authors:

Betsy Kearns  
Cece Kirkorian

Contributing Author:

Faline Schneiderman-Fox

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING.....	2
PREHISTORIC POTENTIAL.....	4
HISTORICAL PERIOD	
Colonial and Farm Period.....	7
New York Institute for the Education of the Blind.....	8
NINETEENTH CENTURY HOMELOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL....	13
Lot Histories.....	17
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	25
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	26
FIGURES.....	29
PHOTOGRAPHS.....	50
APPENDIX	
Communication with the New York State Museum	

## LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: 34th Street Rezoning Project Map
- Figure 2: 1859 Viele Map
- Figure 3: 1979 USGS Topographic Map: Central Park Quad
- Figure 4: Map of the City of New York: Showing the Original High Water Line and the Location of the Different Farms and Estates
- Figure 5: 1981 Grumet: Upper Delawaran Trails and Settlements in New York City
- Figure 6: NYCLPC "Predictive Model: Prehistoric Sites"
- Figure 7: 1815 Sackersdorff Farm Map
- Figure 8: 1811 Survey of New York City
- Figure 9: 1844 Sherman and Smith Topographic Map
- Figure 10: Floor plan of the New York Institution for the Blind
- Figure 11: New York Institution for the Blind, 1837
- Figure 12: New York Institution for the Blind, 1850
- Figure 13: New York Institution for the Blind, 1906
- Figure 14: New York Institution for the Blind, students in training
- Figure 15: New York Institution for the Blind, students in training
- Figure 16: 1851 Dripps Map of New York City
- Figure 17: 1854 Perris Map of the City of New York
- Figure 18: 1859 Perris Map of the City of New York
- Figure 19: 1868 Dripps Plan of New York City
- Figure 20: 1913, corrected to 1920, Bromley Atlas of the City of New York
- Figure 21: 1883 E. Robinson Atlas of the City of New York

## INTRODUCTION

A proposed private development on Lots 17, 20, 22, 26, 27, 41-46, 50, and 51 of Block 757 in Manhattan's middle West Side requires certain building and zoning permits from the City of New York. (See Figure 1.) Also, specific City review agency regulations must be met prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYCLPC) is one of these review agencies and it has requested that a Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment be conducted on the project parcel before site-disturbance activities are initiated.

Prior to nineteenth century topographic changes Block 757 was part of an elevated knoll bordered by a stream flowing northward to the Hudson River. Utilized as pasture land during the colonial period, the project block hosted its first structure, a farmstead, c.1800 but the actual project site lots first enter the historic record as an exercise yard for blind children c.1845. Private houses were erected on the proposed development plot after c.1860.

The following Phase 1A study, conducted by Historical Perspectives, Inc., addresses the particular concerns of the NYCLPC regarding the possibility of nineteenth century homelot wells and cisterns. The exhaustive lot by lot analysis, coupled with research on the impact of the neighboring lot development, has yielded sufficient data to satisfy the specific questions raised by the review agency.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Not visible on today's landscape are the hillocks, fast-flowing streams, and marshy wetlands that dotted the island of Manhattan before human manipulation homogenized the terrain. The scouring and pushing action of the glacial ice during the Pleistocene time period left its mark on the landscape as did the warming trend during the subsequent Holocene time period. The earliest maps clearly show the resulting rough and irregular terrain of the project area. (See Figure 2.) The surface of the island was originally broken by ridges of gneiss and hornblende slate. Exposed white limestone of coarse quality appeared at the surface just south of the project site between 29th and 31st Streets. (French, 1860:418) "The s. part of the island was covered in drift and boulders, presenting conical hills, some of which were 80 ft. above the present grade of the streets." (Ibid:418)

Although not readily apparent while walking the site today, an inspection of the current USGS Central Park quadrangle reveals evidence of the original ridge topography on the site block. The urbanized 34th Street Rezoning project site is currently depicted on the eastern edge of a slight terrace. The terrace is registered at 40 feet above mean high water and represents a remnant of the earlier, larger terrace noted on early nineteenth century maps. (Compare Figures 2, 3, and 8.) An 1849 construction excavation on the Eighth Avenue frontage of Block 757 encountered and blasted through bedrock, part of the base of the original knoll. (NYIEB, 1850:39)

Nineteenth century deed transactions, surveys, and newspaper accounts further define the pre-urbanized 34th Street area. As can be seen on Figure 2 the project block was on "rising ground, overlooking the Hudson river and the Jersey shore." (Wait, n.d.:3) The entire ridge, of "good soil for cultivation, stretched from 29th Street and Eighth Avenue to Eleventh Avenue and 39th Street. (Ibid:4) In 1836 the project block was described as having "a dry and gravelly soil." (Ibid:3) Prior to 1850 a large marsh, referred to as "Reed Valley," situated north of Block 757 at approximately 42nd Street and 11th Avenue was fed from the south, north, and southeast by a system of feeder streams that formed the Great Kill which flowed into a deep bay at the river. (Stokes, Vol. IV:131) The southeastern stream apparently flowed immediately east of Eighth Avenue at the base of the project site knoll. According to Randels survey for the 1811 Commissioner's Map, the Eighth Avenue intersection with 34th Street did have a much lower elevation (30'4" above high water) than the Ninth Avenue intersection (40'8" above high water).

Further evidence of the early, natural ridge topography is the presence of the colonial roadbed that traversed Block 757. One of the first north-south roads on Manhattan, Fitzroy Road, took advantage of the well-drained ridge tops as it moved through what was to become the 34th Street neighborhood. As can be seen on Figure 4, the route of Fitzroy Road claimed the extreme eastern end of the block, immediately east of the project site.

Presently the proposed rezoning parcel is dominated by standing structures and vehicular surface parking. See Photographs 1-14.



## PREHISTORIC POTENTIAL

Native Americans were inhabiting Manhattan Island at the time of European settlement. Ethnographic accounts and nineteenth and early twentieth century artifact collections testify to this presence. There is, however, no evidence to indicate that the specific 34th Street Rezoning project area was occupied prior to European arrival. According to Alanson Skinner's research at the turn of this century, in southern Manhattan there had been Indian settlements at the Collect Pond along the east end of Canal Street, on Corlear's Hook at the East River, and "Sappokanican" was situated on the Hudson River just south of 14th Street. His estimation was that the only Indian remains left on Manhattan Island apparently were located at the extreme northwestern end. (Skinner, 1926:51) His listing of recorded aboriginal remains on Manhattan Island does not identify a sensitive locus with any proximity to the project site and his map depicting "shell deposits" does not include a notation on the Hudson River south of Inwood Park. (Ibid:16) Skinner does note, however, that the preponderance of findings from northern Manhattan is a reflection of both lower Manhattan's earlier development and northern Manhattan's relatively late occupation by Native Americans.

Subsequent researchers have not found fault with Skinner's assessment of Native American settlement preferences on the Island. Grumet's research places the village and planting fields of "Sapokanikan" - the closest known Indian site to the project site - on the original Hudson River shoreline at Gansevoort Street in Greenwich Village, more than twenty blocks from 34th Street. (Grumet, 1981:49-50) The New York State Museum maintains files on reported/recorded prehistoric sites throughout the state. A file search conducted by their office at our request revealed one Arthur C. Parker reported (1922) village site (#4059) located approximately at the intersection of Canal Street and the Avenue of the Americas, far removed from the subject parcel. The Museum located an additional Parker site (#4061), noted as yielding only traces of occupation, on the East River at approximately 57th Street. (See Appendix A for correspondence with the State Museum.)

Reginald Bolton's reconstruction of Indian trails does not place a route in or near the project site. (See Figure 5.) Bolton stated in one of his books that "The middle part of the Island of Manhattan does not seem to have been occupied to any great extent by the natives..." due to its rugged physical characteristics. (Bolton, 1922:6) However, the colonial-period road, Fitzroy Road, that followed the north-south oriented ridge traversing the east side of the project block was, according to

Manhattan historian I. N. P. Stokes, based on an earlier Indian path. (Stokes, Vol. VI:164)

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's "Predictive Model" study (1982) identified areas of Manhattan that possess prehistoric sensitivity. This assessment was in part based on fresh water availability and estuarine environments. The Late Archaic and the later Woodland Period Native Americans relied heavily on non-seasonal fresh water and the floral and faunal resources found in a marsh biome. (Kearns, et al, 1987:7) As can be seen on Figure 6, the Commission's study has labeled the lands immediately east of the project site as hosting prehistoric potential. Taking into consideration the Native Americans' known preference for elevated, well-drained sites near fresh water (Ritchie 1969), the project site block - a gravel based ridge immediately west of a stream and south of a large wetland - may have, in fact, experienced Native American exploitation. Archaeologists would expect to find artifacts of this exploitation period (e.g., worked lithics, hearth stones, refuse pits, sherds) relatively close to today's ground surface (i.e., 4 feet) if today's ground surface represents a natural accumulation of soil build up. The State Museum's summation on the potential sensitivity of the 34th Street project site reflects this question of survivability in a developed, urban setting:

Probability of prehistoric remains is low unless original deposits remain, e.g., covered and protected by sidewalks etc., or buried by fill from earlier construction.

The historical development of the project site, described in detail in the following section, argues against in situ archaeological resources being present on the project site. During the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century the entire project block was extensively altered through building construction, fence installation, utility placement, and, most importantly, grading. The actual 34th Street Rezoning project site was leveled between 1840 and 1850. The large-scale institutional construction immediately west of the project site (The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind) created drainage problems on the west end of the block and these problems were resolved, in part, by the removal from the central portion of the block of the project site knoll/terrace:

In consequence of the elevation of the ground from the new building to the rear [east] of the premises, the water runs to the entire rear of the new building [west of the project parcel, fronting on Ninth

Avenue], rendering removal of the surplus earth requisite, and although accompanied by considerable expense, it should have immediate attention. (Wait, n.d.:12)

This proposed grading seems to have occurred by 1842 when the Institute's annual report states "The yard has been graded to the level of the site of the building to a short distance east of the stables, whence it gradually ascends to the natural level [Fitzroy Road grade]. A carriage way is being dug from this point to the Eighth Avenue, for the convenience of those entering from that side." (Ibid:21) Additional regulating of the Institute's athletic yards [project site] seems to have been carried out in 1844 according to designs specialized for the needs of blind children. The level and evenly spaced walkways were laid out at right angles to each other to facilitate movement for the unsighted. (Ibid:23-24) During the ensuing year the Institute planted "more than three hundred forest trees, of various approved kinds, in the grounds of the Institution to shade and ornament the walks and render exercise in the open air a healthful and pleasant enjoyment to our pupils." (NYIEB, 1846:65) About sixty of these trees died and were replanted the following year. (Ibid:65)

An additional, large subsurface disturbance visited on the project site during the Institute's ownership was the 1847 installation of a 700 foot sewer, "seven feet below the surface, eight inch walls," through the grounds of the Institution and through the project site for a municipal connection in Eighth Avenue. (NYIEB, 1848:6)

Successive earth-moving episodes totally obliterated the original, uneven topography that had dominated this area of Manhattan during the centuries prior to 1850. The city itself contributed to these physical changes. In 1851 the city re-regulated 34th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, reducing the grade level by such a degree that the Institution's gate entrances on 34th Street were no longer functional. (Ibid:35, 36)

The leveling and grading of the natural ridge that once characterized the project site either destroyed or severely impacted any prehistoric resources that may have been deposited hundreds or thousands of years ago.

## HISTORICAL PERIOD

### Colonial and Farm Period

The seventeenth century early settlement of New York City was concentrated at the tip of Manhattan and the project site was outside this occupation. "In the days of the Dutch, what is now the middle West Side comprised the southern section of Bloomingdale (the area between 14th and 125th Streets). For nearly two hundred years successive generations of Dutch farmers tilled the land and provided garden truck for the thriving town at the lower end of the island." (WPA, 1939:145) We know that a ground brief was received by Ariaen Pietersen from Governor Keift in 1647 for Manhattan land that stretched from approximately 34th Street to 38th Street between Eighth Avenue to the Hudson River - incorporating or abutting the project site. After Pietersen's widow's heir died (c.1657-58) this farm was revested to the government, later to become a part of the larger Weylandt Patent. (Stokes, Vol. IV:131)

Lot 5 of the Weylandt Patent - most probably incorporating the project site or abutting its western boundary - became the property of Paulus Leendersten van der Grift prior to 1677. Used as wey or pasture land, the parcel was not built on until the mid-1700s. (Ibid, Vol. VI:130-131) Lot 5, "a certain tract mark't by tree, bordered by No. River, Fitz Roy Road, Mendevel property and Warren property" was transferred to a Mathias Ernest before 1757. (Ibid.) In that year Ernest/Earnest petitioned the Common Council for a permit to erect a small dock on his river frontage as part of his plans to establish a "glass house" for the manufacturing of glass bottles, flasks, etc. on his 30 1/2 acre parcel. Subsequently, the project area neighborhood became known as the "Glass House Farm," but our research indicates that none of the glassworks complex was within the confines of Block 757. It is also evident that the later businesses to occupy the premises, a roadhouse (1763) and chemical manufacturing, later to become the Chemical Bank (c.1825) did not impact on the project site. (Chemical National Bank, 1913:139) The glassworks farmhouse, later the property of the Rapelje family (1779), stood between the foot of 34th and 35th Streets as late as 1865. (Greatorex, 1875:73-74)

Based on information from Conveyance Records Block Abstracts we know that prior to 1750 Block 757 was wholly within the farm of Jacobus Van Orden who passed it (1780) to his daughter, Madgalena, wife of Thomas Tibbet Warner. Warner conveyed (1784) the plot to John Watts, who sold it, in 1796, to Isaac Moses and Benjamin Seixas. Two years later Seixas sold his interest to Moses. It is Moses' name that appears on

Sackersdorff's 1815 "Maps of Farms," as owner of the 7.66 acres that covers all but the southwestern corner of the project block. (See Figure 7.)

The southwesterly corner of the block was conveyed by Isaac Moses to John Tom and passed through his executors to Paul S. Hildreth (1807) who sold to Samuel Watkins/Walkins (1811) who sold to James Boorman (1832). The "Maps of Farms" confirms the Watkins/Walkins ownership. (See Figure 7.)

The small triangular parcel at the southeasterly corner of Block 757 passed from Isaac Moses through several parties to Samuel Osgood (1817) among whose children the property was lotted in June of 1830. By 1842 James Boorman owned the entire eastern half of the current Block 757 .

After the death of Isaac Moses, the two remaining parcels became vested in his wife, Reyne Moses. The easterly parcel was lotted by her executors and prepared for sale in 1829. The northwestern portion of the block was sold by her executors to James Boorman who had the entire western half of the block lotted by 1833. The lotting of the old Moses farmlands coincided with the northern expansion of the growing metropolis. Old Fitzroy Road - named for Rt. Hon. Lord Augustus Fitzroy - was being discontinued in sections as the city grew northward. The Fitzroy Road section between 31st and 40th Streets, crossing Block 757 just west of Eighth and moving northwesterly toward 41st, was closed in 1832. (Stokes, Vol. VI:1000)

An 1811 Map, compiled by Jacob Morton and in the collection of the New York Historical Society, shows the Moses farmstead and outbuildings on and bordering the project block. (See Figure 8.) The 1815 Sackersdorff farm map (Figure 7) places a large, two-story home on Block 757. In 1833 the then project property owner, Mr. Boorman, described his "piece of ground" on Ninth Avenue and 34th Street as hosting "a large unoccupied building." (NYIEB, 1846:19) Boorman was obviously describing the Moses farmstead acquired with his land transactions.

#### New York Institute for the Education of the Blind

In 1833 the project block entered a new era of development and function that formed the character of the lots for the next forty years. The New York Institution for the Blind,<sup>1</sup> incorporated in 1831, moved its original efforts from a residence on

---

<sup>1</sup>Renamed The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, August 29, 1912. (Wait, n.d.:1)

Canal Street to Mercer Street and then in 1833 arranged to rent, at a nominal fee, Mr. Boorman's 34th Street property. (French, 1860:433) Mr. Boorman, later to become a Commissioner of Emigration (Stokes, Vol. V:1803), had been solicited for a donation to the fledgling benevolent association and he had responded by offering to lease to the institute, for nine years, thirty-two lots with the buildings thereon provided the premises were used for the purposes of the Institution. (Wait, n.d.:5) This generosity was described in the New York Gazette and General Advertiser:

MUNIFICENT GIFT. - James Boorman, Esq., of this city, has presented to the New York Institution for the Blind, a ten years lease of the buildings and ground formerly called Abington Place, a short distance beyond the paved part of the city, and between the 8th and 9th avenues. The main building on the premises is a large substantial two story house, 100 by 54 feet, situated on a rising ground overlooking the Hudson River. There are also two stone kitchens apart from the main building, and a well of good water near the house. The ground is now in good order, under cultivation as a garden, and contains a little over two acres. The situation is stated to be one of the pleasantest on Manhattan Island, in the immediate vicinity of the city, and offers fine air, good soil for cultivation, a shady grove and flower garden, with wide and level paths. The house is very large, two stories high, with a spacious attic, abundantly large enough for a workshop and place for exercise in bad weather, while the distance from the City Hall is only about three miles. (Ibid:4)

Our research failed to uncover any more details on this homestead. Stokes does not list Abington Place in his "Homesteads, Mansions, and Other Private Residences" category. Although impossible to decipher, "The Goodrich Plan," copyrighted in 1827 and included in Stokes' Vol. III (Plate 99), may include the title Abington Place on the project block.

A representation of the Boorman plot can be seen on the nineteenth century Sherman and Smith topographical map, Figure 9. The curving carriageway, house site, and two outbuildings as shown do not exactly correspond to the 1811 depiction, Figure 8, but what is again evident, and supported by the deeds, is that the imposed street grid cuts through the original estate boundaries. The above quoted newspaper article described three outbuildings which may correspond to the three outbuildings seen on Figures 8 and 9. The house and outbuildings are all west and

north of the Rezoning project site and any possible archaeological features/artifacts associated with these structures - known to have been destroyed - are actually removed from the scope of this review. Additional homestead features that would pose archaeological potential include privies, cisterns, and wells. According to the 1840 report of the Institution's Building Committee: "Cisterns, privies, and wells, stables, and sheds, must all be new; some have been destroyed by the erection of the new buildings [outside the current project site]; those now used will be destroyed by the opening of 33rd Street [outside the current project site], and the regulating of the grounds [outside the current project site]." (Ibid:12)

Archaeological resources from the site of the Isaac Moses homestead would have afforded a valuable look at rural Manhattan life during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. However, research shows that (1) these resources were located west and north of the project site and (2) these resources were destroyed during construction and road building episodes.

The Institute became an established, State funded home for blind children of both sexes. In 1837 the Institute purchased the occupied, western half of Block 757 and five years later leased the vacant easterly half of the block from James Boorman. "On May 6, 1847 the New York Institute for the Blind took title to the easterly half of the block by deed from James Boorman and wife, Liber 530, page 401." (Ibid:27) A series of construction projects expanded the physical plant on the western half of the block, requiring the demolition of the original homestead c.1840. As can be seen by the development schematic, Figure 10, the Institution's massive headquarters were intact by c.1886 and continued in use until 1924. A series of sketches and photographs of the building facade illustrate the architectural and landscaping alterations made over the years, Figure 11 - 13. Figures 14 and 15 show the Institution's boarding children in manual training classes, c.1905.

Archaeological resources associated with this mid-nineteenth century educational facility that might be extant on the neighboring project site have to be considered. However, the documentary records strongly argue against this possibility. According to the Institution's Annual Reports, presented yearly to the New York State Legislature and preserved at the New York Public Library's Research Annex, cisterns and wells and privies were all placed on the western half of the block, not on the project site, and were all short-lived. The Institute connected both the girls and boys outbuildings/privies, built in 1842, to the Eighth Avenue sewer between 1848 and 1850. By December 1847 the Institute was receiving fresh water directly into the

premises from the Croton reservoir at 42nd Street and 5th Avenue. Approximately 135 pupils were residing at the school by the late 1840s. (Belden, 1849:96)

The character of the entire middle West Side was changing by the mid-1800s. In 1847 Hudson Railroad track was laid along the Hudson River from the northern tip of Manhattan to Chambers Street. "Within a year of the opening of the railroad, freight yards and repair shops of the railroad were established on two blocks between 30th and 32nd Streets and 10th and 11th Avenues. The 30th Street Yard actually included all properties between 11th and 12th Avenues from 30th to 37th Streets, as well as the blocks between 10th and 11th Avenues from 30th to 32nd Streets. Industries that followed the railroads into the study area included lumberyards, brickyards, glue factories, lime kilns, gasworks, distilleries, warehouses, stables, freight yards, stockyards, and slaughterhouses. The industries, in turn, attracted unskilled laborers. During the 1860s, rows of tenements, many of them shoddily constructed, were erected along the streets of the study area, especially between 8th and 10th Avenues in the lower 30s." (Parsons, et al, 1980:II.B-2) City atlases depict the evolving urbanization of the neighborhood. As the city grew and encroached upon the NYIEB neighborhood the school's finances were continually tapped by city assessments for street regulation, sidewalk curbing, and municipal sewer installation plus related expenses, such as security fencing and fire protection. As the enrollment in the Institution increased, larger and deeper masonry drainage and sewerage channels were constructed. (NYIEB, 1851:39) The Annual Reports of the Institute do not specify the reconstructed sewer channels but it can be assumed that the main line to 8th Avenue - through the project site - received attention.

The Institution's only construction project on the eastern half of Block 757 was completed in 1850. The location of this brick, three story workshop, or "Manuf. Dept." can be seen on the Dripps 1851 Atlas, Figure 16, and in a different configuration on the Perris 1854 Map, Figure 17. These lots are immediately east of the Rezoning project plot. Endeavoring to serve the needs of the unemployed adult-blind, the Institution established this shop for the occupational training of adult boarders, planning to secure income from the sale of the handmade items (e.g., basketry, mattresses). From the outset the workshop proved to be unsuccessful and a financial drain on the Institution. In order to offset the "ruinous" workshop experiment, which they persisted in for thirteen years, the Institution was compelled to release a portion of its eastern half of the block. According to Conveyance Records Block Abstracts the NYIEB finalized the transfer of current Lot 17 to



the Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1860.<sup>2</sup> This is the first occasion of construction on the Rezoning project site. The Glad Tidings Tabernacle now occupies the lot and this standing structure will be discussed by AKRF, Inc. in another section of the Rezoning Environmental Report.

At least partly because of financial difficulties, the Institute decided to lease, and later, to sell off lots in the eastern half of the block. The majority of these lots now constitute the project site. On tax assessment lists for 1860, all of the lots in question on both 33rd and 34th Streets belong to the Institute. On 34th Street, all of the lots still belong to the Institute in 1865, but by 1870 all have been transferred to various people. On 33rd Street, the same sequence occurred except for Lot 17, the church site, which was transferred to the Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1860. The Dripps PLAN of 1868, Figure 19, shows how many homes had been built by that date, and subsequent development can be traced by studying later maps such as the Robinson Atlas of 1883 and the Bromley Atlas of 1920. (See Figures 21 and 20.) The following Homelot analysis relates the historical development of each project site lot.

---

<sup>2</sup>The 1859 Perris Map of the City of New York (Figure 18) does contradict the land ownership records since it does depict a church building on the lot 17, which is in the project site.

## NINETEENTH CENTURY HOMELOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

According to communications from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to the Department of City Planning, NYCLPC is interested in the potential existence of archaeological resources associated with the nineteenth century homes on the project site - specifically as contained in wells and cisterns on the various homelots. NYCLPC asked that the 1A Archaeological Assessment address these topics: 1) ascertain residents of the houses and their periods of residency; 2) determine whether or not there exists a potential for significant archaeological resources on the homelots; and 3) identify any subsurface disturbances which may have altered or destroyed resources. On other projects, NYCLPC's concern about homelot resources requires that certain conditions be met before potential can be assumed. That is, research must identify one decade of continuous occupancy by a special affinity group about whom data is scarce, such as a Black or Oriental family. Or residency by a single family for at least twenty years is another criterion for further investigation. These periods of occupancy must occur prior to the availability of municipal sewer and/or water supplies, which, of course, obviate the need for backyard privies, wells, and cisterns.

To obtain the necessary information about the 34th Street project site, a number of archival sources were used. Buildings Department records, including Block and Lot files, index cards, docket books and alteration books were searched. Conveyance records were examined. The city sewer and water departments were visited where employees were questioned and all available data was recorded. Voter registration lists, the 1890 "Police" census, business directories, and family directories were studied. Tax assessment lists for pertinent years were copied. A series of land use atlases were examined. The annual reports of the Institute for the Blind, who owned the project parcels and sold them off for development, were perused. Secondary sources such as histories were also consulted. A compilation of all of these sources generated lot histories which are summarized in the following pages.

The information gathered is plentiful, but in some cases contradictory. Especially glaring inconsistencies occurred in the matter of fixing the dates for the availability of water and sewer hook-ups for the project site, which is the crucial point to be established. Sewer Department maps show that sewers were installed in 34th Street in 1852, 9th Avenue in 1849, 33rd Street in 1907 and 8th Avenue in 1929. The 34th Street and 9th Avenue dates agree with other sources, but the 33rd Street and 8th Avenue dates seem very late. The 1929 date for 8th Avenue,

especially, is refuted by an item in the Institute for the Blind Annual Report for 1849 which states that they are in arrears for an assessment of \$850 for the opening of the sewer in 8th Avenue. By association, the date for 33rd Street seems also unreliable. Sewer Department employees were questioned closely about this problem, but they could offer no explanation. The dates for water availability given by the Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply were also very late - 1903 for 34th Street, 1908 for 9th Avenue, and 1907 for 33rd Street. Here again there is conflicting evidence. In 1847 the president of the Institute for the Blind had persuaded the "aqueduct board to lay mains for the Croton water up to the Institute." (Wait, n.d.:29) In the same year it is noted that a "street hydrant has been placed at the south end of the building." (Ibid:30) In 1872 the Institute was authorized to make "an inch connection with street main" for fire hose." (Ibid:34) The name of the street was not given. Clearly, water and sewer were available before most of the dates given by the utility departments. The Water Supply Bureau keeps a file card for each building whose entries include dates of specific hook-ups. However, when a line is replaced, the old file card is thrown out. The oldest tapping date which this research uncovered was 1925.

Another problem is that availability did not always mean immediate usage. This often depended on location and economic status. Some passages from Edward Spann's book about New York between 1840 and 1857 describe the situation after the opening of the Croton Water System in 1842 which promised to flood the city with pure water:

The new system also brought a revolution in urban living standards. Since the distributing pipes entered the city from the north, Croton water was readily available to service the kitchen sinks, bathtubs, and water-closets, which were being built into the new uptown residences. For the middle class in particular, the new magic of tap water promised to reduce the costly dependence on domestic servants without the risk of a humiliating decline in cleanliness..Flowing south from [the distributing reservoir at 42nd Street] through some 180 miles of pipe in 1848 approximately 15 to 16 million gallons per day filled needs of 14,507 dwellings...While the more fortunate readily took advantage of urban services, the poor were left to wait for the new amenities slowly to trickle down to them - much as they did for Croton Water. The Croton System was managed according to the principle that users would pay the costs of its

construction and operation. For those who wanted water in their homes, the Croton Aqueduct Board required payment of installation costs plus a minimum of \$10 a year in water rent. For the poor, the Board provided public hydrants where water could be obtained without charge. Six years after the opening of the system, two-thirds of New Yorkers still had no water in their homes, in part because landlords were reluctant to pay the costs of installation. While the fortunate enjoyed their advantages, the crowded inmates of tenant houses made do with backyard privies and basement water closets...(Spann, 1981:118-120)... the sewerage system New York developed in the two decades after 1840. Although some sewers had existed earlier, it was not until the completion of the Croton Aqueduct that they were accepted as necessary improvements...Sewers could use Croton water to carry excrement underground, out-of-sight and out-of-smell. The presence of an abundance of water made it possible to replace outhouses with waterclosets on a large scale, an improvement which it was hoped would... increase land values, and rents, open more space for urban occupancy, and make possible denser habitation...The Aqueduct, waterclosets...and sewers were essential parts of modern progress...(Ibid:131-131) Having invested exhausting millions in a water system however, the city was reluctant to spend millions more on sewers. It moved slowly until 1849, when a combination of circumstances pushed it into its first massive sewerage program. In that year, the Croton Aqueduct Department was reorganized and was given responsibility for constructing a comprehensive sewerage system..."In many of the streets up town," said the EVENING POST in 1851, "it is next to impossible to erect houses without first having a sewer built in the same street,"...the Croton Department between 1850 and 1955 laid some 70 miles of sewers in the upper and lower parts of the city.

The system, however, was hardly complete. In 1859 the AICP [Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor] complained that nearly three-quarters of the 500 miles of paved streets, especially those in poor neighborhoods, were still without sewers. Moreover, even on the sewerred streets many property-holders were slow to connect to the system, as they were under no legal compulsion to do so...(Ibid:132-133)

It is apparent from the above remarks and from the lack of and/or contradictory nature of evidence for utility usage for the project site that the exact time for sewer hook-ups and water tapping will be impossible to determine. Not only does each block in any given neighborhood seem to differ from the others, but utility installation is idiosyncratic within each block. The economic condition of the owner, landlord, or tenant may well have been the deciding factor during this period since there was a fee involved. "New Yorkers were taxed for water on the basis of the size of the building served; in 1850, the tax was \$8.00 for an ordinary two-story house." (Joel Ross, writing in 1851 quoted in Spann, 1981:460)

The following lot histories do not take this issue into account. Rather, the "Sensitive" or "Non-Sensitive" designation is based on archaeological potential from long-term residents and known subsurface disturbances per lot. The broader question of the likelihood of there being significant backyard cultural resources which could be successfully associated with the "Sensitive" lot will be discussed in the Conclusions and Recommendations section.

(In order to orientate himself for the Lot History section, the reader should consult the site map - Figure 1 - the 1920 Bromley ATLAS - Figure 20 - and the Dripps PLAN of 1868 - Figure 19).

Thirty-Third Street

Lot 29 #305

Sometime after 1865 this lot was transferred to a Mr. Heverton and a building was in place in 1868. Between 1873 and 1882 the four story dwelling was occupied by two and then three male Claytons, presumably with their families. (Charles Clayton was a stationer with a shop at 157 Pearl Street.) In 1890 a different family resides there. The building was demolished in 1952 and the space currently hosts a parking lot, seen in photograph 9.

Non-sensitive. Less than a decade of occupation by one family during the critical period.

Lot 28 #307

Like Lot 29, this parcel was owned by Mr. Heverton as shown on the tax lists for 1870 and a four story 20 x 56' house was constructed by 1868 on the 20 x 98'9" lot. From that time until 1890, the Henry Harrison family lived in the house. Henry, who was in real estate, apparently died sometime before 1890, because his widow, Eliza, is listed as living there in 1890. She moved or died in the next year. The building was demolished in 1952 and the space currently hosts a parking lot, seen in photograph 9.

Sensitive. Twenty-two years occupation by one middle-class family.

Lot 27 #309

The information about ownership, taxes, and size for Lot 27 is very confusing. A building was erected by 1869 and one demolished in 1952. As for residents, they changed at least four times between 1875 and 1890. The space currently hosts a parking lot, seen in photograph 9.

Non-sensitive. No continuity of occupation by a family or person.

Lot 26 #311

The original building, shown in place on the 1868 Dripps ATLAS (Figure 19) is still standing. Front and rear views are on photographs 7 and 8. The original 22 x 56' structure has an addition which stretches to the rear of the 98'9" deep lot.

(Photograph 6) Information about the residents of the house during the nineteenth century was very spotty, but clearly they changed quite often.

Non-sensitive. Construction disturbance and no continuity of occupation by a family or person.

Lot 25 #313

After 1865 Lot 25 was transferred by the Institute to James Flanigan. He is listed as the owner until at least 1895. A four story house, 22 x 56' on the 22 x 98'9" lot, was built by 1868. Trying to reconstruct the tenancy during those decades is an interesting task. Trow's Directory for 1870 lists Russell Raymond for that address, but in 1875 lists Asahel Raymond. The entries in Phillips' Directory for 1875 are for John Russell and Russell Raymond. The 1877 Registered Voters list for that address names Arthur, George W., William and Asahel J. Raymond, while the 1880 list shows William, Asahel, and Raymond Russell as well as Samuel Dana. Phillips' 1880 listing has only Mrs. Helen Russell. Asahel's business had been listed as clothier at 131 Fulton Street. In Trow's 1880 Directory, one Aaron Russell - same business address - is shown living at 726 5th Avenue. (Could Asahel have upgraded his name and his address?) In the 1890 census, those residing in the house are listed thusly:  
 Raymond, Helen and Russell (75, 55) and two children  
 Dana, Samuel, Helen, and Russell (60,40,24)  
 Raymond, Maurice, Sara and Florence  
 Provst, Carrie 50  
 Dana [?] and Helen

In Phillips' 1890 volume listing private families, Dr. and Mrs. S.W. Dana and Mr/Mrs. R. Raymond are the only listed residents. The Danas drop from the listings at this address shortly before 1900, and the Russells have all disappeared by 1901. Could this be an example of an extended family? And Carrie Provst the maid for all of them? During all of this period the business listing for A. Russell, clothier, remains intact. The building was demolished in 1870 the parcel is now part of a parking lot, whose entrance can be seen in photograph 10.

Sensitive. Continuity of occupancy, possibly all in the same family, for the last quarter of the 19th century.

Lot 24 #315

The four story 22 x 56' house which stood on this 22 x 98'9" lot by 1870 was demolished in 1970. The parcel is now a parking lot whose entrance can be seen in photograph 10. Unlike

its neighbor at #313, the turn-over of tenants was rapid during the latter decades of the 19th century.

Non-sensitive. No identification with one person or family for a sufficient period.

Lot 23 #317

A new building permit for 1867 states that the house built on this lot by owners Noah Childs and Charles C. White will be 23 x 56' on the 23 x 99' lot. The first class dwelling for one family will have 4 stories, a basement and a sub cellar. The Francis Otheman (Otterman, Oatman, Oathman) family of six lived there from c.1875 to c.1893. Otheman was in the woolens business. Also residing there for almost the same period was John C. Chamberlain who was in provisions. It is not known whether or not he had a family. In addition, three females were listed in the 1890 census, although they appear nowhere else. They may have been servants or lodgers. At any rate, the premises were shared. The building was demolished in 1970 and there is a parking lot on the spot. (See photograph 10)

Sensitive. For nearly two decades, the Otheman family lived in this dwelling which they shared with John Chamberlain, possibly a bachelor, for the same period.

Lots 22,21,20 #319,321,323

All three of these buildings were erected in 1869 by John G. Lane, builder, and John G. Williams, owner. They were 16 x 56' on lots 16 x 80' and were 4 story, first class, single family dwellings. The new building permit notes that they had hot air furnaces. Buildings 321 and 323 are still standing (see photographs 10, 11, & 12), while 319 was demolished in 1870 and now lies under the parking lot visible in photograph 10.

Lot 22 #319

Miss Annie E. Lain (Lane) lived in this house from 1873 until 1901. One cannot help but speculate that she may have been a relative of the builder, but there is no proof. At least six other people/families shared the premises at various times during Miss Lain's residency.

Non-sensitive. Although one person lived at this place for more than a quarter century, there were so many other tenants during the same period that assigning identification of resources with specific persons/families would be impossible.



## Lot 21 #321

Eugene Westerfield, who was engaged in furnishings in 1875 and in wagons in 1880, lived in this house from 1873 until 1884 during which time he and his wife (children?) shared the premises with at least two other families over the period. The 1890 census shows one group of people, while the 1890 Phillips Directory gives a different name.

Non-sensitive. No continuity of occupancy by one family or person for a sufficient period.

## Lot 20 #323

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Curry lived in this house from 1871 until 1914. Mr. Curry's business is listed successively as "woolens," "merchant," and "clothing," and the address of his business establishment changed over time. Four children are named in the 1890 census. There are also three women listed, probably servants, although it is possible that they are lodgers. The backyard behind the building still exists and is paved over. (See photographs 13 and 14) It is a very small area, no more than 17' x 24'.

Sensitive. Known occupation by one family for over a quarter of a century.

## Lot 17 #325-329

Lot 17 is the site of the Glad Tidings Tabernacle and is discussed in a separate report. It is shown in photographs 10 and 11.

Thirty-Fourth Street

## Lot 41 #304

This parcel was transferred from the Institute for the Blind to E. Vattimore (Vattiman, Vettiman, Villman) between 1856-66. A building was erected in 1866. The front of the building as it looks today can be seen at the extreme left in photograph 4 (last three windows). The rear of the structure is visible at the extreme right in photograph 5.

Non-sensitive. A twentieth century addition to the rear destroyed any potential backyard deposits.

## Lot 42 #306

There are numerous discrepancies in the records pertaining to this building and lot and the one adjacent to it, Lot 43, #308. As best as can be determined, the building standing today was erected in 1866 on a plot transferred from the Institute to Helen or Henry Wilkins in 1856 or 1866. The front facade is shown on the left in photograph 4 and its rear is the white building toward the right in photograph 5. The names associated with this dwelling vary considerably over time according to census data, voter registration lists, directory entries, and tax lists. There is also a Buildings Department entry which notes a twentieth century rear addition, although this cannot be confirmed.

Non-sensitive. Short term occupancy by a number of different people during the 19th century. Possible backyard disturbance.

## Lot 43 #308

Lot 43 was sold by the Institute between 1865 and 1870 when a structure is in place according to tax assessment records. In photograph 4, it is the building over the "bar" sign, and its rear is third from the right in photograph 5. No continuity of occupancy for more than a few years at a time during the 19th century was found.

Non-sensitive. No evidence of occupancy by person/business/family for a sufficient length of time.

## Lot 44 #310

The original home on this lot was built and occupied by Isaac Hendrix and his family for more than twenty-five years. Hendrix was the owner when the building was erected in 1866, and after his death (he was 76 in 1890), his widow continued to live there until at least 1901. There are some female names (Irish) listed in various records, who were probably nurses or servants, though it is possible that they were boarders. Although not obtainable from Buildings Department records, atlases give evidence that the original 3 story building was replaced by the 5 story building with 1 story rear addition which stand today. The front of the current building is the one in photographs 3 and 4 with the faux stone ground floor facade. The rear of the structure with part of the addition just visible is second from the left in photograph 5.

Non-sensitive. Though the original building was occupied for more than a quarter of a century by the same family, 20th century replacement/alteration has destroyed the potential for intact backyard remains.

## Lot 45 #312

The original three story dwelling was built by Frederick Link by 1868 on a parcel sold to him by the Institute for the Blind. The Link family resided there for at least two decades. However, alterations in 1895 and 1906, including a 2 story extension with basement, obliterated any traces of the family's occupation. The current condition of the building is shown in photograph 3 (front on extreme right) and photograph 5 (rear on extreme left). Photograph 6 clearly shows the rear extension.

Non-sensitive. Construction disturbance.

## Lot 46 #314

After its erection in 1868, the combination of records researched shows that owners and/or occupants of this dwelling changed at least every ten years. Also, by 1890 and probably before then, there are two large families and several single occupants listed. (Demolished in 1938)

Non-sensitive. Turn-over in occupancy plus multiple occupancy preclude association with a particular person or family group.

## Lot 47 #316

Like #314 and #318, the buildings which once flanked it, the original structure on this parcel seems to have been a three story dwelling built by a Mr. Martin on land purchased from the Institute between 1865 and 1868. The three were in place by 1868. Demolition of #316 took place in 1938, and the lot on which it stood is currently part of a parking lot. (Photograph 2 - note Post Office to the south) No continuity of occupancy by a particular person or family could be established for more than 8 to 10 years at a time.

Non-sensitive. No definite association with a particular person or group.

## Lot 48 #318

After its erection between 1865 and 1868, #318 was occupied by a series of tenants, none of whom stayed for more than ten years. The building was demolished in 1938 and the location is now a parking lot. (See photograph 2)

Non-sensitive. No association with a particular person or group for a sufficient period of time.

## Lot 50 #320 &amp; #322

There is evidence that these two lots originally contained the residence and stable of George Moore, an original developer of much of the Institute property on Block 757. The first two buildings were erected between 1865 and 1868. In 1876 Mr. Moore applied for an alteration permit to raise a rear building by three feet and for two buildings to be made into one for a dwelling, "bathrooms to be fitted..." The same situation existed on the 1885 Tax Assessment List. But by 1888, #320 and #322 had become a home for the poor, and an 1888 alteration permit describes a 75 foot deep extension with full basement and cellar. The French Benevolent Society was the owner in that year and in the subsequent one when the complex was converted into a hospital. By 1920 it is labeled on the Bromley Atlas as "The Filmore," and in 1942 it became the Penn View Hotel. Photograph 1 shows the building in its current condition, and the site map (Figure 1) shows its current configuration.

Non-sensitive. Construction disturbance.

Lot 51 #324, #326, #328

Though these parcels were sold off by the Institute for the Blind between 1865 and 1870 an 1868 Atlas shows that buildings were not constructed until after that date. Archival sources suggest that all three buildings were, from the beginning, boarding houses or, more likely, squalid tenements. For example, the 1890 Census counts thirty people living in #324 (5 story building, 25' x 52'). In #326 and #328 there are thirty-six people in each of the two buildings which measure 25' x 70' and are five stories tall. The great majority of the names are Irish except for #328 which also has several families with Spanish surnames. The space where these three buildings stood is currently occupied by a parking lot which one can see in the right portion of photograph 1.

Non-sensitive. Transient nature of occupation as tenements.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The documented nineteenth century leveling and grading of the natural ridge that once characterized the project site either destroyed or severely impacted any prehistoric resources that may have been deposited hundreds or thousands of years ago.

Archaeological resources from the site of the Isaac Moses homestead would have afforded a valuable look at rural Manhattan life during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. However, research shows that (1) these resources were located west of the project site and (2) these resources were destroyed during construction and road building episodes.

Because the families which would have utilized the yard spaces behind the houses on those lots have been identified and are known to have resided there for substantial periods, artifacts found in abandoned wells, cisterns, and privies could be associated with the families and thus produce data about past lifeways. However, whether or not these backyard features ever existed is a moot question. A major concern expressed by NYCLPC was for potential wells and cisterns in the individual homelots on the project site. A preliminary report was based on the first official date for water line installation. Contradicting the city record of the late (1903) water main installation are the nineteenth century records of the Institute. By 1860 we know that a large portion of the project block was serviced with city water. It is significant that all of the potentially sensitive lots are located on 33rd rather than 34th Street. The project site in 1866 was within the 21st sanitary district; a report for that year stated that of 417 tenements in the district 105 had not hooked into municipal sewers. (Citizen's Association, 1865-66;257) Thus, only one quarter of the tenements in the district did not have sewers. The houses built on 33rd Street were erected after that date and they were not tenements. They were intended as one family, first class dwellings. There is a very strong likelihood that they would have been built with indoor plumbing although this cannot be proven given the conflicting information our research has provided. (Take, for instance Lot 20. The backyard area is at most 17 x 24 feet - a very small space to have contained even one of those kinds of features.) Even if backyard features were located, documentary sources for the period such as newspapers, histories, archives, magazines, etc. are so abundant that it is difficult to justify that the cultural material removed from a few cisterns or wells could make a significant addition to the record. This 1A Archaeological Assessment has resulted in a full history of a block in Manhattan which might have otherwise have gone unstudied. We feel that that is a substantive contribution in itself and that no further archaeological study or activity is warranted.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baughner-Perlin, Sherene, Meta Janowitz, Marc Kodack, and Kate Morgan  
 1982 "Towards an Archaeological Predictive Model for Manhattan: A Pilot Study." Ms. on file with the NYCLPC.

Belden, E. Porter

1849 New York: Past, Present, Future. G. P. Putnam, New York.

Bolton, Reginald P.

1922 Indian Paths in the Great Metropolis. New York Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.

Chemical National Bank

1913 History of the Chemical Bank, 1823-1913. Repository: NYPL.

Citizen's Association of New York

1865-66 Report Upon the Sanitary Conditions of New York City. New York, D. Appleton & Co.

Committee of One Hundred on Democratic Reorganization

1880 List of Registered Voters for 1880. New York.

Davenport, John I.

1877 A Directory of Registered Voters of the City of New York. New York: Press of John X. Browne.

French, J. H.

1860 Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State. Syracuse, R. P. Smith Publishers.

Grumet, Robert Steven

1981 Native American Place Names of New York City. New York Museum of the City of New York.

Kearns, Betsy, Cece Kirkorian and Lucianne Lavin

- 1987 "Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Report for the Tibbett Gardens Project, Bronx, New York." Ms. on file with NYCLPC.

McCabe, James

- 1882 New York by Gaslight. 1984 edition published by Greenwich House, New York.

The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind (NYIEB)

- 1837- Annual Report presented to the Legislature of  
1907 the State. Repository: New York Public Library (NYPL) Annex.

Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.

- 1980 "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the New York Exposition and Convention Center," March 1980.

Phillips, W.

- 1875, Phillip's Elite Directory of Private Families. New  
1880, York, W. Phillips Co.  
1890,  
1901-2

Ritchie, William A.

- 1969 The Archaeology of New York State. Garden City, Natural History Press.

Skinner, Alanson

- 1926 "The Indians of Manhattan Island and Vicinity," Guide to Leaflet Series No. 41. The American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Spann, Edward K.

- 1981 The New Metropolis: New York City, 1840-1857. New York, Columbia University Press.

Stokes, I. N. P.

- 1915- The Iconography of Manhattan Island. Robert H.  
1926 Dodd, New York. Volumes I - VI.



## Trow

1860- Trow's New York City Directory. New York, The Trow  
1920 City Directory Company.

## Wait, William B.

1909 "Effort and Progress: A General Review, 1831-1908  
[New York Institute for the Blind]." Repository:  
NYPL Annex.

## Wait, William Bell

n.d. A Manhattan Landmark, The New York Institution for  
the Blind at 34th Street and Ninth Avenue.  
Repository: NYPL Annex.

## Webb, Wanton

1878 Webb's New York Elevated Railroad Business  
Directory. New York.

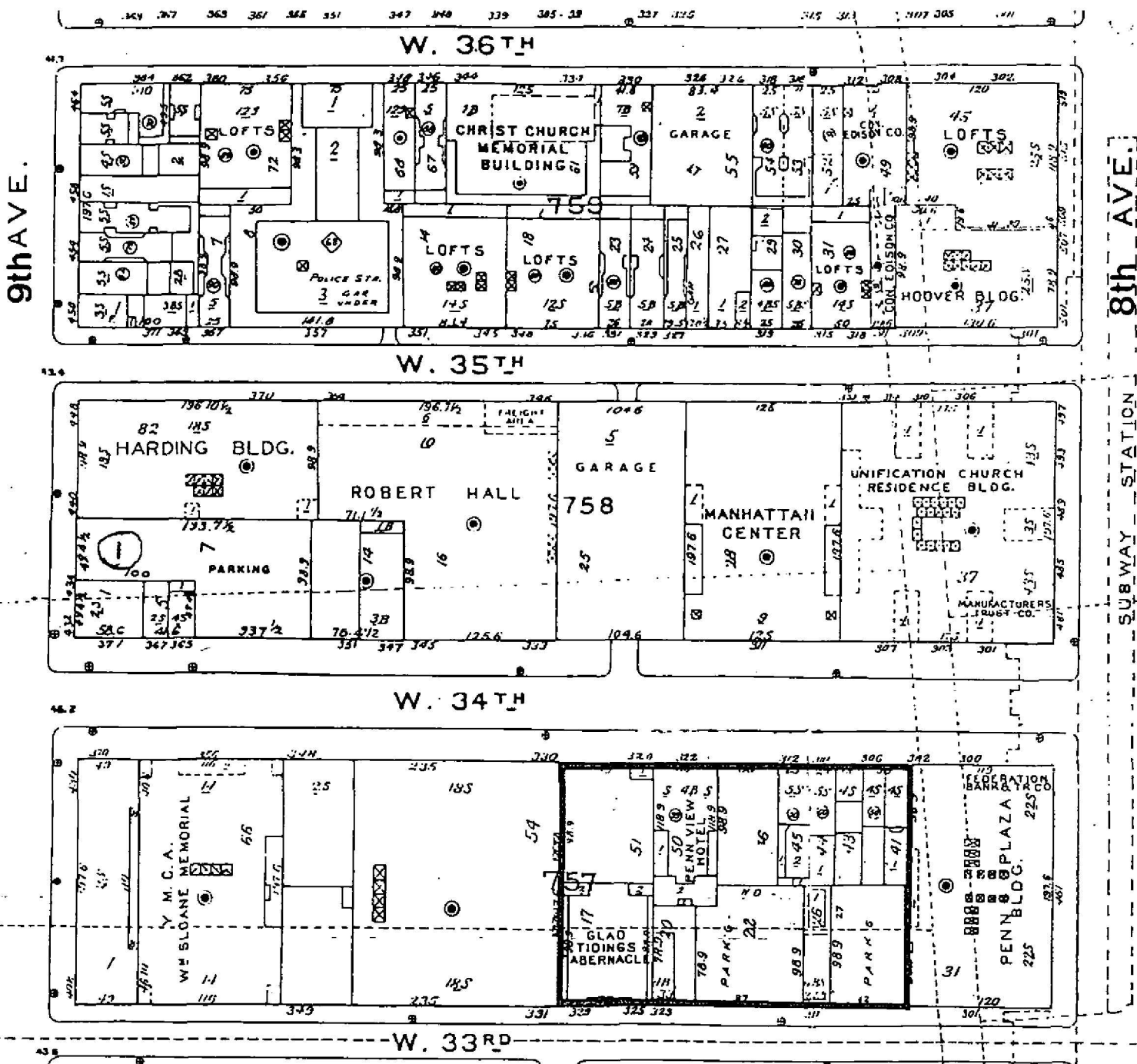
## WPA

1939 The WPA Guide to New York City. New York, Pantheon  
Books.

FIGURE 1

34 STREET REZONING SITE MAP

Provided by AKRF, Inc.



PROJECT SITE



FIGURE 2

1859 Viele Topographic Map of New York City  
Map Room, NYPL

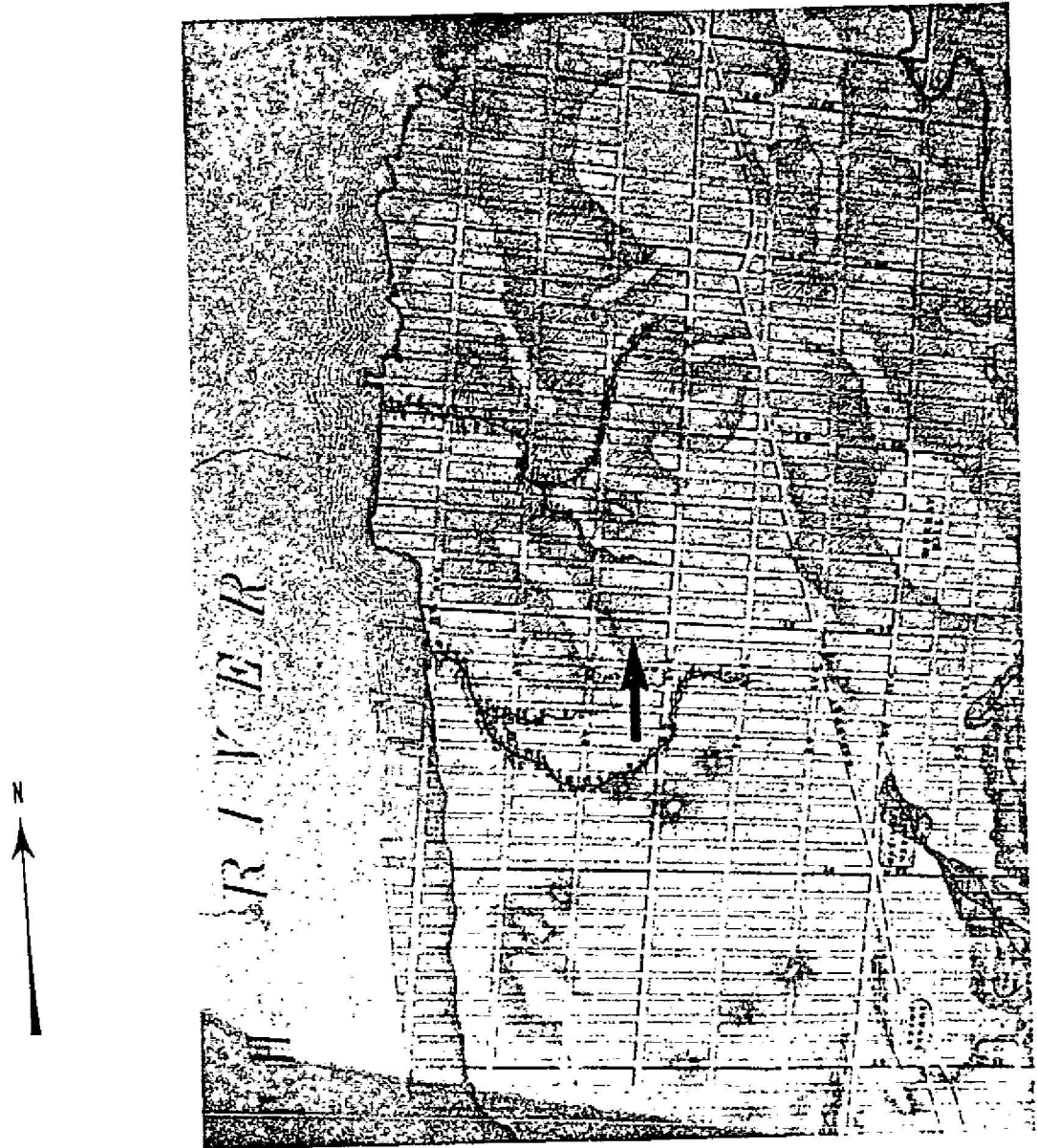


FIGURE 3

USGS Topographic Map: Central Park Quadrangle, 1979

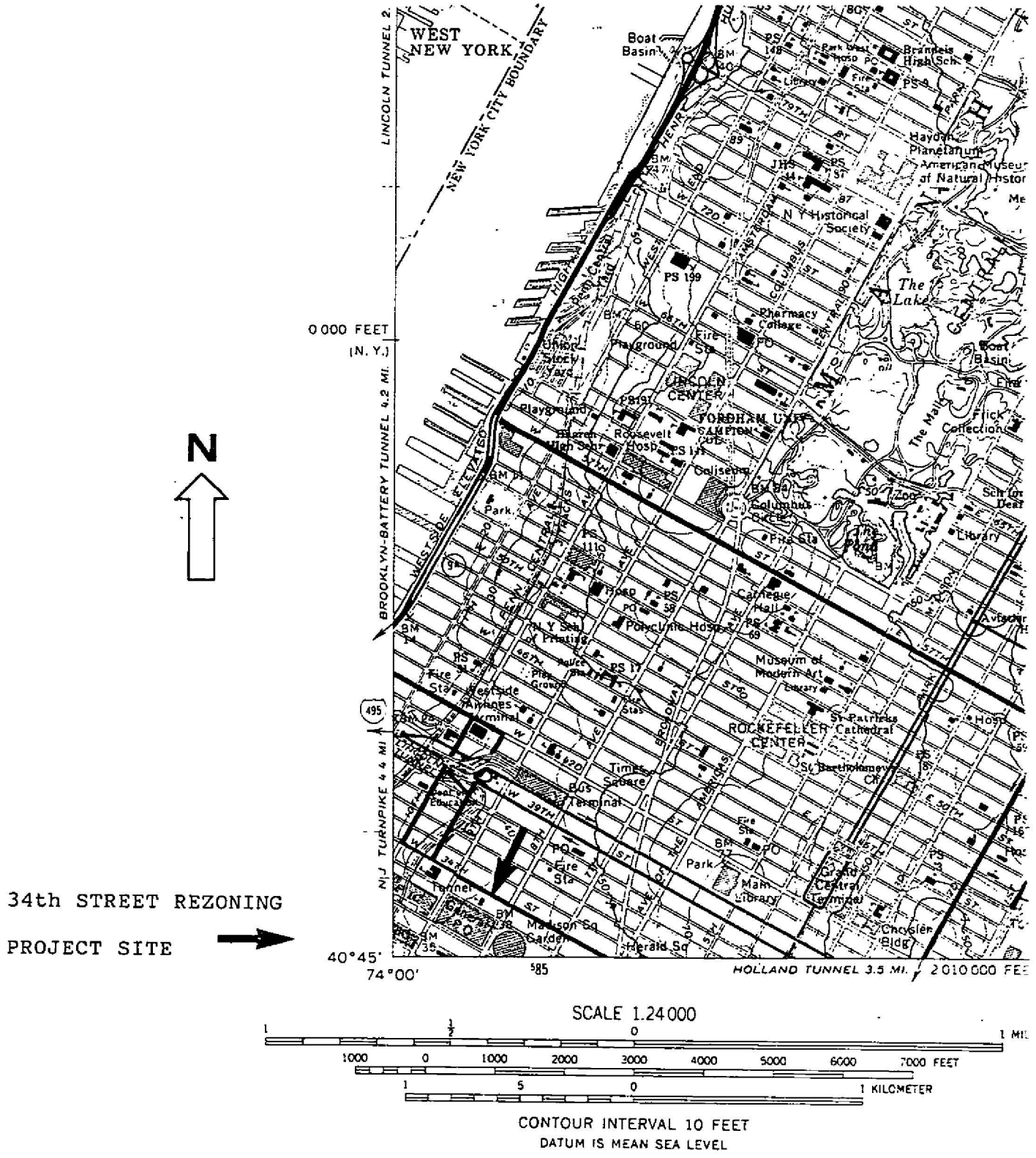


FIGURE 4

MAP OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Showing the Original High Water Line and the Location of the  
Different Farms and Estates.

Map provided by AKRF, Inc.

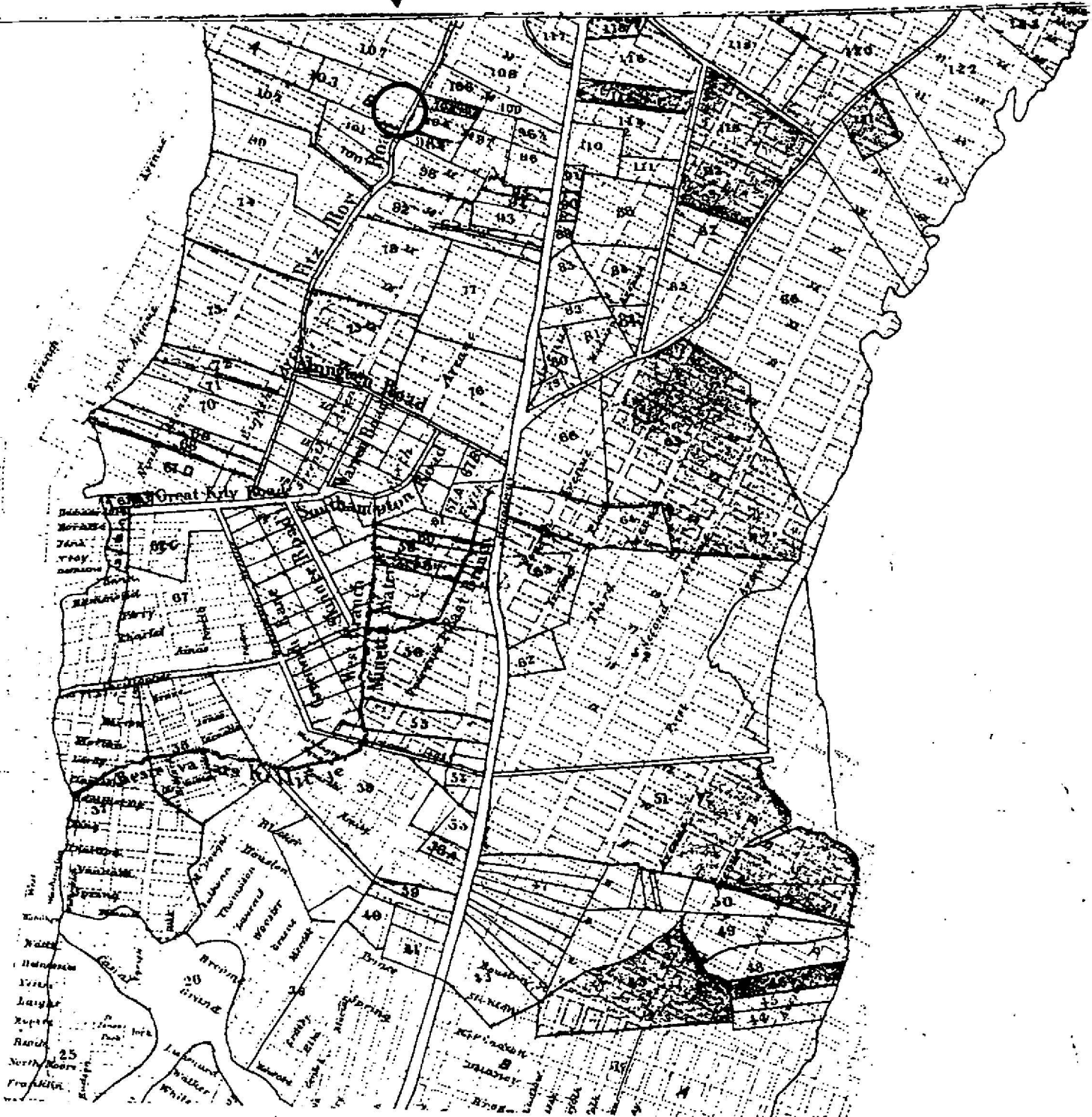
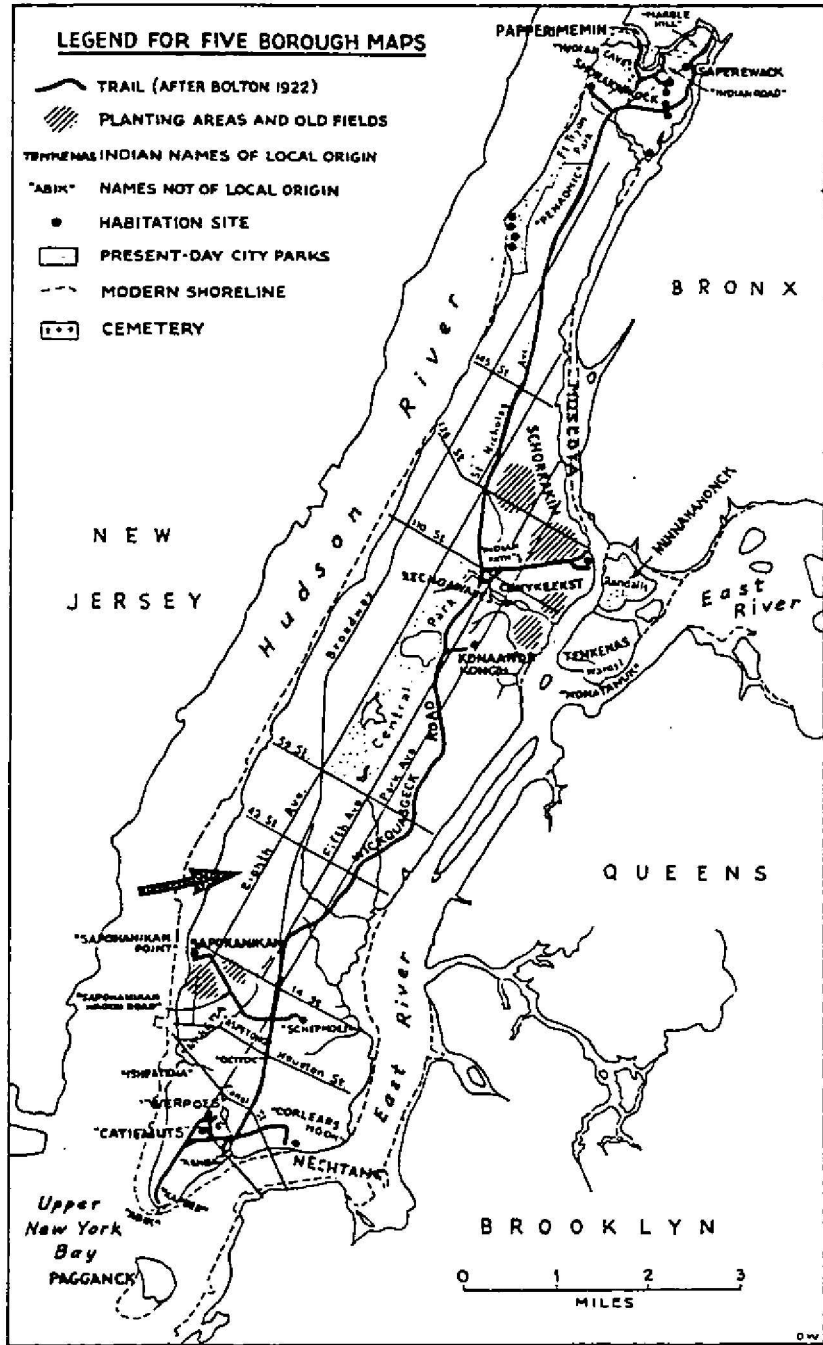
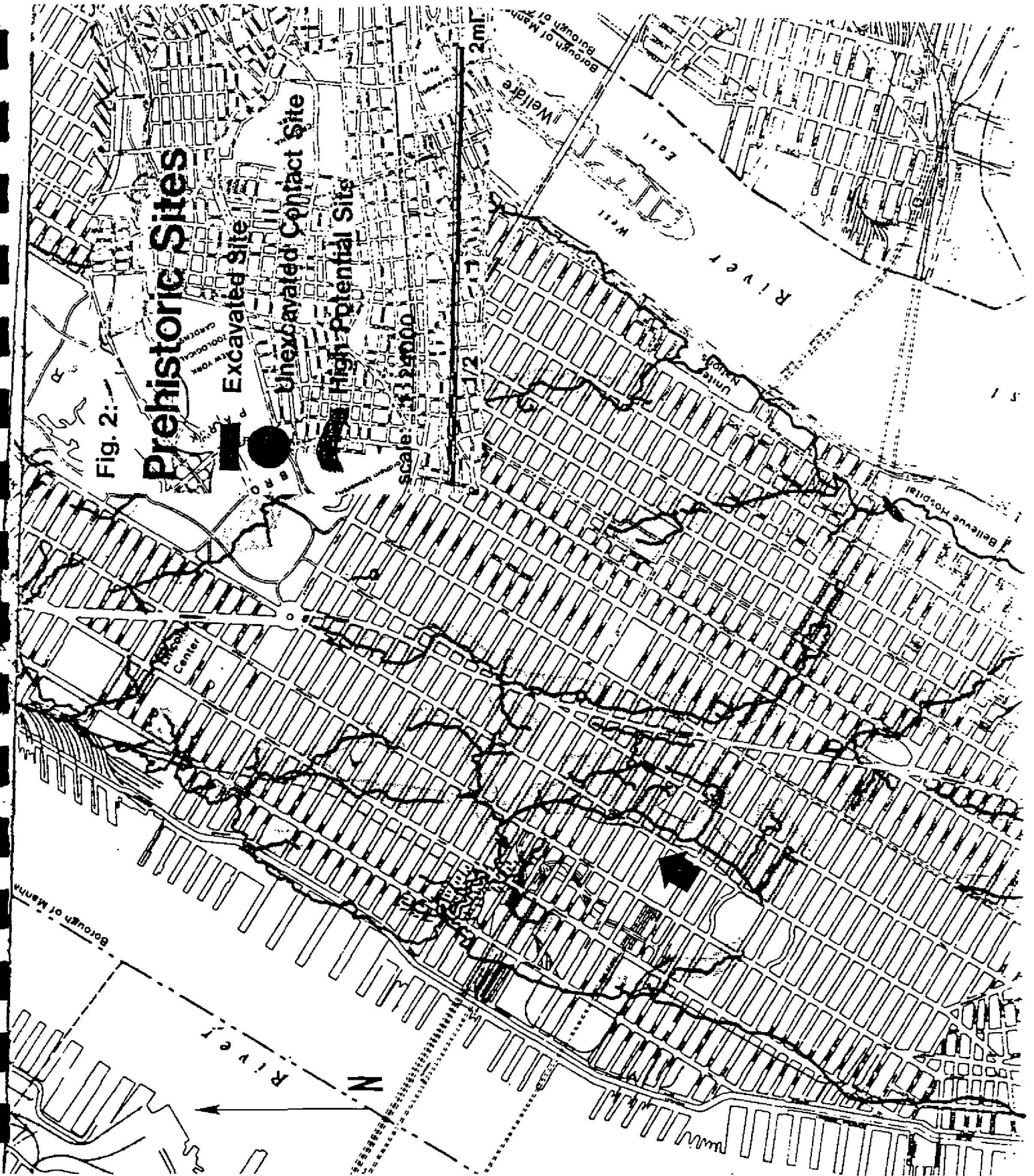


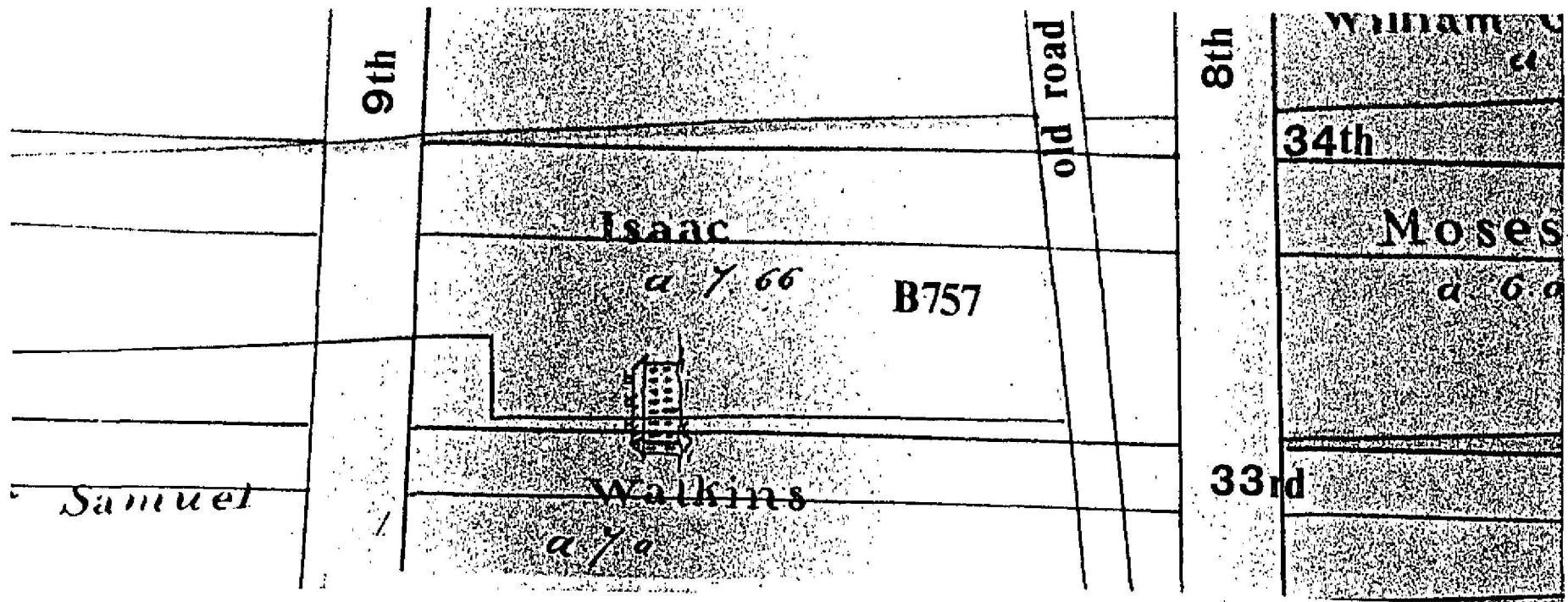
FIGURE 5

Photocopied from Grumet, 1981:68



Photocopied from Baugher-Perlin, et al, 1982:Figure 2.





1815 (1868) Otto Sackersdorff Map of Farms, also known as The Blue Book

NYPL Map Room



FIGURE 8

Tracing of Commissioner's Map of New York City, 1811

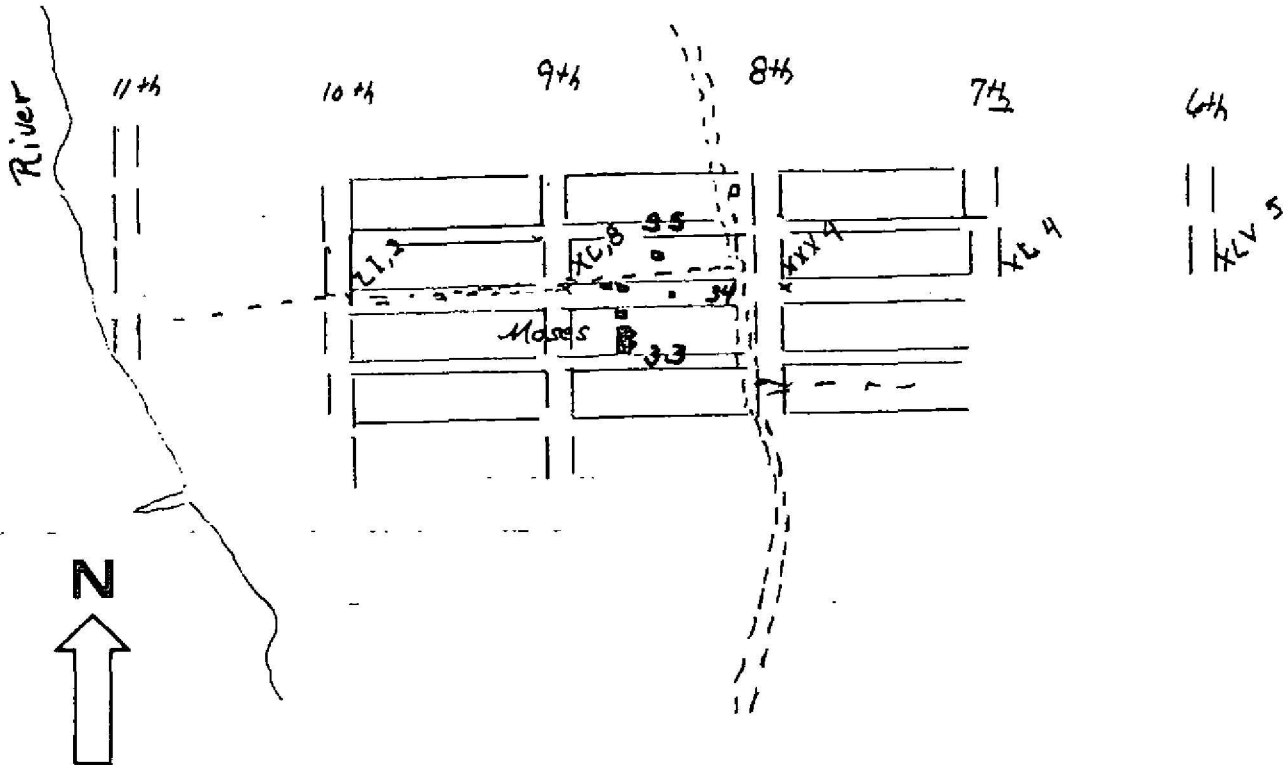
Jacob Morton, compiler; DeWitt Clinton, Mayor

XX . . . elevations registered above mean high water  
scale:  $1\frac{1}{2}'' = 1000'$

note: Fitzroy Road

Isaac Moses homestead

elevations at intersections with 34th Street



Photocopied from Wait, n.d.:2.

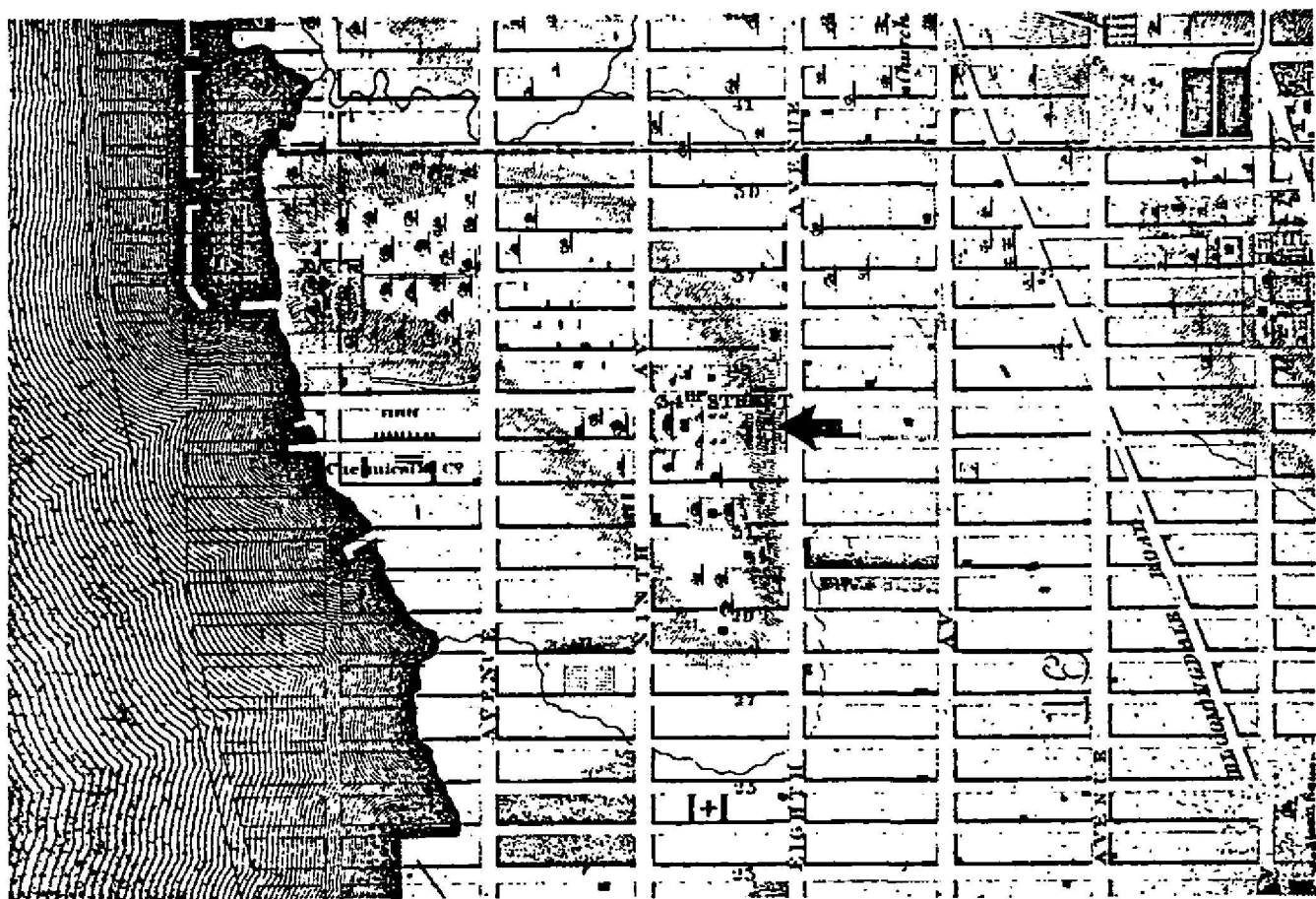


FIGURE 1.

Detail of topographical map of New York City by Sherman and Smith, 1844.  
Courtesy of New York Historical Society, New York City.



Photocopied from Wait, n.d.:38.

↑..... 34th Street Rezoning Project Site .....↑

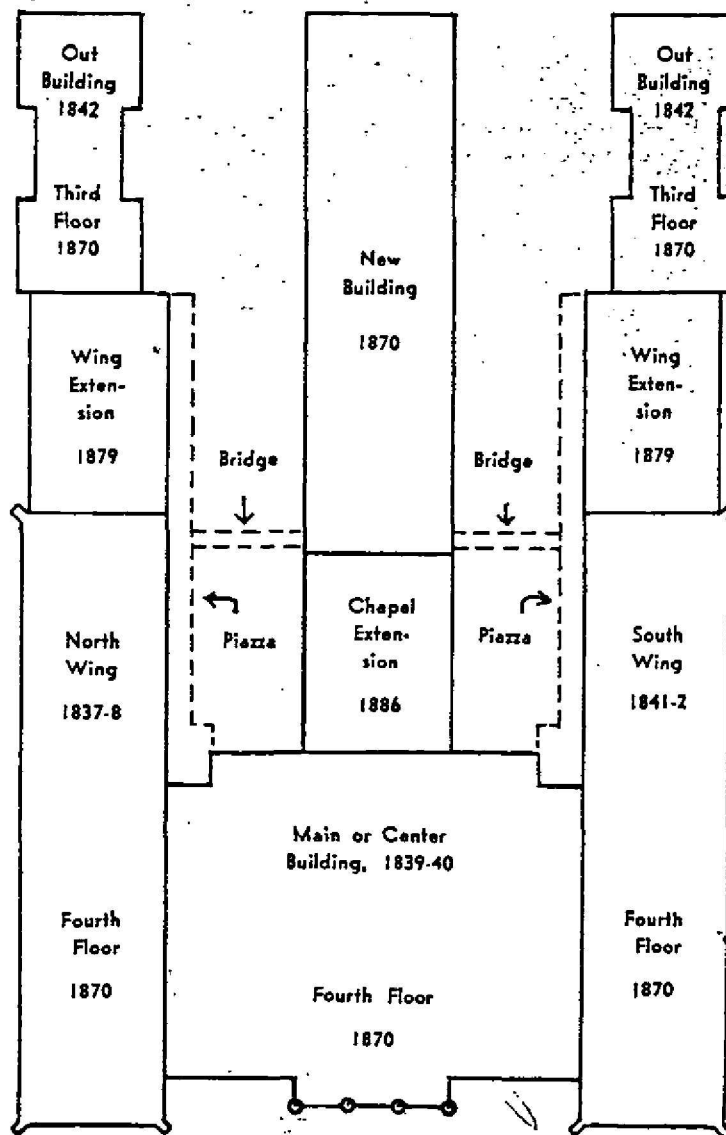


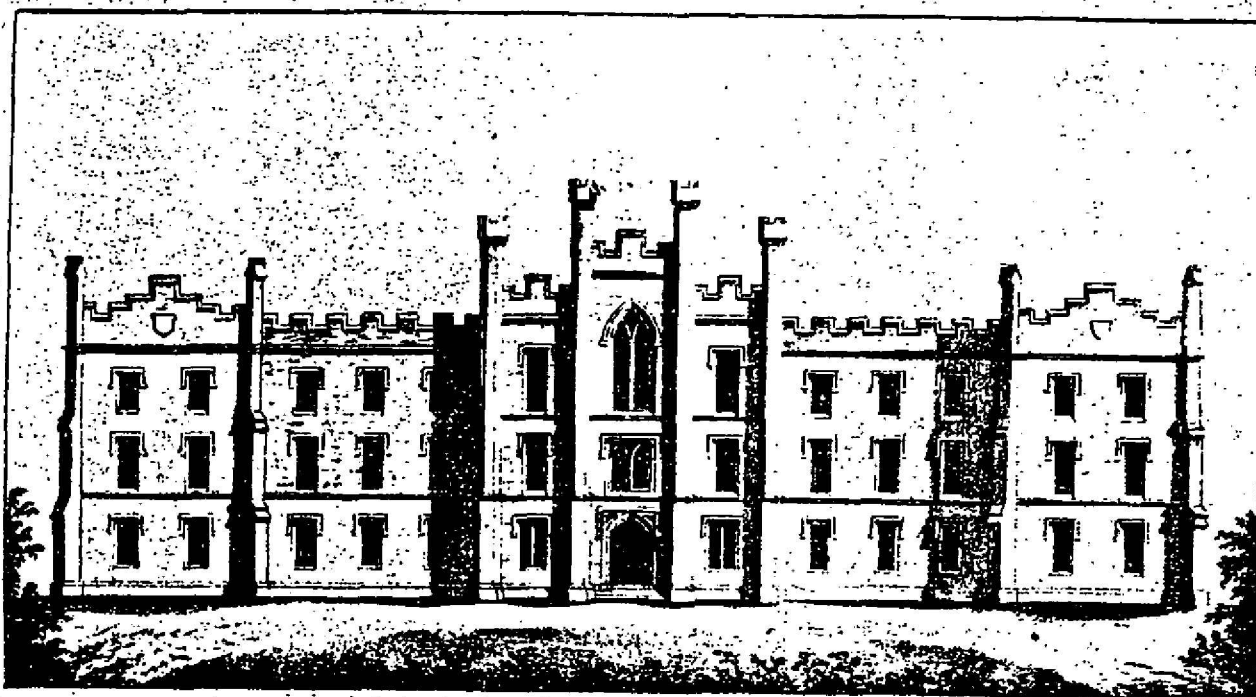
FIGURE 14.

Diagram of ground plan of original buildings of the New York Institution for the Blind and of later additions with dates of construction.



←9th Avenue→

Photocopied from Wait, n.d.:frontispiece



FRONTISPIECE

First known picture of the New York Institution for the Blind,  
from the Report for 1837.

Photocopied from Wait, n.d.:10

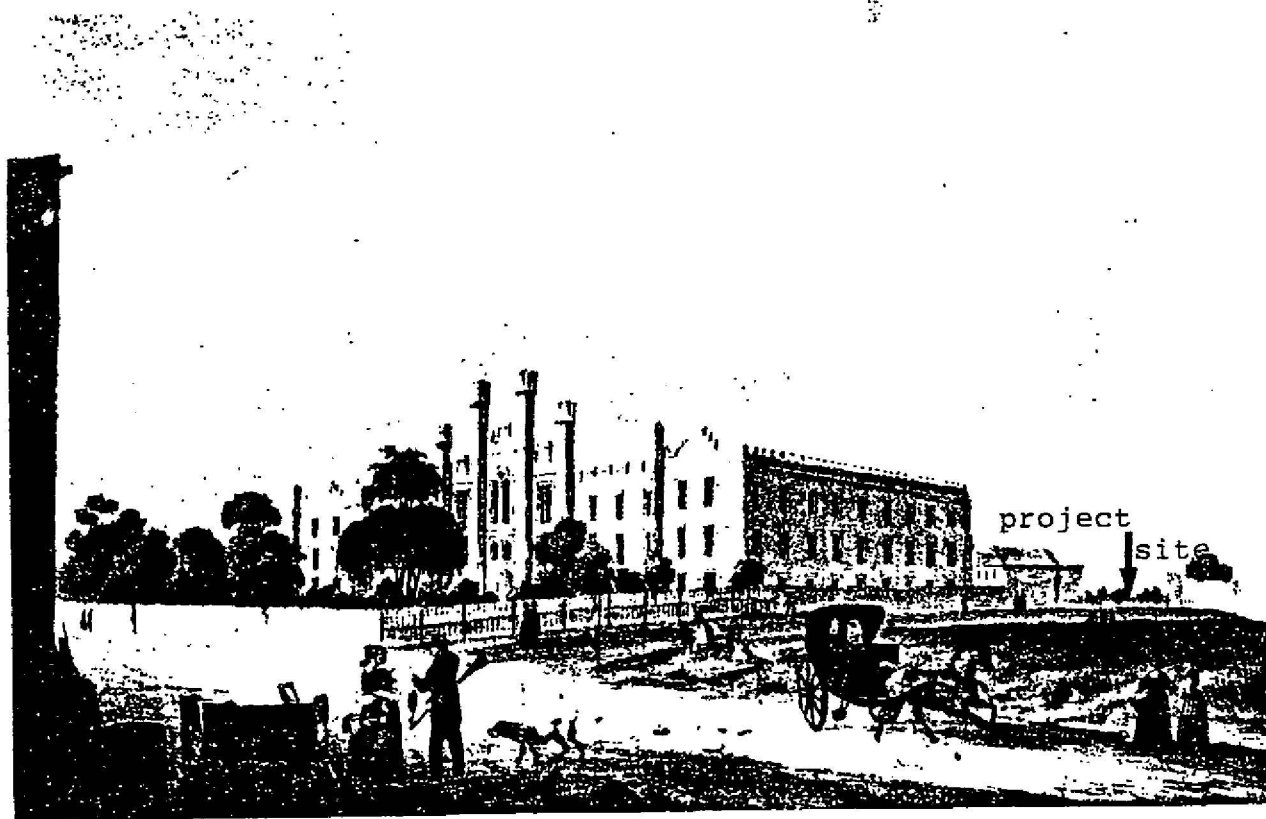


FIGURE 4.

New York Institution for the Blind, from color lithograph by Henry Hoff, 1850.  
Courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York City.

Photocopied from Wait, n.d.:46

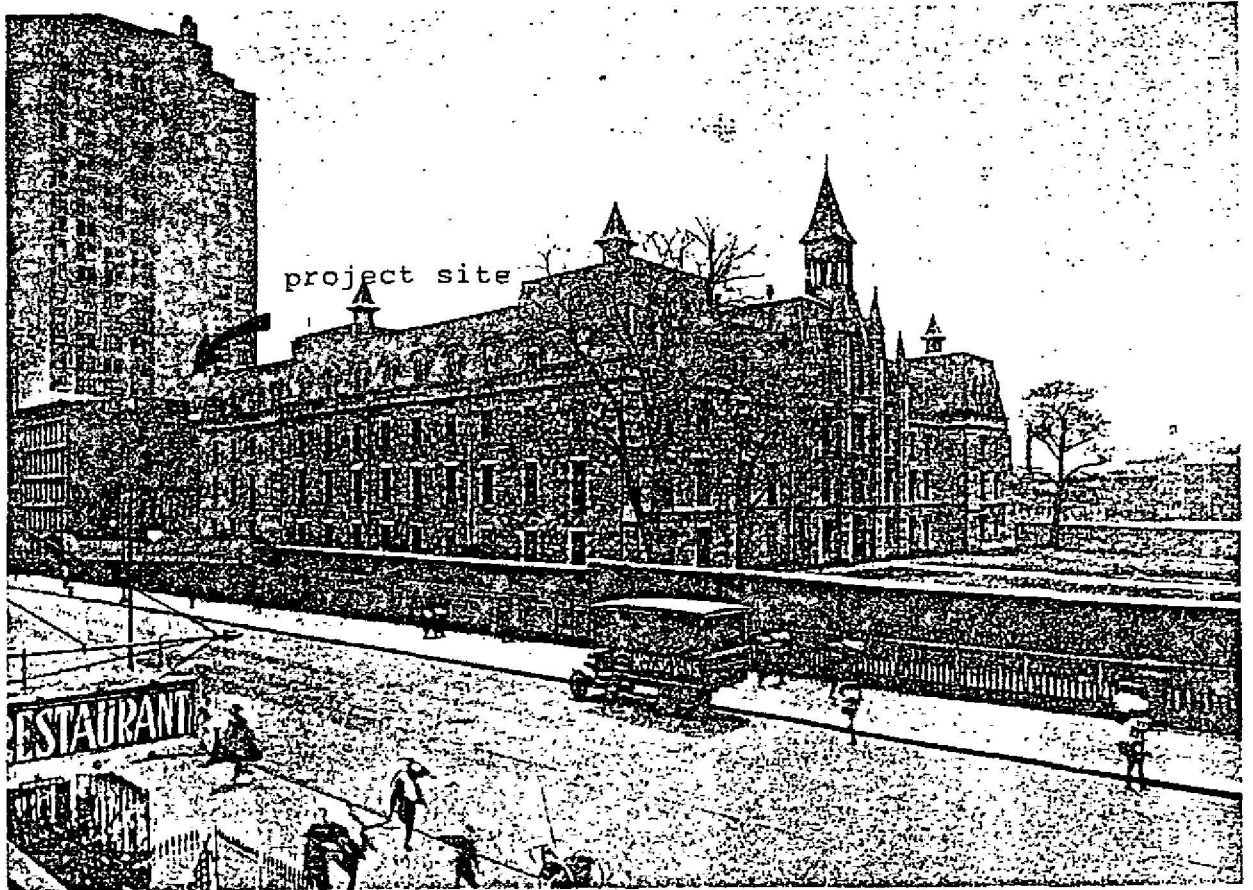


FIGURE 17.

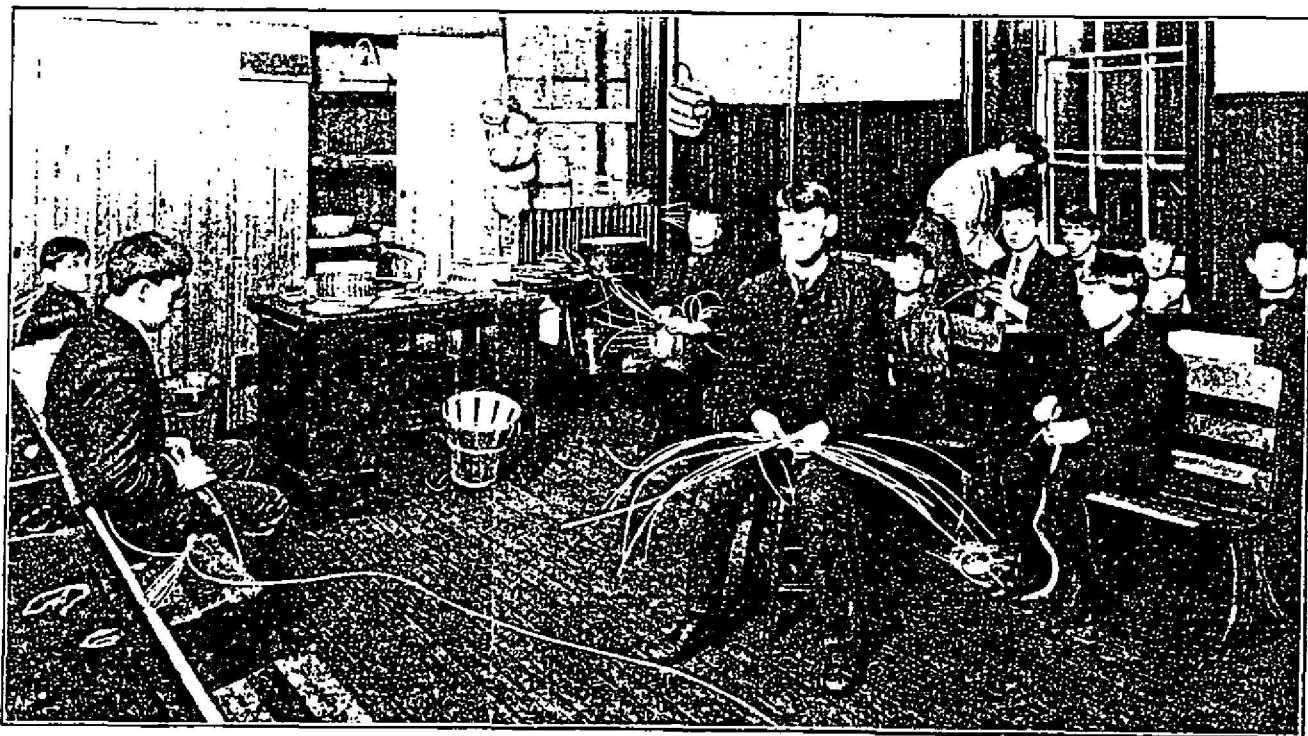
New York Institution for the Blind c. 1906 with picket fence (removed later)  
enclosing space between brick wall and stoop line.

Photocopied from NYIEB, 1906:n.p.



ONE OF THE MANUAL TRAINING ROOMS

Photocopied from NYIEB, 1906:n.p.



ONE OF THE MANUAL TRAINING ROOMS.



Photocopied from Wait, n.d.:14

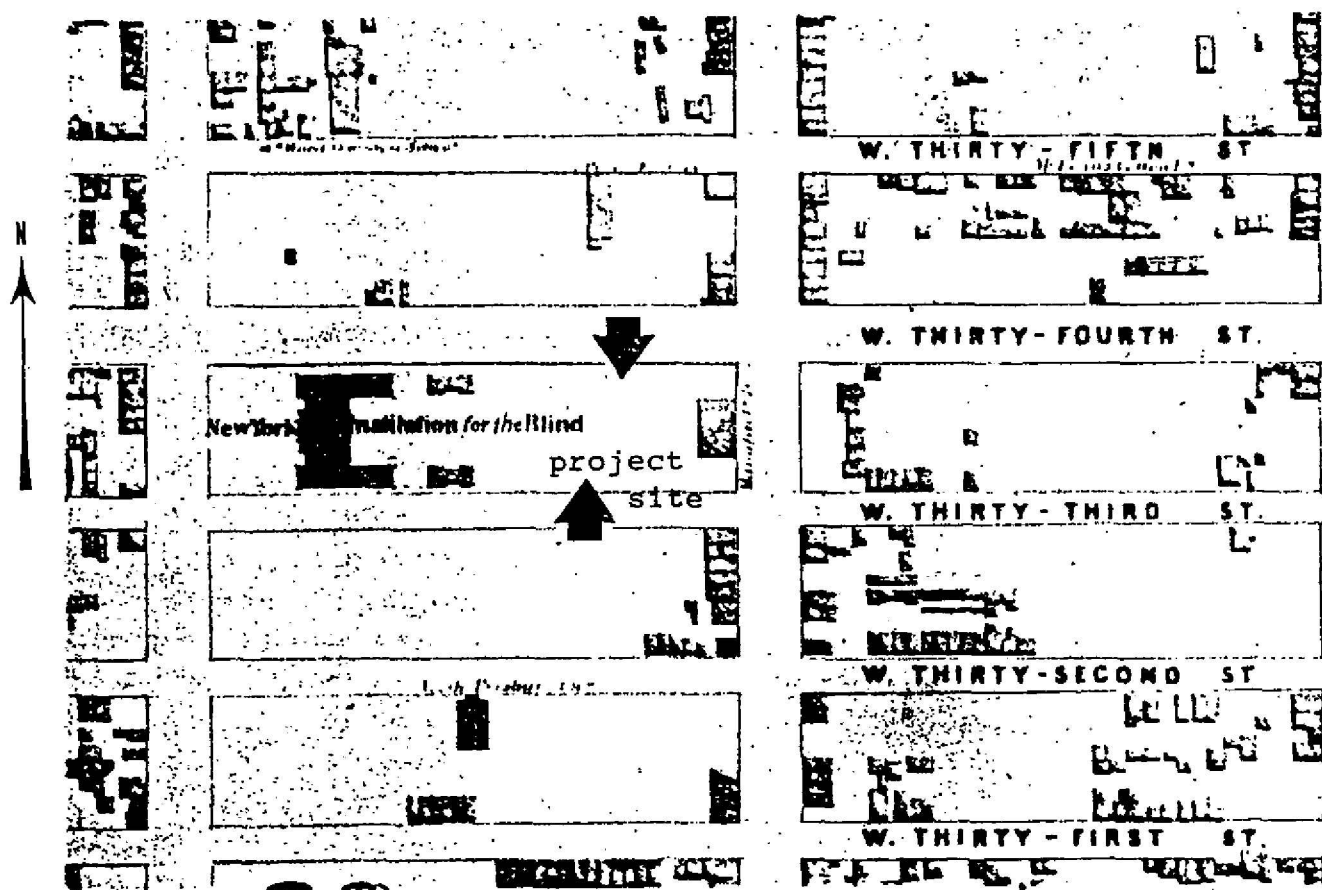


FIGURE 5.

Detail from the M. Dripps Map of New York City, south of 50th Street, 1851.  
Courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York City.

FIGURE 17

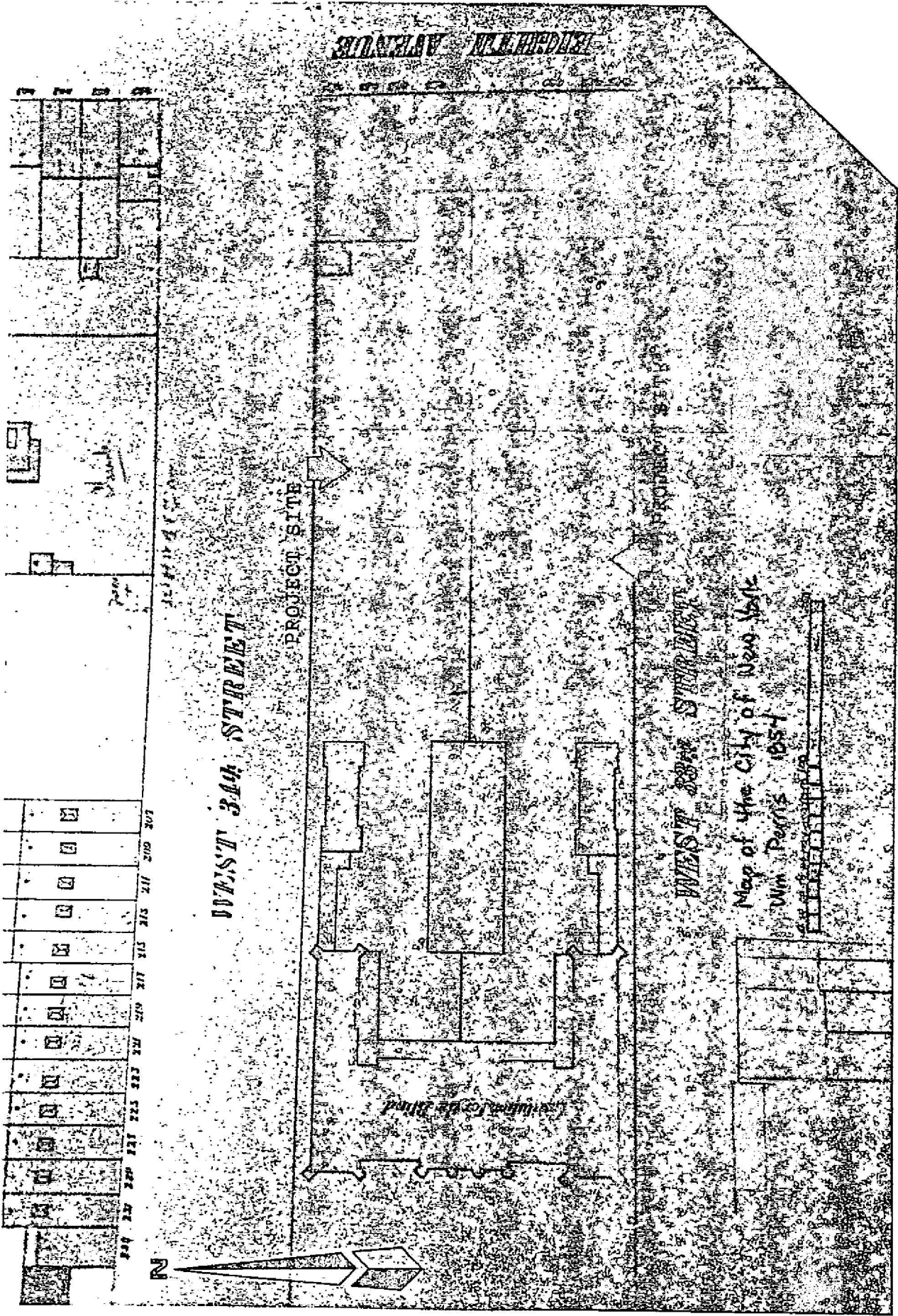
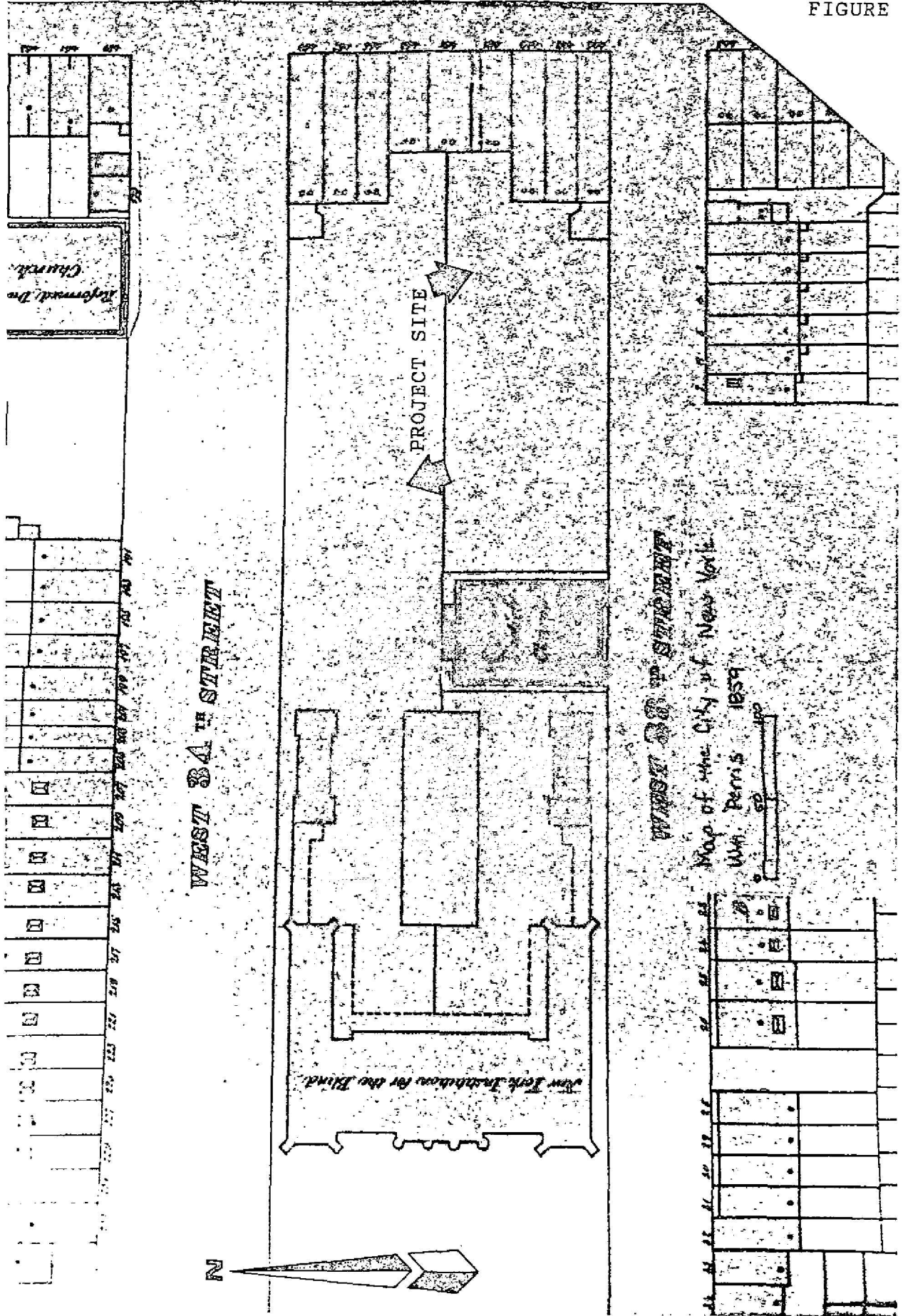
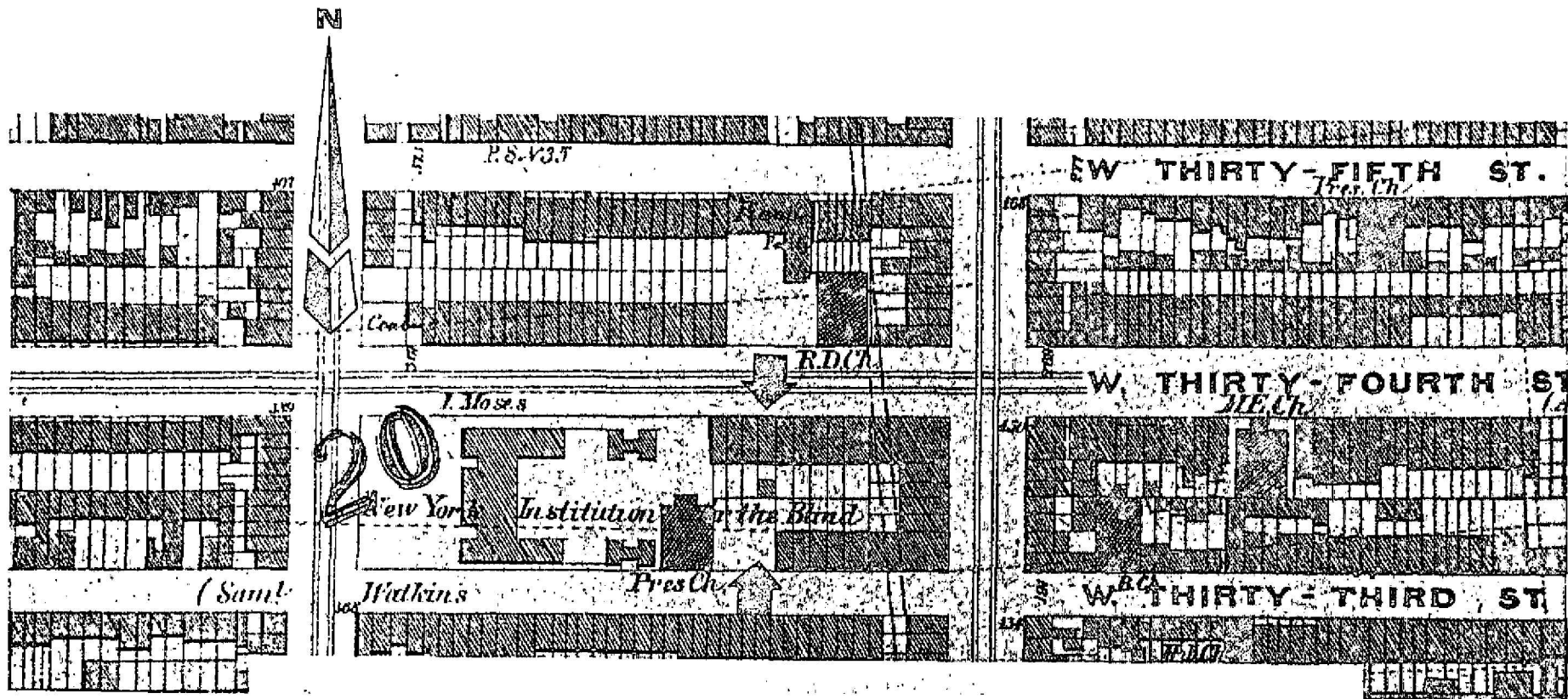
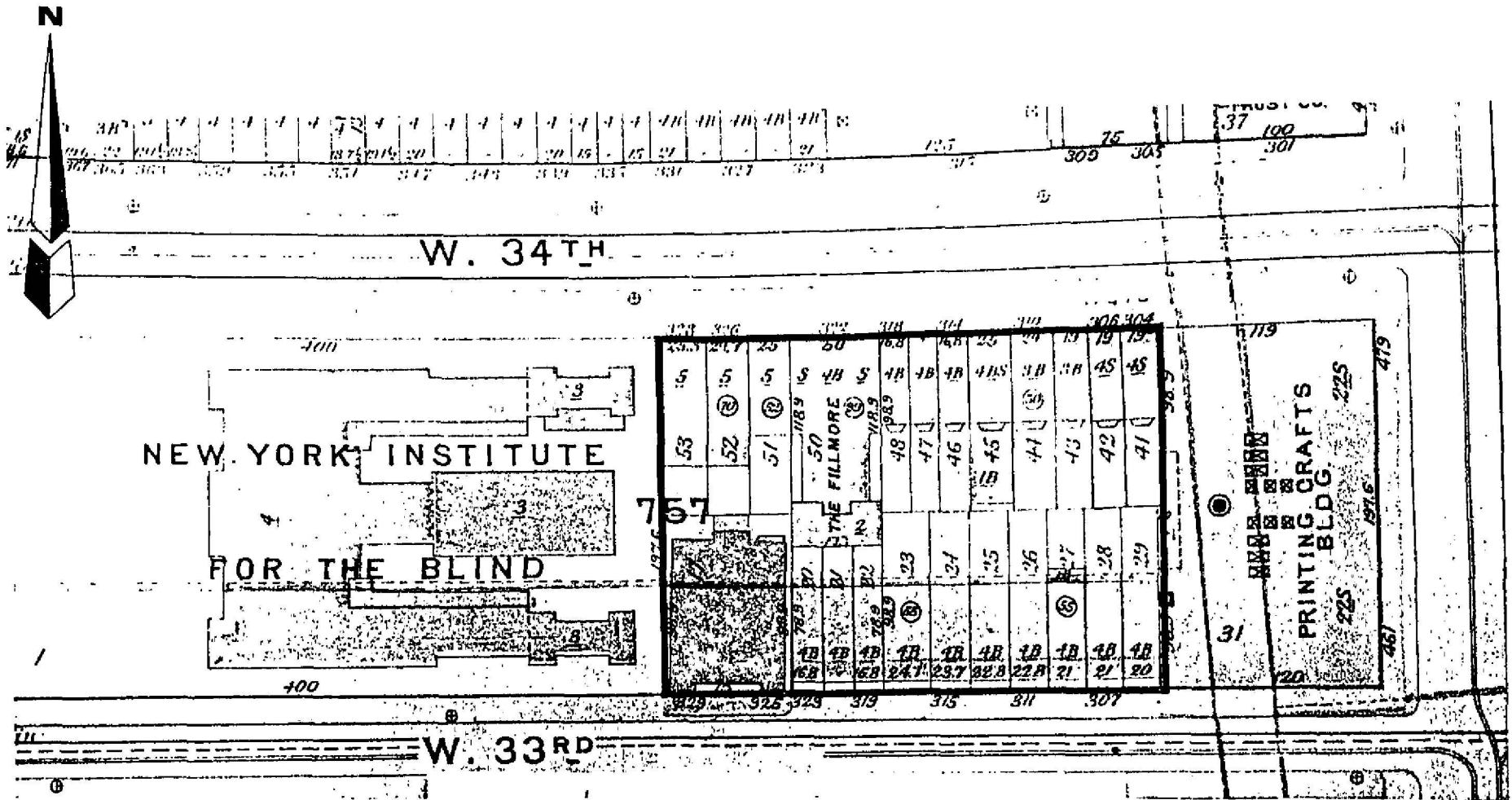


FIGURE 18



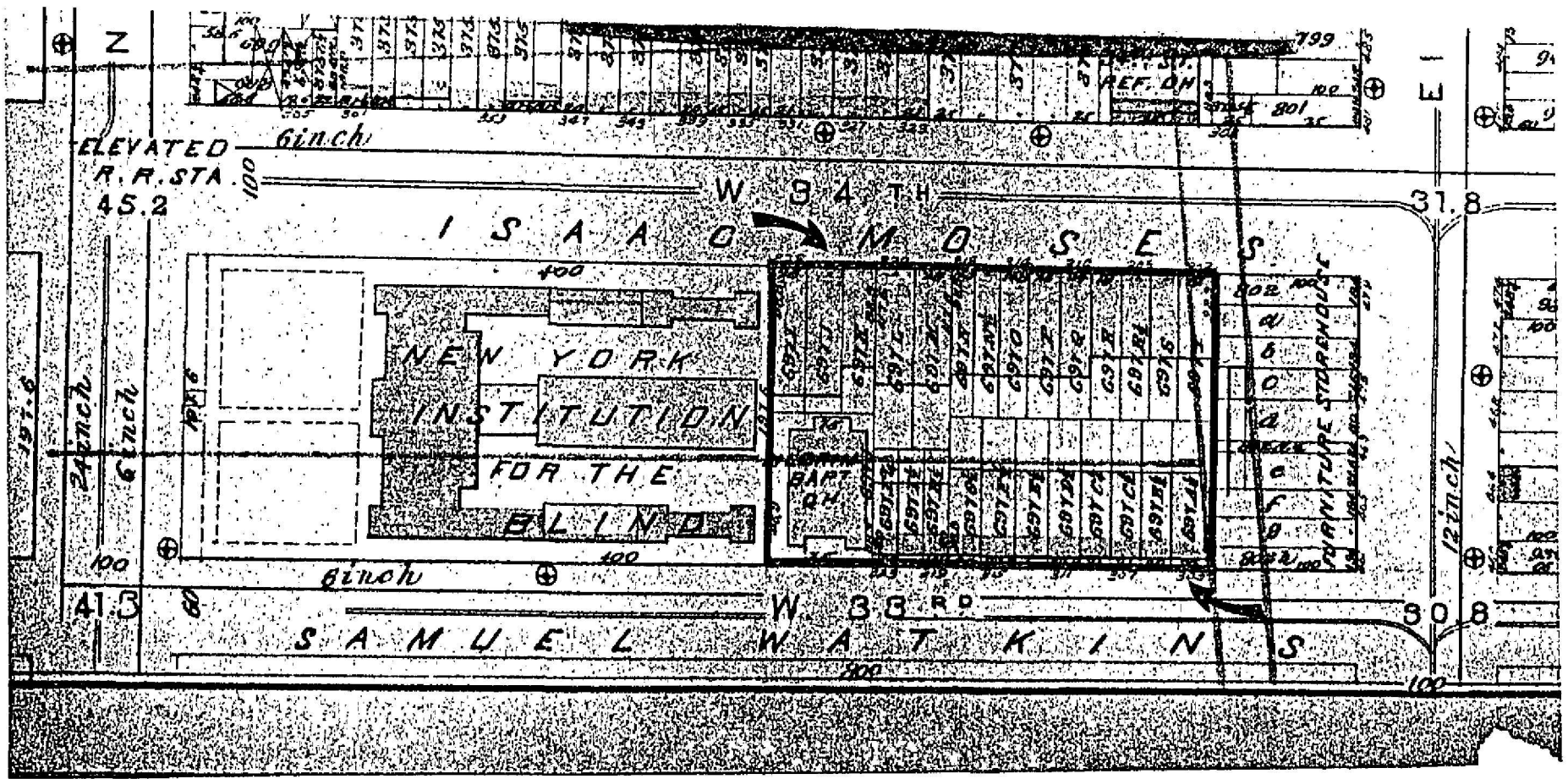


Dripps Plan of New York City, 1868. NYPL Map Room



Bromley Atlas of the City of New York, 1913 corrected to 1920

NYPL Map Room



E. Robinson Atlas of the City of New York, Vol 3, 1883

NYPL Map Room

FIGURE 21

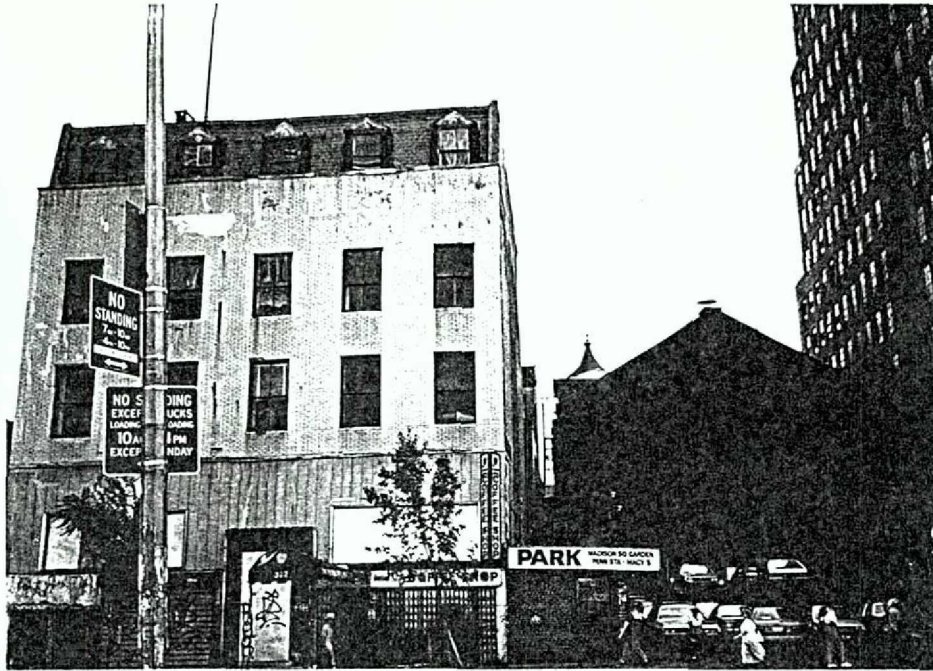


Photo 1: Front facade of #320-322 34th Street. Parking lot - #324,326,&328 34th Street. Showing rear of Glad Tidings Tabernacle. Facing south.



Photo 2: Facing south from 34th Street toward Post Office on 33rd Street. #312 34th Street is on the left. #320-322 is on the right.

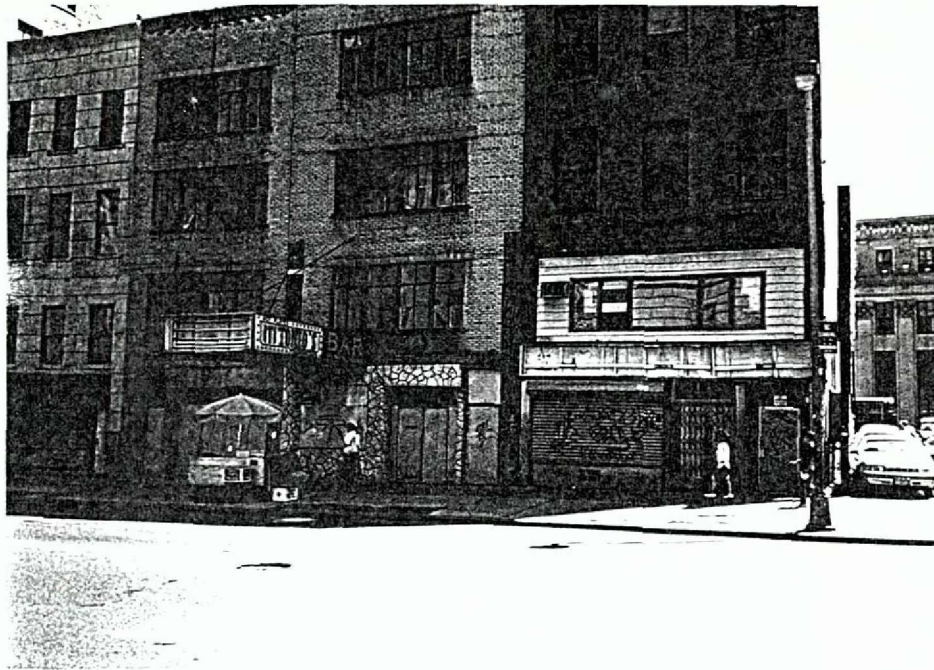


Photo 3: Facing south toward 34th Street, showing front facades of #312,310,308,&306 34th Street.

Photo 4: Facing southeast. Same buildings as above, with #304 visible at the far left.

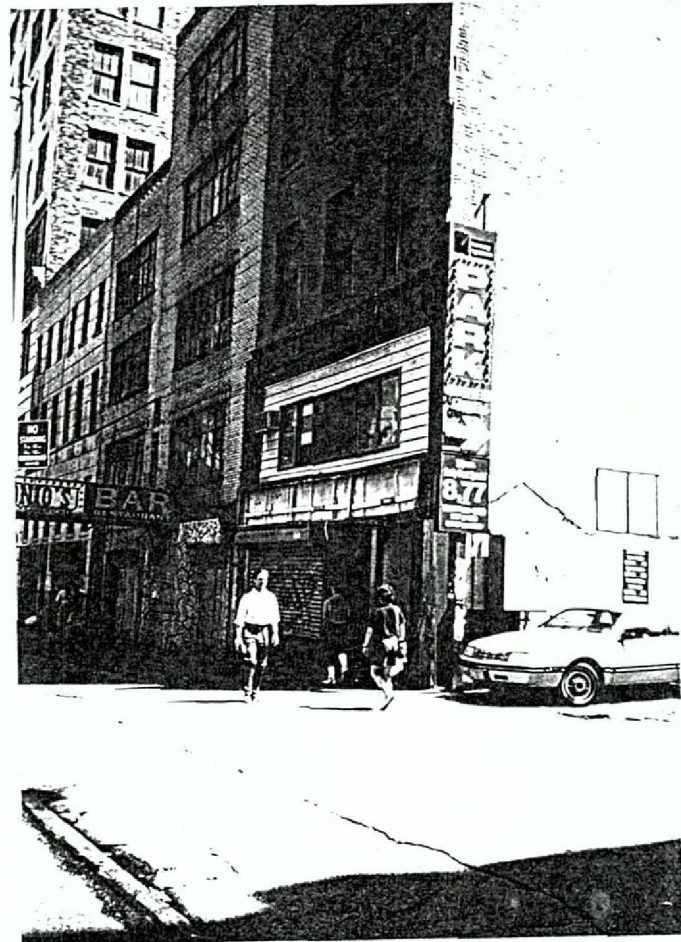






Photo 5: From 33rd Street facing north toward 34th Street. Showing, from right to left, the rears of #304, 306, 308, 310, & 312 34th Street.



Photo 6: Facing east, showing rear addition of #312 34th Street on left, and rear addition of #311 33rd Street on the left. Rear addition of #310 34th Street is barely visible in the center of the photograph.

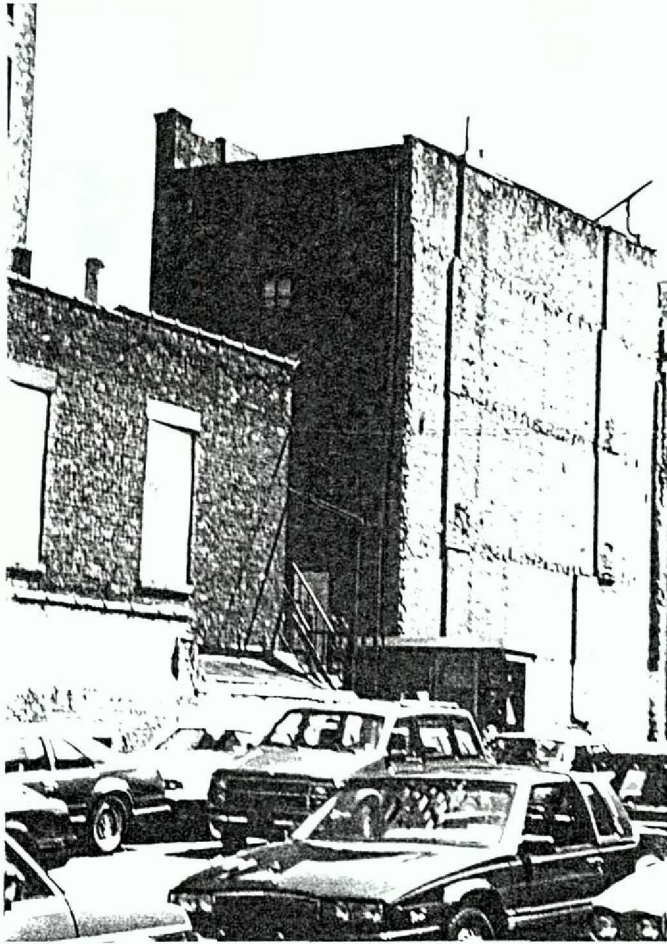
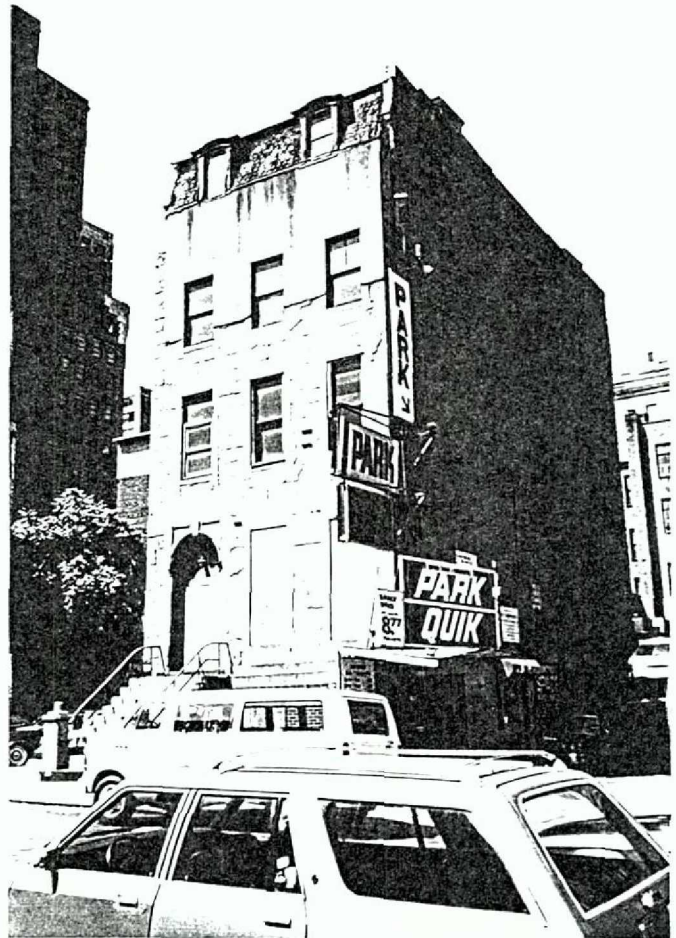


Photo 7: Facing southeast from 34th Street. Rear addition of #312 34th Street is in the foreground. #311 33rd Street is the standing structure.

Photo 8: #311 33rd Street. Facing northwest from 33rd Street.



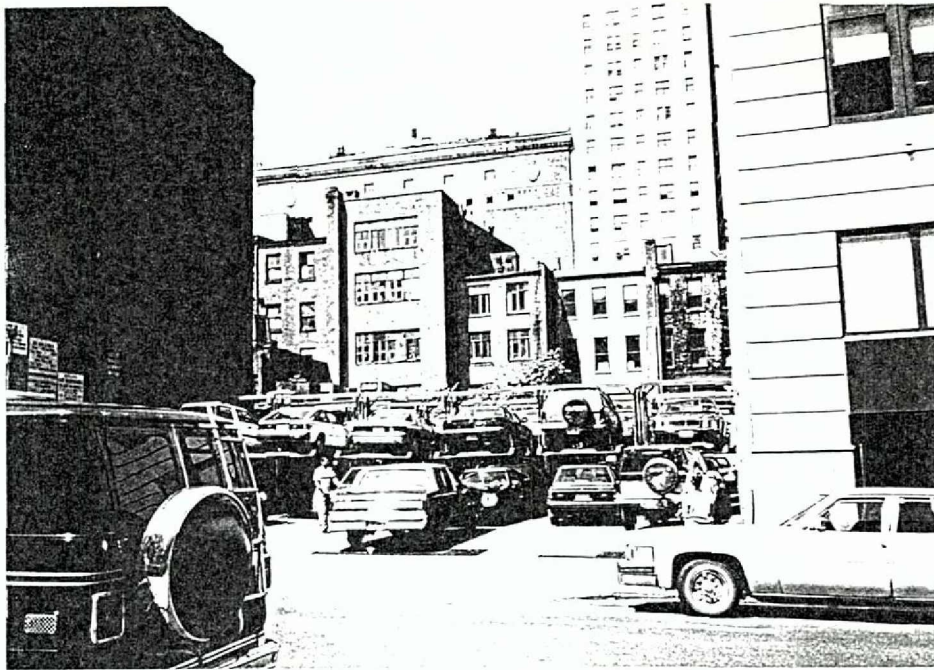


Photo 9: From 33rd Street facing north toward 34th Street through the parking lot which covers #305,307 & 309. #311 33rd Street is front left.

Photo 10: Facing northwest from 33rd Street. #311 is on the right. The parking lot encompassing #313,315,317,&319 is next, followed by #321 and #323 and the Glad Tidings Tabernacle.



Photo 11: Facing west along 33rd Street. The Glad Tidings Tabernacle is the red brick building in the center. #323 and #321 are to the right.

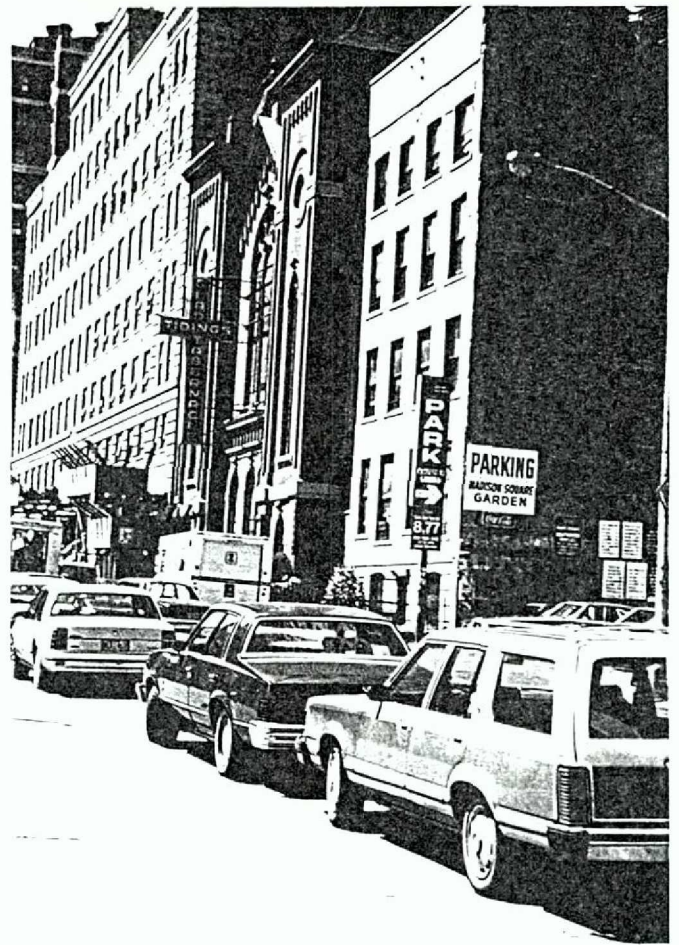
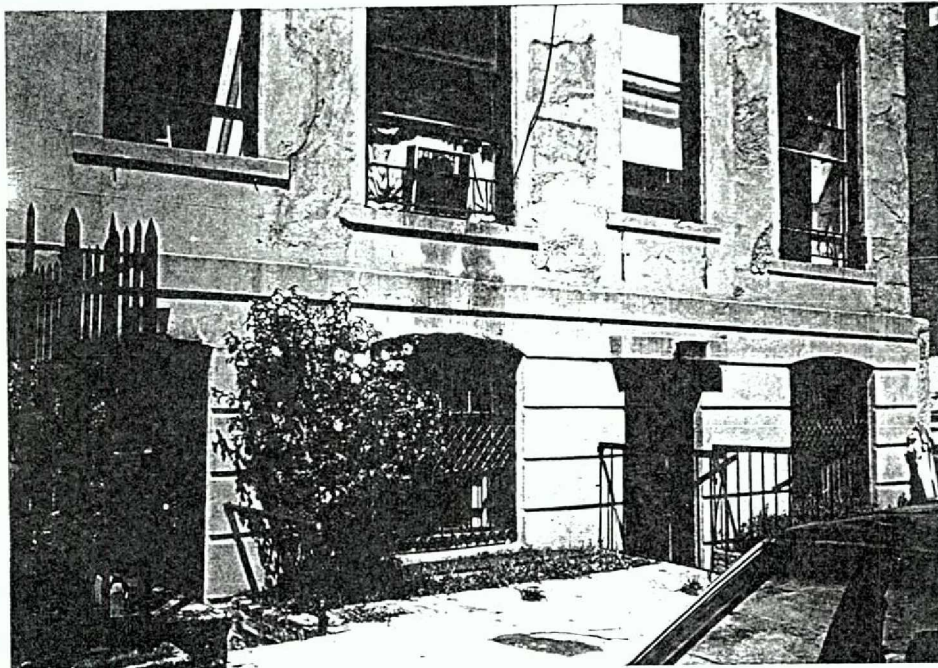


Photo 12: Close-up of #321 33rd Street on the right, and #323 33rd on the left.



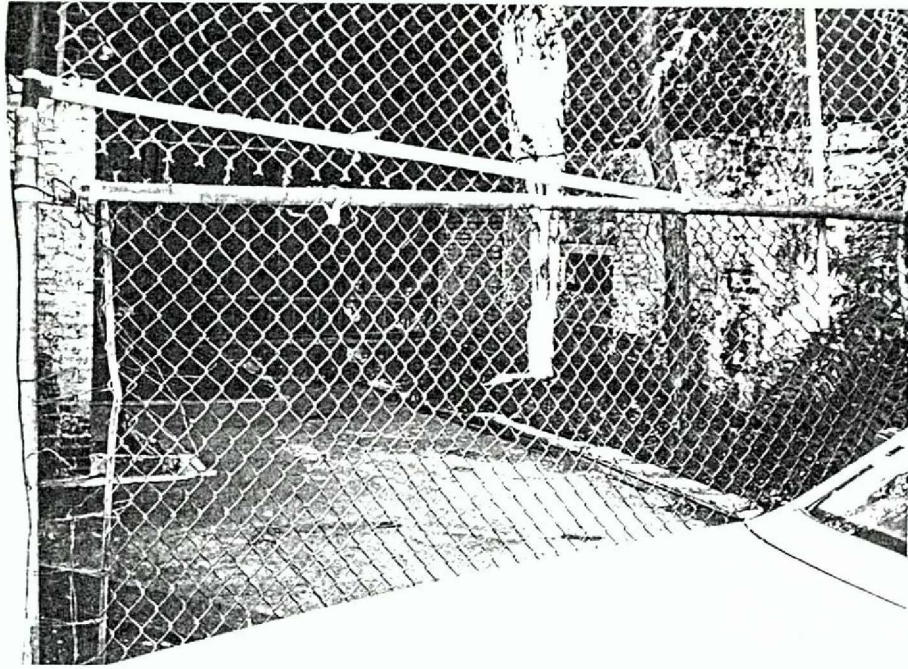
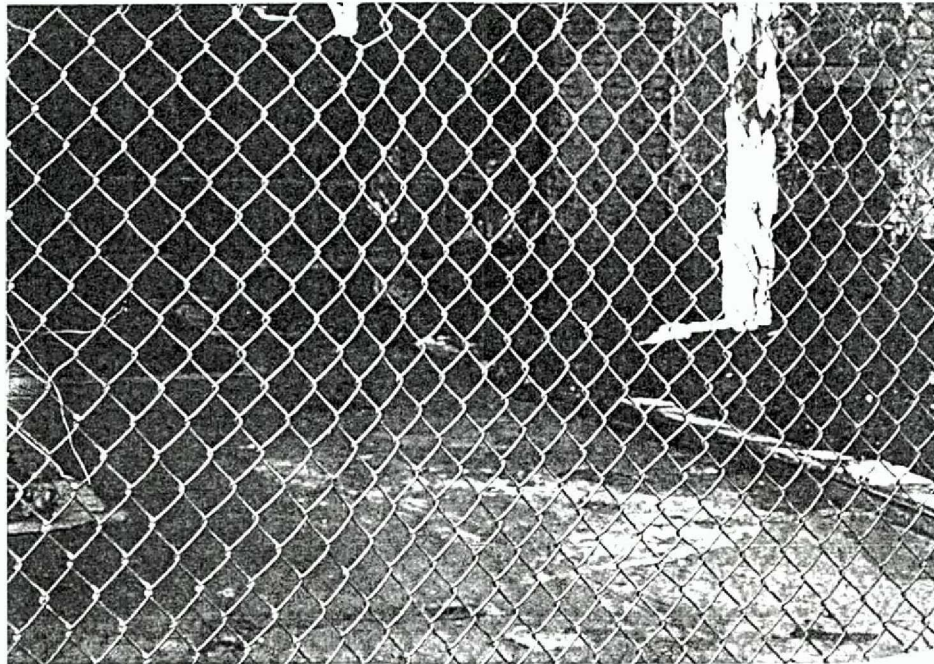


Photo 13 and 14: Backyard area behind #321 and #323 33rd Street.  
Facing west.





# HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

July 8, 1988


Phil Lord  
Room CEC 3118  
New York State Museum  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12230

Dear Phil,

We are conducting a Phase 1A archaeological assessment on a tract of land in Manhattan. I have enclosed a topo quad with the blocks in question noted.

Could your office conduct a site file search for information/sites pertinent to this particular section of the city. We appreciate your cooperation.

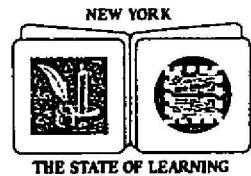
Again, thank you,



Cece Kirkorian

encl.  
cc: Fullem

P.O. BOX 331 RIVERSIDE, CONNECTICUT 06878  
(203) 661-0734



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, N.Y. 12233

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS

Search Results:

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
**Prehistoric Site File**

Date: July 26, 1988

To: Cece Kirkorian  
Historical Perspectives  
P.O. Box 331  
Riverside, Connecticut 06878

Area Searched: Manhattan, New York, (see attached map).

In response to your request our staff has conducted a search of our data files\* for locations and descriptions of prehistoric archaeological sites within the area indicated above.

The results of the search are given below. Please refer to the NYSM site identification numbers when requesting additional information.

If specific information requested has not been provided by this letter, it is likely that we are not able to provide it at this time, either because of staff limitations or policy regarding disclosure of archaeological site data.

Any questions regarding this reply can be directed to Philip Lord, Jr., at (518) 473-1503 or the above address, mark as Atten: Site File.

\*[NOTE: Our files normally do not contain historic period sites or architectural properties. Contact: The Survey Registration & Planning Unit, Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza, Albany NY, at (518) 474-0479 to begin the process of collecting data on these types of sites.]

**RESULTS OF THE FILE SEARCH:**

The following sites are located in or adjacent to the project area:

See attached list.

Code "ACP" = sites reported by Arthur C. Parker in The Archeology Of New York, 1922, as transcribed from his unpublished maps.

SEARCH CONDUCTED BY: B.W. (initials)  
Staff, Office of the State Archaeologist



**EVALUATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY FOR PREHISTORIC (INDIAN) SITES**

Examination of the data suggests that the location indicated has the following sensitivity rating:

- [ ] HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA.
- [ ] AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA.
- [ ] LOWER THAN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA.
- [ ] MIXED PROBABILITY OF PRODUCING PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA.

The reasons for this finding are given below:

- [ ] A RECORDED SITE IS INDICATED IN OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE LOCATION AND WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IT COULD BE IMPACTED BY CONSTRUCTION.
- [ ] A RECORDED SITE IS INDICATED SOME DISTANCE AWAY BUT DUE TO THE MARGIN OF ERROR IN THE LOCATION DATA IT IS POSSIBLE THE SITE ACTUALLY EXISTS IN OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE LOCATION.
- [ ] THE TERRAIN IN THE LOCATION IS SIMILAR TO TERRAIN IN THE GENERAL VICINITY WHERE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ARE INDICATED.
- [ ] THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION SUGGEST A HIGH PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE.
- [ ] THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION SUGGEST A MEDIUM PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE.
- [ ] THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION ARE SUCH AS SUGGEST A LOW PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE.
- [ ] EVIDENCE OF PRIOR DESTRUCTIVE IMPACTS FROM CULTURAL OR NATURAL SOURCES SUGGESTS A LOSS OF ORIGINAL CULTURAL DEPOSITS IN THIS LOCATION.
- [ ] THE PHYSIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCATION ARE MIXED, A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION OR USE IS SUGGESTED FOR AREAS IN THE VICINITY OF STREAMS OR SWAMPS. LOW PROBABILITY IS SUGGESTED FOR AREAS OF EROSIONAL STEEP SLOPE. OTHER AREAS WITHIN THE PROJECT SUGGEST AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF USE.

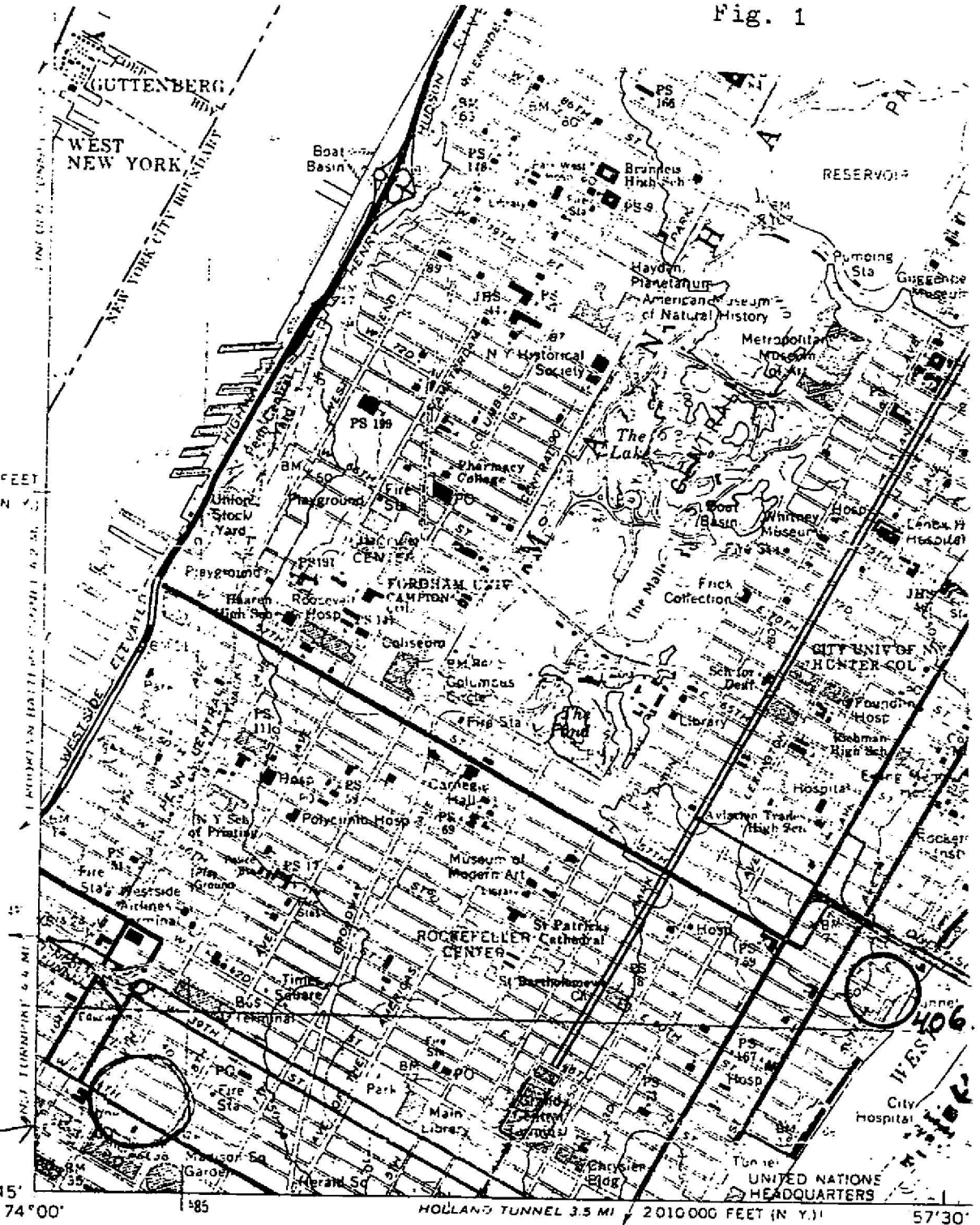
**COMMENTS:**

Probability of prehistoric remains is low unless original deposits remains e.g. covered and protected by sidewalks etc. or buried by fill from earlier construction.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FILE SEARCH  
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER  
ALBANY, NEW YORK

NYSM #	OTHER SITE #'S	SITE NAME	TIME PERIOD	SITE TYPE	SOURCE OF DATA	15' QUAD NAME	7.5' QUAD NAME	REPORTER NAME	PROJECT NAME OR #
59	ACP NYRK-9	NO INFO	NO INFO	VILL AGE		STATON ISLAND QUAD	JERSEY CITY QUAD	PARKER	NO INFO
4061	ACP NYRK-(UN NUMBERED )	NO INFO	NO INFO	TRAC ES OF OCCU PATI ON		HARLEM QUAD	CENTRAL PARK QUAD	PARKER	NO INFO

Central Park  
Quad



Project site

NEW JERSEY CITY  
6 1/4 IN. X 9 IN.

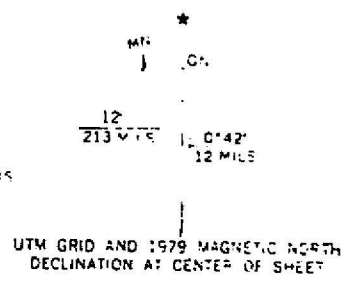
Mapped, edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Revised in cooperation with New York  
 Department of Transportation

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS Charts T-4567,  
 T-5089, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5453, T-5458,  
 and T-5778 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
 taken 1954 and planimetric surveys 1956  
 Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 226, 274, 745,  
 746, and 747 (1965) This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, Long Island zone,  
 and New Jersey coordinate system  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



JERSEY CITY QUADRANGLE

NEW JERSEY - NEW YORK

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE 8 MI.

6265 IV SW  
(CENTRAL PARK)

581

582

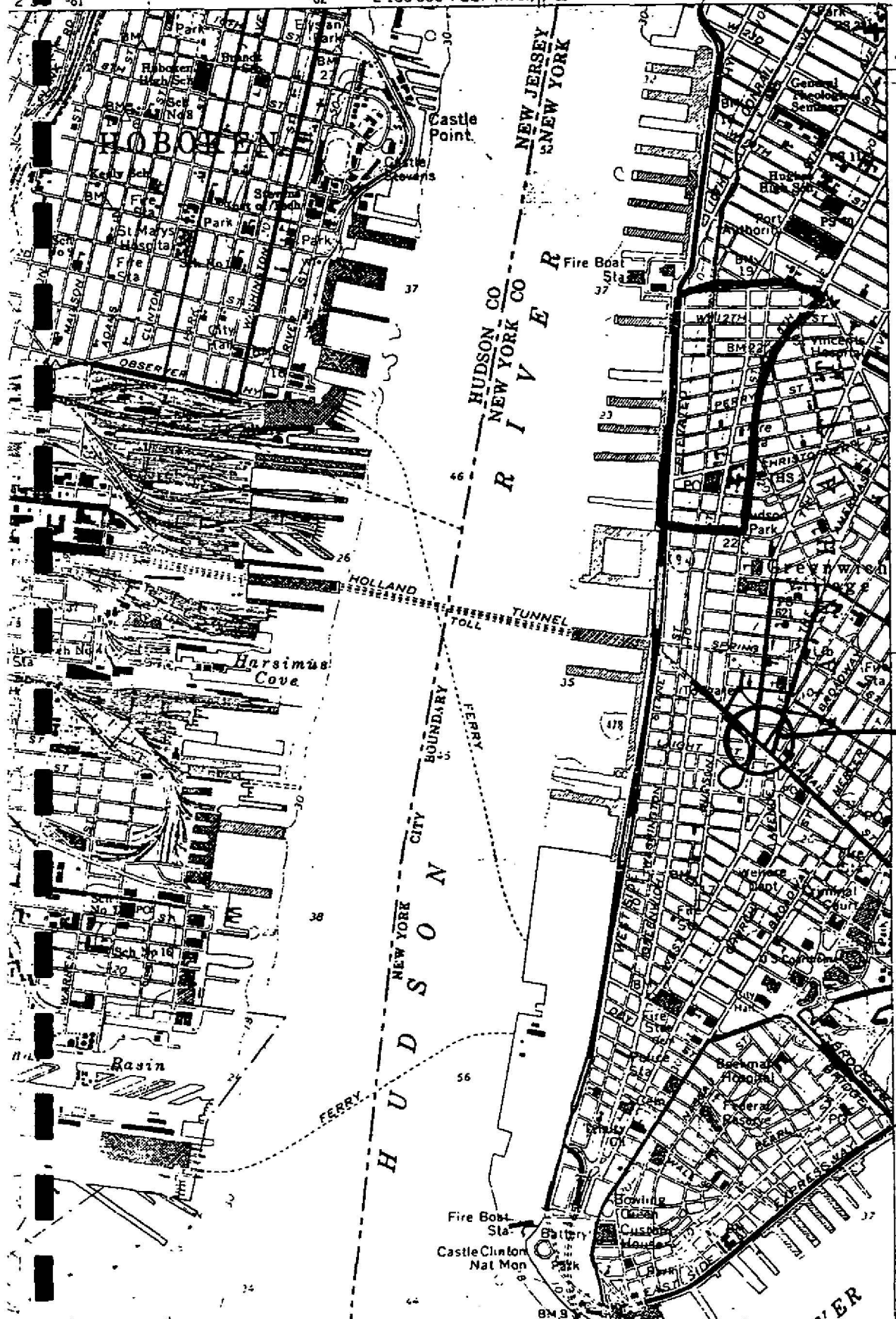
2 180 000 FEET (N. J.) 583

91

584

74° 00'

40° 45'



NEW JERSEY  
NEW YORK  
HUDSON CO  
NEW YORK CO  
R I V E R

NEW YORK CITY  
BOUNDARY  
FERRY  
H U D S O N

MANHATTAN BRIDGE 0.3 MI

LONG ISLAND BRIDGE 0.5 MI

690 000 FEET  
(N. J.)

4059

42° 30'

VER



1:990 000 FEET (N. Y.)  
 BROOKLYN-BATTERY TUNNEL 3.2 MI.  
 584 000m E 74° 00'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
- Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route (thick line with red and blue) U. S. Route (thin line with red) State Route (thin line with blue)



WEEHAWKEN, N. J.—N. Y.  
 N4045—W7400/7.5

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other sources - This information not