BOARD OF EDUCATION: ROOSEVELT ISLAND SCHOOL SITE PS/IS 217

CEQR No. 88-102M (Revised)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT 7/1989
BOARD OF EDUCATION: ROOSEVELT ISLAND
SCHOOL SITE PS/IS 217 (CEQR 88-102M)
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Prepared for Parsons Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas
1 Penn Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10119

Prepared by Historical Perspectives, Inc.
P.O. Box 331
Riverside, CT. 06878

Authors Betsy Kearns
Cece Kirkorian
Richard Schaefer

July 31, 1989
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION ............................................. 1
II. METHODOLOGY ............................................. 2
III. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING .................................. 4
IV. PREHISTORIC ERA ........................................... 5
V. HISTORICAL ERA ............................................ 6
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ..................... 14
VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................................. 16
PHOTOGRAPHS .................................................. 19
FIGURES ....................................................... 21
APPENDIX A
APPENDIX B
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1  U.S.G.S. Map. Central Park Quad, 1977 Series.
Figure 2  Site Map Furnished by PBQ&D
Figure 3  Northtown Phase II Map Showing Project Site
Figure 4  1782 British Headquarters Map
Figure 5  "Blackwell Island of Yesterday"
Figure 6  Project Site in Relation to Workhouse
Figure 7  Map of Inventoried Sites in N.Y. State Files
Figure 8  1909 U.S.C.& G.S. Map
Figure 9  Views of the Almshouse
Figure 10  View of the Workhouse
Figure 11  View of the Workhouse Interior
Figure 12  1969 Map of Part of Roosevelt Island
Figure 13  1865-1874 Map of Part of Blackwell's Island
Figure 14  1879 Bromley and Robinson Atlas
Figure 15  1885 Robinson Atlas
Figure 16  1887 U.S.C.& G.S. Map
Figure 17  Photograph of Portion of Project Site
I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the City of New York's City Environmental Quality Review request for a formal documentary study of the proposed Roosevelt Island School Site PS/IS 217, CEQR 88-102M (revised), the archaeological firm of Historical Perspectives, Inc. submits the following report on the potential for archaeological resources to exist on the site. The parcel in question, hereinafter called the Site, is part of Lot 1, Block 1373, Roosevelt Island. (Figure 1) The Site consists of 66,000 square feet and is bounded on the east by Main Street and on the west by the East River promenade. (Figure 2) The parcel is currently a grassy sward which slopes gently down to the East River and contains a baseball diamond in the northeast portion. (Photos 1-4)

During the CEQR process, the Site was flagged for its "potential to contain significant archaeological resources from Native American settlement and historic remains from four 1879 structures possibly associated with the Workhouse and the Almshouse." (See Appendix A.) The Workhouse and Almshouse, now demolished, were part of the institutional complex which dominated the island during the 19th century. Six buildings which remain from that period are New York City Landmarks. (See Appendix B.)
II. METHODOLOGY

In order to fully satisfy the requirements of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission for assessing archaeological potential, Historical Perspectives, Inc. has completed six tasks. Each of these tasks, described in detail below, were necessary to address the two guiding concerns:

1. What is the potential for the Board of Education Site to have hosted prehistoric and/or historical resources of significance; and,

2. What is the likelihood that such resources have survived the subsurface disturbances concomitant with urbanization.

Task 1: Primary Source Material

Pertinent data on the project site were sought at the New York Public Library (Map Division), the New York Historical Society, and the Manhattan Department of Buildings (Block and Lot Files).

Task 2: Secondary Source Material

In order to place the Board of Education Site in a historical perspective, local and regional histories were researched. Two were relied on heavily: the Reverend Fletcher Richmond's New York and Its Institutions 1609-1872, and a 1921 New York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin. Works by other authors such as John R. Brodhead, I.N. Phelps Stokes, and Robert Grumet were also consulted.

Of especial relevance to this project is Joan Geismar's 1985 report prepared for the Starrett Housing Development Corporation, An Archaeological Evaluation of the Northtown Phase II Project Area, Roosevelt Island, New York. The Board of Education school site was part of Dr. Geismar's study area, though not in the direct impact zone. (See Figure 3 which shows the Northtown Phase II project area.) The report was submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Officer. According to the Environmental Impact Study for Northtown Phase II, "The State Historic Preservation Officer has stated that the project will have no effect upon archaeological resources included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (Julia S. Stokes letter, May 23, 1985)" (Roosevelt Island Northtown Phase II Development EIS, Vol. 1, February, 1986. Alee, King, Rosen, Fleming, Inc., New York). Some source materials - principally c.1971 boring logs for the school site -
were available to Dr. Geismas but are presently not available to the authors of this report. However, both she and Murray Smith of Starrett Housing have reiterated the validity of these data (which will be discussed in a later section) in regard to subsurface disturbance on the Board of Education Site (Personal communication to Betsy Kearns, July 1 and 13).

Task 3: Archaeological Literature

Manhattan and Western Long Island have a long history of archaeological research. Antiquarians recorded 19th century interest in local Indian artifacts, and since the 1920s both professional and amateur archaeological archaeologists have published reports on their findings. Available site reports for Roosevelt Island were reviewed for data specific to the project area.

Inquiries on inventoried prehistoric and historical sites were directed to the New York State Museum and the New York State Historic Preservation Office and the replies are appended.

Task 4: Subsurface Disturbance Record

Parallel to the research to determine the Board of Education Site's prehistoric and historical potential was research to determine the likelihood that any such cultural resources are extant, having survived the normal destructive forces of development. Since no building records were available, this research had to rely on atlases, insurance maps, borings and landfill information, as well as eyewitness descriptions and previous reports.

Task 5: Informant Interviews

To augment the records research described above, interviews were sought with amateur and professional archaeologists and historians knowledgeable in Roosevelt Island's prehistory and history as well as professionals familiar with the construction history of the Site.

Task 6: Field Visit and Photographic Record

No subsurface investigations were conducted. During a site visit (July 1989) a photographic record of current conditions was made (See Photographs 1-4).
III. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Except for an outcrop in Long Island City, Roosevelt Island is the southernmost aboveground occurrence of Fordham gneiss, New York City's oldest bedrock formation (Barlow 1971:123). Situated between layers of more easily weathered dolomite, the metamorphic gneiss outcrop has withstood the ravages of the East River, while the water has carved channels through the dolomite around it (Schuberth 1968:82, cited in Geismar 1985:16). With the retreat of the last ice sheets of the most recent glacial period, approximately 12,000 years ago, the island was covered with a layer of glacial till, sandy gravelly soil of variable depth, depending on the elevation of the gneiss beneath it. The cigar-shaped island's present length, about 1.97 miles and area of 147 acres is a result of extensive, but probably not systematic filling operations. In the late 18th century, the island's area was only 107 acres. From historical maps it is also clear that the shoreline of the project area has undergone changes. Perhaps the earliest cause of this was the seawall, constructed of the island's own gneiss during the 19th century and maintained until the present. Resulting increases in the island's area, be they from the seawall, grading activities, or from deliberate episodes of land creation, are visible in early maps of the project area. A comparison of the maps shows extension into the East River. Compare, for example, the maps shown on Figures 4, 5, and 1. However, it is difficult to measure the exact extent of this activity because the range of maps studied varied in both scale accuracy.

The present project site topography is a result of its usage in the historical period, during much of which it was roughly equidistant from two New York City charitable/correctional institutions, of which a more detailed discussion will be presented in the Historical Era section of this report. Approximately 350 feet to the north of the Board of Education Site stood the Workhouse, and about 350 feet to the south stood the Almshouse, during whose construction and landscaping of the surrounding grounds in the 19th century, and eventual demolition in the 20th, the ground elevations in the vicinity have increased up to 10 feet (Geismar 1985:17). To examine the third dimension, Dr. Geismar had access to boring data which showed that the site consists of a deep layer of construction fill (bricks, concrete, wood, cinders, etc.) over a layer of undisturbed glacial till, resting on a foundation of gneiss (Geismar 1985:17, 48 and 52 and see Figure 6). The site is presently a level, grassy baseball diamond, slightly elevated and sloping down toward the East River shore which lies to the west (See Photos 1-4).
IV. PREHISTORIC ERA

There is little doubt that at the time of the first European contacts with the Upper Delewaran Indians inhabiting what is now New York City, that Native Americans had visited Roosevelt Island. Requests for file searches at the New York State Museum and the New York State Historic Preservation Office have come up with several prehistoric sites along the Manhattan and Queens shores of the East River in the vicinity of Roosevelt Island (See Figure 7 and Appendix B). These include two shell middens along Hallets Cove (#A81-01-0099) in Queens facing the present north tip of Roosevelt Island and further south the Sunswick Shell Midden Site (#A81-01-0100), on the East River shore at Rainey Park, about 1000 feet north of the project area. In addition, at least two other sites, a village and burial, further south in Long Island City, about half mile from the modern shore of the East River are inventoried. Bolton describes the waters of the East River as offering good fishing, especially those between Queens and Roosevelt Island (Bolton 1922:176). There are also "traces of occupation" along the Manhattan Shore in the area of 59th Street, NYSM Site #4061 (the project area faces 72nd Street). Although these sites are separated from Roosevelt Island by the East River, there is no reason to suppose that this cut off contact between the three islands. Locational models (Ceci 1980) and sensitivity reports (Gonzalez and Daniel 1978) show that such waterways were no barriers to Indian groups, and in fact, water sources and waterways appear to be the preferred areas of activity. Therefore, the New York State Museum has rated the project area as having a "higher than average probability of producing prehistoric archaeological data." This rating is based on a sensitivity model which relies on a comparison of geographical features of known site locations with the threatened locations of possible sites (Philip Lord, SHPO Office, personal communication to C. Kirkorian, 5/2/88), but does not account for recent disturbance/current topography.

Unfortunately, in this region, sites dating from the late Archaic (ca.2,700 years ago) and the Woodland (ca.2,700 – 300 years ago) periods are not deeply buried, and often revealed via erosion, plowing and house construction (Wyatt 1982:71 cited in Kearns 1988:9-10). Because of the fragile nature of these cultural deposits, and the building, demolition and alteration history of the project area, which includes a bridge approach, a road and several buildings, not to mention grading and filling activities, it is certain that any such prehistoric sites would have been destroyed.
V. HISTORICAL ERA

General Discussion

Earlier authorities have identified Roosevelt Island with the island called Minnahanonck by the Indians, which was purchased by Wouter van Twiller, Director General of New Netherland on July 16, 1637 (Brodhead 1853:267; NYHS Quarterly 1921:35). However, the original deed for this purchase names two neighboring islands, Minnahanonck and Tenkenas, for which Wards and Randalls Islands (then unconnected) fit the description supplied in the deed (Grumet 1981:34). According to this information, Twiller either never bought Roosevelt, called Varckens (varken=pig) Island by the Dutch, or at the very least his purchase was unrecorded. The theory that Twiller never owned the island seems to agree with the reference concerning Jan Claessen Alteras. In 1642 Alteras, who had already "farmed part of this island" by 1639 (Stokes 1928 II:207), presented a bill of 300 guilders to the Dutch West India Company for improvements he had made to Varckens Island. These included a house, garden and fences (NYHS Quarterly 1921:35). Note that he billed the Company rather than Twiller, who was no longer employed by them. Whichever islands Twiller did own were confiscated by Peter Stuyvesant in 1652. After determining Varckens Island's lack of defensive value to the Colony, it was leased to Francois (Francis, Francois) Fyn the same year (NYHS Quarterly 1921:35-36).

With the English Conquest of New Netherland in 1664, "Verckens or Hogg Island" was confiscated and given by Governor Nicolls to Captain John Manning, then newly-appointed Sheriff of New York (1668). Manning was the officer in charge when New York was forced to surrender to a fleet of 23 Dutch ships in 1673, becoming New Netherland again for more than a year. For his hapless role in this affair, Manning was court martialed in 1675, and he retired or was banished to his island, now called Manning's Island. At his home on the southern end, called "the castle," he was noted for entertaining friends with bowls of rum punch (Barlow 1971:128-129).

With Manning's death the island passed to his stepdaughter, Mary Manningham and her husband Robert Blackwell, and the island remained in the Blackwell family until 1828, being known as Blackwell's Island until 1921. It was relatively undisturbed during the American Revolution, although after the Battle of Long Island (1776) British troops landed on Blackwell's Island, but were driven off by strong fire from Manhattan batteries (NYHS Quarterly 1921:39). Later, during the occupation of New York City (1782), Sir Guy Carleton, a British prison inspector,
suggested that American naval prisoners be allowed to go ashore there during the hot summer months, but it is not known whether his recommendation was actually implemented (Stokes 1928 V:1150). After the war, Robert Blackwell's grandson James attempted to sell the island, and the advertisement gives us an excellent description of the island, then four miles from New York City:

It is without exception one of the most healthy situations in this state. It is remarkable for the number of fish and fowl that is caught there in the different seasons. There is on the premises, two small Dwelling Houses, a Barn, Bake and Fowl House, Cyder Mill; a large Orchard, containing 450 of the best grafted fruit trees, such as Newton & golden pippins, spitsinburghs, peirmans, bow apples, pears, peaches, plumbs, cherries, &c. There is a number of the best stone quarries, ready cleared to begin breaking immediately; and the subscriber has a complete set of quarry tools, with all his farming utensils and stock to dispose of at the same time. The Island abounds with running springs of most excellent water. The above contains 107 acres, eight of which are salt meadow, and the whole has been considerable improved with manure, and in good fence (from London's New York Packet, March 8, 1784, quoted in NYHS Quarterly 1921:39-40).

Evidently Blackwell was in debt, but unfortunately no one was in the market for an island that year. In 1785 Blackwell's Island was to be sold at public venue, the southwestern part containing two small houses, "barn, bake house and cyder mill," an orchard, stock and farming utensils, household and kitchen furniture. No structures or improvements are mentioned for the northern half which contained the project area (NYHS Quarterly 1921:40). Existing maps from this period either show no buildings on the island, as on the 1776 seachart (Barres 1776), or as in the 1782 Stevens Map (see Figure 4), show a group of unlabelled structures on the east coast of the Island roughly 2,000 feet southeast of the project area, which must correspond to the buildings mentioned in the sale advertisements. The restored Blackwell House Landmark c.1789 lies south of the Board of Education Site (see Figure 5). There is no evidence of any sort of structure in the vicinity of the project area during the 17th and 18th centuries and the first half of the 19th century.

Apparently in spite of himself, James Blackwell managed to sell his island to James L. Bell in 1823 for $30,000. However, when Bell died in January of 1825, the property reverted to
Blackwell through foreclosure. James managed to sell the property to the City of New York for $32,500 in 1828 after 43 years of advertising! James Bell's widow contested this transfer, and when the case was finally settled 16 years later, in 1844, she received $20,000 for her stamina (NYHS Quarterly 1921:40-41).

The City purchased the island as the site for its new penitentiary, the cornerstone of which was laid July 10, 1828. The structure was completed in 1829 and the first prisoners were received on August 23, 1830. Situated at the southern tip of the island, the Penitentiary played host to such famous inmates as Boss Tweed and Mae West, before it was demolished in 1936 (Barlow 1971:38-39).

The new prison was just the beginning of the City's plan for Blackwell's Island, which was to become New York City's institutional center. (Figure 5) The supervising architect for the Commission of Charities and Correction, James Renwick, Jr., the architect who designed the Gothic Revival splendor of St. Patrick's Cathedral and Grace Church, both in Manhattan, is believed to have had a hand in the design of the Small-Pox Hospital (1854-6) at the southern end of the island, and the City or Charity Hospital (1858-70) just north of that. The Lunatic asylum, north of site, was erected in 1839 (expanded 1847-8 and 1879), famous for its central "Octagon Tower," which is the only section that remains standing at present. At the north end of the island the Metropolitan Hospital was built in the 1890's and at the far northern tip a lighthouse was erected in 1870, supervised by Renwick, but believed to have been designed and built by an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum (LPC 1979:37-38). Blackwell's Island was naturally endowed for these developments, as Rev. Fletcher Richmond observed in 1872, since it "originally abounded in rich quarries, most of which have now been exhausted in the erection of the princely edifices that crown its surface" (Richmond 1872:524). With the establishment of the Penitentiary there was also a pool of laborers to do the work. The strong currents in the East River isolated the island, also preventing escape. The only vessels permitted to land on the island without special permit, were the steamboats owned by the Commissioners, which visited the island several times daily "in the interest of mercy and justice" (Ibid. 1872:531).

Adjacent to the Board of Education Site to the south stood the grounds of the Almshouse (See Figure 8). This institution had its origins in the Publick Workhouse and House of Correction (1734) which originally stood on the present site of New York's City Hall. It was moved to Blackwell's Island in 1848. The
warden resided in the old Blackwell house, while the residents lived in two almost identical buildings, separated by sex. Each building had a four story, 50 foot square central section with two wings, 60 x 90 feet. Their floors were encircled by iron verandas and had iron stairways. They could accommodate 600 people. As noted above, the island's own gneiss was the building material, and convicts from the Penitentiary the labor force (See Figure 9). The Almshouse inmates, 15 years of age and older, were expected to contribute to their upkeep, and were therefore divided into four classes, ranging from able-bodied men to those exempt from toil by reasons of disease and age. Imbeciles and lunatics were to be assigned to the Lunatic Asylum, and vagrants to the Workhouse (Ibid., 537-539). When in 1869 two "blind asylums" were added, the name of the institution was changed to the New York City Home for the Aged and Infirm. The "City Home" was continually being expanded, yet could never keep up with the numbers of poor, sick, criminal and insane, whose numbers increased as the weather grew colder. In 1896, with a capacity of 1,800, the Home housed approximately 3,000 (Welfare Island 1969:37-40). In spite of overcrowding, the Almshouse presented an "exquisite neatness, and the perfect discipline and regularity that reign everywhere through the buildings and grounds." Much work went into making the grounds regular and parklike, as the "walks have all been neatly covered with flagstones or gravel; the flower and vegetable gardens, and the lawns with their thrifty trees, exhibit much taste and cultivation" (Richmond 1872:537-538). Living conditions at the City Home were gradually improved. For example, china dishes replaced tin cups and plates in 1929. The City Home Administration, apparently not always honest, was reformed in 1934. Dr. S.S. Goldwater, the new Hospital's Commissioner under Mayor LaGuardia issued a set of rules for the "guests," setting the following standards, "cleanliness, conduct becoming ladies and gentlemen and regard for one another's property." Under previous administrations of this property, the proceeds from the sale of brooms and baskets was embezzled by the wardens. Goldwater also began modernization of the Home's facilities. When the City Home was closed in 1952, the healthy inmates were sent to the Staten Island farm colony, and the infirm were transferred to the Goldwater Hospital (on the site of the earlier Penitentiary) and Bird S. Coler Hospital, newly built at the north end of the island (Barlow 1971:137-139).

Directly north of the Board of Education Site, the Workhouse was erected in 1850. Except when otherwise noted, the following discussion of the Workhouse is based on the thorough account in Joan Geismar's 1985 report, pages 25, 28-45, 60-64. Designed by C.F. Anderson, the Workhouse was planned to have four wings radiating from a central core of kitchens,
sculleries, storerooms, matrons apartments and chapel. Rooms for doing laundry were to be located in the two wings reserved for females. The original designs were never realized, with only two T-shaped wings being constructed, the northern one for women and the southern for men. Although sources disagree on the final size of the structure, they range between 600 and 700 feet long. (See Figure 10) The interior of the building followed the original design as closely as was possible in the truncated structure. Flanking an open central hall were three tiers of narrow corridors with low railings (See Figure 11). The grounds, like those of the Almshouse, were extremely level, with trees and manicured lawns. The property had undergone a virtual transformation, "the surface around it, now so smooth, was originally exceedingly broken, and more than a thousand cubic yards of rock were removed in preparing the site for the southern wing" (Richmond 1872:542).

The Workhouse was to be a new kind of prison, in which all inmates would work, not only to support themselves, but also to earn a profit for the City. Work as an integral component of any system of rehabilitation is a theme that runs through all the correctional institutions on the island. As one observer put it, "Toil is one of the most salutary forms of discipline that can be administered to criminals of any age, grade, or nationality. Without this there can scarcely be any reformation, and the neglect of it has plunged most criminals into the sea of infamy in which they are engulfed" (Richmond 1872:532). Thirteen annual reports from the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, published between 1860 and 1879, give an inventory of the goods produced by the inmates. They made clothing for themselves and the "residents" of the other institutions on Blackwell's and Randall's Island, all the utensils used, and grew their own vegetables. The 1860 report lists: shoes, boots, slippers, pants, overcoats, dresses, shirts, caps, petticoats, chemises, stockings, mittens, vests, belts, and shrouds among the clothing; utensils such as trays, kettles, pails, saucepans and wash basins; vegetables: 15,000 cabbages, and lesser amounts of celery, potatoes, beets, carrots among others. Between 1860 and 1879 outside contracts were filled for caps, stockings, "segars" (cigars), and hoop skirts.

Labor was generally divided by gender. Men did the outdoor work, gardening, building and quarrying, as well as carpentry, metal and leather work, and general repairs. The women, on the other hand, were almost always confined to the building, occupied mostly with sewing and cleaning. They were locked in their cells immediately after dinner (at about 4:30 PM), and not let out until breakfast the next morning. The only chore that enabled the women to sample the fresh air had a major drawback.
It was the "bucket brigade," the emptying of the Workhouse's chamberpots. This brigade was still active in the 1920's, and an important question that remains unanswered is the ultimate destination of all the waste. Privies as well as water cisterns provide much valuable information to the archaeologist, for once they are no longer in use they quickly fill with refuse, and due to their often fragrant nature, remain undisturbed as "time capsule[s]," with distinctly stratified layers, awaiting discovery by the archaeologist. Unfortunately, there is no evidence for privy facilities on the grounds of the Workhouse, or in the project area. Although the East River is a likely candidate for the destination of the bucket brigade, after 1881 this activity would have been in violation of a health ordinance. It is suggested that the Department of Health or some other agency provided boats to remove such waste. If there were privies, they were most likely to be found at the rear of the building, but since pictorial documentation of this side of the building is nonexistent, it can not be said with certainty.

There is also no indication of the existence of water cisterns. By 1860, the island was supplied with water from the Croton Aqueduct via two pipes running beneath the East River from 70th and 79th Streets in Manhattan. During his tenure as Workhouse Superintendent between 1860 and 1866, John Fitch was constantly noting repairs and cleanings of these pipes, which seem to have made the water supply rather unreliable. Although there is no mention of collecting water in cisterns, the 1879 Bromley map of the island does depict a reservoir and a pond on the southern half of the island, below the Blackwell House. What makes the presence of cisterns less likely is the fact that the water supply was secure enough to install steam heat in all the cells in 1860, and water closets in the Workhouse hospital ward in 1879. After Fitch's departure from the Workhouse, the problem of the water supply and its solution are no longer mentioned.

Despite the high hopes for the Workhouse as a rehabilitation center, over the years it became less a reformatory and more a prison. The emphasis on reform through hard work was replaced by an environment of punishment. By the 1920s the institution had become infamous, and its inmates were removed to newer facilities on Rikers Island, in the same fashion as the convicts of the Penitentiary. In 1934 the Workhouse was being used as the medical center for the Department of Correction, and aptly renamed Correction Hospital, but its days were numbered, and WPA workers demolished the building 1936.

With the removal of the correctional institutions from the island in the 1920s, the City changed the name of Blackwell's
Island, which because of its long association with the Penitentiary and Workhouse and the rather grim feudal architecture had taken on sinister undertones, and substituted Welfare Island in 1921, as more in keeping with its coalescing medical and continuing charitable functions. The grounds of the Workhouse became a Health Department camp for children recovering from infantile paralysis, suffering from diabetes or certain forms of heart ailments. In 1962, this area was taken over by the New York City Fire Department, which converted it into a Fire Department Training College. Using renovations plans it had begun preparing as early as 1960, the College added buildings to the north and east of the old Workhouse site, further away from the project area. According to a 1969 map (See Figure 12), the Fire Department was using buildings in the old City Home or Almshouse area as well, thus surrounding the project area. The Fire Department moved its training college to Randall's Island in 1977, and since then all the buildings on the campus have been razed.

Site Specific Discussion

The May 1989 letter from CEQR noted concern about "historic remains from four 1879 structures possibly associated with the Workhouse and the Almshouse" (Appendix A). No buildings on the project site are shown on maps of Blackwell's Island until 1865-1874 (Figure 13). These structures appear to be outbuildings of the Workhouse, and the annual reports discuss many (work)shops, for the carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths and painters, etc, without locating them on the grounds. A new house of reception is also mentioned, which is the possible identity for one of these structures, since later maps indicate a boat landing there (CPCCAR 1860:182).

The building configuration is completely changed on the 1879 Bromley and Robinson Atlas with the possible exception of one tiny structure which is circled on the 1865-74 map (Figure 13). Also, it may be that another of the small buildings (note arrow) was a storehouse because the 1879 Atlas, which shows the project area in detail, depicts a large (110 foot long), new T-shaped stone "storehouse," as well as a wooden structure on the boat landing. (Figure 14) (The New York Public Library's 1879 Atlas is being rebound and is thus unavailable for copying at this writing. The authors viewed the New York Historical Society's volume and made a tracing, copy-machine duplications not being allowed. Therefore, it was necessary to copy the reproduction in Geismar's report. This is not an ideal solution since many details are dim. In particular, the roads which cut through the Site cannot be seen.) Of the other three buildings, the northernmost one may be the same
as shown on the 1865-74 map and again in 1885 (Figure 15) but has been removed by 1887 (Figure 16). The boat landing, which is drawn the same on both the 1879 and 1885, is changed by 1887 and changed yet again on the 1909 depiction (Figure 8). The fourth building flagged in the CEQR letter lies directly south of the Workhouse and east of the storehouse on the 1879 Atlas. A definitive statement about how long it survived is impossible to make, but it does not appear on maps post 1909. Neither is it possible to ascertain its usage despite research into eyewitness accounts and annual reports of the charitable institutions.

The one building about which information could be found was the storehouse. On April 8, 1867 The Workhouse's storehouse burned with the loss of $30,000 worth of goods. A new stone building was then constructed, which cost $29,000, and was said to be very neat and attractive, with masonry "unsurpassed by any building in the city" (CPCCAR 1867:455). Not only is the storehouse in the project area of sufficient size to have been this structure, but it is the only stone building in the area, aside from the Workhouse itself. There is no documentation of new buildings added to the project area during the life of the Workhouse. The City Home, whose grounds and Male Almshouse building ad the site very clearly on the 1909 US Coastguard and Geodetic Survey Map, may have also been connected with the outbuildings on and around the Site. Aside from the storehouse, there is no reason to ascribe the property exclusively to either institution (See Figure 8). The storehouse was the only building to survive the demolition of the Workhouse complex, not being removed until after 1969. At that time the stone structure was a garage for the Fire Department. It had been enlarged, then 150 feet long and L-shaped, but it is labelled as having been erected in 1867, so its identity is not in doubt (Welfare Island 1969:Figure A-5). (See Figure 12.)

Further construction episodes on the Site, also shown on the 1969 map, are the approaches to the Welfare Island Bridge and the West Road, which ran north-south immediately west of the storehouse/garage. The road and bridge were in place in 1956, when they appear on the USGS Topographic map of the area. Today, the road is no longer extant on this section of the island, and the bridge approach is no longer on the Site. The Board of Education Site is presently a play area as shown in Photos 1-4.
VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project site has been subject to extensive land manipulation since the mid-19th century.

The most dramatic disturbance in the vicinity was undoubtedly the construction of the south wing of the Workhouse, which necessitated the blasting of "more than a thousand cubic yards of rock." However, the erection of various buildings and a roadway across the project site was similarly effective, even if not as efficient. Ground disturbance has not only been limited to construction. As reported in the historical discussion of the City Home and Workhouse, a great deal of "landscaping" was done, resulting in flat expanses of lawn around each building. The appearance of the area between the institutions and the shore (which includes the project site) was also altered, as the "labor of docking, building sea wall and the admirable grading by which the island is made to slope gradually on either side to the water brink, has all been performed by inmates of the Penitentiary and Workhouse" (Richmond 1872:525). In addition, Geismar (1985) reports that the project site is covered with an "extensive deposit of debris-laden fill ... located in what appears to be a deep natural depression since levels of glacial till remain intact beneath the fill." She hypothesizes that this apparent building debris was dumped after the demolition of the Almshouse or Workhouse, or later demolition elsewhere on the island (Geismar 1985:48-52), perhaps accounting for the apparent elevation and slope of the present baseball diamond (See Photos 1-4 and Figure 17). As discussed in the Environmental Setting section of this report, these alterations are also documented in the changing shape of the coastline. Indeed, it is not clear how much of the shoreline of the project area is actually manmade.

The construction, demolition and alteration of the project site would have had a massive impact on prehistoric and historical deposits there. There is no evidence of a prehistoric occupation, and what might have existed could not have survived the intensive use the area has undergone in the 19th and 20th centuries. Although the Workhouse's storehouse outlived the main building through the 1960s, it underwent enlargement for use as a garage before its demolition, and West Road would have been a major disturbance. Furthermore, it is of questionable historical and archaeological value. Life in the Workhouse is extremely well-documented. The wardens' annual reports catalogue what the inmates made, sold, used, wore and ate, which includes those items likely to have been placed in the storehouse, and incidentally, the same sort of data one would collect from an archaeological excavation. Finding the
foundations of the altered building would not seem to offer a significant contribution to the archaeological record. Similarly, searching for the remains of the other three much smaller buildings shown on the 1879 map, whose usage is unknown and whose original location would be impossible to determine on today's landscape, would not seem to be a valid undertaking.

Furthermore, there is also no evidence for the existence of old privies or cisterns on the site. That the Site was at least 300 hundred feet from any dwelling does not suggest their existence, even if the hypothetical privy could have survived the apparently thorough site destruction. Therefore, in conclusion, the evidence indicates that the Board of Education Site is not archaeologically sensitive, requiring no further archaeological investigation, testing or monitoring.
VII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AKRF, Inc.  
1986 Roosevelt Island Northtown Phase II Development.  

Barlow, Elizabeth  
1971 The Forests and Wetlands of New York City. Little  
Brown and Co., Boston.

Bolton, R.P.  
1922 Indian Paths in the Great Metropolis. Indian Notes  
and Monographs, Museum of the American Indian,  
Misc. 23.

Brodhead, John R.  
and Bros., New York.

Bromley, George W. and E. Robinson  
G.W. Bromley, New York.

Ceci, Lynn  
1980 "Location analysis of historic Algonquian sites in  
Coastal New York: a preliminary study," in  
Proceedings of the Conference on Northeastern  
Archaeology, J. Moore ed. University of  
Massachusetts - Amherst, Department of Anthropology  

CPCCAR  
1860  
1867 Board of Commissioners of Public Charities and  
Correction Annual Reports. New York City Depart-  
ment of Correction.

Geismar, Joan  
1985 An Archaeological Evaluation of the Northtown Phase  
II Project Area, Roosevelt Island, New York. The  
Starrett Housing Development Corporation, New York.

Gonzalez, E. and A. Daniel  
1978 Suffolk County Cultural Resources Inventory,  
Gaynell S. Levine, ed. SCAA, Stony Brook.

Grumet, R.S.  
1981 Native American Place Names in New York City.  
Museum of the City of New York, New York.
Harris, Mary

Kearns, B. and C. Kirkorian

LPC

New York Hospital Society Quarterly Bulletin

Richmond, John Fletcher

Schuberth, Christopher J.

Stokes, Isaac Newton Phelps

USGS
1956  Harlem Quadrangle. USGS, Washington, D.C.
1969  Central Park Quadrangle. USGS, Washington, D.C.

Welfare Island Planning and Development Corporation

Willensky, E. and N. White

Wolfe, Gerard R.

WPA
Wyatt, Ronald J.
Photo 1: Looking southwest from circular ramp.

Photo 2: Looking west across the project site from Main Street, the eastern boundary.
Photo 3: Looking southeast from the East River Promenade.

Photo 4: Looking south from the East River Promenade. Note the slope evident in both photographs.
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

4 FEET IN THE HUDSON RIVER AND 5.7 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST


There may be private inholdings within the National Park Service boundary.
Figure 2. NORTHTOWN PHASE II: Proposed Development (AKRF, Inc. 1985:Figure 7—modified)
"Fascimile of the Unpublished British Headquarters Colored Manuscript Map of New York and Environs." B.F. Stevens
Blackwell's Island of Yesterday

Figure 5

Photocopied from Elizabeth Barlow, 1971
THE FORESTS AND WETLANDS OF NEW YORK CITY.
Opposite page 127.
approx. test boring location (boulders present that may relate to Workhouse Foundation)

Workhouse Plan ca. 1895

Post-1895 Addition

Residential

Additional Parking

Community Building

B, D Play Areas

C Northtown Plaza

E Elderly Seating

F Community Plaza

G West Promenade

II Landscaped Grassy Area

Note: test boring 25* contained boulders but in a non-fill context
Figure 8

U.S.C. & G.S.
Hell Gate & East River
from
Blackwell's Island
to
Lawrence Point
1909

1/5000
The female almshouse, Blackwell's Island.

Photocopies of an engraving (Richmond 1872:536) and a photograph (Barlow 1971:139) (See Biblio. for reference.)
Plate 18. 1871 engraving of the north wing of the Workhouse and part of the central building (compare with much higher central building in Plate 9). Note guardhouse near the crosswing and neat but barren appearance of the grounds (Richmond 1871: opp. p. 535)

Page 34.
Figure 11

Photocopy of a photograph from I KNEW THEM IN PRISON
by Mary Harris, 1936. Opposite page 48.
Hellgate & Part of Blackwell's Island
Sheet no. 2A
New York Harbor Set
1865 - 1874
1" = 200'

Hydrographic Charts
Showing Pier & Bulkhead Lines.

NYPL (Map Division)
Special Board for the Revision of Pier & Bulkhead Lines on the Brooklyn Side of the East River, New York.
Plate 16. Detail of the north end of Blackwell's Island in 1879. Note lighthouse (arrow) at end of the island. The Workhouse is seen in relation to the Male Almshouse to the south and the Lunatic Asylum to the north (Bromley and Robinson 1879:Plate 41, Map Division of the NYPL)

Figure 15

Robinson's Atlas
1885
Plate 28  Blackwell's Island.
600' = 1"

Key:
-■ stone
- brick
- wood
-— Proposed Sts.
Figure 16

U.S.C. & G.S.

Hell Gate & East River
from South End of
Blackwell's Island to
Lawrence Point
1887

1/5000

(Same as 1897 map.
Street pattern same as
1909 Map.)
Plate 10. View to southwest from near field and baseball diamond. What appear to be boulders is mainly trashed concrete. New York Hospital in Manhattan is to rear of picture (photo: March, 1985)

Reproduction of a photograph from Geismar's 1985 report
Appendix A

CITY
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY REVIEW

GAIL BENJAMIN, Director, OEI
Department of Environmental Protection
Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street, Room 2420
New York, NY 10007, (212) 669-8110

MARK LONDON, Director, ERD
Department of City Planning
22 Reade Street, Room 4E
New York, NY 10007-1216, (212) 720-3420

REVISED
CONDITIONAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Proposal No. 88-102M
ULJRP No. 880352PSM

Date Sent: May 10, 1989

Name, Description and Location of Proposal:

Proposed site selection and acquisition of property consisting of approximately 66,000 square feet in order to construct a new elementary/intermediate school for approximately 770 students grades K-8 on Main Street, Roosevelt Island, Manhattan (Block 1373, P/O Lot 1).

STATEMENT OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT UPON MODIFICATION

The Departments of City Planning and Environmental Protection, as CEQR Lead Agencies, have determined that the proposed action will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment once modified in the following areas:

1. The school's exhaust stack must be located at least 192 feet north of the southern lot boundary of the site or the exhaust stack must be at least 138 feet high.

2. The applicant shall provide a closed window condition and alternate means of ventilation to activate a minimum of 25 dBA window wall attenuation. Alternate means of ventilation includes but is not limited to a. air conditioning b. provision for a/c sleeves for use with an air conditioner or HUD approved fan.

3. The applicant shall undertake an archaeological survey consisting of documentary research and submit the study to NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission for evaluation and approval, and conduct field research and archaeological excavation if required (see attachment A: NYC LPC Guidelines for Archaeology).
SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:

The above determination is based on an environmental assessment which finds that:

1. The above condition #1 is based on an analysis by the Department of Environmental Protection Office of Technical Analysis which found that limitation on stack location would be required, since the school is proposed to use #4 fuel oil. These limitations would allow the school to operate without causing significant adverse air quality impacts.

2. The above condition #2 is required to ensure that interior noise levels in the school do not exceed 45 dBA. The above measures are necessary to attenuate high exterior noise levels, caused primarily by helicopter noise.

3. The above condition #3 is required because the project site has the potential to contain significant archaeological resources from Native American settlement and historic remains from four 1879 structures possibly associated with the Workhouse and the Almshouse.

4. No other impacts which would require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement are foreseeable.

It is fully agreed and understood that if the foregoing conditions, modifications and alterations are not fully incorporated into the proposed action that this Conditional Negative Declaration shall become null and void. In such event, the applicant shall be required to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement before proceeding further with said proposal.

I, the undersigned, as the applicant or authorized representative for this proposal, hereby affix my signature in acceptance of the above conditions, modification and alterations to the proposed action.

\[Signature\]

(Signature of Applicant or Authorized Representative) 5/10/89

(Kathleen A. Gallo)

Name of Applicant or Authorized Representative

\[Signature\]

Gail Benjamin

Mark London
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DAMN IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LIMIT OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THE AVERAGE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2 FEET

4 FEET IN THE HUDSON RIVER AND 57 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER

ROOSEVELT ISLAND PROS.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

APPENDIX B

TRACES OF OCCUPATION

BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

VILLAGE

(1) BURIAL SITE

(2) VILLAGE

(3) all Parker Sites

N.V.S.M. SENSITIVITY EVALUATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

SCALE 1:24,000
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM: OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
PREHISTORIC SITE FILE: FILE USE REQUEST FORM
PROJECT SCREENING FILE

NAME  HARTGEN / HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES, INC.
ADDRESS  P.O. BOX 331, RIVERSIDE, CONNECTICUT 06871
AG PHONE # 203-293-0534

AGENCY/COMPANY/INSTITUTION REPRESENTED  HARTGEN / HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

The screening file gives site locations within generalized .5 mile circles.

PURPOSE OF REQUEST: (Identify the proposed project and contractor, indicate the nature of the work, depth and extent of ground disturbance)

EVENTUAL DISTRIBUTION OF DATA: (Specify range of data use and distribution, publication, reproduction, etc.).

REQUESTED APPOINTMENT:

1st Choice  date  time (or any)
2nd Choice  date  time (or any)
(Appointments are on the hour between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Wednesday of each week. Mail this request at least two weeks in advance of the appointment date. You will be notified by mail of your appointment date and time).

U.S.G.S. 7.5' MAPS REQUESTED: (indicate 15' maps)

CENTRAL PARK

FOR THE FOLLOWING attach the project map, site data list and self-addressed envelope to this request. Responses will be mailed or provided on the following day.

The following site(s) may be within or adjacent to the project area. If so, please provide the location of:

SITE #  7.5' MAP

4031  CENTRAL PARK

4535  CENTRAL PARK

4537  CENTRAL PARK

4538  CENTRAL PARK

Please provide a sensitivity rating for the attached project area.

I understand that the information provided is to be used solely for the preparation of an environmental impact statement as required by State or Federal law.

(Signature)  (Date)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Type of Data</th>
<th>15' Quad</th>
<th>7.5' Quad</th>
<th>Reporter</th>
<th>Project Name or #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYKK</td>
<td></td>
<td>Traces of Occupation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUN5-12</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shell Heap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUN5-14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Burial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUNS</td>
<td></td>
<td>Village</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL 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 AND FOR ROCK FACES WHICH AFFORD SHELTER. DISTINCTIVE HILLS OR LOW RIDGES HAVE AN AVERAGE PROBABILITY OF USE AS A BURYING GROUND. LOW PROBABILITY IS SUGGESTED FOR AREAS OF EROSIONAL STEEP SLOPE.

[✓] PROBABILITY RATING IS BASED ON THE ASSUMED PRESENCE OF INTACT ORIGINAL DEPOSITS, POSSIBILITY UNDER FILL, IN THE AREA. IF NEAR WATER OR IF DEEPLY BURIED, MATERIALS MAY OCCUR SUBMERGED BELOW THE WATER TABLE.

[ ] INFORMATION ON SITES NOT RECORDED IN THE N.Y.S. MUSEUM FILES MAY BE AVAILABLE IN A REGIONAL INVENTORY MAINTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION(S). PLEASE CONTACT:

COMMENTS:
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier 061-01-0495

Project Identifier ______________________ Date Oct. 1977

Your Name Kardas & Kassalee ____________________ Phone ( )

Address ____________________________________________________________

Zip __________________________________________________________________

Organization (if any) ________________________________________________

1. Site Identifier(s) Queensboro Bridge ________________________________

2. County New York __________________ One of following: Manhattan

   City Manhattan

   Township

   Incorporated Village

   Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

   location Manhattan to Queens at 59th St.

3. Present Owner ____________________________________________________

   Address __________________________________________________________

   Zip __________________________________________________________________

4. Site Description (check all appropriate categories):
   Structure/site
     Superstructure: complete partial collapsed not evident__
     Foundation: above below (ground level) not evident__
     Structural subdivisions apparent Only surface traces visible__
     Buried traces detected__
     List construction materials (be as specific as possible):

     Grounds
     __Under cultivation __Sustaining erosion __Woodland __Upland
     __Never cultivated __Previously cultivated __Floodplain __Pastureland
     Soil Drainage: excellent __good __fair __poor__
     Slope: flat __gentle __moderate __steep__
     Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.) __
     Elevation: ____________________________________________________________________

5. Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   Surface--date(s) ____________
   Site Map (Submit with form*) ____________
   Collection ____________
   Subsurface--date(s) ____________
   Testing: shovel __coring __other ____________ unit size ____________
            no. of units ____________ (Submit plan of units with form*) ____________

   Excavation: unit size ____________ no. of units ____________
            (Submit plan of units with form*) ____________

   * Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

   Investigator ________________________________

   Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

   Present repository of materials __________________________________________
7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references
      1) Name __________________ Date ___________ Source ___________________
         Present location of original, if known ________________
         Landmarks 1975 (see other sheets)
      2) Name __________________ Date ___________ Source ___________________
         Present location of original, if known ________________
         Goldstone & Dalrymple 1974 (see other sheets)
   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date ______ Where located ___________
      2) Photo date ______ Where located ___________
   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)
   d. Persons with memory of site:
      1) Name __________________ Address __________________
      2) Name __________________ Address __________________

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form. ___

9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½" x 11", if feasible.

USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name __________________

For Office Use Only--UTM Coordinates __________________

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey):
    Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier A061-01-0146

Project Identifier ____________________________ Phone (212) 735-4400
Your Name MICHAEL COHN
Address 179 Bennett Ave.
N.Y.C., N.Y. Phone (212) 942-7280
ZIP 10024

Organization (if any) Brooklin Children's Museum

1. Site Identifier(s) ____________________________ 2. County NEW YORK One of following: City N.Y.C.

3. Present Owner City of N.Y. (Grace Mansion, official residence of the Mayor)

4. Site Description (check all appropriate categories):
   Structure/site (garden of mayors residence or surface)
   Superstructure: complete partial collapsed not evident
   Foundation: above below (ground level) not evident
   Structural subdivisions apparent Only surface traces visible
   Buried traces detected
   List construction materials (be as specific as possible):
   Grounds
   Under cultivation Sustaining erosion Woodland Upland
   Never cultivated Previously cultivated Floodplain Pasturella
   Soil Drainage: excellent good fair poor
   Slope: flat gentle moderate steep
   Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.)
   Elevation: ______

5. Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   Surface--date(s)
   Site Map (Submit with form*)
   Collection
   Subsurface--date(s) 1965
   Testing: shovel coring other Testing (unknown type) unit size
   no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)
   Excavation: unit size no. of units
   (Submit plan of units with form*)
   * Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

   Investigator Michael Cohn - 1965
   Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

   Present repository of materials
6. Site inventory:
   a. date constructed or occupation period __1776__
   b. previous owners, if known
   c. modifications, if known
      (append additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references
      1) Name ___________________ Date ___________ Source ___________
         Present location of original, if known ________________
      2) Name ___________________ Date ___________ Source ___________
         Present location of original, if known ________________
   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date ___________ Where located ________________
      2) Photo date ___________ Where located ________________
   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)

   d. Persons with memory of site:
      1) Name ___________________ Address ___________________
      2) Name ___________________ Address ___________________

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):
   If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form. __
   
   9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if feasible.
      USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name ___________________
      For Office Use Only--UTM Coordinates ___________________

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey): Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier 061-01-0486

Project Identifier

Your Name Kardas, E. Karakee, (?) spelling

Address

Zip

Organization (if any)

Date Oct. 1977

1. Site Identifier(s) Smallpox Hospital

2. County New York One of following: City Manhattan

          Township

          Incorporated Village

          Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

          Location: Roosevelt Dr., approx. opposite East 50th Street.

3. Present Owner

   Address

   Zip

Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Structure/site

Superstructure: complete partial collapsed not evident

Foundation: above below (ground level) not evident

Structural subdivisions apparent Only surface traces visible

Buried traces detected

List construction materials (be as specific as possible):

Grounds

Under cultivation Sustaining erosion Woodland Upland

Never cultivated Previously cultivated Floodplain Pastureland

Soil Drainage: excellent good fair poor

Slope: flat gentle moderate steep

Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.)

Elevation:

5. Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

Surface--date(s)

Site Map (Submit with form*)

Collection

Subsurface--date(s)

Testing: shovel coring other unit size

no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)

Excavation: unit size no. of units

(Submit plan of units with form*)

* Submission should be $11"x14", if feasible

Investigator

Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Present repository of materials
6. Site inventory:
   a. Date constructed or occupation period
   b. Previous owners, if known
   c. Modifications, if known
      (append additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references
      1) Name Date Source
         Present location of original, if known
         Landmarks 1975: Map of landmarks & Hist. Districts; Hist. Dist. #8 NP-0690
         2) Name Date Source
         Present location of original, if known
   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date Where located
      2) Photo date Where located
   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)
      d. Persons with memory of site:
         1) Name Address
         2) Name Address

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):
   
   If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form.

9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if feasible.
   USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name Central Park
   For Office Use Only--UTM Coordinates

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey): Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier 061-01-0497

Project Identifier

Your Name Karedas & Lassabae Phone ( )

Address

Organization (if any)

Date Oct. 1977

Site Identifier(s) Strecker Laboratory

County New York

City Manhattan

Location Roosevelt Dr. approx. opposite 52nd St

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

Present Owner

On National Register & N.Y.C. Landmarks

Address

Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Structure/site

Superstructure: complete partial collapsed not evident

Foundation: above below (ground level) not evident

Structural subdivisions apparent only surface traces visible

Buried traces detected

List construction materials (be as specific as possible):

Grounds

Under cultivation Sustaining erosion Woodland Upland

Never cultivated Previously cultivated Floodplain Pastureland

Soil Drainage: excellent good fair poor

Slope: flat gentle moderate steep

Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.)

Elevation:

Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

Surface--date(s)

Site Map (Submit with form*)

Collection

Subsurface--date(s)

Testing: shovel coring other unit size no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)

Excavation: unit size no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)

* Submission should be 8½“x11”, if feasible

Investigator

Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Present repository of materials
6. Site inventory:
   a. date constructed or occupation period __________
   b. previous owners, if known
   c. modifications, if known

   (append additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references
      1) Name __________ Date __________ Source __________
         Present location of original, if known __________
         2) Name __________ Date __________ Source __________
         Present location of original, if known __________
         Landmarks 1975: Map & Landmarks & Hist. Dist. Community Dist. #8 LP-093
   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date _______ Where located _______
      2) Photo date _______ Where located _______
   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)

   d. Persons with memory of site:
      1) Name __________ Address __________
      2) Name __________ Address __________

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

   If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form. __

9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if feasible.

   USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name __________

   For Office Use Only--UTM Coordinates __________

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey): Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier 061-01-0498

Project Identifier ____________________ Date ____________________

Your Name __________________________ Phone ( ) __________________

Address ______________________________ Zip __________________

Organization (if any) __________________

1. Site Identifier(s) Blackwell House.

2. County NY. One of following: City Manhattan.

   Location Roosevelt Island

   Opposite East

3. Present Owner ____________________ on Nat'l Reg. Y

   Address ___________________________ on Nat'l Reg. Y

   Zip ________________________________ N.Y.C. landmarks

Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Structure/site

Superstructure: complete partial collapsed not evident

Foundation: above below (ground level) not evident

Structural subdivisions apparent Only surface traces visible

Buried traces detected

List construction materials (be as specific as possible):

Grounds

Under cultivation Sustaining erosion Woodland Upland

Never cultivated Previously cultivated Floodplain Pastureland

Soil Drainage: excellent good fair poor

Slope: flat gentle moderate steep

Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.)

Elevation: __________________

5. Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

   Surface--date(s)

   Site Map (Submit with form*)

   Collection

   Subsurface--date(s)

   Testing: shovel coring other

   no. of units __________________(Submit plan of units with form*)

   Excavation: unit size ________ no. of units

   (Submit plan of units with form*)

   * Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

   Investigator ______________________

   Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

   Present repository of materials ____________________________
6. Site inventory:
   a. date constructed or occupation period
   b. previous owners, if known
   c. modifications, if known

   (append additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references
      1) Name ___________________ Date _________ Source ___________________
         Present location of original, if known ___________________
         (see other sheet)
      2) Name ___________________ Date _________ Source ___________________
         Present location of original, if known ___________________

   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date _________ Where located _________
      2) Photo date _________ Where located _________

   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)

   d. Persons with memory of site:
      1) Name ___________________ Address ___________________
      2) Name ___________________ Address ___________________

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form.

9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if feasible.

   USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name ___________________

For Office Use Only--UTM Coordinates ___________________

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey):
    Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier 061-01-4999

Project Identifier
Your Name
Address
Zip
Organization (if any)

1. Site Identifier(s) Luminari:Asylum-Octopus House
2. County New York
   Location: Roosevelt Dr.
   opposite East 79th St.

3. Present Owner
   Address
   Zip

4. Site Description (check all appropriate categories):
   Structure/site
   Superstructure: complete partial collapsed not evident
   Foundation: above below (ground level) not evident
   Structural subdivisions apparent Only surface traces visible
   Buried traces detected
   List construction materials (be as specific as possible):
   Grounds
   Under cultivation Sustaining erosion Woodland Upland
   Never cultivated Previously cultivated Floodplain Pastureland
   Soil Drainage: excellent good fair poor
   Slope: flat gentle moderate steep
   Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.)
   Elevation:

Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   Surface--date(s)
   Site Map (Submit with form*)
   Collection
   Subsurface--date(s)
   Testing: shovel coring other
   unit size no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)
   Excavation: unit size no. of units
   (Submit plan of units with form*)
   * Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

Investigator
Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Present repository of materials
6. Site inventory:
   a. date constructed or occupation period
   b. previous owners, if known
   c. modifications, if known
      (append additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references
      1) Name __________________ Date __________ Source __________________
         Present location of original, if known __________________
         Landmarks 1975 - (see other)
      2) Name __________________ Date __________ Source __________________
         Present location of original, if known __________________
   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date ______ Where located ______
      2) Photo date ______ Where located ______
   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)
   d. Persons with memory of site:
      1) Name __________________ Address __________________
      2) Name __________________ Address __________________

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form.

9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if feasible.

   USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name __________________

   For Office Use Only--UTM Coordinates __________________

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey):
    Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier 061-01-030

Project Identifier

Your Name: Kasden & Kasden Phone: ( )

Address

Organization (if any)

Site Identifier(s): Lighthouse

County: N.Y. City: Manhattan

Location: Tip of Roosevelt Is. Opposite East 86th St.

Present Owner: ON Nat/Reg. *

Address

Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Structure/site

Superstructure: complete__partial__collapsed__not evident

Foundation: above__below (ground level)__not evident

Structural subdivisions: apparent__Only surface traces visible

Buried traces detected

List construction materials (be as specific as possible):

Grounds

_Under cultivation__Sustaining erosion__Woodland__Upland

_Never cultivated_Previously cultivated_Floodplain_Pastureland

Soil Drainage: excellent__good__fair__poor

Slope: flat__gentle__moderate__steep

Distance to nearest water from structure (approx.)

Elevation:

Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

Surface--date(s)

Site Map (Submit with form*)

Collection

Subsurface--date(s)

Testing: shovel__coring__other_________________unit size

no. of units_________________(Submit plan of units with form*)

Excavation: unit size no. of units_________________(Submit plan of units with form*)

* Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

Investigator

Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Present repository of materials
6. Site inventory:
   a. date constructed or occupation period ____________
   b. previous owners, if known
   c. modifications, if known
      (append additional sheets, if necessary)

7. Site documentation (append additional sheets, if necessary):
   a. Historic map references:
      1) Name ____________ Date ____________ Source ____________
         Present location of original, if known ____________
         Landmarks ____________ 1975: see other
      2) Name ____________ Date ____________ Source ____________
         Present location of original, if known ____________
   b. Representation in existing photography
      1) Photo date ____________ Where located ____________
      2) Photo date ____________ Where located ____________
   c. Primary and secondary source documentation (reference fully)
      b. Persons with memory of site:
         1) Name ____________ Address ____________
      2) Name ____________ Address ____________

8. List of material remains other than those used in construction (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fill out prehistoric site form. ___

9. Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if feasible.
   USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name ____________
   For Office Use Only—UTM Coordinates ____________

10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey): Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

Project Identifier

Your Name: Susan Kardas

Organization (if any): NYAC

Site Identifier(s): Hallerts Point (Passer 12)

County: Queens

Location: Hallerts Point

Present Owner

Address

Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Site
- Stray find
- Pictograph
- Burial
- Surface evidence
- Material below plow zone
- Single component
- Cave/Rockshelter
- Quarry
- Shell midden
- Camp
- Buried evidence
- Evidence of features
- Multicomponent

Location
- Under cultivation
- Never cultivated
- Pastureland
- Woodland
- Upland
- Previously cultivated
- Floodplain
- Sustaining erosion

Soil Drainage: excellent _ good _ fair _ poor _
Slope: flat _ gentle _ moderate _ steep _
Distance to nearest water from site (approx.) __________
Elevation: __________

Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

Surface date(s)
- Site Map (Submit with form*)
- Collection

Subsurface date(s)

Testing: shovel coring other unit size no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)

Excavation: unit size no. of units (Submit plan of units with form*)

* Submission should be 8½"x11" if feasible

Investigator ____________________________
Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Parker, 1922

Present repository of materials ____________________________

Component(s) (cultural affiliation/dates):

List of material remains (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If historic materials are evident, check here and fill out historic site form.

Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if possible.

USGS 7¼ Minute Series Quad. Name ____________________________

For Office Use Only UTM Coordinates 18T E89800 N14150

Photography (optional for environmental impact survey): Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only—Site Identifier 4081-01-0100

Project Identifier ___________________________ Date 6/1/77

Your Name _______________ Phone( ) __________________

Address ___________________________ 

organization (if any) NYAC

Site Identifier(s) ____________

County Queens One of following: City

Township

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

County Queens One of following: City

Township

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

County Queens One of following: City

Township

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

County Queens One of following: City

Township

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

County Queens One of following: City

Township

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Site

Stray find ____________ Cave/Rockshelter ____________ Workshop ____________

Pictograph ____________ Quarry ____________ Mound ____________

Burial ____________ Shell midden ____________ Village ____________

Surface evidence ____________ Camp ____________ Material in plow zone ____________

Material below plow zone ____________ Buried evidence ____________ Intact occupation floor ____________

Single component ____________ Evidence of features ____________ Stratified ____________

Multicomponent

Location

Under cultivation ____________ Never cultivated ____________ Previously cultivated ____________

Pastureland ____________ Woodland ____________ Floodplain ____________

Upland

Slope: flat __ gentle __ moderate __ steep __

Distance to nearest water from site (approx.) ____________

Elevation: ____________

Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

Surface date(s) ____________ Site Map (Submit with Form*)

Collection

Subsurface--date(s) ____________ Testing: shovel coring __ other ____________ unit size ____________

no. of units ______ (Submit plan of units with form*)

Excavation: unit size ____________ no. of units ______ (Submit plan of units with form*)

* Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

Investigator _______________
Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Bolton - 1922

Present repository of materials

Component(s) (cultural affiliation/dates):

List of material remains (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If historic materials are evident, check here and fill out historic site form.

Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if possible.

USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name Central Park

For Office Use Only UTM Coordinates 18T E89300 N13250

Photography (optional for environmental impact survey):
Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
NEW YORK STATE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM

For Office Use Only--Site Identifier A081-01-0101

Project Identifier ___________________________ Date _____________

Our Name ___________________________ Phone( ) _____________

Organization (if any) NYAC

Site Identifier(s) Parker, #14

County _________ One of following: City Long Island City

Township

Incorporated Village

Unincorporated Village or Hamlet

Location: Crescent Street

Present Owner ___________________________

Address ___________________________

Zip ___________________________

4. Site Description (check all appropriate categories):

Site
- Stray find __ Cave/Rockshelter __ Workshop
- Pictograph __ Quarry __ Mound
- Burial __ Shell midden __ Village
- Surface evidence __ Camp __ Material in plow zone
- Material below plow zone __ Buried evidence __ Intact occupation floor
- Single component __ Evidence of features __ Stratified
- Multicomponent

Location
- Under cultivation __ Never cultivated __ Previously cultivated
- Pastureland __ Woodland __ Floodplain
- Upland __ Sustaining erosion

Soil Drainage: excellent __ good __ fair __ poor __
Slope: flat __ gentle __ moderate __ steep __
Distance to nearest water from site (approx.) ___________
Elevation: ___________

Site Investigation (append additional sheets, if necessary):

Surface date(s) ___________

- Site Map (Submit with form*)
- Collection

Subsurface--date(s) ___________

- Testing: shovel coring __ other __ unit size ___________
no. of units ___________ (Submit plan of units with form*)

Excavation: unit size ___________ no. of units ___________  
(Submit plan of units with form*)
* Submission should be 8½"x11", if feasible

Investigator ___________________________
Manuscript or published report(s) (reference fully):

Parker 1922

Present repository of materials _______________________

Component(s) (cultural affiliation/dates):

List of material remains (be as specific as possible in identifying object and material):

If historic materials are evident, check here and fill out historic site form. ___

Map References: Map or maps showing exact location and extent of site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 8½"x11", if possible.

USGS 7½ Minute Series Quad. Name Central Park ______________________

For Office Use Only UTM Coordinates 18T E 90450 N 13250

Photography (optional for environmental impact survey):
Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing the current state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on a separate sheet.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Research for this project was greatly facilitated by the use of Dr. Joan Geismar's 1985 report, "An Archaeological Evaluation of the Northtown Phase II Project Area, Roosevelt Island, New York," prepared for the Starrett Housing Development Corporation of New York. Dr. Geismar was kind enough to lend the authors a copy of her report and to share her knowledge about the project site. She also provided the name of Murray Smith with Starrett Housing; Mr. Smith forwarded soil boring logs for adjacent parcels and discussed his recollections of the project area.