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ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY
STUDY OF THE
136-21 ROOSEVELT AVENUE DEVELOPMENT
FLUSHING, QUEENS, NEW YORK

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this archaeological/historical sensitivity study is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the proposed development at 136-21 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing through a review of existing archival, cartographic and published references. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey shall include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric sites in the immediate area surrounding the project area and a summary of the history of this location.

The 136-21 Roosevelt Avenue development project area is located in central Flushing, Borough of Queens. The project area consists of Lot 11 on Block 4980. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

This study is organized in the following manner: first, a section describes the geography and physical setting; second, a section on the prehistoric sensitivity of the area; third, a review of the historic sensitivity of the area; and fourth, the sensitivity study results and recommendations for testing.



GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The principal investigator visited the project area during August 1997. The southern portion of the lot is covered by a four-story building fronting Roosevelt Avenue. The rear third of the lot consists of a parking lot with access from 39th Avenue. The parking area is paved with asphalt.

Thompson (1962:1:43-44) described greenstone traprock boulders lying in Flushing to Little Neck Bay. Marshes also lay along Flushing (ibid.:56). Boulders of granular white limestone, containing tremolite, and boulders composed of granite with decomposing feldspar also occur in Flushing (ibid.:71). The landscape of Flushing was described as being either level or moderately undulating. Flushing was noted for its superior soil and its agriculture (Thompson 1962:3:43).



PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished sources in the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, as well as resources on file at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and Greenhouse Consultants.

Table 1 presents the results of our search for prehistoric sites in the vicinity of 136-21 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing, project area. Included in the table are eleven sites located two miles or less from the project area. The locations of these sites are presented on Figure 2 with letter code identifiers which correspond to those in Table 1.

Nine of these sites were reported by former New York State Archaeologist, Arthur C. Parker, who described them as burials, camps, traces of occupation, village or village with burials. Unfortunately, no description of artifacts recovered are included, so assignment of date ranges or cultural affiliations is not possible (Parker 1922). Judging from Parker's description of the Matinecock settlement and the College Point Site as villages, it is probable that these sites date to the Woodland period, but no information exists to confirm this. All nine sites appear to be located close to fresh water courses that flow into the East River. See Figure 2 for the location of these sites relative to the project area. See Table 1 designations **A-F** and **H-J**.

R.P. Bolton describes Flushing as a village of the Matinecock chieftaincy (Bolton 1975:89). The actual location of this settlement cannot be placed with any certainty, although Parker placed it about 0.7 miles northeast of the project area. Bolton's description was originally published in 1920, by which time Flushing was a sizable settlement including the project area. Robert S. Grumet indicates that the Matinecock occupied the north shore of Long Island from Flushing Bay east to Smithtown Bay (Grumet 1981:31-33).

The Linnaean Gardens, **C**, is historic (Furman 1968:98-99;Thompson 1962:3:43). In July 1841 a crew excavating the area to run and grade Linnaeus Street found eleven or twelve human skeletons.

The place where they were found has been for fifty years used as a horticultural nursery. They were within a circle of thirty feet, their heads all lay to the east, and some nails and musket-balls were found with them. Conjecture has been foiled in speculating upon



the circumstances under which they were inhumed. (Furman 1968:98-99)

.. a dozen or more human skeletons were discovered and exhumed almost entire. From the fact of leaden bullets being found among the bones, it seems highly probable that the unfortunate individuals whose relics they were, had fallen by an enemy in battle — and here during the Revolutionary War, it is no more than reasonable to suppose that these bones may have been the remains of some of our countrymen or their opponents, who had perished in a contest with each other (Thompson 1962:3:43).

The Furman book was originally written in 1868 and Thompson's first edition was published in 1839. They may have had first-hand knowledge of the remains found in the Gardens. The 1873 Beers Atlas locates Linnaeus Street three to four blocks northwest of the project area. The New York State Museum files and Parker have obviously placed **C** in the wrong location, southwest of the project area.

The remaining site, known as Graham Court after a local street name, is designated **G** in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site is described only as a village with burials in the files of the New York State Museum. Its description as a village may imply a date range including the Woodland Period, but no information could be found to confirm this. The State Museum was unable to supply data regarding the location of any finds. The reporters were J. Lopez and R. Ecki.

Information on file at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission indicates that another prehistoric site, not reported to the New York State Museum, exists on the block just north and east of the project area. This site evidently consists of burials. The eastern side of the block is the high point within this portion of Flushing. It overlooks Flushing Creek which lies approximately 2000 feet to the west. See **K** in Figure 2.

In terms of potential prehistoric sensitivity, the project impact area was evaluated from two points of view:

- 1) the proximity of known prehistoric sites in or near the project area; and
- 2) the presence of fresh water drainage courses in general, and particularly the identification of river or stream confluence situations, where two or more drainages come together, providing access to both the water and food supplies of both systems.

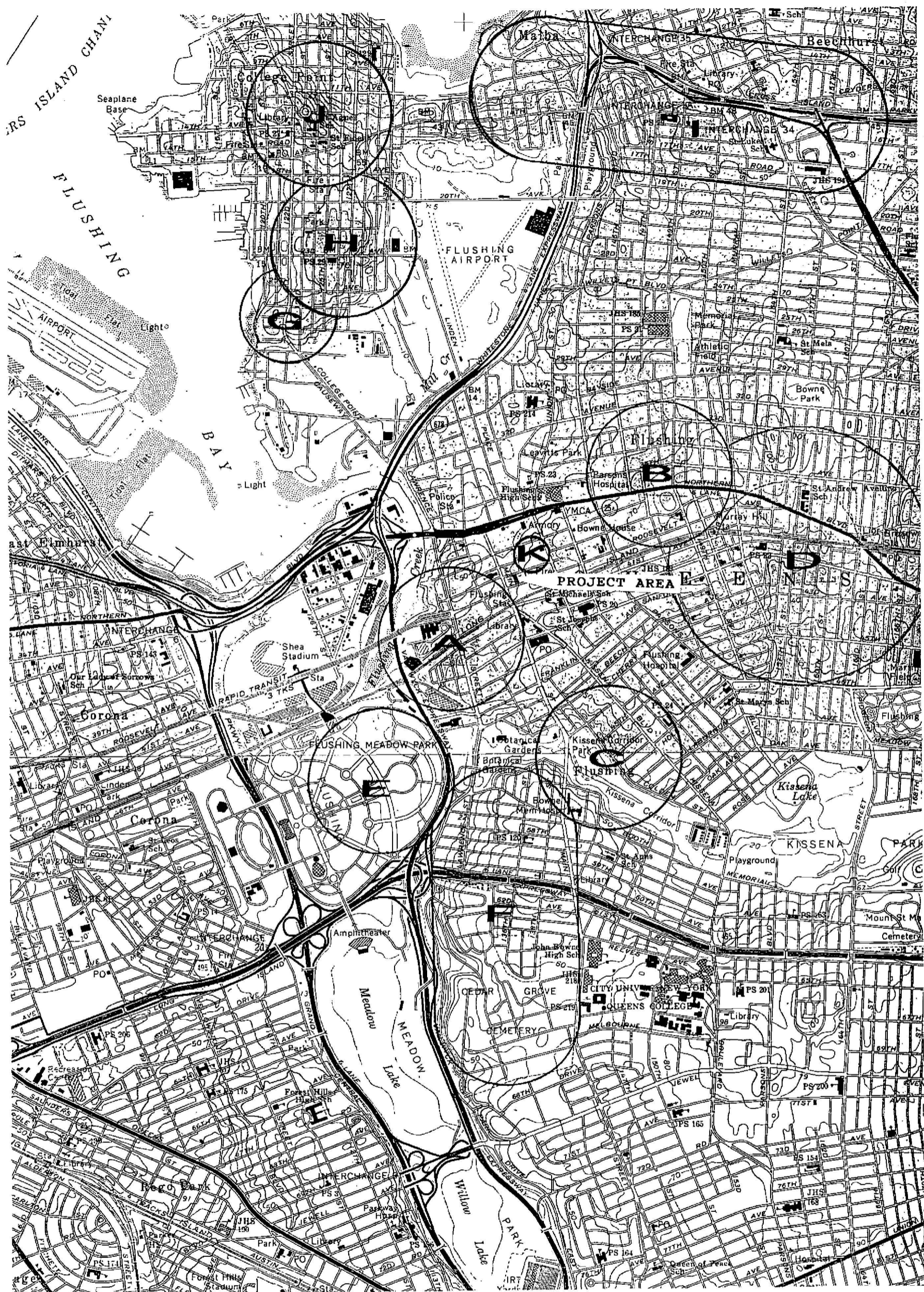


Figure 2 Known prehistoric sites within two miles of the project area.



This survey has documented the recorded or published location of ten definite prehistoric sites and one historic (formerly prehistoric) site within two miles of the Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing project area. None of the locations are within the project area. Most of these sites are near present or former stream courses. Evidence exists for stream courses near the project area. The project area is approximately 600 yards east of Flushing Creek. A tributary to Mill Creek previously existed north of the project area. A tributary to Flushing Creek previously existed to the south in what is now Kissena Park. Since the project area is not adjacent to a body of fresh water, it is not as likely to have been used during prehistory as locations nearby which are closer to water. However, the existence of two known sites within approximately 1000 feet, including a burial site, and the contact period references to the Matinecock within Flushing, indicate that there is at least a medium probability of prehistoric use of this land.

TABLE 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of 136-21 Roosevelt Avenue, Flushing

Site Name	NYSM#	Parker #	Other #	Reference	Period(s)	Description
A.	4542	ACP-QUNS		Parker 1922:Pl. 208	?	Camp
B.	4526	ACP-QUNS-3		Parker 1922:672	Woodland (?)	Village
C. Linnacan Garden	4524	ACP-QUNS-1		Parker 1922:672	?	Burial
D.	4525	ACP-QUNS-2		Parker 1922:672	?	Burial
E.	4544	ACP-QUNS		Parker 1922:Pl.208	?	Camp
F.	4545	ACP-QUNS		Parker 1922:Pl.208	?	Traces of occupation
G. Graham Court	7 19	-----	HAR-11-4	-----	Woodland (?)	Village Burial Midden
H.	4540	ACP-QUNS		Parker 1922:Pl.208	?	Burial
I.	4541	ACP-QUNS		Parker 1922:Pl. 208	?	Traces of occupation
J. College Point	4527	ACP-QUNS-4		Parker 1922:672	Woodland (?)	Village Burial



HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

Colonial Period

Flushing was first settled by Englishmen who arrived via Holland. On October 19th, 1645, Thomas Farington, John Lawrence, John Townsend, Thomas Stiles, John Hicks, Robert Field, Thomas Saul, John Marston, Thomas Applegate, Lawrence Dutch, William Lawrence, Henry Sawtell, William Thorne, Michael Millard, Robert Firman, and Walter Pidgeon received a patent from Governor Kieft for 16,000 acres. They named it Vlissingen after the town of Vlissing in Holland where they had resided (Flint 1967:173-74; Hazelton 1925:941, 985;Thompson 1962:3:6). Although the patent was issued in 1645, settlement began as early as 1643 (Hazelton 1925:985;Thompson 1962:2:30).

Soon after the initial settlement, Quakers began to appear in the area, and many appeared to settle there. Governor Stuyvesant, who was not tolerant of the sect, issued a proclamation in December 1657, imposing a fine for those who sheltered a Quaker for a single night, while any vessel carrying Quakers was to be confiscated (Flint 1967:176; Thompson 1962:3:11). In short, Flushing refused to obey and issued a remonstrance, basing their refusal on "the law of love, Liberty and peace in the state extending to Jews, Turks and Egyptians, as they were considered the sons of Adam which is the glory of our State of Holland, so love, peace and liberty, extending to all in Christ Jesus, condemns hatred, war and bondage" (Flint 1967:176). Stuyvesant responded by changing the original Flushing charter, restricting their privileges (ibid.:177). John Bowne, one of the original Quaker settlers, was seized and returned to Holland. The policy of the Dutch West India Company was the opposite of Stuyvesant's. The company heard Bowne's case and on April 6, 1663, issued a reprimand to Stuyvesant, in part saying

Sir:—We perceive from your last letter, that you had exiled and transported hither a certain Quaker, named John Bowne. Although it is our anxious desire that similar and other sectarians may not be found among you, yet we *doubt* extremely the policy of adopting rigorous measures against them. In the youth of your existence, you ought rather to encourage than check the population of the colony. The *consciences* of men ought to be *free* and *unshackled* so long as they continue moderate, peaceable, inoffensive, and not hostile to the government. Such have been the maxims of prudence and toleration by which the magistrates of this city (Amsterdam) have been governed; and the consequences have been, that the *oppressed* and *persecuted* from every country have found among us an *asylum* from



distress. *Follow in the same steps, and you will be blessed* (Thompson 1962:3:24)

Bowne returned to a colony in English hands, and received an acknowledgment from Stuyvesant, who was now a private individual, that he had treated the Quakers wrongly.

Bowne owned land to the east of the project area. His house was erected in 1661, with subsequent additions, and still stands at 37-01 Bowne Street (Flint 1967:177;Hazelton 1925:985;Thompson 1962:3:15;New York Landmarks Preservation Commission 1979:73). The Bowne home served as a Quaker meeting house. When meetings grew too large, such as when George Fox visited in 1672, they were moved across the street to an oak grove, two oaks of which were the subject of nineteenth century poetry (Hazelton 1925:985; Furman 1968:97;Thompson 1962:3:16-20).

Under English rule, Governor Nicoll issued a patent, dated February 16, 1666 to Charles Bridges, William Lawrence, Robert Terry, William Noble, John Forbush, Elias Doughty, Robert Field, Edmund Farington, John Maston, Anthony Field, Phillip Udall, Thomas Stiles, Benjamin Field, William Pidgeon, John Adams, John Hinckman, Nicholas Parcell, Tobias Feeks, and John Bowne for Flushing (Thompson 1962:3:26). Thompson says that individual settlements in the Dutch West India Company's territory did not seek individual sales from Native Americans (ibid.:27). The English felt differently. So on April 14, 1684, the settlers found some representative Native Americans named Tackapousha, Quassawasco, Succanemen/Runasuck, Werah, Cetharum, Nunham, Shunshewequanum, and Oposum to convey the land upon which Flushing stood, and backdating the conveyance to 1645. Elias Doughty, Thomas Willet, John Bowne, Matthias Harvey, Thomas Hicks, Richard Cornhill, John Hinchman, Jonathan Wright, and Samuel Hoyt were the agents for Flushing (ibid.). Governor Dongan then issued a second confirmatory patent on March 24, 1685 (ibid.:28). French Huguenots arrived in 1681/82 and introduced choice fruits (ibid.)

Flushing was part of Queens County, which was one of the twelve original counties of New York. The Colonial Assembly organized it by an act in 1683. The first treasurer of Queens County was John Bowne (Hazelton 1925:939;Thompson 1962:30).



The Friends Meeting House was built near to the Bowne house in 1694 (Thompson 1962:3:36;Hazelton 1925:985). In 1827, a division occurred among the Friends and a smaller meeting house was built next door by the orthodox Friends (Thompson 1962:36). The Friends Meeting House still stands at 137-16 Northern Boulevard between Main and Union Streets, two blocks north of the project area. It is the oldest house of worship in the city, built from 1694-1719 (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1979:74).

Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

During the colonial period, Flushing became noted for its soil and its nurseries. French settlers first brought specimens within them in the 1660s (Flint 1967:183). William Prince's gardens were first laid out in 1737, becoming known as the Linnaean Botanical Gardens. Apple, plum, peach, nectarine, apricot, cherry and pear trees were for sale, along with Carolina magnolia flower trees, catalpas, Barcelona filbert trees, Lison and Madeira grape vines (ibid.:184). The garden was considered famous enough internationally that when General Howe entered Flushing, leading the British Army during the Revolution, he ordered a guard around the garden. His action did not prevent the use/abuse of the trees (Hazelton 1925:993). At that time the gardens contained 30,000 grafted cherry trees from England, among its holdings. Before 1793 the garden occupied eight acres, in 1793 it increased to 24 acres, in 1840 it was 60 acres and included 20,000 flowering plants. Fruit and ornamental trees abounded, indigenous and exotic were cultivated, herbaceous, flowering and herbal plants were grown (Thompson 1962:3:30, 31). In 1826 Congress passed a resolution to get information on the growth and manufacture of silk. The Prince family responded by introducing *Morus multicaulis* in the spring of 1827. They obtained this specimen of the mulberry tree from Marseilles. By fall of 1827 they had procured other varieties of mulberry (ibid.:32). The grounds of the nursery were purchased by Gabriel Winter, who continued the gardens, but developed some of the land into streets and building lots. The Princes ran another nursery south of their old garden which rivaled their former garden (ibid.). The 1873 Beers map shows remnants of the Winter estate lying approximately three blocks to the northwest of the project area, above Bridge/Broadway. Remnants of the Prince's property lie in two sections, one to the west of the Winter estate, north of Bridge Street and a second portion, directly south of the Winter/Prince property, and one block south and east of the project area along Lawrence Street and Cedar and Grove Streets.



Other nurseries included the Bloodgood nursery, owned later by Willcomb and King, and the Parsons Commercial Garden and Nursery. The Weeping Beech Tree lies three blocks to the east of the project area at 37th Avenue, Bowne Street and Parsons Boulevard. The tree was planted in 1847 by Samuel Parsons, whose property can be seen in the northeast corner of the Beers 1873 map. This tree was a new exotic variety in that era, found in Belgium. Parsons managed to snip a shoot and replant it (Thompson 1962:3:33; New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1979:75). Wiggins Floral and Pomological Nursery was also in Flushing (Thompson *ibid.*). One and one-half miles to the northeast, at Bayside Avenue and Murray Lane, Daniel Higgins had one of the finest nurseries on Long Island ca. 1875, where trees and shrubs were in a park layout (Hazelton 1925:985). The Prince/Winters nurseries, as well as Bloodgood, Higgins, Parsons, and others made Flushing a leader in horticulture. Thompson (1962:3:33) said Flushing's gardens were "... unrivalled by any other place on the American continent."

Flushing was incorporated on April 15, 1837. The streets were first named starting November 1838 (Thompson 1962:3:42). The village functioned as a resort town in July and August for residents of New York City and Brooklyn in the 1840s. The nurseries functioned as gardens for tourists, who also visited the Sound and Bay (Hazelton 1925:987).

The Flushing Institute, lying one block to the south of the project area on the Beers 1873 map, was incorporated April 16, 1827. The Rev. Dr. William Augustus Muhlenberg was the director when the school opened in 1828. Muhlenberg lasted around ten years as its director. Upon his departure, the Institute became a female school which lasted until 1846. Mr. Ezra Fairchild "removed with his school" to Flushing Pavilion from Morristown, New Jersey (Thompson 1962:3:40).

Thomas Legget, Jr. was the main backer and builder of a \$6,000 Public Free School, which opened on November 27, 1848. The school had seven teachers and 331 students. By 1849 it had three divisions: primary, boys, and girls. The school had expanded to eleven teachers and 559 students (Thompson 1962:3:42).

The Higgins nursery was transformed around 1880 when the Flushing Driving Association spent \$20,000 transforming the nursery into a half-mile race track. When the elite and fashionable of the era attended, the Flushing



Hunt Club held meetings. The Flushing Jockey Club was also formed which represented the "rag-tag" and "bob-tail" of racing. The "Jockey Club" headquarters were in a tent holding 4,000 people straddling the Whiteside/Flushing boundary, telegraphers monitoring racing across the country. Betting was on the Whiteside of the tent. Once the Flushing authorities left and the Whiteside authorities entered, stools were moved, the Flushing side of the tent. Racing at the Flushing track outside the tent was not monitored. When the racing days shut down, the track was converted to bicycling (Hazelton 1925:986-987). ⁷⁰

Joseph Fitch, who was connected with the project area, served as a District 1 Assemblyman for Queens County in the years 1886 and 1887 (Thompson 1962:2:40). Fitch, a lawyer, was born on August 27, 1857, the son of Joseph and Avis Jenkins (Leggett) Fitch. He was a graduate of Swathmore College, A.B., 1879, Phi Beta Kappa. He married Annie Loraine Rose September 29, 1886. Their children were Avis Loraine and Dorothea. Fitch was admitted to the New York Bar in 1882. He served on the Board of Education, Flushing, from 1893-1898. A Democrat, he made an unsuccessful bid for Congress for the First District of New York in 1894. He was Commander of the Water Supply for the Borough of Queens in 1898 and Assistant District Attorney for Queens County in 1905. Fitch became the senior member of the firm Fitch, Moore and Swan at 56 Pine Street, Manhattan, making Fitch a commuter from his residence at 118 Amity Street in Flushing.

Flushing became part of the Borough of Queens, City of New York on January 1, 1898. Its town government was abolished (Thompson 1962:3:46).

Hazelton identifies 1923 as a critical year in Flushing development (1925:987). One factor was the extension of the subway, and secondly, the extension of Roosevelt Avenue, connecting travel from Manhattan to Flushing to the North Shore. "Some idea of the growing importance of the Roosevelt Avenue development is reflected in the fact that within a month more than thirty corners on this thoroughfare changed hands" (ibid.:988). Hazelton says that at Roosevelt Avenue/Amity Street and Main Street, where the subway commenced, the section had "... become the financial and business heart of the neighborhood" (ibid.). The sale of the Fairchild Institute, was a leading indicator in Hazelton's evaluation of change in the project area. While he acknowledges the importance of the Institute's



function in the past, and that it was a landmark, the property had sunk into obsolescence, and known only for its historical importance, not its economic value. "With the location of the new subway terminal directly at this property it has enjoyed a rejuvenance in value rarely witnessed in Manhattan, Brooklyn or the Bronx" (Hazelton 1925:988).

Cartographic Evidence

Figure 3, taken from the 1776 Faden map, shows the project area and vicinity during the Battle of Long Island. No action took place in or near Flushing. The nearest encampment was near Newtown where the British army camped on September 3, 1776. This location is west of the project area.

Figure 4 presents a portion of the "Map of the Borough of Queens Showing Ownership as of the Year 1800" drawn by A.H. Arriens during 1935. The project area is part of Parcel 316, Wm. Heysham to Daniel Thorne, 1775, 25 acres.

Figure 5, taken from the 1873 Beers Atlas, shows the project area as part of a large parcel owned by the Estate of Thos. H. Leggett. Locust Street, now 39th Avenue, has not been constructed yet. The block is approximately twice its present size, running through to Liberty Street, now 38th Avenue. The two structures shown near the label "Thos." are east of the project area, which is vacant.

The 1886 Sanborn Map, represented here in part as Figure 6, shows that Locust Street has been built. The small square structure shown in 1873 has been demolished. The project area now adjacent to a new two and one-half story dwelling with a two-story extension. Only the western edge of this structure may be in the project area, the remainder being under other structures to the east. The project area is otherwise vacant. Water lines are shown under both adjacent streets.

Figure 7, taken from the 1892 Sanborn map, shows much the same situation as in 1886. The two and one-half story dwelling remains just east of the project area. The project area itself is still vacant.

The 1897 Sanborn map shows no significant changes to the project area since 1892. See Figure 8.

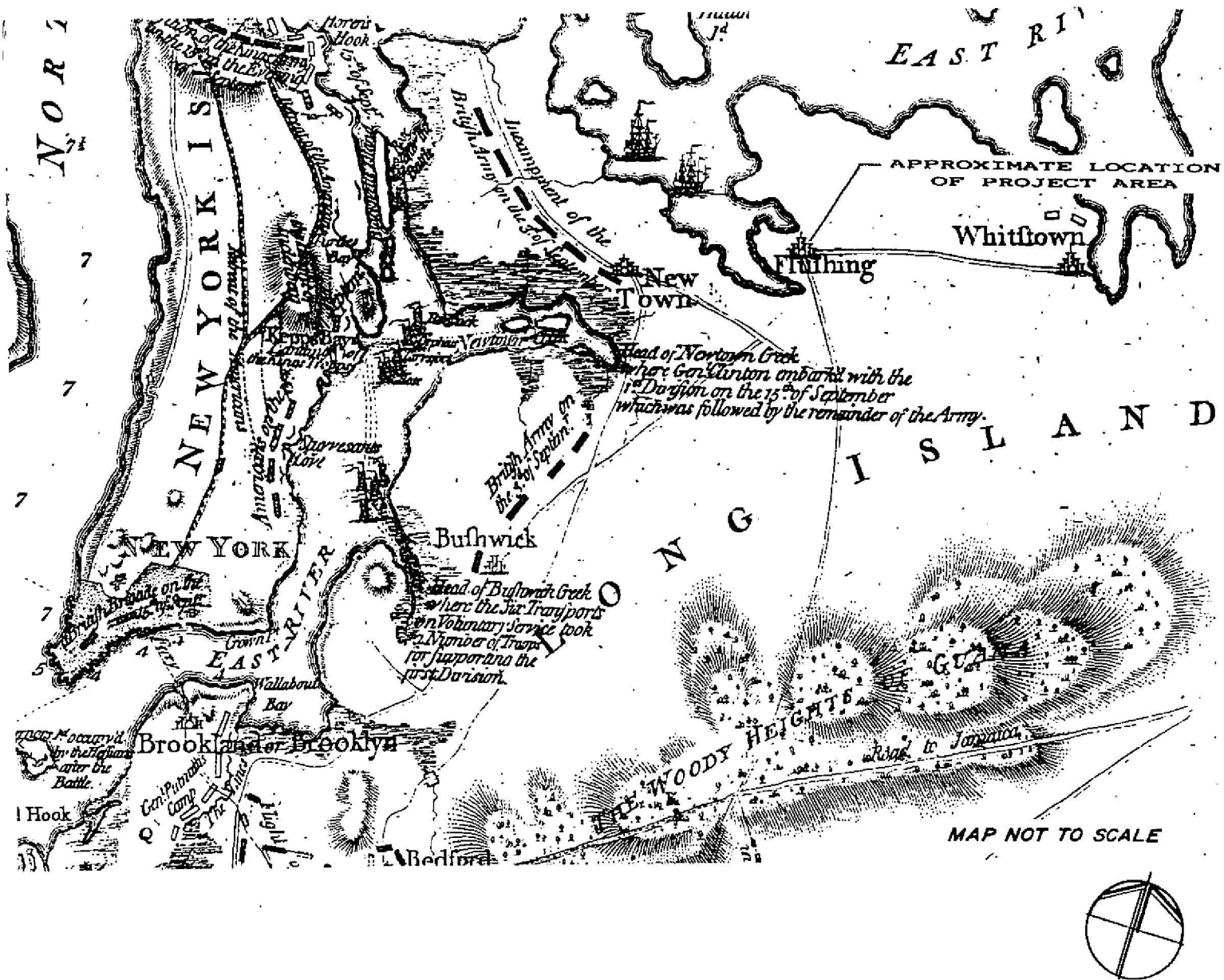


Figure 3 Approximate location of the project area shown on portion of 1776 Faden plan.

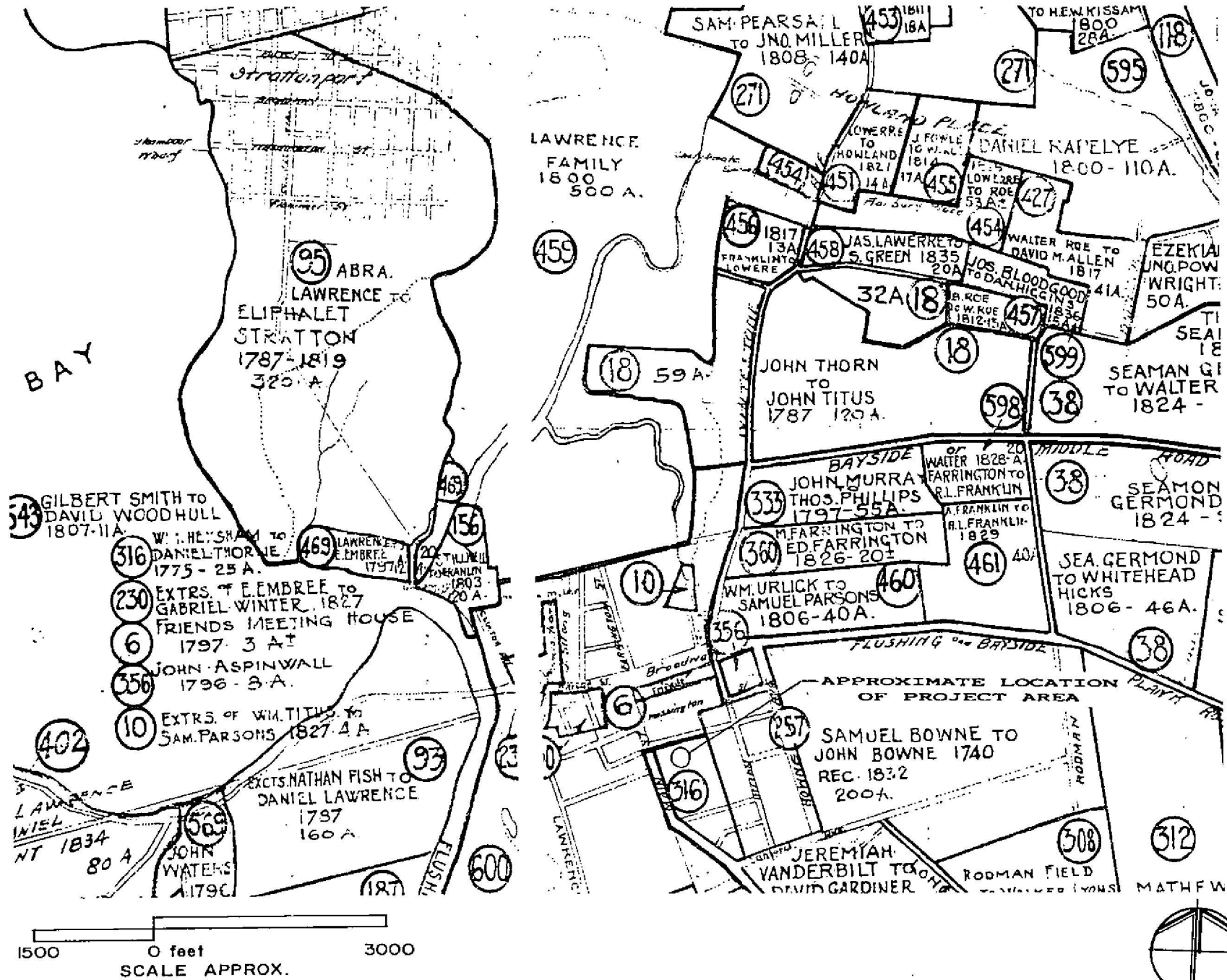


Figure 4 Project area location shown on portion of 1935 A.H. Arriens Map of the Borough of Queens Showing Ownership as of the Year 1800.



Figure 5 Project area location shown on portion of 1873 Beers Atlas of Long Island, Plate 69.

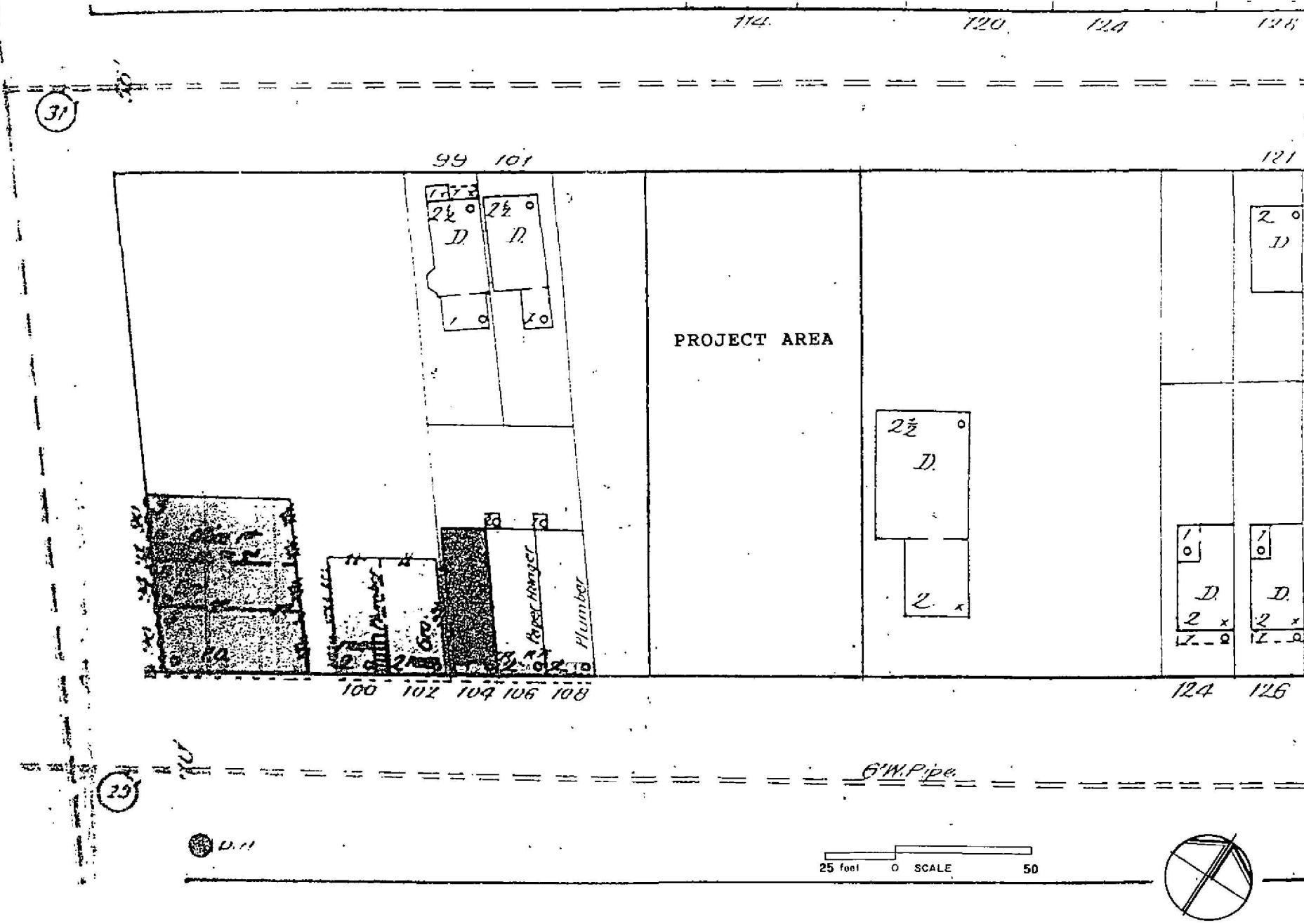


Figure 7 Project area shown on 1892 Sanborn Map.

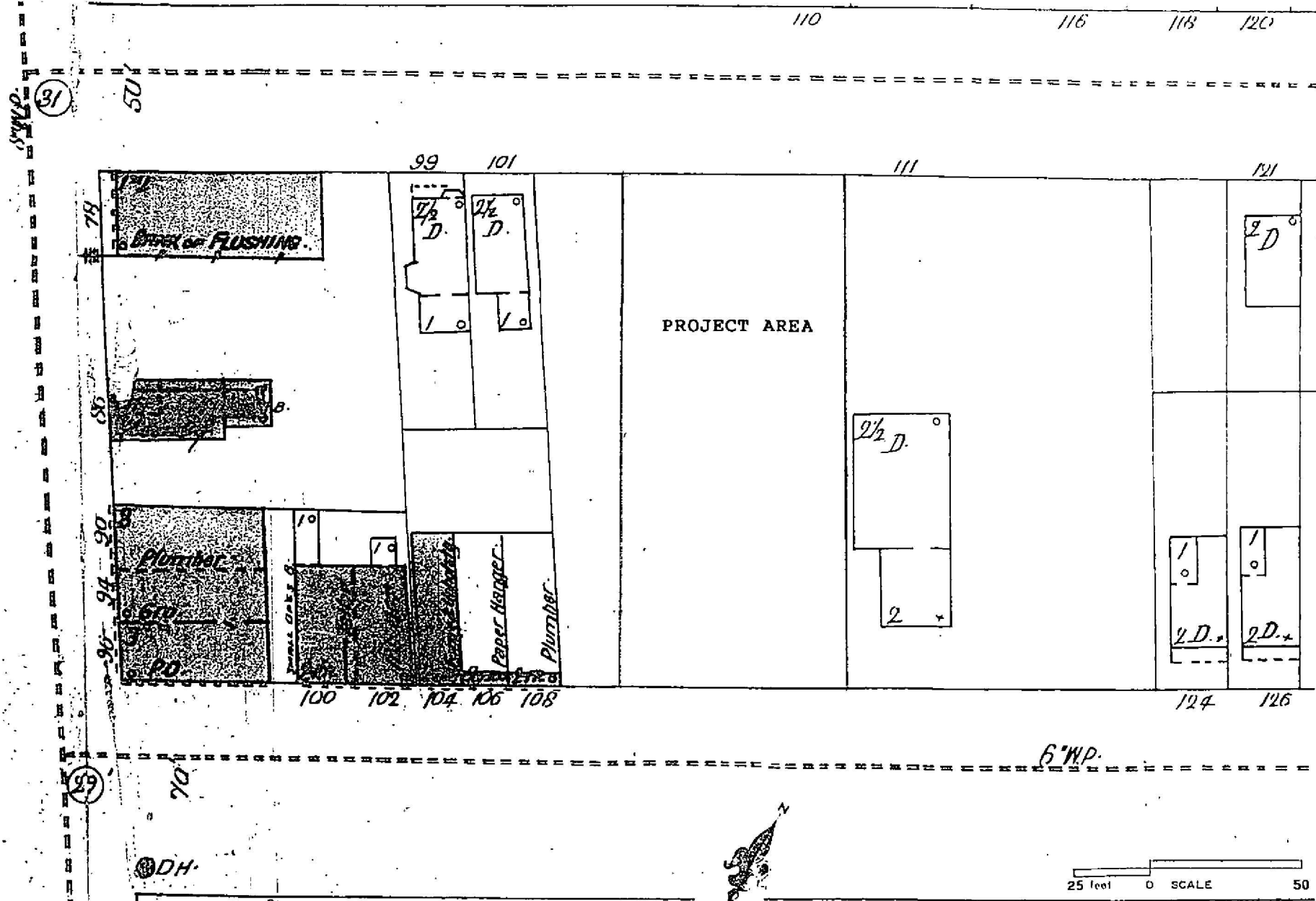


Figure 8 Project area shown on 1897 Sanborn Map.

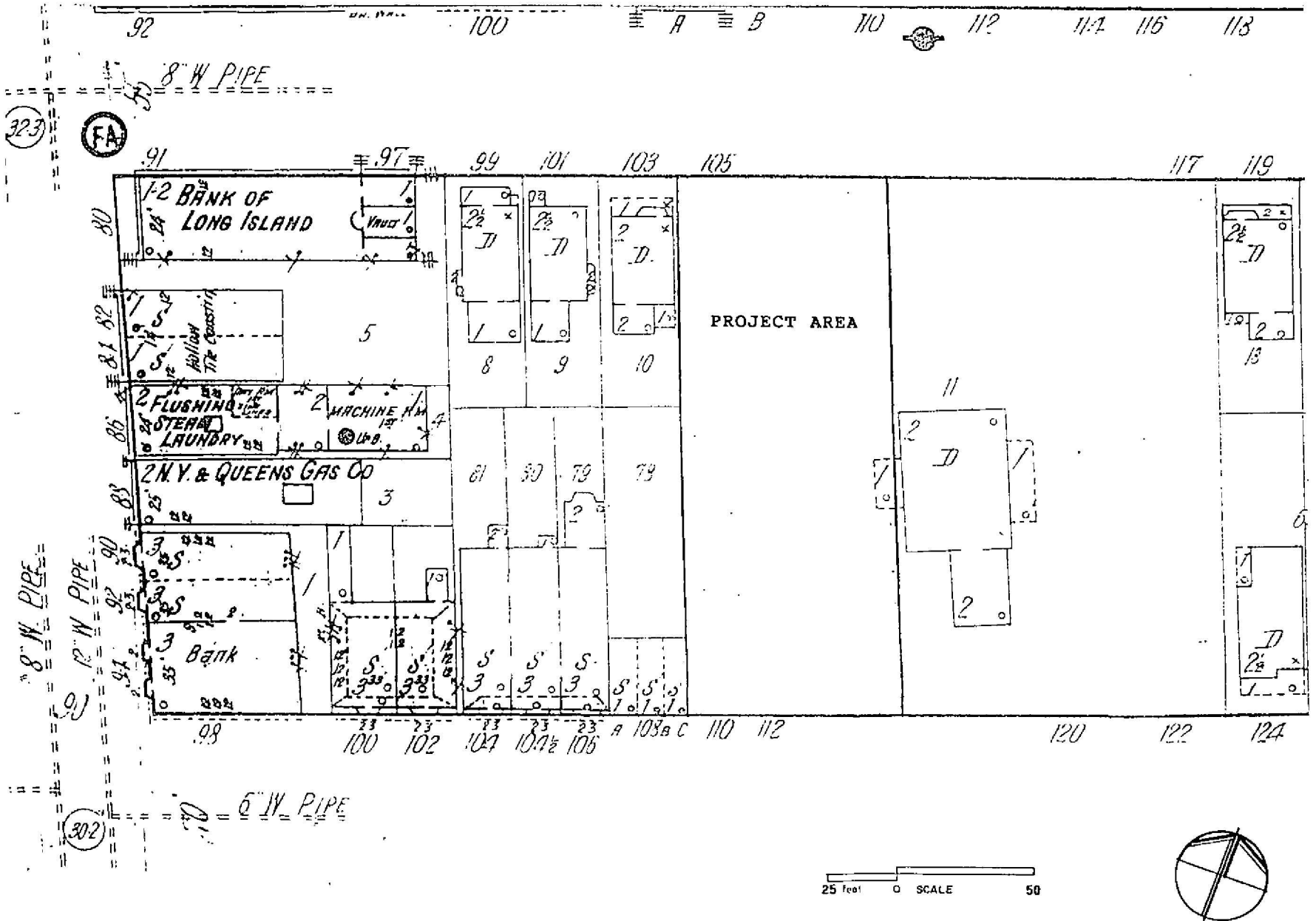


Figure 9 Project area shown on 1917 Sanborn Map.



Figure 9, taken from the 1917 Sanborn Map, shows little change since 1897. The structure seen since 1886 remains. Two small one-story porches have been added to the east and west sides. The project area itself remains vacant.

The 1934 Sanborn Map shows major changes since 1917. The project area lot has been subdivided from the larger parcel. A large four-story office building fronts Roosevelt Avenue covering at least sixty percent of the lot. It is labeled "Gas & Elec. Bldg." The two and one-half story dwelling to the east has been demolished. The northern portion of the project area remains vacant. See Figure 10.

Chain of Title

The chain of title for the project area was reconstructed for the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As shown on the 1873 Beers Atlas, the project area was part of the Thomas H. Leggett estate during the 1870s. A map subdividing the estate was filed with the Queens County Clerk on January 11, 1875. The project area was part of Lot 86. On April 7, 1886 the results of a New York Supreme Court Case in Kings County were filed with the Queens County Clerk. The case was filed by plaintiff Thomas H. Leggett individually and as a trustee for the estate of his deceased father. Defendants were Avis L. Fitch, Joseph Fitch, Charles P. Leggett, Miriam L. Franklin, J. Frederick Franklin, Miriam L. Franklin (2nd), E.P. Franklin, and Frances L. Millikin. The court divided the Thomas H. Leggett estate into four equal parts by value and allocated the costs of the action (Liber 679:371). Lot 86 evidently went to the younger Thomas H. Leggett for he sold it to Avis Leggett Fitch during 1900, although this could be a part interest being sold to the majority holder. It remained in the Leggett/Fitch family until 1921 when Annie L. Fitch and Joseph Fitch (deceased) sold it to the New York and Queens Electric Light and Power Co. during April of that year (Liber 2340:110).

In summary, the project area was part of the Thomas H. Leggett farm until circa 1875 when it was subdivided. It remained in the extended family for another 46 years until Annie L. Fitch sold it, acting on her own behalf and for her husband's estate. The project area was held by the Leggett/Fitch family during the entire period that the house was seen in the 1886, 1892, 1897, and 1917 Sanborn maps.



Research was also undertaken to determine the initial dates for the installation of water and sewer lines under Roosevelt and 39th Avenues. Records on file with the Central Mapping and Records unit of the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations show no records for installation of a 6-inch main under Roosevelt Avenue, and a date of 1912 for an 8-inch main under 39th Avenue. However, examination of the 1886 Sanborn Map shows a 6-inch pipe under Roosevelt Avenue and a 4-inch pipe under Locust Street, now 39th Avenue. Records on file with the Queens Sewer Department go back only to a survey dated May 1918 by Hirst and Elkins. Sewers existed under both Roosevelt and 39th Avenues by this time.

In summary, there is clear evidence that the project area was owned by the Leggett/Fitch family before and during the construction and use of the two-story dwelling that formerly existed just to the east. Water lines existed by 1886 which is the earliest date for which the structure can be confirmed to exist. This dwelling may have had a cistern or well if it was built prior to the installation of the water lines. If so, these features probably were in the lot or lots just east of the project area. Sewers existed under both adjacent streets prior to 1918, but their actual installation date cannot be confirmed. There is a good chance that this dwelling had a privy. If so, it most likely would have been located near the rear lot line adjacent to 39th Avenue, either within the project area or in the lot to the east.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this sensitivity evaluation was to determine the potential of the project area for preserving archaeological evidence beneath the surface of the parking lot that currently occupies this location. A general review of the history and prehistory of Flushing indicated that this potential sensitivity could originate from one or both time periods, which have been addressed above.

The above text has documented that there is a fair chance that the project area was used during the prehistoric period. Burials have been reported within 300 yards of the project area. The lack of a fresh water source on or adjacent to the property makes it unlikely that the aboriginal population ever used this location for any other purpose except occasional hunting or as part of a planting field. These uses would leave little archaeological evidence, which would almost certainly have been disturbed by the extensive use of the project area during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This is not true for burials which could have been five or six feet below the original grade. The project area is considered sensitive to the preservation of prehistoric remains, particularly possible burials.

During the Revolutionary War, the Battle of Long Island took place in the general vicinity of Roosevelt Avenue project area, but there is no reason to believe that this specific location was used for fortifications or troop encampments. However, three to four blocks to the northwest, possible remains of troops were found in 1841 in the Linnaean Gardens, so possible odds and ends may exist in the project area.

The discussion of the nineteenth century history of the project area indicates that there is potential for the preservation of archaeological evidence from this period beneath the surface of the existing parking lot. During the 1870s the project area block was subdivided from the former Thomas H. Leggett farm.

Review of property transactions and installation records for water and sewer lines show that the structure built on the lot including the project area may have had both a privy and a well or cistern. Only the privy may have been within the project area. The house remained in the Leggett/Fitch family throughout this period. Should a privy exist within this project area, it would likely have been filled by the Leggett/Fitch family during the 1880s or 1890s. Recovery of such fill could provide insights into the fairly well-to-do

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family still living on a large lot subdivided from the family farm in central Flushing.

It is our recommendation that archaeological testing be completed within the 136-21 Roosevelt Avenue project area prior to construction to search for evidence of burials and a possible privy. This testing will be limited to the rear of the lot adjacent to 39th Avenue. We recommend two backhoe trenches in this location.



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