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COMMISSION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY EVALUATION
OF THE KOREA NEWS PROJECT, 42-22 27TH STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY, QUEENS COUNTY, NEW YORK

CEQR #90-249Q

Prepared for:

Korea News, Inc./Pako Realty Corp.
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the Korea News parcel on the corner of 42nd Road and 27th Street in Long Island City; Queens, New York through a review of existing archival, cartographic and published references. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resource within the parcel itself, this survey shall include a synthesis of published and unpublished data on prehistoric resources in the immediate locality surrounding the project area and a synthesis of the history of the parcel and its vicinity. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province of New York State. There is only one other location in the state (Staten Island) where this province occurs (Thompson 1966:34-35). The Borough of Queens forms part of west-central Long Island, which is the largest island adjoining the United States proper. The Korea News project area lies to the north of the Harbor Hill Terminal moraine at its western end. This moraine marks the maximum extent of the second advance of glaciation which partly covered Long Island (Thompson 1966:43; Van Diver 1985:70).

Greenhouse Consultants visited the project location during April 1991. The Korea News project consists of a rectangular piece of land 165 feet north-south by 100 feet east-west at the southeast corner of Block 423. This parcel is presently Tax Lots 28 through 30 which also includes a standing structure of approximately 75 feet by 100 feet. The parcel was formerly seven lots facing both 42nd Road and 27th Street, numbered 28 through 34. The property is presently being used as a parking lot for the existing Korea News building which covers the southern part of the parcel. The grade of the project area appears to be close to that of the streets. See Plates 1 and 2 for views of the project area. Development plans call for expanding the existing structure into the 90 by 100 foot parking lot to the northeast.

PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished resources in the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, and the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Table 1 presents the results of our search in the vicinity of the Korea News project area. Included in the table are five sites located two miles or less from the project area. The locations of these sites are presented in Figure 2 with letter code identifiers which correspond to those in Table 1. Of the five known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, none were excavated recently under controlled conditions. All represent sites located during the early years of this century or earlier by avocational or professional archaeologists. Two of the sites have been recorded by the New York State Museum within a one mile radius of the project area, and one of these locations includes the project area.

At the time of the first European contact and settlement in the seventeenth century, Queens was inhabited by at least three Indian groups each with one or more village sites, seasonal encampments and food supply area(s). These groups were the Massapequa, the Matinecock, and the Rockaway (Grumet 1981:29, 32, 47). Several village sites have been identified with varying degrees of precision as having been situated in Queens with at least one near the project area. These groups, and others on western Long Island, spoke dialects of Munsee (Goddard 1978:215), one of two languages used by the Lenape or Delaware nation.



Figure 1 Project Area shown on portions of the U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Central Park Quadrangle (1966 photorevised 1979) and Brooklyn Quadrangle (1967 photorevised 1979).

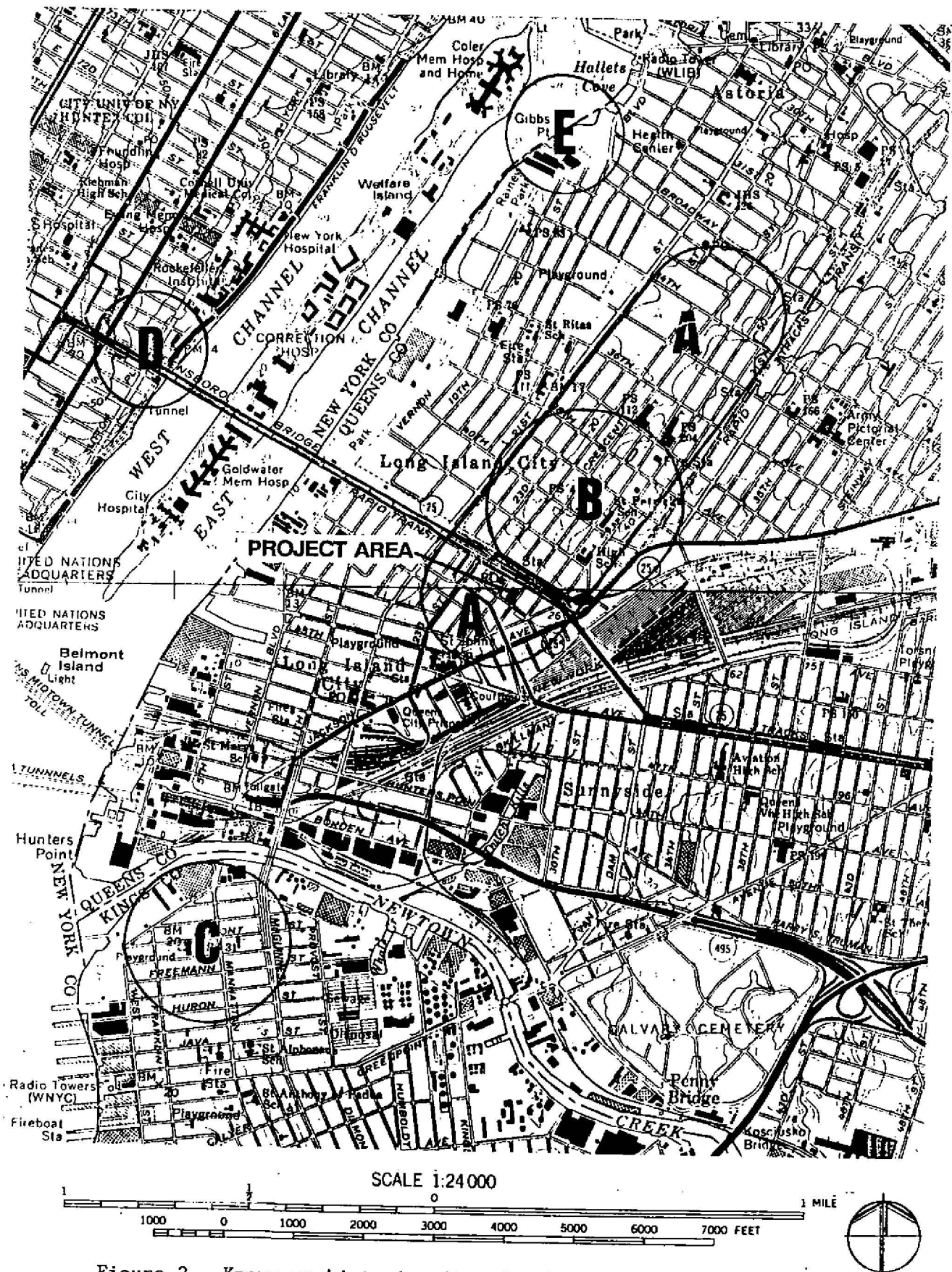


Figure 2 Known prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project area, shown on U.S.G.S. Central Park and Brooklyn quadrangles.

Table 1
Prehistoric Sites in the Vicinity of Block 423, Long Island City, Queens

Site Name	Parker #	NYSM #	Reference	Period	Description
A.	ACP-QUNS-14	4537	Parker 1922:672		Burial
B.	ACP-QUNS	4538	Parker 1922:Pl. 208	Woodland(?)	Village
C.	ACP-KINGS	3613	Parker 1922:Pl. 179		Traces of occupation
D.	ACP-NYRK	4061	Parker 1922:Pl. 192		Traces of occupation
E. Sanford's Point	ACP-QUNS-12		Parker 1922:672		Shell midden





Arthur C. Parker, the former New York State Archaeologist, reported all five sites found within the search radius. Two of these, listed as "A" and "E" in Figure 2 and Table 1, are mentioned in Parker's published text. "B", "C" and "D" appear only in his published plates and more accurate maps filed with the New York State Museum. Site "A" (N.Y.S.M. #4537) includes the entire project area within the location supplied by the Museum. Parker describes it as Site 14 in his text as a "burial site in Long Island City along Crescent Street" (Parker 1922:672). No further information was published and the New York State Museum files also offer no information on artifacts recovered or date range.

The second nearest site to the project area is N.Y.S.M. #4538 listed as "B" in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site is located approximately 0.3 miles north of the project area. New York State Museum files list it as a village, which suggests a date range including the Woodland Period. No information was supplied on the type of artifacts recovered.

The third nearest site to the project area is N.Y.S.M. #3613, listed as "C" in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site is located along the south bank of Newtown Creek approximately 1.2 miles south of the project area. The only information supplied by Parker is a description of the site as traces of occupation (Parker 1922:Plate 179). Newtown Creek was evidently known as Mespachtes during the Contact Period. The placename "Maspath" is a survival of this name (Grumet 1981:28-29).

The next site found during this search is N.Y.S.M. #4061, which is listed as "D" in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site is located approximately 1.2 miles northwest of the project area near the Manhattan landing of the Queensboro Bridge. It is described by Parker only as traces of occupation (Parker 1922:Plate 192).

The final site found during this search is Parker's Site 12 for Queens which is listed as "E" in Figure 2 and Table 1. This site described only as a shell midden is at the mouth of Sunswick Creek on what was known as Sanford's Point (Parker 1922:672).

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 freshwater 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 water and food supplies of both systems.

This survey has documented the reported or published location of no less than four prehistoric sites within a two mile radius of the Korea News project area. Sites have been identified both in the general vicinity of the Korea News parcel and with locations including the project area. The project area is situated on relatively elevated ground between three potential sources of water. The nearest water source is about 600 feet away to the southwest. This small stream is an unnamed tributary of Newtown Creek. Newtown Creek was probably known as Mespachtes during the Contact Period. Maspath is a survival of this name (Grumet 1981:28-29). Springs existed on the Paynter farm located just north of the project area. Another possible source is part of Dutch Kills located about 1200 feet east of the project area. Dutch Kills was evidently known as Canapaukah during the Contact Period (Grumet 1981:4-5). Until the mid-nineteenth century a fairly large marsh surrounded Dutch Kills. To the north and west of the project area was the former Ravenswood marsh which was drained by Sunswick Creek leading northwest to the East River. The project area is also about one mile north of Newtown Creek which is part of the tidal estuary including the East River, which is 0.8 miles distant to the northwest. The project area appears to have had easy access to fresh water, nearby marshes that may have attracted game, and the marine resources of the East River and Newtown Creek only a short distance away. Aboriginal names are known for at least the two nearby geographical features. The New York State Museum has recorded several sites in the region including one which encompasses the project area. For these reasons, the potential for the project area to have been used by the prehistoric population must be judged as high.



EVIDENCE FROM SOIL BORINGS

Boring logs from two jobs on file at the Subsurface Exploration Section of the New York City Department of General Services were examined to determine whether any fill was deposited in or near the project area, and whether the surface potentially used by prehistoric peoples could survive. Boring Job 233A completed during 1953 includes Boring 33 located at the intersection of 27th Street and Hunter Street approximately 360 feet from the project area. The top layer in Boring 33 is identified as fill which extends to six feet below the surface. Below this is a layer of loose fine light brown sand with a little silt and mica. This second layer is eight feet thick. Below this were four layers which were predominately sand, ending in slightly weathered gneiss bedrock at 40.4 feet below the surface.

Boring Job 549 completed during 1967 includes Boring B5 located at the intersection of 28th Street and 42nd Road about 280 feet from the project area. The top layer in Boring B5 is identified as fill which is confirmed by the presence of cinders. This layer is five feet thick. Below this is a layer of compact fine to medium gray-brown sand with a little silt which is ten feet thick. Two more layers consisting mostly of sand were identified below this, but no bedrock was encountered. The boring ended at 40.4 feet below the surface. Water was measured at 13.1 feet below grade.

Several borings were conducted within the present project area prior to February 1989. These were analyzed by Pierre R. Foss, P.E. primarily to determine bearing capacity. In his letters of 2 and 17 February 1989 he indicates that a layer of fine sand and silt exists approximately four feet below the surface. Mica schist and quartz rock was encountered at about fourteen feet below grade. This information tends to confirm that seen in the 1953 and 1967 borings. The deposit just below the surface in the project area is probably fill. At a depth of four to six feet a layer consisting mostly of sand exists. This deposit may be the surface existing prior to European settlement. The fill layer above has likely protected it from impacts with the exception of deep excavations for foundations, cellars and similar constructions.

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HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

? Project name

As part of the background research into the Korea News Project Area ~~Brown Memorial Baptist Church~~ project area, this archaeological and historical sensitivity evaluation surveyed published and unpublished sources located at the Long Island Division of the Queensborough Public Library, the Main Research Branch of the New York Public Library, including the Local History and Map Divisions, the New York City Municipal Reference Library and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. In addition, primary source material was examined at the Topographical Bureau of the Queens Borough President's Office, the Queens Sewer Department, the Queens County Clerk's Office, and the New York City Bureau of Water Supply.

In addition *The Guide to New York City Landmarks* and its current supplement were searched for the location of designated landmarks in close proximity to the Korea News project area. There is one designated New York City landmark within 0.25 miles of the project area. This is the Queensboro Bridge, constructed during 1901-1908. It was the second bridge to Long Island and the first to Queens, and is still one of the largest cantilever bridge without suspended spans anywhere (Diamondstein 1988:259). The Queensboro Bridge approach now forms the northern boundary of the project area block.

The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

The Korea News project area is located within the old neighborhood of Dutch Kills, which became part of Long Island City when the city was chartered during 1870. Along with Hunter's Point to the southwest, Dutch Kills was included in the earliest land briefs issued by the Dutch colonial government for what is now western Queens. The west bank of Dutch Kills was granted by Governor Kieft to Tyman Jansen during 1643. Jansen

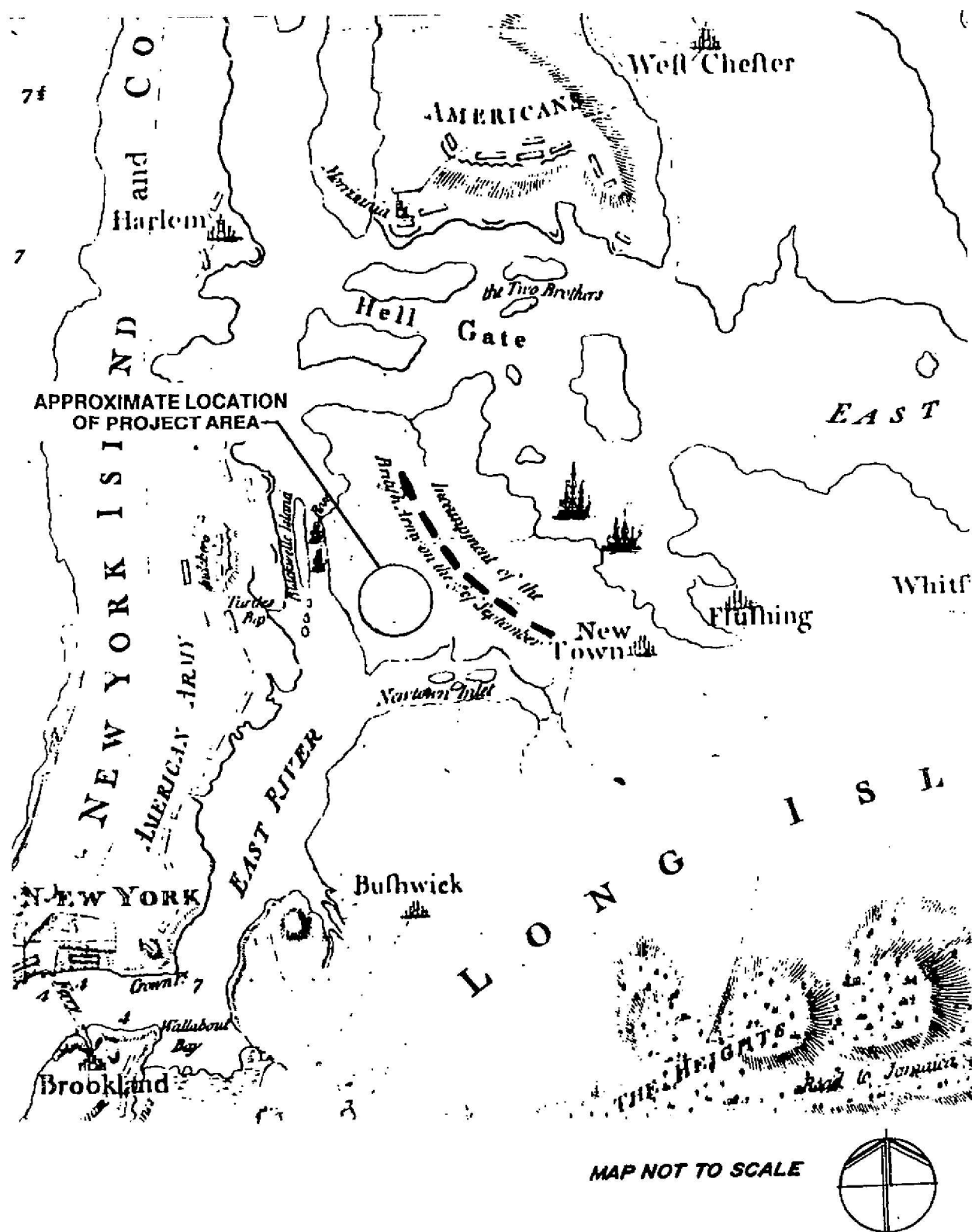


Figure 3 From the 1776 S. Lewis Plan of New York Island with part of Long Island and East New Jersey.



was ship carpenter employed by the Dutch West Indian Company. To the north of Jansen's land, Burger Jorissen was granted land during July of 1643. This property included much of the Queensboro Bridge Plaza. Jorissen was a native of Silesia in Germany who had come to New Netherlands during 1637. He was then a smith but soon purchased a vessel and began trading along the Hudson River. He established a mill on his farm by damming Dutch Kills near the present 41st Avenue and 40th Road slightly south of Jackson Avenue. Jorissen died in 1671 and his sons sold the farm to John Parcell (Seyfried 1984:75-76). After a number of changes, this farm became the property of the Payntar family during the nineteenth century. About 1670 the Jansen farm and an adjacent piece of property were purchased by Joris Stevenson "de Capen van Alst." This phrase translates as "the sailor from Alst," a place in Flanders. Joris died in 1710, but his descendants who took the surname, Van Alst, owned most of this land until the mid-nineteenth century (ibid:76). The present project area was included in the Van Alst farm. The Van Alst farmhouse and outbuildings were not on the project area, being located near 45th and Jackson Avenues to the south (ibid:77).

The Dutch Kills locale remained as an area of isolated farmsteads throughout the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Seyfried 1984:77). By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the land that would become Long Island City consisted of ten farms with the majority under 90 acres in size (Kelsey 1896:19). The major changes from the onset of European settlement during the seventeenth century until this time were the progressive clearance of the forests and the reduction in size of the farms due to their subdivision between heirs (Seyfried 1984:77).

Western Queens County did see some military activity during the Revolutionary War, but that which took place within the future Long Island City was confined to Sunnyside (Seyfried 1984:77). Sunnyside is east of Dutch Kills and is now under the extensive yards of the Pennsylvania and Long Island Railroads. See Figure 3 for a map illustrating western Queens during the Revolution.

No evidence was found that indicates that the project area was used for any purpose other than agriculture from the beginning of European settlement until the end of the eighteenth century. It is probable that the project area was cleared of forest during this period, but no evidence suggests that any structures were built there. Although western Queens did see some action during the Revolutionary War, this was confined to locations east of the project area.

The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

The situation in Dutch Kills during the early nineteenth century is a continuation of that described above for the eighteenth century. During the early years of the century a 30 acre section of the Van Alst farm was sold to Richard Hunter, who married Jan Van Alst (Chapman 1896:544). The Hunters had inherited a large farm on the point of land by the north bank of the Newtown Creek outlet through marriage with the Bennett family. This location still bears the name Hunter's Point, although it had been Bennett's Hook and, prior to that, Dominies Hook (Seyfried 1984:75). During the 1830s the United States Coast Survey mapped the New York Bay region. A copy of part of one of the original maps prepared during this effort is included here as Figure 4. This map illustrates Dutch Kills and the surrounding region in 1837. One of the two houses just northeast of the project area at the intersection on the west bank of Dutch Kills is likely Richard Hunter's farmhouse. This map shows that the project area was then on the edge of a forested location between several marshes and streams. No buildings are shown on the project area.

Richard and Jane Hunter had four children, of whom two survived infancy. These were George H. Hunter and Jacob B. Hunter, who subsequently inherited their parents' 30 acre farm (Chapman 1896:544). Figure 5, taken from the 1852 Dripps' Map of Kings and Queens Counties, shows that Dutch Kills was a small hamlet located at the road intersection seen in Figure 4. Farmhouses belonging to the Hunter, Payntar and Van Alst families are identified. The project area is part of the Hunter farm and still has no buildings within it. The Hunter brothers continued to farm their property until increases in property values persuaded them to subdivide the property into city lots (ibid.). The property was surveyed, streets were laid out, and the newly created blocks divided into lots. During April 1867 a map drawn by P.G. Van Alst was filed with the Queens County Clerks' Office. A portion of this map illustrating the original configuration of the project area block

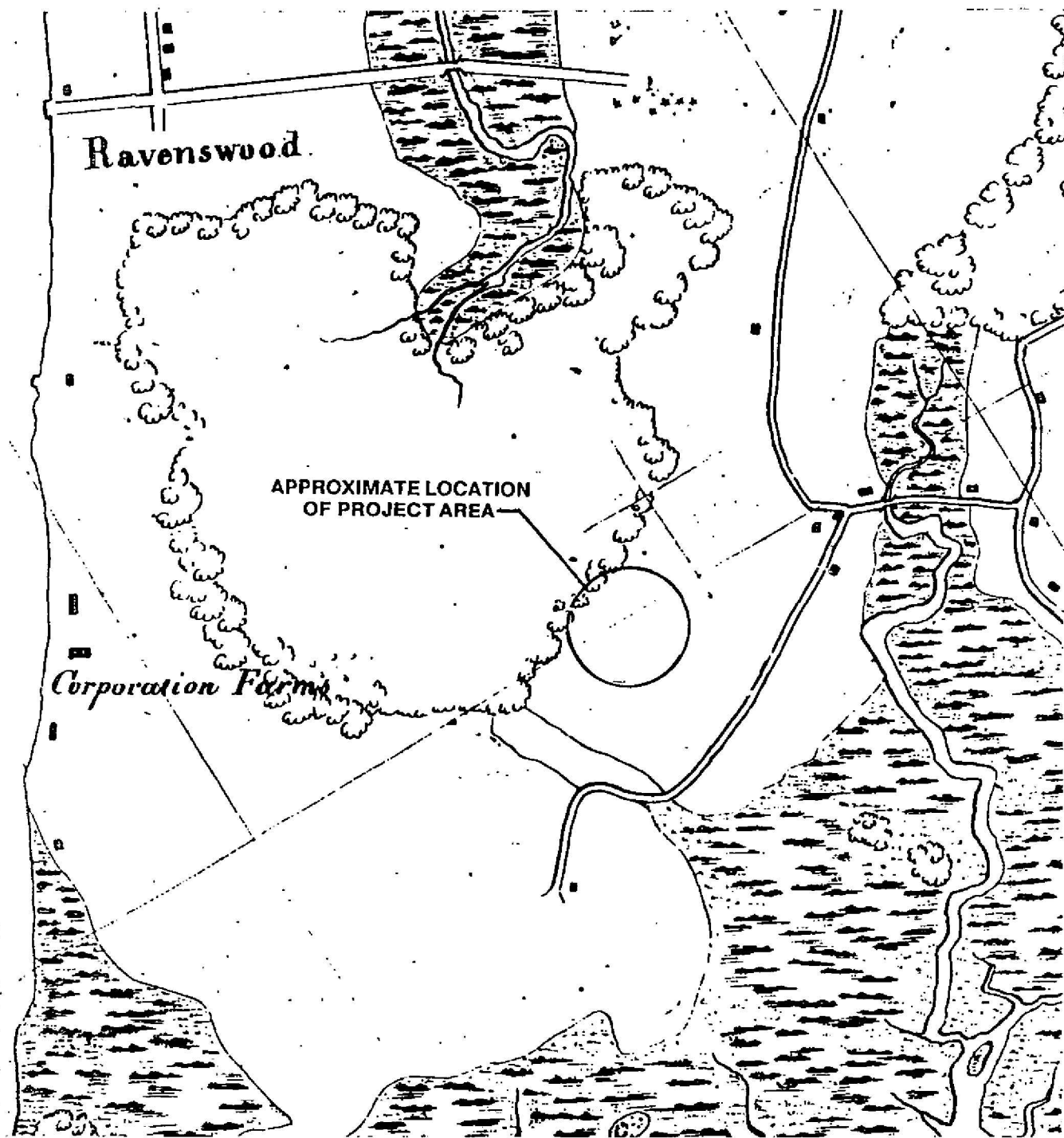


Figure 4 From the 1837 U.S. Coast Survey, from Howlett's Cove to Brooklyn, New York. Surveyed by C. Renard.
Scale 1:10,000.

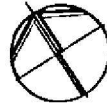


Figure 6 Portion of a "Map of Property at Long Island City, Newtown, Queens Co., L.I. belonging to George H. and Jacob B. Hunter, surveyed April 1867 by P. G. Van Alst, C.E." (Filed Map 191) Project Area consists of lots 295-298, 304, 306.& 308. Scale is approximately 80 feet to One inch.



Figure 7 From the 1873 Beers' Atlas of Long Island, New York from Recent and Actual Surveys and Records, Plate 43, Dutch Kills.

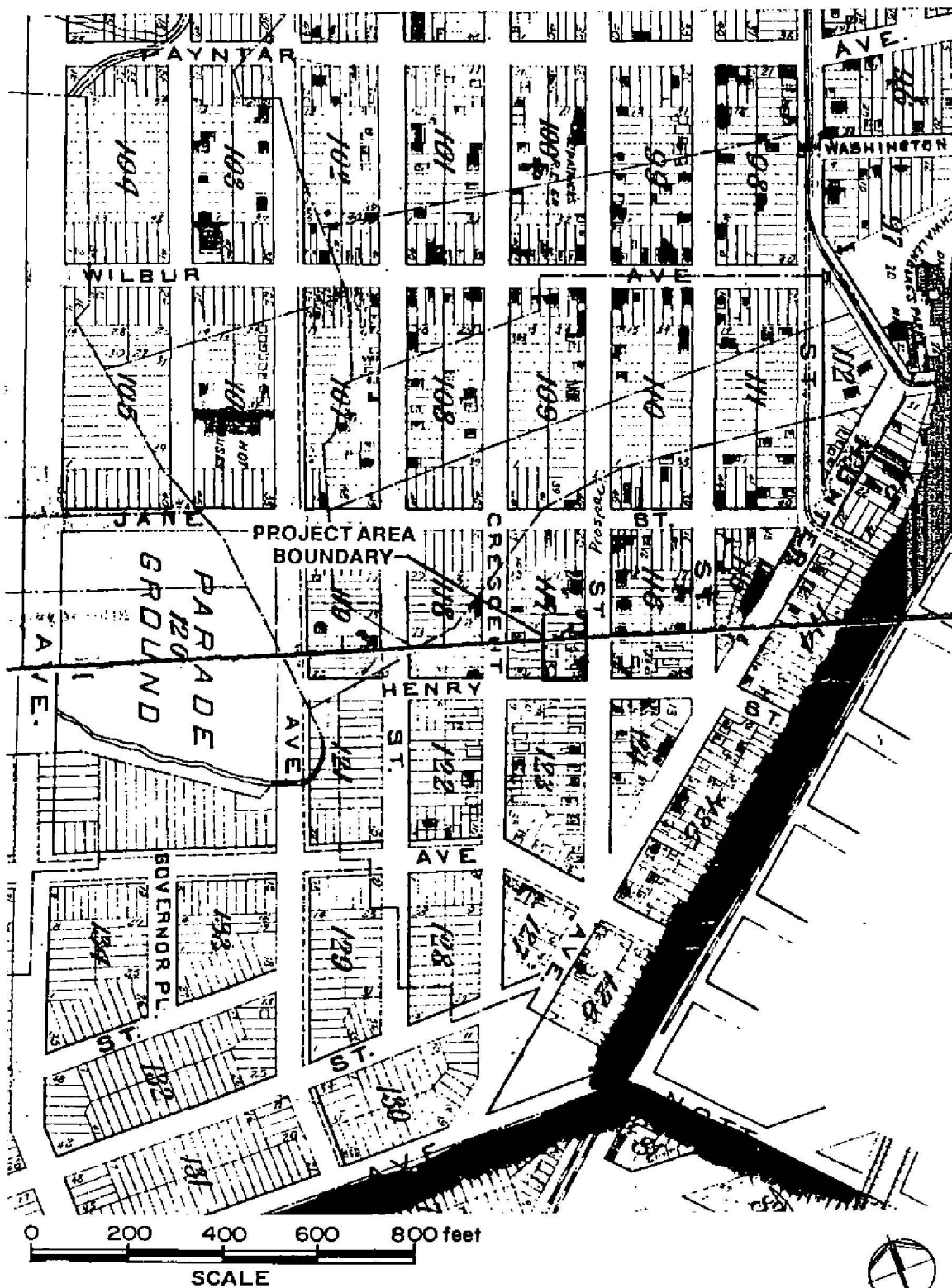


Figure 8 From the 1891 Wolverton Atlas of Queens County, Long Island, New York, Plate 4, part of Long Island City.

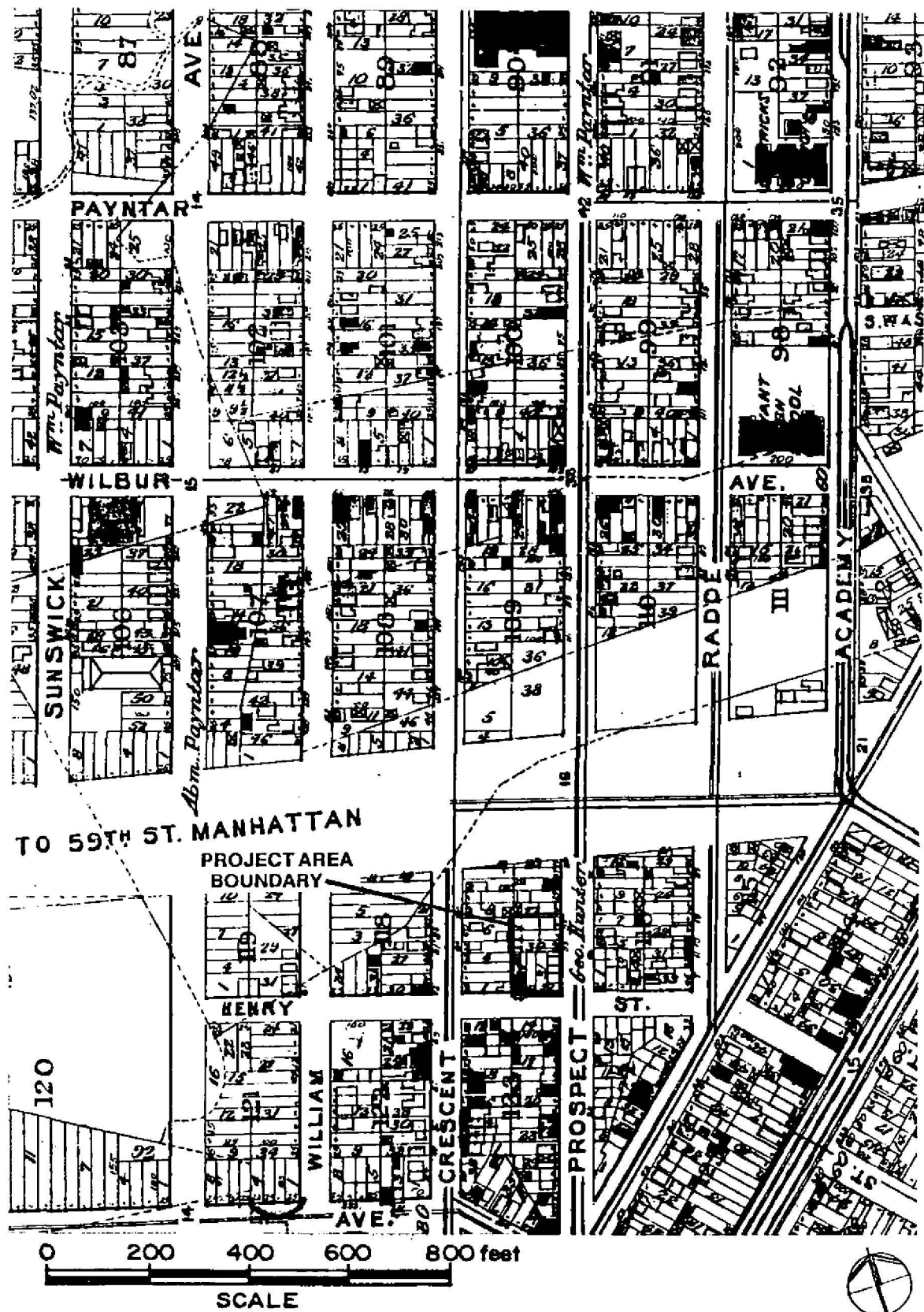


Figure 9 From the 1909 Bromley Atlas of the City of New York, Borough of Queens, Plate 1.



is presented here as Figure 6. The present project area consists of lots 295 through 298, 304, 306 and 308. All were 25 feet wide by either 90 or 100 feet long, and faced both Prospect and Henry Streets (now 27th Street and 42nd Road respectively). The subdivision of the Hunter property took place during a period of rapid development for the adjacent Hunter's Point neighborhood to the southwest. During June 1854 the New York and Flushing Railroad began operation with its terminal at a dock on Hunter's Point near the Newtown Creek outlet. During 1861 the Long Island Railroad moved its western terminal from Brooklyn to Hunter's Point, which began the rapid expansion of Hunter's Point (Kelley 1908:6). As the expansion moved out of Hunter's Point into the adjacent Dutch Kills and other neighborhoods, the idea of incorporating as a municipality was developed and the name Long Island City came into use (Seyfried 1984:100). The name was used in the legend of the Hunter subdivision map (Figure 6). The incorporation of Long Island City was accomplished by act of the New York State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Hoffman on 4 May 1870 (ibid:102). Long Island City was an independent municipality for less than 28 years. On 1 January 1898 it became part of New York City when the Borough of Queens was created (Seyfried 1984:135).

The lots laid out in the Van Alst survey of April 1867 began to be sold by the Hunter brothers and their wives during July of that year. This process continued until at least August of 1880. Deed references for six of seven lots that make up the project area were found at the Queens County Clerk's office. These lots were sold by the Hunters from November 1867 through December 1874. Tables 2 through 6 provide the chains of title for the various lots. Lot numbers from the 1860s and the twentieth century are provided since the numbering system changed.

The development of structures in the seven original lots that comprise the project area is illustrated in Figures 7 through 9. Figure 7 is taken from the 1873 Beers Atlas. The project area block is unnumbered although the lots as subdivided in 1867 with their associated numbers are shown. The project area lots except for number 296 are all vacant. One building is shown at the rear of lot 296. Figure 8 is taken from the 1891 Wolverton Atlas. The project area block is now number 117, and considerable development has taken place. The structure in lot 296 has been demolished, and this lot is now vacant. Lot 297 remains vacant, as are lots 306 and 308. Four frame structures have been built facing Prospect Street in lot 295. A frame structure has been built at the front of lot 298 facing Henry Street, and another frame structure has been constructed facing Prospect Street at the front of lot 304. The 1903 Belcher Hyde Atlas was examined but could not be photocopied. The block is still number 117, although the 1860s lot designations have been changed to lots 28 through 34. The planned Queensboro Bridge is shown superimposed over Jane Street and the northern end of the block. Old lots 296 and 297 (now the rear of lot 31 and lot 33) remain vacant. The structures in lots 295 (front of lot 31) and 304 (lot 30) all remain unchanged. Those in lot 295 (front of 31) are shown as two stories with basements. New frame structures have been added to fronts of lots 306 (29) and 308 (28). A one story frame extension has been added to the three story brick structure at the front of lot 298 (34), and a small shed has been built at the rear of this lot. Water mains are shown under both Crescent and Prospect Streets. Figure 9 is taken from the 1909 Bromley Atlas. By this time the Queensboro Bridge has been completed, obliterating Jane Street and all of lots 317 and 319 through 325.

The project area lots appear unchanged from 1903. The next map consulted was the 1919 Belcher Hyde Atlas which could not be photocopied. This depiction of the project area shows no significant changes to the project area lots, although the block has been renumbered 423. Two versions of the 1928 Belcher Hyde Atlas were also consulted. Both of these were updated, to 1930 and 1955 respectively, and neither could be photocopied. By 1930 two buildings have been added. A one story stucco building has been erected at the front of lot 297 (33), and a one story stucco extension has been added to the rear of lot 304 (36) filling the remainder of the lot. By 1955 the four buildings facing Prospect Street, now 27th Street, have been demolished. A one story stucco extension has been added to the building in lot 297 (33) filling the remainder of the lot. The other lots remained the same. Since 1955, all the remaining buildings were demolished, and the existing Korea News building constructed over most of lots 295 through 298 (31-34). Lots 304, 306 and 308 (28-30) are presently a parking lot. See Plates 1 and 2. Information obtained from the Buildings Department of the Borough of Queens by the project environmental consultant indicates that the building formerly in lot 308 (28) was demolished during 1987 and the parking lot expanded.



Table 2
Chain of Title for Lot 28 (originally 308)

Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
George H. Hunter/Mary J. Hunter/Jacob B. Hunter/Jane A. Hunter	Rosamond F. Eddy	18 Nov. 1867	265:37
David R. Eddy/Carrie L. Eddy	John McKeon, Sr./John McKeon, Jr.	8 Dec. 1887	726:470
John McKeon, Sr.	Margaret Scanlon	4 Nov. 1895	1088:210
Margaret Scanlon	Lillian V. Norton	20 July 1943	<u>Reel:Page</u> 546:1525
James J. Norton/Raymond A. Norton	Ralph Tornello/Phyllis Tornello	25 Jan. 1972	544:340
Ralph Tornello/Phyllis Tornello	Virginia Concepcion	8 Dec. 1981	1388:350
Reference missing			



Table 3
Chain of Title for Lot 29 (originally 306)

Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
George H. Hunter/Mary J. Hunter/Jacob B. Hunter/Jane A. Hunter	Rosamond F. Eddy	18 Nov. 1867	265:37
Rosamond F. Eddy	John McKeon, Sr./John McKeon, Jr.	8 Dec. 1887	726:466
John McKeon et al. (heirs of John McKeon, Sr.)	Charles Maas/Mary Maas	24 Sept. 1915	2027:188
Mary Maas	Hermina M. Koren/Anna Cseh	7 Oct. 1926	2962:117067
Anna Cseh	Hermina M. Koren	18 June 1928	3189:53847
Hermina M. Koren	Edna Willis	21 March 1940	4178:101
Edna Willis et al.	James P. McGowan	24 June 1949	5780:294
Michael J. McGowan/Isadore Jacobs exccutors for James P. McGowan	Consolidated Cigar Philanthropic Fund, Inc.	11 March 1960	7228:513
Gulf & Western Foundation, formerly Consolidated Cigar Philanthropic Fund, Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Corp.	27 Feb. 1970	<u>Reel:Page</u> 975:160
Gulf & Western Corp., successor to Consolidated Cigar Corp.	Pako Realty Corp.	28 Feb. 1977	975:157



Table 4
Chain of Title for Lot 30 (originally 304)

Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
George H. Hunter/Mary J. Hunter/Jacob B. Hunter/Jane A. Hunter	Thomas Scully	16 May 1868	274:41
Thomas Scully (by referee)	Eva Sherman	15 Sept. 1887	718:167
Eva Sherman	John S. Mills/Charlotte M. Mills	27 Jan. 1905	1356:130
Florence Mills Ehrman/Harold Mills/Emma Mills/Ingaber Mills	Charlotte Liquori/Joseph Liquori	27 March 1920	2274:3
Charlotte Liquori/Joseph Liquori	Harry Sharf/Tcherkov Phillips	23 May 1922	2416:26331
Tcherkov Phillips/Uauba Phillips	Harry Sharf	26 Oct. 1923	2560:80840
Harry Sharf/Jennie Sharf	Shabro Corp.	10 April 1931	3473:20117
Shabro Corp. et al. (by referee)	James P. McGowan	25 Oct. 1950	6045:5
James P. McGowan	Brendon Hill Homes Inc.	21 Dec. 1954	6939:270
Brendon Hill Homes Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Philanthropic Fund, Inc.	2 March 1960	7228:507
Gulf & Western Foundation, formerly C.C.P.F. Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Corp.	27 Feb. 1970	<u>Reel:Page</u> 975:160
Gulf & Western Corp, successor to C.C. Corp.	Pako Realty Corp.	28 Feb. 1977	975:157



Table 5
Chain of Title for Lot 31 (originally 295 & 296)

Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
George H. Hunter/Jacob B. Hunter/Jane A. Hunter	Jane Doyle	22 Jan. 1875	456:329
James Doyle (exec. for) Jane Doyle (dec'd)	DeWitt Hitchcock	21 June 1886	680:281
Mary E. Hitchcock (exec. for) DeWitt Hitchcock (dec'd)	W.S. Holding Corp.	5 May 1926	2890:46109
W.S. Holding Corp.	Albemarle Realty Co. Inc.	12 June 1929	3306:44103
Albemarle Realty Co. Inc.	Meyer Appel	8 March 1930	3379:13459
Reference missing	Reference missing	---	---
Elsie H. Manley (by referee)	Consolidated Bakers & Confectioners Supply Co. Inc.	23 Sept. 1947	5467:413
Consolidated Bakers & Confectioners Supply Co. Inc.	James P. McGowan	28 March 1949	5740:213
James P. McGowan	Brendon Hill Homes Inc.	21 Dec. 1954	6939:270
Brendon Hill Homes Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Philanthropic Fund Inc.	10 March 1960	7228:507
Gulf & Western Foundation formerly C.C.P.F., Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Corp.	27 Feb. 1970	<u>Reel:Page</u> 975:160
Gulf & Western Corp. successor to Consolidated Cigar Corp.	Pako Realty Corp.	28 Feb. 1977	975:157



Table 6
Chain of Title for Lots 33 and 34 (originally 297 & 298)

Grantor	Grantee	Recording Date	Liber:Page
George H. Hunter/Jacob B. Hunter/Jane A. Hunter	Thomas Coleman	31 Dec. 1874	*549:234
Thomas Coleman/Catherine Coleman	Henry Jones	30 Oct. 1879	*549:238
Heirs of Henry Jones (dec'd)/Lillian Jones	Henry J. Honahan/Herbert R. Gibbs	18 Jan. 1923	2474:4048
Henry J. Honahan/Mary E. Honahan/Herbert R. Gibbs/Ethalinda Gibbs	Honahan & Gibbs Inc.	20 Jan. 1926	2850:7189
Honahan & Gibbs Inc.	A.H. Gilbert/James J. Shelley	4 Oct. 1927	3102:104435
A.H. Gilbert/James J. Shelley/Helen M. Shelley	Harrimore Realty Corp.	4 Oct. 1927	3102:104437
Harrimore Realty Corp.	Harry Sharf	1 July 1929	3313:49769
Harry Sharf/Jennie Sharf	Harsha Corp.	14 May 1931	3482:28133
Harsha Corp.	Harrimore Realty Corp.	7 Jan. 1933	3626:688
Harrimore Realty Corp.	Rochambeau Holding Corp.	26 July 1935	3761:22085
Rechambeau Holding Corp.	Consolidated Bakers & Confectioners Supply Co., Inc.	3 Oct. 1946	5280:610
Consolidated Bakers & Confectioners Supply Co., Inc.	James P. McGowan	25 July 1949	5795:261
James P. McGowan	Brendon Hill Homes Inc.	21 Dec. 1954	6939:270
Brendon Hill Homes Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Philanthropic Fund Inc.	10 March 1960	7228:507
Gulf & Western Foundation formerly C.C.P.F. Inc.	Consolidated Cigar Corp.	15 Feb. 1970	975:160
Gulf & Western Corp. successor to Consolidated Cigar Corp.	Pako Realty Corp.	28 Feb. 1977	975:157

* Lot 34 (298) only



Maps and records on file at the Sewer Department of the Borough of Queens were consulted to determine the date of sewer construction. A sewer existed under Prospect Street, now 27th Street, as early as February 1894 (Queens Sewer Department, n.d.:Map 81-180).

A similar search for the dates of water mains was made at the New York City Bureau of Water Supply and Wastewater Collection. The earliest records found indicate that eight inch mains existed under Henry, Crescent Prospect Streets prior to 1913 when those under Henry Street (42nd Road) were replaced (New York City Bureau of Water Supply 1913:271-272). The 1903 Belcher Hyde Atlas provides evidence that the mains under Crescent Street and Prospect Streets (27th Street) existed by 1903. According to Vincent Seyfried, most of the streets of Long Island City received water mains during the 1880s (Seyfried 1984:135).

Directory and Census records were consulted to determine if the owners of the lots within the project area lived there. The 1880 United States Census provided evidence that the Henry Jones family lived on the block along Henry Street. Henry was 38 years of age and worked as an engraver during 1880. He had been born in England. His wife, Hester, was 31 years old and had been born in New York State. They had two sons and two daughters living with them aged 1 to 10 years. Henry's brother John, 20 years old and born in New York State, lived there also. Sarah Knowlton, 60 years old and born in England, was also a resident. She may have been Hester's mother (United States Census Bureau 1880: Reel 114). The 1890 United States Census for New York State has been lost by fire. Only one directory for Long Island City was found. This volume also lists Henry Jones. During 1894 he worked for Goddard and Jones (no address given) and lived at 49 Henry Street in Dutch Kills, Long Island City (Daily and Weekly Star 1894:185). 49 Henry Street was lot 298 (34). The only other property owner for the project area listed in the 1894 directory was John McKeon, a woodturner, who lived at 55 Prospect Street, Dutch Kills, Long Island City (ibid:227). 55 Prospect Street was lot 306 (29). As shown in Table 3, the McKeons owned lot 306 (29) from 1887 through 1915. Table 6 shows that the Jones family owned lot 298 (34) from 1879 through 1923. No other property owners within the project area were living there during the late 1880s and early 1890s when the sewers and water mains were probably installed. The map evidence shows that a structure was erected in lot 298 (34) prior to 1891 (Wolverton Atlas 1891) so it appears probable that this house had a privy which would have gone out of use during the mid-1890s. The earliest evidence for a residence in lot 306 (29) is from the 1894 directory (Daily and Weekly Star 1894:227). This is approximately contemporary with the construction of the sewers, so it appears probable that this lot never had a privy. The evidence for water mains is not as good as that for sewers, but it appears likely that they date to the early 1890s or just before. Therefore lot 298 (34) may have had a well or cistern, while lot 306 (29) probably did not.

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 occupied this location. A general review the prehistory of Long Island City indicated that the Korea News project area has a relatively high potential for preserving evidence from the prehistoric period. Research into the history of this parcel indicated that it had been used only for agriculture from initial European settlement during the mid-seventeenth century until 1866. The owners of the farm subdivided their property and began selling lots during 1867. The first building constructed on the project area appears on a map from 1873. Analysis of property ownership and occupation compared with the dates of sewer construction indicates that historic features filled during the 1890s may exist within one of the original seven lots. These are potentially significant since they can be tied to one family's occupation.

The above text on prehistoric sensitivity has documented that there is considerable reason to believe that the Korea News project area may have been used as a burial or habitation site during the prehistoric period. The existence of five known prehistoric sites within two miles including a village site reported just to the north and a burial site including the project area provides one strong reason to suspect prehistoric use of this loca-



tion. The existence of several possible sources of fresh water as well as marine resources near this relatively well drained and elevated location provides additional evidence of this potential prehistoric use. The existence of place-names derived from aboriginal languages serves to confirm this reasoning. The Korea News project area at 42-22 27th Street must be considered as having a high potential for preserving prehistoric evidence below the surface of the parking lot. The deposit that may contain prehistoric graves and/or other remains is probably buried under four feet of fill.

The section on historic sensitivity above indicates that potentially important deposits dating to the 1890s may be found in former lot 298 along the western side of the present project area. This lot was owned by the Jones family from 1879 to 1923. They can be confirmed as occupants during the period 1880 through 1894. Sewers were probably available by early 1894 and water possibly by the same time. The house in lot 298 was constructed between 1873 and 1891, so there is reason to believe it had a privy and possibly also a well or cistern. The rear fifteen feet of this lot are within the present parking lot. This includes the most likely location for a privy. These would likely have gone out of use during the mid 1890s, when they would have been filled. This fill material probably consisted of refuse from the Jones family who occupied the house at this time. This family was of English and/or Welsh background and middle class economic status judging from census/directory information and their ownership of this property. Excavating features containing their refuse would provide information about middle class people of British extraction living in Long Island City at the end of the nineteenth century, a category of information that has evidently not yet been explored archaeologically.

It is our conclusion that the Korea News project area may contain evidence from both prehistory and the late nineteenth century. We recommend archaeological presence/absence testing for historic features in the rear fifteen feet of former lot 298, and for possible prehistoric burials and/or occupation in this location and all other locations that did not have buildings with cellars or deep foundations. This would include the rear 50 feet of former lots 304, 306 and 308 as well as the rear fifteen feet of former lots 296 and 297. These locations either remained open yards or had one story structures without basements on them, and all are within the present parking lot. This recommended archaeological testing should take place prior to any construction activity.

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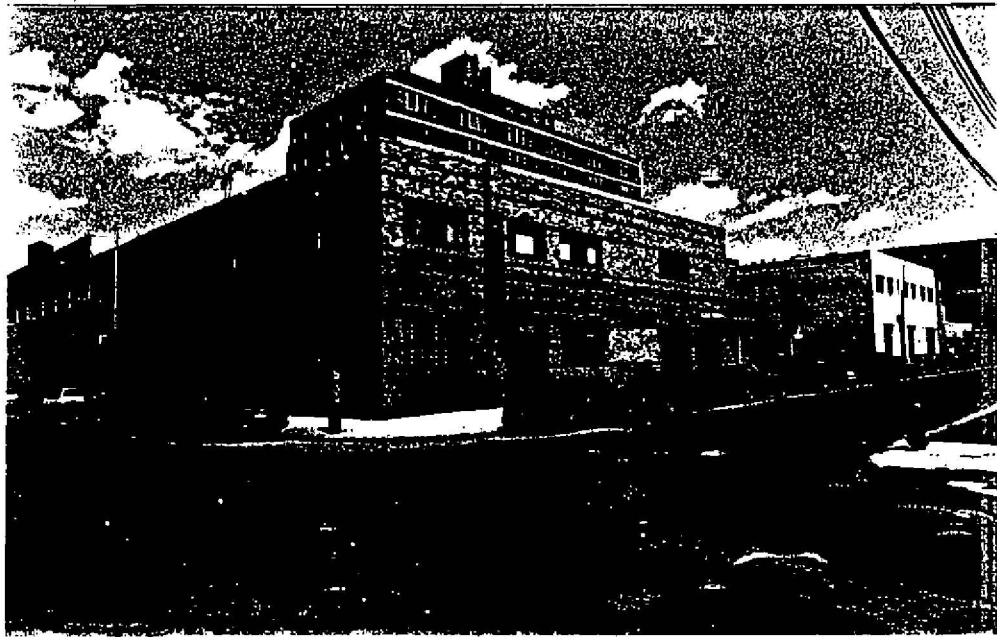


Plate 1 View of the project area from 27th Street and 42nd Road facing north.



Plate 2 View of the project area from across 27th Street looking northwest.



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