

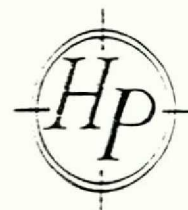
1961Q
1988 WEST QUEENS HOUSING

WEST QUEENS HIGH SCHOOL
ASTORIA, NEW YORK

CEQR 88-201Q

PHASE 1A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT
REPORT 1988

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PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT
for the
WEST QUEENS HOUSING SITE and the WEST QUEENS HIGH SCHOOL SITE
ASTORIA, NEW YORK
CEQR: 88 - 201Q

Prepared

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I. INTRODUCTION

In order to satisfy the concerns of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Report has been conducted on the proposed West Queens Housing Site and the West Queens High School Site (CEQR 88-201 Q). The West Queens Housing Site encompasses two blocks in the Astoria community of Queens: Blocks 521 and 528; and, the High School parcel embraces all or part of three adjacent blocks: Blocks 520, 529, and 530. Predominantly vacant land, the Sites are situated directly south of Broadway, west of 21st Avenue, and several blocks east of Vernon Boulevard. A project map, provided by Allee King Rosen and Fleming, Inc., is attached as Figure 1.

Historical Perspectives, Inc. has completed the research necessary to reach a professional conclusion on the archaeological sensitivity of this acreage. The following "Phase IA Archaeological Assessment" meets the requirements for a "Pre-Construction: Documentary Research," as defined by LPC. The assessment concludes that this five block/two site parcel may host limited prehistorical and historical archaeologically sensitive loci and recommends specific actions to ascertain the presence/absence of such potential. According to members of the Queens Borough President's History Advisory Committee, this city-owned land has recently been identified by their Committee as a potential archaeological resource and field testing of the Site has been discussed by the Committee (Edward Platt, personal communication, 4/26/88; Vincent Seyfried, personal communication, 4/28/88).

II. RESEARCH DESIGN

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

What is the potential for the West Queens Housing Site to have hosted prehistoric and/or historic resources of significance; and,
What is the likelihood that such resources have survived the subsurface disturbances concomitant with urbanization.

A: Primary Source Material to Identify Usage Ownership

Pertinent data on the project site was gathered from the New York Public Library, the Queens Historical Society, and various Borough departments. Nineteenth century and early twentieth century Queens residential and business directories were reviewed.

Of crucial importance in assessing the potential for prehistoric site exploitation is the reconstruction of the site's topographic conditions (i.e., elevation and drainage) during various prehistoric cultural periods. Such information was sought during each of the task phases.

B: Secondary Source Material

In order to place the West Queens Housing Site in an historical context, local and regional histories were reviewed for pertinent material (e.g., French's Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York and Armbruster's Long Island Landmarks). Vincent Seyfried's 300 Years of Long Island City, a detailed history that includes the project area, was relied on heavily since his research incorporated each of the earlier, important histories of the Borough (e.g., Riker's Annals of Newtown and Von Skal's Illustrated History of the Borough of Queens, and the Munsell and Company 1882 publication History of Queens County). The works by Reginald Bolton, Robert Grumet, and Daniel Denton (on Native American exploitation in western Long Island) were researched.

The historical review included detailing the project area's street openings, closings, alterations, and name changes through time. Broadway's route and name has not altered in over a hundred years, whereas 14th Place was known as Court Street and

13th Street was formally called Marion. Of particular import in understanding the neighborhood evolution is the current 33rd Avenue which roughly corresponds to roads recorded historically as "old Ridge Road," Ridge Street, Ridge Road, and erroneously as Bridge Street.

C: Archaeological Literature

Queens has a long history of archaeological research. Antiquarians recorded nineteenth century interest in local Indian artifacts and since the 1920's both professional and amateur archaeologists have conducted digs and published reports on their findings. Also, artifact collectors have long been active in the borough. Available site reports, photograph collections, journal publications, etc. were reviewed for data specific to the project area.

Inquiries on inventoried prehistoric and historic sites were directed to the New York State Museum and the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

D: Subsurface Disturbance Record

Paralleling the research to determine the West Queens Housing Site prehistoric and historic archaeological potential was research to determine the likelihood that any such resources are extant, having survived the normal destructive forces of development. Documentation on past construction (e.g., residences, businesses, utility installation) and demolition was collected on a lot by lot basis to determine cycles of late nineteenth and early twentieth century subsurface disturbances and to identify the possible impacts these cycles may have had on pre-existing subsurface archaeological resources. Due to the lack of record keeping (Block and Lot Folders, Buildings Department) before the late nineteenth century, the early construction history of the subject parcel had, in part, to rely on atlases, insurance maps, and comparative data. This task was aided by the data, including soil boring logs, collected for the unrealized high school (1968-1971) on the project site. This data was provided by Allee King Rosen and Fleming, Inc.

E: Informant Interviews

To augment the records research, described above, interviews were conducted with both amateur and professional archaeologists and historians knowledgeable in Queens prehistory and history. Insights from long term residents of the surrounding neighborhood were gathered.

F: Field Visit and Photographic Record

Borings data from the Board of Education mentioned above were studied. During a site visit (5-12-88) it was noted that soil borings were being performed on Block 521, by the Warren George Company; however, these logs were not analyzed. A photographic record of current conditions was made.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The north shore of Long Island is regularly indented by bays and estuaries - a legacy of the last advance of the Wisconsinian glaciation of 10,000 - 12,000 years ago. Although not apparent on today's landscape, for thousands of years these bays and estuaries hosted large tracts of wetlands. As can be noted on the attached maps, discussed chronologically in the Historical Era section, until the twentieth century the majority of the project site was situated on such a vast inundated marshland. Therefore, in order to appreciate the prehistoric and historic potential of the site, we must place the project land in the context of its pre-twentieth century condition.

The West Queens Housing/High School Site on western Long Island is physiographically part of the Coastal Plain (Kearns and Kirkorian 1986a). Long Island is the top of a Coastal Plain ridge formation that is covered with glacial drift. In reality the plain is an elevated sea bottom demonstrating low topographic relief and extensive marshy tracts (Eisenberg 1978:7). Continental glaciation affected the surficial geology of Long Island as the glacier advanced and receded at least three times in the last million years. The Ronkonkoma and Harbor Hill were two sub-stages of glaciation, whose melting fronts left a series of ridges (moraines) across the length of Long Island (Wisniewski 1977). Glacial till and outwash, made up of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders were deposited by the melting ice sheet. For approximately 3,000 years the project site was part of a meandering creek system. "These develop in the first place purely as drainage channels, and are the result not so much of erosion as of non-deposition" (Small 1972).

Currently the topography of the project area is generally low and flat, registered between the 10 and 20 foot contour on the USGS Central Park Quadrangle (7.5' series, 1975; See Figure 2). The parcel does not appear to host any non-domesticated vegetation. The majority of the property is vacant, with building materials stock piled and debris strewn over it. Most of the structures on the West Queens Housing Site were demolished when a school was slated to be built there in 1968. The remaining buildings, all on Block 530, are the Community Church of Astoria (not part of the project area) on Broadway and a gas station on 21st Street (not part of the project area).

Before the twentieth century the project area formed the upland on the east bank of Sunswick Creek, and was less than a block south of a small unnamed stream that flowed into the Creek at about present Broadway and 12th street. (See Photographs 1-12).

IV. PREHISTORIC ERA

The prehistoric archaeological record of the north shore of western Long Island can be divided into three blocks of time: the Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 13,000 - 10,000 years ago), the Archaic Period (ca. 10,000 - 2,700 years ago), and the Woodland Period (ca. 2,700 - 300 years ago). To understand how native Americans, during various time periods, exploited different environmental niches (e.g., the estuarine marshland at the confluence of two streams which is known to have been the project area's configuration at one time), it is necessary to understand each of the above time periods and the settlement patterns associated with them.

Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 13,000 - 10,000 years ago)

The Paleo-Indian Period encompasses the time period of the final disappearance of Pleistocene glacial conditions from eastern North America, and the establishment of more modern Holocene environments. Glacial recession from Long Island was probably complete by about 18,000 years ago. At that time, a post-glacial conifer cover consisting mainly of spruce and pine was beginning to be augmented by hardwoods such as oak and hickory -- trees which, because of their food value, have a far greater utility for man than conifers. "A global warming trend about 12,000 B.C. encouraged Paleo-Indian settlement of the Northeast. By 8,000 B.C., when Paleo-Indians may well have been present in coastal New York, deciduous species dominated forests all along the eastern seaboard; the Pleistocene megafauna were rapidly becoming extinct, perhaps with the help of aboriginal hunters, and were being replaced by the temperature-climate fauna that are indigenous today" (Gwynne 1982:190-191).

The tool kits of Paleo-Indian groups were oriented toward the procurement and processing of hunted animal resources. A preference for high quality lithic materials has been noted and careful resharpening and maintenance of tools was common. The characteristic artifact of the Paleo-Indian Period is the fluted point. According to Walter Saxon's 1978 publication, no fluted points have been securely associated with a site provenience in Queens County (Saxon 1978:252). Inquiries directed to individuals knowledgeable in private "arrowhead" collections from Queens revealed no known Paleo points (Personal Communication with Edward Platt, 4-26-88; William Asadorian, 5-2-88; Samuel Yeaton, 5-2-88). "A lifestyle of movement among the game-attractive environments has been hypothesized with the social organizations being based upon single and multiple family bands" (Grettler, et al, 1988). These small, highly mobile groups would not have left very much evidence of their activi-

ties. Sites dating from this time would consist chiefly of small camp sites, lithic reduction stations, and isolated finds. Adding to the difficulties in trying to locate potential Paleo-Indian sites is the rise in the sea level since 10,000 years ago (roughly 75-80 feet) and, to a much lesser degree, crustal subsidence since that time.

Archaic Period (ca. 10,000 - 2,700 years ago)

The Archaic Period is characterized by a series of adaptations in the newly emerged full Holocene environments. By about 5,000 B.C. the modern distributions of both flora and fauna had been achieved. Environmental changes immediately before and after this stabilization are reflected in the Native American culture of the time, referred to as the Archaic. "With the warmer and drier climate, the tundra and spruce forests disappeared and deciduous woodlands gradually appeared. The oak and hickory woodlands of coastal New York attracted mast-eaters like the white-tailed deer and wild turkey. During this later post-glacial period, the melting ice no longer poured large amounts of meltwater into local rivers and streams. The slower stream flow allowed the growth of marsh area and mud flats that encouraged the influx of migratory waterfowl and the growth of numerous edible plant species and shellfish. The subsistence and settlement systems of Archaic groups were based on a restricted wandering system which consisted of seasonal movements to and from base camps located near resources" (Kearns, Kirkorian and Lavin 1987:7).

Tool kits were more generalized than earlier Paleo-Indian tool kits and showed a wider array of plant processing tools such as grinding stones, mortars, and pestles. A mobile lifestyle was probably common with a wide range of resources and settings utilized on a seasonal basis. A shifting band-level organization which saw the waxing and waning of group size in relation to resource availability is evident. The archaeological record does present a profile of the Archaic culture: small multi-component sites usually situated on tidal inlets, coves, and bays, particularly at the heads of the latter, and at fresh water ponds on islands along the New York coastline; and, by the Late Archaic stage, coastal sites and the exploitation of shellfish resources are heavily represented (Kearns and Kirkorian 1986b:9). The Late Archaic Wading River complex, four archaeological sites on the north shore of Suffolk County, was found on the edge of a salt marsh, on the dry ground that ranges from only 2 to 7 feet above mean high water (Wyatt 1982:71). Areas of steep slope and poorly drained ground would not have been suitable for habitation or activity areas, although stray

finds, like projectile points lost during resource exploitation, may occur in these locations.

The Paleo-Indian, Early Archaic, and Middle Archaic cultural periods are poorly represented in coastal areas of the Northeast, but by Late Archaic times sea level was so close to present levels that its subsequent small rise has failed to obliterate much of what remains on Long Island from that period (Gwynne 1982:192). Recently, there has been a demonstrated interest by New York archaeologists to consider the realistic potential for investigating these long-submerged sites (Bert Salwen, personal communication, 3-11-88).

Woodland Period (ca. 2,700 - 300 years ago)

The Woodland Period can be correlated with a dramatic change in local climates and environments. A pronounced warm and dry period set in and lasted from ca. 5,000 to 3,000 years ago. Mesic forests were replaced by xeric forests of oak and hickory, and grasslands again became common. Some interior streams dried up but the overall effect of the environmental changes was an alteration of the environment, not a degradation. Continued sea level rise also made many areas bordering Long Island Sound the sites of large brackish water marshes which were especially high in productivity. The major changes in environment and resource distributions caused a radical shift in adaptations for prehistoric groups. Important areas for settlement included the major river floodplains and estuarine swamp/marsh areas.

From approximately 3,000 years to the arrival of Europeans, Native Americans of southern New York shared common attributes of the Woodland Stage: the advent of horticulture, large permanent or semi-permanent villages, pipe smoking, the bow and arrow, extensive trade networks, and the production of clay vessels. The habitation sites of the Woodland Indians increased in size and permanence as these people continued to extract food more efficiently from their environment. The archaeological evidence from Woodland Period sites indicates a strong preference for large scale habitation sites to be within very close proximity to a major fresh water source, e.g., a river, a lake, an extensive wetland, and smaller scale extractive-functioning sites to be situated at other resource locales, e.g., quarrying sites, butchering stations, shell gathering localities. Late Woodland Stage sites of the East River Tradition in southern New York have been noted on the "second rise of ground above high water level on tidal inlets: and situated on "tidal streams or coves" and on "well-drained sites" (Ritchie 1980:16). Carlyle S. Smith, who studied and

analyzed the distribution of prehistoric ceramics in coastal New York, states that "village sites" are found on the margins of bays and tidal streams" (Smith 1950:130).

Woodland Period tool kits show some minor variations as well as some major additions from previous Archaic tool kits. Plant and processing tools became increasingly common and seem to indicate an intensive harvesting of wild plant foods that may have approached the efficiency of horticulture, which itself appeared during the second half of the Woodland Period. According to current archaeological research in the Connecticut River Valley (including carbon dates), maize cultivation may have been in place as early as 800 years ago (Personal communication with Kevin McBride, PAST, University of Connecticut; Nicholas Bellantoni, Connecticut State Archaeologist; Linda McWeeney, Yale University, 4-13-88). The advent of horticulture is tied in with the introduction of ceramic containers which allowed for more efficient cooking of certain types of food and may also have functioned as storage for surplus food resources. "With the onset of relative sedentary lifestyles and intensified food production, which might have produced occasional surpluses, incipient ranked societies may have begun to develop, as indicated by the presence of extensive trade and exchange and some caching of special artifact forms" (Grettlar 1988:10).

Anthropologists and linguists agree that when Europeans arrived in the Queens area the Native Americans were Munsee-speaking Upper Delaware Indians. Daniel Denton reported in 1660, that the diseases introduced by the white men had already reduced the Indian population in this area of Long Island from six to two villages. As described by Denton, the Native Americans at this time lived principally by hunting, fishing, fowling and the cultivation of corn. He reported that the Indians re-located their "small moveable Tents" two or three times a year going to their principle quarters where they plant their corn, hunt, and fish (Kearns and Kirkorian 1986c:Appendix 5).

Although not visible on today's landscape, prior to twentieth century landfill activities the West Queens Housing Site area was part of a tidal wetland and salt meadow, hosting Sunswick Creek, which drained into the East River to the west. On Block 519, immediately north of the project area (north of Broadway), ran a small tributary stream, which drained into the Creek to the southwest. (See Figure 3) The tidal estuaries of such streams, and the marsh into which they emptied, provided prehistoric man with an environment of varied natural richness. These resources included shellfish (some edible genera available all year long), reeds and shrubs (edible -- eg., beach plum and

utility - e.g., cord grass and salt hay), water fowl, fish and small mammals.

As outlined above, Woodland Indians preferred well-drained, elevated sites near a large-scale marsh biome. The northernmost blocks of the project area, Blocks 520, 529 and 530, are situated between Broadway (on the north) and 33rd Avenue (formerly Ridge Street, on the south). Through this area ran "old Ridge Road," an earlier, crude roadway that may have been laid on a natural elevation. (See Figure 4) The original Ridge Road ran through the project section of Block 520, the western edge of Block 529, and roughly along 33rd Avenue (between Blocks 528, 529 and 530). In the southern New York area archaeological deposits of the late Archaic and Woodland times are not deeply buried, often being revealed through erosion, plowing or house construction (Wyatt 1982:71).¹ Based on topographical factors, the areas of possible prehistoric archaeological exploitation within the West Queens Housing Site are restricted to Block 520, the southern sides of Block 529 and 530, and the northern edge of Block 528. However, the subsequent grading/crowning/construction of Broadway, 14th Street, 14th Place and 33rd Avenue, utility installations and the erection of structures (now demolished) in all of these areas has severely restricted the areas of potential prehistoric archaeological sensitivity.

Archaeologists rely not only on past environmental components to assess site potential, but they also rely on tales of "Indian relics,"² ethnographic accounts, and published archaeological reports.² The Native American presence in Queens has been reconstructed through a compilation of these sources. Earlier in this century Reginald Bolton researched the Indian past of New York City and reported that at the time of European influx the Rockaway Chieftaincy stretched diagonally across Long Island from the East River to Jamaica Bay. He placed large Indian villages along the Newtown Creek inlet, in Maspeth, and in Rockville Center and smaller, perhaps subordinate settlements were identified in Jamaica and North Beach. According to Bolton, the West Queens Housing area did not host a major settlement:

¹The supposition of such shallow deposits is not valid for plots that have undergone centuries of urbanization, e.g., areas of lower Manhattan. Also, it must be remembered that this shallow deposition is measured from the grade level prior to any filling.

²An overview and map of Hallett's Point archaeological sites can be found in Kearns and Kirkorian 1986c:See Appendix.

Northwest of Mispat [a subordinate chieftaincy residing in the Newtown area], over the promontory now [1922] forming the growing Long Island City and its environs to Corona, a great tract of forest land extended to Flushing Bay. This was known to the natives as Wandow-enock, which Armbruster defines as "the fine land between the long streams" of East River and Flushing Bay.

The only known station within this broad region is at Ravenswood Park (111) [the land originally laid out as Ravenswood Park is south of Sunswick Creek inlet, east of Vernon Avenue], on the bank of the east channel of the East River, where a shellheap [midden] indicates native residence, and some native objects were discovered by W. L. Carver.

It is not possible to suggest any particular line of trail connecting this place with Mispat. The path, if such there was wound its way through the timber, which in later years was all cut off, through the narrow neck of dry land between the heads of the Sunswick and Canapaukah [Dutch Kills] creeks, near the present entrance to the approach of the Queensboro Bridge.

The name of the "creek, called Sunswick," means "a stone house..." The name is connected with the tract on the north side of the creek, known to the natives as Sint Sinck, a "stony place" [Hallet's Point] which in 1664 was sold to the Colonists by Shawestcout and Erramorhas.

It would seem natural for the neck of land which these creeks enclosed to afford shelter to the aborigines, especially as the waters between the Hunters Point shore and that of Minnahanonck, or Blackwells Island [Roosevelt Island], must have afforded good fishing, and the shallows of Mespaetches [Newtown Creek] should have been the nursery of countless oysters (Bolton 1922:174-176).

A later Bolton publication does identify an Astoria Indian "station," labelled Sanfords Point, that was marked by various Indian objects and was "favorably situated on this point of land

extending into the East River (Bolton 1934:148, 150). (See Figure 5)

Robert Grumet's later, parallel line of research into Native American place names, questioned Bolton's association of "Sant Sinck" with Hallett's Point, instead placing it in Nassau County. Grumet did not add any further information on Native American associations with West Astoria (Grumet 1981:52, 53). (See Figure 6) Ralph Solecki's 1930's research in Astoria was concentrated north of the Triborough Bridge in the Astoria Park area, far removed from the West Queens Housing Site (Solecki 1937:Photograph 53; Ralph Solecki, personal communication, 5/18/88). (See Figure 7)

The New York State Historic Preservation Office/Field Services Bureau (SHPO) has identified the Rainey Park area as the location of Bolton's Sunswick Shell Midden Site (#A081-01-0100). Along the East River Shore, Rainey Park is approximately 5 blocks west of the project area, and is most likely the site of Carver's collection mentioned above. Our earliest maps of the area do show the Park area as dry elevated land at the confluence of the East River and Sunswick Creek.

Arthur C. Parker's 1922 The Archaeology of New York, in conjunction with his unpublished maps, is used by State Offices in Albany as a major resource in establishing potential archaeological sensitivity. SHPO has loosely identified Parker's Queens Site #12 (#A081-01-0099) with a large 5 block by 7 block area north and east of the project site. The State Museum site #4535 also corresponds to Parker's Queens Site #12, a shell midden, and is imprecisely located south of the Astoria Houses residential complex and west of the Main Avenue and Vernon Boulevard intersection, 5 blocks north of the project area.

Both the New York State Historic Preservation Office and the Anthropological Services Division of the New York State Museum were contacted regarding their assessment of prehistoric site sensitivity for the Site. Both offices responded in writing, and do consider the West Queens Housing area to host some degree of archaeological potential. This assessment, based on a sensitivity model, relies on a comparison of current geographical and topographical features of known, mapped site locations with the threatened locations that have undocumented histories. (Philip Lord, personal communication, 5/2/88) However, on the current USGS map, used by the State agencies, it is impossible to detect the site's pre-twentieth century marsh-land condition.

Prehistoric Research Potential

There is overwhelming evidence that Native Americans exploited the natural resources of western Long Island for thousands of years before the Europeans arrived. Specifically, there is evidence that portions of Astoria - not far removed from the subject parcel - were attractive to the Indians. There are two limitations to our knowledge of this Native American presence in regards to the West Queens Housing parcel: (1) the State inventoried sites, based in large part on Bolton and Parker's vague and imprecise locational data, are only approximate locations on the modern landscape; and, (2) cursory examinations of the modern landscape and current maps do not readily reveal the natural, pre-twentieth century geographic and topographic features of these known loci and the project site (SHPO, realizing this limitation, provides for the consideration of topographic changes in their sensitivity assessment: It is our opinion that unless substantial ground disturbance can be documented, an archaeological survey should be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of archaeological resources in your area. If you wish to submit evidence regarding ground disturbance, it should include statements concerning the nature and date of the disturbance as well as a map indicating the locations and depths of such activities). It is impossible to more definitely locate sensitive areas reported generations ago. Therefore, the above research has focused on the second limitation, accumulating sufficient information to adequately compare geographic and topographic factors of inventoried site loci and the project parcel.

Settlement pattern data of the prehistoric culture periods does indicate a strong association between habitation and processing sites and (1) the confluence of two water courses; (2) the proximity to a major watercourse; (3) the proximity to a marsh resource; and/or (4) well-drained, elevated land. A review of the attached maps places the West Queens Housing Site in a major estuarine biome at Sunswick Creek, a known resource for Native Americans, and within immediate proximity to a major watercourse - the East River. Additionally, mid-nineteenth century maps depict arms of Sunswick Creek traversing the northern lots of Block 521 and the northeastern portion of Block 528. The entire Project Site was historically designated as an estuarine wetland and never as elevated or well-drained land. (See Figures 3 and 4.) Most probably the estuarine resources of the site were tapped; however, the documented and inventoried archaeological sites (habitation and processing) on the north shore of western Long Island occur on raised, well-drained land. Currently, the water table fluctuates between 7 and 12 feet

below grade.³ That the current water table generally is within the deposited fill/debris level helps substantiate the fact of an estuarine environment during earlier time periods. Field testing within and beneath this level would entail extensive and constant water pumping.

Cartographic evidence, early deeds, and histories indicate that old Ridge Road, that traversed the subject parcel, (roughly corresponding to 33rd Avenue between Blocks 529/530 and 528 then moving northerly across Block 520), ran along a natural ridge or rock formation. (See Figure 4) This narrow ridge provided one of the very few paths across the vast Sunswick marsh. As can be detected on the 1851 "Hell Gate and Its Approaches" (Figure 8), the marshy project area was not only bordered on the north by the slightly raised path but was also dotted with slightly elevated knolls. This slightly elevated land, or swell, is still visible on today's landscape at the intersection of 21st Street and 33rd Avenue. Later historic activities, e.g., clay mining, brick works, and carpet factories, took advantage of this topographic feature. Native Americans would have, also, preferred to locate extracting, processing, or habitation sites on such a formation. Soil borings taken, in 1969 and 1971, for the proposed West Queens High School recorded the occurrence of schist and gneiss bedrock, beneath current grade, on the project blocks at variable depths, between 1' (B# 14: southwest corner of Block 528) and 4'6" (B# 6: east side, south end of Block 521) to 28' (B# 39: southwest corner of the project half of Block 520) and 44' (B# 28: northeast corner of Block 530).

Soil boring logs from the 1969 survey suggest the presence of an elevated bedrock ledge on Block 528, which would explain the mid-nineteenth century appearance of a carpet factory in what had been mapped as wetlands. On this block, those boring locations that registered less than 10 feet of fill revealed shallow fill (e.g., 1' or 5') resting directly on top of gneiss or gneiss and quartz. The area of our study that has been impacted the longest and the most severely during the historic period (Lot 1, Block 528) was probably an area most attractive to prehistoric man also. The construction of at least ten different structures over this ledge most surely destroyed any

³Based on information from the 1971 Soil Borings Survey.

prehistoric resources in the shallow soil layer that might have existed undisturbed prior to ca. 1843.⁴

The 1969 Boring #22 further confirms the topographic-determined routing of the old Ridge Road. Located immediately southeast of the intersection of 33rd Avenue and 14th Place, on Lot 17 of Block 528, this boring test recorded only 5' of fill, overlying fine sand, at the approximate location of the intersection of old Ridge Road and Block 528. A review of the Buildings Department records reveals no construction file on this lot, which was most probably created out of the larger carpet manufacturing complex to the south and east. An Alteration permit for Block 528/Lot 5 in 1927 (#624) mapped Lot 17 as a "private driveway" - in actuality a continuation of the 14th Place roadbed. There is no record of public utilities being installed in this private roadbed.

This same set of extensive boring logs document the occurrence of a peat lens (at 27 testing locations) underneath an extensive fill overburden on Block 521. Historic maps indicate that Block 522, 1 block to the west, hosted the actual Sunswick streambed. The occurrence of a peat lens indicates a marsh margin zone that was slowly inundated, signaling to archaeologists the presence of a possible eco-niche attractive to Native Americans.⁵ However, the peat lens noted on the site property rest between 11' (one locus) to 22'8" (one locus) of introduced material, with the average depth of fill at approximately 15'. The various depths of fill over peat and the various widths of the peat lens (1' - 3') are reflective of the natural process of marsh margin zone evolution. It is our professional opinion that on the West Queens Housing site the introduced fill that overlies the peat lens is too extensive to realistically remove for field testing.

⁴It is possible that certain of the soil boring tests were located in buried basements of earlier buildings; however, such placements cannot be generally assumed. Unless a foundation floor is recorded or exacting surveys are taken, it is extremely difficult to discern between building debris imploded into a foundation cavity and fill overburden introduced to the site before or after any construction activities.

⁵Recent excavations in the Boston Harbor area confirmed the association between a peat lens and prehistoric occupation that New York City archaeologists have been researching. (Laurie Boros, personal communication, 4/25/88).

V. HISTORIC ERA

The Astoria area of Queens was first settled, ca. 1635 by Jacques Bentyn, a member of the West India Company. His grant of about 160 acres, extending from approximately 25th Avenue south to Sunswick Creek, covered all of what we now call Hallett's Point, and possibly included the West Queens Housing Site. In 1652, William Hallett, an Englishman, "applied for the abandoned Bentyn plantation and received it as a grant from Peter Stuyvesant. Hallett built a farm at the head of Hallett's Cove close to the water and very probably on the same cleared site as Bentyn's buildings. At the present 26th Avenue and 12th Street was a 57 foot hill, the highest point in Astoria ... except for his own small clearing, all was trackless forest or swampy meadow" (Seyfried 1984:7). This farmstead was destroyed by an Indian attack (1655) and Hallett left the area until 1664, when he returned to Astoria and bought approximately 2,200 acres from Chief Mattano for 58 fathom of wampum, seven coats, one blanket and four kettles. This huge tract included all of modern Astoria and Steinway, and probably the northern edge of the project area. In 1670 Hallett purchased the 100 acres adjacent to his southern border, that extended along the "Ridge," later the line of Broadway/Ridge Street/33rd Avenue, which included Blocks 520, 529 and 530. The Halletts channeled these low lying marsh meadows with a drainage ditch along the present day 21st Street. "To keep the salt water out at high tide, the Halletts as early as 1679 built a dam across the mouth of Sunswick Creek which was maintained for almost 200 years" (Ibid.:8).

During the eighteenth century the Hallett farm was gradually divided among family heirs. The section of the project site north of old Ridge Road (Blocks 520, 529 and 530) became part of the south farm which had been established at 33rd Avenue (Ridge Road) and 33rd Street before 1738. "West of the farmhouse and along the line of the Ridge Road were clay pits and a lime-yard where several eighteenth century Halletts manufactured bricks. At the west end of the Ridge Road and near Sunswick Creek, John Buckhout and John McDonough had established farms on former Hallett land by marrying into the family" (Ibid.:9). At some point in the eighteenth century a farmer named Suydam added a grist mill to the Hallett's dam at the mouth of Sunswick Creek, flooding the meadows at high tide and allowing the water to flow out at slack tide to power his tidal mill. The impounded waters overflowed a great deal of low meadow land and formed the Sunswick Mill Pond (Seyfried 1987). (See Figures 4 & 9.)

Much of the land south of the present 31st Drive, except a narrow stretch along the East River was uninhabited salt meadow. The land was very low, the project area being only 10 to 12 feet above mean high tide even today. Of course, with the disappearance of the old mill pond and the filling in of Sunswick Creek, the land has dried out and is no longer subject to periodic flooding from storms and high tides. We get a wonderful picture of what the primeval Sunswick meadows looked like in the account of a drowned man printed in the Flushing Times (November 3, 1875; 1:1):

The point at which the body was found is a lonely and somewhat isolated spot on the outskirts of Astoria. It is just opposite the northern point of Blackwell's Island and about a quarter mile up Sunswick Creek which makes up from the river at first in a deep channel and then spreads itself over the dreary meadowlands that reach to the back of Dutch Kills. The whole valley which is several miles long and a half mile wide is a trackless waste interspersed with wild grass, slimy pools and treacherous ferns. It belongs to the State but nothing has been done to reclaim it and it is shunned. It is a land of quicksand, of oozy mud pools and tangled bogs and it is said that no one who ever ventured upon its surface escaped with his life. At one time, years ago, the sea covered the whole land and it was navigable and the tide ebbed and flowed uncontrolled. But since the construction of the Causeway, the water has been partially resisted and the back country has become a dreary waste. On the Astoria side of the causeway is an old wooden flour mill and at its base the remains of a flood-gate which helps to keep back the tide. The gate is regulated by the flow of water, allowing the tide to rush out at low water and preventing it from flowing in at high. The tide rises to a great height, sometimes seven or eight feet, and when it is pouring in, it would be impossible to imagine a more perilous situation than that in the meadows on either side of the Causeway [Vernon Avenue].

It is supposed the drowned man was caught in the treacherous bottom of these meadows and was there imprisoned until the stealthy incoming waters slowly rose and engulfed him. He was found in the center of a collect or pond, many of which are scattered over the meadows and along its steep borders, and across the soft pulpy mud his painful

footsteps could be traced. Through the tempest of Saturday night he probably struggled and each step took him deeper into the mire, adding to the horror and hopelessness of his situation and he sank powerless to help himself. His face was covered with the green mold and slime when he was taken from the quagmire. (Seyfried 1984:30-31).

The land as far south as Ridge Street (33rd Avenue) remained in the Hallett family as late as 1789. Gradually, bits and pieces all over Astoria were sold off by Hallett heirs. John Lawrence and John Larremore (son of a British soldier) owned the tract south of old Ridge Road. Lawrence sold out to John McDonough in 1756 and Larremore to Jacob Polhemus in 1812. William R. Prince, the prominent Flushing nurseryman, next acquired the parcel on either side of Broadway and Ridge Street. This parcel embraced Blocks 520, 529 and 530, as well as the northern edge of Blocks 521 and 528. In a fit of optimism Prince divided his tract into building lots in ca. 1840, and to attract potential buyers, issued a map of "Valuable Building Lots in Astoria" (See Figure 4). Needless to say, Prince was decades ahead of the market and no one bought such unattractive meadowland. This same Polhemus tract was sold to Richard Clark, and he was bought out by the brothers Alvin and E.S. Higgins in the early 1840s.

With the incorporation of Astoria as a village in 1839, the obscurity that shrouded events in this area begins to lift and more information about people and happenings is available. The earliest piece of construction below the present Broadway was the Astoria Town Hall built on the southwest corner of Court Street (14th Place) and Broadway in about 1842 (Block 529). Probably part of the reason for locating the building several blocks south of the village was that a crudely-built jail was attached to it. Early Astoria had no real crime, but there were many arrests for public drunkenness. In September 1867 the Village of Astoria built an addition on the Town Hall to create a real jail. The place must have been very badly managed, for in July 1868 the papers note that the cells smelled from human excrement and that Keeper Peter McKernan was a drunkard. By 1871 the village was using the Town Hall for its Police and Health Boards and Recorder's Court. By 1919 this structure housed a church and by 1927 it had been demolished. (See Figures 10 and 11.)

In 1849 Taylor, Schwartz and Co. erected their carriage manufactory on what is now the southeast corner of Broadway and 12th Street (the western section of Block 520 and out of the project site.) Turning out 75 carriages a year by the 1880s, they had a work force of nine men. Schwartz pulled out of the

company in 1889, leaving Taylor to carry on at the meadows site. Curtin's Directory of Long Island, 1865-66 lists this carriage company, fronting on Broadway, as Thomas Taylor & Co. Taylor made delivery wagons for the local merchants down into the twentieth century; by 1905, old age and the spread of battery-driven and early automobile truck put an end to his now obsolete business.

The area immediately north of the project area was noted for its floral gardens, greenhouses and graperies, with six floral establishments for supplying the Manhattan market, by 1860. Grant Thorburn's mail order seed business and nurseries were headquartered on his property beginning one block northeast of Block 520 (French 1860:549). Thorburn's homestead appears on the 1837 and 1852 maps.

The business which had the greatest effect on the surrounding neighborhood was the carpet weaving works built in the meadows on the east bank of Sunswick Creek, and 400 feet south of 33rd Avenue, formerly Ridge Street (Block 528). Alvin and E.S. Higgins, Yankee brothers born in Maine, came to New York in 1838 and opened a carpet store. The business proved so encouraging that they resolved to manufacture their own carpets. Because of the high price of land in Manhattan, they looked to Astoria and bought from Richard Clark a piece of meadowland; the site had one other advantage: there were many Irish immigrants living in and around what is now 21st Street in Astoria, and clustered around the Roman Catholic parish at Mt. Carmel, founded in 1842. The immigrants provided a plentiful source of labor for the carpet works. "In 1852 Higgins attempted to place some newly-immigrated Germans in the factory which up to that time had been staffed entirely by Astoria Irish and English and the ensuing riot had to be put down by the village police force" (Seyfried, 1984:20). The Higgins brothers erected a small stone office building and several wooden frame sheds to house the rows of looms. In time, several warehouses were built to store the finished carpets. As can be seen on the 1859 Walling Map (Figure 12) by this time the carpet complex had a dozen structures.

The Higgins brothers sold out to James McAloney in 1856, and he operated the works for the next twenty years. By 1859 McAloney had purchased the Grant Thorburn homestead immediately north of 31st Drive, two blocks north of the West Queens Housing parcel. John McAlony (sic) is listed in both the 1865 and 1868 Curtin's Directory of Long Island as an "agent, carpt works," at Ridge (33rd Avenue) and Remsen (14th Street). Drupp's 1874 "Map of Long Island City" places J.A. McAloney on the project parcel (Figure 13). (Ibid.:47) In 1876 E.P. Tappey and Co. took over

the carpet plant but pulled out in 1881 to open a more modern plant at Bowery Bay.

The carpet manufactory originally situated on the west side of Block 528, reached the peak of its prosperity under Joseph Wild, who took over in 1881 and secured full title by 1883. Trow's Business Directory of 1899 lists the Joseph Wild & Co. at Ridge and Court Streets. Wild had New York salesrooms at 11 and 13 Thomas Street, where he ran a large wholesale business. Under Wild's management the Astoria carpet plant became one of the three largest in the United States, employing thirty to forty workers and turning out 5,000 yards of carpet per week (Kelsey, 1896:133). In addition to ordinary floor coverings, Wild specialized in table covers, carriage and stair cloth and rubber-faced cloth. Through time the business operated commercially under several names including "Brunswick Mills, Wild & Co., and Astoria Carpet Mills." By the turn of the century the company was manufacturing oil cloth in an annex south of the current Block 528 which put it in competition with another long-established Queens firm, A. Sampson and Co. of Maspeth. (See the Wolverton 1891 Map, Figure 14.) A full description of the Joseph Wild & Co. enterprise, copied from the Long Island City "Star," is included as Appendix 1.

The other early building of consequence was the "Cottage House," a small hotel located in what would now be the middle of 14th Street, between Broadway and 33rd Avenue. This was kept by John H. Phillips from about 1848 to at least the 1870s. Since it was on the outskirts of Astoria Village and diagonally across from the factory, there can be little doubt that carpet factory personnel provided most of the business, especially in the taproom. Phillips himself lived in one of the little frame houses on the south side of Broadway, two doors east of 14th Place, originally Court Street, on project parcel Block 530. In another of these little houses, on Block 529, Frank Goodwin, an engineer on the Long Island Railroad. (See Figure 15.)

By the mid-nineteenth century Astoria had developed distinct ethnic, residential and industrial neighborhoods. However, "The southern edge of the village [including the West Queens Housing Site] was not desirable because the land was low-lying or meadow. Drainage canals had been installed at regular intervals leading into ponds and these emptied into Sunswick Creek below Broadway. One canal ran along the line of 29th Avenue and another along the line of 30th Road. The line of 14th Street below 30th Road was occupied by a three block long pond down to 31st Avenue" (Seyfried 1984:23). This pond emptied into the unnamed stream on Block 519, immediately north of the project area.

By 1860 a few scattered wooden frame houses had been built on the north and south sides of Broadway, and although more were erected on Ridge Street (33rd Avenue) in the 1870s, many open lots remained. Broadway took on sudden importance in 1875 when the Long Island City Shore Railroad opened a horse car line on June 22nd. The line connected Vernon Avenue with Steinway Street, and offered through service to the 92nd Street Ferry. Riders could also change cars at Vernon Avenue and ride down to the 34th Street Ferry. This service instantly made Broadway a desirable street, gave workers vastly improved access to the carpet mills, and stimulated residential building. By 1891 the number of buildings in the project area had almost doubled (compare 1873 and 1891 maps).

In the 1890s an Italian social and political club and restaurant opened at 98 Broadway, abutting the project area on Block 520 (see Block 34, Lot 11 on 1903 map, Figure 16). At first it was called Dilly's Hall but by 1899 had become DiSimone's "Broadway Hall." Captain Mario DiSimone was a local politician of Italian extraction, and organized the political action club named for himself.⁶

Most of Block 521, along Sunswick Creek, remained vacant until the 1940s. Building lots, no more than 135 feet deep along 33rd Avenue (Ridge) had been laid out, and a few structures appeared here by 1891 (See Figure 14), but the rest of the block remained mostly undisturbed.

The opening of the Queensboro Bridge approximately 1.25 miles to the southwest in 1909 changed the character of the area around the bridge and to the north. The huge tracts of meadow and swamp land, now only three or four blocks west of bustling Queens Plaza, became valuable for the first time, and beginning in 1914 the City of New York made efforts to fill in the Sunswick Meadows and bring at least 12th, 13th, 14th, and 21st Streets, south of Broadway, into existence and up to grade. The City then pressed the owners of the meadow lands to fill in their properties to the new grade level of the streets. A slow and expensive process, the land reclamation took twenty years.

During this period of prosperity sewer mains were installed along the length of Broadway, and water mains on 33rd Avenue as far west as 14th Street to serve the growing number of inhabitants and workers there. (See 1903 Map) By 1919 water and

⁶The Queens Historical Society's Geipel Collection includes invitations to social events held at this hall.

sewer mains ran the length of Broadway and 33rd, and 14th Street as far south as 33rd Avenue. Sewer service was installed on 14th Place as well.

By 1925 Blocks 520, 529 and 530 had become increasingly commercial, as assorted commercial buildings insinuated themselves among the old wooden frame houses, and filled up the formerly empty lots. The aerial photo of 1935 (Figure 18) shows the area immediately west of the project site, half of Block 520 and the northwestern corner of Block 521 visible in the center of the left edge of the photograph. At that time 12th and 13th Street had not yet been cut through south of 33rd Avenue, and there was a mixture of assorted plants, small manufactories and industrial yards.

The years up to 1968 saw the project area taking on an increasingly industrial aspect, intersperced with multi-family dwellings. The advent of the West Queens High School project in 1968 resulted in the virtual demolition of almost all standing buildings in the project area, notably the still-functioning rug factory on Block 528. The school was never built, and currently the graded project blocks are mostly covered with weed growth. Block 529 is completely vacant, the project half of 520 is also empty, as is 521 (See Photographs 1-4.) Block 528 hosts a footballfield, track, dilapidated wooden bleachers, and earth mounds evidently used by "dirt bikers" (See Photographs 5-6).

On Block 530 the Community Church of Astoria (Lot 6) is not included in the project site. The eastern end of the block, which is not part of the West Queens High School Site, is also in active use, as a gas station/car wash and a storage yard for construction materials (See Photographs 7-10).

Historic Research Potential

In order to determine the potential for extant archaeological resources of the historic era, a lot by lot compilation of horizontal and vertical disturbances through time has been made, using cartographic and building construction records. Due to the poor condition and the loss of many of the Buildings Department records, as well as the lack of records before the late nineteenth century, atlases and insurance maps are important supplements to this data. The construction information supplied by Allee King Rosen and Fleming, Inc., showing basements of existing structures in 1968, was also utilized. Further disturbance, from the laying out, grading, and expansion of the project area roadbeds would also have impacted the street frontage of all lots, and should be taken into consideration. The lot by lot analysis is attached as Appendix 2.

A full discussion and summary of the historic resource potential follows; but, in the interest of clarity, the lot by lot analysis has also been condensed to a color coded map (see Figure 19). The path of old Ridge Road has been added to this project area map, which is based on the 1969 soil borings locational plan.

The West Queens Housing Site research revealed five areas of potential historic sensitivity: (1) the long-lived carpet manufacturing complex on Block 528; (2) the "Cottage House" hotel on 14th Street between Broadway and 33rd Avenue; (3) the Astoria Town Hall and attached jail; (4) an "old existing privy" on Lot 10, Block 520; and, (5) the rear of the J. N. Phillips houselot, Lot 3, Block 529. However, both the compiled record of subsurface disturbances and the realistic potential for significant archaeological resources argue against further consideration of three of these potential resources.

The carpet factory, initially situated on the west side of Block 528 (see Photograph 12), was in continuous use for more than 125 years. The original stone office and frame loom sheds were expanded, renovated, and enlarged by new construction - eventually engulfing almost the entirety of Block 528 and Block 527. According to the soil boring data, the oldest component of the carpet complex rested on a shallow soil layer overlying a rock ledge. Prior to 1968 the functioning, extant complex may have held potential industrial archaeological resources documenting the evolution of a manufacturing process; however, the demolition of the complex has obviated this possibility. Also, the late 1960s disturbance, in conjunction with the documented construction changes over time, would have, most probably, destroyed any of the historic resources of the early carpet business on the ledge location.

Archaeologically, a resource like the "Cottage House" hotel could yield historical data on mid-nineteenth century laborer/

boarder consumption patterns. The hotel is consistently located between Blocks 520 and 529 on a series of nineteenth century maps (Figures 12, 14, and 15) but was razed with the continuation of 14th Street south of Broadway (ca. 1910). Subsurface remnants of the "Cottage House" were undoubtedly destroyed during the installation of water mains, sewers, and drains in the 14th Street roadbed (Figures 10 and 11).

The mid-nineteenth century Astoria Town Hall and attached jail was a recognized community center for over fifty years. Located on old Lot 9 (current Tax Lot 5) of Block 530, the "police" building was only a one story structure with two rear extensions. Although historically noteworthy in the burgeoning Astoria community, it is not anticipated that sufficient archaeological resources (i.e., material remains) would be associated with the site to warrant further consideration. This estimation is based on one, the civil function of the, and, secondly, the controlled disposition pattern for the transient, incarcerated "population."

On Block 530, Lot 3 and neighboring Lots 103 and 4 were almost certainly combined in the last century and were the homestead of John H. Phillips. Phillips, the manager of the "Cottage House," was residing there (#140 Broadway) in the mid-1870s (Figure 15). This house was removed, and the lot was divided into three lots, each with a 16.68' frontage on Broadway. Buildings were present on each of these lots by 1891 (Figure 14). Lot 3 had a one and a half-story frame house, with a cellar 7' below curb level. By the turn of the century Phillips was no longer associated with the altered lot configuration. A Thomas Lang, his wife and three sons, were renters of the Broadway house. Lots 103 and 4, although remaining distinct lots, were attached to Lot 3 before 1955 when the three-story stucco store/dwelling, with a basement, was built across all three. As can be seen on Figure 19, it is our estimation that the rear lot of Phillips' homestead has not been severely impacted by subsurface disturbance. Soil borings taken from directly east and west of Lot 17 reveal 14' and 5'6" of fill overburden, respectively. In appreciation of the pre-1850 topography of the block, it is entirely possible that truncated rear lot features will be found within the overburden.

Historical archaeology of homelots is often undertaken in urban settings. The water and sewer facilities available up through the nineteenth century, namely wells, cisterns and privies, become valuable time capsules for the archaeologist, for once they exhausted their utility to the household they were inevitably used as convenient depositories for household refuse, ranging from broken tools, ceramics and glass, to animal bones. When such an archaeological resource is uncovered, its analysis can provide insights into the everyday life of the city's past, particularly when used in conjunction with documentary evidence on the household's owners and inhabitants. Jonas Balcon, a thirty year resident of West Astoria and staff member of the

Queens Borough Public Library, confirmed the potential for locating such rear lot resources in the Hallett's Cove area. After Mr. Balcon completed a local real estate sale and construction commenced, a long-buried "stone lined well" was discovered in the historic Blackwell homestead yard. (Jonas Balcon, personal communication, 5/19/88)

During a review of the Block 520, Lot 10 Block and Lot Files, the existence of an "old privy" was noted on a 1914 building permit. Approximately 94' north of 33rd Avenue and 187' east of 12th Street, this possible resource is located on the extreme western border of the West Queen Housing project site (see Photograph 11). Referred to as "old" in 1914, it was probably associated with one of the nineteenth century dwellings along Broadway, or it may have been associated with the "Cottage House." A large T-shaped house (#100 Broadway), set back from Broadway, does appear to be situated directly in front of the "privy" locus on the 1873 Atlas (Figure 15). The ca.1873 owners of this house are unknown but it is recorded that they were replaced, at least by 1900, with the recently emigrated new owners, the family of Emil Dermont (U.S. Census Records, 1900). As can be seen on Figure 19, Block 520 experienced considerable twentieth century activity; however, the construction documents do not indicate deep foundation construction activities for the privy locus. As discussed above regarding the Phillips home site, the fill overburden on Lot 10 (Boring #39: 13' of misc. fill) may have been deposited prior to the privy vault excavation.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

As outlined in both the Prehistoric and Historic Resource Potential sections above, there is the possibility that significant archaeological resources are extant on the West Queens Housing project blocks. And, the possibility exists that any such archaeological resources could be disturbed by future deep subsurface activities. The total area of identified archaeological potential is severely limited. This limitation is due, in part, to (1) the site's pre-1850 topography; (2) the prior subsurface disturbances record; and, (3) the known extent of the introduced fill overburden, which is further complicated by the high water table. In consideration of these limitations, we recommend professional, on-site monitoring of three specific potential resources.

Block 528, Lot 17

In appreciation of potential prehistoric sensitivity, monitoring, by a professional archaeologist, of deep construction excavations is recommended for Block 528, Lot 17. As outlined previously, this recommendation is based on the recorded shallowness of the fill at this location, the route of the old Ridge Road on this section of the project parcel, and the lack of documented subsurface disturbances.

Block 520, Lot 10

The site of the "old existing privy" on Lot 10 constitutes a potential historic archaeological resource, even though the significance of this resource is compromised by the lack of a definitive associated homestead. In order to avoid adverse impacts on this possible resource, which is confined to a portion of Lot 10, monitoring, by a professional archaeologist, of deep construction excavations is recommended for the north end of Block 520, Lot 10.

Block 530, Lot 3

Phillips' rear yard (Block 530, Lot 3) may contain intact discrete deposits of cultural material from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Such features, augmented by the identification of the home owner and his work position, would constitute an archaeological resource of the historic period. To avoid possible impacts on these potential resources, monitoring, by a professional archaeologist, of deep construction excavations is recommended for the south portion of Block 530, Lot 3. While topic-intensive research for the Phillips' home site (and, the privy site on Block 520, Lot 10) might be recommended under other circumstances, it is not in this case because we feel that the available material has been exhausted in the documentary research done to date.

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APPENDIX 1

Taken from the Long Island City "Star"
June 11, 1886

Joseph Wild & Co.: the oil cloth and carpet manufacturers of Astoria are constantly increasing their already extensive business. This spring additions were made to the main building where the oil cloth is printed, dried and finished. The process of oil cloth manufacture is curious and interesting. Designs of novel features are constantly being made, several designers being steadily employed. The designs are made at the factory and are then sent to New York where they are engraved on copper rollers. The man who conceives and carries out a novel design for oil cloth which is handsome and popular makes a hit the same as does any other artist. New designs are usually given to the world in bulk about twice every year. A new and pretty design given out to the world in the spring usually has an immense run. Sometimes a design has an unexpected run, and then again, one confidently counted upon as a success falls comparatively flat. Public taste is capricious.

The oil cloth factory was established about 4 years ago by E.P. Tappley. Subsequently, Wild and Co. bought the plant. But long before the time of Mr. Tappley there was a carpt factory here conducted by John McAloney who in his time was an active and well-known resident of the city. The buildings used for this comparatively ancient factory still stands on the premises, a very old stone building, rough in appearance and darkened by the hand of time.

Wild & Co. have recently expanded in the neighborhood of \$15,000 in improvements and in the erection of buildings. For a time the firm had a carpet factory at Janver, Gloucester County, N.J. They were burned out there last fall. It was then determined to remove the plant to Astoria contiguous to the oil cloth factory. The foundation was laid in November and work in the new building began in January. From 75-80 men are employed. Thomas Hirst is the capable superintendent. He was the former superintendent at Janver. The building was put up by a Brooklyn firm. The store house is also the effect of the work of the firm named. Rugs more than carpets are the specialty here. The designs are made at the New York office. Many of them are beautiful and numbers of the rugs shown the "Star" representative by the obliging Mr. Hirst are rich enough in design and finish for the ornamentation of a king's palace. The weavers are mostly all-wool yarn. The work of manufacture is done by hand and by machinery as the case may require. The oil cloth factory was partially burned down about three years ago but neither fire nor water or other disaster can quench the zeal of the firm of Joseph Wild & Co.

The Queens Department of Buildings' records for these blocks are in a particularly poor state: missing folders, permits and misfilings, which in addition to the apparent confusion over the renumbering of the lots in the past decades, has made the reconstruction of the ground disturbance unusually difficult. Please refer to Figure 1 for the location of the current lot numbers.

Block 520

Structures appear on Block 520 by 1852. However, due to the absence of lot numbers on the 1852, 1873 and 1891 maps, and the uncertain path of Remsen Street (Later Hopkins, 14th Street) at the eastern border of the block, it is difficult to be certain in all cases which early building was on which lot.

Lot 1 (NW corner 33rd Ave and 14th Street --formerly Lots 1,3,4,5)

Former Lot 5 was the first lot to be built on, hosting a structure by 1873. This two-story frame dwelling was depicted in the 1903, 1919, 1927 and 1955 atlases of the area. In 1915 the store on the first floor was converted into additional living space. The structure was 25' by 25' at the front of a 25' by 100' lot. The cellar extended 7'6" below the curb, on a "rubble stone" foundation (Alt#920-15). This house was razed before 1968, and replaced with a 1-story brick structure with no basement. This new building used the entire area of old Lot 5. Old Lots 1,3,4 were vacant until they were amalgamated and a one story brick laundry was erected there by 1934, covering the entire group of lots. It had no cellar, therefore, the major disturbance to this lot is in its southwest corner.

Lot 6 (33rd Avenue -- former Lots 6 and 7)

Old Lot 7 had two two-story frame structures by 1919. The house at the front of the lot had a cellar which was 20' long and 25' wide, and approximately 5' below the rear yard level (Alt#2186-20). This building was still standing on the lot in 1955, but was replaced with a cellarless one-story brick building by 1968. A two-story frame house was erected on old Lot 6 between 1903 and 1919. This house must have had a cellar, because cellar stairs are mentioned in permit 4944 from 1934, for 13-07 33rd Avenue, which corresponds to the former Lot

6. Old Lots 6 and 7 were later combined, and the frame buildings were replaced between 1955 and 1960 with a single-story brick building, used as a junk shop, storage, office and for manufacturing (Alt#2654-60). This building was first built on old Lot 6 alone, and then expanded to fill 7. Covering the whole lot, it had 4' deep foundations, but no basement.

Lot 27

(Extends from Broadway to 33rd Avenue -- former Lots 8, 9, 10, 27, 28, 29)

Old Lot 27 had a structure standing on it by 1891, and probably as early as 1859. After its demolition, the site of the one and a half-story frame house had a two-story brick building with a basement at the front of the parcel, and a single-story brick structure at the rear. By 1968 another building had been built between these two, leaving no empty space on old Lot 27.

Lot 28 was vacant until it was absorbed by old Lot 27 by 1955. Its eastern section, 10' in width, was paved over when the rest of the parcel was built on, and had a ramp constructed on it.

Lot 29 had a building on it by 1891, and very likely as early as 1852. In 1903 the building is described as frame, but shown as brick in 1919, possibly because it was a combination of the two materials, but more likely that the house was rebuilt. In any case, a two-story brick structure was still standing on the spot in 1968. It had a cellar, and the rest of the lot was used for a one story concrete block building, erected between 1955 and 1968.

The southern half of present Lot 27 was old lots 8, 9 and 10. There is a numbering discrepancy between the 1903 map and the other maps of this block, compounded by the uncertain path of 14th Street, mentioned above.

Former Lot 8 had a two-story frame house on it in 1903, the same house appearing on the 1891 map. Since this house was shown as present in 1955, logically it must be the same as the single-story frame dwelling with cellar on the same spot in 1968.

According to the atlases, Lot 9 was empty in 1903 and 1919. However, building records disagree, showing a four-family "tenement" to be "208' W of Hopkins [14th]" in 1906 and 1915. Its cellar foundation extended 4' below the yard surface, but 10'8" below curb level (Alt#1861-15). At the rear line of the 25' by 100' lot was a "chicken house," which left an unbuilt section of 30' by 100' in between the two structures. In this area, along the eastern lot line, and 24' from the northern line, was a 6' by 6' cesspool (NB#101-06).

Similarly, Lot 10, had no standing structures depicted in 1891, 1919 and 1923, and only a shed in 1903. This contradicts the building records, which indicate that Lot 10 was the site of a dry cleaners in 1914. This establishment took up the southern 36' of the parcel, and had a cellar. In addition, at the center rear of the 25' by 100' lot, approximately 94' from 33rd Avenue, was an "old existing privy" (NB#863-14). Referred to as "old" in 1914, it was probably from one of the dwellings along Broadway. The buildings on Lots 9 and 10 were removed by 1955, when a gas station was present there. There was no building record of the gas station, but the 1955 and 1968 maps show it to be at the front of the lots, in an area already disturbed by basements. In 1968 the rear half of Lots 8, 9 and part of 10, had a one-story basementless building, while the western section of 10 hosted sheds and a drainage system.

Block 521

Lot 1 (bounded by 34th Ave., 12th and 14th Streets)

There is no evidence of this lot being built upon until 1943, when a travelling crane was erected on an unspecified section of the eastern half of the lot (Misc#2699-43). By 1961 there was a gas station on the northwest corner of 34th Ave. and 14th Street, which not only had gas tanks buried on the property (Misc#1189-61; Misc#980-64), but installed a drainage system for its over 400 foot length (NB#1552-54).

Five borings were done on the site of the gas station building, and they revealed between 13.6' and 20' of fill over 2' to 5' of "bog."

Lot 13 (midblock, 12th to 14th Streets)

There is no evidence of structures of any kind on this lot until ca.1955, when there are metal sheds on the northern section of the plot. The 1968 map refers to the parcel as "Pipe Filled Storage Yard."

Lot 24 (corner 33rd Avenue and 13th Street)

This lot had a building on it by 1891, shown on later maps to be a two-story frame house. The only permit available for this structure is an alteration from 1915 (Alt#974-15), which gives no evidence of ground disturbance, except that this house was connected to the sewer which was on 33rd Avenue. The house was superseded by a brick warehouse in 1954, taking up the whole lot. The southern border was described in NB#4041-54 as being the center line of an old creek, which

would explain the undulating rear borders of neighboring lots 25 - 29. Of the two soil borings done on Lot 24 in 1954, the first at the corner of 33rd and 13th shows 15' of fill over 3' of bog, with sand and clay beneath that. The second boring, near the southeast corner of the lot, had 19' of fill over a layer of clay and then sand.

Although Lots 24 and 25 seem to have been combined when the house on 24 was converted to a two-family dwelling, no cellar is mentioned (Alt#3633-29), and this modified arrangement does not appear on the 1955 map. By 1955 Lot 24 hosts a cellarless brick building.

Lot 25 (33rd Avenue)

The 1919 map shows a two-story house with basement on Lot 25. This building is most likely the two-story brick and frame building with cellar still present on the 1968 map. At this time the rear of the lot held a service building and was paved over.

Lot 26

(33rd Avenue)

The one-story house with basement on Lot 26 was built between 1919 and 1927. The same structure stood on the lot in 1968. The backyard was described (1968) as "dirt," and there is no record of any buildings being built there.

Lot 28(33rd Avenue)

A two-story frame building with a one story building to the rear stood on this lot before 1903. This same building was listed as having a basement in 1968, and the outbuilding was removed, and the yard described as "dirt."

Lot 29 (Southeast corner of 33rd Avenue and 14th Street)

Erected by 1891, the three-story house at the northwestern corner of the lot had a cellar 12 feet below the curb level. However, due to the filling and regrading of the streets in this period, the cellar was only 4' below the backyard level (Alt#2174-14). In 1955 the map indicates that the structure was a combination multiple dwelling and store. It was razed before 1956 to make way for a one-story "masonry" building which utilized the entire lot area. Used as an office and for manufacturing and storage, no cellar is indicated in the plans or on the 1968 map (NB#2500-56).

Block 528

Lot 1

Lot 1 covers the majority of the block, except for lots in the northwestern and northeastern corners. On this lot stood the carpet factory, established ca.1850. The buildings depicted on the 1968 map, of which only one in the center of the block has a basement, show the factory at its greatest extent in terms of land usage. The 1852, 1859, 1873, 1891, 1903, 1919 and 1927 maps show that the eastern side of the lot was always vacant, probably being employed as a loading/unloading area. The original buildings were most likely close to 14th Street (see 1859 map), but Misc#1576-51 shows that area to be vacant in 1951. A search of the Buildings Department records for this lot uncovered no additional evidence of ground disturbance (Alt#624-27; Misc#3615-45; Alt#1368-42; NB#563-99; NB#3783-26; PN#1187-41; Alt#247-41; Alt#1324-22; NB#9676-38; NE#5562-28).

Lot 10 (Corner of 33rd Avenue and 14th Street)

Lot 10 had a house standing on it by 1891. Shown to be a two-story house with a basement on the 1903 map, this structure was still on the lot in 1968. There is no record of any buildings being erected on Lot 10 in the vacant areas north and south of the dwelling.

Lot 12 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 12 had a two-story house on it by 1891 also. It also had a cellar, and remained on the property through 1968.

Lot 13

This lot was vacant until 1903, when a small shed was built on its southern end. This was probably used by the inhabitants of neighboring lot 14. A small one-story structure was added at the front of the parcel by 1927, and the 1955 map shows it to be made of metal. The block was vacant in 1968, and there was no file at the Buildings Department.

Lot 14 (33rd Avenue)

There was a house here by 1891, which the 1903 map shows as a three-story frame dwelling. Between 1955 and 1968 it was demolished, and no building was put up in its stead. The house had a cellar, 8' below street grade, and 4' below yard grade (Alt#1876-22).

Lot 15(33rd Avenue)

Erected by 1891, the two-story frame house on Lot 15 was still standing in 1968. The 1968 map indicates a cellar beneath and behind the building.

Lot 16 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 16 also had a house on it by 1891. The three-story frame house had a one-story rear extension by 1903. The three-story section had a basement (Alt#1840-1915) but the whole building was razed before 1955. No structure was built on the property afterwards.

Lot 17(33rd Avenue)

There is no record of any structures being built on this lot. In 1968 it was a partially paved access route from 33rd Avenue to the carpet factory buildings.

Lot 31 (Corner of 33rd Avenue and 21st Street)

This lot was empty until a gas station was built between 1927 and 1937 (Misc#3703-37). The western third of the parcel was used for parking cars and was relatively undisturbed. No basement was indicated in the station building, but the tanks and pumps have impacted at least the eastern two-thirds of the lot (Alt#613-42).

Block 529

Lot 2 (corner of Broadway and 14th Street)

Lot 2 had a building on it by 1891, a three-story frame house/store on the 1903 map. This building still stood on the lot in 1968, and it had a basement. Before 1955 a one-story brick building was erected on the southern section of the block, but this building did not have a cellar.

Lot 3 (Broadway)

On the 1873 map, F.C. Goodwin's home stands on Lot 3. It appears as a two-story frame building in 1903, but by 1927 was razed and a three-story brick dwelling was raised in its place. Covering the majority of the lot and still standing in 1968, this brick building had a basement.

Lot 4 (Broadway)

A three-story brick building was erected on Lot 4 between 1903 and 1919. This structure, with its basement, was standing in 1968. A garage had been added to the rear of the lot.

Lot 5 (Corner of Broadway and 14th Place - former lots 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9)

In 1919, former lots 5, 6, 7, and 8 were vacant. Old lot 9, on the corner, was the site of the Astoria Town Hall, built ca.1842. On the 1873 and 1891 maps it is labelled as "Police Station," while in 1919 the same building was labelled "Church." By 1926 the five lots were combined and the one-story metal and one-story brick structures shown on the 1968 map were erected (NB#1628-26). Before 1955 the brick building was given a second story, and the lot was the Best Brothers' stoneyard. In 1961 new yard drains were installed, which connected with the sewer on Broadway. This excavation impacted the unbuilt area at the center of Lot 5 (Alt#427-61). None of the buildings on Lot 5 had cellars.

Lot 113 (14th Place -- formerly 13A)

On the 1873 map, a large house appears to straddle lots 113 and 13. This was demolished, and in 1891 a single house was standing on 113. As shown on the 1903 map it was a one-story frame dwelling. In 1955 the house is shown with two-storys and a basement. The footprint

is the same, so it is probable that the house was expanded, or rebuilt on the same foundation. A large shed stood at the back of the lot by 1955.

Lot 13 (14th Place)

Lot 13 shared a large structure with Lot 113 on the 1873 map, but this was removed and a frame building appears on Lot 13 in the 1891 map. This basemented two-story frame house remained on the plot through 1968.

Lot 11 (Corner of 33rd Avenue and 14th Place -- formerly Lots 11, 12 and 14)

Former Lot 11 had a service building on it in 1903, a two-story frame dwelling by 1919. This house was razed by 1927, and in its place a one- and two-story brick structure with cellar was erected over the entire area of old Lots 11 and 14, for the occupying bronze works. Lot 14 had been vacant previously.

The first structure on old Lot 12 was erected by 1891. In 1903 it is depicted as a two-story frame house, the mirror-image of the building on neighboring Lot 13. This building with basement was still standing in 1968, by which time it was part of present Lot 11, and converted into a machine shop.

Lot 15 (33rd Avenue)

A three-story frame house was present at the front of Lot 15 by the year 1903. From 1919 through 1968 the lot is depicted with a two-story dwelling, with a basement.

Lot 16 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 16 had a two-story frame house on it in 1903, which survived the travails of time through 1968. This building had a basement.

Lot 17 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 17 is shown with a building on it on the 1891 map, a three-story frame dwelling with three outbuildings (see 1903 map). The three-story structure was present in 1968, and had a basement, whose foundation extended 7' below cub level. On the north side of Lot 17, and the tiny sliver of Lot 19 (remaining after 14th Street was cut through the block), two "Queen Anne Cottages" of apparent total dimen-

sions of 38'6" by 18' were erected on a 25' by 100' lot on the east side of 14th Street, 100 feet south of Broadway. Each had a cellar, 6'6" below ground surface, and a stone, cement and mortar "cesspool/privy vault" (14' by 8' by 8') connected 5' "outside the cellar wall" (Plan 14, 1898).

Block 530

Lot 1 (Corner of Broadway and 14th Place)

Lot 1 hosted a house that straddled the Lot 2 border in 1873. By 1891 the large house had been removed and the lot had been subdivided, with a single house on Lot 1. This frame ediface had two stories in front, and one in the rear. It was being used as a store in 1903. By 1955 the house and its rear shed were replaced by two two-story brick dwellings at the front and rear (called Lot 28 on the 1968 map) of the plot, both had basements.

Lot 2 (Broadway)

This Lot was combined with Lot 1 on the 1873 map, but the two were divided, and another building erected on Lot 2 by 1891. This building was a two-story frame house, also used as a store. The structure was razed and replaced with a concrete drive by 1955. There is no building department file for this lot.

Lot 3 (Broadway)

Lot 3 and neighboring Lots 103 and 4 were almost certainly combined and were the homestead of J.H. Phillips (1873). This house was removed, and the lot was divided into three lots, each with a 16.68' frontage on Broadway. Buildings were present on each of these lots by 1891. Lot 3 had a one and a half-story frame house, with a cellar 7' below curb level (Alt#2838-14). This structure was replaced with a three-story stucco house, also with a basement by 1955.

There was a building on Lot 103 in 1903, but the description on the maps is unclear. Lot 4 had a one and a half-story frame house by 1903, which had no apparent basement (Alt#341-23). Lots 103 and 4, although remaining distinct lots, were attached to Lot 3 before 1955, and the three-story stucco combination store and dwelling with basements was built across all three.

Lot 5 (Broadway)

Vacant in 1891, Lot 5 had a shed in the rear in 1903. A two-story

brick house with a garage was built there in 1922 (NB#5544-22), with a cellar 4' below grade (Alt#1961-39). This building still stood in 1968. Prior to 1955 a one story stucco dwelling had been raised at the rear of the lot. No cellar is indicated for this structure.

Lot 22 (33rd Avenue)

This lot hosted a structure in 1873. There is a building indicated on the 1891 map, and a two- and one-story frame dwelling on the 1903 map. This building and its basement, survived to 1968. There were no other structures on the lot.

Lot 23 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 23 hosted structures in 1873 and 1891, and a one- and two-story frame house is shown on the 1903 map. This building was replaced with a two-story brick ediface by 1927. This basemented dwelling, with garage at the rear of the lot still stood as of 1968.

Lot 24 (33rd Avenue -- former Lots 24 and 25) and Lot 26

A shed appears at the back of old Lot 24 in 1891. A structure on the 1873 straddles the lot line between Lots 25 and 26. Separate houses are shown on 25 and 26 in 1891, but a one and a half-story dwelling with basement straddles the border again in 1903. In 1919 they are separate again, both two-story frame buildings with basements. The 1927 map shows the two buildings to be two and a half-story structures. Before 1927 a two-story brick building was built on Lots 24 and 25, combining them, with a basement under the whole structure. No more construction occurred on 24 and 25 after this.

The two and a half-story house on Lot 26 in 1927 had a cellar approximately 6' below grade (Alt#1401-15). This building was razed by 1955 and Lot 26 became a parking lot.

The following lots in Block 530 are not part of the West Queens High School Site; however, for historical context purposes, the lot histories are included.

Lot 7 (Broadway -- formerly Lots 7, 8, 9 and 10)

Old Lots 7 and 8 had a frame garage built on them by 1927. A one story brick building was built on the two lots before 1955. There is no building record of a basement there (Misc#1501-56; Alt#1460-52; BN#1211-62).

Former Lot 9 had a two-story frame house/store by 1891. This frame building, with cellar, was still standing in 1968. The rear of the lot and neighboring Lot 10 had a one-story basemented brick building raised on it by 1955, and present in 1968.

Lot 11 (Corner of Broadway and 21st Street -- formerly Lots 11, 12 and 13)

Old Lot 11 had a service building at the rear by 1919. Old Lot 12 had a building in 1891, but just a rear shed in 1919 and 1927. The former Lot 13 had a house in 1873, shown to be a two-story frame house with a rear shed in 1903. In 1919 and 1927 the building is a three-story structure. Old Lot 14 had several houses on it in 1873. These were replaced by 1903 with a large two-story frame house along 33rd Avenue, with three outbuildings. There is no buildings information on these structures, except that they were razed in 1945 (Dem#4843-45).

In 1945 Lots 11, 12, 13, and 14 were combined as Lot 11, and a gas station building was erected on the southeast corner (33rd Avenue and 21st Street). Although the building has a cellar boiler room, this was not clearly located in the plans (NB#1809-45). In 1947 additional gas tanks were added, revealing a network of tanks and pumps impacting the whole northern three-quarters of the parcel (Misc#4719-47).

Lot 17 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 17 had a structure by 1873, possibly the same building depicted as a two-story frame house in 1903. This building still stood in 1968, and had a basement, as did the building to the rear of the lot, erected by 1955.

Lot 18 (33rd Avenue)

Lot 18 had a structure at the rear of the lot in 1873, however it

is depicted as vacant in 1891. The 1903 map shows a two-story frame house at the back of the lot, with a shed near the front. By 1927, the shed was replaced by another dwelling, this time one-story. Both present in 1968, the one-story dwelling had a cellar, while the rear building did not.

Lot 19 (33rd Avenue)

Before 1927 a one-story stucco building was erected on Lot 19, filling the entire lot. By 1955 a similar building was there, but labelled as brick. The structure, present in 1968 had a basement under its entire length.

Lot 20 (33rd Avenue)

Although it had a building by 1891, shown as a two-story frame structure in 1903, a single-story stucco building was built at the front of the lot by 1927. Both still on the property in 1968, the frame dwelling had a cellar that was 2' below the curb level. The foundation was rebuilt in 1914 (Alt#13/14). The stucco building is labelled as a garage on the 1968 map.

Photographs 1 and 2

Block 529

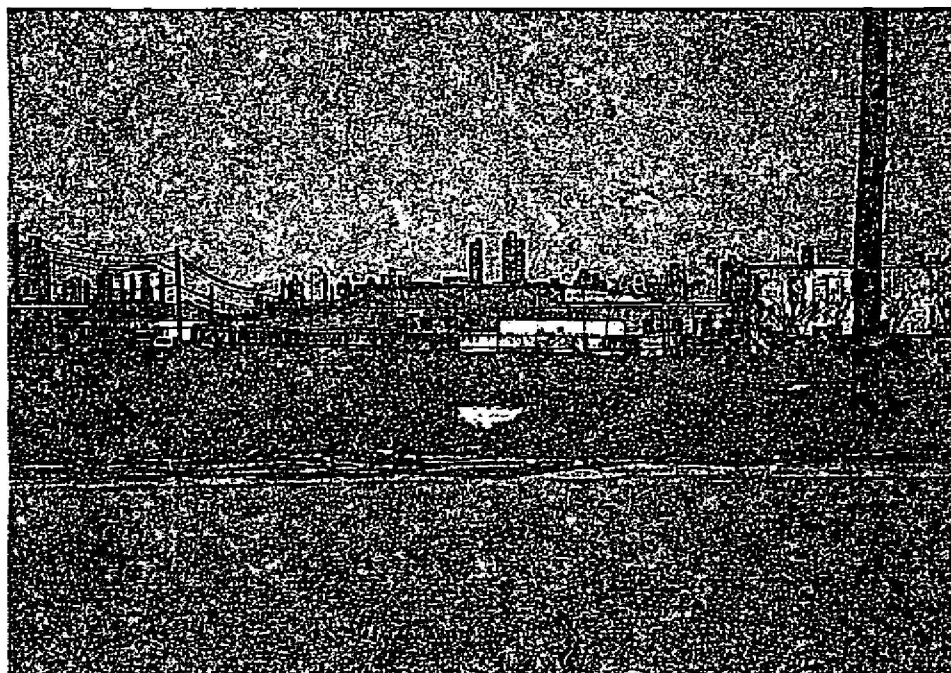
view: northeast to southwest, from 14th Place



Block 520

view: east to west, from 14th Street

Project Site eastern border corresponds to corrugated metal
fencing seen in the photograph.



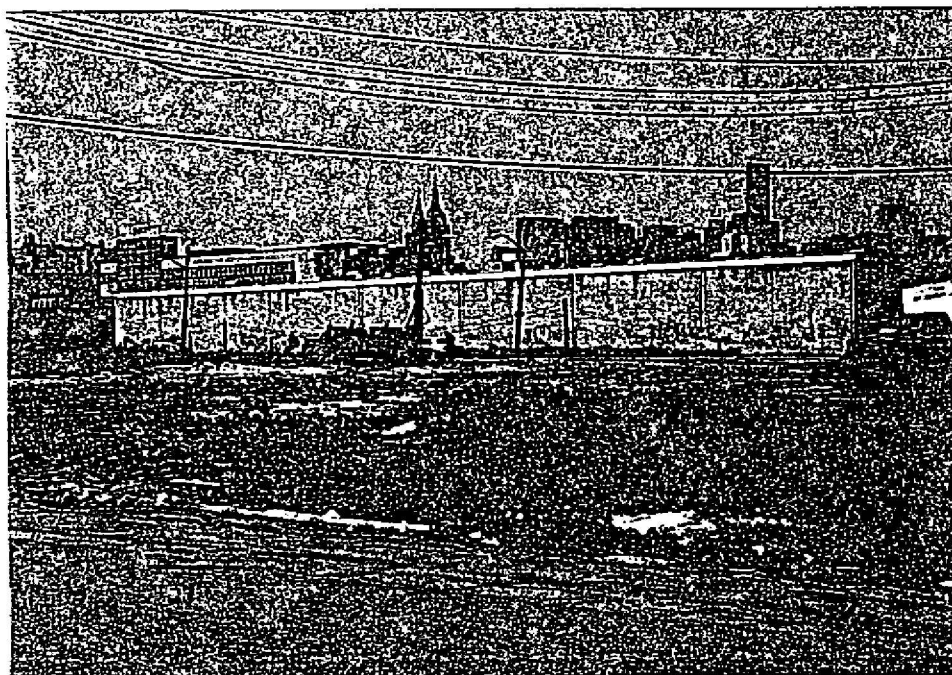
Photographs 3 and 4

Block 521 and Block 520

view: northeast to southwest, from 14th Street

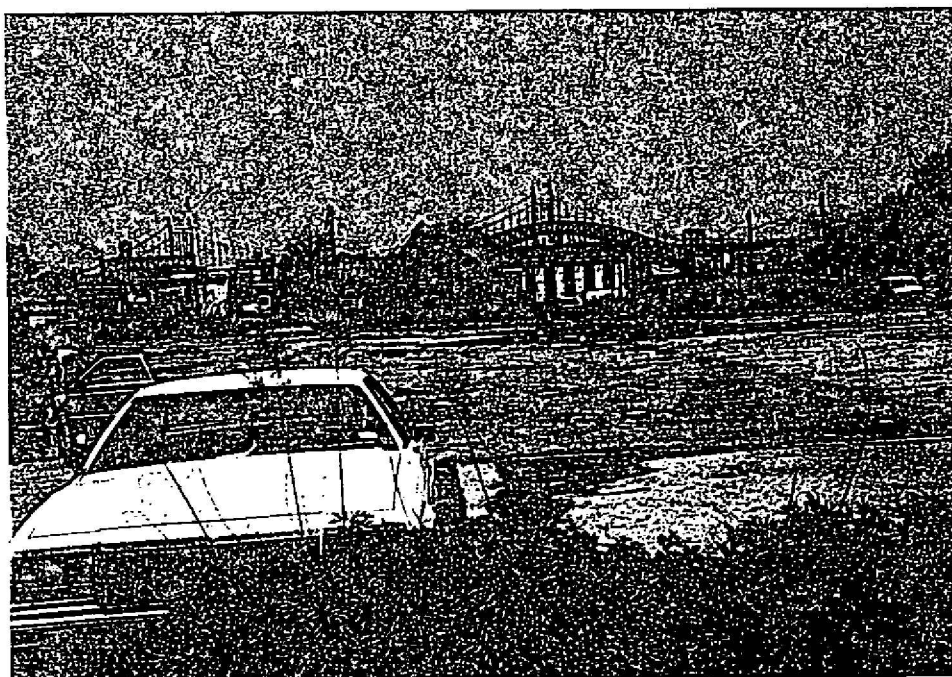
The southeast corner of Block 520 is visible on the right, Block 521 appears on the left, and 33rd Avenue runs through middle of the Photograph.

Note the soil boring rig on Block 521.



Block 521

view: south to north, from 34th Street curb



Photographs 5 and 6

Block 528

view: northwest to southeast, from the intersection of 14th Street and 33rd Avenue

Previously, this block was the site of a carpet/oil cloth manufacturing and "rug renovation" concern (ca. 1843-1968).



Vegetation abutting the southern boundary of Block 528 and the northern parking lot of North Queenview Homes, Inc. This was the original route of a paper street.

view: west to east, from 14th Street



Photographs 7 and 8

Block 530, Lot 1

view: north to south, from Broadway

Note: This is a functioning gas station/car wash concern.



Block 530

view: north to south, from north curb of Broadway

Note: The Community Church of Astoria, Lot 6, is on the right. Active stockpiling of sand, boulders, and lumber on this block is evident.



Photographs 9 and 10

Block 530

view: northwest to southeast, from corner of 14th Place and
Broadway

Note: Community Church of Astoria, Lot 6, on the left



Block 529

view: west to east, from 14th Street

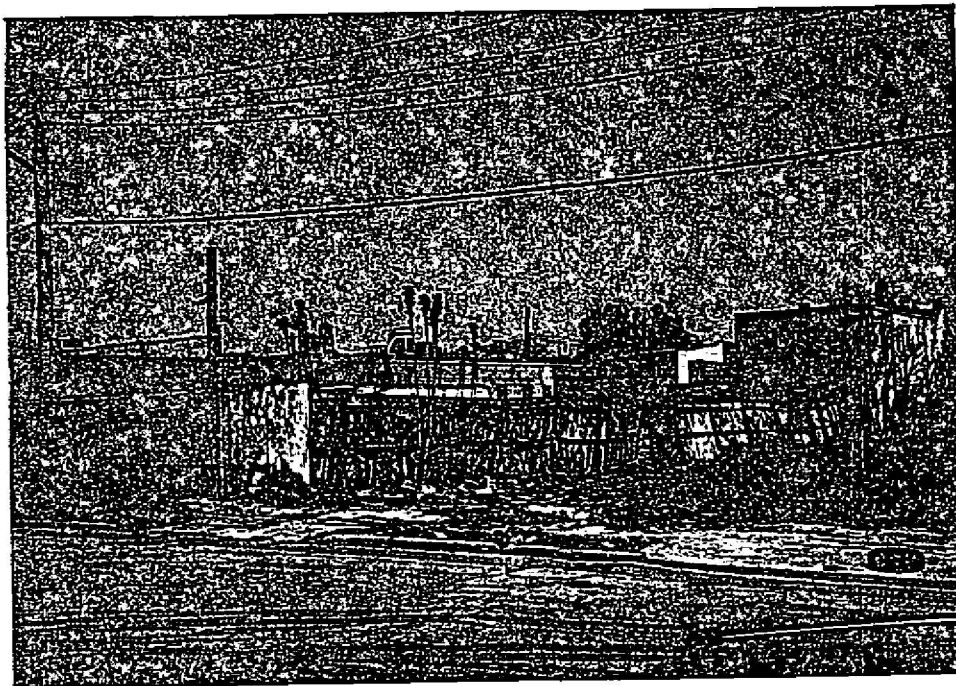
Note: Active stockpiling of sand, boulders, and
lumber on Block 530 is evident.

Photographs 11 and 12

Block 520, Lot 10

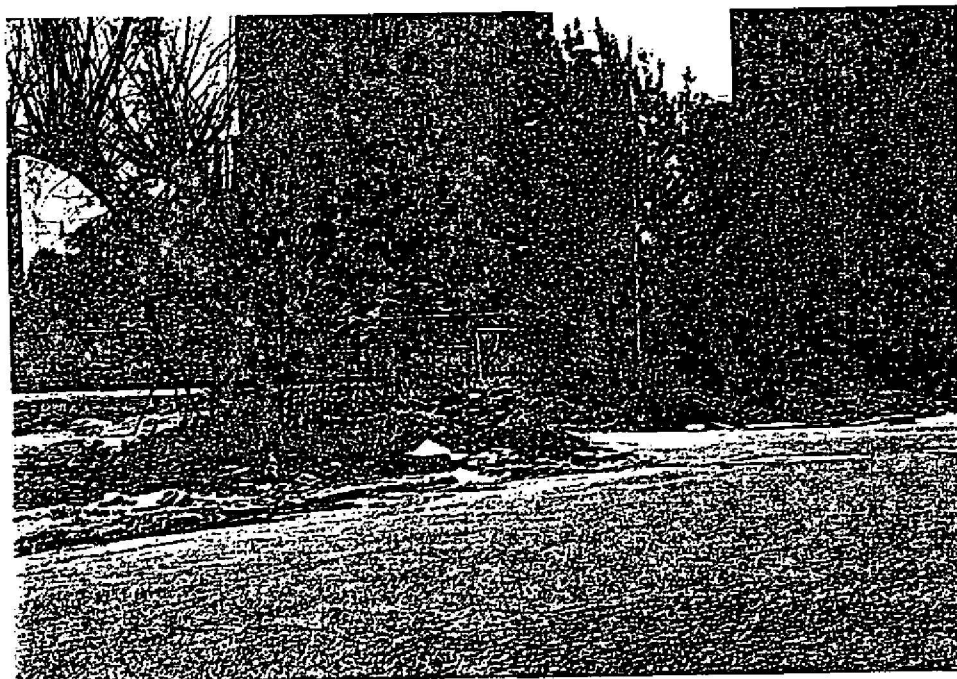
view: south to north, from south curb of 33rd Avenue

Note: The corrugated metal fencing separates the project portion of the Block (on the right) from the non-project portion of the Block (on the left).



Block 528 and the intersection of 14th Street and 33rd Avenue
view: north to south, from 14th Street

Note: It is estimated that the earliest carpet complex (ca. 1843) was located on the west side of Block 528 where the poplars now stand.



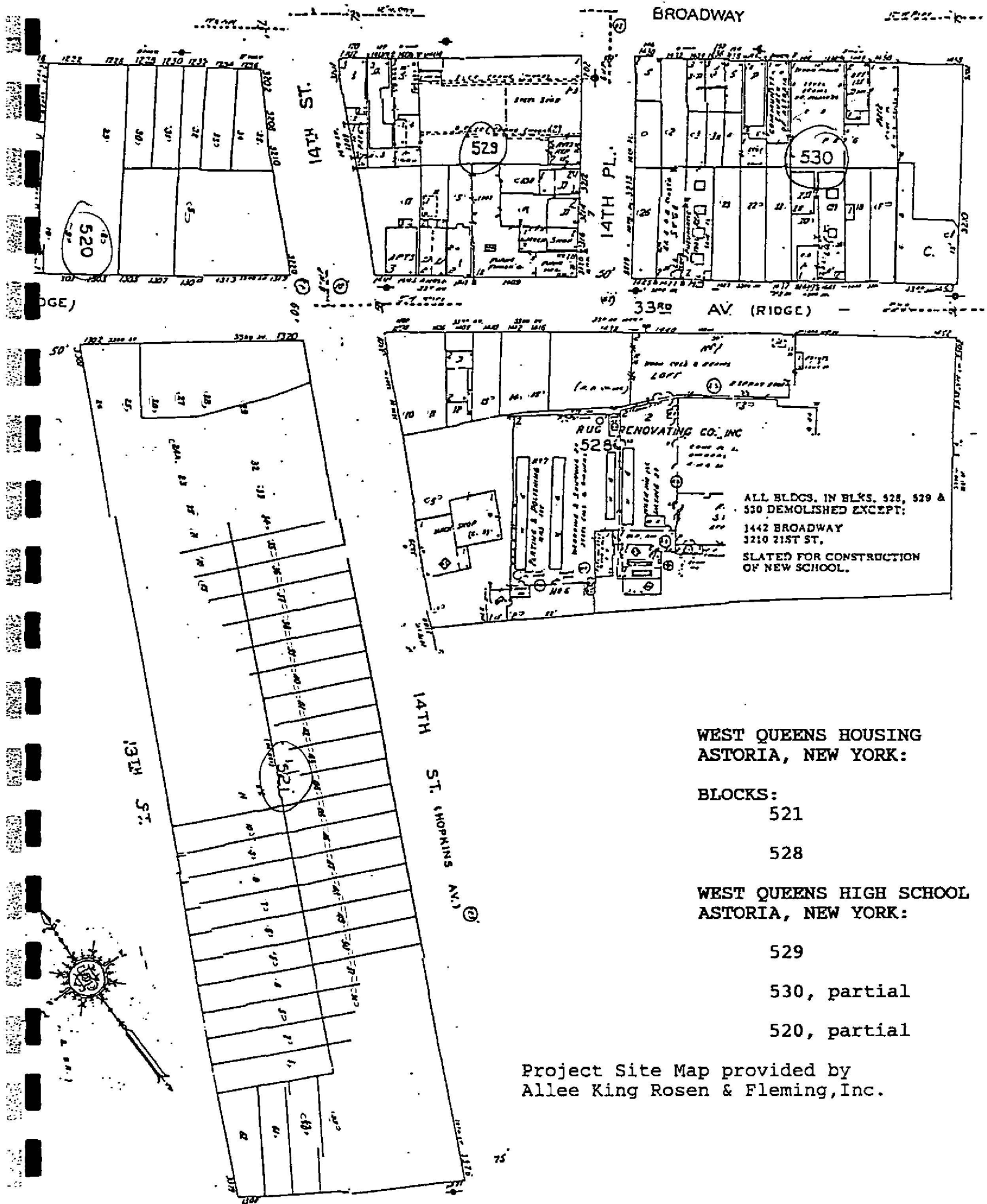
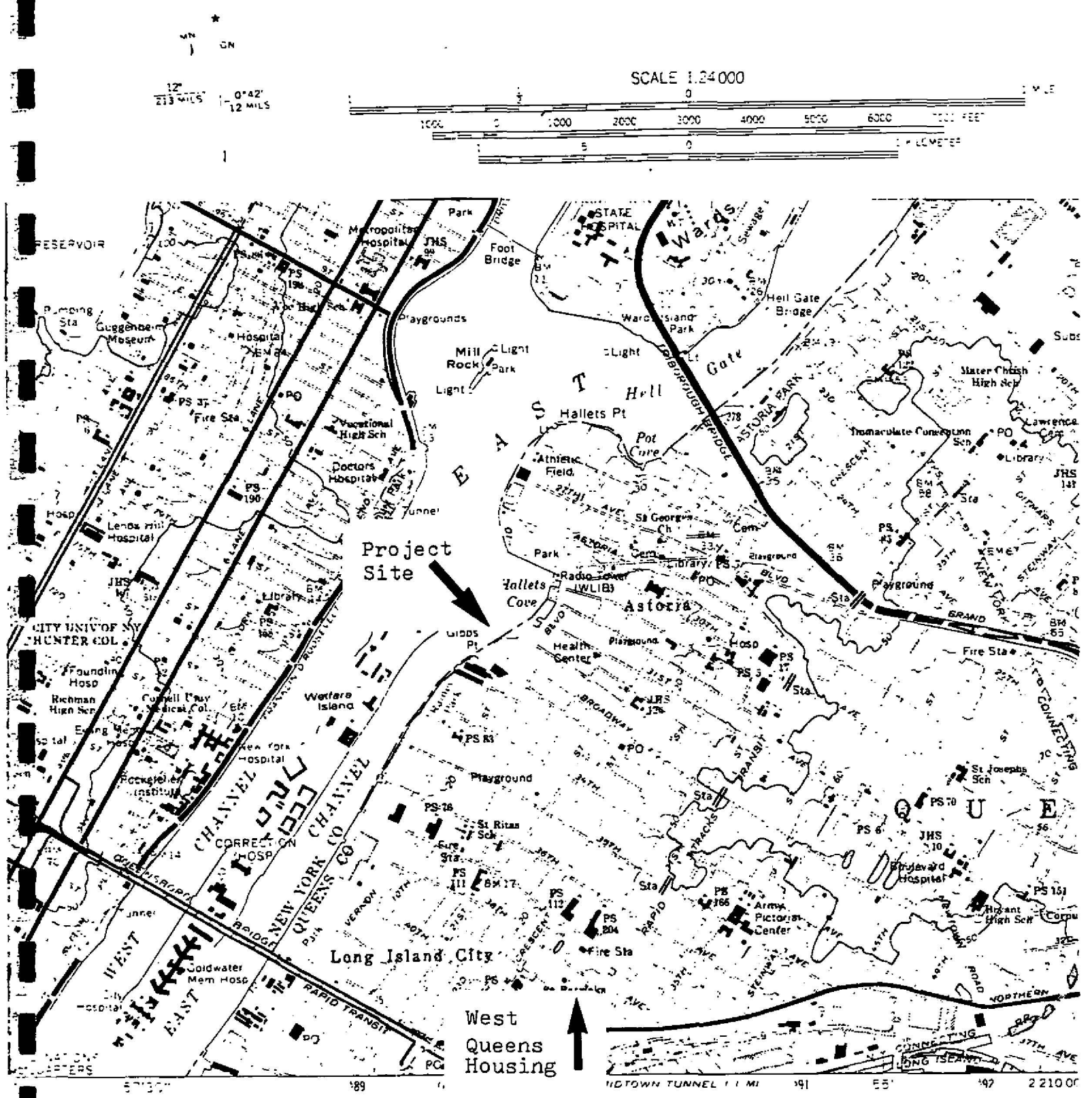


Figure 2

USGS Topographic Map: Central Park Quadrangle



East River Shore of Long Island City in 1858
Photocopied from Seyfried, 1984: n.p.

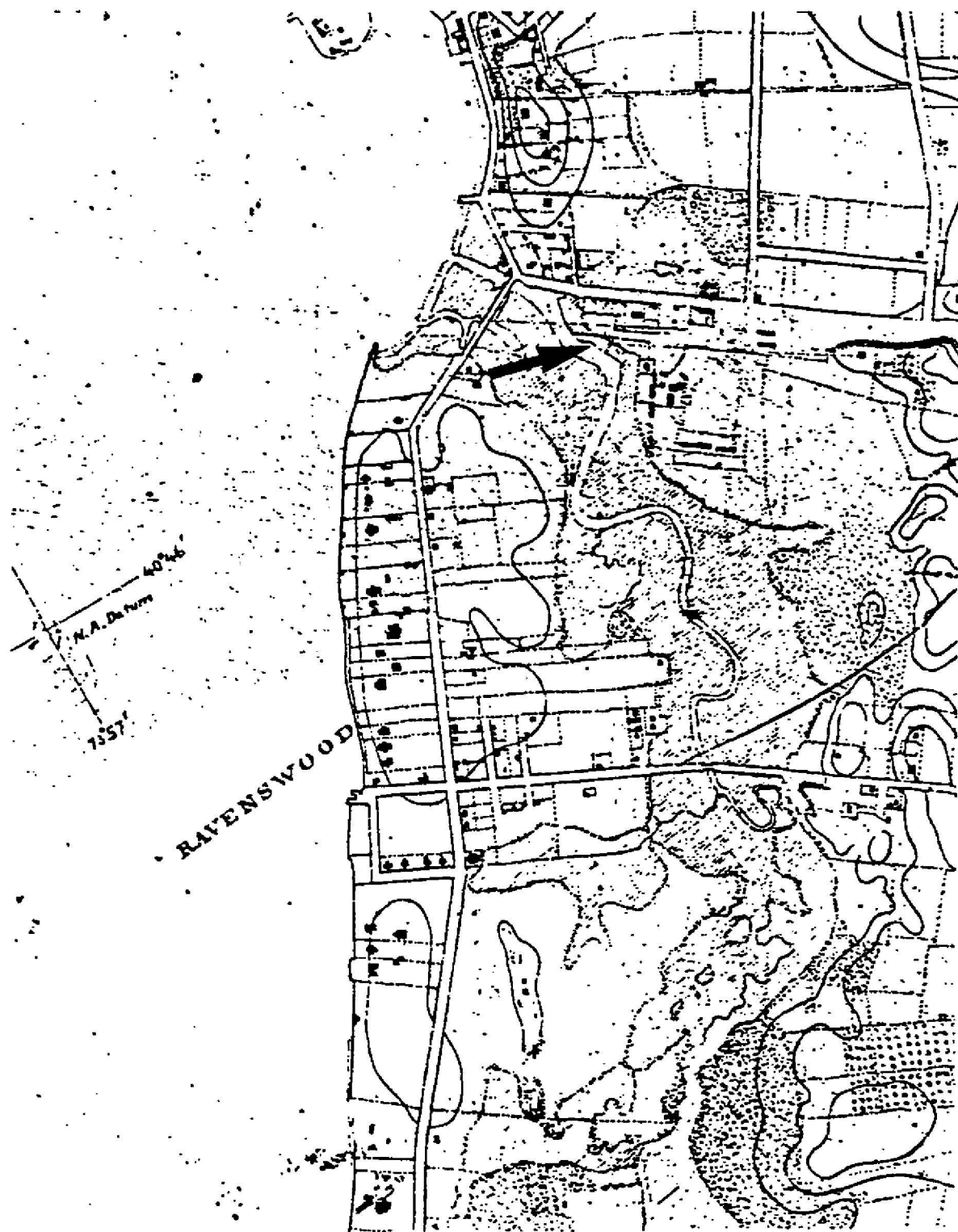
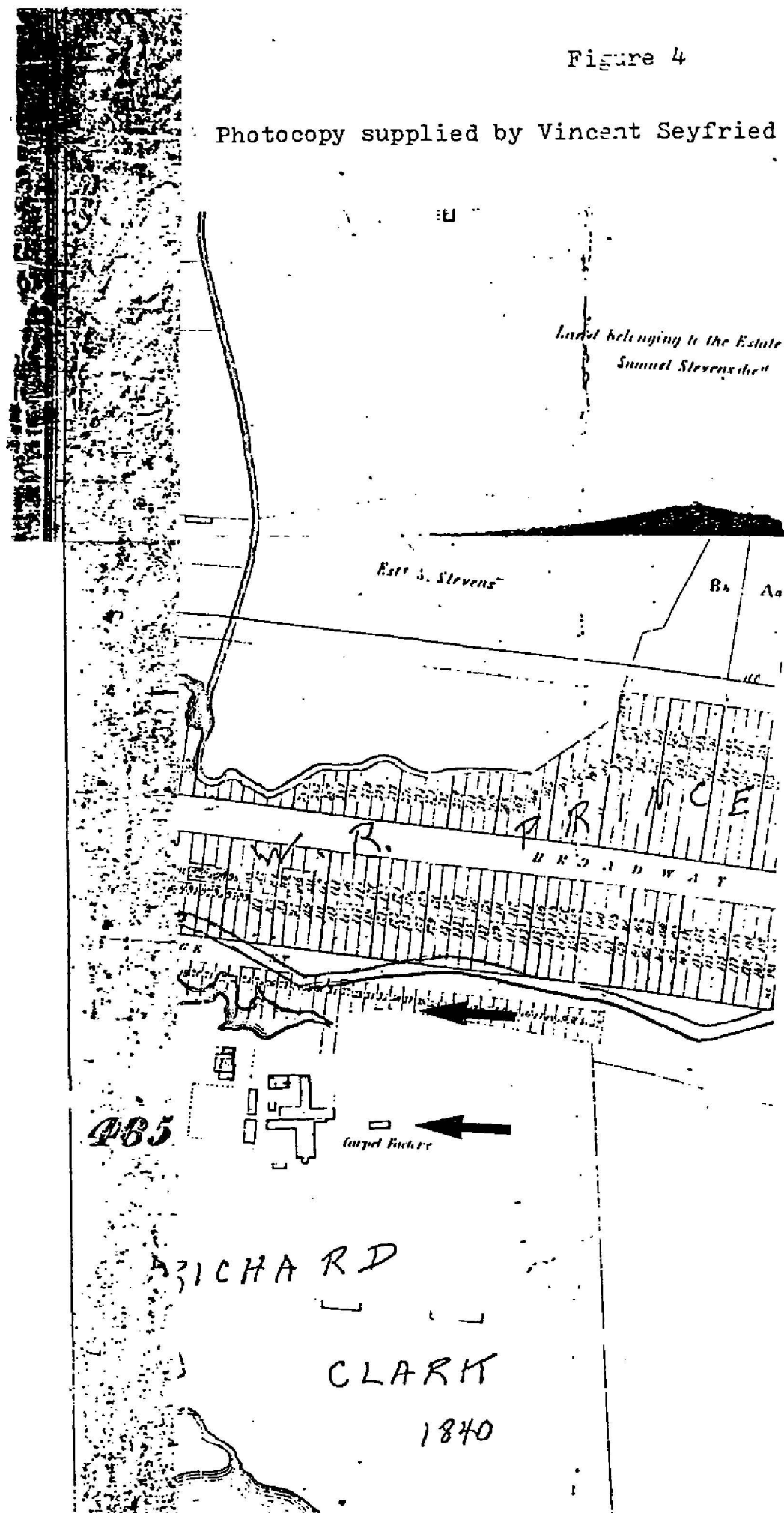
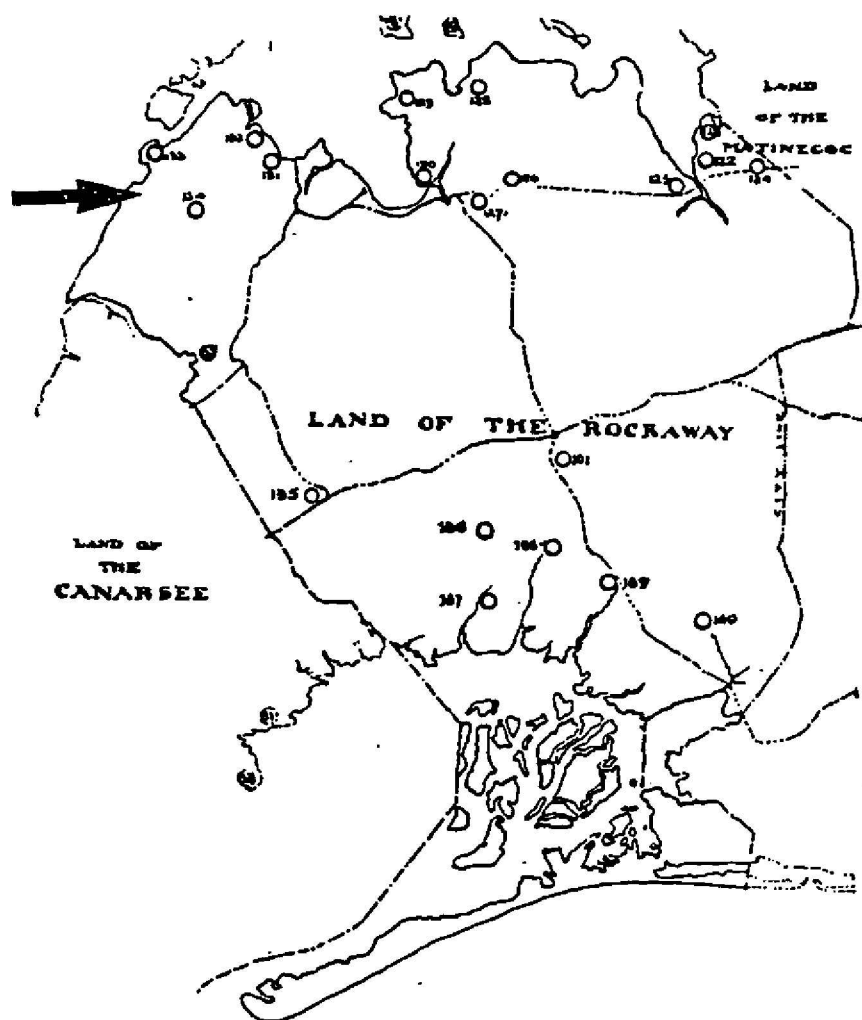


Figure 4

Photocopy supplied by Vincent Seyfried



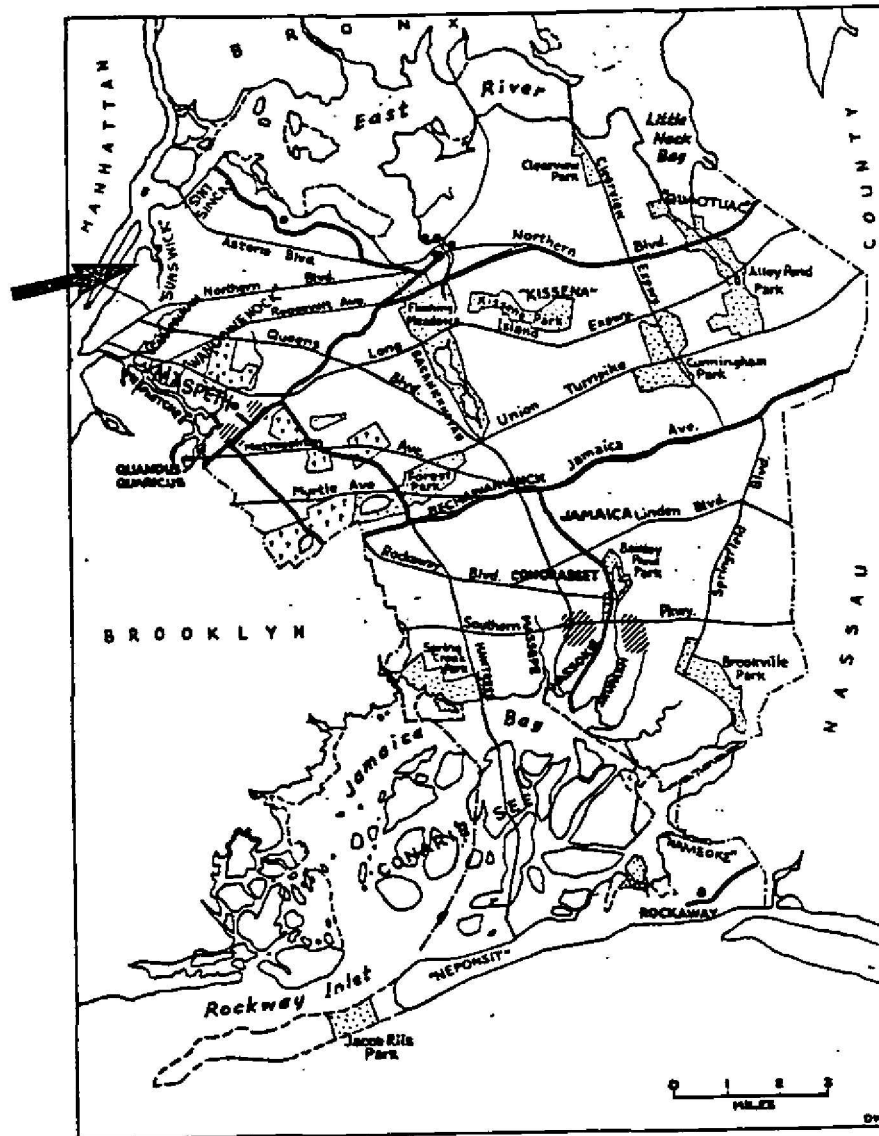
Bolton: Indian Sites in the Borough of Queens
from Bolton, 1934: p. 148



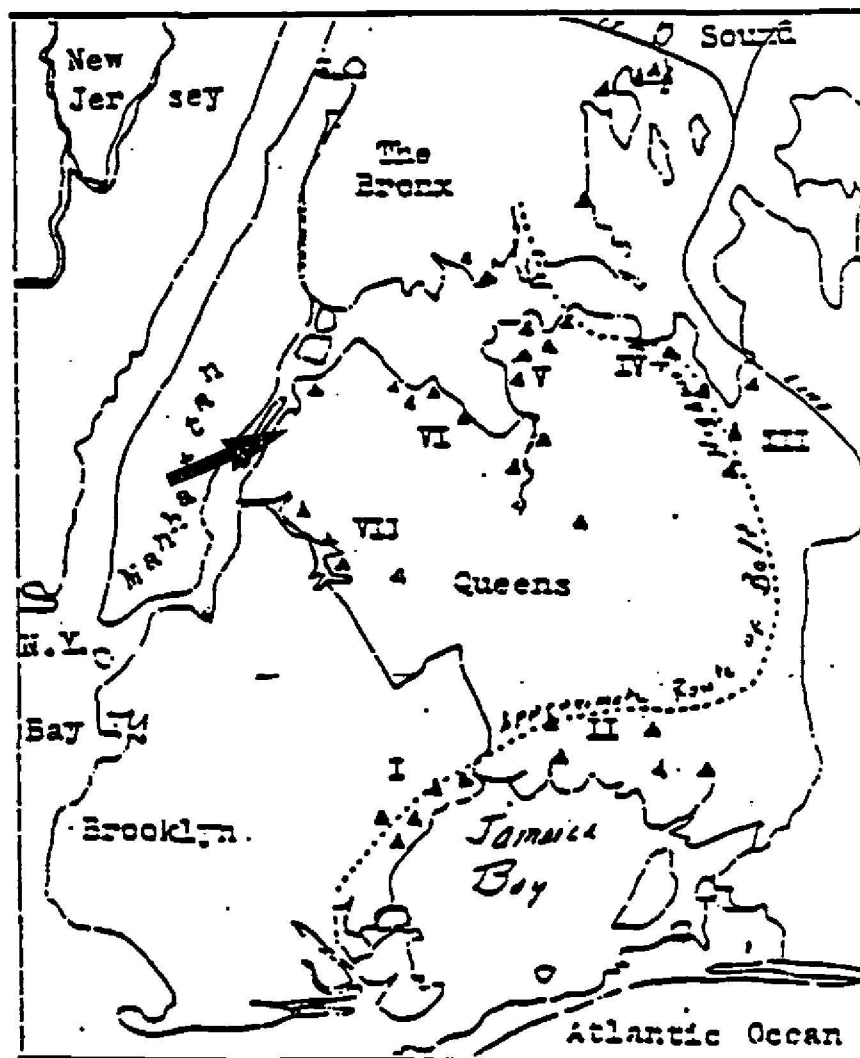
INDIAN SITES IN THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS

Figure 6

Grumet: Upper Delawaran Trails and Settlements in
New York City, Queens
from Grumet, 1981: p. 71.



Solecki: Indian Village Sites in Queens
 from: Solecki, Ralph
 1941 "The Indians Lived Here," in So This Is Flushing (newsletter),
 Flushing Historical Society.



INDIAN VILLAGE SITES: Triangles on diagram indicate sites explored by Committee on American Anthropology of the Flushing Historical Society. Important locations described in accompanying article are numbered.

HELL GATE AND ITS APPROACHES

From a Trigonometrical Survey

under the direction of F.R. HASSLER and A.D. BACHE Superintendents of the

SURVEY OF THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES

Triangulation by EDMUND BLUNT Assistant

Topography by J.L. WHITING Assistant

Hydrography by the parties

under the command of D.D. PORTER & M. WOODHULL Lieut. U.S. Navy

Published in 1851

A.D. Bache Superintendent

Scale 1:100,000



Entered by U.S. Survey
Under T. A. Cowen & Son, Map
Sellers in charge of office.

First Edition.

During Hell Gate previous to M. Woodhull's
operations in May commencing on Aug. 1844.

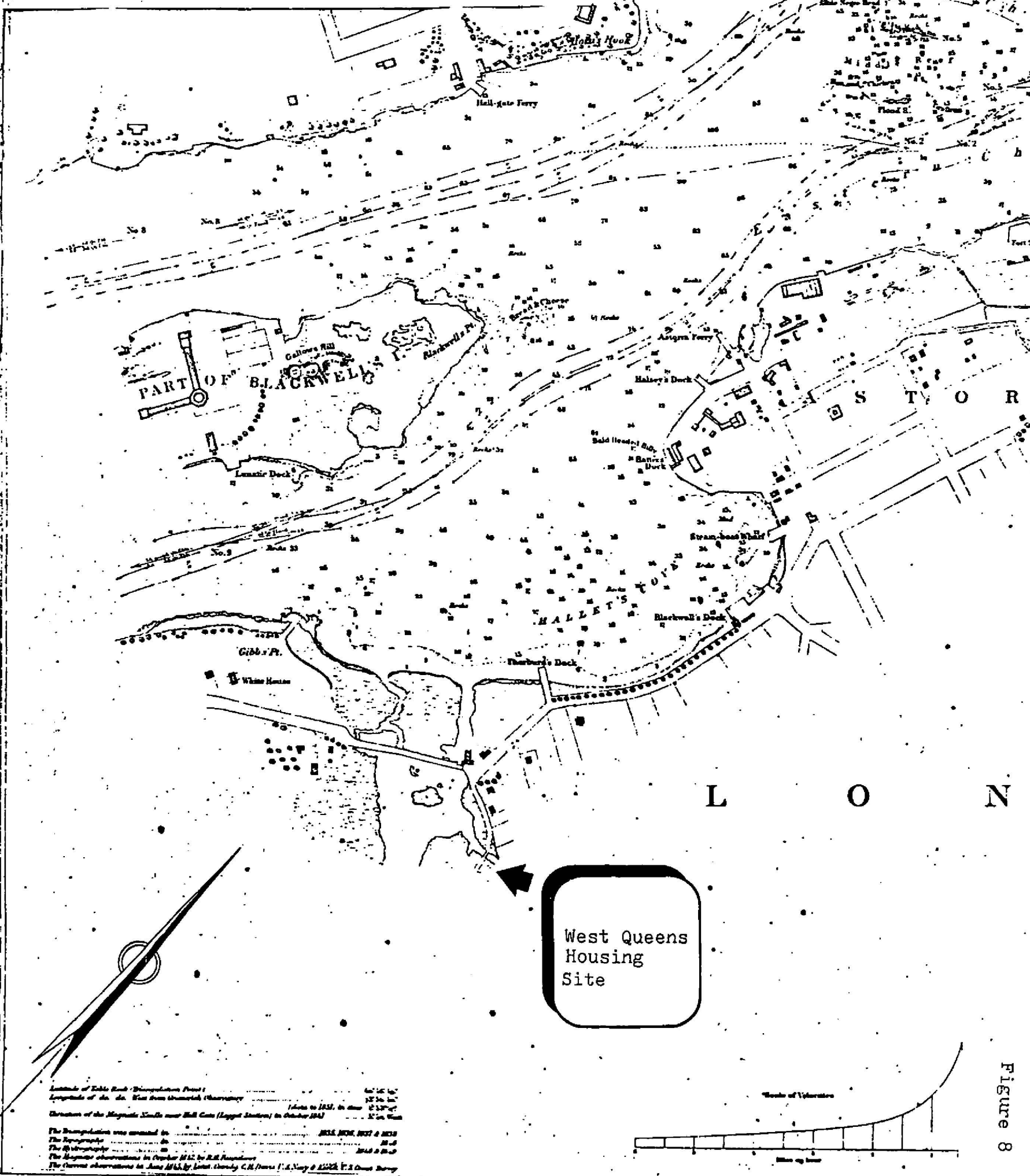
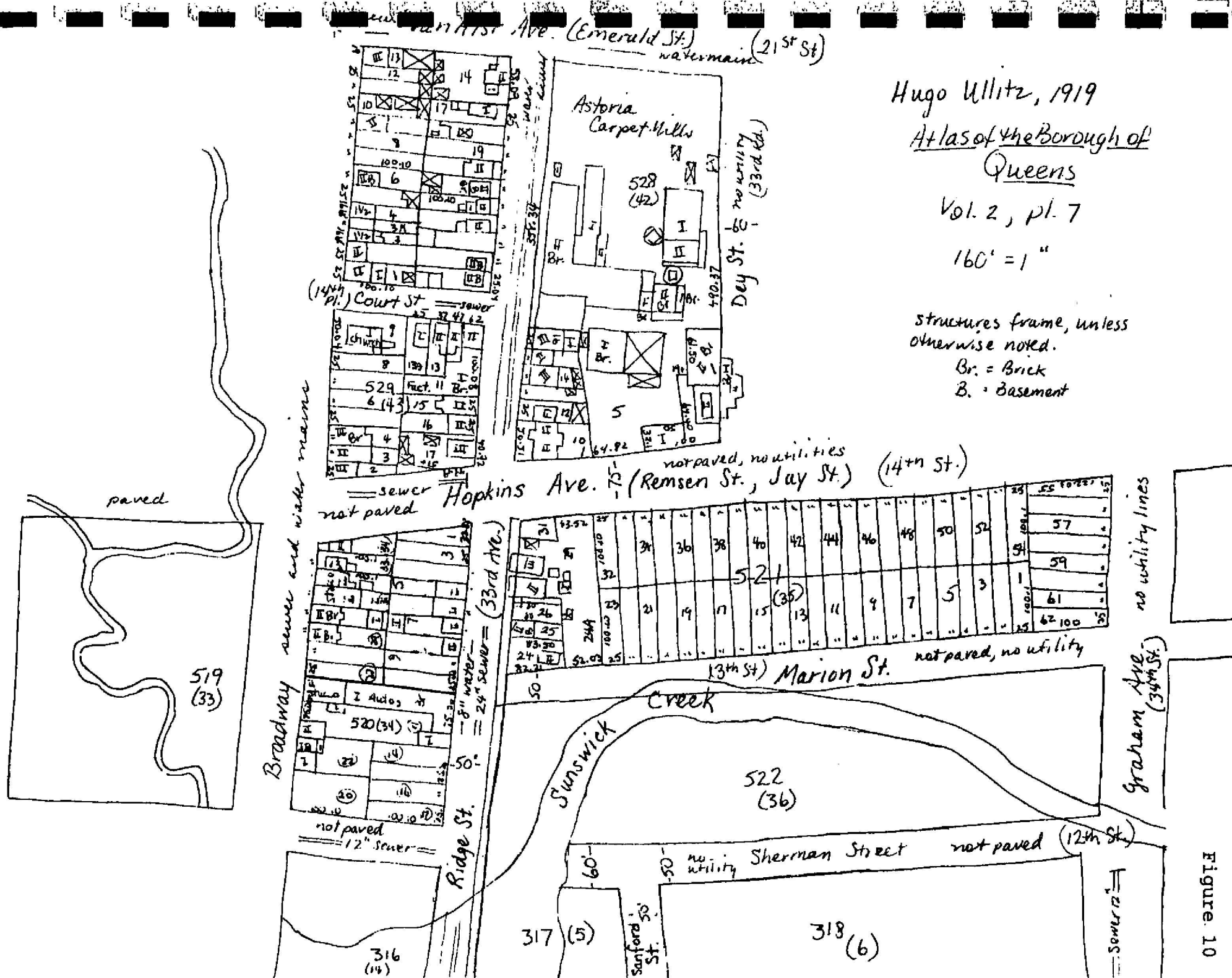


Figure 9

Photocopy of Map of New York and Staten Island and Part of Long Island, surveyed and drawn by G. Taylor and An. Skinner General Sir Henry Clinton, 1781

scale: in British Miles





Hugo Ullitz, 1919
 Atlas of the Borough of
 Queens
 Vol. 2, pl. 7
 160' = 1"

structures frame, unless
 otherwise noted.
 Br. = Brick
 B. = Basement

Figure 10

Figure 11

Photocopy of the Atlas of the Borough of Queens
Supplied by Vincent Seyfried

1927

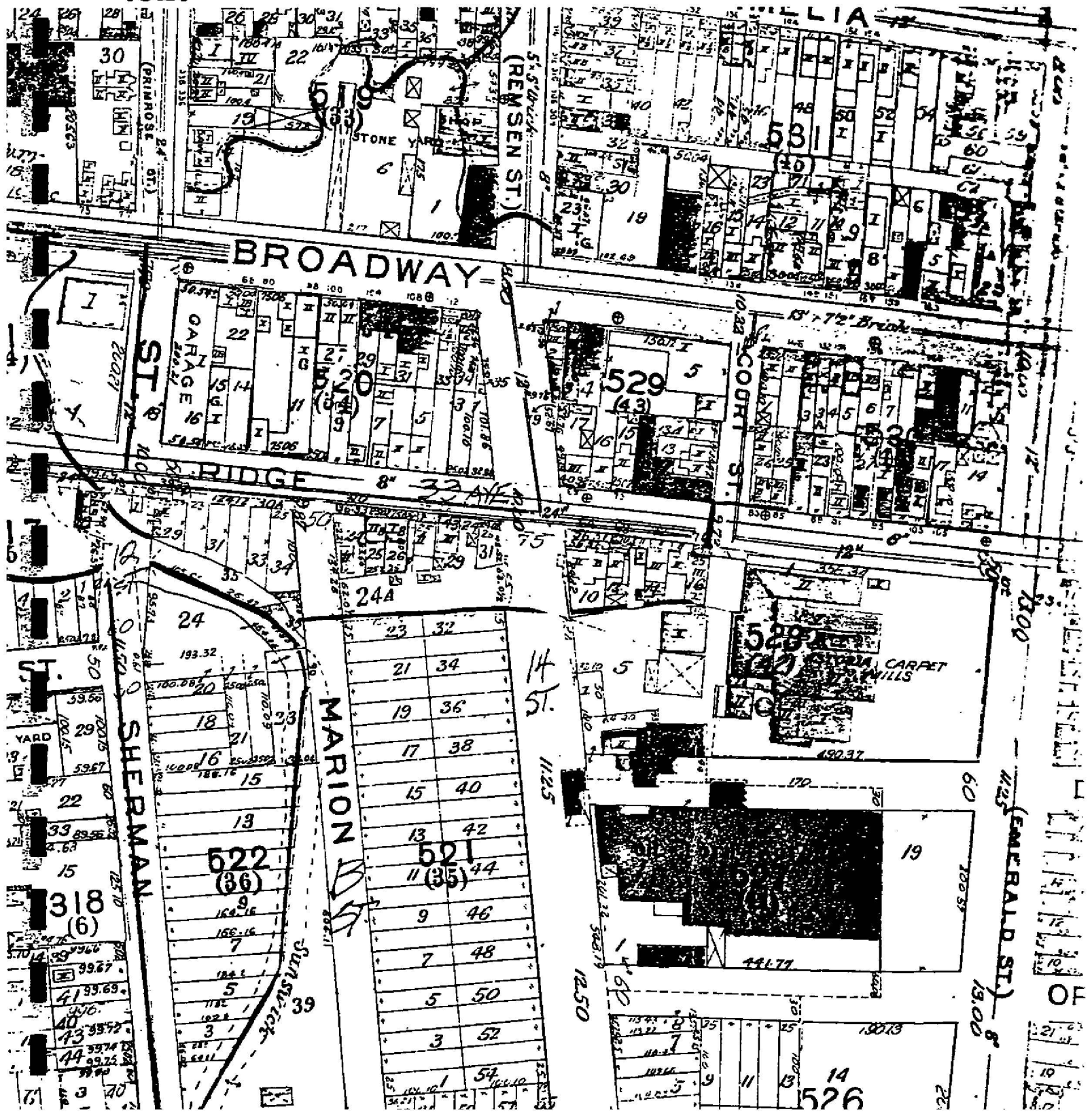
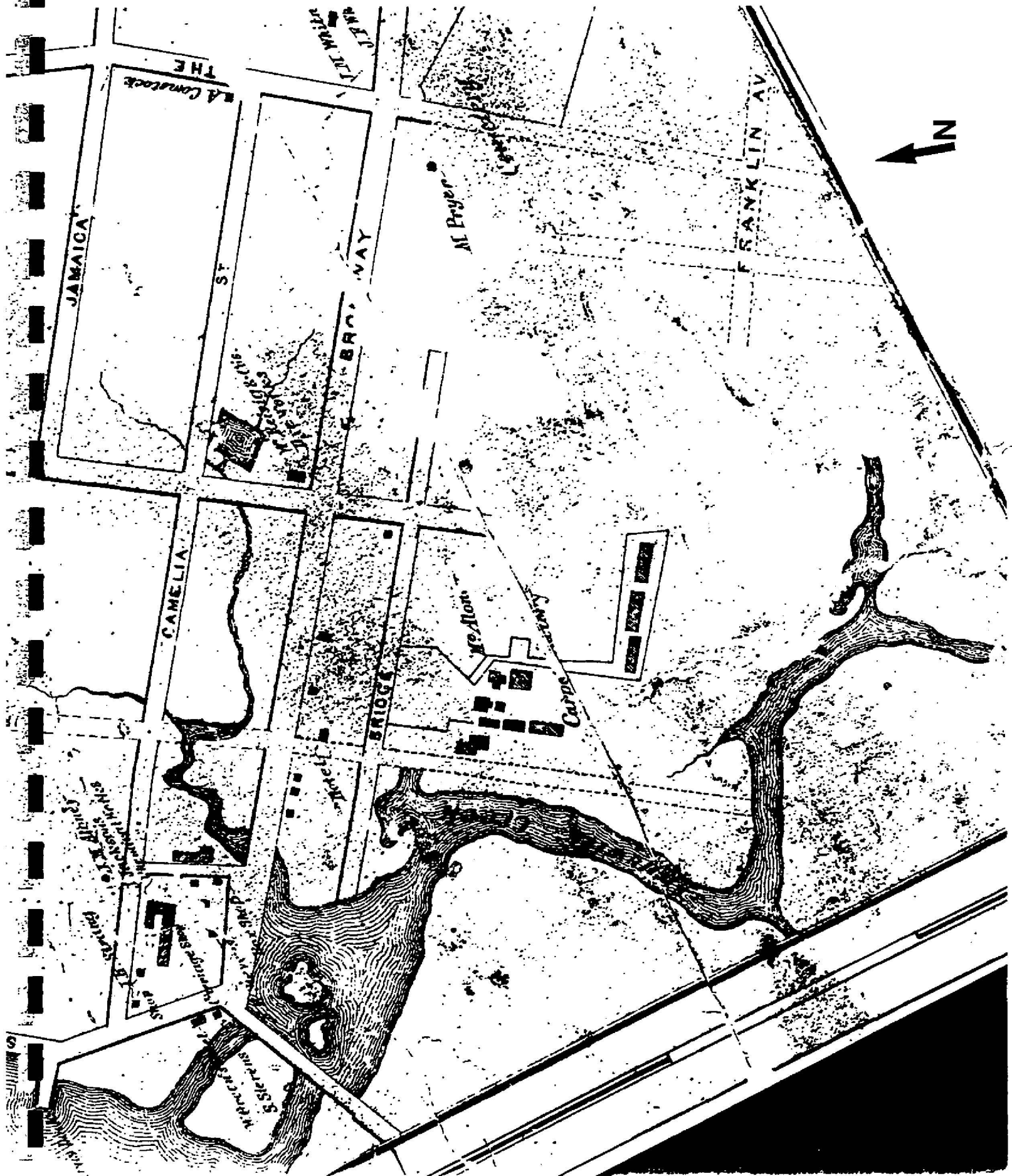
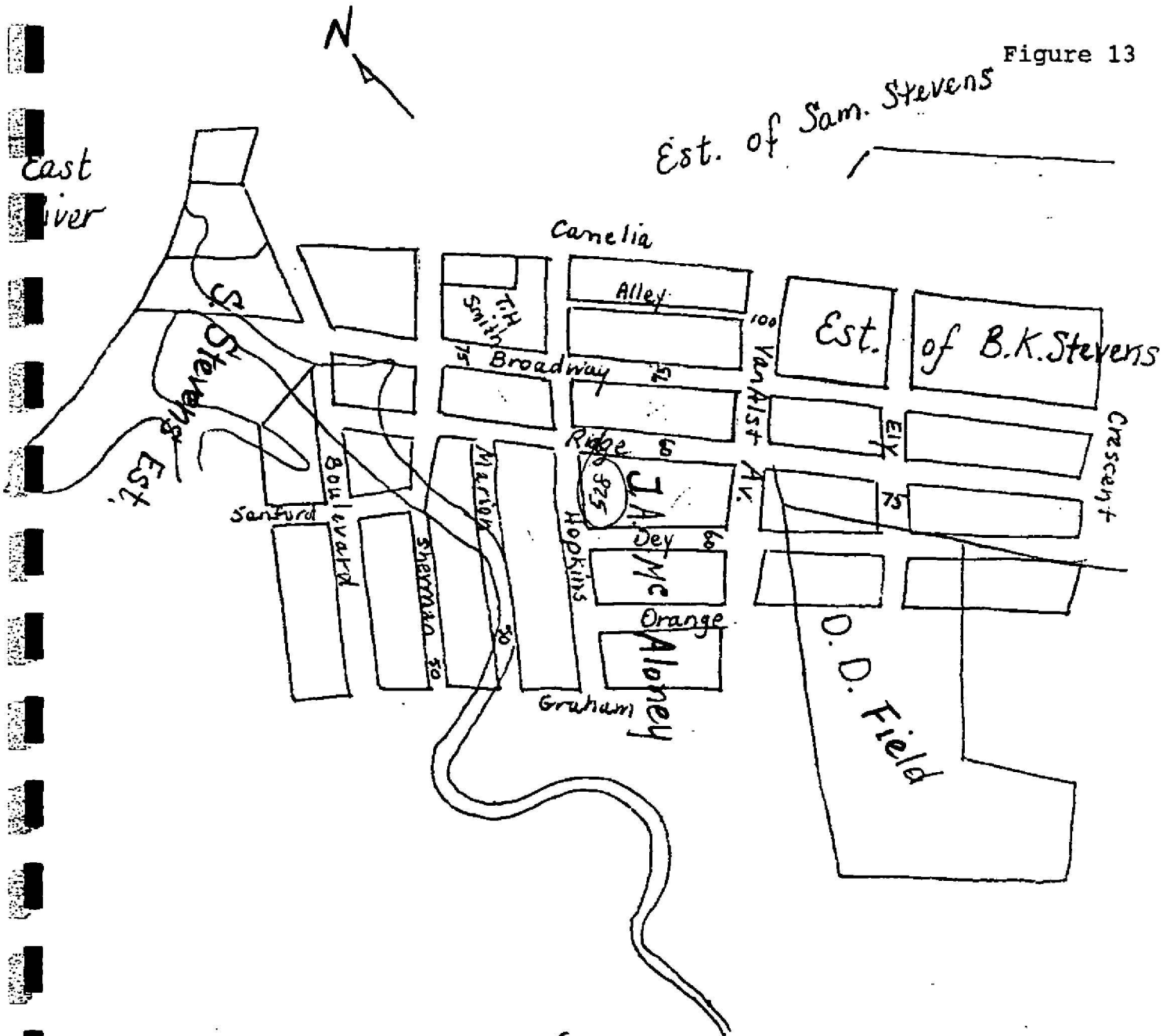


Figure 12

Photocopy of the 1859 Walling Map: Queens
Supplied by Vincent Seyfried





(Detail of)

Map of Long Island City
Queens County, New York, Showing
Farm Lines Etc. Reduced
from Commissioner's New City Map
M. Dripps, 1874

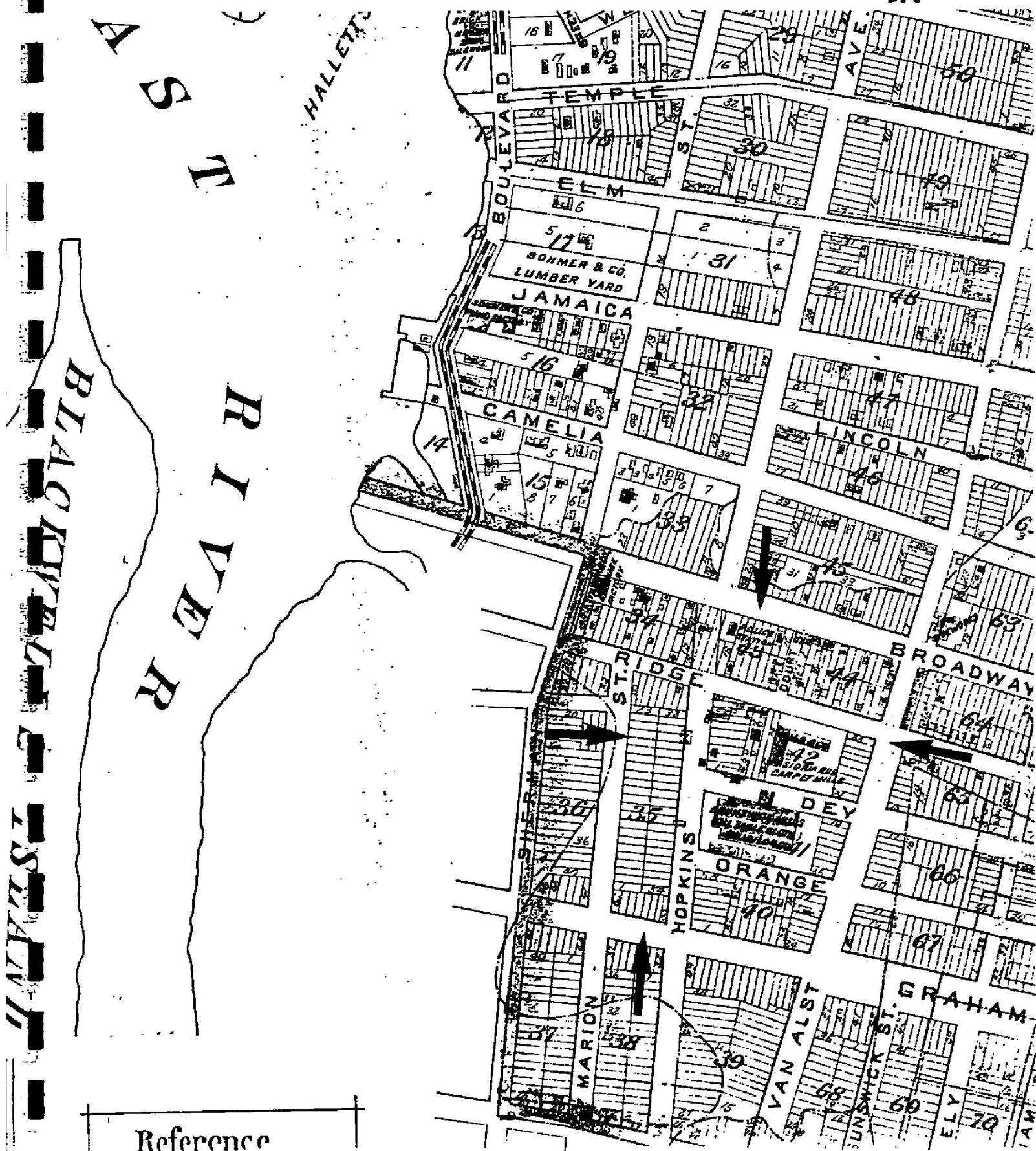
Collection of New York Public
Library

Scale:

0 $\frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ miles

Figure 14

Photocopy of the 1891 Wolverton Atlas of Queens
Supplied by Vincent Seyfried



Photocopy of the 1873 Beers Atlas of Queens
Supplied by Vincent Seyfried

● Astoria Town Hall/jail/Police Station

▲Carpet Manufacturing complex

■ J. N. Phillips home

★ site of (Block 520/Lot 10) "old existing privy"

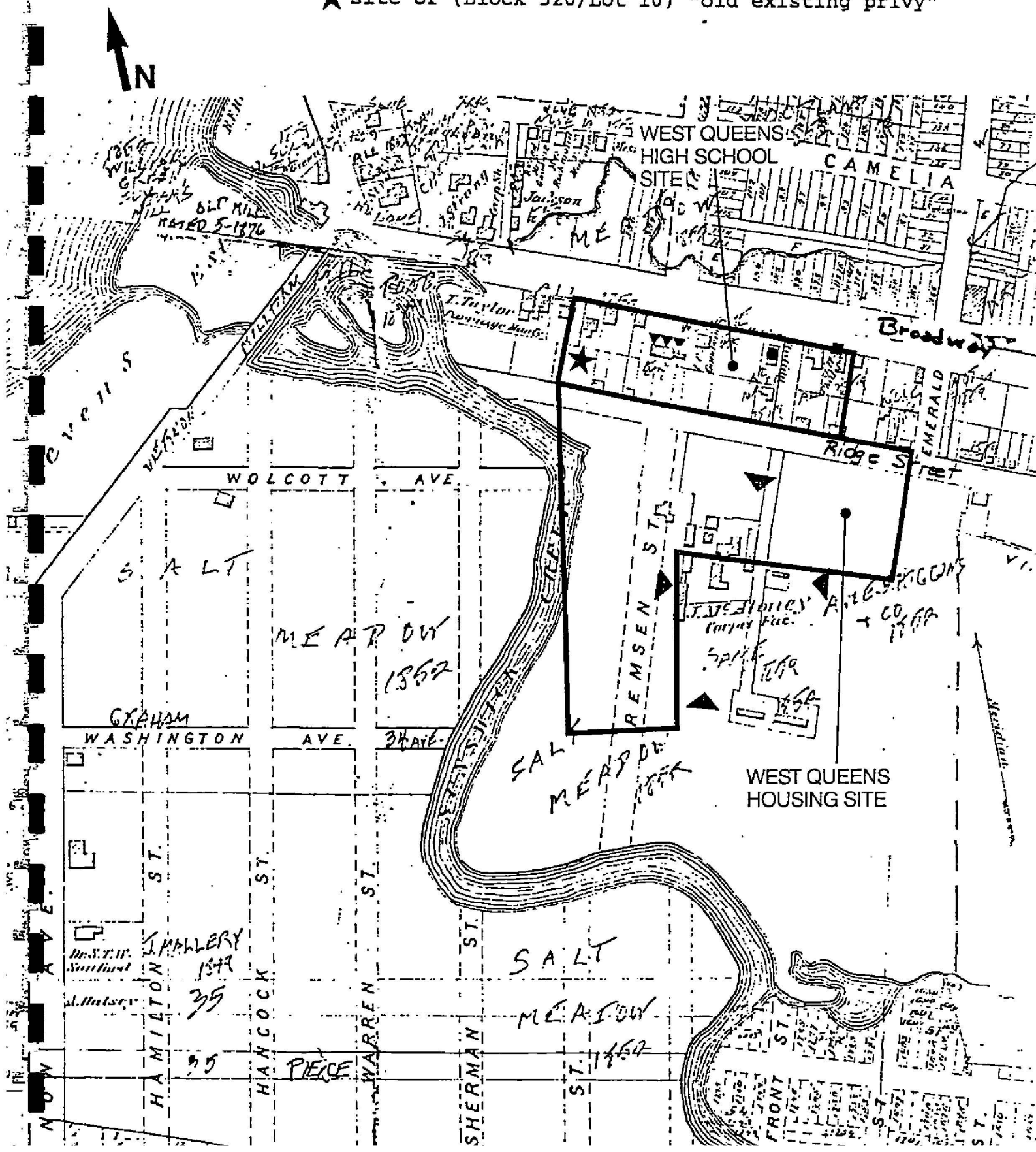


Figure 16

Photocopy of the 1903 E. Belcher Hyde
Atlas of the Borough of Queens
Supplied by Vincent Seyfried

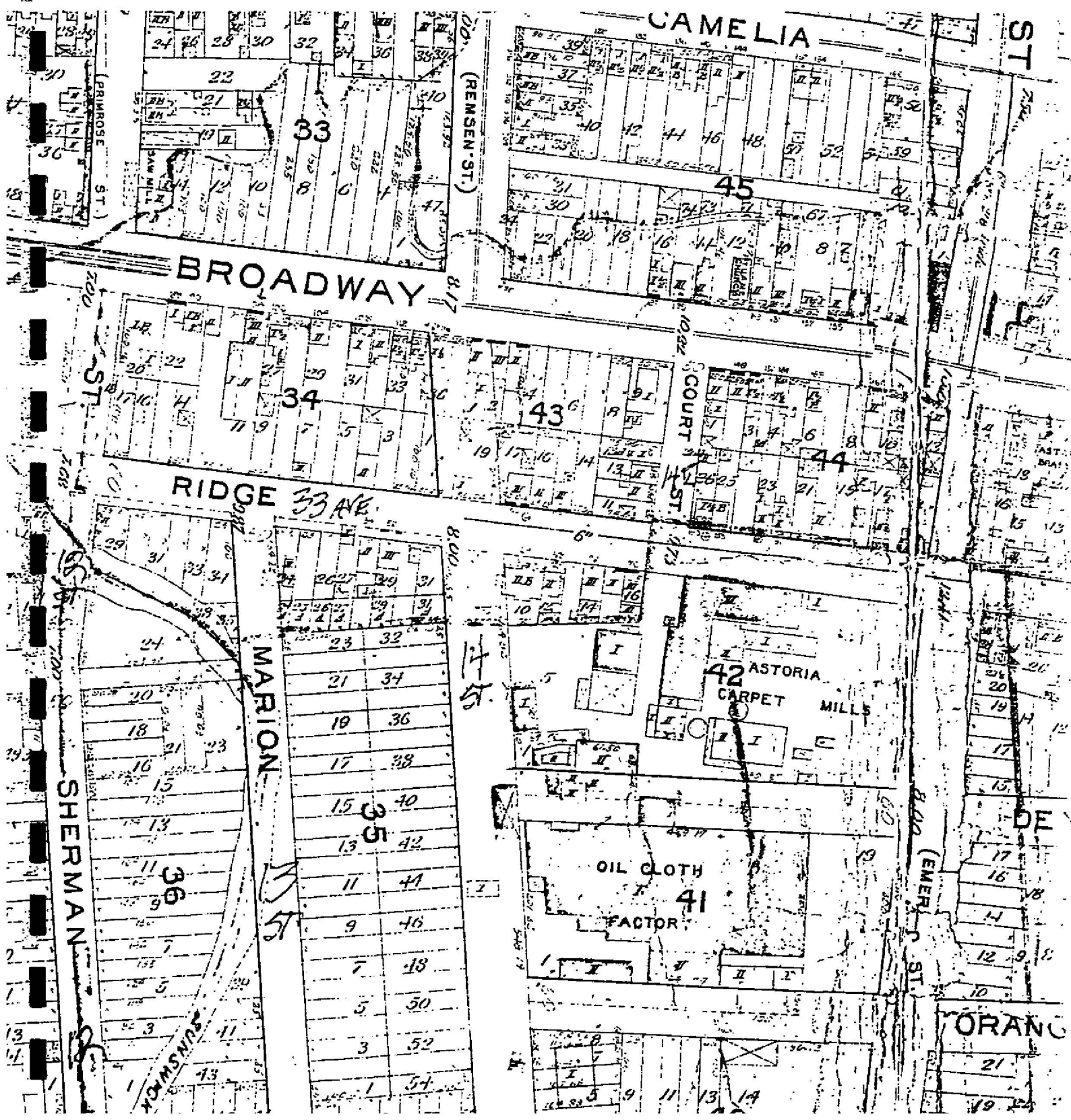
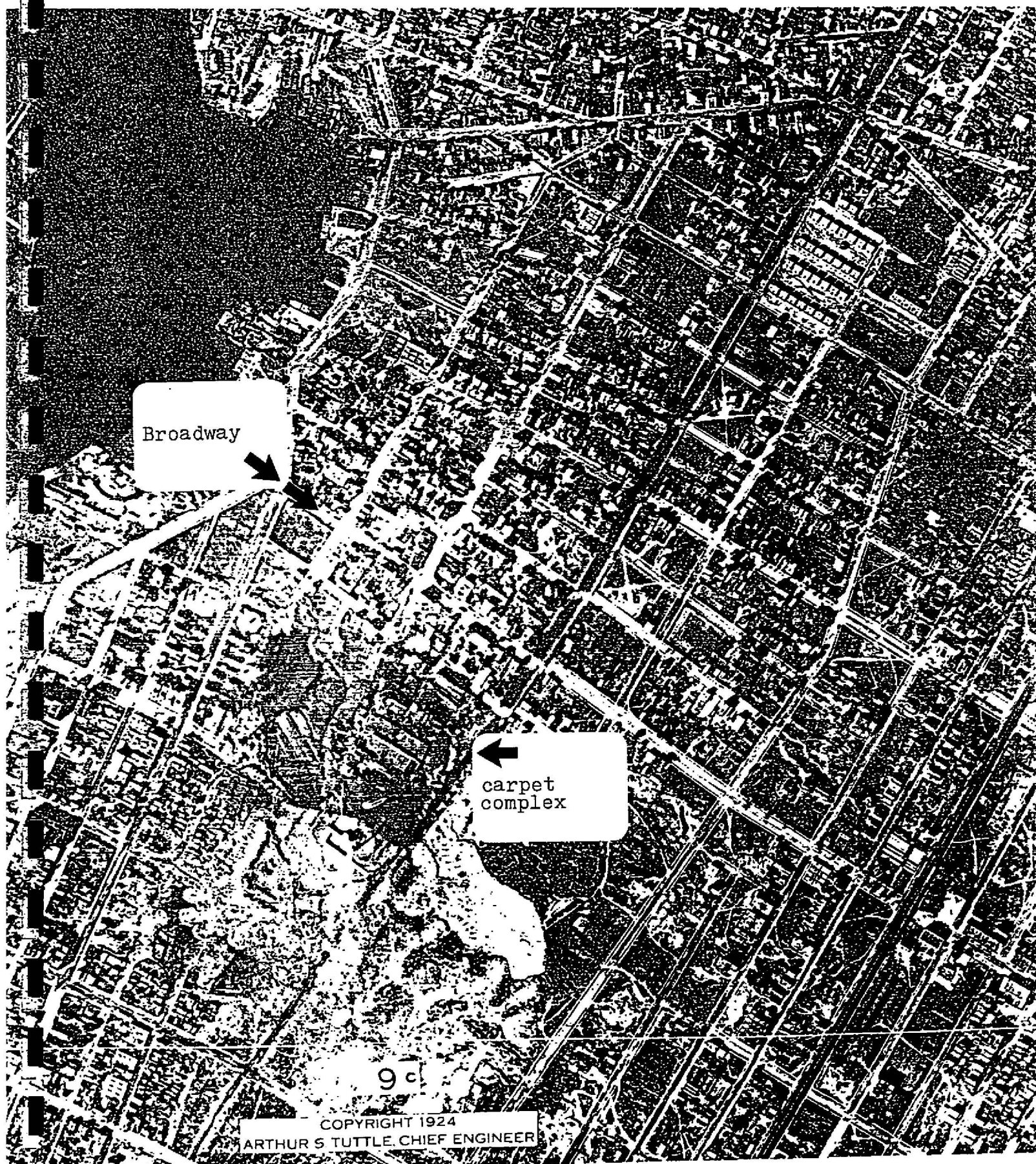


Figure 17

Photocopy of 1924 Aerial Photograph
Courtesy of the Queens Borough Public Library,
Long Island Division

The route of Broadway is indicated, as is the carpet complex
on Blocks 528 and 527.

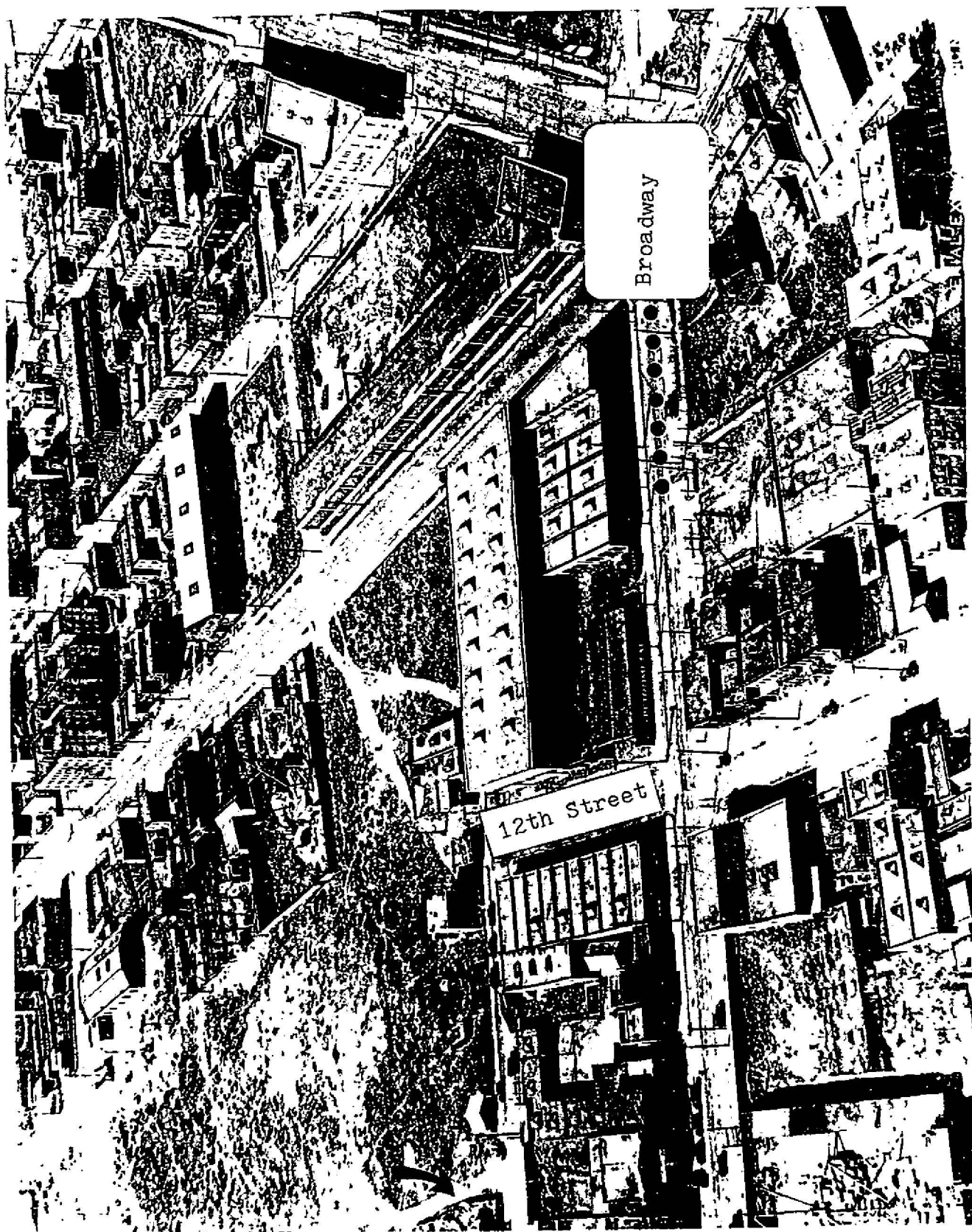


Aerial Photograph, 1935

Copied from the Queens Borough Public Library,
Long Island Division

Photographic Files: Long Island City/Misc.

The arrow indicates only the very small portion of the West
Queens Housing Site (Block 521) that is visible.
Broadway is indicated, as is 12th Street.



West Queens Housing Site—Boring Survey (1969)

- Existing basements in 1968
- Documented basements and/or other subsurface disturbances (e.g., underground tanks and drainage systems)
- Buildings constructed without basements
- Approximate route of "old Ridge Road"

