GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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NEW YORK REGIONAL LABORATORY
JAMAICA, QUEENS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
TOPIC INTENSIVE RESEARCH

York College Site

Prepared

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I. INTRODUCTION

The General Services Administration (GSA) has proposed the construction of a modern facility to house the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (U.S.F.D.A.) New York Regional Laboratory. The projected location, in the Jamaica section of Queens County, is Block 10099, Lots 80 and 102; Block 10116, Lot 9; and the former Catharine Street/Evans Road roadbed which formerly divided these two parcels (see Fig. 1). The site is bounded by Liberty Avenue, 158th Street, Pedestrian Way (the demapped former 159th Street) and by Prospect Cemetery on the north. Lot 52 on Block 10099, which contains a 1973 York College building, is not included in the project site.

Presently the proposed study site, owned by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, is used for parking by York College of the City University of New York.

A Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Report was completed in January 1996 to determine the presence, type, extent and significance of any cultural resources which may still be present on the proposed U.S.F.D.A. New York Regional Laboratory site (Kearns, Kirkorian and Schaefer 1996). Based on archival research, this report assesses the probability that the proposed parcel has hosted any buried prehistoric or historical cultural resources, and the likelihood that they may have survived the post-depositional disturbances which have accompanied subsequent site development.

The Phase 1A report concluded that two areas of the project site were potentially sensitive for both prehistoric and historical era resources and merited further research. These areas were labelled 1 and 2 on the "Map of Potential Archaeological Sensitivity" (see Fig. 2). This conclusion was based on cartographic evidence which indicated the possibility of prehistoric occupation and definite historical occupation pre-dating 1782 (Area 1), and 1842 (Area 2), and that these areas experienced minimal or no subsequent construction disturbance.

The New York State Preservation Office and the City of New York Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) have agreed with the study's conclusions, and accordingly have recommended the preparation of this topic intensive research report for 18th- and 19th-century resources and a field testing scope addressing archaeological resources for LPC review. The purpose of this scope of work is to establish the level of effort, research issues and potential significance of identified historical resources. The discussion below pertains only to those areas that were identified as sensitive in the Phase 1A report.
II. METHODOLOGY

The utility of the documentary record for providing a greater understanding of the archaeological record and for the reconstruction of past lifeways, culture history and process, has been well established. The wealth of documentary material available from sites in urban settings, combined with archaeologically recovered data, can, with critical analysis, result in a much fuller picture of the past than either one of these sources can provide alone.

The focus of this topic intensive study is the 18th- and 19th-century occupants of the U.S.F.D.A. Regional Laboratory Site. This study concentrates on the examination of documentary data pertaining to the c.1782-1890 homelots and their associated residents identified in the Phase 1A Report (Kearns, Kirkorian and Schaefer 1996). In addition to residential use, one of the lots (old Lot 101) served as a schoolhouse during the years 1836-1854, and old Lot 80 hosted a Roman Catholic convent and school beginning in 1878, and until well into the 20th century. These lots are shown on Figure 3.

Several categories of documentary data were examined for this study. These were census records, land records and cartographic information. Unfortunately, for Queens County, since it was not part of New York City until 1898, real estate tax records are not available before 1899. Town directories for Jamaica date only from the second half of the 19th century. Documentary data was collected at the following institutions: the New York Public Library (Map, Rare Manuscripts and Local History and Genealogy Divisions), Queens Borough Public Library - Long Island Division, Office of the City Register (Queens), the National Archives (Northeast Region), the Queens Topographical Bureau and the archives of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. In addition, a number of people familiar with local history and research materials were contacted in the course of this study, including archaeologist Gaynell Stone, local historians Vincent Seyfried, Stanley Cogan and Dan Donohue, and also Cate Ludlam, president of the Prospect Cemetery Association, and Mary Anne Mrozinski, the director of King Manor.

Census Records

Census information, examined at the Queens Borough Public Library - Long Island Division and the National Archives (Northeast Region) in Manhattan, was expected to reveal household membership, age, sex, place of birth and occupation. Each Federal decennial census was examined for the period 1790-1880. When available, indexes were used to search for known last names which appeared on maps and in land ownership records. The earliest censuses were not as detailed as their later successors. Until 1860, only the head
of household was listed; all members were listed as numbers within a certain age range, making it difficult to distinguish between family members, boarders and servants; occupations, if given, are mentioned in broad categories such as "trade and manufacture." Appendix A contains the information retrieved from Federal Census records.

Land Ownership Records

Grantor/Grantee registers and deed libers were examined at the Office of the City Register in Jamaica, Queens. These records were studied to date more closely the division and ownership of the lots, and in conjunction with map, census and local municipal records, to help determine whether the owners or tenants actually occupied the lots. A typical deed names the two parties involved in the land transaction and includes a description of property size and boundaries. The date of sale is listed, as well as the date of recording, which can range to a day to a number of years apart. Although sometimes deeds also include small maps or descriptions of the lot, including property layout and the number of existing buildings, this did not occur for the project site lots.

Maps

Cartographic data collected for the Phase 1A Report at the Map Division of the New York Public Library and the Long Island Division of the Queens Borough Public Library was reexamined for information concerning land ownership, occupation, changing lot division, usage and the disposition of structures. Since there was a 60-year gap between the 1782 Taylor Map and the 1842 Johnson Map (Figures 4, 5), for which no maps of sufficient detail had been located, additional maps were sought at the Queens Topographical Bureau (Stewart 1797) and Rare Manuscripts Division of the New York Public Library (Bridges and Poppleton 1813). Unfortunately, neither of these maps has added to our knowledge of land use and occupancy on the project site.

Miscellaneous Sources

A search in indexed town and village records (Historical 1938; Jamaica Records 1939) and newspaper advertisements (Onderdonk 1865) was made for references to the names of owners/occupants established through the abovementioned deed and census research. The card index for "History Map" folders2 at the Queens

1This map could not be located, but was later provided by Dan Donohue.

2Although these folders sometimes refer to historical maps, they do not actually contain maps!
Topographical Bureau, was also examined for information about the early residents. With the help of archivist Joseph Coen, the records of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn were also accessed for additional documentary, cartographic and iconographic data relevant to the study lots, of which former Lot 80 was owned and occupied by the rector of St. Monica’s Roman Catholic Church, and later by the church school and convent. The most valuable evidence found there was an insurance policy taken out by the rector of St. Monica’s c.1871, shortly after old Lot 80 (the Simonson homestead) was purchased by the church. This policy describes the various buildings standing on the lot at the time (see Appendix B)
III. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Jamaica Village was officially established in 1656, when a group of English settlers from present Hempstead in Nassau County received permission to settle in the area from Dutch Director-General Peter Stuyvesant. Although Stuyvesant named the new town Rustdorp, meaning peaceful village in Dutch, the settlers preferred the name Jamaica, after the Indian name for the Beaver Pond adjacent to the settlement (Brodhead 1853:619; Thompson 1843:96-97).

Each of the original proprietors received a homelot near the settlement, as well as ten acres of planting land and 20 acres of meadow which were more distantly removed (Munsell 1882:193-195). Until well into the 19th century, the sparsely-built village was strung out along present Jamaica Avenue, which originated as a major Indian trail (Grumet 1981:71). (See, for example, Fig. 4) The settlement’s important public buildings and institutions were established there, including the log meeting house and parsonage, c.1662, at the southwestern and southeastern corners of present Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Boulevard, respectively (both about 800 feet northwest of the study site) (Thompson 1843:99,100-101; Herndon 1974:6). Present Prospect Cemetery, which abuts the project site on the north and west had as its nucleus the village burying place, which was established on the parsonage lot before 1668 (Historical XI:46; Landmarks 1977:1).

With the English conquest of New Netherland in 1664, the village became the judicial and legislative seat of the region. A larger court and meeting house was completed adjacent to the old building in 1667, and the Presbyterian majority built a stone church at Jamaica Avenue and Union Hall Street in 1699 (Thompson 1843 II:105,115). This building became a bone of a decades-long controversy between the state-supported Church of England and the town-supported Presbyterian church, finally decided in favor of the Presbyterians. As a result, Grace Episcopal Church erected its first sanctuary at the northwest corner of Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Boulevard in 1734 (about 800 northwest of the project site). The whole scandal seems to have prompted Jamaica’s Dutch settlers to separate from the Presbyterians and form their own church in 1702. Their first building was erected in c.1715 on the south side of Jamaica Avenue, opposite 153rd Street, also about 800 feet northwest of the project site (Thompson 1843:116,124n; Ross 1903:552,558; Herndon 1974:7,8).

As the only major settlement in present southern Queens County, Jamaica became an important transportation hub, sitting astride the roads to Hempstead, Flushing, Jamaica Bay and Rockaway, and Brooklyn and New York City. Farmers from the surrounding region passed through the village on the way to markets in Brooklyn and New York, and on their return spent money in Jamaica’s shops, inns and taverns. The village was occupied by the British from
1776 to 1783, and although soldiers and officers supported the local economy, food and firewood shortages meant the confiscation of livestock, and the destruction of buildings and fences.

At the end of the occupation, Jamaica underwent a new phase of construction to replace all the razed buildings and took on a new, more sophisticated aspect. Forward-looking Queens residents raised funds by subscription and established the Union Hall Academy for young men in 1792, and female academy in 1817 (building on Union Hall Street, south of Jamaica Avenue).

During the early 1800s, Jamaica attracted many wealthy residents from New York, who established country estates in the village, most notably Rufus King, one of New York's first senators, and a signer of the Constitution. The King property was purchased in 1805, and the present mansion, now a city landmark and museum, still stands on the north side of Jamaica Avenue, approximately 1,200 feet northwest of the project site (Herndon 1974:17,19-21).

Through the 19th century, Jamaica's links with Brooklyn and New York were gradually improved. Jamaica Avenue was rebuilt and privately operated by the Brooklyn, Jamaica and Flatbush Turnpike Company, in c.1809, and the road was later extended to Hempstead and Jericho. The first trains reached Jamaica in 1833, and the line became part of the Long Island Rail Road beginning in 1836. The main depot was built on the north side of Beaver Street, about 300 feet northwest of the study site (Thompson 1843:134; Ross 1903:285).

By 1836 Jamaica was a town of 140 dwellings, four inns, seven stores, two publishing offices publishing weekly journals, the county clerk and surrogate's office, two physicians, three lawyers, two schools (mentioned above) and three handsome new church buildings with belfries (Episcopal, Presbyterian and Dutch Reformed).

The Beaver Pond, to the southwest of the study site, separated from it only by present 158th Street, was used for hunting, fishing and recreation. Circa 1750, its perimeter was a famous racecourse, and the southeast side of the pond was known as the Green, the local militia mustering and training ground, and also a place of execution (Thompson 1843:134; Munsell 1882:233). By the mid-19th century, perceptions of the pond had changed, and it was considered a source of the "Beaver Pond Ague" and a "Mill Stone" around the village's neck (Records 1941:46). Although reduced in size, it was sold to Isaac Remsen and used commercially as an ice pond until it was completely eliminated in 1906 (Historical 1938 IX:103; Seyfried and Asadorian 1991:pl.42).

The expansion of Jamaica's population also encouraged the expansion of the old village burying place, as people purchased land adjacent to the cemetery and laid it out for family plots.
Isaac Simonson, one of the owners and residents of the project site, bought a large tract of land along present 158th Street immediately west of the project site, subdivided it, and sold burial plots for a profit. (Note "Burial Lots of Issac Simonson" on Figure 5) This land became the western arm of the cemetery (Landmarks 1977:2).

With increasing numbers of Irish immigrants providing laborers for area farms, a sizeable Roman Catholic population had developed during the 1830s, and Jamaica’s first Roman Catholic mass was held at the home of a local blacksmith in 1838. Following a campaign to raise money to establish a congregation in Jamaica, a small frame building was built across Prospect Street (159th Street) from Prospect Cemetery, about 400 feet northeast of the project site. St. Monica’s Church, the second Roman Catholic church on Long Island, received its own resident pastor, Fr. John McGinnis in 1848, and began to establish mission congregations of its own in other towns.

Perhaps the longest and most influential of St. Monica’s pastors was Fr. Anthony Farley, who held the pastorate there from 1854 to 1890. Farley initiated the construction of a new brick church near the original frame building. Completed in 1857, some accounts suggest that Farley designed the handsome Romanesque Revival edifice, but he probably only supervised construction. The building was designated a city landmark in 1979 (Landmarks 1979:1-2). Farley also purchased the old Simonson homestead in the project site, which he apparently occupied as a rectory, and established St. Monica’s School and Convent on the property by 1878 (Munsell 1883:229; Historical 1938:48).

With transportation improvements by the 1890s, particularly the replacement of the horsecar lines with trolleys in 1887, and the consolidation of Queens County with New York City, commuters began to dominate the population. Agriculture declined, as large estates were broken up and groups of single-family suburban residences were constructed. Sections of the old Rufus King estate were sold off in 1887 and 1889 to pay the rising real estate taxes, until Rufus’ granddaughter Cornelia willed the remaining property to New York City in 1896 (Herndon 1974:21).

Development north and south of the Long Island Rail Road tracks took different paths. To the north, large middle class houses and estates still dominated, while to the south, in the project area, smaller lots had a higher concentration of middle and lower class dwellings, as well as industrial structures (Ibid. 30-32).

The construction of small, cheap dwellings, such as the row of six small attached dwellings built by 1891 on the project site, at the intersection of Church (158th) and Catharine Streets, was made possible by the electric trolleys which ran along South and
Washington (160th) Streets, providing convenient and cheap transportation for the less affluent. Project site neighbors by 1891 include a coal and wood yard, a gas works, as well as the tracks of the south shore line of the Long Island Rail Road, running immediately west of 158th Street (see Fig. 9).
IV. HOMELOT HISTORIES

According to the conclusions reached in the Phase 1A report, parts of three former homelots were included in the areas of potential archaeological sensitivity (Figure 2). The sensitive zone occupies only a small portion of the project site. With the introduction of modern utilities by 1891, the occupants of these project site lots no longer required some of the back lot outbuildings and below-ground water management systems (e.g. privies, wells, cisterns). One of the goals of this report is to identify the occupants of the three project site homelots, (two of which, Lots 101 and 102, predate the earliest detailed map of the project site - 1782), and to present a detailed history of the properties' uses through the end of the study period, c.1891.

Project site lot boundaries have changed slightly through time, and the reader should refer to Figure 3 for correct locations. The School House Lot, old Lot 101; and the Hamlett Lot, old Lot 102; are now combined as Lot 102. The Simonson Lot, or old Lot 80 is part of present Lot 80. However, because these lots were combined under the same owner/resident until the 1830s they will first be discussed as a whole, until their ownership/usage diverges. (See Appendix C for Ownership History in chart form.)

The earliest document located which can be used to infer residential occupation of these lots, is the 1782 Taylor Map (Figure 4), which shows two buildings along present 158th Street, one each in old Lots 101 and 102 (Area 1 on sensitivity map, Figure 2). The unbuilt sections of these lots, and part of old Lot 80 (along 158th Street) are depicted as an orchard. The remainder of old Lot 80 (including Area 2 - sensitivity map), is shown as unimproved land.

The earliest deed located that refers to this area records the 1833 sale of old Lots 80, 101 and 102. The grantor was the estate of the late Joseph Tuthill (sometimes spelled Tuttle), and the purchaser Isaac Simonson, whose name appears on the 1842 map. The property, sold for $950, was "enclosed in a fence containing six acres of land" (Liber DD, p.468, 1 May 1833, recorded 18 May 1833). No deed, or grantee entry could be found by which Tuthill acquired the area, which suggests that he might have inherited the property, rather than purchased it.

This hypothesis is supported by the fact that the Tuthill family was already present in Jamaica by the end of the 18th century. Information from a folder in the Queens Topographical Bureau, reports that Joseph's brother James and father Daniel resided in Jamaica in 1813, and that Joseph Tuthill lived on the eastern shore of the Beaver Pond. Sister Sarah Tuthill was married to Samuel Denton, a descendant of one of the original town proprietors (Queens Topographical Bureau, History Map No. 1866). Daniel Tuthill's wife Sarah, who died 7 May, 1780 (presumably
Joseph’s mother) is buried in Prospect Cemetery (Frost 1910:25,30). Daniel Tuthill’s name appears often in the Jamaica Town Records, as an overseer of the poor in 1783, and pound master from 1798 until 1820 (Jamaica Records 1939: 193, 215, 254). The pound was a fenced enclosure for stray or escaped livestock, established near the northwest shore of the Beaver Pond, only about 500 feet southwest of the 1782 buildings (See Figs. 4, 5).

Because the early censuses only record the name of the head of household, Joseph Tuthill’s name first appears in Jamaica only in 1800, although his father is listed as a Jamaica resident in 1790 (Heads of Families 1908). Joseph Tuthill was born in 1772 or 1773. In 1800, at the age of 27, he was head of a household of five, three white males and two white females (two males, ages 16 to <26, one male 26 to <45, one female 10 to <16 and one female 16 to <26). The eldest male and female are Tuthill and his wife, Amelia, born in 1774. The two males between 16 and <26 may be relatives or unrelated laborers/servants.

Tuthill appears in all the subsequent censuses, up to 1830, and dies in 1832, at the age of 59\frac{1}{2} (Frost 1910:25,30). The size of the household varies during the period 1800-1830. In 1800 there were five members; by 1810 eight members (four males and four females), including two girls under the age of ten; by 1820 seven (four males and three females), including two boys under age ten; four in 1830 (two males, two females). (See Appendix A)

Tuthill’s occupation is not clear. The 1820 census records two household members engaged in manufacturing, and none in agriculture. He is mentioned in the minutes of the Jamaica Town Meeting in 1801 as one of the nine overseers of highways for the town (Jamaica Records 1939:219).

He apparently decided to sell his project site property before 1 January 1827, when this advertisement appeared in the Long Island Farmer:

Joseph Tuthill offers for sale his house and seven acres of land, east side of Beaver Pond. It has a fine spring and is very suitable for a tanner and currier, there being none in the vicinity (Onderdonk 1865:111).

It is apparently based on this advertisement, and not on some

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3Tuthill, who died in 1832, is buried in Prospect Cemetery. His headstone lists his age as 59 years, 6 months and 23 days (Frost 1910:25,30).

4Amelia Tuthill, also buried in Prospect Cemetery, died 16 February 1838, aged 63 years, 6 months and 6 days (Frost 1910:25,30).
unknown map, that other sources report that the Joseph Tuthill house was standing on the east side of Beaver Pond in 1827 (Historical 1938 XI:103).

After Tuthill’s death, the property was sold to Isaac Simonson in 1833, as mentioned above. Wife Amelia is not mentioned in the deed, and lives another five years, until 1838 (Frost 1910:25,30). It was Simonson who split the property into three lots, selling old Lot 101 to John Hamlett in 1835 (Liber 1800 p.336) and old Lot 102 to the Jamaica School District in 1836 (Liber MM p.253). He retained old Lot 80, where he had his new residence. From the 1830s on the lots will be discussed separately.

Old Lot 101

This lot, at the northwestern corner of the study site (Area 1), was the location of one of the two structures shown on the 1782 map. It is not clear which of the two buildings was the Joseph Tuthill dwelling, and what the function of the second building was. After Isaac Simonson purchased the entire Joseph Tuthill property, on 1 May 1833, he and his wife Mary sold old Lot 101 to John Hamlett (or Hamlet) in 1835. The lot, 50 feet wide at front and rear, and extending to the burying ground from "the highway leading along the east end of the Beaver Pond" was sold for $400. (Liber 1800, p.336, 2 May 1835, recorded 22 March 1912).

John Hamlet first appears in Jamaica in the 1840 census where he is the head of a household of 8, six white males and two white females (five males between the ages of 20 and <30, one between 40 and <50; one female between 10 and <15, one between 40 and <50). From the age ranges, and the fact that Hamlet does not appear in the 1850 census, he was probably the oldest male. Five members of the household are recorded as being in manufacturing and trade, but no specific occupation is provided by the 1840 census. (See Appendix A) Hamlet’s name appears on the property on the 1842 map, but by the 1859 Walling map, the property owner is listed as James Callagan, in whose name it appears from 1859 to 1891 (Walling 1859).

Callagan is certainly a misspelling of the name Colgan, the married name of a "Mary Hemlet" whose heirs sold the lot in 1912 (Liber 1802 p.454). Although no James Colgan was located in the 1850 census, Mary Colgan was listed as head of household in 1860, a 35-year-old female, born in England. She had no listed occupation, and lived with four children, John, 18; Catherine, 14; Joseph, 9; and Mary E. Roots or Reats, 4. All of the children had been born in New York state, but were not attending school.

This Mary Colgan is the only candidate to be Mary Hamlet Colgan. Born in England c.1825, her father John Hamlet could have come to the United States and purchased old Lot 101 in 1835,
bequeathing it to his daughter sometime in the late 1840s, when she was in her early 20s and married to James Colgan.

The 1870 census records only two children from the 1860 household. Catharine Colgan, 24, is listed as "Keeping House," while Joseph, 19, worked as a fireman on the railroad. Presumably this refers to the Long Island Rail Road, for which the Jamaica depot is only about 250 feet northwest of the subject parcel (see Fig. 9). What happened to Mary Colgan and the two other children is unclear. However, the remaining Colgans seem to have taken in borders, also connected to the railroad: Edward Conners, 25, a New York born locomotive engineer; 33-year-old John Bunhan, also a locomotive engineer, born in Maine; his wife Delia, 28; and daughters Mary, 6 and Emma J., 4; all born in Rhode Island.

Although James Callagan is still listed as the property owner on the 1891 map (Fig. 9), neither James, Joseph or Catherine Colgan was recorded in Jamaica in the 1880 census.

However, from the property ownership records, we know that old Lot 101 remained in the Hamlet/Colgan family, for the next conveyance did not occur until 1912, when the heirs of "Mary Colgan nee Mary Hemlet," sold the lot to Charles Wachtel (Liber 1802 p.454, 3 April 1912, record 4 April 1912). The heirs are obviously three of the minors from the 1860 census listing, "Joseph and Mary A. Colgan, his wife, Catharine Colgan and Mary E. Gibbons."

Lot 102

This lot, near the northwestern corner of the study site (Area 1), was the location of one of the two structures shown on the 1782 map. It is not clear which of the two buildings was the Joseph Tuthill dwelling, and what the function of the second building was. After Isaac Simonson purchased the entire Joseph Tuthill property, on 1 May 1833, he and his wife Mary sold old Lot 101 to the Trustees of the School District No. 5 of Jamaica for $190 in 1836. Thirty-seven feet wide throughout, the lot extended from the road along the east end of the Beaver Pond 197 feet 4 inches along John Hamlet’s property on the north (old Lot 101), and 177 feet along Isaac Simonson’s property to the south (old Lot 80), and bounded on the fourth side by the burying ground (Liber MM p.253, 15 March, 1836, recorded 17 March 1836).

The structure on the property was converted to the District No. 5 schoolhouse, and served as a school for approximately 18 years, until the Jamaica Board of Education sold the lot back to Isaac Simonson for $450 in 1854 (Liber 121 p. 172, 11 July 1854, recorded 20 July 1854). The school building appears on the 1842 map, with a Mr. Abel as schoolmaster (see Fig. 5), and the institution is also mentioned on the same line as the Isaac Simonson household on the 1840 census, as a grammar school with 60
Old Lot 102 came to be called the "School House Lot" in subsequent deeds, and remained in the Simonson family until 1886. The 1873 and 1876 maps label the property A. Simonson, of which only one candidate exists, an Abigail A. Simonson, listed in the 1860 census, when she was living in the household of her mother Mary (widow of Isaac Simonson) on old Lot 80 (see Figs. 7, 8). Born in New York, at age 18 Abigail was no longer in school, although her younger sisters were, suggesting that she had received some form of education. If it is she living on old Lot 102, Abigail would have been in her mid 30s. Abigail was not found in the 1870 or 1880 censuses, possibly because she had married.

The property was conveyed to Winifred Nolan in 1886 for $505 by Mary Simonson’s executors, Isaac Simonson (II?) and Jacob A. S. Simonson. There is no mention of an A. Simonson in the transaction (Liber 618 p.205, 14 June, 1886). The lot is labelled "Mrs. Nolan," in 1891, a title usually reserved for widows.

Old Lot 80

With Isaac Simonson’s purchase of the Tuttle property in 1833, the selling of old Lot 101 to John Hamlet in 1835, and old Lot 102 to for the district school from 1836-1854, the Simonson homelot was reduced to old Lot 80, as it appears on the 1842 map (see Fig. 5). Old Lot 80 included none of the buildings from the 1782 map, and presumably the house and two outbuildings that appear there were erected by Simonson. It is the two outbuildings which are included in Area 1. Since Simonson first appears in Jamaica in the 1830 census, and therefore was already living in Jamaica before he purchased the Tuthill property, he and his family may have occupied Tuthill’s old house, or remained in their other dwelling until the new residence on old Lot 80 was complete. The three structures must have been built between 1833 and 1842. A carpenter, Simonson certainly had the skills and contacts to oversee or participate in the construction.

Although Simonson’s name appears alone on the 1833 property deed, the sales of the other two lots include the name of Mary Simonson, his wife. They appear in the 1830 census (predating their purchase of the project site) between the ages of 20 and <30 with two boys under five years. Following their occupation of the project site, the household expanded substantially, the 1840 census listing a household of nine (six white males, three white females), with Mary and Isaac between 30 and <40 years of age. Since all the additional members are under ten years old, they are most likely offspring born after the 1830 census. (See Appendix A)

Although Isaac Simonson does not appear in the 1850 census, the presence of an 8-year-old son, Benjamin, in 1860 indicates that he died sometime between 1852 and January 1854, when Mary Simonson...
I alone sold the Simonson homelot (old Lot 80) to John B. Lott. She bought the property back in 1861. The reason for this sale is not made clear in the deed, although in the 1861 repurchase, the Simonson homelot is referred to as the property "whereon the party of the second part [Mary Simonson] resides," suggesting that Mary Simonson continued to occupy the Simonson homestead during the period of Lott’s ownership (Liber 208 p.405, 27 July 1861, recorded 14 November 1863).

Mary Simonson appears as head of household in the 1860 census. A New York native, she is 50 years old, with no occupation and a personal estate of $100. Living with her are five daughters and a son, all born in New York: Sarah J., 22; Abigail A., 18; Catharine L., 16; Mary Ellen, 13; Prudence A., 11; and Benjamin B., 8. Only the two eldest daughters are not attending school. With the five sons and two additional daughters from the 1840 census, Isaac and Mary Simonson would have had a total of 13 children (6 sons and 7 daughters).

Between 1861 and 1871 Mary Simonson died, and in 1871 the executors of her estate sold the Simonson homelot (old Lot 80) to Anthony Farley for $8,200 (Liber 349, p.251 and 254, 27 May 1871, recorded 17 June 1871). Shortly after the sale of the property (c.1871), the new owner had the existing buildings on the lot insured for $4,000, including the homestead described as a "2 story, basement and Extension Frame Dwelling House" for $3,000; another described as a "1½ Story Frame Building," insured for $500; "Frame Sheds" for $200; and "Frame Barn" for $300. (See Appendix B) As can be seen on the 1868 and 1876 maps (Figures 6, 8), the two buildings within Area 2 are the 1½-story "building" which has its shorter side along the cemetery lot line, and the barn, which lies farther east. Only one structure remains to fall into the category of frame sheds, but since these sheds were "adjoining" the dwelling, the probably fell outside the area of sensitivity. From their location, they probably included privy enclosures.

The new owner, Fr. Anthony Farley was the pastor (1854-1890) of St. Monica’s Roman Catholic Church which had been founded in 1838 on present 160th Street. Farley was born in County Cavan, Ireland in 1814, and was brought to America at the age of 6. He studied at Lafayette College in Montreal, and received his religious training at the College and Seminary of St. Vincent de Paul, in Jefferson County, New York. Beginning his pastorate at St. Monica’s at the age of 40, Farley became an important community leader, and was a good friend of the ex-governor and Jamaica resident, John Alsop King. (Landmarks 1979:1-2; Historical 1938:XI 47,48-49). The 1870 census (the year before the purchase of the Simonson property) shows him, age 56, living with Maria Eberly, his housekeeper, who was also born in Ireland but unlike Farley was not an American citizen. Farley’s name could not be found in the 1880 census.
Although a number of buildings in the vicinity of the project parcel are labelled "Rev. A. Farley" in 1873, the 1891 Wolverton map indicates that the Simonson house is Farley’s rectory (Farley had died the previous year). (See Fig. 9) During the 1870s he had a two-story wooden school building erected. It was originally two large rooms, but later subdivided into four classrooms. In 1878 he secured the Sisters of St. Vincent (from Mt. St. Vincent on the Hudson) as staff for the school. Sister Mary Felix became the first sister servant or superior of St. Monica’s Convent and first principal of the school. She had the assistance of Sisters Marietta, Mary Angela and de Sales. Their installation ceremony was held in the Simonson house.

A new three-story convent was built on the Simonson lot sometime between 1897 and 1901, to "replace the old farm house," suggesting that the Simonson house also served as a residence for the sisters (Sanborn 1897; St. Monica’s 1938:n.p.; Historical 1938 XI:48; Landmarks 1979:2), and the Simonson house was removed to another location along Catharine Street (outside the project site) between c.1901 and 1911 (see Figs. 10, 11). The two outbuildings associated with the Simonson house since before 1842, appear for the last time on the 1891 map, while the house was employed as a rectory/convent.
V. RESEARCH TOPICS

Once water service was provided by the municipal authorities by c.1891, privies, wells and cisterns, no longer required for their original purposes, would be quickly filled with refuse and abandoned, providing valuable time capsules of stratified deposits for the modern archaeologist. These shaft features frequently provide the best domestic remains recovered on sites, including animal bone, seeds, glass, metal, stone, ceramics, and sometimes leather, cloth, wood and even paper. By analyzing such artifacts, archaeologists can learn much about the diet, activities and customs of the former inhabitants, and attempt to combine this "consumer choice" data with what the documentary record tells us about their ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, environment, etc.

> Consumer Choice

Examinations of artifacts as indicators of socioeconomic status or ethnicity is an area of inquiry that has long been applied in archaeological research. However, in historical archaeology, where documentary records provide an additional source of data, such issues have become a standard practice and research goal. Many factors have been seen to influence consumer choice, and over the last decade, historical archaeologists, using both the archaeological and documentary record, have sought to go beyond mere comparisons of relative wealth and poverty, to examine the factors that initiate consumer choice. In Consumer Choice in Historical Archaeology, Suzanne Spencer-Wood has collected studies of consumer behavior in a variety of settings. For example, in their study of 19th-century households in Wilmington, Delaware, Charles LeeDecker et al., linked consumer behavior with household income strategy, composition and developmental stage (LeeDecker et al. 1987:235-240), and LuAnn De Cunzo’s study of 19th-century privy deposits from Paterson, New Jersey viewed consumer behavior as an adaptive strategy in a changing environment - an area undergoing urbanization and industrialization. Documentary and archaeological evidence from Paterson suggest that households of unlike socioeconomic status displayed different settlement patterns as well as varying income and consumption strategies (De Cunzo 1987:290-291).

In light of the abovementioned studies, and considering the somewhat fragmentary documentary record of the project site homelots as discussed in the previous section, two related lines of inquiry have been chosen for further investigation. Firstly, socioeconomic status based on occupation and household composition, and secondly consumer behavior (which is strongly influenced by socioeconomic status) as it reflects adaptation to the development of Jamaica, which grew from a remote agricultural village in the 18th century to an urban/suburban transportation hub in the late 19th century.
> Socioeconomic Status

The study performed by LeeDecker et al. has indicated that the examination of the head of household’s occupation alone has limited utility in reliably determining socioeconomic status, since a number of other factors - household composition, size, developmental stage/family life cycle, income strategy as well as external forces influence consumer behavior (LeeDecker et al. 1987:236-237). Census record research on the lots of the GSA-FDA project site has provided information on household size, age, occupation, the number of working household members, the presence/absence of borders and ethnic background. Deed research has contributed data on property ownership. Therefore, archaeological evidence from these homelots may provide information on how socioeconomic status has influenced consumer choice behavior.

For example the Simonson homelot (old Lot 80) represents an domestic occupation by the same family for approximately 38 years (1833-1871). This family also went through several developmental stages, beginning with an apparently prosperous and populous nuclear family of 7 children in 1840. In 1860, after the death of carpenter Isaac Simonson, his widow Mary was left with 6 children (5 of which were born since the time of the 1840 census), yet seemed to be well provided for, carrying on numerous real estate transactions in her own name. In contrast to the Hamlet/Colgan family, no borders were taken in, and the resident children attended school. Cultural material from this household would be expected to reveal the Simonson’s higher socioeconomic status, and since the death of Isaac Simonson may have reduced family income, the Simonson household may provide evidence of more subtle adaptive economic strategies.

> Jamaica Community Development

The longterm domestic occupation of the project lots (since before 1782) suggests the feasibility of examining the changing conditions experienced during the gradual urbanization of the Village of Jamaica, and its effect on cultural attitudes, as manifested in settlement and consumption patterns. As DeCunzo noted, these are adaptive strategies, also influenced by socioeconomic status (DeCunzo 1987:291).

For example, changing environmental conditions caused by community development also affect foodways, and are observable in the archaeological record. Wild fauna begin to disappear as their environments are altered, they are overhunted or are forced to compete with introduced domestic animals. As a result, the

Stages such as childless couple, nuclear family, "empty nest," widow (LeeDecker et al. 1987:236-237).
representation of wild animals is generally higher in rural versus urban assemblages (Landon 1996:7). Will such changes be observable in the Jamaica assemblages?

Although none of the project site occupants has been identified as a farmer, the homelots with their various sheds and barns could easily have been used for raising small livestock, vegetables and fruit, as supplements to both income and diet. It has already been noted that an orchard was depicted on the Tuthill property in 1782. Foragers such as pigs and poultry, were ideally suited even to urban conditions, and in the days before regular street cleaning, benefitted the community by removing garbage from the streets. The existence of "The Pound" near the Beaver Pond suggests that wandering livestock was a daily problem in Jamaica until at least the 1850s. Archaeologist Leslie Stewart-Abernathy notes that lots such as those on the project site were employed as "urban farmsteads" until municipal restrictions caused their extinction at the end of the 19th century (Stewart-Abernathy 1986:12-13). If the residents of the study site were raising some of their own animals, the analysis of the faunal remains may be able to distinguish between amateur and professional butchering, reflecting Jamaica’s urbanization through its increasing reliance on non-local meat sources.

Another factor of Jamaica’s development which would be reflected in the archaeological record is the increased variety of consumer goods available with community growth and improving transportation links to the cities of Brooklyn and New York. Working with 18th-century material, Sherene Baugher and Robert Venables have examined hypotheses concerning market access by comparing ceramics from sites in Manhattan, Staten Island and upstate New York, finding a great similarity in high-status tablewares in city versus rural settings, while locally-made utilitarian wares varied between regions. This suggests that geographic location was not a factor in consumer choice during the 18th century (Baugher and Venables 1987:43-47). Does this hypothesis hold true for Jamaica during this period, and into the 19th century?

Diana diZerega Wall, in her book, The Archaeology of Gender, relates trends in the separation of home and workplace in New York City during the period 1790-1840, to the ritualization of family meals, and the its expression in the types and decoration of archaeologically-recovered ceramics from middle class households of varying economic and social status (Wall 1994). Would a similar pattern of change be observable in Jamaica domestic remains during this same period, and if so, does it represent the same cultural processes in rural Jamaica as in urban New York?
School House Remains

Given the high probability of buried cultural resources relating to the presence of schools on two of the study lots (Jamaica District No. 5 School on old Lot 102, 1836-1854; St. Monica's School on old Lot 80, beginning in 1878) the archaeological visibility and research potential of schools and schoolyard sites must be addressed.

Archaeological data excavated from schoolyard sites has included architectural artifacts, ceramics and school equipment (slate boards, slate pencils, pen nibs, inkwells and toys). Field reports indicate that material was excavated from inside and outside the structure foundations, around school yards and from privies. These features yielded low artifact counts, but this is perhaps due to the methods of excavation employed (test units as opposed to block excavation), or that only small amounts of cultural material were ever brought onto the schoolyard site. In the case of privies, particularly relevant to the present project site, three of the studies report at least one cleaning of the outhouse vaults (Kearns and Kirkorian 1988:1-2, 8-11).

Many of the schoolyard studies also used the archaeological data recovered to address hypotheses about settlement theory, community, early capitalism, socioeconomic status and gender-differentiated activities, suggesting possible research questions which could be applied to possible surviving cultural resources from the GSA-FDA Laboratory site.
VI. CONCLUSIONS

The Phase 1A report identified two small areas of potential archaeological sensitivity, Area 1 and Area 2 on Figure 2 (Kearns, Kirkorian and Schaefer 1996). Area 1 consists of parts of old Lots 101 and 102, while Area 2 is a narrow strip within old (and present) Lot 80 running along the project site side of the Prospect Cemetery lot line. The following discussions are brief summaries as well as evaluations of the archaeological research potential and significance of each area of sensitivity.

Area 1

The two homelots in Area 1 (old Lots 101 and 102, Figure 3), were occupied continuously from at least the end of the 18th century through the advent of municipal services in the end of the 19th century, and should provide much-needed information concerning Jamaica’s growth and development, through archaeological data on consumer choice patterning and socioeconomic status. They should also supply a body of comparative data for future researchers.

Tuthill Homestead

The Tuthill homelot was centered on both old Lots 101 and 102 (although it actually included old Lots 80, 101 and 102), and represents a greater than 30 year occupation (c.1800-1833), by a single family unit. Although the residents before this date have not been positively identified, cartographic evidence indicates domestic occupation of this homelot before 1782, and artifacts from these periods could provide a rich overview of early Jamaica’s development through the consumption habits of its early inhabitants. Given the site’s location near the center of the historic village, buried material may extend back to the 17th century, the period of Jamaica’s first settlement.

Hamlet/Colgan Homestead (Old Lot 101)

After it was vacated by the Tuthills, old Lot 101 became the Hamlet/Colgan house lot, in their ownership from 1835 to c.1901. This household went through several family developmental stages, resulting in changing status and precipitating various economic strategies, which may be reflected in the archaeological record. Beginning in 1840 with what appears to be a nuclear family headed by John Hamlet, with 5 adult males engaged in manufacturing and trade; succeeded by his single daughter Mary Colgan with four children and no visible means of support by 1860; and finally her daughter Catherine Colgan keeping house for her brother, a railroad fireman, and five borders in 1870.
Schoolhouse Lot (Old Lot 102)

Following the Tuthill occupation, old Lot 102 hosted the 60-student district school from 1836 to 1854. After 1854 it was property of the Simonson family, and appears to have been occupied by a member of that family until 1886. It is possible that a narrow stratum associated with the schoolhouse might be recovered.

Area 2

Although part of the Tuthill property, there is no evidence that old Lot 80 hosted a residence or outbuildings until it was purchased by Isaac Simonson in 1833, and Simonson constructed his residence, barn, sheds and other structures there. The Simonson homelot represents domestic occupation by the same family for approximately 38 years (1833-1871).

Following the Simonsons, old Lot 80 was occupied from 1871 until the introduction of municipal utilities, by Fr. Anthony Farley, as St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church rectory, and following 1878 by a group of four nuns and St. Monica's school.

However, Area 2 is quite narrow (approximately 10 feet) and does not encompass the entire Simonson homelot, nor its successor school and convent. Although two identified outbuildings relating to the pre-1842 Simonson homestead (a barn and a 1½ story Building), once stood in Area 2, they are considered to have low potential for recovery of artifacts relating to the lot occupants. Shaft features, such as privies, wells and cisterns would have been located much closer to the dwelling, and privies were probably what the insurance policy referred to as "Frame sheds adjoining [the dwelling]." (See Appendix B) Therefore, Area 2 is not considered eligible for further archaeological investigation for historical period cultural remains.

Conclusions

The expected archaeological deposits from the historical era in what were the back lots of a small portion of the present project site in Area 1 will help to expand the body of data relating to Jamaica's development, and may provide information linking community growth, consumer choice and household adaptations with socioeconomic status. The longterm domestic use of sections of the project site, dating to before 1782, and the extended occupation by members of the same families, suggests that any intact shaft features recovered archaeologically will yield information on the individuals researched for this report.

This data is sorely lacking at present. Of three other excavations conducted in the vicinity of the project site during the 1970s and 1980s, only one has recovered artifacts predating the
mid-19th century. This excavation, on the site of the present Social Security Administration building, about 400 feet north of the project site, recovered a number of artifacts dating to the last decades of the 18th century in only one unit, but the deposit was believed to be "displaced refuse" (Klein et al. 1983:145-146; Rockman, Dublin and Friedlander 1982:28). Of two excavations that have been carried out at King Manor, in 1990 and 1991, only the 1991 investigation by Joel Grossman and Associates recovered "minimally disturbed" material dating from the mid-18th to the mid-19th century, relating to Christopher Smith and Rufus King, both residents of very high socioeconomic status (Mary Anne Mrozinski, personal communication with Richard Schaefer, 4-11-96).
VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Area 1

Avoidance of Area 1 is recommended for project designers. The avoidance alternative would mean that Area 1 would continue to be utilized as a parking lot, or at least that no construction involving subsurface excavation or disturbance would occur there, including regrading.

Consideration should also be given to possible adverse impact from compaction if the area is utilized for stockpiling or by heavy equipment during the construction process. An asphalt layer of at least 6 inches forms a rather rigid protective pad and serves as excellent compaction protection. It is recommended that a simple manual sampling of the parking lot cover could reveal an asphalt pad of sufficient thickness and compaction concerns would be eliminated. However, if the existing thickness of the parking lot cover is not sufficient, there are several methods of creating a protective mantle. This could consist of a layer of fill, wooden planks, a raised platform, or increasing the asphalt thickness to 6 inches (New York State DOT standards as of 1988).

If avoidance is not possible, then it is recommended that machine-aided subsurface testing be performed in Area 1, in order to locate the possible foundations of the pre-1782 structures, as well as any 18th- and 19th-century shaft features associated with these buildings. If the features have survived, then hand excavation to determine the nature and extent of the existing deposits should be performed.

Although this report has focused on the historical component of the project area, from c.1782-c.1891, the project site can also be investigated for the presence of prehistoric remains, for which the Phase 1A report concluded that Sensitivity Area 1 was sensitive. The potential sensitivity for Native American resources was also noted by LPC. Therefore, if avoidance is not possible, it is recommended that during the course of archaeological testing of the lot areas listed above, they also should be examined for any possible prehistoric remains.
Area 2

Area 2, at the northern edge of the project parcel, is an elevated 10 foot wide strip running above the existing parking lot and along the border of the landmarked Prospect Cemetery (Figure 2). Although Area 2 (in old Lot 80) is not considered sensitive for further archaeological investigation of the historical period, it is still considered sensitive for buried remains from the prehistoric period. However, avoidance of construction disturbance rather than archaeological testing is strongly recommended. This could be accomplished by adding 5 feet to the 10 foot strip to form a 15 foot buffer zone to protect any possible surviving cultural resources in the both the project site and the adjoining cemetery.

The hillock which constitutes Area 2 towers as much as 20 feet above the parking lot. It may be subject to erosion that might be exacerbated by construction activities. Before construction begins on other sections of the subject lots, this slope should be stabilized and a sturdy, fixed barrier placed on the project site parallel to the cemetery lot line. This barrier would establish a buffer zone which would effectively avoid impact in Area 2 and protect the cemetery from accidental intrusion.
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St. Monica

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Map of Potential Archaeological Sensitivity

KEY
Scale: 60 feet to 1 inch
D = dwelling  OFF = office  OB = outbuilding
1782 = building from 1782 map
1842 = building from 1842 map
--- = historical homestead boundaries
--- = zones of deep subsurface disturbance
   (gas holder, pipes, compressor, York bldg.)
   (Regrading areas not included)
--- = zones of subsurface disturbance surrounding
   R.C. School and Convent

Areas of potential archaeological
   sensitivity (Areas 1 and 2):
OLD LOT 101

OLD LOT 102

OLD LOT 80

158TH STREET

THIS AREA ADDED TO CURRENT LOT 80

EVANS ROAD

CEMETERY BLOCK 10099

(159TH STREET) PEDESTRIAN WAY

NOT IN PROJECT SITE

BLOCK 10116

SCALE IN FEET

Figure 3
Taylor, 1782: Map of the Pass, at Jamaica Long Island

**Figure 4**
Figure 5

Johnson, 1842: Map of the Village of Jamaica

--- Project Site
Figure 6

Conklin, 1868: Map of the Village of Jamaica

Project Site
Figure 7

Beers, 1873: Atlas of Long Island

--- Project Site
Dripps, 1876: Map of the Village of Jamaica

***** Project Site
Figure 9

Wolverton, 1891: Atlas of Queens County

--- Project Site
Figure 10
Sanborn, Borough of Queens, 1901
--- Project Site
APPENDIX A - CENSUS DATA

OLD LOTS 80, 101 AND 102

Joseph Tuthill Household

1800

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1810

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1820

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2 members in manufacture and trades

1830

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OLD LOT 101

John Hamlet Household

1840

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</table>

5 members engaged in manufacture and trades

1860

Mary Colgan Household (daughter of John Hamlet)

Mary Colgan, 35, born in England
John, 18, born in NY
Catherine, 14, born in NY
Joseph, 9, born in NY
Mary E. Roots (sp.?), 4, born in NY
No children in school

1870
Catherine Colgan Household (daughter of Mary Colgan)

Catherine Colgan, 24, Keeps House, born NY, parents foreign born
Joseph, 19, Fireman on railroad, born NY, "
Edward Conners, 25, Locomotive eng., born NY, citizen (over 21)
John Bunhan, 33, Locomotive eng., born Maine, citizen
Delia, 28, no occupation, born R.I.
Mary, 6, born R.I.
Emma I., 4, born R.I.

Old Lot 80

Isaac Simonson Household

1830 (In Jamaica, but not on project site until 1833)

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1840

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One member in manufacture and trade

Mary Simonson Household

1860
Mary Simonson, 35 no occ., no real estate listed, personal estate $100, born NY.
Sarah J., 22 no occ., born NY
Abigail A., 18 no occ., born NY
Catherine L., 16 at school, born NY
Mary Ellen, 13 at school, born NY
Prudence A., 11 at school, born NY
Benjamin B., 8 at school, born NY
INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY,
113 BROADWAY, N. Y.

CASH CAPITAL, $500,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS, - 1,353,398.17

ISSUED TO

Anthony Farley

on Buildings
in Jamaica, L.I.

Agent, J. A. D. Simmons
563 Fulton St.

$1,000. Premium, $29.50

Policy.

$29.50

Edition of June, 1873.
By this Policy of Insurance, the International Insurance Company, of New York City, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

In consideration of Twenty-nine dollars.

Issued to Anthony Farley of Jamaica L.I. against Loss or

To the Amount of Four Thousand dollars.

$300. On his 2 story, basement and extension frame dwelling house, part twi and Shingle roof, in Jamaica L.I. and known as the Simonson Homestead.

$150. On his 1 1/2 story frame building situated about 1/2 feet North Eastly from

$120. On his frame sheds adjoining

$80. On his frame barn situated about 125 feet Eastly from above described dwelling house

due on 1/2 of loss if any now payable to Thomas Lanneau, mortgagee.

July 9, 1872. Rate increased to 100. 300 1/2 feet additional charge $26. 00

[Signature]
## APPENDIX C

**U.S.F.D.A. New York Regional Laboratory Site**

**OWNERSHIP HISTORY**

### Old Lots 80; 101 and 102

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<td></td>
<td>Simonson;</td>
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<td>Josephine Garman</td>
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OWNERSHIP HISTORY (Continued)

Old Lot 102

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<th>Grantee</th>
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<td>Isaac and Mary Simonson</td>
<td>Trustees of School District #5 of Jamaica</td>
<td>3-15-1836</td>
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