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# **GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

# PHASE 1A ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

for the

# U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

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Prepared by EDWARDS AND KELCEY, INC.

York College site

In association with: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

January 30, 1996

N-CEGr 106-Q

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# I. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

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.

One concern of this study is the proximity of the proposed site to Prospect Cemetery, which was established in the late 17th century, and received city landmark status in 1977. A major research task of this report was to define clearly the shifting boundaries of the cemetery through time, and to determine whether any part of the study lot may have been included within these boundaries. An additional concern is proposed construction impact on cemetery resources adjacent to, but not within the project lot.

The purpose of this "Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment Report," is to determine the presence, type, extent and significance of any cultural resources which may be present on the proposed U.S.F.D.A. New York Regional Laboratory site. It is based on archival research which documents 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 development.

In order to address these concerns, various sources of data were examined. Primary source material on the project site was collected to determine the study lot's original topography, and to compile a building history and disturbance record. Historical maps and descriptions of the study area were sought at the Long Island Collection of the Queens Borough Public Library, the Local History and Map Divisions of the New York Public Library, as well as the topographical section of the Queens Borough President's Office.

Unfortunately, building department files for the project site have been either lost or destroyed. Building histories of the individual lots were compiled based on historical maps alone. These can be found at the end of the Historical Period chapter, section IV. No boring logs were available at the Subsurface Exploration Section of the City of New York's Division of Public Structures.

William Ritchie's *The Archaeology of New York State* provided a valuable overview of Native American culture and lifeways during the prehistoric period. Works concerning Native American exploitation of the resources of Coastal New York written by Reginald P. Bolton, Arthur C. Parker and Robert S. Grumet were researched as well. Available site reports and journal publications were sought for data specific to the project area. (See Rockman et al. 1982). Inquiries concerning inventoried prehistoric and historical sites were sent to the New York State Museum and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. (See Appendix)

To place the proposed laboratory site within an historical context, local and regional histories were examined for pertinent material. Particularly helpful was Joseph L. Herndon's "The History of the Development of Jamaica, NY," prepared by a member of Columbia University's Graduate Program for Restoration and

Preservation of Historic Architecture, which provided an insightful overview of Jamaica's economic development.

Although no subsurface investigations were conducted, a site visit and examination of current conditions was made (12-21-95). (See Photos 1-9)

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# **II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Long Island is the top of a Coastal Plain ridge formation that is covered with glacial drift, in reality an elevated sea bottom demonstrating low topographic relief and extensive marshy tracts. In the last million years, as glaciers advanced and receded three times, the surficial geology of the island, including the proposed F.D.A. Regional Laboratory site, was profoundly altered. "The glacier was an effective agent of erosion, altering the landscape wherever it passed. Tons of soil and stone were carried forward, carving and planing the land surface. At the margins of the ice sheet massive accumulations of glacial debris were deposited, forming a series of low hills or terminal moraines" (Eisenberg 1978:19).

Circa 18,000 years ago, the last ice sheet reached its southern limit, creating the Harbor Hill moraine that traverses the length of Long Island. The moraine is clearly visible on current and historical topographic maps. (See Fig. 2) Before extensive alteration of the landscape during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a gently sloping plain extended south of the moraine to the ridge of sand hills forming the Queens mainland. Separating this ridge and the barrier beach known as the Rockaway Peninsula, was a wide expanse of tidal marsh drained into Jamaica Bay by numerous small creeks and their tributaries.

The subject parcel lies in the moderately sloping area near the foot of the moraine's southern slopes, as can be seen clearly on the current U.S.G.S. topographic map, which shows an increasingly steep grade beginning approximately 2,600 feet north of the project area, north of the aptly-named Hillside Avenue. (See Fig. 2)

In order to determine whether modern development and regrading has strongly altered the topography of the project lot, thereby impacting any buried cultural resources, the following discussion will compare historical and current topographic maps. Observations made during a site inspection conducted on 12-21-95 will also be included.

The highly-detailed "Final Maps of the Borough of Queens," based on surveys completed in 1910, show the site sloping downward as one proceeds toward the southwest. The highest site elevation is between 50 and 55 feet above sea level in the study parcel's northeastern section, near Prospect Cemetery, the existing York College building, and along 159th Street, and declines to between 25 and 30 feet along 158th Street (Final Maps 1918:128,129).

South of the project boundaries, elevations continue to decline as one approaches Jamaica Bay, about 4 miles to the south. Approximately 60 feet southwest of the study lots lay the Beaver or Ice Pond (See Fig. 5) which was not filled in until 1906.

The current USGS topographic map, shows similar contours and elevations. The project site still slopes downward toward the southwest, with the highest parts of the site at the northeastern sections of the parcel. The elevations range from above the 50-foot contour line, sloping down to between 30 and 35 feet along 158th Street. Much of this discrepancy is due to the higher datum point (+2.725 feet) used in the "Final Maps" (Final Maps 1918: 128, 129).

The current topographic map records little change from the Final Maps, but does not represent the most recent regrading and building episodes that have taken place on the project site. Since the USGS map was last updated (printed 1966, photorevised 1979), construction on York College campus has radically altered the topography of the study lots. This was observed during the field visit, which will be described in the following paragraphs. For points of reference, see Figure 18, which is a composite of all historical maps, and shows the locations of all known structures built on the project lot.

- need inver lopo survey of site

The southern and eastern section of the project lot (On Fig. 18 the area dominated by the "Gas Holder"), instead of sloping gradually to 158th Street, is now a level parking lot, at the approximate level of the street. The two-story York College building stands outside the study lots, on the former 159th Street frontage. Within the project lot, only a ten-foot-wide strip running parallel to the project lot/cemetery border appears to retain its original elevation. This strip, and the cemetery to its north, are perched 20 feet above the parking lot. Deciduous trees growing on the strip appear to predate the regrading episode. South of the elevated strip, the hill descends steeply to the parking area.

The small northwestern arm of the subject lot (Fig. 18, north of "Compressor House," between the cemetery and 158th Street), also part of the parking lot, shows more of the pre-grading contours than the rest of the study parcel. Along the 158th Street frontage, this area is level with the street, and is three to four feet higher than the adjacent cemetery land to the north, a clear indication that fill has been added here and to the adjacent 158th Street roadbed.

As one proceeds northeastward from 158th Street, parallel with the border of the cemetery, the cemetery ground level begins to rise, and project site elevations remain constant, until the project site and cemetery elevations are approximately equal. This occurs about 130 feet northeast of 158th Street. Moving further northeast along the cemetery border, cemetery elevations continue to rise, until one reaches the north/south running cemetery wall. Here, although partially concealed by the stone cemetery wall, which also acts as a retaining wall, the cemetery ground surface is only 10 feet above the ground surface of the subject lot.

This northwestern arm of the project lot is also more elevated than the rest of the project site to the south. The difference in elevations ranges from three to four feet at 158th Street, to approximately 10 feet at the north/south cemetery boundary. The slope dividing these two areas of the parking lot is unpaved, and planted with conifers of at least ten-years growth.

The effect of regrading on potential buried cultural resources will be discussed in the Conclusions section of this report.

# III. PREHISTORIC PERIOD

The prehistoric era on the south shore of western Long Island can be divided into three time periods, based on prehistoric man's adaptations to changing environmental conditions. These are generally known as the Paleo-Indian (c.12,000 to c.10,000 years ago), the Archaic (c.10,000 to c. 2,700 years ago) and the Woodland (c.2,700 to c.400 years ago). In order to be able to assess the project site's potential for prehistoric exploitation, it is first necessary to review briefly these time periods and their associated settlement patterns.

# Paleo-Indian Period (c.12,000 y.a. - 10,000 y.a.)

Prehistoric man arrived in the New World some time before 12,000 years ago. These early Americans, who we call Paleo-Indians, migrated from Siberia across the Bering Land Bridge to Alaska during the Late Pleistocene or Ice Age. They undoubtedly came down from Alaska during the Two Creeks Interstadial around 10,000 B.C., when an ice-free corridor opened between two massive glaciers that covered present Canada. During this period, the Indians relied heavily on large pleistocene herbivores for food, namely mammoth, mastodon, caribou and musk ox. These Indians were hunters and gatherers, nomadic people who roamed widely in search of food, and their settlement pattern consisted of small temporary camps. The diagnostic artifact of the Paleo-Indian Period is the fluted projectile point. However, these people made other sophisticated tools as well, including gravers, steep-edge scrapers, knives, drills and other unifacial tools.

# Archaic Period (c. 10,000 to 2,700 years ago)

The cultures of the Archaic Period are considered to be human adaptations to the changed environmental conditions of the warm and dry hypersithermal interval, during which temperatures are believed to have been considerably warmer than at present. The spruce and pine forest dwindled further, and mixed hardwoods oak, hickory, chestnut, beech, and elm - became dominant. This essentially modern, open, oak woodland pattern provided ample food for mast-eaters such as white-tailed deer, turkey, moose, beaver and even black bear, and thus the hardwood forest provided a greater carrying capacity for hunters and gatherers (Ritchie 1980:32). During the Early and Middle Archaic, saltwater fish and shellfish apparently did not play an important dietary role. Although oysters were abundant on the South Atlantic Shelf by 12,000 years ago, they did not become a dietary staple until the Late Archaic. This is mainly because during the early and middle stages the coastal areas were relatively barren environments, providing little aside from oysters. Artifacts recovered from Middle Archaic shell heaps indicate that these sites were temporary processing stations. Larger base camps, indicating a semi-sedentary lifestyle, were generally inland, near freshwater bogs and lakes, which were far more hospitable, providing fresh water, fish, waterfowl, and attracting deer and other game animals (Lavin 1988:103-104). Archaic man was still highly mobile, but within well-defined territorial limits, moving between seasonally exploitable lacustrine and riverine food resources. Although there was little storable surplus, meat and fish could be dried or smoked, and plant foods such as acorns, chestnuts, beech nuts, and various seeds could be saved. Bark-lined and roofed storage pits for this purpose have been found in up-state New York.

The Archaic tool kit reflects this greater reliance upon seeds and nuts, with grinding tools such as mortars and pestles represented; bone fishhooks and notched pebble netsinkers for fishing; woodworking tools such as adzes, celts, axes and scrapers, as well as many general purpose tools.

The warmer and drier conditions during the thermal maximum, occurring after 7,500 years BP, and definitely by 5,000 to 2,000 BP, caused the shrinkage of interior lakes and streams, and resulted in the crowding of

Archaic peoples at the larger and therefore more reliable water and food sources. The population pressure and resource competition thus caused is reflected in the increased incidence of burial ceremonialism during the Late and Terminal Archaic.

At the end of this warm period, between 4,000 and 3,000 years ago, cooler temperatures slowed the melting of the polar ice cap, substantially reducing the rate of sea level rise. This enabled silt deposits to build up along coasts and at the mouths of rivers and streams, such as those draining into Jamaica Bay, which in turn developed into salt marshes. Established salt grasses such as *Spartina* sp. trapped more silt, building up the marsh to the high tide level, providing ideal environments for clam beds and scallops (Lavin 1988:106). Such salt marshes are incredibly rich in plant and animal life, providing food and breeding grounds for numerous species of fish, shellfish, birds, amphibians and mammals. As elevations rise toward the uplands, and salinity decreases further inland, different econiches are represented, often presenting a year round selection of exploitable plant and animal resources within close proximity to one another (Lavin 1988:108). During the Late and Terminal Archaic, coastal sites and the exploitation of shellfish resources were more heavily represented. Archaic period shell middens excavated in the Hudson Valley indicate that oysters were processed on site, but the meat was taken elsewhere for consumption or exchange. Other types of sites represented include rockshelters and open woodland camps (Schaper 1993:32).

The earliest known pottery type made its appearance during the Terminal Archaic (2,750 years BP), which enabled Archaic people to cook longer and more evenly the grains and plants now being gathered from the marshes (Lavin 1988:110). Many Early and Middle Archaic coastal sites have been flooded due to the general stabilization of the sea level since that time. Many Late Archaic coastal sites have also met the same fate. For example, 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 dry ground that ranges from only two to seven feet above mean high water (Wyatt 1982:71). At Shelter Island, Suffolk County, a small Late Archaic special purpose camp, probably for tool making and food processing, lies near tidal wetlands, and at its highest elevation is only five feet above mean high water (although its lowest points indicate a rise in water level since its occupation) (Witek 1988:21, 28).

#### Woodland Period (c.2,700 to 500 years ago)

By the beginning of the Woodland period, the climate had stabilized, becoming much as it is today. The trend toward increased exploitation of coastal resources which had begun at the end of the Archaic intensified, with site size and frequency rising until large semi-sedentary settlements appear in the Late Woodland. There are also indications that inland sites declined in number (Lavin 1988:106, 108, 110). The number and size of sites and artifact diversity indicate longer occupations and the increased use of non-local lithic materials. The regionalization of ceramic styles suggests an growing territoriality.

By the late Middle Woodland, the disappearance of mortuary ceremonialism points to an increasingly successful adaptation to the environment. The largest sites of the Late Woodland, generally located on the coast or the intertidal zone near estuary heads, often contain evidence of structures, and are recognized as villages by some archaeologists. People of Woodland times preferred the same sites as those of the Late Archaic in order to exploit both salt and fresh water marsh environments (Lavin 1988:106, 108, 110). The sites are described as well-drained locations on bays and tidal streams close to sources of marine shellfish, with shell heaps or middens covering areas of up to three acres or "situated on tidal streams or coves" (Ritchie 1980:266, 269). Nearly all of the permanent sites are on tidal streams and bays on the second rise of ground above the water (Smith 1950:101).

The Woodland tool kit shows some important additions, notably the bow and arrow for hunting, dugout boats and barbed bone/antler harpoons for sea fishing and hunting of sea mammals. Fish runs in rivers provided a stable and reliable resource, and fish weirs were utilized in rivers and major creeks for the capture of large quantities of anadromous<sup>1</sup> fish (Brumbach 1986:35). Cups, bowls and spoons were fashioned of wood and tortoise shell, and the use of pottery for cooking became more widespread. In fact, pottery sherds become the most common artifact found on Woodland large camp and village sites (Ritchie 1980:267-268). Horticulture appeared in certain areas during Middle to Late Woodland times, but very little evidence of its practice has been found in coastal New York. Although coastal Indians were familiar with maize as early as 1150 A.D., it remained a minor source of nutrition, probably since it was unnecessary to supplement their already rich and bountiful diet (Lavin 1988:113).

# European Contact Period (c. 500 to 300 years ago)

Following the earliest known visit of Europeans to the New York City area, the exploration of New York Bay by Giovanni da Verazzano in 1524, descriptions of Native Americans and their settlements were recorded, providing another source of data to buttress archaeological inferences about Indian lifeways in the Contact Period. Daniel Denton, a member of the first group of Jamaica settlers, in his *Description of New York*, published in London in 1670 observed:

They live principally by hunting, fowling and fishing, their *wives* being the husbandmen, to till the land and plant the corn. The meat they live most upon is fish, fowl and venison . . . They build small moveable tents, which they remove two or three times a year, having their principal quarters where they plant their corn; their hunting quarters and their fishing quarters (Thompson 1843:I 80).

The cultivation of maize (which previously was an unnecessary supplement to an already rich diet) and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle became more widespread on Long Island during the Contact Period, probably due to trade relations with the Europeans. Shell bead and wampum production was increased, and furs were collected by Natives for exchange. Although there are many ethnohistorical accounts of trade, there is little archaeological evidence of this in the region (Kraft 1991:213). Shellfish remained an important food source. Isaac Jogues (1862:29), who visited New Netherland in 1633-1634, observed the "great heaps" of oyster shells made by the "savages, who subsist in part by that fishery."

Apparently, the larger villages developed into permanent settlements whose populations expanded and contracted with the availability of various natural food resources, while agriculture provided a storable surplus to maintain a smaller population throughout the year. Part of the population still migrated between food sources, inhabiting smaller seasonal campsites. However, this period of growth was interrupted by epidemics of European diseases against which the Indians had no natural immunity, resulting in decimation of the population. By 1670, Denton reported:

it is to be admired, how strangely they have decreased, by the hand of God, since the English first settling in these parts. For, since my time, where there were six towns, they are now reduced to two small villages (Thompson 1843:1 80).

At this time it is generally believed that western Long Island was inhabited by Munsee-speaking Canarsee and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>I.e., sea fish such as salmon, which swim up rivers to spawn.

Rockaway Indians, members of the Delaware culture group. Due to the enormous stresses of disease and warfare with European settlers, the socio-political situation of Long Island's Native Americans was extremely fluid, with groups splitting and combining in complex ways. The relationship between western Long Island's Indian groups is still open to debate. The Canarsee had their main village in southeastern Kings County, and the Rockaways had their chief settlement somewhere in Far Rockaway, yet they may have been a subgroup of the Canarsee. The last documentary mention of the Canarsee came in 1684, when they had joined with the Rockaway and another group, the Massapequa (Munsell 1882:195; Grumet 1981:5-6,47). Although Edward M. Ruttenber, in his 1906 article, "Indian Geographical Names of the Valley of the Hudson's River," suggested that Jamaica was the name of a local Indian group, there is no evidence of such a group (Grumet 1981:16), and in their defense, although 19th-century local historians tell the "Jameco" Indian group story, they also report doubts as to its validity (Thompson 1843:II 96).

The accepted origin of the name Jamaica, is that it is derived from the Algonkian word for beaver. The earliest spelling, Jamaika, appears in a document from 1655, and the word appears as Jamaick, Jamenico, Jemaico, Jameco etc. during the 17th century. Jamaica referred to a beaver pond in the vicinity of the first European settlement (Grumet 1981:16).

Twentieth-century research conducted by Robert S. Grumet and Reginald Bolton has identified a Native American trail, Mechawanienck, as the precursor of Jamaica Avenue, about 800 feet north of the study site. (See Fig. 4) Bolton translates Mechawanienck as meaning, not surprisingly, "old path or trail." (Grumet 1981:33). The nearest known Indian habitation area is "a village on a creek a mile south of the present village of Jamaica,"<sup>2</sup> (Beauchamp 1980:137; Parker 1920:672; Bolton 1972:148,149). The source for this statement, Benjamin Thompson's *History of Long Island*, reports that the Indians resided "near that part of the bay and the stream, or creek south of the Beaver Pond" (Thompson 1843:II 96). Bolton locates this site adjacent to Baisley Pond Park (Grumet 1981:67,71), which would place the village approximately 1.0 to 1.5 miles southeast of the study area. A second native path branching from Mechawanienck (Jamaica Avenue), which very roughly approximated the path of present 150th Street and Sutphin Boulevard (about 900 feet west of the study site), led to this settlement and continued south to Jamaica Bay (See Fig. 4).

A search through the files of the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation identified two inventoried prehistoric sites within one mile of the subject parcel. These are NYSM #4531 (ACP Quns-8), "village of the 'Jameco Indians,'" which is the settlement near Baisley Pond Park described in the preceding paragraph. The second site is NYSM #4546 (ACP Quns-no#), described as "traces of occupation," generally located about 0.75 to 1.3 miles northeast of the project lots (Parker 1920:672,pl.208). The New York State Museum has rated the project lots as having a "high probability of producing prehistoric archaeological data," based on the indication of recorded sites "in, adjacent to, or in the vicinity of the [project] location and we have reason to believe they could be impacted by the proposed activity." (See Appendix)

As outlined in the prehistoric overview above, an important consideration in the determination of a site's potential for hosting prehistoric cultural remains, is the attractiveness of the subject parcel's environmental resources to prehistoric Americans. These factors include the presence of protected, dry, elevated land, a source of fresh water, and the proximity to a marsh environment, which would have provided a rich source of edible and useful plant and animal species.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>It is not clear whether this mile begins in the center of the village or at its outskirts.

The Beaver Pond, only 60 feet southwest of the project site, would have provided a useful source of fresh water, and the pond and its vicinity an attractive hunting, fishing and foraging ground. During the 18th century a freshwater swamp existed along the banks of the creek draining the Beaver Pond, beginning about 2,000 feet southwest of the study lots. (See Fig. 5) The project site itself would have presented a dry, elevated location. Most of the parcel sloped to the southwest, but in its northeastern edge, it formed a level area contiguous with a similar area within Prospect Cemetery (Final Maps 1918:128,129). Environmental factors suggest that the project parcel would have been highly attractive to exploitation by prehistoric Americans.

Based on this review of historical, archaeological and environmental data, the study site has a high potential for having hosted buried cultural remains from the prehistoric period. Due to the usually shallow nature of such deposits, three to four feet below the pre-development surface, they are extremely vulnerable to the ravages of historical period construction. The impact of 19th- and 20th-century construction and regrading on this prehistoric potential will be discussed in the Conclusions section of this report.

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### IV. HISTORICAL PERIOD

Incorporated in 1656, Jamaica Village was first established by a group of English settlers from Heemstede (Hempstead in present Nassau County), who requested permission from Director-General Peter Stuyvesant to establish a town on Dutch West India Company territory between Heemstede and Amersfoort (Flatlands). Although the Dutch chose the official name, Rustdorp<sup>3</sup> (ROOST-dore-up), meaning restful or peaceful village, the settlers preferred a number of other names, including Canorasset and Crawford, but eventually adopted the name Jamaica, after the Indian name of the beaver pond near the settlement (Brodhead 1853:619; Thompson 1843:96-97). (See Fig. 5)

Jamaica's proprietors purchased property surrounding the village from the local Native Americans in order to strengthen the settlement's title to lands granted by the Dutch authorities and later confirmed by the English colonial governors. Interestingly, the first recorded transaction occurred in 1655 (before official permission to settle was granted), with the payment of "two guns, a coat and a certain quantity off powder & lead," to Casperonn, Adam or Achitterenose, Ruckquakek, Runnasuk, Anmerhas, Caumeuk, Manguaope and Waumetompack. The same property was repurchased in 1662 from Waumitumpack (Waumetompack?), the "Sachem off Rockeway," for a trooper's coat and a kettle. However, instead of the kettle, it is reported that the sachem was satisfied with "8 bottles of licker". Each original proprietor received ten acres of planting land, twenty acres of meadow and a homelot near the settlement. As new residents arrived, land was allotted to "respectable" settlers, admitted by vote at the town meeting (Munsell 1882:193-195).

Among the original 20 village proprietors was Daniel Denton, whose 1670 "Description of New York," quoted in the previous section, provides a valuable description of local Native Americans and their lifeways. At the first town meeting, in 1656, Denton was appointed public secretary/recorder (Thompson 1843:80,97).

Despite the presence of Denton's father, the Rev. Nathaniel Denton, also one of the first proprietors, one of the settlement's early concerns was the calling of a minister. In 1662, the town hired Harvard-educated Zachariah Walker, at £60 (in wheat and corn) per annum, and built a thatched-roof, log meeting house "26 foot square" at the southwestern corner of present Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Boulevard (then Beaver Street), about 800 feet north of the subject site, in c. 1662. The town voted to pay Andrew Messenger and Richard Darling £23 in wheat and corn, to build a parsonage, 26 by 17 feet (Thompson 1843:99,100-101; Herndon 1974:6). The parsonage building fronted on the south side of present Jamaica Avenue on the east side of Parsons Boulevard (approximately 800 feet from the project site) and the parsonage lot extended south along present Beaver Street and 158th Avenue, almost to the shores of Beaver Pond, abutting the subject parcel to the north (See Fig. 5).

Oddly, during the time he was in Jamaica, Walker did not complete his degree, and was therefore not officially

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>A number of historians, probably based on Thompson's early *History of Long Island*, spell the name Rusdorp (Thompson 1843:97; Prudon et al. 1974:2). It is not clear whether this is a 17th-century spelling variation or a 19th-century error. Rus in Dutch means Russian.

admitted to the ministry. This probably contributed to his departure in 1668. On November 5 of the same year, John Wascot was hired to enclose the "burring plas," 10 rods square,<sup>4</sup> which had been established on a section of the parsonage lot (Historical 1938 XI:46; Landmarks 1977:1). Although the date for its founding is often given as c.1662 (Historical 1938 XI:46; Willensky and White 1988:784), the year 1668 marks the first appearance of the present cemetery in historical documents.

The 17th-century village burying ground was the nucleus of today's much larger Prospect Cemetery. Referring to the 1842 Johnson map (See Fig. 6), the original boundaries ran east from the lot labelled "Burial lots of Isaac Simonson."<sup>5</sup> A 1986 addendum to the book of Prospect Cemetery inscriptions, refers to the "OLD BURYING GROUND IN CENTER," an area, part of Cemetery Section 2, surrounded by other, later sections of the cemetery to the southwest, southeast and northeast. A rough map places the early burying ground north of the northern edge of the later Chapel of the Sisters (See Fig. 8). That the old burying ground was in the northerly half of the present cemetery is also supported by the location of an early entrance, a narrow path from Beaver Street, on the opposite side of the cemetery from the study site (Fig. 6, approximately 250 feet north of the study lot) (Landmarks 1977:1-3; Frost et al. 1910).

Jamaica's assumed a new importance as a administrative center following the English conquest of New Netherland in 1664. Governor Nicoll confirmed the town's patent in 1665, and made the village the judicial and legislative seat of the region. The other Long Island towns levied special taxes to build a larger court and meeting house in the village, which was completed adjacent to the original building in 1667.

The Presbyterians, who represented the majority of the population, had previously used the court/meeting house for their religious services, but erected a larger stone building, long known as the "Old Stone Church," in 1699, during the pastorate of John Hubbard (1698-1705). This building, with "a pyramidal roof, and a balcony in the centre, surmounted by a weather-cock of sheet copper," stood in the middle of Jamaica Avenue, in the line of Union Hall Street), until it was torn down in 1814 (Thompson 1843 II:105,115).

The church and parsonage became a bone of contention between the colonial government-supported Church of England, and the village-supported Presbyterian church. During a yellow fever epidemic in 1702, Governor Cornbury and his entourage fied New York City to rural Jamaica, where then-pastor John Hubbard, whose parsonage was the finest house in the village, vacated it in deference to Lord Cornbury. When Cornbury, a zealous promoter of the Church of England, finally left after two to three months, rather than return the house to its owner, he gave it to an Anglican clergyman, and advised him to take possession of the church and parsonage lands, forcing Hubbard to preach to his flock in an adjoining orchard (Thompson 1843:105-107; Historical 1938:XII 129). Cornbury's not illogical conclusion seems to have been that since the buildings had been erected and were maintained by the Crown's taxes (mandatory even for non-Presbyterians), they should be occupied by the Crown's minister.

Although the village's Presbyterian majority attempted to repossess the house and church by force, this was prevented by the Cornbury-controlled civil authorities. However, Jamaicans refused to pay the salary of the

<sup>5</sup> The "Burial lots of Isaac Simonson" were added to the cemetery in 1841 (Landmarks 1977:3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>A rod is 16.5 feet. The Landmarks Commission designation report also records the area as 165 square feet (Landmarks 1977:3), or ten square rods. This would be a small square about 13 by 13 feet. By this interpretation, the "26 foot square" meeting house would be about 5.1 feet to a side. A square 10 rods to a side would have an area of 27,225 square feet.

Anglican minister. The crisis dragged on for decades, waxing and waning depending on the inclinations of the Royal Governors and clergymen involved. By 1708, for example, following the advice of Governor Lovelace, both sects shared the church. However, after 1710, control of the properties passed to the Presbyterians, with the marriage of the daughter of the deceased Rev. William Urquhart (Episcopalian) to a Presbyterian theological student. Urquhart's widow, probably desirous of remaining in the parsonage, turned it over to her son-in-law, and the new Episcopalian minister, Thomas Poyer, was never able to repossess it. Litigation was decided in the Presbyterians favor in 1727, although wrangling continued as late as 1768 (Herndon 1974:8-10; Kamen 1975:222; Munsell 1883:238,239).

These unsettling events seem to have prompted the Dutch Reformed congregation, which had worshipped with the Presbyterians, to organize officially in 1702 - becoming the first Dutch Reformed congregation in Queens County. At first the Dutch, settlers from New York City and Kings County, worshipped in the court house. Later an octagonal church building was completed in 1715 or 1716, on the south side of present Jamaica Avenue opposite 153rd Street (about 800 feet northwest of the project site). Following its eviction, the Episcopal congregation held its services in the courthouse, until the first Grace Church sanctuary was completed at the northwest corner of Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Boulevard in 1734 (Thompson 1843:116,124n; Ross 1903:552,558; Herndon 1974:7,8).

As can be partially discerned from the 1782 Taylor map (Fig. 5), 18th-century Jamaica was a sparsely-built village, near the crossing of the road to Flushing and Rockaway (now Parsons Boulevard and 150th Street/Sutphin Boulevard) and present Jamaica Avenue, which led to Brooklyn and New York on the west and Hempstead on the east. The latter road, widened one hundred feet by c.1703, was the chief route by which the farmers of Queens County's outlying areas brought their crops to market. As they returned home from Brooklyn and New York they passed through Jamaica and spent their money in the village's stores, inns and taverns. Merchants and innkeepers established a "stage wagon" in 1767, which took passengers from Jamaica to Brooklyn three times a week for 2 shillings, or 3 pence a mile for any distance in between. Alexander Hamilton recorded a visit to a Jamaica tavern in 1744, where his party "paid dear for our breakfast which was bread and mouldy cheese, stale beer, and sour cider" (Herndon 1974:10-12,16). The sour cider was likely a local product, from the project lot (Block 10099 Lot 102) where an orchard and two structures stand near the shore of the Beaver Pond (Fig. 5).

The Beaver Pond, which faced the project site to the southwest, across what is now 158th Street, was an area of hunting, fishing and recreation. Horse races were run around its perimeter, for about 50 years beginning c.1750. The course was a mile in circuit, and according to Long Island historian Benjamin Thompson, it was "patronized by colonial governors and other gentry, and where immense sums, and even fortunes have been staked upon a single trial of speed" (Historical 1938:XI 103; Thompson 1843:134). An October 1768 advertisement proclaims, "20 guineas, 3 heats, twice around the cource at Beaver Pond to each heat, all lovers of the turf are truly invited" (Herndon 1974:13). The southeast side of the pond (about 60 feet southwest of the project site) was known as the Green, and was a mustering and training ground for the militia. The Green was the site of another 18th-century spectator sport, when two convicted robbers were hanged there in 1784 (Munsell 1882:233; Onderdonk 1876:9-10).

As an important transportation hub, Jamaica was occupied by the British in 1776 during the Revolutionary War. Soldiers were billeted in most houses, and troops camped in the hills north of the village during the winter. Some soldiers remained as late as 1783, but the occupation had its benefits, since the officers and men supported the local economy, mainly the tavens and inns.

Supporters of the Revolution either fled, were forced to swear loyalty to the Crown, or faced imprisonment. Although the British used the Stone Church as a prison, and the Dutch Church as a commissary, the army's seizure of local resources probably adversely affected a greater part of the population. The confiscation of cattle and sheep caused a food shortage. The great demand for wood for cooking, heating and construction, particularly during the winters, meant that many trees were cut down and fences and buildings stripped. Among other structures, the jail and the old court house were torn down for building materials. After the war the county court moved to Hempstead, because there was no longer any place to meet in Jamaica (Herndon 1974:14-15; Onderdonk 1876:7,8).

On the other hand, the destruction of so many older buildings encouraged a wave of new construction in the decades after the Revolution, which gave Jamaica a more sophisticated aspect, at least compared to the villages further east. The Old Stone Church (1813), Grace Church (1822) and the Dutch Church (1833) were all replaced during this period. Union<sup>6</sup> Hall Academy, a school for young men, was established by subscription in 1791. Opening in 1792 in a building on Union Hall Street (south of Jamaica Avenue), courses in mathematics, reading, writing, English grammar, rhetoric, Latin and Greek were offered. In 1817, Union Hall Female Academy was established, which omitted Latin and Greek in favor of French, various handcrafts, music, dancing, history, astronomy, etc. With the advent of the public school system, Union Hall closed in 1873 (Munsell 1882:229; Herndon 1974:17; Ross 1903:275).

Timothy Dwight, who visited the town in 1804, reported about 100 houses, three churches and the academy mainly along Jamaica Avenue in this "customary resort" for New York. Vacationers, and later wealthy country residents and retirees settled in Jamaica village, most notably Rufus King, who purchased a house and farm from the estate of Christopher Smith in 1805, about 1,200 feet northwest of the subject site. During the Revolution, King had been an aide to American General John Glover, and later served as a delegate to the Continental Congress from 1784 to 1787. He was one of the 39 signers of the final form of the Constitution. A Federalist, in 1789 he became one of the first pair of senators from New York, and was reelected in 1795. King served as first minister to Great Britain from 1796 to 1803, when he resigned to run for vice president, losing in 1804, and again in 1808. Elected to the senate in 1813 and 1820, King also ran for president, unsuccessfully, against James Monroe in 1816. Under President John Quincy Adams, also a Federalist, King was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain in 1825, but was taken ill, and returned to the United States, where he died in 1827, and was buried in Grace Church graveyard (Herndon 1974:17,19-21).

The King mansion was originally a small mid-18th century building, associated with the Episcopal Church in some capacity. Its original purpose has been described as hospital or parsonage, and dated to as early as 1730, with western sections from 1755, and King's additions on the east from 1806. King's son, John Alsop King, governor of New York (1857-59), occupied the mansion, which passed to his daughter Cornelia. The house was designated a New York City Landmark in 1966 (Willensky and White 1988:781; Herndon 1974:19,21).

A number of improvements in transportation occurred during the first half of the 19th century, further solidifying Jamaica's position as the transportation hub of Queens County. The first was the rebuilding of the road to New York by the Brooklyn, Jamaica & Flatbush Turnpike Company in c.1809. The eastern terminus was present Jamaica Avenue at 168th Street, but was later extended to Hempstead and Jericho. This turnpike was privately operated until 1897, and tollgate houses were still standing during the 20th century.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Union was chosen because the academy represented the united efforts of the people of Jamaica, Flushing and New York.

Another important event was the creation of the Brooklyn & Jamaica Rail Road Company in 1832. The first trains reached Jamaica in 1833. Although a financial failure, in 1836 the line was leased by the Long Island Rail Road Company, which extended the line and ran cars as far as Hicksville in 1837. The tracks bisected Jamaica just north of the cemetery, with the main depot on the north side of Beaver Street, approximately 300 feet northwest of the study site (Thompson 1843:134; Ross 1903:285). (See Figs. 6 and 9)

By 1836 Jamaica had grown into:

A neat and pleasant village, approached by roads running through a district highly cultivated and richly adorned, with splendid country seats and productive farms. The village is built upon five streets: the main or Fulton Street [Jamaica Avenue], running east and west crossed by Division Street, Beaver, Union Hall, and Canal Streets. It contains one Presbyterian, one Episcopalian, one Dutch Reformed churches, each with its tower and belfry, giving grace to the town, and one small plain Methodist meeting house, all of wood, as are most of the dwellings. Two academies are incorporated; the Union Hall, for males; the other for females; the fireproof office of the county clerk and surrogate, established here by special act of assembly; two printing offices, publishing weekly journals, two physicians, three lawyers, seven stores, four inns, and the usual handicrafts, and 140 dwellings, generally two stories high, many of them large and commodious, surrounded by grass lots and shrubbery; inhabited by retired merchants from New York (Thomas Gordon, in Herndon 1974:24).

As Jamaica village expanded, so did the size of its necropolis, as people purchased property adjacent to the cemetery and laid it out for family plots. Although it had long been common practice to bury deceased relatives on the family farm, if the farm were sold these remains were usually removed and had to be reinterred elsewhere. Others found a way to profit from this situation. Isaac Simonson, whose homestead occupied the major part of the study site, purchased additional land along the western edge of the cemetery, subdivided it and put the burial lots up for sale in 1841 (Landmarks 1978:2). This land became the western arm of the cemetery. By 1842, the area of the original burying ground, approximately 27,000 square feet, had grown to more than 70,000. (See Fig. 6)

Another notable addition to the burying ground was the property along Prospect Street (later 159th) that hardware merchant Nicholas Ludlum purchased from the Long Island Rail Road Company. Divided into "about 10 lots," Ludlum's three acres were added to the cemetery in 1856, and he had the intention of improving and beautifying the grounds. The following year he had a small chapel erected in memory of his three daughters, who sadly, had all predeceased him. Known as the "Chapel of the Sisters," this city-landmarked Romanesque Revival style building was used for services preceding interments, and the cemetery entrance was shifted to Prospect Street (Landmarks 1978:2). In later years the chapel was used as a tool house by the cemetery's caretakers (Historical 1938:XI 47).

By the end of the 19th century, the cemetery had reached its present size, and title was eventually acquired from the Town of Jamaica by the Prospect Cemetery Association of Jamaica Village, formed in 1879 (Landmarks 1977:2). Although a c.1938 gravestone survey noted that the earliest readable gravestone was dated 1709, the graves of Jamaica's founders exist within the cemetery boundaries. Other denizens include a number of Revolutionary War veterans. Interments continued into the 20th century (Historical 1938 XI:46,47; Landmarks 1977:3).

Martin G. Johnson's map of 1842 shows developments in the project area in great detail. (See Fig. 6)

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Johnson, a civil engineer and surveyor, was born and died<sup>7</sup> on the farm purchased by his family in 1744, at Liberty Avenue and the Rockaway Road (present 150th Street - approximately 1,400 feet southwest of the project lots, See Fig. 8). He attended the district school and Union Hall Academy. In 1832, at the age of 16, with his mathematics teacher Thomas Spofford, Johnson assisted in the land survey conducted by the Brooklyn & Jamaica Rail Road Company for the present Long Island Rail Road route. He also participated in the survey and lot division of a number of the large landholdings near the village center during the 1830s, and many farms in Kings and Queens Counties (E.g., Johnson 1835;1836; Munsell 1883:250; Historical 1938 XIII:148,149).

Johnson's 1842 map shows the two project site buildings appearing on the 1782 map (Lot 102) still present in the northwest corner of the subject parcel, along Church Street (158th). The northernmost was owned and occupied by J. Hamlet, and subsequently passed to James Callagan, in whose name it appears from 1859 to 1891 (Walling 1859). (See Figs. 7 and 10).

The second 18th-century structure then standing on present Lot 102 was used as the District 5 School in 1842. Although the town voted to tap its share of the fund of the state's "common school system" in 1813, raised \$125 for that fund, elected school commissioners and inspectors and divided the town into seven school districts, by the next year it reversed this decision, and used the money for the relief of the town's poor. Although the first town school superintendent was not elected until 1844, the presence of the district school on the 1842 map, and Johnson's own attendance at the district school, possibly the one on the project site, suggests that some form of public schooling did exist during the intervening decades.

Another interesting possibility is recorded by local church historian George Winans, who reported that the Presbyterian congregation had set up a bible school for African-American children in December of 1822, with about 50 pupils enrolled. "It is a tradition that the school was held at first at a residence near Beaver Pond in the southwestern part of the village." Later this school was moved to the church building (Munsell 1883:200; Winans 1943:104)

By 1868 the project site building had reverted to residential use, and belonged to the estate of Isaac Simonson. The property is labelled "A. Simonson" in 1873 and 1876 (See Figs. 7, 8, and 9), and "Mrs. Nolan" in 1891. (See Fig. 10). The building can be seen on the 1895 bird's-eye view of Jamaica, a 1½-story structure with 1-story rear ells. (See Fig. 11)

Dominating the project site was the property of carpenter Isaac Simonson, which included the large lot with his residence and two outbuildings (part of present Lot 80) and additional properties outside the subject parcel. (See Fig. 6) Simonson died by 1868, when his properties are labelled "Est. Isaac Simonson." (Fig. 7) The 1895 view of Jamaica shows a large 2-story structure with a rear addition, oriented toward Church Street (158th). (See Fig. 11, house is directly above the "R" in "Catharine St.")

Crineyonce Sutphin, occupied his own lands and residence in the southeastern section of the project lots (Block 10099, part of Lot 80; Block 10116 Lot 9).<sup>4</sup> (See Fig. 6) Sutphin, of the prominent Jamaica family which included John H. Sutphin (a president of the Jamaica Savings Bank), also owned substantial property southeast of the project lots, and used to drive the stage to Brooklyn. Although local tradition has it that a female heir

<sup>8</sup>His homelot also included part of present Lot 52, which is outside the study parcel.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Johnson (1817-1887), was descended from early Dutch settlers, the Rapelje/Jansen family. He is buried in Prospect Cemetery.

married a member of the Bennett family, and homestead passed to the Bennetts, who owned through 1876 (See e.g., Figs. 8 and 9), in 1859 the owner's name is listed as M. Henderson (Historical 1938:XII 29; Walling 1859). The former Sutphin homestead can also be seen on the 1895 Jamaica view, a 1- and 2-story dwelling along Catharine Street. (See Fig. 11)

South of the subject parcel is an area labelled "Public Square" (Fig. 6), which was actually the existing Beaver Pond. Perhaps the pond's elimination was wishful thinking on the part of the local authorities, for by 1856 entries in the village records describe the appropriation of funds to drain it: "These amounts properly expended therefor will drain the pond and remove the bug-bear 'Beaver Pond Ague' and leave our Village rid of that 'Mill Stone' around her neck" (Records 1941:46).

Although the Beaver Pond had been surveyed and "laid out" in 1854, rumors of its 19th-century demise (See e.g., Herndon 1974:24; Thompson 1843:134), were greatly exaggerated. The pond, reduced in size, was in existence until 1906, when it was completely filled in (Seyfried and Asadorian 1991:pl.42). It was the last of the town's public lands, and by 1873, what remained had been sold to Isaac B. Remsen. Known as Remsen's Pond, it was used commercially as an ice pond. Although it had formerly extended as far as Church Street (158th) where it abuts the project site (only about 60 feet south of the project lots), a 1895 bird's-eye view of the village shows the pond beginning south of the train tracks along Sutphin Place (now approximately 157th Street - about 300 feet southwest of the project parcel), and includes an inset of Remsen's house and "lake." (See Fig. 11 and also Fig. 10) By the early 1900s it had been sold to the Consolidated Ice Company (Historical 1938:XI 103).

By 1868, on the lots along Beaver Street, north of the cemetery, gas works of the Jamaica Gas Company had been constructed (See Fig. 7), which by 1873 had expanded along Beaver Street as far as Church Street (158th). (See Fig. 8) In the same year, the Isaac Simonson house is labelled "Rev. A. Farley," the pastor of St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, whose 1857 sanctuary still stands directly across Prospect Street (later 159th) from Prospect Cemetery, approximately 400 feet northeast of the project site.

The origin of St. Monica's parish can be traced to a mass offered by Father Michael Curran of Harlem for approximately 200 area Roman Catholics at the Jamaica home of John McLaughlin, a local blacksmith, in 1838. An influx of Irish laborers come to work on Jamaica's farms had created a sizeable Catholic population, and the following year, a campaign was started to raise money to establish a congregation in Jamaica. The first church was a small frame building built near the present sanctuary in 1840, under the leadership of Fr. James O'Donnell. It was the second Roman Catholic church on Long Island. St. Monica's received its first resident pastor, John McGinnis in 1848, and began to establish its own missions in Flushing, Far Rockaway and other towns on Long Island.

Farley, who was pastor of St. Monica's from 1854 to 1890, initiated construction of a new brick church on land between Washington (160th) and Prospect Streets (159th), most of which had been donated to the congregation. The building was completed in 1857, probably designed by Jamaica master mason Anders Peterson, who also worked on the new Grace Episcopal and First Reformed (Dutch) Church buildings constructed in the 1860s. Some accounts report that Farley designed the church, but there is no evidence that he did more than supervise construction. St. Monica's handsome Romanesque Revival edifice was designated a New York City Landmark in 1979 (Landmarks 1979:1-2; Historical 1938:XI 47,48-49).

A number of buildings in the vicinity of the project parcel are labelled "Rev. A. Farley" in 1873, so the old Isaac Simonson house was not necessarily his residence. According to one source it was then being used as a convent. Later the sisters moved to the former J. M. Crane residence on the south side of the railroad tracks

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at Union Hall Street (Historical 1938:48). (See Fig. 8) Only in 1891 does the Wolverton Map list the house as Farley's rectory. (See Fig. 10) The Isaac Simonson property was also the site of the convent's co-ed school, which opened in 1878, under Farley's supervision (Munsell 1883:229). The school building can be seen on the 1895 view of Jamaica, a two-story building with a separate bell tower that looks like an oil derrick. (See Fig. 11)

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 the New York City in 1896 (Herndon 1974:21).

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

Illustrative of these developments is the row of six small attached dwellings built by 1891 on the project site, at the intersection of Church (158th) and Catharine Streets. (See Figs. 10, and 11) Other similar housing can be seen on nearby blocks. Such development was made possible by the electric trolleys which ran along South and Washington (160th) Streets, providing convenient and cheap transportation for the less affluent. (Fig. 11) Project site neighbors by 1891 include a coal and wood yard, the Jamaica 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. 10)

Although the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company's elevated train did not begin service to 168th Street and Jamaica Avenue until 1918, a surface line was in operation in 1903. The Eighth Avenue subway line reached Jamaica in 1937. These transit lines began an apartment house boom in the 1920s and 30s, as the last vestiges of Jamaica village's wood frame structures were demolished, and the residences along Jamaica Avenue were replaced by stores. South of the tracks, low-income tenements were constructed, and by 1939, this area was the home to some 15,000 African-Americans, who lived in slum conditions (WPA 1939:583).

After protracted wrangling, South Jamaica was chosen as the site for the City University of New York's fouryear York College in 1968. The southern Jamaica area was selected in order to "make college education possible not only for the economically deprived student from Jamaica, but those from the Rockaways and East New York" (Press 10-30-67). The campus site included the project parcel, as well as St. Monica's Church and cemetery, extending south from the railroad tracks to South Road, and from 158th Street to 165th Street. Demolition of numerous frame houses, many of 19th- and even 18th-century origin, was carried out in the 1970s,<sup>9</sup> raising fears among archaeologists and preservationists that all of Jamaica's early architectural and archaeological history was being systematically destroyed in the name of urban renewal (See Appendix). Due to the city fiscal crisis, campus construction did not begin until 1980 (Voice 1980:5). The project parcel became York's "West Parking Lot" (Newsday 3-25-94). The 20th-century building history will be discussed in the following section.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>The 18th- and 19th-century structures on the project lots had already been razed by the 1950s (Sanborn 1951:64).

# **Building History**

Because the building records for the project lots have been either lost or destroyed, this discussion is based on historical maps and images of the project parcel. Figure 18, the "Map of Potential Archaeological Sensitivity," which plots the footprints of all the recorded structures on the study site, should be helpful in charting the extent and severity of post-depositional construction disturbance.

For clarity, the three project parcel lots, Block 10099 Lots 80 and 102, and Block 10116 Lot 9, will be divided according to the historical homelots they represent. These lot divisions are shown on the Map of Potential Archaeological Sensitivity, and are clearly drawn on Figure 6. They are present on later maps (e.g. Fig. 8), but are obscured by speculative lot divisions.

#### Block 10099 Lot 80

Lot 80 originally referred to the central section of the project site, with street frontage only on 158th Street (former Church Street). This was the homelot of Isaac Simonson. Only during the 20th century was it combined with the former Sutphin-Bennett homelot along Catharine Street/Evans Road (now demapped) to the intersection with 158th Street.

Isaac Simonson Homelot - Old Lot 80

The 1842 Johnson map is the first to show buildings on this section of the project site. It shows the Isaac Simonson homestead - a dwelling oriented to Church Street (158th), with two outbuildings to the rear, along the lot line with Prospect Cemetery. (See Fig. 6) Another small building is added adjacent to the dwelling between 1852 (Conner 1852) and 1868, by which time Simonson had died, and the property is labelled "Est. Isaac Simonson." (See Fig. 7)

In 1873 the property is labelled Rev. A. Farley, who was the pastor of St. Monica's Roman Catholic Church, and only the house is shown. (See Fig. 8) 'The 1873 Beers atlas appears to omit all outbuildings, because the three Simonson structures reappear in 1876 and 1891. (See Figs. 9 and 10) In 1878 St. Monica's school opened northwest of the Farley's rectory, and was under his supervision (Munsell 1883:229). The 1895 view of Jamaica shows a 2-story school building with a peaked roof and cupola, and a free-standing bell tower (identified as a bell tower in Fig. 12) adjacent to the northeast (See Fig. 11)

The 1895 view also provides the first description we have found of the Simonson house, which previously was drawn as an L-shaped footprint. By 1895 the house was a large 2-story building with an attic, its long facade toward 158th Street (southwest), and a sizeable 2-story ell at the rear. Earlier maps all draw the ell at the southeast corner of the house (See e.g., Fig. 6), but beginning in 1895 it is shown at the north corner, suggesting some rebuilding had taken place.

The old Simonson outbuildings do not appear in either 1895 or 1901. It is probable that with the construction of the 3-story convent at the northern corner of the lot between 1895 and 1901, these structures were removed, and replaced by the 1-story building in the northwestern corner of Lot 80, along the cemetery/Lot 102 lot line. (See Fig. 12)

Although the maps do not mention a basement for either school or convent, a furnace is recorded for each,

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which would have been installed in a cellar boiler room. Foundations for these two large institutional structures would have been substantial. (See Fig. 12)

By 1911 the Simonson house, and the new outbuilding from 1901 had been demolished. Three buildings are depicted on the Simonson Homelot/Old Lot 80, the school, the convent, and the convent's water closets, a 1-story building immediately south of the convent. (See Fig. 13) The convent and school are labelled vacant in 1925 (See Fig. 14), and the lot itself is vacant in 1942. (See Fig. 15)

Between 1942 and 1951, (probably 1948, the date of the compressor house), a gas holder and compressor house were built on old Lot 80, extending onto lots along Catharine Street, by the Brooklyn Union Gas Co., for its Jamaica Pumping Station. The gas holder, with a capacity of 10,600,000 cubic feet, and a diameter of approximately 245 feet (See Fig. 16), would have had a concrete ring foundation, extending approximately 10 feet below the surface, or a concrete cup-shaped foundation, between six and seven feet below the surface (Perry 1950:1380; Robert Stewart, personal communication 12-18 and 12-19-95). Steam, gas and water pipes would have connected the tank with the compressor house, along 158th Street. These lines would have run underground, possibly in a tunnel for easy access, a minimum of six to seven feet below the surface (Robert Stewart, personal communication 12-19-95). Additional disturbance would have been caused by the grading of the existing slope to form a level surface prior to construction.

By 1981 the compressor house is no longer depicted on the real estate maps (See Fig. 17), and currently, the lot is part of York College's West Parking Lot, with only a single metal and glass attendants' kiosk. (See Photo 1)

Sutphin Homelot (Part of New Lot 80)

The first buildings on this section of the project parcel (along Catharine Street, between 158th and 159th) appear on the 1842 map, where a dwelling and an outbuilding are labelled C. Sutphin. (See Fig. 6) The house appears to be oriented to Catharine Street, facing additional Sutphin property to the southeast. Ownership was transferred to M. Henderson by 1859 (Walling 1859). By 1868 the house had been enlarged, but the outbuilding was removed. No owner is listed, and property is divided into a number of smaller lots. In 1868 the section of the Sutphin homelot at the corner of Catharine and Prospect (159th) Streets (part of present Lot 52, outside the study parcel) is part of the Est. of J. Waters. (See Fig. 7)

Between 1868 and 1873 the remainder of the Sutphin property came into the possession of the Bennett family, and the property remained unchanged until a row of six small, attached houses were constructed along Church Street (158th) between 1876 and 1891. (See Fig. 10) In 1901 these buildings are labelled 2-story dwellings. The 1895 view draws these dwellings as row houses, with no outbuildings. (See Fig. 11)

The 1895 view and subsequent maps give the first good descriptions of the former Sutphin house. The main block is two stories, with 1- and 1½-story sections facing Catharine Street (southeast). The pre-1868 addition, not depicted in the 1895 view, is one story, with a 1-story passage connecting it to the main structure. Two outbuildings are present on the 1897 and 1901 maps. One structure is directly behind the main house. A group of connected buildings is west of the main house, and consists of a 2-story central barn with three 1-story additions. (See Fig. 12). The structure closest to the new attached houses even has a thatched roof (Sanborn 1897).

These outbuildings disappear by 1911, as the Sutphin homelot is further subdivided. Four additional dwellings

are built southwest of the Sutphin house. (See Fig. 13) Between 1925 and 1942 the six attached houses were razed, and replaced by a 1-story storage building for an auto wrecking business. Circa 1948, all buildings are removed, and the Sutphin Homelot is combined with the Simonson Homelot to form New Lot 80. Brooklyn Union Gas Co.'s gas holder, extends onto the old Sutphin Homelot, and a description of its structure and subsurface disturbance has been given above.

Between 1981 and the present, the gas holder was torn down, and currently, the lot is part of York College's West Parking Lot. (See Photo 9)

#### Block 10099 Lot 102

Before c. 1925, Lot 102 was divided into two separate lots with a frontage on 158th (Church) Street. The northwestern lot, which has the longer lot line with the cemetery, was Lot 101. Old Lot 102 borders on Lot 80 and old Lot 101, and only abuts the cemetery along its rear lot line. (See Fig. 12)

# Old Lot 101

Old Lot 101 is depicted with a structure on the 1782 map of Jamaica. Since there is no earlier map with the necessary detail and accuracy, it is not clear how much earlier than 1782 this building was erected.

The building next appears on the 1842 map, where it is depicted as the lot and dwelling of J. Hamlet. (See Fig. 6) By 1868, ownership passed to James Callagan, in whose possession it is listed until such information is omitted from the real estate maps, in this case, 1891. The 1891 map does indicate a 1½-story building with a small 1-story addition to the northwest, (See Fig. 10)

The 1895 view shows no building on old Lot 101, and this is confirmed by the 1901 Sanborn, which depicts an empty lot. (See Fig. 12) The lot remains empty until between 1911 and 1925 (See Fig. 14), when four structures appear on the Sanborn map, a 2-story dwelling and outbuilding at mid-lot, a 1-story concrete block office along Church (158th) Street, and a 2-story cement-lined shed at the rear.

By 1942 the shed and dwelling have been razed, and present Lot 102 has been created by combining old Lots 101 and 102, occupied by the Queens A.S.P.C.A. (See Fig. 14) At the rear of old lot 101 is the 2-story A.S.P.C.A. shelter. All buildings were removed from the lot between 1951 and 1981, and the lot is presently part of York College's West Parking Lot.

#### Old Lot 102

Old Lot 102 is depicted with a structure on the 1782 map of Jamaica. Since there is no earlier map with the necessary detail and accuracy, it is not clear how much earlier than 1782 this building was erected.

The same building next appears on the 1842 map, where it is depicted as the District 5 School. (See Fig. 6) By 1868 it had reverted to residential use, and was part of the estate of Isaac Simonson, as was adjacent old Lot 80 to the east, and in 1873 and 1876 was the residence of A. Simonson. (See Figs. 7, 8 and 9) Mrs. Nolan is the resident in 1891, when the Sanborn map shows the house as 1½ stories with a small outbuilding to the rear (Sanborn 1891). Both structures are drawn on the 1895 view, the dwelling appears to have two 1-story

ells at the rear, which are also shown on the 1901 Sanborn. (See Figs. 11 and 12)

Between 1901 and 1925, various small 1-story additions to the dwelling are added and removed, and the outbuilding is replaced by a 2-story structure. (Compare Figs. 12, 13 and 14) By 1942, old Lot 102 is combined with old Lot 101, as the Queens A.S.P.C.A. offices and shelter. The dwelling is converted to offices, a garage is built at the rear of the lot, and a 1½-story office building is erected along 158th Street. (See Fig. 15)

All the buildings were demolished between 1951 and 1981 (See Fig. 17), and the lot became part of the York College West Parking Lot.

### Block 10116 Lot 9

The 1842 map shows a barn or other outbuilding on Lot 9, which was part of the much larger property of C. Sutphin, whose residence (See Block 10099 - Sutphin Homestead (Part of New Lot 80)) was on the opposite side of the now-demapped Catharine Street. (See Fig. 6) This outbuilding appears on the maps through the 1870s, but was demolished by 1891 (See Figs. 9 and 10)

By 1873, a dwelling owned by A. Farrell was erected at what is now the roadbed of Liberty Avenue near 159th Street. (See Fig. 8) Although this house is outside the project site, a large barn associated with it, was built along Catharine Street between 1891 and 1895 (Sanborn 1897). (See Fig. 12) Both structures are visible in the 1895 view. (See Fig. 11) The barn was removed by 1911. (See Fig. 13)

Between 1891 and 1895, a house was erected near the site of the old Sutphin barn, facing Catharine Street. It was a 2-story house (See Figs. 10 and 11)

By 1911 a pair of attached 2-story houses were erected along 159th Street, north of the Farrell dwelling. Part of the southernmost structure extended into the present Liberty Street roadbed. (See Fig. 13) Only a small shed was added behind the attached houses to 1925. (See Fig. 14)

Between 1925 and 1942 Liberty Avenue was cut through Block 10116. All the structures built on this section of the project area were removed by 1942, and a new pair of 2-story attached dwellings with a single rear shed were erected at the corner of 159th and Catharine Streets. (See Fig. 15)

The vacant southwestern part of present Lot 9, became the home of an auto wrecking business by 1951, with a concrete block office and a shed on the property. (See Fig. 16) By 1981, Lot 9 was completely vacant (See Fig. 17), and with the demapping of Evans Road/Catharine Street, has become part of York College's West Parking Lot.

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#### **V. CONCLUSIONS**

#### Prehistoric Potential

Overwhelming evidence exists that Native Americans exploited the natural resources of Long Island and the vicinity of the project area for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. Settlement pattern data of the prehistoric culture periods show a strong correlation between habitation/processing sites and a fresh water source, the confluence of two water courses, proximity to a major waterway, a marsh resource, and/or well-drained, elevated land.

A review of the documentary and cartographic evidence collected for this report confirms that many of these criteria are met in the project block, namely: the presence of a fresh water source, the Beaver Pond, approximately 60 feet to the southwest; a freshwater marsh about 2,000 feet to the west, which with the pond would have provided a valuable hunting, gathering and fishing area; and well-drained, elevated land, providing a dry place for activity sites, camps, and settlement. The intersection of a major east/west trail (present Jamaica Avenue) with an important trail leading south to Jamaica Bay (150th Street/Sutphin Boulevard), within 2,000 feet of the project lots would have made all parts of the island easily accessible from the project site.

However, several factors suggest that it is unlikely that a village or semi-permanent settlement existed on the project site. Although the parcel is close to two important trails, none lead to the study site. The southward path actually avoided the subject parcel, following a course on the opposite side of the Beaver Pond.

Although the study site is adjacent to the pond and a nearby freshwater marsh (about 2,000 feet to the southwest), it is not well-situated to take advantage of both fresh and saltwater marsh resources, as prehistoric settlement patterns suggest. Another disadvantage of the study site for camps or long-term settlement was its exposure to prevailing winds on the western and southwestern slopes of a hill. Protected exposures are east and south.<sup>10</sup> Although this may have precluded use for a year-round village, cooling winds would have been a benefit during the warm months.

On the other hand, the project site and its near vicinity did offer significant resources. Non-suitability for a year-round village does not preclude other uses. The study block displays a HIGH POTENTIAL for having hosted temporary processing and hunting camps, as well as seasonal camps during the warmer months of the year. Cultural remains from such sites, such as post molds, hearths, cooking pits, storage pits and sheet midden scatter are generally quite shallow, usually found within 3 to 4 feet of the predevelopment surface.

#### **Historical Potential**

The earliest detailed map of the project site, the 1782 Taylor map, indicates two buildings at its northwestern corner, along what is now called 158th Street. These structures pre-date 1782, and it is even possible that they were in existence in the 17th century, when Jamaica was first settled. The 1842 map shows the study site already divided among four separate landowners, and in addition to the two buildings from the 1782 map, two

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>All these criteria are met by the New York State Museum's site #4531 (Appendix A), the village of the "Jameco Indians," which is sited near Baisley Pond Park - connected to Jamaica Bay and its salt marshes by the southbound trail.

more residences and four outbuildings, dating from between 1782 and 1842. None of these structures stands today.

Dwellings, along with their associated outbuildings and yards, have the potential to contain resources which may furnish information about past lifeways, urban/suburban residential settlement patterns, socioeconomic status, class distinctions, ethnicity and consumer choice issues. The recovery of this sort of data is particularly important in the Jamaica area, where, as archaeologist Joel Klein noted in 1975, "Urban renewal underway throughout entire area is rapidly destroying remaining archaeological integrity." (See Appendix)

Such archaeological resources could be preserved in privies, cisterns or wells, which in the days before the construction of municipal services - namely sewers and a public water supply, were an inevitable part of daily life. Once these services were provided by the municipality, these unused shafts, would quickly be filled with refuse, providing a valuable time capsule of stratified deposits for the modern archaeologist. They frequently provide the best domestic remains recovered on urban sites. Truncated portions of these shaft features are often encountered on homelots because their deeper and therefore earlier layers remain undisturbed by subsequent construction, and in fact, construction often preserves the lower sections of the features by sealing them beneath structures and fill layers.

One of the first steps in assessing the likelihood of the preservation of shaft features is the determination of the earliest dates of sewer and water line installation. As stated above, these facilities obviate the necessity of installing privies, cisterns and wells. These dates are only an approximation, for even when municipal facilities were available, many residents were not connected until years later. In a 1933 newspaper article, a Mrs. John Lewis, recalling life in Jamaica c.1893, declared, "There was no water supply . . . only cisterns and wells" (Herndon 1974:38). Although Mrs. Lewis is actually off by a few years, since 6" water lines were installed on Beaver and 158th Streets by 1891 (Sanborn 1891), her comment does indicate that water lines were fairly new phenomena in Jamaica in the 1890s. The 1897 Sanborn shows identical 6" water lines on 159th and Catharine Street (Evans Road), suggesting that they are contemporaneous with those on the adjacent streets (Sanborn 1897).<sup>11</sup>

Although in addition to the four houses drawn on the 1842 map, other dwellings were erected on the project lot along 158th Street between 1876 and 1891, and still others along Catharine Street between 1891 and 1897, their construction coincides with the appearance of the municipal water lines, making the use of shaft features unlikely for these later houses (Sanborn 1897). (See Figs. 9 and 10)

Privies, due to their olfactory charms, tend to be located along the rear lot lines of urban homesteads. On larger suburban and rural lots this positioning usually depends on whether the distance from the house was practical. Since water was also an important part of cooking, housekeeping, diet and personal hygiene, cisterns and wells tend to be closer to one of the entrances of the dwelling, normally at the rear of the building.

Builder's trenches are another important source of artifacts from historical homelots. These trenches were excavated when house foundations were constructed, leaving enough room for the foundations as well as the workmen building them. Not usually filled in until the structure was complete, they became the receptacles of all sorts of trash, which today is valuable to the archaeologist, particularly in providing dating evidence for the building.

<sup>11</sup>This is not to say that sewers were not drawn there in the 1891 atlas, but that the plate which included these streets was missing from the 1891 microfilm version of the atlas.

Although no cellars were indicated for any of the project parcel structures, informal cellars, referred to as root cellars, but little more than storage pits dug into the ground beneath floorboards, are ubiquitous on many rural sites in the 18th-century Chesapeake region. Multiple pits found beneath single structures, as much as four feet deep, stored everything from food to tools. Through time some were filled in and new ones dug, often overlapping each other (Fleisher 1996).

Other commonly occurring, but much more fragile backyard remains include fence lines, paths, traces of landscaping and sheet midden scatter.

Unless subsequent construction and regrading has destroyed these buried remains, the homelots of the project parcel can be expected to yield artifacts from the first half of the 19th century, the end of the 18th-century, and possibly earlier.

# Disturbance

Although the project lots have a high potential for having hosted buried cultural remains, large areas can be disqualified from further consideration due to deep disturbance caused by 20th-century construction. The various areas of disturbance are shown on the Map of Potential Archaeological Sensitivity, which plots all the recorded building episodes on the project lots,<sup>12</sup> and can be used as a guide for the following discussion. (See Fig. 18)

Between 1942 and 1951, a gas holder was built on the study site by the Brooklyn Union Gas Co., for its Jamaica Pumping Station. The gas holder, with a capacity of 10,600,000 cubic feet, and a diameter of approximately 245 feet (See Fig. 15 and 16), would have had a concrete ring foundation, extending approximately 10 feet below the surface, or a concrete cup-shaped foundation, between six and seven feet below the surface (Perry 1950:1380; Robert Stewart, personal communication 12-18 and 12-19-95). Steam, gas and water pipes would have connected the tank with the compressors in the 1948 compressor house (Sanborn 1951). These lines would have run underground, possibly in a tunnel for easy access, a minimum of six to seven feet below the surface (Robert Stewart, personal communication 12-19-95). Additional disturbance would have been caused by the grading of the existing slope to form a level surface prior to construction. Such disturbance would have been sufficient to destroy any buried cultural remains in these areas, including those from the pre-1842 Simonson and Sutphin homesteads.

A three-story convent and a two-story Roman Catholic school were built on the study site in the c.1890s. According to the 1901 Sanborn, both were heated by furnaces, which would have necessitated the excavation of a furnace room/cellar beneath these institutional buildings. This excavation would have been from four to eight feet, and would have destroyed any prehistoric potential and may have compromised any historical potential in these areas.

A number of other late 19th- and early 20th-century buildings, including a bell tower (Sanborn 1901:68), the offices, shelter and garage of the A.S.P.C.A., dwellings, the office and locker wings of the 1948 compressor house (Sanborn 1951:64) were constructed on the study parcel. These structures would also have caused some subsurface disturbance, but since the maps record no basements, destruction would have been minimal, limited to prehistoric remains, historical foundations, and perhaps the upper levels of shaft features, which although

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>For an lot by lot description, see "Building History" at the end of the previous section.

# truncated, would still be of archaeological value.

Although the roadbed of Catharine Street/Evans Road, now demapped, has no archaeological potential from the historical period, its high prehistoric potential would have been destroyed by the installation of waterlines during the 19th century, and its regrading during the 1970s, when the elevation at the intersection of 159th Street and Evans Road dropped from 47.4' to 41.4' (Sanborn 1993:64). (Compare Figs. 16 and 17)

Above and beyond the disturbances enumerated above, a substantial amount of regrading was performed on the project site during the construction of the present parking lots. Since the topographic maps show that site elevations were highest in the northeastern parts of the lot (See Fig. 3), the effects of this regrading were most severe in the northeastern section of the project site, where up to 20 feet of the original slope was removed. This disturbance has been discussed in detail in the Environmental Setting section.

# Areas of Potential Sensitivity

Based on the data assembled for this assessment, due to subsequent building and grading activities, only limited areas of potential prehistoric and historical archaeological sensitivity still exist on the proposed site of the FDA New York Regional Laboratory. However, two sections of the project site appear to have escaped the disturbance caused by the grading and construction episodes. These areas of potential prehistoric and historical archaeological sensitivity site border with Prospect Cemetery, and the sections of deep disturbance. (See Fig. 18)

The small northwestern arm of the project parcel, north of the "Compressor House," was not as severely affected by the regrading, and here one section of the subject parcel, near 158th Street, appears to have had fill *added*, which would have given added protection to surviving buried prehistoric and historical cultural materials. The potential historical resources are related to the foundations and shaft features of the two pre-1782 residences that once stood on these lots. (See Fig. 18 "Area 1")

The second area, Area 2, at the northern edge of the project parcel, is an elevated 10-foot-wide strip running along the cemetery border, which on Fig. 18 lies between the York College building and the "R.C. School." This area, which appears to have escaped the regrading of the 1970s, is sensitive for potential prehistoric remains, as well as shaft features and outbuilding foundations relating to the pre-1842 Simonson homestead. The area of potential archaeological sensitivity includes a set aside of 5 feet. This set aside, in addition to the 10'-wide naturally elevated strip that borders the cemetery, forms a protective buffer zone for potential surviving cultural remains both associated with the project site and Prospect Cemetery. (See Fig. 18)

#### Recommendations - Area 1

According to the Draft CEQR Manual (May 1993), in order "to mitigate an action's significant adverse impact on potential archaeological resources, the action can be redesigned so that it does not disturb the resources" (CEQR 1993:3F-13). For project designers, this 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.

If such a design, or redesign of this order is not possible, and it appears that construction excavation or

disturbance would occur in Area 1, then additional research and testing would be recommended, under a research design protocol developed in conjunction with the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

One component of this research design is a Phase 1B topic-intensive analysis concerning the pre-1782 homelots (Area 1). The study of directories, census, real estate records and tax data, which is beyond the scope of this report, would provide important data for the interpretation and understanding of these two homelots, and also enable archaeologists to formulate research questions associated with lifeways, diet and consumer behavior.

Although no soil boring tests have been performed on the project site, since the presence of deep basements in this area is not indicated, it is unlikely that a series of borings conducted in Area 1 would provide data relevant to the next stage of this study. Rather than waste project time and resources, it is our recommendation that machine-aided subsurface testing be performed in Area 1, in order to locate the 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 Area 1 is adjacent to Prospect Cemetery, a concrete wall divides the two areas (See Photos 3 and 4), and would provide sufficient protection to the cemetery during mechanical or manual excavation.

#### Recommendations - Area 2 and Prospect Cemetery

Area 2 is part of a wooded slope above the parking lot. Before construction can begin, this slope must be stabilized, maintaining a 15-foot wide buffer zone along the cemetery lot line, this would protect both the cemetery and avoid the area of archaeological sensitivity. Other sections of the project lot are divided from the cemetery by a concrete wall with chain link fence.

Historically, the Jamaica burying ground was never associated with the proposed project site. The outer limits of the burying ground were never reduced, only expanded through time until they encompassed its current and maximum area. Since no land parcels were ever sold by or separated from the cemetery, there is no reason to believe that any section of the study site was ever part of Prospect Cemetery.

Although this study concludes that no part of the cemetery, in any of its past and present boundary configurations, ever overlapped the proposed project lot, the presence of a landmarked cemetery directly abutting a potential construction site gives cause for concern. Boundaries are often clearer on paper than when they were left to the decisions of past surveyors, 19th-century cartographers, or generations of gravediggers. Furthermore, it is possible that deep mechanical excavation could adversely impact graves within the cemetery, but buried close to the project site border.

The hillock which extends onto the project lot from the cemetery, towering as much as 20 feet above the present parking lot, may be subject to erosion, perhaps exacerbated by construction activities. This would endanger potential archaeological resources on both sides of the property line, which includes Area 2. Because of this danger, as well as the extreme difficulties of machine-aided excavation in Area 2 (without running heavy equipment through the cemetery itself) further archaeological testing or excavation in this area is not advisable.

Project designers should take these concerns into account by insuring the presence of a sturdy, fixed barrier on the subject site parallel to the cemetery lot line. Area 2 should be preserved within this 15'-wide buffer zone of controlled activity established between the cemetery boundaries and project site construction areas.

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# **FIGURES**

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THE MAD AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH



Final Maps of the Borough of Queens, 1918

12

Project Site



FIGURE 4

Grumet, 1981

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Native Trails, Planting Areas and Habitation Sites





Johnson, 1842: Map of the Village of Jamaica

**Project Site** 



Conklin, 1868: Map of the Village of Jamaica

Project Site



--- Project Site



Dripps, 1876: Map of the Village of Jamaica

····· Project Site



FIGURE 10

Wolverton, 1891: Atlas of Queens County

--- Project Site



Hardenbrook, 1895: Jamaica, Long Island "View of Jamaica, LI, NY"

Project Site (approximate)



FIGURE 12 Sanborn, Borough of Queens, 1901













## PHOTOGRAPHS

Edwards and Kelcy, Inc.

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Photo 1: Lot 80, view northwest toward 158th Street from the roadbed of demapped Evans Road. Buildings in background on former site of Beaver Pond.

Photo 2: Lot 102, looking northwest toward northwestern corner of project site. Prospect Cemetery beyond fence. 158th Street to left. Here elevation of cemetery surface is below that of subject site. Area I (See Fig. 18) at right.





Photo 3: Lot 102, looking east from Area 1 (See Fig. 18) to Prospect Cemetery wall

Photo 4: Lot 102, looking northeast toward corner of cemetery wall. Note elevation of cemetery surface is greater than subject site. Cemetery elevation decreases to left (west).





Photo 5: Lot 102, view north toward cemetery from north of old compressor house site, near 158th Street. Area 1 at center. Lot 102 slopes down to Lot 80 at right.

Photo 6: Lot 80, looking northwest from site of old gas holder. Area 2 at middle ground from center to right. Slope up to Lot 102 at far left. Cemetery atop hill in wooded area.





Photo 7: Lot 80, view northeast from site of old gas holder. Area 2 at midground, left of center, with cemetery beyond trees. York College building (Lot 52) on former 159th Street, at center and right.

Photo 8: Lot 80, view east from site of old gas holder. York College building on former 159th Street at rear. Former Evans Road at far right.





Photo 9: Lot 80, looking southeast from Lot 102 (Area 1) toward former intersection of 159th Street and Liberty Avenue. Note slope down (in foreground) to Lot 80. Area 2 in midground, beyond light pole at left. York College building in background to left.

# APPENDIX

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## NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

3122 Cultural Education Center Albany, NY 12230 518/474-5813 FAX 518/473-8496

Anthropological Survey

Page 1 of 2

DATE: 12/19/95

To: CECE KIRKORIAN SAUNDERS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES P.O. BOX 3037 WESTPORT, CT 06880

Proposed Project: GSA/FDA PROJECT 7.5' U.S.G.S. Quad: JAMAICA

In response to your request our staff has conducted a search of our data files for locations and descriptions of prehistoric archaeological sites within the area indicated above. The results of the search are given below.

If specific information requested has not been provided by this letter, it is likely that we are not able to provide it at this time, either because of staff limitations or policy regarding disclosure of archaeological site data.

Questions regarding this reply can be directed to the site file manager, at (518) 474-5813 or the above address. Please refer to the N.Y.S.M. site identification numbers when requesting additional information.

Please resubmit this request if action is taken more than one year after your initial information request.

[NOTE: Our files normally do not contain historic archeological sites or architectural properties. For information on these types of sites as well as prehistoric sites not listed in the N.Y.S.M.files contact The State Historic Preservation Office; Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; Agency Building #1; Empire State Plaza; Albany, NY, 12238 at (518) 474-0479.

## **RESULTS OF THE FILE SEARCH:**

Recorded sites ARE located in or within one mile of the project area. If so, see attached list.

Code "ACP" = sites reported by Arthur C. Parker in The Archeology Of New York, 1922, as transcribed from his unpublished maps.

SEARCH CONDUCTED BY: 3/ (initials) Anthropological Survey, NYS Museum

cc: N.Y.S. OFFICE OF PARKS. RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION; HISTORIC PRESERVATION FIELD SERVICES BUREAU

The New York State Museum is a Program of the State Education Department/University of the State of New York

N.Y.S.M.SITE FILES COM 3122 CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTER LBANY, NEW YORK 12230 NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM PREHISTORIC SITE PROJECT SC Screening file site locations	PHONE: (518) 474-5813 FAX: (518) 473-8496 A: ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY REENING FILE: USE REQUEST FORM are by generalized .5 mile circle.						
NAME Lece Kurkan	Saunain						
AGENCY/COMPANY/INSTITUTIONREPRESENT	TED Historical Perspectic						
ADDRESS P. D. Box 3037							
IVectorit, CT DUS	$\begin{array}{c} (203) \\ \hline \\ $						
RESUBMIT THIS REQUEST IF ACTION IS TAK	EN MORE THAN ONE YEAR AFTER RESPONSE DATE.						
PURPOSE OF REQUEST: Identify the proposed Project identifier	project, contractor, and nature of the work.						
EVENTUAL DISTRIBUTION OF DATA: (Spreproduction, etc.). Clicht, numericalit	pecify range of data use and distribution, publication, my + Venew agency						
REQUESTED APPOINTMENT: Appointments are on the hour between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Wednesdays. 1st Choice 2nd Choice							
Appointments may be made by phone on Tuesday mornings or may be requested by mail. Requests should be mailed at least 2 weeks in advance of appointment date. You will be notified of your appointment date by mail.							
amalia							
SITE FILE USER; Indicate if the following information is requested and attach a copy of 1. The project map 2. Site data list	-						
I am requesting the location	I understand that the information provided is to						
of the following sites, if threatened	be used solely for the preparation of an environ-						
by the proposed activity.	filental impact statement as required by State or Federal law and must be marked and maintained as						
$\blacksquare - \frac{14}{14} = \frac{13}{14}$	"Confidential: for use only as required by State						
	or Federal Law or with the written permission of						
	the N.Y.S. Museum Anthropological Survey."						
	$\frac{12/19/9}{(\text{Signature})} \qquad $						
··· ·	(Signature) (Date)						
·	•						
Further listings on back							
	Indicate which you prefer						
for the attached project area.	Hold my response for pick-up on (give date & time)						
	· -						

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N.Y.S. MUSEUM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FILE RM. 3122, C.E.C., ALBANY, N.Y., 12230 CONFIDENTIAL: INFORMATION FOR RELEASE ONLY AS REQUIRED BY LAW OR AS AUTHORIZED IN WRITING BY THE NYSM ANTHROPOLOGY SURVEY

D. # YSH	S- ALT, SITE OLD, NAME DHP)	REPORTED: *:AGE :SITETYPE :STRATIG	REMARKS	USGS TOPO 7:5'(15') :COUNTY	REPORTER (RECORDER) -{EARLIER REPORTER}	PROJ. ID. #	DFILE 1NOTE 2MAP: 3ELOC
53) -	ACP QUAS &	Village	" Villog	iz Januco	ludioss'		
546	ACD Quas no H	traces of c	occupation				
460	82K 2-2	Historic (19 area is v 1900. Ma Struct -10	8 - 19 cent) Ulage 2 term any 18th- nit Found	19th C (1 Found)	Joei (	(ein	
		18 - 20T Faund	"c. ontificername	acts			

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New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Site forms for the two sites within one mile of the project area follow.



	· .		
ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE INVENTORY FORM	FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
	UNIQUE SITE NO. ADSI - 01-0104		
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION	QUAD. Jamat CA		
ALBANY, NEW YORK	SERIES		
518 474-0479	NEG. [10		
REPORTED BY: JOEL Klain	•		
YOUR ADDRESS:			
ORGANIZATION (if any): NYU			
8/20/75	,		
1. SITE NAME: <u>Historic Jamais</u>	a (13RK 2-2)		
2. COUNTY: Queens TOWN/CITY:			
3 LOCATION:			
4. PRESENT OWNER:			
5. OWNER'S ADDRESS:			
6. DESCRIPTION, CONDITION, EVIDENCE OF SITE			
	CELLAR HOLE WITH WALLS		
SURFACE TRACES VISIBLE	WALLS WITHOUT CELLAR HOLE		
UNDER CULTIVATION C EROSIO	N 🗆 UNDERWATER		
□ NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE □ OTHER			
7. COLLECTION OF MATERIAL FROM SITE:			
B SURFACE HUNTING BY WHOM R. BL	Harel DATE 1974-75		
EX TESTING BY WHOM J. KI.	DATE 1975		
EXCAVATION BY WHOM	DATE		
PRESENT REPOSITORY OF MATERIALS-	Vack Collaro on Cuniv		
ALLERIALS			
B. PREHISTORIC CULTURAL AFFILIATION OR DA	\TE:		

LE



Page 2 6. Site inventory: a. date constructed or occupation period							
6. Site inventory: a. date constructed or occupation period							
a. date constructed or occupation period	• •						
b. previous owners, if known							
c. modifications, if known							
(append additional sheets, if necessary)							
7. Site documentation (append additional states is							
a. Historic map references	Bary):						
Date Source							
resent location of original, if known							
2) Name Date Date							
Present location of original, if known							
b. Representation in existing shites							
1) Photo date Where least							
2) Photo date Where located							
c. Primary and secondary source day							
reference documentation (referen	ce fully)						
• • •							
· ·							
d. Persons with memory of site.							
1) Name Address							
2) Name Address							
8. List of material remains other than those used in const as specific as possible in identifying object and mater	ruction (be ial):						
·							
· · · ·							
If prehistoric materials are evident, check here and fime prehistoric site form	ll out						
9. Map References: Map or maps should be							
site must accompany this form and must be identified by source and date. Keep this submission to 85"x11", if feasible. See flot and 4.5.5. Topology Sheet							
USGS 75 Minute Series Quad. Name							
For Office Use OnlyUTM Coordinates							
10. Photography (optional for environmental impact survey): Please submit a 5"x7" black and white print(s) showing t state of the site. Provide a label for the print(s) on sheet.	he current a separate						

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