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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

CRIMINAL COURT FACILITY
BLOCK 2444 and 2445, Morrisania, Bronx

City of New York
Department of General Services

95 DGS 003 X

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I. INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The Department of General Services is planning the construction of a new criminal court facility in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. This building would occupy a three-block site, generally bounded by East 161st Street, Sherman Avenue, East 163rd Street from Sherman to Grant Avenues, Grant Avenue between East 162nd and 163rd Streets, East 162 Street from Grant to Morris Avenues, and Morris Avenue. This includes Block 2444, and the section of Block 2445 west of Grant Avenue. (See Figs. 1 and 2) As currently planned, the new building would house approximately 1,000,000 square feet of court and ancillary space, possibly including areas for retail and community facilities. Because the project site spans three city blocks, it may involve the demapping of streets.

With the additional court space on the Bronx Criminal Court site, the project would allow other nearby court facilities to alleviate overcrowded conditions. Therefore the criminal "court parts" which are presently housed at the landmarked Merola County Courthouse, located at East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse, and the Family Court Building, located just east of the project site, would be transferred to the new building. This would allow the Merola County Courthouse and the Family Court facility to expand their operations.

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 Bronx Criminal Court site. Because master planning and design for the new court facility have just been initiated, no details are as yet available on the building footprint, building heights or the need for demapping any or portions of any streets. Therefore this report assumes a "worst-case scenario" - that the new structure will impact all parts of the study lots as well as the connecting sections of Grant Avenue and East 162nd Street. The assessment is based on archival research which documents the probability that the proposed parcel hosted any prehistoric or historical resources, and the likelihood that they would have survived the post-depositional disturbances which have accompanied subsequent development.

In order to address these concerns, various sources of data were researched. Primary source material on the project site was collected to determine the study lots' original topography, and to compile a building history and disturbance record. Historical maps and descriptions of the study area were sought at the Local History and Map Divisions of the New York Public Library, and the Bronx County Historical Society. Building department files for the project site were exhumed and studied at Bronx Blocks and Lots, and using these records and maps, building histories of the individual lots were compiled. These can be found in Appendix A. Additional information concerning subsurface disturbance, and pre-fill topography was gathered from boring logs provided by the Subsurface Exploration Section of the New York City Topographical Bureau. (See Appendix C)

To place the Bronx Criminal Court site within an historical context, local and regional histories were examined for pertinent material. These include 19th-century works such as Thomas Scharf's *History of Westchester County*, Robert Bolton's *The History of the Several Towns, Manors, and Patents of the County of Westchester* and Shonnard and Spooner's *History*

of Westchester County, as well as more recent works by local and amateur historians, such as those published in the *Bronx Historical Society Journal*. William Ritchie's *The Archaeology of New York State* provided a valuable overview of Native American culture and lifeways during the prehistoric period. Other archaeological literature, available site reports and journal publications, were researched for data specific to the project area. Inquiries concerning inventoried prehistoric and historical sites were sent to the New York State Museum and the New York State Historic Preservation Office. (See Appendix B)

Although no subsurface investigations were conducted, a site visit (6-6-94) and photographic record of current conditions was made. (See Photos 1-6)

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Bronx lies in the Hudson Valley region, in geological terms a section of the New England Upland Physiographic Province, a northern extension of the Great Appalachian Valley (Schubert 1968:74). The underlying geology is the same as that which underlies Manhattan Island, "chiefly gneiss and mica schist with heavy, intercalated beds of coarse-grained, dolomitic marble and thinner layers of serpentine." There are areas of softer sedimentary deposits, such as the Tremont limestone belt, which extends south to the Harlem River, and passes through the Morrisania section (Scharf 1886:6-7). Soil borings show belts of limestone and dolomite running beneath the project lots. (See Appendix C)

The original landscape was altered over the last million years by three known glacial periods. As the ice advanced and receded it eroded, carved, scoured and planed the landscape, and left behind tons of glacial debris, which formed low hills or moraines. In the Bronx these run north-south, directing the local creeks and streams toward outlets along the Harlem and East Rivers. These watercourses have further eroded the limestone belts still exposed between the glacial deposits, creating a varied landscape of hills and valleys. With the final retreat of the ice, the study area was colonized by plants suited to arctic and tundra conditions, which eventually gave way to a forest composed of conifers and more deciduous trees. During the last 12,000 years, the fluctuating floral and faunal communities eventually stabilized, resulting in a landscape covered with oak, hemlock, beech and chestnut trees, generally characterized as a climax forest.

Modern development has greatly altered the landscape which existed on the project site at the time of the first European settlement. However, 19th-century topographic maps show the project parcel as the eastern side of a narrow valley which ran generally north-south. On its eastern side it sloped down from elevations between 50 and 60 feet on Morris Avenue to below 30 feet on the west near Sherman Avenue. Sherman Avenue adjacent to the project lots was roughly the low point of this valley, and a small brook once ran along this route, cutting through the western side of Block 2444. (See Fig. 3) One map even shows the creek and surrounding swampy areas occupying the two westernmost blocks of the study site. (See Fig. 4) Others show the creek draining into the Harlem River (See Fig. 8), but sometime before 1873 this outlet was suppressed, and maps from the 1870s show the creek draining into a pond.¹

Data from soil borings agree with the above scenario. (See Appendix C) The surface beneath the historical fill shows elevations as high as 52.3 feet near Morris Avenue (Boring #126 at East 161st Street), declining as one proceeds west, to as low as 19.3 feet near the streambed (Boring #3, at Sherman and 162nd). On Sherman Avenue opposite the project lots, the elevations increase again. As would be expected, the streambed is also the only place on the project lots that the water table is as high as the bottom of the fill layer (Boring #1, and also B-1 and B-7 outside the project area).

¹The "Ice Pond" was probably an artificial body of water. It lay approximately 750 feet south of the project parcel. (See Figs. 3, 4)

The layer of modern fill covering what is believed to be the original surface, is as thick as 25 feet near the streambed (#1) and as thin as 2.3 feet on the eastern half of the site (#136). The watercourse is now confined to the sewer system. Modern topographic maps show elevations between the 40- and 50-foot contour lines. (See Fig. 2) However, the boring logs and insurance map intersection elevations still reveal a slight downward slope from east to west. (See Appendix C and e.g. Fig. 16) Garages, parking lots, small storefronts and multi-story buildings, including Montefiore Health Care Center (a clinic) dominate the site. The remaining 19th-century houses are swathed in aluminum siding and asbestos shingles, and many are in an advanced state of disrepair. (See Photos 1-6, and Appendix A)

III. PREHISTORIC ERA

The prehistoric era in the coastal New York region can be divided into three time periods, based on human prehistoric adaptation to changing environmental conditions. These are generally known as the Paleo-Indian (c.12,000 to 10,000 years ago), the Archaic (c.10,000 to 2,700 years ago) and the Woodland (c.2,700 to 300 years ago). In order to be able to assess the project site's potential for prehistoric exploitation, it is first necessary to review these time periods and their associated settlement patterns.

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

Toward the end of the Wisconsin Glaciation, during the Late Pleistocene Epoch, the first humans wandered across the exposed land bridge which connected Siberia and Alaska. These small groups of hunters were probably following the roaming herds of megafauna which were their chief prey. The distinctive weapon in their chipped stone tool kit was the fluted point, which has been found in association with mammoth, mastodon, bison and horse remains at various sites in the southwestern United States. Although none of these "kill sites" is located east of the Mississippi, the discovery of campsites such as that at Port Mobil, Staten Island, suggest a scattered, highly mobile population in bands of approximately 20 individuals, who ranged across a vast area necessary to support lifeways organized around the hunting of migratory game (Ritchie 1980:1-3, 13).

The fluted, lanceolate points, two to five inches in length with concave bases and channelled or fluted faces, presumably to facilitate hafting, exhibit a considerable range in shape and size. They were usually made from a high-grade silicious stone, often exotic to the region in which they are recovered, a function of their makers' seasonal migrations. Other artifacts in the Paleo-Indian tool kit include scrapers, knives, borers and gravers, tools which indicate extensive handiwork in wood, bone and leather (Ritchie 1980:3,6).

From the locations of recorded sites in the Northeast, Paleo-Indians exhibited a marked preference for well-elevated situations. However, 30% of sites were found on or near the margins of swampy ground. Environmental characteristics which appear to have been attractive to Paleo-Indians include the proximity of major waterways, large fertile valleys and the coastal plain, where the densest population of desired food animals was supported (Ritchie 1980:7). However since 10,000 years ago, the rise in sea level estimated to be from 75 to 80 feet, has submerged large numbers of these sites.

The retreat of ice from the Bronx approximately 18,000 years ago and a global warming trend circa 14,000 years before present, encouraged Paleo-Indian settlement in the Northeast. The post-glacial environment of spruce and pine underwent a gradual modification in favor of deciduous hardwoods such as oak and hickory, which have greater importance in terms of nutritional value to both animals and humans than do conifers. By 8,000 B.C., these deciduous species dominated forests along the eastern seaboard. In addition, the megafauna on which Paleo-Indian diet was based "were rapidly becoming extinct, and were being replaced by the temperate-climate fauna that are indigenous today" (Gwynne 1982:190-191).

Archaic Period (c.10,000 y.a. - 2,700 y.a.)

The warming trend at the end of the last glaciation completely transformed the northeastern coastal environment from tundra and conifer-dominated forests, to the present deciduous woodlands with generally modern distributions of fauna. Due to the dwindling contribution of meltwater from disappearing glaciers, the reduced flow of streams and rivers promoted the formation of swamps and mudflats. These wetlands created a congenial environment for migratory waterfowl, and a host of edible plant species and shellfish. The new mixed hardwood forests of oak, hickory, chestnut, beech and elm attracted such mast-eating fauna as white-tailed deer, wild turkey, moose and beaver.

Although the Archaic diet was still based on hunting and gathering, due to the greater variety of plants available and exploited, excavated Archaic sites yield a wide array of plant processing tools, including grinding stones, mortars and pestles. The diagnostic tool was the grooved axe. In the coastal areas of New York, have been found numerous, small "nearly always multi-component sites variously situated on tidal inlets, coves and bays, particularly at the heads of the latter, and on fresh-water ponds . . ." (Ritchie 1980:143). By the Late Archaic, these areas provided shellfish, small game, fish, salt hay and tuberous grasses making larger more permanent settlements possible. Semi-nomadic life is still indicated, but wandering occurred within well-defined territorial limits, with seasonal movements between camps near exploitable resources. A dietary shift to shellfish in coastal New York near the end of the Archaic suggests a scarcity of large game, and a change from the early Archaic inland adaptation of forest hunting. Coastal sites show a principal reliance upon shellfish, especially oysters, hard and soft shell clams and bay scallops, which were readily available in the waters around the Bronx. Characteristic of the Late Archaic were "fish-tailed" projectile points and soapstone bowls (Ritchie 1980:142,166, 167, 171). In contrast to conditions during the Paleo-Indian, Early and Middle Archaic, "by Late Archaic times sea level was so close to present levels that its subsequent small rise has failed to obliterate much of what remains on Long Island from that period" (Gwynne 1982:192). Hence the Late Archaic Wading River complex, four sites on the north shore of Suffolk County, was found at the edge of a salt marsh, on dry ground ranging only two to seven feet above mean high water (Wyatt 1982:71).

Woodland Period (c.2,700 y.a. - 300 y.a.)

From approximately 3,000 years ago until the arrival of the first Europeans, Native Americans of southern New York shared common attributes of the Woodland Stage: the advent of horticulture, extensive trade networks, large permanent or semi-permanent villages, pipe smoking, the bow and arrow and the production of clay vessels. The habitation sites of the Woodland Indians increased in size and permanence as they became ever more efficient in extracting food from their environment. The archaeological evidence from Woodland Period sites indicates a strong preference for large-scale habitation sites to be in close proximity to a major fresh water source, e.g., a river, a lake or an extensive wetland; and smaller scale sites for

extractive operations, e.g., butchering stations, shell gathering loci and quarrying sites, to be situated at other resource locales. Late Woodland Stage sites of the East River Tradition in southern New York have been noted on the "second rise of ground above high water level on tidal inlets," and situated on "tidal streams or coves" and "well-drained sites" (Ritchie 1980:16). Carlyle S. Smith, who studied and analyzed the distribution of prehistoric ceramics in coastal New York, stated that "village sites" are found on the margins of bays and tidal streams" (Smith 1950:130).

Woodland Period tool kits show some minor variations as well as some major additions from previous Archaic tool kits. Plant processing tools became increasingly common and their presence seems to indicate an intensive harvesting of wild plant foods that may have approached the efficiency of horticulture, which itself appeared during the second half of the Woodland Period. The advent of horticulture is tied in with the introduction of ceramic containers which allowed for more efficient cooking of certain types of food and may also have functioned as storage for surplus food resources. "With the onset of relative sedentary lifestyles and intensified food production, which might have produced occasional surpluses, incipient ranked societies may have begun to develop, as indicated by the presence of extensive trade and exchange and some caching of special artifact forms" (Gretler et al. 1988:10). Despite the advent of agriculture, shellfish and small game remained an important component of the Woodland diet. Shellfish refuse heaps, termed "middens," reached immense proportions, covering from one to over three acres. Deer, turkey, raccoon, muskrat, ducks and other game were stalked with bow and arrows, replacing the spear and javelin, while dug-out boats, bone hooks, harpoons and nets with pebble sinkers were employed in fishing (Ritchie 1980:179-180,267).

Historical narratives written by European travelers and settlers provide us with our only first-hand descriptions of Native American daily life and customs during 17th century. Johannes de Laet, in his *New World, or Description of West India*, published in Holland in 1625, wrote that the Native Americans:

... are divided into many nations and languages, but differ little in manners. They dress in the skins of animals. Their food is maize, crushed fine and baked in cakes, with fish, birds and wild game. Their weapons are bows and arrows, their boats are made from the trunks of trees hollowed out by fire.

Some lead a wandering life, others live in bark houses, their furniture mainly mats and wooden dishes, stone hatchets, and stone pipes for smoking tobacco (Bolton 1972:16).

Anthropologists and linguists agree that when Europeans arrived in the area which is now the Bronx, the Native Americans present were Munsee-speaking Upper Delaware Indians, a group known as the Wiechquaesgeck. At the time of European contact, c.1600, an estimated 900 Wiechquaesgeck occupied the Bronx, northern Manhattan Island and Westchester County. Henry Hudson's first meetings in 1609 with the Indians along the Hudson River shores of Westchester and the Bronx were a harbinger of things to come. When a mate rashly killed an Indian caught burgling one of the ship's cabins, hostilities broke out which ended with the crew firing muskets

on canoes crowded with hostile warriors, killing nine Indians (Brodhead 1854:33; Grumet 1981:60). With the advent of Dutch settlement during the 17th century, the constant contact between peoples of two alien cultures, along with their competition for land and other natural resources was a source of frequent friction. Since the Wiechquaesgeck had few furs to trade with the Dutch, there was little motivation on either side for good relations. Several brutal wars with the Dutch and hostilities with other Indian groups during the 1640s and 1650s, coupled with the introduction of European diseases against which Native American populations had no natural protection, decimated Indian populations in the New York City area. Many groups were forced to migrate and merge in order to maintain viable communities. By the end of the 17th century, the Wiechquaesgeck had abandoned Manhattan. Some moved to New Jersey, where they joined the Raritan, while many others settled in northern Westchester County, among the Wappingers in Dutchess County and also in the vicinity of Stamford, Connecticut. They and other small groups were referred to as "River Indians" during the 18th century, when they provided the English with laborers and warriors, but these Indians were driven off or moved in with other groups outside the Lower Hudson Valley (Grumet 1981:60-62).

Nineteenth- and 20th-century research by Robert S. Grumet and Reginald Bolton indicates that the Indian village nearest the project site was *Ranachqua*, generally located on the East River at East 131st Street and Cypress Avenue, approximately 1.7 miles to the south southeast. "Food pits and Indian implements" have been found here (Bolton 1972:136-137). Historian Robert Bolton reported in 1881 that "Within a few years several Indian tumuli have been accidentally opened in the vicinity . . . and found to contain large-sized skeletons of the Aborigines" (Bolton 1881:451). The name *Ranachqua* has been defined in various sources as "the end place," "stop" or "point," and despite the existence of the village, the name was usually used to refer to the part of the southwestern Bronx that juts out between the Harlem and East Rivers. This "Ranaque tract" which probably included the study area, was purchased by Jonas Bronck in 1639 (Grumet 1981:43; Brodhead 1854:43). (See Section IV).

The known Indian path nearest the project parcel ran roughly north-south, connecting a spot on the East River with Native America sites in the northwestern Bronx. It ran between present Jerome Avenue and the Grand Concourse, within 2,000 feet of the project blocks to the east. (See Fig. 5) The identification of the creeks in the vicinity of the study area is more problematic, since the text and maps of the most reliable source do not agree. Although *Sackwrahung*, possibly meaning "at the mouth of the river" is identified as Mill Creek, Mill Creek does not have "its mouth at 149th Street and the East River" as Grumet asserts. Furthermore, his map (See Fig. 5) identifies the creek with its outlet at 149th Street as "Wigwam Creek," and *Sackwrahung* as a creek further to the east. If Mill Creek, which ran along the present Brook Avenue, approximately 1,750 feet east of the project lots, was *Sackwrahung*, then it is probable that Wigwam Creek is the small brook that ran through the western side of the study parcel (Grumet 1981:49,62,69).

Whatever its name, 19th-century maps record this creek passing through the western side of Block 2444. (See Fig. 3) Egbert Viele's topographic map of 1874 is the only source that depicts a swampy area to each side of the stream, although he sites the watercourse a bit far to the east. (Compare Figs. 3, 4, 12) All other maps clearly show that Morrisania Avenue paralleled the

stream immediately to the east, and the route of Morrisania Avenue is clearly delineated on maps as late as 1909. (See Figs. 11 bottom, 13, 15) This creek and its adjacent marsh would have been attractive resources for exploitation by prehistoric and historical Native Americans. As outlined above, prehistoric settlement patterns show a marked preference for sheltered, elevated sites close to wetland features. Such elevated ground existed on the project site, which sloped down from elevations between 50 and 60 feet near Morris Avenue, to between 20 and 30 feet along the creek. Although there is no evidence of an Indian village on the study lots, the valley slopes could have provided an area for a temporary camp or processing site.

A file search from the New York State Museum, which gives known site locations near the study lots has identified five documented sites, none of which lies within a half mile of the project blocks. (See Appendix B) The "prehistoric village" (NYSM#5475) listed is the same location as the village discussed above and identified by Reginald Bolton as Ranachqua. The remaining four documented sites - (NYSM#4065) a village; (NYSM#4066) a village and planting fields; (NYSM#7248) a locus with traces of occupation only; and, (NYSM#7249) also traces of occupation only - all lie along the shores of the Harlem and East Rivers, where there were shellfish beds to be exploited in addition to marshland resources. The Bronx Criminal Court site, on the other hand, is at least 0.6 miles from the nearest (Harlem) river. Even though the museum's sensitivity rating is based on a present topography, and does not take into account the brook and marshy area along the western side of the study parcel, it still gives the site a "high probability of producing prehistoric archaeological data," because "the physiographic characteristics of the location present a high probability of prehistoric occupation or use."

IV. HISTORICAL PERIOD

The Bronx only acquired its name when the present borough became part of New York City in 1895. The name was chosen to honor the first recorded European settler, Jonas Bronck, a Dane² who settled there by 1639. Despite periods of bad relations with the Wiechquaesgeck and other groups described in the preceding section, the Dutch West India Company, which controlled New Netherland, was usually scrupulous about gaining legal title to the lands which it occupied. Under Governor-general Willem Kieft the company had acquired all the land of the present borough from the Wiechquaesgeck in 1639. Jonas Bronck's land was a 500-acre tract of this territory, lying between the Bronx and Harlem Rivers. He purchased this area, which probably included the study site near its northern limits, from Indians referred to as Ranachqua and Taekamuck (Scharf 1886:769). Bronck occupied the plantation³ by July of 1639 when he began leasing parcels to tenants. Pieter Andriessen and Laurens Duyts agreed to clear land and raise maize and tobacco for two years, when the land, in condition for plowing and sowing grain, would revert to Bronck. The tenants would then be assigned to a new area. A similar deal was worked out with Cornelis and J. J. Still or Stoll for a "lot of land with a dwelling house and stock (Hansen 1950:6-7). For himself and his Dutch wife, Antonia Slagboom, Bronck erected a stone house with a tiled roof, a barn, a tobacco house and two [hay?] barracks, and named his farm Emmaus. His house was west of the Mill Creek, about 1.4 miles south southwest of the project site (Scharf 1886:769). (See Fig. 6, "43") It is not clear where any of the tenant farmers lived.

Bronck always maintained good relations with his Indian neighbors, and despite the wars of the 1640s and 1650s, his farm was never attacked. His house was even the site of the signing of a short-lived peace treaty between the Dutch and the Indians in 1642. When Bronck died in 1643, his wife remarried and in 1651 the property, which during the 18th century was referred to as Bronxland (Bronck's land), was sold to Jacob Jans. Stoll, one of the early tenants. It was passed among several owners before Samuel Edsall purchased the land in 1662. Edsall was a "beavermaker," but because he was well-known among the Native Americans, and had learned their language, he often acted as an interpreter between them and the authorities. Edsall held the property until after the English conquest of the New Netherland in 1664, and sold it sometime between 1668 and 1670 to Captain Richard Morris who bought the Bronxland for himself and his brother Colonel Lewis Morris. The Morris brothers had both been officers in Oliver Cromwell's army during the English Civil War, and had established themselves as merchants on the English Caribbean colony of Barbados. Richard and his wife settled on their new property, presumably at or near Bronck's house. The couple died in 1672, leaving their estate and infant son, Lewis II, in charge of a cousin, Walter Webley. In the meantime, the Dutch had recaptured New York, and under a legal loophole which did not grant the same protections to inhabitants of Barbados as it did to those of Connecticut or Virginia, the Dutch governor attempted to confiscate the Morris property. Somehow Col. Morris had himself appointed guardian of his young nephew, and was

²Although some sources describe him as a Swede (Scharf 1886:769), an inventory of Bronck's estate includes several books in Danish (Van Laer 1974:121-125).

³A plantation is an undeveloped farm.

able to prevent this. When the colony was returned to the English the following year, Col. Morris was confirmed in his ownership, and Governor Andros granted him additional lands, until his estate included most of the present Bronx west of the Bronx River, over 1,900 acres (Scharf 1886:778-779). The Morris house was built near the Bronck house, about 1.7 miles south of the project site (Bolton 1881:489). (See Fig. 6, and 8 "Col. Morris Mansion")

When Col. Lewis Morris died in 1691, Governor Benjamin Fletcher not only confirmed the land grant to his nephew Lewis II, but "erected" the estates into the Manor of Morrisania, with Lewis as the first Lord. Morris controlled local courts ("Court-Leet and Court-Baron"), the issue of writs, had jurisdiction over "all waifs, estrays, wrecks, deodands," the goods of all felons, and the patronage of all churches in Morrisania. His tenants held their farms in free and common socage, with a yearly rent of six shillings (Scharf 1886:779-780). Under this arrangement they were obligated to lease a farm for life, but their heirs could inherit the lease with the consent of the lord, who could demand a transaction fee - up to one third the value of the land (Hansen 1950:88). Morris was also entitled to send a representative to the provincial assembly (Kammen 1975:300-301).

The first Lord of Morrisania was a particularly able individual, and extremely active in provincial politics. Besides being a member of the assembly, beginning at the age of 21 he held many offices in the provincial governments of New York and East Jersey, including Judge of the Court of Common Right (1692), president of the governor's council (1700) - both in East Jersey, Chief Justice of New York (1715-1733), and was appointed the first royal governor of New Jersey from 1738 to his death in 1746, when he was buried at Morrisania (Scharf 1886:781).

Although his eldest son, Lewis III, inherited the entire manor, he split the property between his sons when he died in 1762. As eldest son, Lewis IV inherited the manor and title, but apparently only the property west of the Mill Creek, which included the study blocks and was sometimes referred to as Old Morrisania. (See Fig. 8) Like his grandfather, Lewis IV was also prominent in New York politics. He was an opponent of British policies in North America, and a member of the Continental Congress. He also commanded the Westchester militia during the Revolution. His half-brother, Gouverneur Morris, also a prominent politician and diplomat, was admitted to the bar in 1771 at the age of 19, and elected to the provincial congress of New York in 1775. There he supported independence and was able to secure authorization for Lewis IV and the other New York delegates to sign the Declaration of Independence. Gouverneur was also elected to the Continental Congress (1777), but was so involved with committee work and negotiations with Britain and France, that he was later charged with neglecting his constituency and voted out of office.

The Revolution was not kind to Morrisania. As General Washington and his troops withdrew from New York City, a division of American soldiers under General Heath was stationed at Morrisania. A picket of 450 men, constantly mounted, was placed one-half gunshot apart, along the East River shore near Randalls Island (1.7 miles south of the project site), to guard the Continental army from surprise attack. Col. Morris' house (See Fig. 8), served as headquarters, and after the Battle of White Plains, when the American lines were forced north to the Croton (about 25 miles north of the study area), the house became the headquarters of the

loyalist British refugee corps, under Col. James DeLancey. Behind enemy lines, Morrisania was despoiled by British troops, who were quartered on the property, plundered the Morris family graves, and strew the bones about. Timber was cut from 474 acres, and when American raids became too intense, DeLancey abandoned Morrisania for Fordham, but first burned the manor house (Bolton 1881:489,498-500).

When Gouverneur's mother died in 1786, his half-brother Staats Long Morris⁴ inherited a large section of the original manor, east of the Mill Creek. Since Staats Long lived in England and was a general in the English army, he had no desire to occupy the land, and Gouverneur purchased the acreage on the East River, now the Port Morris section of the Bronx (Scharf 1886:784). (See Fig. 8) The house he built in 1800 stood at what became the southwest corner of Cypress Avenue and East 131st Street, 1.7 miles south of the study lots. There he entertained many notables, including LaFayette and Louis Philippe (the future king of France) (Hansen 1950:9). It was razed in 1905. (See Fig. 9)

Another consequence of the Revolution was the abolishment of the manor as a political entity. (See Fig. 7) In 1790 Morrisania had a population of 133. The following year it was annexed by the town of Westchester. Lewis Morris IV was still a large and influential landowner, who in c.1790 offered Morrisania as a site for the national capital, but it was dropped from consideration in favor of another site on the Potomac. Thus, the area of the former manor returned to its existence as a sleepy agricultural backwater and country estate. It is apparent that the Morrisises used black slaves as a major part of their workforce. Col. Lewis Morris' will of 1691 listed 22 men, 11 women, 6 boys, 2 girls and 25 children, which were valued at £844. These may have been the first African-Americans to live in the Bronx. Although African slaves were more prevalent in New York than in neighboring colonies, they were extremely expensive (a grown man was valued at £20), and only a wealthy family like the Morrisises could afford such a number, large even for the southern colonies. Col. Morris' large holding (despite his espousal of Quakerism) could be related to the fact that he came from Barbados, where slave labor was used extensively on the sugar plantations. By 1790 there were still 30 slaves in Morrisania (out of a total population of 133), and most were owned by the Morrisises (Bolton 1881:ix,455). The only commercial industry was market gardening for New York City. Although there were several sloops on Long Island Sound and the Hudson to transport produce to Manhattan, the farmers preferred to go by wagon. At the site of the present Third Avenue Bridge, 1.4 miles southwest of the study lots, Lewis IV had a dam built to provide power for grist and other mills along the Harlem River, and to provide the foundation for a bridge to connect Morrisania and Harlem. This bridge, known as Cole's Bridge after its engineer, was used until replaced by a new structure in 1855 (Shonnard and Spooner 1900:534,541).

Gouverneur's son, also named Gouverneur,⁵ founded the first church within the boundaries of the former manor, apparently near the northern edge of his estate. This was St.

⁴Staats was the family name of his mother, Catherine Staats, while Gouverneur's mother was Sarah Gouverneur.

⁵The son inherited his father's house, and it his name that appears on Figure 8.

Ann's Episcopal Church, "a pleasing gothic structure of marble" with "a spire over the southern end," which he had built in 1841 (Scharf 1886:784; Bolton 1881:488). All the Morris family members were reinterred in the vaults beneath St. Ann's, which still stands on St. Ann's Avenue between East 139th and 141st Streets (Willensky and White 1988:485), about 1.1 miles south of the study blocks.

Morrisania's urbanization began only after the railroads began to link the area with New York City. The first and most important was the New York and Harlem Rail Road, which began service in 1842. This line ran through Morrisania, on the same route as the present Conrail tracks along Park Avenue, only about 500 feet east of the study lots (Shonnard and Spooner 1900:573). (See Figs. 2, 8, 11 top) By cutting the time and expense of travel, the railroad made it possible for people to live full-time in Morrisania and work in New York City. As a result, Morrisania was ripe for development, and the various Morris family members were ready to sell tracts of the family land. By 1846, the population of the western Bronx had increased so much that the Town of West Farms was created. West Farms was originally a village on the Bronx River (about 2 miles northeast of the study area), which had become an important manufacturing center, due to its water-powered mills. The new township consisted of all the present Bronx west of the Bronx River, including the project area (Shonnard and Spooner 1900:575).

In 1848 a group of 167 New York City "mechanics and laboring men" organized themselves in order to find a location near the city where they could build houses and settle their families, escaping the noise and crowded conditions of Manhattan, "with the satisfaction of knowing that they were not at the mercy of their landlords." Discovering Morrisania, only an hour by train from City Hall, a select committee approached the owner, Gouverneur Morris II, who agreed to sell them 200 acres of farmland (less than one mile northeast of the study parcel). Here, in the midst of "fields of waving grain, potato patches, meadows, corn fields, apple orchards and cow pastures" they established New Village, which was later known as Morrisania village. (See Fig. 8) After streets were laid out and provision made for a schoolhouse, village square and railroad depot, the remaining 167 acres were divided into one-acre lots, one to each member. Individual deeds were secured from Gouverneur Morris, with the provision that each owner must build on his lot within three years. One of the early settlers was Moses E. Halsey, a chairmaker, after whom Halsey Street, now East 162nd Street was named. (Frisbee 1871:v-vi, xii, xvii; Henry 1853:29).

Noting the success of Morrisania village, William H. Morris, the grandson of Lewis Morris IV (last lord of the manor), with the assistance of "N. M'Graw," developed a village he named West Morrisania. According to the 1853-4 directory of "Morrisania and vicinity," West Morrisania included the study lots. The earliest recorded resident of the study lots was Charles H. Tupper, who lived on the northwest corner of Morris Avenue and 161st Street, presently Block 2444 Lot 54. This is the single dwelling that appears for the first time on the 1853 Dripps map. (See Fig. 11 top) Tupper's occupation is listed as "ironworks" (Henry 1853:29). Other villages were founded at about the same time, including Melrose, which lay just southeast of the railroad tracks, about 2,000 feet from the study blocks. (See Figs. 8, 11 top) The directory observed that:

thousands, once cribbed in the city, many of whom still do business there, have airy homes and beautiful gardens, amid scenes of rural romance, where the incessant roar of the metropolis is exchanged for the warbling melody of nature (Henry 1853:5).

Despite selling the acreage for West Morrisania, William H. Morris retained an estate just to the north and west of the project area, and lived in a house built by his father James in 1816. On a high ridge, the edifice stood on the east side of present Findlay Avenue between East 167th and 168th Streets, about 2,100 feet northeast of the study parcel. (See Fig. 13)

It is handsome and well placed; and the neighborhood is rendered extremely beautiful by the inequality of the ground, and the fine mixture of wood and pasture which diversifies the appearance of vales and eminences.

. . . A broad and fine carriage road, lined on either side with elms, is terminated by a picturesque view of Melrose and its surroundings (Bolton 1881:491).

Morris served in the army during the Civil War, where he rose to the rank of brevet major general (Shonnard and Spooner 1900:547). In the post-bellum period Jefferson Davis was a frequent visitor to the house. The building was demolished in 1916 for the Daughters of Jacob Hospital. (See Fig. 10 bottom) The property was also the site of an earlier Morris farmhouse, a stone structure built in 1792, which was not torn down until c.1910. It stood on the opposite side of Findlay Avenue from the William H.'s home. (See Fig. 10 top)

The villages within the Town of West Farms grew so substantially during the 1840s and 50s that the Town of Morrisania was split off from it, with its borders roughly corresponding to those of the old manor. After the Civil War a large wave of German immigrants arrived in Morrisania, with the poorer *Volk* settling in the Melrose area, and the professional classes in the Woodstock section. (See Fig. 8) Their numbers enabled the Germans to found an entire network of German institutions, *Turnvereins* (athletic clubs), churches and singing societies, as well as numerous breweries. These neighborhoods retained a strong German flavor until the 1920s (McNamara 1989:45-46,50; Marks 1968:29). Between 1860 and 1870 the new town's population increased from 9,245 to 19,609. By 1860 there were two houses on the project lots, Charles Tupper's home at the corner of Morris Avenue and 161st Street (now Block 2444 Lot 54), shown in 1860 as the home of J. Bennett, and the Rev. D. DeVinne's house on the adjacent property to the west (now Block 2444 Lot 32). (See Fig. 11 bottom) The project blocks had not yet reached their present configuration. The creek along the western side of the study lots was paralleled by Morrisania Avenue, whose course can still be seen in some of the eccentrically-shaped lots near Sherman Avenue. (See Figs. 1, 11, 14) Neither Sherman or Grant Avenues were yet mapped in 1860.

William H. Morris also leased the property corresponding to present East 165th to 167th Streets between Webster and Sheridan Avenues, for what became the Fleetwood Trotting Track, a racecourse which specialized in trotters. (See Fig. 13) Oddly enough, c.1750 there was a racecourse in the vicinity, established by Staats Long Morris, the English general and brother of Lewis IV (Wells 1927:704). He was said to be one of the first importers of blooded horses in the

northern colonies (Bolton 1881:491). Some sources suggest that his course occupied some of the same land as the later track (McNamara 1984:220), while others place it just south of Claremont Park (almost one mile north of the project lots). The Fleetwood track was just a block south of Morris' house, and only 900 feet north of the study lots. The lessees were the Dater brothers who built a mile-long track and held the first race in June of 1871 (Wells 1927:704). Robert Bonner, after whom Bonner Place (less than 500 feet northeast of the project site) was named, and who lived on the east side of College Avenue between East 163rd and 164th Streets (about 800 feet to the northeast), was an important stable owner. Opposite his house was the Grant Hotel, where the jockeys often stayed. Named for President U. S. Grant, who had driven trotters around the track, it is now an apartment house. At the rear of a three-story brick house at the southeast corner of College Avenue and East 164th Street⁶ was once a stable large enough to hold about ten horses, with a loft and grooms' quarters behind (Marks 1968:25-26). When the Daters defaulted on their lease in 1880, Morris leased the track to the Gentlemen's Driving Association, which ran the establishment as the New York Driving Club until the last races in 1897. It was closed because the authorities wanted to cut streets through the property (Wells 1927:705).

Morrisania's new residents clamored for improved roads and other city-like amenities, and annexation by New York City was discussed as early as 1864. However, in that year the adoption of a Morrisania village charter enabled the trustees to make street and highway improvements. But it is significant that the streets laid out near the Harlem River continued the numbers of Manhattan streets (Shonnard and Spooner 1900:597,610). When a referendum on annexation was finally held in 1873, Morrisania, West Farms and Kingsbridge voted overwhelmingly to become part of New York City, and officially became the 23rd and 24th Wards in 1874. Street improvements in and around the project lots seem to have begun almost immediately. A 1873 topographical survey shows the planned route of Sherman Avenue, realignment of Sherman and Grant, and widening of Morris Avenue. (See Fig. 3)

The Annexed District, as these wards were unofficially known until the rest of the present Bronx was annexed in 1895 and became the Borough of the Bronx in 1898, retained a suburban character for many years. In fact, the Grand Concourse, officially the Grand Boulevard and Concourse, was originally developed to provide easy access from Manhattan to the district's large parks. Four and a half miles from East 138th Street to the Mosholu Parkway, beyond East 205th Street, it is 180 feet wide, with trees planted down the center. When Louis Risse⁷ first designed the Concourse in 1892, it was called the "Speedway Concourse and Transverse Road." A print dated 1892 shows a central below-grade roadway, paralleled and crossed by local paths at street level, and passing through a leafy suburban neighborhood (Patterson 1978:170; WPA 1939:517). In 1906 the Grand Concourse was still unpaved, surrounded by low hills and fields. East 161st Street was a "dirt wagon road" (Kapolkin 1970:85) connecting the Concourse with the Bronx Borough Courthouse, designed by local architect Michael Garvin, and under construction from 1905 to 1915. This Beaux Arts structure, now a designated landmark, stands 2,500 feet east of

⁶This building, 750 feet northeast of the study parcel, was still standing in 1968.

⁷Risse was the Chief Engineer of the Board of Public Improvements of the 23rd and 24th Wards.

the project lots, at the intersection of East 161st Street, Third Avenue and Brook Avenue (Willensky and White 1988:490-491; Hermalyn and Kornfeld 1990:23).

Even as the opening of the railroad in 1842 ushered in growth as a suburban retreat, the first elevated trains, or "els," began the Bronx's transition into an urban extension of Manhattan. The Suburban Rapid Transit Company bridged the Harlem River and began service on the Second Avenue Line in 1886. Five cents would take a passenger from downtown Manhattan to 143rd Street. This line (no longer active) was extended along Third Avenue to 177th Street in 1891, and had a station at 161st Street, half a mile east of the study parcel. This line, followed by the Jerome Avenue Line in 1917, and the Grand Concourse subway line in 1933 (only 750 feet west of Sherman Avenue) began the explosive population growth that characterized the southwestern Bronx during the first half of the 20th century (Wolf and Mantegazza 1970:16,19). Crowded Manhattan, with a population of almost 2.3 million in 1913, lost over 300,000 people from 1920 to 1925, as the new middle class moved to Brooklyn and the Bronx. The population of the Bronx increased 64%, growth which was concentrated in the areas of the transit lines. Moving from Manhattan became the immigrant's badge of success (Patterson 1978:213; Wolf and Mantegazza 1970:19-21).

During the Depression, developers took advantage of the depressed land prices to buy up large parcels of land along the Grand Concourse. In the late 1930s, dozens of six-story apartment buildings were erected on and near the Grand Concourse, designed in the streamlined new Art Moderne and the (relatively new) angular, highly-decorated Art Deco styles. These still extant buildings remain the largest collection of Art Moderne and Art Deco inspired ornament in the United States. Among these is the Bronx County Building, a monumental pile completed in 1934. This landmarked structure dominates the section of the Grand Concourse from East 158th to 161st Streets, about 750 feet southwest of the project lots (Willensky and White 1988:507,509).

Each neighborhood in the southwestern Bronx developed its own ethnic character, with concentrations of Jews in apartment houses in Morrisania and their more affluent brethren on the Grand Concourse; Italians in Melrose, occupying a mix of small apartment buildings and private houses; Irish in frame houses in Mott Haven, and African-Americans near Melrose Avenue, and in Mott Haven (Breedon 1976:84; Ultan and Hermalyn c.1992:4). After World War II, the housing shortage in New York City was acute, and government-sponsored, low-rent apartments were built, concentrated in the southwest Bronx. Private developments such as Concourse Village, the "luxury" towers opposite the study lots on East 161st Street were also constructed. Many former serviceman and other residents of the area, including the more affluent black families, were able to move to newer buildings and houses in the suburbs as well as more suburban sections of the city. By the end of the 1950s, their places had been taken by black and Puerto Rican families fleeing the older housing stock of the Harlems for the low rents, good transportation, shopping and parks of Morrisania (Ibid.:5; Breedon 1976:84-85).

V. CONCLUSIONS

PREHISTORIC POTENTIAL

Overwhelming evidence exists that Native Americans exploited the natural resources of the Bronx for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. It is also clear that the stream and marshland on the Bronx Criminal Court site offered a tempting source of food and raw materials for prehistoric man.

Settlement pattern data of the prehistoric culture periods show a strong correlation between habitation and processing sites and 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 confirms that some of these criteria are met in the project lots, namely, the presence of a small stream, a marshy area, and protected, well-drained, elevated land. In addition, although the literature does not identify it as such, from the cartographic evidence alone the project site appears to be part of a natural north-south route between the hills of the western Bronx. Rather than expending valuable energy climbing up and down, Native Americans would have followed a stream course in much the same way that Morrisania Avenue, which paralleled the stream on the study lots, was utilized by the 19th-century inhabitants. (See Fig. 3) This picture of the topography suggests that the only areas that can be eliminated from prehistoric consideration before a discussion of disturbance, are the stream bed and marshy sections of the site, which correspond roughly to the section of Block 2444 west of old Morrisania Avenue. For although prehistoric Americans may have utilized the available resources, temporary campsites or processing areas would have been situated near rather than *in* a marsh.

DISTURBANCE OF POTENTIAL PREHISTORIC REMAINS

In addition to assessing a site's potential for prehistoric use, the preparation of this report has also involved the collection of data to determine the probability that subsequent construction has destroyed any potential remains. For the following discussion of lot disturbance and sensitivity, refer to the Archaeological Sensitivity Map - Prehistoric (Fig. 21).

The impact of old Morrisania Avenue is unclear. The effect of horse and wagon traffic on an unpaved dirt road would have severely impacted shallowly-buried prehistoric remains. Erosion caused by the stream and the natural drainage system of the valley would also have had an adverse impact. Since the road ran through a low-lying area near the stream, it is possible that some sort of grading operation was carried out to raise the elevation so that the road was not regularly flooded. There is only one boring in the roadbed which measures the elevation of the water table, showing it to be at least 5 feet below the fill surface (Boring #5). However, if the route of Morrisania Avenue were marshy enough to require regrading, prehistoric Americans would never have utilized it as a processing locus or campsite, especially with more elevated areas directly to the east. In either case, the route of Morrisania Avenue is not sensitive for prehistoric remains.

East 162nd Street between Grant and Sherman Avenues, and Grant Avenue between East 162nd and 161st Streets have not hosted any structure, but the impact of the construction of sewer and water lines must be considered. Sewer and water lines are installed using the cut-and-cover method, which obliterates all cultural remains encountered. In general, the depth of this impact can only be estimated, but an 1897 collection of maps documenting the sewerage districts of the Bronx records the elevations of the *bottoms* of the then-existing 12-inch pipe sewer lines (Haffen 1897:sect.9). Along the project site section of East 162nd Street, this ranged from 27 feet near Sherman Avenue to 32.5 feet at Grant Avenue. Along this section of 162nd Street, with its high below-fill elevations (33 feet where the sewer goes to 27 feet, and 35 feet where the disturbance is 32.5 feet or lower), between 2.5 to 6 feet of the below-fill surface was impacted (Borings #8 and #9). Grant Avenue was impacted to a depth of 32.5 feet near 162nd Street and 28 feet at 161st. Here with the below-fill surface never lower than 39.7 feet (Boring #135), the sewage installation impacted at least 7.2 feet below the layer of identified fill. (See Appendix C) Subsequent water and sewer construction on both streets would have further disturbed surviving prehistoric remains, removing the roadbed from further archaeological consideration.

As described in section II (Environmental Setting), the evidence from soil borings (See Appendix C), show that the original contours of the Bronx Criminal Court site have been masked, and to some extent protected, beneath layers of modern fill. This layer ranges from 20 to 25 feet on the western side of Block 2444 (Borings 1, 2, 3), the lowest-lying area which hosted the creek and marsh. As one proceeds north and east, the fill layer diminishes as the pre-fill surface increases in elevation, until on the eastern half of Block 2444, near Morris Avenue, the fill layer ranges from 5 to 7 feet (Borings #126, #128, #134), and as thin as 2.3 feet around the intersection of East 162nd Street and Grant Avenue (Boring #136). Because of the large number of lots involved, in order to explain the impact of construction on potential prehistoric remains in the clearest manner, the project lots will be discussed in groups.

BLOCK 2445

Lots 6, 9, 15

All the buildings on these lots have basements. The depths of the foundations were not recorded in the building files, but it is unlikely that any were deeper than 10 feet. Between 4 and 8 feet is usually the norm. According to the boring logs, the northern half of Block 2445 had a layer of fill between 10 and 15 feet deep (Borings #5, 6, 7), which would have protected the pre-fill surface from construction disturbance. Hence, Lots 6, 9, and 15 (east of old Morrisania Avenue⁸) must be considered sensitive for prehistoric archaeological remains.

⁸The roadbed of Morrisania Avenue has already been declared not sensitive for prehistoric remains - see above.

Lot 1

The two borings on Lot 1 give widely different pictures of the fill layer. Boring 4 shows 15 feet of fill, while Boring 8 reveals only 6.6 feet. The deepest fill is in the path of Morrisania Avenue which has already been eliminated from prehistoric consideration. The shallow fill is on the eastern side of the lot, where it would have been penetrated by the 10-foot deep basement of the garage covering that lot. Therefore the eastern section (See Fig. 21) of Lot 1, presently hosting a 1-story garage is considered not sensitive for buried prehistoric cultural materials.

Lot 18

This lot exhibits a fill layer which is 10.5 feet thick (Borings #9, 10), although along Grant Avenue one boring shows only 3.3 feet of fill (Boring #137). However, the structures built on this lot, a greenhouse complex and a garage, did not have basements, and except for the area of boring #137, the fill layer is sufficiently thick to protect any buried prehistoric remains. Lot 18 is therefore sensitive for cultural materials from the prehistoric period.

BLOCK 2444

Lots 15, 18, 21, 23, and 1 East of Morrisania Avenue)

Although Block 2444 exhibits at least 20 feet of fill in the borings along Sherman Avenue, on the western side of Grant Avenue the fill layer is much thinner, ranging from 7 to at least 10 feet thick (Borings #132, 133, 135). Borings at the center of the block would probably show fill layers midway between 10 and 20 feet. Although there were cellars built on lots 15, 23, 21, and 25, recorded depths are no more than four feet below curb level (Lots 15, 23). On Lots 21 and 1 the cellar depths are unrecorded, and Lot 18 had no cellar, but a foundation described in the building records as "4'x7'" below ground or curb. Because of the 7- to 10-foot protective fill layer, the sections of Lots 15, 18, 21, 23 and 1 east of old Morrisania Avenue are considered sensitive for prehistoric cultural remains.

Lots 42, 46, 146, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54

The fill layer on the eastern half of Block 2444 is even thinner than on the western half. The thinnest lens is indicated on the northwest corner of the block, in Lot 43, where it is recorded as 2.3 feet (Boring #136). Elsewhere it is 5 feet (Borings #126, 134) to as much as seven feet in the southwest corner, Lot 32 (Boring #128).

All of Lot 54, as well as the areas under the former and/or present building footprints on Lots 42, 46, 146, 47, 49, 51, and 53, have been disturbed by 8-foot deep foundations (9-foot in the case of Lot 49), in an area where the fill was between 2.3 and 5 feet thick (Borings #126, 134, 136). In addition, Lot 50 has a 6-foot deep basement, and Lot 52 a cellar of unknown depth. These areas can be eliminated from further prehistoric consideration, since foundation

construction would have penetrated the thin fill layer and destroyed any fragile prehistoric remains beneath.

However, the backyards of these buildings (Lots 46, 146, 47, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53) form an unbroken corridor approximately 190 feet long and up to 45 feet wide, on which there has been no recorded construction. This area, and the unbuilt section at the front of Lot 42, must be considered undisturbed, and sensitive for buried cultural materials of the prehistoric period.

Lots 32, 38, 40, 43 and 44

Five lots (Lots 32, 38, 40, 43 and 44) have had buildings constructed on most of their area, but there is no clear evidence of how deep the foundations run. In addition, the front section of Lot 40 once hosted three dwellings (built 1891) with basements. Lots 38, 40, 43 and 44, are in an area where the fill is particularly thin, 2.3 to 5 feet (Borings #134, 136). Therefore, construction disturbance has been profound enough that these lots are not sensitive for prehistoric archaeological materials.

HISTORICAL POTENTIAL

In addition to its prehistoric potential, the project site also contained a number of houses, including one on Block 2444 Lot 54 which dated back to at least 1853, and its neighbor on Lot 32 which was built by 1860. Dwellings, along with their associated outbuildings and yards, have the potential to contain resources which may furnish information about past lifeways, urban residential settlement patterns, socioeconomic status, class distinctions, ethnicity and consumer choice issues. Such 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 - would probably be located in the garden or yard at the rear of the average dwelling. Once the abovementioned services were provided by the city, these shafts, no longer in use for their original purposes, would be quickly 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. Other commonly occurring but more fragile backyard remains include fence lines, paths, traces of landscaping and sheet midden scatter.

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 such municipal facilities were available, many residents were not connected until years later. One former resident of 279 East 151st Street, in the nearby Melrose section, recalled that the owner of the building had his house moved to the rear of the lot, and built a new 3-family house at the front c.1896-7. Apparently only the new house had indoor toilets and running water. There was a "well in the yard and all the water had to be carried into the house (the original one only) and, of course, they also had a two seater backhouse" (Marks 1968:22).

According to a map acquired at the sewer department, the earliest sewer line along the streets adjacent to the project lots was installed along Sherman Avenue in 1895. Morris Avenue and east 163rd Street had to wait until 1897, and the lines on other streets postdate 1909. (See Fig. 20) However, another source, from 1897, shows that sewers were already functioning on all streets of the project area by 1897 (Haffen 1897). The explanation for this discrepancy is suggested by information provided in the Building Department's block and lot files. The files mention private sewer lines connecting to public lines. Lot 51, at mid-block on Morris Avenue, had a private sewer connection to a line on East 161st Street in 1894 (NB#680-1895). The three buildings on Lots 46, 146 and 47 at the corner of Morris Avenue and East 162nd Street were connected to a line on East 162nd Street in 1896 (NB#996-1896), while Lot 23 on Grant Avenue had its connection switched from the private to the public sewer in 1915 (Alt#452-1915). Other possibilities include cesspools. A stable had a drain to a cesspool on Block 2444 Lot 18 in 1895 (NB#878-1895). Because of the widespread availability of private sewer lines and the presence of

the 1895 sewer on Sherman, the earliest date for sewer availability can be safely assigned to 1894/1895 but it very probably dates from original, c.1890, construction.

Water mains generally preceded sewer line installation and certainly enabled the construction of private sewers. Evidence from the 1891 Sanborn map shows that 6-inch water pipes were present on Morris Avenue, East 162nd and East 161st Streets. (See Fig. 14) Water service would have been available to all sections of the project area from these lines.

Using this information, lots with structures built before 1891 have potential for hosting historical remains, particularly in shaft features. The lots which have structures securely postdating sewer and water line construction (Block 2444 Lots 1, 18, 21, 23, 25, 40, 43, 46, 146, 51 and 53; Block 2445 Lots 6, 9 and 15) have extremely low or no historical potential, and can be eliminated from further *historical* consideration. Specific dates of building construction can be found in the Building History section (Appendix A).

As detailed in Appendix A, Lots 15, 38, and 50 were developed within a very short time (1 to 3 years) of the introduction of water services and private sewers. The historical potential for significant features is extremely low and further consideration of these lots does not appear to be warranted.

Lots 1 and 18 on Block 2445 can also be eliminated. Although the structures from the greenhouse/florist's buildings date to 1890, the potential for domestic artifacts is nil. The value of artifacts relating to the florist's trade in the 1890s is highly questionable. Such information can be easily found in documents, catalogues and published books. Lot 32 hosts a large structure that originally functioned as an ice house and it is estimated that the construction impact destroyed any earlier cultural deposits.

DISTURBANCE OF POTENTIAL HISTORICAL REMAINS

The remaining lots are all on the eastern half of Block 2444. They all have some degree of potential for containing archaeological remains from the historical period. The lots can be further divided into three groups (A. - C.), based on the degree and scope of disturbance which has impacted the lots since the 19th century. For the following discussion of archaeological sensitivity, refer to the Archaeological Sensitivity Map - Historical (Fig. 22).

A. Four lots have had no further disturbance to their rear lots since the construction (or in the case of Lots 42 and 49 - demolition) of the original structure. They are considered potentially sensitive for historical shaft features from the last decades of the 19th century. It must be noted, however, that the period of use of these homelot features is not likely to be more than four to six years.

Lot 42: 3-story dwelling built between 1885 and 1887.

Lot 46: 3-story dwelling built in 1887 (along south lot line - still standing).

Lot 49: 2-story dwelling, built in 1886.

Lot 52: 2½-story dwelling, built 1886.

B. Lot 44 had a later structure built over the area in which potential shaft features, related to an 1887 dwelling on a neighboring lot, would have been located. There is no indication as to the extent of the disturbance by this later structure. (Appendix A) However, many of the residential files from this area specify a 4 foot foundation depth. Even though the upper 4 feet of any surviving privies or wells may have been destroyed, the potential remains for the lower sections of the features - containing the oldest materials - to have survived beneath the later structures. Again, it must be noted that the period of use of these homelot features is not likely to be more than four years.

C. Lot 54 once hosted a 2-story dwelling built between 1851 and 1853. Subsequently, a structure with an 8-foot foundation was erected over the whole lot, except for those sections which became part of Lot 32 to the west. (See Fig. 14) Since Lot 54 was on the most elevated section of the project site, with elevations between 40 and 60 feet, it is unlikely that subsequent filling episodes occurred which might have protected remains from the dwelling. The depth of the foundation would have obliterated any shaft features. Therefore, Lot 54 is not considered sensitive for archaeological remains from the historical period.

Of the lots that are considered sensitive for shaft features related to late 19th-century dwellings, all were constructed in the period 1885-1887 period. It is not a coincidence that these dates correspond with the opening of the Second Avenue elevated line in 1886 (161st Street station about 2,600 feet from the project lots). For 5 cents it connected Morrisania with downtown Manhattan (Wolk and Mantegazza 1970:16). The neighborhood was opened to commuters who heretofore had lived on Manhattan Island, where they were used to the municipal services provided by the city. It is entirely possible that these newly established neighborhood blocks were serviced by private water and sewer lines from the date of original construction.

Considerations for future research on the historical component of the project parcel may entail more intensive research on the homelots that have been cited for sensitivity due to their high potential for hosting shaft features. Such research, which is beyond the scope of this report, includes time-consuming neighborhood directory and census research to identify the late 19th-century inhabitants. There is, however, the question of the small "time window" for the historic-era potential resources - a shaft feature with a usage period of only a few years.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

As illustrated on Figures 21 and 22, there are only limited areas of archaeological sensitivity on the project lots, as listed below.

Prehistoric Sensitivity: Block 2445 - Lots 6, 9, 15, 18; Block 2444 - Lots 15, 18, 21, 23; part of Lots 1, 42, 47, 49-53

Historic Sensitivity: Block 2444 - Lots 42, 44, 47, 49, 52 [Note that the historic-era sensitivity of Lot 47 is related to possible backyard features/activities on neighboring Lots 46 and 146.]

The final designs for the Bronx Criminal Court Facility are not yet known. Such activities as extensive regrading and the excavation of deep foundations and basements on areas of the project site deemed archaeologically sensitive would destroy any existing subsurface cultural resources. On the other hand, less extensive regrading or adding fill onto the existing grade might not endanger historical shaft features or prehistoric resources protected by the fill overmantle.

If final plans for the expansion call for adding fill to raise the grade or filling in basements before construction is to begin, and only the newly added fill will be impacted by the new construction, then the newly introduced fill would act to protect and preserve possible archaeological resources. There would be no impact on these resources and no further archaeological work would be required.

If this is not the case, and it appears that excavation or disturbance would occur below the existing grade, additional work might be required. If borings and/or percolation tests are conducted on the site, the depth of fill should be noted and recorded. Then, this information, together with final design information provided by the architects, should be assessed by an archaeologist. If no further subsurface testing is to be undertaken, we recommend that prior to construction an archaeologist examine, by 1 - 3 shovel tests, the site stratigraphy. This information and final design information provided by the architects should be examined by the archaeologist. Either of these methods will define the present fill layer and allow the archaeologist to better assess the disturbance by the projected construction.

If the archaeologist concludes that disturbance of the potential site could occur, appropriate professional on-site monitoring or testing measures would be devised with the review agency. These tests could include, depending on the depth of the fill, a limited number of hand-excavated test pits or machine-cut trenches. However, because there is limited potential for both prehistoric and historic resources on these project lots, monitoring construction activities on the identified sections of the project might be acceptable to the review agency. Any further consideration of site archaeological potential would be determined after the testing or monitoring phase.

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N. 163rd STREET

AVE.

AVE.

AVE.

2445

2445

E. 162nd STREET

SHERMAN

2444

GRANT

MORRIS

2444

E. 161st STREET



Project Site

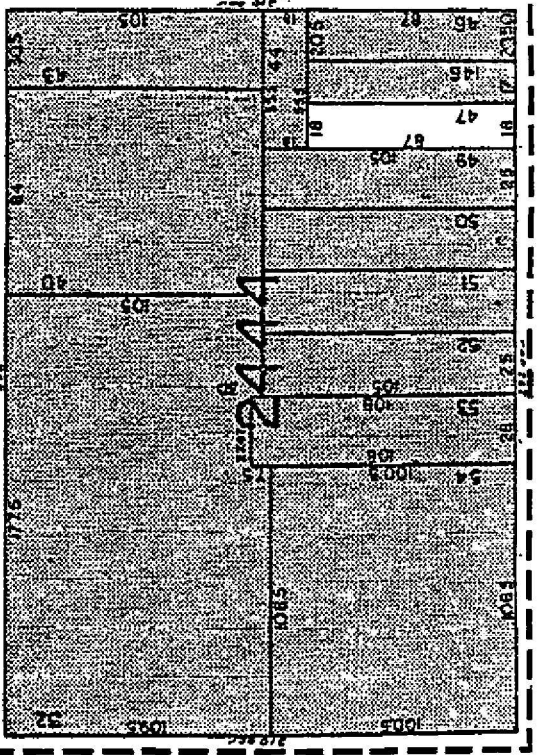
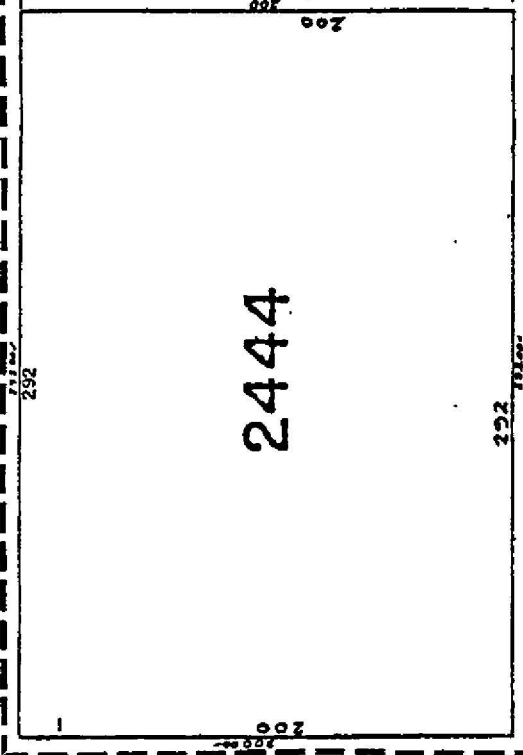
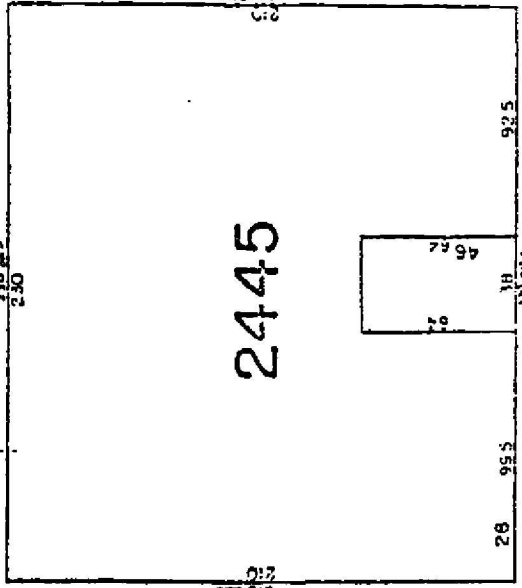
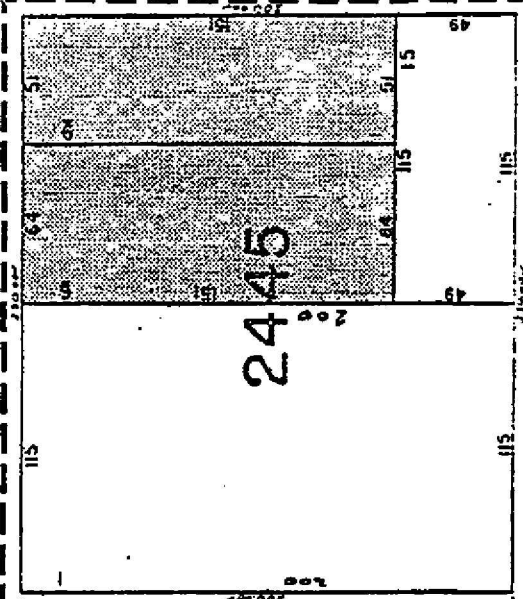


Private Properties to be Acquired

Attachment 8

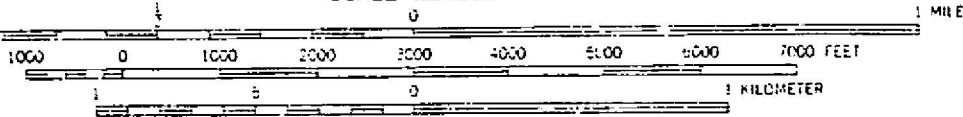
TAX MAP

Figure 1





SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

Figure 2. Current U.S.G.S. Topographic Map, Photorevised 1979
 Arrow indicates project site

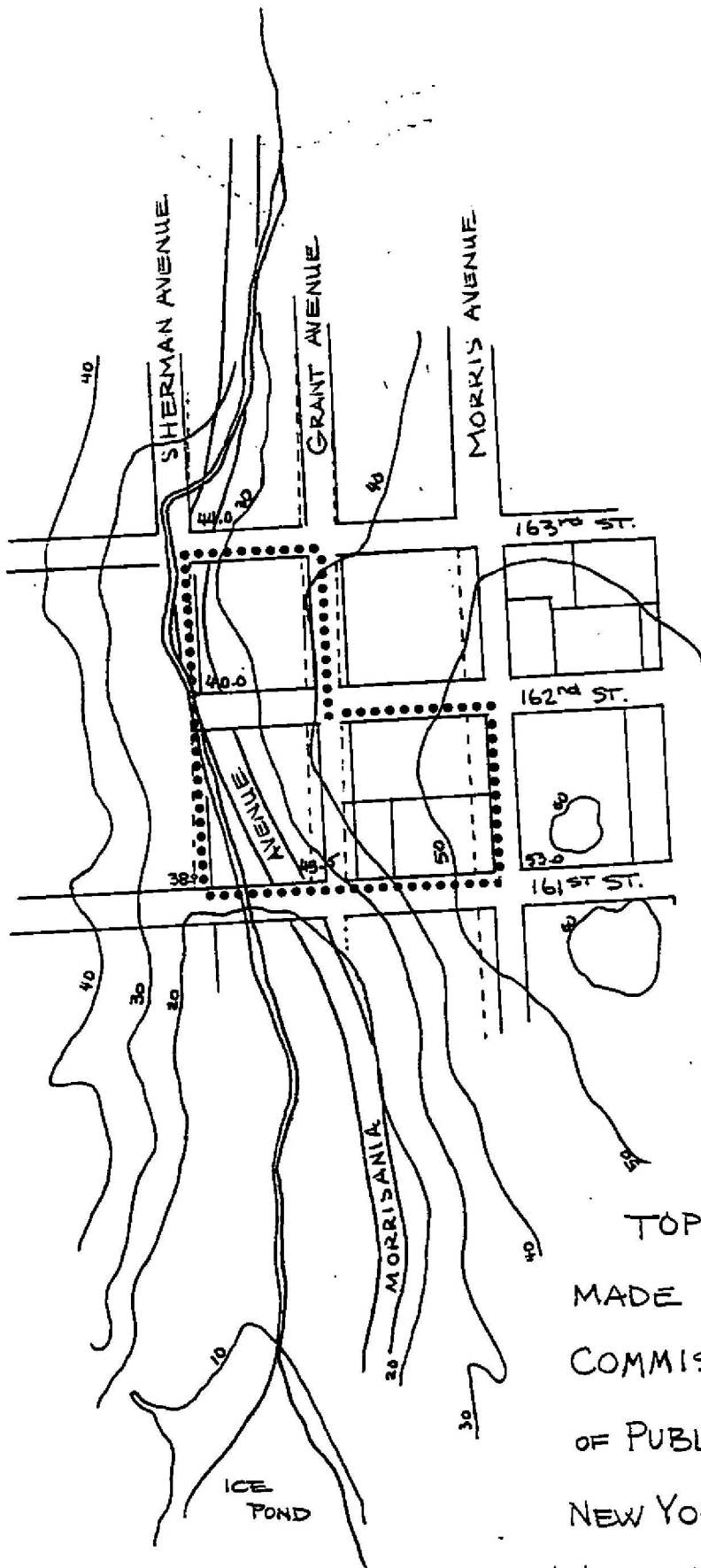


Figure 3. PROJECT SITE

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP
 MADE FROM SURVEYS BY THE
 COMMISSIONERS OF THE DEPARTMENT
 OF PUBLIC PARKS OF THE CITY OF
 NEW YORK OF THAT PART OF
 WESTCHESTER COUNTY ADJACENT
 TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK 1873
 SHEET 11 300' = 1"

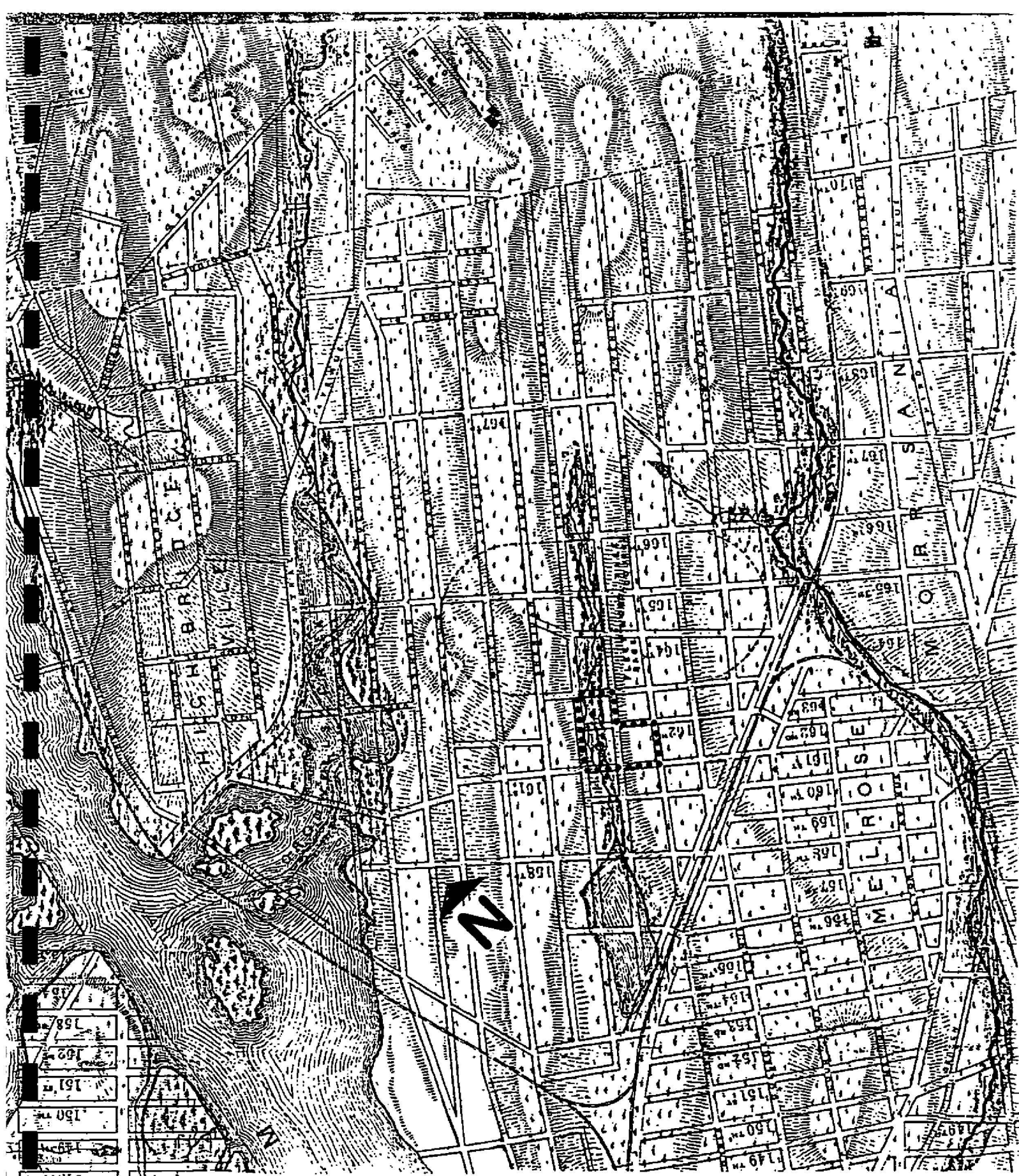


Figure 4. Viele, Topographical Atlas of the City of New York including the Annexed Territory, 1874

..... Project Site

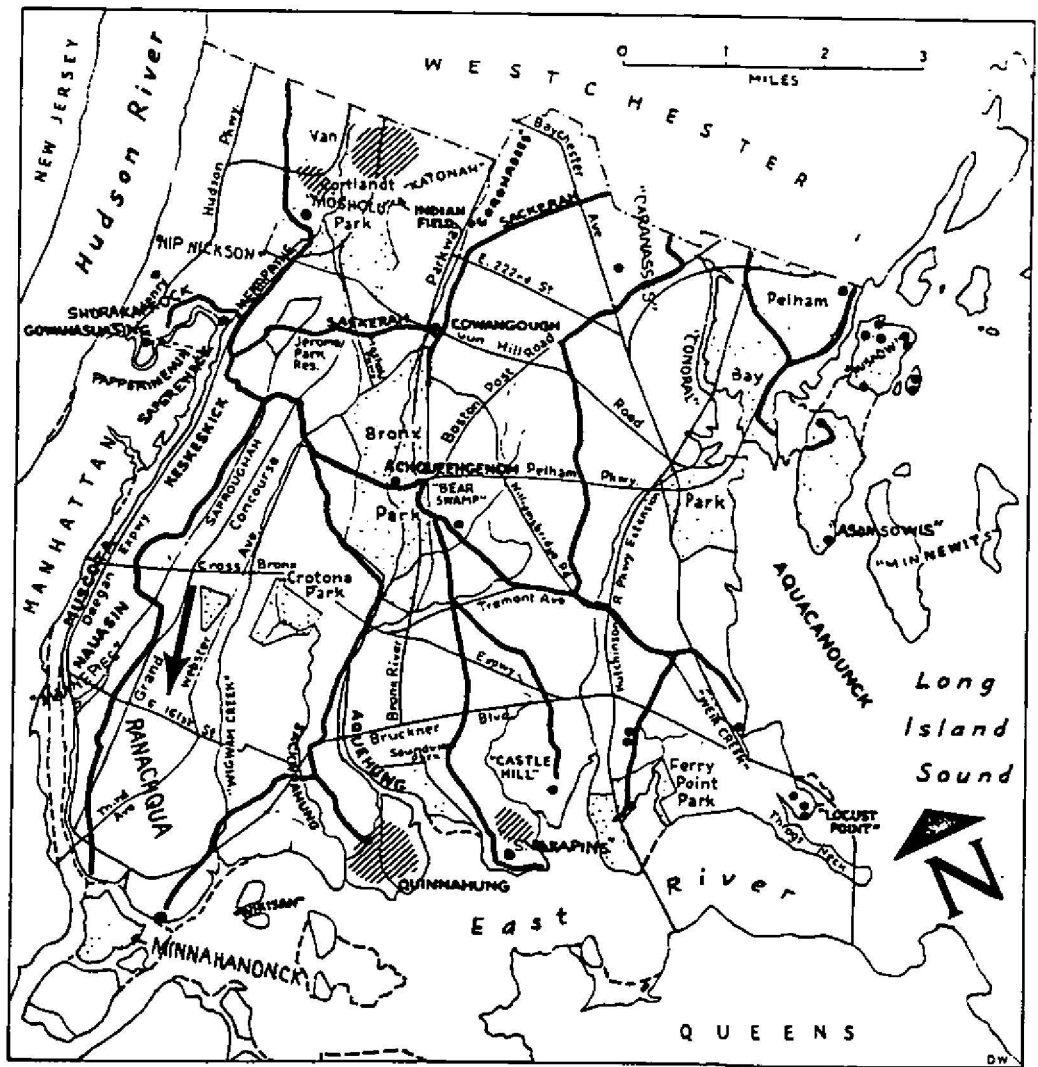


Figure 5. Grumet, Indian Trails, Planting Areas and Habitation Sites in the Bronx (Grumet 1981:69) Arrow indicates Project Site

Manatus Map, 1639

Arrow indicates approximate location of project area.

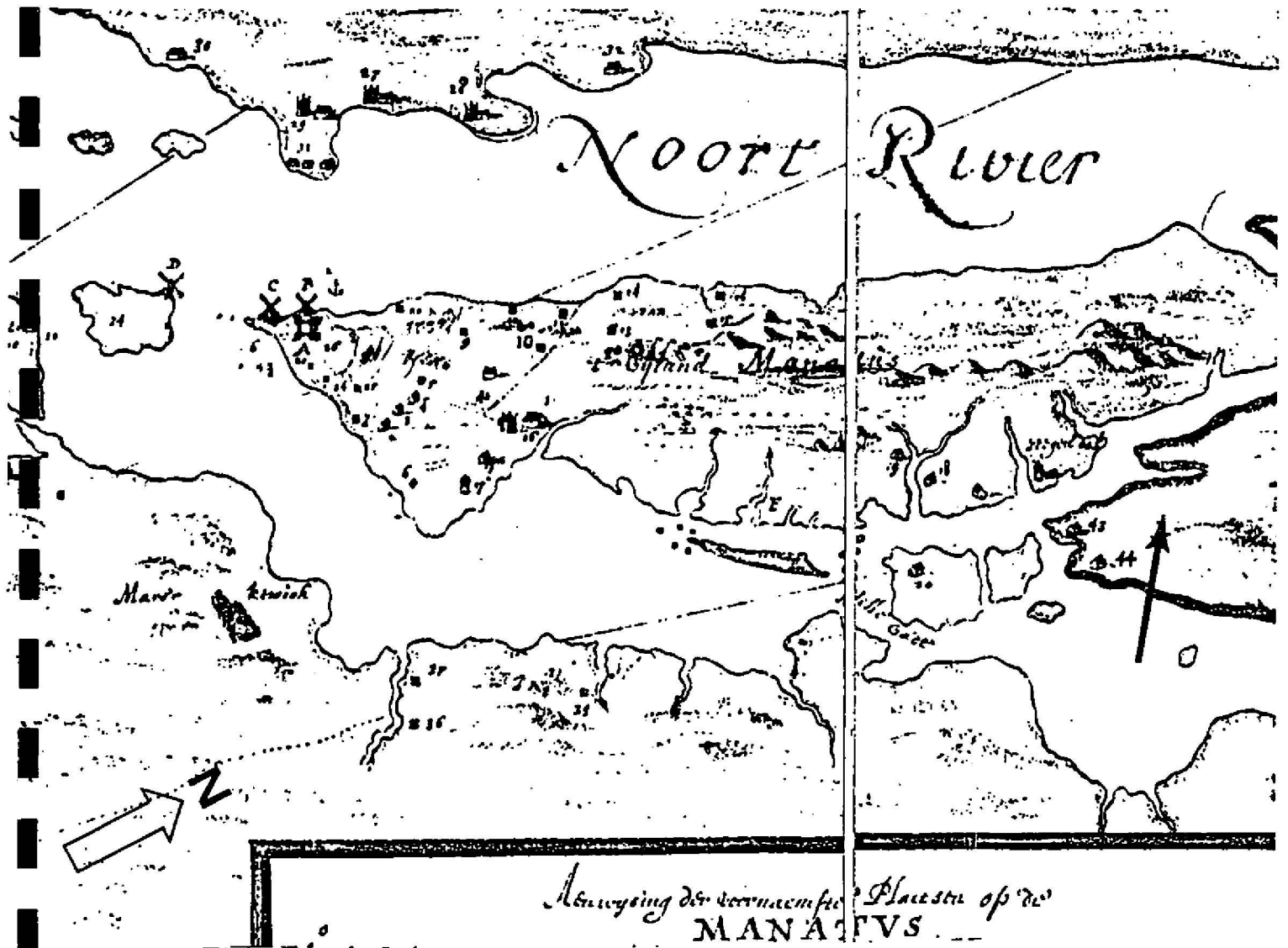


Figure 6. Aenwysing der voornaemste Plaetse op de Manatus (Indication of the chief places on Manhattan), 1639

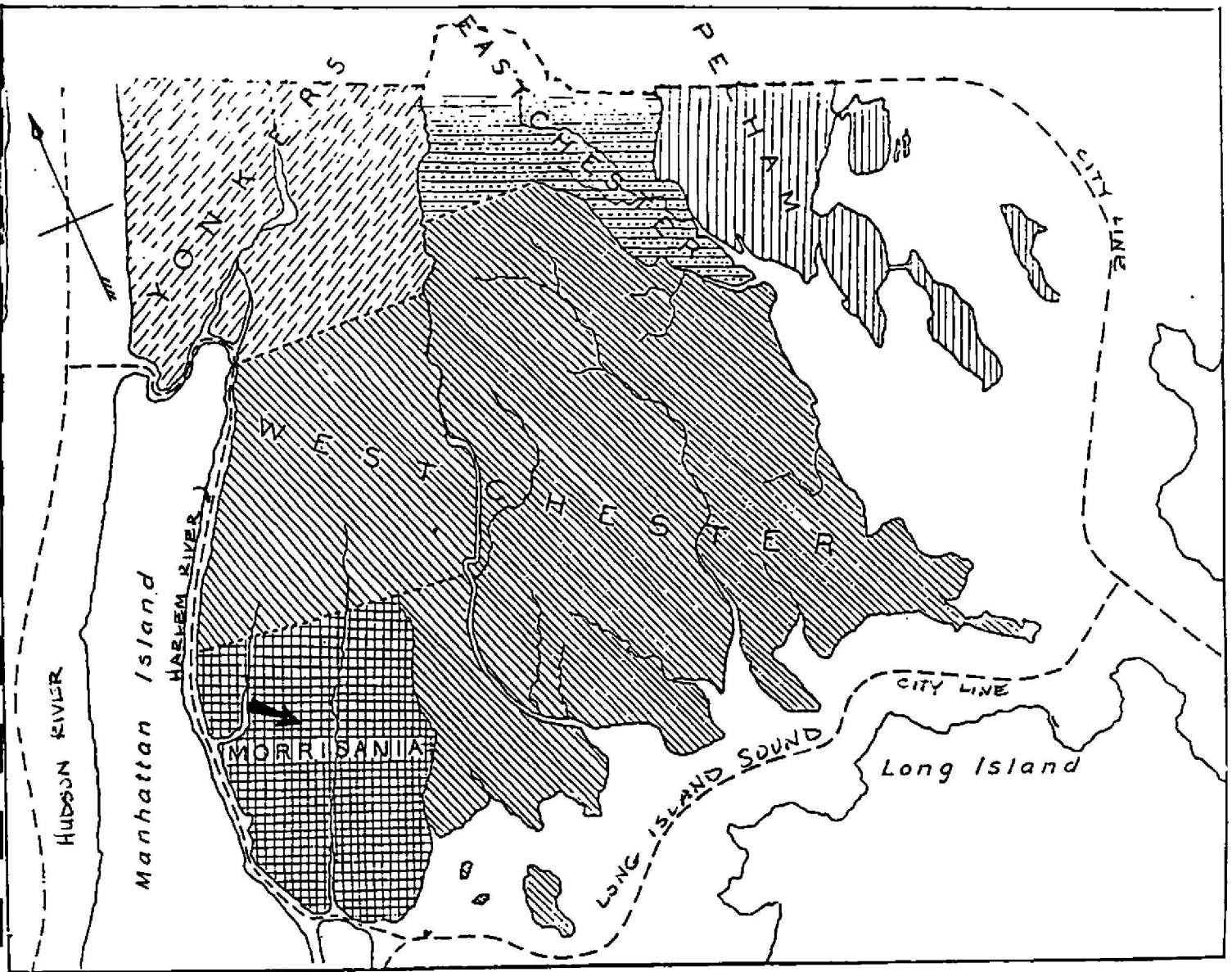


Figure 7. Map of the Bronx Showing Divisions in 1788 (Jenkins 1912:opp.2)
Arrow indicates Project Site

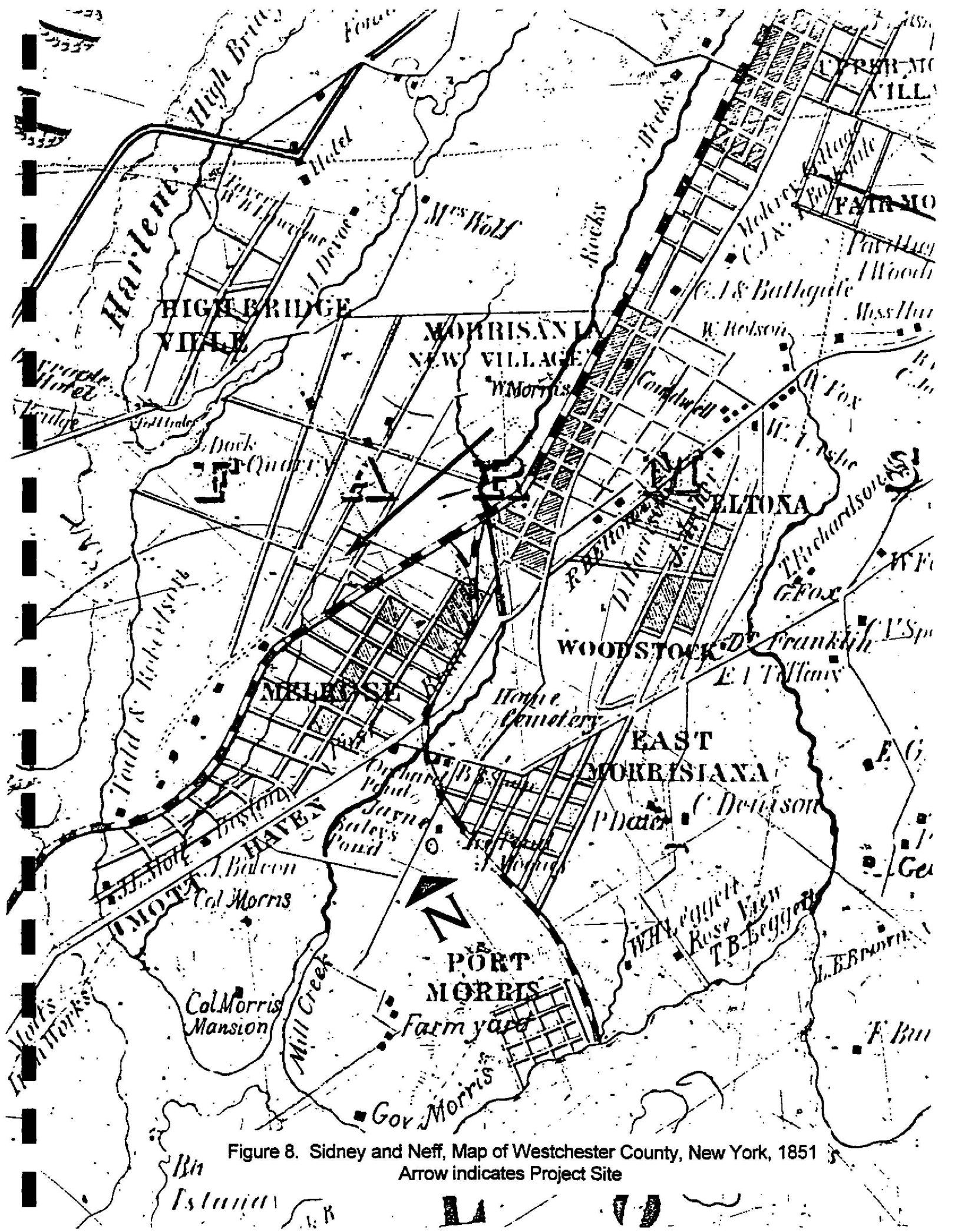


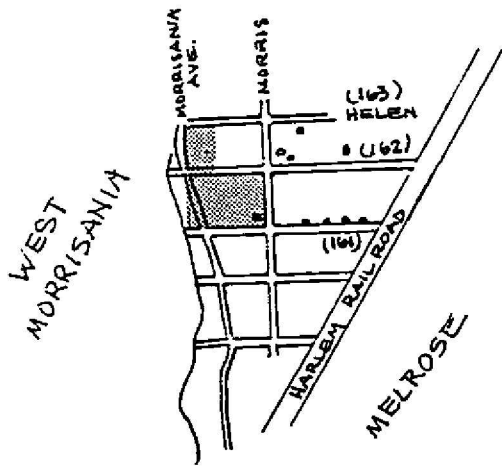
Figure 8. Sidney and Neff, Map of Westchester County, New York, 1851
 Arrow indicates Project Site



Figure 9. Photograph of the Gouverneur Morris Mansion, 1891
(New York Public Library, Local History Div. - Microfiche 0034-D4)

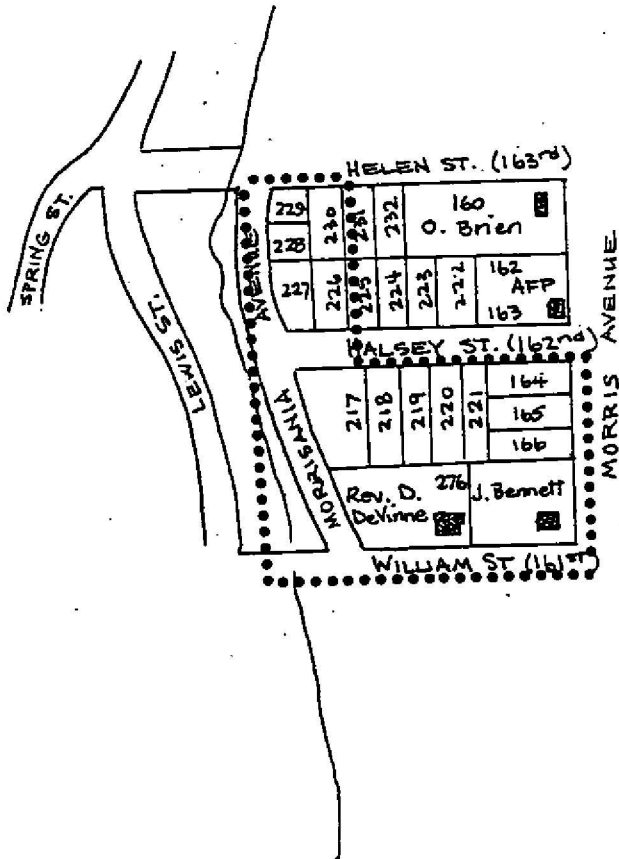


Figure 10. Photograph of Morris farmhouse, 1898 (top)
Photograph of William H. Morris Mansion, 1916 (bottom)
(New York Public Library, Local History Div. - Microfiche 0043-A6, A3)



MAP OF THE SOUTHERN
PART OF WESTCHESTER
COUNTY, N.Y. 1853
M. D. DRIPPS

■ - PROJECT SITE



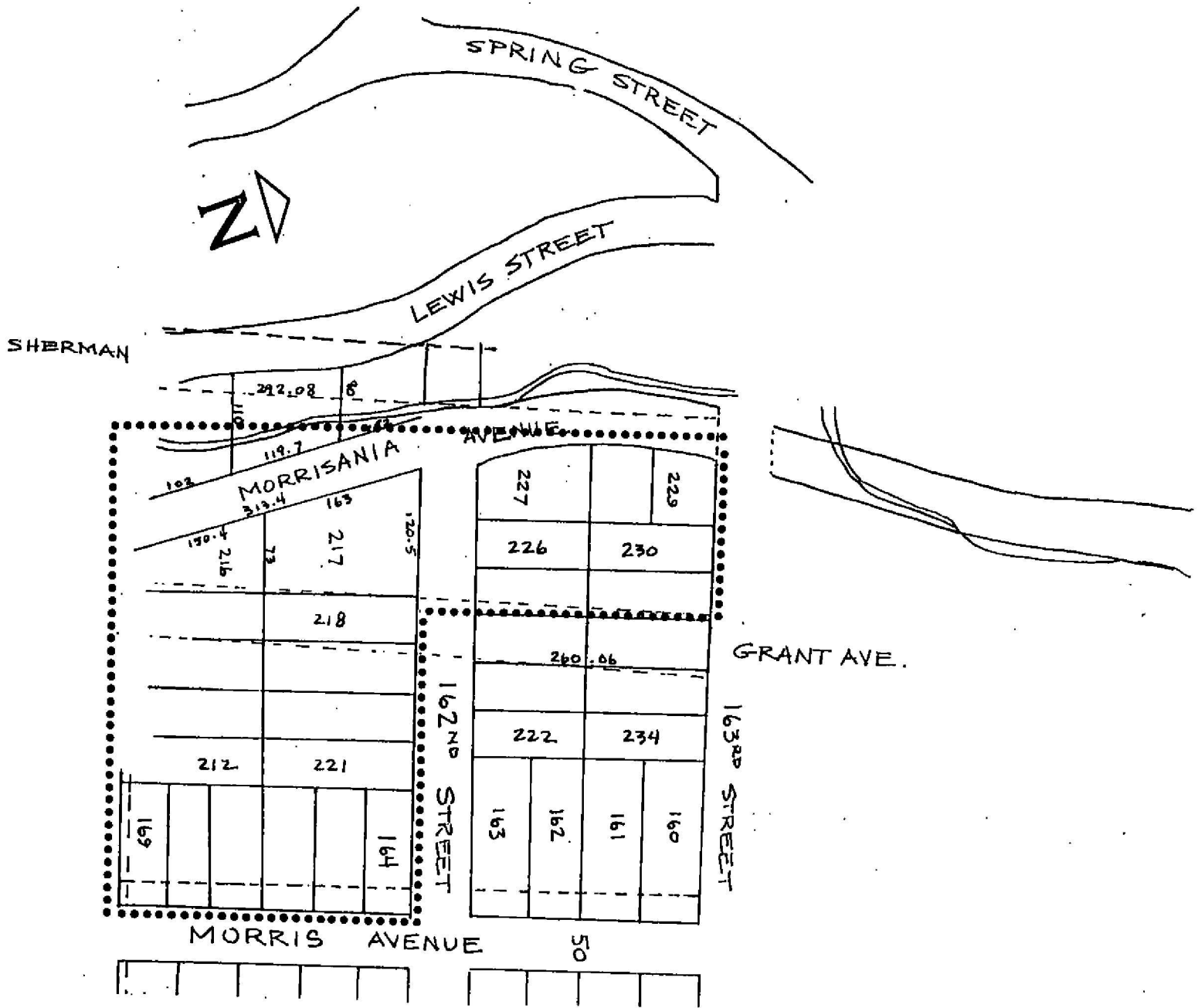
MAP OF THE TOWN OF
MORRISANIA,
WESTCHESTER COUNTY,
NEW YORK. 1860

F. W. BEERS

300' = 1"

..... PROJECT SITE

Figure 11



MAP OF THE 23^D WARD, NEW YORK CITY
 F.W. BEERS, 1876. SECTION 13, 150' = 1"

(BUILDINGS NOT DEPICTED)

Figure 12

.... PROJECT SITE

AST

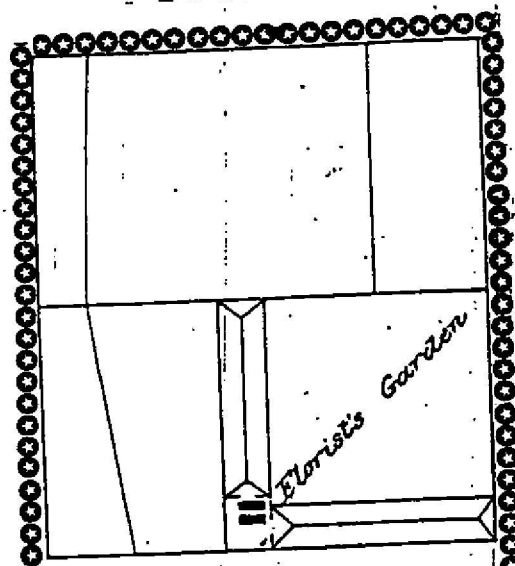
SHERMAN

Morrisania

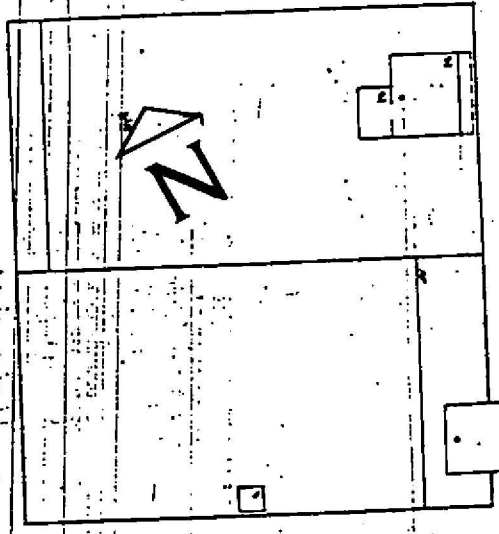
163rd

ST.

60 ft.



GRANT



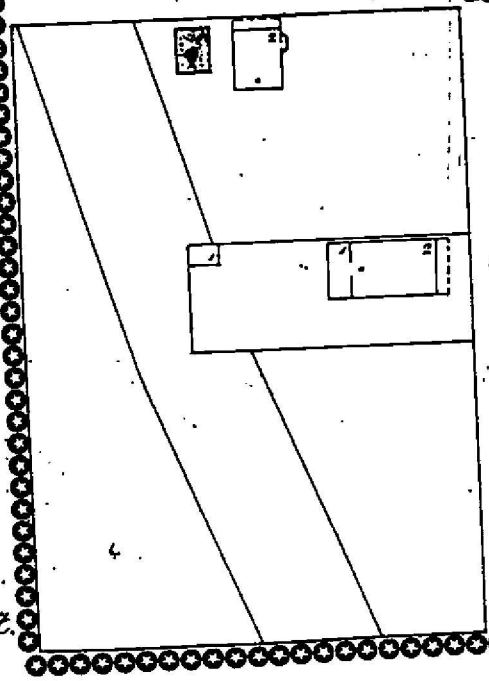
MORRIS

EAST

162nd

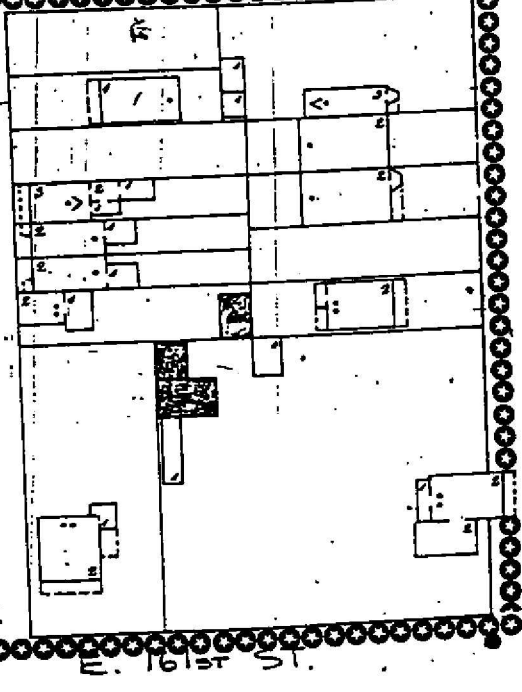
ST.

60 ft.



60 ft.

60 ft.



E. 161st St.

6 6

STRE

Figure 14. Sanborn, Insurance Maps of the City of New York, 1891

Project Site

80 ft.

79 ft.

SHERMAN

AVENUE

EAST

E 162ND ST

AVENUE

AVENUE

STREET

EAST 162ND

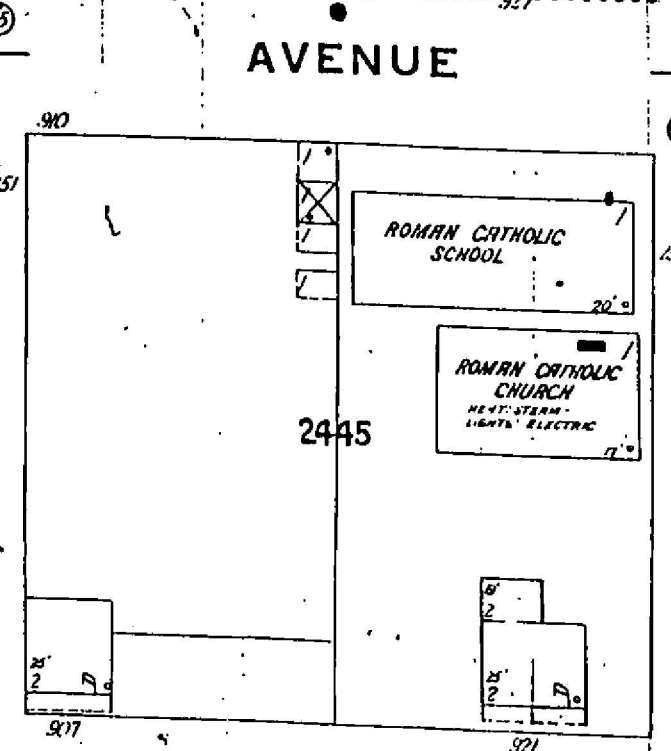
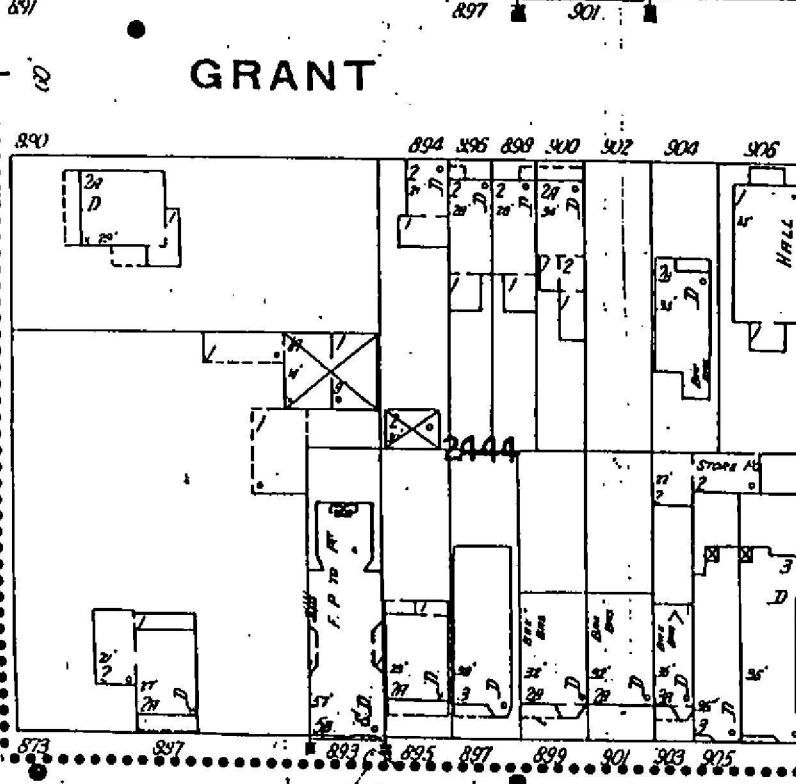
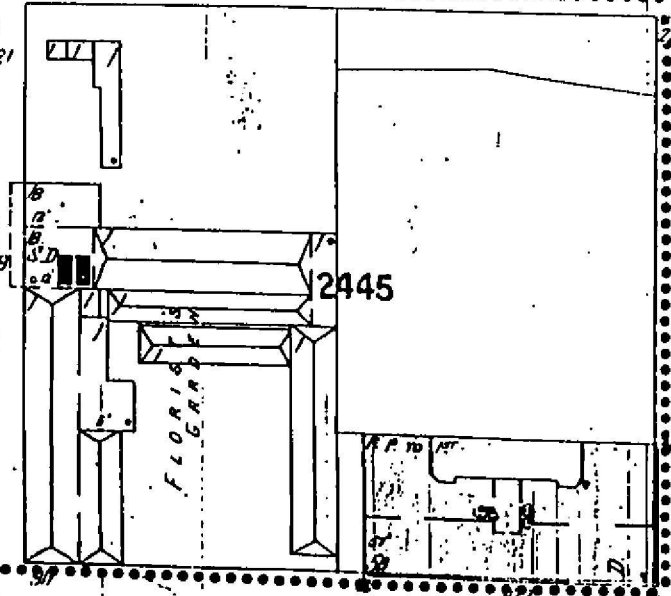
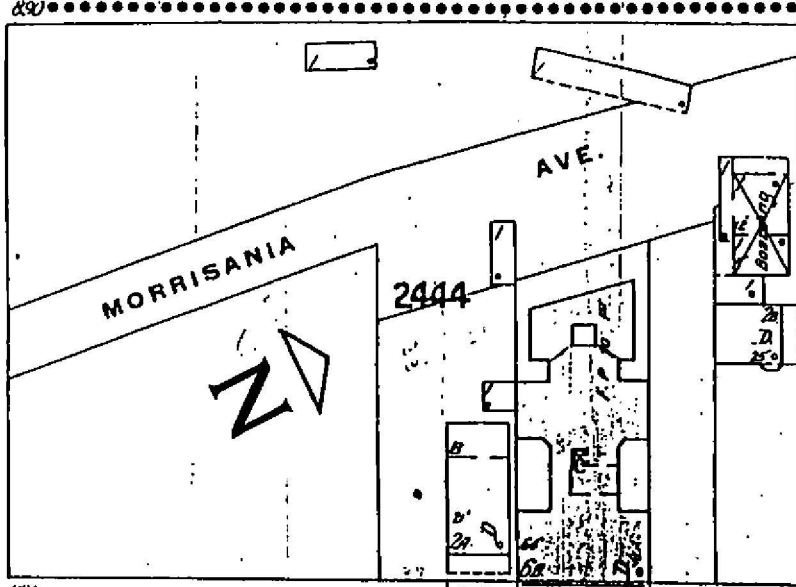


Figure 15. Sanborn, The City of New York: Borough of the Bronx, 1909

..... Project Site

78

112

45

46

6 N Pipe

6 N Pipe

6 N Pipe

MORRIS

894 895 899 900 902 904 906

893 895 897 899 901 903 905

891

231

251

897

89

11

110

80

83

891

221

231

897

901

251

897

89

231

245

897

901

251

897

89

891

893

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917

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110

80

83

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251

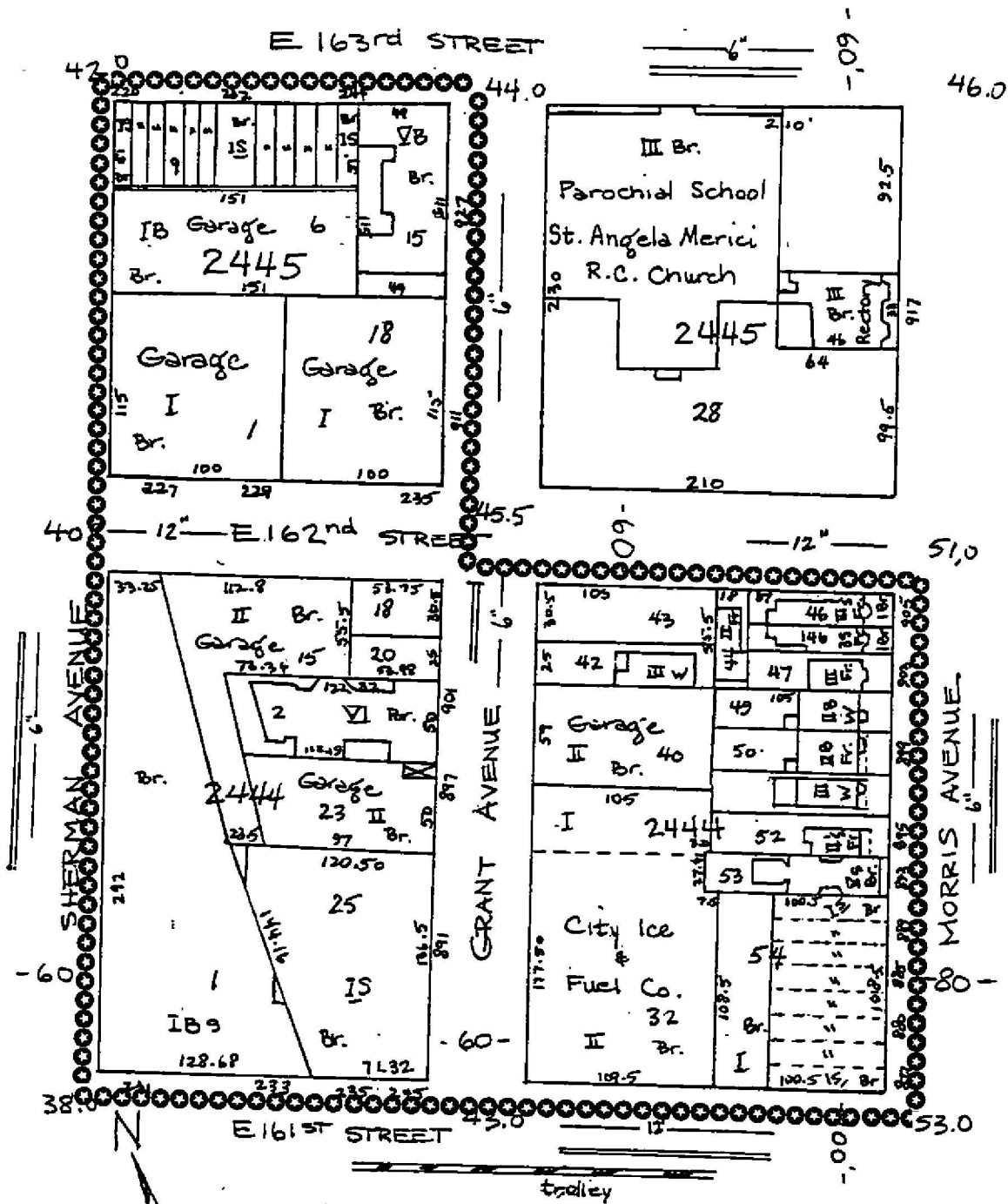
897

89

251

897

89



ATLAS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
 BOROUGH OF THE BRONX
 SOUTH OF 172ND STREET

G. W. BROMLEY, 1942 updated to 1950
 plate 14, 100' = 1". ○○○○○ PROJECT SITE

Figure 17

w = wood w. stucco, brick veneer, asbestos shingles, etc.;
 br. = brick; Fr.: wood frame; St. el. from Mean sea level
 Sandy Hook Datum.

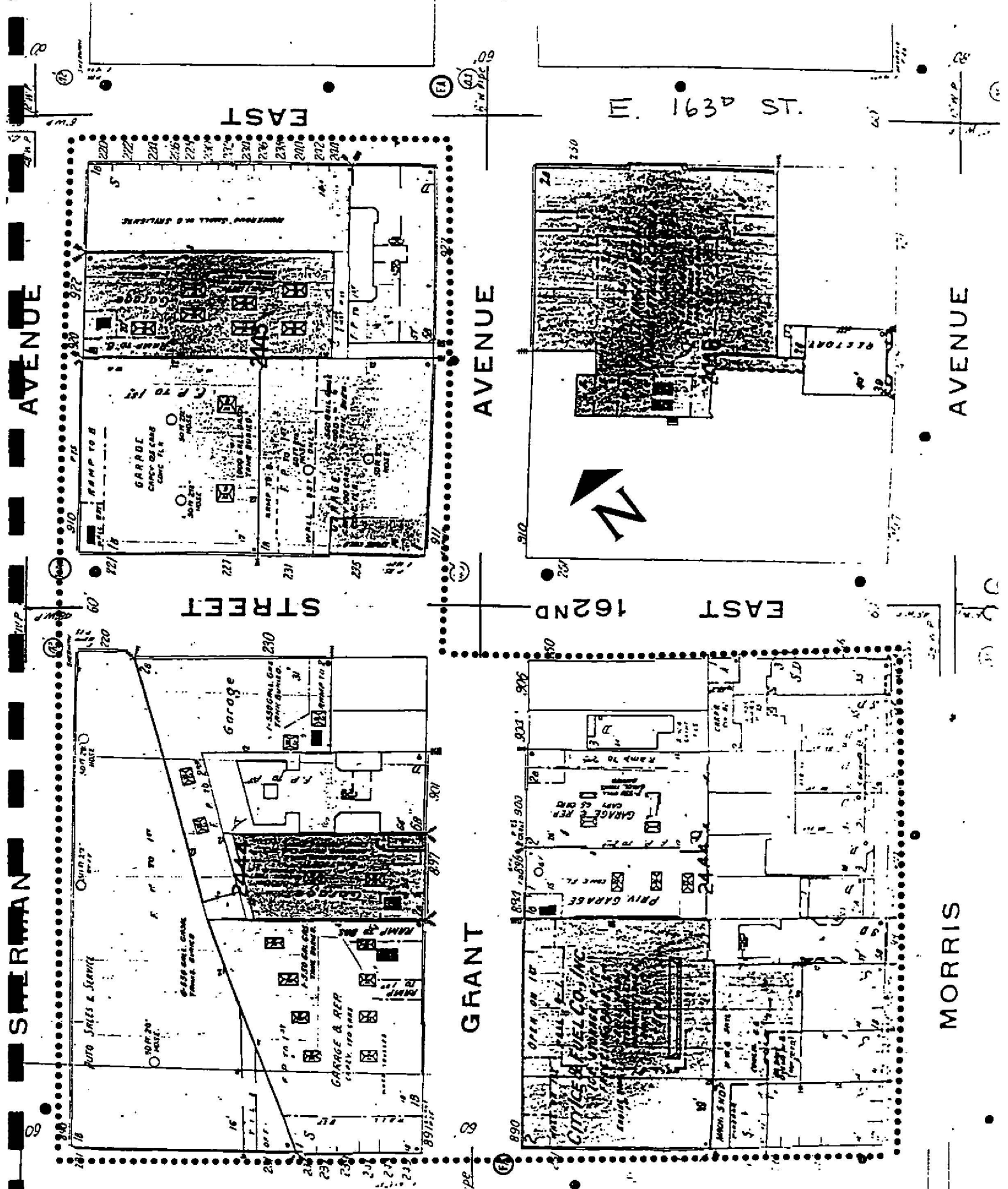


Figure 18. Sanborn, The City of New York: Borough of the Bronx, 1952

..... Project Site



Figure 19. Photograph of 901 Morris Avenue, c.1925
(New York Public Library, Local History Div. - Microfiche 0060-B5)

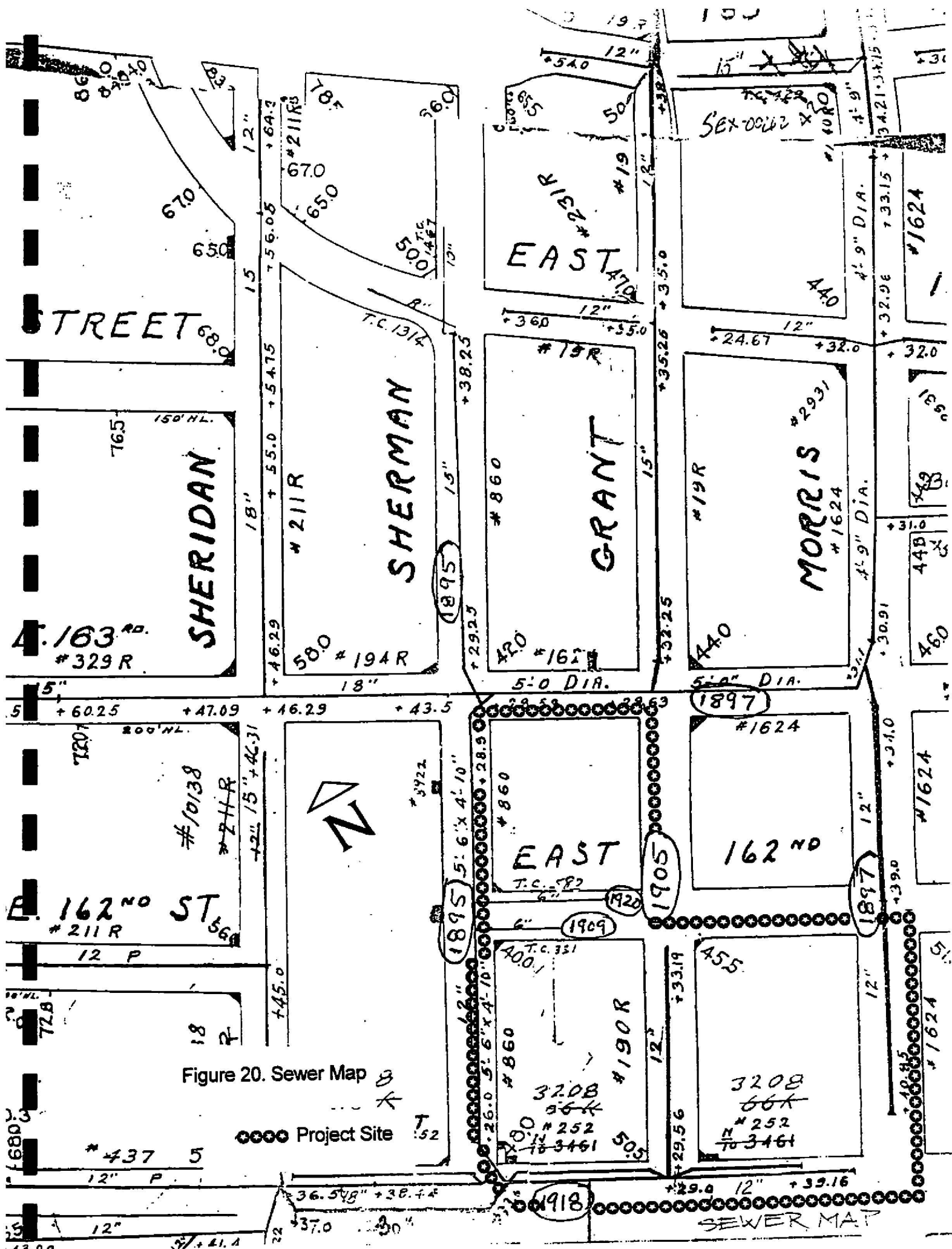


Figure 20. Sewer Map

Project Site

SEWER MAP

Archaeological Sensitivity - Prehistoric

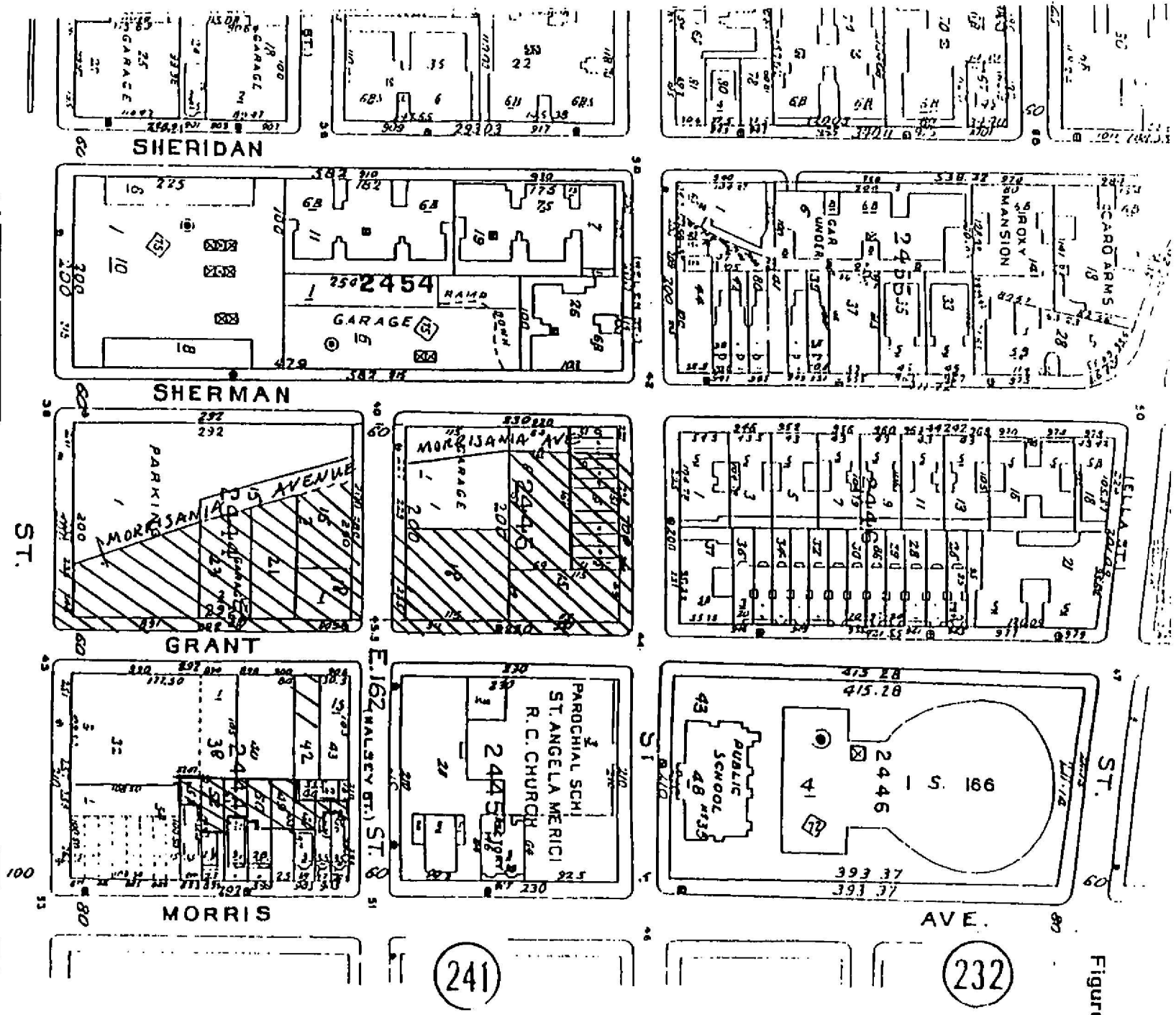
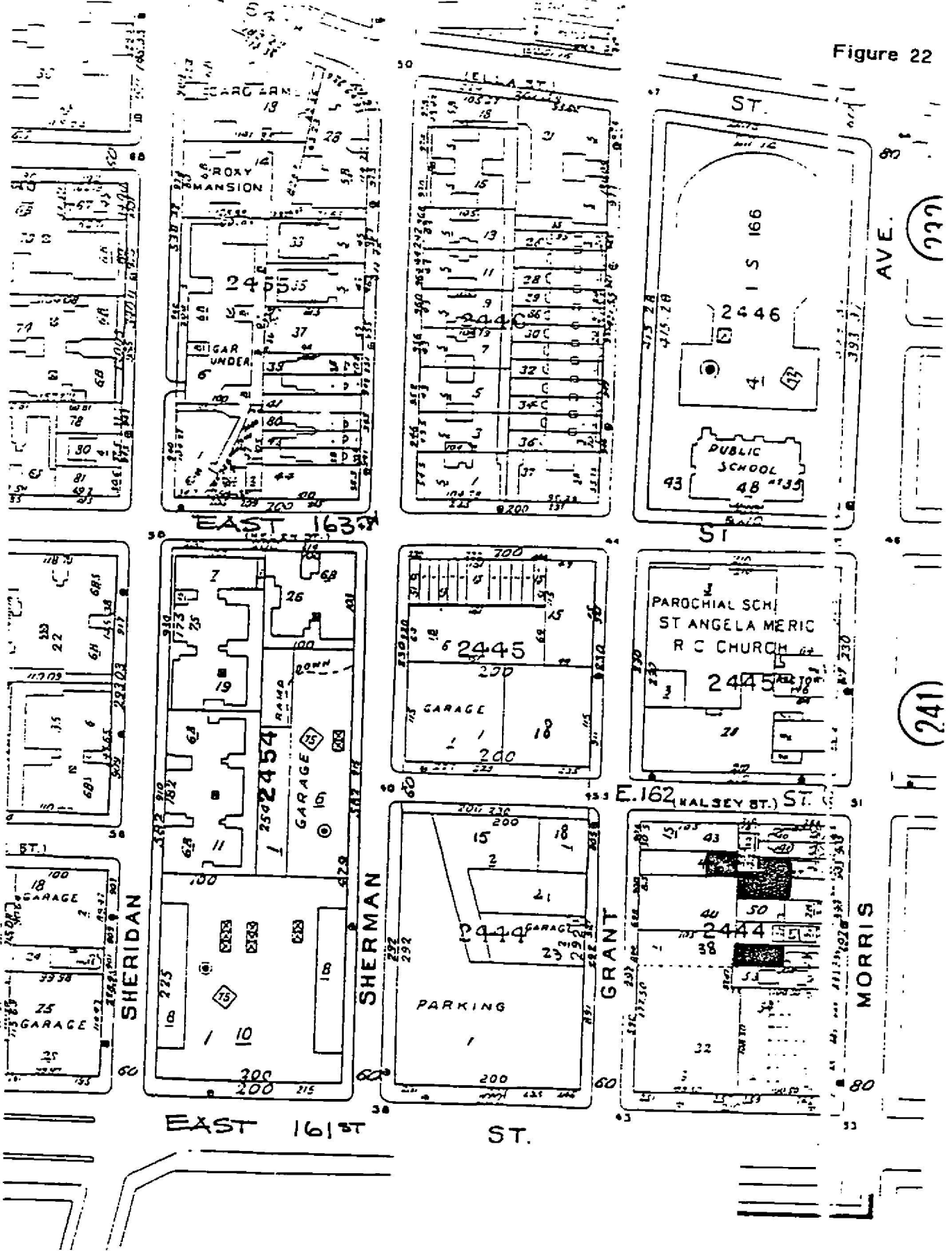
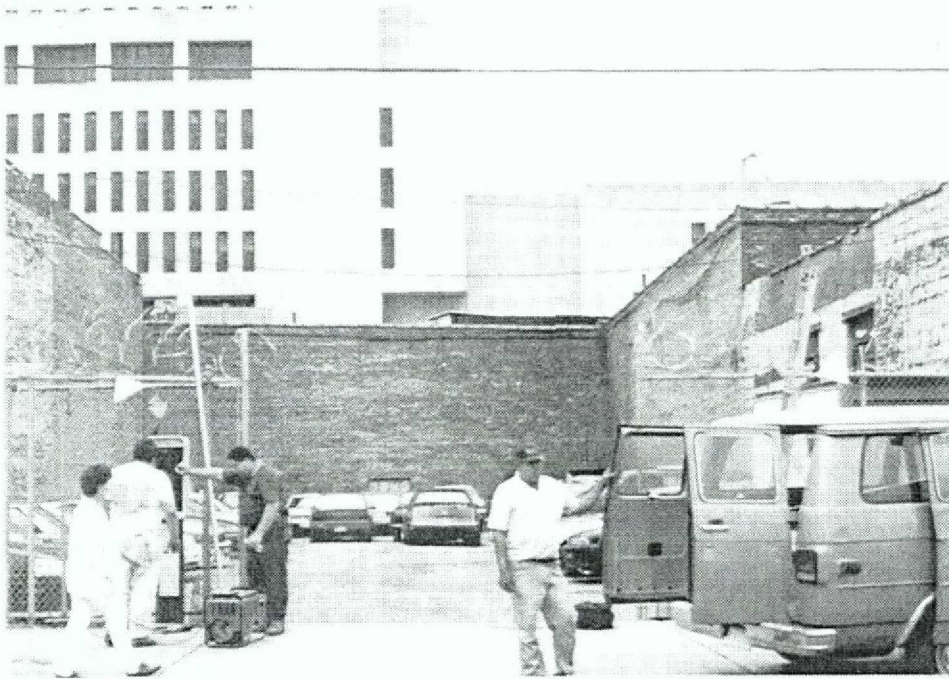


Figure 21

Figure 22



Archaeological Sensitivity - Historical (Shaft Features)



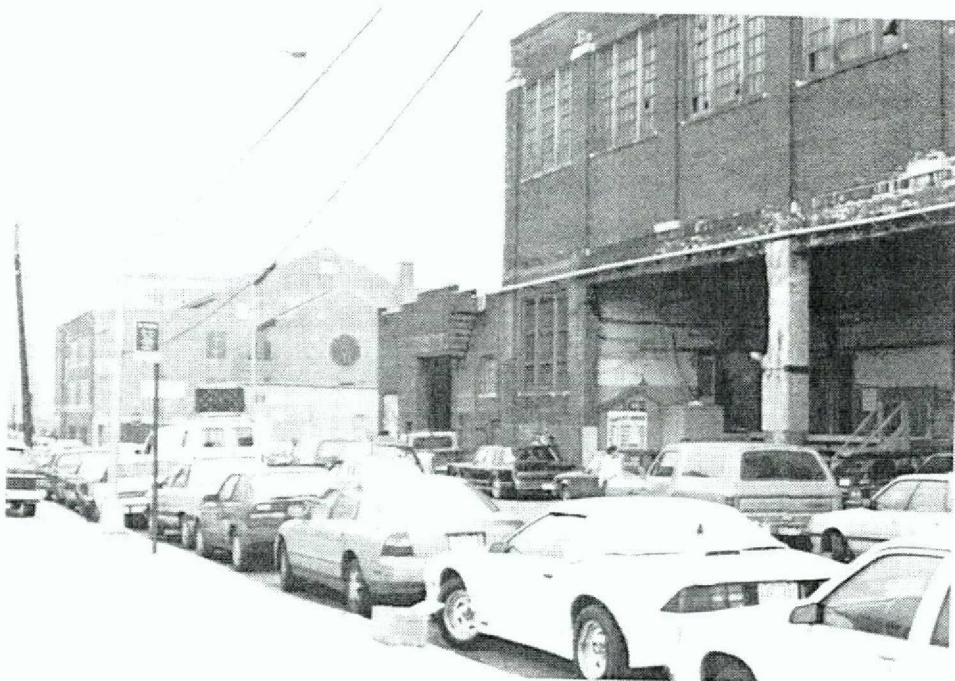
Photograph 1
Grant St. looking west
Criminal Court in
background.



Photograph 2
Grant Street looking
SW with Montifiore
Health Care Center
in background.



Photograph 3
East 162 looking SE



Photograph 4
Grant Street looking
toward Angela Merici
Church. Empire State
Ice in foreground.



Photograph 5
Looking up Grant
Street, SE Corner
of block.



Photograph 6
T.R. San Joma Deli.

APPENDIX A

Building History

The earliest construction episode on the project site was that of Morrisania Avenue, whose road bed passed through the western side of the study blocks, along Sherman Avenue. It roughly paralleled the eastern bank of a small creek. Morrisania Avenue appears on maps by 1853 (See Fig. 11 top), along with Morris Avenue, East 161st (William), 162nd (Halsey) and 163rd (Helen) Streets. The first structure on the study lots appears at the same time, in what is now Lot 54 of Block 2444. Apparently Grant and Sherman Avenues do not progress beyond the planning stage until the 1880s. Compare Figs. 12 and 13) As a result, block and lot configurations have changed considerably since then. The following building history is based on Building Department block and lot files, as well as historical maps and atlases. It will follow current lot configurations (See Fig. 1) as closely as possible.

BLOCK 2444 (WESTERN HALF)

Lot 1 (231 E. 161st Street and 890 Sherman Avenue)

Lot 1 was formerly divided into Lots 1 and 25. The diagonal boundary of old Lot 1 follows what was once the eastern side of Morrisania Avenue, with the block's entire frontage on Sherman Avenue (See Fig. 16) The stream entered the lot at its northwest corner, flowing south and exiting about 75' east of the southwest corner. (See Fig. 12)

In 1905 Lot 1 was owned by W.W. Astor, who also owned Lot 10 in Block 2445 (Bromley 1905). His name is not followed by a purchase date, which suggests longtime ownership.

The first evidence of construction on Lot 1 appears in the 1909 Sanborn atlas, when a small building is depicted along Sherman Avenue and another (possibly an open shed) at an angle in the lot's northwest corner, the former path of Morrisania Avenue. (See Fig. 15) The Hyde map of 1909 shows no buildings, so perhaps they had just been built in that year, or were considered inconsequential outbuildings. (See Fig. 16)

By 1932, the entire lot was covered by the Concourse Plaza Garage (Bromley 1932:15). It had a cellar with boiler room and storage garage (Alteration Permit 478-1957). This building is no longer standing, and Lot 1 is now a parking lot on a 12" concrete slab foundation, with a small office in the southeast corner (Building Notice 289-1980). The 1952 Sanborn indicates that 6 buried 550 gallon gas tanks were present. (See Fig. 18)

Lot 25 (891 Grant Avenue)

Old lot 25, now the eastern section of Lot 1, was a trapezoidal lot at the corner of Grant Avenue and East 161st Street. The only evidence for a building on Lot 25 occurs on the 1950 Bromley and the 1952 Sanborn maps. (See Figs. 17, 18) The latter shows a brick garage with ramps to the basement and first floors, and a 550 gallon buried gas tank. Presumably the building records were lost or discarded when the building was torn down and replaced by a parking lot. It was probably combined with Lot 1 at this time.

Lot 15 (230 E. 162nd Street)

The west side of this L-shaped lot was the eastern half of the Morrisania Avenue roadbed. Lot 15 was vacant in 1887 (Robinson 1887:6). By 1891 there was a 2-story dwelling with a basement at this address, and a small separate outbuilding to the west. (See Figs. 14,15) John Yule purchased the house and Lot 15 on May 7, 1904 (Bromley 1905), and a new building was completed there on November 12, 1906 (New Building Permit 1148-1906). Perhaps this was the much larger shed (a boarding stable) that had replaced the small outbuilding in the same location by 1909. (See Figs. 15, 16)

House and stable were replaced in 1927 by a 2-story brick garage, with cellar, covering the entire lot. Its foundation and footings were 4' below ground level on firm clay (Foundation Permit 1402-1927). One 550 gallon gas tank was buried there. (See Fig. 18) In 1955 the building was used as a factory and stock room (Certificate of Occupancy, October 27, 1955). After alterations, it is now the Montefiore Health Care Center.

Lot 18 (905 Grant Avenue)

Present Lot 18 was formerly divided into Lots 18 (north half) and 20 (south half). There is no block and lot folder for Lot 18, but the available plans for old Lot 18 were filed under Lot 19, which lot number appears on none of the maps researched.

Lot 18 was purchased on October 24, 1885 by Carl Franck (Bromley 1905). There must have been a general offering of land at that time, since six other lots were purchased by different individuals on the same date. Although the lot size and shape changed between 1891 and 1909, there is no cartographic evidence for a building on current Lot 18 during that time. (See Figs. 14, 15)

A 1-story wood stable was completed on "Lot 19" on September 29, 1895 (New Building Permit 878-1895). The foundation was stone in cement mortar at a depth of 4' below curb or ground, and there was a drain to a cesspool.

Lot 20 (Grant Avenue, southern half of present Lot 18)

Old Lot 20, was purchased by Carl Franck, but not until August 8, 1900 (Bromley 1905). Although there is no cartographic evidence for any building on Lot 20 through 1909, block and lot files contain a permit for a 20' x 35' wooden building completed there on November 30, 1886 (New Building Permit 1679-1886). Its foundations extended "4'x7'" below ground or curb. It is not clear whether ground and curb had the same elevation. The dimensions given for the lot, 25' x 100', conform to the present street frontage, but extend the lot back nearly 50' into Lot 15. This agrees with the 1909 configuration of the lot.

The structures on old Lots 18 and 20 were replaced by the present building. This building (plans from the Lot 19 folder), a 1-story factory built of brick and cement block, was completed May 18, 1952 (New Building Permit 1453-1952). It measured 55'6" front by 55'0" deep, approximately the dimensions of Lot 18 and Lot 20 combined.

Lot 21 (901 Grant Avenue)

Former Lots 21 and 22 were purchased October 24, 1885 by Margaret O'Rourke, who was the owner of record in 1905. (Bromley 1905) She probably combined the two lots to form the present Lot 21. The first evidence for a building on Lot 21 occurs in 1906, when a 6-story tenement for 37 families was constructed (New Building Permit 1337-1906). One family lived in the cellar. In the summer of 1914, a tent was erected at the rear of the lot for settlement work by the Tabernacle Baptist Church (Alteration Permit 887-1914).

Its distinctive footprint, with air wells, occurs on maps from 1909 to 1952, and it was still standing when there was an application for miscellaneous work in 1956 (Misc. 714-1956). It has now been replaced by a parking lot.

Lot 23 (897 Grant Avenue)

The first building on Lot 23 was not built on the site: it was moved there on March 31, 1891 "to make room for new houses" (Alteration Permit 2162-1890). A 2-story, 1-family wooden dwelling, it appears on both the 1891 and 1909 maps. (See Figs. 14, 15, 16)

In August of 1906, an 8'x12' portable tool house was erected at the rear of the lot, to be used during the construction of a building (Alteration Application 398-1906). Possibly this served in the building of the tenement built next door on Lot 21 in 1906.

On July 19, 1915 the owner applied to disconnect from the private sewer to the public sewer (Alteration application 452-1915), and on August 24 of the same year a permit was issued for a line from the house to the Grant Avenue sewer. ✓

This dwelling was replaced by the Birdsall Garage in 1927 (New Building Permit 1100-1927). The same size as the lot, the garage had a cellar 21' below the curb, with a foundation 4'

below the surface of the ground. This discrepancy raises questions about the measurement of depth from curb or ground given in many of the old building plans [see Lot 20]. This may be a typographical error, since window wells presently visible along the sidewalk, indicate that the cellar does not go very deeply into the ground.

The owners received permission to use the old 6" earthen sewer "which is found in good condition and of ample size" (Application approved October 27, 1927). This must refer to the original line from the house noted above. The garage is still standing.

BLOCK 2444 (EASTERN HALF)

Lot 32 (890 Grant Avenue)

The earliest evidence of building on Lot 32 dates to 1860, when a structure and the name Rev. D. DeVinne appear on what was then Lot 276. (See Fig. 11) The lot extended westward to Morrisania Avenue before the construction of Grant Avenue in the 1880s, and the house must have fronted on William Street (now E. 161st Street). W. H. Devenney (probably a relative) was the owner of record in 1905 (Bromley 1905), and the house, with much the same footprint, appears on maps through 1909. (See Figs. 14, 15, 16)

The Empire State Ice Company building was constructed in 1923. (See Fig. 18) It is a 2-story brick structure with large open loading bays fronting Grant Avenue. There is no mention of a basement but the ice manufacturing process requires extensive piping which probably dictated construction of a sublevel. The same structure is labeled City Ice & Fuel Co. Inc. on a 1952 map. A large structure, it is still standing.

Lot 38 (894 Grant Avenue)

Lot 38 was purchased by Arabella Noble on October 24, 1885 (Bromley 1905). Maps from 1891 through 1909 show two buildings on Lot 38; one (a 2-story dwelling) at the front of the lot and the other (a 2-story shed) across the rear. (See Figs. 14, 15) Probably the shed was the 25'x18' "open shed" built in 1905 on Lot 33, identified as the Astor Estate (Alteration Permit 216B-1905). It fits the footprint on the maps, although Lot 33 is not identified.

Two buildings of wood construction, one 2-story measuring 34'x34' and the other 3-story measuring 35'x40', were demolished by the Empire State Ice Company in 1926 (Demolition Permit 68-1926), but it is not clear that they were the same structures.

City Products Corporation added a 1-story, 14' wide by 16'6" long brick extension containing WCs and a lavatory to a small (approximately 12' square) office and boiler room in the southwest corner of Lot 38 in 1963 (Alteration Permit 388-1963). The permit notes that the building, a garage and office, was old and non-fireproof. A small brick garage with an extension still occupies the lot.

Lot 40 (including Lots 39 and 41, 898-900-902 Grant Avenue)

Lot 40 and Lot 39 (absorbed into Lot 40) were purchased by James Noble on July 3, 1891, and Lot 41 (also absorbed) was purchased January 9, 1886 by Emma A. Roberts (Bromley 1905). There were three buildings completed on November 30, 1891, on lots 39, 40 and 40 1/2 [probably Lot 41] (New Building Permit 321 and 322-1891). These side-by-side dwellings with common walls were 16' and 18' wide, with a length of 50', leaving a 50' backyard open. According to the 1909 Ullitz/Hyde map (Fig. 16), all had basements. The three frame buildings were torn down in 1928 (Permit for Demolition of Buildings, October 23, 1928).

A 2-story public garage was completed on Lots 40 and 41 on December 27, 1928 (New Building Permit 1975-1928). The building was 59'x105', covering all of lots 40 1/2 and 40 on the 1909 map, down to the north side of Lot 38 (See Fig. 16). It had a PC concrete foundation 4' below the curb.

There were two buried 550 gallon gas tanks in the basement in 1952. (See Fig. 18) In response to a 1961 citation for hazardous storage, the gas pump was removed and gas from one of the tanks was replaced with water in 1962 (Inspectors Violation Slip #C3900, 1961). The building has been replaced by a parking lot.

Lot 42 (904 Grant Avenue)

On October 24, 1885 Clements Grimm purchased Lot 42 (Bromley 1905). By 1887 maps began showing a building in the center of the lot that was still standing, with some alteration, in 1952 (Robinson 1887:6). (See Figs. 14, 15, 16, 18) It was a 3-family house that was altered in June of 1896 (Alteration Permit 219-1896) and November of 1906 (Alteration Permit 204-1906). It had a foundation 8' below curb. Both 1909 maps show it set about 50' back on the lot, although again the footprint differs slightly. With Lot 40, Lot 42 is now a parking lot.

Lot 43 (906 Grant Avenue)

At some time between 1897 and 1909, a hall or church was erected on Lot 43 at the corner of E. 162nd Street and Grant Avenue (Bromley 1897) (See Figs. 15, 16) Although the placement and footprints of the building are somewhat dissimilar on the two 1909 maps, they are probably the same structure. Unfortunately, no Building Department file exists for Lot 43. There is presently a single-story brick building covering the entire lot.

Lot 44 (210 East 162nd Street)

The first evidence for building on Lot 44 occurs between 1887 and 1891, when two small structures appear in what was then the rear of Lots 46, 46 and 47 (Robinson 1887:6). (See Figs. 14, 17) One of the buildings appears to be associated with the house built on Lot 46 in 1887. The two structures appear to be joined and enlarged in 1909. (See Figs. 15, 16) The resulting structure is identified on the maps as 2-story and of frame construction. By 1952 a 2-story

building with a similar L-shaped footprint appears on the maps. It is made of cinderblock, with a 1-story addition at the front. (See Fig. 18)

There is no file for Lot 44 in Bronx Blocks and Lots. The building standing today has the same general location and configuration as the pre-1952 structure. The front section appears to be brick.

Lots 46, 146 and 47 (903-905 Morris Avenue)

Robert I. Allen purchased Lot 46 on October 24, 1835 (Bromley 1905). There may already have been a building on this lot at the southwest corner of Morris Avenue and E. 162nd Street (New Building Application 1061-1882) although it is not clear that this was actually built. Possibly it was the building on what is now Lot 44.

Certainly there was a completed building on the lot August 30, 1887 (New Building Permit 176-1887). It abutted the southern property line of the lot, about in the center from back to front. (See Fig. 14)

Later, this building appears to have been attached to two new frame houses completed February 27, 1896 (New Building Permit 996-1896). Its position on the lot is further forward after the attachment, probably because Morris Avenue was widened. In 1909, there were sheds or storehouses on present Lot 44, but probably associated with structures on Lots 46, 146 and 47. (See Lot 44 discussion and Figs. 15, 16) The three attached frame buildings, with bay windows and a tower, are still standing, although the ground floor is now a storefront. The foundation is 8' below the curb or ground.

The building permit (1896) includes a map showing private sewers running from each of the three houses to a public sewer on E. 162nd Street.

Lot 49 (901 Morris Avenue)

The house that once stood on Lot 49, a 2-family dwelling with cellar, was completed September 29, 1886 (New Building Permit 456-1886). It had foundation walls 9' below the ground or curb. Covering about the middle half of the lot, it was added to over the years. A photograph taken c.1925 shows a clapboard structure with a high stoop, decorative cornice and curb-level cellar windows. (See Fig. 19)

The owners filed an affidavit guaranteeing occupancy by no more than 2 families on March 27, 1956, perhaps an indication of overcrowding in the neighborhood. The house has now been replaced by a parking lot.

Lot 50 (899 Morris Avenue)

Lot 50 was vacant on the 1891 Sanborn map (Fig. 14), although building records show that a 2-family dwelling was completed there on May 28, 1890 (New Building Permit 1611-1890). Katie E. Flood purchased the lot September 14, 1889 (Bromley 1905), at which time the house must already have been there. The house, with a basement and foundation depth of 6' below curb or ground, is still standing.

Lot 51 (897 Morris Avenue)

Edward Flood et al., purchased Lot 51 on March 19, 1904 (Bromley 1905). At this time, a 3-story, 3-family house was already standing on the lot, having been completed on January 21, 1895 (New Building Permit 680-1895).

Although the public sewer on Morris Avenue was not installed until 1897 (See Fig. 20), according to the building permit there was already, in 1894, a private 8" sewer (10'6" below curb level) leading to the main sewer on E. 161st Street. This rules out the possibility of a privy in the approximately 30' deep back yard of the house.

The house is still standing, with a foundation 8' below curb or ground.

Lot 52 (895 Morris Avenue)

A small, 2-1/2 story wood frame home was completed on Lot 52 on March 30, 1886 (New Building Permit 1529:1886). It had a cellar and a back yard approximately 65' deep. There is no indication that it hooked up to the private sewer noted above, and no alteration permits are on file for the structure. It is still standing, although apparently abandoned.

Lot 53 (893 Morris Avenue)

A 5-story, 10-family stone and brick building with basement was completed on Lot 53 on January 28, 1899 (New Building Permit 555A-1899). It is still standing, with a grocery-deli on the ground floor. There is no mention of a sewer connection, and there is a back yard approximately 24' deep. The foundation extends 8' below the curb or ground.

Lot 54 (877-889 Morris Avenue)

Lot 54 is the site of the first recorded building in the entire project site. This building was already in existence in 1853, on the northwest corner of Morris Avenue and William Street, now E. 161st Street. (See Fig. 11) Its occupant was Charles J. Tupper, who either owned or worked at an iron works (Henry 1853:29). By 1860, the nearly square house was owned by J. Bennett. (see Fig. 11) By 1887, the lot configuration and numbers had been changed and the present street, block and lot locations were in place (Robinson 1887:5).

When Morris Avenue was widened, one side of the house would have projected into the street, but by 1909 it had been moved west, and is drawn flush with the edge of the street. (Compare Figs. 14, 15) There it remained, with additions and (in 1891) until c.1909, when it was replaced by a row of attached, single-story brick stores. (See Fig. 16)

Despite their appearance on the 1909 Ullitz/Hyde map, it is not clear that these stores were built in 1909. According to the lot file, a new set of stores was completed on the northwest corner of Morris Avenue and E. 161st Street on October 4, 1912 (New Building Permit 383-1912). Among the shops were a bakery, a billiard room, a gas station and a repair shop. The stores covered the entire lot and had a foundation 8' below the curb. They are still standing.

BLOCK 2445

Lot 1 (910-920 Sherman Avenue)

Morrisania Avenue ran along a twenty foot (at the northern end) to forty foot (at the southern end) course on the eastern edge of Lot 1 before the lots were reconfigured. Lot 1, which encompassed present Lot 18, was purchased January 1, 1896 by Frank V. and J.H. Burton (Bromley 1905). The greenhouse complex which was built in c.1891 stood on both sides of the present lot line. By 1909 there were several more buildings, all of which were probably part of the "Florist's Garden" greenhouses. (See Fig. 15)

These were supplanted in 1920 by a 1-story brick garage that covered the entire lot (New Building Permit 413-1919). It has a cellar 10' below the curb and is still standing, although apparently vacant. It is not known if the 1,000 gallon gas tank remains buried in the cellar.

Lot 18 (911 Grant Avenue and 231-235 E. 162 Street)

Present Lot 1's immediate neighbor, Lot 18, at the northwest corner of Grant Avenue and E. 162nd Street, was empty in 1887 (Robinson 1887:5). It was part of Lot 1 until sometime after 1909. In 1890 the owner, Josiah H. Burton, hired McKenzie & McPherson to design a greenhouse complex, Florist's Garden. A potting shed and two long greenhouses were constructed, which straddled the present border with Lot 1 (New Building Permit 988-1890).

A 1-story frame building (a store) was added to the complex 75' west of Grant in 1892 (Alteration Permit 821-1892). In 1899, a 1-story frame building 95' west of Grand (sic) had its roof raised one story and became a 1-family dwelling (Alteration Permit 1853-1899). By 1909, there were at least six Florist's Garden buildings on the present Lot 18, some spilling over onto Lot 1. (See Figs. 15, 16)

In 1918 Lot 18, described as being 68'8" front by 115' deep, but still part of Lot 1 was "vacant ground". In that year, a 1-story brick garage was built on the lot. It rested on one foot of Portland cement, without a cellar (New Building Permit 139-1918). It also contained buried gas

tanks, the location of which is uncertain. (See Fig. 18) The building, occupying the entire lot, has been replaced by a parking lot.

Lot 6 (920-922 Sherman Avenue)

The easternmost twenty feet of Lot 6 was formerly part of the roadbed of Morrisania Avenue. (See Fig. 14) Lot 6 and 9 (called Lot 10) were not divided until sometime after 1909 (Compare Figs. 16, 18), and they are still filed together in Bronx Blocks and Lots. There is no evidence for buildings on either lot until after this division, so they are treated separately.

On January 6, 1923, a public garage was built on present Lot 6, covering the entire lot (New Building Permit 2330-1922). The building has a basement. It is still standing, having been converted to a day care center in 1972 (Certificate of Occupancy #47787, November 27, 1972). It is not known whether the two buried 550-gallon fuel tanks mentioned on the 1952 Sanborn were removed at that time.

Lot 9 (220-244 E. 163rd Street)

Lot 9 was a part of the former Lot 10 in 1905, when it was owned by W.W. Astor (Bromley 1905). The easternmost 20' were part of old Morrisania Avenue. (See Fig. 14) The first documentation for building on Lot 9 is in 1922, when a row of brick stores, with cellars, was constructed (New Building Permit 2876-1922). These are still standing.

Lot 15 (927 Grant Street)

Lot 15, at the southwest corner of Grant Street and E. 163rd Street, was vacant in 1897 (Bromley 1897) and 1891. (See Fig. 14). On May 7, 1904 it was purchased by John Yule (Bromley 1905). Shortly before this, on April 15, 1904, application was made to erect a dwelling for twenty-five families (Plan 294B-1904). The brick building was five stories high, with accommodations for one family in the cellar, four on the first floor, and five on each of the other floors. With the exception of its air well, the building occupied all but the rear 10' of the lot.

In 1958, the building was converted to a factory and offices for Ferrum Industries, Inc. (Building Notice 539-1958). It was still standing in 1952 (See Fig. 18), but has since been demolished to make way for a parking lot.

APPENDIX B
Correspondence with the New York State Museum
and the
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

To: Cece
From: Lori *LAB*
Re: Bronx Court Building Site
Site File Search Results

NYSM- sensitivity evaluation

<u>NYSM#</u>	<u>Site Identifier</u>	<u>Site Description</u>
4065	ACP NYRK no#	village site
4066	ACP NYRK no#	village; fields
5475	no name	"prehistoric village" (exec. order 11593, necip, '79)
7248	ACP NYRK no#	traces of occupation
7249	ACP NYRK no#	traces of occupation

OPRHP

- no archeological sites within one mile
- no inventoried structures within addresses requested
- no NR or NRE within immediate vicinity, however in not so immediate vicinity:
 - Longwood Historic District
 - Morris High School Historic District
 - US Post Office, Morrisania
 - Bronx Borough Court House (#005-01-0728 on East 161st at Brook Ave)
 - IRT Subway Control House
 - Bronx Central Annex-US Post Office
 - Grand Concourse Historic District
 - Bronx County Court House
 - Park Plaza Apartments



APPENDIX C:
BORING LOGS

Bronx Superblock I E. 161st St. to E. 163rd St. between Sherman and Grant Aves.
August 18, 1992, #2345

abbreviations: br.=brown, comp.=compact, decomp.=decomposed, gr.=green,
misc.=miscellaneous, tr.=trace, v.=very, w.=with,

1	2	3	4	5
el. 46.2'	el. 43.7'	el. 40.8'	el. 39.7'	el. 40.9'
water 18.6'-21.2'				water 24.1' - 25.9'

misc. fill to 21.2'	misc. fill to 23.7'	misc. fill to 19.3'	misc. fill to 24.7'	misc. fill to 30.9'
greenish org. silt, some clay, tr. fine sand to 11.2'	br. sand, tr. silt, tr. gravel to 13.7'	gr. sand, some silt, tr. gravel, some decomp. mica schist to 10.8'	br. silt, little sand, tr. gravel to 19.7'	br. silt, gr. silt, fine sand, tr. gravel, little clay to 20.9'
gr.-br. sand, tr. silt, little gravel to -3.8'	gr. silt, gr.-br. sand, gr. silt, little gravel, w. decomp. chlorite to 2.2'	lightly weathered chloritic dolomite	gr.-gray sand, tr. silt, tr. gravel, decomp. chlorite & dolomite to 14.7'	gray-br. sand, tr. silt, little gravel, decomp. chlorite to 12.9'
decomp. chloritic schist to -5.8'	decomp. chloritic schist w. hard seams to -1.3'		chloritic dolomite	decomp. chlorite and dolomite to 5.9
lightly weathered chloritic dolomite	chloritic schist with dolomitic zones			cg. chloritic schist w. dolomitic zones

Bronx Superblock I (continued)

6 el. 42.1'	7 el. 43.8'	8 el. 41.6'	9 el. 43.5'	10 el. 43.9' water 23.5'-24.5'
br. sand & silt, poss. fill to 32.1'	misc. fill to 33.8'	misc. fill to 35'	misc. fill to 33'	misc. fill to 31.9'
br. sand, tr silt, tr gravel, tr brick. poss. fill to 27.1'	white sand, little silt, poss decomp dolomite to 28.8'	br. silt, very fine sand, tr. gravel to 21.6'	white sand, tr silt, decomp. dolomite to 23.5'	gr-br silt & sand, tr gravel, poss. very decomp chlorite to 8.9'
br. sand, tr silt, tr gravel to 22.1'	very fine white sand, some silt, tr gravel to 23.8'	decomp chloritic dolomite, w hard seams to 16.6'	very fine gr. decomp chlorite, fine sand, tr silt to 18.5'	lightly weathered chloritic dolomite
br sand, some silt some gravel w chlorite to 17.1'	white sand, tr clay, tr silt, decomp dolomite and chlorite w hard seams to -1.2'	weathered chloritic dolomite	lightly weathered chloritic dolomite	
highly weathered chlorite	lightly weathered dolomite w chlorite			

New Family and Criminal Court Building
 E. 161st St. between Sheridan and Sherman Avenues,
 May 31, 1967, #0548

B-1 el. 40.3' water 32.0'	B-2 el. 48.0' water 23.8'	B-3 el. 55.4' water 38.6'	B-4 el. 50.4' water 28.7'
fill to 20.3'	fill to 33.0'	fill to 49.4'	fill to 37.4'
comp. gr sand, gr org. silt, tr gravel to 15.8'	comp., layered br & gr. sand, tr clay, tr gravel to 29.0'	decomp. dolomite to 46'	br. silt, little fine sand, little clay, tr. gravel to 32.4'
white dolomite	comp. br sand, little silt, little gravel to 23'	dolomite	comp. brown sand, tr silt, tr clay, little gravel to 27.4'
	v. comp. gray-br sand, tr silt, tr gravel, creosote to 18'		decomp. rock to 23.4'
	dolomite		dolomite and dolomitic schist

New Family and Criminal Court Building (continued)

B-5 el. 41.9' water 29.3'	B-6C el. 41.2' water 31.7'	B-7 el. 42.7 water 33.2'	B-8 el. 50.5' water 26.3'
fill to 31.9'	br. silt, little clay, little gravel, little-tr brown sand (rip-rap) to 23.2'	fill to 25.7'	fill to 41.5'
br sand, tr silt to 26.4'	br sand & silt, little clay layered to 20.2'	v. comp. light br sand, some silt, some clay, little gravel to 20.7'	brown sand, tr silt to 34.5'
br sand, tr silt tr gravel, basalt boulders to 18.9'	br sand to 11.2'	decomp. rock to 17.7'	decomp rock to 23.5'
decomp. rock (halt at 1.9')	br sand, little silt, tr clay to 4.2'	white dolomite	dolomite
	schist decomp to a sand, silt, clay, gravel (halt at -8.8')		

Combined Sewer in Park Ave., Concourse Village East, E. 161st St., Grant Ave., E. 169th St.
and E. 170th St.

Nov. 22, 1982, #1299C (Sheets B-2, B-4 and B-5)

124
l. 52.7'

125
el. 53'
water 38.7'

126
el. 52.3
water 40.5'

127
el. 51.5'

gray, clayey silt, some gravel little sand (fill) to 48.7'	br. and gray sand, some silt, tr gravel to 41'	br.-gray sand, little gravel to 47.3'	br.-gray sand, little gravel (fill) to 47.5'
br silt and clay to 42.7'	br & gray sand some silt & tr gravel to 41'	red sand, tr gravel, decomp. micaceous flakes to 37.3'	gray and br sand, silt, tr gravel to 36.5'
brown limestone	red/br sand, some cemented-like silt to 23'	dark brown limestone	yellowish/br silt, some fine sand, tr micaceous flakes to 33.5'
	brown limestone		grey gneiss

Combined Sewer . . . (continued)

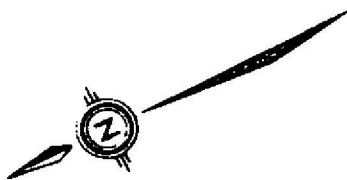
128 el. 50.4' water 23.6'	129 el. 49.1' water 21.8'	130 el. 48.5' water 15.5'	131 el. 47.5'
fill to 43.4'	gray/br sand to 45.1'	gray sand, little gravel, little silt to 24.5'	br. sand, some gravel, little silt (fill) to 18.5'
gray/br silt and clay, some fine sand to 25.4'	gray gravel and sand to 39.1'	gray sand, gravel to 18.5'	boulder/ limestone to 13.5'
soft limestone	white, br sand, tr silt to 36.1'	br sand, little silt (halt at 8.5')	br sand, some silt, some gravel (halt at 11.5')
	weathered white, gray gravel, br sand to 32.6'		
	black, white gneiss		

Combined Sewer . . . (continued)

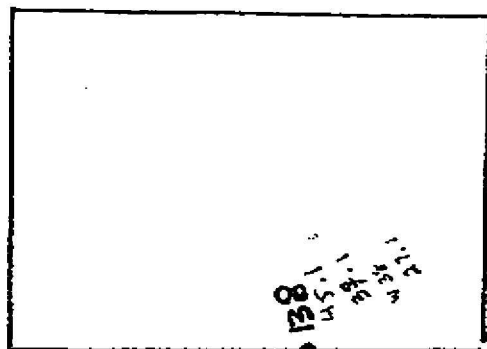
132W el. 50.0' water 23'-25.8'	133 el. 49.0' water 28.0'	134 el. 48.1' water 29.9'	135 el. 46.7' water 31.4'
gray sand, little gravel, poss. fill to 44'	fill to 42'	fill to 43.1'	fill to 39.7'
br sand, tr. BRICKS , tr gravel, some silt to 30'	br sand, some silt & clay to 36'	br. sand, some silt to 33.1'	grayish/br silt, little sand tr. gravel, decomp micaceous rock to 16.7'
dark br silt, some sand to 27'	br silt and clay some sand to 30.5'	limestone	light br sand to 11.7
dark br sand, some silt, tr gr micaceous flakes to 19.5'	red decomp. micaceous rock, silt-like to 17'		gray silt, decomp micaceous rock
brown limestone	rock		

136 el. 45.5' water 39.3'	137 el. 45.3' water 30.6'	138 el. 45.1' water 38.0'	139 el. 44.5' water 34.0'
fill to 43.2'	fill to 42.0'	fill to 37.1'	gray-black gravel, tr sand to 38.5'
br sand, tr silt to 26.5'	gray sand, little gravel to 38.3'	br sand, little silt to 27.1'	br sand to 23.5'
decomp mica schist	red stiff silt, little sand, decomp micaceous rock	tan limestone	light gray limestone, chlorite seams

Soil Boring Locations

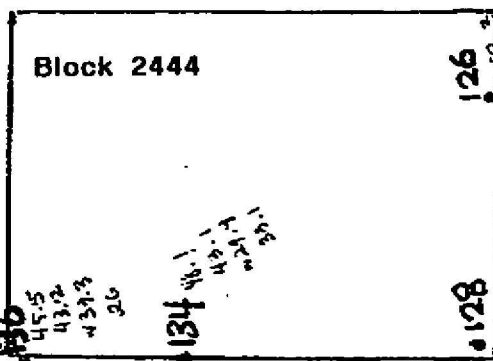


163rd ST.



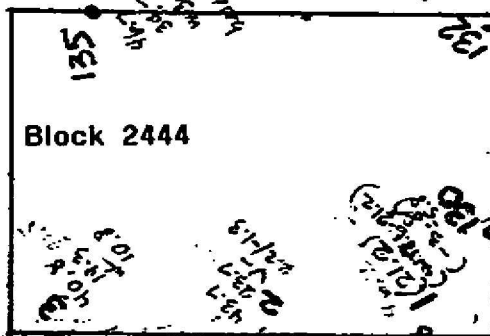
162nd ST.

MORRIS

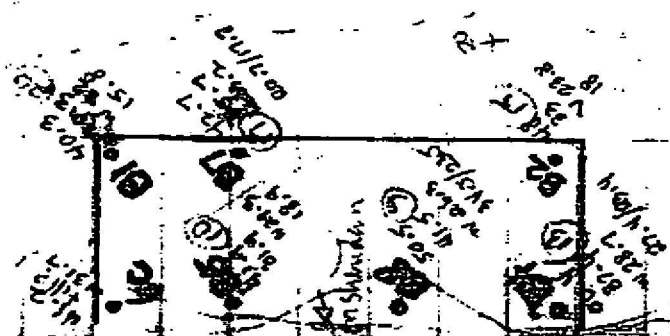
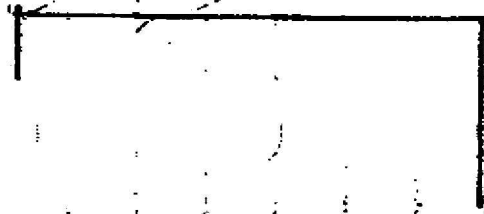


161st ST.

GRANT



SHERMAN



125 23.0
41.2
W 25.25

127 51.6
47.0
W 35.5

129 49.1
41.2
W 32.6

131 47.5
41.2
W 35.5

133 47.5
41.2
W 35.5