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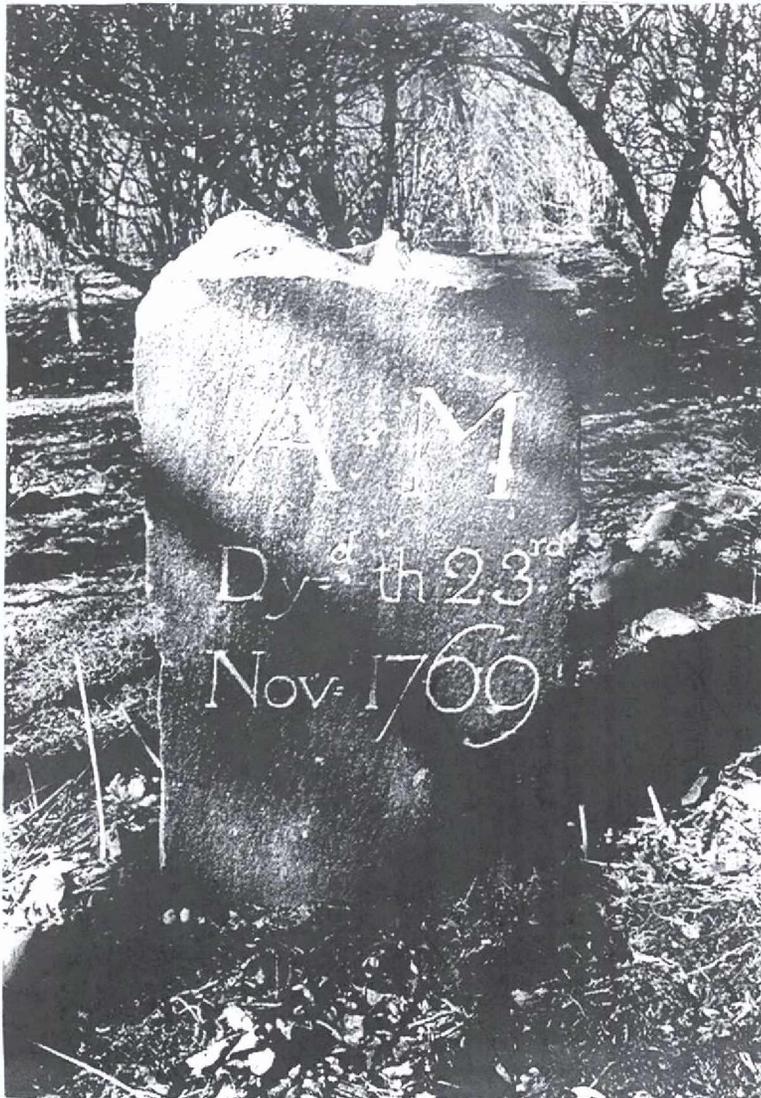
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**MOORE-JACKSON CEMETERY**

31-31 to 31-37 51st Street

Woodside, Borough of Queens, New York

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PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Prepared for: Queens Historical Society  
Prepared by: Celia J. Bergoffen, Ph.D., S.O.P.A.

May 16, 1999

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**DRAFT**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would particularly like to thank Arthur Bankoff for reviewing the archaeological design proposed in the present report, and Daniel Pagano who provided guidance and supported the writer's research efforts at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. This report has benefitted enormously from Stanley Cogan and Ceil Pontecorvo's expertise and generosity.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The present archaeological assessment of the landmarked Moore-Jackson cemetery in Woodside, Queens was prepared at the request of the Queens Historical Society, which owns the site. It is based on the comprehensive historical summary created by G. Harris for the Landmarks Preservation Commission (1997), and on the research efforts and information provided by: Eugene Cafaro; Stanley Cogan, President of the Society; Woodside historian, and author Catherine Gregory, and Cecile Pontecorvo, protector of the cemetery for over 23 years. The Moore-Jackson cemetery is a rare surviving Colonial era burial ground that belonged to a family of wealthy landowners who played a prominent role in Queens' history. It was established by 1733 on a quarter-acre plot on the farm of Samuel Moore and Charity Hallett Moore, near their home on Bowery Bay Road (present-day 51<sup>st</sup> Street, figs. 1, 2 and 3). It remained in active use until at least 1867 (Meigs 1932, 14-15, nos. 19 and 21; Harris 1997, 1).

The Society's objective is to restore the cemetery to its mid-nineteenth appearance and to maintain it in that condition. To accomplish this, the Society plans to place, or replace in their proper position, standing headstones and other headstone fragments that may be located in the course of archaeological testing (below). The sketch map of the cemetery in A. Meigs' *Private and Family Cemeteries in the Borough of Queens* will be used as a guide (figs. 4 and 5). The site has not been systematically renovated since 1936, when work was undertaken under the direction of the Queens Topographical Bureau.

The writer has formulated a research design for archaeological testing in consultation with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission with the aim of collecting data that will be utilized in the development of a comprehensive long-term site maintenance plan for the cemetery. Through site sampling and mapping, data will be obtained on the depth of fill over the original cemetery surface, the elevation and slope of this surface, and the location of burial plots and other subsurface deposits. Headstones and other artifacts associated with the cemetery's period of use will be collected.

The sampling data will provide a basis for assessing the level of sensitivity of the site's archaeological features, and the impact on them of possible future actions that may be involved in the controlled rehabilitation of the cemetery. These may include the above-ground construction of temporary access facilities; grading, landscaping or below ground construction, for instance, excavation for fence footings.

Resources consulted for the present report include the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the New York Public Library's map division, and the Dept. of General Services, Division of Public Structures, Subsurface Exploration Section.

## II. SITE AREA

The cemetery site was designated a New York City Landmark on March 18, 1997 (Designation List 278 LP-1956). The designated area is located at 31-30 to 31-36 54<sup>th</sup> Street (aka 31-31 to 31-37 51<sup>st</sup> Street), in block 1131, lot 12, in the Woodside – Newtown section of Queens (fig. 1). The block is bounded on the west by 51<sup>st</sup> Street (formerly Bowery Bay Road then Duane Street), on the east by 54<sup>th</sup> Street (formerly Second Avenue or 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, then 1<sup>st</sup> Street), on the north by 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue (formerly Patterson Avenue), and on the south by 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (formerly Charlotte Avenue, then Burnside Avenue). Originally rectangular in outline and running perpendicular to 51<sup>st</sup> Street, the cemetery lost its northeast corner when 54<sup>th</sup> Street was created. The current site is therefore pentagonal. It measures 194.77 on the north, 104.49 on the west, 223.30 on the south, 37.30 on the southeast, and 73.32 on the northeast. It is fenced all around.

The portion of the cemetery facing 54<sup>th</sup> Street, where the remaining fifteen headstones now stand, is free of debris and undergrowth, thanks to the efforts of Ceil Pontecorvo (fig. 3). The best preserved monument is the fieldstone monument of Augustine Moore, dated 1769. These monuments, however, are not in their original positions, but were moved to this location in 1936, in the course of rehabilitation efforts directed by the Queens Topographical Bureau (fig. 11). One of the concrete piers of the chainlink fence erected in 1936 lies against the present fence. The 54<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk (outside the cemetery's fence line) was laid only in September 1998. It replaced worn and crumbled black top.

West of the restored portion of the cemetery is an extensive stand of bamboo that effectively closes off the salvaged portion from the western part of the cemetery's grounds. These have not received the same degree of attention as the 54<sup>th</sup> Street side of the plot. The area is overgrown with saplings, weeds and underbrush, and strewn with refuse. The Northern Woodside Coalition began a major clean-up operation on this side about six years ago, removing the garbage dump that had collected there, and clipping the weeds. At that time, a member of the coalition placed bricks and pieces of concrete and stone (collected off-site) to create a roughly T-shaped walkway that extends approximately eight to ten feet into the cemetery's grounds.<sup>1</sup>

The Woodside Houses stand on the west side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street, opposite the cemetery grounds. On the other, 54<sup>th</sup> Street side and adjoining the cemetery on the north are large six-story apartment buildings. South of the cemetery is a row of three-story, two-family brick houses.

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<sup>1</sup> C. Pontecorvo, personal communication, June 13, 1999. Ms. Pontecorvo explained that the man who built the walkway stopped after about ten feet because he ran out of bricks. She did not participate in this operation, but estimates that no more than a few inches of the ground surface was scraped away in order to set the pathway. No artifacts were found. The "builder" has since moved away.

### III. GEOLOGY AND PREHISTORY

Queens is divided into two main geomorphic areas by the line of hills composed of the boulders and glacial till that mark the southern edge of the Wisconsin ice sheet. Reaching its maximum extent during the Pleistocene era some 20,000 years ago, the terminal moraine of the glacier runs roughly along the line of the Interboro and Grand Central Parkways. During its second and last advance, the glacier reached approximately from south of Little Neck Bay southwestward through Ridgewood, to Prospect Park in Brooklyn (Boesch 1997, 4-5). The Moore-Jackson cemetery lies north of this latter feature, known as the Harbor Hill moraine, in the piedmont lowlands of Long Island. The low, rolling terrain here is composed of sediments deposited by the glacial melt waters, that in turn overlie the glacial debris.

Unfortunately, no soil borings have been made by the city in the immediate neighborhood of the cemetery, therefore the depth here of the sand and clay layer characteristic of this region is unknown. The bedrock of Queens is schist, gneiss and granite (Boesch 1997, 4).

There is no detailed information on the cemetery's current elevation. It is known to have been raised during the 1936 restoration of the site. The 1979 USGS map indicates that it now lies within the 40-foot contour. The 1914 Sanborn provides elevations in the streets around block 1131: 40.9 feet at the south west corner; 39.2 feet at the southeast corner; 43 feet at the northeast corner, and 42 feet at the northwest corner (fig. 6). The ground therefore sloped very gently from north to south and west to east. As there had been hardly any building on the block by that date, it is reasonable to assume that these elevations roughly represent the contour of the ground surface in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

According to Boesch's map of the approximate location of major watercourses and wetlands in Queens ca. 1890, there was a river running along the line of Northern Boulevard. Immediately to the east was the Trains Meadow, a salt marsh used as common pasturage (shown on the 1852 Riker map, fig. 7). In the 1920s it was a "large tract of marshland still in great part existing in its original condition filling the large basin of lowland now partly occupied by North Woodside and extending as far north as the Flushing Turnpike" (Astoria Boulevard; Bolton 1922, 177; Armbruster 1923, 27).

According to the map of inventoried prehistoric archaeological sites compiled by Boesch (1997, fig. 2e) based on the records of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which in turn are based on site file records, only one prehistoric site has been identified within a one-mile radius of the Moore-Jackson cemetery. It is number 49 on his map, located on the grounds of St. Michael's Cemetery. The New York State Museum records the presence of an Indian burial site here, along with traces of occupation (site number 5472). But Boesch (1997, 8) observes that as no other source mentions this site, the record may be erroneous. No other sites have been identified within a one-mile radius of the cemetery, the degree of proximity accepted as the criterion for determining prehistoric archaeological sensitivity.

#### IV. HISTORY OF NEWTOWN AND THE MOORE-JACKSON CEMETERY

In 1642, Governor Kieft granted a township charter for Maspeth, with 13,300 acres of land, to Reverend Francis Doughty and his associates (Hazelton 1925, 941; Kross 1974, 6-7, 77). The Indians destroyed this first European settlement in 1643, during the Indian war launched by Governor William Kieft. But in 1652, a new settlement was established called Middelburgh by Governor Stuyvesant, after the capital of Zeeland in Holland. It included later Elmhurst, Corona, Woodside and Winfield (Armbruster 1923, 13; Kross 1974, 80). In 1652, a group of Englishmen from Connecticut took over the 1642 patent but were unable to receive a new charter from Stuyvesant. The town's inhabitants therefore levied monies to purchase the land from the sachems (chiefs) Rowerowestco and Pomwankon in 1656 (Riker 1852, 42).

The English Long Islanders rebelled against the Dutch in 1663. Middleburgh was renamed Hastings and the town adopted English institutions (Riker 1852, 52, 54, 59). After the British take-over of New Amsterdam, the Hempstead Assembly created a new "New Town" (1665) that was more extensive than Hastings, with a number of plantations added to its territory (Armbruster 1923, 13). Under Governor Thomas Dongan, a deed was signed with the Indians formally "investing title to the land with "the Inhabitants of New Town, alias Middleburgh"(Kross 1974, 80). The town was located around the center of present-day Elmhurst. The ridings were replaced by counties and Newtown was included in the newly-created county of Queens (Riker 1852, 103).

Among those involved in the 1656 land purchase from the Indians was the Reverend John Moore (d. 1657). He was the second town preacher of Middleburg, and in 1652, he founded the *First Presbyterian Church*, the oldest church in Queens. Services were held in the Town House at Newtown. After his death, the town granted land in Newtown Village to his son, Samuel, in recognition of John's services to the community (Munsell 1882, 348). Captain Samuel Moore (d. 1717) also purchased a farm in the present-day neighborhood of Steinway in 1684, and built his home there. During the Revolution, this house stood in the center of the *British camp* (Munsell 1882, 341). It was passed down to his son Joseph and his heirs for several generations. The Riker's 1852 map of Newton shows the old Moore homestead near Bowery Bay owned by Samuel Hallett Moore.

Captain Samuel's other eldest son, Samuel (d. 1758) married into the wealthy Hallett family --after whom Hallett's Cove is named-- in 1705. He settled with his wife Charity on the southern part of his father's land, and is thought to have built the farmhouse there, on the Bowery Bay Road (fig. 2). Samuel and Charity were both buried in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery. Their son, Nathaniel (d. 1802), bought the house and 100 acres of land from his father in 1756. The building appears on the 1852 Riker map as the property of S.B. Townsend (fig. 7). Nathaniel married Rebecca Blackwell Barnwell, granddaughter of Jacob Blackwell, after whom Blackwell's Island is named.

It was in the Moore farmstead on the Bowery Bay road, across the street from the Moore-Jackson Cemetery, Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton set up his headquarters after the Battle of Long Island. Nathaniel Moore was a prominent Loyalist who had been arrested for aiding in smuggling arms to the British. General Clinton had led a contingent of 4000 men up Trains Meadow Road, across present-day Jackson Heights, to encamp at a point some two blocks north of Northern Boulevard. In a 1978 interview, E. Cafaro stated that the encampment of Clinton's 42<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders regiment was near the cemetery on the land occupied by the "old city trolley car barns" (Greene 1978). C. Pontecorvo has identified this as the location of the present-day Tower Shopping at Northern Boulevard and Woodside Avenue. The New York and Queens County Street Railway Co. car house and repair shop, etc. appears on the 1902 Sanborn.

The Moore homestead offered General Clinton a strategic vantagepoint because, according to Wilford, immediately south of the cemetery the dry land tapered to a narrow spit flanked by near-impassible swamps (Wilford 1936). Only one road crossed this "Narrow Passage" to link the settlements at Newtown and Jamaica to the East River. During the two weeks that he spent in Nathaniel's home, General Clinton planned the capture of Manhattan. The plan that he conceived here, and submitted to General Howe, still exists.<sup>2</sup>

The Moores intermarried, among others, with the Rapelyes, an old Newtown family, also "notorious" Tories during the Revolutionary war. Captain George Rapelye became the British paymaster and many other Rapelyes served as British militia officers (*Newtown Register* 1917). The 1873 Beers map shows various Rapelye homes north of Jackson Avenue. Several Rapelyes are buried in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery.

Nathaniel's property was not confiscated after the revolution, as that of many loyalists was. It passed to his son, Nathaniel Moore Jr. (d.1827), who conveyed it in trust to his executors. The map of land ownership in 1800 records the purchase of this trace by Robert Blackwell, Nathaniel Jr.'s son-in-law, in 1827 (fig. 8). Blackwell died shortly after acquiring the property (1858) and was buried in the Moore Cemetery. The old stone farm house, located on the site of the present-day Woodside Houses, survived until 1901 when it was finally demolished. It is thought that the Newtown pippin apple, "the most famous apple of its time", originated in the vast Moore family orchards, which extended from the East River to Bowery Bay.

C. Gregory (Appendix) traced the chain of ownership in the 19th century in detail. According to her findings, the Moore family began selling farmland in early 19<sup>th</sup> century but retained ownership of the cemetery. According to the deed drawn up by the executors of Nathaniel Moore, Jr. (1827):

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<sup>2</sup> Cafaro stated he had a copy of the plan that Clinton submitted to Gen. Howe that showed that Clinton had "conceived and engineered the capture of New York City by the British while living in the Moore house".

...land being the homestead farm of late Nathaniel Moore... Reserving from the first aforesaid granted premises ¼ Acre ground to be used as a burying ground for the family of Nathaniel Moore...and descendents forever with the right of egress and regress to and from the same, the said ¼ Acre to comprehend and embrace the present burial ground on said premises and so much more ground (to be taken from the ground adjoining on the north and west sides thereof) as shall make up the quantity of ¼ Acre as aforesaid. (see Appendix A)

Further sales of portions of the former Moore farmstead in the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> century did not affect the ¼ acre of land used as a burial ground, which was always exempted from the parcels. However, in 1867, the cemetery was expanded by 3/10 of an acre to include the land between the original ¼ acre cemetery site and the Old Bowery Bay Road (51<sup>st</sup> Street). The purchaser, John C. Jackson, husband of Nathaniel Moore's granddaughter, Martha Riker, acquired this plot in order to ensure access to the burial ground and protect it from abandonment. With John C.'s alliance to the Moore family, the cemetery became known as the Moore-Jackson Cemetery. Seyfried asserts that he also gave his name to Jackson Avenue, called Northern Boulevard since 1930 (Seyfried 1991, 93). As President of the Hunter's Point, Newton and Flushing Turnpike Corporation, he planned Jackson Avenue and supervised its construction. It opened on July 13, 1860.<sup>3</sup>

The last known burial in the cemetery was of a member of the Dustan family in 1868 (O'Gorman 1934, 19).<sup>4</sup> John Jackson himself, who died in 1889, was not buried in the Moore-Jackson cemetery but in the Riker-Jackson plot in St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery in Elmhurst. John and Martha's daughter, Mary Anne, was also not buried in the Moore family cemetery but in the new John L. Riker plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx

O'Gorman's list of forty-six headstones with most of their inscriptions, copied from the 1887 *Newtown Register* is the most complete that has survived. When the Moore-Jackson cemetery was surveyed in 1919 as part of a study of family cemeteries in the Borough of Queens, only 42 tombstones remained, many in a poor state of preservation. The graves were marked with fieldstone, brownstone or marble headstones. The surviving headstones were all grouped in the original Moore section of the burial ground.

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<sup>3</sup> Kornstein, however, records that Jackson Avenue may equally well have been named in honor of Thomas B. Jackson, Queens member of Congress during the Martin Van Buren Administration, 1837-41 (Kornstein 1974, 12). It was the only road in Queens with milestones on it.

<sup>4</sup> Harris 1997, 6, n. 13: 'The Dustans were relatives of Cornelius [Dustan] Purdy (1788-1851) and his wife Rebecca Moore Purdy (1786-1834), daughter of Nathaniel Jr. and Martha Gedney Moore.

In 1900, a planned development called Charlotteville sprang up near the Cemetery.<sup>5</sup> But while Queens' first episode of large-scale development occurred during the years between 1890 and 1918, seventy-eight of the borough's 115 sq. miles were still farmland in 1920 (Plunz 1990, 130; compare figs. 12 and 13). This only ended with the construction of the Queensboro IRT and the building boom of the 1920s that followed it. In 1917, the IRT line was run to Jackson Heights; in 1928, it was extended to Flushing (Plunz 1990, 130). The Train's Meadow swampland, which belonged partly to the Moore farmstead, was filled in between 1907 and the 1920s.

During the 1920s, the cemetery was used as a refuse dump. A 1931 New York Times article described its grounds: "weeds grow wherever there are spaces between mounds of ashes, tin cans, broken flower pots, discarded automobile parts and fallen tombstones" (*New York Times* 1931). Six years later, the cemetery was rediscovered by a group of WPA workmen who were clearing the lot of weeds and garbage.

As part of the rehabilitation of the cemetery conducted in 1936 by the Queens Topographical Bureau, fill was brought in to raise the ground surface to the level of the adjacent streets, and surviving headstones were re-erected at the eastern end of the burial ground (fig. 11). When the work was finished, the cemetery looked "bare", i.e. it was completely cleared of undergrowth (Wilford 1936). According to Eugene Cafaro, who played in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery in the late 1930s, the burial ground was then enclosed in concrete posts --erected during the 1936 clean-up-- "and a large link chain that connected the posts" (Greene 1956).<sup>6</sup>

In the ensuing decades, the cemetery was neglected and nature as well as vandalism combined to remove or destroy the remaining headstones. There was a complete clean-up, involving "mowing, raking and hauling away junk" in 1955, but the weeds quickly grew back (Greene 1956). In 1956, following a flurry of newspaper articles that decried the condition of the burial, an unidentified "patriotic organization" erected a 10-foot mesh fence "around the cemetery". (Greene 1973).

The latest restoration efforts, aside from C. Pontecorvo's continuous care, were undertaken by the Northern Woodside Coalition some six years ago (see p. 2 above).

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<sup>5</sup> At that time, the Moore-Jackson cemetery was on block 83, lot 16 (the block and lot numbers have since changed).

<sup>6</sup> Testimony presented at the Landmarks Preservation Commission for the Moore-Jackson Cemetery, January 14, 1997.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Arthur Bankoff, Director of Archaeology at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, is of the opinion that archaeological testing of the cemetery should be undertaken in view of its landmark status and evident archaeological sensitivity, prior to beginning the work of restoration.

As outlined in the introduction of this report, Dr. Bergoffen will direct the field testing operations, whose goal will be to provide data on the depth and slope of the fill over the original cemetery surface, and on the location of the burials. There is no plan, however, to excavate or disturb any burials and should any human remains be inadvertently uncovered, work in the test trench where this occurred would immediately cease and Dr. Bankoff would be notified. The goal of the testing is to ensure that the burials be protected in the event of any future operations on the site connected with its rehabilitation. Archaeological testing will proceed as follows:

1. A preliminary map of the site will be made, showing the present location of the headstones and other salient features of the site.
2. A ten-meter grid will be laid out over the entire area of the cemetery. Rubbish and underbrush will be cleared. Any artifacts found will be plotted on the grid.
3. A sounding in one 1 by 1 meter unit on the western side of the cemetery will be excavated in to observe the depth of the overburden of fill over the site.
4. Approximately six units of two-by-two meter trenches will be opened in the area of the original Moore burial ground. The purpose of this operation will be to trace the outlines of the burial plots and, once defined, to match their location to the 1919 survey plan, which has no scale. This will allow the correct replacement of the surviving tombstones over the burial they were intended to mark.
4. A further series of between six and nine trenches, similarly two-by-two meters in size, will be excavated in the eastern part of the site. The purpose of this operation is to study the slope of the terrain and the depth of fill, as well as to locate any additional burials not recorded in the documentary evidence, as well as fragments of tombstones or other artifacts associated with the cemetery's original period of use in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

All soil removed during operations 2 through 4 will be sifted through a ¼ inch mesh screen. A record of each day's excavations, duly dated, will be kept in a field diary. Any artifacts, other than tombstones that may be re-erected on the site, will be removed to a site—to be determined—for study and analysis. A report on the findings of the archaeological testing will be created by Dr. Bergoffen and submitted to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

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Catherine Gregory  
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## MEMORANDUM

To: Stanley Co.gan  
 From: Catherine Gregory  
 Date: November 12, 1994  
 Subject: Ownership of Moore-Jackson Cemetery, Woodside, Queens County, NY /  
 Catherine Gregory's Research

From the Last Will and Testament of Nathaniel Moore, Jr., 1827

I except from the sale of my farm and give to my executives in trust one quarter of an acre of ground to include the land now used as a burial ground together with enough more to make up said quarter of an acre to be taken from the burial ground adjoining on the north and west side for the purpose of a burial ground for the family.

Surrogates Court, Jamaica, Queens County, NY

From Deed /Liber W Page 440 / November 28, 1827 - Exec. of Nathaniel Moore to Robert Blackwell [son-in-law]-

... land being the homestead farm of late Nathaniel Moore. ... Reserving from the first aforesaid granted premises 1/4 Acre ground to be used as a burying ground for the family of Nathaniel Moore, ... and descendants forever with the right of egress and regress to and from the same, the said 1/4 Acre to comprehend and embrace the present burial ground on said premises and so much more ground (to be taken from the ground adjoining on the north and west sides thereof) as shall make up the quantity of 1/4 Acre as aforesaid.

It should be noted that the above will and deed information refers to the son of loyalist Nathaniel Moore, who was the owner of the farm during the Revolutionary War.

Robert Blackwell, who is buried in Moore Cemetery, died soon after purchasing the farm, and the farm was resold then. That sale and each of the succeeding sales of the farm, through the sale to John A. Mecke on April 15, 1863 (Liber 207 Page 402), excluded "the 1/4 Acre of ground to be used as a burying ground."

John A. Mecke, who is buried in Moore Cemetery, sold three pieces of the farm before he died in 1867. After his death, his assignee sold a piece next to the cemetery to John C. Jackson, as described in the next paragraph. Mrs. Mecke then sold the remainder of the farm, again with a notation excepting the 1/4 Acre of burial ground, to Henry G. Schmidt and Emil Cuntz on September 18, 1867. The latter two men laid out their purchase in building lots.

John C. Jackson, who married Nathaniel Moore's granddaughter, Martha Riker (of the Bowery Bay Rikers), and lived across the road from the cemetery on the west side of Bowery Bay Road (today's 51st Street), extended the burial ground 3/10 Acre, in a straight line to the road. He purchased the land between the 1/4 Acre burial ground and 51st Street from Geo. Mosle, assignee for John A. Mecke, on June 29, 1867, as noted in the deed (Liber 261 Page 225). Apparently, Jackson did not extend the Moore Cemetery for his own or his family's burial – but extended it with the intent to protect it from abandonment. Jackson, who died in 1889, was buried in the Riker-Jackson plot in St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery in Elmhurst. The Jacksons' only daughter, Mary Anne, married back into the Riker family when she married John L. Riker. When Mary Anne died in 1909, she was buried in the new John L. Riker plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx. All the remains in the Riker-Jackson plot at St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery were transferred at that time to Woodlawn Cemetery. Possibly Woodlawn Cemetery would share their records on the John L. Riker plot for any possible later burials and an address of a family member.

The most recent Jackson heirs I traced were two of Jackson's grandchildren, the children of Mary Anne and John L. Riker: John Jackson Riker and Margaret R. Haskell. The Advanced Press Service, File R1285 of May 18, 1914, gave a lengthy biographical account of John Jackson Riker. He retired in 1914 and had a city residence then at 110 East 37 Street, with a country place, "Rock Ledge Farm," in Westchester County, near Port Chester, NY. *The Newtown Register* reported in 1910 that Margaret R. Haskell, his sister, had a country place (her husband's), "Oak Hill Farm," near Red Bank, NJ. These may be further leads to explore in tracing a current heir of the Jackson portion of the cemetery.

Following are notes that I recorded in 1983 during a research visit to the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC). The notes relate to an early community effort to make the Moore Cemetery a landmark. As you said that the LPC cannot locate its file on this subject, my notes may prove helpful.

Memo of January 17, 1975, from Beverly Moss Spatt, AIP, Chairman: Patricia Rich of LPC attended a meeting called by Gene Cafaro at PS 151. Principal, teacher, and CB No. 1 Mrs. Anneliese Krieger to discuss landmark of Moore Cemetery.

Letter of April 4, 1976, from above Beverly Moss Spatt to Gene Cafaro: "If the cemetery were restored and title established, the Commission would be happy to consider the cemetery for landmark designation."

Information from Irving Saltzman, Assistant Corporation Counsel In Charge of the Title Bureau regarding title to the cemetery (similar content as to that in the memo from Jeffrey Karp below; I have a quote if you should need it).

Various newspaper articles relating to the cemetery.

Concerning the 10-page memo from Jeffrey S. Karp to James Nespole, Esq., dated September 18, 1973, which is included in the packet of information that you received on the Moore-Jackson Cemetery, the following item needs attention.

The fact offered by Mr. Cafaro in paragraph 4 on page 1, that Nathaniel Moore's estate became subject to forfeiture following the Revolutionary War because of his Loyalist standing. Although New York State did confiscate the property of some Loyalists after the Revolutionary War, my research of the properties confiscated in the Town of Newtown by the State shows that the property of loyalist Nathaniel Moore is not included. The correct interpretation of the above fact affects sentences on page 8 of the said memo, "as a result of Moore's loyalty to the British Crown, the land was forfeited to the State following the War" and "The problem to the Moore-Jackson property is the absence of record title following Moore's forfeiture."

I trust my information will be helpful in furthering the efforts to preserve Woodside's heritage of the American Colonial Period by making one of its colonial cemeteries a landmark. I will continue to assist you in whatever way I can.

P.S. We are fortunate that Ceil, who lives on 54th Street in the apartment house adjoining the cemetery, has been maintaining the cemetery with such devoted care for many years. Several years ago, I included councilmatic funding in a NYC Dept. of Youth Services grant application, which I wrote as an executive board member of Woodside On The Move, Inc., for the involvement of school-age children in an awareness and improvement program for the cemetery. Subsequent funding has followed this successful initial request.

Before retiring, I regularly took my students to the cemetery for a community learning experience. Since retiring, I have written detailed lesson plans based on using historical documents to teach local history. Should you decide at some time to extend the current cemetery/landmark project, we could discuss the use of my lesson plans relating to the Moore family and its family burial grounds.

I have devoted six pages in my forthcoming book, *Woodside, Queens County, NY, A Historical Perspective: 1652-1994*, solely to the Moore Family and its family burial grounds. It should bring a greater awareness of this special treasure in the community.

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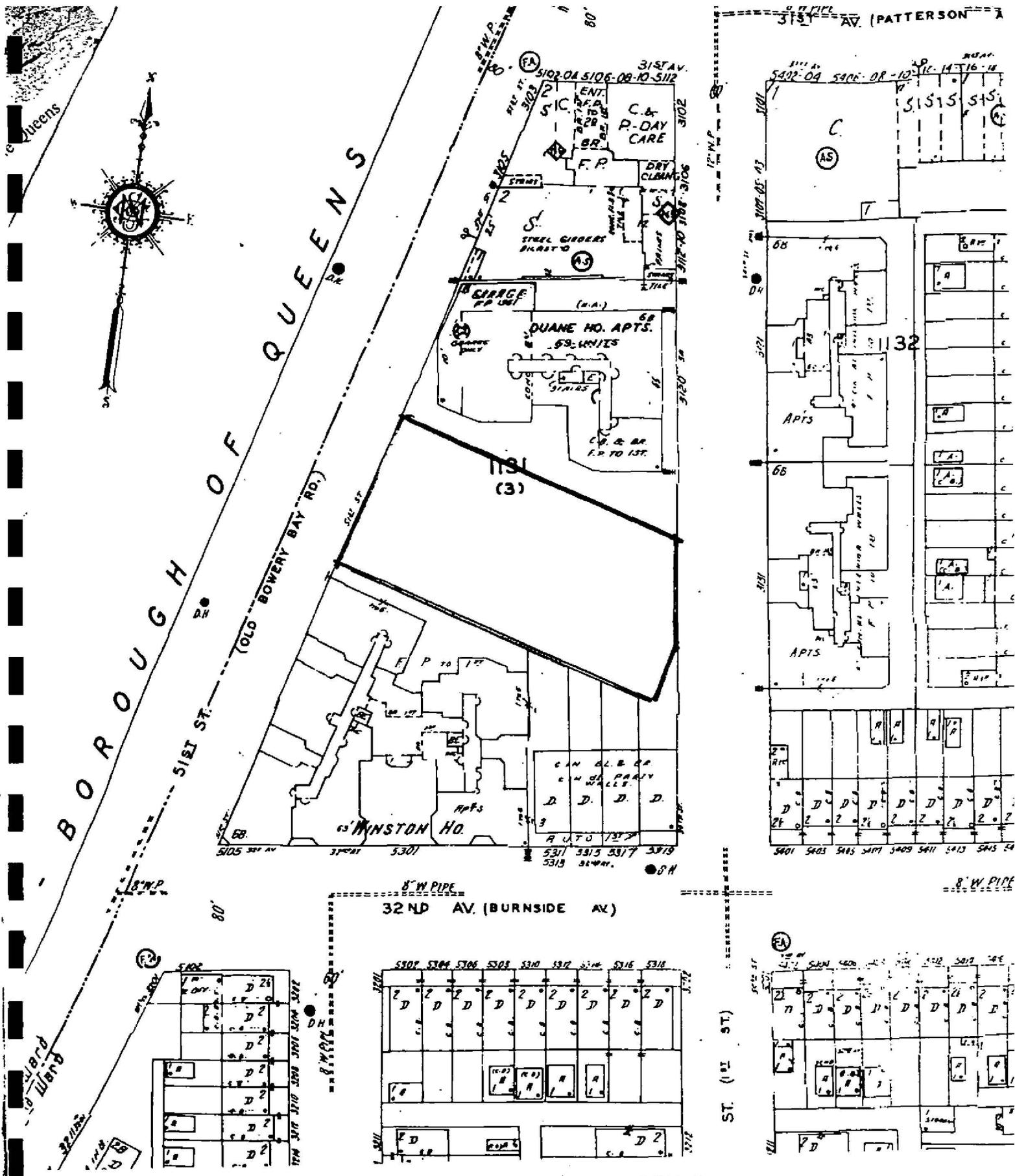


Fig. 1. Moore-Jackson Cemetery, 31-30 to 31-36 54th Street  
 (aka 31-31 to 31-37 51st Street), Queens  
 Landmark Site: Borough of Queens Tax Map Block 1131, Lot 12  
 Source: Sanborn Building & Property Atlas of Queens, 1995, vol. 10, pl. 31

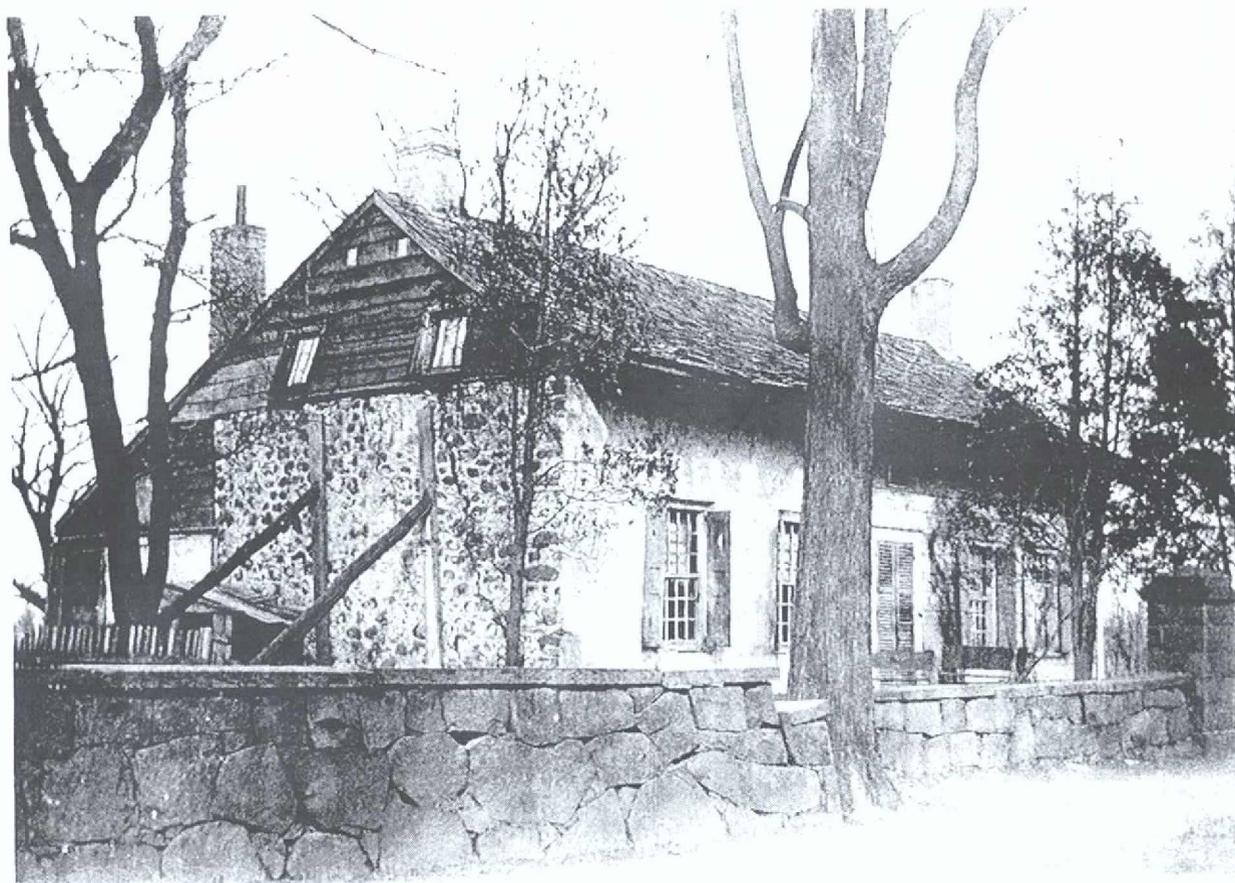


Fig. 2, Moore farmhouse, east of Bowery Bay Road (51st Street), before 1901  
Photo: Gregory, *Woodside*

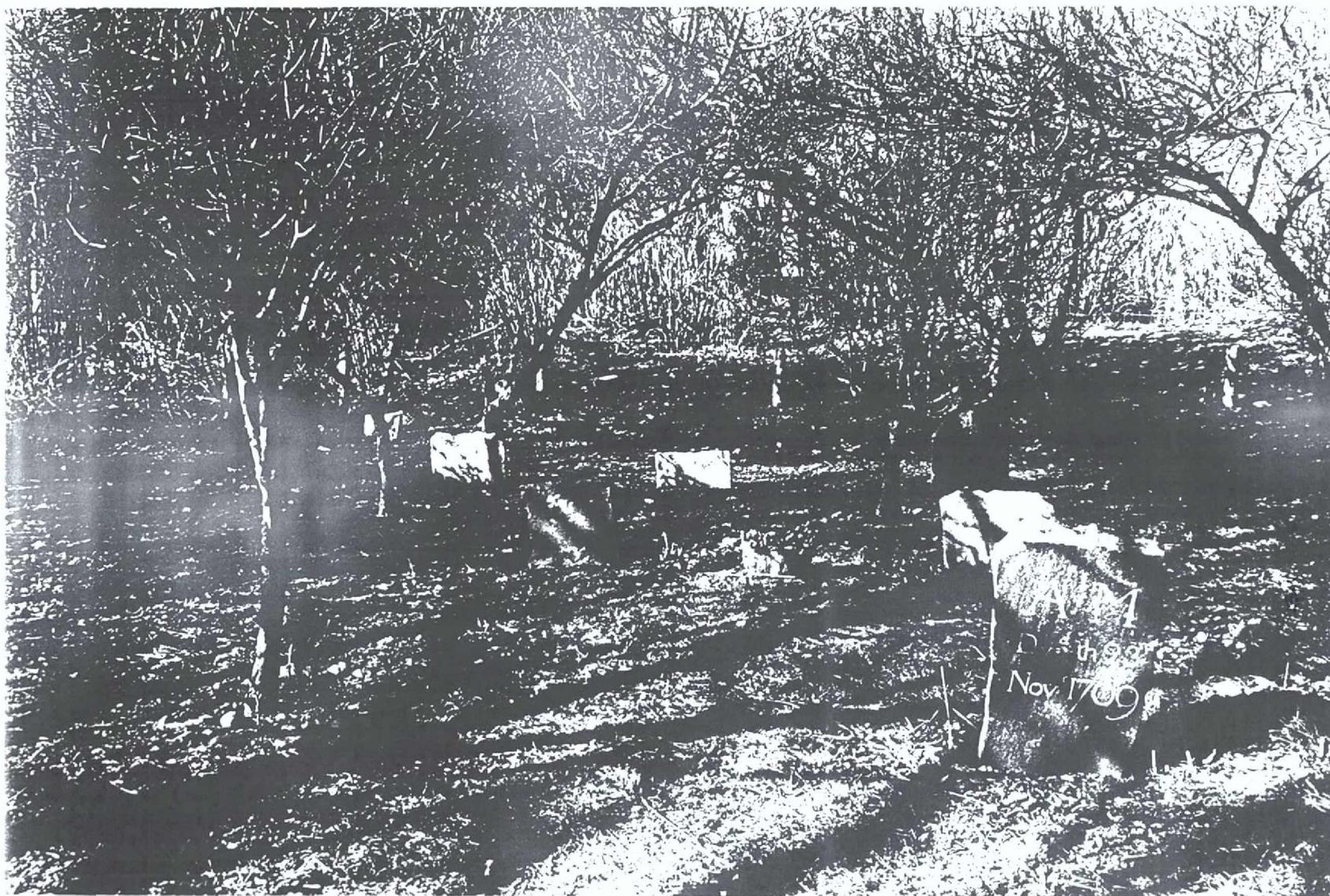
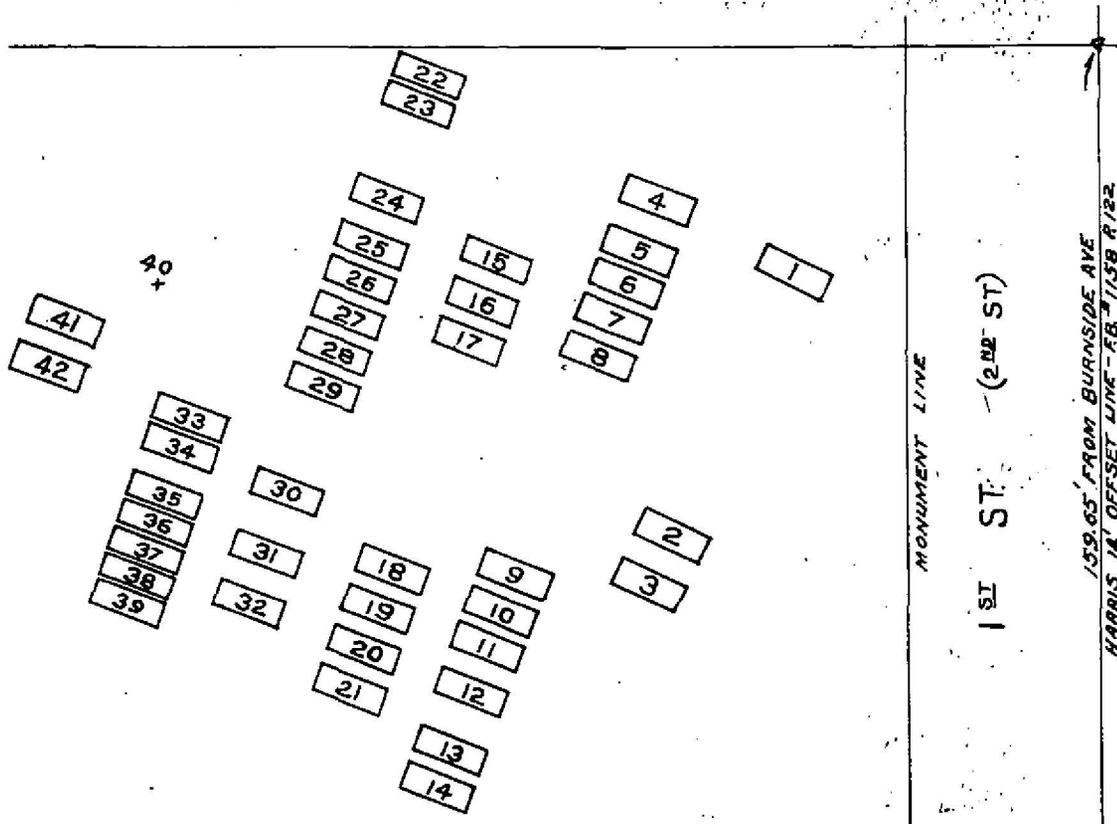
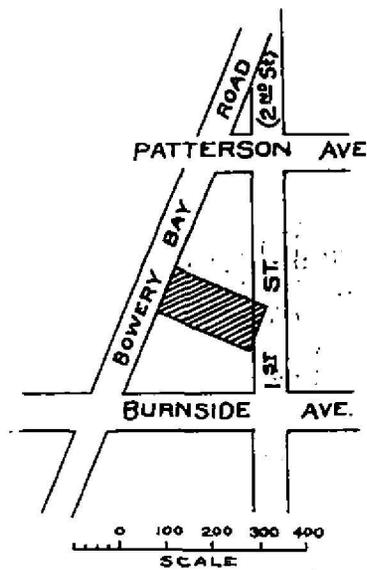
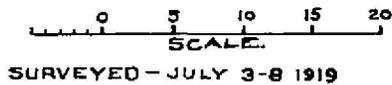


Fig. 3. View of the cemetery looking west; photo: Carl Forster, courtesy  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

No. 3  
MOORE CEMETERY  
WOODSIDE



PAGE FOURTEEN

Fig. 4, Moore-Jackson Cemetery survey map, July 3-8, 1919  
The former and current street names are: Patterson Avenue/31st Avenue, Burnside Avenue/32nd Avenue, Bowery Bay Road/51st Street, 1st Street/54th Street  
Source: Meigs, Private Cemeteries

- No. 1. MARBLE (Good)  
In Memory of PETER, son of Peter & Sarah DUSTAN, who departed this life the 31st of May, 1803; aged 3 years & 6 months.
- No. 2. MARBLE (Fair)  
The grave of ROBERT BLACKWELL, who died Sept. 23, 1828; aged 37 years. This stone is erected as a tribute to departed worth by his friend Charles Rapelye.
- No. 3. MARBLE (Good)  
Sacred to the Memory of NATHANIEL MOORE, son of Robert & Eliza Jane BLACKWELL, who departed this life 18th January, 1822; aged 4 years.
- No. 4. MARBLE (Poor, broken)  
In Memory of MARTHA, daughter of David & Jemima H. MOORE; departed this life August 21st, 1824; aged 24 years, 3 months, 26 days.
- No. 5. BROWN STONE (Broken off)
- No. 6. MARBLE (Poor, broken)  
Sacred to the Memory of DAVID MOORE; born Aug. 22nd, 1791; died Jan. 29th, 1862.
- No. 7. MARBLE (Broken off)
- No. 8. MARBLE (Fair, broken)  
Sacred to the Memory of MARY JANE MOORE; born Nov. 16, 1830; died Dec. 4, 1846.
- No. 9. FIELDSTONE (Excellent)  
A x M; dyd th 23rd Novr., 1769. (Augustine Moore.)
- No. 10. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of SAMUEL HALLET MOORE, son of David & Jemima H. Moore, who departed this life June 26th, 1813; aged 25 years, 5 months & 15 days.
- No. 11. FLAT OBLONG FIELDSTONE (Excellent). P x M; dyd Oct. 13th, 1781; ag. 59 yrs. (Patience Moore wife of John.)
- No. 12. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of JOHN MOORE, who departed this life March 7th, 1806; aged 84 years, 2 months & 15 days.
- No. 13. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of DAVID MOORE, who departed this life Jan. 12th, 1823; aged 66 years, 4 months & 2 days.
- No. 14. BROWN STONE (Poor)  
Inscription rotted off.
- No. 15. BROWN STONE (Poor, rotted)  
—YTON, — this life — 1803; — 4 months, 20 days.  
Behold and see as you pass by  
As you are now so once was I  
As I am now so you must be  
Prepare for death and follow me.
- No. 16. ROUGH UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE  
E x W; dyd th 1st Jan., 1770.
- No. 17. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of GEORGE MIDDLEMAST, who departed this life September 30th, 1802; aged 1 year, 3 months and 25 days.
- No. 18. BROWN STONE (Poor and rotted)  
No inscription discernable.
- No. 19. ROUGH SLAB UPRIGHT FIELDSTONE  
C x M, 1753.
- No. 20. BROWN STONE (Fair)  
In Memory of JEMIMA MOORE FISH, daughter of John & Patience FISH, who departed this life Augt 2d, —; aged 55 years, — months, 19 days.
- No. 21. ROUGH FLAT UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE.  
SAMUEL MOORE; died Jan. 2, 1768.
- No. 22. GRAYSTONE (Poor)  
No inscription discernable.
- No. 23. BROWN STONE (Poor)  
No inscription discernable.
- No. 24. BROWN STONE (Fair)  
In Memory of WILLIAM BERRIAN, son of — & Peleiah Berrian, who died July 4th, 1804;  $\text{A} \times \text{E}$  9 years & 7 months.
- No. 25. ROUGH SLAB UPRIGHT FIELDSTONE  
M x W; dyd th 3rd Feby, 1770.
- No. 26. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of NATHANIEL MOORE, who departed this life April the 3rd, 1802; aged 78 years and 11 months.
- No. 27. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of MARY, wife of Abraham BERRIAN, who departed this life the 13th of February, 1788; aged 33 years.
- No. 28. MARBLE (Good)  
In Memory of MARY BERRIAN, who died Octr. 22, 1854; aged 77 years & 5 months. Whereas I was blind and deaf, now do I see and hear.
- No. 29. BROWN STONE (Good)  
In Memory of REBECCA, wife of Nathaniel MOORE, who departed this life the 6th June, 1790; aged 67 years.
- No. 30. ROUGH UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE  
S x R; dyed May ye 29th, 1733.
- No. 31. ROUGH UPRIGHT SLAB FIELDSTONE  
T x I; 1750.
- No. 32. BROWN STONE (Good)  
Sacred to the Memory of AMOS HARE, Senr. who departed this life the 14th of January, 1804; aged 61 years.
- No. 33. MARBLE MONUMENT (Good)  
The grave of GEORGE B. RAPELYE; died in New York City March 27th, 1863; aged 78 years, 3 months & 11 days. (J. Kellum, Calvary Cem'y.)
- No. 34. MARBLE (Good)  
In Memory of BERNARD RAPELYE, who departed this life the 20th day of July, 1837; aged 78 years.
- No. 35. MARBLE (Good)  
In Memory of DEBORAH, wife of Bernard RAPELYE, who died 18th Augt. 1805; aged 44 years.
- No. 36. MARBLE (Fair)  
In Memory of HARRIET, daughter of Bernard & Deborah RAPELYE, who died 30th July, 1803, in the 12th year of her age.
- No. 37. BROWN STONE (Good)  
Sacred to the Memory of REBECCA HALLETT, relict of Amos HARE, who departed this life March 23rd, 1830, in the 88 year of her age.
- No. 38. MARBLE (Good)  
In Memory of HENRY GIDNEY son of Bernard & Deborah RAPELYE, who died March 7th, 1798; aged 7 months & 24 days.
- No. 39. BROWN STONE (Fair)  
In Memory of MARGARET, daughter of Bernard & Deborah RAPELYE, who departed this life the 7th of October, 1790; aged one year & 11 months.
- No. 40. MARBLE MONUMENT  
Upright slab broken off and stolen.
- No. 41. MARBLE MONUMENT (Good)  
JOHN A. MECKE; born at Bremen Jan. 3, 1820; died at Woodside, L. I., May 23rd, 1867.
- No. 42. MARBLE MONUMENT (Good)  
JOHANNE ANTONIE MECKE; born at Woodside, L. I., Oct. 1, 1864; died July 21, 1865.

#### NOTES

- (From Mrs. J. C. Frost, Long Island Cemetery inscriptions, v. 1, p. 37-39.)
- BERRIAN—Abraham; died Oct. 1, 1830; aged 79 years.
- MECKE—Auguste Elizabeth; born at Woodside, Sept. 15, 1862; died Oct. 25, 1863.
- MOORE—Ann Eliza; daughter of David and Mary B. Moore; died Feb. 3, 1832; aged 10 years.
- MOORE—Mary B.; wife of David Moore and daughter of George Brinkerhoff; born Mar. 18, 1795; died Sep. 9, 1859.
- MOORE—Patience; daughter of David and Jemima Moore; born Aug. 15, 1781; died Jan. 1, 1782. (From "Rev. John Moore of Newtown, L. I. and his descendants," page 60.)
- MOORE—Samuel; born Apr. 22, 1709; died Jun. 2, 1750.

Fig. 5. List of Inscriptions in the Moore-Jackson Cemetery recorded in the 1919 survey  
Source: Meigs, *Private Cemeteries*

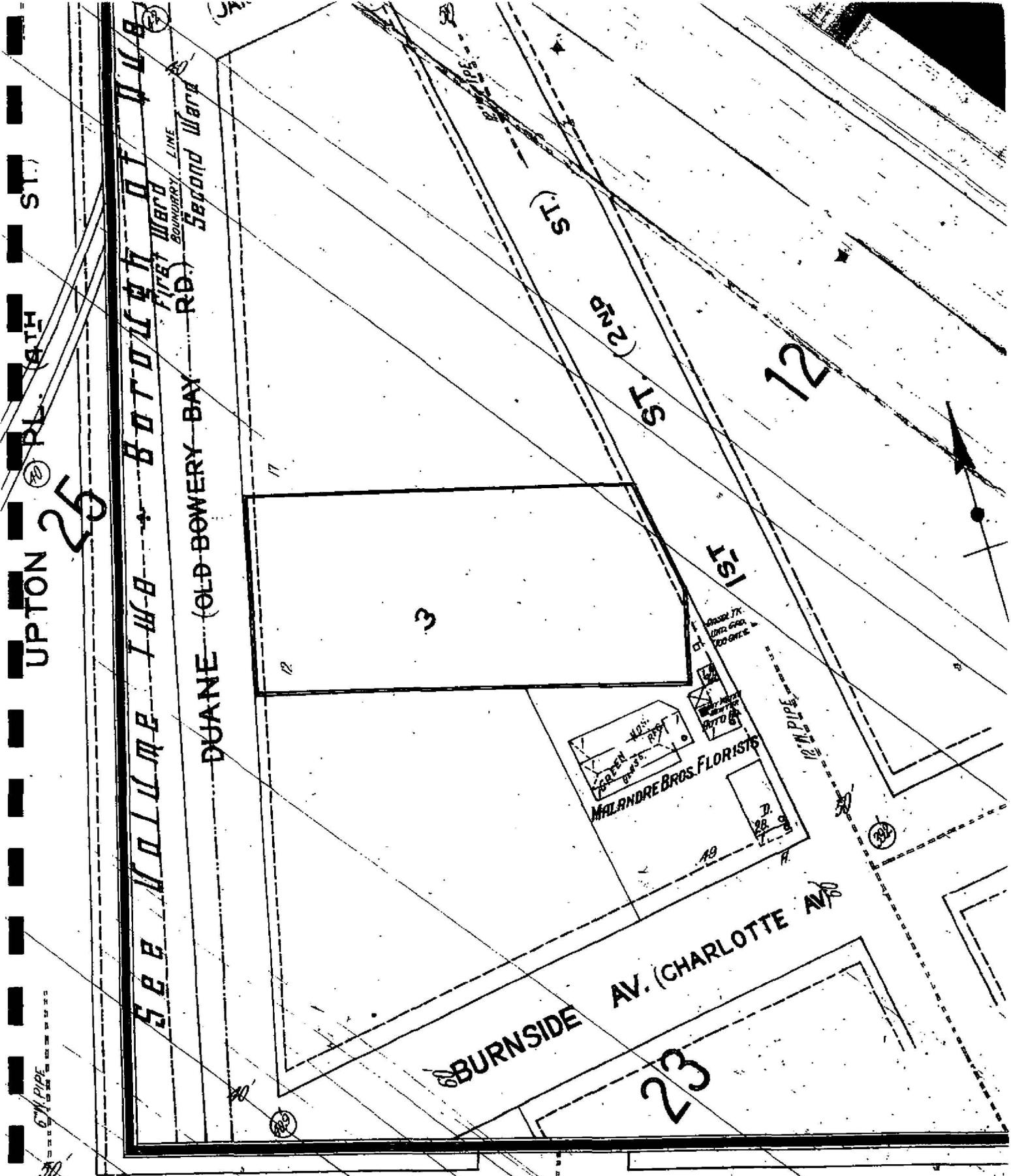


Fig. 6. 1914 Sanborn map showing the location of the cemetery (lot 3), and elevations.

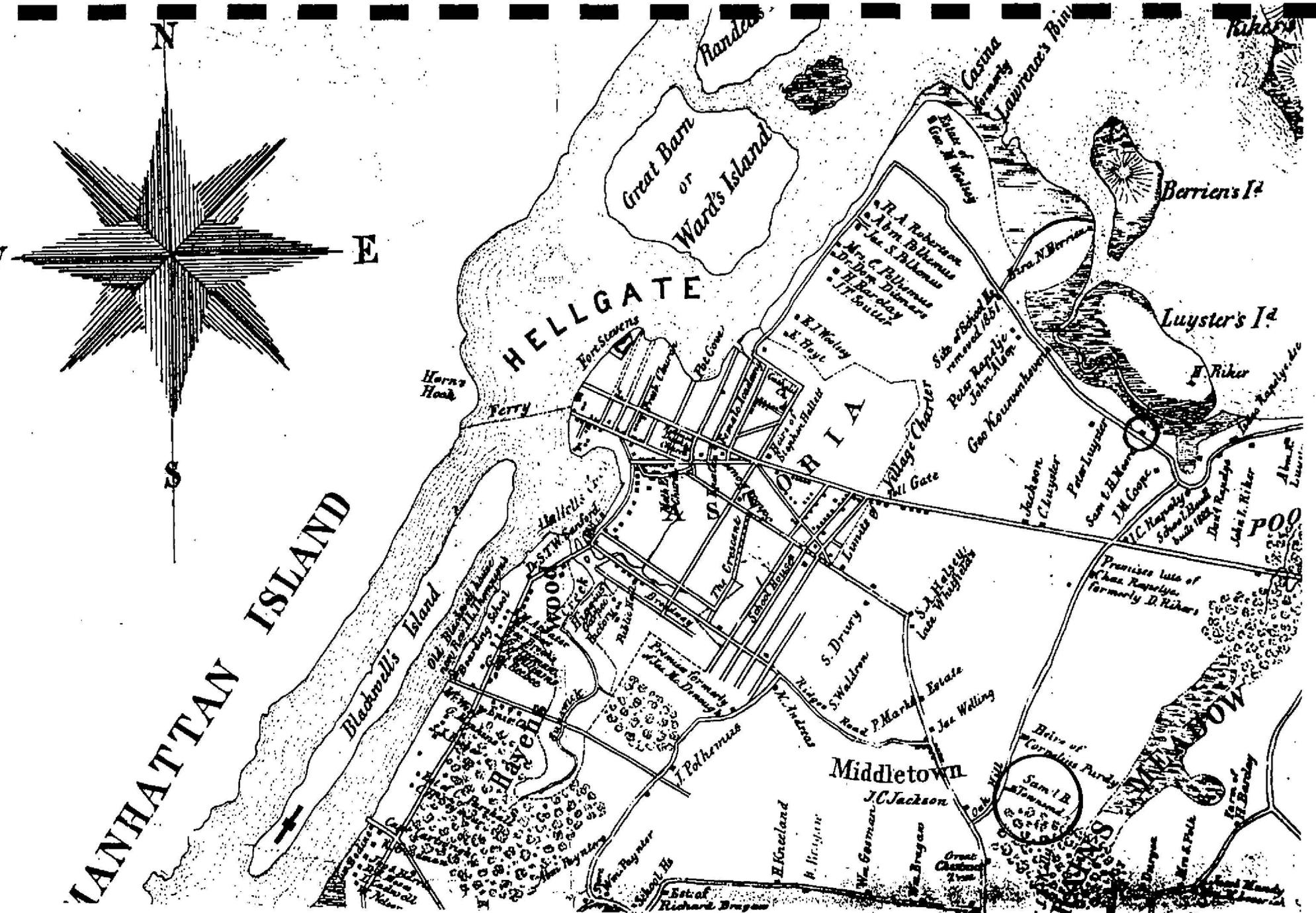


Fig. 7. Map of Newtown, Long Island, from James Riker's *Annals of New Town*, 1852, showing the Moore-family homesteads

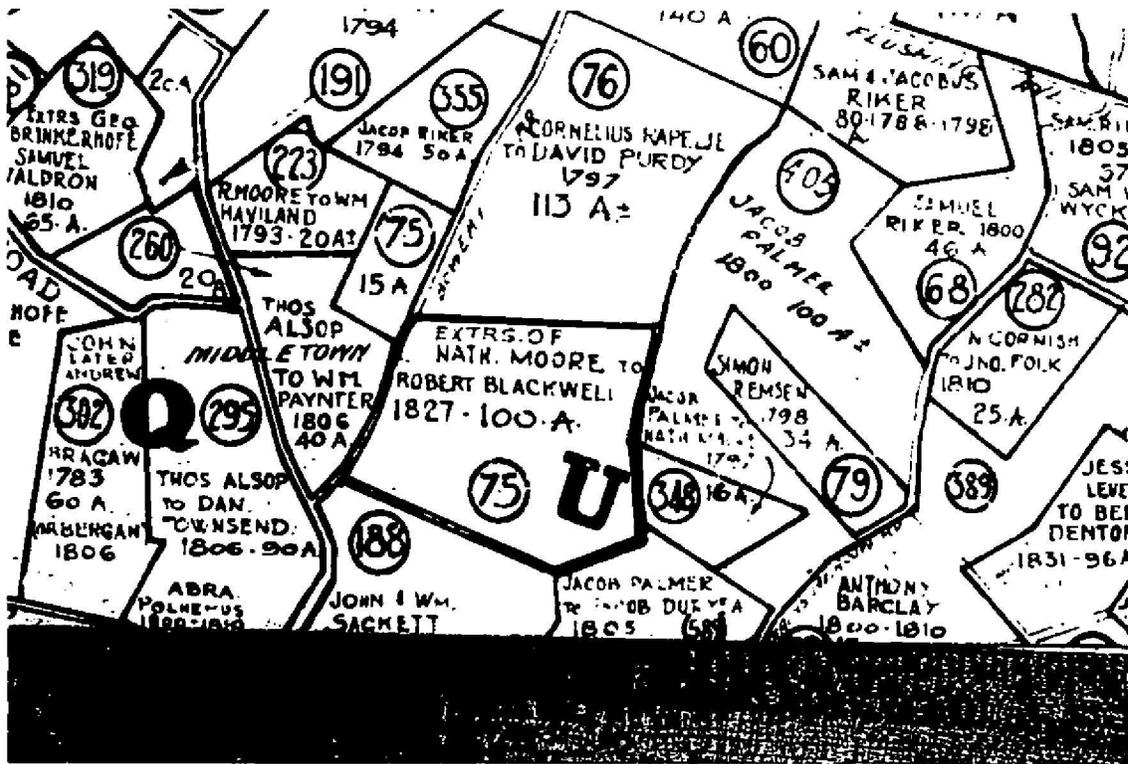


Fig. 8. City of New York, Borough of Queens, Topographic Bureau, 1935: Map of land ownership in 1800, showing the location of Nathaniel Moore's estate.



Fig. 9, The Moore-Jackson Cemetery as it appeared in May, 1925, looking southeast to gravestones of AxM [Augustine Moore] 1769, Samuel Hallett Moore 1813, and PxM [Patience Moore] 1781. Built c. 1910, the house in the background was located on the southwest corner of 32nd Avenue and 54th Street. In the late 1920s it was occupied by a florist who added a greenhouse to the building.

Photo: Eugene Ambruster, NYPL.



Fig. 10, The Moore-Jackson Cemetery, as it appeared in May, 1927  
Looking east to gravestones of MxW [Mary Williams] 1770, Nathaniel Moore 1802, Mary Berrien, 1788, Mary Berrien, 1854, and AxM  
[Augustine Moore], 1769  
Photo: NYC Archives, Queens Topographic Collection

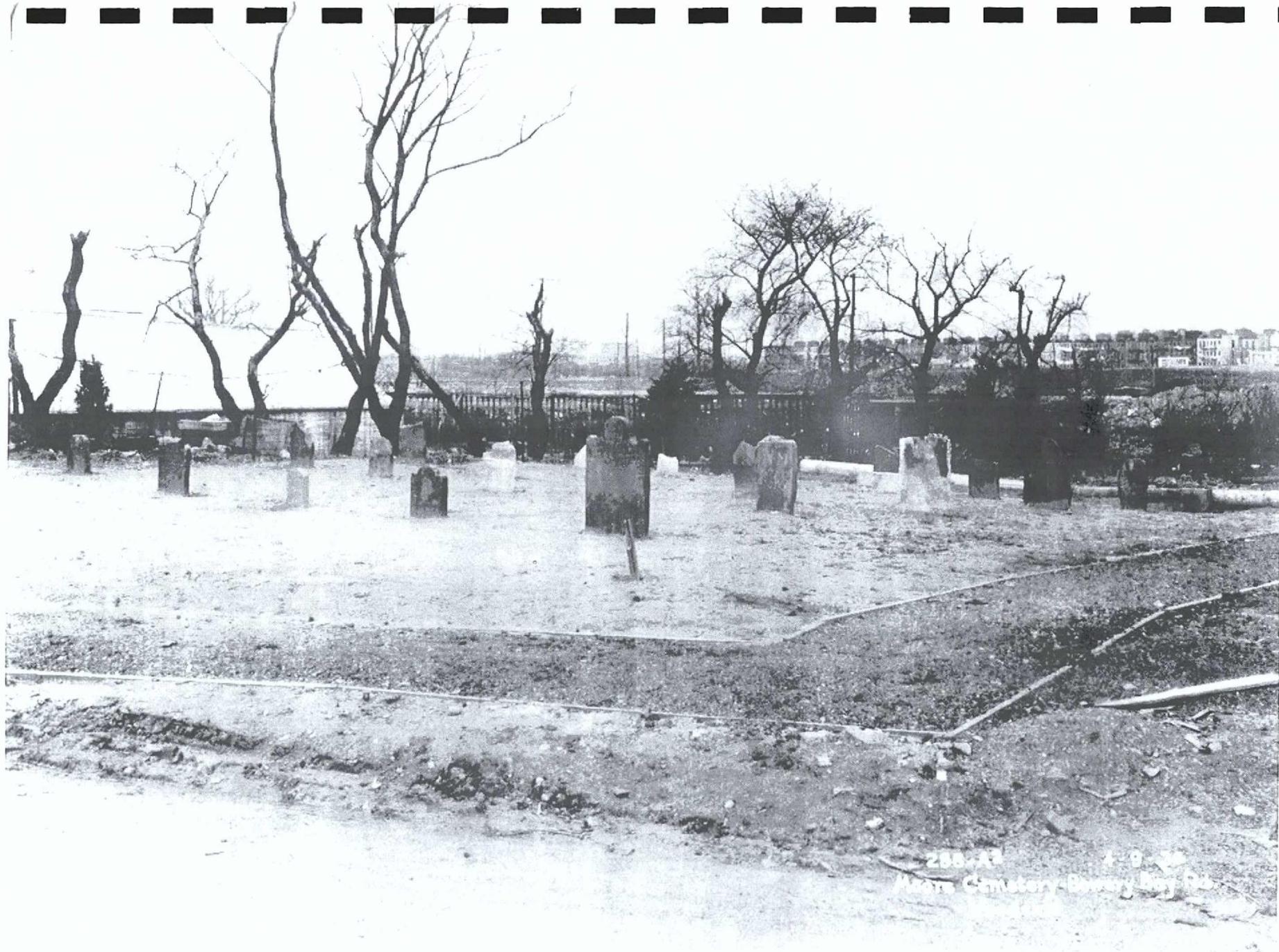


Fig. 11, Moore-Jackson Cemetery following rehabilitation by the WPA under the direction of the Topographical Bureau of the Queens Borough President's office, April, 1936. View from 54th Street looking southwest  
Photo: NYC Archives, Queens Topographic Collection

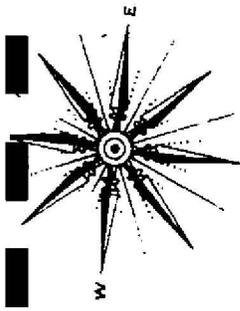


Fig. 12. 1902 Sanborn map showing the location of the Moore-Jackson cemetery.



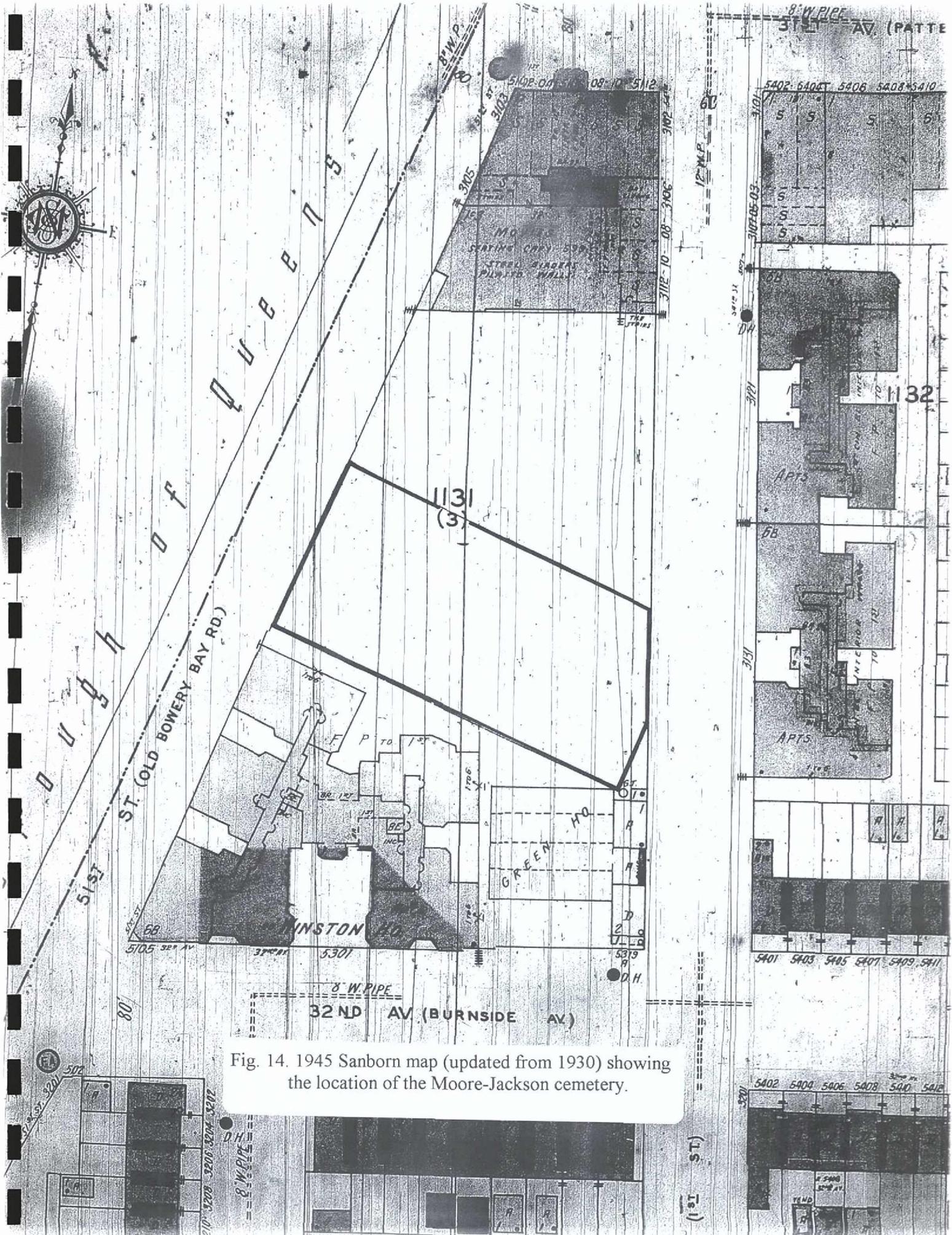


Fig. 14. 1945 Sanborn map (updated from 1930) showing the location of the Moore-Jackson cemetery.