PHASE 1A
ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY EVALUATION
HANAC SENIOR HOUSING PROJECT
BLOCK 839, LOT 1
25-03 29th STREET
QUEENS COUNTY
ASTORIA, NEW YORK
HPD/LA-CDQR-Q

Prepared for:
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Revised December 2006
June 2005
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<tr>
<td>Paula M. Crowley</td>
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<td>Lauren Hayden</td>
<td>Documentary Researcher</td>
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<td>Kim Croshier</td>
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this archaeological and historical sensitivity evaluation is to document the potential for prehistoric and historic sensitivity at the HANAC Senior Housing Project, Block 839, Lot 1 25-02 29th Street in Queens County, New York. The study location is bounded by 29th Street on the east, Astoria Boulevard running diagonally along the south/southwest and Hoyt Avenue South on the north side. The study location runs the entire length of 29th Street on the east side. The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development is the current owner of this currently vacant land. A fourteen story, 165,600 residential facility with a cellar is planned for the project area. See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

The sensitivity evaluation will consist of reviewing existing historic archival, cartographic and published references, resulting in a synthesis of the history of this parcel and its vicinity. The evaluation will also examine published and unpublished sources pertaining to prehistoric resources in the immediate locality surrounding the project area. This study is organized in the following manner:

- the first section describes the physical setting of the project area;
- the second section discusses the evidence for prehistoric sensitivity;
- the third section discusses the evidence for historic sensitivity of the project area;
- and the fourth section discusses conclusions and recommendations.
GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The project area was inspected during May 2005. There are currently no standing structures within the project area. It is used as a municipal parking lot. It is entirely paved with asphalt. The northern boundary is Hoyt Avenue, the eastern boundary is 29th Street, and the southern boundary is Astoria Boulevard. The western boundary is marked by the standing structures in the adjacent lots. The only obvious above ground features within the project area are the parking payment equipment. The project area has a gentle slope from south to north. See Plates 1 through 4 for current views of the project area.

The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province of New York State (Thompson 1966:34-35). The Borough of Queens forms part of west-central Long Island, which is the largest island adjoining the United States proper. The HANAC Senior Housing project lies north of the Harbor Hill terminal moraine, at its western end. This moraine marks the maximum extent of the second advance of glaciation which partly covered Long Island (Thompson 1966:43; Van Diver 1985:70).
PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

This part of the sensitivity study surveyed published and unpublished sources in the files of the New York State Museum, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Queens Public Library and the New York City Landmarks Commission. Table 1 lists the results of the search for prehistoric sites located within a two mile radius of the project area. The locations of these ten sites are shown on Figure 2.

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Nine of the prehistoric sites are known through the publication of Arthur C. Parker, the former New York State Archaeologist during the first quarter of this century. Those nine sites have a file registration number of ACP-NYRK or ACP-QUNS. Parker described the sites as villages, camps, shell middens, traces of occupation, and burial sites. No detailed descriptions of artifacts recovered from any of these sites are supplied so no assessments of chronological or cultural affiliations can be determined.

Historical evidence of aboriginal use of this area of Queens indicates that at the time of European contact, three Native American groups inhabited Queens, the Massapequa, the Matinecock, and the Rockaway each with one or more village sites, seasonal encampments and food supply areas (Grumet 1981:29, 32, 47). Land on Hallet’s Point was “sold” by Shawestcout and Erramorphas in 1774 (ibid:52). The location of several Native American village sites have been identified with varying degrees of precision in Queens. The aforementioned groups and others on western Long Island, spoke dialects of Munsee (Goddard 1978:215), one of two languages used by the Lenape or Delaware nations.

In terms of potential prehistoric sensitivity, the project impact area was evaluated from two points of view:

1. the proximity of known prehistoric sites in or near the project area; and
2. the presence of fresh water drainage courses in general, and particularly the identification of river or stream confluence situations where two or more drainages come together, providing access to both water and food supplies of both systems.

This survey has documented the recorded locations of ten sites within a two mile radius of the HANAC Senior Housing project in Astoria, Queens. Although sites have been identified in the general region of the proposed project impact area, non are known to exist within the project area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on previous survey work is available. In would be in appropriate, however, to characterize the area as without prehistoric sensitivity, especially since project area lay between two historically known streams (Beers 1873, New York City Historical Records Survey 1940). A small unnamed stream ran off to the south of the project area draining into Dutch Kills and then Maspeth Creek. Sunswick Creek lay to the west and drained into the East River.
These sources of fresh water, although no longer evidence, may have been utilized by prehistoric inhabitants of this region. Based on evidence from the Contact Period of Native American occupation in this area, along with known prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the property, the project area may preserve evidence of prehistoric occupation. Such evidence would probably consist of temporary or seasonal hunting camps. However, it is also possible the subsequent of the land during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries could have destroyed any evidence of Native American use of the project area.
The Hanac Senior Housing project area is situated within the neighborhood of Astoria, Borough of Queens, New York City. European settlers first came to this area during the 1630’s when it was a part of New Netherland. The first land grant likely including the project area was issued to Jacques Bentyn between 1633 and 1638. Bentyn had tenants who built their structures approximately a mile west of the project area near the present Vernon Boulevard. This settlement was ended by the Indian uprising of 1643/44 (Seyfried 1984:7). Nine years later, William Hallett, an Englishman from Dorset then recently arrived from Greenwich, Connecticut applied for the same area. He received it as a grant during December 1652. It included roughly 160 acres from the East River east to about 29th Street, from Sunswick Creek in the south to a creek feeding Pot Cove near the line of 25th Avenue. Other than his small clearing near the shoreline, Hallett’s land was all forest or swampy meadow. During September 1655, another Indian uprising left Hallett’s plantation a waste and destroyed his buildings. Hallett withdrew to Flushing and later Jamaica (Ibid: 7-8).

New Netherland was taken over by the English during 1664. The following year the new English Governor called a convention at Hempstead, Long Island. Long Island and Staten Island were made into Yorkshire at this time, which was subdivided into three Ridings. The West Riding consisted of Staten Island, the present Kings County and the Town of Newtown (Armbruster 1914:18). West Riding included the project area. During 1664 William Hallett returned to the future Astoria. He purchases an additional 2200 acres from Chief Mattano, covering all of modern Astoria and Steinway. Hallett then applied to Governor Nicolls for a confirming patent. Nicolls required the four Indian signers of the deed to appear before him, which took several years. The patent was finally issued on April 8, 1668 (Seyfried 1984:8). The project area remained a part of the West Riding of Yorkshire until 1683 when the first General Assembly of the Colony of New York created counties. Long Island was divided into Kings, Queens and Suffolk Counties. The project area and the remainder of Newtown became a part of Queens County (Armbruster 1914:18).

The origins of the Town of Newtown date to the Dutch period. The Rev. Francis Doughty received a grant for 13,332 acres at Mespat from New Netherland about 1640. This included all of the future Newtown and Long Island City. Doughty’s settlement did not last due to Indian uprisings. The next to settle here were a group of Englishmen who came from New England in 1652. They chose a spot midway between Mespat Kill and Flushing which they named...
Middleburg. Shortly after this war broke out between Holland and England. During 1662, Middleburg applied to be annexed to Connecticut, and was accepted during October 1662. The name of the hamlet was changed from Middleburg to Hastings. The English then took over New Netherlands during 1664. During the February 1665 convention when the Duke’s Laws were adopted, Hastings was attached to the West Riding of Yorkshire. It was given the name of the New Towne at this time. Governor Nicolls then granted all of the Town of Newtown to Captain Richard Betts, Captain Thomas Lawrence, Captain John Coe, John Burroughs, Ralph Hunt, Daniel Whitehead and Burger Joost on March 6, 1677 (Munsell 1882:329-332). Newtown remained undivided until part was taken during 1870 to form Long Island City (Armbruster 1914: 27). The project area became a part of Long Island City at this time.

The earliest land grant including the project area that led to permanent settlement by Europeans was issued to William Hallett by Peter Stuyvesant during December 1652. It included 160 acres extending from the East river to roughly the line of 29th Street, from Sunswick Creek in the south to another creek near the line of 25th Avenue. Hallett was an Englishman from Dorsetshire who had been living at Greenwich, Connecticut. He built his farmhouse at the head of Hallett’s Cove. At this time, the remainder of his acreage was forest or swampy meadows (Seyfried 1984: 7). As shown by the cartographic evidence discussed below, the project area remained under the ownership of the Hallett family for the next two centuries. During August 1664, William Hallett purchased a much larger tract from Chief Mattano of the Staten Island and Noyack groups. This purchase included 2200 acres, giving Hallett all of modern Astoria and Steinway. Since the English had just taken over New Netherlands, they required all Dutch deeds to be re-registered with them. Hallett did this immediately, but the English governor required the Indian signers to appear before him to prove that they had agreed to the sale. This took four years, and the deed was confirmed during April 1668 (Seyfried 1984: 7-8).

As Hallett became older, he began to divide his lands between his two sons, William Jr. and Samuel. Nearly all of the land north of the present Astoria Boulevard went to Samuel, including the homestead and the project area. William lived until 1706 or later, when he was 90 years or older. Samuel eventually gave his half of the patent to his son Samuel, who had three sons: Samuel III, John, James and Jacob. The project area evidently was included in the land given to James. James died during 1781, leaving his farm to his son Stephen Hallett. Stephen Hallett was still in possession of 100 acres at his death during 1822 (Seyfried 1984: 9; Riker 1852: 402-405; Kross 1983:149, 209).
Astoria was incorporated as a village by act of the New York State legislature on April 12, 1839. It was named after John Jacob Astor. Astoria was the only village ever chartered within the Town of Newtown (Kelsey 1896:21-23). Astoria became part of Long Island City on April 13, 1871 when the city was created by the New York State Legislature (Munsell 1882: 273). The project area and the rest of Astoria remained a part of the fourth ward of Long Island City until all of western Queens joined New York City during 1898.

Cartographic Evidence:
The earliest depiction of the project area and vicinity is the New York City Historical Records survey map of Original Dutch Grants in Newtown published 1940. This map shows the project area as within the eastern part of the 1652 grant to William Hallett. See Figure 3.

Figure 4 is taken from the anonymous 1776 map depicting the location of the British and colonial forces. The project area was evidently part of the cleared fields shown east of Hallett’s Point. Batteries are shown on the point and across the East River on Manhattan. The nearest troops are English, and are encamped to the southeast of the project area.

Figure 5 illustrates original land patents and grants superimposed on a nineteenth century outline of streets. The project area lies near the eastern boundary of Step. Hallet 1798 100 A. The Hallett family itself owned 500 acres in 1789, lying directly west of Stephen Hallet.

The anonymous 1840 Map of the Villages of Astoria and Ravenswood was examined at the Queensborough Public Library, but could not be copied due to its fragile condition. This map shows the project area as part of the Estate of Stepn. Hallett dec. No structures are shown within the project area.

The 1852 Quilitch map is the source of Figure 6. Astoria Boulevard is shown as Flushing Avenue. The project area remains a part of the Estate of Stephen Hallett. Hoyt Avenue and 29th Street do not yet exist. A group of five smaller lots are shown within the southeastern part of the Hallett estate. One or two structures are shown within each lot. Two of these lots lie west of the project area. The next lot to the east is entirely within the southwestern part of the project area. This lot includes one building near Flushing Avenue. The next lot to the east is partly within the project area, and partly within the bed of 29th Street. This lot may include two structures, one lying partly within the eastern edge of the project area and partly in 29th Street, and probably a second structure in the northwestern corner of the lot. The fifth lot lies east of the project area.
The 1852 Riker map is presented in part as Figure 7. This map shows the project area as vacant land on the north side of the road from Astoria to Flushing bay, the present Astoria Boulevard. The project area lies just west of the eastern boundary of Astoria. It is probably owned by E. Hoyt, whose farmhouse is shown to the northwest of the project area along the shore road, now Shore Boulevard. The small lots with the structures seen in the Quilitch map are not shown.

The detail of Astoria from the 1859 Walling map is presented here as Figure 8. The project area includes two structures out of a line of five facing the present Astoria Boulevard. The southwestern part of the project area is the location of building labeled *A. Reed* and the southeastern part of the project area includes a structure labeled *J. Moody*. An unlabelled structure and one labeled *Higbie* lie to the west, and another structure marked *S. Shields* is shown to the east of the project area.

Figure 9 is taken from the 1872 Dripps map. This map clearly shows the project area as part of the E. Hoyt farm. The group of small lots is shown in the southeastern corner of his land, facing the present Astoria Boulevard, with one structure in each lot. At least one of these lots lies within the project area.

The 1873 Beers Atlas shows the project area as part of the farm of E. Hoyt. There are structures shown within the southeastern corner of the farm, but lot lines around them are not shown. It is likely that one of these buildings facing the present Astoria Boulevard lies within the project area. See Figure 10.

The 1874 Dripps map was examined at the Queensborough Public Library. This map shows the project area as part of the farm of Edwin Hoyt. No structures are shown within the project area. See Figure 11.

Figure 12 from Wolverton 1891 shows three streets bounding the project area. Lawrence Street is the current 29th Street. One structure is shown in the south central portion of the project area which is divided into at least 14 lots.

The 1893 von Hunerbein map of Long Island City shows the project area divided into 17 small lots. Four structures are shown, all facing the future Astoria Boulevard. All are about 25 to 30 feet wide by about 50 feet deep. All three streets bounding the project area are now shown. The future Astoria Boulevard is Flushing Avenue, and 29th Street is Lawrence Street. Hoyt Avenue
has its present name. This map was examined at the Queensborough Public Library, but could not be copied due to its condition.

Figure 13 is taken from the 1903 Sanborn maps. The project area includes six structures. Four of these face Astoria Boulevard. These are likely stores, workshops or warehouses. The other two structures are set along 29th Street. They are barns or stables. Despite division of the project area into 14 small lots, no other structures appear.

The 1909 Bromley Atlas is the source of Figure 14. Six structures are still shown. The 14 small lots have been amalgamated into one large lot and two long narrow lots. There are still four buildings facing Astoria Boulevard. The eastern one now has the rear section shown as a barn or stable. All four are frame structures. There are also two small frame structures shown along 29th Street. They are not shown as barns or stables.

The 1934 Hyde map shows the project area as four lots. This is the first map to show all the streets with their modern names. The two long narrow lots near 29th Street have been combined into one lot. The large western lot has been divided into three. There are structures in all four lots. The larger western lot facing Astoria Boulevard appears to be entirely covered by a building. This structure evidently covers the location of the A. Reed building seen in 1859. The smaller lot to the east has a structure covering the front half, and a small building at the rear of the lot. The structure in the lot along 29th Street could be the two small frame structures seen in 1909 now shown as one. The northwestern lot includes one long narrow building along the eastern boundary. See Figure 15.

Figure 16 is taken from the 1949 Hyde map. Only one change is evident since 1934. The structure in the northwestern lot has been removed. The other three lots appear unchanged.

The 1979 Hyde map, Figure 17, shows the project area as a parking lot, labeled Astoria Parking, C. of N.Y. The approach to the Triborough Bridge and Hoyt Avenue lie north of the site.

The project area is presently a municipal parking lot. There are no structures within its boundaries.

Inquiries were sent to the Central Mapping and Records division of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. Their reply indicates that the sewer connections for 25-03 29th Street, between Hoyt and Astoria Avenue, were from 1909; and that the water connection
was from 1943. Since the sewer connection is 34 years older than the water connection, the water connection must represent a replacement. The original water connection is probably 1909 or previous.

The names found on the mid-nineteenth century maps were then sought in the U.S. censuses for 1850 and 1860. Edwin Hoyt appears in both. During 1850 he is listed as 45 years old and born in New York. He was a merchant with real estate worth $30,000 (U.S. Census Bureau 1850: 139). Ten years later he is listed as 55 years old and born in Connecticut. He was a merchant with real estate worth $50,000 and a personal estate worth $50,000 (U.S. Census Bureau 1860: 298). A. Reed was Andrew Reed, who was 54 years old during 1860 and born in Scotland. He was a carpenter with real estate worth $600 and personal estate worth $280. His wife Isabella was 50 years old and also from Scotland. They had seven children from 22 years to 7 months old, all born in New York. The two eldest sons, Andrew 20 years, and David 16 years were also listed as carpenters (U.S. Census Bureau 1860: 738). J. Moody refers to John Moody, a brick maker who was 60 years old during 1860 and born in England. His real estate was worth $800 and his personal estate $400. His wife Mary A. was 65 years old and also from England. They had three children. James and John, 18 and 16 years, were born in England. Mary, 15 years old was born in New York. She is listed as a seamstress. Also listed is John Strong, 14 years old and born in New York (U.S. Census Bureau 1860: 737). A. Reed is listed in the directories published in 1865 and 1867. He is an expressman with a home on Flushing Avenue near Henry Street (Curtin 1865: 99; Curtin 1867:51). This is likely the younger Andrew Reed who was 20 years old in 1860. John Moody is listed in the 1865, 1867 and 1868 directories. In the first two, he is a chair-seater with a home on Flushing Avenue near Henry Street (Curtin 1865: 96; Curtin 1867: 48). During 1868 his occupation is listed only as “chair” and the address is the same (Curtin 1868: 49). Once again, this is likely the younger John Moody who was 16 years old during 1860. We can now see that both the Reed and Moody families were of British extraction and were working class or lower middle class.

Attempts were also made to trace the deeds. A partial chain of title from 1955 back to 1924 constructed. Prior to the early twentieth century, all real estate transactions in Queens were referenced only by grantor and grantee. A reference to a sale of land by Nathanial Hallett, Rebeckah M. Hallett, Eliza Hallett and Charity M. Hallett to Edwin Hoyt on December 10, 1853 was found (Liber 113:416). Unfortunately, the City Register for Queens has lost the microfilm for Liber 113, and the actual Liber itself was not there. This is almost certainly the sale of the Stephen Hallett estate to E. Hoyt including the project area as seen in the cartographic evidence. There were no other sales by Halletts to Hoyt from 1820 through 1858.
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study has examined documentary evidence for the presence of prehistoric and historic cultural remains within HANAC Senior Housing in Astoria, Queens County, New York. The project area is located within two miles of ten known prehistoric sites. Documentary evidence in the form of historic maps illustrate the property bounded by two streams showing that fresh water would have been available for prehistoric inhabitants. Temporary or seasonal hunting camps may have been present. Subsequent historic development at this location may have disturbed or destroyed the potential for survival of prehistoric material.

Historic documents examined show that the project area was a part of a large farm owned by the Hallett family from 1652 through 1853. It then passed to Edwin Hoyt. The southern part of the project area was the location of two structures facing the future Astoria Boulevard from about 1852 until at least 1873. These structures may have been built by the Hallett family. The property was purchased by Edwin Hoyt about one year later. The two buildings were most likely leased by Hoyt to Reed and Moody. Both structures existed before water and sewer connections were available, so they must have had cisterns or wells, and privies. The Reed structure is entirely within the project area, while that of Moody is probably half under the 29th Street. Andrew Reed and John Moody both appear in the 1860 U.S. Census and later directories. Other structures appear on the project area from 1893 through 1949, particularly along the Astoria Boulevard frontage. Water and sewer connections were evidently made about 1909, so the late nineteenth century structures must have had a well or cistern originally. They may have had a privy, but could also have used a septic tank instead. The later structures may have disturbed the earlier remains, or the earlier features could survive beneath the later remains. There is a much better chance of features being found in the former Reed lot than the Moody lot, since half of the latter lies under 29th Street and the adjacent sidewalk.

We recommend that archaeological testing in the form of backhoe trenching be undertaken only within the former lot owned by Reed in the southwestern corner of the project area. This will be used to search for shaft features used and possibly filled by the Reed family during the 1850s through 1870s. No testing is recommended for the former Moody lot since only half this property lies within the project area.
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      Fanshaw.

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Wolverton, Chester
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APPENDIX 1

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Figure 1  Location of the project area on the 1979 U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Central Park, New York-New Jersey quadrangle.
Figure 2. Location of prehistoric sites within a two mile radius of the project area.
Figure 3  Original Dutch grants in Newtown.
Figure 4
Map of location of 1776 British and colonial forces.
Figure 5  Ownership map of 1800.
Figure 6  From the Quilitch map of 1852.
Map of Newtown, Long Island.

Figure 7 From the 1852 Riker map.
Figure 9 From the 1872 Dripps map.
Figure 10  From the 1873 Beers Atlas.
Figure 11  From the 1874 Dripps map.
Figure 13  From the 1903 Sanborn map.
Figure 14  From the 1909 Bromley Atlas.
Figure 15 From the 1934 Hyde map.
Plate 1 View of the project area, a municipal parking lot from the perspective of Astoria Boulevard, looking north along 29th Street.
Plate 2  View of the project area looking west from Astoria Boulevard.
Plate 3 View of the project area from Hoyt Avenue and 29th Street.
Plate 4

View of the project area from Hoyt Avenue and 29th Street, looking parallel to 29th toward Astoria Boulevard.