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**Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study
Saint Peter's Church Senior Housing Project Property**

**Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29
Brooklyn, New York**

OPRHP Reference # 07PR00623
LPC Project # HUD/202-K

Prepared for:

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A. INTRODUCTION

AKRF, Inc. has been contracted by Lutheran Social Services of New York to perform cultural resource services for a proposed development project. The proposed Saint Peter's Place Senior Housing Project would provide affordable housing units for senior citizens in Brooklyn, New York (Kings County). The site is currently occupied by Saint Peter's German Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as its associated Sunday school and rectory. The site sits in the northern portion of Block 1942, which is bounded by Bedford, Lafayette, and DeKalb Avenues and Skillman Street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn (**Figure 1**). The project area, or Area of Potential Effect (APE), includes Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29 in their entirety (**Figure 2**).

The New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) requested that a Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study be prepared to document the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site (August 2, 2005 letter from SHPO, June 3, 2005 comments from LPC). The proposed design for the new housing project has not yet been finalized. It is conservatively assumed for the purposes of the Phase 1A archaeological assessment that the entire site would be disturbed. Therefore, this Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study has evaluated the site in its entirety.

The following Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study of the Saint Peter's Church property was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. This study was also conducted pursuant to the *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York State*, prepared by the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) and adopted by the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in 1994. It also follows the guidelines for archaeological work in New York City established by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in 2002.

The study documents the history of the Saint Peter's Church as well as its potential to yield archaeological resources including prehistoric remains, physical remnants of 17th and 18th century agricultural activities, and 19th and 20th century archaeological resources pertaining to the construction and use of Saint Peter's Church, Sunday school, and rectory. In addition, it also documents the current conditions of the project area and previous cultural resource investigations which have taken place in the vicinity of the APE.

B. PREHISTORIC SUMMARY

The northeastern region of North America was first inhabited by humans during the Paleo-Indian period, beginning at the end of the last ice age approximately 11,000 years ago. Throughout the Archaic (10,000 to 2,700 BP) and Woodland (2,700 BP to AD 1500) periods, Native Americans continued to adapt to the region's changing environment which included the gradual warming of the climate and the increase in the number of plant and animal species inhabiting the area.

At the time of European contact, the project area lay to the southeast of the Wallabout Bay and south of Wallabout Creek, or *Runnegackonck*, a marshy stream which extended into Brooklyn's interior from the Bay (Figure 4). At that time, a division of the Delaware Indians known as the Canarsee – a local branch of the Matouack tribe—inhabited western Long Island, including what has since become the borough of Brooklyn. A subgroup of the Canarsee, the *Mareyckawick*, occupied the land surrounding the Wallabout Bay and the project area was most likely situated within their territory, although no major village sites were nearby.

The *Mareyckawick* sold their land to the Dutch West India Company in 1637 but maintained a presence in the area for the next few years. However, the *Mareyckawick*, like all the Canarsee Indians, suffered a great deal from the side-effects of European colonization: disease, alcoholism, and warfare (Grumet 1981). After many years of brutal warfare, the *Mareyckawick* eventually fled the area to join Native American tribes in other areas.

C. HISTORIC SUMMARY

After the time of European contact, the project area was first purchased by a Walloon immigrant, Joris Jansen de Rapalje in 1637. The site remained unoccupied farmland for the next few centuries and was passed down through the family from Rapalje to his descendants in the Schenck and Skillman families. In the mid-1830s, the current street grid was laid out in that portion of Brooklyn and the area was converted into numbered Blocks and Lots.

After the Skillman family, the land passed through many hands, although none of the owners of Lot 12 ever lived on the site. Henry Bedell owned the property for the longest period of time, purchasing the eastern half of the lot in 1855 and the western half by 1873. While a stable was once located in the southwestern quarter of Lot 12, it was torn down by 1878 and no other structures appear to have ever occupied the lot.

In the mid-19th century, a 2½-story wooden house was constructed on the property which would eventually become Lot 29. One of the earliest known occupants of this house was Henry Horlor and his family, who purchased the property from Bedell. Robert Macelrath and his family lived in the home at the same time. The two families and their domestic servants lived there in the late 1870s and early 1880s. Horlor sold the home in 1885 to Catherine Burland, who lived there with her husband, John. Although conveyance records indicate that they sold the property to Saint Peter's Church in 1887, historic city directories and tax assessment records indicate that they continued to live there along with other tenants through the end of the 19th century.

After the vacant land of Lot 12 and the house on Lot 29 were sold to Saint Peter's Church, the Philadelphia pressed-brick church building was constructed in 1887. In 1901, a Sunday school building was annexed to the rear of the church, covering the remainder of the Lot. By 1927, the wooden frame house on Lot 29, which had been extended to 3 full stories before being purchased by the church, had been torn down and replaced with the current brick rectory building. The rear yard of this building does not appear to have ever been developed.

All three buildings were constructed with basements.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

While the area may have been used by Native Americans as a temporary hunting or fishing location, its considerable distance from other precontact villages (2 to 3 miles), sources of fresh water, and high elevations from which to spot game makes it unlikely that it was ever the

location of a permanent Native American habitation site. Furthermore, Prehistoric sites in the region are generally shallowly buried – within 3 to 4 feet of the pre-development ground surface – and are therefore often adversely impacted by subsequent construction. While the rear yard of the rectory building on Lot 29 has remained relatively undisturbed by 20th century development, it may have been the site of 19th century domestic shaft features (privies, cisterns, wells, etc.), as speculated above. The installation of such features could possibly have disturbed prehistoric archaeological resources which were once located on the site.

Therefore, the project site is considered to have low potential for the recovery of potential precontact period resources that meet the criteria necessary for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY – LOT 12

Because the church and Sunday school buildings on Lot 12 were both constructed over cellars – which in the case of the Sunday school along Skillman Street, extends under the sidewalk – it is highly unlikely that any historic period archaeological resources would have survived the lot's 19th and 20th century development. While the front yard of the church, along Bedford Avenue, may not have been disturbed by the building's construction, the installation of utilities such as water, sewer, electric, gas, and telecommunications lines could have disturbed the area in places to a depth of up to 10 feet.

Historic maps, historic directories, and tax and census records confirm that no structures were located on Lot 12 before the church was constructed and no individuals ever resided on the property. However, the southwestern quadrant of Lot 12 had a stable somewhere on the property, which, according to tax records, was removed in 1878. This stable was probably associated with a wooden house that fronted on Skillman Street in the lot immediately south of the project area. The majority of the lot in which the stable was situated was heavily disturbed during the construction of the Sunday school and its basement bowling alley which extends under the sidewalk adjacent to Skillman Street.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that human remains associated with Saint Peter's Church were ever interred on the church property.

Therefore, Lot 12 is considered to have low potential for the recovery of potential historic archaeological resources that meet the criteria necessary for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY – LOT 29

The property consisting of Lot 29 would also have experienced disturbance due to the construction of the original wooden house (which also had a cellar), the newer brick rectory, and the associated installation of underground utilities. However, the rear yard has apparently remained undeveloped. Because the original house may have been constructed before it was hooked up to water/sewer lines, it is possible that the rear yard may contain underground shaft features including privy pits, cisterns, and wells. These could have been filled in with trash, debris, and dirt after the house was connected with running water. Such features could be extremely valuable deposits of archaeological resources and could provide information about the people who lived in the home and about the society in which they lived.

Privies were generally located at a distance from both the house and the street (Wheeler 2000). Therefore, if a privy existed in the rear yard of 1004 Bedford Avenue, it would most likely be near the rear lot line. In New York City, privies have been found to be up to 13 feet deep

(Cantwell and Wall 2001). Cisterns and wells could have been found closer to the home than would privies. Cisterns are usually up to 10 feet below the ground surface while wells would be dug down to the water table (Ibid).

Therefore, Lot 29 is considered to have high potential for the recovery of potential historic archaeological resources in the form of domestic shaft features such as privies, cisterns, and wells. Because the current building on the lot appears to be larger than all structures situated on the lot before it, Lot 29 is considered to have low to moderate potential for the recovery of historic period structural foundations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If the rear yard of the house at 1004 Bedford Avenue is to be redeveloped as part of the proposed Saint Peter's Place project, further research in the form of Phase 1B archaeological testing is recommended to further assess the site's potential to yield historic period archaeological resources. A proposal for this Phase 1B archaeological testing would be created in consultation with LPC and SHPO and will follow the standards of the New York Archaeological Council. *

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A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

AKRF, Inc. has been contracted by Lutheran Social Services of New York to perform cultural resource services for a proposed development project. The proposed Saint Peter's Place Senior Housing Project would provide affordable housing units for senior citizens in Brooklyn, New York (Kings County). The site is currently occupied by Saint Peter's German Evangelical Lutheran Church (1006-1010 Bedford Avenue) as well as its associated Sunday school (257-263 Skillman Street) and rectory (1004 Bedford Avenue). The site sits in the northern portion of Block 1942, which is bounded by Bedford, Lafayette, and DeKalb Avenues and Skillman Street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn (**Figure 1**). The project area, or Area of Potential Effect (APE), includes Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29 in their entirety (**Figure 2**).

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B. RESEARCH GOALS AND METHODOLOGY

The goal of this Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study is to determine the likelihood that potential archaeological resources have survived the destructive forces of time and landscape manipulation including agricultural use, landfilling activities, the cutting of streets, the installation of utilities, and the construction of buildings. The entire APE has been investigated to identify the project area's original topography, its prehistoric and historic usage and/or occupancy, past disturbance, and potential impacts.

As part of the background research, published and unpublished resources were consulted at various information repositories, such as the Humanities and Social Sciences Branch of the New York Public Library (including the local history and map divisions), the LPC, the Long Island Division of the Queens Public Library, the Brooklyn Borough Office of the Register of the City of New York, the Brooklyn Department of Buildings, the New York City Municipal Archives, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water and Sewers.

File searches were conducted at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the LPC, and the New York State Museum (NYSM) to determine if prehistoric or historic sites had been reported within a half-mile of the project area.

The background research included a site inspection, analysis of primary sources including historic maps, deeds, census records, historic street directories, utilities installation records, land and tax photographs, and newspaper articles, as well as secondary sources including local histories.

The background research was analyzed in order to formulate recommendations for future archaeological work and/or research.

C. PROJECT TEAM

This Phase 1A Archaeological Documentary Study was managed by Diane Dallal, M.A., R.P.A. who provided oversight and editorial assistance. Elizabeth D. Meade, M.A. conducted the majority of the research and writing for this report. Additional research assistance was provided by Molly McDonald, M.A., and Elizabeth Martin, M.A. (ABD).

A site visit was made to Saint Peter's Church on August 23, 2006 by AKRF staff members Claudia Cooney, Diane Dallal, Molly McDonald, and Elizabeth D. Meade. The team was escorted around the property by a representative from Lutheran Social Services of New York and the church's custodian. Photographs were taken of the buildings and grounds by Molly McDonald and Diane Dallal (**Photographs 1-12**). *

A. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The borough of Brooklyn is found within a geographic bedrock region known as the Atlantic Coastal Plain Province. This has been described as “that portion of the former submerged continental shelf which has been raised above the sea without apparent deformation” (Reeds 1925: 3). As opposed to the metamorphic and sedimentary rock that makes up the majority of the New York City region, Long Island, including King’s County, is composed of glacial till or undifferentiated sediments (NYSOFT 2004).

The majority of Brooklyn is composed of unconsolidated gravels and clays that date from 100 million years ago to the present. All of Long Island is covered with layers of outwash sand and gravel, glacial till, till moraine, kame moraine, and Barrier island deposits (NYSOFT 2004).

These deposits were left behind by massive glaciers of up to 1,000 feet thick that retreated from the area towards the end of the Pleistocene. There were four major glaciations that affected New York City until roughly 12,000 years ago when the Wisconsin period—the last glacial period—came to an end. During the ice age, a glacial moraine bisected Brooklyn, running in a northeast-southwest direction (Homberger 1994). The glacial movements also brought about the creation of hundreds of sand hills, or kames, some of which were nearly one hundred feet high. These hills were contrasted by many small streams, rivers, and lakes that were fed by the glacial runoff. As temperatures increased, these small water courses evolved into swamps and marshlands.

The original topographic setting of northwest Brooklyn was quite unlike its modern environment. The glacial retreat ultimately resulted in the creation of low-lying wetlands traversed by small creeks and streams. The Wallabout Bay, to the northwest of the project area, was a large harbor bordered by thick belts of marshland and mudflats. A large stream, the *Runnegackonck*, extended from the Bay and headed east in the vicinity of present-day Wallabout Street and then continued south just east of Nostrand Avenue, where it diverged into at least 4 branches (Figure 4). Its southernmost branch terminated near the corner of today’s Nostrand and Myrtle Avenues, less than ten blocks from the current location of Saint Peter’s Church. The *Runnegackonck* was surrounded on either side by marshland.

The Ratzer Map of 1776 (Figure 7) indicates that there may have been several low hills in the vicinity of the APE, but the area appears to have been mostly level terrain. This would have been an ideal location for agriculture and it has been suggested that the area near the Wallabout Bay was used for Native American maize cultivation (Armbruster 1918).

Furthermore, it was attractive to European farmers because the environment was similar to that of their home countries (Armbruster 1918). The soil was described by Daniel Denton in 1670 as being excellent for growing the same crops grown in Europe, such as grain, fruits, herbs, tobacco, hemp, flax, pumpkins, and melons. He also noted that there was an abundance of trees including white and red oaks and walnut and chestnut trees. In addition, he described a number

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of wild animals which lived in the area, such as deer, bear, wolves, raccoons, otters, muskrats, skunks, waterfowl, fish, and mollusks (Denton 1966: 3-6, cited in City/Scape 1998: 21).

Both natural forces and the actions of humans have permanently changed the geographic setting of Brooklyn. Much of the Wallabout Bay coastline has been dramatically altered with the landfilling and dock construction associated with the United States Navy Yard located there. Furthermore, the *Runnegackonck* and its associate marshland have since been filled in.

B. CURRENT CONDITIONS

BLOCK 1942, LOT 12

Lot 12 is currently occupied by both Saint Peter's Church—1006-1010 Bedford Avenue—and the associated two-story Sunday school—257-263 Skillman Avenue (**Figure 2**). It falls within the northern half of the block bounded by DeKalb Avenue on the north, Bedford Avenue on the east, Lafayette Avenue on the south, and Skillman Avenue to the west.

Because Lot 12 was originally composed of separate lots, it is not a perfect rectangle. The western half, fronts on Skillman Avenue for approximately 88.4 feet while the eastern half, along Bedford Avenue, measures approximately 75 feet; both halves are approximately 100 feet wide. The church and the Sunday school are the only structures currently situated on the lot.

The church still offers religious services, although, according to the property's custodian, attendance is very low and usually does not number more than thirty individuals. The Sunday school building is currently used for storage but is not used in winter as the building has no heat.

BLOCK 1492, LOT 29

Lot 29 is a rectangular lot which is occupied by the 2-story former rectory for Saint Peter's Church—1004 Bedford Avenue. The lot fronts on Bedford Avenue for 25 feet and is 100 feet wide. The structure occupies approximately two-thirds of the lot, with a small open yard area at the rear of the house (the western third of Lot 29). It is separated from the church building by an alley—5 to 6 feet wide—and is adjacent to the building to the north.

The building is currently occupied by the church's custodian and family.

*

A. INTRODUCTION

Archaeologists have divided the time between the arrival of the first humans in northeastern North America and the arrival of Europeans more than 10,000 years later into three prehistoric periods: Paleo-Indian (11,000-10,000 BP), Archaic (10,000-2,700 BP), and Woodland (2,700 BP–AD 1500). These divisions are based on certain changes in environmental conditions, technological advancements, and cultural adaptations, which are observable in the archaeological record.

B. PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD (11,000-10,000 BP)

Due to an extended glacial period that left the Northeast blanketed in thick ice sheets for thousands of years, the area was not inhabited by humans until the Paleo-Indian period began around 11,000 years ago. As temperatures increased, a variety of flora and fauna spread through the region, which had been marked with tall sand hills and low-lying lakes and wetlands—the last remnants of the retreating glaciers. These new occupants included human populations referred to as Paleo-Indians, the forbearers of the Delaware—also called the Lenape Indians—who would inhabit the land in later years.

At this time, large open forests of spruce, fir, pine, and other tree species expanded across the Northeast, interspersed with open meadows and marshland. Oak, hickory, and other hardwood trees eventually became important to the area's ecology as well. A wide variety of animal life could also be found, including mammoth, mastodon, caribou, musk ox, moose, fox, beaver, hare, and many kinds of marine animals.

The Paleo-Indians most likely exploited all the different resources provided by their environment. It has been suggested that they did not only actively hunt the large mammals that roamed about the region (mammoths, mastodons, etc.), but they also hunted and trapped smaller animals and supplemented their diet with fish and gathered plants (Cantwell and Wall 2001).

There was a very distinct Paleo-Indian style of lithic technology, typified by fluted points. These were elaborately detailed stone points that would have been used for a variety of functions, most notably for hunting. They were often made of high-quality imported chert, but were also known to have been crafted from local materials. Other stone tools manufactured at this time included knives, scrapers, drills, and graters. Wood, ivory, and other materials were also used for the manufacture of composite tools, such as hunting spears.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the Paleo-Indians were likely highly mobile hunters and gatherers. They lived in small groups of fewer than 50 individuals (Dincauze 2000) and did not maintain permanent campsites. In addition, most of the Paleo-Indian sites that have been investigated were located near water sources.

It is because of the close proximity of Paleo-Indian sites to the coastline that so few of them have been preserved in the New York City area. As the glaciers continued to melt, sea levels rose and

much of what was once adjacent to the water line became submerged. In fact, only one Paleo-Indian site has been discovered in all of New York City—that of Port Mobil, on Staten Island. This location has yielded nothing more than a collection of fluted points and other stone tools characteristic of the period.

C. ARCHAIC PERIOD (10,000-2,700 BP)

At the beginning of the Archaic period, around 10,000 BP, the climate changes which began during the Paleo-Indian period continued to re-shape the environment of the Northeast. The Archaic has been further sub-divided into three chronological segments, based on trends identified in the archaeological record which reflect not only the ecological transformations that occurred during the Archaic, but the cultural changes as well. These have been termed the Early Archaic (10,000 – 8,000 BP), the Middle Archaic (8,000 – 6,000 BP) and the Late Archaic (6,000 – 2,700 BP) (Cantwell and Wall 2001). The Late Archaic is sometimes further divided to include the Terminal Archaic period (3,000-2,700 BP) as well.

The environmental transformations included the continued post-glacial warming trend, the extension of hardwood forests, and a decrease in glacial runoff which resulted in the creation of lakes and other small bodies of water. There was a subsequent migration of new animal and plant species into the area, while the herds of large mammals traveled north, eventually dying out. The new surroundings attracted smaller animals, such as rabbit, turkey, waterfowl, and white-tailed deer.

As the Archaic progressed and the number of plant and animal species inhabiting the area increased, the size of the human population did as well. In general, archaeologists have learned that Archaic Native American sites were most often located near water sources. The abundance of food resources allowed them to occupy individual sites on a permanent or semi-permanent basis, unlike their nomadic Paleo-Indian predecessors. These individuals migrated on a seasonal basis within specific territories and consistently returned to and reoccupied the same sites.

The arrival of new food sources allowed the native human population to expand their subsistence strategies, but at the same time forced them to develop different technologies that would allow such resources to be exploited. Perhaps the most important of these developments was the advent of fishing technology, which occurred during the Middle Archaic in response to an increasing dependence on the area's marine resources. The new technology included stone hooks and net sinkers. In addition, the influx of nut- and seed-bearing foliage resulted in the development of stone mortars and pestles as well as stone axes to process plant material.

In order to successfully hunt the smaller game animals that had established themselves in the region, narrower spear points and knives were manufactured, along with weighted spear throwers. Domestic technology was advanced as well, with the development of a wider variety of hide scrapers and, later in the period, the origin of bowls made from steatite or soapstone. Tools continued to be crafted in part from foreign lithic materials, indicating that there was consistent trade among Archaic Native American groups from various regions in North America throughout the Archaic.

Once again, due in part to rising sea levels and to the rapid development of the area, few Early Archaic sites have been identified in New York City, and none have been identified in Brooklyn. Most have been located on Staten Island, including Ward's Point, Richmond Hill, the H. F. Hollowell site, and the Old Place site. Sites such as these tend to be deep and stratified and have yielded stone tools related to cooking, woodworking, and hide processing (Cantwell and Wall 2001).

There are also few Middle Archaic sites in the region. The majority of these tend to consist of large shell middens, which could be found by major water courses such as the Hudson River, although stone points have also been found. These sites were in great danger of obliteration because of their proximity to the shrinking coastlines.

Unlike the Early and Middle periods, several Late Archaic sites have been found in the New York City area, although, once again, none were located in Brooklyn. Two notable sites, Tubby Hook and Inwood, are located at the northern end of the island of Manhattan. Both sites contain large shell middens, while the Inwood site also features rock shelters that were inhabited by Archaic populations. Both sites were continuously occupied for several thousand years.

In addition, many Terminal Archaic sites from all across the city have provided examples of the Orient culture, which is characterized by its long fishtail stone points and soapstone bowls. Although there are extremely elaborate Orient burial sites on eastern Long Island, none have been identified in the immediate vicinity of New York City.

D. WOODLAND PERIOD (2,700 BP-AD 1500)

The Woodland period represents a cultural revolution of sorts for the Northeast. During this time, Native Americans began to alter their way of life, focusing on a settled, agricultural lifestyle rather than one of nomadic hunting and gathering. Social rituals also begin to become visible in the archaeological record at this time. There have been many elaborate human and canine burial sites identified from this period. The first evidence of smoking has also been found—stone pipes have been uncovered at Woodland sites—and it was at this time that pottery began to be produced.

In general, there was a greater emphasis placed on composite tools during the Woodland period. While stone scrapers, knives, and hammerstones were still in use, there was an increased use of bone, shell, and wood in tool making. Furthermore, the development of bows and arrows revolutionized hunting practices. Fishing continued to be important to the local economy and wooden boats and bone hooks were often utilized (Historical Perspectives 2005). In addition to local stone, tools continued to be made from imported materials, indicating that the trade networks established thousands of years earlier were still being maintained (Cantwell and Wall 2001).

Pottery was introduced into Native American society early in the Woodland period and by the time of European contact in the 1500s, well-crafted and elaborately decorated pottery was being manufactured. Like the Archaic period, the Woodland period has been divided into Early, Middle, and Late sections, which differ mostly based on the style of pottery which was produced at that time. Woodland pottery had simple beginnings; the first examples were coil pots with pointed bases, which were made with grit temper. These were replaced during the Middle Woodland period by shell-tempered vessels bearing a variety of stamped and imprinted decorations. As the period drew to a close, the decorative aspect of the pottery was further augmented with the addition of intricate ornamental rims (Louis Berger Group 2004).

While Woodland-era sites across North America indicate that there was an overall shift toward full-time agriculture and permanently settled villages, sites in New York City indicate that the Native Americans there continued to hunt and forage on a part-time basis only. This was most likely due to the incredibly diverse environmental niches that could be found across the region throughout the Woodland period (Cantwell and Wall 2001, Grumet 1995). Nevertheless, Woodland societies were considerably more sedentary than were their predecessors. There was, however, some farming of maize, beans, squash, and tobacco. The development of pottery,

increasingly complex burial sites, and the presence of domesticated dogs are all consistent with sedentary societies, which have a close association with a particular territory or piece of land.

One Woodland period archaeological site has been identified in Brooklyn (Figure 3 and Table III-1), as have several others in the outer boroughs. The Brooklyn site was recorded in 1874 by Long Island historian Gabriel Furman who noted evidence of prehistoric Native American "occupation...at Bridge Street, between Front and York and between Jay and Bridge Streets" (Greenhouse 1996:3). Furman reported that the artifacts had been found *in situ* at a depth of 3 to 4 feet on the crest of a 70 foot high hill which has since been razed. The site, which has since been destroyed, has also been referred to as *Rinnegakonck* (Bolton 1934).¹ Due to the fact that Furman reported finding "coarse pottery" and "rough clay pipes" in addition to projectile points, it is reasonable to surmise that the site was either a Contact period site or a hunting and/or camping site which would have been seasonally occupied for centuries (Geismar and Oberson 1993).

Woodland sites, like those of the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods, were usually found alongside water courses. They were constantly occupied, although there was still some seasonal migration that may have left them unoccupied for brief periods throughout the year.

E. CONTACT PERIOD (AD 1500-1700)

The Woodland period ended with the arrival of the first Europeans in the early 1500s. At that time, a division of the Delaware Indians known as the Canarsee—a local branch of the Matouack tribe—inhabited western Long Island, including what has since become the borough of Brooklyn. A subgroup of the Canarsee, the *Mareyckawick*, occupied the Wallabout Bay portion of Brooklyn at the time of European Contact. A Native American village associated with this group is shown on the 1639 Manatus Map (Figure 5). The group's main village site was identified by Bolton (1934) as being located at Gallatin and Elm Place, west of the project area. Others, however, have suggested that the village was located near Lawrence and Jay Streets (Solecki 1977:7) or near Borough Hall (MacCleod in Grumet 1981:27).

The *Mareyckawick* sold their land to the Dutch West India Company in 1637 but maintained a presence in the area for the next few years. With the introduction of European culture into the indigenous society, the way of life once maintained by the Native Americans was thoroughly and rapidly altered. European guns, glass beads, and alcohol soon became incorporated into the Native American economy. The *Mareyckawick*, like all the Canarsee Indians, suffered a great deal from the side-effects of European colonization: disease, alcoholism, and warfare (Grumet 1981).

Native Americans at first maintained the village sites they had established near water sources. As their trade with European settlers intensified, they became increasingly sedentary. However, as the European population grew and they required more land, the relationship between the two groups turned sour. Fierce wars broke out between the Dutch and the Indians. However, the Native Americans in this region did not surrender immediately. After years of intermittent periods of war and peace—during which both Native Americans and Europeans were killed—the *Mareyckawick* fled to join the Rockaway Indians to the south (Grumet 1981).

There are several Contact period archaeological sites that have been identified in New York City, including the Kaeser, Throgs Neck, and Old Ferry Point sites in the Bronx, and Ward's Point on Staten Island (Grumet 1995). The Ryder's Point site is a Contact period site located in

¹ This is the same name given by the Delaware to both the area bordering the Wallabout Bay and the small stream which ran through it (Grumet 1981).

southern Brooklyn. It was a major Canarsee Indian village that was occupied continuously for thousands of years. Even though it is considered to be "the largest Native American site in Brooklyn," the site was poorly excavated and can therefore not be properly analyzed (Cantwell and Wall 2001: 130).

F. PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

A review of the files at the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the New York State Museum Historical and Anthropological Surveys (NYSM), the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), and cultural resource surveys of projects in the immediate vicinity indicated that there are no known archaeological sites within a ½-mile radius of the project area. NYSM files showed, however, that four prehistoric sites were situated within roughly 2-3 miles from the project site. In addition, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, which is to the northwest of the project site, was ranked as having a high probability of producing prehistoric archaeological data. The Navy Yard's original ecological and topographical characteristics are consistent with those found at other Native American archaeological sites and therefore suggest a high probability of prehistoric occupation or use. However, the intensive land transformation and construction that has taken place within the Navy Yard property would most likely have destroyed or severely disturbed any archaeological resources which may have been located there (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 2005).

The project site is located less than a mile southeast of Wallabout Bay. An 1875 map depicting Brooklyn's original topography published by the Board of Health (not pictured) indicates that the small stream, the *Runnegackonck*, that connected to the Wallabout Bay and its surrounding marshland extended as far south as today's Myrtle Avenue, less than half a mile north of the APE.

In a previous study, Geismar and Oberson (1995: 1) suggested that the "low-lying, salty and marshy character of the Wallabout Bay shore would not have been very attractive for Native American settlement." However, *Rinnegahonck*, the area immediately surrounding the Wallabout Bay including the stream which stretched towards the project area is a Delaware Indian term which means "on the pleasant land" or "a delightful place" (Grumet 1981: 46). It is therefore possible that the Native Americans exploited the marine and land food resources, even if they did not set up permanent villages near the Bay. Geismar and Oberson concluded that the "potential for the remains of small, briefly-occupied camps and shell heaps was therefore considered moderate for the shoreline of Wallabout Bay prior to the establishment of the Navy Yard and subsequent filling" (ibid). This may therefore also be true of the marshy belt which was a short distance from the project area.

Research of prehistoric sites in the vicinity St. Peter's Church resulted in the identification of five Native American sites in northwest Brooklyn, including the aforementioned *Mareyckawick* (Figure 3, Table III-1). The sites were identified during the early part of the 20th century by avocational and/or professional archaeologists and, unfortunately, none were excavated according to today's technical standards. In some instances their exact locations are unknown and it is likely that intensive land transformation and construction which has taken place in recent centuries has obliterated any trace of their existence.

Another occupation site, called *Werpos*, was located "halfway between Marechawik and the Gowanus Creek" (Grumet 1981:58) but "references to Werpos do not provide a description of the type of site that existed at this location" (Greenhouse 1996:3). It is interesting, therefore, that the testimony of Peter Stryker in the case of Horsefield vs. Heirs of Hans Bergen, (located in *Copy of*

an Original Paper in the Archives of the New York Historical Society, see Appendix A in Stiles 1867: 420-424) mentions a "Worpus." The pertinent paragraph in the testimony is as follows:

Peter Stryker, aged 44, says that being on a jury of view about 6 or 7 years ago, Jacob Hanse, father of Hanse Bergen, said at his house on talking of Worpus, there's Worpus, pointing with his finger thro' his window to the head of the creek by his garden (in Stiles 1867:424).

In the footnotes, Stiles (1867) notes that "The 'Worpus' pointed out by Jacob Hanse may also have been the site of an Indian village, a large Indian burying ground being located in the vicinity, where remains were exhumed a few years ago in leveling the ground for City purposes; Indian maize lands being also, in that region, referred to in the early patents" (ibid).

The remaining site in the vicinity, 'D,' was registered with the New York State Museum by Arthur Parker although it was never given a formal name. Parker's description of site D is rather vague and it could represent one of several unnumbered sites. There is an unnumbered camp site in this location in Parker's illustration of Kings County (Parker 1922: Plate 179). It is possible that the site number listed by the New York State Museum is in error (Greenhouse 1996:4).

Table III-1

Previously Identified Prehistoric Archaeological Sites in Northwest Brooklyn

	Bolton #	Parker #	NYSM #	Approximate Distance from APE	Time Period	Site Type	Reference
A	—	—	9412	1.9 miles (10,000 ft)	Contact; possibly Woodland	Traces of occupation	Furman 1865
B "Mareyckawick"	117	—	—	1.93 miles (10,200 ft)	Contact and Woodland	Village	Grumet 1981
C "Werpos"	67	—	—	2.1 miles (11,000 ft)	Contact	—	Grumet 1981
D	—	ACP- KNGS	3606	1.4 miles (7,500 ft)	—	Camp	Parker 1922

*

A. INTRODUCTION

New York was “discovered” by Giovanni de Verrazano in 1524 and explored by Henry Hudson in 1609, thus marking the beginning of European occupation in the area. Hudson described the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood as having “magnificent forests gorgeous with autumnal hues” (Stiles 1867: 9).

In 1621, the States-General in the Netherlands chartered the Dutch West India Company (WIC) to consolidate Dutch activities in the New World. It was at this time that the WIC began to purchase large tracts of land from the Native Americans. The Native Americans believed that land was for hunting and planting, and did not share the European view that it could be owned in perpetuity. In exchange for furs, entrepreneurs and government officials supplied Native Americans with a wide range of goods. These included not only conventional adornments such as finger rings, glass beads and wampum, but utilitarian objects such as axes, kettles and cloth. Merchandise from around the world arrived in New Amsterdam destined for Europeans and Native Americans alike, including Italian and Dutch dishes, glass beads from Venice, combs and clay pipes from Amsterdam, and glassware from Germany (Dallal 2004).

The WIC began to purchase land in northwest Brooklyn in the late 1630s, including the northern portion of the *Mareyckawick* territory, which was sold in 1637 (Bolton 1975). It has been speculated that the sale of Brooklyn land “saved New Netherland from being abandoned by the West India Company” (Armbruster 1918: 3). After the WIC purchased the land from the Indians, they in turn transferred it to European settlers (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 2005).

The western end of Long Island was settled as early as the second quarter of the 17th century by predominantly Dutch and Walloon (French Protestants from Belgium who fled to escape persecution) families. In 1638, land was granted to any individual who promised to establish a farm in the area (Armbruster 1918). Six independent towns were established in the second and third quarters of the century. These included Flatlands (1636), Gravesend (1645), Brooklyn (1646), Flatbush (1652), Brooklyn (1646), New Utrecht (1657) and Bushwick (1660). Williamsburg was originally part of the Dutch Village of Boswijck chartered in 1660, later the Town of Bushwick.

While at first the WIC granted patroonships—a patroon was the “feudal chief” of a small colony of fifty or more (Stiles 1867: 20)—they found that farms were more successful if the land was granted directly to individual farmers. Therefore, the land was given the name Brooklyn, which is derived from the Dutch *Bruijkleen*, meaning “a free loan, given to a tenant or user for a certain consideration” (Armbruster 1914: 20). The name went through several changes throughout the Dutch and English colonial periods; from Bruijkleen to Breukelen to Brookland to Brooklyn.

The first grant for land in King’s County was given to Jacob van Corlaer (Stiles 1867). English settlements were quickly established throughout Brooklyn during the mid 1600s. Throughout the

17th century, the Wallabout area of Brooklyn remained sparsely populated, although larger villages were located to the west.

At this time, a growing Lutheran population, including many from Germany where the national church is Lutheran, held services despite Director General Peter Stuyvesant's refusal to allow an organized Lutheran Church in New Amsterdam. Lutherans therefore participated in "dumb services," which involved prayer and bible sessions in private homes with no preaching or sermons (Works Progress Administration [WPA] 1940). These illegal services were held on Long Island until the WIC forced Stuyvesant to allow the Lutherans to worship freely (Burrows and Wallace 1999). This was, however, the beginning of the Lutheran presence in the area, and it was said of the early Lutherans that "the blood of the martyrs [became] the seeds of the church" (Brooklyn Federation of Churches 1930-31: 111).

In 1664, the English took control of the colony and it was renamed "New York." Despite the turnover, the way of life for the isolated Dutch settlers near the Wallabout did not change much. In fact, they do not appear to have undergone any major societal changes until the 19th century (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 1989).

Throughout the beginning of the 18th century, many Palatine Germans—a large percentage of which were either Lutheran or Calvinist—immigrated to New York in response to the labor shortages that plagued the city (Burrows and Wallace 1999). Germans continued to pour into the area and by the mid-19th century, Brooklyn, as well as the rest of New York City, was home to a very large German population. In 1847, Germans represented more than half of the Williamsburg, Brooklyn population alone (Burrows and Wallace 1999).

Like all of New York, the village of Brooklyn was occupied by the British during the Revolutionary War in the late 18th century. Because it had been "wholly military ground" (City/Scape 1998: 26), the region suffered a great deal of destruction and disturbance both during battle and at the hands of British soldiers.

After the Revolution ended, Brooklyn was given a chance to thrive as an important component of the greater New York economy. While at first it provided agricultural goods for the city proper, it soon became the city's industrial base. The opening of the Brooklyn Naval Yard, to the northwest of the project area within Wallabout Bay, brought in a large number of jobs. In addition, the installation of ferries and other public transportation, including a streetcar line which ran near the northern border of the APE along DeKalb Avenue, allowed for people to commute to their jobs in Manhattan while residing in the more rural Brooklyn, which grew to the point where it was considered an "urban center of national importance" (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 1989: 9). The village of Brooklyn was officially incorporated in 1816 and by 1834 it became a formal city (Ibid).

New York's prosperity caused Brooklyn and Manhattan to become increasingly co-dependent, both economically and culturally. In order to unify the entire area and to facilitate its rapid growth, Brooklyn (as well as the other 3 outer boroughs) was incorporated into the City of New York in 1898 (Burrows and Wallace 1999).

Immigrants, including a large number of Germans, continued to establish themselves in the area throughout the early 20th century. At the same time, many African-Americans left the post-bellum south in search of a better lifestyle (Historical Perspectives, Inc. 1989). A shift occurred around the time of the Second World War, however, and the white population began to leave the Bedford-Stuyvesant area while the minority population increased (Ibid). This trend continued, as did the area's urbanization, throughout the second half of the 20th century.

B. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Due to the heavy presence of immigrants in the region, by the mid-1600's it had become known as Wallabout, a name derived from the Dutch *Waal-Bogt*, meaning "bay of the foreigners" (Stiles 1867). According to a map depicting Brooklyn's original Dutch plantations (**Figure 5**), the area to the south of *Rennegacknock* was the property of Joris [John or George] Jansen de Rapalje.¹ Rapalje was a Walloon—French Huguenots who traveled to the New World to seek religious freedom—who arrived in America in 1623. It has been suggested that he was the first white settler to purchase land in Brooklyn, however, this is most likely not the case (Stiles 1867: 87).

In 1637, Rapalje purchased 335 acres from the Indians, including all the land near *Rennegackonk* around Wallabout Bay between Nostrand and Grand Avenues, including the future site of Saint Peter's Church. However, it appears that he did not receive an official patent from the WIC until 1643. The official patent described the property as "formerly purchased by [Rapalje] from the Indians...lying on Long Island, in the bend of Marechkawieck (i.e. the Wallabout Bay); east of the land of Jan Montfoort, extending along the said land, in a southerly direction, towards and into the woods, 242 rods; by the kill and marsh, easterly, up, 390 rods; at the Sweet marsh, 202 rods on a southerly direction, towards and into the woods, 384 rods, in a westerly direction; and certain outpoints next to the marsh..." (Stiles 1867: 86). Rapalje's holdings are indicated on Vinckeboons' 1639 Manatus Map (**Figure 4**), however, the property appears to be located to the north of *Rennegacknock*, and may therefore be incorrectly labeled.

Rapalje, along with his wife, Catalyntie and their eleven children, did not move onto the farm until 1654. As evidenced by the Ratzer map of 1776 (**Figure 7**), like most plantations in the area, the Rapalje home was located along the waterfront to the north of the APE, while the "farmfields, pasture lands, and woodlots" would have occupied the less desirable interior land, where the APE is located (City/Scape 1998: 25).

Upon Rapalje's death—just after New Amsterdam was ceded to the British in 1664—the land was inherited by his son, Jeronimous² Rapalje who in turn left the land to his son, also named Jeronimous (Stiles 1867). In a 1675 tax assessment, Jeronimous was noted as having "3 polls; 3 cows; 1 ditto of lyr; 1 horse, £82.10; 8 morgens of land and valley £16; Total value = £98" and in 1676, "2 polls, horses, and cows; and 8 morgens of land (valuation destroyed)" (Stiles 1867: 431-433). A 1698 census of Brooklyn also indicated that his household contained: 1 man, 1 woman, 6 children, and 2 slaves.

C. EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

The land containing the project area remained in the Rapalje's hands throughout the first half of the 18th century. A 1738 census of the town of *Brookland* indicated that Jeronimous Rapalje's household contained one white male over the age of 10, one white male under 10, three white females over 10, on black male over 10, two black females over 10, and 3 black females under 10.

The second Jeronimous sold the land to his son-in-law, Martin Schenk [Schenck] (Stiles 1867). This transference was recorded in a deed dated 1759 (**Appendix A**). Schenk appears in the 1738 census of the town of *Flatlands*, to the south. Upon Schenk's death, the land was transferred to three of his children: his sons, Martin, Jr. and Lambert, and his daughter, Mrs. Francis Skillman,

¹ Various spellings.

² Various spellings

who had a son named John. On Fulton's 1874 map of Brooklyn's original farm lines (**Figure 10**), the project falls within the property of a John Skillman, although it is unclear if this is the grandson of Martin Schenk or a later descendant by the same name. In the 1776 Ratzer map of the city of New York (**Figure 7**), an area which appears to correlate with the John Skillman property is shown as an uncultivated meadow.

Schenck's three children all appear in the first Federal Census in 1790 as well as the 1800 census that followed (**Appendix D**).

D. NINETEENTH CENTURY

Francis Skillman and Martin and Lambert Schenk appear in the 1810 census of Brooklyn Township. While Lambert Schenk was unmarried and childless, the other two men lived with their families. All were slave owners. The vicinity of the project area was becoming more developed as well and both Bedford and Skillman Avenues were paved in the mid-1830s (Stiles 1867). Despite the establishment of street grids and formal block and lot divisions in 1835 (LPC 1971), the neighborhood remained relatively unoccupied. Land was transferred back to the city for the construction of these streets (**Appendix A**).

Two maps of Brooklyn, one drawn in 1846 by Richard Butt (not pictured) and the other in 1849 by Colton & Co. (**Figure 8**), show a street grid nearly identical to that of the present day as well as the borough's old farm lines. Again, the project area falls within the property owned by John Skillman. However, the lower portion of the block, to the south of the project area, is shown as being the property of "Teunis Johnson" in 1846 and of "Clark and Manley" in 1849. An 1874 atlas of Brooklyn by Fulton (**Figure 10**) shows the same street grid and farm outlines as well.

All three maps indicate that the line of a former colonial thoroughfare labeled "Road to New Town" on the Ratzer map (**Figure 7**), which was also known as Cripplebush Road, overlaps with today's Bedford Avenue, although its center was several feet to the east. Furthermore, each of the three maps has small markings in the corners of many of the blocks, including the northwest and southwest corners of the block that contains the project area. The 1849 Colton map indicates that these "represent distances from the Merchants Exchange, New York, and are $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile apart" while the 1874 Beers map, which only depicts one such marker in the block's northwest corner, lists them as "street monuments."

Since none of the three maps depicts then-existing structures, it is unlikely that these markings represent more than distance markers. It is therefore unclear if the area in the vicinity of the project area was developed early in the 19th century. However, the 1874 map indicates that a network of street railroads had been constructed which included a line that ran down DeKalb Avenue, just north of the project site. This implies that the neighborhood must have grown large enough to warrant sophisticated public transportation systems.

The neighborhood's increasing population is what brought about the creation of the Saint Peter's Lutheran Church in 1864 by Reverend Philipp Zapf (WPA 1940). The original building was less than a half mile north of the current location (Schwab 1928). Although services were held by a Lutheran preacher and were attended by many of the area's German families, it was not until 1867, under the Reverend A.U.H. Schubert, that the church formally became the First German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church of Brooklyn, New York and an associated Sunday School was organized in 1880 (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 1887).

After its formal organization, the congregation, along with the neighborhood around it, grew in size and moved several times to accommodate the growing number of constituents. As German

immigrants continued to pour into the city throughout the late 19th century, the congregation was finally pressed — at the urging of Pastor John Heischmann — to erect their own church building. In 1885, the church purchased “the open property on the west side of Bedford Avenue, 108 feet south of DeKalb” (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* March 6, 1887: 2).

With the property acquired, the congregation set about building a church which would not only facilitate their religious activities but which would also be “an ornament to the 7th Ward [of Brooklyn]” (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* March 6, 1887: 2). Ground was broken in April of 1887 (Schwab 1928) and the church’s cornerstone was laid two months later (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* June 13, 1887). Construction continued for almost a year—the church is depicted on an 1888 Sanborn insurance map (**Figure 13**) as “being built”—before it was completed and consecrated in May of 1888. The total cost of the church’s construction, including the purchase of a neighboring frame house—see **Lot 29 Real Estate History**, below—cost \$86,000 (Schwab 1928). The church was constructed with a cellar³ which extends under the length of the building. In addition, the completed church is depicted in an 1898 Belcher-Hyde atlas⁴ as being made of brick and also having a small associated brick out-building immediately behind it.

POSSIBILITY FOR THE RECOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

Records do not indicate that there was a churchyard cemetery or burial vaults associated with the construction of the church. The names of deceased congregants associated with the church at both its earlier locations and at the present church site and their places of interment were identified in obituaries published in Brooklyn newspapers and through personal communications with Lutheran Cemetery and the Cemetery of the Evergreens. This research suggests that most congregants from the church were buried in Lutheran Cemetery both before and after the present church building was constructed (**Appendix E-1**).

Furthermore, an ideological revolution that swept through the northeastern United States in the early 19th century caused churchyard burials to fall out of favor with the general public. At a time when public health and sanitation were misunderstood, small burial grounds were thought to spread disease. The so-called “rural cemetery movement” arose from the desire to construct burial places outside city limits in large, well-ventilated, and park-like settings. The switch from private burial grounds to rural cemeteries was very rapid and the banning of human burials in Manhattan led to the establishment of many large cemeteries in the outer boroughs, especially Queens and Brooklyn. One such rural burial ground was the Lutheran Cemetery, an all-faiths burial ground established in 1850 approximately 3.5 miles northeast of the project area. Two other nearby rural cemeteries are Green-Wood Cemetery, established in 1840 approximately 2.5 miles southwest of the APE and the Cemetery of the Evergreens, which was established 1851 approximately 2.8 miles west of the project area.

Saint Peter’s Church was built in the late 19th century, at a time when churchyard burials would have been out of favor, and records indicate that most congregants were buried at one or two large cemeteries, it is unlikely that any burials were directly interred on the church property or

³ The New York City Department of Buildings defines a cellar as being 50% or more below grade while a basement is 50% or more above grade.

⁴ The church is also shown in Bromley atlases from 1893 and 1908 (not pictured), but in both maps the church building is not shown as being longer than 100 feet, which is inconsistent with maps that both pre- and post-date it. The Bromley atlases also omit the streetcar lines which run down DeKalb Avenue and which appear in later maps.

brought from a previous church location and re-interred on the Saint Peter's Church site. This supposition is supported by church officials, who have indicated that no burials took place on the Saint Peter's Church property (Appendix E-2).

LOT 12: 19TH CENTURY REAL ESTATE HISTORY

Because early land conveyance records did not record lot numbers, it is difficult to determine who owned the parcel of land that would become Lot 12 during the early 19th century. Conveyance records seem to indicate that the land was transferred from John Skillman, the descendent of Joris de Rapalje, to George Hall in 1835. At that time, Hall also received land from the Brooklyn Whitehead Company. In 1835, Some of Hall's land was then granted to Sidney B. Whitlock and the rest to William N Gardner.

It appears that the property granted to Gardner was the western half of Lot 12, along Skillman Street. Gardner held the land for approximately two months, and then it was transferred to John L. Graham and Edward Sanford. Sanford signed his land over to Graham in 1838, who, in turn, transferred it to Augustine N. Clason, Jr. and William P. Powers in 1842. In 1852 it passed to Herbert J. Moore, then to Elizur W. Watson in 1854 and finally to Alexander Underhill in 1860.

Underhill is listed in the 1860 Federal census as a Landlord who owned \$78,600 worth of real estate. He lived in the 15th ward of Brooklyn, not on Lot 12, which is within the 7th ward. Underhill sold the land to Charles Isbell in 1865. Tax assessments from the mid 1860s show the western half of Lot 12, which was vacant, was owned in part by Charles Isbell and Isabel Istills.⁵ Conveyance records indicate that Charles transferred a parcel of land in 1866 to Tabitha Heliker who then transferred it to Hester E. Hopper in 1872. However, tax records do not reflect these transactions and indicate that Hopper purchased land formerly owned by Isabel Istills, outside the project area.

At some point between 1869 and 1873, the Istills property was transferred to Henry Bedell. There are multiple Henry Bedell found in the city directories and the Federal Census records at this time, but only one, listed in the 1879 directory as a cooper, lived in the neighborhood. His home, at 820 DeKalb Avenue, would have been outside of the APE as, at the time, the street numbers along the DeKalb Avenue of Block 1942 ranged from 506 to 520. It is not clear if this is the same Henry Bedell who owned the property in Block 1942.

Sidney B. Whitlock's property made up the eastern half of the lot, along Bedford Avenue and was transferred to William and Eliza Whitlock in 1842. A William and Eliza Whitlock were recorded in the 1850 census as living with their children in Manhattan. They, like those before them, owned the land but did not reside there. They transferred their land to Fred L. Vulte in 1851.

Vulte and Valentine G. Hall granted their property to Joseph Wrigley in 1852. Wrigley was listed in an 1850-1851 directory as a merchant residing at "Bedford and DeKalb." Wrigley was granted land from three different people—in addition to Hall and Vulte, he received land from William Marshall, Jr., who also does not appear to have ever lived on the property. Because his land came from so many sources, it is unclear if he ever lived on Lot 29 or if he resided on one of the neighboring lots. Regardless, Wrigley must have had money problems which forced the local government (i.e. the Sheriff) to step in and confiscate and sell his property.

⁵ Since the tax assessment ledgers are handwritten, the exact name is not clear. Therefore, the name which has been deciphered as *Isabel Istills* may represent a spelling inconsistency.

In 1855, Benjamin Davis received property from Englebert Lott—who is listed in the conveyance records as a Sheriff but who is listed in later directories as working in real estate—as well as “Joseph Wrigley, Judgment Debtor.” Davis was a grocer who most likely did not live on the property either; according to an 1850 to 1851 directory, he resided at 14 Willow.

Nine days later, Davis’ land was sold to Henry Bedell. One month after that, Bedell received additional land from Englebert Lott. Tax and conveyance records indicate that Henry Bedell owned the land from 1855 through 1878.

Bedell owned both halves of Lot 12 until 1885, when his trustees transferred the land to William and Anna Dick, who in turn sold it to Saint Peter’s Church less than a year later, in 1886. The property, which cost \$13,500 was 200 feet long and fronted on Bedford Avenue for 75 feet and along Skillman Avenue for 88 feet, the same dimensions that it holds today.

An 1880 Bromley atlas (**Figure 11**) confirms that no structures were located on Lot 12 before the church was constructed. And no historic city directories indicate that anyone ever lived on this property. This is confirmed by land conveyance and tax assessment records (**Appendices A and B**), with one exception. The southwestern quadrant of Lot 12 had a stable somewhere on the property, which, according to tax records, was removed in 1878. This stable was probably associated with a wooden house that fronted on Skillman Street in the lot immediately south of the project area. Tax records show that the 2-story house was originally part of the property of Isabel Istills. The stable’s exact location is unknown, but it would have been situated in the lot labeled “46” on 19th century historic atlases (**Figures 11, 12, and 15**).

LOT 29: 19TH CENTURY REAL ESTATE HISTORY

Because early land conveyance records did not record lot numbers, it is difficult to determine who owned the parcel of land that would become Lot 29 during the early 19th century. As noted in the previous section, a significant amount of land on Block 1942 ended up in the possession of Henry Bedell. However, it is unclear if Bedell ever resided in the original wooden frame house that was once located on the property, mentioned above.

Henry Bedell sold the land which would become Lot 29, along with its accompanying house, to Sarah E. Horton in 1878. She then transferred it to Henry P. Horlor in 1879. Tax records show that the 2½ story house still stood when Horton took possession and give its measurements as 22 by 30 feet.

Horlor is listed in an 1878 directory as an engraver living at 192 Clermont Avenue and with a store or office on John Street in Manhattan. In a directory from the following year, however, he is listed as living at 516 Bedford Avenue, the former address of 1004 Bedford Avenue. The 1880 census⁶ also shows that Horlor (recorded as Horner) lived at 516 Bedford with his wife, Emily, and their adopted son, Alfred Wedge. Interestingly, the 1870 census shows that Horton (recorded as Holor), his wife and daughter, and a domestic servant named Mary Rudge, age 16, lived in the 13th ward of Brooklyn. A 21 year-old plumber named Alfred Wedge also lived with them. It is unclear if he was the husband of the domestic servant, but he appears to have passed away before 1880, causing the Horlors to adopt his young son (Wedge’s wife also remained with the Horlors). A Mrs. Alfred Wedge is mentioned as living at 516 Bedford Avenue in an 1883 *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* article about women opening their homes to their friends on New Year’s

⁶ This is the first census to provide street names and house numbers for individual entries.

Eve to make sure that nothing would "compromise the gentlemen for the salutations of the season which will be showered upon their fair heads" (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 12/30/1883: 3).

The 1880 census also shows that another family lived in the home at 516 Bedford Avenue at this time. Robert Macelrath, his wife Reachal [sic], and daughter Josephine lived there along with their servant, Kate Lenard. Macelrath is listed as a grain inspector in the census, but is listed in the 1873 directory as a house furnisher with his store located at the corner of DeKalb Avenue and Skillman Street. He also appears in the 1879 census as a clerk.

In 1885, the lot was transferred from Horlor to Catherine Burland. On February 26, 1885, an ad was placed in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* advertising the sale of this house. The house—listed at its original address, 516 Bedford Ave—was described as "three story and basement, frame; all improvements; 14 rooms; owner [Horlor] going away; terms easy."

It is unclear if the house had 2½ or 3 stories at this time. Beginning in 1887, tax records indicate that a 3-story house was situated on the lot; however, all previous records list the house as having 2½ stories. The Brooklyn Department of Buildings (DOB) has plans on file for a 3-story wooden house with a stone foundation and a basement. However, associated documents which date to 1886⁷ indicate that the house was to be built 150 feet south of DeKalb Avenue at 1225 Bedford Avenue. However, the street number 1225 is inconsistent with the street numbers for the rest of the block which currently range from 996 to 1038 along Bedford Avenue and before ca. 1886, ranged from 508 to 546. Furthermore, the center of Lot 12 falls 150 feet south of DeKalb Avenue, which was vacant land in 1886 (the church would not be constructed until 1887).

Therefore, it is unclear if the house shown on Lot 29 in **Figure 14** was constructed in 1886 or if the aforementioned plans reflect the structure that had occupied the site since the mid-19th century. The 1886 Robinson atlas (**Figure 12**) shows the house, presumably the 3-story version, as well as the water pipes and sewers which ran through the surrounding streets by that time. A 1904 atlas by Belcher-Hyde (**Figure 16**) indicates that the building on Lot 29 had a stone or brick foundation as well as a basement, consistent with the Buildings Department plans. If, in fact the DOB plans are accurate, then the basement walls of this house would have extended to at least 9.6 feet below the ground surface.

A John Burland is listed in both the 1886 and 1887 directories as living on the property. In the earlier directory he is listed as a shipmaster and in the later version as a seaman. These directories also indicate that the house numbers were reconfigured at this time as the 1886 directory lists the old address, 516 Bedford, while in 1887 it is shown as 1004 Bedford Avenue.

Directories go on to show that by 1888, John W. Burland (it is unclear if this is the same man), a mariner, was living at 25 Ivy. A printer named William Knight then lived in the house from 1888-1889. Between 1889 and 1890, August Benne, a sexton, also resided there. It is not clear if Benne was a sexton at Saint Peter's Church.

According to tax records, at the time of the purchase of the church property from Burland in 1887, the 100 foot by 25 foot lot fronting on Bedford Avenue still contained a wooden house (**Figure 14**), however, those records also indicate that the house contained 3 stories, while previously it had been recorded as having 2½ stories. It is not clear if a new building was

⁷ The building design plans themselves are not dated, but DOB records also include a written description of a proposed house, dated 1886, which is consistent with the details identified on the building plans. It is assumed that these documents were prepared at the same time.

constructed at that time or if the old building was renovated. A wooden structure is identified on the 1880 Bromley atlas (**Figure 11**) that appears to have both a front and a rear yard, although the number of stories contained within is not depicted. Another matter of confusion comes from the fact that deeds indicate that Catherine Burland transferred the property to Saint Peter's Church in 1887, although tax records still list her as owning the property until at least 1899.

E. TWENTIETH CENTURY

The church's unusual layout—the sanctuary is on the second floor rather than at ground level—allowed the first floor to be used for Sunday school purposes (Schwab 1928). Even though the rapid influx of German immigrants into Brooklyn began to slow down, the size of the congregation at Saint Peter's Church continued to grow. It became clear that the small rooms on the church's first floor would no longer be sufficient for the congregation's educational needs, so in 1901 a new building, referred to as both the Sunday school and the Parish House, was constructed adjacent to the church's rear (western) wall.

The new building had been designed by Dodge and Morrison of Manhattan and built by W & T Lamb of Brooklyn at a cost of \$25,789 (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* May 20, 1901: 6). Ground was broken in April, 1901 and the building was completed in January, 1902 (Schwab 1928). The building features a large, open meeting area on the first floor and a second floor gallery which looks out upon the ground level. Both floors contained sliding doors, curtains, or wooden panels which could serve as barriers between different Sunday school classes or meeting groups. The ground floor also contained what the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* referred to as "young men's rooms" (May 20, 1901: 6). The newly opened space on the first floor of the adjacent church building was then converted into an "infant department, school rooms, church council room, women's parlors and kitchen" (*Ibid.*).

By the time the 1904 Belcher-Hyde atlas was created, the tax lots had been reconfigured and the current lot numbers assigned. The building is not described as having a basement on the 1904 Belcher-Hyde atlas, but it does have one today that extends past the building under the sidewalk along Skillman Street. This may represent additional excavation related to the conversion of the basement into a recreational space which occurred in the first decade of the 20th century.

The basement of the Sunday school had originally been used as a practice area for the local cadet corps and was known as the "Cadet's Drill Room." However, the basement was only rarely used and it was remodeled to provide "healthful amusements" for the congregation's male population (Schwab 1928: 39). In 1906, the same year that electricity was installed in the church and Parish House, the church formed its own Bowling and Billiards committee. They constructed a 4-lane bowling alley, complete with lighting and steam heat (Schwab 1928), in the basement of the Sunday school (**Photos 11 and 12**), which explains the unusual length of the building's basement. Ventilation shafts for the bowling alley were installed in the Sunday school's front yard (**Photos 7 and 8**).

No additional development appears to have occurred until 1926, when the wooden house occupying the lot at 1004 Bedford Avenue was demolished and replaced with a \$22,000 brick structure which continues to occupy the lot (Schwab 1928). The current structure is described in a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Department of Buildings as a two-family home which, like the frame house before it, was constructed with a basement. It is unclear if additional excavations were conducted or if the existing basement was reused. According to the Certificate of Occupancy which was filed with the Department of Buildings upon the completion of

construction in 1927, the building was designed by Holler and Kleinberg. The new structure appears on all subsequent maps (**Figures 18, 19, and 20**).

Records from the Brooklyn Department of Buildings indicate that alterations were made to the church in the early 1930's, adding support beams in the cellar to reinforce the balcony. At that time, according to a publication by the Brooklyn Federation of Churches, the church's organist, Kenneth Widenor lived in the newly-constructed house at 1004 Bedford Avenue around 1930 to 1931. By 1932 the church had a new organist and Widenor presumably lived elsewhere. In addition, a small fire caused minor cosmetic damage to the first floor in 1936. Buildings department records indicate that Mr. Christian Kushner, of 1004 Bedford Avenue, was "in charge" after the fire.

With the exception of the collapse of the church's steeple in the mid- to late-20th century,⁸ the church did not undergo any major physical changes in the 20th century. The social structure of the church, however, began to fracture. According to yearly reports published by the Brooklyn Federation of Churches, in 1927, the church's congregation numbered 2,030 while the Sunday school had 775 students. Just three years later the congregation had only decreased by 30 members, the number of Sunday school students dropped to 500 and was down to 400 a year after that. However, by 1933, the congregation had dropped to 1,700 members. This slow decline has persisted to this day, when church services are attended by only 20-30 people.

F. PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED HISTORIC PERIOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

In the vicinity of the project area, there are several historic buildings and historic districts. However, file searches at OPRHP and NYSM indicate that there are no historical archaeological sites within a half-mile of the church property. Two sites were located within one mile of the APE, the Atlantic Terminal site, where mid-19th century domestic artifacts and shaft features were uncovered, and an African-American burial ground approximately 1.5 miles away (**Table IV-1**).

Table IV-1
Previously Identified Historical Archaeological Sites

Site Name	OPRHP #	Approximate Distance from APE	Time Period	Site Type	Reference
Atlantic Terminal	A04701.013923	.9 miles (4,500 feet)	Mid-19th century	Domestic artifacts and shaft features	John Milner Associates (1995)
"Negro Burial Ground"	A04701.013594	1.4 miles (7,200 feet)	Unknown	Human burials	

File searches at the LPC revealed that two previous archaeological investigations have occurred within a half mile of the Saint Peter's APE (**Table IV-2**). At the Shaft 21B site, approximately .2 miles northwest of the APE near the intersection of Kent and Willoughby Avenues, archaeological testing uncovered the remnants of 19th century historic structures. The other site, covering Block 1883 Lots 13-20 and 27, was approximately half a mile northwest of the APE.

⁸ Verbal confirmation from the church custodian, who was not aware of the exact date of the steeple's collapse.

Archaeological testing for that site revealed that 19th and 20th century development had severely disturbed all the archaeological resources that might have been present.

Table IV-2

Previously Conducted Archaeological Investigations Within ½ Mile of the Project Area

Project Name	Location	Findings	Reference
Block 1883, Lot 13-20 & 27	North of Park Avenue, between Taaffe Place and Kent Avenue	Stage 1B evaluation of archaeological potential determined that 19th and 20th century redevelopment would have destroyed traces of 19th century occupation.	City/Scape 1998
Shaft 21B	Near Kent and Willoughby Avenues	Archaeological testing uncovered the remains of 19th century historic structures and cisterns	Historical Perspectives, Inc. 1988 Greenhouse Consultants, Inc. 1991, 1994

*

A. SUBSURFACE UTILITIES**WATER PIPES AND SEWERS**

Because the house at 1004 Bedford Avenue was constructed before the mid-1860s, it was probably built before water and sewer lines ran through the neighborhood. The exact date when the house was connected to the network of water and sewer pipes is unclear. However, tax records show that the house at 1000 Bedford Avenue (former Block 64, Lot 10), just two houses to the north, had water installed in 1876. It is possible that the home at 1004 Bedford was connected around this same time, however, the Brooklyn Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations did not possess records for this particular property before the 1920's.

Brooklyn began pumping water in from Long Island water courses between 1856 and 1858, through a series of brick conduits and iron pipes. They began to rely later on wells, some that were dug up to 150 feet below the ground surface (Burrows and Wallace 1999). However, it is not clear when water pipes and sewers were installed in this section of Brooklyn.¹ They must have been installed before the mid-1870's, in order for the house on former Lot 10 to have received water service in 1876. In addition, fire hydrants are present on DeKalb Avenue in the 1880 Bromley atlas (Figure 11).

If the house at 1004 Bedford Avenue was not connected to water/sewer lines at first, it is highly likely that it would have had privies, cisterns, and/or wells located in the rear of the property. Privies were generally located at a distance from both the house and the street (Wheeler 2000). Therefore, if a privy existed in the rear yard of 1004 Bedford Avenue, it would most likely be near the rear lot line. In New York City, privies have been found at a depth of up to 13 feet deep (Cantwell and Wall 2001). Cisterns and wells would not have been as distant from the home as would privies. Cisterns are usually located up to 10 feet below the ground surface while wells would be dug all the way to the water table (Cantwell and Wall).

The current building located at 1004 Bedford Avenue as well as the church and Sunday school buildings would probably have been connected to the water and sewer lines when they were constructed in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. These connections probably would have run through the buildings' front yards towards the main lines on either Bedford Avenue or Skillman Street.

In general, water pipes are generally installed within 5 feet of the ground surface. Therefore, the ground surface would be disturbed in places for at least 6 to 7 feet. In addition, sewer lines are usually placed around 10 feet below the ground surface, disturbing approximately 11 to 12 feet.

¹ Attempts were made to retrieve this information from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

GAS, ELECTRICITY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINES

Gas, electric, and telecommunications lines are usually located within 2 to 3 feet of the ground surface. This would result in 4 to 5 feet of soil being disturbed during their installation. Electricity was added to both the church and Sunday school buildings in 1906 (Schwab 1928). It is unclear if the wooden frame house at 1004 Bedford Avenue was ever fitted with electricity, but the second brick building certainly was when it was constructed in the 1920s. Electricity and steam heat were added to the basement of the Sunday school later on, circa 1920 (Schwab 1928). However, according to the church's custodian, the Sunday school does not have heat, so it is possible that gas lines were never installed in that building. *

Chapter VI: Conclusions and Recommendations

A. PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

While the area may have been used by Native Americans as a temporary hunting or fishing location, its considerable distance from other precontact villages (2 to 3 miles), sources of fresh water, and high elevations from which to spot game makes it unlikely that it was ever the location of a permanent Native American habitation site. Furthermore, Prehistoric sites in the region are generally shallowly buried—within 3 to 4 feet of the pre-development ground surface—and are therefore often adversely impacted by subsequent construction. While the rear yard of the rectory building on Lot 29 has remained relatively undisturbed by 20th century development, it may have been the site of 19th century domestic shaft features (privies, cisterns, wells, etc.), as speculated above. The installation of such features could possibly have disturbed prehistoric archaeological resources which were once located on the site.

Therefore, the project site is considered to have low potential for the recovery of potential precontact period resources that meet the criteria necessary for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

B. HISTORIC SENSITIVITY – LOT 12

Because the church and Sunday school buildings on Lot 12 were both constructed over cellars—which in the case of the Sunday school along Skillman Street, extends under the sidewalk—it is highly unlikely that any historic period archaeological resources would have survived the lot's 19th and 20th century development. While the front yard of the church, along Bedford Avenue, may not have been disturbed by the building's construction, the installation of utilities such as water, sewer, electric, gas, and telecommunications lines could have disturbed the area in places to a depth of up to 10 feet.

Historic maps, historic directories, and tax and census records confirm that no structures were located on Lot 12 before the church was constructed and no individuals ever resided on the property. However, the southwestern quadrant of Lot 12 had a stable somewhere on the property, which, according to tax records, was removed in 1878. This stable was probably associated with a wooden house that fronted on Skillman Street in the lot immediately south of the project area. The majority of the lot in which the stable was situated was heavily disturbed during the construction of the Sunday school and its basement bowling alley which extends under the sidewalk adjacent to Skillman Street.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that human remains associated with Saint Peter's Church were ever interred on the church property.

Therefore, Lot 12 is considered to have low potential for the recovery of potential historic archaeological resources that meet the criteria necessary for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORIC SENSITIVITY – LOT 29

The property consisting of Lot 29 would also have experienced disturbance due to the construction of the original wooden house (which also had a cellar), the newer brick rectory, and the associated installation of underground utilities. However, the rear yard has apparently remained undeveloped. Because the original house may have been constructed before it was hooked up to water/sewer lines, it is possible that the rear yard could contain underground shaft features including privy pits, cisterns, and wells. These could have been filled in with trash, debris, and dirt after the house was connected with running water. Such features could be extremely valuable deposits of archaeological resources and could provide information about the people who lived in the home and about the society in which they lived.

Privies were generally located at a distance from both the house and the street (Wheeler 2000). Therefore, if a privy existed in the rear yard of 1004 Bedford Avenue, it would most likely be near the rear lot line. In New York City, privies have been found to be up to 13 feet deep (Cantwell and Wall 2001). Cisterns and wells could have been found closer to the home than would privies. Cisterns are usually located up to 10 feet below the ground surface while wells would be dug down to the water table (Ibid).

Therefore, Lot 29 is considered to have high potential for the recovery of potential historic archaeological resources in the form of domestic shaft features such as privies, cisterns, and wells. Because the current building on the lot appears to be larger than all structures situated on the lot before it, Lot 29 is considered to have low to moderate potential for the recovery of historic period structural foundations.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

If the rear yard of the house at 1004 Bedford Avenue is to be redeveloped as part of the proposed Saint Peter's Place project, further research in the form of Phase 1B archaeological testing is recommended to further assess the site's potential to yield historic period archaeological resources. A proposal for this Phase 1B archaeological testing would be created in consultation with LPC and SHPO and will follow the standards of the New York Archaeological Council. *

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- Works Progress Administration
- 1940 *Inventory of the Church Archives in New York City: Lutheran Historical Records Survey*. New York City: Works Progress Administration Division of Professional and Service Projects.

*

Figures



SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

Project Location
USGS Brooklyn Quadrangle
Figure 1



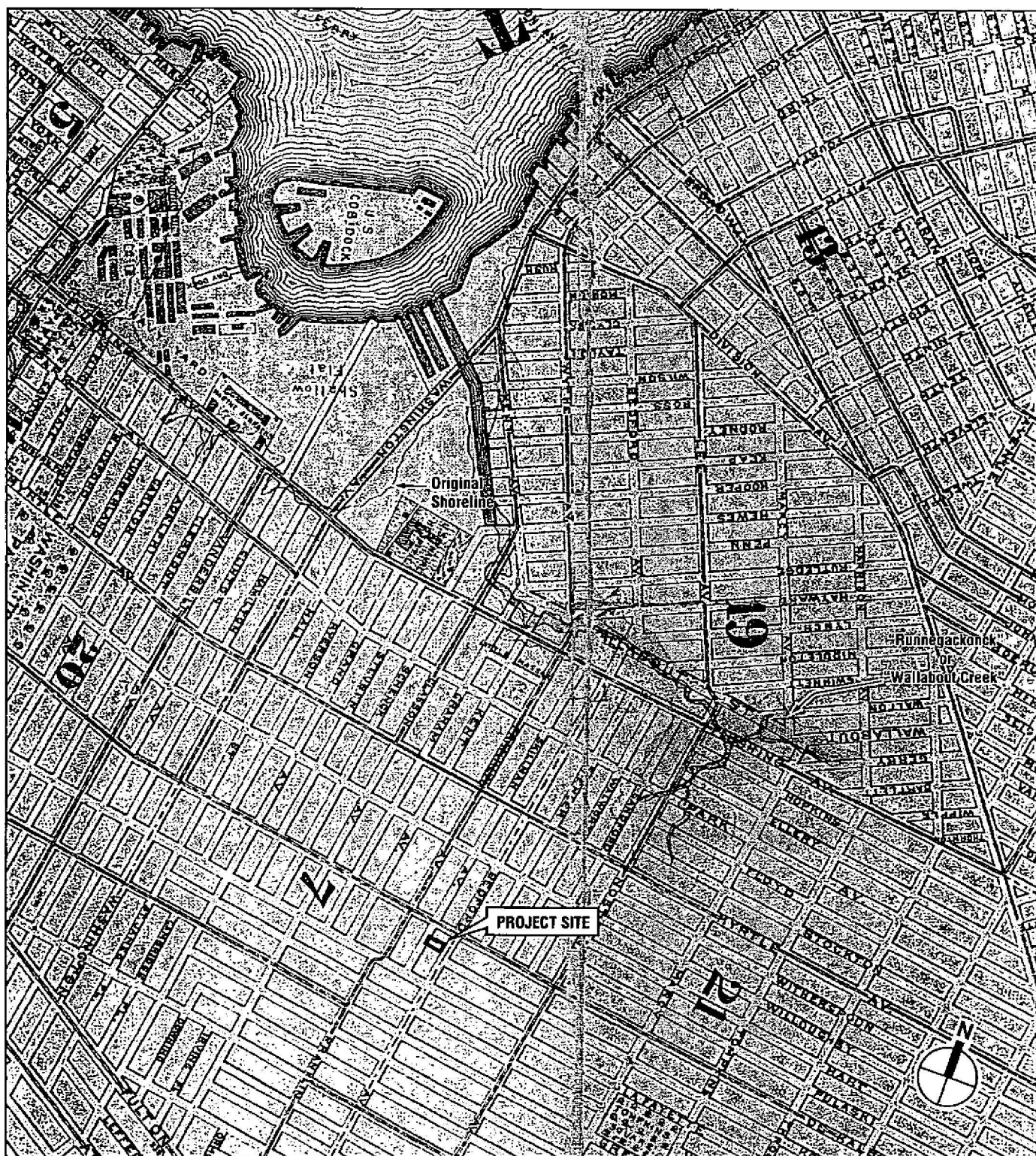
① Archaeological Site

0 4000 FEET
SCALE

Previously Identified Prehistoric Archaeological Sites
USGS Brooklyn Quadrangle

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

Figure 3



— Project Site Boundary

0 1600 FEET
SCALE

Map Showing the Original High and Low Grounds,
Salt Marsh and Shore Lines. Board of Health, 1875-6.



SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

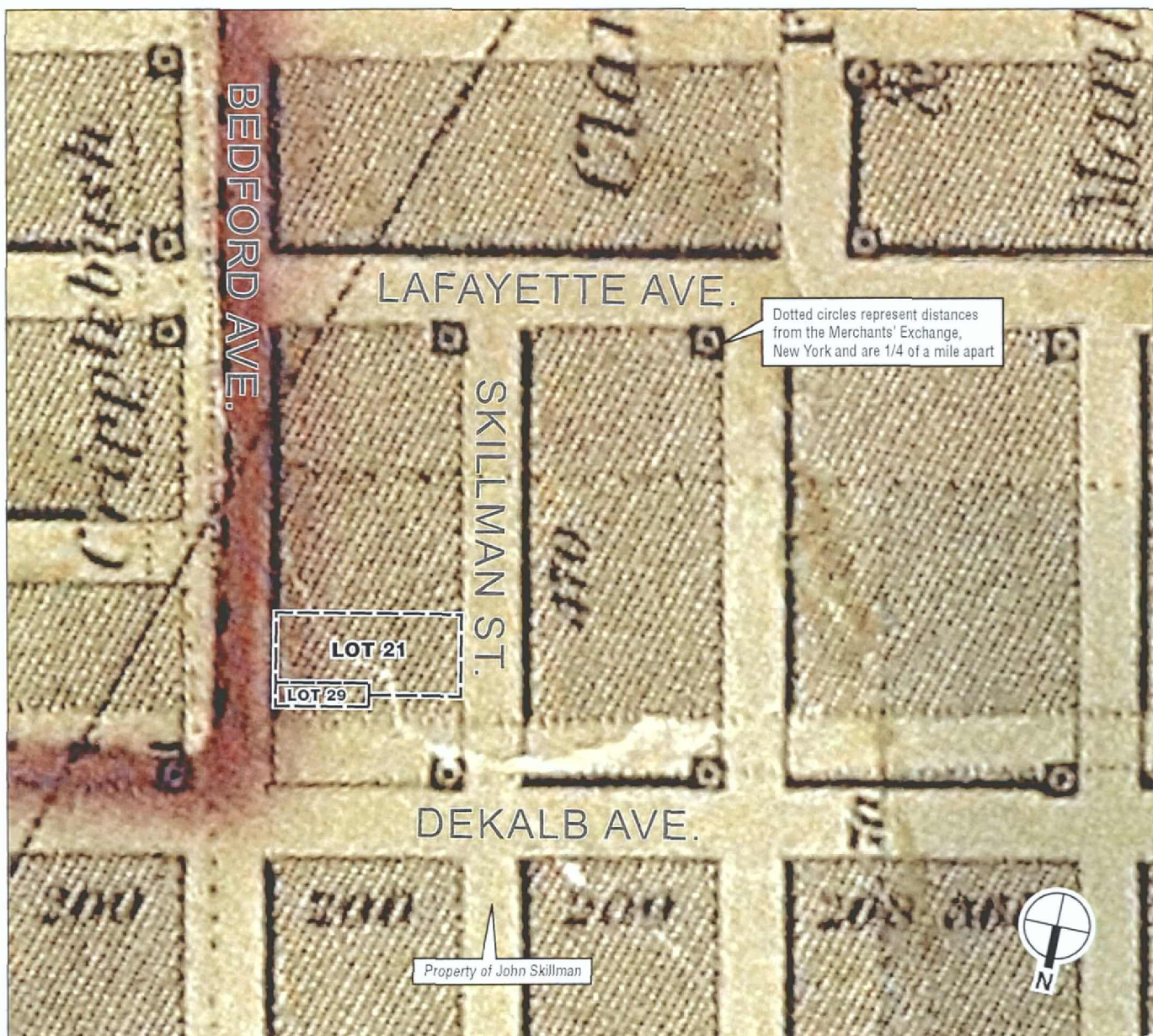
“The Manatus Map,” Joan Vinckeboons:1639
Figure 5



Plan of the City of New York in
North America Surveyed in the Years 1766 and 1767.

Bernard Ratzer, 1776.

Figure 7

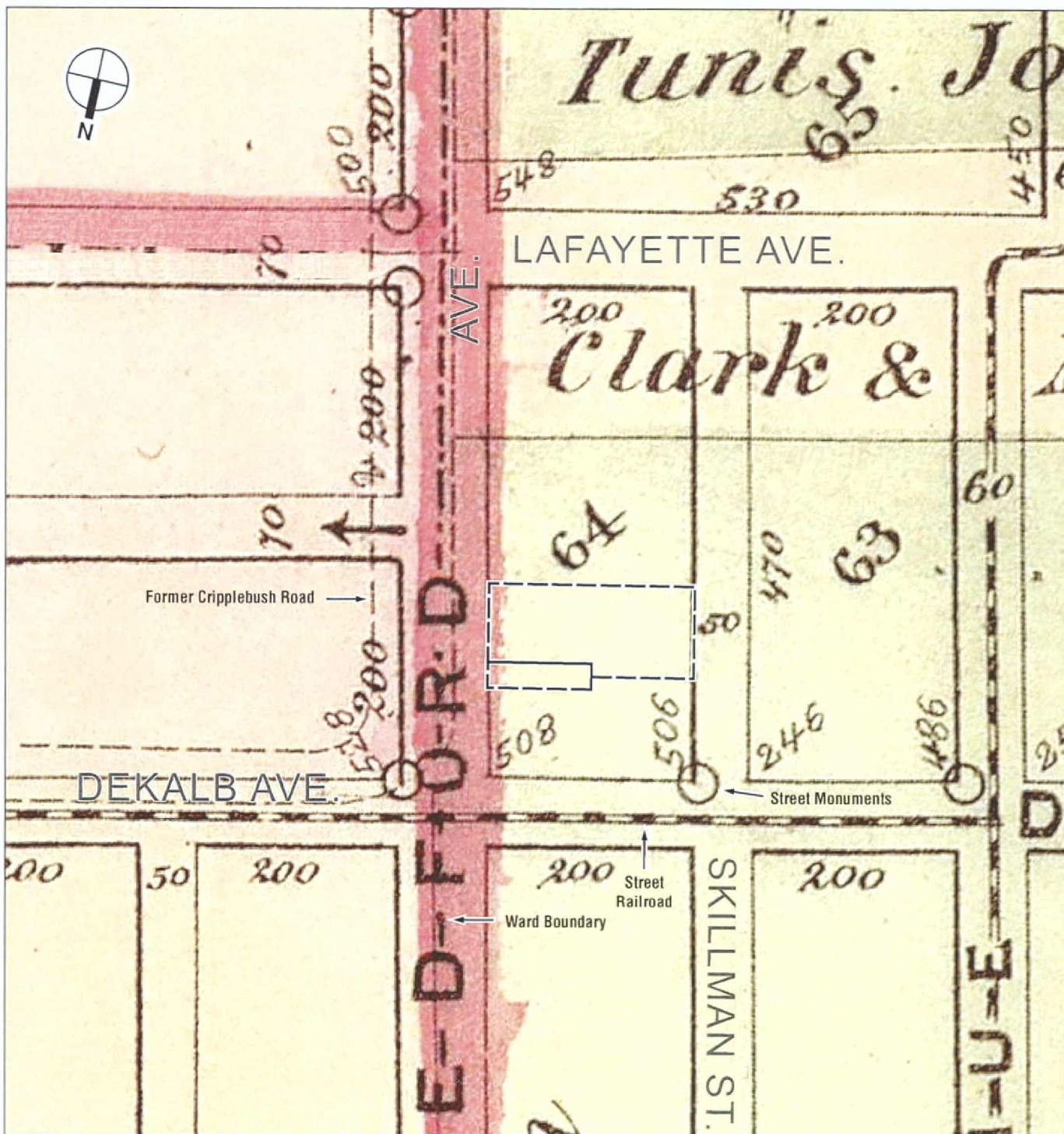


--- Project Site Boundary

0 200 FEET
SCALE

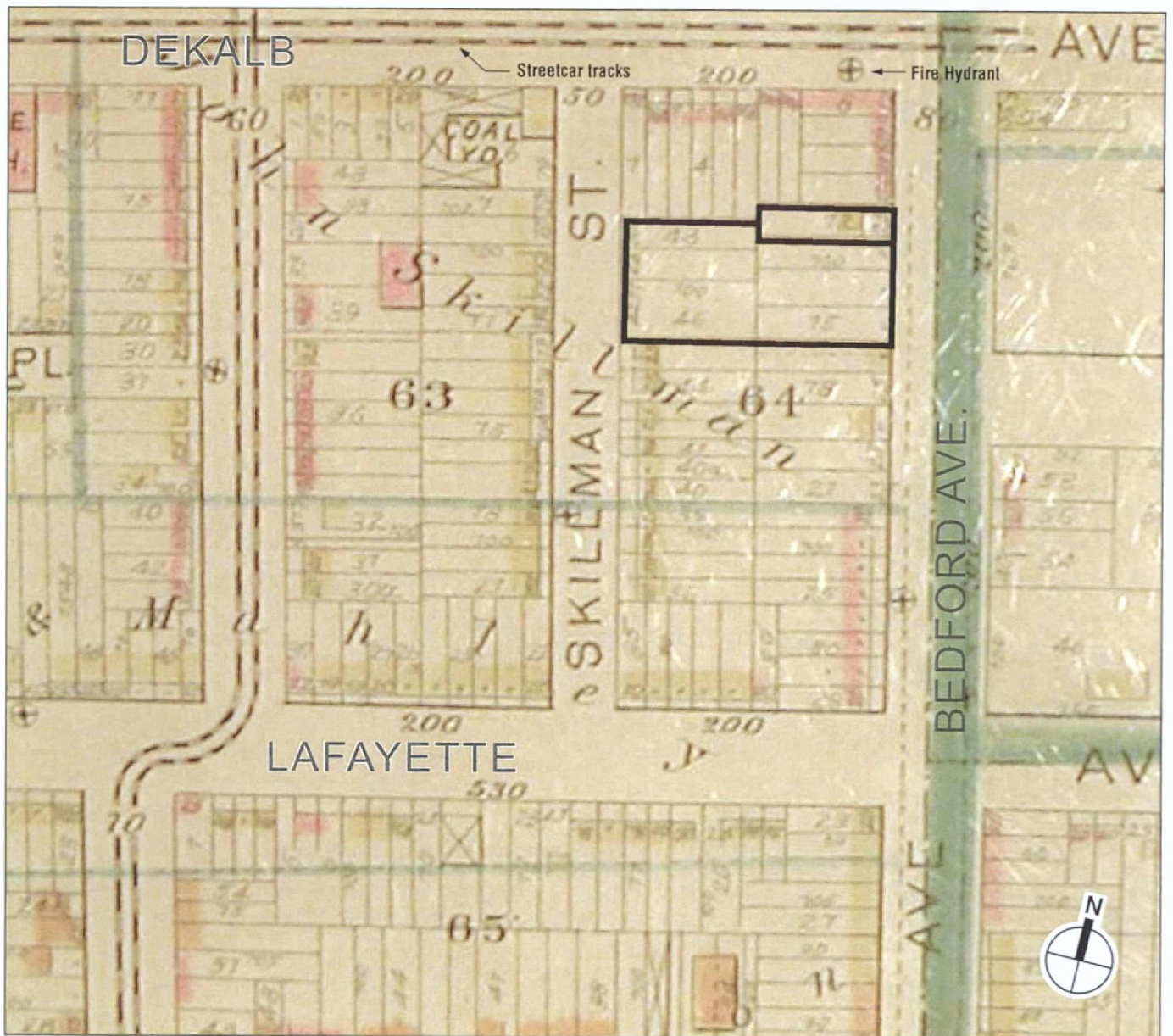


Map of the City of New York. M. Dripps, 1869.
Figure 9



--- Project Site Boundary

0 200 FEET
SCALE



— Project Site Boundary

0 100 FEET
SCALE

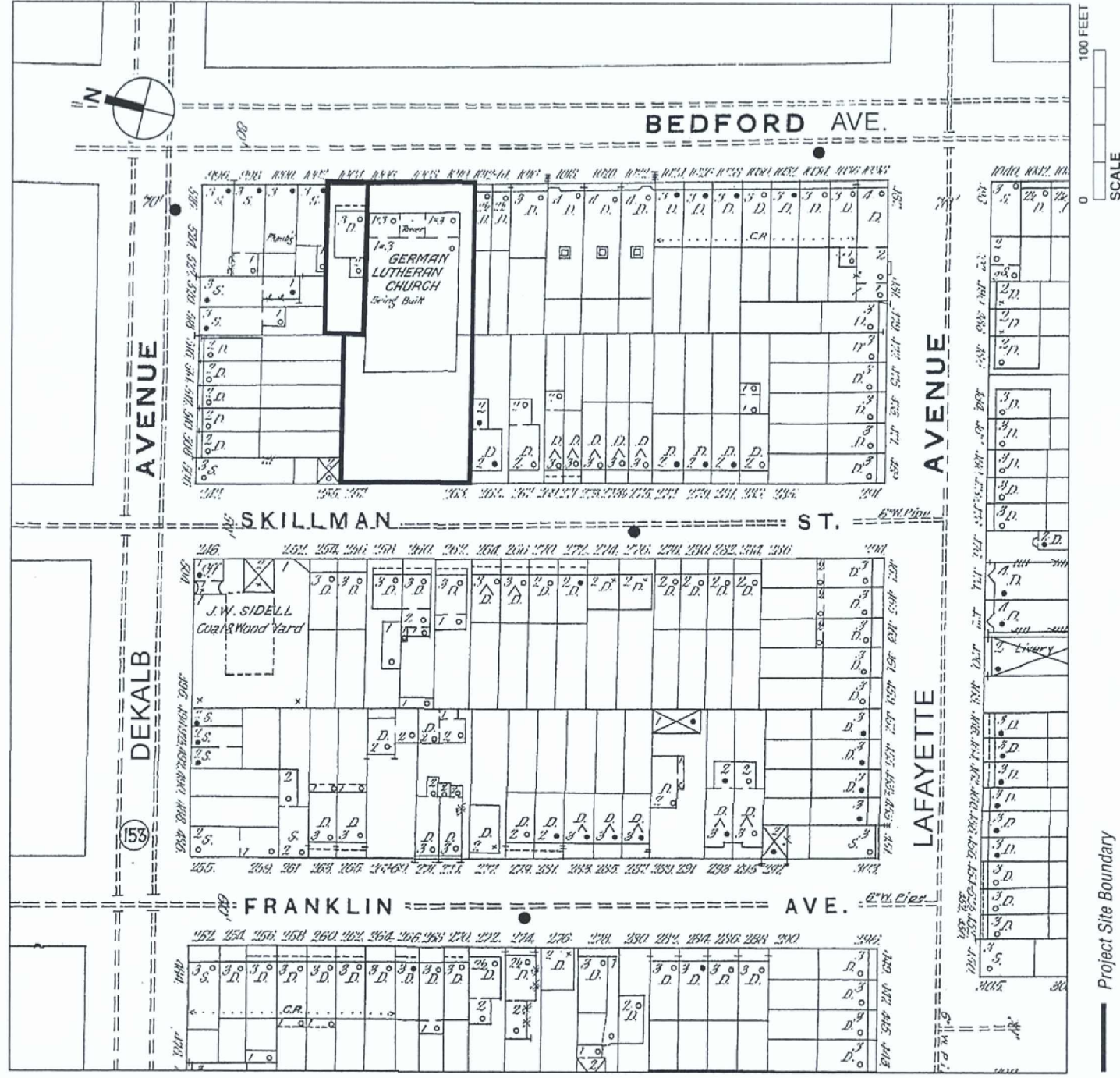


— Project Site Boundary

0 100 FEET
SCALE

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn.
E. Robinson, 1886.
Figure 12



Sanborn Insurance Map, 1888
Figure 13

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

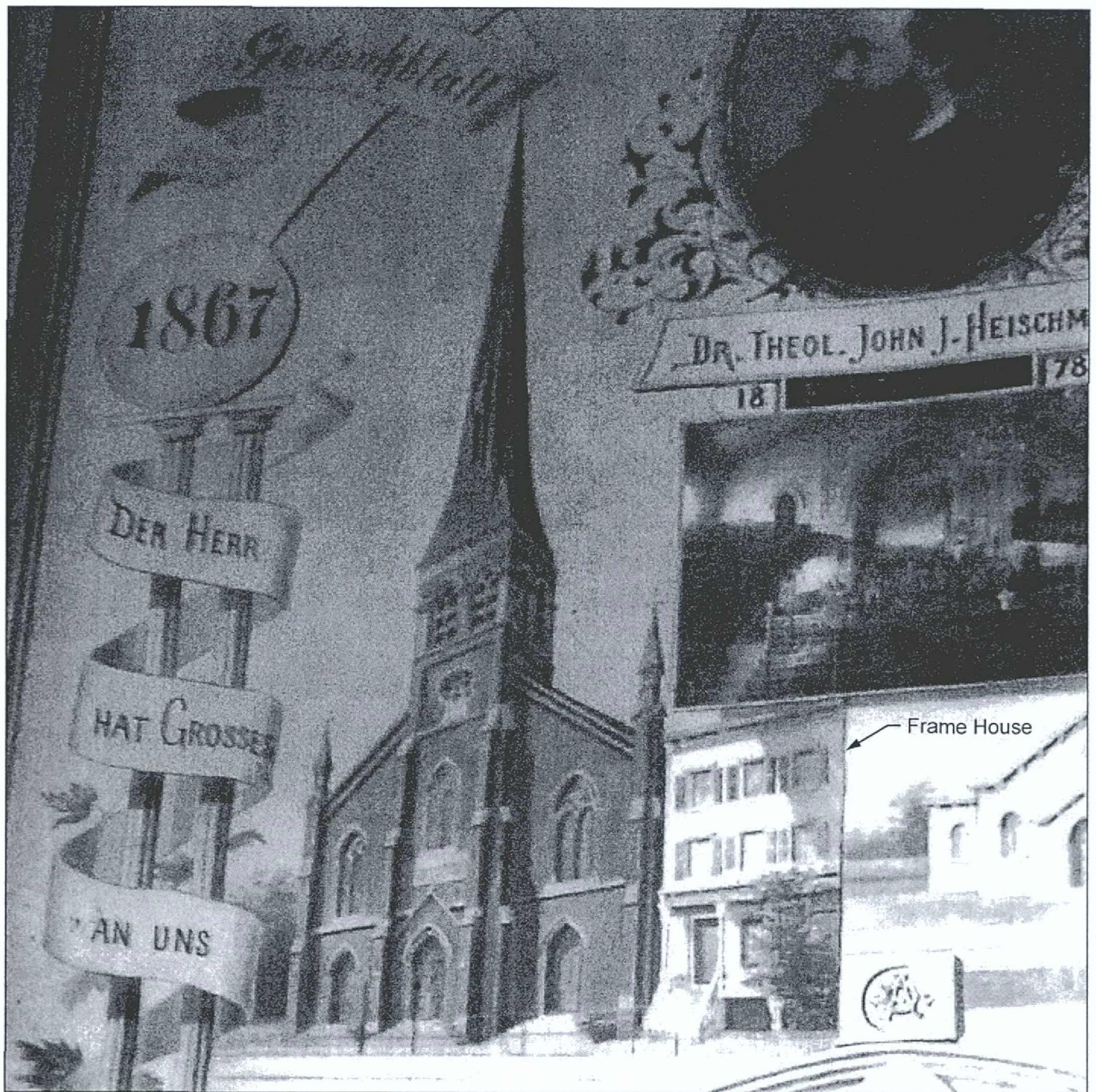


Image from Saint Peter's Church
25th Anniversary Commemorative Poster, 1892
Figure 14



— Project Site Boundary

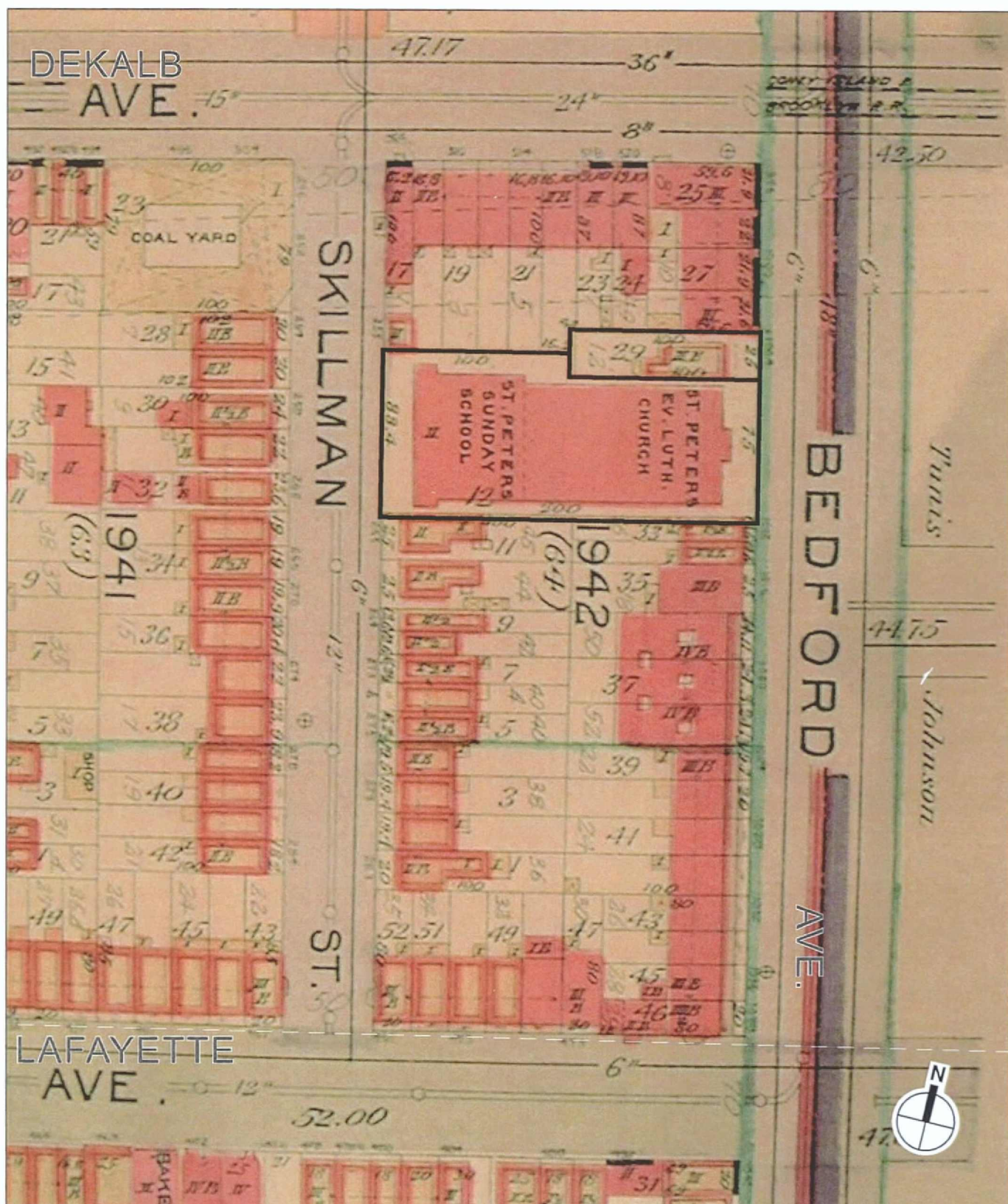
0 100 FEET
SCALE

Atlas of the Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York.

E. Belcher Hyde, 1898

Figure 15

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

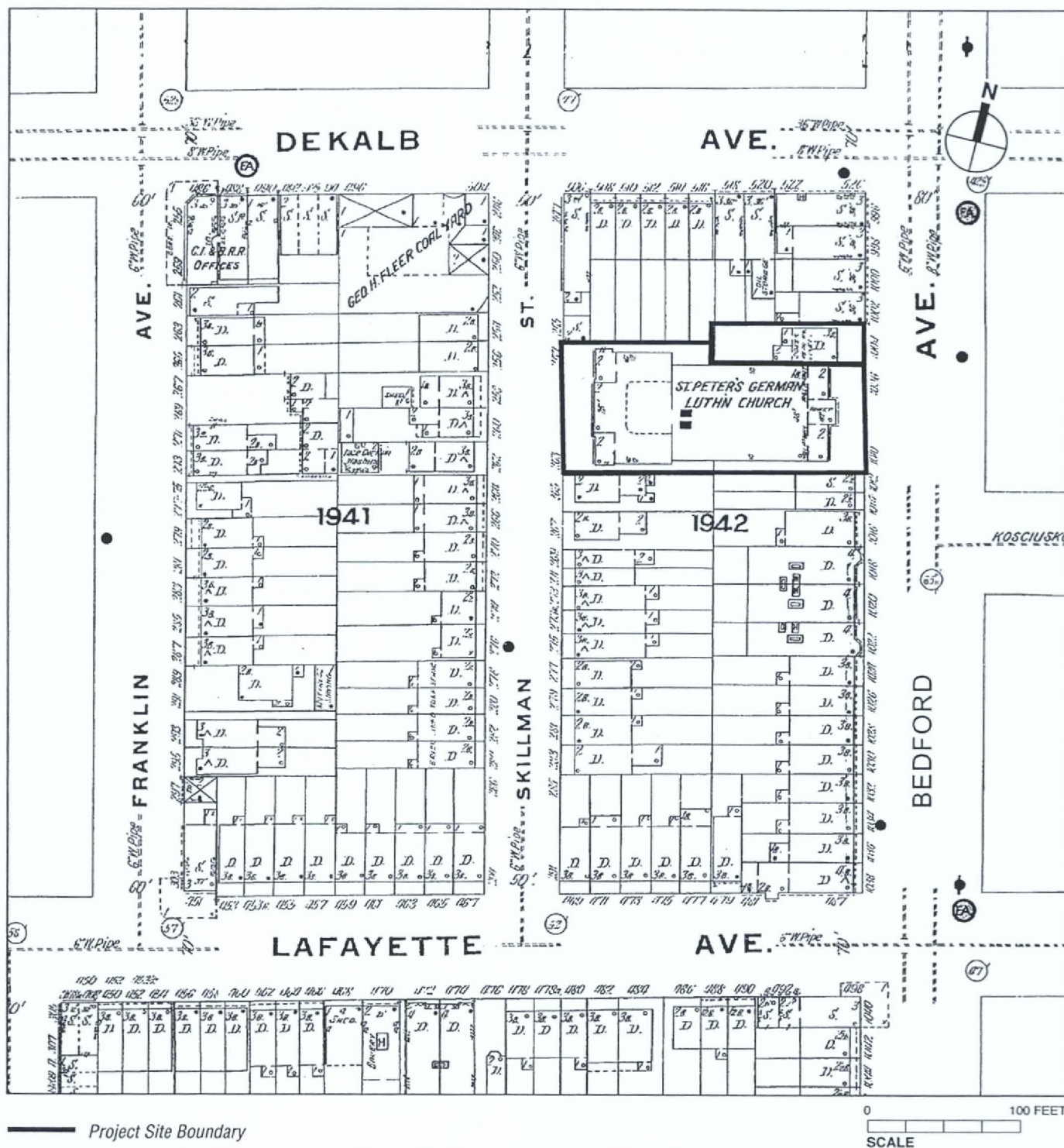


— Project Site Boundary

0 100 FEET
SCALE

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn. E. Belcher Hyde, 1904
Figure 16



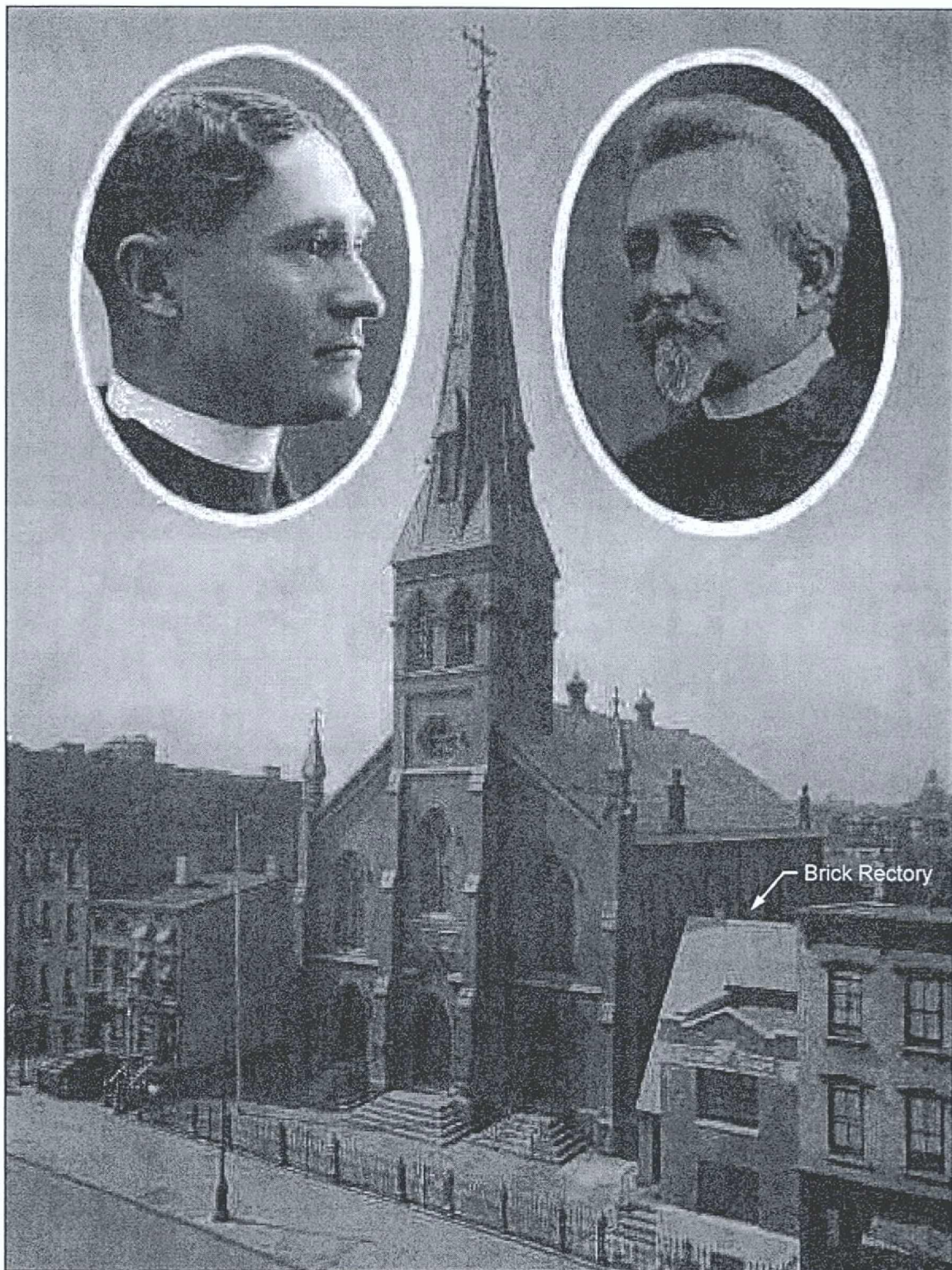
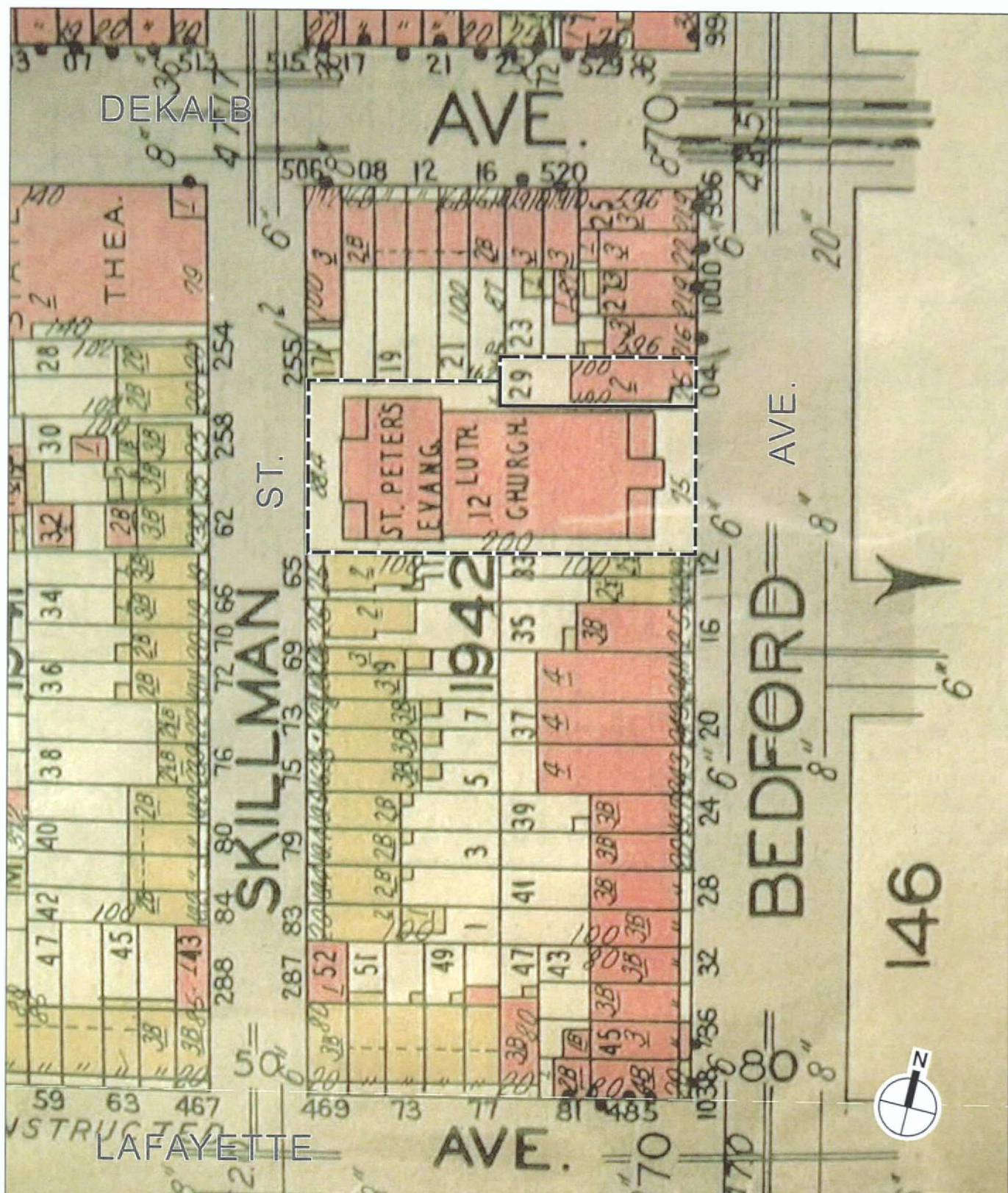


Image of Saint Peter's Church and new rectory from the collection of the Brooklyn Public Library, 1928.

Figure 18



--- Project Site Boundary

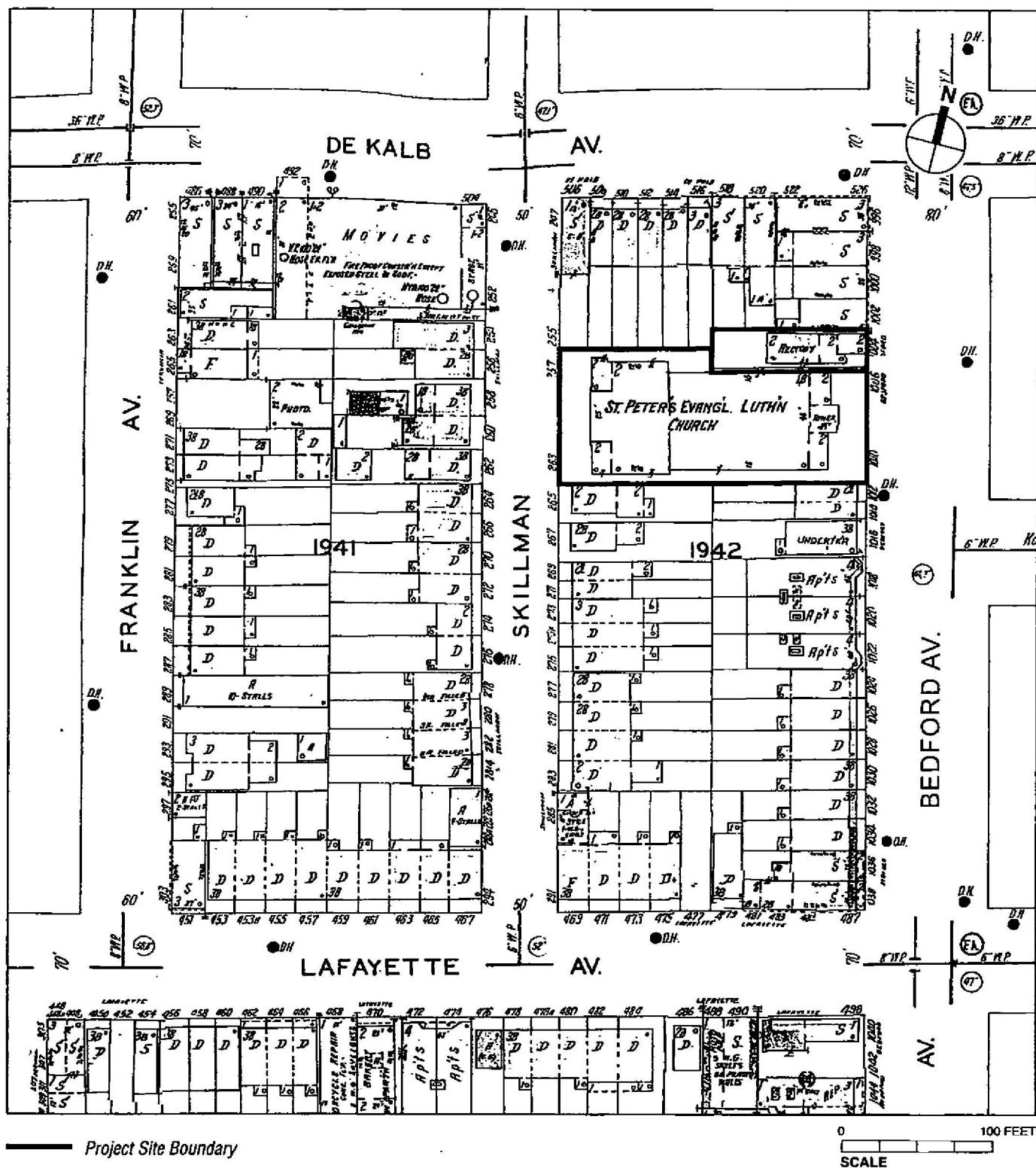
0 100 FEET
SCALE

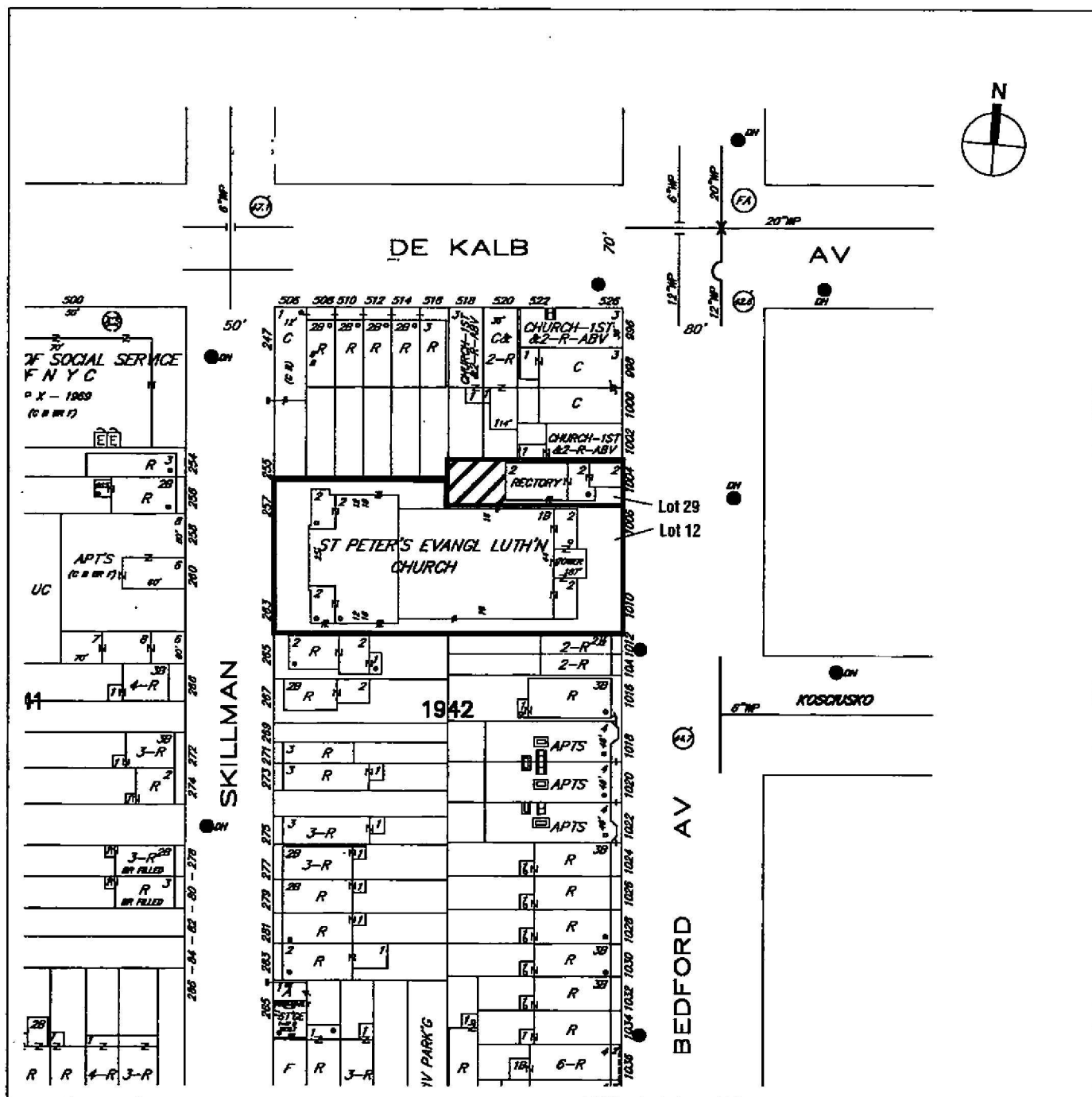
Desk Atlas, Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York.

E. Belcher Hyde, 1929

Figure 19

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH





- Project Site Boundary
- Sensitive for 19th century shaft features,
i.e. privies, cisterns, and/or wells.

0 100 FEET
SCALE

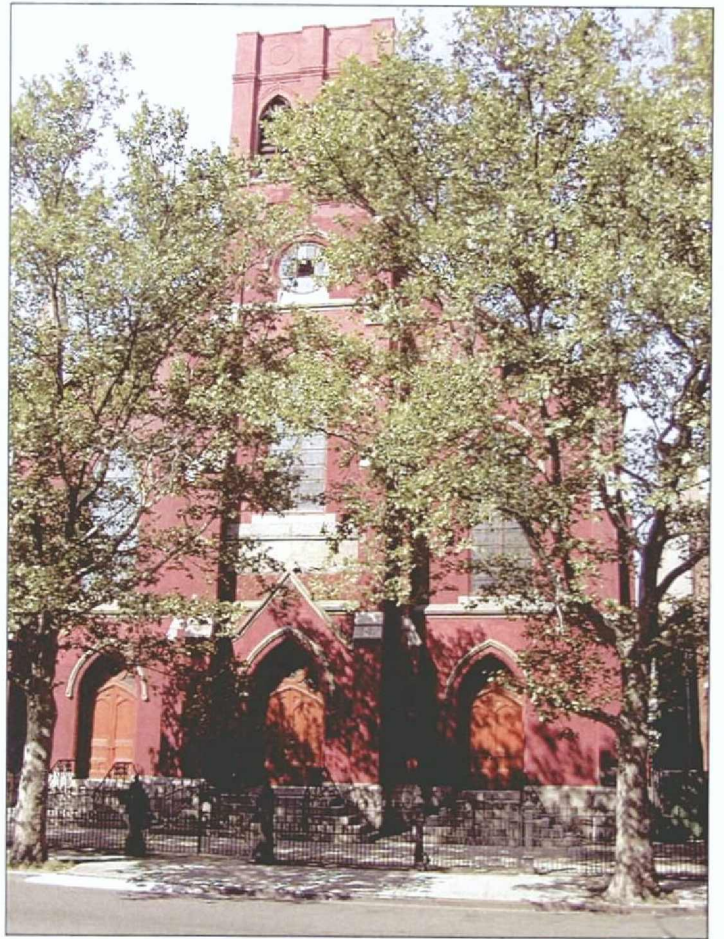
SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

Archaeologically Sensitive Areas on the
Saint Peter's Church Property
Figure 21



Photographs

Facade of Saint Peter's Church; facing west
from Bedford Avenue **Photo 1**

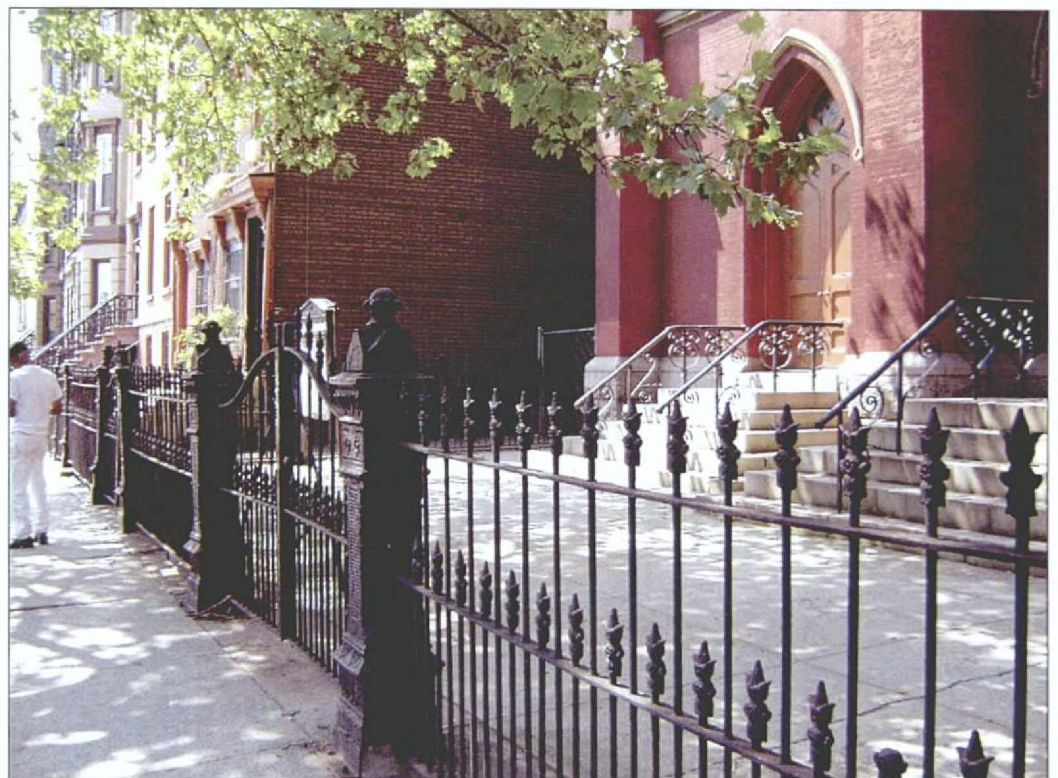


Rectory at 1004 Bedford Avenue; looking northwest from Bedford Avenue **Photo 2**



Alley between St. Peter's Church (left) and Rectory (right); looking west from Bedford Avenue. In the background are the rear yard the rectory and the back wall of the Sunday School

Photo 3

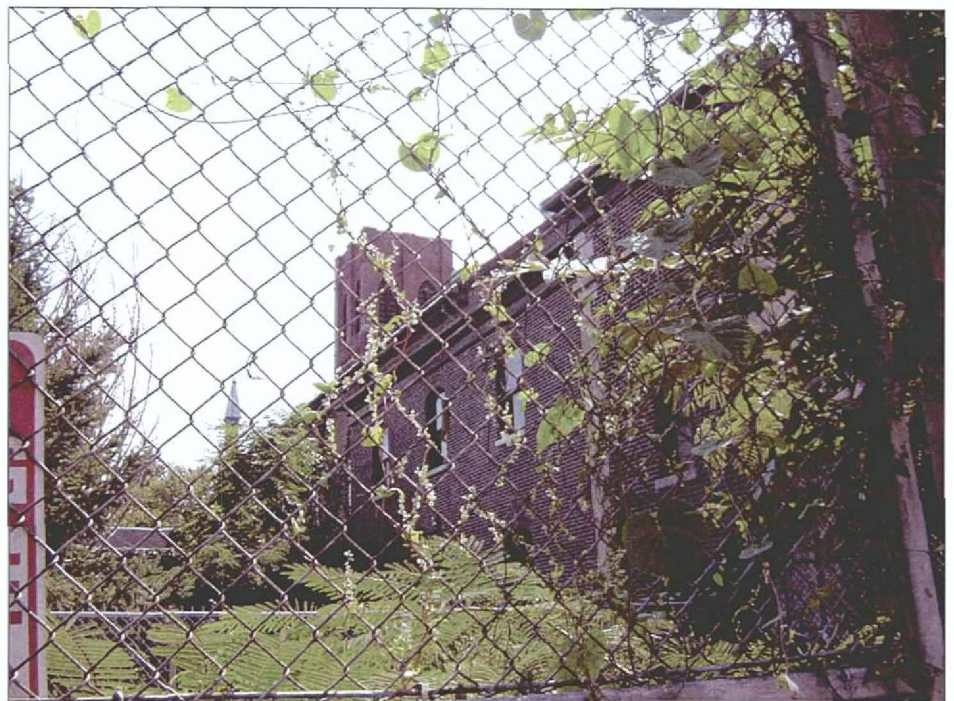


Saint Peter's Church facade (right) and alley separating it from rowhouse to the south; looking southwest from Bedford Avenue

Photo 4

Alley between Sunday school building (right)
and neighboring buildings; looking west
towards Skillman Street

Photo 5



Northern wall of Sunday School building (foreground) with tower of
Saint Peter's Church; looking northeast from Skillman Street

Photo 6



Front yard of Sunday School building featuring concrete ventilation shafts for basement bowling alley; looking north along Skillman Street

Photo 7



Front yard of Sunday School building featuring concrete ventilation shafts for basement bowling alley; looking south along Skillman Street

Photo 8



Sunday School building; looking east from Skillman Street

Photo 9



Sign attached to fence surrounding Sunday School building; looking east from Skillman Street

Photo 10



Bowling alley in basement of Sunday School building; looking west towards Skillman Street

Photo 11



Bowling alley in basement of Sunday School building; looking east towards Bedford Avenue

Photo 12



Appendices

Appendix A: Conveyance Records for Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29[†]

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Liber/Page	Lot	Remarks
Town of Breuklyn [sic]	Minutes of the Town Meeting	5/9/1699	2/191		
Town of Breuklyn [sic]	Minutes of the Town Meeting	5/9/1699	2/191a		
Freeholders of Brooklyn	Minutes of the Town Meeting	5/13/1702	2/225a		
Freeholders of Brooklyn	Minutes of the Town Meeting	5/13/1702	2/226		
Patentees of the Town of Brooklyn	Freeholders of Brooklyn	5/8/1739	5/96		
Jeroneumus Rapelje	Marten M. Schenck	7/27/1759	6/31		
Jeroneumus and Hellefie Rapelje	Marten M. Schenck	7/28/1759	6/33		
Jeroneumus Rappelje [sic]	Jeroneumus Rappelje, Jr.	12/24/1760	6/42		
Widow of Martin [sic] Schenck	Martin and Lambert Schenck	8/28/1815	11/340		
Martin and Sarah Schenck (Jeromus [sic] Schenck, Jane Schenck, Jacob Harris, and Martin Schenck, Jr.)	Ida Harris, Jane Schenck, Jacob Harris, as Trustees, Sarah and Mary A. Schenck	4/2/1821	12/638		
Widow of Martin Schenck	Sarah Schenck	3/4/1824	14/241		
Lambert Schenck and Francis and Anna (Anne) Skillman*	Martin Schenck	8/21/1834	42/150		
Jacob Harris as Trustee Sarah Schenck	Sarah Schenck as Trustee Mary A. Schenck	8/21/1834	42/154		
John and Catherine Skillman	George Hall	1/10/1835	45/210		
Brooklyn Whitehead Co.	George Hall	2/24/1835	46/257		
George and Mary Hall	Sidney B. Whitlock	3/27/1835	48/286		
George and Mary Hall	William N. Gardner	3/27/1835	48/331		
William N. Gardner	John L. Graham and Edward Sanford	5/21/1835	50/47		
Martin and Sarah Schenck and Lambert Schenck	Anna Skillman*	6/27/1836	61/453		
Edward and Janet S. Sanford	John L. Graham	5/7/1838	76/1		
John Skillman*	Valentine G. Hall	10/3/1838	78/40		
City of Brooklyn	Valentine G. Hall	1/16/1839	79/232		
City of Brooklyn	Valentine G. Hall	1/16/1839	79/335		
City of Brooklyn	Valentine G. Hall	2/1/1839	79/373		
Stephen Cambreling, Master in Chancery	Valentine S. Hall	4/11/1839	8/169		
Sidney B. and Mary Whitlock	William Whitlock	3/23/1842	102/98		

Saint Peter's Church

Grantor	Grantee	Date	Liber/Page	Lot	Remarks
John L. Graham	Augustine N. Clason, Jr. and William P. Powers	4/29/1842	102/98		
John Skillman	Declaration	3/12/1847	160/402		
John Skillman	City of Brooklyn	5/23/1848	179/347		
William J. Whitlock	City of Brooklyn	7/22/1848	182/135		
William, Jr. and Eliza Whitlock	Fred L. Vulte	2/3/1851	235/465		
Valentine G. (Valentine) Hall and Susan Hall	Joseph Wrigley	2/2/1852	269/60		
Fred L. Vulte	Joseph Wrigley	2/17/1852	270/244		
William Marshall, Jr.	Joseph Wrigley	8/27/1852	292/265		
Augustine N. Clason and William P. Powers as Trustees, John L. Graham	Herbert J. Moore	12/14/1852	304/47		
Herbert J. and Margaret B. Moore	Elizur W. Watson	4/12/1854	358/409		
Englebert Lott, Sheriff and Joseph Wrigley, Judgment Debtor	Benjamin W. Davis	11/10/1855	408/407		
Benjamin W. and Louisa A. Davis	Henry Beadel	11/19/1855	409/306		
Englebert Lott, Sheriff	Henry Beadel	12/29/1855	412/277		
Elizur E. and Phebe M. Watson	Alexander Underhill	6/11/1860	530/140		
Alexander Underhill	Charles Isbills	4/10/1865	660/448		
Charles and Emma V. Isbills	Tabitha A. Heliker	4/16/1866	701/289		
Tabitha A. Heliker	Hester E. Hopper	4/25/1872	1046/420		
Devisee of Henry Beadel	Sarah E. Horton	7/1/1878	1323/326		
Sarah E. and Isaac O. Horton	Henry P. Horlor [or Horton]	4/3/1879	1349/445		
Sarah Beadel, Independent and as Extr. and Trustee, Henry Beadel	William Dick	7/1/1885	1617/105		
Henry P. and Emily Horlor [or Horton]	Catherine Burland	3/31/1885	1599/268		
William and Anna M. Dick	First German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church	1/18/1886	1646/282		
Catherine Burland	First German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church	7/2/1887	1748/228		
Catherine Burland	First German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Church	10/20/1887	1768/8		

Notes: ¹17th, 18th, and 19th century Conveyance records for this area did not differentiate between individual lots and are only categorized by block number (in this case, 1942). The lack of lot numbers makes it somewhat unclear as to which conveyance records represent Lots 12 and 29. The above table was generated by tracing land grants back through time in an attempt to determine the owners of the Saint Peter's Church property throughout history.

* According to Stiles (1867), Mr. and Mrs. Francis Skillman were the parents of John Skillman (Mrs. Skillman was the sister of Martin and Lambert Schenck). It is assumed that they transferred the land to their son although no conveyance records exist to confirm it.

*

Tax Assessment Records/Valuation of Real Estate
Appendix B: for Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29

Owner	Street	Size of House	Stories High	Street Number	Houses on Lot	Number on Ward Map	Years of Assessment	Page/Block/Remarks
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	2½	----	----	4	1866-1869	21/6
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	5	1866-1869	21/6
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	6	1866-1869	21/6
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	7	1866-1869	21/6
Charles Isbell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	----	----	19	1866-1869	21/6
[Isabel Istills]	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	----	----	20	1866-1869	21/6
[Isabel Istills]	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	----	----	21	1866-1869	21/6
[Isabel Istills]	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	----	----	22	1866-1869	21/6
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	516	----	4 (new number 12)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	518	----	5 (new number 13)	1873-1876	12/64

Saint Peter's Church

Owner	Street	Size of House	Stories High	Street Number	Houses on Lot	Number on Ward Map	Years of Assessment	Page/Block/Remarks
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	520	----	6 (new number 14)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	522	----	7 (new number 15)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	263	----	21(new number 46)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	261	----	22 (new number 46, combined with above)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	20 (new number 47)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	19 (new number 48)	1873-1876	12/64
Henry P. Horton; Sarah E. Horton	Bedford Avenue, west side	22x30	2½	516	----	12	1876-1880	12/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	518	----	13	1876-1880	12/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	520	----	14	1876-1880	12/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	522	----	15	1876-1880	12/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	20x22	4½	261/263	----	46	1876-1880	12/64 Stable Removed 1878
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	47	1876-1880	12/64

Attachment B: Tax Assessment Records/Valuation of Real Estate for Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29

Owner	Street	Size of House	Stories High	Street Number	Houses on Lot	Number on Ward Map	Years of Assessment	Page/Block/Remarks
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	48	1876-1880	12/64
Henry P. Horton	Bedford Avenue, west side	[illegible]	2½	516	----	12	1879-1883	None/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	518	----	13	1879-1883	None/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	520	----	14	1879-1883	None/64
Henry Bedell	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	522	----	15	1879-1883	None/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	261/263	----	46	1879-1883	None/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	47	1879-1883	None/64
Henry Bedell	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	48	1879-1883	None/64
Henry P. Horton Mrs. Cath. Burland	Bedford Avenue, west side	22x30	2½ Ex. 3	516	----	12	1883-1887	None/64
German Church (original owner's name illegible; possibly Henry Bedell)	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	13	1883-1887	None/64 See Church 1887
German Church (original owner's name illegible; possibly Henry Bedell)	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	14	1883-1887	None/64

Saint Peter's Church

Owner	Street	Size of House	Stories High	Street Number	Houses on Lot	Number on Ward Map	Years of Assessment	Page/Block/Remarks
German Church (original owner's name illegible; possibly Henry Bedell)	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	15	1883-1887	None/64 Cost \$5000
German Church (original owner's name illegible; possibly William Dick)	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	261/263	----	46	1883-1887	None/64
German Church (original owner's name illegible; possibly William Dick)	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	47	1883-1887	None/64
German Church (original owner's name illegible; possibly William Dick)	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	48	1883-1887	None/64
Catherine Burland	Bedford Avenue, west side	22x30	3	516	----	12	1887-1891	None/64
German Church	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	13	1887-1891	None/64
German Church	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	14	1887-1891	None/64
German Church	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	15	1887-1891	None/64

Attachment B: Tax Assessment Records/Valuation of Real Estate for Block 1942, Lots 12 and 29

Owner	Street	Size of House	Stories High	Street Number	Houses on Lot	Number on Ward Map	Years of Assessment	Page/Block/Remarks
German Church	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	263/261	----	46	1887-1891	None/64 Vacant
German Church	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	47	1887-1891	None/64 Vacant
German Church	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	48	1887-1891	None/64 Vacant
Cath. Burland	Bedford Avenue, west side	22x30	Ex. 3	516	----	12	1891-1895	None/64
German Church	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	13	1891-1895	None/64
German Church	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	14	1891-1895	None/64
German Church	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	15	1891-1895	None/64
German Church	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	263/261	----	46	1891-1895	None/64
German Church	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	47	1891-1895	None/64
German Church	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	48	1891-1895	None/64
Cath. Burland	Bedford Avenue, west side	22x30	Ex. 3	516	----	12	1895-1899	None/64
German Lutheran Church, St. Peter's	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	13	1895-1899	None/64
German Lutheran Church, St. Peter's	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	14	1895-1899	None/64

Saint Peter's Church

Owner	Street	Size of House	Stories High	Street Number	Houses on Lot	Number on Ward Map	Years of Assessment	Page/Block/Remarks
German Lutheran Church, St. Peter's	Bedford Avenue, west side	----	----	----	----	15	1895-1899	None/64
German Lutheran Church, St. Peter's	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	263/261	----	46	1895-1899	None/64 See 13/15
German Lutheran Church, St. Peter's	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	259	----	47	1895-1899	None/64 See 13/15
German Lutheran Church, St. Peter's	Skillman Street, east side	----	----	257	----	48	1895-1899	None/64 See 13/15
Notes: Items marked with strikethrough lettering indicate similar markings in the original text. "Numbers on Ward Map" represent numbers shown on some historic atlases (Figures 11, 12, and 15) Sources: Tax Assessment/Real Estate Valuation records for Kings County.								

Appendix C:

Historic Directories

Name	Directory Year	Occupation	Address
Whitlock, Sidney B.	1829	Merchant, commerce	48, Sands, Brooklyn, NY; store: 78, South, N.Y., Brooklyn, NY
Whitlock, Sidney B.	1830	Merchant, commerce	48, Sands, Brooklyn, NY; store: 78, South, N.Y., Brooklyn, NY
Skillman, John	1840-41		Remsen n Henry
Bedell, Henry	1850-51	Carman	Classon n Myrtle Av
Bedell, Sarah	1850-51		180 York
Davis, Benjamin W.	1850-51	Grocer	Fulton c Hicks h 14 Willow
Joseph Wrigley	1850-51	Mer.	33 Pine NY Home: Bedford n DeKalb Av
Macelrath, R.C.	1873	House Furnishing	DeKalb Ave c. Skillman
Horton, Isaac O.	1877-78	Clk.	Home: 239 DeKalb Ave.
Bedell, Henry	1878-1879	Clk.	Home: 31 Wyckoff
Bedell, H'y	1878-1879	Lab.	Home: Maspeth Av n Morgan Av
Bedell, Henry	1878-1879	Milk	Home: 803 Gates Av
Bedell, Henry	1878-1879	Painter	Home: 192 Oakland
Bedell, Henry	1878-1879	Tinsmith	Home: 230 York
Isbill, Charles	1878-1879	Bldr.	Home: 439 Van Buren
Horlet, Phillip H.	1878-79	Engraver	71 John, NY Home: 192 Clermont Avenue
Bedell, Henry	1879-80	Cooper	Home: 820 DeKalb
Dick, William	1879-80	Engineer	Home: 128 21st
Dick, William	1879-80	Lab.	400 1st E.D.
Dick, William	1879-80	Predt.	Home: 156 S. 9th
Horlor, Henry P.	1879-80	Engraver	Nassau n John, NY Home: 516 Bedford
Macelrath, Robert C.	1879-80	Clk.	520 DeKalb Avenue
Burland, John W.	1886-87	Shipmaster	Home: old no. 516 Bedford Ave. [this is now 1004 Bedford Ave]
Burland, John W.	1887-88	Seaman	Home: 1004 Bedford Ave.
Burland, John W.	1888-1889	Mariner	25 Ivy
Knight, William	1888-1889	Printer	1004 Bedford Avenue
Knight, Walter	1889-1890	Printer	1004 Bedford Avenue
Benne, August	1889-1890	Sexton	1004 Bedford Avenue
Burland, John W.	1889-1890	Mariner	25 Ivy
Sources: Lain & Co. Directories of Brooklyn: 1877-78, 1879-80, 1886-87, 1887-88, 1888-1889, 1889-1890 NY General & business directory for 1840-41 Hearne's Brooklyn City Directory 1850-51 Boyd's Brooklyn City Directory 1873			

*

Appendix D: Summary of Census Research of the Saint Peter's Church Property

Census Date	Name	Residence	Occupation	Listed Age
1790 (Federal)	Martin Schenck	Kings County	----	Household included 9 free white individuals and 11 slaves
	Francis Skillman	Kings County	----	Household included 4 free white individuals and 3 slaves
1800 (Federal)	Lambert Schenck	Kings County	----	Household included 5 free white individuals and 7 slaves
	Martin Schenck	Kings County	----	Household included 6 free white individuals, 2 "free persons," and 5 slaves
	Francis Skillman	Kings County	----	Household included 8 free white individuals and 2 slaves
1810 (Federal)	Lamber Schenck [sic]	Kings County	----	Household included 3 free white individuals and 3 slaves
	Martin Schenck	Kings County	----	Household included 5 free white individuals and 2 slaves
	Francis Skillman	Kings County	----	Household included 6 free white individuals and 2 slaves
1820 (Federal)	Martin Schenck	Walabant, Brooklyn	----	Household included 4 free white individuals and 6 slaves
1830 (Federal)	Sarah Schenck	Brooklyn, 7th Ward	----	Household included 8 free white individuals
	George Hall	Brooklyn, 2nd Ward	----	Household included 3 free white individuals
1840 (Federal)	Sidney B. Whitlock [Kings County]	Kings County	----	Household included 13 free white individuals
	Valentine G. Hall	New York, 15th Ward	----	Household included 11 free white individuals
1850 (Federal)	William Whitlock Eliza Whitlock Margaret Whitlock Jane Whitlock Susan Whitlock Susan Rooney Mary Gillespie Thomas Nevan	New York, 5th Ward	Merchant	58 50 22 20 24 25 25 30
1860 (Federal)	Alex. Underhill Wife Child Child Child Housekeeper [New York, 15th Ward]	Brooklyn, 9th Ward	Landlord	50

Saint Peter's Church

Census Date	Name	Residence	Occupation	Listed Age
	E.W. Watson Phebe Watson Amanda Watson [The Fisher Family also lived in this household]	Brooklyn, Ward 13	----	52 45 20
1870 (Federal)	Henry Hooler [or Horlos] Emily Hooler Emily C. Hooler Alfred Wedge Mary Rudge	Brooklyn, Ward 13	Engraver, metal At school Plumber Domestic Servant	47 47 13 21 16
	Mary Coleacot Catharine Coleacot Tabitha Hillicker Matilda Hadley Ida Hadley John Hadley	Brooklyn, Ward 7	Housekeeping Housekeeping	28 60 55 32 14 12
1880 (Federal)	Henry Horner [sic] Emily Horner Alfred Wedge (adopted son) Robert Macelrath Reachal Macelrath Josephine Macelrath Kate Lenard	516 Bedford Avenue (now 1004 Bedford Acenue)	Engraver Keeping House At school Grain inspector Keeping house At school Servant	56 56 8 36 31 10 25
1900 (Federal)	John Burland Catharine Burland	----	-----	61 61

*

Appendix E-1: Saint Peter's Church Congregants: Places of Interment

Name	Date of Obituary	Place of Interment
John Evers	1/17/1872	Lutheran Cemetery
Mary Lemken	5/30/1872	Unknown [no records of interment at Lutheran Cemetery, Cemetery of the Evergreens, or Green-Wood Cemetery, although 9 other individuals with the surname Lemken were interred at Lutheran Cemetery and 2 others at Green-Wood]
Diedrich Steffens	4/21/1883	Lutheran Cemetery
Theresa Dorothea Klodt	1/13/1884	Lutheran Cemetery
Carrie Schmitt	4/19/1884	Lutheran Cemetery
John Bahrenberg	2/27/1889	Lutheran Cemetery
George Clausmeyer	1/7/1890	Lutheran Cemetery
Henry Fischer	9/20/1891	Lutheran Cemetery
Frederick L. Ostermayer	7/9/1895	Green-Wood Cemetery
Henry Heuchel	4/15/1901	Green-Wood Cemetery
Captain Casper J. Knauer	12/8/1902	Lutheran Cemetery
Henry J. Helmken	10/15/1918 (<i>Brooklyn Daily Standard Union</i>)	Lutheran Cemetery
Sources: All obituaries are from the <i>Brooklyn Daily Eagle</i> , unless otherwise noted. Other burial information was obtained through personal communications with Lutheran Cemetery and the cemetery of the Evergreens.		

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Appendix E-2:

Correspondence with Saint Peter's Church regarding Places of
Interment

February 27, 2007

St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church
1004 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Lutheran Social Services
475 Riverside Drive
New York, New York 10115
Attention: Ronald Drews

Dear Ron:

It is always a pleasure to speak with you as we continue the dialogue regarding the future of the St. Peters Place project.

As you may recall my family has been a part of the St. Peters congregation since the early sixties.

During my time at St. Peters, I've been a part of the worship service at Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals for my family as well as for other members of the congregation.

I was blessed to have had the opportunity to worship and fellowship with some of the family members of the original congregation. They shared many stories about the early congregation.

I can say with absolute certainty that I've never heard anyone speak directly or indirectly about a burial on the property. Many of our members are buried in the Lutheran Cemetery located in Middle Village. We still have four vacant plots at Lutheran Cemetery, which were purchased, by the church after the sinking of the Titanic.

The church ancestors were always looking ahead. It is the present congregations wish to plan for the future like the ancestors did. May God continue to bless the partnership between Lutheran Social Services and St Peters.

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,



Lois C. Jenkins
Church Council President