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HISTORICAL

PERSPECTIVES INC.



Archaeological Documentary Study

East 125th Street Development Project Site Block 1790, Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1 Bounded by East 125th Street, East 127th Street, Second and Third Avenues New York, New York

LPC Project #DME/06DME015M

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LPC Project #DME/06DME015M

Prepared For:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New York City Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, in the Office of the Mayor, is proposing zoning map amendments that would affect one full block and portions of two blocks in East Harlem referred to as Parcel A, Parcel B, and Parcel C of the East 125th Street Development. Parcel A is located on Block 1791, Parcel B is located on Block 1790, and Parcel C is located on Block 1789. The parcels of the East 125th Street Development currently contain a mix of vacant land, commercial development, formerly occupied residential buildings, surface parking, and an at-grade MTA bus storage facility. The development site as a whole is bounded by East 124th Street, East 127th Street, Second Avenue and Third Avenue.

The proposed rezoning action will facilitate the construction of up to 1.7 million square feet of mixed-use development. As part of the present East 125th Street Development project. STV, Inc. submitted project materials to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for an initial archaeological review in accordance with New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) regulations and procedures. LPC responded that there is potential for the recovery of remains from nineteenth century occupation on Block 1790, Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1 (Figures 1-3). Accordingly, the LPC recommended that an archaeological documentary study be prepared and provided to their office for review. The LPC indicated that there are no archaeological concerns for the other lots within the project site (Sutphin 2005; Santucci 2007).

The present report, prepared by Historical Perspectives, Inc. under contract to STV, Inc., comprises the archaeological documentary study for Block 1790, Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1. These two lots are also referred to as the Area of Potential Effect, or APE. These lots are modern tax lot designations encompassing numerous smaller historic lots. Originally Block 1790, Lot 13 comprised historic Lots 13-19 and 32-39 and Block 1791, Lot 1 comprised historic Lots 1-3, 4 ½-24 and 35-44 (Figure 4). For ease of understanding, the terms "modern lot" and "historic lot" will be used throughout this report to distinguish between the different designations. This study complies with the guidelines of the LPC (CEQR 2001; LPC 2002).

The research conducted for this Documentary Study revealed that the large majority of the historic lots that comprise Block 1790, Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1 appear to be quite disturbed from twentieth-century construction and demolition, including infilling of former basements, which ranged from about 10-15 feet below the current grade. However, the research identified several discrete areas within the project site where basements or other twentieth-century buildings were never constructed, and where the archaeological remains, such as privies and/or cesspools, could be preserved.

The first area is on Block 1790, historic Lots 16-19, where an 1849 public school was located. The initial school building on this lot was constructed along East 125th Street, in what is now the southeastern quadrant of the roughly square modern Lot 13. Board of Education documents and historic maps suggest that there were privies located at the rear of the school, probably at the corners of the property. These privies would have been

used from 1849 through at least 1861, and possibly longer. However, later nineteenth-century maps showing the school indicate water closets were situated across the rear of the property as well. Therefore, the area of archaeological sensitivity includes the entire rear perimeter of the original school property, (a 10-foot wide horseshoe-shaped swath behind and adjacent to the nineteenth-century school building) as shown on Figure 21.

The second area is on Block 1791, historic Lots 11 and 12, located along East 126th Street, about half way between Second and Third Avenues. On both of these lots, houses were constructed in the early 1850s, and residents could be documented for a number of years. Although there were apartment buildings with basements constructed on these lots after the smaller houses were razed, in each case there was enough open yard area at the rear of the lots that may not have been affected by construction of the apartment buildings (about 20 feet deep by about 34 feet wide, as shown on Figure 21) that archaeological resources, such as privies and/or cesspools, could still be present.

Finally, a number of sources were consulted to determine whether there was any evidence for cemeteries or burials associated with either the Harlem Presbyterian Church that used to be located on Block 1791, Lot 1, or a Congregational Church that used to be located on Block 1790 adjacent to Lot 13 (on historic Lot 25, at the corner of Second Avenue and East 125th Street, just off the APE). Because new cemeteries were not banned in Manhattan until 1851 (Inskeep 2000:138), the Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1844, would not have been restricted from constructing a burial ground. The Congregational Church, which was not built until the mid-1860s, by law could not have constructed a cemetery. In both instances, there was nothing in the archival records to suggest cemeteries at either church location. Last, there is no evidence that any other cemeteries or burial grounds in the vicinity of the project site (including a "Negro Burial Ground" formerly located within adjacent Block 1803, east of Second Avenue) ever extended into any portions of Blocks 1790 or 1791 (HPI 2004).

HPI recommends archaeological testing within the areas of archaeological sensitivity, if they will be affected by subsurface excavation for the proposed development project. Such testing would consist of backhoe trenching to discern the locations of any features such as privies or cesspools, at precise locations to be determined based on field conditions by archaeological personnel. All archaeological testing should be conducted according to OSHA regulations and applicable archaeological standards (LPC 2002). Professional archaeologists, with an understanding of and experience in urban archaeological excavation techniques, would be required to be part of the archaeological team.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The New York City Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, in the Office of the Mayor, is proposing zoning map amendments that would affect one full block and portions of two blocks in East Harlem referred to as Parcel A, Parcel B, and Parcel C of the East 125th Street Development. Parcel A is located on Block 1791, Parcel B is located on Block 1790, and Parcel C is located on Block 1789. The parcels of the East 125th Street Development currently contains a mix of vacunt land, commercial development, formerly occupied residential buildings, surface parking, and an at-grade MTA bus storage facility. The development site as a whole is bounded by East 124th Street, East 127th Street, Second Avenue and Third Avenue.

The proposed rezoning action will facilitate the construction of up to 1.7 million square feet of mixed-use development. The rezoning will enable the development of up to 1,000 units of low, moderate, and middle income housing: approximately 470,000 square feet of retail/entertainment space (including a 300,000-square foot anchor retail tenant, and approximately 120,000 square feet of specialty retail/entertainment space including 50,000 square feet of local retail); 300,000 square feet of commercial office space; 30,000 square feet of not-for-profit performing/media arts space; a 100,000-square foot hotel; and, 12,500 square feet of public open space. The Project Site includes a Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) at-grade bus storage facility and the development will include an underground replacement facility for those operations. Actions and approvals required include zoning map amendments; the disposition of City-owned property; Special Permit approval for a public parking garage; approval of a General Large Scale Plan; amendment of the East Harlem Urban Renewal Plan; City Planning certification pursuant to the Special Transit Authority District, and, modification of signage requirements.

As part of the present East 125th Street Development project, STV, Inc. submitted project materials to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for an initial archaeological review in accordance with New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) regulations and procedures. LPC responded that there is potential for the recovery of remains from nineteenth century occupation on Block 1790, Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1 (Figures 1-3). Accordingly, the LPC recommended that an archaeological documentary study be prepared and provided to their office for review. The LPC indicated that there are no archaeological concerns for the other lots within the project site (Sutphin 2005; Santucci 2007).

The present report, prepared by Historical Perspectives, Inc. under contract to STV, Inc., comprises the archaeological documentary study for Block 1790, Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1. These two lots are also referred to as the Area of Potential Effect, or APE. These lots are modern tax lot designations encompassing numerous smaller historic lots. Originally Block 1790, Lot 13 comprised historic Lots 13-19 and 32-39 and Block 1791, Lot 1 comprised historic Lots 1-3, 4 1/4-24 and 35-44 (Figure 4). For ease of understanding, the terms "modern lot" and "historic lot" will be used throughout this report to distinguish between the different designations. This study complies with the guidelines of the LPC (CEQR 2001; LPC 2002). The HPI project team consisted of Julie Abell Horn, M.A., R.P.A., who assisted with the project research and wrote this report; Christine Flaherty, M.A., who conducted the majority of the project research; and Cece Saunders, M.A., R.P.A., who oversaw the project and provided editorial and interpretive assistance.

II. METHODOLOGY

Because LPC has indicated that there should be no precontact period concerns for the East 125th Street Development project site, this archaeological documentary study concentrates solely on reviewing the specific historic period occupation of and disturbance to the selected lots on Blocks 1790 and 1791.

Preparation of this study involved using documentary, cartographic, and archival resources. Repositories visited (either in person or by using their on-line electronic resources) or contacted included the New York City Municipal Archives, the New York City Hall Library, the New York City Register; the New York City Department of Buildings; the New York Public Library; and the LPC. STV, Inc. provided current site data and various maps.

The following specific resources were consulted:

- Historic maps were reviewed at the Map Division of the New York Public Library and using various online websites. These maps provided an overview of the topography and a chronology of land usage for the study site.
- Deeds and other land records were reviewed at the New York City Register.
- Assessment of Real Estate Records (also referred to as tax assessment records), were reviewed at selected intervals at the New York City Municipal Archives.
- Selected federal census records, available on microfilm and electronically, were reviewed at the New York Public Library.
- Selected city directories were reviewed at the New York Public Library.
- Board of Education materials were reviewed at the New York City Municipal Archives and the New York City Hall Library. Archivist David Ment, the specialist for the Board of Education collection, assisted researchers in using these materials.
- Information concerning the former Harlem Presbyterian Church within the project site was reviewed using materials available in the Local History division of the New York Public Library. Deeds and other land records were carefully perused for this portion of the property to rule out the possibility of any associated cemeteries or burial grounds.
- Block and lot folders for the project site lots were requested at the New York City
 Department of Buildings. However, virtually all of the records listed on the department's
 website could not be located by department staff (or perhaps had been discarded).
- Geotechnical and soil boring data for the project site were provided by STV, Inc. (STV 2007a, 2007b)
- Last, a site visit was conducted on August 23, 2007 by Christine Flaherty of HPI to assess any obvious or unrecorded subsurface disturbances (Figure 2; Photographs 1-6).

Occupation research concentrated primarily on the nineteenth century, as early maps and other information about the area indicated that while the project site falls within the original boundaries of Harlem, no specific development occurred on the project site until the 1840s. Municipal records indicate that streets bordering the project site received piped city water beginning in 1851 and continuing through about 1863, and municipal sewers beginning in 1861 and continuing through about 1871 (Croton Aqueduct Department 1851, 1852, 1863, 1864;

Board of Aldermen 1870, 1871). Based on these dates (which are listed more specifically later in this report), it appears that any shaft features such as wells, cisterns, cesspools, and privies within the project site probably were not used after about the 1870s. Thus, occupation research concentrated primarily on the period through about 1880. Deeds and tax records during this period were collected for all of the historic lots within the APE, and are summarized in Appendices A and B. For those few historic lots where nineteenth-century development predated introduction of municipal water and sewer lines (suggesting potential archaeological sensitivity) and where later construction episodes did not indicate obvious disturbance, census and city directory data were reviewed as well, as summarized in Appendix C. Disturbance data were researched through the end of the twentieth century.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL/PHYSICAL SETTING

A. Current Conditions

The large majority of the APE within Blocks 1790 and 1791 is devoid of structures. The ground surface within the APE varies according to location. Block 1790, Lot 13 is covered by asphalt paving, and is used for automobile parking (Photograph 1). The section of Block 1791, Lot 1 along East 126th Street also consists of two separate paved asphalt parking lots, one for municipal busses and the other for automobiles (Photographs 2-4). The portion of Block 1791, Lot 1 at the corner of East 126th Street and Third Avenue is covered with grass, weeds, and some asphalt paving in severe disrepair and is unused (Photograph 5). Another portion of Block 1791, Lot 1 along East 127th Street is also covered in asphalt in bad disrepair and is not in use (Photograph 6). The one area of the APE that still contains a standing structure is at the northwest corner of Block 1791, Lot 1, along East 127th Street, where there is a one-story brick warehouse building (see Photograph 6).

B. Topography and Soils

Early maps of the vicinity of the APE record the topography and environment of the area at the beginning of historic development. Two nineteenth-century maps of the area, the 1836 Colton map and the 1851 Dripps map (see Figure 9), show that in its natural state the blocks containing the APE fell within a generally level area. The Viele maps from 1865 and 1874 (Figure 5) suggest that there may have been a slight rise in the center of Block 1790, and that there was a small pond overlapping the East 125th Street side of that block, but off the APE. The shore of the Harlem River was located less than one block away. Topographical maps made in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries show that the project site fell within the 0-20 feet above sea level contour lines but was reasonably level (Bien and Vermeule 1891). Modern topographical maps, which are more precise, show that the APE falls between the 0-10 feet above sea level contour lines.

The USDA soil survey for New York City indicates that the project site falls within a large area mapped as "Pavement & buildings, outwash substratum, 0 to 5 percent slopes." It is described as:

Nearly level to gently sloping, highly urbanized areas with more than 80 percent of the surface covered by impervious pavement and buildings, over glacial outwash; generally located in urban centers (USDA 2005:14).

Several sets of soil boring data for the project site blocks were available and reviewed for pertinent information. The most recent soil borings were completed by STV, Inc. as part of this project (STV 2007a, 2007b). Fourteen of the borings were excavated to about 15 feet below grade, two deeper borings were excavated to 67 feet below grade and the deepest boring was excavated to 102 feet below grade. Of these borings, two were located within Block 1790, Lot 13 and seven were located within Block 1791, Lot 1. All of the borings, however, were placed within the footprints of former buildings that had basements; none were placed within areas that had remained open yards.

Results of the 2007 soil boring programs were very consistent. In every boring the upper layer was described as urban fill, consisting of mixed soils generally used to infill former building basement cavities. The depth of the fill was dependent on localized conditions and varied from 10-15 feet in thickness. Beneath the fill stratum were the lower levels of the naturally occurring soil column. In no instances did the soil borings record an upper organic layer that could correspond to an original ground surface, or A horizon. However, because all the soil borings were located within former building footprints, this is not surprising.

All of the soil borings also recorded the water table depth. Assuming that the water table in the APE is or was once at a similar elevation, this information can be useful in determining the potential depth of historic period wells, which if they were constructed would have needed to be installed to reach the depth of the ground water. The water table level also suggests a depth below which other potential archaeological resources would not be found. Within the project site, the water table ranged from 11-15 feet below the ground surface. In most cases the water table was recorded 1-5 feet below the level of the fill, although in a few borings the water table was recorded up to one foot above the bottom of the fill layer. Two of the deeper soil borings had ground water monitoring wells installed; in these locations where the water level had stabilized over several days, the depth ranged from 11 to 12.5 feet below the ground surface.

In addition to the soil borings completed by STV, Inc., data from several other nearby soil boring programs are on file in the HPI library and were reviewed. These include borings completed for the 126th Street Bus Depot on Block 1791 in 1994 and 1997 (Warren George, Inc. 1994, 1997) and for work along Second Avenue in 1970 (Raymond International 1970).

Results of these soil borings were similar to the data collected by STV, Inc. In areas sampled within the interior of Block 1791, there was an upper layer of urban fill, which ranged from 14-16 feet in thickness. In borings located within sidewalks, however, the fill layer was either absent or significantly shallower, extending only 2.5 feet below the ground surface where present. This information suggests that if areas are undisturbed by building episodes, much of the original soil column may remain intact. In soil borings where the water table level was recorded, depths ranged from 11 to 12.5 feet below the ground surface, results which adhere to the data provided by STV, Inc.

Taken as a whole, the soil boring data from the various programs suggest that where former buildings with basements once stood, the likelihood is low that any nineteenth-century archaeological remains, including shaft features such as wells, cisterns, and privies, will have survived, since the water table level and the extent of the urban fill are very close in depth to one

another. However, data from soil borings located within adjacent sidewalks indicate that if not disturbed, it is possible that the upper extent of the original soils could still be present and disturbance to the stratigraphic column may be minimal.

IV. LOT HISTORIES

A. Early History of the Project Site

In 1636, after emigrating and spending a short time in New Amsterdam, French Huguenot Dr. Johannes de la Montagne and his family proceeded by canoe up the East River, the first to settle in what became New Harlem (a.k.a. New Haerlem). Governor Kieft had granted Montagne about 200 acres of land between what is now East 109th and 124th Streets. There were four houses depicted in the area that became New Harlem in 1639, one of which may have been Montagne's (Augustyn and Cohen 1997:28-31). Other European settlers as well as their farm hands and servants followed. In 1639, Danish capitalist Captain Jochem Pieter (whose full name was Jochem Pieter Kuyter) was granted a groundbrief or patent for 200 acres, roughly between what is now East 125th and 150th Streets. At a later point, the easternmost portion of Pieter's Lot 1 was acquired by Daniel Tourneur (Pierce 1903), although there are no instruments of record between 1642 and 1712 to establish precisely when this occurred.

In 1658 Governor Kieft granted to the Corporation, that is, the Town of New Harlem, between 3000 and 4000 acres, roughly the area bounded on the south by a line drawn from the Hudson River, just above Grant's Tomb, eastward to the East River, at the foot of East 74th Street. This was land that had previously been granted to various individuals. The streets of the new village of New Harlem were laid out either west from the Harlem River or along a north/south alignment. James Riker's map of Harlem showing conditions in 1670 shows that the project site falls within the portion of "Lot 1" attributed to Tourneur (Riker 1904). Although the map does not show the entire project site, the area that is depicted indicates no development. The 1811 Commissioners' Plan, which established the existing gridded street system, set the streets and avenues at a 45-degree angle to the colonial street system.

Farm maps made of Manhattan during the early nineteenth century continued to show the project site as undeveloped (Sackersdorff 1815 [Figure 6]; Randel 1820). The southeastern portion of the project site (including most of Block 1790, Lot 13) was part of Nathaniel G. Ingraham's property. Ingraham had his house and barn on what is now the block bounded by East 126th and East 127th Streets, First and Second Avenues, well off the project site. The remainder of Block 1790, Lot 13 and most of Block 1791, Lot 1 was attributed to the heirs of John S. Sickels in 1820, and again was undeveloped. The northwestern corner of Block 1791, Lot 1 belonged to Isaac Adriance, whose dwelling was located on the block bounded by East 127th and East 128th Streets, Second and Third Avenues, again well off the project site.

Additional maps made during the 1820s and 1830s continued to show the entire project site as vacant land (Ewen 1823, Colton 1836). Tax assessment records show that it was not until the 1840s that the first buildings were constructed on the project site lots. The following sections detail the individual construction histories of each project site lot.

B. Block 1790, Lot 13 (historic Lots 13-15 and 32-39)

Early title to Block 1790, Lot 13 is not clear, as deeds and other land records were only sporadically recorded and ownership of the property appears to have been contested several times. However, by the 1840s, when the first development on the property occurred, both deeds and tax records note that the historic lots that comprise modern Lot 13 all were owned by descendants of Nathaniel G. Ingraham.

In 1849, William S. Ingraham sold historic Lots 16-19 (the southeastern comer of the modern lot fronting East 125th Street) to the City of New York (Liber 520, 1849:464). This parcel, which measured approximately 100 feet square, was then used to build a public school, known initially as Ward School 24. The school had three departments: a male department, a female department, and a primary department, with two teachers for the males, and three teachers each for the females and the primary students. Generally, the teachers lived within a few blocks of the school, as noted by the entries in the 1850 Manual of the Board of Education for Ward School 24, which listed their names, addresses, and salaries:

Department and Name	Address	Salary
Male Department		
J.S. Warner	3 rd Av nr 116 th	\$700
James Riker Jr.	125 th nr 5 th	\$400
Female Department		
Maria S Kenyon	127 th nr 2 nd	\$400
Caroline P Kenyon	127 th nr 2 nd	\$175
Margaret Smith	121 st nr 3 rd	\$50
Primary Department		
Mary Ann Freeman	126 th nr 3 rd	\$250
Priscilla Brass	118 th nr 4 th	\$125
Eliza Adelaide Freeman	126 th nr 3 rd	\$50

Although the individual plans for the school do not survive in the Board of Education holdings, it appears that the building was constructed according to a standard template. Illustrations of the city's basic school plan for a lot measuring 100 feet square were published in 1853, and show that the buildings were typically three stories high with a basement (Figure 7). The basement often contained play areas for use by students during inclement weather, separated by gender. Outdoor play yards were located on either side of the building, and plans show that privies were situated at the rear corners of the play yards (Figure 8). The template shows that bluestone gutters led from the privies through the yards out to the street, to convey waste water. For Ward School 24, however, which was constructed prior to installation of municipal water pipes under East 125th Street in 1852, the privies may not have had this feature initially, and probably instead were manually cleaned out periodically. The 1851 Dripps map shows the location of the original school building along East 125th Street (Figure 9) and shows that it indeed was a standard rectangular-shaped structure similar to the template plans.

In 1853, the school was renamed Grammar School 39. In 1853 and 1856, records show that there were alterations to the school building, although the specifics of the alterations were not

noted (Board of Education n.d.). The 1867 Harrison map (Figure 10) shows that by this time, the building had acquired a different configuration, with two small wings constructed off the rear of the original structure, giving the building a "T" shape. Another addition was built in 1869 within the original 100 foot square parcel, although it is not clear where this addition was located (Board of Education 1869).

The portion of Lot 13 to the west of the school building was used as a lumber yard, probably by the late 1840s. In 1845 the Ingraham family sold historic Lots 12-15 and 36-39 to William Wilmerding (Liber 468, 1845:312). The 1851 Dripps map shows the area as undeveloped and unlabeled, while the 1867 Harrison map notes that this area was a lumber yard. There were no buildings on these lots during this period. Historic Lots 32-35, located north of the original school building fronting East 127th Street, were sold to individual buyers by William Ingraham in 1858 and 1860 (Liber 756, 1858:653; 804, 1860:232). Tax records indicate historic Lots 32 and 33 were developed with a house each between 1863-1865, and historic Lots 34-35 each had a house built between 1865-1869. The area of Lot 13 used as a lumber yard during the 1850s and 1860s appears to have been divided and sold to new owners in the early 1870s. By 1876, tax records note 3-story brick houses on the lots along East 127th Street.

In 1877, the city purchased historic Lots 14 and 15, located to the west of the existing school building with a 50-foot frontage along East 125th Street, and constructed a new wing for the building (Board of Education 1908). The 1879 Bromley and 1885 Robinson and Pidgeon maps illustrate the new configuration of Grammar School 39 (Figures 11 and 12). The new brick wing, which was four stories high with a basement, extended the entire length of the lot, and was connected to the older portion of the building along the East 125th Street frontage. According to the Board of Education Building History Records, it had 16 new classrooms.

In 1882, the city purchased the remaining undeveloped lot west of the school building on East 125th Street (Board of Education 1908), for use as a school yard. While the 1893 Perris map shows this lot as still undeveloped, the 1896 Sanborn map (Figure 13) indicates a structure at the rear of this lot, as well as several other structures along the rear and edges of the rest of the school property. A survey of the school property made in 1898 (Figure 14) reveals that each of these structures was a "Brick W.C." or water closet. The location of the toilets at the rear of the school property lots continued the tradition of situating these facilities outside of the main building, and away from the street, and several of the water closet buildings on the original school lot appear to have been constructed in the same spot as the earliest privies on the property.

The survey made in 1898 of the school property included measurements of a large area along East 126th Street (corresponding to historic Lots 32-39), immediately to the north, which the city had acquired by "condemnation" in 1897 (Board of Education 1908). The former buildings on these lots (primarily dwellings) were demolished and in late 1902, plans by New York City Superintendent of School Buildings architect C.B.J. Snyder, designer of nearly 400 public school building and additions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, were approved for a large addition to the existing school on East 125th Street. This new building was four stories high, with a full basement measuring 14 feet below the first floor, and a cellar level measuring 11. 5 feet below the basement in the main part of the building (Board of Education 1903). In 1903, as the new addition was under construction, the name of the school was changed to P.S. 39

and the new school building along East 126th Street opened to students in 1904 (BOE index cards). Photographs of the school buildings along both East 125th Street and East 126th Street were published in a Board of Education report in 1908 (Figure 15 and 16).

The 1911 Sanborn map shows the completed P.S. 39 school building along East 126th Street, as well as the nineteenth-century part of the school still standing along East 125th Street (Figure 17). The 1916 and 1934 (Figure 18) Bromley maps continue to depict this large school complex on the project site. In 1916, the school was designated the Harlem School, and in 1921 the P.S. Boys division was designated The Woodrow Wilson School. The P.S. 39 Boys and Primary divisions were consolidated in 1926 (Board of Education n.d.).

In 1937, a demolition permit was filed to raze the portion of the school building along East 125th Street (Department of Buildings index files). This area then became a large play yard, as shown on the 1951 Sanborn map (Figure 19). The newer portion of the school along East 126th Street remained open through the 1970s, and was shown with no changes to previous depictions on the 1967 and 1974 Bromley maps. It was demolished in 1979 (Department of Buildings index files) and since then the lot has been vacant or used as a surface parking lot.

C. Block 1791, Lot 1 (historic Lots 1-3, 4 1/4-24, and 35-44)

Like neighboring Block 1790, early title to Block 1791, Lot 1 also is unclear, particularly since this very large modern lot was made up of over 40 smaller historic lots. By the 1840s, though, when the first development on the property occurred, both deeds and tax records note that the historic lots that comprise modern Lot 1 all were owned by descendants of Nathaniel G. Ingraham. Tax records note that the earliest buildings on modern Lot 1 were a "barn and office" attributed to Daniel P. Ingraham somewhere on historic Lots 1-4 (along Third Avenue near East 126th Street) by 1843. It is unclear for what purpose the office was used, however, as Daniel P. Ingraham was noted in city directories during this time as a judge and counselor who worked in City Hall (he later became a Justice of the Supreme Court) with a house in Harlem (Longworth 1842-1843; Doggett 1847-1848, 1851; Trow 1855-1856, 1860-61).

The next structure built on modern Lot 1 was a Presbyterian Church, located on historic Lots 42-44 (along East 127th Street near Third Avenue). There is some discrepancy as to when the church was founded and erected. Tax records appear to list the church on the property by 1843, although the deed from Daniel P. and Mary H. Ingraham to the Harlem Presbyterian Church was not made until March 1844 and was not recorded until 1849 (Liber 578, 1849:345). Most primary and secondary sources relating to the church agree that the group was not founded until 1844, but differ as to when the cornerstone of the church building was laid (in either 1844 or 1845), and the building completed (also in either 1844 or 1845) (Harlem Presbyterian Church 1863:3-4, 1894:n.p.; Historical Records Survey 1940:59; Dunlap 2004:150). The church was organized by the Third Presbytery of New York; the church's "Manual for the Communicants," published in 1863, notes that there were twelve individuals involved in the organization of the church: Rev. Alexander Phoenix, Sarah Phoenix, Clara D Phoenix, Edgar Ketcham, Elizabeth Ketcham, Elizabeth C Meggs, Julia A Ingraham, Elizabeth Keeler, Jane Ann Colwell, Jonathan Hanson, Elizabeth Hanson, and Vesta Miller (Harlem Presbyterian Church 1863:3). Deeds for the block indicate that the Phoenix, Ingraham, and Colwell families all owned lots in the

immediate vicinity, and the remaining founders also appear to have been local Harlem residents. In 1854, the church building was enlarged, adding ten feet on either side of the original structure (Harlem Presbyterian Church 1863:4). A photograph of the enlarged building (taken some time after 1854 but before its demolition in the 1880s) was included in a semi-centennial publication in 1894 (Figure 20).

With the exception of the "barn and office" attributed to Daniel P. Ingraham on historic Lots 1-4 during the 1840s and the Presbyterian Church on historic Lots 42-44, the remainder of modern Lot 1 remained undeveloped until about 1850. In this year, Daniel P. Ingraham sold historic Lot 11 (along East 126th Street) to Henry Ryer (Liber 547, 1850:66), who then constructed a house, noted by 1851 in the tax records. The 1851 Dripps map (Figure 9) illustrates the location of the few buildings near the corner of East 126th Street and Third Avenue (on property still owned by Daniel P. Ingraham, but now noted on the map as a lumber yard), the Presbyterian Church (before its enlargement) and the unlabeled Ryer house along East 126th Street (on what was formerly historic Lot 11).

Several additional structures were built on modern Lot 1 during the 1850s and 1860s, in the center of the block fronting East 126th and East 127th Street. On historic Lot 12, which had been sold by Daniel P. Ingraham to James Colwell in 1853 (Liber 651, 1853:2), a house was built by 1854. Colwell ran the adjacent lumber yard on the block owned by Ingraham and lived with his family in the house on historic Lot 12 until at least 1860 (Trow 1860). Next came construction of a house somewhere on historic Lots 38-41 in 1858, and houses on historic Lots 13 and 38-39 in 1863. The 1867 Harrison map (Figure 10) shows the state of development on the block at this time, including the new houses just described, and the now enlarged Harlem Presbyterian Church building.

During the 1870s, many of the remaining vacant historic Lots on modern Lot 1 were developed with houses, as shown on the 1879 Bromley map (Figure 11) and the 1885 Robinson and Pidgeon map (Figure 12). The exception was the portion of modern Lot 1 at the corner of East 126th Street and Second Avenue, which remained undeveloped during this period. The Harlem Presbyterian Church building (which by the late 1860s was known as the First United Presbyterian Church of Harlem) was demolished by the mid-1880s, after the congregation had moved to a new church building at 43 East 125th Street, near Madison Avenue, in 1874 (Historical Records Survey 1940:59; Dunlap 2004:150). In its place, three five-story apartment buildings were constructed, as shown on the 1885 Robinson and Pidgeon map (Figure 12).

By the early 1890s, the houses built during the 1850s and 1860s in the center of modern Lot 1 (and shown on the 1867 Harrison map) were demolished and replaced with five-story brick apartment buildings. The 1893 Perris map and the 1896 Sanborn map (Figure 13) illustrate this shift. After the turn of the century, historic Lots 21-24 at last were developed, with six-story buildings, as shown on the 1911 Sanborn map (Figure 17). During the ensuing decades, the multiple-story nineteenth-century buildings on historic Lots 1.5-3, 35, and 42-44 were replaced with one or two story buildings, generally containing warehouses or garages (Bromley 1934 [Figure 18], Sanborn 1951 [Figure 19]). A few of the other buildings had additions constructed off their back sides, but otherwise there was little change to the remaining structures on modern Lot 1 during this period.

In 1968, the project site was included in the Harlem-East Harlem Urban Renewal Plan boundaries, which incorporated about 150 blocks in Harlem and East Harlem slated for redevelopment and rehabilitation by the City of New York. As a result, nearly all the buildings on modern Lot 1 were demolished beginning in the late 1960s and continuing through 1981: the Department of Buildings website index for the lot notes 32 demolition permits filed during this period. Although the Renewal Plan was intended to facilitate new development on the affected blocks, no new construction occurred on Block 1791, modern Lot 1 during this period. By the mid-1980s, there was only one structure remaining on modern Lot 1, the warehouse building on historic Lots 42-44, which is still standing today (Sanborn 1984, 1990). Since the 1970s, portions of the lot have been used for surface parking for automobiles and for city buses; the remainder of the lot is vacant and unused.

V. DISTURBANCE RECORD AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The task of determining archaeological sensitivity across the project site was a three-step process.

- 1. The archival research documented dates or approximate dates of initial development on each historic lot.
- This information was then compared with dates when municipal water and sewers were available under adjacent city streets to see if occupants would have used wells, privies, cisterns, or cesspools, which could contain archaeological deposits, prior to hookup to these services.
- 3. Last, each lot was assessed to see whether subsequent disturbance would have destroyed potential archaeological resources. As noted in the soil boring discussion, data suggest that where former buildings with basements once stood, the likelihood is low that any nineteenth-century archaeological remains, including shaft features, will have survived, since the water table level and the extent of the urban fill are very close in depth to one another. Historic maps, certificates of occupancy, and architectural plans for former buildings on the project site indicate that virtually every lot had a building with a basement by the twentieth century.

Because the project site contains so many former historic lots, each of which needed to be evaluated for archaeological sensitivity individually, it was expedient to summarize the data in table format, below.

Block 1790, Lot 13 Archaeological Sensitivity by Historic Lot

Lot	First developed	Water/sewer dates*	Subsequent disturbance?	Sensitivity?
13	After 1882	1861/1861	No, used as school yard	No
14	1877	1861/1861	No, but little yard area	No
15	1877	1861/1861	No, but only some yard area	No
16	1849	1861/1861	Yes, but former privy locations may not be significantly disturbed	Yes
17	1849	1861/1861	Yes, but former privy locations may not be significantly disturbed	Yes

Lot	First developed	Water/sewer dates*	Subsequent disturbance?	Sensitivity?
18	1849	1861/1861	Yes, but former privy locations may not be significantly disturbed	Yes
19	1849	1861/1861	Yes, but former privy locations may not be significantly disturbed	Yes
32	Between 1863-1865	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No
33	Between 1863-1865	1852/18700	Yes, over most of lot	No
34	Between 1865-1869	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No
35	Between 1865-1869	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No
36	Between 1869-1876	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No
37	Between 1869-1876	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No
38	Between 1869-1876	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No
30	Between 1869-1876	1852/1870?	Yes, over most of lot	No

^{*}No sewer installation dates could be found for East 126th Street, but they may have been laid at the same time as those under Second Avenue, in 1870.

Block 1791, Lot 1 Archaeological Sensitivity by Historic Lot

Lot	First developed	Water/sewer	Subsequent disturbance?	Sensitivity?
		dates*		
1	1843	1851/1864	Yes, over entire lot	No
11/2	1843	1851/1864	Yes, over entire lot	No
2	1843	1851/1864	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
3	1843	1851/1864	Yes, over entire lot	No
41/4	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
41/2	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
5	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, over entire lot	No
6	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, over entire lot	No
6½	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
7	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
8	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, over entire lot	No
8½	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
9	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
10	1869 (sheds), house by 1879	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No

Lot	First developed	Water/sewer dates*	Subsequent disturbance?	Sensitivity?
11	1850	1852/1870?	Yes, but rear 20 feet of open yard never built over	Yes
12	By 1854	1852/1870?	Yes, but rear 20 feet of open yard never built over	Yes
13	By 1863	1852/1870?	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
14	By 1885	1852/1870?	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
15	Bv 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
16	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
161/2	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
17	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
18	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
181/2	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
19	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
20	By 1876	1852/1870?	Yes, but open yard never built over	No
21	Early 20th century	1863/1870	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
22	Early 20th century	1863/1870	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
23	Early 20th century	1863/1870	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
24	Early 20th century	1863/1870	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
35	1863 (one house on Lots 35-37)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
36	1863 (one house on Lots 35-37)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
37	1863 (one house on Lots 35-37)	1852/1871	Yes, over entire lot	No
38	1858 (one house on Lots 38-41)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
38½	1858 (one house on Lots 38-41)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
39	1858 (one house on Lots 38-41)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
40	1858 (one house on Lots 38-41)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
41	1858 (one house on Lots 38-41)	1852/1871	Yes, over almost entire lot	No
42	1844	1852/1871	Yes, over entire lot	No
43	1844	1852/1871	Yes, over entire lot	No
44	1844	1852/1871	Yes, over entire lot	No

^{*}No sewer installation dates could be found for East 126th Street, but they may have been laid at the same time as those under Second Avenue, in 1870.

VI. OCCUPATION DATA FOR SENSITIVE LOTS

Of the more than 40 former historic lots that comprise the project site, the sensitivity assessment revealed that only six of these lots retain any potential for archaeological resources to have survived. These are historic Lots 16-19 on Block 1790, modern Lot 13 that contained the 1849 public school on East 125th Street, and historic Lots 11 and 12 fronting East 126th Street on Block 1791, modern Lot 1.

A. Block 1790, historic Lots 16-19

The original school building provided privies for its students and staff, located at the rear of the school property (see Figure 8), and probably segregated according to gender, for at least 12 years – from 1849 to 1861 – and probably longer, as Department of Education records for the school do not indicate any new alterations to the original building in the 1860s until 1869, when the new addition for the school was built. Even in 1898, when the property was surveyed for construction of the new school building along East 126th Street, there were still separate outbuildings containing water closets located at the rear of the school property, as shown on Figure 14. If the original school building adhered to the standard template for school construction, it is likely that privies located on the northeast of the building were for girls, and those on the northwest were for boys. Although brick "water closets" were later built in some of the locations where the original subsurface privies would have been located, it is possible that construction of these later outbuildings could have capped, rather than disturbed, the earlier deposits below them.

B. Block 1791, historic Lots 11 and 12

For Block 1791, historic Lots 11 and 12, which the archival research revealed were archaeologically sensitive, determining occupancy involved review of deeds, tax records, federal censuses, and selected city directories. This information is presented in table format in Appendix C. What the research indicated was that for historic Lot 11, original house owners Henry and William Ryer did not live on the property from 1850-1855, but appear to have rented to unknown occupants. Alpheus Clark, the owner from 1856-1880 (when the research was halted), did live in the house with his family during this entire period. On historic Lot 12, original owners James Colwell and his family occupied the house from 1853-1860. Occupants could not be traced from 1861-1865, but from ca. 1866-1870 research indicated Howard Wiley and his family were residents of the house.

In summary, both historic Lots 11 and 12 had occupants who could be documented for five or more years before the introduction of municipal sewers under East 126th Street, which probably occurred in 1870. The five-year occupancy before the introduction of public utilities is a threshold that has been established by LPC in order to evaluate potential significance of archaeological resources. On historic Lot 11, the Clark family lived in their house for 14 years before sewers were available, and for at least 10 years after that. On historic Lot 12, the Colwell family resided in their house for seven years prior to introduction of sewers. Therefore, the likelihood is good that both families relied on either privies or cesspools in their yards during

these years, and that if preserved, both types of features could contain archaeological deposits from this period.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The research conducted for this Documentary Study revealed that the large majority of the historic lots that comprise Block 1790. Lot 13 and Block 1791, Lot 1 appear to be quite disturbed from twentieth-century construction and demolition, including infilling of former basements, which ranged from about 10-15 feet below the current ground surface. However, the research identified several discrete areas within the project site where basements or other twentieth-century buildings were never constructed, and where archaeological remains, such as privies and/or cesspools, could be preserved.

The first area is on Block 1790, historic Lots 16-19, where the original 1849 public school was located. The initial school building on this lot was constructed along East 125th Street, in what is now the southeastern quadrant of the roughly square modern Lot 13. Board of Education documents and historic maps suggest that there were privies located at the rear of the school, probably at the corners of the property. These privies would have been used from 1849 through at least 1861, and possibly longer. However, later nineteenth-century maps showing the school indicate water closets were situated across the rear of the property as well. Therefore, the area of archaeological sensitivity includes the entire rear perimeter of the original school property (a 10-foot wide horseshoe-shaped swath behind and adjacent to the nineteenth-century school building), as shown on Figure 21.

The second area is on Block 1791, historic Lots 11 and 12, located along East 126th Street, about half way between Second and Third Avenues. On both of these lots, houses were constructed in the early 1850s, and residents could be documented for a number of years. Although there were apartment buildings with basements constructed on these lots after the smaller houses were razed, in each case there was enough open yard area at the rear of the lots that may not have been affected by construction of the apartment buildings (about 20 feet deep by about 34 feet wide, as shown on Figure 21) that archaeological resources, such as privies and/or cesspools, could still be present.

Identifying and examining buried features associated with the nineteenth century occupation of these lots may reflect the daily activities of the residents and provide insight into cultural behavior. Shaft features such as privies and cesspools are easily identified and are often the receptacle of household refuse, especially when they were no longer needed. The shafts were usually filled and capped providing stratified deposits within the feature. Because of the unique depth of these resources, the lowest levels are rarely disturbed even if the feature becomes truncated by subsequent historical activity. The deepest layers often act as a time capsule, preserving historical artifacts within the enclosed environment.

Finally, a number of sources were consulted to determine whether there was any evidence for cemeteries or burials associated with either the Harlem Presbyterian Church that used to be located on Block 1791, Lot 1, or a Congregational Church that used to be located on Block 1790 adjacent to Lot 13 (on historic Lot 25, at the corner of Second Avenue and East 125th Street, just

off the APE). Because new cemeteries were not banned in Manhattan until 1851 (Inskeep 2000:xi), the Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1844, would not have been restricted from constructing a burial ground. The Congregational Church, which was not built until the mid-1860s, by law could not have constructed a cemetery. In both instances, there was nothing in the archival records to suggest cemeteries at either church location. Last, there is no evidence that any other cemeteries or burial grounds in the vicinity of the project site (including a "Negro Burial Ground" formerly located within adjacent Block 1803, east of Second Avenue) ever extended into any portions of Blocks 1790 or 1791 (HPI 2004).

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

As described above, HPI concluded that limited portions of historic Lots 16-19 on Block 1790 and historic Lots 11 and 12 on Block 1791 are sensitive for the recovery of nineteenth-century archaeological resources, as shown on Figure 21. Based on this information, HPI recommends archaeological testing within these areas, if they will be affected by subsurface excavation for the proposed development project. Such testing would consist of backhoe trenching to discern the locations of any features such as privies or cesspools, at precise locations to be determined based on field conditions by archaeological personnel. All archaeological testing should be conducted according to OSHA regulations and applicable archaeological standards (LPC 2002). Professional archaeologists, with an understanding of and experience in urban archaeological excavation techniques, would be required to be part of the archaeological team.

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Soil Borings. 126th Street Bus Depot. On file at Historical Perspectives, Inc.

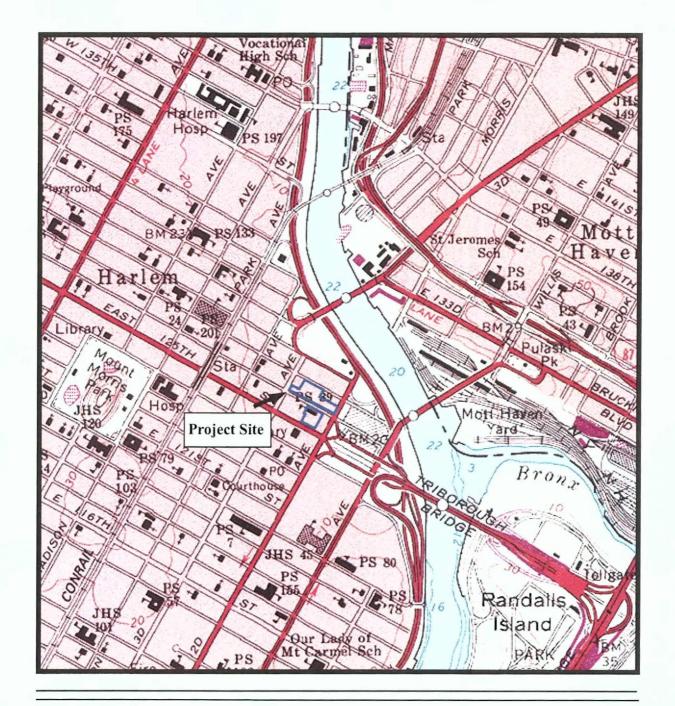


FIGURE 1: Project site on 1999 Central Park U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle.







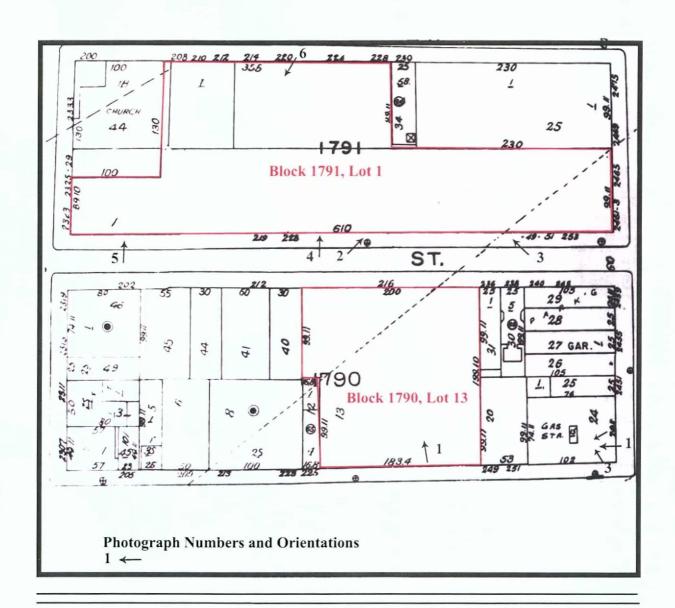


FIGURE 2: Project site and photograph locations on modern map (Sanborn 1990).





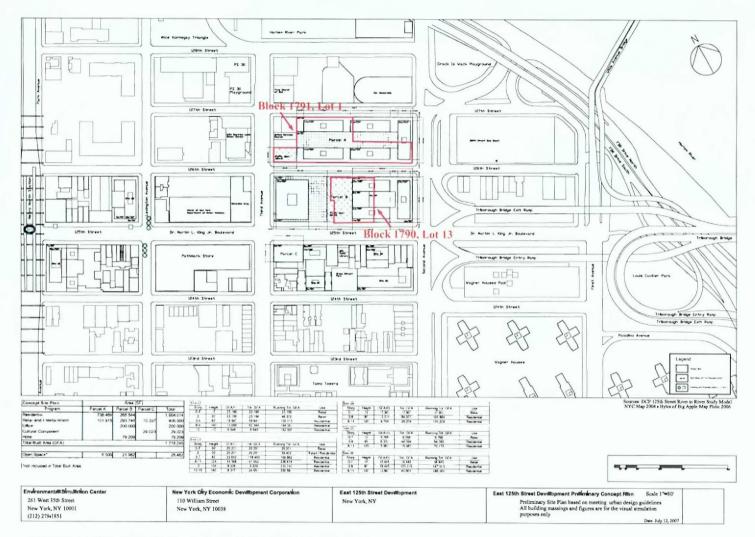


FIGURE 3: Project site within overall development site.



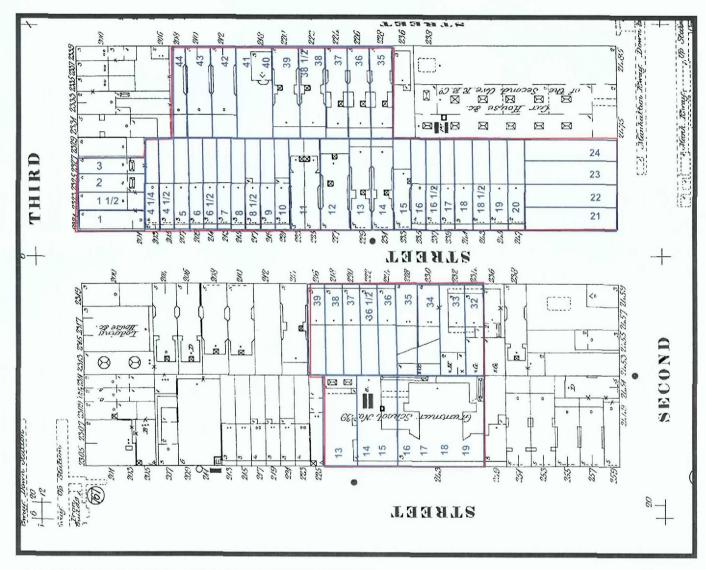


FIGURE 4: Project site with historic lot numbers overlaid on 1896 Sanborn map.



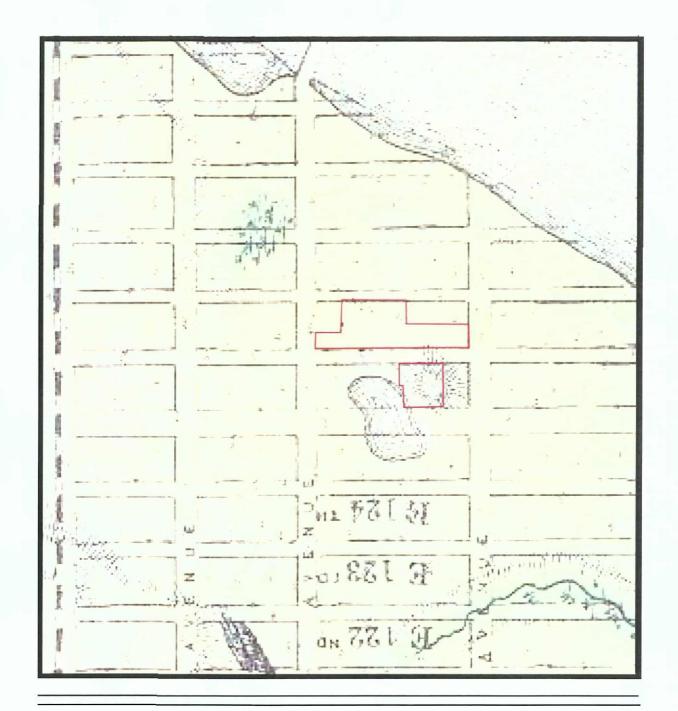


FIGURE 5: Project site on Topographical Atlas of the City of New York, Including Annexed Territory (Viele 1874).







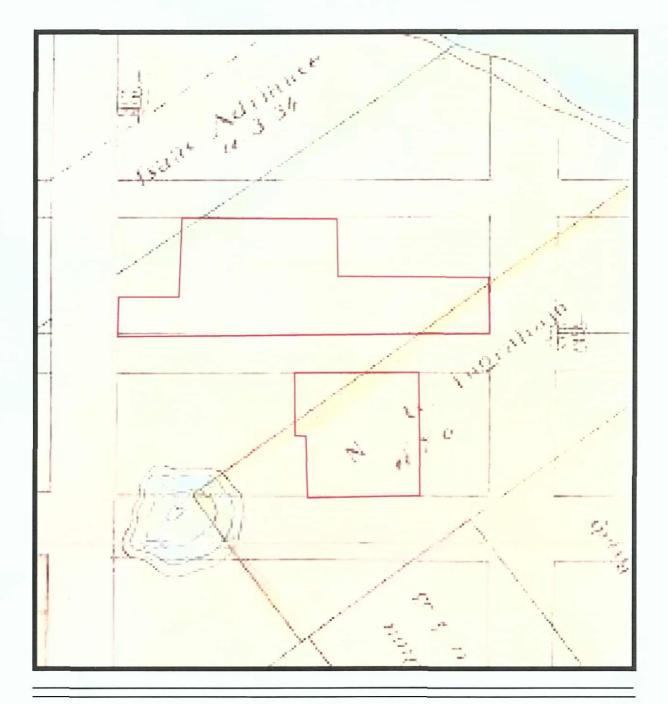


FIGURE 6: Project site on Maps of farms commonly called the Blue book (Sackersdorff 1815).





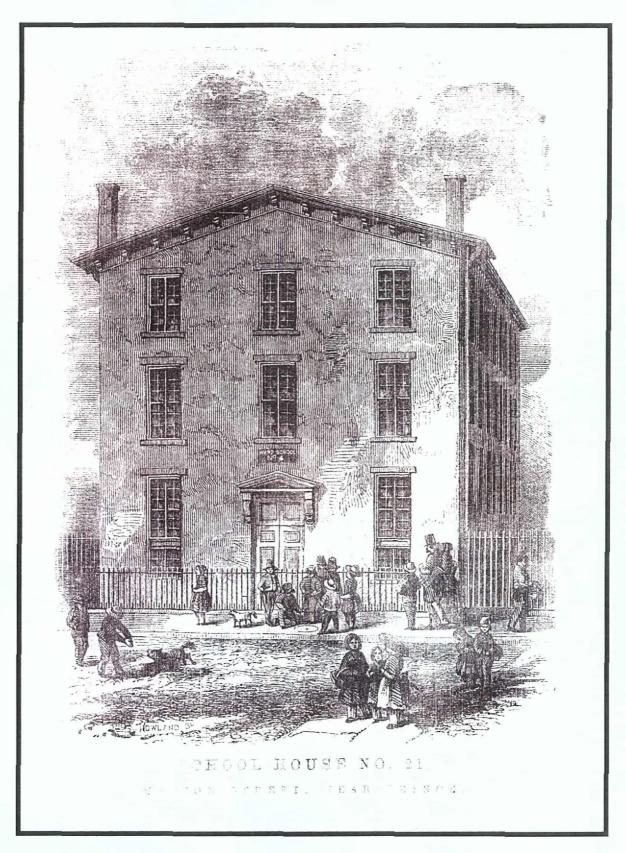
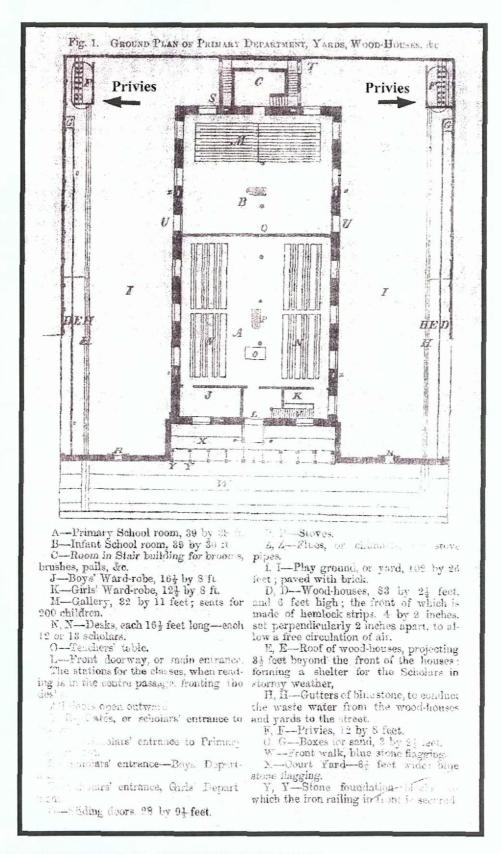




FIGURE 7: Typical mid-nineteenth century primary school house design (Board of Education 1853).





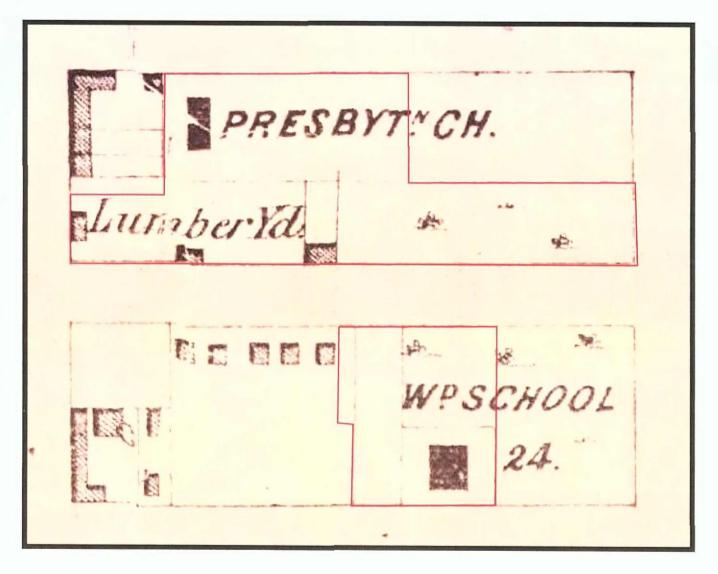


FIGURE 9: Project site on City And County Of New-York North Of 50th St. (Dripps 1851).





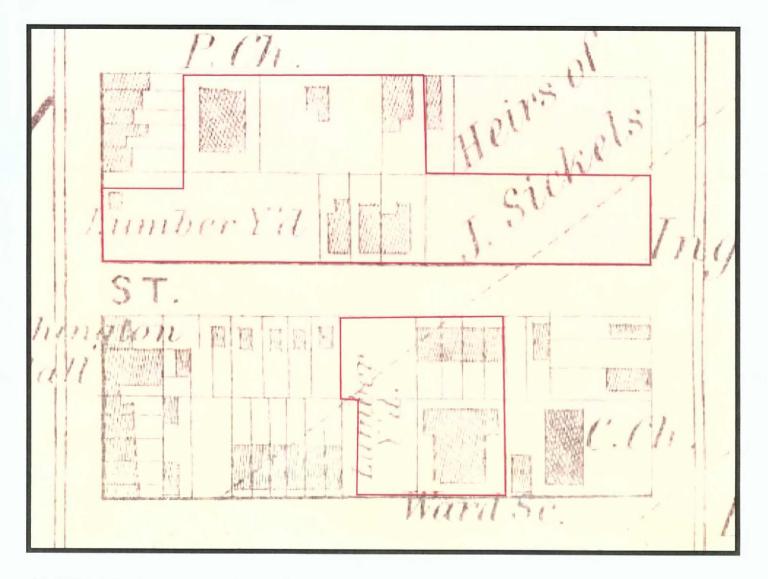


FIGURE 10: Project site on Plan of New York City, from the Battery to Spuyten Duyvil Creek (Harrison 1867).





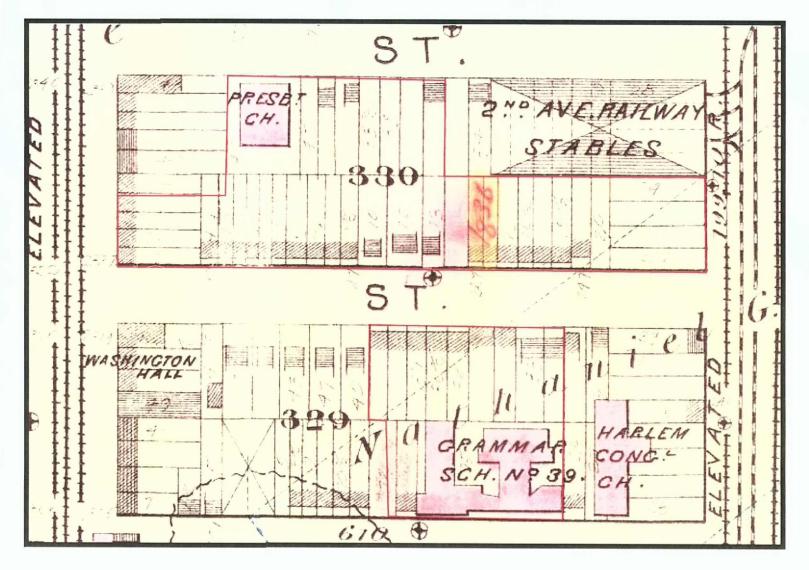


FIGURE 11: Project site on Atlas of the city of New York: Borough of Manhattan from actual surveys and official plans (Bromley 1879).



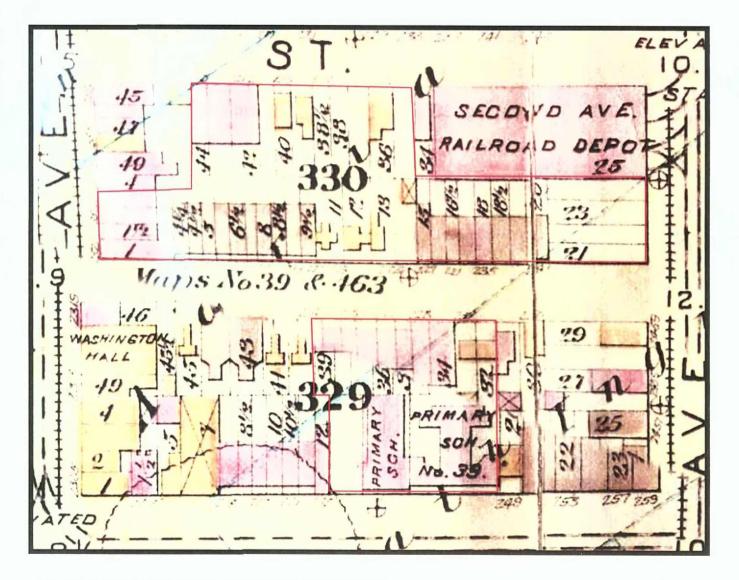


FIGURE 12: Project site on Atlas of the city of New York: embracing all territory within its corporate limits from official records, private plans & actual surveys (Robinson and Pidgeon 1885).

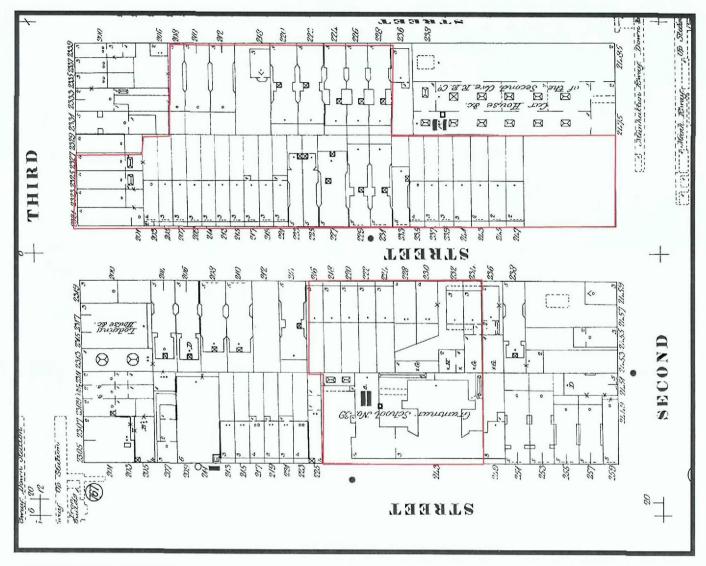


FIGURE 13: Project site on Insurance Maps of New York City (Sanborn 1896).



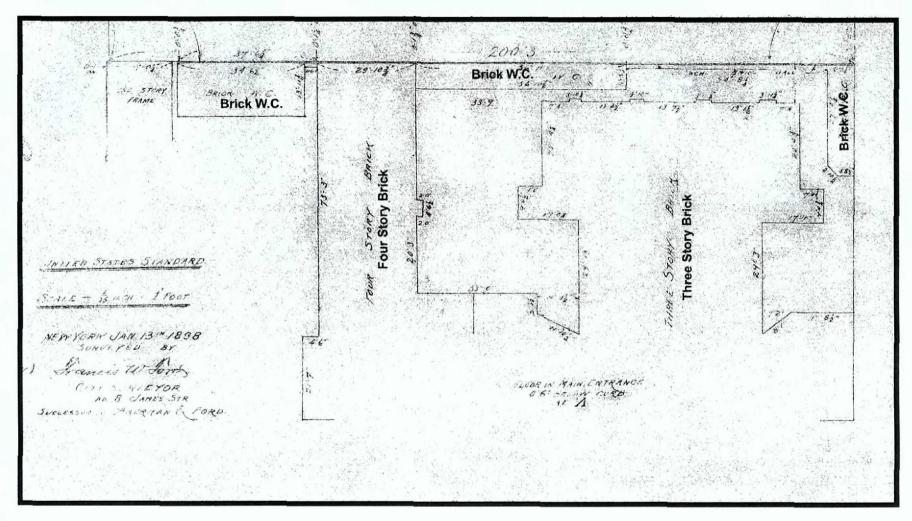




FIGURE 14: Survey of P.S. 39 school property showing details of existing building construction along East 125th Street (Ford 1898).

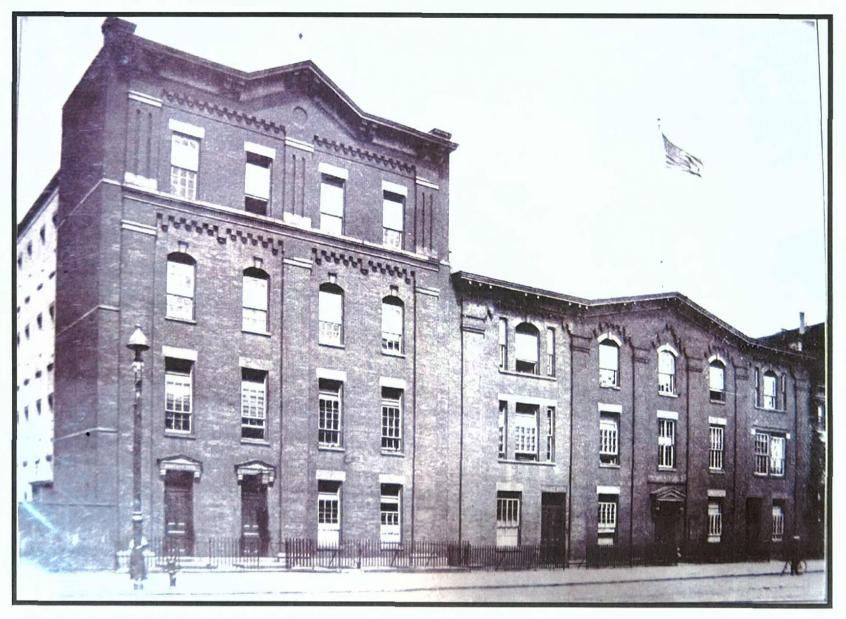




FIGURE 15: Photograph of P.S. 39 on East 125th Street [note original 1849 building beneath flagpole] (Board of Education 1908).

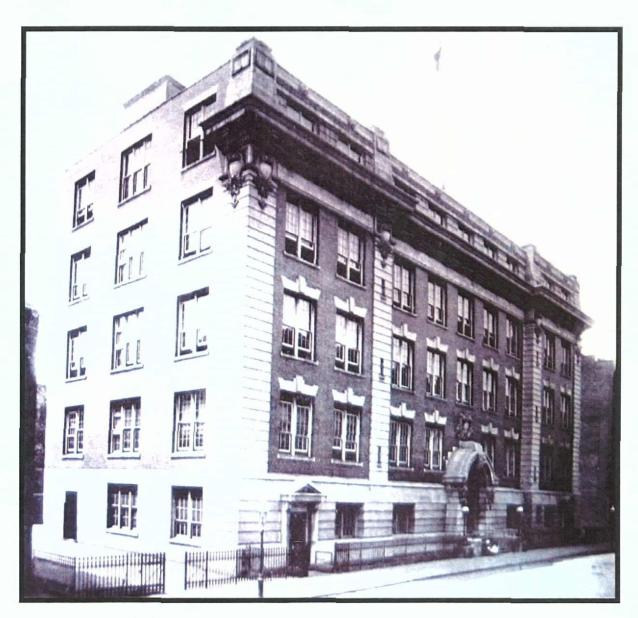




FIGURE 16: Photograph of P.S. 39 on East 126th Street (Board of Education 1908).

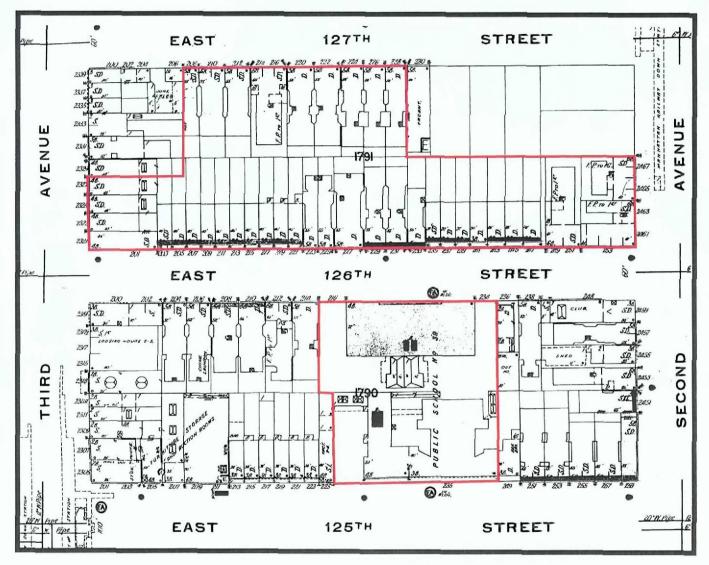


FIGURE 17: Project site on Insurance Maps of New York City (Sanborn 1911).



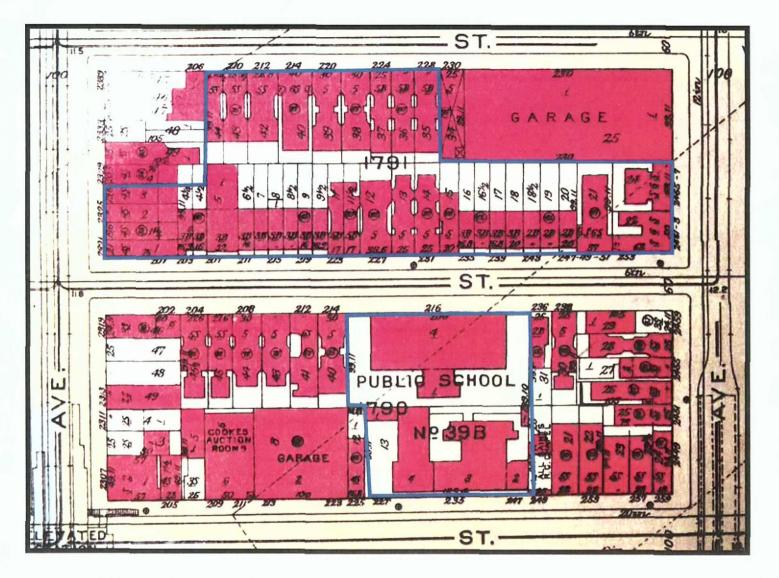


FIGURE 18: Project site on Atlas of the city of New York: Borough of Manhattan from actual surveys and official plans (Bromley 1934).







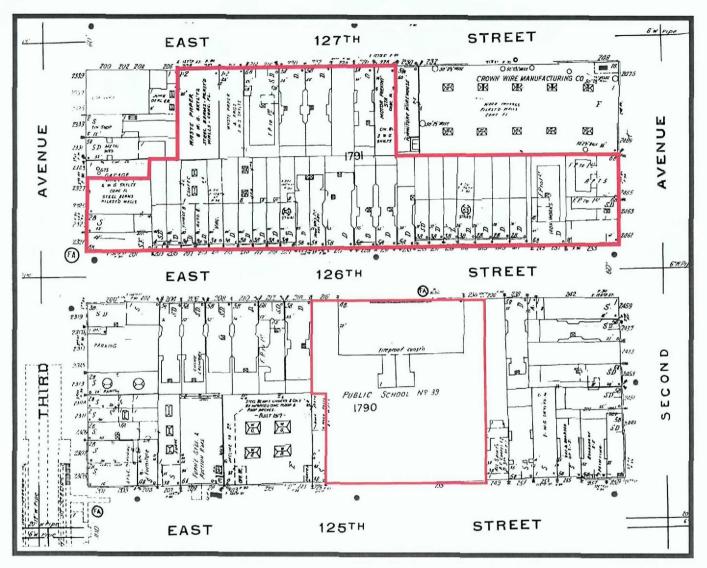


FIGURE 19: Project site on Insurance Maps of New York City (Sanborn 1951).









FIGURE 20: Photograph of Harlem Presbyterian Church on East 127th Street (Harlem Presbyterian Church 1894).

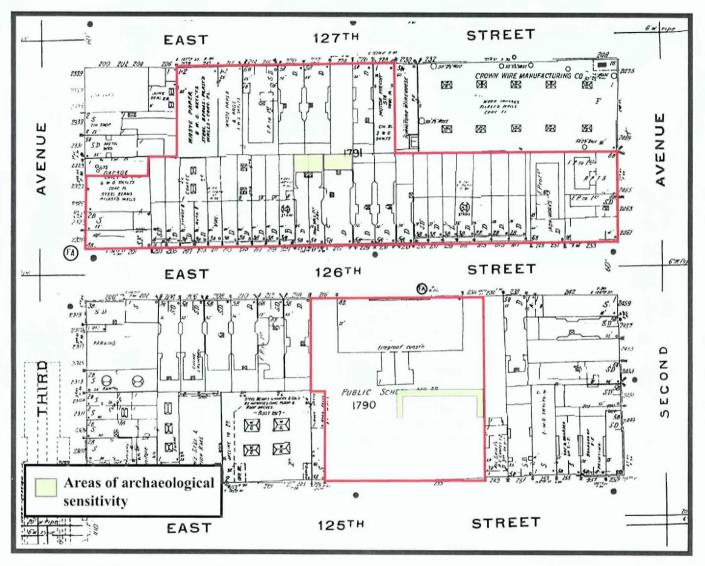


FIGURE 21: Areas of archaeological sensitivity overlaid on 1951 Sanborn map.

