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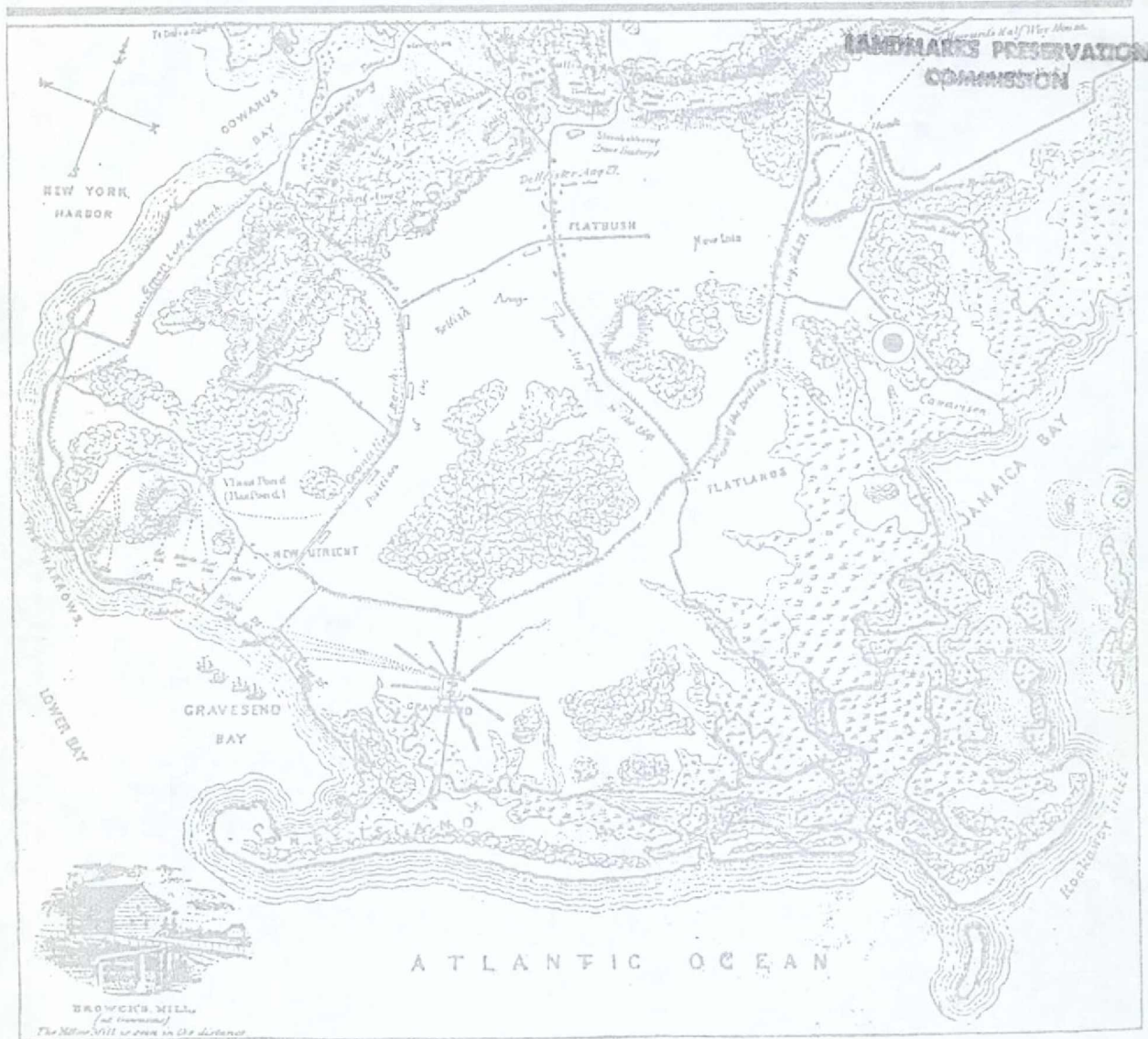
NCEAR

(CANARSIE)
CEMETERY

Documentation of Block 8218, Lot 26
Brooklyn, New York

AA&LH

RECEIVED
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



MAP OF THE BATTLE OF BROOKLYN, AUGUST 27, 1776.

152

Prepared for the New York City
Department of General Services Division of Real Property

Prepared by Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D.
August 27, 1987

Documentation of Block 8218, Lot 26

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ABSTRACT

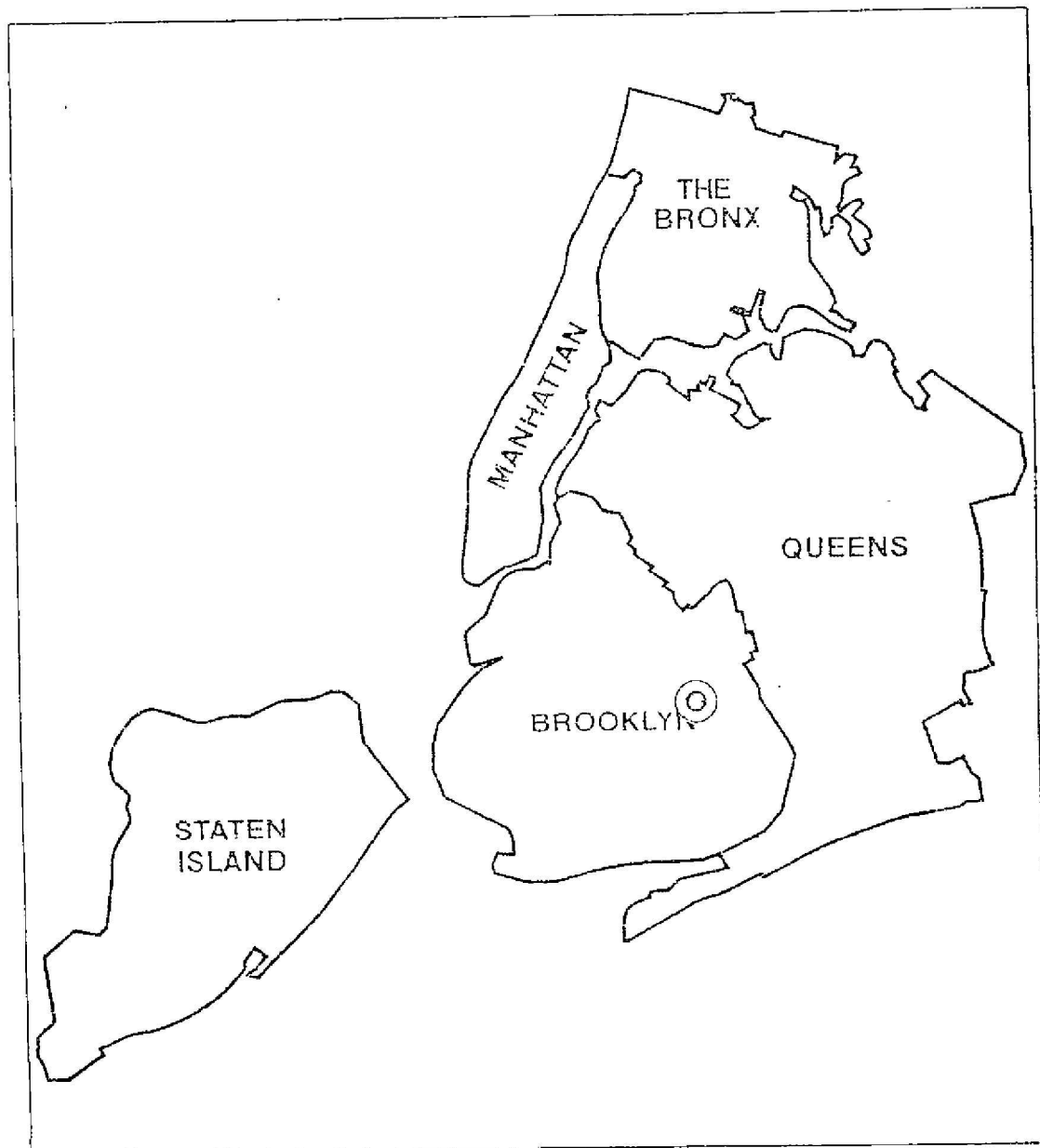
Documentation of Block 8218, Lot 26 in Brooklyn was undertaken for the New York City Department of General Services, Division of Real Property to determine its history and archaeological potential. A primary goal was to establish whether or not it was or ever had been a cemetery and to locate any burials through archival research. Since the site's surface has apparently been altered over time, there is no obvious indication of its function; however, research indicated it had been part of an active graveyard at least through 1907, and, although no cemetery plans were located, many burials documented in a gravestone survey and cemetery registry and remembered by longtime local residents undoubtedly remain. Although past and recent ground disturbance may limit the efficacy of appropriate field testing methods such as remote sensing, this kind of testing remains the most appropriate for verifying these findings. It should be noted that testing would be required of the City in the event that the property is sold and redeveloped for use other than a cemetery.

INTRODUCTORY SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introductory Summary

This report presents the documentation of Block 8218 Lot 26, a city-owned property in the Borough of Brooklyn (Figures 1 and 2). The research was undertaken for New York City's Department of General Services, Division of Real Property, to determine the site's known history and its archaeological potential. A major concern was to establish whether or not the site was or is a cemetery, and, if so, to ascertain the location of graves through archival research.

The property comprises .43 of an acre located on the east side of E. 91st Street, approximately 155 ft. south of Avenue J (see Plates 1-3). Its northern boundary is formed by Church Lane, a unpaved dirt road not found on modern city maps; to the east, it abuts the land of Grace Protestant Church, an institution with origins dating to the early-1840s. Over its 145 year history, the church has been housed in three structures built on the same site and has been renamed four times. Approximately one year after the first structure was built in 1842, the land surrounding it was granted to the town of Flatlands by John Remsen, a local resident with extensive land holdings. Although the deed does not define its use, it is accepted that this acre was intended as a burial ground (another Remsen deed for land on Blocks 8217 and 8218 to a John Wilson does specify that one of two acres should be used as a burial ground). By virtue of incorporation of the five boroughs in 1898, this Flatlands property, which had become a graveyard for the church, eventually became city property. Records indicate the

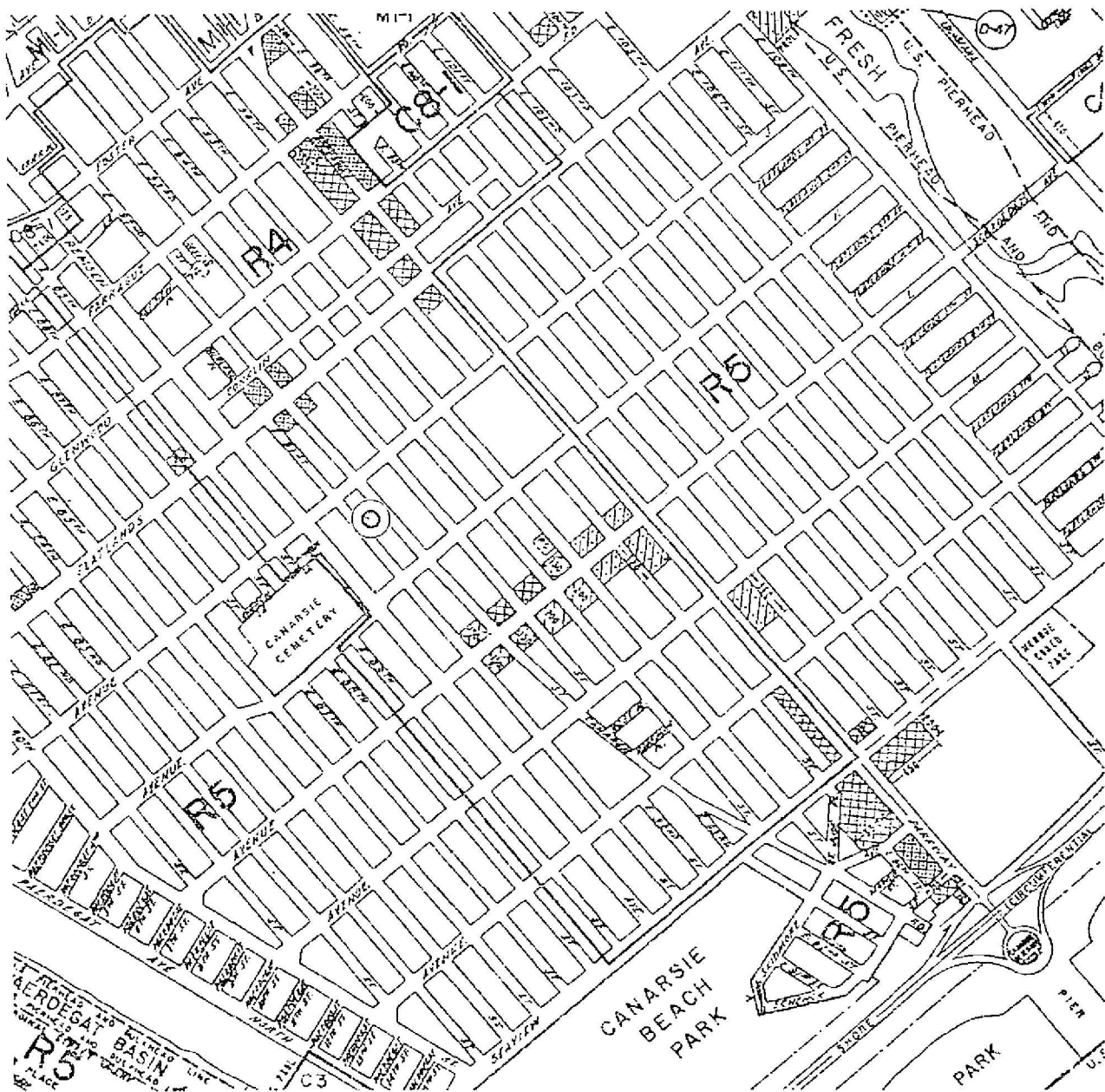


© project site (not to scale)

no scale

N

NYC Dept. of City Planning Map, nd



○ site location (not to scale)

0 1200
ft.

A
N

NYC Zoning Map, nd, post 1979

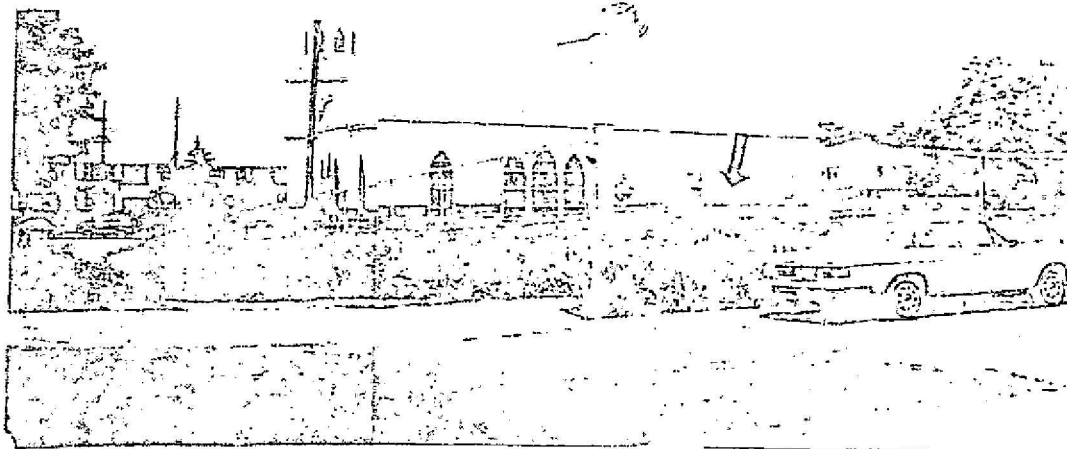


Plate 1. A composite view of the project site (arrow) looking east from E. 91st St. and Church La. Chain-link fence was installed by the City in 1986 when the perimeter of the site was also filled. The church building now combines an 1895 structure (left) with one from 1869/70 (right). Photo taken prior to a scheduled mowing. Geismar 5/28/87.

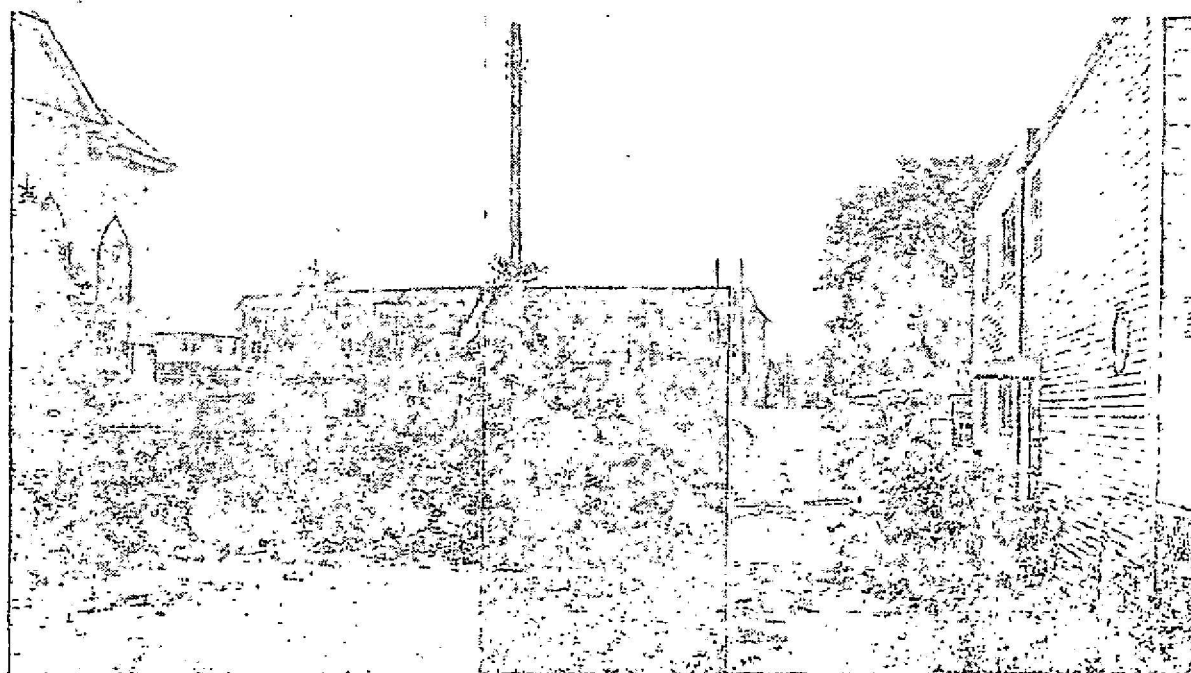


Plate 2. Composite view looking west along Church La. to 91st St. The church is on the left and the Schenck house on the right side of Church La. A 3-story condominium on E. 91st St. was built in 1984/85 on Block 8217 Lot 48 (the site is marked with an arrow). Note that the entire western half of the site appears to have been graded up since the early 1930s (compare with Plate 7). Geismar 5/28/87

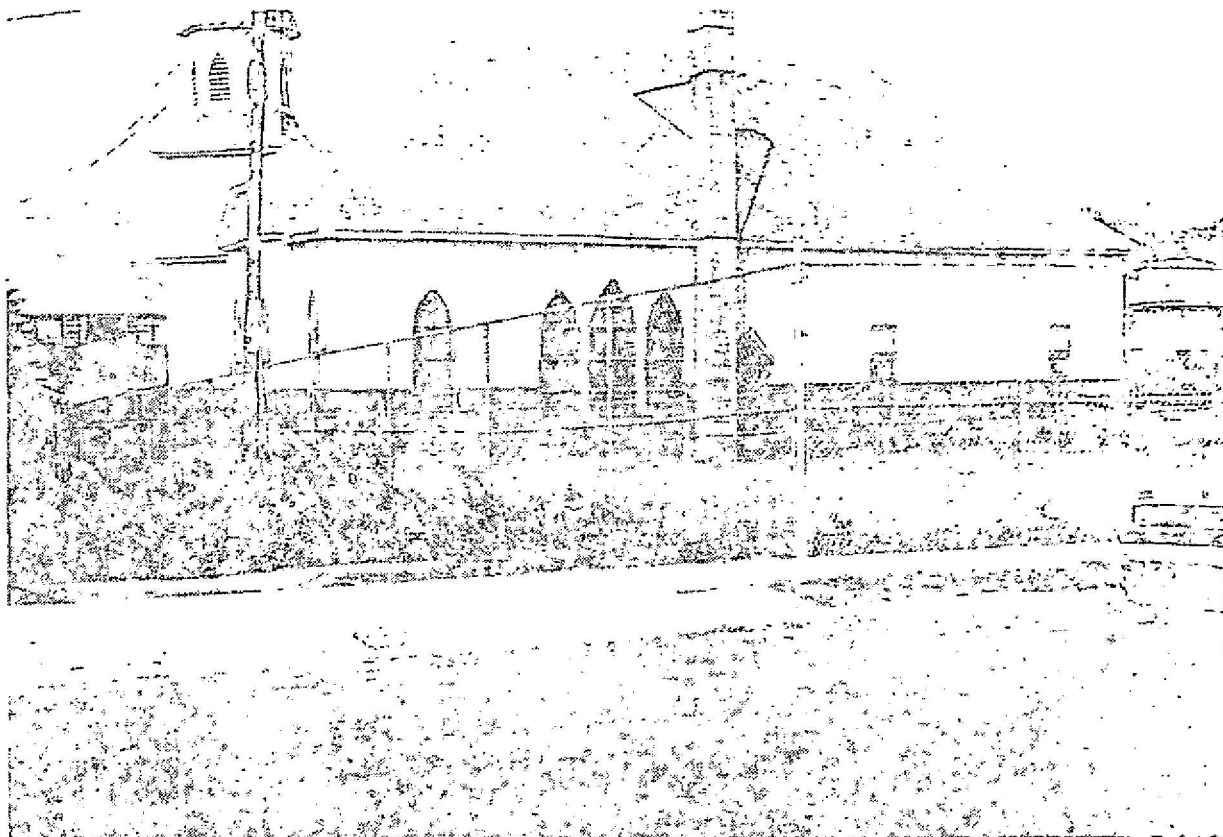


Plate 3. Same view as Plate 1 taken in June after mowing. The elevation of the project site in relation to the lane to the left appears to be the result of filling that perhaps can be related to grading of E. 91st St. The perimeter of the site was also graded when the chain-link fence was installed by the city in 1986. Geismar 6/11/87

site comprised more than half of a functioning graveyard where at least 150 burials are documented from 1846 to 1907; of these, 91 apparently were never exhumed and therefore could remain on the site in unmarked graves; however, this number can be reduced by at least two, the minimum number of burials destroyed during sewer excavations in 1932 (see below; also Table 1, Appendices A and B).

In the twentieth century, an unfortunate series of events affected the graveyard, and by the second decade of this century it had become virtually inactive (a single exhumation is recorded in 1931 [see Table 1]). Local lore has it that its abandonment coincides with the act of a bereaved father who toppled all the gravestones after his young son was killed by a falling headstone while playing in the cemetery. Local lore as well as newspaper clippings document the destruction of graves in 1932 when a sewer was run in anticipation of the opening of E. 91st Street. By the 1960s, the site apparently became known as "Indian Cemetery" although it is referred to as "Old Cemetery" in the Canarsie Cemetery registry (1899-1952), and borough historians doubt its Indian-burial association (an 1890 atlas does indicate an Indian burial ground northwest of the site [see Plate 8]). Although it may never have been used for Native American burials, the site is apparently situated on the periphery or just beyond the planting fields of what is believed by many to have been an extensive early-historic Native American settlement, or village site (see Figure 5). However, some scholars question this classification which is based mainly on the presence of huge shell heaps, apparently the debris of wampum manufacture (see Native American Considerations, this report).

Within the last two years, the city has filled the perimeter of the site with sand fill and installed a chain-link fence. A site walkover suggested that more extensive fill, perhaps pre-dating city ownership, masks any evidence of a cemetery function; this is particularly true of the western portion of the site.

Since no church records were available to locate grave sites, information came from local residents now in their 80s who remember the cemetery in the early part of this century. All of them recall gravestones directly behind the church, a situation suggested by maps that document the cemetery's gradual spread eastward toward the church building (compare Figures 7-10 and Plate 9).

In summary, research has indicated that the project site was functioning as a cemetery by 1846 if not before and that this function persisted into the first decades of the twentieth century. There is ample documentation in maps, deeds, city tax and cemetery records, remnants of old gravestones, newspaper articles, and from local informants to identify it as a cemetery site where burials undoubtedly remain; what is more conjectural is the location of these burials. However, it appears that grave sites were located throughout the project area, with the more recent ones perhaps being those located nearest the church.

Recommendations

While no records were found to document specific grave sites, it does appear they were and are located in the project area. Unfortunately, the project site apparently has been covered by fill which masks any ground depressions that could indicate these locations. This fill would also make it difficult to use remote sensing techniques or to analyze soil variation to identify

these sites, a situation compounded by information that the surface of the project area may have been plowed over in the past.

A major goal of this research was to assess whether or not the property was used as a cemetery, and this has been accomplished. Ideally, an appropriate field testing program would confirm or negate this finding. However, because it is a cemetery, traditional field testing techniques, such as shovel tests or trenching, would be inappropriate; moreover, given the site's disturbance and current conditions, suitable field testing comprising remote sensing conceivably may prove less than conclusive. Consequently, no recommendation is being made for testing unless the property is sold or will be used for something other than a cemetery.

The findings and recommendations presented here are based on the detailed, documented information found in the following sections. Research sources included the written histories cited in the text, Kings County tax, conveyance, and wills information, as well as the collections of the New York and Brooklyn Public Libraries, the Brooklyn, Canarsie, and New York Historical Societies, and the New York Society Library. In addition, interviews were conducted with local residents, such as Ben DuBose and Elsie Oberg (President and Vice-president of the Canarsie Historical Society respectively), Stephen Ruppert (President of the Board of Trustees of the Grace Protestant Church), Henry Lang, Edith Wilson, and Lillian Winterberg Gladwish, who is 84 years old and grew up in the house next to the church where she still lives. \

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSIDERATIONS

Many of us who live or work in or near Brooklyn may be unaware that it is actually part of Long Island. From earliest recorded time the western portion of the island was peopled by Native Americans belonging to the Algonkian language group that dominated the eastern seaboard.

What became the township of Flatlands was originally also known as New Amersfo[ort], a namesake of a Dutch town just as the contemporaneous settlement on Manhattan was named for the city of Amsterdam (see Historical Considerations, this report). Canarsie, a village in Flatlands, is believed by Tooker, an authority on Indian place names, to mean the fenced place (Tooker 1911:32). Whether this originally referred to a Native American village site established by or at the time of Dutch settlement or to the entire Canarsie area remains unknown (Tooker 1911:32-33) (see Ceci 1977 for a discussion of the effect of contact on local Native American organization; also Black 1981). Tooker documents the earliest use of the name in a 1647 deed (Tooker 1911:32). Apparently, an even earlier name for this area was "Keskaechquerem" (Tooker 1911:78) or "Keskateuw" (Van Wyck 1924), a reference to the three flats of Flatland, an area believed to have comprised as many as 15,000 acres (Van Wyck 1924; see Figure 3 this report) or as few as 9,000 (Stiles 1884:64).

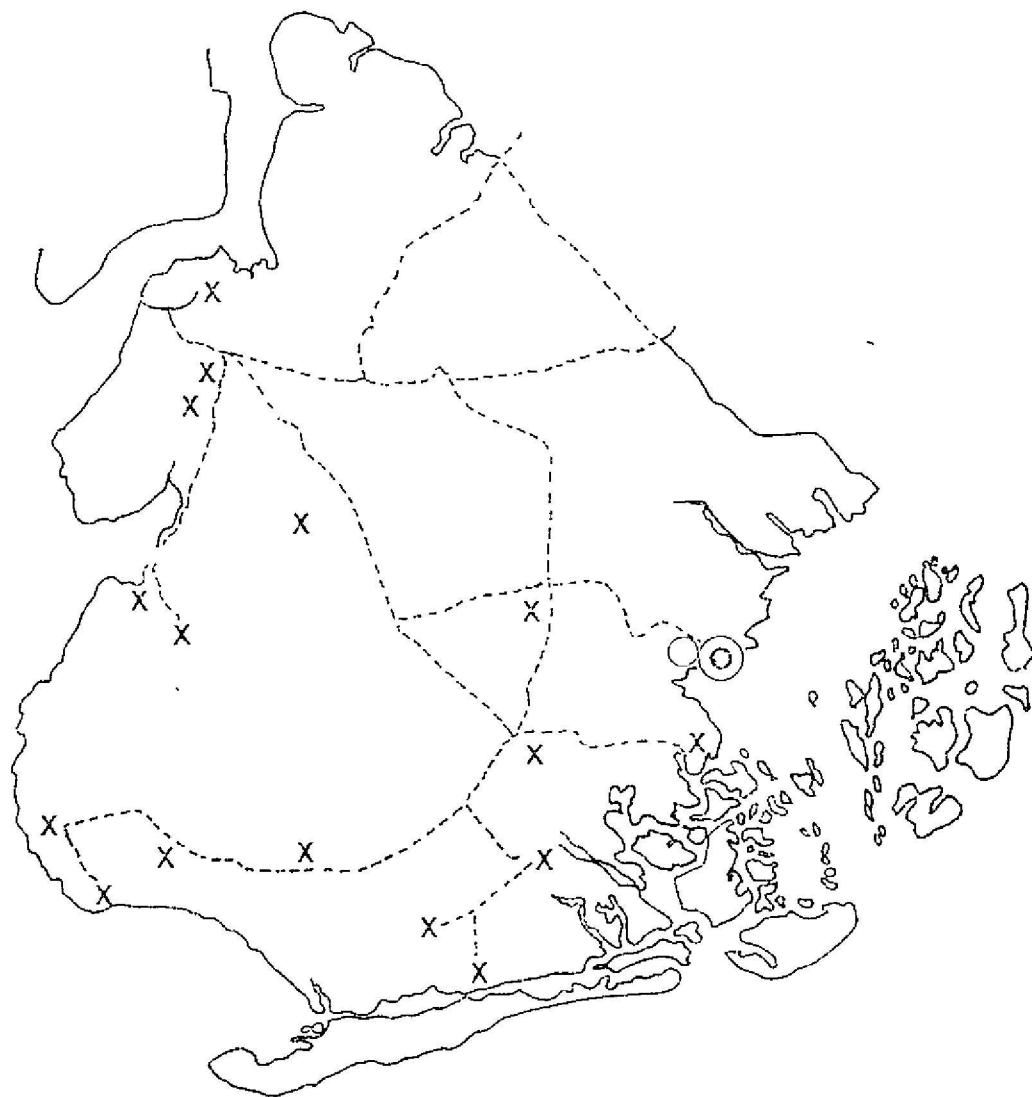
In the early part of the twentieth century, Reginald P. Bolton used historic records and archaeological data to reconstruct Indian paths and trails throughout the five boroughs. His research indicates that Kings County was crossed by many of these



trails, one of them leading to the "village" of Canarsie (Figure 4); archaeologically, this "village" was identified mainly if not solely by "immense shell heaps," attesting to intensive manufacture of wampum that was probably a post-contact phenomenon (Ceci 1977). Today, these shell middens are buried under fill (Black 1981:10-11). In historical times, this path became Canarsie Road (now E. 92nd Street) which defines the eastern boundary of the project block (see Figure 2). Bolton described the Canarsie (or Canarsee) site as "a village site, and extensive planting field, extended back from Canarsie Beach Park as far as Avenue J, centered on East 92nd Street" (Bolton 1933:146). It is possible that the project site was part of the "planting fields" that apparently stretched north of the village; but, according to a map compiled by James Kelly, the Kings County historian (Kelly 1946, Figure 5 this report) it is situated beyond these fields. In addition, deeds from the first half of the nineteenth century identify the project site as woodlots, suggesting it may never have been cleared (see Historical Considerations).

Sometime in the 1960s, the project site was dubbed "Indian Cemetery," however, there is no historical or archaeological data to support this. An 1890 atlas map does indicate an "Indian Burial Ground" situated northwest of the project area adjacent to the now-defunct Varken's Hook Road (see Plate 8). Since then, E. 86th Street would have been graded through it on the west and Flatlands Avenue now runs about 100 ft. to the north.

With an Indian path running nearby, it seems likely that the project area would have been utilized by early-historic Native



- ⊙ Canarsie Indian site (not to scale)
- X Indian sites in Kings County
- project area
- Indian path

no scale

A
N

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION Project Site in Relation to
Indian Villages, Paths, Ponds and Places in Kings County
(Kelly 1946)

5



⊙ project area (not to scale)

0 3000
ft.

N

Americans even though it was not part of the village core. However, this use would undoubtedly have been transient, and it would appear that any evidence for it--perhaps a projectile point lost in the hunt--would have been disturbed or rendered irretrievable through subsequent activities on the project site. This includes the digging of graves, the possible plowing of the surface more than fifty years ago (Oberg 1987:personal communication), and filling suggested by the site topography observed during a recent visit.

PROJECT SITE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Historical Considerations

While there appears to be little or no question that New Amersfort (Ameresfoort) was the earliest Dutch settlement on Long Island (e.g., Tooker 1911:32), some question remains about its settlement date. Some scholars think it could have been contemporaneous with Dutch settlement on Manhattan in 1624 (Stiles 1884:64-65), or it may not have occurred until 1636 (Thompson 1918:412). It is agreed, however, that the first plantation established in the town was "Achtervelt," or "beyond the great flats" (Stiles 1884:64). New Amersfoort was originally named after the city in Holland that was the home of Wolfert Gerretse (Van Kouwenhoven), one of the original patentees. In time, its descriptive name, Flatlands, superseded New Amersfoort as its name.

The project area lies in the village of Canarsie in the township of Flatlands, which the State recognized as a town in 1788 (Stiles 1884:68). At its settlement more than 150 years

before, the three flats of Flatlands comprised mixtures of salt meadows, forest lands, and prairies (Stiles 1884:65), a combination of resources that would have made them ideal for settlement. It was the westernmost flat--west of the project area--where this settlement first occurred.

It appears that Canarasie's boundaries remained in question for years: three seventeenth century English patents defining and redefining this tract span two decades and the tenure of three governors. These included Nicols (1667), Lovelace (1669), and Dongan (1685) (e.g., Thompson 1918:415-421). The 1685 patent seems to have been the last from the crown.

Among the first recorded conveyances to include what became the project block dates from 1687 and is between Abram Joorissen and Alltie Stryker, his wife, and Captain Court Stevense. It conveys land inherited by Alltie Stryker (Liber of Deeds [hereafter LD] 1:52). Subsequent deeds are recorded over the years, but in terms of eventual development of the project site, a 1769 deed to Johannes Remsen (recorded in 1796) is important. This property, acquired from the estate of his cousin, Cornelieus Voorheise, comprised several holdings, among them what would become Blocks 8218 and 8217 (Index of Conveyances for Kings County [hereafter IC]:Blocks 8218, 8217; LD 7:53-56)).

The Remsen family, descending from Rem Jansen Vanderbeeck who had arrived here from Holland in 1642, has been established on Long Island for more than 300 years (e.g., Hamm 1902:73-74). John Remsen, the grantor of a 60 ft. square lot to the Methodist Protestant Church of Canarsie in 1842 (LD 942:534ff), and the sur-

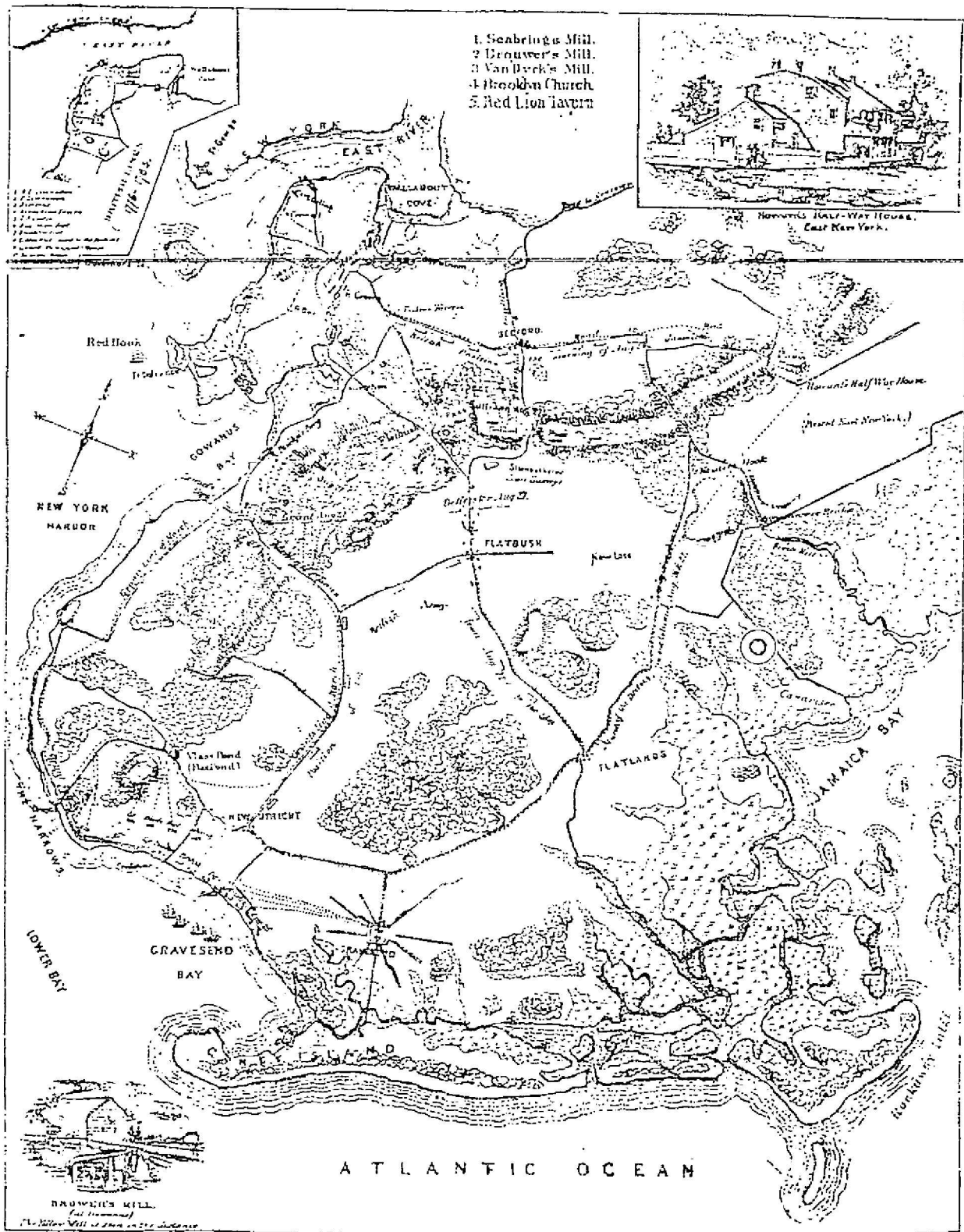
rounding acre that includes the project site to the Town of Flatlands in 1843 (LD 922:210-213), apparently was a sixth generation Remsen (Remsen Family Records 1878:48). Moreover, the extensive holdings described in Liber 7 were left to him in 1827 by his uncle, Johannes Remsen, who apparently died childless (Liber of Wills [hereafter LW] 3:172ff). In compliance with his father's will of 1809 (LW 2:142ff), when John accepted this inheritance from his uncle, he gave up one from his father.

Stiles notes that although Flatlands Neck, or Canarsie, where this land is located was both maizeland cultivated by Native Americans and flats, much of the town was dense forest that remained unsettled (Stiles 1884:71). Restrictions found in the Remsen's 1843 deed to Flatlands in which he reserves the right to cut and access "timber, trees, and underwood now standing, growing, and being on the premises" (LD 922: 210-213) attests to the fact this property was then undeveloped. This condition is also documented on a map of the Battle of Brooklyn found in Stiles (1884: opposite Page 50, Figure 6 this report). This map not only indicates that no Revolutionary War activity occurred directly in the project area, it also reveals that dense woods then existed on the site. Based on this information, it can be seen that development prior to its use as a cemetery is not an issue.

History and Development of the Church and Cemetery Sites

Because their histories are interrelated, a brief history of the church as well as the cemetery will be presented here

As noted in the introduction, the name of the church that stands on the corner of Church Lane (also Canarsie Road, the Road

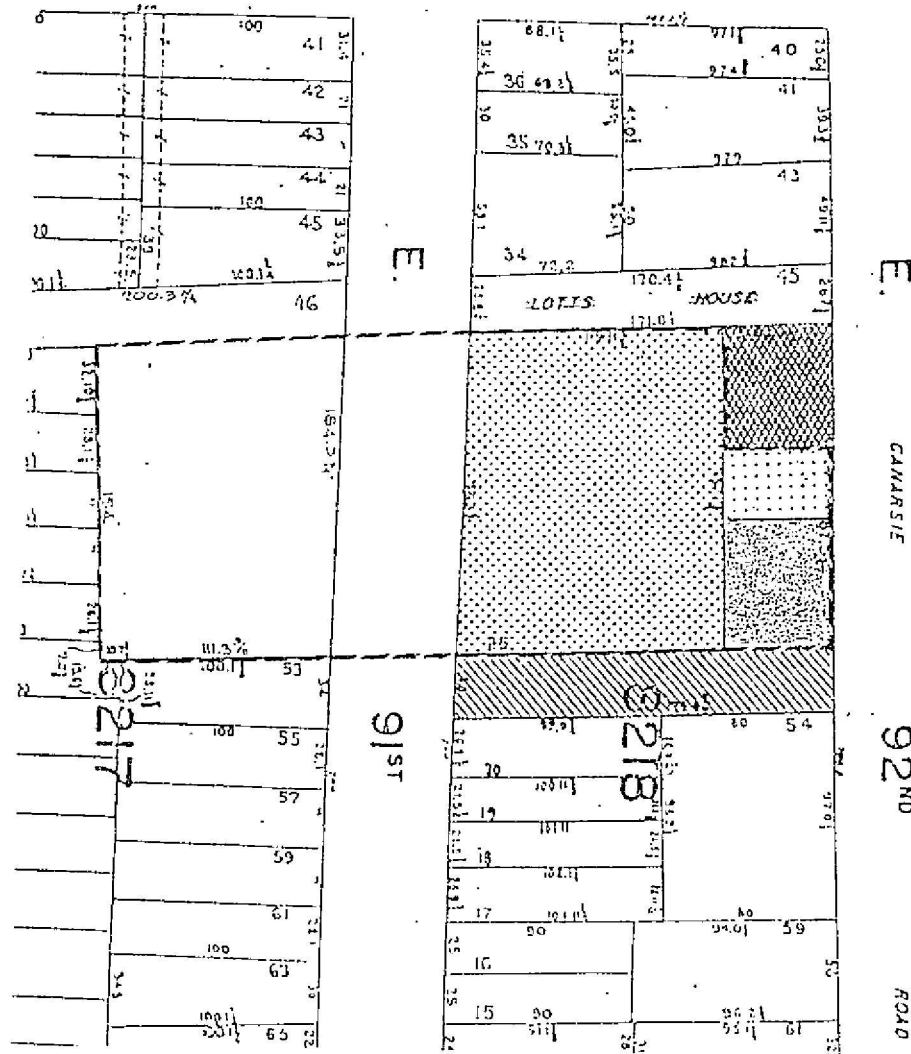








to Lott's House, the Road to the Landing) and E. 92nd Street (also the Road to Canarsie Landing or the Road to the Landing) has changed four times in its 145 year history. After perhaps as much as a decade of meeting in congregants' homes (Strang 1905), five trustees were elected on August 3, 1841, and the congregation became the Methodist Protestant Church in Canarsie (Liber of Religious Corporations 1:64-65). In the following year, as mentioned in the previous section, John and Catherine Remsen sold a 60 ft. square building lot on the corner of Church Lane and Canarsie Road to the church for one dollar (LD 942:534). This transaction is particularly interesting since Remsen and his family were Dutch Reformed, not Methodist (church records and wills document the family's religious affiliation).

More than a year later, in a deed that cites the Methodist Church at Canarsie as a boundary, the Remsens sold the acre surrounding the church to the Town of Flatlands for seventy-five dollars (LD 922:210-13; see Figure 7 this report). While it is commonly believed this land was intended as a burial ground, the deed contains no such stipulation. As noted earlier, Remsen's only deed restriction was to retain the right to timber and wood then standing on the site.

It has been suggested that Remsen may have wanted this land for a town burial ground with the understanding that the church would use and maintain it (DuBose 1087:personal communication). On the other hand, a deed for 2 acres executed to John Wilson on the same day as the Flatlands conveyance does contain the proviso that one acre is to "be used as a burying ground." Remsen again

AVENUE J



-  project site
-  acre conveyed to Flatlands by John Remsen in 1843
-  church site lot conveyed by John Remsen in 1842
-  property conveyed to church in 1879
-  property conveyed to church in 1895
-  property conveyed to church in 1954

base map NYC Tax Map 1983

0 30
Ft.

reserves the right to timber trees and access (LD 186:350-352). It appears this proposed burial ground was in the vicinity of the Flatlands acre, but just where is a question (possibly, it was located west or south of the project site). Whatever its location, by 1846, if not before, the project site comprising the land extending behind the church to Remsen Avenue had become a burial ground (see below).

By 1869, the church building had fallen into disrepair and money was raised to construct a new one. At this time, the old structure was apparently moved north on Canarsie Road where it was raised and a store built under it (Strang 1905:18). Soon after the church was rebuilt on its original site (Plate 4), it was incorporated and the name changed from the Methodist Church in Canarsie to The First Methodist Church of Canarsie (Certificates of Incorporation 1:20). Subsequent name changes have included the First Methodist Protestant Church of Canarsie (1894) and the Grace Protestant Church of Brooklyn, its name since 1940 (Church Records:Resolution, 1940).

A picture from the Church files (Plate 4) shows the second church on the corner of Church Lane and Canarsie Road (E. 92nd Street). In 1893, this structure was moved to the south and a third church, begun in 1894, was dedicated in February, 1895 (Building Agreement 1894; Strang 1905:24); this structure, with the 1870 building appended as a hall, still stands today (Plate 5). Over the years, the church acquired the land adjacent to it on E. 92nd Street; its most recent acquisition (in 1954) is the property that forms the southern boundary of the project site (see Figure 7).



Plate 4. View of the second church structure built 1869/70 on the corner of Church La. and E. 92nd St. (sometimes called Canarsie Road or the Road to Canarsie Landing). The undated photo is from the archive of the Grace Protestant Church and was made available by Ben DuBose, president of the Canarsie Historical Society. The building was moved south and became the hall of the new church built in 1895 that still stands on the site. (see Plate 5). While the photo is undated, it probably was taken in the early-1890s. Geismar 6/11/87

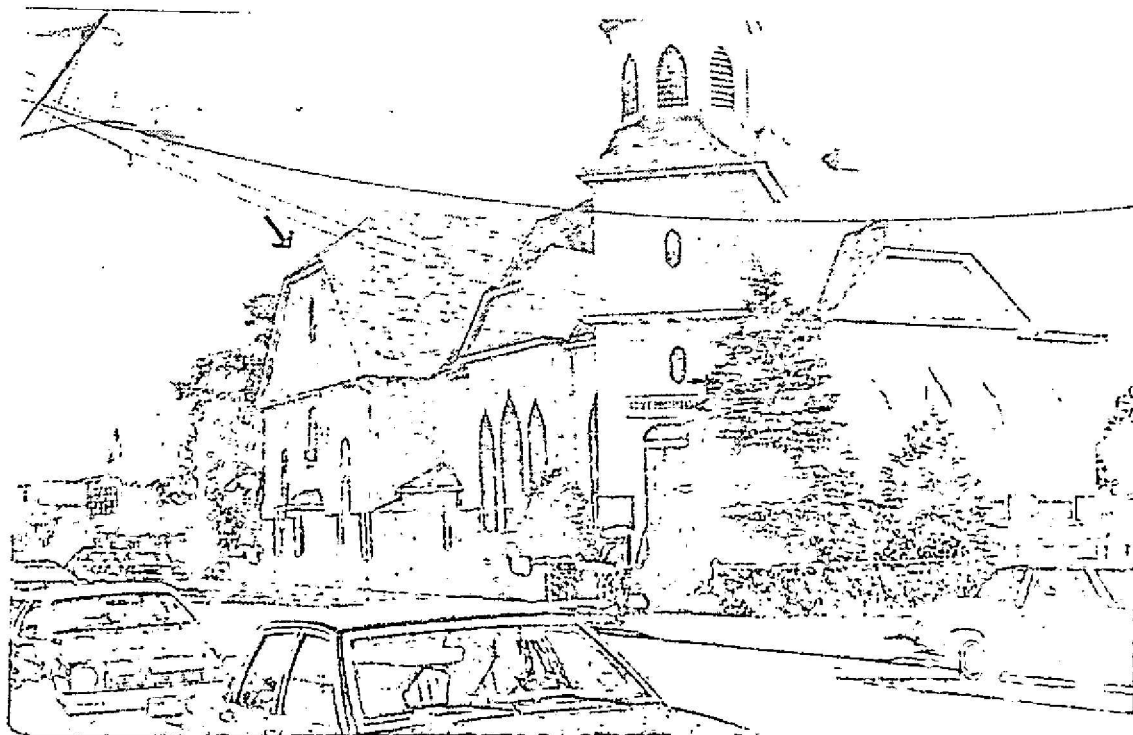


Plate 5. The third church building on the same site, now the Grace Protestant Church. View from the east side of E. 92nd St. looking southwest. Note the hall (arrow) which is the 1869/70 structure shown in Plate 4 moved to its present location. Its roof has been altered, but the windows identify the structure. Geismar 6/11/87

While old photographs of the church have been located (see Plates 4, 6, and 7), at this writing none have been found of the cemetery. Nor has the search produced any maps showing specific grave sites. However, longtime residents of the neighborhood recall that by the early years of this century, gravestones were situated just behind and next to the church (Wilson 1987:personal communication; Gladwish 1987:personal communication). Late nineteenth- and early-twentieth century maps not only document the cemetery, but also suggest over time its boundary spread eastward toward the church (Figures 8-10, Plates 8 and 9).

Tax records from 1931 list Block 8218, Lot 26, as cemetery owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church¹ and therefore tax exempt (Brooklyn Tax Rolls [hereafter BTR] 1931). By 1951, when the project site had been acknowledged as City property², it was still exempt but merely listed as vacant land, not a cemetery (BTR 1951). Unfortunately, tax data are incomplete because these records are currently being moved. However, it does appear the project site belongs to the city by virtue of the Law cited in footnote 2 (below). Although its use as a cemetery does not appear to have been specified in the original deed, its graveyard

¹Although there is no mention of an Episcopal affiliation in the Church names, a merger with the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South is cited in a Resolution Dated April 3, 1940, found in the Grace Protestant Church records.

² This was accomplished by virtue of provisions of Chapter 739 of the Laws of 1948 administrative Code Section 384-11 which gives title to any burial ground formerly the public property of any town, village, or city now part of the City of New York (Corporation Counsel Findings, May 11, 1965:#60568).

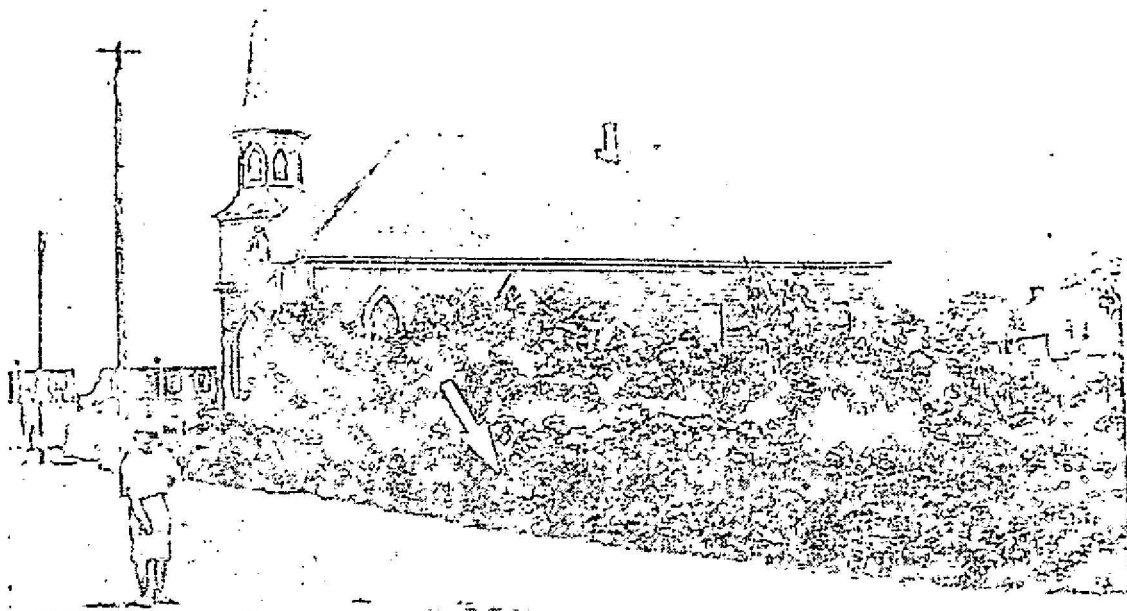
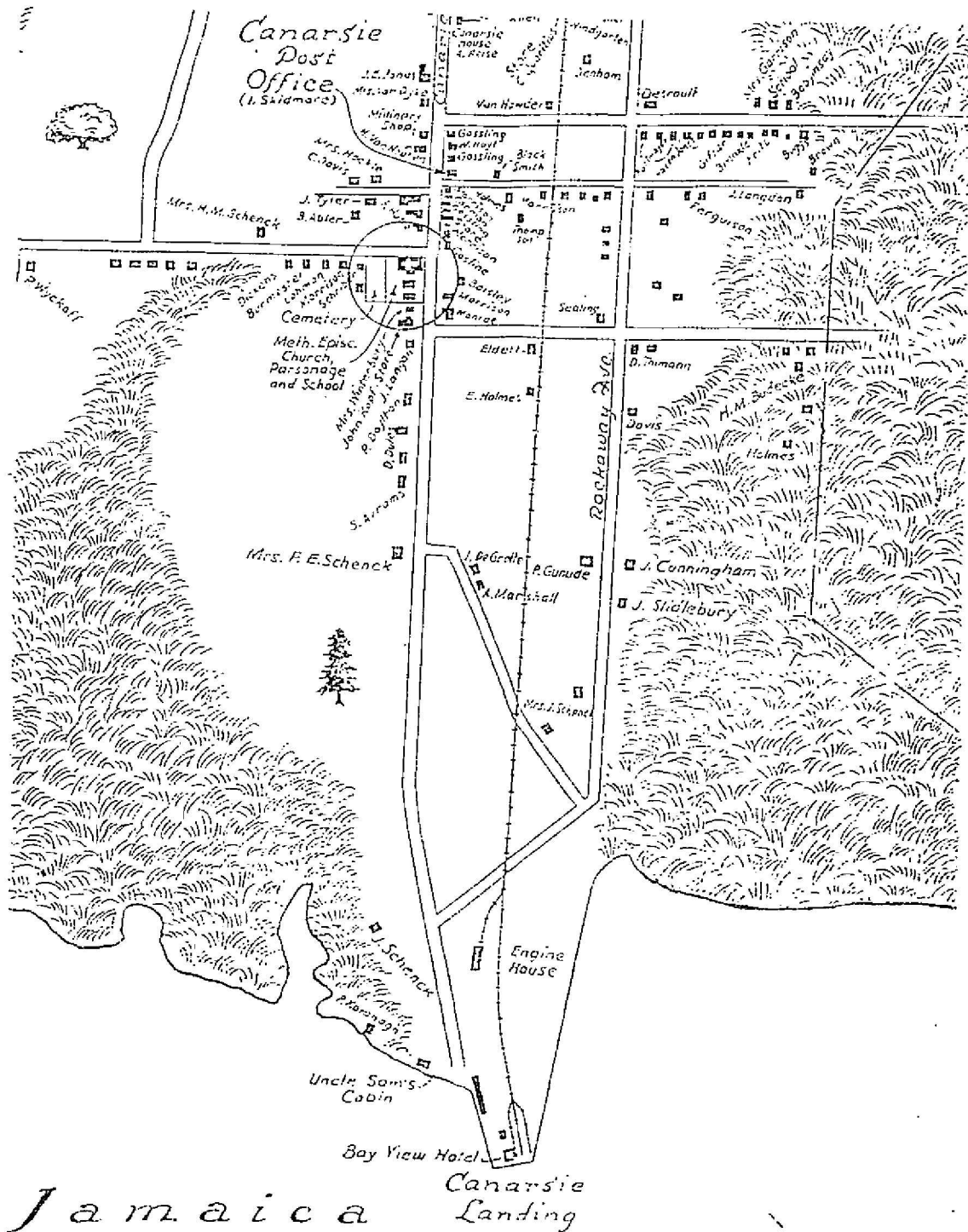


Plate 6. View from Church La. looking east to 92nd St. in 1928. Note lower elevation of the project site (arrow) than shown on Plates 1 and 3 and the dense growth. A caption for the photo notes the church was then abandoned, apparently a mistake since church minutes report activities at this time (Baisley 1964). New York City Photographs NYPL 0116 C1; copy Geismar 6/87



Plate 7. A 1933 view of the church and project site across fields and yards. Notice the Schenck house across from the church on Church La. which also appears in Plate 2. By this time, E. 91st St. has been opened (arrow) and the cemetery area appears better cared for than in 1928. Again, the caption notes the church's abandonment which, again, is refuted by Church minutes (Baisley 1964). New York City Photographs NYPL 0116 C2; copy Geismar 6/87

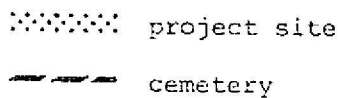


○ project area

0 1000
ft.



0 30
ft.



A horizontal line with a vertical tick at the left end labeled '0' and a vertical tick at the right end labeled '100'. Below the line, centered, is the text 'ft.'.

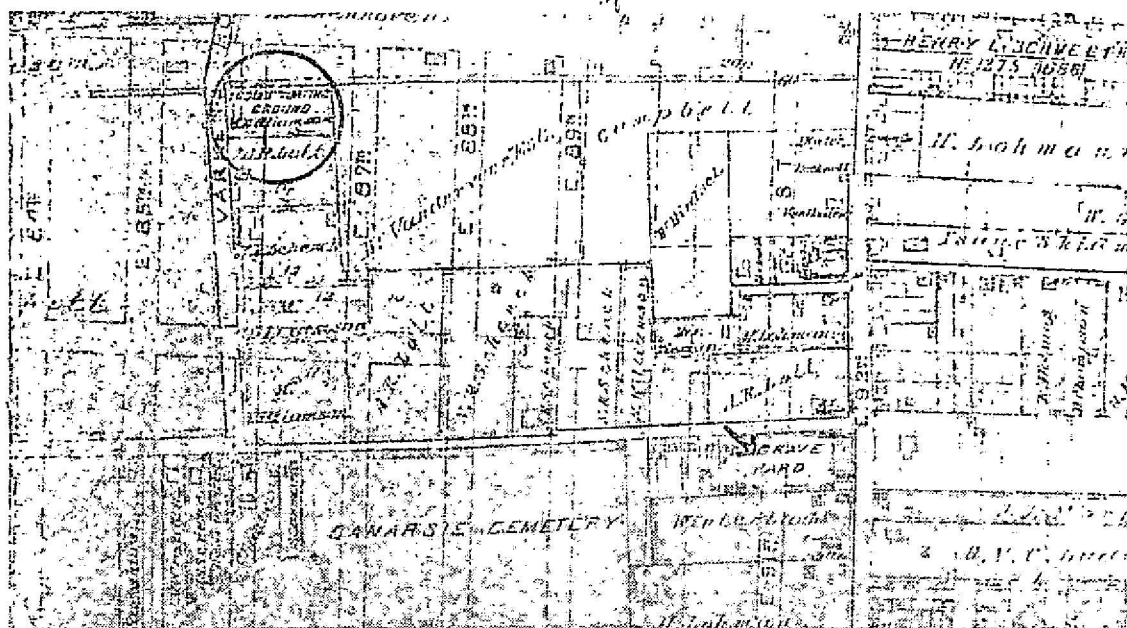


Plate 8. Detail from 1890 Robinson Atlas showing the graveyard on the project site (arrow). Note the "Indian Burying Ground" (circled) to the northwest. NYPL Map Division, copied by Geismar 6/87

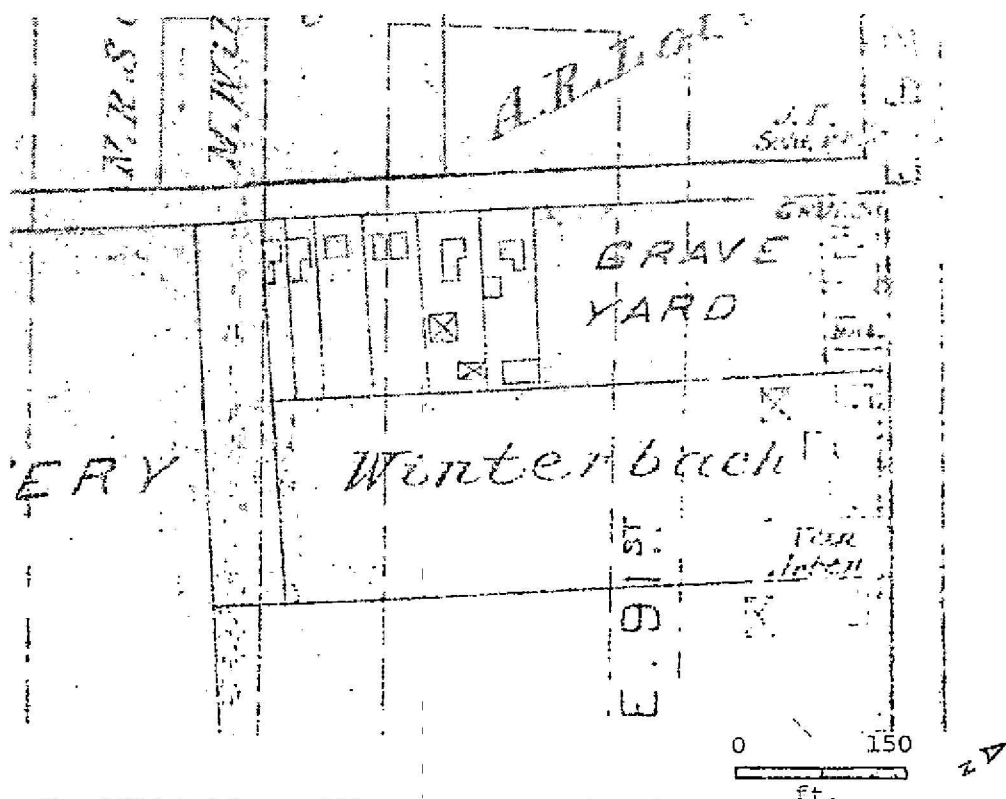
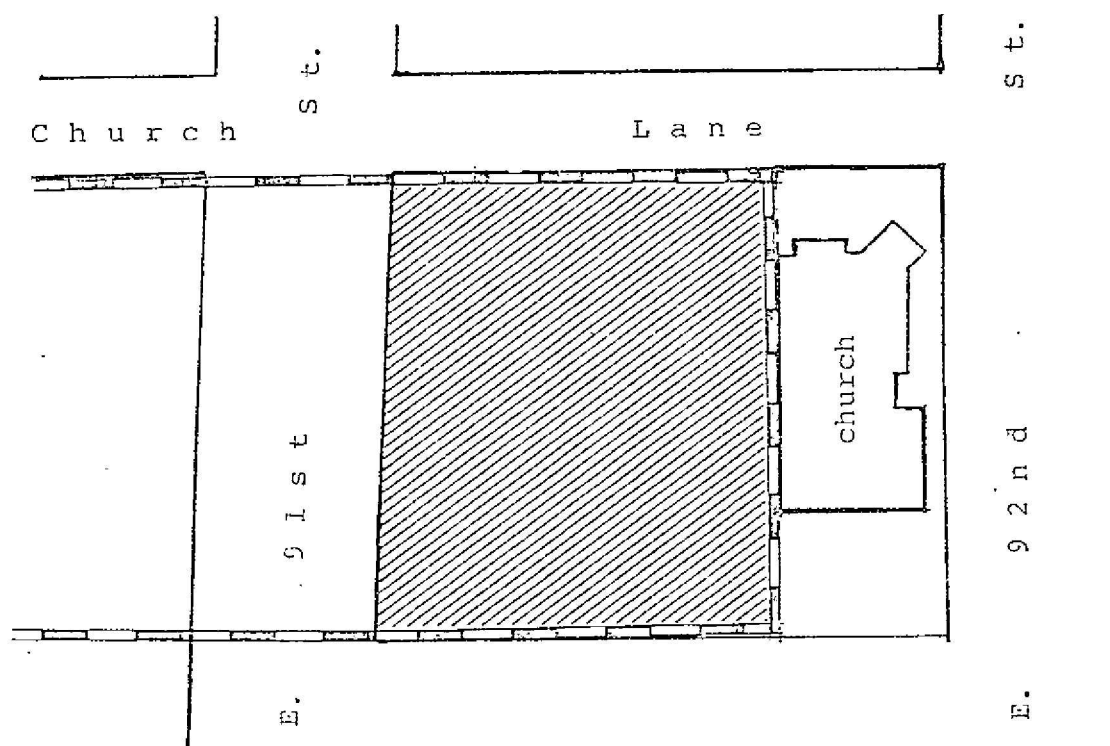


Plate 9. The 1890 Robinson Atlas in greater detail than shown in Plate 8. It can be seen that graveyard behind the church has spread closer to it than shown on earlier maps (see Figures 8 and 9); it will get even closer by 1909 (see Figure 10). NYPL Map Division, copied by Geismar 6/87

status is well documented (see below). Head and foot stone fragments taken from the cemetery and now in the possession of the Grace Protestant Church corroborate this documentation. And finally, insurance maps that span the years from 1928 to 1986 indicate the cemetery once extended across Blocks 8218, Lot 26, and 8217, Lot 48. Unfortunately, alterations are not dated, but at some point the cemetery designation was limited to the project site; the most recent update has eliminated the cemetery designation altogether (see Figure 11), but this sequence can be seen under pasted-on alterations.

In the early part of this century, the unfortunate death of the young boy mentioned in the introduction occurred, casting a pall on the cemetery (Lillian Winterberg Gladwish, an octagenarian who grew up next door to the church, was in her yard when Charlie Jiles was crushed to death by a falling headstone ([Gladwish 1987:personal communication])). Between 1931 and 1951, at least two events occurred that also adversely affected the project site: A local newspaper account graphically described the destruction of skeletons and caskets during trenching for a sewer being laid prior to grading E. 91st Street between Avenue K and Church Lane in the spring of 1932 (Canarsie Courier April 29, 1932). The opening of the road soon after eventually cut the original property into two parts (see Figures 10 and 11, also Plates 6 and 7).

In 1977, the City sold the segment of this property that lies west of E. 91st Street (Block 8217, Lot 48) to a developer. In 1984, the State Supreme Court overturned the provision that



project site and
cemetery post 1928

0 60
ft.

cemetery c. 1928 (western boundry not shown)

Note: latest update (undated) no longer indicates
a cemetery

the property must be used as a cemetery, a decision based on the supposed abandonment and inactivity of the graveyard by the turn of the century. Moreover, in part it was based on the court finding that the city has no record of any interments or disinterments at the cemetery since 1900 or before (Decision 1984:3). Table 1 presents data to the contrary as recorded in a gravestone survey done in 1915 (Kanel 1980) and in the Canarsie Cemetery registry.

In an attempt to maintain the site, and apparently to comply with the wishes of the church pastor, a chain-link fence was installed by the City in 1986 (Mastandrea 1987:personal communication; see Plates 1-3). At this same time, as part of the fence installation, fill was deposited around the perimeter of the site (Ranella 1987:personal communication). As mentioned earlier, the site terrain as well as comparison with early photographs suggests that fill may have been put on the site prior to mangement by the city. This fill situation may hamper the use of non-intrusive field testing techniques, particularly in the site's western portion, should testing be required.

BURIAL DATA

In the late-1940s, the City acquired the Canarsie Cemetery, a 14-acre site located west of the project block on Remsen Avenue (Mastandrea 1987:personal communication; see Figure 2). Beginning in 1899, a registry book has been maintained that documents burials in "Old Cemetery" and reinterments in Canarsie Cemetery in the twentieth century (Table 1). In addition, as noted earlier, in 1915 a survey was made of gravestones located on the project site. In all, 88 were documented with two or possibly three later reinterred at Canarsie Cemetery (Appendices A and B). The information

Table 1. Burial Data Relevant to Old Cemetery* (Block 8218, Lot 26
Block 8217, Lot 48)

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Number of gravestones recorded at Old Cemetery in 1915 survey ¹ | 88 |
| Number of reinterments from Old Cemetery to Canarsie Cemetery prior to the 1915 Survey ² | 56 |
| Number of interments in Old Cemetery neither listed on the 1915 survey nor reinterred at Canarsie Cemetery ² | 6 |
| Total burials recorded at or from Old Cemetery ^{2,3} | <u>150</u> |
| Known reinterments in Canarsie Cemetery of burials recorded during 1915 survey ^{1,2} | 2 |
| Possible reinterments in Canarsie Cemetery of burials recorded during 1915 survey ^{1,2} | 1 |
| Total number of known burials reinterred at Canarsie Cemetery | 59 |
| Minimum number of recorded burials assumed to have remained in Old Cemetery | <u>91</u> ⁵ |
| Earliest known burial in Old Cemetery | 1846 ⁴ |
| Latest known burial in Old Cemetery ² | 1907 |
| Latest known reinterment from Old Cemetery to Canarsie Cemetery ² | 1931 |

*Historically, the project site has been referred to as "Old Cemetery" rather than Indian Cemetery, and is therefore the name used here.

¹Kanel 1980 (see Appendix A)

²Canarsie Cemetery Registry 1899-1952 (see Appendix B)

³The gravestone for Eliza Schmeelke recorded in 1915 apparently marked an exhumed burial; since this is well documented, it must be assumed that other documented gravestones marked active graves.

⁴An earlier burial (1832) was recorded during the 1915 gravestone survey, but the compiler is convinced this is erroneous information (Kanel 1980: entry 26).

⁵Minimally, two bodies were exhumed during 1932 sewer excavations (Canarsie Courier 1932), leaving 89 possible burials.

from these two sources (summarized in Table 1) suggests that 91 burials conceivably remained in Old Cemetery (Blocks 8218, Lot 26 and 8217, Lot 48), but, as mentioned above, an unknown number of these were apparently exhumed and destroyed during sewer excavations in 1932.

The newspaper account of the event documents "parts of skeletons, skulls, shin bones, ribs, thigh bones, and metal casket handles along with bits of rotted garments" upheaved during the excavation (Canarsie Courier 1932). Since children are reported to have played with at least two skulls, at least two burials were exhumed. This leaves 89 burials that may still have remained on the two blocks. Since local residents remember gravestones directly behind the church (see above) and extending to Remsen Avenue, it can be assumed that at least some of these burials remain on the site. It is conceivable that the sewer excavation and possibly plowing have left some of these burials in a highly disturbed condition.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Documentation of Block 8218, Lot 26 has revealed that although the project site was patented in the seventeenth century and reconveyed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, no historical events occurred that warrant concern. Nor are Native American resources an issue. However, burial records and a cemetery survey as well as newspaper articles and tax records indicate the site was a cemetery that functioned from at least 1846 until 1906 and that burials undoubtedly remain. Moreover, although no cemetery plans were located, longtime residents remember grave-

stones in the project area. It appears that prior to sewer excavations in 1932, at least 91 burials may have been located in the cemetery which then included the project site and extended across E. 91st Street, onto Block 8217, Lot 48. It has to be assumed that although gravestones were toppled and removed, and although East 91st Street was sewered and graded right through the cemetery, and although plowing may have occurred, many of these burials--albeit possibly in disturbed condition--undoubtedly remain on the site.

The City has owned the property since 1948, although the antecedents for this ownership are somewhat vague. In 1986, in an attempt to maintain what had become a hazardous nuisance and an eyesore, sand fill was deposited around the perimeter of the site and it was fenced. This fill, as well as possible site disturbance occurring since the turn of the century, may make it difficult to ascertain where burials are located through appropriate, non-intrusive, field testing techniques (ideally, soil testing and remote sensing would be most appropriate). However, of all possible methods, remote sensing continues to be the best suited should a testing program be required.

Based on the documentary evidence, the site's development history, and present site conditions, no field testing program is recommended as long as the site remains in the public trust and is undeveloped. Should the site be slated for sale, however, an appropriate field testing program would have to be instituted prior to the sale to determine the number and extent of burials involved.

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Canarsie . Kings . County . Long . Island . New . York .
Town . of . New . Lots .

William . Applebie . Eardeley . M.A .
Brooklyn . New . York . March . 1916

[Original title page]

Transcribed and with a forward by:

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TRANSCRIBER'S FORWARD

On Monday, 4 October 1915, James W. Eardeley of Brooklyn, New York, rode the elevated train marked "Canarsie" to the Flatlands Avenue Station and walked south along E. 92nd Street to Church Lane, where the Methodist Protestant Church of Canarsie was situated. He had come to copy the information off the gravestones, but he was surprised at what he found:

"This cemetery is not kept up at all. Fence is almost all gone; about one-third of the stones are fallen down. The yard is full of ill-kept shrubbery. Grass is high. Tins and paper rubbish are all about the yard. People use it as a thoroughfare and children play about the yard."

Around 1900, when she would visit Canarsie on Sundays, my grandmother, Edna O'Brien Haines, saw quite a different scene. She described it in 1966:

"[Uncle William and Aunt Annie Hoyt] were good Methodists, and if, by any chance, we arrived early on Sunday, I always [attended] their Sunday School ... I admired the little old country church, with the high white steeple and the grave stones all around it. It presented a quaint scene to me, and I loved to look at it, even from a distance."

What happened in the intervening 15 years? I do not know, although there are probably people alive today who still remember. One clue is offered by Hattie Hall Strans, who in 1905 wrote "The History of the Methodist Protestant Church of Canarsie, New York", in which she lamented the fact that "...for some reason or other these good [Canarsie] people do not turn out to the services of their church the way they used to years ago." For whatever reason, care of the graveyard was allowed to lapse, and by 1915 it had degenerated to the state observed by Eardeley.

My Fourth great grandfather William H. Gosline was buried in the Methodist churchyard in 1854; his second wife was buried with him about 1899; his son James B. Gosline was buried there in 1869. My Fourth great grandparents Henry and Sarah Morrison were buried in the churchyard in 1858 and 1875, respectively. I visited the church of my forebears, now known as Grace Protestant Church, on a wet, cold Saturday, 22 March 1980. The church building was neat and well-kept, and the church's congregation and current minister, Philip A. Neetz, obviously take a great deal of pride in their church. The graveyard, however, was gone. In the years after Eardeley's visit, E. 93rd Street was extended across the western end of the cemetery, requiring about six feet of fill over the original ground level. Later when E. 92nd Street was raised, fill was removed from the north edge of the graveyard, exposing bones and headstone fragments. According to Carl F. Ruppert, Jr., Secretary of the church, children rode their bicycles around town wearing skulls on their heads. The exposed remains were later collected and buried in a mass grave in the Canarsie Cemetery on Remsen Avenue. Today there is no sign that any graves ever stood beside the white church. The land west of the church is covered with piles of dirt and concrete fill. Along the north edge of the property, mud and broken glass mark the site of the old fill removal. Trash is scattered about, and the entire area is overgrown with tall weeds. The congregation is working to restore the church grounds, but it takes a long time to undo the effects of 80 years of neglect, and their slender resources are strained.

In 1905 Hattie Hall Strana wrote.

"The Methodist people of Canarsie are proud of their church, and well they may be, for it is worthy of their admiration and affection. But just within the shadow of its glittering spire lies the churchyard, where so many loved ones have been laid to rest: grandfathers and grandmothers who loved to worship in the first little church, fathers and mothers who sought and found a Saviour in the second church; yes, and many loved ones who have lately left Grace Church to join those who have gone on before. And this teaches us a great lesson: in a few short years we too shall lie down to rest in the quiet churchyard, and our spirits shall go out into the great unknown to meet God."

She little suspected that never again would anyone be laid to rest in the churchyard -- the last burial observed by Eardeley was 1902 -- or that within a few years the graveyard itself would cease to exist. Were it not for James and William Eardeley, the simple and poignant epitaphs reproduced here would have been lost forever.

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE

The source from which this work was copied is a carbon copy held by the Long Island Historical Society. The Society will not allow copies to be made from its copy by photographic or xerographic means. This is difficult to understand, because their copy, which was probably received as a donation, would not be harmed in any way by photographs taken under normal room illumination. In addition, Eardeley would undoubtedly have wanted the fullest possible use to be made of his research. The Society nevertheless allows only hand copies, and I copied this manuscript by hand on 29 March 1980. It is my hope that these records will be as useful to others as they have been to me and that those who receive my transcription will make copies available to others without impediment.

In reproducing these records, I have not preserved either Eardeley's pagination or his lineation, although I have preserved his spelling, punctuation and his unconventional use of the colon as a delineator. I do not know if his colon indicates the original lineation on the gravestones or if it was simply inserted where convenient -- he used it even within his own comments and descriptions. I have set off in parentheses what I believe to be Eardeley's comments and descriptions; my comments are enclosed in square brackets. The reader should take care not to confuse the lower-case G (g) with the lower-case S (s).

Fred A. Kanel
Cary, North Carolina
15 December 1980

Canarsie, Kings County, New York :

Burial Ground : 1832-1902 [1846 overwritten '1832' by hand] : 89 stones :

Location -- On Broadway, Brooklyn, New York, take the elevated train marked

Canarsie : ride to the Flatlands Avenue Station : walk to East 92nd. Street

[sic], Brooklyn, New York : then south along this street to Church Lane :

then along this Lane about 50 feet : this Cemetery is not kept up at all :

Fence is almost all gone : about one third of the stones are fallen down :

the yard is full of ill kept shrubbery : grass is high : tins and paper rubbish

are all about the yard : people use it as a thorough fare [sic] : and children

play about the yard : copied Monday 4 October 1915 by Mr. James W. Eardeley,

of Brooklyn, New York.

1. Allyn Thomas A. : a son of Byron and Annie Allyn :
died 12 November 1879 : aged 11 years
(a white marble stone)
2. Flora L. : a daughter of Byron and Annie Allyn :
died 14 October 1876 : aged 2 months, and 14 days
(a white marble stone)
3. Bebensee Henriette : born 9 February 1881 : died 16 January 1882
4. In memory of our beloved child Annie : (no dates;
these are both on the same stone)
5. Bennett George : In memory of : born 18 June 1857 :
died 8 August 1868 : aged 11 years, one month, and 21 days
(a white marble stone)
Autumn came the leaves were falling
Death our little one was calling
Pale and wan he grew and weakly
Bearing all his pains so meekly
That to us he seemed still dearer
As the heavenly home grew nearer.
6. Biess Josephine : In memory of : born 20 May 1883 :
died 7 March 1888 : aged 4 years, and 10 months
Josie we lay thee in the silent tomb
Sweet Blossom of a day
We just began to view thy bloom
When thou wert called away.
7. David : (no dates) : Company D, 127th New York Infantry
- B. Carmen George : In memory of : who departed this life 26 August 1849 :
aged 20 years, 6 months and 23 days
(a white marble stone; all in capital letters)

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION 1915⁷¹ Gravestone Survey (continued)
(Kanel 1980)

A

9. Davis Evelena : (no dates) (all are on
10. Rosey : (no dates) a gray gran-
11. Frank E. : (no dates) ite polished
12. Arabella : (no dates) stone)
13. Denton John : born 12 September 1822 : died 31 January 1867
14. Walter C. : born 21 August 1863 : died 9 May 1875
(these two are on the same stone)
15. Joil G. : born 18 July 1859 : died 23 June 1863
16. Theresa : born 31 March 1861 : died 4 June 1863
17. Dudley Samuel : a son of Samuel and Sarah Ann Dudley : "In memory of :
"who died 15 March 1849 : aged one year, 5 months, and 16 days
(a white marble stone : all capital letters)
Just like an early rose
I've seen an infant bloom
But death perhaps before it blows
Will keep it in the tomb.
(a foot stone is marked "S.D.")
18. Fisher Virginia : Beloved wife of Alexander J. Fisher : died
28 August 1882 : aged 41 years and 8 months
(a white marble stone)
19. Ford Isaac G. : born 4 March 1852 : died [] April 1858 :
aged 6 years, one month, and 7 days
20. E. Watson : born 24 March 1857 : died 29 May 1857 :
aged 2 months, and 5 days (these two are on the same stone)
"They are gone but not forgotten."
21. Isaac : (no dates; gray iron marker)
22. Mary : (no dates; gray iron marker)
23. Godfrey John Henry : "In memory of : "born 19 August 1858 :
died 26 May 1861 : (a white marble stone)
24. Goslin William H. : died 1854 : aged 96 years : (no more date) :
"Sleep our dear : "Father
[His age was probably misread; he would have been about 90,
since he was born ca. 1764. He died 15 August 1854.]
25. Catharine Ann Blaw or Blawer] : died [] : aged 89 years :
(no more dates : all capital letters : a stone with a gray
granite face, polished, on a gray granite base)
[She was born ca. 1810, so she probably died ca. 1899;
married William Gosline at DRC, Flatbush, 7 March 1834.]

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION 1915 Gravestone Survey (continued)
(Kanel 1980)

A

26. Gosline Morris Abraham : son of Stephen and Catharine Gosline :
who died 27 September 1832 : aged one year, and 15 days :
(a foot stone has on it "M.A.G.") (This date was probably
misread. Stephen Gosline and Catharine Morrison were not
married until 1838, the church was not founded until 1839
and land was not donated for the cemetery until 1843.)
27. Hamm Gracie : "In memory of : "born 18 November 1887 :
died 4 October 1888
28. Walter : born 16 March 1884 : died 11 October 1888
(these two are on a wooden board)
29. William : "In memory of : "born 11 May 1889 :
died 28 August 1890
30. Peter P. : born 14 December 1893 : died 24 April 1894
(these two are on a wooden board)
- ☆31. Harms Catharine : geboren den 11 Juli 1833 : gestorven [sic]
den 20 Juli 1887 : (a German : geboren means born :
gestorven [sic] means died)
"Hier ruht in [sic] Gott" : (Here lies in God)
- ☆32. Hart Sarah B. : born 1 January 1820 : died 28 February 1902
33. Edward W. : born 18 February 1842 : died 9 July 1886
(these two are on the same stone)
34. Hawkshurst Giles : died 15 August 1879 : aged 62 years, 2 months,
and 9 days : (a white marble stone)
35. Hertor William : "Hier ruht in [sic] Gott mein beliebter Gatte,
Gestorven [sic]" : "10 Juli 1880 : (no age)
36. Louise Fortmeier : "meine liebe Mutter, Gestorven [sic] :
"28 May 1877 : (no age : My dear Mother, died) : und
37. mein lieber Vater, Heinrich Fortmeier : Gestorven [sic]
im alter [sic] von 65 Jahre Mogen [sic] sie ruhen in [sic]
Friedem [sic] : (no death date) [It seems probable that
'Fortmeier' was his surname, not his middle name.]

(35 per 37 are all on the same white marble stone)
38. Hoyt Janeway V. : died 1 December 1887 : aged 24 years, 2 months,
and 27 days : (a gray granite stone, polished top)
"Jesus said come to me and you shall be free
For I love thee."
39. Hushes Mary : wife of David Hughes : died 22 September 1881 :
aged 29 years, 5 months, and 16 days
40. W. T. : died 5 November 1881 : aged 7 years, and 9 months
(these two are on the same white marble stone)

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION 1915 Gravestone Survey (continued)
(Kanel 1980)

A

41. Jepson Daniel : "In memory of my beloved husband : "born 15 July 1805 :
died 2 April 1884 : aged 78 years, 8 months, and 15 days
42. Caroline Jane : wife of Daniel Jepson : born 11 July 1807 :
(no more dates) (these two are on the same white marble stone)
43. Kelly Elizabeth : "In memory of : "died 29 December 1846 :
aged 64 years
"Blessed is the memory of the Just."
(a footstone has on it "E. K.")
44. Lane Mary E. : "In memory of : "died 17 November 1895 :
aged 38 years : (a wooden board marks this grave)
45. Marsh Georsie : "In memory of -- Our Little Georsie Beloved daughter
of George W. and Sarah H. Marsh : "died [] : (no date) :
aged 4 years, 10 months, and 22 days : (a white marble stone)
"Father, Mother, do not murmur
Blessed hope to you is given
That your darling is an angel
And her home is now in heaven."
[George W. Marsh married Sarah H. Morrison 10 February 1862.]
46. Mathew Isaac : who died 21 May 1873 : aged 26 years, 9 months,
and 11 days : "In memory of : " (a white marble stone)
47. Millspaugh William Alexander : "Our Darlings : "born 25 December 1891 :
(no death date) : "In memory of : " "Grandfathers little pet."
48. Mitt Carolina : "Hier ruhet meine seliebte Gattin
49. und Tochter. Geboren Spahn. Geboren 25 Mai 1858 :
Gestorben 12 Mai 1883 : ("Here lies my beloved wife and daughter
: she was born [i.e., maiden name] Spahn.")
50. Carolina A. May : Geboren 9 Mai 1883 : Gestorben 29 July 1884
51. Catharina Spahn : "Hier ruhet in Gott." Geboren 16 August 1865 :
Gestorben 3 October 1871 : Alt 6 Jahr, 1 monath [sic], 16 tage :
(a white marble stone)
(these four are in a lot, enclosed by a wire fence)
[Eardeley obviously considered the daughter referred to in #49
as separate from the other burials in the plot. The fact that
no name or date is mentioned for the daughter, however, suggests
that the daughter referred to is #51 Catharina, who died 1871.]
52. Morris John A. : died 22 July 1873 : aged 73 years, and 7 months :
(a white marble stone)
"We shall all meet again."
[Probably the Mr. J.A. Morris who was minister in the 1840s]

53. Morrison Henry : "In memory of : "who died 26 April 1868 : aged 73 years, 7 months, and 16 days [His death certificate states his age at death as 74 years, 4 months and 10 days.]
"Farewell, my wife and children dear
I am not dead but sleeping here
As I am now so you must be
Prepare for death and follow me."
54. Sarah : "In memory of : "who died 17 April 1875 : 77 years, and 2 days : (a white marble stone)
(these two are on the same base)
"Adieu dear children now adieu
I must no more return to you
But you must come to me
My sons and daughters whom I love."
55. Catherine : "In memory of : "died December 1850 : aged 44 years, 9 months, and 20 days
56. Martin : died August 1851 : aged 50 years and 10 months
(these two are on the same white marble stone)
57. Frances : the beloved wife of Abraham Morrison : "In memory of :
"died : (no date) : aged 31 years, and 9 months
"Farewell : sweet child
Kind mother, Wife :
Haste to thy home above
We yield thee to a better life."
58. Adaline : died : (no date) : aged 8 years, and 10 months
(these two are on the same white marble stone)
59. Mary A. : wife of Charles W. Bosart : died : (no date) :
aged 25 years, 2 months, and 13 days
"Desolate, near heart broken
We placed her beneath the sod :
But we know that our gentle darlings
Is at home with her maker, God."
(this is a white marble stone) : "In memory of"
60. Raynor George I. : "In memory of : "died 30 September 1880 :
aged 3 years, 5 months, and 19 days : (a white marble stone)
"Little Georsie was our darling
The pride of all our hearts at home
But an angel came and whispered
Darling Georsie do come home."
61. Robinson C. : 1888 : (no more dates : no age : an iron sign, white enamel, with black letters.)
[Possibly the grave of Cecelia Ann Gosline Robinson, born 8 October 1868, married James Robinson 2 February 1888]
62. Rumph Mary Ann : born 6 August 1876 : died 9 August 1882 :
aged 6 years, and 3 days : (a white marble stone)

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION 1915 Gravestone Survey (continued) (Kanel 1980)

A

63. Ryder Charles : "In memory of : "who died 22 February 1854 : aged 30 years, and 5 days : (a white marble stone)
64. Schmeelke Catherine Ann : wife of Henry W. Schmeelke : born 21 May 1838 : died 15 December 1888 : (a white marble stone : all capital letters) : "My soul rest in peace."
[Henry W. Schmeelke married Lillian Morrison 16 July 1890.]
65. Sarah Jane : "In memory of my beloved wife : "born 15 February 1847 : died 9 December 1872 : (a white marble stone)
"The same fond mother bent at night
O'er each fair sleeping brow
She had each fondest flower in sight
Where are they sleeping now?"
"May her soul rest in peace."
66. ☆ Eliza : beloved wife of Henry W. Schmeelke : born 21 November 1835 : died 19 October 1880
"Oh, let not tears embalming tomb,
None but the dews by twilight given
O, let not sighs disturb the gloom
None but the whispering winds of heaven."
67. Catharine Ann : "In memory of : "born 31 December 1865 : died 24 June 1888 : (all capitals)
"God called our little lamb away
To dwell with him above
O, how hard it is to part
With those we dearly love."
68. William Henry : "In memory of : "born 17 February 1868 : died 24 March 1870 : (a white marble stone)
"Weep not for me, dear parents
I bid you both good bye
For God has promised Heaven
To such little ones as I."
69. Schreiber Barbara : (in black letters) : "hier ruht in Gott : "geboren 10 November 1814 : gestorben 29 Mai 1886 : (a gray sand stone)
"Der Tod ist meines Liebes Ruh
Das Grab die Ruhe kam
Die schliesset Jesus selber zu."
70. Serene John : "In memory of : "born 17 December 1822 : died 17 September 1887
71. Lucy A. wife of John Serene : born 9 August 1839 : died 21 August 1891 : (these two are on the same gray granite stone, polished face : all capitals)
"They rest in peace."

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION 1915 Gravestone Survey (continued) (Kanel 1980)

A

72. Sharrott Abraham : "In memory of : "who died 12 March 1870 : aged 76 years, 2 months, and 11 days : (a white marble stone)
"Farewell, dear friend, again farewell
Soon we shall rise to thee;
And when we meet no tongue can tell
How great our Joys shall be."
73. Shea Eliza : "In memory of : "died 18 March 1869 : aged 34 years :
(all capital letters)
74. Skidmore Mary : wife of Isaac Skidmore : "In memory of : "who died 9 August 1849 : aged 54 years, 7 months, and 17 days :
(a white marble stone)
75. Smith John : Jr. : : "In memory of : "born 8 October 1823 : died 28 August 1849 : (a white marble stone : foot stone has "J.S.")
76. Ann : relict of John Smith : Jr. : "In memory of : "born 26 October 1791 : died 4 November 1849 : aged 58 years, and 9 days :
(a white marble stone : foot stone has "A.S.")
77. Standclift William : died 3 November 1873 : aged 74 years, and 8 months :
(a white marble stone)
78. Stape Linney C. : "In memory of a beloved daughter of William and Caroline Stape : "died 27 July 1885 : aged 29 years, 7 months, and 23 days : (a white marble stone)
"At rest."
79. Vanhouten Ralph : Sen. : "who departed this life 29 December 1877 : aged 67 years, 3 months, and 19 days" : (a white marble stone)
"How blessed the righteous when he dies,
When sinks a weary soul at rest
How mildly beam the closing eyes,
How gently heaves the expiring breast."
80. Richard : "In memory of : "born 19 March 1813 and
81. Ellen : wife of Richard Vanhouten : born 1 January 1800 : both died 23 September 1885 :
(80 and 81 are on the same white marble stone)
82. Willett Marion Ellen : (no dates a gray granite stone)
83. Eva (no more : a head board)
84. Father (no more : white granite stone)
85. Mother (no more : white granite stone)
86. Our Baby (no more)
87. Grandmother aged 65 years : (no more : a white marble stone)
88. Father died 2 January 1898 : aged 73 years : (no name : a white marble stone)

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION Canarsie Cemetery Registry 1899-1952 in Relation to Old Cemetery

B

Appendix B Canarsie Cemetery Records (1899-1952) Related to "Old Cemetery" Burials and Reinterments in Canarsie Cemetery

| Name | Permit Number | Permit Date | Place of Death | Date of Death | Age Yrs | Mchs | Days | Undertaker | Location in Canarsie Cemetery | Remarks* |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|------|------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Allen, Byron | 633 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 9/16/1881 | 49 | -- | -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Berthel, Mary E. | 338 | 9/13/1907 | 134 Powell St. | -- | 31 | -- | -- | Wm. Ripp | -- | in Old Cemetery |
| Biggs, Elthia | 426 | 4/ 3/1905 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | Sec. 8 Plot 3 | from Old Cemetery; Wm. H. Biggs, owner c/o Wm. H. Biggs |
| Biggs, William | 337 | 9/10/1903 | E. 94 St. | -- | 70 | -- | -- | Wm. Ripp | -- | in Old Cemetery |
| " " | 685 | 2/27/1909 | -- | -- | 70 | -- | -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Breaker, Catherine | 868 | 11/ 7/1911 | "from Old Cemetery" | -- | 49 | -- | -- | Supt. | Sec. 9 Plot 48 | from Old Cemetery |
| Brown, Alice E. | 376 | 4/26/1904 | Hoboken, N.J. | -- | 15 | -- | -- | -- | -- | in Old Cemetery |
| Brown, L.D. | 467 | 9/30/1905 | -- | 1/ 4/1893 | 1 | 2 | -- | J. E. Trent, Supt. | -- | from Old Cemetery |
| Brown, Sadie M. | 466 | 9/30/1905 | -- | 4/ 5/1875 | 3 | 4 | -- | J.E. Trent, Supt. | Sec. 8 E 1/2 Plot 85 | from Old Cemetery |
| Burmeister, Annie | 569 | 4/17/1907 | -- | -- | 64 | 8 | 4 | Supt. | Sec. 8 Plot 81 | from Old Cemetery |
| Burmeister, Henry | 587 | 4/17/1907 | -- | -- | 64 | -- | -- | Supt. | Same as above | from Old Cemetery |
| Carman, Benjamin L. ¹ | 1223 | 5/ 1/1917 | "from Old Cemetery" | -- | 34 | 7 | -- | Supt. | Sec. 8 | -- |
| Catheart, Lucinda | 2231 | 4/28/1911 ² | "removal from Old Cemetery" | -- | -- | -- | -- | H. W. Serene & Son | Sec. 3 E 1/2 Center, Plot 13 | removal Old Cemetery |
| Danaher, Mabel | 302 | 1/ 9/1903 | 104 Chester St. | -- | -- | -- | 2 | J. W. Earl | -- | in Old Cemetery |
| " " | 469 | 9/30/1905 | Homecrest (?) | -- | -- | -- | 5(?) | J. E. Trent, Supt. | Sec. 8 E 1/2 Plot 63 | from Old Cemetery |
| Feith (3 children) | 433 | 4/29/1905 | Canarsie Shore | -- | -- | -- | -- | Supt. Trent | Sec. 8 Plot 63 | 3 of Mrs. Feith, from Old Cemetery |
| Fisher, Alexander | 674 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 9/12/1902 | 65 | -- | -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Godfrey, Thomas | 679 | 2/17/1909 | -- | 1/25/1897 | 62 | -- | -- | -- | G.A.R. | from Old Cemetery |
| Goslin, Henry | 686 | 2/27/1909 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | G.A.R. | from Old Cemetery |
| Harms, John | 1102 | 4/16/1915 | "from Old Cemetery" | 8/ 7/1890 | 65 | -- | -- | Supt. | Sec. 1 Plot 58 | -- |
| Harms, Catherine ³ | 1101 | 4/16/1915 | "from Old Cemetery" | 7/27/1887 | 64 | -- | -- | Supt. | Same as above | from Old Cemetery |
| Hart, Sarah Ellen ⁴ | 252 | 3/ 1/1902 | Hempstead | -- | 82 | 1 | 16 | F. F. Gilbert | -- | Wm. Vreeland (?) |
| Hoval, Hester | 954 | 4/29/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | -- | "not known" | -- | -- | Supt. | C 81 | from Old Cemetery |
| Jepson, Charles | 678 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 9/24/1899 | 56 | -- | -- | -- | G.A.R. | from Old Cemetery |
| Marsh, George | 682 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 11/ 8/1881 | 39 | -- | -- | Supt. | GAR (G.A.R. owner) | from Old Cemetery |
| Mathews, Alonzo | 694 | 3/20/1909 | -- | -- | 2 | -- | -- | Supt. | Sec. 8 Plot 16 | from Old Cemetery |
| Mathews, Abbie | 695 | 3/20/1909 | -- | -- | -- | 6 | -- | Supt. | Same as above | from Old Cemetery |
| Mathews, Tony | 696 | 3/20/1909 | -- | -- | -- | 4 | -- | Supt. | Same as above | from Old Cemetery |
| McCrodden, James | 893 | 4/20/1912 | "from Old Cemetery" | -- | 76 | -- | -- | Supt. | Sec. 8 | Both in one grave |
| McCrodden, Margaret | 894 | 4/20/1912 | "Old Cemetery" | -- | 65 | -- | -- | Supt. | Plot 91 | from Old Cemetery |
| Morrison, Abigail | 359 | 12/18/1903 | Skidmore Lane | -- | 83 | 5 | 21 | W. T. Moor (sic) | -- | put in Old Cemetery |
| Morrison, Abigail | 463 | 9/30/1905 | Canarsie | -- | 78 | -- | -- | J. E. Trent, Supt. | Sec. 7 W 1/2 Plot 66 | from Old Cemetery |
| Norman, Jennie | 702 | 5/27/1909 | -- | -- | 51 | -- | -- | Supt. | Sec. 7 Plot 19 | from Old Cemetery |
| Orman, Norman G. | 703 | 5/27/1909 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | -- | Supt. | Same as above | [grave #3 pencilled in!] |
| Powell, Cornelia | 668 | 1/ 3/1909 | -- | -- | 50 | -- | -- | H. H. Serene | Sec. 9 Plot 4 | from Old Cemetery |
| Rhodes, Christopher E. | 695 | 5/ 8/1913 | -- | 2/26/1880 | 50 | -- | -- | -- | Sec. 7, Plots 67-68 E. center | from Old Cemetery |
| Roberts, Ellis | 687 | 2/27/1909 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Schmeelk, Eliza ⁵ | 999 | 11/12/1913 | -- | 10/19/1880 | 44 | 11 | 28 | H. W. Serene | Sec. 8 Plot 56 | from Old Cemetery |
| Schmeelk, Henry W. | 998 | 11/12/1913 | 1380 E. 92 St. | -- | 80 | -- | 21 | H. W. Serene | Same as above | -- ? |
| Schmeelk, John M. | 1009 | 12/ 5/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | 8/ 3/1868 | 61 | 2 | -- | Supt. | Sec. C Plot 78 | -- |
| Schmeelk, Margaret | 1010 | 12/ 5/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | 11/29/1877 | 65 | 11 | 18 | Supt. | Same as above | -- |
| Seibek/Siebeck, Henry | 680 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 7/18/1887 | 43 | -- | -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Sielling, Catherine G. | 1106 | 7/12/1914 | "From Old Cemetery" | 4/29/1880 | -- | -- | -- | Supt. | Sec. 9 Plot 46/47 | -- |
| Skidmore, Mary A. | 459 | 9/26/1904 | Canarsie | 12/26/1886 | 67 | 4 | 10 | J. E. Trent, Supt. | -- | removed from Old Cemetery |

continues

BLOCK 8218 LOT 26 DOCUMENTATION Canarsie Cemetery Registry 1899-1952 in Relation to Old Cemetery (continued)

B

Appendix B (continued) Canarsie Cemetery Records (1899-1952) Related to "Old Cemetery" Burials and Reinterments in Canarsie Cemetery

| Name | Permit Number | Permit Date | Place of Death | Date of Death | Age Yrs Mths Days | Undertaker | Location in Canarsie Cemetery | Remarks |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Smith, Emma F. | 304 | 1/25/1903 | E. 94th Ave. L | -- | 25 -- -- | M. A. Serene | -- | In Old Cemetery |
| Stillwell, Eliza A. | 1008 | 12/ 4/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | 5/17/1884 | 78 6 24 | Supt. | Sec. 8 SE 1/4 Plot 71 | -- |
| Stillwell, George | 1005 | 12/ 4/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | 11/24/1861 | 25 2 -- | Supt. | same as above | -- |
| Stillwell, Wm. B. | 1007 | 12/ 4/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | 7/ 4/1879 | 34 -- -- | Supt. | same as above | -- |
| Stillwell, Wm. H. | 1004 | 12/ 4/1913 | "Old Cemetery" | 8/ 6/1849 | 25 10 21 | Supt. | same as above | -- |
| Stoll, Charles | 675 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 11/ 1/1901 | 76 -- -- | -- | G.A.R. | from Old Cemetery |
| Van Glahn, John | 571 | 4/17/1907 | -- | -- | 60 -- -- | Supt. | Sec. 9 S 1/2. 82 | from Old Cemetery |
| Van Houten, Charles | 350 | 11/20/1903 | E. 92 & Skidmore | -- | 72 10 -- | W. F. Moore | -- | [Note: the paucity of information may be indicative of burial in Old Cemetery] |
| Van Houten, Charlotte | 688 | 2/27/1909 | -- | -- | 70 -- -- | GAR | -- | from Old Cemetery, Wife of John |
| Van Houten, Dora | 1100 | 4/16/1915 | -- | 5/22/1890 | 23 3 -- | Supt. | Sec. 1 Plot 58 | from Old Cemetery |
| Van Houten, Hattie | 360 | 1/ 8/1904 | Canarsie | -- | -- -- -- | Jno (?) Steinmetz | -- | Old Cemetery |
| Van Houten, John | 677 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 11/30/1900 | 71 -- -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Van Houten, Philip | 676 | 2/27/1909 | -- | -- | -- -- -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Van Houten, Wm. B. | 681 | 2/27/1909 | -- | 10/11/1887 | 57 -- -- | -- | GAR | from Old Cemetery |
| Wanser, William H. | 969 | 6/ 6/1913 | -- | 1/ 9/1913 | 44 -- -- | Supt. | Sec. C Plot 81 | from Old Cemetery |
| Warner, John | -- | 11/30/1903 | -- | 4/---/1888 | 80 -- -- | N. Rother | Sec. 8 Plots 76/77 | from Old Cemetery |
| Warner, John | 431 | 4/30/1905 | -- | -- | 44 -- -- | Supt. Trent | Sec. 9 Plot 33 | from Old Cemetery |
| Warner, John H. | -- | 11/30/1903 | -- | 5/25/1883 | 24 | R. Rother | Sec. 8 Plot 76/77 | from Old Cemetery |
| | | | | | | | [Note: location the same as John Warner, above; plot owned by Wm. Warner] | [Note: location same as |
| Warner, John H. Jr. | -- | 11/30/1903 | -- | 9/---/1883 | 11 -- -- | N. Rother | Sec. 8 Plot -- | from Old Cemetery |
| | | | | | | | [Note: although no plot # is given, it seems likely to be Plots 76/77 as cited for other Warners (see above)] | from Old Cemetery |
| Weber, Charles Edward | 573 | 4/30/1907 | -- | -- | 39 3 -- | Supt. | Sec. 8 Plot 103 | from Old Cemetery |
| Wimpfheimer, Frank | -- | -- | -- | 10/15/1885 | 9 -- -- | N. Rother | Sec. 14 Plot 14 | from Old Cemetery; owned by A. Wimpfheimer |
| Wimpfheimer, Herman | 356 | 12/ 9/1903 | -- | 11/ 6/1888 | 8 -- -- | N. Rother | Same as above | from Old Cemetery; owned by A. Wimpfheimer |

--Remarks-- are those found in the Canarsie Cemetery register with some comments added in brackets.

¹This is the latest recorded burial in "Old Cemetery."

²This is latest reinterment from Old Cemetery recorded in the Canarsie Cemetery register; it should be noted that no Lucinda Cathcart is found on the 1915 listing of gravestones (see Appendix A).

³Catherine Harms is one of two well-documented reinterments from the 1915 listing (#31 on page 5 of the list [Appendix A]).

⁴Conceivably Sarah B. Hart, #32 on page 5 of the 1915 listing; the age, which is off by 9 days, may merely reflect incorrect copying of the gravestone inscription).

⁵Eliza Schmeelk (Schmeelke) is found on page 8 of the 1915 gravestone list. It appears that her body was reinterred in Canarsie Cemetery when her husband, Henry, died in 1913. Since she is found on the 1915 gravestone list, her stone must have remained standing after her body had been removed. The records suggest reinterments were documented and that Eliza Schmeelk(o), Catherine Harms, and possibly Sarah B. Hart (see note 4) were the only ones on the 1915 list to be reinterred at Canarsie Cemetery.

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