

USF  
1373K

G

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY EVALUATION OF  
BROWN MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
KINGS COUNTY  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK  
(457 through 465 Waverly Avenue)

1991

CEQR #91-075K B1978

Prepared for:  
Tunolb Construction Co., Inc.  
619-25 Hancock Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11233

Prepared by:  
William I. Roberts IV  
Greenhouse Consultants Inc.  
54 Stone Street  
7th Floor  
New York, New York 10004

February 1991

189



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction .....	1
Geography and Physical Setting .....	1
Prehistoric Sensitivity .....	2
Historic Sensitivity .....	4
Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries .....	4
Nineteenth Century .....	5
Twentieth Century .....	10
Changes in Grade .....	10
Conclusions and Recommendations .....	11
Bibliography .....	13
Maps and Atlases .....	15
List of Figures	
List of Plates	
List of Participants	



#### LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1. Project area shown on the U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Brooklyn Quadrangle, 1967 (photorevised 1979).
- Figure 2. Known prehistoric sites within a 2 mile radius of the project area.
- Figure 3. From Ratzner's 1766-67 Plan of the City of New York.
- Figure 4. From Johnston's Plan of the Battle of Long Island and of the Brooklyn Defenses, August 27, 1776.
- Figure 5. From Robinson's 1886 Atlas of the City of Brooklyn.
- Figure 6. From Hyde's 1898 Atlas of Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York.
- Figure 7. From Hyde's Desk Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn.

G

**LIST OF PLATE**

- Plate 1.** View of the project area looking southeast, showing the Brown Memorial Church structure to the east and surviving row houses to the south of the parking lot.





#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

William I. Roberts IV	-	Principal Investigator
Michael W. Davenport	-	Cartographer
Jennifer Flood	-	Word Processor



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Archaeological/Historical Sensitivity Evaluation is to document the potential prehistoric and historic sensitivity of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church parcel on the corner of Gates and Waverly Avenues in Brooklyn, New York through a review of existing archival, cartographic and published references. In order to provide a context for evaluating any identified resources within the parcel itself, this survey shall include a synthesis of published and unpublished prehistoric resources in the immediate locality surrounding the project area and a synthesis of the history of the parcel and its vicinity. The Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area lies just within the southern boundary of the Clinton Hill Historic District designated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 10 November 1981 (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981). See Figure 1 for the location of the project area.

## GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL SETTING

The project area is located in the Atlantic Coastal Lowland Physiographic Province of New York State. There is only one other location in the state (Staten Island) where this province occurs (Thompson 1966:34-35). The Borough of Brooklyn (Kings County) forms the western end of Long Island, which is the largest island adjoining the United States proper. The Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area lies to the north of the Harbor Hill Terminal moraine at its western end. This moraine marks the maximum extent of the second advance of glaciation which partly covered Long Island (Thompson 1966:43; Van Diver 1985:70).

Greenhouse Consultants visited the project location during January 1991. The Brown Memorial Church project consists of a rectangular piece of land 100.5 feet north-south by 72 feet east-west at the northwest corner of Block 1978. This parcel is presently the western end of Tax Lot 17 which also includes the standing church. The parcel was formerly five parallel lots facing Waverly Avenue numbered 12 through 16. The property is presently being used as a parking lot for Brown Memorial Baptist Church which abuts this parcel to the east. The grade of the project area appears to be close to that of the streets.



Figure 1. Project area shown on the USGS 7.5 minute series Brooklyn Quadrangle, 1967 (photorevised 1979).



## PREHISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the project evaluation process, this sensitivity study has surveyed published and unpublished resources in the Municipal Archives and Library of New York City, the files of the New York State Museum Division of Historical and Anthropological Services, the Research Branch of the New York Public Library, and the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Table 1 presents the results of our search in the vicinity of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area. Included in the table is four sites located two miles more or less from the project area. The locations of these sites are presented in Figure 2 with letter code identifiers which correspond to those in Table 1. Of the four known occurrences of prehistoric occupation within two miles of the project area, none were excavated recently under controlled conditions. All represent sites located during the early years of this century or earlier by avocational or professional archaeologists. No sites have been recorded by the New York State Museum within a one mile radius of the project area.

At the time of the first European contact and settlement in the seventeenth century, Brooklyn was inhabited by a number of distinct Indian groups each with one or more village sites, seasonal encampments and food supply area indicated in the documentary record. These groups included the Marechkawiek, the Canarsee, the Keshaechquereren, the Rockaway and the Nayack (Grumet 1981:6). Several of these village sites have been identified with varying degrees of precision as having been situated in Brooklyn in the vicinity of the project area.

The Indian village of Mareyckawick was identified by Bolton (1934) as being located at Galletin and Elm Place, approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the project area. Solecki (1977:7) places it in the vicinity of Lawrence and Jay Streets, approximately 1.5 miles northwest of Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area. Confusingly, he states that "the area just north of Old Fulton Street (now called Cadman Plaza West)"...was occupied by a family of Indians called the Mareykwicks, a branch of the Carnarsie who controlled much of western Long Island" (Solecki 1977:75). This location would place the village 1.7 miles northwest of the project parcel. MacCleod, quoted by Grumet, suggests this village was near Borough Hall (Grumet 1981:27) thus providing yet another possible location (see Figure 2 and Table 1). The final location is approximately 1.4 miles northwest of Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area, and is marked "C" on Figure 2. Another occupation site known as Werpos was located about half way between Marechawik and Gowanus Creek (Grumet 1981:58). Unfortunately the references to Werpos do not provide any description of the type of site that existed at this location. Werpos is designated "B" in Table 1 and Figure 2. There is also the possibility of prehistoric occupation near Gowanus. The name Gowanus is



TABLE 1  
PREHISTORIC SITES IN THE VICINITY OF BLOCK 1978, BROOKLYN

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Bolton#</u>	<u>Parker#</u>	<u>NYSM#</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Description</u>
A.		ACP-KNGS	3606	Parker 1922:P1.170		Camp
B. Werpos	67			Grumet 1981:58	Contact	
C. Marechawik	117			Grumet 1981:27	Contact and Woodland (?)	Village
D.				Furman 1865:34	Contact, possibly earlier	Traces of Occupation





possibly of aboriginal origin and seventeenth century references indicate the presence of "Indian Fields" in the vicinity (ibid.:11). Since no mention of a habitation site is included and the location is not far from that of Werpos, Gowanus is not designated in Figure 2 and Table 1.

Furman noted the physical evidence of Indian occupation "at Bridge Street, between Front and York and between Jay and Bridge Street" (Furman 1865:34). Remains included Indian pottery, projectile points and clay tobacco pipes. He further stated that the "material was found *in situ* (down to a depth of 3 to 4 feet) on top of a hill about 70 feet high which is shown in Lt. Ratzel's map of 1766-67" (Solecki 1977:75). The hill has been razed, but would have been located approximately 1.6 miles northwest of the project area. See Figure 2 and Table 1, where this site is designated "D".

Arthur C. Parker, former New York State Archaeologist, reported that the early erection of European settlement over Kings County eradicated traces of aboriginal occupation. Parker had no doubts that the Borough of Brooklyn (or King's County) was "occupied in nearly every part..." (Parker 1922:582). Despite the pessimistic nature of this statement, Parker was able to locate a few sites in Brooklyn.

The remaining site found within the search radius was registered by Arthur Parker with the New York State Museum. This unnamed site is designated "A" in Table 1 and Figure 2 and is situated east of the headwaters of the Gowanus Creek. The files of the New York State Museum lists this as ACP-KNGS-2 which is described by Parker in his text. The description provides a reference to Furman and is very similar to that of site "D" above (Parker 1922:582). Since the Furman reference is clearly to another location, this Parker site must be another of his unnumbered locations. Parker's illustration of Kings County (ibid.:Plate 179) includes an unnumbered camp site in this location, so that it appears likely that site number listed by the New York State Museum is in error.

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

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

This survey has documented the reported or published location of no less than four prehistoric sites within a two mile radius of Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area. Although sites have been identified in the general



region of the proposed project area, none are known to exist within the project area itself. No evidence, positive or negative, based on previous survey work is available. Maps depicting the project area during the eighteenth century, presented here as Figures 3 and 4, do not show any streams, ponds or other sources of fresh water within or adjacent to the project area. This lack of a local fresh water source indicates that the Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area probably would not have been occupied during the prehistoric period.

#### HISTORIC SENSITIVITY

As part of the background research into the Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area, this archaeological and historical sensitivity evaluation surveyed published and unpublished sources located at the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Cadman Plaza branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, the Main Research Branch of the New York Public Library including the Local History and Map Divisions, the New York City Municipal Reference Library and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. In addition, primary source material was examined at the Topographical Bureau of the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, the Brooklyn Sewer Department and the New York City Bureau of Water Supply.

##### Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

European settlement within what is now the Borough Of Brooklyn began during the second quarter of the seventeenth century. The initial settlement consisted of farms concentrated around Wallabout Bay north of the project area. The Dutch established a village during 1645 along the shore of the East River just northeast of the present location of the Brooklyn Bridge. Throughout the colonial period first under Dutch control and then under the British crown the village and surrounding farms developed very slowly. The project area location and much of what is known as the Clinton Hill neighborhood were part of the Ryerson family farm from the late seventeenth century until the early nineteenth century. The Ryerson's residence was in the vicinity of the Wallabout Bay north of the project area (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981:2-3). The earliest map found that shows the project area in any sort of detail is the Ratzer Map surveyed in 1766-1767. Figure 3 provides a portion of this map including the project area. There are no indications of any structures within or adjacent to this location.

During the American Revolution from 1776 through 1783, Brooklyn was the scene of only one important military operation. The Battle of Long Island took place within Brooklyn during the final week of August 1776. The Americans had fortified a line running roughly from the Wallabout to Gowanus Bay. A maximum of 9,000 American troops faced roughly 15,000 British who had landed at New Utrecht and advanced toward the fortifications. The British forces



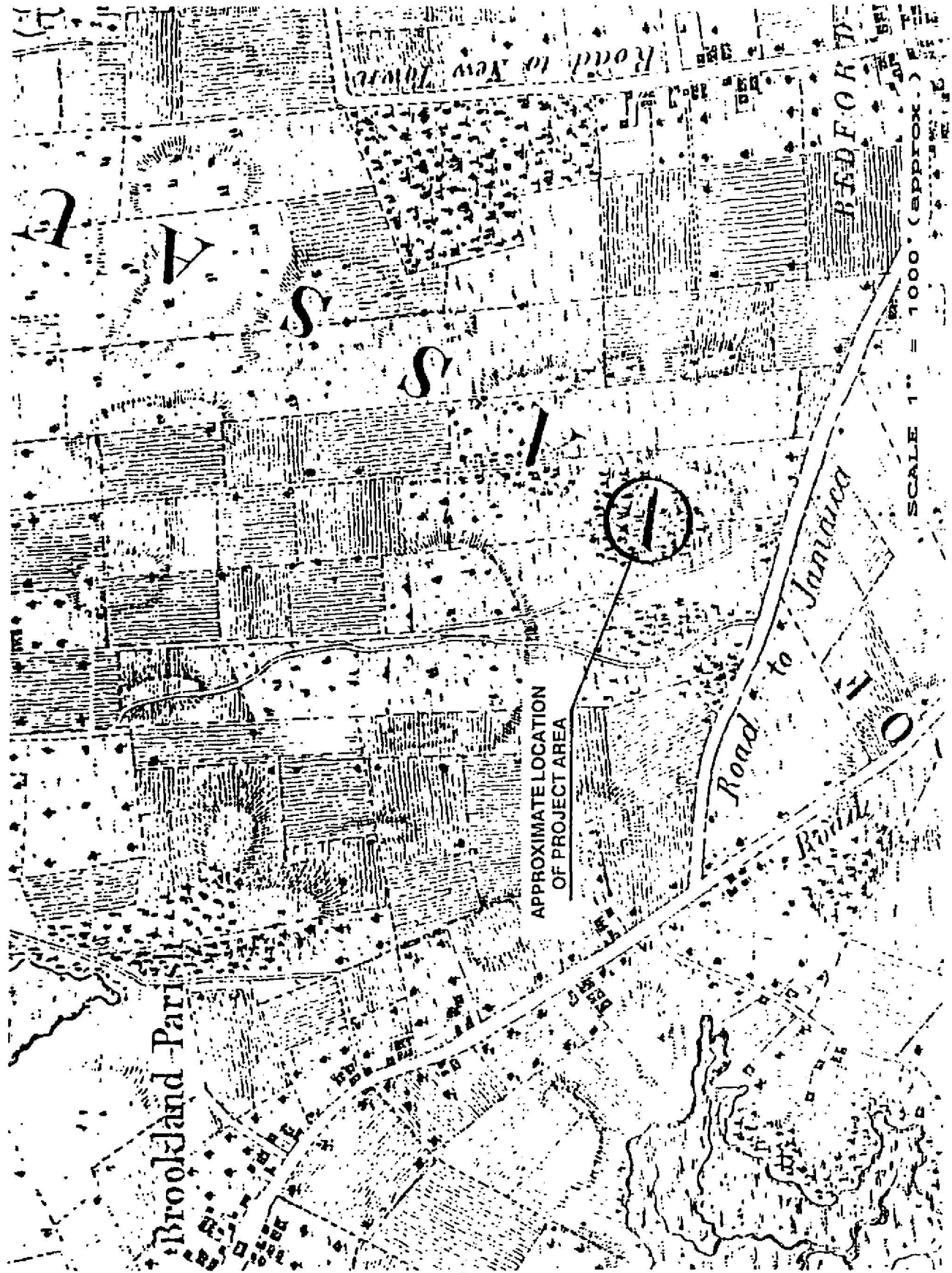


Figure 3. From Ratzer's 1766-67 Plan of the City of New York.

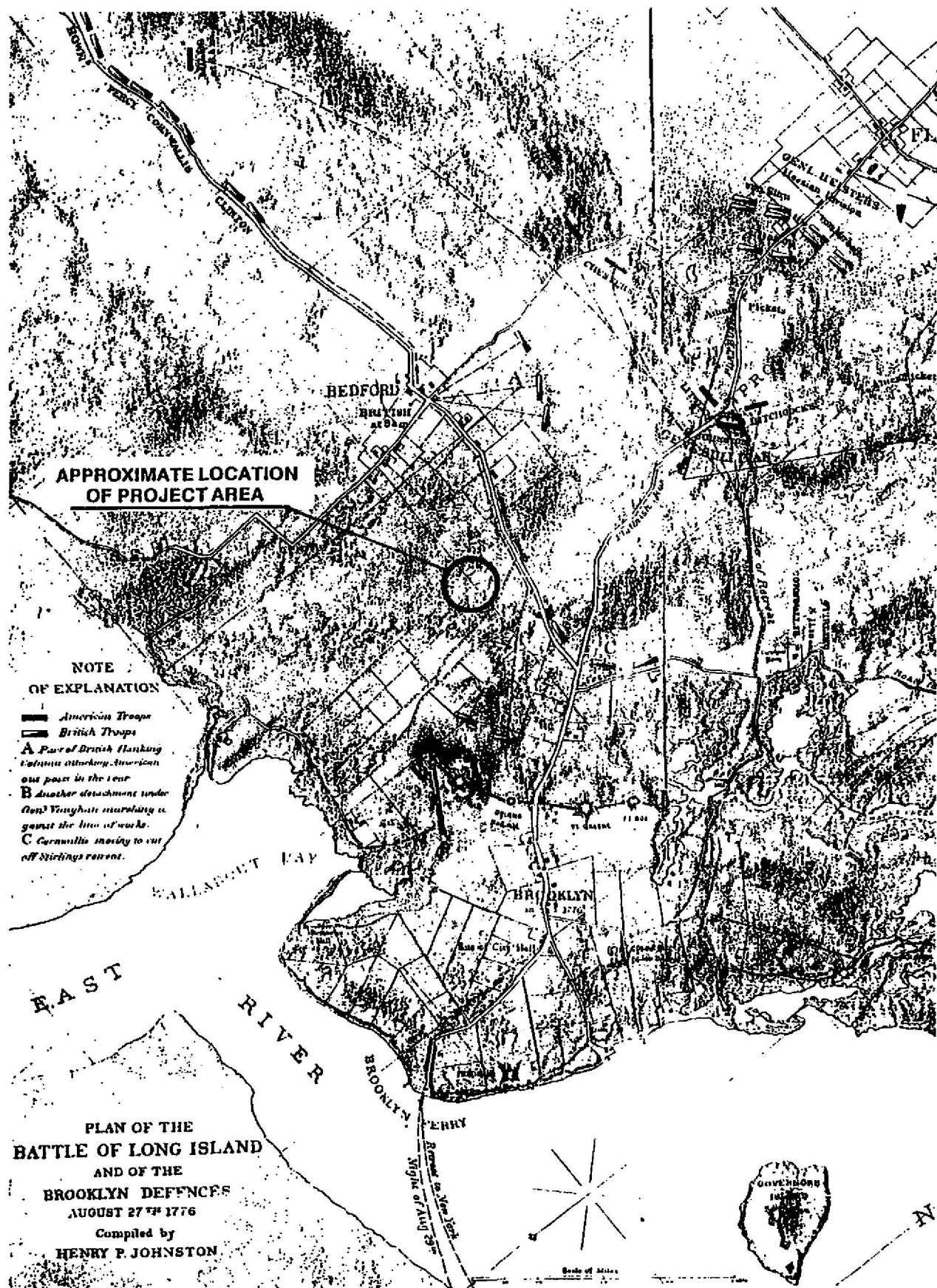


Figure 4. From Johnston's Plan of the Battle of Long Island and of the Brooklyn Defences, August 27, 1776.



prevailed and the Americans evacuated Brooklyn. New York City and the adjacent Kings County including the project area were held by the crown until November 1783 (Stiles 1867:I, 246-281, 297). The situation during the midst of the Battle of Long Island is depicted on the map entitled "Plan of the Battle of Long Island and Brooklyn Defenses" compiled by Henry P. Johnson in 1776. A portion of this plan is presented here as Figure 4. No fortifications or troop positions are shown within the project area.

#### Nineteenth Century

It is during the nineteenth century, in particular the second quarter, that dramatic changes began to take place in the Clinton Hill neighborhood including the project area. It is this century that gave Brooklyn much of the character that it still possesses today. During 1816 the settlement of Brooklyn was incorporated as a village. Brooklyn grew over the succeeding two decades and in 1834 was incorporated as a city. The City of Brooklyn absorbed the old Towns of Greenpoint, Williamsburgh and Bushwick in 1855. Eleven years later the City of Brooklyn absorbed the Town of New Lots. In 1894, it absorbed Flatbush, New Utrecht and Gravesend. During 1896, the Town of Flatlands became part of the City of Brooklyn which now contained all of Kings County. On the 1st of January 1898, the City of Brooklyn became a borough of New York City (Ellis 1966:452-453).

At the end of the eighteenth century the project area was still part of a farm owned by the Ryerson family. A property transaction ceding this particular farm from Martin and Ann Ryerson, and Andrew and Ida Cropsey to Jacob Ryerson was registered on 15 May 1797 (Brooklyn Historical Society n.d.:L.7 p.87). The farm remained in Jacob Ryerson's ownership for over three decades, until September 1831 when it was transferred to John W. Hunter. By the 17th of that month John W. Hunter transferred this land to William Hunter, Jr. These transactions are confirmed by the deeding of an additional parcel from the heirs of Jacob Ryerson to William Hunter, Jr. on 26 September 1831 (ibid.:L.31 p. 350, 353 and 394). The ownership of this farm by Jacob Ryerson is documented by several nineteenth maps showing old farm lines (Hopkins 1880: Volume 3, Plate F; Colton 1849). The subsequent ownership by William Hunter, Jr. is also confirmed by other similar maps (Butt 1845; Perris 1855:Sheet 8).

According to information on file at the Topographical Bureau of the Brooklyn Borough President's office, all four streets surrounding Block 1978 were mapped in 1839. The first to officially open was Fulton Street on 7 September 1842, followed by Gates Avenue on 8 January 1851 (Topographical Bureau of Brooklyn 1990). Waverly Avenue one block north of the project area was opened on 23 June 1855, but no reference to the official opening of Washington Avenue adjacent to Block 1978 could be found (ibid.)



At some time before or during early 1850 the northern end of Block 1978 including the future Lots 12-16 (the project area) and 17 (the church lot) became the property of the Bedford Protestant Reformed Dutch Church. During this year a chapel was erected and foundations for a large church were laid out, evidently to be called the Washington Avenue Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, but these plans collapsed during 1851 (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981:183). On 15 November 1851 this property passed from Bedford Protestant Reformed Dutch Church to Holbrook Chamberlain and John O. Whitehouse (Brooklyn Historical Society n.d.:L.262 p.292). These two men, with their wives Isanna L. Chamberlain and Fanny Whitehouse, then sold the entire parcel on 18 January 1853 to the Washington Avenue Baptist Church (ibid.:L.307 p.279). During 1860 the Washington Avenue Baptist Church erected the brick church that still stands on what is now Lot 17 at the corner of Gates and Washington Avenues (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981:183). On March 24th of the same year the western portion of the original church parcel was sold to Joseph Kirby (op cit:L.522 p.69).

Since Joseph Kirby was the first owner of the project area as a separate parcel, it appeared probable that he was either a real estate speculator or the builder of the houses that were soon to occupy Lots 12-16. To test this hypothesis, additional information on Mr. Kirby was sought. The United States Census for 1860 lists the Kirby family as residents of the 11th Ward, 3rd District of the City of Brooklyn as of 1 June 1860. Joseph Kirby, the head of the household, was a white male of 40 years born within New York State. His occupation was Master Carpenter. Living with him were three white females: Annie (22 years), Emma (4 years) and Susan (70 years), all without occupation listings. Also living with them at this time was James Smith, a 17 year old white male Apprentice Carpenter also born in New York State. The Kirby family owned a personal estate valued at \$3,000 and real estate valued at \$40,000 (United States Census 1860). Joseph Kirby was also listed in the Brooklyn City Directories for 1863 through 1867. For 1863 through 1866 he is listed as a builder living on Gates Avenue near Washington Avenue (Lain 1863:235; Lain 1864:255; Lain 1865:230; Lain 1866:284). The directory for 1867 lists Joseph Kirby as a builder with a business address of Gates Avenue Near Washington Avenue and a home address of Gates Avenue near Hamilton Street (later Waverly Avenue) (Lain 1867:302).

Joseph Kirby was responsible for building a number of structures that still stand within the Clinton Hill Historic District. On 44-50 Gates Avenue, between Clinton and Waverly Avenue, are four peaked roof Italianate style brick row houses built circa 1865 by Kirby. Between Waverly and Washington Avenues on Gates Avenue are seven houses built by Kirby. On 63-69 Gates Avenue are four narrow Neo-Grec style brick and stone houses built during 1880. On 71-73 Gates Avenue are a pair of French Second Empire/Neo-Grec style houses built during 1876, and 75 Gates Avenue is a French Empire style house the Kirby built circa 1877 for himself. On 101-107 Greene Avenue, Between Vanderbuilt and Clinton Avenue, is a row of four three-story





Italianate/Neo-Grec style brownstones built during 1878. On 439 and 439A Waverly Avenue, between Greene and Gates Avenue, is pair of brick Italianate row houses built by Kirby during 1879. They are unusual because they are the only two Kirby structures within the district designed by an architect, Amzi Hill. On the same block, 441-447 Waverly Avenue are four three story Italianate style brick row houses built circa 1868 (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981:94-95, 107, 191). This evidence indicates that Joseph Kirby built houses in Clinton Hill for at least two decades from 1860 to 1880. He followed the popular styles of the day and constructed mainly masonry row houses.

Cartographic sources for the second half of the nineteenth century were then consulted to determine the size and placement of the five structures built by Kirby. The earliest source to show these five houses is the Perris map of 1860-1861. This map shows five parallel lots facing Hamilton Street starting at the northwestern corner of the block at Gates Avenue and continuing south for just over one-hundred feet. The lots to the south, later numbered 12 through 14, have identical two and one-half story first class brick or stone dwellings on them. Each house occupies the full twenty foot width of its lot and extends 45 feet from Hamilton Street into the lot. The rear portion of each structure, seven to eight feet, is shown as one story, probably either a kitchen or rear porch. The twenty by thirty foot backyard is vacant. To the north of these lots, a three and one-half story first class brick or stone dwelling also approximately twenty by 45 feet. Behind this is a vacant rear yard twenty by thirty feet. Lot 16 at the corner of Gates Avenue and Hamilton Street also shows a three and one-half story first class brick or stone dwelling. This house is approximately 48 feet deep and fills the entire 22.5 foot width of Lot 16. The backyard of Lot 16 is also shown as vacant. To the east of Lots 12-16 is the Baptist Church. This large brick structure has a rectangular frame lecture room at the western end of the lot approximately 35 feet by 85 feet in size. This structure is shown within about two feet of the rear lot lines for Lots 12-16 (Perris 1861: Volume 2, Plate 35). The next source consulted was the 1880 Bromley Atlas. This atlas shows the same configuration as the 1860-1861 Perris Map with the exception that the frame lecture room attached to the church has been replaced by a brick or stone structure (Bromley 1880: Plate 8). The Robinson Atlas of 1886 also shows the same situation. This atlas includes the old block and lot reference. The project area was then Lots 2 through 6 on Block 60. A portion of this atlas is reproduced here as Figure 5 (Robinson 1886: Plate 6). The final nineteenth century source examined was the Hyde Atlas of 1898. This source shows no changes from the preceding 1886 depiction except that the block includes both the old number 60 and the reference 1978 (Hyde 1898: Plate 27). The cartographic data provides that the five houses within the project area were built during 1860 or 1861 and stood without major alterations into the twentieth century.



Ownership of the five lots that made up the project area from 1860 until the end of the nineteenth century were established through the Indices for deeds for Block 1978 seen at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Chains of title for each lot, referenced by the twentieth century lot numbers, are presented here as Tables 2-6.

Records housed at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Supply and Waste Water Collection indicate that water mains were available adjacent to the project area at the time Joseph Kirby was building the five houses. The Detailed Distribution Map covering this portion of Brooklyn indicates that an eight inch diameter main was installed under Gates Avenue adjacent to Block 1978 on 29 November 1858, and a six inch diameter main under Waverly Avenue on 10 April 1860 (Bureau of Water Supply n.d.). An examination of Tables 2 through 6 indicates that Kirby sold the houses within the project area beginning with Lot 13 on 3 May 1860 and ending with Lot 12 on 12 March 1863. Since Kirby can be confirmed as the builder, it is almost certain that no one occupied these lots prior to the sale dates mentioned above. Water mains were available before the first sale date and it would have been easier for Kirby to arrange hook-ups to these mains instead of laboriously constructing wells or cisterns. This would have also allowed Kirby to publicize the fact that the houses were connected to the then new Ridgewood Water System which had been officially introduced to Brooklyn on 4 December 1858 (Custer 1911:26).

A similar search for primary records regarding sewer installation and hook-ups was made at the Brooklyn Sewer Department. References were found on a sectional map indicating that all five lots had been hooked up and providing references to Volume 2 of the Register of Permits. Unfortunately, Volumes 1, 2 and 3 have been lost. Volume 4 begins during 1867, so the only evidence available is that the hook-ups were made at some time between 1860 and 1867. A search was made for installation dates for the sewer lines under Gates and Waverly Avenues, but the only records available stated that both lines were installed prior to the annexation of the Borough of Brooklyn in 1898. Since no evidence could be found in the primary records, secondary sources were examined regarding the history of the sewers in Brooklyn. The first sewer construction undertaken in Brooklyn began on 1 July 1848 (Custer 1911:23). By 10 September 1857 plans had been drawn up for drainage of the 1st, 3rd and 6th Wards (the project area was part of the 11th Ward). Prior to this date, only 5.55 miles of sewer existed in Brooklyn. These were all large enough for men to enter and were designed to drain ponds and low lying areas after rains. They were not used for domestic sewage (Stiles 1884:592). On 19 March 1859 a plan for the drainage of the remainder of the City of Brooklyn was presented. This plan divided the city into four large divisions. The northern division included all that drained into the East River north of Wallabout Bay; the middle or eastern division included all that drained into Wallabout Bay; the southern division included all that drained into Gowanus Creek; and the western division included all land that drained into the East

Table 2  
Chain of Title for Lot 12

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Recording Date</u>	<u>Liber:Page</u>
Joseph Kirby/Anna Kirby	Abel S. Warren	12 March 1863	592:419
Abel S. Warren	William Menzies Adams	19 March 1869	879:509
William M. Adams/Ellen H. Adams	Emma J. Phillips	16 May 1888	1810:359
Emma J. Phillips/ Frank H. Phillips	William H. Hibbard	6 June 1888	1814:524
William H. Hibbard/Abby Hibbard	Lydia V. Marryatt	6 June 1888	1814:526

Table 3  
Chain of Title for Lot 13

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Recording Date</u>	<u>Liber:Page</u>
Joseph Kirby/Anna Kirby	John H. Bartlett	3 May 1860	526:247
John H. Bartlett/ Mary M. Bartlett	Julia E. Vincent	17 March 1864	623:8
Julia E. Vincent/Isaac Vincent	Martha Bigelow	25 March 1868	808:254
Martha Bigelow (executors of)	Delia Burns	12 May 1883	1509:444
Delia Burns	Adolphine Schumann	19 March 1885	1597:498

Table 4  
Chain of Title for Lot 14

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Recording Date</u>	<u>Liber:Page</u>
Joseph Kirby/Anna Kirby	Matilda Wendelken	4 May 1861	522:545
Matilda Wendelken/John Wendelken	Patrick Mulledy	30 April 1867	756:473
Patrick Mulledy/Maria Mulledy	David C. Porter	15 April 1871	991:180

Table 5  
Chain of Title for Lot 15

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Recording Date</u>	<u>Liber:Page</u>
Joseph Kirby/Anna Kirby	Harriet H. Treat	10 May 1861	553:168
Harriet H. Treat/Joseph Treat	Henry L. Rider	12 October 1866	725:327
Henry L. Rider/Grace P. Rider	Henrietta H. White	6 July 1869	906:195
Henrietta H. White/Henry White	Charles Hallock	7 July 1870	955:486
Henrietta H. White	Charles Hallock	4 April 1873	1097:439
Charles Hallock/ Amelia J. Hallock	Amanda L. Dutcher	4 April 1873	1097:440
Amanda S. Dutcher/ Charles H. Dutcher	Elizabeth Hegeman	30 October 1893	2206:132

Table 6  
Chain of Title for Lot 16

<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Recording Date</u>	<u>Liber:Page</u>
Joseph Kirby/Anna Kirby	Arthur O'Leary	30 December 1862	586:511
Arthur O'Leary/Helen B. O'Leary	Sidney V. Lowell	19 July 1870	957:112
Sidney V. Lowell	Benjamin E. Valentine	4 December 1871	1025:16
Benjamin E. Valentine	Josephine C. Lowell	4 December 1871	1025:22
Josephine C. Lowell	Benjamin E. Valentine	24 April 1872	1046:293
Benjamin E. Valentine	Sidney V. Lowell	24 April 1872	1046:294
Sidney V. Lowell/ Josephine C. Lowell	Mary A. Hutchinson (dec'd)	22 November 1880	1406:448
Mary A. Hutchinson (Executors of)	Executors: James Dunn & Joseph H. Serivener		
Elizabeth H. Bliss/ Annie W. Dunn (nee Hutchinson)	Elizabeth H. Bliss/ Annie W. Hutchinson	5 April 1881	1419:441
Edwin H. Brown/Eugenie M. Brown	Edwin H. Brown	25 June 1890	1984:96
Elizabeth L. Chinnock	Elizabeth L. Chinnock	18 November 1890	2014:5
Frederick C. Urban	Frederick C. Urban	9 July 1891	2056:433
	Joseph Benjamin	27 March 1893	2168:442
Foreclosure			
Robert Merchant (referee)	Hannah Molander	22 November 1893	2209:264
Hannah Molander	David McCoster	22 November 1893	2209:267

Information for Tables 2 through 6 obtained from the  
Brooklyn Historical Society Indices to Nineteenth Century  
Property Transactions for Block 1978.



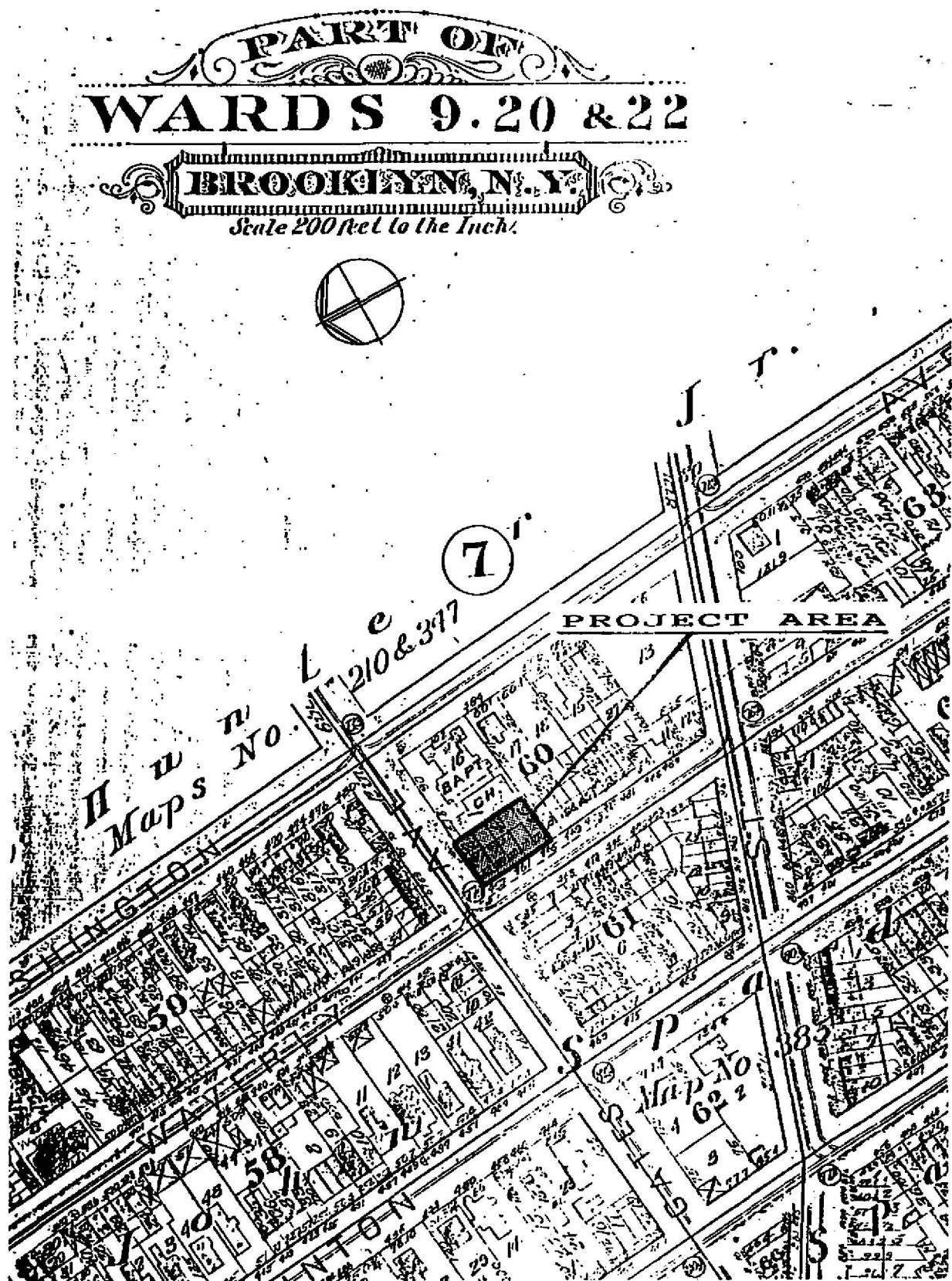


Figure 5. From Robinson's 1886 Atlas of the City of Brooklyn.

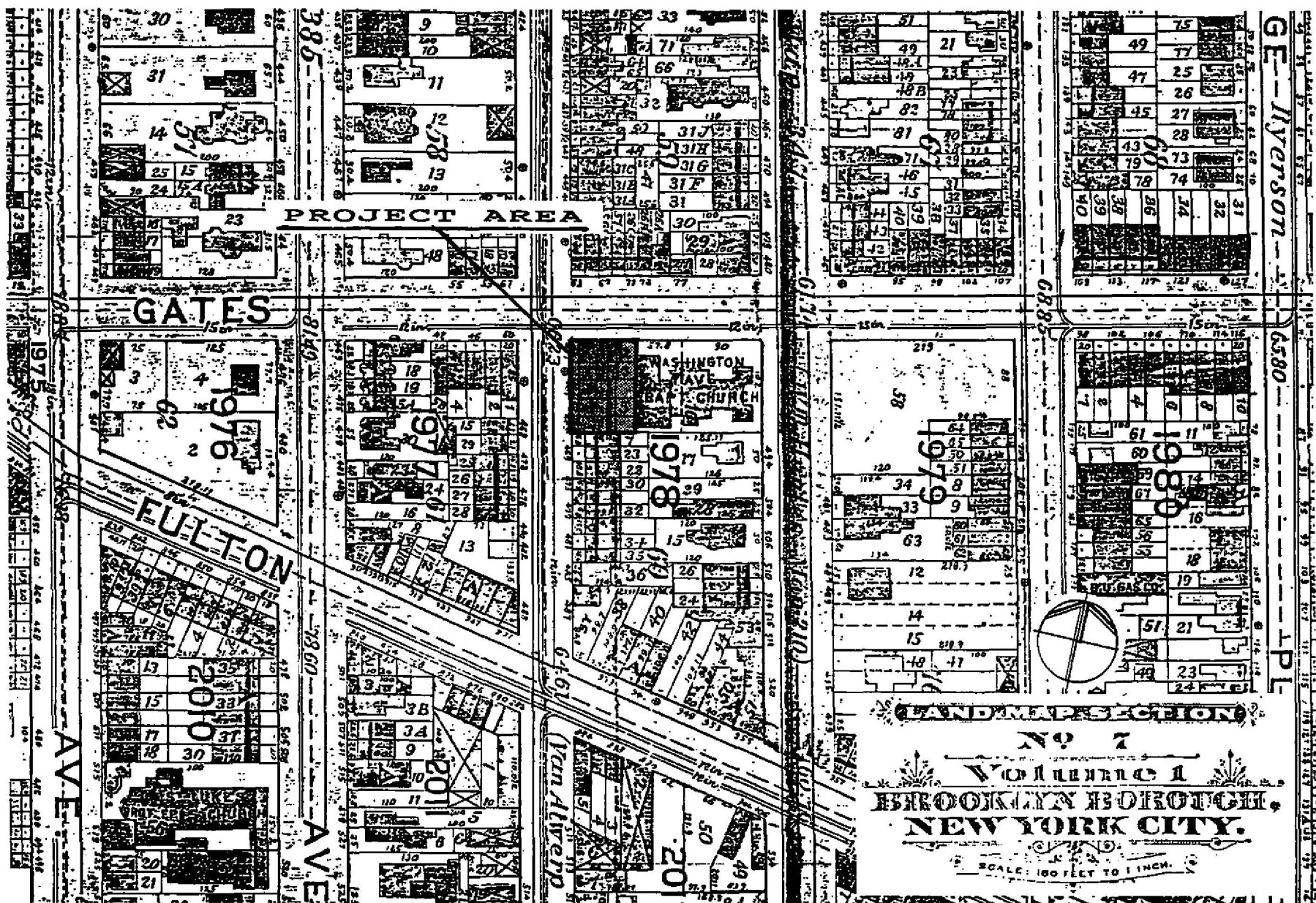


Figure 6. From Hyde's 1898 Atlas of Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York.



River between Wallabout Bay and Red Hook. These four divisions were subdivided into eighteen districts. Each district was to have one (or occasionally more) large sewer draining into the river. These sewers would be largest at their outlet and would diminish as they extended into the city, down to twelve inch diameter which was the smallest and most common pipe to be used (ibid.). The Brooklyn Sewer Department was created on 16 April 1859 which relieved the Water Department of responsibility for the sewers (Stiles 1867-1870:596). Individual connections began to be made to the Brooklyn sewers during 1859, when 422 connections were made. Figures have been compiled for each year through 1882. For the period in question here, they are as follows: 1860 - 1695 connections; 1861 - 4896 connections; 1862 - 3168 connections; 1863 - 1984 connections; 1864 - 1301 connections; 1865 - 1519 connections; 1866 - 3605 connections; and 1867 - 2922 connection (Stiles 1884:594). By 1869 additional drainage plans for Wards 9, 16, 17, 18 and 21 had been prepared. This completed planning for all sewers in Brooklyn excepting a very small strip of land between Sackett Street Boulevard and Flatbush (then an independent town) which would have to drain into Jamaica Bay (Stiles 1867-1870:597). It became evident at this point in the research that it would not be possible to prove through the documents whether the five lots within the project area had been connected to the sewers when the houses were built. The primary records only provided evidence that connections had been made prior to mid-1867 and turned off during 1965 through 1969 (Brooklyn Sewer Department 1991 personal communications).

Since the houses could well have been constructed with individual privies, the chains of title were examined to determine which lots had continuity of ownership from the initial sale until 1867 or later. Table 2 shows that Lot 12 was purchased by Abel S. Warren 12 March 1863 and held until 19 March 1869. Table 3 indicates that Lot 13 was bought by John H. and Mary M. Bartlett on 3 May 1860 and sold 17 March 1864. Table 4 shows that Lot 14 was purchased by Matilda and John Wendelken on 4 May 1861 and not sold until 30 April 1867. Table 5 indicates that Lot 15 was bought by Harriet H. and Joseph Treat on 10 May 1861 and sold 12 October 1866. Table 6 shows that Lot 16 was purchased by Arthur and Helen B. O'Leary on 30 December 1862 and held by them until 15 July 1870. This evidence continuity of ownership from the initial sale until the end of April 1867 or later for Lots 12, 14 and 16 only. In order to determine whether the owners lived in these three houses or rented them out, Brooklyn City Directories were consulted. An Able Warren is listed in the 1864 directory living on Hamilton Street near Gates Avenue. No occupation is given (Lain 1864:485). The next Year Abel Warren is listed at the same address and an occupation of "shoes" is supplied (Lain 1865:436). An A.S. Warren appears in the next volume still living at the same address, and working at 53 Dey Street in New York City as a shoe and boot manufacture (Lain 1866:541). The 1867 directory again lists A.S. Warren living at the same address, and making shoes at 40 Courtlandt Street in New York City (Lain 1867:589). The 1863 directories shows a John Wendelken living on Hamilton Street near Gates Avenue (Lain 1863:463). The following year provides the

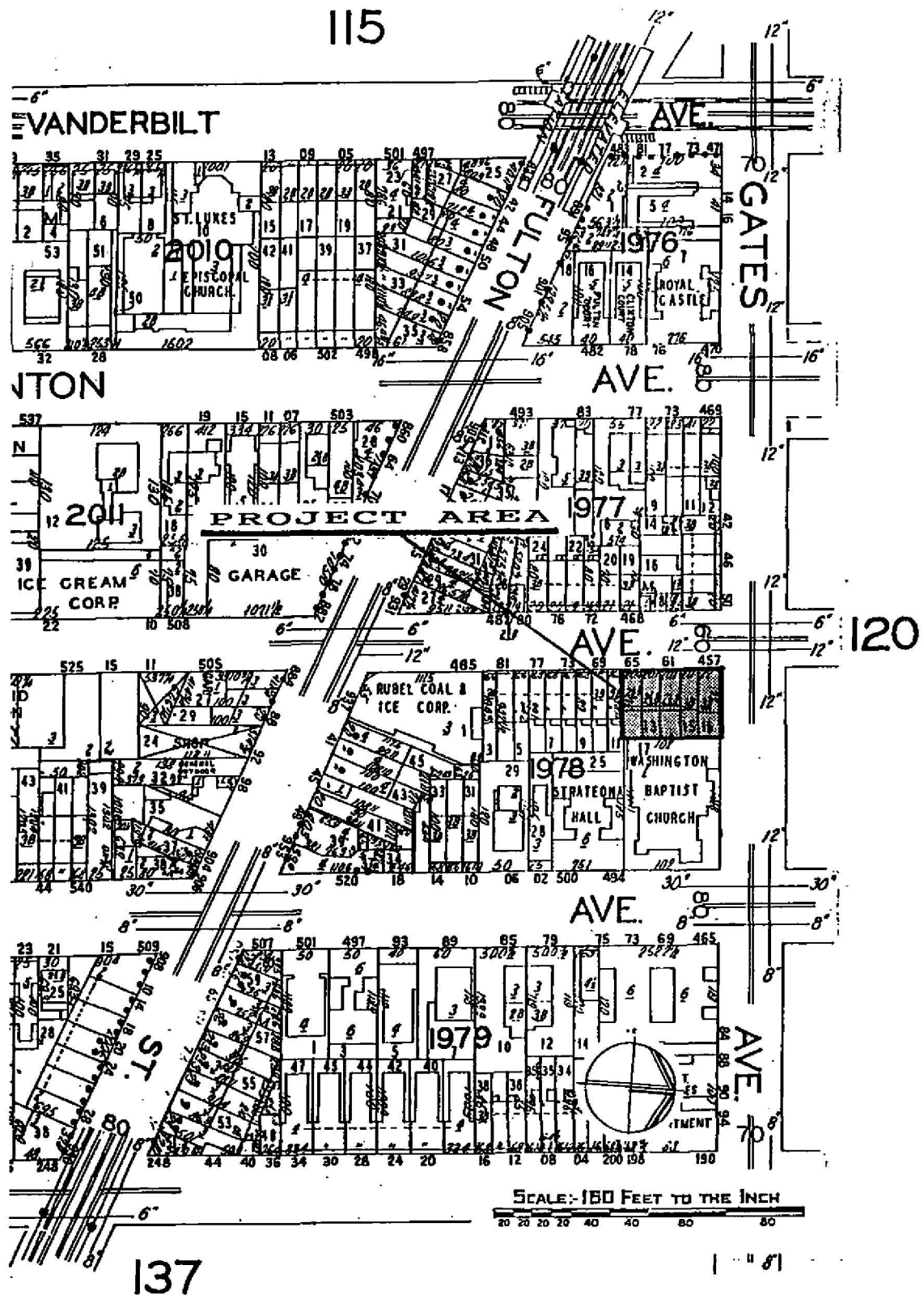


Figure 7. From Hyde's 1929 Desk Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn.





same information and gives his occupation as a conductor (Lain 1864:491). The 1865 volume lists John Wendelken living on Hamilton Street near Fulton Street but gives no occupation (Lain 1985:442). The 1866 listing for John Wendelken is identical to that for 1864 (Lain 1866:548). The 1867 directory shows John Wendelken still living on Hamilton Street near Gates Avenue, and working as a butcher at 703 Myrtle Avenue in Brooklyn (Lain 1867:597). Arthur O'Leary first appears in the 1865 directory which lists him as an M.D. living at the corner of Hamilton Street and Gates Avenue (Lain 1865:317). The same information appears in the next two years with occupations of physician and M.D. respectively (Lain 1866:397; Lain 1867:431). Therefore, all three properties were owner occupied during this time period. The heads of the three households were employed as a shoe manufacturer, a medical doctor, and as a conductor then a butcher. The Clinton Hill Historic District Report speaks of middle class families moving into newly built row houses during the 1860s (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981:4) and the project area appears to be an excellent example of this.

#### Changes in Grade

Evidence for filling within the northern portion of Block 1978 including the Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area. A grade chart for the streets in the vicinity of the Block 1978 was examined at the Topographical Bureau of the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. This chart provides the legal grades subsequently made. Also listed are grades at the corner of each block which represent the elevation of the block when the street were mapped, in this case 1839. Differences between adjacent grades on the streets and on the block consensus would indicate cutting or filling. The grade at the intersection of Gates and Washington Avenues was set at 73.0 feet above the old Brooklyn Highway Datum (The Brooklyn City Datum is equivalent to the Brooklyn Highway Department Datum which is 2.56 feet above mean sea level at Sandy Hook, New Jersey). The elevation listed for the northeast corner of Block 1978 is 61.85 feet, which is 11.15 feet below the adjacent street grade. The grade at the intersection of Gates and Waverly was originally 76.92 feet, while the adjacent northwest corner of the block is listed as 65.84 feet. The difference is 11.08 feet. This indicates that slightly over eleven feet of fill was added to the northern end of the Block 1978.

#### Twentieth Century

The 1929 Hyde Desk Atlas reproduced in part here as Figure 7 shows no changes from this situation depicted on the late nineteenth century sources. Information from the Sewer Department indicates that the fire houses became vacant during the last half of the 1960s (Brooklyn Sewer Department 1991 personal communication). A Sanborn map revised to 1978 shows all five lots as vacant by that time (Sanborn 1978:Volume 2, Sheet 39), so the houses were evidently demolished during the period 1969 through 1978.

During the twentieth century there were changes in the ownership of the church adjacent to the project area. In 1929 the Washington Avenue Baptist



Church sold the building to the Seventh Day Adventists. They used the structure until 1958 when it was sold to the Brown Memorial Baptist Church who remain the present owners (New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission 1981:184).

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this sensitivity evaluation was to determine the potential of the project area for preserving archaeological evidence beneath the surface of the parking lot that currently occupies this location. A general review of the history and prehistory of Brooklyn indicated that this potential sensitivity could originate from one or more of three time periods, which have been addressed above. In chronological order they are the prehistoric period, the seventeenth through early nineteenth centuries when the region was farmed and saw a Revolutionary War battle take place, and the mid nineteenth century and later when urban development gave the neighborhood its present character. The evidence for filling of Block 1978 proves that should any remains survive from the first two periods here, they would be buried under eleven feet of fill, while any remains from the third period would be near the present surface or cut into the fill.

The above text has documented that there is little chance that the Brown Memorial Baptist Church project area was a habitation site during the prehistoric period. The lack of a fresh water source on or adjacent to the property makes it very unlikely that the aboriginal population ever used this location for any purpose except occasional hunting or as part of a planting field. These uses would leave little or no archaeological evidence, so the project area cannot be considered sensitive to the preservation of prehistoric remains.

The section of text on the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has documented that the project area was part of a farm owned by the Ryerson family. There is no evidence that any farm related structures were at this location. During the Revolutionary War the Battle of Long Island took place in the general vicinity of the Brown Memorial project area, but there is no reason to believe that this specific location was used for fortifications or troop encampments. After the Revolution, the project area remained a part of the Ryerson farm until it was sold to the Hunter Family during the 1830s. There is no reason to believe that any structures from the Hunter farm were located within the project area.

The discussion of the nineteenth century history of the project area indicates that there is potential for the preservation of archaeological evidence from this period beneath the surface of the existing parking lot. During the mid-nineteenth century the project area was subdivided from the church lot to the east and sold to a local builder, Joseph Kirby. Kirby divided the property into five lots and began contracting five row houses

G

during 1860. Water mains were available by this time in both Gates and Waverly Avenues, so it appears that no cisterns or wells would have been constructed. The only evidence for sewer hook-ups indicates that these were made by 1867, so there is the possibility that privies existed within the rear yards of these five lots. Continuity of occupation from the original sale by Kirby until 1867 or later can be proven for three of the five lots. The Warren family owned and occupied Lot 12, the Wendelkens were in Lot 14, and the O'Leary family owned and occupied Lot 16 at this time. Should privies exist within Lots 12, 14 or 16, they would probably have been filled with refuse from these families after the sewer hook-ups were made. Should this material be successfully recovered, it would generate considerable evidence regarding the lives of these middle class residents of Clinton Hill, Brooklyn during the 1860s. For these reasons, we are recommending that archaeological testing of the rear portions of Lot 12, 14 and 16 be undertaken prior to construction activities here. We suggest that backhoe trenching would be the most efficient method for conducting this testing. Despite the evidence for filling of Block 1978, there is no reason to suspect that any potentially significant archaeological remains would exist beneath the fill. The recommendations for testing is limited to searching for evidence of privies from the 1860s.



Plate 1. View of the project area looking southeast, showing the Brown Memorial Church structure to the east and surviving row houses to the south of the parking lot.





## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brooklyn Historical Society  
n.d. Block 1978 Deed Indices for 19th Century.
- Brooklyn Sewer Department  
1991 Personal Communication, February 1991.
- Bolton, Reginald Pelham  
1934 Indian Life of Long Ago in the City of New York. Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. New York.
- 1975 New York City in Indian Possession. 2nd Edition, Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. New York.
- Custer, E.A.  
1911 A Synoptical History of the Town of Kings County from 1525 to Modern Times.
- Ellis, Edward Robb  
1966 The Epic of New York City. New York: Old Town Books.
- Furman, Gabriel  
1824 Notes, Geographical and Historical Relating to the Town of Brooklyn, on Long Island. Brooklyn: E.B. Spooner.
- 1865 Notes Geographical and Historical Pertaining to Brooklyn, with Notes and A Memoir of the Author. Reprinted. E.B. Spooner & Sons, Publishers.
- Grumet, Robert Steven  
1981 Native American Place Names in New York City. Museum of the City of New York.
- Lain, J.  
1862 The Brooklyn City Directory for the Year Ending May 1st, 1863.
- 1863 The Brooklyn City Directory for the Year Ending May 1st, 1864.
- 1864 The Brooklyn City Directory for the Year Ending May 1st, 1865.
- 1865 The Brooklyn City Directory for the Year Ending May 1st, 1866.
- 1866 The Brooklyn City Directory for the Year Ending May 1st, 1867.



- New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1981 Clinton Hill Historic District Report. New York.
- Parker, Arthur C.  
1922 The Archeological History of New York. N.Y. State Museum Bulletin 235-238.
- Solecki, Ralph  
1977 Contract 1A Red Hook Water Pollution Control Project, Brooklyn, New York. Stage I Archaeological Survey: Fulton Street (Cadman Plaza West) Furman Street to East of Front Street, Atlantic Avenue, Furman Street and Joralemon Street West of Columbia Street, Main and Plymouth Street, Howard to Pearl Street. Report prepared for Mason & Hanger-Silas Mason Co., Inc. with the Department of Water Resources, City of New York.
- Stiles, Henry R.  
1867- A History of the City of Brooklyn. Three Volumes. Brooklyn:  
1870 Published by Subscription.
- 1884 The Civil Political, Professional and Ecclesiastical History of the County of Kings. New York: Munsell & Co.
- Thompson, John H., ed.  
1966 Geography of New York State. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press.
- United States Census Bureau  
1860 Eighth Census of the United States.
- Van Diver, Bradford B.  
1925 Roadside Geology of New York. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company.



## MAPS AND ATLASES

- Bromley, George W. and Walter S.  
1880 Atlas of the City of Brooklyn. New York: Bromley and E. Robinson.
- Brooklyn Topographical Bureau  
1928 Grade Chart #28. Redrawn 26 January 1928.
- 1990 Plan of Street Openings. (updated)
- Bureau of Water Supply  
n.d. Detailed Distribution Map B-59 (for part of Brooklyn). New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Supply.
- Butt, Richard  
1845 Map of the City of Brooklyn and the Village of Williamsburgh.
- Colton, J.H.  
1849 Map of the City of Brooklyn.
- Hopkins, G.M.  
1880 Detailed Estate and Farm Line Atlas of the City of Brooklyn. Volume 5, Plate F.
- Hyde, E. Belcher  
1898 Atlas of the Brooklyn Borough of the City of New York, Brooklyn, New York.
- 1929 Desk Atlas of the Borough of Brooklyn. Volume 1.
- Johnson, Henry P.  
1776 Plan of the Battle of Long Island and of the Brooklyn Defenses, August 27th, 1776.
- Perris, William  
1855 Plan of the City of Brooklyn. New York: J.H. Higginson, L.L.D.
- 1861 Maps of the City of Brooklyn. Volume 2. New York: J.H. Higginson.
- Ratzer, Bernard  
1766/67 Plan of the town of Brooklyn and part of Long Island.
- Robinson, E.  
1886 Robinson's Atlas of the City of Brooklyn, New York. New York: E. Robinson and R.H. Pidgeon.



Sanborn Map Co.

1979 Insurance Maps of the Borough of Brooklyn. 1939 updated to 1979.

Stiles, Henry R.

1867- Plan of the Battle of Brooklyn, August 27, 1776. History of

1870 Brooklyn. Brooklyn: Published by subscription.

United States Geological Survey

1967 Brooklyn, New York Quadrangle. 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map,  
Photorevised 1979.