

USF  
680M  
etc.  
1991  
Key Perspectives

DOCUMENTARY STUDY

EAST HARLEM TRIANGLE SITE

BLOCK 1791, PART OF LOT 1    BLOCK 1792, LOTS 5, 9, 10

CEQR #89-106M

for the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Karen S. Robinson, Ph.D., SOPA  
with Frederick A. Winter, Ph.D., SOPA  
**KEY PERSPECTIVES**

September, 1991

473

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES .....	ii
INTRODUCTION .....	1
TOPOGRAPHY .....	2
PREHISTORY .....	3
HISTORIC PERIODS AND LOT HISTORIES .....	6
Historical Overview .....	6
Ownership and Building History of the Site ..	7
Lot Histories .....	12
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	30
FIGURES .....	33
MAPS CONSULTED .....	47
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	48



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location .....	33
Figure 2: Proposed Development .....	34
Figure 3: Site views .....	35
Figure 4: Site views .....	36
Figure 5: Site views .....	37
Figure 6: New Harlem lands (after Riker) .....	38
Figure 7: Village of New Harlem (after Pierce) ...	39
Figure 8: after Sackersdorf Blue Book, 1815 .....	40
Figure 9: Randel's Map of Farms 1819-20 .....	41
Figure 10:after Dripps, 1854 .....	42
Figure 11:after Dripps, 1867 .....	43
Figure 12:Sanborn 1894 .....	44
Figure 13:Landbook 1975 .....	45
Figure 14:Recommended test locations .....	46

## INTRODUCTION

This study is designed to fulfill the requirement of a Documentary Study for block 1791, part of Lot 1 and Block 1792, Lots 5, 9, and 10, in the East Harlem section of Manhattan, as required by The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, CEQR #89-106M (Fig. 1). These lots were flagged for study because they were viewed as being a potential source of significant remains dating to the early history of settlement in Manhattan, specifically the village of Harlem, and thus a possible source of seventeenth and eighteenth century remains. The site is designated as the East Harlem Triangle Urban Renewal Area Housing Site, a project of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. As planned, part of the area of lot 1 on Block 1791 will be the site of the housing units and part of the area of lot 1 on Block 1791 and the area of lots 5, 9, and 10 on Block 1792 will be the site of a parking lot (Fig. 2).

This study consists of an examination, through maps, archival materials, and texts, of the history of the area of blocks 1791 and 1792 and its natural topography. In addition, the building history of the site has been researched and the site visited and examined in its present condition. The information has been analyzed to determine if archaeological field testing should or should not be required, and an appropriate recommendation is made. Archaeological field testing is required if, on the basis of the Documentary Study, the site is determined to have the possibility of yielding significant archaeological materials. In the case of this proposed development site, part of Block 1791, lot 1 were found to have potential for mid-19th century remains of subsurface archaeological features such as cisterns and privies, and testing to determine the presence or absence of these features is recommended. However, it was further determined that there is no potential for recovering remains of the village of New Harlem.

The research for this study was conducted at The New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society, the Brooklyn College Library, Avery Library, Columbia University, The Watson Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Buildings Department of the City of New York, the Sewer Department of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the City of New York, and in the author's personal library. In addition, material is used which was supplied by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the sponsor of the development project.

## TOPOGRAPHY

The project site lies at the edge of the flatlands called by the native population Muscota, which lie between the Harlem River and Morningside Heights, northwest of what was once Harlem Creek and its surrounding swampy area, as well as "Mount Morris." Viele showed that the northeasternmost corner of Block 1792 was at the river's edge and a large swamp and lake lay to the northwest. The site itself was part of an area of slight rise -- except for the western part of Block 1791 (Viele 1865).

At the time of the site visit, June 5, 1991, most of the development site was vacant and level. Block 1792 was a rubble strewn vacant lot with signs of relatively recent grading. Large chunks of concrete lined the lot line at the sidewalk along the eastern three-quarters of the frontage; at the western front is a patch of broken concrete about 20 by 20 feet on which cars were parked. Although relatively flat, there was a slight hump at an area of broken paving extending north-south on lot 5. In addition, there was a slight dip at the eastern edge of lot 10, along the side of the recycling center. The Block 1792 site is bounded on the east by the True Church of God.

Block 1791, part of lot 1, was almost entirely covered by a paved, fenced parking lot which is no longer in service. The intact black-top surface had deposits of large debris, especially along the north side, next to the tenement still standing at 230 E. 127th Street. Along the northeast edge, backing onto the empty grocery store, subsurface access ways and surface air conditioning units and sheds encroached on the development site. At 212-208 were one-story buildings housing A&E Auto Repair and the Manhattan Coach Works, the former in a brick building framed with columns which appear to be from an earlier store front. A painted-out sign at 210/208 "A. Zinz & Sons" is preserved. Along the western edge of these buildings -- at the side of the United Moravian Church -- is a paved surface covering building rubble, with car parts stored on it. The part of lot 1 to the south of the church is unpaved and unfenced, covered with demolition debris and weeds, and both wrecked and parked automobiles (Figs. 3 - 5).

## PREHISTORY

Prehistoric occupation in the northeast and New York City area has been divided into the following periods: Paleo-Indian, 10,500 - 8000 B.C., Archaic, 8000 - 1300 B.C., Transitional, 1300 - 1000 B.C., and Woodland, 1000 B.C. - historic occupation. The Archaic and Woodland periods have been subdivided into Early, Middle, and Late phases as follows: Early Archaic, 8000 - 6000 B.C., Middle Archaic, 6000 - 4000 B.C., Late Archaic, 4000 - 1300 B.C., Early Woodland, 1000 - 300 B.C., Middle Woodland, 300 B.C. - 1000 A.D., Late Woodland, 1000 A.D. - European contact.

Each of these periods is characterized by particular settlement types. Paleo-Indian sites are often along areas of low, swampy ground or on very high, protected areas (Ritchie 1980:7). Within New York City, Paleo-Indian remains have been excavated at the Port Mobile site on Staten Island, and worked stone implements of Paleo-Indian type have been found at additional locations within that borough (Ritchie 1980:xvii f. and map, 4f.). Although Paleo-Indian materials have not yet been discovered in Manhattan, some portions of the island were, in the recent past, of the topographic type favored by the Paleo-Indian hunters. Thus, the predictive model of the New York City Landmarks Commission archaeological unit lists the Collect Pond area in lower Manhattan and Washington Heights in the north as being potential areas for Paleo-Indian remains (Baughner et al. 1982:10).

In predicting the location of Paleo-Indian sites, it must be remembered that the topography of Manhattan and its surrounding region have changed since the beginning of the Neothermal period. The discovery of the remains of land-based megafauna such as mammoth and mastodon on the Atlantic Ocean floor along the Continental Shelf opposite the New York - New Jersey sea coast serves as a reminder that the geography of the New York area has been altered considerably since antiquity, and that microhabitats such as the stream that flowed adjacent to the project area may have been radically different during the earlier periods of prehistory (Chesler 1982:20). Barrier Gate Creek, Sherman's Creek and even the Harlem River have probably shifted course since Paleo-Indian times. Without core borings and other geological tests, it is difficult to predict the form the site might have taken in this early period.

The Early Archaic was characterized by small hunting camps. According to the Landmarks Commission study for a city-wide archaeological predictive model, such sites do not have great archaeological visibility, nor are they likely to be associated with particular land forms (Baughner et al. 1982:10). Finds from other portions of the U.S. Northeast indicate that during the Middle Archaic there was a large increase of population. As yet, there is little evidence of this time period in the New York City region and thus it is especially important to watch for remains

from this era. Discoveries of Middle Archaic components are necessary in order to define occurrence-characteristics and increase the accuracy of future predictions of site occurrence.

For the Late Archaic, sites are most likely to be found in littoral areas (Baugher et al. 1982: 10-11).

Littoral areas and the zones along major inland water ways such as the Hudson are also known to have been settled during Transitional times. Stone projectile points of Transitional type have been found in northern Manhattan, in the Inwood/Washington Heights district.<sup>1</sup> As yet, there is not a large enough body of information to accurately predict Transitional site occurrence within New York City in anything except the most general terms. In the Woodland period, many different kinds of settlements existed. Permanent and semi-permanent settlements, villages, as well as seasonal campsites and food gathering/processing stations, are characteristic. Agriculture was practiced, although this development may date only to the end of the Late Woodland period, following the first contact with Europeans (Ceci 1982: 2-36). Shellfish collecting sites at tidal inlets are particularly well represented in this period, although this may simply be a reflection of the fact that the tidal zones were less likely to have been disturbed by subsequent city development than were inland areas.

In the mid-17th century, high hills near streams, rivers and agricultural fields, and fishing places were favored by the Indians for settlement, and Grumet identifies the proposed development site as falling on the northern border of a Native American planting area (Grumet 1981:68).

At the time of European contact and Dutch settlement, Manhattan was occupied by Munsee-speaking Delaware groups: the Canarsee, who occupied western Long Island and probably controlled southern and possibly eastern Manhattan, and other Indian groups whose territory included the northern portions of the island (Trigger 1978:214, fig. 1). Until recently, it was believed that the northernmost segment of Manhattan Island, had been occupied by two groups: The Reckgawawanks and the Wickquaesgecks. However, Robert Grumet has now placed the Reckgawawanks at Haverstraw in Rockland County, thus leaving upper Manhattan to the Wickquaesgecks (Grumet 1981: 59-62; 1982:passim). Thus, either the Canarsee or the Wickquaesgecks would have been likely to have been active around the proposed development area.

---

<sup>1</sup>. Ritchie 1980:150-178 for general characteristics and distribution of Transitional remains.

There was an Amerindian trail which ran a few blocks south of the site, and which was incorporated into the first road system of the village of Harlem. Passing through the meadows of Muscota<sup>2</sup> to the area called Conykeekst, it crossed First Avenue at 124th Street and Second Avenue at 121st Street (Bolton 1922:72, 74-76, Map IV; Riker 1904:171). Amerindian remains consisting of arrowheads and flakes were found in East Harlem in 1855, during excavation of a cellar on Avenue A between 120th and 121st Streets (Riker 1904: 123). Bolton concluded that the site was intermittently used, either as "a place of landing and trade, or perhaps a fishing place" (Bolton 1922:72f., pl. IV).<sup>3</sup>

Neither the pathway nor the reported native American site are on or immediately adjacent to the development site, although their locations indicate that the Native Americans used areas to the east and south of the site. There is nothing in the topography or documentary evidence for the site itself which would indicate significant Amerindian utilization in addition to the use of the locality as a planting area, and thus there is no sensitivity for Native American remains on the site based on this evidence.

---

<sup>2</sup>Muscota was the name for the entire area of flats as well as the Harlem River (Grumet 1981:36). The area just to the north of the development site, the part of Muscota between East 135th Street and East 150th Streets, was also called Schorrakin (Grumet 1981:51).

<sup>3</sup>. It seems likely, since Native American settlements were not densely packed within Manhattan Island, that this may be the same site otherwise referred to by Bolton as being located at 105th Street, and it is certainly identical to the site that he subsequently places at 119th Street (Bolton 1920/1975:79 and 1934/1972:134). In his 1920 publication, Bolton identifies the 105th Street site as Rechewanis, or Rechewas, Point. In 1934, the 119th Street site is called Schorrakin and its identification as a native fishing camp is based on a citation in Riker's History of Harlem (Bolton does not provide a page reference). In contrast, Grumet, citing Riker 1852:136, places Schorrakin "in the Harlem section of Manhattan Island somewhere between East 135th and East 150th Streets" (Grumet 1981:51), and his map suggests an inland rather than a coastal location, although he does place an unidentified "habitation site" (presumably, Bolton's Schorrakin) along Manhattan's East River coast just south of 125th Street (Grumet 1981:68). Grumet also points out that the equation of Rechewanis and Rechewas is not historically supportable. He identifies "Rechgawanes" as a term used to refer to a tract of land along the western shore of the Harlem/East River confluence, and a stream that ran along 125th Street (Grumet 1981:45f.). In all of these cases, the proposed development site is outside of the boundaries of the documented Native American settlements.



## HISTORIC PERIODS AND LOT HISTORIES

### Historical Overview

The history of the village of Harlem has been published in great detail and will be only summarized here.<sup>4</sup> New Amsterdam had been settled for 13 years before the "first known attempt to locate at Harlem" (Riker 1904:116). That attempt, begun in 1637 by the La Montagne and De Forests, and subsequently joined by others including Swit, Van Curler, Van Tienhoven, and finally Kuyter, did not flourish.<sup>5</sup> Problems of manpower, health, and political conflict, and Indian attacks thwarted the settlement of New Harlem (Riker 1904:90-91, 126ff.). However, by August of 1658, a village was being developed in New Harlem, laid out in accordance with an ordinance of March 4, 1658 of the Director-General and Council of New Netherland (Riker 1904:150f.;168ff.)

The village consisted of house lots (erven, singular "erf") and garden lots (tuynen), with associated farming land (bouwland) (Riker 1904:171-72). Some of the farming land first allocated is the location of the proposed development site (Figures 6 & 7).

The plan of the village, superimposed on the modern grid is Figure 7. The location was determined by what land was not committed by title to a specific individual, the unfortunate owner of this 50-morgen area having been killed in an Indian raid (Riker 1904:161ff.). This circumstance gave the villagers good access not far away to the Harlem River.

The original settlers grew tobacco, but after the formal founding of the village, the crop base was expanded to include wheat, maize, rye, buckwheat, peas and flax. Cattle were raised and salt hay harvested from nearby swampy areas (Riker 1904:181).

After Manhattan passed into the hands of the English and New Amsterdam became New York, the new Governor, Richard Nicolls reaffirmed New Harlem's rights, and defined its boundaries as all of Manhattan extending north from a line which ran from approximately 129th Street and the Hudson River to 74th Street and the East River. In the same 1666 document, Nicolls tried to change the name of the village to Lancaster, an effort which was not successful (Riker 1904:226ff.)

---

<sup>4</sup>. The book on which all others rely is the detailed work by James Riker (1904). Much of the same information is included in Pierce 1903, although often in a more cogent fashion.

<sup>5</sup>. The Manatus map of 1639 shows one house in the area of New Harlem village, that of Arent Snyder/Hermans Bussing (Kouwenhoven 1972:36-37; Riker 1904:201).

The village of New Harlem, though officially part of New York after the 1666 patent, remained just a village until well into the 19th century (Spann 1981:103,109). Surrounding areas were farm land, some of it owned by James Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's great-grandfather, in the first quarter of the 19th century. Development in East Harlem, as we call the area today, was stimulated by the growth in transportation as well as immigration. The Harlem River Railroad opened in 1837, the Third Avenue horse railroad was chartered in 1853, the elevated was extended to Harlem in 1879, and the IRT Lenox Avenue Subway was constructed in 1910. It is interesting to note that Riker published his first study of Harlem in 1881, pointing out in the book title that he was tracing the original land ownership titles, during the time of rapidly increasing real estate values. Largely Italian in the later 19th century, the area today, reflecting its current demographics, is characterized as Spanish Harlem (Whyte 1982:256; White 1978:270).

We will trace this history in microcosm by now examining the ownership and building history of the project site.

#### Ownership and Building History of Site

The first European to own the property which is under examination here was Captain Jochiem Pietersen Kuyter, a Dane who worked in the East Indies. He traveled to New Netherland with Jonas Bronck in 1639 (Riker 1904:133). Riker gives us a description of these early settlers (1904:133):

"Engaging the Fire of Troy, a private armed vessel at Hoorn, [Kuyter] shipped 'a large cargo of cattle,' perhaps of the fine breed for which [Kuyter's] native Ditmarsen was famous, and sailed for New Netherland.... Each was attended by his family and a number of farmers or herdsmen, and with them came several laborers...."

Kuyter was particularly interested in obtaining a grant with good grazing land. Kieft granted Kuyter approximately 400 acres, which included the lands called by the Native Americans "Schorakin," north of the development site, where Kuyter built his home. Kuyter named his plantation "Zengendal" or "Vale of Blessing." It included "that section of Harlem bordering on the Harlem River north of what composed the old village lots," land which was named after this early settler -- Jochem Pietersen's Flat (Riker 1904:134).

Although Kuyter and Kieft started out on good terms, their relationship became rocky as time went on, particularly over how to conduct relations with the local Native Americans. In 1647, Kieft brought their quarrel to Peter Stuyvesant, who, on July 25, fined Kuyter and banished him from New Netherland for three years



(Riker 1904: 137-152). Subsequently, Kuyter returned to New Netherland but not to his plantation, both because of the financial losses he had suffered and the threat of Native American hostilities (Riker 1904:154-155).<sup>6</sup>

However, at the end of September 1651 Kuyter turned over ownership of three-quarters of his property to Peter Stuyvesant, then Director-General of New Netherland, Lucas Rodenburg, Governor of Curacao, and Cornelis De Potter, free merchant, and with their financial support began to restore his plantation. He also had a home in New Amsterdam, where he was active in the local civic and religious life. His family was in that city home when Kuyter was killed by Native Americans at the beginning of March 1654 (Riker 1904: 159-160). The Kuyter lands continued to be farmed under his widow's supervision until September 15, 1655, when she too, now the wife of Willem Jansen, was killed in a Native American raid (Riker 1904: 161 - 162).

On March 4, 1658, the village of New Harlem was founded. The Kuyter lands were laid out in farming lots for the new villagers and the sales receipts were used to settle the debts of the Kuyter estate (Riker 1904: 167 - 169). This farming land was divided in 1658 into 25 lots, each 6 morgen (Riker 1904: 172). In 1661 the area of the bouwlots was increased to 6 2/3 morgen or 13 acres, with some farmland incorporated into the garden plots (Riker 1904: 185 - 186, 794). The land on which the development site lies covered parts of farming lots (bouwlots) numbered 1, 2 and 3 after this adjustment (see figs XXX and XXX).

Because this land remained farm land and was not built upon by ordinance (Riker 1904: 185), the ownership chain will be treated here in a general way, rather than on a lot by lot basis for the period 1670 through the mid-nineteenth century. The extreme south-east corner of Block 1791 was probably part of bouwlot 1. However, most of Block 1791 was part of bouwlot 2. The extreme north-west part of Block 1791 and the part of the development site on Block 1792 apparently all lies within bouwlot 3 (See Figures 7 and 8).<sup>7</sup>

In 1670, bouwlot 1 was owned by Daniel Tourneur, whose son Thomas inherited it in 1690. Bouwlot 1 was sold to Captain Charles Congreve in 1710. The land was then sold twice in 1713,

---

<sup>6</sup>In fact, Kuyter's property had been attacked and burned earlier, June 5, 1643 (Riker 1904: 143-144).

<sup>7</sup>As one can see from these two illustrations, there is some slight difference in interpretation of the placement of the original village of Harlem lot lines vis-a-vis the modern city plot. However, these differences do not affect the contents or conclusion of this documentary study.

July 22 by Congreve to John Van Oblienienis and August 12 by Van Oblienienis to Abraham Myer. Abraham Myer's son, also named Abraham, together with his wife Mattie, in 1768 sold the land on which part of Block 1791 is situated, that is the eastern part of the bouwlot, to Johannes De Witt, who built a house on the part of it which lies on what is today the east side of Second Avenue, which was burned in 1811. Not long after the fire, the property was owned by Nathaniel G. Ingraham, who built a house on the same site (See also Sackersdorf 1868 showing house in place in 1815). The Hon. D.P. Ingraham owned the house at the time Riker wrote his book (Riker 1904: 172, 603, 609, 636-637, 795).

Bouwlot 2, on which lies the major part of the development site, was owned by Laurens Jansen in 1670;<sup>a</sup> it has been sold to him on September 25, 1669 by Nicholas De Meyer, whose ownership of the lot went back to at least 1662. Jansen's son Albert Low inherited bouwlot 2 but he gave the lot to his brother Lawrence on December 8, 1731. On May 9, 1738, Lawrence, because he was living elsewhere, sold the land to Isaac Myer (Meyer). Myer passed the land of bouwlot 2 on to his nephew Johannes Sickels in his will, dated September 12, 1743. Sickels' will passed the lot to his son, John S. Sickles (sic) on November 10, 1784. The heirs of Sickles' daughter Mary (Mrs. John) Adriance inherited the lot on June 4, 1804. (Riker 1904: 258, 579, 581, 600, 795, 796).

Bouwlot 3 was owned by one Simon De Ruine, called the Walloon, in 1662. He sold the lot, part of his farm, to Arent Bussing, Adolph Meyer and Jan Dyckman (Deekman) on March 13, 1666. The three partners borrowed 2000 guilders to buy the property and apparently found the debt too burdensome, for the sold the land to Captain Thomas Delavall on April 7, 1666. Sometime after 1670 and before December 3, 1685, Delavall exchanged this bouwlot for number 18, whose former owner, Cornelis Jansen (Kortright) assumed the ownership of number 3. His eldest surviving son Johannes Cornelissen or his widow Metje Cornelis assumed ownership at Jansen's death in 1689 and subsequently the lot was exchanged with number 10 belonging Adolph Meyer on April 6, 1697. Johannes Sickels bought the lot from Meyer's heirs or received it as an inheritance from Meyer, who was his grandfather, November 15, 1748, at which time its extent was described as 18 acres, five acres having been added to the lot in 1724. John S. Sickles inherited this lot, along with bouwlots 2 and 4 and the western part of bouwlot 1, on November 10, 1784. Along with the other lots, lot 3 was inherited by Mary Adriance's heirs on June 4, 1804 (Riker 1904: 401, 546, 563f., 599, 795, 796).

---

<sup>a</sup>In the Tax List of May 1st, 1670 the owner of bouwlot 2 of J.P. Flat is listed by Riker as Cornelis Jansen (1904:266). This is a misprint of the first name, since Cornelis was not born until 1691 (Riker 1904:579).

Cartographic records for this period in upper Manhattan are sparse. However, the Blue Book, recording information as of 1815, shows that the heirs of John Sickles were indeed the owners of most of the property on the development site, and that N. G. Ingraham owned the property on the extreme south-east corner of Block 1791, a continuation of the property ownership traced by Riker. There is no development on the project site itself even in this period, although there is one house indicated on Block 1792 just to the north of the project site, on property owned by Sickles's heirs (Fig. 8). Although no out-buildings are indicated for this house on the atlas, it is possible that they existed, as we know they did for the Ingraham's house even up to at least the 1880's (Riker 1904: 172 where he makes reference to "Judge Ingraham's barn"). However, Randel's Map of Farms (1819-1820) which Stokes considers "the only exact early topographical map of the island" (Stokes III:564), shows the same two houses, as well as what is possible the Ingraham barn along Second Avenue at the Ingraham property line. On Randel's map, the building on Block 1792 does not appear to have any outbuildings, but is drawn as a larger rectangle with a smaller rectangle adjoining it to the south (Fig. 9).

Dripps 1854 shows the same structure, drawn only as a rectangle, as well as some additional buildings on Block 1792. Whether any of these additional structures are outbuildings of the house shown existing in 1815 cannot be determined on the basis of the evidence examined, although the additional nearby structures on the block are quite large and do not seem to have the character of outbuildings.<sup>9</sup> Although on the scale of Dripps it is not possible to exactly position the development site on Block 1792, it appears that the structure indicated on 127th Street to the left of the center of the block may be on the proposed development site, lots 9 and 10 (Fig. 10).

Block 1791 also has several structures by 1854, according to Dripps. One, the Presbyterian Church, was constructed in 1844/5 (WPA 1940:59)<sup>10</sup> and appears to be on what is later lot 42. Two structures are shown on what is later lot 45, one at the corner, well away from the development site, and a small structure closer

---

<sup>9</sup>Compare the two structures on the property line at the edge of the Ingraham property, one perhaps Riker's barn. The City Directories of 1851-2 and 1866-7 suggest only one Ingraham house on the site, reinforcing the possibility the other small structures on that site are indeed outbuildings, in contrast to those on the proposed development site.

<sup>10</sup>The Harlem Presbyterian Church was incorporated March 18, 1844. Whether the church building was completed in that year is unclear. The service of the first clergyman, Ezra H. Gillett, is documented as beginning in 1845 (WPA 1940:60).

to the line of the development site, which may be preserved as a one-story structure as late as 1911 (Sanborn). Along Third Avenue, the southernmost of the buildings indicated may have been partially on what became designated as lots 101 and 2. The two structures along 126th Street, approximately at lots 104 through 106 and approximately 9 through 12 certainly lie within the proposed development site.

Dripps 1867 records several changes which occurred on the block between 1854 and 1867 (Fig. 11). By that time lots 1 through 109 were occupied by a lumber yard which included a single built structure north of the proposed development site. Lots 11 through 13 were divided into three lots at the time which had buildings with large footprints on them, set back from the street and with relatively narrow back yards. Also on the development site was the Presbyterian church on lot 42, a small building set towards the street frontage in the center of what was to become lots 36 through 40, and larger structures on each lots 35 and 34.

The lots of the proposed development site on block 1792, then lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, were part of a development of what were probably single family homes, set back from the sidewalk edge and filling approximately half the lot (cf. Lockwood 1972:228-9). A development without a name, it was probably quite similar to that designated Dunscomb Place on the northern side of the block. Although city sewers were in place on Third Avenue in 1864, the available records show the side street sewers were in place only in 1871, later than these developments (see Fig. XXX). However, there is the possibility that the rowhouse developments were tied into the Third Avenue sewer (Mike Sirico, Engineer-in-Charge, Sewer Department: personal communication; Geismar 1989:37).

Bromley 1879 shows some significant changes in the occupation of the lots of the development site. The lumber yard is now gone and the entire site is built on with individual structures, those on lots 1 through 4 along the street edge of Third Avenue and those on lots 4 1/4 through 9 1/2 having a slight setback from the frontage. The three structures on the 1867 Dripps are indicated also on the Bromley, although with smaller footprints. The rest of the block is now divided into building lots with the lots 15 (?) through 19 built upon and the southeast corner of the block divided into lots 21 through 24 but unbuilt (as is the lot labeled 20). The part of the block in the northeast corner, not part of the development site, is occupied by the Second Avenue Railway Stables. The Presbyterian church still stands on the lot labeled here 43, while the lots which contribute 5' along the edge of that lot are all backyards. Lot here designated 47 is unbuilt as are lots numbered 38 and 38 1/2. Altogether three structures are shown on the lots between the church and lot 34, which lies beyond the development site. They do not correspond

to those shown on Dripps 1867. Instead they are on lots 36, 39 and 40 of the 1975 designation. Bromley 1879 shows block 1792 lots 5 through 10 contain the same setback structures, presumably rowhouses, indicated on Dripps 1867.

By the 1880's, the bucolic life remembered by Riker was gone. The development of Central Park, the coming of the elevated, the press of population caused denser housing to be built in Harlem (Patterson 1978:141; Spann 1981:103ff.; White 1978:270). Multi-story multi-family housing was built on the development site, as elsewhere (Lockwood 1972:229) (Fig. 12). Below is a lot-by-lot description of the building history of the site, reflecting this change, based on atlases and Building Department records.

### LOT HISTORIES

#### **BLOCK 1791**

Although today Block 1791, Lot 1 includes not only the development site but also other property on block 1791, it incorporates more than 37 original lots. For clarity's sake, the mid-twentieth century breakdown of lots will be used for discussion; the lots will be referred to their numbers as of 1975, as illustrated on Fig. 13. The data here are based on the records of the buildings department unless otherwise specified.

Lot 1: 201 East 126th Street/2321 Third Avenue (20'/21' x 76')<sup>11</sup>

This lot is located at the southwest corner of Block 1791. The only building department record preserved was a demolition permit describing the completed demolition on September 12, 1974 of a 4-story building of 20 ft. by 70 ft. with no party walls.<sup>12</sup> This is presumably the same building still illustrated in the 1975 landbook, which illustrated a four-story building covering the entire building lot. From the 1951 Sanborn, where the property contained a storefront and factory, we know that this structure had a basement. Such a structure appears as early as the 1886/93 Perris and Browne where a 4-story structure covering the entire lot first appears in the cartographic records examined, described in the 1911 Sanborn as being both a dwelling and store. The 1879 Bromley indicates that this lot contained a brick structure, but this atlas does not give the same level of

---

<sup>11</sup>Lot dimensions are based on the 1975 landbook.

<sup>12</sup>There are many examples of discrepancies between the cartographic and building records on the one hand and demolition records on the other. As will be seen repeatedly below, the demolition records are less precise about building dimensions, among other details.



structural detail that occurs later. It had been part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps).

Lot 101: 2323 Third Avenue (19.6' x 76')

This lot is also known as lot 1 1/2 in the building department and some cartographic records. This lot may have had part of a structure on it as shown in Dripps 1854, and in 1867 it formed part of the lumber yard. Although the building department folder indicated a new building permit #118 dated 1877 had been in the folder at one time, it was not preserved at the time of examination. Presumably, however, this building was surely the kind of row house common to the period, originally with kitchen, laundry, informal dining room on the basement level, parlors on the first floor, and bedrooms, servants' rooms and bathrooms on the upper stories (Lockwood 1972:227-228). In fact, it is likely that all of the buildings appearing on Bromley 1879 between Lot 101 and Lot 4 were built at the same time and were the same type, as was common with rowhouse construction (Lockwood 1972: 229, top). The history of the lot is known exclusively from cartographic records before 1948. In the Perris and Browne atlas of 1886/1893, the front three-quarters of the lot is shown containing a 4-story structure, while the back part of the lot is also indicated as being built on. This is probably the same brick building indicated on Bromley 1879. The later atlases indicate that the building only covered the front 3/4 of the lot, so the coloration of the 1886/93 atlas is probably in error. By 1911 this building was both a store and a dwelling. It is only in 1947 or 48 that a building covered the entire lot, according to building department records. At that time a permit was issued for a sign for "Nick's Bar and Grill" and a certificate of occupancy for the first floor to be used as a bar and grill and the second floor as a catering hall. The footprint of the building was described as 19' 6" by 55 feet with a 21 foot extension in the back, the entire extent of the lot. The extension did not have a cellar; there was a 4-foot deep excavation for footings and plumbing. The demolition permit in 1981 characterized the building as an empty 2-story dwelling, which is at odds with the most recently documented function, but may indicate that the original structure had been demolished in the 1940's and replaced with a two-story building.

Lot 2: 2325/2327/2329 Third Avenue (59.5' x 76')

Only the southern part of this lot is part of the development project, the address 2325 Third Avenue and the southern half of the lot with the address 2337. The lot with the address 2329 Third Avenue is not part of the development project. A structure may have existed on these lots as early as 1854 (Dripps). They were part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). When these lots were divided sometime between 1867 and 1879, they were all of equal size, 19.6 by 76 feet. All appeared to have the same buildings on them in Bromley 1879 and Perris and Browne 1886/1893 and they were probably part of the same development as that

mentioned in 1877 on lot 101. By 1911 if not before, 2325 and 2327 had extensions in the back covering the whole lot, and they were all described as 4-story buildings with basements (Sanborn). By the time of the 1939 Sanborn all three lots were completely covered with structures and the wall was removed on the first floor between each of them. They were all described as containing stores and dwellings. By 1951 the cartographic evidence indicates a one-story structure filling the entirety of lot 2 which functioned as an automobile garage, a functioned which continued, according to building department records, at least until 1965. At that time the building on lot 2 was described as having a 59.5 by 76-foot footprint and a 6-foot deep cellar. The demolition permit from October 10, 1975 describes the same structure as functioning as a factory before demolition.

Lot 104: 203 East 126th Street (16.9' x 99.11')

This address was described in building department records as lot 4 1/4. Prior to the time documented in the buildings department, there was possibly a structure by 1854 (Dripps). This lot was part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). In the development documented by buildings department records, the addresses from 203 East 126th through 221 East 126th (lot 109 or 9 1/2) all were built at the same time under two new building permits both dated to 1877, the same year as four of the above lots facing Third Avenue. The 10 three-story structures with basements were begun on March 21, 1877 and finished in October of the same year. Each 45-foot by 16-foot single-family house was situated on a 16-foot by 100-foot lot. The owner, James Fettretch, resided at 999 6th Avenue and the architect, one John C. Burne, worked from offices at 1252 Third Avenue. Presumably built on speculation, the home on lot 104 was owned by Francis C. Taylor of 150 East 43rd Street in 1889, two years later. At that time the building was altered to create an office on the basement level and a new entry on the first floor in the area between the original 5-foot set-back of the house facade and the streetside property line. The new office was to house "express offices and [an] insurance agency" with the remaining building continuing in use as a single-family residence.

By 1939 the office had been transformed into a store (Sanborn 1939), which function continued at least until 1951 (Sanborn). In 1950 an alteration permit was filed for transformation into furnished rooms, for which a certificate of occupancy was issued in 1954. Conforming to this change of function, the demolition permit of July 31, 1972 mentions only residential rooms and apartments. The alteration permit provides plans which indicate that the cellar was 8 feet 6 inches high, the same ceiling height repeated in the basement and that the grade of the back yard was at the basement level, customary when such row houses were built (Lockwood 1972:19). The footprint of the building never changed, always covering the front half of the lot, with the exception of the expansion to the front property line in 1889.

Lot 105: 205 East 126th Street (16' x 99.11')

This lot is also designated lot 4 1/2 on the building department records. Like the previous lot, there may have been a structure here in 1854 (Dripps) and it was part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). This lot was part of the 1877 development described under lot 104. The building department records are silent about any changes until 1931, but until that time the atlases show no change in footprint or function as a dwelling. The records of the alteration permit no. 2704 of 1931 inform us, however that the basement was used as an office and that several families lived in the building at that time. In fact, one building inspector noted that the alteration permit to make the structure a multiple dwelling was simply an attempt to legalize an already existing reality. There were several documents in the building department files arguing about the number of families living in the building at the time, but the inspector said there were four (Alt. permit #2704 and BN #817). In any event, those same documents mention a cellar as on lot 104 and also noted that the basement has a walled extension into the back yard which measured about 10 feet north-south. This same area was covered by a new extension when the basement and first floors were enlarged in 1957, a renovation which was granted a certificate of occupancy (C of O) in 1960. This renovation created 8 apartments in the building on the floors above the cellar. The building was demolished in 1971, where the permit (#383) confirms that the building was set back 5 feet from the front property line and that it contained 8 apartments.

Lot 5: 207/209 East 126th Street (32' x 99.11')

Lot 5 was originally two separate lots, both of which were part of the 1877 row-house development and prior to that possibly the site of a building in 1854 (Dripps) and part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). The row-house buildings appear in the atlases through 1911 apparently unchanged. According to the 1939 atlas the rear part of both lots had been covered by a single one-story addition by that time and the lots had been joined. The addition contained a confectionery business and there were three businesses in the basement, including one related to automobiles, while some parts of the structure served as dwellings. The demolition permit (#533) indicates that on December 21, 1967 a rooming house containing 15 rooms was torn down, which was 4 stories tall with a 1-story extension. There are no documents to indicate whether or not this extension had a basement.

Lot 106: 211 East 126th Street (16' x 99.11')

This lot was possibly the site of a structure in 1854 (Dripps), and part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). Another of the single family houses was built on this lot in 1877, the three-floor with basement dwelling appearing on the 1894 and 1911 atlases, designated vacant in 1911 (Sanborn). An alteration permit issued in 1920 (#2087) indicated that the structure was



leased to The Refined Concessionaire Corp. of 1431 Broadway and that it contained a private garage, stockroom, office and dwelling; the permit declared that the basement 2-car garage was to be changed to a factory. The alterations were not to change the dimensions of the building, which were stated to be 16 x 45' 4" leaving a rear yard of 48' 7". The certificate of occupancy (#3939, 1921) described a slightly different mixed usage: the cellar and basement for storage, the first floor an office and workroom and the upper two floors each the dwelling of a family. By 1939 this structure was described as "open - vacant" on the Sanborn atlas. However an alteration permit of 1947 (#2264) by the lessee The Perfection Hand Embroidery Co. declares that the building has a grocery store in the basement and workrooms above while the then owner states that the building serves only as a dwelling. In either case, by 1951 the Sanborn indicates that the building is once again vacant and by 1975 the Landbook shows only a vacant lot. There was no documentation in the building Department files as to the exact date of demolition of the structure.

Lot 7: 213 East 126th Street (16' x 99.11')

This lot was part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps), the first time that the cartographic evidence shows any development. Subsequently, the lot contained another of the 1877 row houses, confirmed by atlases through 1975. In fact, the latest representation of a three-story with basement building on the front half of the lot is presumably in error, since the demolition permit shows that the building was torn down in August 1969 (#401). The demolition permit indicates that at some point the building was broken up into apartments. It also indicates that there was no set back, which may not be accurate, since it also declares that the building measured 20' by 40', the width not possible on a 16-foot wide lot and the depth at odds with that shown on all of the atlases.

Lot 8: 215 East 126th Street (16' x 99.11')

This lot was part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). The building department records of the history of this lot are more complete than some of the foregoing. The file records specifically that it is part of the building permit #210 of 1877. By 1919, the building was no longer a one-family house. A plumbing permit for doubling the number of water closets on all floors above the first, using the "existing sewers," indicates that at this time the basement contained a store, the first and second floors were occupied by a single family and the third floor by a single family. Whether these additional toilets were to be part of a plan to increase the number of persons living in the building is not clear. Shortly afterwards, however, another alteration permit was filed, for a brick addition in the rear with four-foot deep foundations to cover the entire lot, which entailed removal of a corrugated iron shed at the basement level (#583, 1921); this shed does not appear on the atlases. The alteration transformed the building from primarily residential to

primarily commercial: the cellar was used for storage, the basement for a mattress factory and storage, the first floor for an office and sewing room, and the upper two floors each a single family apartment (c of o #3375, 1921). Sometime in the intervening years the building was abandoned, for an alteration permit (# 84/42) dated January 21, 1942 stated "this building is vacant and declared unfit for human habitation." The building was changed from a class A multiple dwelling (apartments only) to a class B multiple dwelling (furnished rooms) and the 1921 extension was removed and replaced by a different extension; the resultant building contained storage in the cellar, 1 apartment in the basement, 1 apartment and 1 furnished room on the first story, and 3 furnished rooms on the upper two stories. The 1942 alteration permit indicates that after the alteration various pipes ran below the new extension and under the backyard and that the cellar was excavated under the entire footprint of the building, which was extended to include the 5-feet of the original setback. The measurements on the alteration permit described the 1921 building extent as 16 feet by 95 feet and the 1942 extent as 16 feet by 83 feet, leaving a 24' 8" back yard (# 84/42). The demolition date for this building is not recorded in the building department records.

Lot 108: 217 East 126th Street (16' x 99.11')

Except for a demolition permit, records for this lot do not exist in the buildings department. According to the cartographic record this lot was part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps) and the first building was part of the 1877 development documented for this side of the block. By 1894 (Sanborn) there was 1-story small addition at the back, which still existed in 1911, when the atlas indicates that it was at the basement level (Sanborn). That addition still remained in 1951. The building had been demolished by July 18, 1968, at which time it was described as a tenement with 6 apartments, 3 stories, a 5'-set back and a 16 by 40' footprint. Although demolished in 1968, the structure still appears in the 1975 landbook.

Lot 9: 219 East 126th Street (16' x 99.11')

Like lot 108, only the demolition permit is preserved for this building lot. The cartographic record indicates that the lot was possibly the site of a structure in 1854 (Dripps) and part of the lumberyard in 1867 (Dripps). A 3-story with basement structure was built on the front half of the lot in 1877. In 1911 a small extension is indicated at the basement level. The demolition permit (#355, 1973) indicates at the dwelling contained 3 apartments, 9 rooms, was three stories tall had a 15' set-back (obviously an error) and had a footprint of 16' x 45 feet. Despite the fact the demolition was completed by April 15, 1974, the structure appears on the 1975 landbook.

Lot 109: 221 East 126th Street (16.9' x 99.11')

Also known as lot 9 1/2, this lot was possibly the site of a building in 1854 (Dripps) and part of the lumber yard in 1867 (Dripps). The last of the related group of row houses built under permits #119 and #120 dated 1877 was on this lot. The building department file confirmed that the original owner was James Fettretch of 999 6th Avenue and the architect John C. Burne of 1252 Third Avenue. The single family house was once again described as having a basement and a footprint of 16.9 feet by 45 feet on a lot described as 16.9 feet by 100 feet. Atlases show that by 1894 a 1-story structure was added along the back (Sanborn) which is indicated as being at the basement level (and only at the eastern corner) in 1911 (Sanborn). This addition remains on the atlases through 1951 (Sanborn). An alteration permit was apparently filed in 1936 (#1362), the work for which was completed in July 1937, but the actual permit was not in the file. It seems likely, however, that the permit was to break up the internal space into a rooming house since a sprinkler permit was also filed for at the same time (#179, 1936), the work also completed in July 1937. The C of O issued in 1937 (#22781) confirms this, for the building is now described as a class B dwelling containing storage in the cellar, a class A apartment in the basement, and three furnished rooms on each of the remaining three floors. In 1946 a new fuel tank was installed (#4897), and in 1949 the stoop was removed (#2606). The demolition permit (#55, 1974) describes the building as containing 8 apartments (12 rooms) and having a 16 by 45 foot footprint.

Lot 11: 223 East 126th Street (17' x 99.11')

This lot may have had a structure on it in 1854 (Dripps) and definitely had what was apparently a large building with a shallow back yard in 1867 (Dripps). Whether this is the same building appearing on what is labeled lot 11 in 1886/93 (Perris-Browne) is unclear; however, this address was updated in the 1886/93 atlas in a second phase of updating, and therefore is probably not the structure which existed at mid-century. The building shown by Sanborn 1894 is a 5-story tenement. The fact that this structure had a basement is confirmed by the 1911 Sanborn atlas and its party wall with 225 East 126th appears on the 1939 atlas. The structure remains unchanged in the atlases through the 1975 landbook. In fact, however, according to building department the building was torn down at the end of that year, November 25, 1975 (# 200), when it was described as a multiple dwelling with five apartments (sic), 5 stories and a footprint of 17 by 80 feet.

Lot 111: 225 East 126th Street (17' x 99.11')

Also called lot 11 1/2 in building department records, the history of this structure is better documented than its mate at 223 East 126th. It is possible that a building existed on the lot in 1854. This was probably not the building appearing on Dripps 1867 and Bromley 1879, which appears much larger. The

building on Perris-Browne 1886/93 is possibly a different building yet, since this lot too was updated in a second phase in the atlas. The building appearing on the 1894 Sanborn atlas, a 5-story tenement, is that which is altered in 1912, when there were interior alterations (#887). The plans of the building showing changes in the cellar and basement also showed that the yard was 20' by 18' and that it was at the grade of the basement, reached by outside stairs from the cellar. An alteration permit of 1947 (#663) requested changes to install an iron shop in the basement. The C of O (#34411) issued in 1948 named the Third Avenue Iron Works as occupying the basement of the building with the upper floors designated as vacant. The building was demolished in 1975 (#71), at which time it was described as a multiple dwelling containing 5 apartments and having a footprint of 17' by 80'; there is no other indication that the building had ever been returned to use as a dwelling.

Lot 12: 227 East 126th Street (33.6' x 99.11')

Most of the information for the construction on this lot comes from the cartographic record. There was possibly a structure on this site by 1854 (Dripps) and certainly one by 1867 (Dripps). A structure labeled "Storm King" occupied most of the lot by 1886 (Perris and Browne). By 1894 a 5-story tenement was on the site; whether it was the same building as earlier is unclear, although it probably was a new structure built between 1886 and 1893 since the Perris-Browne atlas was updated for this lot. The tenement had a basement according to all later atlases (eg. Sanborn 1911). Although the building still appeared on the 1975 landbook map, it was demolished in 1971. The demolition permit (#398) indicates that the tenement contained 30 apartments (90 rooms), was 5 stories with a footprint of 34' by 80' and had party walls (which however were not indicated elsewhere).

Lot 13: 229 East 126th Street (25' x 99.11')

There was a structure on this site by 1867 (Dripps). This building was replaced in 1890, when, according to building permit #449 (1890), a 5-story tenement was built on the site, which had a basement and cellar.<sup>13</sup> The building, a pair with 231 East 126th Street, was to house four families on each of its five floors. The lot was described as 25 by 100 and the building footprint 25 by 90, with 10' deep foundations. The owner was Patrick Hogan of 1614 Lexington Avenue, and the architect one Andrew Spence of 263 East 123rd Street. The original permit was dated March 20, 1890; on May 7, 1890 it was amended to state that only two families would be housed per floor. Although the building still appeared on the 1975 landbook map, it was demolished in 1971. The demolition permit (#394) indicates that the tenement contained 20 apartments (60 rooms) -- thus indicating

---

<sup>13</sup>This construction date is confirmed by the update on this lot in the Perris-Browne 1886/93 atlas.

that the original plan was apparently the one executed, was 5 stories with a footprint of 25' by 80' and had party walls. A party wall is shown on the 1939 atlas with 231 East 126th Street.

Lot 14: 231 East 126th Street (25' x 99.11')

The first documented building on this lot was built in 1890 as a pair with that on lot 13. The only documented changes to the structure during the 81 years of its existence were changes to plumbing, additions of sprinklers, and the removal of the cornice. Although the building still appeared on the 1975 landbook map, it was demolished in 1971. The demolition permit (#357) indicates that the tenement contained 20 apartments (60 rooms) -- thus indicating that the original plan was apparently the one executed, was 5 stories with a footprint of 25' by 80' and had did not have party walls. However, a party wall is shown on the 1939 atlas with 229 East 126th Street and the demolition permit for the latter building also mentioned it.

Lot 15: 233 East 126th Street (20' x 99.11')

This lot may have first been built on between 1864 and 1879, at which time a building may appear on this lot (Bromley).<sup>14</sup> If this lot had been built upon then, the building would have been related to those appearing to its east and constructed in 1871. However, by 1886 a five-story tenement had been built on the site (Perris-Browne, Sanborn 1894). The building note (#1286) of 1939 confirmed the height and tenement nature of the building when a new door to the cellar was installed. The demolition permit describes the footprint as 20 by 65 feet, with 20 apartments (60 rooms) and no party walls (#494, 1972).

Lot 16: 235 East 126th Street (16.8' x 99.11')

According to building department records, the building on this lot, as well as lots 116 and 17, was constructed in 1871; however the building permit itself (#1297) was not preserved. The building does appear on the 1879 Bromley. The structure on this lot was altered in 1894, at which time it was described as a building 16' 8" by 45' on a 16' 8" by 100' lot. The structure was brick and brownstone and had three floors and a basement, with party walls and 8' foundations (Alt. #605). The alteration permit was for the addition of a storefront and a modification of the basement to include an office. That the structure had a business is reflected also in the 1894 Sanborn. The owner and occupant of the building was Daniel B. Devere, Esq. By 1920 the building had been divided into multiple family housing -- the exact nature of which was disputed. How many families lived there and whether any of the floors were vacant was contested by the owner and the buildings department, according to documents in that year (PD #359 and alt #444). In 1944 the building was said

---

<sup>14</sup>The lot numbering on Bromley 1879 appears to be inaccurate. It is not consistent with other atlases.



to be occupied by two families and containing an office (BN #1395). However by 1954 the structure was inhabited by many individuals in what was characterized as an "illegal conversion" to class B housing (misc. #37). A certificate of occupancy in 1957 (#47475) describes the structure as having a cellar for storage, a basement with 1 apartment and 1 furnished room, 2 furnished rooms on the first floor and 3 furnished rooms on the second and third floors. When it was demolished in 1972 (#358) it was said to contain 3 apartments (15 rooms).

Lot 116: 237 East 126th Street (16.8' x 99.11')

Part of the rowhouse development of 1871, the building retains its footprint in the cartographic record. When it was altered in 1953 (#172) to become a multiple family dwelling, the plans showed the cellar 10' below the level of the curb. The building is henceforth described as a class B dwelling (furnished rooms) (C of O #42843, 1954). It was demolished in February, 1968 (#73), at which time it was described as a tenement containing 6 apartments, with a 16.8 by 40 footprint and a 5' setback and party walls (which were with 235 and 239 East 126th Street, according to Sanborn 1939).

Lot 17: 239 East 126th Street (16.8' x 99.11')

Constructed together with the previous two buildings in 1871, there are no other records in the buildings department until the demolition permit, which was issued both for this building and that on lot 116 (#73). Thus this building was demolished in 1968. On the building is characterized as having 6 apartments, a five-foot setback, three stories and a 16.8 by 40' footprint.

Lot 18: 241 East 126th Street (20' x 99.11')

The lot measured 20 by 99.11 feet. A structure first appears on the lot in Bromley 1879, and the scale of the building is the same as those on the lots to the west and east; presumably it was built around the same time. Except for the demolition permit, there are no records in the buildings department about the structure built on this lot. At demolition in 1972 it was described a 3-story building as having 3 apartments (15 rooms) no set back, and party walls (#493). The Sanborn of 1939 indicates these party walls are on both sides of the building. Whether that means that this building was built in 1871 as that on Lot 17 or 1870/71 as on lot 118 cannot be established, although it is the same size as that to the west. That the building had a basement is confirmed by several of the atlases (Sanborns 1911, 1951).

Lot 118: 243 East 126th Street (20' x 99.11')

This building was constructed in 187/71 under new building permit #1075.<sup>15</sup> The building on this lot was constructed at the same time as those on lots 19 and 20, and they were each described as being 20 by 42 feet, set on a lot 20 by 100, two stories and basement, set on 10' foundations, and having party walls. They were constructed by George Brettell as single family dwellings. Sometime before 1920 the building on lot 118 had been converted to a 2-family house and it that year it was made into a multi-family dwelling under alteration permit #2841. By 1938 the basement had an extension in the back which functioned as a doctor's office and opened onto the yard. The stoop had also been removed by that time (BN #2593). This extension, recorded in the building department files again in 1943 (alt. #909), nevertheless does not appear in the cartographic record nor is it mentioned in the demolition permit of 1972 (#355); where the footprint is given as 20 by 40 feet.

Lot 19: 245 East 126th Street (20' x 99.11')

The first building recorded on this site was built in 1870/71, at the same time as the building at 243 E. 126th Street (NB #1075). The stoop was removed on this building in 1946 (BN #1912). At that time the entrance was at the basement level, two families lived in the building, and the first floor was to be converted to a doctor's office (P&D #2658). At the time of demolition in 1972, the building was a multiple dwelling described as containing 6 apartments (18 rooms), with 3 stories and a 20 by 40' footprint.

Lot 20: 247 East 126th Street (20' x 99.11')

According to the building department records for lot 18, the first structure on lot 20 was also built in 1870, together with the two structures to the west. However, Bromley 1879 shows no structure on this site. There are only two building department records specifically for this structure. By 1961 the building served as the church and rectory for St. Peter's and Paul's Church, for in that year an effort was made to legalize the existing installation of an oil burner (BN 6/12/61). The drawing accompanying that request showed that the setback at the front and the yard in back were below the level of the basement ceiling. The building, when it was demolished in 1972 (#393) was described as a tenement with 3 apartments (9 rooms), a set back and a 20 by 40' footprint, with party walls.

---

<sup>15</sup>The permit was dated October 1870. It is hard to imagine that the building was completed prior to the installation of city sewers on this block. Even in a mild winter, the buildings constructed under this permit would likely not have been completed until sometime in 1871.

Lot 24: no address - between 247 and 249/251 East 126th Street  
(5' x 99.11')

This lot came into existence between 1894 (Sanborn) and 1911 (Sanborn), presumably at the time the three buildings at the southeast corner of the block were built (1907). It has never been built upon, according to available records.

Lot 23: 249/251 East 126th Street (37' x 99.11')

Although called lot 23 in the 1975 Landbook, the address 249 East 126th Street is designated lot 21 in the building department files. According to available records, the lot remained unbuilt until the twentieth century. One of three tenements planned in 1905 and built in 1907 by one Sarah Meryash of 23 West 118th Street, the lot is described as 37 by 100', the building measuring 50 by 50' (sic), to house 28 families according to the 1905 plan and 18 families according to the 1906 plan. A 6-floor tenement to house five families on a floor, there were water closets on all floors (the new tenement law having required a new set of forms, this information is now spelled out) (NB #783, 1905, NB #36, 1906). At least by 1911 there were stores as well as dwellings in the building (Sanborn) and by 1951 the structure housed an iron works (Sanborn). At the time of demolition the building was described as housing 10 apartments (30 rooms) and 6 stores. The footprint was described as 40' wide in front, 35' wide in the back, 90 feet deep with no party walls, a cellar but no basement, and a 10-foot set back (May 6, 1975).

Lot 21: 253 East 126th Street / 2461/2463 Second Avenue (50' x 63')

Called lot 22 in the building department records and 21 in the 1975 Landbook, this lot was also developed by Sarah Meryash in 1905/7, the first documented building on the site. On a lot described as 50 by 63', a 50 by 56 1/2' building was said to be constructed (NB #783, 1905, NB #36, 1907). Already containing stores at least by 1911 (Sanborn), the tenement was planned to house 26 families originally and 15 families in 1906. There were internal renovations in this building in 1937, adding closets and kitchens. At that time stores lined the structure along Second Avenue. The building was demolished in 1981 (#176). The description at that time was that the 6-story building contained 24 apartments (200 rooms), had a 6-foot setback and a 25 by 40' footprint. Cartographic evidence shows the size to be different, covering most of the lot.

Lot 22: 2465/2467 Second Avenue (49' x 63')

Called lot 24 in the building department records, this lot was also part of Sarah Meryash's 1905/1907 development and remained unbuilt until then. On a lot measuring 50 by 63' (sic), there was constructed a building described as 50 by 50', planned to house 27 families in 1905 and 17 families in 1906. Like the



others, 6 stories tall, and with water closets on all floors,<sup>16</sup> it too contained stores along its base. Shown to have a basement in the cartographic record (eg. Sanborns 1911, 1951), it was described as a new law tenement with cellar in a certificate of occupancy issued in 1930. The demolition permit, dated Nov. 13, 1981, described the building as having 24 apartments (200 rooms) with a footprint of 25 by 40 and having no party walls. The cartographic information indicates a different dimension, conforming more closely to the building permit.<sup>17</sup>

Lot 35: 228 East 127th Street (25' x 99.11')

No building department records exist for this lot. Based on cartographic evidence, it is possible that a structure had been erected on this lot by 1867 (Dripps), although the 1879 Bromley map does not show a structure on the lot. However, a 5-story with basement tenement existed on the lot by 1893, which was probably constructed after 1886, since the building is a later addition to the Perris-Browne atlas. In 1911, the building is shown having a party wall with the adjacent tenement at 226 East 127th Street. By 1939, the lot was vacant. A new structure was placed on the lot by 1951, when a one-story motor freight station, built of cinder blocks and a concrete floor was on the site (Sanborn). The demolition permit states that the structure functioned as a garage in 1973 and that the building measured 20 by 100 feet (#273).

Lot 36: 226 East 127th Street (25' x 99.111')

The early building records for this lot are not preserved. However, according to cartographic evidence, it is possible that a structure existed on the lot in 1879, constructed after 1867 (Bromley, Dripps). There was certainly a 5-story tenement was on the site by 1893, presumably built after 1886, which had party walls to those on either side, that is 224 and 228 East 127th Street (Perris-Browne, Sanborn). The demolition permit however (#373, 1972) declares that the building had no party walls and describes it as containing 20 apartments (60 rooms), with no set back and a footprint of 25 by 85'.

Lot 37: 224 East 127th Street (25' x 99.11')

The early building records for this lot are not preserved. It is possible that the small structure shown on Dripps 1867 lay

---

<sup>16</sup>It is interesting to note that these buildings developed by Sarah Meryash all were hooked up to city water and sewage, according to the building department records, yet the city sewer map shows a sewer on Second Avenue only in 1937.

<sup>17</sup>It is clear that the demolition permits in general have only limited use for determining footprints, since as has been seen in the above discussion, the dimensions given are frequently inaccurate.

on what was to be designated 224 East 127th Street, although no structure is shown on the lot by Bromley (1879). However, by 1893 a 5-story tenement existed on the lot (Perris-Browne, Sanborn), which was in "dilapidated" condition in 1939 (Sanborn). In fact, the building was torn down in 1940 (#195), at which time it was described as an old law tenements, footprint 25 by 90 feet, 5 stories tall, with 15 apartments (70 rooms). In 1952 a motor vehicle repair shop, a building 1-story tall with a footprint of 25 by 100 feet, was built and occupied (NB #93, c of o #40566). This repair shop existed for almost 20 years, being demolished by August 7, 1972 (#374).

Lot 38: 222 East 127th Street (30' x 99.11')

The cartographic evidence indicates that there was possibly a structure on this lot in 1867 (Dripps), though it is difficult to locate the building exactly. However, Bromley 1879 shows no building on the lot. By 1893, the lot had a 5-story tenement (Sanborn 1894), which was built after 1886, since it is marked by an addition to the Perris-Browne. It shared a party wall with 220 East 127th (eg. Sanborn 1911). Only the demolition permit for this building was preserved, which described it as a tenement with 30 apartments (90 rooms), 5 stories with a 30 by 85 foot footprint and no setback (#382, 1971).

Lot 39: 220 East 127th Street (30' x 99.11')

The earliest structure on this site appears in the cartographic record in 1879 (Bromley). Also without written documentation, a tenement was built after 1886 and before 1893, when it appears in the Perris-Browne atlas. It most likely was built at the same time as that on lot 38, because they shared a party wall and had identical footprints. The demolition description was also the same: 30 apartments (90 rooms), 5 stories, no set back, 30 by 85' footprint (#381, 1971).

Lot 40: 214/216 East 127th Street (40' x 99.11')

The earliest building recorded on this site first appears on Bromley 1879 and still exists up to at least 1894, where it is designated as a three-story frame structure on the eastern part of the lot. This building was replaced by a tenement in the twentieth century. Two new building permits exist for the tenement on this lot, the latter of which dates to 1906, presumably the year the tenement was built (NB #839, 1901, NB #168, 1906). The only detailed description preserved is for the earlier, presumably unbuilt building, which was to measure 40 by 85' 6" on the 100-foot lot and contain apartments for 28 families and stores on the ground floor. The 6-story building was to have a cellar. The 1906 building permit mentions only that a 6-story building with cellar was planned which was to measure 40 by 86.11 feet. Based on the cartographic evidence, the plan built differed from the original plan; the earlier one planned to have a light well in the rear section and the built version (Sanborn 1911) was set back further from the sides of the lot instead.

The demolition permit (#337, 1972) describes the building as having 40 apartments (120 rooms), so possibly the built plan had that internal density; there are no filed alteration permits for the structure.

Lot 42: 208/210/212 East 127th Street (75' x 99.11')

The first structure documented for this lot appears on the Dripps 1854 map, a Presbyterian church; from church records it is known to have been built in 1844/45 and named the Harlem Presbyterian Church. The church remained in this building until 1872, after which the congregation removed to 125th Street and Madison (WPA 1940:59). The land on which the church had been sited comprised lots 42 (212 East), 43 (210 East), and 44 (208 East) in 1883, when the first tenements were built on the site (NB #609, 1883). Drawings still exist for this application, which, together with the application itself provide the following description of the 1883 structures. The building on lot 44 measured 18 by 75 feet, and the buildings on lots 42 and 43 measured 28' 6" by 75', all thus extended to the east-west lot lines and filling three-quarters of the 100-foot deep lots. The larger buildings contained 2 stores and apartments for 16 families and the narrower building 1 store and apartments for 8 families. They were each 5 stories high and had cellars and 10'-deep foundations. The buildings originally had both city water and sewage, although, in typical tenement fashion, there was only one water closet on each floor; each apartment had a sink.

The original owner, John Keyes, 63 East 127th Street, had sold the building at 210 East 127th (lot 43) by 1906, when the new owner, Candace S. Coffin, of Willow Court, Brooklyn, increased the number of waterclosets to two on each floor (Alt. #2952, 196). This same building, together with the building to the west (208 East 127) had an elevator installed in 1948 (#363), at which time the two structures were described as housing 24 families in a building with footprint 46' 3 1/2" by either 94' 11" or 99' 11", indicating that at some time previously or during these renovations the buildings were extended to the rear lot line. Indications are that the extension had a 4-foot deep footing with a further 2-foot deep foundation excavated at the perimeter of the extension. (misc. #363, misc. #548, 1948, and C of O #35340, 1949). At this same time 212 East 127th Street (lot 42) was empty above the first story, which served as a junk shop and storage for scrap (misc #548, 1948). This use of 212 East 127th (lot 42) had existed at least since 1939 (Sanborn), at which time 210 East 127th (lot 43) was boarded up.

By 1951 these three buildings had all been torn down or partially demolished<sup>18</sup> and two-story structures housing junk

---

<sup>18</sup>No demolition permit is preserved at the buildings department for any of these lots and the front edges of the building standing at 212 E. (A & E Auto Repair) are faced with old storefront columns which appear to be in their original positions. It

shops and storage and baling of paper and rags covered the three lots, the building at 208-210 East 127th shown to join internally that at 212 East 127th Street (Sanborn). By 1975 a one-story building covered all three lots (Landbook 1975), the function of which was apparently auto repair, storage, and auto body as confirmed by a letter in the building department dated December 10, 1986. A & E Auto Repair and Manhattan Coach Works still occupied the site at the time of the site visit.

Lot 45: 200/202/204/206 East 127th St - 2335/2337/2339 Third Ave (99.11' x 65')

Only the 5 feet of lot 45 running along the western boundary of Lot 42 are part of the development site, so the entire history of the lot will not be detailed here. There are no records for this lot in its early history preserved in the department of buildings. According to the cartographic evidence, most of that 5' strip was backyards of structures which first appeared in the record in 1879. It is only on the original lot 45, a lot extending 100' feet along 127th street and 207 feet north-south, that a structure existed prior to that time, appearing on the Dripps 1854 record. Although this small structure does not appear in the intervening records, either the same structure or another small one in a similar location appears on the Perris-Browne 1886/1873 atlas. In 1894 it is designated as a two story building at the address 206 East 127th Street (Sanborn). In fact, uniquely on that plan, the lot lines are drawn differently, and it appears that the open space along approximately 60 feet of the western edge of the development site was the yard belonging to this structure. By 1911 the lot was occupied by a junk dealer in a one-story structure. This use continued until after 1951. In 1958 a permit was filed to construct a gas station on the entire lot designated by all the addresses above, as well as 2333 Third Avenue (NB #18). This gas station was completed on January 28, 1964 (C of O #59368) and was demolished on October 10, 1975. This lot was part of the 100' east-west by 130 feet north-south lot conveyed to the United Moravian Church by HPD on September 16, 1972 (letter in building department file), which has built on the entire lot to a depth of more than 15' below grade (NB application #31, 1975).

Lot 48: 2333 Third Avenue

Only the 5 feet along the eastern lot line are part of the development site. According to the cartographic record, this five feet was the back yard of a structure in place by 1854 (Dripps). This back yard remains in place 1893 (Perris-Browne). However, by 1894, the yard was partially covered with a two story building which extended along the northern lot line to the

---

is possible, therefore, that the upper floors were torn down and the lower floor of this and the other buildings on the lot were preserved and date to the early 20th century.

eastern edge, while the yard was open along the rest of the eastern lot line. The footprint remained the same in 1951, when the site housed a tin shop. The modern cartographic evidence does not confirm the demolition permit description as a dwelling, although the building heights conform on both kinds of documents. The demolition permit is the only buildings department record preserved. Dated October 8, 1963, it describes the structure to be demolished as a dwelling containing 8 apartments, with a 5 story structure at the front and a 1 story structure at the back, having a total footprint of 25 by 90 feet. It was part of the gas station built in 1964 (see lot 45 above) and followed that lot's later history.

Lot 65: 2331 Third Avenue

Only the 5 feet along the eastern lot line are part of the development site. There are no records for this lot preserved in the buildings department files. Cartographic evidence shows a building with back yard by 1854 (Dripps), apparently still in place in 1867 (Dripps). By 1886, a 5-story building with a one-story addition at the rear occupied the lot (Perris-Browne, Sanborn). Whether this 5-story building was the 1854/67 structure or a new one built subsequently cannot be determined from the examined evidence. The five-foot strip which is part of the development site was still a backyard. By 1911, a store and dwelling occupied most of the site, with however, a small back yard remaining along the eastern edge, the part which is under consideration here. The footprint remains the same up to at least 1951, when the site housed a metal works (Sanborn). In 1975, the footprint remained the same (Landbook). Today, this property, except for the 5-foot strip which is part of the development site, belongs to the Moravian church and forms part of the rear yard, which lies at 15 feet below grade.

**BLOCK 1792**

Lot 5: 207 - 217 East 127th Street (96' x 99.11')

In the 1894 Sanborn, all of the addresses which eventually became lot 5 had three-story buildings on the front half of the lots (Sanborn 1894). These were probably erected after 1854 and by 1867, when buildings appear on the fronts of these lots (Dripps). According to the Sanborn 1894 information, the buildings were not all identical; those at 207 and 209 were slightly longer than those at 211 through 217. All but 213 and 217 has one story extensions at the rear. The differences in length are apparent in the Perris-Browne record, but no extensions are shown there (1886/93) nor on the Bromley 1898 atlas. No building records exist for this lot except a demolition permit (#57, 1977), which describes the demolition of a structure placed on the property sometime after 1911, when the lot was empty (Sanborn). The demolition permit describes a one-story building 100 feet wide by 90 feet deep, showing a slightly less deep building



than that shown on the Sanborn atlases, which illustrate a building covering the entire lot. The function of that building in 1939 was a garage with a 75-car capacity and a 500-gallon gas tank in the ground (Sanborn). By 1951, the building housed a wholesale grocery business (Sanborn), and was described as a warehouse in 1975 (Sanborn).

Lot 9: 219 East 127th Street (16' x 99.11')

The structure appearing on Dripps 1854 may have been on this lot. Subsequently, this lot appears to have been part of the same development as the lot adjacent to the west, appearing to be half covered with a building in 1867 (Dripps). By 1886, however, it had a 5-story tenement on the lot (Perris-Browne, Sanborn 1894), with only a narrow backyard. According to the demolition permit for this lot, the only record preserved in the buildings department, the lot had a 5 story tenement 25 feet wide by 85 feet deep, with party walls, demolished in 1971 (#446), a description corresponding to the Sanborn 1894 and subsequent atlases.

Lot 10: 221 East 127th Street (16.9 x 99.11')

This lot may have had a structure on it by 1854 (Dripps). A building is shown in 1867 on the front part of the lot, about the same length as the townhouses to the west, but not set all the way to the western lot line (Dripps). Therefore, it is probable that this is the structure shown as existing earlier. By 1886, however, this building had been replaced with a 5 story tenement, which was a mate to that on 219 East 127th. According to the demolition permit for this lot, the only record preserved in the buildings department, the lot had a 5 story tenement 25 feet wide by 85 feet deep, with party walls, demolished in 1971 (#396). Sanborn atlases often show a party wall to the building on lot 9 (eg 1939).

Description of Planned Construction

The proposed development project consists of townhouses and an 11-story apartment building, with an open courtyard in the center and two parking lots. One parking lot is on the portion of lot 1 at the eastern part of the site, originally lots 18 through 24; the other is the three lots on Block 1792 (Fig.2). The ground disturbance will be minimal in the areas of the parking lots. The high-rise building is planned to have a cellar under the western and central part of the building, but not under the eastern 90 feet. The building will be separated from the adjacent tenement on the east by an area-way. The town-houses will be built on pilings and set at grade with sewer hookups to 126th Street (plans provided by HPD and personal communication, Thomas P. McGinty, project architect).

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed development site lies beyond the original village of New Harlem, on land which formed early fields for the village. Since the site was subsequently developed with dense urban housing which had basements, cellars, and backyards below grade, it is not possible that any trace of the 17th century fields would be preserved. Thus, there are not likely to be remains preserved from the settlement of New Harlem, the reason for which the site was originally flagged for archaeological research by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

There is also no probability of Amerindian remains, since the site was not situated in a likely area for such remains and none were reported on the development site in historic times.

However, there are cartographic indications that some areas of the development site were occupied by 1854, before the earliest sewers were installed on the development blocks (1864). For those lots on which there was not substantial subsequent disturbance, there is a possibility that archaeological features such as cisterns and privies may be preserved. Some parts of the development site will not be disturbed more than superficially during the proposed development project, specifically all lots on block 1792 and the areas under the parking lot on the eastern part of Block 1791. Any subsurface remains in those areas would not be disturbed by the surface grading and drainage planned for the parking lots.

Based on the building histories, the lots which possibly had buildings on them prior to 1864 -- based on the Dripps 1854 map -- are Block 1791: lots 101, 2, 104, 105, 5, 106, 9, 109, 11, 111, 12, 42, 45 (eastern 5'), 48 (eastern 5'), 65 (eastern 5'); Block 1792: lots 9, 10<sup>19</sup> (Fig. 10). Lots which had buildings on them on the Dripps 1867 map, which may or may not have been built before the sewer was installed on Third Avenue in 1864 are Block 1791: lots 13, 35 (?), 37 (?), 38 (?); Block 1792, lot 5 (Fig. 11).

Of these potentially sensitive lots, many have clearly documented disturbance, based on the building histories described above, so that no probability of finding subsurface features remains. Any lot which had a tenement built on it, with cellar, and small backyard, cut to the level of the basement, would have been sufficiently disturbed so that any cistern or privy which

---

<sup>19</sup>The lot numbers based on the Dripps 1854 map can only be approximated, because of the scale of the Dripps. Therefore, more lots are listed than buildings appear on the map.

may have existed.<sup>20</sup> The lots which have subsequent 5-story tenements include Block 1791: lots 11, 111, 12, 13, 35, 37, 38, 42; Block 1792: lots 9 and 10.

There are other kinds of disturbance which would have likely destroyed any subsurface remains as was true on the following lots. Block 1791, lot 2 was eventually entirely covered with a building that had a 6-foot deep cellar, which would have seriously disturbed if not entirely destroyed any subsurface archaeological features.

Only the easternmost 5 feet of block 1791, lot 45 are part of the development site. This area, now a paved passageway filled with car parts between the church and the auto shops, can be seen to have rubble below the surface through breaks in the paving. It seems highly unlikely that any early subsurface features would have survived the excavation for the church and its yard and this strip does not appear to have any archaeological potential. This is also true of lots 48 and 65, now part of the church property as well (Fig. 5).

Block 1792, lot 5 may have been significantly disturbed with the excavations for the 500 gallon fuel tank documented in the building department records. What percentage of the lot was disturbed by this tank and the location of this disturbance cannot be determined by available records. Therefore, some subsurface archaeological features might be preserved on this lot. However, the lot will serve only as a parking lot under the current development plan and will not be disturbed to any significant depth. Therefore, unless development plans change, no testing is recommended for this lot.

Block 1791 lots 101, 104, 105, 6, 106, 9, and 109 share a common history. They may have had structures on them by 1854, before sewers were installed on the block. They all had row-houses built on them in the 1870's, lot 101 with a 21-foot deep backyard and the remaining lots, 104, 105, 5, 106, 9, and 109 with 50-foot deep backyards (Fig. 13). The backyard of lot 105 was encroached 10 feet, the backyard of lot 5 had an extension built on it without any documented foundations, and the others have only minor documented disturbance. The backyards would have been cut down to the basement level, about 4 or 5 feet, based on custom and what little direct documentation is preserved; the extension on lot 5 may have simply been set at basement grade. Therefore, substantial parts of cisterns or privies, which might

---

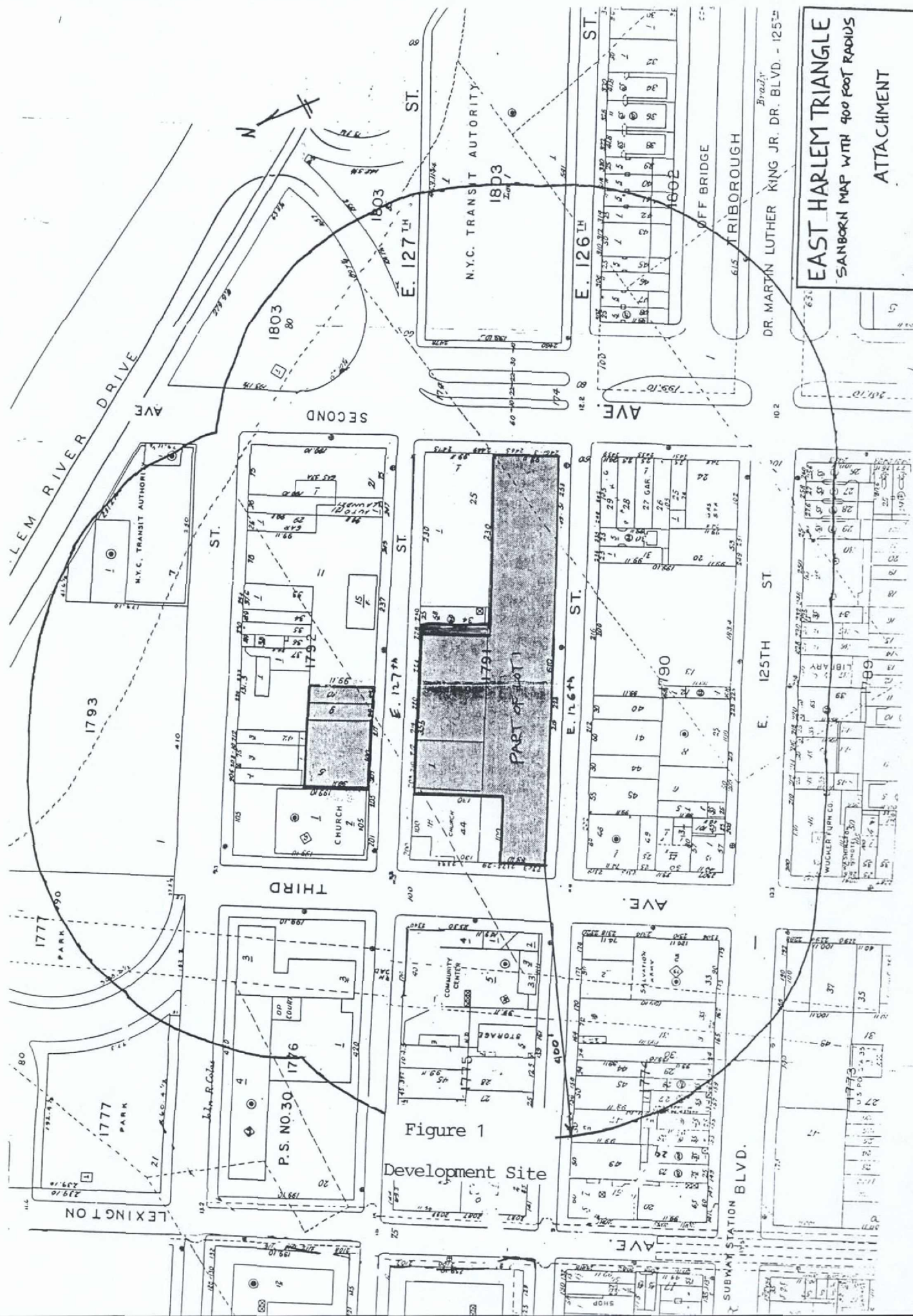
<sup>20</sup>No core borings exist for the site. However, borings done for the United Moravian Church show that the depth from grade of "fill" is generally 14-15' in areas where there had been buildings with cellars and 10' in areas which had been backyards of three-story buildings.



extend as much as 13 or 14 feet below grade, may be preserved on these lots from the pre-1854 structures.

Therefore, it is recommended that a field testing program be carried out in the backyards of the specified lots, towards the rears of the 19th century yards, to determine if any subsurface archaeological features exist. A backhoe trench along the back 10 feet of lots 101, 5, 106, 9, and 109 should be excavated to identify privy features. A second backhoe trench should be placed along the rear walls of the mid-19th century structures on the same lots to identify cisterns (Fig. 14).

If intact features are found, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission should be notified and a mitigation plan prepared according to the following specifications. The features should be excavated by identifiable strata or fixed intervals. Further deed and census research should be carried out as part of the laboratory phase if such features are found, to identify the individuals associated with the preserved archaeological materials. Regardless of whether specific individuals are identified, the report will include an interpretation of the cultural environment of the artifacts recovered.





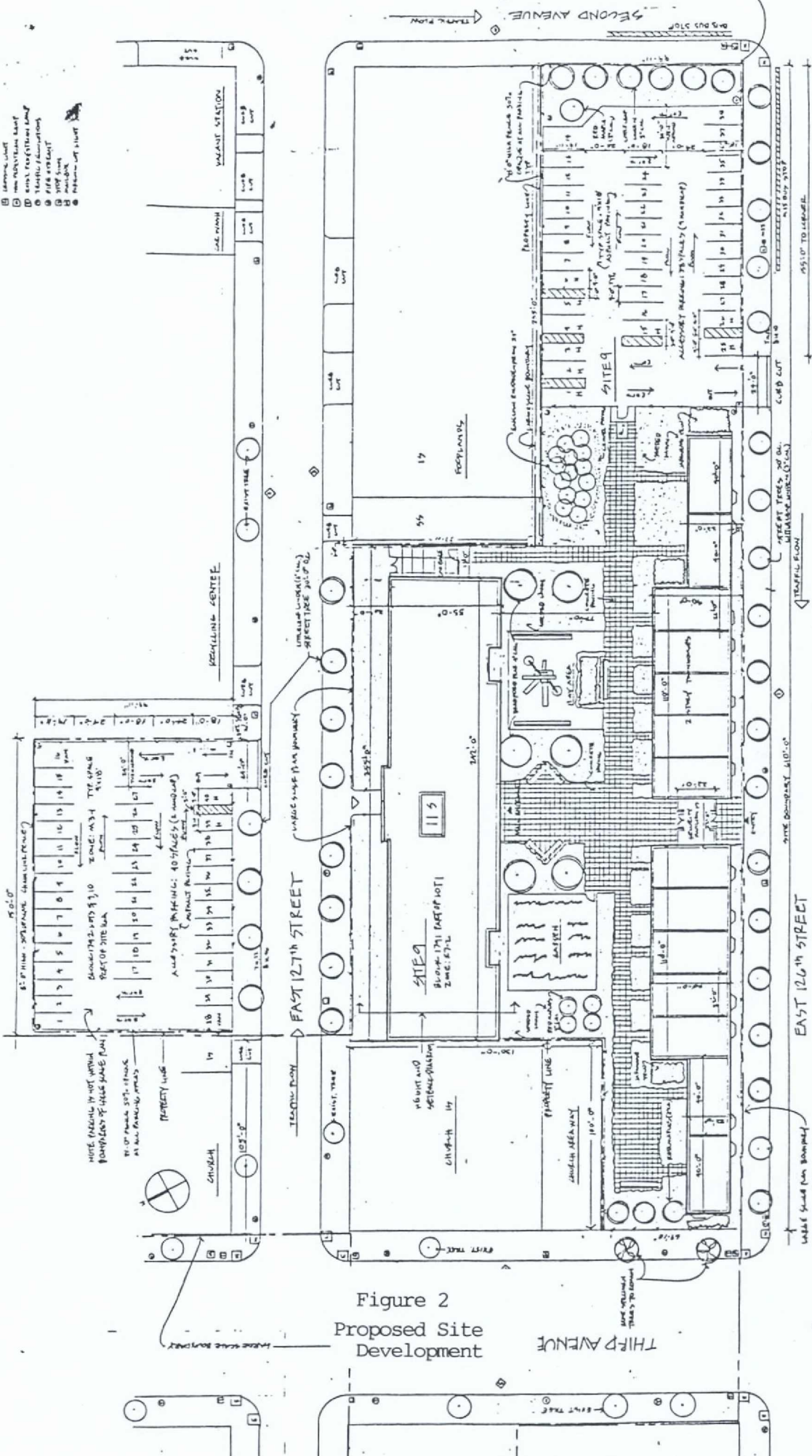
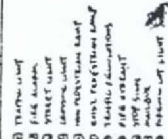
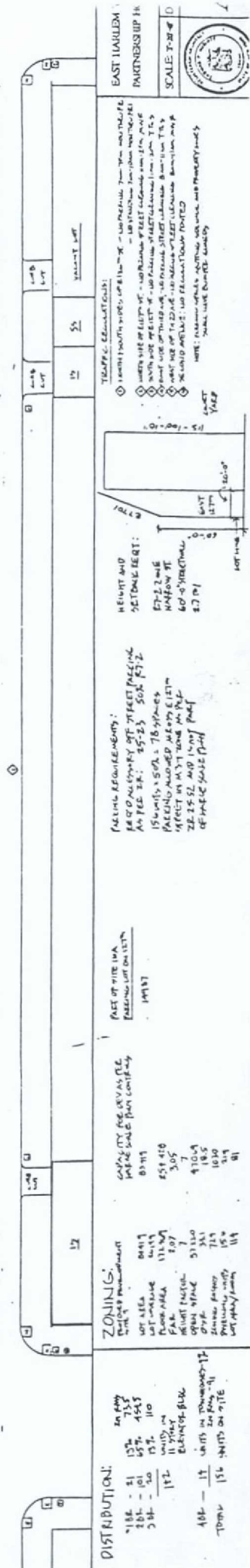


Figure 2  
Proposed Site  
Development





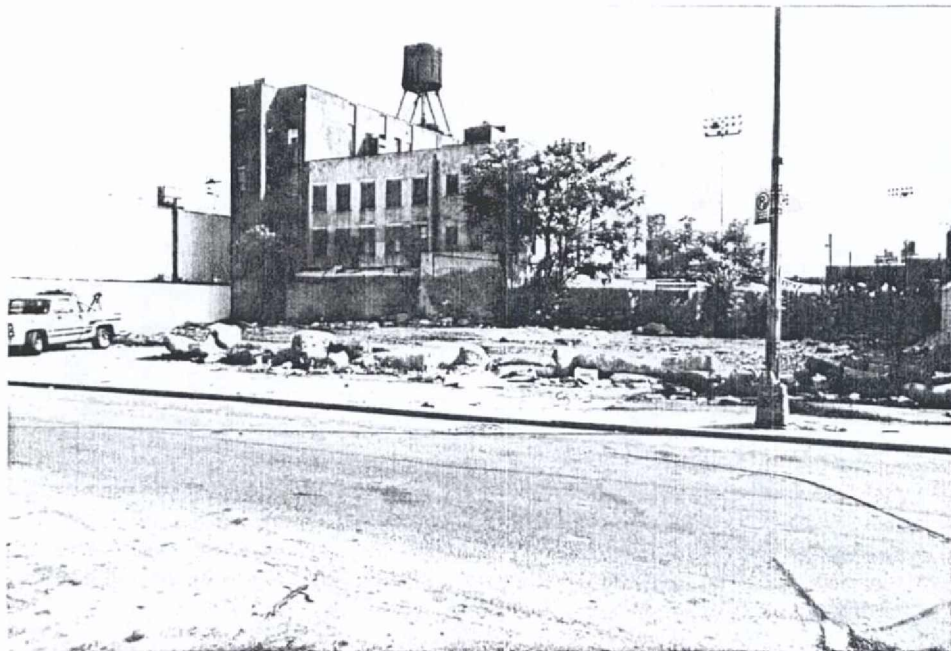


Fig. 3A

Block 1792, lots 5,9,10  
from south



Fig. 3B

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
from west  
At left is back corner of  
212 East 127th St.

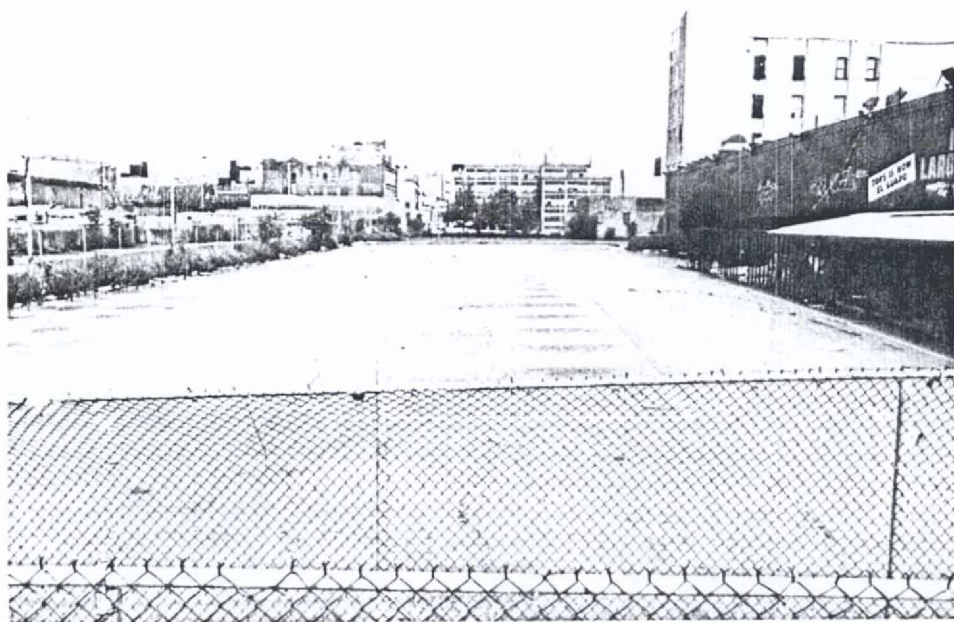


Fig. 3C

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
from east  
Note encroachments onto lot  
at right -- rear of gro-  
cery. 208-212 E. 127th  
and United Moravian Church  
at right rear.





Fig. 4A

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
SW corner from south  
United Moravian Church to  
north, 208-212 E. 127th  
at right rear, edge of  
fenced parking lot to  
right.



Fig. 4B

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
Part of parking lot from SW  
Rear of 208-212 E. 127th  
at left, 230 E. 127th (not  
part of development site)  
at rear right

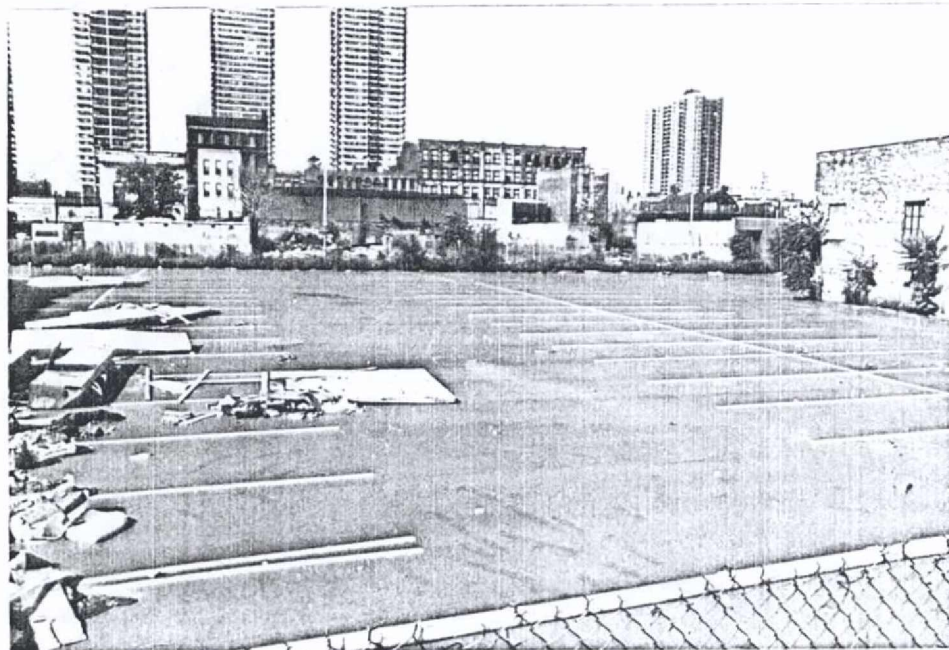


Fig. 4C

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
Area between 230 E. and  
212 E. 127th Street, from  
south





Fig. 5A

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
SW corner  
Fench marks rear of church  
lot -- note stairs to 15'  
deep rear yard

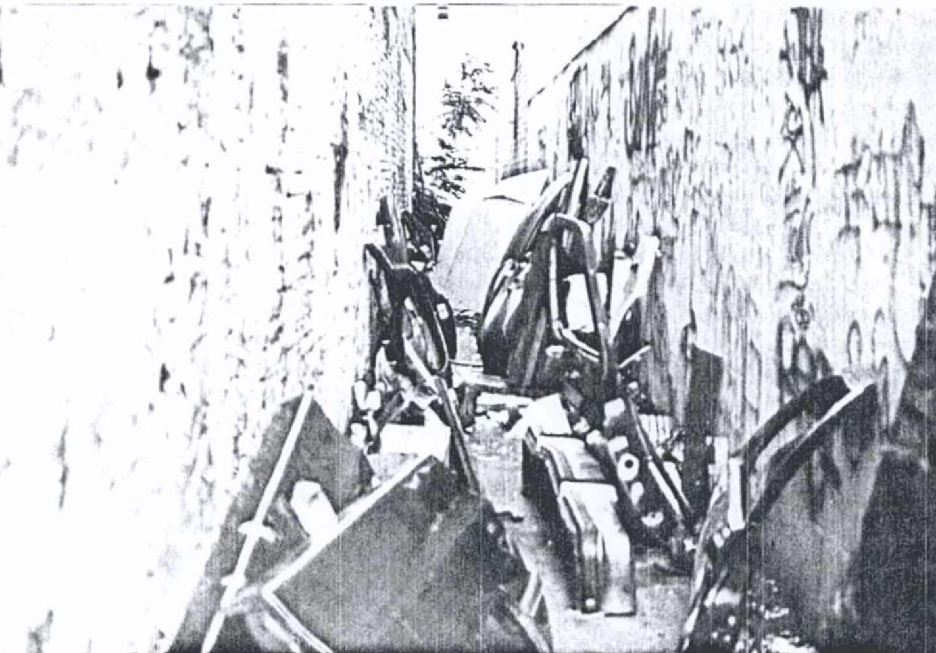


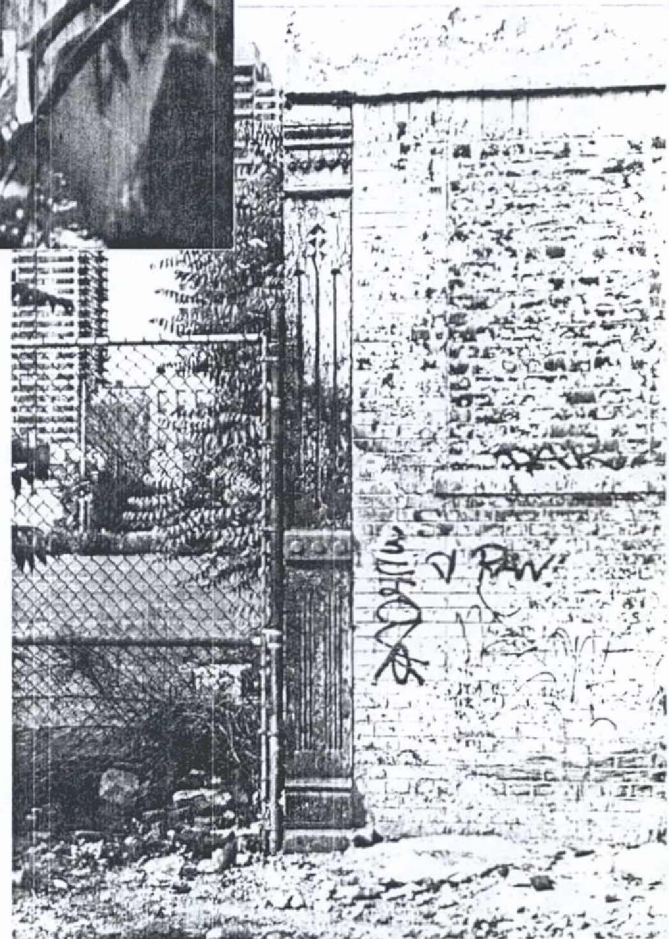
Fig. 5B

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
NW edge of lot  
Left: 208 E. 127th St.  
Right: United Moravian  
Church. Below paving is  
building debris.

Fig. 5C

Block 1791, part of lot 1  
Eastern corner of 212 E. 127th St.  
Facade column and bricked window  
from earlier residential and  
commercial use

(All photos by Fred Winter)







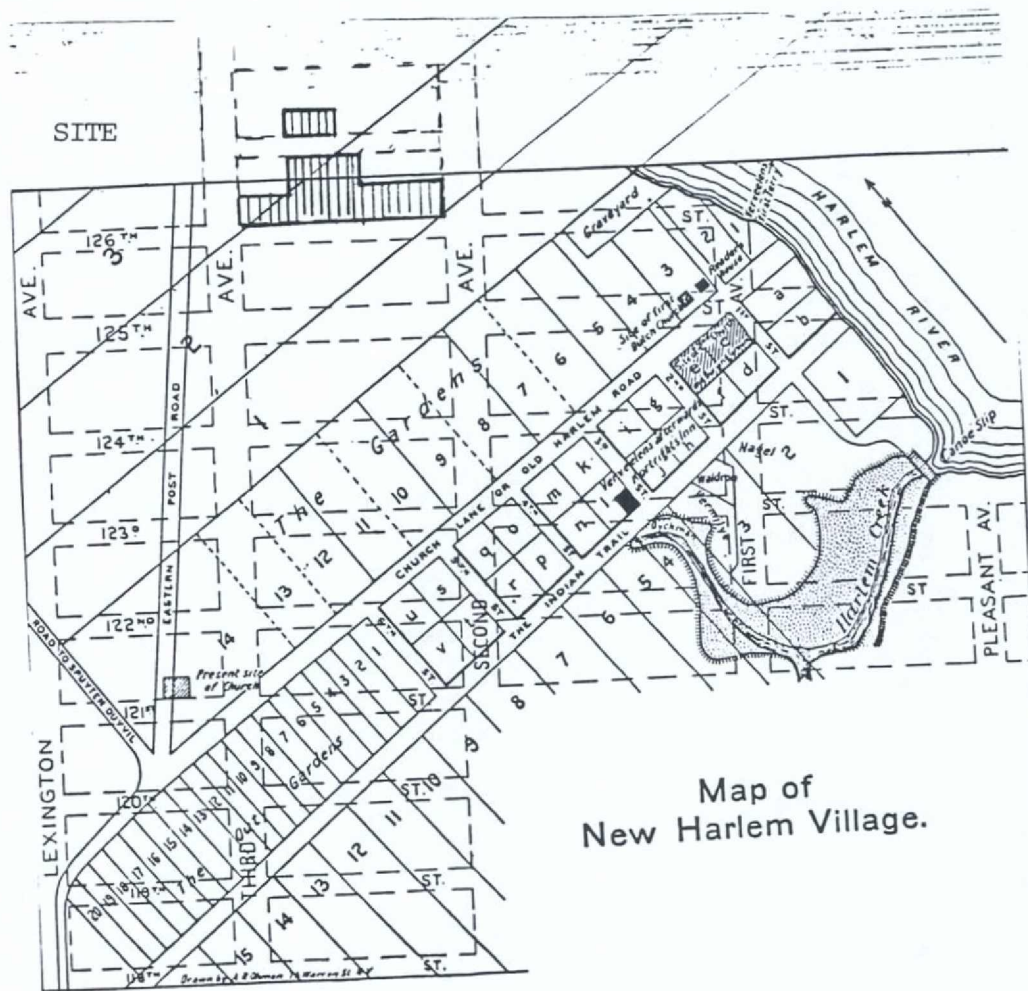


Figure 7

After Pierce 1903



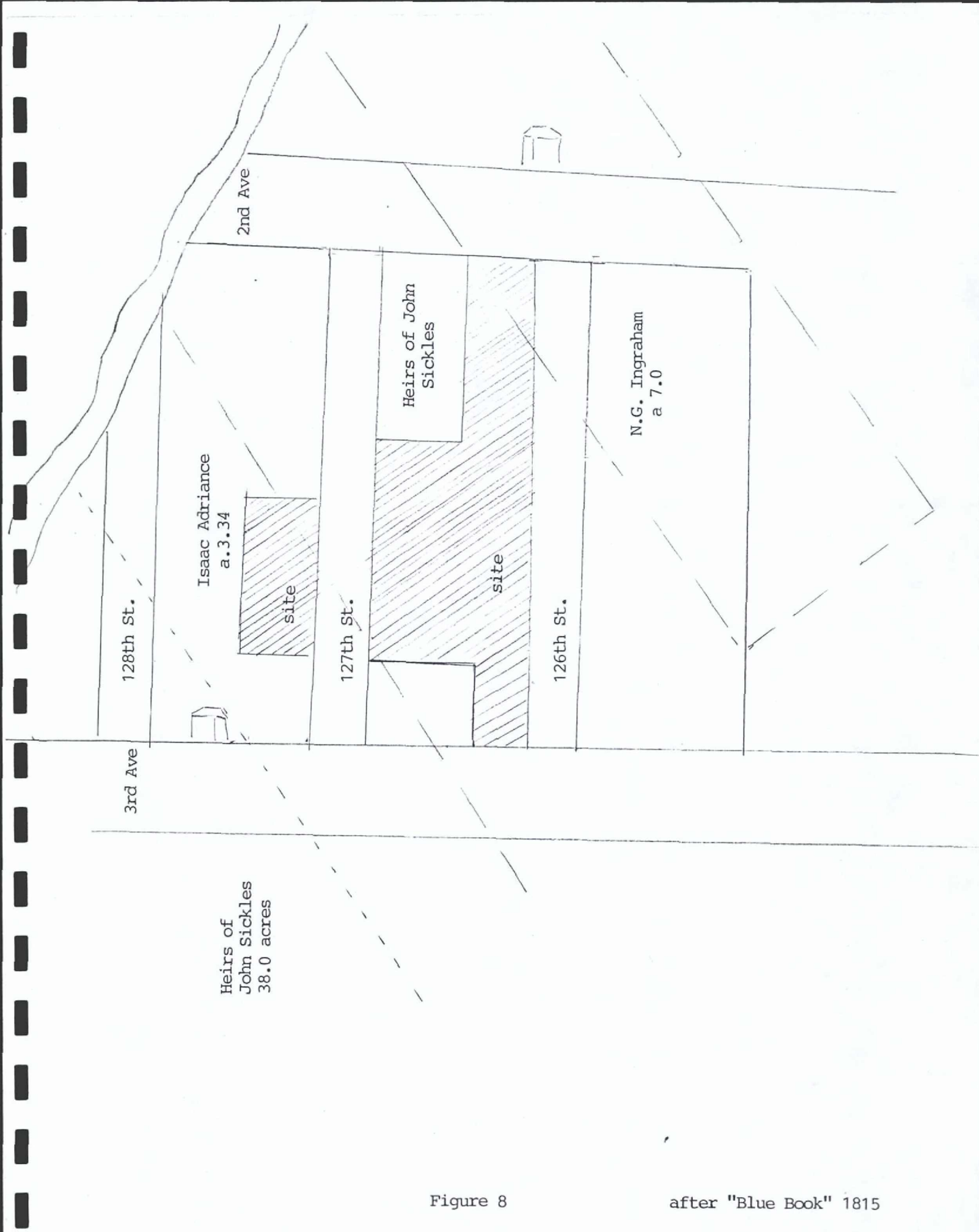
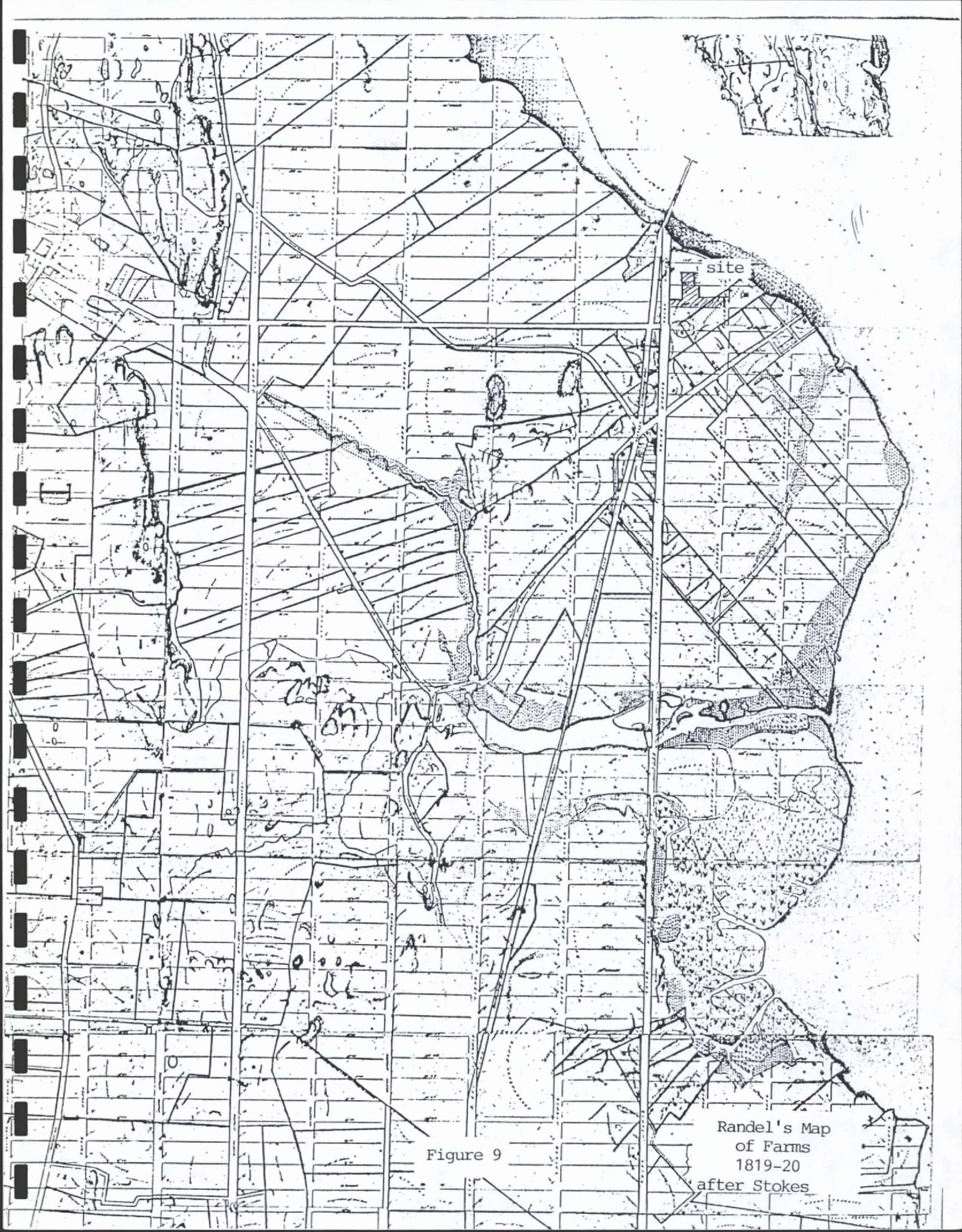


Figure 8

after "Blue Book" 1815







P = Presbyterian Church

site 

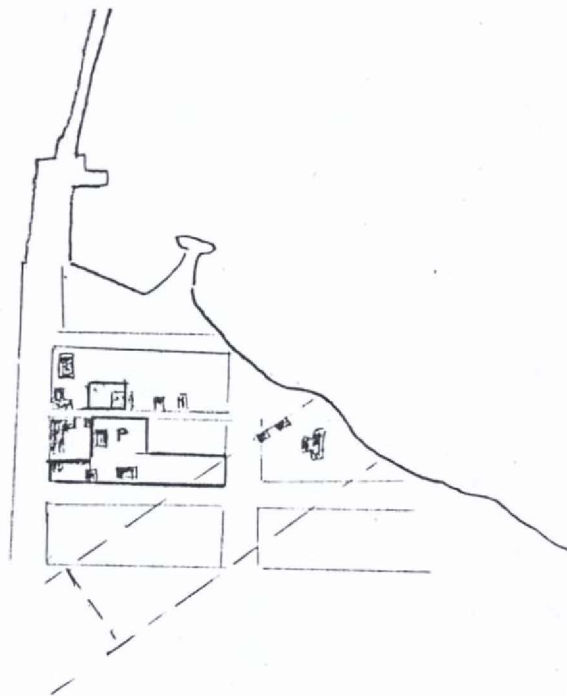


Figure 10

after Dripps 1854

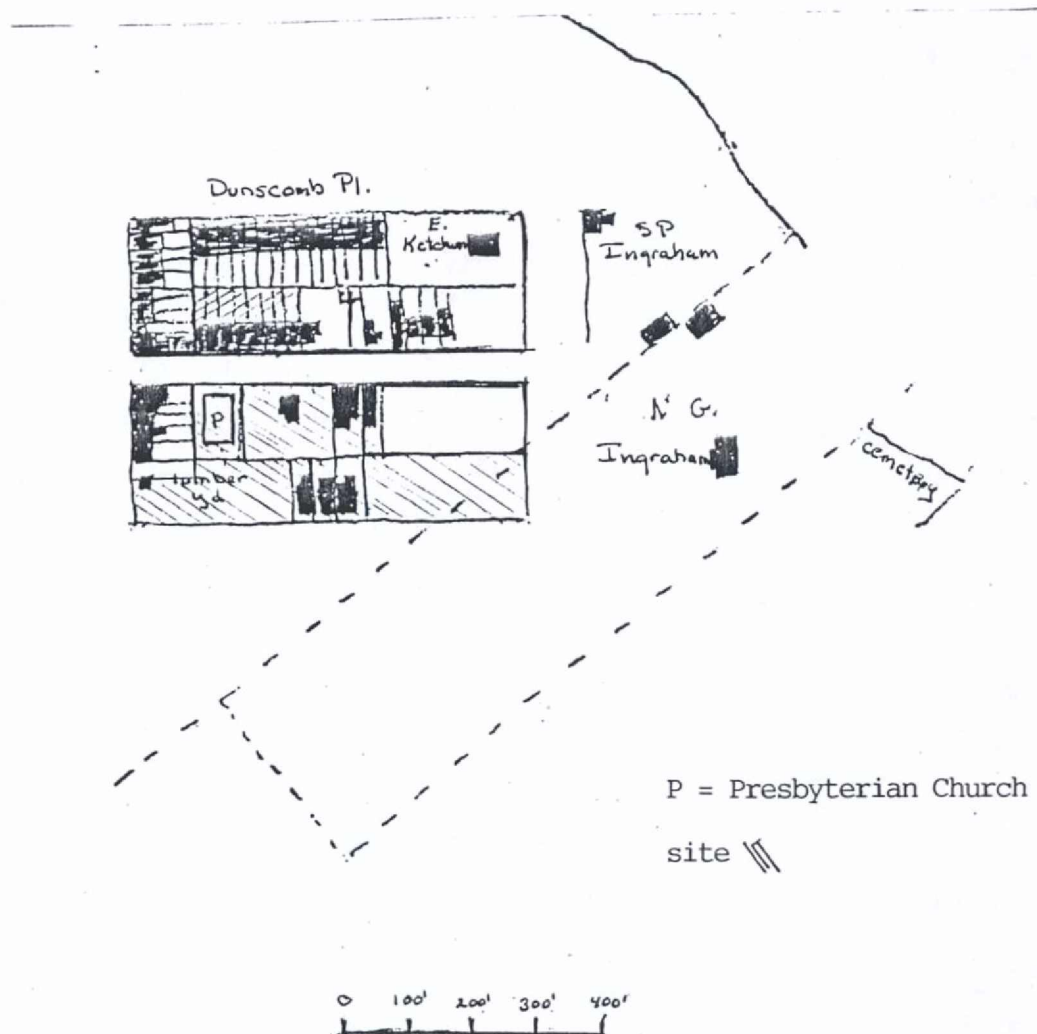


Figure 11

After Dripps 1867  
larger than original scale

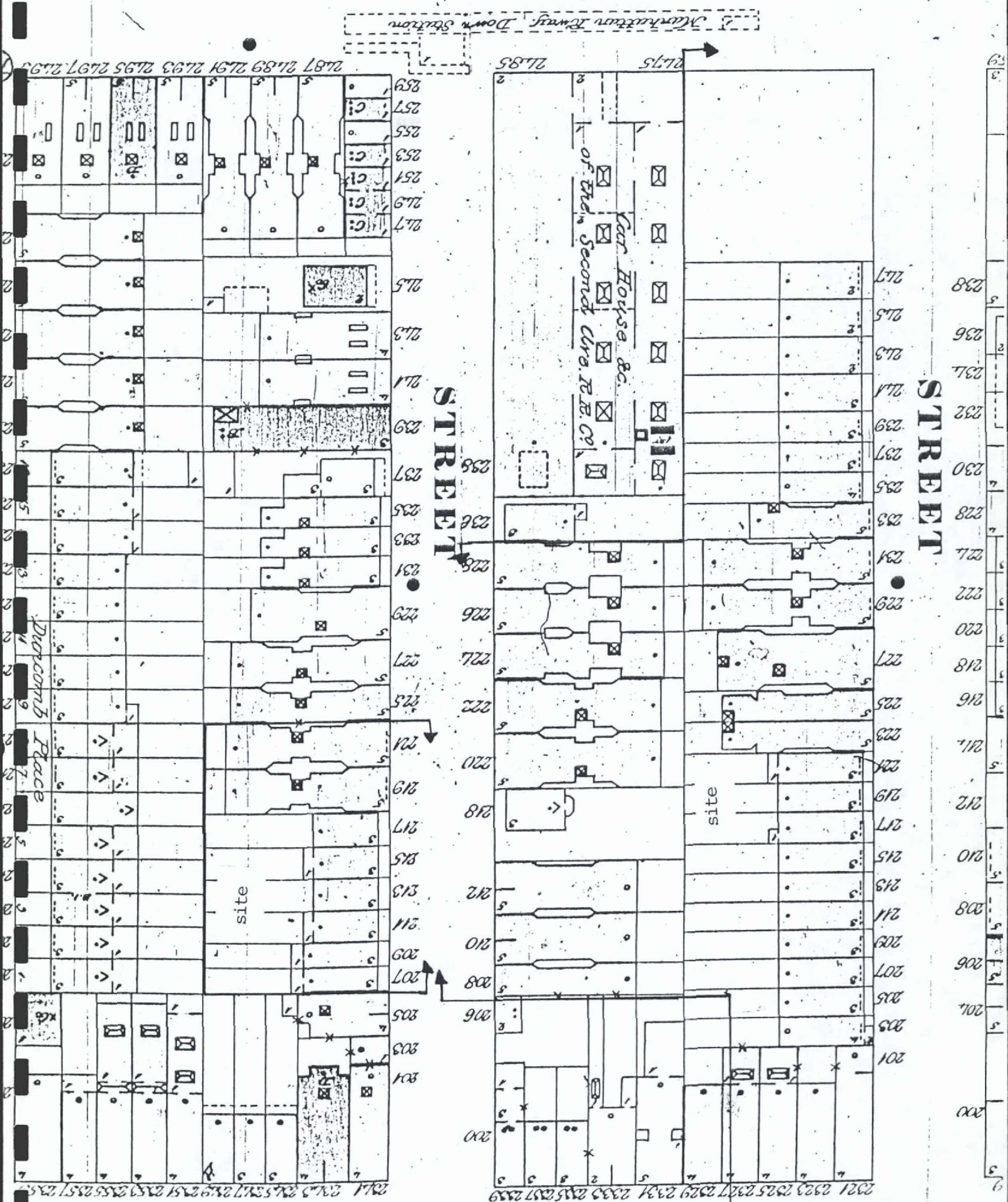
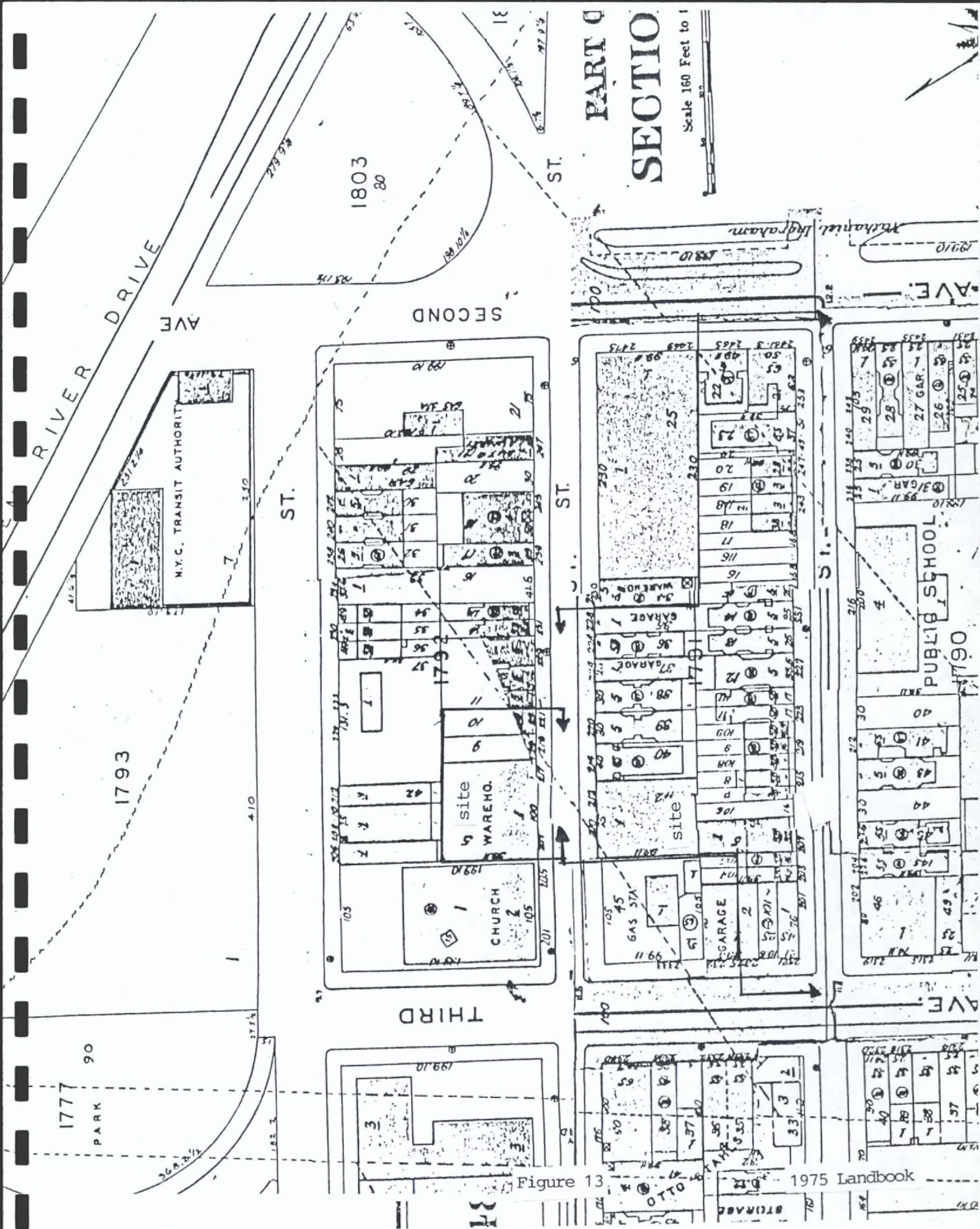
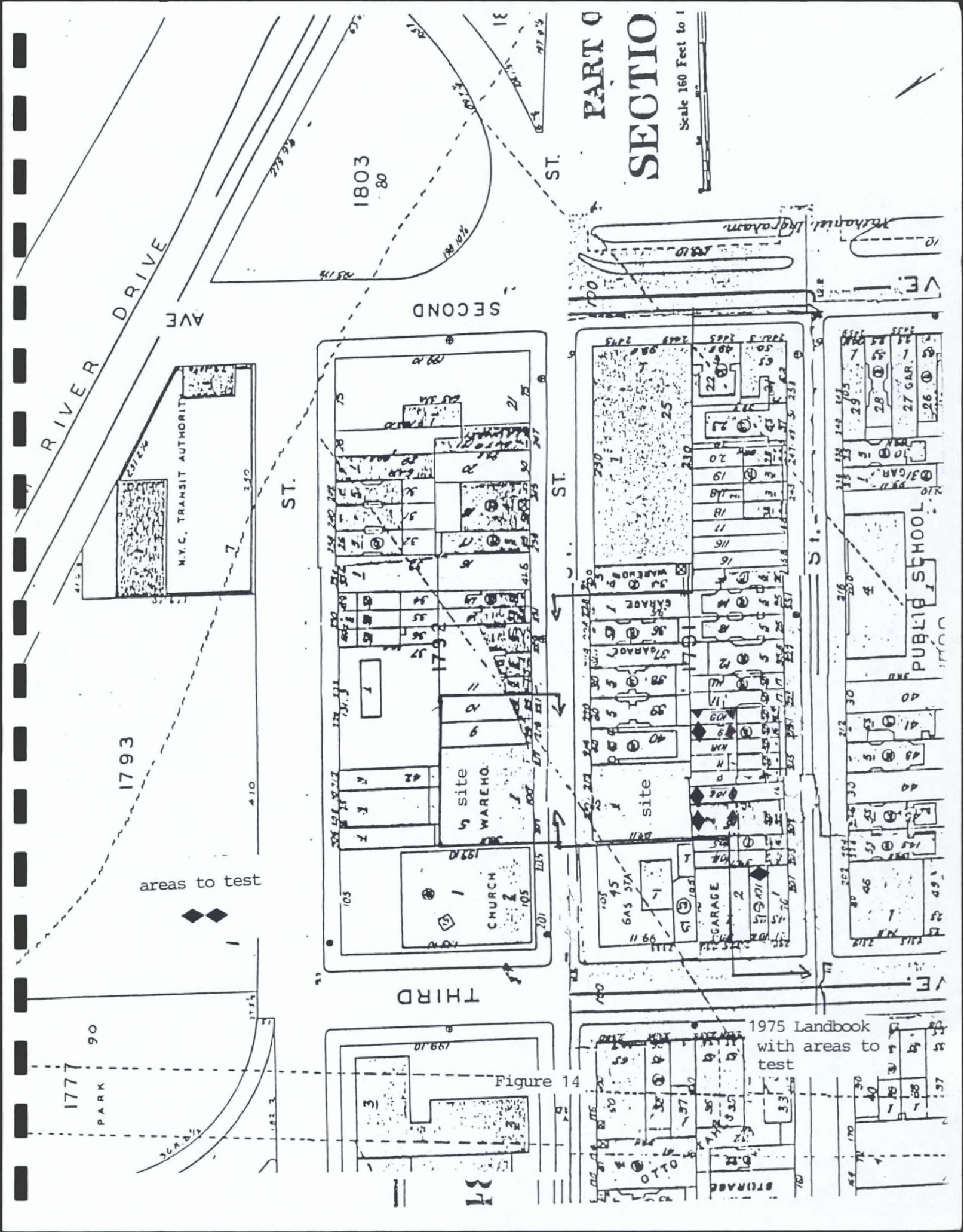


Figure 12











# MAPS CONSULTED

- 1639 Manatus Map
- 1670 New Harlem Village Plot 1670 (Riker 1904)
- 1691 Towne of New York Harlem From Rikers Map 1879 (original)
- 1691 Map of Harlem, James Riker 1879 (Riker 1904)
- 1600's Map of New Harlem Village (Pierce 1903)
- 1776 Positions of the American and British Armies in Harlem Heights
- 1777 A Topographical Map of the North Part of New York Island (C.J. Southier)
- 1796 Map of Common lands between the three and six mile stones belonging to the corporation of the City of New York (G. Hayward)
- 1811 Randel Survey (Stokes, III, pl. 80)
- 1815 Sackersdorff, Blue Book, p. 20
- 1819-20 Randel's MS Map of Farms (Stokes, III, pl. 86)
- 1854 M. Dripps Topographical Map of the City of New York
- 1865 E. Viele, Sanitary & Topographical Map of New York
- 1867 M. Dripps Plan of New York City, p. 17
- 1879 G.W. Bromley & Co., pl. 28
- 1886/93 Perris-Browne Insurance Map, vol. 8, p. 177
- 1894 Sanborn, vol. 8, pls. 176, 177
- 1898/1902 G.W. Bromley & Co, vol. 4, pls. 14, 23
- 1908 G.W. Bromley & Co. (in Stokes, vol II, pl 84)
- 1911 Sanborn Map Co, vol 8, pls. 90, 91
- 1920 Bolton New York city and vicinity in Indian possession
- 1922 Bolton Indian sites and pathways
- 1928 Stokes Landmark Map (vol. III, pl. 179)
- 1928 Original Grants and Farms (Stokes, VI, pl. 84B)
- 1934 Bolton Indian sites in the borough of Manhattan
- 1939 Sanborn Map Co., vol. 8, pls. 90, 91
- 1951 Sanborn Map Co., vol. 8, pls. 90, 91
- 1975 Manhattan Landbook, Section 6, pls. 142, 148
- 1981 Grumet Manhattan
- 1990-91 Manhattan Landbook, Section 6, pls. 142, 148
- n.d. Map of Sewers, New York City Department of Environmental Conservation

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Baughner, Sherene, et al.  
1982      Towards an Archaeological Predictive Model For Manhattan: a pilot study. New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, unpublished.
- Bolton, R.P.  
1920/1975      New York City in Indian Possession. Indian Notes and Monographs, Vol. II, no. 7. New York: Museum of the American Museum. Heye Foundation.
- 1922      Indian Paths in the Great Metropolis. Indian Notes and Monographs, no. 23. New York: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation.
- 1934/1972      Indian Life of Long Ago in the City of New York. New York: Museum of the City of New York/Harmony Books.
- Ceci, Lynn  
1982      "Method and Theory in Coastal New York Archaeology: Paradigms of Settlement Patterns." North American Archaeologist, vol III, pp. 5 -36.
- Chesler, Olga  
1982      New Jersey's Archaeological Resources from the Paleo-Indian Period to the Present: A Review of Research and Survey Priorities. Trenton: Office of Cultural & Environmental Services, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- Finch, James K.  
1909      "Aboriginal Remains on Manhattan Island," in C. Wissler (ed.), The Indians of Greater New York and the Lower Hudson, pp. 65-73.
- Geismar, Joan  
1989      History and Archaeology of the Greenwich Mews Site. (Greenwich Mews Assoc., unpublished).

- Grumet, Robert Steven  
1981  
1982
- Kouwenhoven, John A.  
1953/1972
- Lockwood, Charles  
1972
- Patterson, Jerry E.  
1978
- Pierce, Carl Horton  
1903
- Riker, James  
1852  
1881
- 1904
- Ritchie, William A.  
1980
- Skinner, Alanson  
1915
- Smith, Carlyle Shreeve  
1950
- Native American Place Names in New York City. New York: Museum of the City of New York.
- "On the Identity of the Reck-gawawanck," Bulletin of the New York State Archaeological Association 83:1-7.
- The Columbia Historical Portrait of New York. New York: Icon Editions, Harper and Row.
- Bricks & Brownstone. NY: Abbeville Press.
- The City of New York. NY: Harry N. Abrams, Inc.
- New Harlem: Past and Present. NY: New Harlem Publishing Co.
- Annals of Newton in Queens County, New York. New York.
- Harlem (City of New York) Its Origin and Early Annals. Prefaced by Homes Scenes of the Fatherlands; or Notices of its Founders before Emigration. Also Sketches of Numerous Families, and the Recovered History of the Land-Titles. (New York: printed for the author).
- Revised History of Harlem. NY: New Harlem Publishing Co.
- The Archaeology of New York of New York State, rev. ed. Harrison, NY: Harbor Hill Books.
- The Indians of Greater New York. Cedar Rapids: Torch Press.
- The Archaeology of Coastal New York. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, vol. 43, pt. 2.

- Spann, Edward K.  
1981  
The New Metropolis. NY: Columbia University Press.
- Stokes, I.N. Phelps &  
Hood, Robert H.  
1915-1928  
The Iconography of Manhattan Island, vols. I-VI.
- Trigger, Bruce (ed.)  
1978  
Handbook of North American Indians. The Northeast. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian.
- White, Norvell and  
Elliot Willensky  
1978  
AIA Guide to New York City. NY: Collier Books.
- Whyte, William H.  
1982  
The WPA Guide to New York City. NY: Pantheon Books.
- Winter, Frederick A. et al.  
1984  
Fifth-Third at Third: Report of the Excavations. NY: Key Perspectives. Unpublished.
- Wissler, Clark (ed)  
1909  
The Indians of Greater New York and the Lower Hudson. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, vol. III.
- WPA  
1940  
Inventory of the Church Archives in New York City. (NY: WPA).