

## **3.5 HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Historic resources include historically important buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts. They also may include bridges, canals, piers, wharves, and railroad transfer bridges that may be wholly or partially visible above ground. Archaeological resources are physical remains, usually subsurface, of the prehistoric and historic periods such as burials, foundations, artifacts, wells, and privies. An assessment of both historic and archaeological resources requires consultation with the appropriate city, state and federal agencies.

The *CEQR Technical Manual* requires an evaluation of a project's potential effect on archaeological resources if it would potentially result in an in-ground disturbance to an area not previously excavated. It further requires an assessment of historical resources if a proposed action would result in a direct or indirect adverse effect on historic buildings, structures, objects, sites, or districts.

### **3.5.1 Existing Conditions**

#### *3.5.1.1 Historical Overview*

The earliest documented use of the project site vicinity in the early- to mid-nineteenth century was apparently for farmland. By the mid-1860s, the streets bordering the project site block had been laid out and building lots were designated. By 1869, the Baltic Street frontage of the block was shown as divided into lots, with several structures fronting Baltic Street on what is now Lot 16. The remainder of the project site was still undeveloped.

During the 1870s, more of the project site was developed. By 1880, a window shade factory had been built fronting Baltic Street and Fourth Avenue, on the northern part of modern Lot 1 (then known as historic Lots 7–12). There were also structures fronting Baltic Street on historic Lots 13, 14, 15 (now part of modern Lot 16). By 1886, a one-story “Paper House” was shown on historic Lots 1 and 2, at the corner of Butler Street and Fourth Avenue, and four two-story dwellings were shown on historic Lots 13–15, along Baltic Street. Modern Lot 65, where the current school building is located, was still vacant as of this time. By 1898, new brick buildings had been constructed along the Fourth Avenue frontage, within modern Lot 1.

The existing PS 133 school building was constructed c. 1900. There were also two small structures, labeled “W.C. buildings” on the 1906 Sanborn map, along the northern edge of the lot line, which are no longer standing. In 1906, the factory along Baltic Street was now labeled “Compound Knitting & Underwear Factory.” The houses along Baltic Street, on modern Lot 16, were shown as two stories with basements. Additionally, the brick buildings along Fourth Avenue, on modern Lot 1, were shown as stores, and each was four stories high.

Little change occurred on the project site through the 1960s. In the 1970s, there was significant change on the project site block, when all of the buildings on the entire block, except the PS 133 school building, were demolished. Between 1985 and 1987, new three-story row buildings were constructed on the remainder of the project block. No new construction was shown on the project site or the remainder of the block between 1987 and 1994, although presumably the playgrounds on Lot 1 and 16 were created during this period. In 1995, the Sanborn map confirmed the presence of the playground and community garden on Lot 1. In 1995, SCA records indicate that the playgrounds on Lots 1 and 16 were renovated. There was no change to the community garden on Lot 1.

#### *3.5.1.2 Historical Resources*

The existing PS 133 building has been determined to be eligible for listing on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places by the OPRHP (see letter in Appendix B). According to OPRHP's

Resource Evaluation form, the school building was determined to be historically significant under Criteria A and B. Under Criterion A, the building is associated with events that have made a significant historical contribution as a representative example of the large number of school buildings that were erected by New York City in the late nineteenth century to serve a booming immigrant population. Under Criterion B, the building is historically significant as an example of school architecture in New York City, and is also an excellent example of the early work of C.B.J. Snyder, an architect who served as Superintendent of School Buildings between 1891 and 1923. During this time, Snyder designed a large number of public schools across the City. The historic PS 133 building is shown in Figure 9.

The Resource Evaluation form provides the following description of the PS 133 building's architectural features:

“P.S. 133 at 375 Butler Street in Brooklyn is a four-story-with-basement, I-plan structure featuring a limestone base, beige brick upper stories, and white limestone and terra-cotta trim. The front elevation, facing onto Butler Street, is divided into three sections, each three bays wide. The main entrance is crowned by a Tudor arch and elaborate carving in the spandrels (the original front doors have been replaced and the transoms windows removed and the area bricked in.) Access to east and west side yards of the school is through gated one-story limestone walls with Tudor entrances and battlements. The corners of the building and the central pavilion are defined by quoins. The window openings are topped with stone label moldings. The steeply pitched gabled roof is notable for its picturesque effect created by various gabled dormers on the fourth floor and a prominent end chimney.”

A 500-foot study area was identified to assess the potential for the proposed project to result in indirect effects on historic resources within the vicinity of the project site. However, there are no other historic resources within the project's 500-foot study area (Figure 10), including New York City designated landmarks or properties listed or eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

### *3.5.1.3 Archaeological Resources*

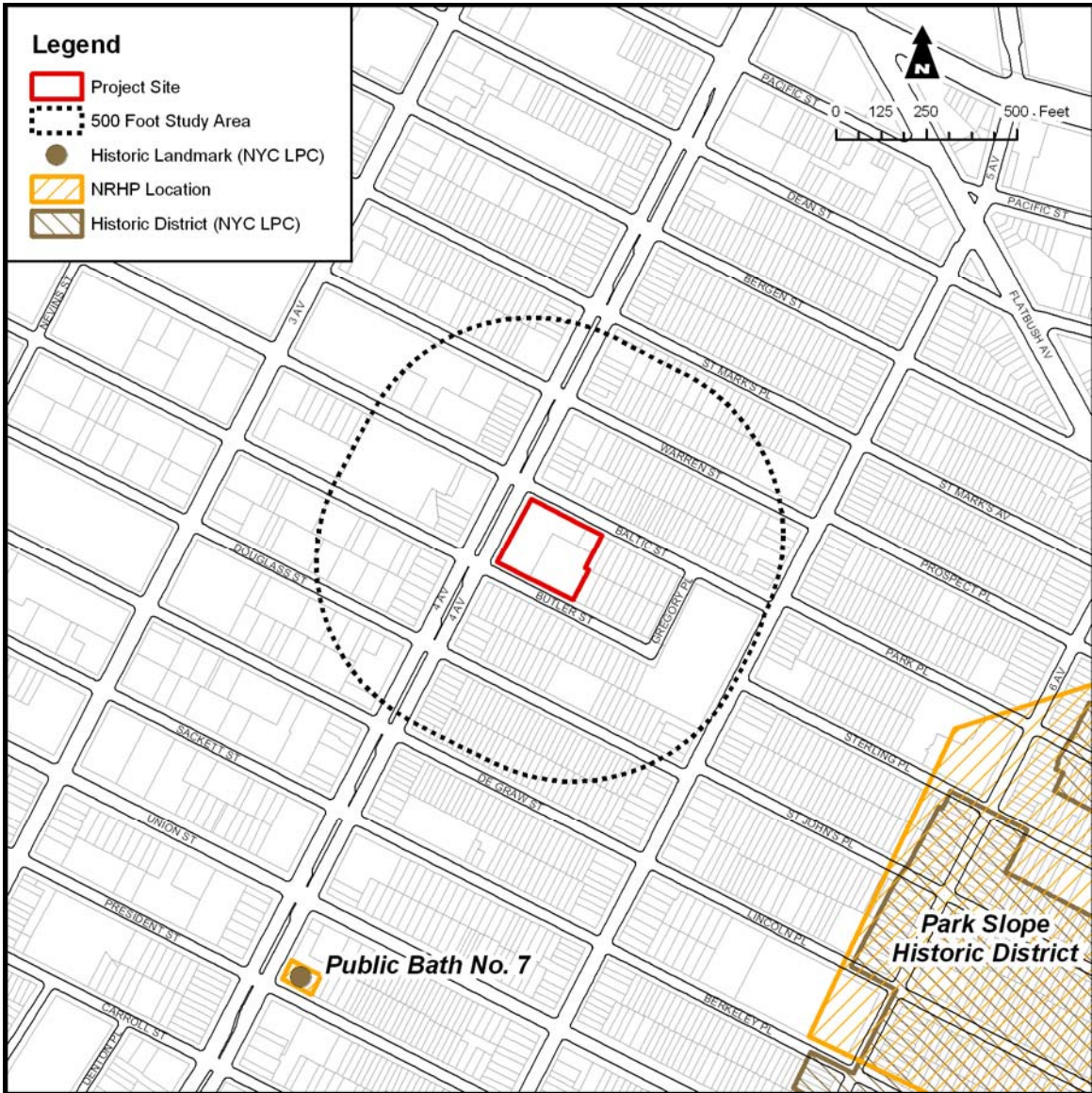
For the purpose of the archaeological resources assessment, the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of Block 940, Lots 1, 16, and 65, which comprise the project site. A Preliminary Assessment/Disturbance Record report was prepared for the project site in order to: 1) identify categories of potential archaeological resources on the project site; 2) examine the construction history of the project site in order to determine the probability that any potential archaeological resources have survived post-depositional disturbances and remain on the site; and 3) determine whether additional research, in the form of a Phase 1A study is necessary. The information provided below is summarized from the report, which can be found in its entirety in Appendix C.

Field observations and soil boring data confirm that the entire project site has been heavily disturbed from prior earthmoving, which included construction, demolition, grading and filling. In terms of potential precontact archaeological remains, the soil borings suggest that the upper reaches of the soil column, where precontact sites generally are found, have been obliterated by twentieth-century construction, grading, filling, demolition, and excavation. Based on the level of known disturbance to the property, the project site is considered to have a low potential for hosting precontact cultural remains. In terms of historical period archaeological sensitivity, historic maps indicate that the project site was undeveloped until the 1860s. Since this portion of Brooklyn had been supplied with piped city water and sewers at the time that the streets were laid out by the 1860s, the nineteenth century structures on the property would not have relied on backyard shaft features. Additionally, if there were any other potential archaeological remains from this period, they were likely destroyed by the significant amount of disturbance to the natural ground surface confirmed by the soil borings. Lastly, although the PS 133 school building is eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places, there should be no archaeological resources of significance associated with this structure.

**FIGURE 9: MAIN FAÇADE OF HISTORIC PS 133 BUILDING**



FIGURE 10: HISTORIC RESOURCES



Based on the above findings of the Preliminary Assessment/Disturbance Record report, it has been preliminarily concluded that the project site is not sensitive for precontact or historic period archaeological remains and no further archaeological investigations are recommended.

### **3.5.2 Future No-Action Conditions**

Under Future No-Action Conditions, there would be no physical changes to the historically significant PS 133 building and there are no other historically significant properties or structures in the vicinity of the project site. It is possible that the existing PS 133 building would be formally listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

### **3.5.3 Potential Impacts of the Project**

#### *3.5.3.1 Historic Resources*

The proposed action would require the removal of the existing PS 133 building, which is eligible for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, as described above. As such, under Section 14.09 of the State Historic Preservation Act of 1980, this would result in an adverse effect to the historic resource, and would constitute a significant adverse impact to historic resources. As required under Section 14.09, the SCA has undertaken consultation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) regarding the proposed project and will continue, through the consultation process, to identify ways of partially mitigating the impact. Potential mitigation measures would include design features incorporated into the proposed new school building, photo-documentation of the existing structure consistent with the requirements of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS), and preservation and/or salvage of existing historic features. After further consultation with OPRHP, the SCA would enter into a letter of resolution with OPRHP stipulating the specific mitigation measures that would be incorporated as part of the proposed project.

#### *3.5.3.2 Archaeological Resources*

As described above under existing conditions, the Preliminary Assessment/Disturbance Record report concluded that the project site does not retain precontact or historic period archaeological sensitivity. The OPRHP is in the process of reviewing these preliminary findings. Therefore, pending the OPRHP's concurrence, the development of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources.