

6.5 HISTORIC RESOURCES

6.5.1 Introduction

This Section assesses the potential effects of the construction and operation of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site on historic resources, including archaeological and architectural resources. As described in Section 3.5, “Historic Resources,” in Chapter 3, “Impact Methodologies,” the area of potential effect for archaeological resources is the area that would be disturbed for the proposed project, in this case the location of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site, at the northeast corner of E. 59th Street and Second Avenue. Since the area of potential project impacts for architectural resources could be larger to account for both physical and visual effects, the study area for known architectural resources has been defined as the area within 400 feet of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site (Figure 6.5-1). In addition, a Study Area of 100 feet was used for evaluation of properties that appear to meet criteria for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (S/NR) or for designation as a New York City Landmark (NYCL).

The general environmental setting (i.e., geology, surface geology, and flora and fauna) of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is similar to that of the preferred Shaft Site. The E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is located in close proximity to the preferred Shaft Site and shares the same general cultural and historical background. Specific archaeological and/or architectural resources found in or in the vicinity of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site are described and potential impacts assessed below.

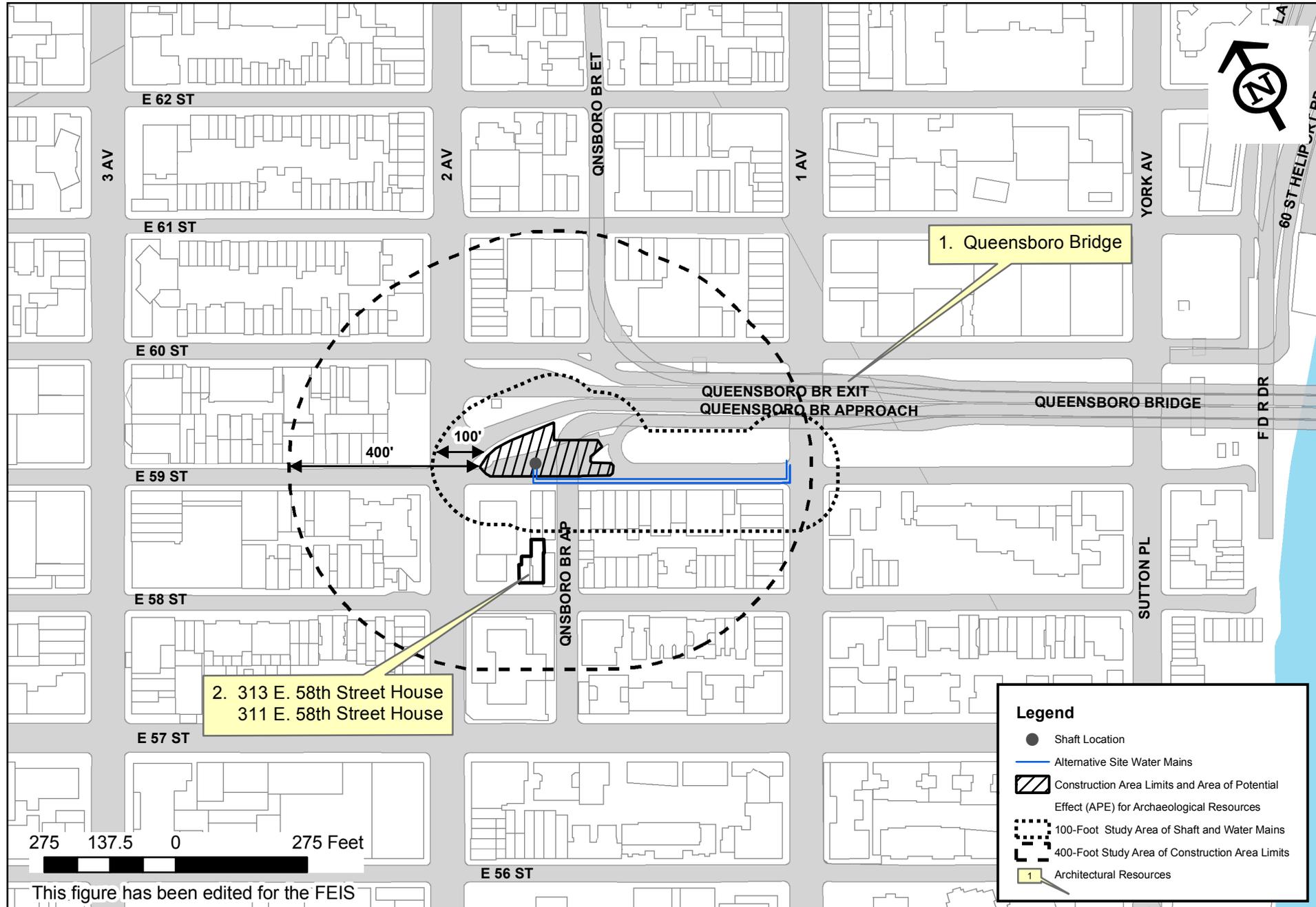
The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (NYCLPC) reviewed the Draft EIS, the Phase IA Historic Resources Assessment, and the Addendum to the Phase IA. In letters dated November 23, 2005, NYCLPC concurred with the Draft EIS text and with the conclusions of the Phase IA reports.

6.5.2 Existing Conditions

Archaeological Resources

This Section evaluates the potential for buried archaeological resources to be present within the area of potential effect at the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site (Figure 6.5-1).¹

¹ This section summarizes the archaeological resources assessment prepared for the project, contained in *Phase IA Historic Resources Assessment of the Proposed City Tunnel Number 3, Stage 2 Manhattan Leg, Shaft 33B Project Area, Borough of Manhattan, New York City, New York*, prepared by Eugene J. Boesch, October 14, 2005 (Appendix 5).



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NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PROPOSED SHAFT 33B TO CITY TUNNEL NO. 3
STAGE 2- MANHATTAN LEG
E. 59TH STREET/SECOND AVENUE SHAFT SITE
HISTORIC RESOURCES

FIGURE 6.5-1

Potential Native American Resources

Similar to the preferred Shaft Site discussed in Section 4.5, “Historic Resources,” in Chapter 4, “Preferred Shaft Site,” evidence of Native American activities have previously been recorded in the vicinity. This consists of New York State Museum (NYSM) Site No. 4061, which encompasses the area generally located between E. 45th and E. 70th Streets from the East River shoreline to Second Avenue, which includes the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site.

Although the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is located within the general area of NYSM Site No. 4061, a freshwater source apparently was not located in its immediate proximity. Accordingly, the area did not formerly possess environmental characteristics that would suggest that it could have been attractive for Native American use. In addition, any Native American sites that were present would have been destroyed by construction of the Queensboro Bridge (Bridge) between 1901 and 1908 and the new Bridge approach in 1930. Accordingly, the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is not considered to be sensitive for Native American archaeological resources.

Potential Historic-Period Archaeological Resources

The research conducted for the Phase 1A Historic Resources Assessment (Phase 1A Assessment) indicates that as of 1851, two dwellings were fronting onto Second Avenue north of E. 59th Street. The western portion of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site would have contained the former backyards of these structures. In addition, the research conducted for the Phase 1A Assessment also indicates that another dwelling fronted onto E. 59th Street, just east of Eastern Post Road in 1851; the former location of this structure is now included in the eastern portion of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site. The former route of Eastern Post Road passed just to the west of the house extending through this site. Municipal water was not installed below local streets as of 1851, suggesting that cisterns, wells, and privies were possibly associated with the dwellings, which would most likely have been located in their former backyard areas. By 1892, tenements had been built within the current E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site.

Archaeological deposits and structural remains associated with the occupation of the structures on the alternative Shaft Site in 1851 as well as traces of Eastern Post Road were likely once present on the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site. However, construction of the late 19th century buildings and subsequent construction of the Queensboro Bridge between 1901 and 1908 and the new Bridge approach in 1930 extensively impacted the site, destroying or extensively disturbing any archaeological resources that may have been present. For these reasons, the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is not considered to be sensitive for historic-period archaeological resources.

Architectural Resources

There are no architectural resources on the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site. The Study Area contains the same two architectural resources as located in the Study Area for the preferred Shaft Site: the Queensboro Bridge, which is located adjacent to the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site, and two historic structures, 311 and 313 E. 58th Street, located approximately 150 feet

south of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site. These are listed in Table 6.5-1 and mapped on Figure 6.5-1.

A site visit was undertaken within 100 feet of the alternative Shaft Site by a professional architectural historian to determine if there are any architectural resources that could meet criteria for listing on the S/NR and/or NYCL designation. No potential architectural resources were identified in the Study Area.

Table 6.5-1
Architectural Resources
Within the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site Study Area

Number*	Historic Property	S/NR Listed	S/NR Eligible	NYCLPC Designated
1	Queensboro Bridge	Yes	—	Yes
2	311 and 313 E. 58 th St. dwellings	Yes	—	Yes
Note: * Corresponds to Figure 6.5-1.				

6.5.3 Future Conditions Without the Project

Archaeological Resources

In the Future Without the Project, no subsurface disturbance is expected to occur on the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site. In any case, the site has been determined not sensitive for archaeological resources.

Architectural Resources

The ongoing Queensboro Bridge Rehabilitation Program will directly affect the historic Bridge. This project, being undertaken by the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), involves reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Bridge, including repairing the underside of the E. 59th Street overpass to the south upper roadway, cleaning and painting the Bridge, reconfiguring the Bridge’s bikeway, and rebuilding the Bridge’s anchor piers. No other changes have been identified that would directly affect architectural resources in the Study Area.

6.5.4 Future Conditions With the Project

Construction

Archaeological Resources

As described above under “Existing Conditions,” the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is unlikely to contain buried archaeological resources. Therefore, construction of a shaft at this site would have no potential significant adverse impact on archaeological resources.

As described in Section 5.5, portions of the First Avenue water main route could contain potential historic-period archaeological resources. If this route is selected, a protocol for

archaeological monitoring will be prepared and implemented in coordination with NYCLPC prior to any subsurface excavation in the sensitive area. The objective of the monitoring is to properly identify and investigate any archaeological resources should they be encountered during project construction. Any resources encountered will be documented and properly recorded in consultation with NYCLPC. With these measures in place, no potential significant adverse impact would occur to archaeological resources. As noted earlier, NYCLPC has reviewed and approved this approach for archaeological resources.

The portion of the water main route from the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site to the First Avenue route has not yet been evaluated for its archaeological potential. Similarly, other potential water main routes have not been evaluated for their archaeological potential. To avoid any potential significant adverse impacts on possible archaeological resources should any such route be selected, NYCLPC's established procedures with respect to archaeological resources would be followed. As set forth in NYCLPC's publication, *Landmarks Preservation Commission Guidelines for Archaeological Work in New York City*, dated April 12, 2002, these procedures involve initial review by NYCLPC to determine if archaeological work is necessary, archaeological documentary study if warranted, archaeological field testing if warranted by the results of the study, and, for any archaeological resources identified using this process, measures to avoid significant adverse impacts such as monitoring during construction, data recordation, and/or excavation. For any selected water main route or water main route segment that was not evaluated in a Phase 1A Assessment, NYCDEP will consult with NYCLPC to determine if an archaeological study would be warranted. If NYCLPC determines that a study is warranted, a Phase 1A Assessment will be prepared for NYCLPC review to determine if the selected route has the potential to contain Native American or historic-period archaeological resources. Should any potential resources be identified, a monitoring plan would be developed in consultation with the NYCLPC prior to any project construction. Any resources encountered would be properly documented in consultation with NYCLPC. Thus, no potential significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources would occur as a result of this construction.

Architectural Resources

As described above, the historic structures at 311 and 313 E. 58th Street are located approximately 150 feet from the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site, and, therefore, they are too far away to be adversely affected by project construction. The Queensboro Bridge, however, would be immediately adjacent to the construction area. Potential effects to the Bridge during construction are expected to be similar to those described for the preferred Shaft Site, including the potential for inadvertent damage from construction-related activities, such as ground-borne vibration and damage from heavy machinery. To ensure that no potential significant adverse impacts occur to the Queensboro Bridge as a result of any of the proposed construction activities, a construction protection plan for the Bridge will be developed and implemented prior to construction in consultation with NYCLPC. Protection of the Bridge would occur during all phases of construction. This will ensure that no damage would occur to the historic structure that would affect its integrity as a S/NR and NYCL property. The construction protection plan for the Bridge would identify the scope and method of excavation and blasting to occur at this

alternative Shaft Site and would clearly identify all measures to be implemented to protect the Bridge during construction work. The construction protection plan would be developed in view of the current condition of the Queensboro Bridge and supplemented with appropriate drawings and specifications. The required components of the construction protection plan at this site will be consistent with that required for the preferred site; the details of this plan are provided in Section 4.5.

Similar to the preferred Shaft Site, construction of the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site would only obstruct visibility of a portion of the Bridge for the duration of the 52-month construction period (if the raise bore method is used) or 65-month construction period (if the surface excavation method is used). Therefore, no potential significant adverse visual impacts would be expected to result during construction of the shaft.

Conclusions

The E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is unlikely to contain buried archaeological resources, and therefore construction of Shaft 33B there would not result in potential significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources. Once a water main route is selected, NYCDEP will coordinate with the New York City Department of Design and Construction (NYCDDC) prior to construction of future water main connections to ensure that appropriate measures to protect archaeological resources are undertaken in accordance with NYCLPC's established procedures for archaeological resources. This will include consultation with NYCLPC, preparation of a Phase 1A Assessment if warranted, and implementation of a monitoring plan in consultation with NYCLPC if appropriate. Any resources encountered would be properly documented in consultation with NYCLPC. With implementation of these procedures, no potential significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources would occur as a result of this construction.

A construction protection plan will be developed and implemented for the historic Queensboro Bridge in coordination with NYCLPC to ensure that no potential significant adverse impacts occur to the Queensboro Bridge as a result of any of the proposed construction activities. Construction activities at the alternative Shaft Site would not be anticipated to result in potential significant adverse impacts to the context of the historic Queensboro Bridge, since construction activities would have only limited visual effects to the Bridge. The only other historic structures near the this Shaft Site, two houses on E. 58th Street, are too far from the Shaft Site to experience potential significant adverse impacts during construction.

Operation

Archaeological Resources

Once Shaft 33B is in operation at the E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site, no additional subsurface construction would be required. Therefore, there would also be no potential for impacts to archaeological resources as a result of the operation of Shaft 33B at this Site.

Architectural Resources

Similar to the preferred Shaft Site, the operation of E. 59th Street/Second Avenue Shaft Site is not anticipated to cause potential permanent visual or contextual impacts to architectural resources within the Study Area, since the shaft would be located entirely below ground, except for small above-ground shaft elements that would be visible, including an above-ground air release vent and two smaller hydrants. The operation and maintenance activities conducted on the site are anticipated to several times a week but would not involve the use of significant pieces of equipment that would obstructed the view or character of the Bridge.

