

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter considers the potential for the Proposed Action, compared to the original 1996 Plan, to affect architectural and archaeological resources within the Fresh Creek Urban Renewal Area (FCURA) and in the surrounding area. The FCURA is a 227-acre site in the Spring Creek neighborhood of Brooklyn that is bordered by Flatlands Avenue to the north, Fountain Avenue to the east, the Shore Parkway to the south, and Schenck Avenue and Hendrix Creek to the west.

Based on the potential for direct effects due to on-site construction activities, and also to account for visual or contextual impacts, the architectural resources study area was defined as extending 400 feet from the area of proposed construction. Within this study area, the historic resources considered comprise properties listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places (S/NR) or determined eligible for such listing; National Historic Landmarks; New York City Landmarks (NYCL) and Historic Districts, or properties determined eligible for NYCL status. The study area for archaeological resources is the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the area of planned construction and disturbance on the Project Site (see Figure 7-1).

The 1996 Gateway Estates Final Environmental Impact Statement (1996 FEIS) determined that there were no designated or potential architectural resources located on or near the Project Site. As there are no known or potential architectural resources on the Project Site or in the study area, there would be no adverse impacts to architectural resources with the Proposed Action.

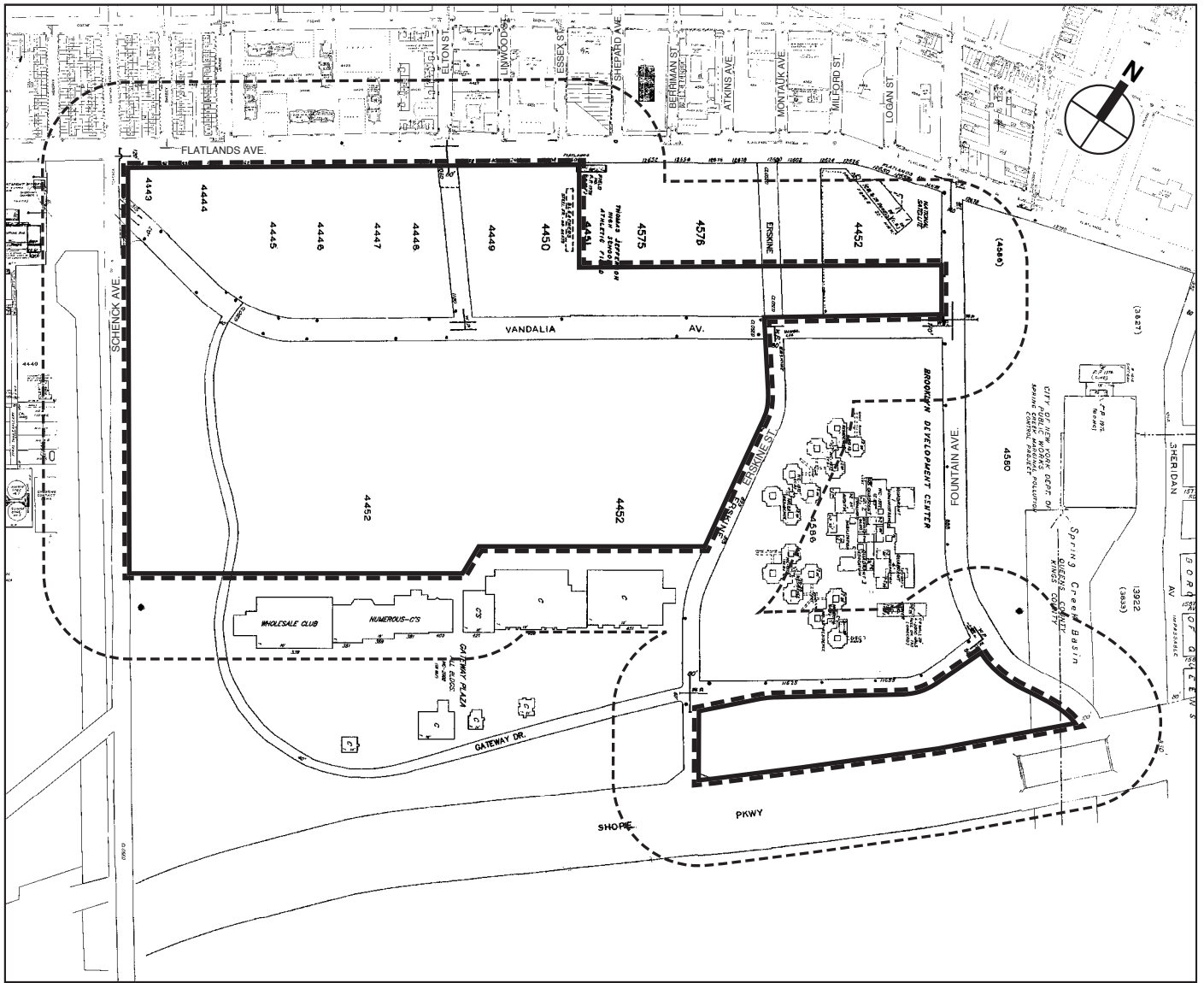
As described in detail below, the Phase IA assessment concluded that the Project Site may host precontact and historic period archaeological resources beneath a layer of modern fill. Though historic period archaeological resources may exist on the Project Site, no archaeological testing or monitoring is recommended for these areas, given the low probability of finding intact deposits and the questionable potential for the anticipated data to add significantly to the understanding of late 19th century lifeways along Jamaica Bay. Archaeological testing of the areas of potential pre-contact sensitivity would be required prior to construction under the Proposed Action; under the 1996 Plan only archaeological monitoring would be required.

**B. SITE HISTORY<sup>1</sup>**

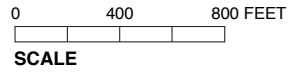
The Project Site is located in the Spring Creek section of Brooklyn near Jamaica Bay. The site was once part of a marsh and salt meadow that drained into Jamaica Bay via a series of creeks. Extensive landfilling activities in the 20th century raised the site to its current elevation. Prior to landfilling activities, however, there was a small (approximately two-block) strip of dry land on

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<sup>1</sup> *Phase IA Archaeological Assessment, Gateway Estates Site, CEQR No. 93-HPD014-K.* Prepared by Historical Perspectives, Inc., 1993.



- Project Site Boundary
- - -** Archaeological Resources Study Area Boundary
- .....** Architectural Resources Study Area Boundary (400-Foot Perimeter)



the Project Site, which was near the mapped locations of Ashford and Elton Streets, south of Flatlands Avenue.

The Project Site was located in the town of Flatbush, one of the five original Dutch towns that comprised Brooklyn. Flatbush was settled in 1652 and was given a patent from Peter Stuyvesant in 1656. In 1654 a group of 20 families from the Netherlands, and a few German families, settled in the area of New Lots, which includes the Project Site. New Lots was a farming community and remained mostly agricultural until the mid-19th century.

According to historic maps, the Project Site was first developed between 1893 and 1898. The northern area of the site was part of a 30-acre farm belonging to the Cozine family. The Belcher Hyde map of 1898 indicates that a small frame house and stable were constructed on the Project Site south of Vandalia Avenue, near the corner of Elton Street. It is assumed these structures belonged to the Cozine family.

The Cozine property was broken up by the end of the 19th century. In 1890, Herman G. Bocklage purchased current Blocks 4447, 4448, and 4452. Another portion of the Cozine land was sold to Nathan Kaplan in 1905. The Belcher Hyde map of 1905 depicts a 2½-story frame building with a brick or stone foundation with a large stable and a small frame shed. Near the northeast corner of Vandalia Avenue and Cleveland Street this map also depicts two frame sheds; it is unknown if this is the same group of structures depicted on the 1898 Belcher Hyde map.

The Project Site and surrounding area began to change in the 1930s, when it became part of the Milford Street Landfill. Landfilling activities continued until 1950. The 19th-century buildings on the Project Site remained until 1967, when they were demolished as part of the City's efforts for the newly created FCURA, which encompassed the Project Site. The modern street grid was established shortly thereafter. Currently, there appears to be at least eight to nine feet of 20th century fill on the Project Site, and hills up to 25 feet above the 19th-century ground level are located on Block 4448.

## C. EXISTING CONDITIONS

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

As described above, a Phase IA Archaeological Assessment was prepared for the Project Site in 1993 by Historical Perspectives, Inc. at the request of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). This report was submitted to and approved by LPC, and was summarized in the 1996 FEIS. The conclusions of the report are summarized below.

#### *Precontact Period Resources*

Precontact sites are often characterized by their proximity to a water source, fresh game, and exploitable natural resources, such as plants, raw materials for stone tools, and clay veins. There is documented Native American presence in the area surrounding the Project Site. One Native American village site, located about two miles east of the Project Site, was destroyed during the construction of the Belt Parkway. To the west, the closest identified site was the headquarters of the Canarsie Indian tribe which was located north of the Paerdegat Basin, approximately two miles from the Project Site.

The Project Site would have been an attractive area for Native Americans, as it would have been rich in resources such as shellfish, waterfowl, fish, and small mammals as well as reeds and

shrubs. As described above, prior to landfilling activities there was a small strip of dry land on the Project Site. This elevated section of the Project Site could have been used as a shellfish processing area (see Figure 7-2).

#### *Historic Period Resources*

The Project Site was not served by the municipal water service until 1952. Therefore, it is assumed that the residents of the 19th century frame structures that formerly existed on the Project Site would have relied on privies, cisterns, and wells. If the residents had the privies periodically pumped, then only the latest remains (past 10 years of use) would still be present on the site. These remains would have limited historic value. If the residents dug new privies each time the old ones were filled, then a number of privies would exist on the site; in this case, resources would be scattered and the probability of finding intact deposits would be limited, especially in light of the effort required to excavate them. It is also possible that refuse from privies was flushed down a pipe into the nearby marsh. In this case, no discrete deposits of cultural materials from privies would exist.

### **ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES**

#### *PROJECT SITE*

The 1996 FEIS determined that there were no known or potential architectural resources located on or near the Project Site. Since 1996, a number of buildings have been constructed on the Project Site. None of the buildings are eligible for listing on the S/NR and/or designation as NYCL.

#### *STUDY AREA*

##### *Known Architectural Resources*

There are no known architectural resources in the 400-foot study area.

##### *Potential Architectural Resources*

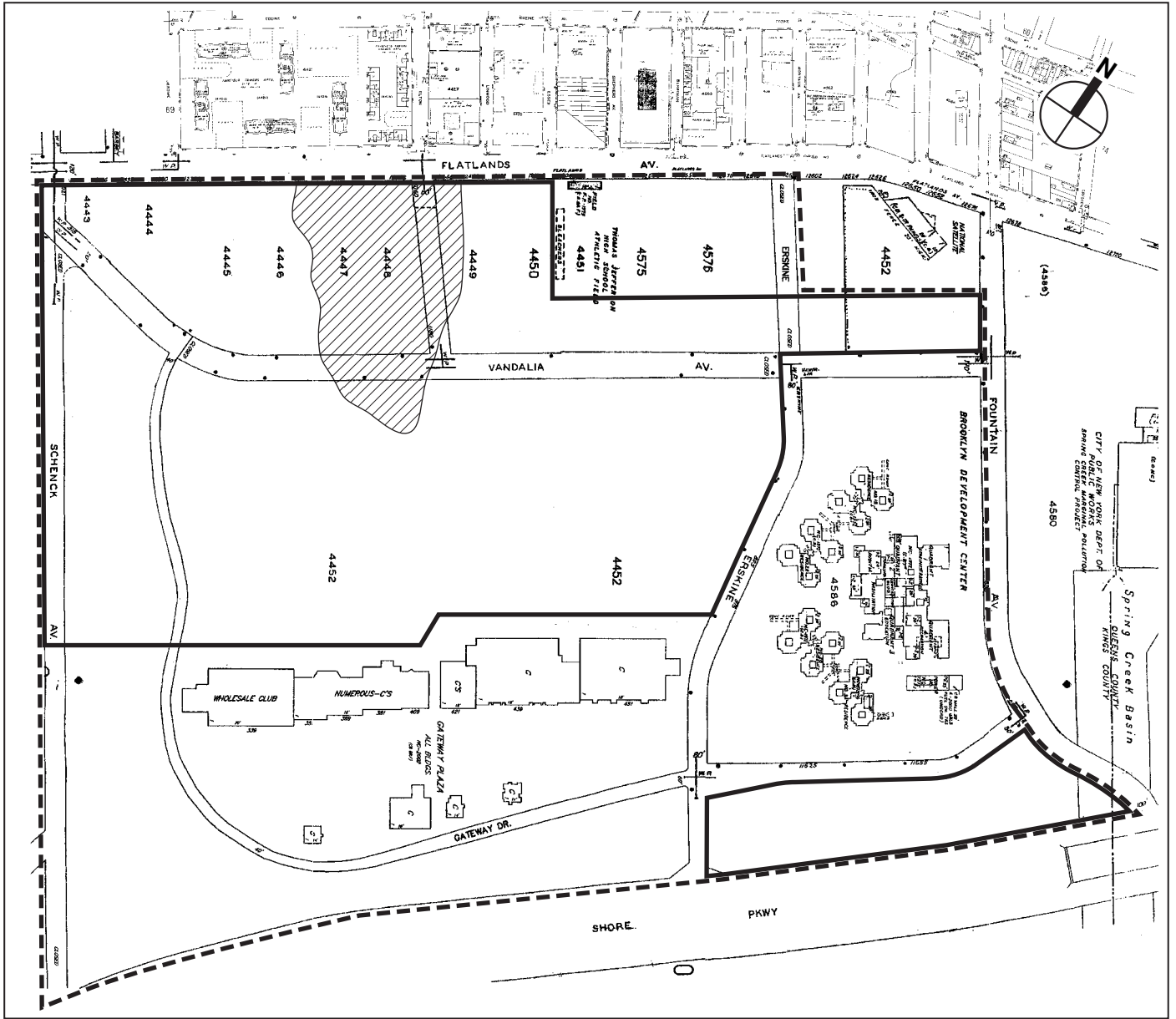
A field study conducted in March, 2007 did not identify potential architectural resources in the 400-foot study area. The study area is mostly developed with attached, low-scale houses; a number of large, brick residential towers; and the Brooklyn Developmental Center, which was built in the mid-1970s.




### **D. 2011 THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION**

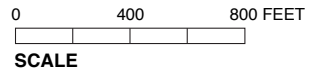
#### **PROJECT SITE**

Without the Proposed Action, development under the 1996 Plan will occur. This includes the construction of housing in the area approximately bounded by east of Elton Street, south of Flatlands Avenue, west of Fountain Avenue, and just south of Vandalia Avenue.

As described above in "Existing Conditions," an approximately two-block area of the Project Site is potentially sensitive for precontact period archaeological remains. These remains, if they exist, are buried under approximately eight to nine feet of fill. This area will not be disturbed by the construction of Nehemiah housing units planned for 2011.



-  Project Site Boundary
-  Fresh Creek Urban Renewal Area Boundary
-  Area of Archaeological Sensitivity



**STUDY AREA**

There is one development project located in the 400-foot study area. By 2008, a shopping mall will be built at 830 Fountain Avenue, adjacent to the Project Site. As there are no designated or potential architectural resources in the Project Site and study area, this project would not be expected to affect any such resources.

**E. 2011 PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

**PROJECT SITE**

The first phase of the Proposed Project would be constructed by 2011, including the shopping center, mixed use buildings, residential units, and streets and infrastructure. Construction of the mixed use buildings along Elton Street and Flatlands Avenue and residential units, streets, and infrastructure in the north-central portion of the Project Site would involve disturbance in the area determined to be sensitive for precontact period resources in the 1996 FEIS and could result in a significant adverse impact on archaeological resources. As per LPC correspondence dated November 11, 2007 (see Appendix B, "Historic Resources"), archaeological field testing (Phase 1B testing) would be required in advance of construction in order to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources in the portion of the Project Site, which has been determined to possess archaeological sensitivity and that would be affected by the Proposed Project. Measures to mitigate this potential significant adverse effect on archaeological resources are described in Chapter 22, "Mitigation."

As there are no known or potential architectural resources on the Project Site, there would be no impacts to on-site resources with the Proposed Action.

**STUDY AREA**

As there are no known or potential architectural resources in the study area, there would no adverse impacts to architectural resources in the study area with the Proposed Action.

**F. 2013 THE FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION**

**PROJECT SITE**

By 2013, without the Proposed Action, the remainder of the 1996 Plan will be constructed. Project construction will occur within areas of potential archaeological sensitivity, and archaeological monitoring in this area will be necessary during its construction.

**STUDY AREA**

There are no planned development projects in the 400-foot study area expected for completion by 2013 without the Proposed Action.

**G. 2013 PROBABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

**PROJECT SITE**

The remaining elements of the Proposed Project would be constructed by 2013. Construction of the proposed high school, an interior park, and residential units in the north-central portion of the

Project Site would occur in the area determined to be sensitive for precontact period resources and could result in a significant adverse impact on archaeological resources. Measures to mitigate this potential significant adverse effect on archaeological resources are described in Chapter 22, "Mitigation."

As there are no known or potential architectural resources on the Project Site, there would be no impacts to on-site resources with the Proposed Action.

**STUDY AREA**

As there are no known or potential architectural resources in the study area, there would no adverse impacts to architectural resources in the study area with the Proposed Action. \*