

3.6 HISTORIC RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

As described below, the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to historic resources. This chapter assesses the potential effect of the proposed action on historic architectural and archaeological resources. The *CEQR Technical Manual* identifies historic resources as districts, buildings, structures, sites, and objects of historical, aesthetic, cultural, and archaeological importance. This includes designated New York City Landmarks; properties calendared for consideration as landmarks by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC); properties listed on the State/National Registers of Historic Places (S/NR) or contained within a district listed on or formally determined eligible for S/NR listing; properties recommended by the New York State Board for listing on the S/NR; National Historic Landmarks; and, properties not identified by one of the programs listed above, but that meet their eligibility requirements.

Several eligible and potentially historic resources are located in the vicinity of the project site. Because the proposed action would generate development that could result in new in-ground disturbance and construction of new buildings that would be different from the existing pattern of development in the affected area, the proposed action has the potential to affect archaeological and architectural resources.

According to *CEQR Technical Manual* guidelines, impacts on historic resources are considered on those sites affected by a proposed action and in the area surrounding a project site. The historic resources study area is therefore defined as the project site plus an approximate 400-foot radius around the project site. This is the area in which it is expected that new development could affect physical, visual, and historic relationships of architectural resources. Archaeological resources are considered only in those areas where excavation is likely and would result in new in-ground disturbance. According to a letter from the LPC dated September 14, 2005 (see Appendix B), due to prior 20th century construction on the project site, the only areas of the project site that may be archaeologically sensitive are comprised of two tax lots on Parcel A and Parcel B (Block 1790, Lot 13, and Block 1791, Lot 1).

Background/History

The project site is located at the foot of the Triborough Bridge near the eastern terminus of East 125th Street in the East Harlem neighborhood known as the East Harlem Triangle. The East Harlem Triangle is generally bounded by the Harlem River Drive and the Triborough Bridge to the east, the elevated Metro-North Railroad track over Park Avenue to the west, the Harlem River to the north, and East 124th Street to the south.

For most of its earlier history of settlement, the development of East Harlem and neighboring Central Harlem has been intertwined. Dutch governor Peter Stuyvesant established Nieuw Haarlem in 1658 on land comprising most of northern Manhattan. The actual village settlement centered on what is today's East Harlem, near present day East 125th Street. As early as 1683, Harlem was considered a part of New York City and County even though it remained a sparsely

populated rural district. By the early nineteenth century, Harlem still retained a rural character and the village continued to prosper.¹ The opening of the New York & Harlem Railroad along present day Park Avenue in 1837 marked the beginning of Harlem's development as a suburb for the well-to-do. As New York City's population grew and residential development pushed north through Manhattan Island, the urbanization of Harlem became inevitable.² Between 1878 and 1880, the arrival of elevated rail lines along Second, Third and Eighth Avenues precipitated land speculation and the start of speculative residential construction in both the eastern, central and western sections of Harlem.³ One Hundred Twenty Fifth Street emerged as Harlem's commercial heart, spanning from the Hudson to Harlem Rivers.

Unlike areas of Harlem to the west, East Harlem was never known as a prestigious residential district; its remaining older housing stock reflects a historically working class population base. The social and cultural traditions of the East Harlem community are also largely rooted in Italian and later Puerto Rican origins, distinct from those of African-American Harlem.⁴

Centered between First Avenue and Park Avenue, between East 97th Street and East 128th Street, East Harlem has historically been home to large European immigrant groups including German, Irish, Jewish, and Scandinavian populations. Prior to 1890, a sizeable Italian community took root in East Harlem. The first Italians arrived in East Harlem in 1878 and settled in the vicinity of East 115th Street. In the 1930 census of East Harlem, 81 percent of its population was composed of either first or second generation Italians. The housing stock of East Harlem had been constructed specifically for working class households; speculators constructed block after block of narrow five- and six-story railroad flat-style apartment buildings containing apartments where one room entered directly from the next. The noticeable exception to this tenement district was along East 116th Street and a few adjacent streets. Known as Doctor's Row, this enclave contained single- and two-family row houses and was home to the neighborhood's more prosperous residents. In 1950, Italian Harlem was home to over 50,000 Italian Americans. The aging population, a deteriorating housing stock, clearance efforts associated with urban renewal and public housing construction, and national demographic trends led to changes in the area's physical and social composition. By 1960, fewer than 16,000 Italian Americans remained, and by the 1990 census that number had been reduced to less than one thousand.⁵

Today, East Harlem is known as El Barrio, and contains a large Puerto Rican and Latino population. The earliest Puerto Rican settlers arrived in Harlem around the time of World War I. Churches have traditionally been vital centers for the community's spiritual, social and cultural life, and while central Harlem's cultural identity has primarily been centered on historically black Protestant congregations -- most notably the Abyssinian Baptist Church -- the ethnic

¹ Dolkart, Andrew S. and Gretchen Sullivan Sorin. *Touring Historic Harlem: Four Walks in Northern Manhattan*, New York: New York Landmarks Conservancy, 1997.

² White, Norval and Elliot Willensky. *AIA Guide to New York City*, 4th ed. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2000.

³ Ibid 1.

⁴ Ibid 2.

⁵ Meyer, Gerald. "Italian Harlem: America's Largest and Most Italian Little Italy." Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine of East Harlem. August 2007 <<http://www.mountcarmelofeastharlem.com/italianharlem.html>>.

⁶Ibid.

Roman Catholic churches of East Harlem have been a vital force in that community's social and cultural life.⁶

The East Harlem Triangle's eclectic mix of uses reflect a shift away from the community's late nineteenth century largely residential character to the manufacturing and light industrial uses that became increasingly prevalent after World War II. Many of these businesses had ceased operations in the latter half of the 20th century, with some buildings falling into disrepair. As a result, since the 1960s, East Harlem has been the focus of revitalization programs and planning initiatives intended to spur economic development. Through these efforts, residential sections of East Harlem are currently undergoing an economic revival with several residential, retail and open space projects planned or underway. In addition, community reinvestment through the addition of major new retail developments has occurred or is contemplated. A Pathmark Store was developed adjacent to the project site at Lexington Avenue and East 125th Street, and the East Harlem Business Capital Corporation (EHBCC) is also exploring redevelopment of La Marqueta Internacional, stretching from 111th to 116th Streets, to create a city-owned retail market in East Harlem located under the Metro North Viaduct along the Park Avenue Corridor. East River Plaza is a major new retail complex now in construction at East 118th and the Harlem River Drive. The East Harlem residential real estate market has also begun to experience the heightened level of activity seen in the past several decades in Central and West Harlem.

Community-based planning and governmental efforts have been largely responsible for the revitalization of East Harlem. For instance, the group East Harlem Preservation and the East Harlem Board of Tourism draw attention to often ignored community resources, conducting neighborhood tours, coordinating public forums, and undertaking other projects to promote the neighborhood's culture and history. El Museo del Barrio, located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street and founded in 1969, is New York City's only Latino museum dedicated to Puerto Rican, Caribbean and Latin American art. El Museo del Barrio retains its strong community roots as a place of cultural pride and self-discovery, yet projects itself nationally through exhibitions and programs.⁷

Annual events preserve and celebrate the community's history. The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is held annually in July while the Dance of the Giglio, held in honor of St. Anthony, takes place in August.⁸ Each feast commemorates a patron saint of former members of East Harlem's Italian community, a number of who return for these celebrations. Among the events celebrating the Hispanic community are the Annual Three Kings Parade, held in early January, which commemorates the visit of the magi to the newborn Christ child, the Cinco de Mayo Festival, which honors Mexican American residents, and the 116th Street Festival/El Abrazo Fraternal, which is the premier Hispanic event in Metropolitan New York with over one million attendees.⁹

⁷ "About El Museo." El Museo del Barrio. August 2007 <<http://www.elmuseo.org/>>.

⁸ "Giglio Feasts – USA: East Harlem Feast," Dance of the Giglio Feasts – USA. Giglio Society of East Harlem, Tony de Nonno Productions, Inc. August 2007. <see <http://www.giglio-usa.org/Harlem.htm>>.

⁹ "Events, The East Harlem Board of Tourism, 2004," The East Harlem Board of Tourism, August 2007, <see: <http://www.eastharlemtourism.org/>>.

East Harlem has also played an important role in commerce. From 1960's until the early 1980's, Filmways television and film production operated a major studio located at the southwest corner of 127th Street and Second Avenue on land that comprises a portion of the project site for the East 125th Street Development. Filmways is best known for its productions of "rural comedies" of the 1960s and 1970s that were created at their California studios. The East Harlem facility was the studio location of such notable motion pictures as "Klute," "Midnight Cowboy," and "The Godfather." The Filmway Studios building, along with most of the row houses and apartment houses once present on the project site, has since been demolished.

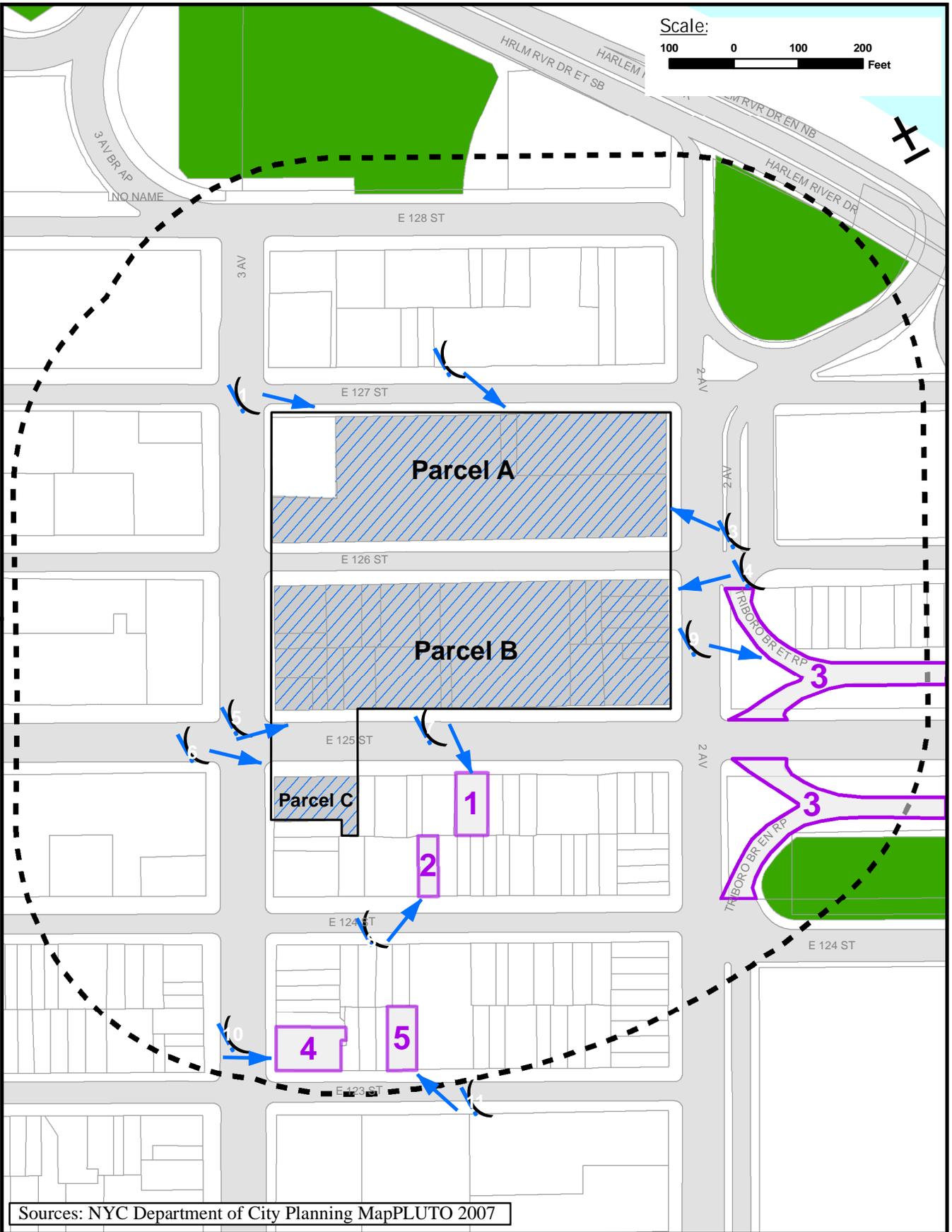
3.6.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Architectural Resources

In order to assess the potential architectural impacts of the proposed action, a study area was defined by drawing a 400-foot radius around the boundary of the project site (see Figure 3.6-1. Photographs 1 through 6 illustrate current conditions of the project site. The identified resources in the vicinity of the project site are also shown on Figure 3.6-1.

There are no State and National Register (S/NR)-listed or New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC)-designated historic resources located on the project site. Within 400 feet of the project site, there are a total of five architectural resources. These include three National Register-eligible resources and two potentially eligible resources. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has concurred with the identification and listing of designated, eligible and potentially eligible resources in the proposed rezoning area and 400-foot study area (see to LPC Architectural Environmental Review letter attached in Appendix B). Eligible resources are those buildings, structures, sites and objects that have been officially determined as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Potentially Eligible resources include those resources that LPC and/or SHPO indicate may meet National Register criteria.

These resources are listed in Table 3.6-1 and their approximate locations are shown on Figure 3.6-1. The numbers shown in the figure are keyed to the numbers listed for each resource in the table. When initially referenced in the text, the resources are listed by the number used to identify them in the table and figure.



Legend

- Photo Location
- Historic Resource
- Project Site
- Rezoning Area
- 400-Foot Radius

Figure 3.6-1 - Historic Resources

East 125th Street Development EIS
NYC Economic Development Corporation

Table 3.6-1: Historic Resources

Reference Number	Historic Resources
1	New York Public Library, 125th St. Branch, 224 East 125th St. (Block 1789, Lot 37) - NYCL eligible, NR eligible
2	221 E. 124th St. (Block 1789, Lot 10) - NR eligible
3	Triborough Bridge, East 125 th Street - NR eligible
Additional Resources of Interest Located in the 400 Foot Study Area	
4	Ligia’s Place Adult Care Facility, 2265 Third Ave (Block 1788, Lot 1) - Potential NR
5	Chambers Memorial Baptist Church, 219 East 123rd St. (Block 1788, Lot 8) - Potential NR
Legend: NR Eligible - Previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places Potential NR - Potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places	

Resources in the Proposed Rezoning Area

As shown in Table 3.6-1, there are no historic resources either listed by LPC and/or listed in the National Register, previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register, or potentially eligible for National Register listing.

Resources Within 400 Feet of the Proposed Rezoning Area

Outside of the proposed rezoning area, but within the 400-foot study area are five resources that are LPC-eligible and/or S/NR eligible or potentially eligible. These resources are identified in Table 3.6-1 and are described below. With the exception of the New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch, which is located across the street from Parcel B, none of these resources lie in close proximity to the project site.

1. **The New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch** (Photograph 7, NYCL eligible, NR eligible), located at 224 East 125th Street has served East Harlem since 1924. The Neo-Classical façade is clad in limestone and is elegantly detailed. The library was built with funds provided by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie and designed by the premier architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White.
2. The multi-unit dwelling located at **221 E. 124th St.** (Photograph 8, NR eligible) was built in 1883. This brick structure is an architecturally distinguished example of late nineteenth century tenement design in the Renaissance Revival style.

3. **Triborough Bridge** (Photograph 9, NR eligible), opened in 1936, the Triborough Bridge is part of a highway system consisting of three bridges and two viaducts spanning the waters between Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens. Construction of the Triborough began on October 25, 1929, the same day the stock market crashed, and was soon halted when investors were unwilling to purchase municipal bonds. In early 1933, Robert Moses, chairman of the New York State Emergency Public Works Commission, initiated state legislation which formed the Triborough Bridge Authority as an alternative funding source. The bridge opened to traffic on July 11, 1936 and during its first year generated \$2.72 million in tolls. Only the western portion of the 125th Street approach to the bridge lies within the 400-foot study area.

4. **Ligia's Place Adult Care Facility** (Photograph 10, Potential NR) is located at 2265 Third Ave. The simply detailed five-story building incorporates Richardsonian Romanesque elements. Round arch openings, into which the second, third and fourth floor windows are set, are defining elements of both the Third Avenue and East 123rd Street elevations. Above the bays, cast stone columnettes flank the rectangular sixth story openings.

5. **Chambers Memorial Baptist Church** (Photograph 11, Potential NR) is located at 219 East 123rd Street. This house of worship was constructed in 1891 and is a finely crafted example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The tripartite façade is composed of light tan brick; a contrasting color is used to accentuate window openings, building corners and the façade gable. The adjacent mansard-roofed parish house predates the church building.

Archaeological Resources

Most of East Harlem, including the project site, has been extensively developed, with the project site containing paved areas, buildings, and vacant lots that for the most part have been fully disturbed by building foundations of previously razed structures.

In a letter dated August 31, 2005, LPC indicated that there is potential for the recovery of remains from 19th Century occupation on Block 1790, Lot 13, and Block 1791, Lot 1. Additional archaeological documentary study was recommended for these two lots. In the letter dated August 31, 2005 and in a letter dated September 24, 2007 (see Appendix B), LPC indicated that all other properties on the project site and rezoning area, as well as on the adjacent Block 1803, Lot 1 that is not part of the project site, do not have significant architectural or archaeological resources.

An archaeological investigation to address the request from LPC from 2005 was conducted during Summer 2007 in a Phase 1a Documentary Research Study by Historical Perspectives of Westport, Connecticut. Preliminary findings indicate that the large majority of the lots studied appear to be quite disturbed from twentieth-century construction and demolition, including infilling of former basements. However, two areas were identified that may not have been disturbed, and which could potentially contain intact nineteenth-century archaeological resources.

The first area is within Block 1790, Lot 13, where a public school was once located. The initial school building on this lot was constructed in 1849 along East 125th Street, in what is now the southeastern quadrant of the roughly square-shaped Lot 13. Privies had at one time existed in at least two locations at the rear of the school. The second area is within Block 1791, Lot 1, along the East 126th Street side of the lot, about halfway between Second and Third Avenues. On two lots, houses were extant in the early 1850s for which residential documentation exists. Although there were apartment buildings with basements constructed on these lots after the smaller houses were razed, in each case there was enough open yard area at the rear of the lots that may not have been affected by construction of the apartment buildings that potential for archaeological resources may still exist. Additional testing is recommended by Historical Perspectives for both of these lots. The results of that study are to be confirmed by LPC, along with indication of whether additional study is required.

Research was also conducted by Historical Perspectives related to the potential for evidence for burials associated with either the Presbyterian Church that used to be located on Block 1791, Lot 1, or the Congregational Church that used to be located on Block 1790, adjacent to Lot 13 in the location of a former gas station on Lot 25. In both instances, archival records do not suggest the presence of cemeteries.¹⁰

Harlem Reformed Church of 1660 and African Burial Ground

Initial research regarding the boundaries of the Harlem Reformed Church of 1660 and African burial ground location on East 126th Street west of First Avenue show that this site did not extend onto the project site. The February 2004 *Topic Intensive Documentary Study for the Willis Avenue Bridge* project prepared for the New York City Department of Transportation by Historical Perspectives, Inc., of Westport, Connecticut, indicated the location of the cemetery, referred to as the 126th Street Cemetery. That report indicated the following in relation to the subject Willis Avenue Bridge project¹¹:

“A historical cemetery was identified in Manhattan, located in the vicinity of First Avenue and East 126th Street, hereafter referred to as the 126th Street cemetery. The Stage 1A study concluded that the cemetery had been created by 1670 (Romer and Hartman 1981:9). Historical maps were unclear as to the cemetery’s boundaries, and on some maps and atlases it appeared to fall within the Willis Avenue APE (Sackersdorf 1815, Dripps 1867, Bromley 1879, Robinson 1885, Bromley 1916). Therefore, intensive documentary research was undertaken to establish the precise boundaries of the cemetery and to determine if it falls within the proposed impact area. Further research documented that the cemetery was, in fact, an African American burial ground.”

¹⁰ Historical Perspectives, Inc., October 2007.

¹¹ *Topic Intensive Documentary Study Willis Avenue Bridge Reconstruction, Bronx County and New York County, New York*, New York City Department of Transportation, PIN X757.00, BIN No. 2-24005-9\A\B, Contract No. HBM1124, #96PR073, prepared by Historical Perspectives, Inc., Primary Author Faline Schneiderman-Fox, RPA, February 23, 2004.

“ . . . As was previously stated, the cartographic record was conflicting regarding the precise boundaries of the cemetery, and handwritten land conveyances were few or illegible. However, the tract report for the cemetery parcel cites a deed that places it west of First Avenue (Liber 664, Page 305). Furthermore, by comparing several maps, it appears that the cemetery stood to the north of and behind the first church built for the Reformed Low Dutch Church of Harlem, outside of the Willis Avenue APE predominantly on what is now city Block 1803 (Figures 6-9, 11).”

“Establishing the location of the Negro Burial Ground in relation to today’s landscape is largely reliant on the high tide line on Randel’s 1819-1820 map (Figure 10). The fact that 20th century New York City-generated maps used and referenced Randel’s high tide mark and its proximity to First Avenue is a testament to its presumed accuracy (Department of Borough Works 1939, Department of Transportation: Bridges/Roadways 2003). Using the high tide line on Randel’s map together with the maps in the Tract Reports (Figure 5), it appears that the location of the cemetery was about 58 feet west of the western boundary of the Willis Avenue Bridge reconstruction APE. The cemetery’s southern corner was located in what became the East 126th Street roadbed, also west of First Avenue, outside the Area of Potential Effect (APE) (Figure 5). Tract Reports 863 and 866 (1917), the Re-indexing Department map of R.D. 387 (1917), Farm Histories on microfilm (1917), Randel’s Farm Map (1819-1820) (Figure 10), and Pierce’s book on the early history of New Harlem (1903) provided data which further supported this conclusion. In addition, the deeds describe the tract as lying as few as 25 feet and as many as 125 feet west of First Avenue (Liber 664, Page 305).”

“The tract report of the Negro Burying Ground clearly depicts the ¼ acre parcel west of First Avenue, largely within the bounds of city Block 1803 (Report 866).”

Based on the 2004 *Topic Intensive Documentary Study for the Willis Avenue Bridge*, the 126th Street Cemetery, or African Burial Ground associated with the Harlem Reformed Church of 1660, is indicated as being predominantly located on Block 1803, which is located to the east of Second Avenue. Appendix F contains historical maps of the 126th Street Cemetery that confirm its location outside of the East 125th Street Development project site and rezoning area. Based on these available historic maps and other data, there is no evidence that the former African Burial Ground associated with the Harlem Reformed Church of 1660 extended west of Second Avenue.

3.6.2 FUTURE WITHOUT THE PROPOSED ACTION

In the future without the proposed action, it is expected that the current land use trends and general development patterns in and adjacent to the East Harlem Triangle will continue. These trends and patterns would result in new development that would respond to the specific scale and character of the community.

It is expected that the study area would experience some growth in commercial and residential uses. This includes redevelopment facilitated by DCP’s 125th Street Rezoning and Related

Actions project. None of the identified historic resources would be directly affected by developments on identified projected development sites that are expected by 2012. However, new construction from DCP's proposed rezoning initiative on projected development sites to the east, west, southeast, and southwest of the New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch building would alter the visual context of the library, increasing built density. No shadow impacts to the New York Public Library as a result of this proposed construction is anticipated (see Chapter 3.5).

Therefore, in the future without the proposed action, no direct impacts to National Register eligible and potentially eligible resources within the area of potential effect would be expected. The setting of the NR-eligible New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch building would be altered with nearby new mixed-use development that would result in new development on the subject block and increase the scale of surrounding uses, consistent with policies of DCP and its 125th Street Rezoning and Related Actions project. The additional development is also expected to generate increases in pedestrian activity that would enliven the streetscape in this vicinity and bring new users to the Library.

Triborough Plaza will experience a small incremental shadow impact only very late in the afternoon in the spring and summer. The shadow conditions of all other identified shadow-sensitive resources would be unchanged under future conditions without the proposed action.

3.6.3 FUTURE WITH THE PROPOSED ACTION

According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, generally, if a proposed action would affect those characteristics that make a resource eligible for New York City Landmark designation or National Register listing, there could be a significant adverse impact upon the resource. The designated historic resources in the study area are significant both for their architectural quality as well as for their historical value as part of the City's development. This section assesses the potential for the proposed action to result in significant adverse impacts on identified architectural resources, including effects resulting from construction of projected or potential developments, project-generated shadows, or other effects on existing historic resources in the study area once construction is completed.

The proposed action was assessed in accordance with guidelines established in the *CEQR Technical Manual* (Chapter 3F, Part 420), to determine (a) whether there would be a physical change to any designated property or its setting as a result of the proposed action, and (b) if so, is the change likely to diminish the qualities of the resource that make it important (including non-physical changes such as context or visual prominence). Whereas this section of the chapter focuses specifically on the proposed action's effects on the physical and visual context of architectural historic resources, an assessment of the proposed action's effect on the visual character of the study area in general is provided separately in Chapter 3.7, "Urban Design and Visual Resources."

Architectural Resources

The potential effect of the proposed action on the five identified architectural resources within

the proposed rezoning area is discussed below and summarized in Table 3.6-2. As noted in the “Existing Conditions” section above no NR-listed, eligible or potentially eligible historic resources or LPC-designated historic resources are located in the proposed rezoning area. Within 400 feet of the proposed rezoning area there are five National Register eligible or potentially eligible architectural resources; one of those resources, the New York Public Library 125th Street branch, has also been identified as being eligible for listing as a New York City landmark.

It is possible that some or all of the buildings identified as eligible for LPC or NR designation could become listed in the 2012 future without the proposed action. Privately owned properties that are NYC landmarks, NR-listed, or are pending designation or listing as landmarks, are protected under the New York City Landmarks Law, which requires LPC review and approval before any alteration or demolition can occur. In addition, the City has procedures for avoiding damage to historic structures from adjacent construction.

TABLE 3.6-2: Summary of Potential Effect of the Proposed Action on Identified Architectural Resources in the Study Area

Map ID	Property Name	Direct Effect	Indirect Effect	Construction Impact	Shadows	Comments
National Register Listed Eligible and Potentially Eligible Resources Located in the 400 Foot Study Area						
1	New York Public Library	no	no	no	no	This resource is located beyond the 90 foot construction effect buffer for both Parcel B and Parcel C. This building is an eligible NYC landmark and has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register.
2	221 E. 124th Street	no	no	no	no	This resource is located 95 feet southeast of Parcel C. This building has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register.
3	Triborough Bridge	no	no	no	no	The 125 th Street approach road to this resource is located across Second Avenue from Parcel B. The Triborough Bridge has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register.
4	Ligia's Place Adult Care Facility	no	no	no	no	This resource is located approximately 180 feet south of Parcel C and has previously been identified as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register.
5	Chambers Memorial Baptist Church	no	no	no	no	This resource is located approximately 200 feet south of Parcel C and has previously been identified as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register.

Direct Effects

Historic resources can be directly affected by physical destruction, demolition, damage, alteration, or neglect of all or part of a historic resource. For example, alterations, such as the addition of a new wing to a historic building could result in significant adverse impacts, depending on the design. Direct effects also include changes to an architectural resource that cause it to become a different visual entity, such as a new location, design, materials, or architectural features.

As each of the identified historic resources is located outside of the project site, no direct effect to historic resources would occur and thus no significant adverse environmental impact would occur.

Construction Effects

One of the eligible resources, the New York Public Library, is located due south of projected development and is separated from that projected development by the 100 foot width of the 125th Street corridor, indicating little likelihood of construction effects.

The remaining four of the eligible or potentially eligible historic resources are located beyond 90 feet of projected development sites; accordingly no construction effects are anticipated.

Shadows

As described in Chapter 3.5, “Shadows,” the new development that could result from the proposed action could potentially cast new incremental shadows on sunlight sensitive historic resources. As further discussed in Chapter 3.5, none of the historic resources are dependent on sunlight during the day to the extent that shadows would impair or obscure their significance. While the approach road to the Triborough Bridge would experience a small incremental shadow impact very late in the afternoon in the spring and summer, none of the characteristics that make this resource National Register eligible would be compromised by anticipated development. Therefore, while the proposed action in an established urban corridor could potentially cast shadows on these structures, such shadow effects would not result in significant adverse impacts (see Chapter 3.5).

Indirect Effects

Indirect effects, also referred to as contextual effects, can occur when development results in the isolation of a property from or alteration of its setting or visual relationship with the streetscape; introduction of incompatible visual, audible, or atmospheric elements to a resource’s setting; replication of aspects of a resource so as to create a false historic appearance; or elimination or screening of publicly accessible views of the resource.

The development generated by the proposed action is not expected to have significant adverse indirect impacts on existing historic resources. As discussed in Chapter 2, “Project Description,”

and Chapter 3.1, “Land Use, Zoning, and Public Policy,” the East 125th Street Development would include requirements for street walls and setbacks for the upper portion of the buildings above the street in order to relate building height and bulk to the street in a more appropriate and consistent form. These requirements would ensure that the scale and bulk of new buildings is sensitive to and consistent with existing developments (refer to Chapter 3.7, “Urban Design/Visual Resources,” for details).

In the study area, certain architectural resources were identified as being potentially sensitive to indirect impacts that could result from the proposed action. Criteria used singly, or in combination, to make this determination include:

- a resource’s visual prominence;
- identifiable views that would be blocked;
- expected removal of an architectural resource that contributes to another’s setting;
- location of an architectural resource in a primarily low-rise setting of parking lots, and/or nondescript structures that make it notable in the streetscape;
- the low-rise character of an architectural resource; and
- the location of multiple development sites adjacent to an architectural resource.

The majority of the architectural resources in the study area were determined not to be potentially sensitive to indirect impacts, because of one or more reasons, including: their proximity to any of the project site; location in the vicinity of existing large-scale buildings generally similar in height and bulk to action-generated development; are large and/or high-rise buildings; or, are not visually prominent.

A screening assessment identified one architectural resource that could be sensitive to indirect impacts, which is the New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch (Resource 1).

The New York Public Library is located beyond 90 feet of the project site, but is within direct visual range of projected development on Parcel B and east of Parcel C. Any large-scale development at either of these sites has the potential to contrast with the diminutive scale of this early 20th century building.

The New York City Public Library has been determined eligible for listing as a New York City landmark. If the New York City Public Library was to be designated as a New York City Landmark, calendared for LPC designation, or listed on the S/NR, it would be afforded protection through the implementation of construction protection plans and monitoring procedures, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in *TPPN #10/88*, which would be required by the New York City Department of Buildings (NYCDOB) for adjacent construction.

The proposed action would introduce new high-rise, mixed-use development across the street from the New York City Landmark library building, changing its visual context and increasing activity in its vicinity. The facades of the proposed mixed-use buildings facing 125th Street would consist of two-to-three stories of retail use facing 125th Street, broken by a mid-block public plaza across the street from the landmark library building. The facade materials at street

level are proposed to be predominantly glass, comporting with the urban design guidelines for the project requiring this transparency. This alteration of the visual context of the library would provide an urban design focus for this architecturally distinguished building that does not currently exist, given its central location on its block opposite the proposed major retail complex. Compared to the existing conditions, where the disparate street walls and building materials create an undistinguished street wall and pedestrian environment, the taller, and more modern and iconic appearance of the proposed new construction is not expected to result in adverse visual impacts on the library, but rather would provide a more diverse visual environment, architecturally and in terms of the variety of activities and uses present, and would significantly upgrade physical conditions of the area, resulting in the creation of an improved visual setting for this resource.

Archaeological Resources

Based on available historic maps and other data, there is no evidence that the former African Burial Ground associated with the Harlem Reformed Church of 1660 extended west of Second Avenue. Therefore, no impacts to any remains associated with this former cemetery are anticipated as part of the proposed project west of Second Avenue. With the exception of portions of two lots within the project site that may contain the potential for the recovery of remains from 19th Century occupation (Block 1790, Lot 13, and Block 1791, Lot 1), all portions of the project site and rezoning area have been significantly disturbed by past construction activities and are not expected to contain significant archeological resources. Whether or not two areas on those two lots within the project site that may not have been previously disturbed could potentially contain intact nineteenth-century archaeological resources, or whether additional testing is required, will be determined by LPC.

CONCLUSION

Architectural Resources

The proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to any historic resources. None of the five identified historic resources are located within the identified project site or rezoning area. The five National Register eligible or potentially eligible resources are located within the 400 foot study area; each resource is located 90 feet or greater beyond a projected development site. No adverse effects on architectural resources as a result of construction, indirect effect or shadows are anticipated.

Archaeological Resources

The proposed action is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts on archaeological resources, although two lots within the project site that may not have been disturbed by twentieth-century construction and demolition could potentially contain intact nineteenth-century archaeological resources. The LPC has reviewed a November 2007 Archeological Documentary Study prepared by Historical Perspectives, Inc. (see Appendices) and have determined archeological testing is required before any excavation can occur at the site.



Photograph 1: View looking east to East 127th Street from Third Avenue toward Parcel A; Block 1791; Lots 44, 1, 34 and 25.



Photograph 2: View looking southeast to 230 East 127th Street Parcel A, Block 1791, Lot 34.



Photograph 3: View looking west to East 127th Street from 2nd Avenue. To the right is Parcel A, with the bus storage facility, on Block 1791, Lot 25, and the motorcycle dealership building on Lot 34 to the rear. To the left is Parcel B, Lot 29.



Photograph 4: View looking southwest from 2nd Avenue to Parcel B, Block 1790, Lots 24-29.



Photograph 5: View looking northeast to Parcel B on the north side of East 125th Street (Block 1790, Lots fronting East 125th Street from left to right, Lots 1, 101,5, 6, 8, 12,13, 20 and 24)



Photograph 6: View looking southeast from East 125th Street and Third Avenue toward Parcel C, the undeveloped site at 2293 3rd Avenue, Block 1789, Lot 46.



Photograph 7: View looking southeast towards the New York Public Library, 125th Street Branch, 224 East 125th Street.



Photograph 8: View looking northeast towards a multi-family residence at 221 East 124th Street.



Photograph 9: View looking east-southeast towards the northern approach road of the Triborough Bridge.



Photograph 10: View looking east-southeast towards Ligia's Place Adult Care Facility, 2265 Third Avenue.



Photograph 11: View looking north-northwest towards the Chambers Memorial Baptist Church, 219 East 123rd Street