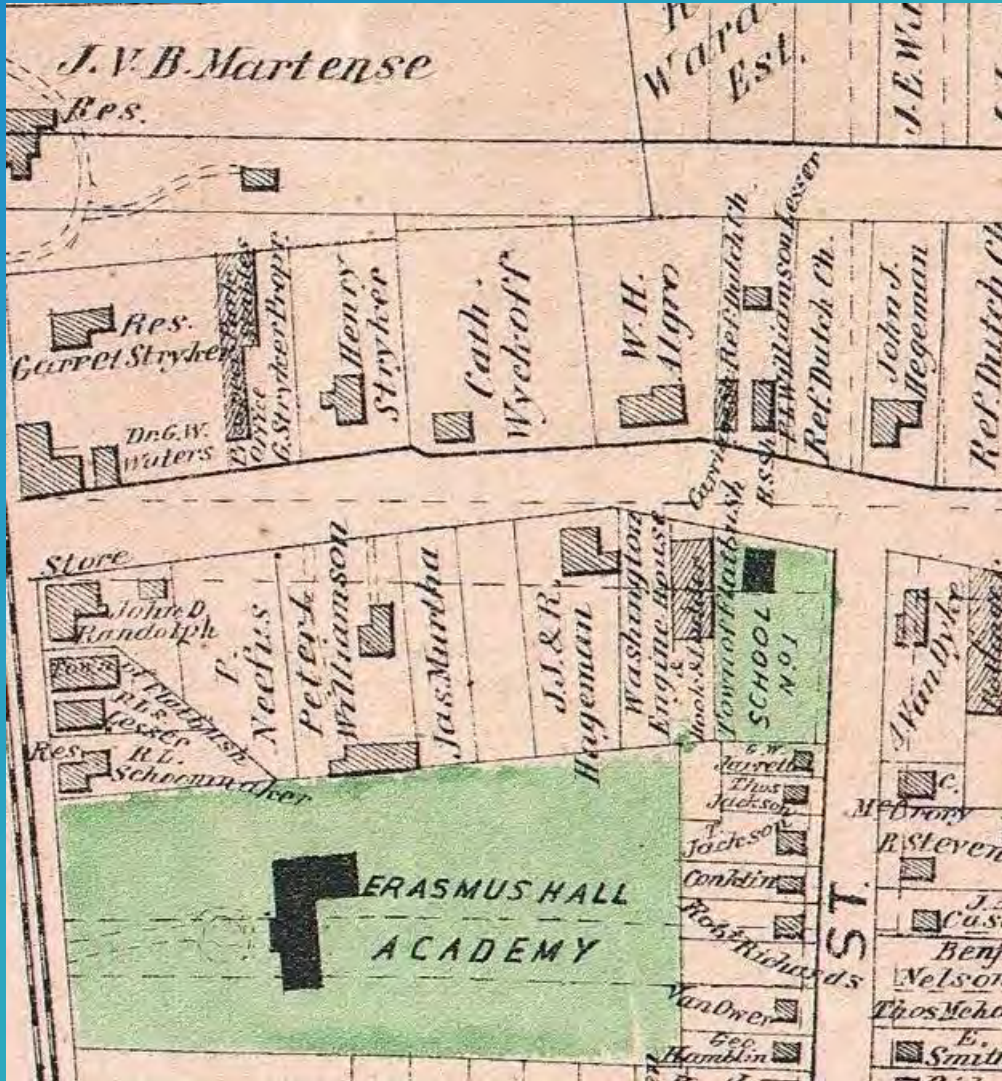


SITE HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

2286 Church Avenue

Block 5103, Lot 58

**Church and Bedford Avenues
Flatbush, Brooklyn, NY**



Please be advised that the nature of this discussion involves some disturbing information that we strive to handle and share sensitively and with respect.

Goals of Presentation

- Provide a short overview of the role of archaeologists and researchers
- Share what we know about the history of the site
- Describe archaeological investigations undertaken at the site and the findings
- Describe future steps for work at the site, and the steps that would be taken if human remains are found there
- Outline the timeframe for descendant research and opportunities for ongoing public engagement

Discussions about memorialization of the site will be held in breakout rooms later in this public meeting.



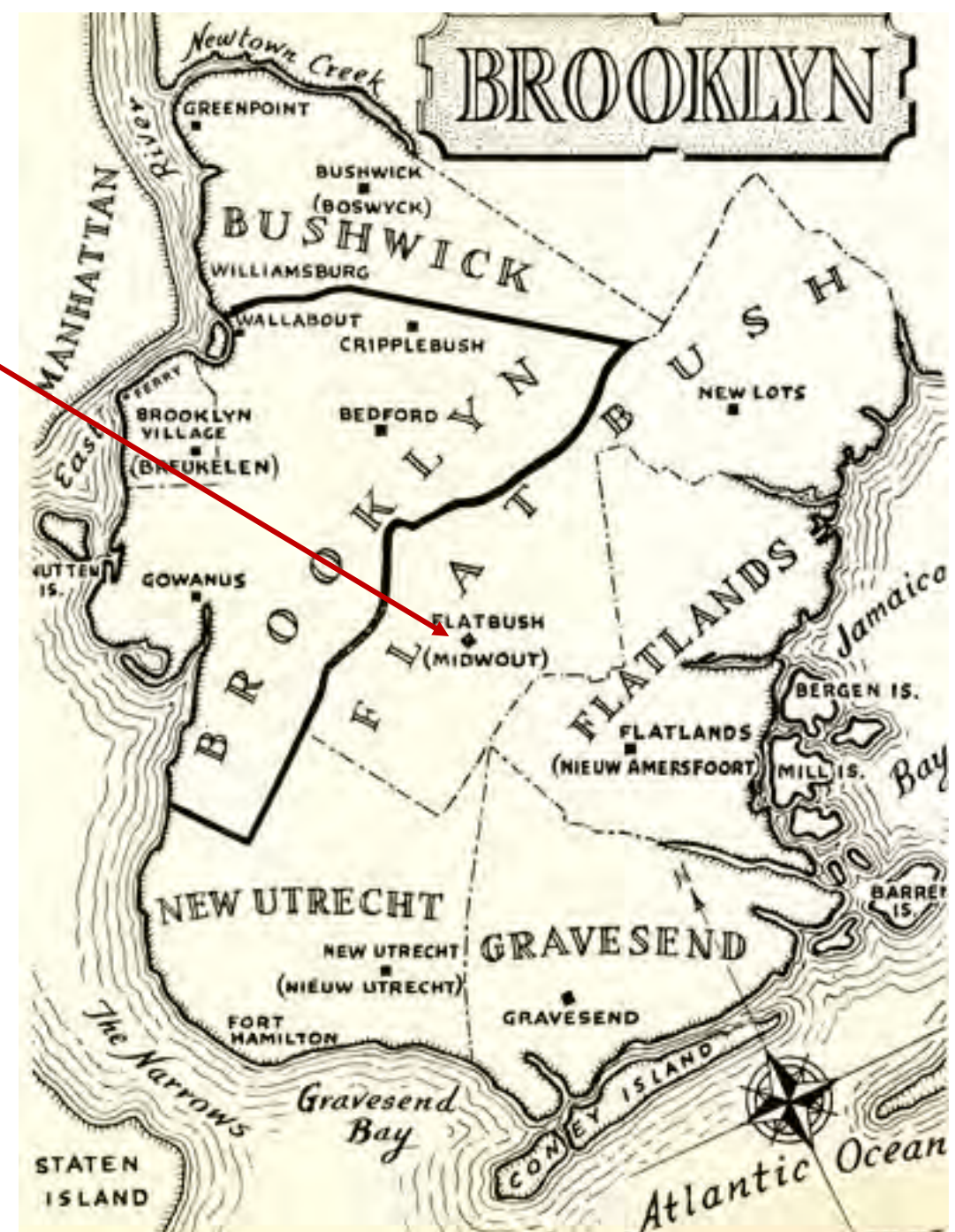
Prior Research and Goals

- Documentary research began in 1998 for the 2286 Church Avenue Site. Since then, more intensive research was completed in 2000, 2001, and 2019.
- Archaeological testing in 2001 found limited human remains within disturbed soils, likely of African ancestry
- In 2019 we wrote *a Community Engagement Plan* and *Unanticipated Discoveries Plan* to address the handling of human remains should they be found on the site in any future development
- Working with City, we are helping to identify a descendant community and support the Task Force



Historical Context

- Flatbush (Midwout) ca.1651
- Flatbush Reformed Dutch Church 1654



Historical Context

- Flatbush families enslaved Africans



A 20th century illustration of the first slave auction in New Amsterdam (Manhattan), which took place in the early 17th century.

TO BE SOLD & LET
BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
On *MONDAY* the 18th of *MAY*. 1829,
UNDER THE TREES.

FOR SALE,
THE THREE FOLLOWING
SLAVES,

VIZ.
HANNIBAL, about 30 Years old, an excellent House Servant, of Good Character.
WILLIAM, about 35 Years old, a Labourer.
NANCY, an excellent House Servant and Nurse.
The MEN belonging to "LEECHES" Estate, and the WOMAN to Mrs. D. SMIT

TO BE LET,
On the usual conditions of the Hirer finding them in Food, Clo^t & Medical
THE FOLLOWING
MALE and FEMALE
SLAVES,

OF GOOD REPUTATION.
ROBERT BAGLEY, about 20 Years old, a good House Servant.
WILLIAM BAGLEY, about 18 Years old, a Labourer.
JOHN ARMS, about 18 Years old.
JACK ANTONIA, about 40 Years old, a Labourer.
PHILIP, an Excellent Fisherman.
HARRY, about 27 Years old, a good House Servant.
LUCY, a Young Woman of good Character, used to House Work and the Nursery.
ELIZA, an Excellent Washerwoman.
CLARA, an Excellent Washerwoman.
FANNY, about 14 Years old, House Servant.
KARAH, about 14 Years old, House Servant.

Also for Sale, at Eleven o'Clock,
Fine Rice, Gram, Paddy, Books, Muslins,
Needles, Pins, Ribbons, &c. &c.

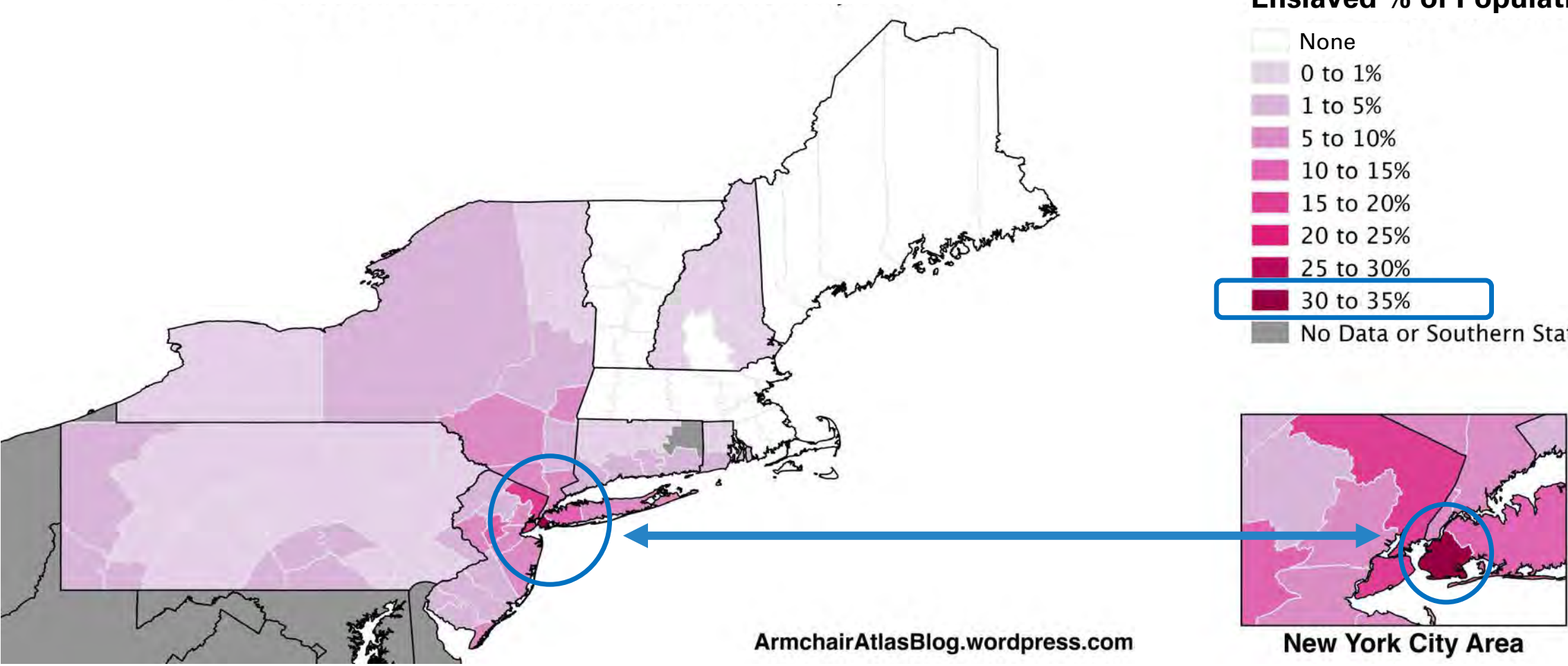
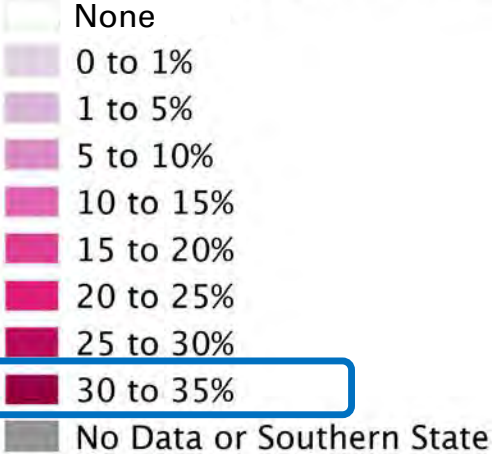
AT ONE O'CLOCK, THAT CELEBRATED ENGLISH HORSE
BLUCHER,

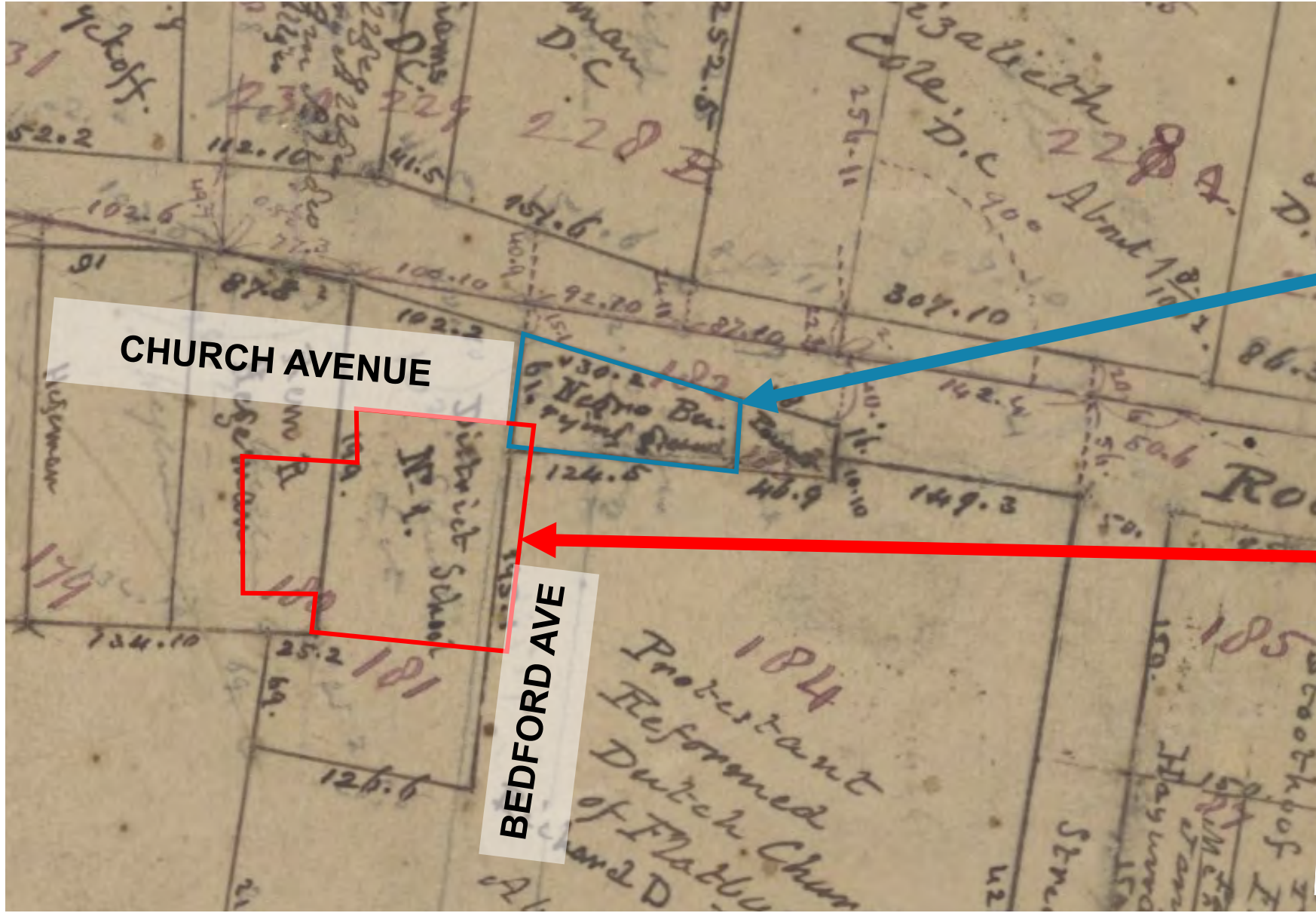
ADDISON PRINTER GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

Enslavement in the North, 1790

Total Number of Enslaved People in Northeast: 40,086

Legend
Enslaved % of Population





1855 Map

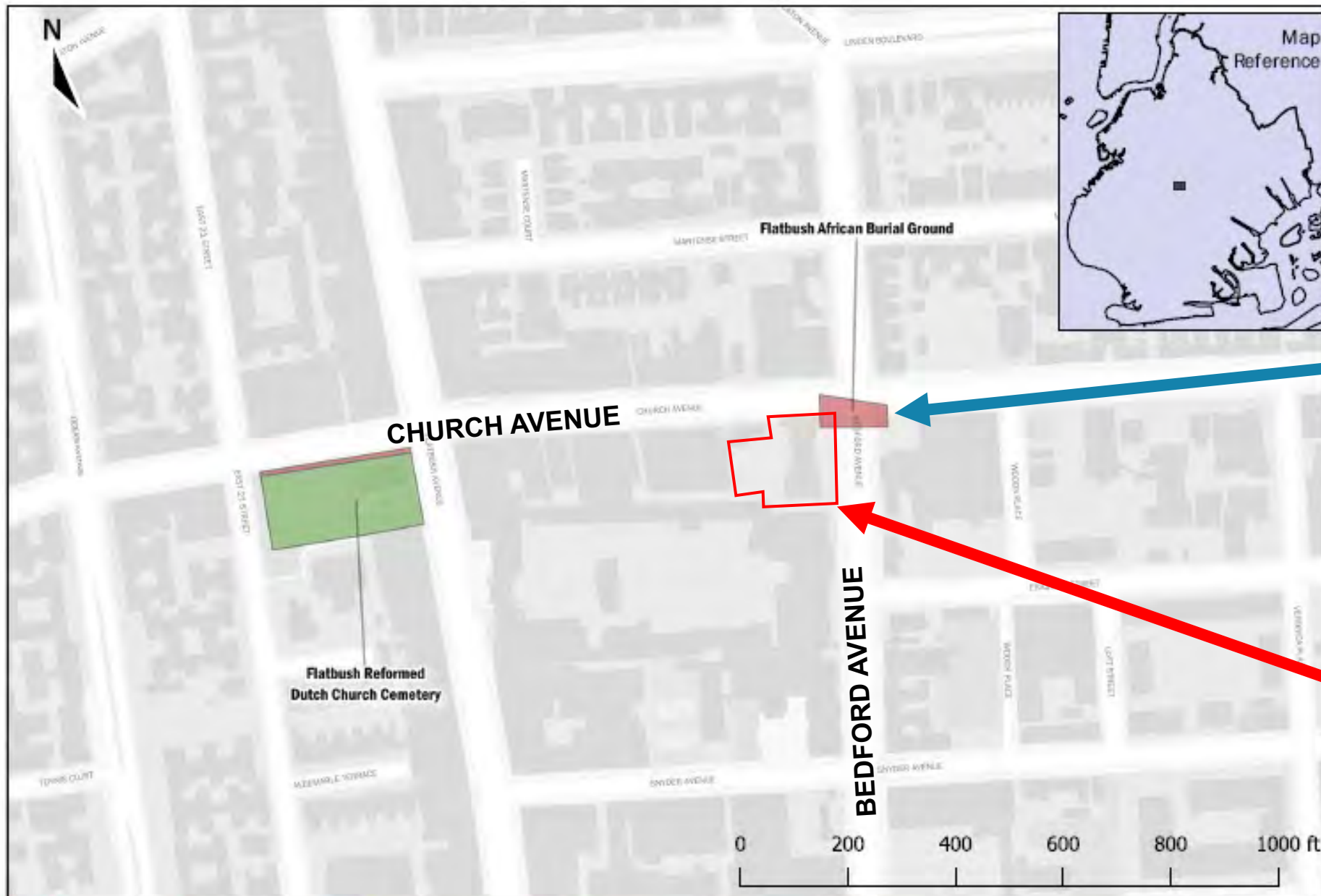
African Burial Ground

CHURCH AVENUE

2286 Church Avenue

BEDFORD AVE





Today

Flatbush African Burial Ground

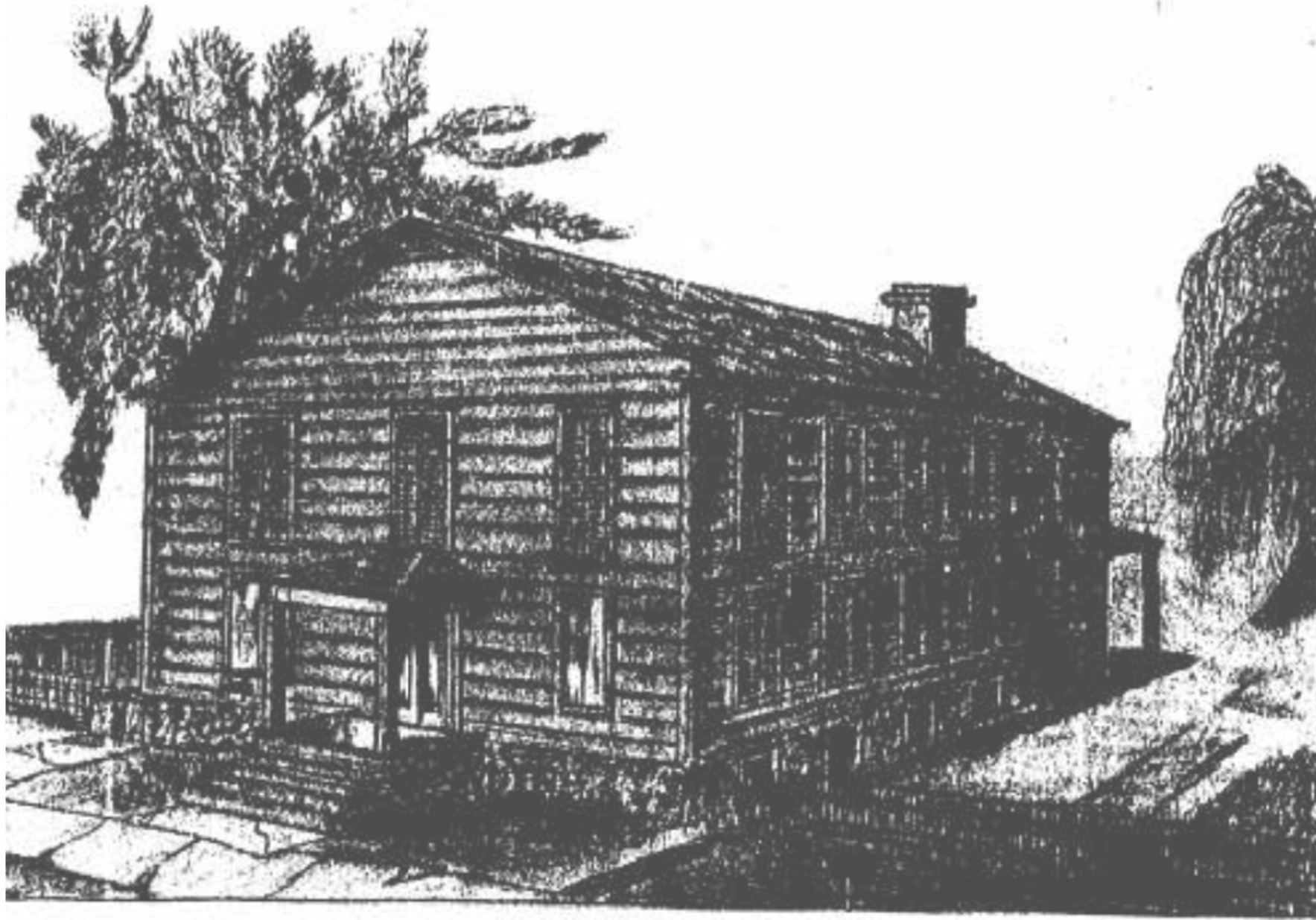
2286 Church Avenue

 Cemetery Location Unknown
 Active Cemetery
 Obliterated Cemetery
 Preserved Cemetery

Map 2.2-14: Brooklyn Cemeteries



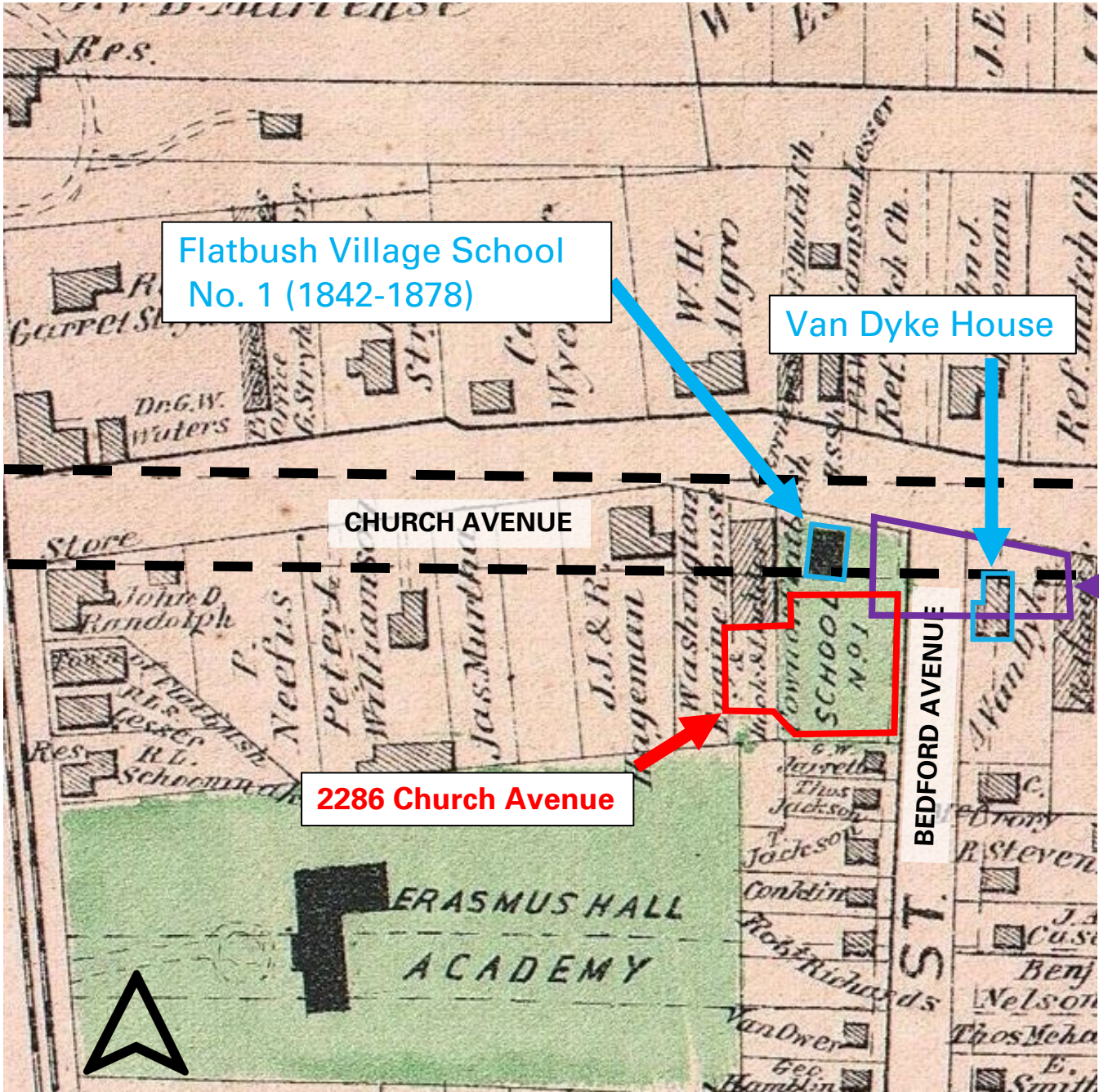
Source: Elizabeth Meade 2020, <https://www.cemeteriesofnyc.com/map>



Flatbush Village School, 1842-1878



1873



Flatbush Village School No. 1 (1842-1878)

Van Dyke House

CHURCH AVENUE

1855 Burial Ground Boundaries

2286 Church Avenue

ERASMUS HALL ACADEMY



1878



BEDFORD AVENUE

CHURCH AVENUE



Yellow - Flatbush Village
School No. 1

Red – 2286 Church Avenue

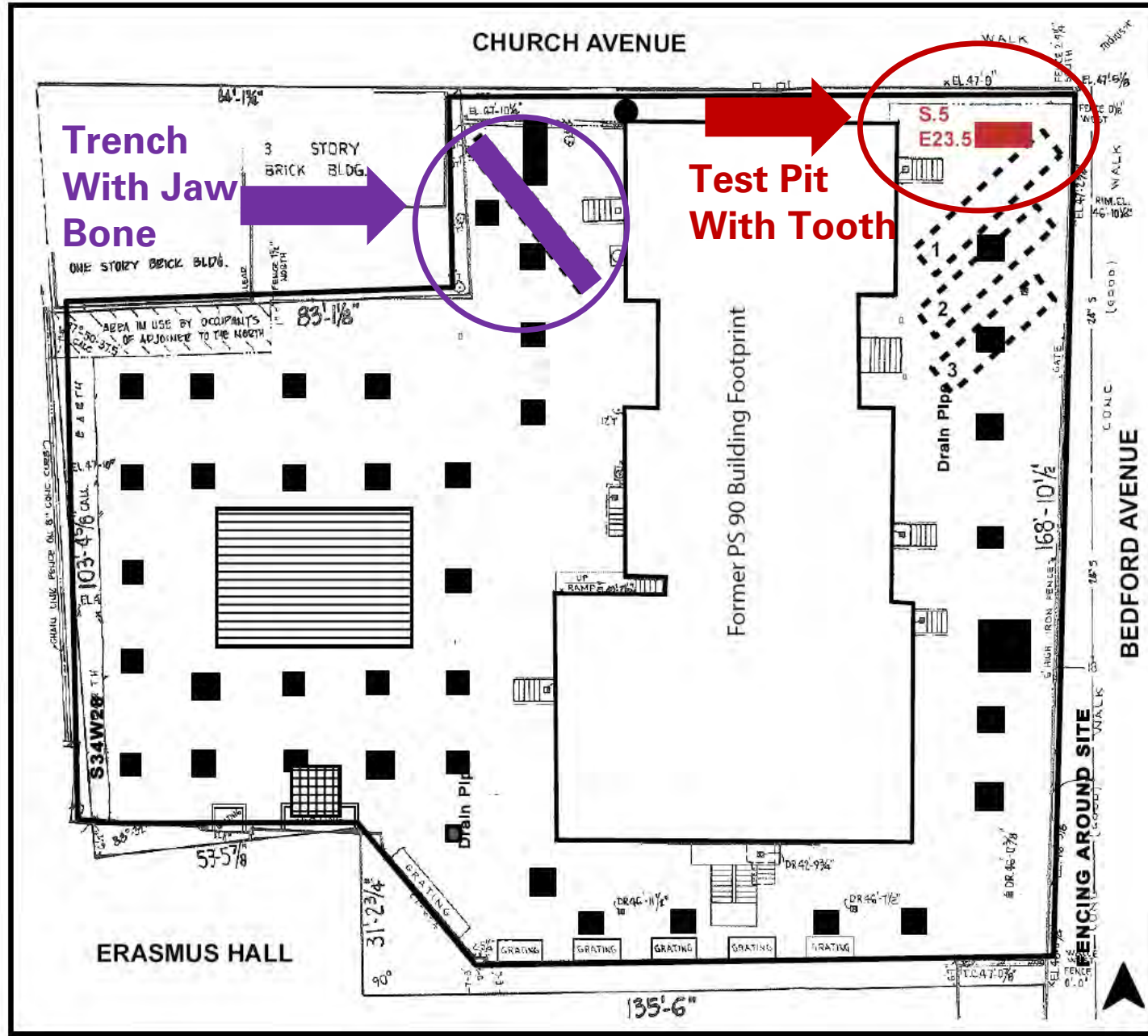
Green –1855 mapped African
Burial Ground



Archaeological Testing 2001

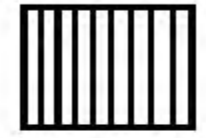


Archaeological Testing 2001



0 meters 5
0 feet 15

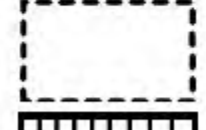
● - Datum 0/0



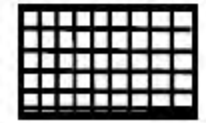
- Ca. 1905 Water Closet



- Shovel Test Locations



- Machine Excavated Trenches



- Brick Lined Privy Shaft



Reburial in 2001



Flatbush Reformed Church Cemetery

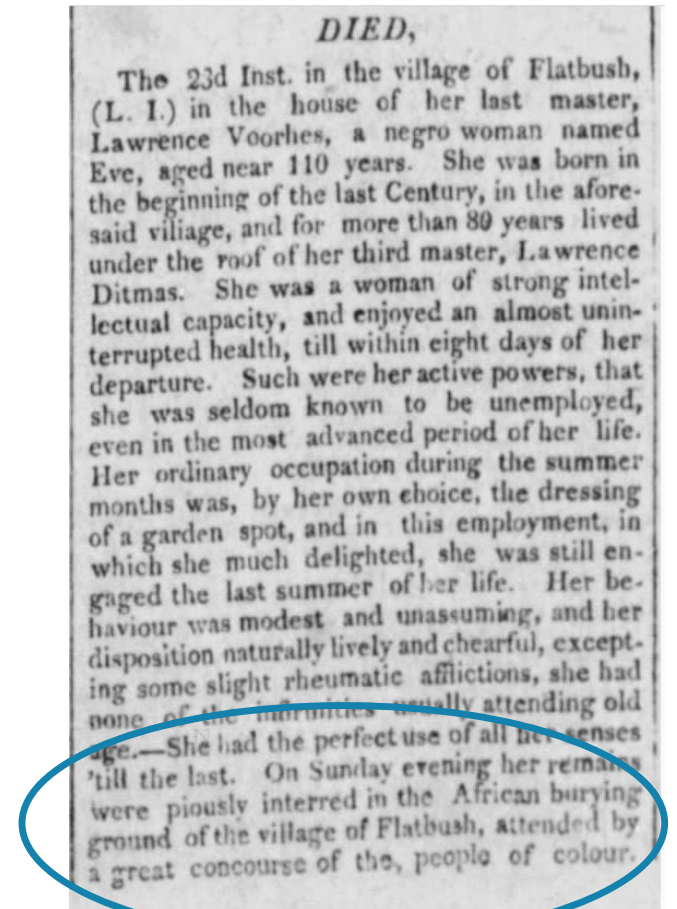
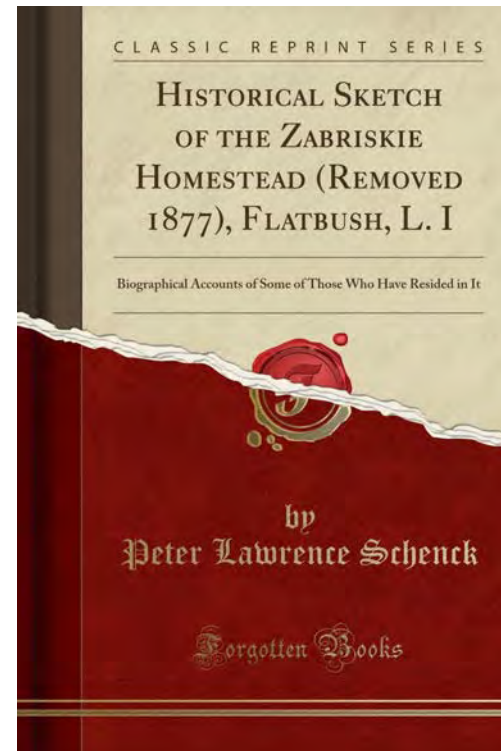


Who Was Buried There?

Only two names from secondary sources:

- **Phyllis Jacobs** – twin sister of Sarah Hicks
- **Eve** – died 1810

A public notice was posted on Ancestry.com for relatives of anyone interred at the Burial Ground. We will continue to monitor responses and forward them to the City Team and Task Force



Ongoing Study

- There may be additional human remains on the site
 - Need for a future *Archaeological Fieldwork Protocol*
 - Procedures for testing
 - Recommendations informed by the Task Force, Descendant Community, and community members regarding notification requirements, ceremonial events, DNA analysis, additional studies, and the location for future reburial.



Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation



Ongoing Descendant Research

- HPI research report due early May 2021
- Research by volunteers on the Task Force and other community members is ongoing
- Research can continue to seek references to people interred at the Flatbush African Burial Ground
- After May, comments and information can be shared through the website: <https://fabgtaskforce.nyc/>