

**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

**PANYC**

# **NEWSLETTER**

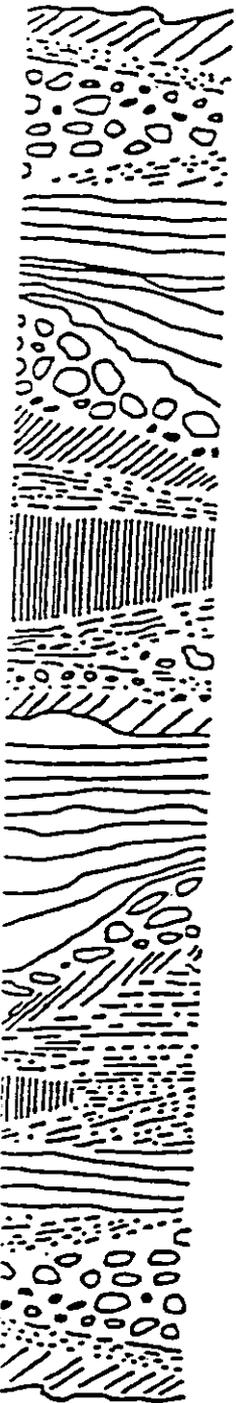
Number 111, September 2003

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Materials for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

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John Milner Associates, Inc.  
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Email: [ryamin@johnmilnerassociates.com](mailto:ryamin@johnmilnerassociates.com)



**NOTICE OF UPCOMING MEETING: September 17, 2003, Hunter College Rm. 710**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Minutes of the PANYC General Meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

Stone calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm at Hunter College, Anthropology Dept. 7<sup>th</sup> Floor.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes accepted with corrections.

Corrections

- Board members present will not be listed on minutes of General Meeting
- Add to sentence, "There was no response from LPC" the words "as of yet".
- Spelling corrections for African Burial Ground staff is: Bianchi, Howson.
- 3/19 correction: Chris Matthews resigned from the board not the newsletter.
- Patience Freeman filled Chris Matthews's seat on the board for the last meeting of his term.
- PANYC purchasing copy of Cantwell and Wall's book, "Unearthing Gotham" to give to Chair of Landmarks and Ann Marie Cantwell will donate a copy on behalf of PANYC to Mayor Bloomberg.

Due to large amount of spam, when emailing the secretary, please use PANYC as message line so that email is not deleted. Gary McGowan's email is: [cpr@att.net](mailto:cpr@att.net)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Pickman gave Treasurer's Report.

Cash \$2027.54 1 member has been deleted after being over 1 year in arrears.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Linda Stone set up a meeting with Bob Tierney, Chair of Landmarks Preservation Commission to include Stone and Dallal, as well as one of founding members of PANYC, Nan Rothchild. However the meeting was cancelled and is being rescheduled. Nan Rothchild is to present a brief history of PANYC to Bob Tierney at Landmarks, Linda Stone is to discuss current makeup of membership including breakdown of membership such as contract, academic, museum and agency. Diane is going to discuss the South Street Seaport Museum as the repository of many archaeological collections. In general, discussions will focus on things in common to protect preservation - working together, educating the public and agencies. A copy of the PANYC application to membership will also be given since it has a description about PANYC and qualifications for memberships. We wish to stress that PANYC is not a trade union but a professional educational group.

Amanda Sutphin from LPC suggested that when we contact the City Agencies in reference to this but should also copy Mayor's Deputy Mayor.

Committee Reports

**ACTION** - Our concerns about unexcavated cultural resources at Van Cortland Park. Van Cortland Park has an association that runs it and they give concessions including the golf course. It is within their rights in their contract to do work including underground work. Major work that deviates from their contract they need to contact the Parks Dept. Freeman, Spritzer, Rakos and Stone are on the committee. In order to be active, the action committee need to be aware of what going on and how to bring things to committee's attention.

Need to be better informed by both Professional organizations and concerned citizens in bringing this information to our committee.

**CITY HALL PARK:** Diana Wall is chair of this committee. No report.

**EVENTS:** Kelly Britt is chair.

**LANDMARKS:** Geismar agreed to Chair this committee and Stone & Rothchild are on the committee. Focus of the committee this year is the Interpretation of the Landmark's Law. PANYC's Landmarks Committee wishes to focus on the reinterpretation of the law to include to include archaeology in their definition of historic resources.

**MEMBERSHIP:** We voted and accepted a new member.

**NEWSLETTER:** Rebecca Yamin graciously accepted position as editor of the newsletter.

**PUBLIC PROGRAM:** Preservation and Archaeology. April 19<sup>th</sup> went well. Over 75 people attended. Noted that everyone did a great job. Diane Dallal heading up new committee. McGowan and Freeman volunteered to be involved.

**REPOSITORY COMMITTEE:** Put on hold. Dormant temporarily.

**RESEARCH AND PLANNING:** Pickman will speak to Cantwell about chairing committee. Yamin recommended that committee email each other with ideas.

**URBAN STANDARDS:** NYAC is working on getting the standards approved. They made it past SHPO review and are currently being reviewed by counsel.

**2nd Ave Subway Committee** - Public hearing went on for hours. Committee members saw the IA and it was very thorough.

**WEB COMMITTEE:** Nothing to report

Statewide archaeology curriculum. Person developing the NY curriculum is Peter Feinman of Manhattanville College. PANYC will contact Peter Feinman and offer help. Dallal and Stone interested in joining a committee on curriculum.

Next meeting Wed., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. Will vary days of the week for meetings in the future.

Future Dates:

November, Tues., Nov. 18

January, Thurs. Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>

March, Wed., March 24<sup>th</sup>

May, Tues. May 18<sup>th</sup>

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted.

Gary McGowan . PANYC Secretary

**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

May 27, 2003

The Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building  
One Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor N.  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mr. Tierney,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to thank you for taking time recently to meet with our representatives. We were pleased to have the opportunity to introduce our organization to you and hear your views on how Landmarks and PANYC can work together on common issues.

As we discussed, one of our main goals is the education of not only the general public and our archaeological colleagues, but also of public agencies. We were extremely pleased to find that you not only support us in this effort, but that you also are committed to working with your counterparts at other city agencies to further the cause of archaeology when the need arises, as past experience tells us it will. We agree with you that certain technical matters are best handled by the experts and are pleased to see that you place so much faith in your staff, particularly your Director of Archaeology, Ms. Amanda Sutphin. We anticipate working with her on a number of issues including following up on your offer of space to hold our next professional seminar. Our newly established PANYC committee on Landmarks/archaeological interests plans on working with her on specific areas of common concern.

We look forward to a continuing relationship with you and your staff to the benefit of both your agency and PANYC.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,



Linda Stone  
PANYC President  
249 East 48 Street, #2B  
New York, New York 10017  
212-888-3130

Cc: M. Bloomberg, Mayor  
A. Bankoff, LPC  
A. Sutphin, LPC



**PANYC**



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

June 5, 2003

Mr. Douglas Sussman  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
347 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10017-3739

**PANyc**

Dear Mr. Sussman:

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANyc) in response to the release of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Second Avenue Subway study, dated March 2003. Our comments address only those sections within the SDEIS that are relevant to archaeological resources. While the document is fairly comprehensive in terms of these resources we do have 14 comments which you will find attached (Attachment 1).

Thank you for considering our comments and concerns under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. We look forward to receiving your response to comments as the environmental review process proceeds.

Sincerely,



Lynn Rakos  
Chair, PANyc Second Avenue Subway Committee  
230 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Apt. 4  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

CC (w/ Attachments)  
Ms. Nancy Danzig, FTA  
Dr. Robert Kuhn, NY SHPO  
Ms. Amanda Sutphin, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

## Attachment 1

### Professional Archaeologist of New York City (PANYC) Second Avenue Subway SDEIS Review Comments

#### SDEIS Volume 1

##### Comment 1

###### General Comment:

The SDEIS notes in Chapter 9, Historic Resources, page 9-3, paragraph 4, that NYCT will seek the advice and counsel of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) when dealing with historic architectural issues. It is not clear throughout the SDEIS if this courtesy will extend to archaeological concerns. LPC should be given the opportunity to review documents relating to the archaeological component of the project even if they do not become a "Consulting Party" to the Programmatic Agreement (PA). Their review would include such documents as Field Testing Plans, Data Recovery Plans and the reports resulting from archaeological investigations. LPC has local expertise that could facilitate the successful completion of the project while aiding in the protection of New York City's fragile archaeological resources.

#### **Chapter 10: Archeological Resources**

##### Comment 2

###### General Comment:

It is not clear if there are buffer zones around areas determined to be archaeologically sensitive. The buffering would allow for cartographic error and interpretation when comparing the historic map data with present mapping and topography. It is particularly crucial that the locations designated on project maps and plans include latitude for error as the Programmatic Agreement, as presently drafted, does not allow for unanticipated resources to be evaluated if they are encountered in areas not already designated as sensitive. Are there buffers around the sensitive areas, as outlined on project graphics? The potential for error can apply to the vertical location of potential resources as well as horizontal.

##### Comment 3

Table 10-1, pages 10-11, 10-12 and 10-13: The column "Potential Effects from Construction Disturbance" is missing the headings "no" "yes" and "why."

#### **Draft Programmatic Agreement**

All comments that follow refer to the Draft Programmatic Agreement.

##### Comment 4

###### General Comment:

There is mention of a Cultural Resource Manager in Section II.A.3.b.ii (under treatment of human remains) and again in Exhibit J (under unanticipated discoveries). Will this

individual provide services only when human remains or unanticipated discoveries are encountered? Please provide more details on the role of the Cultural Resources Manager.

Comment 5

A staff Cultural Resource Manager who meets at least the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards and has experience with urban archaeology would be a great asset to MTA NYCT. This individual can determine appropriate costs and schedules for conducting archaeological investigations, prepare testing and data recovery plans, scopes of work and provide input to the construction plans and specifications (Construction and Archeology Phasing Plan). The Cultural Resource Manager can also review archaeological reports and may be able to undertake certain required investigations in-house, possibly saving MTA NYCT time and money. This individual can also act as a knowledgeable liaison between engineers, contractors and reviewing agency representatives.

Comment 6

Section II.A.2.a.i (Protocol to Prioritize Archaeologically Sensitive Area for Field Testing and Field Testing Plan)  
See comment for Exhibit H, below.

Comment 7

Section II.C Unanticipated Discoveries Plan  
See comments for Exhibit J, below.

Comment 8

Section II.C.5 Construction and Archeological Phasing Plan  
This plan is not limited to "Unanticipated Discoveries." This plan will be created to in fact avoid there being any unanticipated discoveries. Perhaps it should be included as its own section.

**Exhibit H: Site Prioritization and Additional Documentary Research Protocol**

Comment 9

There is a concern that prioritization is based on the potential research value of the "site" although it remains uncertain that a site is even present. It appears that potentially sensitive areas will be treated as archaeological sites and that the research potential (based on documentary research and soil borings) of these so-called "sites" will be compared to each other and then the sites prioritized. The problem is that once testing begins there may be no archaeological site present. Certain areas given lower priority may not be investigated at all and archaeological data may be lost. There is particular concern here as in the Unanticipated Discovery Plan such sites would not be addressed (see comments on Exhibit J, below).

Comment 10

It is not clear what happens to the sites once "sites" are prioritized (except in Section II.D 19<sup>th</sup> Century Residential Resources where there is some description of what

prioritization would mean for the resources). Will sites designated as “low” not be investigated? What will happen with those determined to have a “medium” priority?

## **Exhibit J. Draft Unanticipated Discovery Plan**

### Comment 11

#### II. Definitions

“Unanticipated Discovery” last sentence of definition: “Sites determined in consultation with the SHPO and LPC to not warrant archaeological testing as a result of soil borings analyses and documentary research will not be considered unanticipated discoveries if encountered during construction.” The concern with this definition is that archaeological sites may be encountered in areas that documentary research may have suggested lack archaeological sensitivity. These sites may contain very valuable data simply because they are outside the bounds of what is expected. The remains may be resources such as a pre-contact site in a unique setting or the remains of an early historic structure that did not appear on historic maps. These kinds of resources would provide crucial information to fill data gaps that exist in the archaeological and historic record of New York City. There should be a provision within Exhibit J (and Section II.A.2) that allows for investigations of significant sites found during construction in areas that were determined not sensitive by the 1A survey and subsequent research.

#### VI. Human Remains Discoveries

### Comment 12

VI.B.3 States that if the remains are determined to be non-human than construction can proceed. The comment on “definitions” above, applies to this section as the skeletal remains could be components of a resource such as a unique pre-contact burial, such as a dog burial or of a historic midden or trash deposit. These kinds of resources have been identified in New York City. If found in an area determined not sensitive through documentary research and/or borings, and if found not to be human bone, such finds would not be subject to further investigation and would be destroyed as construction would be allowed to proceed. There should be a provision within Exhibit J that allows for investigations of skeletal material found during construction in areas that were determined not sensitive by the 1A survey and subsequent research and were found to be non-human yet comprise an archaeological feature or site.

#### Exhibit J, Appendix A

### Comment 13

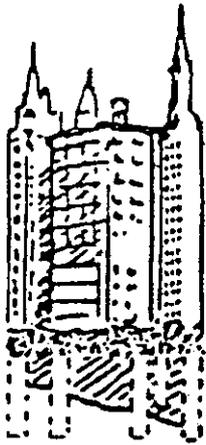
#### Pre-contact Features

Post molds and post holes, indicative of dwellings may be encountered, please add to list.

## **Exhibit K – Data Recovery Plan**

### Comment 14

The first paragraph discusses the process of conducting a data recovery however does not mention the preparation of draft and final reports as a necessary component of such work. Reports are not mentioned until the Secretary of the Interior’s standards are cited in the following paragraph. Please include report preparation in the text, as this is a critical component of data recovery.



**PANYC**



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

June 11, 2003.

Mr. Robert Pirani  
Director Environmental Programs  
Regional Plan Association  
4 Irving Place, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Rob,

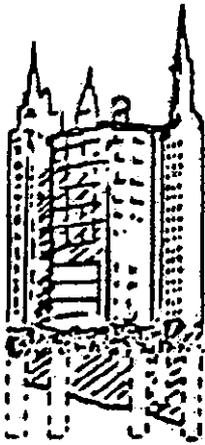
I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to thank you for taking the time to discuss Governors Island with me last week. We were pleased to learn of the preparation of the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) so early in the planning process and we appreciate your providing us with appropriate contacts in the lead agencies. This will enable us to voice our concerns in sufficient time to ensure that archaeology is considered in the future plans for Governors Island.

I am sure that our members would be very interested to hear from your organization about the GMP/EIS and the planning process for this important project and thank you for your offer to do so. As we discussed, I will ask the membership at our next meeting, scheduled in September, for their input and I will get back to you then. I anticipate extending an invitation to you to join us at a late fall or winter meeting.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone  
PANYC President  
249 East 48 Street, #2B  
New York, New York 10017  
212-888-3130



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

June 11, 2003

Mr. Jim Lima  
New York City Economic Development Corporation  
110 William Street  
New York, New York 10038

Dear Mr. Lima,

**PANYC**

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to introduce our organization to you. PANYC is a group of professional archaeologists with a particular interest and experience in New York City archaeology. Our main mission is to educate the public and advise agencies on matters relating to the archaeology of New York City. To this end, we would like to develop a relationship with you based on our mutual concerns regarding plans for Governors Island. As you are aware, the Island has many historic and archaeological resources.

We understand there are plans to prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Governors Island. It is at this early stage in the planning process that archaeology should be addressed. One natural concern is potential disturbance to archaeological resources during below ground excavations for infrastructure and park amenities. In addition to this and perhaps in conjunction with it, there is also the opportunity to incorporate archaeology into the Island's interpretative plan. There is no doubt enormous potential for Governors Island to use archaeology to enhance any visitation plans that will be produced.

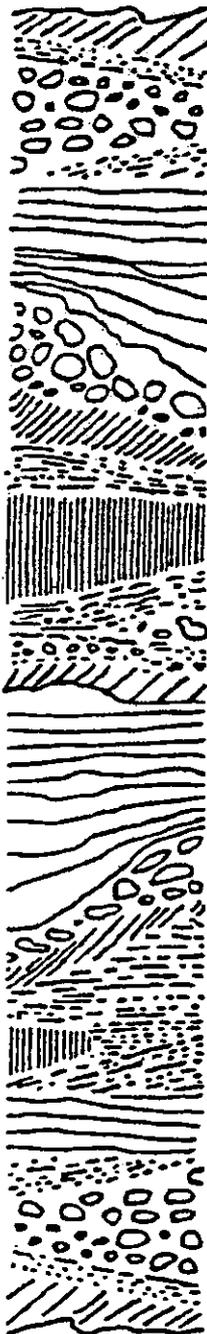
Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or wish any advise regarding the archaeology of, or archaeological plans for, Governors Island. Also, please include PANYC on your mailing list for announcements for public meetings and for other information that might be distributed to the public. I am sure that you will be hearing from our organization as the planning process continues.

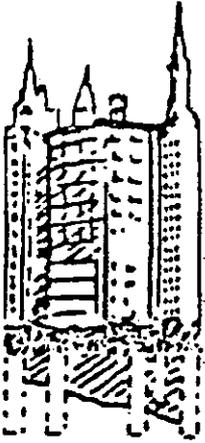
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

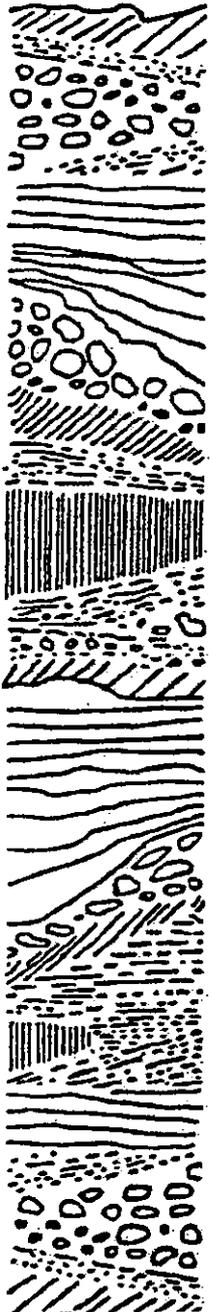
Linda Stone  
PANYC President  
249 East 48 Street, #2B  
New York, New York 10017  
212-888-3130

Cc: D. Doctoroff, Mayor's Office  
R. Pirani, RPA  
R. Tierney, NYCLPC





**PANYC**



**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

June 11, 2003

Ms. Linda Neal  
Superintendent of Governors Island National Monument  
Building 107  
Governors Island, New York

Dear Ms. Neal

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) to introduce our organization to you. PANYC is a group of professional archaeologists with a particular interest and experience in New York City archaeology. Our main mission is to educate the public and advise agencies on matters relating to the archaeology of New York City. To this end, we would like to develop a relationship with you based on our mutual concerns regarding plans for Governors Island. As you are aware, the Island has many historic and archaeological resources.

We understand there are plans to prepare a General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Governors Island. It is at this early stage in the planning process that archaeology should be addressed. One natural concern is potential disturbance to archaeological resources during below ground excavations for infrastructure and park amenities. In addition to this and perhaps in conjunction with it, there is also the opportunity to incorporate archaeology into the Island's interpretative plan. There is no doubt enormous potential for Governors Island to use archaeology to enhance any visitation plans that will be produced.

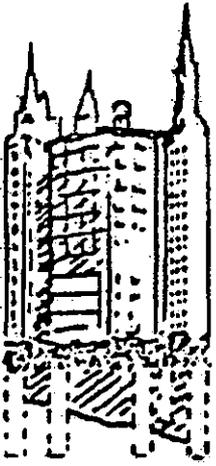
Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or wish any advise regarding the archaeology of, or archaeological plans for, Governors Island. Also, please include PANYC on your mailing list for announcements for public meetings and for other information that might be distributed to the public. I am sure that you will be hearing from our organization as the planning process continues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone  
PANYC President  
249 East 48 Street, #2B  
New York, New York 10017  
212-888-3130

Cc: P. Fleisher, GIPEC  
D. Klima, ACHP  
R. Pirani, RPA  
R. Kuhn, SHPO

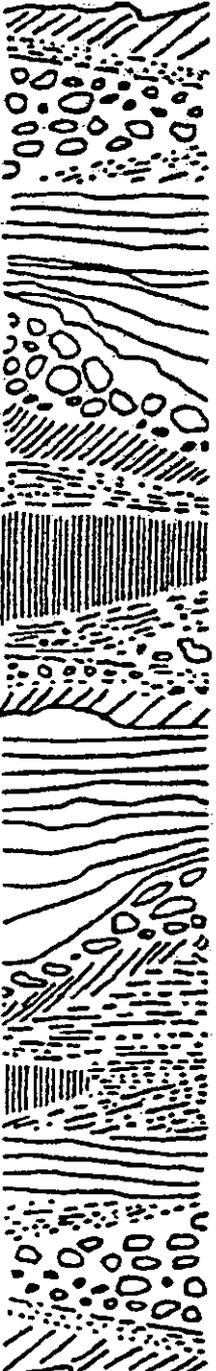


**Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.**

June 13, 2003

Mr. J. Platt  
Suite 314  
1636 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10128

**PANYC**



Dear Mr. Platt,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) regarding your forthcoming contribution of \$520 in support of an excavation of a potential mikvah at 209 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street by volunteers led by Celia Bergoffen, PhD., RPA. PANYC is a group of professional archaeologists with a particular interest and experience in New York City archaeology. One of our main purposes is to protect and preserve the archaeological and historical resources of New York City. Your funds, to be used to support the mikvah excavation, will suit this purpose as the archaeological data associated with the mikvah could be lost without this work. We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. You may make your check out to "PANYC" and mail it to me at the below address.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Linda Stone*

Linda Stone  
PANYC President  
249 East 48 Street, #2B  
New York, New York 10017  
212-888-3130

cc: C. Bergoffen

## Professional Archaeologists of New York City

14 Stuyvesant Oval #5C  
New York, New York 10009  
August 8, 2003

Mr. Karl Reichelt  
Regional Administrator for US GSA  
Jacob Javits Federal Building  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278

Dear Mr. Reichelt:

We are writing on behalf of PANYC (the Professional Archaeologists of New York City) to express our concern over some aspects of the plans for the reburial of the human remains and associated grave goods from the African Burial Ground. While we strongly support the decision to rebury the grave goods and coffin hardware, we are concerned that all these objects be fully documented before they are reinterred.

We are especially concerned this because the final report will not be available until several months after the reburial has taken place. This fact makes the full documentation of the human remains, the grave goods, and the coffin hardware at this time vitally important, as there will be no second chance. We hope that this documentation has the highest priority, with all available resources dedicated to that task. This information about the people who were interred in the African Burial Ground will be an invaluable resource for future scholars and members of the descendant community who want to learn more about this little known, but very important, period in American history.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

Anne-Marie Cantwell  
for the PANYC African Burial Ground Committee  
Professor of Anthropology, Rutgers University-Newark

# 'Big Ed' Rutsch, 66, Jersey archeologist

BY ALEXANDER LANE  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Weehawken hotel clerks thought "Big Ed" Rutsch a bit odd.

The bushy-bearded giant and his companion, Patricia Condell, would check in after a night at a Manhattan jazz club and request a view of the gnarled, rusty railroad transfer station rising out of the reeds of the Meadowlands.

To Edward Rutsch, that was beauty.

"He saw a beauty in the industry, in the dirt and the grime," Condell said. "He saw the beauty in everything."

As a pioneer and standard setter in the field of industrial archeology, Mr. Rutsch made a career of admiring, documenting and, where possible, preserving the hard, hulking industrial structures of America, especially in New Jersey.

The Wantage Township man died of congestive heart failure in Morristown Memorial Hospital on Sunday. He was 66.

Mr. Rutsch was a star football player and wrestler in Teaneck and at George Washington University. He studied anthropology at New York University and the University of Pennsylvania, earning a master's degree. Later he taught at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and researched and published on prehistory and aboriginal cultures.

But it was more recent history that really caught Mr. Rutsch's fancy. He developed a fascination for the massive machinery lining the rivers of the Northeast.

His first major victory came in the early 1970s, shortly after the federal government passed laws requiring that sites be studied for their cultural significance before they could be redeveloped. There was a proposal to build a major road through an industrial section of Paterson, and Mr. Rutsch was hired to report on the history of Rogers Locomotive Works.

He went way beyond that. Mr. Rutsch made the case that Paterson's raceway system — a complex of canals and waterfalls that served several plants — marked America's first large-scale success at harness-

ing water to power industry. Alexander Hamilton was a key planner of the development, the centerpiece of one of America's first planned industrial cities.

By the time Mr. Rutsch was through preaching the area's significance, the plans to build the road were abandoned. President Gerald Ford visited Paterson to designate the complex of old mills a National Historic Landmark District.

It was a turning point in how the nation treated old industrial plants, said Herb Githens of Montclair, a friend and colleague of Mr. Rutsch.

"He very much invented something there — a systematic approach to industrial archeology," Githens said.



RUTSCH

Mr. Rutsch loved iron works, and was instrumental in the preservation of the ruins of the old furnace of the Long Pond Iron Works in Ringwood. He also studied the Speedwell Iron Works in Morristown, the West Point Foundry in New York, the Morris Canal, the Delaware and Raritan Canal and Liberty State Park.

When the firm Mr. Rutsch founded, Historic Conservation & Interpretation, was hired to study these sites, he would preserve what he could, Condell said. What he could not save he would lovingly photograph and measure.

"It would be the final recording," Condell said.

But Mr. Rutsch's affection was not primarily for the structures, Condell said. It was for the workers who had labored inside them.

"He wanted to tell the story of the people through the archeology, the structures, the remains, the ruins," Condell said. "He believed that in that structure is us, is America. That's our history right there."

Mr. Rutsch helped found the Society for Industrial Archeology, which is now several thousand members strong.

In addition to Condell, Mr. Rutsch is survived by his two brothers, Donald and William. His wife, Mary Jane Rutsch, died in 1989.

A memorial service has not yet been scheduled; for details, see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BigEd/>.

# In an East Broadway Summer, a Wide World Unfolds

Continued From Weekend Page 27

it was a principal thoroughfare for the Lower East Side's Jewish immigrants. After all, The Jewish Daily Forward building, with its columns, crowning clock and bas reliefs of the heroes of European socialism, was three doors over. The Educational Alliance, where assimilated uptown Jews once tutored their rough-edged newcomer cousins in English and social graces, was just across the near corner. The Garden Cafeteria, where aging Trotskyists and Stalinists sat chain-smoking and arguing the future, was on the far corner. These famed institutions were all still functioning. I had moved into the bleachers of history.

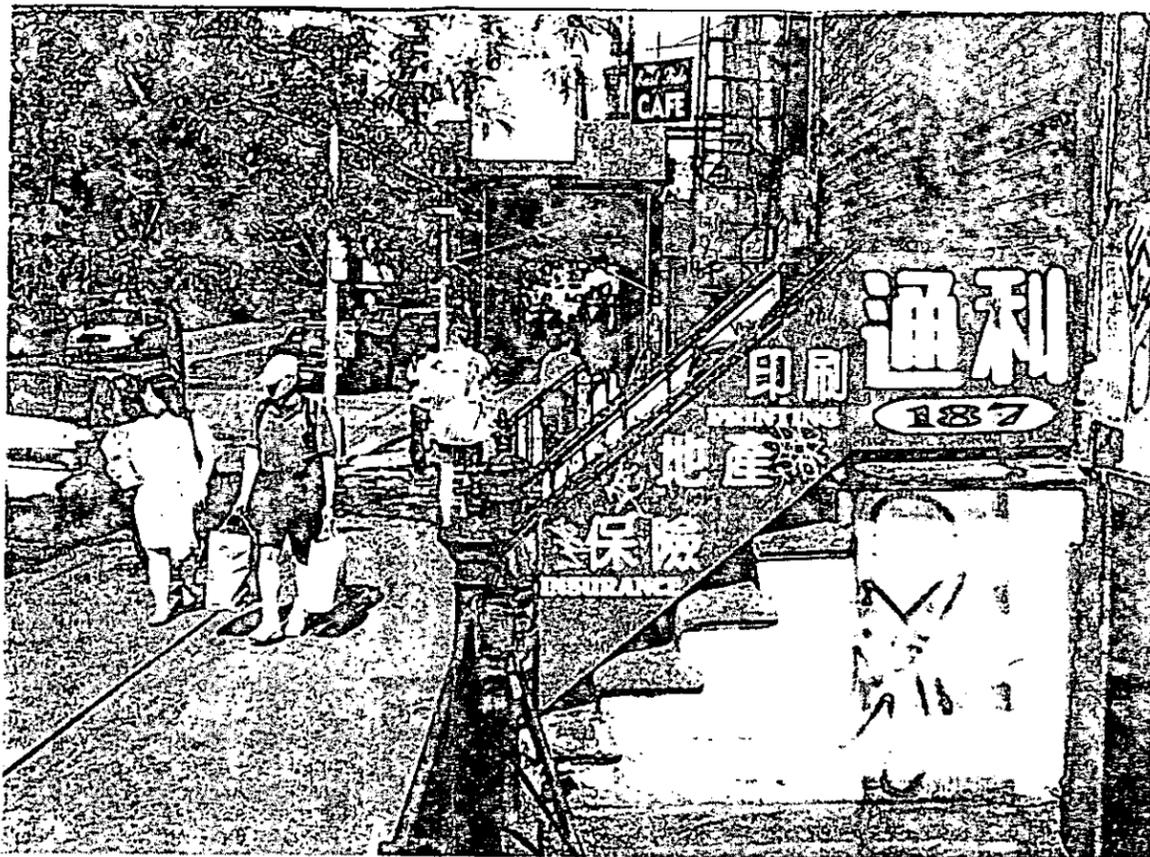
My building and its twin had taken on their present height of four stories in 1906, around the same time that the wave of Jewish immigrants had taken over the neighborhood. The two houses belonged, for much of the early part of the 20th century, to Ezekiel Sarasohn, an editor and publisher, whose rabbi father, an 1860's immigrant, had founded a conservative newspaper, The Jewish Gazette. The buildings provided Ezekiel with both living quarters and income; he rented out various floors to commercial and educational enterprises.

My loft, which was on the third floor of No. 187 and overlooked weed-strewn Seward Park, had previously been a yeshiva, and the lease specified "No dancing of the hora," apparently because the yeshiva students had once collapsed the floor by doing an ecstatic rendition of the dance. Now the floor was decorated with a large bear rug, and the fire escape — an extra-large structure thanks to laws governing school safety — was like a long luxurious porch.

The loft to the side, which was in No. 185 but accessible through my kitchen, was occupied by the modern-dance choreographer Alwin Nikolais, who received a National Medal of Arts in 1987, and his partner, the dancer and choreographer Murray Louis. Both were always willing to let me and my roommates invade their snazzier space to store our food in their fridge when our inferior model conked out.

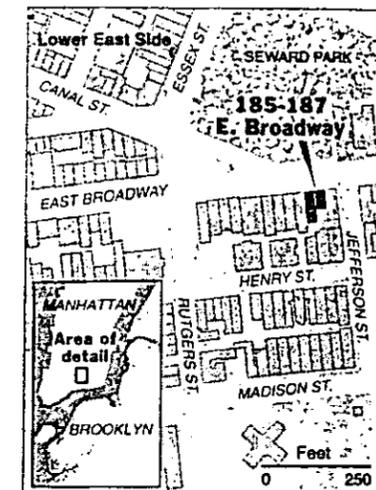
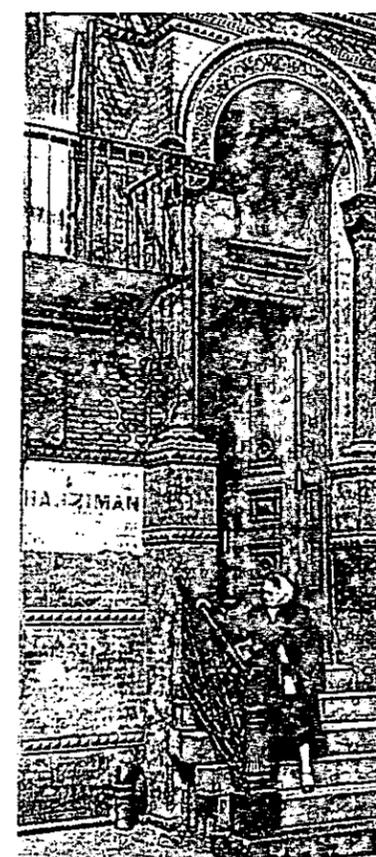
But the loft above, which belonged to a writer, an Austrian Jew who had fled Hitler, was the most splendid space of all. Once a hat-producing

Linda Wolfe's new book, "The Murder of Dr. Chapman," set in the early 19th century, is to be published in January.



Kelly Guenther for The New York Times

The language has changed from Hebrew to Chinese, but 187 East Broadway again has a printing press. Right, the Lower East Side in the 1950's.



The New York Times

I rang the bell, ready to tell some stranger who had never removed the old nameplate that it would be kindness itself to buzz me in, when suddenly, without so much as a peep from the intercom, I was admitted. I entered the building and, somewhat fearful at getting in so easily, climbed the steep inner stairs. There at the top, holding a door invitingly open, was a handsome young man. With a German accent. Just like my old neighbor. Was it him? Was this "Lost Horizon"?

But no, he was, the young man explained, a visitor from Europe and the nephew of my old neighbor, who did indeed live in Massachusetts but still used the loft on occasion as a pied-à-terre.

This good fortune was followed by more. The young man invited me inside. And there it all was, the skylight with its forest of sprawling plants, the Persian carpets, the clever street-by-street wallpaper, albeit yellowed now, and the view of Seward Park, although the view was no longer one of weeds and a comfort station but of orderly flower gardens and state-of-the-art playground equipment.

At that moment, to make matters even stranger, in walked my old neighbor. He was in town for a doctor's appointment. East Broadway, we told each other after we'd hugged and marveled and exchanged life histories, was like us. Endowed with an incredibly long past. Changed, ever-changing. But hanging in there.

As for me, I was living both in then and in now, all at once. And have been for weeks. Like the hero in one of those books in which the characters use some device to go back in time, and then can't quite get the wretched thing to work and take them back to the era where they really belong.

sweatshop, it now had a skylight that nourished a thicket of ferns and philodendrons and a long wall that Bob Fleury, the student architect, had imaginatively papered with maps of our neighborhood: the detailed, street-by-street, corner-by-corner maps produced by the United States Geological Survey. When that writer went home on a visit he let me escape my roommates and live in his loft for a time.

The buildings were still owned by descendants of the rabbi-publisher, specifically Eliot Sarasohn and his wife, Lily, who also lived on the top floor. He was a quiet man, a scholar. She was what in Yiddish is known as a bren, a ball of fire. She didn't like the owner of the Hebrew print shop on the building's ground floor and vociferously told him so. She didn't like the tax assessor who wanted to raise her rate, and informed him that her buildings' views to the park could be considered a valuable asset only if a person was perverse enough to enjoy looking at a comfort station.

And in a fury at the next-door neighbor's cat, which was in the habit of desecrating her carefully tended

garden, she hired a mason to block access to the garden by erecting a high concrete block wall, insisting it be put up on Yom Kippur, so that it would be a fait accompli by the time the religious neighbors returned from shul.

Although it wasn't widely known or acknowledged, the Lower East Side's cheap rents and ravaged remnants of architectural glory had begun to draw many students like me and my roommates, as well as graduates starting their first jobs in publishing and advertising — yuppies you'd call them now — some paying as little as \$9 a month for bathtub-in-the-kitchen, toilet-outside-in-the-hallway walk-ups. We ran into one another while shopping for basics at the bustling Essex Street Market or selecting exotic greens and still-swimming fish in nearby Chinatown.

We joined one another for favorite meals: the Garden's vegetable cutlet, 65 cents with sour cream and applesauce, or dim sum pork rolls at Bobo's. We went to lectures at the Educational Alliance. We went folk dancing at the Henry Street Settlement House. We fell in love.

It was, as Wordsworth said of being young in another time and place, very heaven. But my mother didn't think so. She had been expecting me to spend the summer in our comfortable house on a tree-lined Brooklyn street. And what had I done instead? Moved to the Lower East Side, the very neighborhood where, as an immigrant from Russia, she herself had lived as a child. "How could you do this to our family?" she'd weep whenever I prevailed upon her to visit me. "Grandpa worked his fingers to the bone to get us out of here."

Not long after summer's end I, too, left the Lower East Side, though I continued to visit from time to time. The printer on the ground floor disappeared — small wonder! — and his shop was dismantled. One of my roommates married. Another drifted off to Europe. Then my college years ended, real life began, and nearly 50 years flew by before, on a recent afternoon, I trekked to East Broadway in search of my past.

I took the F train, the one I'd always taken, and came up into a street that was more Chinese than

Jewish. The Garden Cafeteria was the Wing Shoon restaurant. Many of the buildings, including my own, were owned by Chinese families. There was even a Chinese shop — a print shop, of all things — on the ground floor of my old building. East Broadway was also a neighborhood trying decisively to assert what had once been more or less a secret: that yuppies could, and did, live here. A new eight-story building, with a roof garden above and a fancy clothing shop at the street level, had recently been put up. The old Forward building was being readied for condos.

I'd made up my mind that come what might, I was going to ring the doorbells at No. 187 and see if I could sweet-talk somebody into letting me in. So I mounted the steel fire stairs that led from the sidewalk to the doorbells and peered at the names. And lo and behold, I recognized one.

It was the name of the Austrian writer who'd lived above me. Could he still be living here? I was sure I'd heard, sometime over the years, that he'd moved to Massachusetts. But there was his name. It must be a mistake.

MY MANHATTAN

# On East Broadway, a Wide World Unfolds

By LINDA WOLFE

Whenever I think back to being young and summer-carefree in the city, I think of the time I lived in a loft on East Broadway. It wasn't quite legal then to live in a loft. Not even for artists, who hadn't yet won the right to reside in their ateliers. But a friend of mine from Antioch College, where I was a student, knew an architecture student at Pratt who was turning the abandoned lofts in a pair of twin buildings at 185 and 187 East Broadway, near Jefferson Street, into attractive living quarters.

My Antioch friend had taken the lease on one of these in-progress domiciles and needed roommates to help swing the rent. And on a summer's day back — dare I admit it? — in the mid-1950's, for a one-third share of the \$65-a-month rent, I

Seward Park, a patch of green and graciousness on the Lower East Side.



Kelly Guenther for The New York Times

became one of the roommates.

The buildings had been erected around 1827, part of a row of three-and-a-half-story brick houses with gardens in back, two big bedrooms and a birthing room facing front and parlors that were 26 feet across, wider than the customary 24 feet. Back then East Broadway had been known as Harman Street, its name a tribute to Harmanus Rutgers, a farmer and brewer who in the mid-18th century had managed to put together a parcel of 100 acres of prime Manhattan real estate.

But the early-19th-century promoters of the street's fashionable new dwellings wanted a street name that had cachet. Broadway had a certain prestige. By 1831 city maps were calling the street Harman Street, or East Broadway, and by 1840 the name Harman Street had dropped away utterly.

I didn't know this long-ago history when I lived in the loft. I did, however, know a bit about the more recent but to my mind equally remote history of East Broadway at the time, around 1900, when

*Continued on Page 35*

# The Star-Ledger

ION

TODAY'S FORECAST: Sunny to partly cloudy and warm.

at 7 A.M.

70°

at 2 P.M.

85°

at 7 P.M.

84°

DETAILS, PAGE 45

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

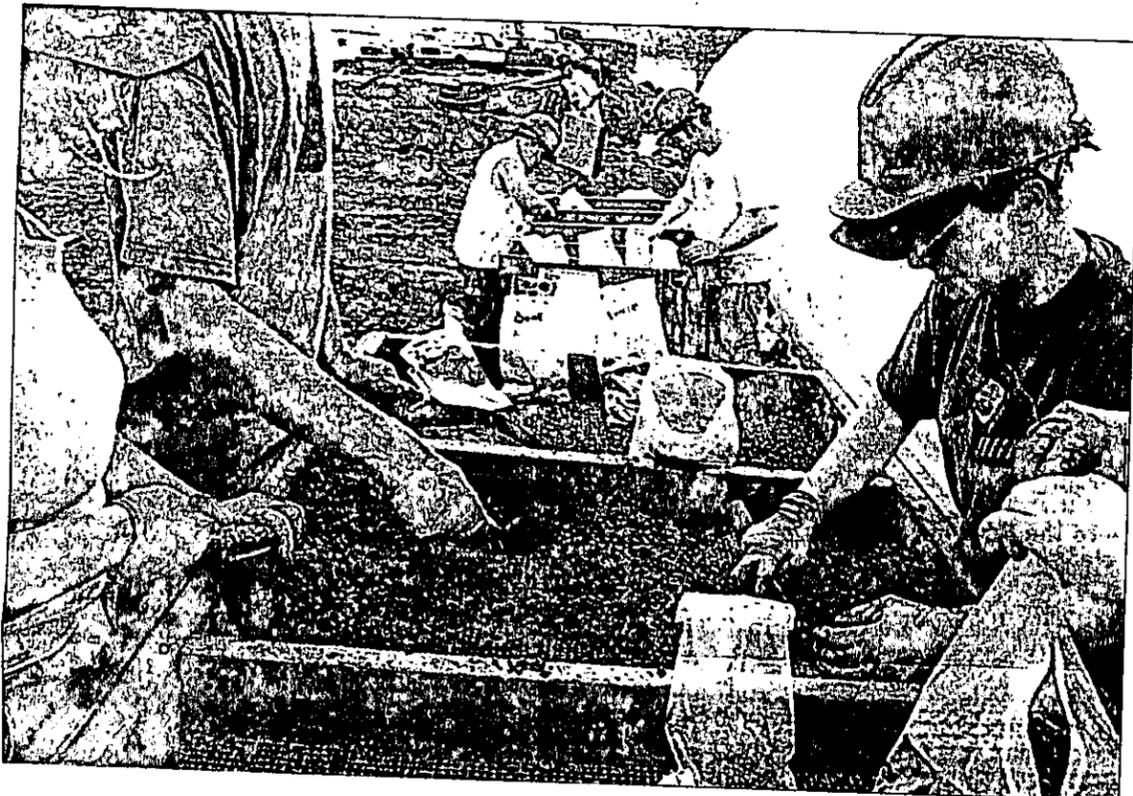
35 CENTS

THE NEWSPAPER FOR NEW JERSEY

"I'm having a hard time understanding how it has come to this."

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE THOMAS OLIVIERI ON THE LONG-NEGLECTED HUMAN REMAINS

## FOR SAKE OF A DECENT BURIAL



PHOTOS BY SCOTT LITUCHY/THE STAR LEDGER

Employees of the archeological consultants hired to disinter remains at the Laurel Hill potter's field in Secaucus sift through the soil they have dug up. The painstaking work began in February.

### Next to Turnpike, overdue accounting of graves continues

BY RUDY LARINI  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

Sick, destitute or alone when they died, thousands of people buried in a potter's field in Hudson County were forgotten and neglected for decades.

But their graves are getting quite a bit of attention now.

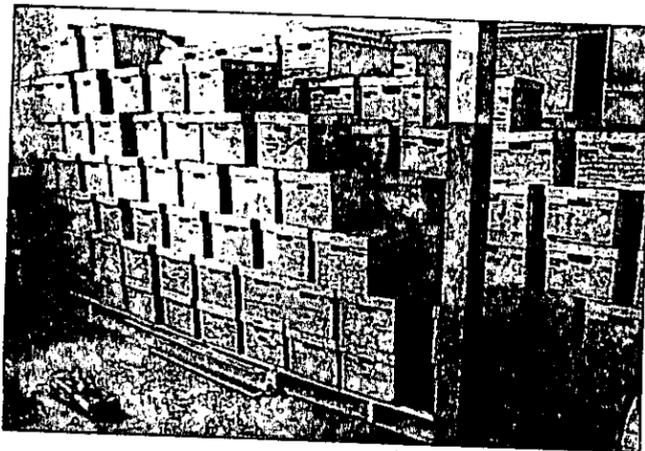
Yesterday, the judge who authorized the removal of the graves to make way for a New Jersey Turnpike interchange said those directly beneath a Turnpike embankment should be left undisturbed.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Olivieri, who has railed at the disrespect and neglect shown to individuals buried at the potter's field in Secaucus, continued to wonder yesterday at how cavalierly the grave sites had been treated over the decades.

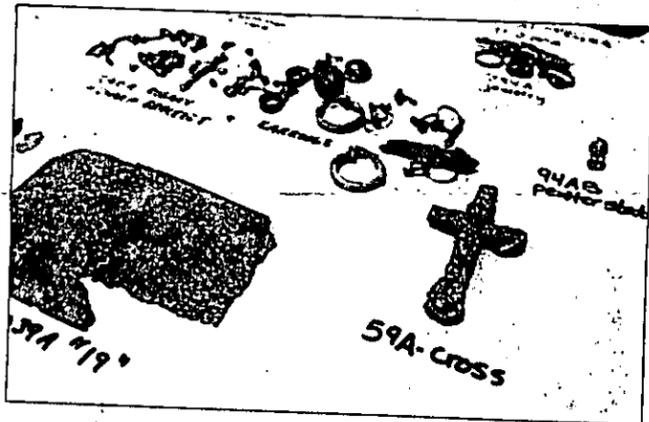
"I'm having a hard time understanding how it has come to this: literally thousands of bodies buried in an area without any concern for those individuals or their families, their privacy or the sanctity of the burial process," Olivieri said.

Meanwhile, the grandson of an immigrant who had been buried there said county officials have promised to scour another Secaucus site, where the man may have been reburied, and to disinter all human remains there.

Yesterday's action by Olivieri, sitting in (See **GRAVES**, Page 6)



Human remains are being stored in cardboard boxes in an old county jail building at Laurel Hill before they are moved.



Artifacts found during the disinterments are sorted out on a table. Some 90,000 have been cataloged for reburial.

## GRAVES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

### The long-overdue accounting goes on

Jersey City, amended his January ruling authorizing the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to disinter remains in the potter's field, clearing the way for a \$250 million interchange leading to NJ Transit's impending Secaucus Transfer Station. The exit will be just south of Interchange 16E.

Digging under the Turnpike embankment could compromise the structural integrity of the highway and endanger the archeological team working so close to the road, the judge said.

Until 1962, the Secaucus potter's field had been used for decades as a burial ground by a complex of Hudson County institutions in the area known as Laurel Hill or Snake Hill — an insane asylum, an alms house, a penitentiary, and hospitals for children and for patients with tuberculosis and other contagious diseases.

Some of the bodies were disinterred when the eastern spur of the Turnpike was carved through the granite of Laurel Hill and a portion of the highway was elevated over a section of the graveyard. Over the years, the site was covered with several feet of dirt fill. The only remaining evidence of the potter's field is a rundown caretaker's cottage, which will now be demolished.

Leonardo Andriani was buried in the field on New Year's Eve in 1948, in a grave plot marked "6408," according to an old burial registry. He was a longshoreman who had died at one of the hospitals while his family was in Italy.

His grandson Patrick, a Roxbury resident, has learned that the remains may have been moved sometime around 1969 to a graveyard at the county's Meadowview Hospital in Secaucus.

Patrick Andriani has secured a pledge from Hudson County to use ground-penetrating radar to locate graves at Meadowview and then disinter however many bodies are there.

According to county spokesman Jim Kennelly, no one is certain how many bodies were relocated and whether they were reburied individually or in one mass grave. "We won't rest until we solve this," he said.

"We're not going to be shocked by anything that's there," he added.

The man in the charge of the 1969 reburial, Meadowview morgue custodian John J. Marinar, was swept up in a scandal with other hospital and county officials. One of the allegations was that he and other officials schemed to use county prisoners and road workers to disinter and rebury the remains,

pocketing the \$40,000 that had been allocated to hire an outside contractor. Marinar was indicted in 1973 but died in August 1974 before going to trial.

At the Laurel Hill potter's field, about 50 employees of the Louis Berger Group of East Orange, the archeological consultant hired to conduct the disinterments and reburials, continue the tedious task of using trowels and other hand tools to unearth remains.

"I can't stress to you how dedicated these people are," said Roderick Brown, the principal archeologist at the site. "This is very difficult work, and they've been doing

it for months and months and months."

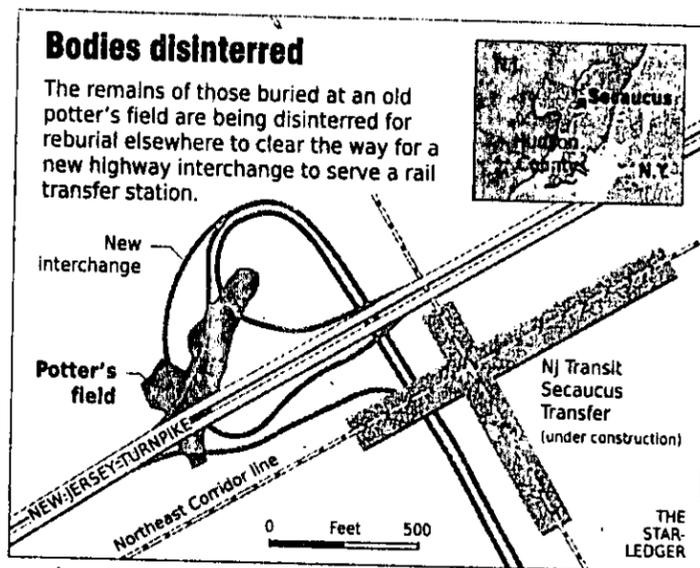
Senior archeologist Susan Grzybowski said the remains of 2,800 individuals — some intact skeletons, but mostly just bones — have been recovered in 1,800 graves since the dig began in mid-February.

Some 90,000 artifacts — including coffin nails, jewelry, medals, smoking pipes, a harmonica, dolls and rosaries — have been recovered from the graves. The items have been cataloged and will be reburied in a North Bergen cemetery with the bodies they were found with.

All the remains unearthed so far are being stored in sealed cardboard boxes, piled neatly on wooden pallets in a cell block of an abandoned county jail compound at the site.

Brown said he was surprised at some of the artifacts that have been recovered, including gold rings and dental fillings.

"All of the evidence suggests that these people weren't looted," he said. "What I'm surprised at is the respect they were treated with. They were treated with respect — until people forgot that they were buried here."



# New World Ancestors Lose 12,000 Years

By NICHOLAS WADE  
and JOHN NOBLE WILFORD

Scientists studying the genetic signatures of Siberians and American Indians have found evidence that the first human migrations to the New World from Siberia probably occurred no earlier than 18,000 years ago.

The new estimate undermines arguments for colonization as far back as 30,000 years ago, but reinforces archaeological findings and a linguistic theory that most American languages belong to a single family called Amerind.

The genetic evidence fits neatly, for example, with the discovery of a human campsite in Chile, which is apparently 15,000 years old, and with the well-established presence of big-game hunters in North America, starting 13,600 years ago. The few sites with possibly older human traces have yet to gain wide acceptance among scientists.

By studying the DNA of living Siberian and American Indian populations, geneticists had previously been able to see traces of at least two early migrations from Siberia. But it has been hard to put a date on when the first people set foot in the Americas, for lack of a suitable marker in the Y chromosome.

After much search, a team of geneticists has now detected a change in the DNA sequence of Siberian men's Y chromosomes that took place just before the first of the two migrations into the Americas. They estimate that the DNA change, called M242, occurred 15,000 to 18,000 years ago, meaning the Americas must first have been occupied after that date. The DNA change is not in a gene and makes no known difference to the men who carry it.

The new result, to be published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*, is by Dr. Mark Seielstad of the Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. R. Spencer Wells of the University of Oxford and other colleagues.

The migration was probably by land because at that time the world's sea level was much lower and a land bridge, known as Beringia, stretched across what is now the Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska. Also, people bearing the same genetic marker, called M3, live on either side of the former bridge, suggesting it was the means of passage.

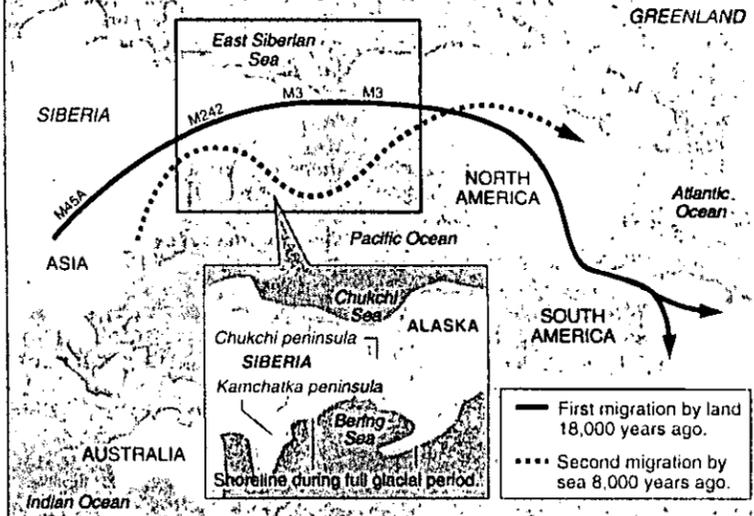
Beringia sank beneath the waves some 11,000 years ago as the glaciers of the last ice age melted. The second migration seen by the geneticists seems to have occurred some 8,000 years ago and was presumably by boat, as the land bridge had long since vanished.

The date based on the new marker is important because it sets an earliest limit on the colonization of America, something that archaeologists find hard to do because they cannot be sure there are not sites they may have missed.

Hitherto some archaeologists have argued that people reached the Americas as long as 30,000 years ago. This date received some genetic support last year in a study by Dr. Douglas Wallace, now of the University of California at Irvine, who matched up male migrations from Siberia with the female migrations that he and colleagues had worked out earlier. The female migrations are traced by analyzing a genetic element in every cell called mitochondrial DNA.

## Evidence of Later Migration

The first people who reached America from Siberia can be traced by changes in the DNA of the Y chromosome, carried by all men. A change called M242, recently found in Siberians, shows the first migration could not have occurred earlier than 18,000 years ago. A second migration occurred some 8,000 years ago.



Based on the mitochondrial DNA of the women descended from those in the first migration, Dr. Wallace estimated it occurred 20,000 to 30,000 years ago. Dr. Spencer said in an e-mail message that mitochondrial DNA was hard to date accurately and often gave dates that were too old. The Y chromosome is a better genetic clock, if a suitable marker can be found, he said.

Dr. Wallace did not respond to e-mail requests for comments.

The new date derived by Dr. Seielstad and Dr. Spencer may strengthen the hand of linguists who argue that all American languages fall into three groups, known as Amerind, Na-Dene and Eskimo-Aleut, with Amerind being by far the largest. Most linguists dispute that classification, saying languages change too fast to allow any very ancient relationships to be discerned. But if the first hu-

## The first migration from Siberia was probably just 18,000 years ago.

mans arrived in the Americas only 18,000 years ago, efforts to find links between present languages may seem more plausible.

"If they entered more recently, it is not such a stretch to say you can see a linguistic relationship," Dr. Wells said.

The new archaeological results seem compatible with the younger date adduced by the geneticists. Radiocarbon dating revealed that a occupation site in Siberia was only 13,000 years old and thus too recent to be a critical link in the first migrations, as had been supposed.

The site on the Kamchatka Peninsula of Russia, previously dated at 16,800 years old, was thought to be a way station at the western edge of Beringia, a point of departure for migrants either across the frozen land or by sea along the coasts. The new research challenges the conven-

tional idea that this was the specific site from which people crossed into America, but does not exclude the possibility that they did so from other sites.

Researchers, led by Dr. Ted Goebel of the University of Nevada at Reno, reported the redating of the Siberian site at Ushki Lake on the Kamchatka Peninsula in today's issue of the journal *Science*. The other authors were Dr. Michael R. Waters of Texas A&M University and Dr. Margarita Dikova, an archaeologist and widow of Dr. Nikolai Dikov, who discovered the site in 1964.

The initial radiocarbon analysis was apparently based on contaminated samples, the researchers said. The 13,000-year-old date, nearly 4,000 years younger than previously thought, effectively removed the site as a way station for the first migrants to America, they concluded.

For most of the last century, the peopling of America was a story of big-game hunters trekking across the Bering land bridge in the last ice age, spreading across North America and within 1,000 years or so reaching the tip of South America. Those who left the most durable traces, fluted projectile points, were the Clovis people, named for the town in New Mexico where their artifacts were first uncovered.

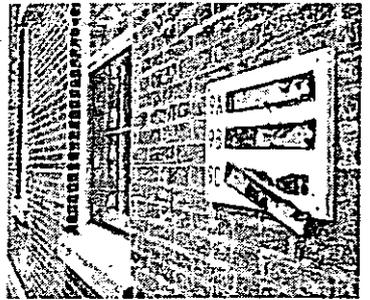
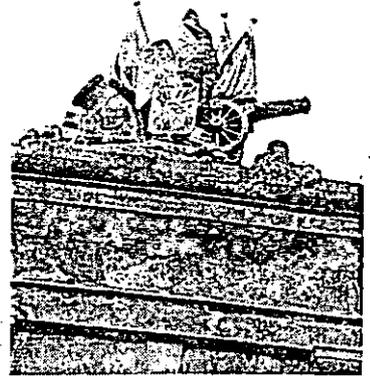
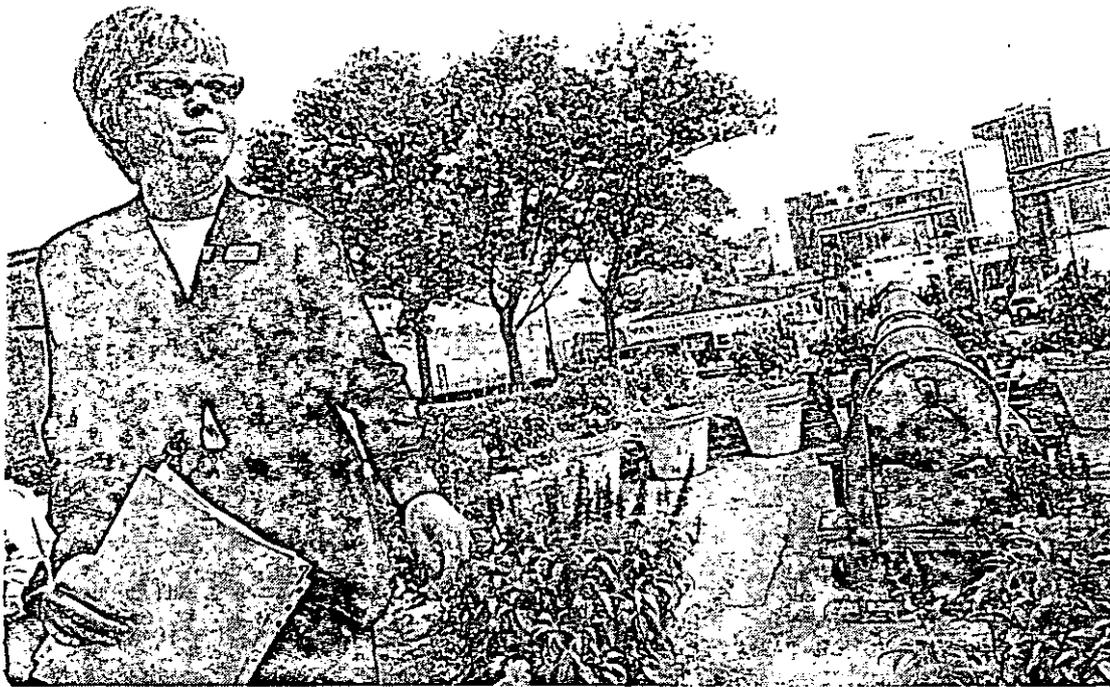
The journal quoted Dr. David J. Meltzer, an archaeologist at Southern Methodist University, as saying the new finding "removes what was, until now, the critical link in the chain connecting Clovis to Siberia."

When people first occupied the Ushki Lake site, Clovis hunters had already been killing mammoths in North America for some 600 years and groups of hunters had left their mark at Monte Verde, Chile, 3,000 years earlier. Radiocarbon dates are lower than calendar dates and they become increasingly so the farther back one goes in time.

If the Ushki site is only 13,000 years old, Dr. Goebel said, the oldest place in the Bering region with human traces now is Broken Mammoth, a 14,000-year-old site in central Alaska.

"It means we have even less evidence than we had before," Dr. Goebel said.

CITY



Photographs by Alan Chin for The New York Times

Linda Neal is the superintendent of the Governors Island National Monument, which was handed back to New York in January. It is home to two forts, including Fort Jay, whose gate is detailed at top. Military personnel and their families lived on the island until 1997.

## An Island That Took 203 Years to Welcome Tourists

By ANDREA ELLIOTT

It was always just out of reach.

Five minutes by ferry from the bustling concrete depths of Wall Street sits what could be a quaint New England town: stately, collegiate buildings framed by tree-lined walkways where the wind rustles through aging oak trees.

For 203 years, the oasis known as Governors Island was closed to the public, but that changed yesterday when more than 80 people took the first formal, public tour of what has become the city's newest national park.

"This is the unknown New York," said Barry Day, 69, a British playwright and author who lives in Manhattan for part of the year and took the tour. "You're so close to downtown this could be a haven."

The 172-acre island, which New York State sold to the federal government for \$1 in 1800, was used by the United States Army until 1966, and then by the United States Coast Guard until 1997. The island was officially handed back to New York last January and is maintained by a public corporation governed by the city, the state and the National Park Service.

The public can now take a free walking tour of the island three days a week until Sept. 27, when the touring season for the island ends.

Public tours will resume in the spring.

The sightseers yesterday, which included elementary school students, civic group leaders and park advocates, walked 1.5 miles around the northern area of the island, which features two 19th-century forts and a view of New York Harbor and Manhattan's jagged skyline.

The island has played host to several events of historical note. In the War of 1812, the forts on the island deterred a British attack on New York. In 1909, Wilbur Wright made his first over-water flight from the island. And in 1988, it was the site of the summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The tour includes the 22-acre area now known as the Governors Island National Monument, which has as its central attraction the earthen-walled, star-shaped Fort Jay, one of the best-preserved forts in the nation.

"If the English had taken Governors Island, the course of the war could have dramatically changed," said Ken Bausch, the park ranger who guided the tour, as he stood in the middle of the Fort Jay's open courtyard.

The group gasped with surprise at the long, quiet stretches of shaded walkways, Victorian-era houses and tall, collegiate buildings where

some 4,000 people lived when the Coast Guard used the island, Mr. Bausch said.

"Everything is in a lot better shape than I expected," said Susannah Sard, the executive director of the Women's City Club of New York. "It's surprisingly like a college campus. It has the ivory tower feeling."

Some of the younger members of the tour said they wanted more by way of adventure.

"It's interesting learning about historical facts," said Phuoc Huynh, 13, who lives in Brooklyn. He said he thought the experience would be more one of "chilling in the park, looking for artifacts."

One purpose of the tour is to introduce the public to the island in the hope that people will help determine how the space is used, said Robert Pirani, director of the Governors Island Alliance, a coalition of environmental, planning and business groups.

"We're hoping the public will take an active role in determining the future of this island," said Mr. Pirani said. "We want to make sure the people have a voice as it's being reinvented."

More information on the tours is available at [governorsislandnationalmonument.org](http://governorsislandnationalmonument.org).

# Have Something to Say About African Burial Ground Memorial? Do It Now

By DAISY HERNÁNDEZ

The ancestors might find some of the ideas to their liking: crushed oyster shells, reflective pools and their very own ancestral chambers.

More than a decade after the discovery of a large Colonial-era cemetery for black New Yorkers in Lower Manhattan, the public comment portion of the competition to design a memorial there ends tomorrow. Criticism remains, however, that the project has been delayed too often and has included too little public outreach.

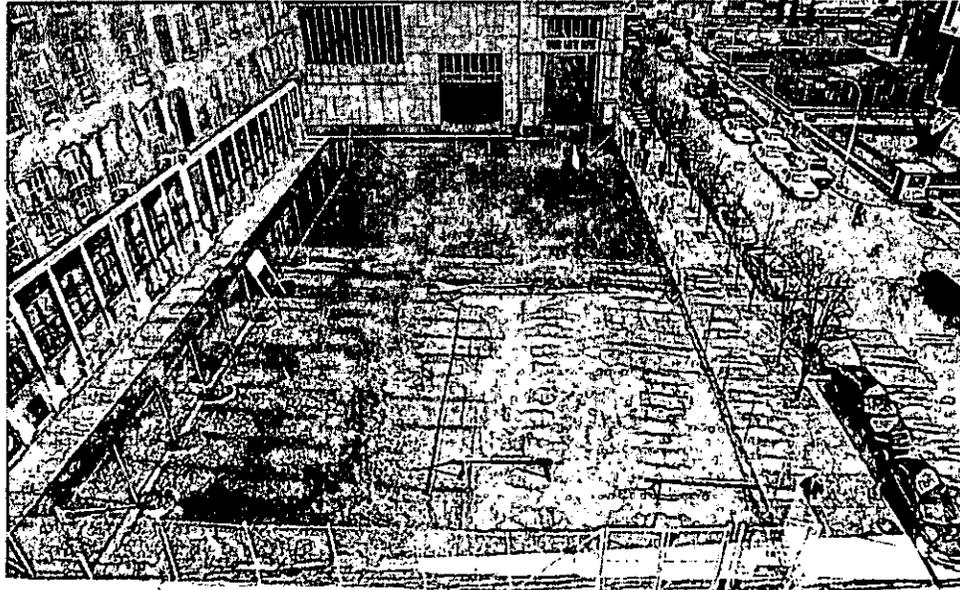
The memorial will be built just north of City Hall at the southwest corner of Duane and Elk Streets on the African Burial Ground, a city landmark.

The remains of about 400 people, almost half of them children, were unearthed in 1991 during the construction of a federal building at 290 Broadway. Historians believe that as many as 20,000 people, both enslaved and free, were buried at the cemetery. The original site spanned five acres and was in use primarily during the 18th century.

Plans call for the remains of the 400 bodies to be reinterred during a ceremony at the site on Oct. 4.

"This is a pretty heady experience right now," said Eustace M. Pilgrim, the director of graphic design at the Department of City Planning and a finalist in the design competition. "It's a big responsibility."

Among those criticizing the way



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

The remains of 400 African-Americans were found at the southwest corner of Duane and Elk Streets in Lower Manhattan in 1991. The site, now called the African Burial Ground, has since been declared a city landmark.

the project has been carried out is Ayo Harrington, chairwoman of the Friends of the African Burial Ground, a private group. "The project belongs to the people and specifically to people of African de-

scendent," Ms. Harrington said. "They weren't involved in this process."

Designers originally submitted their work in 1998. The five finalists were not chosen until January 2002. "You want to make sure you give

everybody the right amount of attention," said Cassandra Henderson, a spokeswoman for the General Services Administration, the federal agency that oversees the African Burial Ground Project.

## A city-sponsored project that critics say has had too many delays.

The project was also delayed, she said, because "nothing could be completed without the scientific research" by Howard University on those buried at the site. The research is to be finished this year, Ms. Henderson added, and the agency has been receiving drafts of a final report from the university.

The agency chose the five design finalists from 61 applicants in an open competition, Ms. Henderson said.

The teams include architects, writers and visual artists and run the gamut from Mr. Pilgrim and his partner, a graphics designer at MTV, to companies like McKissack & McKissack, one of the country's oldest design and construction firms run by African-Americans.

All five proposals envision a part of the memorial below street level.

The proposal by Rodney Leon includes an "ancestral chamber" six feet down where visitors could go for prayer and contemplation. Mr. Pilgrim's team designed a shallow pool to simulate the journey across the

ocean from Africa.

"It's about making a place, not about making an object," said another finalist, Joseph DePace. His team would cover the burial site with crushed oyster shells that symbolize the release of the spirit, Mr. DePace said.

The memorial designs chosen as finalists were displayed in the lobby of 290 Broadway lobby for a month and have been shown at public meetings in Harlem and in Brooklyn, Ms. Henderson said.

For the past two weeks they have been on public view at the Javits Federal Building at 26 Federal Plaza, where they are in a corner by a locked exit door.

"This place's like a grim spot," said Darryl Johnson, a building maintenance supervisor who passed them last week. "No one comes here. Only blue-collar workers come this way."

Asked for his opinion on the designs, he quickly selected the one by Mr. Pilgrim's team, which depicts a pool of water and a sail. "To me," he said, "what it represents is the dark waters slaves traveled on. The sail represents the boat. This is my own interpretation."

He said he wrote just that on a piece of paper and slipped it into the public comment box near the five designs. They will be on display until 5 p.m. tomorrow. A winner is to be chosen in January.

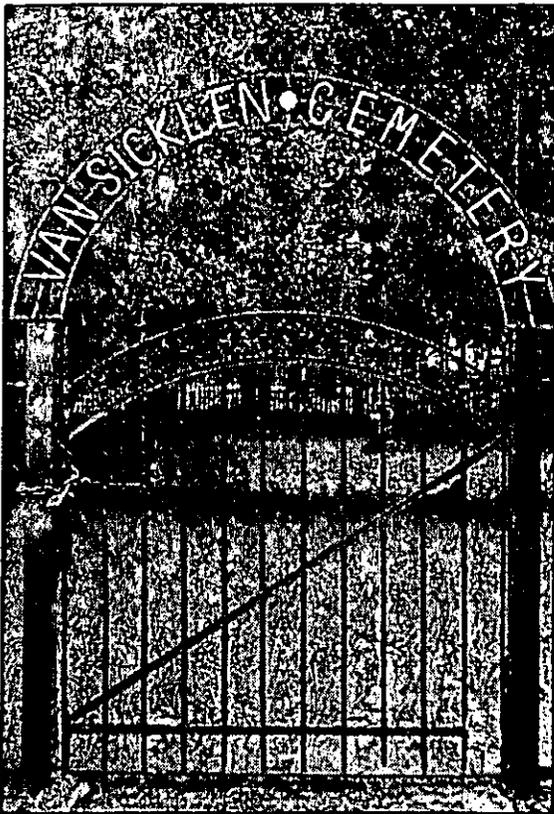
GIVE TO THE FRESH AIR FUND

# Vital Piece of Brooklyn History In Danger of Being Lost

By Stephen Witt

What is most likely the oldest house in the city is on the selling block and Brooklyn historians are charging that the Landmarks Preservation Committee (LPC) is dragging its feet in getting it declared a landmark.

Local residents and historians have long claimed the Lady Deborah Moody House at 27 Gravesend Neck Road between McDonald Avenue and Van Sicklen Street is the city's oldest.



The Van Sicklen Cemetery, also known as the Gravesend Cemetery is already landmarked.

It is located directly across the street from the already landmarked Van Sicklen Cemetery, also known as the Gravesend Cemetery.

"The Landmarks Preservation Committee has been extremely slow and I believe if this were a home in Manhattan it would have been declared a landmark many years ago," said Eric Ierardi, president and founder of the Gravesend Historical Society.

Ierardi said Gravesend residents have been fighting for 31 years to make the home a landmark and recently resubmitted the request. However, the fact that the house is on the selling block gives the matter urgency.

"Especially now that it's in danger of being sold to a construction company, we are concerned it may be torn down to build other homes, a factory or a big garage," Ierardi said.

"We now charge the Landmarks Preservation Commission with the responsibility of having it declared a landmark," he added.

But LPC officials say they are not even sure if it is the original Moody house. They do acknowledge that the Gravesend neighborhood in which it sits is the oldest English settlement in the city.

"The Dutch chartered what is now New York City in 1625, but the first English Chartered settlement was in Gravesend in 1643," said LPC Director of Archaeology Amanda Sutphin.

"Lady Deborah Moody was given permission by Governor Kieft to found Gravesend. She did so with a group of Anabaptists. They had lived in Massachusetts and were expelled from that colony because of religious differences with the Puritans," she added.



The Lady Deborah Moody House at 27 Gravesend Neck Road is thought to be the oldest house in the city.

Photos By Paul Merdinka

Sutphin added that shortly after the settlement was founded, the Canarsee Native Americans, who killed nearby resident Ann Hutchinson, expelled them, but they returned to the settlement in 1645.

The second English settlement was Hempstead, founded in 1644, and the third was Flushing in 1645, said Sutphin.

LPC Director of Research Mary Beth Betts said the house is significant in that it is a rare survivor of old houses.

"We are investigating making it a landmark," said Betts. "Everybody thinks the house dates after her [Moody's] time

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# Vital Piece of Brooklyn History In Jeopardy

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period. Somebody would have to do a detailed analysis to figure out when it was built — whether in the 18th or 17th century we are unable to say at this point."

Betts said that the outside of the house has been remodeled and the LPC only landmarks the outside of houses. But the LPC still thinks it warrants some investigation because it is very old and rare to have such a house survive.

"I think the problem with the house is not due to location but due to the fact it's been altered over time and that is something the commission had to wrestle with and think about," she added.

Betts refused to comment on whether the house would be landmarked, but said if the LPC proceeded with the landmark status, her department would research the structure and write a designation report.

The LPC currently recognizes the Pieter Claesen Wyckoff house also in Brooklyn at 5900 Clarendon Road as the oldest house. Part of it dates around 1652 with additions added on in 1740 and 1820, Betts said.

Betts said the cemetery was landmarked because it is thought to be the most intact example of the community of



Old tombstones at the Gravesend Cemetery.

Gravesend predating the 18th century. However, both Betts and Sutphin stopped short of calling it the oldest cemetery in the city.

"It could be one of the oldest cemeteries, but other contenders would be Trinity in Manhattan and the Prospect Cemetery in Jamaica, Queens," said Sutphin.

But Ierardi calls this banter incredulous of the documented facts surrounding Gravesend, which is named for two English Saxon terms -- "grafes" and "ende"-- meaning the end of a grove.

The settlement developed the block system and she [Moody] was given lots 9 and 10, and that house is sitting on that exact site, Ierardi said.

"There is an unbroken chain of title ownership for that property. It is documented. If they [LPC] took the time to get the title checked they would see it went from property to property," said Ierardi, adding this was already done in the 1940's by Dr. James Kelly, the borough's first official historian.

Ierardi also said according to original town records the first burial at the Gravesend Cemetery was in 1655, which would make it the city's oldest documented cemetery.

"Perhaps there is fear it may take away from something else. This is Brooklyn's oldest landmark and it should be given the respect and dignity it deserves," said Ierardi.

"There's a lot of history here and for too many years it's been ignored," he added.

Lost among the controversy is the Solmo Family, who has owned the home for three generations. They are asking \$650,000 for the house.

"I believe it's the oldest house in Brooklyn and should be landmarked," said Diane Solmo.

"It is haunted by good spirits. My mother has been living



Gravesend is the oldest English settlement in the city.

Photos By Paul Martinka

here since she's 14 years old and I grew up in the house. We always had a warm glow and feeling Lady Moody was looking over the house," she added.

Solmo said many old wood beams are exposed in the house as well as the original foundation in the cellar.

"My grandfather always passed here and knew that he was going to one day buy the house," said Solmo. "He was Italian and we had chickens and he planted vegetables and it was like growing up on an Italian farm in Italy. Very peaceful, very quiet and very farmlike."

Solmo said she understands there used to be underground tunnels that led to the cemetery, but they were probably destroyed when city workers put sewers in. And like most longtime Gravesend residents, she wants the house sold to keep with the charm of the community.

"We want to sell it to a nice family with kids who can appreciate how peaceful and quiet it is," she said.

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT January-March, 2003

EVENT	SPEAKER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
Brooklyn Stories and Digging in Downtown	Exhibit	Current		Brooklyn Historical Society-Lobby-Archives Restaurant, NY Marriott, Brooklyn, 333 Adams Street		Free?
The Wallpaper Excavation	Virtual Exhibition	ongoing		Lower East Side Tenement Museum	www.tenement.org	Free
Vietnam: Journeys of Body, Mind and Spirit	Exhibit	3/15/03-1/04/04		AMNH-West 79 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	212.313.7278	Suggested Admission
Central Park: A Sesquicentennial Celebration	Exhibit	5/15/03-9/28/03		MET-1000 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY	212.535.7710	Suggested Admission
A Notable Acquisition of Japanese Textiles of the Edo Period (1615-1868)	Exhibit	6/25/03-9/21/03		MET-1000 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY	212.535.7710	Suggested Admission
Rites of Ancestral Return: commemorating the Colonial African Heritage-African Burial Ground Reinterment, Film Festival and other events	Exhibit, Lectures, Film, Commemoration	Sept-Oct	Various times and places	NYPL-Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture 515 Malcolm X Blvd. At 135 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	212.491.2200	Varies
The Responsive Eye: Ralph T. Coe and the Collecting of American Indian Art	Exhibit	9/9/03-12/14/03		MET-1000 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY	212.535.7710	Suggested Admission
<i>The Royal Tombs of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dynasty at Abydos</i>	Dr. Gunter Dreyer	Thursday 9/25/03	5:30 pm	MET-Grace Rainey Auditorium 1000 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY	212.535.7710	Free with Admission
<i>Prehistoric Art: the Symbolic Journey</i>	Dr. Randall White	Thursday 9/25/03	7:00 pm	AMNH-Kaufman Theater, first Floor	212.769.5200	\$15 (\$12 for members)
<i>Hellenistic Sculptures from Rhodes in their Topographical Context</i>	Vassilki Machaira	Wednesday 10/1/03	4:00 pm	MET-Grace Rainey Auditorium	212.535.7710	Free with Admission
Talk by Dr. Mary Voight for Ancient Near East Seminar	Dr. Mary Voight	Thursday 10/2/03	5:30 pm	Columbia University Faculty House West 116 <sup>th</sup> Street NY, NY	Dr. Alan Gilbert gilbert@fordam.edu	Free
<i>Live from Iraq: Investigating the Looting of the Baghdad Museum</i>	Col. Matthew Bogdanos	Wednesday 10/15/03	6:00 pm	IFA-1 East 78 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	212.787.4526	Free
Petra: Lost City of Stone	Exhibit	10/18/03-?		AMNH-West 79 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	212.313.7278	Suggested Admission
<i>The Petra Siq</i>	Aysar Akrawi, Ma'an Huneidi, Douglas C. Comer	Sunday 10/19/03	2:00 pm	AMNH-Kaufman Theater, first Floor	212.769.5200	Free with admission

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT January-March, 2003

EVENT	SPEAKER	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT	FEE
<i>Painting in the Details: The San Bartolo Murals and the Maya</i>	William Saturno	Monday 10/20/03	6:30 pm	Columbia University 612 Schermerhorn Ext, West 116 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	Elizabeth Bartman- 212.787.4526 <a href="mailto:ebartman@aol.com">ebartman@aol.com</a> <a href="http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/roccos/nyaia">www.library.csi.cuny.edu/roccos/nyaia</a>	Free
<i>The Extraordinary Sea Voyages of Captain James Cook</i>	Nicholas Thomas	Tuesday 10/28/03	7:00 pm	AMNH-Kaufman Theater, first Floor	212.769.5200	\$15 (\$12 for members)
<i>Over the Edge of The World</i>	Laurence Bergreen	Thursday 11/6/03	7:00 pm	AMNH-Kaufman Theater, first Floor	212.769.5200	\$15 (\$12 for members)
Ordinary and Extraordinary Objects in American Culture	Exhibit	11/8/03-?		NY Historical Society, 2 West 77 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	<a href="mailto:sarah.chinn@hunter.cuny.edu">sarah.chinn@hunter.cuny.edu</a>	?
<i>Human Sacrifice in the Royal Cemetery at UR Household and Trade</i>	Holly Pittman	Monday 11/20/03	6:30 pm	IFA-1 East 78 <sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY	Elizabeth Bartman- 212.787.4526 <a href="mailto:ebartman@aol.com">ebartman@aol.com</a> <a href="http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/roccos/nyaia">www.library.csi.cuny.edu/roccos/nyaia</a>	Free
Talk by Dr. Tony Segona for Ancient Near East Seminar	Dr. Tony Segona	Monday 11/24/03	5:30 pm	Columbia University Faculty House West 116 <sup>th</sup> Street NY, NY	Dr. Alan Gilbert <a href="mailto:gilbert@fordam.edu">gilbert@fordam.edu</a>	Free
American Association for State and Local History Conference	Conference	9/17/03- 9/20/03		Providence, RI	<a href="http://www.aaslg.org">www.aaslg.org</a>	
The Black Sea Flood: Archeological and Geological Evidence	Conference	10/18/03- 10/19/03		Columbia Hosted-Hosted by the Seminar on the ancient Near East	Dr. Alan Gilbert- <a href="mailto:gilbert@fordam.edu">gilbert@fordam.edu</a>	
CNEHA 2003 Conference	Conference	10/23/03- 10/26/03		Lowell, MA	Ann-Eliza Lewis 7 Leland Avenue North Grafton, MA01536	Various fees
CHAT-Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory	Conference	11/21/03- 11/23/03		Bristol, England	<a href="http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Archaeology/events/chat.html">www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/Archaeology/events/chat.html</a>	
AAA 2003 Conference	Conference	11/19/03- 11/23/03		Chicago, IL	<a href="http://www.aanet.org">www.aanet.org</a>	Various fees

If any members have events that they would like listed, please contact Kelly Britt at 717.393.6425 or 646.244.5007, email at [kb239@columbia.edu](mailto:kb239@columbia.edu)  
Or by mail 450 South Shippen Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

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