

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

No. 137

January 2009

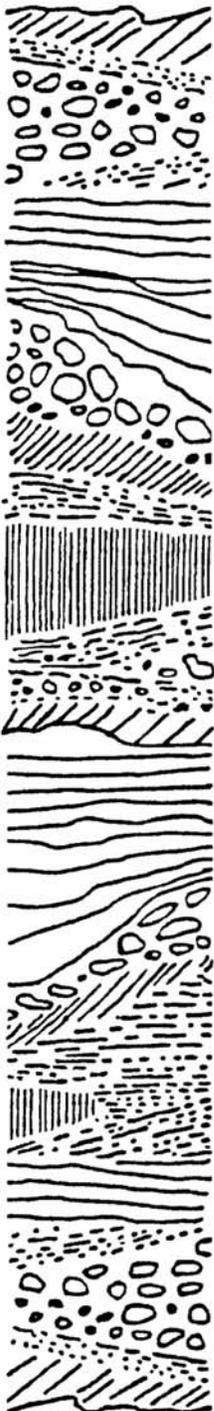
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Next Meeting:

January 21, 2009
Neighborhood Preservation Center
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY
6:30pm

Newsletter Editor:

Christopher Ricciardi
4110 Quentin Road
Brooklyn, New York 11234-4322
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PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2008, 6:30 P.M.

Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC)

232 E.11th Street

*Notice of upcoming meeting, November 19, 2008, 6:30 pm
Neighborhood Preservation Center, 232 E. 11th Street, NYC*

Present: Stone, Dallal, Pickman, Rakos, Shuldenrein, MacLean, Linn, Spritzer, Bergoffen, Cantwell, Wall, and Freeman

Treasurer's Report: Spritzer reported 45 paid members and a total of \$3630.00 in the bank.

President's Report:

Icon Films sent a request of input on a series about avocational archaeology. Stone responded that work in NYC is conducted by professionals and that PANYC would prefer that be the focus. They are still potentially interested and will get back to us.

- 1) Stone was contacted by a good Samaritan who reported unauthorized digging at Fulton and Broadway. Issue referred to AKRF as site impacted is their project.
- 2) Stone asked if members thought it was a good idea she contact committee chairs before each meeting to gather information and/or discuss committee issue in preparation for the business meeting. The membership agreed.
- 3) Riverside Houses in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District is still an issue. Geismar has been contracted to research this property. Her findings were misrepresented by the developer who said no artifacts were found, when no artifacts have been looked for as of yet. Stone wrote additional testimony. The Brooklyn Heights Association is monitoring the proceedings closely.
- 4) Stone reported LPC is still working on issues related to archaeology in historic districts.
- 5) A PANYC letter to Gov. Paterson is still in the works. Stone asked Cantwell to check to see if she still had the file from the PANYC award that Patterson received so that text could be excerpted.
- 6) Stone reported no reply from City Planning to our letter. Geismar suggested sending another, but shorter, letter asking for a meeting up front, rather than at the end.

Committee Reports

Awards: None

Events: None

Landmarks: None

Membership: None

Met Chapter: Executive board voted against giving the PANYC email distribution list to the Met Chapter directly, but agreed that if they provide the PANYC secretary with information to be shared, it will be distributed to PANYC members internally. Wall and Cantwell announced that a brochure for the Met Chapter has been made and they will provide MacLean with a membership letter to be emailed to PANYC members. They are still looking for a venue to host talks in lower Manhattan.

Municipal Arts Society: Geismar reported MAS is on top of the situation at the Gowanus Canal.

Newsletter: None

Nominating/Elections: None

NYAC: Stone reported on several issues raised at the NYAC meeting in September:

- 1) John Bonafide, Historic Preservation Services Coordinator at the NY State SHPO, has organized a NYAC working group intended to review and improve the archaeological review process at the SHPO. Stone is one of ten on the advisory panel. One of the issues they'll be examining is the Phase I and report guidelines. If anyone has comments on how the guidelines could work better, please contact Stone and she'll share suggestions with the panel.
- 2) NYAC is revitalizing their Urban Standards Sub-committee. They will be reviewing the Phase IA guidelines for urban spaces. Louise Basa will be taking the lead on coordinating this section.
- 3) NYAC will be sponsoring two Section 106 training sessions in Lockport and Albany. The Albany session is being coordinated by Lynne Sebastian and will be held on November 4th.
- 4) The NYAC board is looking into getting Directors Liability Insurance. It is not clear what this means and why it's needed, but Stone will look into this more and see if it's something PANYC should consider.

Outreach: None

Parks: Amy Freitag has resigned her post as Deputy Commissioner and has been replaced by Therese Braddick formerly of the Historic House Trust. A letter will be sent welcoming her to the post.

Public program: None

Research and Planning: None

Repository: Stone reported the State Museum in Albany is not currently accepting any more collections, unless they are from State land or NYSAA. The NYSM has a proposal to build an annex to make room for additional collections in the future. The revision to their curation guidelines is complete and anyone interested in learning more should contact Andrea Lain.

Stone reported that Amanda Sutphin is trying to get an archaeological repository established at Fort Totten and is trying to raise 6 million dollars needed to do so. She has asked PANYC if we can suggest any possible funding sources. Members are encouraged to contact the Board if they know of any.

MacLean suggested PANYC write to the State Museum to get a list of the collections they have from the New York Metro area to publish in the newsletter.

Website: Pickman does not think the web site is still up.

Old Business: None

New Business: Luck Duck Productions contacted Stone and would like to do a documentary on stolen artifacts. Stone discussed responding to their inquiry.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted by J. MacLean, PANYC Secretary



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1382

Chief, Environmental Programs Division

Ms. Linda Stone
Professional Archaeologists of New York City
249 E. 48 St. #12B
New York, NY 10017

DEC 2008

Dear Ms. Linda Stone,

On behalf National Guard Bureau (NGB), this letter provides an update regarding the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process associated with the Department of the Army Admirals Row disposal. Since our last meeting on August 20, 2008, the NGB evaluated various alternatives presented by consulting parties and completed the Alternatives Analysis report, which can be found on the project website.

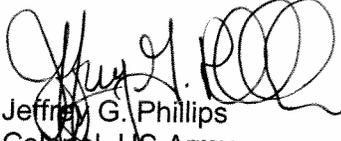
The NGB used information gathered from all meetings, studies and presentations to help define what is "viable" and "feasible." The NGB thanks all consulting parties for their efforts in providing options and studies regarding alternatives to full demolition on the site and asks that no further information regarding alternatives be provided at this time. The NGB, in evaluating all information submitted to date, determined sufficient information has been provided in order to make an informed mitigation decision.

Enclosed are the draft meeting minutes from the August 20, 2008 meeting. My environmental staff as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District have reviewed these draft minutes. If you have additional comments or revisions to these meeting minutes, please submit them to Ms. Leahy no later than December 29, 2008.

The next consulting parties meeting will be in January 2009; a change due to various factors from the previously scheduled November 2008 meeting. All consulting parties will be notified of the date, location and time once the NGB finalizes the agenda and meeting details. The NGB intends to discuss proposed mitigation recommendations associated with the property disposal as a result of your contributions, the planned timeline for disposal, and all other necessary updates.

My point of contact for this project is Ms. Kristin Leahy, National Guard Bureau Cultural Resources Program Manager at (703) 607-7190 or kristin.leahy@us.army.mil.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey G. Phillips
Colonel, US Army
Chief, Environmental
Programs Division

Encl
as



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10065

Capital Projects

Olmsted Center
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
Flushing, New York 11368

Thérèse Braddick
Deputy Commissioner

(718) 760-6602 / therese.braddick@parks.nyc.gov

Ms. Linda Stone
President- PANyc
249 East 48th Street
New York, NY 10017

November 17, 2008

Dear Ms. Stone:

Thank you for your recent letter. I am excited for the challenges of the new position, and am looking forward to working at Capital during this exciting period of construction and reconstruction.

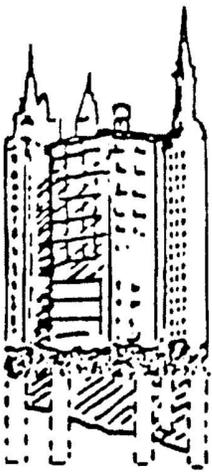
We value your advice, and have already taken PANyc's previous comments into consideration. As you know, our specifications for archaeology work are customized for each project, depending on site conditions and scope of work. Parks will continue to work with the Landmarks Preservation Commission to ensure that we work within the recognized guidelines.

We appreciate your continued interest, and want you to rest assured that future archaeology specifications will be prepared appropriately for each project's scope and conditions. The next time an issue comes up where your advice may be helpful, I will not hesitate to contact you.

Sincerely,

Thérèse Braddick





PANYC

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

December 17, 2008

The Honorable Robert B. Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, New York 10007

Re: Riverside Buildings at 20-34 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn Heights Historic District

Dear Mr. Tierney,

I am writing on behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) regarding Landmark's recent approval of a parking garage in the courtyard of the Riverside Buildings. We are pleased the Commission is considering the archaeological component of this potentially important and sensitive site.

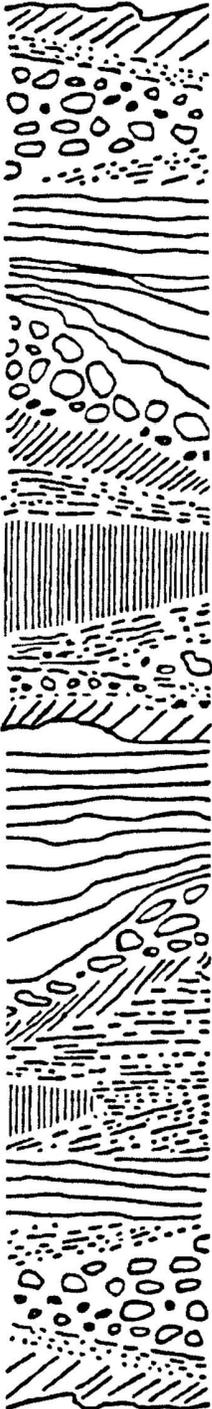
We are writing to support the Commission's intention to require that archaeological process is carried out. As noted in previous correspondence, we are concerned, however, that the applicant's spokesperson has not accurately represented the archaeological work. Furthermore, I personally attended the November 18 LPC hearing and heard the applicant's spokesperson again potentially misrepresent archaeology by indicating "monitoring" may be appropriate. Amanda Sutphin at your office assures us that "monitoring" has not been discussed for this project and that the phased approach to archaeology will be stipulated in the LPC permit. We are relieved to know you feel this is as important as we do.

We continue to applaud the Commission's diligent efforts in regard to New York City archaeology and appreciate the consideration of archaeological concerns at the Riverside Houses.

Sincerely,

Linda Stone
PANYC President
249 East 48th Street, #12B
New York, New York 10017

cc: M. Bloomberg, Mayor
P. Harris, Deputy Mayor
A. Sutphin, LPC
D. Mackey, SHPO
K. Barwick, MAS
L. Kersavage, MAS
J. Stanton, BHA
M. Habstritt, RCSIA



JEWELL MILLING COMPANY

Archaeologists have identified the remains of the Jewell Milling Company near Pier 1. The following is information collected in the research report on this former flour mill.

Theodore E. Jewell and F.E. Smith built a flour mill at the foot of Fulton Street in 1855 and operated it in partnership as the Brooklyn City Flour Mill until Jewell's death in 1964, when his sons, Herbert and Edward took over as the Jewell Brothers. At this time, they organized the Jewell Milling Company.



Jewell Milling Company Building

Over a number of years, the flour mill sustained fires and explosions, causing the building or portions of the building to be reconstructed. The mill burned down twice—once in 1861 and again in 1864—and was rebuilt each time. According to reports from the *Brooklyn Eagle* on July 26, 1872, at that time the mill measured 75 feet by 75 feet, and was six stories high.

In 1881, a boiler explosion destroyed the mill's engine house; it was then replaced by a new building and new machinery. According to Stiles, a 19th century historian, the Jewell Mill had "four large boilers that furnished steam to a 550-horse power engine." Stiles further reported that "1,000 barrels of flour and 75,000 pounds of feed were ground at the mill every 24 hours."

In addition to the flour mill, this property included the Jewell dock and part of the Pennsylvania Annex slip. The Jewell dock also held an elevator that handled 2.5 million bushels of grain per year.



For additional information on the archaeological survey or the construction of Brooklyn Bridge Park, please contact:

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation
633 Third Ave
New York, NY 10017

212 803.3822

www.brooklynbridgeparknyc.org

ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT TEAM

AKRF: Archaeological Management and Oversight

URS Corporation: Archeological Testing and Analysis

Historical Perspectives, Inc. and Raber Associates:
Background Research and Documentary Study

Brochure prepared by:



440 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
800.899.AKRF

Graphics Sources:

Background images: Brooklyn Heights & Downtown, Volume 1 • 1860 to 1922, by Brian Merlis and Lee A. Rosenzweig

The Ferry House, 1746: New York Public Library

Jewell Milling Company Building: New York Public Library

BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

PIER 1 FLOUR MILL HISTORICAL REMAINS

ARCHAEOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

DECEMBER 7, 2008

INTRODUCTION

During the planning and environmental review process of Brooklyn Bridge Park, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) commissioned a team of archaeologists to research the rich industrial history of Brooklyn's waterfront. BBPDC archaeologists determined that the remains of past historical activities may have survived to the present day. They prepared a research report presenting a detailed description of the history of the park site and the location of archaeological sensitive areas.



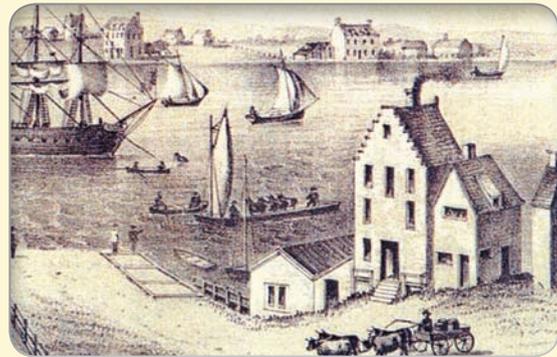
Archaeologists exposing De Forrest Warehouse remains

During the demolition and site preparation phase of park construction, the team dug test pits in these areas to determine the presence of historical remains. Unlike the stereotypical archaeologist with a small pick and paintbrush, the team, working in Brooklyn's urban landscape, required the use of backhoes to remove asphalt, concrete, utility lines, and modern debris from the site and expose the historic remains. When historic remains were exposed, the archaeologists used smaller handheld equipment to clean off the remains so that they could be drawn, photographed, and interpreted.

This brochure provides a brief overview of the park site's history, outlines how and where the archaeologists decided to dig, and describes the resulting finds. This brochure also provides information on the Jewell Milling Company, which was discovered on Pier 1.

SITE HISTORY

Long before industrial development began along Brooklyn's waterfront, the entire project site was occupied by the East River, except for a sandy beach extending along what became Furman Street. The first known property owner in the vicinity was Cornelis Dircksen, who owned land around Fulton Street and established ferry service to Manhattan in 1642, when the Dutch still occupied New Netherland. A village and various small industries emerged around the landing, then known as "het Verr," Dutch for "the Ferry."



The Ferry House, 1746

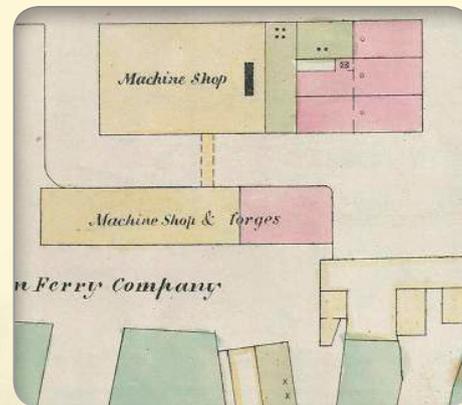
Historic maps indicate that by the late 18th century, landfilling and development had begun at the foot of Fulton Street, then called Ferry Road. By the time of the American Revolution this stretch of Brooklyn's waterfront was a bustling marketplace with slaughterhouses, a brewery and distillery, inns and taverns, and other businesses. Ferries still played a prominent role, possibly even serving to aid George Washington and his Continental Army's escape to Manhattan from Brooklyn after the Battle of Long Island on August 29, 1776.

During the early 1800s, Brooklyn's waterfront was gradually expanded into the East River to provide space for the increasingly important industrial and transportation-related activities. The Brooklyn City Railroad Company was formed in 1853, bringing 12 rail lines into the Fulton Ferry landing area. The area became an important warehouse location with the construction of the "Empire Stores," which were large, multi-story buildings used to store trade goods, including coffee beans, sugar, and molasses.

By the second half of the 19th century, Brooklyn became known as "the walled city" because of the lengthy facades of the warehouse buildings along Furman and other local streets. Imported goods such as chemicals, cotton dyes, glass, and leather were also processed here. However, with the completion of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883 came decreasing ferry traffic, which, coupled with changes in the grain and cargo handling trades, marked the end of the Brooklyn waterfront's expansion. By the late 19th century the coastline here had reached its modern-day extent.

By the early 20th century, the New York Dock Company, one of many marine warehouse firms during the mid-1800s, owned all of the masonry storehouse terminals north of Erie Basin. The company rebuilt much of the waterfront by 1920, including the bulkheads, new railroad carfloat transfer bridges, and three small rail systems for the local movement of goods.

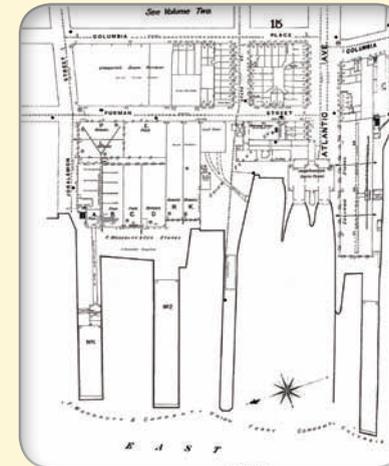
Regional transportation and economic changes once again impacted the Brooklyn waterfront during the 20th century. The first of these was the 1909 opening of the Manhattan Bridge, which further shifted traffic away from the waterfront. In 1924, the Fulton Ferry ended operations. Finally, container shipping revolutionized regional importing and exporting, which the Port Authority soon moved to its larger New Jersey ports. The heyday of Brooklyn's industrial waterfront had passed and many of the structures were demolished, leaving most of the area vacant.



Historic map of Brooklyn (Perris 1855)

HOW DO THEY KNOW WHERE TO DIG?

Urban archaeologists use various resources to identify areas of archaeological potential. The project team reviewed dozens of historic maps and fire insurance atlases, historic photographs, local and company histories, directories and census information, tax assessment records, and land conveyance records. They also assessed the impact of development such as sewer lines and the ten-story Trade Facilities Building on potential remains. All collected information was synthesized, and a series of sensitivity maps were created for the project site.



Historic insurance map (Sanborn 1886)

WHAT RESOURCES MIGHT BE PRESENT?

The following resources may be present at the site:

- Landfilling Devices – Late 18th to 19th century wooden bulkheads, piers, and cribbing.
- South Ferry Complex – Built in ca. 1836, this complex included several buildings and machine shops.
- Revolutionary War-period Ship – A British man-of-war was reportedly beached at the foot of Joralemon and used as landfill.
- Warehouse Remains – Building foundations.
- Flour Mill – The remains of a ca. 1855 mill.
- Arbuckle Bros. Sugar Refinery Buildings – Building foundations.

HOW DO THEY EXCAVATE THESE RESOURCES?

Several steps were followed during excavations at Brooklyn Bridge Park:

First, the archaeological team mapped out an area likely to contain the targeted resource. They then cut the asphalt and concrete that covered the area and removed the paving and modern fills using a backhoe. When resources were observed, archaeologists used hand tools to expose and clean the remains. Archaeological features were carefully mapped and photographed. Throughout this process, artifacts and samples were collected in labeled bags for later cleaning, identification, and analysis. Consultation was conducted with City and State historic preservation agencies to determine the appropriate level of documentation necessary to mitigate impacts. Finally, after the analysis was completed, a report was prepared.



Paving stones at the South Ferry Complex

WHAT HAS BEEN FOUND SO FAR?

So far, the archaeological team has discovered the following:

- Foundation remains of several 19th century warehouses that once lined Furman Street, including the De Forrest Warehouse. These remains consisted of stone or brick walls, brick support piers, and floors.
- Foundation remains of the South Ferry Complex, including a machine shop and stone-paved roadway.
- Foundation remains of the Jewell Milling Company and a brick culvert that extended from the back of the mill toward the East River.

Over the coming months, as construction of the park continues, archaeologists will monitor earth-moving activities in specific areas for deeply buried resources, such as landfilling devices and the Revolutionary War-period ship.

The Brooklyn Newspaper

The (not-so-big) dig

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

December 18, 2008

The promise of construction of the Brooklyn Bridge Park development along the DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights waterfront may be a symbol of a glorious future for the borough — but it has also revealed a scintillating symbol of Brooklyn’s glorious past.

Workers who have begun prepping Pier 1 to become a large sweeping front lawn for the hotel, condo and open-space development have unearthed a 19th-century flour mill that operated when a thriving, independent Brooklyn was the region’s bread basket.

Indeed, uncovering the former Jewell Brothers’ mill, which stood from 1830s until 1910 at the foot of what was then called Fulton Street, but is now Old Fulton Street, is a metaphor for Brooklyn’s decline.

“The Brooklyn Bridge was built and the city of Brooklyn became much more of a commuter town,” said Alyssa Loorya, an outside archeologist hired by the state to investigate and catalogue the brick-and-wood mill.

Construction projects in the city frequently reveal fragments of forgotten New York, but compared to the mother lodes at the African Burial Ground or South Ferry station digs in lower Manhattan, the pit on Pier 1 yielded modest artifacts.

The dig measured roughly 30 by 10 feet and. In addition to the mill’s charred foundation, which bore the mark of a ruinous fire, the area yielded minor artifacts like bottles of beer and patent medicine as well as pieces of pottery.

The crater, which was sealed off to the public after a guided tour earlier this month, will soon be covered over as park construction truly gets underway. Though covered, the mill ruins will be preserved, Loorya said, in case future archeologists want to dig it up again someday.

Though focused on getting construction of her open space underway, Regina Myer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the state agency charged with building the 85-acre development, said she enjoyed a look back into history.

“It shows the foundations of our city’s past,” marveled. “Furman Street was lined with warehouses that stored the goods that came into the port.”

©2008 The Brooklyn Paper



The Brooklyn Paper / Mike McLaughlin

Alyssa Loorya, an outside archeologist working inside the footprint of the Brooklyn Bridge Park development, shows off a 19th-century flour mill that workers have uncovered near the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge.



The Brooklyn Paper / Mike McLaughlin

Also found on the site is a bottle that is believed to once contain patent medicine.

The New York Times – City Section – Blog Edition

For a Buried Mill, a Brief Stint in the Sun

By [JAKE MOONEY](#)

Published: December 31, 2008

THE ground just inside a fence near the Fulton Ferry Landing on the Brooklyn waterfront was bare last week, only pavement and packed dirt, but that state of affairs, like the rest of the site's history, was only temporary. Within a year, planners say, a grassy field will slope up to a hill overlooking New York Harbor to form the centerpiece of the long-planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.

“Basically, it's going to be our Long Meadow,” Regina Myer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, said in a reference to the borough's beloved Prospect Park. That, provided the economic crisis does not render her statement overly optimistic, will be just one step in a history of change for the property.

Two weeks earlier, the spot had been a series of holes dug by archaeologists investigating the waterfront's history. A hundred years before that, the site was occupied by a flour mill. And a hundred years before that, before the shoreline was extended outward by landfill, it was a featureless point at the bottom of the East River, yards from one of Brooklyn's early town centers.

The archaeologists, as it happened, were interested mainly in the mill — the Jewell Milling Company, as it was known — which opened on the waterfront around 1853, in a building that was already two decades old. The structure survived until the 1920s, but by 2008, its foundations were all that remained, buried a foot and a half under the warehouse on the borough's Pier 1.

While most of the city's old waterfront industrial and commercial districts have faded, the past has a way of emerging in unexpected ways. In the spring, workers tore down the warehouse to build the park, and this fall, as wedding parties arrived at all hours to be photographed at the ferry landing and tourist crowds stood in lines outside Grimaldi's Pizzeria, they uncovered what was left of the mill.

As was reported in *The Brooklyn Paper*, a local weekly, the archaeologists cataloged the mill's remains as part of a state-mandated historical investigation. Then, to protect the uncovered foundations from the weather, they buried them again.

Still, to anyone standing on the site in a stiff wind, with Lower Manhattan seeming close enough to touch, it was easy to picture the thriving industrial Brooklyn waterfront of the 19th century. In fact, said Alyssa Loorya, one of the archaeologists from the URS Corporation, which did the work, remains of all of the buildings that once stood there are still on the site, albeit a foot and a half below ground.

Though Ms. Loorya, a native of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, has worked on archaeological digs all over the city, spending time along the waterfront, with a view that embraces Staten Island, Governors Island, Ellis Island, New Jersey and Manhattan, gave her a new appreciation for the topography that long ago made the twin port cities of New York and Brooklyn so special.

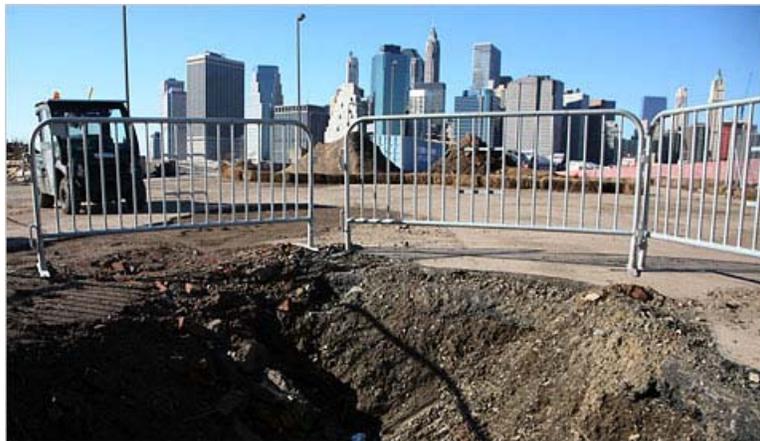
“I know what the map looks like; I’ve been up and down Manhattan and throughout Brooklyn and even over to New Jersey,” she said. “But you really see where it all comes together in the harbor here. You can see why this area was so important. It really was the gateway to the New World, in some way.”

The dig, which focused on parts of Pier 1 and Pier 6, also explored the buried remains of a ferry terminal at the foot of Atlantic Avenue near Furman Street. There are reports, Ms. Loorya said, that a Revolutionary War-era British battleship was sunk, intact, and used as landfill near the foot of Joralemon Street.

For now, the artifacts from the site are of a smaller sort: bricks, bits of tile and ornamental plaster, and bottles in varied sizes and hues, among them a little blue vial that once held medicine, another bearing the name of a Dr. J. T. Poock of Hoboken, N.J., and two small brown liquor bottles. The stash also included beer bottles: one from Anheuser-Busch — though bottled in Brooklyn — and another from the borough’s own India Wharf Brewing Company.

Why beer and liquor bottles amid the foundations of a flour mill? “Why not?” Ms. Loorya said with a small smile.

(NOTE: All photographs: Patrick Andrade for The New York Times)



A depression on Pier 1 in Brooklyn, where part of the Jewell Milling Company was situated. The site will be part of Brooklyn Bridge Park.



January 2, 2009, 11:48 am

Soon to Be Brooklyn Parkland

By [Jake Mooney](#)

Standing at the corner of Brooklyn's Pier 1, where red double-decker tourist buses make a left turn from Old Fulton Street down Furman Street and ease their way along the Brooklyn waterfront, it is hard to believe that a large section of the sprawling Brooklyn Bridge Park, planned for the mostly deserted site from Pier 1 to Pier 6, will be completed there within a year.

But that is the plan. Regina Myer, president of the [Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation](#), which controls the project, said this week that six acres of the 9.5-acre pier are scheduled to be finished by the end of 2009, with the remaining land on the pier done a short time after that. The schedule also calls for the completion of seven acres at the other end of the park, on Pier 6, in the same period, Ms. Myer said.

Pier 1, in an area that already draws flocks of tourists to the [Fulton Ferry Landing](#), [Grimaldi's Pizzeria](#) and the [Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory](#), is to feature a riverfront promenade and a 25-foot hill looking out onto New York Harbor. At the moment, it looks mostly like a parking lot, partly covered in pavement that construction workers on the site said will soon have to be torn up.

The site, along with a section of Pier 6, at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, was more interesting to look at several weeks ago, when archaeologists working for the development corporation were busy excavating and studying old building foundations to document the area's history. In particular, they were focused on the remains of the Jewell Milling Company, by the corner of Old Fulton and Furman, and the old South Ferry terminal, with service to Manhattan.

That work, which was first reported in the [Brooklyn Paper](#), is the subject of the [Dispatches](#) feature in this weekend's City section. Working in cold December winds, the archaeologists unearthed old bottles, pottery shards and bricks that were buried one-and-a-half to eight feet down. Then they filled the holes back in, in the days before Christmas, to protect their contents from the weather.

"All of the professionals were very eager to close everything up," Ms. Myer said, "and they were absolutely correct, because there would have been a lot of flooding and problems."

There was plenty for the archaeologists to see on the site; Alyssa Loorya, one of the archaeologists, said that if you could peel back a foot and a half of dirt from the top of the whole property, you would find the foundations of all of the buildings that stood there in the 19th century more or less intact.

The buried foundations are not going anywhere; they can be unearthed again for further research if necessary. Not that such re-exploration would be Ms. Myer's preference. "Because we're making such a large investment in the park above it, I'm not going to say that's going to be a point of advocacy for me," she said. "But yes, it could be done."

Throughout the work, Ms. Loorya said, curious tourists and neighbors would peek through the fence and ask what was going on. She said other parts of the park site could prove rich in history, too. Most tantalizing, there are reports that a Revolutionary War-era British battleship was sunk, intact, near the foot of Joralemon Street and used for landfill.

That spot, next to the [One Brooklyn Bridge Park](#) condominium building (formerly known as 360 Furman Street, a Jehovah's Witnesses shipping center), is part of a different phase of the park construction, and it is unclear when work there will begin.

Ms. Myer said the park development corporation expected to have two-thirds of the 85-acre park completed within five years, including Pier 5 and the "upland" areas next to all six piers on the site. Pier 4 is to remain relatively untouched, and there is no money in the budget for Piers 2 and 3 and part of Pier 6, she said.

Bloomberg.com [reported](#) in November that two-thirds of the 449-unit luxury building at One Brooklyn Bridge Park remained unsold, a disappointing turn of events for the building's owners, the developer Robert Levine and a fund run by the American International Group Inc.'s real estate unit.

Ms. Myer said the park development corporation remained committed to a self-financing model for the park — with money from real estate development around the edges of the site paying for future park maintenance and operations — but she said One Brooklyn Bridge Park's troubles should not directly affect the construction, which is paid for out of a different revenue stream.

Despite the slow condo market, she added, "Happily, One Brooklyn Bridge Park is paying its taxes and its rent to us."



The ground just inside a fence next to the Fulton Ferry Landing on the Brooklyn waterfront was bare last week, only pavement and packed dirt. Within a year, planners say, a grassy field will slope up to a hill overlooking New York Harbor, and will form the centerpiece of the long-planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.



Two weeks earlier, the spot had been a series of holes dug by archaeologists investigating the waterfront's history. A hundred years before that, the site had been occupied by a flour mill. And a hundred years before that, it was a featureless point at the sandy bottom of the East River, yards from one of Brooklyn's early town centers.



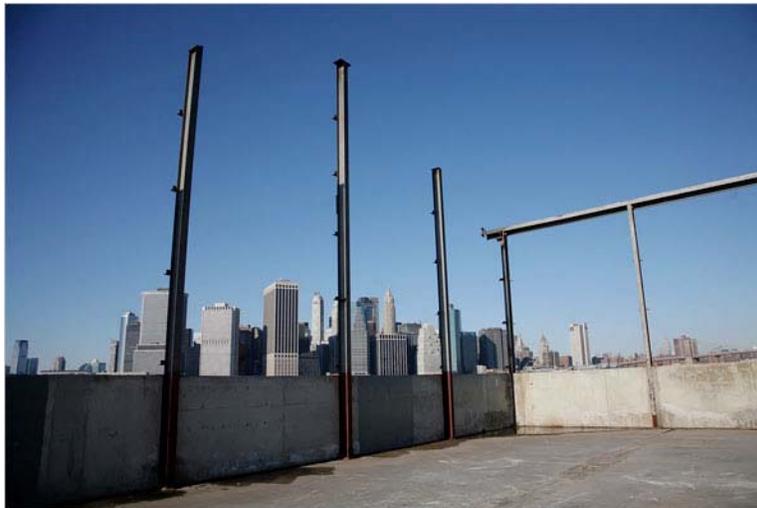
The archaeologists were interested mainly in the mill, the Jewell Milling Company, as it was known, which opened on the waterfront around 1853, in a building that was already about 20 years old. The structure remained until the 1920s, but by 2008, its foundations were all that remained, under the warehouse on the borough's Pier 1. Alyssa Loorya, one of the archaeologists from the U.R.S. Corporation, which did the work, said remains of all of the buildings that once stood there are still on the site, albeit a foot and a half down.



The archaeologists cataloged the mill's remains as part of a state-mandated historical investigation. Then, to protect them from the weather, they buried the remains again.



The artifacts from the site are of a smaller sort: bricks, bits of tile and ornamental plaster, and bottles in varied sizes and hues, among them a little blue vial that once held medicine, and two beer bottles.



The dig, which focused on parts of Pier 1 and Pier 6, also explored the buried remains of a ferry terminal at the foot of Atlantic Avenue near Furman Street.



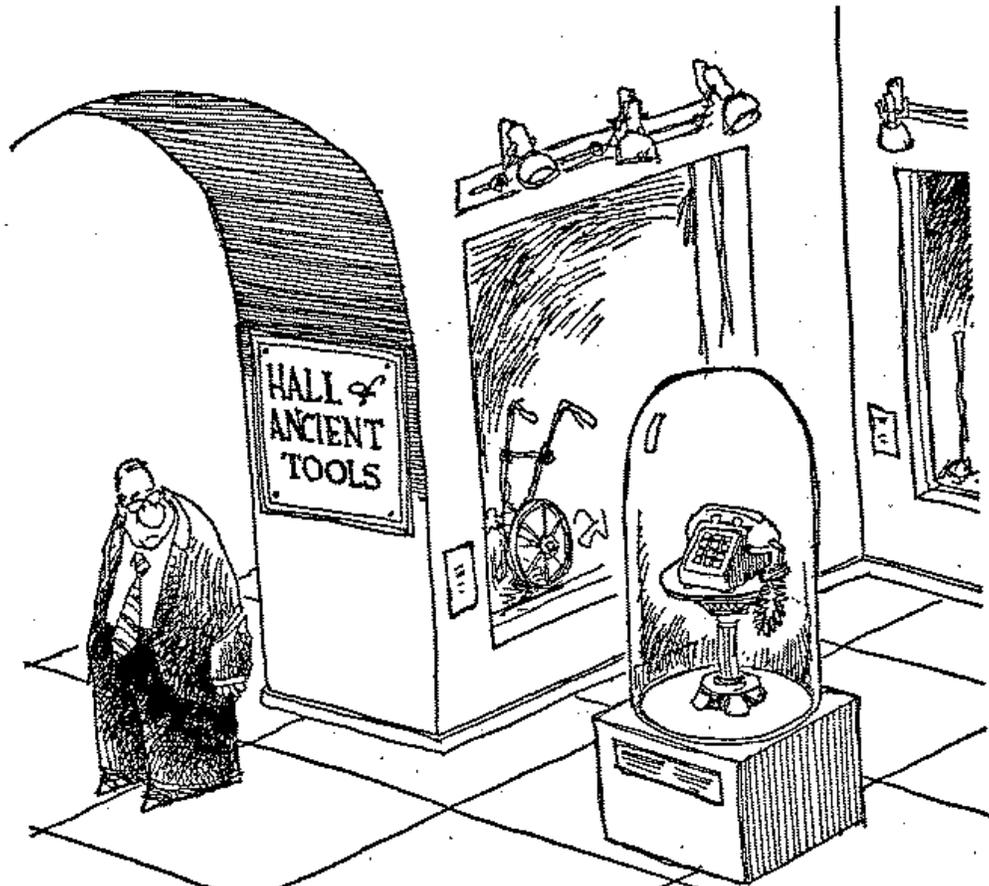
Ms. Loorya hopes that it may one day yield even greater treasures. There are reports, she said, that a Revolutionary War-era British battleship was sunk, intact, and used as landfill near the foot of Joralemon Street.



Standing on the site in a stiff wind, with Lower Manhattan across the river seeming close enough to touch, it is easy to picture the thriving industrial Brooklyn waterfront of the 19th century.



"I've been up and down Manhattan and throughout Brooklyn and even over to New Jersey," Ms. Loorya said. "But you really see where it all comes together in the harbor here. You can see why this area was so important. It really was the gateway to the New World in some way."



BOB'S OFFICIAL ENTRY INTO OLD AGE...

WILEY MILLER

EVENTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST - Compiled for January, 2009			
Event	Speaker	Time	Date
Met Chapter tour: Matthew Sanger will give a tour of the AMNH Archaeological collections including pieces from the NYC area and Chaco Canyon	Matthew Sanger	1pm	01/25/09
Talk: The Stonehenge Riverside Project	Mike Parker Pearson (University of Sheffield)	6pm	02/05/09
Exhibit: "Brooklyn Redrawn: The architectural face of Brooklyn is in constant flux. Older buildings crumble and are torn down as new developments proliferate, sometimes seemingly overnight. Brooklyn artists Sarah Bostwick, Rebecca Layton, and Karla Wozniak all draw upon Brooklyn's past and present urban structures to convey the visual complexity of competing commercial, architectural, and real estate interests in the borough in which they work and live."			1/07/09- 4/26/09
Brooklyn and the History of Chinese Immigration. Investigates how Brooklyn residents responded to Chinese immigration in the 19th century and the 20th century development of a Chinatown in Sunset Park			May – August 2009
Lecture: "New Fossil Discoveries"	Neil Shubin and Mark Norell	1pm	02/01/09
Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting			4/22/09- 4/26/09
Gotham Center History Forum -- "The Role of Public History in NYC's Cultural Life"	The Gotham Center for New York City History	6:30- 8:30 pm	04/06/09
Archaeology Magazine 60 th Anniversary – AIA Benefit Gala			04/28/09

Sheet1

Location	Contacts	Fee
American Museum of Natural History	Met Chapter	free to Met Chapt. members, \$10 or \$5 for seniors or students
Columbia University, 501 Schermerhorn		free
Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St.		free to members, \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students
Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St.		free to members, \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students
Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, American Museum of Natural History	amnh.org	free with museum admission
Atlanta, GA		
The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave., 9 th flor	212-817-8215	free
New York City	617-353-8709, see website for more information: http://www.archaeological.org/gala/	

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