

Appendix B Historic and Cultural Resources 168th Street Interim Bus Terminal



125 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004

April 3, 2023

Mr. Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner
Division for Historic Preservation
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: Consultation Initiation for Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bus Company
Environmental Due Diligence for Proposed New Jamaica Bus Terminal
Borough of Queens
Queens County, New York

Dear Mr. Mackay,

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bus Company (MTA Bus), as lead agency, is proposing to establish the New Jamaica Bus Terminal in the Borough of Queens in New York City. The Project Site is located at 90-01 168th Street on Block 9800, Lot 5, between 168th Street to the east, 169th Street to the west, 90th Avenue to the north, and 91st Avenue to the south in Jamaica, Queens. The Project Site currently functions as an 85,000 square-foot commercial parking lot which is owned by Jamaica First Parking, LLC. The purpose of the New Jamaica Bus Terminal Project (Project) is to relocate the existing 165th Street Bus Terminal, which is located approximately 800 feet west of the Jamaica First Parking Lot, to the new Project Site.

The purpose of this letter and attached information package is for AECOM to initiate consultation for this Project on behalf of our client, MTA Bus, and seek SHPO's input on next steps in the consultation process. The consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). MTA Bus also intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) in accordance with established policies under SEQRA.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this submission.

Sincerely,

Allison Rachleff
Sr. Architectural Historian
212-377-8723
allison.rachleff@aecom.com

Nancy A. Stehling, RPA
Sr. Archaeologist
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cc: Mary Kong, MTA C&D
Josephine Brown, MTA Bus
Andrea Rosenthal, AECOM

Attachment Enclosed

Introduction

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bus Company (MTA Bus) proposes the conversion of a private commercial parking lot located at 90-01 168th Street in Jamaica, Queens (the "Project Site") into a new bus terminal (the "Proposed Project") for use by sixteen (16) MTA Queens County (MTA Bus Company and New York City Transit (NYCT), and Nassau Inter-County Express (NICE) bus lines. NICE bus lines serve local routes in Nassau County while also operating services into Queens and Suffolk Counties (**Figure 1**). The Project Site will replace the existing 165th Street Bus Terminal at 89-21 165th Street (at Merrick Boulevard and 89th Avenue), which is approximately 800 feet west of the Project Site. The lease at the existing location is set to expire in September 2023 (MTA is currently negotiating for an extension for six (6) additional months). Prior to leasing and redeveloping the proposed Project Site, MTA Bus is preparing an Environmental Due Diligence Assessment (EDDA) for this Project under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

Project Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to convert the private commercial parking lot at 168th Street into a new bus terminal to serve sixteen (16) MTA Queens County and Nassau County NICE bus lines that currently operate from the existing Jamaica Bus Terminal at the intersection 165th Street and Merrick Boulevard. MTA must relocate the existing Jamaica Bus Terminal site as the owner seeks to redevelop the property into land uses that are incompatible with bus terminal operations.

Project Description

The Project Site, located at 90-01 168th Street, is bounded by 90th Avenue to the north, 168th Street to the west, 169th Street to the east, and 91st Avenue to the south. The Project Site is currently developed as an 85,000 square-foot (sq. ft.) private commercial parking lot and is owned by JAMAICA FIRST PARKING, LLC (see **Figures 2 and 3**). MTA Bus intends to lease the Project Site for approximately 5-15 years and plans to convert the existing private commercial parking lot into a new bus terminal facility that will serve ten MTA bus lines for Queens County and six NICE bus lines for Nassau County.

The Proposed Project will provide bus shelters for Queens County northbound MTA bus routes Q1, Q2, Q3, Q36, Q76, and Q77 and southbound MTA bus routes Q6, Q8, Q9, and Q41.. In addition, the Proposed Project will provide bus shelters for Nassau County NICE bus routes N1, N6, N6X, N22, N24, and N26. All MTA and NICE buses, service vehicles, and employee vehicles will have inbound and outbound access through 168th and 169th Streets. The new entrance/exit driveways will be located on 168th Street between 91st Avenue and 90th Avenue, and on 169th Street between 90th Avenue and 91st Avenue. Modification to the existing sidewalk curbs will be needed for buses to maneuver in and out of the Project Site. In addition, three dispatcher's booths with restrooms will be included on the Project Site. Two of these booths will be operated by MTA dispatching staff and the third by NICE dispatching staff.

MTA has an agreement with the New York Police Department (NYPD) 103rd Precinct to release a portion of the lot area along 91st Avenue for use as the Precinct's parking lot. The NYPD 103rd Precinct is located at the corner of 168th Street and 91st Avenue.

Figure 1 – Project Location

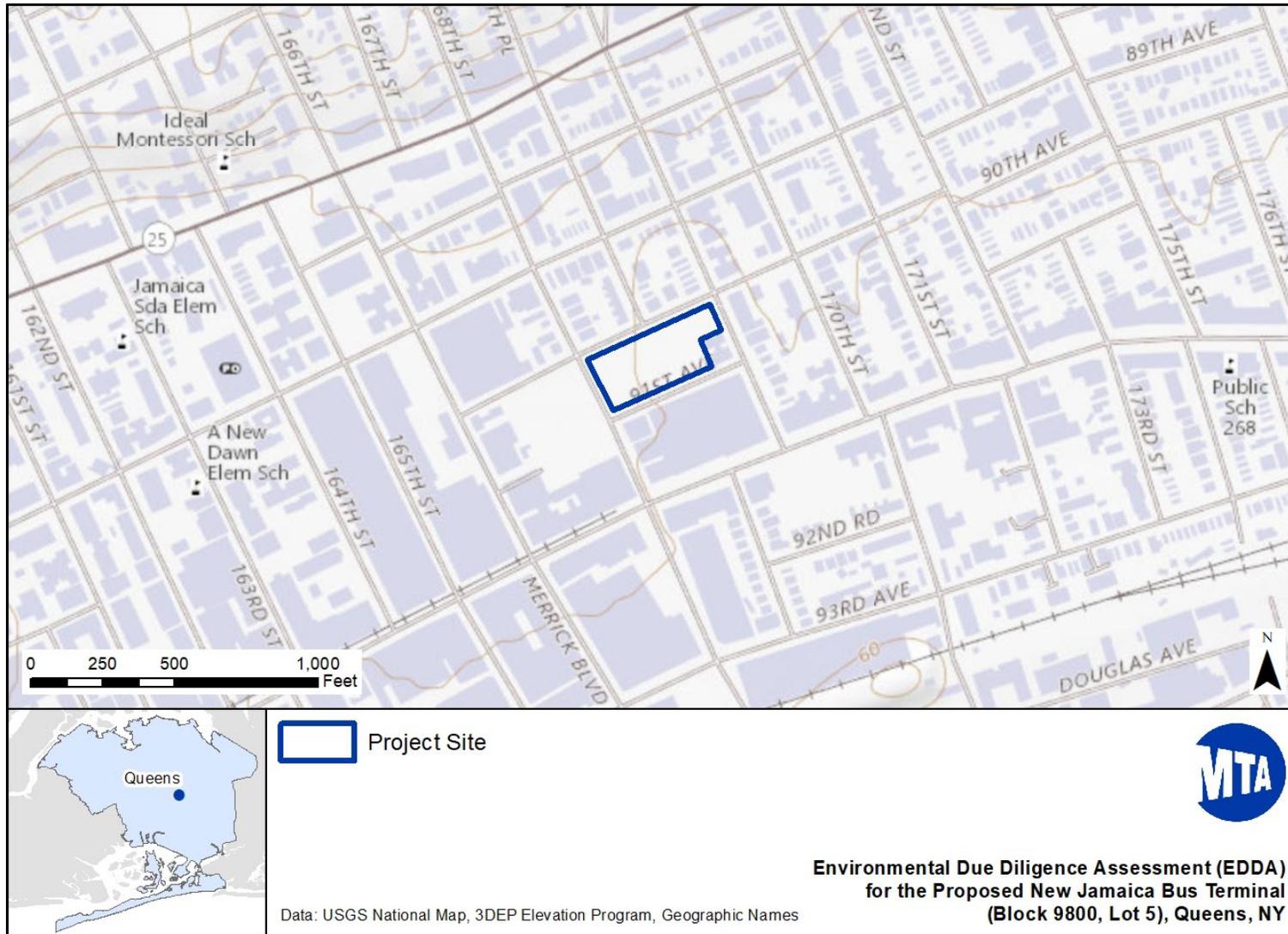


Figure 2 – Project Site and Study Area

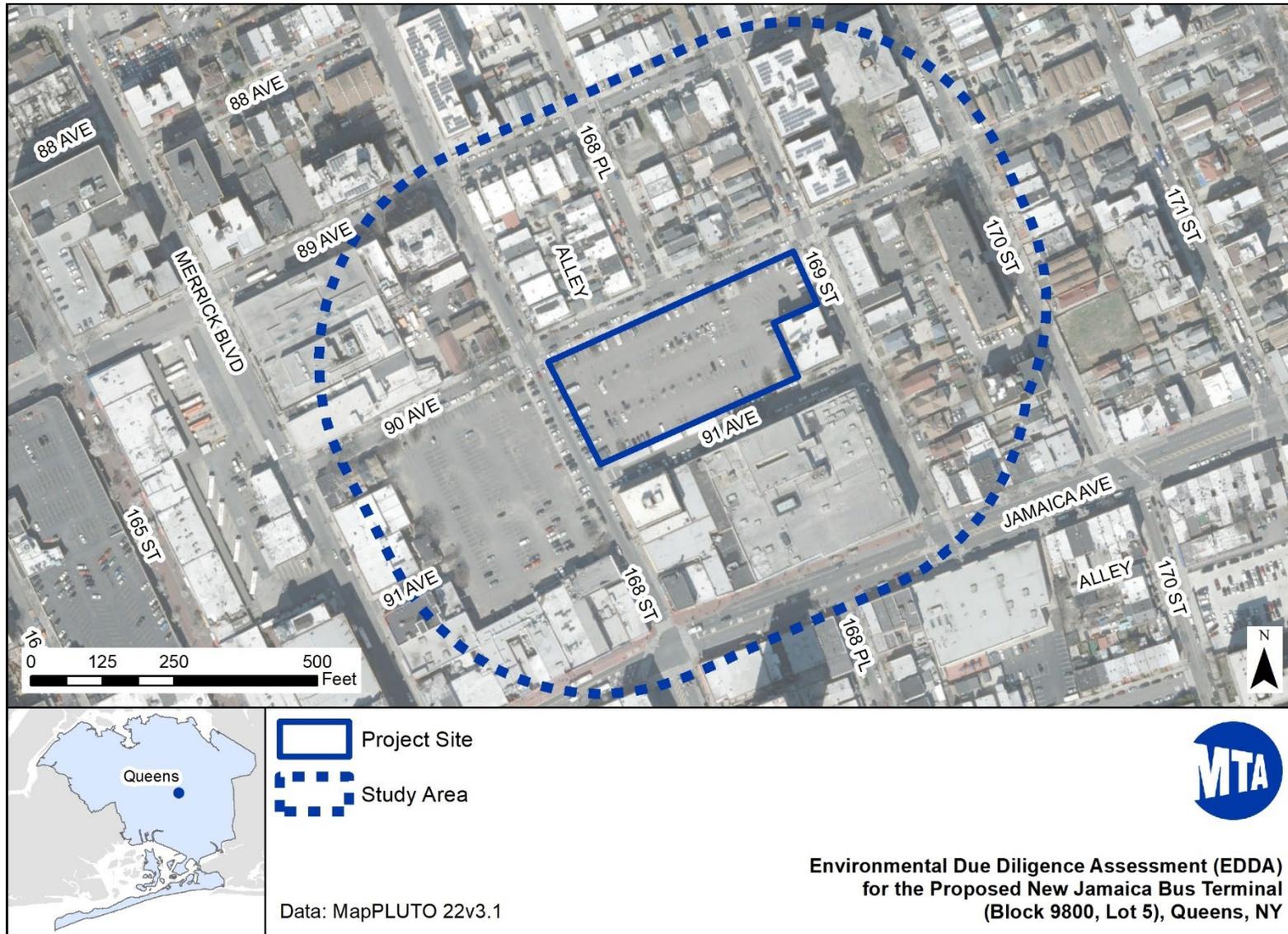
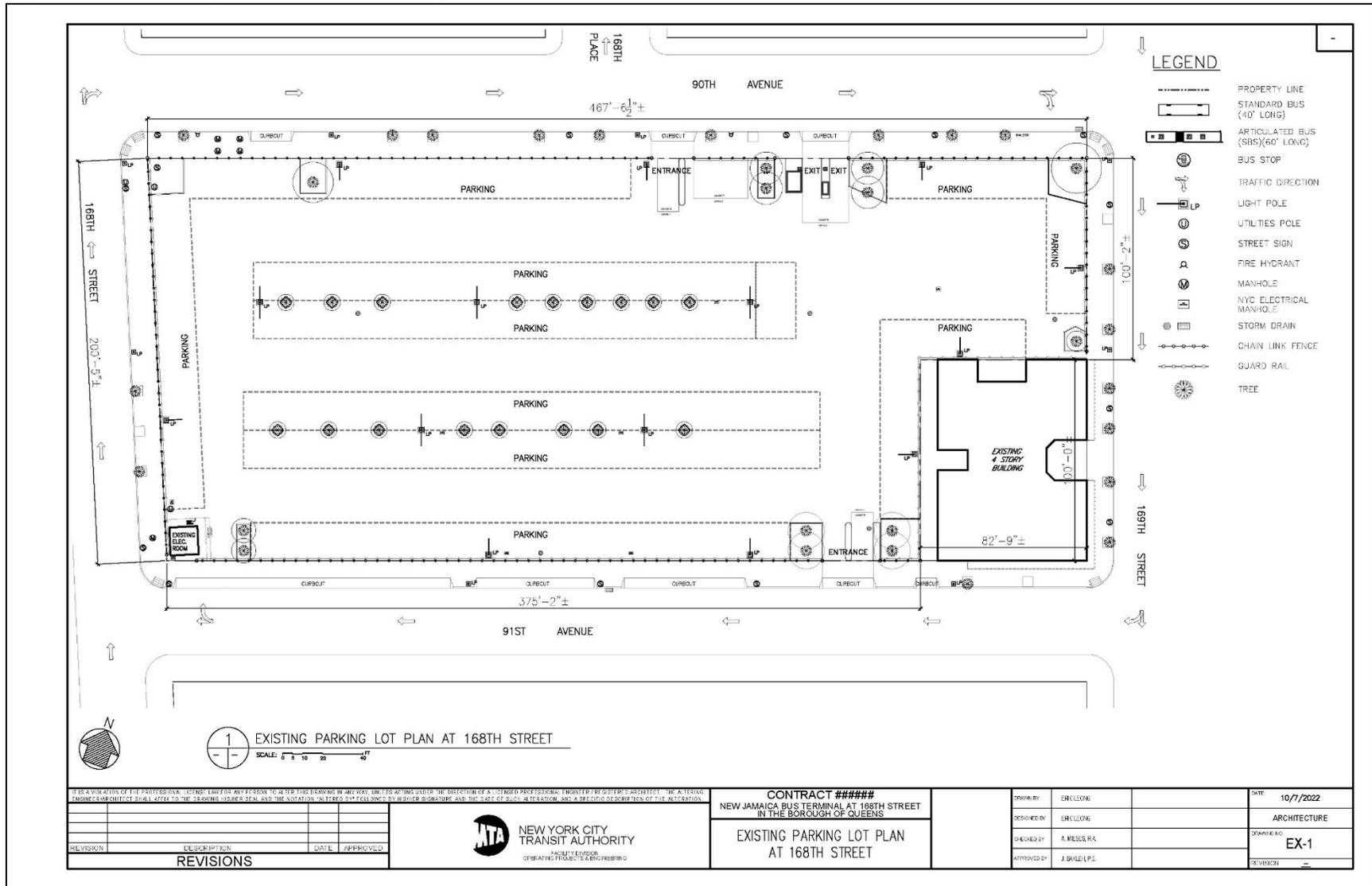


Figure 3 – Existing Conditions at Project Site



Demolition Work

Demolition work, featured in **Figure 4**, includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Remove four (4) sidewalk trees and (6) sidewalk tree pits – NYC Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks).
2. Saw cut and remove existing sidewalk curbs as indicated – NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT).
3. Remove two (2) sidewalk street signs and posts – NYCDOT.
4. Remove street and entire parking lot line striping.
5. Remove asphalt/concrete topping for pedestrian islands as indicated.
6. Remove twenty-eight (28) parking lot trees and tree pits.
7. Demolish and remove parking lot booths and other related items in its entirety.
8. Remove existing fence and guard rails as indicated.
9. Remove seven (7) parking lot light poles as indicated.
10. Remove one (1) commercial sign.
1. Excavation Work for new electrical conduits, sanitary, and water connections.

Construction Work

Construction work, featured in **Figure 5**, includes, but is not limited to, the following:

2. Provide three (3) new steel curb cuts as indicated – NYCDOT.
3. Provide new sidewalk street signs and posts; number to be determined (TBD) – NYCDOT.
4. Provide street line striping – NYCDOT.
5. Provide seven (7) 6-inch steel curb concrete pedestrian islands as indicated.
6. Repair and infill twenty-eight (28) tree pits.
7. Provide three (3) 10 feet-by-40 feet dispatcher trailers with amenities for dispatcher operations, swing room and toilets.
8. Provide eighteen (18) five feet-by-14 feet bus shelters as indicated.
9. Provide new fence as indicated.
10. Provide new LED light poles; number TBD.
11. Replace seven (7) existing light poles light with LED.
12. Provide striping plan demarking parking spaces and travel lanes, direction of travel, no-parking zones, pedestrian crossing, etc.
13. Provide new pedestrian island signs and bus stop signs; number TBD.
14. Provide sixty-four (64) 48-inch high by 8-inch diameter safety steel bollards.
15. Provide new planters area.
16. Install CCTV; number TBD.
17. Provide jersey barriers as indicated; number TBD.
18. Installation of new sanitary and water connection.
19. Electrical panel upgrade and new connection.
20. Provide elevations and utilities location survey.

Civil Work

Civil work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Provide a comprehensive design for the new parking lot that incorporates grading, paving, and curbs.
2. Provide plan, design, and specifications for concrete sidewalk as per NYCDOT.
3. Provide plan, design, and specifications for bollards as per NYCDOT.
4. Provide plan, design, and specifications for drainage structures and drainpipes as per NYCDOT.

Figure 4 – Proposed Demolition at Project Site

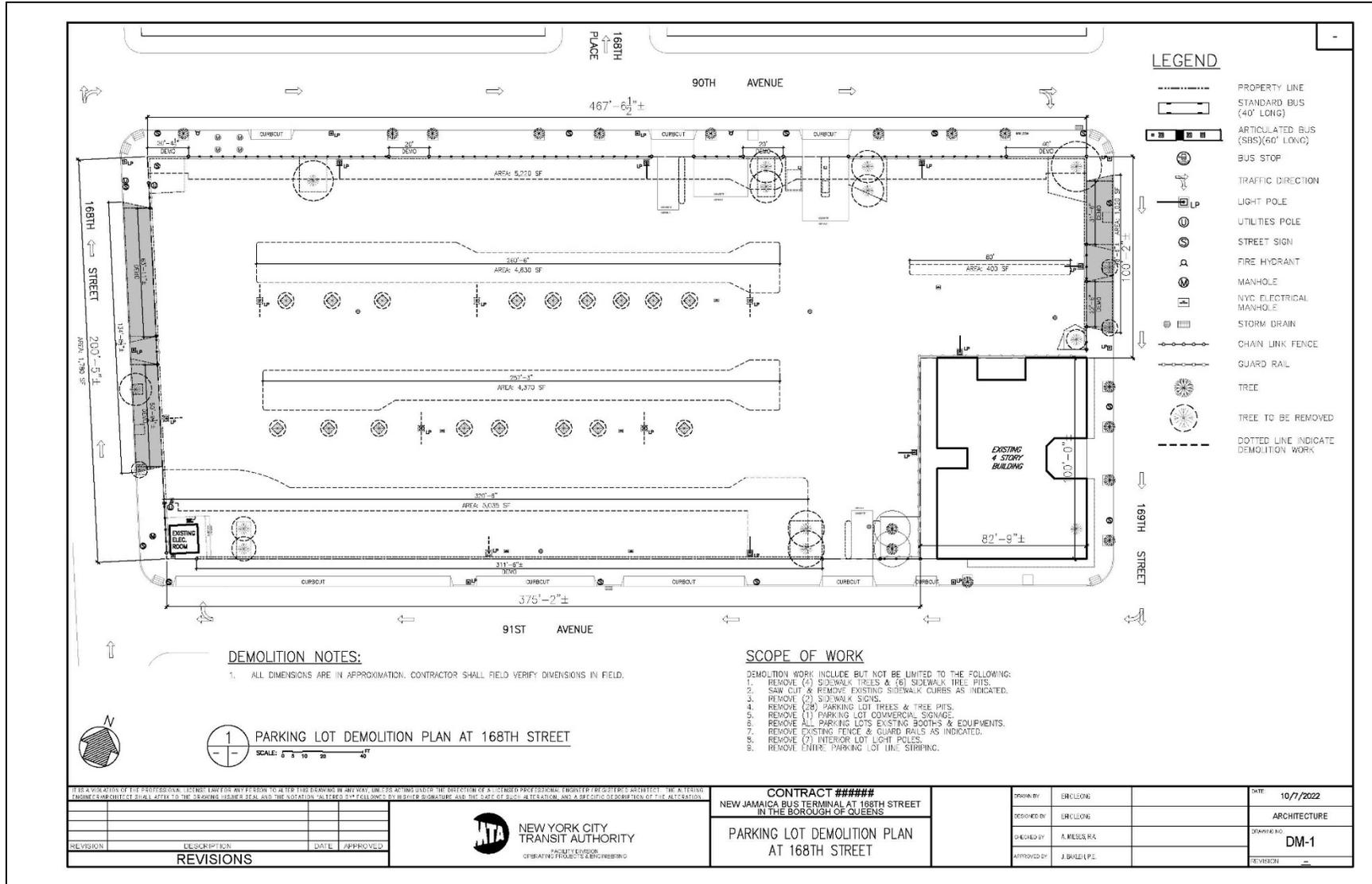
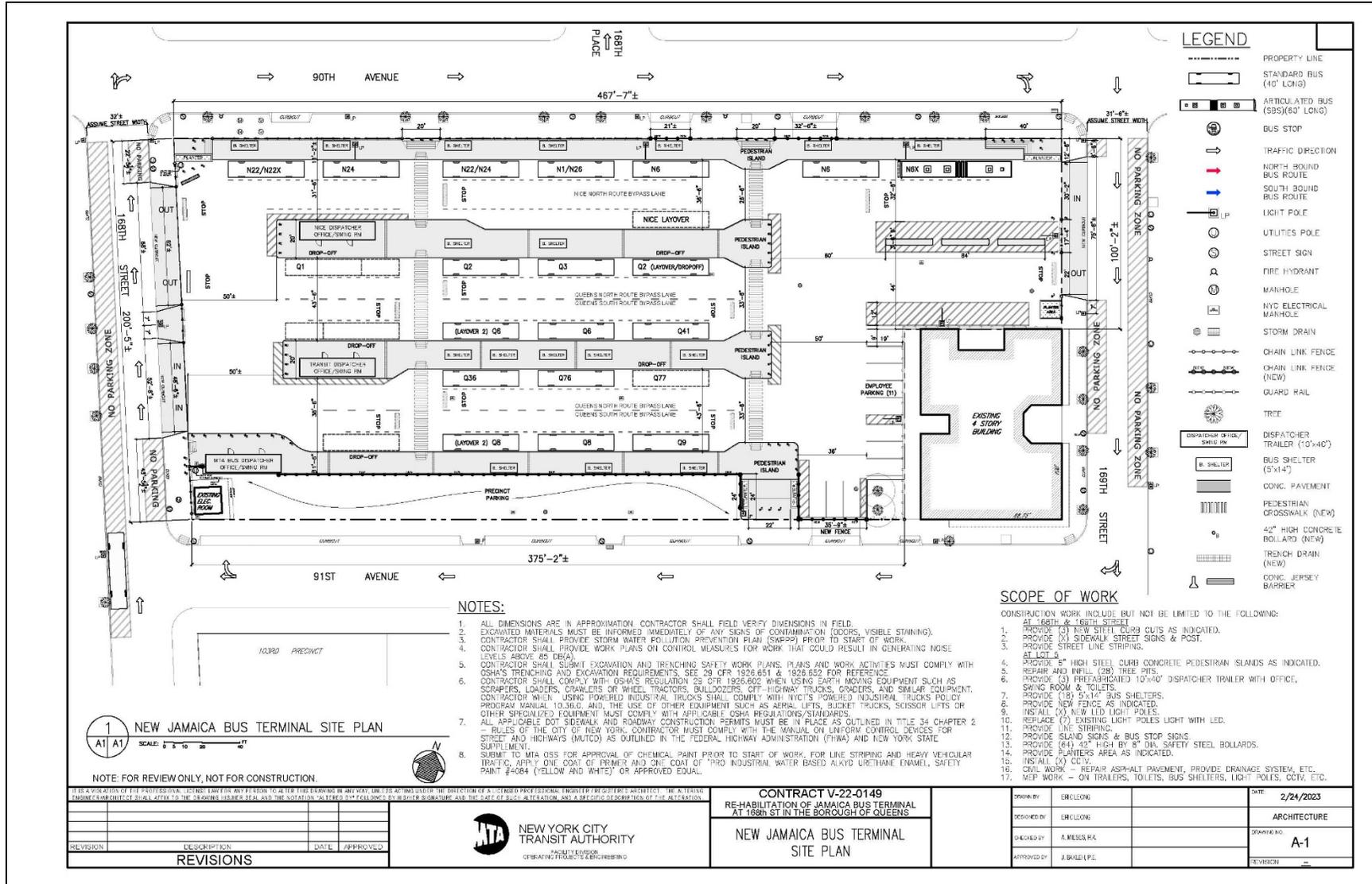


Figure 5 – Proposed Construction at Project Site



Electrical Work

Electrical work includes the following:

1. Underground conduit.
2. Trench and run three (3) #2 American Wire Gauge (AWG) + one (1) #8 AWG in 1½ inch conduit to each dispatcher booth.
3. Provide new telephone and data service to each dispatcher booth, coordinate with Verizon for incoming service.
4. Provide new light poles; number TBD.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources in close proximity to the Project Site are described below.

Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources are subject to direct effects caused by subsurface disturbances to previously undisturbed soils or minimally disturbed soils associated with the execution of project actions.

Proposed Archaeological APE

The Archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes two components: the horizontal APE, which is the footprint of proposed ground disturbance; and the vertical APE, which is considered as the depth to which the proposed ground disturbance is anticipated to extend. The Project actions will entail subsurface disturbance of varying depths across much of the Project Site. The Archaeological APE is therefore considered to be the footprint of the Project Site (**Figure 6**).

The Archaeological APE was researched in the New York State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO's) Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) website in compliance with SEQRA. The purpose of this preliminary screening was to document any previously identified archaeological sites and prior archaeological surveys on or in the vicinity of the Project Site and the specified search radius around the Project Site. The search area for archaeological resources was a one-half-mile radius surrounding the Project Site and is shown on **Figure 6**.

Previously Identified Archaeological Resources

The CRIS search revealed that the Project Site is located within an Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. In addition, there are six previously identified sites within the one-half-mile radius of the Project Site. **Table 1** provides the archaeological site locations and brief descriptions.

Prior Archaeological Surveys

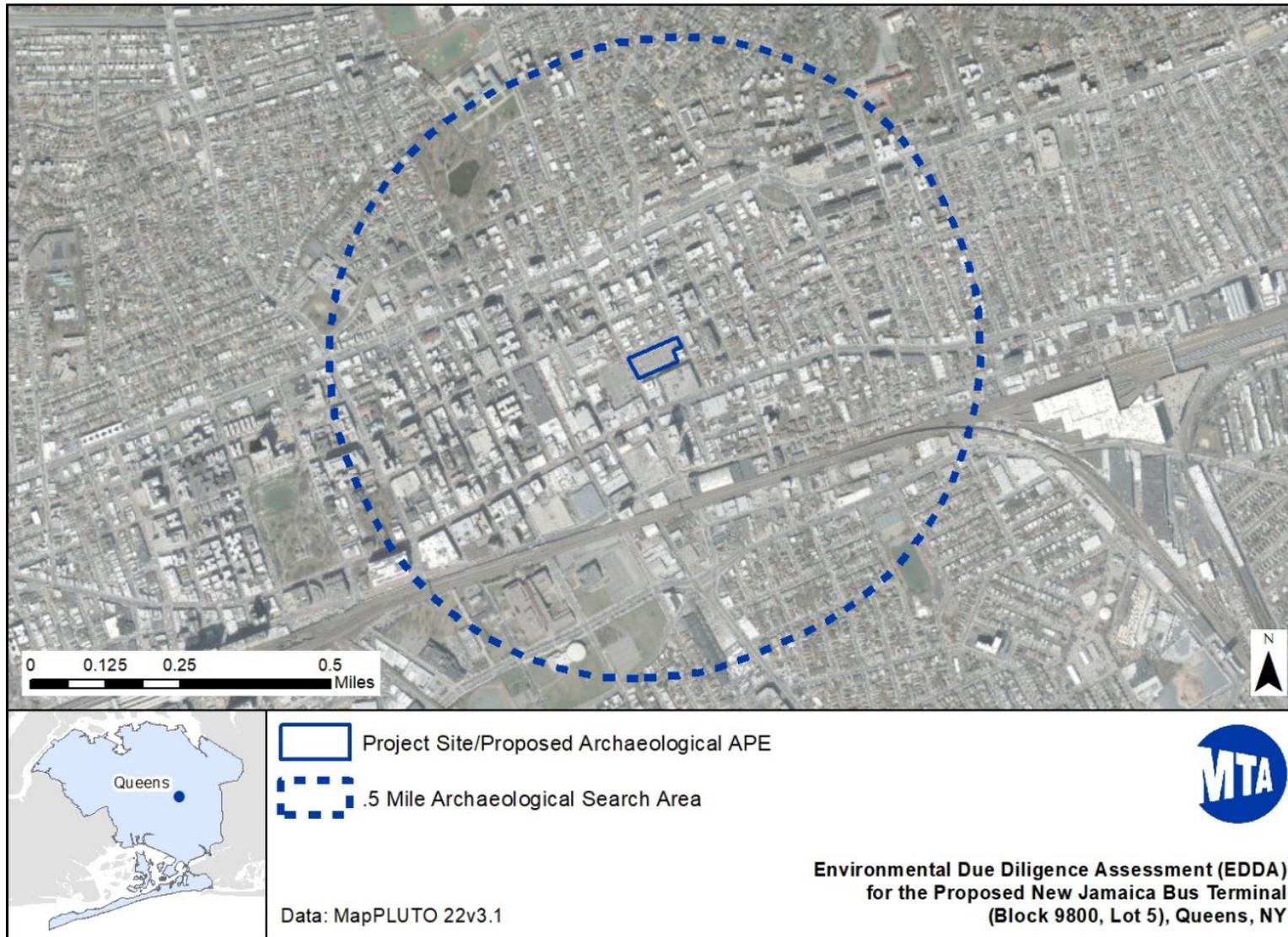
Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) prepared the *Phase IA Archaeological Assessment Reconstruction and Expansion Project Jamaica Bus Depot, York College Temporary Bus Parking Block 10159, Part of Lot 3; Block 10160, Lot 1 and a portion of Tuskegee Airmen Way, Jamaica, Queens County, New York* report in October 2022. The approximately 4-acre project site was assessed for archaeological sensitivity, and recommendations included archaeological monitoring on Block 10159, Lot 3 adjacent to the First Methodist Church Cemetery abutting the project site.

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. prepared the *Proposed New Primary/Intermediate School at PS/IS 48 William Wordsworth School 155-02 108th Avenue Block 10144, Lot 42, Queens, New York, Phase IA Cultural Resource Assessment* report in November 2007. The Phase IA research revealed that limited disturbance has occurred across the project site, and the site possesses sensitivity for both prehistoric

Table1 - Archaeological Sites Within One Half Mile of Project Area

SHPO/NYSM/ LPC SITE NUMBER	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	LOCATION/ ADDRESS	DISTANCE TO PROJECT AREA	DATE/TIME PERIOD	DESCRIPTION	NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS
NYSM #7460 BRK 2-2	Village of Jamaica in 1900	Historic District	N/A	Large polygon covers western half of project site, and extends to the southwest.	Historic: 1600s – 1800s	Area is Village of Jamaica in 1900. Many 18 th -19 th C structures and prob. foundations across area	Undetermined
NYSM #4546 ACP QUNS No#	Not Given	Not Known	N/A	Large polygon located 1,212-feet to northeast	Prehistoric	"Traces of Occupation" No additional information in NYSM Site Files	Not Evaluated
08101.009571	One Jamaica Center Site	Part of Historic District	Block 10100	Located 2,070-feet to southwest	Historic	Many 18 th -19 th C structures and prob. foundations (one found). 18 th - 20 th C artifacts, faunal remains. Collection at York College of CUNY, Department of Anthropology."	Eligible
08101.000104 NYSAA Brk 2-2	Historic Jamaica	Part of Historic District		Located 2,142-feet to southwest	Historic		Undetermined
08101.014032 Meade 4031	First Methodist Cemetery			Located 2,317-feet to south	Historic		Undetermined
08101.014029 Meade 4038	Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery			Located 2,584-feet to southwest	Historic		Undetermined
N/A	Area of Archaeological Sensitivity		N/A	Entire project site	Prehistoric/ Historic	N/A	N/A

Figure 6 – Archaeological Search Area and Area of Potential Effect



and historic archaeological resources. A Phase IB archaeological survey was recommended for the project site prior to construction.

HPI prepared the *Memorandum: Archaeological Sensitivity, Proposed Gateway High School, at Queens Hospital Center, Jamaica, Queens County, New York* in February 2003. The project site was deemed not sensitive for prehistoric resources. Portions of the project site were initially determined to possess sensitivity for encountering historic features associated with a former farmstead that occupied much of the project site during the 19th century. However, further research has indicated that substantial ground disturbances have occurred across the project site during the 20th century, rendering it extremely unlikely that any historic features would have survived or retained integrity.

HPI prepared the *One Jamaica Center, Archer Avenue and Jamaica Avenue, Queens, New York, The Mattone Group, Phase IA Archaeological Study* report in March 1998. The Phase IA conclusions indicate that six lots and one alley on the project site possess historic archaeological sensitivity. In addition, three lots also possess prehistoric archaeological sensitivity. Phase IB subsurface testing was recommended for all areas determined to possess sensitivity.

Historic Architectural Resources

The proposed Historic Architectural Area of Potential Effect (APE) is described below.

Proposed Historic Architectural Area of Potential Effect

The proposed Historic Architectural APE includes all areas where the action may cause changes to land or structures and their uses, including the area of ground disturbance caused by the action, and locations from which elements of the undertaking may be visible.

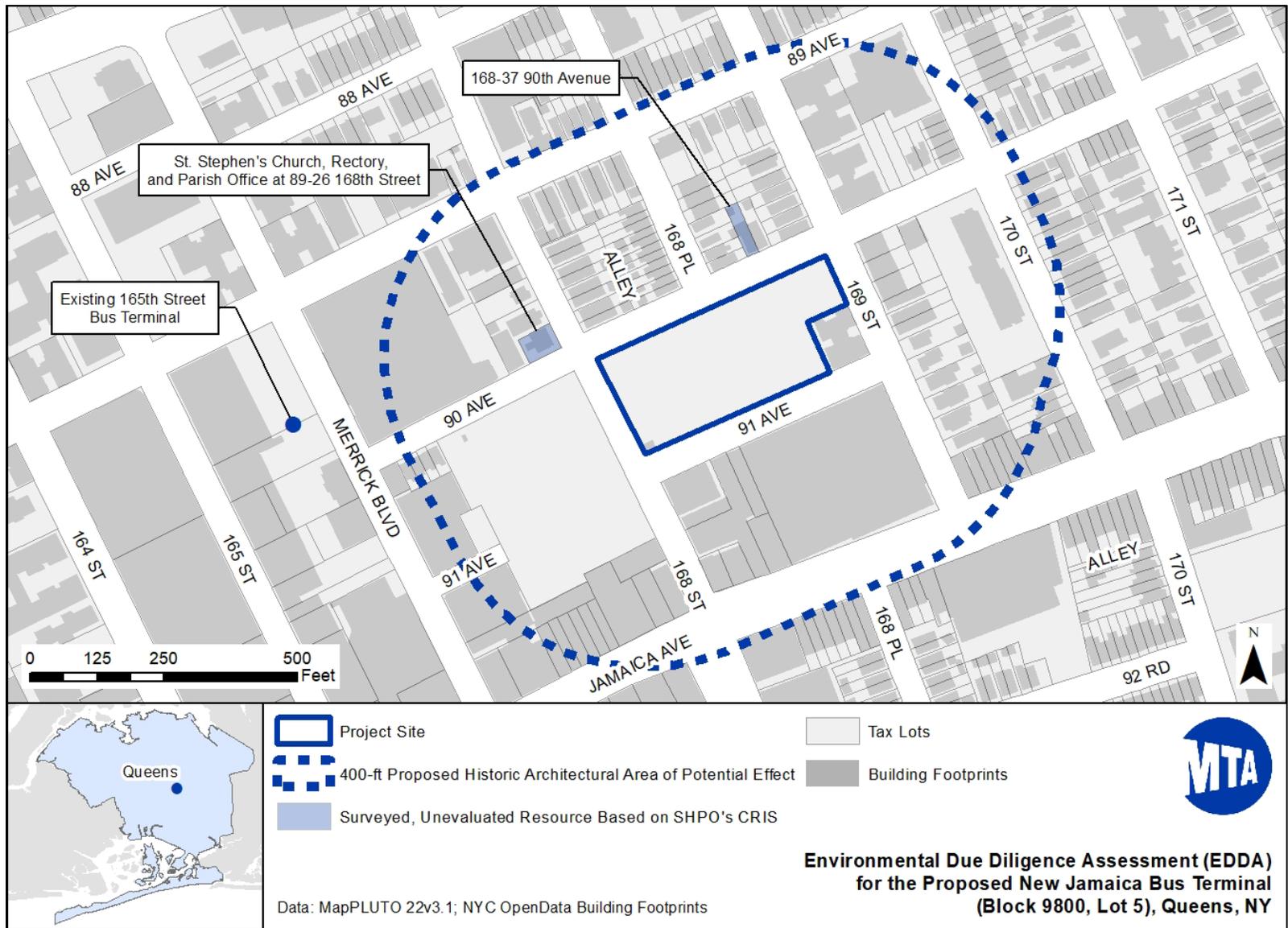
The Study Area is characterized as a dense urban area. The focal point of the Project Area is a parking lot that, with the exception of the southeast corner, occupies a city block bound by 90th Avenue to the north, 91st Avenue to the south, 169th Street to the east, and 168th Street to the west. One apartment building, Ackroyd Court at 90-20 169th Street (1936), is situated at the southeast corner of the block, and is not included in the Project Site slated for redevelopment as the New Jamaica Bus Terminal. The parking lot is surrounded by mixed development, including multi-family homes, single-family homes, and apartment buildings north and east of the parking lot; and an apartment building is under construction to the west. A commercial building is located south of the parking lot. Originally known as J.W. Mays Plaza (1959), the commercial building formerly housed Mays Department Store, and currently houses Marshall's, Raymour & Flanigan Furniture, Telco Stores, and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. In addition, the NYPD's 103 Precinct building, likely constructed in the late 1920s, is situated at the southeast corner of 168th Street and 91st Avenue, south of the parking lot. In addition, several single-story and two-story commercial buildings are located west of the Marshall's complex, and face Jamaica Avenue and 168th Street.

The proposed Historic Architectural APE forms a 400-foot around the Site and is adequate to take into account potential direct and indirect effects. The proposed Historic Architectural APE is featured in **Figure 7**. Photographs are included in **Attachment 1**.

Proposed Historic Architectural Area of Potential Effect

Research conducted on CRIS indicates that no National Register-listed or eligible resources, or resources designated by the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) are situated within the Historic Architectural APE. Three resources were surveyed but not evaluated, and one of the three resources, a residence at 166-11 91st Avenue has been removed. **Table 2** describes the two resources

Figure 7 – Historic Architectural Area of Potential Effect



resources, a residence at 166-11 91st Avenue has been removed. **Table 2** describes the two unevaluated resources, and photographs are included in **Attachment 1**.

Table 2 - Historic Architectural Resources Within Proposed APE

Unevaluated Resource/Unique Site Number (USN)	Description
168-37 90 th Avenue USN 08101.000179	Two-story frame rowhouse that has been highly altered by application of brick and vinyl siding, and insertion of modern windows.
St. Stephen's Church, Rectory and Parish Office 89-26 168 th Street USN 08101.000221	Historic church complex that has been altered over time; church sheathed in modern white brick and permastone; facades pierced by pointed stained glass windows; gable roof of church topped by spire. Rectory sheathed in modern white brick with multi-pane sash windows on first story, and sliding windows in the frieze band; first story sheltered by porch supported by Doric columns. Rear concrete block building sheathed in white brick, capped by side gable roof; windows on south facade are bricked in, indicating that building may no longer function as parish office.

Attachment 1

Photographs of Historic Architectural Area of Potential Effects



Looking north from Jamaica First Parking Lot.



Looking south from Jamaica First Parking Lot.



Looking south from Jamaica First Parking Lot at ca. 1959 commercial building that has been repurposed for multiple tenants over time.



Entry to Jamaica First Parking Lot from 91st Avenue.



Looking east from Jamaica First Parking Lot. Note rear of Ackroyd Court (1936) apartment building.



Looking northwest from Jamaica First Parking Lot.



View of presumed ca. 1950s or 1960s-era parking attendant booth at southwest corner of parking lot.



Looking northeast toward ca. 1950s or 1960s-era parking attendant booth.



Looking north toward Ackroyd Court (1936) from Jamaica First Parking Lot.



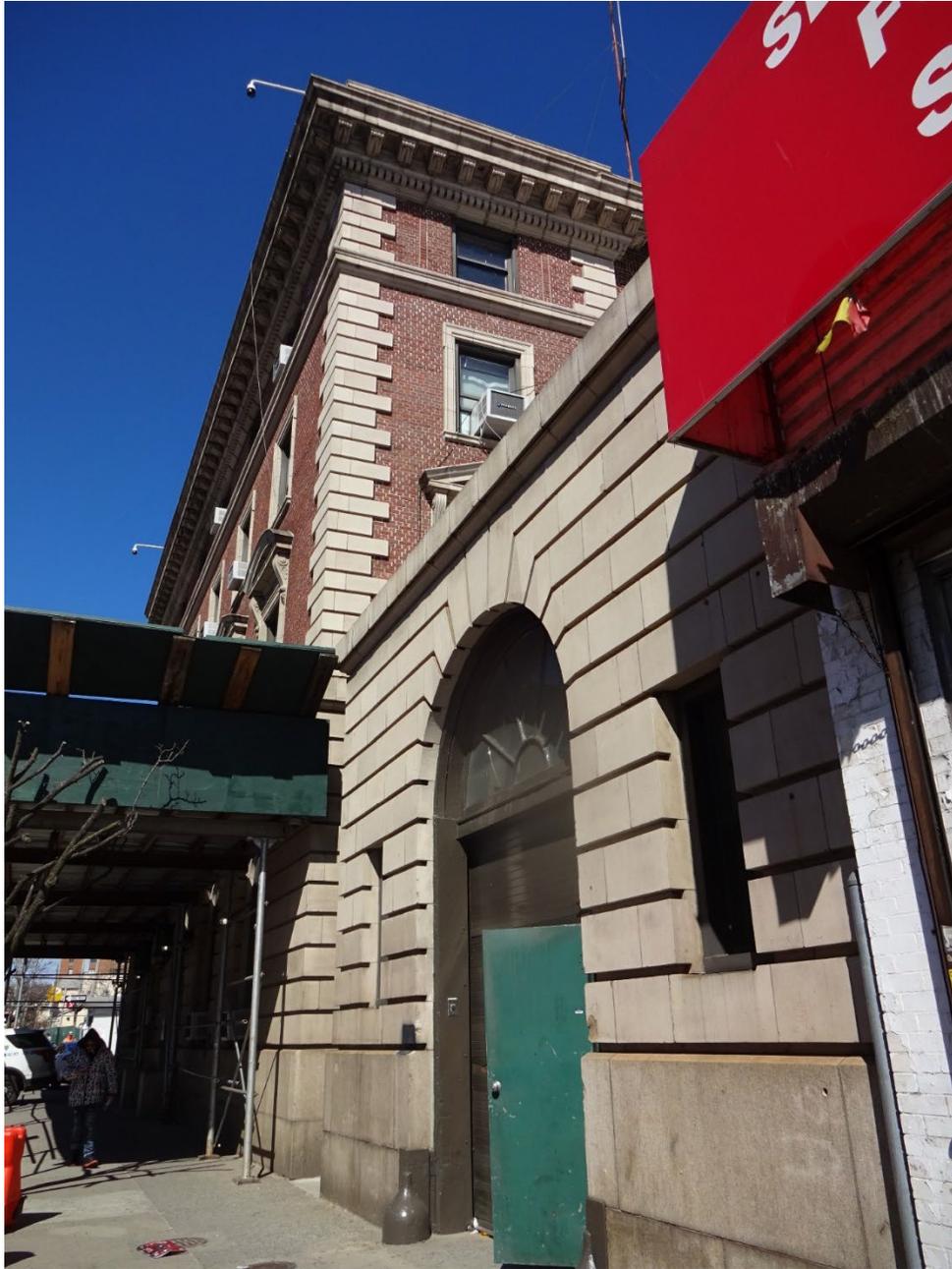
Looking toward east façade of Ackroyd Court from 169th Street.



Detail of main entry at Ackroyd Court.



Looking south toward 103rd Precinct of the New York Police Department (NYPD) at southeast corner of 91st Avenue and 168th Street, south of Jamaica First Parking Lot.
Building was likely constructed in the late 1920s.



View of west façade of 103rd Precinct from 168th Street.



Looking west toward St. Stephen's Church, Rectory and Parish Office at the northwest corner of 90th Avenue and 168th Street; building was surveyed in 1980 and has not been evaluated to date.



Looking west toward St. Stephen's Church complex.



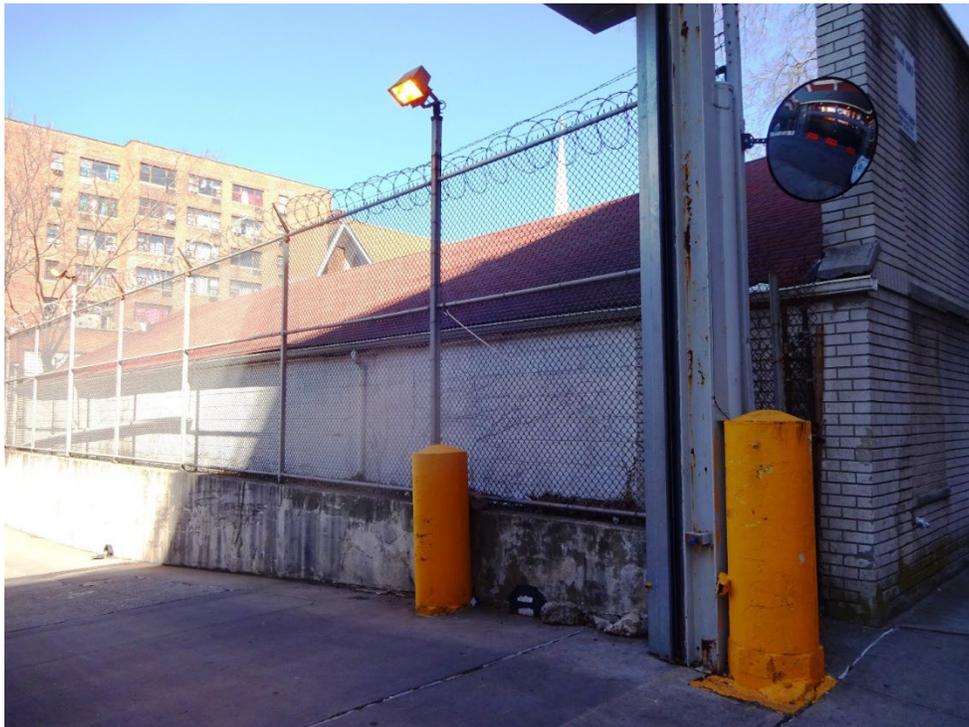
Looking north toward St. Stephen's Church complex.



Looking west at St. Stephen's driveway.



Looking east toward rear of St. Stephen's Rectory from 90th Avenue.



Looking northeast toward building at rear of St. Stephen's lot from 90th Avenue.



Looking 168-37 90th Avenue which was surveyed in 1980, but not evaluated to date.



Looking west along 89th Avenue from 168th Place.



Looking west along 89th Avenue from 169th Street.



Looking east along 90th Avenue toward 168th Place.



View of intersection of 90th Avenue and 168th Street; note Jamaica First Parking Lot in background.



Looking west along 90th Avenue toward 169th Street.



Looking south toward intersection of 90th Avenue and 168th Street.



Looking south on 168th Street toward 90th Avenue.



Looking south on 168th Street from 89th Avenue.



Looking north on 168th Street from Jamaica Avenue.



Looking south on 168th Place.



Looking south on 168th Place.



Looking north on 168th Place.



Looking north on 168th Place.



Looking toward corner of 169th Street and 90th Avenue.



Looking south on 169th Street from 89th Avenue.



Looking north on 169th Street toward 90th Avenue.



Looking south on 169th Street toward Jamaica Avenue.



Looking south on 170th Street toward intersection with 90th Avenue.



Looking south on 170th Street from 90th Avenue toward NYCHA building.



Looking toward NYCHA building on west side of 170th Street.



Looking west on Jamaica Avenue toward commercial building on block between 168th and 169th Streets.



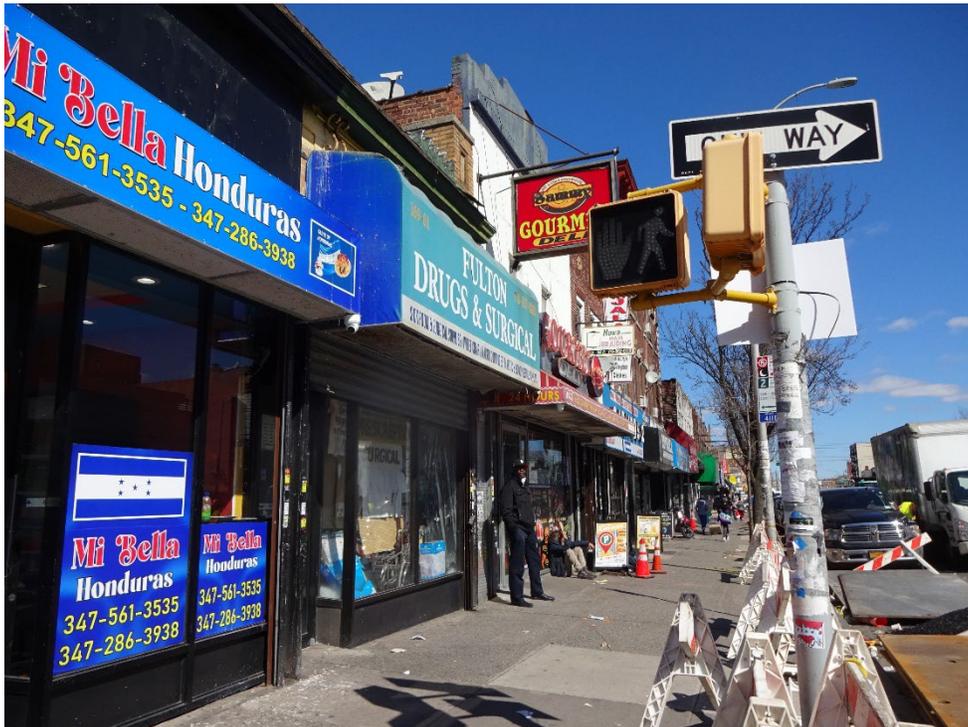
Looking toward commercial building on Jamaica Avenue.



Looking west on Jamaica Avenue toward 168th Street.



Looking east on Jamaica Avenue across 168th Street.



Looking east on Jamaica Avenue between 169th and 170th Streets.



Looking toward early 20th century building on Merrick Boulevard, north of 91st Avenue.



Looking west toward existing Jamaica Bus Terminal on Merrick Boulevard.

From: [New York State Parks CRIS Application](#)
To: [Rachleff, Allison](#)
Subject: NY SHPO: Initial Consultation Submission 8NYT4811LQR4 Created
Date: Monday, April 3, 2023 11:32:33 AM

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Initial Submission Created

The New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has assigned a token for a newly created initial submission.

New Initial Submission Token: 8NYT4811LQR4

Project Type: Consultation

This token uniquely identifies this submission. Please retain the token for reference.

New York State Historic Preservation Office

Peebles Island State Park, P.O. Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189

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This message pertains to a submission for a consultation project. Please see SHPO's [Environmental Review](#) web page for more information about the consultation process.

Why did I receive this email?

The submission's contact list includes your email address.

What do I need to do?

If you are the submitter, please complete the submission and send it to SHPO.

If you want to complete the submission at another time, you may exit the submission form and [reopen the submission](#) later.

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If you complete the submission and send it to SHPO, the submission will enter SHPO's processing queue and the submission's contacts will receive an "Initial Submission Received" email notification. That email will include the token and the project name.

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Please visit the CRIS Online Help System: <https://cris.parks.ny.gov/CRISHelp>

If you still have questions about CRIS, please contact CRIS Help at CRISHelp@parks.ny.gov.

For any other questions, please call SHPO at 518-237-8643.



**New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

April 20, 2023

Allison Rachleff
Sr. Architectural Historian
AECOM
125 Broad Street
15th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Re: NYCTA
New Jamaica Bus Terminal
168th St. at 90th Ave., Jamaica, Queens, NY
23PR02767

Dear Allison Rachleff:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). We have reviewed the project in accordance with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (Section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law). These comments are those of the OPRHP and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8) and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617).

Based upon this review, it is the opinion of OPRHP that no properties, including archaeological and/or historic resources, listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places will be impacted by this project.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

R. Daniel Mackay

Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
Division for Historic Preservation

rev: L. Mackey