

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter assesses the potential effects to historic structures and archaeological resources as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. This law requires that federal agencies consider the effects of their actions on any properties listed on, or determined eligible for listing on, the State and National Registers of Historic Places (S/NR). The requirements of another statute applicable to historic resources (Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966) are addressed separately in Chapter 12.

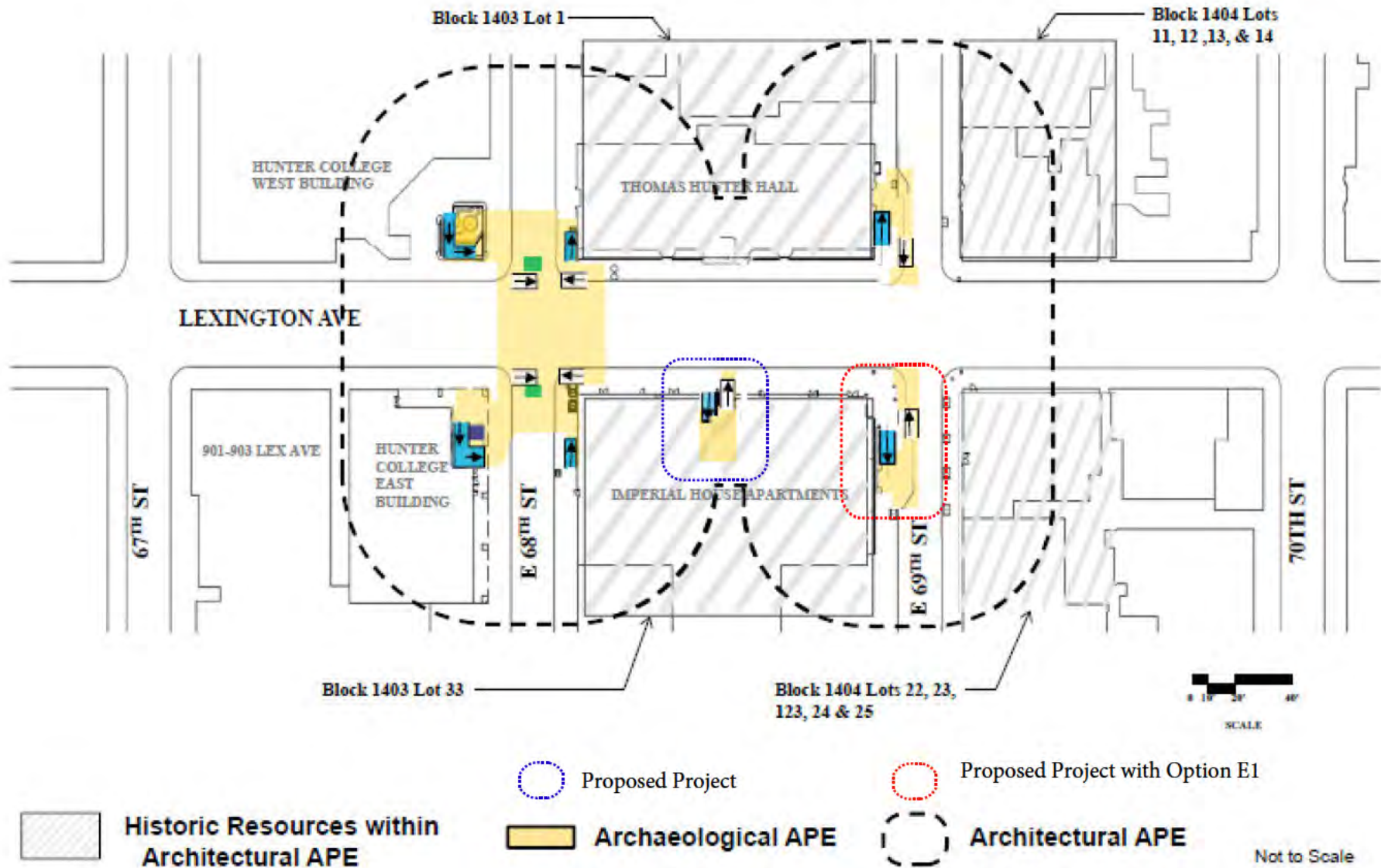
4.2 METHODOLOGY

To assemble the project area's known historic properties, a review of previously documented historic properties was conducted at several repositories, including the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC). The review was focused on the areas that would be physically modified through construction (either directly or indirectly by construction vibration). The area potentially affected by direct impacts from construction formed the archaeological Area of Potential Effect (APE) while the area potentially affected by indirect effects formed the historic architectural APE (and included the archaeological APE). The architectural APE and resources located within the APE are provided in Figure 4-1. For historic architectural resources, a review was undertaken to identify any historic properties that are National Historic Landmarks (NHLs), listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places (S/NR) or determined eligible for such listing. Additionally, a survey of the APE was undertaken to identify any properties that may meet S/NR eligibility criteria.

4.3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

4.3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Proposed Project's archaeological APE is located within the confines of the sidewalks and streets along Lexington Avenue from the south side of East 68th Street to the north side of East 69th Street, including the area on East 69th Street west of the avenue that could be excavated for the new subway entrance. These sidewalks and streets contain significant subsurface utilities as well as transportation elements associated with the IRT Lexington Avenue line. A review of previously recorded archaeological sites within the archaeological APE did not identify any known archaeological sites within the project's archaeological APE. Analysis of the project area's history does not indicate that the proposed locations for the new entrances at East 68th and East 69th Streets was the site of any historic occupation that may yield evidence of previously unknown historic activities. Also, the construction of the Lexington Avenue IRT 4/5/6 subway line by cut and cover would have disturbed the entire width of Lexington Avenue, thereby eliminating the potential to encounter areas with undisturbed soils. Therefore the project's archaeological APE lacks sensitivity for encountering archaeological resources. In a letter dated August 29, 2012, OPRHP has concurred that the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project *with Option E1* would have No Adverse Effect on archaeological resources (see Appendix B).



Archaeological and Architectural APE
Figure 4-1

4.3.2 HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

The APEs for the evaluation of the new subway entrances at East 69th and 68th Streets include the area within 90 feet of any excavation area associated with the Proposed Project. The NYC Technical Policy and Procedure Notice (TPPN) #10/88 requires an APE of 90 feet for the protection of historic properties resulting from the effects of construction conducted without subsurface blasting. The 90-foot APE was used to evaluate potential impacts that could occur as a result of vibrations from construction as well as to assess the potential contextual effects of above-ground subway infrastructure once these entrances have been opened for use by the public.

The historic architectural APE for the Proposed Project is shown in Figure 4-1. The APE extends along Lexington Avenue and East 68th Street and East 69th Street and covers 90 feet from the edge of construction. In this area, a single known historic resource was identified – the Upper East Side Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a New York City Landmark Historic District (Figure S-2). The Upper East Side Historic District was originally listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 7, 1984 while the boundaries of the district were expanded on September 12, 2006 (Upper East Side Historic District Extension). The Upper East Side Historic District is historically and architecturally significant for its extraordinary concentration of fine examples of New York's most characteristic late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential buildings, including brownstone rowhouses, grand mansions and elegant apartment houses. Among these buildings are represented the full range of architectural styles of the period from the Italianate, neo-Grec and Queen Anne of the 1860s to 1880s, the Beaux-Arts, neo-Renaissance and Neoclassical from the turn of the century, to and including excellent examples of more recent architecture. In addition, the Upper East Side Historic District is designated as a New York City Landmarked historic district as of May 19, 1981; the district was similarly expanded on March 23, 2010 to coincide with the boundaries of the district as listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The APE for the Proposed Project intersects with the Upper East Side Historic District from East 69th Street to the west side of East 68th Street. Table 4-1 identifies the contributing elements to the Upper East Side Historic District located within the Proposed Project's historic architecture APE.

**Table 4-1:
Contributing Elements – Upper East Side Historic District**

Block	Lot	Address	Description
1404	11	123 E. 69th Street	5-Story Residence, C.1873
1404	12	125 E. 69th Street	5-Story Residence, C. 1873
1404	13	127 E. 69th Street	5-Story Residence, C. 1873
1404	14	944 Lexington Ave/129 E. 69th St.	11-Story, Neo-Georgian Apartment Building, C. 1916
1404	22	943 Lexington Ave/131 E. 69th St.	11-Story, Neo-Renaissance Apartment Building, C. 1924
1404	23	141 E. 69th Street	4-Story Neo-Grec Residence, C. 1880
1404	123	143 E. 69th Street	4-Story Neo-Grec Residence, C. 1880
1404	24	145 E. 69th Street	4-Story Neo-Grec Residence, C. 1880
1404	25	147 E. 69th Street	3-Story Residence, C.1902
1403	1	930 Lexington Avenue/Thomas Hunter Hall (Part Of Hunter College)	6-Story Limestone School Building, Neo-Gothic, C. 1914.

Within the Upper East Side Historic District, Thomas Hunter Hall is listed as a contributing element to the historic district. This building was completed in 1913 as part of a new campus plan for Hunter College, though the western portion of the proposed plan was never executed. The

building was designed by C.B.J. Snyder as New York City Superintendent of School Buildings and retains many of his standard treatments for schools within New York City.

In addition to the Upper East Side Historic District, the project area also contains one additional historic resource – the Imperial House Apartments. This resource was evaluated for its potential eligibility for inclusion on the S/NR as part of this project and determined to be eligible for inclusion in the S/NR. This resource is significant in the areas of urban development and architecture as a good and representative example of modern style, white brick residential towers built after World War II in New York City and in the same style as the New York City Landmarked Manhattan House at East 66th Street and Second Avenue. On August 29, 2012, OPRHP concurred with the eligibility of the Imperial House Apartments as eligible for inclusion on the State/National Registers (see Appendix B).

4.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

4.4.1 NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE

No impacts to cultural resources would occur under the No-Build Alternative.

4.4.2 PROPOSED PROJECT

4.4.2.1 Archaeological Resources

The 68th Street/Hunter College Station is located in a densely developed urban setting with a mix of historic properties and recently constructed buildings; the subsurface locations associated with the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project *with Option E1* have been previously disturbed by the installation of the IRT Subway (Figure 13-1), and by the excavation for and installation of utilities from the late nineteenth century through to the present. As a result, and following the concurrence from OPRHP on August 29, 2012, and on April 2, 2015, and concurrence from LPC on February 1, 2012, it has been concluded that the project site does not possess the potential for subsurface archaeological resources within the construction zone for the Proposed Action and the Proposed Project *with Option E1*. While no impacts to archaeological resources are anticipated, should any potential artifacts be found, MTA NYCT and FTA will initiate the Section 106 process with OPRHP.

4.4.2.2 Historic Resources

As discussed in detail in Chapter 12: Section 4(f) Resources, the Proposed Project requires the installation of a ventilation fan that vents into the light well of Thomas Hunter Hall, and the installation of a street stair in the commercial space in the Imperial House Apartments. For both Thomas Hunter Hall and Imperial House Apartments, impacts would occur but would not be adverse, and mitigation of these impacts to both properties would be incorporated into the Proposed Project. The appearance and physical integrity of the two buildings would not be altered by the Proposed Project. Similarly, subway entrance stairways adjacent to the contributing resources of the Upper East Side Historic District and an entrance in the Imperial House Apartments would not directly or indirectly diminish these historic resources.

OPRHP has concurred that the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project *with Option E1* would have “no adverse effect” to historic properties under Section 106 of the NHPA, provided that a construction protection plan (CPP) for historic resources within 90 feet of construction is prepared and executed prior to the start of construction, as stated in the August 29, 2012, and the April 2, 2015, letters from OPRHP. A CPP will be developed for the following historic properties within the project area: all contributing resources to the Upper East Side Historic District – Block 1404, Lots

11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 23, 123, 24, 25 (structures along the north side of East 69th Street from approximately 150 feet west of Lexington Avenue to approximately 150 east of the avenue); Block 1403, Lot 1 (Thomas Hunter Hall and the Hunter College North Building), and the Imperial House Apartments (Block 1403, Lot 33).

To avoid the potential for any adverse physical impacts to historic resources as a result of ground-borne vibrations from construction, a Historic Resource Construction Protection Plan (HRCPP) will be developed in consultation with OPRHP and LPC prior to construction. The HRCPP would follow the requirements established in the NYCDOB Technical Policy and Procedure Notice (TPPN) #10/88, concerning procedures for the avoidance of damage to adjacent historic structures from nearby construction. It would also follow the guidelines set forth in Chapter 9, Section 522 of the CEQR Technical Manual, including conforming to LPC's Guidelines for Construction Adjacent to a Historic Landmark and Protection Programs for Landmark Buildings.