7

Historic and Cultural Resources

This chapter assesses the potential for the Proposed Actions to result in significant adverse impacts on historic and cultural resources, including both archaeological and architectural resources.

Historical and cultural resources are defined as improvements or landscape features that could be or have been determined to have a special character, or historical or aesthetic interest or value. Historic and cultural resources comprise districts, buildings, structures, sites, and objects of historical, aesthetic, cultural, and archaeological significance. Per the *2021 City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual*, these resources include:

- Designated New York City landmarks, interior landmarks, scenic landmarks, and properties within designated New York City historic districts (or resources calendared for consideration by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission [LPC]).
- Resources listed on, or formally determined eligible for inclusion on, the State and/or National Register of Historic Places, or contained within a district listed on, or formally determined eligible for listing on, the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.
- Resources recommended by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation for listing on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places.
- National Historic Landmarks.
- Resources not identified by one of the programs listed above, but that meet their eligibility requirements.

This chapter assesses the potential for the Proposed Project to affect architectural and archaeological resources located on the Development Site and in the surrounding area.

As described in **Chapter 1, Project Description**, the Proposed Actions would facilitate a mixed-use, purpose-built community on the campus of the Christian Cultural Center (CCC), comprising income-based affordable housing, a performing arts center (PAC), local retail, and a variety of community facilities targeted to the civic, economic, educational, and cultural needs of the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn (the Proposed Project).

The *2021 CEQR Technical Manual* recommends that a historic and cultural resources assessment be performed if a proposed action would result in any of the following actions: in-ground disturbance; new construction, demolition, or significant physical alteration of any building, structure, or object; the change in scale, visual prominence, or visual context of any building, structure, or object or landscape feature; or the screening or elimination of publicly accessible views, even if no known historic resources are located nearby. This analysis has been prepared in accordance with CEQR and in consultation with LPC.

Principal Conclusions

A preliminary assessment concluded that the Proposed Actions would not result in significant adverse impacts to historic and cultural resources. A request for an environmental review letter was sent to LPC to determine if there were any architectural or archaeological resources on the Development Site or within an approximate 400-foot radius of the site. According to the response letter issued by LPC and dated September 6, 2019, the Development Site has no archeological significance and does not contain buildings or structures with architectural significance. In addition, no buildings or structures with architectural significance were identified within 400 feet of the Project Area. Therefore, the Proposed Actions would not cause significant adverse impacts to historic and cultural resources and no further analysis is warranted.

Methodology

The *2021 CEQR Technical Manual* notes that environmental review for historic and cultural resources includes a survey and planning process that helps protect New York City cultural heritage from the potential impacts of projects undergoing CEQR. Historic and cultural resources include both archaeological and architectural resources. Archaeological resources are physical remains, usually subsurface, of pre-contact, post-contact, and historic periods—such as burials, foundations, artifacts, wells, and privies. Architectural resources generally include historically important buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts. They may include bridges, canals, piers, wharves, and railroad transfer bridges that may be wholly or partially visible above ground.

Archaeological resources are usually assessed for projects that would result in any in-ground disturbance. This is any disturbance to an area not previously excavated, including new excavation that's deeper and/or wider than previous excavation on the same site.

Generally, architectural resources should be surveyed and assessed if a proposed project would result in any of the following, whether or not any known historic resources are located near the site of the project:

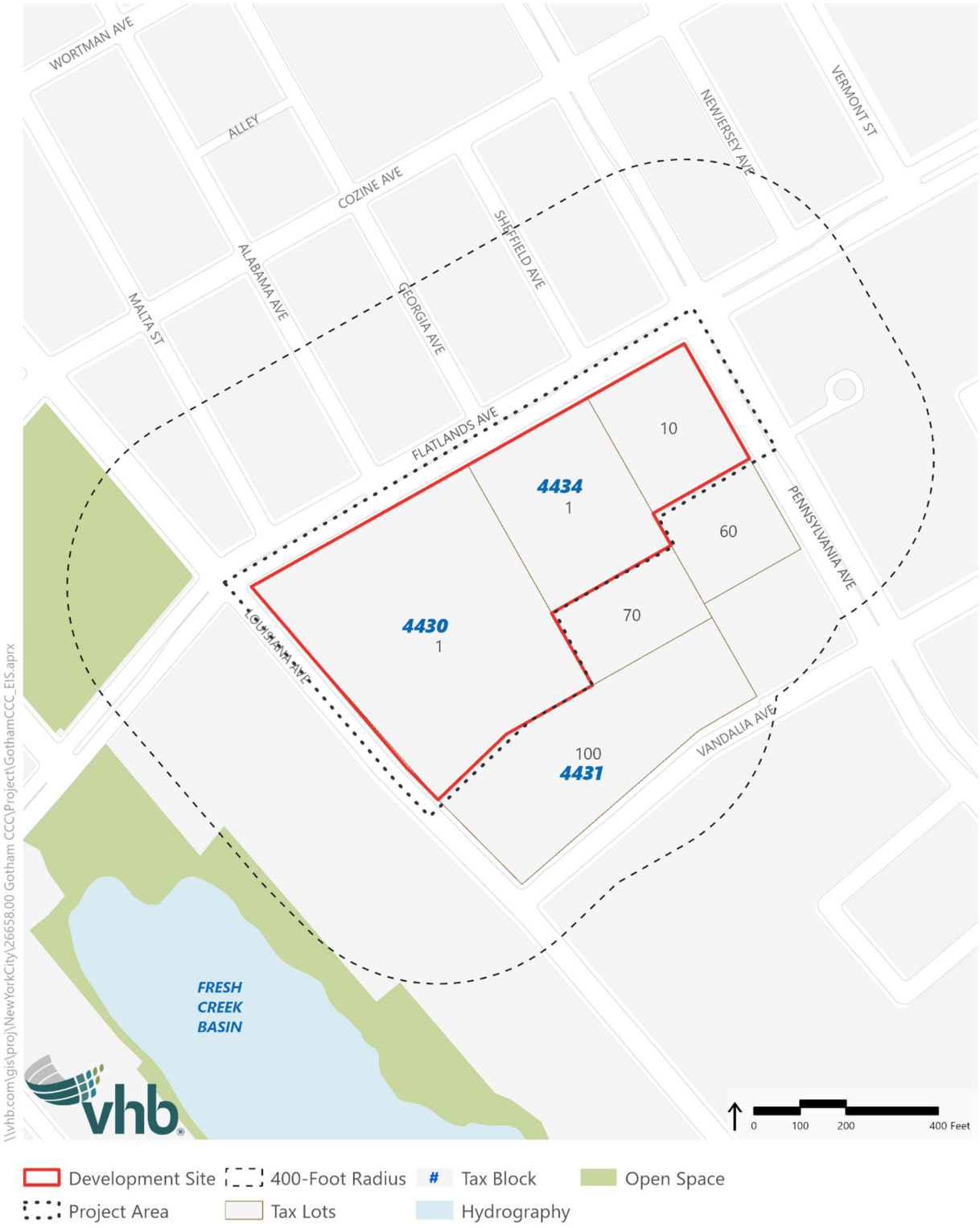
› New construction, demolition, or significant physical alteration to any building, structure, or object;

- A change in scale, visual prominence, or visual context of any building, structure, object, or landscape feature. Visual prominence is generally the way in which a building, structure, object, or landscape feature is viewed. For example, a building may be part of an open setting, such as a tower within a plaza, which is either conforming or nonconforming with the street wall in terms of its height, footprint, and/or setback. Visual context is the character of the surrounding built or natural environment. This may include the following: the architectural components of an area's buildings (e.g., height, scale, proportion, massing, fenestration, ground-floor configuration, style), streetscapes, skyline, landforms, vegetation, and openness to the sky;
- Construction, including but not limited to, excavating vibration, subsidence, dewatering, and the possibility of falling objects;
- Additions to or significant removal, grading, or replanting of significant historic landscape features;
- Screening or elimination of publicly accessible views; or,
- Introduction of significant new shadows or significant lengthening of the duration of existing shadows on a historic landscape or on a historic structure if the features that make the structure significant depend on sunlight. For example, stained glass windows that cannot be seen without sunlight, or buildings containing design elements that are part of a recognized architectural style that depends on the contrast between light and dark design elements, such as deep window reveals and prominent rustication.

Project Area and Study Area

The Project Area, as described in **Chapter 1, Project Description**, contains Brooklyn Block 4430, Lot 1; Block 4431, Lots 1 and 200; Block 4432, Lot 1; and Block 4434, Lots 1 and 10. Per the *CEQR Technical Manual*, a 400-foot study area from the Project Area boundary is considered appropriate for the historic and cultural resources assessment. The 400-foot study area is generally defined as the area bounded by midblock between Flatlands Avenue and Cozine Avenue to the north, a line approximately 350 feet west of Louisiana Avenue to the west, New Jersey Avenue to the east, and Vandalia Avenue to the south (see **Figure 7-1**).

Figure 7-1 Architectural Resources Study Area



Preliminary Assessment

Archaeological Resources

A desktop review was conducted of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), indicating that the Development Site is located within an Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. However, a findings statement issued by LPC on June 29, 2021 determined that Block 4430, Lot 1; Block 4431, Lots 1 and 200; Block 4432, Lot 1; and Block 4434, Lots 1 and 10 within the Development Site do not have archaeological significance (see **Appendix B**).

Therefore, the Proposed Actions would not result in significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources and further assessment is not warranted.

Architectural Resources

Consistent with *CEQR Technical Manual* guidance, the assessment of the Proposed Project's potential to result in impacts on architectural resources begins with a survey and documentation of existing resources in the study area. In correspondence dated September 6, 2019, LPC confirmed that the Development Site does not contain any architecturally significant resources (see **Appendix B**).

Furthermore, a review of CRIS indicated that there are no State and/or National Register listed or previously determined eligible properties located within 400 feet of the Project Area. The CRIS mapping tool shows that six properties within 400 feet have been reviewed by SHPO. These include Council Towers II HDFC at 99 Vandalia Avenue, Council Towers III HDFC at 1170 Pennsylvania Avenue, Council Towers IV at 1180 Pennsylvania Avenue, Food Bazaar at 11110 Flatlands Avenue, an oil change service at 1130 Granville Payne Avenue, and the Spring Creek Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at 12143 Flatlands Avenue. All but the Spring Creek Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library were determined not eligible for State and/or National Register listing; the status of the library is listed as "Undetermined." Similarly, the CRIS mapping tool shows that six properties within the 400-foot study area were evaluated for archaeological sensitivity through consultation projects, including Council Towers II HDFC at 99 Vandalia Avenue, Council Towers III HDFC at 1170 Pennsylvania Avenue, Council Towers IV at 1180 Pennsylvania Avenue, the Starrett City Power Plant - Spring Creek Towers property at 1255 Granville Payne Avenue, the East New York Mural Project at 11110 Flatlands Avenue, and the Fresh Creek Basin Drainage Area High-Level Storm Sewer Project at East 108th Street. At the time of this EIS, the statuses of the projects are closed except for the Fresh Creek Basin Drainage Area High-Level Storm Sewer Project.

Finally, as described above, LPC was consulted and subsequently determined that there are no New York City landmarks or historic districts within the Study Area. Therefore, the Proposed Actions would not result in significant adverse impacts to architectural resources, and further assessment is not warranted.