Academy

ERASMUS HALL HIGH SCHOOL

911 Flatbush Ave

REPORT OF THE TRIAL EXCAVATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

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BROOKLYN COLLEGE SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL 1987: EXCAVATIONS AT ERASMUS HALL HIGH SCHOOL IN BROOKLYN

Introduction

The following report presents the results of archaeological trial excavations conducted during June 1987 on the campus of Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn. This field work formed one component in the Brooklyn College Summer Archaeological Field School directed by Profs. H. A. Bankoff of the college's Department of Anthropology and Archaeology and F. A. Winter of the Department of Classics[1]. The project was initially proposed to Brooklyn College by the New York Landmarks Conservancy, with whom the college had cooperated in its excavations at the Christian Duryea house during the preceding summer[2]. The actual field work at Erasmus Hall was a venture of the college working in cooperation with the New York City Board of Education[3].

The location of Erasmus Hall High School, near the junction of Flatbush and Church Avenues, places the school at the center of the Dutch town of Flatbush which was established in 1653 as one of the six original townships in Brooklyn. Thus, the site has the potential to yield significant data from Brooklyn's earliest period of European colonization.

The school itself, which celebrates its bicentennial in

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[1]Excavations began on June 11 and continued through June 29, 1987. Student participants in the field project were R. Beacher, E. Broad, L. Capozello, D. Chan, A. Cullen, V. Dukat, M. Feldblyum, W. Graves, W. Kaufman, H. Kwastel, S. Levinton, J. Marangio, C. Martin, M. Mondiello, N. Padellan, D. Parys, D. Stahl, H. Yudelowitz.

[2]We acknowledge with thanks the early interest and continuing support of Mr. Wesley Haynes, Director of the Technical Services Section of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

[3]Special thanks are offered to Dr. Irene Impellizzeri and Ms. Hilda Merwis of the New York City Board of Education, and to Mr. Stanley Saretsky, Principal, and Mr. Thomas Lenihan, Assistant Proncipal, of Erasmus Hall High School. We would also like to express our gratitude to the students, faculty, and custodial staff of Erasmus Hall for their interest in our project and for the hospitality with which they welcomed strangers to their campus. Mr. Harry Betros, horticulture teacher at Erasmus Hall, earned a special measure of gratitude, first for graciously accepting a project that was bound to be injurious to his otherwise successful efforts at maintaining the greenery of the Erasmus Hall campus, and second for allowing us to use his classroom for storage of our excavation equipment.

1987, "is reputed to be the oldest secondary school in the state of New York, and was the first secondary school chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York" (Milner et al. 1986:5). The main buildings of the currently existing school were constructed during the first half of the twentieth century. They form a quadrangle that encloses the campus of the school. In the center of this campus stands the old Academy building which, although much restored, preserves the form of the original eighteenth century school (Milner et al. 1986). In recognition of its venerable age and its unique place in the history of American education, the Academy building has been recognized as a New York City Landmark and included on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Academy building, however, is not today on its original foundations. It was moved to its present location in 1942 at which time it was shifted slightly north and east of its original situation. This move was required by city fire codes which demanded that the wooden Academy be distanced from the newly constructed southern segment of the Erasmus Hall quadrangle. The move centered the Academy building between the north and south wings of the new quadrangle. At the same time, the orientation of the Academy was adjusted to align it with the modern quadrangle and the line of Flatbush Avenue. In association with the construction of the quadrangle and the move of the Academy building, nineteenth and earlier twentieth century additions to the old Academy building were demolished.

The field investigations at Erasmus Hall were designed to test the integrity and preservation of the archaeological deposits associated with the eighteenth and early nineteenth century phases of the school's development. Trenches were positioned in order to test the accuracy of the documentary and cartographic sources, while simultaneously exploring for preserved remnants of the out-buildings and secondary structures that must have been present on the site (e.g. cisterns, privies, sheds). A secondary objective of the field project was the acquisition of artifacts from the early years of the Erasmus Academy. It was intended that these materials would form the core of an archaeological collection in the newly founded Erasmus Hall High School Museum. Within a larger framework, the excavations at Erasmus Hall were conceived as a part of Brooklyn College's continuing archaeological investigations into the early history of Brooklyn, which heretofore have included excavations within the borough at a prehistoric campsite (Marine Park 1979), a colonial village (Gravesend 1976-1978) and a colonial/Federal farmstead (Christian Duryea house 1986) (cf. Bankoff 1979; Winter 1981).

Field Methods

The excavation trenches were positioned in hopes of recovering data relating to the early history of the Erasmus Academy. To this end, the location of the trenches was determined by the available historical data (e.g. Milner 1986) rather than by any probablistic sampling strategy. Trenches were oriented along the lines of the modern Erasmus Hall quadrangle which, in turn, is oriented to the cardinal points in accordance with the street grid of central Flatbush. A total of eleven trenches were excavated, all but one down to the natural subsoil level. Except in three instances, the surface dimensions of the trenches measured two by two meters. The exceptions were trenches 9 (one by two m.), 10 (one by three m.) and 11 (one by two m.).

Excavations were conducted using hand picks, trowels, and digging spades. All soil was sifted through quarter-inch mesh screens and all cultural materials thus recovered were returned to the archaeology laboratory of the Brooklyn College Archaeological Research Center for cleaning and analysis.

Digging crews consisted of teams made up of four or five undergraduate students. Since this was a first excavation for all of the students, faculty supervisors maintained a constant presence on site. Additionally, the first trenches excavated (trenches 1 through 4) were situated in close proximity to each other in order to allow even closer supervision. Later trenches were more widely dispersed.

Excavation Results

The trenches were roughly grouped into three areas: trenches 1 through 5 and 9 were positioned to the north and northeast of the original location of the Academy building (Photo 1). Trenches 6, 7, 10 and 11 were to the building's west and northwest. Trench 8 investigated an area to the east of the old structure. The choice of trench locations was limited by two considerations: first, the current position of the Academy building precludes, because of its subsurface foundations and cellars, the investigation of the land immediately behind (or east of) the original Academy; and second, financial considerations precluded the removal of the modern concrete walkways that cover most of the foundation area and western periphery of the eighteenth century Academy.

PHOTO 1

- North and Northeast Area -

Trench 1: Trench 1 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 8.4 m. north and 2.0 m. east of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was positioned in order to investigate the area to the northeast of the original Academy building. Plans of the Erasmus Hall campus indicated that the trench would be adjacent to or directly over the corner of the northeast wing of the 1897-1900 wood frame addition to the Academy. In fact, the exterior wall of the wing was found in trench 2 (see below), ca. 1.0 m. to the west of trench 1, and trench 1 exposed the interior cellar floor of the wing.

The surface area of the trench was a level grass and weed covered lawn. This topsoil/humus layer, which was between 0.15 and 0.20 m. thick, covered a concrete rubble and brick fill which extended down to the cement floor of the cellar. Artifacts in the fill included bricks embossed with the company names "WASHBURN" and "HEDGES," metal debris, fragments of glass and a limited quantity of ceramics. This fill was presumably the demolition debris from the dismantling of the northeast wing of the Academy, which documentary sources indicate took place in 1940 (Milner 1986:13).

The concrete cellar floor was encountered at a depth of 0.85 to 0.90 m. below the current ground surface. As exposed, the concrete floor was not intact. A ca.0.60 m. wide trench cut through the floor, running north-south ca. 0.30 to 0.90 m. east of trench 1's western border. The trench had been filled with bricks (including one intact example embossed "LEHEY") and rock rubble. The trench was cleared to a depth of 0.40 m. down into the natural subsoil. The character of the brick and rock rubble fill within this sub-cellar trench was identical to that of the fill above the floor, suggesting that any piping that might have once existed within the trench had been removed at the time of the building's demolition.

Trench 2: Trench 2 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 5.9 m. due north of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench revealed a segment of the exterior western wall of the northeast wing of the old Academy (Photo 2). The floor of this wing was exposed in trench 1.

The ground surface within trench 2 was level and consisted of a grass and weed covered humus layer that was ca. 0.15 m. thick along the eastern side of the trench and ca. 0.30 m. thick along the west. Beneath this humus on the eastern half of the trench was a brick and concrete rubble fill, similar in character to the fill encountered in trench 1. Bricks in the fill included examples embossed with the legends "SSBCO" and "ROAH-HOOK." The fill covered the brick western foundation wall of the Academy wing.

The foundation wall was encountered ca. 0.60 m. below the ground surface and it followed the orientation lines of the old

Academy, which set the wall at an angle ca. 18 degrees west of the north-south orientation line of the modern Erasmus Hall campus. The wall was made up of two horizontal rows of brick, oriented so that the long sides of the outer row of bricks faced out and the inner row of bricks was set perpendicularly to the outer. Three courses of bricks were exposed. Excavation to the east of the wall was terminated in the fill layer ca. 0.70 m. below the modern ground surface. On the assumption that the fill covered a floor identical to the one previously exposed in trench 1, and in light of the limited work space available to the east of the foundation wall in trench 2, it was decided not to dig further in this segment of the trench.

PHOTO 2

A heavy-duty BX cable, a remnant of the electrical system of the Academy wing, ran over the preserved foundation wall ca. 0.40 m. north of the south side of the trench. This cable angled to the foundation wall from the northwest so that at the northern border of the trench, the cable was ca. 0.60 m. west of the wall.

Immediately to the west of the foundation wall and ca. 0.50 m. below the ground surface were two 0.07 m. water pipes. The pipes ran parallel to each other along a line identical to the modern orientation lines of the Erasmus Hall campus. These pipes are intrusive and were set in the bottom of a ca. 0.30 m. wide soil-filled trench. The pipes provide water for the current restored Academy building and thus date not earlier than 1940, the year when the Academy building was shifted to its current location.

The soil along the western ca. 0.60 m. of trench 2 consisted of a compact clay, devoid of artifactual materials and similar to the sterile soil encountered in the other trenches at the site.

Trench 3: Trench 3 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 5.9 m. north and 3.48 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was positioned northeast of the original location of the Erasmus Academy building on level grass- and weed-covered ground.

The topsoil/humus layer within the trench was ca. 0.25 m. thick. Beneath this layer, the eastern half of the trench was covered with a 0.15 to 0.20 m. thick layer of coal ash and clinker. This layer contained almost no artifacts, suggesting that it consisted either of a furnace dump, an ash-paved pathway, or the underbed for a paved walkway. The western edge of the ash deposit followed a relatively straight line and this fact, coupled with the uniform thickness of the deposit, made it unlikely that the deposit consisted of a dump or pit. The absence of artifactual material suggested that the deposit did not form an exposed school pathway. Thus, through a process of elimination, it seems probable that the deposit was previously covered by some form of paving, and indeed, a plan in the possession of the New York City Board of Education dated March 29, 1939 indicates the presence of an "existing pavement" walkway in the general area of trench 3. This paving was perhaps removed at the time of the 1940-1942 renovations on the Erasmus Hall campus when the old Academy building was realigned, its ancillary wings were demolished and the central quadrangle was relandscaped.

The narrow edge of another, similar patch of ash, perhaps representing another pathway, was intersected by the southwestern edge of the trench. Unfortunately, this second deposit was too limited in extent to provide additional data to help characterize these ash deposits.

Trench 4: Trench 4 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 5.9 m. north and 11 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was positioned

to the north-northeast of the original Academy building in the same level grass- and weed-covered lawn as trenches 1 to 3.

The topsoil/humus layer was 0.10 to 0.15 m. thick. Beneath this was a 0.05 to 0.15 m. thick stratum consisting of a dark, clay-rich soil mixed with small rocks, shells, coal clinkers and artifactual materials. The artifacts recovered from this stratum tended to be very small and fragmentary. Among the more notable finds was a gun flint (Photo 3), the only such artifact found in the excavations. Natural subsoils underlay the stratum.

PHOTO 3

Trench 4 differed from trenches 1 to 3 in its lack of features. The trench's dark second stratum may represent a gradual soil accumulation, dating prior to the modern leveling and landscaping of the Erasmus Hall campus, or an episode of deliberate late 19th to early 20th century filling.

Trench 5: Trench 5 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 0.875 m. north and 13.9 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was positioned south and west of trench 4 to investigate an area as close as practicable to the north side of the Academy building's original foundations.

The trench exposed no surviving features. Under an 0.08 to 0.10 m. topsoil layer the subsoil was rocky and filled with clam and a smaller amount of oyster shells. This stratum was of uneven thickness, ranging from 0.10 to 0.40 m. The shells were more heavily concentrated in the bottom 0.10 m., especially in the western half of the trench. Beneath them, the sterile subsoil lay at a depth of 0.25 to 0.50 m. below the surface.

The shell-rich stratum gives the appearance of a fill deposit rather than a gradual accumulation or a kitchen dump. Due to the limited nature of the finds from this trench, which included many extremely fragmentary and few diagnostic artifacts, the precise dating and characterization of this deposit is not possible.

Trench 9: Trench 9 was a one by three m. trench (oriented with its long axis north-south) with its northeast corner situated 2.1 m. south and 13.9 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was, in essence, a southern extension of trench 5, from which it was separated by a 1.0 m. baulk. Trench 9 was dug in hopes of locating the foundations of the original Academy building or its 1826 extension, and indeed heavy stone foundations were exposed along the southern side of the trench.

The topsoil/humus layer in trench 9 was ca. 0.20 m. thick and contained relatively few artifacts. The soil matrix was fine textured, dark and rooty, having the character of topsoil brought in for landscaping.

A second stratum, of lighter, rocky soil with some construction debris, underlay the topsoil. At the bottom of this stratum, a brick wall divided the long dimension of the trench into two nearly equal segments (Photo 4). The wall ran generally east-west although it was slightly angled so that at the eastern side of the 1.0 m. trench its face was 0.14 m. further north than it was at the west. The wall was three courses thick, with its courses laid parallel to the face of the wall. The bricks were embossed "ROAH-HOOK," and four vertical courses were preserved with a mortar covering indicating that at least one additional course of similarly embossed bricks were present. In the northern portion of the trench, natural subsoil was reached just below the topmost preserved course of the brick wall. To the

south, a concrete foundation ledge extended ca. 0.20 m. beyond the wall. As measured along its vertical southern face, this foundation was at least 0.15 m. tall.

PHOTO 4

The heavy stone foundations in the southern wall of trench 9 ran along a line parallel to the brick wall. The stones of the foundation were large, ranging in length up to 0.60 m., and were set without mortar. The stones were water-abraded, granite

cobbles as might be expected of the materials available along the glacial moraine in this part of Brooklyn. A packing of smaller field stones abutted the north face of the foundation and extended ca. 0.35 m. to the north. This packing held some decayed mortar. The fill between the stone packing and the brick wall to the north included a lens of large concrete and rock rubble fragments as well as rocky dirt and bricks.

Based on its location, the stone foundation must belong to the original 1787 school building or its 1826 extension. Early 20th century plans of the Erasmus Hall campus suggest that the foundation is more likely to belong to the extension, although it has not been possible to confirm this by the archaeology because of the limited exposure available within the 1.0 m. wide trench. The same early 20th century plans show a subsequent small brick addition on the north side of the 1787/1826 building, and the brick wall encountered in trench 9 surely belongs to this structure. The function of this addition is not noted on the plans; its size and shape are compatible with a number of possible uses (e.g. coal chute, light well, basement access). The embossed bricks of this feature, and indeed its entire character, are typical of the constructions that date to the 1897-1900 expansion of the school.

- West and Northwest Area -

Trench 6: Trench 6 was a two by two m. trench set in the northwest lawn of the Erasmus Hall campus. The northeast corner of the trench was situated 3.41 m. south and 23.45 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was positioned in order to investigate the area near the northwest corner of the old Academy building. Trench 6 was situated in the closest open location available to the former Academy building's corner. Excavations closer to the corner were precluded by the presence of the modern concrete pavement of the campus' walkways and the bordering hedge that surrounds the northwest lawn,

The topsoil/humus formed a ca. 0.10 m. thick level across the trench. It overlay a ca. 0.05 m. thick layer of subhumus which included some fill materials as well as quantities of coal ash and clinker. Beneath this, a ca. 1.0 m. wide and 0.15 to 0.20 m. deep band of coal ash and clinker ran diagonally across the trench along a northeast to southwest line. The ash deposit here was similar to the ash deposit excavated in trench 3: both deposits had sharply delineated edges, were of similar thickness and contained very few artifacts. Presumably, these similarities in form reflect a similarity in function and indeed, as was the case with the ash deposit in trench 3, the New York City Board of Education's Erasmus Hall campus plan of March 29, 1939 shows an "existing paving" in the vicinity of the ash band in trench 6.

At the northern edge of the trench, in its eastern profile, nine vertical courses of a brick wall were exposed. The wall was set on a low, ca. 0.10 m. thick, cement footing. The wall

extended 0.30 m. south of the northern border of the trench and its cement footing extended an additional ca. 0.15 m. to the south. Investigation with a probe indicated that the bricks of the wall continued both north and east outside the trench. In other words, trench 6 exposed what appears to be the southwest corner of a brick feature. No corresponding construction appears in any of the available maps of the Erasmus Hall campus, and due to the limited exposure of this feature, it is impossible to determine its function, date or exact relationship to the paved ash walkway without further excavation.

In the southeast corner of trench 6, again running along a northeast-southwest line, was an 0.07 m. thick pipe set at the bottom of a ca. 0.65 m. deep and 0.55 m. wide rubble-filled trench. The pipe and its trench cut through the ash pathway although both features follow the same lines of orientation. Since this is the orientation line of the old Erasmus Hall buildings rather than that of the modern campus, it is probable that both the path and the pipe served the school before the Academy building was moved to its present location in 1942.

Trench 7: Trench 7 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 1.07 m. south and 27.97 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was positioned in order to investigate the area north and west of the old Academy building. This was the front yard of the old Academy, between the original school and Flatbush Avenue, where early drawings show a landscaped, fence-enclosed lawn. (Milner et al. 1986: Pls. 1 & 2).

A 0.20 to 0.25 m. thick layer of topsoil covered a ca. 0.10 m. thick stratum of soft earth fill. Clumps of decayed tree stump and root, as well as extensive rodent borrows in the northern half of the trench, account for this stratum's particularly soft texture. Two fragments of a notched, gray flint projectile point (Photo 5) were recovered from this stratum. The point resembles projectile points from the Meadowood phase of the Early Woodland period (ca. 1000 to 600 B.C.) (Ritchie 1980:180-201).

The fill in which the point was found also contained modern materials, so here can be no question of its being in primary context; indeed, there were no other prehistoric materials found in this or any other trench in the excavations. This suggests two possible explanations for the presence of the point in trench 7: either it was brought to the school by a student as part of a class exercise and discarded on the campus, or it may have been brought to the campus unintentionally with soils used to level the campus' lawn.

A ca. 0.30 m. wide trench filled with dark brown soil ran along a north-south line through the center of trench 7. This earth feature cut ca. 0.40 m. down into the natural subsoil below the bottom of the horizontal fill level. The trench contained brick and wood fragments that were similar in character to the mid-twentieth century construction debris noted in other

trenches, thus suggesting that the feature was filled in relatively recent times. Its shape would suggest that it was used as a drainage ditch.

Trench 11: Trench 11 was a one by two m. trench (oriented with its long axis north-south) with its northeast corner situated 3.31 m. south and 28.47 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. This trench was opened as a southward extension of trench 7, from which it was separated by a ca. 0.25 m. wide baulk. The trench was originally designed to provide additional data regarding the possible drainage ditch that was exposed in trench 7; however, digging within trench 11 never progressed to a depth that would permit investigation of this feature.

PHOTO 5

Due to time limitations, only the ca. 0.15 to 0.25 m. thick topsoil layer was removed from trench 11 before the end of the excavation season. Beneath this topsoil, exposed but not

excavated, was a layer of coal ash and clinker similar in its surface appearance to that found in trenches 3 and 6. Presumably, as in the other trenches, the ash deposit in trench 11 served as the underbedding for a paved walkway.

Trench 10: Trench 10 was a one by two m. trench (oriented with its long axis east-west) with its northeast corner situated 3.35 m. north and 29.24 m. west of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was dug in order to investigate a shallow, circular ca. 1.0 m. diameter depression in the ground surface of the campus' northwest lawn. Excavation was warranted on the chance that this depression might reflect the presence of a filled well or other subsurface feature.

The excavation of trench 10 revealed that the depression was, in fact, caused by the removal of a tree stump, large partially rotted chunks of which were found within the trench. The trench was dug to a maximum depth of 0.70 m.

-East Area-

Trench 8: Trench 8 was a two by two m. trench with its northeast corner situated 8.56 m. south and 7.51 m. east of the northeast corner of the modern Academy building. The trench was designed to investigate the area east of the Academy building.

A brick and rubble fill was encountered beneath a ca. 0.10 m. thick topsoil layer. This fill was excavated to a depth of ca. 0.75 m. along the south side of the trench before excavation was suspended without reaching natural subsoils.

PHOTO 6

A rectangular brick feature was exposed in the northern half

of the trench (Photo 6). This feature was oriented along the lines of the pre-renovation Erasmus Hall campus. The area enclosed by the feature was filled with construction debris and rubble (including bricks embossed "WASHBURN,""SSBCO" and "HEDGE 2") that was identical in character to the rubble encountered in trenches 1 and 2. Within the feature was an area of flagstone paving ca. 1.5 m. east-west by 0.60 m. north-south. The paving was set ca. 0.80 m. below the present top of the surrounding wall and ca. 1.05 m. below the modern ground surface. A circular, ca. 0.30 m. diameter hole was cut through the paving near its center.

The south, west and east walls of the feature abutted but did not bond to the brick north wall, which continued east and west beyond the lines of the trench. The bricks used in the construction of this north wall were also different from the bricks used in the other walls of the feature. The construction and orientation of this feature indicate a late 19th to early 20th century date consonant with the construction of the northeast wing that was added to the old Academy building in 1897-1900. The north wall of the feature in trench 8 would thus be a portion of the south wall of the wing, while the feature itself most likely would have been part of the building's drainage system. The feature does not appear on any of the available plans of the Erasmus Hall campus.

Conclusions

Excavations conducted on the Erasmus Hall High School campus in June 1987 demonstrated the presence of well-preserved and extensive sub-surface archaeological remains on the site.

The earliest architectural phases of the campus, which include the original 1787 Academy building and its 1826 addition, were represented by the foundation wall encountered along the southern edge of trench 9. Although only a small segment of this foundation was exposed, it demonstrates that data from this early period is available within the campus.

The next major construction phase at Erasmus Hall dates between 1897 and 1900, when wood frame additions were constructed onto the eastern side of the old Academy. Portions of the west and south walls of the northeast addition were revealed in trenches 2 and 8, respectively. Trench 1 uncovered a portion of the cellar floor from the same wing, while the brick wall in trench 9 presumably belongs to this same construction phase.

Walkways, or more specifically the ash underbeddings for paved walkways, were revealed in trenches 3, 6 and 11. The orientation of these walkways indicate that they served the campus before the erection of the modern Erasmus Hall quadrangle which was acompanied by a reorientation of the campus in the early to mid-twentieth century.

The artifacts recovered in the excavations have not yet been fully analyzed. Preliminary review indicates that they include materials from all phases of the school's history. One prehistoric projectile point was found but it was clearly associated with later, historic materials. Except for the projectile point, the artifacts from the excavations provide no traces of pre-1787 utilization of the site. This is somewhat surprising considering that the school is located near the center of the town site of Flatbush, a community established more than a century before the school was chartered.

The site's late 18th and early 19th century ceramics and glassware are all extremely fragmentary. There seem to be relatively few pieces overall, and those that are present include a relatively low proportion of finer wares. The site produced a larger number of slate pencils (Photo 7) than have been found on other contemporaneous sites in Brooklyn, and the obvious conclusion is that this reflects the site's function as a school. Other classes of artifacts (e.g. kaolin smoking pipes) (Photo 8) were present in expected and predictable quantities.

PHOTO 7

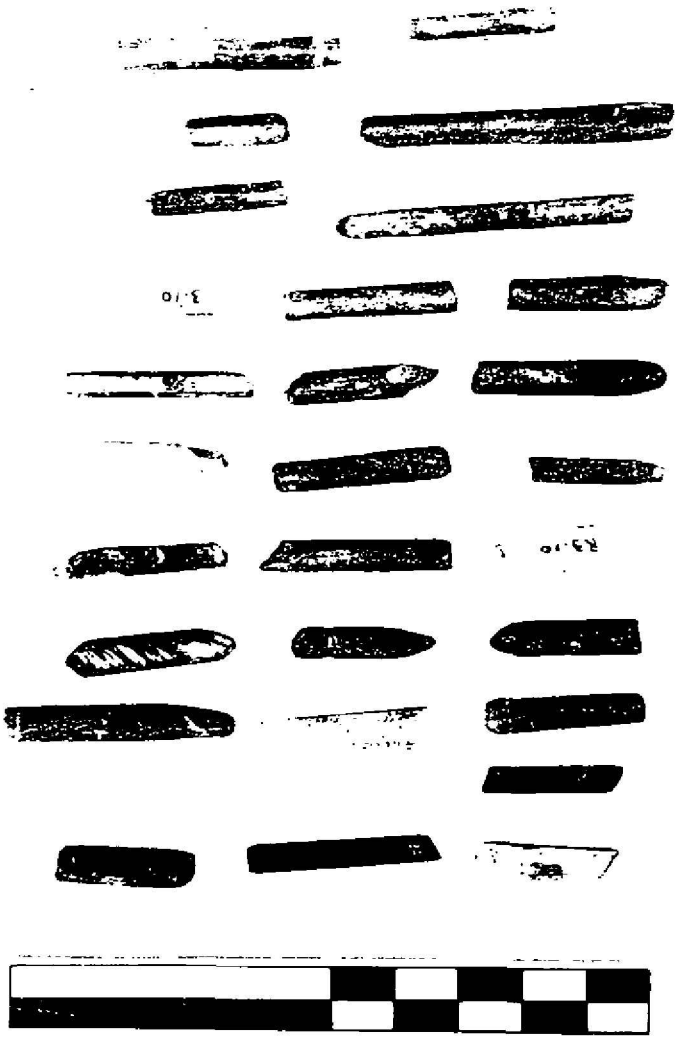

PHOTO 8

The 1987 excavations raise a number of questions that could fruitfully serve as a basis for future investigations:

- Digs in the area around trench 9 could be counted on to expose more of the original 1787 Academy building, including its foundations and interior cellars. Ideally, these investigations would extend west under the currently paved walkways of the campus.
- Continuation of the excavations in trench 11 could be counted on to further define the ash deposit exposed in the trench and to determine the character of the trench-like feature exposed in the adjacent trench 7.
- Additional trenches in the west and southwest portions of the modern campus, closer to Flatbush Avenue, would have the greatest likelihood of producing information about the earliest use of the campus.
- No portions of the broad eastern lawn of the campus were excavated during the 1987 season. This area could be tested in hopes of locating secondary structures relating to the early years of the school.

These supplementary excavations would complete our picture of Erasmus Hall's past while providing an important source of data for the more general archaeological history of Brooklyn.

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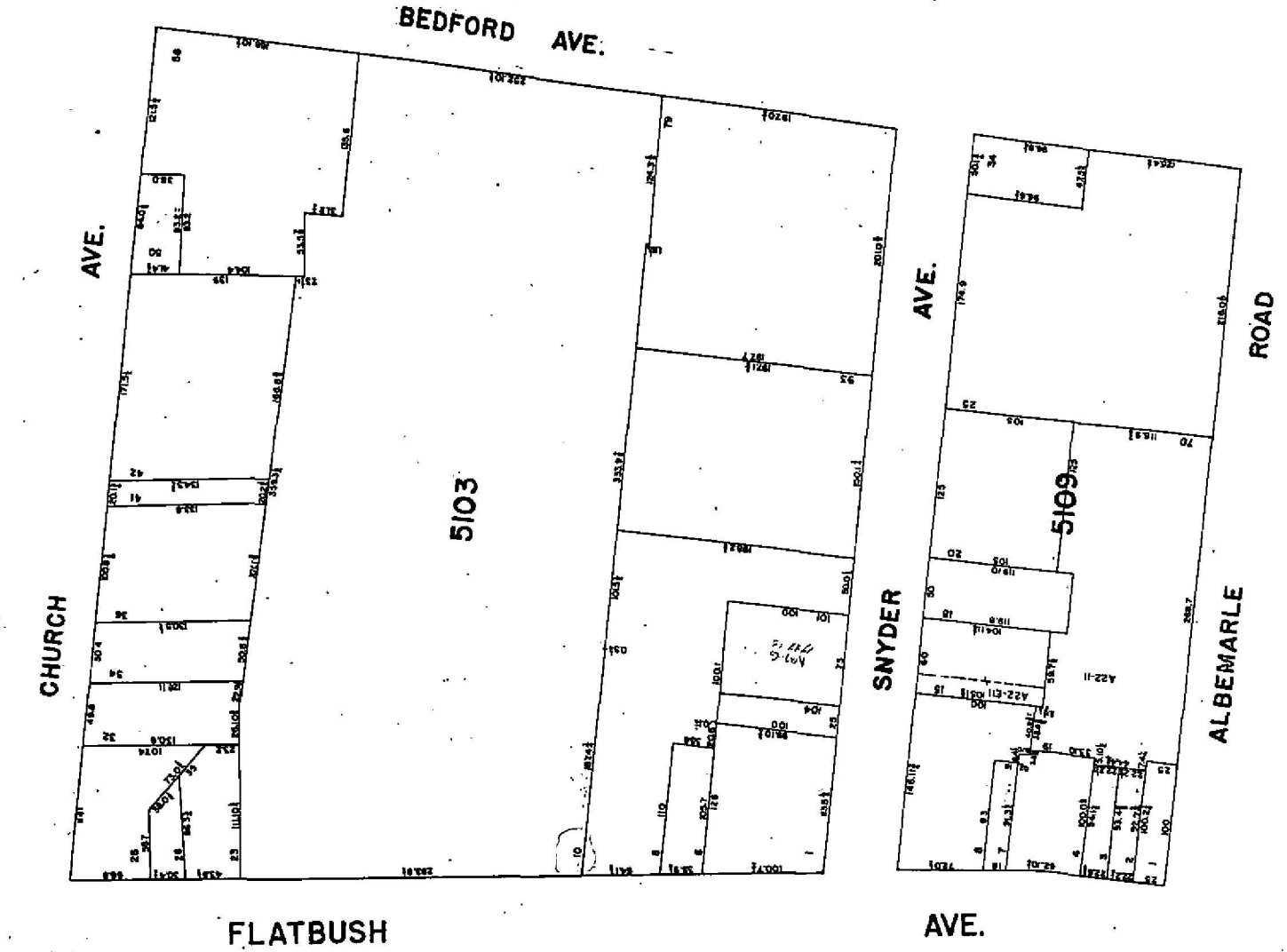
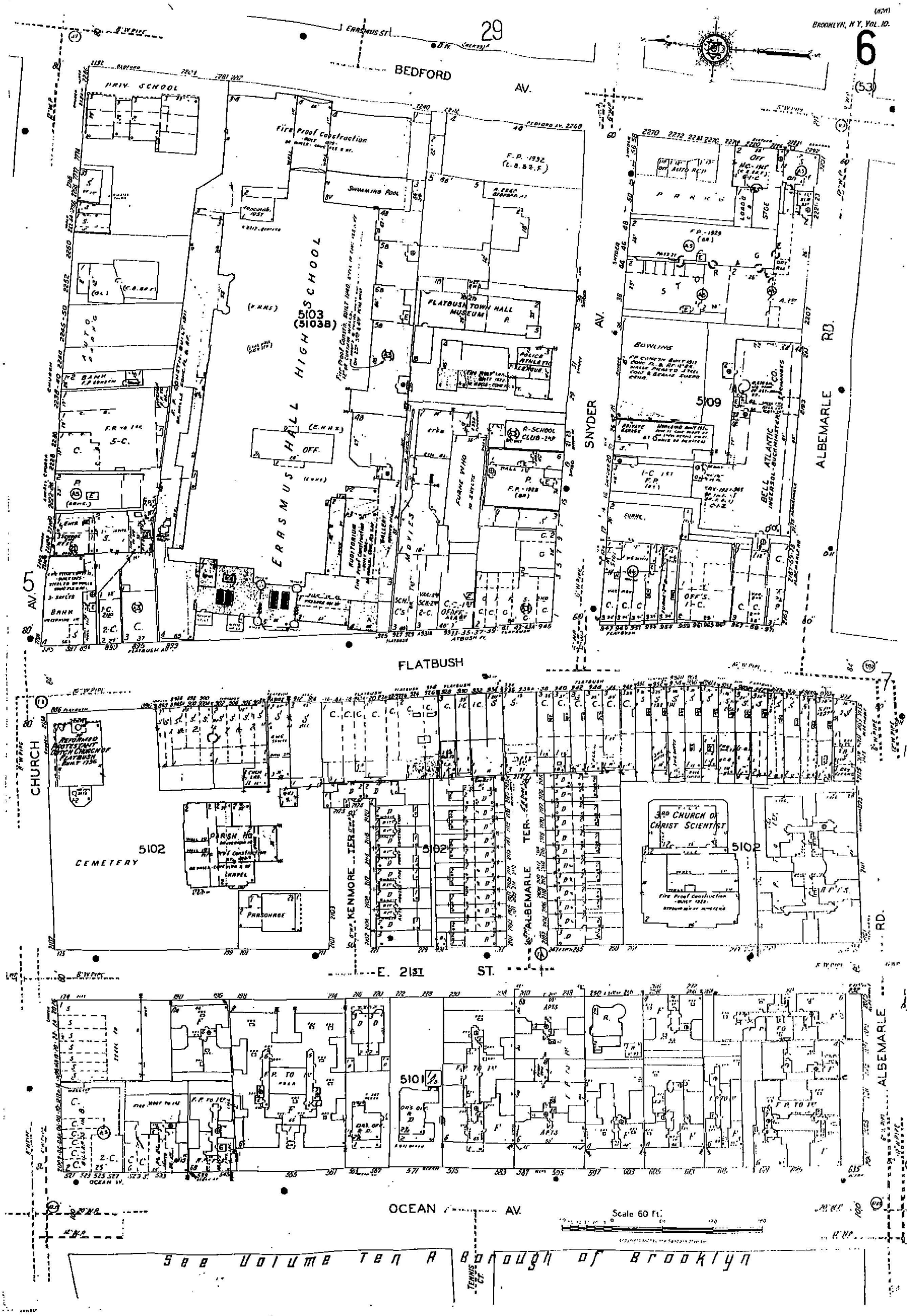

BEDFORD AVE.
CHURCH AVE.
5103
SNYDER AVE.
5109
ALBEMARLE ROAD
FLATBUSH AVE.
CHURCH AVE.
KENMORE TER.
5102
ALBEMARLE TER.
ALBEMARLE RD.
E. 21ST ST.
5101
OCEAN AVE.


29
BEDFORD AV.
ERASMUS ST.
PRIV. SCHOOL
Fire Proof Construction
F. P. 1932 (L.B.S.F.)
SWIMMING POOL
5103 (5103B)
ERASMUS HALL HIGH SCHOOL
FLATBUSH TOWN HALL MUSEUM
POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE
BANK
5-C.
OFF.
GYMNASIUM
FURNC.
P-SCHOOL CLUB-1HP
SNYDER AV.
5109
BOWLING
PRIVATE GARAGE
BELL ATLANTIC INGERSOL-BUCHANAN CO.
ALBEMARLE RD.
AV. 5
FLATBUSH
CHURCH
REFORMED PROTESTANT DUTCH CHURCH OF FLATBUSH
CEMETERY
PARISH HD.
CHAPEL
PARSONAGE
5102
KENMORE TER.
3RD CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST
E. 21ST ST.
APTS.
5101
OCEAN AV.
Scale 60 ft.
See Volume Ten A Borough of Brooklyn