

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

March 2014

NY HARBOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM MANHATTAN CAMPUS

Appendix B: EA Coordination Letters and Responses, VAMC Manhattan

HDR

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
FLOOD MITIGATION MEASURES
Design and Construction of Perimeter Flood Wall

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK



October 7, 2013

Ms. Jean Pietrusiak
NY Natural Heritage Program-Information Services
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 5th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-4757

RE: Threatened and Endangered Species Information Request for Construction of a Floodwall at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Manhattan, New York, New York

Dear Ms. Pietrusiak,

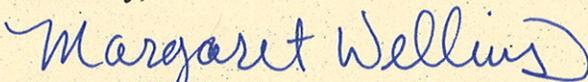
On behalf of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) is requesting information on state-listed threatened, endangered, special concern species and any known bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nesting areas within 660 ft. of the project to support the preparation of environmental permits for the proposed construction of a floodwall at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Manhattan, located on the east side of Manhattan, in the City of New York, New York (Figure 1).

The VAMC Manhattan is located approximately 800 feet from the East River and incurred extensive damages from flooding due to Hurricane Sandy in late October 2012, resulting in the facility to be temporarily shut down. The VAMC Manhattan was unable to reopen to full capacity until May 2013. As recommended by the VA's *Flood Preparedness Study Final Strategic Report*, the VAMC Manhattan is proposing the construction of a floodwall and floodgates at the perimeter of the site, moving mission critical departments and equipment to a location above the ground floor, and relocating primary electrical distribution and emergency power generation above the ground floor. The proposed floodwall is intended as first line of defense to reduce future property damage and interruptions of service during flooding events.

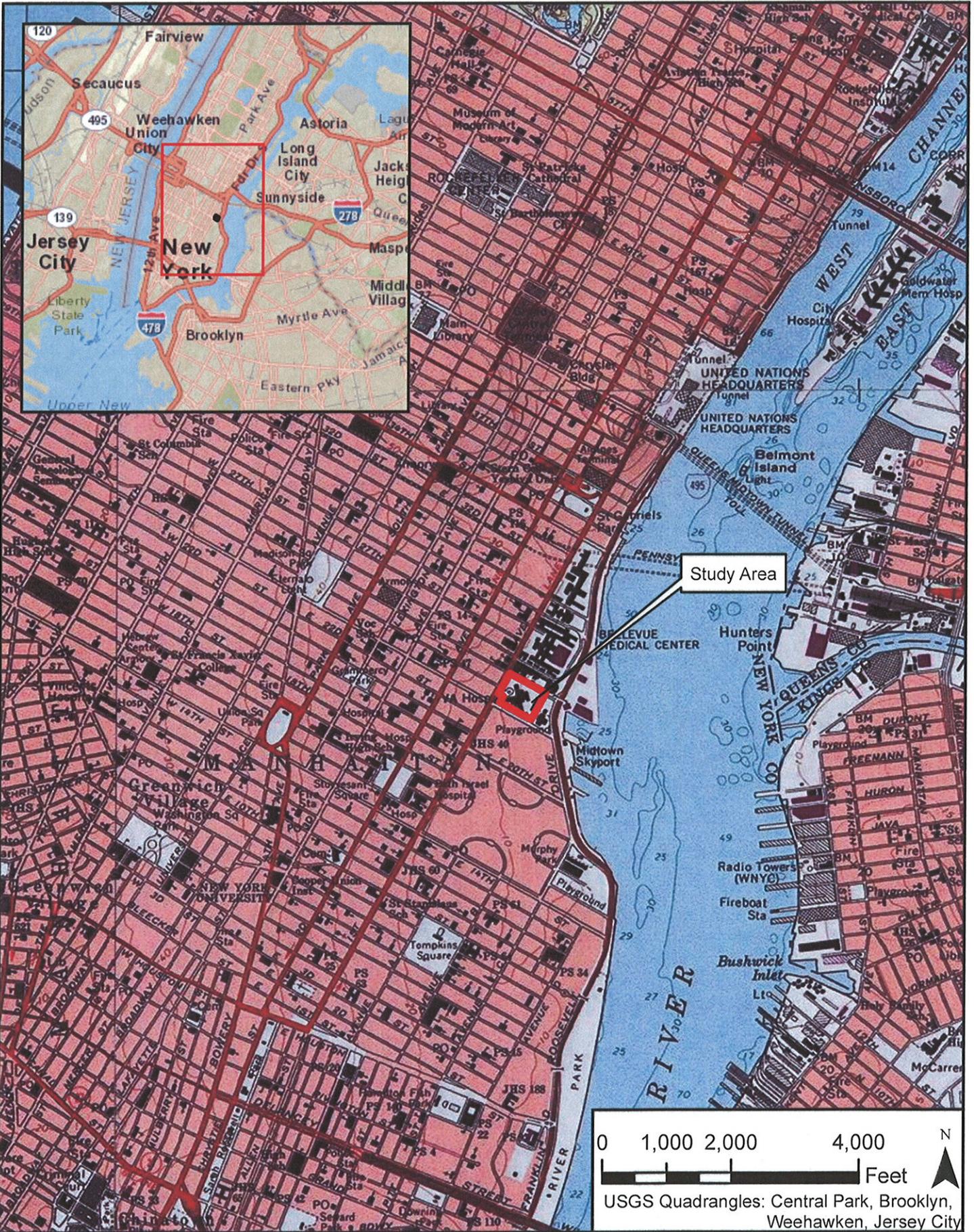
The information provided by NHP will be used to complete the project Environmental Assessment and consultation with the USFWS. Specific information on the location of sensitive species or habitats provided by the NHP will not be published in any document unless permission is granted by the State.

If you have any questions, or need any further information about this proposed project, do not hesitate to contact me at (845)-735-8300 ext. 240 or at Margaret.Wellins@HDRinc.com.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wellins
Environmental Scientist



Department of Veterans Affairs

VAMC Floodwall
USGS Topographic Map

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources
New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-4757
Phone: (518) 402-8935 • **Fax:** (518) 402-8925
Website: www.dec.ny.gov



Joe Martens
Commissioner

October 16, 2013

Margaret Wellins
HDR
PO Box 1509
Pearl River, NY 10965

Re: Construction of a Floodwall at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Manhattan
Town/City: New York. County: New York.

Dear Margaret Wellins :

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the above project.

We have no records of rare or state-listed animals or plants, or significant natural communities, at your site or in its immediate vicinity.

The absence of data does not necessarily mean that rare or state-listed species, natural communities or other significant habitats do not exist on or adjacent to the proposed site. Rather, our files currently do not contain information which indicates their presence. For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted. We cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities. This information should not be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental assessment.

This response applies only to known occurrences of rare or state-listed animals and plants, significant natural communities and other significant habitats maintained in the Natural Heritage Data bases. Your project may require additional review or permits; for information regarding other permits that may be required under state law for regulated areas or activities (e.g., regulated wetlands), please contact the appropriate NYS DEC Regional Office, Division of Environmental Permits, as listed at www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy A. Davis".

Nancy Davis-Ricci
Environmental Review Specialist
New York Natural Heritage Program

To: Gina Santucci, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
 From: Marjorie Nowick, HDR (contact information on page 2)
 Date: 10/6/2013
 Subject: Environmental Review Request, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Manhattan – Floodwall Project

(x) Site plans and sections with corresponding description of **existing and proposed** conditions

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to construct a floodwall to protect the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) at 423 East 23rd Street, Manhattan. The VAMC occupies Block 955, Lot 5 which is the entire block bounded by First Avenue, East 23rd Street, Asser Levy Place, and East 25th Street except for Lot 1 (southwest corner of First Avenue and E 23rd Street). The floodwall is being developed by the VA using Federal resources exclusively. NEPA/NHPA/SEQR/CEQA analysis is underway, and an EA being prepared in conformance to federal, state and city requirements. VA with HDR support has consulted the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the designated State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) by telephone and email and has consulted the SHPO SPHINX database, and will complete Sec 106 compliance.

Based on preliminary engineering, the floodwall will be about 14 feet high, have a deep foundation, and extend along approximately the east half of the VAMC's parcel along the north side of the East 23rd St beginning approximately at the east driveway of the East 23rd Street min entrance of the VAMC; along the west side of the Asser Levy Place; and along the east half of the south side of East 25th St. The reinforced concrete wall would have 3 or 4 gaps of about 20-ft for retractable floodgates at locations to be determined. The gate openings would allow trucks to enter the interior courtyard of the VAMC. The design of the floodwall is under development and options are being considered for the overall sectional configuration and exterior finish.

(x) 400' radius map measured from the edge of the site(s) on a **Sanborn Map** or equivalent. The subject site(s) should be clearly marked on the map. To get a map of your site use the following www addresses: <http://www.oasisnyc.net/map.aspx>; <http://maps.nyc.gov/doitt/nycitymap/>

See Map as Attachment 1. Public Baths a NYC Landmark and listed in NRHP is at 392 Asser Levy Place/501 East 23rd St on Block 981. Peter Cooper Village is to south (Block 978), Hunter College/Bellevue Hospital complex is to north (462 1st Ave, Block 962).

(x) Original photographs of full building **façade** or streetscape for all project sites or projected and potential soft sites. All photographs to be keyed to a site map and/or the 400' radius map, and to be labeled with the address and block/lot.

Attachment 2 is map keyed to eighteen (18) photos sent via email. As the floodwall will only extend along the outside perimeter of the east half of Block 955 parcel, photographs are provided of buildings on blocks on the east side of First Avenue, north and south sides of East 23rd Street, and north and south sides of East 25th Street, (Blocks 955, 962, 978) and east side of Asser Levy Place (Block 981).

(x) Block and lot numbers. A table listing Blocks and Lots within the project site is required. If Block and Lot numbers are not applicable, ie. project is only in a streetbed or sidewalk, use the nearest block and lot. To get to the block and lot numbers, use the use the following www addresses:

BBL (Borough, first digit Block, digits 2 to 6Lot, digits 7 to 10)	Address
1009550005	423 EAST 23 RD STREET (VAMC) 18 story/1950
1009550001	394 1 AVENUE (NYC BD Ed) Official Not Eligible-SPHINX
1009780001	342 1 AVENUE (Peter Cooper Village (21 bldgs – 15 story)
1009810002	392 ASSER LEVY PLACE (Public Baths – 2 stories)
1009620100	462 1 AVENUE (Hunter College-Bellevue-17 stories)
1009300034	421 1 AVENUE (SW corner 1 st and 25 th St – NYU-vacant)
1009300020	335 EAST 24 th AVENUE (SW 1 st and 24 th St – NYU)

BBL (Borough, first digit Block, digits 2 to 6Lot, digits 7 to 10)	Address
1009290135	ICD Rehab Research Center (vacant-parking)
1009290001	401 1 AVENUE – 27 fl 1970 JPMorgan Chase (SW 1 st /23 rd)

<http://gis.nyc.gov/doitt/mp/Portal.do>
<http://www.oasisnyc.net/OASISMap.htm>

(x) Scaled (1"=20") drawings of existing and proposed conditions in plan and section. **Send plans only if there is inground construction.**

There are no drawings available at this time. The design of the flood wall is currently underway.

Marjorie Nowick
HDR Historic Architecture & History Program Manager
303-754-4282
Marjorie.Nowick@hdrinc.com

Jennifer Curran
One Blue Hill Plaza, PO Box 1509, Pearl River, NY 10965-3104
845.735.8300 Ext. 293
Jennifer.Curran@hdrinc.com

The Historic Preservation Review Process in New York State

In order to insure that historic preservation is carefully considered in publicly-funded or permitted undertakings*, there are laws at each level of government that require projects to be reviewed for their potential impact/effect on historic properties. At the federal level, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) directs the review of federally funded, licensed or permitted projects. At the state level, Section 14.09 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law of 1980 performs a comparable function. Local environmental review for municipalities is carried out under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) of 1978.

regulations on line at:

<http://nysparks.state.ny.us> then select **HISTORIC PRESERVATION** then select **Environmental Review**

Project review is conducted in two stages. First, the Field Services Bureau assesses affected properties to determine whether or not they are listed or eligible for listing in the New York State or National Registers of Historic Places. If so, it is deemed "historic" and worthy of protection and the second stage of review is undertaken. The project is reviewed to evaluate its impact on the properties significant materials and character. Where adverse effects are identified, alternatives are explored to avoid, or reduce project impacts; where this is unsuccessful, mitigation measures are developed and formal agreement documents are prepared stipulating these measures.

ALL PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MATERIAL(S).

Project Description

Attach a full description of the nature and extent of the work to be undertaken as part of this project. Relevant portions of the project applications or environmental statements may be submitted.

Maps Locating Project

Include a map locating the project in the community. The map must clearly show street and road names surrounding the project area as well as the location of all portions of the project. Appropriate maps include tax maps, Sanborn Insurance maps, and/or USGS quadrangle maps.

Photographs

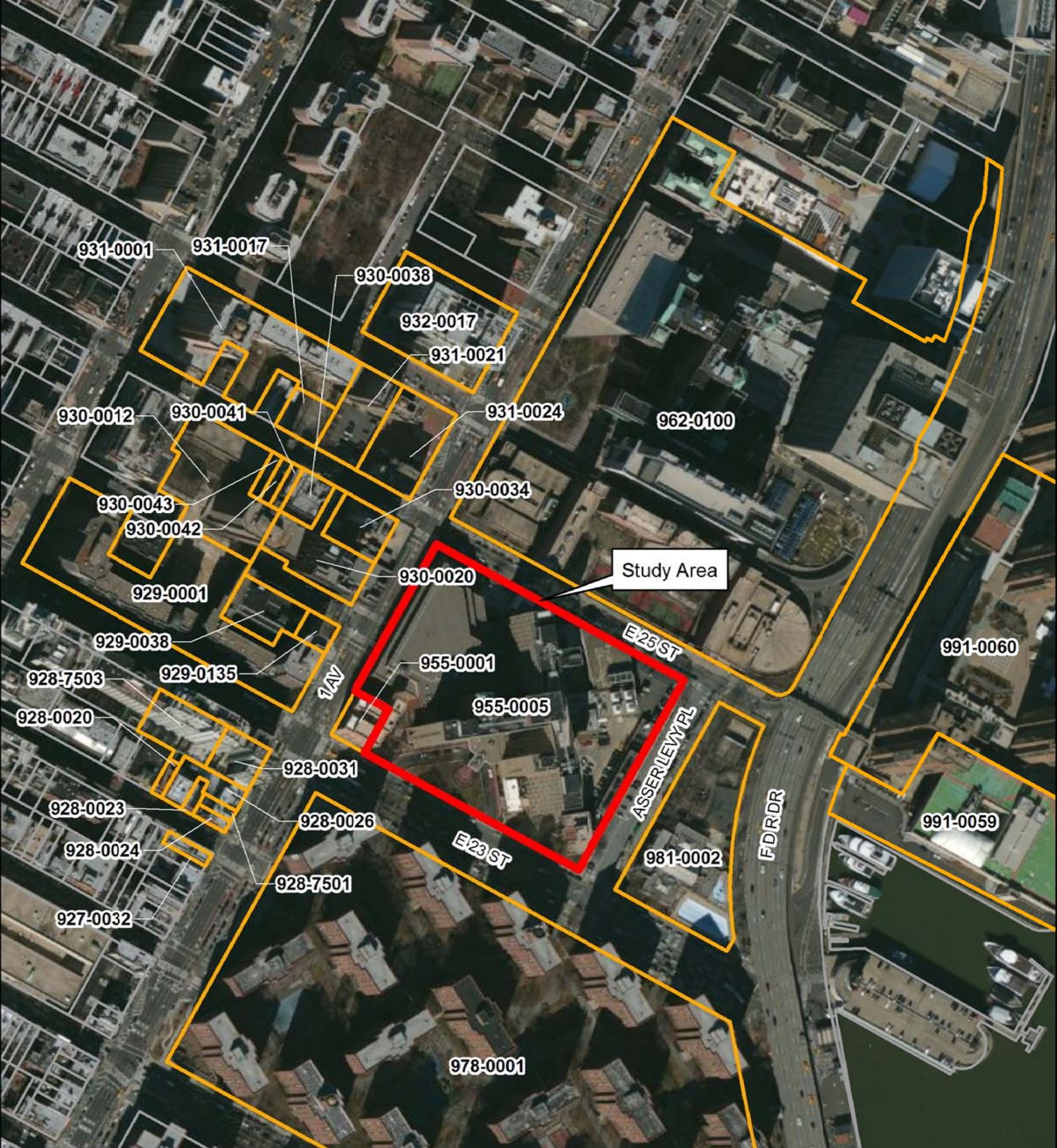
Photographs may be black and white prints, color prints, or color laser/photo copies; standard (black and white) photocopies are NOT acceptable.

-If the project involves rehabilitation, include photographs of the building(s) involved. Label each exterior view to a site map and label all interior views.

-If the project involves new construction, include photographs of the surrounding area looking out from the project site. Include photographs of any buildings (more than 50 years old) that are located on the project property or on adjoining property.

NOTE: Projects submissions will not be accepted via facsimile or e-mail.

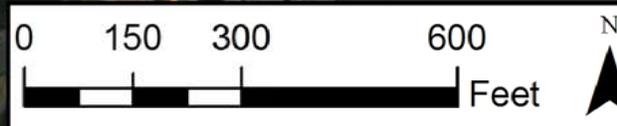
***Undertaking** is defined as an agency's purchase, lease or sale of a property, assistance through grants, loans or guarantees, issuing of licenses, permits or approvals, and work performed pursuant to delegation or mandate.



Study Area

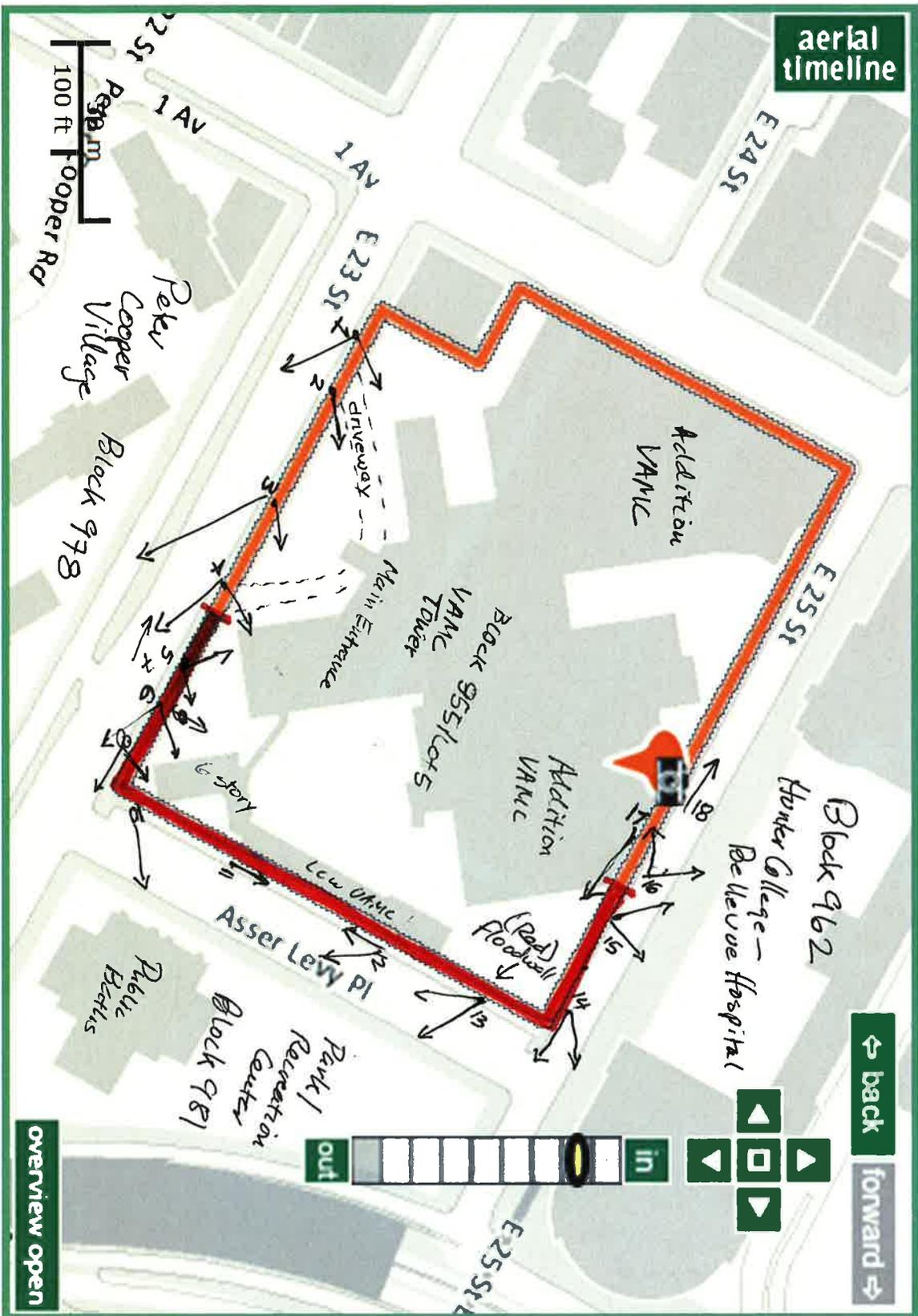
Legend

- Tax Lot within 400' of Project Site
- Tax Lot Line



Source: Esri, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community
 NYC DOITT Map Pluto 2013





VAMC FLOODWALL PHOTO MAP

ATTACHMENT 2

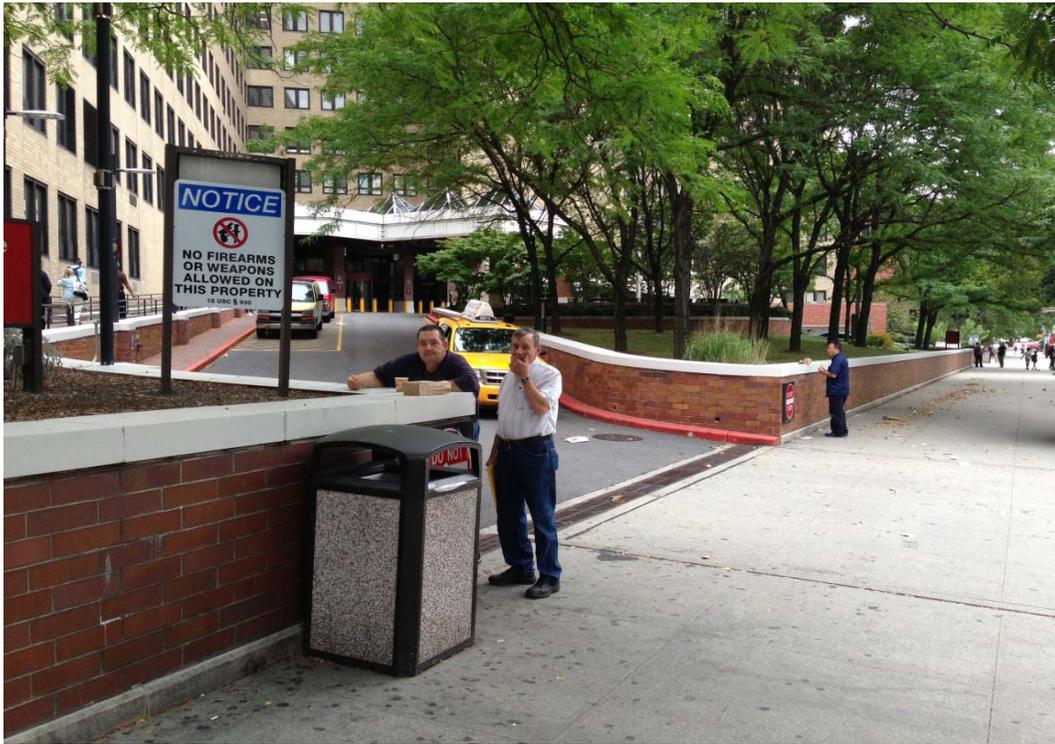
Note: 18 photos sent digitally to Gina Sankuoci, LPC
Floodwall in red

VAMC East 23rd Street, Manhattan Floodwall Project

Photo Log – Attachment 2

#	Location	Direction	Notes
1	VAMC entrance, E 23 rd St	N	View of entrance of from west entrance drive. Floodwall would be out of photo –further E down 23 rd St, beyond the east VAMC entrance drive.
2	VAMC entrance, E 23 rd St	N	Closer view of entrance to VAMC
3	E 23 rd St	E	Taken from sidewalk in front of VAMC main entrance, shows how wide E 23 rd St is & Peter Cooper Village with angled orientation of towers, also the trees along E 23 rd St. Floodwall would be out photo – further E down 23 rd St, beyond the east VAMC entrance drive.
4	VAMC, E 23 rd St to Asser Levy Pl	W	Shows east entrance driveway and E 23 rd St. Floodwall would begin at about this point according to preliminary engineering.
5	VAMC, E 23 rd St	NW	Taken a bit further east than Photo #4. Shows east entrance driveway (near trash can) and more of VAMC on E 23 rd St. Floodwall would begin at about this point according to preliminary engineering.
6	VAMC, E 23 rd St,	E	Taken a bit more east than Photo #5. Shows corner of Asser Levy Pl and E 23 rd , also Peter Cooper Village. Floodwall would extend along here and wrap around this corner on left side of photo.
7	VAMC, E 23 rd	W	Taken from corner of E 23 rd & Asser Levy Pl. Floodwall would wrap around this corner.
8	VAMC, corner Asser Levy Pl & E 23 rd	NE	Corner of E 23 rd & Asser Levy Pl. Floodwall would wrap around this corner. Public Baths in background.
9	VAMC, interior courtyard	N	Shows that VAMC complex is made up of a number of discrete buildings with a central interior courtyard with parking, service areas, utilities.
10	Public Baths	E	Taken from corner of E 23 rd & Asser Levy Pl. Asser Levy Pl and Public Baths would not be altered, view of Public Baths from VAMC would not change.
10	Asser Levy Pl, midblock	N	VAMC east side, Asser Levy Pl, & east end of Bellevue Hospital complex (garage) facing onto E25th St. Floodwall would run along the east side of the VAMC parcel along Asser Levy Pl in front of this VAMC façade.
11	Asser Levy Pl, midblock	S	VAMC east side, Asser Levy Pl, & Peter Cooper Village in background. Floodwall would run along the east side of the VAMC parcel along Asser Levy Pl in front of this VAMC façade.
12	Asser Levy Pl, midblock	S	VAMC east side, Asser Levy Pl, & Public Baths. Floodwall would run along the east side of the VAMC parcel along Asser Levy Pl in front of this VAMC façade. Peter Cooper Village in background.
13	Asser Levy Pl, midblock	SE	Asser Levy Pl, Public Baths, and Recreation Center playground north of Public Baths.
14	Corn Asser Levy Pl, & E 25 th Street	E	Shows E 25 th St & Asser Levy Pl, and Recreation Center field. Photo taken from corner where floodwall would wrap about VAMC parcel from Asser Levy Pl to E 25 th St on VAMC parcel.
15	E 25 th St	NW	Bellevue Hospital complex facing onto E 25 th St across from the VAMC complex. Shows brick wall and iron fence that surround the courtyard of the Bellevue Hospital complex.

16	E 25 St	W	Shows VAMC north façade on 25 th St, 25 th St, and Bellevue Hospital complex. Floodwall may end on E 25 th St about this point.
17	E25th St	E	Taken further west from Photo #17. Shows north side of VAMC that would be surrounded by the floodwall. Can see corner of Asser Levy Pl and E 25 th St barely.
18	E 25 St	W	Taken further west from Photo # 16. Shows VAMC north façade on 25 th St, 25 th St. Floodwall may be in front of these utilities.



Photograph 1



Photograph 2

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 1 & 2
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	



Photograph 3



Photograph 4

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 3 & 4
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	



Photograph 5



Photograph 6

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 5 & 6
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	

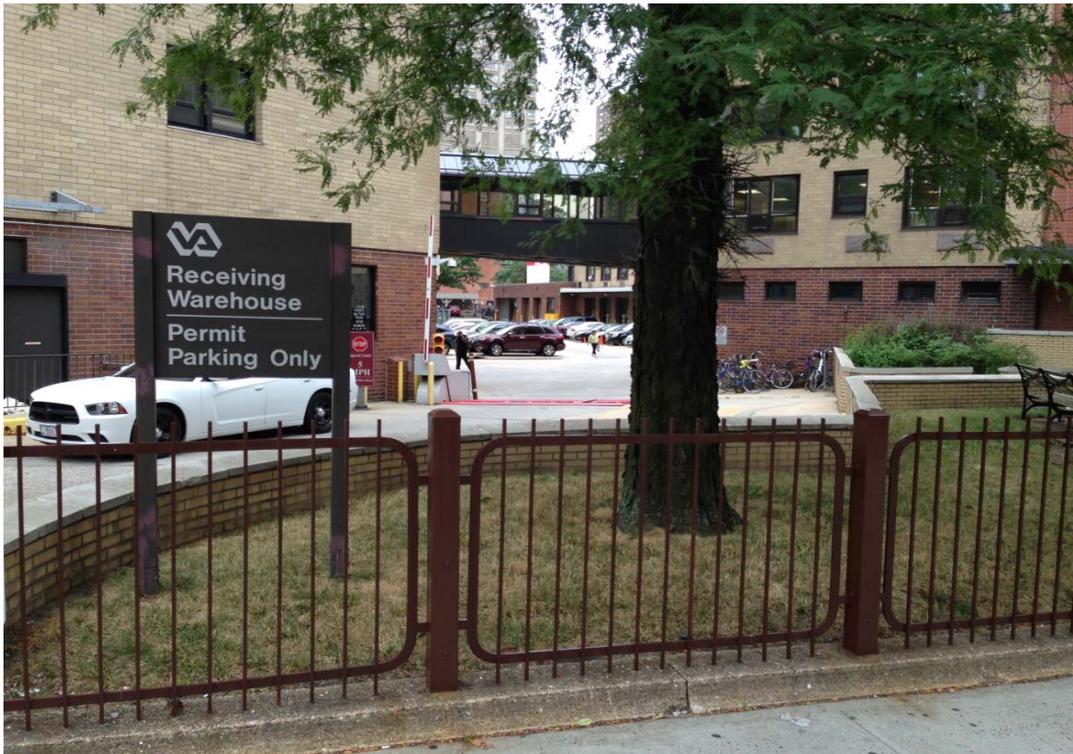


Photograph 7



Photograph 8

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 7 & 8
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	



Photograph 9



Photograph 10

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 9 & 10
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	



Photograph 11



Photograph 12

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 11 & 12
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	



Photograph 13



Photograph 14

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 13 & 14
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	

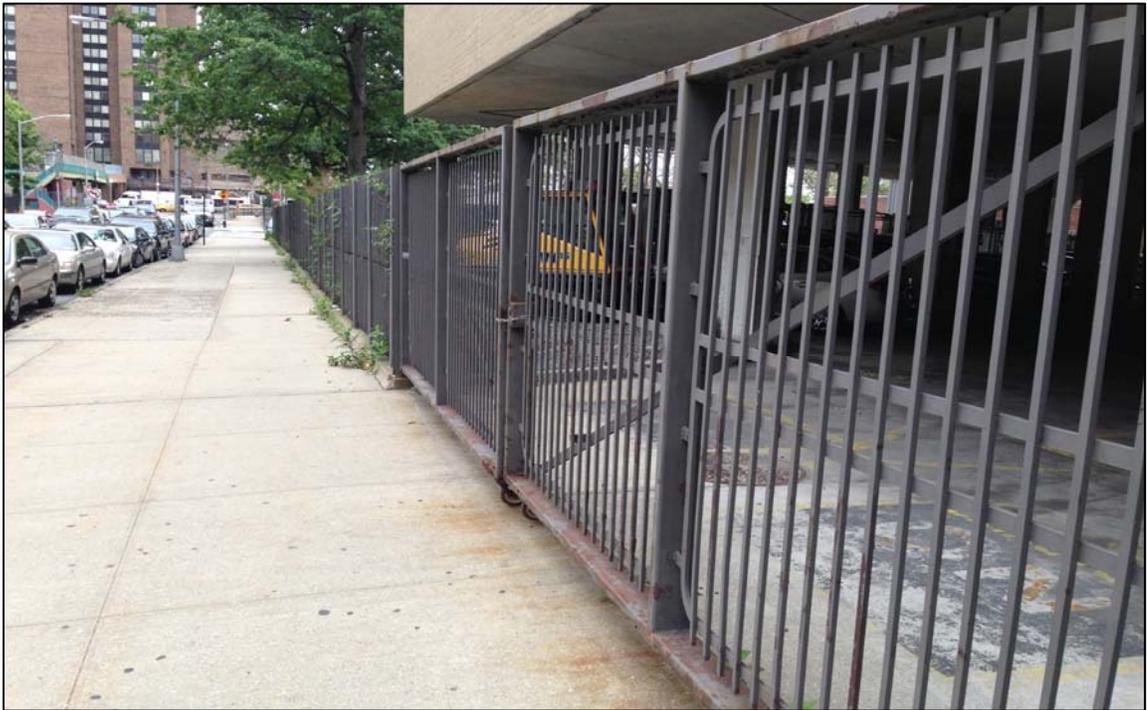


Photograph 15



Photograph 16

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 15 & 16
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	



Photograph 17



Photograph 18

<i>Veteran's Affairs Medical Center Floodwall Project</i>	VAMC Manhattan Site Photos	DATE:	03/11/14	PHOTO 17 & 18
		CREATED BY:	DB	
		REVIEWED BY:		
		JOB NO:	202839	

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project number: US DEPT VETERANS AFFAIRS / 106-M
Project: VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER FLOODWALL PROJECT
Address: 403 EAST 23 STREET, **BBL:** 1009550005
Date Received: 10/30/2013

No architectural significance

No archaeological significance

in radius Designated New York City Landmark or Within Designated Historic District

in radius Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Appears to be eligible for National Register Listing and/or New York City Landmark Designation

May be archaeologically significant; requesting additional materials

Comments:

Within the radius: Asser Levy Public Baths, 392 Asser Levy Place, LPC and S/NR listed. A construction protection plan for this property is required for LPC review and comment.

Cc: SHPO



11/6/2013

SIGNATURE
Gina Santucci, Environmental Review Coordinator

DATE

File Name: 28923_FSO_DNP_11062013.doc



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

November 15, 2013

Marjorie Nowick
Historic Architecture/History Program Manager
HDR for VA
9563 South Kingston Court, #200
Englewood, CO 80112

Re: VA
VAMC Manhattan Floodwall
New York County
13PR04828

Dear Ms. Mowick,

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted documents in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other 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 National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Philip Perazio of our archeological unit has no archeological concerns with the proposed work. Kathy Howe of our survey unit notes that the VA hospital at 423 East 23rd Street is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. We note that the Public Baths located at 392 Asser Levy Place are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Based upon our review, it is the SHPO's opinion that the proposed floodwall will have No Adverse Effect upon historic resources provided a construction protection plan is put in place for the Public Baths. If there are substantive changes or unexpected conditions, consultation with our office should resume.

We look forward to additional consultation on this project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 518-237-8643 extension 3282.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Cumming
Senior Historic Site Restoration Coordinator
e-mail: Beth.cumming@parks.ny.gov

via e-mail

TASK ORDER NO. VA101F-13-J-0159

VA PROJECT NO. 630-600

HDR PROJECT NO. 215104



500 7th Avenue 11th Floor
New York, NY 10018-4502
212.904.1212

hdrarchitecture.com

We practice increased use of sustainable
materials and reduction of material use.

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