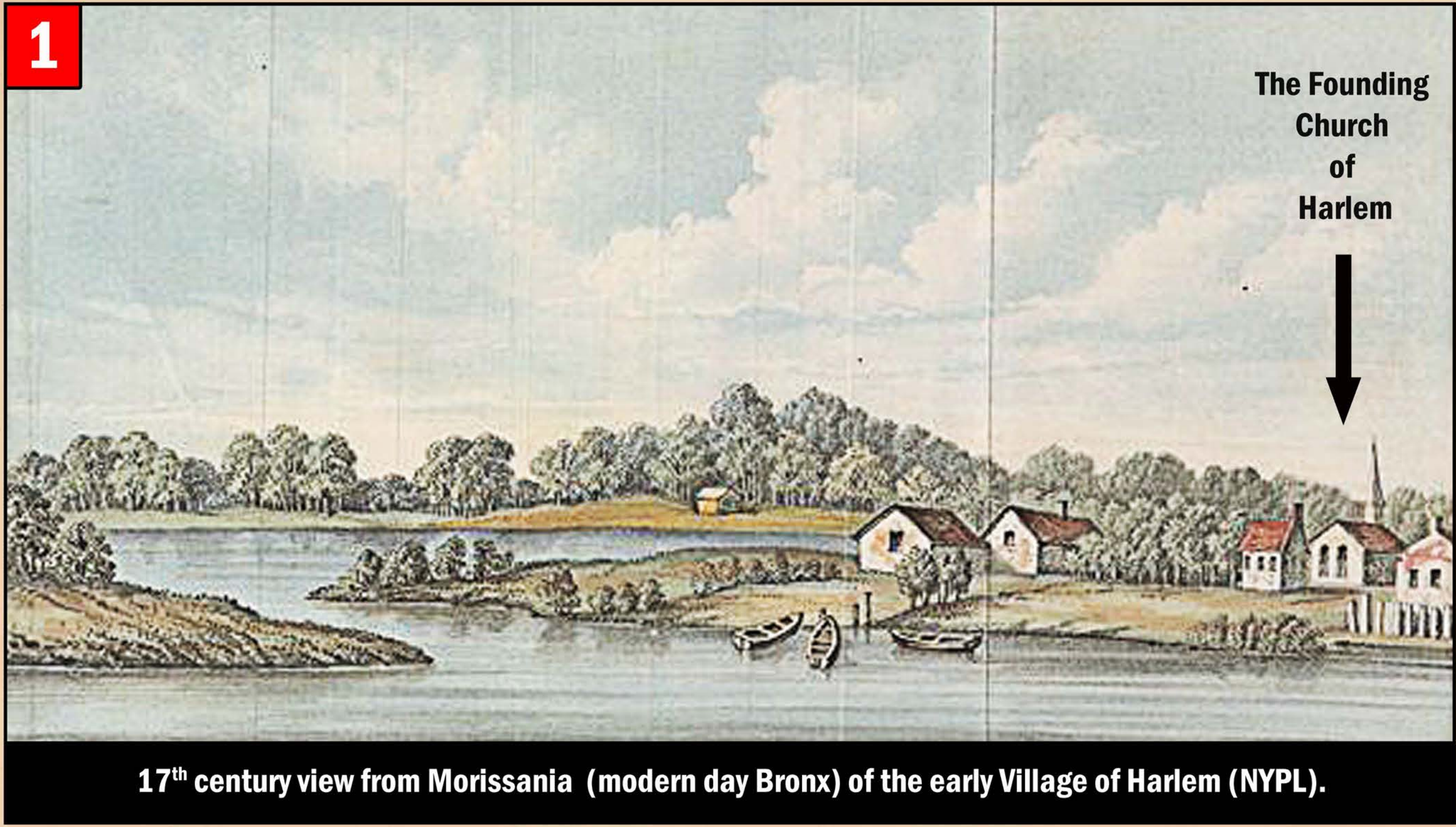
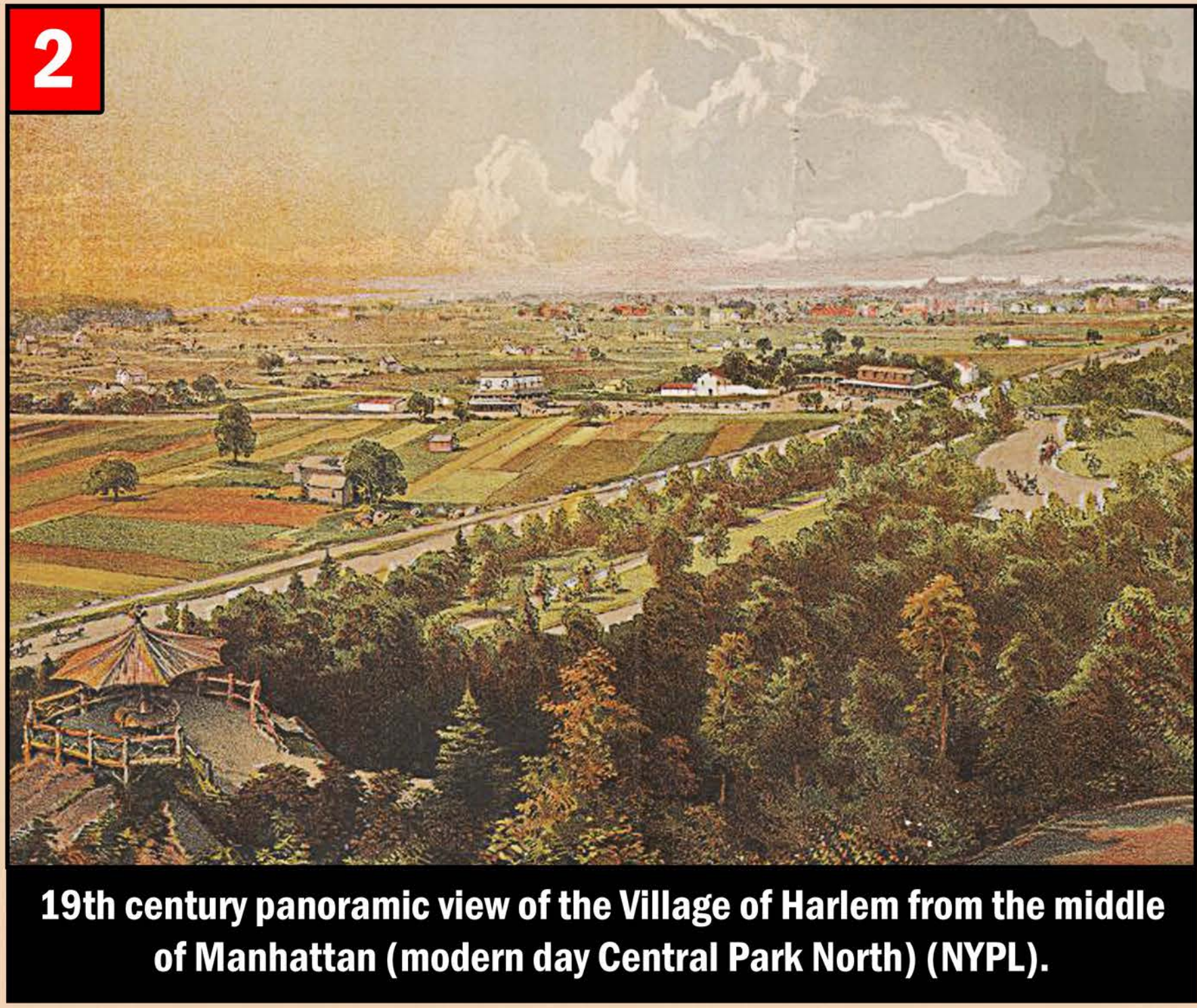


# UPPER MANHATTAN

## Early 1600s to Mid-1800s



The Village of Harlem, established on an indigenous people's sacred site, was on a slight hill overlooking a gentle slope towards the Harlem River. In this early era, Manhattan was hilly and lush; the fertile land supported large farms. The long island was crisscrossed by Lenape paths that would become colonial roads; small villages dotted the landscape.



◀ 18<sup>th</sup> century topographical map of Manhattan (N-YHS).



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# VILLAGE OF HARLEM

## Early 1800s to Mid-1800s

### Church & Farmlands

**MAP KEY**

-  Historical Boundary of the Harlem African Burial Ground
-  Historical Boundary of the Cemetery for Persons of European Descent

**1820 John Randel Farm Map (MCNY)**



From the beginning, the Low Dutch Reformed Church of Harlem maintained two cemeteries: one for people of European descent and one for people of African descent. The Harlem River was wider than it is today and the river side of the Harlem African Burial Ground was located on marshy land that joined the wide tidal zone. Outside the village, the wealthiest members of the community maintained large properties and estates. One of these families, the Ingraham family, were prominent members of the Harlem Church going back four generations. Judge Ingraham was an elder in the Church, a member of the Church's governing body. Beginning in the 1830s, he leased the "Negro burying ground" from the Church as grazing land for his sheep and cattle, thereby beginning a long tradition of disrespect for this sacred site: funerals and burials took place as farm animals wandered on the cemetery.



Home of Judge Daniel Ingraham, 1858 (NYPL).

Early 19th century view of the Village of Harlem from Church Lane / Old Harlem Road. The second church building of the Dutch Church of Harlem is seen in the middle-ground to the right (NYPL).



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# SULZER'S HARLEM RIVER PARK

## 1885 to 1917

### Beer Garden & Casino

#### MAP KEY



Historical Boundary of the Harlem African Burial Ground

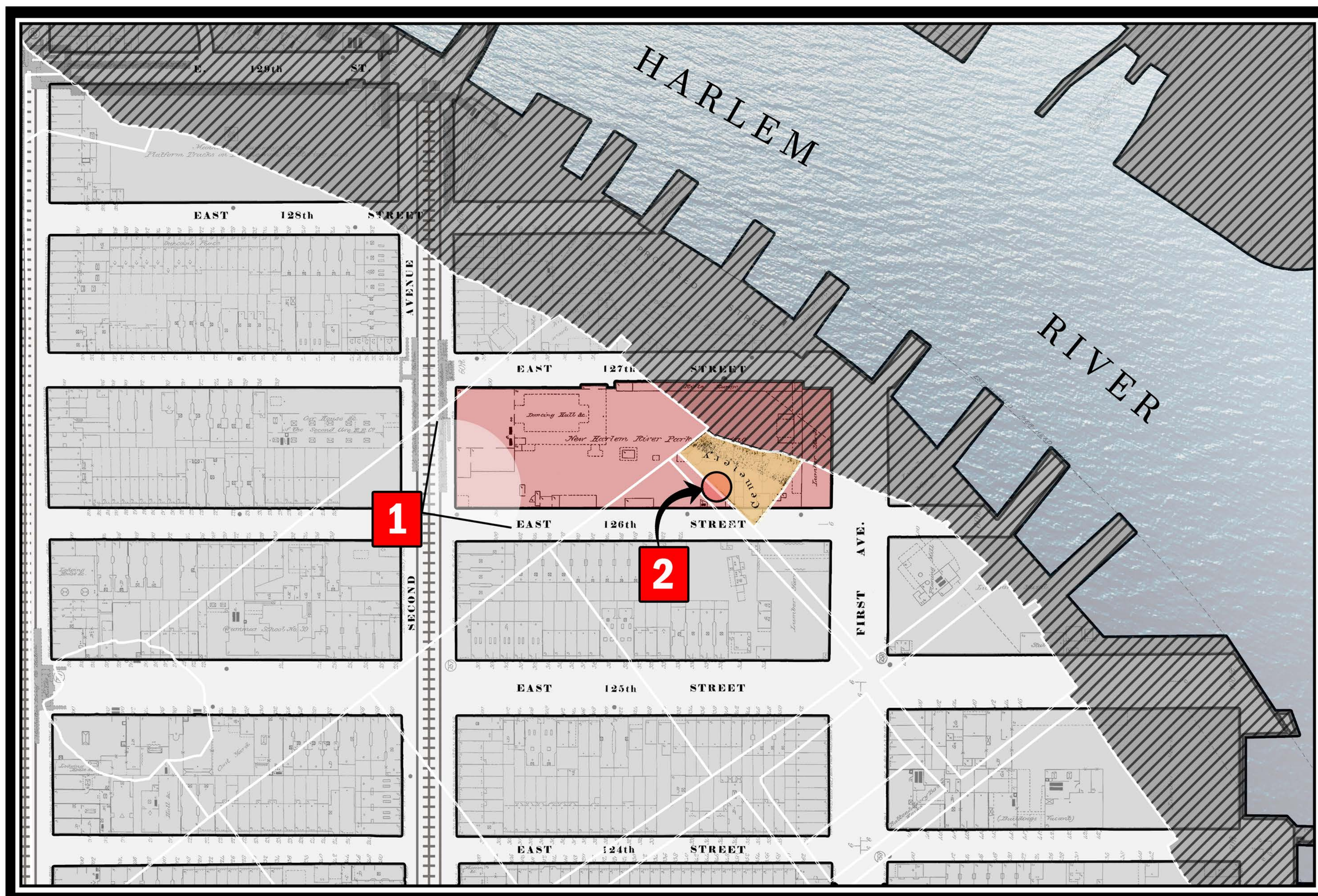


Project Site Block

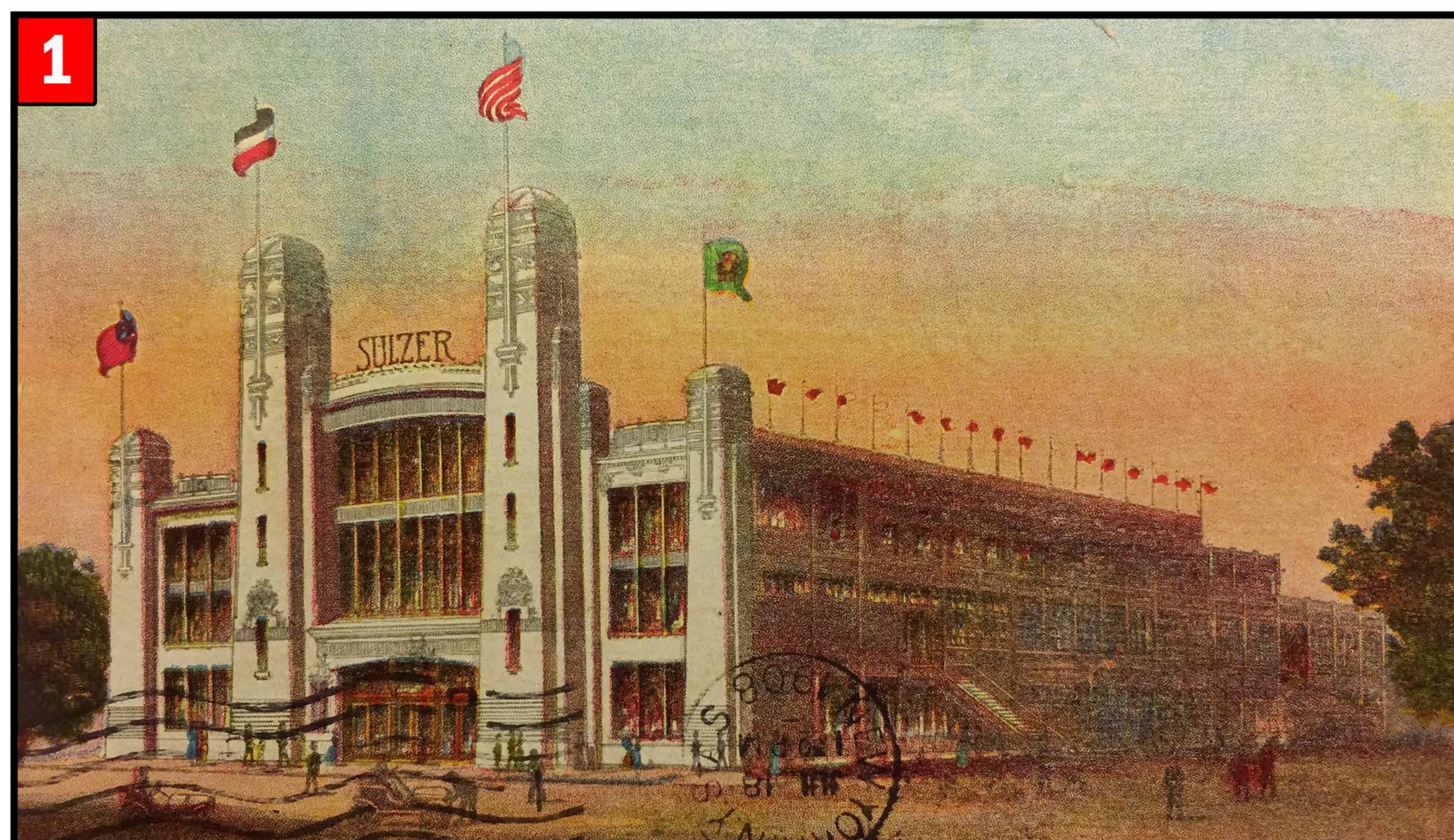


Landfill - a method of creating more usable land here by depositing refuse and/or soil in the water

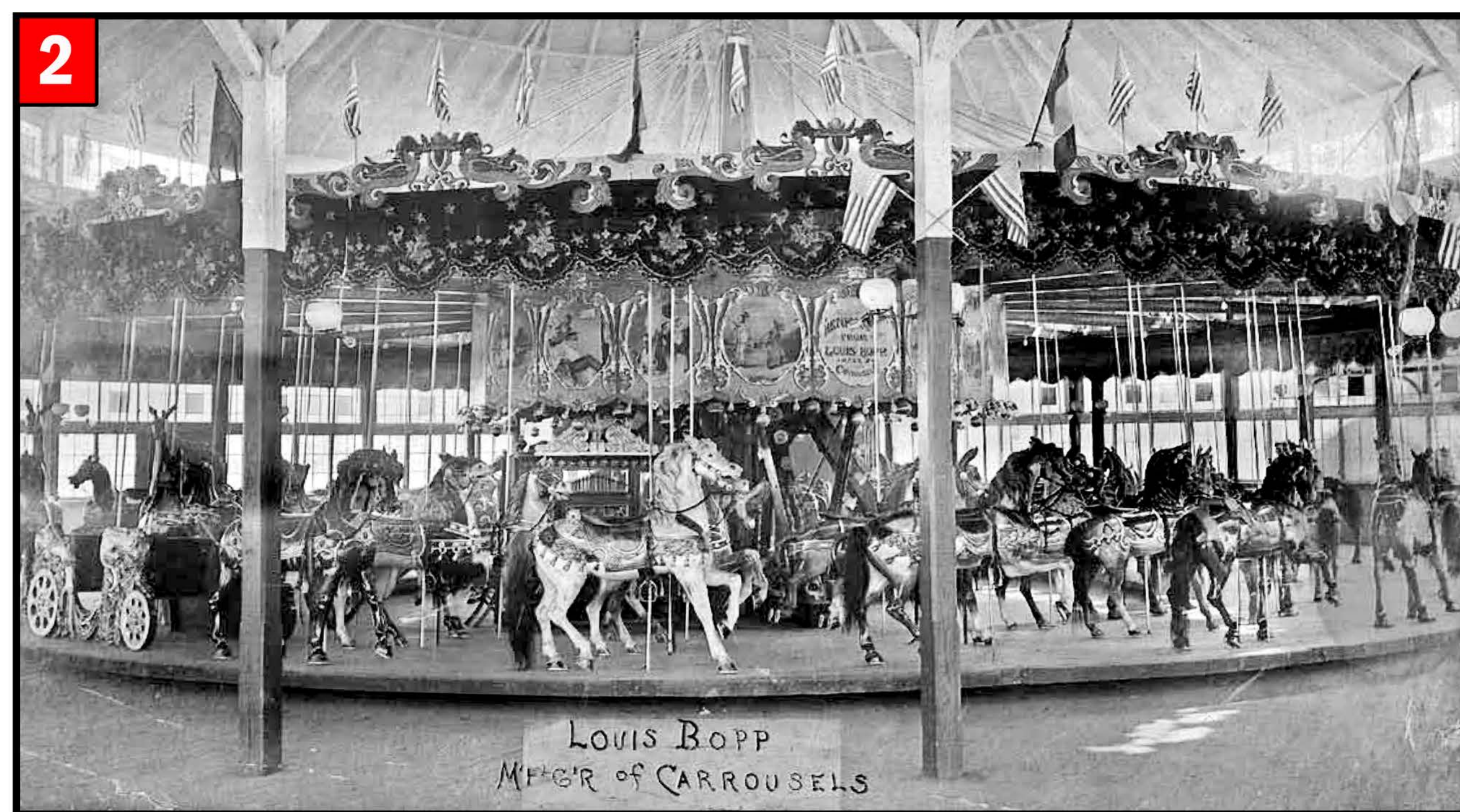
1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (NYPL)



By 1885, urbanization and the rectilinear street grid had arrived in Harlem. River life included commercial shipping, ferries, leisure boating and competitive rowing. The prominent German American Sulzer family opened one of New York City's most popular "beer gardens," Sulzer's Harlem River Park and Casino; its carousel was famous for its finely sculpted animals and bright colors. Groups of all sorts - Italian, Jewish, German, Irish and Spanish immigrant societies, as well as wrestling, archery, basketball, dancing, singing, dramatic, veterans and civic clubs - rented the Casino for private parties. These activities took place on top of the now forgotten Harlem African Burial Ground.



Tourist post card of Sulzer's Harlem River Park and Casino, view from Second Avenue (Carousel History).



Engraving of carousel designed by Louis Bopp within Sulzer's Harlem River Park (Carousel History).

Sulzer's Harlem River Park, Casino and Garden,  
 HARLEM MUSIC HALL.  
 Books open for Engagements for Balls, Banquets, Pic-Nics, etc.  
 OFFICE: 127TH STREET & SECOND AVENUE.  
 TELEPHONE: 144 HARLEM.

1892 Advertisement for the Harlem River Park (eBay post).

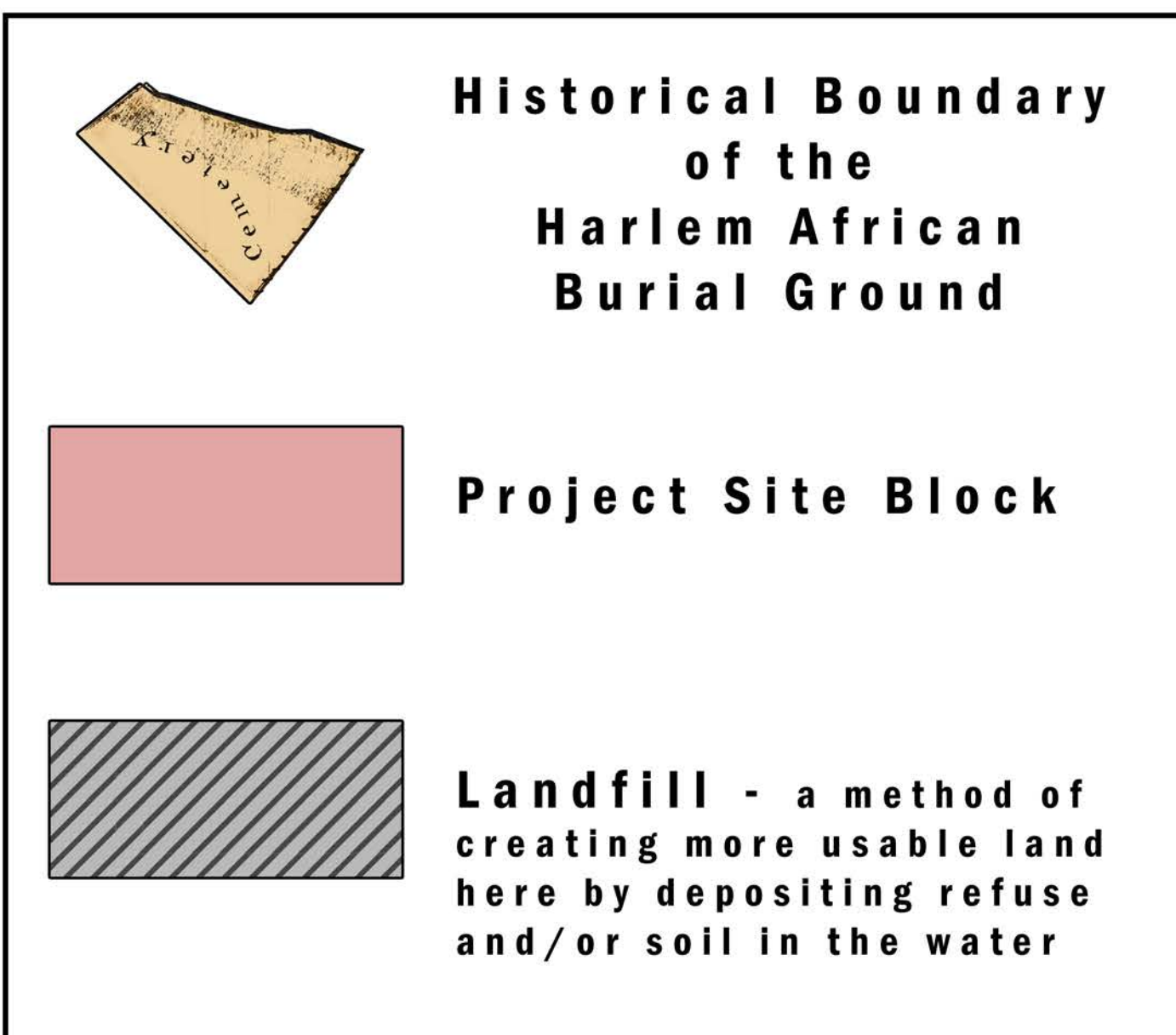
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# BARRACKS & MOVIE STUDIO

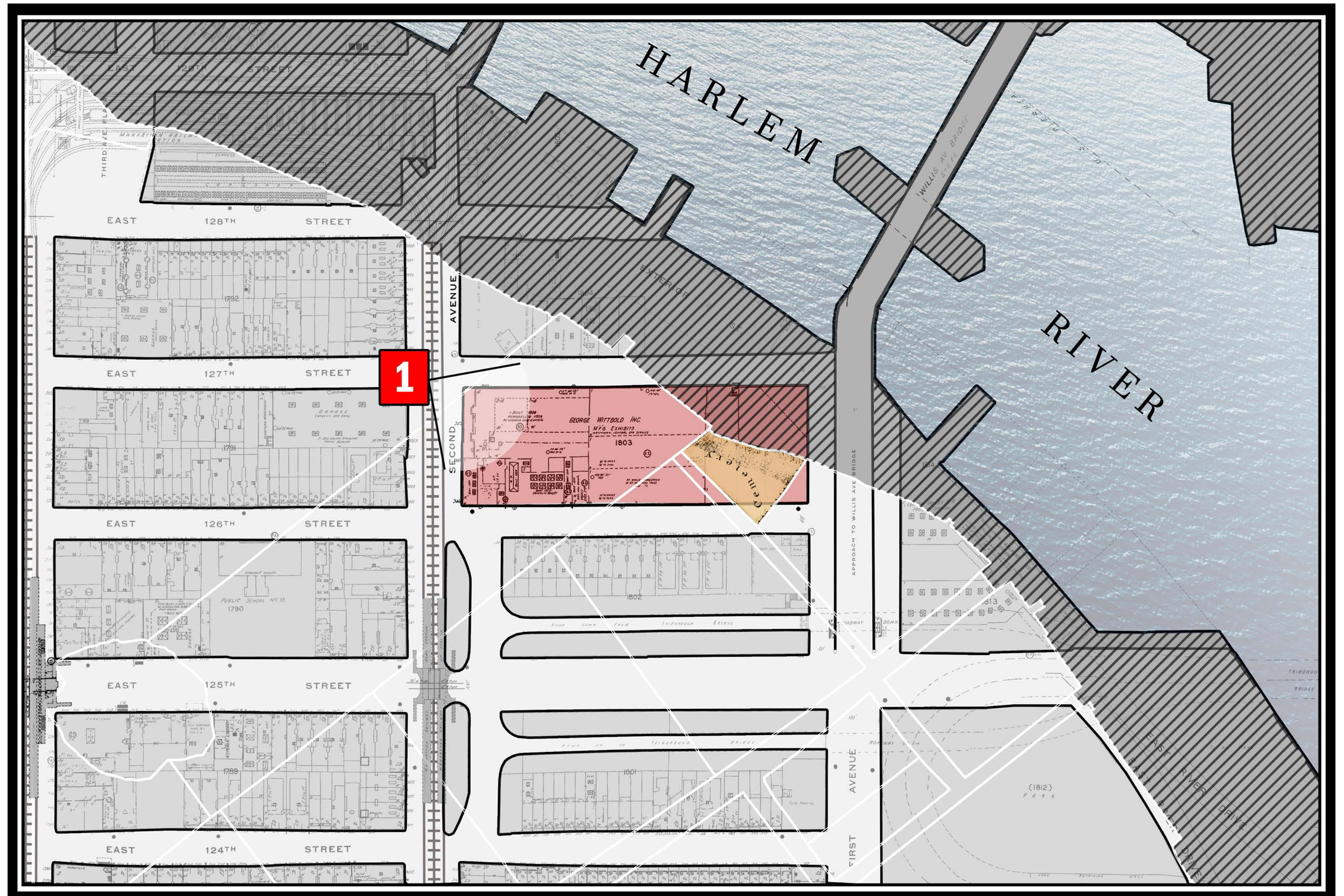
## 1917 to 1924

### Infantry Barracks; Cosmopolitan Productions

#### MAP KEY



1933 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (NYPL)



With the onset of World War I and the possibility of Prohibition, the Sulzer family sold the park and casino complex to the City. In 1917 and 1918, the building was converted to a barracks for the newly formed 15th New York National Guard Infantry Regiment, or 369th Regiment, an all black infantry unit with both white and black officers.

In 1918, multimillionaire and newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst bought the building, added another floor on top, and converted it to a movie studio, Cosmopolitan Productions. Interior spaces were redesigned as movie sets and more than forty major films, many featuring Hearst's mistress, actress Marion Davies, were made here; these movies represented the best final efforts of the silent film era.

The complicated work and daily lives of enlisted soldiers, army officers, movie directors, set designers, actors and actresses all took place in the large, frequently remodeled and increasingly industrial building that was built over the now many times desecrated "Negro burying ground."



**Cosmopolitan Productions movie studio building. c. 1923 (MCNY).**

These soldiers, ultimately known in the United States as the Harlem Hellfighters and in France as the Black Rattlers or Men of Bronze, fought valiantly against the Germans in World War I and were among the most decorated of all American units, receiving numerous medals for valor and heroism. c. 1918 (NYPL).



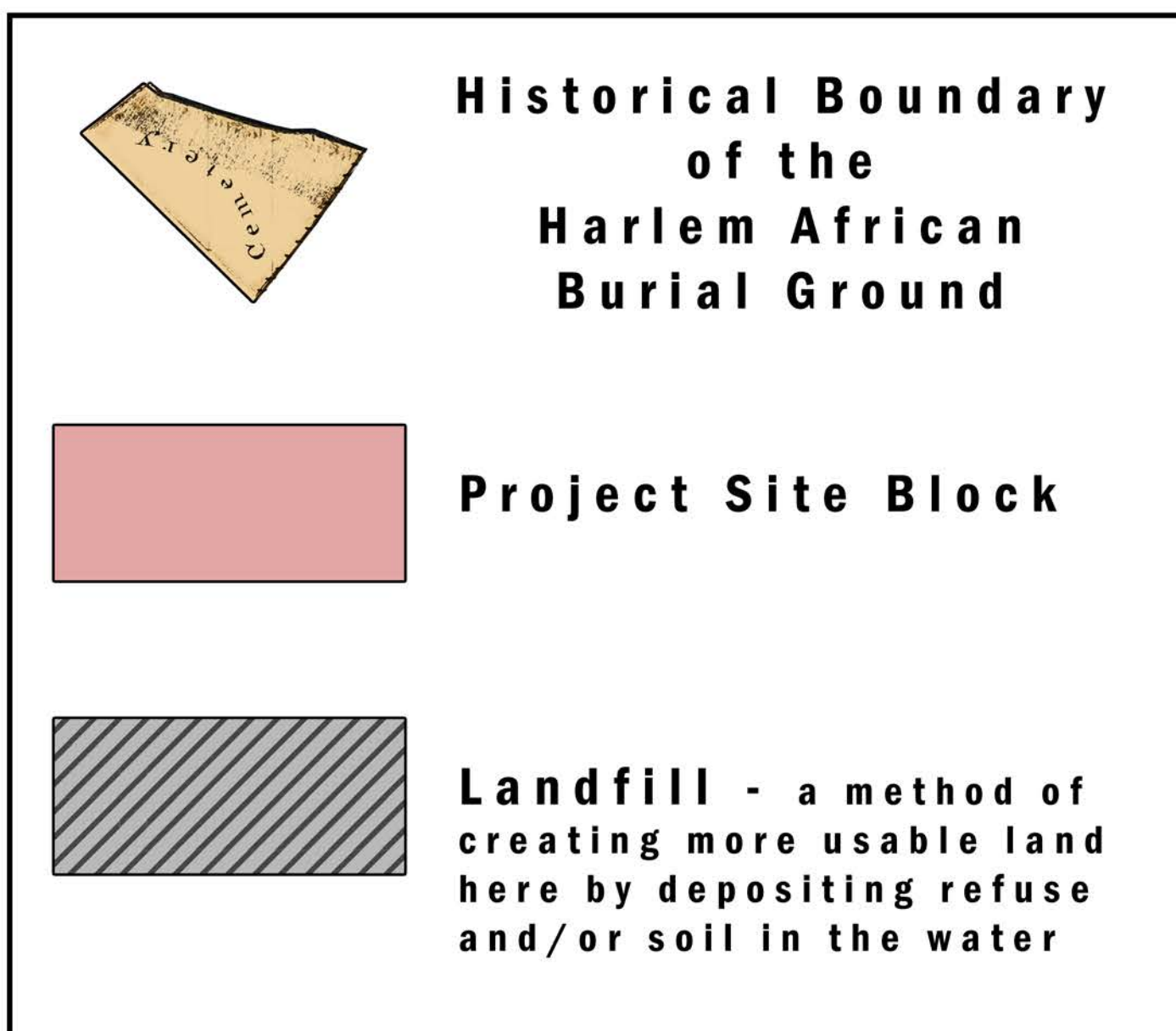
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# 126th STREET BUS DEPOT

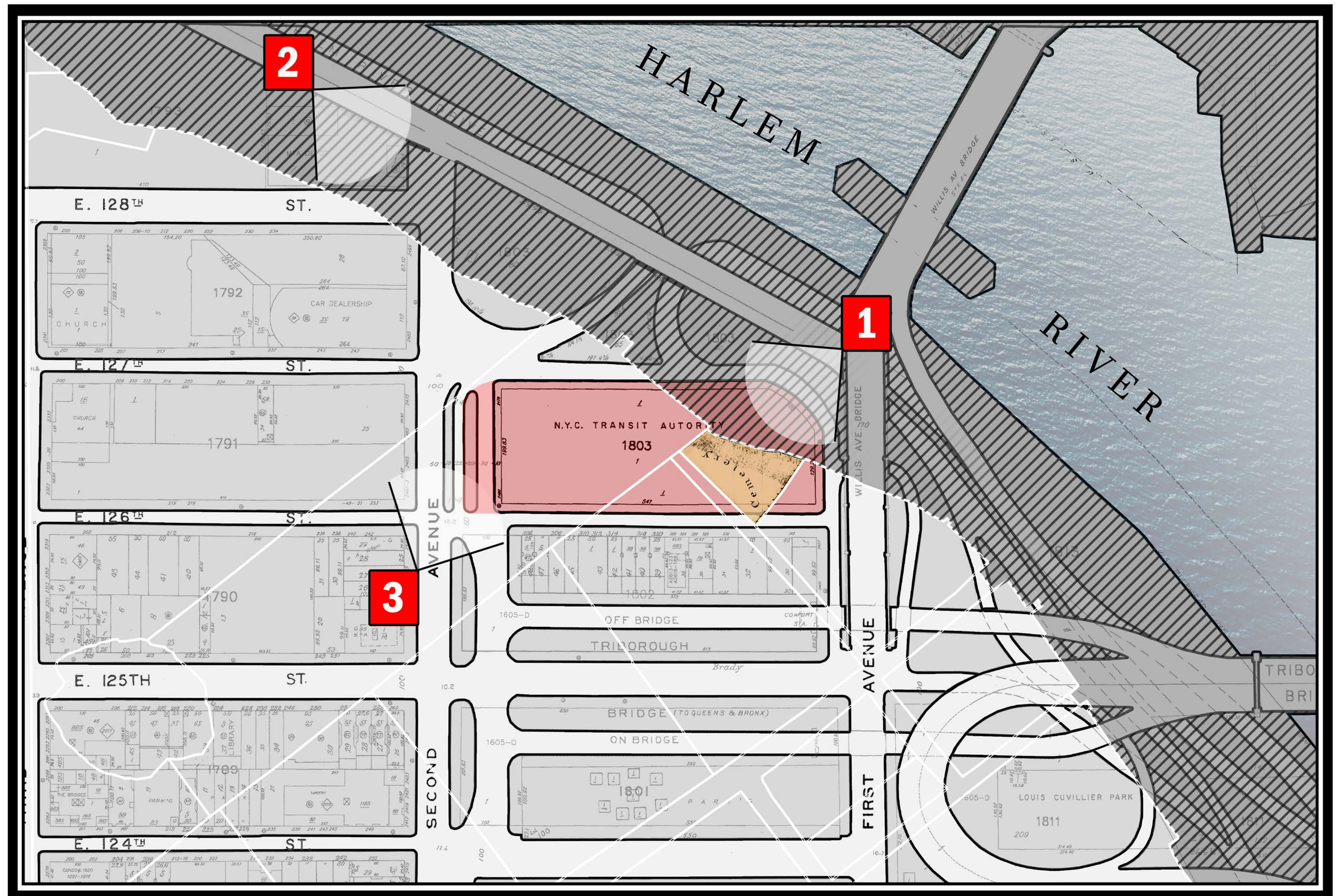
## 1940s to Present

### N.Y.C. Transit Authority Bus Garage

#### MAP KEY



2014 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (NYPL)



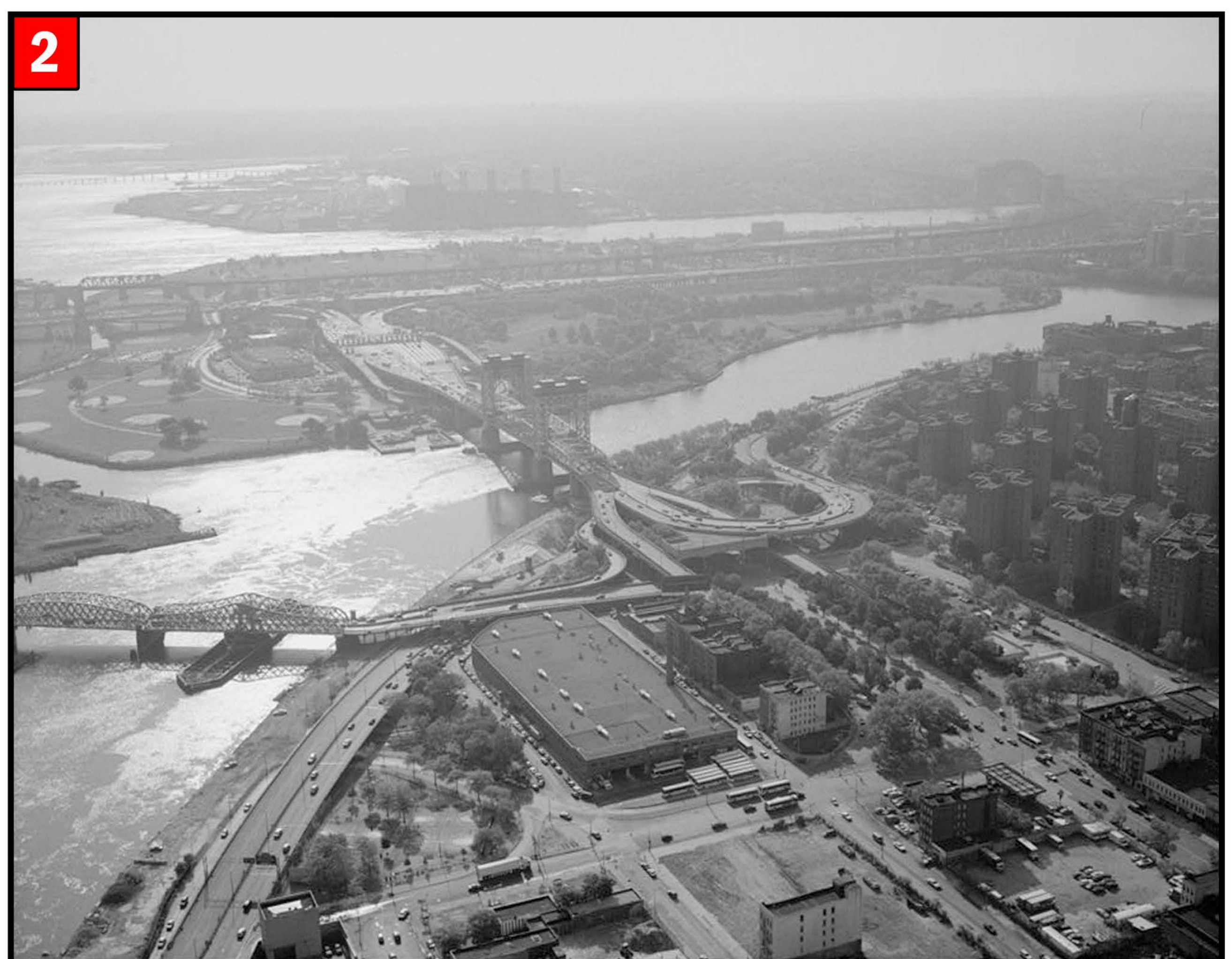
After the Hearst movie studio closed and was torn down, the Third Avenue Railway Company built a trolley barn to house its trolley cars/buses, which were no longer connected to rails embedded in the avenue. In 1962, the Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority (now New York City Transit Authority) purchased the privately controlled bus depot and the City of New York took control of the land. After acknowledgment of the existence of the colonial Harlem African Burial Ground under the depot, together with New York City Transit Authority's reassessment of its transportation infrastructure needs, the bus depot was vacated in 2015. Operations formerly conducted in the depot were moved offsite.



View of the bus depot from the walkway on the Willis Avenue Bridge (Photo, Henry Ballard Terepka).



View of the bus depot from 2nd Avenue and 126th Street, circa 1940 (Photo, NYC Municipal Archives)



Aerial view of the bus depot looking East towards Randall's Island (Library of Congress).

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