

## **7.0 HISTORIC RESOURCES**

### **7.1 Introduction**

Excavation in the 1950's for construction of the current HSS building destroyed or disturbed any archaeological resources which may have existed on the site. Therefore, the project site does not have any archaeological significance where the proposed additional stories would be added. A package was sent to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for a determination of archaeological significance of the excavations for the new River Building. The existing Hospital for Special Surgery main building, located at 535 East 70th Street, is not a historic landmark, nor is it listed as eligible for historic landmark designation. The LPC has determined there are no significant adverse impacts to historic archeological resources from the proposed project. Therefore, an analysis of Archeological resources was not required.

Throughout the course of history, some of the old historic sites and landmarks in the area have been preserved. The area surrounding the Hospital differs in architecture and history from block to block. Below is an assessment of historical resources in the study area.

### **7.2 Existing Conditions**

The historic site radius study area encompasses 63<sup>rd</sup> Street to 77<sup>th</sup> Street and The F.D.R. Drive to halfway between First and Second Avenue. There are three (3) actual or potential historic resources located within the 800-foot radius study area (see Figure 7-1).

1. **Cornell Medical Center.** The City of New York Landmarks Preservation Commission environmental review indicates that the Cornell Medical Center (approximately 400 feet away) is eligible for designation by the City of New York Landmarks Preservation Commission and for listing on the New York State and National Historic Places Registries. (see Appendix D)
2. **Founder's Hall** listed with National Historic Landmarks overlooks the East River at the end of the former East 66<sup>th</sup> Street. It was the first building erected for Rockefeller University. Designed by Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge and built in 1906, the building was originally known as the Laboratory Building and housed laboratories, a library, a conference room and a dining room. John D. Rockefeller founded Rockefeller University (originally Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research) in 1901 as an institute devoted to medical research. Founder' Hall is a 5-story, limestone and buff-colored brick building. A portico with Ionic columns frames the entrance.
3. **The Church of St. Catherine of Siena** (built 1931) is located at 405-409 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street. The Church is designed by Wilfred E. Anthony. The Church is a restrained Neo-Gothic brick building with minimal detail. In a letter dated May 22, 2001 from LPC, the Church of St. Catherine of Siena was identified as potentially eligible for State and National Historical Registry listing. The East 68<sup>th</sup> Street facade of the through-block building consists of a central peaked-roofed nave and unfenestrated side aisles. The nave contains two (2) recessed limestone-framed arched entrances; a limestone sculpture of a crucifix; small limestone relief panels; and three (3) recessed lancet windows. On East

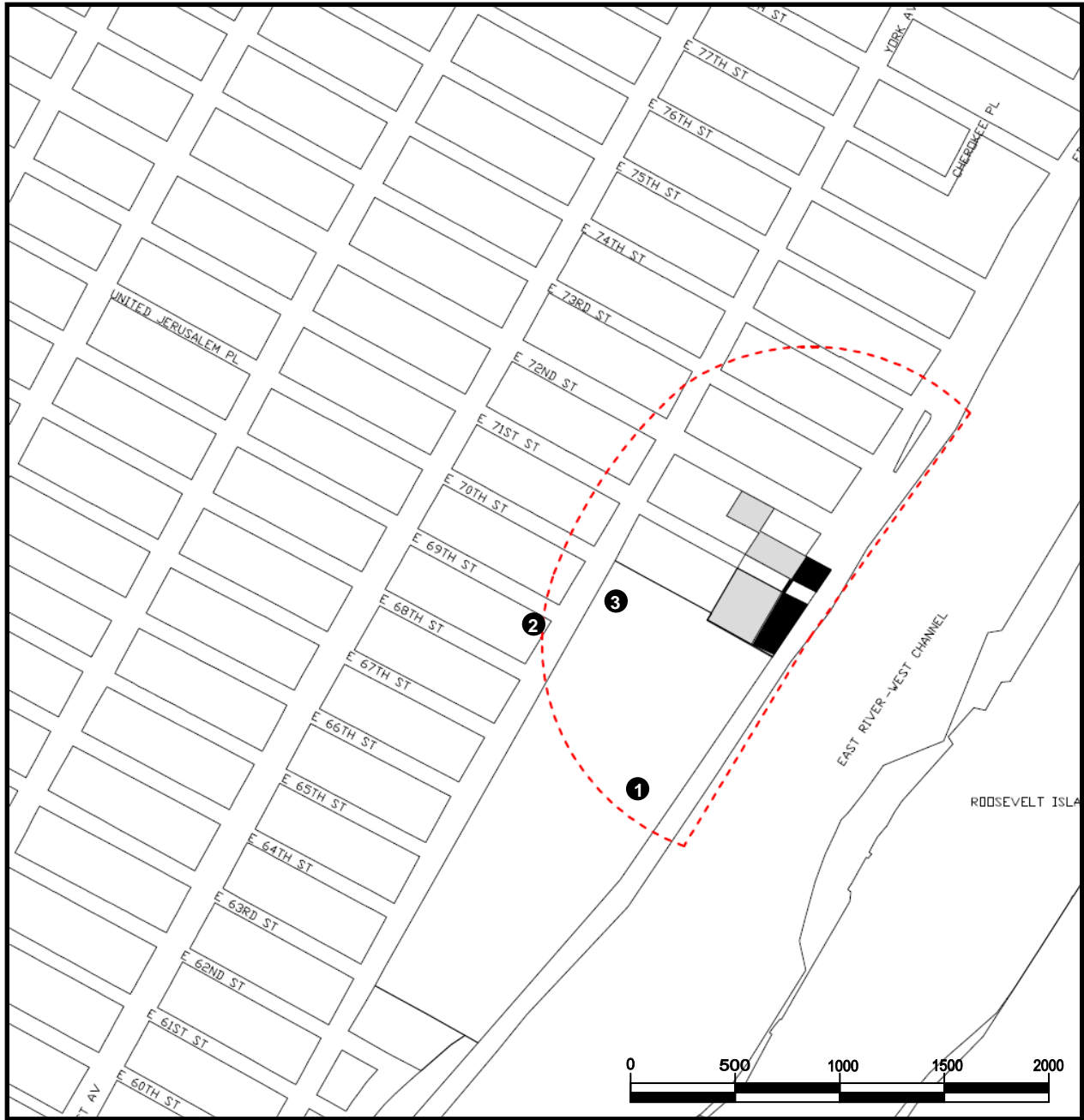
69<sup>th</sup> Street, stained glass clerestory windows puncture the chancel and the buttressed side aisles. A 1-story wing runs parallel to the east side. Over the whole of the Church, limestone trim is used sparingly as coping stones, sculpture, and windows sills (photos 5 and 6). The site is listed on the State, and National Registries of Historic Places.

### **7.3 The Future Without the Proposed Project - 2010**

Because there would be no blasting for the new construction for the future without the proposed project, the historic sites in the primary study area would not be adversely impacted. According to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation the proposed project would have no impact upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion into the State and National Registers of Historic Places (see Appendix D).

### **7.4 The Future With the Proposed Project - 2010**

The Landmarks Preservation Commission has determined there would be no significant adverse impacts to historic resources (archaeological or architectural) from the proposed project. No archeological resource would be affected by the proposed project. In addition, the architectural resources identified within the 800-foot study area are not in the immediate vicinity of the project site. The proposed project would not cast shadows on these resources, and construction in connection with the proposed project would not have the potential to affect these resources. Also, because there would be no blasting for the new River Building and demolition involved is atop the East Wing, the historic sites in the primary study area would not be adversely impacted. According to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (See Appendix D), the proposed project would have no impact upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion into the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



- Proposed Project
- Expansion Plan
- 800-foot Perimeter
- 7 Historic Sites

**Figure 7-1. Location of Historic Resources.**