

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic New Lots Reformed Church and Cemetery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 630 New Lots Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Brooklyn _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district

state New York code 036 county Kings code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name New Lots Reformed Church

street & number 653 Schenck Avenue

city, town Brooklyn _____ vicinity of _____ state New York 11207

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kings County Register's Office

street & number Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon Street

city, town Brooklyn _____ state New York 11201

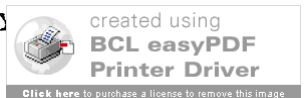
6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title LP-0169 Landmarks Preservation Commission
has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date July 19, 1966 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records 20 VESEY STREET

city, town New York _____ state New



7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The New Lots Reformed Church is located in present-day Bushwick in Brooklyn. The church and cemetery occupy a large portion of the lot they share with a modern, poured-cement church school which is not included in the nomination. The neighborhood is mostly residential, with a branch library across the street.

The small rectangular wooden church sits on a rough stone foundation and has clapboard siding and a pitched roof with its gable end facing the street. Three pairs of double doors are on this facade, each set within a pointed-arch enframingent. Three windows with pointed arches are aligned above these doors; the center one has a Palladian-Gothic design. It is actually a triple window, with a pointed arch in the center flanked by two smaller, rectangular openings, and is quite an architectural rarity as a design element. Above it, a small window is centered within the pediment. The windows and the tympanum over the two side doors are set with stained glass in floral motifs.

Four tall lancet windows are set along each side of the building. Their original clear glass panes have been replaced with colored glass, inset with circles containing religious motifs.

Rising from the ridge of the roof is a short, square tower and a polygonal lantern with louvered lancet windows. A finial caps this entire element, which originally had a copper roof.

The interior is severely plain, with a narrow balcony running across the rear. A center aisle leads to a platform-type pulpit whose only ornament is a plain wooden cross behind it. Two separate circular moldings are on the ceiling but light is provided by stock-design hanging lanterns.

The cemetery of the New Lots Reformed Church originally was in two sections. The earlier one dated from the seventeenth century and was located across New Lots Avenue where the library now stands. It served as a burial ground for Revolutionary War soldiers and Negro slaves, as well as for area residents. The present cemetery, which adjoins the church, was established in 1841. Many graves were moved here from across the street at that time. The tombstones are, for the most part, extremely plain, stating names and dates or a simple inscription.

To the east of the church is a non-historic building used as the church school, which is excluded from the nominated site.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

Specific dates 1824, 1841 (cemetery) **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The New Lots Reformed Church, constructed in 1823-24, is a fine example of rural church architecture, and, as a wooden church of this period, is architecturally unique in New York City. Its hand-hewn wooden timbers, notched and jointed and secured by pegs, attest to the fine craftsmanship of the men who built it. It retains its clean, simple Gothic details which recall the early period of its construction and the abiding faith of the church members who built it. The adjoining cemetery, established in 1841, contains the graves of many of the area's early settlers.

The New Lots Reformed Church is part of the organization of the Reformed Church in America. Started as the Dutch Reformed Church in 1628, this group is today "the oldest evangelical Christian Church with a continuous ministry and records on the American continent."¹ Their first house of worship was erected near the Battery, in Manhattan. By 1654, Reformed churches were being established across the river in Brooklyn, specifically in Flatbush, Flatlands and Bushwick.

The area known as New Lots was first referred to in a survey of Fulton Street in 1704. The town of "New Lots" extended from what is now Highland Park on the north to Jamaica Bay on the south, and from around Rockaway Avenue on the west to Elderts Lane on the east. For more than 100 years, this area had no Reformed church of its own. Attendance at worship required a long ride to either Flatbush or Flatlands.

In 1823 construction began on a church for this section of Brooklyn. Local farmers felled timbers from their own land and constructed the building which still stands today for approximately \$35.00. This church has had a continuous ministry since that time and presently serves the local populace as it did in the nineteenth century.

The pointed arch windows, with their narrow moldings and minimal amount of tracery, suggest the Gothic style and are indicative of local building traditions of the period. Gothic arches gave a religious suggestion to an otherwise plain, vernacular building.

The adjoining cemetery was established in 1841 when the community needed to expand from the one located across the street. It contains many tombstones which bear the names of the early Dutch inhabitants of the area, including Rapelye, Wyckoff, Vanderveer, Van Brunt and Ryerson.

The church and its cemetery are enduring reminders of Brooklyn's early years of development. The simple, vernacular building is a testimony to the faith and the craftsmanship of the local settlers.

¹New Lots Reformed Church, Brooklyn, New York, 1964, p. 3.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Landesman, Alter F. A History of New Lots, Brooklyn. Port Washington, New York, 1977.

New Lots Reformed Church. Brooklyn, New York, 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Brooklyn Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Borough of Brooklyn Tax Map Block 4307, Lot 1 SE in part
See attached map

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

NA

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

See Continuation Sheet

name/title Anne B. Covell
 organization Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau date March 1983
 street & number Agency I, E.S.P. telephone 518-474-0479
 city or town Albany state New York 12238

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Anne Webster Jones
 title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date 4/1/83

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register New Lots Reformed Church, Brooklyn, New York, 1964, p. 3
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

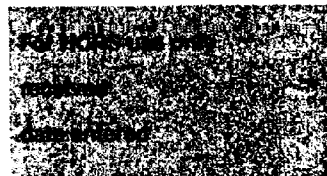
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**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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New Lots Reformed Church and Cemetery
Continuation sheet Brooklyn, Kings County, NY Item number 11



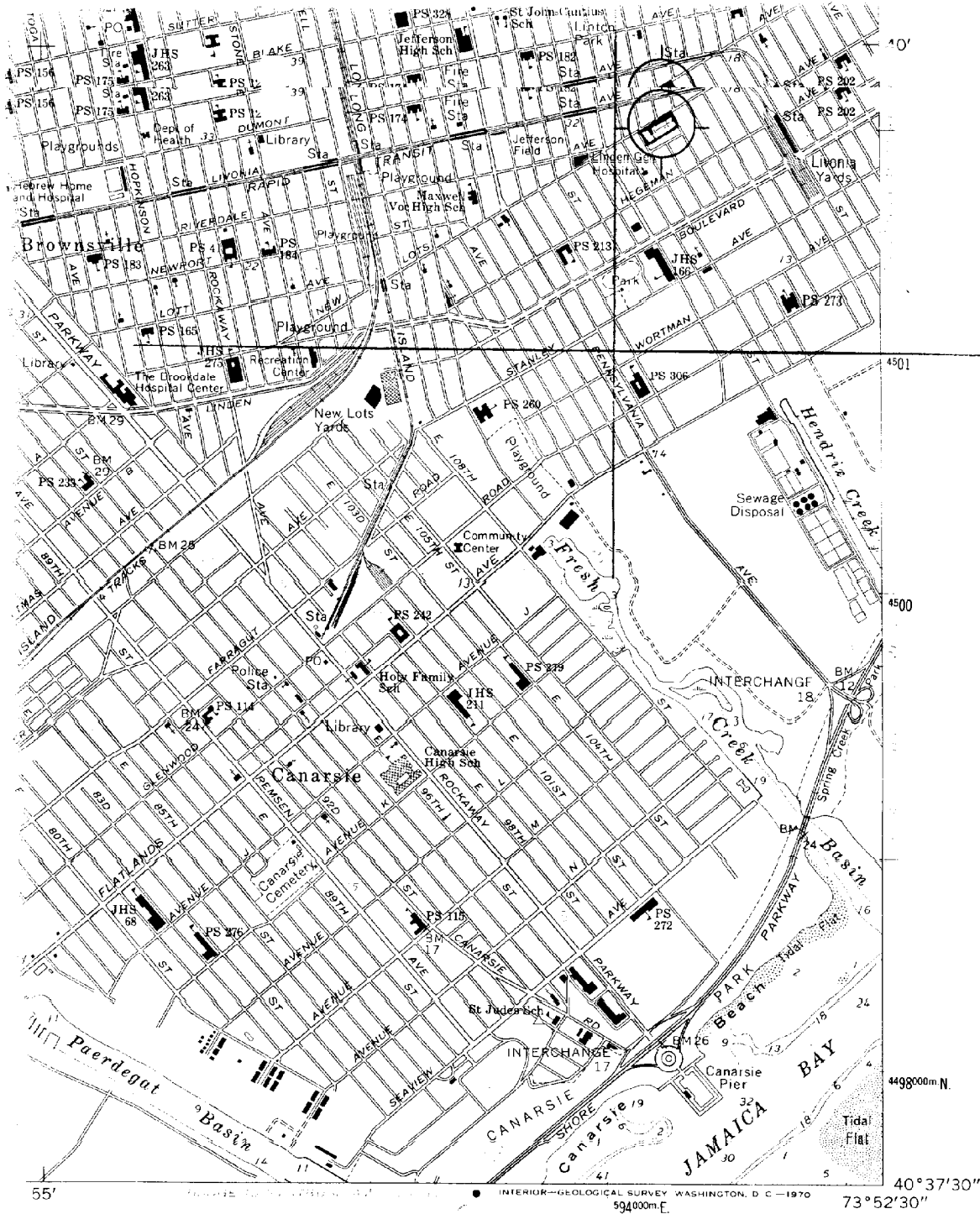
Page 2

Form researched and prepared by:

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Landmarks Preservation Commission
20 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10007

212-566-7577



INTERIOR- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1970
594000m E

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty _____
- Light-duty _____
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route _____
- State Route _____

(FAR ROCKAWAY)
6265 711 SE



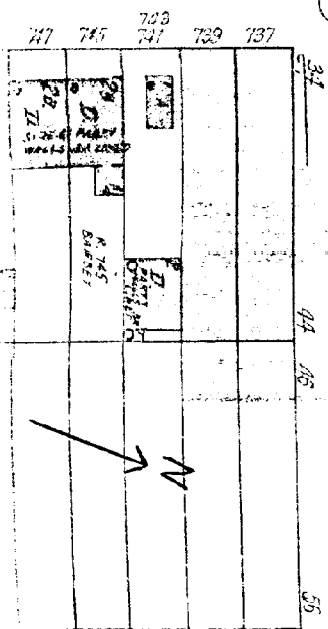
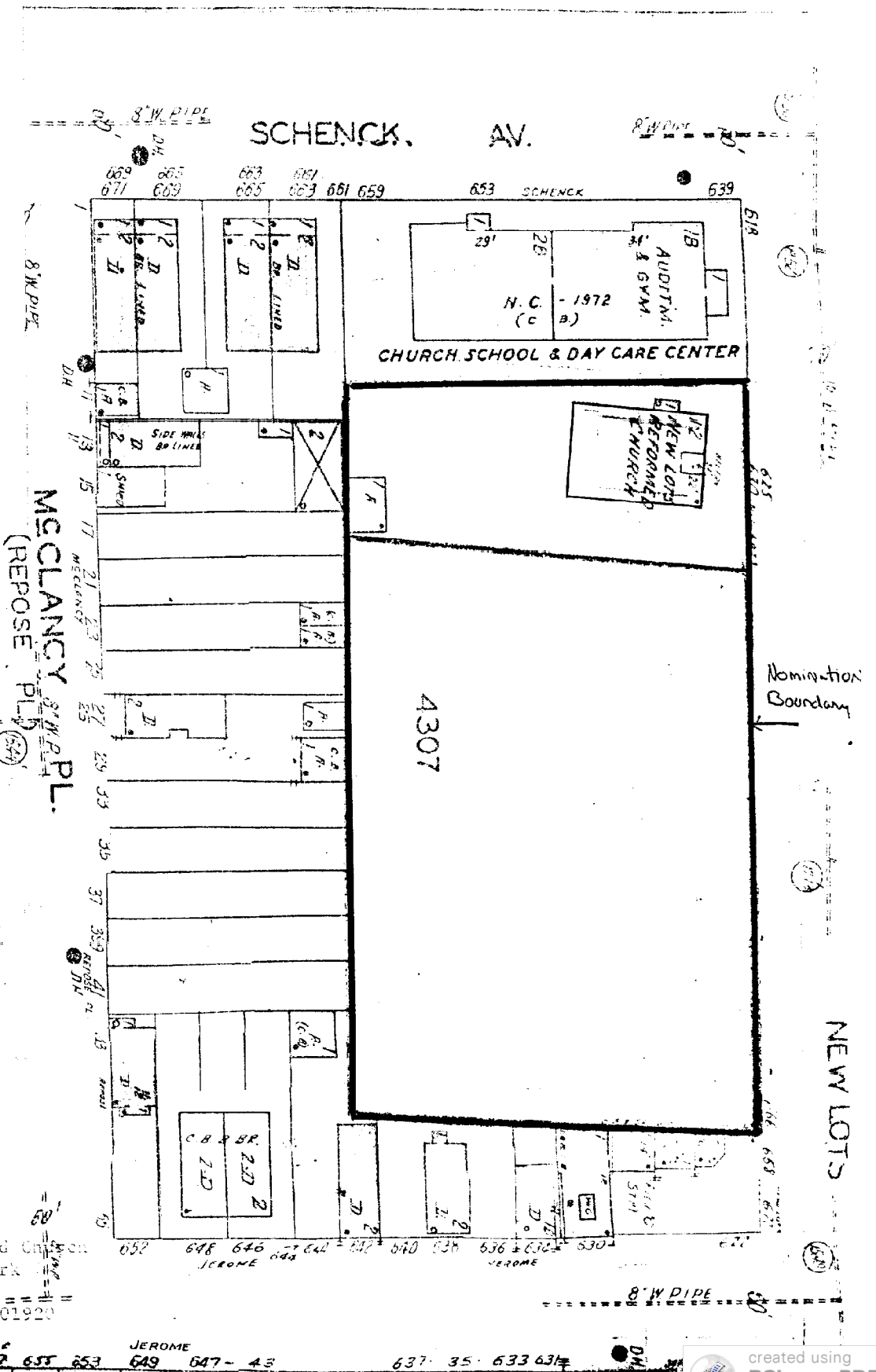
New Lots Reformed Church Complex
Brooklyn, New York *Kings County*
UTM Reference:
18 / 594200 / 4501920

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
NW/4 BROOKLYN 15' QUADRANGLE
N4037.5—W7352.5/7.5

1967

AMS 6265 III NW—SERIES V821

NEW LOTS REFORMED CHURCH & CEMETERY
Kings County, New York
Brooklyn Tax Map, Vol. 8, Plate 8
New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1979.
60" to 1"



JEROME

Reformed Church
n, New York

194800 / 4501920

JEROME 649 647-43

637 35 633 634