



Above: Location of the African Burial Grounds. At right: Artist's rendering of the Federal Office Building. At far left: Map of the Historic District.



Federal Office Building, One Foley Square, 290 Broadway

New York, New York

MRCE Services:

- Develop and monitor a subsurface investigation program
- Controlled inspection of underpinning pits
- Recommendations for foundations and excavation support
- Protection of adjacent historic site (African Burial Grounds) and building (22 Reade Street)

This large site is located in lower Manhattan, south of Duane Street, between Broadway and Centre Street.

Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers (MRCE) was retained to develop and monitor a subsurface investigation program to provide geotechnical information for the design of foundations for this office building. The investigation program included soil borings and the installation of piezometers. Recommendations for foundations and excavation support were developed. Services were provided during construction for controlled inspection of underpinning pits and protection of the historic 22 Reade Street building immediately adjacent to the site. Human remains of free and enslaved African Americans were discovered on this site in June 1991 during testing and by October full-scale excavation for the construction of the Foley Square Federal Office Tower Building had begun. Subsequently, the whole area has been designated an Historic District. (See map at far left.) During the period from 1712 to 1795, it was common land used as the location of an African Burial Grounds. Today, the African Burial Ground Interpretive Center is located in the Federal Building, and a handsome piece of sculpture and medallion in Foley Square are dedicated to the memory of those buried there.