# PHASE 1A LITERATURE SEARCH AND SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT & PHASE 1B ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

# Phase 1A Literature Search and Sensitivity Assessment & Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey Cortlandt Pitch Site

Crompound Road

Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York

# Prepared for:

NY Indoor Sports 234 Furnace Dock Road Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567



HUDSON VALLEY Cultural Resource Consultants, Ltd. 3 Lyons Drive Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

December 2016

#### Management Summary

SHPO Project Review Number (if available): 16PR05886

Involved State and Federal Agencies:

# Phase of Survey: Phase 1A Literature Search & Sensitivity Assessment & Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey

Location Information:

Location: Crompound Road and Maple Row

Minor Civil Division: Town of Cortlandt

County: Westchester County

Survey Area (Metric & English)

Length: 755'/230.18 m

Width: 365'/111.28 m

Depth (when appropriate):

Number of Acres Surveyed: 6.31 acres (2.55 ha)

Number of Square Meters & Feet Excavated (Phase II, Phase III only): N/A

Percentage of the Site Excavated Peekskill & Mohegan Lake Quadrangles

Archaeological Survey Overview

Number & Interval of Shovel Tests: 79 @ 50' intervals 6 @ 10' intervals

Number & Size of Units: N/A

Width of Plowed Strips: N/A

Surface Survey Transect Interval: N/A

Results of Archaeological Survey

Number & name of prehistoric sites identified: 0

Number & name of historic sites identified: 0

Number & name of sites recommended for Phase II/Avoidance: No additional work recommended

Results of Architectural Survey

Number of buildings/structures/cemeteries within project area: 0

Number of buildings/structures/cemeteries adjacent to project area: 0

Number of previously determined NR listed or eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: 0

Number of identified eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: 0

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Date of Report: December 21, 2016

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# I. Phase 1A Literature Search and Sensitivity Assessment

### A. Cortlandt Pitch Project Description

In November of 2016, Hudson Valley Cultural Resource Consultants (HVCRC) was retained by NY Indoor Sports to complete a Phase 1A Literature Search and Sensitivity Assessment and a Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey of the Cortlandt Pitch Site located on the northern side of Crompound Road and Maple Row in the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County, New York. All work was completed in accordance with the Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archeological Collections published by the New York Archeological Council (NYAC) and recommended for use by New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The report complies with New York State ORPHP's Phase 1 Archaeological Report Format Requirements, established in 2005.

The Cortlandt Pitch site (hereafter "the project area") consists of  $\pm 6.31$  acres (1.01 h) of open fields that include a small wetland, a residential structure and a series of outbuildings. A small landscaping company previously occupied the property, and there are materials (i.e. firewood, soil, and mulch) stored around the outbuildings in the northeastern portion of the project area. Access to the project area is along an asphalt and gravel driveway that bisects the Bear Mountain Highway right of way that is located adjacent to the northern side of Crompound Road. This right of way (ROW) is bisected by a waterline and is separated from the project area by a hedgerow. The project area is bounded to the north by the Lincoln Elementary School, to the west by the Cortlandt Bowling Lanes, and to the east by residential properties fronting on Maple Row.

The proposed undertaking includes the construction of an indoor sports complex and sports fields, as well as parking areas and supporting infrastructure. Access to the proposed project will be along the existing gravel and asphalt driveway, which will be widened and improved. A second access route will be constructed along the southern boundary of the property, connecting to Maple Row. A third access point will be from Lincoln Ave. adjacent to the bowling lanes. These access corridors will be located within the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) ROW adjacent to the project area.



Figure 1: Detail of the 2016 USGS Topographical Map. Peekskill & Mohegan Lake Quadrangles. 7.5 Minute Series. (Source: USGS.gov.) Scale: 1"=1890'.



Photo 1: The project area is a mix of mown lawn and lightly forested areas. A residential structure is located in the northeastern portion of the project area. View to the north.



Photo 2: The project is bounded to the east by a tree line. View to the east.



Photo 3: View to the south from the residential structure toward Crompound Road.



Photo 4: The western portion of the project area is characterized by overgrown agricultural fields. View to the west.



Photo 5: View to the north of the former house location adjacent to the existing access road.



Photo 6: A stonewall defines the western boundary of the project area. View to the northwest.

### B: Environmental Conditions

The landscape within the project area is made up of open fields with tall grasses, weeds and brush. There is a small wetland area identified within the center of the project area, with an additional wetland located within the ROW. The elevations on the site vary slightly from 400' Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) in the eastern portion of the project area to 394' in the western portion.

The project area contains three existing structures including a residential building and two barns or outbuildings. These structures area located in the northeastern portion of the project area. The area around the structures has been graded and leveled, and portions area covered with asphalt. The landscape around the outbuildings has been used to store landscape materials.

The existing conditions map, provided by the project sponsor, indicates that subsurface infrastructure (water, electric, and communications) are located within the project area. These conduits connect the existing residence to existing communications, water and electric lines located outside of the property boundaries. In addition, the ROW located south of the project area boundaries is bisected by a water line, and is marked by a fire hydrant and several manholes.

#### <u>Ecology</u>

The project area lies in a vegetation zone where the Northern Hardwood Forest Zone meets the Appalachian Oak Forest Zone. In the Northern Hardwood Forest Zone, sugar maple, birch, beech and hemlock are the predominant trees in this type of forest (Bailey 1995). In the Appalachian Oak Forest Zone, tall, broad-leafed deciduous trees predominate, particularly Red Oak and White Oak. The wooded areas of the site contain trees with diameters that suggest relatively recent reforestation, probably within the last 30 to 50 years.

#### <u>Geology</u>

The project area is situated within the Ridge and Valley physiographic province, which extends from Lake Champlain to Alabama. The portion of the Ridge and Valley Province in which the project area is located is specifically identified as the Taconic Allochthon, bordered on the east by the Manhattan Prong and on the west by the Great Valley province (Schuberth, 1968).

The Hudson Highlands area is a northeast-southwest trending band of igneous and metamorphic rocks, which extend from New England through New York, crossing the Hudson River in the vicinity of Cold Spring and West Point. Because of their structural origin and their durability, the Hudson Highlands are of a higher elevation than the physiographic provinces that border them such as the Hudson-Mohawk Lowlands to the north and the Piedmont Triassic Lowlands to the south. The Hudson Highlands are almost entirely blanketed by a thin layer of glacial till, with frequent bedrock outcrops. Outwash sand and gravel occupy some of the river and stream valleys that border and run through the Highlands (Spectra 2004: Appendix C).

## <u>Drainage</u>

Drainage on the site is into the small wetlands located in the central portion of the property. Gregory Pond is located to the north of the project area. The project is located a distance of 3.25 miles east of the Hudson River.



Figure 2: Aerial Image showing soil units within the project area. (Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service.) Scale: 1"=195'.

<u>Soils</u>

The soils located within the project area consist of a mix of well drained sandy loam and poorly drained loam. The dominant soil class is well drained loams. Within the central portion of the project area are poorly drained loam and sandy loam. Made lands characterize the perimeter of the project area. The characteristics of the soils within the project area have an important impact on the potential for the presence of prehistoric cultural material, since the type of soils present affect the ability of an area to support human populations. Details of the soils within the project area have been included below in Table 1.

Table 1: Soil Unit Descriptions (Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2014)								
Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Soil Horizons & Texture	Slope	Drainage	Landform			
PnB	Paxton fine sandy loam	Ap - 0 to 8 inches: fine sandy loam Bw1 - 8 to 15 inches: fine sandy loam Bw2 - 15 to 26 inches: fine sandy loam Cd - 26 to 65 inches: gravelly fine sandy loam	3 to 8%	Well Drained	Drumlins, ground moraines, hills			
RdB	Ridgebury loam	H1 - 0 to 8 inches: loam H2 - 8 to 26 inches: gravelly fine sandy loam H3 - 26 to 60 inches: gravelly loam	3 to 8%	Somewhat poorly drained	Hills, till plains, drumlinoid ridges			
Ub	Udorthents, smoothed	H1 - 0 to 4 inches: gravelly loam H2 - 4 to 70 inches: very gravelly loam	0 to 8%	Moderately well drained	Made lands			
Uf	Urban Land	Varies	Varies	Varies	Made lands			
Sh	Woodbridge loam	Ap - 0 to 6 inches: loam Bw1 - 6 to 18 inches: gravelly loam Bw2 - 18 to 29 inches: gravelly loam Cd - 29 to 65 inches: gravelly loam	3 to 8%	Moderately well drained	Drumlins, ground moraines, hills			

# C: Recorded Archaeological Sites and Surveys

In order to gather information on the history and prehistory of the Project Area and the surrounding region, HVCRC consulted historical documents and maps available at the Library of Congress, David Rumsey Cartography Associates and the New York Public Library. HVCRC reviewed the combined site files of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the New York State Museum (NYSM) for information regarding previously recorded archeological sites within one mile (1.6 km) of the Project Area. HVCRC also consulted OPRHP and regional prehistoric sources (e.g. Beauchamp 1900; Parker 1920; Ritchie 1980; Ritchie and Funk 1973) for descriptions of regional archeological sites. In addition, HVCRC consulted the files at the OPRHP for information regarding cultural resources within one mile of the Project Area that might be listed on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places (S/NRHP).

## Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

Four previously documented archaeological sites have been identified within a one-mile radius of the project area boundaries

Table 2: Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within one - mile radius								
Site Number	Site Name	Distance from Project Area	Time Period	Site Type/ Materials Recovered				
11902.000073	Ferguson- Williams Historic Site (NYSM 11710)	5000' / 1.2 k	Historic	Historic materials redeposited through surface erosion. Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century.				
11902.000074	Paul J. Higgins Historic and Precontact Site (NYSM 11711)	3960' / 1.2 k	Pre-contact Historic	Historic materials and debitage redeposited through surface erosion. Mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century				
11902.000075	Ryan Thomas Precontact Site (NYSM 11712)	2640' / 800 m	Pre-contact	Projectile point, Poplar Island, Isolated find.				
11918.000089	Kiln	3960' / 1.2 k	Historic	19th century kiln				

## Previously Completed Archaeological Surveys

As part of the research for this project, surveys completed for sites in the general area were consulted. A total of five surveys have been completed within a one-mile radius of the project area.

Table 3: Previously Completed Archaeological Surveys within one-mile radius							
Project Name	Survey Findings	Reference					
A Cultural Resources Survey Report, 2006-07, PIN 8561.33.101 New York State Route 35/United States Route 202 at Lexington Avenue, Towns of Cortlandt and Yorktown, Westchester	The Phase 1B Survey investigated portions of the Route 35 and Route 202 intersection, for the proposed improvement. A total of 23 shovel tests were completed, but no cultural material was recovered.	Institute for LI Archaeology, 2006					

Phase IA/IB Archeological Investigation, Ace Sports Development, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co.	The Phase 1B Survey investigated 2.44 acres of undeveloped land. A total of 72 shovel tests were completed, however no archaeological sites were identified, and no further work was recommended.	Strata, 2007
Technical Report Archaeological Site Evaluations Corral And Depressions Site, Fresh Air Association House Of St. John The Divine Site, And Kiln Site, Algonquin Incremental Market (Aim) Project: Haverstraw T&R And Stony Point T&R Haverstraw, Stony Point, and Yorktown, New York FERC Docket No. CP14-96-000	The Survey investigated a stone kiln structure, two shell concentrations visible on the ground surface; stonewalls, and a stone-lined cart path in a wooded portion of the Sylvan Glen Park Preserve. Site was recommended for listing on the National Register, and avoidance during project construction.	PAL, 2015
Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey Report, PIN 8004.02.101 BIN 1-00342- 0, Intersection of NYS Route 6 and Bear Mountain Parkway, Town of Cortlandt, Westchester Co	The Survey investigated he proposed replacement of the Bear Mountain Parkway over Route 6. A total of 616 shovel tests were completed, and three prehistoric and one historic sites were identified. Additional investigations of the prehistoric sits or site avoidance were recommended.	NYSM 2007
Cultural Resource Site Examination Report of Paul J. Higgins Site (NYSM site #11711) for PIN 8004.02.101 Intersection of NYS Route 6 and Bear Mountain Parkway	Excavations of the dense lithic scatter identified as the Paul J Higgens site. This survey identified a late Woodland lithic manufacture site that was likely a satellite to a much large camp. The only diagnostic material recovered was a Levanna Point.	NYSM, 2008

# D: National Register Eligible/Listed Sites

The National Register Database and OPRHP files were reviewed to identify structures on or in the vicinity of the project area that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places or identified as National Register Eligible. There are no National Register Eligible or Listed sites within a one half-mile radius of the project area.

#### E: Native American Context

The earliest known Human occupation in Westchester County dates to the Paleo-Indian period (c. 10000 BC). Several sites from the Paleo-Indian period have been found in the Lower Hudson valley, but the population density appears to have been low (Funk 1976). During the Archaic period, (4500 BC-1300 BC) there are indications that Westchester County had a much larger population. Small mobile groups established seasonal camps, focusing on the Hudson River. This is a difficult archaeological phase to document, as the remains of many of these camps have been destroyed by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century suburban and commercial development of the region. The Woodland period, which followed the Archaic period and lasted until the Contact period, (1000 BC to AD 1600), saw continued expansion of the seasonal migration of Native American throughout Westchester County area.

Arthur Parker, in his statewide survey, identified sites and "villages" along the major waterways within Westchester County. Numerous village sites, shell midden sites and large camps were reported in the region, particularly along the Hudson River. There appears to have been an extensive prehistoric occupation, particularly during the late Woodland and Early Contact periods. Almost no sites were reported in the upland regions in central and eastern Westchester County, with the exception of a site reported on Indian Hill (Parker: 1920).

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Peekskill, Cortlandt and Croton were home to a group of Native Americans known as the Kitchawang (variously, Kichtawank Kicktawanc) Indians. Their village was located in Peekskill, and was called Sackhoes. The main settlement was located to the south of the project area at the mouth of the Croton River (Shonnard & Spooner 1900). The Kichtawangs were part of the Munsee speaking population of the Delaware group of Native Americans occupying the Lower Hudson Valley in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Neighboring groups included the Wappinger and the Nochpeem to the north, and the Sinsinks to the south (Goddard 1978).

The inhabitants of Sackhoes exploited riverine resources including shellfish. The early records made by Europeans, report that mounds oyster and clam shells were seen along the shores of Peekskill Bay. The area of Cortlandt would have been equally attractive to native peoples due to nearby resources. Expected site types include resource procurement stations, where short-term and specialized activities took place. These sites would be characterized by low artifact density and diversity.

## E: Historic Context

The following discussion of historic and cartographic research provides information concerning the likelihood of encountering Map Documented Structures (MDS) and other intact historic cultural resources within the boundaries of the project area.

## Historic Background

The project area is located in the Town of Cortlandt in the County of Westchester, New York. Dutch and English settlers flocked to the county beginning in 1639 drawn by the region's agricultural potential. During the Revolutionary War, loyalties were split in the county, and numerous battles were fought throughout the region (Eisenstadt 2005). In May of 1781, a battle took place on the New Croton River where an American outpost was attacked by the British.

The town of Cortlandt, was purchased from the Kitchawonke Indians by Stephen Van Cortlandt. The property, which included 1000 acres, was later passed to the Verplanck Family and later sold to a real estate company in

1836. The 19th century saw a rise of industrial enterprises within Verplanck and Buchanan that included tanneries, brickyards and small factories.

Agriculture was the main economic pursuit in the county in the first half of the 19th century, and industry in the second (Eisenstadt 2005). Large population increases fueled increases in urbanization, infrastructure, and ethnic diversity. A wide variety of crops were grown in the large fertile valleys of the northern half of the county, with numerous mills, brickyards, and stone quarries providing the raw material for massive building projects. Transportation networks on land, water, and rail connected the county with New York City, Boston, Albany, and Danbury. The Hudson River offered easy transport between New York City and Albany, with numerous ports in Westchester County. Post roads and turnpikes gave way to extensive rail transport by the 1850s. Easy access to large markets enabled farming and manufacturing booms in the region.

By 1837, New York City's demand for water necessitated the building of the Croton Dam, the first large masonry dam in the United States. By 1892, New York City's demand for water outstripped the capacity of Croton Lake and construction began on a new dam. The New Croton Dam was constructed by 1905, enlarging the reservoir to its present size. While this and other reservoirs provided water to a rapidly growing New York City, it deprived Westchester County of much of the county's best farmland and displaced thousands of residents along with entire villages.

#### Cartographic Research

HVCRC examined historical maps of Westchester County to identify possible structures, previous road alignments and other landscape features or alterations that could affect the likelihood that archeological and/or historic resources could be located within the project area. These maps are included in this report, with the boundaries of the Project Area superimposed. Nineteenth century maps frequently lack the accuracy of location and scale present in modern surveys. As a result of this common level of inaccuracy on the historic maps, the location of the project area is drafted relative to the roads, structures, and other features as they are drawn, and should be regarded as approximate. The historic maps included in this report depict the sequence of road construction and settlement/development in the vicinity of the project area.



Figure 3: 1858 Merry, F.C. Map of Westchester County, New York. (Source: Library of Congress) Scale: 1"=2515'.

The earliest map examined is the 1858 F.C. Merry *Map of Westchester County, New York*. The project area is located on the northern side of Crompound Road, west of Croton Ave. There is a structure located on the eastern side of the APE. The structure is owned by W. Briggs. To the west of the project area the property is owned by A. Todd. To the north of the project area is Gregory's Pond, which is surrounded by a large wetland.



Figure 4: Beers, F. W. 1867 County Atlas of Westchester, New York. (Source: Library of Congress) Scale: 1"=2515'.

The Beers 1867 *County Atlas of Westchester, New York* shows that this portion of the town of Cortlandt has become significantly more populated. This map indicates that there are no structures shown within the project area. To the west of the project area is a building owned by J. Underhill. To the northeast are a series of structures owned by A. J. Dewel. A Todd still owns a building on the southern side of the road this map indicates that there have been few changes within the vicinity of the project area.



Figure 5: 1883 J.R. Bien, Town of Cortlandt. (Source: David Rumsey Cartography Associates) Scale: 1"=3775'.

The 1883 J.R. Bien *Town of Cortlandt* map indicates that there is a structure located adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the project area, along Crompound Road. This structure is shown as being owned by Mrs. C. Vellott, who owns 12 acres of land. This map shows that A. Todd still owns structures along Crompound Road. No significant changes have taken place within the vicinity of the project area.



Figure 6: 1914 G.W. Bromley & Co., *Atlas of Westchester County*. (Source: David Rumsey Cartography Associates) Scale: 1"=3775'.

The 1914 George Bromley *Atlas of Westchester County* indicates that the project area is still owned by the Yellott (sic) family. This map shows that Charles Yellott owns 12 acres within a larger 115 acre lot owned by William Todd. A structure is shown adjacent to the southeastern corner of the project area. The Todd family also owns land on the southern side of Crompound Road.



Figure 7: 1957 Peekskill & Mohegan Lake USGS Topographical Quadrangle. Source: USGS.gov) Scale: 1"=1375'.

By 1957 there have been significant changes within the project area and within the overall vicinity. The structure previously owned by the Vellott family has been moved north into the project area (Fig 8-9). This move was brought about due to the purchase of the land along the northern side of Crompound road by the Department of Transportation. This portion of land was slated to be used for the Bear Mountain Highway that intersects with Crompound Road to the west of the project area. This map shows that the vicinity of the project area has been significantly developed. The numerous residential structures within the area are an example of the suburban expansion in the area in the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The land within the project area is shown on this topographical map as cleared agricultural land.

### Aerial Review

To track the evolution of the structures within the project area a series of aerial images have been examined and are included in this report.



Figure 8: 1947 USGS Aerial Image. Poughkeepsie NY. (Source: Westchester County GIS) Scale: 1"=228'.

In 1947 the aerial image shows that the Yellott /Vellott structures are located outside the southeastern boundary of the project area. The aerial indicates that there is a residential structure and two outbuilding, one of which appears to be a large barn.



Figure 9: 1958 USGS Aerial Image. Poughkeepsie NY. (Source: Earth Explorer) Scale: 1"=210'.

In 1958 the aerial image shows that the Yellott /Vellott structure has been moved north into the northeastern portion of the project area. The aerial image shows that the large barn was moved, as well as the residential structure. An additional outbuilding is located to the northwest of the barn.



Photo 7: A paved driveway crosses the Bear Mountain right of way, and leads into the project area. View to the north.



Photo 8: Piles of debris and landscaping materials are located in the northeastern portion of the project area, north of the existing structures. View to the north.



Photo 9: View west of the barn located in the northern portion of the project area.



Photo 10: View to the north of the barn. Photo taken from the existing access road.

#### G: Assessment of Sensitivity for Cultural Resources

An assessment of whether significant cultural resources are likely to be present within the project area must consider what is known of the prehistory of the area, including likely locations of archaeological sites and proximity to known sites. In addition, the history of the immediate area, including whether any historic structures or features are known to exist within the project area boundaries, must be considered. Disturbance to the landscape and the soils on the property are also considered in this assessment.

#### Prehistoric Sensitivity

Three previously identified pre-contact archaeological sites have been identified within the vicinity of the project area. In addition, there are environmental factors present on the project area, which suggest that the undisturbed, level portions of the landscape have the potential to contain prehistoric cultural resources. These factors include:

- •The proximity of the site to the Hudson River,
- •Level, well drained soils within portions of the project area and the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

#### <u>Historic Sensitivity</u>

Cartographic research confirmed that there was a structure located adjacent to the project area boundaries. The aerial images indicate that this structure was moved to its current location within the project area between 1948 and 1958. Due to the fact that the structure has been moved from its original location, the potential for the presence of intact historic cultural resources associated with the building and its early residents is considered to be low.

#### H: Summary and Recommendations

The environmental conditions present in within the Cortlandt Pitch Site indicate that the area is sensitive for pre-contact cultural resources. It is therefore recommended that a Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey be undertaken on those undisturbed areas within areas of the Cortlandt Pitch Site that have been assessed to have the potential to yield cultural resources.

# II. Phase 1B Archaeological Field Reconnaissance Survey

In December of 2016 HVCRC conducted an initial walkover of the Cortlandt Pitch Site Area of Potential Effect (APE) to assess the existing conditions of the project area. Areas selected for subsurface testing were identified and areas of disturbance, slope and wetland areas were eliminated from testing.

A field reconnaissance level Archaeological Survey was completed on December 1-6, 2016. Archaeological fieldwork was directed by Beth Selig, M.A., R.P.A Ned Tassinari, Franco Zani Jr, Joe Federico and Dylan Lewis completed the field excavations as well as the site photography. Site research and report preparation were completed by Beth Selig. Beth Selig completed site research and report preparation as well as preparation of the Field Reconnaissance Map and final production of the report.

# I: Archaeological Survey Methodology

Results of the Phase 1A confirmed that the site is located in an area of pre-contact activity. In addition, the landscape closely conforms to an ecological model that indicates that the level, undisturbed portions of the project area are moderate to highly sensitive for prehistoric cultural materials. The testing strategy for the site was structured around the knowledge that portions of the property possessed the potential to yield prehistoric cultural remains.

Areas selected for subsurface testing were identified during a comprehensive walkover of the property, which served to evaluate the site, assess loci of disturbance, rule out slope, bedrock and wetland areas on the site, assess available raw material and habitation resources, and determine former land usage.

Shovel tests were excavated at intervals of 50' (15m) along transects conforming to the land surface. A determination concerning the sensitivity of the various areas was based on environmental factors, topography, and known activity patterns of the prehistoric population. The locations of the tests and disturbed areas were recorded on a large-scale map that shows surveyed borders and the locations of the various structures identified on the site. (See Field Reconnaissance Map)

The field methodology employed at the Cortlandt Pitch Site APE consisted of several stages of investigation. These included:

- A walkover and visual inspection of the site to assess areas of potential sensitivity for historic and precontact cultural remains.
- The excavation a shovel test pit to establish the stratigraphy of the site and to identify the depth and composition of the sterile glacially deposited sub soils.
- Systematic visual inspection of the land surface to rule out the presence of rock faces and overhangs.
- Shovel testing in the areas identified as having a potential sensitivity for prehistoric or historic remains.
- Photographic documentation of the overall site.

Shovel tests pits (STPs) approximately 45 cm in diameter, were spaced 50 feet apart and excavated at least 10 cm into sterile subsoil, unless impeded by rocks or other obstructions. This subsurface testing strategy was applied in areas of intact soils and areas that did not contain surface water. All excavated soils were passed

through a one-quarter-inch hardware cloth to insure uniform recovery of artifacts. Shovel test profiles were recorded on standard field forms which included stratigraphic depths, Munsell soil color, texture and inclusions, disturbances and artifacts. The locations of all STPs were plotted on a base map of the Project Area. The excavations and existing conditions across the Project Area were photographed. Items recovered from the screens were assigned to the stratum from which they were obtained. (See Appendix A) Had cultural materials been recovered, they would have been bagged, labeled and returned to the laboratory for processing.

## J: Archaeological Survey Results

Once a testing strategy had been established, and areas unsuitable for testing were eliminated from the survey, potentially sensitive areas were systematically shovel tested. The areas subjected to shovel testing represent the flat and well drained areas within the project area. The field team tested the entire 6 acre parcel and the location of the proposed access corridors.

Testing commenced in the southeastern corner of the project, south of the existing structure. Transects were aligned east to west and progressed north toward the residential structure. Transects (TR) 1 through 4 were completed in this area. The shovel tests identified a dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel overlying a yellow brown sandy clay with gravel. This portion of the project area has been profoundly disturbed through the installation of subsurface utilities, and the construction of the house foundation in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The new location included the installation of a subsurface septic system to the east of the house.

The northeastern portion of the project area is currently a landscape materials storage area. Piles of stone, wood, brick, gravel and other materials are stored in this location. In addition the ground surface has been disturbed through the installation of subsurface water and electrical lines. No shovel tests were completed in this area.

Testing then moved to the former agricultural field located west of the asphalt access drive. Transect 5 is located adjacent to the water line that marks the southern boundary of the project area. The transects were aligned west to east and progressed north to the northern boundary of the project area. Transects 5 through 11 terminated at the wetland area located in the central portion of the field. The wetland flags identified in the field were consistent with the wetlands delineated on the existing conditions map; however, areas of seasonally-saturated soils were identified outside the mapped boundaries. The seasonally-saturated areas precluded testing in the central portion of the project area. This areas are located adjacent to a small wetland located outside of the southern boundary of the project area. The soils identified in this portion of the project area consisted of dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel overlying a yellow brown sandy clay with gravel. No cultural material of any kind was recovered from the 27 shovel tests completed on TR 5 through TR 11.

Testing continued in the western portion of the project area. A stone wall, marking the western boundary of the project area, served as a baseline. Transects 12 through 18 were aligned west to east through this portion of the project area. Like the previous transects, these transects terminated at areas of saturated soils, located adjacent to an existing wetland area. The soils identified were consistent with those encountered in the eastern portion of the project area. Aside from modern plastic, no cultural material of any kind was recovered.

Once the large abandoned agricultural field had been tested the field team tested the area alongside the existing access road, where the Yellott structure was originally located in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. As previously stated, this structure had been moved in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to clear the area as the right of way for the Bear Mountain Highway. The location was identified by a large pit in the ground, surrounded by brick and mortar and other

building materials. A transect of shovel tests (TR 19) was placed adjacent to the eastern side of the driveway. In addition a series of shovel tests spaced at 10' intervals (TR 20) were excavated around the perimeter of the large hole that marks the location of the former house foundation. The shovel tests completed adjacent to the driveway identified a dark brown loam overlying compacted gravel. Adjacent to the former house foundation the soils encountered consisted of a very dark gray brown silty loam with cobbles overlying a brown yellow sand with cobbles. A minimal amount of cultural material was identified, consisting of brick, coal and mortar fragments, a single fragment of whiteware and plastic. No significant cultural material of was recovered from this portion of the project area.

The last transect was completed along the proposed access road that will connect the existing access road to Maple Row. These shovel tests follow the corridor of a subsurface waterline, the installation of which represents a profound disturbance. The shovel tests completed along this transect encountered a Dark brown silt overlying a Yellow brown sand. No cultural material was recovered from this portion of the project area.

#### K: Conclusions and Recommendations

In December of 2016, Hudson Valley Cultural Resource Consultants completed a walkover reconnaissance inspection of Cortlandt Pitch Site in the Town of Cortlandt, Westchester County New York. A thorough review of the existing body of archaeological data relevant to the project area was undertaken and the probability of encountering prehistoric and/or historic cultural remains on the site was assessed. Disturbed areas were identified and eliminated from testing. Once this process was completed, areas possessing the potential to yield cultural remains were subjected to systematic subsurface archaeological testing.

A total of 78 shovel tests were excavated on the Cortlandt Pitch in areas considered to have the potential to yield evidence of prehistoric or historic activity on the site. Of the 78 shovel tests, none yielded pre-contact or historic cultural material. Based on the results of the archaeological field survey, it is the conclusion of Hudson Valley Cultural Resource Consultants that no further archaeological investigation of the Cortlandt Pitch Site is warranted.

The existing residential structure on the property was built in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, and is an example of a rural vernacular dwelling. The structure has been moved from its original location, and placed on a modern foundation. In addition many changes to the structure have been made removing some of the contributing architectural elements. In addition, this structure is not associated with persons who would have made a significant contribution to the history of the community. Therefore, it is the opinion of Hudson Valley Cultural Resource consultants, that this property is not National Register Eligible, and therefore no additional work is recommended.



Photo 11: View east of a single story barn structure located north of the residence.



Photo 12: View along the northern boundary of the project area. Area has been profoundly disturbed.



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Appendix A: Shovel Test Records

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
TR1	1					Not Excavated: Buried Utilities	
	2	1	0-12	0-30	10YR3/6	Dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	12-16	30-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	3	1	0-14	0-35	10YR3/4 & 10YR5/6	Dark yellow brown mottled with yellow brown coarse sandy silt	NCM
		2	14-16	35-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	4	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/4 & 10YR5/6	Dark yellow brown mottled with yellow brown coarse sandy silt	Styrofoam, safety glass, plastic, coal, and field chert discarded
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
TR 2	5	1	0-8	0-20	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt	plastic bottles discarded
	6	1	0-13	0-32	10YR3/6	Dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
		2	13-19	32-47	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	7	1	0-11	0-28	10YR3/6 & 10YR5/6	Dark yellow brown and yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	11-16	28-41	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	8	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/6 & 10YR5/6	Dark yellow brown and yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	1 wire metal nail, discarded
		2	10-15	25-39	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
TR 3	9	1	0-8	0-21	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	8-13	21-33	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay	NCM
	10	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay	NCM
	11	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/4 & !0YR5/6	Dark yellow brown and yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	10-13	25-32	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
TR 4	12					Not Excavated: Debris Push Pile	
	13	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/6	Dark yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	14	1	0-8	0-20	10YR3/6 & 10YR5/6	Dark yellow brown and yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	Plastic discarded
		2	8-14	20-36	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	15	1	0-15	0-37	10YR3/6 & 10YR5/6	Dark yellow brown and yellow brown coarse sandy silt with gravel	coal discarded
		2	15-20	37-50	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
TR 5	16	1	0-11	0-29	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	11-17	29-43	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay	NCM
	17	1	0-16	0-40	10YR4/4	Dark yellow brown sandy loam with gravel, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
	18	1	0-12	0-30	10YR4/4	Dark yellow brown sandy loam with gravel	NCM
		2	12-18	30-45	10YR6/8	Brown yellow sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	19	1	0-16	0-40	10YR3/2	Very dark gray brown very silty sand with gravel	NCM
		2	16-20	40-50	10YR6/8	Brown yellow sandy clay	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
	20	1	0-9	0-22	10YR3/2	Very dark gray brown sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	9-15	22-39	10YR6/4	Light yellow brown compact sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	21					Not Excavated: Standing Water	
TR 6	22	1	0-9	0-22	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	9-15	22-37	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	23	1	0-9	0-22	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	9-15	22-39	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	24	1	0-8	0-20	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown sandy silt with gravel	NCM
		2	8-16	20-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
TR 7	25	1	0-5	0-12	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks, terminated at root impasse	NCM
	26	1	0-6	0-15	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
	27	1	0-12	0-20	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
	28					Not Excavated: Standing Water	
TR 8	29	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks	NCM
		2	10-14	25-35	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with rocks	NCM
	30	1	0-9	0-22	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks	NCM
		2	9-12	22-30	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with rocks	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
	31	1	0-8	0-21	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks	NCM
		2	8-14	21-36	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with rocks	NCM
	32	1	0-11	0-28	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam with rocks	NCM
		2	11-16	28-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with rocks	NCM
	33	1				Not Excavated: Standing Water	
TR 9	34	1	0-12	0-30	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	12-17	30-43	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	35	1	0-10	0-26	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	10-16	26-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	36	1	0-7	0-19	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	7-13	19-33	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
TR 10	37					Not Excavated: Bulldozed Pile	
	38	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	39	1	0-8	0-21	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	8-13	21-34	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
TR 11	40	1	0-14	0-35	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty sand with gravel	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
		2	14-20	35-50	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	41	1	0-13	0-33	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty sand with gravel, terminated at rock and root impasse	NCM
	42	1	0-12	0-30	10YR4/2	Dark gray brown silty sand with gravel	coal discarded
		2	12-20	30-50	10YR4/6	Dark yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
TR 12	43	1	0-7	0-18	10YR3/2	Very dark gray brown loam with modern garbage, terminated at rock impasse	Plastic bottles fragments, discarded
	44	1	0-10	0-25	10YR4/2	Dark gray brown very silty loam	NCM
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
	45	1	0-7	0-18	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	7-16	18-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
	46	1	0-10	0-25	10YR4/2	Dark gray brown very silty loam	NCM
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
TR 13	47	1	0-14	0-35	10YR3/2	Very dark gray brown silty loam, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
	48	1	0-9	0-22	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam	NCM
		2	9-13	22-32	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay	NCM
	49	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam	NCM
		2	10-14	25-35	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay	NCM
	50	1	0-9	0-24	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty loam	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
		2	9-16	24-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay	NCM
TR 14	51	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	10-16	25-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	52	1	0-10	0-25	10YR3/3	Dark brown loam	NCM
		2	10-14	25-35	10YR4/3	Brown sandy loam	NCM
	53	1	0-12	0-30	10YR3/3	Dark brown loam	NCM
		2	12-16	30-40	10YR4/3	Brown sandy loam	NCM
	54	1	0-16	0-41	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty sand with gravel, terminated at root impasse	plastic, beer cans, bottle glass discarded
TR 15	55	1	0-7	0-19	10YR4/2	Dark gray brown silty sand with gravel	NCM
		2	7-12	19-31	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	56	1	0-8	0-21	10YR4/2	Dark gray brown silty sand with gravel	NCM
		2	8-14	21-35	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sandy clay with gravel	NCM
	57	1	0-16	0-41	10YR3/3	Dark brown silty sand with gravel, terminated at root impasse	NCM
	58	1	0-9	0-24	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	916	24-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
TR 16	59	1	0-8	0-20	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	8-16	20-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
	60	1	0-9	0-22	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	9-16	22-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
	61	1	0-5	0-12	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	5-20	12-50	10YR4/3 & 10YR5/4	Brown silty loam mottled with yellow brown silt, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
	62	1	0-6	0-16	10YR4/3 & 10YR5/4	Brown silty loam mottled with yellow brown silt, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
TR 17	63	1				Not Excavated: Disturbed, extensive pile of bricks and concrete chunks	
	64	1	0-6	0-14	10YR4/3 & 10YR5/4	Brown silty loam mottled with yellow brown silt	brick chunks, bottle glass, discarded
	65	1	0-11	0-28	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	modern plastic, discarded
		2	11-16	28-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
	66	1	0-9	0-24	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	916	24-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
TR 18	67	1	0-8	0-20	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	8-16	20-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
	68	1	0-9	0-22	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
		2	9-16	22-40	10YR5/4	Yellow brown silt	NCM
	69	1	0-12	0-30	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	12-17	30-43	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
	70	1	0-10	0-26	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	10-16	26-40	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	71	1	0-7	0-19	10YR3/4	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	NCM
		2	7-13	19-33	10YR5/6	Yellow brown silty clay with gravel	NCM
	72	1	0-24	0-60	10YR3/3	Dark brown fill?	NCM
	73	1	0-20	0-50	10YR3/3	Dark brown silt	NCM
		2	20-24	50-60	10Y5/6	Yellow brown sand	NCM
	74	1	0-12	0-30	10YR3/3	Dark brown silt	NCM
		2	12-18	30-45	10YR5/6	Yellow brown sand	NCM
	75	1	0-6	0-15	10YR3/3	Dark brown silt, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
TR 19	76	1	0-6	0-15	10YR4/3	Brown silty loam	NCM
	77	2				Not Excavated: Disturbed, concrete along roadway	
	78	3				Not Excavated: Disturbed, concrete along roadway	
	79	4	0-14	0-35	10YR3/4	Dark brown silty loam with cobbles, terminated at rock impasse	brick and glass, discarded
TR 20	80	1	0-10	0-25	10YR4/6	Dark yellow brown silty loam with gravel	cement and brick discarded
	81	1	0-9	0-22	10YR4/4	Dark yellow brown silty sand with cobbles	NCM
		2	9-20	22-50	10YR6/6	Brown yellow sandy loam with cobbles	NCM

Transect	STP	Level	Depth (in)	Depth (cm)	Munsell	Soil Description	Cultural Material
	82	1	0-12	0-30	10YR3/2	Very dark gray brown silty loam with cobbles, terminated at rock impasse	glass, metal, cement and brick fragments discarded
	83	1	0-28	0-70	10YR4/4	Dark yellow brown silty sand with cobbl, terminated at rock impasse	plastic and cement discarded
	84	1	0-15	0-38	10YR4/6	Dark yellow brown silty sand with cobbles	cement and brick discarded
		2	15-20	38-50	10YR6/6	Brown yellow sand with cobbles, terminated at rock impasse	NCM
	85	1	0-12	0-30	10YR6/6	Brown yellow sand with cobbles, terminated at rock impasse	NCM