

Owego Apalachin School District  
Administration Building

Appendix F  
Cultural Resources

**PHASE 1 RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY**

**OWEGO APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING PROJECT  
VILLAGE OF OWEGO (MCD 10740)  
TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**BY:  
JOHN FERRI**

**SUBMITTED TO:  
OWEGO APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
36 TALCOTT STREET  
OWEGO, NY 13827**

**SPONSOR:  
OWEGO APALACHIN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**DECEMBER 21, 2012**



### MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Owego Apalachin School District Administration Building Project

**OPRHP #:** n/a

**Involved Agency:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York State Education Department

**Phase of Survey:** Phase 1 Reconnaissance Survey

**Location(s):** Adjacent to Sheldon Guile Blvd on Owego Free Academy campus  
Minor Civil Division: Village of Owego (MCD 10740)  
County: Tioga

**Size of APE:** *Building:* Approximately 0.47 ha (1.16 ac)  
*Walkways:* Approximately 0.05 ha (0.12 ac)  
*Total:* Approximately 0.52 ha (1.28 ac)

**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map:** 1969 Owego, NY

**Survey Overview:** *Number of Shovel Test Pits:* 44  
*Test Pit Interval:* 15 m (49 ft)  
*Surface Survey:* No  
*Geomorphological Analysis:* No

**Survey Results:** *Number & name of prehistoric sites identified:* 0  
*Number & name of historic sites identified:* 0  
*Number & name of sites recommended for Phase 2/Avoidance:* 0

**Architectural Survey:** None requested

**Recommendations:** Archaeological testing did not find any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the project area. No further work is recommended within the current project limits.

**Report Author:** John Ferri, Public Archaeology Facility

**Date of Report:** December 21, 2012



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. INTRODUCTION. . . . . 1

II. BACKGROUND RESEARCH . . . . . 4

    2.1 Environmental Setting (by John Stiteler). . . . . 4

    2.2 Prehistoric Context. . . . . 7

    2.3 Historic Context. . . . . 10

III. METHODOLOGY. . . . . 14

    3.1 Project Walkover. . . . . 14

    3.2 Archaeological Testing Procedures. . . . . 14

    3.3 General Laboratory Methods. . . . . 14

IV. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS. . . . . 18

V. RECOMMENDATIONS. . . . . 19

APPENDIX I. BIBLIOGRAPHY. . . . . 20

APPENDIX II. STP DATA. . . . . 22

    2.1 Soil Records. . . . . 22

    2.2 Artifact Catalogue. . . . . 26

APPENDIX III. CORRESPONDENCE. . . . . 27

APPENDIX IV. SITE MAP. . . . . 28

**FIGURES**

Figure 1. Approximate location of the project area in Tioga County and New York State. . . . . 1

Figure 2. Approximate location of the APE on the 1969 Owego 7.5' USGS Quadrangle. . . . . 2

Figure 3. Aerial map, with APE highlighted. . . . . 3

Figure 4. Location of project area on USDA soil survey map. . . . . 6

Figure 5. 1855 Gould Map of Tioga County, New York with project area highlighted. . . . . 12

Figure 6. 1903 Owego, NY 15' quadrangle with project area highlighted. . . . . 13

Figure 7. OACSD Administration Facility plan provided by Highland Associates. . . . . 27

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photo 1. View of proposed parcel for administration building, facing south. . . . . 15

Photo 2. View of proposed parcel for administration building, facing north. . . . . 15

Photo 3. View of courtyard where new walkways will be placed, facing north. . . . . 16

Photo 4. View of courtyard where new walkways will be placed, facing west. . . . . 16

Photo 5. Crew testing administration building parcel, facing south. . . . . 17

**TABLES**

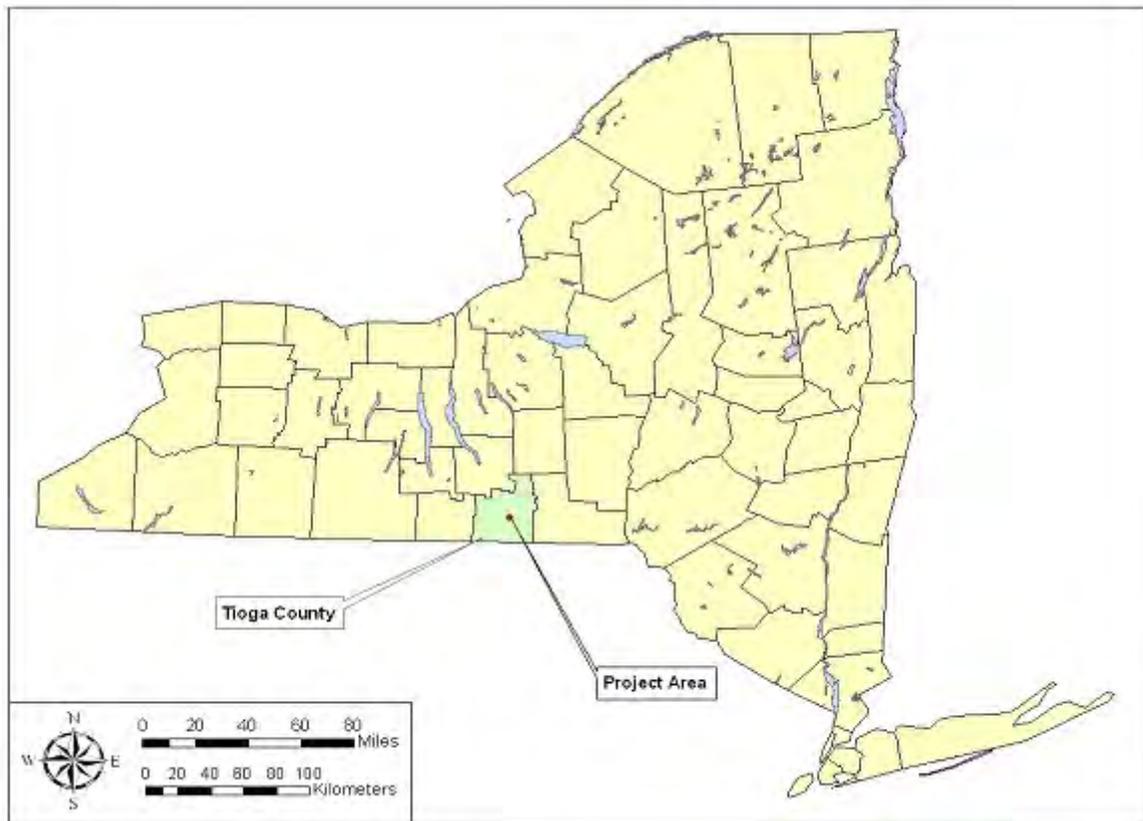
Table 1. Soils Present Within Project Area. . . . . 5

**I. INTRODUCTION**



This report documents the results of a Phase 1 cultural resource reconnaissance survey conducted by the Public Archaeology Facility for the proposed Owego Apalachin School District Administration Building in the Village of Owego, Tioga County, New York (Figure 1). The administration building is proposed for a parcel of land located to the southeast of the current Owego Free Academy school building and east of Sheldon Guile Boulevard on the school campus. Additionally, three new walkways will be placed adjacent to Sheldon Guile Boulevard. The potential impact associated with this project is the construction of the administration building and installation of sidewalks. The total area of potential effect (APE) covers approximately 0.52 ha (1.28 acres) (Figures 2 and 3).

The fieldwork summarized in this document was performed under the supervision of Dr. Nina M. Versaggi, Director, and Christopher D. Hohman, Assistant Director of the Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University. John Ferri served as the project director and author of this report. Field assistants that participated in the survey included Tom Besom, Greg Diute, Miranda Kearney, Liam Murphy, Dylan Pelton, Gary Pelton and Laura Phillips. Claire Horn cataloged all artifacts. Maria Pezzuti and Annie Pisani performed all related administrative duties. In compliance with the Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations in New York State (1994), subsequent guidance from the New York State Historic Preservation Office (2005), and the National Park Service's Criteria and Procedures for the Identification of Historic Properties (2000), the area within the project limits is considered the area of impact for the purpose of conducting the survey. *The results of the research performed for this report do not apply to any territory outside the project area.*



Figure

1. Approximate location of the project area in Tioga County and New York State.



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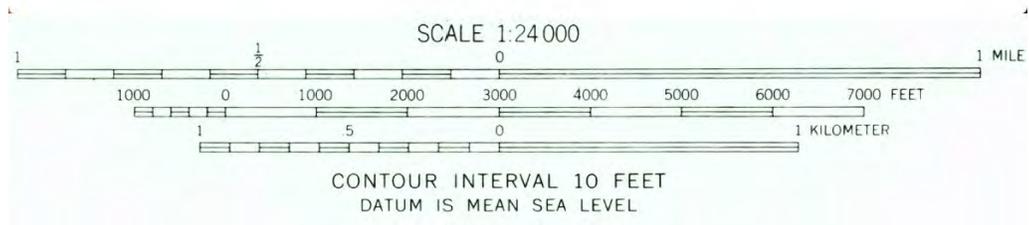
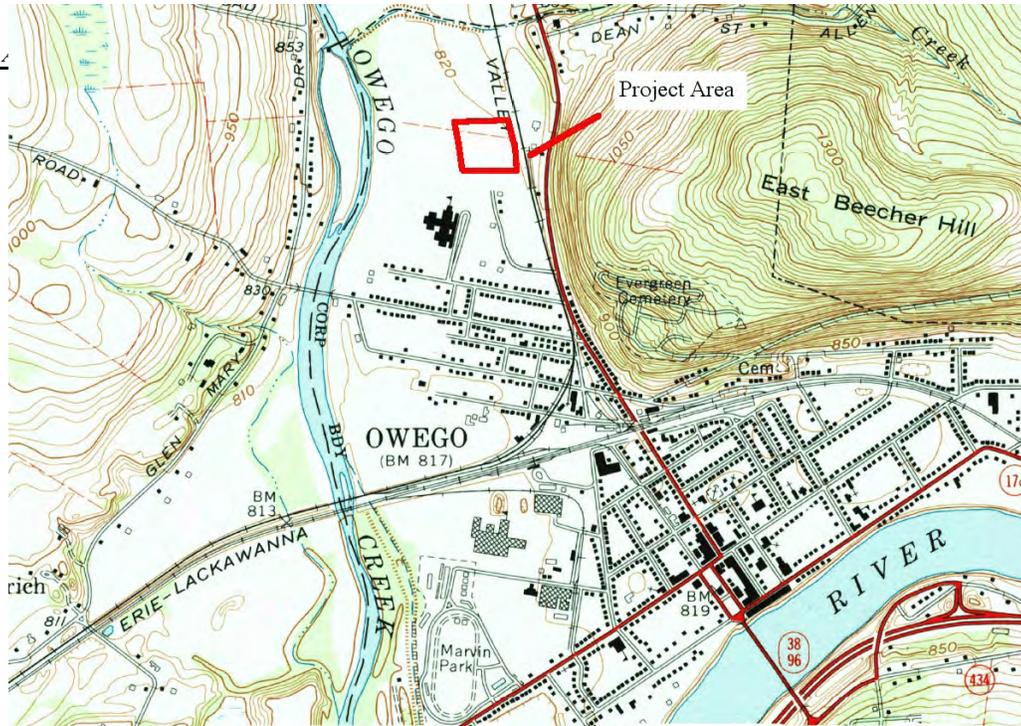


Figure 2. Approximate location of the APE on the 1969 Owego 7.5' USGS Quadrangle.



Figure 3. Aerial map, with APE highlighted.



## II. BACKGROUND RESEARCH (From Knapp 2012)

Background research for the cultural survey was conducted on the environment, prehistory, and history of the project area. This information addressed the types of archaeological sites likely to occur in the project area. Site files, historic maps, county histories, archival documents, and information about known settlement patterns were consulted. The following background section has utilized that done by Knapp (2012) for the Owego Apalachin Elementary School and Flood Mitigation project. This section also utilizes information from John Stiteler in regards to geomorphology of the area around Sheldon Guile Blvd.

### 2.1 Environmental Setting (By John Stiteler)

On November 2, 2012 John Stiteler conducted a study of the soils and geomorphology at the nearby site of the proposed flood management project for the Owego-Apalachin Central School District in the village of Owego, Tioga County, New York. The purpose of the investigation, conducted was to determine the potential for the presence of intact, in-situ cultural material, particularly deeply buried material, within alluvium and colluvium in the area of potential effect (APE) of the proposed project area. In this report, reference is made both to the APE and to the study area. "APE" refers to the area where design plans call for cutting, filling, and other construction-related disturbance. "Study area" refers to the broader context – essentially the viewscape as seen from the proposed construction site – and includes alluvial landforms (floodplains and terraces) as they extend outside of the APE; the surrounding slopes that might contribute run-off and colluvium; and the geometry of valley segments and stream reaches up- and downstream.

The project area is located on the left bank of Owego Creek, a 5th order tributary of the North Branch Susquehanna River (Figure 2, p. 2). The setting is 0.75 km downstream from the confluence of Owego Creek with a major tributary – Catatonk Creek – and 2 km above its confluence with the North Branch Susquehanna River. The Owego Creek drainage basin above the APE comprises approximately 800 square kilometers, of which the Catatonk Creek drainage basin constitutes almost half. The project area occupies a gently sloping floodplain over 250 m wide. The change in elevation with distance from the Owego Creek channel suggests that the landform transitions from an active floodplain near the creek to a T-1 alluvial terrace in the project area.

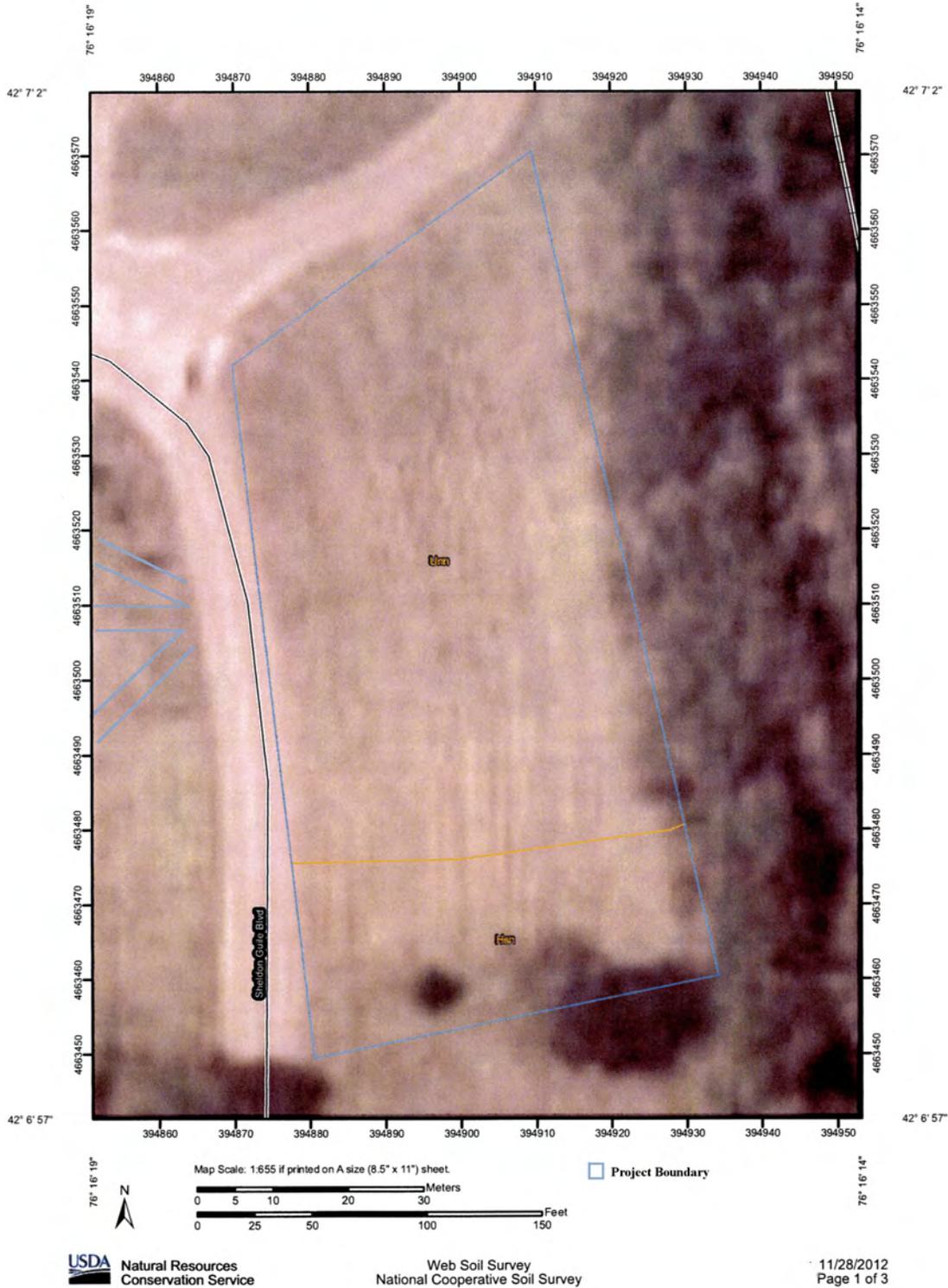
The study area lies within the Southern New York section (also called the Glaciated Low Plateau section) of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province. Like all of southern New York, this region was covered by continental ice sheets multiple times over the course of the Pleistocene epoch. Most recently, the Wisconsin ice sheet covered the area, with the ice front receding from the area sometime between 14,000 and 16,000 calendar years bp. Once the North Branch Susquehanna River valley became ice-free, the river served as a major conduit for glacial meltwater and outwash for at least 1500-2000 years, until the receding ice front passed beyond its watershed divide. As the ice fields to the north wasted, Owego Creek and its tributaries such as Catatonk Creek carried vast amounts of meltwater and outwash to the main river valley.

Soils of the great majority of the project area are mapped as Unadilla silt loam, 0-3% slope (Unn) (Soil Survey Staff 2012; Figure 5, p. 8; Table 1). Soils on the southern edge of the project area are mapped as Howard gravelly silt loam, 0-3% slope (Hsn) (Soil Survey Staff 2012).

Table 1. Soils Present Within Project Area.



Name	Slope %	Drainage	Soil Horizon Depth cm (in)	Color	Texture/ Inclusions	Land forms
Unadilla silt loam(Unn)	0-3	Well Drained	Ap: 0-20 cm (0-8 in)	Brown (10YR4/3)	Silt loam	Valley terrace and lacustrine plains
			Bw1: 20-31 cm (8-12 in)	Light yellowish brown (10YR6/4)	Silt loam	
			Bw2: 31-46 cm (12-18 in)	Yellowish brown (10YR5/6)	Silt loam	
			Bw3: 46-79 cm (18-31 in)	Light yellowish brown (10YR6/4)	Silt loam	
			BC: 79-107 cm (31-42 in)	Yellowish brown (10YR5/4)	Very fine sandy loam	
			2C: 107-165 cm (42-65 in)	Dark grayish brown (10YR4/2)	Stratified very gravelly sand	
Howard Gravelly Silt Loam (Hsn)	0-3	Well Drained	Ap: 0-23 cm (0-9 in)	Dark brown (10YR3/3)	Gravelly loam	Valley terraces, outwash plains, kame morains, and eskers
			E: 23-38 cm (9-15 in)	Brown (10YR5/3)	Very gravelly loam	
			E/B: 38-61 cm (15-24 in)	Pale brown (10YR6/3)	Very gravelly loam	
			B/E: 61-69 cm (24-27 in)	Brown (10YR4/3)	Very gravelly loam	
			Bt1: 69-76 cm (27-30 in)	Brown (10YR4/3)	Very gravelly loam	
			Bt2: 76-114 cm (30-45 in)	Brown (7.5YR4/4)	Very gravelly loam	
C: 114-183 cm (45-72 in)	Grayish brown (10YR5/2)	Stratified extremely gravelly sand				



Fig

Location of project area on USDA soil survey map.  
 (Key: Unn = Unadilla silt loam, slope 0-3% ; Hsn = Howard gravelly silt loam, slope 0-3%)

ure 4.



The Unadilla series consists of deep and very deep, well drained soils formed on valley terraces and lacustrine plains in silty, lacustrine sediments or old alluvial deposits. A typical Unadilla profile consists of an Ap/Bw1/Bw2/Bw3/BC/C2 sequence. Thickness of the solum (A and combined Bw horizons) ranges from 50 to 125 cm. Rock fragment content ranges from 0 to 5 percent in the solum and 0 to 60 percent in the C or 2C horizon.

Howard soils consist of very deep, well drained and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in medium textured glacial outwash deposits on valley terraces, outwash plains, kame moraines, and eskers. A typical Howard series profile consists of an Ap/E/(E/B)/(B/E)/Bt1/Bt2/C sequence; thickness of the solum (Ap through Bt2 horizon) ranges from 55 to 150 cm. Rock fragments, mainly gravel and cobbles, range from 5 to 35 percent by volume in the Ap horizon, from 15 to 55 percent in the upper part of the subsoil, from 35 to 60 percent in the lower part of the subsoil, and from 45 to 70 percent in the substratum.

Bedrock underlying the project area is Upper Devonian-age sedimentary rock, mostly shales and siltstones (Gardeau Formation, Beers Hill shale, Grimes siltstone, and others) (Rickard and Fisher 1970). These formations are not generally cited as sources of chert and other cryptocrystalline rock suitable for stone tool production. However, the surficial geography of the area is dominated by glacial drift (outwash and till) which is likely to contain nodules of exotic cryptocrystalline rock.

No evidence of in-situ coarse glacial outwash was observed along the eastern edge of the APE. This suggests that mapping of Howard gravelly loam in this area constitutes a minor mapping error. There is a high likelihood that a remnant outwash terrace on which Howard soils have developed is present just east of the APE limit. Mapping of the APE as the Unadilla series is generally in keeping with the profile sequences seen there. But inasmuch as the Unadilla series is described as having formed in silty lacustrine or old (pre-Holocene) alluvium, this also appears to constitute a minor mapping error and the soils of the APE might more appropriately be mapped as Tioga or Tioga high bottom soils, as are mapped immediately upstream.

### **3.2 Prehistoric Context**

New York State prehistory is traditionally divided into four main phases: Paleoindian c. 10,000-8000 BC), Archaic (8000-1500 BC), Transitional (1500-1000 BC), and Woodland c. 1000 BC to European contact) (Ritchie 1980: xxx-xxx). While this cultural-historical framework obscures temporal and regional variability, it does highlight major developmental trends in the northern woodlands.

The Paleoindian period begins with the migration of hunting and gathering populations into New York with the retreat of the glacial ice, c. 12,000 BP, and the development of a tundra environment. These groups brought with them a fluted point technology typified by the Clovis projectile point and surface finds of this distinctive artifact remain our most substantial evidence of their presence. Interestingly, few of these finds are directly associated with the remains of mammoth or mastodon, the supposed focus of these big game hunters (Armstrong et al. 2000:50). This and other evidence suggesting that New York was not characterized by a tundra environment during this period have begun to undermine our traditional notions that these early populations followed a big game hunting adaptation. It appears likely that small game and plants played a more significant role in the diet of these populations than was previously thought (Armstrong et al. 2000: 50-1). This reappraisal of diversity within Paleoindian adaptations is part of a larger, recent trend in North American archaeology. Ritchie (1980:4-5) notes two loci where fluted points were identified in Tioga County, but they are at the western end of the county. Excavations just east of this project by the Binghamton University field school identified one paleo point within the plow zone. This is evidence of hunting on this landform during the Paleoindian period.

The Archaic period marks the transition to post-Pleistocene adaptations and climatic regimes. A spruce-pine forest, and later a mixed deciduous forest, developed in the northeast and these were populated by modern animal and plant species. The Early Archaic (8000-6000 BC) period defines initial human adaptation to these conditions. Site and



population densities during this period are low, a fact that has generally been related to the availability of resources. Explanations have focused on the lack of mast and mast-browsing species in pine dominated forests, the low availability of fish until modern conditions of temperature, flow and gradient were reached, and the generally dispersed nature of resource patches in major valleys during the Early and Middle Archaic (Armstrong et al. 2000: 52). The generally poor environmental conditions may also have confined settlement to the more stable environments of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and coastal New York while scattered Early Archaic sites in central New York represent only occasional northward excursions (Ritchie and Funk 1973: 337). However, dispersed resource patches existed within major river valleys and around upland water resources (Custer 1996; Versaggi 2000).

The Middle Archaic period (6000-4000 BC) differs little from the preceding Early Archaic. The climate did reach its modern condition by approximately 7,500 BP (Funk 1993) which would have led to an increase in oak and, presumably, mast browsing animal species. There is a slight increase in site frequency but population in the Allegheny Plateau remained low. An increase in the number of sites is the major departure from an Early Archaic settlement pattern where small, temporary camps seem to represent an orientation to dispersed resource patches.

The Late Archaic period (4000-1500 BC) is one of increasing population density and cultural diversity related to local processes. Settlement patterns suggest an increased focus on aquatic resources with most sites located near small lakes, rivers, and wetlands, although they were often situated on terraces and upland slopes (Trubowitz 1977: 98-120; Versaggi 1996). Late Archaic subsistence/settlement patterns exhibit a range of variability tied to seasonal scheduling and resource availability. Large base camps located near major water sources provided a focal point for groups during the tougher months of the year from which small groups of foragers could range to procure and process needed resources. During other seasons, base camps would divide into smaller groups who engaged in more mobile foraging activities. This pattern of seasonal aggregation and dispersal results in several site types, including large residential camps, small special purpose camps and resource processing locations (Versaggi 1996).

Two major studies of the Upper Susquehanna have provided good contextual information for the Late Archaic in the region (Funk 1993; Versaggi 1996). From established residential base camps, daily foraging groups roamed the valley and uplands around the residence and returned each day with the resources they collected or hunted. These foragers would have left light scatters of debris from their resource procurement and processing activities within patches surrounding their work areas. When there was a need for securing resources far distant from the base, other work parties would travel to these areas and spend days or weeks away from the main camp. These groups would create task-specific, or special purpose camps in the far regions where they worked and then return to the base with the products of their trip. In this manner a large diversity of sites and site types would result from this logistical system of organization (Versaggi 1996). One predictive model for this part of the upper Susquehanna Valley suggests that the environmental setting along the Susquehanna River provided excellent locations for fishing during the spawning season, especially near tributary confluences. These fish and deer resources available along the creeks could have provided for a seasonally nomadic population that migrated toward the confluence with main waterways during the fall and winter (Versaggi 1987).

The Transitional period (1500-1000 B.C.) designates a continuum from Late Archaic adaptations to the Early Woodland period. The central characteristic of the period is the introduction of steatite vessels, with the production of the first pottery during this period. Other defining traits include elaboration of burials, the increased use of exotic lithic materials and broad spear points of the Susquehanna Tradition. Small, temporary camps, often oriented toward river or coastal areas, typify settlement patterns during this period (Ritchie and Funk 1973). The Transitional period is poorly understood in central New York. Manifestations of the Susquehanna Tradition in the region include the Frost Island and Orient cultures with Frost Island sites being more numerous (Ritchie 1980). A variant of the Orient culture, Dry Brook, dating to 900-200 BC may also be present in the Upper Susquehanna and Upper Delaware River valleys (Versaggi and Knapp 2000; Kinsey 1973). Extensive evidence of the Transitional period was found in the Owego Southside Plant site (SUBi-672) located adjacent to the northern portion of this project area (Versaggi et al. 1982).

The Woodland period (1000 BC-AD 1600) is traditionally defined by the intensive use of clay pottery, permanent village settlements, and increased reliance on agriculture. The stage is divided into Early, Middle and Late



periods. Of the three, the Early Woodland is the least distinct and some archaeologists suggest that in terms of adaptation it is similar to the Late Archaic and Transitional periods with a heavy reliance on small-game hunting, fishing, and gathering (Ritchie 1980: 183). However, the use of pottery vessels and tobacco smoking pipes, changes in settlement pattern and, perhaps, intensive use of plants (Ritchie and Funk 1973) do signal departures from previous cultural patterns. There is currently no evidence of native domestication of these plants such as occurred in the southeast. Ritchie and Funk (1973:348) also argue that seasonal rounds did not structure settlement pattern during the Early Woodland but that groups remained in camps near major waterways year round. A more recent assessment of the Susquehanna Valley indicated that the only site type absent from the Early Woodland was multi-task foraging camps possibly stemming from a decreased need for fissioning of base camps (Versaggi 1999). The Meadowood phase (1000-500 BC) is the most common Early Woodland culture but is mostly absent from the Susquehanna Valley near Owego. The Transitional period with steatite and fishtail points dominates during time periods usually assigned to the Early Woodland.

Current evidence suggests that agriculture developed during the Middle Woodland period (c. AD 0-800) but horticulture did not become widespread until the Late Woodland period (AD 800 to 1600). Middle Woodland cultures of the Point Peninsula tradition were still somewhat mobile and settlements consist of large semi-permanent camps and small temporary and seasonal camps. This settlement pattern reflects the continued reliance on fishing, hunting and gathering by Middle Woodland groups.

Late Woodland cultures are characterized by the adoption of horticulture based on maize, beans, and squash and the development of relatively large villages occupied year round. The period is generally divided into the Owasco (AD 800-1300) and Iroquois (AD 1300 to 1600) cultures. The two cultures shared very similar adaptations but are distinguished by pottery styles and increasing sedentism, village size, and reliance on maize and bean horticulture during the Iroquois period. Iroquois village plans reflect the development of the matrilineal kin groups characteristic of ethnohistoric groups and differentiation in size between descent groups. Villages are generally located on high terraces and knolls, rather than near drainage basins and waterways. The typical later Iroquois village settings indicate an increased need for defense.

Research by Versaggi (1987; 1996) created base-line models of prehistoric hunter-gatherer land use patterns, and derived from these a set of site types that can be used in prehistoric sensitivity assessments.

1. **Long-term residential sites (base-camps and villages)** are large sites with high frequencies of artifacts, tools, features (e.g., hearths and pits), and spatial clusters. Base-camps were typically located at confluences of creeks with major rivers near winter deer aggregation areas and dense spring fish runs, and in valleys with stable and fertile alluvial soils.
2. **Single-task field camps** are typically smaller size occupations that contain large numbers of artifacts and specialized tools. Bifacial reduction debitage is prominent as bifacial tool-kits are replaced and maintained. Single-task temporary camps appear to have been occupied by few people for a short duration, and there may have been little need to organize and divide space. Fewer spatial clusters would result and these would tend to be similar in composition, reflecting a focus on a single or limited range of tasks. The high-density tool production sites and intensive game butchering sites are prime examples of single-task field camps.
3. **Multi-task field camps** are typically smaller size occupations that contain lower numbers of artifacts and tools. These sites resemble forager-like camps in which small groups of people moved frequently in pursuit of low density and dispersed resources. Multi-task camps occur in a wide variety of contexts. Some were widely scattered within the valleys of major and secondary drainages, and others were mapped onto specific resource patches in the uplands.
4. **Resource-processing locations** and single-encounter hunting/butchering stations result from short duration tasks that produce low numbers of artifacts, tools, and spatial clusters. Expedient debitage



tools predominate; many times these are reduced from chert cobbles or any available raw material. Generally, these sites are expected within the daily foraging radius around a camp or village, as well as around dispersed single- and multi-task camps.

### *Prehistoric Sensitivity*

The area around the Village of Owego was used and inhabited from the Paleoindian to the Late Woodland periods (10,000 BC to AD1600). Numerous sites have been identified along Owego Creek. Sites immediately to the north of the current project area, including Huntington Creek, Owego Free Academy, and Owego Creek have been identified in settings that closely match the current project area. The topographic placement of the project area adjacent to Owego Creek suggests a high probability of large residential sites, such as base camps and villages, as well as smaller camps and resource procurement/processing areas.

### **3.3 Historic Context**

The area along the Susquehanna River was occupied throughout the historic period. The historic Native American period, and post European contact is also part of the continued settlement within this area. Below is a summary of the historic Native American settlement in the Owego area.

*Owego was located within the traditional territory of the Cayuga nation. Owego is mentioned in a travel narrative of 1737 as a Cayuga town. The place was reportedly abandoned in the spring of 1744 and was still uninhabited in 1756; where the residents went is unknown [P. Wallace 1945: 85-86; Beauchamp 1916: 12, 158; SCP 1:286; CR 7:68-69]. Neutralist Shawnees who evacuated the Wyoming Valley in early 1756 were directed to settle at the site of "Owego." They went to Chenango instead, and by 1758 they had moved to the upper Canisteo River (a tributary of the Chemung) [CR 7:66; NYCD 7:244-45; PA Ser. 1, 3:413]. A few Shawnees were at Owego in 1763 [CR 9:46]. Probably by then and certainly by 1765 Cayugas had reoccupied the site and resided there until early 1779 [MA 131:1 May 15, 1765, 131:3 Apr. 26, Aug. 12, 1766; WJP 12:777; Flick 1929a: 196]. Around 1774, there were about 150 people living at Owego. A Cayuga chief at Owego was the appointed overseer of the dependent nations on the Susquehanna [Beauchamp 1916: 218, 222]; an intermediary Cayuga overseer resided at Choconut (see above). Owego was again abandoned in late spring 1779, after New York troops led by Col. Goose Van Schaick attacked and destroyed the main Onondaga town in the north. Finally, Continental troops commanded by Gen. Enoch Poor burned the twenty vacant houses of Owego on August 19, 1779 [Cook 1887: 24, 70, 92-93, 184-85, 230, 381; Flick 1929b: 23-24] (Folts 2010:12-13).*

A historic map review shows the project area consisted of farm land during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Figures 6-7 show the historic maps available for the project area. Although the project area is located within the current village limits, for most of the historic period it was on the village's northern periphery. The 1855 map indicates that the project area was owned by the Brown family, who were likely farmers. At this early date, the project area was located well away from any roadways and was likely under cultivation. The 1903 map shows no roads or structures in the project area, suggesting that the area remained under cultivation through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The project area likely remained farmland until the construction of the current buildings in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Historic Sensitivity*

Given the setting of the project area, well away from any historic transportation features and within an area that remained agricultural land until the middle of the twentieth century, there is a low likelihood for intersecting historic sites.

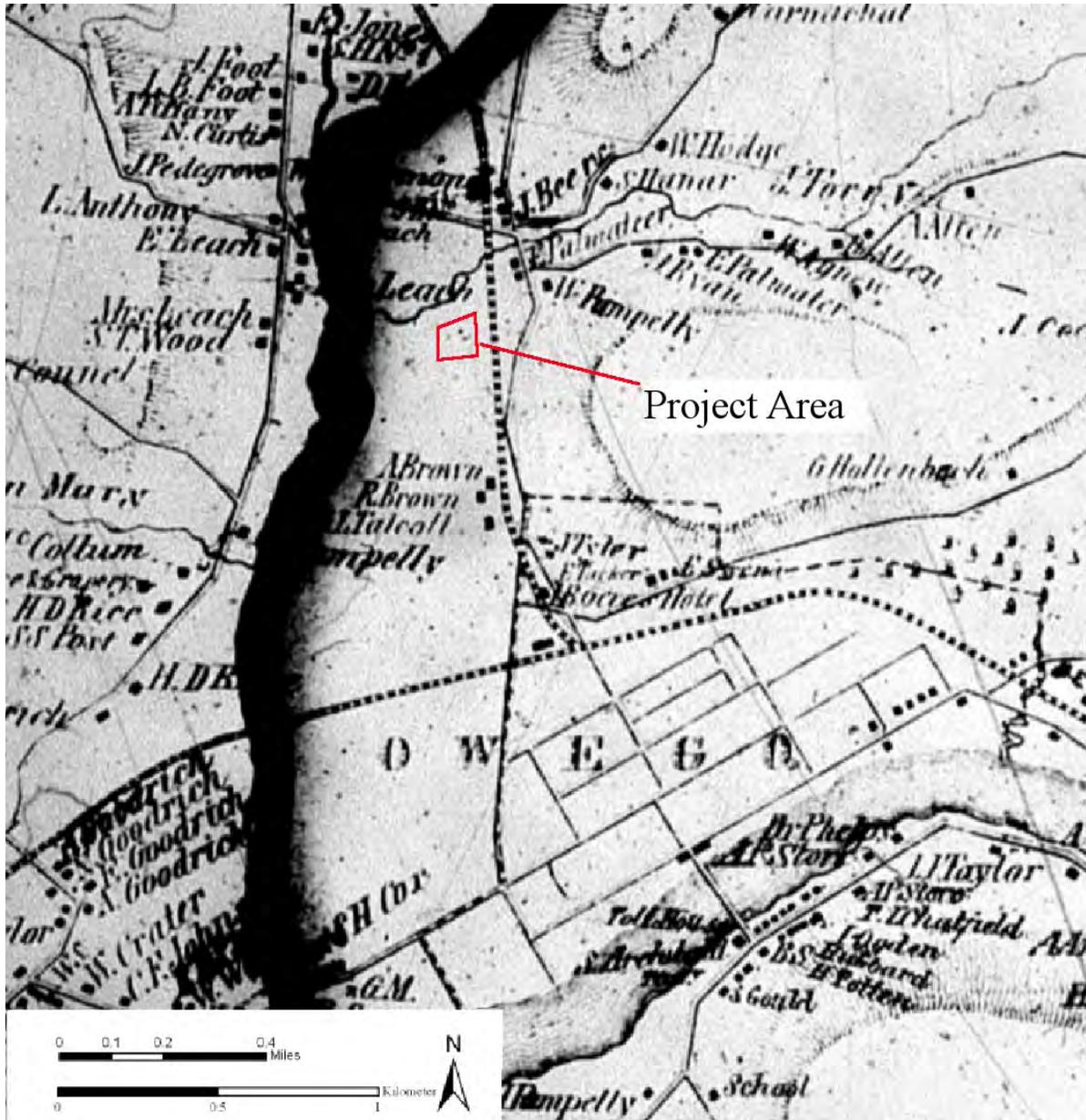


Figure 5. 1855 Gould Map of Tioga County, New York with project area highlighted.

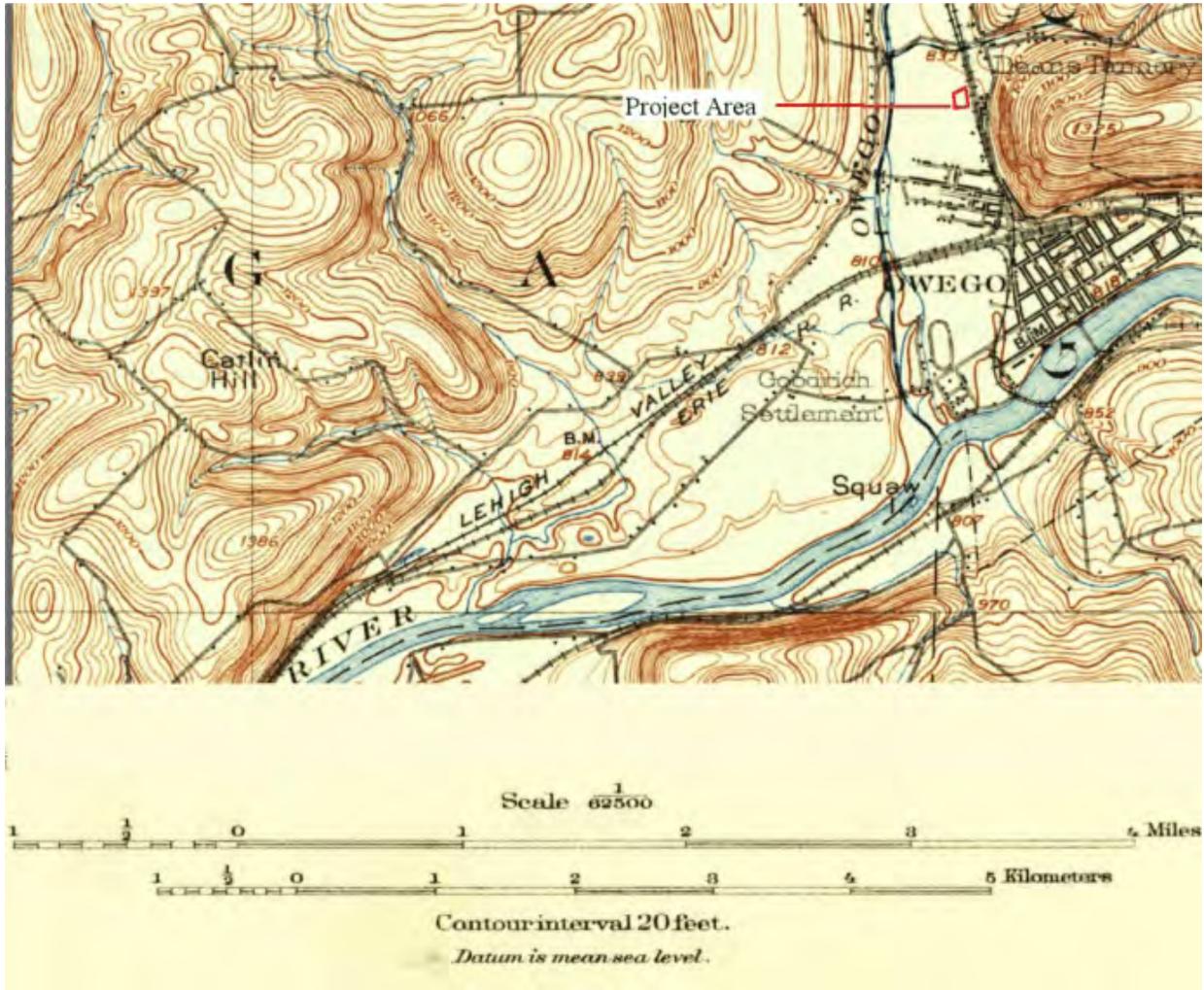


Figure 6. 1903 Owego, NY 15' quadrangle with project area highlighted.

### III. METHODOLOGY



### 3.1 Project Walkover

The purpose of the walkover was to identify any existing cultural features, determine if there has been any prior ground disturbance, and assess suitability for subsurface testing. Photographs of the project areas are included on pp. 15-17. One shovel test pit (AA1) was removed due to proximity to buried utilities. Four STPs (AA2, AA3, AA4 and AB4) were in close proximity to Sheldon Guile Blvd and were not tested due to prior construction. Figure 7 shows the proposed plan for the administration building and new walkways on a map provided by Highland Associates. Figure 3 defines the boundaries of the project area on an aerial map.

### 3.2 Archaeological Testing Procedures

Shovel test pits (STPs) were placed at intervals of 15 m (49 ft). A total of 31 STPs was excavated east of the Sheldon Guile Blvd, in the proposed area for the new administration building. Thirteen STPs were placed to the west of Sheldon Guile Blvd, in areas where new walkways will be constructed. The subsurface survey was conducted on December 4 and December 10, 2012. The STPs were excavated with hand tools and were generally 35 cm (14 in) in diameter, and extended at least to 1 m (40 in) in Unadilla silt loams and 15 cm (6 in) into culturally sterile B horizon soils otherwise, unless obstructed by rocks or roots. Some STPs dug in Unadilla silt loams encountered culturally sterile gravels and were ceased before reaching a depth of 1 m. All soil was sifted through 7 mm (0.25 in) hardware cloth, and artifacts from each recognizable soil horizon were bagged separately. Notation was made of coal ash, brick fragments, and modern refuse (plastic, asphalt, bottle glass, etc.), and these items were discarded in the field. Written descriptions of soil color and texture, artifact content, and digging conditions were made at the time of excavation. The STP soil records are presented in Appendix II, Section 2.1, p. 22. The artifact catalog is presented in Appendix II, Section 2.2, p. 26.

### 3.3 General Laboratory Methods

Following fieldwork, all artifacts were processed and analyzed in the laboratories of PAF. Processing included washing (or dry-brushing fragile materials), along with checking and retagging the artifact bags. The historic artifacts were catalogued according to a PAF system based on South's classification (South 1976). Each piece was classified as to general functional groups (e.g., food-related, faunal remains, clothing related, architectural remains, etc.) and then according to specific types, forms and patterns (e.g., blue transfer print cup, sun-purpled bottle glass, cut nail, animal bone, etc.). Where possible, time ranges for these artifacts were assigned.

The resulting artifact catalogue was entered into a relational database management program (Paradox) to facilitate subsequent analysis, and is included in Appendix 2.2, p. 26. All of the artifacts, notes, and other documentation of the reconnaissance testing are curated according to federal (36 CFR Part 79) and state (NYAC 1994) guidelines in the facilities of the Department of Anthropology at Binghamton University.



Photo 1. View of proposed parcel for administration building, facing south.



Photo 2. View

parcel for administration building, facing north.

of proposed



Photo 3. View of courtyard where new walkways will be placed, facing north.



Photo 4. View of courtyard where new walkways will be placed, facing west.



Photo 5. Crew testing administration building parcel, facing south.



#### IV. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESULTS

The 0.47 ha (1.16 ac) building parcel east of Sheldon Guile Blvd was tested with a grid of 31 STPs. Three lines of STPs, 13 in total, were placed west of Sheldon Guile Blvd to test the locations of future sidewalks. The total area of the area of potential effect is 0.52 ha (1.28 ac).

Archaeological crews excavated a total of 31 shovel test pits across the testable portions of the administration building parcel (Appendix IV). Shovel test pits in the vicinity of mapped Unadilla silt loams (AA2-AA7, AB2-AB7, AC2-AC7, AD3-AD7) were expected to reach one meter in depth due to the alluvial nature of the soils. However, several STPs in this soil formation encountered gravel before this depth resulting in the premature termination of shovel testing. In areas of Unadilla silt loam where gravelly soils were not encountered, shovel testing ceased at a depth of approximately 1 m (3.3 ft).

All of the STPs in the vicinity of the mapped Unadilla silt loams had an Ap horizon of dark brown or dark gray brown silt loam, frequently with rocks. This top layer was often associated with modern refuse suggesting a fill episode for this parcel. This layer terminated between 22 cm (8.7 in) and 44 (17.3 in) cm below surface (28.8 cm [11.3 in] on average). Beneath this layer was a brown or dark brown silt loam that represented the natural A-horizon.

Of the 23 STPs dug in Unadilla silt loams, eight reached a depth of 100 cm (3.3 ft) below surface or greater. These pits all had a Bw horizon of yellow brown silt or silt loam, sometimes compact, that started between 60 cm (23.6 in) and 82 cm (32.3 in) below surface (72.5 cm [28.5 in] on average). Four others were stopped with depths below 90 cm due to the compact nature of the silty subsoil. Three STPs on the AA line, along the tree line that creates the eastern boundary of the parcel, were stopped by tree roots in Bw subsoil. The remaining nine STPs in Unadilla silt loam soils in this area encountered a layer of gravel and cobbles in either silt loam or sand loam. These pits were stopped at least 15 cm below surface in the rocky soil, unless the layer was impenetrable. This layer was encountered between 27-90 cm (10.6-35.4 in) below surface (46.9 cm [18.5 in] on average).

The remaining STPs (AA8-AA9, AB8-AB9, AC8-AC9, AD8-AD9) were dug in an area of mapped Howard gravelly silt loams. These STPs had three stratigraphic layers and were terminated at least 15 cm (5.9 in) into sterile subsoil. The upper horizon was a dark gray brown or brown silt loam that terminated between 20 cm (7.9 in) and 54 cm (21.3 in) below surface (34 cm [13.4] on average). The first horizon was frequently associated with modern refuse such as plastic or bottle glass. A second horizon was an intact A or Ap horizon consisting of dark brown silt or silt loam. Subsoil in the Howard gravelly silt loams was a yellow brown or dark yellow brown silt, sometime with gravel or rocks, and was encountered from 40 cm (15.7 in) to 70 cm (27.6 in) below surface (54.4 cm (21.4 in) on average). These STPs terminated between 60 cm (23.6 in) and 80 cm (31.5 in) (70.9 cm [27.9 in] on average).

Three strips of land to the west of Sheldon Guile Blvd were designated for the placement of walkways. Single lines of STPs (the AE, AF and AG transects) were placed for each of these pieces of land and ranged from 4-5 pits each. These STPs were excavated 15 cm (5.9 in) into sterile subsoil. Meter-deep STPs were not performed in these soils because the soil characteristics did not warrant such action and the construction of the sidewalks will be minimally invasive.

PAF archaeologists identified two soil horizons in STPs that were placed in this area. A top layer was either dark brown or dark grey brown silt loam and terminated between 21 cm (8.3 in) and 45 cm (17.7 in) below surface (29.2 cm (11.5 in) on average). The sterile subsoil was a dark yellow brown silt loam, occasionally with rocks. These STPs terminated between 39 cm (15.4 in) and 60 cm (23.6 in) (49.4 cm (19.4 in) on average).

Scattered historic materials (n=14) were found throughout the top stratigraphic layer of the administration



building land parcel. As this layer was frequently associated with modern refuse and the material culture remains lacked diversity or concentration, we have determined that these artifacts do not represent the remains of an archaeological site. No artifacts were recovered in the areas designated for walkway construction.

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Archaeological testing did not find any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the project area. No further work is recommended within the current project limits.

## **APPENDIX I. BIBLIOGRAPHY**



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## APPENDIX II. STP DATA

### 2.1. SOIL PROFILES



PA=PALE LT=LIGHT MD=MEDIUM DK=DARK  
BR=BROWN GR=GRAY YL=YELLOW OL=OLIVE TN=TAN RD=RED BK=BLACK WH=WHITE  
SI=SILT SA=SAND CL=CLAY LO=LOAM GVL=GRAVEL  
P=PREHISTORIC H=HISTORIC N=NO CULTURAL MATERIAL  
DISC.=DISCARDED

TRANSECT	NUM	LEVEL	BEG	END	DESCRIPTION	CM	CREW	DATE
AA	1				NOT TESTED - BURIED UTILITY		JF/MK	12/5/2012
AA	2	1	0	30	GR BR SA SI LO W/ ROCKS & GVL; MORTAR - DISC.; STOPPED BY ROCKS	N	GP/TB	12/5/2012
AA	3	1	0	30	DK GR BR SI LO W/ GVL & ROCKS; AMORPHOUS METAL, COAL, COAL ASH - DISC.	H	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	3	2	30	80	BR COMPACT SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	3	3	80	100	DK YL BR COMPACT SI; TRANSITION BETWEEN LEVELS 2 & 3 IS GRADUAL	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	4	1	0	25	BR SI LO; PLASTIC, COAL, ASH, CHARCOAL - DISC.	N	GP/TB	12/5/2012
AA	4	2	25	44	BR SI LO	N	GP/TB	12/5/2012
AA	4	3	44	64	DK YL BR COMPACT SI LO	N	GP/TB	12/5/2012
AA	4	4	64	100	YL BR VERY COMPACT SI	N	GP/TB	12/5/2012
AA	5	1	0	30	DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROOTS	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	5	2	30	60	GR BR COMPACT SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	5	3	60	88	DK YL BR COMPACT SI; TRANSITION BETWEEN LEVELS GRADUAL; STOPPED BY LARGE ROOTS	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	6	1	0	25	BR SI LO; PLASTIC - DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	6	2	25	50	BR SI LO	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	6	3	50	75	YL BR SI LO W/ ROOT; CHARCOAL - DISC.; STOPPED BY ROOT	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	7	1	0	4	DK BR SI LO	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	7	2	4	10	DK YL BR SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	7	3	10	36	BR SI; COAL - DISC.; JUMBLED SOILS; STOPPED BY LARGE ROOT	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	8	1	0	25	BR SI LO; RUSTY METAL, COAL, ASH - DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	8	2	25	50	BR COMPACT SI LO; COAL, ASH - DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	8	3	50	60	VERY DK YL BR SI LO W/ ROOTS; STOPPED BY ROOT	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	9	1	0	30	DK GR BR SI LO	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AA	9	2	30	40	DK BR SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012



TRANSECT	NUM	LEVEL	BEG	END	DESCRIPTION	CM	CREW	DATE
AA	9	3	40	60	DK YL BR SI; TRANSITION BETWEEN LEVELS IS GRADUAL	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	1				NOT TESTED - ROAD		JF/MK	12/5/2012
AB	2	1	0	27	BR SI LO W/ ROCKS & GVL	N	DP/LM	12/5/2012
AB	2	2	27	48	YL BR SI LO W/ ROCKS & GVL; STOPPED BY ROCK	N	DP/LM	12/5/2012
AB	3	1	0	22	BR SI LO W/ ROCK	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AB	3	2	22	44	BR SI LO W/ YL BR SI LO W/ ROCK; BRICK - DISC.	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AB	3	3	44	76	GR BR SI LO; BRICK - DISC	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AB	3	4	76	100	YL BR SI LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AB	4	1	0	30	BR SI LO W/ GVL & ROCK; STYROFOAM - DISC.	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AB	4	2	30	50	YL BR SI LO W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AB	5	1	0	28	BR SI LO; WIRE NAIL, STYROFOAM - DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	5	2	28	43	BR SA LO W/ GVL; AMORPHOUS IRON, ASH, CINDER - DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	5	3	43	50	YL BR SA LO W/ ROCK & GVL; STOPPED BY ROCK	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	6	1	0	30	DK BR SI LO	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	6	2	30	41	YL BR SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	6	3	41	58	YL BR SI W/ ROCKS & GVL	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	7	1	0	35	DK GR BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AB	7	2	35	46	DK BR SI LO W/ GVL	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AB	7	3	46	71	DK YL BR SI CL W/ DENSE GVL & COBBLES	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AB	8	1	0	28	DK GR BR SI LO W/ GVL	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AB	8	2	28	50	DK BR SI LO	H	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AB	8	3	50	70	YL BR SI W/ GVL & COBBLES	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AB	9	1	0	25	BR SI LO W/ ROCKS; COAL ASH, BRICK, PLASTIC - DISC.	H	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	9	2	25	50	BR SI LO; COAL ASH, BRICK, PLASTIC - DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AB	9	3	50	76	DK YL BR SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AC	1				NOT TESTED - ROAD		JF/MK	12/5/2012
AC	2	1	0	22	DK GR BR SI LO	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AC	2	2	22	42	DK BR VERY COMPACT SI LO W/ GVL	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AC	2	3	42	65	YL BR VERY COMPACT SI	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AC	2	4	65	67	YL BR SI W/ GVL	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AC	3	1	0	40	DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROCKS - FILL	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	3	2	40	78	DK BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012



TRANSECT	NUM	LEVEL	BEG	END	DESCRIPTION	CM	CREW	DATE
AC	3	3	78	101	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	4	1	0	28	DK GR BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	4	2	28	48	DK BR SI LO W/ GVL & COBBLES	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	4	3	48	82	DK YL BR COMPACT SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	4	4	82	100	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	5	1	0	35	DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROCKS & GVL - FILL; COAL, COAL ASH - DISC.	H	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	5	2	35	70	DK BR COMPACT SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	5	3	70	100	YL BR COMPACT SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	6	1	0	24	DK GR BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	6	2	24	70	DK BR SI LO W/ DENSE GVL & COBBLES - COMPACT	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	6	3	70	100	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	7	1	0	38	DK GR BR SI LO W/ GVL - FILL	H	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	7	2	38	60	DK BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	7	3	60	90	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	7	4	90	93	YL BR SI COMPACT W/ GVL	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	8	1	0	20	DK GR BR SI LO; CANDY WRAPPER - DISC.	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	8	2	20	59	DK BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	8	3	59	77	YL BR SI	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	8	4	77	80	YL BR SI W/ GVL	N	MK/JF	12/5/2012
AC	9	1	0	40	DK GR BR SI LO; ASH- DISC.	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AC	9	2	40	64	BR SI	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
AC	9	3	64	79	YL BR SI W/ GVL & ROCKS	N	TB/GP	12/5/2012
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AD	2				NOT TESTED - ROAD		JF/MK	12/5/2012
AD	3	1	0	30	DK GR BR SI LO W// GVL & ASPHALT; ASPHALT - DISC.	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AD	3	2	30	60	DK BR SI LO	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AD	3	3	60	100	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	JF/MK	12/5/2012
AD	4	1	0	25	BR SI LO W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	4	2	25	50	BR SI LO W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	4	3	50	94	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	5	1	0	39	DK GR BR SI LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	5	2	39	55	BR SI LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	5	3	55	94	YL BR COMPACT SI	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	6	1	0	22	GR BR SI LO W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	6	2	22	52	BR SI LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	6	3	52	96	YL BR SI LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	7	1	0	44	DK GR BR SI LO W/ GVL	H	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	7	2	44	60	BR SI W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	7	3	60	80	YL BR VERY COMPACT SI	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012



TRANSECT	NUM	LEVEL	BEG	END	DESCRIPTION	CM	CREW	DATE
AD	7	4	80	85	YL BR SI W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	8	1	0	54	BR CL LO; MODERN BOTTLE GLASS - DISC.	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	8	2	54	72	YL BR SI W/ GVL	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	9	1	0	50	DK GR BR CL LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AD	9	2	50	70	YL BR SI CL LO	N	LM/DP	12/5/2012
AE	1	1	0	26	DK GR BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	1	2	26	50	DK BR COMPACT SI LO MOTTLED W/ YL BR SA SI & ROCKS	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	2	1	0	23	DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROCKS	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	2	2	23	39	YL BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	3	1	0	24	DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROCKS; BOTTLE GLASS - DISC.	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	3	2	24	50	YL BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	4	1	0	34	DK BR SI LO W/ ROCKS	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AE	4	2	34	50	YL BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AF	1	1	0	25	VERY DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROOTS & GVL	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	1	2	25	40	VERY DK GR BR SI LO W/ ROOTS & GVL	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	1	3	40	55	DK YL BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	2	1	0	25	DK BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	2	2	25	47	DK YL BR COMPACT SI	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	3	1	0	21	DK BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	3	2	21	40	DK YL BR SI LO; NITROUS OXIDE CARTRIDGE - DISC.	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AF	4	1	0	25	DK BR SI LO W/ ROCKS	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AF	4	2	25	50	YL BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AG	1	1	0	35	DK BR SI LO; PLASTIC - DISC.	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AG	1	2	35	60	YL BR COMPACT SI W/ PATCHES OF BR SI SA	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AG	2	1	0	29	DK BR SI LO	N	JF/MK	12/10/2012
AG	2	2	29	46	YL BR SI LO W/ ROCKS AT BOTTOM OF LEVEL	N	JF/MK	12/10/2012
AG	3	1	0	22	DK BR SI LO W/ ROCKS	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AG	3	2	22	45	YL BR SI LO	N	MK/JF	12/10/2012
AG	4	1	0	25	DK BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AG	4	2	25	45	DK BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AG	4	3	45	60	YL BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AG	5	1	0	30	DK BR SI LO	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012
AG	5	2	30	50	DK YL BR COMPACT SI W/ PATCHES OF YL BR SI	N	LP/TB	12/10/2012



## 2.2 ARTIFACT CATALOG

TRANSEC	NUMBE	LEVE	BEG	END	DESCRIPTION	BEGI	END	CT	WT(g)
AA	3	1	0	30	IRONSTONE UNDIFF. CERAMIC	1850	2012	1	0.70
AB	8	2	28	50	GLASS CLEAR UNDIFF. GLASS			1	0.50
AB	8	2	28	50	WHITEWARE UNDIFF. CERAMIC	1830	2012	1	0.10
AB	9	1	0	25	MILK GLASS UNDIFF. GLASS			1	0.40
AC	5	1	0	35	FERROUS METAL WIRE			1	0.50
AC	5	1	0	35	GLASS CLEAR BOTTLE-UNID.			1	2.10
AC	5	1	0	35	GLASS SUN PURPLED LAMP CHIMNEY			1	0.10
AC	5	1	0	35	IRONSTONE UNDIFF. CERAMIC	1850	2012	1	2.60
AC	7	1	0	38	FERROUS METAL CUT NAIL FRAG			2	12.80
AD	7	1	0	44	FERROUS METAL CUT NAIL			1	8.90
AD	7	1	0	44	GLASS LIME GREEN BOTTLE-UNID.			3	15.90

## APPENDIX III. CORRESPONDENCE

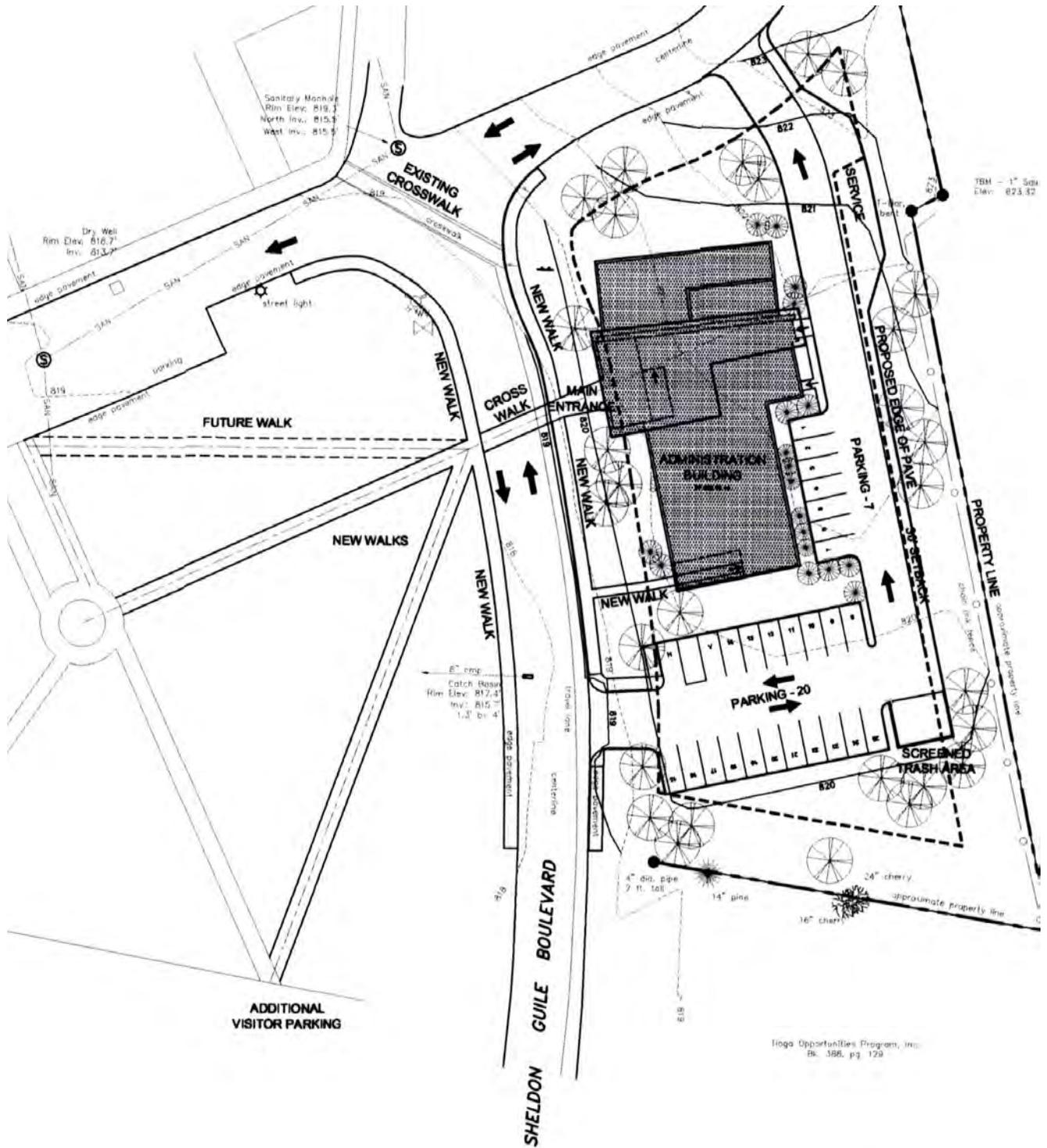
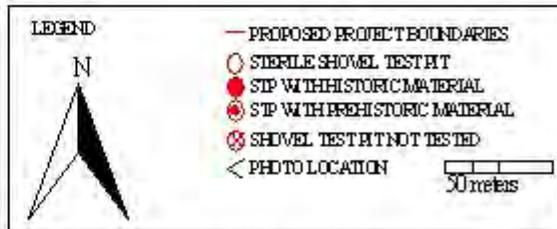


Fig  
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CSD Administration Facility plan provided by Highland Associates

APPENDIX IV. SITE MAP



Phase I Reconnaissance Survey  
Owego Central School District Administration Building  
Village of Owego  
Tioga County, NY

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
Peebles Island Resource Center, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189

## FEMA PROJECT REVIEW COVER FORM

Please complete this form and attach it to the top of any and all information submitted to this office for review.  
Accurate and complete forms will assist this office in the timely processing and response to your request.

PROJECT NUMBER PR (only if a project was previously submitted)

This is a new project (If checked, complete ALL the following)

Project Name: New Administration Building, Owego Apalachin Central School District

Location: Sheldon Guile Boulevard, on the Owego Free Academy Campus  
(Coordinates 42.116674, -76.221398)

City/Town/Village: Owego (MCD 10740)

County: Tioga

### TYPE OF REVIEW REQUIRED/REQUESTED

This Project at a minimum is using federal funds (FEMA) AND state funds (New York State Emergency Management Office)

### FEMA CONTACT FOR PROJECT

Name: Marisol J. Meléndez-Maíz  
E-Mail address: Marisol.Melendezmaiz@fema.dhs.gov

Title: Historic Preservation Specialist  
Phone: 787-296-3551 Fax: 787-296-3547

Send Correspondence to:  
Ms. Donna Bolognino  
EHP Advisor, FEMA – 4020-DR-NY  
Leo O'Brien Building  
11A Clinton Ave, Suite 742  
Albany, N.Y. 12207

Copy Furnish to:

Mr. Rick Lord  
Chief of Mitigation Programs  
Agency Preservation Officer  
New York State Office of Emergency Management  
1220 Washington Avenue, Building 22  
Albany, New York 12226-2251

URGENCY OF REVIEW: Immediate (3 days)  Expedited (14 days)  Regular (30 days)

Comments:

FEMA Disaster Number: 4031

PW # (if assigned): 2000 (Alternate)

SIGNATURE:

Marisol J. Meléndez-Maíz  
(for) Megan Jadrosich  
Regional Environmental Officer

DATE April 19, 2013

**PW 2000 (Alternate)  
New Administration Building, Owego Apalachin Central School District**

- Location and Resource:** The new Administration Building for the Owego Apalachin Central School District (OACSD) would be constructed on approximately 1.2 acres of a 36.6 acre OACSD-owned property located along Sheldon Guile Boulevard in the Village of Owego, Tioga County. The subject site consists of one tax parcel (Tioga County Tax Map No. 493001-117.15-2-3) on which is located the Owego Apalachin Middle School, Owego Free Academy, and portions of the associated road network, parking and athletic fields for these two schools (Figures 1, 2 and 5).
- Cause of Failure:** Five counties in New York, including Tioga, that were affected by the Storm were declared disaster areas (Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee - FEMA 4031-DR-NY) by President Obama on September 13, 2011 (amended September 23, 2011).
- Description of Damage:** The existing administration building, located at 36 Talcott Street, Owego, was damaged by floodwaters resulting from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011. As a result of the Storm, the administration building was determined to be “substantially damaged” by the Applicant. Following the guidelines provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for improved and or alternate projects, the OACSD is exploring the possibility of constructing a new administration building at a location outside the floodplain but within the 36.6 acre OACSD-owned property located along Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Town of Owego, Tioga County.
- Undertaking:** The Proposed Action would include the construction of a two-story, 15,000 SF administration building with associated parking (27 parking spaces), road network and walkways. The 1.2 acre project site is currently undeveloped but is a maintained lawn area (Figure 5).
- APE:** The proposed new building will be located in a 0.47 ha (1.16 ac) parcel east of Sheldon Guile Blvd. The project site for the proposed administration building is bordered on the east and northeast by NYS Routes 38/96 and a railroad right-of-way. Three future walkways would be constructed west of Sheldon Guile Blvd. The total area of potential effect is 0.52 ha (1.28 ac). (Figures 2, 3, 4).
- Archeology:** A review of the SHPO records indicated the APE is in an area of known archaeological sensitivity. Therefore, the applicant contracted the services of Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey. The evaluation of the potential archaeology of the project area concluded that:
- Prehistoric Sensitivity - The area around the Village of Owego was used and inhabited from the Paleo-Indian to the Late Woodland periods (10,000 BC to AD 1600). Numerous sites

have been identified along Owego Creek. Sites immediately to the north of the current project area, including Huntington Creek, Owego Free Academy, and Owego Creek have been identified in settings that closely match the current project area. The topographic placement of the project area adjacent to Owego Creek suggests a high probability of large residential sites, such as base camps and villages, as well as smaller camps and resource procurement/processing areas.

Historic Sensitivity - Given the setting of the project area, well away from any historic transportation features and within an area that remained agricultural land until the middle of the twentieth century, there is a low likelihood for intersecting historic sites (Public Archaeology Facility, 2012).

The area of potential effects was subject to archaeological testing. PAF's crews completed a total of 44 STPs within the project area, which includes the parcel for the new building and any new walkways leading to the building (Figure 6). No prehistoric artifacts were recovered within any of the STPs. Testing produced a total of 14 historic artifacts (glass, bottle glass, cut nails, lamp glass, 2 pieces of ironstone, and 1 piece of whiteware) found throughout the top stratigraphic layer of the administration building land parcel. As this layer was frequently associated with modern refuse and the material culture remains lacked diversity or concentration, we have determined that these artifacts do not represent the remains of an archaeological site. No artifacts were recovered in the areas designated for walkway construction.

Standing Structures: There are no standing structures in the project area.

Findings: Archaeological testing did not find any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the project area. No further work is recommended within the current project limits. Therefore, FEMA finds that no historic properties are affected.

Prepared by: Marisol J. Meléndez Maíz, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist

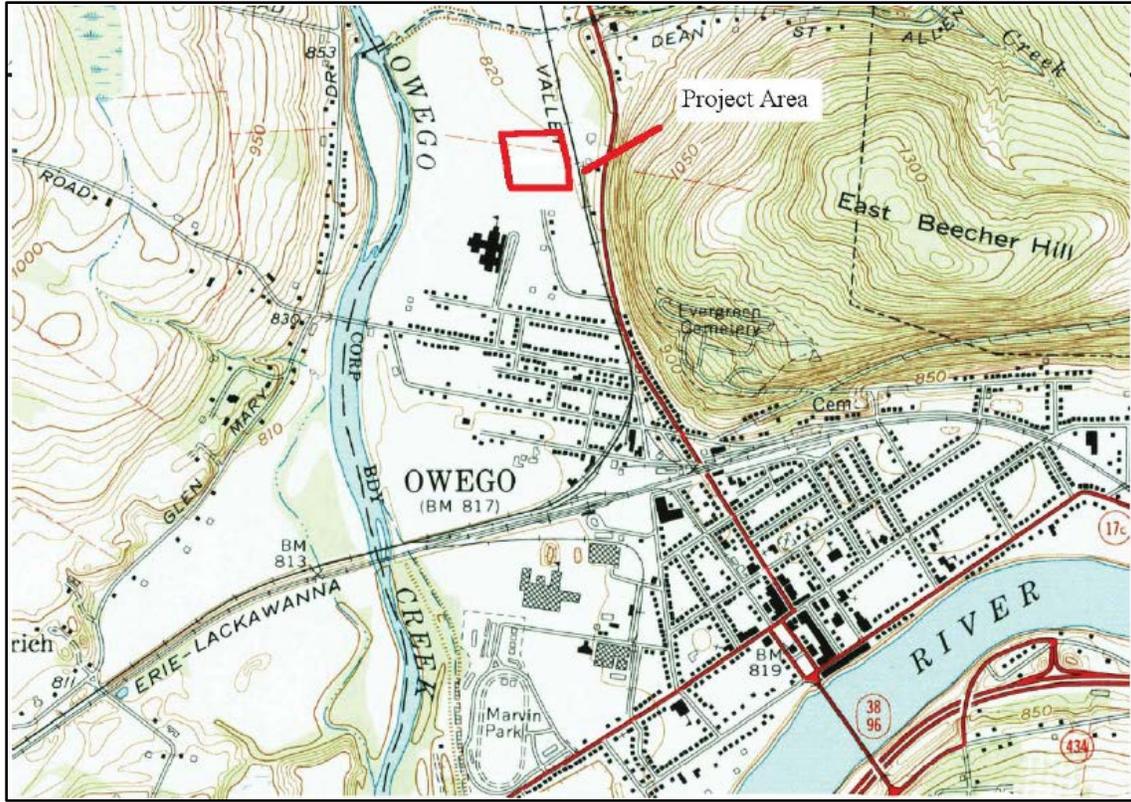


Figure 1 – USGS Map: location of project area. Source: Google Maps.



Figure 2 – Aerial photograph with location project area: parcel for new building and walkways. Photo Source: Google Maps.



Figure 3 – Parcel for administration building, looking north. Source: PAF.



Figure 4 – Courtyard, where walkways will be place, looking north. Source: PAF.

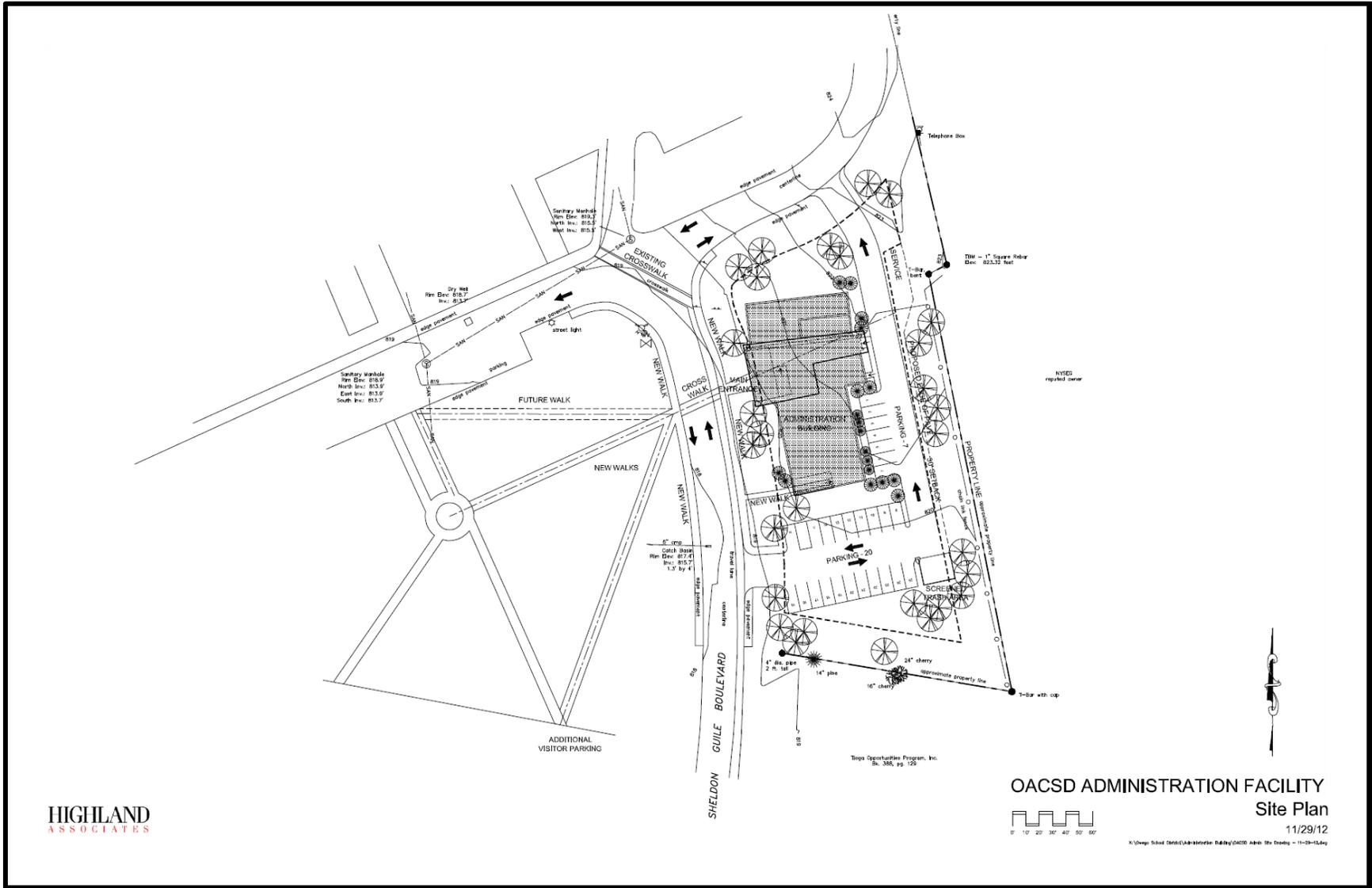


Figure 5. Proposed site plan for New Administration Building Facilities. Source: Environmental Assessment.

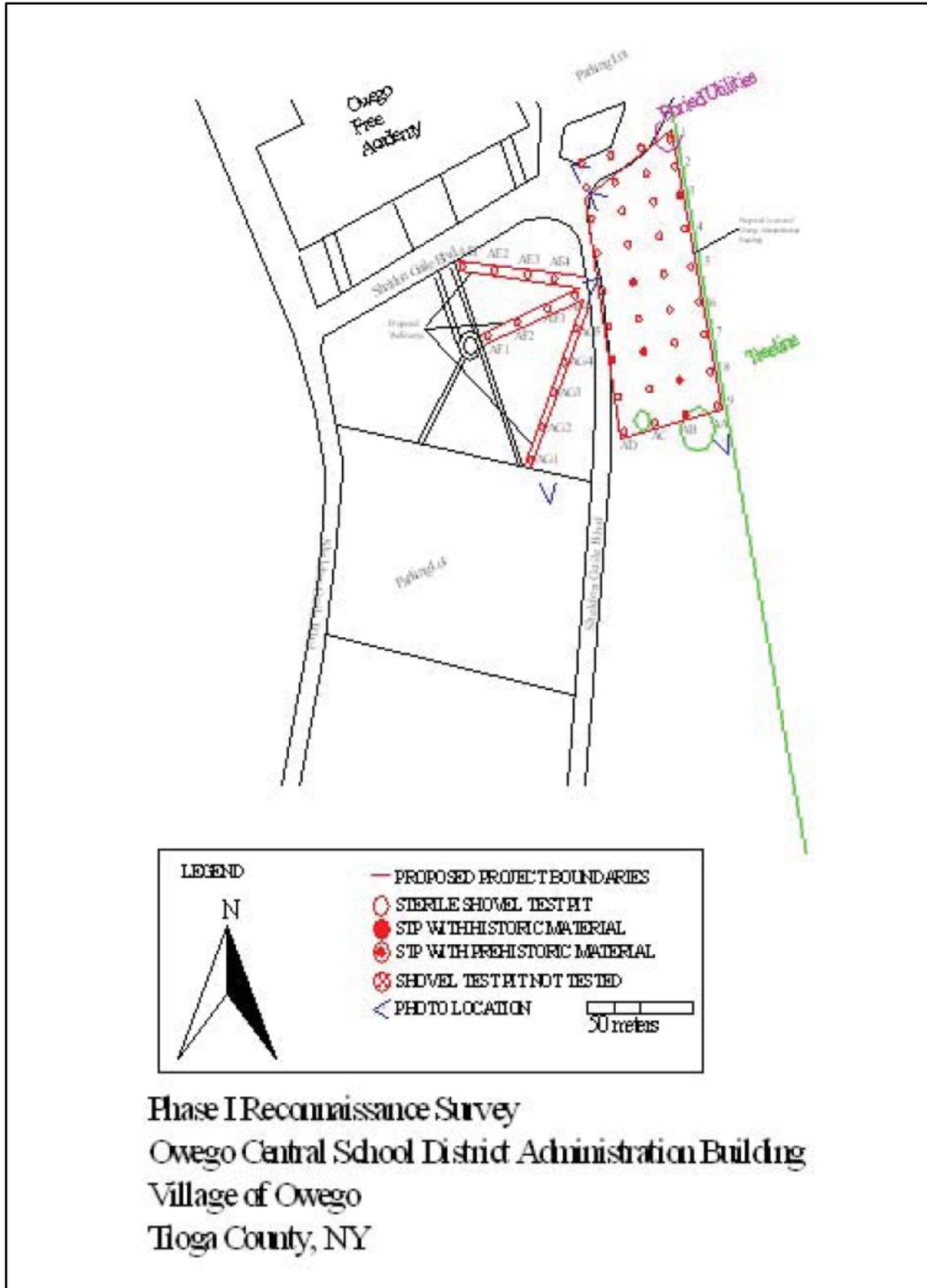
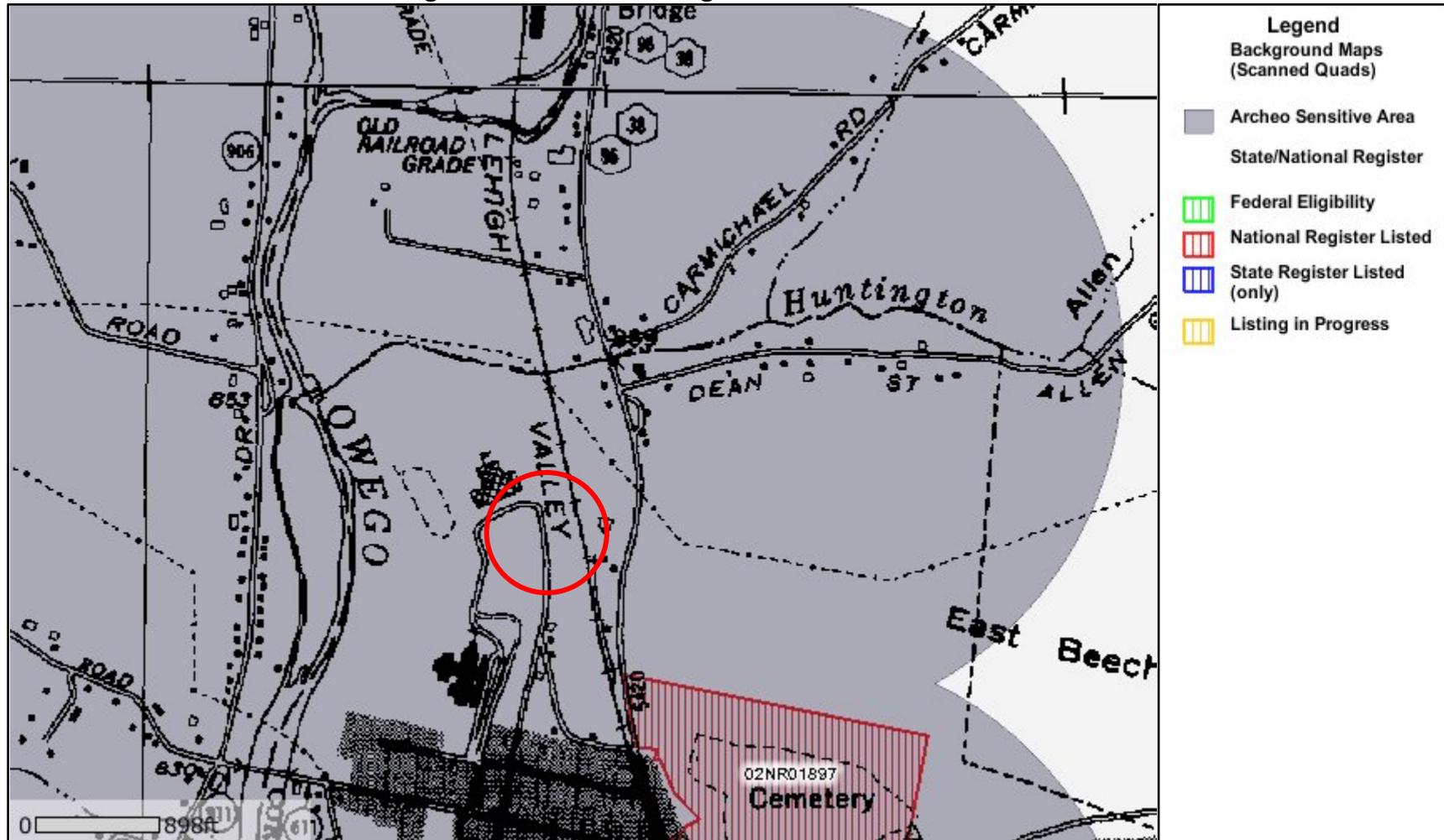


Figure 6. Archaeological testing: site plan with location of shovel test units. Source: PAF.

Owego Administrative Bldg.



April 18, 2013

Disclaimer: This map was prepared by the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation National Register Listing Internet Application. The information was compiled using the most current data available. It is deemed accurate, but is not guaranteed.

Figure 2 – State and National Register listed properties and Areas of Archeological Sensitivity.  
Source: NYSOPRHP website, accessed 04/18/2013.



## New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
518-237-8643

May 07, 2013

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

Donna Bolognino  
FEMA  
Leo O'Brien Building  
11A Clinton Ave STE 742  
Albany, New York 12207

Re: FEMA, SEMO  
New Administration Building - Owego  
Apalachin Central School District/4031-DR-NY  
Sheldon Guile Boulevard (Owefo Free Academy  
Campus/OWEGO, Tioga County  
13PR01988

Dear Ms. Bolognino:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

Based upon this review, it is the SHPO's opinion that your project will have No Effect upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Registers of Historic Places.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Ruth L. Pierpont  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation



**FEMA**

April 19, 2013

Anthony Gonyea  
Faithkeeper  
Onondaga Nation  
RR #1, Route 11A  
Box 319B  
Nedrow, New York 13120

Re: Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Section 106 Consultation  
New Administration Building, Owego Apalachin Central School District  
Sheldon Guile Boulevard  
Owego (Town of), Tioga County, NY 13827  
FEMA-4031-DR-NY, Project # PA-02-NY-4031-PW-02000 (Alternate)

Dear Mr. Gonyea:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide grant funding to the Owego Apalachin Central School District (OACSD), for construction of new facilities at Sheldon Guile Boulevard, Town of Owego, Tioga County, New York 13827. This project will require ground disturbance in an archaeological sensitive area. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470f), and its implementing regulation, 36 CFR 800, and as authorized by the Department of Homeland Security – Federal Emergency Management Agency, we are initiating consultation with your Tribe, The Onondaga Nation, regarding the proposed construction of the New Administration Building for the OACSD.

The existing administration building, located at 36 Talcott Street, Owego, was damaged by floodwaters resulting from Tropical Storm Lee in September 2011. As a result of the Storm, the administration building was determined to be “substantially damaged” by the Applicant. Following the guidelines provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for improved and or alternate projects the OACSD is exploring the possibility of constructing a new administration building at a location outside the floodplain but within the 36.6 acre OACSD-owned property located along Sheldon Guile Boulevard Boulevard, Town of Owego, Tioga County.

### Area of Potential Effect:

The proposed new Administration Building for the OACSD would be constructed on approximately 1.2 acres of OACSD-owned property. The new building will be located in a 0.47 ha (1.16 ac) parcel east of Sheldon Guile Boulevard. The project site for the proposed administration building is bordered on the east and northeast by NYS Routes 38/96 and a railroad right-of-way. Three future walkways would be constructed west of Sheldon Guile Blvd. The total area of potential effect is 0.52 ha (1.28 ac) (Figures 1, 2).

### Description of Undertaking:

The Proposed Action would include the construction of a two-story, 15,000 SF administration building with associated parking (27 parking spaces), road network and walkways. The 1.2 acre project site is currently undeveloped, but is a maintained lawn area (Figure 4).

### Archaeological potential

A review of the SHPO records indicated the APE is in an area of known archaeological sensitivity. Therefore, the applicant contracted the services of Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) to conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Survey. The evaluation of the potential archaeology of the project area concluded that:

**Prehistoric Sensitivity** - The area around the Village of Owego was used and inhabited from the Paleo-Indian to the Late Woodland periods (10,000 BC to AD 1600). Numerous sites have been identified along Owego Creek. Sites immediately to the north of the current project area, including Huntington Creek, Owego Free Academy, and Owego Creek have been identified in settings that closely match the current project area. The topographic placement of the project area adjacent to Owego Creek suggests a high probability of large residential sites, such as base camps and villages, as well as smaller camps and resource procurement/processing areas.

**Historic Sensitivity** - Given the setting of the project area, well away from any historic transportation features and within an area that remained agricultural land until the middle of the twentieth century, there is a low likelihood for intersecting historic sites (Public Archaeology Facility, 2012).

The area of potential effects was subject to archaeological testing. PAF's crews completed a total of 44 shovel test pits (STPs) within the project area, which includes the parcel for the new building and any new walkways leading to the building (Figure 3). No prehistoric artifacts were recovered within any of the STPs. Testing produced a total of 14 historic artifacts (glass, bottle glass, cut nails, lamp glass, 2 pieces of ironstone, and 1 piece of whiteware) found throughout the top stratigraphic layer of the administration building land parcel. As this layer was frequently associated with modern refuse and the material culture remains lacked diversity or concentration, we have determined that these artifacts do not represent the remains of an archaeological site. No artifacts were recovered in the areas designated for walkway construction. Since the archaeological testing did not find any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the project area, no further archaeological work is recommended within the current project limits. Therefore, FEMA finds that no historic properties are affected.

If you are aware of any significant prehistoric/historic archaeological resources that may be affected by this project, or have any information regarding the project area, please respond within 30 days or sooner of date of this letter. Please also indicate in your correspondence if there are other sources of information that should be checked, and if there are other parties, tribes, or members of the public you believe should be included in the consultation process. Please respond in writing or email to us (to either the email addresses listed below). FEMA's Region II mailing address is:

Dr. Kelly M. Britt  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA  
26 Federal Plaza, 13th Floor  
New York, NY 10278-0002

It is requested that the enclosed information be regarded as secure information and not be released to any external parties without prior consultation with FEMA. We look forward to your comments within (30) days of date of this letter. If you have any questions please contact me at 917-587-3866 or via email at [Kelly.Britt@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Kelly.Britt@fema.dhs.gov), or Marisol J. Meléndez-Maíz, archaeologist who is working directly on this project at 787-296-3551 or via email at [Marisol.Melendezmaiz@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Marisol.Melendezmaiz@fema.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Dr. Kelly Britt  
Archaeologist  
FEMA, Region II

Encl. Location, APE, and Excavation Plan  
Phase I report

CC Thane Joyal  
Joe Heath

KB/mmm



Figure 1. Area of potential effects (APE): site for new building and walkways. Source: PAF.



Figure 2. Parcel for the administration building, looking north. Source: PAF.

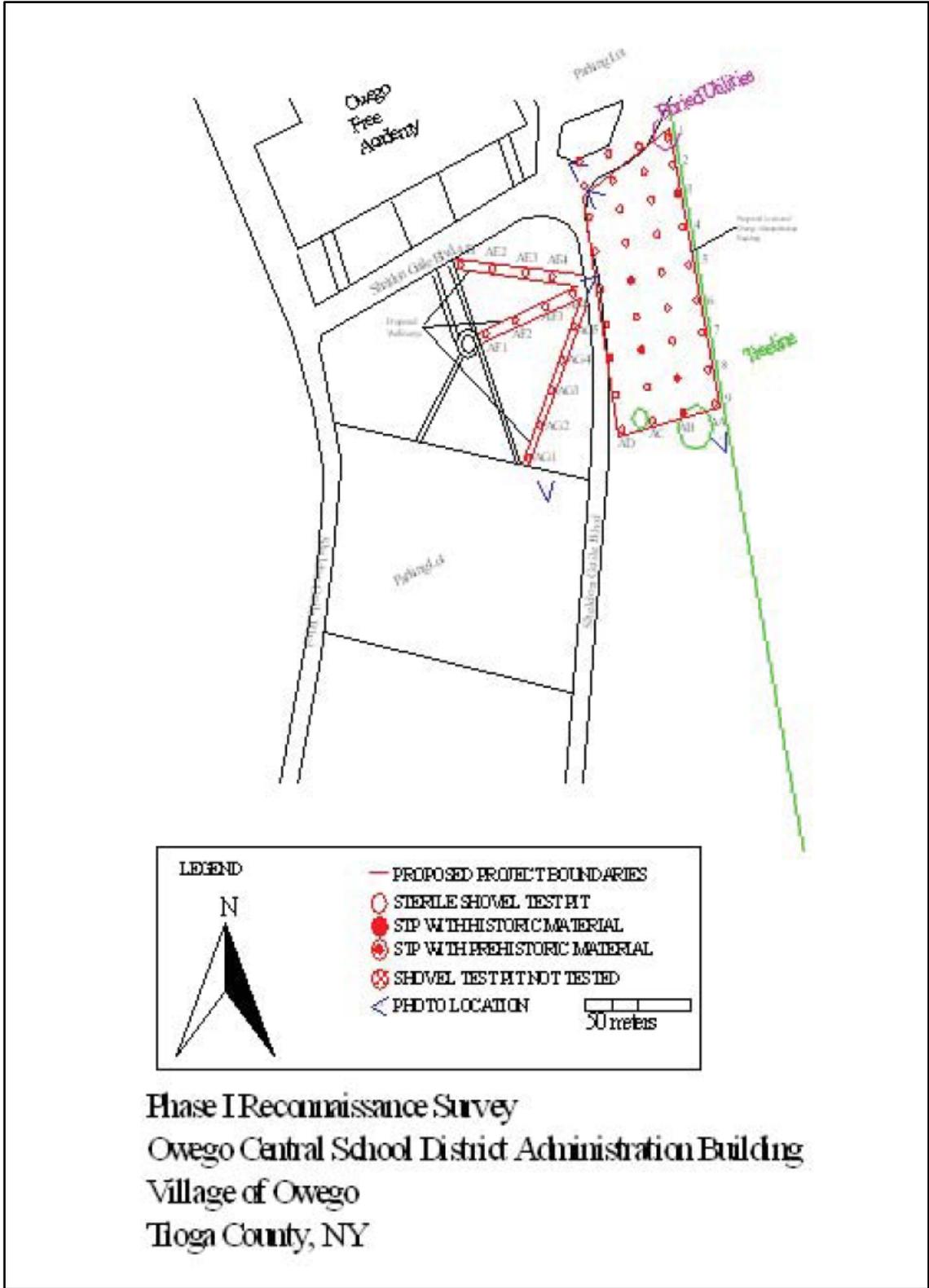


Figure 3. Archaeological testing: site plan with location of shovel test units. Source: PAF.

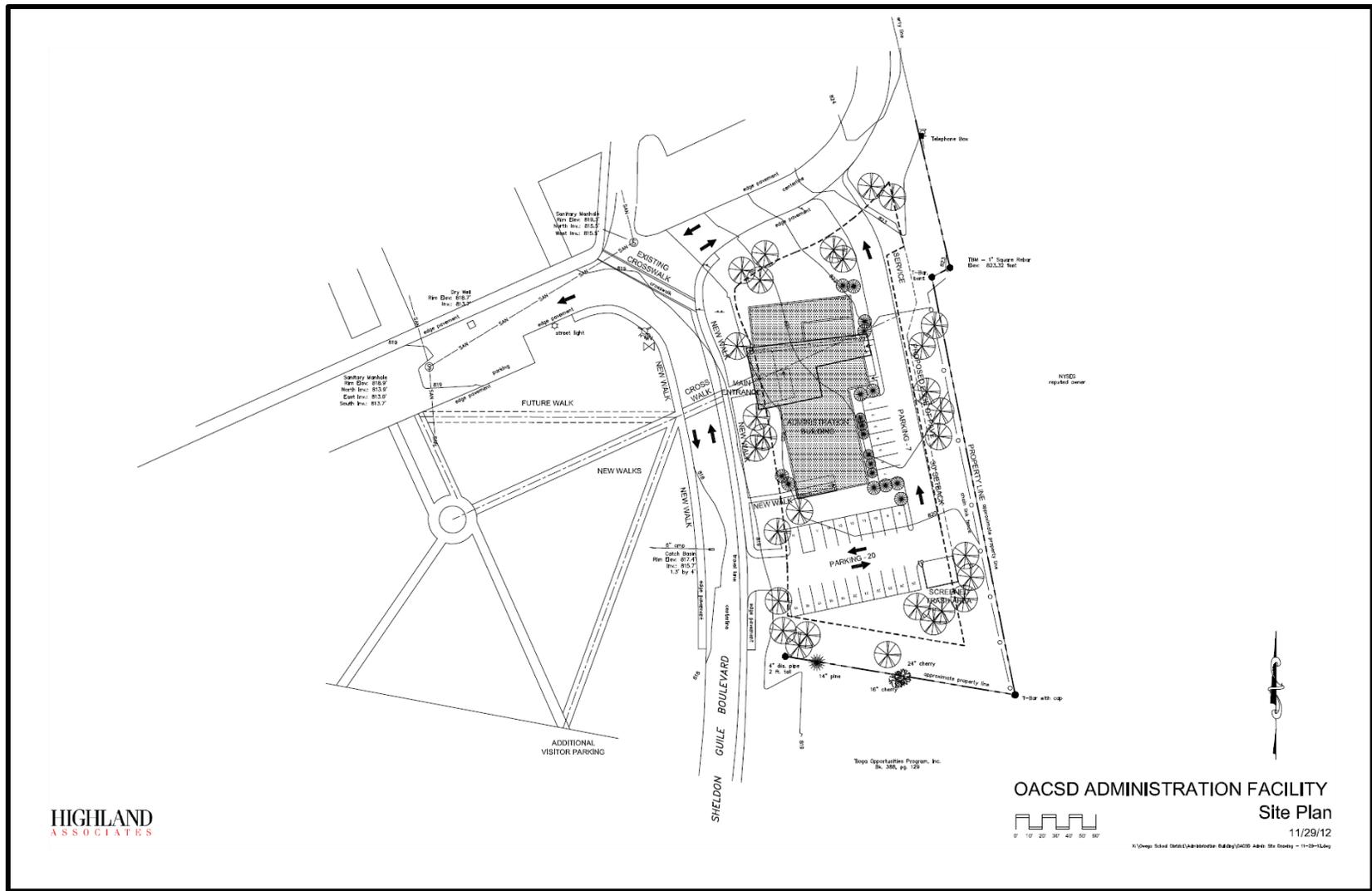


Figure 4. Proposed site plan for New Administration Building Facilities. Source: Environmental Assessment.

**From:** [Bolognino, Donna](#)  
**To:** [Bolognino, Donna](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FEMA-4031-DR-NY, Project #PA-02-NY-4031-PW-02000  
**Date:** Thursday, May 09, 2013 11:37:04 AM

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**From:** Andrew Myers [mailto:Andrew.Myers@sni.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 03, 2013 8:43 AM  
**To:** Britt, Kelly  
**Subject:** Re: FEMA-4031-DR-NY, Project #PA-02-NY-4031-PW-02000

Good Morning Kelly,

I have just reviewed a letter pertaining to the Phase I study conducted by Public Archaeology Facility regarding the above mentioned project. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) the Seneca Nation of Indians as a consulting party concurs with the recommendation proffered by Public Archaeology Facility. The Seneca Nation has no further interest in the project. As always should any inadvertent discoveries be made during the course of construction especially the locating of human remains we would ask that you contact our office immediately.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

**Andrew J. Myers, Tribal Archaeologist**  
**Seneca Nation of Indians**

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[www.sni.org](http://www.sni.org)

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region II Albany Office  
Leo O'Brien Federal Building  
11 A Clinton Avenue, Suite 742  
Albany, NY 12207



**FEMA**

11 June 2013

Mr. John Bonafide  
Director, Technical Preservation Services Bureau  
Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Mr. Bonafide,

On 29 May 2012, FEMA requested consultation with your office regarding a federally funded project to make in-kind repairs to the Owego-Apalachin School District's Administration building (12PR02265). Your office concurred with FEMA's finding of no historic properties affected on 4 June 2012. While it can reasonably be assumed that FEMA's finding and your concurrence indicates that the Administration Building is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, no formal finding of eligibility was made in the documentation.

The Owego-Apalachin School District's Administration building is a two story hipped roof painted brick building with a 1 ½ story projecting entrance constructed in 1912. The building tripled in size in 1957 when two story flat roofed unpainted brick addition was constructed on the north (rear) elevation. Although set back from the main entrance, the addition extends to the west approximately the width of the original building and the construction details are unsympathetic. The massing of the original structure remains but the virtually unbroken plane of the addition dominates the façade view. Windows on all exposed elevations of the 1912 building have been replaced with significantly smaller metal frame single light units and where openings would be expected on the main block's façade, none remain. The original double entrance doors have been replaced with metal units. Taken together, the physical alterations to the original building have sufficiently compromised the building that it no longer retains the character defining features that would make it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Although the building is in an area mapped by the NYSHPO as archaeologically sensitive, a review of SHPO and NYSM files indicates the closest reported site, which dates from the prehistoric period, is over 1500' to the south. The building has no known association with events or people important in national, state or local history nor has the site yielded, or is it likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. The Owego-Apalachin School District's Administration building is not, therefore, eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B or D.

At nearly ½ mile northwest of the Owego Central Historic District (97NR011230), the building is outside the District's viewshed. The NR listed Evergreen Cemetery (02NR01897) 800' west of the Administration building is unrelated to the building or its function and is visually separated by a heavily wooded intervening tract on the east side of North Avenue.

Absent a defined undertaking at this time, FEMA respectfully requests your review of its finding that the Owego-Apalachin School District's Administration building is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and is not a contributing element to an eligible Historic District.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Donna Bolognino at [donna.bolognino@dhs.gov](mailto:donna.bolognino@dhs.gov) or call her at 518-396-3843.

Sincerely,



Lois H. Coulter,  
FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist

Encl: request for consultation (4031 PW 02000 Owego Apalachin SD Admin bldg consult)  
SHPO response (SHPO Response 12PR02265 06-04-2012)



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

## New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
518-237-8643  
www.nysparks.com

June 27, 2013

Donna Bolognino  
DHS/FEMA Region II  
Leo O'Brien Building  
11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 742  
Albany, New York 12207  
(via e-mail only)

Re: FEMA  
Owego-Apalachin School District  
Administration Building  
36 Talcott Street, Owego, Tioga County  
12PR02265

Dear Ms. Bolognino :

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to Historic resources.

The Owego-Apalachin School District's Administration building is a two story hipped roof painted brick building built in 1912. In 1957, a two story flat roofed unpainted brick addition was constructed on the north elevation which tripled the size of the original building. Original windows at the circa 1912 structure have been replaced with smaller metal frame single units. The original double entrance doors have been replaced with metal doors. The interior has lost most of its character defining features.

It is the SHPO's opinion that the Owego-Apalachin School District Administration Building located at 36 Talcott Street is not individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the property is not a contributing element to an eligible Historic District.

If further correspondence is required regarding this project, I can be reached at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3260. Please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Eric N. Kuchar  
Weatherization Specialist