

Environmental
Assessment
Cole Hollow Road
Realignment Project

Appendix – G

Cultural Resources

4020-DR-NY
PW 08505, Cole Hollow Road Relocation

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

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: **Cole Hollow Road Relocation (42.50211, -74.43921)**

City/Town/Village: **Town of Blenheim (MCD 09501)**

County: **Schoharie County**

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: Daria E. Merwin

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Title: Historic Preservation Specialist

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Send Correspondence to:

FEMA 4020-DR-NY

Donna Bolognino

EHP Team Lead

968 Albany Shaker Road

Latham, New York 12110-6401

With copy furnish to:

Mr. Rick Lord

Chief of Mitigation Programs

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: 4020-DR-NY

PW #08505

SIGNATURE: *Daria E. Merwin*

Daria E. Merwin, Historic Preservation Specialist, for
Megan Jadrosich, Regional Environmental Officer

DATE: August 16, 2012

4020-DR-NY
PW 08505, Cole Hollow Road Relocation

PW 08505 – Cole Hollow Road Relocation, Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County

Location and Resource:	Cole Hollow Road southwest of the junction with Cole Hollow Spur in the Town of Blenheim (MCD 09501), Schoharie County (42.50211, -74.43921) (Figures 1-5).
Cause of Failure:	Heavy rains and flooding associated with Hurricane Irene resulted in widespread damages in the Town of Blenheim, including embankment slope failure between a segment of Cole Hollow Road and Cole Brook.
Description of Damage:	A segment of Cole Hollow Road measuring approximately 185 feet long was damaged, along with the adjacent embankment (Figure 3). The Town of Blenheim has requested relocation of this segment of Cole Hollow Road to prevent similar damage in future storm events and to bring the road alignment up to modern safety standards.
Undertaking:	Under the proposed work scope, the relocation of Cole Hollow Road will entail the following: 1.) clearing, grubbing, and excavating for the new road alignment (950 feet long by 30 feet wide by 1.5 feet deep), 2.) installing sub-base course for the road (950 feet long by 20 feet wide by 1 foot deep) and crushed stone road surface (950 feet long by 20 feet wide by 0.25 foot deep), 3.) trenching for two HDPE culverts, each 18 inches diameter, one 65 feet long the other 45 feet, 4.) installing light stone fill as bedding for the culverts (65 by 2.5 by 1 foot and 45 by 2.5 by 1 foot) and placing the pipes, 5.) installing rip rap stone at each end of the two culverts, 6.) installing right-of-way fencing (1,900 linear feet), and 7.) seeding and mulching new roadside ditches for erosion control (950 feet by 3 feet on both sides).
APE:	The area of potential effect (APE) consists of the new alignment of a segment of Cole Hollow Road (950 feet long by 30 feet wide by 1.5 feet deep, plus excavation for two culverts, roadside ditches, and fence installation) (Figure 2).
Archeology:	A review of SHPO records on August 16, 2012 indicated that the APE is within an area of known archeological sensitivity (Figure 5). The files of the SHPO and NYS Museum indicate that the closest reported site (the prehistoric Hilltop Site, NYSM 300) may have components adjacent to the APE. The majority of sites identified in Blenheim are prehistoric deposits found near Schoharie Creek. The proximity of these sites and a fresh water resource (Cole Brook) suggests the APE has a high sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric sites.
Standing Structures:	A review of SHPO records on August 16, 2012 indicated that the APE is not within or adjacent to any listed National Register properties (Figure 5). There is a small historic period cemetery (Keyser family) located near the damaged section of Cole Hollow Road (42.5022, -74.4394); the new road alignment will not impact this location.

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PW 08505, Cole Hollow Road Relocation

Findings: Relocation of a 950 foot long segment of Cole Hollow Road in Blenheim has the potential to affect archeological resources, as the new alignment appears to cross undisturbed ground. FEMA finds that the proposal to realign Cole Hollow Road has “no adverse effect on historic properties” with the following condition: a Phase I (IA and IB) survey is to be conducted prior to any construction activity by a qualified professional archeologist following the guidelines and standards given by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (<http://nysparks.com/shpo/environmental-review/documents/PhaseIReportStandards.pdf>).

Prepared by: Daria E. Merwin, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist

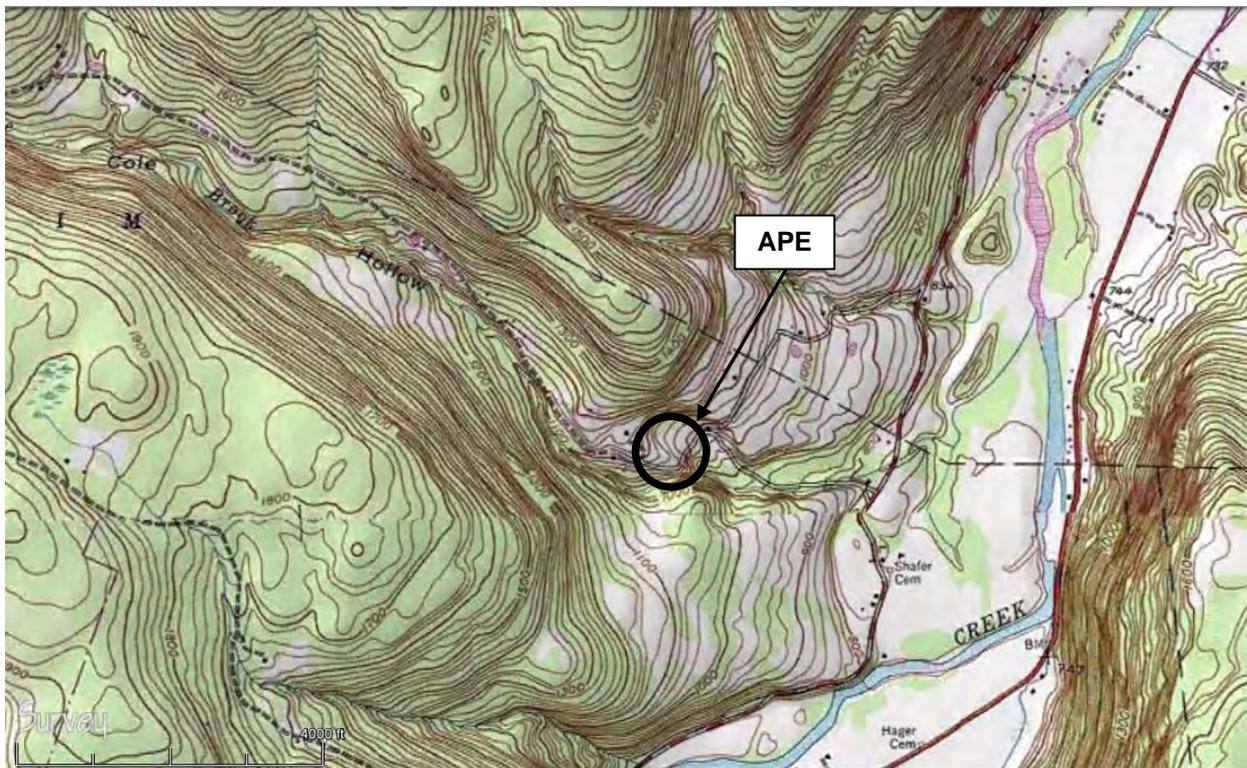


Figure 1. USGS topographic maps of *Breakabeen, NY* (1943/1994, top) and *Gilboa, NY* (1945/1980, bottom) (7.5 minute series).

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PW 08505, Cole Hollow Road Relocation



Figure 2. Aerial view of the APE, showing the proposed relocation of Cole Hollow Road.



Figure 3. Looking south along Cole Hollow Road in the area of embankment failure (left).

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Figure 4. Near the southwestern terminus of the proposed alignment, looking northeast. The arrow points to the approximate location of the Keyser family cemetery.

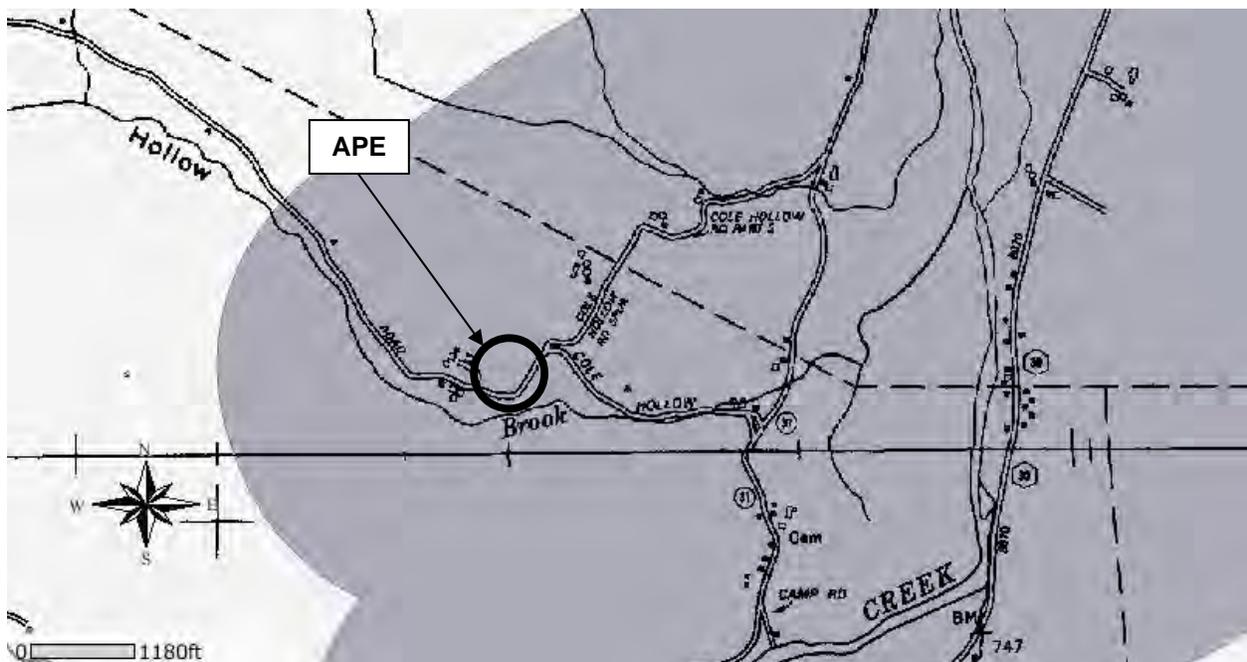


Figure 5. Archeological Sensitivity Area (gray circles); note there are no National Register listed properties in the vicinity (online SHPO GIS database, accessed August 16, 2012).



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
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Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

August 23, 2012

Donna Bolognino
FEMA-Dept. of Homeland Security
10 Jupiter Lane
Albany, New York 12204
(via e-mail only)

Re: FEMA, SOEM
Emergency Mitigation/31 Projects
12PR03581

Dear Ms. Bolognino:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the projects 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 projects. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the projects pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

I have reviewed the materials submitted for each of these undertakings and our findings are attached. Our determinations are based on the submitted scopes of work for each undertaking.

If I can be of any further assistance do not hesitate to contact me at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3263.

Sincerely,

John A. Bonafide
Director, Bureau of Technical
Preservation Services

cc: Richard Lord, SOEM (via e-mail)
enc: Findings (2 pages)

Findings Attachment

06009	south of New York State Route 24	Town of Ticonderoga	Essex	No adverse effects to historic properties w/condition (archeological survey)	Concur
06447	Winston Lane near Arden Drive	Town of Philipstown	Putnam	No historic properties affected	Concur
08030	Glen Island Park	City of New Rochelle	Westchester	No adverse effects to historic properties	Concur
08236	300 Main St, Town Hall Repairs	Village of Schoharie	Schoharie	No historic properties affected	Concur
08279	Catskill Mountain RR MP 21.3, Catskill Railroad Bridge	Town of Olive	Ulster	No adverse effects to historic properties	Not NRE-No historic property affected
08306	Bonnie View Avenue and Mill Street over Alton Creek	Town of Shandaken	Ulster	No historic properties affected	Concur
08472	125 N. Ferry St, Schenectady Pump Station	City of Schenectady	Schenectady	adverse effect to historic properties	*No Adverse Effect w/Conditons
08505	Cole Hollow Road	Town of Blenheim	Schoharie	No adverse effects to historic properties w/condition (archeological survey)	Concur
08780	Delaware Ave, Peebles Island Roads	City of Cohoes	Albany	No adverse effects to historic properties	Concur
08807	Intersection of Ford Hill & Wright Rds, Jewett Culvert	Town of Jewett	Greene	No historic properties affected	Concur
08871	360 Shore Road, Cornwall WWTP	Town of Cornwall	Orange	No historic properties affected	Concur
07109	Gilboa Dam	Town of Gilboa	Schoharie	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	See 07PR02067
07349	Gilboa Dam	Town of Gilboa	Schoharie	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	See 07PR02067
08334	Hofstra University	Hempstead	Nassau	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08360	Moffat Library	Blooming Grove	Orange	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08440	Lasell Hall/DAR Building	Schoharie	Schoharie	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	See 12PR02812
08569	Friedburg Community Center	Long Beach	Nassau	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08616	Black Brook water pipe realignment	Black Brook	Clinton	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08730	SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, 5838 State Highway 80	Town of Otsego	Otsego	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08797	Mill Road over Clove Creek	Town of Phillipstown	Putnam	No historic properties affected	Concur

08819	Dearborn Ave. Sea Wall	Town of Rye	Westchester	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08853	Grafton Lakes State Park, Dunham Dam Spillway	Town of Grafton	Rensselaer	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08860	St. Anthony's Community Hospital roof repairs	Warwick	Orange	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08883	Metro North RR, Metro North RR Repairs	Various Towns	Orange + Rockland	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
08884	Lasell Hall/DAR Building	Schoharie	Schoharie	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	See 12PR02812
08967	Awosting Falls Carriage Road washout	Minnewaska State Park and Preserve, Rochester	Ulster	No historic properties affected	Concur
02309	Foster Valley Road bridge	Town of Owego	Tioga	No historic properties affected	Concur
02494	16 Church Street	Village of Owego	Tioga	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Concur
02442	D&H Canal County Park, 58 Hoag Rd	Town of Deerpark	Orange	No adverse effects to historic properties	Concur
02467	56 Main Street	Village of Owego	Tioga	No adverse effects to historic properties	Concur
02534	Glen Aubrey Fire Hall	Glen Aubrey	Broome	No historic properties affected	Concur

***08472 - 125 N. Ferry St, Schenectady Pump Station, Schenectady, Schenectady County**

The proposed four foot encircling wall should be capped, stuccoed and painted to match the existing historic building. Mature landscaping (similar to the scale of what is in place now) should be reinstalled on the street façade to limit the visibility of the new partial wall.

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
SITE ASSESSMENT AND SITE IDENTIFICATION PHASES
COLE HOLLOW ROAD RELOCATION
TOWN OF BLENHEIM, SCHOHARIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Prepared for
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Old Chatham, New York 12136

Report CA677AB-1-13
January 2013

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PHASE IA SITE ASSESSMENT STUDY

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposed modification of Cole Hollow Road involves construction impact to approximately five acres (2.0 hectares) of flat, gently, moderately and very steeply sloping terrain in southern Schoharie County, New York, in the east-central portion of the state. The affected area lies in the northeastern portion of the Town of Blenheim, above Cole Brook and some 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometers) north-northwest of the hamlet of North Blenheim and 0.8 miles (1.3 kilometers) to the west of Schoharie Creek.

This portion of the Town of Blenheim, is characterized by scattered residential structures dating from the nineteenth, early twentieth and later twentieth century. The very hilly terrain is mostly wooded, with small meadows present in the vicinity of residences.

The proposed action involves replacing a sharply curving section of roadway immediately above the creek with a new construction to be placed slightly farther to the north in an area less prone to erosion and affording better sight distance. Proposed impact would consist of clearing existing vegetation, grading and filling as needed, construction of the road surface, and landscaping.

The area to be affected by proposed road relocation is situated in the Appalachian Uplands region at the northern edge of the Helderberg Escarpment, which forms a prominent east-west trending ridge in Schoharie and western Albany counties. This vicinity of the study area is characterized by dramatic vertical relief with elevations reaching heights of 1700 feet (518 meters) above the channel of Schoharie Creek. Soils present within and adjacent to the proposed construction area are generally characterized by good drainage, with one wetland delineated in the eastern portion of the road relocation. The salient characteristics of these soils are outlined below (Soil Survey 1969: 82, 83, 97, 98).

Soil Type/Symbol	Slope / Drainage	Genesis	Typical Profile (in/cm)
Arnot flaggy silt loam (ArC)	0-15% / well to moderately well	in thin layers of glacial till	0-4/0-10: vdk gy br si lo 4-8/10-20: dk ye br or re br si lo 8+/20+: ss or sis brk
Lordstown channery silt loam (LmC)	5-15% / well	in thin deposits of glacial till	0-6/0-15: dk br ch si lo 6-12/15-30: ye br ch si lo [12-20/30-50: mo lt ol br ch lo] 20+/50+: sh / ss brk
Lordstown channery silt loam (LmE)	25-35% / well	in thin deposits of glacial till	0-6/0-15: dk br ch si lo 6-12/15-30: ye br ch si lo [12-20/30-50: mo lt ol br ch lo] 20+/50+: sh / ss brk
Lordstown & Oquaga very stony soils (LoE)	0-35% / well	in thin deposits of glacial till	0-6/0-15: dk br ch si lo 6-12/15-30: ye br ch si lo [12-20/30-50: mo lt ol br ch lo] 20+/50+: sh / ss brk

CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

As mentioned, the proposed construction impact area consists of flat, gently, moderately, and steeply sloping meadow, scrub field and young forest. No structures stand within the affected area. Reconnaissance revealed no visible ruins or anomalies that might indicate the presence of buried structural remains or cultural features. Dry laid stone field walls border a farm road that crosses the property. Such field walls are generally not considered to be significant cultural resources.

Historic Structures

No structures currently listed on or nominated to the State or National Register of Historic Places are located in the vicinity of the proposed project. The Building-Structure Inventory maintained by the New York State Historic Preservation Office contains one entry for a house and barn along Cole Hollow Road (Unique Site Number 09501.00035). It has not been evaluated with regard to State and National Register eligibility and has no view of the proposed road relocation.

One structure with a view of the proposed construction that meets the minimum age requirement for inclusion on the State and National Register of Historic Places was identified. A frame former school house, now a residence, located adjacent to the eastern portion of the affected area was documented as a part of this study (see Photo 1 in Appendix B). No additional potentially eligible structures were noted within the project view shed.

Native American Era

Seven sites of Native American occupation have been listed in the New York State Museum and 10 Native American sites are listed on the State Historic Preservation Office archaeological site files within a one-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius of the study area. The sites are summarized as follows:

<u>Site File Number</u>	<u>Name/Time Period/Culture</u>	<u>Distance</u>
NY SM 300	Hilltop Site / Proto-Historic	Schoharie Creek floodplain & east
NY SM 302	Romagnoli 3 / Late Archaic? Lamoka?	0.8mi/1.4km
NY SM 303*	Shafer Site / Early and Late Archaic, Transitional, Middle Woodland	0.8mi/1.4km
NY SM 305	Romagnoli Site / Proto-Historic	0.75mi/1.2km
NY SM 306	Parslow Field, Parslow Garden, Parslow 3 / Middle and Late Woodland	0.6mi/0.9km
NY SM 308	King Site (2 loci) / Proto-Historic	0.9mi/1.5km
NY SM 5669	None / Late Archaic - Transitional	0.6mi/0.9km

A09501.0084	Parslow Site Loci 1 & 3 / "stratified flood plain site" Middle and Late Woodland (also NYSM 306)	0.6mi/0.9km
A09501.0091	no information (same as NYSM 5669?)	0.6mi/0.9km
A09501.0090	Wood Site / unknown	0.75mi/1.2km
A09501.0088	Shaul Site / Early and Middle Woodland, Transitional	0.9mi/1.5km
A09501.0087 (also NYSM 308?)	King Site / unknown	0.75mi/1.2km
A09507.0074 (also NYSM 301)	Romagnoli #2 / Proto-Historic?	0.9mi/1.5km
A09507.0075 (also NYSM 302)	Romagnoli #3 (see above)	0.8mi/1.4km
A09507.0060 (also NYSM 303)	Shafer Site (see above)	0.8mi/1.4km
A09507.0076	Shafer #1 Site / no information	0.75mi/1.2km
A09507.0077 (also NYSM 305)	Romagnoli #1 / no information	0.7mi/1.15km

The occupations that have been assigned a temporal range indicate this portion of the Schoharie Creek and the adjacent drainage was occupied from at least the Late Archaic through the arrival of Europeans in the late seventeenth century, or roughly between 2500BC and AD 1680. Some of these sites were reported to a professional archaeologist by local residents, others were included in an early twentieth century compendium of archaeological sites known at that time put together from a variety of local sources across the state by State Archaeologist Arthur C. Parker (Parker 1920). Other documented sites in the area have been encountered by local collectors and still others over the past quarter century through the investigation, such as is represented by the present survey, of specific areas for which some type of development or construction project is proposed. While some professional survey has been carried out for the immediate vicinity of a portion of Schoharie Creek by the New York State Museum and the University at Albany (Wellman 1973), no comprehensive survey of the Schoharie Valley has been conducted to date. It is therefore likely that the spatial distribution and probably also the temporal range of sites in the area are underrepresented in existing site files, particularly with regard to the higher elevations above the valley floor.

The potential must therefore be recognized for as-yet-undocumented Native American occupation sites to be present in better-drained, flatter portions of the study area, representing the remains of what would most likely have been seasonal occupations by small groups exploiting the plant and animal resources offered by the nearby wetland environment. Such occupations would most likely have been a component in the seasonal patterns of movement that characterized indigenous populations through at least the Archaic and Transitional periods, although small upland seasonal occupation sites were also present during later times.

As noted, Native American archaeological remains likely to be present in the study area would probably consist of small, seasonally occupied camps that would have supported small numbers of people for short periods of time, probably on a recurring basis. Cultural remains associated with such sites typically are sparse, shallow and spatially restricted, although they may include hearths, storage pits and/or traces of structures. Larger sites may also include extensive refuse deposits and fortifications. Exposed veins of lithic resources suitable for the manufacture of stone tools, and rock formations such as caves and overhangs that could provide shelter, are also likely to have attracted the indigenous population of the area, as are certain natural phenomena, such as springs and unique rock formations, that would have held religious significance.

No exposed chert was noted in reconnaissance, and the bedrock found nearest the ground surface in this area consists primarily of shale, siltstone, and sandstone. The potential for native quarry sites can therefore be considered low. No rock overhangs or caves were noted in reconnaissance, and the potential for the presence of rock shelters is also considered low. The presence of glacial till on and just beneath the ground surface raises the potential for the occurrence of small-scale lithic processing sites based on the exploitation of available glacially-deposited chert cobbles.

European American Era

European American era settlement of this portion of what is now the Town of Blenheim dates to the second half of the eighteenth century although traders were active throughout the Schoharie Valley prior to that time. Formed in 1813, Blenheim was one of the first townships erected in the county. Although land purchases here date from the 1760's. European American settlement was sparse prior to the end of the American Revolution, and was focused along the Schoharie Creek flats around and above Breakabeen. Following the cessation of hostilities, population of the area, particularly by German immigrants, gained momentum despite the obstacles presented by the rugged topography and attempts to impose a land rent system. Proximity to Schoharie Creek continued to condition most settlement, with small rural service communities developing where the energy to drive water powered industries was best available and at intersections of major early roads. Outside these more nucleated locations, settlement was characterized by scattered farmsteads, with houses and other buildings constructed along roadways. Most early residents engaged in primarily subsistence farming, harvesting of lumber and trapping, with industrial and commercial activity focused in rural service centers like Blenheim and North Blenheim (Roscoe 1882: 249-265).

The development and elaboration of the railroad transportation network during the middle decades of the nineteenth century and the growth of industry during the Civil War era increased the power of larger regional centers such as Troy and Schenectady to attract both capital and population at the expense of local manufacturing businesses. During the later decades of the nineteenth century, the development of commercial agriculture, notably the hops industry, and extractive industries added a new dimension to the economic fabric and created a new class of prosperous rural residents in the areas around Middleburgh and Schoharie. The more rural and upland portions of the Schoharie Valley lay outside most of the benefits of this prosperity.

The historical and archaeological site files maintained by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in Albany list three sites within one mile of the study area. They are summarized below.

<u>Site File Number</u>	<u>Name / Description</u>	<u>Distance</u>
A09501.0081	Site #5 / David Kniskern house site or location of a cooper shop c.1856	1.0mi/1.6km
A09501.0083	Site #7 / 18th century? cellar hole with walls torn down in 20th century	0.75mi/1.2km
A09501.0080	Site #4 / possibly the site of Adam H, Hagar's home built 1830-1840	0.85mi/1.4km

Nineteenth century maps of the area depict no structures within the area of proposed project impact. A school is shown just east of the eastern end of the proposed road relocation on mid-century maps (Wenig and Lorey 1856, Beers and Beers 1866). Situated at the intersection of two roads, this structure still stands and was documented for this survey as a potentially eligible structure with a view of the new road segment (Appendix B, Photo 1). The proposed roadway would approach the building from the west, while the current course of Cole Hollow Road comes to it from the south.

Based on known European American era settlement patterns, a walking reconnaissance of the affected area, and a search of historical texts and maps, a below average potential is assessed for the presence of buried cultural remains pertaining to this period of occupation for the area to be affected by proposed road relocation. The land within the project impact zone appears to have been utilized only for agricultural and pasturing activity and as a source of lumber over the past two centuries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the fact that all documented sites of indigenous activity in this area lie at lower elevations and close to or within the Schoharie Creek floodplain, a Phase IB site identification survey is recommended for the flatter, better-drained portions of the affected area, as such locations in this physiographic setting must be considered to have a potential for the presence of buried Native American cultural remains. A below average potential was assessed for early European American era cultural remains to be present in the proposed road relocation area.

This Phase IB survey should employ sampling methods adequate for detecting traces of the small, seasonally occupied camps likely to occur in this physiographic setting, as well as any deposits associated with early European American era cultural activity areas and structures, and any larger occupation sites and/or activity areas that might be present.

PHASE IB SITE IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

RESEARCH DESIGN

The Phase IA site assessment performed for this 5-acre (2.0-hectare) study area identified a potential for buried Native American cultural remains to be present within flatter, better-drained portions of the proposed road relocation area. This assessment was based on the proximity of documented Native American occupation in this part of the Town of Blenheim and the fact that better-drained lands near a source of water are known in general to have been attractive to the indigenous inhabitants of the region.

Flatter, better-drained locations near a water source have been found to have been preferred by indigenous populations in the Northeast for occupations ranging from small camps to villages. In times of turmoil, defensive considerations were added to these criteria. Steeply sloping and poorly drained areas or wetlands would generally be seen as of low potential for the occurrence of Native American cultural resources.

Exceptions to this assessment would include steeply sloping locations where lithic resources such as chert would have been accessible to indigenous populations and/or where rock overhangs and caves that could have served as shelters are present. Although poorly-drained areas would seldom be expected to contain habitation sites, the more elevated, better-drained peripheries of such places are likely to have been selected for camps from which the plant and animal resources of the wetter areas would be exploited. Such camps would have served as temporary habitation sites and locations where food was prepared, tools completed and repaired, and animal resources processed (i.e., skinned, butchered, smoked, dried) after being procured nearby.

Smaller sites, which predominate prior to the later Woodland Period and continue to occur during this time, are known to have been occupied by indigenous populations in conjunction with what was usually a seasonal exploitation of plant and animal resources. Generally, such camps would be inhabited for short periods of time, although such episodes of occupation are known to have continued on a regular basis over many centuries.

The inventory of reported archaeological sites for this portion of the Town of Blenheim indicates that Native American occupation of this part of the Schoharie Creek drainage persisted from at least the Late Archaic through the Late Woodland period (c. 2400BC-AD1650) and on into the European American era of settlement during the eighteenth century. The documented sites for this area are all situated with or adjacent to the Schoharie Creek floodplain rather than in upland settings. Nonetheless, the temporal and cultural affiliation of Native American era archaeological remains that might occur in this upland part of what is now the Town of Blenheim could represent all but the earlier phases of human culture in this region.

As mentioned above, occupation through at least the Middle Woodland Period was considered likely to have occurred on a seasonal basis and to have usually been associated with the exploitation of nearby plant and animal resources. The material remains of sites reflecting such behavior are most likely to be sparse, shallow and spatially restricted, although deeper cultural features and remains of structures may be present. Larger sites, usually pertaining to Woodland period occupations, may include deep refuse deposits, remains of more substantial structures and defensive constructions, such as stockades.

Because reconnaissance had revealed no outcrops of lithic material likely to have been utilized in the manufacture of stone tools, the potential for the presence of bedrock quarry sites was considered low. The absence of caves and rock overhangs within the affected area eliminates the potential for shelters associated with such features to be present within the area of proposed road relocation. The presence of glacial outwash near the ground surface raises the possibility of localized exploitation of accessible cobbles and boulders of chert, quartz, quartzite and other lithic resources suitable for the manufacture of stone tools and the presence of small stone processing stations and workshops.

No structures stand within the affected area. No traces of structures or other anomalies likely to be associated with buried cultural resources were noted in reconnaissance. Dry-laid field stone farm walls stand adjacent to a farm road that crosses the affected area. Such structures are not generally considered to constitute significant cultural resources. One standing structure that meets minimum age requirements for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places and has a view of the proposed road relocation was documented as part of this survey.

Published sources identify no European American era buildings within or immediately adjacent to the affected area. No non-agricultural activity for the area in which construction is proposed was noted in historical texts or maps consulted. However, because this part of Schoharie County has seen European American era occupation since the late eighteenth century, the potential must be considered for the presence of remains of very early structures razed or abandoned prior to the publication during the mid-nineteenth century of maps showing individual buildings in the area.

Like smaller Native American sites, the archaeological remains of early buildings that were abandoned prior to the publication of area maps showing individual structures, eighteenth century military activity, and cultural features associated with such sites would be likely to be spatially restricted and characterized by sparse cultural material quite limited in vertical extent and occurring near the ground surface in areas not characterized by stream or erosion deposition.

This potential is greatest along early roadways, in whose proximity early buildings were usually constructed. The fact that Cole Hollow Road dates from at least the first half of the nineteenth century raises the potential for such remains along this roadway. The proposed relocation would affect an area well to the north of the nearest segment of Cole Hollow Road. The fact of this distance seriously reduces the potential for impact to remains of pre-map structures, that is structures that pre-date publication of historical maps of the area.

METHODOLOGY

The affected area ranges topographically from relatively flat through gently, moderately and very steeply sloping terrain, and consists of meadow, abandoned agricultural fields and pasture land now populated by scrub and young forest growth.

A subsurface sampling plan was developed that called for the flatter portions of the proposed road relocation to be archaeologically sampled by means of hand-dug shovel test holes executed in a linear pattern and placed at intervals of approximately 50 feet (15 meters), with adjustments in spacing made as required to avoid obstacles such as large trees and zones of obvious prior serious upper soil disturbance. Test holes would be dug using small hand tools and their contents would be screened through 1/4-inch (6.25-millimeter) hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of smaller cultural items. The poorly-drained subareas and slopes in excess of 12 percent would be excluded from the sampling universe due to their reduced potential for containing buried cultural remains.

Any Native American era cultural items recovered would be marked with a numbered pin flag and their location later recorded on the project map along with that of other sampling units. Any relative concentrations of pre-World War II European American era material encountered would also be marked. Any isolated test holes that produced Native American cultural material would be more intensively sampled by means of eight additional shovel tests placed at 3 and 10-foot (1- and 3-meter) intervals at cardinal points around each find spot to determine whether a likely site of cultural activity or a stray find was indicated. Test holes would be numbered sequentially from east to west.

Such methods are considered adequate for detecting traces of smaller Native American camps, special purpose sites and early Euro-American era sites as well as any larger Native or European American era occupations that might be present. Evidence of the remains of very small buildings, such as privies, and single-episode single-person Native American activity areas are less likely to be detected by the 50-foot (15-meter) interval. Since the vicinity of small buildings is usually characterized by some scatter of cultural material, it was hoped the more concentrated presence of cultural items would in turn lead to the identification of these features and/or structural remains during the more intensive investigation that follows initial identification. Likewise, the intensive additional sampling around any Native American era item encountered would increase the chance of correctly identifying spatially restricted sites as activity areas rather than stray finds.

Assessment of soils present within the affected area, containing gravels and other glacial deposits on or just beneath the ground surface, along with the presence of shallow bedrock, indicated a low potential for the presence of deeply buried culture-bearing soils.

FIELD INVESTIGATION

Phase IB field investigation of the proposed development site was carried out in December 2012, under good to excellent weather conditions, with temperatures between 45 and 55 degrees Fahrenheit (7.2 and 12.7 degrees Centigrade), and no precipitation. Ground surface visibility was generally poor due to the presence of decayed vegetation and grasses. Soils were found to be moderately dry to moist in areas sampled. The Phase IB field investigation was carried out by the Principal Investigator.

As outlined in the previous section, the proposed road relocation route was sampled by means of hand-dug shovel test holes placed approximately 50 feet (15 meters) apart in a linear pattern across the affected area. The contents of each shovel test were screened through 1/4-inch (6.25-millimeter) hardware cloth to facilitate the recovery of smaller cultural items. The linear sampling pattern just described was varied slightly to avoid obstacles such as poorly-drained subareas, stone field walls, and subareas of obvious prior serious upper soil disturbance, in this case a septic field and a dug driveway. The locations of shovel test holes are depicted on a map included in Appendix A of this document and the soil profiles recorded for all tests executed are included in Appendix C.

Culturally sterile soil consisted of well-drained to moist yellow to grey brown silty sand or mottled grey and yellow brown silt with some sand and was encountered at depths ranging between 6.4 and 10.4 inches (16 and 26 centimeters). The upper soil stratum consisted of well-drained to moist medium dark brown to dark yellow brown silt with some sand. Dense coarse, medium and fine gravel, cobbles and boulders characterized both soil strata. Some locations immediately adjacent to slopes in excess of 12 percent and the edges of designated wetlands characterized by better drainage were also sampled to broaden the sampling universe. No problems occurred that might have negatively affected or otherwise influenced the process or outcome of the Phase IB field investigation.

Shovel testing yielded no traces of Native American cultural activity. Several scattered items pertaining to the European American period of occupation were encountered. These consisted of mid-to-late-twentieth century bottle glass, plastic and an iron round nail and were not retained.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Archaeological sampling of the area to be affected by proposed relocation of a segment of Cole Hollow Road encountered no evidence of Native American cultural activity, no pre-World War II era European American items and no relative concentrations of European American material that might indicate focused cultural activity.

Based on these findings, no further archaeological investigation is recommended for the proposed relocation area.



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

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

17 April 2013

Mr. Brendon Becker
Lamont Engineers
P.O. Box 610
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Re: FEMA, DEC
Cole Hollow Road Relocation
Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County
12PR04595

Dear Mr. Becker:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the latest information submitted for this project (*Phase I Cultural Resources Survey, Site Assessment, and Site Identification Phases, Cole Hollow Road Relocation, Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York*, dated January 2013, prepared by Columbia Heritage, Ltd.). Our review has been in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and relevant implementing regulations.

Based on the information provided, SHPO recommends that the planned project will have **No Effect** on historic properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This recommendation pertains only to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) examined during the above-referenced investigation. Should the project design be changed SHPO recommends further consultation with this office.

These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation 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 State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8) and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617).

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Perazio, OPRHP
Phone: 518-237-8643 x3276; FAX: 518-233-9049
Email: Philip.Perazio@parks.ny.gov

Cc: Stephen Oberon, Columbia Heritage (via email)



FEMA

April 3, 2014

Chief Randy Hart
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Hogansburg, NY 13655
abero@srmt-nsn.gov –Electronic transmission only

Re: Federal Emergency Management Agency
Section 106 Consultation
Cole Hollow Road Relocation
Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, NY 12131
FEMA-4020-DR-NY, Project # PA-02-NY-4020-08505
GPS: 42.50211, -74.43921

Dear Chief Hart,

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide grant funding to the Town of Blenheim (Subgrantee) for the relocation a portion of Cole Hollow Road located west of the intersection with Cole Hollow Spur in the Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York. This project would require ground disturbance in an archaeologically 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 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, and as authorized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – FEMA, we are initiating consultation with your Tribe, The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, regarding the proposed relocation of a section of Cole Hollow Road.

An approximately 185 foot long section of Cole Hollow Road along with the adjacent embankment located in Blenheim, NY, sustained damage and wash out as a result of Hurricane Irene, which impacted the Town of Blenheim during the incident period of August 26, 2011 to September 5, 2011. Owned and maintained by the Town of Blenheim, Cole Hollow Road extends west/northwest from Bear Ladder Road, following the meander of Cole Brook. The heavy rains and flooding in the region caused extreme ground saturation. The embankment of Cole Hollow Road sustained slope failure, causing tension cracks and waving along a 185-foot section of Cole Hollow Road. The Subgrantee proposes to relocate this section of the roadway to the west away from the unstable slope in an effort to improve public safety and eliminate potential future impacts due to slope failure (Figures 1 and 2).

Area of Potential Effects:

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of the new alignment of a segment of Cole Hollow Road, approximately 950 feet long by 30 feet wide. This APE encompasses the new alignment as well as the area of disturbance resulting from the excavation for two culverts, roadside ditches and fence installation.

Description of Undertaking:

The Subgrantee proposes to relocate a segment of Cole Hollow Road to the west of Cole Hollow Spur. The proposed project will include approximately 950 feet of clearing, grubbing and excavating for the new road alignment, approximately 30 feet wide and 1.5 feet deep. A sub-base course for the road (950 feet long by 20 feet wide by 1 foot deep) will be installed, and a crushed stone surface (0.25 foot deep) will be laid. Two HDPE culverts (one 65 feet long and one 45 feet long), each 18 inches in diameter will be placed, with light stone fill as bedding and stone rip rap at each end. Approximately 1,900 LF of right-of-way fencing will be installed and new roadside ditches, 3 feet wide, will be seeded and mulched for erosion control.

The Subgrantee contracted a cultural resources consultant to conduct a Phase IA and IB Archaeological Survey of the APE. The consultants conducted background research and shovel tests of the APE. While the Phase IA determined that the APE may have potential for the presence of below ground Native American cultural remains, there was low probability of any early European American cultural remains. Phase IB shovel testing revealed only scattered items pertaining to mid- to late-twentieth century European American occupation, such as bottle glass, plastic and an iron round nail. Field survey did not reveal the presence of any prehistoric or historic sites. The Phase IA and IB reports were submitted by the consultant directly to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation- Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau (SHPO). Based on the project information provided, SHPO recommended that the project would have No Effect upon cultural resources in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Enclosed are copies of the Phase I report and the SHPO response letter (12PR04595).

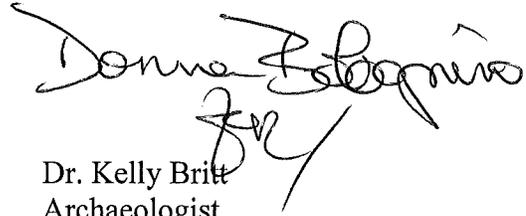
If you are aware of any significant prehistoric/historic archaeological resources that may be affected by this project, or have any information regarding the project area, please respond within 30 days or sooner of date of this letter. Please also indicate in your correspondence if there are other sources 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 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

212-680-8816 or via email at Kelly.Britt@fema.dhs.gov, or Donna Bolognino, who is working directly on this project, at 518-396-3843 or via email at Donna.Bolognino@fema.dhs.gov

Sincerely,



Dr. Kelly Britt
Archaeologist

Enclosures:

Figures 1 and 2

Phase 1A and 1B Archaeological Survey

SHPO Response

Cc: Arnold Printup Jr., Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

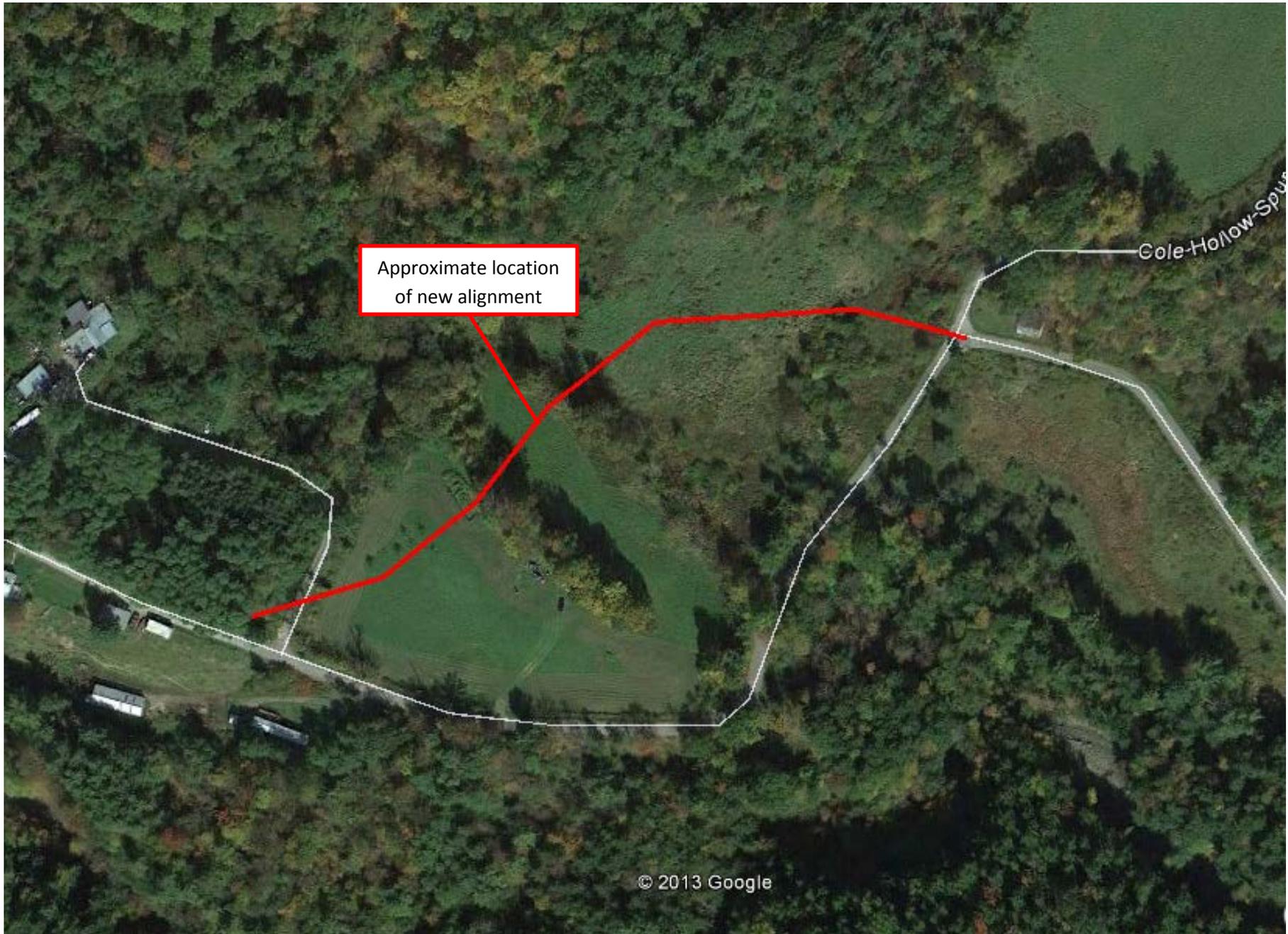


Figure 1: Project location map.

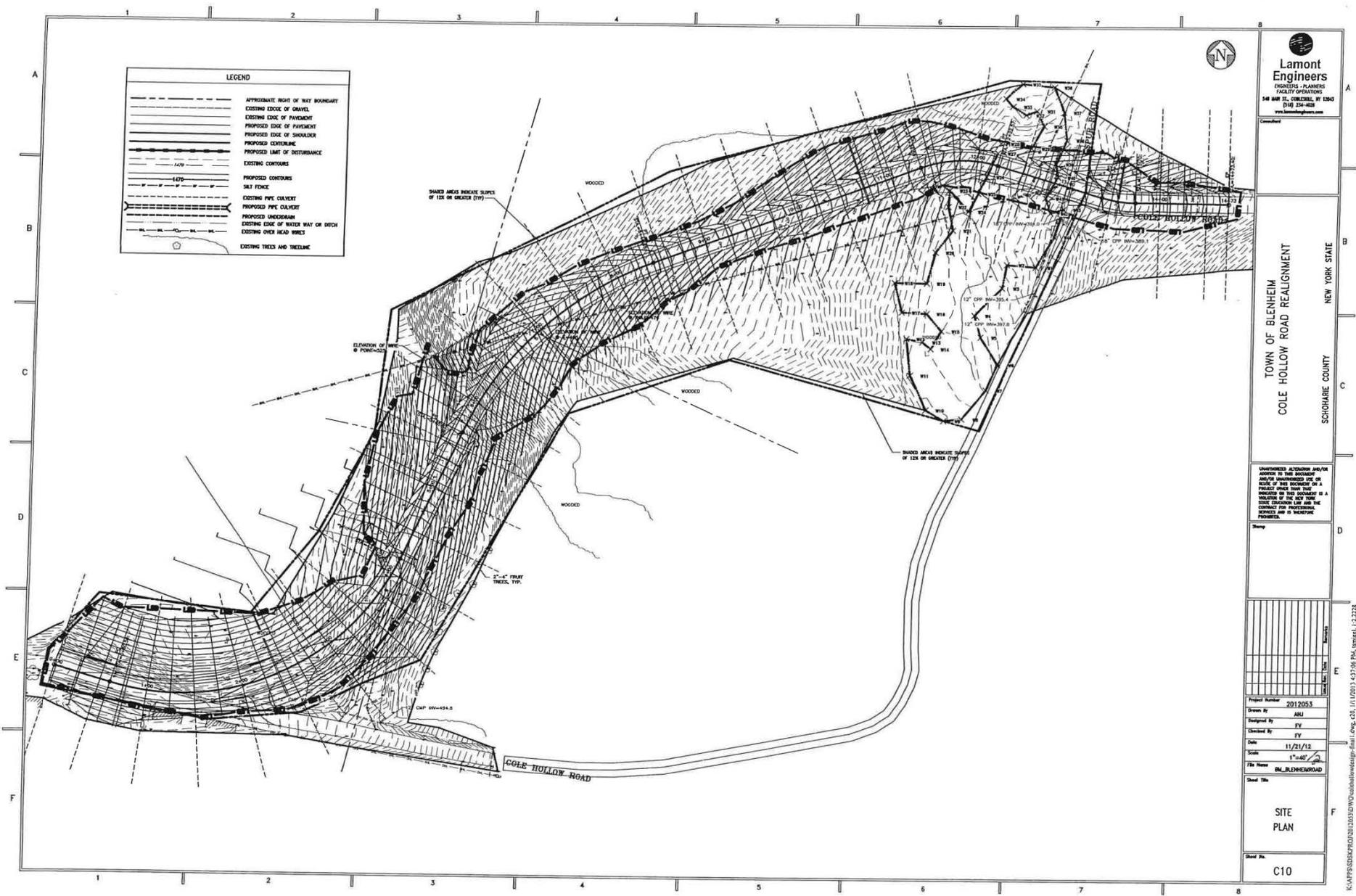


Figure 2: Site plan for new roadway alignment.



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

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P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
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17 April 2013

Mr. Brendon Becker
Lamont Engineers
P.O. Box 610
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Re: FEMA, DEC
Cole Hollow Road Relocation
Town of Blenheim, Schoharie County
12PR04595

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These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation 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 State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8) and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617).

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Perazio, OPRHP
Phone: 518-237-8643 x3276; FAX: 518-233-9049
Email: Philip.Perazio@parks.ny.gov

Cc: Stephen Oberon, Columbia Heritage (via email)



Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

April 30, 2014

Donna Bolognino
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza, 13th Floor
New York, NY

Re: Cole Hollow Road Reconstruction Project #PA-02-NY-4020-08505

She:kon Ms. Bolognino,

This letter is in response to a request for a Section 106 consultation between your agency and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. The following project(s) that you requested my office to consult on are considered being of "No Effect" in regards to cultural properties of concern to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe:

Cole Hollow Road Reconstruction Project #PA-02-NY-4020-08505

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe requests to be immediately contacted in the event any inadvertent discoveries of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony are made during the scope of this project.

Should you or your office have any further questions in regards to these comments please feel free to contact my office at your earliest convenience.

Nia:wen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arnold L. Printup III".

Arnold L Printup
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1(518)358-2272 Ext. 163

412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Phone: 518-358-6135
518-358-6176
Fax: 518-358-9157