



Photograph 5: Center of project site facing southwest from south side of Brewer Street toward parking area at south end of SNET building.



Photograph 6: Example of late 1960s era multifamily dwelling fronting onto west side of Glenn Street, facing west from project site.



Photograph 7: Example of late 1960s era multifamily dwelling fronting onto east side of Graham Street, facing east from project site.



Photograph 8: Late 1960s era multifamily dwelling at southeast corner of Brewer and Graham Streets, in approximate location of former Brewer/Vibert farm complex, facing east from project site.



Photograph 9: Late 1960s era multifamily dwelling fronting onto Leichtner Street and bordering southern end of project site, facing south from project site.



Photograph 10: Northeastern corner of project site with buried and above grade utility lines, facing north from west side of Graham Street.

**PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
**PROPOSED FIRE STATION, 141 BREWER**  
**STREET**

**EAST HARTFORD**  
**CONNECTICUT**



**PHASE IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
PROPOSED FIRE STATION, 141 BREWER STREET  
EAST HARTFORD  
CONNECTICUT**

**Prepared For:**

Milone & MacBroom, Inc.  
99 Realty Drive  
Cheshire, CT 06410

**Prepared by:**

Historical Perspectives, Inc.  
PO Box 3037  
Westport, CT 06880

**Authors:**

William Sandy, MA, RPA and Cece Saunders, MA, RPA

**March 2010**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of East Hartford, in Hartford County, Connecticut is planning to erect a new fire station at 141 Brewer Street, between Glenn Road on the west and Graham Road on the east. The project site is an undeveloped 2.37 acre lot designated as Parcel B, with Parcel A – the site of an extant 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial building – immediately to the west. Parcel B is lightly wooded and bordered by residential lots to the south.

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) of Westport, Connecticut was subcontracted by Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) to conduct the Phase IB Archaeological Survey. Previously, HPI completed a Phase IA Documentary Study that concluded that the project site might be sensitive for both precontact and historical archaeological resources. Phase IB testing was recommended.

This Phase IB study entailed the excavation of archaeological shovel tests (STs) within the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). The tasks undertaken for this study, and this resultant technical report, are designed to meet the standards established by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (1987).

During the Phase IB archaeological field investigation, a total of 40 hand-excavated STs were tested on a 15-meter grid in Parcel B. Much of the project had two or three layers of fill, measuring roughly 30cm to 50cm in thickness. This fill, and the buried A horizon immediately beneath it, contained modern material as well as a few historical artifacts, but no *in situ* archaeological deposits were encountered. Furthermore, there were no artifact concentrations or features. ST34 had the only Precontact find; an isolated grayish brown chert flake came from the uppermost A horizon. This find was in the southwest part of the property, near the SNET fence. The chert flake was considered to be a stray find from a disturbed context. The limited amount of historical material that was recovered was determined to be typical unassociated field scatter and therefore not considered potentially significant. Therefore, no additional archaeological consideration or further investigation is warranted for 141 Brewer Street.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION .....	1
II.	FIELD RESEARCH METHODS .....	2
A.	<i>TESTING METHODOLOGY</i> .....	2
B.	<i>FIELD TESTING RESULTS</i> .....	2
III.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	3
IV.	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	4

FIGURES

PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX A:       Summary of Shovel Tests

## FIGURES

1. *Project Site Location, Hartford North, Hartford South, Manchester, and Glastonbury Quadrangles. U.S.G.S., 7.5 Minute Series.*
2. Location of Area of Potential Effect (APE) and Phase IB Archaeological Testing (based on URS 2008).

## PHOTOGRAPHS

1. ST4, located on the east portion of property, at the start of excavation. Facing north with Brewer Street in the background and Graham Street to the right.
2. ST11 in progress. Facing east with Graham Street in background.
3. Profile of ST22. Facing south.
4. The northwest portion of Parcel B with the SNET complex in Parcel A to the right. Facing south from ST33.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Town of East Hartford, in Hartford County, Connecticut is planning to erect a new fire station at 141 Brewer Street (Figure 1). The proposed construction site for the new station is on the south side of Brewer Street, between Glenn Road to the west and Graham Road to the east (Figures 2 and 3). The project site is an undeveloped 2.37 acre lot designated as Parcel B, with Parcel A – the site of an extant 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial building – immediately to the west. That building is occupied by Southern New England Telephone (SNET). Parcel B is lightly wooded and bordered by residential lots to the south (Schneiderman-Fox 2010: Photographs 1 through 5).

As a function of the permitting process, the project site has been previously evaluated for archaeological sensitivity in a Phase IA technical report. The report was completed by Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) of Westport, Connecticut under contract to Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI), in February, 2010 (Schneiderman-Fox 2010). The Phase IA concluded that the project site is sensitive for Precontact archaeological deposits, due to the high number of documented sites on similar landforms in the immediate vicinity, and the questionable degree of historical disturbances. There was also some potential for buried 19<sup>th</sup> century historical archaeological resources. The Phase IA report recommended Phase IB field testing in order to verify the presence/absence of buried cultural resources.

Phase IB field testing entailed the excavation of a series of Shovel Tests (STs) spaced at an interval of no greater than 15 meters, as per the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (1987). It was also recommended that if undisturbed historical archaeological deposits were encountered, the testing interval might be reduced to no more than 7.5 meters (Schneiderman-Fox 2010:13). The results of the Phase IB testing, also completed by HPI, are presented herein.

## II. FIELD RESEARCH METHODS

### A. TESTING METHODOLOGY

The Phase IB field investigation was conducted in the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) (Figure 2). Fieldwork consisted of the hand excavation of a series of shovel tests (STs) to determine if any archaeological artifacts and/or features were present within the site. The fieldwork, artifact analysis, and technical report are designed to meet the standards established by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* (1987).

As recommended, fieldwork was designed to ascertain the presence or absence of cultural resources in the APE. Determining the extent, integrity, and National Register eligibility of any existing archaeological resources was beyond the scope of this phase of research.

The field testing plan called for the excavation of STs on 15-meter grid within the APE (Figure 2, Photographs 1 - 4). Each soil stratum encountered during field testing was explored and documented and the cultural materials in each level were noted in order to identify their context and integrity, as well as to further ascertain whether or not any potential *in situ* cultural resources or features were present. Appropriate field notations, drawings, and photographs were made during field testing and the results of each ST were documented on preprinted forms (see Appendix A). All of the STs were hand excavated and soil was sifted through ¼-inch mesh screen. Soil colors were established with *Munsell Soil Color Charts*.

### B. FIELD TESTING RESULTS

Field testing was completed by a team of five archaeologists under the direction of William Sandy, RPA on March 5, 2010. The weather was warm and partly-cloudy with no snow cover present on the ground surface. The Phase IB reconnaissance survey covered the APE within Parcel B, which consisted of about 2.37 acres (URS 2008; Figure 2).

With the exception of the extreme southeastern corner of the project site, which had been previously graded and bore obvious signs of disturbance, STs were placed at 15m intervals on a grid covering the rest of the APE (Figure 2). A total of 40 STs were excavated during the field survey (Appendix A; Figure 2, and Photographs 1 - 4).

Approximately one-half of the STs had simple, natural profiles consisting of three strata: A, B, and C horizons. Eighteen of the tests had two or three levels of fill atop the natural profile; the fill was usually 30 to 52cm thick. The Phase IA documentary study concluded that the APE had been historically used for the cultivation of tobacco (Schneiderman-Fox 2010). Although a typical A horizon plow zone was anticipated (Apz of approximately 20-25cbs), this was not observed in the ST profiles. Instead, the upper A horizon in most locations appears to have been redeposited. In several cases, the A horizon below the fill was too thin to be a plow zone, and appears to have been truncated at some time in the recent past (e.g., in ST2 it was only 5cm thick; see Appendix A). The presence of late 20<sup>th</sup> century material in the uppermost strata throughout the site, the multiple levels of fill found in several STs, and the truncated A horizon, suggest that the whole site was regraded with heavy machinery during the late 20th century.

Furthermore, several of the B horizon subsoils appear to have been disturbed, likely through bioturbation, as evidenced by the presence of 20<sup>th</sup> century material (e.g., ST17 had modern green bottle glass in the B horizon). Sterile B and C subsoils were eventually encountered in almost every ST.

Only one Precontact artifact was found during the field investigation. ST 34 yielded one grayish brown chert flake in the uppermost A horizon (Appendix A; Figure 2). This ST was located in the southwest part of the property, immediately next to a chain-link fence and the paved parking lot of the SNET building to the north. The chert flake was considered to be an isolated stray find from a disturbed context, given its proximity to the parking lot that had been extensively graded and paved (Figure 2).

A few modern and historical artifacts were recovered from the fill layers identified in several of the STs (e.g., STs 10, 11, and 25), as well as truncated and/or disturbed A horizons (e.g., STs 8, 15, and 23). Historical artifacts from the A horizon included one whiteware sherd in ST1 and three small fragments of yellowware in ST14 (see Appendix A). Two fragments of purple bottle glass were encountered intruding into the B horizon in ST36 (Appendix A), thus indicating a disturbed subsoil stratum. None of the historical artifacts represent an original historical deposit, as they were recovered from a disturbed context. These materials are typical unassociated field scatter that are often found in local farm fields (see Schneiderman-Fox and Sandy 2009).

### **III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Phase IB Archaeological Survey of Parcel B, 141 Brewer Street field was intended to establish the presence or absence of potential cultural resources in the APE. The initial field pedestrian reconnaissance of the property did not reveal any obvious artifacts or features. A total of 40 STs were excavated in a 15m grid across Parcel B. ST34 had the only Precontact find; a grayish brown chert flake recovered from the uppermost disturbed A horizon. This find was in the southwest part of the property, immediately adjacent to the SNET fence and the paved parking. The chert flake was considered to be a stray find from a disturbed context.

Much of the project site had two or three layers of fill, about 30cm to 50cm thick. This fill and the buried A horizon contained modern material and a few historical artifacts. There were no concentrations or features identified during the investigation. The recovered historical artifacts were determined to represent typical field scatter and are not considered potentially significant. No additional archaeological consideration or further investigation is warranted for 141 Brewer Street.

#### IV BIBLIOGRAPHY

Forrest, Daniel, Brian Jones and Bruce Clouette

2006 *Phase 1A Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, Rentschler Field Project/Compilation Plan, East Hartford, Connecticut.* Prepared for Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc., by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.

Schneiderman-Fox, Faline

2010 *Phase 1A Cultural Resources Survey, Proposed Fire Station, 141 Brewer Street, East Hartford, Connecticut.* Prepared for Milone & MacBroom, Inc. by Historical Perspectives, Inc.

Schneiderman-Fox, Faline and William Sandy

2009 *Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, Rentschler Field, Pickle and Recreation Lots, East Hartford, CT.* Prepared for Milone & MacBroom, Inc. by Historical Perspectives, Inc.

URS

2008 *Property Survey Land of the Southern New England Telephone Company 125 Brewer Street, East Hartford Connecticut.* URS Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

U.S.G.S.

1980s *Hartford North, Hartford South, Manchester, and Glastonbury, Connecticut Quadrangles.* United States Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Series.