

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY, THE NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
OFFICER, THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,
AND THE OWEGO APALACHIN SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE DATA RECOVERY
OF SIGNIFICANT ARCHEOLOGICAL INFORMATION FROM THE OWEGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PREHISTORIC SITE,
VILLAGE OF OWEGO, NEW YORK**

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security proposes to administer Federal disaster public assistance pursuant to Section 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §5121-5206 (Stafford Act) through the New York State Office of Emergency Management (herein referred to as “NYSOEM”/“Grantee”) to the Owego Apalachin School District, Town and Village of Owego, Tioga County, New York, (herein referred to as Subgrantee); and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is the replacement of the Owego Elementary School (herein referred to as the “Undertaking”), which was severely damaged as a result of flooding from September 7 to September 11, 2011, that resulted in federally declared disaster DR 4031-NY (Tropical Storm Lee) and the creation of a floodplain retention area on the school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Subgrantee proposes to locate the new school on the site of the old school but on a slightly different footprint after reviewing other alternatives that indicated locating the new school to the north east of the existing school on the 100 acre school-owned parcel would situate it closer to an active rail line, putting the children at risk and endangering known prehistoric archeological sites in that area eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (herein referred to as the “NRHP”); and

WHEREAS, only 3.5 acres of the 100-acre parcel are located outside of the floodplain and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and state/local regulations require that the new school be elevated at or above the 100-year floodplain Base Flood Elevation and the 500-Year Flood Elevation; and

WHEREAS, to elevate the structure to be in compliance with NFIP and local ordinances, the Subgrantee considered a combination of columns and fill, but it is more cost effective to place the structure entirely on fill; and

WHEREAS, local floodplain regulations require that an excavated floodplain retention area of volume equal to the volume of fill added within the flood plain to elevate the new school building be added to the project and that based upon the morphology of the river, it was recommended that the excavated floodplain retention area be located upstream of the proposed building location; and

WHEREAS, A Phase I Archeological Survey and a Phase II Site Examination conducted by the Subgrantee concluded that the potential floodplain retention area had sufficient data potential to be eligible for the NRHP, and FEMA, in consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), has determined that the Owego Elementary Prehistoric Site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (correspondence dated May 3, 2013, reference number 12PR05046) and its removal to create a floodplain retention area will result in an adverse effect to historic properties, and the SHPO concurred with FEMA's determinations of eligibility and effect; and

WHEREAS, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes a 6.2- acre site in a modified triangular-shape northwest of the proposed school building where the floodplain retention area is to be located; the surveys suggest that within the APE is a single-task field camp site, which is defined as relatively high-density, short duration small site with a mostly bifacial tool kit, and this type of site has an unlikely probability of finding human remains, sacred cultural features, or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 U.S.C. 3001), and does not have long-term preservation value of traditional, cultural or religious importance to an Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric Site is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion D and is significant, and of value, chiefly for the information on pre-history that it is likely to yield through archeological, historical and scientific methods of recovery through archeological excavation, and FEMA, NY SHPO, Grantee and Subgrantee agree that it is in the public interest to expend funds to implement a Data Recovery Plan (DRP) attached as Appendix A to mitigate the adverse effects of this Undertaking; and

WHEREAS, FEMA, pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(a)(1), has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its adverse effect determination with specified documentation and of its intent to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to satisfy FEMA's Section 106 responsibilities, and the ACHP, pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(a)(1)(iii), has declined, in a letter dated May 15, 2013 to participate in the resolution of the adverse effect or to become a signatory party to an MOA, and;

WHEREAS, FEMA and the SHPO will be referred to as signatories for this agreement; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has invited the Grantee and Subgrantee who will implement the DRP to be invited signatories to the MOA; and

WHEREAS, FEMA has notified the Seneca Nation of Indians, the Cayuga Nation, and the Onondaga Nation, all of New York, (collectively referenced as "Tribes") as set out in 36 CFR §800.3(f)(2) and provided information regarding identified historic properties in the APE, information regarding the history and topography of the APE, and afforded the Tribes an opportunity to participate in the consultation; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca and Cayuga Nations did not respond to FEMA's notification and request for participation, nor did they express an interest in the project; and

WHEREAS, the Onondaga Nation has expressed interest and has requested a Tribal field monitor be present during the DRP, and requested receipt of copies of all reports produced for the DRP, but has declined the opportunity to concur with the terms of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, to the best of their knowledge, FEMA and SHPO have determined that the archeological site does not possess special significance to any other ethnic group or community that historically ascribes cultural or symbolic value to the site and would object to the excavation of the site's contents; and

WHEREAS, the site is not valuable for potential *in-situ* display or public interpretation; and

WHEREAS, all reference to the time periods in this MOA are in calendar days and notices and other written communication may be submitted by e-mail; and

NOW, THEREFORE, FEMA, SHPO, the Grantee and the Subgrantee agree that the Undertaking will be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to mitigate the effect of the Undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

To the extent of its legal authority, FEMA will ensure that the following measures are carried out in coordination with the NY SHPO, the Grantee and the Subgrantee:

I. Financial Responsibility

FEMA will reimburse to the Subgrantee its approved grant cost-share for the authorized costs necessary to complete Phase III DRP proposed by the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF), and the field monitoring of the DRP to be conducted by the Onondaga Nation. Those reasonable costs associated with FEMA's Public Assistance Grant Program's approved scope of work that is the subject of this MOA, and are necessary for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act are to be considered as authorized.

II. Treatment Measures

A. Archeological Testing and Monitoring

1. It is the responsibility of the Subgrantee to implement the DRP, dated February 5, 2013, that has been developed in consultation with the SHPO. It will be implemented under the direct supervision of a person, or persons meeting at a minimum the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Standards in Archaeology (48 FR 44738-44739). The DRP will conform to the guidelines that are included in the ACHP's Guidance #6, *Recommended Approach for Consultation on Recovery of Significant Information from Archeological Sites*, as well as to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

(NYSOPRHP) Standards (1994 and 2005) (see <http://nysparks.com/shpo/environmental-review/documents/PhaseIReportStandards.pdf>) and the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) *Cultural Resource Standards Handbook* (2000) (see http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/research/anthropology/crsp/resources/NYAC_handbook.PDF) for the DRP and;

2. The schedule of archeological testing and monitoring will adhere to that described in the DRP. A tribal member from the Onondaga Nation will monitor all ground disturbance activities per the DRP upon the request of the Nation.

III. Documentation and Recordation

A. The Subgrantee is responsible for coordinating weekly conference calls with the Grantee and FEMA to discuss progress and will ensure that all parties to the agreement including the Onondaga Nation are kept informed of the status of its implementation.

1. General Schedule will be as follows:

- a. Two weeks after completion of archeological fieldwork, an End of Field Letter will be generated and disseminated to FEMA, SHPO, Grantee, Subgrantee and the Onondaga Nation.
- b. If all parties agree that the work is completed and covers all aspects of the DRP, a Concurrence Letter will be generated by NY SHPO and provided to FEMA and the Grantee who in turn will provide it to the Subgrantee.
- c. Within one year of the concurrence of the End of Field Letter, a Final Report will be submitted to FEMA, SHPO, Grantee, Subgrantee and the Onondaga Nation for their files. The completed educational plan(s) (see page 14 of the DRP) will be included as part of the Final Report.
- d. The Final Report will adhere to the professional standards, and to the *Department of Interior's Format Standards for Final Reports of Data Recovery Programs* (42 FR 477-70) and well as NYSOPRHP Standards (1994 and 2005) and NYAC's *Cultural Resource Standards Handbook* (2000).

IV. Protection of Archeological Resources and Post-Review Discoveries

A. The Subgrantee's contractor will immediately cease construction activities in the vicinity of any form of discovery during implementation of the project. Personnel will take all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm to the archeological find(s) and/or avoid or minimize further unanticipated effects.

- B. The person or persons encountering such properties or effects will immediately notify the following representatives: the SHPO at (518) 237-8643; the Grantee's contact Rick Lord at (518) 292-2370; and FEMA Environmental/Historic Preservation contact Donna Bolognino at (518) 396-3843. Construction in the area of such sites or effects will not resume until the requirements of 36 CFR §800.13(b)(3) have been met.
- C. If human remains are discovered during the course of the DRP implementation and/or during the course of project implementation, the Subgrantee's contractor shall immediately stop construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm. The Subgrantee's contractor will immediately make the notifications as stated above and FEMA in conjunction with SHPO will advise Subgrantee and their contractor of any applicable laws of the State of New York. FEMA will immediately notify the Onondaga Nation of the discovery, if they have not been previously notified by being on site during the discovery. The signatories and invited signatories will consult to determine the appropriate course of action from that point forward in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR §800.13(b)(3); federal, tribal, state, and local laws, including the Onondaga Nation's policy on the discovery of human remains (Appendix B).
- D. If sacred objects are uncovered, FEMA will consult with the National Park Service in accordance with the NAGPRA.

V. Anticipatory Actions

In accordance with Section 110(k) of the NHPA, FEMA shall not grant assistance to a subgrantee who, with intent to avoid the requirements of this Agreement or Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly and adversely affected a historic property to which the assistance would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed an adverse effect to occur. However, FEMA may, after consultation with the Council, determine that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the subgrantee.

VI. Duration of Agreement

- A. This agreement will be null and void if its terms are not carried out within eighteen (18) months from the date that it has been executed by all signatories. Prior to such time, FEMA may consult with the signatories to reconsider the terms of the agreement and amend it in accordance with this Stipulation.
- B. If any signatory or invited signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out or that an amendment to its terms must be made, that party will immediately consult with the other parties to develop an amendment to this MOA pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(c)(7) and 800.6(c)(8).

- A. Any signatory or invited signatory to this MOA may propose to FEMA that the MOA be amended, whereupon FEMA will consult with all signatories to the MOA to consider such an amendment.
- B. The signatures of the signatories and invited signatories hereto will be required to make any amendment to this MOA. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy that is signed by all of the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

VII. Dispute Resolution

- A. If any objection or dispute should arise within the duration of this MOA to any plans, specification, or actions provided for review pursuant to this MOA, FEMA will consult further with the objecting party to seek resolution.
- B. If FEMA determines that the dispute cannot be resolved, FEMA will forward all documentation relevant to the dispute including FEMA's proposed resolution to the ACHP in accordance with 36 CFR §800.11(e), within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of receiving adequate documentation, the ACHP will either:
 - 1. Advise FEMA that it concurs with FEMA's resolution to the dispute; or
 - 2. Provide FEMA with recommendations, which FEMA will take into consideration in reaching a final decision regarding the dispute; or
 - 3. Notify FEMA that it will comment pursuant to 36 CFR§800.7(c), and proceed to comment. Any comment provided will be taken into consideration by FEMA in accordance with 36 CFR §800.7(c)(4) with reference to the subject of the dispute.
- C. If ACHP does not provide advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day time period, FEMA shall make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, FEMA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories to the MOA, and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response. FEMA will then proceed according to its final decision.
- D. Any recommendation or comment provided by the ACHP will be understood to pertain only to the subject of the dispute, and the responsibilities of the signatories to this agreement to fulfill all actions that are not subject of the dispute will remain unchanged.

VIII. Termination and Non-Compliance

- A. If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party will immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment in accordance with Stipulation VII above.
- B. If within thirty (30) days an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories.
- C. Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the Undertaking, FEMA must either a) execute a new MOA with the signatories and invited signatories of this agreement or b) pursuant to the provision of 36 CFR §800.7, request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP, FEMA will notify the signatories and invited signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

IX. Execution and Implementation of the MOA

- A. This MOA will be executed in counterpart, with a separate signatory page to be signed by each party.
- B. FEMA will provide each signatory and the ACHP with a signed original of this MOA. The MOA will become effective upon signature of all signatory parties and a copy will be filed with the ACHP pursuant to 800.6(b)(1)(iv).
- C. Execution of the MOA by the signatories and the invited signatories of the documentation and filing this MOA with the ACHP pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(b)(1)(iv) and compliance with its terms evidences that FEMA has satisfied its responsibilities under Section 106 of NHPA and its implementing regulations.

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SIGNIFICANT ARCHEOLOGICAL INFORMATION FROM THE OWEGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PREHISTORIC SITE

SIGNATORY PARTY 1 OF 2

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

BY: Megan Jadrosich Date: 7/3/2013
Megan Jadrosich
Regional Environmental Officer,
FEMA Region II

BY: Lawrence O'Reilly Date: 7/3/2013
Lawrence O'Reilly
Recovery Division Director,
FEMA Region II

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SIGNATORY PARTY 2 OF 2

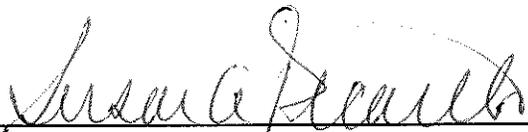
**NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

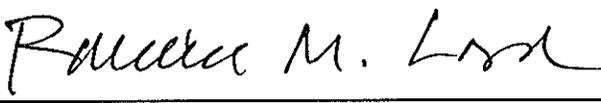
BY: *Ruth Pierpont* Date: 1/3/20
Ruth Pierpont
Deputy Commissioner/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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INVITED SIGNATORY PARTY 1 OF 2

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY:  Date: 7/1/13
Susan A. Picarillo
Alternate Governor's Authorized Representative

BY:  Date: 7/1/13
Richard M. Lord
Agency Preservation Officer

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INVITED SIGNATORY PARTY 2 OF 2

**THE OWEGO APALACHIN SCHOOL DISTRICT, TOWN AND VILLAGE OF
OWEGO, TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK**

BY: William C Russell **Date:** 7/1/13
Dr. William C. Russell
Superintendent of Schools Owego Apalachin Central School District
Town and Village of Owego, Tioga County

APPENDIX A

Data Recovery Plan for Owego Elementary School

Proposed by Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) February 5, 2013



Public Archaeology Facility Report

DATA RECOVERY PLAN
OWEGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PREHISTORIC SITE (SUBI-3024)
FLOOD MITIGATION AREA
OWEGO APALACHIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT
VILLAGE OF OWEGO (MCD 10740)
TIOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK
12PR05046

BY:
TIMOTHY D. KNAPP

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

FEBRUARY 5, 2013

Binghamton University, State University of New York
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000



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I. INTRODUCTION

This document presents a Phase 3 Data Recovery Plan (DRP) for the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site (SUBI-3024), located in the Village of Owego, Tioga County, New York (Figure 1). A Phase 1 reconnaissance survey conducted by the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) for the Owego Elementary School and Flood Mitigation project identified this prehistoric site, and recommended a Phase 2 site examination to determine National Register Eligibility (Knapp and Stiteler 2012). The Phase 2 site examination (Knapp 2013) determined that the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site exhibited high research potential and was potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. PAF archaeologists recommend a Phase 3 data recovery if impacts to the site could not be avoided. A Data Recovery Plan outlining our proposed field, analysis, and reporting methods was requested by the Owego Apalachin School District.

1.1 Site Location

The site is located 58 m (190 ft) east of Owego Creek and approximately 2.3 km (1.4 mi) north of the creek's confluence with the Susquehanna River (Figure 2). The Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site falls on a section of creek floodplain at an elevation of approximately 248.7 m (816 ft) ASL.

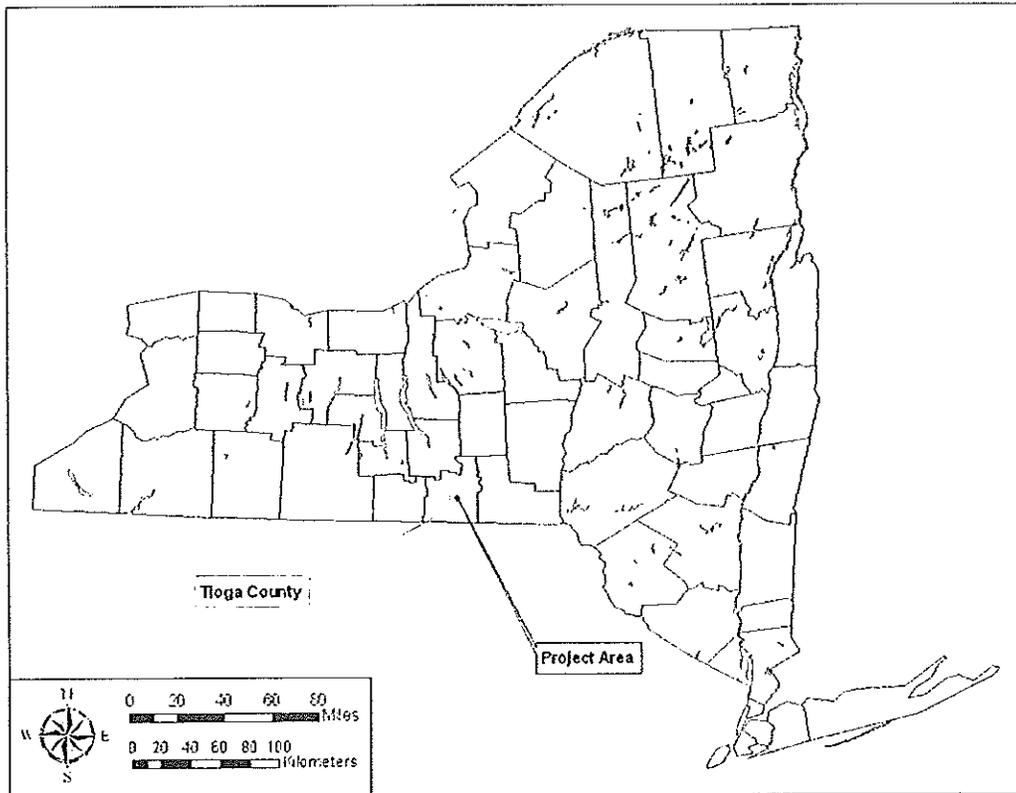


Figure 1. Location of project area in Tioga County.

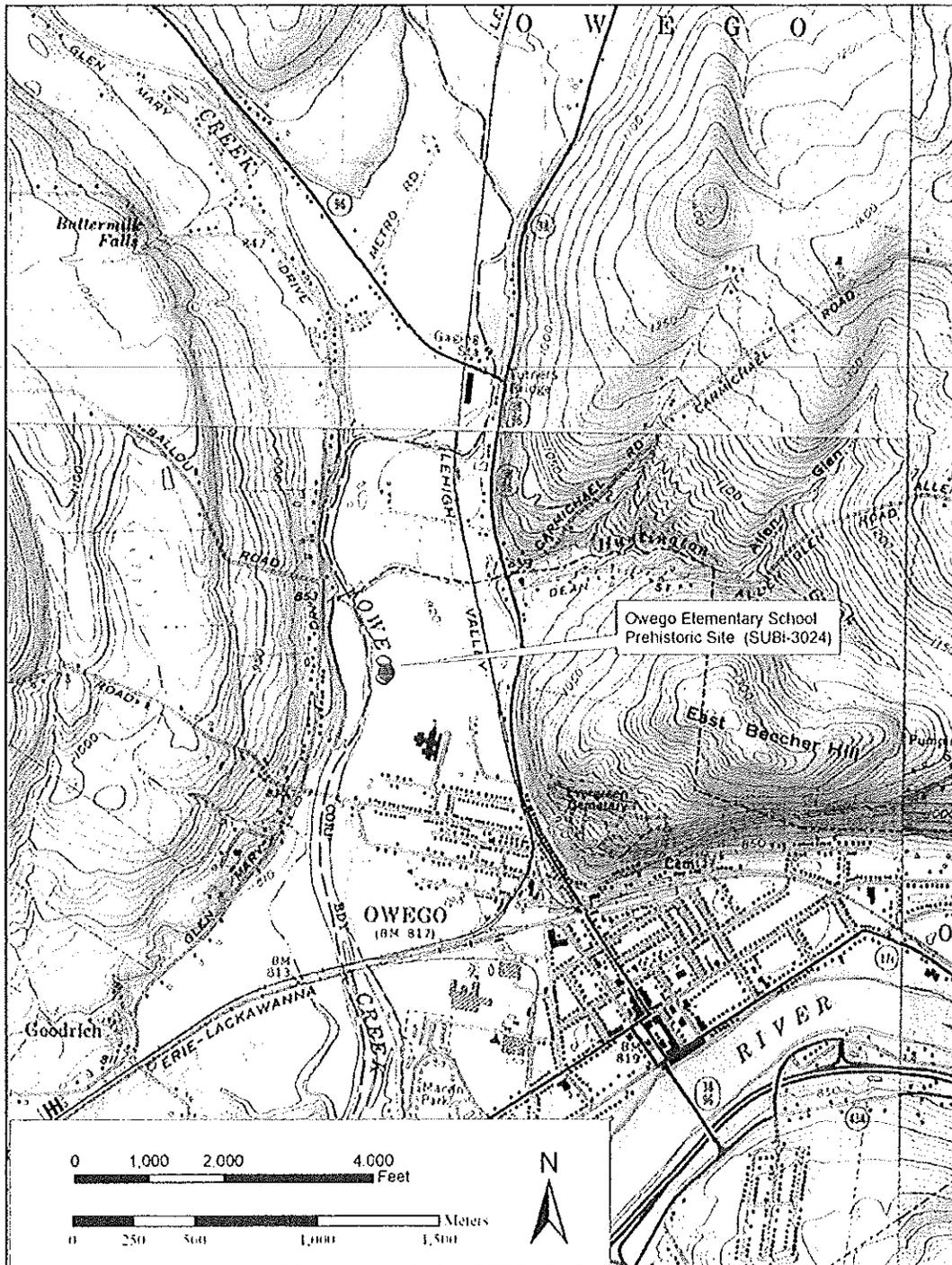


Figure 2. Location of the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site on 1969 Owego, NY USGS 7.5' quadrangle.



1.2 Archaeological Investigations

During the reconnaissance survey archaeologists identified the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site (SUBi-3024). The site was initially discovered by a single shovel test pit (STP D8) that included a single non-cortical Onondaga flake (Figure 3). All four surrounding STPs on the original reconnaissance 15 m (49 ft) grid were negative, indicating the site was relatively small. Subsequent close interval 1 m (3.3 ft) radial testing suggested that the site did not extend to the north or east. Positive STPs were located 1 m (3.3) to the south and west. Additional radial STPs 3 m (9.8 ft) to the west and south of STP D8 were negative. The results of the reconnaissance survey indicated that the site measured 4 by 4 m (13.1 by 13.1 ft) for a total area of 16 m² (172 ft²).

During the site examination, three excavation units were placed immediately adjacent to the cluster of three positive reconnaissance STPs. When it became apparent that the most productive unit (Unit 3) was located at the extreme eastern site boundary (as defined by reconnaissance STPs) archaeologists excavated five supplemental STPs on a 5 m (16.4 ft) grid to the east and south. Based on these supplemental STPs, the site size was revised to 8 by 11 m (26 by 36 ft) for a total site area of 88 m² (947 ft²). The cultural material associated with this site was recovered from the first 71 cm (28 in) below ground surface. Unit excavation represents a 3.4% sample of the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site as redefined during the site examination.

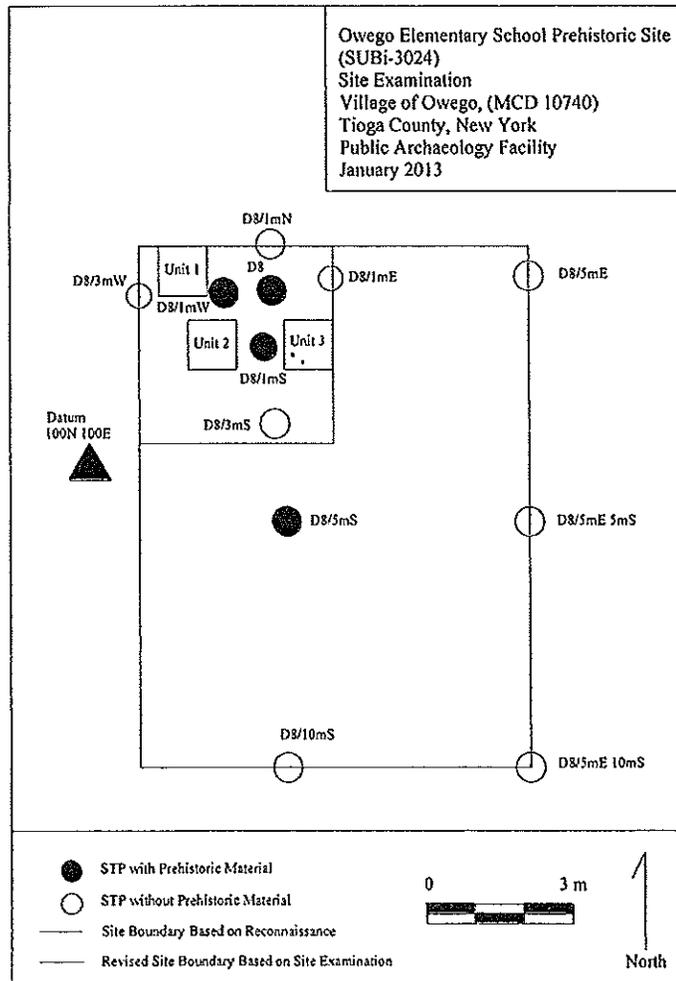


Figure 3. Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site examination map.



Table 1 summarizes the artifacts found from the reconnaissance and site examination. The entire prehistoric assemblage is exclusively chipped stone artifacts. No groundstone (e.g., celts), roughstone (e.g., net weights or pitted stones), fire-cracked rock, or prehistoric pottery was found. A single broken projectile point, tentatively identified as a Brewerton-like side- or corner-notched type, suggests a Late Archaic (ca. 3000-2500 BC) age for the site. Detailed analyses of the debitage assemblage suggest a strong reliance on a bifacial tool technology. The high ratio of flakes to chunk/shatter, small flake size, near complete absence of cortical flakes, and high frequency of faceted platforms all point to activities associated with late stage manufacture and/or maintenance of bifaces.

Table 1. Summary of prehistoric artifacts from Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site

		Count	Percent
Chipped Stone Classes	Debitage	196	98.9
	Bifaces	2*	1.0
	Total	198	100.0
Raw Material	Onondaga	198	100.0
Debitage Types	Non-cortical flakes	191	97.4
	Cortical flakes	3	1.5
	Shatter	2	1.0
	Total	196	100.0
Flake Condition	Whole	23	11.9
	Broken (retains platform)	96	49.5
	Fragment (platform missing)	75	38.7
	Total	194	100.0
Flake Platform Types	Cortical	0	0.0
	Concave	26	22.2
	Flat	24	20.5
	Dihedral	5	4.3
	Faceted	42	35.9
	Pointed	0	0.0
	Collapsed	20	17.1
	Total	117	100.0
Platform Characteristics	Lipping	28 of 119	23.5
	Grinding	6 of 119	5.0
Flake Utilization		10 of 194	5.2
Heat/Burning		1 of 198	0.5

*The two biface fragments are from a single projectile point.



Despite general stratigraphic similarities across this small site, there is some notable geomorphologic variation tied to the underlying glacial geology and post-Pleistocene soil development. The typical stratigraphic sequence is fill, Ap, B1, and C horizons (Figure 4). The uppermost stratum is a dark brown or very dark brown silt loam fill horizon that extends from the surface to between 11 and 18 cm (4.3 and 7.1 in). This fill caps a dark brown silt loam buried plow zone (Ap) that extends to 27-35 cm (10.6-13.8 in) below the surface. Below the B1 horizon is a yellowish brown to dark yellowish brown gravelly sand silt the C horizon. The depth to the C horizon varies considerably over a short distance. In Unit 2, the top of the C horizon is only 21 cm (8.3 in) below the surface in the northwest corner, and dips to 75 cm (29.5 in) in Unit 3, only 1 m (3.3 ft) to the east. The high variability in C horizon depth, results from the presence of an underlying ancient gravel bar associated with the post-Pleistocene stream, which resulted in variable alluvial deposition during Middle Holocene through overbank flooding. Prehistoric artifacts were almost exclusively (98%) within the B1 horizon at depths between 41 and 71 cm (16 and 28 in) below the surface.

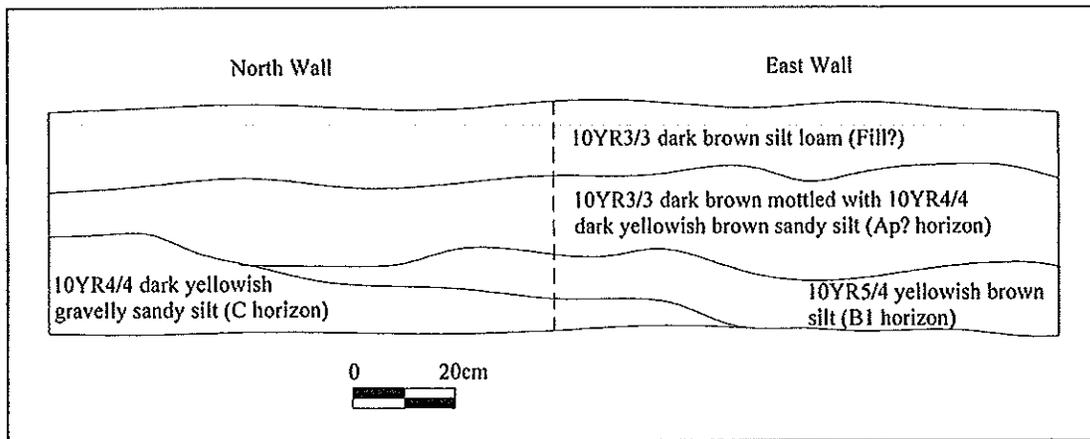


Figure 4. Unit 2, north and east wall profiles, Owego Elementary School Prehistoric Site.

Site examination excavations produced one possible feature, a post mold in Unit 3. This 6 cm (2.4 in) in diameter post mold began at 46 cm (18 in) and extended down another 23 cm (9.0 in).

II. RESEARCH CONTEXT

The Public Archaeology Facility is involved in extensive research on Late Archaic sites throughout the Upper Susquehanna, including work in: the upper main stem between Cooperstown and Oneonta (Miroff et al. 2010; Rafferty 2002); the main stem of the river between Oneonta and Binghamton (Knapp 2005; Kudrle 2004, 2005; Miroff 2002a; Miroff and Kudrle 2003; Wurst and Lain 1998; Wurst and Versaggi 1992); the Chenango sub-basin (Knapp 2011; Wurst and Versaggi 1993); the lower main stem of the river between Binghamton and Waverly (Grills 2012; Miroff and Wilson 2006; Miroff et al. 2008; Versaggi and Miroff 2004; Versaggi et al. 1982); the Owego Creek sub-basin (Miroff 2000, 2002c); the Chemung sub-basin (Miroff 2002b); the Canisteo sub-basin (Horn 2008); and the Tioga River sub-basin (Kudrle 2002; Miroff 2006). The research proposed for the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site will use existing research designs and contribute to these ongoing investigations by addressing a series of research topics.

2.1 Environmental Setting

As part of the reconnaissance survey a detailed study of the soils and geomorphology for the proposed Owego Elementary School and Flood Mitigation Project was conducted and is briefly summarized here (Knapp and Stiteler 2012). The project area lies within the Glaciated Low Plateau section of the Appalachian Plateau physiographic province, an area that was repeatedly covered by continental ice sheets during the Pleistocene. The



last of these continental ice sheets, the Wisconsinan, retreated from the project area sometime between 14,000 and 16,000 BP, releasing vast amounts of meltwater and outwash that flowed south through the Owego Creek valley.

The Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site is located 58 m (190 ft) east of Owego Creek, a fifth-order tributary of the Upper Susquehanna River (Figure 5). The site lies 2.3 km (1.4 mi) north of where Owego Creek joins the Susquehanna River. Above the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site, the Owego Creek drainage basin covers approximately 800 km² (170 mi²). Huntington Creek (Monkey Run), a minor tributary of Owego Creek, is located 440 m (1444 ft) north of the site. Approximately 1 km (0.6 mi) to the north, Catatonk Creek joins Owego Creek. Catatonk Creek provides a natural transportation corridor leading to Cayuga Lake.

Bedrock underlying the APE 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.

As the Wisconsinan glacial epoch came to a close around 16,000 years ago, the valleys of the North Branch Susquehanna River and tributaries such as Owego Creek were deeply aggraded with glacial outwash. In the lowest reach of the Owego Creek valley large amounts of outwash accumulated because of the elevated base level of the main stem valley. As the ice front receded from their drainage basins, the supply of outwash was cut off and the river and its tributaries began reworking and removing the accumulated glacial material. Removal of the outwash was seldom complete; resulting in the creation of remnant outwash terraces along valley edges as the streams downcut the central part of their valleys and began construction of floodplains made up of coarse- to fine-textured alluvium. The soil profiles of these floodplains, constructed as the river and stream channels migrated laterally across the valley floor, generally exhibit a fining-upward character. The base of the profile is made up of channel-bottom gravel, cobbles, and channers capped by sand deposited as in-channel bars or lateral deposition. The sand is covered by very fine sand, silt, and clay deposited by overbank floods that spread across the aggrading floodplain surface.

Although geomorphological investigations indicated that soil profiles in the general vicinity of the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site consist of 75 to 100 cm of Holocene overbank alluvium capped by up to 65 cm of gravelly fill, reconnaissance STP data documented considerably more variability in alluvium thickness and fill content. The extent of pedologic development seen in the profiles, the majority of which consisted of Ap/Bw1/Bw2/C sequences, strongly suggests that the sediments date to the Middle Holocene and later. No argillic (Bt) horizon development was noted, the presence of which would have connoted greater age and stability. The varying thickness of the fill cap – even over relatively short lateral distances – suggests that the floodplain exhibited a gently undulating surface before being leveled by addition of the fill. The highest degree of profile variability and the least expression of soil development were noted in the soil profiles closest to the Owego Creek channel. This suggests that the proximal part of the floodplain was a geomorphologically dynamic area, as is usually the case. Anomalously greater depth to bedload gravel in some STPs is attributable to the presence of an abandoned channel segment that filled in with silty and clay-rich slackwater deposition.

Much of the soils adjacent to Owego Creek, including the Owego Elementary School site, are mapped as Unadilla silt loam, 0-3% slope (Unn) (USDA 2012; Figure 5, p. 7; Table 1). 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.

2.2 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-xxxi). While this cultural-historical framework obscures temporal and regional variability, it does highlight major developmental trends in the northern woodlands. A diagnostic projectile point, tentatively identified as Brewerton-like, suggests that the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site dates to the Late Archaic.



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).

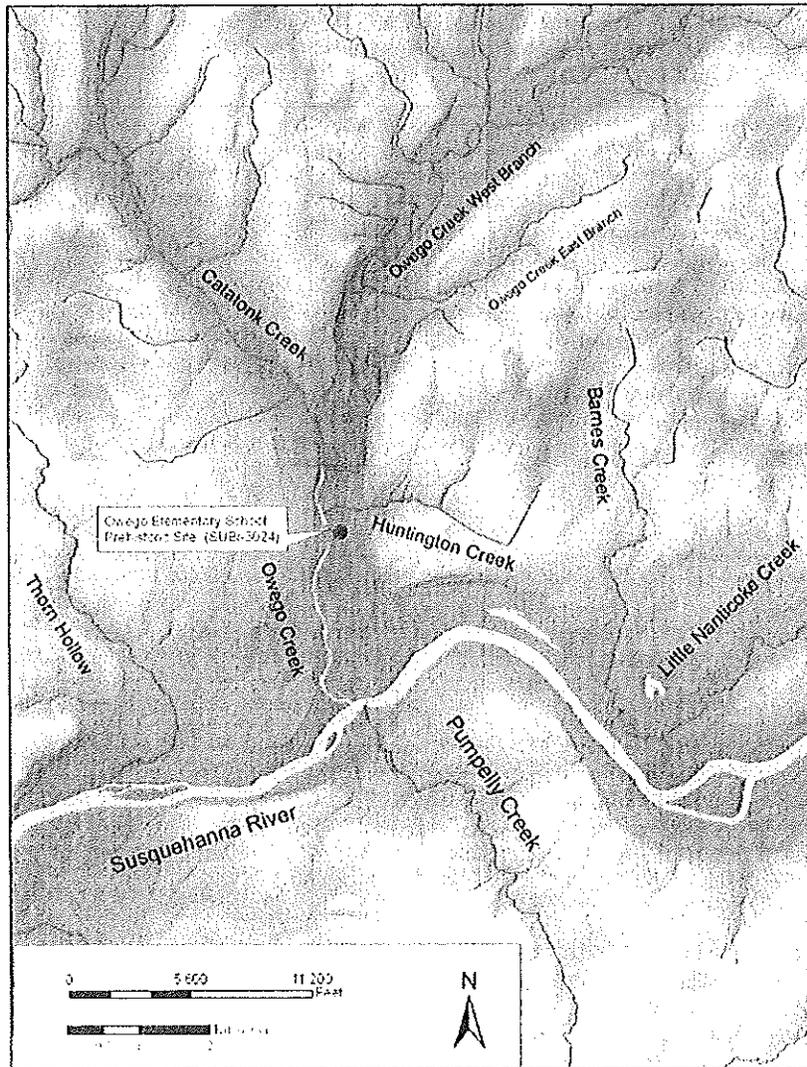


Figure 5. Regional digital elevation showing the location of the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site.



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).

2.3 Research Objectives

Using Versaggi's (1987, 1996) research on prehistoric hunter-gatherer settlement models in the Upper Susquehanna drainage, the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site can tentatively be classified as a single-task field camp. This site type is defined in part as relatively high-density, short-duration, small sites, with a mostly bifacial tool-kit, all of which the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site clearly meets. One hallmark of the single-task field camp, the presence of specialized tools, is poorly represented in the Owego Elementary School assemblage. However, this may be related to the relatively small excavation sample, and may be clarified with additional excavation. The specific activities that occurred at this single-task field camp are uncertain, but could be answered with a larger artifact sample and targeted analyses, such as microwear analysis. The Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site was part of a larger Late Archaic settlement system, which likely included a longer-term residential base-camp, probably near the confluence of Owego Creek and the Susquehanna River.

The data recovery will focus on the role of the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site within its contemporary Late Archaic settlement and subsistence system. Within this general theme, researchers will address the following specific topics:

- *Chronology.* Excavations documented a buried cultural horizon containing a Brewerton-like projectile point. The presence of diagnostic artifacts in a sealed context can assist in defining site chronology. The recovery of additional diagnostic projectile points would clarify the site's age and allow researchers to tie this upstream site to a confluence area base camp;
- *Subsistence and Seasonality.* Analysis of stone tools and usewear provides data on the types of potential food resources procured and processed on the site and may allow for the assessment of seasonality of the occupation;



- *Site function.* Formal tools, utilized flakes, and intra-site spatial structure have high research potential in regards to questions of site function for the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site. Documenting additional postmolds, such as Feature 1, may lead to the identification of a temporary shelter such as a lean-to or the delineation of ephemeral above-ground processing features such as drying racks. Assessing site function allows for this site to be placed within existing models and frameworks for regional settlement patterns;
- *Lithic reduction strategies.* Data on debitage, raw materials, and tool forms can be used to address the stages of reduction present on the site and how these relate to models of mobility and lithic management. These strategies also contribute to an interpretation of site function.

2.4 Regional Comparisons

Data from the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site will be compared with other Late Archaic sites in the Upper Susquehanna drainage. Comparisons will include sites from the Upper Susquehanna's main trunk as well as its various sub-basin tributaries. Baseline data collected from these sites will include, but is not limited to the following: site size; site age; landform; stream order; distance to water; feature types and densities; artifact density; expedient/formal tool ratio; debitage/tool ratio; flake to chunk/shatter ratio; frequency of non-local raw materials; non-cortical/cortical flake ratio; and average flake size (and weight).

2.5 Synthesis and Interpretation

Each of the research topics discussed above will be integrated into an interpretative model of subsistence and settlement during the Late Archaic period in the Owego Creek valley. This synthesis will specifically address the function of this site within a larger settlement and subsistence system and the regional context of the site. Stone tool analysis and an examination of subsistence remains recovered from features are critical information for assessing site function and seasonality. These data will highlight the types of resources targeted and the range of processing activities occurring at the site. Data on lithic reduction/management systems in operation at the site will inform on group mobility, which is relevant to any understanding of the site's role in a larger settlement system. Data on raw material types utilized at the site will contribute to our understanding of possible lithic exchange networks and regional integration of groups.

III. METHODOLOGY

In order to accomplish the research objectives of this data recovery, field investigations will need to adequately sample the horizontal and vertical extent of the site. The goal is to retrieve a representative sample of artifacts and features from the site area so that the research topics can be addressed.

3.1 Field Methodology

The Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site is small; approximately of 88 m² (947 ft²). The proposed field strategies include both unit excavation and stripping of the A-horizon. Specifically, we propose the following:

- **Unit excavation.** Archaeologists will excavate an additional 10-12 units measuring 1 x 1 meter within the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site area.
- **Mechanical stripping of the site topsoil.** Once unit excavations are complete, a backhoe will remove the fill/Ap horizons and archaeologists will shovel clean the surface of the B1 horizon to locate features. Since features are as important as artifact clusters on the site, this field strategy will insure that this data potential is fully examined. In addition, if any burials are present, this method will expose the top of the burial pit. A backhoe with a smooth-bladed bucket supplied by the Owego/Appalachian Central School District will remove the fill/Ap horizons. This topsoil stripping will be monitored by the project and field directors. Once the B1 horizon is exposed, crews will shovel-scrape the loose soil in order to clean the subsoil surface to reveal traces of potential features. Soil will need to be excavated to a depth of 30-50 cm (10-20 in) to remove the fill/Ap horizons.



- **Feature excavation.** Any features located during shovel-scraping will be systematically excavated using the normal PAF process. First, their boundaries will be defined by trowelling, then plan views will be drawn and the feature will be photographed. Soil discolorations, post-holes, etc. will be cross-sectioned to obtain a vertical profile. The remaining half will also be bisected to obtain a perpendicular profile. Standard-sized (approximately 10 liters, where possible) soil samples for flotation will be collected for each feature. We estimate that 1-2 features will be found within the project limits.

Units will be excavated by removing the top 20 cm (8 in) fill horizon as a single level. The next excavation level will take out the approximately 10 cm (4 in) thick plowzone (Ap horizon). The remaining soil matrix will be excavated in arbitrary 5 cm (2 in) levels within the natural or cultural soil layers to identify potential temporal stratification in the cultural deposits. Each unit will extend at least 10 cm (4 in) into culturally sterile subsoil or until the gravelly C horizon is fully exposed. Archaeologists will excavate all units with shovels and trowels. Soil will be screened through a ¼ inch hardware mesh onto plastic sheeting. All artifacts will be noted and bagged by level.

Table 2. Summary of Field Investigations for the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site

Type of Excavation	No.	Total Area Excavated (m ²)
Phase 1 and 2 STPs	24	1.5 m ²
Site Examination Units	3	3 m ²
<i>Subtotal:</i>		4.5 m ²
Proposed Data Recovery Units	10-12	10-12 m ²
Mechanical Stripping		100% of site area

With the data recovery, approximately 14-16 m² (16% to 18%) of the site area will be systematically excavated and screened. The mechanical stripping of the site will provide 100% coverage for features and partial recovery of artifacts noted during the stripping process. This combination of excavation and soil removal offers an acceptable balance for this data recovery.

3.2 Laboratory Methods

Following fieldwork, all artifacts will be processed and analyzed in the laboratories of the Public Archaeology Facility. Artifacts will be processed and catalogued according to standard procedures. Analysis of chipped and rough stone artifacts will occur in a staged manner according to reduction stages and functional attributes. Other artifacts, such as fire-cracked rock (FCR), will be counted and/or weighed as appropriate.

3.3 Analysis Methods

Chronology

Central to the analysis of the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site is a definition of the chronological components present on the site. This task is dependent on finding diagnostics and/or datable features. Assuming that features are found, carbon samples will be submitted to Beta-Analytic of Coral Gables, Florida to provide radiometric dating of the site. Carbon samples too small for standard C-14 methods will be submitted for AMS dating. These data will be combined with stratigraphic information to define both vertical and horizontal components on the site. The resulting chronology will structure the form of all subsequent analyses.

Landuse and Settlement Patterns

Detailed lithic analysis (technological and functional) and intra-site analysis are needed to address this research objective. Technological analysis will focus on the procurement and manufacture of chipped stone tools, while the functional data will focus on the activities these tools performed. In both cases, the purpose of the analysis



is to make visible productive tasks (labor) that were occurring within the site context. However, the type of labor that each category of data addresses is very different. Technological analysis provides information on the techniques and stages of lithic reduction that were being performed on site. Information regarding procurement of lithic raw material is also recorded during this phase of analysis. Functional analysis addresses the types of activities for which lithic tools were used. These data provide a more holistic view of the chipped stone tradition and provide an interesting perspective on the day-to-day activities that were occurring on the site.

Technological Lithic Analysis

Analysts will collect data focused on reconstructing the system(s) of raw material procurement and chipped stone tool manufacture. Lithics first will be classified by raw material type. There are three major chert-bearing rock units in New York. Devonian limestones contain the chert-bearing Onondaga and Helderberg limestones; and Ordovician shales contain the chert-bearing Normanskill shale (Cassedy 1993; Hammer 1976). The most extensive units are the Onondaga and Normanskill formations. While all three rock units converge in the Hudson Valley region, Normanskill is confined geographically to the Hudson Valley and eastward while Onondaga cherts outcrop in a broad band across southern New York from the western edge of the Hudson Valley to as far west as Buffalo (Cassedy 1993; Hammer 1976; Lavin and Prothero 1992). In the east the formation extends south into northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Tennessee (Hammer 1976:48). In central and western New York, the Onondaga formation is the major chert-bearing unit (Cassedy 1993:40). Helderberg cherts outcrop primarily west of the Hudson River along the Allegheny Plateau between the Normanskill and Onondaga formations (Cassedy 1993).

In southern New York, Onondaga cherts are by far the most commonly encountered material on prehistoric sites. While primary quarry sources are not common, source areas have been identified for Onondaga chert in the Buffalo area, Normanskill chert in the Coxsackie-Catskill area (Lavin and Prothero 1992), and for Helderberg chert in eastern Green County, New York (Cobb and Webb 1994). It is likely that the majority of Onondaga chert found in archaeological contexts in the southern New York region were obtained from secondary sources (Lavin and Prothero 1992). Raw material types can aid in understanding possible lithic exchange networks and regional interaction.

All chipped stone debitage will be assigned to one of five artifact classes: bifacial tools; unifacial tools; cores; flakes; and chunk/shatter. Each artifact will then be size-graded, by placing the artifact on its ventral surface on a series of graded circles of known diameter: from 0-1" the size grades are every 1/16"; from 1-2" the size grades are every 1/8"; and above 2" three size grades are recognized (2-2.5", 2.5-3", and >3"). Every artifact will be weighed to the nearest 0.01 gram.

After the initial size grading, recording of raw material, and weighing, artifacts will be separated into two different analytic streams: debitage (cores and flakes) and tool. Cores are defined as culturally modified stone from which one or more flakes have been removed for further modification or use, but in which the piece itself is generally not intended for further use. Cores are assigned to one of the following subtypes: bipolar; amorphous; bifacial; and blade. Flakes are pieces of stone removed from a core by a single blow. All flakes will be assigned to one of the following subtypes: cortical (having at least some cortex on the dorsal surface); non-cortical (no dorsal cortex); bipolar (exhibiting characteristic damage at opposing edges); and blade (define as flakes that have a length:width ratio of greater than 2 and typically have parallel dorsal flake scars that run the length of the flake). Chunk and shatter are catch-all categories for pieces of stone that lack flake attributes (i.e., debris). In general, chunk and shatter have an ambiguous ventral surface and striking platform. A chunk is a blocky fragment of material; a cortical chunk is a chunk with exterior surface (cortex) present. Shatter, generally small in size, is defined by the lack of diagnostic flake attributes (platforms or easily differentiated dorsal and ventral surfaces; Henry 1989:254; Parry 1987:34; Sullivan and Rozen 1985).

A detailed attribute analysis will be conducted on the flake assemblage. As part of PAF's standard attribute analysis the following data will be recorded: flake condition; dorsal cortex type; platform type; platform grinding; platform lipping; exposure to heat (evaluated based on color change or presence of pot lid spalls); and macroscopic evidence of usewear.

The system of recording flake condition is based on Sullivan and Rozen's (1985) debitage typology which was intended as an "interpretation free" system of debitage classification. There are four types of flake condition: whole, broken, fragments, and debris. Whole flakes retain the platform and all margins are intact. Broken flakes



have intact platforms, but are broken along a lateral or distal margin. Flake fragments lack platforms. Debris includes chunks and shatter, and are therefore not technically flakes.

Two attributes of dorsal surface cortex will be recorded: the relative amount of dorsal surface covered with cortex; and indications of whether the cortex derived from a primary (tabular) or secondary (cobular) raw material source. The relative amount of cortex was estimated as: 100%, 76-99%; 51-75%; 26-50%; 1-25%, or 0%.

Flake platforms will be placed into one of seven platform type categories, based largely on the number of flake scars (facets) present on the platform: cortical; flat; concave; pointed; dihedral; faceted; and collapsed. Platforms retaining the original exterior surface of the raw material were coded as cortical. Flakes with a single facet were described as flat, concave, and pointed. Platforms with two facets are dihedral, and those with more than two facets are assigned to the faceted category. Collapsed platforms are those where a platform remnant is present, however, much of the platform has been crushed during flaking and therefore cannot be confidently placed in one of the other types. Platform grinding and platform lipping will be recorded as present or absent.

The resulting artifact catalogs will be entered into a relational data base management program (Paradox) to facilitate subsequent analysis.

Functional Lithic Analysis

Lithic artifacts initially will be cataloged using a general classification system developed by Melody Pope (1996). The typology used for the analysis of chipped stone artifacts is modeled after the type-subtype classification system described by Odell (1982, 1996). The system separates the lithic artifacts into formal tool types (e.g., drill, gouge, graver, etc.), debitage/core, fire-cracked rock, groundstone, or unmodified rock. Formal tools (e.g., drills, graters, hoes, projectile points, etc.) are then further described by specific characteristics (e.g., a projectile point may be catalogued as fluted, bifurcated based, or Brewerton, etc.). Expedient tools are an important aspect of a site's functional interpretation. All debitage will be examined macroscopically for use wear, and interpretations will follow based on the patterning evident.

A sample of 8-10 utilized chipped-stone artifacts (including both formal and informal tools) will be submitted for a detailed micro-wear analysis. Thomas Loebel, a microwear specialist at St. Xavier University, has agreed to analyze these materials. The analysis will follow a two-stage procedure. First the entire assemblage will be scanned at low and high magnifications to characterize the nature of the use traces if present and to determine which pieces are suitable for further analysis. Prior to further examination, suitable pieces will be subjected to a cleaning process in order to remove any surface deposits that may obscure or distort the accurate observation of microwear traces. This will involve washing and immersing the item in ammonia based detergent in order to remove any finger grease and residual soil deposits. Pieces will then be briefly (3 minutes) placed in a warm HCl (10% solution) to remove any lime or mineral deposits, and then immersed in KOH (20-30% solution) to remove any extraneous organic deposits.

The second phase of the analysis will involve recording detailed information on attributes of the micro-polish and striations to infer information about contact material, tool motion, and edge condition. After cleaning, all items will be examined at a range of magnifications from 40x to 400x using an Olympus BHM incident light microscope with photo attachment. All working edges and artifact surfaces will be examined for evidence of micro polishes, striations, edge damages, and the location of any identified use wear will be noted on a line drawing of the tool. Photographs of representative damage or use-wear will be obtained using a Nikon Coolpix 995 3.3 mega pixel digital camera.

Feature Analysis

To establish feature function a typological analysis will be conducted. Important variables to be used in this analysis are: size, shape, and feature contents. This analysis will involve an examination of existing feature typologies for the Eastern Woodlands (e.g., Stewart 1975, 1977; Stahl 1985; Ritchie and Funk 1973; Hatch and Stevenson 1980; Knapp 1996).



Large-volume (e.g. 10 liters, where possible) soil samples will be collected and floated from each feature on the site. The recoveries from each floated feature will be sent to consultants for archaeobotanical analysis and if larger than expected volumes are derived, these will be sampled during analysis. Faunal remains will be analyzed at Binghamton University. The data generated from feature and subsistence analyses will be used to address the research topics outlined in Section II.

Intra-site Analysis

Analysis of site function and structure within the project limits will examine spatial variability in artifact diversity and density across the site space. Units excavated on the site will be characterized by their individual artifact content. Content will be defined using the gross categories derived from the lithic reduction study and the low-power search for utilization. Previous studies have found that common clusters resulting from this form of analysis include groupings dominated by manufacturing by-products; those with a major component of expedient tools; those with an assemblage dominated by curated tools; as well as other less common combinations. These groupings, in turn, can be linked to feature locations and a preliminary model of the site's spatial structure emerges. This model will then be refined using the results of the technological and functional analysis of lithics to better define how the site space was divided and used. The data generated from these spatial analyses will be used to estimate site function and how this site fits within existing settlement models of prehistoric landuse within the Upper Susquehanna drainage.

Regional Analysis and Interpretation

Each of the data sets discussed above will be integrated to provide an interpretation of the prehistoric landuse patterns in the region surrounding the Owego Elementary School Prehistoric site. This synthesis will specifically address the function of this site within a larger settlement and subsistence system and the regional context of the site. Macrowear analysis and an examination of subsistence remains recovered from features are critical information for assessing site function and seasonality. These data will highlight the types of resources targeted and the range of processing activities occurring at the site. Data on lithic reduction/management systems in operation at the site will inform us on group mobility, which is relevant to any understanding of the site's role in a larger settlement system. Data on raw material types utilized at the site will contribute to our understanding of possible lithic exchange networks and regional integration of groups. These data will be used to refine and enhance the research context presented in Section II.

Proposed Schedule

Field:	3-5 weeks
End of Field letter:	2 weeks following the completion of field work
Final Report:	1 year following acceptance of the End of Field Letter

IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

After excavations and analyses are complete, PAF staff will consider potential public outreach projects, such as a pamphlet for local schools, an addition of the site results to PAF's web page, and/or a small exhibit for schools and local historical societies. Once the outreach potential of the data is known, a final decision will be made as to the most effective presentation and the target audience for that presentation.

In addition, once the quality of results is known, presentations will be made at professional and/or amateur meetings such as the annual NYSAA conference, ESAF, and MAAC. Depending on the results of analysis, findings and interpretations will be prepared for publication in scholarly journals and presentations at national meetings, such as SAA.



V. CURATION POLICY

The Public Archaeology Facility maintains professional collections curation facilities that comply with federal standards (36 CFR Part 79) and professional guidelines. All artifacts, notes and other documentation of the data recovery will be curated according to federal (36 CFR Part 79) and state guidelines (NYAC 1994) in the facilities of the Department of Anthropology at Binghamton University.

Use of our collections is restricted to qualified professionals and students for study, loan, public interpretation, exhibition and scientific analysis. All requests for collection use are considered by the Director of PAF. Short-term, supervised use of collection material is available in secure work areas. Long-term loans are time limited and made only to researchers associated with an institution (educational or museum) who can demonstrate that a safe and secure environment can be maintained for the duration of the loan.

The proper curation of collections at the university maintains this data base in the public domain and guarantees that this information is available for serious researchers.

VI. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE/NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION HUMAN REMAINS DISCOVERY PROTOCOL

In the event that human remains are encountered during construction or archaeological investigations, the State historic Preservation office (SHPO) requires that the following protocol is implemented:

- At all times human remains must be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. Should human remains be encountered, work in the general area of the discovery will stop immediately and the location will be immediately secured and protected from damage and disturbance.
- Human remains or associated artifacts will be left in place and not disturbed. No skeletal remains or materials associated with the remains will be collected or removed until appropriate consultation has taken place and a plan of action has been developed.
- The Director of PAF, county coroner and local law enforcement as well as the SHPO and the involved agency will be notified immediately. The coroner and local law enforcement will make the official ruling on the nature of the remains, being either forensic or archaeological. If the remains are archaeological in nature, a bioarchaeologist will confirm the identification as human.
- If human remains are determined to be Native American, the remains will be left in place and protected from further disturbance until a plan for their avoidance or removal can be generated. The involved agency will consult SHPO and appropriate native American groups to develop a plan of action that is consistent with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) guidance.
- If human remains are determined to be Euro-American, the remains will be left in place and protected from further disturbance until a plan for their avoidance or removal can be generated. Consultation with SHPO and other appropriate parties will be required to determine a plan of action.



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January 18, 2013

Dr. Bill Russell, Superintendent
Owego Apalachin Central School District
36 Talcott Street
Owego, NY 13827

Re: Elementary School Demolition and Reconstruction - Evaluation of staging area

Dear Dr. Russell:

Per our conversation yesterday, we have reviewed our Phase I testing report from December 2012 written by Timothy Knapp, and evaluated our results in relation to the newly proposed staging area between the current school and George Street.

Attached is a map with the proposed staging area outlined in blue. Tim Knapp, PAF project director for this project, checked our records and verified that we did test in this area. In addition, there were some backhoe trenches. It appears that most of our STPs in this area found deep layers of fill. This was confirmed by the two backhoe trenches dug in this area. Trench 7 (closer to the road) had 60 cm (24 inches) of fill. Trench 8, to the north, documented disturbed soils to 140 cm (55 inches). We could not test where the FEMA trailers are located in this area, but only 2 STPs would have been excavated here. Extrapolating from Trench 8 and nearby STPs, fill and disturbed soils for at least 2 ft in depth are probably underneath the FEMA trailers. There are also buried utilities now in this area.

Our recommendation is that no cultural resources are present in this area to the depths of our testing. If scraping of the ground surface for the proposed staging area is restricted to the depths we discussed (6-12 inches) I do not see any concerns that SHPO or FEMA would have in this area.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Nina M. Versaggi

Nina M. Versaggi, PhD RPA
Director of PAF

enc.

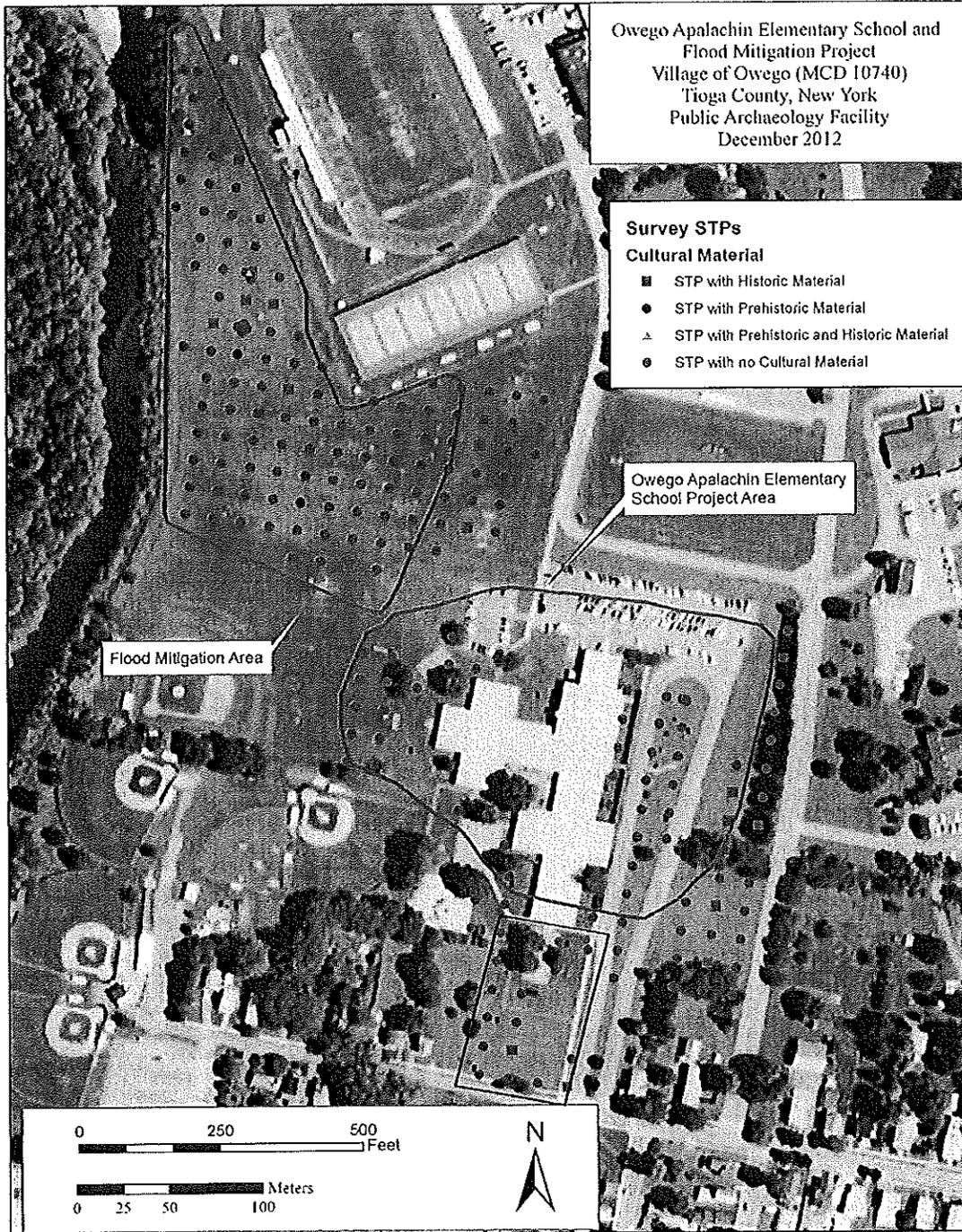


Figure showing proposed staging area (in blue) and the shovel test pits (red) and backhoe trenches (green) excavated during Phase 1 testing.

APPENDIX B

Haudenosaunee Policy and Protocol on Human Remains

 <p>The Haudenosaunee Policies on this page are the official word of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy as promulgated by the Grand Council of Chiefs concerning cultural patrimony & repatriation.</p>	<p>Note:</p> <p>From Kanatiyosh. The policies contain statements that are important to insure cultural sensitivity towards the Haudenosaunee. The statements are evidence of why some school projects, museums, private collections, sellers, governments, and etc., are not being culturally sensitive or respectful to the Haudenosaunee.</p>
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Haudenosaunee Policy on Human Remains

Haudenosaunee Beliefs

We have been taught that we bury our dead into the ground so that their bodies can become part of the sacred Earth. We believe that we come from the Mother Earth and that the human remains that rest within the Earth are an important spiritual connection to the spirit of the Earth. The Earth is enriched by the dead as our flesh becomes part of the soil.

The souls of the dead have a path of destiny that they must follow. We refer to this as their journey after life. In this way, we feel that the dead are around us and hover over us as we hold ceremonies or dances. We believe that the dead have power and it is dangerous to neglect the spiritual needs of the dead.

The protection of the human remains and associated graves, sacred burial sites and related objects from the graves of the Haudenosaunee are the responsibility of each generation of chiefs, clan mothers, and faithkeepers. We believe that the remains, the associated burial objects and the actual soil in which they rest is sacred. There is no acceptable excuses to justify the desecration of this sacred burial.

Violation of Our Spiritual Rights

Removing the remains from their eternal resting place is a great desecration to both the dead and the living. The disturbance, destruction, and theft of the dead is a violation of the religious and spiritual welfare of the Haudenosaunee.

As long as the human remains are disturbed, there will be spiritual consequences to our people. The desecration of the graves of our ancestors, no matter what the age of the burial, is a violation of our religious freedom.

Permits issued by the State of New York or any other local government, to allow anyone to violate the sanctity of the graves of our ancestors can no longer be tolerated. In the past, our ancestors buried many objects along with the body with the belief that in the afterlife, you will need all of those things that you need in this life.

All types of objects have been associated with burials, including decorated clothing, glass beads, shell beads, silver combs, tools and weapons, ceramic and metal cooking pots, wampum belts, strings of wampum, and a variety of personal items. The removal of these objects from the grave is a theft from the dead.

Violation of Our Human Rights

The remains of our dead are not "archaeological resources" that are subjects of study. They are human beings who once lived on this land. They had real lives and feelings. They had spiritual expectations about their final resting places. To look at Native Peoples as objects rather than people is a gross violation of our human rights.

All graves and burial sites, Native or not, deserve respect. Our dead relatives deserve the basic human right to a dignified burial. We do not believe in the use of permanent headstones to mark graves of our ancestors and state law makes a difference between cemeteries and unmarked burials.

Our burial sites deserve to be considered hallowed ground, whether they are

marked or not. There has been a double standard in dealing with our people and non-Native remains. Non-Native grave sites are often afforded more protection than Native burials.

Despite the efforts of state agencies to identify Native grave locations, construction permits are issued nonetheless. Our dead deserve the same right to an eternal resting place as all other races and religions.

Violation of Our Treaty Rights

The unearthing of the remains of our ancestors from their eternal resting place is also a violation of the promises made to the Haudenosaunee under the terms of the Canandaigua Treaty of 1794. By that treaty, the United States, including the State of New York, promised not to "disturb" the Haudenosaunee in the free use and enjoyment of their lands.

We have been on record protesting the desecration of our graves. The continual destruction of Native graves, the stealing of the Native remains and the looting of burial objects causes us serious mental, emotional, and spiritual harm.

Our people are continually upset by these events and we have been forced to adjust our spiritual traditions to accommodate outside developments. The desecration of our dead violates the mutual respect promised by the United States as they pledged a firm and permanent friendship between our peoples.

The treaty also promised to remove the cause of complaint that upsets our peace. We therefore make it clear that the desecration of the graves of our ancestors causes great harm to our people and the United States and State of New York have an obligation to protect the general welfare of our people as promised in the legally binding treaties.

4.7 Protocol for Handling Discovery of Human Remains

	<u>Known Burials</u>	<u>Unidentified Burials</u>
When to contact?	Intentional excavation At the earliest time in decision-making process.	Inadvertent Discovery Upon discovery.
Which Nation to contact?	<p>If find is within existing Nation boundary, contact that Nation's Cultural Resource representatives.</p> <p>If the find is within the traditional land use area (fifty mile radius from the current nation territory, contact the closest Nation's Cultural Resource Representative.</p> <p>If the find is within the aboriginal territory of each nation, as shown on the attached map, contact the Nation within that territory. For finds located within fifty miles on either side of the boundary lines shown on the map, contact the Cultural Resource Representatives of both Nations.</p>	
Who to contact?	Haudenosaunee Cultural Resource Representatives HSCBRR	Haudenosaunee Cultural Resource Representatives HSCBRR
How to contact?	Contact list is provided.	
Information Required	Brief description of the find or potential find; site map and any information on the known cultural history of the area and summary of nearby archaeological findings.	
	Nation will send a representative to review the site.	Company must hire a Native American on-site observer.
Next steps	<p><i>Non-disturbance of burials is preferred.</i></p> <p>If after proper consultation, the remains must be removed, we prefer to have them reburied close to their original location as possible, provided the future sanctity of the grave can be assured. <i>No remains should be removed without proper cultural protocols.</i></p> <p>If no safe local burial ground can be offered, the Haudenosaunee will reclaim the remains for reburial at an undisclosed location. The local government /state agency/developer must pay all of the costs for such reburial.</p> <p>All objects associated with the original burial must be reburied as well. All of the soil in the immediate area of the burial should also be placed in the new grave.</p>	
Time Frame	30 to 45 days	As soon as possible