

3.8 Historic and Archaeological Resources

3.8.1 Introduction

Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 requires State agencies to consult with the Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) prior to approving a project. If a project requires any permits or is receiving funding/grants or any other approvals from State agencies, review by OPRHP is required. This project is subject to New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) review and approval and thus must follow the criteria determined by OPRHP for cultural resource management, as set forth in the "Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York State". These standards were developed by the New York Archaeological Council and adopted by the OPRHP to ensure uniformity in the review of cultural material in New York State.

Cultural Resource Management investigations are divided into three levels: Phases I, II and III. A project may receive OPRHP approval after the completion of any of these phases by a qualified archaeologist, based on the determination that the project site has undergone sufficient investigation to eliminate the probability of significant artifacts being recovered at that location. Phase I is subdivided into a Phase IA and Phase IB. The Phase IA consists of a Literature Review and Sensitivity Assessment, which entails the following:

- 1) a review of pertinent published historic material pertaining to the portion of the Town that includes the project site;
- 2) a search of the historical or archeological site files of the New York Museum and the New York Historic Preservation Office to identify documented cultural resources located on or adjacent to the property, and;
- 3) a reconnaissance of the parcel to identify areas of greater and lesser potential for containing buried cultural remains, to note areas where serious prior disturbance to upper soils may have eliminated such potential, and to photodocument any potentially affected standing structures over 50 years of age.

For any potentially sensitive area that would be disturbed by the Proposed Action, a Phase IB Field Investigation is conducted, which involves a systematic, on-site field inspection to verify the presence or absence of archaeological or historic artifacts. The most common method for conducting a Phase IB is systematic subsurface testing, which requires the excavation of small test pits at fixed intervals throughout the project site. The soil from these pits is examined for buried cultural remains. Significant findings can trigger the requirement of more extensive investigation via a Phase II. However, mitigation (Phase III) or avoidance of that portion of the site where remains are known or suspected may be accepted by OPRHP and allow the modified project to continue.

Greenhouse Consultants Incorporated (GCI). Conducted a Phase 1A investigation in 2006, Phase 1B archaeological testing in 2006 and 2007, and a Phase 2 site boundary definition and National Register eligibility evaluation in 2007. The final Phase I and Phase 2 reports are included in Appendix F and summarized below. GCI found a previously undocumented historic cemetery, three (3) isolated historic finds, one (1) isolated prehistoric find, and two (2) historic sites associated with historic farmsteads dating from the nineteenth century. The Area of

Potential Effect (APE) was considered the entirety of the project site less steep slopes, open water and utility easements.

3.8.2 Archaeological and Historic Resources

Existing Conditions

Phase IA - Site Assessment Phase

The study area for historical and archaeological resources is defined as the project site and properties contiguous to the project site.

Research conducted in the files at the New York State Office for Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the New York State Museum, located ten sites listed within a two mile radius of the project area, including one that is National Register eligible. None are located within the project area. The most notable site lies to the southwest of the project area at Horse Stable Rockshelter, the largest rock shelter in New York State where many prehistoric artifacts have been recovered. A number of prehistoric sites lie along the southern and eastern boundaries of the project area. The National Register eligible site lies east of the project area, a multi-component Middle and Late Archaic and Transitional site with radiocarbon dates of 3470-3220 B.C. Douglas Mackey excavated the site in 1992.

Research conducted at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation found eight historic sites listed within a two mile radius of the project area, six National Register eligible properties within a one mile radius and 34 significant buildings. The closest historic archaeological sites includes a lime kiln (on Lime Kiln Road) to the southwest of the project area and a grist mill near Wesley Chapel on Wesley Chapel Road, also to the southwest.

Preliminary background research into the history of the Patrick Farm analyzed four nineteenth century maps dating to 1854, 1859, 1867, and 1876. These maps show six house locations, usually with names associated. Four of these houses still stand. One location has no evidence of a house currently, and the other location includes a twentieth century house. In addition to these six probable historic archaeological sites, there is a heretofore undiscovered small family burial ground revealed during project area inspection.

1. The northeastern corner of the project area is the location of a house labeled J. Mather in 1854, G. Mather in 1867, and G.M. in 1876. There is a house standing at this location, but this house does not appear to be over 50 years in age. This location may well preserve evidence of its use by the Mather family beneath the ground.
2. There is nothing else of concern on the east side, since most of the land facing Route 306 consists of out parcels.
3. The southwestern corner of the project area is the former location of a house labeled G. Onderdonk in 1854, G. A. Onderdonk in 1859 and 1867, and E. Onderdonk in 1876. This house is shown on the maps as being on Route 202, but there is no evidence of a house visible there now. This location could preserve subsurface evidence related to the Onderdonk family, unless the house location has been taken by the widening of the road.
4. Just east of the former Onderdonk house is another farmhouse labeled D. Smith in 1859 and A. Smith in 1876. This house still stands on the eastern edge of the area used by the Rockland

County Sheriff's department as their horse farm. It is a 2½ story frame structure. There are low sheds and stables used by the horse farm northwest of the house. West of these is a small burial ground, about 20 by 25 feet, with two extant markers. One is cast concrete and reads Kenneth & Harold Conklin with no dates. The other is stone and reads Cornelius Conklin d. 1906. There were also two broken stones visible. The Rockland County Genealogical Society was unaware of this cemetery. Both the Smith farmhouse and the Conklin Family Burial Ground are clearly historic archaeological sites.

5. Moving north along Route 202, there is a house on the hilltop entered by a very steep driveway. This house is very low with slightly sloping roofs and appears to date to the 1950s or 1960s. There is a shed to the south and a garage to the northwest of the house. These buildings appear to be of similar age.

6. North of this along Route 202 is a section of road left from prior to straightening/widening, called Old Route 202. This is the location of two houses seen on nineteenth century maps. The house at the southern end is labeled W. Furman in 1854, R.T. Allison in 1859, B.T. Allison in 1867, and D. Anthony in 1876. This house still stands, although it may have been modified. At the northern end of Old Route 202 is a house labeled A. Mather in 1854 and 1859, and I. Matter in 1876. This house still stands, and appears to be from the mid-nineteenth century or earlier. There are more modern structures behind it. Both of these locations probably preserve subsurface evidence from their nineteenth century occupations.

7. There is another house near the northwestern end of the project area along Route 202 and next to a stream. This house is labeled Wm. Seaman in 1859 and 1867. There is a house at this location, but it has been modified with replacement windows.

Phase IA Summary

An examination of the recorded prehistoric sites that lie within a two-mile radius of the proposed development, location of water resources and the topography, indicate a high probability that prehistoric material culture is present within the project area. Slopes will need to be investigated for rock shelters. The Mahwah River and its associated wetlands lies directly west of the project area, so hilly terraces overlooking the river, as well as the existing stream and wetlands within the project area would have a high potential for campsites.

Historical research indicates that the project area has been associated with founding colonial families, particularly the Onderdonks and the Conklins, ca. late seventeenth century. The Conklin's (Concklin) farm, The Orchards in Pomona, is possible the oldest fruit farm in the United States, run by the family since 1717, and is listed as an Historic Site and Landmark in the Town of Ramapo, Rockland County.

All seven of the locations cited above have good potential for preserving archaeological evidence from the historic period. The cemetery will certainly require avoidance by the proposed construction or careful excavation, study and reburial. The old Smith farmhouse, the two houses along Old Route 202, and the old Seaman house may have architectural importance. These structures may require photographic recording if they are altered or removed. In addition, these four house locations, as well as the former Onderdonk and Mather house locations may all be historic archaeological sites. The remainder of the project area, including most of the interior does not appear to have any historic importance based on the preliminary documentary research completed.

Phase IB - Site Identification Phase

Archaeological testing was undertaken at the Patrick Farm project, Town of Ramapo, Rockland County, New York from June 6 through July 21, 2006 under the direction of William Goldsmith, RPA of GCI. The purpose of Phase 1B archaeological testing is to document whether there is evidence of cultural resources within the project area.

A fifty foot grid pattern was established for subsurface Phase 1B testing. All soils recovered from shovel test excavation units were screened through ¼-inch steel hardware cloth mesh to recover artifacts. If any cultural materials were recovered they were assigned to the soil stratum from which they were obtained. Stratigraphy encountered during the testing was recorded on standardized provenance forms. Soils were described by reference to Munsell colors and identified as to texture. All shovel tests were immediately backfilled after each was recorded. A total of 1539 shovel tests were excavated.

Results of the Phase 1B testing found evidence of prehistoric and historic use of the property. A projectile point was recovered in the north central part of the project area. An individual historic artifact was found in a test along the southern boundary. Another individual historic artifact was found in a test located in the northeastern portion of the project area. A stone foundation and associated middle to late nineteenth century privy feature was identified along the eastern side of the project area. A historic site with several tests yielding historic artifacts is located in the southwestern portion of the project area. Artifacts will undergo cleaning and analysis.

Phase IB Summary

Greenhouse Consultants has tested the Patrick Farm project area, and has found evidence of both prehistoric or historic occupation in terms of artifacts and features. A Phase II Site Evaluation, was recommended to be conducted to establish the boundaries of the occupations.

Phase II - Site Evaluation Phase

In consideration of the Phase I conclusions noted above, the Applicant had an extensive Phase II Site Evaluation performed for the six areas of interest on the project site as identified by the OPRHP; the cemetery was not excavated or researched further. The Phase II Site Evaluation, was conducted to determine the extent of the cultural resources on the subject property.

The isolated prehistoric find consists of a complete Fox Creek Stemmed projectile point, dating from the Middle Woodland, Fox Creek Phase. Although the project area was judged to be sensitive to have potential for prehistoric remains due to its geographical proximity to the Mahwah River and three historic streams within the project area, no other evidence of prehistoric activity was found within the Patrick Farms area. The presence of the projectile point indicates that the project area was crossed in order to exploit the resources of the river.

Historic Site 1: This archaeological site is at the J. Mather/G. Mather farmstead. Mid-nineteenth century maps from 1854, 1867, and 1876 label it respectively: J. Mather, G. Mather, and G.M. A total of 947 artifacts were retrieved from the shovel tests and excavation units placed around and inside the house foundation. A stone well lying east of the foundation was empty. The artifacts date, in general to the second half of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. The shovel tests and excavation units identified that both the artifacts and stratigraphy appeared undisturbed. The nature of the artifacts are small and fragmentary. Around 57% of the artifacts

belong to the functional group of architecture, particularly window glass. The range of artifacts includes children's activities, to food preservation in the form of glass jars and stoneware. The potential for more features, in the form of privies and cisterns may exist at this location. It is recommended that there is potential for further archaeological work at this location.

Historic Site 2: This archaeological site is located just southeast of the farmhouse labeled D. Smith in 1859 and A. Smith in 1876. This house still stands on the eastern edge of the area used by the Rockland County Sheriff's department as their horse farm. It is a 2 1/2 story frame structure. There are low sheds and stables used by the horse farm northwest of the house. Historic site 2 yielded a total of 20 artifacts from the Phase 1B and Phase 2 shovel testing. None of the artifacts was temporally diagnostic. No further archaeological testing is recommended at this location since the paucity of artifacts and features, and the lack of temporally diagnostic artifacts indicate that the Smith farmstead will not yield much further information.

Isolated Historic Find, shovel test 498 yielded one artifact at this location. Not being near any historic farmsteads, no further archaeological work is recommended for this location.

Isolated Historic Find, shovel test 934 also recovered a single artifact, a piece of stoneware. No further archaeological work is recommended for this location.

Isolated Historic Finds, shovel tests 548 and 549 yielded eight artifacts. Seven artifacts were fragments of glass and the eighth was a very small fragment of pearl ware. Since no known historic farmstead is within the immediate vicinity of these shovel tests, no further archaeological work is recommended for this location.

Phase II Summary

The findings of both the Phase I and Phase II studies have been presented to OPRHP for review concurrent with progressing the Proposed Action through the Planning Board Approval process. The extensive testing undertaken during the Phase II Site Evaluation has produced a representative sample of artifacts from across the site and should be sufficient to characterize the occupations of the site should there be future research desired.

3.8.3 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project

The Phase I and 2 report, which summarizes the investigations conducted during the Phase I and 2 studies, was submitted to the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRPH) for review and comment. OPRHP's comment letter dated October 14, 2008 is included in Appendix I. OPRHP reviewed the locations identified by the Phase 1 and 2 investigations for eligibility for the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The results of their review are presented below;

Table 3.8-1 State and National Registers of Historic Places Eligibility			
Phase 1 Identification	Site Name	Eligibility	Action
Prehistoric Site 1	Patrick Farm Prehistoric Site	Not Eligible	N/A
Cemetery	Conklin Family Cemetery	Eligible	To be left undisturbed
Historic Site 1	J. Mather Farmstead	Eligible	To be left undisturbed
Historic Site 2	Smith Farmstead	Not Eligible	N/A
OPRHP 2008.			

As shown in Figure 3.8-1 The cemetery will be protected and left undisturbed with the development of the Proposed Action, thus there will be no impact to the cemetery.

Historic Site 1 appears to be eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places as confirmed by OPRHP in their review and comment letter dated, October 14, 2008, refer to Appendix B. Figure 3.8-2 shows the location of the J. Mather Farmhouse foundation in relation to the proposed project. The applicant proposes to reconfigure the driveway on lot 51, as shown in Figure 3.8-3 to allow the farmhouse foundation to remain undisturbed. Preservation of the J. Mather Farmstead foundation is subject to OPRHP approval, once approved, the proposed driveway relocation will be incorporated into all project plans.

Historic Site 2 would not benefit with further testing due to the lack of artifacts recovered in the phase 2 testing. No further testing is recommended for this area nor the isolated historic finds in consideration of the extensive testing, testing methodologies, and the relatively low artifact densities. In OPRHP's comment letter, concurrence was provided in that there would be no impact regarding historic resources in this location.

3.8.4 Mitigation Measures

OPRHP concludes that for the majority of the site no historic or cultural resources exist on or near the project parcel and no further investigation is required. The Conklin Family cemetery will be avoided via a deeded conservation easement as shown in Figure 3.8-1. The J. Mather Farmstead would also remain undisturbed as via a conservation easement as shown in Figure 3.8-3. Based on these commitments by the project applicant, no impact on archaeological and historic resources is anticipated as a result of the proposed project.



ELIAS CONKLIN
CEMETERY

7

8

STABLE

SHED

TRAILER
TRAILER

BARN

1 STORY
FRAME
DWELLING

STABLE

STABLE

RAMAPO

GRAVE

PROPOSED 10' WIDE
PUBLIC ACCESS TO
THE EXISTING CEMETERY



Figure 3.8-1: Existing Cemetery Part Plan
Patrick Farms
Town of Ramapo, Rockland County, New York
Source: Leonard Jackson Associates, 07/18/08
Scale: 1" = 400'

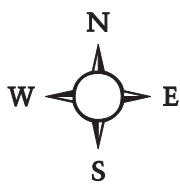
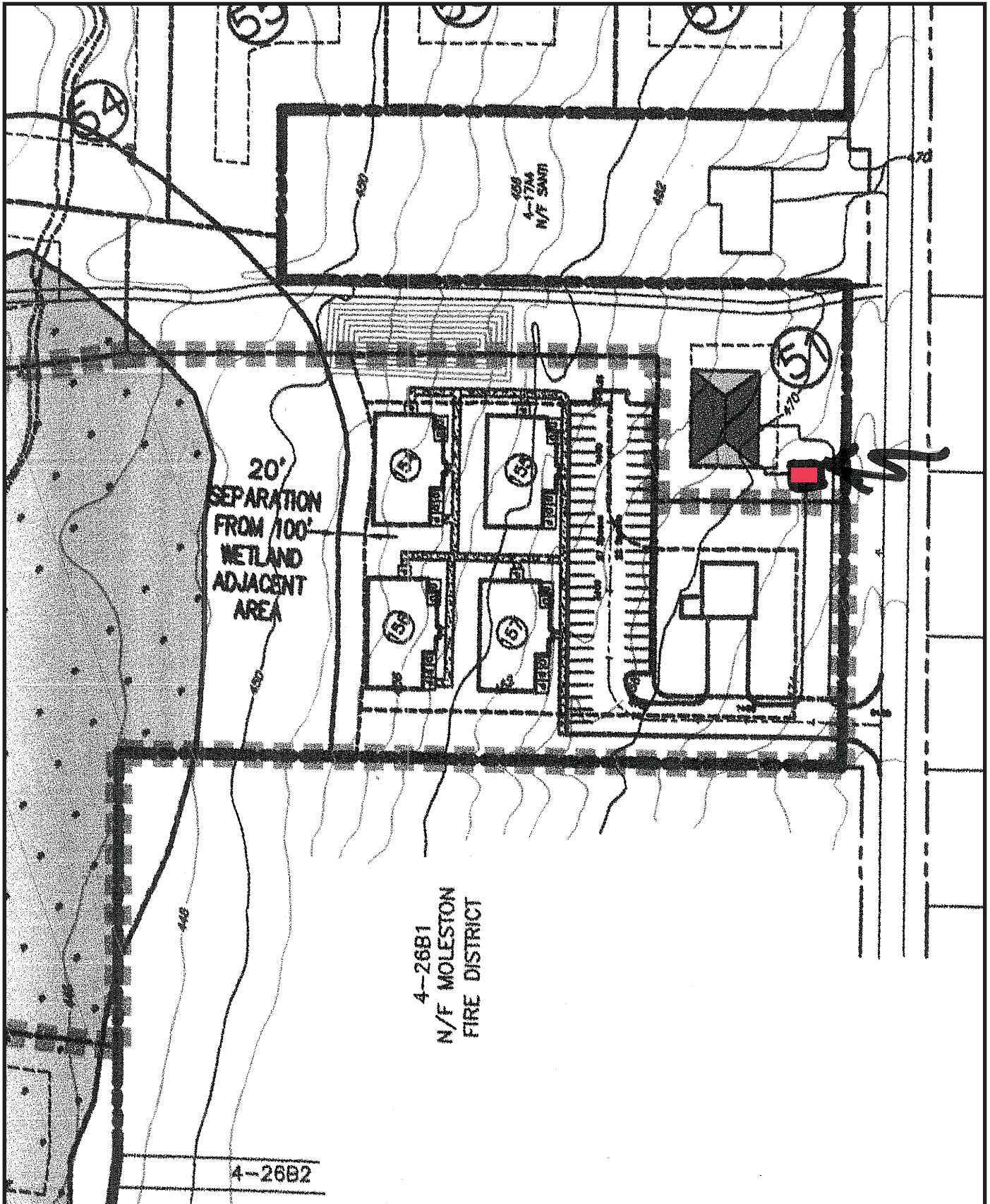
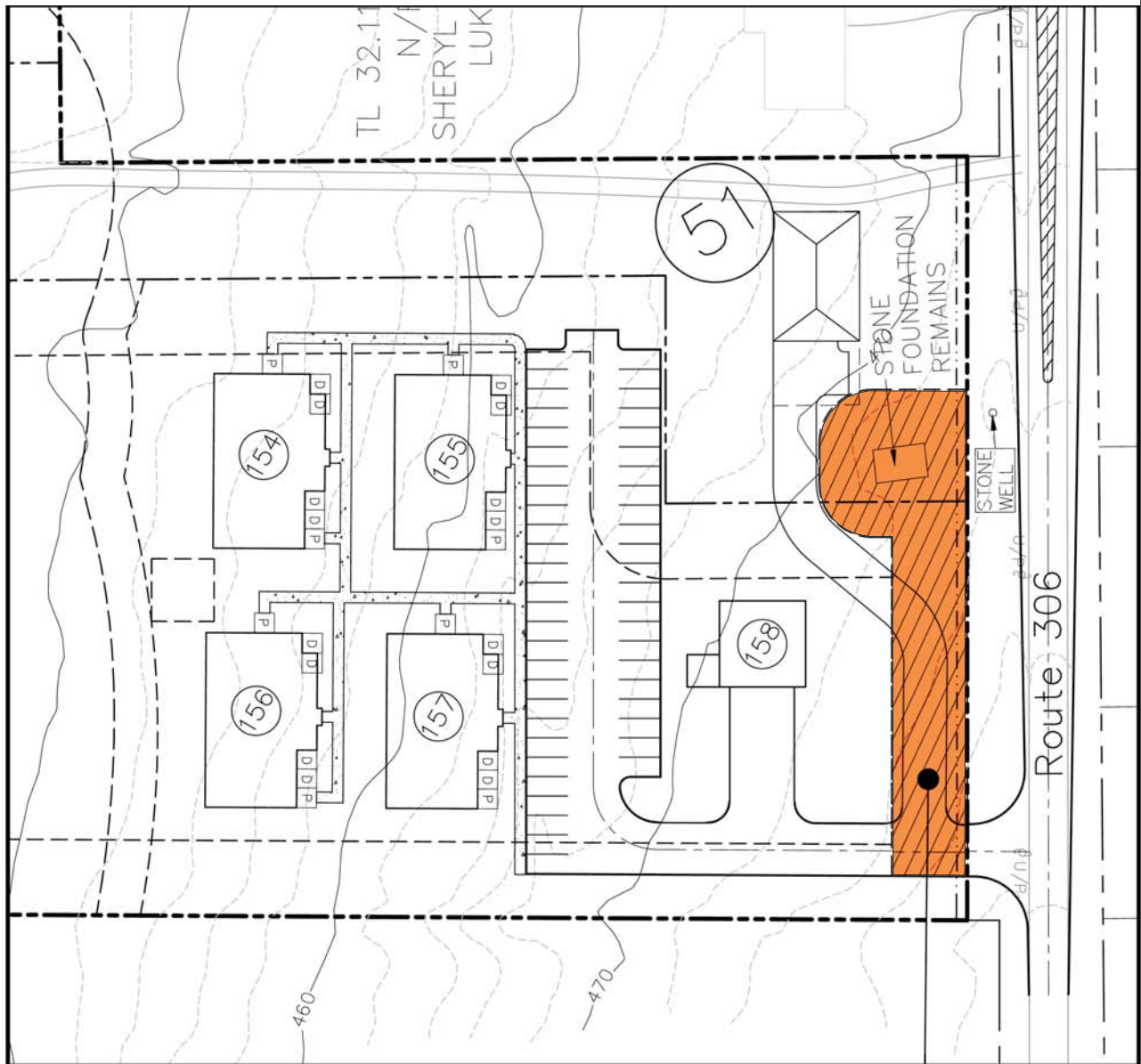


Figure 3.8-2: J Mather Farmhouse Site
 Patrick Farm
 Town of Ramapo, Rockland County, New York
 Source: Leonard Jackson Associates



PROPOSED STONE
FOUNDATION
EASEMENT

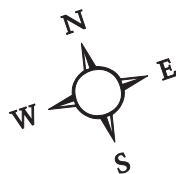


Figure 3.8-3: J. Mather Farmhouse Proposed Easement

Patrick Farm

Town of Ramapo, Rockland County, NY

Source: Leonard Jackson Associates, 11/12/08

Scale: As shown