

3.10 Historic and Archaeological Resources

Cultural Resource Management Investigations

Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 establishes a review process for State agency activities affecting historic or cultural properties, requiring 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 a State agency, review by OPRHP is required. The proposed Project is subject to one or more permits from State agencies 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 investigations are performed at three levels referred to as Phase I, II and III investigations. A resource investigation may receive OPRHP approval after the completion of any of these phases by a qualified archaeologist, based on the agency's 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 Phase IA and Phase IB investigations. 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 this portion of the Town;
- 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 subsurface cultural remains, and to note areas where serious prior disturbance to upper soils may have eliminated such potential, and to photo document any potentially affected standing structures over 50 years of age.

For any area identified as potentially sensitive in the Phase 1A study, 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 proposed area of disturbance. The soils from these pits are examined for cultural remains. Significant findings can trigger the requirement of more intensive investigation via a Phase II field study and possibly a Phase III mitigation study. Mitigation or avoidance of that portion of the site where cultural remains are known or suspected may be accepted by OPRHP and allow the modified project to continue.

3.10.1 Existing Conditions

Phase IA Literature Review and Sensitivity Assessment

The Phase IA cultural resource investigation was conducted at the project site by City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants. A summary report of this investigation is presented in Appendix

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G of this DEIS. The goal of this component of the cultural resource survey was to collect available information regarding the use of the site in the past, to document any visible cultural resources on or within view of the project site, to assess the general potential for subsurface cultural remains to be present, and to determine to what degree, if any, this potential has been reduced or eliminated by previous disturbance or environmental factors. The cultural resource survey was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of OPRHP.

Based on conceptual plans for the Raleigh and Heiden Properties development, the area of potential effect (called the APE) was defined as 75 acres, of the 150 acre site, for the Phase IA Literature Review and Sensitivity Analysis.

A search of historical and archaeological site files maintained by the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the New York State Museum (NYSM) in Albany indicated that there are no reported prehistoric sites within a one-mile radius of the project site.

Historic Resources

A review of historic maps of the area was conducted to determine whether the project area had the potential to contain historic cultural resources. These maps document several structures located in the vicinity of the project site (refer to Appendix G).

The research conducted at the NYSM indicated that there are no currently mapped or documented structures (MDS) on the east side of Heiden Road (CR 161) within the boundaries of the subject properties APE. The structures that are present are modern buildings dating back only to the mid-20th century. There is indication of a MDS on the east side of Park House Road (also called Fred Road) but this area is not proposed to be disturbed by the Raleigh and Heiden Properties development.

The current Raleigh Hotel building was built as recently as the 1950's replacing the previous structure. The 1875 map of Sullivan County shows there was a MDS on the east side of Heiden Road immediately north of the Town of Thompson and Town of Fallsburg boundary line. This structure is located in the area of the current Raleigh Hotel. A second MDS structure was also shown on the 1875 map, located east of Park House Road (also known as Fred Road). The Heiden Hotel property, located in the northern portion of the project site and within the APE zone was originally built in 1931. This hotel burnt down in 2008 and only outbuildings and recreational facilities remain. As stated above, these buildings were viewed as being modern buildings.

Existing Prehistoric Resources

The majority of recorded prehistoric sites in Sullivan County are along the Delaware, Mongaup and Neversink Rivers, as well as along Basher and Shawangunk Kills. Until recently, few professional archaeological surveys have been completed in Sullivan County, which includes the Raleigh and Heiden Properties site. Although no prehistoric sites are located within a mile of the subject property, there are environmental factors that would suggest that the site may be sensitive for prehistoric cultural resources. These factors are described as follows:

- The presence on the site of wetlands overlooked by generally level areas that could have served as magnets for prehistoric peoples;

- The presence of a stream within the project area, which could have provided potable water, fresh water resources, and a travel route into the site;
- The fact that along the Neversink River, and along other streams in the area, prehistoric sites have been identified in environments similar to those that exist on the site; and
- The presence of a MDS within the project area on the 1875 map.

Given the above information, it was determined that there would be a moderate potential for prehistoric remains to exist on the more level and well-drained portions of the project area. A Phase IB investigation was conducted on the project parcel based on the recommendation of the Phase IA to document the presence or absence of sensitive cultural resources. The summary of the completed Phase IB study is summarized below and can be reviewed in Appendix G.

3.10.2 Potential Impacts

Phase IB Investigation

In June 2009, City/Scape: Cultural Resource Consultants completed a Phase IB field reconnaissance, a summary of this investigation is attached in Appendix G. Areas selected for subsurface testing were identified during a site walk of the Property and were divided into six areas, due to the size of the APE on the site. These different areas are further described below. There are several stages of Phase IB investigation. These stages are as follows:

- A site walk and visual inspection to assess potential sensitivity areas for prehistoric and/or historic cultural remains;
- The excavation of a control shovel test to establish baseline stratigraphy of the site and determine the depth and composition of the onsite glacially deposited sub-soils;
- Visual inspection of the land surface and topography to determine locations of rock faces and overhangs (the potential for rock shelters) as well as formations of cryptocrystalline rock, which could indicate prehistoric mining;
- Subsurface testing in the selected areas within the APE zone having sensitivity for prehistoric remains, and to identify historic cultural material (if present);
- Close interval shovel testing around the perimeters of foundations identified on the site;
- Photographic documentation of the overall site.

Area 1

This area is located along the southern boundary of the APE zone, southwest of the Raleigh Hotel and south of an abandoned parking lot. It is currently mowed lawn and very level. A total of sixty-three (63) shovel tests were completed in this area with no cultural material recovered.

Area 2

This area is located in the western central portion of the site, north of the sand filter beds associated with the subsurface treatment system (septic system) for the Raleigh Hotel. A total of three hundred and fourteen (314) shovel tests were completed in this area. No cultural material was recovered from the investigation in this area.

Area 3

This area is located west of Area 2 and is currently a large field containing two baseball diamonds and backstops. There was limited investigation in this area due to no topsoil being present. The topsoil was presumed to be stripped and leveled for the construction of the baseball diamonds. Fifty-three (53) shovel tests were completed in this area and no cultural material was recovered.

Area 4

This area is located in the area of the former Heiden Hotel, within the northern portion of the project site. The Heiden Hotel burned down in 2008, since then the debris has been removed. Currently the area is characterized by exposed concrete and debris, and has been bulldozed and graded. A total of four hundred and forty-eight (448) shovel tests were completed in this area and no cultural material was identified.

Area 5

This area is located in the southeastern portion of the project area, bounded to the east by the Sheldrake Creek. The area is primarily made up of vegetation consisting of open forest of mountain laurel, hemlock and juniper trees. A total of one hundred and thirty-six (136) shovel tests were completed in this area and no cultural material was identified.

Area 6

This area is located on the eastern portion of the project area, east of the Sheldrake Creek and west of Park House Road (also known as Fred Road). A foundation was observed in this area, large enough to determine that it was something other than a residence. Two cisterns were also identified in this area. A total of four hundred and fifty-eight (458) shovel tests were completed in this area, forty-eight of which were completed around the foundation found on the property. Cultural material recovered consisted of mid to late 20th century bottle glass, nails and graniteware.

Rock Shelters and Mines

The site was inspected for any rock shelters and rock formations that could have potentially yielded lithic raw materials. There were bedrock outcrops observed on the site but none of the outcrops provided height or breadth to provide a rock shelter. All of the outcrops were inspected for the presence of quartz or cryptocrystalline rock, none was identified.

3.10.3 Mitigation Measures

Historic Resources

A total of one thousand four hundred and twenty-four (1,424) shovel tests were completed with an additional forty-eight (48), which were completed around the foundation observed on the eastern section of the property (east of the Sheldrake Creek). The cultural material recovered from the foundation shovel tests does not warrant further investigation of the property. No prehistoric artifacts of any kind were recovered from the APE zone. Based on these results no impacts to historic or cultural resources are anticipated on the site and therefore no avoidance mitigation measures are proposed for archaeological resources.