

APPENDIX G

Archeology



PHASE IA ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

Equestrian Estates Chestnut Ridge

Village of Chestnut Ridge, Rockland County, New York

February 2021

Prepared by:

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

SHPO Project Review Number:

Involved State and Federal Agencies:

Phase of Survey: Phase IA

Location Information: Village of Chestnut Ridge, Rockland Co.,NY

Survey Area (Metric & English)

Number of Acres Surveyed: ±39.6 ac (16.0 ha)

Number of Square meters & Feet excavated:

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map: 1957 Goshen, NY

Archeological Survey Overview

Number and Interval of Shovel Tests: N/A

Number and Size of Units: 0

Results of Archeological Survey

Number and name of historic sites identified: 0

Number and name of prehistoric sites identified: 0

Results of Architectural Survey

Number of buildings/structures/cemeteries adjacent to Project Area: 15

Number of previously determined NR listed or eligible buildings/structures/cemeteries/districts: 0

Report Author: Jim Turner, MA, RPA, Principal Investigator

Date of Report: February 2021

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PHASE IA ARCHEOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

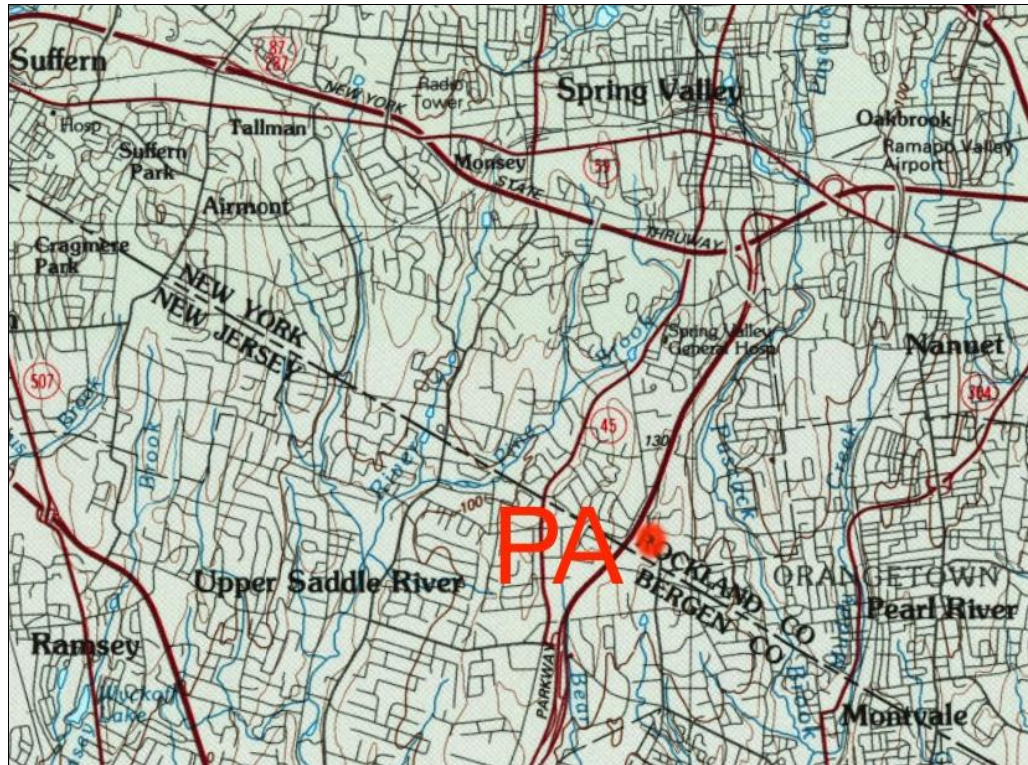
INTRODUCTION

STRATA Cultural Resource Management was contacted in November 2020 by Ann Cutignola of Tim Miller Associates, Inc. to conduct a Phase IA/IB Archeological Investigation on lands located between Red Schoolhouse Road and South Pascack Road in the Village of Chestnut Ridge, Rockland County, New York. Notice to proceed with the investigation was given December 21, 2020.

PROJECT INFORMATION

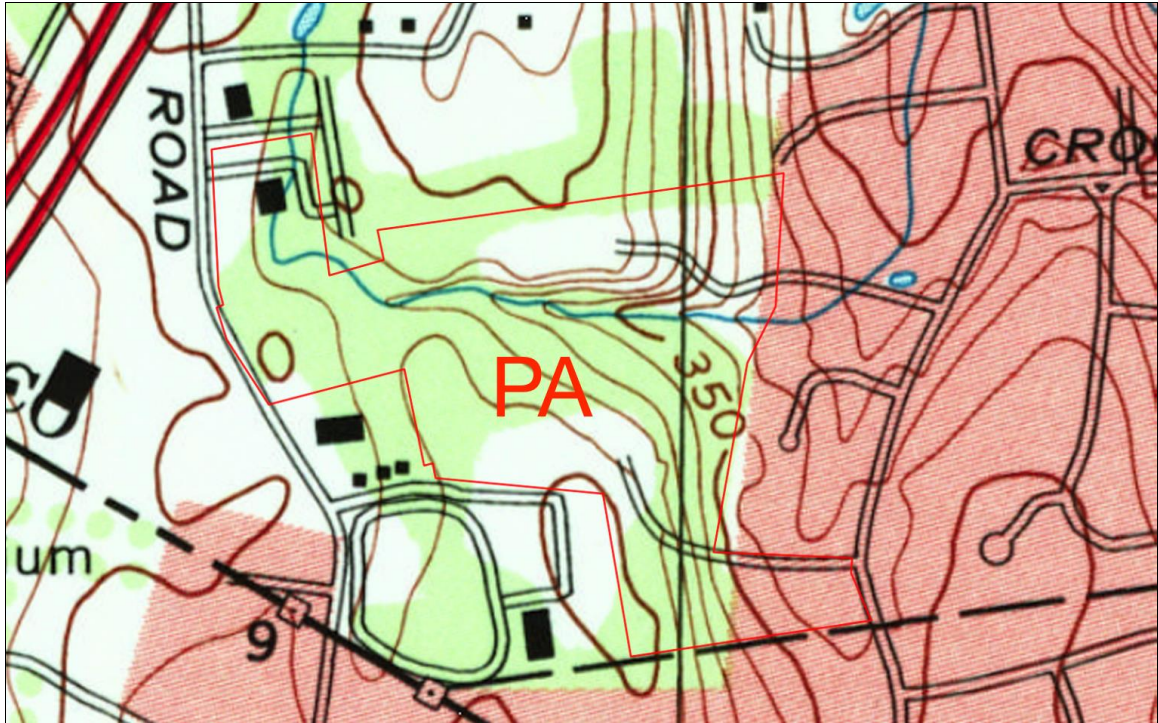
The site consists of six parcels in the southerly portion of the Village adjacent to the Village's boundary with Orangetown. The 39.6 acre mixed use project site includes the following Village Tax Lots: 68.09-2-9; 68.09-2-10; 68.09-2-11; 68.09-2-12; 68.09-2-22; 68.13-1-6. The development proposal includes up to 62 duplex townhouse units; plus 84 rental flats above the retail building on Red Schoolhouse Road; up to 118 senior residential rental units (limited to those aged 55 and older); and two single family homes in the vicinity of Gary Drive (Maps 1-5).

The Project Area (PA) consists primarily of forested uplands except along Red Schoolhouse Road where an open meadow and the Con-Way Freight parking lot and building front this road (Photos 1-26). Two extant structures lie within the forested center of the property. Elevations within the parcel lie around 401 feet (122 m) above mean sea level (AMSL) on a knoll along Red Schoolhouse Road to a low of 313 ft AMSL (95m) in the northeast corner of the property. A small brook flows through the middle of the property, an unnamed tributary of nearby Pascack Creek. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is considered to be all lands within the 39.6-acre property (Map 3).



Map 1: 1985 USGS Topographic Quadrangle (Middletown, NY) with Project Area.

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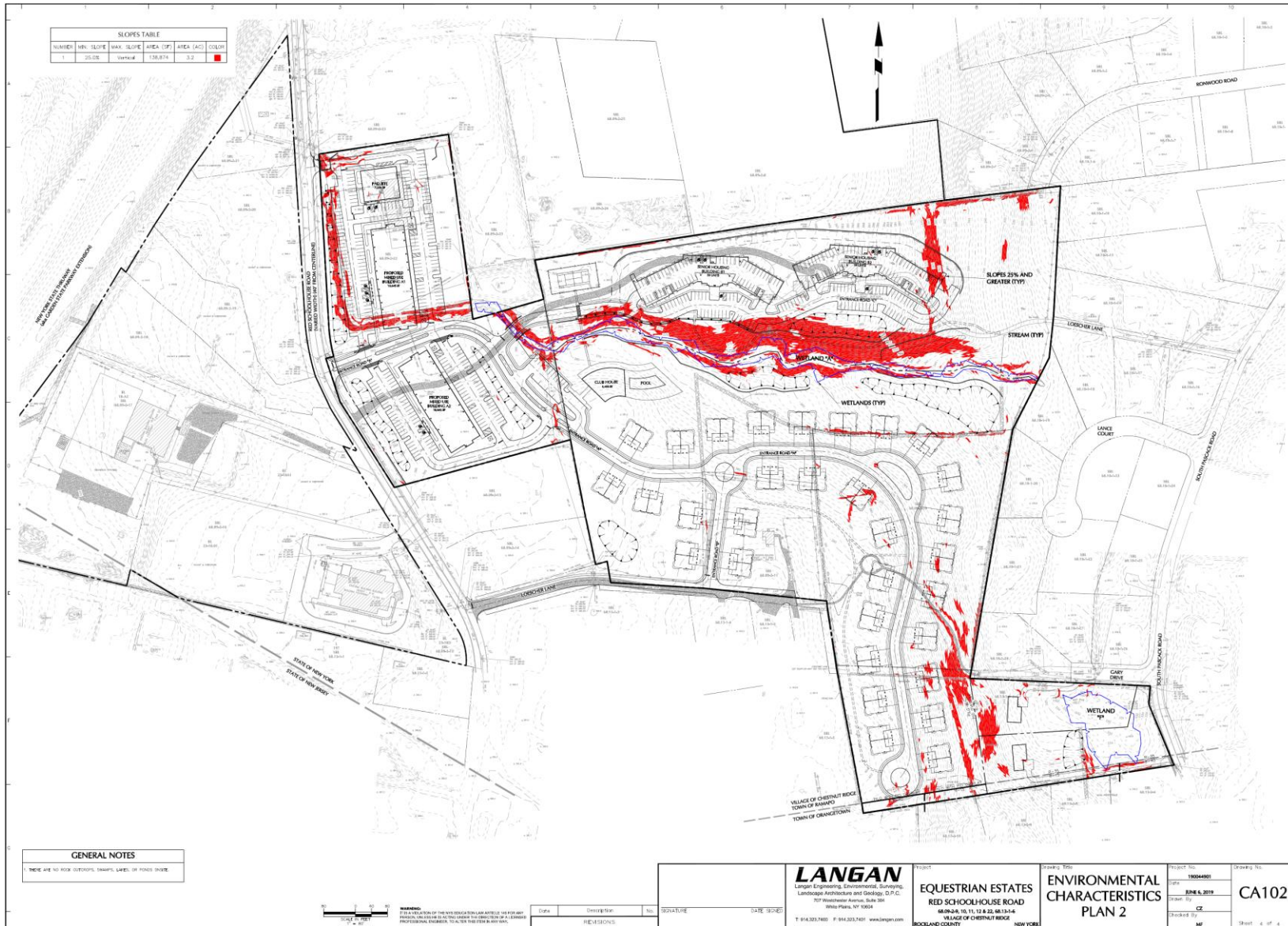


Map 2: 1995 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle (Park Ridge, NY).



Map 3: Aerial view of Project Area (Google Maps).

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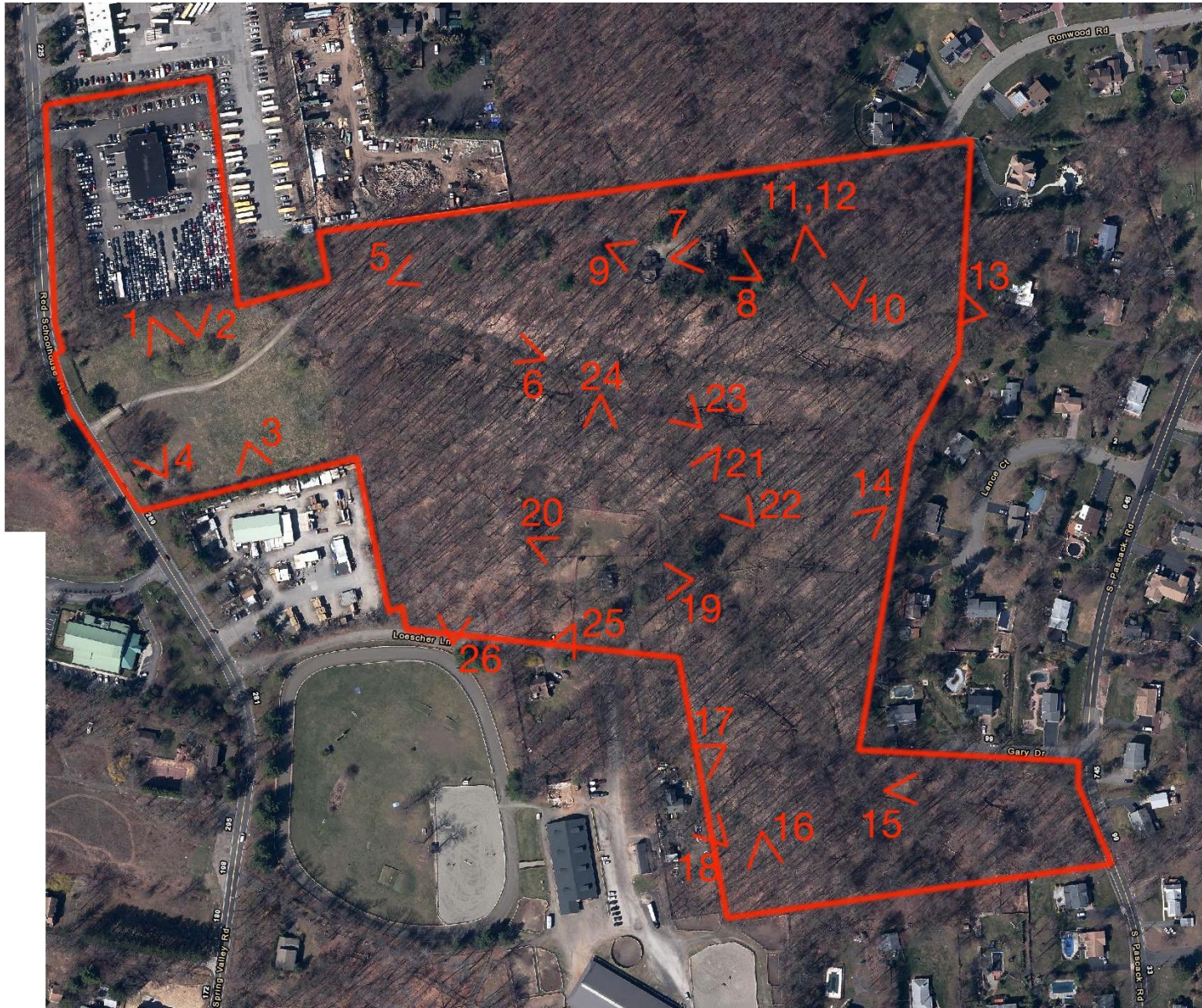
Map 4: Proposed Equestrian Estates development with slopes >25% in red.

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Map 5: Proposed Equestrian Estates development.

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Map 6: Report photo angles.

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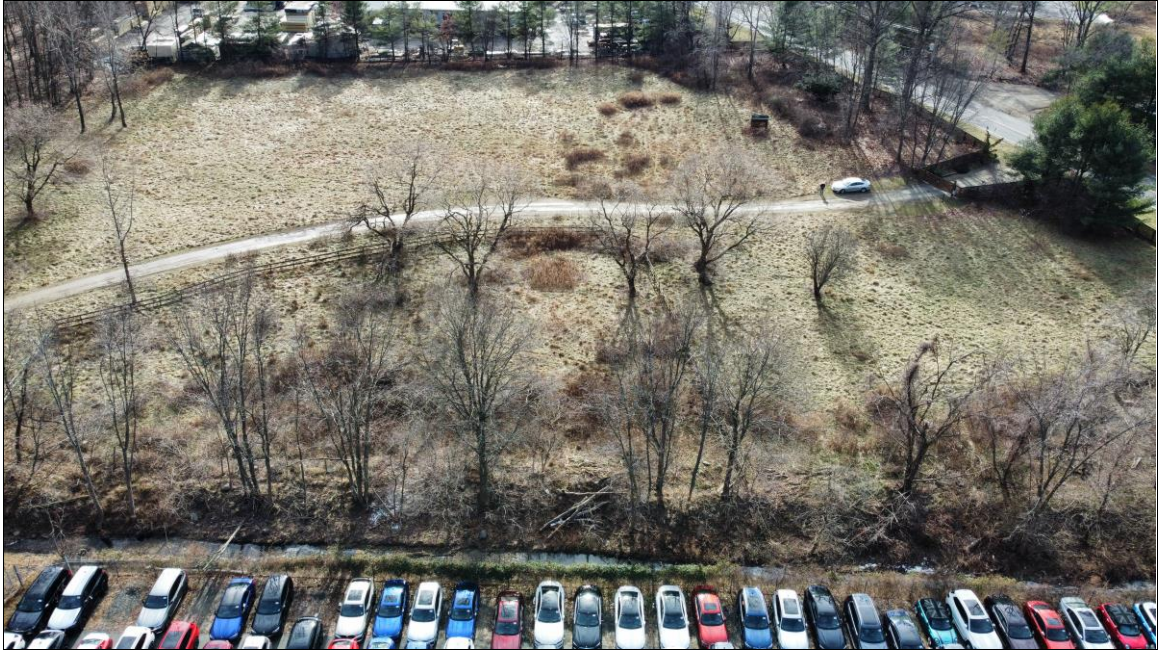


Photo 1: Aerial view south of Project Area showing large open field with Red Schoolhouse Rd at right.



Photo 2: Aerial view north of Project Area showing Con-Way Freight yard proposed for redevelopment.

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Photo 3: Aerial view south of Ridge Supply Hardware Store outside of Project Area. PA is field at bottom.



Photo 4: View northwest of Project Area showing remains of former house site including front walkway.

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Photo 5: View east of Project Area showing driveway along north edge of PA toward house and garage.



Photo 6: View northwest of Project Area showing unnamed stream traversing northern portion of PA.

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Photo 7: View east of Project Area showing house in northeast corner of PA proposed for removal.



Photo 8: View northwest of Project Area showing house in northeast corner of PA.

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Photo 9: View east of Project Area showing garage associated with house in northeast corner of PA.



Photo 10: View north of Project Area showing sloping wooded area in northeast corner of PA.

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Photo 11: View south of Project Area showing former location of 20th-century map-documented structure.



Photo 12: View north of Project Area showing architectural surface debris at location of 20thC MDS.



Photo 13: View west of gate leading into Project Area showing driveway up hill to house.



Photo 14: View southwest of Project Area showing open forest near eastern edge of PA.

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Photo 15: View east of Project Area showing location of proposed detached homes with Gary Drive at left.



Photo 16: View south of southern edge of Project Area.



Photo 17: View southwest of Project Area in front of fence with house beyond outside of PA.



Photo 18: View northeast of house adjacent to Project Area.

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Photo 19: View west of Project Area showing front of house proposed for removal.



Photo 20: View southeast of Project Area showing rear of house proposed for removal.

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Photo 21: View southwest of Project Area showing concrete pad, possible foundation of former garage.



Photo 22: View northwest of Project Area showing possible buried foundation/cellar hole.

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Photo 23: View northwest of Project Area showing stone wall paralleling stream.



Photo 24: View south of Project Area showing surface water downslope from house, possible leach field.

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Photo 25: View southwest of house adjacent to Project Area. No impacts are proposed for this house.



Photo 26: View of Project Area beyond fenceline as seen from Loescher Lane.

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Bedrock and Surficial Geology

The Project Area lies within the Brunswick Formation of the Newark Group containing sandstone and conglomerate. The surficial geology of the Project Area consists of glacial till.

Soils and Drainage

Soils within the Project Area consist of well-drained Wethersfield gravelly silt loam (**WeB**, **WeD**) with a small area of Wethersfield-Urban land complex (**WuB**) on the lands fronting on S Pascack Rd (Map 7) (USDA 1981). The typical Wethersfield soil profile is described in Table 1.



Map 7: Project Area soils (<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>).

Table 1: Project Area soils (USDA 1981).

Name	Soil Horizon Depth	Color	Texture, Inclusions	Slope %	Drainage	Description
Wethersfield gravelly silt loam (WeB , WeD)	A 0-13 in (0-33 cm) B 13-22 in (33-56 cm) C 22-60 in (56-152 cm)	Dk Br RdBrn RdBrn	GrSiLo GrLo GrFiSaLo	3-25%	Well drained	Very deep, gently sloping, on ridgetops and foot slopes

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Current Conditions and Previous Disturbance

The Project Area is currently a mix of commercial, residential, open meadow and wooded areas. Extensive disturbance has occurred across the Con-Way Freight property including building and parking lot construction. South of the private driveway entering off Red Schoolhouse Road was observed the remains of a former residential structure set a short distance back from the road. The driveway proceeds to a bridge crossing the unnamed stream and continues to the garage and extant residence near the northeast corner of the PA. This historic structure is proposed for removal. Architectural debris was observed alongside the eastern driveway in the vicinity of a map-documented structure indicating demolition of the former structure. Large boulders appear dumped within the PA south of Gary Drive possibly from clearing the adjacent fields for agricultural purposes. The juvenile forest suggests these fields were clear until recently. East of the stone-faced house at the center of the PA lies a concrete pad and possible cellar hole indicating that another map-documented structure had been demolished.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Site File Search

A site file search conducted through the Cultural Resource Information Service (CRIS) at the Office of parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) identified no sites within a half mile of the Project Area.

National Register Listed and Eligible Properties

There are no National Register Listed or Eligible properties within or adjacent to the Project Area

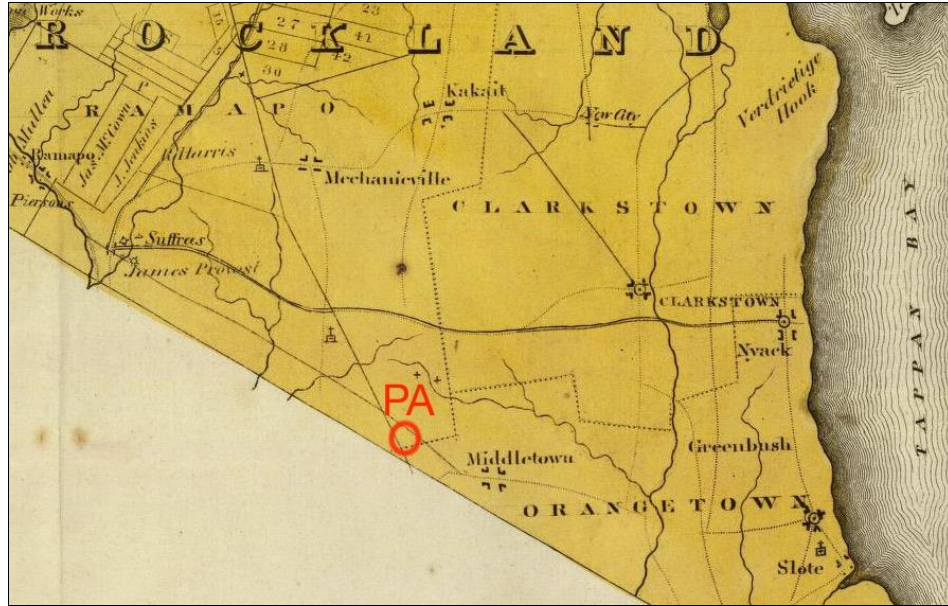
Previous Surveys

No previous archeological surveys have been conducted within a mile of the current Project Area.

Historic Map Review

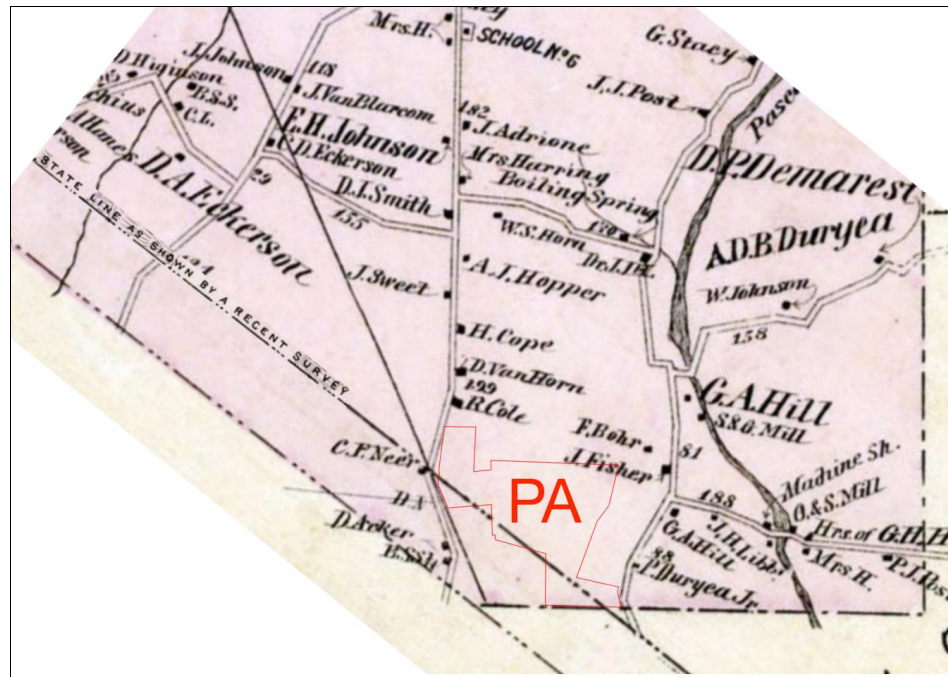
A total of six historic maps were examined to provide information on the development of the lands of the Project Area. A brief description of the pertinent information for the current study is provided below each map.

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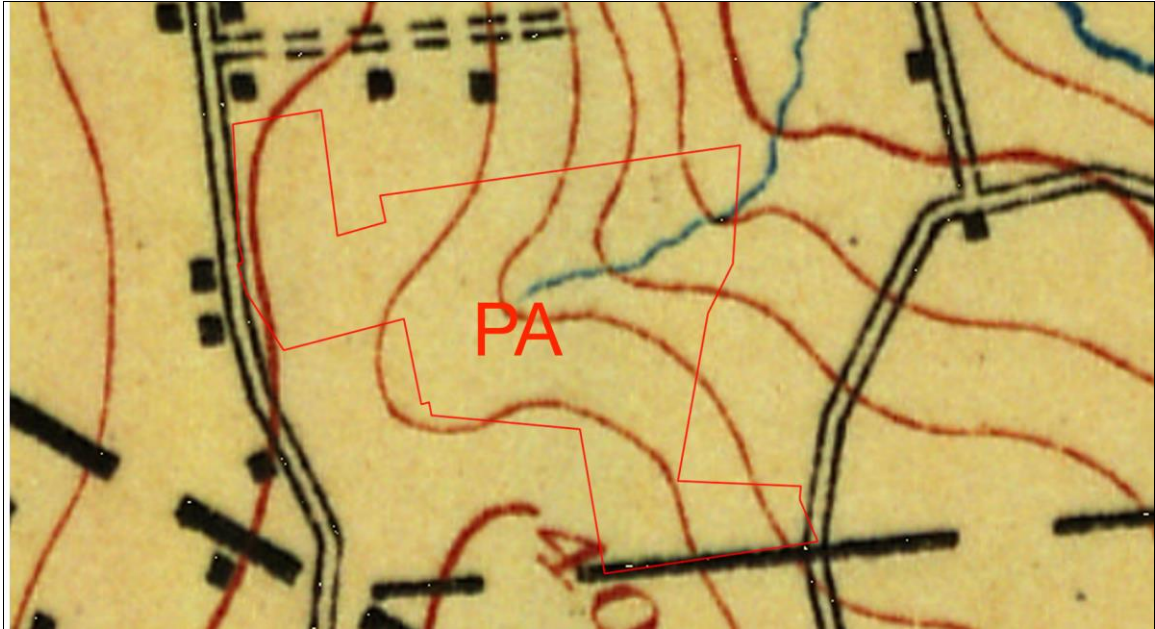
Map 8: 1829 Map of the Counties of Orange and Rockland (Burr, David H.)

The 1829 map shows the PA in the southern extreme of the Town of Ramapo alongside the NY-NJ border. The settlement of Middletown is shown to the southeast in the Town of Orangetown.



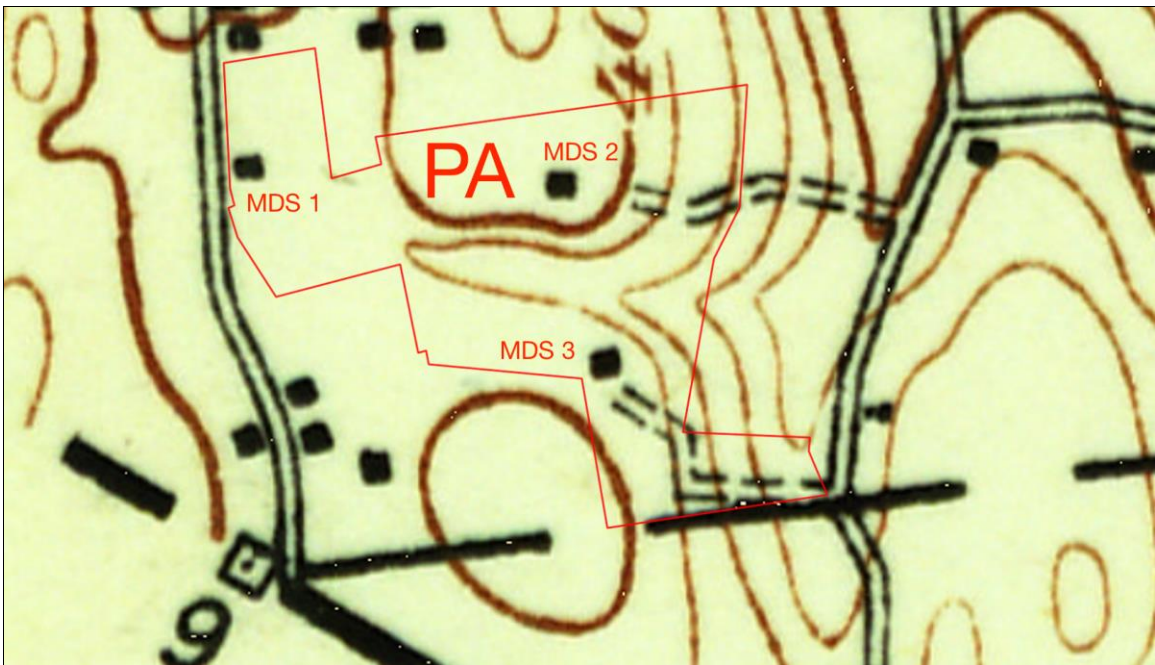
Map 9: 1876 Map of Ramapo Township, Rockland County (F.A. Davis & Co.).

The 1876 map shows the PA straddling the “State Line” as shown by a contemporary survey. The NY-NJ line as we know it was originally surveyed erroneously too far south but even though the line was later shown to be in error it was allowed to stand and officially adopted as the NY-NJ State Line. Several mills are shown to the east along Pascack Creek.



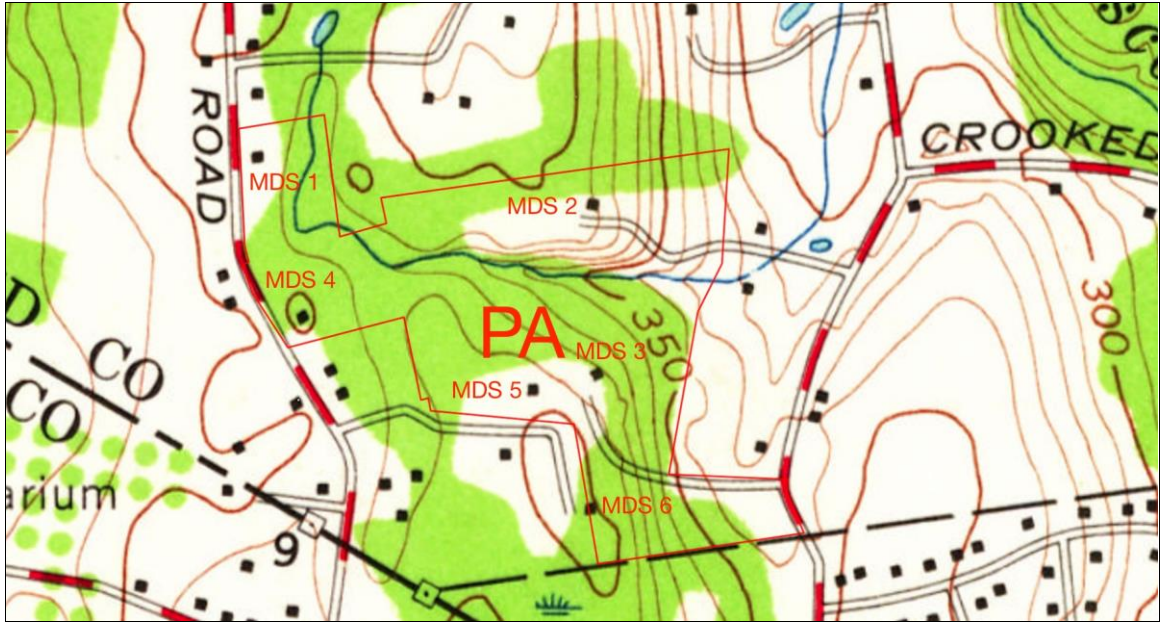
Map 10: 1910 USGS 15' Topographic Quadrangle (Ramapo, NY).

The 1910 map depicts the small brook that drains the PA. No structures are shown within the PA at the beginning of the 20th Century.



Map 11: 1938 USGS 15' Topographic Quadrangle (Park Ridge, NY).

The 1938 map shows three structures within the PA. MDS 1 is no longer extant and the former location is covered with the Con-Way parking lot. MDS 2 is the stately home shown above in Photos 7 & 8. MDS 3 may be represented by the cellar hole shown in Photo 22.



Map 12: 1955 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle (Park Ridge, NY).

The 1955 map shows three additional structures within the PA. MDS 4 represents the residence whose remains are shown in Photo 4. MDS 5 is the stone-faced house shown in Photos 19 & 20. MDS 6 represents the house shown in Photos 17 & 18 which lies outside of the PA.



Map 13: 1995 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle (Park Ridge, NY).

The 1995 map shows only the large Con-Way Freight building. However, MDSs 2 & 5 (not shown) are still extant and proposed for removal.

DISCUSSION

The most significant impact to known cultural resources from the proposed development involves the demolition of two standing historic residential structures. The lesser of the two structures is MDS 5, the stone-faced house depicted above in Photos 19 & 20. The vernacular style is unremarkable and does not appear to warrant further investigation. More significant is MDS 2 as shown above in Photos 7 & 8. The Queen Anne-style shingle residence appears to be of pre-WWI vintage and retains a high degree of integrity. Numerous leaded-glass windows and a lack of modification suggest that the house is a good example of early 20th-century architecture for the area. The residence is currently occupied and no detailed assessment of the house has yet been made. The exterior architectural integrity hints at the possibility of high integrity for the interior of the house as well. A more in-depth evaluation of the house is warranted during the Phase IB fieldwork. Recent efforts to contact the village historian for more information regarding the house were unsuccessful. Possible mitigation efforts could include photo documentation and eventual architectural salvage of vintage elements. However, the house does not appear to warrant preservation and its location at the center of one of the proposed Senior Housing apartments does not allow for avoidance. The proposed mitigation measures would be enacted prior to demolition of the structure.

SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

Prehistoric Sensitivity

The Project Area is considered to have moderate sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric cultural remains. The small brook would have provided potable water and may have hosted short-term hunting camps while the larger settlements would have likely been in the nearby flats around Pascack Brook. No lithic materials or outcrops were observed within the PA.

Historic Sensitivity

The Project Area is considered to have moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of historic cultural remains. Several early 20th-century residences appear on historic maps including two extant houses that are proposed for removal. The cellar hole for MDS 3 was also observed indicating the possible presence of buried deposits.

TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the sensitivity for the presence of both precontact and historic cultural resources a Phase IB Field Investigation is warranted. Shovel testing should be performed across the entire property excepting areas of wetlands and steep slopes. Closer interval testing around MDS 2 will investigate for subsurface deposits related to the development and occupation of the historic house.