

3.8 Historic & Archaeological Resources**3.8.1 Introduction**

There were no potential significant adverse impacts with respect to “Impact on Historic and Archeological Resources” identified during the scoping session. However, the potential for impacts to Historic and Archeological Resources was studied based upon the of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guidelines.

3.8.2 Existing Setting

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviews applications to consider potential historical and cultural impacts or effects on eligible or listed properties during the planning process. All projects that will require any type of permit from a New York State agency require a review by SHPO.

Tim Miller Associates submitted an inquiry to the New York State Division of Historic Preservation (SHPO) and received a response recommending a Phase 1 archeological survey for all portions of the project that will involve new ground disturbance.

A Phase 1A Archaeological Investigation was prepared by Strata Cultural Resource Management, LLC. dated February 2021. The report has been submitted to SHPO for review and is included in this DEIS as Appendix G. A summary of the study is below:

Environment:

The area of potential effect (APE) consists of the entire 39.6 acres located on the west side of Red Schoolhouse Road, and south of Sephar Lane. The predominant forest community in this area is Oak Tulip Tree forest with a high percentage of Red Oak and Chestnut Oak. There are two areas of regulated wetlands or watercourses on the property. An intermittent unnamed stream that appears to be a tributary of the Pascack Brook transverses the north central portion of the site from west to east. Wetland A (37,840 sf) is associated with the intermittent stream corridor. There is no significant wetland vegetation within the stream corridor, but rather common streambank and transitional species. Wetland B (21,216 sf) is located in an opening in the tree canopy at the corner of Gary Drive and South Pascack Road, and is derived from hillside seepage and shallow lateral flow. Dominant vegetation species in Wetland B are red maple, spicebush, soft rush and tussock sedge.

Elements on Site:

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 the stone-faced house depicted above in Photos 19 & 20 of the Archaeology Report, known as MDS 5. The vernacular style is unremarkable and does not appear to warrant further investigation. More significant is MDS 2 as shown 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.

Pre-Historic 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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The Phase 1A has determined that based upon topographic characteristics and proximity to the stream corridor, the property was assessed as having a moderate potential for encountering prehistoric sites.
- Based upon topographic characteristics and proximity to the stream corridor, and map documented structures, the property was assessed as having moderate to high potential for encountering historic sites.

3.8.3 Potential for Impacts from the Proposed Project

Potential Impacts with respect to archeological resources consist of the potential loss of these resources during land disturbance activity that requires excavation.

3.8.4 Proposed Mitigation

The House to be removed will be fully documented prior to demolition. This documentation will be submitted to the New York State Office of Historic Preservation to be archived.