

WAYNE DAY CARE CENTER PHASE IB/II ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Project Highlights

- Archaeological Phase IB Services
- Archaeological Phase II Services
- Complicated Site Stratigraphy and Deep Ground Disturbance / Filling
- Background Research
- Prehistoric and historic artifact identification



Location:	45 French Hill Road, Wayne Township, Passaic County, NJ	Completed:	May 2018
Client:	Stonefield Engineering	Project value:	\$40,000 +
Point of Contact:	Charles Olivo Tel: 201-340-4468	E2PM Services:	Archaeological

This project consisted of a Phase IB/II archaeological investigation conducted by E2PM on behalf of Stonefield Engineering and in association with a New Jersey Land Use Regulation permit application for a proposed day care center at 45 French Hill Road, Wayne Township, Passaic County, New Jersey. The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office requested the Phase IB investigation



as part of the Division of Land Use Regulation, Fresh Water Wetland Permit application process. Upon completion of Phase IB fieldwork, a scattering of Pre Contact period artifacts, as well as historic-period artifacts were recovered from the project site and structural foundations associated with past buildings within the property were identified. The resources were registered with the New Jersey State Museum as the John Daniels Blacksmith Shop Multicomponent Site (28-PA-223). Subsequent communication from NJHPO requested a Phase II archaeological investigation to determine the potential for the identified site to be eligible for inclusion on the New Jersey State and/or National Registers of Historic Places.



Environmental data for the project area indicated it lay within alluvial deposits associated with the Great Notch Stage of Glacial Lake Passaic as it drained along the course of Preakness Brook. New Jersey State Museum files identified a total of seven (7) previously recorded archaeological sites within one-mile of the project area. Of these, one site is located within 1,000 feet of the project area and the remaining six are located one-quarter of a mile or more away. No past cultural resources investigations were conducted for this property and

nearby studies did not identify any resources proximal to the property. Historic background research for the project area revealed that the earliest habitation in this property occurred in the late nineteenth century when a blacksmith named John Daniels established a household there with his family.

The Phase II archaeological investigation within the identified site served two purposes: 1) it refined the initial site boundaries, and 2) it determined the extent of integrity for archaeological deposits within the identified site. Based upon the results of the Phase II archaeological investigation, it was concluded that extensive landscape modifications during the early twentieth century negated the site integrity. In fact, most of the recovered artifacts from both the Phase IB and II investigations were derived from fill-related soils instead of intact or historic ground surfaces.

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Two areas of potentially intact soils were identified within the limits of the identified site focused around a deeply buried historic plow zone in Excavation Unit 1 (Locus 1) and a shallow-buried plow zone in Excavation Unit 6 (Locus 2). As such, the site limits were redefined as a 25-foot square area around EU 1 and a 25-foot square area around EU 6 containing a small scattering of prehistoric artifacts. Historic artifacts recovered from the intact soils were low in frequency and have been interpreted as historic field scatter typical of 19th century agricultural properties. The historic artifacts therefore do not constitute an archaeological site. As no diagnostic prehistoric artifacts were recovered from intact soils during the Phase II archaeological investigation, this site yielded no new information about the nature and character of prehistoric sites within the region. In addition, given the low density of artifacts in intact soils compounded by the dearth of intact soils, it was unlikely that further investigation would yield valuable information. As such, the identified site was not recommended as eligible for inclusion on the New Jersey State and/or National Registers of Historic Places. Based upon these facts, no further work was warranted or recommended for the project as currently designed.