

Conference on New England Archaeology

Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration Native American Voices in 21st Century Archaeological Practice

Meeting at Kemper Auditorium, Phillips Academy
Reception at Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology
Andover, Massachusetts
May 17, 2014



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The 1992 amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act formalized the establishment of Tribal Historic Preservation Offices across the country. One of the functions of the tribal preservation office was to provide a point of contact to streamline Native American consultation on federally-funded projects. For many archaeologists, this was the first time they engaged Native American communities in the planning, implementation and interpretation of the sites they studied. Over twenty years have passed, and the practice of 21st century American archaeology has been fundamentally changed. Federal, state-level and academic archaeological research projects now typically involve tribal consultation at some level. This session provides an opportunity for Native American preservation officers and archaeologists to share their recent experiences and provide first-hand accounts and critiques of collaborative archaeological projects in the region.

Conference Schedule

9:00-9:30 am	Coffee and breakfast
9:30-9:45 am	Greetings and Introduction: Brian Jones, Chair
9:45-10:00 am	Welcome: Ryan Wheeler
10:00-10:30 am	Brian Jones (AHS, Inc.): <i>The Advisory Council's Handbook on Consultation with Indian Tribes</i>
10:30-11:00 am	Alan Leveillee and Joseph Waller, Jr. (PAL): <i>Thoughts on Stone and Ceremony in the Northeast</i>
11:00-11:30 am	Mandy Ranslow, MA, RPA (Connecticut Department of Transportation): <i>Tribal Consultation and the Role of the State Agency: The View from the Connecticut Department of Transportation</i>
11:30-12:00 pm	Brian Robinson and Donald Soctomah: <i>Collaborating on Petroglyphs: Passamaquoddy and University of Maine Goals for Research on Machias Bay, Maine</i>
12:00-12:30 pm	David S. Robinson (URI Graduate School of Oceanography): <i>Tribal Underwater Archaeology: Observations from the Past and Present and Some Ideas for the Future</i>
12:30-12:45 pm	Questions and Comments
12:45-2:00 pm	Lunch at Phillips Academy
2:00-2:15 pm	Business Meeting
2:15-4:15 pm	Roundtable Discussion
4:15-6:00 pm	Reception at the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology

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Position Paper

The Prospects of Collaboration within the Section 106 Consultation Process

Brian D. Jones (AHS, Inc.)

Archaeologists have been talking about the importance of Native American consultation for some time now, and nearly a decade has passed since the publication of Kerber and Watson's "Cross-Cultural Collaboration: Native Peoples and Archaeology in the Northeastern United States". So, how much has changed? One thing that has struck me over the past decade is the increasing presence of tribal monitors on archaeological sites associated with CRM investigations. It is primarily this experience that prompted me to suggest that we revisit the issue of consultation with Native American groups at this year's CNEA meeting.

My experience working with on-site tribal monitors has occurred primarily over the last five years in Massachusetts where regional Tribal Historic Preservation Offices have a strong presence and take an active role in the review process of state and federal undertakings that might affect cultural resources. Not only do THPOs send staff to observe our work, but some have negotiated with federal agencies to increase the level of effort on a project. In some cases, they have also promoted their own interpretation of artifacts, sites, surface features and landscapes in ways that the archaeologists would not have. Sometimes this has resulted in an effort to preserve areas that might otherwise have been developed. In most cases, an active tribal presence and participation in consultation with the federal agencies involved has increasingly affected the way archaeologists do their work in the region.

I believe that a minority of archaeologists are anxious about tribal oversight. Perhaps they are uncomfortable being watched, or they feel that their science is threatened by other perspectives. I think most of us see these recent changes as a welcome improvement. From a strictly financial perspective, tribal consultation and mediation has sometimes resulted in increased scopes and project budgets. Those of us embedded in compliance-based archaeology are all too aware of the highly competitive environment we work in. This can regrettably lead to minimalist proposals in order to keep project budgets lower than those of our competitors. Early in my experience, I recall thinking that working more closely with THPO staff would help them to realize the challenges CRM firms face in the real world, challenges that promoted levels of effort that were often less than ideal. Today I would say that while the THPO officers may in fact better understand this aspect of what we do, our business problems are not a serious concern of theirs. They simply want the job done right, and luckily for us and the resources we are all trying to protect, they've sometimes been able to help that happen.

The benefits of working with THPO officers go deeper, however. While many of worked closely with one or two tribal members back in the nineties, having on-site tribal monitors has provided an opportunity to meet many more representatives of the region's tribes, and it should be no surprise that their perspectives on archaeology are as diverse as they are as individuals. Working closely beside one another, often under grueling field conditions, we can't help but to get to know one another. The "us" and "them" perspective is being eroded over time as we share meals, or buy one another popsicles on hot days. In short, we are all in a position to evaluate each other's merits and faults as other humans, not stereotyped archaeologists and Indians.

I think this is a critical first step toward something we may someday call true collaboration. But we, in CRM at least, have a long way to go before we can claim our work is collaborative. In truth, consultation, as required under Section 106 between federal agencies and tribes is very different from collaboration. As archaeologists, we may lend a hand in the consultation process, usually working under engineering firms that themselves are hired by government agencies. But we need to remind ourselves that we are at the bottom rung in terms of the level of consultation that occurs between THPOs and agency heads, each representing their own nations in government-to-government meetings and correspondence. We may be proud of the preservation efforts we make, and federal agencies do take our recommendations seriously. But we should remind ourselves that THPOs have a special relationship to the government that we cannot approach. In fact, based on the 2001 Indian Canons of Statutory Construction, ambiguities in legislation dealing with tribal issues are to be construed liberally in favor of tribes, meaning that tribal recommendations regarding historical properties, especially those of religious and cultural significance to them, should be given a priority.

So, is there room for collaboration in the consultation process, within which we already play a minor role? Based primarily on the personal relationships archaeologists are forming with members of the tribal community, I think there is hope. Making collaboration work under Section 106 will require some creativity, good communication, and sincere efforts at networking. Sonia Atalay discusses the palette of consultation and public outreach in her recent book "Community-Based Archaeology," subtitled "research with, by and for indigenous local communities." The figure below is based on one from her book, though it has been reconfigured somewhat here.

Moving Beyond 106 Consultation



Based on Atalay 2012 Figure 1

Atalay's work is focused primarily on "community-based participatory research" (CBPR) and the figure is intended to show how this approach relates to others most of us are more familiar with. From bottom to top, these approaches include an increasing level of direct community involvement in archaeological undertakings. At the bottom we see legally-mandated consultation and public archaeology and outreach efforts. This is the realm most of us in CRM are generally limited to under the current MOA-based legal structure within which we work. The graphic indicates that a variety of additional approaches to collaborative work are possible. All of these are more intensively focused on face-to-face work with and for the communities in question. They include approaches like "multi-vocality" in which a variety of stakeholders are invited to include their own interpretations of heritage concerns, and "community-based consultation" in which a researcher is hired to work on tribally-initiated projects. As the most intensive community-based approach, CBPR is grounded in community-driven research and local knowledge production with an explicit goal of empowering and aiding the community involved.

As the graphic suggests, none of these approaches are mutually-exclusive, and there is arguably room for an increased community-based approach in legally-mandated consultation. But, fully-realized CBPR requires a suite of skills most of us do not yet have. This is changing, however, and in New England the University of Massachusetts is leading the way. The students that Stephen Silliman at UMass Boston and Sonya Atalay at UMass Amherst are mentoring are coming out of their programs with very different expectations regarding how archaeology is done. We should anticipate questions from these graduates like, "why don't you have someone to make tobacco offerings in your test pits?" and "shouldn't we ask the Wampanoag what questions they want answered from this site before we start?" The landscape of archaeology is evolving across the continent, and the current generation should be prepared for the changes to come.

To close, I want to return to the importance of having tribal monitors working with us. Their presence should be an unobtrusive reminder that when we are working on Native American sites, we are disrupting places where their ancestors went about their daily activities, the mundane tasks so important to their own survival. We are disturbing the earth that has blanketed and protected the remnants of that activity for so long. We are putting their heritage under the microscope and interpreting the archaeological data, "our finds," as outsiders. Most of us believe we have the skills to do this pretty objectively, and we interpret what we find based on a lot of information gathered from around the world that we worked hard to understand in college. But, in the end, we should remind ourselves that, for most of us, this is not our heritage, and what we say or do not say can impact living descendent communities in ways we may not anticipate. As we work more closely with tribal members in the coming years we should be mindful of the fact that archaeology is an inherently invasive science at many levels. We must be respectful of those who left us their buried gifts, and of their descendants with whom we share a sincere interest in the past.

Conference Presentation Abstracts

The Advisory Council's Handbook on Consultation with Indian Tribes

Brian Jones (AHS, Inc.)

American archaeologists are increasingly expected to take part in consultation with Native American tribes. While some consultation measures occur under state or local regulations, most are initiated during the NHPA Section 106 process associated with federally-funded undertakings. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has published a thirty-two page handbook to guide federal agencies in the consultation process as mandated under federal statutes. While aimed at federal agency employees, this guide provides information that all archaeologists and THPO staff should be familiar with. This talk summarizes the main points of the handbook and asks how we can use the consultation process to go beyond the letter of the law toward more community-based research goals.

Thoughts on Stone and Ceremony in the Northeast

Alan Leveillee and Joseph Waller, Jr. (PAL)

"A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together." Ecclesiastes/Pete Seeger

The 2008 Determination of Eligibility of the Turners Falls Sacred Ceremonial Hill Site was the nucleus for the nebulous and controversial subject of stone features and ceremonial landscapes. Stone and ceremony are approached from the perspectives of Native Americans, archaeologists, anthropologists, independent researchers, review agencies, and municipalities in Projects across the region. More than five years of discussion and debate leave us in shadows of impending opposition. We lack a mutually satisfactory working process for the identification, documentation, and evaluation of these resources. A conclusion that a resource is "potentially eligible" is short of a determination. Who should be responsible to speak for stone and ceremony? Can we collaborate to formulate a process? Is it time to commit to a series of organized forums to come together for mutually respectful "roundtable" discussions on stone, ceremony, and landscapes?

Tribal Consultation and the Role of the State Agency: The View from the Connecticut Department of Transportation

Mandy Ranslow MA, RPA (Connecticut Department of Transportation)

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) receives funding for projects from four US Department of Transportation agencies and some projects require federal permits. Ideally CTDOT's role is to assist the federal agency in its tribal consultation responsibilities by providing information. Each federal agency has a unique interpretation of its tribal consultation responsibilities under Section 106 and carries them out in very different ways. Navigating the 106 process for each federal agency can be challenging to ensure that meaningful consultation takes place with the tribes. Examples of the varying processes and the challenges involved will be discussed.

Collaborating on Petroglyphs: Passamaquoddy and University of Maine Goals for Research on Machias Bay, Maine

Brian Robinson and Donald Soctomah

The Passamaquoddy acquired the major petroglyph site of their ancestors on Machias Bay in 2006. Since that time the University of Maine has been coordinating archaeological field schools with the Passamaquoddy, influencing respective goals as the work proceeds. Certainly for the University the research has influenced the greater objectives and future goals, as well as providing memorable experiences for field school students.

Tribal Underwater Archaeology: Observations from the Past and Present and Some Ideas for the Future

David S. Robinson (URI Graduate School of Oceanography)

Since 2001, when the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (MBUAR) began requesting marine archaeological consultants consider the archaeological sensitivity for underwater project areas to contain submerged pre-contact period ancient Native American archaeological deposits as part of their review of National Historic Preservation Act Section 106-compliant offshore federal undertakings, significant methodological advances have been made and substantive results have been demonstrated on multiple projects completed throughout New England. One vitally important element largely lacking from this research until very recently, however, has been the inclusion of Tribal perspectives and concerns and the active involvement in underwater research by contemporary Native peoples and Tribal Historic Preservation Office personnel. As one of the first marine archaeological practitioners of submerged settlements archaeology in North America, and as the Principal Investigator and co-Principal Investigator on some of the first underwater archaeological projects to actively involve Tribal people in the development and implementation of research designs, the conduct of fieldwork, data analysis and interpretation, and in the communication of the results of this research, I've been fortunate to simultaneously find myself in the unique positions of proponent, practitioner, provocateur, ally, expert, novice, colleague, mentor, student and friend. This paper presents a summary of some of my observations and insights from past and present experiences working with Tribal people and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices on a variety of underwater archaeological projects over the last 13 years, and offers some ideas for what Tribal involvement in underwater archaeology may look like in the future.

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Clough House Backlot survey, Boston (North End), MA

Submitted by Joseph Bagley, City Archaeologist, Boston Archaeology Program

A team of volunteers from the City of Boston Archaeology Program conducted a Site Examination archaeological survey of the backlot of the c. 1715 Clough House located at 21 Unity St in the summer of 2013. Archaeological survey commenced as a result of the planned installation of a brick pathway through a portion of the rear lot that had never been developed. From 1711-1806, the house was a single-family structure for upper-middle class Bostonians. In 1806 a third story was added and the house was transformed into a tenement structure for recently arrived immigrants in the North End. In total, 10 1x1 meter excavation units were excavated in the rear of the house to a maximum depth of 125 centimeters below surface. 36,475 artifacts were recovered representing the entire occupation period of the house (c.1715-present). Artifacts are dominated by domestic ceramics and household waste including diverse faunal, glass, and metal components. This site examination at the Clough House offers a unique opportunity to examine a 300-year occupation of a North End residence in a single deposit. The assemblage further emphasizes the usefulness of an archaeological collection that has undergone some moderate redeposition due to repairs and modifications of extensive drainage features, which can be mitigated through careful stratigraphic recording and excavation techniques. No further excavations were recommended in the project area as proposed impacts would remain within a post-1930 fill deposit.

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Boston City Archaeology Program Expansion

Submitted by Joseph Bagley, City Archaeologist, Boston Archaeology Program

The City Archaeology Program recently expanded its partnership with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department to include archaeological review on all capital projects proposed by the City's Parks department. This quadruples the land in Boston that receives automatic archaeological review by the City Archaeologist and represents the first expansion of the City Archaeology Program's jurisdiction since its founding in 1983.

Intensive Survey of the Training Field (Winthrop Square) Park, Boston (Charlestown), MA**Submitted by Joseph Bagley, City Archaeologist, Boston Archaeology Program**

A team of volunteers from the City of Boston Archaeology Program conducted an intensive survey of the 1.1 acre park prior to planned landscape work to improve drainage and runoff issues in the fall or 2013. Historical documentation recorded a pre-Revolutionary training field, an 1820-1840 municipal zone that included a schoolhouse, firehouse, and gun house, a monumental fountain, and several path alignments through the park. 47 shovel test pits were excavated to a minimum of 125 cm below surface resulting in the recording of 8 new archaeological sites. Extensive post 1840 fill deposits exist across the entire site to a minimum of 50 cm. Sites recorded include the Training Field Park, Training Field Schoolhouse, Old Engine Company 4 Firehouse, Training Field Gun House, Training Field Fountain sites mentioned previously. The survey also found a late 18th- early 19th century dump site at the northern end of the site recorded as the Breeds Hill Slope Site. Two Native Sites were also found. Mishawum 1 site is approximately 150 square meters in size and consists of a flake scatter of local materials indicating a resource processing area. Mishawum 2 is slightly larger at approximately 250 square meters and includes local lithics, Woodland period pottery, and utilized flakes indicating a possible camp site. Additional archaeological survey is recommended in areas designated archaeological sites if impacts extend below 50 cm below surface.

Preliminary Results of the Halls Swamp Site (19-PL-1067) Data Recovery in Kingston, Massachusetts**Submitted by Dianna Doucette**

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) recently completed fieldwork at the Halls Swamp Site in Kingston, MA, under the direction of Dianna Doucette and Erin Flynn. The University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services (UMAS) documented the site in 2012 during an intensive archaeological survey of the area for the Town of Kingston. Following UMAS's survey PAL completed site examination and data recovery excavations, confirming that the site extends across an elevated glacial kame terrace surrounded by wetlands associated with Halls Brook, and that it was intensively and repeatedly utilized during the Middle and Late Archaic periods (ca. 8000 to 3000 B.P.), and briefly during the Woodland Period (ca. 3000 to 450 B.P.).

Based on the distribution and density of artifacts such as chipped and ground stone tools, chipping debris, and burnt rock fragments, along with cultural features such as fire hearths, charcoal pits, trash/storage pits, post molds, and lithic workshops, PAL identified several concentration areas of Native American occupation suggesting the Halls Swamp Site was utilized for a variety of domestic and subsistence related activities (food procurement/processing and storage/disposal, and stone tool making), and possible ceremonial activities. The Halls Swamp Site represents a significant cultural resource and is unique in its pristine condition; the majority of the site was not disturbed by plowing and other forms of digging, erosion, or development. Almost fifty features were identified, including evidence possibly associated with Archaic Period house structures. There are plans for additional data recovery excavations and to machine strip the site to look for significant features before it gets developed into soccer fields for the Town of Kingston.

Radiocarbon dates from Wayland, Massachusetts**Submitted by Tonya Largy, Coordinator of the Wayland Archaeology Group**

Thirty-two radiocarbon dates from Native American sites are available from the Town of Wayland, Massachusetts, all of which were funded by the Town of Wayland on behalf of the Wayland Historical Commission (WHC). Excavations on Town-owned parcels were conducted prior to development under MHC permits by the Wayland Archaeology Group (WARG), an arm of the WHC.

Excavations by WARG began in 1978 at the Castle Hill site for several years prior to construction of a soccer field. The Sand Hill site was excavated over a period of twenty-four years from 1983 until 2007 as gravel and sand were being removed. Five excavations were conducted on Native American sites in all, four by WARG and one under contract which produced the oldest date recorded thus far. The most reliable dates range from 6680 ± 170 B.P. to 300 ± 70 B.P.

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Excavation of Two Native American Sites in Marshfield

Submitted by Brian D. Jones, AHS, Inc.

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) recently completed Phase III Data Recovery excavations at a locus within an ancient Native American site in Marshfield, Massachusetts. The site area was first identified by avocational archaeologists in the 1960s, and portions of the site had been previously investigated by UMass Archaeological Services. Artifacts here were buried by a dense horizon of bulldozed earth that capped a layer of compressed peat. A tidal dike was constructed downriver in 1872, dropping the local water table about two feet, exposing the previously inundated marsh landscape. Beneath the peat horizon was a dense concentration of rhyolite knapping debris associated with thirty-two Snook Kill (Atlantic) points and nineteen drills and fragments. The site documents a number of complete knapping episodes, from split cobble cores (likely gathered at nearby Brant Rock Beach), through the production of large bifaces and preforms, to points, asymmetrical bifaces (knives), and finally drills and spent broken bits. The site's pristine character strongly suggests that it represents a single period of focused activity. Over 7,000 rhyolite artifacts were recovered from the 59 square meters excavated. A possible hearth feature was recently dated to 3530+/-30 years BP (uncalibrated). The site reflects an uncommon episode of Snook Kill Phase activity. The nature of the site has yet to be resolved, but one possibility is that the location was used to prepare materials for and construct a birchbark canoe.

New Data from the Queset Site, Easton, Massachusetts

Submitted by Brian D. Jones, AHS, Inc.

The Queset Site (19-BR-649) in Easton, Massachusetts was first identified by PAL in 1999 and further assessed in 2008 and 2012. Initial surveys produced quartz and rhyolite debitage, bifaces and projectile points, as well as a pit feature dated to 4430+/-30 B.P. Five quartz Squibnocket triangle points were closely associated with the dated feature, while a rhyolite Neville point was found ca. 20 meters away. Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) completed a Data Recovery of the Queset Site in the Fall of 2013. Forty-eight additional square meters of the site were excavated. AHS recovered 7,228 artifacts, including over 4,500 lithics. Native American cultural material from the site is comprised almost entirely of quartz (61%) and rhyolite (38%). Diagnostic artifacts from the combined excavations now include twenty-four Squibnocket Triangles, two Nevilles and a Neville variant point, a Snook Kill (Atlantic) point, and an Otter Creek point. Three quartz knapping areas were associated with the quartz Squibnocket triangle points, while rhyolite was concentrated in one area where it was associated with Middle Archaic diagnostics. The Queset Site is important for helping to refine the chronology of the Late Archaic quartz tool tradition particularly because it lacks the Small Stem type that tends to dominate most assemblages. Data from the site help to support the argument that the Squibnocket Triangle type dates to a relatively short period of time around 4,400 radiocarbon years ago (ca. 5,010 calBP).

Excavation of a 17th-century Earthfast House in Marshfield, Massachusetts

Submitted by Ross K. Harper, AHS, Inc. Storrs, Connecticut

In the fall of 2013 Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) discovered and completed a Phase III Data Recovery of a First-Period earthfast house in Marshfield, Massachusetts, part of the original Plymouth Colony. The entire house and immediate yard were excavated. A total of 132 square meters were dug and over 15,000 artifacts were recovered, including Border ware, North Devon gravel temper, and redware ceramics. Other artifacts include tobacco pipes, gunflints, lead shot, iron clothing hooks, case bottle glass, fragments of seal-top spoons, a book clasp, fragments of brass kettles and a brass skimmer, and a few iron tools. Features include post holes, a circular sub-floor storage pit, a small rectangular-shaped unlined cellar, and a hearth, which appears to have been constructed with a hood or vent in the roof. The distribution of nails, post holes and other features indicate a small one-room end-hearth house. The house appears to have burned after a relatively short period of occupation and a numerous carbonized textiles and food remains, including corn, beans and water lily, were recovered. The data analysis is ongoing.

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Recent Research: Shirley Blancke, Concord Museum, Concord, MA.**Submitted by Shirley Blancke**

In the course of continuing the computer cataloging of old collections at the Concord Museum, material from the MAS's 1940-41 dig at the Davis Farm in Sudbury, MA, was found in Benjamin L. Smith's collection. It was an ambitious excavation undertaken when the Society was in its second and third year. Because of World War II, the only report published was 3 pages on the 1940 season by Hallam Movius, Jr., of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University (Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, 2(2): 17-19, 1941). The material and notes were in disarray, but it finally became possible to reconstruct what was found, and a full report will be published in the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society this Fall, 2014. There were four levels going back to the Middle Archaic, and two radiocarbon dates were obtained. Tonya Largy is reporting on the fauna and flora in the same issue.

Pre-Contact occupation on the Farmington River in Connecticut**Submitted by Kerry Lynch, Archaeological Services at UMass**

Archaeological Services has recently completed data recovery excavations on two sites identified during the survey of a transmission line corridor in Connecticut. The sites lie on opposite sides of the Farmington River below steep rapids in the vicinity of the Tariffville Gorge. A large portion of each site was protected from development, leaving a smaller percentage subject to data recovery investigations. A preliminary interpretation of each site as a seasonal fishing station during the spring run of anadromous fish seems reasonable given their location at the base of rapids. Analysis of each site is not yet complete, but some characteristics have been identified.

The site on the west bank of the river is located on a level, secondary terrace that drops steeply to the river. Thirty-two square meters were excavated in two block excavations. The site yielded evidence of Middle Archaic through Middle Woodland occupation. Stark, Neville, Neville Variant, Small (Narrow) Stemmed, Rossville, and Jack's Reef projectile points were recovered, as was a moderate amount of pre-Contact pottery. Botanical and faunal remains, including charred fragments from hearth features, include butternut, hickory, and turtle. Interestingly, the evidence of processing and consuming nuts suggest an autumn occupation rather than during the spring fish runs. In addition, no evidence of fish or fishing tackle was identified. However, the site contained complex feature stratigraphy and enigmatic radiocarbon dates that have yet to be sorted out.

The east side of the river differs significantly from the west. Occupation here is on the side of a remarkably steep slope. 151.5 square meters were excavated in multiple block excavations. Middle Archaic Neville and Neville Variant projectile points predominate (24+), with only one Late Archaic Squibnocket Stemmed point and a few fragments of pre-Contact pottery diagnostic of later culture periods. Significant concentrations of small scrapers were also identified, as were numerous reworked, retouched, and utilized flakes and bifaces indicating multiple activity areas. Quartz was the predominant raw material, but quartzite, chert, argillite, hornfels, rhyolite, chalcedony, and jasper were present. The hillside contained a significant density of tools, but again no evidence of fish or fishing tackle. The scrapers and Neville points, however, are similar to those reported from the Neville Site and likely indicate activities associated with spring fish runs. The location of these activities on a steep slope near but not immediately adjacent to the river may explain the lack of fishing tackle. Use wear analysis is being conducted on some of the tools from this site and may shed light on what activities people were engaged in at this location.

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***Archaeological Excavations at the Vroman I Site, Town of Schoharie,
Schoharie County, New York***

**Submitted by Christina B. Rieth, New York State Museum, Cultural Resource
Survey Program**

Archaeologists from the New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program completed archaeological excavations at the Vroman I Site in the Town of Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York. The Vroman I site has been identified as a multi-component prehistoric and historic site identified during the renovation of Route 443 in the Town of Schoharie, New York. The historic occupation consists of a small concentration of historic artifacts associated with the occupation of the property during the mid-late 19th century. The second occupation consists of a scatter of prehistoric flakes and bifacially worked tools that are associated with the site as a small camp. One hundred and thirty artifacts were recovered from both the historic and prehistoric components. These artifacts included the following items: utilized and non-utilized flakes, bone and shell fragments, decorated and undecorated ceramic sherds, architectural debris (ie. brick fragments, window glass, nails, pieces of mortar, etc.) and other domestic remains (e.g. coal, cinder, and slag fragments, kaolin pipe fragments, amethyst and aqua bottle glass, etc.). Given the large number of artifacts recovered and the integrity of the deposits, additional work was recommended to determine if the site was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The prehistoric occupation at the site consists of the remains of a small camp site occupied during the Transitional and Early Woodland Periods. The site overlooks the Fox Creek and produced a dense sheet midden containing fragments of charcoal, lithic debitage, and broken stone tools. Lithic debitage recovered from the site are varied and include a wide variety of materials including Onondaga chert, Normanskill chert, pieces of chalcedony, one fragment of quartz, and several other unidentified pieces of chert. Two charcoal samples were sent to Beta-Analytic for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dating. The first sample returned an AMS date of 2,460 +/- 40 B.P. (Cal B.C. 780 to 410) (B-186306) placing the sample within the Early Woodland Period. The date is also consistent with the Woodland point from the site. A second sample returned a date that was older at 3,060 +/- 40 B.P. (Cal B.C. 1400 to 1190) (B-186305). The date recovered from the site is a bit older and falls within the Transitional Period.

Nineteenth century artifacts were also identified and are associated with the occupation of the site as a small domestic site by the Snyder, Fischer, Dietz, and Cary families circa 1820-1900. Six hundred and fifty-six historic artifacts were recovered with 69.5% of the artifacts identified as architectural remains, 71 (10.8%) were domestic remains, 5 (1%) were personal remains, and 124 (19%) were miscellaneous remains. Preliminary analysis suggests these containers represent a variety of forms including plates, hollowware, teacups, and pieces of flatware. The predominance of utilitarian wares suggests that the occupants of the site were members of the growing middle class and sought to convey this middle-class standing through the selection of appropriate tablewares and serving dishes. The Vroman I site was recommended eligible for the National Register under Criteria D. The results of the site examination will be published during the Summer of 2014 as part of the New York State Museum's Cultural Resources Survey Program Series Bulletin 6. The publication will be available on-line through the museum's open-access publishing series at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/publications/crsp/>.

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Conference on New England Archaeology

CNEA provides an annual conference to discuss theoretical issues in New England archaeology.

Thanks are given to Phillips Academy and the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology (<https://www.andover.edu>) for hosting the 2014 CNEA meeting.

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