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## PHASE IA ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

### River Ridge Views, LLC

NYS Route 9D  
City of Beacon  
Dutchess County, New York

HAA # 5160-11

**Submitted to:**

River Ridge Views, LLC  
445 Main Street  
Beacon, New York 12508

**Prepared by:**

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July 2017

## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

SHPO Project Review Number:

Involved State and Federal Agencies: *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)*

Phase of Survey: *Phase IA*

## **LOCATION INFORMATION**

Municipality: *City of Beacon*

County: *Dutchess*

## **SURVEY AREA**

Length: *500*

Width: *250*

Acres: *2.9 acres*

## **RESULTS OF RESEARCH**

Archeological sites within one mile: *23*

Surveys in or adjacent: *1*

NR/NRE sites in or adjacent: *1*

Precontact Sensitivity: *Moderate to High*

Historic Sensitivity: *Moderate to High*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Phase IB archeological investigations are recommended for the western portion of the project area.

Report Authors: *Amy Wilson and Andre Krievs*

Date of Report: *July 2017*

## **ABSTRACT**

A Phase IA Archeological Investigation was completed for the River Ridge Views subdivision located in the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York. The site visit observations combined with the county soil data suggest the project area has experienced a high level of prior disturbance within the general footprint of the proposed subdivision. The western wooded section of the project area has experienced significantly less disturbance. The identification of the brick-lined well suggests some historic cultural deposits associated with several map documented structures, since removed, may have survived building demolition.

Phase IB archeological investigations are recommended for the western portion of the project area. The eastern portion of the project area parallel to Route 9D has experienced extensive prior disturbance and no further archeological investigation is recommended in that area.

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## **PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY**

### **1 Introduction**

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. (Hartgen) conducted a Phase IA archeological investigation for the proposed River Ridge Views subdivision (Project) located in the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York (Map 1). The Project requires approvals by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the City of Beacon Planning Board.

This investigation was conducted to comply with Section 14.09 of the State Historic Preservation Act and will be reviewed by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The investigation was conducted according to the New York Archaeological Council's *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections* (1994), which are endorsed by OPRHP. This report has been prepared according to OPRHP's *State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Phase I Archeological Report Format Requirements* (2005).

### **2 Project Information**

#### **2.1 Project Location**

The project area is located along the west side of NY Route 9D in the City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York.

#### **2.2 Description of the Project**

The project will include the installation of an access road, walkways, and parking lots accompanied by the construction of a perimeter retaining wall and multiple housing units (Map 2).

#### **2.3 Description of the Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The area of potential effects (APE) includes all portions of the property that will be directly altered by the proposed undertaking. The APE encompasses approximately 2.9 acres.

For the purpose of this study, the Project Area and APE are considered to be synonymous and the terms are used interchangeably.

### **3 Environmental Background**

The environment of an area is significant for determining the sensitivity of the Project Area for archeological resources. Precontact and historic groups often favored level, well-drained areas near wetlands and waterways. Therefore, topography, proximity to wetlands, and soils are examined to determine if there are landforms in the Project Area that are more likely to contain archeological resources. In addition, bedrock formations may contain chert or other resources that may have been quarried by precontact groups. Soil conditions can provide a clue to past climatic conditions, as well as changes in local hydrology.

#### **3.1 Present Land Use and Current Conditions**

A site visit was conducted by Walter Wheeler on July 17, 2017 to observe and photograph existing conditions within the Project Area. The project area is mostly an open gravel-covered lot with patches of thick brush and small trees (Map 2; Photos 1, 2 and 3). The western portion of the parcel has a moderate to steep slope (Map 2; Photo 4). A mortared stone and wood structure is located within the north central portion of the parcel (Map 2; Photo 5). The structure is situated on a slight rise and the soils around the structure and across the property appear to have been removed and replaced by a layer of gravel. Several large soil piles are evident at the north end of the parcel suggesting further evidence of prior disturbance. The western end of the project area slopes sharply toward Beekman Street and contains a mixture of thick brush and small to medium- sized

trees (Map 2: Photos 6 and 7). The larger trees are mostly locust, a species that is known to grow in soils that have experienced a certain degree of prior disturbance. The remnants of a brick-lined well was encountered along the western portion of the parcel (Map 2; Photo 8).

### 3.2 Soils

Soil surveys provide a general characterization of the types and depth of soils that are found in an area. This information is an important factor in determining the appropriate methodology if and when a field study is recommended. According to the Soil Survey for Dutchess County, the project area contains Nassau Cardigan complex soils and Udorthents (USDA NRCS 2006).

Table 1. Soils in Project Area

Symbol	Name	Depth	Textures	Slope	Drainage	Landform
Ud	Udorthents	0-15 cm (0-6 in) 15-60 cm (6-12 in)	Gv si Gv si	0-8%	Well drained	Bedrock controlled cut and fill land
NwC	Nassau Cardigan complex	0-8 cm (0-3 in) 8-43 cm (3-17 in) bedrock	Si lo Si lo	0-20%	Well drained	Bedrock controlled glacially modified uplands

Key: Texture: Co-Coarse, Fi-Fine, Gv-Gravellly, Lo-Loam, Sa-Sand, Si-Silt, Vy-Very

### 3.3 Bedrock Geology

According to the Geological Map of New York, the underlying bedrock is part of the Eugeosynclinal Sequence consisting of Austin Glen Formation greywacke and shale (Fisher, et al. 1970).

### 3.4 Physiography and Hydrology

Steeply sloped areas are considered largely unsuitable for human occupation. As such, the standards for archeological fieldwork in New York State generally exclude areas with a slope in excess of 12% from archeological testing (NYAC 1994). Exceptions to this rule include steep areas with bedrock outcrops, overhangs, and large boulders that may have been used by precontact people as quarries or rock-shelters. Such areas may still warrant a systematic field examination.

## 4 Documentary Research

Hartgen conducted research using the New York State Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), which is maintained by the New York SHPO and the Division for Historic Preservation DHP within OPRHP. CRIS contains a comprehensive inventory of archeological sites, State and National Register (NR) properties, properties determined eligible for the NR (NRE), and previous cultural resource surveys.

### 4.1 Archeological Sites

An examination of CRIS identified 23 reported archeological sites within one mile (1.6 km) of the Project (Table 2). Previously reported archeological sites provide an overview of both the types of sites that may be present in the Project Area and relation of sites throughout the surrounding region. The presence of few reported sites, however, may result from a lack of previous systematic survey and does not necessarily indicate a decreased archeological sensitivity within the Project Area.

Table 2. Archeological sites within one mile (1.6 km) of the Project

OPRHP Site No.	NYSM Site No.	Site Identifier	Description	Proximity to Project Area
02706.000051	-	G. A. Seaman Historic Site	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -Century house location, known from shovel testing (no extant structure above ground). NR status is	5,080 feet northeast

			undetermined.	
02706.000052	-	Miss E. Seaman Site	Historic house site, known from shovel testing (no extant structure above ground). NR status is undetermined.	5,190 feet northeast
02741.000010	-	Van Planck Site	Map-documented location of structure shown on 1798 Livingston map. NR status is undetermined.	4,780 feet southwest
02741.000011	-	Wiltsie Site and Site of Store	Map-documented location of late 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century Wiltsie house and store. NR status is undetermined.	3,730 feet south
02741.000012	-	School Site	Map-documented location of late 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century school, between Sargent and South Avenues. NR status is undetermined.	3,180 feet southeast
02741.000013	-	Schenck Mill Site	Mill site along the Fishkill. NR status is undetermined.	4,720 feet southeast
02741.000014	-	Fishkill Ferry Landing and Beekman Street; also known as Fishkill Landing	Said in 1974 to be in the area slated for urban renewal. Citing the landing's importance in the Colonial Era and during the Revolutionary War, "there is a strong potential for significant archeological sites remaining in undisturbed areas along Beekman Street..." More research was needed, however, to determine if the targeted street on late 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century maps was Beekman or Ferry street. A 1995 letter from John Bonafide asserts that the Landing is NRE because of important historic events.	375 feet west
02741.000015	-	Jarvis Site	Map-documented location of late 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century Jarvis farm. NR status is undetermined.	4,000 feet east
02741.000016	-	Fishkill Landing Settlement	Cluster of map-documented, 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century structures between Verplank Avenue, Main Street, Walnut Street, and North Avenue. One, the Country Club house, stands on the north side of North Ave, opposite Verplank. NR status is undetermined.	2,380 feet northeast
02741.000021	-	ALB&Beacon Bridge Site, NYAC 292	NR status is undetermined.	5,010 feet north
02741.000342	-	Fishkill Landing Upper Landing	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - and early 19 <sup>th</sup> -Century commercial center on the Hudson River, extending inland along Main Street. NR status is undetermined.	1,440 feet northwest
02741.000344	-	Long Dock	Map-documented location of 19 <sup>th</sup> -century pier, at foot of Ferry Street. NR status is undetermined.	1,890 feet west
02741.000346	-	Schenck Grist Mill	Map-documented location of potentially 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century mill on the Fishkill. NR status is undetermined.	5,090 feet southeast
02741.000347	-	Frankfort Storehouse	Map-documented location of 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century storehouse, served at one time as the Wiltsie storehouse. NR status is undetermined.	2,850 feet south
02741.000402	-	Dennings Point Brick Works Historic Site	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -century brick works site. NR status is undetermined.	5,070 feet southwest
02741.000403	-	Dennings Point Prehistoric Site	Precontact site of unknown date. NR status is undetermined.	5,070 feet southwest
02741.000521	-	Structure 14 Cistern	19 <sup>th</sup> -century brick cistern. NR status is undetermined.	325 feet north
-	1154	Beacon; SUNY ALB 2	No information.	4,400 feet northwest
-	3146	ACP DUCH 14	Precontact village, overlaps with NYSM 7259 (see below).	3,315 feet south
-	7259	Site S; ACP DUCH 16A; ACP WEST no #	North end of site is within search radius.	3,000 feet south
-	6621	ACP DUCH no #	"Traces of occupation;" plotted at the outside edge of the	4,750 feet



			search radius.	southeast
-	7856	ACP DUCH no #; ACP DUCH 13A?	Burial site plotted in a broad area east of the Project.	2,100 feet east
-	3145	ACP DUCH 13C	Precontact village, described as “recent” [perhaps meaning Late Woodland].	770 feet southwest

Of the 23 reported sites, six date to the precontact period and 17 to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There appears to be considerable overlap between the Fishkill Landing sites (A02741.000342, A02741.000016, and A02741.000014), none of which were identified based on fieldwork. Instead, the Fishkill Landing sites appear to have been reported in response to urban renewal projects where historic maps showed buildings or clusters of buildings that were no longer intact.

#### 4.2 Historic Properties

An examination of CRIS identified one NR properties, no NRE properties, no properties previously determined to be ineligible, and no properties of undetermined status within the Project Area (Table 3).

Table 3. Inventoried properties within the Project Area

USN	Property Name	Status	Description	Location and Proximity to Project Area
90NR00437	Reformed Dutch Church of Fishkill Landing	Listed	2.2-acre parcel containing an 1859 brick church, a 19 <sup>th</sup> -century cemetery, and a non-contributing parsonage. The church building was designed by Frederick Clark Withers in the High Victorian Gothic style. The property’s significance derives from the church’s architecture, enhanced by the 1813 – 1930 cemetery.	Adjacent. The NR listed, 2.2-acre parcel is at 44-50 Ferry Street (known today in this portion as Wolcott Ave). It is adjacent to the north boundary of the project area. The cemetery in the property is located in the northwest portion of the property.

Note that the imposing 1859 church is the second church known to have been located in the lot; the first church for the congregation was built c. 1813, at the same time the cemetery was established. The cemetery was used only by Dutch Reformed Church members until 1840, after which it was available for non-member burials.

#### 4.3 Previous Surveys

A review of CRIS identified one previous survey within the immediate vicinity of the Project (Table 4).

Table 4 Relevant previous surveys within or adjacent to the Project

Project/Phase	Summary	Citation
The View Apartment Building, Phase I	Phase I survey identified brick cistern. Avoidance or further Phase II/III study was recommended.	(Hartgen 2016)

A Phase I archeological investigation was completed by Hartgen in 2016 for the View Apartment Building project located north of the project area along Beekman Street. The investigation identified a brick cistern and avoidance or further Phase II/III study was recommended.

## 5 Historical Map Review

To trace the development of the project, a review of historical maps was conducted. The maps include 19<sup>th</sup>-century landowner maps, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Sanborn insurance maps, and 20<sup>th</sup>-century topographic quadrangles. The maps are geo-referenced and the Project has been superimposed on each map. The maps are discussed in chronological order (Map 4).

The examined 19<sup>th</sup>-century landowner maps include the 1858 Gillette *Map of Dutchess County, New York* and the 1876 Gray *Atlas of Dutchess County, New York*. The 1858 Gillette map shows a structure (A. K. Chandler) at the north end of the property and two additional structures (Mrs. A. Gilmore) at the south end of the parcel. The same three structures are indicated on the 1876 Gray atlas as Dr. Kittredge at the north end of the property and Boyer & Smith and A. Kity at the south end of the parcel. Four adjacent house lots, two with structures, are indicated at the western end of the parcel along Beekman Road.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century Sanborn maps range from 1896 to 1946. The 1896 Sanborn map shows a rectory building in the same general location as the structure (Dr. Kittredge) identified on the earlier maps. Another smaller dwelling is indicated near the northern edge of the project area. Both structures appear to be associated with the Reformed Church located on the adjacent lot. A series of four structures are indicated at the south end of the parcel and three residences and two outbuildings are indicated at the west end of the project area near Beekman Street.

The 1927 Sanborn map shows the rectory and the dwelling identified at the north end of the parcel and another smaller structure (Summer House) south of the rectory building. Four structures are indicated at the south end of the property and three dwellings are shown at the west end of the parcel along Beekman Street.

The 1946 Sanborn map identifies the same three structures at the north end of the parcel and a series of five dwellings at the south end of the property. Three dwellings are indicated at the west end of the parcel adjacent to Beekman Street.

The examined mid to late 20<sup>th</sup>-century topographic quadrangles are not detailed enough to show individual structures. The most recent ortho-image indicates one extant structure within the project area.

### 5.1 Map-Documented and Existing Structures

Each past or current structure within the Project Area is assigned a unique structure number. Map-documented structures—those structures that are depicted on one or more maps—are distinguished using the abbreviation “MDS” after the structure number (e.g. Structure 3 (MDS)).

Table 5. Summary of map-documented and existing structures within or directly adjacent the Project Area/APE

Structure #	Map 4 (1858)	Map 4 (1876)	Map 4 (1896)	Map 4 (1927)	Map 4 (1946)	Extant (2017)
1	X	X	X	X	X	
2	X	X	X	X	X	
3	X	X	X	X	X	
4		X				
5		X	X	X	X	
6		X	X	X	X	
7			X	X	X	
8			X			
9			X	X	X	
10			X	X	X	
11				X	X	
12				X	X	X
13				X	X	
14				X	X	
15					X	

## 6 Archeological Sensitivity Assessment

The New York Archaeological Council provides the following description of archeological sensitivity:

Archaeologically sensitive areas contain one or more variables that make them likely locations for evidence of past human activities. Sensitive areas can include places near known prehistoric sites that share the same valley or that occupy a similar landform (e.g., terrace above a river), areas where historic maps or photographs show that a building once stood but is now gone as well as the areas within the former yards around such structures, an environmental setting similar to settings that tend to contain cultural resources, and locations where Native Americans and published sources note sacred places, such as cemeteries or spots of spiritual importance (NYAC 1994:9).

### **6.1 Precontact Archeological Sensitivity**

The precontact sensitivity of an area is based on proximity to previously documented precontact archeological sites, known precontact resources (e.g. chert outcrops), and physiographic characteristics such as topography and drainage. Generally, areas in the vicinity of streams and wetlands are considered to have elevated sensitivity for sites associated with Native American use or occupation because they presented potential food and water sources as well as transportation corridors.

The site file data indicate 7 precontact sites within a mile of the project area. The sites are located mainly along the Hudson River and the Fishkill. Based on the project area's proximity to the Fishkill and Hudson River and the identification on numerous previously identified precontact sites, the project area is considered as having moderate to high sensitivity for precontact cultural resources.

### **6.2 Historic Archeological Sensitivity**

The historic sensitivity of an area is based primarily on proximity to previously documented historic archeological sites, map-documented structures, or other documented historical activities (e.g. battlefields).

The 19<sup>th</sup>-century landowner maps and the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Sanborn maps show several structures within or directly adjacent to the project area. The project area is considered as having a moderate to high sensitivity for historic cultural resources dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

## **7 Archeological Potential**

Archeological potential is the likelihood of locating intact archeological remains within an area. The consideration of archeological potential takes into account subsequent uses of an area and the impact those uses would likely have on archeological remains.

The site visit observations combined with the county soil data indicate the project area has experienced extensive prior disturbance. The historic development accompanied by more recent effects have significantly altered the properties original landscape along with any precontact cultural resources that may have been present. The project area has a low archeological potential for yielding intact precontact cultural resources.

The historic maps revealed numerous map documented structures within the project area. The buildings appear to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century structures (Summer House) is located within the north central portion of the parcel. The stone and wood gazebo is situated on a slight rise and will be re-located to a green-space.

The "Summer House" or gazebo was the only extant structure identified within the project area. It is apparently related to the Kittredge House (Figure 1). The structure was known as the Riverview Institute, a home for nervous invalids, under the care of Dr. C. M. Kittredge. No evidence of the former Kittredge House (MDS 1) or the other map documented structures was visible.

The structural remains once located within the property along with any associated historic cultural deposits have been affected. Some of the building remains within the eastern portion of the property were removed or redeposited along the western slope. After final grading, sections of the property were covered by a layer of gravel. Several soil piles are evident at the north end of the parcel indicating some of the material may have

been left there. Due to the high level of disturbance, the eastern portion of the project area is considered as having a low archeological potential of yielding intact historic cultural resources dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.

A surface reconnaissance of the western portion of the project area east of Beekman Street identified the remains of a brick-lined well that appears to be associated with a series of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century structures that once stood along Beekman Street. The buildings were apparently removed as part of the re-alignment of Beekman Street. This section of the project area has not experienced the high level of disturbance found within the eastern portion of the property and is considered as having a moderate to high potential of yielding historic cultural resources dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **8 Recommendations**

The site visit observations combined with the county soil data suggest the project area has experienced a high level of prior disturbance within the general footprint of the proposed subdivision. The western wooded section of the project area has experienced significantly less disturbance. The identification of the brick-lined well suggests some historic cultural deposits associated with several map documented structures since removed, may have survived building demolition. Phase IB archeological investigations are recommended for the western portion of the project area. The eastern portion of the project area parallel to Route 9D has experienced extensive prior disturbance and no further archeological investigation is recommended for this section of the project area.

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Sanborn Map Company

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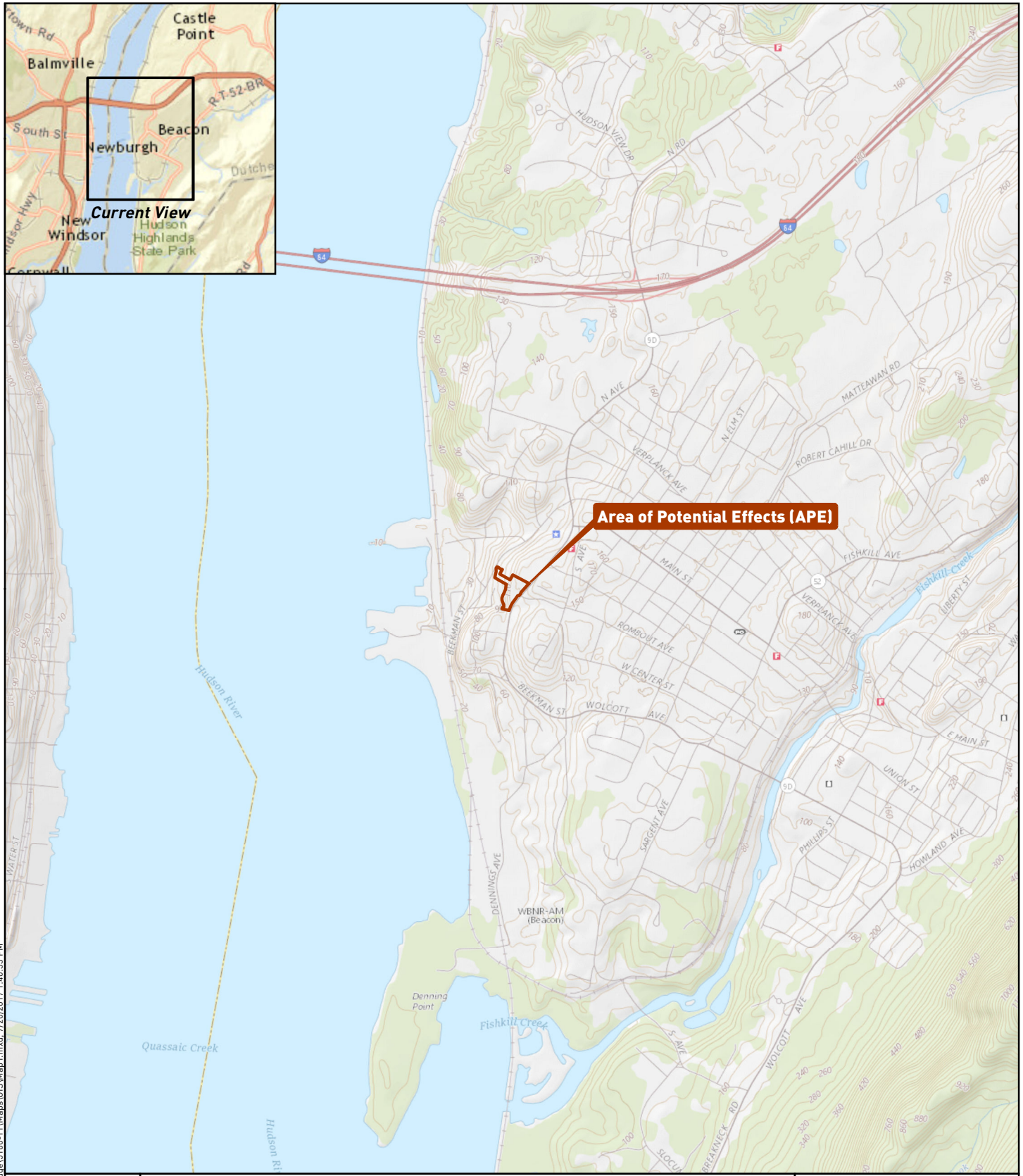
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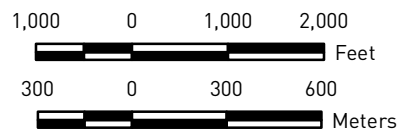
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<http://services.nationalmap.gov/arcgis/rest/services/USGSTopoLarge/MapServer>.

## **Maps**

River Ridge Views, City of Beacon, Dutchess County, New York  
Phase IA Archeological Investigation



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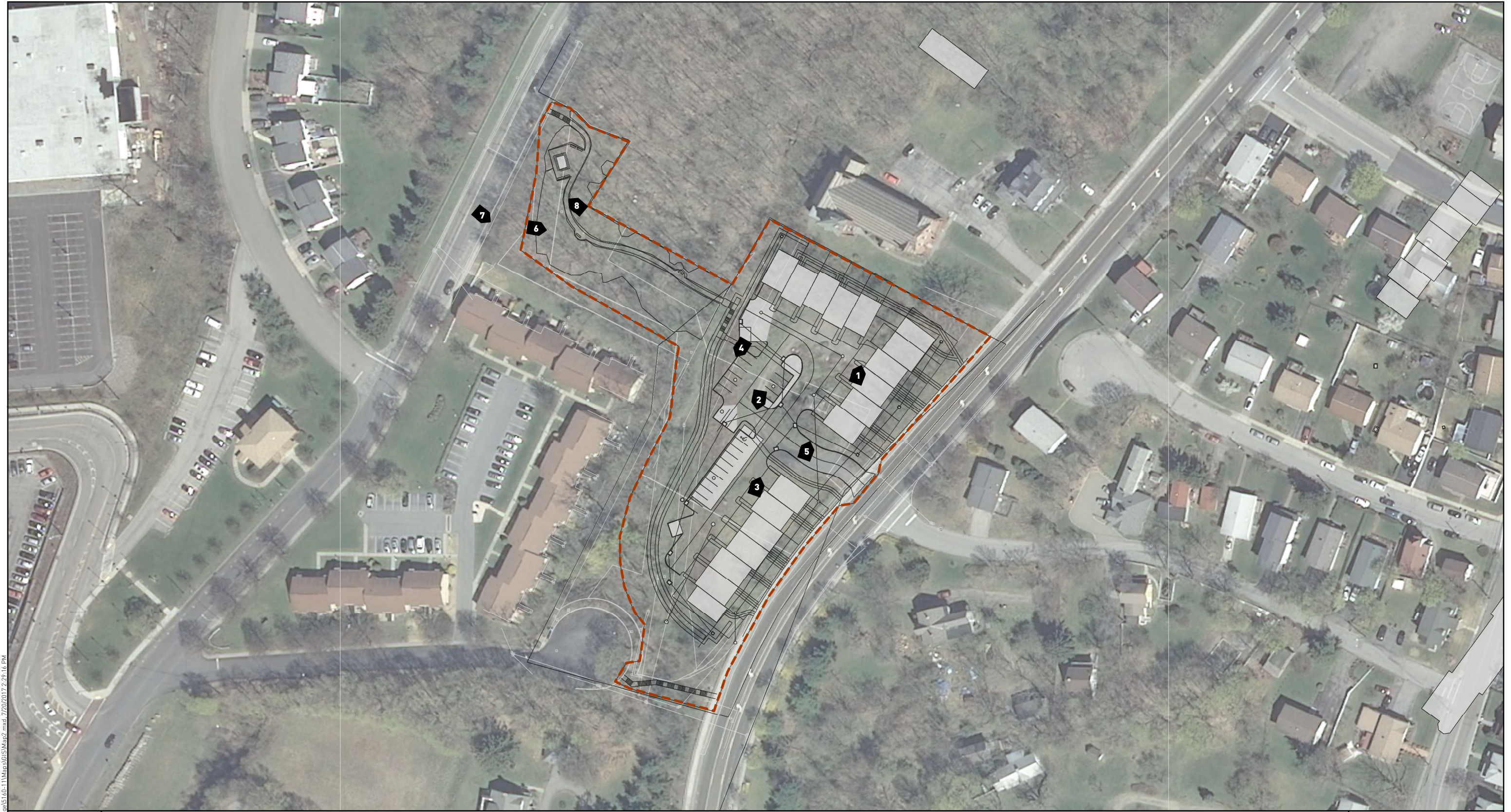
Note: Contour interval is 20 feet.

Project Location  
(ESRI 2017; USGS 2015)

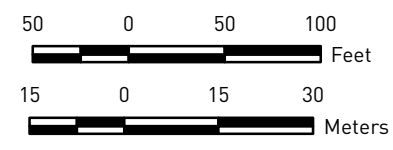




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**Map 1**



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- Legend**
-  Photo Angles
  -  Area of Potential Effects (APE)

Project Map  
(Hudson Land Design 2017)

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**Map 2**





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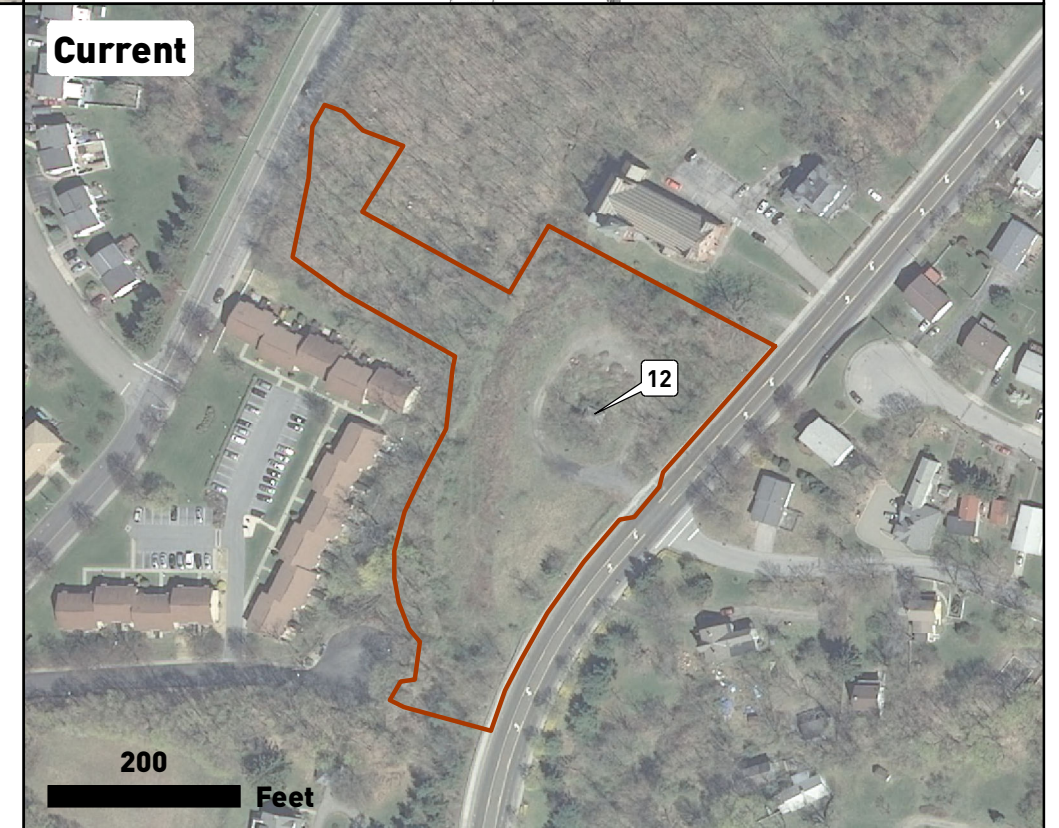
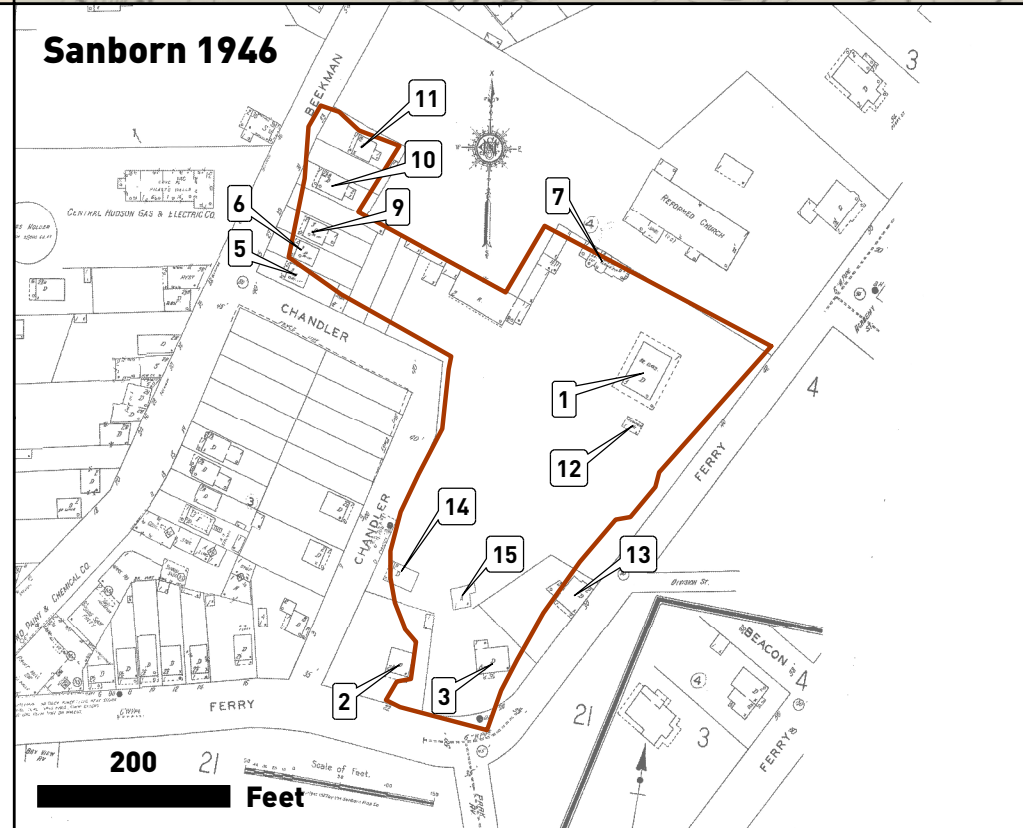
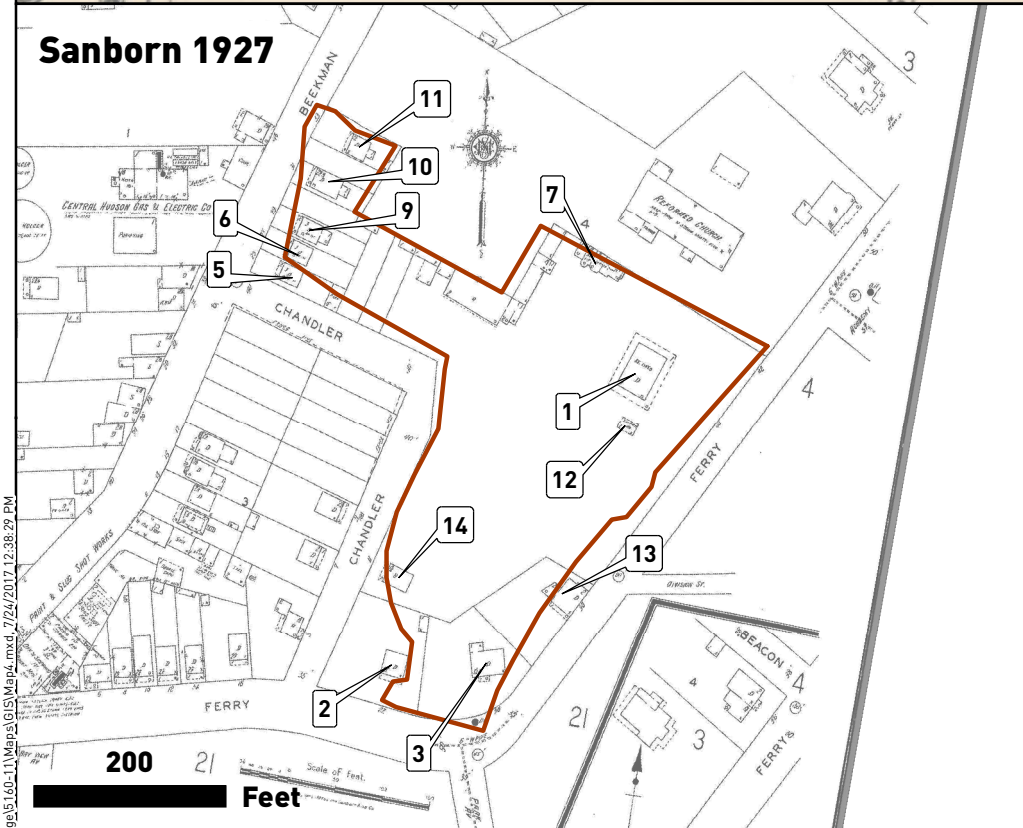
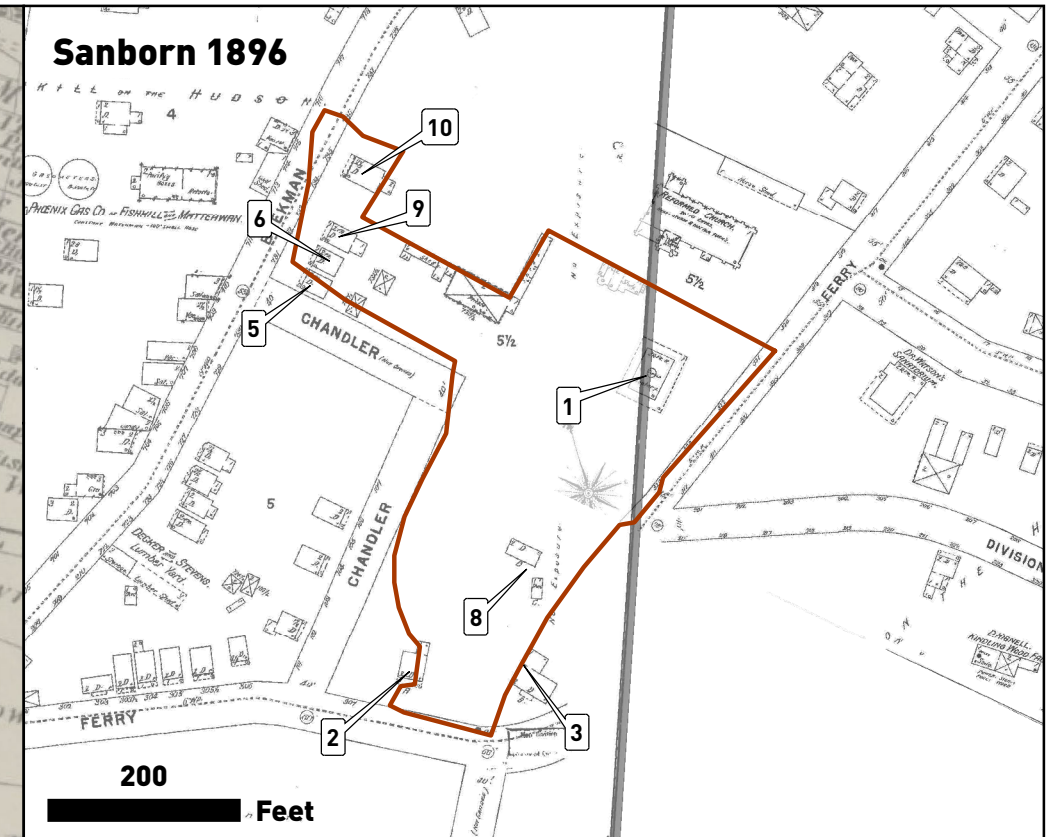
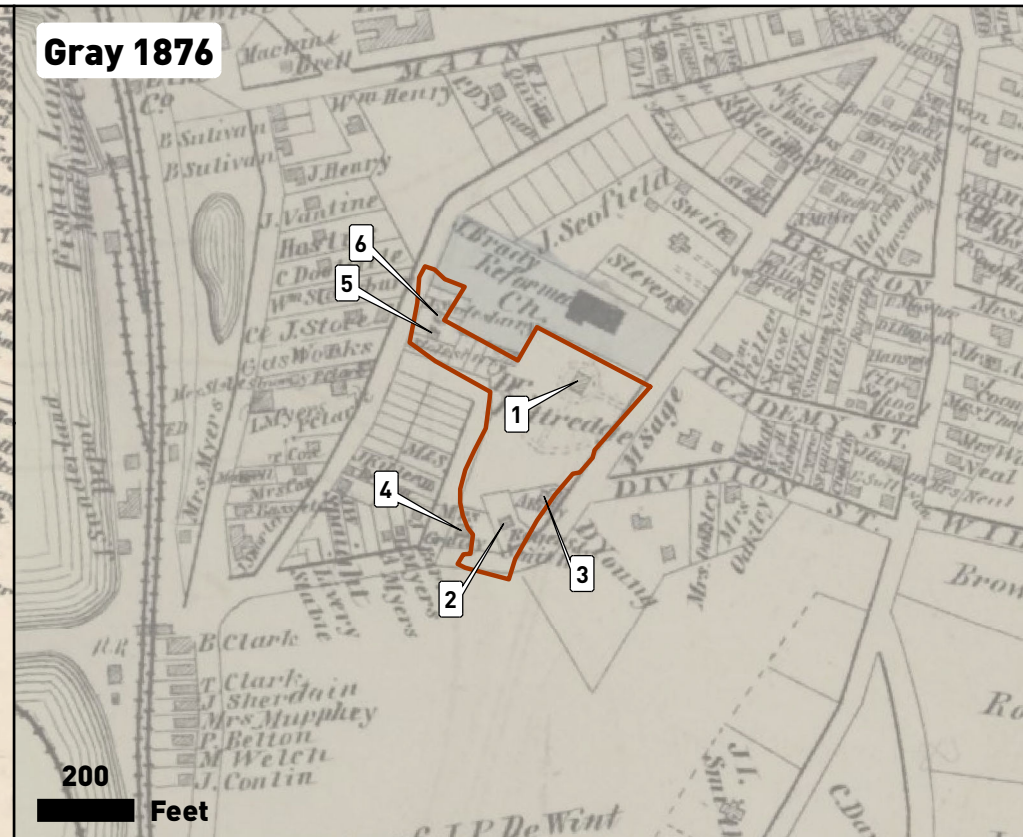
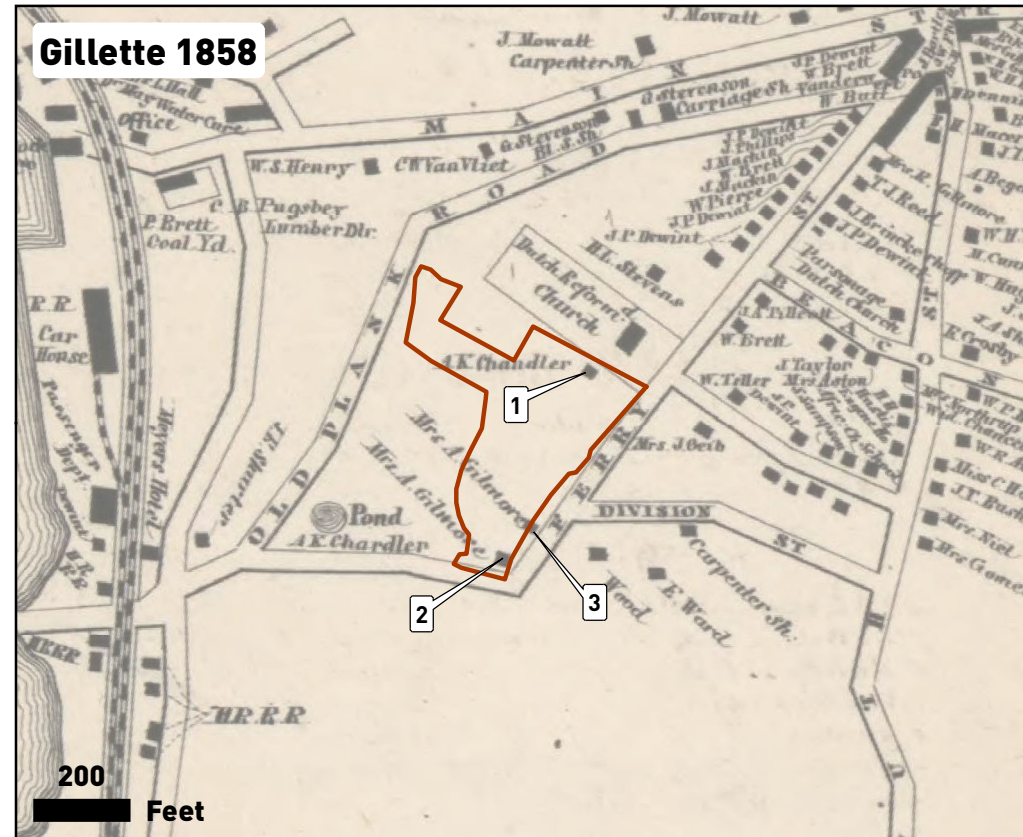


Soil Map  
(USDA NRCS 2006, ESRI 2017)

**HARTGEN**  
archeological associates inc



**Map 3**



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- Legend**
- Area of Potential Effects (APE)
  - 12 Map Documented Structure

## **Photographs**



Photo 1. View northwest of the general surface conditions evident within the north end of the project area.



Photo 2. View south of the general surface conditions evident within the southern portion of the project area.



Photo 3. View north of the general surface conditions evident within the central portion of the project area.



Photo 4. View south of the general surface conditions evident along the western portion of the project area.



Photo 5. View northwest of the stone and wood structure located within the north central portion of the project area. The structure is identified as a summer house on the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Sanborn Insurance maps.



Photo 6. View east of the wooded west central portion of the project area.



Photo 7. View east of the western end of the project area adjacent to Beekman Street.



Photo 8. View west of the opening to a brick-lined well located within the western portion of the project area.

**Figure 1: Kittredge House**



