



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: December 22, 2020

RE: Memo # 3 - Results of Level 1 Cultural Resource Review
Debris Staging at Clean Earth – Claremont
RTA-1A Dredging, Level 1 Monitoring
Gowanus Canal Remediation Project
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

This memorandum presents the findings of Archaeology & Historic Resource Services, LLC's (AHRS) Level 1 review of screened sediments at the Clean Earth Claremont Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey (Clean Earth). The screened sediments are from the RTA-1 dredging currently underway at the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site in Brooklyn, New York. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results and recommendations for the items recovered from sediment screening at Clean Earth reviewed by an AHRS archaeologist on 12/18/20. The attached Figure provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 12/14 and 12/16/20. Dredging was not conducted on 12/17/20 and 12/18/20.

INTRODUCTION

Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Co. (Cashman) continues with the dredging of soft sediments from RTA-1 under the oversight of the EPA. The dredge material is being processed according to the Level 1 Archaeological Monitoring protocol outlined in the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan (revised September 2020). This protocol calls for dredged soft sediments to be placed directly into scows, floated to Clean Earth, and screened over 4" bars on a vibrating platform. Items removed during the vibratory screening process are then sorted by the Clean Earth operator as per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan. Items of potential interest (possible artifacts or objects of local interests) are placed in a separate stockpile and photographed daily for AHRS archaeologists to review. These items are then placed in a holding area for AHRS to inspect weekly.

RESULTS

AHRS archaeologist Scott Warnasch conducted a scheduled site visit on 12/18/20 to review the recovered items in person with the assistance of a Clean Earth machine and operator to sort through stockpiled items. Photographs were taken of stockpiled items at Clean Earth.

The recovered items were spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to clearly review them (Photographs 1 thru 6). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. Approximately 50% of the items reviewed consisted of irregular shaped rocks averaging 10 inches in diameter (Photograph 1). The majority of the other items reviewed consisted of modern debris, including wheels (Photograph 2), large concrete blocks (Photograph 3) and wood and timbers including possible notched bulk-head timbers (Photographs 4 & 5). One item was recommended for retention; an approximately 3' long piece of wood that is curved and notched (Photograph 6). Additional research may be able to determine its use or what implement it was part of. The wooden object was set aside to be cleaned and will be assessed further documented next week.



Photograph 1 - Overview of the amount of items reviewed, side view.



Photograph 2 – Example of car wheels, front view.



Photograph 3 – Example of large concrete blocks recovered, front view.



Photograph 4 – Example miscellaneous timber, front view.



Photograph 5 – Example of possible notched bulk-head timber, front view.



Photograph 6 – Retained, unidentified wooden object, front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist preliminarily identified one piece of shaped wood from the screening of Level 1 dredged debris to be retained for further analysis and possible documentation

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that one item recovered during the sediment screening at Clean Earth retains possible historic/archaeological significance. Therefore, AHRS recommends that this single piece of wood be retained for further analysis and possible documentation. Figure 1 indicates the approximate area that was dredged. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, AHRS further recommends that all the non-historic/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth that has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 12/18/2020 may be disposed of.



Figure 1 - Approximate area dredge between December 14, 2020 & December 16, 2020.
Dredging was not conducted on December 17th or 18th, 2020.
Figure provided by the Trust.