



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: January 8, 2021

RE: Memo # 4 - 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) review of screened sediments at the Clean Earth Claremont Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey (Clean Earth) from Level 1 Monitoring. 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 1/8/2021 including any items from dredging during the holiday period between 12/19/20 and 1/7/21. The attached Figures provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 12/23 to 12/24 (Figure 1), between 12/28 to 12/31/20 (Figure 2) and between 1/4 to 1/7 (Figure 3). Dredging was not conducted on 12/21, 12/22, 12/25/20, 1/1/21, and 1/8/21.

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 visit at Clean Earth on 1/8/21 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.

AHRS reviewed photographs of items recovered from Clean Earth sediment screening on 1/5/21 and 1/7/21 prior to the site visit. The recovered items were spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to clearly review them, Photographs 1 thru 14. Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The majority of the material reviewed consisted of small milled lumber and plywood (Photograph 1). The other items reviewed consisted of modern debris, including car engines (Photograph 2), tires and large concrete blocks (Photograph 3) and larger timbers (Photograph 4). In addition, several cars of modern vintage that arrived on site in December were reviewed (Photographs 5 & 6) as well as two cars that arrived on site recently (Photographs 7 & 8). A large quantity of timber pilings that were separated from the other material prior to the site visit were also reviewed (Photograph 9). Three items were recommended for retention; A small cast iron stove (Photographs 10 & 11), a piece of unidentified machinery or motor (Photograph 12) and a large piece of curved timber (Photographs 13). All three items were rinsed and put inside the storage area (Photographs 14). The stove has a rope tied around it suggesting it was used as an anchor of some kind.



Photograph 1 – View of ply wood and other wood.



Photograph 2 – Example of car engine recovered, front view.



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



Photograph 4 – Example of large timbers recovered, front view.



Photograph 5 – Example car that arrived in December, front view.



Photograph 6 – Example a second car that arrived in December, front view.



Photograph 7 – Example car that arrived on site recently, front view.



Photograph 8 – Example of another car that arrived on site recently, front view.



Photograph 9 – Example pre-sorted timbers, front view.



Photograph 10 – Iron stove with rope tied to it, front view.



Photograph 11 – Iron stove, back view.



Photograph 12 – Unidentified machine or motor, front view.



Photograph 13 – Unidentified piece of curved wood, front view.



Photograph 14 – Items of interest: stove, machine and wood in storage area, front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

During this visit to Clean Earth, AHRS archaeologist preliminarily identified three items of interest from the screening of Level 1 dredged debris to be retained for further analysis. The piece of wood recovered on December 18th that was to be documented was not present in the stockpile area and therefore, no further documentation could be conducted.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that three items recovered during the sediment screening at Clean Earth may retain historic/archaeological significance. Therefore, AHRS recommends that this the stove, motor and curved wood be retained for further analysis and possible documentation. Figure 1 and Figure 2 indicates the approximate areas that was dredged. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, AHRS further recommends that all the non-historic/archeologically significant debris at Clean Earth that has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 1/8/2021 may be disposed of.

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Figure 1 – Approximate Area Dredged between December 23, 2020 and December 24, 2020. Dredging was not conducted on December 21, 22, or 25, 2020. Figure provided by the Trust.



Figure 2 – Approximate Area Dredged between December 28, 2020 and December 31, 2020.
Dredging was not conducted January 1, 2021. Figure Provided by the Trust.

● : Debris found at N: 672646.22 ft, E: 633882.68 ft¹, Elev.: -13 ft² on December 30, 2020.

1. State Plane (NYS 3101) NAVD83
2. Elevation NADV88



Figure 3 – Approximate Area Dredged between January 4, 2021 and January 7, 2021.
Dredging was not conducted January 8, 2021. Figure Provided by the Trust.