



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: February 22, 2021

RE: Memo # 8 - 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 2/22/21 and 2/26/21. The attached figures provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredge between February 16th and February 19th (Figure 1) and February 22nd and February 26th (Figure 2).

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 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 scheduled site visits on 2/22/21 and 2/26/21 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 (Photographs 1 – 8).

Photographs of the latest material were reviewed prior to the site visit on 2/22/21. The material was spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for Scott, the archaeologist to clearly review them (Photographs 1 and 2). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The piles in the viewing area looked like some rinsing has been done on the overall pile. The material reviewed on both dates consisted of the same type of debris in the same condition comprised of concrete fragments, rocks and timbers and pieces of wood, tires, miscellaneous metal and car parts (Photographs 3, 4 and 5). Two items were recovered on 2/22/21 and are recommended for retention and further assessment: A small, 2'-tall, riveted copper tank with nozzle and latch (Photographs 6 and 7), and a miscellaneous piece of notched timber (Photograph 8).



Photograph 1 – Overview of the material to be reviewed on 2/22/21, front view.



Photograph 2 – Overview of the material to be reviewed prior to being moved and spread-out for review, on 2/26/21, side view.



Photograph 3 – A closeup view of the material under review after it was spread out for viewing front view.



Photograph 4 – Example rocks and tires reviewed mixed in with the piles for review, front view.



Photograph 5 – Example large timbers reviewed, front view.



Photograph 6 – Copper tank, front view.



Photograph 7 – Copper tank with rivets and nozzle, side view.



Photograph 8 – Notched timber, front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist retrieved two items to retain for further analysis: One riveted, copper tank with nozzle and one miscellaneous notched timber.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that two items, a copper tank and a notched timber, recovered during the sediment screening at Clean Earth retain possible historic/archaeological significance. Therefore, AHRS recommends that copper tank and notched timber be retained for further analysis and possible documentation. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, AHRS further recommends that all the non-historically/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 2/22/21 and 2/26/21 may be disposed of.



Figure 1 - Approximate area dredged between February 16, 2021 and February 19, 2021.
Figure provided by the Trust.



Figure 2 – Approximate area dredged between February 22, 2021 and February 26, 2021.
Figure provided by the Trust.