

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: October 5, 2021

RE: Memo # 16 - Results of Level 1 Cultural Resource Review
Debris Staging at Citizens Site – Brooklyn
RTA-1 Dredging, Level 1 Monitoring
Gowanus Canal Remediation Project
Brooklyn, Kings County, NY

This memorandum presents the findings of Archaeology & Historic Resource Services, LLC's (AHRSS) review of sediments from a recovered floor safe that was identified in Memorandum 11, dated 4/13/21. The safe is being stored at the Citizen Site facility in Brooklyn, New York. The safe and sediments are from the RTA-1 dredging conducted earlier this year at the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site in Brooklyn, New York. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the findings and recommendations for the content of the floor safe reviewed by an AHRSS archaeologist at Citizen Site on 9/28/21.

RESULTS

AHRSS archaeologist Scott Warnasch conducted a site visit at the Citizen Site on 9/21/21 to review the interior and contents of a previously recovered floor safe. The interior of the safe was inspected and the piles were searched by hand. In addition, photographs were taken of the safe and its contents.

The material under review consisted of the metal floor safe (Photographs 1, 2 and 3) and two piles of the safe's content (Photographs 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). The safe had been cleaned out through a hole in the bottom (Photograph 2) and showed no sign of residual material inside (Photograph 3). The contents of pile one consisted of brown soil with fragmented thin wood laminate, likely the interior of the safe and some small fragments of plastic. The contents of pile two consisted mostly of the same soil and types of plastic with fewer wood fragments. Nothing of interest was observed in either pile or the safe's interior.



Photograph 1 – View floor safe, top view.



Photograph 2 – View of bottom of floor safe.



Photograph 3 – View of cleaned out interior of floor safe.



Photograph 4 – View of contents of the floor safe in two piles.



Photograph 5 – View of contents of pile one of floor safe prior to examination.



Photograph 6 – View of contents of pile one of floor safe after to examination.



Photograph 7 – View of contents of pile two of floor safe prior to examination.



Photograph 8 – View of contents of pile two of floor safe after to examination.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Draft End of Fieldwork Memo, classifies the safe as an item of local interest. AHRS concludes that after review on 9/21/21, the contents of the safe had no historic/archaeological significance. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, AHRS further recommends that the contents of the safe may be disposed of.