



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: May 18, 2022

RE: Memo # 21 - 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 5/18/22. The attached figures provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged on May 11th.

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 a scheduled site visit on 5/18/22 to review the recovered items in person with the assistance of a Clean Earth machine and operator to sort through stockpiled material. Photographs were taken of stockpiled material and retained items at Clean Earth.

The recovered material was spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to review it (Photograph 1). Any item of potential interest was separated, rinsed and assessed. The reviewed material consisted of unsorted and muddy debris comprised largely of rocks, concrete, small pieces of wood and miscellaneous metal, and trash (Photograph 2, 3 and 4). Two items identified consisted of a section of a wooden wagon or cart wheel that is missing the hub cap and a section of a wagon or cart wheel rim (Photographs 5 and 6).



Photograph 1 – View of debris piles to be reviewed, front view.



Photograph 2 – Close up of the condition of the material to be reviewed, front view.



Photograph 3 – View of concrete, rocks and trash, front view.



Photograph 4 – Example of wood and trash, front view.



Photograph 5 – Partial wagon of cart wheel.



Photograph 6 – Part of a wooden wagon or cart wheel rim.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist retained two items consisting of a section of a wooden wagon/cart wheel without the hub and a section of wooden wagon/cart wheel rim. The wagon/cart wheel parts may be of interest, but are not considered artifacts. The items were cleaned and the wooden wheel sections will be stored the same way other wooden items of interest are stored.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that the two items, a section of a wagon/cart wheel and section of wagon/cart wheel rim, observed during the sediment screening at Clean Earth are not considered artifacts although they may be items of interest. Per the draft Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, the items are being retained as potential items of interests. AHRS further recommends that all the non-historically/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 5/18/2022 may be disposed of.



Figure 1 - RTA-1 activities continued north of the Union Street bridge on 05/11/2022 with raking conducted in preparation of the ISS activities from stations 1+00 to 3+25 and 5+35 to 4+00. No Debris was identified. No Weeks scow was shipped to Clean Earth.