



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Jonathan Bream, BA

Date: December 12, 2022

RE: Memo # 37- Results of Level 2 Cultural Resource Review
Debris Staging at Clean Earth – Claremont
RTA-1 Dredging, Level 2 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 2 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 12/7/22. The attached Figure provided by the Trust indicates the approximate area that was dredged between 11/18/22 and 12/6/22.

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 2 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 Jonathan Bream conducted a scheduled site visit on 12/7/22 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 (Photograph 1) was spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to clearly review it (Photograph 2). The reviewed material was comprised of mostly oily mud with debris comprised of tires, rocks, wood fragments, and miscellaneous metal (Photograph 3). Five items identified consisted of 3 pieces of a wooden wagon wheel (Photograph 4), industrial-sized metal hook or rod (Photograph 5) and a brass boat propeller (Photograph 6).



Photograph 1 – View of debris pile to be reviewed.



Photograph 2 – Spread out material to be reviewed, Front view.



Photograph 3 – Stone and concrete. Front view.



Photograph 4 – Three wooden wagon or cart wheel pieces. Front view.



Photograph 5 – Industrial-sized metal hook or rod. Front view.



Photograph 6 – Brass boat propeller. Front view.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS Archaeologist retained two of the five items, the industrial sized metal hook or rod and the 24-inch brass boat propeller. These items may be of interest, but are not considered artifacts. The items were cleaned and stored for an AHRS archaeologist to examine these objects for identifying feature and marks to further determine their significance and need to be retained.

The five wagon wheel sections were not retained due to previous retrieval and better representations of this item.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that, the two items, industrial sized metal hook or rod and the 24-inch brass boat propeller, observed during the sediment screening at Clean Earth are not considered artifacts although they may be items of interest. AHRS further recommends that all the non-historically/archaeologically significant debris at Clean Earth has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 12/7/2022 may be disposed of.

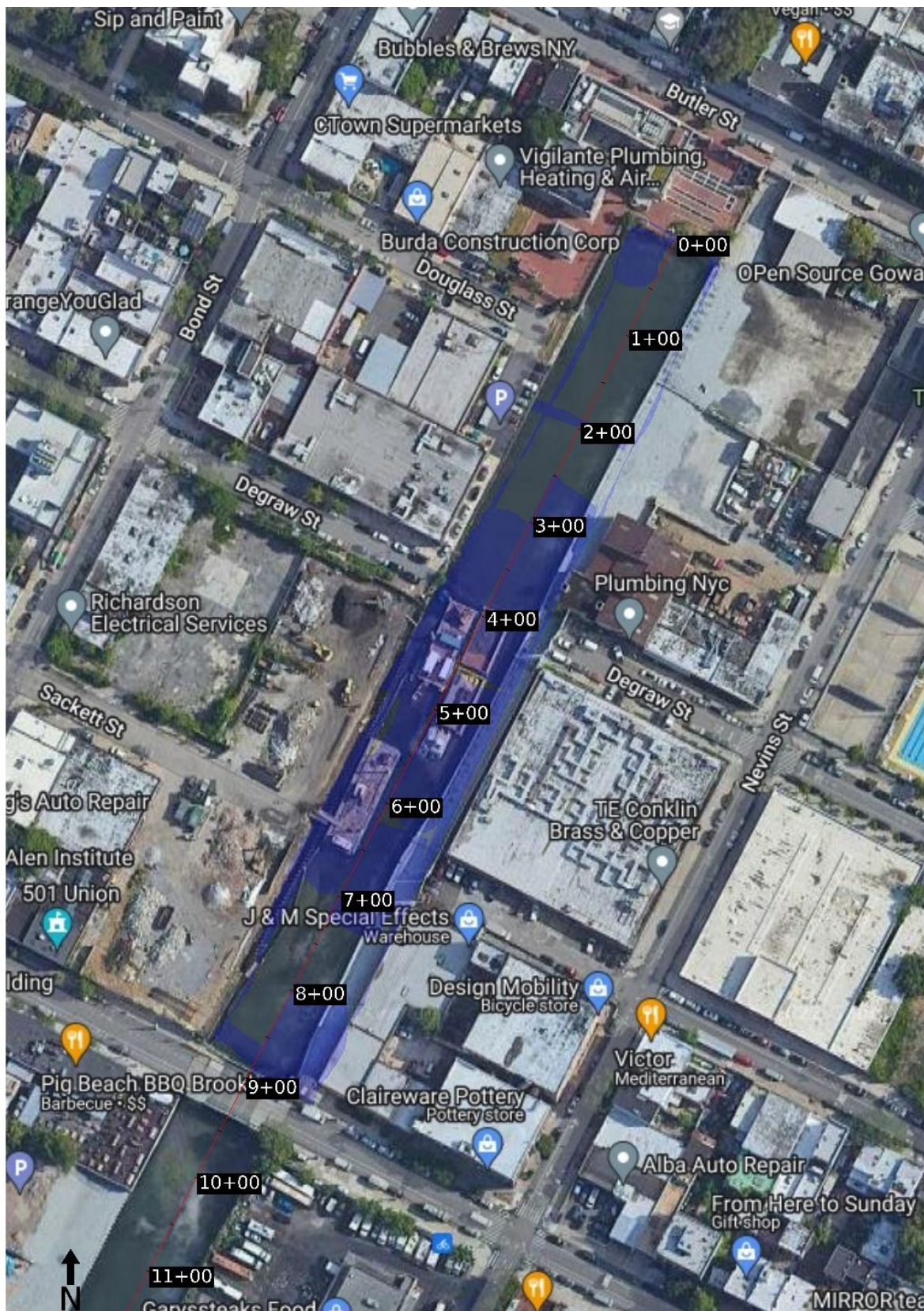


Figure 1 - Approximate areas of Phase III material dredged north of Union Street Bridge between November 18 and December 6, 2022.