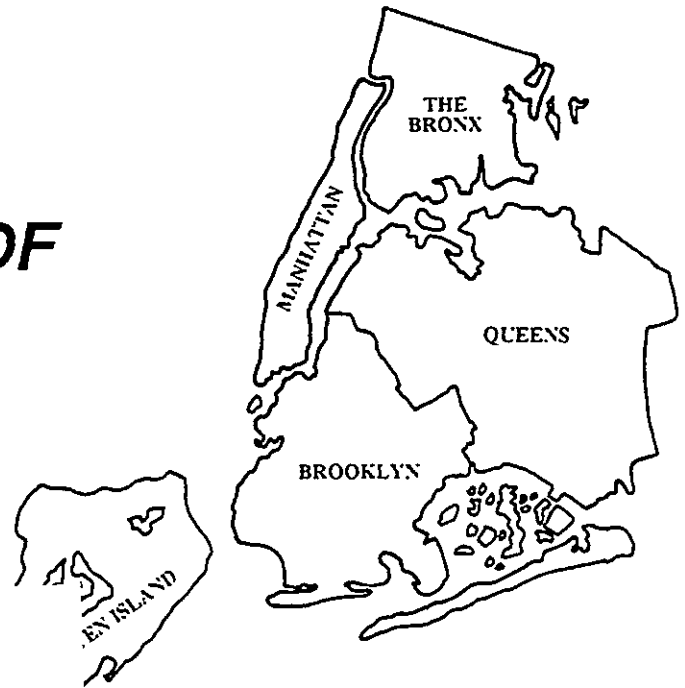


PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY



Newsletter No. 54

May 1991

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Material for the PANyc Newsletter may be sent to Rebecca Yamin, editor, Ebasco Environmental, 160 Chubb Ave., Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071. To ensure inclusion in the next issue, please submit material at least 10 days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: May 15, 1991
Hunter College, Room 710
General Membership: 7:00 PM

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting March 13, 1991

Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. AM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of 1/19/91 accepted, with a correction under Action, item 2): Rothschild's letter to Laurie Beckelman, concerning a building on late landfill in Tribeca area, recommended that digging not be permitted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1) Marshall has sent letter to Orin Lehman, Commissioner of NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, expressing support of NYAC resolution to discontinue use of Inventory Map, and urging a comprehensive professional evaluation of archaeological resources on a case-by-case basis. 2) Correspondence circulated from Thomas Bunker, proposing establishment of a Cemetery Review Board of NY to address a wide range of concerns, including archaeology, anthropology, and architecture. Marshall has responded that PANYC would be available for advice. Cantwell may contact Bunker for more information. 3) Marshall has written to Adams, NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regarding comments on proposed revisions in NYS Historic Preservation Act (see March Newsletter).

MEMBERSHIP: Pending applications reviewed. Richard Hunter, Ian Burrow accepted; Richard Porter to be asked for clarification of field school and laboratory training. Draft of new membership application not available at this meeting.

ACTION: 1) Rothschild visited Kate French, new Director at Wave Hill, re plans for artifacts collection and records, which appear to be in good condition. Rothschild contacted Valerie de Carlo who will return site maps to Wave Hill archives. A descriptive site report is needed. Rothschild recommended that a) eroding excavation sites be covered after mapping, noting that Wave Hill staff appear to be interested in erosion control in general, and b) that a notice be circulated to universities re. thesis potential of Wave Hill materials.

2) Bridges expressed concern re. loss of archaeological staff in State agencies due to budget cuts and reorganization. DEC has lost two archaeologists; the Water Resources program is closing and will no longer work with local communities, interface with EPA, review permits; the Dept. of Parks has lost staff from Historic Sites office; the National Registry no longer has an archaeologist on staff. Letters to be sent to Commissioners of State Parks and of DEC, with copies to Governor Cuomo, other appropriate officials.

AWARD: Cantwell reports April 2nd deadline for this year' entries. Several submissions have been received. Committee to meet to discuss criteria for merit award.

NEWSLETTER: Yamin will continue as editor and requests that contributions be sent, early if possible.

PARKS: No call has been received regarding PANYC input re archaeological sensitivity training for Urban Park Rangers. Geismar to contact Parks office again.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Rothschild reports plans are progressing well. Abstracts have been received and committee is exploring media notification, mailing, printing of flyers. Geismar has offered to help write setup for flyers, and equipment. Henn suggests that State budget cuts be mentioned at the meeting and public support requested, if Museum gives clearance for lobbying at meeting.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS: Wall reports final changes sought of advisory committee, to be complete by May 8th. Geismar has located a printer to do 1000 copies for under \$600. Layout to be done by volunteer. Further discussion of pricing in view of PANYC being a non-profit organization.

EDUCATION: Pagano to call Principal Saltzman at JFK High School with offer of assistance to proposed student archaeology program.

ELECTIONS: Results of PANYC Elections 1991-1992:
President: Nan Rothschild
Vice President: Joan Geismar
Secretary: Cece Kirkorian
Treasurer: Shelly Spritzer
Executive Board: Sarah Bridges, Anne-Marie Cantwell,
Roselle Henn, Daniel Pagano, Diana Wall

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Davis, Secretary 1990-91

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Dept. of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

15 March 1991

Mr. Thomas Jorling, Commissioner
New York State Dept. of Environmental
Conservation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Dear Mr. Jorling,

I am writing as President of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City. We are extremely concerned about recent cuts in the archaeological staff in the Department of Environmental Conservation. It is our understanding that two members of the staff have been moved to positions where they are no longer involved with archaeological activities, and that there is a possibility that another senior person will be moved shortly, leaving no one to do the crucial work of reviewing permits for local community projects.

While we understand that these are difficult times economically within the State we urge you to reconsider these changes and find some way to restore some of the personnel (which had already been cut to a bare minimum) working on archaeological problems. There is so little remaining of our historic and archaeological past. We must all make the strongest commitment to preserve it.

Thank you for your interest and assistance in this vital matter.

Sincerely,



Nan A. Rothschild, PhD
PANyc President

cc: Governor Mario Cuomo
Senator Owen Johnson
Assemblyman Maurice Hinchey

Professional Archaeologists of New York City

Dept. of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

15 March 1991

Mr. Orin Lehman, Commissioner
New York State Dept. of Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building #1
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Mr. Lehman,

I am writing as President of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City. We are extremely concerned about recent cuts in the archaeological staff in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It is our understanding that two members of the Peebles Island staff have been cut, and that the archaeologist working on National Register nominations has been moved to another position, leaving no one to do these crucial nominations.

While we understand that these are difficult times economically within the State we urge you to reconsider these changes and find some way to restore some of the personnel (which had already been cut to a bare minimum) working on archaeological problems. There is so little remaining of our historic and archaeological past. We must all make the strongest commitment to preserve it.

Thank you for your interest and assistance in this vital matter.

Sincerely,



Nan A. Rothschild, PhD
PANYC President

cc: Governor Mario Cuomo
Senator John B. Scheffer
Assemblyman Joseph Pillittere

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

Dept. of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027
16 April 1991

The Hon. Laurie Beckelman, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
225 Broadway 23rd floor
New York, NY 10007

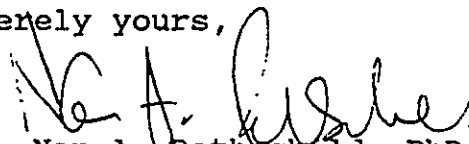
Dear Ms. Beckelman,

I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City in reference to two items on the agenda for the Hearing of 23 April. They are items 11 and 12, one to destroy a parking garage, and the other to construct a new building at 250 Water Street. As I am sure you are aware, that block is very important in terms of its archaeological potential; the original shoreline runs through part of the block, and there is believed to have been a large early warehouse (Allerton's) located on the block.

Each time Mr. Milstein has proposed a building on the block, we have written to urge the Landmarks Commission to make certain that the important archaeological resources of this block are not destroyed. We can provide you with much more extensive documentation on this block, should you wish it, as some preliminary research has already been carried out.

Please let us know if there is any way we can be of assistance. This is certainly one of the archaeologically most significant blocks left in Manhattan.

Sincerely yours,


Nan A. Rothschild, PhD
President



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238

518-474-0456

April 25, 1991

Ms. Nan A. Rothschild, PhD
President
Professional Archaeologists
of New York City
Department of Anthropology
Barnard College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Rothschild:

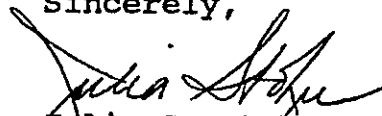
Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Professional Archeologists of New York City (PANYC) regarding staff reductions in the Division for Historic Preservation.

As part of Governor Cuomo's FY 91-92 budget, the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation was directed to implement a number of cost-saving measures, including park and historic site closings and operational modifications, regional and program consolidations, and staff reductions. While we made every effort to minimize the impact of the budget cuts on our historic preservation programs, we found it necessary to terminate the employment of many talented people, including individuals in archeology, conservation, research, and preservation (architecture and landscape) positions.

With regard to the archeologist who worked on National Register nominations, six professional archeologists remain on staff in the Bureau of Field Services providing more than adequate coverage for archeological nominations (there was only one in the past year). Given various Civil Service requirements, individuals laid off in one bureau "bumped" less senior staff in a sister bureau. In the final analysis, we suffered a net loss of one archeology position in the Bureau of Historic Sites and none in Field Services.

We appreciate your expression of concern and assure you that we are doing the very best we can to balance the needs of our constituents with fiscal reality.

Sincerely,



Julia S. Stokes
Deputy Commissioner
for Historic Preservation



STATE OF NEW YORK
PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ALBANY

ORIN LEHMAN
COMMISSIONER

April 15, 1991

Dear Doctor Marshall:

I am writing to let you know that we received the resolution of NYAC and the resolution of support from the Professional Archaeologists of New York City. While we appreciate your concern for the cultural resources of New York State, I am sure you realize just how large a task it would be to develop a new predictive model for Archaeology.

At the request of the Director of the Bureau of Historic Preservation Field Services, David Gillespie, the State Board for Historic Preservation appointed a committee chaired by Dean Snow, Department of Anthropology, SUNYA, which reported on this subject. Unfortunately their conclusion was that, until a GIS system was available to OPRHP, there was no practical way to develop a predictive model. Their recommendation was to attempt to get such a system and, in the meantime, to continue to use the system we presently have.

We therefore can not accept NYAC's recommendation that we discontinue its use since it is the only tool we have. To discontinue it would mean that no archaeological sites could be protected. That is simply not acceptable. I want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to get a GIS system in place and, until that time, we will continue to vigorously protect cultural resources within the state using the best means at our disposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Orin Lehman".

Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.
President
Professional Archaeologists of New York City
217 Edgewood Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Professional Archaeologists of New York City

217 Edgewood Avenue
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
May 2, 1991

Commissioner Orin Lehman
State of New York
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Commissioner Lehman:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 1991 concerning the recent NYAC Resolution on the use of the New York Statewide Archaeological Inventory Map. You indicated that the NY OPRHP can not accept NYAC's recommendation that your office discontinue use of the "circles and squares" model of site distribution as the sole basis for determining project site archeological sensitivity. You cite as a basis for this the report produced by the Predictive Modeling Committee (committee) appointed to explore this issue by the State Board for Historic Preservation and chaired by Professor Dean Snow (SUNYA). I must point out to you that your letter indicates a major misunderstanding of both the NYAC resolution and the Predictive Modeling Committee Report and contains several errors of fact.

You stated in your letter that the committee's conclusion was that, "until a GIS system was available to OPRHP, there was no practical way to develop a predictive model. Their recommendation was to attempt to get such a system, and in the meantime, to continue to use the system we presently have."

The committee's report, which I have enclosed for your review (February 28, 1990), makes no reference to a GIS system for developing predictive models in New York. The report calls for a long term approach to modeling and states that **"the current circles and squares approach should be replaced by a predictive model. A predictive model will help archaeologists to assess previously unsurveyed areas, but will still have to be used in conjunction with an inventory of known resources to be effective. However maps of known resources are in themselves not predictive tools, and short of developing a predictive model OPRHP will have to continue to rely upon the intuitive skills of staff or consulting archeologists"** (emphasis added).

The most important conclusion drawn by the committee was the following recommendation: "We recommend that New York follow the lead of states requiring some level of professional examination of all projects submitted for SHPO approval. No predictive model can substitute for qualified examination."

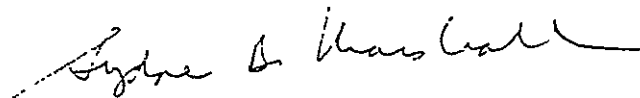
The NYAC resolution, supported by PANYC, supports the conclusions drawn by the committee in its report. The primary thrust of the resolution is that use of an inventory map is not an acceptable substitute for first-hand professional review and evaluation of project site conditions and archeological sensitivity.

PANyc recognizes the limited financial resources available in this decade for developing elaborate, tested predictive models or acquiring them. To request that your office become involved at this time in a costly program would not be reasonable. What we do ask is that decisions about project site archeological sensitivity be made based on input from a staff archeologist or other qualified consulting archeologist who has examined the respective project site. Even acquisition of a GIS system by your office will not substitute for this type of professional judgement, though it would be a useful tool to complement professional input.

PANyc appreciates your concern for the protection of the state's cultural resources and we look forward to continuing this dialogue about achieving the best means available towards that goal.

As I am no longer the PANyc President, I have passed a copy of your letter on to Dr. Nan Rothschild, current PANyc President. She served as a member of the Predictive Modeling Committee and will also be writing to you about this matter.

Sincerely,



Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.
PANyc Executive Board

cc: J Stokes
D Gillespie
T Jorling (Commissioner, DEC)
J.W. Aldrich (DEC)
M Miller (NY Assembly)
D Snow (SUNYA)
K Hartgen (NYAC President)
N Rothschild (PANyc President)

To: Stuart Stein
From: Dean Snow
Subject: Predictive Modelling Committee Report
Date: February 28, 1990

The committee formed to advise the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation on the issue of predictive models has finished its work. This memorandum and its attachments constitute the committee's report. The problem put to the committee in its charge turned out to be somewhat more complex than originally anticipated, but the committee believes that its recommendations are the best available at this time.

We were delayed in the early stages of our work by differing understandings of the characteristics of models generally and predictive models in particular. Specific points gradually emerged from our discussions, and we eventually came to a common understanding of at least a majority of points. We were also guided by works edited by W. James Judge and Lynne Sebastian in a volume published by the U.S. Department of the Interior in December 1988. The title of the volume is Quantifying the Present and Predicting the Past: Theory, Method, and Application of Archaeological Predictive Modeling.

We understand a predictive model of the kind required in this case to be characterized by sets of statements and relationships, often expressed mathematically, that will allow an assessment of some area of land in terms of the likelihood that it will yield significant archaeological data upon closer examination. To this end, it is held as generally true that simple models have some value whereas models of unjustified complexity do not. This, of course, means that it is often difficult to bridge the gap between the clean simplicity of mathematical relationships and the diverse complexity of archaeological problems.

Histograms, maps and other simple data representations are not themselves predictive models, but they frequently contribute to them. A simple representation is an iconic model, but with additional data and defined relationships between sets of data, it has the potential for conversion to a predictive model.

The current circles and squares approach should be replaced by a predictive model. A predictive model will help archaeologists to assess previously unsurveyed areas, but

will still have to be used in conjunction with an inventory of known resources to be effective. However, maps of known resources are in themselves not predictive tools, and short of developing a predictive model OPRHP will have to continue to rely upon the intuitive skills of staff or consulting archaeologists.

Our specific recommendations follow as points 1-17. Together, these address the specific points in the original charge to the committee, a copy of which is also attached. We realize that implementation of our recommendations will entail substantial costs, but we judge that these recommendations should be followed if an adequate predictive model is desired. We hope that our recommendations can be implemented over time, and stand ready to offer additional clarifications and/or recommendations should they be requested.

Finally, we see predictive models as planning tools that should not be used as the only bases for deciding when or where to require archaeological surveys. We recommend that New York follow the lead of states requiring some level of professional examination of all projects submitted for SHPO approval. No predictive model can substitute for qualified examination. We would envision this as involving a brief visit to a project site by a qualified professional, followed by a simple one-page recommendation to be sent to SHPO staff. The SHPO staff could then use the predictive model and the one-page recommendation as a basis for deciding whether or not archaeological survey should be required for the project. We see the involvement of a professional archaeologist as no more onerous than any other of many inspections required of project developers.

RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MODEL TO
PREDICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN NEW YORK.

1. The model should be predictive, not explanatory, although future development of the model might eventually lead to explanation.
2. The end user of the model should be a CRM professional, most likely an archaeologist. (See #8 below).
3. The model should be probabilistic, and its output will require interpretation by a professional.
4. The predictive power of the model must come from more than the descriptive, correlative measure of where sites have been found so far. It must include knowledge and theoretical assumptions concerning regional prehistory that go beyond the purely empirical generalization of site location/environmental attribute correlations.
5. The model should be designed to be easily and frequently (annually?) updated, based on new archaeological data.
6. The model, and the data base that supports it, should be housed in a centralized computer. Logistical and administrative support should be provided by the SHPO.
7. Adequate support, under control of the SHPO, should include a full-time staff position.
8. Access to the model should be constrained by "need-to-know" security criteria. Eligible CRM and academic professionals should have access to the model directly, not just its prediction, once their need to know has been demonstrated. By "eligible CRM professionals" we mean those who meet some modest and generally stated professional criteria: a) that the CRM professional have some experience in CRM work, b) that the CRM professional have some academic credentials or equivalent and c) that some agency or organization has identified them, by virtue of a contract, as the individual carrying out a cultural resource inventory or sensitivity study. We are not recommending licensing.
9. Full access to the database supporting the model should be restricted to SHPO staff and their designees.
10. The input to the model should be a locational and spatial description of the project area and the values of meaningful environmental and cultural variables that

pertain both in and near the project area, to be provided by the CRM professional.

11. The output of the model should be a probabilistic assessment of the cultural resource sensitivity for the project area. The assessment should be a group of relative quantitative measures (eg., low, medium, high) for a variety of prehistoric cultural resources, ideally classified by stage (eg., paleo-Indian, Late Archaic) and type of site, although that may not be possible in early versions of the model. In addition, the model should show the exact locations of known sites and the negative results of previous surveys in or near the project area.
12. The model should not attempt to create a sensitivity overlay for the State but will instead evaluate each locus based on specific environmental and cultural conditions that prevail there.
13. The model should be made available for academic research as the SHPO deems appropriate.
14. There should be several sub-models, based on major physiographic zones. Additional sub-models might eventually be possible based on major periods within major physiographic zones. The number of such zones might range from 3 to a maximum of perhaps 10 or 12.
15. The spatial dimensions of the project area should be described to the model using the UTM 100 meter grid system. For large, environmentally diverse projects the CRM professional conducting the project evaluation should be responsible for dividing the project into ecological zones that can be presented to the model separately.
16. Access to the model should be available at the OPRHP office in Albany, OPRHP Regional Offices, at some academic institutions and by electronic telecommunications. For those CRM professionals who are unable or unwilling to query the model directly the service could be made available for an access fee.
17. This model does not attempt to deal with sensitivity studies in urban areas or for historic properties. Those should continue to be evaluated on an ad hoc basis.

NEW YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

27 Jordan Road - Troy, New York 12180

May 6, 1991

The Honorable Orin Lehman
Commissioner, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12238

Dear Mr. Lehman,

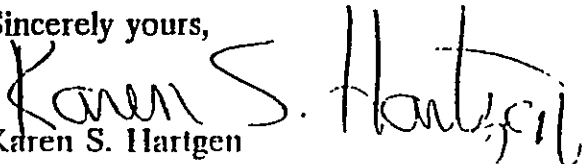
Your letter of April 15, 1991, to Dr. Sybil Marshall, President of Professional Archaeologists of New York City contains some apparent misunderstandings concerning NYAC's position on the use of the Statewide Inventory Map and the conclusions and recommendations made by the State Board for Historic Preservation *ad hoc* committee on predictive modeling. We have attached the committee's report for your convenience; we would like to quote what we believe to be their recommendations:

"We recommend that New York follow the lead of states requiring some level of professional examination of all projects submitted for SHPO approval. No predictive model can substitute for qualified examination." Contrary to your April 15 letter, the term "GIS," referring to Geographic Information Systems, is nowhere mentioned in the report. However, a GIS database system is currently available in your agency's planning unit as well as at the State Museum and the Department of Environmental Conservation. While such a system provides a useful inventory of archaeological and environmental data, it is unlikely that it would ever satisfactorily replace professional archaeological evaluation.

As you know, project review procedures have changed over the years. Currently, your office requires evaluation of all standing structures within or adjacent to a project area and also requires detailed photography and description of structures which are not in your inventory. Meanwhile, only the archaeological sites which are already in the OPRHP inventory can be considered. We feel that this is a double standard which should not continue to exist.

Therefore, NYAC reaffirms its resolution, a copy of which is enclosed. Please note the four points at the end. NYAC strongly recommends that OPRHP implement the Committee's review procedure in the near future. To do this effectively, it will be necessary for OPRHP to abandon its present system for determining the necessity for archaeological assessments based upon the existing inventory. Again, we offer our assistance in resolving this issue. We do not desire ours to be an adversarial relationship and we are sincerely interested in working with you to improve communications.

Sincerely yours,


Karen S. Hartgen
President

Enc.

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

308 East 6th Street
New York, New York 10003
4 May 1991

Miss Nancy Brighton
Department of Anthropology
New York University
New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Brighton:

On behalf of the Awards Committee of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City, it is my pleasure to tell you that you are the winner of the 1991 Salwen Award for Outstanding Student Paper. It is a special pleasure to award you this prize since your paper, "The Households of the Jacob Adriance Farmstead, the Queens County Farm Museum, Bellerose, Queens", written for Professor Diana Wall at New York University, was on a site that Bert Salwen had himself done work.

I am enclosing with this letter a check for \$100.00 along with our best wishes for continued success in your work on the archaeology of New York City.

Sincerely yours,



Anne-Marie Cantwell
Chair, PANYC Awards Committee

cc: Diana Wall

Vandals Attack Brooklyn's Weeksville

By Arnojd Berke

Demolition strippers in late December broke into Weeksville, a prominent black historical site located in Brooklyn, N.Y., and inflicted heavy damage on two of the landmark's four structures.

In their quest for copper and other valuable metals, the vandals ripped out plaster walls, sinks, and cabinets; removed plumbing and steam lines; and even dug out water lines from basement floors. The thieves also stole office equipment. As a result of the attacks, water flooded the buildings and the heating system failed.

The damage was discovered on December 23 by Joan Maynard, the executive director of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History, which operates Weeksville as a museum. "As I approached the house I saw that the front door was open and right away my heart sank," says Maynard. "These savage acts have nearly destroyed a quarter century of struggle to restore landmarks that are a museum of African-

The council, which will pay for a security guard to protect Weeksville, is among a number of agencies and organizations that have pledged to help the historic site get back on its feet. Donations have included \$25,000 from the New York Landmarks Conservancy to help with repairs, \$15,000 from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust to replace office equipment, \$3,000 from the Open Space Institute to support general operations, and \$5,000 from the Goldsmith-Perry Philanthropies to support general operations. The Weeksville Society has applied to the National Trust for grant and loan funds from the Inner-City Ventures Fund and to the Trust's Northeast Regional Office for a Preservation Services Fund grant. Additionally, Brooklyn businesses and banks have raised \$16,000 for the recovery efforts and the Weeksville society plans to hold a fund-raising dinner.

The most touching offers of help, says Maynard, have come from local schoolchildren. A group of six-year-olds from Public

School 91, for example, has raised \$50. Students at Public School 243, which is known as the Weeksville School, plan to hold a fair this month to raise funds for Weeksville. Children from that school in 1970 raised the first \$1,000 for the campaign to restore and open the Weeksville houses. "For me that's the most significant thing—that children feel this way about their history and environment," says Maynard.



The houses at Weeksville, shown here before the recent vandalism, are the remaining structures of a once-thriving community of free blacks.

American heritage." Maynard is one of the founders of the Weeksville society and a trustee emeritus of the National Trust.

Four additional break-ins occurred at the property during the subsequent 10 days despite the fact that attempts were made by the society to secure all points of entry. On New Year's Day Maynard entered the premises just as thieves emerged carrying metal piping. A police-car chase led to the capture of one suspect and early the next day several intruders were arrested inside one of the Weeksville houses.

The total damage to the houses was estimated to be \$36,000, not including the costs of replacing stolen equipment or tightening security. Maynard says the most pressing needs are the replacement of the stolen pipes in order to restore plumbing and heating; the repair of damaged windows, doors, and walls; the replacement of office equipment; and the installation of a security system.

Preservationists in New York City and elsewhere reacted quickly to the news of the vandalism. "In a word, the preservation community is horrified. The Weeksville people have devoted nearly twenty-five years of their lives to this very important site. For years, the buildings were basically untouched," says Anne Van Ingen, the director of architecture, planning, and design for the New York State Council on the Arts, which has helped fund Weeksville's restoration and general operations.

Constructed between 1840 and 1883, the four small frame houses that constitute Weeksville are the last remaining structures in the community, which was founded in the 1830s by James Weeks and other free blacks and which thrived for much of the 19th century.

Research into the history of black settlement in Brooklyn led in 1968 to the rediscovery by means of an aerial search of the four Weeksville houses, which fronted a long-obiterated colonial road. The Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History was founded in 1971 to bring to fruition the dream of the students of the Weeksville School that the houses be restored. The restoration of the houses was still in progress when the break-ins occurred.

Despite the extent of the destruction, Maynard views the vandalism philosophically. For years, she says, as the Weeksville restoration project moved forward the effort often was forced to make do with very limited resources. "At least people know we're here now," Maynard says. "Out of evil, some good may come."

The Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History may be contacted at P.O. Box 130120, St. John's Station, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213; (718) 756-5250.

The Battle to Preserve a Dobbs Ferry Dig

18,000 Artifacts Found on Site of Troubled Project

By JOSEPH P. GRIFFITH

A GROUP of Dobbs Ferry residents is trying to save an archeological dig on the 44-acre site of a town-house condominium project that itself could become an abandoned artifact.

In just a few months, said Thomas Morrison, corresponding secretary of the Friends of Wickers Creek Archeological Site, the one-acre site yielded more than 18,000 artifacts of the Wequaesgeek tribe dating to 2130 B.C.

But both a consultant to the developer of the planned 140-unit Landing at Dobbs Ferry, retained to study the site, and the state's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation considered it not worthy of preservation. Mr. Morrison said he was awaiting the results of an appeal to the Federal Department of the Interior to get the state to reconsider its judgment.

The complex was planned for a site south of Mercy College between Broadway and the Hudson River. The developer, Mount Mercy Associates of Castleton, N.Y., proposed to build four-level town houses, some overlooking a 50-foot ravine, with elevators and up to 4,000 square feet of space. The units would be priced at \$482,000 to \$525,000. The project would include a private park, beach, pool and tennis courts.

Two models were built but construction stopped last year because of a temporary ban on new hookups at a Yonkers sewage plant and the developer's financial problems. The lender, City Savings Bank of Somerset, N.J., was taken over by Resolution Trust Corporation, the Federal agency handling properties in default in the savings-and-loan crisis. It is now in receivership.

Orleesa Jones, a spokeswoman for Resolution Trust in Atlanta, said that the property had not been foreclosed. But she confirmed that the bank was its lender.

Pete Carey, the Village Clerk, said soil erosion after the shutdown made collapse of one of the models imminent. The village's building inspector was dispatched to the Castleton home of Craig Arcuri, a principal in Mount Mercy Associates, to serve papers mandating the model's removal. Mr. Arcuri agreed and it was demolished in November at a cost of \$5,500, which was applied as a lien, said Mr. Carey.

Mr. Arcuri's telephone number is unlisted, and repeated efforts to reach him through his



ABOVE Model town houses at Landing at Dobbs Ferry.

RIGHT Thomas Morrison, official of environmental group, at archeological site dating to 2130 B.C.

Jim Estrin for The New York Times

associates and village officials were unavailing. Mayor Donald Marra said that when they last spoke a few months ago Mr. Arcuri said he intended eventually to build the complex, but did not indicate when.

The developer owes the village more than \$100,000 in back taxes and liens, said Mr. Carey. David C. Dwinell, Greenburgh's deputy receiver of taxes, said the town is owed \$416,000, and county records show mechanic liens totaling more than \$3 million filed by numerous contractors since 1988.

Mr. Morrison of the Friends of Wickers Creek Archeological Site said his group, formed two years ago to preserve the site, includes 12 nearby households. He added that it had tried to negotiate with the developer without success.

William I. Roberts 4th, chief archeologist of Greenhouse Consultants of Atlanta, which conducted the dig for the developer as part of the required environmental-impact review, said evidence of drying racks meant the site was used to process fish and crops and probably also to make and sharpen tools. The dig was conducted over a few months and ended early in 1988.

Kathleen A. Modrowski, an anthropologist who is president of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society and a member of Mr. Morrison's group, said the site is important in explaining the environment, sociology and technology of early Indians.

She also said many "pothunters" have

illegally entered the site over the years to scavenge artifacts, which have a negligible monetary value. "When these people come out with a pickaxe and shovel, they are taking out a major piece of the puzzle," she said.

Greenhouse's report said the site was not worth preserving because so much had been destroyed during excavations.

ONE point of concern is the whereabouts of the artifacts, said to be in the developer's hands. Among them are fragments of what is known as Wickers Creek pottery, considered unique because of its inscriptions. An agreement to turn them over to the village or an institution that could store them properly has not been fulfilled, said Mayor Marra.

Mr. Morrison's group originally wanted the village to buy the entire site to stop the development, but the Board of Trustees said that was impractical. It is now seeking public or private funds to buy only the archaeological site and preserve it as a park.

"We think the whole site should be maintained as open space for ecological and historical reasons, but at this point we're just trying to get something," said Mr. Morrison.

Mr. Marra said that the village could not afford to buy any of the site, for which the developer paid \$9 million in 1985, and that it was not apparently for sale. The development was approved partly because the village needs the tax revenue it would generate,

he said. The land, which previously belonged to Our Lady of Victory Academy, was tax-exempt for several decades.

Dr. Jay Sexter, president of Mercy College, said the college could not afford to buy the site but might be able to put up as much as \$1 million toward a partnership for maintenance. He said he would like to see it used as an ecology center and the remaining model home possibly used as a dormitory.

Norman B. Judelson, a White Plains developer, encountered a similar historic-preservation problem at one of his developments. In 1988, he bought an 1840 Greek Revival mansion that had been the headquarters of the Stein and Day publishing house in Scarborough.

He wanted to raze the building, a national landmark, which an engineering report had deemed deteriorated, but was opposed both locally and by the state.

The Village Planning Board hired architects to assess the damage; they agreed with the developer, and the building was razed. Mr. Judelson is now completing the first three houses, priced at \$759,000 each. He has plans to build eight more.

"Westchester County is an environmentally sensitive area and there are many activists," Mr. Judelson said. "The problem is that communities that don't want development use any excuse to stop it. Half of the people crying about an archaeological situation couldn't care less about it."

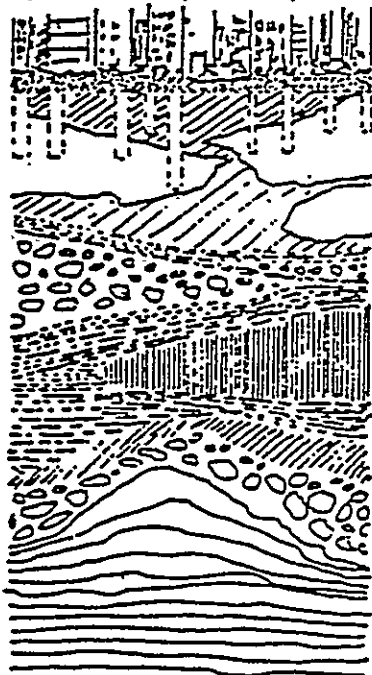


Symposium on the

ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY

11th PANYC
SYMPOSIUM

open to the general public



ELEVENTH ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM...
Presented by the Professional Archeologists of
New York City and The Museum of the City of
New York

NEIGHBORHOOD ARCHEOLOGY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Saturday, May 4, 1991
The Museum of the City of New York
103rd Street and Fifth Avenue

1:00 - 2:30

1. Welcome by PANYC

Award of Salwen Prize

2. "How Can We Recognize a Neighborhood in
the Past?"

Organizer: Nan A. Rothschild
Columbia University

3. "The Northern End of Central Park:
A Neighborhood-free Zone"

Speaker: Richard Hunter
Hunter Research, Inc.

One of the few sections of Manhattan that can claim never to have been part of an urban or suburban neighborhood is the northern end of central Park. Home to a scatter of farmsteads and taverns in the colonial and federal period, this portion of Manhattan contained the island's main line of defense against land attacks from the north during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. These defenses focused on controlling McGown's Pass, through which the Kingsbridge Road penetrated the east-west line of bluffs that crosses the island around present-day 106th Street. By the 1850s and the 1860s this portion of Manhattan lay at the northernmost fringe of New York's urban Expansion and was only lightly settled by squatters when Central Park was created. As a result, no true neighborhood ever evolved in this area. This paper will discuss the results of a preliminary historical and archeological assessment of the northern end of Central Park (between 97th and 110th Streets) carried out for the Central Park Conservancy in 1990.

4. "Plantation Life on the Fringes of New York City:
Van Cortlandt Manor"

Speaker: Frederick A. Winter
Brooklyn College, Dept. of Classics

A report based on the June, 1990 excavations by the Brooklyn College Summer Archeological Field School at the Van Cortlandt Manor in the Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. The excavations were sponsored by the NYC Department of Parks and The National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York. The currently-standing Van Cortlandt mansion is a restored, mid-eighteenth century, Federal style manor house that was originally constructed to serve as the central building in a colonial era plantation. The mansion was built adjacent to a Late Woodland period Native American settlement and on a mid-seventeenth century European colonial farmstead. Excavations in 1990 revealed the foundations of the mansion's seventeenth century predecessor, uncovered details of the construction history of the standing mansion building and its now-demolished kitchen wing, and uncovered a nineteenth century ice house or root cellar that was associated with the manor. Comparison of the findings from the mansion with those from the excavations at the roughly contemporaneous Christian Duryea farm house in Brooklyn suggest criteria for distinguishing between family farm and mansion in the decades following the American Revolution.

5. "Weeksville, a Nineteenth-Century Brooklyn Neighborhood"

Speaker: Roselle Henn
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

From the 1840's to the Civil War, Weeksville was a rural, Afro-American community located in what is now the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the area became increasingly developed and ethnically diverse. However, even at the end of the century, Weeksville's social networks and institutions constituted a neighborhood within the growing city. This presentation will discuss Weeksville's transition from a rural community to an urban neighborhood.

15 minute break

2:45 - 3:45

6. "Guns in My Backyard: The Evolution of a Military Neighborhood in Staten Island"

Speaker: Joseph Schuldenrein
Geoarcheology Research Associates

In 1988 the Dept. of the Navy initiated a Stabilization/Management Plan to preserve a series

of late 19th century military defensive structures at Fort Wadsworth on the East coast of Staten Island. These structures were unique strategic fortifications to deter incursions on American soil at the turn of the century. Subsequently the base has sustained a variety of military structures and support facilities that document the evolution of a military compound over the course of the twentieth century. Repercussions of changing military needs are reflected in all aspects of neighborhood life. The work undertaken focuses on historic architecture, structural and landscape systems associated with the fortifications and socio-economic aspects of the military neighborhood.

7. "Archeology in Greenwich Village - An Early New York Suburb"

Speaker: Diana Wall
South St. Seaport Museum

In the 1820s and 1830s, Greenwich Village became one of the city's first suburbs for its emerging middle class. Recent archeological excavations show what home life was like in this early residential area at mid-century. This presentation compares the quality of home life in two neighborhoods in the village - the more affluent area around Washington Square and the poorer middle-class district to the west of Sixth Avenue.

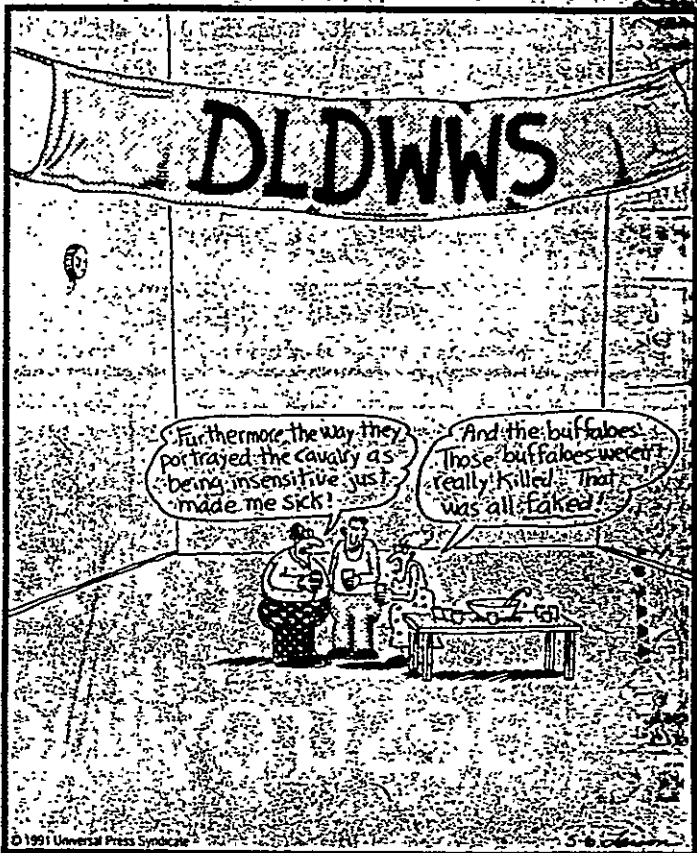
8. "Family Life in Late Nineteenth-Century Downtown Brooklyn"

Speaker: William I. Roberts IV
Greenhouse Consultants, Inc.

This paper will portray aspects of lives of several middle class families who lived in downtown Brooklyn during the last half of the nineteenth century. Explanations will be offered regarding how they collected rain water for drinking, cooking and washing; and how they disposed of their sewage and later some of their household refuse. Examples of objects used by these families and later disposed of in their yards will also be shown.

Once again we wish to thank all those who made this year's PANYC Symposium possible. This includes many staff members of the Museum of the City of New York, especially Cheryl Barthelow of the Department of Education and Sherene Thomas of the Public Affairs department. Without their unfaltering interest and support the meeting could not have taken place. We also want to thank PANYC members Joan Geismar and Sarah Bridges as well as all those who took part in the program and all those who attended.

THE FAR SIDE



At the international meeting of the
Didn't Like "Dances With Wolves" Society

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in PANYC is open to any professional archaeologist who subscribes to the purpose of the organization and who meets the following criteria for education, training and professional activity.

a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree such as an M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D., from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.

b. Applicants must have had at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and at least four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory analysis will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set forth by the Society for Professional Archaeologists.

c. Applicants must demonstrate professional experience in one or more areas of archaeological activity, such as: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies for public agencies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the education and training criteria and having other professional interests related to archaeology will be considered on a case by case basis.

d. All prospective applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership. All members receive the Newsletter and other PANYC publications.

We invite anyone interested in New York City archaeology to subscribe to our Newsletter and to attend our general membership meetings and annual Public Symposium.

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to Barbara Davis, PANYC Secretary, 138A Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217.

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Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

I wish to apply for membership to PANYC _____
(Enclose documentation for a-c above.)

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Membership dues are \$15 and Newsletter Subscriptions are \$10.
Additional donations are welcome and would be greatly appreciated.

Amount of additional donation to PANYC _____