Public Archaeology Facility Report

PHASE 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
PORT DICKINSON SCHOOL PARKING LOT
14PR04025
VILLAGE OF PORT DICKINSON
BROOME COUNTY, NY MCD 00745

BY:

ANDREA ZLOTUCHA KOZUB

SUBMITTED TO:

CHENANGO VALLEY CSD
221 CHENANGO BRIDGE ROAD
BINGHAMTON, NY 13901

JUNE 30, 2015

Binghamton University, State University of New York
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Project Name:	Port Dickinson School Parking Lot Project
OPRHP #:	14PR04025
Involved Agency:	NYSED
Phase of Survey:	Phase 1 Archaeological Survey
Location(s):	770 Chenango Street, Port Dickinson, NY MCD 00745
Size of APE (Metric and English):	*Length*: 109.7 m (360 ft) *Width*: 5.5 m (18 ft) *Area*: 602 m² (6,480 ft²)
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map:	Castle Creek, NY (1968/76)
Results of Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment:	*Environmental Context:* The project is situated east of the channelized Chenango River, and approximately 350 m (1,148 ft) southeast of the confluence of Phelps Creek. The USDA has mapped the soils in the APE as alluvial land (Middlebury silt loam) with cut and filled land lying immediately west of the existing parking lot. Deep testing is recommended for alluvial soils. *Prehistoric Sensitivity*: This area is highly sensitive for prehistoric sites, including villages as well as smaller camps or resource procurement/processing locations. *Historic Sensitivity*: The project area does not contain any Map Documented Structures, though the filled Chenango Canal bed is mapped as lying immediately west of the existing parking lot.
Archaeological Survey Overview:	Number & Interval of Shovel Tests: 7 at 15 m (49 ft) intervals Number & Size of Units: 0 Width of Plowed Strips: 0 Surface Survey Transect Interval: 0
Results of Archaeological Survey:	Number & name of prehistoric sites identified: 0 Number & name of historic sites identified: 0 Number & name of sites recommended for Phase II/Avoidance: 0
Report Author:	Andrea Zlotucha Kozub, Public Archaeology Facility.
Date of Report:	June 30, 2015

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase 1 archaeological survey completed by the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) for the proposed parking lot expansion at the Port Dickinson School on Chenango Street in the village of Port Dickinson, Town of Dickinson, Broome County, New York (Figure 1-2). The proposed impacts include the widening of an existing driveway/parking lot by 5.5 m (18 ft), for a total APE area of 602 m² (6,480 ft²) (Photo 1, Figure 3). Depth of proposed impacts is currently estimated at 12-18 in (30.5-45.7 cm). The survey was conducted on June 24, 2015.

The fieldwork summarized in this document was performed under the supervision of Dr. Nina M. Versaggi, Director of the Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University. Andrea Zlotucha Kozub served as the project director and author of this report. Paul Brown assisted with the fieldwork. Mary Lou Supa constructed the project database. Maria Pezzuti and Annie Pisani performed all related administrative duties. In compliance with Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act, the Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations in New York State (1994) and the National Park Service's Criteria and Procedures for the Identification of Historic Properties (2000), the area within the project limits is considered the area of impact for the purpose of conducting the survey. *The results of the research performed for this report do not apply to any territory outside the project area*.

Photo 1. View of project area facing south.

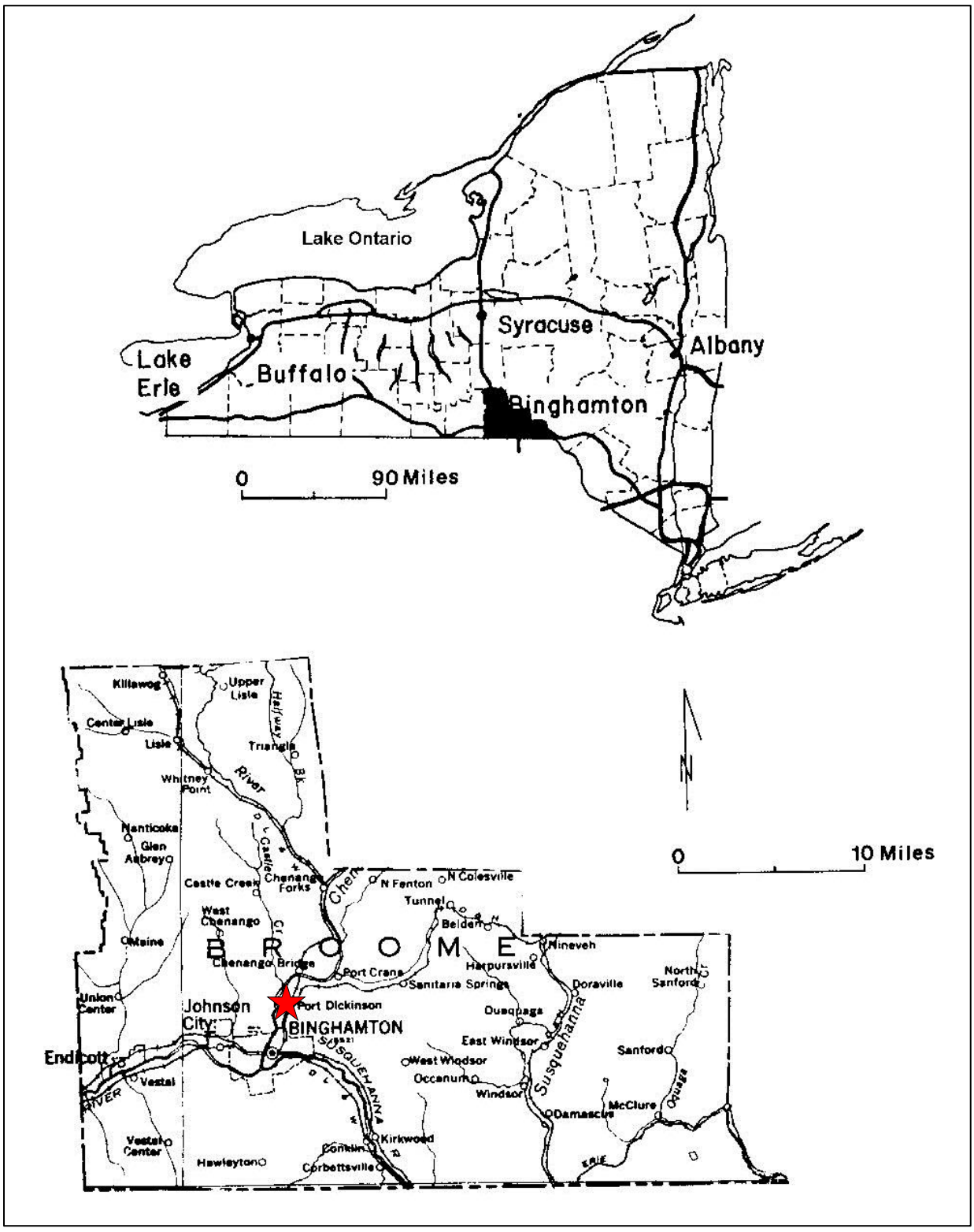

Figure 1. Approximate location of the project area in Broome County and New York State.

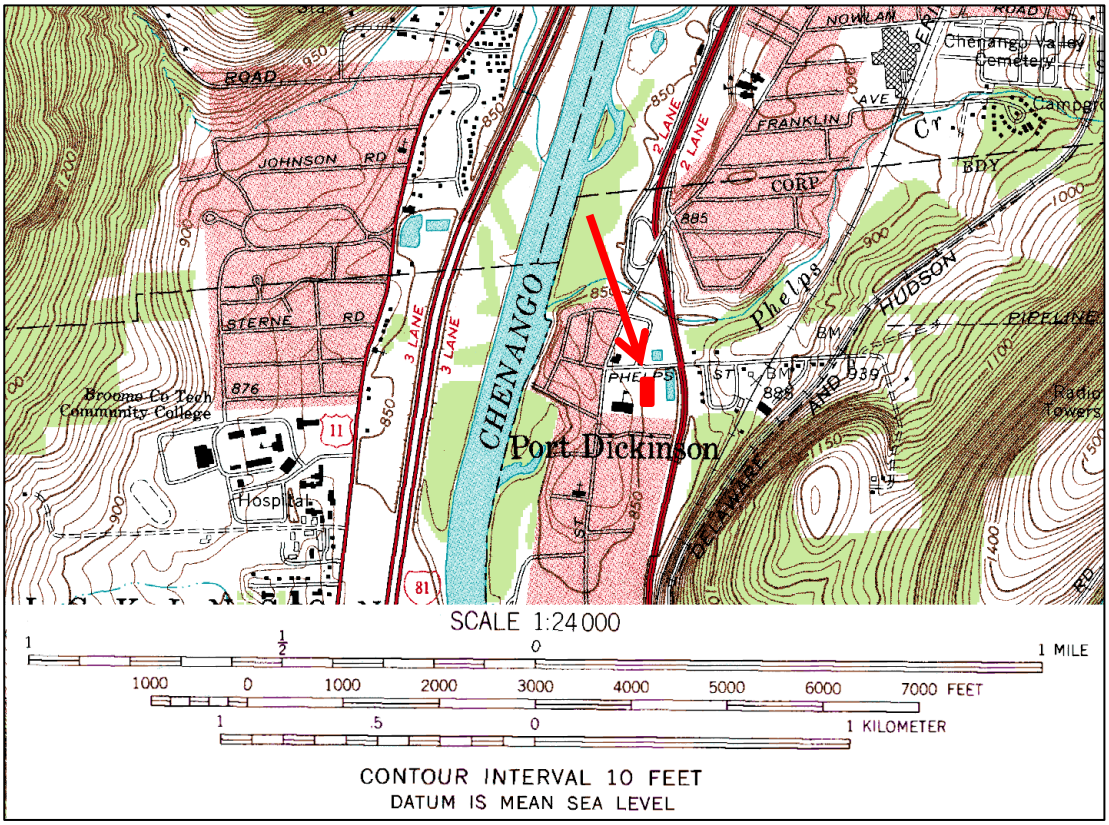

Figure 2. Location of the project area on the Castle Creek, NY 7.5' USGS Quadrangle.

II. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

2.1 Environmental Context

The project area is located in the Chenango River valley approximately 350 m (1,148 ft) southeast of the Phelps Creek confluence. The project area lies along the eastern base of a knoll which rises above the channelized river's flood plain. The water table is high in this area and the 1942 USGS quad (Figure 7) shows that the APE lies at the same elevation as a large wetland.

The USDA soil survey (Figure 3, Table 1) shows that this area contains Middlebury silt loam, which is formed in alluvial soils. Deep shovel testing to penetrate the C horizon to a depth of approximately 80 cm (31 in) below the surface is recommended. However, current plans have proposed depths of impact between 12-18 in (30.5-45.7 cm) and deep testing may not be warranted. Cut and filled land is noted west of the existing parking lot, and is likely associated with the filled Chenango Canal bed.

Figure 3. USDA soils map.

Table 1. USDA soil descriptions.

Name (Map Code)	Horizon/Depth cm(in)	Description	Drainage	Landforms
Middlebury silt loam (Ms)	Ap: 0-20 (0-8) Bw1: 20-33 (8-13) Bw2: 33-51 (13-20) Bw3: 51-64 (20-25) C1: 64-79 (25-31)	Br Si Lo Br Si Lo Dk Yl Br Si Lo Br Fi Sa Lo Br Fi Sa Lo	Moderately well drained	Recent alluvium on flood plains.
Cut and filled land (Cv)	Depth of soil removal and fill thickness are generally not noted for this miscellaneous category, but in this location impacts are likely deep due to presence of Chenango Canal bed.			

KEY: Fi = Fine; Dk = Dark; Gr = Gray/Grayish; Br = Brown; Yl = Yellow/Yellowish; Si = Silt; Sa = Sand/Sandy; Lo = Loam; Grv = Gravelly

2.2 Site Files Report

A search of the site files at the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) was made using the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) shows that there are 23 previously recorded sites located within a 1.6 km (1 mi) radius of the project area (Table 2). While the school building has been declared ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places, an adjacent property which also borders the project area driveway is the NRL Bevier-Wright home and barn. The proposed parking lot should not have a negative visual impact on the this NRL property.

Table 2. Site files summary.
Confidential – Not for Public Release

Site Number	Name	Type	Status
00703.000004	SUBi-454; Utility Pole 33 Site	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00703.000008	SUBi-265; Fashion Flair Site	Historic house foundation	Undetermined
00703.000013	Prescott Apartments	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00703.000030	SUBi-464	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00703.000153	Hockey Shop (SUBi-2240)	Prehistoric	**Eligible**
00703.000016	Millennium Pipeline BRO-0509	Historic	Undetermined
00706.000002	SUBi-466; Chenango Sewage Treatment Site	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00706.000003	SUBi-467	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00706.000004	SUBi-252; Comfort Site	Prehistoric village with human remains	Undetermined
00706.000005	SUBi-1004; Cutler Ice Co. Site	Historic Foundation	Undetermined
00706.000006	SUBi-1005; Broome Tech Site	Prehistoric (multicomponent)	**Eligible**
00706.000015	SUBi-1189; Garden Plots	Prehistoric	Not Eligible
00706.000016	SUBi-1755; Pauper's Cemetery	Cemetery for Broome County Poor House	Undetermined
00706.000035	Lothar Site	Prehistoric	Not Eligible
00706.000049	SUBi-3081;CCC Farmer's Market Precontact Site	Prehistoric	**Eligible**
00707.000002	SUBi-186; Chenango 1	Prehistoric (Woodland)	Undetermined
00707.000053	Millennium Pipeline BRO-010	Historic canal	Undetermined
00707.000054	Millennium Pipeline BRO-128	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00707.000055	Millennium Pipeline BRO-129	Prehistoric	Undetermined
00745.000001	SUBi-1073; River Crossing Site	Prehistoric (Woodland)	Undetermined
00745.000003	Sawtell's Tavern Site	Historic	Undetermined
00745.000004	Millennium Pipeline BRO-134	Historic	Undetermined
00745.000005	Millennium Pipeline BRO-135/186	Historic	Undetermined

2.3 Prehistoric Context

The prehistory of New York State and the Northeast was characterized by two broad subsistence patterns, both of which influenced settlement and land use patterns, as well as material culture. The first, designated as the pre-agricultural hunter-gatherer, began with the arrival of highly mobile groups during the Paleo-Indian and Early-Middle Archaic periods around 10,000-4000 BC. Mobility was an important adaptation, as these groups relied on gathered plants, game animals, and fish for their subsistence. These groups often followed herds of animals, or migrated from one resource-rich landform (e.g., upland wetlands) to another. Starting in the Late Archaic period and extending through the Middle Woodland (4000 BC to AD 900), hunter-gatherers became seasonally nomadic. People created relatively large base camps in major river or lake valleys, from which daily foragers would radiate outward in search of local resources. During seasons of resource dispersal, the camps would break up into smaller, more mobile units capable of foraging for themselves. Sites associated with hunter-gatherers include the short term camps and resource processing stations used by the early nomads, as well as larger base camps and lithic scatters associated with the daily foragers of the seasonally nomadic groups.

Beginning around AD 900, the Late Woodland period is defined by the widespread shift towards agriculture as a subsistence base, along with the associated sedentism necessary for agricultural pursuits. While these groups continued to forage for plant and animal resources, they relied heavily on cultigens as a primary food source. Settlement from this period was characterized by the development of multiple longhouse villages occupied year round, along with a matrilineal kin structure. Early sites from this period were typically located near fertile flood plains, but later groups placed their villages on more defensible landscapes.

Prehistoric Sensitivity Assessment

Research by Versaggi (1996) has identified base-line models of prehistoric hunter-gatherer settlement along the Upper Susquehanna Valley, and defined a set of site types that can be employed in an assessment of project sensitivity. Versaggi's analysis identified four site groupings: base-camps, single-task field camps, multi-task field camps, and resource-processing stations.

- **Base-camps** are large sites with high frequencies of artifacts, tools, features, and spatial clusters. Base-camps were typically located at confluences near winter deer aggregation areas and dense spring fish runs.

- **Single-task field camps** are typically smaller size occupations that contain large numbers of artifacts and specialized tools. Bifacial reduction debitage is prominent as bifacial tool-kits are replaced and maintained. Single-task temporary camps appear to have been occupied by few people for a short duration, and there may have been little need to organize and divide space. Fewer spatial clusters would result and these would tend to be similar in composition, reflecting a focus on a single or limited range of tasks.

- **Multi-task field camps** are typically smaller size occupations that contain lower numbers of artifacts and tools. These sites resemble forager-like camps in which the occupants moved frequently in pursuit of low density and dispersed resources. Multi-task camps occur in a wide variety of contexts. Some were widely scattered within the valleys of major and secondary drainages, and others were mapped onto specific resource patches in the uplands.

- **Resource processing locations** and encounter-like hunting/butchering stations are small occupations with very low numbers of artifacts, tools, and spatial clusters. Expedient flake production and use characterize these small lithic sites. Generally, these sites are expected within the daily foraging radius around a camp or village, as well as around dispersed single and multi-task camps.

The project area is situated on a sensitive landform adjacent to the Chenango River and near a creek confluence. Several sites, including villages and human remains, have been identified on similar landforms directly across the river from the APE. These conditions indicate a high sensitivity for encountering prehistoric cultural material within the project limits if intact soils are present.

2.4 Historic Context

The history of the project area is largely shaped by the Chenango Canal, which began to be built in 1834 to connect the Susquehanna River with the Erie Canal. The village of Port Dickinson originated and was so named because of its location on the canal. The canal bed lay just west of the current parking lot/driveway and is visible on the 1866 and 1876 maps (Figures 4 and 5). The canal was abandoned after 1878, though its bed was still visible and mapped in 1908 (Figure 6). Several structures associated with the canal are mapped on its eastern bank, though these lie between the driveway and the canal and are outside the current APE. The 1908 map shows that the parcel was owned by "Ry. Co.", though no structures are depicted. The school was built in 1921, and the unnamed road depicted on the 1876 and 1908 maps was eventually transformed into a driveway/parking lot for the school. The 1942 quad map shows that the project area was low-lying and probably prone to wetness. The canal is not depicted on this map.

Historic Sensitivity Assessment

While the project area lies near an industrial/mercantile complex comprising the Chenango Canal and associated structures, there is no map evidence to suggest that sites associated with this complex lie east of the existing driveway/parking lot. Therefore, the APE has low historic sensitivity.

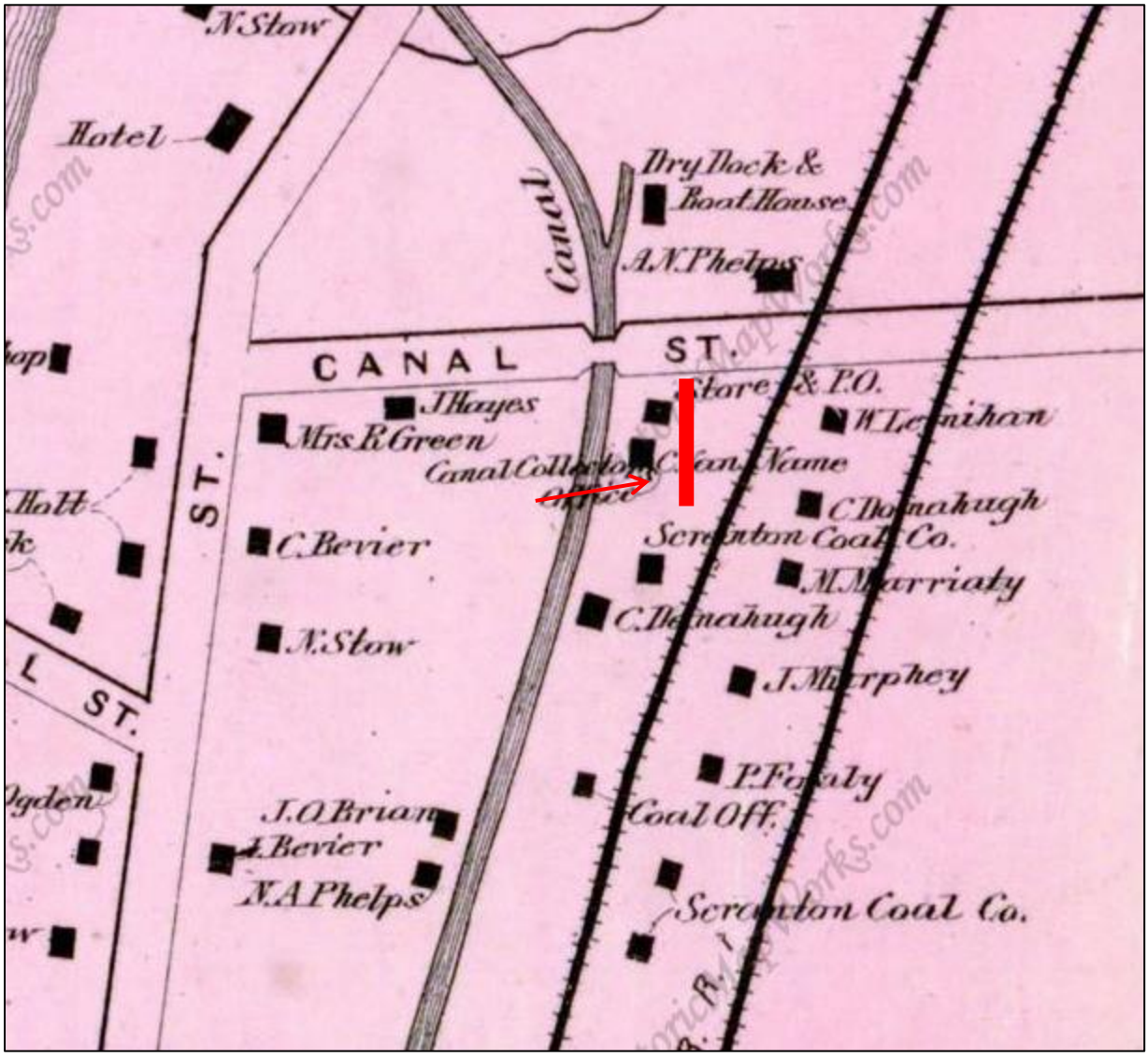

Figure 4. Approximate location of the project area on the 1866 map.

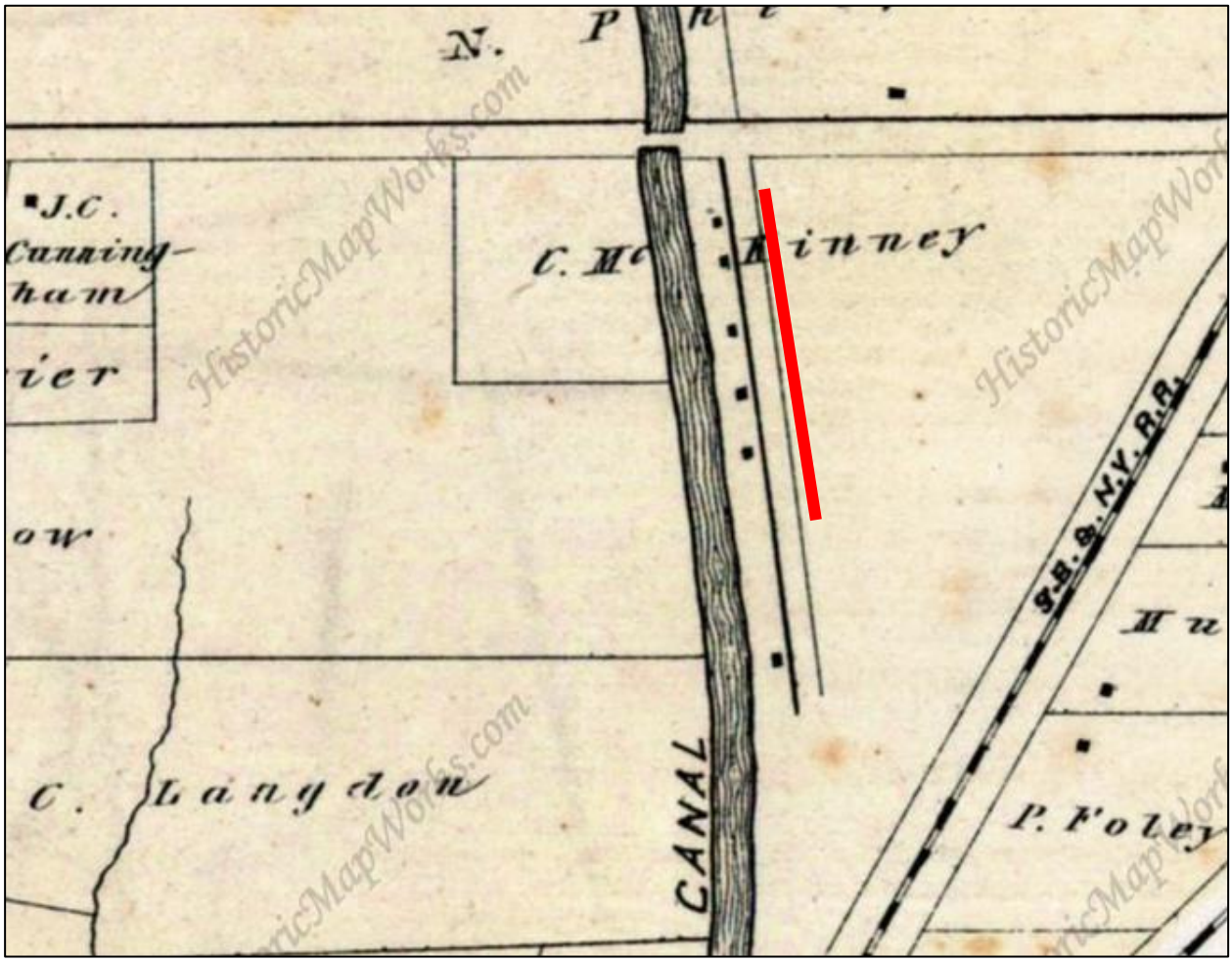

Figure 5. Approximate location of the project area on the 1876 map.

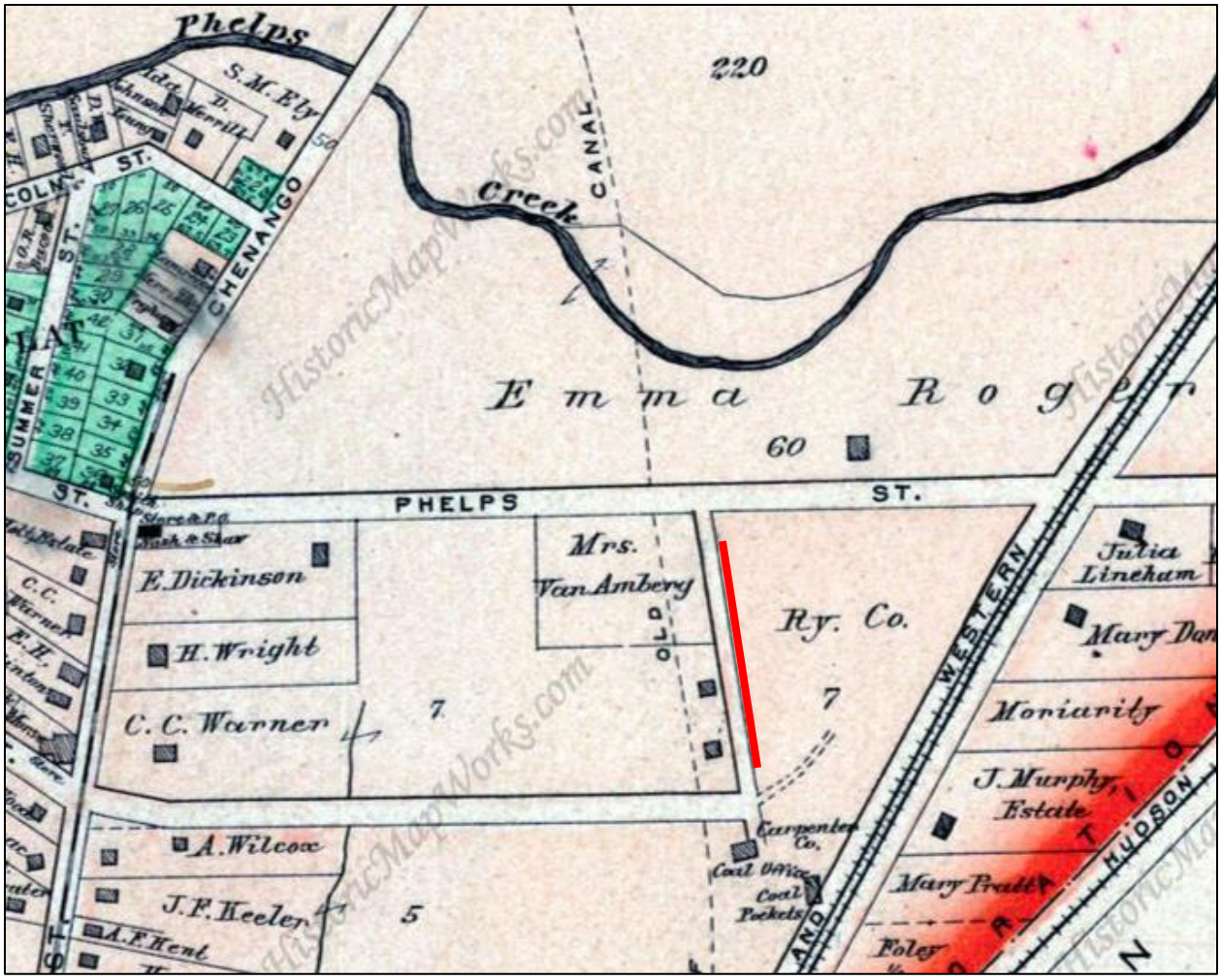

Figure 6. Approximate location of the project area on the 1908 map.

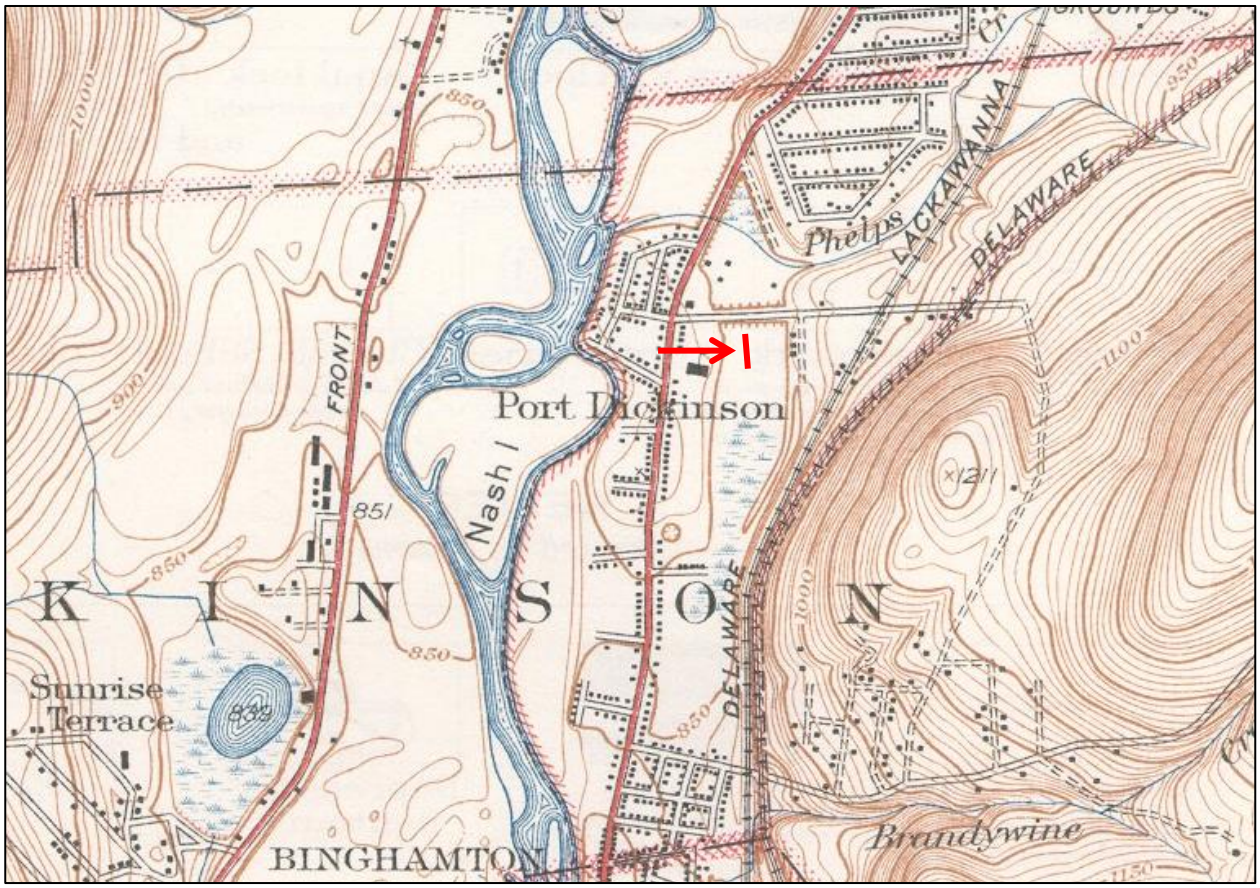

Figure 7. Approximate location of the project area on the 1942 Castle Creek, NY quad.

III. METHODOLOGY

The project area was tested with a transect of seven shovel test pits (STPs) excavated at 15 m (49 ft) intervals. The project map is depicted in Figure 8. The STPs were excavated with hand tools and were generally 35 cm (14 in) in diameter. All soil was sifted through 7 mm (0.25 in) hardware cloth, and artifacts from each recognizable soil horizon were bagged separately. Notation was made of discarded modern refuse (e.g., plastic) and artifacts found in fill soils. Written descriptions of soil color and texture, artifact content, and digging conditions were made at the time of excavation. The STP soil records are presented in Appendix II.

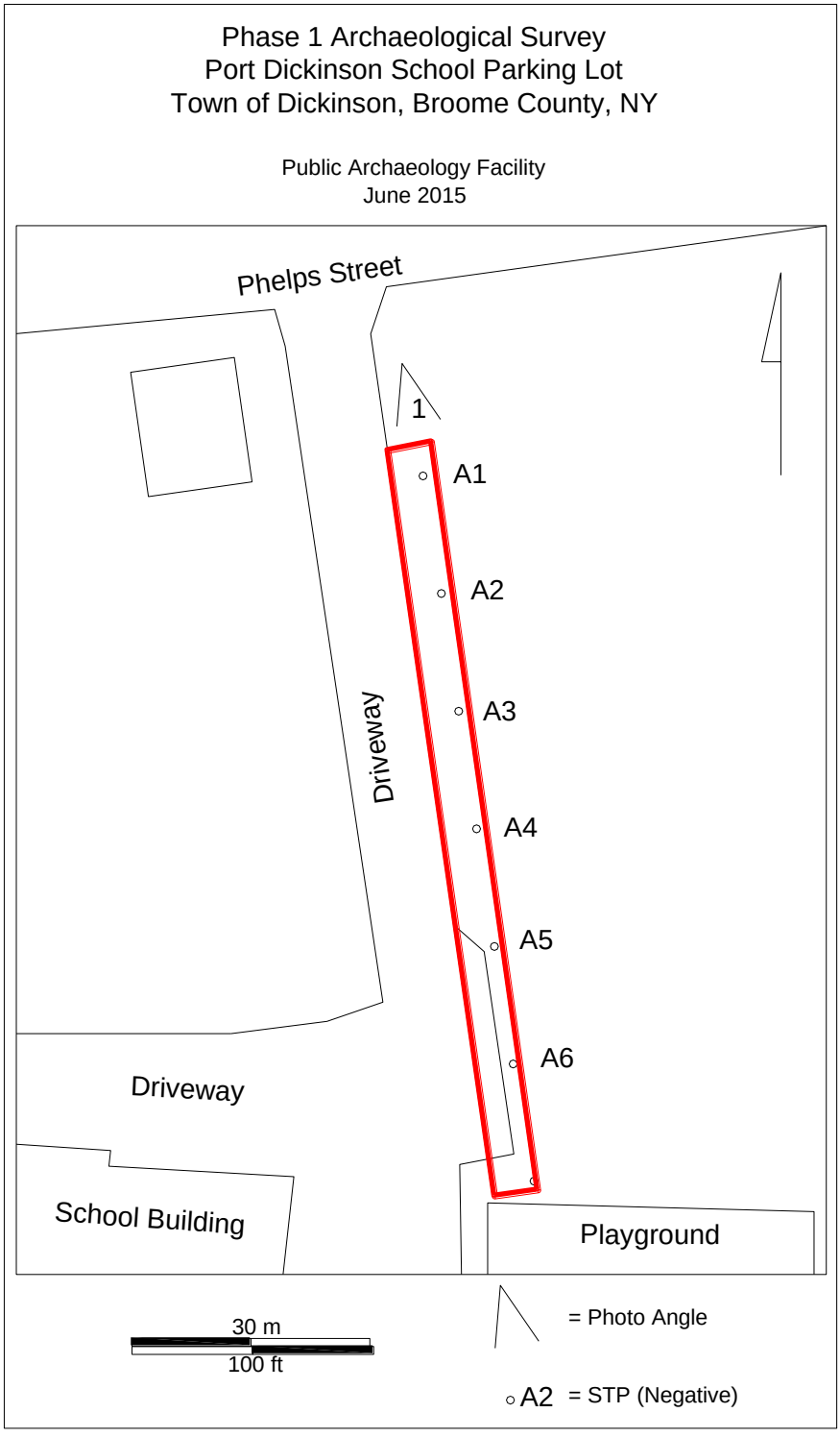

Figure 8. Archaeological survey map.

IV. SURVEY RESULTS

Archaeologists excavated a total of seven STPs within the project area. Each STP contained filled soils, including gravel, rocks, coal ash, and heavily mottled soil types. The water table was encountered at an average depth of 55 cm (22 in) which impeded further excavation. The deepest STP extended to 72 cm (28 in) without encountering intact soils. One STP, A6, was moved one meter outside the project area in an attempt to intersect undisturbed ground, but fill soils were still present. The area is shown as a wetland on the 1942 USGS topographic quad and may have filled to improve drainage.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the area of impact for this project does not contain any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites to the depth of proposed impacts, which are currently planned to be 12-18 in (30.5-45.7 cm). No further work is recommended within the proposed impact area.

APPENDIX I. REFERENCES

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Website:

http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm

APPENDIX II. STP DATA

Pa=Pale Lt=Light Md=Medium Dk=Dark
Br=Brown Gr=Gray Yl=Yellow Ol=Olive Tn=Tan Rd=Red Bk=Black Wh=White
Si=Silt Sa=Sand Cl=Clay Lo=Loam Gvl=Gravel
P=Prehistoric H=Historic N=No Cultural Material
Disc.=Discarded

STP	#	Lev	Beg	End	Soil Description	CM	Crew	Date
A	1	1	0	21	Br Si Lo W/ Gvl	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	1	2	21	37	Mottled Br & Dk Yl Br Si Lo W/ Dense Rock	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	1	3	37	63	Mottled Gley / Br Si Lo / Dk Yl Br Si Lo W/ Rd Oxidation; All Fill; Stopped By Standing Water	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	2	1	0	19	Br Si Lo; Glass & Plastic - Disc.	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	2	2	19	39	Strong Br Sa Si W/ Dense Gvl	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	2	3	39	53	Gr Br Cl Si W/ Coal Ash	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	2	4	53	72	Pale Yl Si W/ Gr Br Cl Si & Coal Ash; Standing Water @ 62cmbd	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	3	1	0	13	Br Si Lo W/ Rocks; Glass & Ceramic From Fill - Disc.	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	3	2	13	31	Mottled Yl Br / Br Si Lo W/ Rocks	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	3	3	31	46	Dk Yl Br Si Lo W/ Dense Rock & Gvl; Stopped By Standing Water	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	4	1	0	19	Br Si Lo	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	4	2	19	44	Br Si Lo W/ Dense Gvl	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	4	3	44	55	Br Si Lo W/ Dense Gvl; Standing Water @ 45cmbd	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	5	1	0	34	Br Si Lo W/ Rocks - Fill; Glass, Metal, Ceramic & Brick - Disc.	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	5	2	34	45	Ash	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	5	3	45	58	Dk Yl Br Wet Si Cl; Stopped By Rock & Water Table	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	6	1	0	19	Br Si Lo; STP Moved 1mE; Metal & Ceramic - Disc.	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	6	2	19	44	Gr Br / Yl Br Si Sa & Gvl	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	6	3	44	50	Gr Br / Yl Br Si Sa & Gvl	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	7	1	0	22	Br Si Lo; Glass & Nail - Disc.	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15
A	7	2	22	42	Rd Br Sa Si W/ Dense Gvl & Rock	N	PB/AZK	6/24/15