




Cultural Resources Update

Allison McGovern, PhD
Cultural Resource Manager

May 8, 2025

X f i @BrookhavenLab

1

Introduction: Background and Experience as an Archaeologist



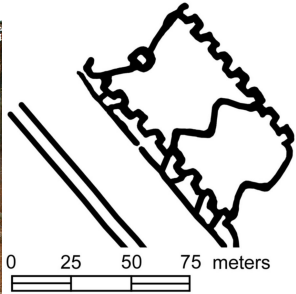
Quartz debitage (flakes) from stone tool manufacture in Setauket



Recovery of 19th century whiteware ceramic during excavations at the Crippen house in Huntington

2

Camp Upton trenches



3

3



4

4



5



6

Archaeology at BNL: 19th century residence



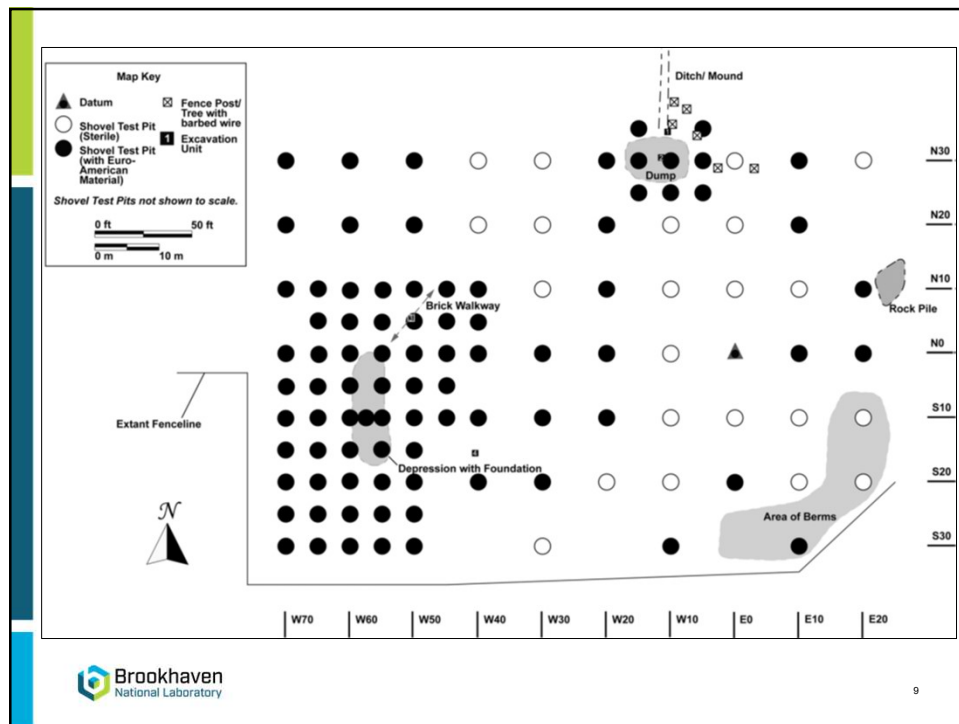
7

7

Archaeology at BNL: 19th century residence



8



9

Archaeology at BNL: 20th century privy



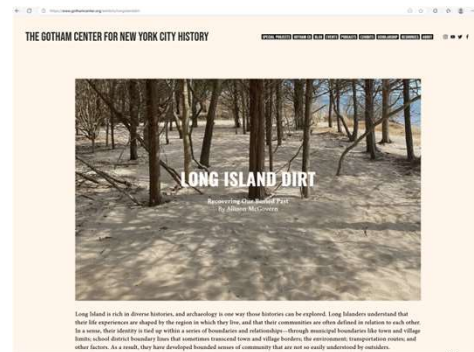
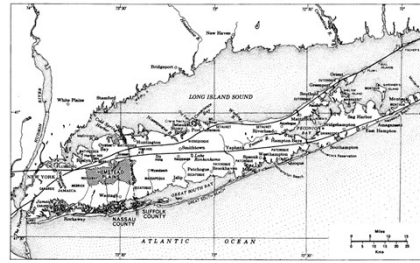
10

Experience as an Archaeologist

Archaeology as Historic Preservation:

- for compliance and environmental review
- to document and evaluate historic resources

aka Cultural Resource Management (CRM)



11

Cultural Resource Management at BNL

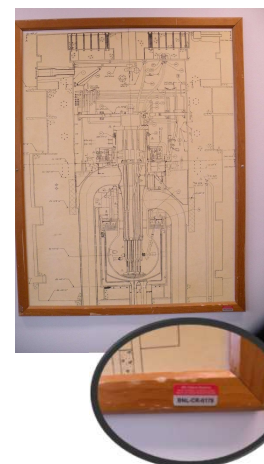
Buildings



Landscapes



Artifacts

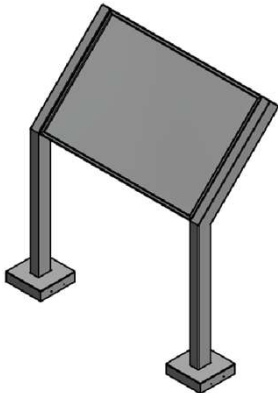


Ensuring Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and NEPA



12

Installation of Kiosks



The Roads to Camp Upton

After the United States entered World War I in 1917, the nation quickly built up its army and trained soldiers. Soldier camps were soon established across the country. Camp Upton was one of them.

On June 26, 1917, Major O.H. Mayers of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corp received orders to inspect property in Yaphank, New York, which would become the future Camp Upton. Within days, the Army contracted the Thompson-Stewart Company to build a cantonment that could support 40,000 people. Construction soon began.

At that time, the area was heavily forested. The Long Island Rail Road's nearest station, Yaphank, was approximately four miles southeast. Two roads, consisting of dirt and gravel, led to Camp Upton: Longwood Road, which today becomes Princeton Avenue at the entrance to Brookhaven National Laboratory, and the Road to Ridge, which is now Upton Road.

To support for daily, the first recruits at Camp Upton walked from the Yaphank train station, Mass. Blvd. traveled along Longwood Road, the work to Camp Upton was often a dusty or muddy trek.

Camp Upton layout in 1917

Longwood Road circa 1918

Upton Road circa 1918

Army recruits on the line to Camp Upton from Yaphank Station

Service and Science

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Science

Brookhaven National Laboratory

13

13

Historic Architecture at BNL



14

14

Balancing Mission with Historic Preservation

- Buildings
 - Managing changes, mitigating loss
- Landscapes
 - Managing sites, establishing conditions assessments
- Artifacts
 - Refining management procedures for accessions and curation

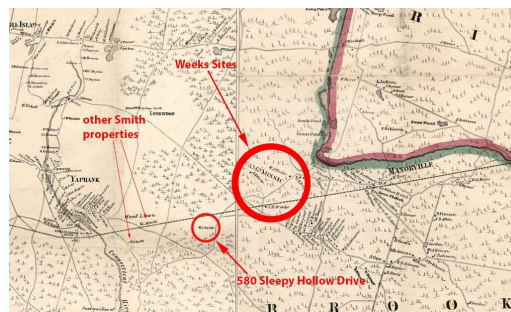


15

15

Goals for Cultural Resource program

- Synthesize years of Cultural Resource documentation and reporting
- Develop historic contexts for different periods of history at BNL site
 - Pre-WWI Pine Barrens histories
- Publications; public-facing presentations



16

16

Goals for Cultural Resource program

- Connect the history of the BNL site with local and regional histories
 - Outreach to local organizations
 - Storytelling through objects and biographies



17

Questions about Cultural Resources?

18