



Cultural Resource Consultants

Memorandum

To: William Lee, Gowanus Environmental Remediation Trust #2

From: Michael Audin, RPA & Scott Warnasch, RPA

Date: December 8, 2020

RE: Memo # 1 - 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) Level 1 review of screened sediments at the Clean Earth Claremont Facility in Jersey City, New Jersey (Clean Earth). 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 12/4/20.

INTRODUCTION

Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting Co. (Cashman) has started 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 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 reviewed photographs of items recovered from Clean Earth sediment screening on 12/3/20. AHRS archaeologist Scott Warnasch conducted a scheduled site visit on 12/4/20 to review the recovered items in person with the assistance of a Clean Earth machine and operator to sort through stockpiled items. The following photographs were taken of stockpiled items at Clean Earth.

The majority of the items reviewed had been reviewed prior to the site visit via photographs. The

recovered items were spread by machine on a flat hard surface to allow for an archaeologist to clearly review them (Photograph 1). Any item of potential interest was moved to the side, rinsed and assessed. The majority of the recovered items consisted of modern debris and timbers. One item was recommended for retention; an approximately 2' x 2' piece of architectural masonry (Photographs 2 & 3). Additional research may be able to associate this masonry with a building or structure along the canal. In addition, a few pieces of disarticulated timber, possibly pieces of bulkhead or cribbing, were photographed before being placed in the recommended discard pile (Photograph 4).



Photograph 1 - Overview of the spread-out of recovered items.



Photograph 2 - Architectural masonry, front view.



Photograph 3 - Architectural masonry, side view.



Photograph 4 – Possible bulkhead timbers recommended for discard.

Items Segregated for Further Review

AHRS archaeologist preliminarily identified one piece of architectural masonry from the screening of Level 1 dredged debris to be retained for further analysis.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AHRS concludes that one item recovered during the sediment screening at Clean Earth retains possible historic/archaeological significance. Therefore, AHRS recommends that this single piece of architectural masonry be retained for further analysis and as per Cultural Resource Monitoring Plan, the disposal of all the non-historic/archaeologically significant debris staged at Clean Earth that has been reviewed by the AHRS archaeologist as of 12/4/2020.