

**P**ROFESSIONAL  
**A**RCHAEOLOGISTS OF  
**N**EW  
**Y**ORK  
**C**ITY



Newsletter No. 51  
November 1990

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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: November 28, 1990  
Hunter College, 69th St. & Park Ave.  
Room 710  
General Membership 7:00 p.m.

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Minutes of the PANYC General Membership  
September 26, 1990 Hunter College, Room 710  
Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of May 23, 1990 accepted, with the following additions and corrections: under Pres. Report re. Kazimiroff collection, "letters to Marshall and Klein" to read "...and J. Klein". Geismar requested that under heading of Archives, "Salwen's notes" be replaced by "PANYC papers at NYC;" under Secretary's Report addition of "Minutes of May 23, 1990 meeting based on notes by Rothschild" to be added.

TREASURER'S REPORT: PANYC has \$1664.45. on account. Spritzer will give update on membership dues owed to PANYC Secretary. Reminders to be sent out with minutes of September meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1) Letter to B. Gotthaus, Parks Comm., requesting meeting between Parks and PANYC to discuss our preservation concerns. Attendees (including member of Parks Committee) will be canvassed when date set. 2) Letter to Maryann Cramer requesting study report re. archaeological sensitivity of N. Central Park done for Parks Conservancy. Pagano to attend preliminary meeting on report, to integrate Olmsted-Vaux model, Native American concerns, other resources. 3) Stuart Fiedel has inquired and found that the Kazimiroff collection will be inventoried by Boros/diCarlo; provision for storage/inventory needs to be ascertained. Pagano recommended call to J. Kuhn, Park Historian, to see what he suggests; Henn to follow up. 4) K. Hartgen did Stage 1A/1B investigation of project area for private development; located prehistoric site in Riverdale (artifacts, debitage, possible utilized flakes); recommends additional work. Report due to LPC in Oct. 5) Hartgen requests program suggestions for joint NYAC/PANYC program to be held Jan. 6) Henn attended forum sponsored by LPF: "Toward a Civilized City". Keynote speaker Sen. Wyche Fowler preparing concensus bill 1578 & 1579, re: antilooting and repatriation of Native American remains. Cantwell to call Henn for more info. and write to Sen. Fowler re his proposal. 7) Bridges sent info. from seminar sponsored by Dept. of Human Resources, re. how to sell services to NYC; topics include: how to bid, awards, inspection, etc. NYC creating Procurement Policy Board.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: New membership applications reviewed; John McCarthy, Peter Pagoulatos accepted, Lauren Cook's application to be clarified. Marshall opened discussion of membership application issues: What is PANYC's role in maintaining ethical standards when reviewing applications? What ethical criteria apply according to present by-laws, or should apply? Should PANYC adopt SOPA's ethics code? Do some applicants seek legitimacy and/or qualification to work in NYC through PANYC membership? PANYC membership does not imply certification, but the public may view membership as such. Rothschild asked whether out-of-state applicants should be asked to explain their interest in NYC archaeology. Cantwell requested that, at minimum, a statement be made of what it means

tion-gathering body? an ethics committee? Pagano, Spritzer to meet in committee to review these issues and make recommendations as to how to proceed toward a revised membership application.

ACTION: 1) Upcoming YMCA-sponsored tour of Atlantic Ave. Tunnel discussed. Marshall to write to YMCA re concerns re protection of the site and public safety. Pagano to contact DOT re. their authorization of Diamond's activities. 2) Similarly, information to be sought re: Platt's field program in Astoria. 3) Geismar contacted Parks caretaker re. possible potting near Bartow-Pell Mansion. No evidence of potting activity reported, but caretaker was advised not to encourage potters by purchasing artifacts. 4) Pagano reported that Metropolitan Historic Structures Assoc. has identified 30+ historic houses; suggests we contact them to offer technical assistance re archaeological issues.

AWARDS: Cantwell will send announcement after Thanksgiving. Deadline for submissions Feb. 15, 1991.

LEGISLATION: No report. Cantwell to write to Fowler (see above). Geismar to contact A. Breslin, Dept. of Gen. Services, for suggestions re. protection of NYC resources not covered by Landmarks review.

MUSEUM: No word from Mus. of City of New York re. proposed lecture series (not to be confused with Public Program).

PARKS: 1) Rothschild's talk with Board at Wave Hill postponed; Sauer may be leaving. 2) Marshall requested discussion topics for proposed meeting with Gottbaum. Survey of parks done several years ago to be cited.

PUBLIC MEETING: Rothschild suggests theme idea: neighborhood archaeology, or evaluation of small communities. Date to be set.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING: Pagano requests input re: development of "historic context" in NYC. The concept is a planning tool in the State office when preparing evaluations. While PANyc has no formal role in helping to define criteria, a contribution from professionals would be helpful, especially in considering 19th century sites, the importance of which may presently be undervalued. "Historic context" would give researchers a means to discuss/communicate with non-archaeologists, to put individual buildings/sites in a larger historical perspective. Suggestion made to discuss at Joint Meeting, or in PANyc seminars. Pagano, Henn to explore in committee and recommend how PANyc might participate.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS GUIDELINES: No report. Rothschild appointed co-chairman.

OLD BUSINESS: Atlantic Tunnel, Kazimiroff collection updates (see Action Committee, President's Report).

NEW BUSINESS: Spritzer provided source for U.S. Archaeological Assistance Program publications: Dept. of Interior, Nat'l Park Serv. P.O.B. 37127, Wash. D.C. 20013-7127.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Davis, Secretary 1990-91

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

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217 Edgewood Avenue  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
September 26, 1990

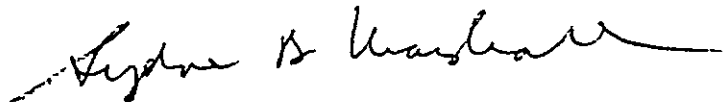
Marianne Cramer, RIA  
Deputy Administrator of Planning for Central Park  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation  
Central Park Administration  
1 E 104th Street, Room 224  
New York, New York 10029

Dear Ms. Cramer:

As a group of working professionals with research interests in New York City, The Professional Archeologists of New York City (PANYC) are very interested in the results of your study of the cultural resource sensitivity of the northern part of Central Park. If possible, we wish to be placed on your distribution list so that we might review the report produced by Hunter Research Associates.

If you require additional information from us, please feel free to reach me during the day at (201) 460-6404. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.  
PANYC President

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

217 Edgewood Avenue  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
September 26, 1990

Commissioner Elizabeth Gottbaum  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Commissioner Gottbaum:

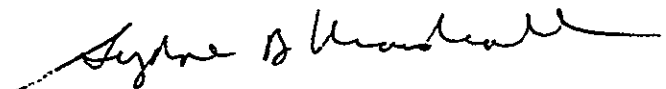
The Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) wish to meet with you to discuss our concerns about the preservation of cultural resources in New York's city parks. One topic of immediate concern to PANYC is the disposition of the Kazimiroff Collection, an extraordinary archeological collection recently donated to the care of the Bronx Division of your department.

Many of the City's parks are among the rare places in New York which still potentially contain undisturbed archeological resources which date to the prehistoric (e.g. pre-1600) and historic periods. Many of these resources will be lost forever due to such factors as neglect, vandalism, inadvertent destruction during planned construction projects, etc. unless the Parks Department develops and implements policies to protect them.

We feel optimistic that the new Dinkins administration and your tenure at Parks may represent a renewed sensitivity to New York's archeological record. We hope that a meeting may be arranged at your earliest convenience so that we might discuss Parks policies and what role PANYC might play in aiding you in protecting New York's archeological resources.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to reach me by telephone at (201) 460-6404. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.  
PANYC President

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

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217 Edgewood Avenue  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
October 9, 1990

Ms. Batia Plotch  
Program Director  
92 St. Y  
1395 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10128

Dear Ms. Plotch:

The Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) wish to bring to your attention our concerns about the Tours and Talks Program entitled "Brooklyn's (Nearly) Secret Tunnel", scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 1990, 1-4 pm, advertised in your Fall 1990 "The Whole Y Catalog."

While we are always thrilled when New Yorkers are enthusiastic about the cultural resources of our city, PANYC feels strongly that such knowledge is disseminated best in the context of historic preservation. Unfortunately, several actions in the past by Mr. Robert Diamond, scheduled to lead the Y's tour of Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue tunnel, have disregarded preservation ethics:

- o He has previously excavated the site without appropriate permits and without qualified supervision according to New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission Guidelines for Archaeology issued April 1987. In July 1988, New York Times described Mr. Diamond's apartment bedroom as containing "rust-encrusted artifacts found in the tunnel, engineering reports and brick core samples are packed everywhere in exuberant chaos." This does not constitute acceptable cultural resource management practice;
- o Mr. Diamond has led tours in past years without permission of the City;
- o By bringing visitors to the tunnel under the above mentioned conditions, Mr. Diamond has both endangered people taking such tours and has exposed the cultural resource, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since October 1989, to possible vandalism (intentional or otherwise) and natural deterioration.

In September 27, 1984, the City Environmental Quality Review Director, Mr. Joseph W. Ketas, wrote to Mr. Diamond regarding review of CEQR Application 85-003K, proposal to use the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel as a museum. At that time, the response was "based on this review a determination has been made that an assessment of the potential historic, architectural and archaeological significance of the tunnel by a qualified archaeologist is necessary before a CEQR determination can be made". CEQR Director Ketas also expressed concern of the New York City Department of City Planning related to the structural condition of the tunnel. Representatives of the Landmarks Preservation Commission have told me that these studies have not been carried out.

While we hope that the Y continues to offer programs which educate the public about New York's cultural resources, PANyc urges you to scrutinize both the qualifications of the presenters you choose and the implications of the programs they present under your sponsorship. It is PANyc's position that for the good of both the interested public and the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel, it would be best if the tour of the tunnel not take place on October 14, 1990 until the City's conditions for such activities are met.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.  
President, PANyc

cc: Mark London (City Planning)  
Laurie Beckelman (Landmarks Preservation Commission)

# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

217 Edgewood Avenue  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
September 26, 1990

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Department of Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

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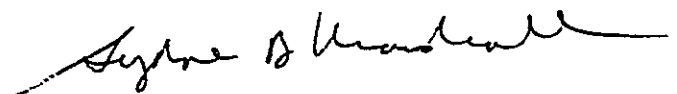
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217 Edgewood Avenue  
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September 26, 1990

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Deputy Administrator of Planning for Central Park  
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation  
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Sincerely,



Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D.  
PANYC President

## **Resolution of the New York Archaeological Council**

Passed at the October 13, 1990 Meeting by the  
Board of Directors and Membership concerning the use of  
the New York Statewide Archaeological Inventory Map

**WHEREAS:** the New York Statewide Archaeological Inventory Map (Inventory Map), commonly referred to as the circles and squares map, reflects only locational information on inventoried archaeological sites (known, previously identified, recorded); and

**WHEREAS:** the use of inventory information alone has been found in the federal courts to not constitute a "good faith effort" required of federal agencies to identify all National Register Historic Places eligible resources within a project's area of potential effects in accordance with the requirements of National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** the Inventory Map has further been found in court cases relating to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act to not constitute the mandated "hard look" at project impacts<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS:** the Inventory Map fails to take into account the complex behavioral and environmental factors governing past human settlement in New York State and therefore cannot be characterized as being based on sound scientific archaeological research; and

**WHEREAS:** the New York State Board for Historic Preservation's Predictive Modeling Committee Report of February 28, 1990 notes that "...maps of known resources are in themselves not predictive tools," and calls for replacement of the current circles and squares approach with a predictive model; and

**WHEREAS:** the Committee report also recommends that predictive models should be considered planning tools and should not be used as the sole basis for deciding when or where to require archaeological survey; and

**WHEREAS:** the Committee report requests "...that New York follow the lead of states requiring some level of professional examination of all projects submitted for SHPO approval." and that "No predictive model can substitute for qualified examination."; and now, therefore, be it

### **RESOLVED, That**

1. the New York Archaeological Council supports implementation of the Committee's recommendations for replacing the deterministic use of the inventory map with a professionally acceptable approach;
2. That this approach involve a brief site visit to each project area by a qualified professional archaeologist, to determine survey need; and
3. That the development of predictive modeling and other planning tools be carried out in consultation with the professional archaeological community; and, now, therefore, be it further

**RESOLVED, That**

1. the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, federal, state and local agencies should immediately institute a comprehensive professional review process as noted above; and
2. That the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, federal, state and local agencies are strongly urged to discontinue using the Inventory Map as the basis for determining the need for archaeological surveys in lieu of professional evaluation of project effects to archaeological resources;
3. That it is further urged that federal, state and local agencies require a good faith effort to locate eligible sites and take a hard look at project effects on archaeological resources, as required by law; and
4. That the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is asked to avoid or remove all reference (direct or indirect) to the use of the Inventory Map for determining the need for archaeological surveys in implementing regulations for the New York State Historic Preservation Act and to advise other responsible agencies of appropriate review procedures.

<sup>1</sup> Aluli v. Brown, 1977; Romero-Barcello v. Brown, 1981; Wilson v. Block, 1983.

<sup>2</sup> Save Good Groundwater v. Planning Board, 1986; North Fork Environmental Council v. Janoski et al.

-DRAFT-

**NYAC Phase IB Fieldwork Standards**

NYAC Standards Committee

October 1990

Please send comments and suggestions to:

Brian L. Nagel or Connie Cox Bodner  
c/o Research Division  
657 East Avenue Box 1480  
Rochester, New York 14603-1480

## Introduction

Standards for Phase IB cultural resource field investigations have been developed in order to ensure a degree of uniformity in the approach taken by archaeologists, private developers, local, and state agencies towards the fulfillment of their preservation obligations under a variety of state and local laws and preservation ordinances.

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that the highest standards of archaeological work are carried out in New York. These guidelines will help to clarify NYAC's expectations for the often diverse approaches to fieldwork utilized by the increasing numbers of individuals and corporate groups which are becoming involved in archaeological compliance reviews. Their aim is to promote consistent high-quality performance and documentation. Although detailed, these guidelines are not intended to be all-encompassing nor to address all possible situations.

It is likewise expected that published guidelines will result in more acceptable, efficient, and cost-effective research on New York archaeological sites. Innovation beyond the scope of these recommended procedures prepared by the NYAC Standards Committee is invited and encouraged.

Good judgement and common sense must prevail. These guidelines are subject to periodic revision and refinement.

## Goals of Phase I Investigations

- To identify archaeologically sensitive areas that may be affected by a proposed project; and
- To locate all prehistoric and historic archaeological resources that may exist within the proposed project area. The goals of the Phase I need to be flexible to reflect the size of the project and stage of project planning, and can be undertaken in subphases (Phase IA and IB), if appropriate.

When a review process determines that a project will not affect any known or recorded site(s) but is located in an area where insufficient previous survey has been conducted and where there is a high probability that previously unrecorded sites may occur, a Phase I archaeological survey must be conducted. The purpose of this survey is to locate all surface and/or subsurface sites that occur within the project area. Site locations are frequently discovered as result of documentary research, informant interviews, land surface inspection, and subsurface testing.

Due to the complexities often characterizing projects and sites located in urban settings, these guidelines apply only to projects situated in non-urban environments. At some point in the near future, guidelines should be established for Phase I work in urban environments (cf. Pennsylvania guidelines) as well as underwater contexts.

## **Phase IB: Field Investigation Guidelines**

Appropriate field investigations comprise a systematic, on-site field inspection designed to assess archaeologically sensitive areas and environmental characteristics relevant to site locations and formation processes. Such investigations include, but are not limited to

- systematic surface survey,
- subsurface testing, and
- remote sensing studies.

Subsurface testing is often the major component of this level of investigation and is required except in those cases in which the presence or absence of resources can be determined by direct observation (e.g. surface survey), by the examination of specific documented references, or by detailed documentation of prior disturbance of such a degree that all traces of intact cultural resources have been erased.

The areas to be subjected to a field survey are selected on the basis of the data gathered during the Phase IA evaluation and all probable locations of project construction, staging areas, or any other areas of potential impact. Detailed evaluation of specific resources is not carried out at this level; however, it is necessary to record and describe sites as fully as possible to aid in the formulation of recommendations for avoidance or further evaluation. The precise locations of identified resources with respect to areas of impact of the proposed project must be clearly established.

### **Procedures**

Minimum procedures for a Phase I Field Investigations include:

1. **A literature search to include preliminary review of manuscripts, maps, historical documents, unpublished notes, prior surveys, and published material relevant to the project area to locate possible sites (as noted elsewhere in Phase IA standards).**

The literature search and sensitivity assessment should include a consideration of relevant geomorphology and soils information, culture history, and previous archaeological research to provide for the development of explicit expectations or predictions regarding the locations

of sites. Regardless of the project size, archaeologists should consider all relevant data in developing these expectations. The specific sources from which background information should be drawn will vary according to project size and the availability of comparative data. Where information pertaining to the specific project area or environs is not available, expectations should be developed from regional or state plans for the conservation of archaeological resources, investigations of similar environments outside the local area, or other environmental data. The results of this background research should be included in the report as documentation and justification for the site location predictions.

**2. Informant interviews with persons who may be familiar with the project area and possible archaeological sites.**

If, during the course of Phase IA investigations, interviews indicate that a site exists and its approximate boundaries can be determined with a reasonable degree of accuracy, then no further Phase IB survey work may be necessary at this location.

**3. A site visit to determine the possibility of prior disturbance/ destruction and the physiographic evidence for potential sites.**

If the initial field check shows that any sites have been previously destroyed, or that for other obvious reasons no sites exist there, the appropriate review agency should be consulted. It may be determined that no further Phase I survey is required. The basis for such conclusions must be submitted in writing with supporting documentation (e.g. building/ grading plans, photographs).

**4. Field testing in the project area to**

- **verify site locations provided by informants,**
- **confirm site locations suggested by the literature search, and**
- **discover previously unknown sites.**

Because portions of project areas may be considered unlikely to contain sites, contracted archaeologists encountering or anticipating such areas should devise survey strategies for these areas in consultation with the appropriate review agency. Areas characterized by more than 12-15 per cent slope may fall into this category. Where the field testing or literature search reveals areas of disturbance in which no sites could remain intact, documentation of this disturbance via photographs, construction plans, etc. must be included in the report.

Field testing according to the following standards is required unless alternative methods have been developed in consultation with the appropriate review agency. Minimum field testing requirements include:

- Systematic controlled surface collection when adequate surface visibility (i.e. 70% or better) exists.

If all non-wooded, previously cultivated portions of the project area can be plowed and disked, a systematic surface investigation can be undertaken once the area has been prepared and subjected to a steady rainfall. Plowing and disking in alternating strips does not constitute an acceptable means of field preparation.

Archaeological field crews should align themselves at 3-m (10-ft) to 5-m (16-ft) intervals in a straight line and pass across the prepared areas searching the surface for artifacts. Each artifact find spot should be clearly marked (e.g. by a wire pin flag) and assigned a unique field number. After the artifacts have been flagged, a surface map identifying artifact locations and/or concentrations, depending upon the specific situation and number of artifacts, should be prepared.

**OR**

- Excavation of 30 cm x 30 cm to 50 cm x 50 cm test units to undisturbed or non-artifact bearing subsoil and screening through 1/4-in hardware cloth of excavated soils in 15 m intervals (or 2 per 460 square meters of surface area = 16 tests per acre = 44 tests per hectare).

Transects should be established with a Brunton compass and taped and/or paced measurements depending upon local conditions. Transects and shovel tests should be numbered in a systematic fashion. Soils excavated from shovel tests should be carefully screened as noted above in order to recover cultural material. All stratigraphic profiles should be described in field notebooks or on appropriate field forms. Information recorded in notebooks should include, but not be confined to, descriptions of soil type, texture, color, condition, and the presence or absence of cultural materials.

Documentation of fieldwork activities should include the recording of field observations in notebooks and on appropriate forms. Photography should be employed to document field conditions, observations, and field techniques.

When cultural materials are discovered in isolated shovel-test units, a minimum of four additional units should be dug in the vicinity or the initial test units should be expanded to insure against mistaking evidence of actual sites for "stray finds."



5. **Submission of a Phase I project report in accordance with the NYAC Report Standards.**
6. **Submission of completed New York State Prehistoric or Historic Archaeological Site Forms and Building Structure forms where appropriate.**
7. **Completion of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Bibliography Form.**

If no cultural resources identified through the Phase IA and/or Phase IB surveys will be impacted by the proposed project, the survey process is complete. If cultural resources identified by these studies are within the proposed impact area, further evaluation may be required to determine the potential eligibility of the resource(s) for inclusion in the National or State Registers of Historic Places. The extent of additional cultural resource study may be reduced by project modifications (e.g. realignment, relocations) which avoid or minimize potential impacts.

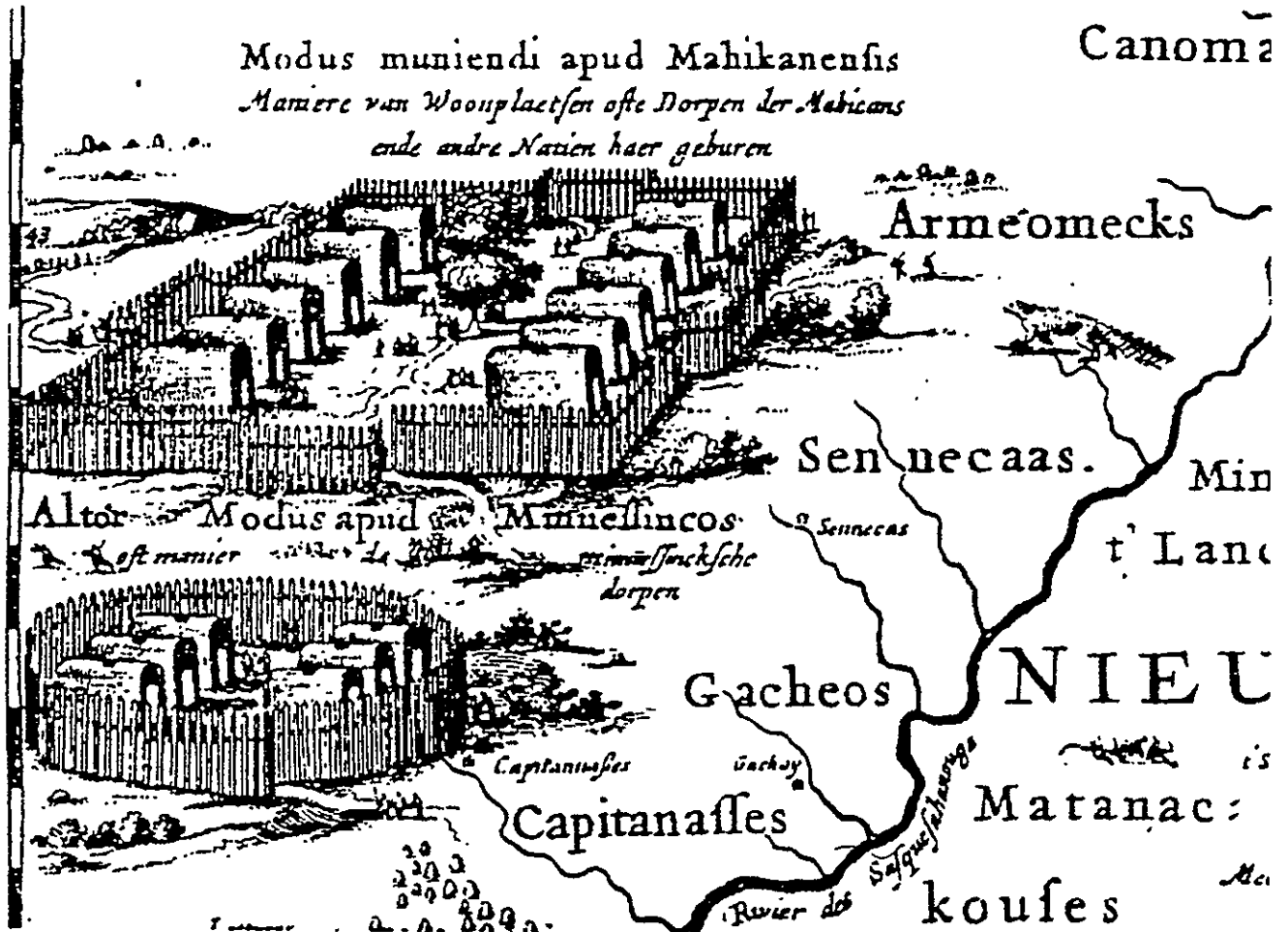
The final Phase IB report should present the results of the field investigations, including a description of the survey design and methodology; complete records of soil stratigraphy; and an artifact catalog including identification, estimated date range, and quantity or weight, as appropriate. The locations of all test units must be accurately plotted on a project area map, with locations of identified resources clearly defined. Photographs that illustrate salient points of the survey are a necessary component of the final report. Detailed recommendations and supporting rationale for additional investigation must be incorporated into the conclusions of the Phase IB study. For a detailed summary of the requirements for Stage I Reports refer to the NYAC Standards for CRM Reports.

A Prehistoric Context for the Upper Hudson Valley

Report of the Survey and Planning Project

by Susan J. Bender and Edward V. Curtin

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work  
Skidmore College



Prepared for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Partial Support Provided by a Survey and Planning Grant  
Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act

August, 1990

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## References Cited

### Appendix I ~~(NOT INCLUDED IN THIS COPY)~~

Two National Register Nominations: Dennis Site and Arrowhead Road

### Appendix II (NOT INCLUDED IN THIS COPY)

Dbase III+ datafile and Explanation

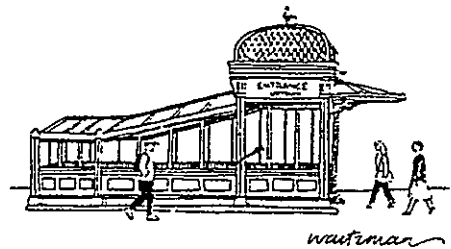
# THE NEW YORKER, "Talk of the town"

## Nacinovich Site

IN the back yard of the Nacinovich house, about three hundred feet from the East River in Astoria, a blue tarp forms a canopy over tables piled with aluminum roasting pans full of bones, shells, pieces of glass (some thick and purplish brown, others thin and stained with translucent color), broken clay pipes, potsherds, bits of Wedgwood, and some stuff in Ziploc bags: an 1861 Indian-head penny, a 1946 Roosevelt dime, buttons, a ceramic doll the size of a child's little finger, a house key, a lead sinker, a shoe buckle, a curtain-rod fixture, one bone die. There are also fragments of quartz and chert—projectile points, skinners, end-scrapers, knives. Edward Platt, the president of the New York Institute of Anthropology and the leader of the dig at the Nacinovich Site, says that some of this stuff has been here since the closing of the Middle Archaic Stage, around 3500 B.C.

Platt, who lives in Jackson Heights, began digging at the Nacinovich Site with a group of volunteers in the summer of 1988, the year before builders broke ground for Shore Towers, a twenty-three-story riverfront condominium now nearing completion next door. While he was surveying the area, noting that the house dated from before the Civil War (1858) and that its site, on elevated land, would have been attractive to prehistoric Indians, he'd had the good fortune to meet the owner of the property, Mario Nacinovich, who gave him permission to dig in the back yard. Mr. Nacinovich, a retired New York City police officer, originally from Yugoslavia, bought the house from his father, who had bought it, in 1951, from a member of the Lawrence family, landowners in Queens since before the Revolution. Mario Nacinovich lives in the house, with his wife, Dorothy, and their son, also Mario Nacinovich, an active New York City police officer. The Nacinoviches—or the Marios, as they're known to the archeologists—have a big black dog named Baron chained up in the back yard; he has a bathtub for a water bowl and barks at intruders.

This area is called Pot Cove—it's been called that since before anyone can remember why. Mr. Platt wonders if the name has any connection with an extraordinary number of shards from orange clay flowerpots that have been recovered at the site—far more flowerpots than a single household could have use for. Was there a pot factory here? He has traced the bowls of certain clay pipes to a factory in Staffordshire, England, and from these and from a late-eighteenth-century European wine bottle, both found near a stone foundation in a corner of the yard, he has



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determined that there was a British encampment here during the Revolutionary War. Before that—way before that—Pot Cove was a seasonal hunting and fishing ground for semi-nomadic Indians. So far, Mr. Platt and his crew have opened up twenty-two test blocks at the Nacinovich Site, each a metre square, and backfilled fourteen of them. "We've been in a layer of ash and refuse," he explains. (Much of archeology turns out to be sorting through the dumpsters of the past.) He adds that he hopes to stay in the field until late October, because Mario is talking about moving to California, and Mr. Platt is sure that if Mario sells the house there will be bulldozers in the back yard within a week.

A new volunteer, Gerhardt Wuest, is scraping away energetically in Test Block 21. The idea is to sift every cubic centimetre of dirt down to the glacial till—the sterile layer of soil left by the last Ice Age. Gerhardt, or Gary, is originally from Germany, and works as a butcher during the week. "He's a good digger," Platt says. "A careful digger." He is also a digger who is not bothered by the heat. "I don't mind sweating," Gary says. "I'm in the cooler all week."

Gary has just made one of the most dramatic finds of the dig: a projectile point—yellow quartz with some orange in it, shaped like a spade, and as sharp as a new-cut tooth. Mr. Platt says that it is of the type called Lamoka, which archeologists have carbon-dated to about 2100 B.C. Gary likes to imagine the man who made it, maybe a little frustrated, sitting on the riverbank chipping at stones. Eventually, Gerhard Wuest's Lamoka projectile point will go into the catalogue of the Naciovich Site as No. 178.1, along with exact information about where it was found: the test block, the depth, the soil stratum. At the moment, it is lying on a photographer's black magnetic board, with white letters above it spelling out "NYIA QUEENS SURVEY, BLOCK 21, DEPTH 42 CM."

Meanwhile, in the driveway, the Mario Nacioviches are engaged in another form of preservation: pulling dead branches off a tree before they can fall down on the younger Mario's white 1972 Mustang convertible. A rooster, a frequent visitor to the site, hops over the fence from the direction of the condo. "Nobody knows where it

came from," Mr Platt says. "It's the Marios' now. It tries to steal the dog's food." The older Mario comes over to see what the archeologists are up to. He's a bluff, broad-faced, courtly man, who, unlike some of his fellow-landowners in Pot Cove—a neighborhood of old mansions and eccentric duplexes giving way to high-rise luxury condos—looks with love on Shore Towers. "This is progress," he says. "Before, it was just a dumping ground." Ed Platt shows him Gary's Lamoka projectile point, and he turns it over in his hand admiringly. "Beautiful," he says, handing it back. "It looks like it was just made, you know what I mean?"



W. Miller

*"For the glory of God Almighty, and in the names of the munificent King and munificent Queen of Spain, I do on a day—either a Friday preceding or a Monday directly following a weekend that is earlyish in but, toward the middle of October—in this year of our Lord, 1492, claim this land."*

# New Life for a 19th-Century Row House

By JOHN WING

It was built in 1832, but there is a spirit of youthful vigor at the Old Merchant's House, a museum in Manhattan that has been closed since July and will reopen on Sunday.

The house, at 29 East Fourth Street (between Lafayette Street and the Bowery), is a rare example of New York's transition in architecture to the Greek Revival style from the Federal style. A five-story row house in a once-fashionable neighborhood, it has the furnishings of the family that

lived there over the decades. It became a museum in 1936, three years after the death of Gertrude Tredwell, last of the five daughters of Seabury Tredwell, a merchant, and his wife, Eliza.

The house has never been especially well known until now. In April a staff was hired, including an executive director, Margaret Halsey Gardiner, an associate director-curator, and a fund-raiser. Tour guides have been trained.

Thirty-five antique nutcrackers will be on display Dec. 2-Jan. 13, and the first candlelight tour of the 18

rooms will be conducted in December.

"This house can make a significant contribution to the culture of the city," said Ms. Gardiner, suggesting, half in jest, T-shirts with "Why Don't You Know About the Old Merchant's House?" on them.

Two years ago, an adjoining parking garage was demolished. That exposed the museum to the elements. Row houses were not meant to be free-standing. The demolition deprived the house of vital structural support, and it has been shifting and cracking; a crack wide enough to put

1979. The walls will also be anchored to the floor joists for stability.

Part of the backyard garden will also be searched to find the privy, which might yield important information on the Tredwells' daily life. Pollen samples will be taken to determine whether there was a kitchen garden.

The New York architectural firm Jan Hird Pokorny will provide historical and architectural documentation, which will be the centerpiece of the museum's master plan.

Not everything in the Old Merchant's House has been catalogued. "There are 17 trunks of clothes in the attic alone that are currently being documented," Ms. Gardiner said.

"The museum is in a position right now to realize its potential," she said.

"When you step into this house, it's as if the 19th century has been frozen in time. The atmosphere is so tangible. It's 1850 and the Tredwells are coming up the stairs. They've just returned from church."

Ms. Gardiner looked out cleaned windows. "We love this house," she said, "and the Tredwells know it."

The Old Merchant's House is open 1 to 4 P.M. Sunday, and during the week to groups by appointment. Admission is \$3; elderly and students, \$2. Telephone: (212) 777-1089.

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one's hand into runs straight through the house from the front windows. Water damage has peeled paint, streaked walls, crumbled ornate molding and ruined plaster medallions. Without restraining walls, the house would go on shifting.

"In the ideal world of preservation, the parking garage should have been removed brick by brick," Ms. Gardiner said. An out-of-court settlement was reached with the garage owners.

In the spring, restoration of the plaster will be begun by David Flaherty, a Philadelphia-based sculptor who also worked on the plaster in

# New York Unearthed at a New Museum

By SUZANNE SLESIN

Near the southern tip of Manhattan, about 20 feet underground, Gary McGowan and Joan Schiff, conservators of the Archeological Collection of the South Street Seaport Museum, are hard at work in a glass-enclosed laboratory.

Like actors in a play, they perform their daily tasks: cleaning, restoring and labeling urban artifacts like pins, buttons, drinking glasses, knives, forks and scrub brushes that come from excavations in the New York

area. "Most of the objects are not high-style but middle-class household objects," Mr. McGowan said. "Our main objective is to stabilize them, to preserve them for future study."

As they work, Mr. McGowan and Ms. Schiff are on display in New York Unearthed, an intriguing if small new museum. The exhibit includes dioramas of the city's history.

The new museum, which opens to the public today, is a collaboration between the South Street Seaport Museum and the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association.

"The problem was one of space

planning, or how do you shoehorn 200 years of history into a tiny little box and make it informative and interesting?" said Milton Glaser, whose design firm created the museum's dioramas. Enlisting the talents of Joan Hall, an artist, and Jordan Steckle, a sculptor, Mr. Glaser masterminded an exhibit that takes visitors back in time.

Visitors see the relationships between the objects in the glass cases, all from the South Street Seaport Museum's collections, whether an arrowhead, a thick china restaurant cup or a coin.

After gazing at the series of 10 dioramas, each representing periods roughly 40 years apart, visitors walk down to the archeological laboratory where the conservators are at work. They then enter the Unearthing New York Systems Elevator, which simulates a descent through time and space through a multimedia presentation.

New York Unearthed is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6 P.M. and is at 17 State Street (at Pearl Street) in Manhattan. Telephone (212) 363-9372. Admission is free.



South Street Seaport Museum

Detail of diorama designed by Joan Hall for New York Unearthed exhibition on State Street.

## House Approves a Measure Protecting Indian Artifacts

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 (AP) — The House has approved a bill that provides for the protection of Indian remains and other sacred or cultural artifacts on Federal and tribal lands.

By voice vote on Monday, the House adopted the measure, which also requires Federal agencies and museums that receive Federal money to prepare inventories of Indian remains and associated artifacts in their possession. If the objects are requested by Indian tribes, they must be returned.



# 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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