

Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

PANYC

NEWSLETTER

No. 127

January 2007

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Next Meeting:

March 21, 2007
Neighborhood Preservation Center
232 East 11th Street
New York, NY
6:30pm

Newsletter Editor:

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Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)
Minutes of the General Meeting, September 27, 2006
Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC)
232 E. 11th Street

Notice of Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2006, 6:30 P.M.
To be held at Columbia University, Schermerhorn Extension, rm. 951

Secretary's Report: May's minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: There are 27 paid members, 19 old members are not paid as of now. The bank account holds \$2501.88.

President's Report:

PS 261 in Brooklyn: Construction went forward at the school playground but, in the end, Eric Fortmeyer was not involved. He reported that they found bottles and other historic artifacts during construction. Doug Mackey, Amanda Sutphin, nor the School Construction Authority was able to get involved until it was too late.

315 Canal Street: Rothschild was contacted by Sutphin about 315 Canal Street, an early 19th century building, where the landowner found historic artifacts during a renovation and expressed interest in involving an archaeologist. The landowner was contacted but stated that he had changed his mind. It is believed that the artifacts probably came out of a cistern near the house.

The archaeology channel: This is a website that had asked for money from PANYC as an organization, which we declined to do. They have now sent a letter saying that members are welcome to give personally. See their website for further information: <http://www.archaeologychannel.org/>.

Joint Met Chapter/PANYC meeting: Our November 15th meeting will be a joint meeting with the Met Chapter of NYSAA. Norman Brouwer will speak on coastal ships and coastal trade. The meeting will be held in room 951 of Schermerhorn Extension at the normal time, 6:30pm. Separately, Cohn has said he may raise the annual dues to \$30 in order to raise some money for the Met Chapter. He also said that he was looking for a PANYC member to be a co-Vice-President of the Met Chapter.

Brochure: The brochure for the October 19th meeting at the LPC was voted on and finished by Rakos.

Graving Dock/Ikea: Geismar asked for PANYC to participate, in name only, in a law suit being brought by the Municipal Arts Society (MAS) on the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Ikea site in Red Hook, Brooklyn. The Roebbling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology is also considering participating in the lawsuit. The issue is that the Corps issued a permit for Ikea to proceed with filling an historic graving dock for a

parking lot. The Corps determined that the permit area, as they defined it, does not include the graving dock and therefore the graving dock did not fall within the area subjected to a Section 106 review. It was determined that Geismar would bring more information to the Executive Board who was given permission by the general members in attendance to decide this issue at a later date. Rakos recused herself from the issue due to her employment with the Corps. The Board later voted to not join the lawsuit.

Committees

Events: Kelly Britt has compiled a list of events which are included in the newsletter.

Membership: Jessica MacLean was unanimously approved for membership.

Newsletter: As there is no one assigned the next newsletter it has been suggested that an electronic version would be easier to produce and distribute. Chris Ricciardi has volunteered to do this for the time being. A mailing will be sent out to the general membership asking them if they would prefer to continue receiving a paper version.

NYAC: Stone reported that there will be an urban archaeology program at the next meeting in Binghamton. She will report on this meeting next time. The Urban Standards Sub-committee has written a definition of “urban”.

Outreach: A membership renewal form will be mailed out to the general membership (past and present) in January, 2007.

Parks: The job has been offered to at least 2 people but there is no further information as of now.

Public Program: Rakos proposed a session on Industrial Archaeology. She will need help with various tasks when it gets closer to April/May.

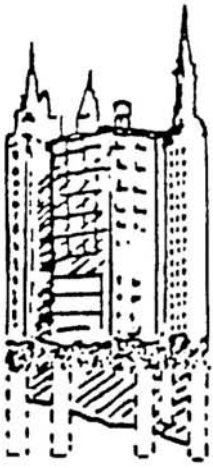
Research and Planning: Schuldenrein proposed that a representative from the London Historic Trust (who he recently had a conversation with) could come to New York for a program with the State and the LPC on legislative compliance issues sponsored by PANYC. The Roebling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology and the MAS may also be interested in sponsoring a meeting of this kind. This proposal was unanimously approved by members.

Repository/Governor’s Island: Geismar has heard that the Federal Development Corporation was short-listed and the committee was to have met by the end of September to make decisions on the proposals.

New Business: Stone reported that artifacts were recovered on the southwest side of City Hall Park during an emergency situation. Sutphin at the LPC is aware of this and is on top of the situation.

Due to the recent New York Post article referencing the 2nd Avenue Subway, Martin asked if any archaeology company had won the job yet. As of now, no one has.

The final decisions were made on the brochure and the meeting was closed.



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

18 December 2006

Editors
New York Post
1211 Ave of Americas
New York, NY 10036

PANYC



To the editors:

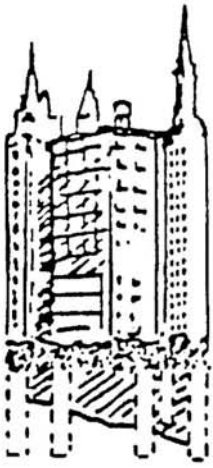
I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City to comment on an article that appeared in the Wednesday, Dec 13th, New York Post about the finding of human remains in the area being excavated for the new Trump Tower being built in Soho. We commend the developer and the New York City Dept. Of Buildings for stopping work on the site temporarily while the material is being investigated. We would also like to correct a statement made in the article that archaeology delayed the South Ferry subway (it didn't) and that it is often costly and delays construction. If developers follow the guidelines of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and other agencies, delays can be avoided completely. The cost of doing the work is not trivial, but we believe, well worth it in terms of the findings recovered; in the case of the African Burial Ground, the many kinds of information recovered from the site were unknown and could not have been acquired in any other way.

Thank you for your attention to these issues,

Sincerely,

Nan A. Rothschild

Nan A. Rothschild
President



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

18 December 2006

Editors
New York Sun
105 Chambers St.
New York, NY 10013

PANYC



To the editors:

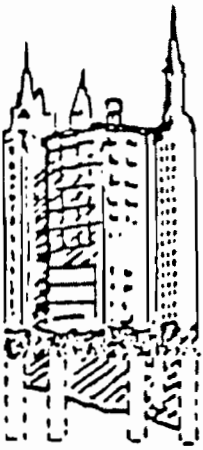
I am writing on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City to comment on an article that appeared in the Wednesday, Dec 13th, New York Sun about the finding of human remains in the area being excavated for the new Trump hotel project being built in Soho. We commend the developer and the New York City Dept. of Buildings for stopping work on the site temporarily while the material is being investigated. We would also like to correct an implication in the article that archaeology delays construction and that it is often costly and delays construction. If developers follow the guidelines of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and other agencies, delays can be avoided completely. The cost of doing the work is not trivial, but we believe, well worth it in terms of the findings recovered; in the case of the African Burial Ground, the many kinds of information recovered from the site were unknown and could not have been acquired in any other way.

Thank you for your attention to these issues,

Sincerely,

Nan A. Rothschild

Nan A. Rothschild
President



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

December 12, 2006

Dear PANYC member:

As some of you will already know, our newsletter is now available electronically. This means that it can be emailed to you as a pdf file. We no longer need to seek volunteers to copy, address, stamp and mail all our newsletters.

If you would still like to receive the paper version of the newsletter please let me know as soon as possible so that we can continue to mail your copy to you. I can be contacted by email, telephone, or you can even send a real letter. My contact information is included below. If I don't hear from you by our January meeting I will assume that our new electronic version will be acceptable to you.

All the best,

Lizzie Martin, PANYC Secretary

Mailing address:

250 E90th Street, #4N
New York, NY 10128

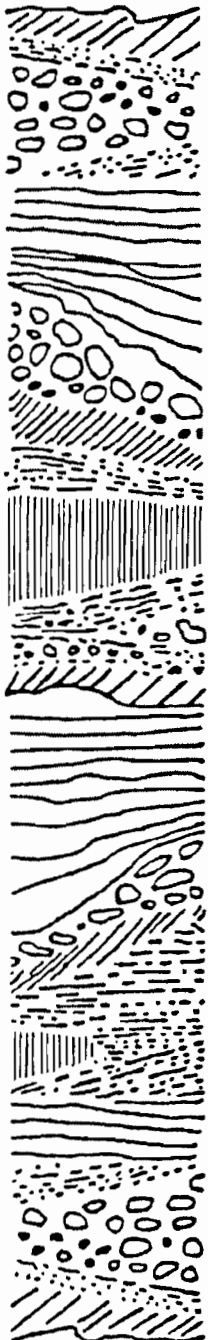
Email:

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Telephone:

(347) 262-4663

PANYC



THIS IS A PROPOSAL TO UPDATE THE MONITORING GUIDELINES ORIGIALLY DEVELOPOED BY A JOINT NYAC/PANYC COMMITTEE AND FORMALLY ADOPTED AS PART OF THE NYAC STANDARDS. YOUR REPONSE WILL BE APPRECIATED:

**GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO
OTHER FIELD TECHNIQUES**

**3/25/02 (NYAC adopted 4/26/02)
REVISED DRAFT 9/22/06**

**(Strikeouts indicate deletions, and highlights and all caps indicate additions)
(Response to proposed changes can be communicated to the committee Wendy Harris –
gullyroad@aol.com, Arnold Pickman – apickman@aol.com or Linda Stone –
lindastone@juno.com)**

POLICY AND PURPOSE

Monitoring has recently become a more prevalent CRM practice. Although many archaeologists are uncomfortable with its use as a method of investigation, monitoring appears in many Scopes of Work and Memoranda of Agreement. Particularly in urban settings, traffic and other logistical considerations have led to a reliance upon monitoring, often as a substitute for archaeological testing, evaluation or data recovery. Because power equipment is so costly, monitoring is sometimes presented to agencies and developers as a means to reduce costs of urban archaeological projects, although to their surprise the actual costs can be substantially larger. Too often there is much pressure upon the archaeological community to use monitoring in the compliance process as an alternative to other archaeological field methods. Additionally, there has been little professional guidance on the subject and its appropriateness as an investigative technique remains an open question.

The existing Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York State (NYAC 1994; adopted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation) address monitoring in Sections 3.7 and 4.5. Monitoring, according to the Standards, may be acceptable under certain circumstances during Phases II and III as a "supplemental" technique. The Standards caution, however, that "due to the complexities often characterizing projects and sites located in urban settings, [the] guidelines apply primarily to projects situated in non-urban environments" (NYAC 1994:1). This suggests that there may be additional considerations during urban projects, in determining whether and under what circumstances monitoring is an appropriate field strategy.

The following guidelines have been written by a joint NYAC/PANYC subcommittee in order to clarify some of these issues in an attempt to make the existing Standards more explicit on the subject of monitoring. Input on these guidelines has been made by members of both NYAC and PANYC. THESE GUIDELINES WERE ORIGINALLY ADOPTED BY NYAC ON 4/26/02.

DEFINITION

Archaeological Monitoring

For purposes of this document, we define monitoring as the observation of construction excavation activities by an archaeologist in order to identify, recover, protect and/or document archaeological information or materials. During monitoring, excavation is not under the control of the archaeologist although the archaeologist may be given authority to temporarily halt construction work to do his or her job, as defined in the scope of work. Excavation area, location and depth are determined and directed by contractor(s), or the organization employing them.

The practice of monitoring should not be confused with the use of heavy equipment by archaeologists. In this circumstance, the placement, size and depth of the excavations suit the aims of the archaeological research design and the operation of all mechanical equipment is under direct control of the archaeologist.

WHEN MONITORING IS APPROPRIATE

Experience at urban sites suggests that in a limited number of cases monitoring may be an acceptable approach. As stated in the Standards, there are some circumstances during the evaluation and data recovery phases (Phase II and III) where monitoring may be used effectively to supplement other archaeological methods. There may also be situations where monitoring may be used during Phase 1B archaeological testing. In general, however, monitoring should only be considered when all other alternative techniques have been examined (including mechanically-assisted archaeological excavation) and those have been determined to be not feasible. Also, monitoring may be considered an acceptable alternative to other forms of archaeological testing when documentary research shows significant archaeological deposits are likely to be present, but are outside of the project impact areas or beneath the depth of project impacts. In such cases, the appropriateness of monitoring must be thoroughly established before proceeding with contractor excavations.

ANYWHERE MONITORING IS RECOMMENDED, IT MUST BE LOOKED AT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS TO DETERMINE IF THIS APPROACH IS ADEQUATE. IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO SAY THE PROJECT IS OF THE SAME NATURE AS AN EARLIER PROJECT WHERE MONITORING WAS USED. NOR IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO SAY THAT THE POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE ENCOUNTERED IN AN EARLIER PROJECT WHERE MONITORING WAS USED. THE RESULTS OF OTHER PROJECTS MAY OR MAY NOT BE A FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF MONITORING. NO TWO SITES ARE EXACTLY ALIKE.

If a decision is reached to proceed with monitoring, then a written monitoring plan or protocol must be implemented. The contents of such a document are described below. With the exception of extraordinary circumstances (e.g., excavations to permit emergency repairs) an acceptable plan should give the archaeologist the authority to halt excavations under defined conditions.

Specific scenarios based on actual examples are presented here to establish guidance in how and when monitoring is appropriate.

Scenario 1) Accessibility is often an issue when planning archaeological testing in urban areas. Monitoring may be appropriate in projects where impact areas have the potential for containing archaeological resources but cannot be investigated in advance of construction due to the presence of buildings, roads, or other structures. Two examples where this occurred are Pearl Street, Albany and Pearl Street, New York City. These were heavily trafficked urban areas where it was not feasible to excavate the streets twice, for both archaeology and construction. As a result, archaeologists were not given access to the sites prior to construction. In both cases detailed monitoring plans were developed whereby the archaeologists worked closely with the excavating contractors to document archaeological resources.

Scenario 2) Monitoring may be appropriate when known archaeological resources are in close proximity to the footprint of planned construction excavations or when known archaeological resources are located at a depth below which construction excavations are planned. In such circumstances monitoring is undertaken to ensure that construction stays within specified limits and/or, should the site be more extensive than previously defined and archaeological remains encountered, to ensure that they are documented or avoided.

One example occurred in a historic district in Jersey City, New Jersey where construction was planned above the depth of an historic sewer. Monitoring was done to ensure the contractor did not exceed the depth of planned construction and that the historic sewer was not disturbed. Another example was in Philadelphia where park landscaping had the potential to disturb an historic burial place. The archaeologists worked with the contractor to document any exposed remains which were then protected *in situ* and trench depths modified.

MONITORING PLAN

~~When monitoring is planned, a clear understanding between the archaeologist and construction excavation team (from the management level down to the equipment operator) is required prior to commencement of fieldwork. A protocol for construction work stoppages must be developed to enable archaeologists time for recordation and for any archaeological data recovery that may be needed.~~

For projects in which monitoring is being proposed, a written protocol or monitoring plan should be prepared and agreed to by the consulting archaeologist, the review agency archaeologist, the undertaking agency representative, the developer (where applicable), and the construction contractor. The monitoring plan should include a number of essential elements:

1. The authority of the archaeologists to halt excavations to allow for agreed upon investigations should be clearly stated. This authority should also be conveyed to all levels of the contractor's on-site excavation team, including the equipment operator(s).
2. PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNICATION DURING THE COURSE OF FIELD WORK SHOULD BE SPECIFIED IN THE PLAN. THE ROLE OF ALL PARTIES NEEDS TO BE IDENTIFIED (E.G. ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND/OR PRIVATE DEVELOPERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT, REVIEW AGENCIES, CONTRACTORS, EQUIPMENT OPERATORS ETC.). PROVISIONS FOR INFORMING NEW CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE

INCLUDED. FOR COMPLEX PROJECTS THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION CAN BE SUMMARIZED AND COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE USE OF A FLOWCHART. A MEETING BETWEEN THE ARCHAEOLOGIST(S) AND THE CONSTRUCTION EXCAVATION TEAM SHOULD BE SCHEDULED PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.

3. The amount of time during which construction excavations are to be made available for archaeological work should be clearly stated in the plan. This should be specific (e.g., the plan used for Pearl Street in Albany specified the archaeologists could inspect the construction trench for 1 hour per every 20 linear feet of trench). A formula appropriate to the nature and size of the site should be developed.
4. The nature of the archaeological work within the contractor's excavations (e.g., photography, drawing of profiles, screening of removed soil for artifacts, taking of soil samples, hand excavation, etc.) should be clearly stated as well as the objectives of the archaeological work. The types of resources which may be encountered based on preliminary research or the results of prior excavations in the area should also be stated.
5. The actions to be taken by archaeologists, should remains requiring further study be encountered during construction, must be explicitly stated. The protocol for consultation and decision making required in order to slow down or halt construction activities (e.g., consultations with construction, engineering and agency personnel), including identification of specific persons to be contacted, should also be stated. **THIS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE THE TIME FRAME EACH HAS TO PREPARE AND REVIEW DOCUMENTS AND MAKE DECISIONS PRIOR TO RECOMMENCING EXCAVATIONS.** The amount of time that archaeologists will have to record and/or excavate such remains should also be agreed upon. This can be stated as an amount of time for each cultural resource encountered and/or a total amount of time for the entire project.
6. The assumptions under which time estimates are made should be clearly stated, both relating to physical site conditions and to archaeological situations. For example, if the monitoring plan assumes warm weather conditions, the need to change the plan or schedule under winter conditions should be stated. The need for a change in scheduling due to unanticipated archaeological finds should also be spelled out. **THIS SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE TIME FOR NECESSARY NOTIFICATIONS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK.**
7. Assistance to be provided to the archaeological team by construction personnel (e.g., pumping of water from excavations, shoring of trenches, construction of shelters under winter conditions), including those actions mandated by OSHA regulations, should similarly be specified. ~~Actual procedures should be specified in case construction plans are changed during the course of the construction work. These procedures must provide adequate time for the archaeologists to consider the sensitivity of the additional locations and/or depths of construction to be affected by the new plans and to enable all parties to consider and agree to any modification of the monitoring plan which may be necessary.~~
8. **THE PLAN SHOULD SPECIFY CONDITIONS WHICH ARE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE CONDUCT OF PROPER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND FOR WHICH CONSTRUCTION WORK STOPPAGES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. ONE EXAMPLE IS NIGHT WORK BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT PROPER ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROCEDURES UNDER ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING CONDITIONS. SHADOWS DISTORT STRATIGRAPHY AND SOIL COLORS ARE NOT TRUE. OTHER**

EXAMPLES TO CONSIDER ARE EXTREME HEAT, EXTREME COLD, FROZEN EARTH AND EXCESSIVE WINDS. IN SUCH CASES ALL PARTIES INVOLVED SHOULD MEET TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION THAT COULD INCLUDE MODIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES TO AVOID THE SENSITIVE AREA UNTIL CONDITIONS IMPROVE.

9. Actual procedures should be specified in case construction plans are changed during the course of the construction work. These procedures must provide adequate time for the archaeologists to consider the sensitivity of the additional locations and/or depths of construction to be affected by the new plans and to enable all parties to consider and agree to any modification of the monitoring plan which may be necessary.
10. As with any archaeological plan, treatment of artifacts, technical analysis of samples, curation, preparation of reports, etc. should be addressed in the monitoring plan, as specified in the Standards.

QUEENS: NATIONAL PARK REVIEW FOR OLDEST OCCUPIED HOUSE A 350-year-old East Elmhurst farmhouse that is the city's oldest inhabited dwelling will be studied by the National Park Service to see whether the house and its surrounding acre of land might be acquired as a national park, two lawmakers said yesterday. The property, which includes lush gardens and a historic 132-grave cemetery, is known as the Lent-Riker-Smith homestead. The land was granted to Abraham Riker in 1654 by Gov. Peter Stuyvesant. The study was announced by Representatives Joseph Crowley and Carolyn B. Maloney, whose districts include Queens.

MICHELLE O'DONNELL (NYT)

NYT 11/1/06 : 34

November 26, 2006

Op-Ed Contributor

The (Naked) City and the Undead

By TOM WOLFE

CHIN up, tummy out, Aby Rosen, the 46-year-old German developer, owner of the Seagram Building and Lever House, was posing for pictures in front of 980 Madison Avenue barely one month ago when he grew so bold as to boast: “I have zero fear. Fear is not something I have.” Easy for you to say, braveheart! The courage-crowning tycoon knows very well that in the current battle over 980 Madison, a five-story Art Moderne building stretching from 76th Street to 77th Street, the contest is already completely snookered in his favor.

On top of this block-long low-rise he intends to build one of his Aby Rosen jumbo glass boxes full of commercial space and condominiums, rising straight up a sheer 30 stories. His big problem — or, to be more accurate, “problem” — is that 980 Madison is in the heart of the Upper East Side Historic District, and it would be hard to dream up anything short of a Mobil station more out of place there than a Mondo Condo glass box by Aby Rosen.

The writer Tom Wolfe and other neighbors have taken to lobbying objections in the direction of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the city’s official watchdog for landmarked areas. The commission has already held a hearing and could stop Aby Rosen dead in his tracks at a moment’s notice, just like that.

But what, him worry? Like every major developer in town, he knows that the Landmarks Preservation Commission has been de facto defunct for going on 20 years. Today it is a bureau of the walking dead, tended by one Robert B. Tierney.

Mr. Tierney and the 10 members of his commission already have a hearty, comrades-in-arms, marching-along-together history with Aby Rosen. The commission was highly instrumental last November in clearing the way for him to build a zone-busting glass box full of condominiums on Lexington Avenue and 53rd Street in return for his guarantee, written into the deed, that the exterior of his Seagram Building, given landmark status in 1989, will be maintained in its original condition in perpetuity.

Mr. Tierney gushed — insofar as one can gush in a press release — that Aby Rosen was not only ensuring “the highest level of protection” for this historic building, he was also being so kind as to favor New York with “a landmark of the future,” namely, his glass box godzilla at Lexington and 53rd.

How generous! How civic-minded! Noblesse oblige! ... until one reminds oneself that Aby Rosen and every other owner of a landmarked building is required by law to maintain it in its original condition.

Aby Rosen is a global success story of the 21st century, a citizen of the world. He should care about New York's parochial steps to make historic preservation a government responsibility? That was in another century, the 20th, 1965 to be exact, after a developer had demolished that old solemn-columned classical temple of passenger train travel, Pennsylvania Station, to make way for Madison Square Garden, a coliseum where the rabble could go watch hungover Canadians on ice skates batter one another senseless.

Never again! vowed le tout New York. The thrill of a Goo-Goo crusade thrummed through the gizzard of everyone from, eventually, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and legions of other celebrities and socialites to virtually every prominent politician, from Mayor Robert F. Wagner on down.

Never again! The City Council gave legal muscle to a previously powerless Landmarks Preservation Commission, made up of scholars, city planners, architects, artists, landscapers, designers. This was to be an aesthetic and scholarly elite with virtually absolute discretion in deciding what buildings and historic districts should be preserved forever through landmark designation.

Goo-Goo was an old City Hall term for believers in Good Government, by which the regulars meant idealistic lightweights whose feet seldom touched the ground. But all at once every big shot in New York seemed to have gone Goo-Goo.

So feverish was that born-again bliss that for a decade the commission pretty much had its idealistic way. But when the commission tapped for protection the city's other great monument to railroad travel, Grand Central Terminal, it wound up in a do-or-die lawsuit that reached the United States Supreme Court in 1978.

Goo-Goo fever now shot up to a peak. Jackie O. herself served as the star passenger on the Landmarks Express, a private train packed with celebrities, socialites and members of the commission who headed to Washington to exhort the court to uphold New York's landmarks law — and in so doing save the station. Mayor Edward I. Koch gave a Goo-Goo, Never Again send-off speech so moving that cynical, battle-hardened, social-cliff-climbing Manhattan matrons had to dab their eye sockets. Not even the Supreme Court justices, it seemed, could control themselves in a Camelot moment. They upheld the landmarks law faster than you could say Oh, Jackie, ohhhhh ...

Oooooooooohhhhhhhhhhhhh yes, went the landmarks commissioners. The chairman received a salary, but the commissioners got no pay for this job. Still, the psychic rewards were turning out to be awesome. You were working for a cause you believed in, and at a high and highly visible level. After all, you were now an official of the 20th century's capital of the world, New York City, and you kept running into the very rich and very social — who were suddenly giving you aero-kisses, Euro-style, four millimeters away from each side of your face.

The commissioners had made names for themselves professionally as scholars, architects, city planning consultants, but now they were moving up in life in a way they could have never anticipated. One evening a commissioner from the Jackie O. period is at a cocktail party — you were now being invited to an infinitely better class of parties — when a benefactress of the City Beautiful movement approaches him and asks if he would like to go over to Lincoln Center and watch Jerome Robbins rehearsing with Mikhail Baryshnikov for some ballet that's coming up. The next thing he knows, her driver is taking the two of them over to the theater.

“The place is dark except for the stage,” he recounted, “and there's Jerome Robbins up there, and Baryshnikov, and Robbins is having Baryshnikov try this and try that — and the only people in the whole audience are this woman and me! Us and some Saudi prince who's backing the show.” You would walk into a conference room and people would jump up and shake your hand and take your coat and show you to a seat and smile and beam, beam, beam respect — because you and your commission colleagues wielded a government power over private property second only to confiscating it via the right of eminent domain. When you made someone's property a landmark, he retained title to it, but you confiscated his ability to exploit it by putting up something new in its place or selling it for development. In a former commissioner's own words: “One day it dawns on you. You're pushing around billions of dollars worth of real estate development. You're telling the biggest developers in the world, ‘Keep moving, Jack! You can't build there!’ ”

Somehow you had made it inside the Walled City that Theodore Dreiser described in “Sister Carrie.” There was New York the melting pot, the boiling stew, of the eight million ... and there was the Walled City, wherein existed New York's fabled excitement and glamour and power and blinding wealth and extravagant ease and fine slim people who introduced you to restaurants where you didn't dare order a beer and wished you hadn't worn a brown suit and a “colorful” necktie. Thus it came to be that turnover on the commission was exceedingly low. No fools, New York's mayors got the picture soon enough. Why on earth allow so much power to remain in the hands of a bunch of arty, sentimental, cerebral, status-addicted Goo-Goos? And the name of the man who first made City Hall's contempt obvious? Edward I. Koch! The very man who had left them sobbing Goo-Goo tears during the Camelot moment! Not the velvet-gloved sort, Mr. Koch went ballistic in what became the notorious Tung affair.

In 1987, for good and sufficient civic and political reasons, the mayor wanted to turn Bryant Park, the badly rundown open space behind the New York Public Library, into a gloriously landscaped Tuileries Garden for Manhattan crowned with a Lucullan restaurant. But building the restaurant would mean cutting down a stand of towering old trees. The mayor wanted the commission to give this alteration its blessing.

Enter Anthony M. Tung. Mr. Tung was only 37 but had served on the commission for eight years. One and all agreed he was probably the most erudite member the commission had ever had, a city planning consultant, a walking encyclopedia of the history, principles and practices of urban preservation, and a brilliant analyst; in short, a genius in that field.

Mr. Tung argued that the proposed restaurant would be a landmark desecration, butchering not only many magnificent old trees but also the entire rear aspect of the library, which was every bit as innovative and historically important as the more famous Fifth Avenue front with its lions and great staircase. So eloquent was he, so utterly convincing, that the commission, chairman and all, swung around and denied Mayor Koch's request — unanimously — and made him look like a hairy Visigoth getting ready to sack Rome.

Impudent wretch! The mayor got word to the genius that he was fired so fast — five days later — it made the tail on the Q of Mr. Tung's sky-high I.Q. curl.

Getting rid of him was easy, or should have been. Landmarks commissioners were appointed for three-year terms, and it turned out that Mr. Tung and six of the other nine unpaid commissioners had never been officially reappointed. They had just kept on serving. Technically, they were expirees. This was probably the result of nothing more than bureaucratic inertia. But it was very handy! All the mayor had to do was have somebody send Mr. Tung a letter saying his term had expired, he wasn't being reappointed, so long, thanks a million for your service, and kindly go off and be a genius by yourself. In fact, thanks to the rank odor, it took the mayor months to find a both willing and respectable candidate to take his place.

Mr. Tung didn't take it lying down for a moment, and the Tung affair boiled and stewed in the press for months. Still, no one seemed to realize at the time that the landmarks law, as originally conceived, was now null and void. From the Tung affair on, the Landmarks Preservation Commission's aesthetic elite was pretty much free to bestow landmark status on any property it saw fit — unless the mayor had designs on it himself.

Barely a peep in Anthony Tung's behalf was heard from any commissioner or the chairman, even though all of them had so bravely agreed with him at the outset. Well ... let's face it. One has to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, doesn't one? But we'll get to decide on the rest, won't we? And still be invited to all the parties?

Talk about never again! Never again could you expect a landmarks commissioner, much less a chairman, to stand up to a mayor. And, as a corollary, never again could you expect any of them to stand up to Big Real Estate, if Big Real Estate had the mayor's backing. As they say at City Hall, they got along by going along. It wasn't so bad ... talking the talk with one's fellow walking dead and walking the walking-dead walk to swell parties and events.

As for Anthony Tung: he went off and, a genius by himself, wrote a book titled "Preserving the World's Great Cities." Today it is the bible of urban preservationists all over the globe, and from Mexico City to Athens to Istanbul to Kyoto and Singapore, he is one of the world's most sought-after speakers and consultants on urban planning, most recently in New Orleans.

The undead commission became only undeader under Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani. When he became mayor in 1994, New York had hit the bottom of a full-blown commercial real estate depression, and he wasn't about to allow anyone with a weakness for silvery-tongues to become chairman. So he appointed a former campaign strategist, Jennifer J. Raab, who was introduced to the public as a highly experienced land-use lawyer.

Translated, that meant she made her living representing landlords and developers for the big-time, high-billing-and-the-clock-is-running law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. It didn't take long for her to enunciate the Raab Doctrine. No longer is it Us against Them, she said. From now on everyone, preservationists and developers alike, will recognize their common interest in preservation.

With that, she bade Us lamb chops to lie down with Them lions and bestowed "preservation achievement awards" for preservation-friendly architectural designs upon the Gap — which she teasingly referred to as the "big bad corporation" by way of showing Them lions were really pussycats — and Bernard Mendik, chairman of the Real Estate Board, the lobby for landlords, developers and brokers, by natural selection the evolutionary enemies of landmarks preservation. As for the commission, it remained packed with expirees who would gladly disintegrate, if necessary, to avoid casting so much as a shadow on any of the mayor's plans.

Reading the tank-style tread marks of the excavation earth-movers today, one is forced to conclude that Rudy Giuliani and Ed Koch are not the only mayors who would just as soon have ended the charade by mercifully putting the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the walking dead out of their misery or at least slipping them into the sleep mode the way you can a computer. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg certainly seems to qualify as another.

Last year, as he had ever since 2003, Mayor Bloomberg made it clear that he wanted a 40-year-old white marble building the city owned at 2 Columbus Circle, designed by Edward Durell Stone for Huntington Hartford's short-lived Gallery of Modern Art, replaced by a glass box proposed by the Museum of Arts and Design, to fit in with the behemoth glass box of the nearby Time Warner Center.

Back in the 1960s, critics and the art world in general had sniggered, sneered and hooted Mr. Hartford's gallery into oblivion after only five years. But that was 40 years ago, and art history is chronically revisionist. (Rembrandt once got cold-shouldered for two centuries.)

Now, in 2005, the mayor was confronted by an incredible uprising of scholars, world-renowned architects, deans of art and architecture at the great universities, mega-wattage art worldlings — the greatest massing of cultural luminaries in a single cause since the anti-fascist crusades of the 1930s! — all calling upon the commission to hold a hearing, lest this historic work by a great American architect be destroyed without a second thought.

For any owner of a magnifying glass seeking a closer look at this astral army:

The two most eminent architectural historians in the United States, Vincent Scully and Robert A. M. Stern, dean of Yale's school of architecture, a famous and prolific architect in his own right, and the definitive historian of New York architecture from the late 19th century to the present, co-author of the magisterial quintet, "New York 1880," "New York 1900," "New York 1930," "New York 1960," "New York 2000"; nine deans and graduate program directors of art and architecture, including three from Columbia University, and one of the nation's best-known urban studies scholars and theorists, Witold Rybczynski of the University of Pennsylvania; the most elite lineup of architects who ever stood shank to flank in a preservation controversy:

Richard Meier, Cesar Pelli, Robert Venturi, Laurie Olin, Hugh Hardy and Peter Eisenman, plus Dean Stern, to single out but seven from among a host of them; the current chief architectural critic of The New York Times and two of his predecessors, one of whom called the commission's year-after-year refusal to call a hearing "a shocking dereliction of public duty"; The Times itself, in an editorial characterizing Stone's building as "already an architectural monument, the work of a major architect, whether the commission likes it or not" and the refusal as "an enormous mistake, one that seriously erodes [the commission's] purpose and whatever independence it has managed to attain since it was first created"; the nation's, New York State's and New York City's most highly respected preservation societies, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the World Monuments Fund; Agnes Gund, who had just stepped down as president of the board of the Museum of Modern Art; the artists Frank Stella and Chuck Close, under whose letterhead a petition signed by more than 50 artists went to Mayor Bloomberg; and three former chairmen of the landmarks commission.

If the administration had the subpoena power to summon a jury of the most esteemed architectural and urban planning authorities in the United States to judge the case of 2 Columbus Circle — it would have summoned the very same people who are in that condensed like-a-lump-of-coal type. There are no higher authorities. So how did Robert Tierney respond to them? He didn't! Not once! It was as simple as that!

He stayed holed up in his bunker at 1 Centre Street, while Spokesperson said ... and said ...and said ... and said, "Under two administrations and three chairmen, the commission has declined to consider this site for landmark status, and I am aware of no new information that would make it necessary to revisit the matter"...

"Under two administrations and three chairmen, the commission has declined to consider" ...
"Under two administrations and three chairmen, the commission" ...
"Under two administrations and three" ...

But, but, but how could he do that without seeming ... brain dead ... or without taking direct orders? Either way, the chairman's refusal to call a hearing — a mere hearing, which would commit the commission to nothing — or to so much as discuss a hearing ... was as good as an official proclamation:

Landmarking no longer exists in New York City, not even as a principle — or not above the level of the occasional parish house in Staten Island or rusticated old stone archway in eastern Queens.

By this time last year unionized elves with air hammers had reduced 2 Columbus Circle's white marble to rubble and set about gutting the interior.

The chairman was marginally less blunt about staying out of the way of Big Real Estate. For two decades preservation groups had been petitioning the commission to give landmark status to the five-story Romanesque Revival-style Dakota Stable on Amsterdam Avenue at 77th Street, the most important remaining relic of late 19th century New York's palmy days of riding horses and traveling by horse-drawn carriage.

This spring they learned that Big Real Estate, in the form of the Related Companies, developers of the Time Warner Center, had a contract to buy the building with the intention of demolishing it and putting up 14 stories' worth of condominiums. (Ironically, they picked Robert Stern as the architect.) In July, Mr. Tierney indicated he was going to hold a hearing ... hold a hearing ... hold a hearing ... hold a hearing ... but was somehow delayed until Oct. 17 — and wouldn't you know it? In September the city had granted permission to alter the Dakota Stable and by Oct. 17 it had been stripped of its architectural details, and all that was left was “a stucco box.”

Those were the chairman's own words, “a stucco box.” Just the other day he shook his head and declared it was too late to do anything about that.

SO we will never know about Aby Rosen! Maybe the man does have “zero fear.” But he won't be put to the test this time. In the case of 980 Madison he has one-click approval whenever They feel the time is right.

In case he's wondering, he should know that the table is set at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Set beautifully! Never better! Nine of the 10 current commissioners, not counting Mr. Tierney, are expirees — 90 percent! — in imminent danger of getting canned if they don't do the right thing by Aby Rosen!

Once upon a time, in the legendary age of Camelot, back when Jackie O. could make the entire United States Supreme Court roll over and moan, it was the landlords and developers who used to scream bloody murder at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Just two weeks ago close to 100 leaders of New York City preservationist groups held a “citizens emergency meeting” at the General Society Library on West 44th Street... and bayed for the blind goddess, Justice, to make Preservation the commission's middle name. Many of them were young, young enough to envision a landmarking renaissance. Youth! The way they bayed was enough to make the hair stand up on old Aby Rosen's arm.

Tom Wolfe is the author, most recently, of “I Am Charlotte Simmons.””

The Sun

Archaeologist Finds Pottery, Wood Water Mains Downtown

By [BRADLEY HOPE](#)

Staff Reporter of The New York Sun

November 27, 2006

When construction workers peel back the pavement in lower [Manhattan](#), it's like opening a skylight into the old [New York](#) — a place where water flowed through hollowed-out logs and the streets were crowded with ship builders, pottery makers, and tavern riffraff.

More than 3,000 objects have been found under Beekman Street between Pearl and Water streets, where archaeologist [Alyssa Loorya](#) has been monitoring a city construction site for the last two years.

The largest find was four pieces of the city's old wooden water mains. These mains are hollowedout yellow pine logs, which distributed water from a water reservoir just north of Chambers Street during the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries, a historian and author of "Water for Gotham," [Gerard Koepfel](#), said.

The pieces are wider on one end and narrower on the other so that each section could fit into another, with a metal collar binding them together. Customers of the [Manhattan Company](#), which eventually became the J.P. Morgan Chase Manhattan Bank, paid \$5 a year per household with no more than five fireplaces to tap into the water mains. Another \$1.25 was added onto the bill for each successive fireplace as a way to account for bigger households, Mr. Koepfel said.

One buried storeroom several feet below street level contained more than 2,000 objects, Ms. Loorya said. The remnants suggest a tavern once raged above in the early 19th century. Stemware from broken glasses, plates — including one that commemorated the death of [George Washington](#) — and food remains were found. There are skeletal remains of turkey, guinea fowl, leg of lamb, lobster, sheep, goat, and a lot of oysters. The absence of cow and pig remains, which were a staple throughout the area, is one aspect of the site that Ms. Loorya said she wanted to investigate.

A pocket of fossilized [Caribbean](#) coral called "stag horn" was also discovered. The coral looks like polished stones, and was often used as ballast in ships traveling the trade routes, Ms. Loorya said.

Before the 19th century, the area where the construction workers are now replacing fiber optic cables and repairing other municipal infrastructure was water. Early in the city's history modern-day [Pearl Street](#) — then known as Queen Street — was Manhattan's edge, but over time landfills created another three blocks. The [South Street Seaport](#) was the primary port for the city, so many of the buildings in the area catered to the shipping industry.

The old water mains that were found would have been buried by the Manhattan Company just a few feet below the cobbled or packed dirt streets. The system was notoriously leaky and unreliable, Mr. Koepfel said, citing letters to the editor in old newspapers complaining about the water service. The roots of the Lombardi poplar trees planted by the city starting in 1800 had a tendency to block up the mains, prompting a flurry of letters back and forth between Manhattan Company managers and municipal authorities, Mr. Koepfel said.

A pair of similar 13-foot wooden pipes was found at Coenties Slip Park in 2004, and last year workers at a [Metropolitan Transportation Authority](#) site at [Battery Park](#) discovered a 45-foot section of a wall that archaeologists believe dates back to the original Colonial settlement at the tip of Manhattan.

The construction workers at Beekman Street, who are supervised by an engineer from the Department of Design and Construction, Krishna Manikarnika, have to excavate everything by hand because of the archaeological remains. Their work is expected to finish up next spring. At about the same time, Ms. Loorya, a contractor for the city, will begin analyzing the artifacts in greater detail.

Ms. Loorya and the construction workers have also found a series of barrel vaults, a bone syringe, a decorative mother of pearl inlaid, and pieces of a kiln.

Every find brings a cautious sense that something new or unheard-of might be uncovered, she said.

"Of course, it's always exciting when you find something, but you have to hold back and see if what you have is important," she said.

A life-long New Yorker from [Marine Park](#) in [Brooklyn](#), Ms. Loorya is also finishing up a dissertation at [Brooklyn College](#) on City Hall Park, where a renovation project in 1999 led to the discovery of 250,000 archaeological remains. The cache included "a lot of alcohol bottles," which were likely drunk by the British soldiers who had their barracks there.

November 29, 2006

Downtown Holds Buried Treasure Below the Surface



In a historic district like Lower Manhattan, it doesn't come as a surprise to find hidden treasures buried just below the street surface. For this reason, many downtown construction projects have an archaeologist on site if there is a likelihood of coming across a significant find. In 1981, archaeologists discovered a maritime ship on Water Street that had been stripped of its fittings between 1749 and 1755, chained into position, and used to hold new landfill in place with ballast of sand and cobbles. Recently, crews working to replace water mains on Beekman Street have come across quite a few significant finds -- more than 2,000 in fact.

Remnants of the past at Beekman Street have recently been unearthed

Over the past few months, archaeologist Alyssa Loorya has spent a lot of time unearthing remnants of the past at Beekman Street, coming across items ranging from plates and bowls to a storeroom foundation. What amazes Loorya is that "no matter how many times the streets are ripped up, we still find undisturbed pockets." Wearing multiple layers of clothing and armed with a trowel and tape measure, she routinely hops down into a worksite to see what has been dug up.

On Beekman Street, the first thing Loorya and the construction crew found was an 11-foot-long section of a wooden water main dating back to the 19th century. It was joined to a second section of water main and fitted with a metal collar to prevent the joint from leaking. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has taken the water main sections for preservation purposes.



A section of the 19th century water main

After digging about eight feet below street level, workers came across foundation stones. Loorya began to carefully excavate the stones, discovering a five-foot-by-five-foot storeroom containing multiple artifacts, which she slowly and painstakingly unearthed, photographed, and cataloged. Piecing together a variety of clues, Loorya was able to determine that the pottery inside the storeroom is from the last years of the 18th and first years of the 19th centuries.



Archaeologist Alyssa Loorya (right)

One clue that led to this determination is a plate with the inscription "In Sacred Memory of George Washington." George Washington passed away in 1799. Another plate Loorya discovered commemorates the founding of the United States. A third plate has the image of Lady Liberty with an eagle by her side, surrounded by 15 stars. Other items Loorya unearthed include pieces of mugs and plates, a mother-of-pearl engraved inlay, and a bone syringe and plunger missing the needle.

Loorya theorizes, from old maps and knowledge of the area's history, that the structure's entrance likely sat on Pearl Street and that it was either a grocer or tavern serving the busy port. She recently came across what she believes to be old pier pilings, but she is hesitant to confirm their identity until she conducts more research.

Much of Lower Manhattan is land reclaimed from the Hudson and East Rivers that was filled in using a vast array of materials, ranging from old ships to stones to garbage. That provides a second layer of interest to archaeologists because it can tell a lot about what types of tools and materials were available at the time the land was filled in.

A major find can take time to excavate, so extra time is built into construction projects in Lower Manhattan to allow for the discovery and excavation of artifacts. Loorya's discoveries have not changed the scheduled completion date of the Beekman project. The city does not have a central repository for archaeological artifacts, and one of two large collections that were kept at the World Trade Center, the Five Points artifacts, was lost when the towers collapsed in 2001.

Because archaeologists often can only photograph and carefully document the location of artifacts, the Landmarks Preservation Commission is working to compile a master GPS map of Lower Manhattan to help identify where such treasures are buried. They are also working with the city to try to establish a central repository to store pieces of Lower Manhattan's history.



What was likely a pier piling is unearthed

The Real Deal (www.RealDeal.com)

December 12, 8:23 pm

Remains discovery halts Trump project

By Lauren Elkies

Work has stopped at the site of Donald Trump's latest project, Trump Soho Hotel Condominium New York, after human remains were unearthed at the location.

As was first reported in the Real Deal, construction workers found the bones at 246 Spring Street during excavation at the site yesterday afternoon. The medical examiner's office determined they were human bones today, according to Ellen Borakove, spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office. They may be as old as 100 years old.

Julius Schwarz, executive vice president for Bayrock Group, one of the developers of the hotel-condo project, said the workers discovered the remains 10 feet underground in the northeast corner of the lot between Varick Street and Sixth Avenue.

The developers contacted the medical examiner's office and the Department of Buildings, which issued the stop-work order, according to Jennifer Givner, spokeswoman for the building's department.

When Bayrock, Sapir Organization and The Trump Organization purchased the property in September 2005, it had been operating as a parking lot for 45 years. Before that, Schwarz said, it had been a church, possibly Spring Street Presbyterian Church.

The developers hired a private archeologist to inspect the area tomorrow and they plan to meet with the buildings department in the morning.

Construction, which began at the site on November 1, is expected to be completed in two years. Trump Soho Hotel Condominium is the latest Trump project, expected to break the record height in Soho at 45 stories.

NEW YORK POST:

SKELETON CREW
BUILDING AT TRUMP TOWER HALTED AFTER BONES FOUND

By MURRAY WEISS, JAMIE SCHRAM and DAN KADISON

December 13, 2006 -- Work was stopped on Donald Trump's new SoHo condo-hotel yesterday after remains recovered at the site were determined to be human - and from a 19th-century church graveyard, city sources said.

Workers discovered bones Monday afternoon while they were excavating part of the expansive site at Spring and Varick streets, police sources said.

Yesterday, an anthropologist from the Medical Examiner's Office determined the bones were human, according to Ellen Borakove, a medical examiner spokeswoman.

The remains are considered "historical" - dug up from an 1800s Presbyterian cemetery site, she added.

Police sources said a church was built at the site in 1894 and demolished in the late 1960s to make way for a parking lot. Another source said the bones may be from the cemetery grounds of a church built in 1810.

The "numerous bones" recovered from the site appear to be more than a century old, cop sources added.

"As a result of the discovery of human remains," the city Department of Buildings issued a stop-work order at the site, located at 246 Spring St., said Department of Buildings spokeswoman Jennifer Givner, who could not say how long the order would be in effect.

Julius Schwarz, an executive vice president with the Bayrock Group - the managing partner for the developer of Trump SoHo Hotel Condominium New York - said Monday's discovery and yesterday's stop-work order came as a complete surprise.

The partners have a right under zoning law to build a hotel and the property had been a parking lot for the past 45 years, he said.

"Despite the fact that our counsel has advised us that there is no authority to issue this order, we are fully cooperating with the Department of Buildings and we'll be discussing the matter with them [this] morning," said Schwarz.

Schwarz said the area where the remains were found has already been cordoned off, an archaeologist has been hired and Bayrock is complying with every recommendation made by the city Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Additionally, the area where the remains are located, and where more might be found, will be the site of a public landscaped plaza - not the hotel itself, said Schwarz.

Earlier this year, Trump said he'd like his Trump SoHo building, a 45-story glass hotel and condo, completed by 2009.

Opponents, who tried to block the project, said Trump's high-rise would violate zoning laws and take away from the neighborhood's character by towering over other structures and blocking out sunlight.

"I don't think the signs could be any stronger that this project should not be going forward," Andrew Berman, executive director of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, said yesterday. "I'm sure those bodies have been turning in their graves ever since this project began."

Building projects have been delayed because of historical findings in the past, including the discovery of the African Burial Ground downtown in 1991 and the remains of a Revolutionary War-era wall near South Ferry last year.

Additional reporting by Steve Cuzzo

murray.weiss@nypost.com



THE SUN

Trump SoHo Project Is on Hold After Discovery of Human Remains

By [DAVID LOMBINO](#)

Staff Reporter of the Sun

December 13, 2006

The city yesterday ordered developer [Donald Trump](#) to stop work on the SoHo lot where he plans to build a 45-story condo hotel after contractors uncovered human remains believed to be more than a century old.

Since the 1960s, the underdeveloped stretch along Varick Street between Spring and Dominick streets has been the site of a fallow parking lot. Demolition and excavation work began recently on the site to make room for the 413-unit project, a collaboration between Mr. Trump and Bayrock Development, the Sapir Organization, and Zar Realty Management. They have been awaiting permits from the city that would allow above-ground construction to begin.

A local bar owner who opposes the project, [Rip Hayman](#), said the site was once known to contain the largest African Methodist Episcopal church in the city. It was attacked during the Civil War-era draft riots, he said.

"The least Trump should do for the community is make a memorial to the difficult history on our block," Mr. Hayman said yesterday in an e-mail message.

An archeologist hired by the developers will be onsite today, a spokesman for the project, [Julius Schwarz](#), said. He said the developers' counsel questioned the authority of the city's Department of Buildings to issue a stop-work order, but that they would comply.

"We will be discussing the matter with them in the morning," Mr. Schwarz said.

The remains, he said, appear to be confined to the northeast corner of the site, where a church stood until the 1960s.

Police took custody of the bones on Monday afternoon after being alerted by construction workers. Police officials said yesterday the bones appear to be more than 100 years old. The existence of bones was first reported yesterday on the Web site of the magazine the Real Deal. Some neighbors have attacked the SoHo project, saying the glass and steel building would tower over the surrounding low-rise neighborhood. Local elected officials and preservationists have criticized the developers for what they say appear to be efforts to sidestep local zoning laws that prohibit residential development in a manufacturing zone. Supporters say the project will enliven a dark stretch of West SoHo where cars line up to drive through the [Holland Tunnel](#).

A spokeswoman for the Landmarks Preservation Commission said the agency has no jurisdiction over a privately owned site, but it recommended to the developers that they retain an archeologist and attempt to identify and consult with relatives of the deceased about the remains.

The director of the SoHo Alliance, [Sean Sweeney](#), said the remains could have been affiliated with a late 19th century Baptist Church that burned down in a mysterious fire in the 1960s. "It could have been mafia guys," Mr. Sweeney said. "There were a lot of social clubs around there."

A spokeswoman for the city's Department of Buildings, [Jennifer Givner](#), said the agency would work with the Landmarks Commission and the developers to undertake further research and evaluation and determine the best course of action.

In Lower [Manhattan](#) in 1991, the federal government stopped work on its \$276 million, 34-story federal office tower at Broadway near Duane Street after finding the remains of hundreds of buried African-Americans from the 17th and 18th centuries. Plans were eventually altered, and much of the African Burial Ground is now preserved and will be home to a large memorial. The executive director of the Greenwich Village Society of Historical Preservation, [Andrew Berman](#), said that after the discovery of remains, the developers should rename the project, "[Trump Condo Hotel](#) and Mausoleum."

"I have a sense these bodies must have been turning in their graves since the project was announced," Mr. Berman said.

THE EMERGENCE OF GEOARCHAEOLOGY IN RESEARCH AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: PART I

Joseph Schuldenrein

Joseph Schuldenrein is Principal Archeologist and President of Geoarchaeology Research Associates.

Since the early 1970s, the trajectories of geoarchaeology and cultural resource management (CRM) have followed contemporaneous if somewhat independent courses. As a widely applied strategy, geoarchaeology emerged in the wake of the “New Archaeology.” It was a logical vehicle for incorporating scientific methods to a theoretical orientation that emphasized human ecology. Perhaps the signature work that placed the discipline on the academic “archaeological map” was Karl Butzer’s second edition of *Environment and Archaeology: An Ecological Approach to Prehistory* (1971). At about the same time, the expansive reach of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966) mandated archaeological investigations across landscapes, environments, and contexts heretofore unanticipated across the U.S.

In hindsight, geoarchaeology’s landscape perspective and the preservation ethic would appear to be natural allies for implementing compliance projects, but the convergence of the two was slow to develop. The catalyst for integration was the growth of large-scale planning projects—reservoir expansions for major drainages of the Southeast and Forest Service inventories in the West, for example—that formally designated natural landscapes as planning units. By the mid-1980s, it became apparent that an understanding of the systematics of landscape evolution would account for site/settlement distributions and the processes of site burial and preservation, items of paramount concern to cultural resource planners. The results of CRM research began to be reported in the professional literature (Waters 1992), and geoarchaeology was eventually integrated into planning strategies.

While it is safe to say that geoarchaeology has demonstrated its worth in CRM, the science behind it remains mysterious to planners and general archaeologists alike. As in other archaeological specialties, the methods, techniques, and interpretive potential of the field have evolved over decades. Ideally, practitioners are extensively trained in both the natural and social sciences and have gained considerable experience by studying archaeological sites in their natural contexts. The purpose of these articles is to acquaint the archaeological public with the key concepts and applications of geoarchaeology, and specifically that aspect of geoarchaeology bearing on ancient landscapes. More importantly, the mission is to enable planners, principal investigators, technicians, and students to identify those settings in which geoarchaeology is beneficial and to pose the right questions for professionals working at their sites. In Part I, the general concepts and principles of geoarchaeology are discussed, and field work and sampling are introduced. In Part II, which will appear in the next issue of *The SAA Archaeological Record*, a detailed assessment of geoarchaeology’s utility for compliance work in CRM will be provided.

Concepts and Principles

As the term implies, *geoarchaeology* addresses the interface between the earth sciences and archaeology. Archaeological problems form the basis of the inquiry. The term *archaeological geology* is also used, but it more accurately refers to a thematic bias in which geology is the primary focus and archaeology is simply an investigative technique.

A fundamental postulate is that cultural finds are always tied to a *landscape*—either on an exposed surface or buried underneath it. Irrespective of the aims of an archaeological project, the association between cultural materials and the ground is critical to assessing significance from the compliance perspective. Systematic associations between cultural features (e.g., artifacts, storage pits, processing stations, settlements, structures), their periods of occupation, and patterned distributions with particular terrain elements enables CRM professionals to structure observations in a way that is meaningful for clients and regulators.

A second postulate is that over the course of the 15,000 years of human occupation across North America, the landscape has been dynamic. Thus the history of landscape dynamics provides an independent context for explaining the variability in archaeological distributions across time and space. Landscape histories are initially reconstructed by examining the individual *landforms* that define an environmental setting. An alluvial landscape, probably the most prominent setting for stratified sites, includes such landforms as terraces, flood basins, marshes, and meander scrolls. However, because of landscape dynamism, the configuration of landforms comprising the contemporary alluvial terrain may not correspond to that of the past. Surface artifacts of recent origin can be separated from prehistoric settings by depths of deposit within the same landform or by distance from former landforms that are no longer exposed. Systematic study of landscape change is key to understanding patterned contexts of cultural features through time and determines if, for example, remains of a given prehistoric period will survive on the surface, erode away, or be buried. The study of landscape change—effectively, the change in landform configurations—is *geomorphology*.

Assembling landscape histories and assessing site integrity are the most critical objectives for the geoarchaeologist. Landform histories are grounded in absolute dating techniques, which, in North America, still center on the radiocarbon technique for carbonized cultural remains, but are now increasingly dependent on AMS and bulk sediment dating of organic deposits that may house archaeological materials. Archaeomagnetism and thermoluminescence have gained increasing prominence for archaeological dating, while dendrochronology and obsidian hydration are routine across the western U.S. The most exciting recent development in absolute dating is optically stimulated luminescence (OSL), which expands the dating scale to 100 KYA and facilitates determinations in Aeolian environments.

To develop assessments of site integrity, geoarchaeologists draw on techniques from a variety of disciplines, including geology, sedimentology, pedology, hydrology, geomorphology, stratigraphy, chemistry, geophysics, photogrammetry, and engineering, as well as archaeology. Parenthetically, geoarchaeological approaches are colored by the training of the practitioner vis-à-vis these disciplines; the approach of a pedologist, for example, differs considerably from that of a geomorphologist, since the former emphasizes soil sequences and stable environments, while the latter is keyed to dynamic landscapes and processes of change. Geoarchaeological approaches are widely applied to prehistoric settings but are increasingly drawn upon to reconstruct site formation processes at historic sites.

The initial strategy for modeling landform histories is an understanding of the subsurface materials that account for their formation. Subsurface materials can be divided into three basic categories: *geological deposits*, *soils*, and *anthropogenic sediments*. *Geological deposits* or *sediments* are laid down by gravity, water, or wind and represent the accretionary forces of the natural environment. The ideal preservation context for ancient occupations in formerly active landscapes—coastal plains, stream margins, dune fields, rock shelters, and caves—is burial by low-energy deposition. More commonly, however, artifacts are mobilized after site abandonment. It is the geoarchaeologist's job to determine how, why, and when such displacements occurred.

Soils are weathered (mechanically or chemically “broken down”) sediments that represent stable periods of a landscape's history when prehistoric evidence is likely to be preserved *in situ* (thus retaining integrity and factoring into significance determinations). A broad rule of thumb is that buried soils are proxies for ancient surfaces. Many archaeologists are familiar with the “A-B-C” horizonation of soils, although these designations are widely misused, and the terms “soils” and “sediments” are bandied about with abandon in field settings. While soil taxonomies are intricate and complicated, another sim-

Field Layer	Depth (cm)	Unit	Soil Horizon	Munsell Color	Texture	Structure	Consistence	Carbonates	Boundary	RC Dates	Comments
I	0-20	1	Occupation	10 YR 4/3	SiL	1 f gr	fri	ste	c,s		
II	20-37	1	Occupation	10 YR 6/3,5/3	SiL	1 f gr	fri	ste	s,a	3980±40 B.P.	ash, abundant charcoal, colluvial contains discrete charcoal horizons
III	37-60	1	Occupation	10 YR 5/4,6/4	SiCL	1 f gr	sl hard, fri	ste	c,s		ash lenses, abundant pottery
IV	60-75	1	Occupation	10 YR 5/4,6/4	LSi	1 f gr	fri	ste	c,s		abundant decomposed bone, ash
V	75-130	1	Occupation	10 YR 5/3,6/3	LSi	mass strat	hard fri	ve	a, s	3960±40 B.P.	local alluvium, few artifacts, ash
VI (A,B)	130-260	1	Occupation	10 YR 5/3,5/4	LSi	1 f gr	fri	sle	c, s	3780±70 B.P.	slump, heterogeneous, burnt features
VII	260-305	1	Occupation	10 YR 5/4	LSi	mass strat	hard fri	ste	c,s		"mud brick horizon", burnt clays
VIII	305-315	2	Ab	10 YR 5/3	FSL	1 w sbk	soft fri	ste	g,s		"Upper Paleosol" (Middle Holocene)
VIII	315-340	2	Bw	7.5 YR 5/3	SiCL	2 f sbk	hard firm	sle/Stage I	d,s		root casts, diffuse kankars, organic clay films
VIII	340-365	2	Bwk	7.5 YR 5/4	SiCL	2 m sbk	hard firm	ste/Stage I+	d,s		kankers increase in size and frequency
VIII	365-385	2	BC	7.5 YR 5/4	SiL	1 w sbk	soft fri	sle	g,s		parent alluvium
IX	385-405	3	2AB	10 YR 5/4	FSL	1 w sbk	soft fri	ste	c,s	6900±40 B.P.	"Lower Paleosol" (Early Holocene)
IX	405-420	3	2Bk1	10 YR 5/4	SiCL	2 f sbk	hard firm	ste/Stage I+	d,s		small kankars (3-4mm), clay films
IX	420-440	3	2Btk2	10 YR 5/4	CLSi	3 s sbk	v hard	ve/Stage II	d,s		25% kankers (to 40 mm), prominent clay skins
IX	440-460	3	2Btk3	7.5 YR 5/3	SiC	2 m pr	v hard	ste/Stage I+	c,s		continuous clay skins
IX	460-475	3	2BC	10YR 5/4	FSL	mass strat	hard fri	ste/Stage I+	c,s		parent alluvium
NA	475-515	4	3AB	10YR 5/3	SiCL	2 w sbk	sl hard, fri	ste/Stage I	g,c	13,050±60 B.P.	"Terminal Pleistocene Entisol"; matted organics
NA	515-540	4	3C1	10 YR 6/4, 6/3	SiCL	mass strat	sl hard, fri	ve	c,s		fining upward alluvium
NA	540-685	4	3C2	2.5 Y 5/3	FSL	mass strat	fri	w	c,s		sandy micaceous alluvium, fining upward
NA	685-710	5	4C	2.5 Y 5/3	CS	1 w sbk	soft fri	sle	c,s		"Pleistocene Entisol"; laminar beds, dense organics
NA	>710	5	4C	2.5 Y 6/3	FS	mass strat	loose	sle	NA		coarsest parent alluvium

Texture: S = silt; L = loam; C = clay; S = sand; F = fine; G = gravel

Structure: 1 = weak; 2 = moderate; 3 = strong; f = fine; m = medium; c = coarse

f = fine; gr = granular; mass = massive; strat = stratified; sbk = subangular blocky; ab = angular blocky; pr = prismatic

Consistence: fri = friable; sl = slightly; v = very; l = loose; fi = firm; st = sticky; ss = strongly sticky

Carbonates: ve = violently effervescent; ste = strongly effervescent; sle = slightly effervescent; we = weakly effervescent

Boundary Distinctness: a = abrupt; c = clear; d = diffuse; g = gradual; s = sharp

Boundary Topography: s = smooth; a = abrupt

Figure 1: The integration of stratigraphic data at a complex archaeological site, a Harappan Mound in northeastern Pakistan. Field levels are recorded by field archaeologists. "Units" are lithostratigraphic divisions, while formal soil horizons underlie occupation horizons (or archaeo-strata) (After Schuldenrein et al. 2004).

ple rule for field archaeologists is that the "A" horizon is organic and typically black, "B" horizons are zones of mineral enrichment, often red or brown, and "C" horizons are the unmodified parent material or the sediment above which active soil formation occurs.

Finally, *anthropogenic sediments* are of unequivocal cultural origin and represent the human imprint on the earth; features such as roasting pits, storage facilities, house floors, and planting fields are examples. Typically, anthropogenic deposits and soils are found together and represent the most sensitive archaeological contexts.

All three contexts are expressed in the range of natural environments, from deserts to temperate woodlands, and from coastal plains to uplands and alluvial valleys. *Stratigraphy* is the term used to order and sort the vertical and lateral sequences of deposits, soils, or anthropogenic sediments preserved within a landform. Here again, investigator bias often determines the stratigraphic framework applied to a given succession. *Litho-stratigraphy* is probably the most widely used approach; it refers to the grouping of sediments on the basis of lithological differences such as sediment composition or rock type. It is widely used in active depositional settings. *Pedo-stratigraphy* is the method favored by soil scientists ordering periods of soil formation and intervals of landscape stability. *Archaeo-stratigraphies* are less frequently used but can be useful at complex sites, such as mounds or tells, where the preponderant deposition agent is of cultural origin. In reality, many archaeological landscapes will preserve elements of dynamic deposition, soil formation, and cultural sedimentation. The task of integrating lithological, pedological, and sedimentary observations at an archaeological site is never easy, but it is somewhat simplified by differentiating soil and sediment properties as carefully as possible and linking them temporally by radiocarbon dates and diagnostic cultural remains (Figure 1).

Finally, on a larger scale, archaeological landscapes may extend across more than one landform. To accommodate this type of situation, an *allostratigraphic* framework has been given increasing prominence. The allostratigraphic unit is separable by bounding discontinuities that are not as stringently constrained as either of the other categories. Thus soils, sediments, and cultural deposits can be accommodated by this framework, as can deposits that cut across several landforms. Where temporal correla-

tion is critical—such as linking a Mississippian terrace occupation with its inhabitants' exploitation of an adjacent, lower-lying marsh for shellfish procurement—the allostratigraphic perspective is of considerable utility. An excellent discussion of the various stratigraphic approaches for archaeologists is available in Holliday (2004).

Geoarchaeology in Action: Field Work and Sampling

The classic archaeological traditions eschewed the use of heavy equipment for subsurface testing under the assumption that site integrity would be irrevocably compromised. The advent of CRM demanded more cost-efficient strategies that, over time, have demonstrated that a window on site stratigraphy previews site structure and provides guidelines for appropriate testing and mitigation practices. Invasive techniques are almost always necessary for landform reconstruction. In general, backhoe-based techniques are preferred in the eastern U.S., where surface archaeology may have a questionable relationship to subsurface stratigraphy. In the Plains to arid and semi-arid West, associations of artifact clusters with incised *arroyo* and *cienega* profiles often furnish hints on site-landform associations and provide direction for testing.

Practitioners use a variety of testing strategies. These include coring devices (from a portable 2-in. Oakfield corer, to a truck-mounted, hydraulically activated Giddings rig), while tractor-mounted backhoes allow large exposures. The objective is to obtain as much stratigraphic exposure as possible across the site or project landform. Ideally, the backhoe is placed at critical breaks in the landform or where archaeological sensitivity is high; if there is concern that critical site contexts will be compromised, backhoe location can be locally repositioned. In the past decade, the geo-probe has emerged as a favored coring device because of its maneuverability, speed, and efficiency; minimal set-up is required, and the machine can penetrate all but the hardest bedrock and lithified materials (Figure 2). Recovery of subsurface columns is typically intact, and compression is minimal. The geo-probe represents the future for rapid subsurface soundings and is equally suited for the open landscapes of the West and the often constrained and disturbed settings of the urban Northeast.

Integrated probing techniques are applied as scopes and circumstances dictate. Cores help to bridge subsurface sequences between the broader backhoe sections. In general, stratigraphic, sediment, and radiocarbon samples are secured from backhoe sections, but wider cores can also provide sufficient sediment. Soil and sediment analysis is dictated by stratigraphy and purpose. Geochemistry is valuable for assessing soil development and anthropogenic inputs. Grain size and mineralogy are more critical for evaluating natural stratigraphy. Sediments are analyzed in-house or by outside labs. Radiocarbon dates are always performed at special labs. Regulatory agencies and State Historic Preservation Offices are increasingly reliant on subsurface testing to determine archaeological potential and to structure planning strategies. The recent protocol established by the Minnesota Department of Transportation offers a baseline for deep testing in a variety of contexts (<http://www.mnmodel.dot.state.mn.us/pages/DeepTestProtocol.html>).

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Figure 2: Geo-probe equipment in action for a Phase II, CRM-based study along a first terrace location of the Delaware River, eastern Pennsylvania.

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EVENTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST - Compiled January 2007

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE
Exhibit: Napoleon on the Nile: Soldiers, Artists, and the Rediscovery of Egypt			Through 4/1/07	Dahesh Museum of Art 580 Madison Ave.	212 759-0606	\$10/6/8 adults/stu dents/sen iors
Exhibit: New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War			Through 9/3/07	The New-York Historical Society	212 873-3400	\$10/7/5 adults, seniors/ educators / students
Exhibit: Born of Clay: Ceramics from the National Museum of the American Indian			Through 4/30/07	George Gustav Heye Center, NMAI	http://www.nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=exhibitions&second=ny	free
Exhibit: Gold			Through 8/19/07	American Museum of Natural History	www.amnh.org/museum/welcome/	pay what you wish, but somethin g
Lecture: "The Archaeology of Neighborhoods and Communities" AIA Louis Baumgarten Lecture in Urban Archaeology	Nan Rothschild, Columbia University,	6:30	Mon., 1/22/07	Institute of Fine Arts, 1 E. 78 th St.	RSVP ifa.event@nyu.edu	free
Lecture:., "Qumran and The Dead Sea Scrolls"	Adolfo Roitman, Curator, The Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem	TBA	Weds., 1/31/07	The Jewish Community Center in Man 334 Amsterdam Ave at 76 th St.	Rita.wright@nyu.edu	free
Lecture: The Big Oyster; History on the Half Shell	Mark Kurlansky, food historian	7 pm	Thurs., 2/15/07	India House, Marine Room One Hanover Square	Reservations required: http://www.downtownny.com/thirdthursdays	free
Lecture: "The Origins of Sanxingdui-An Early Complex Society in Sichuan"	Rowan Flad, Harvard Un.	6:30 p.m.	Tues., 2/20/07	Columbia, Schemerhorn Hall Room 612	Rita.wright@nyu.edu	free

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE
Lecture: Portrait of a Priestess: Images of Women and Ritual in Ancient Greece.	Joan Connelly, New York University	6:30pm	Thurs., 3/8/07	Onassis Cultural Center Atrium, 645 Fifth Avenue at 52nd Street		Free
Lecture: Greetings from New Amsterdam: How Manhattan Became the Island at the Center of the World	Russell Shorto, Author; contributing writer, <i>The New York Times Magazine</i>	7 p.m.	Thurs., 3/15/07	Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Diker Pavilion At One Bowling Green	Reservations required: http://www.downtownny.com/thirdthursdays	Free
Lecture: The Phoenicians and the Maccabees: Excavations at Tel Kedesh, Israel	Andrea Berlin, University of Minnesofa	7:00pm	Tues., 3/27/07	The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, 334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street,		Free
Lecture: Forgotten Splendor: Restoring Downtown's Historic Architecture	Mary Dierickx, Architectural preservationist; author	7 p.m.	Thurs., 4/19/07	Federal Hall National Memorial, 26 Wall Street	Reservations required: http://www.downtownny.com/thirdthursdays	free
Lecture: Cass Gilbert and History: The Past as Present	Barbara Christen, Architectural historian; Cass Gilbert scholar	7 p.m.	Thurs., 5/17/07	New York County Lawyers' Association, 14 Vesey Street	Reservations required: http://www.downtownny.com/thirdthursdays	free
Professional Meeting: SAA Annual Meeting			4/25-4/29	Austin, Tx	www.saa.org	
Professional Meeting: SIA National Conference			June 7-10	Philadelphia	www.sia-web.org	
Professional Meeting: SIA Roebling Chapter		1 - 5 p.m.	Sunday 1/28/07	Drew University Hall of Sciences	RSCIAprez@aol.com	free

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	FEE

In addition, permanent exhibits relevant to archaeology include those at the Met and the Brooklyn Museum on Egypt, at the AMNH's Hall of South American Peoples, and at the Met on Western Asia and the Far East; there are also permanent exhibits that might be of interest to archaeologists, including one on slavery at the New-York Historical Society and one on the history of Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Historical Society. If anyone knows of events or exhibits which they would like listed, please contact Diana Wall either by e-mail at ddizw@aol.com or by mail at Department of Anthropology, The City College, New York, NY 10031.

Thanks also to Karen Rubinson for some of the calendar/event information.