
**PHASE I AND II ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY
LYON HOUSE RELOCATION PROJECT
GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT**

Prepared For:
THE GREENWICH PRESERVATION TRUST

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Thomas Lyon House (House), listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, is the oldest house in Greenwich. Built circa 1695, the structure has remained relatively unchanged in more than 300 years ago. Moved nearly intact in 1927 from its first site on the north side of the Post Road to frontage on the south side of the Post Road, this classic saltbox retains much of its original building material.

The House is currently owned and managed by the Town of Greenwich, with assistance from the Greenwich Preservation Trust (Trust). Due to several factors, the House must, again, be moved in order to ensure continued preservation. The move, which is within the same town owned parcel, also affords an opportunity for increased public exposure to and celebration of the House. In preparation for this relocation away from the Post Road, the Trust is carefully managing the potential resources of the current House site and the proposed House site. In observance of standard preservation practices, the Trust has proposed an archaeological survey of the new House site prior to installation. Due to the earlier relocation of the House in the twentieth century, its current site is not considered sensitive and no survey work is planned for the One Byram Road plot adjacent to the Post Road (West Putnam Avenue).

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) was contracted to conduct a Phase 1 Archaeological Resources Survey of the project site in order to identify potential archaeological sensitivity on the relocation parcel. The survey was conducted in accordance with the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism's *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources (Primer)* (Poirier 1987). These standards assure compliance with the review policies and procedures of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Greenwich.

A Phase 1 Archaeological Survey, which was tightly limited to the footprint of the new foundation excavations of the House, or Area of Potential Effect (APE), was conducted on February 17 and 20, 2012. Two Shovel Tests (ST) were positive for Native American cultural resources. Arrays were excavated to determine the boundaries of the site and additional recoveries were made. Due to the presence of Native American cultural resources on the APE and in accordance with the *Primer*, HPI recommended a Phase II Intensive Survey limited to the new construction envelope. The Phase II fieldwork was completed on March 15 and 16, 2012.

The following report incorporates the results and conclusions of both the Phase I and Phase II field investigations.

2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the area that will experience subsurface impacts as a result of the proposed House relocation project. The APE also includes locations that would be impacted by the construction of roads, utility infrastructure installation, and other associated construction activities (e.g., landscaping and grading). The APE has been identified as the 30x40 foot (approximately 10x13 meters) House foundation construction envelope which will be placed directly on the footprint of an existing 8x16 meter playground (Figure 1).

To avoid impacting the root systems of adjacent memorial trees to the north and east, the House relocation footprint may have to shift to the south and west. Therefore, the area between the playground and an existing bedrock outcrop to the west was also included in the APE.

The purpose of the Phase I investigation is to determine the presence or absence of precontact and historic period archaeological resources within the APE. The objectives of the survey are to identify potential cultural resources that might be considered eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These archaeological or cultural resources must demonstrate physical integrity and fulfill at least one of the Criteria as defined by the Register:

- A. Association with important historic events or activities;
- B. Association with important persons;
- C. Distinctive design or physical characteristics associated with a period or a master;
- D. Potential to provide important information about prehistory or history.

In order to place the project parcel in an historical context, local and regional histories were reviewed. As previously noted, the House is not in its original location; it was moved in ca. 1927 from its foundation on the north side of U.S. Route 1 to its current location due to the widening of U.S. Route 1/Post Road/West Putnam Avenue. The House is currently tucked into the down slope of a hillock at the southwest edge of the former Byram School plot. As noted above, due to the original House relocation, the current home lot of the House is not archaeologically sensitive for associated shaft features or yard scatter related to the extended Lyon family occupation. The new foundation site of the House, considered the APE, removed from the earliest neighborhood clusters in Byram area, will not be of critical archaeological interest for historic-era resources.

In addition, the archaeological sensitivity for Native American resources at the Byram School plot (APE) is dependent on the extent of disturbances to the school grounds in the 1925-2011 era. The documentary review addressed the likelihood that such resources have survived the subsurface disturbances concomitant with subsequent agricultural practices; school, playground, parking lot and rink construction; and landscaping. Information was gathered to compare, both horizontally and vertically, the prehistoric past and the subsurface disturbance record. A series of research tasks were undertaken to collect, synthesize, and review pertinent data in order to assist in interpreting field test results. Because of the small size of the APE and the data on file with the Trust, the following research tasks will be limited.

Documentary research consisted of a review of historic-era maps and aerial photographs as well as files and reports which provided information on the history of the Lyon House and family, the Byram School property, and the neighborhood of Byram, Connecticut. This research was conducted utilizing the archives of Greenwich Historical Society, the digital collections of the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Library, the Greenwich Preservation Trust website and reports on file in the HPI library. In addition, to record previously known precontact sites from the Byram area the files of the Norwalk Community College Archaeology Program were reviewed.

Phase I investigations (Phase IB) consisted of a walkover of the project area which included photographic documentation and a visual inspection of the areas that require sub-surface testing. Systematic sub-surface testing included 50x50 cm STs which were excavated at 5 to 6 meter intervals with arrays at 3 meter intervals (Figure 2). A datum was established originating from the center of the APE (the playground). The STs extended from the datum in cardinal directions oriented to a grid north. This grid north is 40 degrees west of magnetic north. A grid north was established to better align the STs to the new foundation footprint and to the rocky landform on which the APE sits and therefore provide better coverage within the project site. The STs and Excavation Unit (EU) were placed on the grid according to their northwest corners. All STs and EU were excavated to the bedrock if possible or to a depth that was at least 20 cm within the sterile subsoil. This procedure was undertaken to rule out the presence of buried topsoil. Excavated soil was then passed through one-quarter inch screen and all artifacts were collected.

Due to the presence of Native American resources a Phase II Intensive Study was recommended. As described in the *Primer*, in order to determine site significance as outlined by 36 CFR 63, the goal of an intensive survey is to retrieve enough data in order to establish the following:

- 1) Site boundaries in both horizontal and vertical dimensions;
- 2) Functional and chronological nature and range of artifactual, ecofactual, and structural features;
- 3) Contextual data, i.e., provenience and/or integrity information; and,
- 4) Environmental context, i.e., geological, geomorphological, and palynological data.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

This chapter presents a brief outline of the existing and past physical landscape of the project area. Research into the condition of the landscape prior to the era of Euro-American settlement is an essential component of assessing archaeological sensitivity. The existing conditions of the project area have been shaped by geologic events largely associated with the last ice age, Connecticut's continental climate, and the actions of plant, animal, and human biological communities. The effects of human activity have strongly modified the physical aspect of the land in the past three centuries as Euro-American settlement throughout Connecticut has substantially altered the landscape and resource base. However, the precontact topography and environmental conditions of the project site have determined, in part, when and where Native American and early Euro-American utilization occurred. Therefore, information on the precontact conditions of the project site can aid in determining which locations may or may not be sensitive for precontact and early historic archaeological resources.

3.1 Geology and Soils

Southern Fairfield County has an Iapetus (Oceanic) terrain dating to the Middle to Early Paleozoic Period (350-500 million years old) and consists of metamorphosed sedimentary and igneous rocks. These rocks are made up of schist and gneiss (including granitic gneiss) of the Hartland and Gneiss Dome belts, Connecticut Valley Synclinorium (DEP 1989). Bedrock on the parcel is a member of the Harrison Gneiss Formation consisting of interlayered dark- and light-gray, medium-grained, foliated gneiss (Rodgers 1985). The project site soils are represented by Urban Land-Chatfield complex, rocky, 3 to 15 percent slopes (USDA 2012). This soil type is well drained and is typical of landforms such as hills and ridges.

3.2 Current Conditions

The project site is immediately adjacent to the former Byram School (presently senior housing) which is located at 700 West Putnam Ave., between Sherman Ave. and Western Junior Highway. It is located at an elevation of 90 feet above sea level on Byram Hill which overlooks the Byram River valley to the west (Figure 3). The APE presently functions as a playground (Photograph 1). The approximately 8x16m area is covered with a 20cm layer of wood chips which is bordered by raised wooden railroad ties. A slide and three spring-rocking fish/animal figures are within the playground. To the west of the project site lies a paved sidewalk and to the northeast is the former Byram School building. A paved parking lot is located to the east and exposed bedrock and glacial erratics are present to the southwest and southeast (Photograph 2).

4.0 CULTURAL OVERVIEW

As part of the federal legislative framework governing the treatment of cultural resources, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in each of the 50 states has developed a series of historic and thematic contexts within which cultural properties may be understood and evaluated. Historic contexts are generally organized according to time periods and geographic regions within each state, while thematic contexts address patterns of

general property or site types. The following discussion adheres to the Connecticut SHPO contextual framework.

4.1 Precontact Overview

In this report, the word prehistory describes the period prior to the use of formal written records. For the western hemisphere, the prehistoric [precontact] era also refers to the time before European exploration and settlement of the New World. Archaeologists and historians gain their knowledge and understanding of Native Americans generally from three sources: ethnographic reports, Native American artifact collections, and archaeological investigations. In Connecticut, archaeologists subdivide the cultural history of the first inhabitants of the area into five general periods based on the introduction of new technologies, temporal factors, and environmental changes: the Paleoindian Period (15,000 to 10,000 years before present [BP]); the Archaic Period (10,000 to 2,700 BP); the Woodland Period (2,700 to 500 BP); and the Contact Period (500 to 350 BP). The Paleoindian, Archaic and Woodland Periods are further subdivided into sub-periods corresponding to evolving adaptive strategies of the human groups occupying the region. Furthermore, archaeologists have also identified archaeological phases which emphasize local adaptations to the environment.

Archaeologists in Connecticut have used archaeological data to establish regional models of precontact subsistence and settlement patterns. These models, while tentative, provide archaeologists with a baseline for understanding potential resources within the region. This contextual understanding enables an interpretation of archaeological resources and an assessment of precontact land and resource utilization. The outline presented summarizes the prehistory of the region, based on long-term archaeological research. It should be noted that as research in the area continues, theoretical issues become more refined, affecting this regional chronology.

PERIOD	YEARS BEFORE PRESENT (BP)
Paleoindian	15,000 – 10,000
Early Archaic	10,000 – 8,000
Middle Archaic	8,000 – 6,000
Late Archaic	6,000 – 3,700
Terminal Archaic	3,700 – 2,700
Early Woodland	2,700 – 2,000
Middle Woodland	2,000 – 1,200
Late Woodland	1,200 – 500
Contact Period	500 – 350

Precontact sites are generally recognized by their close proximity to a water source, fresh game, and exploitable natural resources (i.e., plants, raw materials for stone tools, clay veins, etc.). These sites are often placed into three categories: primary (campsites or villages), secondary (tool manufacturing, food processing), and isolated finds (a single or very few artifacts either lost or discarded). Primary sites are often situated in locales that are

easily defended against both nature (weather) and enemies. Secondary sites are often found in the location of exploitable resources (e.g., shell fish, lithic raw materials). Prehistorians currently believe that cultural groups inhabiting the region practiced a settlement and subsistence pattern of seasonal rounds exploiting a diverse array of resources.

4.1.1 Paleoindian Period

Archaeological data indicates that Native Americans arrived in the Northeast following the last glacial period. Conflicting data suggests a Native American presence that pre-dates glaciation; however, post-glacial theory is more widely accepted. During the Wisconsin episode of the Pleistocene in the Northeast, glaciers reached their maximum advance between 18,000 and 16,000 years ago. As the glaciers retreated north, gravel was deposited along the melting margin forming moraines. Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Long Island and Staten Island mark the southern edge of the glacier as it stood about 15,000 years BP. Parts of these islands are formed from moraines left behind as the glaciers retreated north. Most of New York and New England became exposed over the next 2000 years.

Following the retreat of the glacial front at the end of the Wisconsinian Glaciation around 13,500 BP, the State of Connecticut became inhabitable. As the ice melted, glacial lakes formed and as they filled with sediments, swamps formed at their place. A diversity of megafauna, including mammoths, mastodons, elk, caribou and giant beaver, was present by around 13,000 BP. Small numbers of human groups began occupying the area around 12,000 BP, presumably entering from the west and the south. From 12,000 BP to 10,000 BP the local environment changed from a tundra to an open spruce woodland setting to a mixed forest dominated by pine, fir and birch.

Paleoindian occupations are rare in the state and consist mostly of surface finds. The Templeton site in Washington, Connecticut dates to $10,190 \pm 300$ BP and excavation recovered small fluted projectile points, graters, scrapers, core fragments and channel flakes (Moeller 1980). The site is thought to have been a possible campsite with a variety of activities represented in the archaeological record including lithic tool production. Radiocarbon dates obtained at the Hidden Creek site in Ledyard, Connecticut indicate that it was occupied between 10,200 and 9,100 BP. Excavations at the site recovered biface fragments, side scrapers, preforms, graters and end scrapers. The site is thought to have a short-term occupation with discrete activities areas related to lithic reduction and rejuvenation (Jones 1998).

Two multi-component sites which included Paleoindian points are located in closer proximity to southwestern Connecticut and the project site. The Brandywyne #5 site excavations in New Castle, New York produced a single fluted point basal fragment (Wiegand, n.d.). The Merritt site in the Glenville section of Greenwich produced a St. Anne-Varney lanceolate projectile point (8,700-8,380 BP) from the Late Paleoindian period (Brown 2011:68). The Merritt site is also located along the Byram River.

Paleoindian occupations in the Northeast are related to specific settings that include the lowlands adjacent to coniferous swamps, ridgetops dominated by deciduous trees, and open vegetation uplands. These occupations represent highly mobile groups with a broad

based economy that followed the seasonal movements of migratory animals over large territories and sought high quality raw materials for tool production.

4.1.2 Archaic Period

The Archaic Period is associated with climatic change following the end of the Pleistocene leading to modern environmental conditions and greater resource diversity (Wiegand 1987; McBride 1984). Throughout North America is divided in three subperiods; the Early Archaic (10,000 – 8,000 BP); the Middle Archaic (8,000 – 6,000 BP); and the Late Archaic Period (6,000 – 3,700 BP). In the Northeast, archaeologists have recognized a transitional period occurring at the end of the Archaic Period that they designate as the Terminal Archaic Period (3,700 – 2,700 BP). In Connecticut, many of the diagnostic artifacts associated with each of the subperiods apparently overlap through time and space which has led archaeologists to define several cultural phases within each of these subperiods (McBride 1984).

The Early Archaic Period is characterized by a gradual warming trend and the introduction of new plant and animal and communities. Subsequently, human groups occupying Connecticut appear to become regionally focused with the hunting, fishing and gathering of a broad variety of resources. Unfortunately, only a small number of Early Archaic sites have been identified in southern New England and in Connecticut in particular. The lack of sites dating to this period is partially due by the fact that sites tend to be small in size and do not necessarily contain diagnostic artifacts that would allow for a temporal association.

Excavations at the Dill Farm site in the lower Connecticut Valley has allowed for the recovery of materials dating to the Early Archaic Period around $8,050 \pm 90$ BP (McBride 1984; Pfeifer 1986). Research at the Sandy Hill site in Ledyard, Connecticut allowed for the identification of a number of pithouses dating between 9,000 and 8,500 BP that served as shelter during winter months. A large variety of nuts and tubers were recovered from the site indicating rapid adaptations to local environments by groups occupying the state following the end of the Pleistocene. From the limited information available, settlement patterns during the Early Archaic Period are associated with occupations along the larger rivers during the summer months and at lower elevations along the wetlands in the winter months.

Diagnostic artifacts of the Early Archaic period include bifurcated points; Kirk, Kanawa, and Hardaway stemmed points; and Kirk and Palmer corner-notched points (Snow 1980:163-169). Two single component Early Archaic sites have been excavated in the southwestern Connecticut area. These short term hunting camps that produced bifurcated points are the Brandywyne #7 site, located on top of a steep hill in New Castle, New York and the Pound Ridge Golf Club #2, located in an area of steep, rocky topography near the headwaters of the Mill River in Pound Ridge, New York (Wiegand 2007; 2006).

With the beginning of the Middle Archaic Period, deciduous forests had developed in the region. It is also during this period that a larger number and a greater variety of sites are recorded in the state. The most well known site dating to this period in southern New England is the Neville site, in Manchester, New Hampshire (Dincauze 1976). Several

radiocarbon dates obtained from the excavations, place the occupation of the site between $7,740 \pm 280$ and $7,015 \pm 160$ BP. The site represents a residential fishing camp that was occupied during the spring season (Dincauze 1976). Investigations in the lower Connecticut Valley (McBride 1984) have indicated that the area was occupied intensively during the Middle Archaic with small and large scale occupations. Settlement patterns are defined by occupations distributed between riverine and upland environments with an economic focus on a broad resource base with task specific sites as well as larger residential sites. Artifacts from this period have included grooved axes, net sinkers, celts, gouges, and semi-lunar knives. Diagnostic projectile points of this period include Neville, Stark, and Merrimack.

The Late Archaic period is characterized by the spread of a modern oak-hickory forest throughout the state with the subsequent exploitation of a large variety of nuts and acorns, as well as vegetal species. At the same time, coastal resources, mainly fish and shellfish, also become significant in the diet of local populations. A broader exploitation of resources during the Late Archaic led to a subsequent increase in population size.

In Connecticut, the Late Archaic Period is divided into two cultural traditions based on differences in settlement patterns, technology, and cultural traits. The earliest of these is the Laurentian Tradition (ca. 6,000 – 4,200 BP) which is characterized by stone tools that include adzes, gouges, semi-lunar knives, pestles, spear thrower weights, and scrapers as well as diagnostic projectile point types including Brewerton side and eared notched varieties. During the Laurentian Tradition, highly mobile groups follow the seasonal movement of available resources with larger aggregations during the summer, with smaller bands dispersing the rest of the year. Occupations have been found in a wide variety of environments, which would have allowed Native Americans to take advantage of the greatest number of resources. Four inland sites in Greenwich that include the Vosburg complex of the Laurentian Tradition are the Cherry Hill #1 and #2, Chitwick Pond and Denbigh Farm sites (Wiegand, Brown and Dean 2006; Wiegand 1992; 1986).

The subsequent tradition included in the Late Archaic Period is designated as the Narrow Stemmed Tradition which extends from 4,200 to 3,500 BP. The technology is oriented towards a bipolar lithic reduction strategy with diagnostic artifacts represented by triangular and narrow stemmed projectile points typed as Squibnocket, Lamoka, Bare Island, and Poplar Island produced from quartz and quartzite. Choppers, pestles, adzes, antler and bone projectile points, as well as awls and spear thrower weights are also part of the toolkit. A site at 109 Byram Shore Drive produced evidence of this Late Archaic culture in Byram (Wiegand and Brown 2005).

The settlement patterns of groups associated with the Narrow Stemmed Tradition are related to an increase in the types of sites present in the landscape. Large base camps with satellite task specific temporary campsites are common during this period and indicate a shift towards the establishing of defined territories in southern New England. Resource exploitation strategies are based on the use of a variety of environments including the wetlands, riverine areas, coastal zones, the uplands, and lacustrine settings. A marked increase in the exploitation of coastal resources is also noted for the Narrow Stemmed

Tradition with evidence of shell middens containing oyster, freshwater clams and quahog in coastal sites of this time period.

The Terminal Archaic period is characterized by a shift in technology and settlement patterns possibly related to the introduction of new populations in the region. The dominant tradition of this period is the Susquehanna Tradition which is defined by the presence of broadspear projectile point types and associated artifacts. Projectile point types for this Tradition include Snook Kill, Susquehanna, and for the latter part of the tradition, Orient Fishtail projectile points. The tool assemblage is dominated by grinding technology, with the presence of ground stone adzes, plummets, net sinkers and gorgets. Soapstone bowls with shallow flat bottoms with lugged handles are frequently found in base camps located along river terraces. Native American pottery first appears in collections recovered from sites of this period. The majority are grit tempered and thick walled ceramics with conoidal bases and are classified as Vinette I (Snow 1980). The presence of the soapstone and ceramic containers as well as the introduction of storage pits suggests that these groups had restricted mobility patterns. An Orient Fishtail point was part of the assemblage at a site at 109 Byram Shore Drive in Byram (Wiegand and Brown 2005).

A large number of cremation cemeteries have also been identified during this period. Among the grave goods associated with the burials are soapstone vessels, ground stone, and flaked stone tools (Pfeiffer 1990). Settlement patterns appear to be oriented towards the use of river terraces as large base camps with the absence of ancillary task specific sites. Smaller task-specific and procurement sites are located away from the base camps adjacent to upland streams and wetlands. Because sites of this period are found along the river terraces instead of the floodplain, as was the case for the Late Archaic, it is suggested that there was a shift toward longer term occupations during the spring time (Louis Berger & Associates 2005:28).

4.1.3 Woodland Period

By the time of the Woodland Period (ca. 2,700 years ago) the sea level and exposed coastal regions were, in most respects, as they appear today. The archaeological evidence from Woodland Period sites indicates a strong preference for large-scale habitation sites to be within proximity to a major fresh water source (e.g., a river, a lake, an extensive wetland), and smaller scale extractive- functioning sites to be situated at other resource centers (e.g., quarrying sites, butchering stations, and shell gathering localities). The production of pottery and the use of the bow and arrow began in this period, as did the practice of agriculture.

The Early Woodland Period represents a continuation of Late Archaic settlement strategies and subsistence patterns with an orientation towards a broader resource base and a dispersal of settlements throughout various ecozones. However, it is also associated with the introduction of domesticated plants and increased burial ceremonialism. In terms of technology, the Early Woodland Period experienced a return to smaller stemmed and notched projectile points with the presence of tear dropped forms. Two regional complexes have been recognized for the Early Woodland Period in New England and New York and include the Meadowood Complex and the Lagoon Complex. Both are defined by settlement patterns oriented towards riverine and coastal environments, and by the presence of grit tempered ceramics.

The Middle Woodland Period is characterized by a diversification of ceramic types and the predominance of exotic raw materials used in stone tool production. The increase of exotic raw materials in the material culture suggests a greater exchange of goods with groups residing outside of the New England area and a subsequent formalization of trade networks. These networks are mostly from east to west with the exchange of goods between populations of the lower Connecticut Valley and groups from the Hudson River Valley and eastern Pennsylvania. In addition, there is an increase in sedentism during this period as suggested by changes in ceramic technology and the diversification of the resource base (McBride 1984; Snow 1980).

The Late Woodland Period is characterized by a significant increase in population with an expansion in the occupations along the major rivers and their tributaries. The ever greater dependence on agricultural products, principally maize, ultimately led to larger settlements and the subsequent establishment of territorial boundaries (Mulholland 1988). In eastern Connecticut, the Late Woodland is represented by two major phases, the Selden Creek and Niantic Phases. The Selden Creek Phase (1,200 to 500 BP) is associated with sites containing the earliest evidence of maize in the lower Connecticut Valley (Bendremer 1993; McBride 1984). It is also characterized by an increase in the presence of exotic materials and a greater variation of ceramic forms (Lavin 1987; Lizee 1994). Settlement strategies include larger more permanent occupations along riverine, estuarine, and coastal environments (McBride 1984; Snow 1980).

Known sites of the Late Woodland Period are much larger than earlier sites. The occurrence of sites found in defensible locations has suggested some degree of regional social conflict possibly due to population pressure. Triangular points are a common diagnostic artifact of this period as well as stamped, cordmarked, brushed, and fabric-marked ceramic designs (Snow 1980:319-335). Sites in Greenwich which have a Late Woodland presence are usually large, semi-permanent and located along the coast such as the Manakaway, Mead's Point 1 and the Indian Field sites (Suggs 1956; Wiegand 1987; Powell 1958).

4.1.4 Contact Period

This final period, after the arrival of the first Europeans, is characterized by the introduction of exotic goods brought by the European colonists, changes in the economic pursuits of the local populations and the decimation of a large number of inhabitants due to exogenous diseases and continuous warfare which pushed native populations from their traditional territories. As a result, a few fled to eastern Long Island while many others went west. The Native Americans in the Byram area at the time of Contact were the Miossehassaky tribe of the Sinoways (Renee Kahn Associates 1978:2).

The rich farm lands attracted Europeans, who formed the first settlements in Fairfield County in 1639. Settlement occurred along the coast in Stratford, Fairfield, and Stamford. European settlers acquired land by purchase, or by right of conquest following the Pequot War of 1637 (Cruson 1991:87). Only one Contact Period site has been identified in southern

Fairfield County, the Bear Rock Shelter in Stamford. The site, excavated in the 1980s, yielded Wampum as well as European glass trade beads (Wiegand 1983).

4.2 Precontact Archaeological Sites within One Mile of the Project Site

Four precontact sites within one mile of the project site are recorded in the files of the Norwalk Community College Archaeology Program.

- The Putnam Green Apartments site – located approximately one-quarter of a mile northeast of the project site. Part of the Don Birdsall Collection. A surface collected untyped side-notched point.
- The Muskrat Pond Road site – located approximately one-third of a mile northeast of the project site. Part of the Don Birdsall Collection. A surface collected Vosburg point.
- The Arnold Bakery site – located approximately one-third of a mile southeast of the project site. Part of the Don Birdsall Collection. Surface collected - 1 Greene point, 2 Levanna points, 1 small stemmed point, 1 Beekman Triangle.
- 109 Byram Shore Road site – located approximately 1 mile south of the project site was excavated by Ernest Wiegand in 2005 (Wiegand and Brown 2005). Coastal site which contained a shell midden. Diagnostic artifacts included a Wading River point, Orient Fishtail point and pottery from the late Middle Woodland through early Late Woodland (c. 900-1300 AD).

4.3 Historic Overview

Although Dutch and English vessels brought settlers and cargo to coastal Fairfield County in the early part of the seventeenth century, the first Greenwich purchase of land from the native inhabitants did not occur until July 18, 1640. For "twentie five coates," Robert Feake, his wife Elizabeth, and Daniel Patricke acquired Monakewago or Manakaway (Elizabeth's own purchase and today's Greenwich Point) and Sioascock (roughly the land that is now Old Greenwich) between the Stamford border and Riverside (Knapp 1966:12-15).

Following this initial land purchase, a group calling themselves "the twenty-seven Proprietors," purchased Horseneck (now central Greenwich, west of the Mianus River) from the Miosehassky Indians in 1672. By 1697 there were sixty-six names on the Greenwich Grand List (Knapp 1966:28-34). The last land purchase in the area was a long narrow parcel along the west side of the Byram River. The land, purchased from a settler by the name of John Cook (or Cauk) and others, was divided among 78 families in 1701 (Clarke 1978:14). Some of the original family names of these settlers (e.g., Husted, Rundle, and Lyon) could still be recognized in the area 150 years later.

By the mid-eighteenth century, settlement in Horseneck (Greenwich) had increased, as roads were laid out and houses were built. A map surveyed by Charles Webb between 1757 and 1773 shows the extent of development in Horseneck (Greenwich) at the time. From the eighteenth through the early twentieth century, farming was the major means of support for the population. The Byram River also provided sufficient waterpower for several mills on the extreme west side of the growing settlement.

Located along Long Island Sound at the western border between Connecticut and New York, Byram is an unincorporated village in the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut. Originally known as East Portchester, the first settler to the area was Thomas Lyon, Sr. (1621-1690) (RKA 1978:2). He was granted 60 acres to the north of the Post Road and to the east of the Byram River in 1676. Thomas Lyon Sr., or his son Thomas Jr., was the first owner of the saltbox which is the subject of this relocation project.

With the construction of the railroad in the 1840s, Byram became desirable for urban real estate development. By the 1850s through 1880s, subdivision of the land into small residential lots was apparent. Names such as East Port Chester, Lyonsville, Meadville, New Lebanon and Meadlawn were given to these developments. The land along the Byram Shore however remained large estate properties. By 1876 Byram contained 500 residents (RKA 1978:9).

By the beginning of the twentieth century, farming began to gradually decrease in the general area with local farms having difficulty competing with western farms as costs of running a farm continually increased in the industrialized Northeast. As a result, acres of former farmland became available for residential development. By the 1910s, large sections of property in Greenwich began to change hands as wealthy families purchased parcels of land in the area in order to establish their family compounds.

The turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century saw Byram as an increasingly multi-ethnic community (RKA 1978:13). By this time one of the earliest industries in Byram, granite quarrying, was winding down and sail making, carriage making, oystering and fishing took over in importance. Today Byram is a mixture of mostly working and middle class neighborhoods with a defined business district and an extremely wealthy section along the shore (RKA 1978:23).

Major changes occurred on the Byram Hill area in the 1920s (Figure 4). The Lyon House was moved from the north side of the Post Road to its present location at the bottom of the hill and the Post Road (now West Putnam Ave.) was widened. The Byram School was constructed on the top of the hill adjacent to the project site in 1925-1926. This building was constructed to replace an inadequate nineteenth century wood-frame school on Weaver Street to serve Byram's growing immigrant population (GHS 1977). The newer school is still extant and is a masonry structure of the Colonial Revival style listed on the National Register of Places (Cunningham 1990). An addition to the building, creating an L-shaped structure, was constructed in 1936. Athletic fields were added to the hill in the 1940s and a skating rink was constructed in the early 1970s. A paved parking lot was to follow. A portion of this property

on the top of the hill which includes the playground (the archaeological APE) was set aside as open space in 1979. The school was converted to elderly housing in 1987-1989.

5.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5.1 Documentary Research

The historic-era land use of the project site property prior to the twentieth century was most likely farmland. A review of nineteenth century maps does not exhibit a house or other structure on or near the project site (Clark 1858; Beers 1867). An 1890 map clearly shows the owner of the property as Underhill Lyon and again no structures are present (Figure 5). Underhill Lyon (1837-1920) was the sixth generation owner of the Thomas Lyon House which at this time was still in its original location, across the Post Road to the northwest of the project site. He is listed in the 1880 U.S. Census as a farmer. When Underhill acquired the farm and homestead in 1863 it totaled 95 acres (Greenwich Probate Records, Book 1:305; Book 2:356). It is likely that the project site was a part of this farmland, separated from its houselot by the Post Road. In 1920, after the death of Underhill, daughter Julia Lyon Saunders sold what was left of the farm including the homestead to the Byram Land Company (GPR, Book 68:48; Book 61:37). It is noted that at that time Byram Hill was woodlands (Lewin n.d.).

Documentary research confirms that until the construction of the Byram School in 1925, the hilltop that includes the APE was farmland of the Lyon family. No structures which predate 1925 could be associated to this project site. Therefore, any historic-era artifacts recovered which predates the twentieth century can be attributed to field scatter.

Photographs from the 1925-1926 construction of the of the Byram School show the building site on a hilltop that has been completely cleared of trees (Photographs 3 and 4). The APE is located just to the south (to the right in the photograph) of the newly constructed school. These photographs suggest ground disturbance due to construction is likely on the project site. An attempt was made to contact neighbors or town workers that may assist in establishing a construction history of the project, however, no such informant could be found.

5.2 Field Testing

The STs within the playground boundaries (STs 1, 2, 3 and 16) were covered with approximately 20cm of wood chips and a landscaping membrane which separated the chips from the soil (Photograph 5). The first level of soil under the membrane was a 10YR 3/2 or 3/3 fine sandy loam (FN SN LM) which at 14 to 17 cm. below surface level appeared to have been graded in order to prepare the below grade mulch layer for the playground floor. In contrast, the majority of the remaining STs had a Level 1 (10YR 3/2 FN SN LM) which appeared unnaturally thick; the deepest being STs 4 and 19, measuring 57cm below grade. Level 2 was subsoil (10YR 4/3 or 4/4) which was 20 to 50cms in depth and sometimes contained a transitional, compact, mottled layer. A number of STs (STs 6, 7, 10, 12, 13 and EU 1) ended with bedrock. The stratigraphy for all STs and EU are listed in Appendix A.

The Phase I excavation of seven STs yielded a small locus of sensitivity at the extreme west end of the APE (STs 1 and 6), abutting the exposed bedrock (Photograph 2). The recovered material, from approximately 10 to 30 cm below grade, consisted of two quartz flakes from stone tool reduction, and a stemmed and notched chert point. As a function of the 1B procedure, an additional four STs were excavated in a five-meter array around the adjacent positive tests to determine the boundaries of the sensitivity. A turtle scute was recovered from one of the arrays (ST 10). Although the scute may be a natural occurrence, turtle remains have in some cases been associated with precontact sites in the area.

Due to the presence of Native American cultural resources on the APE, HPI recommended a limited Phase II Archaeological Survey. Although Phase II archaeological testing could have been avoided, if the sensitive locus could have been protected in perpetuity, the very limited space around the Lyon House made this avoidance option impossible and an encumbrance to the relocation project.

During Phase II fieldwork, eight STs were placed around the positive tests at a 3m interval in order to more tightly delineate the horizontal and vertical extent of precontact material. One positive ST (ST 1) was located directly against a large slide with cement footings; therefore, an array could not be placed grid east of this ST. However, due to the original tight interval, ST 2 is only 6 meters to the grid east of ST 1 which was sterile for precontact materials. An additional ST was then placed to the grid south in the direction of the parking lot to confirm disturbance in this area. ST 14 was placed only two meters grid east of ST 6 because the position of the playground's wooden border would not allow for a three meter interval. Due to the recovery of a projectile point from ST 6, the 1x1m unit (EU 1) was placed one meter grid south of ST 6 (Photograph 6).

Additional lithic debitage was recovered in the Phase II excavations. STs 13, 14 and 18 contained a total of 4 quartz flakes. EU 1 contained 19 pieces of quartz debitage and 1 chert flake. No precontact features were encountered.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A total of 25 pieces of quartz debitage, one chert flake and one chert projectile point were collected from the combined excavations (Appendix B). The projectile point recovered from ST 6 is a mottled grey chert, side-notched type (Photograph 7). It is a finished tool suggested by basal and notch grinding. It has a broken tip, has damage to its tangs and was reworked. Some polish on the blade edges indicate it may have been used for tasks other than its original use. It is most likely an untyped side-notched Late Archaic (6,000-3,700) or Terminal Archaic (3,700-2,700) period projectile point. The lithic debitage represents all stages of stone tool production.

The vast majority of artifacts recovered from excavations are construction debris and twentieth century trash (Appendix A). Asphalt, concrete, brick, plastic, Michelob beer caps, AA batteries, bottle glass, window glass, pull-tabs, foil, and twentieth century coinage, which were recovered in association with precontact artifacts, are all evidence of this fact. The

whiteware, stoneware and one bottle neck with finish recovered which may predate the twentieth century, but are likely evidence of historic-era field scatter.

The coins, those which are legible, range from 1946 to 1996. A 1996 nickel was recovered from a depth of 20-30cms. A quartz flake and a Lincoln Memorial penny were found in the same 20-30cm level (ST 13). These highly datable artifacts provide support to the assumption that the topsoil (Level 1) may be displaced as a result of grading or fill episodes. Although some STs, specifically those under the playground and closer to the parking lot, appeared more disturbed than others, all of the STs and EU had questionable stratigraphy.

The aforementioned soil was unnaturally thick and gravelly in a number of STs. The location of the APE near the top of a hill is an unlikely place for the heavy accumulation of soil; therefore, it is suggested that it was re-deposited on the hill. One possibility is that the topsoil was pushed against the bedrock during the grading for the adjacent paved parking lot. This action may have possibly filled a low area to level the landform in preparation for the parking area and playground. If the parking lot was previously used as a dirt/grass parking area, it may explain some of the artifacts recovered (i.e. coins, beer caps, pull-tabs, plastic car lock piece, bottle glass) which are typical parking lot trash from the mid-to-late twentieth century. Although the precontact artifacts are likely to have originated on the top of Byram Hill, it is uncertain how far they may have moved from their point of origin.

Due to the disturbed stratigraphy and the secondary deposition of artifacts, no further archaeological work is recommended.

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APPENDIX A – SHOVEL TEST RECORDS

APPENDIX B – PRECONTACT ARTIFACT INVENTORY