Cultural Resources Site Examination Report

OF THE

J. G. BYARS SITE

NY ROUTE 22 OVER THE WALLOOMSAC RIVER

TOWN OF NORTH HOOSICK

RENSSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK

BY NANCY L. DAVIS

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY PROGRAM SERIES NO. 5

Cultural Resources Site Examination Report of the J. G. Byars Site (NYSM #11370) NY Route 22 Over the Walloomsac River Town of North Hoosick Rensselaer County, New York

Cultural Resource Survey Program Series No. 5

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Prepared by:
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Cover: Historical view of the house at 66 Factory Hill Road beyond the North Hoosick trolley and road bridges over the Walloomsac River ca. 1900 (photo courtesy of Hoosick Township Historical Society). J. G. Byars soda bottle illustration by Jessie Pellerin. Cover design by Brenna Buscher.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

DOT PIN and BIN

PIN 1130.60.101 BIN: 1017000

DOT Project Type and Funding

Bridge replacement using federal funding on new, slightly southeastern alignment (variation of Alternate C) involving the removal of the existing berm and construction of two earth-filled abutments on the south end of the bridge.

Cultural Resource Survey Type

Archaeological site examination at the J. G. Byars Site (NYSM 11370).

Location

NY Route 22 bridge over the Walloomsac River, in the hamlet of North Hoosick, Town of Hoosick (MCD 08305), Rensselaer County, New York.

Project Limits

Identified as "Approximate Disturbance Boundary" on map, the project limits encompass a T-shaped parcel that straddles both sides of the highway at the southern approach to the bridge and extends on the south side of the berm along the toe of the slope. The site examination portion of this parcel, measuring roughly 10 x 70 m (30 x 230 ft), or .084 hectares (0.2 acres), fell only along the bottom of the slope.

USGS Quadrangle

1946 7.5-Minute *Hoosick Falls, New York*.

Area Tested

315 m^2 (0.03 hectares); 3,390 ft^2 (.07 acres). The deposits inside the foundation were completely excavated and all artifacts collected for curation.

Description of Site and Testing Results

1. Setting: Former backyard of a two-family house (MDS 17) that was removed ca. 1930 by current bridge construction. It is now the edge of a fenced horse field.
2. Type: The site is composed primarily of a refuse-filled stone outbuilding foundation 3 m (10 ft) square and 130 cm (4.3 ft) deep situated 2.5 m (8 ft) from the toe of the Route 22 berm. The proposed disturbance boundary (project limit) is 3.5 m (11.5 ft) beyond the southern corner of the foundation. The foundation is surrounded by a thin deposit of late nineteenth-century sheet refuse that extends 10 to 15 m (33 to 50 ft) on either side of it (east-west) in the field at the base of the berm.
3. Age: Construction date of the foundation is not clear, though suspected to be pre-1875 based on the proportion of cut nails in the sheet midden. Based on the date of the fill inside, it was demolished ca. 1890–1900.
4. Function: Originally an outbuilding of unknown primary function. Some of its foundation stones may have been scavenged from another building location. The thickness of the foundation suggests that it supported a substantial permanent building. Its secondary function was as a domestic refuse disposal area used primarily between 1890 and 1920 by members of the Byars family.

Significance Statement.

1. Integrity: Though the current road berm and bridge abutment have buried the location of the house (MDS 17) associated with the foundation feature, the feature itself was intact and filled with stratified deposits rich with artifacts from the turn of the twentieth century. These deposits can be assigned to members of the J. G. Byars family, who owned the property and occupied two of the houses there at that time. The sheet refuse surrounding the feature, which cannot be assigned to known individuals because it predates the Byars family's ownership, has been mixed to about a foot deep by mechanical grading in recent years but still retains research potential.
2. Significance of Site/Research Topics: The site is considered National Register eligible by virtue of the deposits found within the foundation and their association with a prominent manufacturing (soda-bottling) family in North Hoosick. These deposits relate to the decades when J. G. Byars, Sr., a Scottish immigrant, was of retirement age and had moved to the house at 66 Factory Hill Road. The family's successful soda-bottling business was being run by his son and nephew, the son having purchased the houses and land surrounding the former woolen mill on Factory Hill Road where the site is located. Many research questions about the Byarses can be answered by the deposits inside the foundation hole, including family composition, age, gender, health, discretionary income and consumer choices, vices, Old World customs, community involvement, participation in the local and regional economy, food preferences, and social aspirations, to name a few.

The sheet midden deposits are assignable to the MDS 17 household but represent occupation over a relatively long period by unknown occupants, probably mill workers renting the house from the mill owner. Although the occupants before the Byarses are unknown, the deposits can provide general information about the industrial working class lifestyle in this otherwise little known community.

Potential Impacts.

The proposed work involves the removal of the existing south approach berm and construction of two earth-filled abutments. This will necessitate the acquisition of several meters of right-of-way along with temporary access for construction at the base of the south berm. This area includes the location of the J. G. Byars Site, which would be subject to compaction and other damages by heavy machinery driving over it at the base of the berm.

Recommendations

During the site examination archaeologists were able to identify the features and deposits related to the site within the proposed project limits. At that time they either completely exhausted all deposits, in the case of the cellar hole fill, or recovered an adequate sample of the surrounding sheet scatter to describe and interpret the site while answering relevant research questions and preserving information that would be lost to construction impacts. Because of the level of data collection accomplished during this site examination, Phase III data recovery is not necessary and no further fieldwork is recommended.

Author/Institution

Nancy L. Davis, Cultural Resource Survey Program, New York State Museum.

Date of Report

January 2010

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase II archaeological site examination at the J. G. Byars Site (NYSM 11370) in the hamlet of North Hoosick, Town of Hoosick (MCD 08305), Rensselaer County, New York. The site is located within the limits of the New York State Department of Transportation's (DOT) proposed construction project involving the realignment and replacement of the bridge carrying NY Route 22 over the Walloomsac River (PIN 1130.60.101/BIN 1-01700-0) in that hamlet.

The study was conducted for the DOT by the Cultural Resource Survey Program (CRSP) of the New York State Museum (NYSM) through the New York State Education Department's interagency agreement with DOT. The site examination was performed according to the *New York State Education Department's Revised Work Scope Specifications* (2004).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project in North Hoosick is located in the east-central part of New York State near the Vermont border in the northeast corner of Rensselaer County (Figures 1 and 2). At the time of the Phase I cultural resource survey in 2002, DOT was considering three different alignments for the location of the new bridge and approach. CRSP completed an archaeological and architectural survey of the three alignments and submitted a report of the findings (Pickands and LoRusso 2003), which included the J. G. Byars archaeological site located in Alternate C at the base of the southern approach berm. This site appeared to represent an outbuilding on the property of a house formerly owned by J. G. Byars as depicted on 1905 and 1934 highway as-built plan maps, hence the site name. The house also appears on nineteenth-century maps as early as 1854 and may have housed factory workers throughout that time who were employed in the textile mill nearby.

The 1934 map shows that the current alignment of the bridge and its approach berm necessitated the removal of the Byars house, labeled Map Documented Structure (MDS) 17 in the Phase I report, and the complete burial of its footprint. There is no depiction of the outbuilding whose foundation remains are the focus of this archaeological study.

Phase I testing of the site in Alternate C, which was wider than the current project limits, amounted to the excavation of 24 shovel test pits (STPs) within the grassy flats between the base of the road berm and the house at 66 Factory Hill Road. An apparent stone feature was encountered in an STP, prompting the excavation of three larger contiguous units to expose it further, leading to the conclusion that there was a filled foundation of some size and depth intact in that location. The site, which hugs the base of the berm, covers an approximate area of 15.24 x 30 m (50 x 98 ft) and fits entirely within the limits of Alternate C. Because the entire field between the bridge approach and 66 Factory Hill Road contained a thin deposit of nineteenth-century sheet refuse, the site boundaries were defined by the presence of the filled, unmortared foundation feature and a pronounced concentration of artifacts near it. Nearby STPs with a low artifact content were excluded because they appeared to represent the results of recent demolition and grading or to be potentially associated with the occupation of 66 Factory Hill Road. Artifacts were encountered in the A-horizon and in the upper portion of the B-horizon to a depth of 30 or more cm (approximately 1 ft).

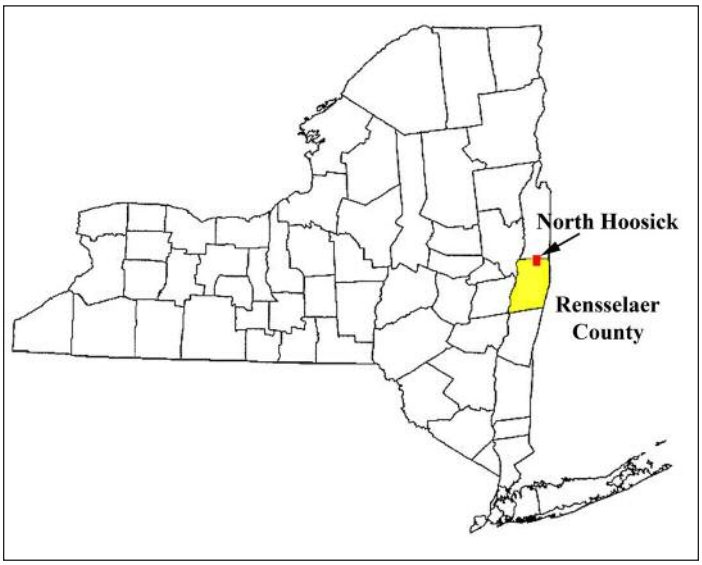

Figure 1. Location of North Hoosick in Rensselaer County and New York State.

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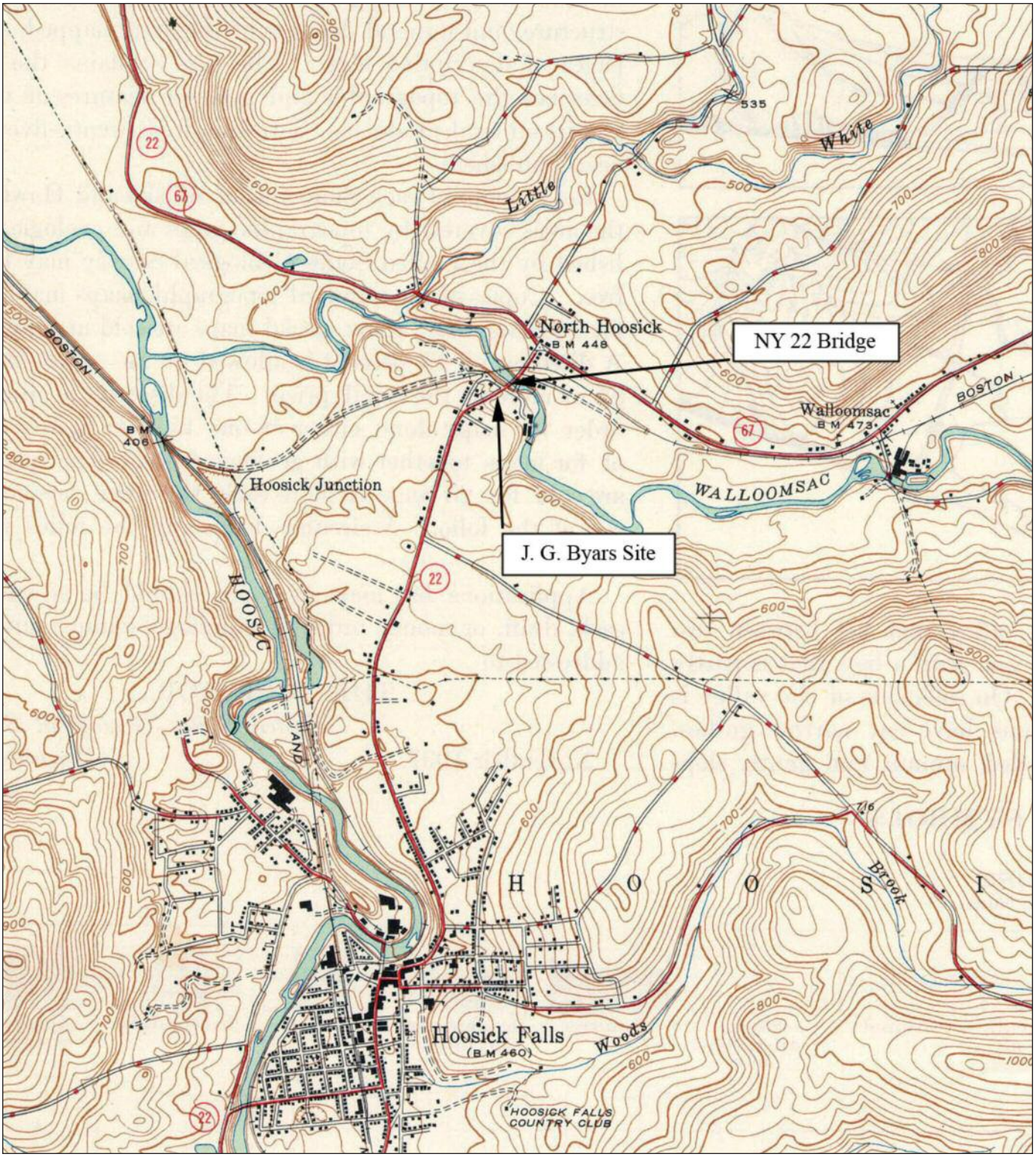

Figure 2. 1946 *7.5-minute USGS Hoosick Falls quadrangle* showing the location of the NY Route 22 bridge in North Hoosick and the location of the J. G. Byars Site. Labels added by the author.

Phase I testing at the site produced nearly 1,000 domestic and architectural artifacts from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These artifacts suggest construction of the feature in the mid-nineteenth century, though Phase I testing was not conclusive as to when the structure was abandoned or what its function was. Its size and location to the rear of MDS 17 suggested that it was a large privy.

JUSTIFICATION FOR SITE EXAMINATION INVESTIGATIONS

The J. G. Byars Site was recommended for further investigation if it could not be avoided since it appeared to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. J. G. Byars, Sr. was a Scottish immigrant who settled in North Hoosick with a large family and became locally prominent around the turn of the twentieth century as a soda bottler and distributor. He had a son, J. G. Byars, Jr. and a nephew, J. G. Byars III, who joined in the soda bottling business while purchasing much of the land and houses in the community. Bottles embossed with the company name have been collected and are displayed in the Louis Miller Museum, the headquarters of the Hoosick Township Historical Society in the village of Hoosick Falls. The website maintained by the historical society has included some historical information about the settlement and industry in North Hoosick in general, along with some information about J. G. Byars, his family, and his business. In light of the potential historical association, the presence of this intact, filled foundation hole, with a dense concentration of domestic artifacts in and around it, has great research potential for learning about the lives and lifeways of this small community.

Since the 2002 survey, DOT has selected a variation of Alternate C and proposes the realignment of the bridge and its approach 12 to 15 m (40 to 50 ft) to the southeast of the existing alignment. The proposed work involves the removal of the existing south approach berm and construction of two earth-filled abutments. This will necessitate the acquisition of several meters of right-of-way along with temporary access for construction at the base of the south berm. This area includes the location of the J. G. Byars Site, which would be subject to compaction and other damages by heavy machinery driving over it at the base of the berm. Therefore DOT requested further archaeological investigation of the site in the form of a site examination. The project area encompasses the existing earthen berm at the south approach to the bridge for a distance of approximately 65 m (213 ft) west of Factory Hill Road (Figure 3). Refined project limits were provided by Andrea Becker, DOT's Region 1 Assistant to the Cultural Resource Coordinator.

DECISION TO EXHAUST RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Early in the Phase II examination of the site, it was determined that its boundaries were confined to a relatively small area because of the presence of the earthen berm on one side and the limit of the artifact sheet scatter on the other. Also, it was determined that the relatively small stone foundation was the only subsurface structural feature present at the site. Though its original function was unknown, after the foundation fell out of use, it served as a primary refuse disposal area. Test excavation showed that it contained stratified deposits of historic artifacts consisting of an unusually rich and well-preserved assemblage of domestic material. These factors, coupled with the possibility that the deposits were associated with the Byars family, demonstrated right away that the site had significant research potential. With this preliminary information, it was decided by DOT and CRSP that the deposits inside the foundation would be completely excavated and collected for study, and that an ample portion of the exterior artifact sheet scatter would be systematically excavated to exhaust the research potential at the completion of the Phase II site exam. This, in effect, would eliminate the need for Phase III data recovery.

Archaeological fieldwork was performed in July and August 2008 by Katie Balloni, Niki Cassanno, Berry Dale, Kim Dryden, Josh Dubuque, Jerry Ek, Josalyn Ferguson, Tim Hummel, Amy Lynch, Crystal McDermott, Sean O'Brien, Jared Williams, and Candis Wood under the direction of the author. Artifact analysis and cataloging was done by Tracey Thomas with artifact crossmending assistance from Tara Fantauzzi. Specialized analysis of animal bone was done by Heather Brown and Sean Higgins, and fabric analysis was done by Dr. Penelope Drooker, all of the NYSM Department of Research and Collections. Artifacts and field records are curated by the NYSM. The field maps and final project maps were prepared by Jessie Pellerin and Heather Brown.

J. G. BYARS SITE RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The value in the J. G. Byars Site is in exploring and documenting the changing ways of life in an otherwise little-known community. This is especially important given the integrity of the deposit and the completeness of the many artifacts recovered from it. The cultural

Figure 3. Project map showing the J. G. Byars Site in relation to the NY Route 22 bridge approach berm and the project boundary line.

material found there can reflect the lifestyles and the economic and social standing of the site occupants relative to the local community and the broader world. In particular, the material deposited at the site can be used to study consumption patterns, which can show adherence by the household to a generally accepted historical trend toward participation in the consumer revolution. The Industrial Revolution in eighteenth-century Europe and in nineteenth-century America allowed the mass production of material items that previously only the wealthy could afford. When goods became plentiful and affordable to the general population, especially in the newly formed United States, it allowed social or class status to be purchased and displayed in the form of material goods. People who had managed to live with few material objects suddenly seemed to need many (Dent et al. 1997). Nineteenth-century immigrants from Europe, most of whom were poor, could establish themselves as merchants or entrepeneurs in America and purchase the items necessary to live a "genteel" lifestyle and advertise their "respectability" to others (Fitts 1999:39).

The research objectives for the J. G. Byars Site had several main focuses. One was to determine the original function of the structure for which this foundation was built. Research questions with this focus include the following.

1. Does the sheet scatter give clues to its use? What type of material was there and where was it deposited around the foundation?
2. Does the size, depth, shape, building material, and placement of the foundation on the property relative to the house location or proximity to local mills, soil type, etc., give clues to its function? Is it associated with the Byars beverage bottling business?
3. When was it built (builder's trench artifacts?)?
4. Was it built with some stone scavenged from another location?
5. Was it associated with MDS 17, the house on the 1931 as-built map, or perhaps with 66 Factory Hill Road?
6. When did it fall out of its original use? Does this coincide with any major innovations or historical events (electrification, indoor plumbing, destruction of the nearby woolen mill by fire, family events like death, birth, marriage, new occupants)?
7. Was the superstructure evident or completely removed?
8. Does the sheet scatter reflect use by earlier occupants different from those responsible for its eventual filling?

Another main focus was analysis of the foundation fill. It was noted that it was in stratified layers, indicating that it may represent separate filling episodes. Research questions to address this focus include the following.

1. Are there discernible temporal differences between filling episodes? Were these seasonal or associated with major life events, sale of the house, or perhaps created by more than one household?
2. Are there discernible artifact category differences between filling episodes (domestic vs. architectural vs. industrial, etc.)?
3. Is household composition reflected in the artifacts present (number in household, male, female, ages, relationships)?
4. Are other social factors discernible, such as nationality, adherence to tradition, home ownership vs. tenancy, health, disposable income, occupation, concerns with social status, or adoption of modern conveniences and styles?
4. If the foundation is associated with any of the Byars family, which ones?
5. Do the artifacts reflect food preferences (local, regional, or exotic)?

PROJECT SETTING

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The hamlet of North Hoosick straddles the Walloomsac River, which passes between cliffs of limestone and shale approximately 6 to 7.5 m (20 to 25 ft) high, falling over a ledge locally known as the "lower falls." The river flows westward through the project area, merging with the Hoosic River approximately 1.8 km (1 mi) downstream (see Figure 2). The Hoosic River flows northward before making a right-angle bend to flow due west about 24 km (15 mi) into the Hudson River.

In this rural hamlet the present route of NY Route 22 runs northeast through a residential area, entering the southern approach to the bridge through an excavated cut in the upland terrace at the top of the steep slope leading down to the flats (Photo 1). The road cut changes to an elevated berm 6 to 9 m (20 to 30 ft) high that runs across the flats to meet the present bridge elevated above the flats (Photo 2).

This route and bridge, built in the 1930s, bypasses the old route through the hamlet on the south side of the river (Figure 4). The old route, known as Factory Hill Road, lies to the west following a longer but more gentle descent from the uplands to the flats above the river, then turns east to follow the south bank of the river to where an old bridge crossed.

Photo 1. Southern bridge approach on NY Route 22 where it begins the cut through the upland terrace. The J. G. Byars Site is out of view to the right of the road at the bottom of the berm. View to northeast.

Factory Hill Road passes under the NY Route 22 bridge at the end of the berm to access some dwellings and a factory building along the south bank of the river,

Photo 2. Elevated NY Route 22 bridge over Factory Hill Road. The Walloomsac River is beyond trees at right. The J. G. Byars site is in the distance surrounded by orange fencing with archaeologists working. The horse barn associated with 66 Factory Hill Road is at left. View to southwest.

A Cultural Resources Site Examination Report of the J. G. Byars Site, by Nancy L. Davis. New York State Museum Cultural Resources Survey Program Series 5, © 2012 by The University of the State of New York, The State Education Department, Albany, New York. All rights reserved.

Figure 4. 2007 aerial map of North Hoosick and the project area (outlined in red). The J. G. Byars Site is highlighted in yellow (NYS GIS Clearinghouse Digital Orthoimagery, labels added by the author).

but the former road bridge at the level of the flats no longer exists. Factory Hill Road is also the former alignment of a trolley line that ran from Hoosick Falls in the south to Vermont in the east and traveled over a trolley bridge next to the old road bridge. The trolley bridge is still there just northeast of the project area. On the north side of the river, the present NY Route 22 bridge approach rejoins the old alignment and passes under the old Boston and Maine Railroad overpass, now part of the Vermont Rail System.

The variation of Alternate C proposed by DOT involves shifting the center line of NY Route 22 and the bridge about 12 to 15 m (40 to 50 ft) to the southeast, which entails expanding the existing berm to the south (see Figure 3). The existing berm on that side is steep and densely wooded from the paved road edge at the top to the base, where it opens up on a grassy flat area now occupied by a fenced horse pasture (see Photo 2). There is a twenty-first-century frame horse barn on the east side of the pasture 35 m (115 ft) from the bottom of the berm, and an early nineteenth-century Federal-style house (66 Factory Hill Road) surrounded by lawn northeast of the horse barn a comparable distance from the berm (Photo 3). This house is probably one of the oldest surviving buildings in the hamlet and was recommended as National Register eligible in the Architectural Inventory of the Phase I Cultural Resource Survey (Pickands and LoRusso 2003). The dense woods along the slope of the berm provide relative privacy to the residents of 66 Factory Hill Road and act as a visual and noise barrier against the traffic on NY Route 22. The J. G. Byars Site is not visible on the sur-

Photo 3. 66 Factory Hill Road. View to southeast.

Photo 4. View west of the site area (red dots) before excavation.

face. It is located at the base of the south approach berm along the edge of the horse pasture (Photo 4).

Soils

The natural soils on this relatively flat terrace consist of loamy glacial river deposits over sandy and gravelly glacial river deposits and are well drained (USDA, NRCS 2008). The upper silt loam layers are approximately 0.76 m (30 in) thick over stratified gravelly loamy sand. The primary disturbances to the site location, aside from the 1930s construction of the berm itself, included grading of the field area by a bulldozer to correct some water run-off problems in ca. 2000, as reported by the landowner.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL HISTORIC CONTEXT

To answer some of the site-specific research questions, it was necessary to do historical documentary research beyond that conducted for the Phase I reconnaissance. This developed a stronger context for the site to illuminate the historical associations more fully and link them with the deposits found at the site. An attempt to determine a complete historical chronology of the site was done by conducting census and deed research along with investigation of cemetery records and other genealogical sources. Also, several interviews with local residents provided information about former occupants of the site or recent renovations and ground disturbances. The following section incorporates the site-specific historical background information into the local and regional information developed for the Phase I report.

North Hoosick began as a farm and small village named San Coick, which was located on the north side of the Walloomsac River at its confluence with the Hoosick. It extended eastward to Little White Creek where a gristmill and a sawmill were erected. It is unclear when this part of Rensselaer County was first settled by Europeans but it was described in official documents as having been a thriving community when it was destroyed by French forces in 1746, implying that the original settlement was considerably earlier.

This early settlement, which was about 0.4 miles northwest of the project area, fell along the Bennington stage road (now NY Route 67) connecting Bennington, Vermont, in the east and Schaghticoke, New York, in the west. The area around the bridge crossing of the Little White Creek was later known as Dublin's Bridge. This settlement saw military action during the Revolutionary War, but shortly afterward North Hoosick expanded to the area surrounding the present bridge on NY Route 22 where, during the nineteenth century, much of the community's business took place.

The Walloomsac River and its rocky cliffs provided an ideal place for water-powered industry. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, a carding mill was erected at the "lower falls" in the narrow strip of land between Factory Hill Road and the river, just west of the current NY Route 22 bridge. A dam was built there across the falls to power the mill, which throughout the next 70 years expanded and changed under successive owners Timothy McNamara, Samuel and Thomas Fowler, Spaulding and Spear, O.R. Burnham, and Reynolds and Andrew P. Carpenter. Through the years the mill produced a variety of yarns, flannel, and woolens, with its maximum expansion culminating in the 1860s and 1870s. During the 1860s the Civil War created a demand for wool army goods, some of which were produced at this factory. Around that time it

employed an average of 92 men, women, and children.

A short distance upstream at the "upper falls," another dam was built to power a scythe works, also established in the early part of the century. Under D. McNamara, this small mill operated until the 1850s, when the manufacture of mowing machines reduced the demand for scythes. This mill was eventually sold to Alexander and William Orr, who converted it to wall paper manufacture under the operation of Samuel S. Stevens. By 1858 Stevens had bought the mill, according to an advertisement for sale of bonds in the company (*Albany Evening Journal* 1922:12). He also bought the paper mill in Walloomsac about a mile upstream, and a mill in Middle Falls on the Battenkill River in Washington County. In 1869 he was joined by George S. Thompson of Troy, a wealthy industrialist and banker, involved also in railroads. The mill in North Hoosick continued to produce paper well into the twentieth century under the name of Stevens and Thompson. Stevens had two sons, Frank L. and Fred N. Stevens, who followed him in the operation of the mills until their deaths in the 1940s.

By 1850 the heart of North Hoosick encompassed approximately 30 buildings on both sides of the Walloomsac River, and Dublin's Bridge to the west had about 15. Clustered at the North Hoosick intersection of what is now NY Route 67 and NY Route 22 were a hotel, two stores, a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse, and associated dwellings. Influenced by the presence of the industries on the south side of the river, several streets were laid out and many dwellings were built to house the growing population of mill workers. The village doubled in size with the expansion of the mills in the 1860s and 1870s, aided by the completion of the Troy and Bennington Railroad in 1852, with a depot on Factory Hill Road. By the 1870s there were a store, a post office, a Methodist church, and a variety of trade shops on the south side of the river. Many of the houses surrounding the woolen mill complex were owned by its proprietor, R. Carpenter & Company, and much of the land and houses surrounding the paper mill were owned by Stevens and Thompson. The houses on Baby Lane on the north side of the river were built and owned by Stevens and Thompson. In the later decades of the nineteenth century, this mill employed close to 100 people, many of them living in houses there along Factory Hill Road and across the bridge on Baby Lane. Although most residents originated from local towns and counties, many Irish and a few Scots, Germans, and English also found work here.

Several nineteenth-century maps of the area depict in some detail the development in North Hoosick around the bridge crossing the Walloomsac. These include the streets, houses with landowners' names, mills, businesses, and the railroad. The J. G. Byars Site is situated to the rear of, and assumed to be associated with, MDS 17, which is depicted on these maps directly across the road from the woolen mill. Adjacent to the woolen mill was a cluster of small buildings occupying the land between the road and the river, including a store, a post office, and a blacksmith shop (Figures 5–7). The maps also show the company-owned housing surrounding the mill. In 1854 the woolen mill and most of the housing was owned by O. R. Burnham, in 1862 by Spaldings and Spear, and in 1876 by Reynolds and A.P. Carpenter.

In 1876, sometime after the atlas map was made, the woolen mill on Factory Hill Road burned and was not rebuilt, which ended North Hoosick's most prosperous period. The extensive mill property was soon sold to Daniel Robinson of Troy, and in 1887, a decade after the mill burned, it was bought by Hiland Carpenter, a local merchant and son of the former mill owner, Reynolds Carpenter (Rensselaer County, Troy, New York [RC] Deed Book [DB] 287:470). He intended to improve the property and utilize the water power there (Hoosick Business Directories 1882:64), but these improvements were never fully realized. In terms of employment, however, the Stevens and Thompson paper mills, here and at the neighboring hamlet of Walloomsac, plus smaller manufactories and shops, dairy farming, and worker trade, sustained the village in the ensuing years.

One of the businesses that started shortly after the woolen mill burned was the bottling works of James Galbraith Byars, known familiarly as J. G. Byars, the namesake of the archaeological site of this study. He, his wife, Mary, and his one-year-old son, James G., Jr., came to the United States in 1864, possibly following his older brother David and family, to work in textile mills in Adams, Massachusetts, and vicinity. He soon had three more children, daughters Christina, Martha J., and Mary A., that census records reveal were born either in Adams or in Pownal, Vermont (New York State Bureau of the Census [N.Y.S. Census] 1875; United States Bureau of the Census [U.S. Census] 1880), indicating that the family may have moved around some in the first decade or so after coming to western New England. They ended up in North Hoosick, perhaps drawn by the woolen mill, but a deed transaction in 1873 indicated that J. G., Sr. purchased a farm on the stage road at Dublin's Bridge. An article in the Hoosick Falls newspaper, *The Democrat*, published in 1899, says that Byars started the bottling business in 1877 on his farm just beyond Dublin Bridge where there was a large and abundant fresh water spring (*The Democrat* 1899). The farm is visible on the 1876 Beers Atlas Overview of the town of Hoosick (Figure 8), well away from the NY Route 22 Walloomsac bridge crossing and the archaeological site. Byars, Sr. and his wife had another two

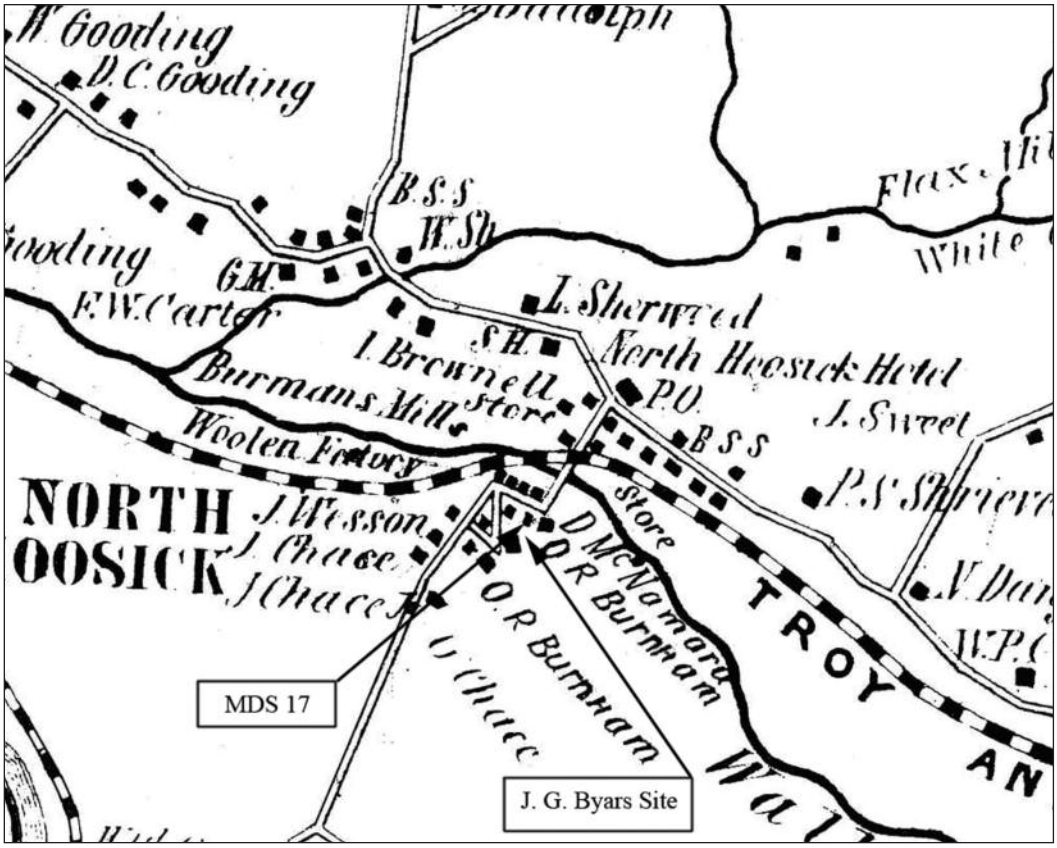

Figure 5. 1854 Map of Rensselaer County, New York (Rogerson), showing the location of the J. G. Byars Site and MDS 17.

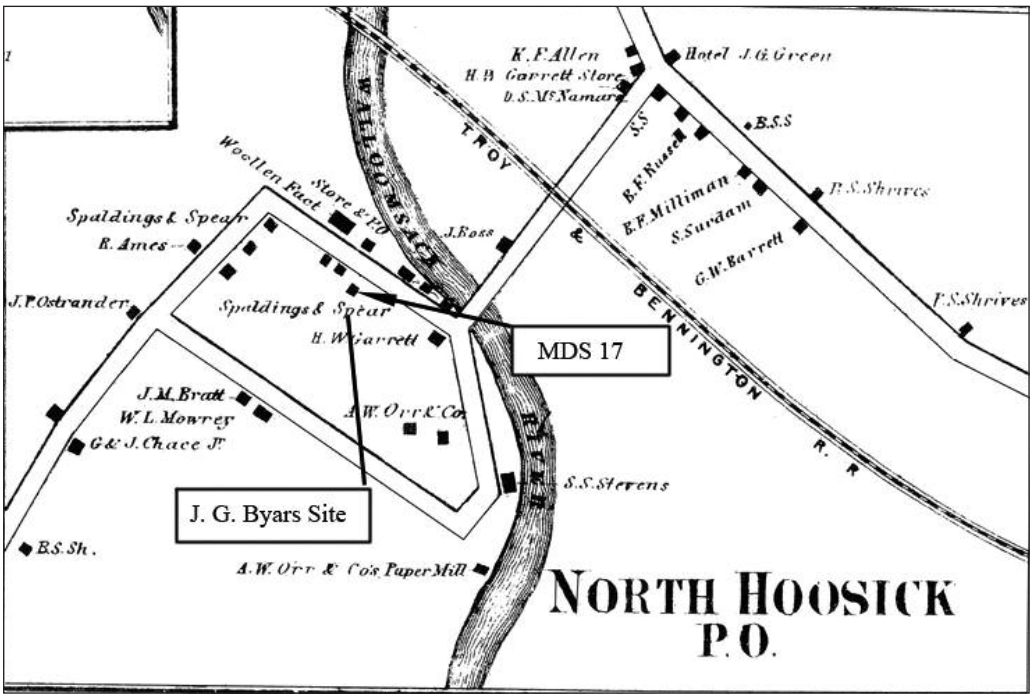

Figure 6. 1862 Map of Rensselaer County, New York (Lake and Beers). Inset of North Hoosick shows the location of the J. G. Byars Site and MDS 17.

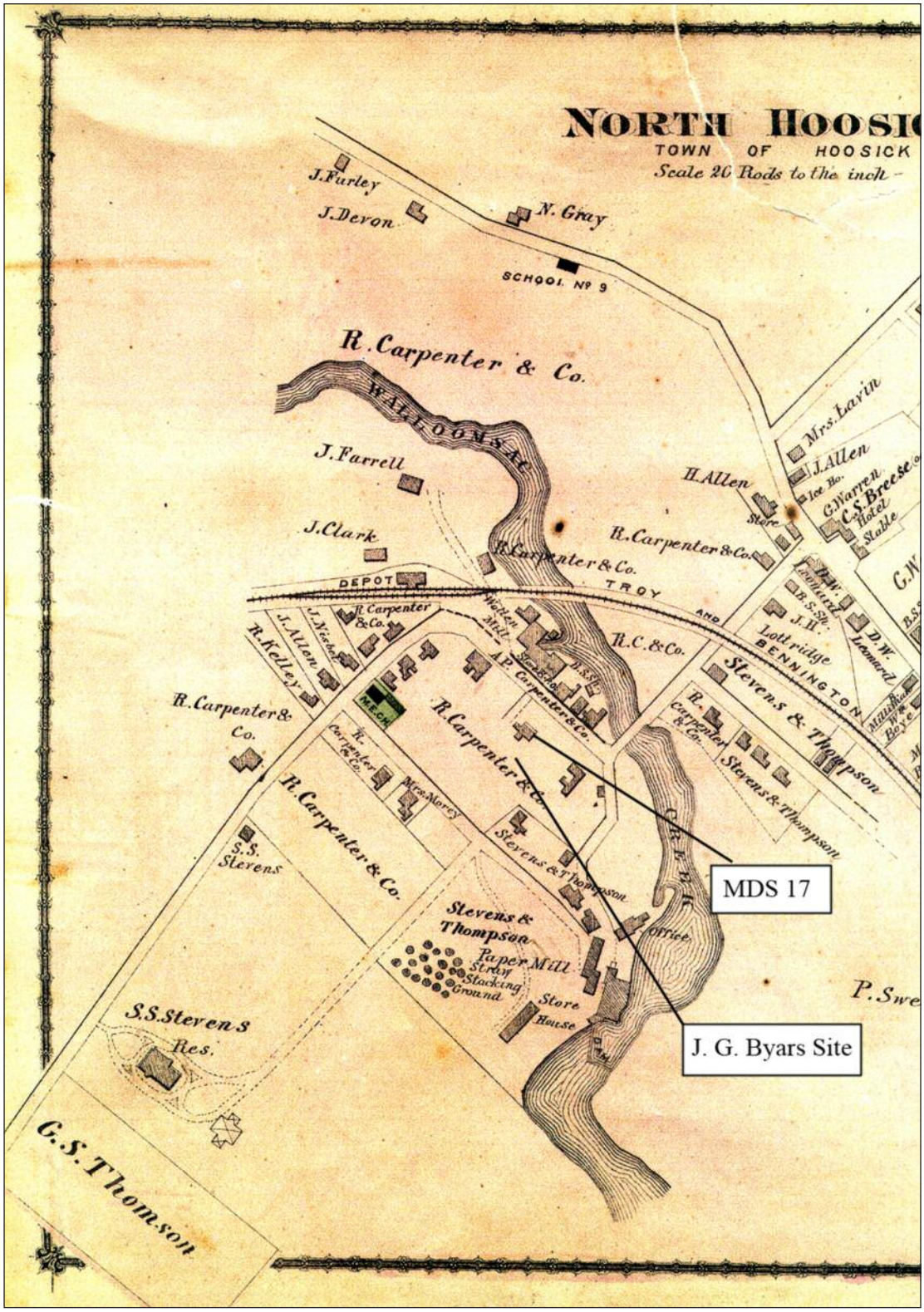

Figure 7. 1876 County Atlas of Rensselaer, New York (Beers). Inset of North Hoosick shows the J. G. Byars Site and MDS 17, then part of the landholdings of R. Carpenter & Co., operators of the woolen mill.

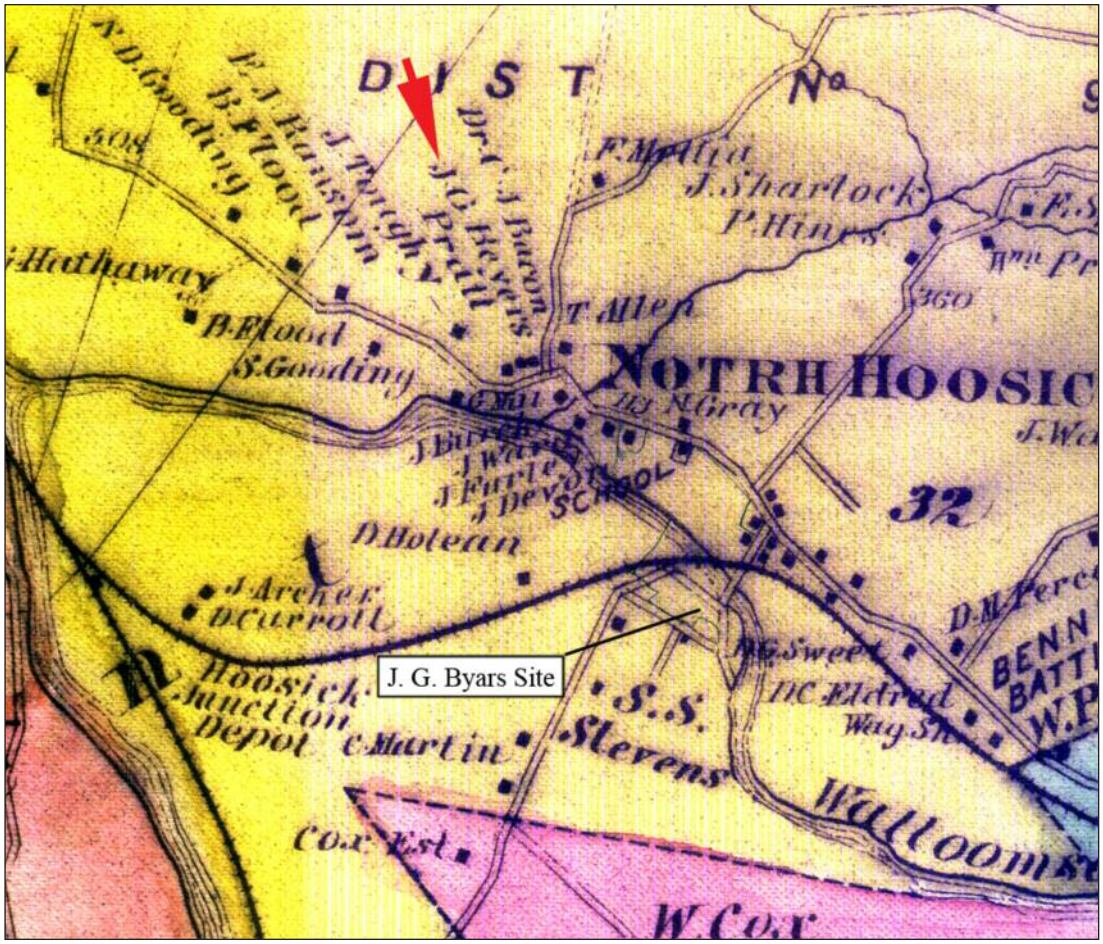

Figure 8. 1876 County Atlas of Rensselaer, New York (Beers). Overview of the Town of Hoosick shows North Hoosick and the location of J. G. Byars's farmhouse (red arrow) near the confluence of Little White Creek with the Walloomsac River.

daughters, Emma and Lilly, after they moved to North Hoosick, and then a final child, a son named John, in 1880, who did not survive the year. Mary also didn't survive that year, according to her headstone in Maple Grove Cemetery in Hoosick Falls (Rensselaer County Cemetery Database 2009). It is possible she died in childbirth with John, but this is not known. This left J. G., Sr. a widower with six children at the age of 41.

His business was eventually joined by his son, J. G., Jr., when he was of age, and a nephew, also named James G. Byars, who moved to North Hoosick with his wife, Susan, from Rhode Island in 1889. The nephew was known as "Rhode Island Jim" or J. G. Byars III to distinguish him from his uncle and cousin. They bottled and distributed sodas made from spring water obtained on the North Hoosick farm and also became distributors of a variety of beers and ales made by other companies and of spring waters from the Saratoga area. According to their advertisement in the Hoosick Falls City Directory in 1889, their distribution area ranged from Petersburg, New York, and Pownal, Vermont, in the south, to Salem and Greenwich, New York, in the north, and west as far as Schaghticoke. Four years later their range had increased to the northwest as far as Schuylerville (Hoosick Business Directories 1889:19, 1893:23).

Apparently business prospered for the bottling company because by the mid-1890s, when J. G., Jr. was 32, he was able to purchase the former woolen mill land and surrounding company property along Factory Hill Road. It became available because Hiland Carpenter had defaulted on the mortgage. In 1895 the large parcel was sold at public auction and J. G., Jr. purchased all of it, including many of the workers' houses in the "mill district" on the south side of the river along Factory Hill Road, plus many undeveloped acres of land on the north side of the Walloomsac opposite the mill, for $9,500 (RC DB 251:46). Included in this massive holding was probably the oldest house in the community, the ca. 1800 Federal-style house at 66 Factory Hill Road, and

also the neighboring two-family house, MDS 17, to the rear of which is located the J. G. Byars Site.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the combined landholdings of Byars Sr. and Jr. encompassed the majority of North Hoosick from the bridge over the Walloomsac to the original farm near the White Creek confluence. By then, they also owned land in places outside North Hoosick, some in Hoosick Falls Village two miles to the south, where J. G., Sr. built the Byars Block building, and some in Eagle Bridge, a hamlet just under four miles to the northwest. The only other large landholder in the hamlet of North Hoosick was Samuel Stevens of the Stevens and Thompson Paper Company, by then a large local and regional industrialist. Stevens also owned a large elaborate house and grounds, where his family and servants lived, along the road to Hoosick Falls on the uplands above the "mill district" (see Figure 7).

By the time J. G., Jr. had bought all that land in North Hoosick in 1895, J. G., Sr. had been remarried for some time to Louisa A. Chase. He was 56 years old and his five daughters were mostly grown up, two of them married and living in New England. By 1900 he had apparently retired from the immediate operations of the bottling business and was living somewhere other than the original farmhouse at Dublin's Bridge, according to census records in 1900 (U.S. Census). Instead, those records list his nephew, J. G. III, living in the original farmhouse as head of household with his wife, Susan. Living with them were J. G., Jr., a bachelor, and three boarders, a 28-year-old woman named Martha Sherit(d)on, who may have been a relative from Scotland, and two male employees of the business. J. G., Sr. and his wife, Louisa, are oddly missing from the 1900 census altogether (census records are lacking for the period between 1880 and 1900, one of the reasons the date of their marriage is unknown).

Those first few years of the twentieth century must have been a particularly grief-stricken time for the extended Byars family. Local cemetery records show that J. G., Sr.'s second wife, Louisa, and his youngest daughter, Lilly (by his first wife), both died in 1904. They were interred in Maple Grove Cemetery in Hoosick Falls. According to Marilyn Byars Robinson, granddaughter of J. G. III (personal communication 2009), Lilly, 27 years old at the time, died on her wedding day of an aneurism. The cause of Louisa's death is unknown. Also sometime between 1900 and 1905, Susan Byars, wife of J. G. III, died after having battled tuberculosis for some time, according to an undated obituary clipped from an unknown local newspaper in the possession of Marilyn Robinson. Susan would have been around 40 years old at the time of her death, and the obituary states that she married J. G. III in Westerly, Rhode Island, in 1881 and moved to North Hoosick in 1889. The obituary states that she had been taken to Saranac Lake "in hope of a cure" but died in her home in North Hoosick. It also says that the funeral services were held at the residence and at the M.E. Church, where she was an active member.

J. G. III didn't remain a widower very long, based on census records, because by 1905 he had married a considerably younger local woman named Margaret McCart (N.Y.S. Census 1905). They had moved into MDS 17, the two-family house next door to 66 Factory Hill Road, both houses being part of the Byars landholdings, and soon had their first child, a boy named Gordon. That year's census records for North Hoosick (N.Y.S. Census 1905) show J. G., Sr., a widower, living only with a live-in housekeeper, Margaret Allen, a middle-aged local woman. Harriet Byars, the surviving widow of Gordon Byars, remembers that J. G., Sr. "lived in the big house at 66 Factory Hill Road next to the house Gordon was born in," or MDS 17 (personal communication 2009). This establishes that two of the Byarses lived next to each other on the south side of the Walloomsac bridge on land associated with the project area during the first decade of the twentieth century. This was also during the time the local commuter trolley operated through the hamlet of North Hoosick.

At the time, J. G., Jr. was still living in the farmhouse at Dublin's Bridge near the bottling works, along with a housekeeper. Since he owned the houses where his father and cousin lived, he may have been allowing them to live free of charge simply because they were family and business partners. As a matter of fact, during that census year (1905), J. G. III's father and mother, David and Mary Byars, were also living in North Hoosick. A much earlier census (U.S. Census 1870) shows them living in North Adams, Massachusetts, when David, then 37, worked in a woolen mill there. In 1905 he was 70, probably retired, and Mary was 65. They may have come to North Hoosick to be near family and perhaps lived in one of the other houses owned by J. G., Jr. along Factory Hill Road. By 1907 cousin J. G. III had purchased his own farm on the road to Walloomsac (NY Route 67) just east of the commercial center of the hamlet. He and Margaret moved there and soon had their second child, a daughter also named Margaret. By 1910 David and Mary were listed as living with their son, J. G. III, and his family in the farmhouse on the Walloomsac Road (U.S. Census 1910). J. G. III continued to be involved in the bottling business full-time and left the running of the new farm to hired men. It is not known who lived in MDS 17 after they moved out. It was a two-family house, likely built as mill workers' housing, so perhaps it wasn't suitable to the lifestyle of a successful businessman with a new young

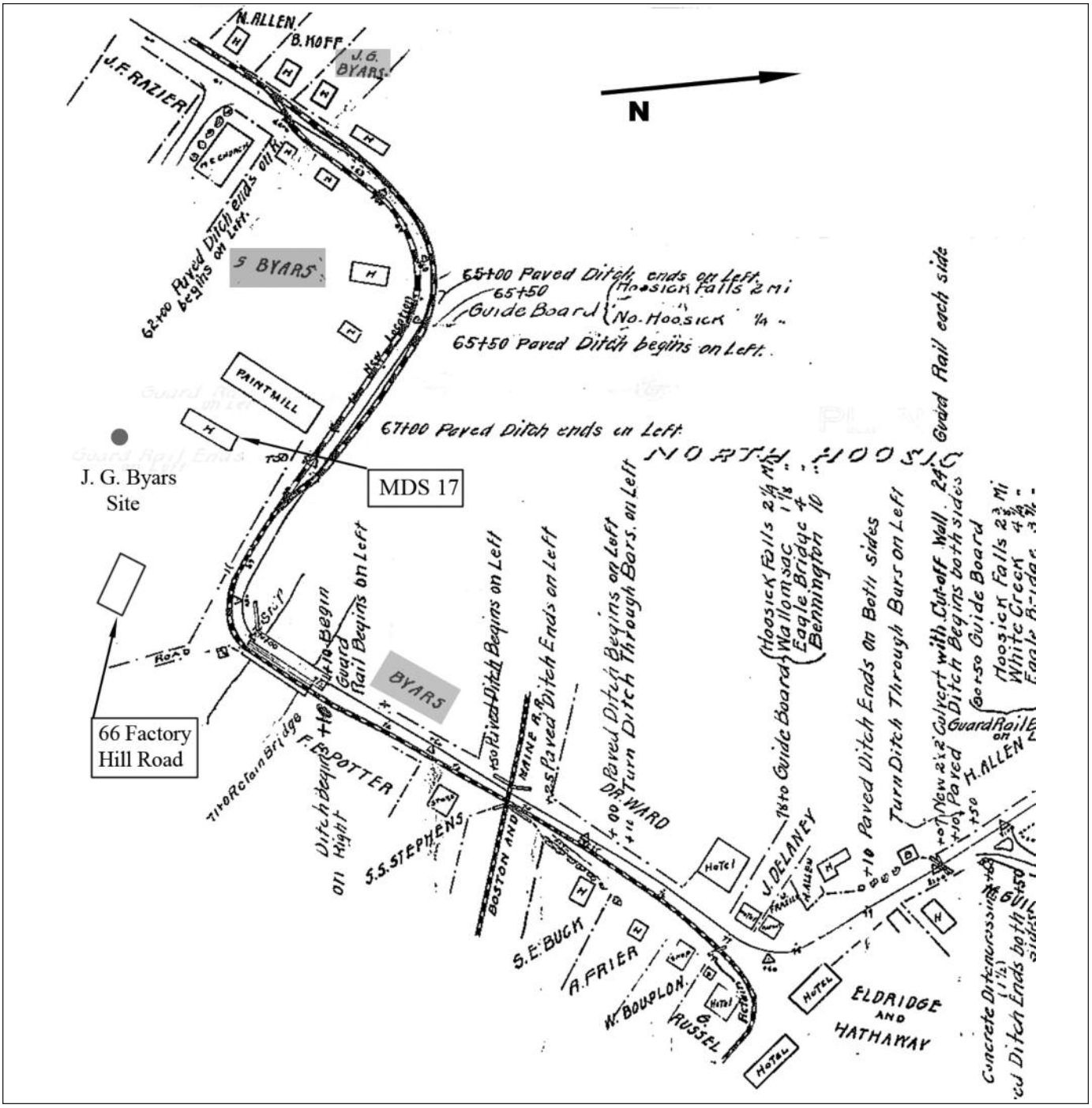

Figure 9. 1905 Highway Construction Plan for SH 490, Hoosick-North Hoosick Road, Sheet 3 (New York State Department of Transportation) representing Factory Hill Road, in North Hoosick. Note the Paint Mill, the trolley line, and the property owned by Byars (name is shaded). The house at 66 Factory Hill Road was not originally mapped but is added here by the author.

family at the time.

A small mill building was erected across from the woolen mill on Factory Hill Road just west of MDS 17 but it doesn't appear on maps until after the turn of the twentieth century, when it was labeled as a paint mill on highway construction plans (Figure 9). There is little documentation on the operation of this mill, but it was apparently built after the 1876 burning of the woolen mill because it doesn't appear on the 1876 map. It was powered by the woolen mill power house that survived

the fire. A shaft ran through a culvert under Factory Hill Road to the later mill building. This culvert is still intact and visible near the river edge. The building was also apparently operated as a furniture factory, as mentioned in a "Short Story" published on the Hoosick Township Historical Society web site (Wright 2001). The land itself was part of J. G. Byars's holdings, but no further information was found to elucidate their family involvement. It is possible that the building was built by Hiland Carpenter during the eight years he owned the property because he is reputed to have run a shirt factory in North Hoosick during the 1880s (Oswego Daily Times 1891). The mill building itself disappeared sometime before 1930 because it is shown only as "Old Mill (Torn Down)" on the 1931 Highway Record Plans for the existing bridge (see discussion below). On that map MDS 17's north corner is only feet away from the mill's south corner, suggesting that there was some association between the two buildings at one time. By the time the 1931 map was made, a property line divided the MDS 17 house property from the Old Mill Property, the mill lot being owned by Stevens and Thompson Paper Co.

Even though there was a railroad and station in North Hoosick as early as the 1850s, local transportation was improved by construction of a trolley line between Hoosick Falls Village and the hamlet of Walloomsac by 1894 (Figure 10). Chartered as the Hoosick Railway Company, it followed the highway (Factory Hill Road) through North Hoosick, utilizing a steel truss bridge built next to the highway bridge over the Walloomsac River (Figure 11). It passed by the front doors of MDS 17 and 66 Factory Hill Road, and the entrance roads leading to Stevens and Thompson's paper mills in North Hoosick and at Walloomsac. It is interesting to note that Frank L. Stevens, the son of Samuel S. Stevens of the paper mill, was one of the railway company directors (Hoosick Township Historical Society 2009). He probably realized that the trolley would be a benefit to his business by providing easy transportation for his factory workers. Around the same time, another company chartered a trolley line from Bennington, Vermont, north and west through North Bennington to Walloomsac. In 1897 the two trolley lines merged to become the Bennington and Hoosick Valley Electric Railway. North Hoosick residents used the trolley to commute back and forth to Hoosick Falls, Bennington, and places in between. Harriet Byars remembers riding the trolley to and from high school when she was a child ca. 1915 (personal communication 2009).

One of the three J. G. Byarses, most likely J. G., Sr., had some litigious involvement with the trolley company. He filed a suit against the trolley company in either 1902 or 1903, which was heard by the New York State Supreme Court in 1904, as reported in a volume of cases heard and determined in the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court (Hun 1905:36). At the time Bouker's blacksmith shop was the North Hoosick station on the trolley line part way between the village of Hoosick Falls and Walloomsac. Byars was charged five cents for traveling from a point within the village of Hoosick Falls to Bouker's blacksmith shop. Then he "was charged another fare of five cents to travel from Bouker's shop toward the village of Walloomsac, which he refused to pay and for which he was ejected from the car" (Hun 1905:36). His claim in the suit against the trolley company was that at the granting of the franchise to the Hoosick Railway Company by the commissioners of highways of the town, it was provided that one fare only should be charged over "said road," the definition of which formed the argument of the case. Apparently the original trolley company application requested leave to construct and operate the railroad along the highway starting at the north boundary and limits of the village of Hoosick Falls and extending north to

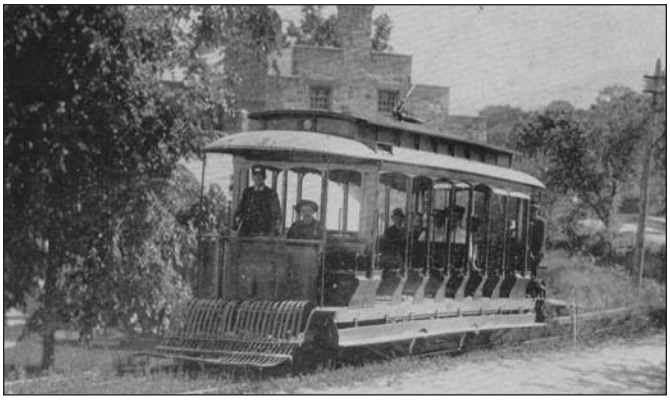

Figure 10. The Bennington and Hoosick Railway trolley (photo courtesy of Hoosick Township Historical Society)

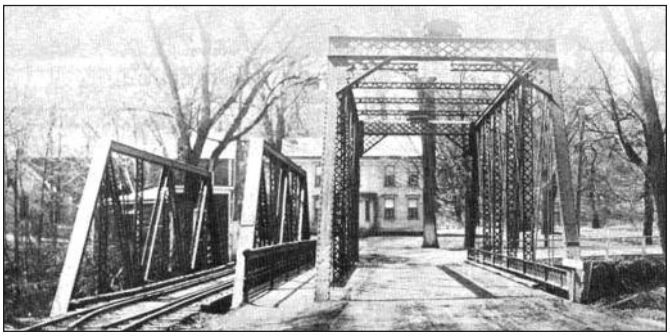

Figure 11. Historical photo of the Factory Hill Road bridge (right) and the trolley bridge (left) looking south. The large house at 66 Factory Hill Road is visible in the background (photo courtesy of Hoosick Township Historical Society).

North Hoosick, and then east from North Hoosick to the village of Walloomsac, all within the town of Hoosick. At the time the railway company was already operating a trolley in the village of Hoosick Falls. Byars contended that the words "said road," as used in the franchise given to the company, included the part in the village of Hoosick Falls, and therefore riders should not be charged two fares, one fare for riding inside the village and an additional charge for riding beyond it.

Byars must have felt very strongly about this because after the Supreme Court judged in favor of the trolley company, he went to the added trouble and expense of appealing the case with the higher level Supreme Court Appellate Division, rather an extreme effort for a nickel fare, considering both actions required costly legal representation and court fees, not to mention time. Locally, Byars, Sr. was fondly known as the "mayor" or the "governor" of North Hoosick, obviously just courtesy titles (Robinson 2007; Stevens n.d.). Given the fact that he had these titles, the nature of this legal pursuit suggests a possible altruistic intent in that he may have been acting on behalf of the other, less well-off, working-class residents of the community. Anyone living along the trolley line outside the village of Hoosick Falls, which was the closest metropolis of any size, would be required to pay a double fare each time they took a trip into and out of the village. In today's dollars, that would equal about $4.00 per round trip, probably prohibitive for most people. If this is the case, perhaps that kind of character earned Byars, Sr. his nicknames to begin with. Though it is possible any of the three J. G. Byarses could have had the financial means to pursue this case, it is speculated that J. G., Sr. would have been the one who had the most time and means to take it on. In 1904 he was well off, probably retired from the bottling business, and recently widowed, while J. G., Jr. and J. G. III were fully involved in running the bottling business, the latter also newly married. Eventually the Appellate Court upheld the earlier court decision in favor of the trolley company and concluded that the complaint should be dismissed.

The trolley's presence in the town was relatively short-lived, however, for like many electric railroad lines, it was superseded by automobiles, and it ceased operation before 1930. The steel truss bridge for the trolley remains there today.

In 1913 Byars, Jr. died at the relatively young age of 50, according to his headstone in Maple Grove Cemetery. With no wife or children as heirs, his landholdings went to his father, effectively creating the J. G. Byars estate. Cousin J. G. III's lands were not included in this estate, though he continued running the soda bottling business. When Byars, Sr. died in 1916 at the age of 78, he left his estate to his four surviving daughters, designating the two unmarried daughters, Martha and Mary, as executrices of his will made in 1914. He had apparently become infirm in the last few years of his life because the 1915 state census shows that Martha, 47 at the time, was living with him in the house at 66 Factory Hill Road (N.Y.S. Census 1915). In his will he specified that his properties be sold off within five years of his death and the proceeds divided evenly among his heirs, his heirs being his four daughters and a grandson (Rensselaer County, Troy, New York Wills Book [WB] 3:277). Ira Fisk, son of the paper mill superintendent and resident of Factory Hill Road since birth in 1916, remembers the "Byars Girls" living in the house at 66 Factory Hill Road in his youth (personal communication 2008). This would likely refer to Martha and Mary Byars, the unmarried daughters who took care of the North Hoosick estate property, gradually selling off pieces of it while staying in the old house there. The deposits in the open foundation hole at the heart of the archaeological site date to the time period of the Byars ownership and occupation of the property, from about 1895 to after the death of J. G., Sr. in 1916. Some of the refuse deposited in the foundation probably relates to the daughters' clearing out of the house after their father's death.

Factory Hill Road itself, which was the road to Hoosick Falls, remained largely unchanged until the beginning of the twentieth century. It was first paved as a state highway around 1905 (see Figure 9), but retained a truss bridge over the Walloomsac River, which replaced a covered bridge in about 1898.

Significant change to the village came in 1931 with the reconstruction of NY Route 22 at the Walloomsac River. It involved the construction of the current elevated bridge on a new alignment, which bypassed and bisected the Factory Hill Road terrace (Figure 12). To accommodate the new alignment, the county highway department bought part of the J. G. Byars estate lands, including a part of the parcel occupied by MDS 17 (RC DB 492:138). The house was demolished, the new bridge was elevated over the old road, and the earthen berm to the bridge was constructed on the footprint of the house. As mentioned before, the old mill had already been torn down. The resulting bridge and berm severely affected the character of the old mill district.

Since the 1930s the old mill district in North Hoosick has seen only small changes. The old Factory Hill Road bridge was removed, and traffic for this little-used road was maintained on the abandoned trolley bridge, which eventually deteriorated and fell into disuse in the 1980s. Factory Hill Road now dead-ends at the old paper mill. Ira Fisk built a house at 32 Factory Hill Road near the site of the old paint mill. When Frank L. and Fred N. Stevens both died in the 1940s, it ended the 80 years of

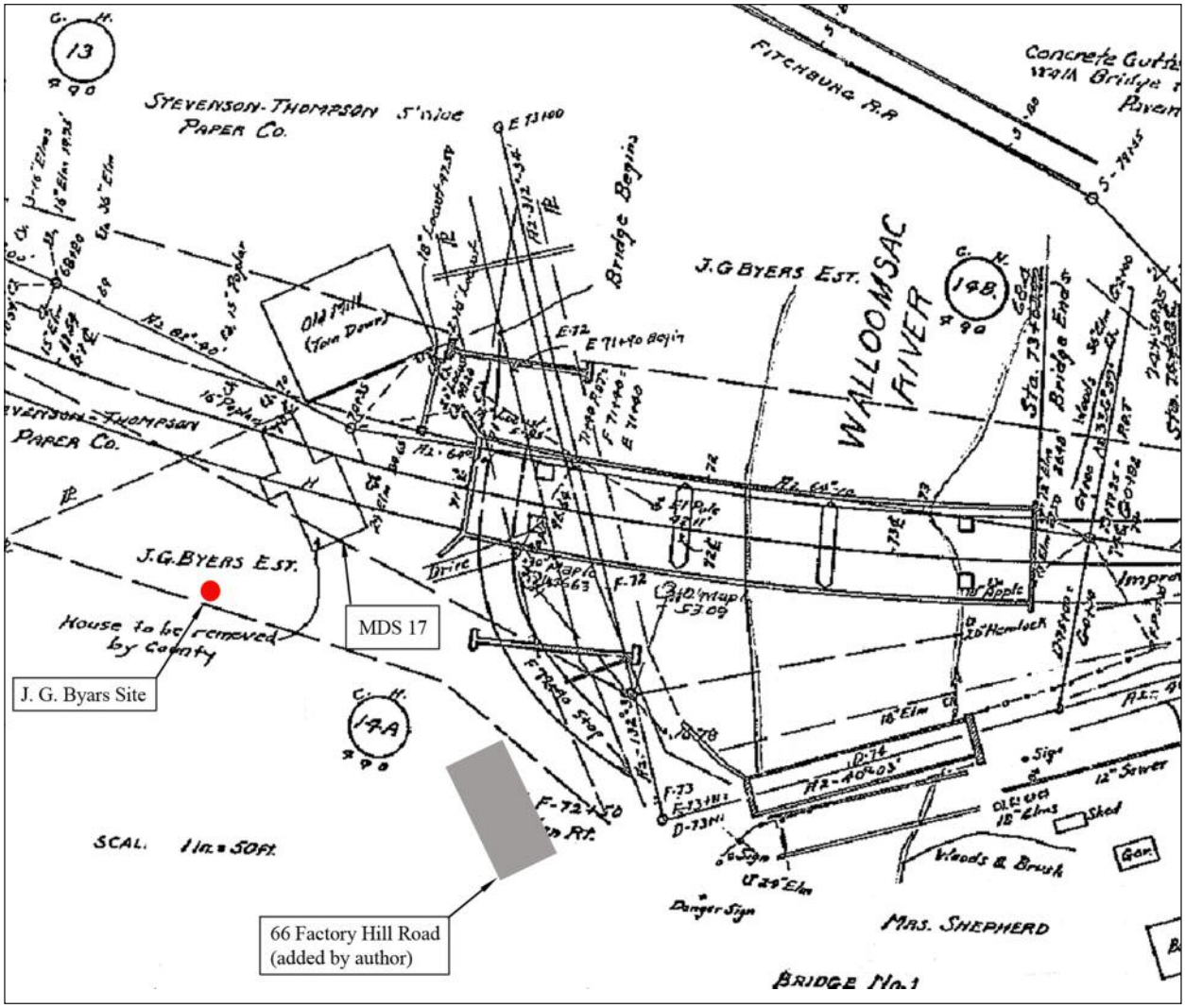

Figure 12. 1931 Highway Record Plan for RC 2214, Sheet 16 (New York State Department of Transportation). This shows the current alignment of the NY Route 22 bridge over the Walloomsac River and the footprint of MDS 17, which was removed at that time.

Stevens involvement in the North Hoosick paper mill. In 1933 the house at 66 Factory Hill Road was sold from the Byars estate to Edward J. Reinfort and his wife (RC DB 522:115), who had lived in North Hoosick for at least 13 years by that time, according to census records (N.Y.S. Census 1925; U.S. Census 1920). In the 1920 census Edward was a laborer in the paper mill, and by 1925 he was a foreman there. He was 42 and had a big family with five children when he bought the big house at the entrance to the mill road. This would have been very convenient for him for work purposes, not to mention that he could use the spacious house for his large family.

J. G. Byars III continued to operate the bottling company by himself even though the dwelling house near the bottling works was sold out of the family in 1927 by the Byars estate. The company operated under the same name, J. G. Byars Bottling Co., up through the publishing of the 1934 business directory, when J. G. III would have been in his 70s. He and his family lived in the farmhouse he bought in 1907, using hired men to manage the farm until his son, Gordon, was old enough to take over. According to J. G. III's granddaughter, Marilyn, he finally closed the business ca. 1940 (personal communication 2009). He died in 1949 at the age of 90.

In 1933 Forrest S. White founded the White-Flomatic Corporation in the village of Hoosick Falls, followed 10 years later by a move to the former Stevens and Thompson Paper Mill in North Hoosick. It manufactured brass valves for water systems, casting and finishing their products at that location. The company was later renamed Flomatic Corporation and operated in

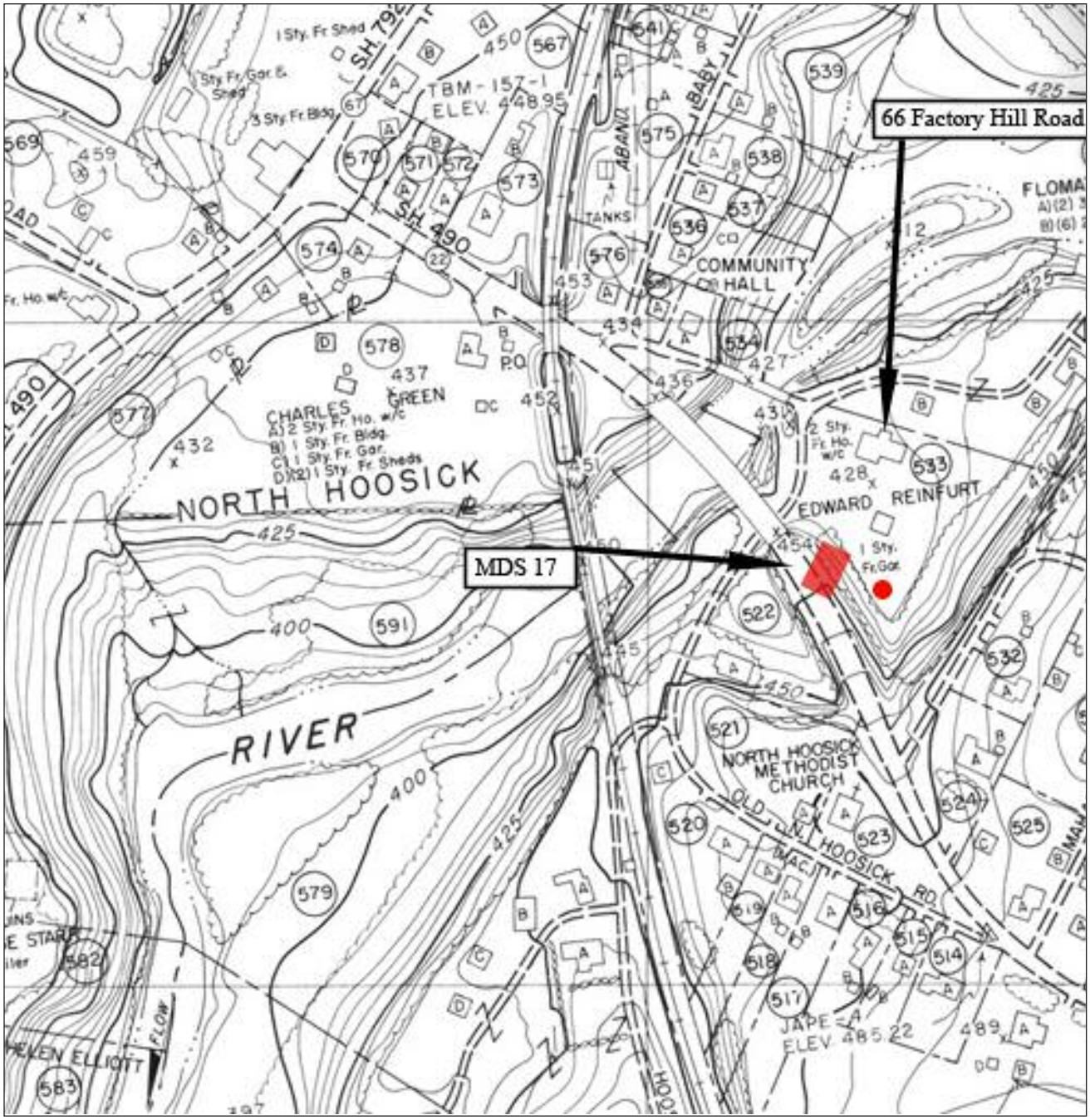

Figure 13. 1956 *1"-200' Topographical* "Corridor Map" (New York State Department of Transportation) of NY Route 22 in North Hoosick. MDS 17 and the J. G. Byars Site are highlighted. North is to the left.

North Hoosick until it ran into environmental restrictions with its foundry in the 1960s. A hazardous waste site clean-up was done in the 1990s, and in 1996 the company moved its operations and offices to Glens Falls. Soon after that, the property of the old paper mill-turned-valve manufacturer, including 66 Factory Hill Road, was bought by a consortium of businesses with the intent of operating a microbrewery production facility as part of Brown's Brewing Company of Troy in the old factory (Peter Martin, personal communication 2008). According to Martin, the big house was annexed by Flomatic and used in a business capacity for some years. Exactly when this occurred is not known, but Edward Reinfort's name appears associated with the house on a 1956 Department of Transportation Highway Corridor Map (Figure 13), indicating that it

was in his ownership almost to the 1960s. It is possible he worked for the company after the paper mill closed or that he rented the house to Flomatic for their use. Recently, in the last decade, the house was renovated by Peter Martin, head brewer for the microbrewery, and it is now occupied as a private residence.

METHODOLOGY

FIELD METHODOLOGY

Since the J. G. Byars Site was discovered in the fall of 2002, six years before the site examination request was issued, the original excavation units that identified the foundation were no longer discernible on the surface. Therefore the DOT's current proposed "project disturbance line," which was different from the original survey boundary line, was marked out on the ground to be used as an archaeological testing boundary line (see Figure 3). It was 10 m (30 ft) away from the base of the road berm. Then a soil probe was used to detect possible buried rock walls in the general vicinity of the remembered 2002 location of the foundation. In conjunction with the probing, a 1-x-2-m (3-x-6.5-ft) excavation unit (T1) was initiated where a concentration of rocks was encountered 18 cm (7 in) below the ground surface. When an intact rock wall forming an outside corner was exposed at a depth of 20 cm (8 in) in the north half of T1, further excavation was stopped in the south half, to use the time and resources to explore other areas. Further probing was done to the north to attempt to identify the limits of the buried structure, and then excavation units were laid out accordingly to verify what were predicted to be the other three corners.

Once it was determined that the intact foundation structure measured roughly 3.5 m (10 ft) square, units were laid out in various places inside and outside the foundation to study the soil stratigraphy in and around the feature, to see what it was filled with and to study aspects of its construction to aid in determining what its function was and when it fell out of use (Figure 14). The initial units excavated inside the foundation revealed that it contained stratified layers of an unusually rich and diverse deposit of material, much of it whole or mostly whole ceramic and glass vessels from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The significance of this assemblage was apparent early on, and its probable association with the Byars family assured that the site was National Register eligible, which in turn meant it would be recommended for further work if it could not be avoided.

In the meantime, 14 STPs measuring 50 cm (20 in) square were excavated along the level area on either side of the foundation between the bottom of the slope and the project disturbance line in two transects spaced 5 m (16 ft) apart and a third partial transect. These were done to look for other buried features and to sample the sheet refuse deposit extending away from the foundation within project limits. The STPs measured approximately 40 cm (15 in) in diameter and most were excavated into sterile subsoil, which ranged in depth from 30 to 64 cm (12 to 25 in) below the ground surface. No other features or extensions of the foundation were found inside the project limits. The site was confined primarily to the foundation itself and to the extent of the sheet scatter within the 10-m (30-ft) strip of land surrounding the foundation at the base of the road berm. Two weeks into the site examination, since it was a small site, a decision was made in consultation with DOT to exhaust the research potential by excavating the entire inside of the foundation at this phase of work.

In all, 13 contiguous units of varying sizes were excavated on top of and into the feature itself. With the exception of Unit 3, the first unit excavated to the floor inside the foundation, almost all excavation was done in natural or cultural soil layers to identify potential temporal stratification in the cultural deposits. In Unit 3 excavation proceeded in arbitrary 10 cm (4 in) levels to investigate the soil matrices before proceeding to adjacent units. Excavation was done by hand with shovels and trowels, and all soil was screened through 7-mm (0.25-in) mesh (except the surface layer in several units) and all artifacts noted and bagged by level.

Photographs were taken of the units, and plan and profile maps were drawn of selected walls, floors, and features.

LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL MATERIAL

Following fieldwork, all artifacts were processed and analyzed in the labs of the NYSM CRSP. Processing included washing artifacts or dry-brushing as appropriate, then sorting into major artifact categories: ceramics, curved glass, flat glass, bone, cloth, leather, shell, metal, nails, brick, coal, cinders, and other categories as needed. When possible, ceramic vessels and glass vessels were mended.

All artifacts were then cataloged by Tracey Thomas, co-laboratory director of the CRSP, according to a system

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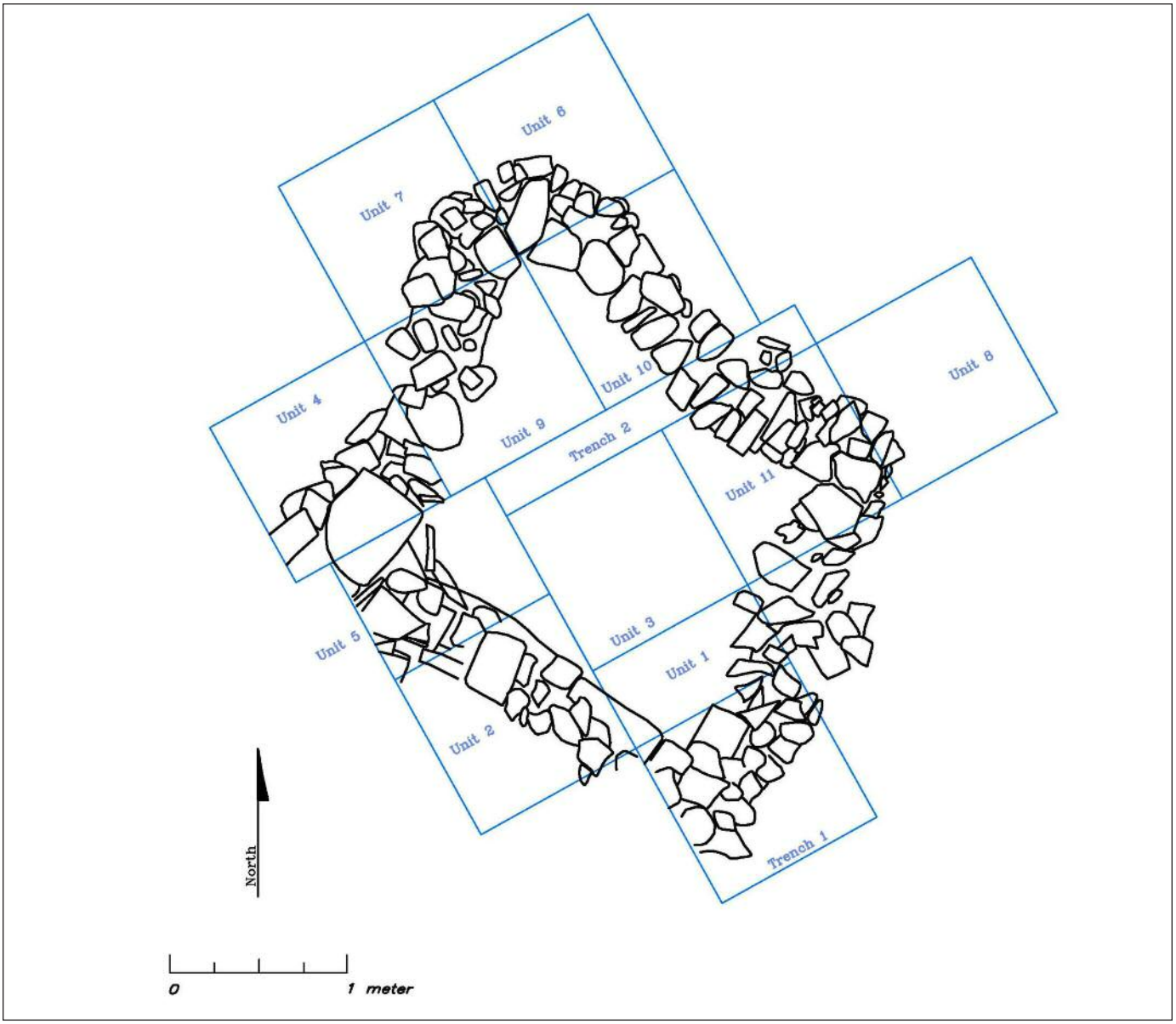

Figure 14. Plan map of the J. G. Byars Site foundation with excavation unit layout.

first developed at the Museum's Anthropological Survey lab and later adapted by the CRSP. At an initial level of analysis, each artifact was first classified by material (e.g., bone, metal, ceramic, glass, stone), then by specific subgroups based on general usage (e.g., architectural metal) or vessel composition or form type (e.g., creamware or pearlware for ceramics, or table or bottle glass for glass). Within each subgroup the artifacts were assigned to specific subcategories based on decorative attributes (e.g., blue transfer-printed pearlware), manufacturing technique (e.g., machine-cut or hand-wrought nail), or color (e.g., aqua or clear bottle glass). Further descriptive "free form" notes were added about each artifact as necessary for clarity or for suggesting its identity. Finally, each artifact was assigned to one of 10 specific functional classes as follows: kitchen, hygiene, children, tools, lighting/heating, architectural, personal, medicinal, hardware, or other, terms that are somewhat subjective but that allow quick summarization of different parts of the assemblage. The catalog was entered into a computerized relational database that utilizes a system of over 900 unique codes for these specific attributes, which saves data entry and processing time as well as optimizes disc storage. At this point specimen numbers were assigned to each artifact record entered into the database.

Artifacts were then rebagged in plastic archival storage bags and accessioned into the collections at the NYSM along with field notes, maps and other documentation of the project.

Later, a second level of analysis was conducted on the ceramic sherds from all proveniences, which involved an assessment of the minimum number of vessels (MNV) in the site assemblage. During this analysis it was noted where sherds crossmended, especially between proveniences, because this was an indication of the nature of the formation of the soil deposits. It gave an estimate of the number and type of vessels at the site, where vessels, rather than sherds, represent the units of acquisition and use by the consumer. This is most effective within well-bounded contexts, such as shaft features, rather than open middens or buried A-horizons where only a portion or sample of the deposit is collected. But by systematically crossmending, it can be noted if sherds from individual vessels are found in widely scattered proveniences, an indication that there has been considerable redeposition or movement of soils around the site.

All of the faunal material from the site was initially cataloged at a cursory level, then the animal bone from selected proveniences was further analyzed by Heather Brown and Sean Higgins of the CRSP staff. During the initial cataloging of artifacts, the shell was identified as either clam or oyster as appropriate. During the second level of analysis, the bone was identified by the most specific taxonomic level possible by either class, order, family, genus, or species. The analysis also included the element, or type of bone, its size, what portion of the animal was represented, and the age of the animal (if possible), as well as whether the bone was burned, what types of cut marks were present, and if it was chewed by a carnivore or rodent after disposal at the site.

All of the fabric material from the site was analyzed by Dr. Penelope Drooker of the NYSM, by type of fiber (e.g., silk, wool, cotton), fabric structure (e.g., twill, felt, plain weave), and color, along with descriptive notes about the possible type of garment represented.

RESULTS

SITE BOUNDARIES WITHIN REFINED PROJECT AREA

Within the refined project area, which is basically a strip 10 m (30 ft) wide and 70 m (230 ft) long at the base of the road berm, the site is composed primarily of a stone foundation about 3 m (10 ft) square and about 130 cm (4.3 ft) deep. It is situated about 2.5 m (8 ft) from the toe of the NY Route 22 berm, and the southern proposed disturbance boundary (project limit) is 3.5 m beyond (south of) the southern corner of the foundation. It is surrounded by a thin deposit of late nineteenth-century sheet refuse that extends 10 to 15 m on either side of it (east-west) in the field at the base of the berm (see Figure 3). The berm was not added until the 1930s and was not present at the time the sheet deposit was created, so the deposit most likely continues to the north and is buried under the berm at the level of the natural ground surface. The site includes the foundation and the immediate concentration of sheet refuse surrounding it and measures 10 x 30 m (30 x 100 ft).

Stratigraphy Outside the Foundation

The ground surface in the horse field at the bottom of the berm sloped very gently to the southeast toward the house at 66 Factory Hill Road, with several broad low spots near but outside the site itself. There was frequent heavy rain during the weeks of archaeological excavation in 2008. Water draining off the natural terrace above the field to the southwest would run down the slope and wash gravel and surface trash from the highway onto the horse field, where it collected in these two low spots. Erosion from the sides of the road berm itself over the years has also resulted in the accumulation of soil material at the edge of the field at the bottom of the road berm. During the Phase I survey, shovel testing in the field between the foot of the slope and the house at 66 Factory Hill Road showed that the A-horizon consisted generally of brown silty sand and the B-horizon of yellow brown sand transitioning to coarser sand and some gravel at deeper levels. Some clay content was noted in STPs excavated in the two low areas where water was seen collecting during the excavations in 2008.

It was based on this Phase I shovel testing that, because the entire field between the bridge approach and 66 Factory Hill Road contained a thin deposit of nineteenth-century sheet refuse, the site boundaries were defined by the presence of a pronounced concentration of artifacts surrounding the foundation. Beyond that boundary it is possible that artifacts in the sheet scatter are associated with the early occupation of 66 Factory Hill Road. The artifacts came from the A-horizon and in the upper part of the B-horizon to a depth of 30 or more cm (approximately 1 ft). A deeper deposit of artifacts was observed in two STPs excavated a few meters away from the foundation between it and the bottom of the road berm. It was suggested in that report (Pickands and LoRusso 2003) that this could possibly be a deeper midden deposit.

During the site examination, STPs placed at roughly 5-m (16-ft) intervals across the site area (see Figure 3) corroborated the findings of the Phase I testing in terms of the soil types found. It also showed that soils had three distinct levels: the upper level, Level 1, ranged from 14 to 38 cm (6 to 15 in) thick, and the second level, Level 2, from 7 to 30 cm (3 to 12 in) thick, resting on subsoil (Level 3). STPs excavated north and west of the foundation along the base of the berm, or directly west of the foundation in the field, tended to exhibit thicker upper level soils. These often contained mid- to late twentieth-century artifacts, such as plastic and beer bottle glass, mixed in with nineteenth-century material, the result of erosion of the road berm and roadside refuse accumulation at the bottom of the slope. The Level 1 soils were brown or dark brown sandy silt or silt loam, and Level 2 in most cases was various shades of brown sandy silt mottled with yellow brown silty sand subsoil. This represented a mixture of A-horizon and B-horizon soils, indicating disturbance. This mixing was confirmed by Peter Martin (personal communication 2008), who renovated the house there and said that he corrected the drainage by grading the entire lot with a bulldozer within the last decade in an attempt to keep the water from running off the hill behind the site toward the house. He said that during the grading process he hit several foundations, including this one, and probably impacted the top of it. Farther east in the field, toward the house at 66 Factory Hill Road, he remembered that there was a concrete foundation and he referred to a brick chicken house and various kinds of historic debris

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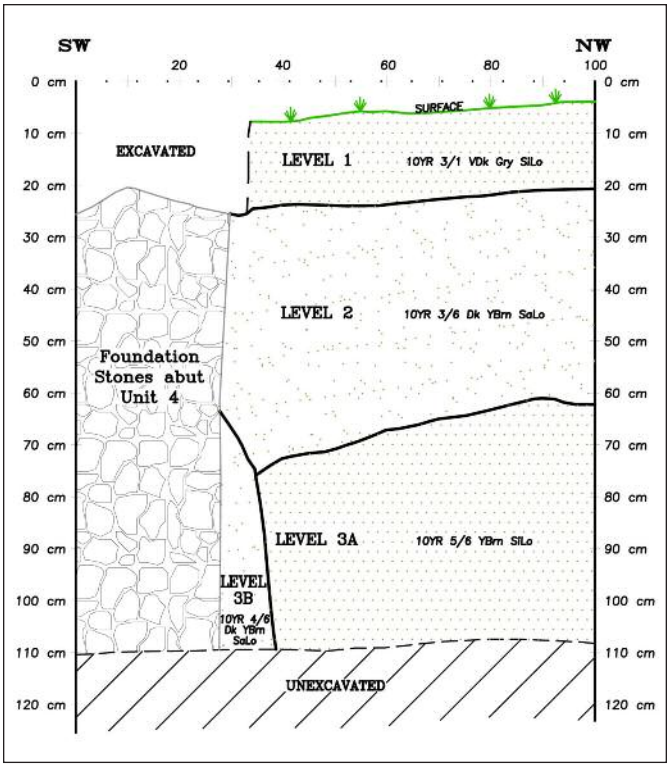


Figure 15. Unit 4 west wall profile.

that turned up in places across the field.

The larger units straddling or just outside the foundation feature itself mostly encountered three distinct soil levels. Level 1 is a recent mixing of older sheet midden and modern debris. Level 2 is primarily redeposited subsoils from excavation of the foundation hole mixed with older sheet midden deposits present on the ground at the time of its construction. Level 3 is the subsoil, which contained some artifacts, though low in frequency. These larger units include Units 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, and Trench 1, all of which were excavated to sterile subsoil or to the base of the stone foundation wall, which was 70 to 80 cm down into the coarse sandy subsoil. This is seen in the profiles of Units 4, 6, 8, 10, and Trench 1 (Figures 15–18). As will be described below in the foundation discussion, there did not appear to be a builder's trench outside the foundation that would have been backfilled at the time of the stone wall construction. Instead, it seems that the hole for the foundation was excavated and the stones of the wall were laid directly against the vertical sides of the hole.

Distribution of Sheet Scatter on Site

In total, 614 artifacts were recovered in the Phase II STPs, averaging 44 per STP. The lowest numbers of arti-

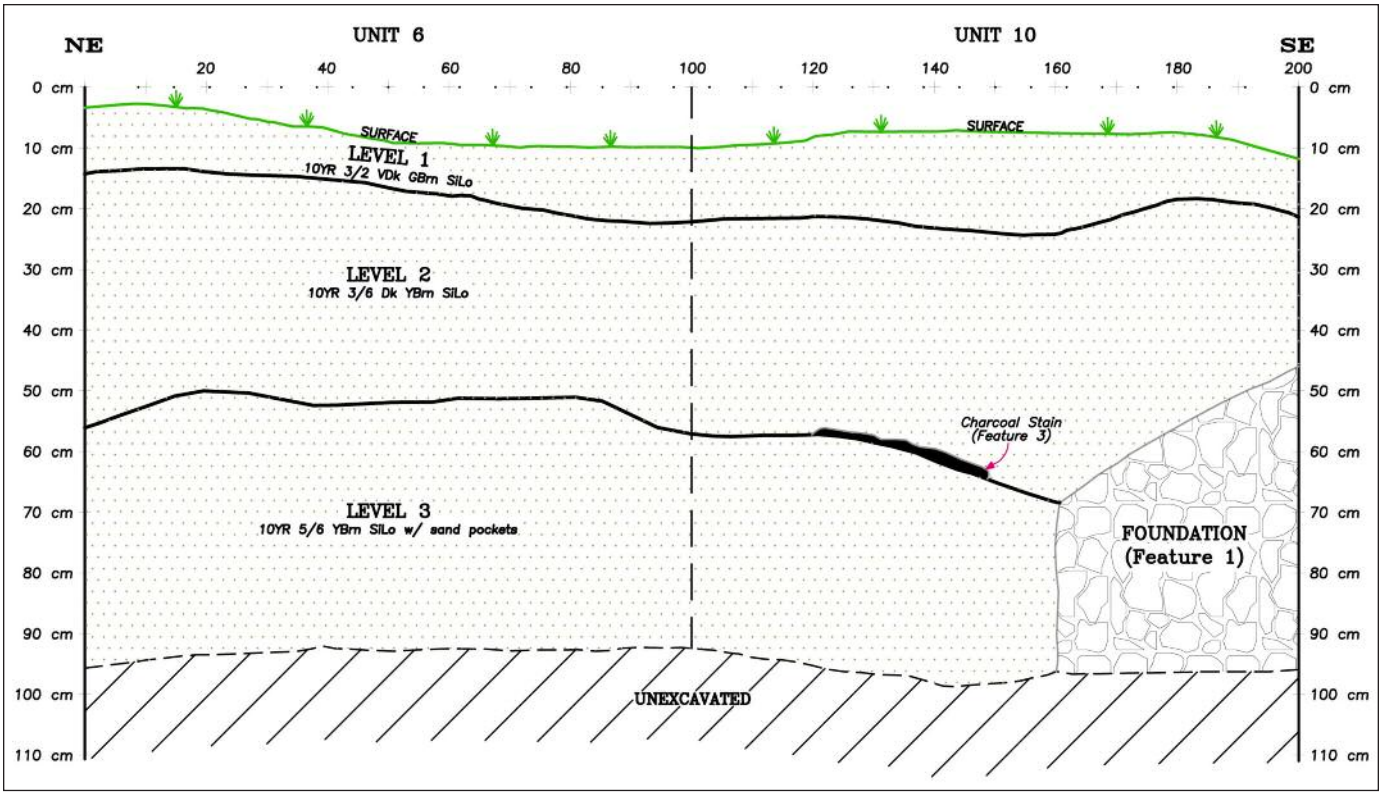


Figure 16. Units 6 and 10 combined east wall profile.

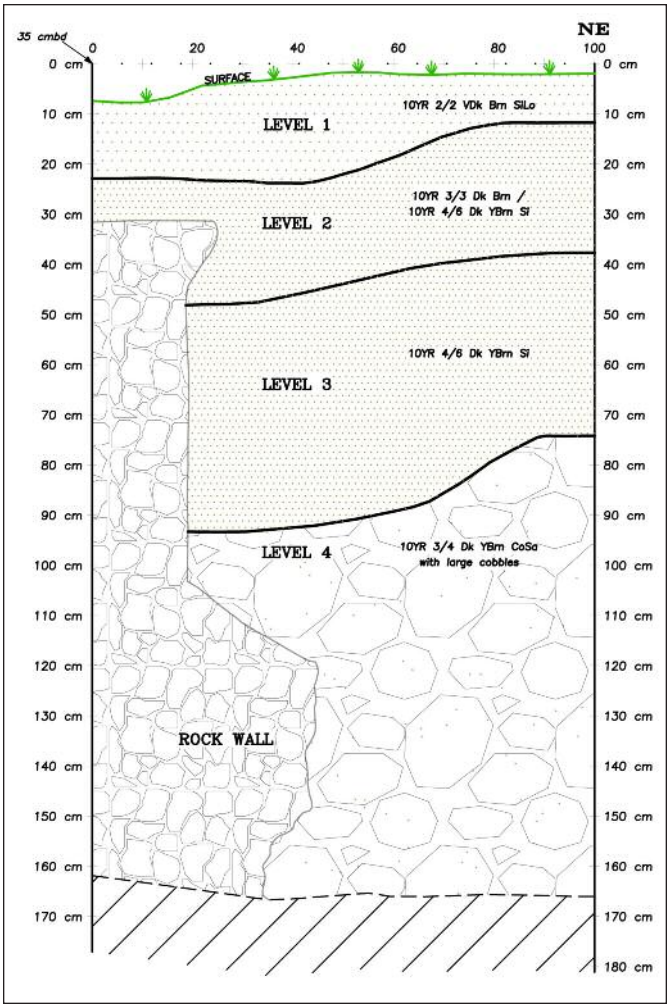


Figure 17. Unit 8 north wall profile.

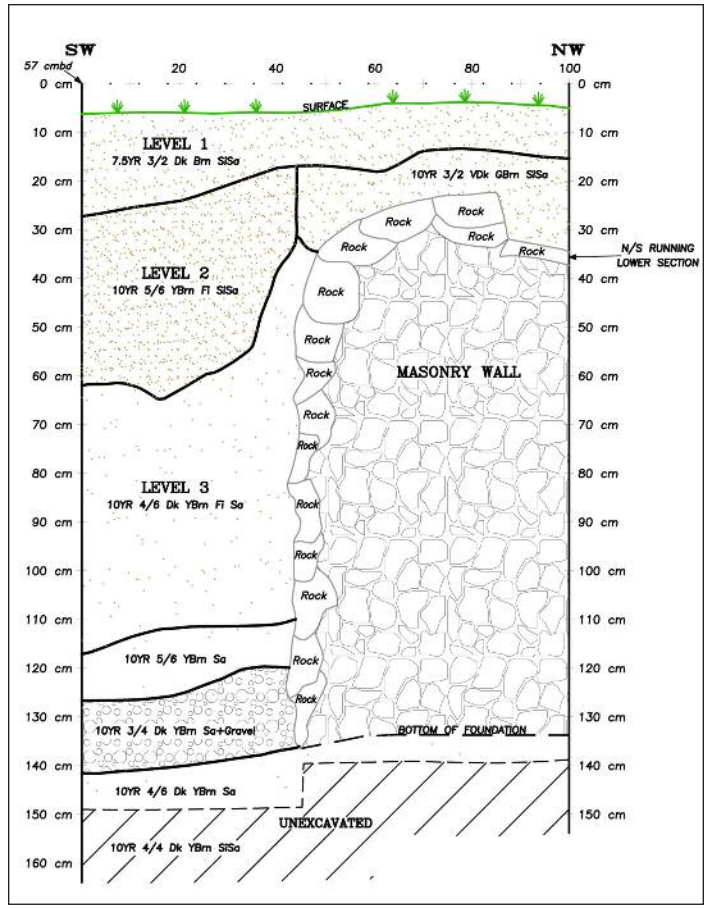


Figure 18. Trench 1 west wall profile.

facts were in STPs 1 (n=20), 2 (n=21), and 12 (n=16), all relatively distant from the foundation itself and the bottom of the road berm. Densities tended to be higher along the base of the berm and closer to the foundation, with STPs 8 (n=65) and 9 (n=62) having the highest (Figure 19). These two STPs are in the vicinity of the suggested deeper midden deposit observed in the Phase I survey, and in fact produced artifacts into Level 3 soils to depths of 70 and 79 cm (approximately 30 in) below the surface, though at that depth they were low in frequency. STP 9, the deeper of the two but farthest from the foundation, produced fragments of a smashed mid- to late twentieth-century beer bottle in both Levels 1 and 2, indicating mixing between those levels, and it produced fragments of one ironstone plate in both Levels 2 and 3, indicating further mixing between those lower levels.

Larger excavation units that encountered midden deposits outside the foundation wall variously sampled Level 1 soils; of the seven units that encountered outside soils (Units 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, and Trench 1), artifacts were collected from the upper 15 cm (6 in) of only the west half of Trench 1, not from the east half, and not from the rest of the units external to the foundation wall. In the other units screening and artifact collection began below 15 cm (6 in). This was to optimize examination of the foundation itself and to avoid collecting late twentieth-century refuse mixed into the most recently disturbed deposits at the surface of the site. Once the top of the wall was reached in Unit 2 at 24 cm (9 to 10 in) below the surface, excavation outside the wall stopped altogether in that unit. All of the remaining outside units were excavated to sterile subsoil or to the bottom of the wall and all artifacts were collected.

The combined total number of sheet scatter artifacts found in unit excavations external to the wall was 2,482. Since most of these units ended up straddling the wall, some of the upper level soils contained artifacts that crossmend with vessels deposited inside the cellar hole fill after the building's demise. These artifacts amounted to only 65 ceramic and glass vessel fragments, which

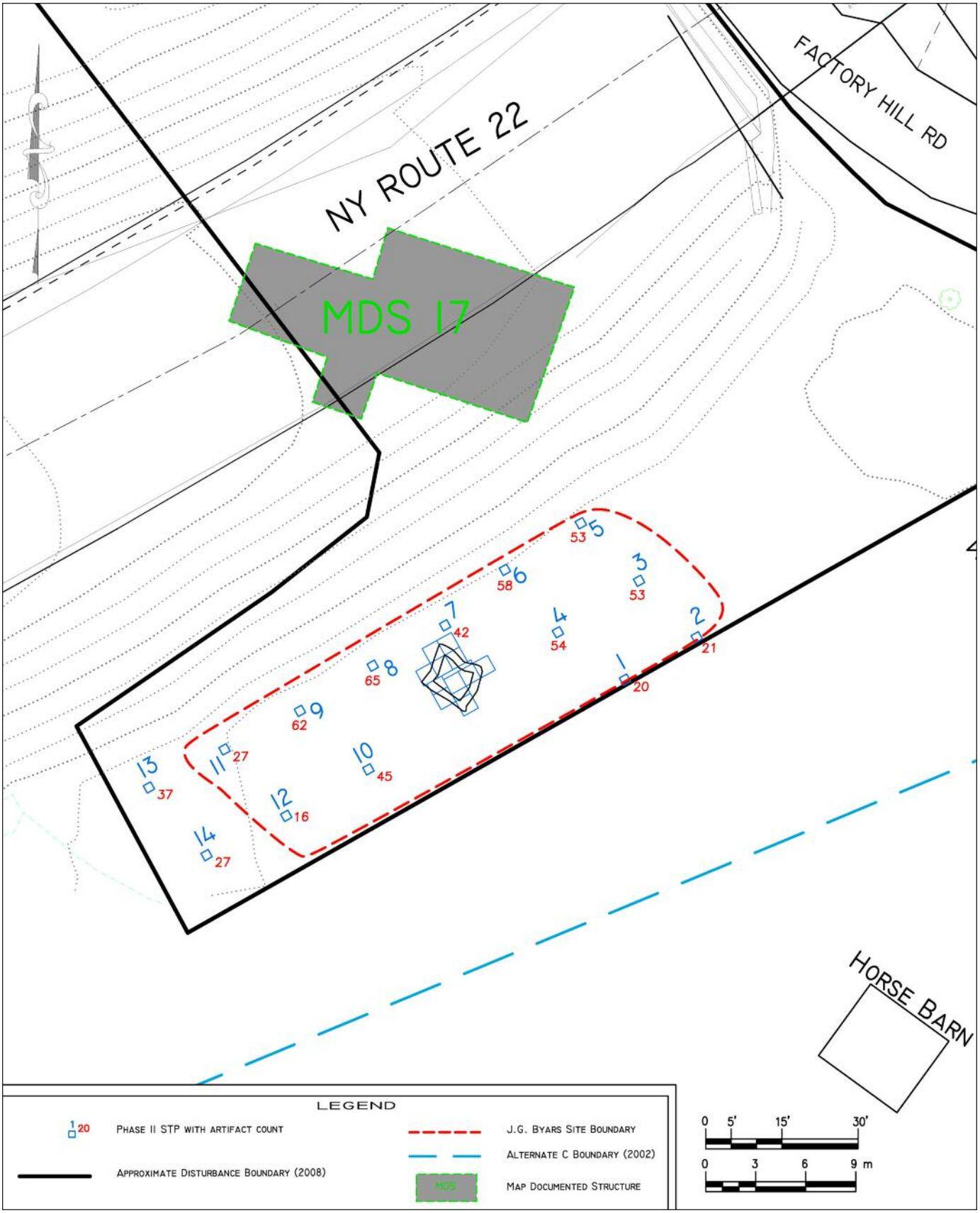


Figure 19. Map showing artifact counts per Phase II STP.

Table 1. Artifact Density Per Unit Encountering Sheet Scatter Outside the Foundation.

Excavation Unit	Total Artifacts/Unit
Unit 2	398
Unit 4	78
Unit 6	609
Unit 7	901
Unit 8	63
Unit 10 (outside)	99
Trench 1	334
Grand Total	**2,482**

is a very small percentage (2.5) of the total sheet midden artifacts. Therefore they will not be subtracted from the assemblage for analysis purposes in characterizing the sheet midden at the site.

As mentioned before, Level 1 soils were removed without screening or collecting artifacts for most of the units after it was determined that the integrity of Level 1 had been adversely effected by the recent grading of the field and contained a considerable amount of late twentieth-century material. However, the soil layers below Level 1 were intact and able to provide some chronological separation within the sheet midden deposit. The distribution of artifacts in units along the outside of the foundation (Table 1) shows a concentration around the northern corner, especially in Units 6 and 7, the general vicinity of a deeper midden deposit suggested by the Phase I testing.

Many ceramic vessel sherds crossmended between Units 4, 6, and 7, indicating a continuous deposit at least 3.5 m (11 ft) long, though drastically increasing in thickness and density in Units 6 and 7 to a depth of 80 cm (31 in) below the surface. The artifact density dropped off in flanking Units 4 and 10. The artifacts were concentrated in the Level 2 soils with a few artifacts in the upper part of Level 3. When looking at the foundation's location relative to the footprint of MDS 17 (Figure 20), this higher density and somewhat deeper midden deposit is on the side or corner closest to the back of the house, approximately 15 m (50 ft) away.

In Units 6 and 7 there were pockets of cinder and ash in Level 2 soils, suggesting a pit or depression that had been filled from the regular or occasional dumping of coal stove ashes and kitchen refuse, though a distinct boundary or shape for this depression was not observed. In all levels there was a mixture of architectural metal (nails and other hardware) and kitchen refuse. Wire nails are often used to help date historical archaeological deposits since they were not made and commonly used until after 1875; before that, hand wrought or cut nails were the only type available for architectural construction. In Units 6 and 7 wire nails occur only in the upper 20 cm (7.8 in) of Level 2 soils, implying later deposition for that part of the midden. Below that, nearly all the nails are of the earlier cut type with a few earlier hand wrought nails, indicating deposition before the last quarter of the nineteenth century. In fact, wire nails occurred only in Level 1 soils external to the foundation. They were probably pushed around with the other surface soils in the late twentieth century when the ground in that area was graded. A wood-frame garage is depicted in the middle of the field on the 1956 map (see Figure 13), which may have contributed wire nails to the upper level soils around the site.

This deeper midden outside the north corner of the foundation produced all but one of the pearlware ceramic sherds (n=10), the earliest manufactured ceramic ware type found at the site. These were in the deeper part of this extensive midden deposit in Units 6 and 7 and the outside part of Unit 10. One sherd was found in Unit 8, Level 2. No pearlware was found anywhere else on the site. Pearlware was manufactured from the 1780s to the 1840s, but its presence, especially in such small numbers, could be accounted for by breakage of one or two dishes that may have been heirlooms kept long after their manufacture date.

THE FOUNDATION — THE CENTRAL PART OF THE SITE

Foundation Structure

The external dimensions of the foundation measured 3 m (9.8 ft) square, and the walls measured approximately 50 to 65 cm (20 to 26 in) thick (see Figure 14; Photo 5). The east wall was bowed in by some likely post-demise

Photo 5. J. G. Byars Site foundation after nearly all deposits inside were excavated. View facing southeast.

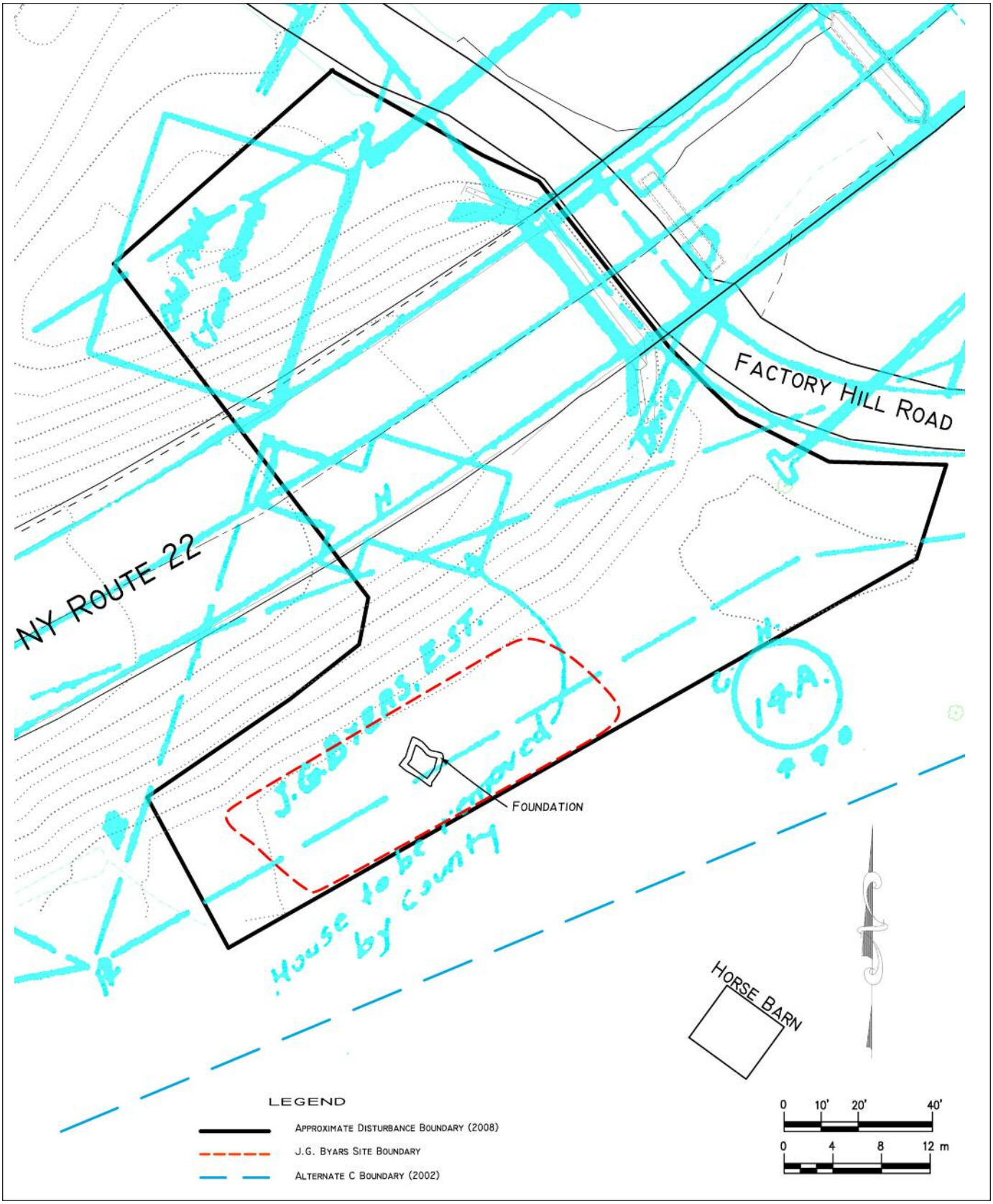


Figure 20. Plan of foundation feature at site with 1931 highway plan map superimposed over it, showing the location of MDS 17 labeled with the letter H.

disturbance, which gave it a warped appearance. This was apparently a foundation wall collapse that occurred after the superstructure was removed and the foundation hole sat open for a period of time.

The foundation was constructed of large rough-cut field stones interspersed with smaller angular field stones and a few small, rounded cobbles along the exterior surfaces, all dry laid together in random courses. Some of the rough-cut stones were large and rectangular, as large as 70 x 40 x 30 cm (27 x 15 x 12 in), and some were shorter and more square, or long and slab-like. The uncut stones were both tabular and blocky, ranging from pillow-size to fist-size. The interior face of the foundation was relatively flat though by no means smooth or finished. The external face was more irregular in appearance, having been laid against the sides of the earthen pit after it was dug out.

There was little evidence of a builder's trench, though a narrow band of A-horizon soil containing sheet refuse was observed hugging the exterior of the wall in Unit 4 at depths below the top of the B-horizon soils (see Figure 15). This band was about 10 cm (4 in) thick and appeared to extend along the wall into neighboring Unit 7 and possibly Unit 6 but was absent from Units 8, 10, and Trench 1 along the east and south sides of the foundation. This band of artifact-bearing soil may be a result of ground disturbance around the foundation in the 1930s when the Route 22 berm was built. The artifacts it contained (n=39) were typical of the other nineteenth-century midden material found around the foundation: kitchen bone, cut nails, earthenware ceramic sherds, bottle glass, and coal.

It looked as if the top course of stones had been removed for the most part before the inside of the foundation was filled, though at the northeast corner, closest to the base of the berm, it was evident that upper parts of the wall had been pushed southward into the hole. This may have been the result of Peter Martin's bulldozer grading of the field in the last decade.

Once the inside of the foundation was completely excavated, it was revealed that bits of plaster, or possibly mortar, adhered to a few of the bigger flat stone faces on the inside surface. It was not on all the flat stones, and it did not occur on the smaller field stones laid in the interior face. In total, there were eight instances of a plaster-like substance on stones. Also, there seemed to be no pattern to the locations of this plaster and it varied in color, thickness, and consistency where it was found. The following photographs show each interior wall of the foundation with plaster patches delineated and labeled (Photos 6–16).

As these pictures show, some of these plaster remnants are buff or grayish in color and up to 1.3 cm (0.5 in) thick, some thin and reddish or brick colored. One of

Photo 6. Interior east wall of foundation with plaster area highlighted.

Photo 7. Close-up of the one plaster location on inside east wall of foundation.

the largest ones has distinct lines incised into the surface that give it the appearance of rectangular tiles or blocks (see Photo 16). The "patchy" locations and inconsistent texture of the plaster, along with the combination of large cut stones with smaller field stones, suggests that the stones were scavenged from another building site where they had originally been used for a much larger structure and, perhaps at least with these large cut stones, were originally fitted together forming a flat face that was plastered smooth for a finished surface, likely on an interior wall.

The foundation itself varied in height depending on the part measured because some courses of stone at the top were missing. At its tallest, it was 1.40 m (4.5 ft) high, and at its shortest it was 1.11 m (3.6 ft). The walls were constructed on well-drained coarse sandy gravel

Photo 8. Interior south wall of foundation with plaster areas highlighted.

Photo 9. Close-up of two of the three plaster locations on the south wall.

Photo 10. Close-up of third plaster location on the south wall.

Photo 11. Interior west wall of foundation with plaster highlighted.

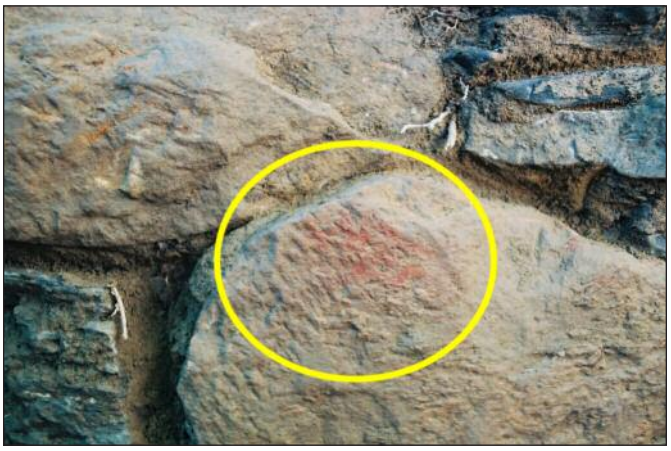


Photo 12. Close-up of plaster location on west wall of foundation. Note the reddish color, possibly paint.

subsoil 1.6 m (5.2 ft) below the existing ground surface. The subsoil was very well drained, as the excavators could see several times after heavy downpours during the weeks of excavation.

There were no internal partitions or evidence of openings in the walls as for a bulkhead or stairway, or for passage of pipes or drains.

Building Function

The structure's function is not clear, nor is its date of construction. The building could have served any number of suggested functions: a small stable or horse barn, an ice house, a root cellar, a dairy, a workshop of some kind, or simply a storage building. The fact that its orientation is aligned with the footprint of MDS 17 points to an association with that dwelling. Its location 15 m

Photo 13. Interior north wall of foundation with plaster highlighted.

Photo 14. Close-up of upper left plaster location on north wall of foundation. Note reddish color.

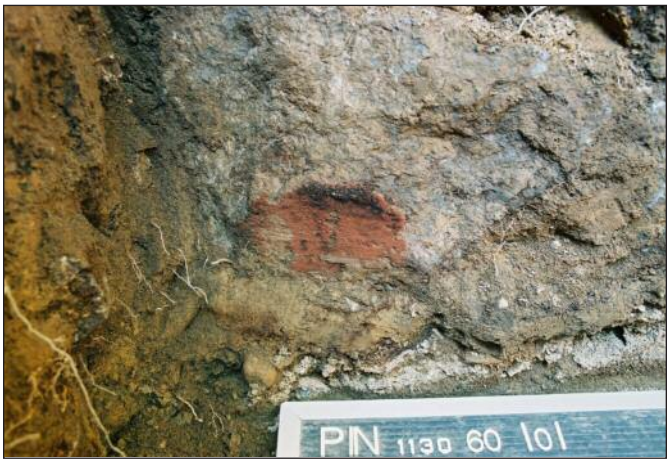


Photo 15. Close-up of lower left plaster location on north wall of foundation. Note reddish color.

(50 ft) behind the house is a good location for a privy or outhouse, but based on its approximately 3-m squared (10-ft squared) size, it seems too large to have been an outhouse, even if it served a two-family home. Also, its thick, heavy, stone-walled foundation construction is not typical of a privy. Usually a privy would have either a simple hole in the ground with a small wood-frame building resting over it, one that could be moved to a newly dug hole as needed, or, at the other extreme, it would often be a much deeper, brick-lined shaft or privy vault that would be cleaned out periodically. The thickness of this foundation suggests that it supported a substantial permanent building. Also arguing against its being a privy is the fact that none of the soil excavated out of it was especially dark or organic, as that from an old privy. Even if it had been cleaned out, some remnant of organic soil would have been found at the bottom or in the corners, but the soils were relatively "clean" silty sand and coarse sandy gravel at the floor.

Stratigraphy Inside the Foundation

At first, there appeared to be several distinct layers of soil representing different depositional episodes within the foundation, based on the appearance of various overlapping or interleaved layers across the foundation hole space (Figures 21–23). However, careful cross-mending of ceramic and glass vessels recovered from inside the foundation indicated that nearly all of the "separate" fill layers were interlinked and probably deposited within a relatively short time frame. It looked as if food refuse mixed with bottles and dishware and other household, yard, and architectural debris had been thrown into the foundation hole by the trash can full, or perhaps wheel barrow load. Many vessels, prob-

Photo 16. Close-up of lower right plaster location on north wall of foundation. Note the rectangular pattern of incised lines on the surface.

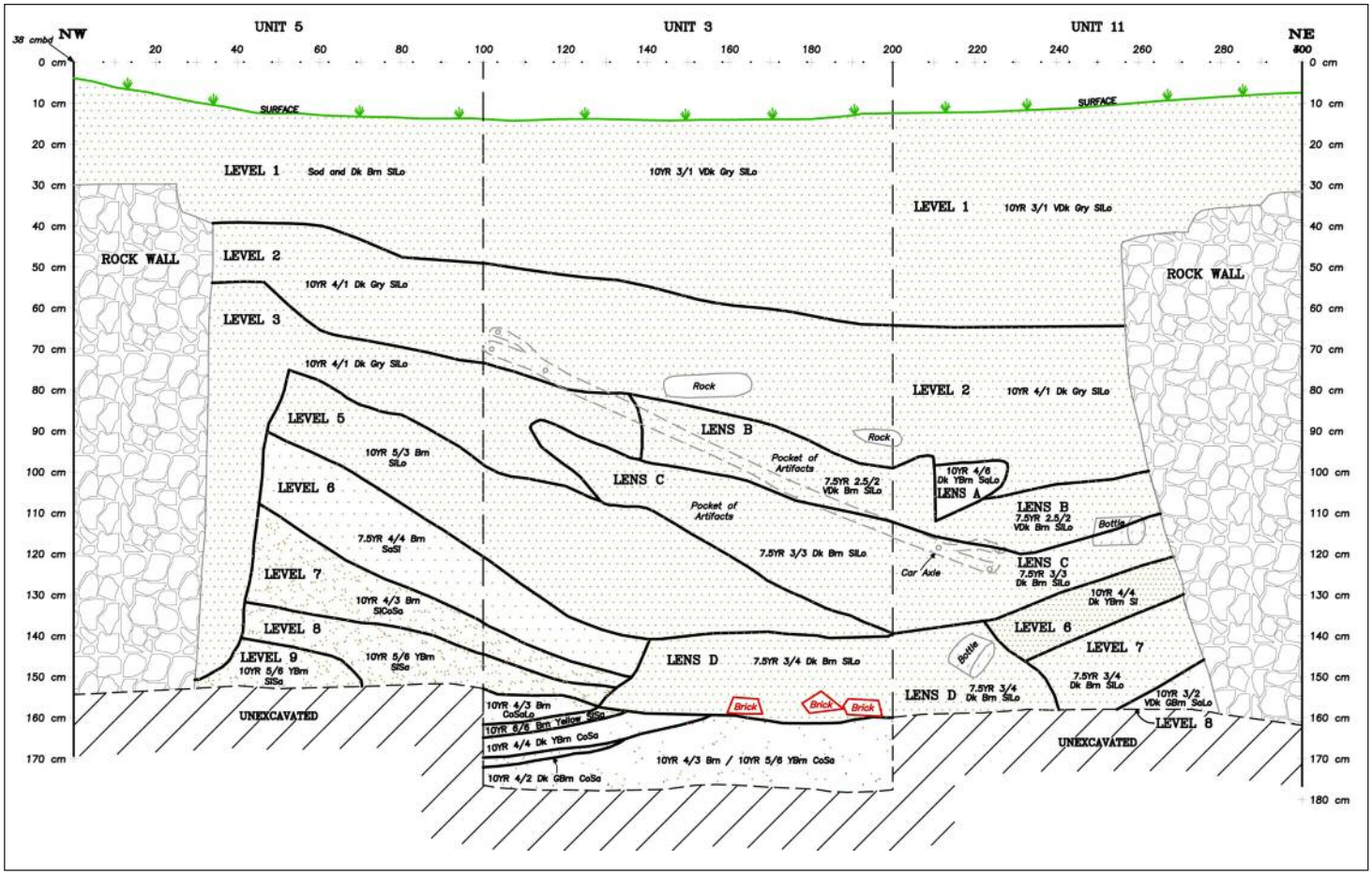


Figure 21. Profile through the center of the foundation from east to west, Units 5, 3, and 11 north walls.

ably whole or mostly whole when thrown into the barrel or pit, broke upon impact, allowing some fragments to spread out across the top of whatever deposits were thrown in before. Soils must also have been dumped into the hole as refuse was thrown away, perhaps to cover odors of decomposing food waste.

The soil matrices inside the foundation consisted of varying thicknesses of dark or vary dark brown or gray silt loam. All layers produced artifacts, but there tended to be a very dense concentration of artifacts in the lower layers of the central, southern, and eastern parts of the foundation in Lenses B, C, and D. In some places there was so much metal the soil appeared rusty. In contrast, the deeper soil layers filling the western corner of the foundation (in Unit 5 and the western part of Unit 3 and Trench 2) had higher concentrations of sand and fewer artifacts.

The layers appeared to slope down into the center of the pit from west to east, as seen in Figure 21, the longest section through the feature. However, in Figure 22, which is perpendicular to the long, east-west profile near the west wall, deposits were apparently mounded on top of each other (Levels 5 and 6), resting on several thinner layers of silty sand (Levels 7–9) on the floor of the foundation hole.

The deposit layers, from the top of Level 2 to the bottom of the foundation, date to around the last decade of the nineteenth century to the first decade of the twentieth century, based on the maker's marks on most of the ceramics and the types of bottles included. Over 12,000 artifacts were recovered from these deposits, representing a rich occupation with a wide variety of materials. The artifact density and variety was continuous throughout most of these levels, with notable concentrations of specific types of artifacts in several areas. In the lower levels of Unit 1 and Unit 3 at the southern corner, there was a dense concentration of identical whole or mostly whole white clay smoking pipes, over 250 in number, along with pieces of clothing that included a man's celluloid shirt collar and some collar studs, pieces of wool clothing, and leather shoes. These were mixed in dark brown silty loam soil

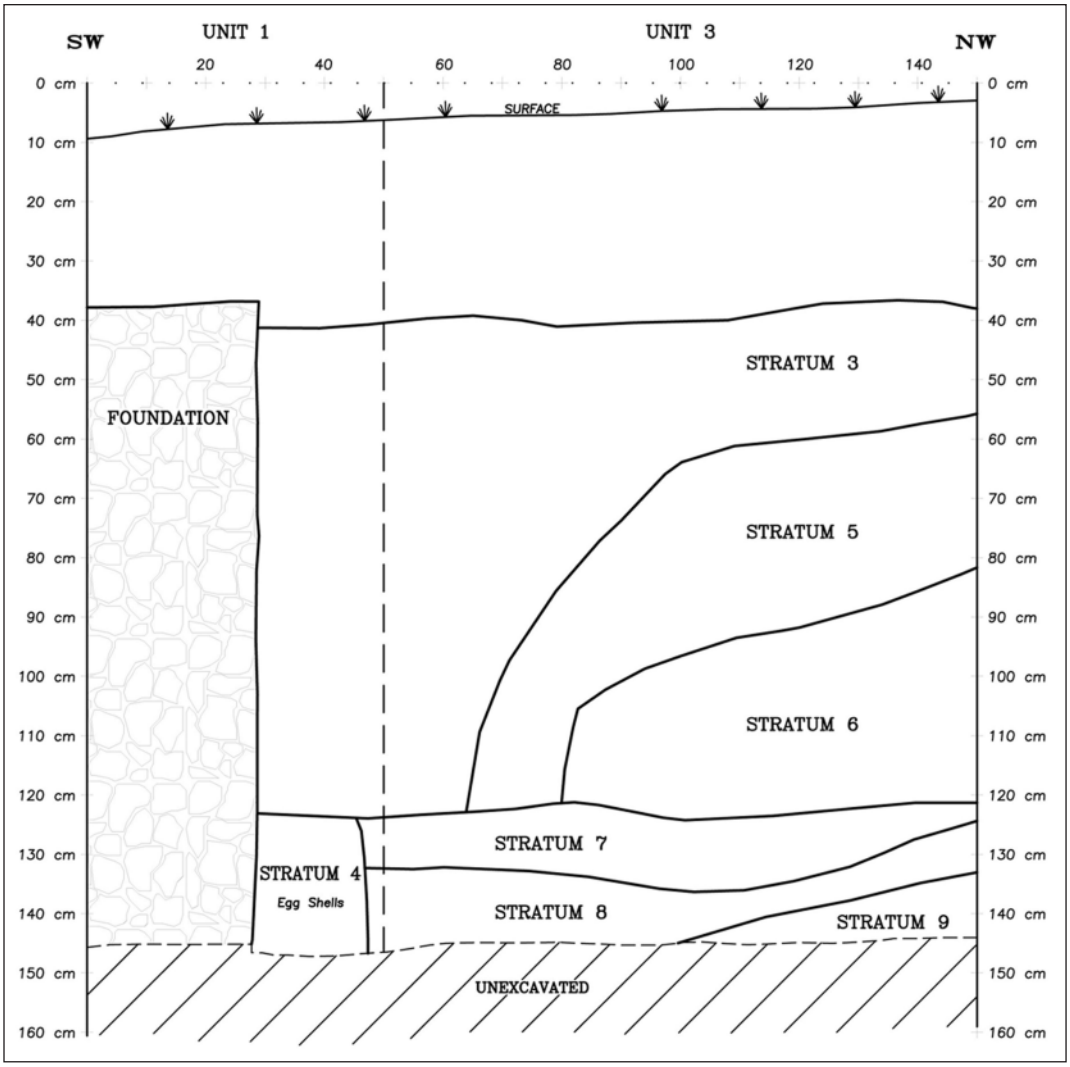


Figure 22. Profile of west walls of Units 1 and 3 inside the foundation.

along with many eggshells nested together, many medicine bottles and small medicine glass vials, liquor, beer, champagne, and soda bottles, a glass syringe, and lots of other domestic and architectural refuse.

The Level 2 deposit evidently sat exposed for a while, since there were some strips of tree bark spread across the top of it along with some ca. 1980 Styrofoam Pepsi bottle labels resting at the interface between Level 2 and Level 1. This meant that the partially filled foundation hole remained exposed after the 1930s bridge berm construction, but it was not used much as a refuse dump after the early part of the century. The Level 1 soils were probably deposited when the field was graded by Peter Martin ca. 1990. The absence of mid- and late twentieth-century refuse in the foundation hole probably indicates that by that time there was a municipal land fill or garbage collection in North Hoosick.

ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

Character of the Sheet Scatter on the Site

The combined sheet midden deposit from the STPs and the units excavated outside the foundation totaled 3,099 artifacts. These were all historic in nature except for one possible chert flake and one possible fire-cracked rock. Since there is no other prehistoric component associated with the site and no prehistoric site known in the immediate vicinity, these two artifacts will not be discussed further as part of this site. The bulk of the sheet midden deposit is attributable to the nineteenth-century occupants of MDS 17 with some early to mid-twentieth-century materials mixed in.

Though its construction date is unknown, MDS 17 likely predates 1854, the date of its first appearance on

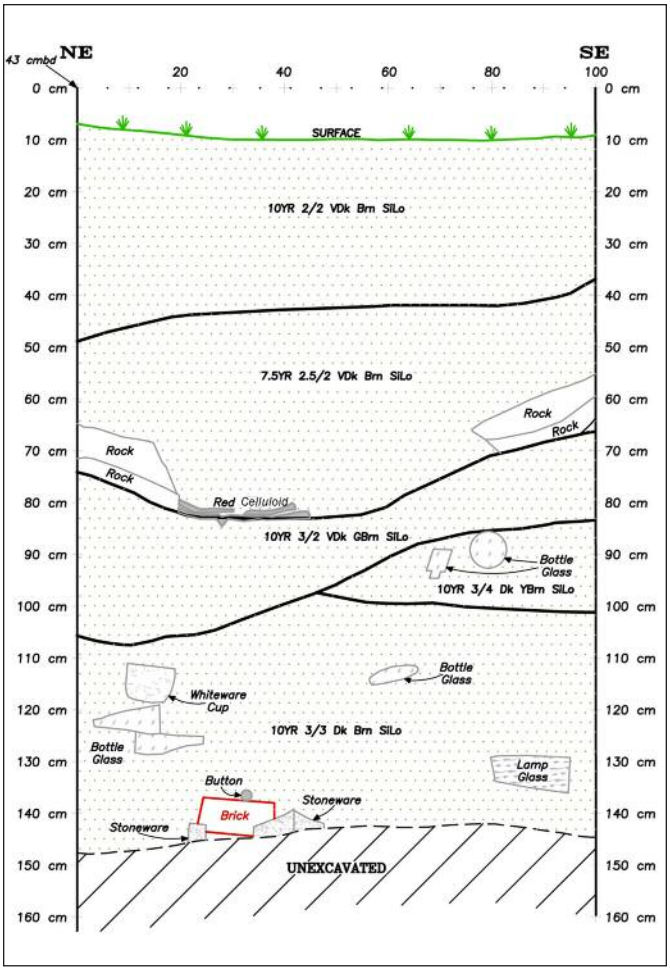


Figure 23. Profile of the east wall of Unit 3 inside the foundation.

historical maps. It is possible that the house dated to the early nineteenth century since the first mill was built there at that time. Because of the presumed continuous occupation of the house and its ownership by various mill owners through the nineteenth century, it is impossible to associate the assemblage with particular occupants during that time. The occupants were likely tenants and employees of the woolen mill owner, and perhaps there was a rapid succession of residents throughout that time. Because of this, only broad artifact patterns will be presented and summarily described for the sheet midden outside the foundation. The sheet midden assemblage was divided into 10 distinct artifact classes according to function. Table 2 presents the number and percentage of each of these classes.

The highest proportion of cultural material, at 43.92 percent, is kitchen-related (n=1,361). This material includes ceramics and glassware associated with food, animal bone and shell, metal bottle and jar lids, and an eating utensil. Much of this material is very fragmented,

Table 2. Number and Proportion of Sheet Midden Artifact Classes from Units and STPs.

Artifact Class	Combined Total	Percentage
Medicinal	6	0.19
Personal	78	2.52
Kitchen	1,361	43.92
Hygiene	7	0.23
Children	2	0.06
Tools	5	0.16
Lighting/Heating	309	9.97
Architectural	748	24.14
Other	573	18.49
Hardware	10	0.32
Grand Total	**3,099**	

as indicated by a low degree of vessel completeness and small fragment size, and therefore the seemingly high proportion of kitchen-related material in the sheet midden may be artificially inflated. Crossmending was done for the larger excavation units since they were adjacent to and directly associated with the foundation fill, but it did not include the distantly spaced STPs. Because of the small fragment size and the open contexts of the STPs, a minimum number of vessel (MNV), or minimum number of individuals (MNI) in the case of bone and shell, was not determined for the sheet midden outside the foundation. MNV and MNI values are preferred over fragment numbers for analysis because they represent the original unit of acquisition; however, for the reasons stated, crossmending would have been difficult and time-consuming for the sheet midden. For the contexts adjacent to the top of the wall (Unit 2, Level 1 and Trench 1, Level 1), crossmending was useful. Among the large number of fragments recovered in these proveniences are 65 ceramic and glass fragments that crossmend with fragments from levels within the foundation fill itself. This suggests that, after the demise of the superstructure, objects (dishes, crockery, bottles) discarded into the open pit were being broken and their pieces allowed to scatter on the ground around the edges.

Architectural artifacts (n=748) amount to nearly a quarter of the assemblage. This material includes nails, window glass, brick, mortar, a doorknob, pieces of slate roofing, and concrete fragments. Again, the high number of small window glass fragments, amounting to 127 pieces, isn't necessarily an accurate representation of the number of individual windows present because these could easily be from only a single broken window pane, thereby somewhat inflating the proportion of architectural artifacts.

The heating and lighting class of artifacts, amounting to almost 10 percent of the assemblage (n=309), includes coal, cinders, and lamp chimney or lamp shade glass. Smaller numbers of artifacts fall in the personal class (n=78), the hardware class (n=10), the hygiene class (n=7), medicinal (n=6), tools (n=5), and children-related (n=2).

Artifacts not included in the above nine classes fall into the Other category (n=573). This category includes anything that is too small, rusted, crumpled, burned, or decomposed to tell what its function was. A discussion of each of these classes follows.

Kitchen-Related Artifacts

Ceramics

Of the 1,009 ceramic sherds recovered in the sheet midden outside the foundation, six general ware types are present, representing both tablewares and utilitarian wares (Table 3). Seven hundred forty-eight of the tableware sherds are of various kinds of white earthenwares, mainly whitewares and ironstones from the 1820s to the 1870s. Ten pearlware sherds are also present, which could have been deposited a few decades earlier based on manufacture date ranges for pearlware (approximately 1780 to 1830). On the more recent end of the manufacturing continuum, there are also 15 sherds of decalcomania-decorated white earthenware, which began manufacture around 1890. The bulk of the white earthenwares, however, nearly 97 percent, are typical mid-nineteenth-century wares with many decorative types present, including transfer prints in blue, black, brown, green, red, and flow blue, all very common for the time period. There are also edge-decorated wares in green and blue, sponge-decorated, annular, molded, and underglaze polychrome hand-painted types. Since the sherds are very fragmented, it was difficult to identify vessel types beyond flatware or hollowware for most, but plates, bowls, cups and saucers are represented.

Table 3. Ceramic Ware Types in the Sheet Midden Outside the Foundation.

Ware Type	Count	Percentage
Whiteware/ Ironstone	723	71.6
Pearlware	10	0.9
Decalcomania	15	1.4
Porcelain	8	0.8
Stoneware	30	3.0
Redware	189	19.0
Yellowware	33	3.2
Fine red stoneware	1	0.1
Total	**1,009**	

The eight sherds of porcelain consist of gilt-decorated, hand painted, and decalcomania types, mostly saucers or plates. One sherd of a brown-glazed fine red stoneware teapot was found in the sheet midden, which would represent a tableware item. The sherds reflecting utilitarian wares consist of redware (n=189), yellowware (n=33), and stoneware (n=30). Most of the redware sherds came from a probable clear-glazed milk pan or pie plate that got broken into many small fragments. These were found in the deeper midden area just outside the foundation in Units 6 and 7. A redware lid, probably to a pot or jar, was also found. Of the 14 plain yellowware fragments that could be identified as to vessel type, there appear to be fragments of a pie plate. Nineteen yellowware fragments have a Rockingham or Bennington-style decoration, and most represent either fragments of a bowl, a two-handled crock or pot with a lid, and a possible tankard or vase.

Of the 30 stoneware sherds in the sheet midden, most are either gray salt-glazed or buff salt-glazed, several with incised lines or blue lettering as decoration, some vessels with brown or Albany slip interior, probably representing jugs or crocks used for storage. There is one stoneware ginger beer bottle sherd with Bristol-style glaze.

Bottle and Table Glass

These amount to 119 sherds of different colors, including aqua, clear, brown, amethyst, and green. Some of this glass is likely roadside refuse in the form of late twentieth-century beer bottles discarded from passing vehicle windows; 51 brown glass sherds from Anheiser-Busch, Schlitz, and Genesee beer products were recovered. Twelve aqua and 39 clear bottle glass sherds were found representing several canning jars and lids as well as some probable condiment jars, including a jelly jar. There are also fragments of a J. G. Byars mineral or soda bottle, and a possible milk bottle. Sherds of several probable drinking glasses and a possible goblet or mug were also included in the glass from the sheet midden.

Faunal Material

The faunal material in the sheet midden includes 190 bone fragments and 34 shell fragments. Table 4 lists the breakdown of these according to the most specific taxonomic level identifiable. Of the bones, 35 percent, or 68 fragments, could not be identified at all because of small size or poor preservation. Forty-six fragments could be identified only to the level of class: 45 mammal and one bird, which basically prevents those portions of the faunal material from revealing detailed consumption choices by the occupants of the site. However, consumption patterns can be gleaned from the remainder

Table 4. Faunal Material from the Sheet Midden Outside the Foundation.

Taxon	Count	Percentage
Mammal	45	20.1
Pig	3	1.3
Bird	1	0.5
Cow	67	30.0
White-tailed deer	3	1.3
Domestic sheep	1	0.5
Chicken	1	0.5
Unidentified	68	30.3
Fish	1	0.5
Clamshell	29	13.0
Oyster shell	5	2.0
Total	**224**	

of the bones, which indicate that cow was possibly the most consumed animal at the site, with 67 fragments represented. Pig, sheep, white-tailed deer, chicken, and fish bones, though present, amount to three or fewer bone fragments apiece, suggesting that these were not as much preferred by the occupants responsible for this midden. The presence of deer bone and fish bone indicates that hunting and fishing supplemented the diet.

The shell assemblage is composed mostly of clam, which is relatively high in frequency in the deposit (n=29), but oyster is also represented (n=5). The shell fragments were not analyzed for the minimum number of individuals so their number in the frequency distribution is likely very inflated. Much of the faunal material in the sheet midden assemblage was recovered from the deeper midden deposit at the northeast corner of the foundation in Units 4 (n=19), 6 (n=66), and 7 (n=54), extending northwest as far as STP 8 (n=12). However, the first 34 cm (13 in) of Unit 2 yielded 33 fragments of both bone and clamshell. Though artifacts in the upper level of Unit 8 were not collected, in comparison to the lower levels of all other units, Unit 8 had the lowest frequency of faunal material with only four bone fragments.

Metal

There are six metal artifacts among the kitchen-related material from the sheet midden, most relating to bottle or jar lids. One is a crown bottle cap, which could date to anytime after about 1892. There are three fragments of a zinc or tin canning jar lid, and one other lid. There is also a small copper or brass spoon that was perhaps a baby spoon or an olive spoon.

Other Kitchen-Related

The only other kitchen-related artifacts found in the sheet midden are three pieces of Styrofoam from one or more cups. These are probably late twentieth-century roadside refuse.

Architectural Artifacts

The 748 architectural artifacts in the sheet midden assemblage consist mostly of nails of different types (n=533) and window glass fragments (n=144) but also include fragments of brick, mortar, and concrete (Table 5). Three-quarters of the nails are machine-cut in manufacture, suggesting pre-1875 construction of the building. Only 73 round wire nails are present, and they only occurred in the upper part of the Level 2 soils and in Level 1. These may indicate that the structure was renovated after 1875.

Of the 62 brick fragments found, 45 came from the STPs located on either side of the foundation in the field and along the slope base, or from the surface layer of Unit 2. This "scattering" probably resulted from the recent field grading done by Peter Martin. He reported that there was a lot of brick from a former brick chicken house elsewhere in the field and another concrete foundation nearby. These former buildings could be the origin of the bricks. They could also be the origin of the window glass and a redware doorknob also found in STPs. A heavy iron door roller, as from a barn door, was found in the deeper midden in Unit 7 and may have come from one of these structures.

Table 5. Architectural Material from the Sheet Midden Outside the Foundation Grouped by Function.

Function	Subgroup	Count
Building Materials	Brick=62/Mortar=2	64
	Concrete	2
	Window glass	144
Fasteners	Wrought nails (1 spike)	5
	Cut nails	407
	Round wire nails (1 spike)	73
	Unidentified nails	48
	Wood screw	2
Miscellaneous	Redware doorknob	1
	White marble fragment	1
	Door roller (like a barn door)	1
Total		**748**

Heating and Lighting

Coal and cinder fragments make up the bulk of the heating type artifacts with 216 fragments, indicating that coal was used as fuel for heating and probably cooking. The use of kerosene or oil lamps for lighting is indicated by the presence of nearly 100 lamp chimney and lamp shade fragments.

Tools and Hardware

Ten probable pieces of hardware or fasteners were recovered, mostly bolts along with some screws, a washer, a cotter pin, and some wire. These may have had an architectural function but it is impossible to know. The tools include a broken cultivator blade, a metal hand tool handle, a slate pencil, and an ink bottle fragment, which was crossmended to another fragment found deeper inside the foundation fill. The broken cultivator blade may be recent.

Medicinal and Hygienic

Medicine-related artifacts include bottle glass fragments from drugstore bottles, one with lettering indicating it was from a drugstore in Hoosick Falls. There are seven fragments of a metal tin to a shaving stick that dates to 1919.

Children's and Personal

A small metal child's hammer head and a fragment of a ceramic doll's head were found, indicating the presence of children among the site occupants. Among the personal items are 25 buttons, mostly made of white glass, but there is one made of bone and also several different kinds of metal buttons. Some leather fragments (n=13) representing at least two shoes or boots were found, one very small, probably a child's shoe, and there is also a metal heel guard, probably from one of the shoes. Two hair combs made of Bakelite were found. This material was an early form of plastic invented ca. 1906 and used extensively throughout the twentieth century. There is also a plastic cigar mouthpiece present in the sheet midden, which could have been very recently deposited.

Mid-nineteenth-century items recovered include 13 fragments of an ironstone chamber pot found in the deeper midden in Units 6 and 7. Also in this midden was a brass presidential campaign button or pendant from 1864. The pendant originally held a small round ferrotype of the presidential candidate on one side and another of the vice-presidential candidate on the other. Surrounding each picture the brass disc is embossed with the words "For President" or "For Vice President" along with a spray of corn around the edges and the year at the bottom (Photos 17 and 18). This type of campaign item was made for both the National Union Party candidates (Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson) and the Democratic Party candidates (George McClellan and George Pendleton). The ferrotype images have completely deteriorated on the one recovered from the sheet midden, so the party affiliation of the owner is not known. It probably belonged to an occupant of MDS 17, perhaps a mill worker, during the heyday of the woolen mill operation.

Nineteen white clay smoking pipe fragments, considered here as personal items, were found in the deeper midden adjacent to the foundation and in several of the

Photo 17. Brass presidential campaign button or pendant from 1864 found in the sheet midden. The ferrotype images have deteriorated.

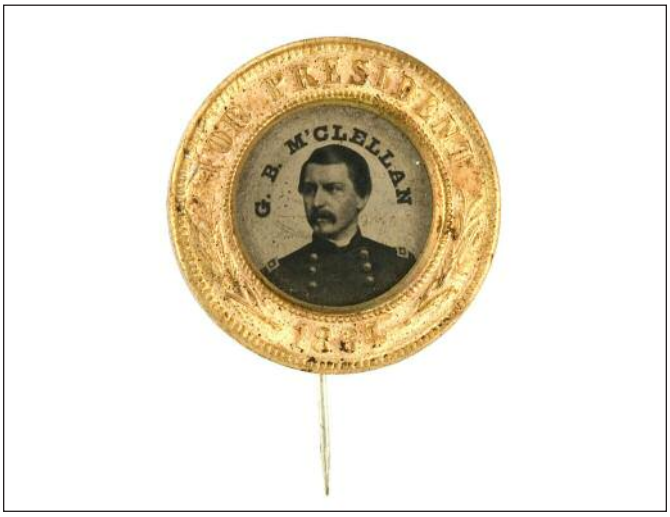


Photo 18. Example of a similar button, in this case the 1864 Democratic Party candidates (George McClellan and George Pendleton) with the ferrotype images intact (photo courtesy of Harry Ridgeway).

STPs close by. Several of these are marked with the letters "TD" on the bowl, which is a maker's mark used by many pipe makers during the nineteenth century.

Other

The Other category of artifacts is one of the larger among the sheet midden in general, at 18.5 percent. This amounted to over 500 artifacts, including fragments of bottles for which the contents are unknown (possibly medicinal, hygienic, beverage, chemical, or food), metal cans and tops, unidentified pieces of sheet metal, possible automobile or machine parts, milk-colored curved glass sherds that could be from jars, dishes, or lamp shades, glass fragments possibly from decorative bowls, vases, ash trays, sugar bowls or creamers, decanters, or other tableware not necessarily kitchen-related. It also includes things like railroad spikes, flower pot fragments, slate fragments that may or may not be roofing, slag, unidentifiable fragments of different kinds of plastic (cellophane, celluloid), and various unmodified stones.

Character of Foundation Fill Deposits

Nearly 13,000 artifacts were recovered from the fill deposits inside the foundation hole. It should be noted that artifacts were not collected from Level 1 soils for most of the units excavated inside or straddling the walls of the foundation. This is because it was determined early on that these soils had been recently disturbed by bulldozer grading of the field, thereby mixing together sheet refuse and recent roadside refuse while essentially capping the foundation hole in the process.

Like the previously discussed sheet midden assemblage, the foundation fill assemblage was divided into 10 distinct artifact classes according to general function, or usage group in the case of children (Table 6).

After careful crossmending of ceramic and glass fragments during laboratory analysis, an MNV value was calculated, amounting to 645 unique vessels. Table 7 shows a listing of the number of vessels by functional class. Discussion of these vessels follows for each functional class.

Also, since so many artifacts are complete or nearly complete, it was possible to identify more of them as to vessel type or use than with the more fragmented sheet midden assemblage. For instance, quite a few objects were identified as medicinal based on the recovery of many whole bottles with identifiable attributes (embossing), or specific uses like small medicine vials or syringes. Many objects could also be attributed to gender and even age, allowing a representation of household composition.

Table 6. Number and Proportion of Functional Classes from the Foundation Fill Artifacts.

Artifact Class	Combined Total	Percentage
Medicinal	305	2.3
Personal	1,224	9.4
Kitchen	2,913	22.4
Hygiene	149	1.1
Children	45	0.3
Tools	28	0.2
Lighting/Heating	2,663	20.5
Architectural	2,634	20.5
Other	2,911	22.4
Hardware	121	0.9
Grand Total	**12,994**	

Table 7. Unique Vessels by Functional Class.

Artifact Class	Combined Total
Kitchen	290
Medicinal	135
Other	132
Hygiene	19
Children	6
Tools	4
Lighting/Heating	52
Personal	7
Grand Total	**645**

Kitchen-Related Artifacts

Ceramics

The foundation fill contained 1,074 ceramic artifacts related to food or beverage consumption. This number is a combination of whole vessels and sherds. The MNV represented by these artifacts is 152 (Table 8). Based on visible maker's marks or other attributes, very few ceramics predate the middle of the nineteenth century. There is one possible creamware vessel rim sherd, vessel type unknown, that would have been manufactured in the late eighteenth century. There are two blue edge-decorated plates made during the early to mid-nineteenth century, which may represent heirlooms kept in the household long after their purchase. The most unusual ceramic is a small rim sherd of a slip-decorated buff earthenware bowl that considerably predates the nineteenth century altogether. It is of a type manufactured and imported to the colonies during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There was settlement

Table 8. Summary of Ceramic MNVs by Ware Type in the Kitchen Related Assemblage in the Foundation Fill.

Ware Type	Count	Percentage
White earthenware	116	76
Porcelain	12	8
Stoneware	16	10.5
Redware	3	1.9
Yellowware	4	3
Buff-bodied earthenware	1	0.6
Total	**152**	

in the area in the eighteenth century about a half mile downstream from this location near the confluence of the Walloomsac with the Hoosick River. It is possible that this sherd relates to that activity and was part of the sheet midden at the site and somehow made its way into the foundation fill. The majority of the ceramics in the fill date to the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

These vessels are further divided by primary use as either tableware or utilitarian vessels. Tablewares are used for serving meals on the dining table (in this discussion tea serving forms are included with tablewares), and utilitarian vessels are used primarily for food preparation and storage. The specific forms and numbers of each form by ceramic ware type are presented in Tables 9 and 10. There are considerably more tableware vessels (n=128) than utilitarian (n=24) in the assemblage, and of the tablewares, white earthenware vessels amount to almost 90 percent. Several decorative types are represented, including plain white and molded types along with transfer prints in blue, blue-black, brown, red, and aqua green. There are also some annular, edge-decorated, and decalcomania types. The plain white earthenware vessels predominate, with 44 vessels manufactured by at least 12 different potteries as identified by their maker's marks. The plain white vessels with the earliest date range of manufacture were made in England between 1852 and 1883, and the latest manufacture date range is from 1902 to 1959.

Plates, bowls, saucers, cups, platters, and a pitcher are represented by both plain and decorated white earthenwares. Of note are several pieces of two dinnerware sets, one transfer-printed and the other decalcomania. The decalcomania set, manufactured by Alfred Meakin Ltd. in Tunstall, England, between 1891 and 1897, is printed with an aqua-green floral design and includes four cups, two saucers, and a bowl (Photo 19). The other is an ironstone printed with a blue-black floral design

Photo 19. Aqua green transfer-printed whiteware vessels from a dinnerware set manufactured by Alfred Mekin in Tunstall, England, sometime between 1891 and 1897.

Table 9. Tableware Unique Vessels by Form and Ware Type.

Vessel Type	White Earthenware	Redware	Porcelain	Buff-Bodied Earthenware	Total
Dinner Plates	19	-	-	-	19
Bowls/soup plates	10	-	-	-	10
Platters	2	-	-	-	2
Cups	18	-	5	-	23
Saucers	19	-	1	-	20
Butter dishes	2	-	-	-	2
Pitchers	1	-	-	-	1
Teapots	-	1	-	-	1
Flatware	19	-	6	-	25
Hollowware	10	-	-	1	11
Unknown	14	-	-	-	14
Total	**114**	**1**	**12**	**1**	**128**

Table 10. Utilitarian Unique Vessels by Form and Ware Type.

	Stoneware	Redware	Yellowware	White Earthenware	Total
Bottles	2	-	-	-	2
Milk pans	-	2	-	-	2
Jars/lids	-	-	-	2	2
Crocks/jugs	2	-	-	-	2
Bowls	-	-	2	-	2
Unknown	12	-	2	-	14
Total	**16**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**24**

manufactured by W.H. Grindley & Co. in Tunstall, England between 1891 and 1914 (Birks 2011). This set is represented by two dinner plates and three cups (Photo 20). There is also an ironstone pitcher with a decalcomania floral print similar to the aqua-green dinnerware set (Photo 21), perhaps an attempt at a matching set.

The porcelain vessels include mostly molded and gilt-decorated types as well as decalcomania and some hand painted types. The porcelain vessel forms include teacups and saucers (Photo 22). An unusual jetware teapot was also found (Photo 23). This Victorian Jackfield-type teapot, popular in the 1870s and 1880s, has a redware clay body with a black lead glaze and a gold and yellow enameled hand painted design, probably made in England. It was found intact except for its lid.

Among the utilitarian vessels, two-thirds are made of stoneware, both gray and buff salt-glazed (see Table 10). Most are too small to be identifiable by vessel form but they are probably crocks or jugs. Two stoneware bottles are represented, one a ginger beer bottle manufactured

Photo 21. Ironstone pitcher with a decalcomania floral print similar to the aqua-green dinnerware set.

Photo 20. Pieces from an ironstone dinnerware set printed with a blue-black floral design manufactured by W.H. Grindley & Co. in Tunstall, England, between 1891 and 1914.

Photo 22. A variety of porcelain teacup styles found in the fill.

Photo 23. This unusual jetware teapot has a redware clay body with a gold and yellow enameled hand painted design over a black lead glaze. This type of teapot was popular in the 1870s and 1880s.

Photo 24. Stoneware ginger beer bottle manufactured by F. White (left) and a white earthenware marmalade jar made for Keillor's orange marmalade (right) manufactured in Dundee, Scotland, during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

by R. White (Photo 24). Two redware milk pans are represented, and at least two yellowware bowls. An entire Keillor's orange marmalade jar was also recovered. The jar is made of white earthenware with a black transfer-printed label (see Photo 24). The marmalade was made for many years during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Dundee, Scotland, by the family of James Keillor & Sons.

Glass

As is true of the ceramics, the kitchen-related glass artifacts include a combination of sherds and whole vessels, which amounted to 865 artifacts. The MNV represented by these artifacts is 131, including tablewares, beverage bottles, and storage vessels.

The vessels with the highest frequency are beverage bottles (n=67) (Table 11). Alcoholic beverages account for 77 percent of the bottles. The 29 liquor bottles are mostly flasks but there are also several larger round whiskey bottles. Of the 19 beer or ale bottles, only one is marked with a label, a Hinckel Brewing Co. bottle from Saratoga, New York. It should be mentioned also that many of the patent medicine bottles found in the assemblage contained concoctions with rather high alcohol percentages, some as high as 40 or more by volume, considerably more than any beer or wine. One bottle is a large Duffy's Malt Whiskey bottle, which probably would have been over 40 percent alcohol by volume, but was advertised as a heart tonic and sold as a medicine. The medicine bottles are discussed in detail in the section on medicinal artifacts.

Of the 14 soda or mineral water bottles, eight are J. G. Byars bottles from the North Hoosick bottling company, one is from the O'Neil & Reynolds soda bottling company in Hoosick Falls, and one is from the Bain & Van Hyning bottling company in Hoosick Falls (Photo 25). The only soda bottle with a known flavor was a Henderson's Wild Cherry Beverage. Four champagne bottles are also represented, and only one possible milk bottle.

Glass vessels with the next highest frequency (n=32) are those related to tableware or serving. There are 11 drinking glasses and two mugs in the assemblage. The mugs are probably beer mugs. Two glass pitchers are present, one a clear pressed glass with a decorative pattern that was used for water or possibly beer. Another is a light blue milk glass pitcher, also probably used for water. There are an unusually high number (N=10) of stemware pieces, including five wine glasses, two cordial glasses, and some that were either used as drinking goblets or as dessert glasses. Also present are a very

Table 11. Types of Glass Beverage Bottles by Number Found in the Fill.

Type of Bottle	Number
Liquor	29
Beer/ale	19
Soda/mineral water	14
Champagne	4
Possible Milk	1
Total	**67**

Photo 25. Various soda or carbonated beverage bottles from bottlers in either Hoosick Falls or North Hoosick, including three J. G. Byars bottles (first, second, and fourth from left), one from O'Neil & Reynolds of Hoosick Falls (middle), and one from Bain & Van Hyning Bottlers of Hoosick Falls (right).

Photo 26. Decorative pressed glass cream pitcher.

Photo 27. Pressed glass beverage pitcher and various drinking glasses.

decorative pressed red and clear glass cream pitcher, a non-matching pressed glass sugar bowl, a pressed glass cruet used for vinegar or oil, and four different candy dishes, two represented by decorative lids. Photos 26–28 show some of these glass tableware items. Many of these items would have been used for entertaining guests.

The final group of vessels relates to food storage. Glass storage vessels include six aqua-colored Mason's canning jars with three lids, and 19 condiment jars. Seven of the condiment jars contained jelly, three held ketchup, several others possibly contained foods such as olives, pickles, horseradish, or olive oil. One jar contained an extract of some sort.

Bottle lids and caps include seven Huchinson-type bottle stopper wire fragments, one lead or pewter screw cap, 17 crown bottle caps, a small-size zinc canning jar lid with a milk glass liner, and several cork bottle stoppers.

Food-Related Faunal Material

The foundation fill produced nearly 900 faunal fragments, including animal bone, marine shell, and eggshell, that were considered dietary refuse and possibly some processing waste. The bone was identified by the most specific taxonomic level possible by either class, order, family, genus, or species. Most of the bones were identifiable only to the class level (mammal=210, bird=148, fish=67). Only 21 could not be identified at the class level.

Photo 28. Examples of pressed glass stemware found in the fill, types used for wine and cordials.

Because of the degree of preservation, it was possible to identify close to half of the animal bones to the level of species (Figure 24). Of the bird bones identifiable to species, turkey predominates at 92 percent, and most of the unidentifiable bird bones are large enough to be turkey. Only 15 chicken bones were recovered. The much higher number of turkey bones may be somewhat influenced by the fact that the larger turkey bones are better preserved than the smaller chicken bones; however, the higher number could represent a preference for turkey over chicken.

Of the mammal bones identifiable to species, cow predominates with 120 bones, followed by pig with 62. The only other large domestic mammal represented is sheep, with only three bones, indicating that beef was much preferred in the household over pork and mutton. The presence of some cow teeth and a mandible fragment along with some pig's teeth indicate processing waste, which suggests that animal butchering occurred on the site and the waste was buried in the foundation along with other household refuse. There are also eight deer bones in the assemblage, indicating that some wild meat was consumed, though infrequently during the decades around the turn of the twentieth century. It is possible that someone outside the household hunted deer and gave some meat to the family. The presence of 67 fish bones, including head and fin bones, is evidence of processing at the site. The two turtle bones may or may not be food remains; more than likely they are from a turtle that fell into the foundation hole and died there. The shell assemblage is composed mostly of clam, though mussels and oysters are also present.

It should be mentioned that a significant amount of chicken eggshell was found in the lower levels along the southeast portion of the foundation fill. From the concentrations seen during excavation, it appeared that broken empty eggshells had been nested together before being put in the kitchen trash and then thrown into the foundation. Some had been preserved, along with some of the internal egg membrane, though it was very fragile. Small fragments were mixed into the surrounding soil matrix along with many other artifacts, so it was impossible to collect them intact. Several samples were recovered along with the soil that contained them from several proveniences, but the number of eggs represented was impossible to determine.

Metal Cookware and Utensils

There are several fragments of an enamelware coffee pot along with the handles or parts of eight spoons, three forks, and a stainless cooking knife. One of the spoons has a decorative scallop-shaped bowl and may have been a sugar spoon.

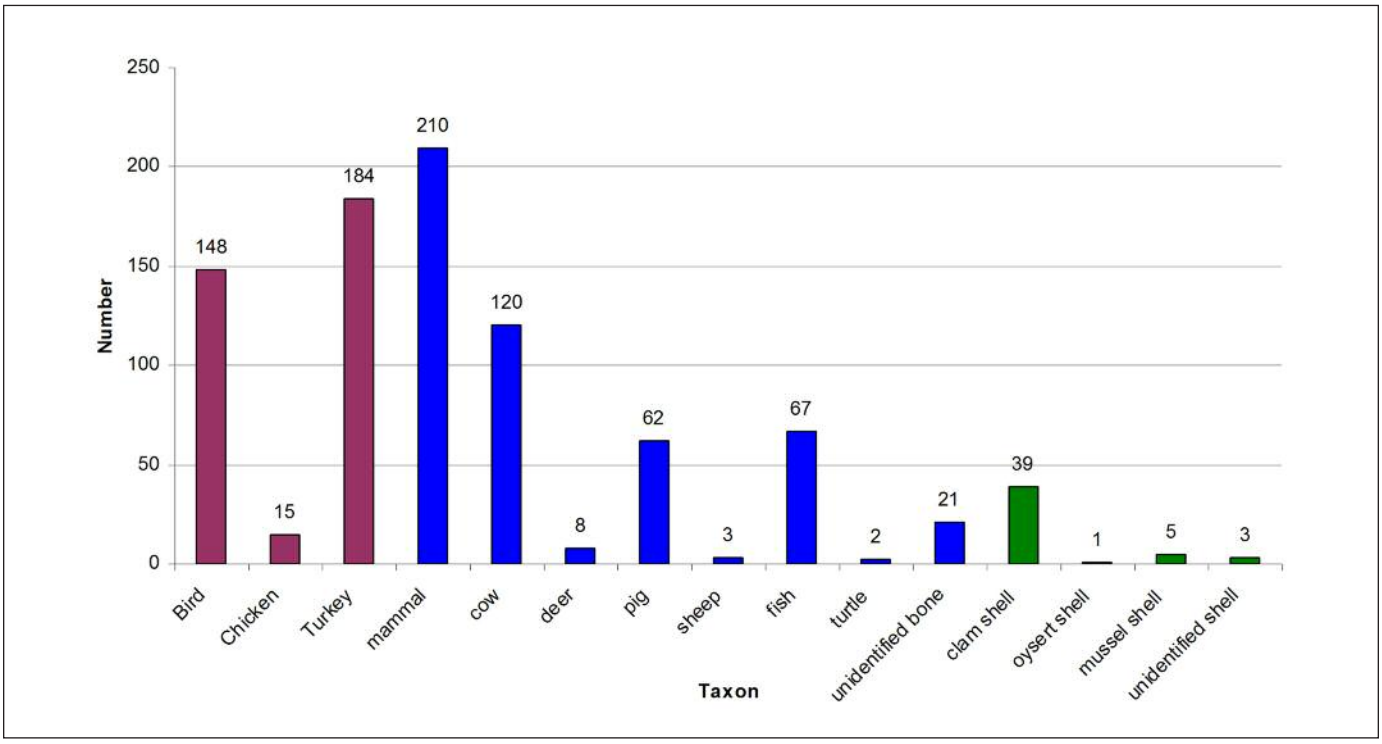


Figure 24. Faunal remains in the foundation fill by number of fragments.

Personal Artifacts

Over 1,200 personal artifacts were recovered from the fill, items used or worn by individuals in the household. This group of artifacts excludes children's things. Much of this material is articles of clothing or related to clothing. Two hundred nine fragments of different kinds of cloth, some very well preserved, were recovered from the fill. These were analyzed by Dr. Penelope Drooker at the New York State Museum. Present are various pieces of tailored garments made of various weights of woven wool and silk, some nearly whole garments that had been ripped apart before being deposited in the foundation. Some are pieces of brown or gray twill suiting fabric, very well made, possibly a pair of men's trousers. There are some lighter weight red and brown, light brown, and yellow-brown patterns of twill, some faced with other fabric, suggesting tailor-made garments. There are also some very fine dress or blouse-weight fabric of brown wool twill, and some very heavy dark brown wool, possibly from an outer garment.

The woven silk was dress or ribbon weight, a red and black striped fabric and a plain black ribbon, some with a float weave. There is also some crocheted silk cord and a piece of rounded cordage shaped like a decorative fastener. Some of the fabric is in the form of socks or stockings, probably machine knitted. One piece looks like part of a knitted wool sweater or possibly long underwear, and there are two fragments of heavy wool or fur felt, one that was likely a hat with a decorative band and another possible hat or heavy overcoat fragment.

Many clothing fasteners were found, including almost 260 buttons. Most of them (n=232) are made of white glass in several sizes and decorative styles, but there are also a few black glass buttons along with some made out of shell, bone, metal, celluloid, and rubber. Photo 29 shows a representative sample of the buttons. Some articles of clothing not usually seen in archaeological contexts are detachable shirt collars that were commonly worn by men at the turn of the century. Two of these, made of celluloid, were recovered in the fill deposit along with 10 white glass collar studs that would have been worn with them (Photos 30 and 31).

Other clothing-related artifacts include several suspender clamps or buckles and 92 leather shoe or boot fragments in a range of shoe sizes. Other personal items not related to clothing include a harmonica and a mouth harp, three celluloid hair pins, a finger ring made of iron, five faceted glass beads probably from a necklace or bracelet, a broken eyeglass lens, a piece of mirror glass, and an 1888 Indian Head penny.

Items related to smoking amounted to the largest proportion of personal artifacts in the fill. There is a celluloid pipe mouthpiece and one clear glass cigar tube that is marked with the name Eugene Vallens & Co., makers of top-grade cigars around the turn of the century.

Photo 29. A grab sample of the many buttons found in the fill. White milk glass, black glass, bone, and wood types are represented.

Photo 30. One of the two detachable celluloid men's shirt collars found in the fill along with several of the collar studs worn with them.

The most intriguing group of artifacts, perhaps for the site in general, was a concentrated deposit of 235 complete identical white clay smoking pipes. They were confined to the southern corner of the foundation mixed into a deposit containing many other domestic artifacts. The decoration on each consists of a raised five-lobed "plume" or leaf on the heel part of the bowl (Photos 32 and 33). Virtually all of the pipes had been

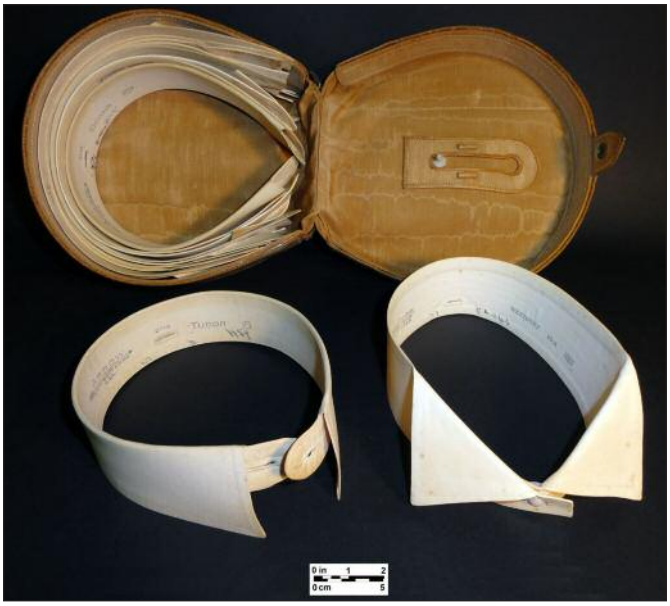


Photo 31. Several turn of the century shirt collars and leather carrying case (personal possessions of Marty Pickands).

Photo 32. Close-up view of the five-lobe leaf decoration on the heels of the 235 white clay smoking pipes found in the fill deposit.

smoked but only lightly. Fragments of 25 other types were also present in the foundation but not all in the concentrated deposit. It is common to find broken pipe stem and bowl fragments at historic sites, usually accumulated slowly over time in sheet midden contexts as smokers used them and broke off pieces of the stem; however, these plume pipes were complete, as though they had all been disposed of at once.

Some historic accounts of Scottish and Irish funeral and burial practices mention the custom of providing new pipes and tobacco, along with food and drink, to those attending wakes or funerals (Bennett 2004:223, 240, 272, 281, 288; Estyn 1957:292). Both the MDS 17 and

Photo 33. Laboratory table display of white clay pipes found in the fill deposit.

66 Factory Hill Road houses were occupied around 1900 by J. G. Byars, Sr. and J. G. Byars III, both first-generation immigrants from Scotland. They also both had immediate family members die around that time: Byars, Sr.'s wife and daughter died in 1904, and J. G. III's wife, Susan, sometime between 1900 and 1905. Additionally, Byars, Jr. died in 1913 and Byars, Sr. himself died in 1916. This unusual pipe deposit may be associated with the funeral of one of these Byarses and may represent the Byars family's adherence to a home country custom. These events may also explain the large quantity of clothing and shoes thrown into the foundation, which suggests a significant house cleaning or closet cleaning episode as if a family was vacating a house or getting rid of the unwanted possessions of someone who had died.

Medicinal Artifacts

The foundation fill produced approximately 311 medicinal artifacts, almost all glass bottles or glass sherds, from which 135 unique vessels were identified. The non-glass artifacts include a rubber squeeze bulb, hose, and nozzle apparatus that was used as an atomizer. All of the vessels consist entirely of various types of drugstore or patent medicine bottles, small medicine or drug vials, and glass syringes. The presence of this material in the assemblage is indicative of someone living in the house who was chronically or severely ill. Of note are the two glass syringes and the 35 small clear glass drug vials (Photo 34). Most of the vials measure 3 inches high by one half inch in diameter and would have been sealed with rubber or metal caps. They were used by doctors or druggists ca. 1900 to hold various drug or apothecary concoctions and may have been used with

Photo 34. Glass syringes and drug vials found in the foundation fill.

Photo 35. Examples of some of the patent or proprietary medicine bottles found in the fill. Left to right: Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound; W. M. Archibald Druggist, Hoosick Falls, NY; Scott's Emulsion/Cod Liver Oil with Lime and Soda; George A. Ross, Pharmacists/Hoosick Falls, NY (1900–1916).

the syringes for administration.

Ninety-eight drugstore or patent medicine bottles were also recovered, 86 with identifiable names representing 40 different proprietary medicines or bottle types. Table 12 lists the names of the medicines or the names of the drugstores for whom the bottles were made (embossed label present), and the ailments each was advertised to treat, if known. Several of the drugstores represented were located in Hoosick Falls and would have had paper labels on their bottles, but since the labels are gone, the contents are unknown.

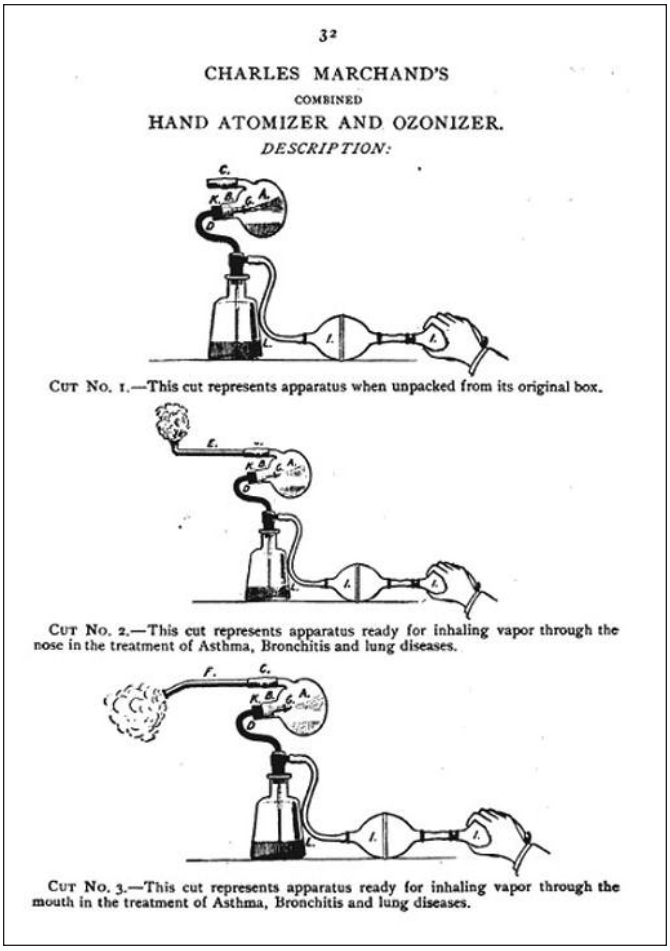
Many of these patent medicines were very commonly used in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For example, Scott's Emulsion Cod Liver Oil was sold everywhere in the country and overseas during that time, and given to children as a supplement for strong bone growth and overall health (Photo 35). This is the bottle type found in the highest frequency in the deposit (n=14). The bottle found in the next highest frequency (n=8) is Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which treated "women's maladies." Other bottles include seven different remedies for lung ailments, one for tuberculosis (or consumption, as it was known then). Perhaps these medicines were used by Susan Byars, who died of tuberculosis sometime between 1900 and 1905.

Other maladies targeted by medicines in the deposit are arthritis, kidney and liver disease, eye problems, constipation, colic, headache, indigestion, and sore gums. Some of the medicines were concoctions containing alcohol, opium, or morphine, and were advertised as tonics, blood purifiers, anodynes, or cure-alls. The medicines from the local Hoosick Falls drugstores account for 19 bottles in the deposit. One of the stores was W. M. Archibald, Druggist (see Photo 35). Another was George A. Ross & Co., who was in business with a partner from 1895 to 1900, then purchased his partner's interest in the store and changed the name of the store, and the name on the bottles, to George A. Ross. In 1910 the store name changed to "Ross," and he took on another partner in 1916, again changing the name of the store, this time to Ross-Livingston. The third local bottle is from the Geo. E. Thorpe Apothecary, a store that still exists at the corner of Church and John Streets in Hoosick Falls.

Two of the bottles in the deposit contained Marchand's Peroxide of Hydrogen, which among many other diseases was used as a treatment for consumption, or pulmonary tuberculosis. Charles Marchand was a French chemist who was best known for his late nineteenth-century development of a version of peroxide of hydrogen that could be used for medicinal purposes and was marketed to the general consumer (Doremus 1917). He wrote a well-known book describing how to use this liquid for treating a variety of diseases caused by microbes (Marchand 1895). In the case of consumption, the liquid mixture of 2 to 3 tablespoonsful of Marchand's Peroxide of Hydrogen with a tablespoonful of chemically pure glycerin was inhaled three to six times a day and best "administered either through the nose or mouth, by means of Charles Marchand's Hand Atomizer and Ozonizer" (Marchand 1895:27). A diagram of this device (reproduced in Figure 25), is illustrated in his book. It has two soft rubber bulbs connected by a rubber hose and has various nozzles and other parts. The remains of one of these devices were recovered in the foundation fill at the J. G. Byars Site (Photo 36).

Table 12. List of Patent or Proprietary Medicine Bottle Types Found in the Foundation Fill.

Medicine Name	Use	No. in deposit
Anticephalalcine	Headache	1
Atwood's Jaundice Bitters	Sold as a cure-all medicine but contained 22.3% alcohol	1
Bauer's Cough Cure	Cough	1
Bromo-Seltzer	Antacid	1
Brown's Anodyne	Relieves Pain	1
C. Ayers	Either Ayer's Cure, Sarsaparilla, or Hair Vigor	1
California Fig Syrup Co.	Laxative	4
Chamberlain's	Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhea Remedy	1
Cheseborough/Vaseline	Petroleum jelly for skin	2
Citrate of Magnesia	Laxative	1
Dr. D.B. Hand (Mixture for Children)	Cough and Croup remedy, general tonic, teething lotion, and worm elixir	1
Dr. Groves Anodyne For Infants	Relieves pain	1
Dr. Jayne's Expectorant	Lung ailments (contained opium)	1
Dr. S. Pitcher's Castoria	Laxative	1
Dr. Thompson's Eye Water	For all complaints of the eyes	1
Duffy Malt whiskey Co.	Advertised as heart tonic	1
Foley's Honey and Tar	Throat and Lung Troubles	1
Garfield Tea Syrup	Laxative for infants, children, and adults	1
Geo. E. Thorpe/Apothecary, Hoosick Falls, NY	Contents not known	6
George A. Ross & Co., Leading Driggists, Hoosick Falls, NY (1895–1900)	Contents not known	5
George A. Ross, Pharmacists/Hoosick Falls, NY (1900–1916)	Contents not known	6
Hood's Sarsaparilla	Blood purifier	1
J.M. Francis & Co., The Sun, Liniment	Rubbed on skin to soothe pain or relieve stiffness	1
Kemp's Balsam	For throat and lungs	6
Locher's Rheumatic Remedy	Pain killer, rheumatoid arthritis	1
Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound	Treated women's maladies (13% alcohol)	8
Marchand's Peroxide of Hydrogen	Cleaning of infected skin, also as a spray or gargle for sore throat, angina, tonsillitis, Quinsy, Diphtheria, and scarlet fever, asthma, Bronchitis, and lung diseases.	2
Moxie Nerve Food	Cure all	1
Nuclopeptones, The Palisade M.F.G. Co.	?	1
Paines Celery Compound	Blood purifier and nerve tonic (21% alcohol)	2
Reed & Carnick Pharmaceutical Co.	Contents not known	1
Renne's Magic Oil	Pain Killing	1
Rev. N.H. Downs Vegetable Balsam Elixir	Treated colds, coughs, asthma, consumption, croup, whooping cough	1
Scott's Emulsion/Cod Liver Oil with Lime and Soda	Bone growth and protect against coughs and colds in children	14
Shiloh's Consumption Cure	Tuberculosis cure (contained heroin)	1
Sparks Perfect Health	For Kidney & Liver Disease	1
St. Jacob's Oel	Pain killer, rheumatoid arthritis	1
W. M. Archibald Druggist, Hoosick Falls, NY	Contents not known	2
Williams and Carlton, wholesale Druggist	Contents not known	1
Willis J. Krudnik, Spruce/Cough/Balsam	Cough	1
Total bottles		**86**


32

CHARLES MARCHAND'S

COMBINED

HAND ATOMIZER AND OZONIZER.

DESCRIPTION:

CUT NO. 1.—This cut represents apparatus when unpacked from its original box.

CUT NO. 2.—This cut represents apparatus ready for inhaling vapor through the nose in the treatment of Asthma, Bronchitis and lung diseases.

CUT NO. 3.—This cut represents apparatus ready for inhaling vapor through the mouth in the treatment of Asthma, Bronchitis and lung diseases.

Figure 25. Illustration of the Charles Marchand Hand Atomizer and Ozonizer from *The Therapeutical Application of Peroxide of Hydrogen (Medicinal), Glycozone, Hydrozone, and Eye Balsam*, by Charles Marchand, 1895.

Photo 36. Marchand's peroxide of hydrogen bottle and parts of a hand atomizer apparatus recovered from the fill deposit inside the foundation.

Photo 37. Four of the seven chamber pots found in the fill deposit.

Personal Hygiene Artifacts

Many personal hygiene artifacts were identified in the assemblage, some specifically used by men, some by women, and some by both. Among the things that would have been used by either gender are seven chamber pots, mostly plain or molded white ironstone of differing sizes, but one was a whitish tin-glazed pot (Photo 37). There are also three plain or molded ironstone water pitchers (Photo 38), most likely parts of wash basin and pitcher sets. These items were commonly used in houses before indoor plumbing, usually a set of each in each bedroom, often stored in and on a wooden wash stand. Photo 39 illustrates the typical bedroom wash stand arrangement before indoor plumbing as seen in the late nineteenth-century Billings Farm Museum in Woodstock, Vermont. Along with these is a gilt decorated porcelain shaving mug with a picture of a frog and a banner with the name "Harry Sanford" printed in gold (Photo 40), which may have gone with a small square soap dish and bowl used by a man for shaving (Photo 41). Their presence in the fill probably coincides with the household upgrade to indoor plumbing and flush toilets. There are also two cologne bottles, one of German manufacture, that could have been used as a men's cologne.

Two milk glass cold cream jars and four ceramic or glass ointment jars suggest use by women, as do at least five perfume bottles. Several of these items were manufactured for and sold by the Larkin Soap Manufacturing Company of Buffalo, New York, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This company started out

making and selling soap but expanded and marketed products that were sold directly to customers via catalogs and door-to-door sales. By 1905 the catalog offered 116 products, including soaps, toiletries, shampoo, perfumes, jellies, coffee and teas, extracts, cocoa, spices, chocolate, and soups. Seven years later 550 products were being advertised that included nearly everything one could need in an early twentieth-century home. The presence of some of these items indicates that the household had disposable income and participated in the national consumer economy.

Hair grooming is represented by 11 different combs made of rubber, Bakelite, and plastic (Photo 42). These items show that grooming and cleanliness were important to the occupants, both men and women.

Photo 38. Two of the molded ironstone water pitchers found in the fill.

Photo 39. Wash stand set with bowl and pitcher, chamber pot, and shaving accessories in a bedroom at the late nineteenth-century Billings Farm Museum in Woodstock, Vermont (photo taken by the author).

Children-Related Artifacts

A number of artifacts indicate the presence of children at the site, both male and female. There is also evidence of infants in the form of a clear glass baby bottle and a metal can that held infant baby formula. There is also a complete Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup bottle, which was advertised during the middle and late nineteenth century to help soothe babies' teething pain in addition to other baby ailments. It contained morphine as its effective ingredient and was incriminated as a "baby killer" in a ca. 1911 publication by the American Medical Association on nostrums and quackery and the frequency of deaths from overdosing. Also in this category of medicines is a Dr. D. B. Hand mixture for children that

Photo 40. Porcelain shaving mug with a picture of a frog and a banner with the name "Harry Sanford" printed in gold.

Photo 41. Possible soap dish and shaving bowl.

Photo 42. Bakelite hair combs found in the fill deposit.

Photo 43. Porcelain child's figurines include a monkey (left) and a Zouave soldier made into a whistle.

was advertised to be a cough and croup remedy, general tonic, teething lotion, and worm elixir.

There are several parts of several porcelain dolls, including arms, heads, a torso, and some glass eyes. Parts of a celluloid Kewpie doll are present, a doll popular starting in the early twentieth century (About.com 2009). There is also part of a porcelain female figurine's yellow dress and a miniature woman's dress shoe that may have been the base of a pin cushion, all female-related items. Two other porcelain figurines are a monkey, missing its movable arms that would have been attached to a string by the hands for climbing, and a plain white Zouave soldier with a hollow body that had been drilled and made into a whistle (Photo 43). Zouaves were originally soldiers from northern Africa, who in the nineteenth century began fighting for the French and eventually became well known and revered as dashing, roistering daredevils notable for a uniform of baggy trousers, braided jacket, and tasseled fez. Their style was adopted by some American militia units during the Civil War. There is also a small toy hatchet head missing its handle, some clay and glass marbles, a porcelain child's cup hand painted with the words "CHRISTMAS PRESENT," and pieces of a tea set, including a cup and part of the teapot. Six slate pencils found in the fill could have been used by adults but are usually associated with schoolchildren for the purpose of writing on slate tablets (Photo 44).

Photo 44. Two of the six slate pencils found in the fill deposit. These were commonly used by schoolchildren.

Architectural

Most of the architectural material consists of window glass sherds (Table 13), which are not related to the structure of this site but were thrown in afterward as refuse from some other building. There is also a large number of cut and wire nails, many found in a concentrated deposit, which suggests that someone threw out a box or can of unused nails all at once. There are also some brick and mortar fragments that may or may not be associated with this structure. Door hardware is represented by six redware door knobs and lock parts, which are likely from a nearby building or stored together in someone's shop and, like the nails, were disposed of during a cleanout. This is probably also true of the plumbing pipes, water spigot, and electrical wire.

Heating and Lighting

Besides the coal and cinders, which are evidence of a coal-fired stove for heat or cooking or both, there are fragments of a cast iron stove and a square piece of mica that was probably part of a window for a stove. There are at least two kerosene lamp burners, part of a decorative metal lamp base, parts of at least four milk-glass lamp shades, and about 50 different clear glass kerosene lamp chimneys represented. Some are etched or have other kinds of decoration. The high frequency of lamp chimneys is curious and may suggest multiple households using the foundation hole for dumping lamps and parts after the households were electrified. A nearly complete early incandescent light bulb was also found in the fill, evidence of electricity in the household.

Table 13. Architectural Material from the Foundation Fill Grouped by Function.

Function	Subgroup	Count
Building Materials	Brick=57/Mortar=12	6
	Painted wood	1
	Window glass	1,515
Fasteners	Wrought nails	2
	Cut nails	526
	Round wire nails	386
	Unidentified nails	98
	Other hardware	15
Miscellaneous	Redware doorknobs	6
	Door locks	6
	Porcelain electrical knob	1
	Plumbing pipes	3
	Copper spigot	1
	Copper electrical wire	5
Total		**2,634**

Photo 45. Possible carbon arc lamp tubes with rods inside the glass tubes.

Some odd artifacts found in the fill are 14 fragments of what have been tentatively identified as carbon arc lamp rods (Photo 45). They consist of long thin glass tubes with carbon rods inside them. Carbon arc lamps were widely used by the 1880s for indoor and outdoor lighting, often in theaters for stage lighting or in large buildings because they produced high-intensity light. Smaller carbon arc lights were produced by General Electric by the 1890s, but the fragments recovered at this site mend to form tubes at least 30 cm (12 in) long. If they are components of carbon arc lights, they would have been used for something other than typical household lighting.

Tools

Most of the tools in the foundation fill relate to desk accessories. There are four glass ink bottles, a fountain pen handle, and a possible letter opener. The pen and letter opener are made of ornately carved ivory and appear to be from a matching set (Photo 46). There are also three pairs of scissors represented and one half of a candle snuffer, which may have also been desk-related. Also found were a wooden carpenter's folding rule and an iron flat file, items typical of any household workshop. Two shot gun shells were recovered, which relate to hunting.

Hardware

Many different pieces of metal hardware were found (n=121), such as cut spikes, railroad spikes, nuts, bolts, washers, clamps, brackets, screws, staples, strapping, tacks, handles, hooks, a hose fitting, a rod, several types of springs, and 60 different types of wire fragments. Many of these may be architectural but could also be related to furniture, machinery, or various other kinds of construction.

Photo 46. Carved ivory fountain pen and possible letter opener handles.

Other

Almost 3,000 artifacts are categorized as "Other" because they do not definitively fall into one of the other functional categories. Almost half of the artifacts in this category (n=1,400) come from various glass vessel sherds of bottles for which the contents are unknown (e.g., food or medicinal) or sherds that could be from either lamp shades or table glass. It also includes 155 ceramic sherds from vessels that are not food-related, like flower pots, or decorative collector's items, like fancy teacups or knick-knacks, or for which the purpose was unknown because of fragmentation. There are two small decorative teacups and a small plate that could have served as a butter pat or a child's saucer, but may have been decorative. These delicate porcelain teacups were likely not used for consumption of tea but probably prized and displayed by a woman member of the household. Items like this indicate a fair amount of disposable income.

Other miscellaneous items in this category include three cabinet or drawer knobs, cork bottle stoppers, wood fragments and other kinds of unidentified worked wood, charcoal, a glass fuse that could be automobile-related, odd pieces of slate or marble, many metal can or container fragments, a horse shoe, some possible electronic components, over 600 fragments of rusty iron, some copper, lead, and unknown metal fragments, some deteriorated paper that looks like part of a catalog, some leather fragments, quite a few pieces of a sheet of reddish celluloid, some mica fragments that could be part of a stove window along with some other clumps of a composite mineral substance (possibly paint), various pieces of molded plastic, rubber, plaster, a complete Model T Ford front axle, and various other kinds of debris. Not many other obvious automobile parts were present in the fill, so the axle may not indicate that the household had a car or that a member of the house worked on cars. A trolley passed directly in front of this property during the turn of the twentieth century, which would have reduced the necessity to own an automobile for the residents along Factory Hill Road before the mid-1920s. Model Ts were in production from 1908 to 1927, and many were used long after production stopped. The axle may have been thrown into the foundation hole well after the Byars family sold the property, and even after the current bridge berm was constructed.

SITE STRUCTURE

The site is composed primarily of a stone foundation about 3 m (10 ft) square and about 130 cm (4.3 ft) deep. It is situated about 2.5 m (8 ft) from the toe of the NY Route 22 berm, and the southern proposed disturbance boundary (project limit) is 3.5 m beyond (south of) the southern corner of the foundation. It is surrounded by a thin deposit of late nineteenth-century sheet refuse that extends 10 to 15 m on either side of it (east-west) in the field at the base of the berm. The foundation itself is the remnants of some kind of outbuilding situated at the rear of the property formerly associated with MDS 17, the nineteenth-century house removed by the construction of the road berm. The sheet deposit most likely continues to the north and is buried under the berm at the level of the natural ground surface, but since it is inaccessible and will not be impacted by the proposed construction, the site boundaries encompass a strip of land only 10 x 30 m (30 x 100 ft), which includes the foundation and the immediate concentration of sheet refuse surrounding it.

Testing at the site showed that there may have been a depression or hole in the yard prior to the construction of the foundation that was used to dump refuse. This was located at the northern corner of the foundation extending north toward the road berm. The upper foot or so of soil was disturbed in the late twentieth century by mechanical grading of the field, effectively capping the foundation hole and obscuring any visual evidence of it.

The foundation is situated about 50 feet behind the rear of MDS 17 but is relatively close to the rear of 66 Factory Hill Road. It was an open hole up to the 1980s, based on the dates of manufacture of artifacts found at the interface between the upper two stratigraphic layers within it. This indicates that it was used as a refuse disposal location well after the road and bridge construc-

tion cut through the community and destroyed MDS 17 in the early 1930s.

PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

Testing showed that the upper 25 to 27 cm (10 to 12 in) of the ground surrounding the foundation and above the walls was disturbed by mechanical grading, which mixed nineteenth-century sheet midden deposits with some turn-of-the-twentieth-century material that missed its target when it was dumped into the foundation hole. It also includes debris from animal-related outbuildings that were present in the adjacent field, and common roadside refuse from NY Route 22. Below the graded layer, parts of the sheet midden are intact. During grading, the upper foot or so of the foundation hole was also filled, which capped the turn-of-the-century fill underneath and the stone foundation itself. During the Phase II fieldwork all contents inside the foundation were excavated and collected for study, effectively mitigating any adverse effects. Within the project area, the sheet scatter was adequately tested and artifacts collected for study.

SYNTHESIS AND INTERPRETATION

The excavations at the J. G. Byars Site led to the identification of one subsurface structural element, a 3-m (10-ft) square field stone outbuilding foundation filled with post-demise refuse. The refuse can most likely be assigned to the turn-of-the-twentieth-century occupation of two neighboring houses, MDS 17 and 66 Factory Hill Road, both houses occupied at the time by members of the J. G. Byars family. The investigations also identified and tested a mid-nineteenth-century sheet midden partially intact below a late twentieth-century surface disturbance layer surrounding the stone foundation. The sheet midden can primarily be assigned to the mid-nineteenth century pre-Byars occupation of MDS 17, a two-family tenant house owned by the proprietors of the woolen mill across the road during that time. The subsequent discussion of the site will focus first on the pre-Byars mid-nineteenth century sheet midden and then on the Byars occupation as it relates to the bulk of the foundation fill.

SHEET MIDDEN

Most of the historically documented information on MDS 17 comes from historical maps. Though it first appears in 1854 when O.R. Burnham operated the woolen mill, it likely predates this, perhaps as early as the second or third decade of the nineteenth century when the woolen mill was first established. By the 1850s the small industrial hamlet had begun to grow with the expansion of the woolen mill, establishment of the nearby paper mill, and completion of the Troy and Bennington Railroad with a depot on Factory Hill Road. Throughout the next several decades there were a post office, a store, and a blacksmith shop across the road from MDS 17.

Much of the housing in the "mill district" along Factory Hill Road was owned by the proprietors of one or the other of the mills. The occupants of MDS 17 were likely employees of the woolen mill owner, and perhaps there was a rapid succession of residents throughout the mid-nineteenth century, making it impossible to attribute the sheet scatter accumulation in the backyard to known individuals.

The outbuilding structure, now completely gone, that was supported by the archaeologically excavated foundation in question was never depicted on historical maps, most likely because it was only an outbuilding or secondary building and such structures are usually not shown on most nineteenth-century maps. Its proximity to the back of MDS 17 and its orientation tell us that it was associated with MDS 17 rather than 66 Factory Hill Road. The substantial thickness and depth of the stone foundation itself suggest that it supported an important permanent building, though its function is unknown. There were some building materials in the sheet midden surrounding the foundation, such as nails, window glass, and brick, but the amount of brick does not suggest the building was made of it. There were hundreds of nails, which suggest the super structure was wood frame, probably with wood siding, and had windows, possibly with a slate roof. The depth of the cellar would suggest that it could have been used for some kind of storage, though with no outside access. The inconsistent patches of the plaster on the inside foundation walls, and the odd combination of large cut stones with smaller field stones, suggests scavenging from another larger building site. If they were originally from another building, the large cut stones were perhaps originally fitted together to form a flat interior face that was plastered smooth for a finished surface.

One suggested use of the structure was as an ice house because of the cellar depth, the straight walls, the good drainage, and perhaps its proximity to the company store across the road during the 1860s and 1870s. Whatever it was, it appears to have fallen out of use and the super structure removed by the 1880s or 1890s because that is when it started being used to hold primary household refuse. This corresponds to the time when this property, along with the woolen mill property, was sold to J. G. Byars, Jr. in the mid-1890s. Perhaps he found reason to remove the superstructure because it was in a dilapidated state when he bought the land, leaving the cellar hole empty. We know that the Byars bottling works were located at Dublin's Bridge along the main road northeast of North Hoosick, so the structure was not associated with that company.

The sheet midden deposit shows that the refuse dumping behavior of the occupants was typical of the nineteenth century, when household waste was regularly thrown in the yard or in nearby depressions for lack of any formal waste collection as we know it today.

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It appears that the area about 15 m (50 ft) from the back of the house was being used for refuse disposal repeatedly or heavily for a time before the outbuilding foundation was dug and the structure built. If this is the case, it is conceivable that the large, squared foundation stones with plaster on them were taken from the woolen mill ruins after it burned in 1876 to be used for this small outbuilding. Then, during the eight years the land was owned by Hiland Carpenter (1887 to 1895), since he didn't have means to keep up with the mortgage payments, it became neglected and dilapidated. Given this scenario, the building would have been in existence for only about 20 years. However, the high number of machine-cut nails in the sheet midden just outside the foundation suggest that the structure was built before 1876, in which case the origin of the stones with plaster on them is unknown.

Also apparent from the study of the sheet scatter is that the occupants were typical working class people who purchased and used many mass-produced and readily available household goods like ceramic tablewares. The sheet midden produced many ceramic fragments, predominantly decorated white earthenwares for everyday use at the dinner table. Most of these are plates, cups, and saucers decorated with colored transfer-printed patterns mass produced in England during the second quarter of the nineteenth century and exported worldwide. Only a few porcelain ceramics were found, which were more expensive, probably indicating that the occupants had less disposable income to use on finer tablewares. Very few table glass fragments were found, only eight, and relatively few bottle fragments attributable to the nineteenth-century occupants. Most of these represent canning jars or condiment jars. One stoneware ginger beer bottle fragment was found. If alcoholic beverages were consumed by the household, little evidence of it made its way into the backyard sheet midden.

Food storage and preparation is represented by a relatively low number of vessels in the sheet midden, including some yellowware, redware, and stoneware. A pie plate, a milk pan, and several crocks or jugs are represented. It can be inferred from the relatively low number of food preparation and storage vessels in the sheet midden that the occupants may have had easy access to fresh foods because they were close to the center of the hamlet and stores. This may be typical of mill workers rather than farmers who would have been producing food. There are a number of yellowware fragments that probably came from the Norton Potteries in Bennington, Vermont, only a few miles away. The fragments have the characteristic brown mottled glaze that was produced by the Norton Pottery during the nineteenth century. Though they made many decorative pieces like figurines, these fragments appear to be from utilitarian vessels like bowls or pots and possibly a mug or vase.

Of the identifiable food remains found in the midden, a preference for beef is evidenced by the predominance of cow bones over other animal types. Pig, sheep, and deer were found but in very small quantities. Identifiable chicken and fish are also in low quantity. At least a few meals included clams and oysters, a food source not obtainable naturally in the northwestern part of Rensselaer County. These would have been shipped in probably by train from the Atlantic coastline and sold in local markets.

The coal ash found in the deeper midden deposit reflects the use of coal as a heating and probably cooking fuel common after the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The presence of over 100 fragments of lamp chimney and shade glass reflects the use of cheaply produced kerosene after the 1860s as a lighting source. Fragments of an ironstone chamber pot were also found in the deeper part of this midden. This may suggest that the depression was a former privy pit, though a shallow one.

Smoking was a habit of the occupants as evidenced by the presence of white clay smoking pipe fragments. An interest in national politics is shown by the presence of an 1864 presidential campaign button that held a ferrotype of the presidential and vice presidential candidates that year.

BYARS OCCUPATION OF THE PROPERTY

By the time J. G. Byars, Jr. bought the land along Factory Hill Road in 1895, he, his father, and his cousin had built a very successful business that was well known locally and regionally. J. G., Sr. had established himself as not only a soda bottler and distributor of beverages for other companies, but had amassed quite a bit of land, had built the Byars block in Hoosick Falls, and was made legal trustee of the finances of other people in the community. He was fondly given a courtesy title, "the Mayor" of North Hoosick, and was also known as the "Governor," which shows that he had considerable influence locally. His involvement in the legal suit against the local trolley company in 1905 may show that he had the interests of other members of the community in mind by trying to protest the charge of an additional fare when traveling on the trolley outside Hoosick Falls, a charge he himself could well afford.

Historical documentation illustrates that the Byarses were a tight-knit extended family. The two brothers, J. G., Sr. and David, both came to New England when they immigrated from Scotland, they traditionally

named their children after older family members, and J. G., Sr. invited his nephew to join the family business beside his own son of similar age. The census records show that his mother was brought to North Hoosick to live with him after his father died in Scotland, and later his brother David and his wife moved to North Hoosick, eventually to move in with their son, J. G. III. Other cousins eventually came to North Hoosick to live temporarily with members of the Byars family, probably under the auspices of J. G., Sr., which would also show his generosity and strong family bond.

Historical documentation shows that by the turn of the twentieth century, J. G., Sr. was retired and no longer lived in the farmhouse next to the bottling works at Dublin's Bridge. We know that by 1905 he was living in the big house at 66 Factory Hill Road, the large house at the south end of the bridge, part of J. G., Jr.'s large purchase. In 1904 both his second wife and his youngest daughter died, which left him living only with a housekeeper in 1905. Meanwhile, between 1900 and 1905, J. G. III's wife, Susan, died of tuberculosis after fighting the disease for some time. She was socially active as a member of the nearby M.E. Church and as a member of the Daughters of Rebekah, the female auxiliary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

By 1905 J. G. III had remarried and was living in MDS 17 next door to J. G., Sr. His first child was born in MDS 17 in 1905. Meanwhile, J.G., Jr. resided at the original farm in Dublin's Bridge where the bottling works were located. In 1907 J. G. III and his wife bought a farm along the main road to Walloomsac and moved out of MDS 17.

In 1913 J. G., Jr., a bachelor, died leaving all his property to his father, then in his seventies. Three years later, J. G., Sr. died, leaving the bulk of the estate to his surviving daughters. They started gradually selling it off in the 1920s, the piece occupied by MDS 17 in 1926 to the highway department for construction of the current bridge and berm. The house was removed and the road built around 1930. After their father died, two of the unmarried Byars daughters, the executrices of the estate, periodically stayed in the house at 66 Factory Hill Road until that parcel was sold in 1933, at which time there were no more Byarses living in the "old mill district."

From this historical information detailing some of the major life events in the Byars family, we can interpret the archaeological deposit recovered from the foundation fill. It is clear from the artifacts that the deposit dates to the time period the properties were occupied by the Byarses and it appears to reflect episodes of major household cleanouts as well as regular dumping of kitchen waste. It is likely that some of the deposit in the foundation relates to the cleaning out of 66 Factory Hill Road when it was sold out of the family in the 1930s. Archaeologically, the materials reflecting cleanouts include what looks like the contents of dressers, closets, trunks, desks, and cupboards, and typically the types of things people would keep in their attics. These materials include items like unused clothing, shoes, hats, ribbons, coats, hundreds of buttons, men's shirt collars with collar studs, and buckles. Many of these things could have been part of a woman's sewing or mending kit. Desk items include ink bottles, a fountain pen and letter opener set, scissors, and perhaps kerosene lamps and shades. Children's toys no longer used, like the broken porcelain monkey and the Zouave figurine whistle, would also be thrown out. Pieces of a child's tea set probably belonged to the Byars girls when they were children.

Unwanted contents of a kitchen pantry or cupboard would account for the partial sets of decorated dishware, miss-matched teacups, candy dishes, pitchers, bowls, utensils, canning jars, condiment jars, mismatched wine and cordial glasses, and the out-of-style teapot. Some of these are probably accounted for by breakage during use, but many are whole and would have been usable. The sisters probably salvaged any of the valuable housewares and just discarded old and mismatched items.

Food preferences in the house are reflected in the types of faunal remains found. Meat in the form of beef, pork, sheep, and deer is represented, but beef predominated as it did in the earlier sheet midden deposits outside the foundation. Turkey was also eaten in significant quantities and seemed to be preferred over chicken, although chicken eggs were also consumed. The presence of some cow teeth and a mandible fragment along with some pig teeth indicate that animal butchering or processing occurred at the residence, and perhaps the few deer bones indicate hunting by someone in the house, although it is possible that the deer meat was provided by someone outside the household. The fish bones, with head and fins, also suggest fishing as well as processing of the fish within the household. Marine shell fish was consumed at least at a few meals during the Byars occupation as indicated by clam, muscle, and oysters in the fill.

It is also known that the site occupants consumed coffee and tea and several different kinds of condiments, like ketchup and jams. There is an orange marmalade jar imported from Scotland, which may indicate a fondness for things from their homeland.

The high number of nails and other hardware, such as fasteners, hooks, brackets, and clamps, along with some door knobs, faucets, and short lengths of plumbing pipes and wire, hose fittings, and tools, plus what looks like the solidified contents of paint cans, suggest

the accumulated contents of a household workshop or perhaps the items one would keep on a workbench in a cellar or shed.

Present in high proportion were soda, beer, ale, champagne, and liquor bottles, and the most common bottle type is liquor. These may relate more to everyday consumption than to a household clean-out. Their number suggests that imbibing in alcohol was a regular and frequent activity in the Byars houses. We know that the business distributed soft drinks, beers, ales, and soda waters throughout the region. The bottling company is listed in the New York State report of the State Commissioner of Excise in 1914 as a certificate holder for distribution of beverages. This was to comply with the liquor tax law enacted in 1896 that provided for supervision and taxation of liquor traffic in New York State (New York State Commissioner of Excise 1915:509). This implies that the company may have also sold liquor. J. G. III was a member of the Hoosick Falls Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, a fraternal social club that was originally established as a private club to elude laws governing taverns. In some respects the B.P.O.E was a social drinking club, though it eventually became a national charitable and service organization. We know of Byars's involvement in the Elks from a 1917 newspaper article reporting that he was one of the delegates attending an Elks Convention held in Utica that year (*Utica Herald-Dispatch* 1917). It is likely that the other two J. G. Byars men were also members of the Elks before they died and that their involvement fostered business opportunities for their bottling company. The fact that they were social drinkers is also evidenced by the presence of the fine stemware glasses and beer mugs found in the archaeological deposit.

Personal hygiene and health-related items, also in high proportion in the foundation fill, would also likely be included in a house cleanout, especially after the sick person who had used them died. Susan Byars's battle with pulmonary tuberculosis and eventual death ca. 1900–1904 probably accounts for a large number of the patent medicines listed as lung cures along with the Marchand's peroxide bottles and hand atomizer squeeze bulbs. Other patent medicines, proprietary drugstore bottles, vials, and syringes may be related to her use or to other members of the Byars family who died in the first two decades of the twentieth century (Louisa and Lillian Byars in 1904, J. G., Jr. in 1913, and J. G. Sr., in 1916). Some of the patent medicines probably relate to the birth of J. G. III's son, Gordon, in 1905, like the Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup used for infant's ailments. These may have been thrown out when they moved out in 1907.

Other personal hygiene items in the fill that may relate to a house cleanout are the numerous chamber pots and wash pitchers, shaving mug, combs and hair pins, soap, cold creams, ointments, perfume, and cologne bottles. It is possible that one or both houses (66 Factory Hill Road and MDS 17) were modernized with indoor plumbing around that time, which would eliminate the need for the chamber pots and wash pitchers. Historical studies have demonstrated that expenditures for health vary significantly among working-class households, where health is generally treated as a discretionary expenditure (Dent et al. 1997:VI–15). Among the poorest households, expenditures for health are almost nonexistent, but they rise rapidly with increasing income. The high number and variety of medicine bottles and pharmaceutical/medicinal paraphernalia in the fill deposit, not to mention the trips to the Adirondacks for treatment of tuberculosis by Susan Byars, attests to the family's income level. These things were most likely viewed as luxuries to most of their mill-working neighbors.

More modernization around the turn of the twentieth century is evidenced by the presence of electric light bulbs in the fill along with many kerosene lamp shades, chimneys, burners, and lamp base fragments. The fuel-burning lamps may have been thrown out as they were replaced by electric lights. The Byarses would have been well able to afford such modern conveniences, especially J. G., Sr., who could afford such things as a live-in housekeeper and legal representation in his lawsuit against the trolley company.

One of the most interesting artifact types recovered from the fill are the more than 200 identical white clay smoking pipes, nearly all of them smoked very lightly. They may have been given out at the funeral of J. G., Sr. since he was apparently highly respected in the community and a large number of people would probably have attended his funeral. Historical research shows that the handing out of pipes and tobacco by the family of a deceased loved one is an old Scottish custom as well as an Irish custom, which continued well into the twentieth century (Bennett 2004; Estyn 1957) in some places in Scotland. Whether or not the pipes were given out at the funeral of J. G., Sr. in 1916 or perhaps at the funeral of one of the other four Byarses that died before him in North Hoosick, the observance of the practice clearly shows his generation's connection and loyalty to and perhaps longing for their home country and traditions.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

The site is considered National Register eligible by virtue of the deposits found within the foundation and their association with a prominent soda bottling family in North Hoosick. These deposits relate to the decades when J. G. Byars, Sr., a Scottish immigrant, was of retirement age and had moved to the house at 66 Factory Hill Road. The family's successful soda bottling business was being run by his son and nephew, the son having purchased the houses and land surrounding the former woolen mill on Factory Hill Road where the site is located. Many research questions about the Byarses can be answered by the deposits inside the foundation hole. Topics include family composition, age, gender, health, discretionary income and consumer choices, vices, Old World customs, community involvement, participation in the local and regional economy, food preferences, and social aspirations, to name a few.

The sheet midden deposits can be assigned to the MDS 17 household but represent occupation over an earlier, relatively long period by unknown occupants, probably mill workers renting the house from the mill owner. General information from the deposits can inform us about the industrial working class lifestyle in this otherwise little known community.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed work involves the removal of the existing south approach berm and construction of two earth-filled abutments. This will necessitate the acquisition of several meters of right-of-way along with temporary access for construction at the base of the south berm. This area includes the location of the J. G. Byars Site, which would be subject to compaction and other damage by heavy machinery driving over it at the base of the berm. During the site examination, archaeologists were able to identify the features and deposits related to the site within the proposed project limits. At that time they either completely exhausted all deposits, in the case of the cellar hole fill, or recovered an adequate sample of the surrounding sheet scatter to describe and interpret the site and answer relevant research questions and preserve information that would be lost to construction impacts. Because of the level of data collection accomplished during this site examination, Phase III data recovery is not necessary and no further fieldwork is recommended.

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