

HISTORICAL **PERSPECTIVES INC.**



Silo Ridge Development
State Route 22
Amenia, Dutchess County, New York
NYSOPRHP No. 06PR02019 (Formerly No. 03PR01764)
September 26, 2013

End of Fieldwork Memo: Phase IA/IB Parcels 1, 2, and 3

Introduction

VHB, Inc., White Plains, New York, is completing permitting and support tasks for the Silo Ridge Development in the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York. The current project is divided into two parts. The Northern Part, roughly 668 acres, was subject to development plans by others in 1992 and subsequently underwent various environmental permitting reviews between 2006 and 2009. The completed development in the Northern Part includes an 18-hole golf course (inactive), ancillary buildings, and infrastructure. The development plans also called for on-site housing and recreational amenities but these were not fully realized.

Since 2009, new plans for the Northern Part have been developed which change the design of both the golf course and the associated residential and recreational loci. In addition, three additional land parcels have been acquired by the current developers (Figure 1). These three parcels are located south of the Northern Part and west of State Route 22. These three parcels are collectively referred to as the Southern Part, and are subdivided into Parcels 1, 2, and 3. Parcel 1 is 98.1 acres, Parcel 2 is 49.7 acres, and Parcel 3 is 31.2 acres for a combined total of about 179 acres. Of this acreage, approximately 110 acres was thought to be relatively undisturbed; approximately half of that undisturbed acreage, however, is very sloped (greater than 12 percent). Much of the remaining acreage has been disturbed by the now-capped Harlem Valley landfill, logging, and land stripping. As currently proposed, the entirety of Parcel 3, 31.2 acres, is to be designated as unimproved Open Space and will not experience any project related changes.

In order to complete the environmental review of the Silo Ridge parcels under the new 2013 design plan, the developer requires federal and state permits many of which mandate consideration of cultural resources. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has been consulted regarding research and field investigations that were previously completed. The Northern Part of the 2013 project was surveyed in 2006 by Louis Berger, Inc., (Berger) and reported the same year. Two historic archaeological sites were identified and were assigned OPRHP Nos. A02701.000081 and A02701.000082 (herein Site-81 and Site-82). Site-81 is named the Silo Ridge Charcoal Hearths by Berger. Berger named Site-82 the West Lake Amenia Road Historic Site.

Site-81 consisted of 11 charcoal hearths identified along a ridge that constitutes the western portion of the Northern Part. The charcoal produced in these hearths was used by local iron ore processing companies including the Peekskill Iron Company, which once owned the Northern Part of the site. The Northern Part of the project site also contains possible iron ore pits at least one of which is now a wetland pond within the landscaped golf course. It was the opinion of the original OPRHP reviewer, Cynthia Blakemore, that these iron-ore-processing elements might form the basis for an Archaeological District, referred to as "the Peekskill Archaeological District" in project correspondence. A district description, however, was never finalized. The basis for defining such a district and appropriate and current research questions were detailed in the Phase IA/IB part of the Work Plan submitted to VHB and Brian Yates, OPRHP, on August 18, 2013 (Work Plan 2013). The plan was reviewed and OPRHP had no comments (Brian Yates to Carol S. Weed, September 18, 2013).

Site-82 was characterized as an historic artifact scatter identified immediately south of West Lake Amenia Road which might also contain features. This site was scheduled for Phase II investigations in 2006. These investigations began at Site-82 in 2008, but quickly were halted because a change in the developer's plan resulted in avoidance of the West Lake Amenia Road Historic Site. This site, under the 2013 plan, cannot be avoided and so it is being subjected to Phase II investigations. The testing strategy was detailed in the August 2013 Work Plan. To satisfy the Work Plan specifications, Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) undertook four tasks:

P.O. Box 529 • Westport • Connecticut • 06881

- 1 A walkover survey of Parcels 1, 2, and 3 to identify potential features that may exist on the landscape, particularly those that may be related to the iron ore industry in order to assess the overall site's potential for a historic district;
- 2 A Phase IA Archaeological Assessment for only Parcels 1 and 2 in order to: 1) identify any potential archaeological resources that might have been present on the Parcels, and 2) examine the construction history of the Parcels in order to estimate the probability that any such potential resources might have survived and remain on the Parcels undisturbed;
- 3 Phase IB subsurface testing on those portions of Parcels 1 and 2 that were not considered too sloped or disturbed to contain potential archaeological deposits, but for only those locations within the Area of Potential Effect (APE), defined as those locations that may be disturbed by the proposed development; and,
- 4 Phase II testing at Site-82 to determine its age, integrity, and potential to yield data that would make the site eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

This End of Fieldwork Memo details the results of tasks 1-3. The three tasks were conducted for Parcels 1, 2, and 3 (Figure 1). No further work is recommended for these three parcels. The combined Phase IA/IB and Phase II report will be submitted in October and it will provide the full research design, conclusions, and recommendations in addition to the shovel test summary and artifact catalog.

Results of Phase IA Documentary Research (Parcels 1 and 2)

Archaeologists and historians gain their knowledge and understanding of Native Americans in the region from ethnographic reports, Native American artifact collections, and archaeological investigations. From what is known of precontact period settlement patterns in America, most habitation and processing sites are found in sheltered, elevated sites close to wetland features, major waterways, and with nearby sources of fresh water. Level landforms and well drained soils are other characteristics in determining locations of potential precontact sites.

Areas of the APE with precontact sensitivity are locations that contain less than 12 percent slopes and that have remained undisturbed throughout the historical period. Only a few discrete areas on the property fit this description and are located on the extreme northeastern corner of Parcel 1, and on the eastern section of Parcel 2 (Figure 2). Most of Parcel 1 is either steeply sloped or has been disturbed by landfilling and soil scouring to cap the landfill. While part of the eastern section of Parcel 2 has been graveled, the horizontal extent of disturbance is unclear so much of it is considered potentially sensitive for precontact resources.

The prior documentary study completed by Berger identified two open iron mines on the Northern Part of the project site, and documented at least two 18th through 19th century furnaces in the surrounding region including the Gridley Furnace once located about 0.25 miles south of the project site. The earliest furnace in America was to the northwest and was in operation by the 1760s, suggesting that the systematic harvesting of wood to create charcoal for the furnaces was established by this time. Given the prevalence of iron processing related features in America and more precisely, Wassaic, it would be anticipated the features related to this industry would be identified on Parcels 1, 2, and 3 of the Southern Part. These could include:

- charcoal hearths, as identified by Berger on the Northern Part;
- charcoal kilns, such as the Wassaic Kilns to the south of the Southern Part;
- collier camps for tending the hearths;
- miner housing/company stores;
- draft animal pens;
- railroad berms and spurs;
- logging roads, as identified by Berger on Northern Part;
- early smelting sites;
- furnaces;
- slag piles;
- ore mines;
- ore exploration pits;
- mining waste pits;
- water power control systems; and,
- drainage ditches.

Cartographic and documentary research found no recordation of mining on Parcels 1 or 2, but did identify one former open pit mine immediately north of the northeastern boundary of Parcel 1, out of the APE. Research further indicated that the Southern Part of the project site remained undeveloped during the historic period, and was used for agricultural, charcoaling, and 20th century landfilling and gravelling. Parcel 1 contains a late 20th century landfill that was capped with soils from lowland areas, rendering much of the parcel disturbed. Parcel 2 was subjected to gravel mining, also rendering a portion of the parcel disturbed. None of the historic maps or atlases reviewed depicted any structures on Parcels 1 or 2 from 1797 onward. Local informants confirmed there are no known historical structures on Parcels 1 and 2 beyond stone walls and, likely, charcoal hearths. They did state that upland portions of both parcels have an intricate system of roads used for collecting wood, and that these areas have been used for deer hunting.

Results of Walkover Survey (Parcels 1, 2, and 3)

The field walkover of Parcels 1, 2, and 3 did not result in the identification of any former buildings or structures on the property other than those created by charcoaling and farming. As per Figure 2, stone walls were observed along the boundaries of all three Parcels, but they were not continuous. In addition, seven features were identified on the landscape, as was a series of dirt roads on the upper ridges that provided access to wooded areas, possibly as part of the charcoal industry.

Feature 1 on Parcel 1 is a potential agricultural-related feature situated on a seemingly undisturbed wooded location near its northeastern corner (Feature 1; Figure 2). The feature is a natural rock outcrop with additional rocks piled on it, with an old partially buried milk pail nearby. To the west, three charcoal hearths were initially identified on the upland ridged portion of Parcel 1 (Features 2, 5, and 6), and a fourth was later identified upon further review of Feature 6 (Feature 6a) (Figure 2). Three of these were distinctly mounded (Features 2, 6, and 6a), while the fourth was only distinguished by darkened soils and charcoal on the surface (Feature 5). Each mound had an adjacent trench, the purpose of which is unclear (Figure 2). In addition, some of the bedrock outcrops on the steeply sloped western ridge of Parcels 1 and 2 also looked like they may have been slightly modified with experimental extraction to see if they could bear ore (Feature 3, Figure 2), but most outcrops looked unmodified and unsuitable for Native American use as rock shelters. Parcel 1 also contained a man-made pit (Feature 4), the nature of which is unclear, but it could have resulted from experimental ore extraction or it could have served as a borrow pit (Figure 2). Parcel 3 contained only stone farm walls and a drainage channel and pit (Feature 7) built into a steep slope (Figure 2).

Results of Phase IB Survey (Parcels 1 and 2):

Based on the documentary research and Walkover Survey, HPI recommended Phase IB field testing for precontact period archaeological resources within undisturbed portions of the Parcel 1 and 2 APE, and for resources related to charcoal hearths outside of the footprint of the hearths themselves. Phase IB testing was undertaken in accordance with applicable archaeological standards (New York Archaeological Council 1994; NYSOPRHP 2005).

Parcel 1: A total of 22 STs were excavated on Parcel 1. Only one topographically confined area at the top of a small rise at the northeastern corner of the Parcel was identified as not having been disturbed in conjunction with the capping of the landfill on the Parcel (Figures 2 and 3). To test this area, six STs were excavated on a grid. None of the STs contained precontact or historical archaeological material, but all did contain copious amounts of degrading limestone. Nearby, Feature 1 was identified (Figure 2). The feature is a rock outcrop with fieldstones piled on top of it, and an adjacent rusted metal milk can embedded in the soil. Two STs, F1-1 and F1-2, were excavated here to further investigate the nature of the feature (Figure 3). No cultural material was found in either of the STs, but when the milk pail was removed for examination a cow bone was found in the soil inside the pail.

Four charcoal hearths (Features 2, 5, 6, and 6a) were identified on the upland western portion of Parcel 1 (Figure 2). The field investigation of each of these features consisted of an additional systematic walkover survey in search of evidence of collier occupancy, coupled with the excavation of a series of judgmentally placed STs placed outside of the hearths themselves (Figure 4). ST placement was largely dictated by field conditions as the entirety of the upland is predominantly comprised of bedrock outcrops and talus slopes. None of the STs contained any cultural material, and no artifactual evidence of colliers' huts or other associated features were identified on the landscape.

Parcel 2: A total of 120 STs were completed on Parcel 2. Testing at Parcel 2 was confined to its eastern half where slopes were less than 12% and in locations where there were no wetlands or known prior disturbance (Figure 5). Field testing on the lowland portion of Parcel 2 only resulted in one positive ST with historical material, a cut nail in

the A horizon (Figure 5). Because of the extreme depth of the A horizon in many of the STs, a C horizon subsoil was not able to be reached.

In order to determine the stratigraphy in Parcel 2, two 3 x 1 m (10 x 3.2 ft) test trenches were excavated by backhoe and stratigraphy was examined and recorded. Trench 1 was placed toward the eastern portion of Parcel 2 below a steep slope and immediately east of an area that was historically graveled according to local informants (Figure 5). Trench 2 was placed downhill and further to the east at one of the lowest points on Parcel 2 (Figure 5). Neither trench bore evidence of artifacts or cultural deposits, but both did aid in the understanding of subsurface conditions.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The walkover survey did identify locations of potential precontact sensitivity and several features on Parcel 1 including a stone pile (Feature 1), and four charcoal hearths (Features 2, 5, 6, and 6a; see attached Figures 2 and 3). Phase IB testing on the area of potential precontact sensitivity at the northeastern corner of the parcel found no cultural resources, therefore no further investigations are warranted for this area. Subsurface testing at Feature 1 found no cultural material, and the adjacent milk pail and cow bone are a negligible recollection of this area's former use as a dairy pasture. These items do not represent a significant deposit, and no further investigations are warranted.

At the charcoal hearths identified on the ridge of Parcel 1, STs failed to produce any cultural material related to the area use by colliers who were tending the hearths. Therefore, no further archaeological investigations are warranted for these locations either.

The walkover survey identified one portion of Parcel 2 that was sensitive for potential precontact resources (Figure 2). However, subsequent Phase IB STs were sterile, and only one historical artifact, a cut nail, was recovered. Some of the STs contained 20th century material in the upper levels. The lack of typical field scatter (e.g., small broken household-related artifacts observed when nightsoil from cleaning out a privy pit is dumped in a field for fertilizer) observed across this area, the presence of relatively modern material in several of the STs, and the observed soil stratigraphy in the two test trenches all indicate that Parcel 2 has had some degree of disturbance, and that no potential archaeological deposits exist within the tested area. Therefore, no further testing is recommended for this area.

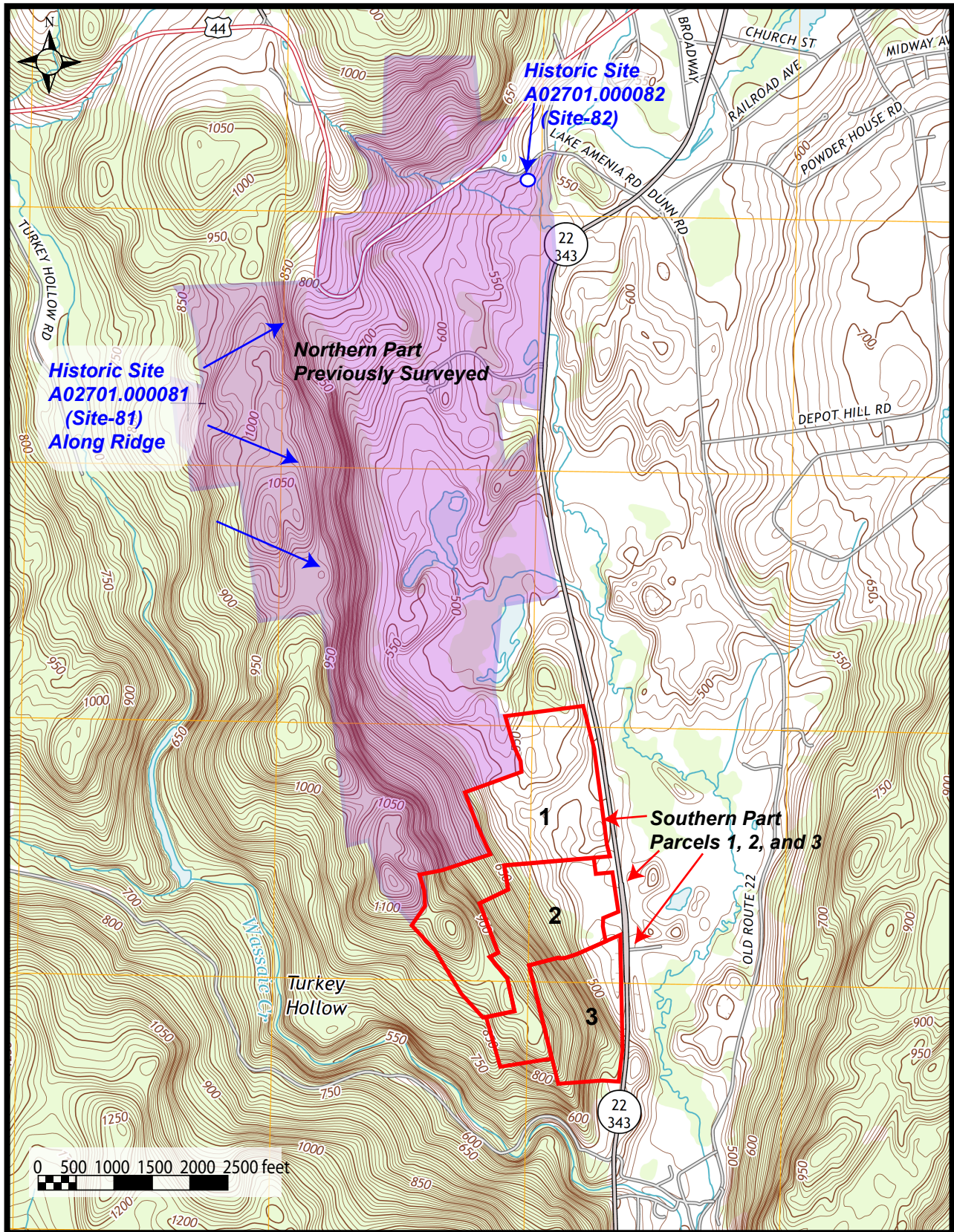
Both Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 lacked any potentially significant archaeological deposits; therefore, no further archaeological testing is warranted for either Parcel. The charcoal hearths and the system of dirt roads through the mountains on both the Northern and Southern Parts of the project site represent an important component of the iron ore industrial legacy in Amenia and Wassaic. Indeed, the founding of Wassaic as a community was spurred on by Noah Gridley of the Gridley Iron Works – once located south of the project site - who sought to develop the area. He was responsible for bringing the train to Wassaic and luring other industries to the area.

When considering the National Register eligibility for a collection of related features, such as the charcoal hearths, roads, and the landscaped ponds that are remnants of open pit mines, to form a cohesive archaeological district, one must consider the integrity of the features, their interrelationship, and their ability to address potential research issues. From an archaeological perspective, the collection of iron industry related resources remaining on the landscape in the project site does not retain its integrity and lacks research potential. Iron ore pits have been landscaped and incorporated into an extant golf course, and now look like natural ponds. Furthermore, charcoal hearths and dirt roads in the mountains lack the potential to add to the understanding and knowledge of the industry. Phase IB testing of the hearths to establish charcoal composition was previously completed by Berger, and subsequent testing around hearths for this study failed to identify any archaeological deposits beyond charcoal. While the network of dirt roads established across the rocky and steep ridges is indicative of the efforts taken to capitalize on the productivity of the forests, they do not represent a unique phenomenon and are typical of dirt roads established to harvest timber for any number of reasons.

The complex of resources related to the iron industry is indeed important to the history of the area, and particularly to the history of Wassaic, but would be more meaningful if combined with the archeological remnants of a furnace, or other structures that together would be illustrative of the entire process surrounding the mining and processing of iron ore. No such features have been identified on the project site, and none are expected to be found. While there are two kilns related to the Gridley Furnace located about 0.25 miles south of the project site, these are reconstructed

features on the landscape, the originals having been lost to time. The lack of feature integrity and research potential does not render the charcoal hearths, dirt roads, and mining pits-turned-ponds on the project site eligible for nomination as an archaeological district.

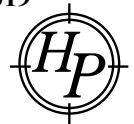
Faline Schneiderman, RPA
Historical Perspectives, Inc.

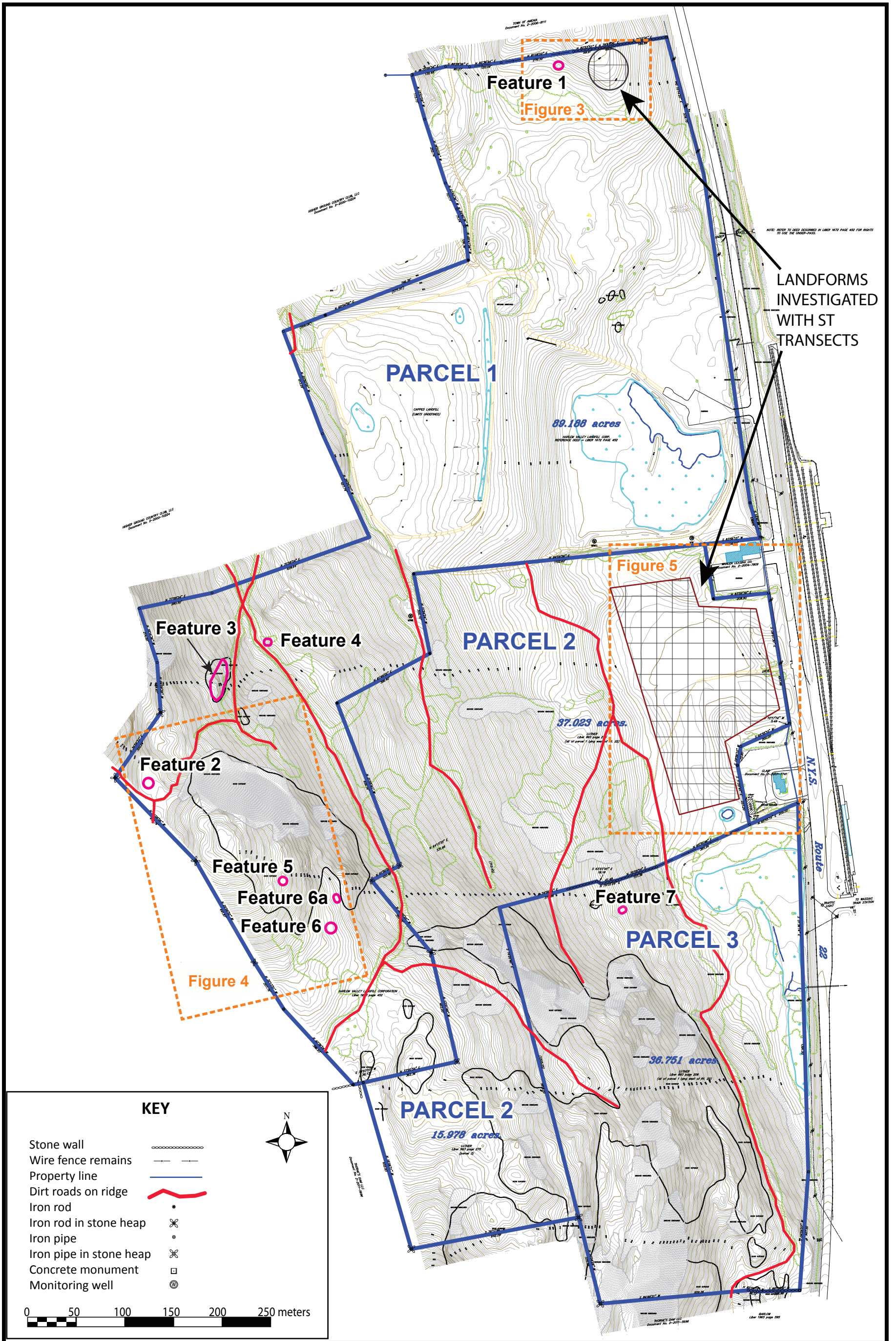


PHASE IA/IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 SILO RIDGE PROJECT, PARCELS 1, 2, AND 3
 PHASE II ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION
 WEST LAKE AMENIA ROAD HISTORIC SITE A02701.000082

TOWN OF AMENIA
 DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
 NYSOPRHP NO. 06PR02019

Figure 1: Project Site on *Amenia, NY-CT 7.5 Minute Quadrangle (USGS 2013).*





PHASE IA/IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
SILO RIDGE PROJECT, PARCELS 1, 2, AND 3
PHASE II ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION
WEST LAKE AMENIA ROAD HISTORIC SITE A02701.000082

TOWN OF AMENIA
DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
NYSOPRHP NO. 06PR02019

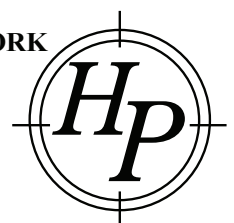
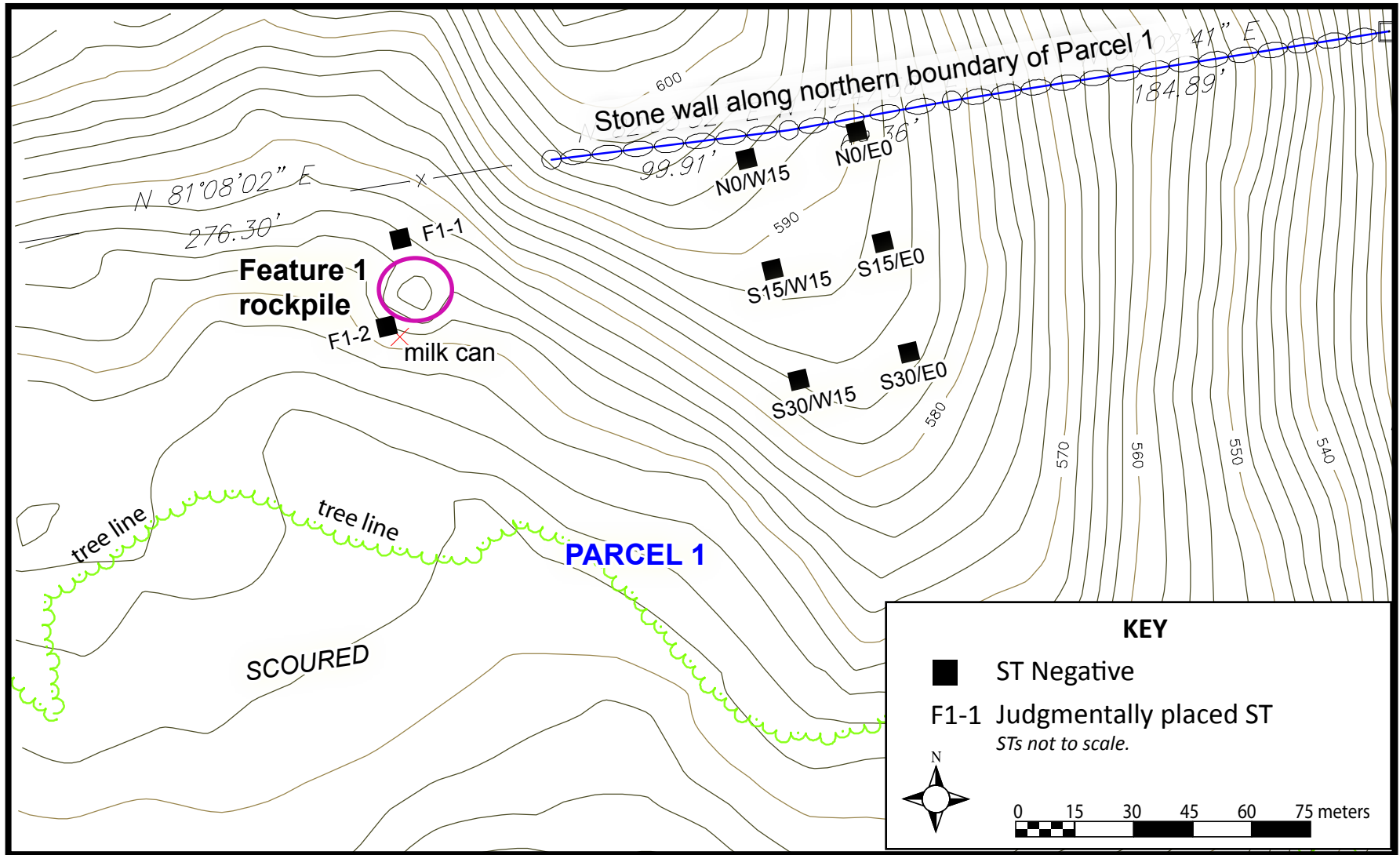


Figure 2: Feature Locations identified in Walkover Survey of Parcels 1, 2, and 3 in Southern Part and Key to locations of Figures 3, 4, and 5 (Horton and HPI 2013).

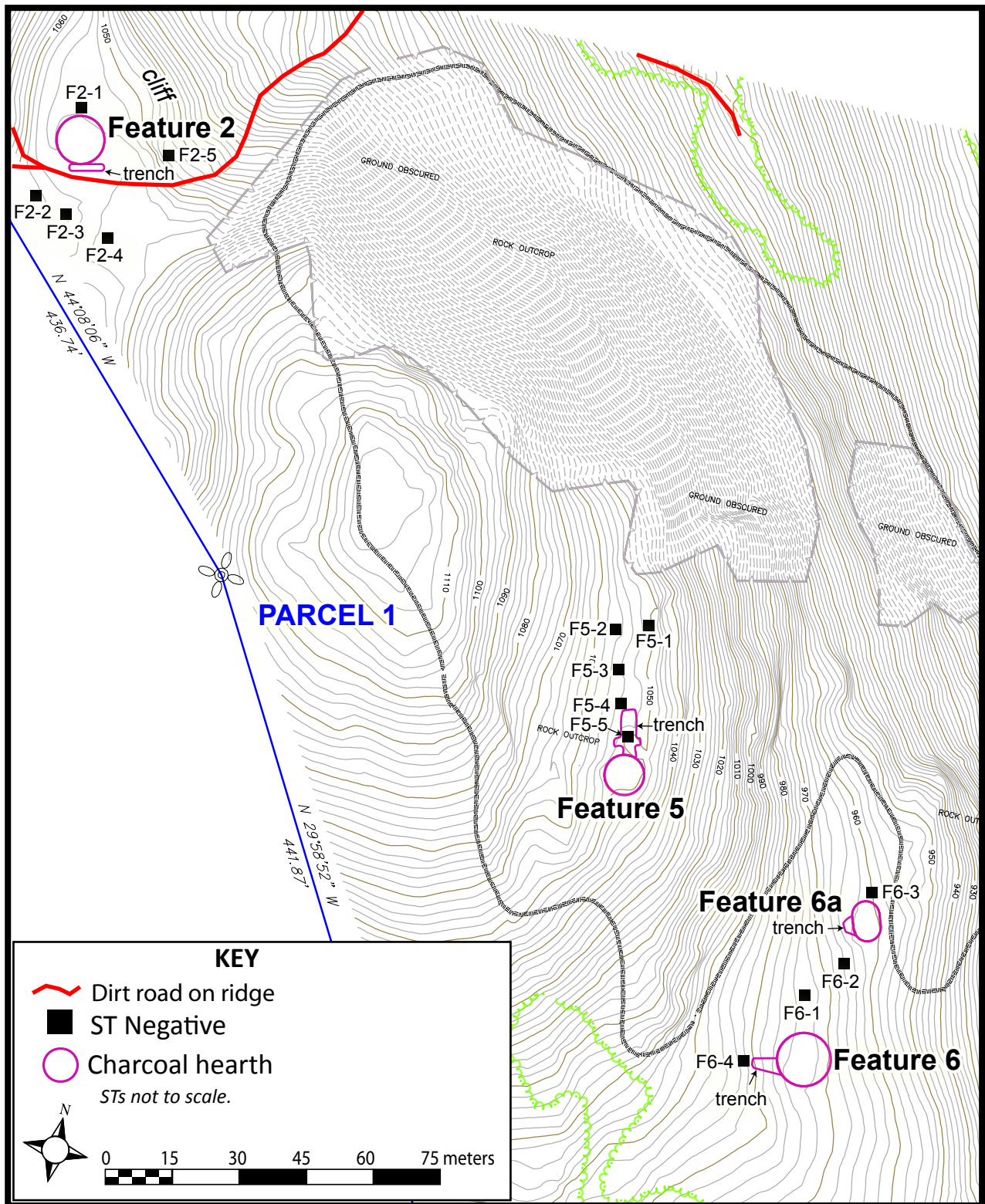


PHASE IA/IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 SILO RIDGE PROJECT, PARCELS 1, 2, AND 3
 PHASE II ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION
 WEST LAKE AMENIA ROAD HISTORIC SITE A02701.000082

TOWN OF AMENIA
 DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
 NYSOPRHP NO. 06PR02019



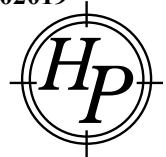
Figure 3: Phase IB field testing results, northeastern portion of Parcel 1 in Southern Part (Horton and HPI 2013).

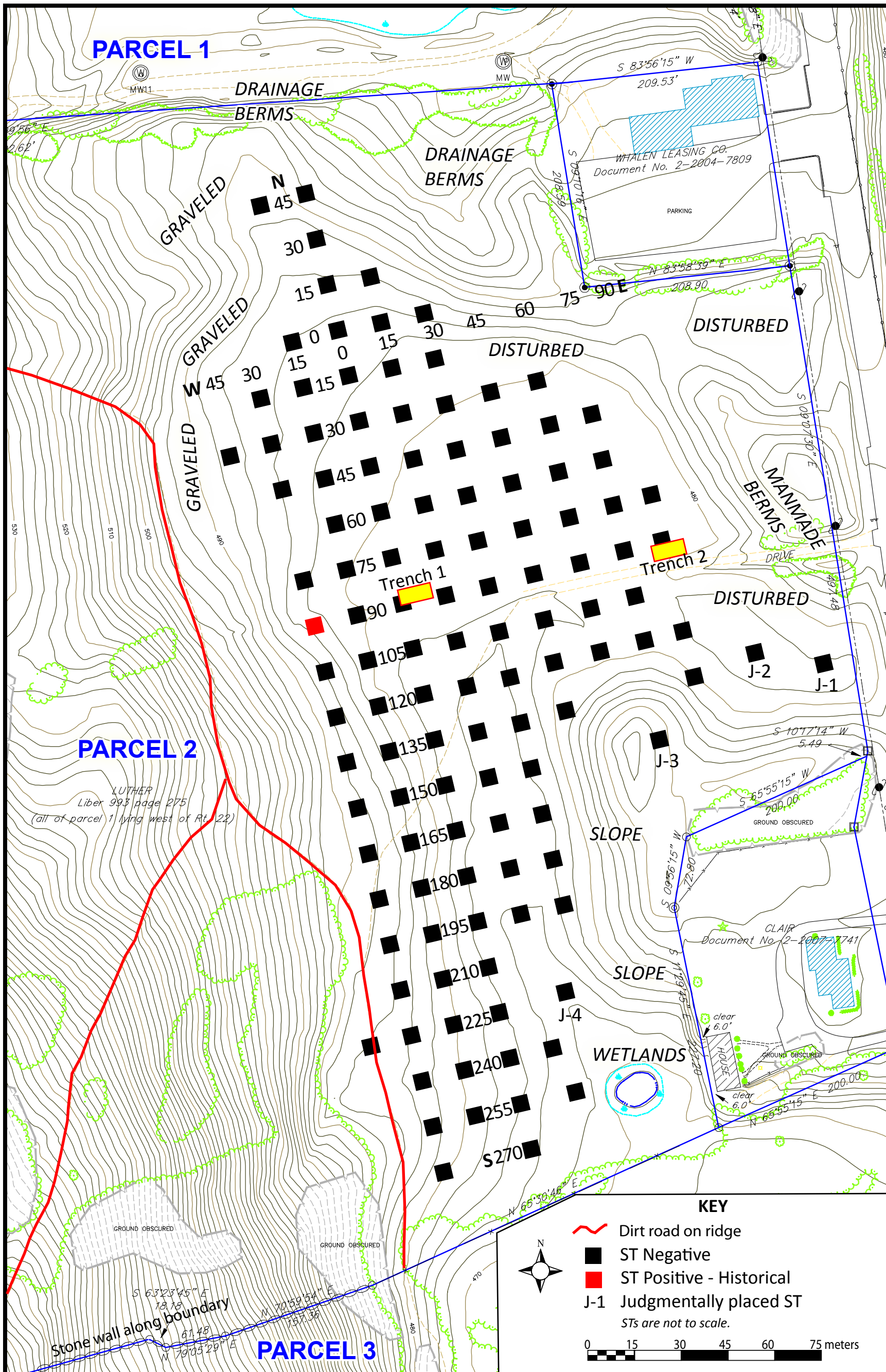


PHASE IA/IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 SILO RIDGE PROJECT, PARCELS 1, 2, AND 3
 PHASE II ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION
 WEST LAKE AMENIA ROAD HISTORIC SITE A02701.000082

TOWN OF AMENIA
 DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
 NYSOPRHP NO. 06PR02019

Figure 4: Phase IB field testing results, western portion of Parcel 1 (Horton and HPI 2013).

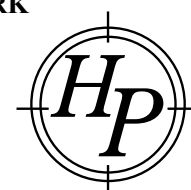




PHASE IA/IB ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 SILO RIDGE PROJECT, PARCELS 1, 2, AND 3
 PHASE II ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE EVALUATION
 WEST LAKE AMENIA ROAD HISTORIC SITE A02701.000082

TOWN OF AMENIA
 DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK
 NYSOPRHP NO. 06PR02019

Figure 5: Phase IB field testing results on eastern portion of Parcel 2, Southern Part (Horton and HPI 2013).
 Note: Two trenches were machinee excavated to provide archaeologists with stratigraphic information.





New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

November 04, 2013

Ms. Cece Saunders
Historical Perspectives, Inc.
P.O. Box 529
Westport, Connecticut 06881

Re: DOS ,DEC, DOH, DOT
End of Fieldwork Memo: Phase IA/IB Parcels 1, 2, and 3
Silo Ridge Resort Community (Formerly 03PR01764)
NY Route 22, Town of Amenia/AMENIA, Dutchess County
06PR02019

Dear Ms. Saunders:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). We have reviewed the submitted document *End of Fieldwork Memo: Phase IA/IB Parcels 1, 2, and 3* for the Silo Ridge Development project in accordance with the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (Section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law). These comments are those of the Division for Historic Preservation and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that our office accepts the submitted End of Fieldwork letter. It is our understanding that the Phase II portion of the Work Plan is still in progress and that an End of Fieldwork letter will be forwarded to our office upon completion. We look forward to continued consultation regarding the project.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (518) 237-8643, Extension 3288 or via electronic mail at Brian.Yates@parks.ny.gov. If further correspondence is required regarding this project, please be sure to refer to the OPRHP Project Review (PR) number noted above.

Sincerely,

Wm. Brian Yates
Historic Preservation Specialist