Lake Champlain Bridge Historic Preservation Monitoring Report #1 (July 2010)
Lake Champlain Bridge/Crown Point Historic Site

Historic Preservation Monitoring Reports will be distributed monthly and will incorporate summary information provided by archaeological monitor(s). Questions regarding the HPR reports can be directed to: Christina B. Rieth, Historic Preservation Monitor, New York State Museum, Cultural Resource Survey Program, Albany, New York; crieth@mail.nysed.gov; 518-402-5975

I. General Summary of Historic Preservation Monitoring Activities
   - overview of site visits and summary of meetings relating to the Lake Champlain Bridge/Crown Point Historic Site

II. Site Plans and Summary of Future Work
   - summary of Flatiron plans/schedules for work; action items related to Crown Point Historic Site

III. Archaeological Monitoring Summary
   - summary to be provided in conjunction with Aaron Gore, Archaeology Monitor

IV. Issues and Remediation related to Crown Point Historic Site

V. Issues and Recommendations
   - List of concerns from all parties; Recommendations from HPM and NYSDOT CRC

VI. Contacts

VII. Photographs (if relevant to above items)

I. GENERAL SUMMARY OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONITORING ACTIVITIES

July 15, 2010—Historic Preservation Monitor (Christina Rieth) and Archaeological Monitor (Aaron Gore) notified by NYSDOT Cultural Resources Coordinator (Tanya Thorne) that construction within the proposed area of potential effect on New York State side of the Lake Champlain Bridge and Crown Point Historic Site would begin on Monday July 19th as per the approved monitoring and Data Recovery Plan.

   - Archaeological Monitor and small crew from the State Museum’s Cultural Resource Survey Program would be on site to begin monitoring on Monday morning.

July 16, 2010—Talked by phone with Engineer-in-Charge (Jeff Brown) and NYSDOT Cultural Resource Coordinator to determine construction schedule and potential impacts that would occur over next several weeks.

   - Received list of DOT, Flatiron, Crown Point Historic Site, Army Corp of Engineers, and Vtrans contacts for coordination of cultural resource activities.

   - Email exchange with Charles Vandrei of NYSDEC and Paul Huey of OPRHP regarding disposition of archaeological collections from Crown Point Historic Site and accessioning standards for the collection in the future.

July 19, 2010—Construction monitoring begins on New York side of Lake Champlain Bridge. Plans of construction of bridge provided to archaeological/HPM monitor by EIC.

   - Monitors begin to meet Flatiron and Reale Construction workers.

   - Discussion of future impacts and scheduling activities begins.

July 21, 2010—Notified by archaeological monitor of unmonitored impact as a result of placement of silt fencing and excavation of between Bridge Road and small wooden foot bridge. Conversations with Tanya Thorne, NYSDOT Cultural Resource Coordinator, Jeff Brown, and Jerome Lauzon of NYSDOT ensued about the nature of the impact and the need to be notified in advance of future impacts causing disturbance of soils and subsurface deposits.
July 26, 2010-Attended Environmental, Historic, and Archaeological Monitor’s Meeting at Crown Point
meeting addressed expectations of monitors and allowed opportunity for monitors to meet EIC and Flatiron personnel.
-Toured Chimney Point Site excavation (Site VTAD329) with John Crock, UVM Archaeology Director and discussed findings on Vermont side of bridge.

July 29, 2010-Talked with Tom Hughes, Site Manager of Crown Point Historic Site about bracing for two walls of Fort St. Frederic as required by Programmatic Agreement and recommended by Ryan-Biggs Associates, Inc.

II. SITE PLANS AND SUMMARY OF FUTURE WORK
As of July 29th, the Crown Point State Historic Site and Department of Environmental Conservation Campground remain open to visitors along with the Ferry Landing which will remain open to carry cars across the lake to the Vermont side. Despite the historic site being open, issues related to public access of walkways and construction site remain (see Section IV).

Construction work with the Area of Potential Effect has been steadily progressing with construction activities focused on vertical excavation for the new abutment and establishing the new bridge abutment slope. Beginning on July 26th, Flatiron and its contractor Reale Construction of Ticonderoga began to strip back approximately 80 meters of pavement on the New York side of the bridge and removed adjacent light poles and guide rails. New safety fencing around the visitor center and construction zone was installed. A section of silt fencing was installed along Bridge Road. The southern section of the silt fencing was rerouted to run parallel to the northern section on July 26th. This was done to establish a temporary storage area for reusable fill.

Future activities include continued excavation/monitoring for the new abutment and pavement removal. Walkway access to the Crown Point Historic Site from the NYS DEC Campground site continue be an issue and may involve monitoring of areas for clean fill and equipment/supply storage. It is anticipated that work on the New York side of the bridge will increase during August.

III. ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING SUMMARY
Archaeologists from the New York State Museum’s Cultural Resource Survey Program (NYSM CRSP) have been on site monitoring construction activities from July 19th thru July 31st. The results of these activities have been focused on monitoring the vertical excavation of the approach ramp to the bridge and ensuring that natural soils related to the pre-1928 bridge construction are not impacted. To date, all of the excavations appear to be contained within the build-up for the 1928 Lake Champlain bridge. There is no evidence to suggest that these deposits are related to the pre-1928 soils and no evidence of intact cultural deposits or features have been identified in the vicinity of the current approach ramp. These deposits will continue to be monitored as work progresses into August. All deposits have been photo-documented and field forms for these deposits are being kept.

On July 21st, it was observed that a mobile compressor parked on the roadside adjacent to the silt fence leaked diesel fuel on the grass. The compressor was subsequently removed from the site and the contaminated soil excavated, replaced with clean soil, and seeded with grass seed. Archaeologists monitored the excavation of the contaminated area which measured approximately 80 cm by 20 cm. A few small brick fragments were encountered.

Staff from the NYSM CRSP monitored the rerouting of a section of silt fencing between Bridge Road and the wooden foot bridge on July 26th. A small low-density scatter of brick fragments, and bottle glass were recovered and are believed to constitute sheet midden surrounding the fort.

IV. ISSUES AND REMEDIATION IN RELATIONSHIP TO CROWN POINT HISTORIC SITE
Issue 1. Heavy equipment impacts and road surface wear
-Heavy impacts to the existing road surface will be caused by the current construction project.
  Remediation: The exiting roadway will be repaired and restored as needed.
**Issue 2. Pedestrian Access to Crown Point Historic Site from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Campground**

- Access to walkways between the campground and state historic site will be needed so that Pedestrian traffic will not be required to walk through construction area and/or cross highway at non-walkway locations.

*Remediation:* Flatiron/Reale Construction will consider options for other storage areas for materials/equipment that doesn’t block walkways including storage on closed portion of existing roadway and/or working with archaeological monitor to determine new areas which can be cleared for historic resources to create short-term storage areas.

**Issue 3. Develop Notification System to inform Monitors when/where impacts to historic/cultural resources will occur.**

- Monitors will need to have advanced notice of construction activities so that decisions can be made as to the extent of monitoring activities needed and number of personnel needed to carry out these activities.

*Remediation:* As a result of July 26th meeting between EIC, Flatiron and Monitors, guidelines for advanced notification were discussed between all parties.

**Issue 4. Bracing of Walls of Fort St. Frederic**

- As per the programmatic agreement, the contractor will be responsible for bracing two sections of wall along Fort St. Frederic to limit vibration impacts during construction.

*Remediation:* The Historic Preservation Monitor has contacted Tom Hughes, Site Manager for the Crown Point Historic Site to discuss bracing and determine whether OPRHP has a preferred form of bracing these walls. A meeting between the HPM, Crown Point Historic Site Manager, and OPRHP Saratoga Office to discuss the issue and future inspection of the fort is in the process of being set-up.

**V. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Crown Point Historic Site)**

**Issue 1. Vibration Impacts to Tollhouse, Fort St. Frederic, and Lighthouse**

- Each of these structures will need to be protected during construction. Extensive vibration impacts may lead to additional cracks in structures.

*Recommendation:* Regular inspection of building walls by site manager and historic preservation monitor to insure that new cracks don’t occur as a result of construction.

**VI. CONTACTS**

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