

# Phase 1 Archaeological Survey for the Peter Crippen House

Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York

PREPARED FOR

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Town of Huntington  
228 Main Street  
Huntington, NY 11743

PREPARED BY

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**Allison McGovern, PhD, RPA**



**VHB Engineering, Surveying, Landscape  
Architecture, and Geology, P.C.**

100 Motor Parkway  
Suite 350  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
631.787.3400

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# Project Summary

**SHPO Project Review Number:** N/A

**Involved Local, State and Federal Agencies:** Town of Huntington

**Phase of Survey:** Phase 1 Archaeological Survey

**Survey Area (Metric & English)**

**Number of Acres Surveyed:** 0.3 acre

- › Number of Square Meters and Feet Excavated: one
- › Percentage of Site Excavated: N/A

**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Maps:** *Northport, New York, 2019*

## Results of Archaeological Assessment

**Number & Name of Archaeological Sites identified:** One, Peter Crippen historic archaeological site

**Number & Name of Historic Sites identified:** None

**Number & Name of Sites Recommended for Phase II/Avoidance:** One, Peter Crippen historic archaeological site

**Recommendations:** Phase 2

**Report Author(s):** Allison McGovern, PhD (RPA 16468)

**Date of Report:** February 25, 2021

## Executive Summary

VHB has prepared this Phase 1 archaeological survey report for the Crippen House property on 61 Creek Road, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York to determine if the proposed development of the property (which includes proposed building removal, grading, and construction of a new parking facilities for the neighboring Town of Huntington Wastewater Treatment Plant) will impact archaeological remains of pre-colonial and/or post-colonial (historic) age. The study was performed in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections* issued by the New York Archaeological Council (1995) and the *Phase I Archaeological Report Format Requirements* issued by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (2005). No structures have been evaluated as part of this Phase 1 survey.

The subject property measures approximately 0.32 acre (0.13 hectare) and includes a 2 ½ story frame house with a 1 ½ story wing and detached 2 story outbuilding. The house has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).<sup>1</sup> The house was listed as a Town landmark in 2008, and de-listed in 2016.

Based on the information concerning settlement, archival research, discussions with a Crippen-Smith-Carman family descendant, and the historic map overview, undisturbed portions of the project area were determined to have a moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century historic deposits associated with the Crippen-Smith-Carman family. This assessment was verified by the results of the archaeological survey, which identified one archaeological site (the Peter Crippen historic archaeological site) within the project area. Nine shovel test pits and one 1x1 meter square unit were excavated during the Phase 1 archaeological survey. A total of 513 artifacts were recovered from within intact historic-era soils. Within the square excavation unit, evidence of a possible historic sheet midden (refuse deposit) was encountered. The artifacts recovered from within this deposit demonstrate a diverse assemblage of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, in addition to fragments of glass, metal, coal, slag, bone, and shell, that are remnants of the daily patterns of lived experience distributed across the site.

Based on the results of the Phase 1 archaeological survey, New York Archaeological Council standards call for additional archaeological investigations at the site. A Phase 2 archaeological Site Evaluation is recommended to determine if the archaeological site (in addition to the house) is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR). At this time, the NR eligibility of the house does not extend to the archaeological site.

A Phase 2 Site Evaluation consists of the excavation of several, sometimes contiguous 1x1 meter square units and a small number of shovel test pits to determine the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the archaeological site, and to establish the historic context and significance in accordance with the National Park Service criteria for National Register

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<sup>1</sup> NYS OPRHP Resource Evaluation for Peter Crippen Property, November 4, 2020.

eligibility. However, because of the depths of mucky fill at the site, monitored machine-assisted excavation of the upper levels of disturbance may be necessary to access the buried historic deposits. This should only be done in consultation with a qualified archaeologist who has established a Phase 2 testing protocol for the site.

It is also strongly recommended that a qualified archaeologist be present to monitor the removal of the house to identify potential buried archaeological deposits. Once the house is removed from the site, archaeological investigation is recommended within the footprint of the house. The results of this work can be included in the Phase 2 reporting.

Additional research is recommended to complete the chain of title for the property, and to develop a stronger understanding of Nelson Smith's family and connection to the site. Preliminary research indicates that the Nelson Smith property was absorbed by the Crippen property after 1888, and therefore may be part of the current project site. Continued consultation and oral history research with descendants are also recommended to improve the genealogical record of the Crippen family and to create a more detailed historic context for the Crippen House archaeological investigation.

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# 1

## Introduction and Project Description

VHB Engineering, Surveying, Landscape Architecture and Geology, P.C. (VHB), Hauppauge, New York, has prepared this Phase 1 Archaeological Survey report for the Peter Crippen site located at 61 Creek Road in the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York (Figures 1 and 2).

The subject property measures approximately 0.32 acre (0.13 hectare) and includes a 2 ½ story frame house with a 1 ½ story wing and detached 2 story outbuilding. The site was recently acquired by the Town of Huntington and is intended to become a parking lot for the neighboring Town of Huntington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Crippen House was designated a Town Landmark in 2008 due to the age of the building (which is believed to have components of a 17<sup>th</sup> century grist mill building) and its association with Huntington's African American heritage. The house is also inventoried with a Unique Site Number (USN 10304.000219) in the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) and has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>2</sup> According to historians, the house and property were purchased by Peter Crippen in 1864 (Appendix 1). Crippen was one of seven founders and trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Huntington, which was a bulwark of African American life and community in Huntington and Cold Spring Harbor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the time the building was landmarked in 2008, it was in an advanced deteriorated state. Subsequently, in 2016, at the request of the then-owner, the Town of re-evaluated the property and revoked its landmarked status due to its unsalvageable condition. The house and property remained in the estate of the Crippen

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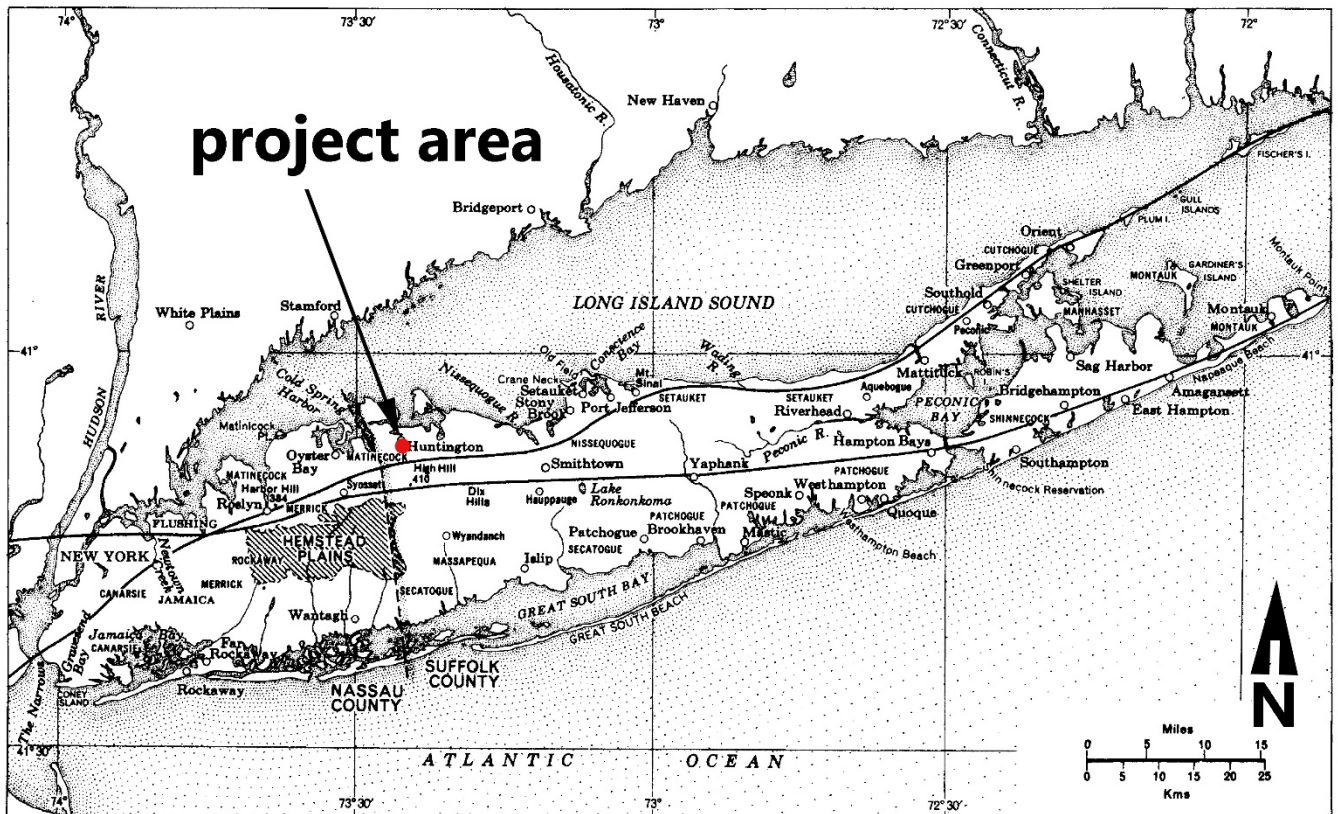
<sup>2</sup> NYS OPRHP Resource Evaluation for Peter Crippen Property, November 4, 2020.

Phase 1 Archaeological Survey

family until 2019, when it was purchased by the Town of Huntington. Due to the longevity of Crippen family occupation and ownership of the site, the Town of Huntington requested a Phase 1 archaeological survey be conducted.

VHB has prepared this Phase 1 archaeological survey report for the Town of Huntington (Figure 3). The purpose of the archaeological survey is to determine if the proposed development of the property (which includes proposed building removal, grading, and construction of a new parking facilities) will impact archaeological remains of pre-colonial and/or post-colonial (historic) age. The study was performed in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections* issued by the New York Archaeological Council (1995) and the *Phase I Archaeological Report Format Requirements* issued by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (2005). No structures have been evaluated as part of this Phase 1 survey.

**Figure 1 Project Location Map**



**Figure 2** USGS topographic maps *Lloyd Harbor, New York (2019) 7.5 minute series* showing the location of the project area



**Figure 3 Archaeological Survey Map**



# 2

## Background Research

### Environmental Setting

The project area is located on the north shore of central Long Island (Figures 1 and 2). It is situated north of the rolling hills of the Harbor Hill moraine, a geological feature formed over 18,000 years ago during the recession of the Wisconsin ice sheet (Sirkin 1996). Topography is gently sloping with an average elevation mapped at 6 meters (20 feet) above mean sea level, but the entire site is swampy, marshy terrain that is prone to flooding, causing the house to sink. The nearest source of fresh water is Mill Dam Park Pond, located 305 meters (1000 feet) north of the project area (Figure 2).

The site, which measures 0.32 acre (0.13 hectare), is situated north west of Creek Road and includes a 2 ½ story house with a 1 ½ story wing and a 2 story outbuilding comprising the entire Area of Potential Effect<sup>3</sup> (APE) (Photos 1-4). Immediately north and west of the property is the Town of Huntington sewage treatment plan (Photos 2, 4, 6). The extant Crippen house is located near the center of the eastern portion of the property (Photos 1-3). It is surrounded by land that has been cleared of most trees and ornamental plantings. Most of the western half of the property is densely vegetated by phragmites, vines, and tall

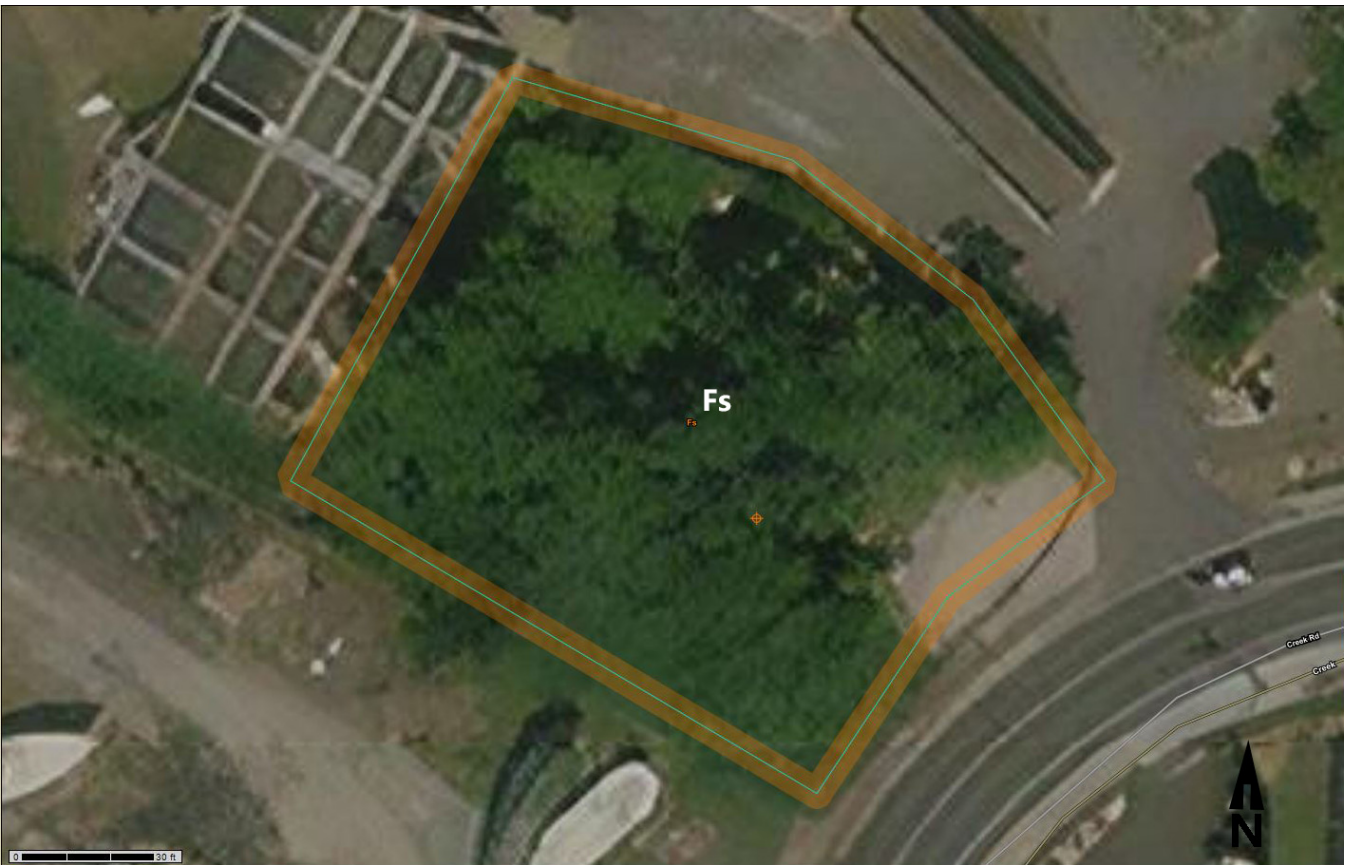
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<sup>3</sup> The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the area that is expected to be impacted by proposed development, and therefore, the subject of the archaeological survey.

grasses that have died back during the winter season (Photo 3). Ground disturbance from earth-moving activities associated with clearing, dumping, and use of the property for vehicle parking and storage are evident through the APE. (Figure 3; Photo 4). Disturbed areas have a low potential for yielding intact archaeological deposits.

Soils in the project area are mapped as Fill land, sandy (Fs) (Figure 4). Fill land, sandy is found in poorly drained areas, often along the waterfront, where sandy soils are deposited to create building sites. This soil type includes minor components of Muck (Mu) in swamps or marshes (Warner et al. 1975:77). These soils have very low natural fertility and have severe limitations for establishing and maintaining lawns and landscaping; they are also prone to ground water pollution where there is no filter between cesspools and the water table. (Warner et al. 1975: 70-71). There are no representative profiles for this soil type.

**Figure 4** USDA Soils Map<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> USDA Web Soil Survey available here: <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm> accessed on February 25, 2021.

**Photo 1** Looking northwest toward the front elevation of the Crippen house; property is cleared in the foreground.



**Photo 2** Northeastern view of the rear elevation of the Crippen House; an administrative building for the sewage treatment plant is visible in the background adjacent to the property.



**Photo 3** Northeast view of south elevation of Crippen house.



**Photo 4** Northwestern view of 2 story outbuilding in the rear of the Crippen property. The sewage treatment plant is visible in the background adjacent to the site.



**Photo 5** Southeast view of the southern portion of the Crippen property toward Creek Road.



**Photo 6** Northern view along the rear, western boundary of the Crippen property toward the Crippen outbuilding. The sewage treatment plant is visible immediately west of the Crippen property. The cement block wall was a remnant of a pig pen.



## Archaeological Site File Search

Consultation with NYS OPRHP CRIS indicates that the project area is located within an Area of Archaeological Sensitivity. There are five archaeological sites documented within a 1.6 kilometer (one mile) radius of the project site (Table 2). Most of these sites date to the post-contact/historic period (Table 2). Two of these sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

There are no State or National Register listed or previously-determined eligible archaeological sites within or adjacent to the property. The Crippen House (USN 10304.000219), located on the project site, has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Table 1 Archaeological sites within 1.6 kilometers (one mile) of the project area**

Site Identifier	Site Name	Age/Cultural Affiliation	Summary
NYSM 4872	› ACP SUFK-3A; ACP SUFK-3B	Pre-contact	"Village site and extensive shell heaps in Huntington on the Albert Arthur property" (Parker 1920:697).
A10304.000122	› Site of 17 <sup>th</sup> century Mill	Historic (17 <sup>th</sup> C)	Site of 1657 mill, demolished after 1675.
A10304.000901	› Site of Huntington Tide Mill	Historic	Mill built in 1752 by Zophar Platt on or near site of earlier mill (A10304.000122); operation ended in 1910 and the structure was demolished in 1930.
A10304.000147	› Site of Widow Platt's Tavern	Historic	House and tavern 1653-1860; <b>NR listed.</b>
A10304.000146	› Fort Golgotha	Historic (18 <sup>th</sup> C) with burials	British Revolutionary War fort; <b>NR listed.</b>

Source: CRIS

## Historic Map Survey

Trends in development and land use patterns over time can be discerned through a study of historic period maps. For the Town of Huntington, the earliest detailed maps to show the historic landscape throughout Huntington date to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1838 United States Coastal Survey (Figure 5) is among the earliest maps to accurately depict natural and man-made landscape features. This map shows the project area north of Creek Road and south of the Mill Pond. Two structures are illustrated within the project site.

A linear settlement pattern along main roads is shown throughout Huntington on the 1858 *Chace Map of Suffolk County*, as is typical of nineteenth century Long Island (Figure 6). A crease on this map makes the project site difficult to identify, but there appears to be one structure within the approximate location of the project site. Settlement appears denser on the 1873 *Beers Atlas of Long Island* (Figure 7). At that time, a structure owned by P. Crippen is clearly illustrated within the project site.

By the time of the 1902-1909 *Hyde Atlas of Long Island* (Figure 8), there is more documented development in the vicinity of the project site. However, there is no Crippen house or property ownership identified on this map. Most of the property north of the Crippen site (in the vicinity of the present-day sewage treatment plant) is identified as meadows. This is noteworthy because the 1903 USGS map (Figure 9) does show a structure in the vicinity of the project site. By the time of the 1915-1917 *Hyde Atlas of Long Island: North Side- Sound Shore* (Figure 10), the Crippen property is outlined adjacent to the town Disposal Works (present-day sanitation facility). The house is illustrated with an extension and identified with Wm. Crippen. The 1930 Sanborn map (Figure 11) similarly shows the Crippen site adjacent to the Huntington Sewage Disposal Plant. In addition to the house, two single-story wood frame storage sheds are depicted at the rear of the property. Beyond the property boundary, a larger single-story shed is illustrated within the boundaries of the sanitation property.

A review of the historic maps indicates that at least one structure has been mapped on the Crippen site as early as 1838 (although the 1838 map does indeed illustrate two structures), and that the property remained inhabited until and after the town constructed the sewage treatment plant on the adjacent property. Based on the results of the site file search and the historic map survey, the project area has a high sensitivity for the presence of archaeological deposits dating to the historic period.

**Figure 5** 1838 US Coastal and Geodetic Survey



Figure 6 1858 Chace Map of Suffolk County



Figure 7 1873 Beers Atlas of Long Island, Huntington Harbor Inset

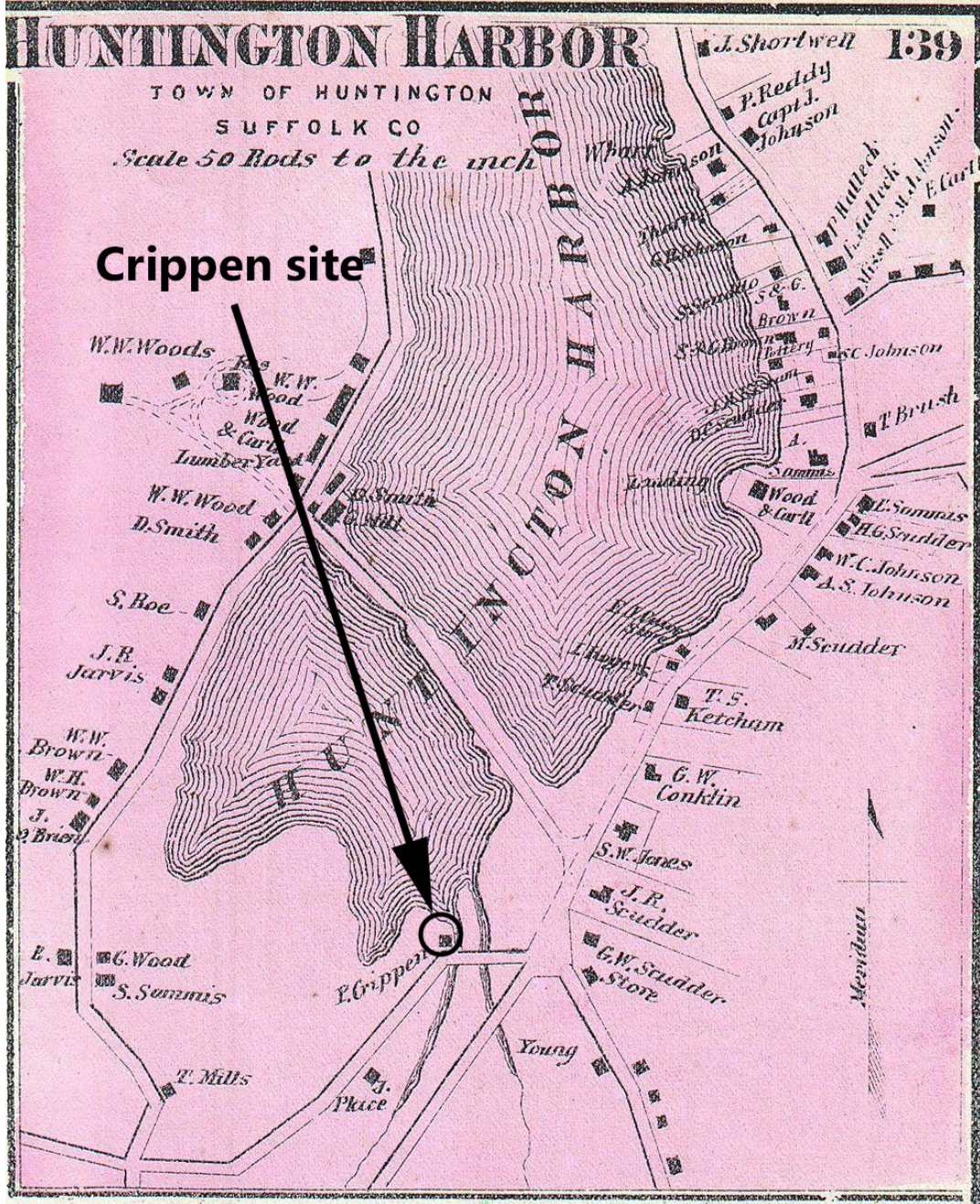
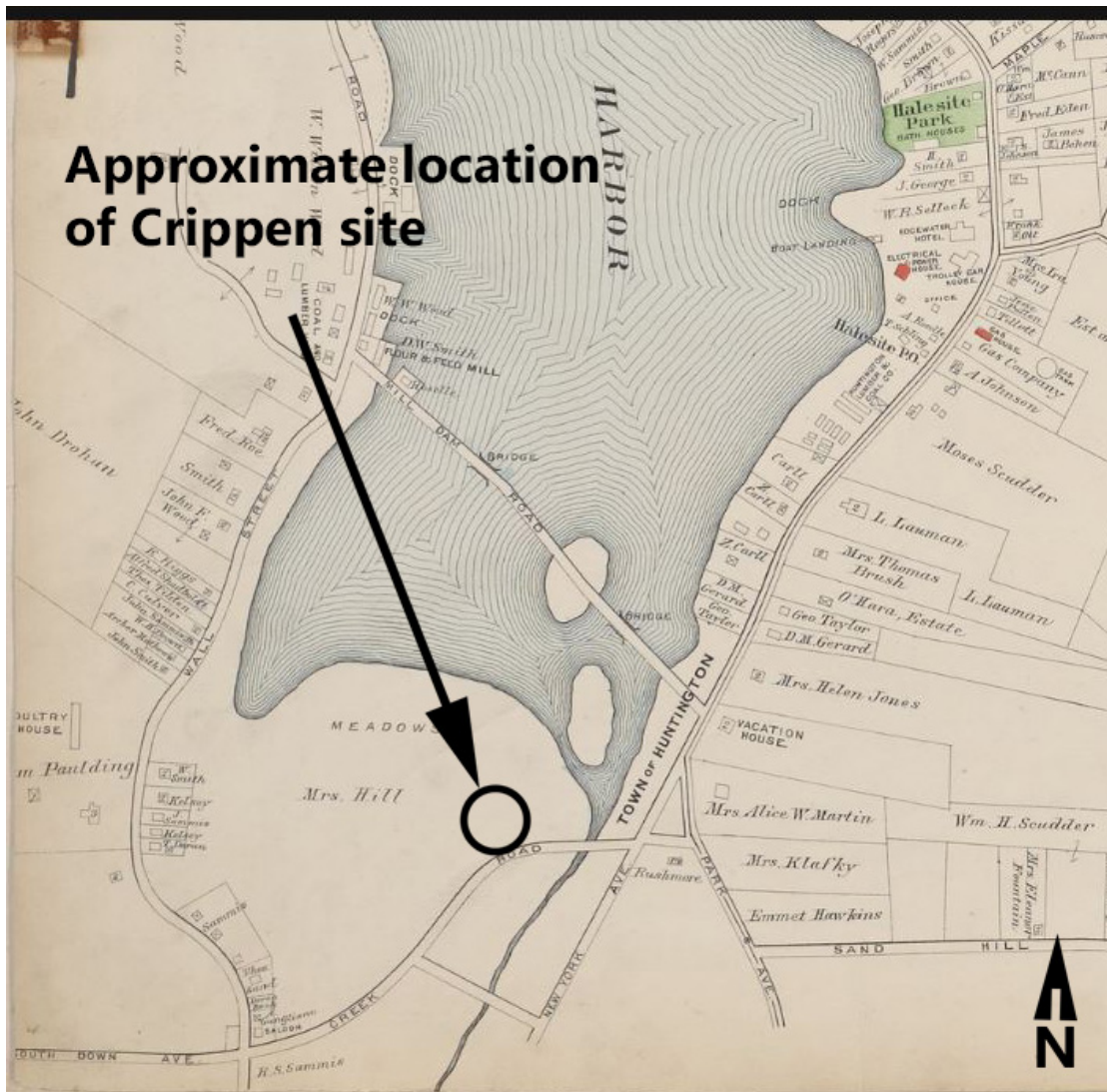


Figure 8 1902-1909 Hyde Atlas of a Part of Suffolk County



**Figure 9** 1903 USGS topographic map, *Northport, New York*

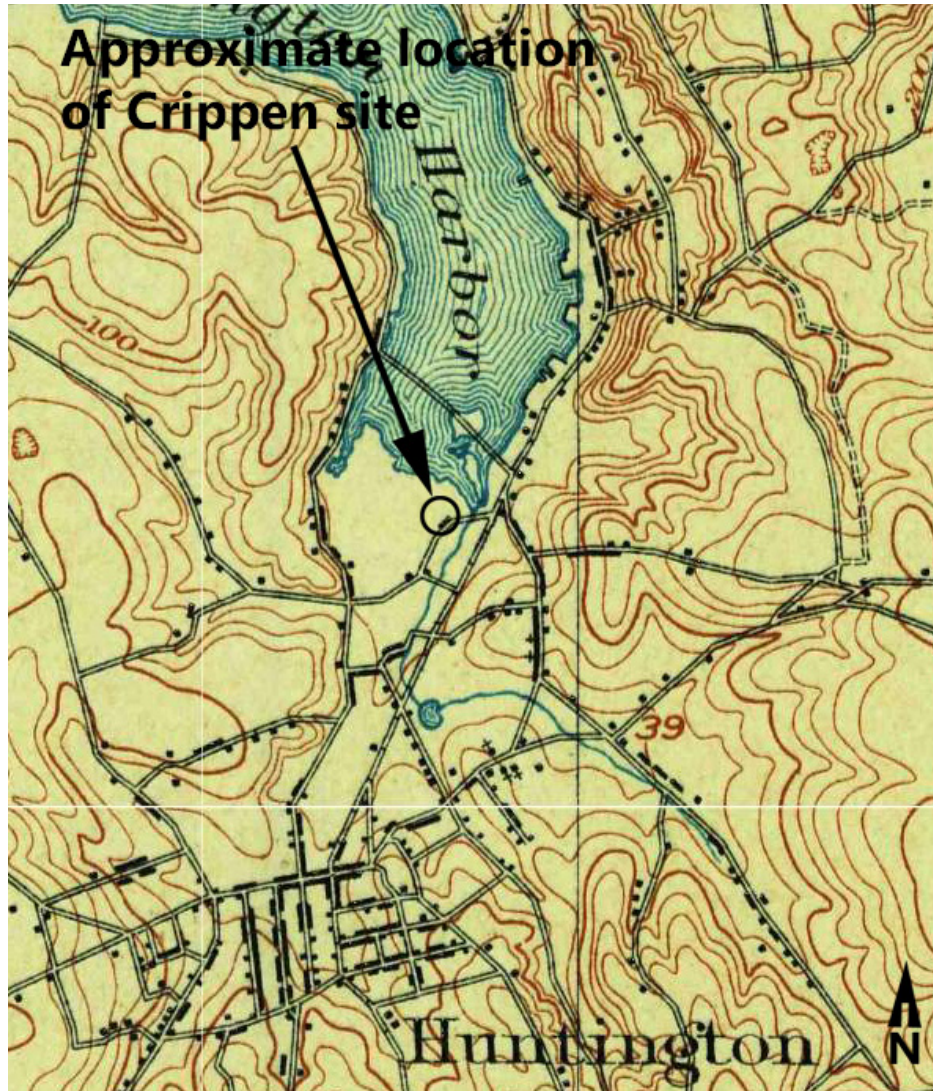


Figure 10 1915-17 Hyde Atlas of a Part of Suffolk County

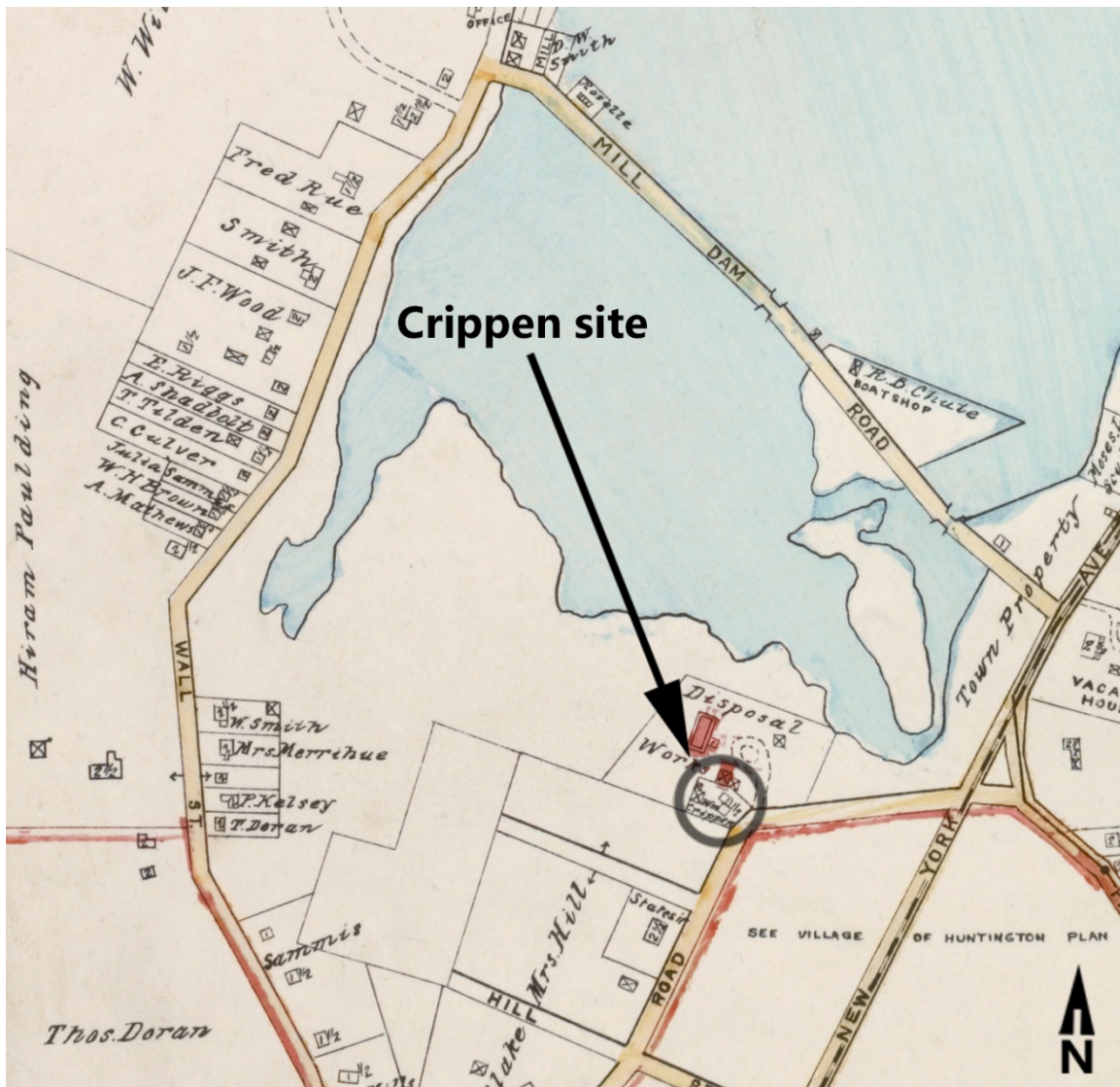
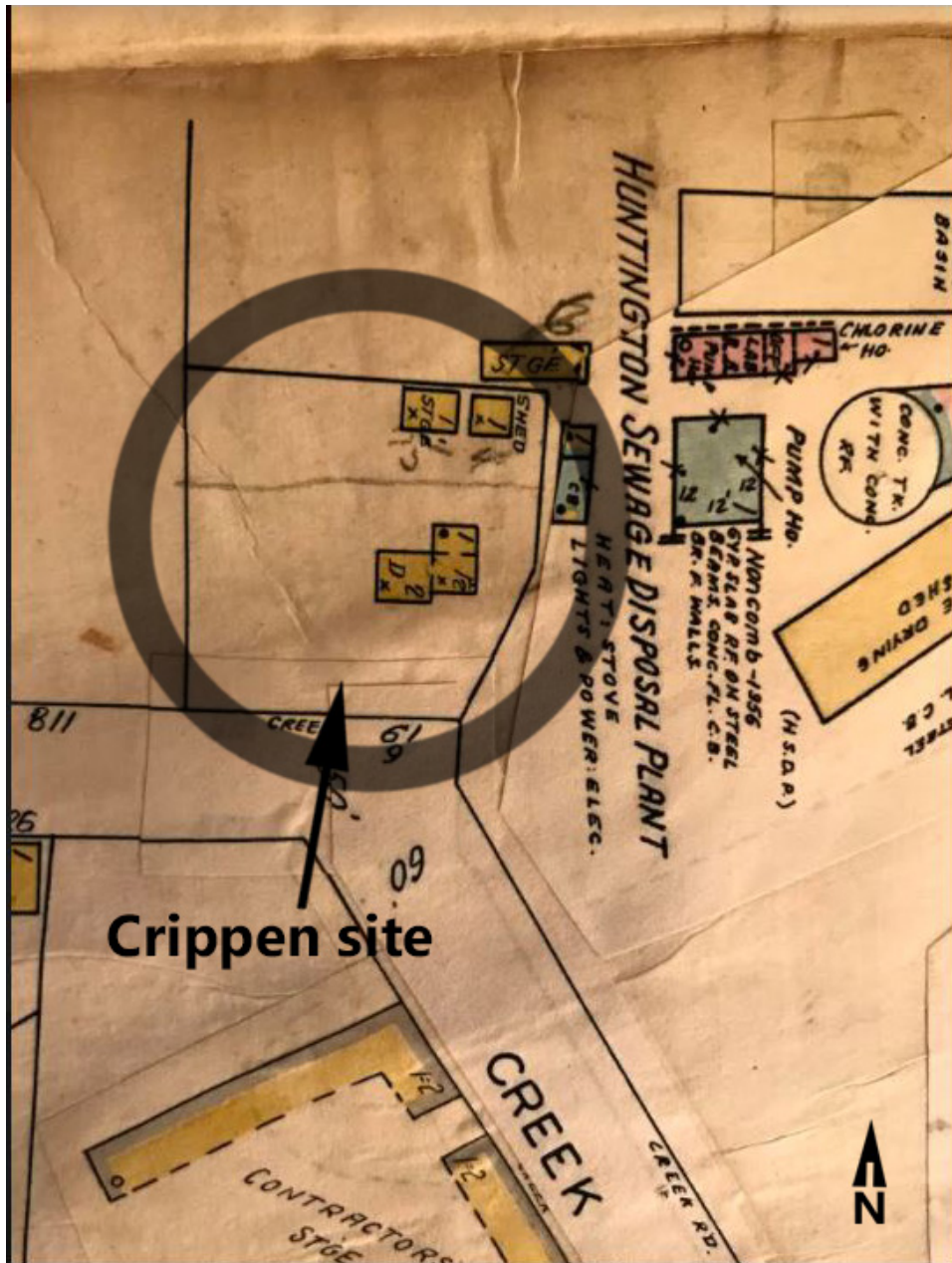


Figure 11 1930 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Halesite



# 3

## Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment

### Pre-Contact Sensitivity

Prehistoric cultural sequences represented in New York State comprise the three major archaeological time periods known as the Paleoindian (c. 13,500-10,000 years Before Present, or B.P.), Archaic (10,000-3,000 years B.P.), and Woodland (3,000-350 years B.P.). Overall, these generalized cultural sequences, with minor localized subdivisions (e.g., Early Archaic, Late Woodland), conform well to the wider settlement and site patterns observed throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions of eastern North America. The results of more than twenty years of archaeological studies in coastal New York and the southern New England region suggest that the locations of pre-contact archaeological sites appear to be strongly influenced by the proximity of navigable bodies of water (e.g., streams, rivers, bays), natural sources of fresh drinking water (e.g., springs, seeps), elevated landforms, and lithic outcrops (sources of raw material for the manufacture of stone tools). Sites located away from water sources are typically considered to be short-term resource procurement zones. These are considered logistically mobile sites where a limited range of activities were performed, such as hunting, nut collecting, plant processing, or lithic raw material procurement (i.e. quarries). Archaeological assemblages recovered from interior regions frequently contain a low diversity of artefactual remains, due to the short-term/specialized use of resource procurement zones. Typically, pre-contact archaeological deposits encountered on landforms associated with larger water bodies like rivers or bays, contain a greater diversity of artifact assemblages, subsurface features, and overall dimensions.

Based on the results of the site file search and consideration of nearby environmental features, the area surrounding the project site would have been attractive to pre-Columbian peoples. Documented archaeological sites nearby suggest that hunting, fishing, and tool manufacture took place west and east of the project site. Based on this understanding, undisturbed portions of the project area, if they exist, have a moderate sensitivity for the presence of pre-contact archaeological remains.

## Historic Sensitivity

At that time of English settlement in central Long Island, the area comprising present-day Huntington was occupied by the Matinecocks, the Nissequogs, and the Secatogues, speakers of the Mohegan-Pequot-Montauk Algonquian language (Salwen 1978). The lands of present-day Town of Huntington were ceded from the Native Americans through a series of deeds dating from 1653, although European settlement within the Town of Huntington may pre-date this by a decade or more. The first recorded purchase, between three early settlers and Raskokan of the Matinecock, concerned an area of about six square miles on the north shore of Huntington. This parcel was "sold" to the English colonists in exchange for "six coats, six kettles, six hatchets, six howes, six shirts, ten knives, six fathoms of wampum, thirty muxes, and thirty needles" in 1653 (Hazelton 1925).

Colonists of Huntington (named for Cromwell's birthplace) came via the eastern Long Island settlements at Southold and Southampton, as well as from Connecticut. Close ties to the latter are evident; in 1660 Huntington was placed under the protection of the Connecticut colony. This relationship lasted until the English acquisition of New Amsterdam in 1664, after which Huntington joined the New York colony (Hazelton 1925).

Coastal resources initially drew settlers to the region surrounding Huntington and Smithtown Harbors, while significant settlement of the interior reaches of the townships came somewhat later. Early industries included shipbuilding and its associated disciplines, coastal trade, and brick and pottery manufacture. In the Huntington Harbor area, a mill was established as early as the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, and the environmental impacts of this industrial activity were felt within a few decades. Saw, grist, and cider mills were established along the north shore by the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Agriculture was practiced throughout the region.

In 1657, Rev. William Leverich was granted a mill site at the marsh at the head of the harbor, and the town records indicate that repairs were made to that mill building two years later. Because of concerns over the condition of the mill pond, the mill was closed in 1672 and a new mill was built elsewhere. According to the Resource Evaluation for the project site, the former mill building was sold and moved to the project area around 1674 where it was repurposed as a residence and comprised the northern portion of the existing house.<sup>5</sup> A record of who owned or lived in the house in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries has not been determined.

The industrial, early settlement at Huntington required a labor force to work in the mills, in the fields, and in maritime activities. From the earliest years, the enslavement of people of color was commonly practiced in Huntington, as it was throughout the area (that is, the area

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<sup>5</sup> NYS OPRHP Resource Evaluation for Peter Crippen Property, November 4, 2020

presently known as the Long Island and metro-NY region). The area's landed gentry was tied into global networks that connected New York to ports throughout the east coast, as well as the Caribbean, and ports in western Europe and western Africa. Through this trade, there was a constant movement of goods, ideas, and people from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Town historian Robert Hughes notes that one of the earliest written references to enslavement in the Huntington area dates to 1660 (just seven years after the First Purchase) and references an unnamed enslaved African associated with Mary Sutton.<sup>6</sup> The number of enslaved people of color grew from the 17<sup>th</sup> through the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, before gradually decreasing through 19<sup>th</sup> century abolition efforts (including New York's 1799 Gradual Emancipation act). For instance, in 1755, 84 enslaved people were enumerated within 54 slaveowning households; by 1790, there were 213 enslaved people of color in the Town of Huntington and 15 more on Lloyd's Neck (which was, at the time, considered part of Queens County). By 1800, there were 185 enumerated enslaved persons in the Town of Huntington (Hughes 2021).

New York sought to end slavery gradually, beginning with the formation of the New-York Manumission Society in 1785 and the subsequent ban of the importation of captives in 1788. The 1799 Gradual Emancipation act allowed for the gradual freedom of children born to enslaved mothers after the date of the law. However, people who were enslaved before the 1799 Gradual Emancipation law remained legally enslaved until a new law established in 1817 accounted for the emancipation of all captives by 1827 (yet census data indicates that there were still as many as 75 captive people in New York State in the 1830 census). As captives were gradually freed in New York, slavery still existed in the state in other ways, as slaveships were permitted to port in New York through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the rights of slaveowners from other states were protected through visitation laws and fugitive laws.<sup>7</sup> These laws created an interesting dynamic among slaveowners, captives, recently freed people, indentured people, and free people of color (that is, African descended people, indigenous people, and people of mixed heritage) in general, who were all present and engaged in New York's industrial, agricultural, and maritime endeavors. And as freedom gradually took hold in New York, people of color from southern states also sought new economic opportunities in the north (McGovern 2014).

Peter Crippen was one of many southern freed people of color who sought work in New York in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Interestingly, his arrival pre-dates the Great Migration by nearly 75 years. Peter Crippen was born on Quaker Thomas Crippen's Gargatha plantation in Accomack County, Virginia in 1809. Questions abound among local historians as to his status as a freed man or a captive prior to 1818, when Thomas Crippen's daughter Sarah inherited the plantation from her father and filed a deed of manumission for Peter and his father (Bolton n.d.; Preservation Long Island 2021). Peter Crippen's father died in the late 1920s. Not long after that, Gilbert Crossman, an owner of the Crossman brickyards in Lloyd Harbor, sent word to Accomack County, Virginia that workers were sought for his Lloyd Harbor

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<sup>6</sup> Huntington Town Records Vol I, page 24, referenced by Robert Hughes, *Slavery in Huntington and its Abolition*, blog post, January 4, 2021. Available here [https://huntingtonhistory.com/2021/01/04/slavery-in-huntington-and-its-abolition/#\\_ftnref2](https://huntingtonhistory.com/2021/01/04/slavery-in-huntington-and-its-abolition/#_ftnref2), accessed on February 16, 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Dating the Start and End of Slavery in New York. New York Slavery Records Index at the John Jay College for Criminal Justice, available here <https://nyslavery.commons.gc.cuny.edu/dating-the-start-and-end-of-slavery-in-new-york/> accessed on February 16, 2021.

brickworks. Peter Crippen travelled north in response to that call for workers. The Crossman account books from 1836-1838 indicate that Crippen earned \$12 a month working for Crossman. Crippen rarely made purchases against his wages (once in 1837 he purchased potatoes and turnips, and once in 1838 he purchased beef), and he occasionally earned additional money by loading a sloop or tending the kiln (Crossman account books, c.1836-1838, Huntington Historical Society).

When Peter Crippen arrived in New York, he made connections with long-standing families and communities of color in Cold Spring Harbor and Huntington, as well as white business owners, farm owners, landowners, and laborers. Archival data provide some clues to his settlement strategies prior to purchasing the property at Creek Road.

Around 1840, Peter Crippen appears to have been living near or in Cold Spring. Although the census data do not list him as a head of household, news coverage of a murder case for which Peter was a witness suggests that he was living in Cold Spring.<sup>8</sup> The murder of John Cobert occurred in the home of John and Sarah Elizabeth Cobert in Cold Spring. During the murder trial of the accused Jacamiah B. Tillet, testimony from Sarah and other witnesses provide clues to the residential patterns of some people of color in the Cold Spring area in 1845. For instance, Sarah testified that at the time of her husband's murder, she

"went up stairs, hoisted a window and screamed "murder," then "Clarissa," (the name of a colored woman in the next house) then called "Peter," (the name of a colored man who lived not far off.) A man across the swamp answered, and said, "woman what's the matter," she told him that some one had shot her husband (*The Long-Islander* 1845)."

Witnesses at the trial include William Jarvis, who was identified as a "colored" man living near Cobert's house at the time of the murder. Jarvis testified that he woke to the sound of a woman yelling "murder" and responded, "what's the matter woman" (likely from across the swamp). When he arrived at the Coberts' house, he went next door to get Sydney and Peter. Sydney Gardiner, also identified as a "colored" man, lived about 15 rods from Cobert's house. Sydney testified that Peter Crippen was living with Sydney at the time Cobert was killed.

The 1830 and 1840 Federal Censuses list Clarissa Mills as a head of household, but not the names of the men and women, adults and children, who lived with her (all of whom were identified as free people of color). William Jarvis, Sydney Gardiner and Peter Crippen are not named in the 1840 census, but one or more of them may have been living in Clarissa's household (which includes 2 males, one 10-24 and one 24-36 years old) or another household (Appendix 1).

The Huntington School Census also provides clues to Peter Crippen's residential patterns. From 1843 through 1854 Crippen had children enrolled in the Cold Spring Harbor school district, as did Aaron Frazier (or Frasure), John Frasure, Sidney Gardiner, Caesar Brush, and others; all of these men were identified as people of color (Table 2).

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<sup>8</sup> Jacamiah B. Tillet's murder trial was covered by several newspapers. The names and details of the witnesses and the events of the trial were reported inconsistently in those stories.

The 1850 Federal Census is the first census to list Peter Crippen (spelled Cripid) as a head of household. At that time, he was identified as 30 years old and his household included his wife Clarissa (28 yrs), daughter Harriet L. (10 yrs), son Will H. (8yrs), and daughter Sarah A. (4 yrs) (Appendix 2). The names of surrounding households, as well as the School Census data, suggest that the Crippen household was in Cold Spring.

**Table 2      Huntington School District Census, Huntington Historical Society<sup>9</sup>**

Year	Persons of color	Number of children	School District	Page
1843	John Frasure Peter Crepen Thomas Fraseurs Home	2 2 1	District 1	7
1846	Aaron Frasure Caesar George Thorn Peter Creppen Sidney Gardiner Smith Green William Jarvis	2 3 3 1 2 2 2	Cold Spring?	10
1848	Cesar- a man of colour Peter Crippen- a man of colour	3 2	#26 Cold Spring	582
1851	Cesar Brush Peter Crippen	2 2	#26 Cold Spring	592
1852	Buel Titus (colored) Cesar Brush (col'd) Samuel Whitson (col'd) Peter Crippen (col'd) William Weeks (col'd) William C. Brown (col'd)	2 2 1 1 2 5	#26 Cold Spring	593
1854	Aaron Frazure Cesar Brush Peter Crippen John Frasure	3 1 1 1	#26 Cold Spring	595
1861	Peter Crippin	2	#3	67

By the time of the 1860 census, there are many changes to Peter Crippen's household description. At that time, he is likely living at the Creek Road site. The 1860 census places Peter Crippen and Nelson Smith as neighbors, and by this time Nelson Smith is a property owner at Creek Road. It was in 1854 that Nelson Smith purchased property on Creek Road

<sup>9</sup> This Table is not a comprehensive list of people of color who had children in the Town of Huntington. The Table included here only lists those men of color who were listed in the same School District with Peter Crippen during the years indicated.

measuring “thirty five feet in width in front on said street and thirty two on the rear end and extending seventy feet in depth back from said street or highway” from Elbert and Elizabeth Walters for \$50 in 1854 (Suffolk County Deed Liber 78:513). In fact, there are three households comprised solely of people of color listed consecutively in 1860: Nelson Smith, Peter Crippen, and George Smith. Peter Crippen is listed as a 45-year-old fisherman who was born in Virginia. His household was comprised of Harriet Cripem (33 yrs); Lucyette Cripem (16 yrs); Samuel Cripem (9 yrs); James Cripem (3 yrs); and Clarissa Mills (66 yrs) (Appendx 2). In 1861, Peter Crippen had two children enrolled in School District #3 (Table 2).

There is a great deal of inconsistency in the reporting of Peter Crippen’s family over time, and additional genealogical research is necessary to develop a more complete understanding of his experiences and his kin. Due to the biases of census takers, we can not assume that all of the information recorded about residents in the censuses is accurate; the same argument can be made for newspaper mentions and announcements, which may have been written about Crippen and his family without their input. Names, ages, and racial or ethnic classifications may be inaccurate; it might also be the case that people within households might report their names and ages variably over time. With these critical conditions in mind, it is interesting that Peter Crippen might be living at the Creek Road site, possibly as a renter,<sup>10</sup> prior to purchasing the site.

Peter Crippen purchased the Creek Road property in 1864 from Elbert and Eliza Walters for \$275 (Suffolk County Deed Liber 128:564). According to a Draft Crippen House Chain of Title provided by the Town Historian, the Crippen property and the Nelson property were part of a three-acre parcel that Elbert Walters purchased from Smith Johnson, Henry Johnson, and Margaret Johnson in 1835 (Appendix 1). How the Johnson family acquired the property is not yet known.

Peter Crippen is listed as a 60-year-old farm laborer in the 1870 census. His household is comprised of his son William Crippen (a 25-year-old farm laborer) and William’s wife Lydia (20 years). The household also includes William E. Crippen (11 yrs old) and Sarah L. Crippen (3 years old), who are probably William and Lydia’s children. Nelson Smith, a 56-year-old farm laborer, lived next doors with his wife Elizabeth, a 49-year-old washerwoman, and their daughter Maria L. (12 years).

Peter Crippen and Nelson Smith were among the seven founders and trustees of the African Methodist Ebenezer Church (currently the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church), which was founded in Huntington in 1843.<sup>11</sup> Their homes on Creek Road were located approximately half a mile from the church. Shortly after its founding the church had one of

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<sup>10</sup> It is possible that the Walters rented the houses/properties before selling to Crippen and Nelson. This is suggested by the sequences of names in the Federal Census. The 1840 census has Harry January, the head of a household comprised entirely of free people of color, listed near Elbert Walters and Jacob Scudder near Huntington Harbor. Elbert Walters was a cabinetmaker, coffin maker, and undertaker. If there are surviving account books for his business, they might be worth investigating for the possibility of rental properties. Walters owned the property that is known today as the Amelia Lloyd property, currently owned and occupied by Daniel Gale Realty. Walter sold the property to Daniel Youngs, who interestingly, is mentioned in one of Peter Crippen’s death announcements as someone who employed Crippen.

<sup>11</sup> NYS OPRHP Resource Evaluation for Peter Crippen Property, November 4, 2020.

the largest AME congregations in Suffolk County,<sup>12</sup> and it played an important role in religious, social, and civic functions for the community of color.

Peter Crippen died on February 6, 1875. After his death, his descendants continued to live at the site. In 1880, the Crippen household was comprised of William Crippen (35 years), his wife Lydia (38 years) and their daughter Mary (8 years old). Also, in 1880, the younger William Crippen (13 years old) was listed as a farm laborer in the home of Keturah Roe and his daughter Martha Scudder. By this time, Nelson Smith might have settled elsewhere in the Town. He later sold his property to his daughter Caroline Hawkins in 1888, but it is unclear if she lived there or what became of the property after that.

There is no 1890 Federal Census for New York State. By 1900, William Crippen is listed as a widowed, 56-year-old day laborer living with his daughter Mary and her husband Samuel J. Smith. Their household expanded by 1900 to include (in addition to William Crippen and Mary and Samuel Smith) Mary's daughter Coraline M. Carman (22), Coraline's husband Charles (22), their sons William H. Carman (2) and Charles A. Carman (9 mos), Mary and Samuel's son William F. (21) and daughter Lillian E. (16). Then in 1916, William Crippen married Mary de Silva Erwin.<sup>13</sup>

The Crippen and Carman families continued to live at the Creek Road site into the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. During their residency they witness significant changes to the landscape around them. In 1914, plans for a town sewer system were underway and a news article in *The Long Islander* identified five people who spoke out in opposition to the plan at a town meeting. William Crippen spoke out as one of four people opposed to the proposed location of the sewage plant on the meadows at the head of the Mill Pond. The article notes that William Crippen, "who owns and resides in a little cottage on the meadows within a few feet of the proposed site of the disposal plant, very naturally objected to the location chosen."<sup>14</sup> William died in 1918.

For period of time around 1920, the Crippen-Smith-Carman<sup>15</sup> family is absent from the Federal Census. This is because the family was living in Brooklyn. Employment opportunities had changed as a result of our country's involvement in the Great War. Some of the family worked in a dress factory in Brooklyn, and they travelled to Huntington on weekends.<sup>16</sup>

The Carmens<sup>17</sup> faced additional environmental challenges at the Creek Road residence into the mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The sewage treatment plant expanded all around the Crippen property for several decades, causing depreciation of value and no doubt impacting their health (Figures 10-12). The filling of the Mill Dam to create Mill Dam Park between 1944 and 1951, followed by road improvements to Creek Road over time, led to increased flooding throughout the property. These conditions also have implications for the archaeological potential of the site.

<sup>12</sup> NYS OPRHP Resource Evaluation for Peter Crippen Property, November 4, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> *South Side Signal*, January 7, 1916, page 8.

<sup>14</sup> Sewer System in Demand. *The Long Islander*, October 30, 1914, page 2.

<sup>15</sup> Some descendants spell their name Carmen in addition to those who used Carman.

<sup>16</sup> Personal communication with Kip Carmen, January 7, 2021.

<sup>17</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> century descendants spell their name Carmen.

Based on the information concerning settlement, archival research, and the historic map overview, undisturbed portions of the project area (if present) have a moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century historic deposits associated with the Crippen-Smith-Carman family. If encountered, expected site types might include potential shaft features (e.g., wells, cisterns, etc), outbuildings, buried foundation remains, and/or historic midden deposits.

## Disturbance

Ground disturbance from earth-moving activities associated with clearing and grading, dumping, and storage of vehicles is present throughout the APE. In addition to these episodes of recent disturbance, the site experienced frequent flooding as far back as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Strategies for coping with this challenge likely include deposition of new soils to the meadow and marsh. As a result, there may be deep deposits of fill at the site. In general, disturbed areas have a low potential for the presence of intact archaeological deposits and subsurface features.

## Testing Recommendations

The results of the archaeological sensitivity assessment indicate that the project site has a moderate sensitivity for the presence of pre-contact archaeological sites, and a moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of historic-era archaeological deposits. Due to the presence of a 19<sup>th</sup> century map-documented structure, close-interval shovel testing is recommended within the APE. It is estimated that 10-18 shovel test pits will be needed to study the parcel in accordance with New York Archaeological Council requirements. However, a review of historic maps and soil surveys indicate that archaeological deposits may be deeply buried below layers of fill and muck. If this is the case, then a 1x1 meter square excavation might be excavated with a smaller number of STPs to determine the limits of disturbance at the site.

**Figure 12** Aerial photo of the Huntington Sewage Plant and adjacent Crippen property, c.1959



**Figure 13** Closeup aerial view of Crippen property, c.1959



# 4

## Archaeological Investigation

### Field Methodology

A two-phase survey design was employed to search for archaeological remains in the APE. Similar survey designs, used in other areas of Long Island, have proven successful in detecting prehistoric and historic sites (Bernstein et al. 1999; Lightfoot 1986). The initial phase of the survey involved a surface reconnaissance and inspection intended to locate large and easily visible remains. The second phase entailed subsurface testing.

### Surface Survey

The entire parcel was walked over on January 7, 2021 with Town Historian Robert Hughes and Raymond “Kip” Carmen Jr., a descendant of the Crippen-Smith-Carman family. Kip grew up at the site and his memories of previous buildings, gardens, orchard trees, and animal pens provided key information in developing a survey testing strategy. Together, we walked over the site and reviewed the landscape. Archaeologically, special attention was given to examining exposed soil for artifacts or other surface manifestations of past human activity. Vegetation patterns and topographic features, which might provide insight into historic land

use, were also noted. Ground surface visibility is good in the front yard and immediately surrounding the house due to clearing, but poor in densely vegetated areas south of the house (Photographs 1-5).

## Subsurface Testing

The second phase of the field survey consisted of the excavation of shovel test pits (STPs) designed to detect the presence of artifacts buried beneath the ground surface. A mapping datum was established at the northwest corner of the property where the rear and side chain link fences connect, and all the test units are designated using metric grid coordinates relative to this point (Figure 3). Subsurface testing was performed throughout the APE at 7.5 meter (25 foot) intervals, where possible (Figure 3).

A total of 9 shovel test pits was excavated. Shovel test pits have a diameter of approximately 40 centimeters (16 inches). Most of the shovel test pits were dug well into the B2 subsoil, typically to 60 centimeters (24 inches) below the present ground surface. The soil from each test unit was screened through six-millimeter (1/4 inch) wire mesh to aid in the identification and recovery of artifacts (Appendix 3).

One 1x1 meter square unit (S17/E7.5) was also excavated by shovel (Figure 3; Appendix 3). Initially planned as a shovel test pit, it was expanded to a square excavation unit due to the recovery of historic-period artifacts from a deeply-buried stratum that required widening of our excavation to permit observations at a greater depth than could be achieved in a shovel test.

## Results

The specific data recorded in the field for each shovel test pit, including information on soil stratigraphy and artifacts, are presented in Appendix 3, and the general characteristics of the soils found in the project area are discussed in the Environmental Setting section above.

As recorded in the field, the root mat layer (referred to in the Appendix as the A0/A1 horizon) typically consists of partially decomposed organic matter and dark brown occasionally wet loam to an average depth of 8 centimeters (3 inches) below the ground surface and was encountered in six of the nine shovel tests. In five of the nine shovel tests, a fill layer was encountered to approximately 29 centimeters (11 inches) below grade, followed by an historic ground surface level, referred to as buried A horizon in field notes and Appendix 3, which contained artifacts dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These shovel tests were located mostly west of the house (S9/E7.5, S12/E7.5, S27/E7.5, S27/E15) and immediately south of the house (S17/E22.5). It was underlain by soils identified as B2 in the field, but that are described as occasionally mottled yellow brown sand with pebbles and gravel that is mucky and prone to filling with water.

The historic ground surface, referred to as buried A, appears to be an intact historic ground surface level that contains traces of 19<sup>th</sup> century activity and artifact deposition. This stratum was explored in greater detail in S17/E7.5, which was expanded from a shovel test pit to a 1x1 meter square excavation unit, renamed EU1. This unit was hand-dug in arbitrary levels

within stratigraphic changes to determine the extent of filling at the site and the integrity of the buried A level. As observed in the shovel tests surrounding it, excavations in this unit revealed a fill layer to approximately 30 centimeters (12 inches) below grade. It was underlain by a buried A horizon that contained historical artifacts (Appendix 3). The A horizon was determined in the field to be a possible sheet midden<sup>18</sup> and was subsequently bisected to determine the extent of the feature. The artifact density appeared to decrease at roughly 50 to 70 centimeters (20-28 inches) below grade. A shovel test was subsequently dug in the base of the southern half of the unit to approximately 130 centimeters (51 inches) below grade, and the shovel test slowly filled with water (Figure 14).

Shovel tests in the southeastern corner of the property yielded a different soil profile from the rest of the survey. There, the A0/A1 was underlain by a plow zone (pz) or an A horizon to an average depth of 35 centimeters (14 inches) below grade with limited evidence of disturbance from filling. The pz/A horizon was underlain by the B2, a mottled yellow brown sand with pebbles and gravel. In this location, evidence of disturbance is quite limited, and the area is overgrown with phragmites. The limited disturbance may be explained by the presence of Nelson Smith's house in this location in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Because of the flooding at the site, the Crippen house has no basement, and it's likely that the Smith house did not have a basement either.

A total of 513 artifacts was recovered from the Phase 1 survey, including fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramics (i.e., whiteware, creamware, pearlware, redware, yellowware, stoneware, and flowerpot [Figure 15]), bottle glass (clear, aqua, amber, green, and dark green), curved and chimney lamp glass, window glass, corroded nails and unidentified metal, coal, slag, animal bone, and shell. Small finds include two buttons (Figure 16) and two fragments of porcelain children's toys (Figure 17).

A quartz biface (Figure 18) was encountered in the pz/A in one of the shovel tests in the southeast corner of the property (S27/E22.5). It was recovered with one piece of whiteware, 1 small brick fragment, 2 fragments of bottle glass, 1 corroded nail fragment, and a piece of coal. Typically, eight radial shovel tests would be dug around this isolated find in accordance with NYS archaeological survey standards to determine if it was representative of a pre-contact Native American site. However, radials were not excavated because the results of the survey indicate the presence of a historic site throughout the property characterized by the presence of 19<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts in a buried A and/or sheet midden deposit, and because additional testing at the site should take into consideration the presence of this artifact at an African diaspora archaeological site (McGovern 2011).

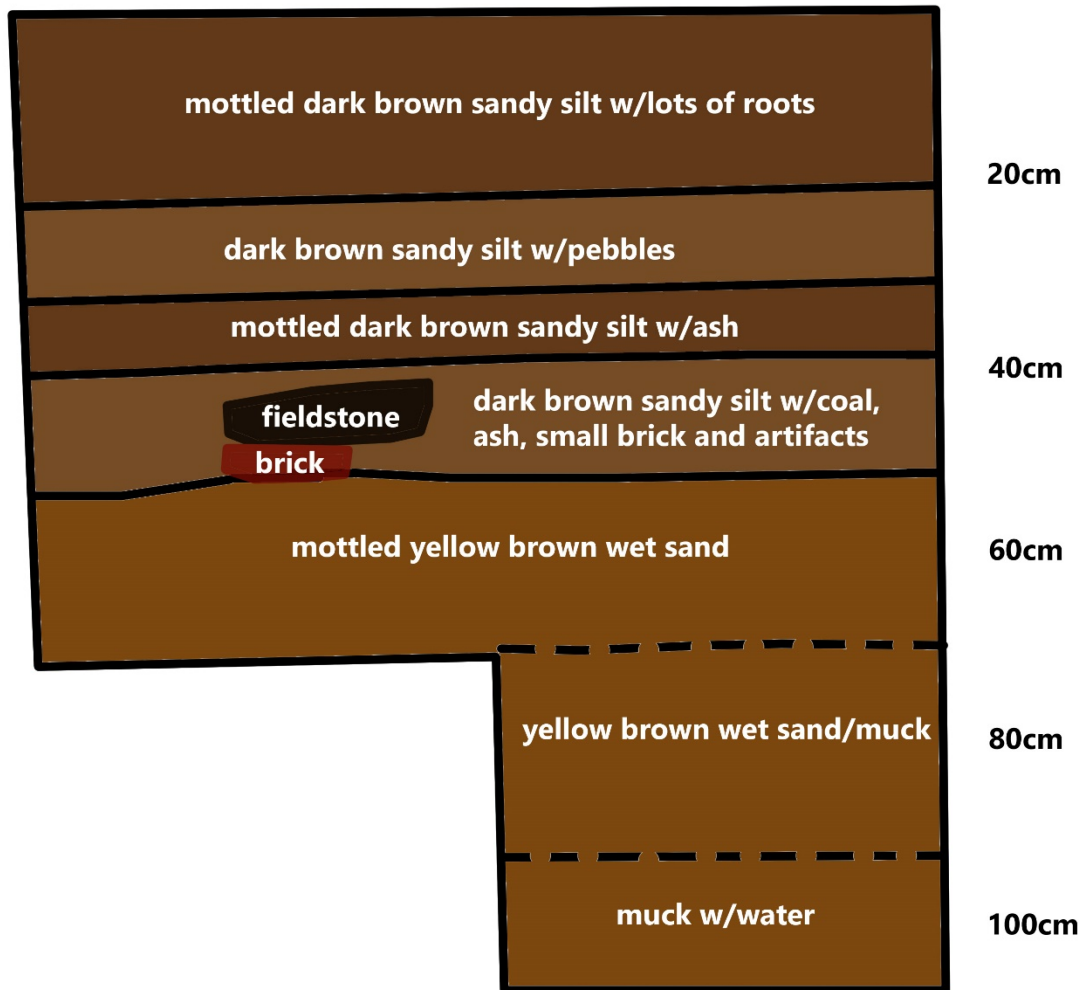
Based on the results of the Phase 1 archaeological survey, additional investigations at the site are warranted in accordance with New York Archaeological Council standards. A Phase 2 archaeological site evaluation is recommended to determine if the archaeological site (in addition to the house) is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR). At this time, the NR eligibility of the house does not extend to the archaeological site. A Phase 2 site evaluation consists of the excavation of several, sometimes contiguous 1x1 meter square units and a small number of shovel test pits to determine the vertical and

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<sup>18</sup> A midden is another word for refuse deposit. Refuse can be deposited vertically, as in a shaft feature, or horizontally, as refuse deposited and distributed across the ground surface (a sheet midden).

horizontal boundaries of the archaeological site, and to establish the historic context and significance in accordance with the National Park Service criteria for NR eligibility.

**Figure 14** EU1, south wall profile



**Figure 15** Historic ceramic sherds from EU1



**Figure 16** Two buttons recovered from EU1



**Figure 17** Fragments of children's porcelain toys



**Figure 18** Quartz biface from S27/E22.5



# 5

## Conclusions and Recommendation

VHB has prepared this Phase 1 archaeological survey report for the Crippen House property on 61 Creek Road, Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, New York. The survey was performed for the Town of Huntington, the site owner. The purpose of the archaeological survey is to determine if the proposed development of the property (which includes proposed building removal, grading, and construction of a new parking facilities) will impact archaeological remains of pre-colonial and/or post-colonial (historic) age. The study was performed in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections* issued by the New York Archaeological Council (1995) and the *Phase I Archaeological Report Format Requirements* issued by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (2005). No structures have been evaluated as part of this Phase 1 survey.

The subject property measures approximately 0.32 acre (0.13 hectare) and includes a 2 ½ story frame house with a 1 ½ story wing and detached 2 story outbuilding. The site was recently acquired by the Town of Huntington and is intended to become a parking lot for the neighboring Town of Huntington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Crippen House was designated a Town Landmark in 2008 due to the age of the building (which is believed to have components of a 17<sup>th</sup> century grist mill building) and its association with Huntington's African American heritage but was de-listed in 2016. The

house is also inventoried with a Unique Site Number (USN 10304.000219) in the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) and has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>19</sup> The house and property were purchased by Peter Crippen in 1864. Crippen was one of seven founders and trustees of the First (Bethel) African Episcopal Church in Huntington, which was a bulwark of African American life and community in Huntington and Cold Spring Harbor in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Based on the information concerning settlement, archival research, discussions with a Crippen-Smith-Carman family descendant, and the historic map overview, undisturbed portions of the project area were determined to have a moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of 19<sup>th</sup> through early 20<sup>th</sup> century historic deposits associated with the Crippen-Smith-Carman family. This assessment was verified by the results of the archaeological testing.

Nine shovel test pits and one 1x1 meter square unit were excavated during the Phase 1 archaeological survey. A total of 513 artifacts were recovered from within intact historic-era soils. Within the square excavation unit, evidence of a possible historic sheet midden (refuse deposit) was encountered. The artifacts recovered from within this deposit demonstrate a diverse assemblage of historic 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics, in addition to fragments of glass, metal, coal, slag, bone, and shell, that are remnants of the daily patterns of lived experience at the site.

Based on the results of the Phase 1 archaeological survey, New York Archaeological Council standards call for additional archaeological investigations at the site. A Phase 2 archaeological Site Evaluation is recommended to determine if the archaeological site (in addition to the house) is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NR). At this time, the NR eligibility of the house does not extend to the archaeological site. A Phase 2 Site Evaluation consists of the excavation of several, sometimes contiguous 1x1 meter square units and a small number of shovel test pits to determine the vertical and horizontal boundaries of the archaeological site, and to establish the historic context and significance in accordance with the National Park Service criteria for NR eligibility. However, because of the depths of mucky fill at the site, monitored machine-assisted excavation of the upper levels of disturbance may be necessary to access the buried historic deposits. This should only be done in consultation with a qualified archaeologist who has established a Phase 2 testing protocol for the site.

It is also strongly recommended that a qualified archaeologist be present to monitor the removal of the house to identify potential buried archaeological deposits. Once the house is removed from the site, archaeological investigation is recommended within the footprint of the house. The results of this work can be included in the Phase 2 reporting.

Additional research is recommended to complete the chain of title for the property, and to develop a stronger understanding of Nelson Smith's family and connection to the site. Preliminary research indicates that the Nelson Smith property was absorbed by the Crippen property after 1888, and therefore may be part of the current project site. Continued

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<sup>19</sup> NYS OPRHP Resource Evaluation for Peter Crippen Property, November 4, 2020.

consultation and oral history research with descendants are also recommended to improve the genealogical record of the Crippen family and to create a more detailed historic context for the Crippen House archaeological investigation.

# 6

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# Appendix 1

## Crippen House Chain of Title

## Crippen House Chain of Title

Tracing a complete chain of title for the Crippen property to the beginning is difficult, especially given the often vague property descriptions in early deeds. Therefore, I will start in the middle.

In 1835, Elbert Walters, a cabinet maker, purchased from Smith Johnson, Henry Johnson and Margaret Johnson a three-acre parcel on the west side of the creek, bounded on the north by the mill pond, on the east by the creek, on the south by a private highway to the meadow of Gilbert Scudder and others, and on the west by the meadow of Gilbert Scudder (Deed Liber V, page 291). Nineteen years later, Walters sold a small lot (35' x 70') in the southeast corner of the three-acre parcel (at the intersection of Creek Road and the private highway to the west) to Nelson Smith for \$50 (Deed Liber 78, page 513). Smith, who was born in Comac around the turn of the nineteenth century, managed the farm of I.W. Roe, which was located on the west side of Wall Street between Mill Lane and Southdown Road (South Side Signal, June 9, 1888, page 3).

Ten years later, in 1864, Walters sold a larger plot to the north of Smith's lot to Peter Crippen for \$275. This parcel measured 50' along Creek Road, 70' on the west side and 133' east to west (Deed Liber 128, page 564). Based on the current dimensions of the Crippen property, it is clear that the lot includes the Smith property. No deed transferring ownership from Smith to Crippen has been found through 1926. The Grantee/Grantor indexes for the period after 1926 need to be consulted.

How the Johnsons came to own the property that they sold to Walter in 1835 is a mystery. It may be helpful to now go to the beginning. Prior to 1659, the Town granted land to the Rev. William Leverich to build a mill (Town Records Vol. I, page 19). The milldam is now Mill Lane which runs from Wall Street to Park Avenue, south of the Crippen property. Leverich sold the mill and property to William Ludlam in 1659 and Ludlam in turn sold it to Mark Meggs in 1667 (Town Records, Vol. I, page 101). On January 29, 1667/68, the Town apparently granted Meggs the swamp land below (i.e. north of) the milldam (no citation has been found for this transaction).

Prior to 1752, the English civil year started on March 25 rather than on January 1. Sometimes on documents before 1752, dates between January 1 and March 25 were given with the old and new year. For example, the record of the decision on raising the payment to pay Meggs for the transaction discussed below is dated January 25, 1671/72 indicating that the transaction occurred in 1672 under the new style. With that in mind, I will assume the following events occurred within a couple of months of each other rather than a year apart.

On January 6, 1672, the Town discussed draining the millpond reportedly because it created an unhealthy environment (Town Records, Vol. I, page 172). On January 23, Meggs sold the mill, milldam, and mill pond to the Town, reserving ownership to the land to the north

## Crippen House Chain of Title

(Town Records, Vol. I, page 182). Meggs sold his other property to Jacob Walker two weeks later on February 3 (Town Records Vol. I, page 174).

Walker in turn conveyed the land near the harbor to Thomas Scudder in 1677 (Town Records, Vol. I, page 231). The land is described as “six accers of Land which formerly pertained to mark meggs lying on the east neck next to the said Scudders land.” The Scudder homestead was located on the east side of Park Avenue near the intersection with New York Avenue (i.e. at the south round about).

Thomas Scudder died in 1690 and bequeathed his property to his two sons Benjamin and Timothy. Timothy released his rights to the property in Huntington to Benjamin in exchange for land on the south shore (Huntington Land Deeds, Vol. I, page 299; see also Munsell’s History of Suffolk County (1882), Huntington Section, page 77). In 1733, Benjamin sold to his son Jacob land near Huntington harbor including a half interest in “the Grist Mill and boulting Mill” (this is not the Leverich/Meggs mill, but a later mill) and “All the buildings their (sic) unto belonging.” The property conveyed was bounded

“on the East by the East side of the trench So bounded Along by the Dam as far As the Dam Goeth or to the head of the Pond and then running Southerly As the Said old trench Went Up to the Place where the old Mill Stood by the high way And So bounded on the South by the hig Way that Leads Over the old Mill Dam and bounded on the West by the Lott of William Jarvis Senior bounded on the North by the high Way Also Some Part of the Said Lott buts Down to the Creek At the Going over.” (Land Deeds Vol. V, page 72).

It is unclear if this includes the Crippen property. Five years later, Jacob Scudder acquired seven acres from Jacob Conkling (Land Deeds, Vol. V, page 69). This land was also near the head of the harbor, but its relation to the land acquired from his father is unclear.

In any event, in 1749, Jacob Scudder sold his property and moved to New Jersey (Munsell’s, Huntington section, page 78). The purchaser was Zophar Platt (Land Deeds, Vol. V, page 88). The property conveyed to Zophar Platt included the “new” mill and land as far south as the 1658 mill dam, i.e., today’s Mill Lane. Three years later, Platt built an even newer mill on the northeast corner of West Shore Road and a new mill dam, i.e., today’s Mill Dam Road. To clarify, there were three mills at the head of Huntington harbor: The 1657 mill, a second mill somewhere further north and perhaps on Creek Road, and the Zophar Platt mill of 1752.

While the description of the property sold by Jacob Scudder to Zophar Platt in 1749 is somewhat vague, a subsequent transaction indicates that it included the present Crippen property, In 1785, Zophar Platt sold to John Brush the 1752 mill and “the Meadow lying on the

**DRAFT**

January 14, 2021

## Crippen House Chain of Title

East side of the Mill pond Bounded on the west by the Pond on the East by a Ditch cut from the upper Mills on the North by a Small Ditch on the South by a Small Dam and the Mill pond Containing about Five Acres” as well as other parcels and all buildings thereon (Land Deeds, Vol. VI, page 615). This five-acre parcel seems to include the Crippen property. The ditch that formed the east boundary may well be the creek that flows about 140 feet east of the Crippen House. The “small dam and the mill pond” to the south may be the pond for the second mill, which Jacob Scudder sold in 1749. The dam apparently survived until 1826 when heavy rains caused a breach in the dam. The second mill appears to have been demolished by the Rev. F.C. Hill a short time before 1885 (*The Long-Islander*, March 13, 1885, page 2).

How the property went from John Brush, who acquired it in 1785, to the Johnson family, who sold it in 1835, is unknown at this time.

# Appendix 2

## Federal Census Data

Census Year	household number	Name	age	relationship	race	occupation	real estate	personal estate	born	Notes
1830	near Lloyd Neck or Cold Spring	Clarissa Mills		head	colored					1 male under 10; 2 males 10-24; 3 females 10-24; 1 female 36-55
1840	near Lloyd Neck	Clarissa Mills		head	colored					1 male under 10; 1 male 10-23; 1 male 24-35; 1 female under 10; 2 females 10-23; 1 female 36-54
	Huntington	<a href="#">Nelson Smith</a>		head	colored	1- agriculture				1 male under 10; 1 male 24-36; 2 females under 10; 1 female 21-25
		Isaac Howard		head	colored					1 male 24-36; 1 female 10-24
		John W. Oakley		head	white	1- navigation of canals, lakes and rivers				
		Jerry Havens								1 male under 10; 1 male 10-24; 1 male 36-55; 1 female under 10; 1 female 36-55
	Huntington Harbor near Elbert Walters and Jacob Scudder	Harry January		head	colored	2- agriculture				1 male under 10; 1 male 36-55; 1 male 55-100; 1 female 10-24; 1 female 36-55
1850	Huntingon (near Mill Pond and Huntington Harbor)									
	1051	<a href="#">John Carman</a>	26	head	M	laborer			New York	
		<a href="#">Rachel Carman</a>	24	wife	M				New York	
		<a href="#">William H.</a>	5	son	M				New York	
		<a href="#">Charles</a>	2	son	M				New York	
	1052	Titus Conklin	44	head		shoemaker			New York	
		Deborah Conklin	42	wife					New York	
		Nathaniel Conklin	18	son					New York	
		Mary E. Conklin	16	daughter					New York	
		Rhoda A. Conklin	14	daughter					New York	
		William T. Conklin	12	son					New York	
		Charity Conklin	10	daughter					New York	
		Ruth S. Conklin	8	daughter					New York	
		George W. Conklin	6	son					New York	
		Susan Conklin	1	daughter					New York	
	1053	<a href="#">Nelson Smith</a>	33	head	B	laborer			New York	
		<a href="#">Lydia Smith</a>	25	wife	B				New York	
		<a href="#">Elias Smith</a>	1	son	B				New York	
	1054	Jacob Scudder	34	head		farmer	4000		New York	

		Elizabeth Scudder	40	wife					New York
		George W. Scudder	16	son					New York
		Charles Scudder	14	son					New York
		Rebecca B.	12	daughter					New York
		William H.	8	son					New York
		Morris D.	5	son					New York
	Cold Spring?	1414	Peter Cripid	30	head	B	laborer		New York
			Clarissa Cripid	28	wife	B			New York
			Harriet L. Cripid	10	daughter	B			New York
			William H. Cripid	8	son	B			New York
			Sarah A.	4	daughter	B			New York
		1415	William Weeks	38	head	M	laborer		Virginia
			Sarah A. Weeks	26	wife	B			Virginia
			Eliza Weeks	14		M			New York
			Louisa Weeks	5		B			New York
		1416	Joseph Lawrence	40	head	B	laborer		New York
			Martha Lawrence	28	wife	B			New York
1860	Huntington (Creek Road)		Unoccupied						
		942	Peter Cripen	45	head	(slash)	fisherman	275	Virginia
			Harriet Cripen	33	wife	(slash)			New York
			Lucyette Cripen	16		(slash)			New York
			Samuel Cripen	9		(slash)			New York
			James Cripen	3		(slash)			New York
			Clarissa Mills	66		(slash)			New York pauper
		943	Nelson Smith	52	head	(slash)	farm laborer	100	New York
			Lydia Smith	40	wife	(slash)			New York
			Elias Smith	12	son	(slash)			New York
		944	George Smtih	28	head	(slash)	farm laborer		New York
			Sarah Smith	30	wife	(slash)	dress maker	100	New York
		945	Jason Scudder	65	head		farmer	4000 800	New York
			Elizabeth Scudder	50	wife				New York
			George W. Scudder	26	son		merchant	400	New York
			Charles Scudder	22	son		farm laborer		New York
			Rebecca B. Scudder	19	daughter				New York
			Willm H	16	son				New York
			Morris	13	son				New York

			Unoccupied							New York
		946	Elbert Walters	56	head		farmer	5000	1800	New York
1870	Huntington (Creek Road)	426	Nelson Smith	56	head	B	farm laborer	500	100	New York
			Elizabeth Nelson	49	wife	B	washerwoman			New York
			Maria L. Smith	12	daughter	B	at school			New York
		427	Peter Crippen	60	head	B	farm laborer	500	100	New York
			Lydia Crippen	20	daughter-in-law	B	domestic servant			New York
			William Crippen	25	son	B	farm laborer			New York
			William E. Crippen	11	grandson	B	at school			New York
			Sarah L. Crippen	3	granddaughter	B				New York
		428	Jeffrey Jackson	23	head	B	boatman			New York
			Tamar Jackson	20	wife	B	keeping house			New York
			George L. Jackson	2	son	B				New York
			Chary J. Jackson	3 mos	daughter	B				New York
		429	John Eldridge	45	head	B	farm laborer			New York
			Sarah Eldridge	28	wife	B	keeping house			New York
			Elisha Eldridge	20	son	B	boatman			New York
			David Wood	38		B	Hostler			New York
			Mary Wood	25		B	washerwoman			New York
1880		492	Nelson Smith	79	head	B	laborer			New York
			Elizabeth Smith	60	wife	B	housework			New York
		532	Keturah Roe	85	head		keeps house			New York
			Martha Scudder	66	daughter		keeps house			New York
			William Crippen	13	laborer	B	farm laborer			New York
		544	William Brush	38	head	B	sailor			New York
			Juliette Brush	38	wife	B	at service			New York
			Daniel Crayton	10	step son	B	at home			New York
			Shephard Crayton	7	step son	B				New York
			George Brush	2	son	B				New York
			John Gardiner	21	step son	B	laborer			New York
		545	Isaac Jarvis	29	head	B	laborer			New York
			Charity A. Jarvis	36	wife	B	keeps house			New York
			Wilson A. Jarvis	4	son	B				New York
			Florence E. Jarvis	2	daughter	B				New York
	Huntington (creek Road)?	546	William Crippen	35	head	B	laborer			New York

			Lydia Crippen	38	wife	B	keeps house		New York	
			Mary Crippen	8	daughter				New York	
1900	Huntington (Creek Road)	73	Samuel J. Smith	36	head	C	day laborer		New York	owned, mortgaged
			Mary E. Smith	20?	wife	C			New York	married 13 years
			William H. Crippen	56	father in law	C	day laborer		New York	widowed
1910	Huntingin (Hill St)	242	Charles A. Carman	22	head	B	teamster, contractor		New York	rented?
			Coraline M. Carman	22	wife	B			New York	
			William H. Carman	2	son	B			New York	
			Charles A. Carman	9 mos	son	B			New York	
			William H. Crippen	64	head	B	odd jobs		New York	rented?
			Samuel J. Smith	41	head	B	odd jobs		New York	married 22 years
			Mary E. Smith	37	wife	B			New York	married 22 years
			William F. Smith	21	son	B	laborer in lumber yard		New York	
			Lillian E. Smith	16	daughter	B			New York	
1915	Huntington (Meadow Dr)		Samuel J. Smith	49	head	B	laborer		US	
			Mary E. Smith	39	wife	B	house		US	
			Coraline M. Carman	26	daughter	B	house		US	
			Charles A. Carman	26	head	B	labor		US	
			William H. Carman	8	son	B	school		US	
			William S. Smith	25	son	B	laborer		US	
			Rose E. Smith	24	wife	B	house		US	
			Lillian E. Smith	22	sister	B	house		US	
			William H. Crippen	65	father	B	nothing		US	
1920	BROOKLYN!!!									
1930	Huntington (Creek Road R & D #3)	48	Mary Smith	55	head	Neg	none	10000	New York	owned
			Cora Carman	33	daughter	Neg	none		New York	widowed; married at 16

Lillian Smith	20	daughter	Neg	presser in a dress factory	New York
Cora Carman	14	granddaughter	Neg	none	New York
Raymond Carman	13	granddson	Neg	none	New York
Charles Carman	19	grandson	Neg	none	New York

# Appendix 3

## Excavation and Artifact Inventory

Basic descriptive data from the project area are presented in the following appendix. Excavation, stratigraphic, and artifactual information are included. Excavation information includes shovel test pit (STP) coordinates relative to mapping datum, level number, stratigraphic designation (stratum), and starting (SD) and ending (ED) depths (in centimeters) for each excavated level.

The following abbreviations are used in the appendix:

<b><i>Stratum</i></b>	<b><i>Soils</i></b>	<b><i>Cultural material</i></b>
A0/A1-root mat	bn-brown	frag-fragment
A-historic topsoil	dk-dark	unid-unidentified
bur-buried	gb-gray brown	
B2-lower subsoil	gv-gravel	
dist-disturbed	lm-loam	
	mo-mottled	
	pb-pebbles	
	sd-sand(y)	
	st-silt(y)	
	yb-yellow brown	

STP	SD	ED	Stratum	Soils	Cultural Material
S7/E13	0	10	A0/A1	dk bn lm	recent trash- not saved
	10	50	A	mo bn st sd w/pb&gv	1 brown annular whiteware; 1 creamware; 1 clear glazed redware; 1 mottled glazed redware; 2 amber bottle glass; 2 aqua bottle glass; 1 solarized bottle glass; 2 clear curved glass; 4 aqua window glass; 1 mortar chunk; 1 buff chunk of plaster; 8 unid corroded nails; 1 unid metal conglomerate; 1 hard shell clam; 2 unid bone; 1 hematite; 3 slate frags
	50	60	B2	mo yb sd w/pb&gv- filled with water	
S12/E7.5	0	30	fill	dk bn wet lm	
	30	34	lens	gr sd	1 grey salt glazed Albany slip stoneware; 1 flowerpot; 2 aqua bottle glass; 1 clear window glass; 3 unid corroded nails; 3 unid metal; 3 slag/clinker; 2 hard clam shell frags; 2 unid bone; 1 slate
	30	60	bur A?	dk bn wet sd	1 whiteware; 1 small brick frag; 2 clear window glass; 1 green flat glass; 2 coal; 1 unid corroded nail
	60	66	B2	bn wet sd w/pb&gv	
S17/E15	0	30	dist	mo bn st sd	recent trash- not saved
S17/E22.5	0	6	A0/A1	dk bn lm	
	6	27	topsoil?	gb st sd	
	27	50	buried A	mo bn st sd	2 creamware; 1 blue edge decorated pearlware rim; 1 pearlware; 1 whiteware; 1 unid refined earthenware (no glaze); 1 redware (no glaze); 1 clear glazed redware; 1 porcelain; 1 clear curved glass; 2 clear flat glass; 1 aqua window glass; 3 unid brick; 2 coal; 1 slag; 1 unid claw, calcined
	50	66	B2	mo yb st sd w/pb&gv	
S9/E7.5	0	8	A0/A1	dk bn wet lm	
	8	23	fill	mo dk bn wet lm	recent trash and buried pvc pipe
	23	60	bur A?	dk bn wet lm w/pb&gv	1 creamware saucer, scalloped rim; 4 whiteware; 1 unid redware; 1 unid redware or burned brick; 3 grey salt glazed, Albany slip stoneware; 1 hard paste porcelain; 1 clear melted glass; 4 clear curved glass; 7 aqua

					window glass; 1 clear flat glass; 1 clear lamp chimney glass; 1 buff mortar or plaster; 5 unid corroded nails; 1 square cut nail; 2 unid metal; 6 hard clam frags; 2 possible soft clam frags; 5 scallop shell frags
	60	62	B2?	bn wet sd w/pb&gv	
S27/E7.5	0	9	A0/A1	dk bn lm	recent trash- not saved
	9	39	topsoil? Fill?	bn st sd	5 amber bottle glass; 1 clear window glass; 2 aqua window glass; 3 unid corroded nails; 1 coal; 5 clinker; 1 unid bone
	39	60	buried A	bn st sd	1 clear glazed redware; 1 unid buff earthenware; 2 aqua curved glass; 1 dark wine bottle glass; 1 amber bottle glass; 1 coal
	60	72	muck	mo bn wet sd- filled with water	
S27/E15	0	25	fill	dk bn lm	2 flowerpot base; 3 amber bottle glass (1 base, 1 neck and finish, 1 body); 2 aqua window glass; 1 tile grout frag; 1 butchered mammal bone
	25	50	buried A	bn st sd	1 milk glass w/yellow interior; 1 flowerpot; 1 amber bottle glass; 2 aqua window glass; 3 clear flat glass; 1 unid corroded nail; 1 unid metal chunk
	50	63	muck	bn wet sd w/pb&gv- filled with water	
S27/E22.5	0	10	A0/A1	dk bn st lm	recent trash- not saved
	10	30	A or pz	mo gb sd w/gv	1 whiteware; 1 small brick frag; 1 clear bottle glass; 1 aqua case bottle glass; 1 unid corroded nail; 1 coal; 1 quartz biface
	30	60	B2	yb wet sd w/pb&gv- filled with water	
	0	10	A0/A1	dk bn st lm	
S27/E31.5	10	37	A or pz	dk bn sd w/pb&gv	1 amber bottle glass; 2 aqua window glass; 8 small brick frags; 3 coal; 1 slag/clinker; 1 unid shell; 2 unid bone
	37	60	B2	mo yb wet sd w/pb&gv	

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Unit	level	SD	ED	Stratum	Soils	Cultural Material
EU1	1	0	20	topsoil/fill?	mo dk bm sd st w/pb&gv	1 creamware; 3 whitewares; 1 brown glazed redware; 1 clear glazed redware; 1 flowerpot; 2 small brick; 2 aqua window glass; 2 clear window glass; 2 corroded nail frag; 2 unid metal; 4 coal; 2 jackfield type or manganese redware; 1 blue printed whiteware; 1 unid refined earthenware; 1 porcelain; 2 creamware; 3 whiteware; 1 whiteware rim; 1 black printed whiteware; 1 grey salt glazed stoneware; 1 ginger glazed redware; 2 aqua window glass; 2 clear curved glass; 1 melted aqua glass; 1 melted green bottle glass; 1 clear glass rim; 1 solarized glass jar threading/finish; 1 prosser button; 2 brick frags; 5 possible asbestos tile frags; 2 unid corroded nails; 1 unid corroded hardware (possible screw); 1 corroded bottle cap; 2 coal; 1 slag/clinker; 1 hard clam shell frag
EU1	2	20	30	fill/transition	dk bn sd st w/pb	3 whiteware chamber pot base; 7 whiteware; 1 creamware plate base; 1 creamware; 1 blue sponge decorated yellowware hollowware rim; 1 blue sponge decorated yellowware; 1 unidentified earthenware (no glaze); 1 porcelain rim; 1 clear glass embossed possible lid; 1 clear "VASELINE CHEESEBOROUGH NEW YORK" glass jar, intact; 2 clear curved glass; 1 clear lamp chimney glass; 2 clear frosted curved glass; 6 brick frags; 4 possible asbestos tile; 1 wire nail; 6 unid metal ; 1 creamware; 1 blue painted mocha whiteware; 4 whiteware; 1 clear glazed redware; 1 unglazed redware; 1 milk glass base; 16 aqua window glass; 2 aqua bottle glass; 2 clear curved glass; 1 clear frosted glass; 1 porcelain doll leg; 1 brick frag; 2 wire nails; 11 unid corroded nail frags; 1 corroded

EU1	3	30	40	lens	mo dk bn sd st w/ash, shell, slag	metal bottle cap; 14 unid metal; 5 slag/clinker; 1 slate; 1 unid bone 1 black transfer print whiteware; 1 blue painted cup rim with unid metal attached; 1 blue painted saucer rim; 5 whiteware; 1 creamware; 1 clear glazed redware; 1 grey stoneware, brown exterior; 1 jackfield; 1 yellowware rim; 1 porcelain scalloped saucer rim; 1 buff body stoneware crock base; 1 unidentified porcelain (bathroom fixture); 2 amber bottle glass; 1 clear melted curved glass, 1 clear bottle glass "HUNT"; 1 clear bottle glass; 3 clear curved glass; 1 solarized bottle glass; 1 clear flat glass; 10 aqua window glass; 1 black glass button; 1 brick frag; 2 small brick frags; 1 wire nail frag; 11 unid corroded nails; 3 large unid metal; 3 small unid metal; 1 corroded metal cap or can frag; 3 slag/clinker
EU1	4	40	50	A	dk bn sd st w/grey inclusions	1 whiteware hollowware (rim, body, base); 1 whiteware plate rim; 1 whiteware rim; 1 blue painted pearlware; 1 porcelain; 10 whiteware; 1 redware crock frag; 1 unid stoneware; 3 flowerpot; 1 children's porcelain teacup; 1 brick frag; 11 clear bottle glass; 4 clear lamp chimney glass; 1 clear curve glass with etched fleur de lis; 1 aqua bottle glass; 1 green wine bottle glass; 1 olive green bottle glass; 4 amber bottle glass; 2 aqua window glass; 1 plaster; 4 unid corroded nails; 3 unid metal; 1 butchered pig bone
EU1	5	50	60	A/transition	mo yb wet sd	4 whiteware; 1 porcelain scallop edge plate rim; 1 unid earthenware possibly burned; 1 clear bottle neck and finish; 1 clear bottle base (pontil scar); 5 clear curved glass; 1 unid bone

EU1	6	60	70	B2	mo yb wet sd	1 brown transfer printed whiteware; 1 whiteware; 1 porcelain; 2 clear bottle glass; 3 clear curved glass; 3 unid metal
EU1	7	70	106	STP	bn wet sd (muck)	1 red sponge decorated whiteware rim; 1 grey transfer printed whiteware; 1 unid refined earthenware (no glaze); 1 aqua curved glass; 2 aqua window glass; 1 unid corroded nail

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