

Cultural Resources

▶ Discovering New Jersey's Transportation Past
A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Digest

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey

July 2005

Commissioner Jack Lettiere

>location:

hamburg borough
sussex county

>resource types:

archaeological
architectural

>action:

survey/inventory
evaluation of significance
data recovery



Hamburg Borough
Sussex County

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Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology in Downtown Hamburg



MAIN STREET, HAMBURG, N. J.

In this early 20th-century postcard view, the Edsall House is visible in the distance, its tower dominating the streetscape.

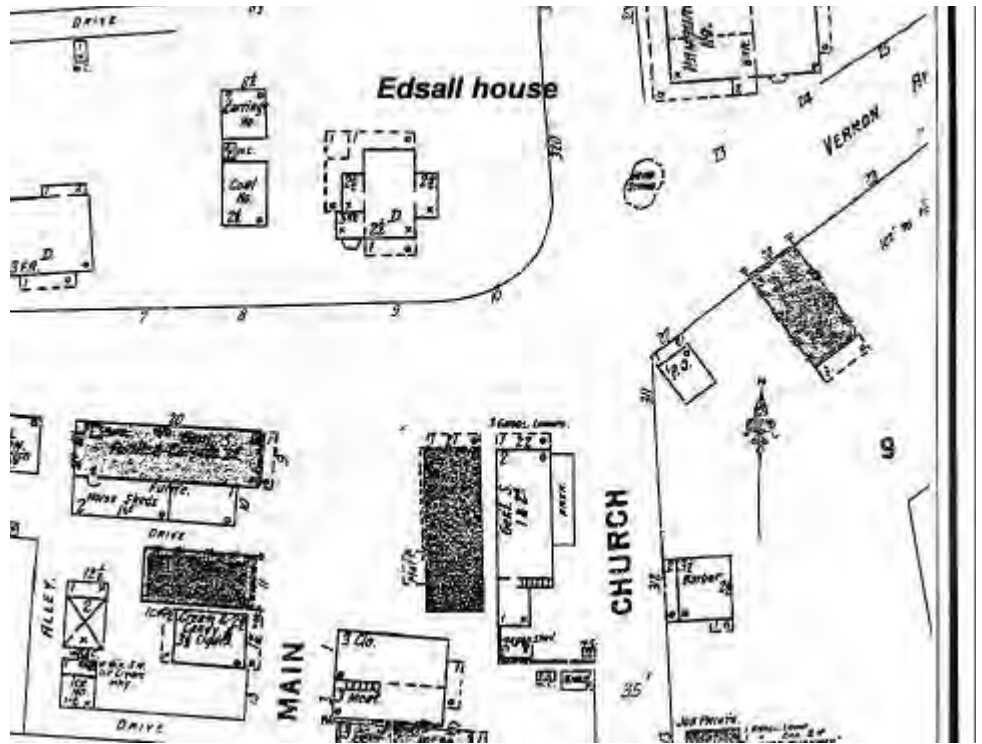
When Joseph Walling settled in the wilds of northern New Jersey sometime before 1750, he probably had no idea that his new home was but a stone's throw from a 3,000-year-old Native American campsite. Two-and-a-half centuries later—after the wilds had become the town of Hamburg; after two 19th-century turnpikes intersected in front of his house; after his house had been displaced by the larger and grander Edsall house; and after the Edsall house had in turn been replaced by a 20th-century bank—two teams of archaeologists unearthed artifacts of daily life from two different cultures.

Research projects in advance of improvements to the intersection that defines the center of Hamburg discovered the two sites. In separate excavations at two places near the intersection, archaeologists were able to retrieve everyday items from both prehistoric times and the 18th and 19th centuries. Evidence from the campsite points to its repeated short-term occupation by small groups. Artifacts from the house site shed light on the purchasing patterns, diets and other aspects of life in the Walling household as Hamburg was growing from a few scattered buildings into a 19th-century town.

Hamburg at a Crossroads

Hamburg may be a crossroads town in rural northern New Jersey, but the demands of late 20th-century traffic nonetheless required changes to its 19th-century road system: the town was centered on the intersection of two 19th-century turnpikes, both of which are now state highways. On one corner, on the north side of the intersection, stood a 20th-century suburban bank. This had previously been the site of two successive houses, the homes of some of Hamburg's most prominent families in different centuries. While the two houses stood, Hamburg's prosperity and growth had changed the site from an isolated inn and farm to a highly visible lot in the center of town.

Since enlarging the intersection would destroy the sites of at least one of these two houses, which dated from about 1750 and 1859, a program of archaeological data recovery was undertaken beginning in the fall of 1996 to learn more about these families and their daily lives. The dig yielded information about two rural households peopled by individuals at the upper end of the economic scale in the second half of the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries, including their purchasing and dietary habits.



Downtown Hamburg in 1904. This map shows the Edsall house at the head of Main Street, near the site of the c. 1750 Walling house. By 1988 a bank stood on the site, but remnants of both houses survived below ground [Source: Sanborn Map Co., "Insurance Map of the Town of Hamburg," 1904].

The road project was later redesigned to include construction of a short, L-shaped connector street one block south and west of the intersection. Archaeological testing in this area revealed it to have been the location of a prehistoric campsite, probably occupied seasonally by small groups—perhaps just a few families—in the Late Archaic period (about 3,000 years ago).

The Hamburg area was initially settled by Europeans around the mid-17th century and, in fact, was one of the earliest settled sections of what later became Sussex County. Dutch settlers moved into the area

Historical Archaeology

Historical archaeology is the study of past human activity in the era of written records. While artifacts can tell the story of past cultures, historical documents (and folklore) combined with archaeological research together yield a rich, more nuanced perspective on the past.

Archaeological data and documents complement each other. For instance, a census return may supply the one-dimensional fact that a mill worker and his family lived in a row house in Paterson in the middle of the 19th century; analysis of the items they discarded in their backyard could reveal what kind of tableware they used, what kinds and cuts of meats they ate, what

patent medicines they used, and what kinds of toys their children played with.

Likewise, historical archaeology can help fill gaps in historical records. While the exploits of political and military leaders are generally well-documented, the lives of the people who raised their food, prepared their meals, and shod their horses are seldom the subjects of glowing biographies. Information recovered archaeologically from farmsteads, workers' housing, and blacksmith shops, for instance, can help to answer questions about the class, gender and ethnicity of other persons alive at the same time as the "famous man."

from the Lower Hudson Valley and established themselves along the Upper Delaware and Wallkill Rivers. Shortly after, other groups, notably Germans, Irish and Welsh, also settled in the area. According to early histories, a Joseph Walling settled in the area in the mid-18th century, purchasing 150 acres in what was then Hardyston Township from Isaac Harlow. Walling operated a mill at or near this location on the Wallkill River and is also known to have operated a tavern nearby. Walling's homestead would become the nucleus of modern Hamburg.

The hills surrounding Hamburg contain rich deposits of iron and zinc ore. By the end of the 18th century, the mining and basic processing of iron and zinc had become important local industries. Production of charcoal from the ample supplies of timber available nearby grew in tandem to supply fuel for the iron industry. Abundant water power from the area's fast-flowing rivers was a critical element in the emergence of all of these industries. Early maps show several water-powered forges and furnaces in Hardyston Township. Two of these ore processing

facilities were located in the immediate vicinity of what is today Hamburg Borough. The Sharpsborough (or Sharpsburg) furnace and forge was founded by Isaac Sharp in 1768 about a mile south of Hamburg on a branch of the Wallkill. The second forge, known as the Hamburg Forge (which later gave its name to the village), was established in 1792. This forge, located on the Wallkill at or near the present site of the village of Hamburg, was named for the German port city which established itself as a major exporter of iron during the late 18th century. The forge was one of the largest iron processing operations in the region at the time.

Zinc mining gained increasing importance in the local economy during the early 19th century. Between 1810 and 1814, significant deposits of iron and zinc were extracted from several large tracts of land near Ogdensburg and Franklin (just to the south of Hamburg).

During this period when iron and zinc dominated the local economy, the population of this section of

Sussex County grew considerably, and it was probably around the same time that a village first came into being at Hamburg. Since business opportunities were plentiful, the village became an appealing place to take up residence. This section of Hardyston Township adopted the name "Hamburg" in 1795 when a post office was established here to serve the rapidly growing community.

Growth spurred by the iron and zinc industries continued through the first quarter of the 19th century, but soon the rising cost of mining and processing led to a re-orientation of the local



All roads seemed to lead to Hamburg in 1833. The three starburst symbols south of town are mills or "manufactories" [Source: Thomas Gordon, "Map of the State of New Jersey," 1833].

economy. The inhabitants turned increasingly to farming, supplying crops, such as rye, and livestock (chiefly cattle) for sale in local markets. In 1830, the village of Hamburg was in the midst of this transition to an agriculturally-based crossroads community and contained two gristmills, two saw mills, two taverns, four stores, and approximately 20 dwellings.

Improvements in transportation beginning early in the 19th century fostered continued agricultural prosperity in spite of the decline in the iron industry. In the early decades of the century, the New Jersey legislature began to consider privately-owned toll roads as a viable method of improving the state's overland transportation system. Turnpike companies were allowed to collect tolls from road users; the tolls were used to pay for maintenance and return a profit to the owners. In theory, the superior condition of the turnpikes would allow for faster, less expensive shipment of goods. By 1830, more than 50 turnpike companies had been incorporated, although fewer than half of these actually operated roads.

The Paterson and Hamburg Turnpike—today's N.J. Route 23—was chartered in 1806 as a 24-foot-wide toll road. The northernmost turnpike in the state, it also proved to be one of the most successful. This road began at Acquackanonk Landing (Passaic) on the Passaic River, heading in a northwesterly direction through several towns until it reached Deckertown (now Sussex). The Vernon and Newton Turnpike (today's N.J. Route 94) was chartered in 1814 and ran southwest from "Decay's" on the New York/New Jersey state line to Sussex Court House (Newton). The two turnpikes crossed at Hamburg, in front of Joseph Walling's old house.

Hamburg's enviable location at the intersection of these two turnpikes served as a stimulus for settlement and continued commercial growth.

Prosperity and growth paced one another. Improved transportation meant cheaper, faster shipping, which enlarged the size of the market available to local farmers and manufacturers. The prosperity brought by the turnpikes encouraged further growth at the crossroads, bringing new residents.

Several families which would become prominent arrived in Hamburg in the early 19th century, among them Robert A. Linn, who settled in Hamburg about 1818 after trading his property in Newton with that of his brother-in-law, Thomas C. Ryerson, in Hamburg. Linn founded the Hamburg House inn at the crossroads about 1820. In 1837, Richard Edsall arrived.

Rail service brought a new era of growth. In 1854 the Sussex Railroad began service to Newton, just a short turnpike trip from Hamburg. This new, faster access to urban markets enabled farmers to ship perishable produce, which in turn brought changes in crops: in addition

to the traditional grain and livestock production, peaches and dairy products were added to the local economy. Commercial peach production began in the 1850s, peaking in the 1880s. Refrigerator cars enlarged the market area yet again in the 1870s, and by 1910 Sussex County had more dairy cattle than any other New Jersey county.

Hamburg's most substantial period of growth began in the early 1870s when the tracks of the New Jersey Midland Railroad were completed from Newton through Hamburg to Unionville, New York. The rail-



In 1860, modern Hamburg was emerging, and the new Edsall house dominated the head of Main Street [Source: G. M. Hopkins, "Map of Sussex County," 1860].

road not only benefited existing industry but encouraged the founding and relocating of others. Two limekilns were quickly established, and short tramroads linked nearby zinc mines to the railroad. The Sparks paper mill replaced the old Hamburg furnace on the Wallkill River (which had closed in the 1850s). Other railroad-oriented businesses, such as coal dealers, feed merchants, and lumber yards, soon appeared.

The Great Depression brought more change as businesses consolidated or closed. Rail service was reduced, both of the town's hotels closed and were demolished, and several major buildings were destroyed by fire, including the paper mill. And "Hamburg's largest and most visible residence," the Richard E. Edsall house, which had replaced Walling's house at the northwest corner of Routes 23 and 94, the crossroads of the two old turnpikes, was torn down.

The Walling/Ryerson/Linn and Edsall Houses

According to an 1881 history, Joseph Walling "...erected a spacious residence on the site now occupied by the dwelling of Richard E. Edsall" about 1750. Another account places Walling in the area earlier, owning a piece of land more than a mile long and "living in a comfortable log house" which he replaced with a frame house in 1750. Today the site

is at the northern corner of Routes 23 and 94 in the center of Hamburg. Regardless of the accuracy of either of these accounts, the house Walling built in 1750 is traditionally considered the first frame house in the area. There are no first-hand descriptions of the house, and the only view of it is a sketch published a generation after its demise. The only contemporary information about it comes indirectly, from the inventory of Walling's estate, compiled in

1779. In the course of listing his worldly goods, the inventory refers to certain rooms in the house: a big room, cellar, bedroom, garret, chamber, and kitchen chamber are named. The inventory also listed three outbuildings: a store, a hogpen, and a barn.

Although Walling owned considerable property (including 1,200 acres and a mill), at his death in 1779 he was deeply in debt. After being sold at auction with the rest of his estate, his house passed through a number of owners until it was purchased in 1790 by Martin Ryerson.

Martin Ryerson was a member of a family of Huguenots who had come to New Jersey early in the 18th century. He is said to have enlarged the house and lived there for the next 30 years, but there is no known documentation as to the nature of the enlargements. He was a surveyor, and deputy to the surveyors-general of both East and West Jersey. Ryerson was thus in a position to "make very judicious land locations for himself." He was also an early presi-

According to an 1881 history, Joseph Walling "...erected a spacious residence on the site now occupied by the dwelling of Richard E. Edsall" about 1750.

Archaeological Data Recovery

Depending on the size and significance of an archaeological site, and the extent of foreseeable disturbance, a carefully-planned program of *data recovery* may be the preferred treatment. Since data recovery by definition destroys the site (and with it, the context of the artifacts), it is usually reserved for instances where destruction of the site is unavoidable.

The process begins with preparation of a research design, posing questions the excavation should aim to answer. These may pertain to, as examples, the lifeways of the site's inhabitants, the nature of certain industrial or agricultural processes which took place there, or changes in the use of the site through time. Next, based on archival research and survey data (and, if necessary, the presence of hazardous materials), decisions are made as to how much of the site must be excavated in order to answer these questions; only rarely is an entire site excavated.

The proposed locations or area of larger excavations are laid out, and the excavation proceeds.

As in other archaeological studies, soils, buried remains and key artifacts are exposed, photographed and mapped horizontally and vertically. Artifacts and samples of soils and other materials are taken to the laboratory for cataloguing, processing and (ultimately) long-term storage in a suitable repository. The archaeological team prepares a report of the study which, since it will be the only record of the site, is much more detailed than would result from a less complex archaeological survey. Typically the reports are generously illustrated and include chapters on background research, the testing phase, the research design, and the findings (including a full artifact catalog). Findings can also be reported in less-traditional media, such as a video production, school curriculum, posters or exhibits.

dent of the Paterson & Hamburg Turnpike Company, and at his death in 1820 his estate was valued at more than \$40,000. He donated the land for the Baptist cemetery, and traditionally is said to have owned most of the land comprising present-day Hamburg.

Following Ryerson's death in 1820, his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Robert Linn bought the house from the other heirs. The Linns owned the house until 1859. Robert Linn was variously described as a merchant and a farmer; in 1860 he was the town postmaster. He was also apparently a substantial landowner, as the census of 1850 listed the value of his real estate holdings at \$45,000. According to the same census, his household included, in addition to his immediate family, two servants (and the child of one of them) and a laborer.

Although it is uncertain how long they actually lived here, in 1859 the Linns sold the property to their daughter, Emma, and her husband, Richard Edsall. This would be a year of change for the corner where Walling's old frame house stood: in the same year the Edsalls built a large Victorian house on the corner near the Walling house, and the Walling house was destroyed by fire. It is unclear whether the fire was accidental or if it was simply the means used to remove the old house from what was now the Edsalls' yard.

Unlike the Walling house, there are historic photographs of the Edsall house. They show it to have been an imposing two-and-a-half-story frame house with projecting eaves and a front porch, set close to the road behind a picket fence. Architecturally, the most spectacular feature of the house was a three-and-a-half-story tower with a clear view down Main Street. The tower was also a prominent landmark in the Main Street streetscape.

The Edsalls were yet another important family to live at one of the most visible addresses in Hamburg. The son of two of the founding families of Vernon (his mother's maiden name was DeKay), Richard Edsall had arrived in Hamburg in 1837 and worked as a clerk in the firm of Edsall & Vandergriff. After spending a few years in Warwick, New York, he returned to Hamburg in 1845. Edsall was a merchant, sheriff of Sussex County, and served ten years in the legislature as a member of both the Assembly and state Senate. He was profiled in the 1881 *History of Sussex and Warren Counties*.

After Edsall's death in 1890, his widow, Emma Linn Edsall, sold the house to her son, Thomas, for \$1. The house remained in the Edsall family until its demolition around the middle of the 20th century. The family sold the property in 1953, when a modern bank was built on the site.



The Walling house as shown in an engraving published in 1888, 29 years after it was destroyed by fire [Source: Haines, "Hardyston Township: A History of the Township and the North Presbyterian Church...", 1888].

Fast Forward to 1996: Archaeological Data Recovery

Plans to enlarge the intersection of N.J. Routes 23 and 94, the modern-day names of the two 19th-century turnpikes, led to archaeological testing in the landscaped area between the bank and the two streets in 1988. This testing yielded numerous artifacts ranging in date from the 18th to the 20th centuries, indicating that remains of both houses were probably present below ground. These early tests located what were believed to be the foundation of the *circa* 1750 Walling house and its filled-in basement. The site was within the area that would be affected by the road work.

In contrast to the Walling house, whose location had to be “discovered” in the field, the Edsall house had appeared on maps made as recently as 1943, so its location could be plotted on the project plans. This analysis showed that the site of the Edsall house was some distance from the area expected to be directly affected, but the yards of both houses (frequently fertile ground for historical archaeology) were in the construction zone.

A program of data recovery was therefore laid out, focused on the Walling house proper and the yards of both houses. The research design looked to questions about the lifeways of wealthy families as this part of northern New Jersey grew from a wilderness to a commercial center. Walling's 1779 estate inventory had shown that he lived well above subsistence level; the first entry was “pieces of Apparle £1,160.” What kinds of tableware had he used? Was it expensive, imported, highly decorated, or utilitarian? What could animal remains reveal about the families' diets: was meat obtained locally (through the purchase of selective cuts, or by on-site butchering)? Did game meats have a place in the diet? Were non-local foods purchased, as would be indicated by the remains of saltwater species? Could anything be learned about changes in lifestyle resulting from the American Revolution?

The actual excavations took place from July to November of 1996. A total of 25 test units,



The Edsall house about 1900, looking west; Main Street is to the left [Source: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc., “Archaeological Data Recovery: Site 28 SX291. New Jersey Routes 23 and 94 Intersection Improvement Project, Borough of Hamburg,” 1997].

encompassing 630 square feet, were opened, and 33,645 artifacts were recovered. More than half of these were ceramics.

The range of artifacts recovered and the nature of their contexts limited the amount of information that could be extracted. No significant deposits relating to the Edsall house were recovered (recall that only the Edsall yard was excavated), and the Walling house artifacts could only be separated into two meaningful occupation periods: the entire time the house stood (*circa* 1750 to 1859) and the Walling/Ryerson occupation (*circa* 1750 to 1820).

Plain creamware ceramics dominated the Walling occupation, and many had the slightly-upturned, scalloped rim that characterized the Royal pattern. The preponderance of this pattern suggests that tableware was purchased in sets rather than as individual pieces. The Royal pattern was most popular between 1766 and 1820. Although the purchase of tableware in sets is indicative of higher economic status, plain creamware was the cheapest type of earthenware available.

Thirteen examples of makers' marks were found, of which five could be identified and two were attributable to known pottery companies. One of these was

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part of an impressed design consisting of an eagle with an olive branch in the right talon, three arrows in the left talon, and a striped shield on its breast. The partial words “...URSLEM” and “...ONS” were impressed below and to the right of the eagle. This mark was used between 1818 and 1846 by Enoch Wood & Sons, potters in Burslem, Staffordshire, England. Four sherds showed parts of another mark, an impressed mark consisting of a stippled crown within a double circle that contained the words “STAFFORDSHIRE CLEWS WARRANTED.” This mark was used between 1818 and 1834 by James & Ralph Clews, potters in Cobridge, Staffordshire, England.

Other ceramics included Chinese export porcelain and creamware in the early deposits and transfer-printed wares in the later deposits, further indications that the residents had access to imported goods and a preference for expensive items. It is likely that Walling and Ryerson, both wealthy landowners, maintained business contacts in port cities such as New York and Philadelphia, a possible source for these goods.

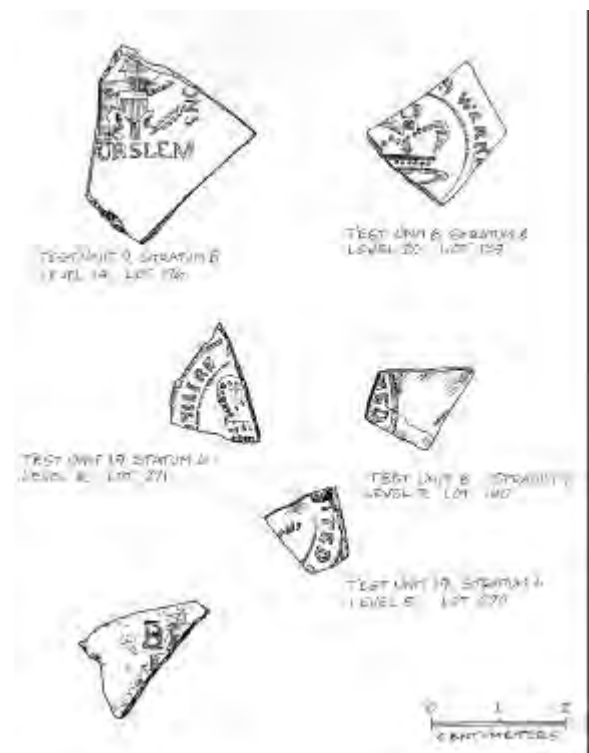
Faunal remains indicated that domesticated species predominated in the residents' diets, with only low frequencies of wild species. The remains also suggested on-site butchering and full use of the animals, rather than the purchase or sale of selected cuts. Over time, the proportion of pork decreased while that of beef increased, possibly indicative of changes in farming practice, livestock availability or simply changing tastes.

A total of 73 oyster shells were recovered. Analysis of their size, ratio of height to length, and parasitic scars showed that they had grown on muddy sand, in relatively deep water from which they were harvested fairly heavily and before reaching full size, by tonging or dredging (rather than hand gathering). In

other words, they were harvested by a large-scale commercial operation. The relatively small number of shells indicates that oysters were not a dietary staple.

Seven coins were among the personal items found, including a British copper half-penny dating from 1741 to 1754, a Connecticut penny probably dating from 1787, and two Spanish *reals* dating from 1781 and 1778, both minted in Mexico City. Because of the shortage of currency in the colonial period and the early years of the republic, foreign coins and coins attributable to state mints were in circulation and are not unusual in late 18th-century sites.

Three gun flints and a ramrod holder were found. Two of the flints were English, made after 1790, and



A selection of makers’ marks found at the Walling/Edsall site [Source: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc., “Archaeological Data Recovery: Site 28 SX 291. New Jersey Routes 23 and 94 Intersection Improvement Project, Borough of Hamburg,” 1997].

one was French, dating from before 1790.

Unfortunately the deposits could not be separated into pre-Revolutionary vs. post-Revolutionary, so no information could be gleaned as to changes in market availability or consumer choices resulting from independence.



This Native American pestle, used to grind grain and other foods, was discovered during the archaeological survey, and led to the discovery of a seasonal campsite [Source: Hunter Research, Inc.].

Prehistoric Campsite

A later scenario for improving the intersection called for the construction of a short connector street about a block from the Edsall and Walling houses, running from Route 94 (Ames Boulevard) to Main Street. This so-called “Orchard Street Extension” would run behind buildings on Main Street and provide additional off-street parking.

This area is near the edge of the bluff overlooking the floodplain of the Wallkill River, potentially a promising location for a prehistoric site. Sixty shovel tests were excavated in a program of systematic subsurface testing in the area west of Main Street and south of Ames Boulevard.

These tests in fact revealed the presence of a prehistoric site. One of the shovel tests yielded a large quartzite pestle less than one foot below the surface, suggesting that a prehistoric feature had been encountered. A *pestle* is a hand-held, club-shaped object used in food preparation to grind or pulverize items such as nuts, dried berries, and grains, and is used with a mortar, a stone block which has a bowl-shaped depression. Pestles, particularly specimens as large and polished from years of use as the Hamburg example, cannot be mistaken for naturally-weathered stone. The Hamburg pestle, about a foot long, is consistent with the Late Archaic/Terminal Archaic temporal classification of the site (from about 6,000 to about 3,000 years ago). Because of its heft, it would be useful to store it at the place where

it was going to be used rather than to carry it from place to place.

The same shovel test yielded four pieces of prehistoric *debitage*, small sharp-edged stone fragments that are the waste material produced when a stone tool is made by chipping a *core* (the “parent” or raw material stone). More extensive excavation at the same location recovered more *debitage*, a Late Archaic projectile point or knife and some thermally-fractured (or fire-cracked) rock.

Within this excavation was also found non-artifactual evidence: an oval area of discolored soil, about three feet by nearly four feet, which, as the excavation progressed, was revealed to be generally bowl-shaped. Within it were a stone scraper, more *debitage* and thermally altered rock and five pieces of charcoal. This bowl-shaped feature was interpreted as the lower part of a Late Archaic storage pit, based on its contents. The upper part of the pit had probably been removed by later ground-disturbing activities. Storage pits, as the name implies, were used to cache items at a particular location for future use; by definition their presence implies repeated occupation of a site. For purposes of this investigation, the pit was divided in two vertically and only one half was excavated. The other half was left in place for the benefit of future archaeologists, since the pit’s contents and its soil could yield radiocarbon dating information, for example, and possibly floral information about the era when it was last filled.



Four Late Archaic/Terminal Archaic projectile points recovered from the Hamburg campsite. The rhyolite Susquehanna broadspear is at right [Source: Hunter Research, Inc.].

Although the shovel tests at the edge of the bluff yielded a large number of 19th- and 20th-century artifacts, the location was considered conducive to prehistoric occupation. This shovel test was expanded into a three-by-three-foot excavation unit. Seventy-four prehistoric artifacts were recovered from this unit, mostly debitage, but one Susquehanna broadspear made from rhyolite (a volcanic rock similar to granite) was found.

Nearly 1,600 artifacts were recovered in the Orchard Street Extension explorations. The great majority dated from the 19th and 20th centuries, but fully 259 were prehistoric. Significantly, all prehistoric materials were *lithic* (i.e., stone); no ceramics were recovered. Because of the absence of ceramics and the presence of certain diagnostic projectile point types, the site is considered to be of the Late Archaic/Terminal Archaic period (6,000 to 3,000 years ago).

Although only four projectile points were recovered, all are of types which are characteristic of the Late Archaic/Terminal Archaic period. In addition to the rhyolite Susquehanna broadspear were two argillite points (one Vosberg, one untyped) and an argillite Kittatinny point. Kittatinny and Vosberg points are found at Middle and Late Archaic sites, often made from local chert. The Susquehanna broadspear is

typically associated with the Terminal Archaic period.

The raw materials of the artifacts found at the site tell another part of the story. Chert, like flint, is common in the nearby hills, both along the Kittatinny Ridge and in the New Jersey and Hudson Highlands. It is not surprising, then, that over 80% of the lithic artifacts recovered at the site are chert. Argillite, similar to shale and slate, occurs at a greater distance, to the south in central New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and to the east in northern New Jersey and southern New York. Only 7% of the total lithic artifacts (but

three of the four projectile points) were argillite. Rhyolite, the raw material of the Susquehanna broadspear, is exotic; the closest outcrops are near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, over 160 miles distant. The presence of this point in Hamburg suggests there was a regional network of trade and exchange.

A Prehistoric Timeline

- Paleo-Indian Period:** *c. 10,000-c. 8,000 B. C. (12,000 to 10,000 years ago)*
- Early Archaic Period:** *c. 8,000-c. 6,500 B. C. (10,000 to 8,500 years ago)*
- Middle Archaic Period:** *c. 6,500-c. 4,000 B. C. (8,500 to 6,000 years ago)*
- Late Archaic Period:** *c. 4,000-c. 2,000 B. C. (6,000 to 4,000 years ago)*
- Terminal Archaic Period:** *c. 2,000-c. 1,000 B. C. (4,000 to 3,000 years ago)*
- Early Woodland Period:** *c. 1,000 B. C.-c. 0 B. C./A. D. 1 (3,000 to 2,000 years ago)*
- Middle Woodland Period:** *c. A. D. 1-c. A. D. 1000 (2,000 to 1,000 years ago)*
- Late Woodland Period:** *c. A. D. 1000-c. A. D. 1650 (1,000 to 350 years ago)*
- Contact Period:** *c. A. D. 1600-c. A. D. 1700 (400 to 300 years ago)*

(Source: Kraft 2001, *The Lenape-Delaware Indian Heritage*, p. 34).

Eight stone tools were also recovered, including five cores. All five had been completely exhausted of usable stone before being discarded.

Most artifacts at the site were stone debitage resulting from tool maintenance. Charcoal fragments and stone altered by exposure to high heat suggest that cooking also took place.

This evidence taken together evokes a picture of a fairly small band, perhaps one or two families, returning to this place year after year, where useful (but heavy) articles were stored in shallow pits, rather than being carried from place to place. While the band was here, tools and weapons (projectile points) would be sharpened, and perhaps new points and other types of tools fashioned from the cores that had been cached, leaving behind a scatter of debitage. Food would be ground with the pestle, then cooked, leaving behind charcoal and fire-cracked rock. Hides may have been processed with the scraper. A picture emerges of a seasonal campsite, used for short periods at a time for perhaps as little as 30 years, with no durable shelters or other structures.

The investigation was limited to the area which would potentially be disturbed by construction of the Orchard Street Extension, rather than pursuing the site to its limits. In other words, the horizontal extent of the site is unknown but it is believed to extend some distance along the top of the bluff. The 27 prehistoric artifacts which emerged from the Walling/Edsall data recovery may well have been related to this site.

The site was judged to be significant because of its potential to increase understanding of the Late Archaic prehistory of the Wallkill valley, the Lower Hudson valley and the Upper Delaware valley. Specific areas of information include regional settlement and subsistence patterns, seasonal exploitation of food sources, environmental adaptation, and patterns of lithic raw material usage. Many Native American camp sites in the Middle Atlantic region tend to be multi-component resources with reworked

What Happens to the Artifacts?

A typical archaeological investigation can yield from a few dozen to many thousands of artifacts, depending on the size and complexity of the area of inquiry and the intensity of the study. Some types of material, such as bricks, mortar or coal ash, are noted in the field as to quantity, provenience and location, then discarded. Inherently informative types of artifacts, such as stone tools, ceramics and coins, are labeled as to their provenience, then taken to an archaeological laboratory where they are cleaned, numbered and catalogued into a database. Some choice artifacts may undergo conservation, especially those that might eventually be displayed in a museum. Information about the artifacts is included in the written report prepared by archaeologists after they have finished their field and laboratory studies.

When a report is complete, the artifacts are packed in museum-quality storage cabinets and delivered, with a complete written inventory, to the New Jersey State Museum for long-term care, display and/or future research. Alternatively, NJDOT has in the past transferred custody of artifacts to a responsible local organization (such as a historical society) at their request for safekeeping and display.

soils, typically producing a wide range of well-mixed artifacts. This site, by contrast, because it is a single-component site and was used for a fairly short period, has the potential to provide an uncluttered view of a limited time in prehistory. The storage pit, in particular, has apparently been undisturbed since the last time it was used, perhaps 30 centuries ago; despite its small size, its contents could open a window into daily life in the Late Archaic period. If floral remains survive in the soil, such as pollen grains, they could yield information about the environment at that time. These are all areas that could be explored in a larger program of data recovery.

As a result of the discovery of this site, the project was once again redesigned. The proposed parking lot which would have impacted the site was eliminated from the plans, thereby also eliminating the need to conduct data recovery. Whatever information the campsite holds remains locked away underground.

Project: N.J. Routes 23 and 94 Intersection Improvements

Location: Downtown Hamburg Borough, Sussex County

Date: Summer-Fall 1996, Fall 2000

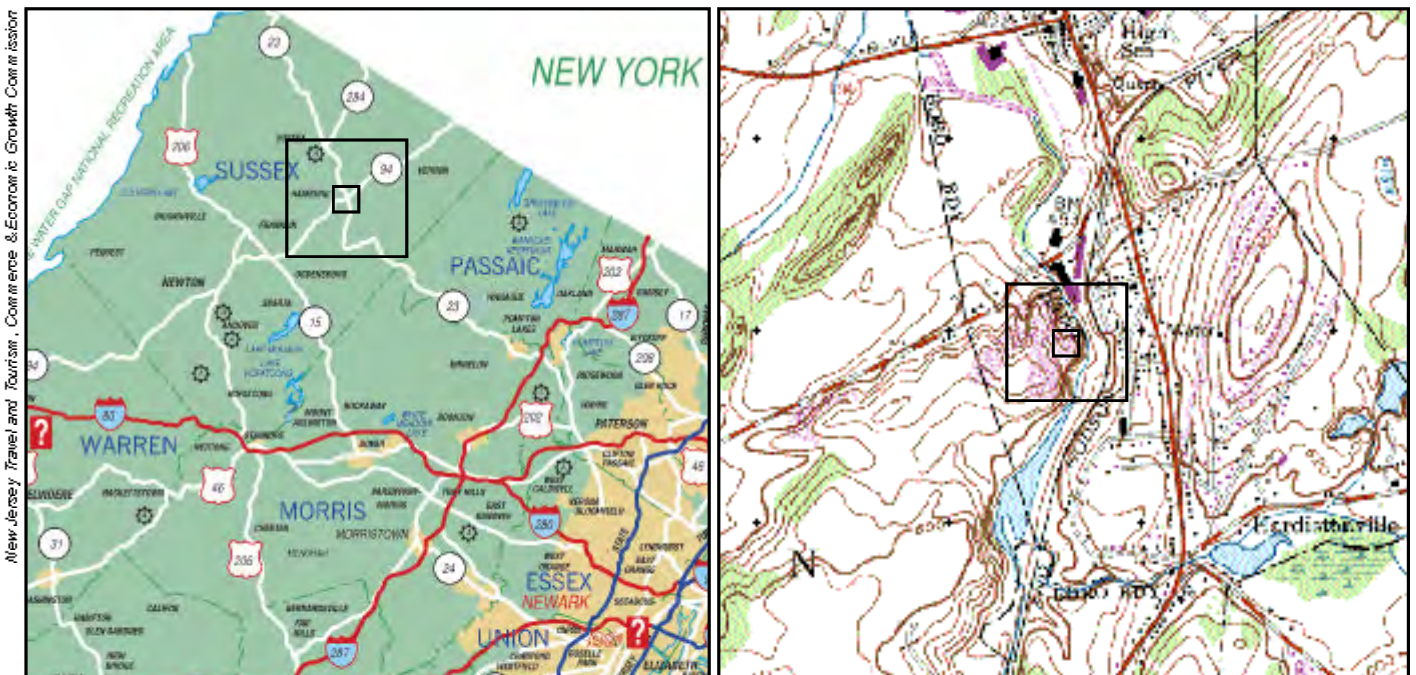
Consultants: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc., 101 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Centre Hall, PA 16828

Hunter Research, Inc., 120 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

For More Information...

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1834 *A Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey.* Daniel Fenton, Trenton, New Jersey.
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1888 *Hardyston Memorial: A History of the Township and the North Presbyterian Church.* The New Jersey Herald, Newton, New Jersey.
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1927 *Northwestern New Jersey: A History of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren and Sussex Counties.* Vol. I. Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York, New York.
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Additional information on transportation projects and historic preservation is available from the Division of Environmental Resources, New Jersey Department of Transportation (<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/works/environment/overview.htm>), the Federal Highway Administration (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/archaeology/index.htm>), the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/2protection/njrreview.htm>), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (<http://www.achp.gov/work106.html>).



Project vicinity map

Area of detail