

PHASE IA LITERATURE REVIEW AND SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

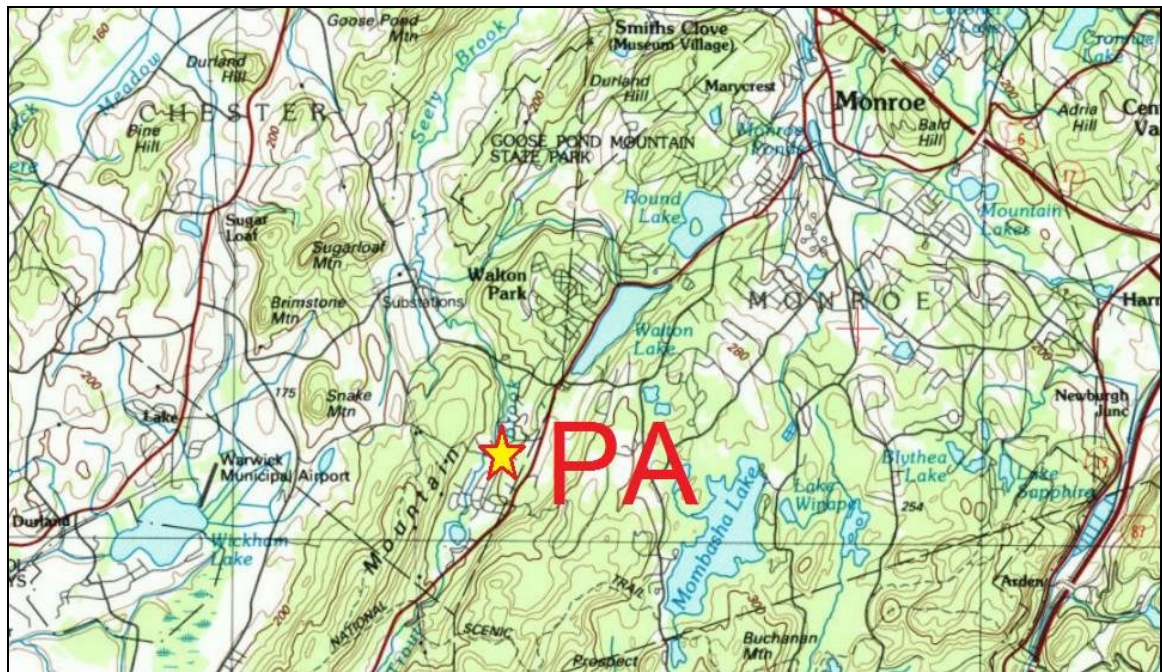
INTRODUCTION

STRATA Cultural Resource Management was contacted on April 19, 2019 by Tim Miller of Tim Miller Associates, Inc. to conduct a Phase IA/IB Archeological Investigation on a ± 4.6 -acre property (SBL 15-1-24) in the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The ± 4.6 -acre property lies to the north of Camp Monroe Road, west of Pickerel Road and east of Trout Brook Road. The property is proposed to be developed into a 3-lot residential subdivision (Maps 1-4; Photos 1-17). An unnamed tributary of Trout Brook flows through the central portion of the property and drains into Monroe Lake nearby. A smaller stream drains into the tributary and is classified as a Federal Wetland. Elevations within the Project Area range from approximately 638 feet (194 m) above mean sea level (AMSL) in the southeast corner to approximately 592 feet (180 m) AMSL at the surface of the stream where it exits the western edge of the Project Area.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is considered to be approximately 2 acres containing the subdivision lots and associated appurtenances. A portion of the property contains steep slopes ($>12\%$) including much of the proposed subdivision lots within the APE.



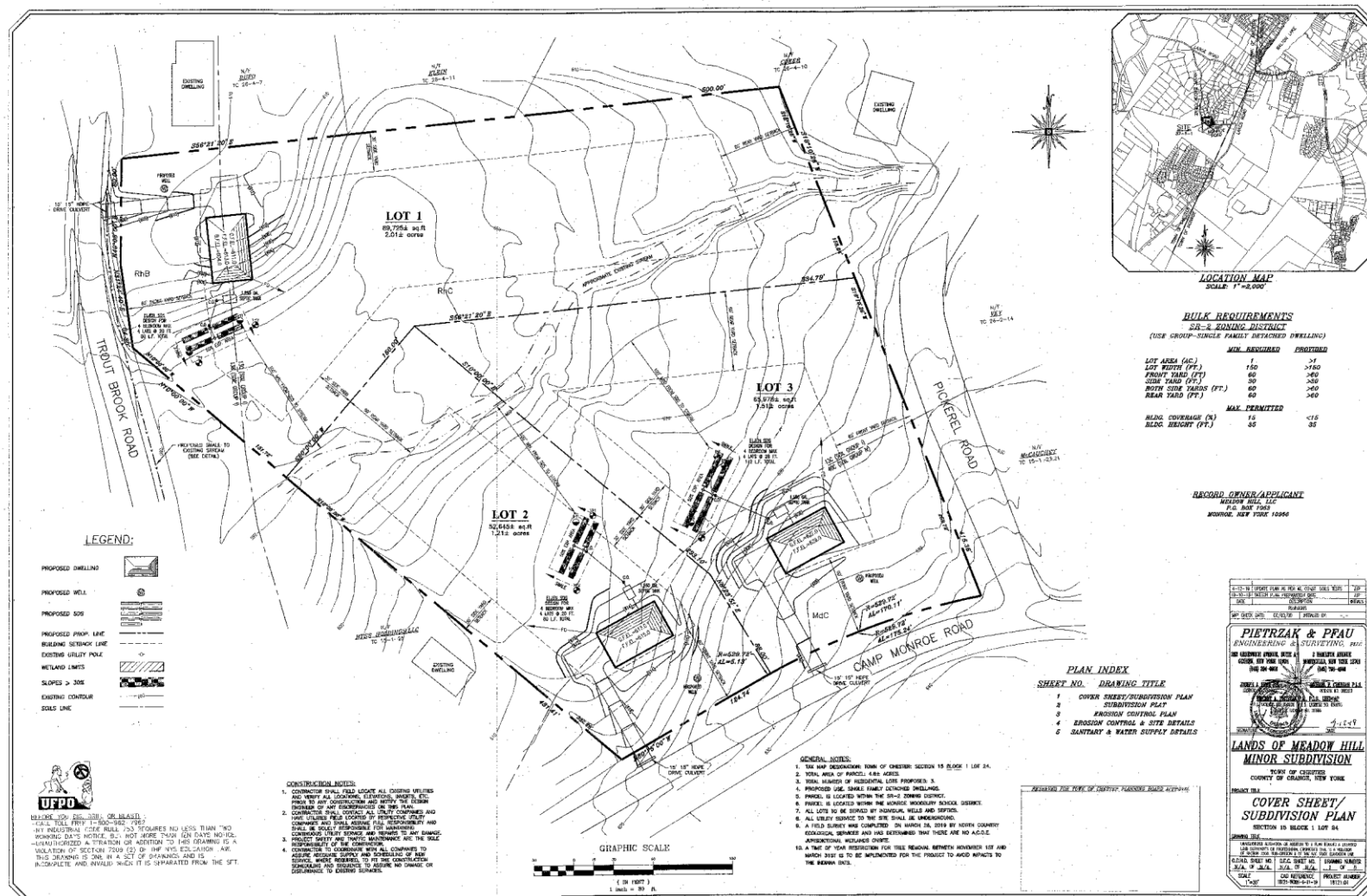
Map 1: 1986 Project Area on USGS 1:100000 Topographic Quadrangle (Middletown, NY).



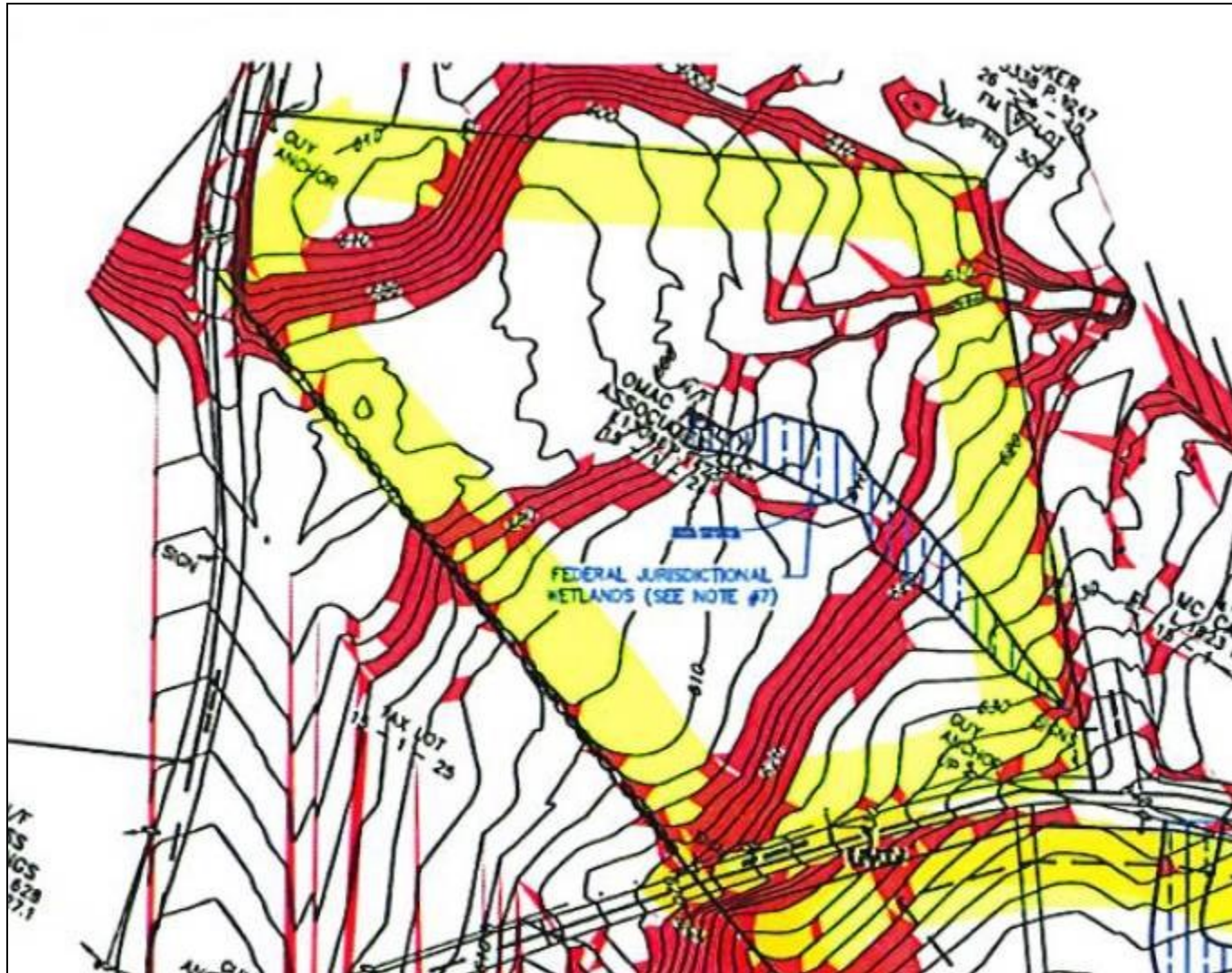
Map 2: 1981 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle (Monroe, NY).



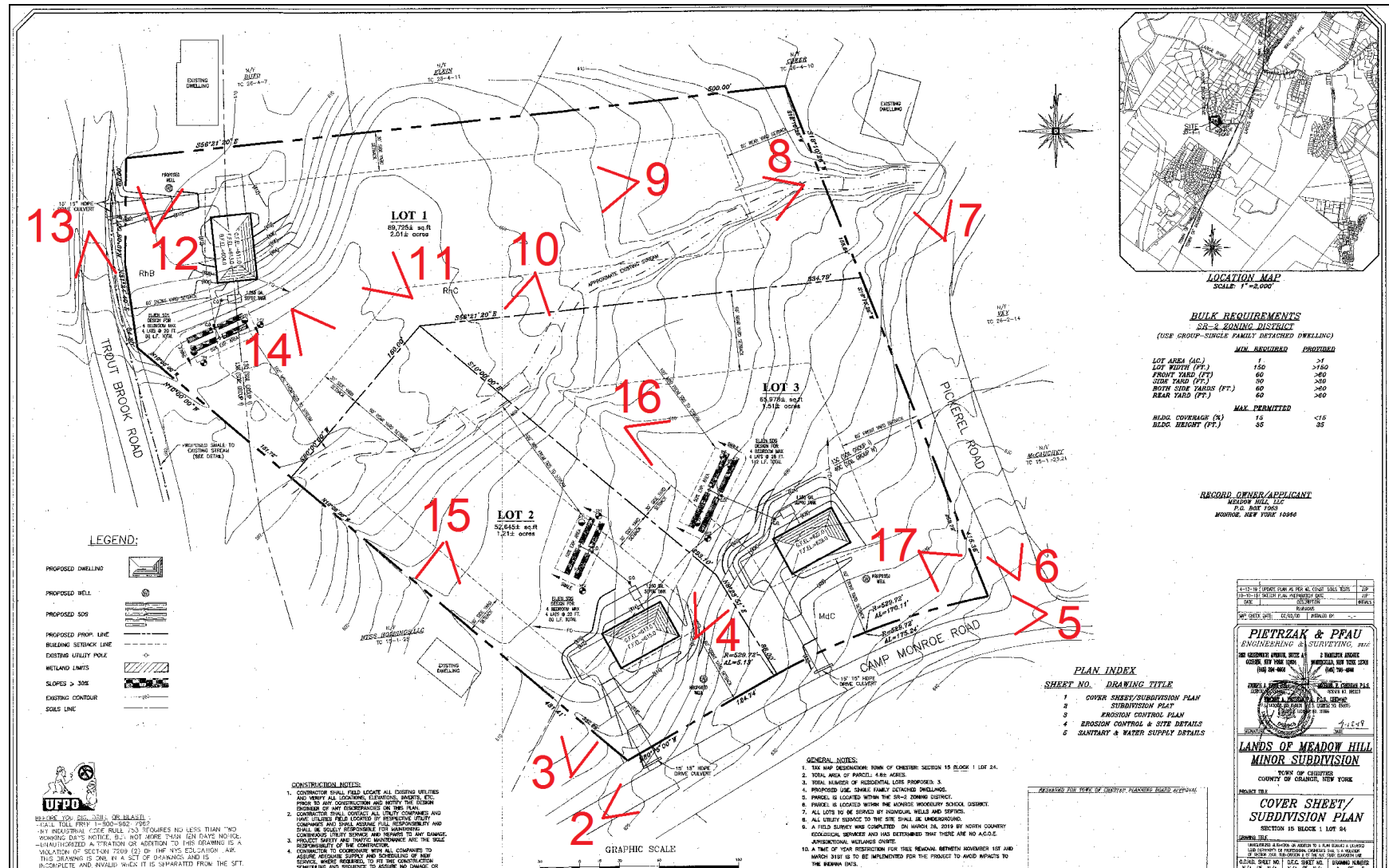
Photo 1: Aerial view of Project Area north of Camp Monroe Road.



Map 3: Project map showing limits of disturbance.



Map 4: Project map showing steep slopes in red (>12%).



Map 5: Project map showing report photo angles.



Photo 2: View northeast along Camp Monroe from Project Area corner.



Photo 3: View north of stone wall with Project Area beyond.



Photo 4: View northeast of Project Area showing linear stone accumulation in Lot 2.



Photo 5: View southwest along Camp Monroe Road at intersection of Pickerel Road.



Photo 6: View north along Pickerel Road with Project Area at left.



Photo 7: View northwest from Pickerel Road of stream culvert and house adjacent to Project Area.



Photo 8: View west of stream within Lot 1 of Project Area.



Photo 9: View west across Lot 1 in Project Area.



Photo 10: View south across stream in Lot 3 of Project Area.



Photo 11: View northeast toward steep slope and house site for Lot 1.



Photo 12: View northeast from house site in Lot 1 near northwest corner of Project Area.



Photo 13: View south along Trout Brook road with cut bank and Project Area at left.



Photo 14: View southeast of disturbed surface showing stony soil composition.



Photo 15: View south from Lot 2 showing adjacent existing structure outside of Project Area.



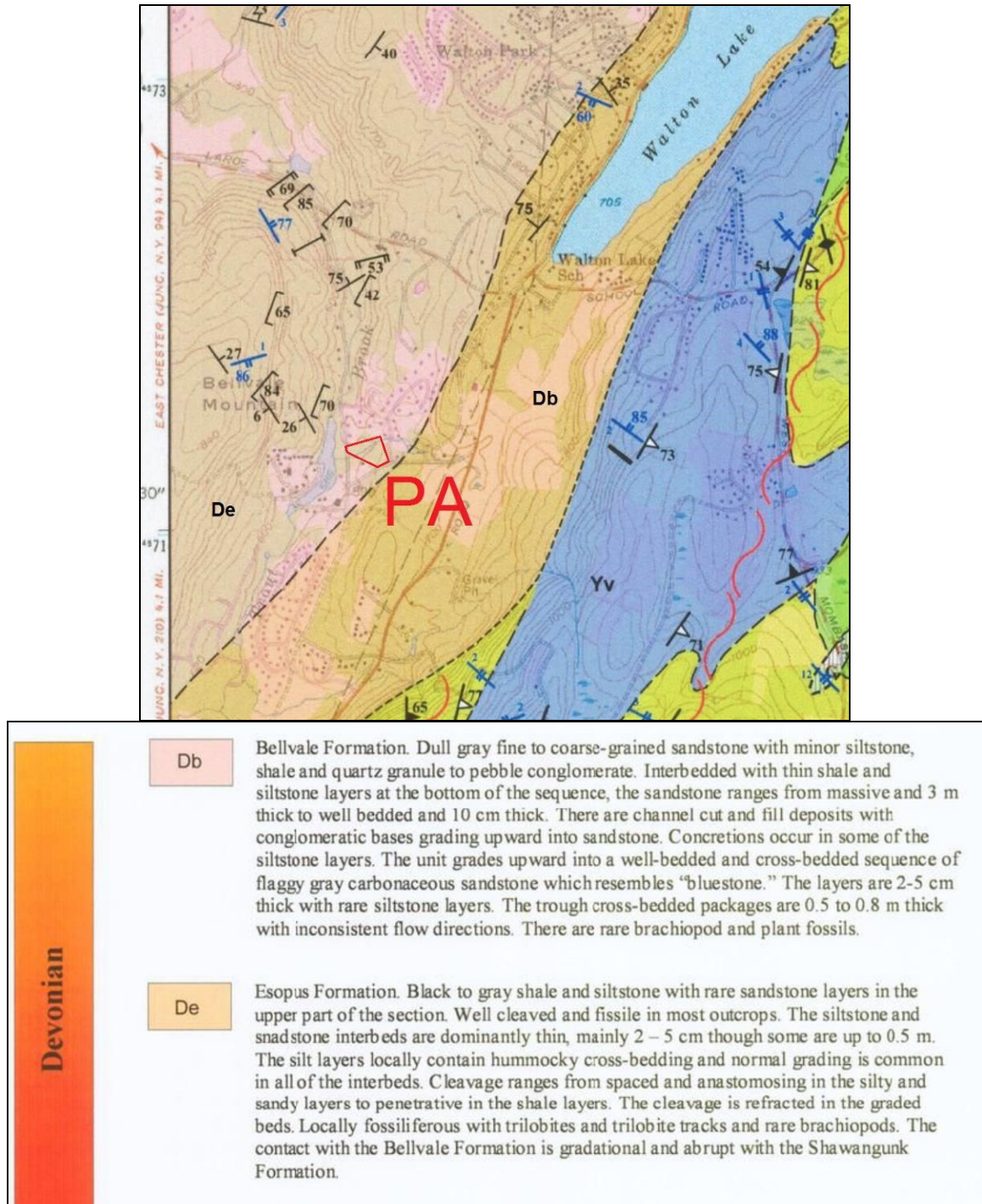
Photo 16: View southeast of stream flowing across Lot 3 within Project Area.



Photo 17: View southeast of stream and culvert entering Lot 3 within Project Area.

Bedrock and Surficial Geology

The Project Area lies within the Devonian-aged Esopus Formation consisting of black to gray shale and siltstone with rare layers of sandstone. It lies near the boundary of the Bellvale Formation where the contact between the two is gradational. The surficial geology of the Project Area consists of glacial till.



Map 6: Bedrock Geologic Map of the Monroe, New York 7.5' Quadrangle (NYS Geological Survey).

Soils and Drainage

Soils within the Project Area consist primarily of Riverhead sandy loam (**RhB, C**) with a small area of Mardin gravelly silt loam (**MdC**) at the southern end of the Project Area along Camp Monroe Road (Map 7) (USDA 1994).



Map 7: Project Area soils (<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>).

Table 1: Project Area soils (USDA 1994).

Name	Soil Horizon Depth	Color	Texture, Inclusions	Slope %	Drainage	Description
Mardin gravelly silt loam (MdB, C)	A 0-8 in (0-20 cm) B 8-15 in (20-38 cm) C 15-20 in (38-51 cm) D 20-60 in (51-152 cm)	Dk Br Yl Br Pale Br Ol Br	Gravelly silt loam Gravelly silt loam Gravelly silt loam Channery silt loam	3-15%	Moderately well drained	Glacial till deposits in uplands
Riverhead sandy loam (RhB, C)	A 0-9 in (0-23 cm) B 9-16 in (23-40 cm) C 16-23 in (40-58 cm) D 23-30 in (58-137 cm) E 30-60 in (137-178 cm)	Br Yl Br Ol Br Yl Br Ol Br	Sandy loam Fine sandy loam Fine sandy loam Loamy sand Sand and gravel	3-15%	Well drained	Glacial outwash deposits

Current Conditions and Previous Disturbance

The Project Area is currently a wooded upland area adjacent to modern homes on large lots. Some accumulations of stone appear man-made but except for a few stone walls the function of the remainder is unknown. A secondary stream enters the Project Area in its southeast corner where a culvert empties from underneath the adjacent intersection. This narrow watercourse enters the main channel of the stream at the center of the Project Area and flows westward into an artificial lake at Camp Monroe which straddles Trout Brook. The section of stream within the Project Area is relatively undisturbed by the road construction and culverting at either end. However, matted flood debris suggests the lower elevations have likely been reworked.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Site File Search

A site file search conducted at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) identified no New York State Museum sites and one OPRHP site within 1,000 feet of the Project Area. The Trout Brook Estates Prehistoric Finds Site (USN A07102.000083) lies approximately 1,000 feet north of the Project Area. This site was based on reports from a local resident that prehistoric artifacts had been unearthed during construction of the Trout Brook Estates housing development. Grinding stones and stone implements have been found in the area.

National Register Listed and Eligible Properties

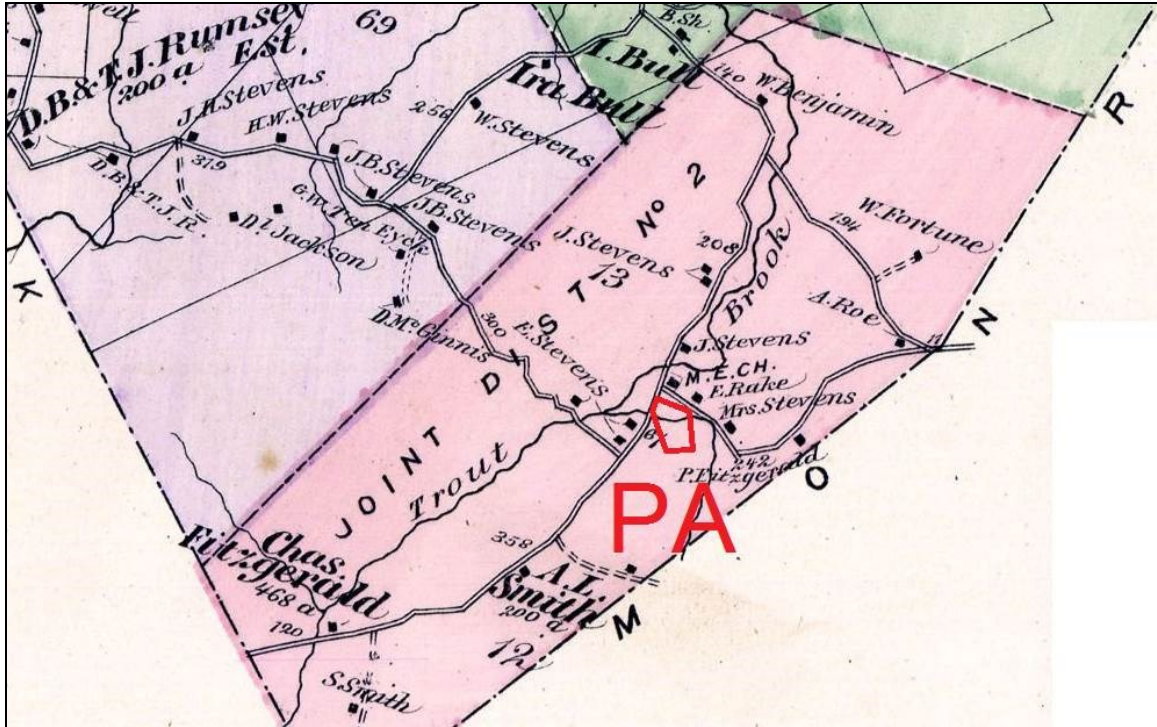
There are no National Register Listed or Eligible properties within 1,000' of the Project Area.

Previous surveys

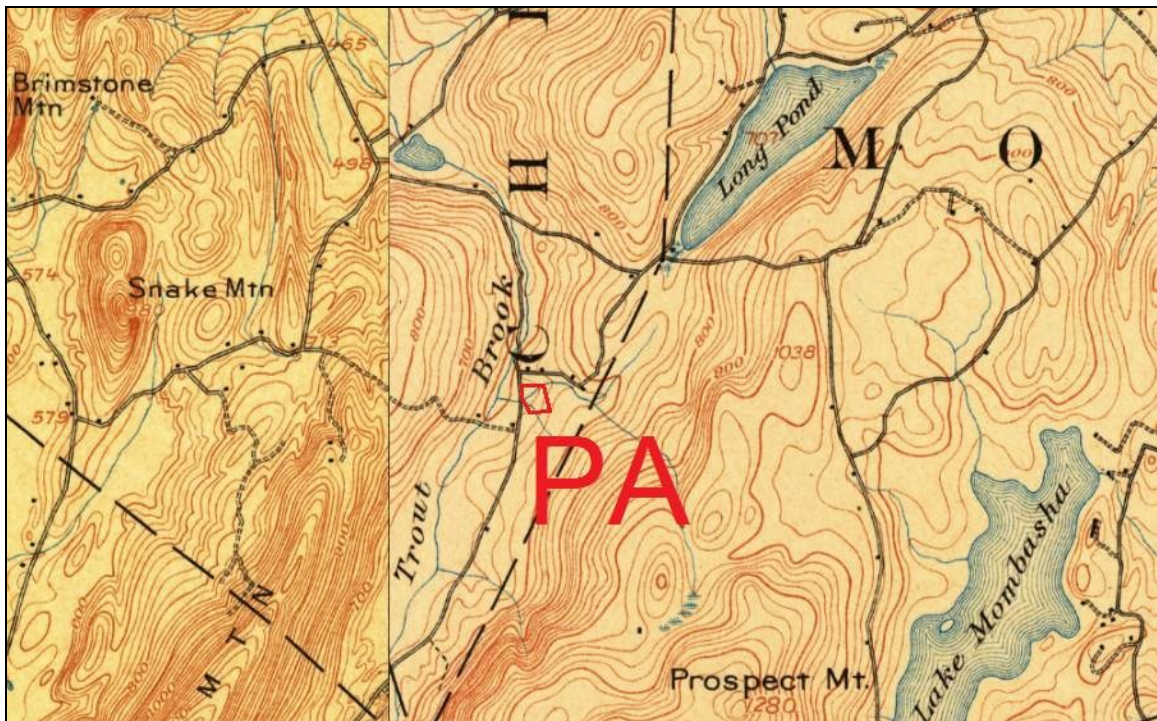
One previous survey has been conducted within one mile of the Project Area although no corresponding reports are available on the CRIS website. The survey was performed by Phil LaPorta in 2006 as a Phase IA/IB for the proposed Chester Golf Club Subdivision (03PR05430). On the north face of Bellvale Mountain approximately 4,000 feet from the Project Area and extending northeast from there are located a number of prehistoric quarry and quarry support areas. Hammerstones, anvils, wedges and other implements were identified. Lithic materials included chert, quartzite and dolomite. While similar sites might be expected in the vicinity of the Project Area it should be noted as shown in Map 6 above that the Project Area lies near the boundary of the Bellvale and Esopus Formations and may not contain the same resources that were being quarried on the far side of the mountain.

Historic Map Review

Three historic maps were consulted for insight into the history of the Project Area. These consisted of the 1875 *Map of Orange County, New York* as well as the 1902 and 1957 USGS topo maps (Maps 8-10). None of these maps show any documented structures within the Project Area.



Map 8: 1875 Map of Orange County, New York (Andreas, Baskin and Burr).



Map 9: 1902 USGS 15' Topographic Quadrangle (Schunemunk, NY).



Map 10: 1942 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle (Monroe, NY).

SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

Prehistoric Sensitivity

The Project Area is considered to have a high sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric cultural remains. The location is near several known precontact sites and lies within close proximity to Trout Brook which would have been useful to Native populations as a potable water source as well as an attractive hunting ground and resource procurement area.

Historic Sensitivity

The Project Area is considered to have low sensitivity for the presence of historic cultural remains. Historic maps show no structures present within the Project Area indicating a low potential for buried remains and trash middens.

TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS

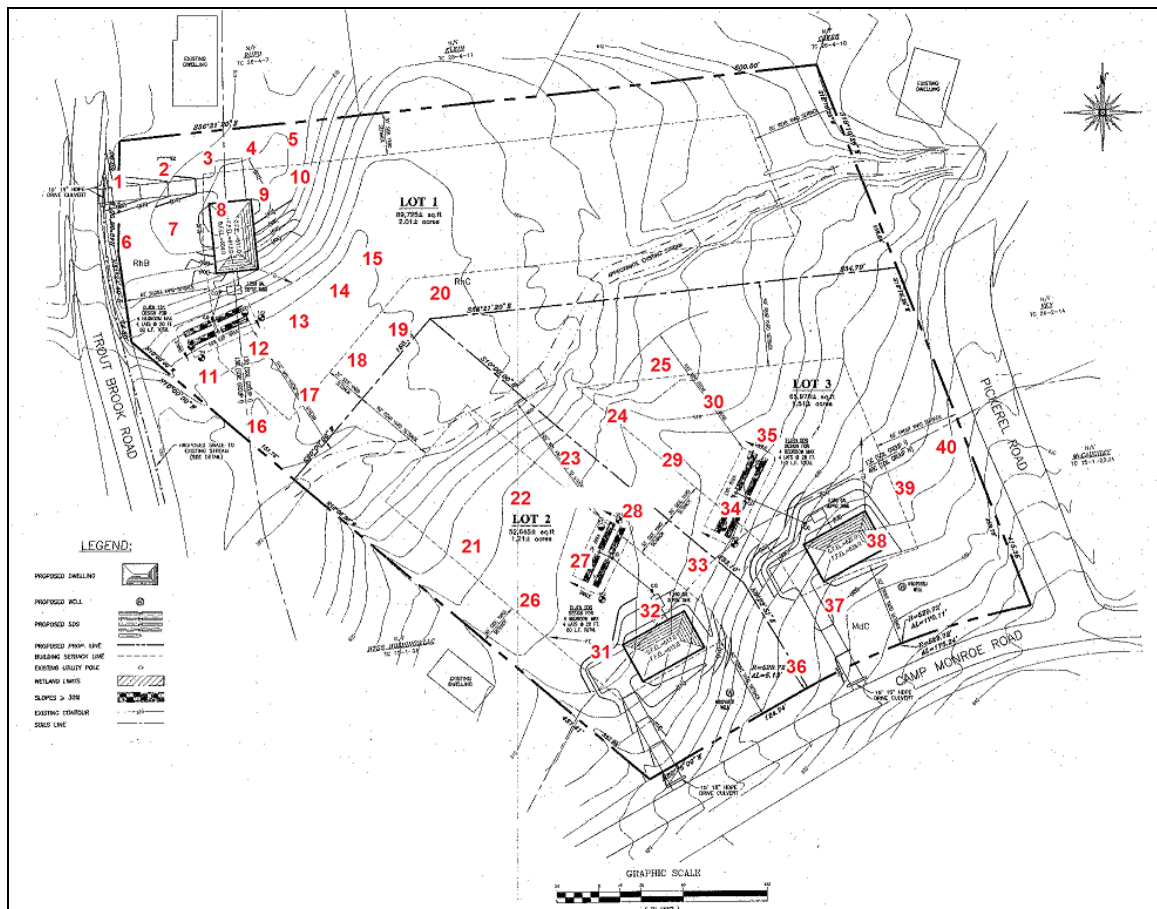
Subsurface archeological testing is recommended for all portions of the Project Area that are proposed for development and potential disturbance excluding those areas of steep slope exceeding 12%.

PHASE IB FIELD INVESTIGATION

The Phase IB Field Investigation was conducted during May, 2019. Shovel testing was performed by Joseph Cusack and Phillip Shnaider, Field Technicians, and Jim Turner, the Principal Investigator. Weather was seasonably warm with no rain during the testing period. Ground visibility was excellent.

Shovel Testing Results

A total of 40 shovel test pits (STPs) were laid out within the Project Area (Map 11). Testing began with two linear transects of tests placed at 50-foot intervals along the crest of the hilltop in Lot 1. Two parallel transects followed the lower contour to the north of the stream in Lot 1. Three parallel transects followed a sloping terrace to the south of the stream. A single transect followed a wide contour across the building site of Lot 3. Neither the shovel testing nor the visual surface reconnaissance identified any cultural resources within the Project Area.



Map 11: Shovel testing locations within the Project Area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase IA Literature Review and Sensitivity Assessment indicated a high sensitivity for precontact cultural resources and a low sensitivity for historic cultural resources. The Phase IB Archeological Fieldwork did not identify any cultural resources within the Project Area. Therefore, no further testing is recommended and the Mauro Cluster Subdivision should be deemed to have **No Effect**.