

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter relies on the analysis from the Fresh Kills Park Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) and summarizes the conclusions drawn from that analysis. No additional analysis was warranted for this SEIS as it pertains to Chapter 7, “Historic Resources.”

This FGEIS chapter considered the potential of the proposed project to affect architectural and archaeological resources on the project site and in the surrounding area. Within this study area, historic resources considered include properties listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places (S/NR) or properties determined eligible for such listing (S/NR-eligible), New York City Landmarks (NYCLs) or Historic Districts (NYCHDs), properties determined eligible for landmark status, and National Historic Landmarks (NHLs). Additionally, a survey was conducted to identify any previously undesignated properties in the study area that were then evaluated for their potential S/NR or NYCL eligibility, and a Phase 1A Archaeological Assessment was completed to evaluate the archaeological sensitivity of the project site (this Phase 1A Assessment is included in the FGEIS as Appendix B).

B. METHODOLOGY**STUDY AREA DEFINITION**

In general, potential impacts to architectural resources can include both direct physical impacts (e.g., demolition, alteration, or damage from construction on nearby sites) and indirect contextual impacts, such as the isolation of a property from its surrounding environment, or the introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with a property or that alter its setting. Therefore, the study area for architectural resources was defined to account for any potential impacts that may occur where proposed construction activities could physically alter architectural resources or be close enough to them to potentially cause physical damage and also to account for potential visual or contextual impacts. For architectural resources, the *Fresh Kills Draft Master Plan and Final Scope of Work* (August 2006) was used to account for visual or contextual impacts; the study area for architectural resources is defined by a distance of 400 feet from the project site boundaries.

A study area for archaeological resources is usually defined as the area where project-related construction could result in ground disturbance. The study area for archaeological resources is defined as the Fresh Kills project area.

IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA

Once the study area is defined, a list of officially recognized historic resources within the study area is compiled. This includes NHLs; properties or districts listed on the S/NR or properties determined eligible for such listing; and NYCLs, NYCHDs, and properties pending such

designation. Information was collected from the files of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) on previously identified architectural and archaeological resources in the study area.

A list of potential historic resources within the study area is also compiled. These are identified based on field surveys of the study area and, where available, information from historical societies or preservation organizations with knowledge of the area. Potential historic resources comprise properties that may be eligible for listing on the S/NR and/or designation as NYCLs.

The National Register Criteria for Evaluation are found in 36 CFR Part 60. Following these criteria, districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects are eligible for the S/NR if they possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Properties that have been constructed within the last 50 years are ordinarily not eligible. Determinations of eligibility are made by OPRHP. Generally, all properties that are listed on the NR are listed on the State Register, which has the same criteria for evaluation as the NR.

Buildings, properties, or objects are eligible for designation as an NYCL or NYCHD when a part is at least 30 years old. Landmarks have a special character or special historical or aesthetic interest or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, State, or nation. There are four types of landmarks: individual, interior, historic district, and scenic.

Historic resources previously identified (listed, designated or determined eligible) and those identified by the means described above are listed in Section D, “Existing Conditions.”

Additional documentary research was conducted, and historic maps and newspapers, census records, local histories, and other materials were consulted in order to provide a context for understanding and evaluating the history, archaeological sensitivity, and built environment of the study area.

EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HISTORIC RESOURCES

Once the historic resources in the study area were identified, the potential impacts of the proposed project on those resources were assessed. Project impacts on architectural resources could include both direct (i.e., physical) and indirect (i.e., contextual) impacts. Direct effects could include physical destruction, demolition, damage, or alteration of a historic resource. Indirect effects, such as changes in the appearance of a historic resource or in its setting—including introduction of incompatible visual, audible, or atmospheric elements to a resource’s setting, or elimination of publicly accessible views to the resource—are also considered.

C. CONCLUSIONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A Phase 1A study prepared for the FGEIS concluded that portions of the project site are sensitive for precontact and historic period archaeological resources. As park capital projects move forward, it is recommended that individual projects be reviewed by an archaeologist to determine if the proposed project could impact any archaeologically sensitive areas identified in the Phase 1A archaeological documentary study. This review would occur in consultation with LPC and OPRHP. If it is determined that impacts are possible, further investigation such as Phase 1B archaeological testing would be necessary to identify the presence or absence of archaeological resources. Additional information on this process is provided in Chapter 23, “Impact Avoidance Measures and Mitigation.”

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

One architectural resource (the NYCL Sleight Family Cemetery, a.k.a. Blazing Star Burial Ground) was identified on the project site. No previously identified architectural resources are located in the study area; however, four S/NR eligible architectural resources and nine potential architectural resources which appear to meet the S/NR eligibility criteria were identified in the study area. The proposed project is not expected to result in direct or indirect adverse impacts to architectural resources in the project site or study area. No construction is currently planned within close proximity of the Sleight Family Cemetery; however, as project plans progress, if any construction activity is planned within 90 feet of this resource, a Construction Protection Plan would be prepared and implemented to ensure that the resource would not be inadvertently affected by construction-period impacts. Additional information on the contents of a Construction Protection Plan is provided in Chapter 23, “Impact Avoidance Measures and Mitigation.”

These conclusions also apply to the SEIS.

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