



Phase I Archaeological Investigations  
of the Proposed Fort de La Presentation-  
Abbe Picquet Trail and Park Improvements Project  
City of Ogdensburg  
St. Lawrence County, New York

OPRHP No. 13PR05485

Prepared for:  
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LA# 359.366  
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## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

**SHPO Project Review Number:** 13PR05485

**Federal Agencies:**

**State Agencies:** OPRHP; NYSDEC

**Phase of Study:** Phase IA/IB

**Location:**

**Minor Civil Division:** City of Ogdensburg

**County:** St. Lawrence

**USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Map:** Ogdensburg West, NY (1963)

### **Survey Area**

Length: 1441.0 meters (439.0 ft)

Width: 781.0 meters (238.0 ft)

Depth: n/a

Size      Total Acres Surveyed: 1.9 (1.0 ha)

            Total Square Meters Excavated: n/a

            Total Square Feet Excavated: n/a

### **Archaeological Survey Overview**

Total and Interval of Shovel Tests: 34 total-12 STPs at 15-m interval; 9 STPs at 30-m interval; 13 STPs selectively positioned

Width of Plowed Strips: n/a

Surface Survey Transect Interval: n/a

### **Results of Archaeological Survey**

Number and name of prehistoric sites identified: 0

Number and name of historic sites identified: 0

Sites Recommended for Phase II/Avoidance: 0

**Report Author(s):** Susan Gade, RPA-Landmark Archaeology, Inc.

**Date of Report:** July 2016

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a Phase I archaeological study conducted for the proposed Fort de La Presentation-Abbe Picquet Trail and Park Improvements (OPRHP# 13PR05485) in the city of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York (Figure 1). The park includes portions of the archaeological site Fort *La Presentation*, which has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (09NR06014). The investigation was conducted by Landmark Archaeology, Inc. who was retained as a consultant by The Chazen Companies of Poughkeepsie, New York. The park property includes 21.05 acres (8.52 ha) and the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed improvements totals approximately 1.9 acres (1.0 ha).

The Phase I study was conducted to: (a) inspect the project area and precisely define the spatial boundaries of any archaeological resources in relation to the limits of the project area, (b) assess the potential of the project area for deeply buried cultural deposits, (c) conduct surface and limited subsurface investigations of the resources which are either partially or completely in the area of the proposed construction, and (d) provide recommendations for those archaeological resources which may be impacted by proposed development activities. These tasks were conducted to provide federal and state reviewing agencies with the appropriate documentation to evaluate the effect of the proposed project on historic and/or prehistoric cultural resources.

The Phase I study was conducted in two stages: a Phase IA literature review and a Phase IB intensive level identification survey. The purpose of the Phase IA investigation was to update data collected by a Phase IA study of the park completed in 2005 (Schieppati et al. 2005). Tasks associated with the current Phase IA study consisted of a review of the 2005 Phase IA study and a literature review and records search at the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The Phase IB study included an intensive level identification survey consisting of pedestrian survey and shovel test excavations within the APE. All Phase I field and analytical methods were conducted in accordance with guidelines established in *Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations and the Curation of Archaeological Collections in New York* by the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC 1994) and adopted by the OPRHP.

The following technical report presents the results of the Phase I study conducted from April to June, 2016. Susan Gade, RPA and Derrick Marcucci, RPA served as the Principal Investigators for the project and they supervised all aspects of the investigation. Background research for the investigation was compiled and analyzed by Ms. Gade. Fieldwork was conducted by Mr. Marcucci, Ms. Gade, Jennifer Lenkewich and Sydney Snyder. This report is written by Ms. Gade. Graphics were completed by Ms. Snyder. All field notes, photographs, and records associated with the project are on file at Landmark Archaeology, Inc., 6242 Hawes Road, Altamont, New York.

## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Fort de La Presentation park property includes approximately 21.05 acres (8.52 ha). It is located on Lighthouse Point in Ogdensburg, New York at the confluence of the Oswegatchie and St. Lawrence rivers (Figure 2). The archaeological site Fort *La Presentation*, which is located within the boundaries of the property, has been nominated to the NRHP (09NR06014). The Ogdensburg Harbor Lighthouse, an NRHP-listed property (08940.000474), is located immediately northeast of the project property (Appendix A: Photograph 1).

The proposed project will include improvements to the existing park property and will entail the construction of a trail network and a new parking area. The project also plans to relocate an existing driveway from the eastern edge of the property to the western edge. Other components of the project include: pedestrian nodes along the trails with benches and interpretative panels, installation of signage, and construction of a maintenance shed. The existing community garden raised beds will be relocated and tree plantings in several areas are proposed.

According to project plans, vertical impact is minimal for most of the proposed work ranging from 10 to 30.5 centimeters (4-12 in) of topsoil grading for the trails and new driveway, respectively. Topsoil grading of 10 to 15.2 centimeters (4-6 in) is proposed for the installation of pedestrian nodes. Wayfinding signage will be installed on posts extending to a depth of 0.9 meters (3 ft). The width of excavation for the trails will be 1.5 meters (6 ft) and will be 3 meters (10 ft) for the new driveway. No ground disturbance is proposed for the maintenance shed or community gardens raised beds. Approximately 1.9 acres (1.0 ha) will be impacted by proposed park improvements. Project plans are shown in Figure 3.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The project area is located in northern limits of New York in the town of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County on the southern shoreline of the St. Lawrence River. This part of New York is in the physiographic region known as the St. Lawrence-Champlain Lowlands (Isachsen et al. 2000). The region is characterized by relatively low-lying terrain with broad and gently rolling valleys. The topography of the region is related to glacial movement during the last part of the Wisconsinan Stage which ended approximately 10,000 years ago. The glacier scoured and abraded the terrain, depositing glacial till throughout St. Lawrence County. As the Laurentide ice sheet retreated, melt waters were held in some valleys by the retreating wall of ice creating temporary lakes. As a result, deposits of freshwater lake sediments blanket many of the lower areas in the northern part of the county. Bedrock in the lowlands is Ordovician in age and consists of sedimentary rocks (Isachsen et al. 2000:72).

The park property is situated on a peninsula that juts out into the St. Lawrence River. Terrain is level across the property at an elevation of approximately 250 feet amsl. The Oswegatchie River empties into the St. Lawrence River immediately west of the park area. The Ogdensburg Arterial Highway borders the park property to the south. A double lane gravel drive (marking old rail tracks) runs along the eastern edge of the park and leads to the lighthouse located on the peninsula point. A gravel parking area is located in the southern park property along with several raised beds of the community gardens. Also located in the southern park area is an obelisk that memorializes the fort. Except for the southern park section with the parking area and garden beds, the property is currently undeveloped. At the time of fieldwork, vegetation included mowed grass and two wooded areas of dense undergrowth and trees (Appendix A: Photographs 2-6).

Udorthents, loamy (Ue) is the only soil mapped in the park property (Carlisle 2005; Figure 4). Udorthents, loamy includes dredged soils from the St. Lawrence River related to construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. They can also mark areas of cut and/or fill associated with road construction. They can be very deep and moderately well to well drained.

#### 4. PHASE IA INVESTIGATION

##### A. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Phase IA study is to assess the potential for the presence of significant archaeological resources within the project area. The study is designed to gather data regarding archaeological potential through archival research and a preliminary field inspection. All pertinent archaeological and historical literature and state records applicable to the project area are reviewed during the Phase IA investigation.

Site assessments are based on NRHP criteria of significance (36CFR60.6, *Federal Register* 1976). The criteria are:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association:

- a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. that 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 value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, or
- d. that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Typically, Criterion d is the most applicable criterion for evaluation of archaeological resources.

##### B. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Background research was conducted for the purpose of compiling baseline information related to the prehistory, history, geomorphology, environment, and land use history of the project area. These sources provided information regarding NRHP eligible sites in the area and data with which to evaluate the project's archaeological potential.

The focus of the current Phase IA investigation was to update data that was presented in the 2005 Phase IA study (Schieppati et al. 2005). Phase IA research also included a site files search using the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS) maintained at the OPRHP. This search determined if archaeological sites or NRHP properties have been recorded within or near the project area since the 2005 Phase IA study.

##### C. RESULTS OF THE PHASE IA INVESTIGATION

As noted, a Phase IA study was completed on the park property in 2005 (Schieppati et al. 2005). Since the 2005 study, the archaeological site Fort de La Presentation has been nominated to the NRHP (09NR06014). It is eligible under Criteria a and d for its association with 1) Native Americans and 2) military dating 1749 to 1813 (Bowman 2009). The National Register property

boundary is based on the estimated 1813 shoreline of the peninsula and encompasses 23.75 acres including areas of proposed trail and parking lot development. CRIS identifies several site numbers associated with the property: NYSM 4668, 8940.000026 (NYSM 2231 and 11760), and 8940.000354 (Table 1).

Table 1  
Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within One Mile of the Project Area

OPRHP #	NYSM #	Reported By	Site Identifier/Description	Time Period
8940.000026	2231	SUNY Albany; S. Marqusee	Ogdensburg Rail Yard/ Fort La Presentation	Prehistoric/ Historic
11760		A. Gore	Fort La Presentation	
8940.000354		T. Bowman	Fort de La Presentation (09NR06014)	
	4668	A.C. Parker	La Presentation	
8940.000274		A. Black	Northern Railroad Office Site	Historic
8940.000336		A. Graupman	Riverside Avenue Historic Site	Historic

The settlement and development history of the park property is detailed in the 2005 Phase IA report (Schieppati et al. 2005:10-18) as well as in the NRHP Registration Form (Bowman 2009). In sum these documents report that a French mission was established on the peninsula in 1749. The British subsequently occupied the fort until 1796 and destroyed the fort in 1813. Beginning in the nineteenth century, commercial development of the peninsula includes its use as a shipyard and commerce center. Portions of the peninsula were later occupied by a rail yard and warehouse, and by the late nineteenth century it included a storage and loading area for the Standard Oil Company. Its industrial use continued through most of the twentieth century. The NRHP Registration Form reports "In 1986, all above-ground structures related to rail and oil operations at the point were demolished" (Bowman 2009:33).

## 1. NRHP Properties and Archaeological Sites

In addition to the archaeological site Fort de La Presentation, NRHP properties in the immediate vicinity of the APE include the aforementioned Ogdensburg Harbor Lighthouse (08940.0004740) which is located in the northeastern section of the peninsula. The U.S. Customshouse (90NR05642) is located on the east shore of the Oswegatchie River across from the park.

Aside from the Fort de La Presentation archaeological site, there are two previously recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the project area (see Table 1). The sites, 8940.000274 and 8940.000336, are both historic sites located east of the project area and the Oswegatchie River. Site 8940.000274 (the Northern Railroad Office Site) is not NRHP eligible and the NRHP eligibility of 8940.000336 (Riverside Avenue Historic Site) has not been determined.

## 2. Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been several previous archaeological investigations conducted near the park property that have focused on identifying Fort de La Presentation remains. These investigations include work completed by SUNY Potsdam and the New York State Museum (Easter and Chmurny 1977; Cook 1987; Gore 2008, 2012; Kozlowski 2007). Features and archaeological deposits interpreted to be associated with the eighteenth century fort occupation have been documented on land known as the Duffy property. The Duffy property is located immediately east of the park and is within the Fort *La Presentation* Site NRHP boundary. Most recent archaeological investigations completed on the Duffy property identified several areas containing archaeological deposits dating from the mid eighteenth to early nineteenth century. Generally, these archaeological deposits are found within a black sandy loam buried under 0.9 to 1.2 meters (3-4 ft) of fill.

### 3. Historic Maps

Detail historic map analysis is provided in the 2005 Phase IA report (Schieppati et al. 2005) and reviewed again in the nomination form (Bowman 2009). The 2005 report presents a series of historic maps which illustrate the changes in the peninsula shoreline which is directly applicable to the current study as the western shore has change dramatically over the years. The 2005 report also includes Sanborn Fire Insurance maps which document the late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial development of the peninsula as a rail yard including tracks, an engine turntable and depot. Additionally, the maps show the oil storage and loading facility that was constructed on the peninsula in the late 1800s.

Figures 5 and 6 include an overlay of the park property boundaries on the 1865 map and 1906 map, respectively (Beers and Beers 1865; USGS 1906). The earlier map shows plotted, but undeveloped streets in the park property and rail facilities south and west of the property. The 1906 map depicts a rail line along the eastern and western edges of the peninsula. Both figures illustrate shoreline changes over time. Specifically, the modern-day western shoreline extends farther west into the river; the eastern shoreline is close to its historic location.

### D. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Potential for prehistoric and historic archaeological deposits to exist on the park property is high. However, historic and modern industrial use of the property has disturbed large areas of the peninsula which may have impacted archaeological deposits. At the same time, fill imported to the property to create land and elevate the original surface has capped early historic dating archaeological deposits. The 2005 Phase IA report identifies several archaeological sensitivity areas on the parcel and notes that the degree of shore alteration and made land the in the northwestern portion of the peninsula in unclear (Schieppati et al. 2005)

Recently two areas on the property have undergone environmental remediation (Figure 7). Archaeological potential in these areas is considered greatly reduced.

## 5. PHASE IB INVESTIGATION

### A. PHASE IB FIELD METHODS

The Phase IB field investigation was conducted on June 14 and 15, 2016. The focus of fieldwork was to examine the proposed trail routes, the new parking area, and the location of wayfinding signs. The Phase IB fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian walkover and the excavation of shovel tests. The walkover assessed the archaeological potential of the project area and examined the area for archaeological evidence. Testing was designed to target areas where the proposed disturbance exceeded ten centimeters (4 in) along the driveway relocation and to selectively test areas of proposed shallow disturbance (i.e., trail routes and parking lot/staging area) to ensure that there are no near surface archaeological deposits. Shovel tests along the driveway relocation in areas interpreted to have intact terrain were spaced 15 meters apart. Tests were 30 meters apart along the proposed driveway in areas of suspected made land. The 1866 map with the APE overly (see Figure 5) was used to determine areas of intact and made land. Shovel test excavation depth was designed to correspond to the proposed vertical APE and was as follows: 35 to 40 centimeters below the surface for the driveway relocation, 20 centimeters below the surface along the trail routes/parking area and 100 centimeters below the surface at the three wayfinding sign locations. In total, 34 shovel tests were excavated during Phase IB fieldwork (see Figure 7).

Dense undergrowth and brush prohibited shovel testing in the two wooded areas on the property. As a result, Transect 2 followed a mowed path, much of which coincided with the driveway relocation.

Shovel test locations were recorded using a high precision *Trimble* GPS receiver. The georeferenced data were differentially corrected for an estimated horizontal error of less than one meter. The diameter of shovel tests ranged from 30 to 50 centimeters and soils were removed in 20-centimeter levels within soil horizons. A 5-inch stainless steel bucket auger was used to extend the depth of shovel tests excavated at sign locations. All excavated soil was screened through ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth. Soil characteristics including texture and color (Munsell) and any disturbances or other noteworthy features of the tests were recorded on standardized Landmark Archaeology, Inc. forms. All shovel tests were backfilled after completion. Soil descriptions for each shovel test are provided in Appendix B.

### B. RESULTS OF THE PHASE IB INVESTIGATION

All Phase IB shovel tests encountered fill. Fill varied across the property regarding matrix and gravel content. For the most part, loose sandy fill was encountered in STPs 1-5 on Transect 1 and STPs S9, and S10. Some of these tests exhibited dark brown (10YR 3/3) sand topsoil over lighter colored sand. The remaining shovel tests on Transect 1, all shovel tests on Transect 2, and STP S10 found sandy fill packed with trash including, but not limited to ceramics, glass, metal, bone, plastic, wire, asphalt, and concrete fragments. These items reflect landfill refuse likely associated with imported fill used to extend the western shore line and elevate the surface of the peninsula.

Fill in all other shovel tests included sandy loam with gravel. Dense gravel prohibited deep excavation of STPs S11- S13 which were positioned at the wayfinding signs. These tests reached a maximum depth of 42 centimeters below the surface. The proposed vertical disturbance of the sign posts extends to 90 centimeters below the surface, but manual excavation to this depth was prohibited by dense gravel in the fill. It is unlikely that installation of the wayfinding sign posts will cause severe impact to intact archaeological deposits given the widespread disturbance and deep fill found across the park property.

## 6. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Phase I archaeological study conducted for the proposed Fort de La Presentation-Abbe Picquet Trail and Park Improvements (OPRHP# 13PR05485) in the city of Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence County, New York consisted of Phase IA background research and an intensive level Phase IB field investigation. The park property includes 21.05 acres (8.52 ha) and the grading APE for the proposed improvements totals approximately 1.9 acres (1.0 ha). The investigation was conducted by Landmark Archaeology, Inc. who was retained as a consultant by The Chazen Companies of Poughkeepsie, New York.

The park property encompasses the archaeological site Fort *La Presentation*, a NRHP property (09NR06014). Historic occupation of the fort begins in the eighteenth century. A Phase IA study of the park property was completed in 2005 and it details the settlement and development history of the park property (Schieppati et al. 2005). Historic map analysis by the 2005 study shows dramatic changes along the western shoreline of the peninsula. More recent archaeological investigations on property adjacent to the park have documented archaeological deposits dating from the mid eighteenth to early nineteenth century. Generally, these archaeological deposits are found within a black sandy loam buried under 0.9 to 1.2 meters (3-4ft) of fill.

Phase IB fieldwork included a pedestrian walkover and the excavation of 34 shovel tests. No intact soils were encountered in the Phase IB shovel tests nor were any artifacts or evidence of architectural remains recovered during fieldwork. Based on the current study and upon concurrence by the OPRHP, the proposed park improvements will have no adverse effect on significant archaeological deposits. The proposed grading depth is shallow, and for the most part, confined to removal of the upper ten to 30.5 centimeters of soil. In all tests, fill is present at these depths. Project clearance is recommended for the current park improvements.

It should be noted that no field technique is completely adequate to define all cultural resources in a particular location. Therefore, should historic or prehistoric resources be detected during the course of the project, the OPRHP must be notified so that the significance of the discovery can be determined.

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United States Geological Survey (USGS)  
1900 *Brier Hill, New York, 15 Minutes Series (Topographic)* United States Department of Interior, Geological Survey, Washington, DC.  
2000 *Ogdensburg West, New York, 7.5 Minutes Series (Topographic)* United States Department of Interior, Geological Survey, Washington, DC.

# Figures

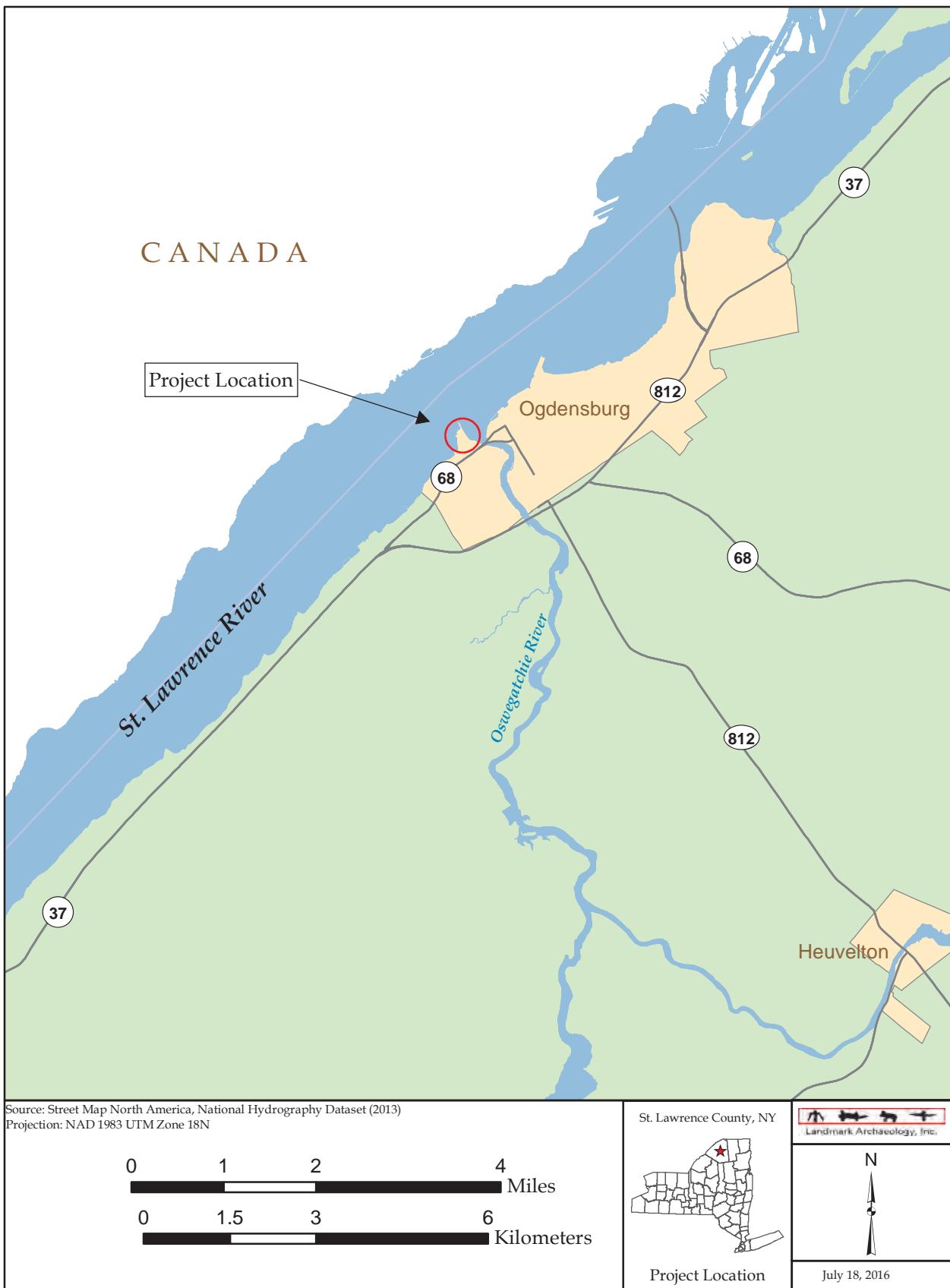


Figure 1: Project Location

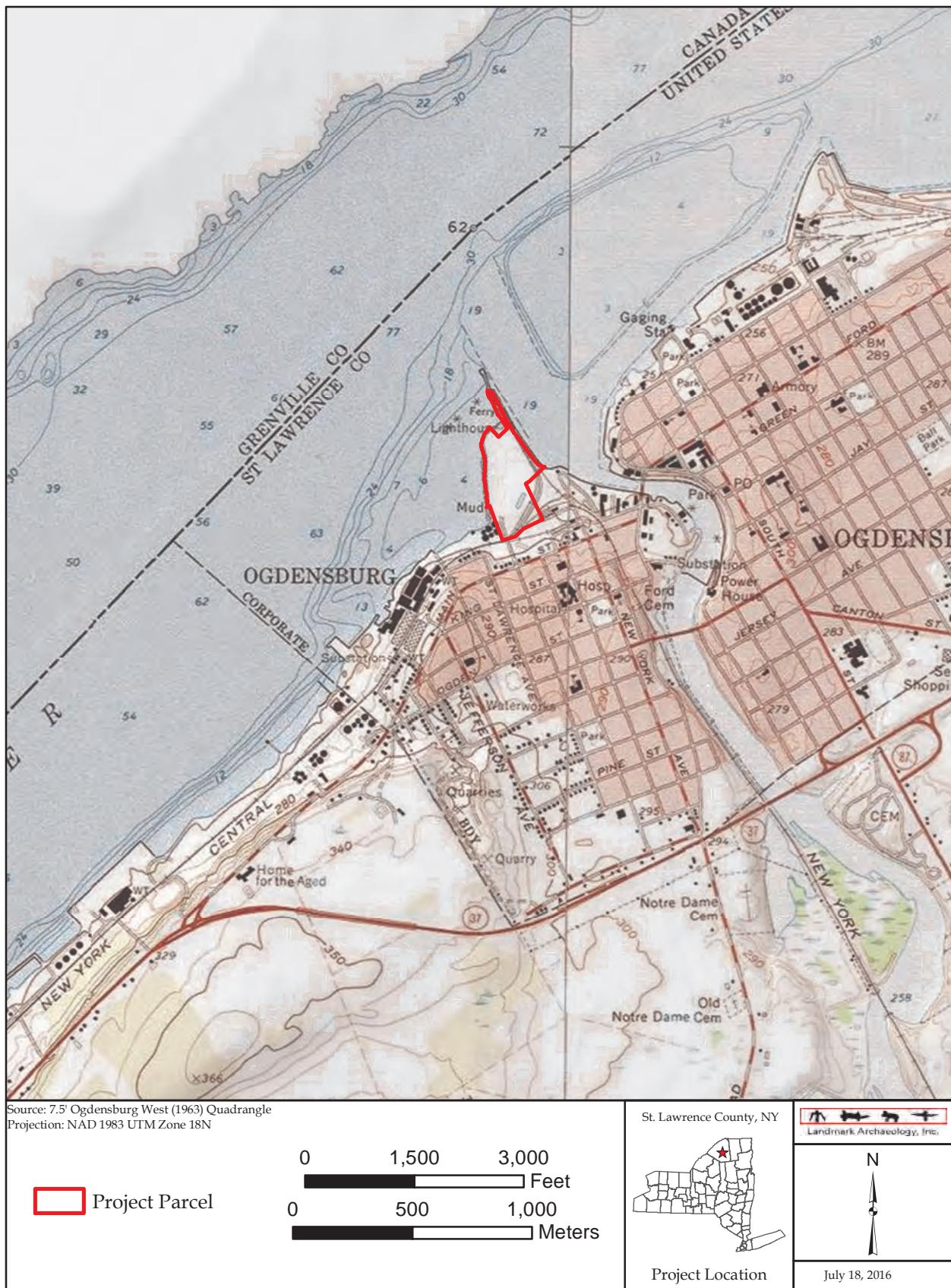


Figure 2: Project Location and Topographic Features

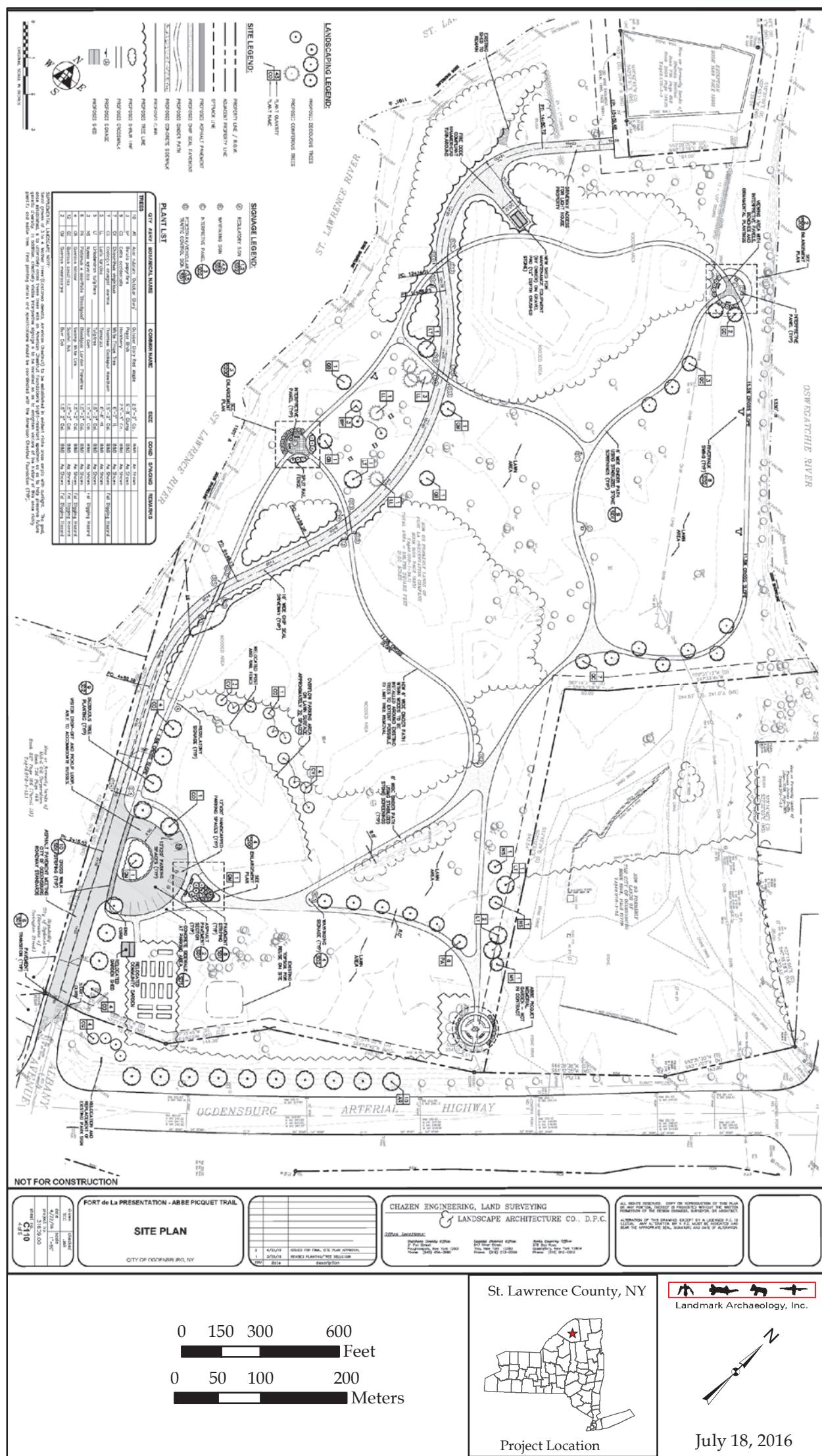
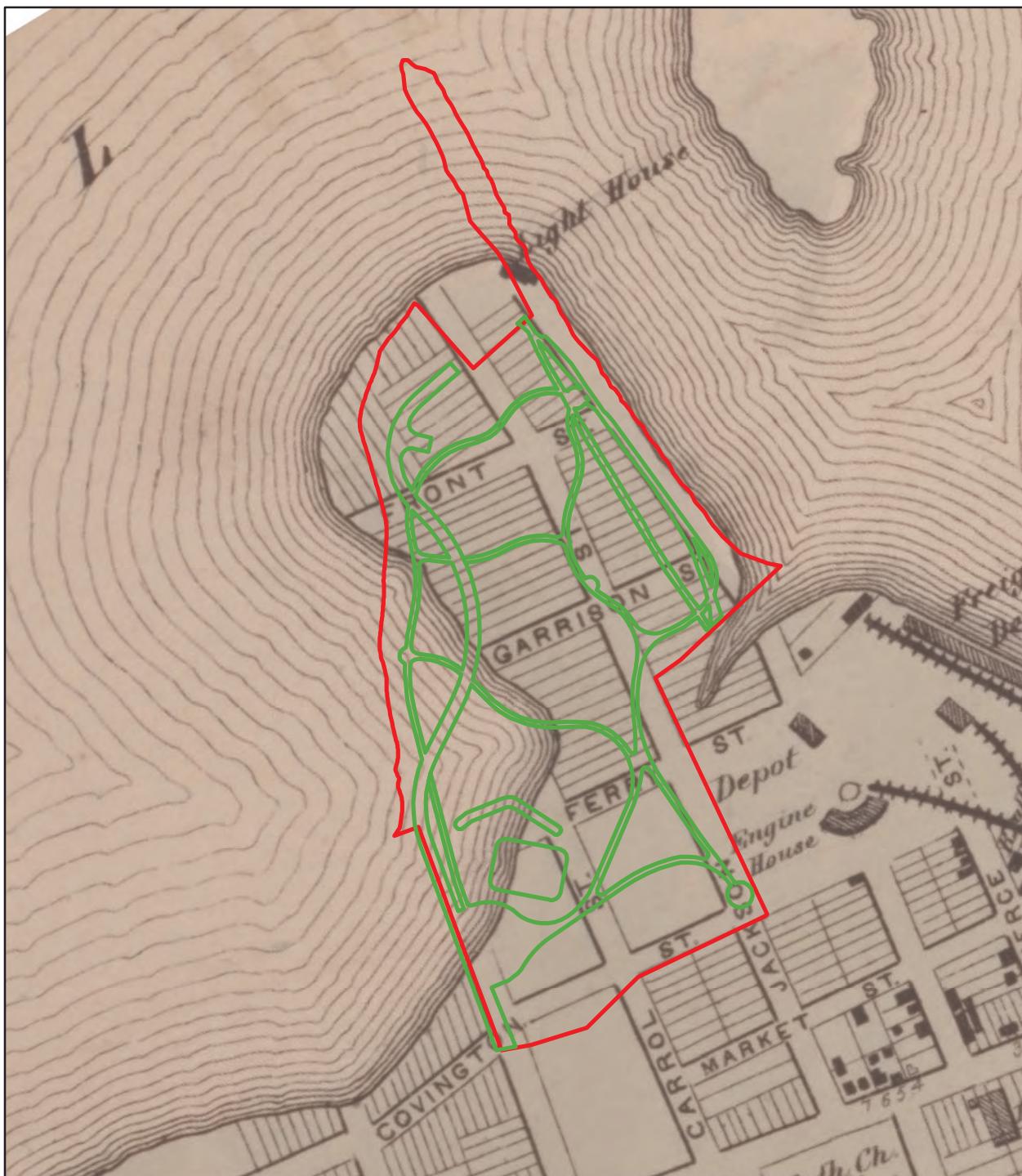


Figure 3: Project Plans



Figure 4: Mapped Soils



Source: Beers and Beers 1865  
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

APE  
 Project Parcel

0 200 400  
 Feet  
 0 60 120  
 Meters

St. Lawrence County, NY



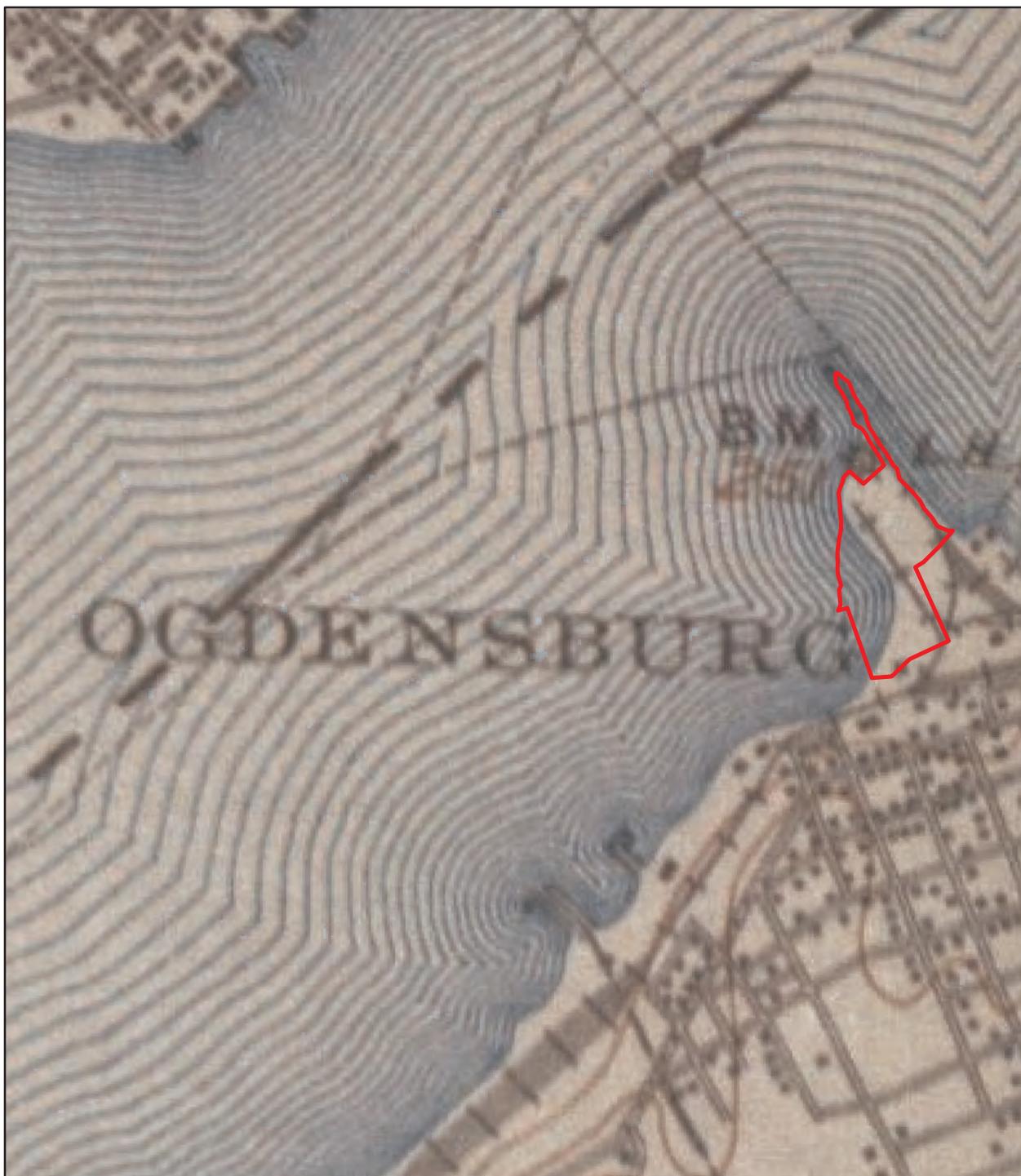
Project Location

Landmark Archaeology, Inc.

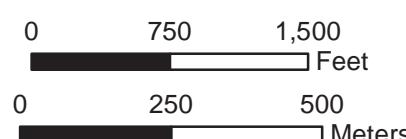
N

July 18, 2016

Figure 5: Project Area, 1865



Source: 15' Brier Hill (1906) Quadrangle  
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N



Project Parcel

St. Lawrence County, NY



Project Location

Landmark Archaeology, Inc.



July 18, 2016

Figure 6: Project Area, 1906



Figure 7: Phase IB Shovel Test Locations

## APPENDIX A

### Photographs



Source: Esri  
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N

Photo Angle

Project Parcel

APE

4 Photo Number

0 125 250  
Feet

0 40 80  
Meters

St. Lawrence County, NY



Project Location

Landmark Archaeology, Inc.

N

July 19, 2016

Photo Key



Photograph 1: NRHP Property Ogdensburg Harbor Lighthouse, View to North



Photograph 2: Eastern Park Parcel, View to South



Photograph 3: Western Park Parcel, View to South



Photograph 4: Southwestern Park Parcel, View to Southeast



Photograph 5: Park Parcel, View to Northeast



Photograph 6: Park Parcel, View to Southwest

## APPENDIX B

### Shovel Test Descriptions

Fort de La Presentation  
 St. Lawrence County, New York  
 Landmark Archaeology, Inc. #359.366

Soil Description	
1 Sand/Sandy loam	

Munsell Soil Description Key STRAT	Varies 1 Fill	10YR 3/3 1 Fill	Comments
<u>STP</u>			
Transect 1			
1	18-42	0-18	
2	12-41	0-12	
3	8-34	0-8	gravel impasse
4	19-40	0-19	
5	6-37	0-6	
6	6-40	0-6	landfill refuse
7	0-40		landfill refuse
8	0-39		landfill refuse
9	0-38		landfill refuse
Transect 2			
1	0-17		landfill refuse
2	0-25		landfill refuse, gravel impasse
3	0-32		landfill refuse
4	0-40		landfill refuse
5	0-37		landfill refuse
6	0-37		landfill refuse
7	0-32		landfill refuse
8	0-37		landfill refuse
9	0-36		landfill refuse
10	0-40		landfill refuse
11	0-40		landfill refuse
12	0-38		landfill refuse
Selective			
S1	0-24		gravel in fill
S2	0-20		gravel in fill
S3	0-20		gravel in fill
S4	0-22		gravel in fill
S5	0-22		gravel in fill
S6	0-20		gravel in fill
S7	0-32		gravel in fill
S8	0-24		gravel in fill
S9	0-23		gravel in fill
S10	0-23		landfill refuse
S11	0-37		gravel impasse
S12	0-32		gravel impasse
S13	0-42		gravel impasse