

# VAS newsletter...

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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## SPRING MEETING ISSUE

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### EDITORIAL COMMENT

#### **HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGY IN VERMONT**

Trained as a historical geographer, and interested in the processes that have affected the American landscape, I was delighted to get a job in Vermont doing historical research for UVM's contract archeology program. What a perfect opportunity, I thought, to combine my interest in patterns of change with the data and problems of historical archeology.

The experience has proven somewhat frustrating for two major reasons. First, so little historical archeology has been conducted in Vermont, that almost no data base exists. The present state of knowledge about types of historical archeological sites and their artifact classes is poor. Several projects that have been started have never been finished; material has not been analyzed, and reports have not been prepared. Second, the focus at local and state levels tends to be on individual and unusual sites and structures, especially those from the colonial period (eighteenth century). This is ironic, as most sites in Vermont date from after the Revolution. It is unfortunate, because we actually know very little about the lives of ordinary people and activities in the nineteenth century. We cannot afford to ignore information sources such as nineteenth-century historic sites because they are not glamorous.

A preliminary survey of historic archeological studies conducted in Vermont indicates that most were exploratory at best, and that only the results of a few have been formally compiled (see the list at the end of this article). Many of the sites are related to military activities of the Revolution and the War of 1812. Several are nineteenth-century industrial sites, another is an underwater site, and several are related to late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century agricultural activities. One was examined because it was very briefly the home of a famous person, Ethan Allen. Without available reports, it is difficult to categorize the context in which the studies were conducted. Most, however, were salvage projects, and the main goal of the archeological

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## Historic Archeology and State Planning

Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont

by Gina Campoli

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 mandated the creation of a historic preservation office in every state, and authorized Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain the National Register of Historic Places. It also permits allocation of funds to the state preservation offices for statewide surveys (and thus the identification of National Register sites) and for preparation of statewide plans for preservation of cultural resources. Archaeological resources are covered by the provisions of this legislation. Every state historic preservation office includes a state archeologist, and archeological sites are included on the National Register, inventoried on state surveys and considered in state preservation plans.

Since the 1966 act was passed, methods of survey and planning for historic resources have varied greatly in different states. Staff of three New England state preservation offices - Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire - were recently interviewed to determine what their survey and planning strategies for historic archeological sites are. Massachusetts, with the largest and best funded office, has implemented a sophisticated model survey and plan. Vermont and New Hampshire, with considerably smaller offices and less funding, are just beginning to investigate their resources and determine schemes for management.

**M**assachusetts's survey involves reexamining the entire history of the state. Regional study units within the state have been identified, based on physiographic characteristics. A group of historians, geographers, and historic archeologists are reviewing the history of individual towns within these regional units, and preparing historic overviews which focus on the material and geographic development of the town. Some sites are discovered from this historic overview, but most importantly, a basic historical context is created in which sites may be understood and evaluated.

This town-by-town historical context is

## 1 ♦ Historical Archeology

work was to document the sites before they were altered or destroyed. Only two deal with a research problem, and only one evaluates archeological resources in a geographical setting.

It is time to organize and modernize the approach to Vermont's historic archeological resources as has so successfully been done for its prehistoric resources in the last five years. The first step should be to develop a framework within which sites can be examined and evaluated. A second step would be to record all historic archeological work undertaken in Vermont in the past. A third step should involve the creation of an inventory of historic sites in the state (distinct from the prehistoric site inventory), particularly in areas of high land development potential.

The first objective involves recognizing that a changing theoretical approach has altered the emphasis in historical archaeology throughout the country. Contemporary theoretical interest reflects a shift from simple description, chronology and historical reconstruction to a concern with cultural patterns. Two concerns, the relationship between settlement and subsistence and the ways communities functioned in the past, now provide a conceptual framework which requires the analysis of historic sites in a broader context than simply age or uniqueness. Historical archeologists have begun to focus on community development and on the activities of the anonymous portion of the population which left little or no record of its existence. Sites are important for the information they might provide about everyday activities and community development in all periods.

An inventory of all work done in Vermont on historic sites is sorely needed. A perusal of past issues of this Newsletter includes tantalizing mention of this and that historic site excavation "to be reported on in a future issue." But those future reports rarely materialized. Many of these unfinished site reports should be completed - better late than not at all. Many sites will yield minimal information when considered individually, but may provide valuable data when compared with other sites. All sites should be described in a centralized file.

Finally, we need to establish an inventory of potential historic sites throughout the state, using historical records and local knowledge. This will be particularly useful for expanding local and state awareness of historic resources, and will be helpful in local and state planning efforts.

The next consideration is how these goals should be realized. Who is going to have the time and money to attack even one of these areas? I hope that this issue of the Newsletter and the papers presented at the spring meeting will help focus attention on the conceptual issues. Second, once interest and concern

develops, I hope that local constituencies, VAS members and the State Archaeologist can help with reporting previously unidentified sites. Many Vermont sites will be primarily of local interest, so it is essential that local citizens participate in identifying and recording them. Local efforts may be encouraged by recent federal legislation which requires a portion of state preservation budgets to support local resource planning projects.

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used in the evaluation of both historic buildings and historic archeological sites, indicating a shift from the traditional viewpoint of valuing buildings for their architectural and aesthetic qualities alone. Like archeological resources, historic structures are considered in a social science framework, and are valued for the information they provide about development of the community or the region.

Although identification of specific sites is not the primary goal of the Massachusetts survey, many industrial archeological sites have been identified in the towns reviewed so far. Such sites have traditionally been ignored, but now industrial history is an important part of the overviews. The identification of the industrial history is an important part of the overviews. The identification of the industrial sites and others encountered through research complements the ongoing inventory of sites and structures being conducted by the local historical commissions.

In addition to compilation of the historic overviews, the Massachusetts survey considers both the constituencies that can act to protect resources and the possible threats to resources on a unit-by-unit basis. These considerations aid in determining where attention and assistance are needed. A base for a management plan is thus provided.

In Vermont and New Hampshire, historic buildings and historic archeological sites are not identified and assessed within the same developmental context. The architectural historians in the preservation office function under different criteria and utilize different survey methods. This means that consideration of historic archeological sites is left entirely in the hands of the state archaeologists, who are responsible for a diversity of site types that range from Paleo-Indian to early twentieth century.

In New Hampshire, a historic archeologist is aiding the state archeologist inventory the state's historic sites. Their first objective is to add sites on other existing inventories (such as the Historic American Engineering Record) to the state inventory. New Hampshire has not yet begun to develop strategies for systematically identifying and protecting previously unknown sites.

In Vermont, the state archeologist must consider the range of site types unassisted. Little attempt has been made to systematically survey the state's numerous historic sites. With limited resources, it is felt that historic

archeologist must indicate their research needs and thus reveal guidelines for priorities and evaluation for the state preservation office. Unfortunately, no historic archeologists are currently working in Vermont.

The present Vermont inventory of historic sites is small. It includes a sample of more noteworthy sites, excavated or intensively investigated, such as Fort Dummer, the Garrison house, and Vermont's "stone chambers". The many new sites encountered in contract work are not usually inventoried site-by-site, but are grouped according to project.

In both New Hampshire and Vermont, setting

well-defined plans and priorities for historic archeological site management within the states is presently impossible. Both state archeologists agree that their time is consumed by the daily functions of the office. Most time-consuming is the review procedure for construction projects which might affect archeological resources. Project plans must be studied, meetings held with appropriate agencies and construction sites visited. Not only time inhibits the formation of management plans and expansion of site inventories: Money is also a factor. Additional staff expertise and clerical, computer and curatorial resources

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NEW  
 RENEWAL

# 1981

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (If Student or Senior Citizen)

### DUES SCHEDULE (Please check category)

Individual.....	\$ 7.50
Family.....	25.00
Student/Senior Citizen*.....	3.00
Contributing.....	15.00
Sustaining.....	50.00
Life.....	125.00
Non-profit Institutional.....	10.00
Institutional.....	15.00

\*Under 18 or over 65 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC., AND MAIL TO THE SOCIETY, BOX 663, BURLINGTON, VT. 05402.

## Spring Meeting Luncheon Reservation

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment for \_\_\_\_\_ luncheons at \$4

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Names of others in party \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.  
Mail to VAS, Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402.

**The Vermont Archaeological Society  
and  
The Rutland Historical Society  
JOINT SPRING MEETING**

**Rutland Free Library  
SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1981  
9:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**THE PROGRAM**

The meeting will focus on historical archeology in Vermont and New England. A number of excellent speakers have agreed to present papers. These include:

ROBERT SCHUYLER (University Museum, University of Pennsylvania).

"Lowell- Archeology of the Industrial Revolution."

SUZANNE SPENCER-WOOD (University of Massachusetts, Boston).

"Historical Archeology and the National Market: A Vermont Perspective, 1795-1920."

MICHAEL FOLSOM (President, Southern New England Chapter, Society for Industrial Archeology).

On: The Ely Copper Mine in Vershire, Vermont.

DAVID STARBUCK (University of New Hampshire).

On: Industrial Archeology in New England.

KEVIN CRISMAN (University of Vermont).

"History and Construction of the U.S. Schooner, Ticonderoga."

GIOVANNA NEUDORFER (Vermont State Archeologist).

State Archeologist's Report.

**THE LUNCHEON**

A catered lunch will be served. If you wish to have lunch, you must make a reservation in advance. Please fill in the form on the back of the mailing panel and send it to: The Vermont Archeological Society, Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402.

Registration will begin at 9:30 AM.

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are much needed, but impossible with the small budgets allotted to the state historic preservation offices. Hopefully, some of these problems can be solved as interest in historic resources increases.

The author, would like to express her appreciation to Giovanna Neudorfer (State Archaeologist, Vermont), Gary Hume (State Archaeologist, New Hampshire) and James Bradley (Massachusetts Historical Commission) for taking time to provide the information presented in this article.

#### REFERENCE

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
1979, Cultural Resources in Massachusetts: A Model for Management (revised 1980).  
Prepared for Department of the Interior.  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation  
Service.

### Industrial Archeology Institute Focuses on Vermont's Technological Heritage

For four summers, the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Vermont has offered an Industrial Archeology Institute designed to instruct preservation professionals, historians and the interested public to recognize and evaluate the works of America's engineers and industrial entrepreneurs. The Institute's primary goal is to emphasize the practical aspects of industrial archeology. Participants use sites and structures representative of Vermont's technological heritage to learn recording and documenting techniques. The week-long course includes lectures, discussions, site visits, films and field recording. Field experience, where the participants analyze, research, record and prepare measured drawings of an existing industrial or engineering site, is the focal activity.

The IA Institute offered in the summer of 1980 was taught by Eric DeLony (Acting Chief of the Historic American Engineering Record), Robert Vogel (Curator of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, National Museum of History and Technology), and Michael Folson (President, Southern New England Chapter of the Society of Industrial Archeology). All are active in national IA activities, and provided the class with excellent insights and skills for the field project.

This year, the granite industry of Barre represented Vermont technological history. Institute members recorded the structures and machinery of the Trow and Holden Company, manufacturers of tools for working granite since the end of the nineteenth century. Although Trow and Holden is still in business, the entire company was on vacation, so Institute participants were able to make measured drawings of a completely intact facility. Photographic records were made to complement the measured

drawings, and a brief history of the company and the site was compiled.

In past summers the Institute has documented sites in Winooski, in Vergennes, and in Burlington. The Institute will be offered again this summer through UVM's Historic Preservation Program. Information on the Institute can be found in UVM's summer course catalog. Several VAS members enrolled in the Institute last summer, and recommend it highly.

### A Preliminary List of Historic Archeology Projects in Vermont

compiled by Prudence Doherty

1. Adams, Richard K. 1974. "Surface observation" VAS Newsletter, special number. Describes surface discoveries at Fort Cassin near Vergennes.
2. Battison, Edwin. 1975. "The Ascutney gravity-arch mill dam, Windsor, Vermont, 1834", IA Journal 1:53-58.
3. Campoli, Gina. 1980. "The Troy Furnace Site", Society for Industrial Archeology New England Chapters Newsletter 1 (2):11-13.
4. Casjens, Laurel, et al. A cultural resource overview of the Green Mountain National Forest. Institute for Conservation Archeology, Peabody Museum, Harvard University. Does not identify specific sites, but does provide an excellent background for types of historic sites to be expected, and a context for evaluating them.
5. Closs, Christopher. 1977. Battery Park, Burlington, Vermont: historic archeology of the cantonment 1812-1815. Paper prepared for Public Archeology 295, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Vermont.
6. Cultural Resource Management Services. 1977. Literature, archive and documentary search: proposed Rouses Point Bridge replacement. Prepared for Schoenfeld Associates.
7. Elliott, Suzanne. 1977. Historical archeology and the national market: a Vermont perspective 1795-1920. Unpublished PhD dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
8. Ferro, Max and Beth Ann Bower. 1978. Excavations at the Sellick Cabin Site, Hubbardton Battlefield, East Hubbardton, Vermont. Report prepared for Division for Historic Preservation, Vermont.
9. "Garrison House salvage report", VAS Newsletter 2 (4):3. (Dec., 1975).
10. Harrington, Walter. 1977. "Fort Dummer: An archeological investigation of the first permanent English settlement in Vermont". In New England Historical Archeology, edited by Peter Benes, pp. 86-94.
11. Haviland, William. 1973. "Mounds in Vermont: Prehistoric or historic?" Vermont Archaeological Society Monograph Series 2:1-8.
12. Macy, Harriet, et al. 1974. "An old tavern

dig", VAS Newsletter, no. 9. Description of a tavern excavation by students at the Mountain School, Vershire, Vt.

13. Murphy, William, 1977. Paper presented at Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting, Ottawa on excavation of the Benjamin Lawrence shop, Middlebury, Vermont.

14. Neudorfer, Giovanna. 1979. "Vermont's stone chambers: their myth and their history", Vermont History 47: 79-146.

15. Neudorfer, Giovanna. 1980. Vermont's stone chambers: an inquiry into their past. Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.

16. Pinello, Martha and Peter Beblowski. 1979. "Fort Dummer research", VAS Newsletter 27:7-8.

17. Pinello, Martha and Peter Thomas. 1979. Exploratory archeological excavations at the Ethan Allen farmhouse. Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report no. 20.

18. Power, Marjorie. Survey of U.S. Tract 500+, Ripton, Green Mountain National Forest. Two areas of potential historic significance identified.

19. Rolando, Victor. 1979. "Eighteenth century Vermont forges", VAS Newsletter 27:5-6.

20. Rolando, Victor. 1980. Ironmaking in Vermont. Unpublished master's thesis, College of St. Rose.

21. Rolando, Victor. 1980. "Search for Vermont furnaces yields dramatic discoveries", VAS Newsletter, no. 32.

22. Roland, Victor. 1980. "Vermont blast furnace site threatened", Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter 9 (5 and 6):6.

23. Salwen, Bert. 1964. Surface collections from general store (Reinhold site), The Island, Weston, Vermont listed in Report on an archeological survey of 7 water control areas in Vermont and New Hampshire. Material from 1780s through twentieth century at Bennington Museum.

24. Setchel, E. and E.J. Prah (Cultural Resource Management Services, Inc.) 1977. Phase

Ia-2 evaluation of site integrity and interpretative potential, Marble Mill, BOR Park, Swanton, Vermont. Report to Vermont State Archeologist.

25. Thomas, Peter and William Bayreuther. 1979. Phase I archeological reconnaissance for the Black River Hydroelectric Project. Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report no. 17.

26. Thomas, Peter and M. Pamela Bumsted. 1979. Brandon BRS 0158 (1): Phase I and II archeological assessment. Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report no. 17.

27. Thomas, Peter, Gina Campoli and Prudence Doherty. 1979. An initial study of the prehistoric and historic archeological sensitivity of the Bennington area. Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report no. 22.

28. Thomas, Peter. 1979. Survey of Greendale Timber sale, Green Mountain National Forest. Identification and description of four historic sites encountered in Weston, Vermont.

29. Thomas, Peter, et al. 1980. The Pownal-Bennington highway project. Phase I field reconnaissance for prehistoric and historic sites. Department of Anthropology, University of VT, Report no. 24.

30. Thomas Peter, William Bayreuther, Gina Campoli and Prudence Doherty. 1980. Phase I archeological assessment for the East Georgia Hydroelectric Project. Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Report no. 29.

31. Theoret, Marc. 1980. "Side-scan sonar in Lake Champlain, Vermont, U.S.A.", The International Journal of Nautical Archeology and Underwater Exploration 9 (1): 35-41. Discovery and description of a possible marble schooner sunk off Isle LaMotte.

**CORRECTION:** In last issue's last article, we accidentally misspelled "Ewing" as "Erving". Handwriting was the problem. **APOLOGIES** to those who were offended by the "lost sheep" appellation. It was meant as a term of endearment, hoping to get these folks back to the fold.

## VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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FIRST CLASS

TO