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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Memorandum

To: George S. Smith, Chief, Investigation and Evaluation Branch, SEAC

From: David G. Anderson, Archeologist, IASD-SERO

Through: *Acting* Chief, IASD-SERO *HS*

Subject: Archeological Monitoring Project at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, April 23 - May 2, 1990: Initial Debriefing and Recommendations

Under the direction of David G. Anderson, archeological investigations were conducted in conjunction with three construction projects at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore from April 23 to May 2, 1990. Each project is briefly described below, together with a brief description of the field methods employed, the results, and cultural resource management recommendations. In brief, archeological monitoring is recommended during construction activity associated with the burial of electrical and sewer lines at the Bodie Island Visitor's Center during project CAHA-89-05, while cultural resource clearance is recommended for projects CAHA-89-06 and CAHA-89-07, and for work at Four CCC cabins under project CAHA-89-05.

Project 1. Construction at the Bodie Island Visitor's Center, and at Four CCC Structures near Buxton (CAHA-89-05)

The Bodie Island Light Station Keeper's Quarters are currently being restored so they may serve as the Bodie Island Visitor's Center. Part of this stabilization requires the removal of sand accumulation in the crawl space under the structures. During the field visit (April 30, May 1, 1990) material found under the structure when the exterior facing was removed (allowing access for the first time in many years) was collected. These included a number of late 19th/early 20th century bottles, which are currently being examined at SERO-IASD. Much of this material was found by the renovation team, under the direction of George Perrot, who responsibly saved all such materials they encountered. As no other cultural resources were observed or will be impacted by the construction activity (which entails no further ground disturbance) no additional archeological investigations are warranted. The materials found under the building will be described in the final report summarizing the investigations.

Similar sand removal and renovation activity is also proposed underneath four small Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) structures near Buxton, a short distance from the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. During the fieldwork (April 30 1990) the author, equipped with hardhat, coveralls, trowel, and a lamp, went under each structure for between 15 and 30 minutes each, covering the area carefully and probing the sand floor for remains. No material predating ca. 1970 was found, and no further archaeological investigations are thus warranted. The fieldwork and (negative) results will be described in the final report summarizing the investigations.

Finally, as part of the renovation at Bodie Island, a sewer line will be placed from the Keeper's Quarters to a proposed rest room complex ca. 200 feet to the northwest. A second line, for electric cable, will be placed running from the Keeper's Quarters to a power pole tie-in ca. 300 feet to the southwest. These lines will be excavated by a backhoe. The sewer line was shovel tested at 10 foot intervals along its course, with 23 units opened in all. Each test was taken to ca. 70cm (below which water entered the units), with all fill screened through 1/4 inch mesh. Historic artifacts were found in the units out to ca. 130 feet from the Keeper's Quarters, beyond which point they were no longer found in other than incidental quantity. In four units from 90 to 120 feet from the Keeper's Quarters, dense historic deposits, from a probable turn-of-the-century trash dump, as well as coal from a probable coal bin of the same age, were encountered. In Test 11 (110 feet from the Keeper's Quarters) three bottles were found in the fill, together with an appreciable quantity of other historic debris (i.e., glass, oyster shell, ceramics). A turn-of-the-century trash midden up to ca. 40 cm thick, and extending over an area 40 or more feet in length, appears to be present in this area. One of the bottles (labeled "Castoria") was identical to one found under the Keeper's Quarters; interestingly, the archaeological specimen is in better shape (less patinated) than the bottle like it found under the Keeper's Quarters. Because of the unusual artifact density encountered in this and nearby units, the obvious relationship of the materials to the early use of the lighthouse complex, and the display value of the artifacts likely to be encountered (i.e., intact or nearly intact bottles, chinaware, etc), monitoring during the sewerline excavation by a professional archaeologist is recommended. This person should be prepared to examine a standardized sample of fill from the trash midden, and make a representative collection for analysis/interpretive purposes.

The route of the electric line at Bodie Island was not examined because the depth at which it will be placed, ca. 4-5 feet, was inaccessible to shovel testing or use of posthole diggers. At least two feet of recent overburden are to be removed during the renovation project in the area of the pipeline prior to its excavation. An archeologist should be present when this stripping occurs, and when the electric line trench is excavated.

Project 2. Waterline construction in the Cape Hatteras Light Station Historic District (CAHA-89-06).

An existing waterline to the Hatteras Lighthouse Double Keeper's Quarters (which serves as a Visitor's Center) was replaced in April and May 1990. From April 24 through April 26, and again on May 1, 1990, the final phases of this construction activity, in the Hatteras Historic District, were monitored by Anderson. The monitored route followed the new waterline, from where it passed under the main entrance road into the park, along the shoulder of the existing access road and a small pond, and across the rear of the Double Keeper's Quarters. The trench was opened with a toothed bucket to a depth of approximately 30 inches, and trench width varied between ca. 33 and 50 inches. Much of the line followed existing telephone and water lines, and hence much of the route had been previously disturbed to some degree.

A varied historic archeological assemblage was recovered from the trench, none of it, however, considered important enough to warrant stopping the construction. Clusters of ca. 1960 soda bottles were found and plotted along the line, reflecting locations where the previous construction crews had taken breaks. Two trash dumps were encountered on the western side of the Double Keeper's Quarters, on sloping terrain adjacent to a small pond. A dense deposit of material dating to the 1950s and 1960s was found 50 feet SSW of the SW corner of the Keeper's Quarters building, extending for approximately 20 feet along the trench. The backhoe intersected the upper 6-8 inches of the deposit, which extended downward for at least a foot below the bottom of the trench. Glass bottles, broken ceramics, oyster shells, iron fragments, and an automobile tire were found in the fill. A sample of ca. 50 intact bottles was recovered, together with all observable pieces of broken pottery, identifiable metal fragments, and other debris. From the profile it is evident that the trash was tossed into a gully or low area near the pond edge. A second trash dump, this one dating to around the turn of the century, was found ca. 40 feet due west of the NW corner of the Double Keeper's Quarters, again in a low area near the pond margin. This deposit extended for ca. 30 feet along the trench and to a depth of at least a foot below the bottom of the trench. Only the extreme upper part of this dump - no more than an inch or two of fill - was intersected by the heavy equipment. For this reason the construction was allowed to proceed, with the vast majority of the feature thus preserved in place. Bottles, glass and pottery fragments, oyster shells, and animal bone were observed in the fill. A representative collection of the debris was made that included several intact bottles. Few artifacts were found directly behind the Keeper's Quarters, suggesting trash disposal was further out in the yard, or (as demonstrated) off to the side. Isolated artifacts found in this and all parts of the trench were piece-plotted on the large scale project maps. A full description of the field methods, results, and artifacts will be presented in the final report (which will include English and metric units).

Prior to my arrival at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, what appeared to be debris from a shipwreck had turned up during this same waterline replacement project in the RV campground area, located immediately northwest of the point of beach at the tip of Cape Hatteras. The debris consisted of several large (4" x 6" x 3+ foot long) boards with massive iron spikes (ca. 6" long) placed in them. These boards had been brought to the surface by the backhoe during the waterline trench excavation, and were located in loose sands at the end of the trench. On April 27 the author, assisted by the private contractor's crew, conducted shovel test, probe, and then backhoe testing operations to determine the nature and extent of these deposits. No work was feasible near the Keeper's Quarters that day, since a special ceremony commemorating the release of a postage stamp depicting the lighthouse was occurring, and we were asked to relocate the heavy (and noisy) equipment elsewhere. The existing debris was first photographed in place. Then a series of small shovel tests were opened around the debris, confirming that more boards, spikes, etc. were present about 6 to 12 inches below the surface in the immediately surrounding area. A series of shallow linear backhoe trenches were then opened around the debris, confirming it occurred in a small area ca. 30 feet in diameter. The material appears to be scattered debris from a larger wreck that broke up offshore or closer to the breakers, and was subsequently washed into this area and buried. Although no authority, the materials appear to date to between ca. 1850 and 1925, based on the extensive numbers of machine cut and drawn spikes. Since no materials were observed to the east of the main concentration, I recommended to the contractor that they move their line a few feet to bypass the debris scatter. This realignment was approved by Mr. Dennis Atkins, NPS COAR, and was accomplished with no difficulty. The wreck materials were reburied, and are hence preserved in place for future generations. The locations of the debris, and of all the test units, were mapped in with a transit and tape and tied in to a permanent concrete datum point. Full descriptive information on the fieldwork, and the materials encountered, will be presented in the report on the project.

Project 3. Monitor replacement of the 4,000 gallon septic tank at the Cape Hatteras Light Station, Double Keeper's Quarters and Principal Keeper's Quarters.

The location where the septic tank was to be placed, behind the Double Keeper's Quarters, was inspected by the author on May 1, 1990. The area was found to be on land reclaimed from a shallow adjoining pond, that had been previously disturbed by the reclamation effort and from use for earlier sewage disposal. No further archaeological investigations are recommended in this area.

Conclusions

Archaeological monitoring is recommended at the Bodie Lighthouse Visitor's Center, during the placement of the sewer and electric lines to the Keeper's Quarters. No other significant cultural resources were found during the other archeological monitoring projects that could not be either avoided or preserved in place. On May 2, 1990 a debriefing session, recounting essentially the information contained in this memo, was held with Ms. Bebe Woody at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore main headquarters in Manteo, North Carolina. A comprehensive technical report on the investigations will be written and submitted to SEAC over the next few weeks, in and around my other duties here in Atlanta (tentative submission date, June 15, 1990).



David G. Anderson
11 May 1990