

August 9, 2010

Planning Board
Town of Red Hook
7340 South Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571

Dear Planning Board:

The Board of the Egbert Benson Historical Society has discussed the disposition of the artifacts retrieved from the St. Margaret's Home site in 2000 and currently being housed at the Greenhouse Consultants laboratory facility in New York City. Excavation and analysis of these artifacts and the completion of a final archaeological report were part of the SEQR mitigation required for approval of the construction of the Hannaford's supermarket. The final report was completed in April 2010, and copies have been distributed to the Town Planning Board, to the Egbert Benson Historical Society and to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The final required step is the curation of the collection at a repository approved by NYSOPRHP.

As you may know, the Data Recovery Plan approved by NYSOPRHP in 1999 states that the artifacts should first be offered to the EBHS for permanent storage. The EBHS Board, however, believes that the collection would be more available to potential researchers if it were housed at the New York State Museum. Cynthia Blakemore, Historic Preservation Program Analyst at NYSOPRHP, concurs and has indicated that NYSOPRHP would approve the museum as a repository. There have been very preliminary conversations with Andrea Lain, Archaeology Collections Manager at the museum.

The EBHS Board understands that, as current owner of the artifacts, Martins Foods (the parent company of Hannaford's supermarket) must apply to the Museum for acceptance of the artifacts for curation. The Board also understands that, if the artifacts are accepted, clear and valid title to the collection will be transferred to the Museum.

EBHS has expressed its desire that a representative collection of artifacts be made available for loan to EBHS and/or to the Town of Red Hook for public display purposes at some future date. It has also expressed its desire for copies of some of the photographs included in the artifact collection. Finally, EBHS will request that it be notified of any research, articles, photographs or similar information arising from the study of the artifacts.

The Egbert Benson Historical Society believes this curation solution is the best one available given the size, significance and complexity of the artifact collection. The Board hereby waives its right of first acceptance of the collection in favor of the New York State Museum and urges Martins Foods to begin the application process as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bielenberg
President
Egbert Benson Historical Society

cc Red Hook Town Board
Cynthia Blakemore, NYSOPRHP
Andrea Lain, New York State Museum

Town of Red Hook

From: Andrea Lain [ALAIN@MAIL.NYSED.GOV]
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2010 3:04 PM
To: 'planning@redhook.org'
Cc: Christina Rieth; Cynthia (PEB) Blakemore
Subject: RE: St. Margaret's Orphanage Collection, Town of Red Hook
Attachments: POLICIES AND PROCEDURESFinalRev.doc; Curation Request Form.doc

Hello -

From the email correspondence below it appears that you are looking for facility to curate an archaeological collection from the St. Margaret's Orphanage in Red Hook, New York. Given certain conditions, it's entirely possible that the material could be curated here at the New York State Museum.

I serve as contact person for the Anthropology Collections Committee, the group that determines whether to accept collections for curation.

The processes involved in getting a collection curated are outlined in the attached *Policy and Procedures*. The first step would be the submittal of a Curation Request (CR) form (also attached). This form provides a brief summary of the project and the site and gives us an idea of the quantity of material in the collection. Along with the CR form, you should send in copies of background information that discusses the excavation methodology and research strategy, as well as maps and/or other pertinent data. Many times this info is already incorporated in an End of Field letter or Data Recovery plan, or in selected sections of the final report. It makes things much easier if all the information is submitted electronically, but paper copies are also acceptable.

After I receive the information that was submitted I send it on to the Collections Committee for use in evaluating the request for curation. Within a few weeks I should be able to get a response back to you. If it is positive, at that time I will send you a NYSM accession number and a Curation Agreement to be signed. Also, it is important that clear title to the collection be transferrable to the NYSM at the time of transfer, otherwise we may be unable to accept it.

If a collection is processed completely to our standards the basic curation fee is \$200 per cubic foot. If more processing is required to prepare the material for permanent storage, the fee can go up to as much as \$500 per cubic foot. The final cost will be determined before the collection is brought to the NYSM.

So, I hope that this answers at least some of your questions about the basic steps for getting a collection curated at the NYSM. The attached *Policies* should answer more detailed questions, but please feel free to contact me if there's anything else you need to know. I look forward to hearing from you,

Andrea Lain
Archaeology Collections Manager
CEC Room 3049
New York State Museum

8/8/2010

Albany, NY 12230

(518) 486-2334

(518) 408-1717 fax

>>> "Blakemore, Cynthia (PEB)" <Cynthia.Blakemore@oprhp.state.ny.us> 6/8/2010 10:18 AM >>>
Thank you Christina.

I would appreciate it if Andrea can provide Paula with the information needed so this collection can finally be transferred to a curation facility. The Town was the lead under SEQRA, so we have an advisory role.

Andrea, can you please copy me on your correspondence to Paula so she doesn't have to keep me apprised. The collection is still with Greenhouse Consultants and I am not sure what condition it is in.

Thanks for your help,
Cynthia

-----Original Message-----

From: Christina Rieth [mailto:CRIETH@MAIL.NYSED.GOV]

Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 4:46 PM

To: Blakemore, Cynthia (PEB)

Cc: Andrea Lain; 'planning@redhook.org'

Subject: Re: St. Margaret's Orphanage Collection, Town of Red Hook

Cynthia,

Thank you for the email. By way of this email, I am copying Andrea Lain onto the email. Andrea is the museum's anthropology collections manager and can provide information on the fee schedule, as well as access to photographs, etc. CRSP has not done any work in this area so I don't believe we would have info to help from our files. That being said, I don't know if the parcel in question is state land. If so, we might have issued a permit that might also contain some information.

-Christina

Christina B. Rieth, Ph.D.

State Archaeologist and Director,

Cultural Resource Survey Program

New York State Museum

Cultural Education Center 3122

Albany, New York 12230

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<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/research/anthropology/crsp>

8/8/2010

>>> "Blakemore, Cynthia (PEB)" <Cynthia.Blakemore@oprhp.state.ny.us> 6/7/2010 1:38 PM >>>

Christina,

I have been helping Paula Schoonmaker, the Planner from the Town of Red Hook in their effort to obtain the Phase III report and the collection so the SEQRA process could be completed. This is an old project that was reviewed by Bob Kuhn and I became involved when a student at Syracuse wanted to use the collection for her dissertation. We were not successful in getting the collection from Greenhouse however for her, but the Town has now been successful in getting a report and soon the collection for curation.

The Egbert Benson Historical Society has an interest in the collection mainly related to any research/report that may be done in the future, or a possible interpretive display in the future, and copies of some of the photographs that could aid the Town in rehabilitation of the St Margaret's property.

Paula is trying to ensure the collection is curated. The Historical Society would like copies of any research that may be done in the future and our office is looking for the best for the collection for research purposes. Since you have a formal process for considering collections, can you provide Paula with any documents that would need to be signed for the collection to be considered and the fee schedule, and whether copies of selected photographs could be provided to the Town. If the collection were to go to the NYSM would the Historical Society be able to use material for an educational display?

Thank you for your help-even if you can pas this on to the right person.
Cynthia

Cynthia Blakemore
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
(518) 237-8643, extension 3288

8/8/2010